



الجمعية الدولية للطوابع البريدية العربية
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International
Random Notes



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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. However, interest declined in the 1990s. An initial attempt to start up a conventional Saudi stamp society in the USA failed in the late 1990s. Since then, we have realized that an Internet-based society has a better prospect of success and we have founded the Arabian Philatelic Association International. (APAI). 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. A limited number of copies of *APAI Random Notes #57* is available for free distribution to all who request an APAI Membership Application.

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.

The following members are currently serving the APAI in the capacities indicated:

Membership secretary: Marwan Nusair

USA representative: Vacant - volunteer required

European representative: Willie King

Middle East representative: David Jessich

USA Distribution Manager: Beverly Swartz

Treasurer: David Jessich

Editor, *Random Notes*: Martin Lovegrove

Webmaster: Willie King

Random Notes

The APAI's publication, *Random Notes*, will be issued four times a year, assuming sufficient material is available. The editor is Mr. MC Lovegrove, e-mail: weatherings@aol.com, (The Weatherings, East End, Gooderstone, KINGS LYNN, PE33 9DB, United Kingdom.) Articles on all aspects of Saudi Arabian philately are urgently needed for publication in *Random Notes*, and can be submitted in manuscript, as a text file, as an e-mail or a MS Word document. The right to edit or reject all submissions is reserved. Opinions expressed are those of the authors only. Material from this publication may be reprinted provided credit is given to "Arabian Philatelic Association International" and the author of the article. Please send a copy of the reprint to the editor.

Scott's (2003) and Stanley Gibbons (1996) catalog numbers are used with the kind permission of the copyright owners.

Reference may be made in this publication to the following books by their authors' names:

HAWORTH, W.B. and 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 Hijaz 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 2* (1987)

THODEN, R. J- *A Catalog of the Fiscal Stamps of Saudi Arabia*, (2001)

VON UEXKULL, J.- *The Early Postal History of Saudi Arabia* (2001).

Rudolph (Rudy) J. Thoden

1932-2002

Some Personal Reminiscences from Willie King

Rudy Thoden was born on April 15th. 1932 in New York to a family who had its origins in Germany. After graduating as a chemical engineer Rudy joined the Arabian American Oil Company in New York initially to work in the New York office. However it was not long before he transferred to Ras Tanura to work on the oil refinery then being expanded.

Always a stamp collector he became one of the founder members of the Arabian Philatelic Association formed in Dhahran in 1968. There had been an earlier stamp club in Dhahran in the 1950's but that had ceased to exist. The APA focussed particularly on Saudi Arabian Philately although always in the Dhahran club there were many who collected other countries and it was in the following year 1969 that Rudy started seriously collecting Saudi Arabia.

Two years later in 1971 the "Random Notes" journal began with Jack Wilson as editor. Rudy began his contributions to Random Notes #5 in 1974 with a series of 'notes' on Hejaz issues and a listing of the 'Tourist' booklets. In 1975 (RN#6) Rudy collaborated with Fred Benedict on a major article on the 'Illegible' issues. He went on to become the journal's most prolific author with major articles on the various 1925 Jeddah overprints and surcharges and his studies of the revenue stamps. Following Jack's retirement Rudy became editor of Random Notes journal in 1984 from issue #28.

My own first memories of Rudy was in the early 80's as he dispensed new issues and later in the evening would be reviewing stamps brought for his specialist opinion. Rudy was editor of the Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries, which had just been published in April 1981. Rudy's rapid fire sorting through a stock page rapidly discarding forgeries was awesome and slightly scary to collectors like me just dipping our toes in the sea of Saudi Arabian philately. It was with some trepidation that I approached Rudy some time later with some stamps I had found within an auction lot but had not been mentioned in lot description. I pointed out to Rudy that I had studied the Forgery Manual but couldn't identify which forgery they were. To my surprise they weren't dismissed out of hand but were held for further review and eventually proved to be genuine and rather rare. So scarce that Rudy himself did not have them! A trade was arranged and I found myself the proud and fortunate possessor of an extensive collection of genuine Hejaz stamps mostly signed RJT. Of course the collection was basic so I began to add a few varieties – and before I realized I was even making my own forgery collection.

By 1985 we were both committee members of the APA and Rudy was editing Random Notes and also producing updates to the Reference Manual of Forgeries. In 1986 I became President and Rudy was Vice President. We were therefore 'responsible' when the recently circulated Page U-2 of the Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries came back to haunt us. When Random Notes was being published in Saudi Arabia we were always subject to very strict rules of protocol and every issue published was subject to review by the company Publications Department. Anyway someone in authority Riyadh was not amused at something the APA had published and we were called in for a 'discussion'. It was never actually clarified what the complaint was but we were told not to do it again! We then had some troubled months trying to smooth the waters again and keeping a low profile. We searched the RN to see what the problem was and finally decided that it was page U-2 of the forgery manual but we were never formally informed about the subject of the complaint. However after that no further parts of the Reference



Manual were published or updated and all future issues of Random Notes were subjected to even more intense scrutiny prior to publication. Whilst we occasionally had a valid correction most of the effort was spent trying to avoid references on cancels being corrected to the 'official' spelling of the cities.

However I was still intrigued by these forgery problems and Rudy put up with my observations and questions as I probed and tested the hypotheses. About the same time David Graham and stayed with me in Dhahran and Rudy joined us for a long session discussing forgeries. In the early 1990's Rudy presented a series of talks on the forgeries in Dhahran and I was able to assist by making slides and photographs. By this time Rudy and I were discussing stamps about three times a week as we walked around the Dhahran Golf Course – walking not playing! This went on throughout the Gulf War. Although we were never actually out walking when the Scuds came down we did carry our gas masks! We were not out the day that a patriot missile destroyed a scud just above part of the route we regularly walked. Rudy was supposed to retire the following year in 1992 but his work in the Oil Supply Planning and Scheduling Department was vital and he was retained for an additional two years beyond the normal retiring date. During this period the company held a lunch marking Rudy's 35 years service, attended by a large contingent of his work and philatelic colleagues.

Rudy retired to Florida and, after considering various other locations, bought a house in Melbourne and settled into retirement. He had planned to continue as editor, write-up all of his notes on the revenues and also to rework the Forgeries manual. However with ill health, long communication times this took much longer than expected. In mid-2000 I also retired and my family and I visited Florida and made arrangements to visit Rudy. He was just out of hospital but insisted on entertaining us for the day. I returned a few days later to find him much recovered and very keen to revive the Random Notes. Rudy purchased a new computer and there began an almost daily exchange of emails from Florida to Scotland. He also was very pleased when he suddenly interrupted me on my computer 5,000+ miles away while I was in the midst of a letter. After that our emails were intermixed with 'on-line' chats. Before long additional collectors started joining in the 'email' circle principally Fred Benedict from California, Martin Lovegrove from England, David Jessich and Dr Samir Amr from Saudi Arabia and Marwan Nusair from Ohio. Rudy was keen to broaden the circle and was discussing the format for an 'on-line' meeting of the APAI in the near future.

Rudy had been working as an expertizer of Saudi material for the American Philatelic Society and, after Nutmeg had purchased the Al Mojaddedi collection at Harmer's in London, Rudy agreed to lot the collection. Rudy also completed and published his Catalogue of the Fiscal Stamps of Saudi Arabia 1916-2001 at the end of 2001. After quite a few initial problems we eventually published Random Notes Number 57 – in April 2002 over 6 years since RN #56. Due to Rudy's efforts RN #58 followed in July as we planned to try and maintain a quarterly magazine. Because of the worldwide grouping of the current membership we were moving into new territories for philatelic journals – and for us - by publishing a full colour version to be sent by email. We have been seeking advice from APS, RPSL and BL on the standards we should adopt for such a philatelic journal – but it appears that the APAI is setting them! However Rudy was very pleased with the response and as you know one of his last emails was on our plans.

Having completed RN #58 Rudy had already circulated a few contributors to RN #59 with the format of this issue. He was also very busy preparing and writing up lots for another major philatelic collection for Nutmeg of New York. In RN #59 Rudy was proposing a series on collecting the revenue stamps supported by one on modern passport stamps. Unfortunately these are not available. Rudy's major work was as editor and key contributor to the Reference Manual



of Saudi Arabian Forgeries. The standards set were very high and he and I were discussing the total rebuild of the Forgery Manual over the next year and I intend that this project will continue.

Once Rudy came on-line in 2000 he joined a few of us bidding on eBay under his pseudonym 'KSAR32'. I am pleased to report that the last purchase, a few days before he died was an item which had been on his want list for a very long time – an inward cover into the eastern province in the 1930's. Rudy was very pleased to win this 1934 cover franked with the US National Parks issue and almost the last email I had confirmed that he would be writing it up for Random Notes. I hope that we can eventually bring that cover for your enjoyment.

Rudy had several visits to the hospital in the last year, however before I knew him well he was lucky to survive a trip to the USA from Saudi Arabia when a quadruple heart bypass was required. One of these valves had ceased to work recently and diabetes and a back problem had reduced his ability to travel. However one is not really aware of the ailments as the emails with information and ideas continued to flow. Rudy passed away quite suddenly on September 24th. 2002 In Melbourne, Florida

I am very sorry to have lost a great mentor and friend. Rudy was a lifelong bachelor but was in the heart of a large family. My sincerest condolences go to his sisters Joan and Mary and brother John from myself, my family and also from his philatelic friends.

Willie King

I never met Rudy; our only contact was by frequent e-mails. Over the last couple of years he has given me much expert advice. That, and his publications have been the foundation of my knowledge. I will miss him. Inevitably there will be some snippets of information that have not been recorded, but here is one from Rudy that was part of an e-mail concerning my copy of SG D148, Scott LJ 36a: ***I hope yours is "used" (dealer cancel) the only way I've seen them - 4 Jan 02.*** Well, mine is, but it is interesting to note that Gibbons only list this as mint. I will search for more of these short, but important, lines from a respected expert.

I think it was earlier this year that Rudy asked if I would be willing to take over Random Notes "When the time was right". Not knowing what prompted such a question, I agreed and thought no more about it. That time has come. Unlike the previous editors of Random Notes, I am not an expert and do not have a quality collection for reference. I see my role as more of a guardian for the publication and will rely heavily on others for expert opinion. Willie King has kindly agreed to be my technical advisor, although he implied that I knew my way around the Makkah Arms stamps. I think he was being kind.

I have no plans for major changes. I would like to see more 'random notes' and short articles; after all it is not possible to write a full page about some things! I will try to accept articles in any format you wish, so please submit something. My 'Weatherings column' will be merged with Willie King's 'Random Notes' and are quite likely to appear as page fillers; I hope you find them useful.

Martin Lovegrove

Random Notes #59

Assembled by : W. A. King

- 1 **Saudi Revenue Catalog Update.** Two items to update in Rudy's *Catalog of the Fiscal Stamps of Saudi Arabia*.

RF32 and RP54 : Please correct two typos in the scarcity rating Page APX42.

Correct ratings are UC (Uncommon) and not U = unissued. Rudy had reverified all of the other 'U' ratings and these are correct at August 2002, however he had found two in the last year (RG35 and 38) just before publication so keep looking. (RJT 20/8/02).

RR14 and varieties a & b. In reply to a query on colour of the handstamps Rudy replied "It comes in pure violet, black and rose – as listed, AND also in mixtures. I should have said that in a note". (RJT 20/8/02)

- 2 **Survey of Egypt Books :** The APAI have added one number to the register being compiled by David Beech FRPSL. This register currently lists the following from the 200 copies printed: Numbers 3, 6, 18, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 35, 36, 37, 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 52, 53, 63, 74, 86, 92, 94, 101, 121, 129, 131, 132, 133, 134, 139. Additionally 11 blank copies are known and a copy assigned to Sir Reginald Wingate. Your help is solicited in registering any copies which are not listed but you may have or know the whereabouts. Information required is the number assigned to the copy and the name of the dignitary who was assigned that copy. Note even blank copies should be registered – if possible where and when bought. If you wish to register ownership of any of the above listed copies that would be useful and advise whether you wish to be identified as the current owner or simply as an APAI member. (DL 07/02)
- 3 **APO 816 covers from ARAMCO :** An 8th cover has been added by Sam van Blarcom to the register of Aramco 'Civilian' employee covers sent out through APO Box 816 during the 18 months it was open in Bahrain. The current listing with opening and closing dates is shown. No covers have been reported when APO 816 was located in 1946 at Dhahran Airport. (wak 11/02)

Date	Cancel Type	Rate	Censor	Detail	To	Ref
14-Jun-1944				Opened bahrain		RN54-4
26-Sep-1944	2 - APO	6ct	None	Toole	NY	
26-Sep-1944	2 - APO	6ct	None	Zurlee?	California	
15-Nov-1944	3 - ABF 816	6ct	0750	Ohliger	Washington	RN37-5
13-Dec-1944	1 - APO 816	6ct	0751	Ames	NY	
27-Jan-1945	3 - ABF 816	30ct	0751+tape	Stewart	Scotland	RN58-4
20-Feb-1945	3 - ABF 816	12ct	0750+tape	Thomas	California	
21-May-1945	2 - APO	6ct	None	Johnson	Oregon	
4-Jul-1945	2 - APO	6ct	2520+tape	Johnson	Oregon	
1-Jan-1946				Moved to Cairo		RN43-3
1-Mar-1946				Opened Dhahran		RN43-3
13-Dec-1946				Closed Dhahran		RN43-3



4 **Djedda 2 Bilingual Cancel :**

This cancel with numeral 2 first appears on the 1905 Turkish stamps.

Jakob von Uexkull lists the 10pa, 1pi, 2pi and 10pi of the 1905 Turkish issue with violet cancels. I can add the 2½ pi to that violet listing. Two examples tied by a violet cancel for 26th February 1908 are shown here. It would therefore appear logical that the 5 piastres also exists with a violet cancel.



Djedda 2 Cancel on Hejaz stamps :

Kenneth Knight reported usage of this cancel on Hejaz stamps in RN #44 page 16 (Jan. 1989). Can anyone produce an example, which can be verified on a stamp or preferably a cover from the Hejaz period? Any such usage is apparently very scarce and should be recorded in APAI records. (wak 10/02)

- 5 **Djedda 5 Bilingual Cancel on Turkish Issues :** This Ottoman cancel with numeral 5 appears originally on Ottoman stamps but has been recorded by JvU on fewer stamps than the numeral 2 cancel noted above (10 vs 33 for numeral 2) Strangely missing are the entire 1913 issue and 1914 pictorials.

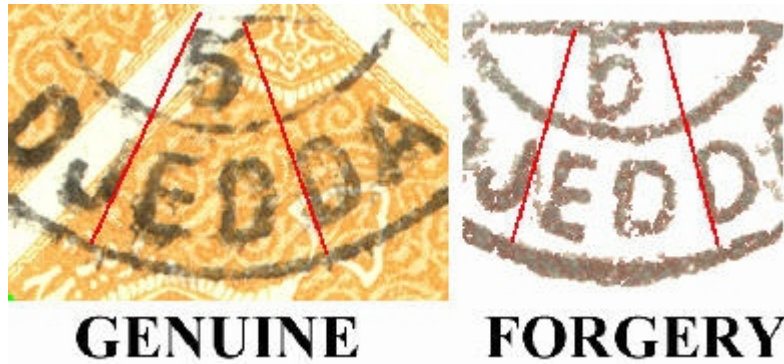
Djedda 5 on Hejaz Stamps : This cancel however saw extensive continued use in the Hejaz after independence including use on both commercial and philatelic mail. It is also found very clearly struck on blocks of roulette 20 of the first issue. I have two plate blocks of the 1/8pi which appear to have been removed from Philatelic mail. Each block is centrally cancelled 12-10-917 and one block has a partial Port Taufiq of 16-10-17 the correct four day transit time, the other block has a Censor 4 mark. Note this cancel is dated just two days away from the forgery listed in RN #57 page 20. The genuine Djedda 5 cancel continued to be used, the three digit years were reduced to two digits and vertical bars often replaced the 'dots' or fine dashes separating the date numerals. I do have one with year dates of 12-4-(19)32 but that is a simple reversal of the year digits as proven by the Arabic date.. The latest cancel I can locate in my collection is dated November 1923.

Can anyone provide evidence of usage Djedda 5 in 1924 or later?

Can anyone provide an example actually used on 10-11-917 on the first issue?

Djedda 5 Forgery : Considerable discussion followed Rudy's listing in RN57 of the Djedda 5 forgery. What has been established is that this forgery is **RARE**. Therefore those of you with Djedda 5 cancels on your used stamps can relax! I eventually found one, not on a Jeddah provisional but on a poor copy of a ½ pi Arms issue where it appears to be struck over an illegible cancel.





Differences : The forged '5' has many differences. It is a different font, it is taller, narrower and typically touches the date bar. Also the lettering of DJEDDA is poorly aligned. In the genuine a straight edge as shown on the J or second D both touch the 5 but are well out on the forgery.

Only the date 10-11-917*۳۳۶-۱-۶۴ is recorded as being forged.

If the date is separated by vertical bars or the year is two digits then it is genuine. As this is rather a rare forgery we would appreciate any finds being reported to the association at Arabphilassocin@aol.com (wak 10/02)

- 6 Information has been received that one of the illustrations in RN59 'Weatherings Column' and reproduced below (figure 1) is a mark applied by the 'Egyptian Censor Authority' (MCL)



Figure 1



Figure 2

- 7 One now for the experts. How should fake items be marked? Figure 2 illustrates the problem quite nicely. The stamp is from position 16 and presumably was marked as a fake because the overprint did not plate against any of the known positions of the reference sheet used by the APA. When sheets of this issue from the Mojadeddi collection were sold, it was found that the overprints did not match the generally accepted standard and that the existence of a second genuine overprint plate became a possibility. I am not even sure whether the overprint matches this alternative sheet, but the principle remains: A forgery is only a forgery in the light of current knowledge. Perhaps the A.EID mark should not have been dismissed, but a potentially genuine stamp has been spoilt. As an offshoot of this point, A.EID marks have been seen on stamps with the Nejd second handstamp that does not match the accepted standard. Should we now consider that a second handstamp was prepared?



In view of the limited postal use of just about everything in the early period, the absence of postally used examples should not consign stamps to the dustbin. (MCL)

- 8 In Random Notes #30 there was an excellent article by Fred Benedict that really got into the depths of the Caliphate overprint. This article was written in 1985 and it is therefore not surprising that more can be added. I have obtained a large (several hundred) collection of forged Caliphate overprints, mainly type 3, and can report that the missing date in position 9 can be found on all of the values, although the 1/8 qirsh and 1 qirsh values are on the so-called 'reprints'. I wonder if this applied to the complete forgery type 3 printing? (MCL)
- 9 Another article from an old Random Notes that I can add to is the one on the Fifth Jeddah Issue appearing in Random Notes #10. On page 18, mention is made of a block of four 2 qirsh stamps having the upper two, positions 29 and 30, with a 10 qirsh surcharge and the lower 2 with a 1 qirsh surcharge. Also mentioned was a block of four 3 qirsh stamps with the top two, positions 11 and 12, having a 1 qirsh surcharge and the lower two having a 10 qirsh surcharge. All of the overprints were stated to be plateable against the 10 qirsh overprint. That gives rows 3 and 5 having at least some 1 qirsh surcharges. The blocks I have are:

Block of four 2 qirsh with positions 15 and 16 having a 10 qirsh surcharge and positions 21 and 22 having a 1 qirsh surcharge.

Block of four 3 qirsh with positions 1 and 2 having a 10 qirsh surcharge and positions 7 and 8 having a 1 qirsh surcharge. This was tricky at first, since I had assumed that the top two stamps were from the 1 qirsh surcharge but with extra dot.

Vertical pair of 2 qirsh with position 6 having a 10 qirsh surcharge and position 12 having 1 qirsh.

All of my examples can be plated against the 10 qirsh surcharge sheet. So we now have rows 2, 3, 4 and 5 with some 1 qirsh surcharges. (MCL)

- 10 In the Forgery Manual, page S-2, my copies also appear to be derived from a single cliché. On checking my genuine sheets, I can plate the ¼ qirsh forgery as coming from position 7, and the 5 qirsh from position 4. The main plating features are indicated in figure 3; in the former value there are breaks in the frame just below the Arabic script, and in the 5 qirsh there is a large break in the side decoration.

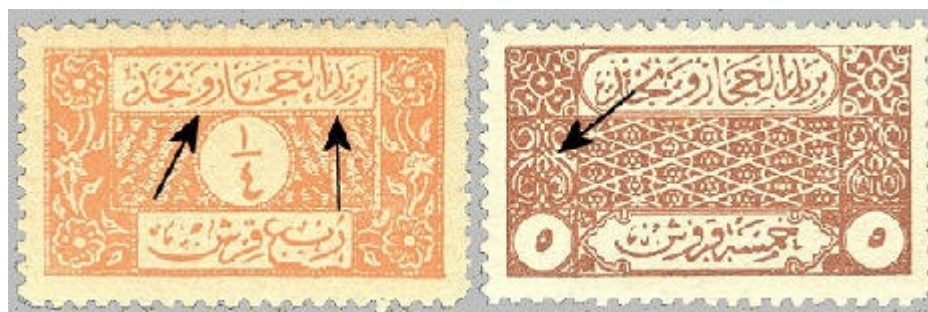


Figure 3

- 11 The answer to my challenge in item 7 in the 'Weatherings column' in Random Notes #58 can be found in this issue; unfortunately there were no responses, correct or otherwise. The error I introduced was the replacement of the Arabic script above the Sherifian Arms by that used exclusively for the ½ qirsh. (MCL)

Posta Europea Interpostal Seals

By: Marwan Nusair

Privatization of such services as the Post Office appears to be a very modern phenomenon, but private postal services actually date back to the 17th century in England or perhaps earlier elsewhere. The Posta Europea was a private business set up by Italian businessmen in Egypt in 1842 or 1843, primarily to cater to the postal needs of the foreign consular and business community in Egypt at that time. This developed into a full Postal Service, and was purchased by the Egyptian Khedive (Viceroy) from its owners in 1865. The former owner became the General Manager of the Egyptian Postal Service.

There is some controversy about the use of Interpostal Seals. Everyone agrees that after 1880 they were used to re-seal opened mail. The seals were used to reseal mail opened to ascertain a bad address, by accident, or for censorship purposes. Before 1880 one group of postal history collectors believes that Interpostal Seals were actually used as Official Stamps in lieu of free franking privileges for certain government departments. This school of thought is reflected in the primary catalogue of interpostal seals by Ernest A. Kehr (recently re-published with Philip Cockrill). Another group of postal history collectors insists that they were always simply seals; nothing more. Jakob Von Uexkull, in his recent book (reviewed in RN 57) belongs to the second group.

Regardless of the actual use of these seals, we are interested in them because some were issued for use in Jeddah in 1867. In the Kehr catalogue these are referred to as Type III. Figure 1 shows two seals using different colours of ink.



Figure 1

There are two dies (stones) used. The two in figure 1 are Stone A. The two stones are distinguished by the slightly different shape of the left-hand character (Arabic "Y") in the bottom Arabic line in the centre.



Figure 2



Figure 3

Figure 2 shows Stone A and Figure 3 shows Stone B. Stone B is a smoother figure without the undulations evident in Stone A.



Whether these were stamps or seals, the "Gedda" types are interesting to the Arabian stamp collector. There are 11 major types classified by Kehr, with several subtypes in some cases, but only Type III in both dies appears to have been used in Jeddah. This type was printed on white or off-white paper only. Coloured paper was used in other post offices, but apparently not in Jeddah. The ink can be gray or dark blue, and there appear to be 6 settings for each stone, differing in the exact positions of the word "Gedda" in the circle.

Forgeries

Since forgeries exist of the many interpostal seals issued elsewhere in the Ottoman Empire, we should look at some of them. With very little experience at this time, I don't know of forgeries of the "Gedda" seals yet.

Forgeries of the Type VIII and Type VIIIA seals are common. An example of a Port Said (Egypt) forgery is shown in Figure 4 and the genuine seal is shown in Figure 5.

The shade difference is typical of such differences in the genuine seals, so should not be taken



Figure 4



Figure 5

by itself as a marker. The main differences are as follows:

- 1- The paper used is different, at least in the Type VIII seals. We don't know if forgeries exist of the Type III seals used in Jeddah or if the paper used is the same as Type VIII forgeries.
- 2- Almost every forgery I've seen appears to have been cut rather amateurishly; the genuine articles are diecut in a very precise circle. The cut is sometimes off-centre, resulting in one side of the seal being cut off or right on the edge in both the genuine and forgeries, but the genuine cut is almost always smooth.
- 3- All the forgeries exhibit breaks in the vertical lines and in the circles, as shown in Figure 6. The genuine seals appear to have well inked continuous lines, as shown by the same area in Figure 7. In some areas, it looks as if small bits of the artwork were rubbed off in the forgery, and there are numerous small breaks in the circles.





Figure 6



Figure 7

If anyone has other examples of the "Gedda" seals, particularly the Stone B variety, it would be very interesting to see scans of these.

Finally, Figure 8 shows a Type III seal for Abuhomus (Egypt). This is also a Stone A variety. These seals are identical to the "Gedda" type, with the city name inserted as appropriate. On the right, courtesy of Martin Lovegrove, are four "Gedda" seals with different shades of paper and ink.



Figure 8

Zeppelin Covers from Saudi Arabia

by Sam van Blarcom

For some time I have been looking for a Graf Zeppelin cover originating in Saudi Arabia. These show up at auction from time to time, but are thought of as quite rare, and are so described when they appear. Of late it seems a fair number have turned up, and I wondered whether these were different covers or perhaps recycled from previous collections.

I have looked back over records as were available to me; my search was facilitated by the fact that these covers are regarded as premium items and are typically well photographed. I have identified twenty one separate covers as tabulated on the next page. All are to South America from Makkah in 1933 or 1934. The first records I located were in RN#13 (1979) for covers listed as 18 and 21 but no photograph is available. Two covers were displayed in 2001 at the Royal Philatelic Society London. The cover listed #4 from the Woo "Birds" collection due to the unusual cockatoo cachet and Tarik Alireza's magnificent display included cover #13. I finally succeeded in winning #15 in the list accompanied by a certificate, which states it is one of "about 5 examples recorded" which claim I took with a grain of salt!

Although Zeppelin flights to South America commenced in 1931 it is 1933 before any covers from Saudi Arabia are found. The majority of the 1933 covers recorded are to Pernambuco in Brazil with just two recorded to Peru. However two thirds of the 1934 covers recorded are to Buenos Aires in Argentina.

All of these covers are 'philatelically' inspired and appear to be from the same basic source however posted using available stamps they provide interesting into Saudi philately, which was at that time changing from Hejaz and Nejd stamps to Kingdom stamps. The rates used are not considered to be particularly important or valid as it was more important to give a colourful selection of about the correct valuation. However no extensive use was made of Heir Apparent stamps, which might have been expected and only a single cover is so far recorded with the Tughra definitive issue of 1934. No covers have been recorded from the 16 flights to South America in 1935 or from the 20 in 1936 the last of which flown by the Hindenburg. The use of the Zeppelins for intercontinental mail effectively ceased with the crash of the Hindenburg on May 6th 1937 at Lakehurst.

It is clear from the registration number sequence that additional covers were sent and we would welcome reports on such items in your collection or which appear in the market. However even filling in some blanks in the registration number and adding a few at the ends of sequences there are very few covers related to the tremendous demand from air mail and Zeppelin collectors who appreciate beautiful covers from this era.

Please submit a clear scan or colour photocopy of any KSA Zeppelin cover to me Sam L Van Blarcom, 32 Woodstone Square, Austin, TX 78703, USA – including those listed but which we have not yet been shown in the photo record. (Sam Van Blarcom)

APAI Certificate for Zeppelin Covers: The APAI will provide, on request, an APAI Certificate of Registration to owners of all covers listed here or for covers to be added to this listing. This certificate will concentrate on the special features of the cover concerned and on reviewing Sam's list virtually every cover has it's own unique feature be it the flight cachet or the combination of stamps or the destination or just that inverted cover! This certificate will be part of the APAI's contribution to building up a true record and provenance for all important and valuable items of Saudi Philately. Zeppelin covers are one of the few areas where collectors outside the APAI collect KSA material. It is important that all collectors are provided with more accurate information, such as that collated here by Sam. (Willie King)



List of Zeppelin Covers posted in Saudi Arabia

Covers recorded at November 2002

APAI #	Cancel	Date	Destination	Flight	Cachet	Qirsh	Regn No.	Auction or ID
1	Mecque 3	16-May-33	Lima	May-33	S. Am 33-2	25	744	Nutmeg Apr/Aug 2001
2	Mecque 3	16-May-33	Pernambuco	May-33	S. Am 33-2	27.25	747	Nutmeg April 2001
3	Mecque 1	21-Jun-33	Pernambuco	Aug-33	S. Am 33.4	25	1654	Uexkull 1996
4	Mecque 1	25-Jul-33	Pernambuco	Aug-33	S. Am 33.5	25.5	1911	Woo Colln RPSL v111p182
5	Mecque 1	2?-Aug-33	Lima	Sep-33	S. Am 33-7	28.25	2485	SG 12-00 Cherrystone 3-01
6	Mecque 1	2?-Aug-33	Pernambuco	Sep-33	S. Am 33-7	27.25	2499	Nutmeg April 2001
7	Mecque 1		Pernambuco	Sep-33		27.5	2941	Cherrystone 5/01
8	Mecque 1	1?-Sep-33	Pernambuco	Sep-33	S. Am 33-8	27.5	2943	Cherrystone July 2002
9	Mecque 1	1?-Sep-33	Pernambuco	Sep-33	S. Am 33-8	27.5	2945	SG 12-00, Cherrystone 3-01&02
10	Mecque 1		Pernambuco	Sep-33		29.5	3314	Cherrystone Jan 2001
11	Mecque 1	19-Sep-33	Pernambuco	Sep-33	S. Am 33-8	29.5	3315	Uexkull 1996
12	Mecque 1	19-Sep-33	Pernambuco	Sep-33	S. Am 33-8	29.5	3316	Nutmeg Nov 2001
13	Mecque 3	31-May-34	Buenos Aires	Jun-34	S. Am 34-3	27	493	Mayo 1980, TAA RPSL 4/2002
14	Mecque 3	31-May-34	Buenos Aires	Jun-34	S. Am 34-3	27	494	Uexkull 1996
15	Mecque 3	31-May-34	Lima	Jun-34	S. Am 34-3	28	497	Nutmeg Apr/Aug 2001
16	?		Lima	Jun-34		26.5	909	Cherrystone 1998
17	Mecque 3	8-Apr-34	Buenos Aires	Jun-34	S. Am 34-3	26.5	911	Nutmeg Aug 2001
18	Mecque 3		Buenos Aires	Jun-34	34-3?	36	unk	RN 13p 6 1978 auction
19	Mecque 3	1?-Jul-34	Buenos Aires	Jul-34?	None	35+1	614	Cherrystone July 2002
20	Type S32		Pernambuco	Oct-34	Code c 34-11	28.5+0.5	508	Mayo 1980
21	?		BA or Pern?	Oct-34	As above?	25	unk	RN 13p 6 1978 auction

The list has been sorted by the Zeppelin flight cachet and by the registration number where these are known.

Zeppelin Covers from Saudi Arabia - 1933



Covers # 1 and 2 both with Green cachet for 2nd 1933 South America flight. June 3-13, 1933



Cover #3 with 4th 1933 Flight Cachet

Cover #4 with Cockatoo cachet of 5th 1933 Flight



Covers #5 and 6 with the Sailing Ship cachet of the 7th flight September 16-26th 1933



Zeppelin Covers from Saudi Arabia – 1933-34



Covers #8 and 9 with cachet of the 8th Flight September 30th – October 9th 1933



Covers #11 and 12 with cachet of the 8th Flight September 30th – October 9th 1933



Covers # 13 and 14 with cachet of the 3rd Flight (Argentinian) June 23rd – July 6th 1934

Zeppelin Covers from Saudi Arabia - 1934



Covers # 15 and 17 with cachet of the 3rd Flight (Argentinian) June 23rd – July 6th 1934



Cover 19 No Cachet Oct 1934

Cover 20 with cachet 11th Flight

All Covers have the Par GRAF ZEPPELIN air mail cachet and
the Green VIA Friedrichshafen Allemagne cachet



Random Note

When I started a serious study of Hejaz stamps, I found it was made more difficult because of the lack of reference material. I have been lucky enough to acquire several complete sheets of stamps and have put these on the web in order to help others. However, there are still more required and I am in particular need of sheets of the small 3-line Jeddah and both plates of the 16mm 3-line Jeddah. Can anyone help? If you can, please contact me at weatherings@aol.com. The existing sheets are at <http://mysite.freemove.com/saudiarms> and follow the link to 'Plating the Makkah Arms' – Martin Lovegrove

Introduction to Collecting the Stamps of Hejaz and Nejd

(1916-25)

By W. A. King FRPSL

Collecting the stamps of any period of Saudi Arabia is challenging, but the 1916-25 period causes particular concerns due partly to the identification of the stamps and secondly to the number of articles and warnings on forgeries. Another problem is that many sets do contain an almost impossible and valuable stamp. However due to these difficulties it does mean that you are also more likely to make that valuable find. It is hoped therefore to present collecting the early period as stimulating, and much more importantly, as fun.

The stamps : The majority of our members collect either to the Gibbons or to the Scott catalogue listings and may also use Jack Wilson or Mayo's lists. Europeans may well use Michel or Yvert. The Gibbons "Simplified" catalogue lists just 149 stamps for the period 1916 to 1925 i.e prior to the introduction of the Hejaz & Nejd issues in 1926. However once perforation and overprint varieties are included the list expands to well over 700 stamps in the main Gibbons or Scotts catalogues and must be well 1,500 stamps in Mayo's listing. However a good representative collection would consist of about 200-250 stamps avoiding expensive basic stamps and varieties.

Could you expect completion? :

No, not even with a very deep wallet! Completion is no more possible with the first issues than with the later issues of Saudi Arabia. There are stamps in all periods of Arabia which are difficult to locate. One or two catalogue listed varieties that just never appear on the market. It is not necessary to have completion to have satisfaction or even to gain high awards at exhibitions. I achieved a gold medal for my 'First Issues of Hejaz' in 2001. Needless to say that collection was not complete nor do any exhibition rules require completion. However in the search for the elusive variety one may locate a new one as yet unlisted.

Can you expect to find bargains? :

Yes, like all Saudi collectors with their eyes open and some basic knowledge you can expect sooner or later to have the thrill of 'finding' a good item. Since these stamps are uncommon they are frequently poorly described. Also since there are fewer collectors in competition not all Saudi lots are competitive at local or provincial auctions.

Can you expect to find your buy is a forgery? :

Yes, but I have never yet had a dealer who refused to return my money if requested. If the price is low I may buy to remove from the market or negotiate a lower price. One dealer gave me the stamp for the forgery collection and many are quite happy to accept a lower price offer. Others, I suspect, just move the stamp on to another dealer or auction. However you can build a very respectable forgery collection, adding prestige to your 'genuine' collection.

Classification of Stamps : I suggest that you classify the stamps four different basic groups to help you collect. Stamps are grouped by the catalogue value and/or whether a 'variety'. To help I have individually listed my suggestions for the scarcer group 'B' stamps and the rare group 'D'. Individual collectors may prefer their own list or to transfer some group 'B' items to the variety list 'C'. This is purely a suggested initial listing and you can create your own. I never really intended to collect beyond group 'A' so be warned collecting is addictive!



Group A Stamps : This initial group consists of stamps typically catalogued under \$/£50. These are stamps which can typically be purchased at a few pennies up to perhaps \$/£20-30 maximum. Approximately 80% of all of the basic stamps fall into this category thus providing an excellent representative collection of the period. Group A stamps should identify or simply exclude all easily identifiable forgeries but difficult to identify forgeries are not particularly important.

Group B Stamps : A small group of the regular stamps with catalogue value over \$/£50 but under \$/£500. As collectors desire to add higher value stamps they must protect against forgeries. Note that overprinted stamps in the sets marked with an asterisk should have a certificate, which clearly states **an assigned position** for that overprint. Certificates without that information are of little value. With an acceptable certificate prices will be 30-50% of catalogue depending on condition and perhaps half of that without a certificate.

Set	Issued	Group A	B	C	D
First Issues	1916-17	18		2	1
Unframed	1921	10	4	30	8
Framed	1922	11		24	
Arms	1922-4	22		28	3
Two Line*	1925	17	10	32	15
Small 3 Line*	1925	3	4	13	2
Large 3 Line*	1925	25	21	63	10
Illegibles	1925	24	6	106	
Large 4 Line*	1925	18		32	
King Ali's	1925	36		2	
1st Nejd	1925	21		20	3
Pilgrimage	1925	3	2		
2nd Nejd	1925	29	1	36	3
Capture	1925	10			
Totals		229	48	288	45

Good examples of ‘illegibles’ will or should be close to catalogue. Stamps without gum, or used or with so called dealer cancels should not be rejected and are about half the normal price. Genuine verifiable cancels complete with date are very much sought after. Those who collect only NH and / or four clear margins on an Arms issue require incredible patience and will have a very small collection. However, because of the small market and large geographic spread of collectors excellent purchases are possible – always ensure you buy with the caveat “Subject to Expertization to standards of Arabian Philatelic Association”

Group C Stamps : These are all ‘varieties’ which most collectors acquire to embellish the basic collection. Because these were available in very limited quantities, various unscrupulous people have augmented the small supplies. It is essential when a collector starts to collect varieties to enhance the collection that he also collects and studies the arts of the various forgers. Because this is the most hazardous area then the potential for finds is also greatest. The number of varieties can cause frustration and delight – and remember the APPROXIMATE number listed in the table is based on varieties listed in the principal catalogues – NOT the number listed in Random Notes or in Mayo or in APAI members own lists. Note many varieties listed in Mayo are NOT validated by the APAI (Refer RN51 page 3)

Group D Stamps : A small group of 45 stamps and varieties which, to ensure a place in your collection, must be genuine, have ‘provenance’ and/or should be recorded in APAI records. Note five of these stamps are even listed in Gibbons ‘simplified’ listing and even the major catalogues disagree on which should have a ‘main’ listing i.e. not small letter suffix. Not all of this prestigious group D items have been subject to the forgers attention – yet. These stamps require not only a certificate but a high quality scan or photograph registered in APAI records. These are ‘investment’ type stamps or varieties valued in excess of \$/£500. Registration will protect your investment and when the time comes to sell you will be able to add the prestigious notation “1 of XX items registered by the APAI”. Over the next year the APAI will be establishing registers for all of these stamps.



Group B Items : Should have APAI approved Certificates

Description : First Issues & Overprints	Gibbons	Scott	Forgeries
Black Unframed Opt on 1pi	25	L18b	Yes
Brown-Carmine Unframed Opt on 1pi	27	L18a	Not known
1/2pi Surcharge on Unframed on 1pa	29	L22	Yes
1pi Surcharge on Unframed on 1pa	30	L23	Yes
Red two line on 1/2pi roul 20	63	L53	Yes
Blue two line on 1/2pi roul 20	64	L64a	Yes
Blue two line on framed on 1pa	77	L68	Yes
Blue two line on framed on 1/4pi	79	L70	Yes
Blue two line on framed on 1/2pi	80	L71	Yes
Blue two line on framed on 1pi	81	L72	Yes
Blue two line on framed on 2pi	83	L73	Yes
Blue two line on 1/2pi surcharge on framed on 1pa	84	L74	Yes
Blue two line on 1pi surcharge on framed on 1pa	85	L75	Yes
Red two line on 20pa due	D88	LJ17	Majority
Small Red 3 line on 1/4pi roul 20	88	L78	Yes
Small Blue 3 line on 1/4pi roul 20	89	L77	Yes
Small Blue 3 line on 1/4pi roul 13	91	L79	Yes
Small Blue 3 line on 20pa due	D93	LJ22	Yes
Overprints on Arms Issues			
Large Black overprint on 1/8pi	114	L90	Majority
Large Gold overprint on 1/8pi	123	L108	Yes
Large Gold overprint on 1/4pi	124	L109	Yes
Large Gold overprint on 1/2pi	125	L110	Yes
Large Gold overprint on 1 1/2pi	126	L111	Yes
Large Gold overprint on 2pi	127	L112	Yes
Large Gold overprint on 3pi Brown	128	L113	Yes
Large Gold overprint on 3pi Brown Red	129	L114	Yes
Large Gold overprint on 5pi	130	L115	Yes
Large Red overprint on Caliphate on 1pi	132	L129	Yes
Large Red overprint on Caliphate on 1 1/2pi	133	L130	Yes
Large Red overprint on Caliphate on 2pi	134	L131	Yes
Large Blue overprint on Caliphate on 3pi	141	L121	Yes
Large Black overprint on Caliphate on 1 1/2pi	145	L125	Yes
Large Black overprint on Caliphate on 3pi	146	L126	Yes
Large Black overprint on Caliphate on 5pi	147	L127	Yes
Dues overprint on Large Black Overprint on 1/2pi	D149	LJ35	Yes
Dues overprint on Large Black Overprint on 1 1/2pi	D150	LJ36	Yes
Dues overprint on Large Black Overprint on 2pi	D151	LJ37	Yes
Dues overprint on Large Black Overprint on 3pi	D152	LJ38	Yes
Dues overprint on Large Black Overprint on 5pi	D153	LJ39	Yes
1/4pi Illegible Surcharge on 1/8pi	148	L135a	Yes
1/4pi Illegible Surcharge on 1/2pi	149	L136a	Yes
1pi Illegible Surcharge on 2pi	150	L138a	Yes
1pi Illegible Surcharge on 3pi Brown	151	L139a	Yes
1pi Illegible Surcharge on 3pi Brown red	152	L140a	Yes
10pi Illegible Surcharge on 5pi	153	L141a	Yes
Nejd Issues			
4pi surcharge for Pilgrimage	213	33	Occasional
3pi Surcharge for Pilgrimage	214	34	Not known
2nd Nejd on 1pi Postage Due	D238	J9	Yes



Group D Items to be Registered with APAI

Description : First Issues & Overprints	Gibbons	Scott	Forgeries
1pi Perf 12 x 10 or 10 x 12	3a	L3b	Yes
Unframed Opt on perf 10 1pi	17	NL	Not known
Unframed Opt (Inv) on Perf 10 1pi	17a	NL	???
Unframed Opt on Roul 20 1/8pi	18	L15c	Yes
Unframed Opt (Inv) on Roul 20 1/8pi	18a	L15d	Yes
Unframed Opt on Roul 20 1/4pi	19	L16c	Yes
Unframed Opt (Inv) on Roul 20 1/4pi	19a	L16d	Yes
Unframed Opt on Roul 20 1/2pi	20	L17b	Yes
Unframed Opt on Roul 20 1pi	20a	L18d	Yes
Gold on Blue Two Line on 1/4pi roul 20	62	L61a	Yes
Gold on Red Two Line on 1/4pi roul 20	62 var	L61	Yes
Blue Sideways Two line on 1/4pi roul 13	69b,c	L65a	Not known
Blue Inverted Two Line on 2pi	75	L66B	Yes
Blue two line on unframed on 1/2pi	76	L67	Probably
Blue two line on framed on 1/8pi	78	L69	Yes
Blue inverted two line on framed on 1/8pi	78a	L69a	Yes
Blue inverted two line on framed on 1/4pi	79a	L70a	Yes
Blue inverted two line on framed on 1/2pi	80a	L71a	Yes
Blue inverted two line on framed on 2pi	83a	L73a	Yes
Blue inverted two line on framed on 1pi Surch on 1pa	85b	L75a	Yes
Blue two line on framed on 20pa Due	D89	LJ18 var	Yes
Blue inverted two line on framed on 20pa due	D89a	LJ18	Yes
Small Red 3 line double opt one inverted on 1/4pi	90c	L80 var	Yes
Small Red 3 line triple opt on 1/4pi	90d	L80 var	Yes
Large Red 3 line sideways on 1/4pi	94a	L81	Not known
Overprints on Arms Issues			
Caliphate Due 1/2pi	D57	NL	Not known
Caliphate Due 1pi	D58	NL	Not known
Caliphate Due 2pi	D59	NL	Not known
Blue two line sideways on 1/2p	86	L76	Yes
Blue two line sideways on 10p	87	L76A	Yes
Large Red (Inv) 3 Line on 1/8pi	95a	L98	Yes
Large Red 3 Line on 1/2pi	97	L100	Yes
Large Red (Inv) 3 Line on 1/2pi	97a	L100a	Yes
Large Red (Inv) 3 Line on 3pi Brown-Red	102	L105	Yes
Large Blue 3 Line on 1pi	107	L84	Yes
Large Blue (Inv) 3 Line on 1pi	107a	L84a	Yes
Large Black 3 Line on 1pi	117	L92	Yes
Large Black (Inv) 3 Line on 1pi	117a	L92a	Yes
Due on Large Red 3 Line on 1 1/2pi	D148	LJ36a	Not known
Matbua' on Violet 1st Nejd on 1/8pi	N208	P2	Yes
Matbua' on Black 1st Nejd on 1/8pi	N208a	P1	Yes
Matbua' on Violet 1st Nejd on 1/2pi	N209	P3	Yes
Blue 2nd Nejd on 1/8pi	224	38B	Yes
Black 2nd Nejd on 1/8pi	224a	38A	Yes
Blue Due on Blue 2nd Nejd on 2pi	D233a	NL	Not known



Collecting (or avoiding) the 'Forgeries' 1916-1925

As you move from group A into Group B/C/D stamps forgeries must be part of collecting problems. It is appreciated that the current forgery manual is rather difficult to use and requires considerable skills – and also requires examples for comparison of many forgeries. Apart from the clarity of the photocopied images the other major shortcoming of the manual is the omission of the frequency the forgeries are encountered.

I prepared colour photographs and slides of the majority of forgeries in the early 1990's to illustrate talks given by Rudy Thoden in Dhahran. Many of you already have these sets of photographs. However, with the advent of scanners and colour printing, it is now possible to provide much clearer examples and annotation is also easier.

The major upgrade and reformatting the Forgery Manual was planned for 2003 and it is intended to continue with that programme.

Forgeries : I have been preparing the case to drop the old forgery numbering sequence, which has no logical sequence apart from the order in which originally assigned. It is not practical to date by sequence of production since this is not known.

The sequence proposed is based on the formula below so that any new user will initially be directed to the common, frequently found and easily identifiable forgeries within each set or group of stamps. Each section will still begin with a presentation of the genuine but will now also include a brief synopsis of the level of problem for that particular issue. Improved presentation will assist the identification of the difficult group 3 forgeries.

Although the manual may be printed the principal record will be on a CD, which will enable any future user access to complete 'settings' of the genuine material.

Group 1 Forgeries : The first criteria is that they are **relatively easy to identify** and secondly that they are **common** and frequently encountered. The details are to be uploaded and permanently available on the APAI website. A normal x3 or x4 magnifying glass is adequate and the main features can be detected without magnification. If you ever wondered how the 'expert' can pick up a stamp and instantly pronounce 'a forgery' – it was one of these!

Group 2 Forgeries : The first criteria is as above i.e that they are **relatively easy to identify** . However secondly that they are **NOT common** and hence have an intrinsic collectable value to a specialist collector which may be higher than a genuine group A stamp.

Group 3 Forgeries : These are typically **difficult to identify** and need magnification (x4 to x10) and comparison to known genuine and also forgeries prior to classification. The main safeguard is to plate the stamp to a known position on a genuine sheet

Group 4 Forgeries : These are forgeries using modern technology such as photocopying and laser printing (and future developments of such) and typically require high magnification to resolve of at least x 20.

Valuation for Forgeries :

Group 1 : Few pennies up to \$/£3.

Group 2 : \$/£5 to \$/£20.

Group 3 : Probably 5-10% of the stamp value to a maximum of around \$/£50.

Group 4 : under \$/£10 unless particularly descriptive to a forgery collection.

No Saudi forgery has yet aspired to the notoriety or levels of Sperati's or Madame Joseph's which often rate three figures and occasionally can even reach a four figure realization at auction.

In Random Notes #60 this series will continue with suggestions on what to look for and what to avoid in a couple of the sets listed in the small table. Happy Hunting.

Makkah Arms – Design Study

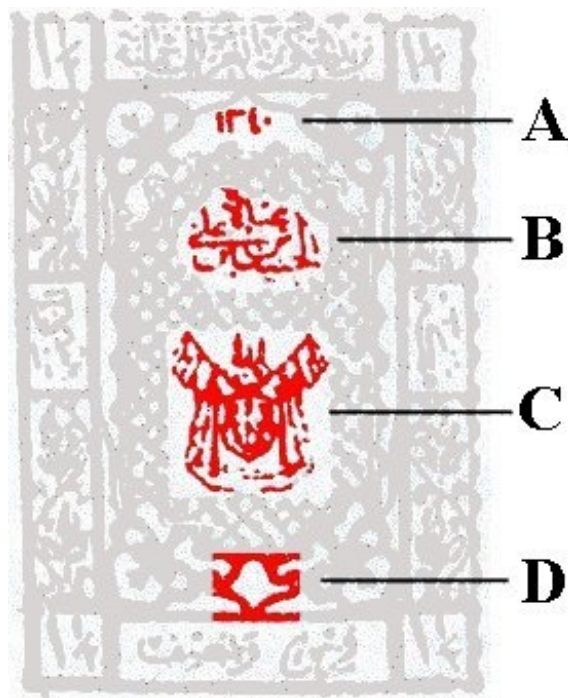
By: Martin C. Lovegrove

The initial issue of the Makkah Arms series comprised 7 values, apparently identical apart from value-related features. Other studies have shown that this was printed from plates built from stereotypes, but what process was used to get from the design to the finished plate? It has also been shown elsewhere that in all probability, the final stereotypes were produced from a single cliché stereo that was produced for each value.

One approach to the production of a single stereo for each value having a common design is to produce a single master of the common parts of the design into which plugs containing value-related detail were inserted in order to produce the required mould. I will attempt to show that this approach was possibly the one used for this series of stamps. I may, of course, be completely wrong!



Essay



Parts of design

There are several differences between the essays and the final design, but it is some of the common features that will be investigated.

The central panel comprises a date (A), 1340 for all values except 10 qirsh which was 1342, some Arabic text (B) 'Abdu Hussain Ibn Ali', the Makkan Sherifian Arms (C), and some decoration.

Examination of the essays and the released stamps shows that there are two different types of Arabic script, and perhaps of greater significance is the fact that it is the ½ qirsh value that is different; other values are for all practical purposes the same as the essays.





½ qirsh



All other values including 10 qirsh

Text in central panel of released stamps

It is difficult to suggest a reason for this difference. It is probable that the ½ and 1½ qirsh sheets were each produced from plate comprising one 36-cliché stereotype, whereas the other values used two smaller stereotypes to produce the plates. It could therefore be that the ½ qirsh was prepared by skilled printers, and maybe not at Makkah. The variance in the Arabic script was noted and changed to that shown in the essays for the 1½ qirsh. After these two plates were produced, production was handed over the Makkah press who experienced difficulty in producing 36 cliché stereotypes.

Perhaps the next value produced was the 1 qirsh, which used a 24-cliché stereo and a 12-cliché stereo to produce the plate. Subsequent values appear to have used two 18-cliché stereotypes to provide the plate of 36 stamps.

The lower central decoration (D) also provides some mystery. In the essays for the 1½ qirsh and in all released values apart from the 1½, this decoration is not symmetrical about the vertical axis; symmetry only exists in the released 1½ qirsh stamp.



1½ qirsh



All other values excluding 10 qirsh

Lower central decoration

With no firm evidence of production order provided so far, investigation continued by comparing the entire stamps of each value. To facilitate this, a transparent image (in black) of the 1 qirsh value was superimposed on images of each of the other values in turn.

The results of this are shown below. In each case, the images were aligned on the left-hand central panel.

No comparison should be made between the central panel of the 10 qirsh and other values since it was printed in a separate operation by a different plate.



1 qirsh value superimposed on other values



On $\frac{1}{8}$ qirsh



On $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh



On $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh



On $1\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh



On $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh



On $1\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh





On 5 qirsh



On 10 qirsh

When images are compared, allowance has to be made for the possibility of paper stability. I have assumed that where the images appear to be different but that difference is progressive across the stamp, then that difference is probably not significant.

The above illustrations show:

- That in all probability the stamps originated from the same master but with relevant value plugs inserted.
- There is a perfect match between the 1, 3 and 5 qirsh values.
- The difference between the $\frac{1}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ is not significant.
- The $\frac{1}{2}$ is the same as the 1 qirsh apart from the central Arabic script.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ is identical to the 1 qirsh but with the central Arabic script offset. A detailed illustration of this is shown below:



Centre detail – 1 qirsh on $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh



It is therefore possible that because of the change of script, this was inserted as a plug. Indeed it is possible that the first value to be produced was the 1½, followed by the ½ but with a different script. Subsequent values reverted to the original design, but with the script plug inserted in a slightly different position.

A further set of illustrations shows the different setting of the Arabic script in the ½ and 1½ qirsh, and the common setting found in the other six values.



1/8 qirsh



1/4 qirsh



1 qirsh



2 qirsh



3 qirsh



5 qirsh

Different types of South-West corner

The common characteristics can be identified by observing how the lattice has been cut, either leaving a smooth edge or projections. For example, in each of the above, the lower left diagonal in the South-West corner has been cut smooth.



Smooth



Projections

Different types of South-West corner



On the values not showing the characteristics described previously, the lattice has been cut in a different manner, and is cut differently in both values, but neither displays the smooth cut seen in the previous examples:



½ qirsh



1½ qirsh

Other types of cut-out in lattice

It should be noted that the cut-out in the lattice for the Arabic script is smaller in the ½ and 1½ qirsh, perhaps reinforcing the theory that these were the first to be produced, after which the design was modified for the other values. Indeed, the fact that the ½ qirsh value has the smallest cut-out of all values, could indicate that that was the first value produced. The following images are of the 1 qirsh superimposed on the ½ and 1½ qirsh in order to illustrate the smaller area occupied by the Arabic script in what could be the first two values to be produced.



1 on ½ qirsh



1 on 1½ qirsh

Cut-out comparison

Conclusions

Not enough is known about the design process to form any firm conclusions about the order of production, but that the production may have been initiated by the ½ qirsh followed by the 1½.

It is likely that the stereotypes for each value originated from a single master with value-related plugs inserted as appropriate to produce the master mould for a value.

There are important differences between the ½ and 1½ qirsh values and the rest of the series, but that the significance of these differences is not known.

Definitive Listing for Saudi University Series

by D. E. Jessich, New Issues Chairman



Following is a checklist for all the significant varieties in the Saudi University series of definitive stamps.

The main variations come from color shifts in the SR 1.50 values. The early issues are generally pink (carmine rose) with the later printings containing more brown (brown rose/brown red). We used Stanley Gibbons color key as our reference.

Not included are issues with different postcodes or stamps that have only slight changes in color intensity (that may occur in later printings).

Asterisks (*) refer to varieties printed on gray paper, which fluoresce brightly under UV light.



<u>SG</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Value</u>		<u>Color</u>	<u>Issued</u>
Ibn Saud University					
1474	1009	0.15			11-86
1475	1010	0.20			11-86
1476	1010A	0.50		Blue	7-89
		0.50	*		9-89
		0.50		New Blue	11-93
1477	1011	0.65			11-86
	1011A	0.75			11-90
1478	1012	1.00			11-86
1479	1013	1.50		Rose Carmine	1-89
		1.50		Dull Rose	11-93
Umm Al Qura University					
1481	1014	0.50			8-88
1482	1015	0.65	*		3-89
	1016	0.75			11-90
1483	1017	1.00			3-87
1484	1018	1.50		Carmine Rose	8-88
		1.50		Rose Red	9-91
		1.50		Brown Red	11-93
King Saud University					
1487	1020	0.50			10-89
	1021	0.75			1-92
		0.75	*		5-92
1489	1022	1.00			7-87
1490	1023	1.50		Rose	4-89
		1.50	*		4-89
		1.50		Dull Rose	11-90
		1.50		Brown Rose	10-93
King Abdul Aziz University					
1493	1033	0.50			2-89
	1033A	0.75			1-92
1496	1034	1.50		Carmine Rose	4-89
		1.50		Rose Red	11-90
		1.50		Dull Rose	11-93



<u>SG</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Issued</u>
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King Faisal University

1499	1029	0.50	<input type="checkbox"/>		2-89
	1029A	0.75	<input type="checkbox"/>		1-92
1502	1030	1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carmin Rose	4-89
		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carmin Red	11-90
		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brown Red	9-93



Carmine Rose



Carmine Red



Brown Red

King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM)

1505	1025	0.50	<input type="checkbox"/>		2-89
	1026	0.75	<input type="checkbox"/>		11-90
1508	1027	1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rose	1-89
		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rose Red	8-91
		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brown Rose	10-93

Islamic University

1511	1036	0.50	<input type="checkbox"/>		7-89
	1036A	0.75	<input type="checkbox"/>		1-92
1514	1037	1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carmin Rose	1-89
		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rose Red	11-90
		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dull Rose	12-93



<u>SG</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Value</u>		<u>University</u>	<u>Issued</u>
Rose Carmine (1st & 2nd printing)					
1479	1013	1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ibn Saud	1-89, 9-91
Rose (1st printing)					
1490	1023	1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	King Saud	4-89
1508	1027	1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	KFUPM	1-89
Carmine Rose (1st printing)					
1484	1018	1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Umm Al Qura	8-88
1496	1034	1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	King Abdul Aziz	4-89
1502	1030	1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	King Faisal	4-89
1514	1037	1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Islamic	1-89
Carmine Red (2nd printing)					
		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	King Faisal	11-90
Rose Red (2nd printing)					
		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Umm Al Qura	9-91
		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Islamic	11-90
		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	King Abdul Aziz	11-90
		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	KFUPM	8-91
Dull Rose					
3rd		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ibn Saud	11-93
2nd		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	King Saud	11-90
3rd		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	King Abdul Aziz	11-93
3rd		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Islamic	12-93
Brown Rose (3rd printing)					
		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	King Saud	10-93
		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	KFUPM	10-93
Brown Red (3rd printing)					
		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Umm Al Qura	11-93
		1.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	King Faisal	9-93

Recent Definitive Issues of Saudi Arabia

By Willie King

This review will consider a number of definitives issues which have become available in the last few years when Random Notes was not published.

Al Khafji : It is strange reporting an additional new issue to a Saudi series that began in 1982 but these two new 25 halalah values have recently been released. Why a 25 halalah value is required is very difficult to understand and information would be welcome.

Value : 25 Halalah :

Small format 26 x 21 mm

Issued 13th September 2000.

Watermark : None .

Paper : Brightly luminescent
(Note initial issue dull under UV)

Perforation : 14 x 13½

Printed in sheets of 100, two panes of 50 separated by a gutter with post code slogans printed in alternate rows.

Row 1 : Post Code # 1 (shown)

Row 3 : PC # 4 (shown)

Row 5 : PC # 8

Row 7 : PC # 3

Row 9 : PC # 1 i.e same as row 1.



Additional New Variety of 25 Halalah Al Khafji

Perforation : 14 (All other details as above except no issue date known).

A composite scan is shown above, showing on the left (and gutter) the 14 x 13½ perforation variety. Using computer graphics a column of the perf 14 variety has been added to the right of the central gutter. Using the normal perforation gauges this shows vertical perforation 14.

Close examination show that both varieties of each stamp has 17 perforations down each side but the perforation 14 variety has a single 'wide' perforation at the top of the stamp. I.e theoretically both stamps have the same number of perforations over 2 cm. which is the official measure of perforation gauge. However since all graduated perforation gauges will show this variety, and it is visibly different the APAI will list this stamp.

Al Khafji (Small Format) Check List

Perforation	12	13½		14 x 13½			14		
Watermark	Up	Lft	Rgt	Up*	Lft	Rgt	Up*	None	None
5 Hal		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
10 Hal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
15 Hal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
20 Hal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
25 Hal	<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
50 Hal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
65 Hal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
1 SR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

* The watermark up varieties are listed in Gibbons and are all scarce.



Flowers : 1SR

The flowers minisheets were first issued in January and February 1990 in 50, 75 and 150 halalah values. During 1999 some 1 SR sheets became available but were not available to the APA new issue service at that time as none were sent to the Eastern Province. Note the colours were much drabber than the original values. These unheralded late definitive issues are the modern sleepers and are very difficult to locate.



Value : 1SR
Issued : 1999?
Watermark : None
Perforation : 12 All sheets seen were of poor quality.
Paper : White Luminescent
Gum : Shiny gum which Luminesces dull purple. (Not like variety of 75 and 150h)
Sheet Format : 4 panes of 21 separated by vertical and horizontal gutters.

Post Code labels : : Printed reading up in the vertical gutter as 50h and 150h.*

Rows 1-3 (upper panes) PC # 8, #3, # 2. Rows 4-6 : PC #5, #7, #6.

Horizontal gutter : A black guideline the entire length of the perforated horizontal gutter.

***Post Code Labels 75h** These are in a different sequence and include 2 of the other 8 labels.

75 h Sequence Rows 1-3 : #2, #5, #7 Rows 4-6 : #1, # 4 and #6.

Flowers Check List

	Type	Horiz Gutter*	Paper	UV	Gum
50h :	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Imperforate	Thin white paper	Bright white	Invisible
	B <input type="checkbox"/>	Imperforate	Medium slightly grey	Slightly Grey	Invisible
75h :	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Imperforate	Thin white paper	Bright white	Invisible
	B <input type="checkbox"/>	Imperforate	Medium slightly grey	Slightly Grey	Invisible
	C <input type="checkbox"/>	Perforated.	Heavier greyish paper	Grey	Shiny visible
1 SR :	C <input type="checkbox"/>	Perf 12	Thin white paper	Grey	Shiny visible
	C <input type="checkbox"/>	Perf 14	New Issue November 2002	Full details to follow in RN 60	
150h :	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Imperforate	Thin white paper	Bright white	Invisible.
	B <input type="checkbox"/>	Imperforate	Medium slightly grey	Slightly Grey	Invisible
	C <input type="checkbox"/>	Perforated.	Heavier greyish paper	Grey in UV	Shiny visible

* Any perforation into gutter above or below pane means a type C Pane.



Framed Ka'aba

This attractive and useful design has appeared now in many values since introduced in 1986 and with sufficient reprints and minor varieties to ensure your collections will never be complete! The new major items known to me are included but I await an article by Ramy Yaghmour to provide a detailed specialist listing. The main interest for the more general collector is that the 100 halalah value was printed in green, by error, instead of red. Also note that a post code label # 1 is entered twice – rows 4 and 5 of all three stamps.

100 Halalah Red Frame

Issued : 1995 and 1999?
Perforation : 12 Good quality both printings
Watermark : None
Paper : Thin White Luminescent
Gum : Invisible Luminescent
Sheet Format : 100 13 across x 7 with 5 post code labels.
Post Code Labels : Printed reading up in top right column
 Rows 1-5 PC's # 7, 8, 4, 1 AND 1
Imprint : Under Lower Left Corner stamp dated 1416 = 1995
Imprint 2nd Printing : None but marginal markings in red not black

100 Halalah Green Frame - Error

Issued : 1998?
Perforation : 12 Often poor quality
Watermark : None
Paper to Labels: As above.
Imprint : Under Lower Left Corner stamp dated 1419 = 1998

2 SR Blue Frame

Issued : 2000?
Perforation : 12
Watermark : None
Paper to Labels: As above.
Imprint : None.

Framed Ka'aba Varieties

100 Halalah Green : Damaged Arabic zero in Row 6 stamp 3.
 Transient flaw - found on many but not all sheets.

150 Halalah : Major break in magenta frame.
 Found in row 6 stamp 10.
 Also transient but a number of copies found.



Ports Issue

In Random Notes #56 the new Saudi Ports definitive series was first reported. The Port series were particularly difficult to obtain as many values were never sent to the Eastern Province. It is perhaps indicative of the problem when I note that the Yanbu collectors then obtained the Yanbu port from Dhahran!

Dammam Port

NOTE : 4 of 5 values on non-luminescent paper. 50h and all other ports on white luminescent.
An extraneous '2' included in Post Code label #6 (Posn 52) on 25 and 50h
There are 34 cars parked on the dock!

25 Halalah

Issued : 27th. December 1995
Perforation : 12
Watermark : None
Paper : Thin creamy non-luminescent
Gum : Invisible non-luminescent
Sheet Format : 50, 4 across x 13 with 2 post code labels.
Post Code Labels : Positions 51,52 PC labels #3 and #6
Unusually # 6 has '2' also printed on label.
All Post Codes shown at 50% stamp size
Imprint : On each stamp. Government Press Authority Riyadh



50 Halalah

Issued : 28th. November 1995
Paper : Thin white luminescent
Gum : Invisible luminescent
All others same as 25h

75 Halalah

Issued : 21st. August 1994. 22nd in RN56.
Post Code Labels : Positions 49, 50 PC labels #3 and #6
i.e opposite corner of sheet and no 2 on PC #6
RN56 notes a second printing with different PC labels
Not seen by me please advise if you have different PC's.
All others same as 25h

100 Halalah

Issued : 11th March 1995. RN56 was Feb 18th.
Post Code Labels : Positions 49, 50 PC labels #3 and #6
All others same as 25h

150 Halalah

Issued : 5th. November 1994 RN 56 notes
12th November.
Post Code Labels : Positions 49 , 50 PC labels #1 and #3
All others same as 25h

Required from Collectors : Copies of different Post codes
on 75h
: Advice on issue date discrepancy.



Jeddah Port

Unlike the Dammam set all 5 values seen have had almost identical formats. The only design differences noted are the colour of the value and the very narrow frame round the stamp.

There are very minor differences in marginal markings. 25, 50 and 75 halalah have 3 rectangular positional marks in the right margin only opposite rows 2, 6 and 10. The 100 and 150 halalah have 3 rectangular marks in both left and right margins.

25 Halalah

Issued : 27th. January 1996

Perforation : 12

Watermark : None

Paper : Thin white luminescent

Gum : Invisible luminescent

Sheet Format : 50, 4 across x 13 with 2 post code labels.

Post Code Labels : Positions 49, 50 PC labels #3 and #6
Shown 50% stamp size.

Imprint : On each stamp. Government Press Authority, Riyadh

50 Halalah

Issued : 27th. January 1996

All others items same as 25h

75 Halalah

Issued : 7th. February 1996

All others items same as 25h

100 Halalah

Issued : 24th. April 1996

All others items same as 25h

150 Halalah

All others items same as 25h

Issued : 30th. March 1996

Printed : 22nd November 1996!

Was this a second printing or is issue date erroneous?



Required from Collectors :

Advice of any varieties, additional values* or printings with different post code labels.

*It is possible that SR 2 or possibly SR 4 could be added following the postal rate changes. Also note rumours did exist of a 125 h value in the port series but this value has never been seen or reported.

Jubail Port

The Jubail series introduced two new values the SR 2 and the SR 4 high value. This latter stamp was a major problem as it was never released in the Eastern province. This value was in very low demand since Post Offices preferred to use meters at all counters and especially for heavier mail. The large size of this definitive also made multiple franking on envelopes difficult. Also because of the high face value and lack of availability the 4 SR value have not been stocked by dealers or accumulating collectors in KSA.

50 Halalah

Issued : 9th. October 1996

Perforation : 12

Watermark : None

Paper : Thin white luminescent

Gum : Invisible luminescent

Sheet Format : 50, 4 across x 13 with 2 post code labels.

Post Code Labels : Positions 49, 50 PC labels #8 and #6
Shown 50% stamp size.

Note #8 slopes up to left (about 4 degrees).

Imprint : On each stamp. Government Press Authority,
Riyadh

100 Halalah

Issued : 25th. December 1996

Post Code Labels : Positions 49, 50 PC labels #1 and #8
Shown 50% stamp size. Still slight slope on #8.

150 Halalah

Issued : 27th. February 1997

Post Code Labels : Same as 100h

2 SR

Issued : September? 1997

Post Code Labels : Exactly as 50h including 'slope'

4 SR

Issued : Late 1997 ?

Post Code Labels : Positions 49, 50 PC labels #8 and #6
Note #8 is horizontal

Issue dates : Please see comment at end of Yanbu Port series.

Any information provided on more accurate dates will be gratefully acknowledged.



Yanbu Port

The Yanbu series have identical layout including the Post Code label formats.

50 Halalah

Issued : 25th December 1996 (Scotts 25th November)

Printed : 21st August 1996

Perforation : 12

Watermark : None

Paper : Thin white luminescent

Gum : Invisible luminescent

Sheet Format : 50, 4 across x 13 with 2 post code labels.

Post Code Labels : Positions 49, 50 PC labels #8 and #6
Shown 50% stamp size.

Imprint : On each stamp. Government Press Authority, Riyadh

100 Halalah

Issued : ? May 1998

Printed : No information

Other details as 50h

150 Halalah

Issued : ? June 1998

Printed : 29th August 1996

Other details as 50h

2 SR

Issued : 25th November 1996

Printed : No information

Other details as 50h

4 SR

Issued : Late 1997 ?

Printed : 4th September 1996

Other details as 50h



Printing Dates: Issue dates are notoriously difficult to establish on definitive issues, as some stamps are held for long periods in stock until required.

However actual printing dates are available from small Arabic control sheets attached to pads of 50 sheets. The example is from a 150h Yanbu Port pad, and shows the printing date at upper left corner - 14/4/1417

وزارة المالية والاقتصاد الوطنى
مصلحة تذاكر الحكومة - الرياض

تاريخ الانتاج: 14/4/1417 هـ

الصفحات: ٥٠ عدد الطوايح: ٥٥٠

القيمة: ١٥٠

المراجع: ٤٢

نوع الطوايح: ١٥٠ هـ

القصاص: ١٥٠ هـ

المسداد: ١٥٠ هـ

المسداد: ١٥٠ هـ

المسداد: ١٥٠ هـ

تصديق الموزع

Buraydah City

Two different designs were issued for Buraydah City. Buraydah is 200 miles north west of Riyadh and 300 miles further inland from Madinah. We would appreciate any information on the actual issue dates and why two designs were issued.

Buraydah 1 : 50 Halalah

Issued : 2000?

Perforation : 14

Watermark : None

Paper : White luminescent

Gum : Shiny, slightly creamy and luminesces purple

Sheet Format : 50, 4 across x 13 with 2 post code labels.

Post Code Labels : Positions 49, 50 PC labels #1 and #2

Both sloped as scan. Shown 50% stamp size.

Imprint : Government Press Authority, Riyadh 1420.

1 SR Details as 50 Halalah except

Gum : Shiny, white, luminescence lighter than 50h.

2 SR Details as 50 Halalah except

Gum : As 1 SR

Post Code Labels : Positions 3, 4 PC labels #2 and #1*

i.e at top right as opposed to bottom left of sheet.

Shown 50% stamp size.

* NOTE (ERROR?): Post Code label 1 on the 2SR has the left Arabic word on second row omitted – see arrows.

Designated as PC 1A for the record.

Buraydah 2 : 50 Halalah

Details exactly as 50 Halalah of design 1.

1 SR Details as 50 Halalah including gum.

i.e gum not as other 1SR value.

Note : both 1 SR values have missing perforation in column 3 in exactly same position – see opposite. Not shown on any other values on sheets seen by us.

2 SR Details as 50 Halalah except

Post Code Labels : Positions 3, 4 PC labels #2 and #1

Minor differences to other Buraydah 2 SR value :

Notation in margin above PC #1, which is complete, mirror image of “2SR A”. Shown 50% stamp size.

Gum like 50 Halalah values.

Required : Issue dates and notification of any varieties of items in this or recent lists.

Please remit data and scans to willakings@aol.com

