

ARABIAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION  
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

RANDOM NOTES NO. 6

20th May 1975

Your editor has had a few tough months recently, what with fixing up a new place here and nursing his wife through a lung operation and other assorted ills. I have neglected you all, but it has been in a good cause and I hope you will be understanding.

We held our fourth annual stamp show, APEX-IV, on April 11 here in Dhahran. Two enterprising sons of Bob McFarlane made up envelopes with a special cachet and sold them, and they also mailed a few to our overseas members. The recipients were puzzled, because the envelope was mailed empty and without any explanation, but it was intended as a show souvenir. They were specially cancelled by the Post Office with the April 11 date, and I think the boys did a nice job. Grand Award for Best in Show went to Fred Benedict for a stunning display of the Hejaz Jiddah overprints, all genuine and thoroughly researched. For example, L51 through L75 were complete. Your editor was green with envy!

I should point out that a piece of my own stuff, billed as "Saudi Arabia, 1925 - 1960, Stamps and Covers", took a silver medal at Florex last year. There is hope for us Saudi Arabian collectors yet!

Let's get on to a few specific "Notes":

1. The 100th Anniversary of the UPU issue (the square stamps in 3p, 4p and 10p denominations) are being speculated in. The wholesale price on a recent Stolow list was \$9.00, and \$19.50 retail price for the set was quoted in an advertisement in stamp magazines in the USA. We had plenty here when it came out last fall, and in fact we sold 200 sets back to the Post Office that we couldn't use! We went back again, after we learned of the high prices, but the 4p was no longer available.
2. We did not publish a list of prices for the Auction of March 7, but I have tried to illustrate a few for you in Attachment #1. You can see that there are a lot of odd values of the GOSP, Dam, and Airplane definitives that are very scarce - we'll try to publish something on this in a year or two when the dust dies down.
3. Attached also is "A Preliminary Study: The Second Jeddah Provisional Postage Due Issue", by R.J. Thoden and F.C. Benedict. This is a fine piece of research. We hope to have more on the fake overprints of Hejaz in future "Random Notes".
4. The final attachment is a set of notes describing "A Visit to the Stamp printing Press in Riyadh, March 15, 1975", by R.C. McFarlane and E.A. Sundberg. This is rich in news items and information and deserves your close study. I would like to point out that the Press is operated by the Ministry of Finance and not by the postal authorities. The report lists (item 10) the "5 gersch Saud Redrawn airmail, unwatermarked (used only)"; unfortunately, none could be obtained, but at least we know that some were placed on sale.



The Arabian Philatelic Association was, as a result of McFarlane's and Sundberg's visit, then invited to participate in the Stamp Review Committee, and your editor attended the meeting of May 12 in Riyadh. The information in the attached visit report was generally confirmed. We also learned the following:

- 4.1 The Ramadhan Stamp will not be repeated next year. The funds went to the Jam'iyat al-Birr, a charitable society under the leadership of Amir Salman. The funds are used to pay debtors' obligations and thus get debtors released from prison, as well as for other charities.
- 4.2 All stamps printed by the Press in Riyadh are sent to Mecca for distribution, including those that have to be then sent back to Riyadh to the post offices.
- 4.3 The Press currently prints 50,000,000 stamps a year, but this, of course includes the voluminous printings of cigarette tax stamps.
- 4.4 The signature that appears as a stretched-out line of writing in the second watermark is that of Aba al-Khayl, Minister of Finance.
- 4.5 At the end of May, the Press expects to receive new, unwatermarked, coated paper that will better show the colors of the commemoratives. Watermarked paper will still be used for definitives.
- 4.6 In the next month or so, there will be an issue honoring Saudia, the national airline. The stamp(s) will show both a Dakota and a Tri-Star.
- 4.7 The recent Meteorological stamp shows prominently the letters "KSA" for Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This abbreviation will be standard from now on.
- 4.8 Use of official stamps ceased about the middle of last year. In addition to those listed in Scott as 048 - 072, we have seen the 20p on the other watermark, the 100p green, and the 7p, 8p, and 9p values, the last three in the hands of the local post office. It is not legal to sell the official stamps, and we could not obtain these.
- 4.9 Use of stamps showing Sa'ud's cartouche will shortly cease, and these stamps will not be allowed to pay postage. Aramco is now enjoying a grace period during which they are to use up any stocks. This means that some values of the 1965 definitives will not now appear; Dam 50p, GOSP 100p, and Airplane 50p, 100p and 200p. We have seen everything else for the 1965 series. The 11p air was available here in quantity for a short time, but all remaining sheets were sent back to Riyadh, and the limited quantity we bought for new issue service is now all that we will get.



- 4.10 A stamp to honor the four Imams of Islam will be issued for the next Hajj, 29 Dhu-al-Hijja, corresponding to 1 January, 1976. It will have gold arabesques on a gray background; the names of the four Imams are arranged in a circular pattern in dark blue. A white border will contain inscriptions. The whole will be perforated both ways across the center to divide it into four 4p stamps.
- 4.11 We were shown designs for a stamp to honor the first two mosques in Saudi Arabia. The first, known as the Friday Mosque, is in Medina, and the second, known as Juwatha, is outside Hofuf in the Eastern Province. This stamp may be released in the next two or three months.
- 4.12 Two series of issues are planned. One will feature archaeological sites, and the other will honor various Saudi Arabian cities.
5. At the APA Meeting of May 13, we were honoured by the presence of two officials from the Press: 'Abd al-Jabbar al-Yahya, Production Manager, and Salim-ud-Din Ghori, Designer. They showed us the hand-drawn color separations for the recent Meteorological issue, and the artist's design and proof stamp for the stamp honoring the first mosques. After their talk, they graciously answered questions from the floor.

JOHN M. WILSON  
Editor

Retyped May 1987  
W.A.King

SAMPLE SALE PRICES  
AUCTION MARCH 7, 1975

Lot No.	Scott No.	Description	Cat. Value	Sales Price
2	L8,9,10	On rather tatty cover with all-Arabic Mecca Cancel. Smudgy Jiddah receiving mark on back.	-	SR. 50
9	36a	Mint very fine used, black overprint (there seems to be enough of these to meet demand, and \$30 is probably too high as a catalog price)	\$ 30	SR. 41
15	80	Used block of 4, imperf between horizontally.	-	SR. 60
58	-	Imperf of issued value, 1p Dam, see note in Scott after 260. NH imperf pair on watermarked paper. Mayo 1001 WV Cat. \$25.	-	SR. 60
60	C47A	20p 1965 Air NH	\$ 1.50	SR. 30
61	C68	20p Faisal air NH	\$ 1	SR. 22
67	251a	Malaria Souvenir Sheet (Catalog is about right. These are still available)	\$ 8	SR. 18
71	-	The two airletter sheets, unused	-	SR. 30
77	L2a	½p perf 10, mint VF.	\$ 25	SR. 85
79	L48(var)	Inverted overprint, genuine.	-	SR. 50
82	L70	NH, very fine, genuine	\$ 8	SR. 40
83	L74,75	Mint, lightly hinged, genuine.	\$ 22	SR. 80
84	L75	Mint NH, genuine - top margin	\$ 10	SR. 60
86	L82	Horiz. Strip of 3 with left hand margin pair imperf between.	-	SR.100
87	L185	The rare red & orange, double perfs at right (I think somebody got a bargain)	-	SR. 65
89	30-34	Pilgrimage complete M, VF.	\$ 50	SR.150
90	69-74	First colors, NH corner blocks of 4	\$ 36	SR. 85
91	211-23	Cairo printing, Dam complete. Mint NH - fine to very fine	\$ 38.35	SR. 80
92	C33	1p 1965 airmail, NH	\$ 1.50	SR. 20



Lot No.	Scott No.	Description	Cat. Value	Sales Price
93	C99	20p falcon airmail, NH	\$ 0.75	SR. 14
115	161-72	NH set, Tughra. (unsold at reserve of SR.100)	\$ 42.50	-
116	173-6	Radhwa Harbor, NH	\$ 5.65	SR.17
117	224-39	Cairo, GOSP complete	\$38.35	SR.100
141	-	Philby cover from Riyadh to England via Kuwait. Stampless. Clean strike "Koweit" 17 July 1918, early use. (unsold against reserve of SR. 150; cover somewhat ragged.)	-	-
142	-	Philby cover from Riyadh to England via Bahrain. Stampless. Extremely rare, from Philby's first trip to Saudi Arabia. Clear Bahrain backstamp dated 12 December 1917. (a rare cover and worth the price, I think.)	-	SR.310

JMW  
5/24/75

## A PRELIMINARY STUDY

### THE SECOND JEDDAH PROVISIONAL POSTAGE DUE ISSUE

By R.J. Thoden and F.C. Benedict

#### BACKGROUND

Disagreements between King Hussain of the Hejaz and Sultan Abdul Aziz ibn Saud of Nejd culminated in an invasion of the Hejaz by Wahabi forces in September 1924. King Hussain abdicated on October 4, 1924 and was succeeded by his son, Ali. The Wahabis rapidly captured most of the Hejaz and laid siege to Jeddah. Cut off from any immediate source of new postage stamps, and wishing to prevent the use of stocks captured by the Wahabis in Mecca, all existing stocks in Jeddah were ordered to be overprinted. The overprint, in various formats, consisted of the words in Arabic "Al-hukumat al-Hejaziah 5 Rabi' al-Awwal 1343", meaning "The Hejaz Government October 4th, 1924."

The first overprinted postage due stamps, appearing in January 1925, were prepared in quite small quantities on remainders of 1917 postage dues. Most seem to have been obtained by Philatelists, and by March 1925, more postage dues were required.

#### THE ISSUE

Remainders of 1922-1924 ordinary postage stamps (Scott L32,34-39, 49-50; Mayo 50, 52-57, 77-78) were overprinted by typography with the above mentioned wording in two lines at the top center of the stamp, with a third line consisting of the word "mustahiq" or "due" in a small box. These stamps are listed by Scott as LJ26a-34, and by Mayo as T216-224.

The word "mustahiq" was almost immediately considered to be too small. The already overprinted stock was then handstamped "mustahiq" in a much larger box at the bottom of the stamps. These are listed by Scott as LJ26-34 and by Mayo as T242-250.

#### VARIETIES

This issue is extremely rich in varieties, such as inverts, doubles, etc. of both the overprint and the later handstamp. Refer to both Mayo and Warin for listings of these. It is observed that many more varieties exist than are listed by Warin, while some of Mayo's listed varieties are doubtful.

#### PRINTING

Unfortunately, no full sheets of these stamps are available to the authors. However, it is considered almost certain that a plate of 36 cliches was set up to match the sheet layout of the basic stamps (6x6), and that each of the 36 cliches was slightly different from the others. This is the case with all of the other Jeddah provisional issues, of which full sheets have been examined.

The handstamp was a single position only, so that 36 impressions were required to handstamp every stamp on the sheet. As with all handstamps, the impressions vary with the amount of ink used, the pressure with which it was applied, and with the degree of wear of the handstamp. Toward the end, several very small cracks seem to have developed in the left frame line.



## FORGERIES

These stamps, as well as all other stamps of the Hejaz, were much sought after by collectors of British colonial stamps at the time of issue. Because of the small quantities printed, and the large philatelic demand, forgeries soon appeared, probably produced in Cairo. These forgeries are still commonly found today. At least 50 percent of all "normal" stamps, and a much higher proportion of varieties such as inverts and doubles, offered by dealers and found in collections, are not genuine. The detection of these forgeries is complicated by the fact that the originals were printed from the setting of 36 slightly different cliches, and the forgeries from a setting of 12 slightly different cliches. This latter fact was determined from the examination of a half-sheet of the forgeries, consisting of the top three rows of six stamps each. The overprints in the top two rows were each slightly different, while those in the third row duplicated those of the first two exactly.

The forged handstamp was done in two ways:

- (a) Type I, one at a time, as in the originals, as seen on several blocks of 12 forgeries. Each handstamp in these blocks is identical. See Figure 1.
- (b) Type II, in a block of 12, apparently from a press, not a handstamp. The same half-sheet of forgeries mentioned earlier showed slightly different "handstamps" in the first two rows, but the third row reproduced the first row exactly with respect to the relative positions of the "handstamps". See Figure 2.

Table 1 summarizes the differences between genuine and forged overprints and handstamps. See Figures 3 and 4 which show reproductions of typical genuine and forged stamps.

All purple and bluish handstamps seen (rather than black) were forgeries. One some values, the forgeries exist (but not exclusively) on printings of the basic stamps that seem not to have been used for the genuine overprints, e.g. ½sp. dark red brown and chocolate shades, ½p. deep rose shade of the first printing, 1p. on semi-transparent thin very white paper with white gum, and 3p. brown red with many of the dots missing in the top, bottom and side panels.

## CANCELLATIONS

Used stamps are much less common than mint. Genuine cancellations are the bilingual "Djeddah" with dates of March 1925 or later. Genuine overprinted stamps also exist with the misused bilingual "Mekke" cancellation dated 9-11-916.

"Used" forgeries show either a corner cancel of "Djeddah" with no date visible, or an all-Arabic "Mecca Mukarramah" cancel dated 20 Ramadhan 1343.

## CONCLUSION

This study has been labeled "preliminary" due to the fact that the authors have not seen complete sheets of genuine stamps. In addition, only one genuine (although obviously philatelic) cover has been examined. It is therefore possible, although the authors consider it unlikely, that examination of additional material may change some of the conclusions presented here. The possibility also exists that there are more types of forgeries. In the meantime, it is suggested that APA members use extreme caution in purchasing these stamps, especially the double and inverted overprint varieties and the first release without the handstamp.



## REFERENCES

1. Standard Postage Stamp Catalog, Volume III, Scott Publications (1975).
2. The Postal Issues of Hejaz, Jeddah and Nejd, by D.F. Warin (1927).
3. Barid al-Sa'udiyah wa al-Hejaz wa Najd, by M. Max Mayo (1973)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To Mr. W. H. Bradshaw for the photographs.





TABLE 1  
CHARACTERISTICS OF GENUINE AND FORGED OVERPRINTS

CHARACTERISTIC	GENUINE	FORGERY
Printing method.	Typographed setting of 36.	Typographed setting of 12.
1. Box containing the word "mustahiq".	Dot over last character at left halfway between top frame line and character. *	Dot over last character at left much closer to top frame line.
2. Character "laam" in middle of second line.	Left side of character points horizontally left, or only slightly up.	Left side of character points distinctly upwards.
3. Dots under last character of first line (at left)	Dots joined to each other and to adjacent characters. Degree of joining varies from stamp to stamp.	Dots not joined to each other except possibly in heavily inked impressions.

\* At least 4 positions have been seen which have no dot. Based on plating of the basic stamp, these are positions 12, 15, 27 and 28

Note: Numbers at left refer to Figures 3 and 4.



TABLE 1 (continued)  
CHARACTERISTICS OF GENUINE AND FORGED HANDSTAMPS

CHARACTERISTIC	GENUINE	FORGERY TYPE I	FORGERY TYPE II
Printing method.	Handstamped single impression.	Handstamped single impression.	Typographed in a block of 12.
4. Lower frame line.	Intact. *	Clear break exactly under the "L" mark.	Clear break exactly under the "L" mark.
5. Left frame line.	Originally intact. Late impressions show small breaks.	Small break near bottom.	Small break near bottom, except position 9.
6. "Dammah" vowel mark.	Relatively large and clearly open.	Almost the same as genuine.	Varies from position to position. Most are definitely smaller. Some are merely dots.
7. Last character at left.	Final stroke at left comes well up, almost level with looped part of character.	Same as genuine.	Many positions have the final stroke too low.
8. Dots over last character at left.	Originally 2 distinct dots. In worn or heavy impressions, they appear joined.	Same as genuine.	Only 1 dot or a dash, except position 7 which has no dot at all.

\* One copy seen with a break just left of the 'L' mark.

Note: Numbers at left refer to Figures 3 and 4.





Figure 1. A block of 12 Type I forgeries with true handstamp of “mustahiq” in box. All handstamps identical. Basic stamps are positions 13 to 24 from rows 3 and 4 in the sheet. Forged overprint positions are 1 to 12.



Figure 2. A block of 18 Type II forgeries with printed “handstamp” of “mustahiq” in box. All “handstamps” different. Basic stamps are positions 1 to 18 from the top three rows of the sheet. Forged overprint and “handstamp” positions are 7 to 12, 1 to 6, and 7 to 12 for the three rows of stamps. Although this figure is not clear enough to see details, note that the relative positions of the “handstamps” in rows 1 and 3 are identical.



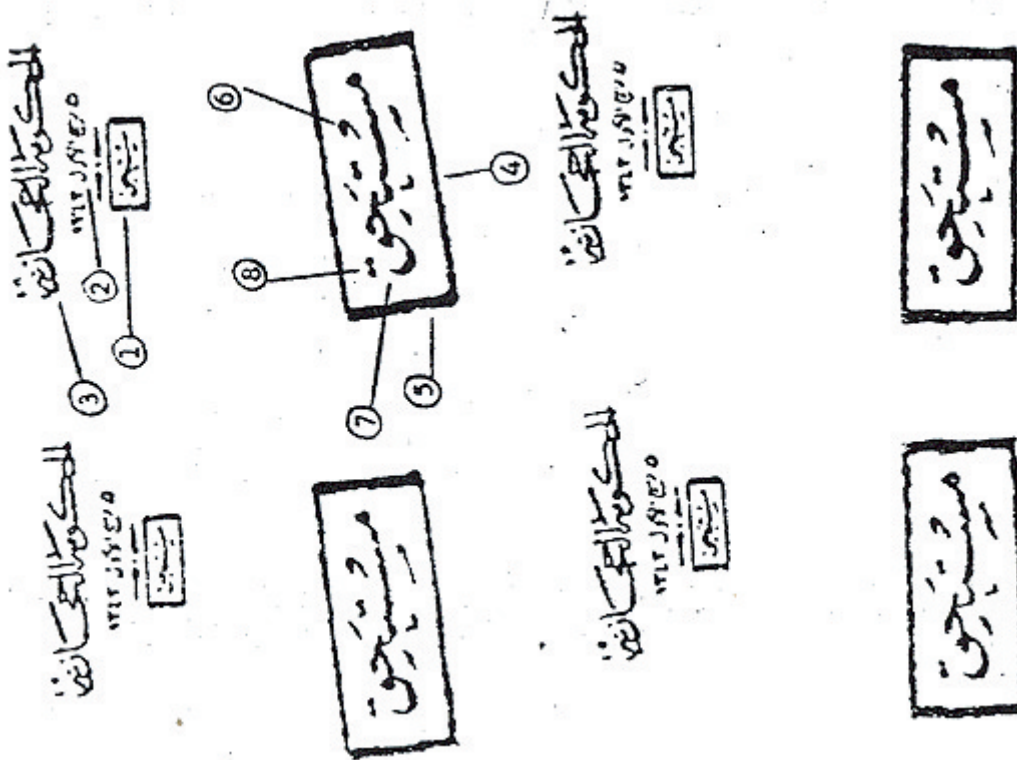


Figure 3. A block of 4 genuine overprints and handstamps. Positions are 29, 30, 35 and 36 (the lower right corner block).

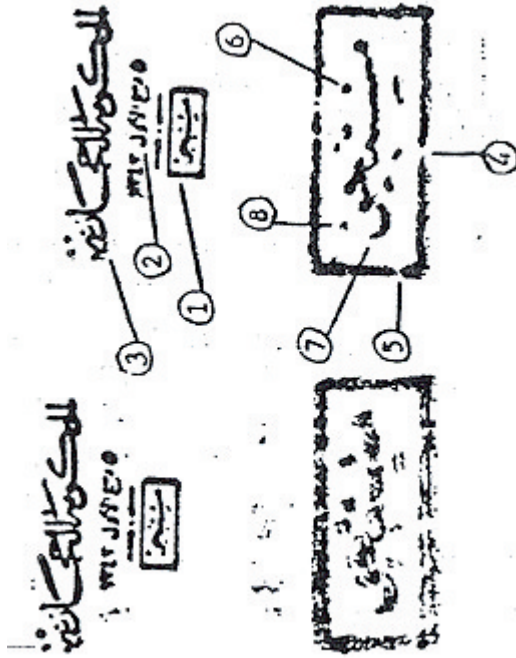


Figure 4. A pair of Type II forgeries with the printed "handstamp". Left stamp has double "handstamp" produced by covering the right stamp when the second impression was applied. Both stamps have an additional uninked impression of an inverted "handstamp". Basic stamps are positions 19 and 20. Forged overprint and "handstamp" positions are 7 and 8.

Dhahran

March 29, 1975

A VISIT TO THE STAMP PRINTING PRESS IN RIYADH,  
MARCH 15, 1975

We visited the stamp printing press in Riyadh on the above date and discussed the operations at length with the Manager, Mr. Nassir Rasheed. Listed below is some information that we gathered as a result:

- 1) Four and ten Gersch air letter sheets are being printed in Pakistan and will be distributed to Post Offices within one month. The ten Gersch airletter will be larger in size for easier differentiation and more writing space, and both will have the "airplane" stamp design. The initial issue will be about 3,000,000 for each value. Air letters with new stamp designs similar to U.S. airletters are being developed and will be printed in Riyadh soon. Therefore, the Pakistani printed airletter may prove to be a short-lived issue.
- 2) The Falcon, horse and other animals as well as humans will probably not be pictured on future stamps due to Government Koranic concern over living things on stamp designs. The remaining unissued Tourist issue stamps depicting animals are being withheld from distribution. The Wadi Hanifa and airplane stamps are also no longer being printed. The feeling is that these designs are inconsequential and now irrelevant in light of the continued development of Saudi Arabia.
- 3) There are plans to develop a new set of definitive stamps with designs covering the oil industry, principal features of main Saudi cities, religious places, monuments and natural or historical places such as Madayin Saleh. Mr. Rasheed indicated that the Central Planning Office was to write to Aramco inviting possible designs for stamps for the oil industry stamps. We indicated that the Club could help out in this project and would contact Mr. Rasheed at a later date. Evidently, a fee is available for successful designs accepted by the Government.
- 4) Mr. Rasheed informed us that some pressure is being applied to issue definitives in fewer denominations which roughly correspond to the values commonly used for postage to major postal areas. Evidently, this is not being acted upon and perhaps represents Mr. Rasheed's personal feelings.
- 5) After issue, the 100th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union stamp set was subsequently frowned upon because it shows the human form in the symbol of the UPU which is reproduced on the stamps. The stamps also show a bird in the symbol of the Arabian Postal Union. The set was printed in quantities of 200,000 but many will probably not be distributed. The Philatelic section has none available. (Note: the 1970 UPU Building issue has the same emblem but on a smaller scale).



- 6) The normal printing of all current commemoratives is 200,000 each.
- 7) Stamps are generally designed by an Egyptian group in the Ministry of Communication. A Review Committee including Finance and Communications people approves the basic design. A Pakistani Designer at the Printing Press is permitted some leeway in modifying the basic design, such as positioning of words, values, etc. Proofs in two copies are then sent to the Committee for final approval. Imperforates are not printed and secure measures have been placed in effect to account for all printers waste. The latter is burned and witnessed.
- 8) The production book at the Printing Press showed the following unlisted stamps: (Note that many of these were also on file at the time an APA Group first visited the Stamp Press in 1971): (All original frame, watermark 2 unless otherwise noted).

Falcon Issue: 15, 18, 19, 23, 27, 33, 50, 100, 200 Gersch

The Arabian Horse: 12 Gersch

Expansion Mecca Mosque: 13, 14, 26 Gersch

Madayin Saleh: 17 Gersch

The Dam, GOSP, Air (Faysal, unwatermarked)

Complete sets per our list with the exception of the 30 and 75 Gersch values which appeared only on the yellow gum (1960) issue:

- 9) Braille Issue: 4, 10 Gersch commemorative issue, which apparently will be the next one issued.
- 10) New stamps seen in circulation in Riyadh:

5 Gersch - Saud Redrawn airmail, unwatermarked (used only)

12 & 17 Gersch - Faysal, unwatermarked Airmail

8 Gersch - Ka'aba - Original frame, watermark 2, white background for value.

- 11) Contrary to rumor, stamp stocks are still held in Mecca and will probably not be moved to Riyadh for the time being. This was confirmed by Officials in the Ministry of Communication and the Manager of the Printing Press, as well as others. Apparently this will not occur until personnel changes take place in Mecca.



- 12) A large, Central Post Office building is scheduled for construction in Riyadh within the next two months.
- 13) First Day covers are printed but are not generally issued for the public. The Ministry of Communication apparently prepares about 300 for favoured distribution within the Ministry and Government for most new issues. Hence, Official First Day covers are rarer than previously thought. None have been printed since 1972.
- 14) New Issue Service  
The Philatelic Agency in the Ministry of Communications has, at most, only 4 or 5 recent back-issues and will only send five copies of each stamp per person. There are indications that some past issues back into the 1940's may again be placed on sale at face value "in a couple of weeks".
- 15) The Printing Press does not currently print Saudi Money, this is being done by De La Rue in England but the printing is slated to be shifted to Riyadh sometime within the next five years and funds for buildings and equipment are included in the current five year development plan.
- 16) Mr. Rasheed informed us that no imperforate varieties of current stamps are being printed and that only two proofs are generated for the approval of the Stamp Review Committee. He also indicated that Official stamps are no longer being printed. Fiscals, however, are printed by his plant.
- 17) We extended an informal invitation to Mr. Rasheed to visit the Club and give a talk on the Stamp Press. We suggest this be followed up by our Program Chairman.
- 18) We visited a Mr. Abdulaziz Saeed who has been a stamp dealer for twenty years in Riyadh. He has recently sent all of his stamps out of the country however, and is not selling Saudi material at the present time. He has just about completed a book in Arabic on Saudi postage stamps which the Club may wish to purchase after it is printed. He currently has about 100 standard size pages typed double spaced. It is illustrated and covers the period since 1916. He plans to leave Arabia soon.

Signed  
R. C. McFarlane.  
E. A. Sundberg.

RN

The following article by Dr. Randall Baker was distributed with Random Notes #6; it first appeared in Stamp Collecting, March 6th, 1975. [MCL 2014]

# HEJAZ STAMPS and LAWRENCE of ARABIA

By Dr. Randall Baker

ONE of the fascinations of postal history is the way in which the political evolution of territories may be illustrated philatelically in terms of overprints, transitional issues, the use of old-style cancellations on the stamps of new nations, and so forth. Generally, however, the philatelic aspects are dependent upon the outcome of political or military circumstances and it is very unusual for stamps to have played a direct, or indirect, causal role in a political chain of events.

In the case of the Arab Revolt of 1916 there does seem to be evidence of the latter, for the production of the first adhesives appears to have provided the reason for Capt. T. E. Lawrence's first visit to the Hejaz in October 1916. The repercussions of that event are sufficiently well known to emphasise the importance of this first encounter between the Holy Land of Islam and the junior officer later to be known as "Lawrence of Arabia".

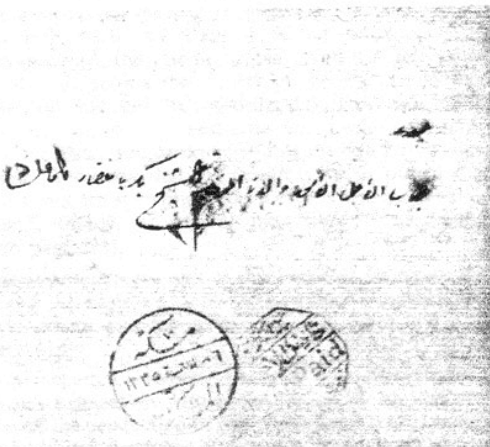
In June 1916, the Sherif of Mecca, Hussein ibn Ali, raised the flag of revolt against the Ottoman Turks who had appointed him to his office in 1908. In this action of defiance he was promised material support by General (late Sir) Reginald Wingate in Khartoum, who was then the *Sirdar* of the Egyptian Army, and subsequent independence for the Arabs by H.M. Agent in Cairo, Sir Henry McMahon. Initially, the Revolt made remarkable progress and by August all the main urban centres, with the exception of Medina, were in Sherifian hands. One of the Sherif's first acts was to destroy the symbols of the former Turkish occupation and large stocks of Turkish stamps were disposed of leaving the immediate problem of how to prepay

as indeed had the vice-regal authorities in India where they were afraid of the reaction of the large Moslem population.

The problem lay in the fact that, in revolting against the Turkish Sultan, Sherif Hussein has also taken up arms against the Caliph of Islam, which function Mohamed V of Turkey also fulfilled. Sir Ronald Storrs, Oriental Secretary at the British Agency (later High Commission) in Cairo wrote: "... we decided that the best proof that (the Revolt) had taken place would be provided by an issue of Hejaz postage stamps which would carry the Arab propaganda, self-paying and incontrovertible to the four corners of the earth" (Storrs: page 197).

Storrs contacted the Sherif regarding a possible design or series of designs and, in return, the Sherif sent "by return of mail a design purporting to typify Islamic architecture, but to the layman indistinguishable from the Eddystone Lighthouse". The work of preparing the designs had been given to the Survey of Egypt under Sir Ernest Dowson, its Director-General. The landscape issues suggested by Storrs were sketched out by the Survey and showed Jebel Quwais, a mountain with a small mosque east of Mecca, and two views of the Holy Ka'aba. The Survey, however, pointed out to

(Continued on page 77)



One of the emergency "FEE PAID" marks on a letter from Mecca to Jeddah

postage. As a temporary measure a variety of bilingual "FEE PAID" markings were introduced until the first One Piastre stamps went on sale on August 20th, 1916.

The British, who were actively supporting the Revolt, were anxious that the change of political status should receive the widest possible publicity to counter claims by the enemy that the Sherif was in the pocket of the British, and to make the Moslems of the world realise that the Hejaz was in the hands of the Arabs and not the British. The enemy press in many countries had blanketed news of the Revolt,



The 1 piastre of the first issue (1916-perforated) on cover from Mecca to Egypt (10.12.1916)

**P. J. BETT** BURNHAM MARKET, KING'S LYNN, ENGLAND. Tel.: Burnham 301

(V.A.T.: please add 8%)  
**ANTIGUA**. Provisional (3) on U.P.U. Feb. '75 £2-30; three Varieties, in sets, in pairs £10-50 lot.  
**NORFOLK**. 1975 U.P.U. sets 90p; Plate (4) £4; corner block of four £3-60; 10 sets for £8; miniature sheets 90p; 10 for £8.  
**AUSTRALIA**. U.P.U. Booklet £5; (Booking)  
**BARBADOS**. 1974 50c. Definitive, watermark reversed 60p; corner block of four £2-80.  
**G.B.** 1974 3p Xmas, centre phosphor 15p; gutter pair 50p; corner block of four 70p.  
**CAYMAN**. 50c. Churchill Inverted watermark £7.  
**JAMAICA**. 1975 5c. Mailboats perf. 14 £5.  
**N.Z.** 1967 10c. (855 cat. 40p) 12p; 15c. (856E cat. 60p) 20p; 30c. (859a, cat. 70p) 25p; 82 (802, cat. 15) £2.  
**DEFINITIVE sets reduced:**  
**BOTSWANA**. 1966 (cat. £4-50) £2-95.  
**BERMUDA**. 1970 (cat. £4) £2-75.  
**CAYMAN**. 1962 (cat. £5-50) £3-35; 1969 Sterling (cat. £5) £2-75; 1969 Decimals (cat. £4-50) £2-55; 1970 (cat. £3-50) £2-14 (face).  
**CHRISTMAS Island**. 1963 (cat. £2) 85p.



the Sherifian Government that it was not customary in Arab Art to depict persons or landscapes and they favoured a geometric design of abstract forms.

At this time, Capt. T. E. Lawrence was attached to the Intelligence Section of General Archibald Murray's army in Egypt and one of his main tasks was preparing strategically important maps. This brought him into direct contact with the Survey of Egypt. Storrs asked Lawrence for his help in selecting a series of designs and in overseeing the production of the issues. There was a great urgency because the British wanted to have the stamps ready for use by the pilgrims during the Haj season\* when thousands of the faithful from all corners of the Islamic World converge on Mecca. At this time, the stamps would achieve their greatest political impact. With Lawrence, Storrs wandered around the Arab Museum in Cairo and eventually a series of traditional Islamic designs were selected based on korans, frieze-work and carving. Storrs wrote, "It quickly became apparent that Lawrence already possessed or had immediately assimilated a complete working technique of philatelic and three-colour production, so that he was able to supervise the work from start to finish". (Storrs: page 198).

When the work was completed, Lawrence, who had developed a deep interest in the Hejaz, learned that Storrs was going there in October. He pressed Storrs to take him along since he would be free at that time as it straddled his transfer from Military Intelligence to the Arab Bureau. Storrs agreed and later described the event as follows:

"His (Lawrence's) enduring world fame makes it difficult to replace him now in his original perspective, and I must confess, almost with shame, that my sentiments in applying for him were mainly gratitude for his assistance in the Hejaz stamp issue" (Storrs: page 180).

Lawrence ascribes his presence to "joy-riding" (*Lawrence: Revolt in the Desert*, page 12). Thus it was, on October 16th, 1916, that Capt. T. E. Lawrence made his acquaintance with the war in Arabia. And it is interesting to record that, despite the gravity of the discussions held in Jeddah on that and the following day, Lawrence wrote, on October 17th, to Sir Ernest Dowson to record the sentiments of the Hejaz authorities regarding the new stamp issue. He wrote "some say that the design is rather out of date and that a modern style (more like a cigarette picture) would be fitter", though in general they were "well liked" (Garnett: page 221).

It was as an indirect result of this visit that Lawrence met Feisal and the basis was laid for Lawrence's appointment as liaison officer with the Arab Army and, later, the Arab Northern Army.

In my personal opinion, whatever the true story of Lawrence's association with the Arab cause, he was connected with the production of one of the finest sets of stamps ever to have been produced of a quality and intricacy rarely seen nowadays.

#### Bibliography

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\*September 29th to October 28th

STAMP COLLECTING, March 6th, 1975

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