



الجمعية الدولية للطابع 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: John Wilson

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. M C 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).

Random Notes #62

Assembled by the Editor

Historically, there has always been a shortage of items for publication in Random Notes, and the current time is no exception. Looking back over the recent editions, there can be seen a variety of contributions; they are not all completed studies. I would like to see more interim reports on the various studies that are in progress, and with the co-operation of readers, there should hopefully be valuable inputs, making those studies more complete. This is especially true of my philatelic work. My collection is small in comparison to those belonging to the experts, and the article that I have written inevitably include contributions from others. So, if you are doing something that may be of interest to others, do not hesitate to submit progress reports, summaries, or pleas for help! I am sure your contributions will be well received.

Tarik Alireza : It is with great pleasure that we can report that Tarik has been awarded the prestigious Tilleard Medal by The Royal Philatelic Society, London for his display given on April 25th 2002. The medal is in honour of John Alexander Tilleard who was appointed in 1910 as 'Philatelist to His Majesty King George V' becoming the first Keeper of The Royal Collection.

The Tilleard medal is awarded by Royal Philatelic Society, London for the best display of Stamps, Essays, proofs, Reprints or Postal Stationery given at a RPSL meeting during the previous 2 years. A number of key items from Tarik's display are still available for viewing on the RPSL website. If you enter 'www.rpsl.org.uk/saudi_arabia/index.html' you will go directly to the first page. The site presentation has been improved so even if you have visited before it is well worth returning. (WAK).

Your editor also attended the display; it was superb and the medal was truly well-deserved. I would like to congratulate Willie King for his achievement at Autumn Stampex 2003, London, where he followed his gold medal in the National class at the Autumn Stampex 2001 with a Large Vermeil in the International class. His display, *Hejaz - The First Issues (1916 - 1925)*, was mouth-watering. Part of the judges comments: 'A most attractive study about a fascinating period'. I hope you will be able to judge for yourselves in due course; there are plans to make the display available as a PDF format document.

Now for this edition's odds and ends.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

- 1 I have just two copies of Egyptian stamps with POSTE VICE-REALI EGIZIANE GEDDA postmarks. The 1pi (Figure 1) shows a mark for 1871 and the 2pi (Figure 2) one for



1889. According to Mayo, the Gedda post office closed on 30th October 1881, which makes the 2pi blue stamp somewhat suspicious. Close inspection of the stamp reveals a much wider spacing of the characters in GEDDA than is shown in the illustration in Mayo. At this point I made the assumption that these items are forgeries. However, Jakob von Uexkull's book 'The Early Postal History of Saudi Arabia', shows on page 15 that the 1864 - 74 mark has such a setting and that inverted numerals exist. My 1889 stamp could therefore be 1868, and that both stamps may be genuine. Is there someone who could provide an article on this subject for Random Notes? (MCL 6/03)

- 2 In RN57 page 18, the Type FK-1 fake Khartoum cancel was described as having been seen only on genuine stamps. In August, an item on eBay contained some forgery type two 16mm 3-line Jeddah overprints in gold that clearly showed such a cancel. One of the stamps



Figure 4

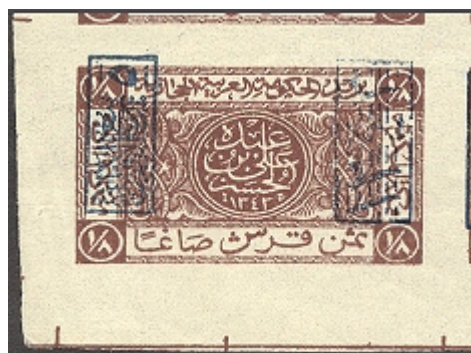


Figure 5

is shown in figure 3. (MCL 8/03)

- 3 An interesting date here! Illustrated in figure 4, it appears to be a MEDINE 3 postmark dated 9-9-12, clearly not right for the stamp, but is this a case of someone setting the date incorrectly or is it a forgery? As for the case with item 1 above, we could do with some information on these cancellations and their forgeries. (MN 8/03)
- 4 RN 38 contained an article 'Plating of the King Ali Overprints' by F.C.Benedict. On page 19 it states that setting B of the Cairo overprint had only been seen on an imperforate sheet of the 1½ pi. As far as I know, this statement has not been updated, so this item may be of interest. Figure 5 shows one stamp from an imperforate block of 4 with a blue Cairo overprint. The overprints appear to correspond to the relevant positions in the image on page 25 of RN38. As a bonus, the block has a full offset of all four stamps on the gummed side. (MCL 6/03)



- 5 **Al-Khaji 40 h Colour Variety** : SG 1174a Scott 738a

On a number of occasions recently this 40 halalah colour variety has appeared for sale in auctions but only a shade of the normal colour was on offer. There are a range of



shades of the 40 h. but the variety is a very distinctive error of colour, just slightly darker than the 25 halalah value. Note this variety **only** recorded with inverted watermark. (WAK 9/03)

6. **New Tourist Issue Watermarks** : Time to get your watermark detector out again on the Tourist issues! Remember the normal watermark on this series is sideways. However Dick Tjaden reported finding an upright second series watermark on a used 4p value of the Mosque Expansion set with Redrawn Frame (SG 955 or Scott 506a). With this incentive I



4p with Upright Watermark II (TJ copy)



4p with Inverted Watermark II

looked through a bundle of used stamps and found examples with both upright and also an inverted watermark. Upright and inverted watermarks have never been reported before by the APAI on this stamp.

Correction to RN 53 page 3 Item 1. This was the last time that watermark varieties were reported and I am afraid that those notes were in error. The Holy Ka'aba issue with



4p Ka'aba with Inverted Watermark II



1p with Inverted Watermark I

watermark down was on the 4p value with the value on a white background. SG 1018 or Scotts 523a and not as reported. 10 years later we still only have the three original stamps recorded one of which is shown below.

Now perhaps readers can help, RJT also reported – I believe erroneously - that a single used copy of the 1p Prophet's Mosque existed with watermark up and a single copy down. (Scotts 489 and SG 839). I am fairly certain this was reported in error for the Mosque Expansion 1p (SG 933 Scotts 503a), which had been previously reported in RN. I have found a marginal mint copy with inverted watermark – so there must be more around!! But this is still the only copy registered with the APAI. It is useful if collectors would register all copies of the above stamps with the APAI.

The 3p Mosque Expansion (SG 867, Scott 505) exists with both watermark up and down. However as supplies were distributed in the USA by a US dealer who was unaware of the 'variety' these are easier to find, but are still quite scarce and probably rate a premium



Gebel Abu Qubeis

By: W. A. King FRPSL

Various notes have been written about the design for the first issues of Hejaz and their attribution to T.E. Lawrence. However the Oriental Secretary in Egypt, Sir Ronald Storrs appears to have had considerable influence – especially in refusing the design submitted from Hejaz by King Hussein.



The paragraph below from Sir Ronald Storrs book “Orientations” Chapter 9 is worth reproducing in full as it contradicts the comments made in the “Short Note” prepared by the Survey of Egypt that the design was received **after the first stamps had been issued**. (Ref : Survey of Egypt, page 17).

Shortly after the Arab Revolution we found that its success was being denied or blanketed by the Enemy Press (which was of course quoted by neutrals), and we decided that the best proof it had taken place would be provided by an issue of Hejaz postage stamps in Arabic, which would carry the Arab propaganda, self-paying and incontrovertible, to the four corners of the earth. Sir Henry MacMahon was quick to approve ; and the Foreign Office approved him. I had corresponded with King Husain on the project, and he sent me by return of mail a design purporting to typify Islamic architecture, but to the layman indistinguishable from the Eddystone Lighthouse. I felt this would never do, and wandered with Lawrence round the Arab Museum in Cairo collecting suitable motifs in order that the design in wording, spirit and ornament, might be as far as possible representative and reminiscent of a purely Arab source of inspiration. We avoided pictures and views for these never formed part of Arab decoration, and are foreign to its art : also European lettering. It was quickly apparent that Lawrence already possessed or had immediately assimilated a complete working technique of philatelic and three-colour reproduction. And it seemed only a few weeks before this young Hittite archaeologist was on the most intimate terms with machine-guns, with tulip bombs, even with the jealously forbidden subtleties of a Rolls-Royce engine.

According to the table of stamp issues the one piastre value was printed on August 16th 1916 and the second the half piastre on September 10th 1916. Examples of the one piastre were with the Hejaz authorities in early September since, on 5th September 1916, King Hussein supported Abdullah El Qadir’s observations in a letter to Colonel Wilson, the British agent in Jeddah, which reads :



---. The above-mentioned stamps are delicate in ornament and printing and good in design, only they do not contain the drawing of Gebel Abu Qubeis, and the inscription of 'The Government of the Sherifate of Holy Mecca and its Dominions' as was printed on the design formerly sent. ---

On October 1st 1916, a long letter was sent to King Hussein, by The Survey of Egypt, which provided a detailed explanation for the chosen designs and diplomatically rejecting the Gebel Abu Qubeis design. However the design was clearly worked upon as additional designs with



very ornate marginal designs are shown in Survey of Egypt book recording the issue.

Ornate frame designs for Ka'aba and also Gebel Abu Qubeis developed but not adopted.

Figs 85-87 from A Short Note on the Design and Issue of Postages Stamps prepared by the Survey of Egypt for His Highness Husein Emir & Sherif of Mecca & King of Hejaz

Proportional & Flat Rate Documentary Tax Stamps :However if the idea of using the Gebel Abu Qubeis design was rejected by Sir Ronald Storrs and the Survey of Egypt it was then adopted by the authorities in Hejaz for their revenue tax issues. However the printing is rather rudimentary and in some values of the flat-rate tax stamps the building becomes almost



indistinguishable from the fretwork of the central design.



RQ4, RQ8, RF12 and RF15 (Ref pages 37 and 19 of R.J. Thoden catalogue)

Scan shows Gebel Abu Qubeis in the lower centre of the 25q (Thoden RF12) and 100q (RF15).



The 1946 Map Stamp : Period of Usage & Perforation 11 Varieties

By: W. A. King FRPSL

Background : King Abdulaziz ibn Saud made an official visit to Egypt in early 1946, departing from Jeddah on 7th January and returning on 25th January travelling on King Farouk's yacht. This followed King Farouk's official visit to Saudi Arabia in January 1945.

Whilst the inscription reads "*Commemorating the Return of His Majesty the King to the capital of the Kingdom, Safar 1365 (i.e. January 1946)*" Rudy Thoden postulated in 1981 that the Map stamp should be classed as a revenue stamp rather than a regular commemorative issue (RN17 p16-17). James Mandaville followed up in 1983 with clear evidence (RN 31 p6-7) that the Map stamp was indeed a revenue stamp. Since then the stamp has been relisted by Scotts as a tax stamp as RA4e. The listing in Gibbons is unaffected where, like the hospital tax stamps, it has a full listing and the footnote indicates that it is an 'Obligatory' tax stamp (SG 356).

The explanatory footnote in Scott's reads "This stamp was required on all mail from January to July". As I have several covers beyond that period I have been researching the background.

Review of J. P. Mandaville's article in RN 31 : James recorded a letter dated May 14th which referred to an earlier letter of April 6th and noted :

"In accordance with the Ministry's order to us, we instruct you to add half Saudi qirsh (one common qirsh) to every national or Foreigner's work permit for the cost of the stamp in memory of His Majesty's return with effect from 21 Safar 1365 (24 January 1946) to 21st July 1946, for a period of six months.

Also, we hope that you will comply with this and credit us with same. Also, we hope that you will affix this stamp on all your postal letters."

Two points appear from this letter:

1. All of this correspondence was dated well after the intended dates of usage.
2. Whilst the letter stated the actual period it also added the extra amplification of the six month period.

The reason for the delay in the Eastern province could be that either the stamps were not available on time in the Eastern Province or that as the Map stamp revenues were for charity the usage of the stamps was originally considered 'voluntary' rather than 'obligatory'.

My interpretation is that this letter was recognition that this stamp issue was for short-term usage and that it was 'obligatory'. However since the start date had been missed then usage for a six-month period was a 'diplomatic suggestion'.

On the next page I have charted my collection of covers with Map stamps affixed and this appears to suggest that the usage in the Eastern Province was from March until October whilst in the west the usage was from February until July. However Rudy in his article noted dates of January were known – can anyone supply the evidence. Also since it was normal for the commissary at ARAMCO to sell envelopes to employees with stamps already affixed then extended usage is also quite probable and of less significance in the Eastern province. My CASOC cover with an unscratched flag on a cover dated 28th October is almost certainly very delayed usage of a prestamped envelope.



Change from Unscratched to Scratched Flag Varieties : The change from unscratched flag to scratched varieties appears to date from May 1946. Would collectors please report examples of earlier usage to myself or the editor.

Perforation 11 Stamp : Unscratched Flag

Whilst perforation 11 unscratched stamps are relatively easy to acquire mint used is quite difficult. I have a nice



early cover dated February 4th with a perforation 11 unscratched Map stamp addressed to England, my only one on cover. It is at the 11 qirsh rate with a quite incredible shade of the 10 qirsh stamp, I assume it has faded but the other stamps are perfectly fresh and comments would be appreciated.

Perforation 11 Stamp : Scratched Flag



Scott RA4e, SG 356a variety. Note perforation is actually 10.8 on these stamps. Rudy reported having 'seen' a single copy with the scratched flags. It is obviously scarce since just a single used copy is registered with the APAI at present. This copy has a Taif cancel dated 23rd

Usage Calendar for Map Stamp					
W/E		Unscratched		Scratched	
1946	1365	Perf 11	11.5	11	11.5
25-Jan	21-2				
1-Feb	28-2				
8-Feb	6-3	MD			
15-Feb	13-3				
22-Feb	20-3				
1-Mar	27-3		MQ		
8-Mar	4-4		KH		
15-Mar	11-4				
22-Mar	18-4				
29-Mar	25-4				
5-Apr	3-5				
12-Apr	10-5				
19-Apr	17-5				
26-Apr	24-5			Stamp	
3-May	1-6				
10-May	8-6				
17-May	15-6		KH		JD
24-May	22-6				KH
31-May	29-6		KH?		
7-Jun	7-7				
14-Jun	14-7				
21-Jun	21-7				JDx2
28-Jun	28-7				
5-Jul	5-8				KH
12-Jul	12-8				TAIF
19-Jul	19-8				
26-Jul	26-8				
2-Aug	4-9				
9-Aug	11-9				
16-Aug	18-9				
23-Aug	25-9				KH
30-Aug	2-10				
6-Sep	9-10				
13-Sep	16-10				
20-Sep	23-10				
27-Sep	1-11				KH
4-Oct	8-11				
11-Oct	15-11				
18-Oct	22-11				
25-Oct	29-11				KH
1-Nov	6-12		KH		



Saudi Covers from Hodeida - An Update

By Martin Lovegrove

Three articles on this subject have appeared in previous editions of Random Notes; two by Carl Catherman (RN37.11-13, RN42.22-26) and the most recent by Rudy Thoden (RN46.21-24). At the August 13 - 14 auctions in New York held by Cherrystone Auctions, two covers with Hodeida cancellations were offered as lots 2355 and 2356, both with an estimate of \$250. Although I did not follow it closely, one day before the sale, pre-sale internet bidding had pushed the prices to around \$850 and \$1250, but these figures could have included 'OR' bids. This proved to be the case with hammer prices of a staggering \$1600 and \$1000. Both of these lots were similar to the one illustrated in RN42 page 23. The covers shown below appear to be numbered 219 and 221; the one in RN42 is numbered 220. These covers are obviously very collectable!

Lot 2355



Lot 2356



Unframed Gold Overprint on 2 Pi Magenta – Proofs?

By W. A. King FRPSL

The unframed gold overprint on 2 piastres, printed in December 1921, finally reached the open market for the first time 80 years later. I have information on other values in the series, which will be made available in a later issue of Random Notes. However the owners of such material are encouraged to register their examples with the APAI, comment on this article and on the conclusion so that all viewpoints can be incorporated in the follow-up article.

Background : In 1997 I was requested to examine some stamps which were not listed in any current catalogue and these included a number of the first issue with gold unframed overprints. We had heard rumours for many years that such material existed and evidence of a 1 piastre value had been recorded. However this previously unknown stock contained a range of unframed gold overprints on heavily tropicalized stamps of several values. I was able to photograph the examples submitted and although further examples were said to be available nothing more was seen until the large Al Mojaddedi* collection appeared on the market. The stamps I had originally examined and that sold from the Al-Mojaddedi collection were clearly from the same source.

**The story of Mohammed Sadik Al Mojaddedi was recorded in Random Notes issue 58 p 25-6.*

Gold Overprint on 2pi : I originally photographed and plated 9 copies of the 2pi with the unframed gold overprint and the positions are shown in green on the plating chart.

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50

A further 21 copies have since appeared on the market are shown in magenta and my own copy in blue. It was also quite clear that both the original and the additional stamps all sourced from the same single sheet. The picture on the next page shows the scans of all of these stamps in the correct position, and this confirms that all stamps come from a single sheet, which was printed from the ‘regular’ (B*) setting of the unframed overprint.

**The 2pi value are the ‘B’ setting whilst the one para value appear to be the earlier ‘A’ setting noted by John Wilson. (The Hejaz, A History in Stamps. pg 46*

Review : The overprint reads ‘Al-Hakummah al-Arabiyah Al-Hashimiyah 1340’ or the Hashemite Arab Government 1340 (Began Sept 4th. 1921). This was the first Hejaz overprint and a political statement and, as such, would have required the approval of King Hussain. The production of a ‘proof’ sheet with a gold overprint appears a possible or even probable scenario. It appears that a single sheet of the 2 piastres was overprinted in gold for approval and retained in the Post Office.

In 1925 the archives were being held in Jeddah following the fall of Makkah to Abdulaziz ibn Saud. With Jeddah under siege and the availability of the various ‘Hejaz Government’ overprinted issues these stamps would not be vital and they might even be an embarrassment. It therefore appears conceivable they were acquired by Mohammed Al Mojadeddi as reparations following the loss of his sugar and grain cargo to King Ali’s troops as related in RN58 p 26.

Conclusion : These ‘gold’ overprints should be classified as ‘proofs’ since































1. Only a single sheet appears to exist from a clear and early printing.
2. No copies were ever sold to the public.
3. No copies were ever used.



APAI Master Record Sheet Unframed Gold Overprint on 2pi

This master record shows all 30 examples of gold unframed overprint on 2 piastres registered at September 2003. It can be seen that the overprint is offset slightly left on all copies but only on some values is it so far left as to extend onto the stamp to the left. Note the sloped overprint is seen on all the positions characteristic of the 'regular' setting. Only a single marginal copy, position 40, has been recorded.

It would be appreciated if those holding copies shown in black and white images would submit a good coloured scan so that colour pictures can be placed in the APAI master register. Also scans or advice if anyone can provide information on the missing positions.

Row	Positions on Sheet				
1	1		3	4	5
2	6				10
3	11	12		14	
4	16		18	19	
5		22	23		
6					
7		32			
8	36				
9	41				45
10				49	50



The 'Cairo' Forgeries

By: Martin Lovegrove

I have called these forgeries the 'Cairo' forgeries for no other reason than many of my copies can be traced back to Cairo. If anyone has proof of the origin of these stamps, please let me know.

The stamps described and illustrated in this article relate in some way to Saudi Arabia, although I have seen Egyptian stamps produced in this style and there may indeed be other countries suffering the same fate. This article describes the stamps I have seen so far.

Paper

The stamps and overprints (including 'handstamps') are lithographed and are printed on four basic types of paper, probably all white. Classification is by the look of the gum.

- Thick smooth cream gum. (C)
- Smooth white gum. (WS)
- Mottled off-white gum. (WM)
- Paper containing a small amount of an optical brightening agent with a mottled appearance on the gummed side. (OBA)



Cream gum



White, smooth gum



White, mottled gum

The difference between the papers is not always apparent from the front; the stamps have an overall covering of cream ink, probably introduced in order to make the stamps look old. The difference can be clearly seen under long wave ultra-violet light. Below is a comparison of the two papers under natural and UV light; the cream paper forms the top row with the whiter paper beneath.



Natural light

Long wave UV light



Perforations

The stamps are line perforated and the gauges seen so far are 10 and 10½. The perforator appears to have had three pins missing for most of the time and mis-perforations and double perforations are known. Study of the missing pins shows that the stamps were perforated a few rows at a time from each of the four edges rather than progressing across the sheet in one pass.

I will now list the stamps that I have seen so far and will break the list into groups.

Hejaz - Survey of Egypt



'Cairo' forgeries of Survey of Egypt printed stamps

Stamp	Paper	Perforation
¼ qirsh green	C	10
1 qirsh blue	OBA	10
½ qirsh red	OBA	10
½ qirsh red with inverted framed Hashemite overprint	WS	10
1 qirsh blue with inverted framed Hashemite overprint	WS	10
2 qirsh claret with framed Hashemite overprint	OBA	10½
2 qirsh claret with framed Hashemite overprint printed double, one inverted	C	10½
1 para dull purple with framed Hashemite overprint and 1 qirsh surcharge	OBA	10½
2 qirsh claret with framed Hashemite overprint printed double, one inverted, with 2-line Jeddah overprint in blue	W	10½



Nejd Second Handstamp on Makkah Arms

This group includes some values and colours that were not genuinely used for this issue. Below, I have illustrated one example of each value/colour combination; there seemed little point in showing the same stamp with a different overprint orientation.



'Cairo' forgeries of Makkah Arms stamps

Stamp	Paper	Perforation
1/8 qirsh handstamp upright	C	10½
1/8 qirsh handstamp upright	WM	10½
1/8 qirsh handstamp inverted	OBA	10½
¼ qirsh handstamp upright	WM	10½
¼ qirsh handstamp inverted	WM	10½
½ qirsh handstamp upright	OBA	10½
½ qirsh handstamp inverted	C	10½
1 qirsh handstamp upright	OBA	10½
1 qirsh handstamp inverted	OBA	10½
1½ qirsh slate-lilac handstamp upright	OBA	10½
1½ qirsh slate-lilac handstamp inverted	OBA	10½



Stamp	Paper	Perforation
1 ½ qirsh rose handstamp upright	C	10½
1 ½ qirsh brown handstamp upright	C	10½
1 ½ qirsh brown handstamp inverted	WM	10½
2 qirsh orange handstamp inverted	C	10½
2 qirsh red handstamp inverted	WM	10½
2 qirsh plum handstamp upright	OBA	10½
5 qirsh green handstamp upright	C	10½
5 qirsh rose handstamp upright	WM	10½
5 qirsh rose handstamp inverted	WM	10½
10 qirsh purple handstamp upright	OBA	10½

Nejd - Hajj Issue

Only one forgery of this type found for this issue (so far!).



Stamp	Paper	Perforation
4 qirsh on 1/8 qirsh	C	10

Transjordan



'Cairo' forgeries of Transjordan stamps

Stamp	Paper	Perforation
1/8 qirsh inverted overprint	C	10½
1/4 qirsh inverted overprint	OBA	10½
1 qirsh inverted overprint	unknown	10½
2 qirsh orange inverted overprint	WM	10½
2 qirsh plum inverted overprint	OBA	10½
5 qirsh red inverted overprint	WM	10½



Bogus Issues

I have obtained just two bogus issues.



'Cairo' bogus issues

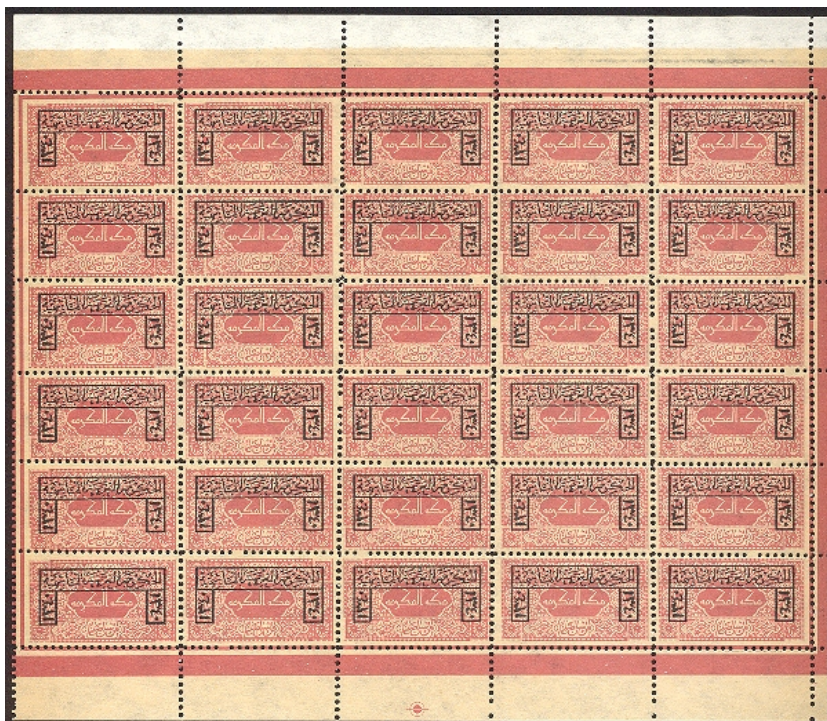
Stamp	Paper	Perforation
1 qirsh Makkah Arms with Nejd second handstamp and Transjordan overprint, both inverted.	C	10½
1/8 qirsh Survey of Egypt with 'Matbua' overprint and 1/2 qirsh surcharge.	C	10

1934 Heir Apparent

An article featuring imperforate forged Heir Apparent stamps appeared in Random Notes #58, and the perforated versions were mentioned in #60 (RN60.5). All of this issue are on paper type C, the perforated stamps are gauge 10.

Sheet Layout

The format for horizontal stamps is 5 stamps per row and 6 rows per sheet (5 x 6), for vertical stamps it is 6 x 5. Examples of sheets follow, showing marginal rules and in one case it can be seen where the cream ink used as a wash over the paper does not reach the edge, thus revealing the whiteness of the paper.



'Cairo' forgery sheet printed on OBA paper and showing the cream ink stopping short of the paper edge





Heir Apparent forgery

A sheet of the Makkah Arms $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh forgery was illustrated on page 29 of RN60.

Conclusion

The exact origins of these forgeries are not known, but in view of the fact that Egyptian stamps have also been produced by this forger makes my supposition of a Cairo origin at least possible.

This article has listed all of the stamps I have seen that are in some form related to Saudi Arabia, but it has not gone into any detail of how to identify the forgeries. I can find two excuses for this: Firstly, the stamps are easily distinguishable from the genuine and pose no real threat to philately. Secondly, I have already prepared an article that shows one such item in detail; that article appears later in this issue.

There are obviously many more stamps produced by this forger than I have listed, and I would be grateful for any further information. I hope that a detailed listing can be made available for the new edition of the Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries that has recently been started.

RN

Computer Corner

There have been many cases of identity fraud relating to eBay, PayPal, and at least one UK bank. Users have been requested by email to submit user names, passwords, and other sensitive information. However convincing the message may appear to be (and some are extremely realistic), resist the temptation to reply! Such organizations do not ask for these details by email. If you have submitted such information, change your user ID or password if possible, otherwise contact the organization concerned and explain the situation.

RN

The 'Cairo' Forgeries

Framed Overprint Double (One Inverted) on Hejaz Survey of Egypt 2 Qirsh Claret

By: Martin Lovegrove

This stamp is unrecorded in a genuine condition; the stamp and both overprints are forgeries. This value of the early Hejaz stamps was not issued in a perforated condition; the only separation was roulette 13.

This article describes the forgery in detail.

Paper

The paper used appears to be a much creamier shade than the genuine. The surface is smooth with a very slight shine to it when held at an angle to a light source. However, the cream colour is achieved by printing the surface with cream coloured ink; the paper is believed to be white and does not show any fluorescence when exposed to long wave ultra violet light.



Gum

The gum is smooth, shiny and a similar colour to the paper but slightly darker.

Colour

The colour is reasonably accurate. It is close enough to allow the stamp to be offered as genuine.

Perforation

The stamps are line perforated 10½ and stamps may show the missing pin variety.

General Accuracy



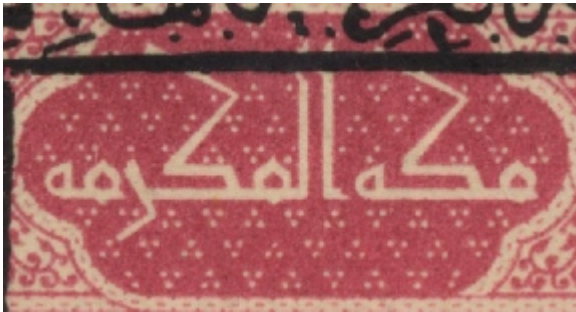
Genuine



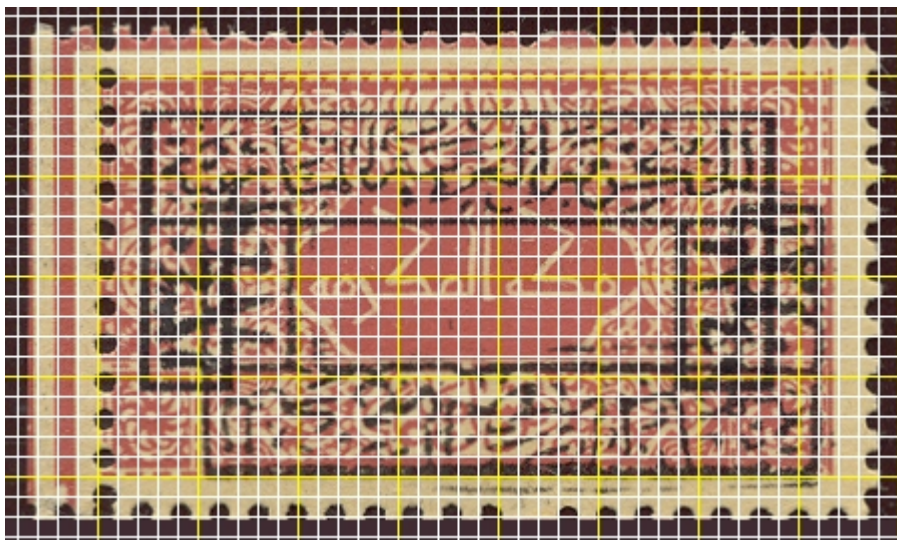
Forgery

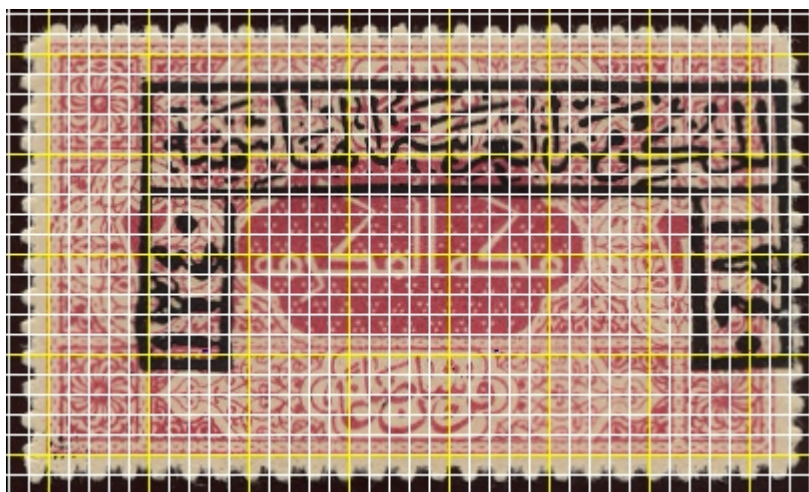
The basic design is reasonably accurate and judging by the dots forming the design, the printing process appears to be photo-lithography. It is only when studying the stamp in detail that the differences between this stamp and genuine 2 qirsh and framed overprints can be seen. Examples are illustrated below:





The size of the stamps is accurate. Only a minor variation in height can be detected. In the diagrams below, a grid has been superimposed on genuine and forged stamps so that any variation in size can be easily seen. The small squares represent 1mm.





It can also be seen from the diagrams above, that the forged overprints are slightly smaller than the genuine; the upright overprint is about 1mm narrower.

It is interesting to note that the two overprints appearing on each stamp are different. The upright one shows the dots associated with the printing method, but the inverted one appears much more like the genuine relief-printed overprint. The inverted overprint is smaller, the width is about 1mm less. The Arabic numerals on the upright forgery vary considerably from the genuine; the inverted one is much closer. The diagrams below offer a comparison between the various overprints.



Forged upright overprint



Forged inverted overprint





Genuine overprint

Comments

There should be no difficulty in recognising that these stamps are not genuine. They are, however, good enough to fool the unwary, and also to pass as genuine on Web auctions sites when generally only fairly poor quality scanned images are available.

The paper and gum suggest that the origin of these stamps is the same as that of the Heir Apparent forgeries described in Random Notes 58 and that they are part of the group of forgeries I have called the 'Cairo' forgeries.

RN



On page 6 of RN45, a cover postmarked Amman 5 August 1923 from Transjordan was illustrated that showed postal use of Hejaz stamps without the usual overprint. Above is a cover, also from Amman, dated 25 November 1923 on which is a 1 qirsh Hejaz stamp without an overprint.

I assume this happened when a sheet from the normal stock delivered from the Hejaz was not overprinted, but is this assumption correct?

RN

Medical Aid Society Stamps - The Roulette Issue

By: Martin Lovegrove

This stamp, first issued in 1950, is listed in Scott as RA6, Gibbons 348, and Mayo PT854. The aim of this article is to clear up some of the misconceptions about this issue and to introduce some ideas about the format of the printing plate; it is not the definitive work. The misconceptions are all in relation to the method of separation used for this issue.

The first misconception is probably the description of the method of separation. It is normally referred to as 'roulette', a process that pierces the paper, but in this case paper is actually removed. Rudy Thoden probably described it accurately in his *'Catalogue of the Fiscal Stamps of Saudi Arabia 1916 - 2001'* where he refers to the stamp having a hyphen-hole perforation. I will follow the lead of the catalogues and use 'roulette'.



Figure 1 - The stamp showing a rectangular 'roulette'

Imperforate edges are frequently listed in auctions as errors, and the method of separation can be described as Roulette 7, Roulette 14, Roulette 15, Pin-Perf 14 etc. The actual method of separation used was rouletting with a gauge of 7 and is clearly shown in figure 1. The printed sheet comprised several panes of stamps; I do not yet know the exact number, but it was probably just two panes wide. Each pane comprised 40 stamps set out as 8 columns and 5 rows. The rouletting applied was the minimum to allow stamp separation. Thus any stamp adjacent to another would be rouletted between the stamps, but those bordering gutters would not. The exception to this can be found in the stamps adjacent to the central vertical gutter of the printed sheet. This gutter would eventually be used to staple the sheets together for distribution, and to allow the stamps to be removed from the Post Office sheet, this gutter had to be rouletted. This printed sheet with separations applied was then guillotined into single panes that were then assembled and stapled before being distributed. An example of a Post Office sheet is shown in figure 12.

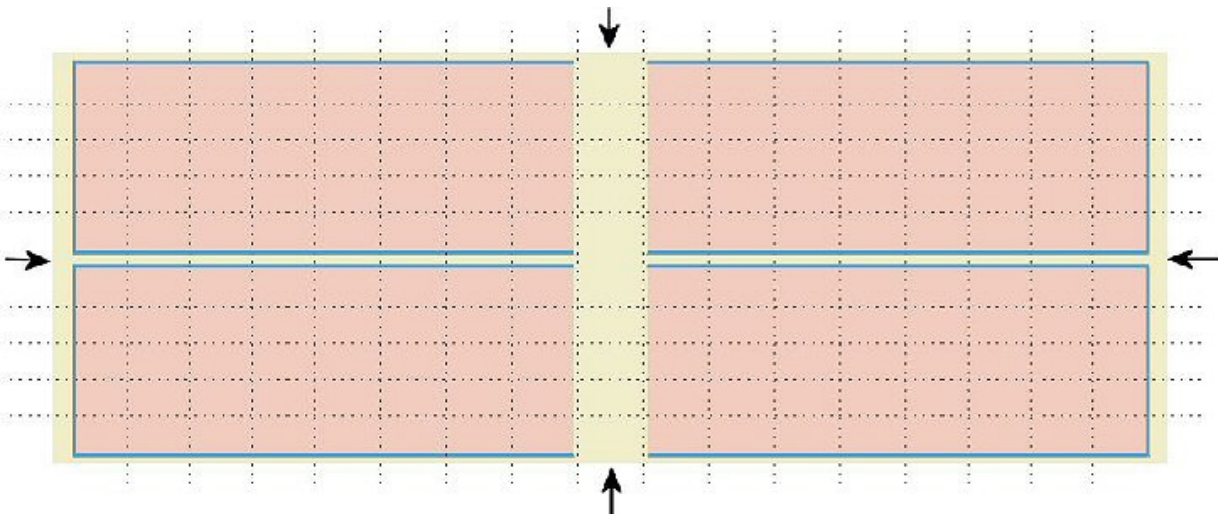


Figure 2 - Suggested format of Post Office sheet

Figure 2 shows a simulation of a printed sheet assuming it comprised just four panes of stamps. In the diagram, the dotted lines represent the lines of rouletting, the thick blue lines



represent imperforate edges of stamps, and the arrows indicate the points at which the sheet will be guillotined. In all probability, the printed sheet contained more than four panes, possibly eight. Given sufficient corner copies, examination of flaws should reveal the information. If only two different top left corner stamps are found, the above diagram will be correct. The problem I will encounter here is that flaws that exist on the litho master transfer sheet will occur on all panes! This exercise will, without doubt, take some time.

Having shown that imperforate edges are normal, let us examine the separations.



Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 1 shows the normal roulette 7 stamp and figures 3 and 4 are apparently roulette 14, with figure 4 showing the poor condition of the separations normally found.

Figure 5 shows part of a pair of stamps that are apparently pin-perf 7 horizontally and pin-perf 14 vertically.



Figure 5 - Mixed perforation?

So, why are there so many variations. Well, it is not that different roulettes were used, but that the efficiency of the paper-piercing was not consistent. Figure 6 shows this quite clearly.



Figure 6 - Inconsistent roulette



It can be seen that there are two distinct parts to the actual piercing. The first parts to be pierced are the two ends of a rectangle followed by the part between them. If the only the ends are pierced, a gauge of 14 is produced, giving the impression of a pin-perf, but note that the holes are square and not round. It is also interesting to note that the form of rouletting used here, given a clean cut, actually removes paper; the definition of rouletting however, states that paper is pierced but not removed.

A better illusion of a pin-perf is given when the cutter fails to produce a clean cut, probably due to wear; an example of this is shown in figure 7.

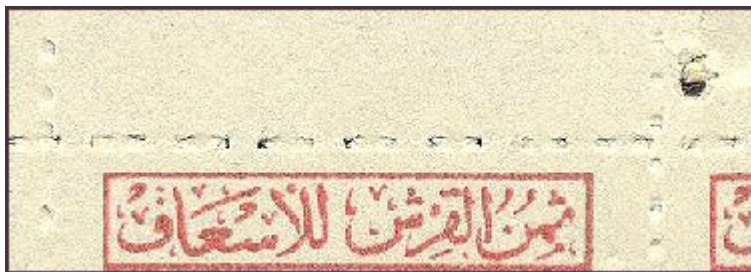


Figure 7 - Poor piercing

Figure 8 shows a microscopic view of these small square end holes with no hint of them being joined.



Figure 9

Figure 8

From these images it can be deduced that the shape of a tooth of the roulette was similar to that shown in figure 9. Perhaps not all right-angles, but I am sure you get the idea.

Having introduced a suggested format for the printed sheet earlier, I had better mention some of the facts that have been discovered so far. I have to thank Willie King for spotting this one, and although he thought it may have been an insignificant flaw, I believe it is much more than that. He showed me a stamp with a large line flaw and is shown in figure 10.



Figure 10 - Large flaw, position 32

On checking my sheets, I found the stamp to be from position 32 and occurred on both left and right-hand panes, but was not visible on all of the sheets I have. Two sheets were without



it but showed a common flaw in position 17, a flaw in the form of a spot on the wall of the centre building. These two sheets happened to be from different sides of the plate, i.e. one left pane and one right. There were other flaws on these sheets that were individual to each, but if they prove to be constant flaws, we can make some useful deductions.



Figure 11 - Spot flaw, position 17

I suggest that when laying down the litho transfers, having started with a single pane, a transfer comprising a vertical column of panes was produced, let us say there were two panes in the column, similar to the left-hand half of figure 2. These two were copied and were used to make a transfer of two columns, similar to the layout shown in figure 2. Because the two halves originated from the same source, we can expect to find matching flaws. This is what I think we have, with the line flaw appearing in the sheets from one row on the plate, and the spot flaw from another row. Given sufficient sheets, it should be possible to determine how many rows appeared in the finished plate and how many columns there were. Unfortunately I have only 7 sheets of this issue, but I believe that has been sufficient to start the project.

For more information on the production of litho plates and the transfer process, the section on planographic printing in *Fundamentals of Philately* by L. N. Williams should prove to be a good read.


To summarize:

- Imperforate edges are normal on some stamps of this issue, although the maximum number of imperforate edges on a normal single stamp is two.
- The printed sheet comprised several panes, guillotined before delivery to post offices, and that the printing plate comprised at least two columns and two rows.
- The roulette of this charity tax stamp has a gauge of 7; stamps that appear to be roulette 14 and pin-perf 14 varieties are the result of a poorly executed roulette 7.

Future research

Stamps with an imperforate vertical side from the outer edges of the post office sheet may prove to be the key stamps in determining the layout of the printed sheet, but important clues could be held in any of the stamps; the major problem being to separate the three types of flaw: transient, pane, and transfer.

I would like to hear from anyone who think they may have something of interest relating to this issue; you can email me at weatherings@aol.com or by post to my address given on page 2.

Just to get you thinking, figures 13 and 14 illustrate two blocks (positions 23, 24, 31, 32) from left-hand panes containing the line flaw illustrated in figure 10. Both blocks show the line through 'SEC' (illustration 'B'). The first block has a small dot (illustration 'A') and a break 

in the frame (illustration 'C'), none of which are in the second block. If the flaws are constant, we can perhaps deduce that the blocks are from different panes and that the dot in 'A' and the frame break in 'C' are pane flaws, and that the line through 'SEC' is a transfer flaw. If this is all true, then the line flaw (fig. 10) occurs at least twice in the left-hand half of the printed sheet, indicating that the sheet is two columns of at least four panes.

There are plenty of small flaws on these stamps, but if there are 8 panes, then there are a lot of stamps to inspect! Something for the long winter evenings ahead!

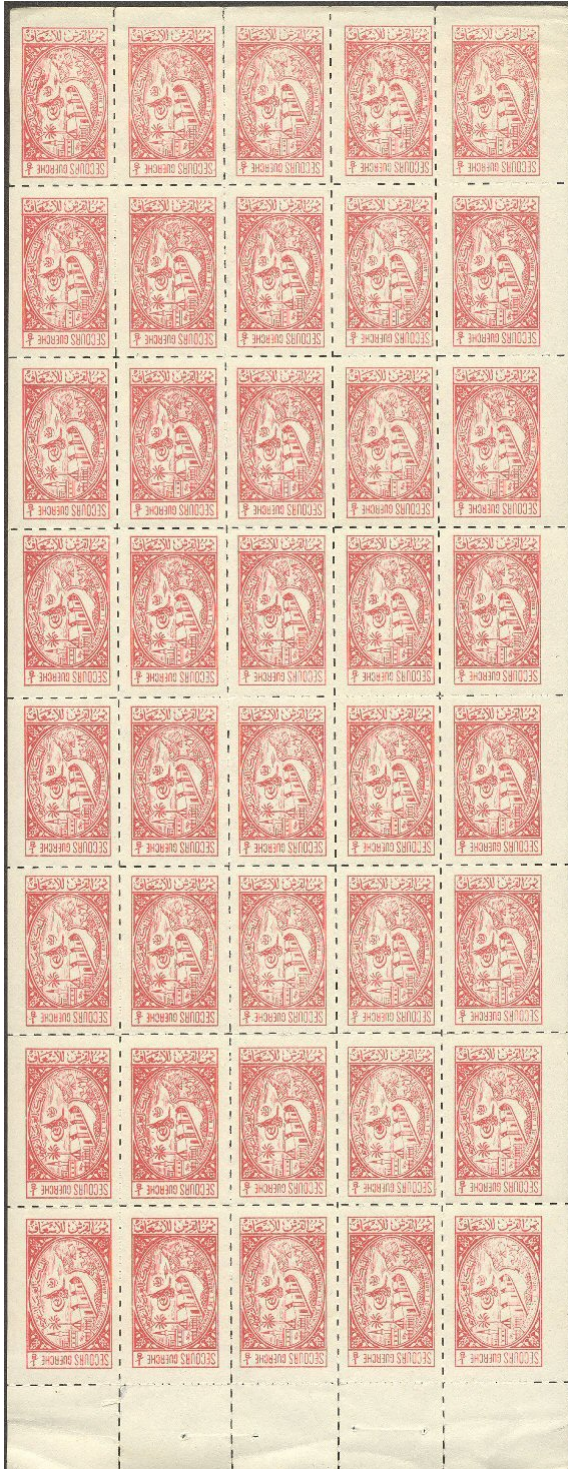


Figure 12 - Post Office sheet -an example of a right-hand pane

Figure 13 - Block 1

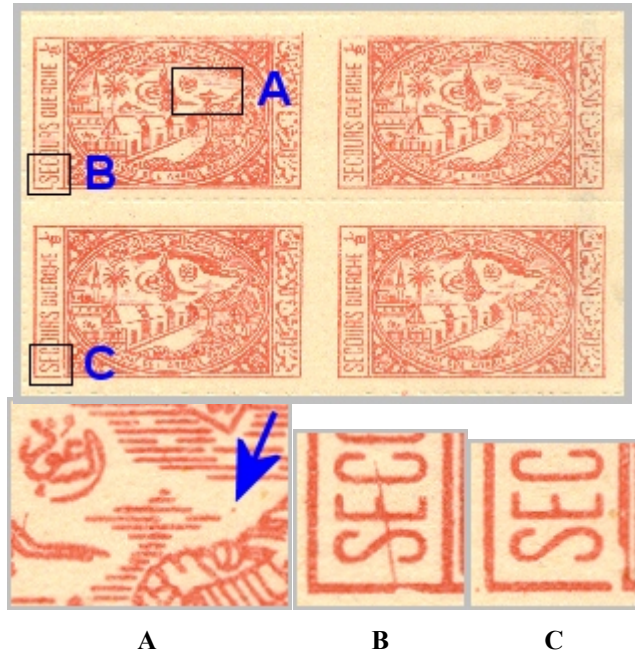
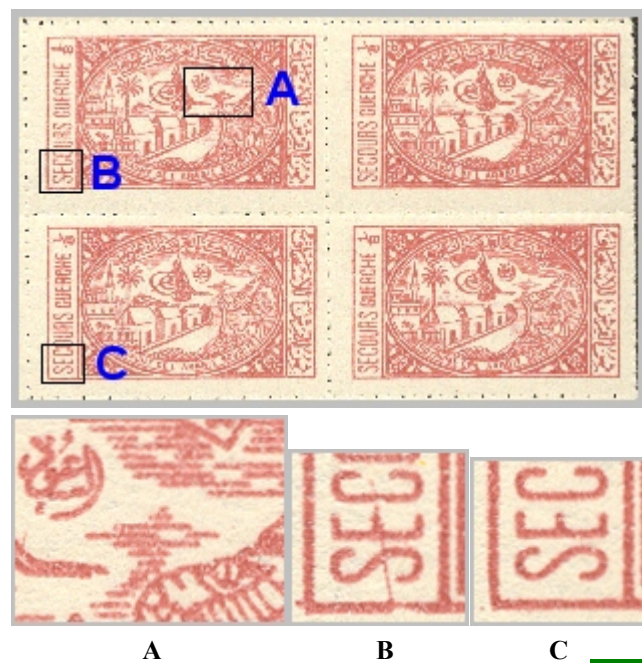


Figure 14 - Block 2



RN

Issues of Saudi Arabia : 1999

By: Willie King & David Jessich

1999 began with a major series of 6 stamps and 5 souvenir sheets all issued on January 22nd 1999 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary (1319-1419) of the event that began the creation of what is now Saudi Arabia i.e the capture of Riyadh by Abdulaziz ibn Saud on 5th. Shawal 1319 equivalent to January 14th 1902. The Ministry of P.T.T Directorate General of Posts also produced a large commemorative brochure featuring these stamps (24 x 21cm once folded into 4 pages)

1999-1& 2 100th Anniversary of KSA

Issue Date : January 22nd 1999

1 SR : Abdulaziz ibn Saud, KSA Symbol over Fortress at Riyadh with 100yrs cachet superimposed.

2 SR : Abdulaziz ibn Saud over outline map of KSA enclosing the 100yrs cachet.

Sheets of 60 in two panes of 30 (6 across x 5)

Vertically separated by a pictorial gutter*

Perforation 12



K.S.A. 100 YEARS

Printed over columns 1-5 and 7-12

Printed under columns 2-4, 9-11

*Insignia in Gutter

100 yrs Cachet

Between rows

1, 3 and 5



Saudi Arabian PO

Between rows

2 and 4



Marginal Art :

1999-3 Souvenir Sheet :

100th Anniversary of KSA

A souvenir sheet was also issued and sold at SR 5. It shows both stamps and King Abdulaziz with his sons King Saud, King Faisal, King Khaled and King Fahd.

Note the perforations are printed and not actual perforations.

Size : 120 x 93mm.



1999-4 : 100th Anniversary of Armed Forces

Issue Date : January 22nd 1999

1 SR : Air Force, Army and Navy and emblem of Armed Forces.

Sheets of 40 in two panes of 20
(4 across x 5)

Vertically separated by a pictorial gutter*

Perforation 12

Minor Variety : On some sheets the sand is yellow on some more orange – like the sands of Arabia the colour varies!

Marginal Art :Arabic 100 Years of KSA + Symbol

As previous but printed over all 4 columns in each pane.

English ‘K.S.A. 100 Years’ under columns 2-3 and 6-7.

***Insignia in Gutter** : As previous set.



1999-6 : The Equestrian

Issue Date : January 22nd 1999

1 SR : The Equestrian.

Sheets of 60 in two panes of 30 (6 across x 5)

Vertically separated by a pictorial gutter*

Perforation 12

Marginal Art : Arabic 100 Years of KSA + Symbol - as 1999-1&2

And printed over columns 1-5 and 7-12

English ‘K.S.A. 100 Years’ under columns 2-4 and 9-11.

***Insignia in Gutter** : As previous sets.



1999-7: Souvenir Sheet :

The Equestrian

A souvenir sheet was issued and sold at SR 5.

Note the perforations are printed.

Size : 120 x 81mm.



1999-8 : **Renovation of Governor's Office**
Development of Qasr Al Hukum Area

Issue Date : January 22nd 1999
1 SR : Views of the Governor's Office.
 Sheets of 48 in two panes of 24 (4 across x 6)
 Horizontally separated by a pictorial gutter*
Perforation 12 – often poor quality

Marginal Art : Arabic 100 Years of KSA + Symbol - as 1999-1&2
 But printed down right side of sheet
 English 'K.S.A. 100 Years' on left of sheet.



1999-9: **Souvenir Sheet :**
Development of Qasr Al Hukum Area

A souvenir sheet was issued and sold at SR 5.
 Note the perforations are printed.
 Size : 125 x 84mm.



1999-10 : **National Festival for Heritage and Culture**

Issue Date : January 22nd 1999
1 SR : View of Janadriya.
 Sheets of 60 in two panes of 30 (5 across x 6)
 Horizontally separated by a pictorial gutter*

Perforation 12
Marginal Art : Arabic 100 Years of KSA + Symbol - as 1999-1&2
 But printed down right side of sheet
 English 'K.S.A. 100 Years' on left of sheet.



1999-9: **Souvenir Sheet :**
National Festival for Heritage & Culture

A souvenir sheet was issued and sold at SR 5.
 Note the perforations are printed.
 Size : 124 x 94mm.
 (Note all 5 sheets slightly different in size)

