



الجمعية الدولية للطابع البريدية العربية
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International
Random Notes



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A new series on the King Ali stamps starts on [page 4](#)

The Arabian Philatelic Association International

The Arabian Philatelic Association (APA) was established in 1968 in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia by a group of Aramco employees particularly interested in Saudi Arabian philately. The APA had over 300 members and subscribers worldwide during most of its existence. Its journal (*APA Random Notes*), and *Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries*, auctions and new issue service contributed to the large increase in the popularity of Saudi Arabian philately in the 1970s and 1980s. 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 #63

Assembled by the Editor

I would like to start by thanking Fred Benedict and Roy Eakin for sending me material to assist with my study of the Postal Tax stamps. I very much appreciate the help and I can assure both of them that what they have sent has helped and will help make Random Notes a major source of information on Saudi Arabian philately. An article on the first of these stamps appears in this issue.

Unfortunately this issue is late and with the lack of articles being submitted it is proving impossible to produce four issues per year. While that is still the target, please expect to see longer intervals between issues. My aim is to publish anything that has not appeared in Random Notes previously, so there must be a lot of information out there just looking for a home! Please submit anything you think may be of interest; anything from a short paragraph to a full article.

Willie King has started an update on the King Ali issues, and many questions remain unanswered. If you can respond to any questions raised in his articles, please do so. The problems relating to date errors in postal markings is one that requires all the feedback possible. Please help.

1. With reference to Willie King's article on Gebel Abu Qubeis in Random Notes #62, I include below the Sherifian Arms as depicted on a reproduction of a Hejaz banknote and also as it appears on the ½ qirsh Makkah Arms stamp. The building on top of the arms should now be familiar! Is the coat of arms on the banknote accurate? Has anyone got a better illustration?



2. **Forgery Manual** : The first section of the new Forgery Manual has been distributed for comments. This shows how the next issue of the forgery manual is planned. Several contributions have been gratefully received and Tarik Alireza has also provided his reference collection for comparison purposes. We would appreciate collectors comments and suggestions so that they might be incorporated with those already received when work continues on the manual. Comments or contributions by email please to arabphilassocin@aol.com or willakings@aol.com (wak)

(Notes continued on page 19)

King Ali Issues : Definitives

Updates, Queries and Checklists for SG 177-185 (Scott L160-186)

By: *William A. King FRPSL*

This continues the series of articles on collecting the early issues of Saudi Arabia. The '*King Ali Issues*' are the name assigned to a group of stamps based on nine definitive and four postage due values printed in Cairo by Mourafatti in 1925 for the Hejaz government.



History : Ali became King of Hejaz on 5th Rabi' Al Awwal 1343 (4th October 1924) following the capture of Taif and Makkah by Abdulaziz Ibn Saud and the subsequent abdication of King Hussain. Stocks of stamps in Makkah and Taif were lost and in order to prevent fraud the remaining stocks of Arms and first issues were overprinted "*The Hejaz Government*" and the date of Ali's accession "*5th Rabi' Al Awwal 1343*". As these stocks were used up and, since the press printing the Arms stamps was in Makkah and under the control of Ibn Saud, a new supply of stamps was required and printing presses in Egypt were approached. According to D. F. Warin, due to extended delivery by the Survey of Egypt who supplied the first issues of Hejaz, the order was placed with Messrs Mourafatti.



The designs followed the tradition established by Storrs and Lawrence of a totally Arabic design but the name of the designer is not known. The Arabic panel of each design reads as follows -

Top : 'Berid al Hukumat al Arabi al Hejazie' : 'The Arab Government of Hejaz Post'

Central : 'Abdhu ! Ali bin Husein 1343' : 'His slave Ali, Son of Hussein, 1343'

Side : 'Makkah al Mokarrama'

Lower : Value



Stamp Pilferage : At some point after the printing by Mourafatti, and prior to delivery to the Post Office in Jeddah, serious pilferage of the new series of stamps occurred. It should be remembered that following the fall of Makkah the meagre income from pilgrims was no longer available to the Hejazi government who now had virtually no revenues apart from a small British Government subsidy. Therefore the theft of the postage stamps and a source of government revenue was serious.

Overprinting the King Ali Issue : The Hejaz Government had already decreed for the Arms issue and remnants of the first issue that only those stamps overprinted with the date 5th Rabi' Al Awwal 1343 were valid for postal purposes. This requirement was continued for the King Ali design.

The new stamps, without overprint, arrived in Jeddah in May 1925. The first overprint for this issue consisted of five clichés or tablets each reading 1343 and horizontally assembled on a short (12cm) bar. Five 'bars' were produced with the year and a further five bars of the month clichés in Arabic. Each cliché has sufficient variations for each to be uniquely identifiable. These clichés were designed to be printed sideways on the stamps and when assembled ready to print the 5 year bars and five month bars were sufficient to print on half of the sheet of 50 stamps. This printing format has been designated as 'Jeddah I'. It appears that for security purposes after printing was complete on any day the bars were removed from the assembly. When re-assembled the bars were in a different sequence and/or set at different distance from each other. Thus any partially printed sheets left to dry could have different 'settings' when the second half of the sheet was printed.

Later a new overprint was created with sufficient clichés to print all 50 stamps in a single printing operation. This format has been designated 'Jeddah II'. At the same time Mourafatti in Cairo also prepared a much more uniform plate also to overprint all 50 stamps at the same time. However just six months after the original issues, in December 1925, the issue was no longer valid for postage following the capture of both Madinah and Jeddah by Ibn Saud.

Thus this basically simple stamp issue expanded greatly due to the variety of overprints and one then becomes embroiled in a complex debate of what should or should not be considered genuine postage stamps! These were printed, or overprinted, with a genuine requirement to issue but were then not required due to the collapse of Hejaz as a political entity.

These genuine but 'unissued' stamps subsequently appeared on the market in large quantities depressing the demand and catalogue value of those stamps actually issued for postal use in Hejaz. At the same time the transfer of Hejaz and Nejd from the commonwealth to the foreign catalogue by Stanley Gibbons also reduced demand. The footnotes in both Scott and Gibbons catalogues explain some of the problems created for these publications in the listing of the King Ali issues and until recently Gibbons did not even differentiate the colour of the overprint.

The end result is that the collector has a great opportunity to add genuinely rare stamps to his collection at low cost, even if purchased at full 'catalogue' value from a city centre stamp dealer. At the same time the collection can be greatly enhanced with genuine but 'unissued' stamps that would be outrageously expensive for any other country. The listing, originally made by Fred Benedict, in RN 38 page 11 for Jeddah I's only, has been revised and expanded to include all the basic stamps normally included in a King Ali collection. However, this checklist still does not include varieties such as inverted* or doubled overprints or perforation varieties such as imperf between etc. Also not included are the inverted centres of the 10pi. Since dealers or auction lists are driven by catalogue value the knowledgeable collector can benefit. Altogether the collecting of the King Ali stamp issues can be a rewarding collecting experience and is thoroughly recommended by the author.

* Inverts are a particular problem for the King Ali issue and are discussed after the checklist. This explains the APAI definition of invert related to this issue.



King Ali Definitive Checklist

Includes varieties of the issued Jeddah I overprints
and collectable varieties of other King Ali stamps

King Ali Checklist																		
Value and Colour	1/8		1/4		1/2		1		1 1/2		2		3		5		10	
	Brown	Perf	Blue	Imp	Red	Perf	Green	Imp	Yellow	Perf	Blue	Imp	Green	Perf	Orange	Imp	Red/Gm	Perf
No Overprint	Imp	Perf	Imp	Perf	Imp	Perf	Imp	Perf	Imp	Perf	Imp	Perf	Imp	Perf	Imp	Perf	Imp	Perf
Setting	Year Tablet Orientation : Left or Right																	
Black Overprint	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R
Cairo																		
Jeddah I																		
A Narrow																		
B Medium																		
C1 Medium																		
C2* Medium																		
F Wide																		
Jeddah II																		
Blue Overprint																		
Cairo																		
Jeddah I																		
E Wide																		
F Wide																		
G* Wide																		
Jeddah II																		
Red Overprint																		
Cairo																		
Jeddah I																		
D Medium																		
E Wide																		
Jeddah II																		
Setting	Year Tablet Up or Down																	
Black Overprint	U	D	U	D	U	D	U	D	U	D	U	D	U	D	U	D	U	D
Cairo Sideways, Perf																		
Sideways Imperf																		
Setting Width : Narrow 12-13mm Medium 15-16mm Wide 17.5-19.5mm * Can only be identified in Horiz Pairs C1 to C2 & E to G																		
Legend :	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Item		<input type="checkbox"/>	New Item		<input type="checkbox"/>	New Item		<input type="checkbox"/>	New Item		<input type="checkbox"/>	New Item		<input type="checkbox"/>	New Item	
Variety reported but requires verification - please send scans																		



Overprint Orientation: It is important that the basics of the King Ali tablet orientation are understood as they are unique to this series and key to finding a scarce variety and avoiding stamps erroneously misrepresented as inverts.

The key rule is that both tablets should read the same way and for a normal overprint the Arabic 5 of the month is **ALWAYS** over the second Arabic 3 in the year. There is one school of thought, which postulates that the **month reading up** (i.e Year Left) should be the correct orientation (See Warin page 89 & SG Footnote) and down is a variety. However there is no indication that either orientation is preferred. At present 10 examples of Jeddah I settings are found only left and 4 only right and 24 reported in both directions. To resolve the orientation problem the APAI designate the orientation by the position of the **YEAR** cliché and whether it is to the left or right of the stamp – or in the case of the scarce Cairo horizontal printings up or down.



Occasionally a vendor or auction house will say the overprint is inverted – say compared to the Scott or Gibbons catalogue – but almost invariably these are regular stamps just with the year position opposite to the catalogue. Inverts can be found and are scarce and collectable but are quite a distinct variable and the best way to describe is to examine the examples shown above. Note that the Arabic 5 is NOT over the Arabic 3. The different types of inverts found are simulated - all year left. Similar could occur with year right! Note the vast majority of inverts are from the Cairo printings. Any Jeddah I inverts should be submitted for an APAI certificate.

Printing Identification : Cairo and Jeddah : The second requirement is to be able to identify and separate the three different printings. Most important is to identify the commonest stamps – the **Cairo** printing. Look at the Arabic 5, which is very consistent as shown a triangulated 0 sloping slightly to the right. The long underline below the 0 and short even line above but to right side of lower line are also consistent. The frame lines are square and usually even. The overprint is just very slightly narrower than the original design. If the Arabic 5's are round, or touch the frame or are broken or very uneven then you have an overprint printed in Jeddah.




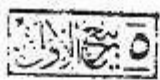
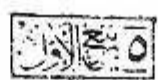


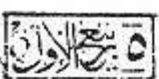





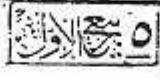
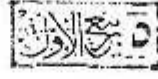

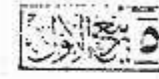
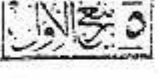
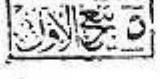
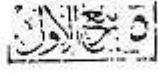
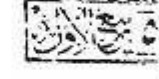

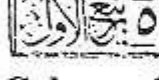

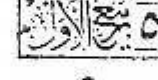
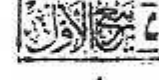



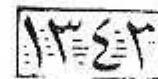
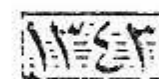




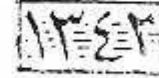

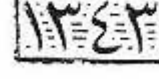

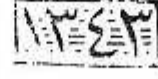
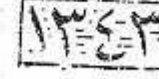




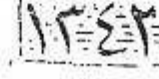






Separating Jeddah I and Jeddah II: Firstly measure the width between the tablets.

Narrow setting (12-13mm between tablets) Only the Jeddah I and only black and on 1/8 and 1/2 pi values. We have no multiples and this may be the last genuinely issued setting. (Please scan and send any multiples you have for APAI records and any values with a dated cancel).


Medium setting of 15-16mm: Only the Jeddah I printing. Only black or red overprints and only found so far on values of 1/8 to 2 pi.

The wide setting is 17.5mm or over consists of **Jeddah I**, **all Jeddah II** and **all blue overprints**. Once you become skilled you may be able to separate by colour of overprint but I suggest this variable is retained for confirmation. Many Jeddah I overprints have characteristic which are fairly easy to plate so I suggest you try and plate. The Jeddah II year clichés are generally smaller than Jeddah I so if your year cliché is under 7mm you probably will not find a match below as it will be a Jeddah II overprint.

Plating the overprints : Look at **both** tablets and find a fairly major flaw in the Arabic 5 or the frame line and compare with the plating chart below. Ignore marginal paper if present.

Month 1					
Month 2					
Month 3					
Month 4					
Month 5					
	Column 1	2	3	4	5
Year 1					
Year 2					
Year 3					
Year 4					
Year 5					

Plating Continued : If you find a likely candidate then the other tablet **must be in the same column** so you have only 5 choices - except in the unlikely case of an invert. If you find a good match then you have a Jeddah I overprint.

Now based on the width between tablets, colour of overprint and the actual month/year you can now decide which setting was used to print the overprint and hence the position of the stamp on the sheet by using the table below. This is based originally on Fred Benedict's table in 

RN38 page 11 but with the addition of setting C2 and a probable further position for the G setting. As it is difficult to visualize the year right that has also been added so there is no ambiguity and remember the position is always written as month/year – even when looking at a stamp with the year at the left!!

Note the position ie the Jeddah I overprint on 1½ pi shown on an earlier page is recorded as F 5 2/3 i.e Setting F Row 5 Month 2 and Year 3 and this identifies the overprint exactly. However, if you need to now establish which stamp on the sheet you need to refer to the settings below which confirm only one wide setting in black is recorded and this position from row 5 means the overprint is on stamp 24 (or 49) of the sheet. If the stamp has marginal paper you can use that now to help verify if your plating is valid! Note also that the year right setting of this 1½ pi stamps is denoted by a triangle – reported but not confirmed by Fred Benedict and also not in my collection.


Jeddah I Settings of King Ali Overprints

		Width mm	Year at Right					Overprint Colour		Year at Left					
			Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5			Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	
A	Narrow	12-13	As B?					Blk			As B?				
B	Medium	15-16	5/5	4/4	3/3	2/2	1/1	Blk			1/1	2/2	3/3	4/4	5/5
C1	Medium	15-16	5/4	4/2	1/1	3/3	2/5	Blk			2/5	3/3	1/1	4/2	5/4
C2	Medium	15-16	5/4	3/3	1/1	4/2	2/5	Blk			2/5	4/2	1/1	3/3	5/4
D	Medium	15-16	4/2	5/1	2/4	1/5	3/3		Red		3/3	1/5	2/4	5/1	4/2
E	Wide	17.5-19.5	4/2	5/1	2/4	1/5	3/3		Red	Blue	3/3	1/5	2/4	5/1	4/2
F	Wide	17.5-19.5	3/4	2/3	4/5	1/1	5/2	Blk		Blue	5/2	1/1	4/5	2/3	3/4
G	Wide	17.5-19.5	(4/2 5/1)? + 2/4		3/3	1/5			Blue	1/5	3/3	2/4	(5/1 4/2)?		
Note: always noted as Month/Year															

Overprint Colour : Be careful – blue is occasionally dark and can be mistaken for black. Like all of the Jeddah overprints any hint of blue and it is classified as blue. For the record if you are working with King Ali’s you can possibly use colour of the overprint but in my experience this is quite difficult and best used for confirmation rather than an early identifier.

	Jeddah I	Jeddah II
Red :	Pink- red	Blood red
Blue :	Purplish Blue	Greenish Blue (except on 10pi – as Jeddah I)
Black :	Dull	Shiny

Possible explanation for the various settings of Jeddah I Overprints : The Jeddah I King Ali Overprints consisted of 5 month clichés or tablets on a short (12cm) bar. 5 ‘bars’ were produced plus another 5 bars of the year clichés. The printing was carried out on one half of the sheet, which was then left to dry – possibly overnight in some cases. As this was a security printing operation the 10 bars were apparently dismantled at the end of a day from the press and re-assembled for the next day, not necessarily in the same sequence or at the same distance apart. Note, the settings were possibly also disassembled for easier cleaning prior to changing overprint colour. 6 of the 8 settings noted are unique to a single colour.

Thus when the printing was continued on the second half of the sheets held overnight the second half of the sheet was printed with a ‘different’ setting. This was first reported by D.F. Warin (page 90) who recorded that on several sheets of the 2pi overprinted in red, had the wide setting on top half of sheet and narrow on bottom half. The red overprint is only known with D 

and E setting which are identical apart from width of the setting. RN38 page 12 showed a sheet of 5pi where the setting E was inverted from one half to the other.

New Settings : I now show a third variety of these mixed settings, a sheet of 1½pi with the upper half with setting C and the bottom half with setting C2 which is similar to C (now listed as C1) except that columns 2 and 4 are completely interchanged. It is very probable that further settings exist. Very definitely there are stamps where the year setting is not yet recorded. For example I have added a new value the to the F setting with the blue overprint on the 1/8pi year left, a block of 4 is shown below. Also for the D setting Year Left can be added from the example shown on the right, the same setting year right is already recorded.



D Setting R.3 M/Y 3/3

Also the piece shown below dated 22-1-1344 (12th August 1925) has a ½pi corner stamp with R.5 M/Y 1/5. The overprint is a very blackish blue and it is possible that this is another place in the “G” setting recorded by Fred Benedict. The accompanying 1½ pi is setting C or D Row 3 3/3.



1½ Pi Sheet With setting C1 Upper Half and C2 Lower Half

5 identical sheets were found inside an original Hejaz Post Office folder



Dates of Issue for King Ali Jeddah I Settings : This is an area that all collectors with King Ali covers and used stamps can assist. Fred Benedict in RN38 page 14 showed that the alphabetic listing of the settings does not match the sequence of issue. However there is a major problem with the Jeddah cancel, which is causing myself and perhaps other collectors problems.



King Ali : Setting C Row 1/2 M/Y 1/1 4-Line position 23



The cover above, ex Martin Lovegrove Collection, shows a nice clear English date of 5-25-1925 but the Arabic is 5-12-1343 = 6-26-1925.

The Port Taufiq route and Cairo receipt dates, see upper right, are July 5-6th and therefore confirm that the Arabic date is accurate.

If you now examine the 1pi value above from my collection which was CTO on the typical Hejaz album page the Arabic is 1-12-1343 making the English date 6-22-1925 and NOT 5-22-1925 as on the cancel. I have red, blue and black overprints from settings C, D and E all cancelled with this date. However, further searches have produced a cover with an unclear 6-9-1925 date which should be 7-9-1925 by the Arabic date which agrees with receivers ink notations and Port Taufiq transit.

My observation is that the “DJEDDA” cancel shown was erroneous by one month in western dates in June & July 1925 by reading one month early. **Can anyone confirm or extend this period?**

Jeddah I Earliest Recorded Dates in 1925 by Setting

Setting	Stamp	Cover or Piece
A	November 9 th	
B	June 30 th	
C	June 22 nd .	June 26 th
D	June 22 nd .	July 9 th
E	June 22 nd	
F	August 19 th	August 19 th
G		Aug 12 th



King Ali Summary

Much information can still be contributed to this study and collectors can assist by reviewing their own collections. The key area is in adding to the checklist of the Jeddah I settings by advising of unlisted items and submitting items denoted by a triangle for certification. We would also like to compile a library of **all covers** to use to confirm the observation on the cancels. Most areas still lack some information and especially contributions as noted below will be acknowledged and included in the next article – or write it up and we will include. The major groupings for King Ali's both the definitive and postage due issues and requirements are as follows:

1. **Stamps with “Jeddah I” Overprints** : Officially authorized overprints which were printed in panes of 25 clichés in Jeddah from May until late 1925. There are at least eight different formats as described and more probably exist. The only known genuine used stamps.
 - Collectors please submit :
 - I. Scans of covers and used stamps with clear dates especially any with Madinah cancels
 - II. Any unlisted settings.
 - III. Any blocks or a sheet of **setting ‘A’** especially required.
 - IV. All inverts should be registered.
 2. **Stamps with “Jeddah II” Overprints** : Apparently genuinely authorized overprints printed in panes of 50 clichés which have never been found used on a legitimate cover.
 - Has anyone a **complete sheet** so that it can be reproduced in RN – failing that any large blocks are required.
 3. **Stamps with “Cairo” Overprints** : Overprinted by Mourafatti in Cairo in complete panes of 50 but were not issued in Hejaz prior to the departure of King Ali. No legitimate usage recorded. These are very common and readily available both mint and with forged cancels.
 - Perhaps a list of inverts could be developed. I have a complete sheet of 10pi with most variations. Can anyone supply another for comparison and reference sheets of other values? Even just lists of inverted items in collection would be useful.
 4. **Stamps without Overprints** : Perforate and imperforate. Not authorized for issue at the Post Offices and no genuine usage recorded. However Scott catalogue the 10pi value without overprint. We have never recorded the 10pi on cover with or without an overprint at this time.
 - A 10pi on cover is most desirable – even on a CTO sheet would be of interest.
 5. **Proofs/Colour Trials**: A substantial range of ‘proofs’ are available including a wide range of 10pi values in various colour combinations as well as frame and centre only.
 6. **Forgeries** : Even these low catalogue values have been forged but they are not a major problem. They are normally very badly forged, often difficult varieties and quite difficult to find. ‘Used’ copies of “Cairo” overprints are common and should also be classed as forgeries, frequently cancelled with just part of a CD cancel – the so-called dealer cancel.
 7. **Varieties** : These are additional errors such as imperf between or perforation errors which do exist – in particular of course on the Cairo printing.
 - Can collectors supply any examples of perforation errors on Jeddah I's?.
- .Write or email queries, contributions or suggestions to Willie King or Martin Lovegrove.

Jeddah Large Three-Line Overprint - Plate A

By: Martin Lovegrove

The best work on this overprint I have seen was the article written by F. C. Benedict and R. J. Thoden and published in Random Notes #8. This article illustrates the easily identified cliches listed in Table II of that article, and gives some aids to the identification of the remaining ones. I also have some additional comments on the positions listed in that table.

Easily Identified Cliches of Plate A

For clarity, the original table is reproduced below:

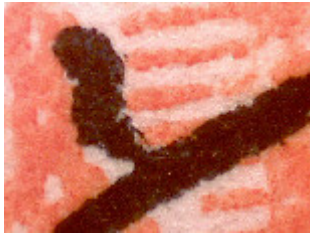
Position	Description of Variety	Overprint Line
1	two dots connected to slant line at left	top
3	blotched second "3"	bottom
4	dot above "1"	bottom
6	ink marks to right of "alif" and "laam"	top
8	large triangular dot over "zaa"	middle
10	larger triangular dot in "ain"	bottom
11	dot to lower left of "ain"	bottom
13	dot in "kaaf"	top
14	very small projection top right of first "3"	bottom
15	projection top left of second "3"	bottom
16	dot in "waw"	top
17	dot over "zaa" large and attached to top line	middle
	dot right of "alif"	top
18	projection on top of curve left of "miym"	top
19	top dot at left has only outline visible	top
20	"waw" and second "laam" joined at center	bottom
22	first "alif" and "laam" touching	bottom
25	bottom of "taa marbutah" broken	top
26	dot in second "laam", first "alif" and "laam" touching	bottom
30	projection in bottom curve of second "laam"	bottom
33	first "3" touches top of "4"	bottom
36	comma instead of dot below line	middle
	extra dot left of top of "zaa"	middle

I will illustrate each of these identifying features with images produced using a 60x microscope, or where my copies are in blocks and cannot be used with the microscope, I have scanned them at 2032dpi.

I do not believe that the feature for position 33 is reliable; I have copies where the "3" does not quite touch the "4", and copies of position 26 where it does!



Jeddah Large Three-Line Overprint - Plate A



Position 1



Position 3



Position 4



Position 6



Position 8



Position 10



Position 11



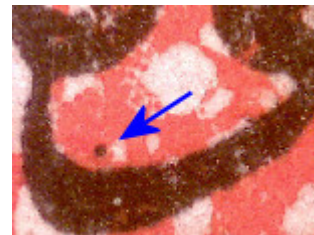
Position 13



Position 14



Position 15



Position 16



Position 17 (two features)



Position 18





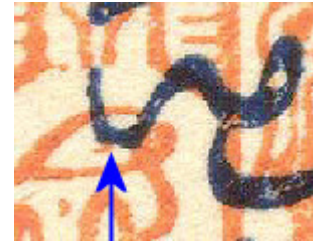
Position 19



Position 20



Position 22



Position 25



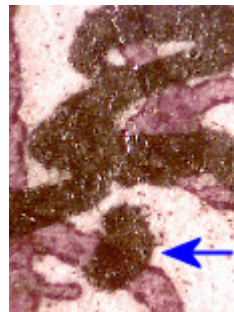
Position 26



Position 30



Position 33



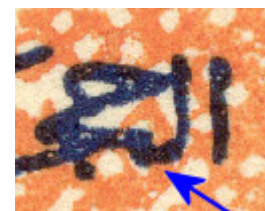
Position 36



Position 33

The images above show that it is possible for position 26 to have a better join between the Arabic "3" and "4" than position 33. However, there is an additional identifying feature for position 33. In the middle line, "laam" has an irregular, somewhat flattened, lower curve, similar to forgery type 9. Fortunately, that forgery has the "3" and "4" separated, but take extra caution with this position. The illustrations for position 33 were taken from an almost-complete sheet, so they are genuine.

المكوك
الحجك
ه ربيع الاول ١٣٢٢

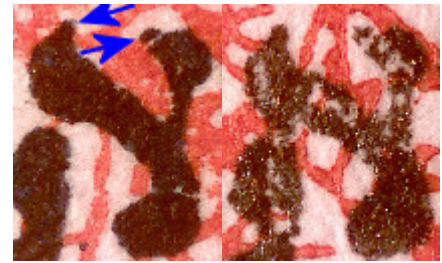


Right - Position 33
Full overprint and detail of
"laam"



Position 9

Judging by the examples in my collection, this position deserves an entry in the main table. The second "alif" in the bottom line has a projection at the top, and the "laam" often, but not always, has a broken top. Occasionally "waw" is joined to the second "alif" (illustration far right).

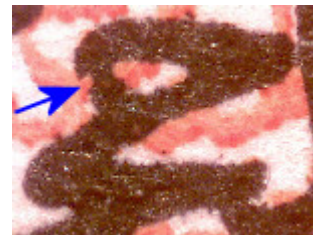


Remaining positions

The remaining positions are not so easy. I find that the bottom line is the most useful, but occasionally the other lines may help. Plating from here on is likely to be successful when several small features are combined. The character that seems to vary most is the first "alif", both in shape, size, and position relative to the letters on either side., but also look for other characters being joined. I had added images of other features that may be significant, but with so few examples it is not possible to say whether these will occur on every stamp from the stated plate position. Where there are no obvious features, I have added the image of the dot under "jiym" in the second line. On some positions this dot is attached solidly to "jiym" and on others it is clearly detached.



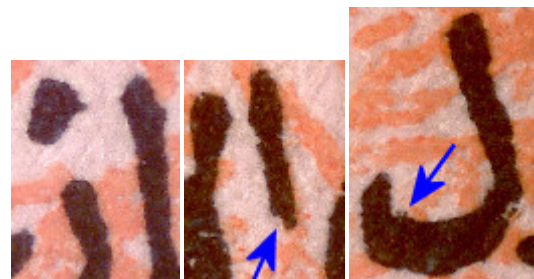
Position 2



Position 2 - dent in "haa"



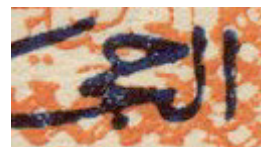
Position 5



Position 5 - Dot over "zaa" not circular, dent in bottom of "alif", projections inside "laam" (sometimes quite solid)



Position 7 - "waw" sometimes joined to "laam"



Position 12



Position 12 - Dot over "zaa" has sharp angle, projection from joined dots to left of "zaa"

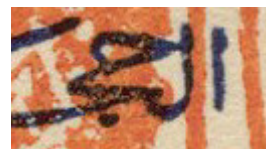




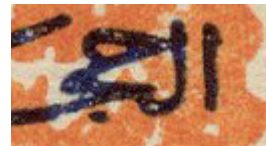
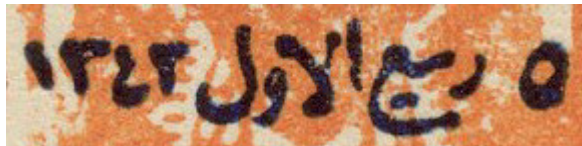
Position 21



Position 23 - Sometimes first "alif" almost touches "laam"



Position 24



Position 27



Position 28



Position 29

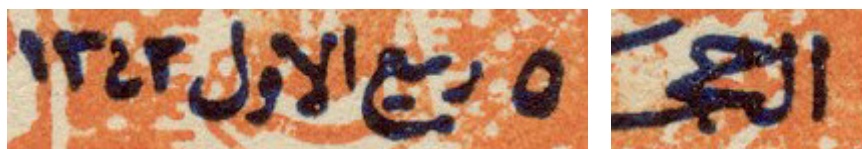


Position 31



Position 32





Position 34



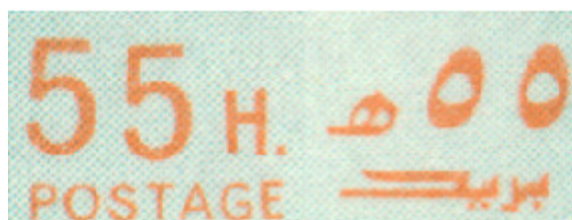
Position 35

With further research it may be possible to discover some constant minor flaws that will enable us to plate more confidently, but until then for several of the plate positions it is essential to have a few actual examples of each position.

RN

(Notes continued from page 3)

3. **Al-Khafji - 55 Halalah:** After all these years I finally noticed a peculiar thing about the 55h Al-Khafji oil rig stamp. The two fives are not even in relation to "postage". This is related to both the English and Arabic 5's. It appears that this is throughout the issue – or can anyone report a stamp with nice even numbers? (Roy Eakin)



4. **'Cairo Forgeries'** - It looks as though the supposition made in Random Notes 62 page 13 is correct. My contact in Cairo tells me that the Heir Apparent forgeries are being reprinted there on white, highly fluorescent, shiny paper. Below are photographs of the original forgeries (top row) and the new ones under natural and ultra-violet (at right) light.

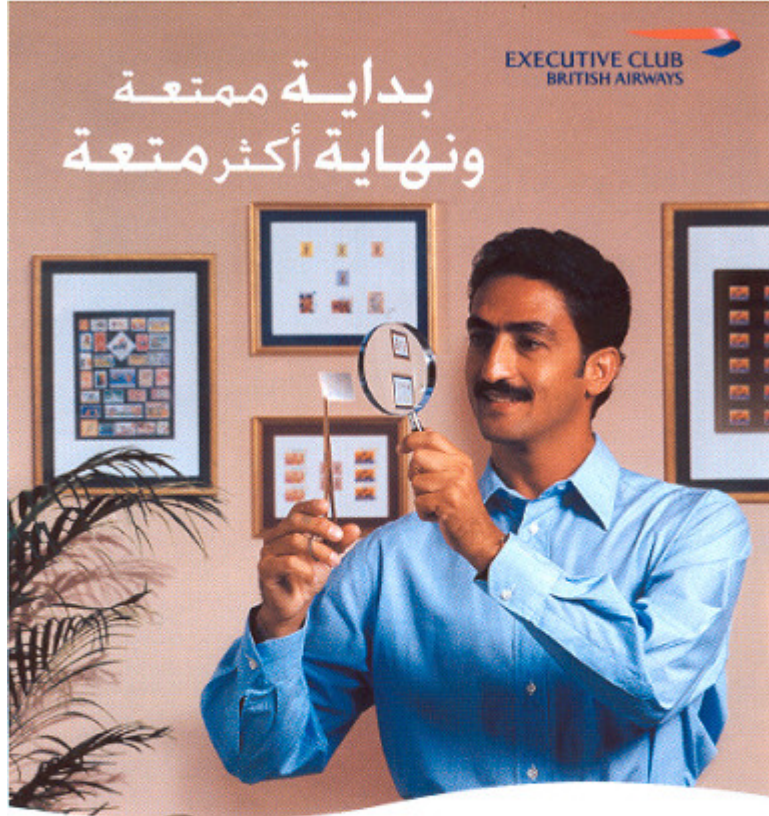


(Notes continued on page 22)

“The chase is as exciting as the finish” *

* Heading from a British Airways Flier

By W. A. King FRPSL



بإزدياد سفرك معنا تزداد فرص سفرك المجاني

باعتبارك، عزيزي المسافر، عضواً في نادي المسافرين المتميز للشرق الأوسط التابع لشركة الخطوط الجوية البريطانية، فإنك تستمتع بأرقى مستويات الخدمة ورعاية السفر على متن رحلاتنا في شتى الأجواء العالمية. كما أنه بإمكانك ترشيح عشرة أفراد، كحد أقصى، من الأصدقاء أو الأقارب لتجميع الأميال المجانية الخاصة بالنادي، وذلك نيابة عنك، مما يعني إمكانية حصولك على أكبر عدد من الأميال المجانية في أسرع وقت، فضلاً عن إزدياد فرص السفر المجاني في وقت أقل*. لمزيد من المعلومات يرجى الإتصال بمكتب الخطوط الجوية البريطانية في الظهران ٠٢٤ ٨٥١٢٠٠٠، الرياض ٠١٤٤٤٤٤٤٤٤ أو جدة ٠٢٤ ٦٦٧١٦١

<http://www.britishairways.com>

*وهذا لبعض الشروط والأحكام الخاصة

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<http://www.britishairways.com>

Although our journal Random Notes does not normally have adverts I thought I would ask the editor to make an exception in this case! The British Airways Executive Club distributed this flier in Saudi Arabia during 1998-9. The Arabic side is shown above plus the English translation from the reverse. I concur with the sentiments expressed in the title but I find it difficult to follow the logic on how it sells airline seats. However we would obviously support the concept of collecting Saudi Arabian stamps is an exciting – and a never-ending chase.

However stamp collectors always inspect things closely and “the collector” appears to be holding the stamp in a pair of scissors and is using the magnifying glass sideways! I cannot identify any of the stamps beautifully mounted in the frames except they do not appear to be Saudi. Nevertheless if anyone wants this piece of ephemera I have a few spare copies available - (free!) on first come basis.

RN

A Mixed-Franking Reply-Paid Card - Can You help?

By: Martin Lovegrove

I came across this card during my search for interesting items with any of the Medical Aid stamps. This type of usage with mixed USA and Saudi stamps was something that I had never seen before, so I sought comments from Willie King and Fred Benedict. Their replies are given below, and if you can add anything, I would very much like to hear from you.



The text as written on the reverse:

Djeddah, 14th september 1948

Dear Sir,


I shall be pleased to supply you with the items as outlined in your letter of 3rd july and at the rates offered. Further supplies can be had at the same rate.

Yours faithfully

*Mohammad Ilahihaksh
Djeddah, Arabie Soudite*

Willie's comments:

This is interesting - one would need to research the conditions related to reply paid letters. I thought their might be something in Fundamentals but no mention and I have no other references.

It appears to be uprated for some reason - the 4g doesn't ring a bell and can't locate my sheet of rates at the moment to try and work out. It seemed to arrive by sea mail - no indication it went back by air - the time between original letter and reply. The extra 2 cents I suspect were added before card sent to KSA - I have a vague memory of seeing something like that in a magazine - APS? Perhaps because original rate not high enough. The 4g and tax then added to bring 

up to a rate from KSA as still not enough which seems to me to be for air mail but that is purely speculative

I have a copy of the Saudi reply paid 'coupon' see Mayo p102 which was only APU and much later - 1956 - and different to the Reply paid cards.

Fred's comments:

This item is very interesting and raises lots of questions. The three cent stamp appears to be printed on the card and thus was good for the internal letter rate at the time of three cents, but the postcard rate at the time was one cent. Part of the inscription on the card is in French which would indicate it was good for foreign use, but no country would accept another countries stamps for postage. The addition of the four one-half cent stamps would meet the five cent rate for overseas boat mail mailed from the US. I would say the Mr. Schreiber was not a philatelist. The Saudi rate could be for a postcard by boat mail?

I have used foreign reply cards for registered mail sent to Saudi. These have no stamps printed on them. The Saudis do not have to add stamps, but only need to put the card in the mail for return to me. I have received very few of them back as the Saudis do not seem to understand them.

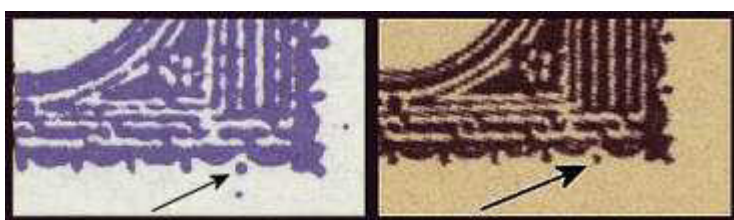
Further research

Thanks to Fred and Willie for the comments; it would seem that the general subject of reply-paid cards is one that could benefit from further research. If you have anything to contribute on this subject, however small, please contact me; my details are on page 2.

RN

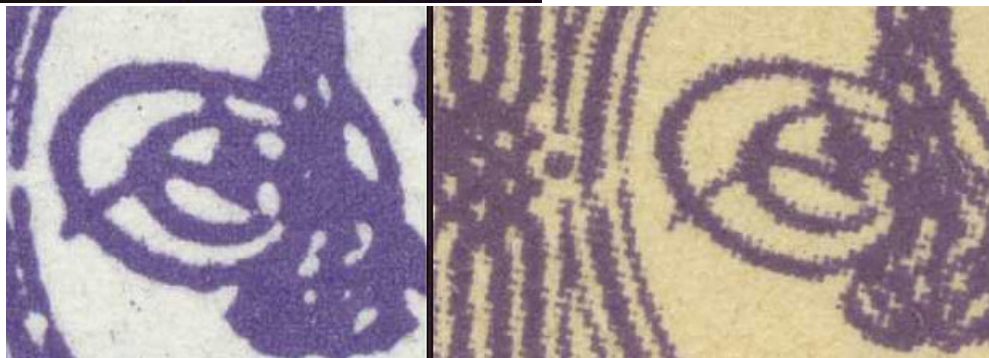
(Notes continued from page 19)

I have acquired a full sheet of each value and there are no major differences from the sheet shown in RN62.18, apart from the fact that the printing quality is somewhat poorer and shows little evidence of screening. The new stamps still show the 'detached tear-drop' present in the lower right corner of the stamp. I have seen two types of paper, one glazed with shiny gum, the other less shiny and with a virtually matt gum. I have seen only the ¼ sovereign value on the latter; all values occur on the glazed paper.



Left - detached tear-drop

Below - little evidence of screening on latest forgery.



(Notes continued on page 24)

Autumn Stampex, London 2003

By: Martin Lovegrove

Apart from Willie King's success reported in Random Notes #62, Stampex provided me with yet more items of interest. As usual, there was a lot to look at and much dealers' stock to browse. I will mention just three items.

Makkah Arms imperf

This imperforate half-sheet of the 2 qirsh value would appear to be no more than printer's waste; the paper folds and the partially printed stamp presumably caused by a paper fold would indicate this. But if this is true, why was it included in a bundle of sheets for distribution as the staple marks seem to suggest? Judging by the way the other half-sheet was removed, the separation may have been done at the printers, which would make it even more of a mystery. The cut appears to have been made by one clean movement of a knife rather than by scissors. The paper is the normal gummed paper used for this issue. Has anyone any ideas about this item?



I know that Willie King has been after a copy of the 2pi unframed overprint double (Scott L19a, SG 28b), so it was with some satisfaction that I found him a copy including a certificate from a well-known person. It was a nice clean copy with overprints that looked 'right', but without a full sheet to hand I could not plate them. Willie was not convinced about the item, and it was only when I observed the item through my 30x magnifier did I discover that both overprints were laser forgeries. They were realistic though!



The final item was a block of 4 of the 1 qirsh Makkah Arms with the second Nejd overprint in red, but on unsurfaced buff paper. This stamp is not listed by Scott or Gibbons, but appears in Mayo as 576An. I am confident that the stamps are genuine, so a nice item. The 1½ and 5 qirsh on a similar paper are listed in Gibbons and I have copies of these, but Mayo also lists the 2 qirsh plum as 583n; I need to track that one down. A copy did appear in **The Kawar Family Collection of Saudi Arabia** auction in 1998, but was stated to be the only known copy, so my task may be somewhat difficult.

Does anyone know whether these 'newsprint' issues were proofs, a mistake, or issued as a necessity during a period of paper shortage? If the latter is the case, I would expect there to be more copies in circulation than there appear to be. Please let me know.



RN

(Notes continued from page 22)

- I have what I believe is an unrecorded forgery of the first Nejd handstamp. The colour of the handstamp is brown-rose (SG Stamp Colour Key) and there appears to be one major difference between this and the recorded forgeries. This stamp has three dots above the characters at right, the other forgeries and the genuine have only two.



- I have heard that Dave Birch, a collector of Portugal and colonies, has 96 Hejaz-Nejd proofs he wants to offer for sale. Unfortunately they were separated from the sheet by the previous owner, so the proofs on offer are all the large-size ones, but none of the small-size pieces. He would like to sell them to a collector, rather than to a dealer, he says. He can be contacted by email at birch5@wctc.net; I cannot vouch for the items, but apparently the scans of them appear to be good.

RN

The Postal Tax Stamps 1934 - 1964 Fund for Wounded in War with Yemen

By: Martin Lovegrove

This article is the first in a series that I propose to produce in order to update the information given in Thomas Wood's major work *A Study of Saudi Arabia Stamps 1934 - 1964*, published in 1982. I have not attempted to produce a comprehensive work on the subject, that comes later, but I feel that by writing an update, it will encourage the submission of further information.

Most of the credit for what follows must go to Tom Wood; my additions are minor, but I hope will prove to be useful.



Details

Issued	15 May 1934
Catalogue	Mayo PT799, Scott RA1, Stanley Gibbons 328 No varieties are listed by any of the above catalogues.
Print method	Relief (typography)
Size	35mm x 18mm
Perforation	11½
Colour	Shades of scarlet/bright scarlet (Stanley Gibbons Stamp Colour Key)
Paper	Woods type 1. A very thin, smooth, crisp, full-white paper. When lying face down, the stamp design clearly shows through. When held to a light, the paper is clear - no mesh or lines can be seen. The intensity of the design when viewed from the back does vary; samples are shown below. My stamps have a thickness of approximately 0.0025in (0.0635mm)
Earliest postmark	Woods reported a cover: Mecque, May 15, 1934 (First day of issue). Early use from other parts of the Kingdom are not recorded; please inform me of your findings. All of mine for Jeddah and Makkah are dated well into 1935, and those for Madinah have unreadable dates.



Paper

It is difficult to accurately describe in words the exact look and feel of paper; the following illustrations are provided to amplify the text.



When viewed from the rear, the design is visible, has not the same intensity on all stamps.



Left: When held to a light, the paper is clear - no mesh or lines can be seen.



Above: When held at an angle to light, the printed surface displays a slight sheen.

RN

A Catalogue of the Fiscal Stamps of Saudi Arabia 1916 - 2001

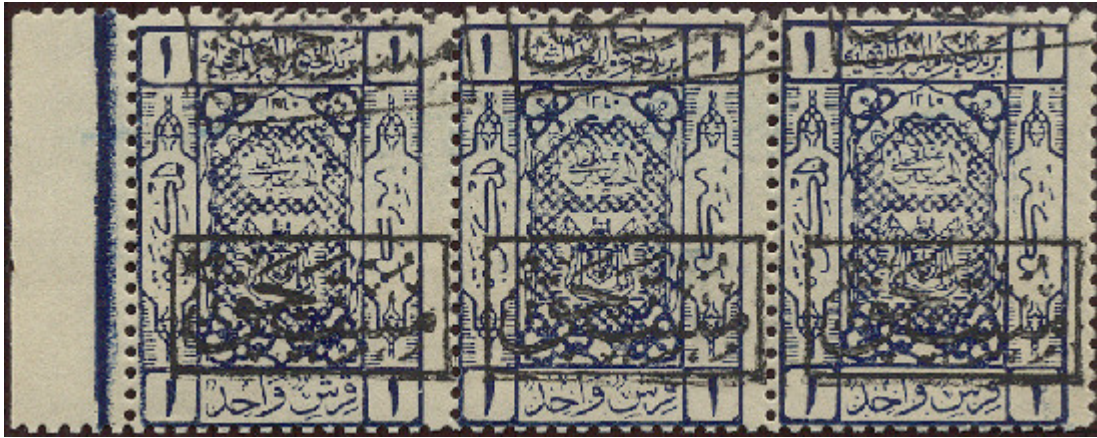
Rudy Thoden spent a long time preparing this catalogue and it seems to me that there is a requirement to keep it updated. Collecting revenues has not been a major interest of mine, although I do have one or two and therefore the catalogue does have some relevance to me. I would like to see the catalogue updated to Adobe PDF format for ease of maintenance and publication, and also added to an electronic database. I have already accomplished the latter; it is now incorporated in my specialized electronic catalogue, and it was during the work that this involved, that I became aware of one or two minor errors in Rudy's catalogue. I don't mind doing the typing, publishing and writing software, but because of my limited experience in this field, I require assistance in identifying new items, technical information on current items, acquiring colour images etc.; in fact all of the things that would make the catalogue more attractive than it is. If you are a revenue collector and think that the project will be worthwhile and can in some way assist, please contact me. (Martin Lovegrove, weatherings@aol.com)

From the Rudy Thoden Collection

By: Martin Lovegrove

Here are two items from that appeared in the auction of Rudy Thoden's Saudi collection and that may have more significance than would be suggested by a casual glance.

The first item is a strip of three 1-qirsh Makkah Arms postage due stamps showing the 'Mustahiq' overprint in black printed double. As such it is catalogued as Scott L12b, Stanley Gibbons D48Ab and Mayo T63d.

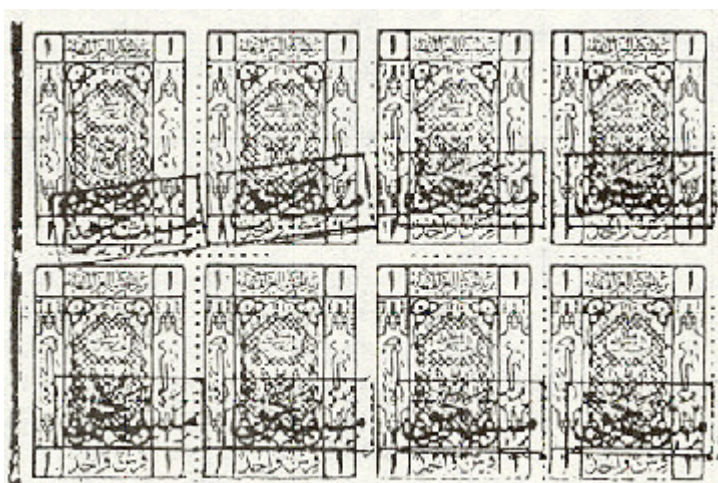


The main feature of this strip is the fact that the top overprints are at an angle of about 6 degrees and that by superimposing a complete strip on a normal sheet to exactly match the slope of the top line, it can be seen that in this case the line of overprints had remained fixed at the right end and dropped considerably at the left.



Compare this to that shown in Random Notes #42 page 20 and reproduced in part later in this article. This shows only the two cliches at left at an angle. It is not known which problem occurred first, but perhaps at first the complete row dropped and was fixed, but during this repair, damage was done which later resulted in the leftmost two cliches dropping and the subsequent removal of the cliche third from the left. Further information on all of the settings of the 'Mustahiq' overprint can be found in the articles written by F. C. Benedict and A. Kaczmarczyk in Random Notes #40 and #42.





Dropped cliches in setting B1.

The next item is one of the infamous 'illegible' series. It is a 10 qirsh inverted overprint on a 5 qirsh stamp with a 10 qirsh handstamp struck twice inverted, but unusually one in black, the other in violet. The reason for this series has been questioned on many occasions and perhaps this stamp supports the theory that the issue was produced to obtain revenue from collectors. It is difficult to imagine how a double invert in different colours could have happened accidentally. Having said that, many of these items are difficult to obtain and it is probable that the quantities produced were small. The one thing is certain about the 'illegibles' is that forgeries abound, so take care.



Handstamp struck in different colours

I would like to hear from anyone who has anything rare or unusual from this series. I hope in the not too distant future to produce an updated list of the varieties, the last main list appearing in Random Notes #41 with additional information in Random Notes #44.

Printing Plates of the Makkah Arms

1/8 qirsh - an update

By: Martin Lovegrove

In my article in Random Notes #61, I suggested that the plate was formed from two 18-cliche stereotypes and that there were two states of this plate. The first state had the two stereos close together, and the second state not only had them further apart, but also had replacement cliches in positions 13 and 19, the supposition being that the repositioning of the stereotypes and the cliche replacement were done at the same time. I now have evidence that this supposition is incorrect.

There is an excellent series of books under the title of 'Philatelic History of Jordan', written by K. C. R. Souan. Most of these contain much useful information about the Makkah Arms stamps overprinted for use in Transjordan, although the forged Makkah Arms stamps were not recognised as such. These volumes contain many interesting photographs, and in the second book of the series there appears a photograph of a full sheet of the 1/4 qirsh surcharge on 1/8 qirsh with a Transjordan overprint. This sheet has the wide space between the upper and lower stereotypes, but does not have the replacement cliches. This therefore must be the second state with the cliche replacement forming a third state.

This discovery prompted me to look at my full sheet of the Hejaz 1/4 qirsh surcharge on 1/8 qirsh which is unfortunately split into several blocks. Upon reconstructing this sheet, it too shows the wide stereo spacing without the replacement cliches. By scanning the photograph in the book and enlarging it to match by sheet, it was found that the two sheets were identical. However, careful measurement showed that the spacing is slightly smaller than the sheet with the replacement cliches. I now have 3 different states of this plate, listed in ascending size of stereo spacing:

1. Top 18-cliche stereotype separated from lower by approximately 3mm. (with Caliphate overprint)
2. Top 18-cliche stereotype separated from lower by approximately 3.5mm. (one sheet without overprint, and one sheet with 1/4 qirsh surcharge)
3. Top 18-cliche stereotype separated from lower by approximately 4mm with replacement cliches in positions 13 and 19. (three sheets without overprint)

With so few sheets it is difficult to be certain of the chronology, but the overprints would suggest that item 2 above was the first state, followed by 1 and with item 3 definitely last. Perhaps anyone with blocks showing the gap between rows 3 and 4 could report their findings.

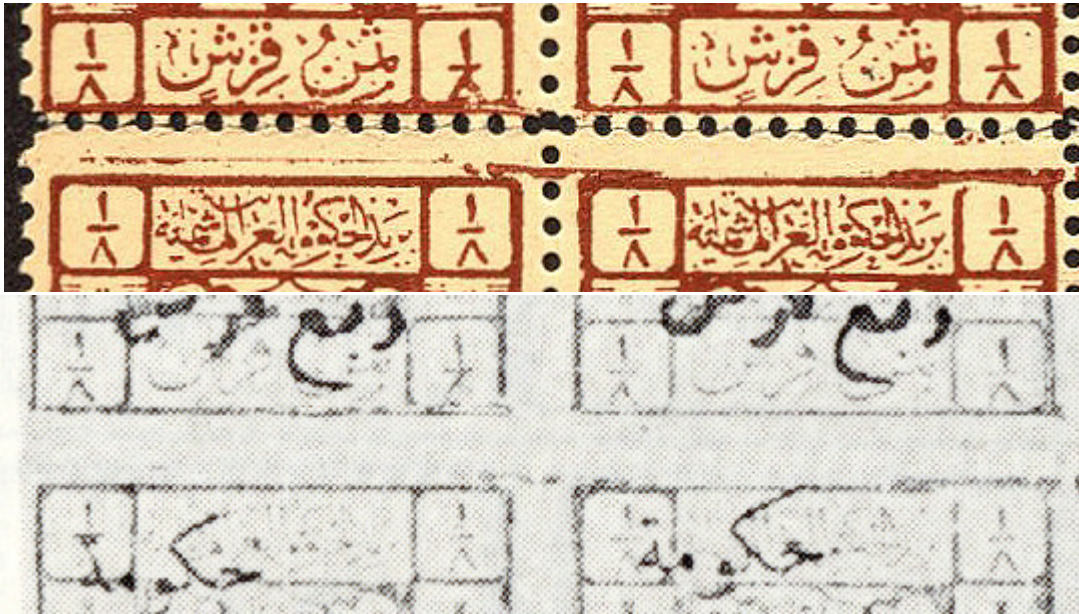
On the following page there are images of the three types listed above, showing the gap between the two stereos. In each case the stamps are from positions 13, 14, 19 and 20.

There is also some added interest provided by the 1/4 qirsh surcharges shown in the photograph. It would appear that nearly all of the 'ain' characters have long tails; there is the possibility that these may be forgeries (Random Notes #61.6), I cannot tell. My sheet of this surcharge is of the 'alternative' overprint, ex Mojaddedi, which has all of the 'ain' characters with short tails. The overprint recognized by the APA as being genuine has a mixture of short and long tails, and all of my Transjordan overprints on this surcharge are from this type. So, are there three states of the surcharge plate to be found? Can anyone help?

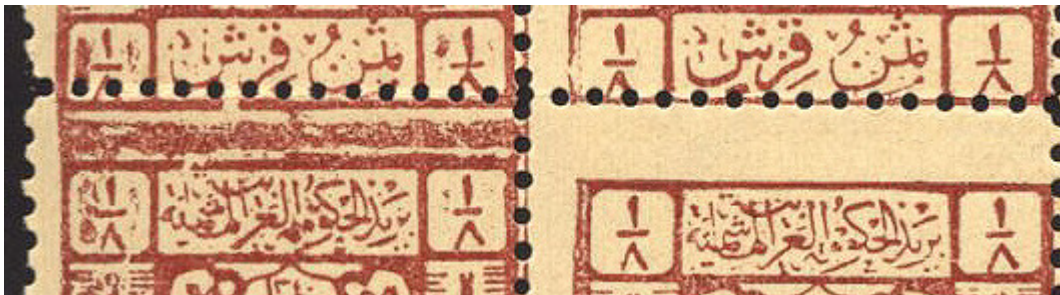




Example of item 1 - 3mm gap (with Caliphate overprint)



Examples of item 2 - 3.5mm gap



Example of item 3 - 4mm gap and replacement cliches

Bibliography:

Philatelic History of Jordan, by K. C. R. Souan (in five editions)

1. Golden Jubilee
2. 55th Anniversary
3. Diamond Jubilee
4. El Dorado rarities
5. El Incognitos





Sheet of surcharged stamps as illustrated in the 'Philatelic History of Jordan - 55th Anniversary'

One final point: Although the illustrations on the previous page are of the same sheet positions, note how different the stamp frame lines are in the different states. The lower frames of row three and the upper ones of row four seem to suffer when the stereotypes are moved. It clearly shows that caution is required when plating stamps using the stamp frame flaws.

