



الجمعية الدولية للطوابع البريدية العربية
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International
Random Notes



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NUMBER 64

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No Saudi stamps on this cover! See [page 11](#)

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.

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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 #64

Assembled by the Editor

The lack of contributions has resulted variable intervals between issues; I hope you find the wait worthwhile. It has at least given me the opportunity of including lots of odds and ends that I hope will be of use to someone.

Willie King continues his series on the King Ali stamps and concludes with a plea for help. Please respond if you can, for it is often the receipt of many small contributions that the complete picture be constructed. In fact, please send in comments on anything you see in Random Notes, and if you think that mistakes have been made, do not hesitate to contact me.

Now for the 'Random Notes':

- 1 No sooner had the ink dried on my article in Random Notes 63 illustrating the plate positions for the large 3-line Jeddah overprint, than I discovered a useful identification feature for position 33 that distinguishes it from the forgery type 9. There is a small projection from the character at the left end of the middle line. This feature occurs on all of my overprints from this position; has anyone got a genuine position 33 without it?



- 2 There seemed to be fewer dealers at Spring Stampex, London, this year but the opportunities to spend were not diminished. Here are a few of the items that caught my eye (and my pocket!).

The Makkah Arms 2 qirsh on buff paper from the Nejd period is unlisted. I have this stamp with the second Nejd handstamp, (Mayo 583n), but this is the first value I have without a handstamp. The only stamps of this period that I know about that are printed on this unsurfaced buff paper are:

Without handstamp:

2 qirsh plum

With second handstamp

1 qirsh indigo (Mayo 576An)

1 1/2 qirsh rose (Mayo 588n)

2 qirsh plum (Mayo 583n)

5 qirsh scarlet (Mayo 585n)



Can anyone add to this list; I would appreciate a scan of any additions.

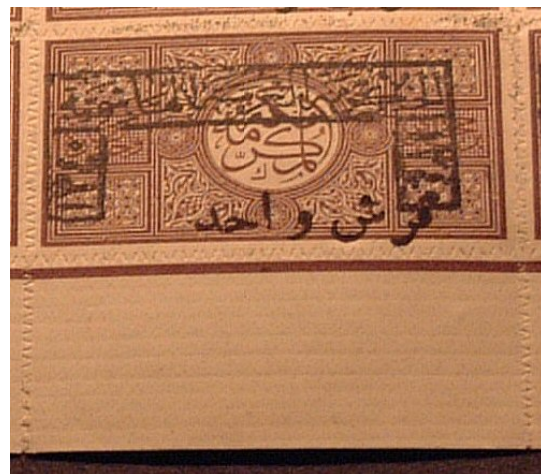
- 3 An article by Rudy Thoden in RN 58.19-24 described many aspects of the use of official stamps. The cover here (see next page) has seven 3-qirsh stamps (Scott O23, SG O504) which over-pays the 20 qirsh rate; was there a shortage of 5 or 20 qirsh stamps, or was this an attempt to use up surplus stock? Perhaps of more interest is the fact that the stamps are in a pale green colour rather than the normal ochre/bistre used for this value. Has anyone any ideas about this?





Stamp printed in pale green instead of normal ochre/bistre

- 4 The Classic Collector (Liane and Sergio Sismondo) were at Stampex again. Sergio mentioned that he had some copies of Hejaz stamps printed by the Survey of Egypt on ribbed paper, although he did not have any copies with him in London. A block of ten copies of SG 38, Scott L31, on this unusual paper appeared on eBay recently. The ribbing appears to have been applied from the top surface of the stamp and shows up well when illuminated from the side. A couple of photographs are shown below. Judging by the fact that the rouletting has not been deformed by this ribbing, it must have been applied before the roulette. Has anyone else seen this paper? Could it be a result of the paper manufacturing process?



(Notes continued on [page 20](#))



King Ali Issues : Definitives : Part 2 Varieties, Colour Trials for SG 177-185 (Scott L160-186)

By: William A. King FRPSL

Part 1 of this series in the last issue concentrated on the basic issues and listed the basic issues and provided a basic checklist. This issue will attempt to cover the varieties associated with these issues. Since some of you will want to concentrate on the 'legitimate' Jeddah I issue I will keep those separate from the Cairo philatelic varieties but I will begin with the basic stamps without any overprints.

1/8 to 5 pi Low Values without Overprint

All values are available either perfed 11½ or imperforate. All are on white gummed paper, although Mayo does list an imperf 1½ pi printed on beige paper (Mayo 284Fb).



Perforation Varieties :

Imperforate Vertically (Horizontal Pair): 1½ pi, (NG), and the 3 pi. (MNH) are shown here.



Imperforate Horizontally (Vertical pair):

Reported on ¼, 2 and 3 pi values.

Double Perforations : Only one doubled perforation variety has been recorded – an extra set of vertical perforations on the 2pi value.



Colour Varieties

¼ and 2 pi Light Blue: Both values have light blue shades in addition to the normal deep shade.

2 pi Rose The 2 pi value exists in rose (Mayo 285g for imperf). A perforated copy was sold in APA auction 25 (lot 327). We would appreciate a scan of such a stamp for our records.

3 pi : The 3 pi value has a significantly different olive green shade as shown in the centre. An imperforate stamp intermediate in colour between this and the normal green also exists, which may indicate a progressive change caused by insufficiently stirred ink. This olive green shade, although found both imperforate and perforated without overprint, has never been reported with an overprint.



Other Low Values : No other low values i.e 1/8, ½, 1, 1½ or 5pi values, has been recorded showing any significant colour varieties. It is surprising that so few colour varieties are recorded for these, especially when one considers the colour trials on the 10 pi value shown on the next page.

Other Printing Varieties : The varieties of the non-overprinted stamps are very few. Shown here is an offset on the gum from wet ink on the 2pi value. Mayo lists double printing on an imperforate 1pi (283Fd).



10 Pi Value without Overprint

All of you have probably seen the 10 pi ‘colour trials’. There initially appears to be an unending variety but when analysed it breaks down to just five basic centre colours and ‘apparently’ five frame colours. Note that not all frame/centre colour combinations are recorded – see checklist below.

Frame colours : I say ‘apparently’ five frame colours because now having seen the scan of the strip shown below from the Lovegrove collection it is clear that the bluish-grey frames and the violet frames come from the different columns of the same sheet. I have not seen these colours as “Frames Only”, but they are listed by Mayo. Right marginal blocks, or horizontal pairs are of these bluish grey or violet should be reported with or without centres.



Gum or No Gum : Red and green frames are normally on gummed white paper but the other three listed frame colours are invariably on paper that has no gum.

10 Pi Colour Trial Check List

Centre Colour	Centre Variety	Frame Colour and Variety						None Centre Only	
		Red		Green		Blue	Violet		Bluish Grey
		Perf	Imperf	Perf	Imperf	Imperf (without Gum)			
Green		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Δ	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Inverted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
	Doubled	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
	Misplaced		<input type="checkbox"/>						
Orange		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Δ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inverted				<input type="checkbox"/>				
Turquoise Blue			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Doubled		<input type="checkbox"/>						
Grey			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
Green	Misplaced				<input type="checkbox"/>				
Grey			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Olive	Misplaced				<input type="checkbox"/>				
None Frame Only			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Δ	Δ	
			Sc L186/L186a					Not in Mayo	

Note that we have no evidence of actual usage in Hejaz of the Scott listed stamps.

Misplaced : The centre design stretches outside the frame of the stamp.

Triangles are listed by Mayo but not currently in the author's collection.



Jeddah I Varieties

The observations on varieties will be in three groups

1. **Printing varieties** within the plate of 25 i.e tablets inverted or doubled etc.
2. **Setting or Tête Bêche** varieties between the top and bottom half of a sheet ie rows 5 and 6.
3. **Perforation** varieties held over to RN 65

1. **Printing Varieties** :While examples of Jeddah I with both tablets inverted are available neither a “Year Only” or a “Month Only” tablet inverted are recorded. Also no examples with printing doubled recorded. (These varieties can all be found on Cairo printings).

Both Month and Year Tablets Inverted :

Double inverts are hard to notice – but anything with the year tablet facing the edge rather than the centre of the stamp should be snapped up! Any examples of Jeddah I overprints should apply for APAI certification and listing.

Year Right – Both tablets inverted

½ pi : The double inverts shown here, do not belong to any of the currently listed Jeddah I settings. The example shown on the right shows both the month 4 and year 5 tablets inverted from row 5 from the upper pane, and row 6 (1st of lower pane). Enough of the next tablet is visible to indicate that it is possibly a normal month 3 tablet. For comparison the lower “normal” pair are from setting F.

1 pi : Lot 7194 in the same sale was listed as year right and having the double invert in pair with normal on left. A scan of this scarce variety would be appreciated.

Year Left – Both tablets inverted

1½, 3 and 5 pi values :

Refer Mojadeddi sale (Nutmeg 4-2001)

Perhaps the same buyer also secured all or some of the additional lots on the 1½, 3 and 5p. all of which had ‘double invert’ varieties, in several cases in a horizontal pair with a normal copy. These unlike the ½ pi were all Year left. Possibly the same setting as above but printed in the opposite direction. We would appreciate scans.

Summary : An unlisted Jeddah I setting exists with one of the central columns having both the month 4 and year 5 tablets inverted.

HELP : Lots 7187 (½ pi YL), 7194 (1pi YR), 7201-3 (1½ pi YL), 7209 & 7211 (3pi YL) and 7214 (5 Pi YL) from the Mojadeddi sale (Nutmeg April 2001) Scans and/or plating these would provide useful information for APAI records and confirm further positions from this setting.



M4 Inv Y5 Inv Rows 5-6(1)



Setting F :M3 Y4 Rows 1-2



2. Setting or Tête Bêche Varieties : King Alis 1/8 to 5 pi.

When Jeddah I's were printed it appears that in many cases that the sheets **were folded prior to printing** as indentations of the setting from opposite side of the sheet are impressed into the gum. Could anyone with sheets or large multiples of rows 5-6 please examine and confirm.

The possibility of the upper and lower halves of the sheet being printed differently and not 'matching' is therefore quite feasible. "Setting" varieties are when the top half and bottom half of the sheet are from different settings. Tête Bêche varieties arise when the **same** setting is printed in opposing directions on both halves of the sheet.

2a. Setting Varieties.

Black Overprint on 1½ pi Orange : SG 181C, Sc L164. Setting C1 upper half and setting C2 on lower half of sheet. 5 sheets recorded with this variety and all believed to be intact. See RN63p11.

Red Overprint on 2 pi Blue : SG 182A, Scott L173. D.F. Warin (page 90) recorded several sheets of the 2pi overprinted in red with the wide setting, year right, on the top half of the sheet (APAI type E possibly) and the medium setting, also year right, (APAI type D) on the bottom half of the sheet. Anyone having these sheets or blocks are invited to submit them or scans for APAI records and registration.

2b. Tête Bêche Varieties : These are normally expected in vertical pairs between rows 5 and 6 of the sheet. However

Horizontal Tête Bêche Pair?

Black Overprint on 3 pi Green : Horizontal pair with Left stamp YL and right stamp YR sold as lot 7210 in Mojadeddi collection – however not all lots were ex Mojadeddi in this sale. If Jeddah I as is quite possible, then clearly from an unlisted setting, so we require a high quality scan from the new owner (sold at \$46). Note I have such strange 'varieties' from Cairo printings so an APAI certificate is essential for provenance – also readers are requested to report all such items which are in their collections.

Vertical Tête Bêche Pairs-

Blue Overprint on 3 pi Green: SG 183B see lot 7241 from Mojadeddi sale as shown here - rows 3-10 where rows 5 and 6 are 3 tête bêche pairs. Again would the new owner submit scan for APAI records and formal plating and certification.

Blue Overprint on 5 pi Orange-brown : SG 184B D. F. Warin (page 91) also reported seeing two sheets with the two panes inverted to each other thus providing 10 tête bêche pairs.

Help Wanted : There are so many questions outstanding questions on Jeddah I varieties I find my resources quite inadequate. I therefore would appreciate if collectors would submit all unusual items for review and listing in this section. This whole section will be repeated in next RN – hopefully with expanded information. Full credit for the item(s) will be given or the owner can remain anonymous as preferred.

Jeddah II : I have no recorded varieties at all of Jeddah II printings – has anyone anything to offer?

Scans and data please to Editor or to Willie King.



Makkah Arms ¼ Qirsh Update

By: Martin Lovegrove

Having introduced the Transjordan overprint on this stamp in Random Notes #60, I feel I need no excuse for producing this update.

In RN60.24, I illustrated one stamp with an inverted forged overprint from my collection, and a block of 9 that was one of many blocks having forged overprints that appeared in a named auction in 1995; there is thus a problem in recognizing this forgery.

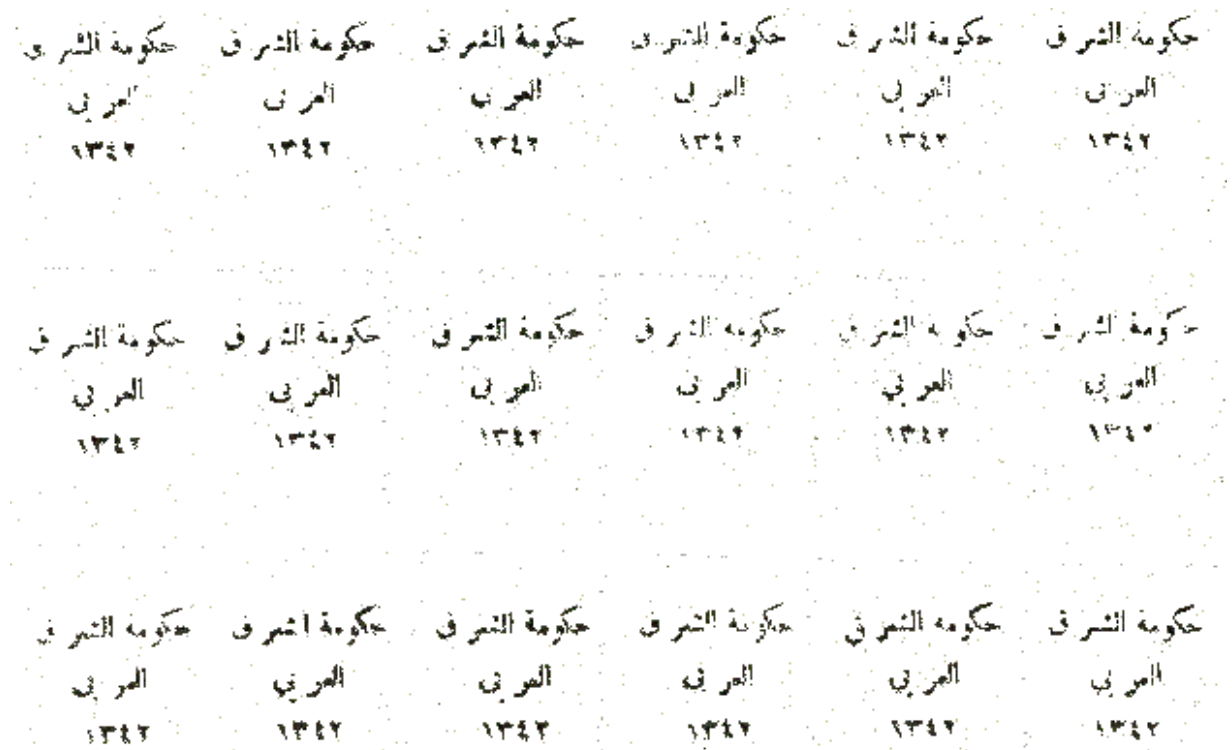
I have obtained a complete sheet of this forgery on the 1/4 qirsh value and a part-sheet of the 1/8 qirsh, both on forged basic stamps usually known as 'reprints'. From these sheets I have been able to deduce that the overprint was applied in relief (typography) from a plate comprising three rows of six stamps, the sheets therefore being overprinted in two operations. In my sheet of the 1/4 qirsh, there was a difference in orientation of the two groups of about one degree, suggesting that the operation was performed manually.

Identification of the forgery is easy; all cliches differ from the genuine in that the gap between 'raa' and 'qaf' in the top line is much wider in the forgery (approx. 1.5mm) than in the genuine (< 1mm). There are many other differences and all 18 cliches have individual characteristics making them all plateable. The three rows of the overprint are shown below, and the full sheet on the next page.

الشرق الشرق

Forgery

Genuine



The eighteen-cliche plate





Fake Transjordan overprint on ¼ qirsh Makkah Arms forgery

1935 Letter from Panama to Jubail

By *W. A. King FRPSL*



The cover shown above was offered on eBay recently and I placed a bid based simply on the fact that I recognized the name Miller and it was a very early (1935) inward cover to the Eastern Province. As may be seen it was routed via Bagdad, Basrah and Bahrain Island. I did not begin to research it until after arrival and then pleasant surprise followed pleasant surprise.

Stamps : As the letter was advertised as “from the Canal Zone”, I had not even troubled to check the stamps and was initially surprised to find US stamps but this was immediately explained by the Paquebot cancel for Cristobal for Jun 15th 1935. Cristobal, at the Caribbean end of the Panama Canal, was a major stopping off point for the Pan American flying boats bound for South America. . The stamps consisted of 6 different values of the 1934 National Park issue, 4 copies of the Connecticut Tercentenary issue first issued on 26th April 1935 and a pair of the Georgia Bicentennial issue depicting General J. E. Oglethorpe. The total postage rate of 40 cents was a high rate but was explained by the Via Air Mail label. The Bahrain receipt cancel on the reverse is dated 3rd July 1935 indicating an exceptionally fast transit of 18 days considering there was **no tran-atlantic flights carrying mail in 1935**.

Addressees : Both Miller and Kerr were named by Rudy Thoden (RN 35 p10) in the “the original 10” geologists. This letter was addressed to Richard C. Kerr (Dick Kerr) who arrived originally in March 1934, c/o R. P. Miller (Bert Miller) who had arrived on September 23rd 1933! On the back of the cover the return address was to Mrs P. A. Kerr c/o American Express, Paris with the intriguing note “Panama Canal simply thrilling”.

It was at this point I realized that the envelope was quite thick – even with all these stamps - and was surprised to find that the original letter was still enclosed! The letter is a fascinating account of travel to Europe in 1935 – apparently by an Italian passenger-cargo ship from Western United States via the Panama Canal. The letter even explains the postal rate! It is transcribed and included.

Richard Caldwell Kerr (1896-1972) was originally a partner and pilot with Continental Air Map Company, which did aerial photography in California. In 1934 he took his plane to Saudi



Arabia to become the first pilot to map the Eastern Province from the air for oil exploration. He progressed to senior management positions until he retired from ARAMCO in 1957. His wife **Phyllis Kerr** eventually joined Dick in Dhahran. I suspect some of the Aramco annuitants could give us much more information.

Transcript of letter from Phyllis Kerr to her husband

June 13 1935

**Somewhere between Costa Rica
and Chiriqui – and tomorrow
We should be at the Canal Zone**

Dearest Dick,

My last was from La Libertad. We didn't get to go to San Salvador after all and were quite disappointed. The purser took my letter to you and my 40ct & gave it to the Company agent who came aboard. The letter, addressed to Arabia via Baghdad, was causing a lot of comment and it got passed around from the Capt. down until I saw it get safely(?) put with other letters in the agent's pocket. It should be stamped and sent from San Salvador.

We didn't get to the village of Acajutha until dark on Sunday Eve. [\(this would be 9th June 1935. wak\)](#) No answer to the ships signals; no boats came out at all so the anchor was dropped and we remained overnight. Hot and sticky and quiet – No breeze and millions of copra bugs (copra in cargo) but they don't bite thank goodness. The little port was plainly visible from the ship but thru Col. Calkis glasses you could see the lights in the church and see some moving objects.

Only next morning lots of excitement when the launch came out with their serious officials. Next the flat boats towed out with tons and tons of sacks of coffee. Some of the cases and sacks were labelled for Haifa, Palestine. The little natives handling the coffee were the funniest little fellows all beautifully bronzed. Most of them looked pretty much Indian to me, some Negroes, some half-n-half mixed with Spanish & Mex too. At noon time they stretched out anyplace on sacks of coffee on rim of flat boats and opened their lunches, flat plates tied in a towel and a bottle of wine. Could see them rolling up tortillas & sopping up frijoles.

Didn't get away until nearly one o'clock. Three of the natives down in the hatch handling coffee broke open a crate of pineapples. Three of them ate 6 large cans by the time they were caught opening the next batch. Hell certainly popped up when the Italian from our ship caught them. I was standing close enough to hear him yelling and picking up a club, next we see the culprits coming up out of the hold – the native officials yelling at them in Spanish. Finally a sort of a board of arbitration meeting with the culprits on top deck. Guess they were meting out a punishment to fit the crime & making adjustment for the loss of those 6 cans.

We expected to get to La Libertad early in the afternoon but on account of the delay at Acajutha it was after 5pm by the time our ship signalled to the port. This time very serious looking small sized Salvador officers and sailors came out to the ship. Sailors wore funny little sailor suits and flat sailor hats with huge buttons in the middle of each. Bt the time they were received it was nearly 6 o'clock and getting dark, and heavy clouds gathering in the direction of San Salvador so Les, the Calkins & Ruth & I went into a huddle and decided to call our trip off. The auto ride to San Salvador would have been 40 miles over mountain roads after dark and in a squall and we wouldn't have seen much of San Salvador after dark. So we went below and took of our hats and changed into deck shoes & watched the new passengers come aboard. A whole flock of them, mostly 3rd class. They eat their meals out on the aft deck near where crew eat with a large awning over their table. Would like that for us.

The wife of the Belgian consul at Salvador came aboard. She is en route to Marseilles for Belgium, a very charming woman. Very little English, speaks mostly French and Spanish.



How I wish I knew more, plenty more French, Spanish and Italian. Four languages are essential!! At least a working bit of each.

A soldier, a lieut., who had been on leave is on his way to Italy to report for duty in Ethiopia. The company is transporting him for the Govt 3rd class and they say he resents not being 1st class. In 3rd class is also a violinist from the conservatory of music in San Salvador now returning with his wife and 2 babies and a paraquette to Italy.

Had to take time out as Des is cutting off the train of her dinner dress to wear it at the Captain's dinner tonight. I had to pin it for her. Yards and yards of the damdest slippery material. I'm laughing at her as she sits on her bed perspiring buckets & trying to sew round the hem! I am beating it as soon as I finish this so I don't get bribed into sewing it on too! I'm all ready for a swim in Cellina lakes.

Tomorrow we arrive at the Panama Canal. The Capt said we'd be in early and hoped we wouldn't have to wait too long and get taken then. Each ship has to wait its turn,

The Captain has been making his little son a small row boat & we're christening it the 'cricket' only the Italian word is cuter but I don't remember it & he's using a bottle of champagne for it! I am donating the small life preserver that Muriel gave me in her humorous bon-voyage box.

Wonder how it will feel to step foot on land again after 14 days at sea? Wish you were going to meet us there & treat Les & me to a nice Bacardi cocktail. We are going to find the place that Amy Semple McPh** has her famous Halleluah Cocktail. Hope I get a chance to write you a wee note while in Panama. Here's the last of my stamps and oodles of my love

Phyllis



This letter was written off Costa Rica and Panama and posted in Cristobal and the route marked in red took from approximately from 9th to 14th June 1935.

Probable Route for Letter : Total transit time 18 days

Cristobal (Cancel Saturday 15th June) to Bahrein (Receipt Wednesday 3rd July)

Cristobal to New York : 2-4 days by South American Clipper



New York to Europe by Transatlantic Steamer 9-12 days

Europe to Alexandria onto Baghdad, Basra and Bahrain by Imperial Airways 3-5 days

Bahrain to Jubail by company launch.

Further Research Help : I hope further research may divulge the name and route of the ship used by Phyllis Kerr and the clippers and transatlantic ship taken by her letter. Anyone who may have any relevant information or suggested sources is requested to contact the editor or the author.

RN

On a similar theme of travel to Arabia, among the many items sent to me by Roy Eakin is this tourist air letter. It was sent by a Mr C. L. Biggins to his mother upon his arrival in Dhahran on 21 February 1961. There is no indication of where the air letter was printed; Roy doubts whether it was anywhere in Saudi Arabia. The main picture is that of the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, and there are smaller pictures of Krak des Chevaliers (Syria), Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), Sidon (Lebanon), and Petra (Jordan). Has anyone seen an item like this and knows where it was printed?



RN

The Postal Tax Stamps 1934 - 1964

Medical Aid Society - First Issue

By: Martin Lovegrove

This article continues the series that updates the information given in Thomas Wood's major work *A Study of Saudi Arabia Stamps 1934 - 1964*, published in 1982. I hope that by writing these updates, readers will be able to contribute further information.

As before, 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	13 October 1936
Catalogue	Mayo PT820, Scott RA2, Stanley Gibbons 345 No varieties are listed by any of the above catalogues.
Print method	Relief (typography)
Size	37mm x 20mm
Perforation	11½
Colour	Shades of scarlet/bright scarlet (Stanley Gibbons Stamp Colour Key)
Paper	Woods type 2. Similar to paper type 1 described in the previous article, but is white instead of full-white, and is not as crisp. The main difference is that when held to a light, a pattern of very small lines can be seen; this is described later. The thickness of the paper varies, but the majority of stamps are about 0.0025in (0.0635mm). The thickest I have is a mint stamp at 0.0030in (0.0762mm) and the thinnest is a used one at 0.0024in (0.0610mm).
Earliest postmark	Woods only reported the year of 1936. My earliest (and only!) cover is dated 17 February 1937. Off cover; my earliest date is 22.9.1355 which equates to 6 December 1936. I am sure that someone must be able to produce something earlier than that; I would be interested in receiving scans of anything earlier.



Paper

The paper for this issue does provide some interest. When held to a light, the paper shows short lines that are brighter, and therefore presumably thinner, than the rest of the paper. These lines, approximately 1mm in length, are arranged in an elongated diamond pattern and were probably produced by passing the paper through special rollers during manufacture. Figure 1 is a diagram showing this arrangement. Stamps can be found with these brighter lines aligned either horizontally or vertically, in a similar manner to the watermarks that were to follow in later years. Figure 2 shows photographs of each of these formats. Out of my small sample of 8 stamps, only 2 had the lines aligned vertically; the sample is too small to determine whether one format is scarcer than the other. I would appreciate any information that can be obtained from your collections.

When the surface of the stamp is viewed at an angle to a light, the diagonal arrangement shows clearly. Figure 3 shows a photograph of this effect. I cannot determine whether these indentations appear on the gummed side. If they do, the gum obscures them on mint stamps, and the soaking process removes them when used stamps are removed from their covers; once again, the small sample prevents any firm conclusions being drawn.

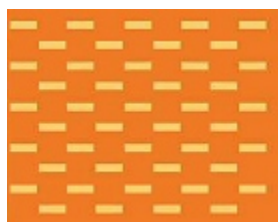


Figure 1. Short, bright, lines arranged in a diamond formation.



Figure 2 (right). Lines arranged vertically (a) and horizontally (b)

(a)

(b)

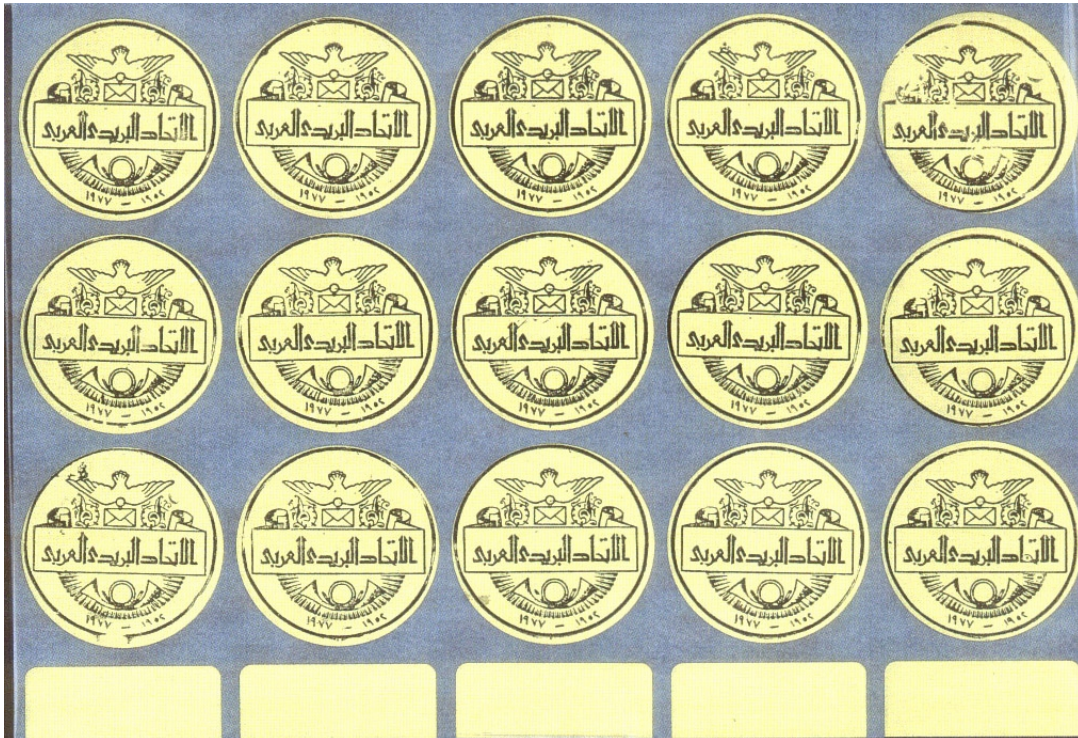


Figure 3. Diagonal pattern showing on surface.

Modern Postal Seals

By: Richard Sitron and Willie King FRPSL

Marwan Nusair presented an excellent article on the Egyptian Postal Seals which were issued for use in Jeddah in 1867 – see RN59 Page 10. Richard Sitron and Willie King, now show some much more modern examples and would be interested in hearing if anyone is collecting these and who has any further information.



UPU Seals : Richard Sitron has this complete sheet, of 15, of the 25th Anniversary of the UPU “Postal Seals” or letter seals. It is suggested that these seals were to be applied to every 1000th cover. Has anyone a cover they can show us or any additional information?



Government Office or University Seals : Willie King has acquired several examples of official letters which has passed through the postal system without charge and were sealed on the back with these highly decorative and bright seals. The first is from GOSI, 32mm in diameter, and the second from King Faisal University, 35mm – to the ends of the spikes! Both date from the 1980's.

Anyone who can show us further examples and/or provide further information please contact the editor.

RN

Air Post Paper Variety

By: Martin Lovegrove

In 1982 Thomas Wood produced a study entitled 'A Study of Saudi Arabia Stamps 1934 - 1964' and part of the study related to the 1949 air stamps (Mayo A848 - 853, Scott C1 - 6, SG 357 - 362). This article introduces very little new information but, with the aid of modern equipment, illustrates one of the paper varieties mentioned.

The stamp providing the source of the information that follows is illustrated below, together with a stamp on one of the normal white papers. Both are used in order to provide a true comparison.



Standard white paper



Brownish paper

The difference between the stamps is obvious; the paper is browner. Tom refers to three types of this brownish paper and allocates the codes AM1, AM2 and AM3 to a thin paper, a thicker one, and an even thicker one respectively. The subject stamp *feels* as though it is printed on paper that is thinner than normal one illustrated, but this is where the terms 'thin' and 'thicker' are not helpful when studying a single stamp. In this case, the paper is actually thicker than the normal, 0.0030" compared to 0.0029" for the normal stamp, but it is probably type AM1. It feels thinner because the paper is less dense; the fibres are more easily seen than with the normal paper. I am using 'brownish' to describe the paper colour in order to be consistent with Tom's article; the actual colour for this stamp is somewhere between buff and yellow-ochre in the SG Colour Key. The images below were produced by a 60x microscope.



Smooth, closely packed fibres of white paper



Coarse, loosely packed fibres of brownish paper

The stamp is perforated 11 and has a part MECQUE cancellation; the date is not visible. This paper variety is not listed in Mayo, Scott or Stanley Gibbons, but I have no reason to believe that the postal use of the above was not genuine. As a guide to its scarcity, Tom Wood's study included only 5 of the AM types in a total of 727 stamps. In view of the fact that Stanley Gibbons list the Nejd unsurfaced paper varieties, this stamp should be afforded the same status.

British Postal Directory for 1850 – Destinations in “Arabia”

By: William A. King FRPSL

By 1850 regular steam packets were operating over many routes and the railways were expanding rapidly. My article in RN#56 discussed the opening of the Red Sea as a ‘steam packet’ route as planned by Thomas Waghorn and others. In 1838 A.C. Ogilvie was appointed vice consul in Jeddah and a letter from him in 1842 was shown in that article.

The British Postal Directory for the year 1850 lists over 4,500 countries, cities and towns, to which mails were despatched **from London**. This directory also details routes and charges. Eleven locations were listed as being in “ARABIA” of which at least four are in the present Saudi Arabia. .

Destinations : Hejaz : Judda, Mecca, Medina, Yembo (the port of Medina).

The spelling used is as in the directory and also several destinations had explanatory notes added as shown.

Yemen : Aden, Mocha, Sanaa, Yemen (a district of Arabia),

Oman : Muscat (leave with the agent in Aden),

Gran and Moosa? These two destinations are also listed and I am unable to identify to their modern name and/or location. Research to date has not inspired a confident identification.

Gran does show as a village 20kms north of Abha – an unlikely destination for mail in 1850.

Moosa is a surname in Arabia and generally an area near Dhahran – even more unlikely – especially as Arabian Gulf mail went overland via Damascus.

Comment : Mail along the southern Arabian Peninsula was dropped of at Aden for onward delivery- see Muscat. So lacking such information indicates Gran and Moosa should be somewhere in the Red Sea. – but where? Any information from readers would be gladly received and reported in RN.

Rates and Routes : The Arabian mails were routed with the East India mails for which the instructions and rates depended on whether the route was “overland” ie via France (twice monthly) or the cheaper ‘sea’ route once a month via Southampton. The directory reads as follows:

Overland Via France : “Closed mails are made up on the 7th and 24th of each month (unless a Sunday then following day) and despatched via Marseilles whence they are forwarded by British Steam Boats. Letters are sent by this route unless otherwise addressed. Rates 1s10d under ¼oz., 2s3d under ½oz. 4s1d under ¾ oz., 4s6d under 1 oz., 7s.9d under 1¼ oz etc”*

* This complex rate through France was due to French postal rates being rated by grams. The French metric weight bands did not coincide with British rate bands giving rise to the irregular increments in charges by weight.

By Sea from Southampton : Mails forwarded “via Southampton” on the morning of the 20th of every month (unless Sunday then on previous evening). Rate 1s per ½ oz., etc. The mails via Southampton are forwarded by steam vessel to Malta, and there meet the mails despatched overland on the 24th, with which they are forwarded.

Arabian mails had to be paid in advance – only for mail into India could the sender opt for the receiver paying the charge.

Observation : Although mails using the Red Sea route in the 1850’s are not uncommon we have not yet recorded a single example of mail addressed to any of the cities in Hejaz although by inclusion in the British Postal Directory for 1850 such mail is obviously implied.



(Random Notes continued from [page 4](#))

- 5 In Random Notes #27 on pages 7 and 8, a list of Hejaz stamps printed on top of ochre railway tax stamps was given together with some illustrations. My copy of RN27 does not show these stamps clearly, so I illustrate what I have. The imperf. 1½ qirsh on an inverted tax stamp without values, did not appear in the original list. The pair of 1 qirsh on upright tax stamps without value come complete with blue finger prints! Perhaps this could indicate that they are some form of printer's waste, but were found to be good enough to perforate and presumably issue.

With regard to the 1 qirsh pair (positions 32 and 33), I have added an illustration of the marginal rule from the same positions on a Caliphate sheet and it looks to me as though the Caliphate stamps were from a later printing. That may help a little in dating these 'Hejaz on ochre tax' stamps; can anyone be more precise? Were they made before the stamps were issued in 1922? The 5 qirsh looks like a much later printing to me, certainly not from the first printing.



Positions 32 and 33 from Caliphate issue

- 6 RN4 contained, on page 6, an illustration of a sheet of the framed overprint from 1922. I made great use of that illustration, even though my copy was a 'copy of a copy' and the clarity was poor. On the next two pages is a colour illustration of a sheet I found at Stampex; I hope you will find it of use. Perhaps someone would like to write something about the various states of this overprint; I believe the sheet illustrated is a late state.







- 7 In the past, Random Notes have had a page or more devoted to catalogue price changes, either Scott or Gibbons. It has been a long time since Gibbons published their Part 3 specialized catalogue, although I believe there are plans for one later this year. Scott, however, do manage a new edition annually, but revisions are usually few. The latest edition (2004) of Volume 5 (countries P - SL) is no exception, and I have noted only the price changes listed below.

One thing that I found amusing is that although the value for a stamp in a set may have changed, the set price has not; that makes the set price for the officials look a bargain!

Scott	SG		from \$	to \$	Scott	SG		from \$	to \$
L2a	5	Mint	110.00	200.00	610a	-	Mint	6.00	12.00
L48A	57	Mint	5.75	3.00	674	MS1102	Mint	400.00	700.00
L49	57b	Mint	9.00	5.00					
L49a	-	Mint	4.50	3.00	O29	O510	Mint	75.00	150.00
L50	58	Mint	4.50	3.00	O35	O516	Mint	90.00	175.00
					O36	O517	Mint	90.00	175.00
59 - 63	244 - 248	Mint	45.00	55.00	O37	O518	Mint	90.00	175.00
					O38	O519	Mint	90.00	175.00
105	291	Mint	55.00	60.00	O39	O520	Mint	90.00	175.00
115	-	Mint	unpriced	175.00	O41	O522	Mint	90.00	175.00
					O42	O523	Mint	90.00	175.00
167	337	Mint	16.00	25.00	O43	O524	Mint	90.00	175.00
					O44	O525	Mint	140.00	225.00
363	630	Mint	1.40	3.00	O45	O526	Mint	90.00	175.00
364	631	Mint	1.40	3.00					
365	632	Mint	2.00	4.00	RA9	footnote	Mint	110.00	175.00
366	633	Mint	2.25	4.50					
367	634	Mint	4.75	7.00					
368	635	Mint	8.00	17.00					

- 8 In RN61.28 there appeared an illustration of the 5 qirsh Tughra definitive from the 1934-57 series with a perforation of $7\frac{3}{4}$. While I was sorting my revenues, I found a copy of Thoden RG10 but with a rough pin-perforation of 7. Rudy, in his revenue catalogue, also passed comment on the strange roulette 7 x perf. 11 perforation on the tobacco tax stamp RT23W. The revenues date from around 1951; whether independent printers were involved in any of these issues is not known, but there certainly were some strange happenings in that period.



- 9 Continuing the listing of stamps from the 'illegible' series not previously recorded in Random Notes (see RN60.5 and RN63.29), I illustrate here an item that appeared on eBay in March. It was advertised as a 10q on 10q on 3q brown, but is actually a 10q on 1q on 3q brown which is also unlisted. On the reverse is a large 'ela' handstamp in violet. I have also found a copy of Scott L135, SG 154, with an offset of the postage due overprint on the reverse. This stamp is ex-Thoden but I can't remember him mentioning it.



10q on 1q on 3q



Offset of postage due overprint on normal postage stamp

- 10 On the subject of unlisted items, earlier this year Cherrystone Auctions had the 1949 4-qirsh air mail stamps on two covers. One cover with the stamps as a horizontal pair, imperf between, and the other as a vertical pair, imperf between, the latter having a Holcombe certificate dating from 1985. The cover is illustrated below:



The stamps on this cover show no sign of blind perforations, so is truly imperf between. I have not had the opportunity to inspect the other cover.



- 11 My thanks go to Roy Eakin for this one. 'Found open' labels have been mentioned before in Random Notes. One from 1984 was illustrated in RN27.10 item 1, and one from 1946 in RN38.5 item 7. Roy sent me six, a pair from the same day as that shown in RN38, two singles from a few days earlier, and two uncanceled. This group show several spelling errors in the French and also both round and square boxes for the post office handstamp. I also note that although the number for these labels is P. No. 189A (does the Arabic show this to be the Post Office number or a Post Office form number?), on the pair shown below, an capital italic letter I is used instead of the number one.



- 12 Finally, an item for Hejaz Railway enthusiasts. This is a revenue stamp from Transjordan issued in aid of the restoration of the Hejaz railway. Can anyone confirm this, and does anyone know where such stamps are catalogued, or when their use was required?



ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

By: David Jessich

1999

1999-12 : Inauguration of King Fahd International Airport

Construction of this 776 km² airport 70 km northwest of Dhahran was completed prior to the Gulf War in 1990. However, the first flights did not start until 1999. The old airport at Dhahran was retained for military use. The IATA code for Dammam is DMM.



Issued : February 6, 1999. 2 values.

1SR : Terminal building. Notice there is a period between the S and the R in the English value. Sheets of 50 + two blank labels in positions 49 & 50 (4 across x 13)

2 SR : Control tower. 2 SR in sheets of 50 (10 across x 5)

Perforation 12

Catalogue : Gibbons 1948-1949. Scott 1282-1283.



1999-13 : World Food Day

Issued : March 16, 1999. 1 Value.

1SR : Lady's hand holding a piece of fruit with meridian lines symbolizing the globe. Includes FAO and UN logos. The Gregorian year is shown as 1998. Sheets of 60 in two panes of 30, with a blank vertical gutter. (2 panes x 6 across x 5)

Perforation 12

Catalogue : Gibbons 1950. Scott 1285.



1999-14 : Hajj 1419

Issued : March 18, 1999. 1 Value.

2SR : Montage of Kaaba, Zamzam fountain and man's left arm holding a jug pouring water.

Sheets of 48 in two panes with a horizontal blank gutter. (2 panes x 4 across x 6)

Marginal Art : In margins on left and right as shown opposite rows 2 and 3 of both panes.

Perforation 12

Catalogue : Gibbons 1951. Scott 1286.



ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

1999

1999-15 : Prince Naif Academy for Security Sciences

Issued : May 29, 1999. 1 Value.

150h : Located in Riyadh. Includes Arab League logo with ear of wheat and a feather. Arabic reads “Naif Academy for Security Sciences”. Sheets of 60 in two panes split by a blank vertical gutter (2 x 6 across x 5)

Marginal Art : The Academy insignia and Arabic name above both panes and same in English below each pane.

Perforation 12

Catalogue : Gibbons 1952. Scott 1289.



1999-16 : 15th Gulf Cooperation Council Traffic Week

Issued : May 22, 1999. 1 Value.

1SR : Traffic light with red, yellow and green beams. Hexagonal logo (symbolizing six members of GCC ?) has number “15” made up of divided highway. Sheets of 60 in two panes of 30 with blank vertical gutter (2 x 6 across x 5)

Perforation 12

Catalogue : Gibbons 1953. Scott 1288.



1999-17 : International Koran Reading Competition

Issued : October 3, 1999. 1 Value.

150h : Prizes are awarded based on voice, timing and proper pronunciation of the Koran's classic Arabic verses. Sheets of 40 in two panes separated with horizontal gutter inscribed with post code labels. (2 by 5 across x 4)

Post Code Labels : Types 3, 1, 4, 8, 7. Left to right.

Perforation 12

Catalogue : Gibbons 1954. Scott 1290.



1999-18 : 125th Anniversary of UPU

Issued : October 26, 1999. 1 Value.

1SR : Five figures holding letters encircle a sphere. UPU statue in Berne. Sheets of 60 in two panes split by a vertical gutter with post code labels reading down. (2 x 6 across x 5)

Post Code Labels : Types from top 6, 7, 2, 3, 8.

Perforation 12

Catalogue : Gibbons 1953. Scott 1288.



ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

2000

2000-01 : Hajj 1420

Issued : March 11, 2000. 2 Values.

1SR and 2SR : Both Hijra and Gregorian years were omitted.
Sheets of 60 in two panes (2 x 5 across x 6).



Perforation 14 **Note change from previous**

Post Code Labels : Types 8,3,2,5,6 from left in horizontal gutter.

Catalogue : Gibbons 1956-1957. Scott 1293-1294.

2000-02 : 50th Anniversary of World Meteorological Organization

Issued : March 23, 2000. 1 Value.

1SR : Blue and red brush strokes background (symbolizing hot and cold?) with large 50 and the years 1950 and 2000 in English only. WMO logo inset in zero of the 50.
Sheets of 60 in two panes of 30 (2 x 5 across x 6)

Post Code Labels : Types 8,3,2,5,6 from left in horizontal gutter.

Perforation 12

Catalogue : Gibbons 1958. Scott 1292.



2000-03 : 75 Years of Consultative Council

Issued : June 7, 2000. 1 Value.

1SR : Commemorates the founding of the Shura Council in 1346.
Sheets of 60 in two panes split by a vertical gutter with post code labels reading down. (2 x 6 across x 5)

Post Code Labels : Types from top 6, 7, 2, 3, 8.

Perforation 14

Catalogue : Gibbons 1953. Scott 1288.



2000-04 : Water Conservation

Issued : June 18, 2000. 1 Value.

1SR : Running faucet inside water drop with red line across with Arabic warning, "Do not waste water. Water is a trust."
Sheets of 60 in two panes split by a vertical gutter with post code labels **reading up**. (2 x 6 across x 5)

Post Code Labels : **From bottom** 6, 7, 2, 3, 8. ie reversed from previous.

Perforation 14

Catalogue : Gibbons 1960. Scott 1297.



ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

2000

2000-05 : 24th Boy Scout Jamboree

Issued : July 18, 2000. 1 Value.

1SR : Held in Taif. Arab tent superimposed on globe of the world. Includes logos of the Saudi Arabia Boy Scouts Association and International Scouting. Sheets of 60 in two panes split by a vertical gutter with post code labels reading down. (2 x 6 across x 5)

Post Code Labels : Types from top 6, 7, 2, 3, 8.

Perforation 14

Catalogue : Gibbons 1962. Scott 1295.



2000-06 : Riyadh, Cultural Capital

Issued : July 4, 2000. 1 Value.

1SR : Modified logo of the 100 Years of Saud with fountain pen as trunk of palm tree and rainbow above. Two colors are missing and order is wrong. (Should be red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.) Sheets of 60 as previous set. with post code labels reading down. (2 x 6 across x 5)

Post Code Labels : Types from top 6, 7, 2, 3, 8.

Perforation 14

Catalogue : Gibbons 1961. Scott 1296.



2000-07 : 50th Anniversary

UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Issued : September 23, 2000. 1 Value.

2SR : Silhouettes of refugees with red smoke in background. Large 50 (in English only) with UNHCR logo in zero. Exists in various shades. Sheets of 60 (2 panes x 5 across x 6 with PC labels)

Post Code Labels : Types 3,1,4,8,7 from left in horizontal gutter

Perforation 14

Catalogue : Gibbons 1973. Scott 1299.



2000-09 : King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology

Issued : October 28, 2000. 1 Value.

1SR : Located in Riyadh. Logo with atom, gear and books. Sheets of 60 (2 panes x 5 across x 6 with PC labels)

Post Code Labels : Types 3,8,4,1,2 from left in horizontal gutter
Note that label 2 is in larger Arabic font - see next page.

Perforation 14

Catalogue : Gibbons 1977. Scott 1301.



ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

2000

2000-08 : King Fahd Printing Press

Issued : October 10, 2000. 3 Values.

50h, 1SR, 2SR : Printing press with Koran stand in background.

Sheets of 60 in 2 panes with horizontal gutter containing post code labels.

i.e. 2 x 5 across x 6

Post Code Labels : Types 3, 8, 4, 1, 2 from left in horizontal gutter

Note that label 2 is in larger Arabic font see below

Perforation 14

Catalogue : Gibbons 1974-1976. Scott 1309-1311.



بين ايديكم رسائلنا هي مستوحى
البريد عن لآفات من ابيات الرمز
البريدى للفرس والرسائل اليه على
التقوى

نوعه القعيد والوقت لفضلا الله
على من تتراجل معهم بكتابة الرمز
البريدى اضافه للفتوح

الفسر الاول يتوقف على الرمز
البريدى

جاءت للجمهور رسالة
وتكادى الجمهور معنا سوهم
المداد الرمز البريدى

تذكر كتابة الرمز البريدى

2000-10 : King Khalid University

Issued : December 5, 2000. 1 Value.

1SR : Located in Abha. The other seven universities were issued as definitives in 1986-1992. Began as a branch of King Saud University and granted university status in 1998. Sheets of 40 in two panes of 20 separated by a vertical gutter with post code labels (2 x 4 across x 5)

Post Code Labels : From top to bottom 1, 3, 4, 8, 3

Note labels read across in same direction as stamps

Label 3 is repeated in rows 2 and 5!

Perforation 14

Catalogue : Gibbons 1978. Scott 1302.



Footnote : Post Code Labels : Note the eight post code labels were fully described in RN 32 page 20-21 (1985). Since these were initiated in 1984 the same 8 postal code labels have remained in use in differing arrangements and formats.