



الجمعية الدولية للطابع البريدية العربية
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International
Random Notes



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The Colonial Photo Stores has a rival!
See [page 13](#)

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 e-mail address arabphilassocin@aol.com has been set up by Willie King. 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 (2004) 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 #65

Assembled by the Editor

The lack of contributions is even more of a problem this time. Pressures at work and home have dramatically reduced the output of both Willie King and myself, so this edition is smaller than usual and has reverted to a format similar to the original 'Notes'. I have included images of items that have either not been mentioned in previous editions or certainly not illustrated. I hope you find this not a futile attempt to fill pages, but something that makes 'Random Notes' the main source of information about Saudi philately. Now for the 'Random Notes':

- 1 We see quite a few names in Random Notes, but no faces. In RN38.8 item 12 there appeared the following note:

In January 1987, A.P.A. subscriber and charter member Art Sundberg visited Saudi Arabia and reminisced about his stamp collecting days here. Art brought a photograph taken at the Aramco Annuitant's Reunion in Pennsylvania in October 1986. The photo included A.P.A. former members (or Wives) Tom Wood, Art Sundberg, Jack Wilson, Harry Foster, Frank Patterson, Fred Benedict. Folke Johansson, Margaret Sullivan, Marcia LaFrenz, Margaret Chandler and Barbara Bowler.

Fred Benedict kindly sent me a copy of that photo and it is reproduced below. Some of those mentioned have made significant contributions towards Saudi philately; I have certainly been grateful for Random Notes. Thanks to you all.



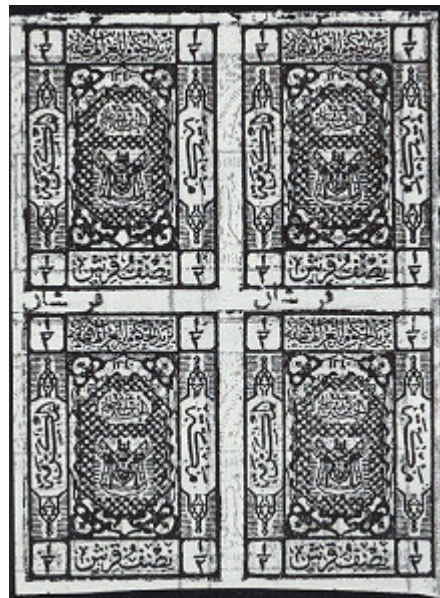
Members of the Arabian Philatelic Association. Standing: Tom Wood, Art Sundburg, Folke Johansson, George Hartley, Frank Patterson, Fred Benedict, Jack Wilson. Seated: Harry Foster, Margaret Sullivan, Marcia Lafrenz, Mrs. Lee Chandler, Barbara Bowler.



- 2 Willie King kindly responded to my note in RN64 concerning the Makkah Arms stamps printed on Hejaz Fiscal ones. He sent me a colour scan of the perforated 1½ qirsh block of 4 that was illustrated in RN27.8, so for those of you who do not have a clear copy of it, here it is shown below.
- 3 One the same subject, I found a reference to a similar item in a Habsburg, Feldman auction catalogue from 1989. Lot 20962 was described as:

½pi scarlet, mint IMPERF blk of 4 with variety SUPERIMPOSED ON OCHRE RAIL FISCAL, some creasing, a rare multiple (Mayo 52C(g))

Close inspection shows that it appears to have a 2 qirsh surcharge similar to that used on the Nejd stamp SG 243, Scott 48, and may even be a product of that period. The surcharge can be seen in the white space between the rows and in the top margin. The stamps are positions 17, 18, 23, 24. The ochre fiscal stamps are printed upright and are without a value indicated. An imperf ½ qirsh was illustrated in RN27.8 but was on inverted fiscals. Has anyone got, or even seen this variety?



Auction lot 20962

- 4 An item from the November 1934 edition of Gibbons' Stamp Monthly:

Hejaz-Nejd. - Our Publishers have discovered that six sheets of their supply of the new 1/8 g. stamp show the first vertical row of stamps imperf. at the left-hand side. As there are only 25 stamps (arranged 5 x 5) to a sheet, this gives 30 stamps showing the variety. These six sheets are also of interest in that they have an extra row of horizontal perforations in the top margins and another row of "blind" perms. across the bottom rows of the actual stamps.

From the date of the magazine I assume that the reference is to the 1934 Tughra issue (Scott 159, SG 329), but why is the entry headed 'Hejaz-Nejd' when the country had been renamed 'Saudi Arabia' by that time? Has anyone got a copy of this stamp with the double perforations at top? I would appreciate a scan.



- 5 Thanks to all who have sent information relating to the Hejaz Railway stamp illustrated in RN64, page 25 item 12. The overprint reads "Assistance to the Hejazi Line" and a good source of catalogue information for the revenue stamps used in Transjordan is "*The Revenue Stamps of Jordan & the Occupied Territory (West Bank)*" by Joe Ross and Avo Kaplanian; unfortunately the subject Hejaz Railway stamp is not listed. I contacted the authors about this stamp and also another I have and they have promised to include the stamps in the next edition. The catalogue gives the perforation of the Makkah Arms stamps as 15 x 14 and this error will also be corrected. I urge anyone who is interested in these revenues to get a copy and to let me know of what you have; I would like to keep my records up to date. I illustrate here another stamp, possibly for the Hejaz Railway, but overprinted just "Hejazi stamp" in addition to the three-line Transjordan overprint. Does anyone know the exact usage of these stamps?



"Hejazi stamp"

- 6 As far as I can see, the first indication of a forged backstamp of E. L. Angeloglous appeared in RN19 page 2, item 8. I have several examples of this larger backstamp in both blue and red, but all on genuine stamps; I also have the genuine backstamp on a forged stamp. A note about the fire in Angeloglous' shop appeared in RN13 page 4, item 14. It is with these facts in mind that I had a careful look at five stamps in my collection. They are either cancelled or mint without gum, and with a weak, perhaps watery, 'ela' backstamp in red. Two are of the large size stated to be a forgery. Since both forged and genuine stamps have both large and small 'ela' backstamps, is it not just possible that this larger size is genuine and that my stamps were among those rescued from the water-damaged stock? Angeloglous was in business for a long time and surely it is likely that he had more than one backstamp in use during that time? Below is a scan of one of the subject stamps together with the type generally accepted as genuine. I cannot imagine someone applying a fake backstamp to a genuine gummed stamp and then soaking the gum off. I await your comments.



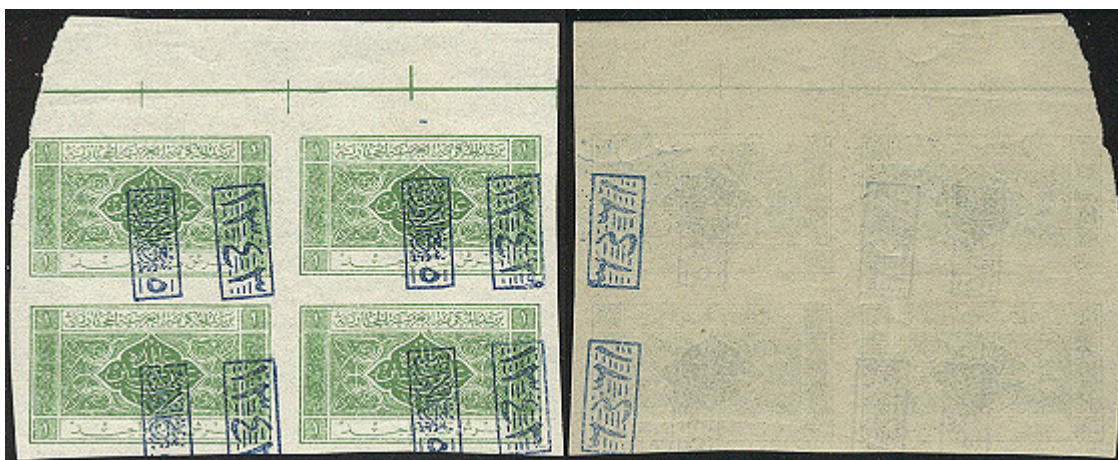
Watery large 'ela'



Normal genuine 'ela'

- 7 Willie King's excellent articles on the King Ali stamps has prompted me to look out for any unusual stamps in that series. I came across this block of four with misplaced overprints and offset of year tablets. The illustrated block was part of a much larger one, and I found a reference to it in an auction at Regency Stamps in 2001. On the next page is the scan from the auction catalogue. My stamps came from above the two stamps at the top right of the larger block.





My block of 4 showing offset of year tablets



The adjoining block (Regency Auctions)

8 The major misperforation of the official stamp (Scott O13, SG O455) was mentioned in RN11 page 4. That note referred to a block of 4. I have no idea whether the stamp shown here was part of that block.



9 The Freedom from Hunger stamps of 1963 are known imperf (all values) and some values have the background colour missing. Mayo lists this variety on the 7 ½ qirsh perf 11 and on the 2 ½ and 7 ½ qirsh values imperf. All of those are on the normal watermarked paper. The stamp at right is on a less-white unwatermarked paper. This may have been referenced in earlier RNs, but Scott numbers have changed over the years, so I can't tell. Perhaps someone could produce a complete listing of these.



- 10 Another Hejaz stamp overprinted for use in Transjordan and further overprinted for used as a revenue stamp is shown here. The strange thing about this stamp is that the revenue overprint is in gold, produced by the normal method of sprinkling gold dust over the wet ink. As with the one mentioned in RN 64.25, this one is not listed in "*The Revenue Stamps of Jordan & the Occupied Territory (West Bank)*". The revenue overprint, 'Taba Wari-dat' in a single line, can just be seen between the first and second lines of the Transjordan overprint. Was this one done for a special occasion? Has anyone seen any other gold revenue overprints? There would appear to be a lot more to discover about these stamps.



- 11 An interesting group is shown below; the stamps have something in common.



All of these appeared in auctions or were on websites during July/August 2004. All look good and I am sure that if the images were larger, you would be able to plate the overprints. One stamp had indeed been signed and plated by a well-known expert. However, all have overprints applied by xerography, that is applied by laser printer or photocopier. There should be no excuse for experts making this sort of mistake or the stamps being offered as genuine, the overprints are VERY obvious under 25x magnification.

Shown on the next page is a comparison between the laser forgery and a genuine relief printed number 1 in the unframed Hashemite overprint. Please take care and remember to keep your magnifier with you just in case. I would be pleased to hear from you if you come across similar items and would appreciate a scan if possible. This type of forgery has been mentioned previously in Random Notes; see The Chicago Forgeries in RN57, also see RN60.17 and RN63.23.





Laser-printed forgery



Relief-printed genuine

I make no excuse for showing the differences in very large images. While I have not had a request for a refund rejected, it has cost me a lot in postal charges.

While I am on the subject of forgeries, I had understood that the APS had a firm policy on selling forgeries as genuine stamps. This is not so; they tell me that are happy on condition that the seller offers a money-back guarantee. To me, that makes the display of the APS logo virtually worthless. Oh well, off my hobby-horse and back to stamps.

- 12 I am slowly gathering information about the 1949 air series and would like some help. The 4 guerche value was originally printed from a single-pane plate, but later a double-pane plate was introduced. The panes were placed close together and that resulted in many stamps showing the narrow gutter as illustrated here. Does anyone have any information about the date this plate was introduced?.



- 13 Mayo lists Hejaz and Nejd proofs from X714A onwards for three pages. I have been trying to sort my few out and noticed that there are two types of pink paper - pale and deep pink. Can someone confirm that all values appear on both types? Perhaps we will be able to produce an update to Mayo in due course.



- 14 I have recently received the Scott 2005 catalogue and this year there have been quite a few price revisions. The Nejd and the Hejaz-Nejd sections have obviously been reviewed in detail; virtually every mint stamp and several used have received increases of about 10%. I will not list these in detail. The changes apply only to stamps in the main body of the catalogue, the postage dues remain unchanged.

For issues after 1932 there have been no price adjustments. 505d has been added to the 'Tourist' listings, but is unpriced. This stamp is the Prophet's Mosque extension, 3p on the first type of watermarked paper, with the redrawn frame (SG 935). The unpriced commemoratives of 2000 and 2001 in last year's catalogue remain unpriced, and new issues have been added up to the beginning of 2004.

There have been a few changes made to the Hejaz listing and these are shown below. In addition the price for the set of Makkah Arms new values and colours (L48A, L49 and L50, SG 57, 57b and 58) has been corrected following the downward revision of individual prices last year. The price for L61a used has been removed.

| Scott | SG | | from \$ | to \$ |
|-------|------|--|---------|-------|
| L3 | 6 | | 11.00 | 15 |
| L6 | 9 | | 5.50 | 7 |
| L7 | 10 | | 5.50 | 7 |
| L61 | (62) | | 1500 | 3000 |
| L61a | (62) | | 3000 | 3500 |

Hejaz revisions. Note that SG do not distinguish the colour beneath the gold on L61 and L61a; SG 62 covers both

- 15 While we are on the subject of catalogues, I have heard that the next edition of Stanley Gibbons Part 19 that was expected to be published in December 2004, has been put on hold. Offers have been made to SG to assist with the Saudi section, but as yet have not been taken up. I fear that the same errors and omissions will appear in the 6th edition. I hope I am proved wrong.
- 16 Rudy Thoden, in his article 'The Hijaz Railway and its Stamps' (RN50.7-23), refers to overprinted French fiscal stamps. Several are illustrated in his article and also in his 'Catalogue of the Fiscal Stamps of Saudi Arabia 1916 - 2001'. One of those mentioned on page APX38 of his catalogue, the issue for Alexandretta, appeared on eBay in October and is illustrated below. The full overprint is S.A.A./HEDJAZ/P.S./3; the abbreviation S.A.A. means Sanjak Autonom Alexandrette.



- 17 An article by K. H. Jung in RN33.16-18 describes the plating of the 3 guerche air mail stamp of 1949 (Scott C2, SG 358). Significantly, he states: **'Every single 3 guerche stamp, without exception, of the 130 examples that were examined fitted in with one of the 25 positions'**. This implies that there was only one plate. I have evidence to suggest that more than one plate was used, but currently I don't have the material to produce a full article.

My suspicions were first aroused when I tried to plate an imperf marginal block of 4, probably a proof; items similar to mine are describes as proofs in auction catalogues. Using the technique of producing a transparent image of my block and superimposing it on a full sheet of the type described in Jung's article, even allowing for the possibility of paper shrinkage, I could not find a matching position. The block and the overlay of the best fit of the top two rows of the block on a sheet are shown below. My copy of RN33 page 18, where Jung illustrates a complete sheet, is very poor, being a 'copy of a copy', so a full sheet of the 3 guerche value is shown on the next page.



Proof block



Overlay of top row of block on part of sheet

There are two points that stand out. Firstly, on the proofs the marginal rule is thinner and positioned further away from the stamp, and secondly, the stamp in column 2 of the proof block is horizontal whereas that on the full sheet shows the stamp tilting up at the right. This phenomenon was observed by Jung.





صلى الله عليه وسلم



One further fact can help. It would appear that the values, both western and Arabic, were inserted individually into each stamp position and thus the positions of these numbers can also help identify the existence of multiple plates. The Arabic number in the top right stamp (column 2) of the proof block is distinctive. The downward stroke of the number is just about vertical; in most positions it slopes, and the number is positioned close to the left of the circle. This number and the equivalent numbers from column 2 of the full sheet shown on the previous page are shown below.



**Proof from column 2,
row unknown**



Row 1

Row 2

Row 3

Row 4

Row 5

It can be seen from the above that column 2 from the proof sheet is different to the same column of every row on the full sheet illustrated, so at least 2 plates must have existed or, if there was only one plate, it underwent major rework.

So far, all of my references to this 'new' sheet have been in relation to proofs. Below I illustrate an vertical pair, imperf between (Mayo A849Cv), that matches exactly the stamps on column 1 of my proof block.



These stamps are cancelled with a MECQUE registered postmark dated 21 January 1955.

Further work remains to be done on this series and it would be useful to list the earliest and latest dates for these plates. For this to be done properly we need a full sheet of the 'proof' or early variety; has anyone got one? Failing this, it will only be possible to record the earliest and latest dates for copies that are properly plated against the sheet of the type illustrated by Jung and on the previous page. I assume this to be a plate that was produced later in the life of this series; mid-50s perhaps?

Any help would be most welcome.



- 18 Covers addressed to the 'Colonial Photo-Stores' in Alexandria and their philatelic usefulness is well known and an example was shown in RN57.15. A similar cover came my way recently addressed to the Belgian Photo Stores in Cairo; I have not seen these before. I thought that the Belgian part of it could possibly be a link to Albert Eid, but the address is different. Has anyone any information on the scarcity of these covers?



- 19 The set of surcharges on the Makkah Arms stamps with the second Nejd handstamp is a lot more complex than the simple Scott listing (46 - 48) and even the Stanley Gibbons list (239 - 243) does not distinguish between the different types of overprint for each value.

In RN19.4 item 15, it was stated that several fonts were used for these surcharges. This may be because the stamps were overprinted by a local printer who produced the plates from composed type and once the sheets had been surcharged, dismantled the plate. Subsequent orders would therefore require new plates to be made giving rise to the possibility of using different type. If this is the case, it must be very difficult, perhaps impossible to tell what is a forgery; can we be sure that complete sheets remain for every printing?

One stamp that came into my possession recently was the variety 'WAHID' and 'QIRSH' transposed on the ½ qirsh with blue handstamp (SG 239e). This stamp had the surcharge in blue and is probably a candidate for the 'forgery' box, but who can tell?



RN

Triangular Bogus Issue

By: Martin Lovegrove

Occasionally, sets of five triangular stamps 'from Saudi Arabia' are offered for sale; these stamps are bogus, but little about them is known. Over the past couple of years I have been able to obtain snippets of information about this issue and there is now enough to provide an article. I would be grateful for any further information you may have.



The set of five stamps

Perhaps the best way to introduce these stamps is to quote part of the reply given by Willie King in response to a question posed in a reader's letter in the June 2001 issue of Stamp Magazine:

The green triangular stamp is one of a set of 5 brightly coloured bogus stamps which were reputedly produced as "An Issue from Arabia" as a souvenir at a stamp event in Poland. The Arabic is unreadable and does not help. Date is unknown but 1920's is likely. The five values are listed in The Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries. The 'values' are

- 1 Green*
- 2 Orange*
- 5 Violet*
- 50 Blue*
- 75 Red.*

They exist imperf, perforated 11½, mint or with an equally unreadable Arabic cancel as shown in the set below. Sets of 5 have changed hands at Arabian Philatelic Association auctions at about £10-15.



These stamps are illustrated on page 15 of Max Mayo's book, but with little information.

In the April 1923 edition of Stanley Gibbons Monthly Circular there appeared an article issuing a warning about 'Bogus Issues from Italy'. The article briefly mentioned or described bogus issues from Azerbaijan, South Russia, and Odessa, all appearing with similar paper, perforation and gumming. These bogus issues were, apparently, being offered from Italian sources.

In the July 1923 issue of the Circular, there appeared the following item:



The 'unreadable' Arabic cancel - 19 V 1922

Hejaz. Mr John N. Luff has come independently to the same conclusion as ourselves regarding the existence of a bogus stamp factory in Italy, and a recent number of Scott's Monthly Journal illustrates what is believed to be another of its products – a set of triangular stamps purporting to come from the Hejaz. Paper, gum etc., are all reminiscent of the earlier products of this rubbish-plant and, while none seem to have been offered in England, readers will be well advised to be on their guard.

While not providing conclusive proof of origin, it does give some idea of when these stamps were produced. Although the postmark, which appears to be the same on all stamps, shows 19 V 1922, it cannot be relied on for dating purposes. The cancellations have been seen in both black and violet.

Close examination of 'used' blocks of these stamps, they had full gum, revealed that they were printed by lithography. The number of stamps printed on a sheet could not be determined despite an attempt to match the hand-cut edges on several blocks. However, there are several flaws on the stamps, different for each value, and these are replicated on adjacent pairs, both vertically and horizontally. In this case, the definition of horizontal and vertical was arbitrarily based on the stamp hypotenuse running from top left to bottom right of the pair; with this arrangement of triangular stamps it may never be possible to determine the sheet alignment. The plate was thus built by transferring multiple copies of a two-stamp image. Whether a single row was built and that row transferred multiple times could not be determined from the few samples inspected.



Flaws are repeated on each pair of stamps

(Details on next page)





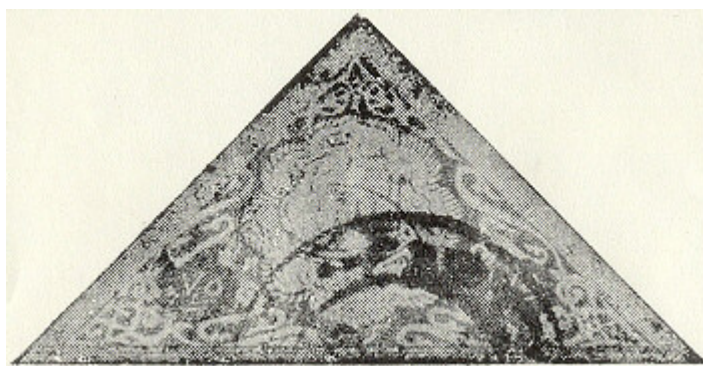
Details of flaws shown on previous page

An interesting item appeared on eBay in March 2004. It was a half-tone printing block of a used copy of the 75 red stamp, and would have been produced for a journal or book.



Half-tone printing block

Success! A print from the block.



Although the block was worn and possibly suffering from the effects of the acid remaining after the etching process, it was possible to obtain a print (reproduced above).

My thanks go to Bob Bradford for providing the block and to Desmond Field and the staff at the Jarrold Printing Museum in Norwich who kindly did what was necessary to produce the print.

Finally, a word about the scarcity. These stamps do not come onto the market very often, so I would rate them as scarce. Imperf used appear to be the most common, followed by imperf mint, with perforated mint appearing to be quite rare. I have not seen perforated used at all.

Harmers' Sale 4729

By: Martin Lovegrove

Harmers' sale 4279 was held on Wednesday, 7th July 2004 in their offices in Chiswick, London. There were two lots listed under Saudi Arabia, one described as part of a 'hoard' and the other as a selection on stock pages. Only the former contained items of interest. The lot comprised singles, multiples and hundreds of sheets of the issues from 1916 to 1924. The condition of the stamps reflected their storage in adverse conditions, most were extremely brittle, but I was able to inspect them, although somewhat in haste, and also obtained a few scans. This brief article is not meant to be a review of the lot, but more an opportunity to show some items that have not been illustrated in previous editions.

I have chosen 3 items to show you:



The top stamp of this pair of unframed Hashemite overprints in gold shows the variety 'date missing at right'. (position 41).

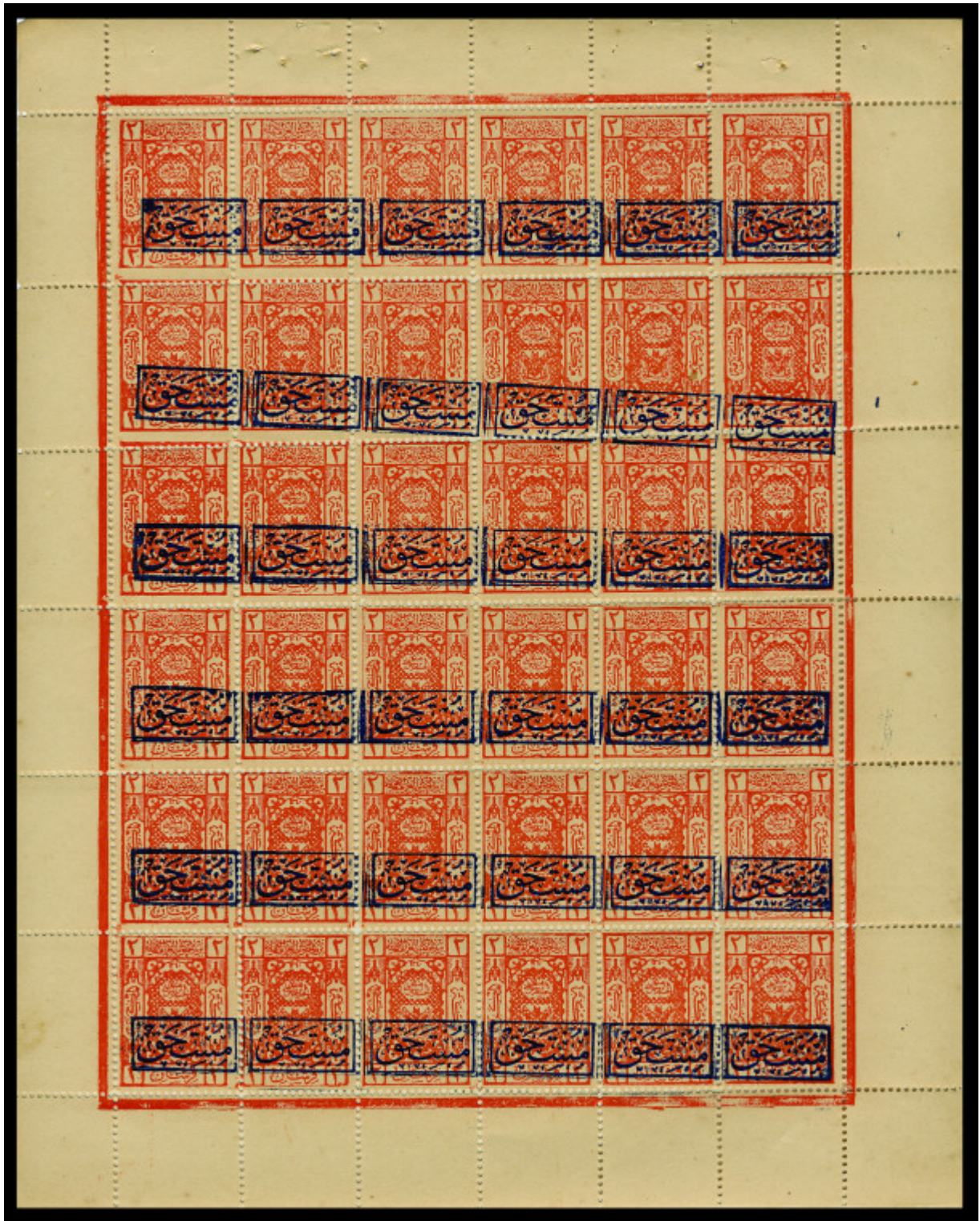
The condition of the left margin was typical of the brittle condition of most of the stamps in this lot.

Below is a pair of Caliphate overprints from a part-sheet of 24, many incomplete, showing the narrow spacing of the words in the top line. In the article by Fred Benedict in RN 30, this setting is described as plate C. The corner stamp below shows the inverted 1 in the year, a variety also shown in this position in the normal plate A. I suspect that plate A was produced from plate A just by altering the spacing in the top line of the overprint.

Fred also mentioned the missing "F" in "Khalafa" in positions 8 and 33 of plate A. The portion of the sheet in this auction also showed this variety in positions 22, 33, 34 and 35, so it looks as though the plate underwent a bit of tidying up in the transition from one state to another.

On the next page is a full sheet of the large Mustahiq overprint showing row 2 slanting down to the right and giving 3 positions with what could be called a double overprint.





Row 2 slanting - Setting 'D'

Printing Plates of the Makkah Arms

By: Martin Lovegrove

Summary of Study

In Random Notes #61 Part 1 (Overview of Study) and Part 2 (Printing Plates of the 1/8 Qirsh) were published. Part 2 went through the somewhat laborious steps to show that, for this value, the printing plate comprised two 18-cliche stereotypes that had enough in common to prove that they had been produced from a common master, but that there were sufficient differences to show that they were two distinct parts of the plate.

I have repeated this process for the other values but do not intend the full reports here; it would make somewhat monotonous reading. Instead, I will describe the interesting facts discovered for each value and, where possible, illustrate them.

1/8 Qirsh

The plate comprises two 18-cliche stereotypes produced from a common master.

Two cliches, positions 13 and 19 were replaced during the life of the plate.

Repairs were made to the plate causing the relative positions of the two stereotypes to change.

1/4 Qirsh

The plate comprises two 18-cliche stereotypes produced from a common master but fixed inverted in relation to each other causing rows 3 and 4 of the plate to provide six vertical tete-beche pairs.

Position 13 developed a crack; the early state is, as far as I am aware, only seen with Transjordan overprints.

Repairs were made to the plate causing the relative positions of the two stereotypes to change. The Transjordan stamps were pre-repair and the Hejaz ones post-repair.

1/2 Qirsh

The plate comprises one 36-cliche stereotype. Any repairs that were performed were minor and did not affect the relative positions of the individual stamps.

1 Qirsh

The plate comprises one 24-cliche stereotype and one of twelve cliches, the latter showing much in common with rows 3 and 4 of the larger stereo.

This plate received a considerable amount of damage and during the Nejdi period, positions 28, 29 and 30 were removed.

1½ Qirsh

The plate comprises one 36-cliche stereotype. Any repairs that were performed were minor and did not affect the relative positions of the individual stamps.

2 Qirsh

The plate comprises two 18-cliche stereotypes produced from a common master.

Repairs were made to the plate causing the relative positions of the two stereotypes to change.



3 Qirsh

The plate comprises two 18-cliche stereotypes produced from a common master.

I have noticed some slight differences in the relative positions of the two stereos; this may have been caused by repairs, but paper shrinkage is another possibility.

5 Qirsh

The plate comprises two 18-cliche stereotypes produced from a common master.

I have yet to detect any repairs resulting in relative movement of the two stereos.

10 Qirsh

This, being a bi-coloured stamp, required two plates, one for the centre and one for the frame. Each of these plates comprised a single 18-cliche stereotype, and the issued sheet of 36 stamps comprising two separate panes of 18 stamps was printed in four operations: Frame positions 1 - 18, frame positions 19 - 36, centre positions 1 - 18 and centre positions 19 - 36. The exact order of printing is not known and may have varied.

Notes and Illustrations

Where a plate has been constructed from more than one stereo, damage to the stamp framelines is usually seen along the join. This damage is usually not constant and is therefore not entirely reliable for plating purposes.



Different states of damage to stamp framelines between rows 3 and 4



Perhaps the ultimate damage along the join line is displayed by the 1 qirsh value where 3 cliches were removed. Note also the damage to the lower frame line in position 36.



Finally, some speculation as to why it would appear that the plates for the ½ and 1½ qirsh values appear to have been constructed from a single 36-cliche stereo. I believe that these values were the first to be produced and that either more care was taken or expert help was at hand. Perhaps the next value to be produced was the 1 qirsh and an attempt was made to make a full-size stereo but it failed and only 4 rows were usable. Another cast was made and the remaining rows were produced from that. It was then decided to produce more manageable 18-cliches for the remaining values. Pure speculation, but has anyone got any better ideas?

Many of the marginal stamps of this series and the plate marginal rules received damage, and the study of these may produce another article at some time.