



الجمعية الدولية للطابع البريدية العربية  
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International  
Random Notes



JUNE 2005

NUMBER 67

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There is more to this one than meets the eye  
See [page 27](#)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 (2005) and Stanley Gibbons (1996) catalog numbers are used with the kind permission of the copyright owners.

Several organizations and individuals have granted permission for their work to be reproduced in this journal; our thanks go to them and their details are given on the final page of this edition.

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'udiyyah 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 #67

### *Assembled by the Editor*

I am delighted that in this edition we have an article that is well researched and is possibly as complete as it can be considering the amount of information available. I am referring to Willie King's work on the unframed Hashemite overprint in gold on the 1 para stamp. This is in complete contrast to most of my articles that are mainly attempts at recording snippets of information.

My article on the 3½ qirsh Tughra on cover is such an example, but it does highlight a problem. To add philatelic value to the article I needed the postage rates in force at the time, but none were available in past issues. In RN 45 page 3, Rudy Thoden requested such information as he was preparing an article. I assume that he could not get all that he required, for the article was never published, and as a result we do not have what he was able to obtain. If only he had published an interim article! I assume that the documents he had have now been lost to us for good – unless a member managed to obtain them from his estate.

One unpublished article written by Rudy that has survived was a preliminary study of the one qirsh surcharge on the framed Hashemite overprint (Scott L31, SG 38); it is dated 21 February 1978. Much more material has come to light since then; perhaps someone would be willing to submit recent findings. I have re-typed what I can and added some scans; the article starts on page 17.

I therefore make a plea: Do not wait until your project is complete; as soon as you have something suitable for publishing, let me have it, you can always submit the final article at a later date.

At the end of this issue, I have introduced a page containing names, e-mail addresses, websites etc of people and organizations that have assisted me in some way or another. I provide this list as a 'thank you' to them and for you to make use of the information in any way you wish; I do not guarantee their services but I have had no problems.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Mohamed Nagim from Riyadh for his unending help in providing translations and spotting things I had missed.

Now for the notes.

- 1 I have seen some references to there being only two known examples of SG O520a, Scott O39A. I have somehow collected three images, shown below, the one on the right was lot 1442 in the Filatco auction earlier this year and realized \$2800. I have a note that the centre one is watermark sideways left (as seen from the front); does this apply to them all?



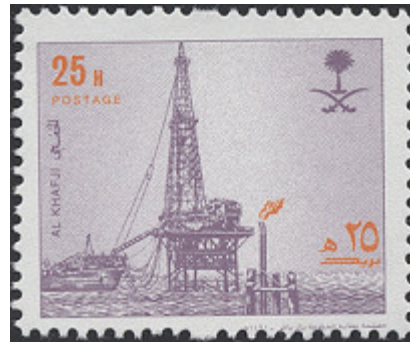
- 2 My thanks go to Richard Barnes for writing to me with a query about a 25h small Al Kafji stamp he had, similar to Scott 889 and SG 1310, but with differences. It shows the crossed swords and palm tree emblem in the upper right corner instead of the Arabic text and KSA. He wondered if he had missed something as he could not locate it in the catalogue.

My answer turned out to be a sort of 'yes and no' reply. It is in Scott as 889a, but was incorrectly described in the 2003 and 2004 editions as having a face value of 65h; this has been corrected in the 2005 edition. What Scott had not recorded is that the design had been redrawn for this issue. Not only had the new emblem appeared, but the font for the value had been changed, the flame made smaller, the 'AL KHAFJI' text at the left repositioned, and many more minor changes made.

This new issue, with two different perforations, was described on page 33 of Random Notes #59, but even there the design changes were not mentioned.



Original small Al Khafji



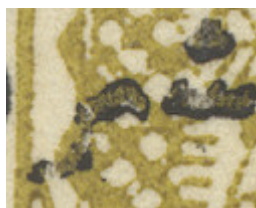
Redrawn

Incidentally, the imprint under each redrawn stamp is for 1421. In view of the changes made to the design, I believe that it should be listed separately and not as an 'a' number; it will be interesting to see what Stanley Gibbons do with this stamp in their new Part 19 catalogue.

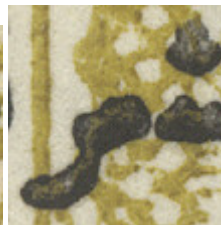
- 3 There are a couple of Transjordan items worth mentioning. The first is a copy of SG 133 (Scott 120) with an inverted 'r' in the top line, stamp position 26. This is one variety not mentioned by Abed Habib Najjar in his book 'The Stamps of Jordan 1920 - 1965'. The second item is a variety of SG D114; the 'mustahiq' overprint is double, both inverted. As with the first item, this is not mentioned by Najjar, neither is it listed by Gibbons.



Inverted 'r' top line



Inverted 'r'



Upright 'r'



'Mustahiq' double, both inverted



- 4 Fee Paid markings have appeared in this journal many times, either as full articles or as notes. The last article on this subject appeared in RN41; perhaps someone could do a formal update on this subject, but in the meantime here are some items not previously illustrated or recorded.

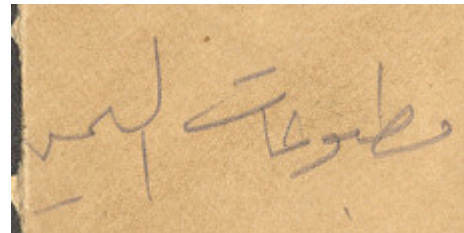
In RN44 on page 6, Tarik Alireza reported a Mecque item of which he had examples dating October and December 1937. The Arabic was blurred, but it was thought to be the usual 'khalis al-ujra'. I have an example of this on a rather distressed Hajj Magazine wrapper, addressed to Cairo, with a type S60 postmark dated 18 May 1958, extending the use from 1937 by a significant amount. That date equates to 28-10-1377 although the postmark shows 29-10-1377. The fee paid mark is clear and confirms 'khalis al-ujra'.



Hajj Magazine wrapper

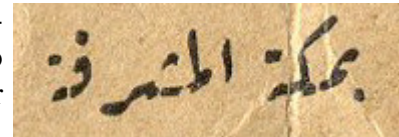


'khalis al-ujra'



'matboaat Alyemen'

Two things that Dr. Mohamed Nagim noticed on this wrapper: (a) the manuscript 'matboaat Alyemen'; he suggests that the magazine was printed in Yemen then sent to Egypt through Jeddah and (b) Makka Almusharafa under the title instead of the more usual Makka Al-mukarama. Is there any significance? The meaning, Mohamed tells me, is similar.



Makka Almusharafa

- 5 An article on fee paid markings by Rudy Thoden appeared in RN39. On page 15 type MK-8 was illustrated with a monolingual Makkah cancel, type HA50. He stated that it also exists with a MECQUE 6 cancel (type X20 I assume). This is illustrated below alongside an example with a type XR20 cancel.



Fee Paid with X20 cancel



Fee Paid with XR20 cancel



- 6 Below, is an Official Stampless PP (Postage Paid) cover from the Ministry of Communications in Medina to the Chief of the Postal Services in Cairo, and has a Medina 'khalis al-ujra' mark. A Medina postmark on the back gives the date of posting as 15 September 1974.



I have a cover from the Ministry of Planning in Riyadh that has a 'khalis al-ujra' mark in violet, but both that and the postmark are indistinct and make it unsuitable for reproducing here. There is not enough clear information on the postmark to be able to give an indication of when it was posted.

RN References to Fee Paid marks: RN4.4-5; RN24.1,4; RN27.23; RN31.8-11; RN33.9; RN39.11-18; RN40.6; RN41.5-14; RN42.3; RN46.13; RN53.8; RN56.3,6; RN58.4



- 7 In RN35 on page 22, a cover bearing a USA Special Delivery stamp was shown. Rudy had at that time seen 5 such covers and suspected it was an attempt to speed delivery. The cover above is similar, but this time a Canadian Special Delivery stamp was used. This cover, from November 1945, has Dhahran 61 cancels similar to that on the 1950 cover shown on page 23 of RN35.



- 8 Dick Tjaden was kind enough to send me a scan of a cover he won on eBay. It is for the large charity tax stamp used on the first day of issue - 13 October 1936. A bargain at the price he paid!



- 9 My eBay item this time is a little more modest. In his Fiscal Stamp Catalogue, Rudy Thoden listed the 1969 - 85 passport and visa stamps as having a single perforation 13.75 x 14. My new addition caught my eye because it had a wide perforation tooth at top; all of the others I have in this series are similar to the DGA Faisal watermarked postage stamps. On measuring the perforations it was clear that the gauge was different 13.6 x 13.8 whereas the usual perf is 13.6 x 14.1, all measurements are approximate because of variations in perforation gauges. Placing the stamps next to one another clearly shows the difference. Do other values have this wide tooth perforation? Both stamps below are on the luminescent paper with watermark 2. When compared to a DGA wide tooth stamp, the perforations match exactly; I believe that the same perforating comb was used. More investigation is required.



Wide tooth at top  
Perf 13.6 x 13.8

Wide tooth at top  
Perf 13.6 x 13.8

Normal perforation  
Perf 13.6 x 14.1

(Notes continued on [page 16](#))



# The Provisional Unframed Overprint

*By W. A. King FRPSL*

with very generous assistance from Ghassan Riachi,  
and also Fred Benedict and Martin Lovegrove

**Background** : John Wilson first reported, in 1982, the existence of an unusual format for the unframed overprint in his book 'The Hejaz - A History in Stamps'. Only a few examples had been seen and presumably only on the 1 para value. However sufficient examples had been seen to postulate that the setting was an earlier format.

In 1997 I was fortunate enough to see a marginal block of one para with the gold overprints. This block did not plate to the standard format although accompanying gold overprints on other values plated perfectly. These items proved to be part of the Al-Mojaddedi collection and the first part of this large holding was sold as a single lot by auction in 2000 by Harmers to Nutmeg Auctions. Nutmeg then broke up that very substantial holding and began selling in smaller lots from their auction sale number 33 in April 2001 onwards including the 'unframed gold' overprints.

**Unframed in Gold on 2pi re-construction** : From these sales and my original photographs I was able to partially re-construct 'the' sheet of gold overprints on the 2pi value and report this in RN 62. The important point being that every example seen sourced from a single sheet from which I concluded the 'gold' overprints were probably proofs – which was in agreement with the fact that Mohammed Al-Mojaddedi had received stamps from the Jeddah PO as reparations – see RN58p26.

Whilst the other known gold overprint values were all from the standard production plate the one para value were not and, because of the difficult colour combination could not be plated from catalogue photographs. I discussed the problem of the one para during a telephone call with Ghassan Riachi and said I needed help with high quality scans of any one para unframed golds in his collection. Ghassan said he could do better than scans and sent his entire collection of one para. Ghassan, aware of the significance of the one para value, had gradually and quietly assembling a major group of these rarities. So much to my pleasure 21 examples in a block, pairs and singles arrived in Scotland and form the core of this study.

**Plating the one para.** : For the record I will record the procedure of examination. Firstly high quality scans (1016dpi) were taken of all examples and enlarged prints made.

**Warin Varieties** : Initially examining for Daisy Warin's listed varieties on the one para I could not find a single example! I have always found the Warin varieties scarcer than I would expect but to find none at all on the so many examples was unexpected. On completion of the task it can now be confirmed Warin varieties do not exist on all one para sheets.

**Matching the Multiples** : After trimming the prints and sitting at a table trying to match the blocks and the pairs was promising but apart from verifying there were no duplicates the puzzle was not resolved. However I adapted Martin's computerized overlay procedure and used it for 'matching' the roulettes. Fortunately the gold overprint also crosses over between many stamps so that two points of reference were often possible.

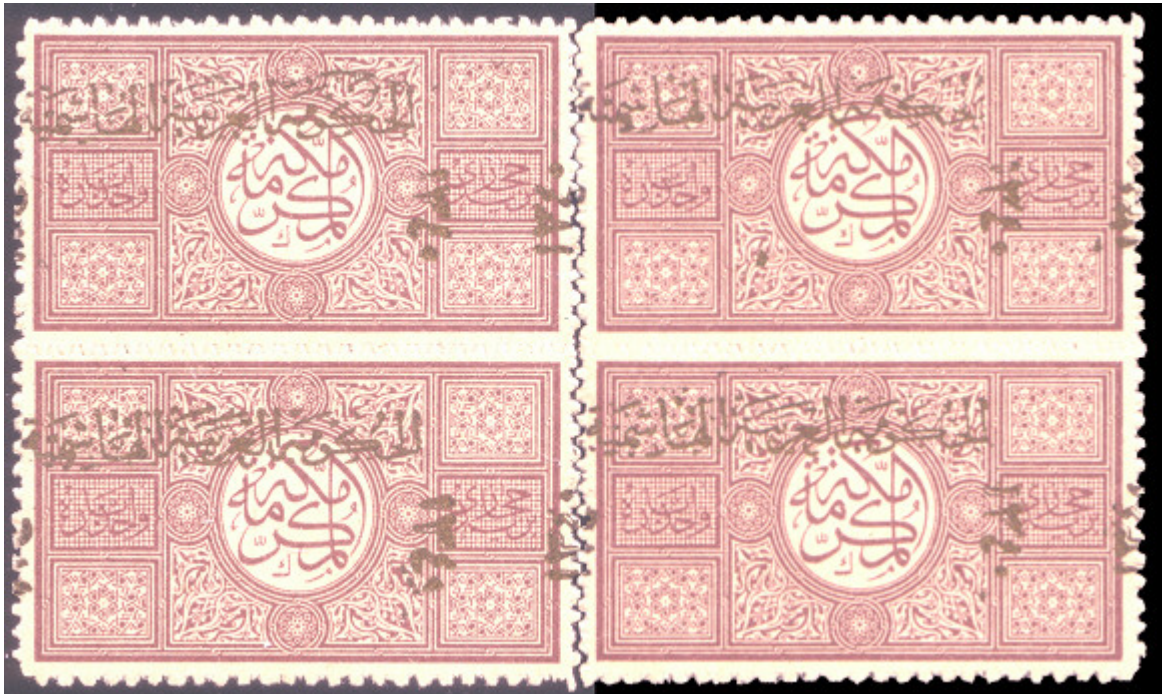




## Procedure for Deriving the Provisional Plate



- 1 Take **high definition scan** of 1 para overprinted in gold as at left.
- 2 **Rotate** scan until **exactly horizontal** – very important or roulettes will not line up.
- 3 **Adjust brightness and contrast** and brightness to highlight the overprint. The originals are very dark and a substantial improvement in clarity is possible by this procedure. The result is artificial but you can maybe appreciate the benefits as shown here.
- 4 Where necessary **adjust size and repeat** for all examples. Note it is necessary to adjust size where source is photographs rather than scans on my specific scanner.



- 5 **Match 'virtual' images on the screen** by moving images relative to each other. This is a painstaking process until a 'match' is found – as above – then one wonders why it was not obvious before! Note these stamps are far too fragile to attempt this physically.



- 6 **Rebuilding the Sheet :** Another long process – very few examples have marginal paper allowing the edge column to be determined. However as the larger ‘blocks’ of the jigsaw puzzle were re-assembled the overall overprint ‘pattern’ was established so that columns could be assigned and, with larger blocks, there were fewer spaces they could fit into a 5 across by 10 down sheet format. Ghassan Riachi’s block of 4 and 3 pairs formed the basis of one major block of 10 and then two singles fitted on either side and finally one damaged single and Martin Lovegrove’s single connected down to another horizontal block of 6 again from Ghassan’s collection. The bottom half of the sheet is extremely fragile and most stamps have parted company from their neighbour. The key was a block of four shown in a Nutmeg catalogue as lot 4892. Ghassan had obtained only the left vertical pair but from catalogue pictures of the block this linked to Ghassan’s right marginal pair. Matching roulettes then showed that this right margin pair linked to the severed block of 4, which I photographed in 1997.
- 7 **Column Characteristics :** On the gold overprinted 1 para stamps the overall overprint format is tilted slightly counter clockwise by 1 degree. However the real problem was that the width of the overprint plate was 2% too wide for the 7.5” (190mm) width of the 5 stamps ie by just 0.15” (3.5mm). Also about half of that extra width occurs as the space between columns 3 and 4 (from the left). Therefore while column 5 cliché was just within the stamp the extra width meant that in column 1 the left year was printed on the marginal paper.
- Columns 1 and 2 :** Overprint offset approximately 5mm to left. Stamps show left year of the overprint off the stamp and the left year of the next position printed on the right of the stamp
- Column 3 :** Offset left about 4mm and the bottom of the left year starts on the left design edge of stamp edge and crosses over the roulettes. However due to larger space shows very little of column 4 cliché.
- Column 4 :** Overprint touches perforations at left but no intrusion of overprint from column 5 at right.
- Column 5 :** The overprint breaks the design at left but does not reach the roulettes.
- 8 **Construction of Overprint Plate :** Note that reference to the reconstructions will clarify the above observations – however the key finding is that the overprint plate was created **vertically** rather than horizontally.
- 9 **Plate Reconstruction :** The partial reconstructions of the sheet using available stamps are shown. Owners of unregistered gold unframed one para stamps ‘should’ be able to fit them into the missing spaces! But please send in a high quality scan or photograph in order that the records can be completed.
- 10 **One Para Printed in black only :** Fred Benedict kindly supplied the lower left corner plate block of the strange one para plate format mentioned by John Wilson. These were for 4 positions not available overprinted in gold. However as these did not duplicate any of the gold overprints it is assumed that these were also printed from the provisional setting.
- 11 **Plating the Stamps :** Most specialist collectors either have or have access to a master sheet of the ‘production’ unframed setting and have become familiar with the ‘tilted’ clichés. Each one para unframed gold cliché was now plated against the standard production setting and to date every one of the 33 clichés can be found in both settings and no duplication. Apparently the one para was used for ‘test’ printing and having been found unsatisfactory was totally disassembled into the component clichés and then reassembled into the ‘production’ setting.



## Provisional Plate Reconstructions

The plate reconstruction is shown in three separate parts.

Block 1 : Position 1-24 (marked in red).

Block 2 : Positions 33-50 (Green)

Block 3 : Positions 26-48 (Blue)

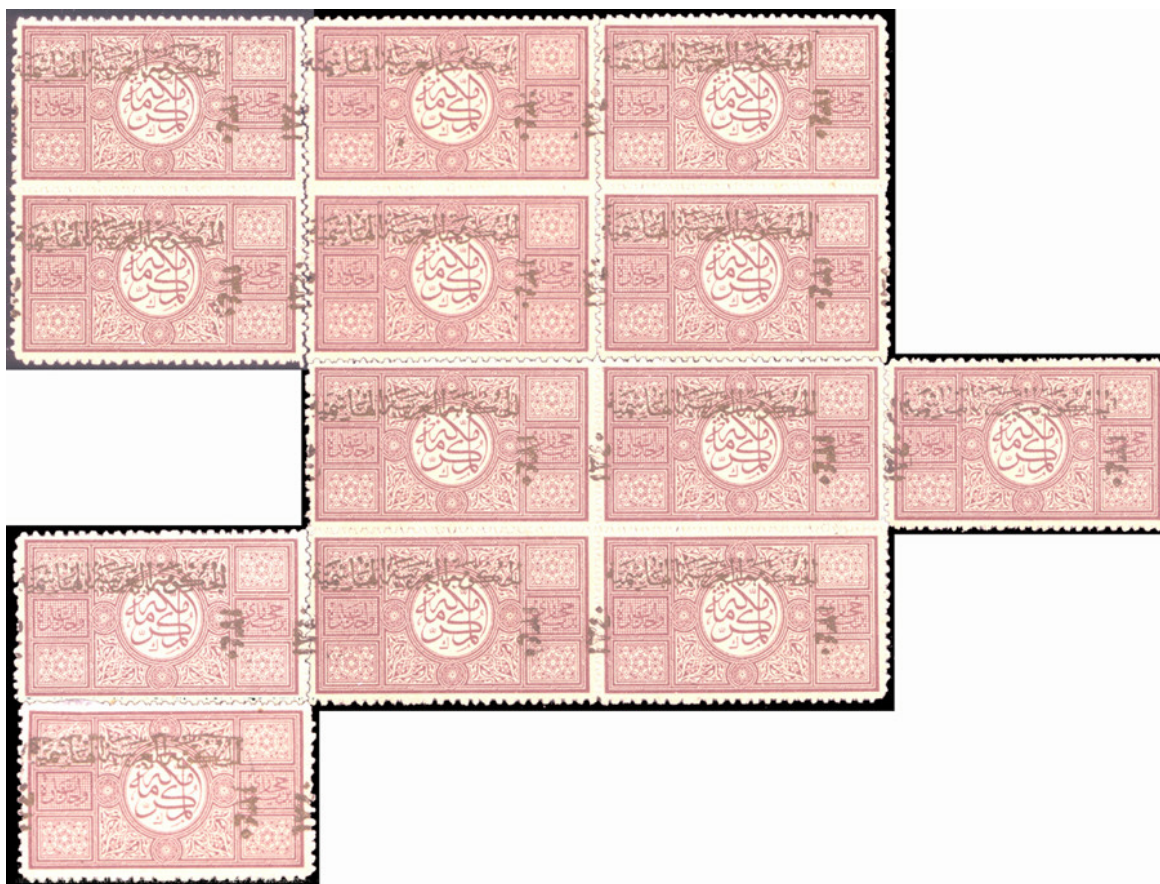
1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50

APAI registered Gold overprints are shown in yellow. We have black and white copy of positions 34, 39.

Block 41-47 is plate block of black one para overprints from provisional plate.

### Block 1 : Virtual One Para Sheet : Upper left part of sheet

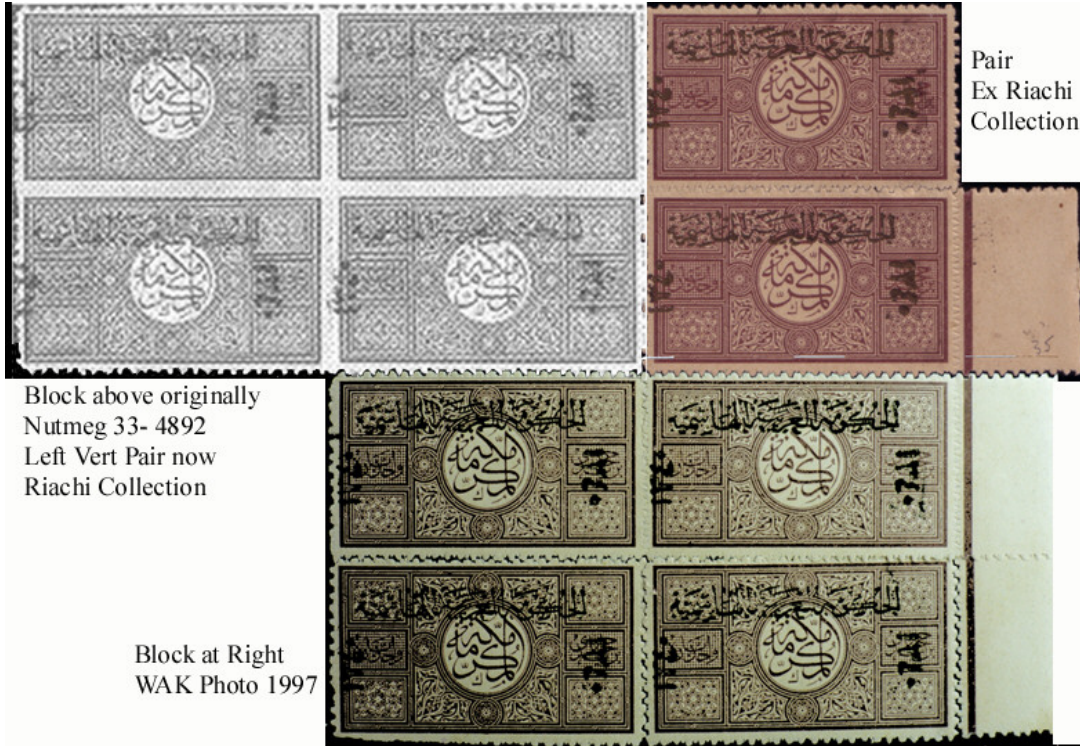
Below is the reconstructed upper left block of the gold unframed overprint on the one para stamps in their original positions. Please note that these scans are brightened and contrast increased to help show gold overprints in print. All of the stamps in this block are from the Ghassan Riachi collection including the only registered 'intact' block. The block begins with position 1 at upper left and ending with position 21 at bottom left and can be compared with the schematic drawing at the top of the page.



I am quite confident of the relative positions but additional copies would help in final confirmation plus enable completion of the table showing the movement of all the clichés from this provisional to the production format.



**Block 2 & 3: Virtual One Para Sheet : Bottom right part of sheet**



Block above originally  
Nutmeg 33- 4892  
Left Vert Pair now  
Riachi Collection

Block at Right  
WAK Photo 1997

**Block 3: Virtual One Para Sheet : Bottom left part of sheet**



Upper singles (26 & 28)  
Martin Lovegrove &  
Willie King. Stamps 31  
to 38 ex Ghassan Riachi

Note two stamps above  
are same as left pair in  
scan above.

Block at left ex Fred  
Benedict shows the LL  
corner block of the black  
unframed overprint from  
this setting.

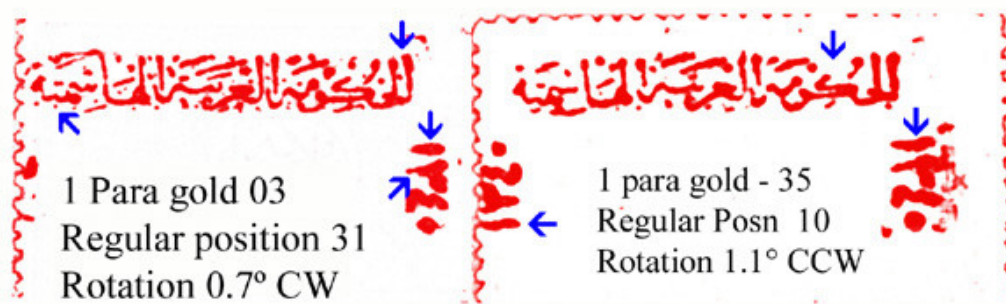
Note all stamps in bottom half of sheet are very fragile and few are actually joined.



## Comparing the positions in the Provisional and Production Plates

Since all previous notes and discussion on the unframed overprint are based on the production plate each overprint from the 'provisional overprint' was plated against the regular production plate.

**Procedure :** The gold overprints were abstracted from the scans and the colour changed to red and then overlaid electronically over the 'master' production plate format. This is a fairly straightforward procedure when comparing overprints from the normal production plate. However the gold overprints were often orientated differently and often had 'additional' marks. Although a number were flaws introduced during the abstraction process most were verified to be on the original stamp. The other concern was if the year slugs were transferred with the Arabic lettering. All of this meant that once the probable link had been determined the electronic gold overprint had to be rotated in order to precisely confirm that it was a precise match to the production master.



Above are shown two representative gold overprints, which were matched to production positions. All of the provisional gold\* overprints were matched to production positions but also the year slugs were identical and were tied at exactly the same distance from the Arabic.

\* However it is very interesting to report that the black provisional overprint position 41 became position 12 in the production overprint. In that case the right date did move relative to the Arabic script and, of course, that was one of the positions listed as having the right year actually missing.

**Conclusion :** The one eighth para value was the lowest value of the existing stamps. Therefore when the order came to overprint the stamps the lowest value stamps were used as trials for both printing and also for the overlay with gold. This was the first time postage stamps were overprinted in Hejaz and prints were not altogether satisfactory either in width or in individual quality. The printing plate was taken apart but the small units of the Arabic plus the two year slugs were retained intact and extraneous dots or marks, particularly lines near the Arabic were removed.

Each cliché was then rebuilt into a vertical 10 cliché vertical rod and finally clamped into the plate of 50 clichés for the production printing run. Many clichés were fixed in place at a slight angle and different to the original provisional setting. Also the press had considerable difficulties as the year slugs were not fixed tightly and began to fall out during printing and in several cases the clichés were removed and repaired and reset – occasionally in different positions; i.e. positions 16 and 26 were reversed.



## Production Plate Showing Availability of Provisional Plate Clichés

The sketch below will help collectors with examples of the unframed overprint on one para to determine the setting used. Where you have a non-marginal single it will be extremely difficult to verify whether the copy is from the provisional or production setting. However almost any multiple might very well indicate which plate was used by reference to the sketch below.

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

**Key :** White : Provisional Plate examples not available

Yellow : Provisional plate examples available as gold overprint.

Brown : Provisional plate example available in black.

Note each production plate position shows the position number and also from where that cliché came from on the 'provisional' plate

## Provisional Plate Showing the eventual position in the Production Plate

1>20 : Nil	2>34 : Nil	3>37 :0.7°cw	
6>20 : Nil	7>17 :0.4°cw	8>37:1.3°Ccw	
	12>35:1°cw	13>30:2°Ccw	14>24:1.4°Ccw
16>27:1°Ccw	17>46: Nil	18>44:2.1°CW	
21>1:1.7°Ccw			
26>26:2.5°Ccw		28>38: Nil	
31>28:3°Ccw	32>40:1.6°cw	33>23: Nil	35>10:1.1°Ccw
36>50: Nil	37>47:2°Ccw	38>15: 2°cw	40>8:1.5°Ccw
			44>14 2.2°cw
			45>21: Nil
			49>19:1.2°Ccw
			50>33:1.2°Ccw

The above schematic shows the gold overprints (yellow) available. It lists where they were transferred to in the production plate and how much they were 'rotated' when fixed in the production plate. Note cw for clockwise and Ccw is counter clockwise. Please remember the gold overprint had an overall skew of about 1 degree as may production plate examples so the information may be of limited use – however it is recorded in case it assists future research.

## Air Crash Cover - Its Last Airborne Moments

*By: Martin Lovegrove*

I had not seen any air crash covers with Saudi stamps before this one appeared in an auction in March 2005. The first question that sprang to mind was: *Was this a genuine crash?* There was some help on the cover in the form of a cachet reading *Damaged In A Crash Nov 29 DALLAS TE*. The year was not stated, but at least there was some information and in addition in the lower left corner was *Via TWA*. The internet seemed to be a good place to start but did not bear fruit until I omitted TWA from the search parameters; it was not long before the crash report was found - the date of the crash was 29 November 1949 at 05:49AM. Despite being non-philatelic in nature, I reproduce it here as important information about the history of the cover.



American Flight 157 from New York-LaGuardia to Washington, Dallas and Mexico City was carried out by DC-6 N90728, named "Flagship South Carolina". The flight to and departure from Washington were uneventful. At 02:54 a descent was started to 6,000 feet. When approaching Nashville the no. 1 engine had started backfiring at intervals of about 20 seconds. Various corrective measures, including the application of alcohol and carburetor heat, and the richening of fuel mixture, were applied but were not successful and the backfiring continued. The no. 1 engine was then feathered at a point about 25 miles southwest of Nashville at approximately 03:00. When 15 miles northeast of Dallas, at 05:36, the flight was given permission to enter the traffic pattern at Love Field, Dallas, with a right-hand turn and instructed to land on Runway 36. Weather was fine as the flight turned to final approach. The turn to final placed the aircraft to the left of the runway. Accordingly an "S" turn was made to correct the misalignment. During this "S" turn, the flight engineer noted that the fuel flow meter of no. 4 engine was reading zero and put the booster pump to it. Full throttle was then quickly applied to engines nos. 2, 3 and 4. The no. 4 engine came in with a surge of power (overspeeding), the left wing dropped and the aircraft started to turn to the left. He then retarded throttles nos. 3 and 4 in an attempt to raise the left wing with no. 2 engine. When the wing was partially up he opened throttles Nos. 3 and 4 and called for gear and flaps up. The first officer raised the gear but did not raise the flaps. He then observed that no. 4 tachometer



indicated only 1200 rpm, noted that the fuel pressure to that engine was zero, and immediately feathered no. 4 propeller. The flight engineer turned on the cross-feed fuel valves. The DC-6 was now flying in a generally northwest direction, across the airport on a heading about 40 degrees to the left of Runway 36, in a tail low attitude. The airspeed continued to fall, and the attitude became increasingly nose-high. A stall developed and the left wing struck the wall of hangar no. 7. At about the same time, the left stabilizer struck two crated aircraft engines that were standing in front of the hangar. The aircraft continued ahead swerving to its left. The no. 1 engine struck the ground and tore loose and the aircraft passed through telephone and power lines as it crossed Love Field Drive, bordering the airport. Just beyond Love Field Drive the aircraft struck the ground while approximately level laterally and nose-down about 23 degrees. This contact broke off the entire cockpit and no. 2 engine. The remaining portion of the aircraft slid with its right wing tip foremost until the fuselage struck the side of another building. This final impact partially tore off nos. 3 and 4 engines and the entire tail assembly. Unfortunately, of the 46 persons on board there were 28 fatalities.

As far as I can tell, only one other crash cover has been recorded in Random Notes. In RN20 on page 2 (page 4 in the bound edition) reference was made to a 1974 cover from Makkah involved in a crash at Nairobi. This would almost certainly refer to the crash of a Lufthansa Boeing 747-130 (D-ABYB) that crashed during takeoff with the loss of 59 lives; the destination was Johannesburg.

**RN**

Notes continued from [page 7](#):



10 I have found another multi-national franking to go with those illustrated in RN63.21 and RN66.5 and in item 7 of this issue. Like the first of those, there is a bit of a mystery about this one. The flight cachet gives the route as Dhahran-Cairo-Rome-Frankfurt-Dusseldorf-Hamburg and the date as August 3rd, 1960. The stamps are cancelled August 10th, 1960, so did it travel on a different flight, or was the original flight delayed by a week? The list of flights given in an article in RN54 by Ron Merritt does not list one terminating at Hamburg on either of these dates but does list several Lufthansa German destinations on August 3rd and one to Frankfurt on the 10th. Does anyone know the true story? The German stamp can be explained by this being a standard, possibly general purpose for use in Germany, pre-printed Lufthansa postcard. Incidentally, the aircraft used for the flight was a Lockheed L-1049 Super-G Constellation, one of the most graceful airliners ever built.

**RN**



# Preliminary Notes 1922 One Qirsh Surcharge

*By: R. J. Thoden*

Several plates were used to produce Scott #L31 (SG 38), the one qirsh surcharge on the one para stamp with “framed” overprint.

One type, called Plate I, has surcharges between 18.2 and 18.9 mm long, except six positions where abnormally wide or narrow spacing was used between certain characters:

Pos. 3	19.6 mm	Pos. 31	17.5 mm	Pos. 35	19.1 mm
Pos. 41	17.6 mm	Pos. 43	19.0 mm	Pos. 45	17.6 mm

Position 23 of this plate consists of the major error with the two Arabic words reversed, that is, “waahid qirsh” (fig 1) instead of “qirsh waahid” (fig 2).

On most, but not all, positions “raa” is separate from “qaf” (fig 3) and “daal” from “haa” (fig 4).

A second type, called Plate II, has surcharges between 19.1 and 19.8 mm long, except four positions:

Pos. 2	18.2 mm	Pos. 25	18.6 mm
Pos. 32	18.7 mm	Pos. 47	18.6 mm

Position 27 of this plate originally contained the major error “inverted qaf-raa” (fig 5). This was corrected by inserting these two characters properly (fig 6).

On most, but not all, positions “raa” and “qaf” are touching (fig 7), as are the “daal” and “haa” (fig 8).

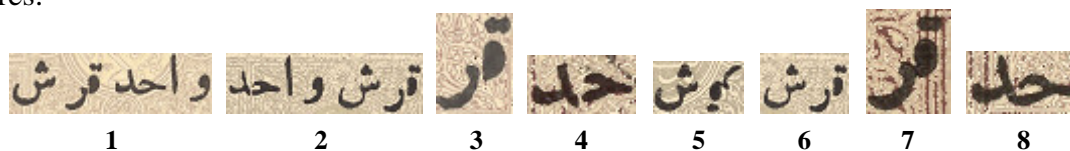
At least one other plate must exist because numerous stamps (on which the framed overprint has been plated) do not match either Plate I or Plate II one qirsh surcharge. It seems unlikely that these are forgeries. For example, a vertical pair, positions 27/32, has the following characteristics:

Pos. 27 Loop of shiyn partly filled in, long alif (3.9 mm)  
Surcharge length 19.0 mm.

Pos. 32 Alif 3.6 mm, surcharge length 18.5 mm.

Additional work is needed to: (a) further characterize the plates(s) from which stamps not matching Plates I and II were printed, and (b) determine whether Scott #L23 (SG 30) was printed from one or more of the plates used for #L31.

Figures:





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N-9-F

PLATE I





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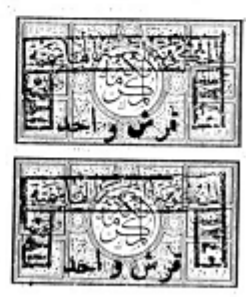
PLATE II (Pos. 27 CORRECTED)





PLATE II  
WITH POSITION 27  
ERROR

STAMPS NOT MATCHING  
EITHER PLATE I OR II  
(POS. 27/32).



١٩-٥

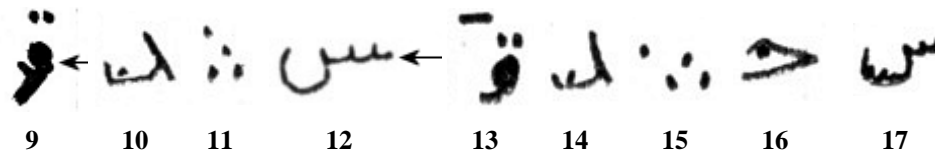


# One Qirsh Surcharge on One Para Stamp

## Plate I

Pos	Size	Position Characteristics
1	18.6	Heavy raa, break right side of qaf (fig 9)
2	18.4	Haa and daal touching
3	19.6	Wide space between shiyn and waw, haa/daal touching
4	18.6	Alif thicker at bottom than top
5	18.8	Broken shiyn, irregular raa, haa/daal touching
6	18.6	Broken waw, tiny dot in daal (fig 10)
7	18.5	Extra dot over dots in shiyn (fig 11)
8	18.4	Small dent in bottom of waw
9	18.5	0.5 mm space between haa/daal
10	18.8	Top of haa touches daal, extra hook on shiyn (fig 12)
11	18.4	Broken haa, broken top of raa, broken qaf/raa
12	18.2	Dash over qaf (fig 13)
13	18.3	Bottom of haa irregular
14	18.5	Closed haa, top of waw cut off at upper left
15	18.9	Tiny dot in daal (fig 14), slight curve right side of waw
16	18.7	Broken raa, dot left of dots in shiyn (fig 15)
17	18.2	Tiny indentation in top right of alif
18	18.2	Tiny bump top of waw
19	18.6	Heavy shiyn, haa/daal almost touching
20	18.7	Dot in haa (fig 16), haa/daal touching
21	18.6	
22	18.9	Irregular loop of shiyn (fig 17)

Figures:



Notes: Size:- Left side of “daal” to right side of “qaf”, dots ignored.  
Some dots mentioned, could be from framed overprint plate.

Sheet marking: T-19 N-9-F



Pos	Size	Position Characteristics
23	18.8	Wahid qirsh error, dot under daal
24	18.4	Dot left of alif (fig 18)
25	18.6	Projection in haa (fig 19)
26	18.8	Daal (fig 20), shiyn (fig 21)
27	18.7	Haa/daal almost touching, alif 3.2 mm
28	18.5	Haa/daal touching, break left side of alif, dot in shiyn (fig 22)
29	18.5	Dot in daal (fig 23), broken right side of haa
30	18.6	
31	17.5	Narrow space between shiyn/waw
32	18.4	Long alif (4.0 mm)
33	18.3	
34	18.5	
35	19.1	Dent in right side of waw, dots over qaf touch (fig 24)
36	18.4	Dot top right of alif (fig 25), break bottom left of alif
37	18.5	Projection in haa (fig 26), tail of waw irregular
38	18.7	
39	18.3	Dot under shiyn, dent in underside of raa
40	18.5	
41	17.6	Narrow space between shiyn/waw, haa (fig 27)
42	18.5	Haa (fig 28), thick tail of raa
43	19.0	Haa almost filled in
44	18.5	
45	17.6	Narrow space between shiyn/waw
46	18.5	Haa/daal touching
47	18.6	Large space between qaf and raa
48	18.3	Bottom of alif broken
49	18.9	Haa/daal touching
50	18.5	Haa/daal just touching, thickened raa (fig 29)

Figures:



18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

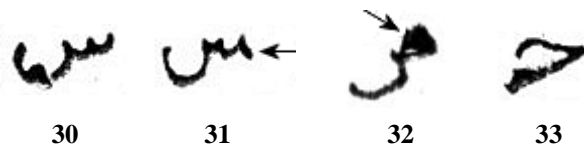


# One Qirsh Surcharge on One Para Stamp

## Plate II

Pos	Size	Position Characteristics
1	19.4	Heavy raa, break right side of qaf, broken haa
2	18.2	Narrow space between waw/shiyn
3	19.1	
4	19.2	Haa/daal touch at top
5	19.8	Slight turn to right - top of daal
6	19.2	Projection in shiyn (fig 30), haa almost closed
7	19.4	Broken haa, qaf/raa separated
8	19.2	Closed haa
9	19.8	Indentation right side of waw
10	19.7	Extra hook on shiyn (fig 31)
11	19.4	Haa/daal just separated
12	19.3	
13	19.4	
14	19.3	
15	19.2	(fig 32)
16	19.6	Indentation bottom of raa
17	19.3	
18	19.4	Rounded top of daal
19	19.6	Haa (fig 33)
20	19.2	
21	19.3	
22	19.7	Badly broken qaf/raa

Figures:



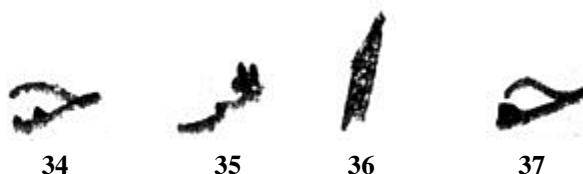
Notes: Size:- Left side of “daal” to right side of “qaf”, dots ignored.  
 “Haa”/”daal” normally touching, also “qaf”/”raa”  
 Position 27 exists with inverted “qaf”/”raa”

Sheet markings: G-20 N-9-G  
 Th-19 N-9-F



Pos	Size	Position Characteristics
23	19.2	
24	19.6	Qaf/raa just touching
25	19.4	Qaf/raa separated
26	18.6	Narrow spacing alif/waw, qaf/raa separated
27	*19.5	Qaf/raa originally inverted then corrected, haa almost filled
28	19.2	
29	19.7	Indent right side of waw
30	19.4	Haa closed, heavy bottom on waw
31	19.5	Haa (fig 34), qaf/raa just separated
32	18.7	Filled in haa, narrow spacing alif/waw, alif 3.7 mm
33	19.2	Right side of shiyn almost flat on top
34	19.4	
35	19.5	Dots over qaf touch (fig 35)
36	19.4	Top left of alif cut off sharply (fig 36)
37	19.4	Daal/haa just separated
38	19.4	Filled in haa
39	19.3	Filled in haa
40	19.8	
41	19.5	Indent right side of waw, also bottom left of alif
42	19.5	
43	19.4	
44	19.5	
45	19.4	Filled in haa
46	19.5	Haa (fig 37)
47	18.6	Narrow space shiyn/raa
48	19.3	Shiyn irregular loop
49	19.2	Heavy bottom on raa
50	19.8	Heavy bottom on raa, filled in haa

Figures:



\* Measurement for corrected overprint. Error is about 19.3 mm, alif 3.8 mm.



# The 3½ Qirsh Tughra Challenge

*By: Martin Lovegrove*

Some time ago Willie King asked me if I had any 3½ qirsh tughra stamps on cover; he thought they might be scarce. I had none, so the hunt was on. This article is a mainly pictorial record of the fruits of my search, but some interesting finds were made, as was the importance of having the postage rate tables for the period. Unfortunately I do not have the latter, so this article is also a plea for any information on postal rates and the use of charity tax stamps for the period covered here.

The covers I located spanned the period 1934 to 1938 which very nicely covers the first three charity tax stamps. The following information on these stamps was obtained from Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Part 19 (1996) and 'A Study of Saudi Arabia Stamps 1934 – 1964' by Tom Wood:

	Issued	Earliest cover
Fund for wounded in war with Yemen (Scott RA1, SG 328)	15 May 1934	15 May 1934
Medical Aid Society (large size, Scott RA2, SG 345)	13 October 1936	1936*
Medical Aid Society (small size, 3 palm trees, Scott RA3, SG 346)	March 1937	14 December 1937

\*As you may have read earlier in this issue, the large size Medical Aid stamp exists cancelled on the first day of issue.

**Cover 1.** Registered cover from Makkah to Belgium dated 20 November 1934 bearing two 3½ qirsh tughras.



This is the earliest of my covers covering the subject matter. I do not know the date that the 3½ qirsh tughra was issued, so whether this was an early use will have to remain unknown for the time being. For the first half of 1934 the 3½ qirsh Heir Apparent was available.



**Cover 2.** Cover from Medina to Bombay dated 25 October 1935 bearing no less than three 3½ qirsh tughras, but no charity tax stamp.



**Cover 3.** From Medina to Tunisia dated 7 December 1935.



Although posted over one month later than cover 2, this does bear a charity tax stamp. Should cover 2 have had one, or was their use optional?

**Cover 4.** From Makkah to Tunisia dated 27 February 1936.



Two 3½ qirsh tughras but no charity tax. This cover was posted during the Hajj, on 4-12-1354.

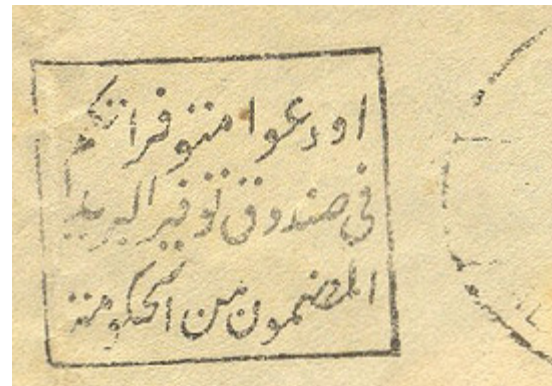


**Cover 5.** From Makkah to Czechoslovakia dated 6 October 1936.



Just two 3½ qirsh tughras on this one. No charity tax stamp but posted just one week before the introduction of the large medical aid stamp.

**Cover 6.** Illustrated and censored Hajj cover from Mina to Morocco dated 22 February 1937 bearing two 3½ qirsh tughras and a small size medical aid stamp.



Part of advertisement on Alexandria postmark

The Arabic date is important here. The postmark is for 11 Dhu al-Hijja 1355 (22 Feb 1937) and is one of the sought-after dates for postal items from Mina. A description of the Hajj, Mina and important dates can be found in Random Notes 36 on pages 5 - 10.

The Western date also has significance for the medical aid stamp: It precedes the date of issue (March 1937) stated in Gibbons!

As a bonus, on the reverse there is an incomplete Alexandria mark containing boxed advertisements. Only one of these boxes is readable and is shown above:

***Deposit your saved money in the post saving fund which is guaranteed by the government***



**Cover 7.** Registered from Makkah to USA dated 21 February 1939.



This is almost certainly a philatelic cover, but nevertheless has a certain amount of interest. There is but one 3½ qirsh tughra with several other values, two of which are the 3 qirsh. The colours are so similar as to be confusing. I suspect that the 3½ qirsh stamp had not been in regular use for a couple of years when this cover was created. The Western date equates to 1-1-1358, the first day of the new year, but the postmark displays 2-1-1358, so was almost certainly posted on the second day of the year. The reverse has the small charity tax stamp and a 1 qirsh postage due, which, according to Gibbons, was issued in 1939; is this a very early use of the stamp?

The task of finding these covers was enjoyable and has provided, as far as I can tell, the earliest recorded usage of the first small medical aid stamp, unless you know different.....

There are a few questions raised by this exercise:

- 1 Was the required use of Charity Tax stamps interrupted for part of the time between the Yemen war stamp and the large Medical Aid society?
- 2 What were the postal rates in use at the time? If someone has the appropriate information it would help determine the reason for the amount paid in postage.
- 3 When was the 3½ qirsh Tughra introduced?
- 4 Did the use of charity tax stamps become mandatory on the first day of issue of the large charity stamp?

I look forward to receiving your comments.

# The Saudi Arabian “Royal” Perforations of the 1960’s

By: *W. A. King FRPSL*

The title ‘Royal’ perforations is the slightly disapproving phrase applied by some philatelists to stamps which have been perforated obliquely. Stamp collecting has always been a perverse hobby where some collectors seek perfect centring, others insist on never hinged gum – which of course is never exhibited! Other collectors delight in faults and errors, which, in general, have attained higher value than the normal stamps – even perfectly centred and never hinged!

Missing or double rows of perforations or even badly misplaced printing adds a little spice to a collection. So when keen stamp collector King Farouk aspired to add something special to his collection then the printing press obliged and one or two sheets of many issues from the late 1930’s until 1950’s were obliquely perforated.

King Farouk was deposed in 1952 and his collection later sold at auction. Now, although not catalogued in Gibbons or Scotts, these ‘Royal’ perforations are nevertheless avidly collected and appear in many Egyptian collections.



**1962 6p Air : SG 484 Scott C16**

Printed by the Survey Department in Egypt. It is believed 200 exist from two sheets of 100 stamps. Both sheets have upright watermark and from comparison of the two plate blocks, both registered with the APAI, it appears that both sheets were probably perforated simultaneously. Both sheets are obliquely perforated at just over 7° from the vertical with the angle and perforations being identical. Therefore it is quite impossible to tell which stamps came from which sheet.

## Saudi Arabia 1961 20p Official 2<sup>nd</sup> Series

SG O455 Scott O13

Only just over 1° from the vertical this ‘royal’ perforation was printed by the Survey Department in Egypt – the home of the ‘Royal’ perforations. Apparently, it is just a single sheet of 100, so it appears very infrequently on the market.



A major consignment of 40 ‘stamps’ were sold at the 1997 APA sale from singles up to a block of 16. These stamps appear reasonably frequently at auction and prices at around £25 to £40 (\$50-75) per stamp, plus premiums for marginal examples!



## 1965 Opening of Arafat-Taif Highway SG 617-20 Scott 350-3

This set was printed by Dar Al Asfahani in Jeddah and although there are no oblique perforations all values show examples of remarkable vertical or horizontal perforation shifts which appear to merit the ‘royal’ accolade! Perhaps there were paper problems as the 4pi value at upper right also has paper folds. Although individual values appear occasionally, completing the ‘set’ is difficult. Numbers are not known but there would appear to be just one sheet of 50 of each ‘variety’ as any seen have had virtually identical perforation shifts to those shown in the scans below.

2p : 15mm Left  
 4p : 5mm Up  
 6p : 12mm Left, 5mm Down  
 8p : 13mm Left



## 1966 4p Telecom : SG 657, Scott 390

This true “Royal” perforation was printed by De La Rue in London and came in the form of sheet of 100 in two panes of 50 separated by a gutter. Also this was obliquely perforated at 7° from the vertical.

The upper left corner block of 16 and block of 16 as gutter pairs and a block of 4 were listed in Sotheby’s Uexkull sale in 1996. Note the APAI have never recorded gutter pairs in this issue although they do exist on the 1966 Arab Postal Union set SG636-9, Sc 369-72, also printed by De La Rue in London.

This variety appears infrequently at auction indicating that major blocks are tied up in large collections. It is clearly more difficult to acquire than the air mail stamp.



**Comment :** It appears rather unlikely that pure perforating ‘error’ was involved in these issues but it is rather astonishing that three different printers were involved. There are plentiful perforation errors both in the arms issues of Hejaz and in the Ka’aba and Al Khafji definitives, most of the latter particularly appear to be genuine and inadvertent shifts. However regardless of the provenance of these errors stamp collecting would undoubtedly be a duller hobby, if it not for these examples of human frailty! Anyway if you can add any to the list please let us see a scan.

Please have fun with your stamp collection.



## Acknowledgements and Contacts

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