



الجمعية الدولية للطوابع البريدية العربية

ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International

Random Notes



OCTOBER 2005

NUMBER 68

CONTENTS

The Arabian Philatelic Association International	2
Random Notes #68	3
The Singapore Collection : Saudi Arabia's Rarest Stamp - <i>W. A. King FRPSL</i>	10
Ali Abdou, Philby and Forgeries - <i>Martin Lovegrove</i>	14
Gibbons 2006 Catalogue : Saudi Arabia - <i>W. A. King FRPSL</i>	17
Aeronautical Misconceptions - <i>Martin Lovegrove</i>	20
Forgeries of the Hashemite Overprints Half Qirsh Surcharge - <i>Martin Lovegrove</i>	22
From the Auctions - <i>Martin Lovegrove</i>	26



An exciting discovery

See page 10

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 (2006) and Stanley Gibbons (2005) 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'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 #68

Assembled by the Editor

This issue was destined to be another 'short' one until Willie King sent me two articles. The one on the Singapore Collection shows that good material is out there just waiting to be discovered. In this case, one of the items uncovered was more than good, it is at the moment unique. Willie's other article reviews the attempt by Stanley Gibbons to produce a Part 19 Middle East catalogue in colour. Well, they did achieve that. The colour looks good, but just about everything else lacks a professional approach. The catalogue shows signs of being a rushed job, and the Saudi section is not the only one to receive criticism. I called in at 399 Strand during the Autumn Stampex days in London, and was told that several complaints had been received about this work. What is strange is that some of the illustrations of overprints have reverted to images last seen in SG catalogues 20 years ago and subsequently removed because they were forgeries!

One success we had with SG and modern stamps was the correction of the aircraft type depicted on the first DGA airmail stamps. The article appearing later in this issue highlighting errors in describing aircraft types on Saudi stamps was written earlier this year while I was listing other corrections required for the new catalogue. I have since noticed another error, but that will have to wait for later.

Now for the notes.

- 1 Every now and again, items appear in auctions that deserve a second look; they are not always what they seem. Such an item is shown below. Close inspection will show that the value tablets (in blue) are inverted, a normal copy is shown to the right of the subject item. This item appeared as lot 14606 in Nutmeg sale B25 held on 31 January 2005 and sold for \$46. A reference was made to this variety in RN 13.4. Has anyone any idea of the significance of the manuscript numbers?



Inverted value tablets



Normal value tablets

- 2 In RN65 page 21 there was an illustration of part of a sheet of the Makkah Arms 1 qirsh with missing cliches. I have only seen these in connection with the Nejd second provisional handstamp, and only in the slate-violet shade. Fred Benedict sent me an image of a complete sheet in a pale blue shade and without the handstamp. Despite this, both of us believe that this is from the Nejd period. The sheet is shown on [page 29](#).



- 3 In RN59.6 item 2, Willie King mentioned the book prepared by The Survey of Egypt describing the first issues of Hejaz stamps and in RN60.6 he provided an illustration of one of the pages. It was mentioned that 11 copies were not numbered and it was one of those that appeared on eBay last July. The lucky discovery of this book was described to me by the vendor:

I found this book in a large lot of Tibet and British India used abroad material I had purchased for cancels. As the cover of this book (front and back) are the same with no wording, I decided to scan the page with the stamps for the eBay photo.

What I believe happened with this book is it was just thrown in a box lot by the auction house. As I remember it was a mail auction lot from Downeast Stamps in Maine.

How many more items are there out there just waiting to be discovered?

- 4 I found this one at Autumn Stampex, London, in September. It is a gold unframed Hashemite overprint on a 1 qirsh blue and has a David Graham certificate. The overprint is from position 7 but does not show as much gold as the example shown in RN65.17 and although this is positioned to the left as in the pair illustrated, the overprint is much lower. Is this variation normal for the overprint on the 1 qirsh value or is there the possibility of more than one sheet having received the gold overprint?



- 5 SS Taif and SS Talodi were ships of the Khedivial Mail Line and carried mail across the Red Sea. They received a brief mention in RN32.4 and RN33.9 with illustrations of the SS Taif mark. In June this year, some pieces with these marks appeared on eBay, so I am able to show for the first time in Random Notes the mark for SS Talodi. I can also show a colour illustration of the SS Taif cancellation.



SS Taif



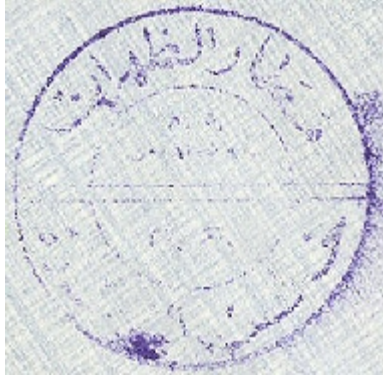
SS Talodi



- 6 In RN67.6 I mentioned a Riyadh 'khalis al-ujra' postmark but was unable to supply an illustration. I have now managed to locate a few and here is an illustration. All of my copies are in violet, I have yet to see a black copy.

The Medina mark shown in RN67 also appears in violet.

I have just received a Dhahran Airport P.P. 'khalis al-ujra' on a cover dated 1 April 1975 from the College of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran, to France. Has anyone got a better quality scan they can send me?



Dhahran Airport P.P.



Riyadh P.P.

- 7 I am not sure when in 1956 the postal tax rate was raised to ¼ qirsh. Tom Wood recorded a cover bearing the ¼ qirsh charity stamp on 21 May 1956, but this cover, dated 21 July 1956, had a tax stamp covering only the old rate, so presumably this cover was underpaid. Can anyone supply me with the actual date when the rate was changed?



- 8 The Nejd block shown below certainly has some useful varieties with the surcharge appearing at the top and the handstamps appearing inverted and sideways, but I also noticed something else.



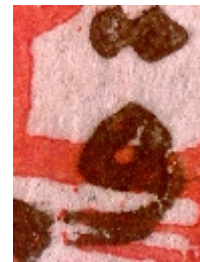
On the right hand stamp, the letter ‘qaf’ in qirsh appears to have a projection to the right indicating that it was intended to be joined to the preceding (in Arabic) character. This does not appear to be unique, as I have found a similar example on a Turkish revenue stamp with a Hejazi overprint. The revenue stamp and enlargements of the characters are shown below.



Turkish revenue with Hejazi overprint



‘qaf’ to follow another character



Initial ‘qaf’



Final ‘waw’



Stand alone ‘waw’

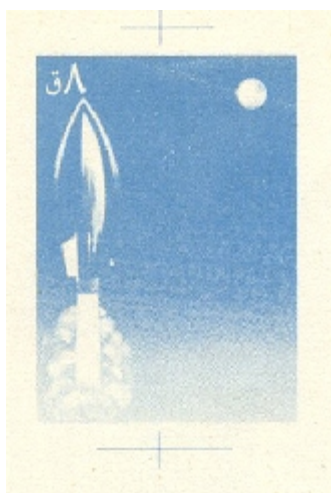
These may just be the result of faulty manufacture of the print, but nevertheless are interesting varieties. Has anyone seen similar occurrences?



9. In RN66.8 positions 10 and 16 of SG 155r were shown, and it was clear that they originated from different sheets. Member Dick Tjaden sent me some more images and I have been able to produce a block of three from positions 14, 19 and 20. The image shows that these have clearly come from the same sheet - the perforations match perfectly.

10. Another contribution from Dick is a group of essays depicting a rocket. I have never seen these before, but they look as though they may be the work of Dar Al-Asfahani, Jeddah. Does anyone know their true origin?

Has anyone made a study of unissued essays? I know there are several about and I would very much like to record them in Random Notes. I look forward to hearing from you.



11. Have the forgers been fooled? In 2002 ‘reproductions’ of the Heir Apparent stamps and a few other Hejaz stamps were being sold on eBay by ‘ATDINVEST’; these are known as ‘Hialeah’ forgeries. Much has been written about these stamps, in fact they have been quite controversial, but to my knowledge they have never been sold as genuine items, so cannot be classed as a fraud. The stamps have been produced by modern printing methods, I suspect on a laser printer, and on stiff gummed paper. Subsequently these stamps have been sold on eBay by other sellers. The entire stock has been purchased and is now appearing on the web at <http://www.worldstampreplicas.com>. I made a simple enquiry about the new organization and received the following reply:

Yes we are the purchasers of AtDInvest stock and equipment. As our name states we make it clear that we are not selling reproductions as original stamps. We also make this clear on our site. We believe that everyone should be able to enjoy the little works of art and the historical representation that stamps provide. As you know purchasing original classic stamps can be costly. Many people are shut out because of the cost. Major works of Art are reproduced and sold as reproductions and so are coins. Why not stamps? We think offering reproductions can improve the industry by allowing more people to participate. Regarding our process, all we will say is that we have several thousand stamps that we will be adding to our inventory and our site. We will also add hundreds of Cancelations and their postal history. As a novelty we will be offering coffee mugs and computer mouse pads. The customer will choose the stamp from our inventory to have printed on these items.

As far as I am concerned, the standard of reproduction of the Saudi stamps is so poor as to not pose a threat. But there is a twist. In Random Notes #58, I gave details of the ‘Cairo’ forgeries of Heir Apparent stamps and pointed out the differences between the numerals on these stamps and the genuine ones. These Hialeah forgeries appear to be reproductions of the ‘Cairo’ forgeries! However I have seen the ¼ and 3 qirsh values that match the genuine stamps.



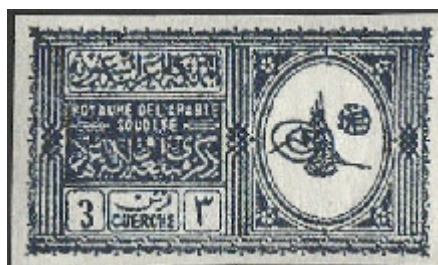
‘Cairo’ forgery



Hialeah copy of ‘Cairo’ forgery



Genuine



Hialeah copy of genuine

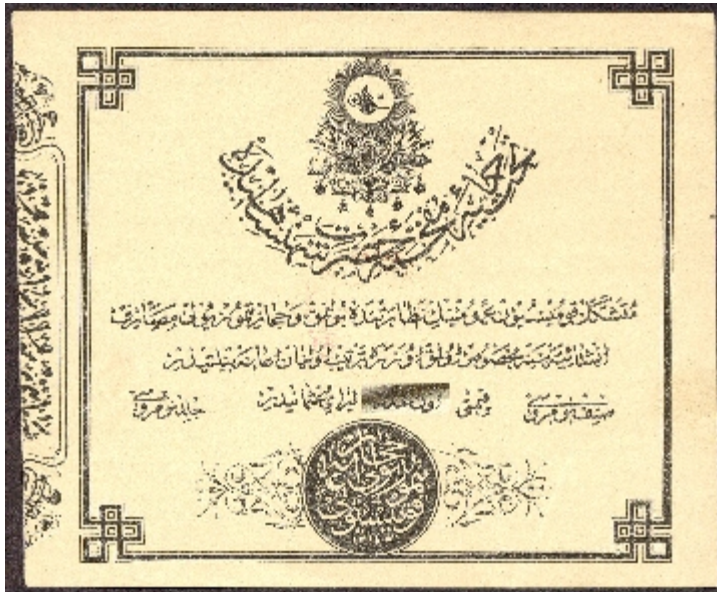
There is more information on the story of the Hialeah forgeries on the web at:

http://www.sheryll.net/Forgeries/Hialeah/Forgeries_article_Hialeah.htm

<http://www.bilston73.freemove.co.uk/atd/atdreport.htm>



12. The book 'The Early Postal History of Saudi Arabia' by Jakob von Uexkull is well worth having; a review by Willie King appeared in RN57.27. One small part of this book covers the Hejaz Railway receipts for donations and special taxes and it was almost inevitable that unrecorded items will appear. The Money Donation Receipt for one piastre is listed as type 146; no other values of this type are recorded, however one for ten piastres turned up on eBay in September this year. It is identical to the one piastre except for some Ottoman script.



Receipt type 146, 10 piastres



1 piastre



10 piastres

13. The 5 qirsh Makkah Arms with a 10 qirsh surcharge double, one inverted, (Scott L41a, SG 49b) is an expensive stamp but is certainly not one of the Hejaz rarities. But how many sheets were produced? I have an image of a block of 6 from the Ivy and Mader Kawar Family Collection of Saudi Arabia sale held on 30 June 1998. These stamps are from positions 28 - 30 and 34 - 36. I also have an image of another position 34 stamp and that clearly shows the overprints in slightly different positions and differing margin widths. So at least two sheets were used. Has anyone got evidence that more than two were involved?

Position 34 stamps adjacent showing stamp and surcharge differences. (Block comprises positions 28 - 30 and 34 - 36)



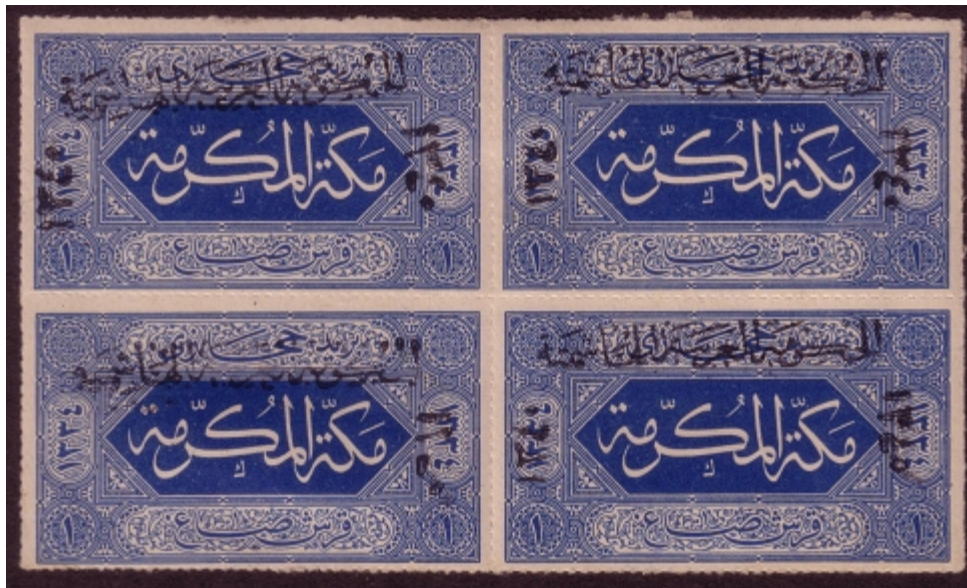
RN

The Singapore Collection : Saudi Arabia's Rarest Stamp

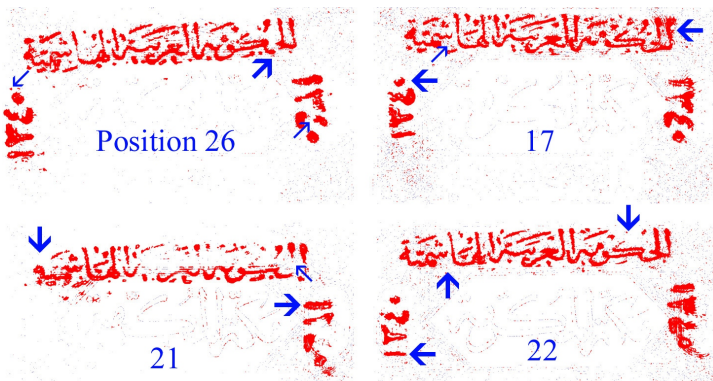
By: *W A King FRPSL*

Earlier in 2005 I had the very pleasant opportunity of examining a previously unknown collection of unframed overprints which included most of the rare varieties in blocks of four. This incredible collection was formed prior to the second World War by a French businessman working in Singapore. Prior to the fall of Singapore in 1941 he sent his wife and young son to India for safety and they took with them a stock book of stamps. 65 years later that stock book was found in a trunk by that 'young' son. The collection includes the complete set of six blocks of the unframed overprint on the roulette 20 first issue. ie SG 18 to 20a complete (Scott L15c & d, L16c & d, L17b, L18d).

New Rare Stamp: The exciting thing about these blocks is that they included a completely new variety which must be the rarest stamp of Saudi Arabia i.e. **unframed overprint on the 1pi roulette 20 – date omitted at left**. This previously unknown stamp is the lower left stamp of the block of four shown below. Note this is a genuine date omitted and no sign of any 'albino' printing is involved. The block has been granted clear genuine certificates by both APAI and RPSL.



Separation of the Overprint



Using modern scanning technology it is fairly easy to 'separate' out the overprint for closer examination.

The lower left stamp is the new variety and is from position 21 of the regular setting.

Unusually the stamp above it is position 26 but this is because positions 16 and 26 were transposed in this printing.

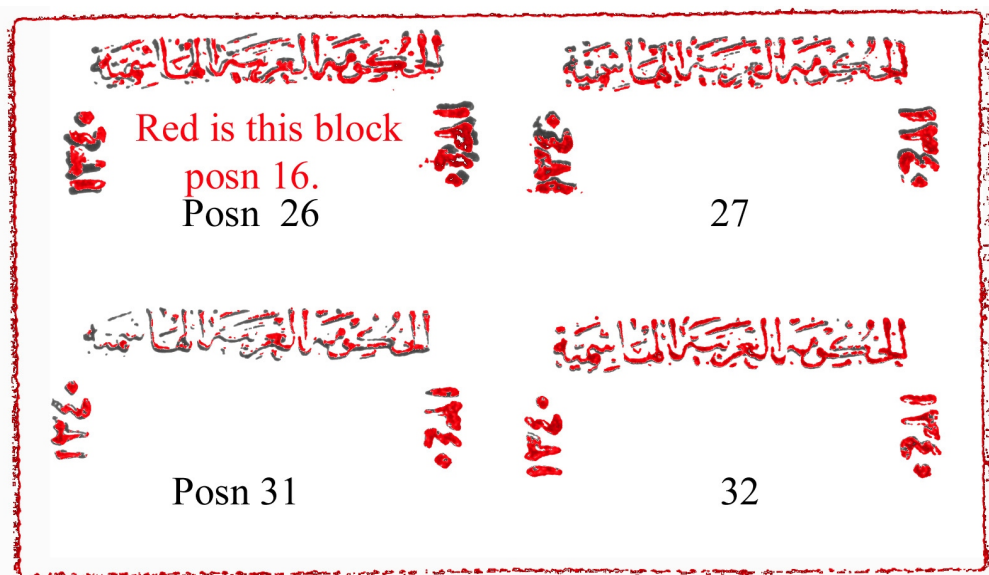


Unframed Overprint : Inverted Overprint on 1/8 Pi Roulette 20

It has been apparent for some time that the clichés of the unframed overprint were insecure and for that reason were replaced by the framed overprint. Transposed clichés have been reported before but can only be identified from multiples. However one of the other rare blocks from the ‘Singapore’ collection was from the neighbouring positions and shows that the overprint position 26 was replaced with position 16.



Positions 16 and 26 Transposed : The scan below shows the ‘normal’ positions 26-27 / 31-32 overlaid with the overprint from the inverted unframed overprint, which was converted to red for the overlay. Note that several of these overlays show that the plate was rather unstable and in the scan below although positions 31 and 32 are firm position 27 is ever so slightly lower than in the control sheet. These minor variations are apparent on several blocks although all the other 4 plated correctly to the master sheet. In this block the cliché from position 26 was replaced with 16 giving firm evidence that these two positions were transposed.



SG18a (Scott L15d) showing transposed position 16 replacing position 26



APAI Master Plating Chart for Unframed Overprints on Roulette 20

SG18 Eighth					SG18a Eighth Invert				
1				5	1				5
6				10	6				10
11	Singapore		Kawar	15	11	Kacz			15
16				20	16				20
21				25	21				25
26				30	26	16			30
31				35	31	Singapore		Kawar	35
36				40	36				40
41				45	41	Hibbert >			45
46				50	46	Uexkull			50
SG19 Quarter					SG19a Quarter Invert				
1			Hibbert >	5	1				5
6			Uexkull	10	6				10
11				15	11				15
16				20	16				20
21			Singapore	25	21	King			25
26				30	26				30
31				35	31				35
36				40	36			Singapore	40
41				45	41			Hibbert	45
46	Kawar			50	46			Hibbert	50
SG20 Half					SG19a Quarter Invert No.2				
1			Hibbert	5	1				5
6				10	6				10
11			Singapore	15	11				15
16				20	16				20
21				25	21				25
26				30	26				30
31				35	31				35
36				40	36			Kacz	40
41			Kawar	45	41				45
46				50	46			Uexkull	50
SG20 Half No.2					SG20a One Pi				
1				5	1	Hibbert >			5
6				10	6	Uexkull			10
11				15	11	King			15
16				20	16	26			20
21				25	21	Singapore			25
26				30	26		Kacz?		30
31				35	31	Thodn			35
36				40	36				40
41				45	41				45
46				50	46				50

There are a couple of examples of stamps from identical positions supporting the hypothesis that two sheets may exist of several values. However could be part sheets. Random Notes readers are requested to register their stamps for future records.

Please note photocopied and laser forgeries exist. APAI certificates will however be supplied free-of-charge for copies submitted by June 2006 for certification.



The Singapore Collection : The remaining Unframed on roulette 20 blocks.



SG 18 (Scott L15c)
Positions 6-7/11-12.

Only one other block registered, from same rows. Hibbert had 4 singles not yet plated.



SG 19 (Scott 16c)
Positions 19-20/24-25

Two other blocks registered.



SG19a (Scott 16d)
Positions 39-40/44-45

Another block and pair registered which overlap this block. Uexkull had a LR corner block unusually with marginal paper.



SG 20 (Scott L17b)
Positions 9-10/14-15.

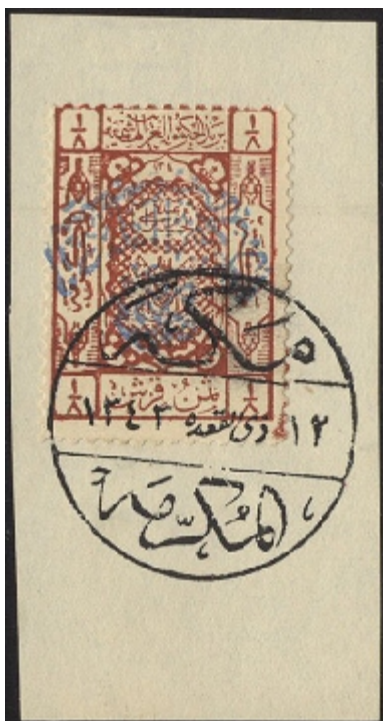
Only one other block registered also from the right side of the sheet. This block is immediately under the Hibbert pair. Hibbert also had two singles which remain to be plated.

End Note : It is my understanding that these stamps will be offered in due course at auction. We look forward to that event and seeing these great rarities make the world stage of stamp collecting.

Ali Abdou, Philby and Forgeries

By Martin Lovegrove

As far as I am aware, Mohamed Ali Abdou has not been associated with forgeries of Saudi stamps; if someone knows otherwise I would appreciate hearing from them. Having said that, I recently came across a forgery that does have such a connection. During August this year, an item that looked very much like Scott 38B, SG 224, but with an inverted Nejd handstamp, appeared on eBay. The stamp was not listed as genuine and there was no attempt to defraud, but the stamp did look very good and a close inspection was both fascinating and worrying.



The stamp fixed to paper by its lower edge and was c.t.o. in the usual manner with a familiar postmark and only under strong magnification could it be seen that this had been produced by a laser printer. The handstamp looked good and did not match any forgeries that I knew about. Lifting the upper edge of the stamp revealed the mark A.EID not in black or violet but in red. That was the first red Eid mark I had seen.



Unfortunately it has been very difficult to get a good impression of the handstamp; the illustration below is my best effort so far. There are only minor differences between that and the genuine and other good forgeries. In trying to filter out the background, my attempts have reduced the quality of the handstamp; it is better than it looks.



So, working from the fact that a laser printer produced the postmark and the slightly dubious handstamp is in a blue that is also not quite right, I have concluded that just about everything to do with this item is fake. Only the basic stamp, from position 7, and the paper to which the stamp is attached are genuine.

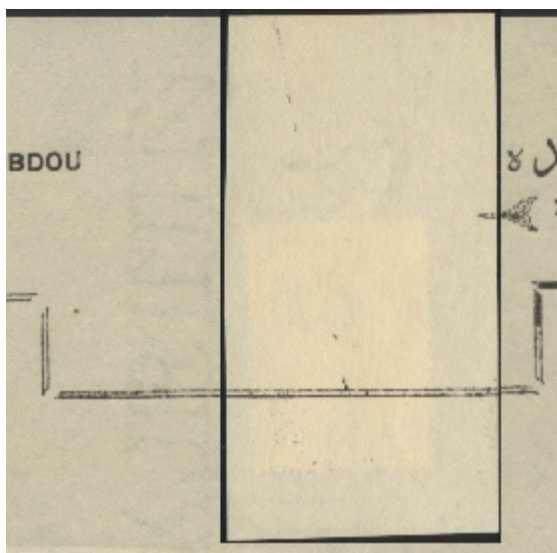
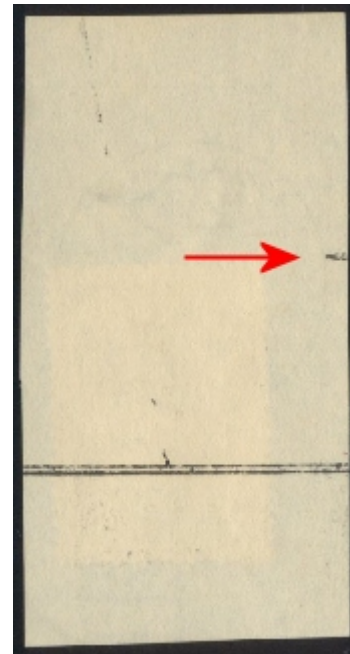
I believe that we have here a modern forgery of the Nejd handstamp and also of Eid's backstamp. Has anyone else seen A.EID in red? To me, modern forgeries are worrying; with modern technology they can only get better.



So where does Ali Abdou come into this? Amongst other things, he is known for his pages of c.t.o. stamps, and I show one below. The double frame line is rather distinctive and frequently identifies c.t.o. specimens cut from these pages.



It was when I looked at the back of the forged item I noticed a double black line and this prompted me to investigate further. As well as the double line there was also a short line at the side; this can be seen below.



Placing the item on the sheet showed a perfect match.

I think the forger knows quite a lot about the subject; whether the use of Ali Abdou paper was accidental, I do not know, but with laser forgeries still appearing at major auction houses, I think we should all be aware of the possibilities.



I mentioned Philby in the title and he is involved in a possible forgery that may also be worrying.



Cover bearing Saudi stamps but cancelled using the Yemeni device.

This cover just has to be fake. There are no transit marks and the stamps are clean. In fact, there is a stain on the cover, caused presumably by a liquid, which runs beneath some of the stamps without discolouring them. The handwriting looks genuine, and certainly not the product of a laser printer!

Articles have appeared in previous editions of Random Notes describing the presence of Saudi stamps in Hodeida and the genuine items of mail bearing them so I will not repeat the background history here. From these articles it seems that the only stamps recorded for this usage were the perforated $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh and $3\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh Heir Apparent ones, so this cover seems even more unlikely.

Can anyone tell me the probable history of this item? Was this created in 1934? The postmark is for Hodeida 19 May 1934 (the day before the peace treaty was signed), 6-2-1353 (which corresponds to 21 May 1934 and is the day after the peace treaty was signed).

If this is the product of the modern school of forgers, they may be trouble ahead, especially if the Philby writing is not genuine.

I look forward to hearing from anyone with information about anything in this article, but please be on the lookout for modern forgeries of any sort.

Previous references in RN: 37.11, 42.22, 46.21, 62.10

Gibbons 2006 Catalogue : Saudi Arabia

By: W A King FRPSL

After a long wait the new Gibbons Middle East catalogue was published in June 2006. Martin Lovegrove and I had earlier submitted a list of observations and suggestions for consideration. When the new catalogue arrived I eagerly scanned it for changes and updates and the first reaction was one of disappointment. Whilst a substantial number of our remarks were incorporated others were ignored. The suggested changes are now listed and the results – the readers can decide whether to annotate their copies. The notes are in sequence of issue.

First Issue

1. **Printing of First Issue :** First issue of stamps are printed by lithography NOT typo as in the note about printer. Spotted by Martin and supported by the Survey of Egypt book (See Page 2 line 1). The mode of printing is rather difficult to tell but surprising this has not been reported before – Note that Scotts also have this wrong! Suggestion for correction were accepted and catalogue corrected.
2. **Pricing : SG 6a : 1pi Pale Blue :** The true pale or ‘milky’ blue perf 10 is quite scarce and only for the first printing of the 1 piastre. Just 80 sheets were printed. It was suggested the price should be increased. Note no specific suggestions for pricing were made – just suggestions relative to the normal which were expected after a nine year break. The price was increased from £12 to £19 but exactly in proportion to the blue which increased from £8 to £12.50. Note Scotts do not list this pale blue shade of the first printing. In retrospect I should have stated it should be x2 to 4 the value of the basic shade. See next item.
3. **Listing : SG 6b : 1pi Dark Blue :** Recommendation was to delete this variety. There were 3 printings of the one piastre value which were perforated. and although Gibbons list only one shade as perf 12 they list Blue, Pale Blue and Dark Blue shades as perf 10. Whilst the second and third printings can be separated as plate blocks it is just not possible to separate by colour alone; i.e. blue and dark blue are indistinguishable. However both still listed by Gibbons. Scotts list one piaster only by perforation – i.e. the ‘pale’ blue is not listed.

Unframed Overprint

4. **Listing : Add SG 20ab : 1 pi Roulette 20 Date Omitted at left :** Gibbons failure to add probably the most significant new finding and undoubtedly currently THE rarest stamp of Saudi Arabia to their listing mystifies me. They did not need to price but the catalogue listing should have occurred as the new stamp variety had both APAI and RPSL certificates.
5. **Pricing : SG 22e : 1/8pi Overprint Double One inverted :** Recommendation was that the price be reduced from £400 as several sheets have been found. Gibbons have INCREASED price to £850. Words fail me.
6. **Listing : Add footnote to SG 21-28 :** Gold Overprints have been recorded on 5 of 6 values (except 1/4pi). All believed to come from single 'proof' sheets. (value £400 ea?). Result – nothing added so collectors will be unaware of these valid issues.
7. **Listing : Add footnote to SG D31-24 :** Gold overprints recorded on all 3 values. Inverted on 20pa (£400ea?). Result as above!



Arms Issues : SG 39- D59

8. **Printing : Above SG 39-46** : Suggestion was to correct note on printing. Stamps are printed by typography NOT litho as per note – error reported by Martin Lovegrove. Result. Suggestion for correction were accepted and catalogue corrected. Note Scotts are correct.
9. **Re-instate Fully listing of 47a** : 2-3 Sheets of second plate recorded. (98%+ from 2nd setting) It was also suggested that the previous price of £200 be used. Result was nothing. Stamp still listed as 47a but without price. Note Scotts do not list at all.
10. **Listing : Add 47ab** : Inverted Surcharge Tete-beche with normal surcharge (*Very scarce as only ex 1st setting*). Pricing recommended as x3 of 47a. Recommendation not adopted.
11. **Listing : Add 56b** : Character in top line omitted ie on 5pi Olive as well as 1pi and 2pi values. Result – Nothing added. Scotts do not list this important variety.
12. **Pricing : D57-D59 : D57** - ½pi Caliphate Postage due. Since 5-8 part sheets available – majority in poor condition. Reduce price by 20% ie from £2,500 to £2,000. Price was increased to £3,000!
D58 - 1pi Caliphate Postage due. Scarcest of 3 values almost all in poor condition. Hold price. Result price increased to £3,000
D59 –2pi Caliphate Postage Due. Few never hinged good copies available, possibly parts of 10 sheets. Suggested price down by 50%. Result – price increased to £3,000. Scotts do not list this set.

Two Line and Large Three Overprints : SG 59- D153

13. **Pricing : SG59-75 : The Two Line Overprints on roul 20 and 13 first issues.** It was suggested that the prices be held unchanged as the values were currently too high. You will have to check for yourselves but I wasn't aware of the variability of market changes on these values! The roulette 20 in particular shows some remarkable increases while roulette 13 shows changes both ways.
14. **Listing : SG 62a** : Suggested Gibbons removed the footnote and listed the gold on red and gold on blue base separately. Result no change – but they did reduce the catalogue value from £2,000 to £1,800 which is quite ludicrous considering this is a genuinely scarce issue – and at the same time other commoner issues were increased.
15. **Listing : Add 94 to the existing 94a** : The large three line overprint exists genuinely reading up and reading down (sideways) on the ¼ pi green roulette 13 of the first issue. Result – no action although the catalogue value of SG94a was increased by 40% to £1,400. This is Scott L81 which footnotes that the overprint exists up, down and horizontally.
16. **Listing : Add D152a** : The 3pi brown exists with the large 3 line overprint in Violet and was discussed in RN61p5. Result – no change.

Illegible to King Ali's : SG 148 to D189

17. **Pricing : SG148-153** : Since the illegible surcharges without the handstamps are very scarce it was suggested a higher than average price increase was entered. Result – partial success as 5 of the 5 values was increased by 50% but the 10pi on 5pi olive (SG153) went up only by £10 to £110.
18. **Listing : Add(revive) 149a** : The inverted illegible ¼ pi surcharge on ½ pi red arms does exist and should be listed. Result : No change. Scotts list no illegible varieties



19. **Listing : Add 154g** : The error 1 on ¼ on 1/8pi exists. Result – although 7 other varieties are and were listed this one is still ex-catalogue!
20. **List : Add 158r** : The Error 10 on 1pi on 3pi brown was noted in RN 64 page 24 item 9. Result – nothing only the 4 existing varieties remain listed.
21. **Prices : King Ali's SG 177A-185C : Both Mint and especially used Jeddah's are under valued.** However leave footnoted Cairo's unchanged. Result – I have no idea why we bothered – **Gibbons REDUCED the vast majority of the prices by up to 70%! This is despite about 80% of King Ali's on sale in any dealers are Cairo printings.** So King Ali collectors – ensure you can tell the difference and buy up the Jeddah printings. Remember any narrow or medium widths between the year and Arabic panels are Jeddah printings

Nejd, Hejaz and Nejd : SG 190-315

22. **Footnote : Under SG 190—202 Remove** : Suggested removal of footnote “Handstamps also occur in purple and are worth the same as red handstamps” As both red and violet, in shades, are listed this was pointless. Result – footnote removed.
23. **Footnote : Add : N208-209 Newspaper Stamps** : Add footnote that these are regarded as proofs by many authorities. Result – nothing! Perhaps you believe a possible single sheet of stamps constitutes a legitimate issue!
24. **Footnote : Remove:** Suggested removal of "The handstamp also exists sideways" Inconsistent since SG do not list Handstamp varieties so why mention? If you must have they also exist inverted. Also such varieties also exist on 190-202. Result – footnote removed.
25. **Listing : Add SG 226d and 229a:** Both the 1pi and 2pi Plum exist on unsurfaced buff paper (ie newsprint) as listed for 1½pi and 5pi values. Result success!
26. **Listing : Add SG 256b Imperf Between (Horizontal pair).** 256a vertical pair already listed. Result – new item listed.

Early Kingdom

27. **Listing : 324, 325** : Switch numbers since technically these should be reversed to get in value sequence since 1/4 sov = 27.5g. Result - listing was changed much to my surprise but not announced at the beginning of the catalogue
28. **Listing : Major revision to Tughra issue 329-342** : These numbers have been divided into ‘329A-342A – the perforation 11½ issues (11) printed between 1934-47 and 329B-342B the perforation 11 issues (13) printed between 1937 and 1960. Gibbons also added the suggested fairly extensive footnote, which was suggested. Random Notes will run an article soon to complement this new listing.
29. **Listing : Remove D344** : There is no evidence that this is legitimate listing. R.J. Thoden never found a legitimate example and neither have I. Gibbons removed the listing but failed to remove the picture!

In the next issue of Random notes I will continue with the review of the Kingdom material and what happened to our suggestions. Meantime we would welcome observations, comments and suggestions on the current listing in Gibbons – and Scotts and see if by being organized we can have more success in improving the catalogue listings.

Aeronautical Misconceptions

By: Martin Lovegrove

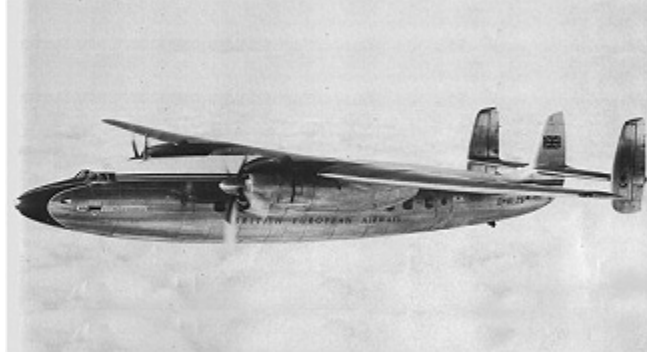
Several Saudi stamp designs show aircraft but the designs are not always correctly identified; I will attempt to supply the correct information in this note.

1949 Air Series

The aircraft on the stamp has three tail fins and this has resulted in it being described as an Airspeed Ambassador. This is incorrect but unfortunately I cannot identify the type; it is not of British design.



Unidentified type



Airspeed Ambassador

It is not too difficult to see the differences between the two types; the main feature is the wing position.

DGA First Air Series

I have seen this aircraft described as a 'Vickers Viscount' or 'Convair 440'. Saudi Arabian Airlines operated the Convair 340 and it is an example of this type that is depicted on the stamp. The Viscount has four engines, the Convair 340 only two. The Viscount was used in the green essay shown on the next page and may have been the inspiration for the red one, but in that case likeness is far from exact.



The issued stamp



Convair 340



Vickers Viscount





Unissued essays

45th Anniversary of Saudi Airlines, issued September 1990



The right-hand stamp on each pair (Scott 1131, 1133; SG 1681, 1683) is described by Gibbons as a DC-10; Scott, perhaps wisely, does not attempt to identify the aircraft type.

The aircraft illustrated on this stamp is actually a Lockheed L-1011 Tri-Star. Like the DC-10, this has three engines, but the positioning of the third engine in the tail is different. The DC-10 has the engine exhaust nozzle in line with the engine intake, whereas the Tri-Star has the exhaust at the base of the tail, far lower than the DC-10.



Photo copyright Stephane Mutzenberg



Lockheed L-1011 Tri-Star



MD-11, a later version of the DC-10 but retaining the distinct position of the third engine in the tail.

Photo copyright Johan Menten

For more aircraft images visit <http://www.airliners.net>

Forgeries of the Hashemite Overprints Half Qirsh Surcharge

An Interim Study

By: Martin Lovegrove

The half qirsh surcharge that is the subject of this articles, appeared on both the unframed and framed Hashemite overprints on Survey of Egypt stamps (Scott L22,L30 and SG 29,37).

Details of these forgeries are missing from the APA Forgeries Manual issued in 1981 and a formal study of them is long overdue. In my limited experience, examples are scarce, so this article lists my observations on the few examples I have.

I will list the forgeries by printing method, or perhaps it is really my guess as to the method used, for one can never be certain, especially when it comes down to detail. Each forgery type has been allocated a temporary number pending the allocation of a formal number in the new forgeries manual currently being produced.

In each case I have illustrated the forgery separated from the stamp and also shown the stamp. In the case of the relief-printed forgeries, I have also shown an enlargement of the dot over the letter 'nun'; this shows some clear differences.

Typeset Overprints.

These are overprints that are similar to the genuine in that they appear to have been manually composed from individual pieces of type. As such, it is possible to see the joins between characters, sometimes quite wide. In this group I have two examples, each displaying characteristics that indicate they are from separate plates.

The forgery numbers quoted for my examples of the unframed Hashemite stamps are from the new forgeries manual currently being written by Willie King; the old numbers follow in parentheses.

Forgery Type 1.



Features:

Breaks between characters easily seen.
Hook of 'shiyn' does not curve inwards
My example is on a stamp with the unframed forgery type FB-04 (Forgery type 4)



Dot of 'nun'



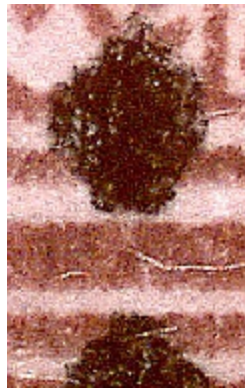
Forgery Type 2.

نہت قرش

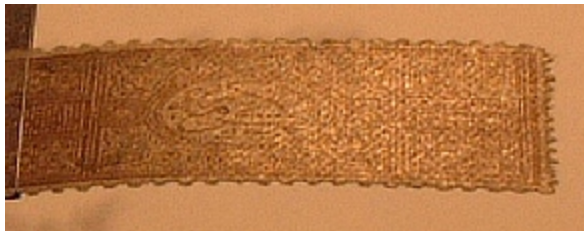


Features:

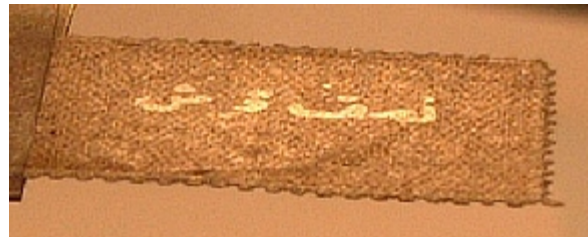
Most breaks between characters easily seen.
Hook of shiyn curves inwards
Very shiny ink



Dot of 'nun'



Normal matt ink - overprint difficult to see at an angle



Shiny ink - overprint easily seen

Solid overprints

As with the previous type, these are relief printed, but the joins between characters are not visible. These may have been printed using an etched plate or stereotyped from a master. I have two examples of this type



Forgery Type 3.

نصف قرش



Features:

Short upstroke to nun.
Hook of shiyn curves inwards only slightly
My example is on a stamp with the unframed for-
gery type FB-02 (Forgery type 2)



Dot of 'nun'

Forgery Type 4.

نصف قرش



Features:

Long upstroke to nun.
Hook of shiyn curves inwards
My example is on a stamp with the unframed for-
gery type FB-05 (Forgery type 7)



Dot of 'nun'



Litho overprints

This type of overprint may be added as a separate overprint or produced as part of a multi-coloured print.

The only example I have seen is on a bogus 'Cairo' forgery.

Forgery Type 5.

نصف قرش



Features:

Print comprises dots and thus lines are not smooth.

Extra dot underneath gap between 'fa' and 'qaf'

My example is a 'Cairo' forgery of a Survey of Egypt 1/8 qirsh with a bogus 'matbua' overprint as well as the half-qirsh surcharge.

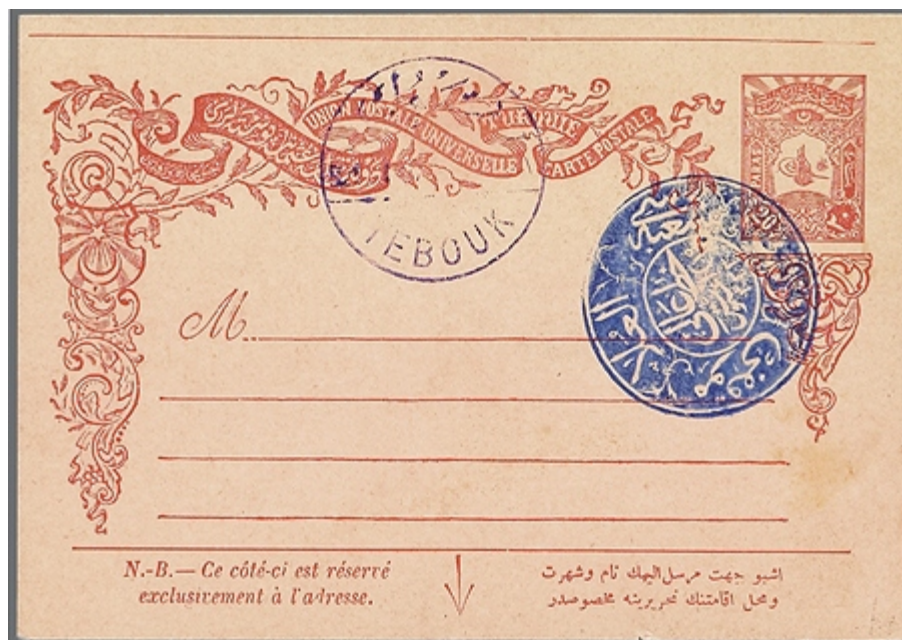
This preliminary study is the result of a quick look at the stamps in my collection. Unfortunately shortage of time has prevented me from further research. Willie King kindly offered to send me some material and I hope to be able to accept his offer in the near future. In the meantime, I will be pleased to accept any observations anyone has on forgeries of this type.

I believe that studies of the surcharges on the Hashemite overprints on Survey of Egypt stamps are most important. It is apparent that more than one plate was used for the 1 qirsh surcharge and the same is probably true for the half qirsh, so the detection of forgeries cannot be made by comparison to a 'standard' plate as is normal with many of the Hejaz overprints. Without this information it may be difficult to assess the status of stamps that show the surcharge without the Hashemite overprint.

From the Auctions

By Martin Lovegrove

Just a small selection of items from auctions held this year. Details of the auction houses can be found on the last page of this issue.



Corinphila, May 2005, lot 4148.

1907 (Sept 1): Turkey 20 pa. red on rose stationery card, used example with the wonderful intaglio Commemorative Seal cancellation to celebrate the opening of the Tebouk-El Ula stretch of the Hejaz Railway. Cancel used for one day only, struck perfectly in bright blue with rarely seen bilingual datestamp of 'Tebouk' alongside in purple: the earliest recorded date of use. A rare and delightful card. Certificate Arabian Philatelic Association.

A monochrome image of one of these cards was shown in the article 'The Hijaz Railway and its Stamps' by Rudy Thoden in RN50 on page 15.

Schuyler Rumsey, April 2004.

This sale had, amongst other good items, several Colonial Stores covers. Generally these fell short of the lower estimates but still cost the buyers a lot of money. Prices realized ranged from \$350 to \$1000.

Illustrated on the next page is one featuring inverted 'illegible' overprints and handstamps.





Inverted 'illegibles'

Filatco, January/February 2005.

This sale contained many extremely good items and many sold for very high prices. Here are just a few that I cannot remember being shown in past Random Notes.



Lot 1318



Lot 1336



Lot 1344



Lot 1362



Lot 1363



Lot	Description/Comments
1318	1925 Sc. 56 Al Saudia Medina Provisional ovpt. on 1 1/2 pi Violet, RARE, \$325 . <i>Shows part of the octagonal Medina cancel expected on genuine stamps.</i>
1336	1929 Sc. 119 S.G. 303a Var. 20 g violet imperf. between one of only two recorded pairs to date. A SUPERB SHOWPIECE., \$1500 <i>Your editor thinks he remembers Rudy Thoden getting this item from Sandafay-re Auctions for about GBP 500.</i>
1344	1960 Sc. C12 S.G. 433 Var. 6 pi Air Mail with frame and value omitted. VF, \$100 <i>This is actually the centre for the 15 pi value, Scott C16, SG 437.</i>
1362	1935 Sc. J24 S.G. D343 Postage Due VF, \$235
1363	1935 S.G. D344 1 pi with "T" Postage Due. Sc. unlisted. VERY RARE, \$500 <i>SG D344 is no longer listed by Gibbons but as Willie King pointed out to me, that was on a ½ qirsh carmine stamp.</i>

Cherrystone Auctions Sale 1105, 1 - 3 November 2005

At the time of writing (30 October), this auction has not yet been held, but I thought I would include this for the collector of proofs etc.

1952 Bedouins and Trains, cplt set of five large die proofs, die sunk on full cards, also master die proof in green, value tablet blank, v.f. and fresh, extremely rare set

The estimate is USD 5000.



Master die proof.

Makkah Arms 1 qirsh with missing cliches - Pale Blue Shade



Acknowledgements and Contacts

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The Saudi expert is Gregory Todd who can be contacted at todd@corinphila.ch

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Stephane Mutzenberg Photograph of Lockheed L-1011 Tri-Star

Johan Menten Photograph of MD-11

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