



الجمعية الدولية للطابع البريدية العربية
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International
Random Notes



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NUMBER 69

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Another early use

See [page 8](#)

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 three 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'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 #69

Assembled by the Editor

This issue was destined to be only a handful of pages until Fred Benedict sent me some work he had been doing on the Nejd surcharges. The rest of this issue is a series of notes about stamps and covers that are either new to Random Notes or enhancing previously published information. This issue is a little late, but at least it is here. Now for the notes.

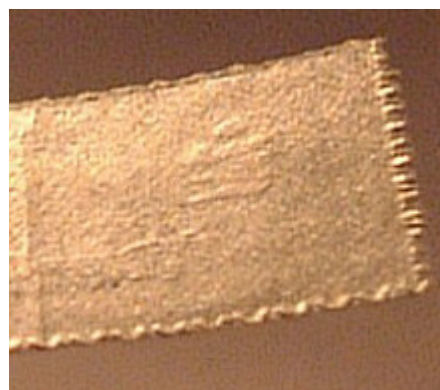
1. The unframed Hashemite overprint with the year missing is not a rare variety, but nevertheless is of interest. How can this occur? I believe there are three possibilities:
 - The year slug is missing.
 - The year slug is not set at the correct height, 'type high', and therefore does not receive ink.
 - The year slug is covered in order for it not to receive ink.

The visible impact of the first two options is identical: The year is not printed on the stamp and there is no albino impression of the year.

The last case is the one that I think is most widely encountered and will generally show an albino indentation on the front of the stamp, while on the gummed side the date will stand proud. An example of such an overprint is shown below. It can be seen that the year slug has received enough pressure to produce the raised impression and this can only have been done by covering the date to prevent it being inked. What is not clear from the images is that the year is raised more than the rest of the overprint and this difference would be about the thickness of the material used to cover the year slug. Another manufactured Hejaz variety!



Year 'missing' at right



Raised impression of year on gummed side

2. The following covers appeared on eBay during February but failed to reach their reserve price. I think they last appeared on eBay in May 2003 and I have found out that this time the total reserve was USD 2750. Although the stamps look good, there are some strange things about the covers. Why have they 'Fee Paid' marks as well as stamps, especially where the 'Fee Paid' is for the same place where the stamps were cancelled?





Cover 1



Cover 2

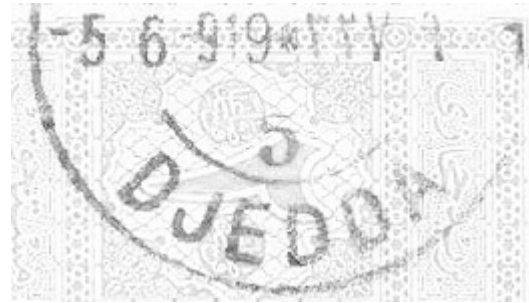
Let us have a close look at the DJEDDA 5 postmark on cover 1 and compare it with an actual mark and the illustration found in Coles & Walker Part 2 page 94.



From cover 1



From Coles & Walker



From genuine stamp

Notice the uneven length of the bars in 'E' and the broad 'A' in both the example from the cover and Coles & Walker compared with an actual mark. I am sure that the cover bears a fake cancellation that was based on The Coles & Walker illustration.

Let us now look at the 'Fee Paid' mark on the same cover and compare it with an illustration from Mayo.



From cover



From Mayo



Uncanny how all of the breaks in the frame match! Other illustrations of this J-2 Feed Paid mark can be found in Random Notes 13 page 17 and Random Notes 41 page 13. Neither of these illustrations show identical features.

Without wishing to labour a point too much, below are reproduced the MEDINE 1 from cover 2 and from Coles & Walker Part 2 page 96.



From cover



From Coles & Walker

Although not identical, they look a good match to me.

I am of the opinion that these covers have been 'manufactured'. The fact that the DJEDDA 5 is in violet suggests that a laser printer may not have been used and that cancellation devices have been manufactured. That is worrying, but when these devices have been produced from well-known sources, the problem is lessened somewhat.

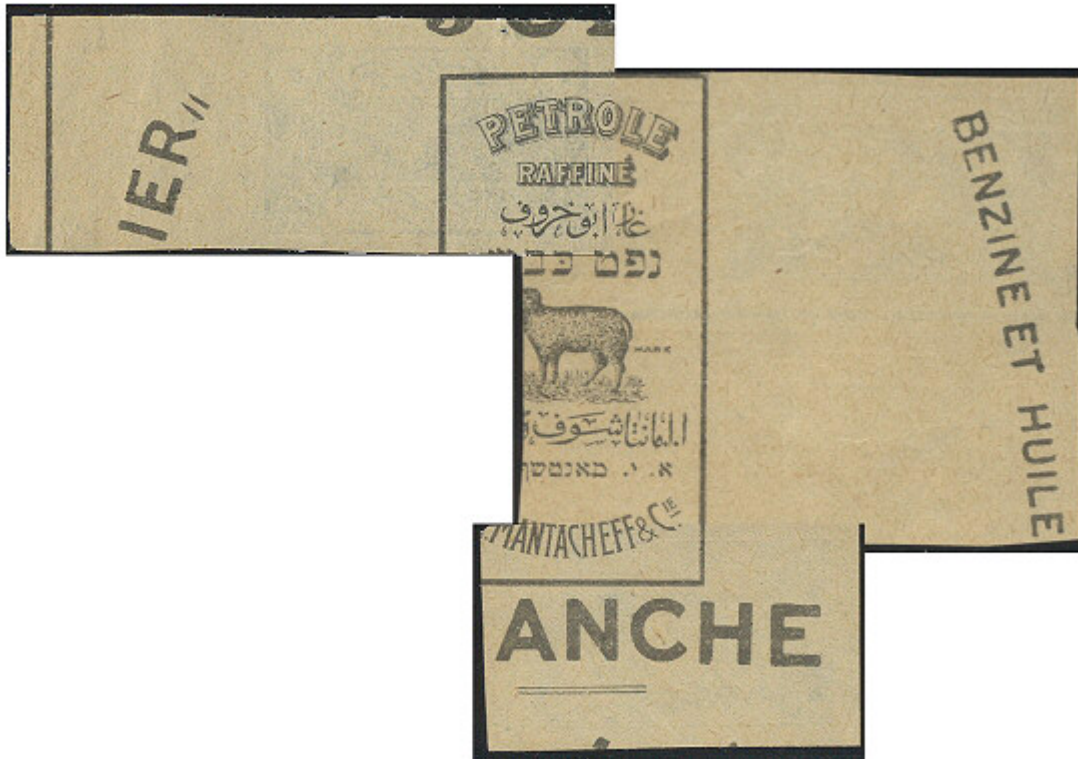
This looks as though it is another case of 'if it looks too good to be true, then it probably is'!

Take care.

3. I don't think this one has appeared in RN before. It is one of three listed by Mayo (1025W-Y) and thought to be the work of Dar-al-Asfahani. Whether this was an essay made as part of a bid to get the main printing contract I don't know, but the quality is much better than the large size DGA stamps that emerged from their presses. The design, apart from the numerals, follows very closely that of the Cairo printed DGA stamps; De la Rue made several changes to the design for their issues.



4. In describing the multitude of 'proofs' for the 1926 Hejaz and Nejd issue Mayo, on page 80 of his catalogue, refers to some being printed on handbill advertisements for petrol. I have a few of these stamps and have partially reconstructed the advertisement. Can anyone supply the missing pieces?



Mayo also describes these 'proofs' as a salad and goes on to mention private full and part perforations. Below are a couple of items from my salad bowl: A imperforate-between perf 14 vertical pair and a perf 14 example that appears to have been postally used.



5. In Random Notes #64 on page 18 reference was made to the brown paper types used for the 1949 air series and an example of the 3 qirsh was illustrated. The 1 qirsh was also printed on brownish paper and an example is shown below. Three paper types were mentioned, AM1, AM2 and AM3, and my examples fall into three categories of paper thickness. These various papers have thickness grouped around 0.003, 0.0035 and 0.005 inches (approx 0.075, 0.091 and 0.127 mm). Whether these relate directly to Tom Wood's AM types I do not know; I suspect that there were many types and thickness of these papers and precise grouping may not be possible.



Brownish paper



Normal paper

6. Another copy of SG O520a has appeared, this time on eBay, so that makes four in my virtual collection. This one has the watermark sideways right as looking from the front of the stamp, so it would appear that both sideways directions exist. Anyone got both in their collection!!



SG O520a

7. This item is a proof pasted onto thick paper and annotated on the front in pencil '2'. The clear impression of a paper-clip suggests it was attached to a letter or other document and then sent for comment or approval. Can anyone tell me if the writing in ink on the back relates to the introduction of the first Hejaz stamps and if so, who wrote the comments?



8. Following the report in RN67 of a Medical Aid stamp being used prior to the release date quoted in Gibbons, Marwan Nusair has sent me details of a Philby cover with three copies of SG 286 and one of SG 288 which, according to Gibbons, were issued in January 1927. This cover has cancels for DJEDDA 20 December 1926 and was received by Mrs Philby on 2nd January 1927. The dates are supported by transit marks of Port Tawfiq (24 Dec 1926) and Port Said (26 Dec 1926). Nice cover.



9. The next item, illustrated on the next page, is one that probably everyone missed. The inverted Hajj tablets were mentioned in RN68 on page 3. This vertical strip with inverted tablets was in Sandafayre auctions for years (or so it seemed) and I suppose the price put me off looking closer. This item was never sold intact and was eventually split into pairs, both now sold. It would seem that there is the possibility of a complete sheet having inverted tablets.





Inverted value tablets



Hejaz Railway donation receipt

10. Following on from item 12 in the previous issue of Random Notes, another Hejaz Railway donation receipt has come to light. This one, I am told, is for the donation of a sheep's hide and it is described as very rare. Are these really rare, or is it that no-one collects them and they rarely come up for sale? The actual size of the decorative frame is 68 x 92mm.
11. These 'rarities' appeared in the Feldman November 2005 sale. All of the overprints are forgeries and Feldman was informed and I believe that the lots were withdrawn. The initial estimate was CHF 6500 for the Matbua pair and CHF 2200 for the other (which also had an expert certificate stating the item to be genuine).



12. The DJEDDA 5 mark featured in item 2 of this issue; here is one on a cover. This time it is the same forgery that was mentioned in Random Notes 59 page 8. The stamp is a genuine 1½ qirsh but with a large 3-line overprint in blue, forgery type 4. This forgery type is quite scarce and this is the first I have seen on cover. Dr. Mohamed Nagim provided me with this translation of the address:

Addressed to Mohamed Abdullah

Cairo

Madrasat Alhandasa (engineering school)

Aqtar Almasria (can't be translated but Almasria mean's Egyptian and For Aqtar; it could be the plural of Qotor in Arabic which mean's country)

But there might be a town in Egypt with this name; Aqtar.



13. At best, expert certificates are only as good as the knowledge available at the time, so complete reliance on them may be unwise. Ultimately it pays to know your subject, and it works both ways. I have fake stamps certified as genuine and genuine stamps certified as fake; sadly one of the certificates is only a couple of years old. There is more of an excuse for certificates issued before much research on Saudi forgeries was done. An example of Hejaz stamps overprinted for use in Transjordan is shown on the next page. This block of four with fake overprint on Hejaz 'reprint' forgery, had a certificate issued by a reputable organization and was offered in an internet auction by Sphinx Auctions in Cyprus. On being told of the problem with this and some similar lots, Sphinx immediately withdrew the items. The certificate issuing authority was informed and they have amended their records. That would suggest that it could be worthwhile enquiring about the validity of a certificate





Unframed Hashemite forgery type 4

Left: Fake overprint on 'Reprint'

Both of these items have been certified genuine!

before purchasing an expensive item. Just to keep the record straight, I have not had any problems with APA or APAI certificates.

- Here are some Zeppelin covers in addition to the list in RN59. They are from Matthew Bennett Stamps (19 November 2005) and included are the auction descriptions with my notes are in italics:



1934, Argentina Flight (3rd South America Flight), June 23 - July 4 (Michel No. 370 a), registered cover addressed to Buenos Aires, six adhesives tied Mecque 31.5.34, Friedrichshafen 23.6.34 transit postmark and purple Zeppelin flight cachet, Buenos Aires arrival backstamp. Very Fine. Sieger No. 254 Aa. Michel ?800 (*registration # 495*)
 Estimate CHF 4,000-6,000/US\$ 3,120-4,680

Closed at: **US \$3,400.00**





1933 8th South America Flight, September 30 - October 10 (Michel No. 343 a), registered cover addressed to Recife, four adhesives tied Mecque 19.9.33, Friedrichshafen 30.9.33 transit postmark and purple Zeppelin flight cachet. Transit and arrival backstamps. Very Fine. A rare origin and a spectacular cover. Sieger No. 235 Aa. Sieger ?1,250 (registration # 3317)
 Estimate CHF 3,000-4,000/US\$ 2,340-3,120
 Closed at: **US \$2,400.00**



7th South America Flight, September 16-26 (Michel No. 337 a), registered cover addressed to Buenos Aires, four adhesives tied Mecque 22.8.33, Friedrichshafen 16.9.33 transit postmark and blue Zeppelin flight cachet, Buenos Aires arrival backstamp. Very Fine. Rare and unusual destination. *Not listed in Michel.* Sieger No. 232 Aa. Sieger ?3,600 (registration # 2497)
 Estimate CHF 4,000-6,000/US\$ 3,120-4,680
 Closed at: **US \$2,460.00**





1934, 5th South America Flight, August 5-14 (Michel No. 385 a), registered cover flown to Recife, seven adhesives tied Mecque 17.7.34, Friedrichshafen 4.8.34 transit postmark and red Zeppelin flight cachet. Transit and arrival markings backstamp. Rare origin. Very Fine. Not listed in Michel. A rare origin and a spectacular cover. Sieger No. 265 Aa. Sieger ?3,200 Estimate CHF 5,000-7,500/US\$ 3,900-5,850 (registration # 107)

Closed at: **US \$2,850.00**



1933 4th South America Flight, August 5-15 (Michel No. 323 a), registered cover addressed to Recife, two adhesives tied Mecque 21.6.33, Friedrichshafen 5.8.33 transit postmark and red Zeppelin flight cachet. Recife arrival backstamp. Very Fine. Spectacular item. Sieger No. 223 Aa. Michel ?800 (registration # 1651)

Estimate CHF 4,000-6,000/US\$ 3,120-4,680

Close at: **US \$3,224.00**



The Nejd Surcharges

By: F. C. Benedict

with additional notes by the editor.

This article contains observations of 40 copies of the 1 qirsh surcharge (SG 239, 240) and was sent to me by Fred. It started me looking closely at my copies and I have added my observations. In view of the small number of stamps studied, it is almost certain that members will be able to provide additional information, and I urge you to send me as much information as possible in order to produce a more comprehensive description of this issue. As you may have gathered by now, my comments are in italics. Ed.

A shortage of stamps necessitated the surcharging of stamps with the “Nejd Sultanate Post” handstamp in blue and black. The 1pi and 1-1/2pi surcharges were placed on the 1/2pi stamp, while the 2pi surcharge was put on the 3pi stamp.

Random Notes 19 showed a full plate of the 1/2pi surcharge in which the word guersh was inverted in the six stamps of the third line (see page 15). I had access to about 40 used stamps and none of them plated with that surcharge. A partial composite plate setting of these used stamps is shown on page 16. These stamps show distinct two dots over the “gaaf” and three dots over the “sheen”. The plate setting of RN19 only shows blobs over the “gaaf” and “sheen”, and the shape of the “haa” and “daal” are quite different suggesting that it is a forgery.

My observations were similar, but I did have a couple of stamps that did plate against the RN19 illustration.

The partial composite plate setting shows two errors listed by Gibbons: the dot over the left character (the “daal” making it a “dhaal”) in position 21, and the qalmsh error in position 26. Position 36 has a “daal” which should have been at the start of a word instead of the end, and position 22 has “gaaf” and “raa” missing. Position 22 is in a strip of three on a cover from Al Wajh to Egypt (see page 21). Do not try to make something from the Arabic date stamp as I had another Al Wajh cover mailed a month earlier from the arrival backstamps and the Arabic date was identical. The measurements for the composite plate are on page 17.

A number of years ago, long before color scanners came on the scene, Alex Kaczmarczyk sent me a Xerox copy of a complete composite sheet of used 1pi surcharges he had assembled (see page 18). While difficult to see, his plate setting does have the error in position 21, but does not have the error in position 26 suggesting that there were two plate settings of the 1pi surcharge. The two position 3 surcharges that are different lengths also points to two plates.

Gibbons says there was a 1pi surcharge measuring 16mm as well as a 17.5mm. I had access to about 40 used stamps dated from early February 1926 to mid-November 1926. Not a single 16mm showed up during this period, which raises a caution sign. I have a mint vertical pair of the 16mm on positions 1/7 with “wahid” inverted on position 7. The letters do not match those on the 17.5mm. For example the “daal” in the 16mm is 2.1mm high as against 2.8mm in the 17.5mm surcharge. And the “sheen” shape and location of dots are different.

I have seen no used 1-1/2pi or 2pi. I have a 1-1/2pi with an “ela” mark and a measurement of 17.3mm. And one could assume it was genuine, but the dots and the start of the “sheen” are not like those on the 1pi. A full sheet of 1-1/2pi are shown on page 19. These surcharges measure 18.5mm and the dots and “sheen” shape are more like the 1pi. You would think a printer would





A partial composite plate setting of the stamps observed by F. C. Benedict.



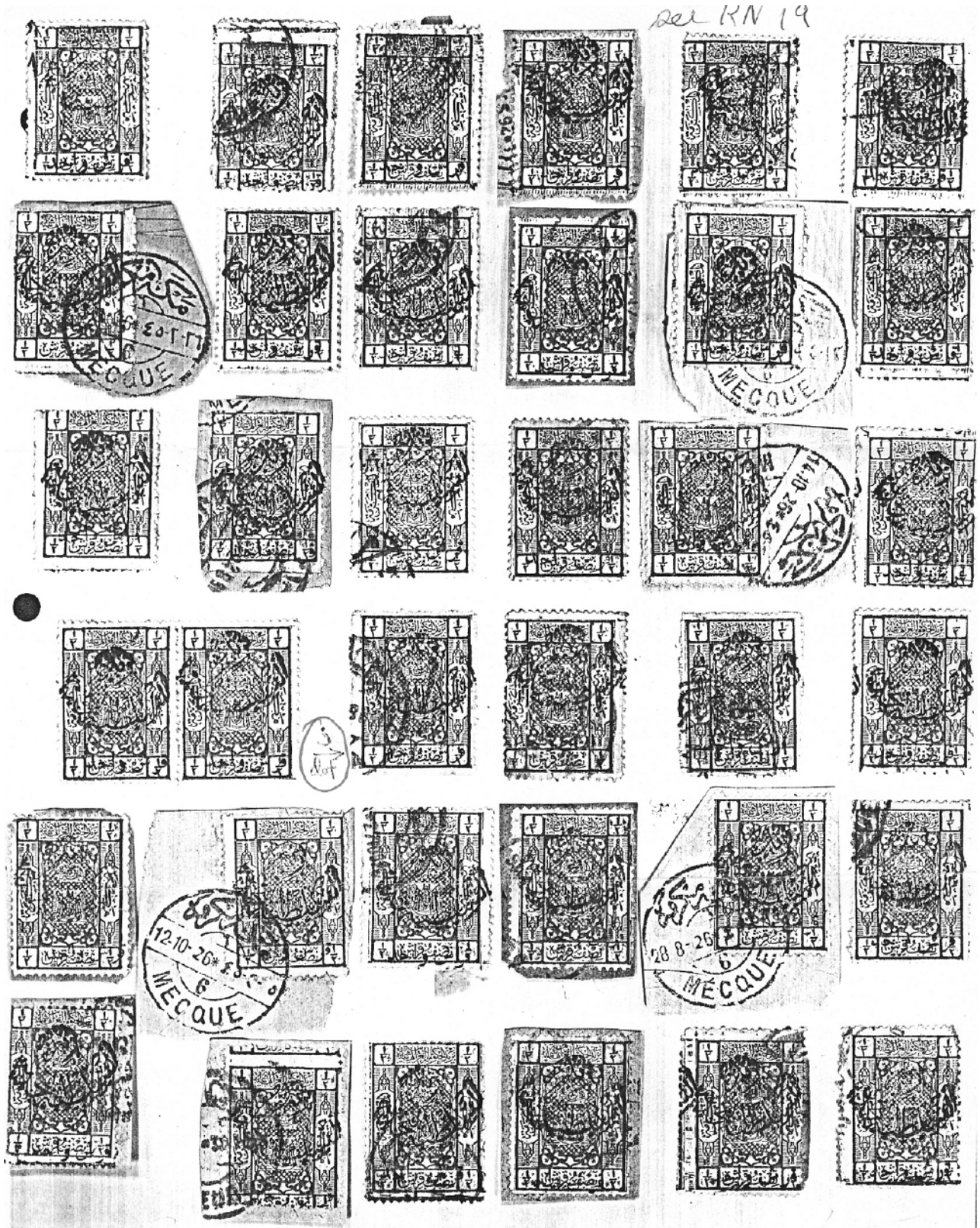
NEJD lpi surcharge on 1/2 pi: Sc. 46/S.G. 239

Pos	Length, mm	
1	18.0	Bottom of thin Alif missing
2		
3	18.4	space between guersch - wahid: 1.9 mm
4	17.9	Thin Alif
5	17.9	Break in "Wow"
6	17.8	Break in "Wow", Short "Alif". Break not constant
7	17.5	L.R. dot over "sheen" nearly missing
8	17.9	
9	17.7	Break in "wow"
10	17.9	Break in "wow"
11		
12	17.6	Break in "wow"
13	18.1	Breaks in "sheen" and "Wow"
14	17.8	Breaks in "raa", "wow" and "daal". Breaks in "raa" and "daal" not constant
15	17.4/17.6	Breaks in "raa", "wow" and "daal"/Heavier inking-break only in "wow"
16	18.1/18.2	Breaks in "sheen" and "Wow"/Same breaks. Heavier inking
17		
18	17.6	
19	17.8	
20	17.6	Top of raa missing, Long thin Alif
21	17.6	(Top of raa missing, Break in "Wow"). Dot over daal makes it "Dhaal"
22	13.9	Missing "gaaf", raa
23	18.0	Long Alif with bulbous base
24	17.8	
25	17.4	Break in "raa". Long, thin Alif
26	17.3	Raa replaced by Alif, Laam, Haaz and Daal touch
27	17.6	Breaks in "raa" and "sheen". L.L. dot over "sheen" missing.
28	16.2	"Gaaf" and Top raa missing, Breaks in "wow" and "daal"
29	17.7	Top of raa missing. Large break in "Wow". Right tail of "daal" missing
30		
31		
32	17.6	L.L. dot over "sheen" missing. Break in "Wow", Short Alif. Middle of Daal missing
33		Bottom of "wow" missing
34		
35	17.9	Break in "raa" and "Daal". "Haa" touches "daal". Breaks not constant.
36	17.4	Breaks in "Wow" and "Daal" (NOT constant), Right tail of "Daal" missing. Gaaf set at middle of "raa".

FCB
2/19/92

Length of surcharge as observed by F. C. Benedict.





A composite plate setting of the surcharge produced by Alex Kaczmarczyk.



Non Denteleu
Normal



One and one-half qirsh surcharge



use the same style type on all three surcharges. A 2pi I have measures 11.0mm, but the dots and shape of “sheen” makes it questionable.

I have 1½ and 2 qirsh surcharges either cto or on Eid covers, but have not seen any on truly commercial mail. Has anyone?

These surcharge plates were produced manually from individual pieces of type and because the length of the surcharge depends on the type, the lengths may only be relevant if each example of each letter was exactly the same width; highly unlikely I would have thought.

A close look at the sheet illustrated in RN19 shows the characters to be thicker than most, perhaps all, of those shown on the next page. By the thickness of the type alone, we must have at least two plates.

The Fact that the plates were of composed type could suggest that a surcharge plate was prepared for each print request and dismantled afterwards (unless the printer had a massive amount of type).

I have Eid covers Feb-April 1926 all with thick type and plate against RN19 (12 different plate positions) and some commercial covers May- November 1926 all with thin type. It would appear that the thick type was used for the first setting.

In order to determine the number of plates actually used, we will have to examine the plated surcharges. Unfortunately positional blocks are few and I am basing my observations on the stamp position; that will make the results dependent on the surcharge plate aligning perfectly with the stamps, and we know that that may be wishful thinking in view of the fact that surcharges sometimes appear at the top of the stamp - do they belong to the position of the stamp or the row above? It may be that the surcharges were deliberately placed at the top; I have not seen a vertical pair from the bottom of the sheet where the surcharge is missing from the bottom stamp.

As an example of progress to date, below are 2 different thin surcharges from position 30 stamps, together with one, in red, superimposed on the other to highlight the differences. If the surcharge plates were not offset in relation to the stamps, then we have at least two plates with thin type. I should be careful when referring to the plates by the thickness of the type; some individual characters on ‘thin’ type plates appear to be thick. There is every likelihood of the type being mixed.



Two different setting from position 30?





Cover from Al-Wajh (EL-WAJHE) to Suez



Eid cover showing all three surcharges and the 'inverted word' error

I would like to thank Fred for sending me his article, started many years ago, and for allowing me to rearrange it. If anyone can help by supplying either stamps or images that will enhance our knowledge of this issue, I would be most grateful. For this type of work I scan at 508 dpi.

From the Auctions

By: Martin Lovegrove

Just a small selection of items from auctions held last year. Details of the auction houses can be found on the last page of this issue. The descriptions are as they appeared in the relevant catalogue.

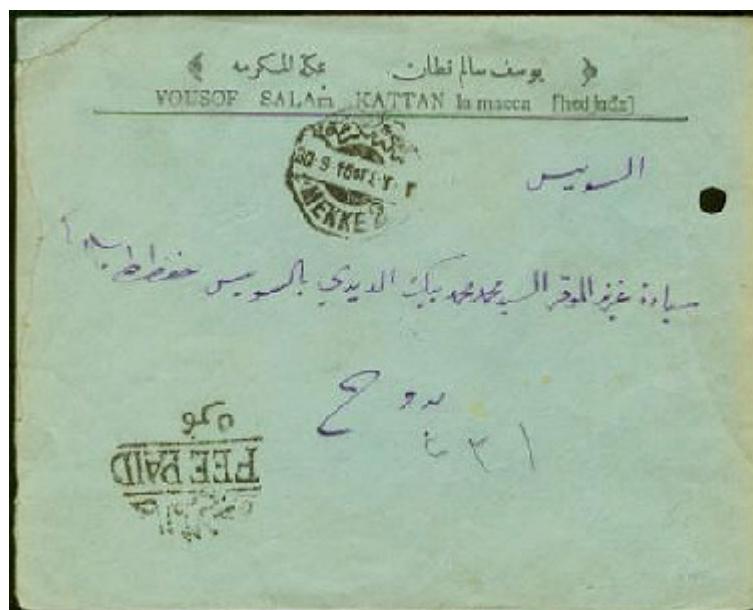
1952 Bedouins and Trains, cplt set of five large die proofs, die sunk on full cards, also master die proof in green, value tablet blank, v.f. and fresh, extremely rare set

SOLD for \$4,500.00 (*Cherrystone - November 2005*)



1916 stampless grey native cover with bilingual printed return "YOUSOF SALAM KATTAN la macca [hedjaz]," MEKKE 2 Sep 30 bilingual d.s., and sharp FEE PAID unframed bilingual h.s. (von Uexkull Type E), on reverse OPENED BY CENSOR blue tape tied by two "No. 5" h.s.'s, small corner repair and small circular punch, use of "Fee Paid" h.s.'s in Mecca authorized 24 June to 16 October 1916 only, as Turkish stamps had all been burned and Hejaz stamps not yet issued, *excellent example of a rare marking*, Fine.

Estimate \$600-750 (*George Alevizos - September 2005*)



Fee Paid type
MK-4

RN

Acknowledgements and Contacts

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

Filatco <http://www.filatco.com>

Nutmeg Stamp Sales Inc <http://www.nutmegstamp.com>

Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions <http://www.rumseyauctions.com>

Regretfully, Greg Manning Auctions have declined to give us permission to reproduce images from their catalogues/web site. This is the first refusal I have been given.

Useful links

<http://www.oriold.unizh.ch//static/hegira.html> Date conversion

<http://www.filatelia.fi/experts/> Experts