



الجمعية الدولية للطابع البريدية العربية
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International
Random Notes



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First Day cover?
See [page 12](#)

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.

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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 #70

Assembled by the Editor

The arrival in my postbox of an article on the 1949 airm by new member Burl Henry relieved my anxiety about the number of pages I would be able to produce. After reading his offering I was motivated to do some investigation. My conclusions are not in agreement with Burl's, but may be incorrect. I urge all of you who have stamps of this issue to study them closely and send in your own conclusions. Thank you Burl.

The news about the cover illustrated on page 1 of this issue arrived after I had done most of the work for this issue, but in view of its importance notes have been included on page 12, although it deserves a more prominent place. It was indeed a very lucky find for the owner.

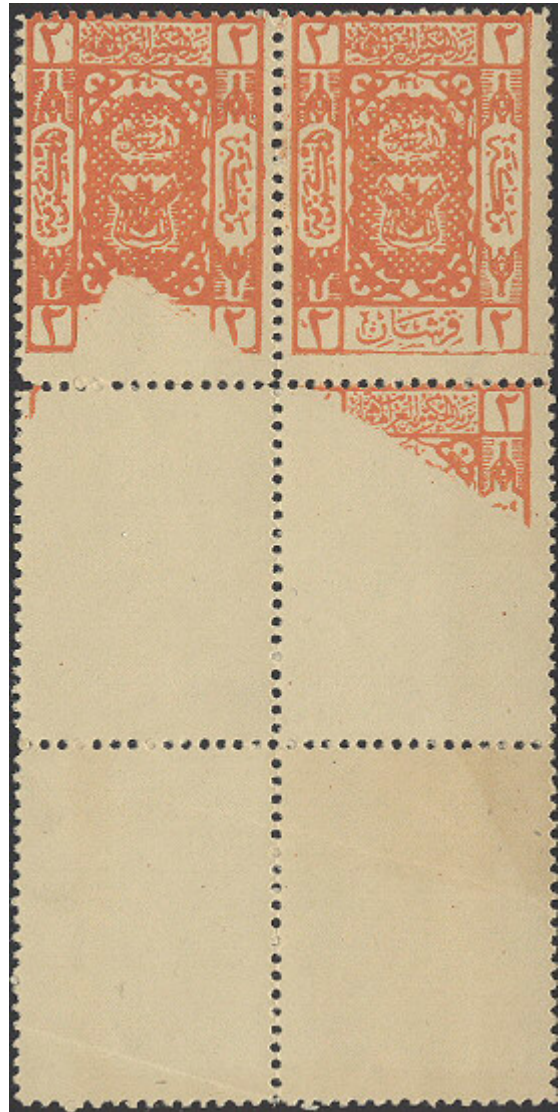
Have a look at the last page of this issue; some more links have been added.

Now for the notes.

1. I was recently shown a very nice block of the 2 qirsh Makkah Arms showing a major printing flaw. It looks as though a sheet of paper covered a large portion of the sheet being printed. A lesser example can be seen on the imperforate half-sheet of the same value illustrated in Random Notes #63.23. This type of flaw is not restricted to genuine stamps. Thanks to Fred benedict, I can also show you an example on a 'reprint' forgery, however this one was caused by a paper fold.



'Reprint' showing partial missing design.



- Following the mention of missing dates on the unframed Hashemite overprints in Random Notes #69, a nice block appeared on eBay. This time, the item was accompanied by a good quality scan, and it is from that image the following observations are made. The overprints are from positions 37, 38, 42, 43, 47 and 48, and not all of the right-hand dates are completely missing; in some positions there is evidence of ink. The stamp in the lower left (position 47) is particularly interesting. There is a piece missing from the right-hand end of the top line of the overprint and also some ink at the lower edge of where the year should have been (Figure 1). It is not difficult to imagine that whatever had been placed over the year to prevent it from receiving ink, had slipped (Figure 2). While we may never know what actually happened, I think this is a possible explanation for this occurrence and perhaps most others of this variety.

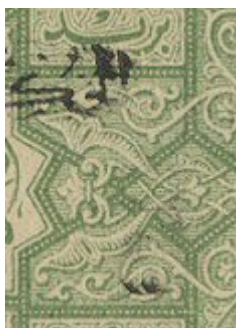


Figure 1



Figure 2



- Illustrated on the next page is a forgery that is new to me. It is a Jeddah 4-line forgery type 4 on a genuine Makkah Arms 5 qirsh. In my experience and according to the Forgeries manual, the type 4 forgery is only found on the 'Tel Aviv' total forgeries. The overprint ink colour is not strong so it does not show very well, but I am certain it is a type 4. I would be interested to hear from anyone who has these forgeries on non-'Tel Aviv' stamps, either genuine or forgeries.



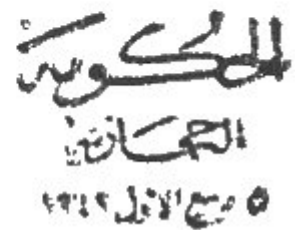
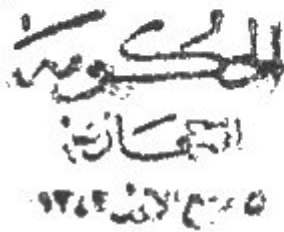
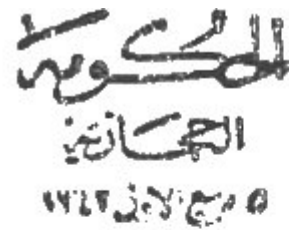


FT 4 as part of 'Tel Aviv' forgery



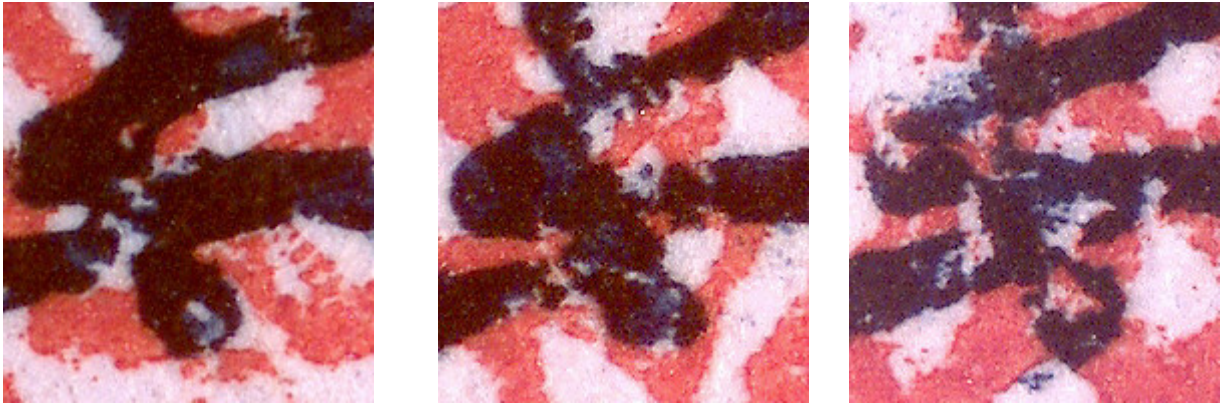
FT 4 on genuine Makkah Arms

4. One of the latest items to emerge from my Pandora's box of forgeries was this nice bogus issue. It is a 14mm Jeddah 3-line forgery type 8 overprint on a block of four Makkah Arms ½ qirsh value. The forgeries manual was unable to supply the plate size, but since all the overprints on my block differ slightly, the plate must have been at least 2 x 2. The block is illustrated below, together with enlargements of the four positions. The stamps are positions 25, 26, 31 and 32.



One of the features mentioned in the forgeries manual is that of the dot of 'jiym' in the second line is detached. On my block the dots are attached, however, none are firmly attached. Three are shown on the next page in detail. Note that this is another forgery where the serifs at the top of 'alif' and 'laam' on the top line are all but missing.





Various states of dot 'attachment' in 14mm Jeddah 3-line forgery type 8 overprint

5. Here is an item that has been worrying me for some time. It is a horizontal pair of Makkah Arms 1 qirsh, printed double, imperforate and with a mustahiq overprint. I have also seen a vertical pair and both items are shown below. The overprint is a forgery type 2, but that does not necessarily mean that the same applies to the stamps. In this case, the stamps show a good amount of ink 'squash' associated with relief printing, and that is a feature that most 'reprint' forgeries lack. In addition, the flaws on the stamp match the genuine stamps and there appear to have been no additional flaws introduced during a forgery process. On the down side, the gum is almost totally obscured by ink and the presence of ink on the gum, although in much lesser quantities, is a feature of 'reprints'. Examination of the gum itself would probably settle the argument but there is just not enough visible. I am currently inclined to say that the complete item is a forgery, perhaps a reader could help me on that one? The worrying bit for me is that I have some 1 qirsh dark blue Makkah Arms stamps showing the same print characteristics but without the ink on the back, and one is signed 'ela'. Are these forgeries? I think I will have to wait for the answer to that one. I will try to illustrate some of them in a future issue.



Front and back of stamps.





Detail of double overprint from side of stamp

6. I have two copies of an unlisted mustahiq forgery which I think are similar enough to be considered as a single type. The top example came from the stamp shown below, the other, much weaker print, came from a forgery of SG D47A (Scott LJ11). The main points to note about this forgery is that the three ornamental characters in the top left-hand corner are joined, and that 'taa' joins 'haa' incorrectly.



7. A few revenue items now. Some time ago, Willie King mentioned to me that he had some Hejaz revenues with the Jeddah provisional handstamp sideways. I checked my collection and found I had just one. These varieties were not recorded in Rudy Thoden's fiscal catalogue so I thought it would be a good idea to build a list of my own. So, if any of you revenue collectors have any, please let me know the details and if you are able to provide a scanned image, so much the better. I will publish the list in a future edition of Random Notes.

RQ21 with handstamp sideways, reading up.



I have a copy of the 1965 10 riyal passport stamp (RP35) in carmine; Rudy listed this stamp as just magenta.

Another shade not listed is a version of the 1937-52 110 qirsh passport stamp in deep lilac on greyish paper (RP27Xg). I have a copy is a distinctive shade of deep violet-blue. It is quite noticeable in natural light, although probably does not show up well here.



RP35 in carmine.



Deep lilac



Deep violet-blue

There must be more revenue news just waiting to be published! Please let me know.

8. I have seen several examples of the Caliphate overprinted 3 qirsh Makkah Arms in a dark olive shade. If my memory has not completely deserted me, I seem to remember that all examples were on paper that seemed to have suffered from adverse storage conditions, so I thought that there was a possibility of these conditions also affecting the ink. However I recently received a copy in excellent condition, so there is a distinct possibility that the stamps were printed in this shade. My example is brown-olive according to the Stanley Gibbons colour key. I have yet to see an unoverprinted 3 qirsh in this shade, and it is therefore possible that like the burnt-orange shade used on the 2 qirsh, the brown-olive print was used entirely for the Caliphate overprint.

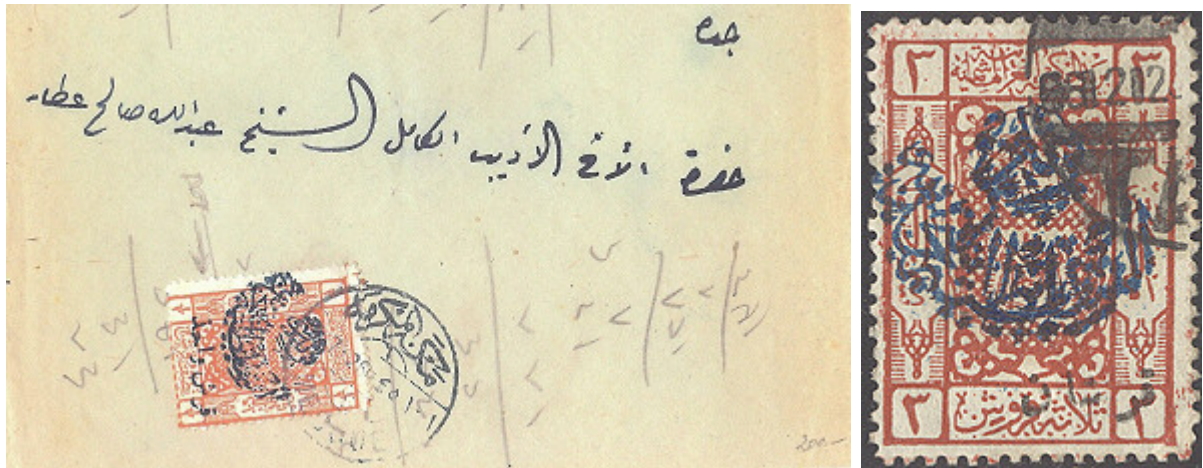


Normal

Brown-olive



9. Soon after Fred Benedict sent me his article on the Nejd surcharges that appeared in the last edition of Random Notes, Fred realized that he had some of the surcharges in used condition. I illustrate here the 2 qirsh surcharge with a part TAIIF cancel. Fred also sent a scan of a cover bearing a 1 qirsh surcharge with the variety 'dot over dahl'. I suspect that most of us interested in old covers have seen items with lots of manuscript scribbling as a result of used envelopes being used as scrap paper. What caught my eye on this cover is that the stamp was applied OVER the scribble! Does this indicate a shortage of envelopes?



I have received some scans of this series from our readers and so far no further discoveries have been made, but I would still appreciate more. Ideally the scan should be at 508 dpi to assist measurement, but any good quality image would be gratefully received. One thing that I did find in a group of surcharges that I purchased recently, were some forgeries and potential forgeries. I will leave most until I have my numbering system in place, but will show here two surcharged stamps that look suspicious. Figure 1 shows a 2 qirsh surcharge double, one inverted, with a genuine Nejd handstamp. Figure 2 shows the surcharges enlarged, the inverted one on the stamp is the lower one below. Figure 3 shows a 2 qirsh surcharge inverted with a forged Nejd handstamp and the surcharge will almost certainly be a forgery. It will not be possible to be certain about the double surcharges until we have examples of all the surcharge plates. Just because the characters may not look 'right' it does not mean that they aren't. I will be pleased to hear from anyone who can help with these.



Left: Figure 1. Right: Figure 3.



Figure 2.



10. I have received some interesting covers from former member Dr. Robert McFarlane. These covers give some insight into how postage due on incoming mail was handled in Dhahran in the mid-1970s.



Above is a cover from 1973 showing a boxed postage due strike in purple with the amount due and that converted to 7 qirsh. A 7 qirsh GOSP (Scott 234, SG 403) handstamped 'CANCELLED' was affixed. Judging by the fact that the handstamp was applied across the perforations but did not appear on the envelope, suggests that these stamps were pre-cancelled.



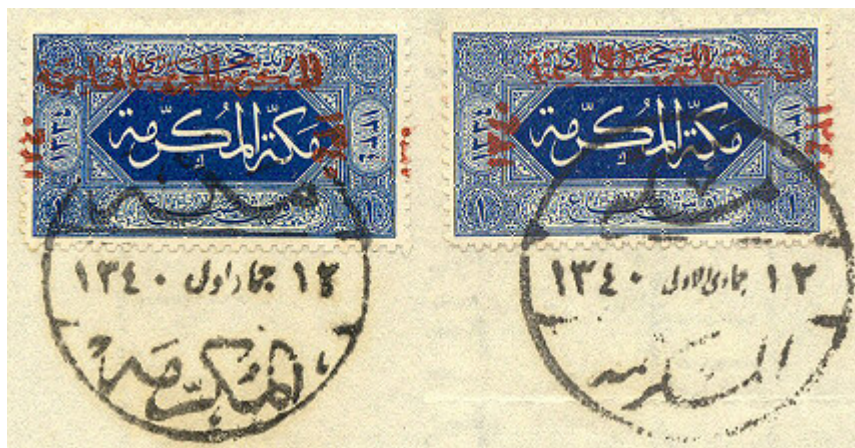
The next cover, also from 1973, shows circular postage due markings but no manuscript conversion to local currency. The stamps used to collect the amount due were two stamps from the 'Tourist' series, both handstamped in a manner similar to the first cover. This time the handstamp was contained within the boundaries of the stamp so it not possible to determine pre-cancellation. There was another cover similar to this but without any Saudi stamps or marks and Bob reports that this was dropped in his mailbox without the amount due being collected.



The final cover is from 1974. This shows the same boxed postage due strike as the first cover, but in this case a 26 qirsh unwatermarked Faisal dam (Scott 415, SG 709) was affixed and cancelled by pen. Robert recalls that this practice was carried on for several months during this period.

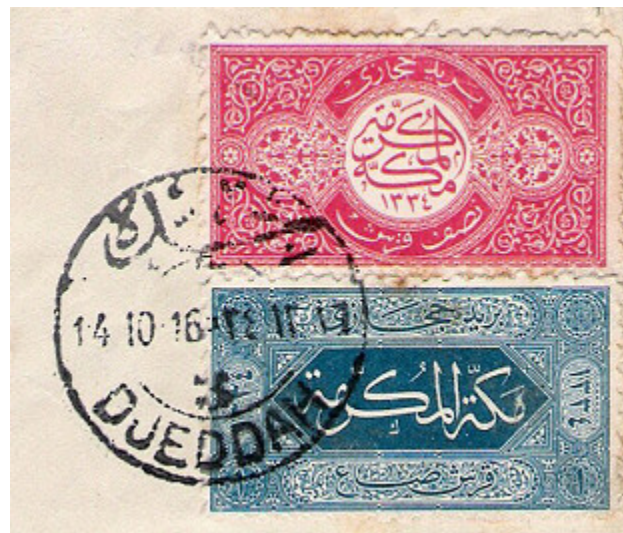


- Another item sold from Bob's collection was a Mohamed Ali Abdou sheet of unframed Hashemite overprints. The cancellations were dated 12 Jumada Al Awal 1340 the same as another sheet I had, but in this case the postmark was a Makkah type H10 whereas my other sheet was a type H50. These are illustrated below, but note the different spellings of the month. Apparently this was not unusual, but nevertheless, interesting. Oh, just in case you think that the stamp on the left below is dated the 13th, it's not. That effect was cause by stray ink, the remaining stamps on the sheet are clearly dated the 12th, but his stamp looked the best to reproduce!



12. Now for the most significant find for a long time. This cover was found by member Marwan Nusair at Washington 2006 and purchased at a price normally associated with a standard clean Hejaz cover of 1917. This one having a date of 14 October 1916 makes it the earliest known cover bearing Hejaz stamps and is two days earlier than the famous Lawrence cover. The date is thought to be the day that the stamps were formally approved by King Hussain, so this could perhaps qualify as a First Day Cover. With this information, Marwan would make a healthy profit if he sold the cover now, but I suspect he will be keeping it!

I hope to be able to include more information about the history of the cover in the next issue.



"TONED PAPER" FORGERIES OF THE 1949 AIRMAIL STAMPS

By: Burl C. Henry

In RN 69, a brownish paper variety of the 1 qirsh air was illustrated. Since its cancellation type and toned paper was reminiscent of the forgeries of Lebanon stamps of the same era, it seemed possible that it might also be a forgery. The Lebanon forgeries are easily confirmed by examining the imprint letters (always perfectly formed on genuine stamps, somewhat distorted and mis-shapen on forgeries). See Fig. 2 on next page. Unfortunately, no such aid exists on the Saudi airs, so another approach was needed.

From an accumulation of 408 used 1949 airs, 59 stamps with light to heavily toned paper were found. Fifteen of the stamps had Mecque (3) cancellations with legible dates. ALL were dated 31 12 51, indicating that they bore forged cancellations. The remaining stamps had portions of the same Mecque (3) cancellation, thus indicating that any toned paper stamp should be considered to be a forgery. Twelve examples are shown in Fig. 1.



Fig. 1



Close examination of the forgeries showed small differences with respect to the genuine stamps, such as a general absence of the fine shading dots around the propeller hubs, a shorter line of shading dashes on top of the fuselage (where they extend faintly to the tail section on genuine copies), missing shading on the wings, etc. Centering and printing quality on the forgeries tended to be better than on the majority of the other stamps.

Examination of the remaining white paper stamps disclosed several examples with the same printing characteristics as the forgeries, but with a different cancellation type, so different printings of the forgeries may exist (as also for Lebanon, where white paper forgeries can sometimes be found). Two toned paper stamps with the different cancellation were also found. However, none of the preceding had legible dates. Some examples are shown in Fig. 2, along with the Lebanon imprints, for reference.



Fig. 2

Other collectors are urged to examine their holdings of the 1949 airs, to further confirm or add to the above observations. Only 7 mint stamps were available for study, and all appeared to be genuine.

Editor's Comments

RN64.18 has a short note on a brown paper variety showing similar characteristics. I once raised the question of forgeries of this issue with Rudy Thoden. He dismissed the idea mainly on the basis of the lack of profit in forging low face value stamps. Unlike the Hejaz forgeries which were created to satisfy philatelic demand for those issues, the 1949 airs are plentiful and forgeries would only be likely if the aim was to defraud the postal authorities. So with that in mind, I searched for another explanation.



My first thought related to the cancellation; there is no doubt that with so many having the same date, the situation was not a normal postal one. The alternative to a forged postmark was a favour cancel, and if this was the case, then it was likely that the stamps are genuine. If the postmark is genuine and applied normally to covers, I would expect to find tax stamps with this type and date, but so far none have been found. A favour cancel looks the best bet. But what accounts for the differences in design that these stamps display?

This design showed many slight changes as the plates wore, but Burl's observation on the shading in the engine area was worth investigating. Looking closely at my copies I found that I have both imperf brown paper and perforated white paper copies, so there is quite a bit of reference material for me to use.

I raised the question of multiple plates for these stamps in RN65.10-12 item 17 and deeper investigation was required. Were these extra plates forgeries?

I think Max Mayo may have provided the answer. On page 96 of his book 'Barid Al-Sa'udiyah wa Al Hejaz wa Nejd' he states:

This, the first airmail issue of Saudi Arabia was lithographed in Cairo.

Although Mayo may be wrong, this could account for the existence of more than one plate for each value and for Burl's comment about the print quality being better on the 'forgeries', although I have good and bad of each. Examples had to be examined in detail to determine if lithography was used. Figures 3 and 4 show an example of part of one of these subject stamps with a normal relief printed one. (See RN60.15-16 for printing techniques)

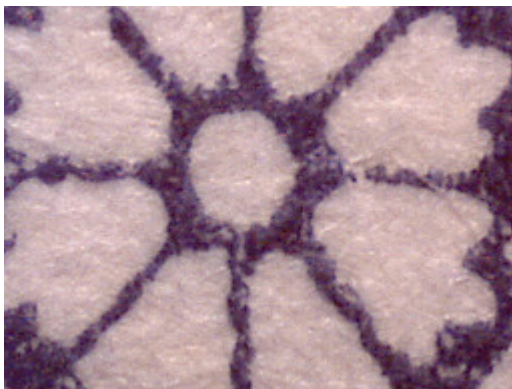


Fig. 3

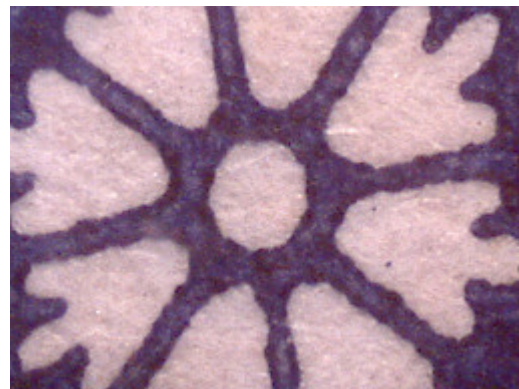



Fig. 4

Figure 3 does in fact show the 'flat' printing characteristics of lithography whereas figure 4 shows the 'ink squash' associated with relief printing. I will admit to choosing the genuine stamp with care in order to display this characteristic; sometimes when printing pressure is light, very little 'squash' occurs, and as you can see, the relief printed version is much clearer than the litho one. Nevertheless, I have not seen any indication of relief printing on my copies of this 'toned' paper issue.

Assuming two separate processes were used, we have to ask why? And when? And by whom? My answer to these questions is 'I have no idea', but remember that litho-printed Medical Aid tax stamps were produced during this period.

One thing I have noticed with my used copies is that they all originate from Makkah. This could still fit the 'genuine stamp' theory. The government printing press was located there and that would have been the place that any sheets from outside printers would have been kept. 

So perhaps we could conclude from the evidence so far is that these clearer stamps on special paper were litho-printed, perhaps as proofs, and at a later date some, or all, of the sheets that had been perforated where favour cancelled. The Saudi authorities made separate plates for relief printing the bulk of the issue. Burl's illustrations show that these stamps were also printed on white paper, but were these genuinely postally used? The imperf-between example of the 3 qirsh value shown in RN65.12 also appears to have been printed by lithography, whereas the imperf-between pair on cover shown in RN64.24 were definitely relief printed.

If my conclusions are correct, we need to know if these stamps were produced only as proofs or as the initial batch for postal use. The delay between the 1949 issue date and the favour cancel date of some two years may not be relevant; it is not certain whether the date was in fact correct. Bearing in mind my previous comment about the litho-printed tax stamps, we could actually be looking at an emergency printing of the stamps made in 1951.

Figures 5 and 6 show the reference details mentioned by Burl on a normal stamp and a 'suspect' one respectively.

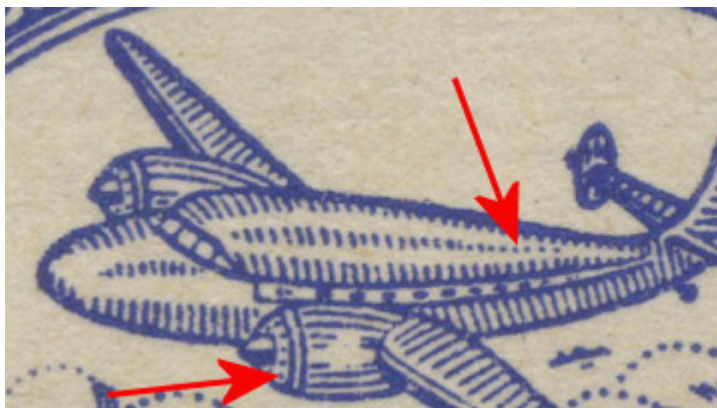


Fig. 5

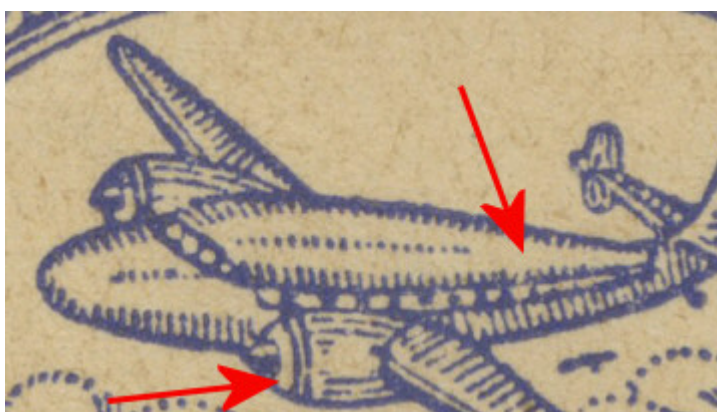


Fig. 6

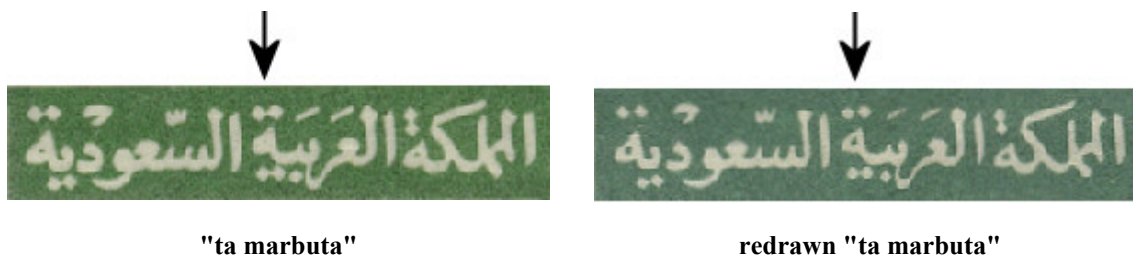
I have tried to present a few points that counter Burl's conclusions in order to stimulate discussion, but I have yet to be convinced on either position. I actually need to study my examples more closely. Please look at your air stamps, on and off cover, and see if you can find some of the missing pieces. I look forward to receiving your comments, and will provide an update as soon as possible.

The 'Tourist' Frames - A Beginner's Guide

By: Martin Lovegrove

Some time ago I started to sort through my various copies of the 'Tourist' issue, mainly with the intention of finding some elusive watermark varieties! The main problem I had was in distinguishing between the two frame types. The differences are listed in catalogues and also in what I think was an attachment to Random Notes #16, but nowhere could I find illustrations. Having completed my task, but without finding anything of interest whatsoever, I thought I would at least produce some illustrations so that next time my task would be easier. The illustrations may also show differences that have not been described in the text - a picture is worth a thousand words. On the off-chance that there is someone else out there with as little knowledge of this series as mine, here is what you need!

In the original frame, the dot in the Arabic taa marbutah in the top line is very small. In the redrawn frame, it is much larger and clearer. This can easily be distinguished with the naked eye. It sounds easy, but I found some that looked 'in-between'!



Not all values exist with both original and redrawn frames; those that do, and their distinguishing features are listed below:

1 qirsh

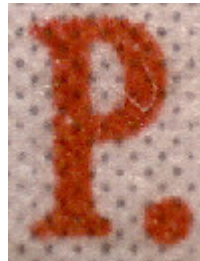
1. The original frame has the 'S' of POSTAGE positioned slightly to the right of the number '1'. In the redrawn frame the 'S' and '1' have their right sides aligned.
2. The characters in 'KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA' are thin and those in 'POSTAGE' are thick in the original frame and vice-versa in the redrawn.



2 qirsh

1. Letter 'P' normal in original frame but has a defective top in redrawn.
2. Letters in 'ARABIA' joined together in original frame but separate in redrawn.

Original frame



Redrawn frame



3 qirsh

1. No stop after value in original frame but present in redrawn.

4 qirsh

1. Number '4' under 'S' of 'POSTAGE' in original frame but under 'T' in redrawn.

3 qirsh

4 qirsh

Original frame



Redrawn frame

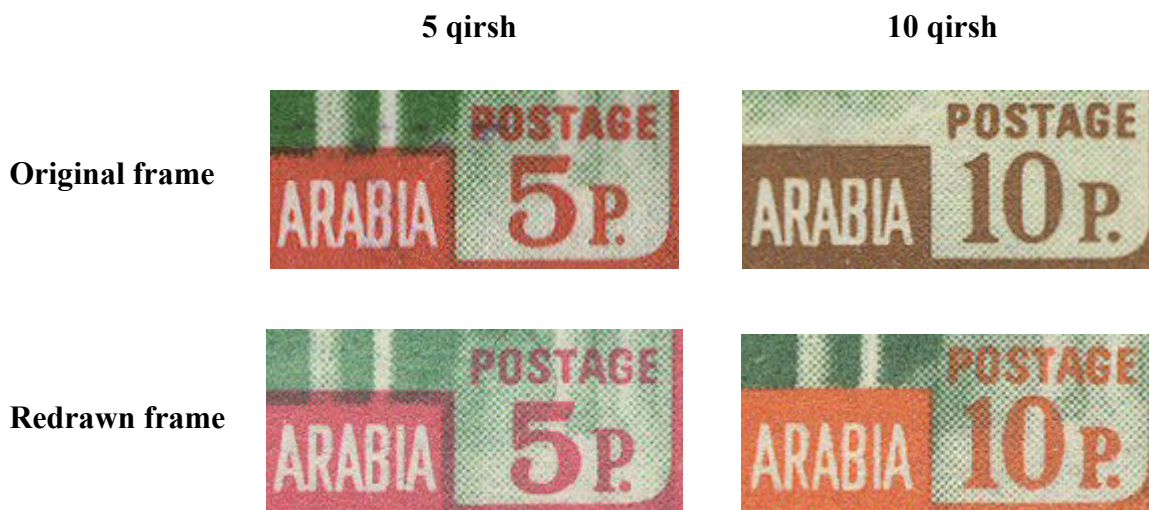


5 qirsh

1. Small loop to 'P' normal in original frame, larger in redrawn.
2. Letters in 'ARABIA' joined together in original frame but separate in redrawn.

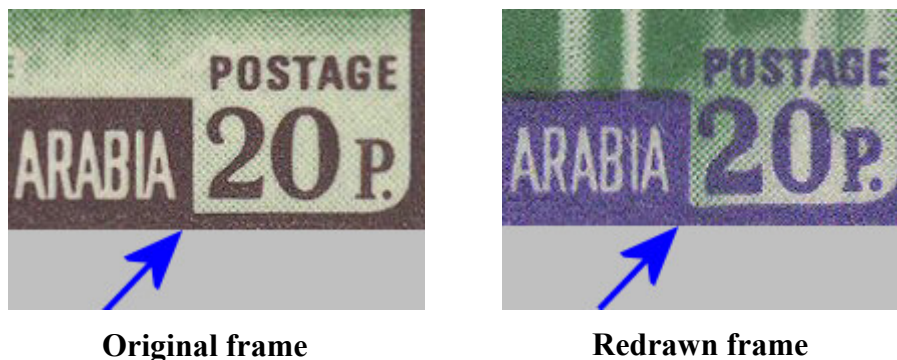
10 qirsh

1. Thin '0' in value in original frame, thicker in redrawn.
2. Letters in 'ARABIA' joined together in original frame but separate in redrawn.



20 qirsh

1. Bottom left-hand corner of value tablet is a right-angle in the original frame but rounded in redrawn (indicated by blue arrow in the illustrations below).
2. Letters in 'ARABIA' joined together in original frame but separate in redrawn.



I am sure that the experienced collector is familiar with these differences, but I hope that the illustrations will be of use to all.

The Forgeries Manual - A Way Ahead?

By: Martin Lovegrove

An updated version, or perhaps a rewrite, of the manual has been talked about for some time, but I have an immediate requirement for allocating identifiers to my forgeries, so I am going to propose a way ahead. Actually, Willie King has been working on a 'Rolls Royce' version and has covered the framed and unframed Hashemite overprints. It will inevitably take a long time to complete such a work and my proposal is for an interim version, similar in detail to the existing manual but with a more comprehensive and logical numbering system. My version will initially cover stamps and overprints, with postmarks being added later, although with the recent activity in covers with forged cancellations, I may change my mind and do everything at once.

The initial task has been to devise a numbering system where a forged item would have just one identifying number no matter where the item was actually used. Thus for the illegible postage dues with handstamp, the overprint would have its own number and the handstamp a different one, thus avoiding the current state where the handstamp on forgery type 4 (page K-10 of the forgeries manual) is the same as that used for forgery type 3 (also page K-10). If that handstamp was found on another type of stamp, the situation would get quite muddled.

Willie King has used the identifying letters FB for the unframed overprint and FC for the framed and I see no reason to change that. Well, perhaps I will modify it! Due to the large number of forged items, I thought it better to use identifiers starting with 3 letters, with the first letter defining the type of forgery. I will use O (overprint), P (postmark) and S (stamp), so the unframed would become OFB, but there is no reason why if only 2 characters are specified then an overprint is assumed.

Here is my list of main identifiers for overprints:

OFB	Unframed Hashemite
OFC	Framed hashemite
OFD	½ qirsh surcharge for unframed/framed Hashemite
OFE	1 qirsh surcharge for unframed/framed Hashemite
OFF	Hejaz framed Mustahiq 23mm x 11mm
OFG	Hejaz 1923 1/4 qirsh surcharge
OFH	Hejaz 1923 10 qirsh surcharge
OFI	Hejaz Caliphate
OFJ	Jeddah 2-line
OFK	Jeddah small 3-line (14mm)
OFL	Jeddah large 3-line (16mm)
OFM	Jeddah 4-line 1/8 qirsh
OFN	Jeddah 4-line 1/4 qirsh
OFO	Jeddah 4-line 1 qirsh
OFP	Jeddah 4-line 10 qirsh
OFQ	Hejaz Illegible 1/4 qirsh
OFR	Hejaz Illegible 1 qirsh
OFS	Hejaz Illegible 10 qirsh
OFT	Hejaz Illegible ¼ qirsh surcharge handstamp
OFU	Hejaz Illegible 1 qirsh surcharge handstamp
OFV	Hejaz Illegible 10 qirsh surcharge handstamp



OFW	Hejaz Illegible postage due
OFX	Hejaz Illegible postage due handstamp 17.5mm x 7mm
OFY	Hejaz King Ali
OGA	Nejd first handstamp
OGB	Nejd unframed postage due handstamp
OGC	Nejd Matbua handstamp
OGD	Nejd Hajj handstamp (main)
OGE	Nejd Hajj handstamp 'Wednesday'
OGF	Nejd Hajj handstamp 1 qirsh
OGG	Nejd Hajj handstamp 2 qirsh
OGH	Nejd Hajj handstamp 4 qirsh
OGI	Nejd Hajj handstamp 5 qirsh
OGJ	Nejd second handstamp
OGK	Nejd framed postage due handstamp 18mm x 7mm
OGL	Nejd 1 qirsh surcharge
OGM	Nejd 1-1/2 qirsh surcharge
OGN	Nejd 2 qirsh surcharge
OGO	Nejd Medina handstamp
OGP	Nejd Jeddah handstamp
OGQ	Nejd Jeddah/Medina 1 qirsh handstamp
OGR	Nejd Jeddah/Medina 2 qirsh handstamp
OGS	Nejd Jeddah/Medina 3 qirsh handstamp
OGT	Nejd Jeddah/Medina 4 qirsh handstamp
OGU	Nejd Jeddah/Medina 5 qirsh handstamp
OHA	Nejd Medina provisional (Al Saudiya)

That, I think, is all of the early overprints; there are not many later ones to add.

Within each overprint type, different forgeries will be allocated a 2-digit number, for example, OFB-01, OFB-02 representing two different forgeries of the unframed Hashemite overprint.

Having decided that the numbering system should be logical, I then proceeded to break that rule when it came to looking at forged stamps; but only slightly! In general, forged basic stamps have fallen into distinct groups to which I have, in previous issues of Random Notes, allocated names that other collectors and dealers seem to have used: 'Cairo', 'Hialeah' and 'Tel Aviv'. I have allocated identifiers to these stamps in such a manner as to be able to determine the type of forgery from the number. Thus 'Cairo' forgeries start with SC, 'Hialeah' with SH and 'Tel Aviv' with ST. I have allocated SR to the 'Reprint' forgeries and other miscellaneous forgeries begin SM, although other letters will be used if all of the SM series become allocated.

Within each of these stamp groups, another letter is allocated to represent each different set and a further 2 digits for each face value that is forged, but note that these numbers do not represent an exact monetary value - the digits 01 may be 1 qirsh in one set and 3 qirsh in another. I need to keep the system flexible. Where a forgery type has two different forgeries of the same value in a set, the number will have to be further qualified. My initial thought was to add a lower case letter as a suffix, e.g. SHC-04a, but numbers could be used instead, e.g. SHC-04-01. I am now inclined to use the latter.



The following list contains the start of the stamp forgeries allocation; there is a lot of work to do on the 'Tel Aviv' forgeries.

- SCA-01 'Cairo' Survey of Egypt 1 para
- SCA-02 'Cairo' Survey of Egypt 1/8 qirsh
- SCA-03 'Cairo' Survey of Egypt 1/4 qirsh
- SCA-04 'Cairo' Survey of Egypt 1/2 qirsh
- SCA-05 'Cairo' Survey of Egypt 1 qirsh
- SCA-06 'Cairo' Survey of Egypt 2 qirsh
- SCA-07 'Cairo' Survey of Egypt 20 para postage due
- SCA-08 'Cairo' Survey of Egypt 1 qirsh postage due
- SCA-09 'Cairo' Survey of Egypt 2 qirsh postage due
- SCB-01 'Cairo' Makkah Arms 1/8 qirsh
- SCB-02 'Cairo' Makkah Arms 1/4 qirsh
- SCB-03 'Cairo' Makkah Arms 1/2 qirsh
- SCB-04 'Cairo' Makkah Arms 1 qirsh
- SCB-05 'Cairo' Makkah Arms 1-1/2 qirsh
- SCB-06 'Cairo' Makkah Arms 2 qirsh
- SCB-07 'Cairo' Makkah Arms 3 qirsh
- SCB-08 'Cairo' Makkah Arms 5 qirsh
- SCB-09 'Cairo' Makkah Arms 10 qirsh
- SCC-01 'Cairo' Heir Apparent 1/4 qirsh
- SCC-02 'Cairo' Heir Apparent 1/2 qirsh
- SCC-03 'Cairo' Heir Apparent 1-1/2 qirsh
- SCC-04 Cairo' Heir Apparent 3 qirsh
- SCC-05 Cairo' Heir Apparent 3-1/2 qirsh
- SCC-06 Cairo' Heir Apparent 5 qirsh
- SCC-07 Cairo' Heir Apparent 10 qirsh
- SCC-08 Cairo' Heir Apparent 20 qirsh
- SCC-09 'Cairo' Heir Apparent 1/4 sov
- SCC-10 Cairo' Heir Apparent 30 qirsh
- SCC-11 'Cairo' Heir Apparent 1/2 sov
- SCC-12 'Cairo' Heir Apparent 1 sov

- SHA-04 'Hialeah' Survey of Egypt 1/2 qirsh
- SHA-06 'Hialeah' Survey of Egypt 20 para postage due
- SHB-01 'Hialeah' Makkah Arms 1/8 qirsh

- SHC-01 'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 1/4 qirsh
- SHC-02 'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 1/2 qirsh
- SHC-03 'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 1-1/2 qirsh
- SHC-04 'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 3 qirsh
- SHC-05 'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 3-1/2 qirsh
- SHC-06 'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 5 qirsh
- SHC-07 'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 10 qirsh
- SHC-08 'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 20 qirsh



- SHC-09 'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 1/4 sov
- SHC-10 'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 30 qirsh
- SHC-11 'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 1/2 sov
- SHC-12 'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 1 sov

- SHD-01 'Hialeah' Large Medical Aid

- SMC-01 Hejaz-Nejd 1926 Definitive 1/4 qirsh
- SMC-02 Hejaz-Nejd 1926 Definitive 1/2 qirsh
- SMC-03 Hejaz-Nejd 1926 Definitive 1 qirsh
- SMC-04 Hejaz-Nejd 1926 Definitive 2 qirsh
- SMC-05 Hejaz-Nejd 1926 Definitive 3 qirsh
- SMC-06 Hejaz-Nejd 1926 Definitive 5 qirsh
- SMC-07 Hejaz-Nejd 1926 Definitive 1/2 qirsh postage due
- SMC-08 Hejaz-Nejd 1926 Definitive 2 qirsh postage due
- SMC-09 Hejaz-Nejd 1926 Definitive 6 qirsh postage due

- SMD-01 Saudi Arabia small Ka'aba 1 riyal

- SRA-01 'Reprint' Makkah Arms 1/8 qirsh
- SRA-02 'Reprint' Makkah Arms 1/4 qirsh
- SRA-04 'Reprint' Makkah Arms 1 qirsh
- SRA-07 'Reprint' Makkah Arms 3 qirsh
- SRA-09 'Reprint' Makkah Arms 10 qirsh

- STA- Group to be allocated to 'Tel Aviv' forgeries

That is as far as the allocation has gone to date. I hope to start producing pages for the manual soon; initially the information will be basic, but will be developed as more information (and time!) becomes available.

An example shows how a forgery may be described using this system. There are three forged components: The stamp itself and two overprints.



Forgery SRA-07 red-brown with OFW-10 and OFX-10 in black.

If I have missed anything, or anyone can see any fundamental problems, please let me know before I get too deep into the project.



From the Auctions

Compiled by: Martin Lovegrove

I would normally report on rare or unusual items that do not appear very often, but this time I will also include some examples showing how low prices are at the moment for some very scarce Hejaz items. This may have been a feature of the particular auction but may possibly be an indication in the decline of popularity for Hejaz stamps. In RN49.25 (March 1991), a copy of Scott L69, SG78, was described as 'cheap at \$825' the one mentioned below only realized \$280!

Rudolf Steltzer, 11 - 13 May, 2006

One of the scarce officials featured in this auction. The 11 qirsh olive-green, first watermark (Sc W337, SG W70) sideways left (Scott O58, SG O1050) had a hammer price of EUR 200 + 17%. This copy had a clear Medina type SRD170 cancel(RN48.10) dated 15 May 1972.

Earl P. L. Apfelbaum internet sale R089, 10th May 2006

This auction was another in the series of internet 'Buy or Die' sales held by the auction house. The selling prices are reduced daily until the end of the auction; you have the choice of getting in early and paying a higher price or wait until later and hope there are no other bidders. All of the items listed are genuine. Catalogue prices are shown below the catalogue number and the SG prices have been converted to USD to assist the comparison. There was no buyer's premium.

Item	Scott	SG	Price realized
1923 Hejaz Surcharges (L40-L41), blocks of 4, VERY FINE, og	L40a (-)	47a (-)	\$72
<i>NOTE: These blocks were described as though the overprints were upright, however they were inverted! Even though the ¼ qirsh surcharge was not from the 'standard' plate but from one of the alternative set- tings, this lot was still a bargain.</i>	L41b (-)	49a (1850)	
1925 ½pi Orange (L69), tiny shallow thin, VERY FINE, og Rare!	L69 (2500)	78 (5087)	\$280
<i>NOTE: The overprints are both from position 24.</i>			
1925 1pi Dark Blue, Black Overprint (L92), F-VF, og	L92 (350)	117 (1480)	\$60
1925 1pi Dark Blue, Black Overprint, Inverted Over- print (L92a), tiny stain, F-VF, og	L92a (350)	117a (1665)	\$39



Scott L69, SG 78

Right: Scott O58,
SG O1050



One item that got snapped up within a few hours of the start is shown below. It is a pane of 18 of the Makkah Arms imperforate with centre inverted, signed on the reverse 'ela'. Most of the small blocks and singles of this stamp that appear are 'reprint' forgeries.



Filatco Auction 11, 19th June 2006

It was over one year ago that Filatco held their last auction, and as before there were some very nice items. Lots 1049 to 1055 were the unframed Hashemite overprints in gold, four of the lots were blocks of four (1/4, 1, and 2 qirsh, and the 1 qirsh postage due). The bidding for the blocks started at \$1200 each with an estimate of \$4000.

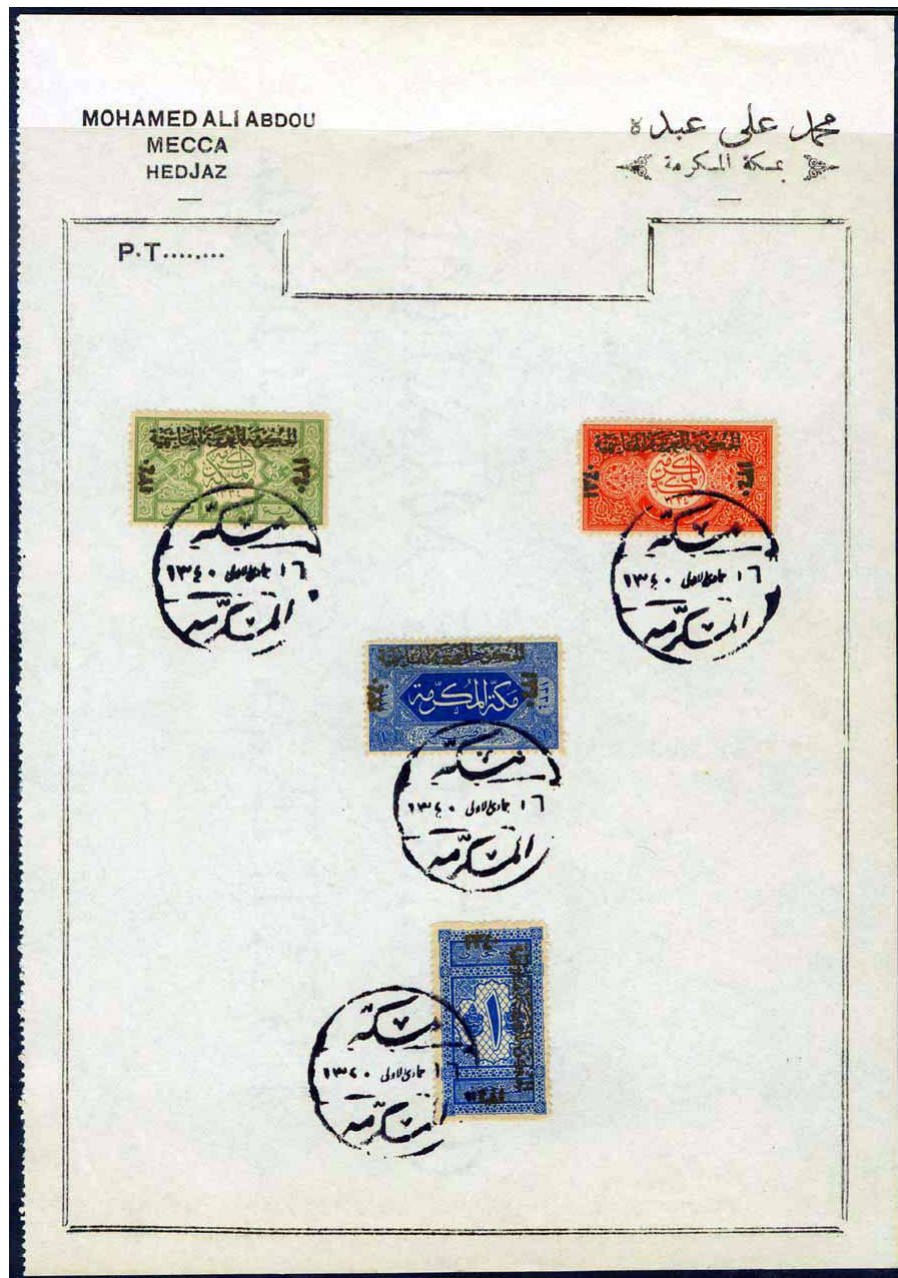


Lot 1054



The Mohamed Ali Abdou sheets may be familiar to us, but lot 1056 offered an outstanding example. I will let the auction catalogue describe the item:

1921 The Gold Unframed overprint on 1/4, 1/2, 1pi, and on 1pi postage due. These gold overprints were first discovered by David Graham in 1987. The stamp positions in the sheet of the few in the market point to the existence of only one sheet for each value. The favor "Mecca" cancels (dated 16 Jamadi Al-Awal 1340) are the familiar work of a well known stamp dealer "Mohammad Ali Abdou." These are the only known cancelled copies to date. A Unique Exhibition Quality Item., \$5000



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