



الجمعية الدولية للطوابع البريدية العربية

ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International

Random Notes



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Hejaz-Nejd early use
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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). The APAI e-mail address arabphilassocin@aol.com is no longer in use, please contact Willie King at willieking@btinternet.com

. 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'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 #71

Assembled by the Editor

As usual I am short of material so if you want to read something not written by me, send it in! The development of my forgeries manual is progressing well and I have appended some of its pages to this edition. During the development of his revenues catalogue, Rudy Thoden included samples of his work in Random Notes both as information for the reader and also for comments. I will follow Rudy's lead and would appreciate any comments you may have.

Now for the notes.

1. In RN50.3 two 'FREE KUWAIT' labels were mentioned. The illustration in my copy of that issue was poor, so for those of you who have similar copies of RN, here are the pair in colour. These labels were litho printed. No doubt because of their nature, pricing for sale seems to be difficult; two blocks of 8 of each value were sold on eBay for USD 5.50 (GBP 2.90) and two blocks of 4 appeared in one of my local auction houses with a reserve of GBP 30 (USD 56). Quite a difference, however the latter item received no bids.



RF 14

2. In his catalogue of fiscal stamps, Rudy Thoden had a query about the colour of RF14, the 50 qirsh flat-rate documentary of 1920-21. I have a block of six of these and the colour, according to the Stanley Gibbons colour key, is deep purple. A single from my block is illustrated above.
3. I did not get to Autumn Stampex in London this September, but I remember a few years ago seeing a copy of the 2 qirsh Survey of Egypt with a double unframed overprint (Scott L19a, SG 28b). It turned out to be a laser printed forgery, but Fred Benedict sent me an image of a sheet he had together with the following message:

I have a sheet of the 2pi unframed with the top seven rows double and the bottom three rows single. The sheet markings were Taa-19 and N-10-B.

Positions 11 and 41 had the right date missing. The doubling evidently occurred from a paper slap on the plate as the sheet was put in the press.

Most of the missing date varieties I have seen were 'manufactured' for the philatelic market but it would appear that these are genuine.





Part sheet with double overprint and missing year at right in position 11

Single overprint showing missing year at right



Position 11



Position 41

4. In RN 57.24 and RN58.29 I mentioned a diamond mark applied to covers; I still have no idea of what it represents and where they are applied. Illustrated here is a cover from London to Abqaiq that also shows this mark. It thus appears on both inbound and outbound mail. Can anyone put me out of my misery and tell me what it is!



5. Have you studied your copies of the Nejd second handstamp 2 qirsh? This is listed with a black boxed 'mustahiq' as Scott J13, SG D233. A variety with a blue boxed 'mustahiq' is only listed by Gibbons (SG D233a) and with a catalogue value of GBP 3000! The blue ranges from a true blue to a blue-black, with the latter shade still noticeably different when held alongside a black version. However, when in a mixture of stamps, it can easily be overlooked. I managed to obtain one recently from an internet auction for just 9 Euros! I feel that the quantity available may require the SG valuation to be revised.

In RN32.6 Fred Benedict mentioned that he had a sheet that contained both colours of handstamp. I wonder if this was this a combination of blue and true black or blue and blue-black?



Blue-black



Black



Blue-black



Black

6. Yet another item from Fred Benedict. This 'reprint' forgery with a forged large 3-line Jeddah overprint shows significant pre-printing paper folds. It is interesting to note that the pressure of the printing plate used for the stamp frame was insufficient for the ink to be transferred to the area of the folds, but that was not the case for the overprint. So was the frame printed in relief using a very light pressure or was lithography used? This is something my printing experts cannot decide, but they cannot rule out lithography.



7. Fake covers continue to appear on eBay. This one had the following description:

Circa 1920's Saudi Arabia Scott L85 Tied by Mecca CDS on neat cover posted to Zagazig Egypt. Cover open at top with no back stamps. A scarce and desirable cover.

It was purchased by a dealer for USD 102.50 and later offered for sale on his website for \$250. It has now been withdrawn.

The stamp is a forgery type 4 and the cancellation dated 21 Jumada II of similar status. A cover with this type of forged cancellation is illustrated on page W-4 of the forgeries manual, but in my copy it is not clear so I include here an enlargement from this cover.



This cover had no transit markings and I am sure that a Jeddah provisional posted in Makkah should be questioned.

A fake cover with a similar stamp was illustrated in RN69.10 item 12, but that one had an all-Arabic address and fake DJEDDAH 5 cancel.



8. This next cover is also from eBay. It is similar to c.t.o. items often seen, but although the stamp is genuine, the cancellation is a fake DJEDDAH 5 as illustrated on page W-3 of the forgeries manual.



9. In RN27.7-8 reference was made to the 1 qirsh Makkah Arms stamp printed on a railway tax stamp, imperforate, with two or three strikes of the tax stamp. No mention was made of the fiscal colour or whether fiscal is inverted in relation to stamp.

Illustrated here is a vertical pair on a double strike of the ochre fiscal without value, both strikes are upright but one is inclined to the left by about 15 degrees.

10. I recently came across a forged Nejd second provisional handstamp that is not in the forgeries manual. This one has the central alif aligned with tip of character below. There are several other differences between this and the genuine and other forgeries, but this is a useful identifying feature.



11. Random Notes #38 contained an excellent article by Fred Benedict that described the plating of the stamps of the King Ali series. On page 19, Fred gave details of the two plates used to print the Cairo overprints. Plate A was the one usually encountered and was used for all denominations. This plate comprised 50 cliches to match the sheet format with the month and year tablets separated by 18.8 to 19.9 mm. Plate B was a half-sized plate comprising 25 cliches and was used twice to cover the sheet. This plate had the tablets separated by 15.7 to 19.0 mm. Fred commented that plate B had only been found on an imperforate sheet of the 1½ qirsh value.

I recently obtained a block of 4 of the double overprint on the 1½ qirsh value, perforated 11.5. To my surprise I found that the overprint correctly aligned with the stamp was the usual plate A, but that the misplaced overprint plated against plate B! The plate A positions are 36, 37, 41, 42 and the plate B positions are 7, 8, 12, and 13 which when positioned on the lower half of the sheet would equate to stamp positions 32, 33, 37, and 38. This shows that this overprint was offset by 1 column and 1 row. That would limit the number of doubly overprinted stamps from this sheet and even more so if only half of the plate received the second overprint (plate B).

I would appreciate hearing from anyone else who has plate B overprints either on their own or mixed with plate A.



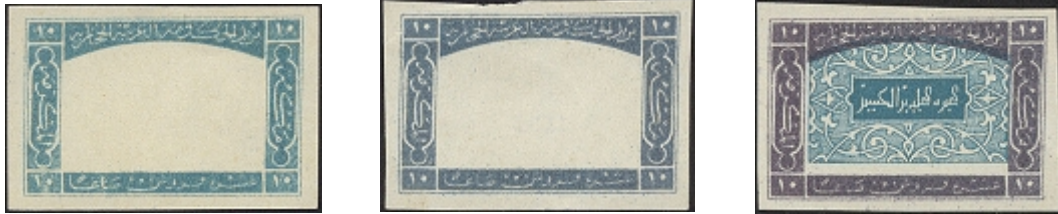
Cairo overprint - Plates A and B mixed

12. While on the subject of the King Ali issue, I have some information additional to that in Willie King's article published in RN 64. On page 6, Willie has reservations about the number of colours used for the frames. I am sure that my block of stamps showing a marked colour transition from one side of the block to the other did not help! However, a recent acquisition was a copy of a frame-only print in the bluish grey shade. The colour of this printing is very even and is quite different to that illustrated in RN 64. I now believe that the greyish variations of the violet frames were caused by a faulty ink mix and that these are intentionally two different colours.

Another stamp not listed in either the article or Mayo is the rose-red frame showing a double print. This looks to be a clear double print and not caused by the paper accidentally touching the plate after the normal print.

All of these are illustrated on the next page.





True bluish-grey shade (centre) with pale ultramarine (left) and violet (right) for comparison



Double impression of rose-red frame

13. Another of my excursions into Hejaz related Transjordan philately resulted in a nasty forgery. This was an eBay purchase and I am pleased to relate that my money was refunded. This particular forgery was the addition of an overprint using a laser printer to an imperf King Ali stamp that already had a genuine Transjordan overprint. This is the first laser overprint I have seen for that country, but other overprint and stamp forgeries are quite common. Enlargements of both types of overprint are shown below. Notice the ‘powdery’ edges of the laser forgery compared with the crisp edges of the genuine.



One genuine, one laser overprint



Laser forgery



Genuine



14. The following is a quote from page 15 of the article 'Early Aramco Postal History' written by Rudy Thoden that appeared in RN35:

CASOC wrote to the government in September, 1941 concerning the lack of high denomination postage stamps. The highest value was only 20 qirsh whereas the postage on heavy company envelopes was often 2,000 qirsh or more, requiring the use of over 100 stamps. It requested that stamps in denominations of 50, 100 and 200 qirsh be issued.In November, 1941 the post office informed CASOC that 50 and 100 qirsh stamps would be printed. Actually, 100 and 200 qirsh stamps were issued sometime in 1942.

Here is part of a cover that illustrates the point rather nicely. The cover is actually two envelopes spliced together, I assume because larger ones were not available, and bearing stamps to a face value of 2192 qirsh + 1/8 tax. The cancellations are undated.



For the record, the stamps used were:

- SG 342A x 2
- SG 341A x 17
- SG 340A x 4
- SG 339Bb x 1
- SG 333Aa x 2
- SG 347ab x 1

Because Scott does not distinguish between the perforation type for this issue, I have given only the Gibbons numbers.



15. Following the discovery of a Philby cover with the early use of Hejaz-Nejd stamps (RN 69.8 item 8), I was delighted to find another written by Philby, this time to Sir Hugh Bell and also posted from Jeddah on 20 December 1926. Knowing nothing about the relationship between Philby and Bell, I searched the web. The results were amazing, but I will keep the historical information to a minimum. But first, the cover:



The main connection between the two persons was Sir Hugh's daughter, Gertrude Margaret Lowthian Bell (July 14, 1868–July 12, 1926); a remarkable woman. Below are some quotes from Philby's book, , that set the scene:

It was about this time that Gertrude Bell arrived at Basra to serve in the military Intelligence Department under Cambell-Thompson, an archaeologist of distinction. It was some months later that she joined the Political Department to begin her long and fruitful association with Cox; but she was constantly in and out of the Political Office; and it was at tea in mess that I first met her.

A brain as acute as Miss Bell's must have seen the fly in the ointment at that early stage, before the real Wart of the "pull devil, pull baker" game between India and Egypt, with Whitehall holding the ring.

My acquaintance with Gertrude Bell developed slowly until we discovered a common interest in such abtruse things as the genealogies of Arab tribes and potentates. It was an integral part of her work, while in my case it was merely a by-product of my linguistic studies. At any rate we began to meet more frequently to compare the new names added to this tree or that like a couple of philatelists poring over the latest acquisitions in their stamp albums. And we rapidly became very good friends, to remain so for many years.



During Gertrude's travels in the Middle East, she met Ibn Saud and T. E. Lawrence. Gertrude Bell's account of meeting Ibn Saud during his visit to Basra in November of 1916 can be found in her letter of 1st December 1916:

We had an extraordinarily interesting day with Ibn Sa'ud who is a remarkable person - one of the most striking personalities I've encountered. He is a splendid to look at, well over 6 ft 3, with an immense amount of dignity and self possession. We took him in trains and motors, showed him aeroplanes, high explosives, anti aircraft guns, hospitals, base depots - everything. He was full of wonder but never agape. He asked innumerable questions and made intelligent comments. He's a big man. I wish we could expound to him the science of peace, but we've got to get through this first and hope that the better things will come after.

Unfortunately the brilliant life of Gertrude Bell came to a tragic conclusion in July 1926. A tribal rebellion against the British backed regime made the situation in Iraq discouraging and depressing. Beset by illness, and perhaps a sense of personal loneliness she took her own life with an overdose of sleeping pills.



Bell meets Ibn Saud



Bell with T.E.Lawrence

At the time of writing, these were very useful URLs:

<http://www.gerty.ncl.ac.uk/letters/>

<http://www.therountons.com/festival/gallery/bell/gertrude/arabia/arabia.htm>

16. The Saudi Arabian part of Scott's 2007 catalogue shows price revisions, but only of the main numbers; varieties were untouched. This has resulted in some of the 'a' numbers being priced at less than the main item.
17. Unfortunately there has been little comment about the possibility of forgeries existing of the 1949 air series. Burl Henry sent this as a follow-up:



With respect to my article, you presented some well-reasoned objections to my conclusions. However, there is another reason for forging low face value stamps that was not considered, and that is to provide inexpensive material for the packet trade.

This was done for most of the lithographed definitives and postage dues of Lebanon (1925-57), Jordan (1942-45), Syria (1940-56), and, if I am correct, also for the Saudi air set.

I quote from Varro E. Tyler's "Focus on Forgeries", published by Linn's in 2000, page 157: "Most lithographed issues of Lebanon between 1925 and 1957 have been forged for the packet trade, and careful examination of all stamps of this period is required to assure authenticity. Counterfeits usually were produced by typography (letterpress), so that printing method alone differentiates them from the lithographed originals. Most are also somewhat coarser in appearance than the originals, but this is best observed by comparison with a known genuine stamp." And from page 158: "Typographed forgeries of genuine lithographed stamps of Lebanon are both abundant and deceptive. Because of the relatively low catalog value of these stamps, their authenticity is seldom questioned, with the result that untold numbers of these common forgeries are found in the stocks of non-specialized dealers and in general collections."

And from page 156: "...the forgeries are printed on a somewhat cream-colored paper in contrast to the pure white paper used for the authentic stamps." Here I would add that they are also frequently found on darker paper, as for the example used to illustrate my article.

The forgeries mentioned above seem not to have been used to defraud the post, although the temptation to do so must have been there. Of many hundreds of copies examined over the years, I have found only one that may bear a genuine postal cancellation. With the exception of some Lebanon postage dues, I have never found a mint example of a forged normal stamp, but I am told that they do exist. However, I have seen forged imperf varieties, and trial color "proofs", usually printed on white paper, of some of the issues.

According to my 1999 Michel, most of the Lebanon and Syria definitives were lithographed by the Imprimerie Catholique in Beirut, while the Jordan stamps (Scott 199-206, 221-29, J36-38, and JN9-10) and the Saudi airs were lithographed in Cairo. However, Max Mayo mentions that later printings of the airs were believed to have been made by the Saudi Government printers. These later, cruder printings appear to me to have been produced by typography, although I could be wrong. Do you know when the Saudi printings first appeared?

All of the Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria forgeries were typographed, so one might expect any Saudi forgeries to also be typographed, and I believe that this is the case.

For example, the illustration at the top of RN65.12 tends to support this, showing the "squashed corner" of a typical typographed cliché (compare to the square corners present on the earlier lithographed stamps, such as those on greyish paper)

Inspection of my Saudi "forgeries" also shows some with corner squashing, while it is not obvious on others. This is probably related to the amount of pressure applied during printing.

I note that the cancellation on your imperf between pair shown in RN65.12 appears to be the same as on the stamps shown in my Figure 2, which is somewhat suspicious. The paper also appears to be lightly toned. Do those stamps have the same printing characteristics as my "forgeries"? I can't tell from my copy.



I would suggest that other airmails with the same cancellation type be sought, and if any are found with the same 21 January 1955 date, and the same printing characteristics, then it is virtually certain they are forgeries.

All of the above should be considered to be "food for thought", and your comments would be appreciated.

Your editor would appreciate some input on this subject, however I do have some comments.

The cancel, MECQUE 3, is a type S62 (see RN 47.13) and with a date that is actually 31-12-1957 (8-6-1377H) and not 31-12-1951. On my copies only the lower part of the last digit in the year is printed, hence the confusion with 1951. It is interesting to note that Tom Wood recorded the 100 qirsh value printed on paper type 6 cancelled on Dec 31, 1957. Paper type 6 is described as being a light cream-coloured (or off-white) paper with a silky texture and narrow ridges, either vertical or horizontal. This matches very nicely with a copy in my collection and is illustrated below. For the paper enthusiast, the ridges on my stamp run horizontally.

According to Kenneth Knight's article in RN47, the S62 cancel was observed to have been used from June 1956 to January 1965, although those dates covered the use of MECQUE 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7. No specific dates for MECQUE 3 were mentioned.



I have not seen any evidence to support the theory that the stamps were initially lithographed in Cairo, however the fact that the 'proofs', which include several with multiple impressions, cannot be plated against the known Saudi plates, does make this a possibility. As far as I know, the Saudi printed stamps were available on the initial issue date, but my stock of these, on and off cover, is limited and I would not like to make a definitive statement about the initial issue.

The imperf-between pair illustrated in RN65.12 is on white paper but does show the 'flat' print characteristics of litho rather than what would be expected of relief printing.

18. I have received a lot of help with translations from Arabic to English from Dr. Mohamed Nagim in Riyadh and I now have a chance to thank him in a practical manner. Mohamed has a web site from which he sells rare stamps and proofs from the Middle East. Have a look at the site and if you are interested in anything, contact Mohamed; his email address is on the site. He will answer any questions you may have and will treat you fairly. The URL is:

<http://www.mnagim.com>



19. This interesting item appeared on Mohamed's site. It is the 4 qirsh value issued to commemorate the Islamic Solidarity Conference of Science and Technology but with a watermark (Scott Wmk 361, SG W95, sideways pointing left). It is similar to the unwater-marked version, (Scott 687, SG 1115) except that the conference dates are different as is the year. Close inspection of the unwatermarked stamp shows that the replacement year of 1976 is poorly aligned with the word 'POSTAGE' in comparison with the watermarked version. Apparently the conference was postponed for a year, but some stamps had already been produced with the 1975 date. It is not known how many of this variety exist.



Unissued watermarked stamp dated 1975

Issued unwatermarked stamp dated 1976

20. Some of my comments in recent editions have been in relation to how low prices have been for Saudi stamps. Well this time I can record a healthy price and it is for a used pair of the 5 qirsh Faisal Boeing (Scott C63, SG 720, catalogued at USD 450 and GBP 450) that fetched USD 510 on eBay. A pair of the Saud version of this stamp (Scott C37, SG 589, catalogued at USD 400 and GBP 400) fetched only USD 68 in September, 2004, also on eBay.
21. It looks as though the stock and production equipment used for the Hialeah forgeries may be changing hands. During September and October it has been listed on eBay, and at the time of writing the asking price has been reduced to USD 5995. For the first 2 listings, there were no bidders. The item is described as:

For sale is One of the Largest Collections of Authentic World Stamp Images ever assembled. There are:

Over 10,000 images-

Over 2500 "Ready-to-Print" Printing Press Plates in Digital Format and

Over 2,000+ Printed Sheets.

Also included is a Shopping Cart - Ecommerce Website already populated w/ Over 3000 Stamps.

The site is operational but still needs a lot done to it. There is no domain name for the site yet, but we can assist you in registering one. The site is still located at it's development address, <http://www.ie96.com/stamps/store>

Whether there is a market for these after all of the bad publicity, I do not know. Perhaps we will find out soon.

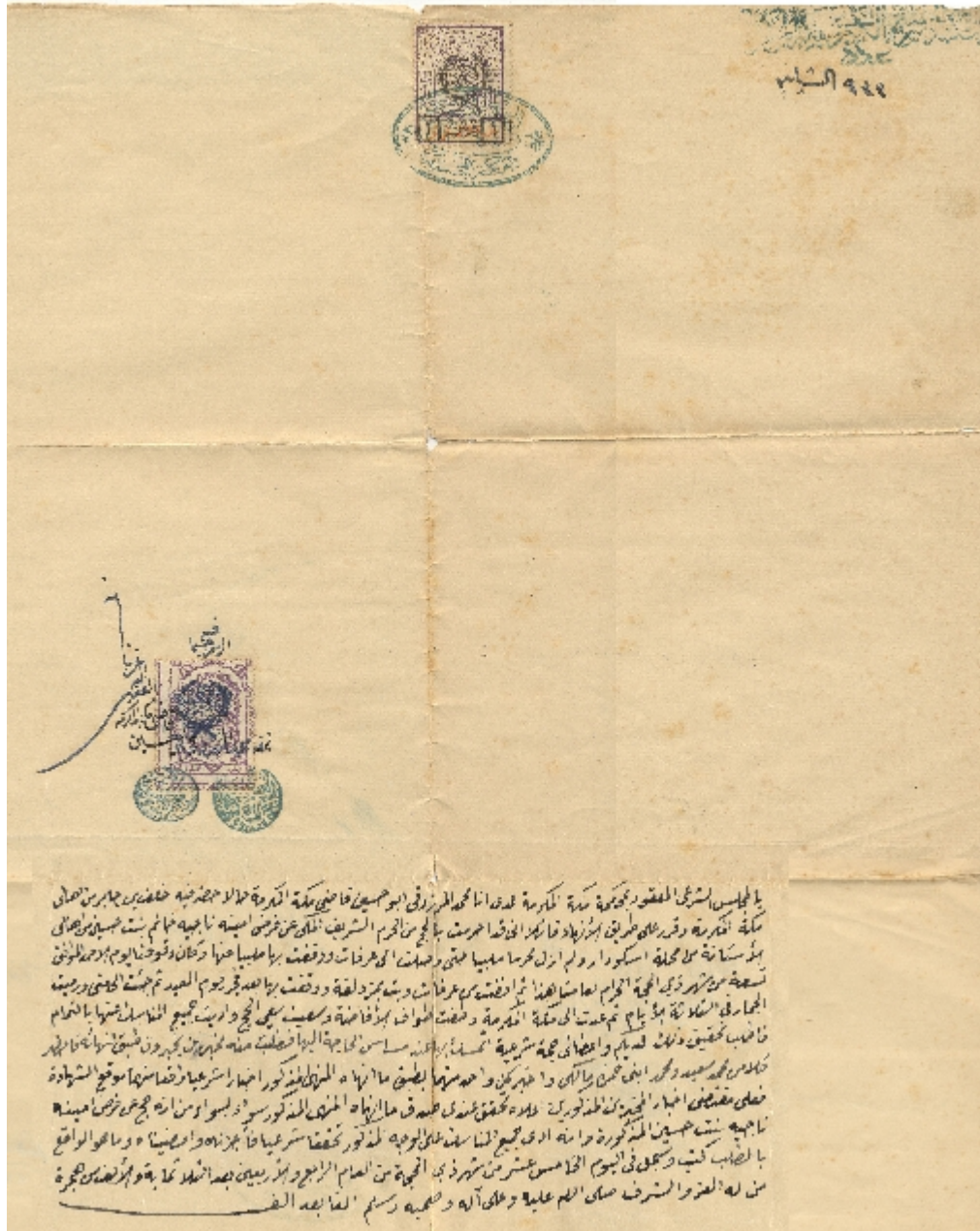
A Fiscal Document with Jeddah Provisionals

By: *Martin Lovegrove*

This is a large document measuring 325mm x 500mm and having no less than four different Hejaz revenues with the circular Jeddah Provisional handstamp.

This is a certificate from a judge in the court named Mohamed Al-Marzouqi Abu-Hussein to a Saudi person from Makkah named Khalaf Bin Jabir who did the Haj on behalf of a lady named Amina Najia Khanum Bint Hussein. She is from Asitana, Mahalah Ascodar. Two witnesses attended the case, their names; Mohamed Saied and Mohamed Bin Hamza Al-Malki

The judge ended the document by certifying the document and dating it 15/11/1344 H



Part of front of document





Stamp detail from front



Part of back of document



Stamp detail from back

My sincere thanks go to Dr. Mohamed Nagim for translating the document for me. Translating old Arabic documents is not an easy task, and Mohamed told me that there are many Arabic words in this document that are unknown to him.

From the Auctions

Compiled by: Martin Lovegrove

A couple of unusual items turned up in a Regency auction. I have no idea of their status; perhaps someone could enlighten me. The text for each item is from the auction catalogue.

(362E) 1965 ITU EMBLEM 10p, HANDPAINTED ESSAY

Heavy card with handpainted design of Scott A38 ITU Centenary set. Size overall 9"x7" & stamp 6¼"x4½". Card a tan color. Back in ink #629 over 1965 with 22 Dec next to them. Issued 22 Dec 1965. Undoubtedly a UNIQUE essay.

(This item had a start price of USD 675 and an estimate of USD 1000. It was unsold. - Ed)



(526E) 1969 HOLY KA ABA MECCA 10p, HANDPAINTED ESSAY

Heavy card with handpainted design of Scott A55 Mecca. Size overall 6½" x 8-1/8" & stamp 3½" x 4-3/8". Card a light tan color. Back in ink 1968 with Sep. Issued 1969. Undoubtedly a UNIQUE essay.

(This item had a start price of USD 575 and an estimate of USD 1000. It was unsold. - Ed)



Acknowledgements and Contacts

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Cherrystone Auctions Inc.	http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com
Corinphila Auktionen AG	http://www.corinphila.com The Saudi expert is Gregory Todd who can be contacted at todd@corinphila.ch
Filatco	http://www.filatco.com
Magan Stamps (Gordon Bonnett)	http://www.maganstamps.co.uk A 10% discount is offered to APAI members. If you order from this site, let Gordon know you are a member. The discount applies only to the website price list.
Nutmeg Stamp Sales Inc	http://www.nutmegstamp.com
Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions	http://www.rumseyauctions.com

Useful links

http://www.oriold.unizh.ch//static/hegira.html	Date conversion
http://www.filatelia.fi/experts/	Experts
https://www.wnsstamps.post/en	WADP Numbering System - WNS
http://www.arabianstamps.com	Good information on Saudi new issues
http://www.mnagim.com	Rare and unusual stamps and proofs from the Middle East.

Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries 2006



Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries

Introduction

The first Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries was first published in 1981 although earlier studies had been produced. Since then, personal computers and associated technology have become widely available making the production of such manuals, in colour, a much easier task.

With or without technology, the appearance of a manual such as this would not be possible without the detailed study of philatelic items, and all collectors of Saudi stamps are greatly indebted to those who contributed to that first manual including those who did such a magnificent job of photographing the forgeries.

The format, scope, and numbering system used in this manual are new. The manual is now in leaflet form, allowing the insertion and amendment of individual pages, and has been produced as a series of PDF files for ease of distribution and universal access. The scope has been widened to include stamps, overprints, and postmarks with each item having a unique reference code. Gone are the days of multiple 'Forgery type 1' which, of course, existed for every item in the old manual. A forged item is described only once and has but one reference code; this avoids the confusing case where a forged handstamp is used on different issues and in the old manual may have been referred to a 'Forgery type 1' on one issue and 'Forgery type 3' on another, although the item is the same. In the new system, where a stamp has more than one forged item, the reference is a combination of the individual codes including that for the stamp if that is also a forgery. Thus the full reference for a forged stamp with two forged overprints may be something like SRA-01, OFB-04, OCT-02. It may sound complicated, but it is unambiguous and describes the stamp accurately. An example below 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.

The bad news is that not everything can be produced at once, but the format of the manual permits a phased introduction with completion in perhaps two or three years.

Martin Lovegrove
September 2006

Forgery Type Codes

Hejaz

Overprints

Code	Description
OFB	Unframed Hashemite
OCA-01	'Cairo' Unframed Hashemite
OFC	Framed Hashemite
OCA-04-01	'Cairo' Framed Hashemite (Straight lines)
OCA-04-02	'Cairo' Framed Hashemite (Uneven lines)
OFD	½ qirsh surcharge for unframed/framed Hashemite
OCA-02	'Cairo' 1/2 qirsh surcharge
OFE	1 qirsh surcharge for unframed/framed Hashemite
OCA-03	'Cairo' 1 qirsh surcharge
OFF	Hejaz framed Mustahiq 23mm x 11mm
OTA-05	'Tel Aviv' Hejaz framed Mustahiq 23mm x 11mm
OFG	Hejaz 1923 ¼ qirsh surcharge
OFH	Hejaz 1923 10 qirsh surcharge
OFI	Hejaz Caliphate
OFJ	Jeddah 2-line
OCA-09	'Cairo' 2-line Jeddah
OFK	Jeddah small 3-line (14mm)
OFL	Jeddah large 3-line (16mm)
OTA-11	'Tel Aviv' Hejaz large 3-line (16mm)
OFQ	Hejaz Illegible ¼ 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
OFM	Jeddah 4-line 1/8 qirsh
OFN	Jeddah 4-line ¼ qirsh
OFO	Jeddah 4-line 1 qirsh
OFP	Jeddah 4-line 10 qirsh
OFY	Hejaz King Ali

Hejaz

Stamps (Postage)

Code	Description
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
SHA-04	'Hialeah' Survey of Egypt 1/2 qirsh
SCA-05	'Cairo' Survey of Egypt 1 qirsh
SCA-06	'Cairo' Survey of Egypt 2 qirsh
SCB-01	'Cairo' Makkah Arms 1/8 qirsh
SHB-01	'Hialeah' Makkah Arms 1/8 qirsh
SRA-01	'Reprint' Makkah Arms 1/8 qirsh
STB-01	'Tel Aviv' Makkah Arms 1/8 qirsh
SCB-02	'Cairo' Makkah Arms 1/4 qirsh
SRA-02	'Reprint' Makkah Arms 1/4 qirsh
STB-02	'Tel Aviv' Makkah Arms 1/4 qirsh
SCB-03	'Cairo' Makkah Arms 1/2 qirsh
STB-03	'Tel Aviv' Makkah Arms 1/2 qirsh
SCB-04	'Cairo' Makkah Arms 1 qirsh
SRA-04	'Reprint' Makkah Arms 1 qirsh
STB-04	'Tel Aviv' Makkah Arms 1 qirsh
SCB-05	'Cairo' Makkah Arms 1-1/2 qirsh
STB-05	'Tel Aviv' Makkah Arms 1 1/2 qirsh
SCB-06	'Cairo' Makkah Arms 2 qirsh
STB-06	'Tel Aviv' Makkah Arms 2 qirsh
SCB-07	'Cairo' Makkah Arms 3 qirsh
SRA-07	'Reprint' Makkah Arms 3 qirsh
STB-07	'Tel Aviv' Makkah Arms 3 qirsh
SCB-08	'Cairo' Makkah Arms 5 qirsh
STB-08	'Tel Aviv' Makkah Arms 5 qirsh
SCB-09	'Cairo' Makkah Arms 10 qirsh
SRA-09	'Reprint' Makkah Arms 10 qirsh
STB-09	'Tel Aviv' Makkah Arms 10 qirsh

Hejaz

Stamps (Postage Due)

Code	Description
SCA-06	'Cairo' Survey of Egypt 20 para postage due
SHA-06	'Hialeah' Survey of Egypt 20 para postage due
SCA-07	'Cairo' Survey of Egypt 1 qirsh postage due
SCA-08	'Cairo' Survey of Egypt 2 qirsh postage due

Hejaz

Stamps (Revenue)

Code	Description
STC-01	'Tel Aviv' Hejaz railway tax 1 qirsh
STC-02	'Tel Aviv' Hejaz railway tax 2 qirsh
STC-03	'Tel Aviv' Hejaz railway tax 3 qirsh
STC-04	'Tel Aviv' Hejaz railway tax 5 qirsh
STC-05	'Tel Aviv' Hejaz railway tax 10 qirsh
STC-06	'Tel Aviv' Hejaz railway tax 20 qirsh
STC-07	'Tel Aviv' Hejaz railway tax 50 qirsh
STC-08	'Tel Aviv' Hejaz railway tax 100 qirsh
STC-09	'Tel Aviv' Hejaz railway tax 500 qirsh
STC-10	'Tel Aviv' Hejaz railway tax 1000 qirsh
STC-11	'Tel Aviv' Hejaz railway tax 5000 qirsh
STD-02	'Tel Aviv' Hejaz Flat Rate Documentary 1 qirsh
STD-03	'Tel Aviv' Hejaz Flat Rate Documentary 2 qirsh
STE-01	'Tel Aviv' Hejaz Proportional Rate Documentary 1 qirsh

Nejd

Overprints

Code	Description
OTA-23	'Tel Aviv' Nejd first provisional
OTA-24	'Tel Aviv' Nejd unframed mustahiq
OTA-32	'Tel Aviv' Nejd second provisional
OTA-33	'Tel Aviv' Nejd small framed mustahiq
OTA-34	'Tel Aviv' Nejd 1 qirsh surcharge
OTA-35	'Tel Aviv' Nejd 1½ qirsh surcharge
OTA-36	'Tel Aviv' Nejd 2 qirsh surcharge
OTA-37	'Tel Aviv' Nejd Medina commemoration
OTA-38	'Tel Aviv' Nejd Jeddah commemoration
OTA-39	'Tel Aviv' Nejd Medina/Jeddah 1 qirsh
OTA-40	'Tel Aviv' Nejd Medina/Jeddah 2 qirsh
OTA-41	'Tel Aviv' Nejd Medina/Jeddah 3 qirsh
OTA-42	'Tel Aviv' Nejd Medina/Jeddah 4 qirsh
OTA-43	'Tel Aviv' Nejd Medina/Jeddah 5 qirsh

Hejaz-Nejd

Overprints

Code	Description
OTA-44	'Tel Aviv' Pan Islamic

Hejaz-Nejd

Stamps and Postage Due

Code	Description
SMC-01	Hejaz-Nejd 1926 Definitive ¼ qirsh
SMC-02	Hejaz-Nejd 1926 Definitive ½ 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 ½ qirsh postage due
SMC-08	Hejaz-Nejd 1926 Definitive 2 qirsh postage due
SMC-09	Hejaz-Nejd 1926 Definitive 6 qirsh postage due

Saudi Arabia

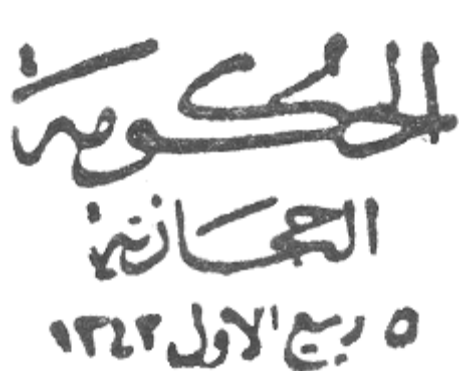
Stamps

Code	Description
SCC-01	'Cairo' Heir Apparent ¼ qirsh
SHC-01-01	'Hialeah' Heir Apparent ¼ qirsh
SHC-01-02	'Hialeah' Heir Apparent ¼ qirsh
SCC-02	'Cairo' Heir Apparent ½ qirsh
SHC-02	'Hialeah' Heir Apparent ½ qirsh
SCC-03	'Cairo' Heir Apparent 1½ qirsh
SHC-03	'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 1½ qirsh
SCC-04	'Cairo' Heir Apparent 3 qirsh
SHC-04-01	'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 3 qirsh
SHC-04-02	'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 3 qirsh
SCC-05	'Cairo' Heir Apparent 3½ qirsh
SHC-05	'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 3½ qirsh
SCC-06	'Cairo' Heir Apparent 5 qirsh
SHC-06	'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 5 qirsh
SCC-07	'Cairo' Heir Apparent 10 qirsh
SHC-07	'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 10 qirsh
SCC-08	'Cairo' Heir Apparent 20 qirsh
SHC-08	'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 20 qirsh
SCC-09	'Cairo' Heir Apparent ¼ sov
SHC-09	'Hialeah' Heir Apparent ¼ sov
SCC-10	'Cairo' Heir Apparent 30 qirsh
SHC-10	'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 30 qirsh
SCC-11	'Cairo' Heir Apparent ½ sov
SHC-11	'Hialeah' Heir Apparent ½ sov
SCC-12	'Cairo' Heir Apparent 1 sov
SHC-12	'Hialeah' Heir Apparent 1 sov
SHD-01	'Hialeah' Large Medical Aid
SME-01	1945 Radhwa ½ qirsh
SME-02	1945 Radhwa 3 qirsh
SMD-01	1982 small Ka'aba 1 riyal

Hejaz - 1925 14mm Jeddah 3-line Overprint

Forgery Type : OFK-10

This forgery was not included in the 1981 manual or any of its revisions, but it has been known about for some time and was photographed by Willie King on behalf of the APA.



Genuine



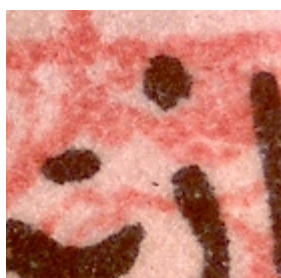
Forgery

This is not a difficult forgery to detect. There are many faults with the Arabic characters and the numbers in the bottom line vary considerably from the genuine.

Key Points for Identification.

1. Second line: Dash over 'zaa'. (A)
2. Second line: 'Haa' and 'Jiyim' malformed and dot of 'Jiyim' missing. (B)

Dash over 'zaa'



Genuine



Forgery

'Haa' and 'Jiyim' malformed and dot of 'Jiyim' missing



Genuine



Forgery

Hejaz - 1925 14mm Jeddah 3-line Overprint

Further Information

The size of the printing plate is not known, but several variations of this forgery exist, presumably different clichés in the plate. Some additional identification points are shown below, but they do not occur on all positions.



Dot at left of top line



Incomplete dots above top line

Right: 'Alif' and 'laam' joined at top



Genuine



Forgery

Examples



APA photograph



HEJAZ - MAKKAH ARMS 'REPRINT' FORGERIES

Introduction to SRA series

These stamps were originally referred to as 'reprints' because many features of genuine stamps could be seen; in fact, these stamps could generally be plated against genuine sheets. Because of the poor print quality, it was believed that genuine plates were used after their use was no longer required by the legitimate postal authorities.

No doubt many reasons could be given as to why this latter fact is not true, but there are two main reasons that should suffice:

1. The genuine sheet of the 1/8 qirsh value had two cliches replaced; the 'reprint' sheet matches the original state of that value.
2. The genuine plate of the 1 qirsh value had three cliches removed; the 'reprint' sheet shows all thirty-six cliches.

Features of Forgery

The identification of this type of forgery is generally easy, but can be extremely difficult. The features that apply to more than one value are listed here. In all cases, except perhaps the 10 qirsh, the sheets comprise thirty-six stamps in a six rows by six columns layout.

Perforations

The stamps are line perforated 11.5, manually, as are the genuine ones. There is one very useful feature that makes identification easy. The line perforator had one pin missing; this is not found in the genuine perforator or any of the other forgeries. Because the stamps were perforated one line at a time, it is usual to find the missing pin on opposite sides of the stamp ten times per sheet, and on one stamp in the sheet it will be on all four sides. However, because the perforating was performed manually, the exact position will vary and it does not always follow that the missing perforations will be opposite one another (Figure 1).



Figure 1

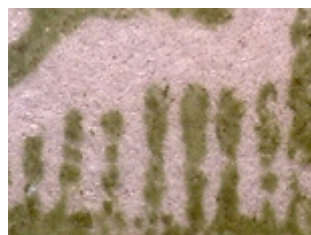


Figure 2. No indication of ink 'squash'



Figure 3. Clear indication of ink 'squash'

Print Quality

The standard of printing varies from very good to extremely poor and in many cases the best quality prints are better than the genuine item. The method of printing is not obvious. Very rarely does the paper get indented as would be expected from relief printing, and exception to this is the centre of the multi-coloured 10 qirsh value. Close examination of the printed parts of

HEJAZ - MAKKAH ARMS 'REPRINT' FORGERIES

the design tend not to show any ink 'squash' (Figs 2 and 3), and it is possible that lithography was used. Ink 'squash' is caused by the pressure of the raised parts on the printing plate squashing the ink towards the edges of the printed parts and thus does not happen in lithography where flat plates are used. Large solid patches of ink are frequently found on the design (figure 4) and in the gutters between the stamps (figure 5); this happens very infrequently on genuine stamps. Also, ink is often found on the gummed side (figure 6) and for genuine stamps, that feature is normally only found on one printing of the 5 qirsh olive.



Figure 4

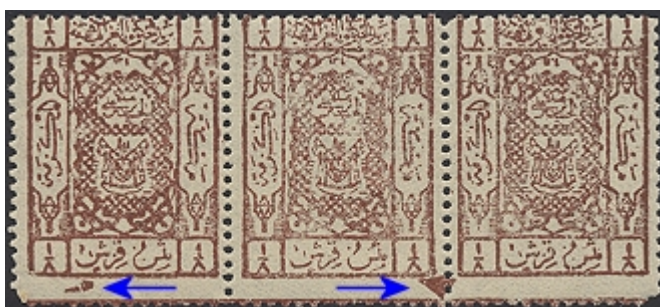


Figure 5

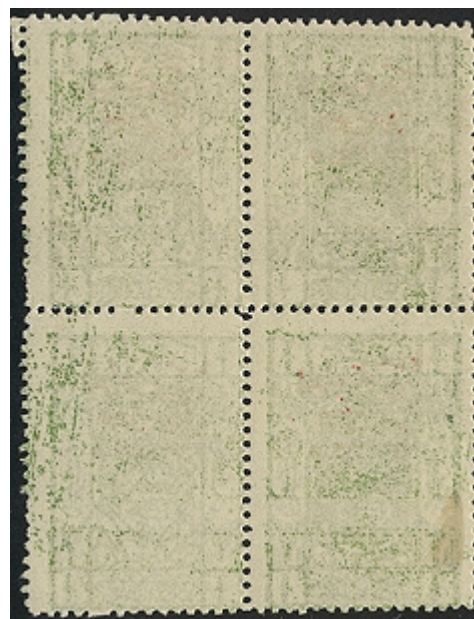


Figure 6

It was once thought that sheets of this forgery did not have marginal rules, but the strip in figure 5 from stamp positions 31 - 33 shows part of such a rule. This has also been seen on other values.

Many of the printings of this forgery show a very uneven depth of colour across the sheet. This may not be obvious on small blocks but this variation in colour will frequently show on large strips or blocks. A complete sheet is shown in figure 7.

Paper and Gum

Two basic types of paper/gum were used. The normal combination found is a white paper with a thin, pale gum with a satin finish, varying from off-white to pale cream (Figures 8 and 10). Stamps with this paper/gum combination have a tendency to curl, either horizontally or vertically. This is unlike any genuine paper/gum and if you have a stamp with the missing perforation, you will have an invaluable item for comparison. The other paper, not thought to have been used for all values, is a cream paper with a cream to brownish gum, frequently found crazed (Figures 9 and 11).

Note that the stamp shown in figure 8 is clearly marked on the gummed side as a forgery.

HEJAZ - MAKKAH ARMS 'REPRINT' FORGERIES



Figure 7 - Uneven inking across sheet

HEJAZ - MAKKAH ARMS 'REPRINT' FORGERIES



Figure 8 - White paper and pale gum



Figure 9 - Cream paper and gum



Figure 10 - Satin finish of pale gum



Figure 11 - Crazed finish of cream gum

Dealers Marks

Because this group is a very common forgery, numerous dealers marks can be found. These marks can usually be found on other forgeries making a listing here unhelpful.

Overprints

Many forged overprints can be found on this group of forgeries. It may be that some overprint types are only found on this group and a listing at a later date may be produced. More research is needed.

Catalogue

Below are the codes and descriptions used in this manual for the stamps described in this section.

Code	Description
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

HEJAZ - MAKKAH ARMS 'REPRINT' FORGERIES

Usage

This forgery was without doubt produced in order to provide a base stamp for forged overprints where it was impossible to obtain a plentiful supply of genuine stamps. The fact that not all values of the genuine item were in short supply accounts for the fact that this series comprises only 5 stamps.

With the use of the Makkah Arms stamps in Transjordan it was inevitable that these forgeries would be used to provide a base for forged overprints of that country. Many of these, some 'rare' overprints, have found their way into important collections; presumably their owners were unaware of the existence of these Hejaz forgeries.

Finally....

This has been an overview of the forgery type, describing features common to more than one of the values. Details of shades and other specific features are described in the appropriate leaflet for the relevant value. A useful tip to aid identification of the white paper varieties, is to find an example of a stamp showing the missing perforation hole and to keep this as an example for paper/gum comparison.

Forgeries of HEJAZ - 1922 Makkah Arms

1/8 Oirsh Forgery Type : SRA-01



Forgeries



Genuine

A very common forgery sometimes difficult to detect. Refer to the introduction to the SRA series for general features.

Key Points for Identification.

1. Poor quality print. Lack of sharpness and detail.
2. A few stamps in the sheet will have a missing perforation hole.
3. Paper and gum differ to that used for genuine.

Notes

The author has not seen examples of this value on cream paper with brownish gum.

A full sheet on the normal white paper is illustrated on the next page.

The images above show that the genuine stamps also come in a variety of shades and print quality. In almost all instances, however, much finer detail can be found on the genuine stamps than on the forgeries. An unusual colour variation of an example with a forged Transjordan overprint is shown at right. It is not known whether the stamp was printed in this shade or is a colour changeling.



Transjordan colour variety

Forgeries of HEJAZ - 1922 Makkah Arms



Complete sheet of thirty-six

Forgeries of HEJAZ - 1922 Makkah Arms

1/4 Oirsh Forgery Type : SRA-02



A very common forgery sometimes difficult to detect. Refer to the introduction to the SRA series for general features.

Key Points for Identification.

1. Usually has poor quality print and incorrect colour. Lack of sharpness and detail.
2. A few stamps in the sheet will have a missing perforation hole.
3. Paper and gum differ to that used for genuine. This value exists on both the white paper and cream paper with brownish gum.

Notes

The plate used for this forgery is based on the later version of the genuine plate having the large white gash in position 13 and the lower portion of the sheet inverted in relation to the top. The images above show that the forgeries come in a variety of shades and print quality but the genuine stamps are more consistent in their quality, no doubt as a result of their limited life and presumable smaller print quantity. In almost all instances, however, much finer detail can be found on the genuine stamps than on the forgeries. A full sheet is illustrated on the next page.

Forgeries of HEJAZ - 1922 Makkah Arms



Complete sheet of thirty-six

Forgeries of HEJAZ - 1922 Makkah Arms

1 Oirsh Forgery Type : SRA-04



Forgeries



Genuine

A very common forgery sometimes difficult to detect. Refer to the introduction to the SRA series for general features.

Key Points for Identification.

1. Usually has poor quality print. Lack of sharpness and detail.
2. A few stamps in the sheet will have a missing perforation hole.
3. Paper and gum differ to that used for genuine. This value exists on both the white paper and cream paper with brownish gum.

Notes

The plate used for this forgery is based on an early version of the genuine plate; towards the end of its life, the genuine plate showed considerable damage and had 3 cliches removed. The images above show that the forgeries come in a variety of shades and print quality but the genuine stamps are more consistent in their quality (apart from wear) but do come in a variety of shades. In almost all instances, however, much finer detail can be found on the genuine stamps than on the forgeries. A full sheet is illustrated on the next page.

Forgeries of HEJAZ - 1922 Makkah Arms



Complete sheet of thirty-six

Forgeries of HEJAZ - 1922 Makkah Arms

3 Oirsh Forgery Type : SRA-07



Forgeries



Genuine

A very common forgery sometimes difficult to detect. Refer to the introduction to the SRA series for general features.

Key Points for Identification.

1. Sometimes has poor quality print. Lack of sharpness and detail.
2. A few stamps in the sheet will have a missing perforation hole.
3. Paper and gum differ to that used for genuine. This value exists on both the white paper and cream paper with brownish gum.
4. On many examples the colour is closer to red than red-brown.

Notes

The images above show that the forgeries come in a variety of shades and print quality but the genuine stamps are more consistent in their quality and with very few distinct shades. In many instances, however, much finer detail can be found on the genuine stamps than on the forgeries.

Forgeries of HEJAZ - 1922 Makkah Arms

10 Qirsh Forgery Type : SRA-09



Forgeries



Genuine

A very common forgery sometimes very difficult to detect. Refer to the introduction to the SRA series for general features.

Key Points for Identification.

1. A few stamps in the sheet will have a missing perforation hole.
2. Paper and gum differ to that used for genuine. This value exists on both the white paper and cream paper with brownish gum.

Notes

The images above show that both the forgeries and genuine come in a variety of shades and print quality, making identification of forgeries very difficult at times. This value often shows an impression of the centre vignette on the gummed side indicating that the centre at least is relief printed.

The sheet size is unknown but judging by the lack of reports of gutter pairs, this forgery may have been printed as a single pane of 18.

SAUDI ARABIA - 1945 Radhwa Meeting

½ Oirsh Forgery Type : SME-01



Genuine



Forgery

A rare forgery but because of the poor quality of print it is easily recognised. Printed by lithography in sheets of 24 (4 x 6). There are no marginal marks or inscriptions.

Key Points for Identification.

1. Poor quality print. Lack of sharpness and detail.

Dealers Marks : None noted.

Random Notes references.

Random Notes 58.33



Complete sheet of forgery

SAUDI ARABIA - 1945 Radhwa Meeting

3 Qirsh Forgery Type : SME-02



Genuine



Forgery

A rare forgery but because of the poor quality of print it is easily recognised. Key Points for Identification.

1. Poor quality print. Lack of sharpness and detail.

Dealers Marks : None noted.

Random Notes references.

Random Notes 58.33