



الجمعية الدولية للطابع البريدية العربية
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International
Random Notes



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NUMBER 73

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Frederick C. Benedict, 1920 - 2007
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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 and Random Notes distribution: 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 #73

Assembled by the Editor

I received the sad news about the passing of Fred Benedict just after I had completed RN72, and it was just not possible to rewrite the issue at the time. This is part of the message I received from Deborah, his daughter-in-law:

As you know, Fred had been battling prostate cancer for a while, most successfully. Recently, his health took a turn for the worse and he passed away on Tuesday, February 20, 2007. His obituary is available online as it was published in the local paper - the Modesto Bee - at:

<http://www.legacy.com/modestobee/DeathNotices.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonId=86569845>

His sons and their families (wives and children) had enough time to come to Turlock and his extended family in and around Turlock was able to see him to say goodbye. Fred passed away with his two sons and myself (his daughter-in-law) at his side in the hospital.

I am cutting and pasting the text from the obituary below in case that is of use. the online version also includes a nice smiling picture from one of his very many happy days.

FREDERICK C. BENEDICT JUNE 7, 1920 - FEB. 20, 2007 Frederick C. Benedict, born in Brockport, NY, 7 June 1920, died on 20 February 2007 in Modesto, CA, after a long, and mostly successful battle with cancer. He is survived by his two sons, Fritz and James, daughters-in-law, Ann and Deborah, grandchildren Sarah, Michael, Jamie, and Jason, great-grandchild, Alexis, and beloved partner of 14 years, Ruth Dargitz. After serving in the U.S. Army in WWII (during which he married Sarah Alice Guptill), Fred attended the University of Michigan, obtaining a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. He then moved to California, working for Union Oil. In 1955 he took a position with the Arabian-American Oil Company (Aramco), retiring as Chief Engineer in 1979. After a brief, and unsuccessful attempt to acclimate to Texas weather, he and Sally returned to California in 1980, settling in Turlock. After the death of Sally in 1992, he met Ruth with whom he has experienced much joy over the past 14 years.

At the time of writing this issue, the URL given above is still valid but there is now a charge for viewing the page.

John Wilson sent his thoughts about Fred:

I remember Fred as a thorough-going student and a great contributor to the Random Notes. He was the District Engineering Manager at the Abqaiq producing area, and I worked closely with him one time solving some engineering problems surrounding some crude units that removed poisonous hydrogen sulfide from the oil so that it could be put on board tankers without killing everyone

I am currently working on an enormous compilation of everything, and one of his reports will be a key to one of the chapters.

I had great respect for him.

Your editor writes: Fred was another of my 'internet' friends. I never met him but it often felt as though I had. He helped me considerably, especially with the work I have been doing with forgeries. Fred was also a generous man, sending me some of his original notes and also some of his duplicate stamps. It was his enthusiasm for the subject that prompted me to start work on the revised forgeries manual. I will miss him greatly and one has only to look through past issues of Random Notes and see the amount he contributed over the years to see that Saudi Arabian philately will miss him just as much.



Sam Van Blarcom came to my rescue for this issue and sent a very interesting article on King Ali covers. Thanks Sam.

Now for the notes.

1. The first forgery of a King Ali basic stamp that I have seen is shown below. It purports to be Mayo 285G, the 2 qirsh rose imperforate. The paper is the same thickness as the genuine paper (0.0030", 0.118mm) but it is stiffer and the design cannot be seen from the back of the stamp. It was reported in RN64.5 that a perforated copy of this stamp was sold in APA auction 25 lot 327. Can anyone confirm that genuine copies, perf or imperf, actually exist? The forgery appears to have the same origin as the Radhwa commemoratives described in RN58.3. My copies of the Radhwa forgeries are on thicker paper (0.0036", 0.142mm), apart from that, the paper appears identical.



2. Another forgery that is almost certainly from the same source is the 100 qirsh Tughra definitive illustrated below. The paper used for this stamp is the same as for the King Ali forgery except that it is thicker (0.0040", 0.158mm).



3. The 1926 Hijaz & Najd definitives were issued with a perforation gauge of 11, but it is well known that combinations with perf 14, probably produced privately, also exist. A new one to me is shown below; it is pin-perf 10.



4. Official covers seem to be popular at the moment and an article by Rudy Thoden appeared in RN58. Rudy illustrated two covers that may have been sent by private individuals or companies. Here is a much older (25 December 1953) cover than the two mentioned in that article, bearing an official stamp and addressed to the University of Beirut. As with the others, there is nothing to confirm its official status.



5. On page 13 of Random Notes #47, Kenneth Knight lists the use of the type S60 device. He has an entry for SHAQ(RA)?, earliest use 28 February 1960 and no latest use recorded. I have two covers from SHAQRA with the S60 cancel, the earliest dated 9-8-1377 (1 March 1958) and the other dated 2-3-1380 (25 August 1960). These dates span the date listed by Kenneth, thus providing a new earliest/latest pair. As can be seen from the illustrations below, only parts of the dates are visible, but the combination of the visible characters and transit marks are sufficient to accurately determine the dates. The 1958 cancel shows the month as February but I suspect the day was 29 or later! As usual, it is preferable to rely on the Arabic date. Are there any postal historians making use of this excellent series of articles? I would love to hear from you.



9-8-1377



2-3-1380





6. An interesting group of documents have recently come to light in Riyadh. The one illustrated here is a Red Sea diving permit and carries an example of the large charity tax stamp (Scott RA2, SG 345). Of interest is the Hijaz-Najd 10 qirsh flat-rate documentary revenue, perf 11.5, printed in purple. This stamp is not listed in Rudy's catalogue.



7. Another revenue not listed by Rudy is the 3 halalah green, tobacco tax, perf 11; it is illustrated below.
8. Some of the centre-only imperf proofs of the Convair 340 have been recorded as having been printed on 'Egyptian' watermarked paper. The paper is the type 10 referred to in Balian with the letters 'UAR' spanning 45mm. Below is a pair of the centre of the 8 qirsh value, coloured bronze-green with the watermark sideways facing right.



Above: Pair of stamps with Egyptian watermark sideways right.

Below: Watermark, Balian type 10, to same scale as stamps above.

Unlisted tobacco revenue.
See item 7.



9. The imperforate set of the 1963 Islamic Institute stamps appears to be somewhat elusive. Mayo gives the number printed as 100 sets, the same as for the Freedom from Hunger set of the same year. I have found the latter stamps quite easy to find, so perhaps Mayo's print figure is too low. Has anyone got accurate figures?

The set shown on the next page turned up at one of my local auctions; the watermark directions (as seen from the front of the stamp) are:

2½ qirsh sideways right

7½ qirsh sideways right

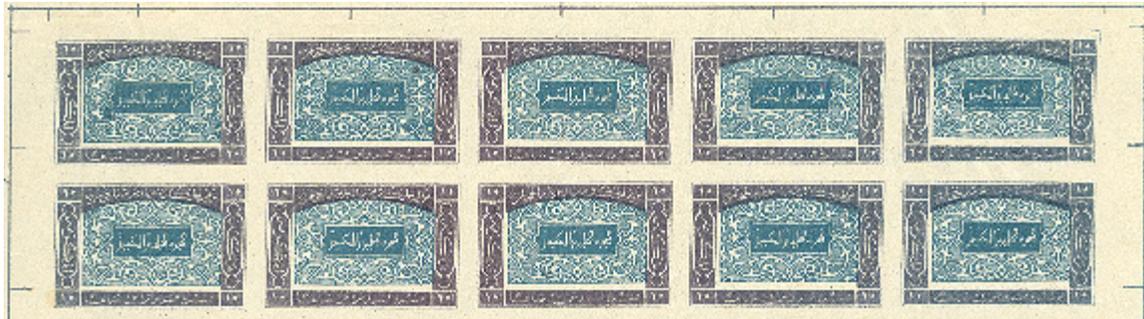
9½ qirsh sideways left

If anyone has different watermark directions I would like to hear from you.





1963 Islamic Institute, imperforate

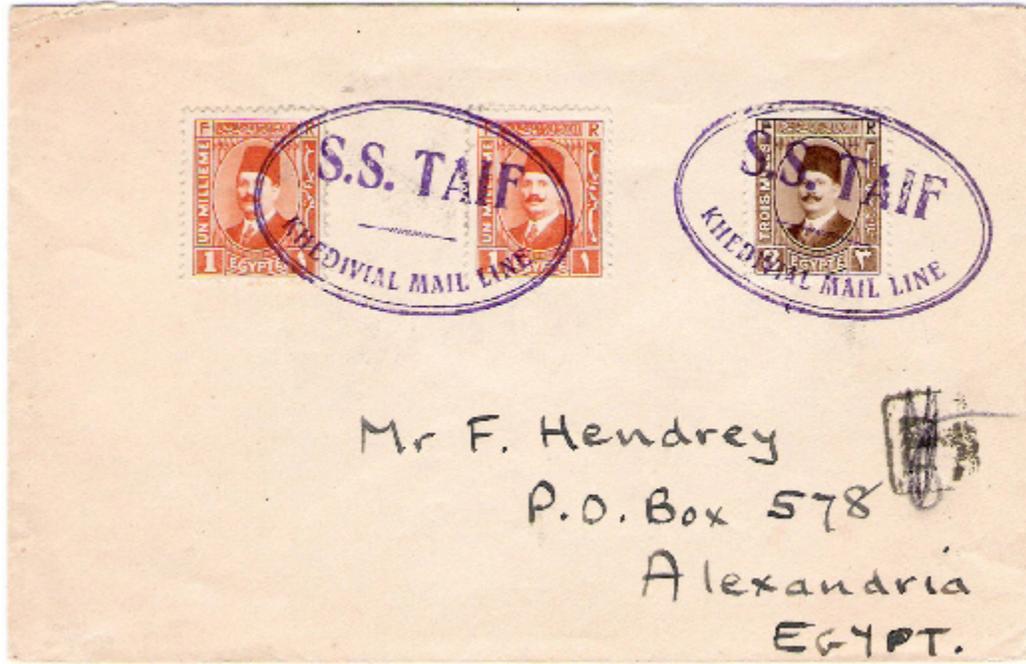


10. Following on from the article in Random Notes #64 and page 6 in particular, I have seen a complete sheet of the 10 qirsh imperforate with the frame colour varying from bluish grey to violet. The colour variation is such that columns 1 and 5 are bluish grey varying to violet towards the centre. This colour variation is similar for each of the rows on the sheet, two of which are shown above.

11. It is not always known whether some of the items listed in Mayo are genuine. Here is a Mayo 531 with a MEKKE 9-11-916 dealer cancel. The stamps are from positions 29 and 35. I have another pair having the same dealer cancel with the stamps from positions 4 and 10. Perhaps the complete sheet had misplaced horizontal perforations and maybe the complete sheet was at one time in the stock of Angeloglous.



12. Mentioned and illustrated in RN32.4 were two S.S. TAIF covers. Here is another one but with Egyptian stamps and sent in by Marwan Nusair; the Alexandria postmark on the reverse puts the date as August 1929. This one has the same addressee as the first shown in RN32 although that was a 1919 cover. Am I correct in assuming the ones to Mr. F. Hendrey are philatelic covers?



13. The 1424H Hajj stamp appeared with one stamp in the sheet having the Arabic numeral of the value missing (Scott 1343a). The latest stamp to suffer the same fate is the 2005 one riyal Arar City issue; a block of four containing this error is shown below.



14. The 'Al-Saudia' provisional handstamps are usually seen with the octagonal MEDINE cancel, but the one shown below has a part YAMBO one. Was this applied on arrival, was it a transit mark, or was the 'Al-Saudia' applied in YAMBO? A part of the 'Al-Saudia' handstamp from the stamp originally to the right of this one is just visible and I have no doubt that this is genuine, possibly from a strip of three. Any comments?



15. The MECQUE 'R' type SR56 applied to the 1949 air series printed from plates that were not the usual ones (see RN72.8), is dated 27-5-1374 equivalent to 21 Jan 1955 although the only part of the Western date I have seen is -1-55. My example is shown above and is from position 21. It would seem that if these stamps were cancelled-to-order, then this example had been separated from the sheet since it is from the lower left corner of the sheet and would have been unlikely to receive a cancel on the left. I have still not seen any examples on cover.
16. Two of the controversial 1925 Matbu'a stamps feature in the 'From the Auctions' pages in this issue. Details of forgeries of these stamps were given in RN44.24-26; for your convenience I will reproduce the relevant parts:

Type 1 Forgery

Width 13mm. Height at left 9.5 mm. "Seagull" (↘) at top left tilted to lower right. Figure at top right is "0". Ink doesn't leave oily mark on front or back. Seen as P2/N208 on light chestnut basic stamp, also on lake brown and as P3/N209. One variety has extension at lower left of dot in bottom center. Lot 459 in Hibbert sale was a Type 1 forgery.



Genuine according to RN44



From lot 3635 (page 99)

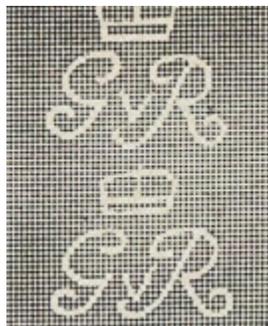


17. Hijaz railway revenue stamps of countries outside of the area that is now Saudi Arabia have featured several times in Random Notes and also in Rudy Thoden's fiscal stamp catalogue. The first one illustrated below is one I have not seen before. The ADPO first line indicates that it originates from a French-speaking part of the area, probably Syria and issued after the EEF entered Damascus in 1918. The stamp is printed on GB watermarked paper 'Script GvR' and was probably printed at the Greek Convent in Jerusalem where the other typeset revenues of similar design were printed. The two lines of Arabic are:

al-sikka al-hadidiya (railway)
al-hijaziya (hijaz)

The second stamp is listed on page APX40 of the Thoden catalogue and also on page 14 of *The Revenue Stamps of Jordan* by Joe Ross and Avo Kaplanian. It too was printed on GB watermarked paper, but on the later 'Block GvR' type, in the example shown the direction is sideways right. The three lines of Arabic are:

hijazi (hijaz)
2 qirshan (2 qirsh)
sharqi al-ardn (East of Jordan)



Script GvR



Block GvR

18. Another two fiscal documents are shown on the following pages. Both documents are police bail forms '*mahdar kafala*' issued in Makkah.

The first is dated 20-12-1369 (3 October 1950) and has a serial number 389. This document has two proportional documentary stamps: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 1 qirsh brown-orange on greyish paper (RQ57X) and Hijaz and Najd 4 qirsh reddish purple (RQ47X) listed as very rare by Thoden. There is also a KSA 1 qirsh road tax on greyish paper (RR75Zg) and a roulette 7 lithographed charity tax (Scott RA6b, SG 348). This documents shows the use of a 4 qirsh proportional in place of a 4 qirsh flat-rate stamp, and also the use of Hijaz and Najd stamps a long time after the formation of the Kingdom.

The second document is dated 2-1-1370 (14 October 1950) and has a serial number 2. Was the start of a new sequence of serial numbers the result of a change of year or some other reason? This document also has the KSA one qirsh proportional but does have the expected 4 qirsh flat-rate, but this is the Hijaz and Najd brown-red issue (RF56) listed as rare by Thoden.



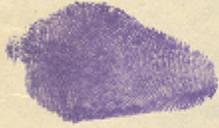
عوض كفالة رقم ٣٨٩

اسم الكفيل	عبد الله بن محمد	اسم المكفول	محمد بن عبد الرحمن
رقم وتاريخ تاييدته	٧٧٠٩ / ٢٨ / ١٣٦٠	رقم وتاريخ تاييدته	١٣٦٠ / ١٩ / ١٣٥٠
الاهنة	عبد الله بن محمد	الاهنة	عبد الله بن محمد
المحلة التي يسكنها	المنطقة	المحلة التي يسكنها	المنطقة
اسباب الكفالة	مضروب	اسم المدعي	عبد الله بن محمد

أسجل تحت صحة توقيعي أمام القسم العدلي بالامن العام كفالتي على المذكور بعاليه باحضاره عند طلبه حتى تنتهي الدعوى القائمة عليه واذا لم احضره أكون مسئولاً عن كل ما يترتب عليه ما ١٣٥٠ / ١٩ / ١٣٥٠

توقيع الكفيل

توقيع المكفول



ال

[Handwritten signatures]

Document number 389 dated 20-12-1369 (3 October 1950)



محضر كفالة رقم ١٣٧٤

المطهر محمد بن محمد	اسم الكفول	محمود بن محمد بن حسين	اسم الكفول
مطاره بالسكة	رقم وتاريخ تاجيسته	محمود بن محمد بن حسين	رقم وتاريخ تاجيسته
مطاره بالسكة	الهننة	محمود بن محمد بن حسين	الهننة
مطاره بالسكة	المحلة التي يسكنها	محمود بن محمد بن حسين	المحلة التي يسكنها
المنه سلهبارة الركن	اسم المدعى	محمود بن محمد بن حسين	اسباب الكفالة

أعجل تحت صحة توقيبي أمام القسم العدل بالامن العام كفالتى على المذكور بماليه باحضاره عند طلبه حتى تنتهى الدعوى المقامة عليه واذا لم احضره أكون مسئولاً عن كل ما يقرتب عليه من ح / ١ / ١٣٧٤

توقيع الكفيل



توقيع المكفول



الطابع



ال

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

Document number 2 dated 2-1-1370 (14 October 1950)

The King Ali Issue on Cover

By: Sam Van Blarcom

The King Ali issue is one of those cases where the mint stamps are plentiful but used examples are quite scarce. This is easily explained by the historical circumstances surrounding their use: they were available and valid as postage for only about half of the year 1925, and in very few locations (mainly Jeddah) where the remnants of the Hejazi kingdom were holding out against the invading forces of Ibn Saud.

Consequently covers bearing this issue are not easy to find, and perhaps APAI members may be interested in the ten examples I have been able to secure; I would be similarly interested in seeing the covers of other members. Thus the available information in this area may be extended.

Photocopies with a brief description are shown below, arranged chronologically. All these covers were mailed from Jeddah during the latter months of 1925. The circular date stamp (where visible) in each case appears to be Jeddah, Knight type H20. All the values of the King Ali series are represented except the 1/4 Piastre and the 10 Piastre. (I have not seen nor heard of the latter stamp on cover. Has anyone?) All the sixteen King Ali adhesives are overprinted with tablets of the first Jeddah printing (Jeddah I), as are all genuine usages, I believe. All the settings, as listed by Fred Benedict in RN #38, are present, with the exception of setting G. Setting E is the most prevalent, but the sample is unfortunately still quite small.

The covers appear on the following pages, one cover per page.

Ed.



Cover 1.

Oversize Colonial Photo Stores cover, registered to Alexandria 18 July 1925; back stamped Port Taufiq and Alexandria; franked with 16 stamps with a total value of 12.1625 Piastres, including two King Ali issues: 1/2, black overprint, year left, setting A (if A is arranged as in setting B), position 22 and 5 Piastre, blue overprint, year left, setting E, position 21.



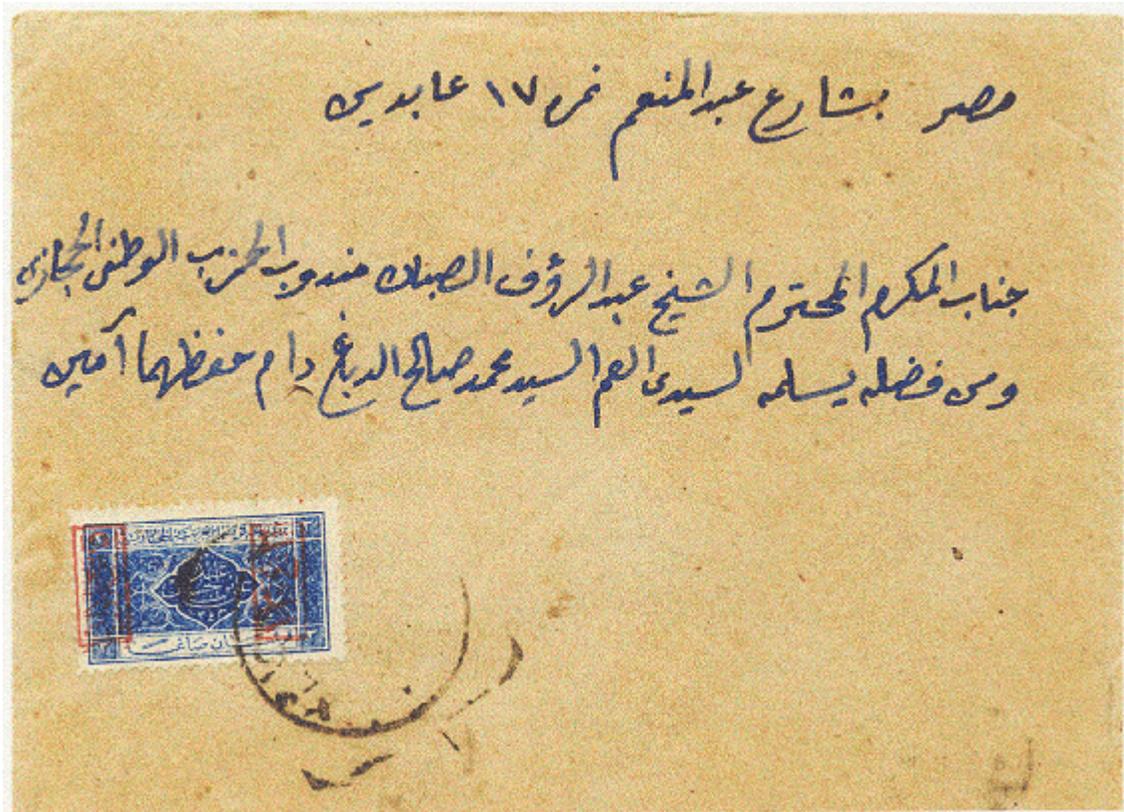
Cover 2.

Jeddah to Cairo 19 July 1925; Port Tawfik transit cancel and Cairo arrival, both July 25. Franked at the correct foreign rate of two Piastres, comprising a vertical pair of King Ali 1/2 Piastre, black overprint, year left, setting C, positions 6 and 11 and a single 1 Piastre, black overprint, year left, setting B, position 23.



Cover 3.

Jeddah to Cairo 24 July 1925; Port Tawfik transit and Jeddah arrival backstamps, both July 25. The addressee was the delegate of the Hejazi National Party in Cairo, Shaykh 'Abd ar-Ra'uf as Sabban. Franked by the two Piastre King Ali issue, Jeddah I printing, red overprint, year right, setting E, position 22.



Cover 4.

Jeddah registered to Damanhour, Egypt 29 July 1925; faint Port Tawfik transit cancel and Damanhour arrival 4 August 1925. Franked with seven Hejaz stamps of total value 6.775 Piastres, an overpayment possibly due to excess weight or value of the contents. The address is given as the railroad station, which may have served as a pick-up point for mail. Stamps include two values of the King Ali issue: 1/8 Piastre, Jeddah I printing, black overprint, year right, setting F, position 12, 1-1/2 Piastre Jeddah I printing, black overprint, year left, setting B, position 23.



Cover 5.

Jeddah registered to Alexandria 7 August 1925; Port Tawfik transit Aug 11 & arrival Aug 12. Franked with eight Hejaz adhesives totaling 7.375 Piastres. The addressee is Aram Sempad, the dealer responsible for the Colonial Photo Stores covers, which this one resembles. The King Ali issue is represented by the three Piastre value, Jeddah I printing, red overprint, year left, setting E, position 2.



Cover 6.

Jeddah to Stendal, Germany 11 August 1925; backstamps; Port Tawfik Aug 9 and Port Said Aug 17. A notation "via Trieste" is also on the reverse. Franking is as follows: King Ali 1/2 Piastre, Jeddah I printing, blue overprint, year right, setting E, position 23, King Ali 1-1/2 Piastre, Jeddah I, black overprint, year left, setting B, position 13.



Cover 7.

Jeddah to Cairo 15 August 1925; backstamps: Port Tawfik transit Aug 24 and Cairo machine cancel Aug 25. Talismanic number "8642" has been added to the address. Franked with 1/2 Piastre King Ali issue with 1-1/2 Piastre adhesive of the earlier series to make up the 2 Piastre foreign rate. The King Ali stamp is Jeddah I printing, blue overprint, year right, setting E, position 1.



Cover 8.

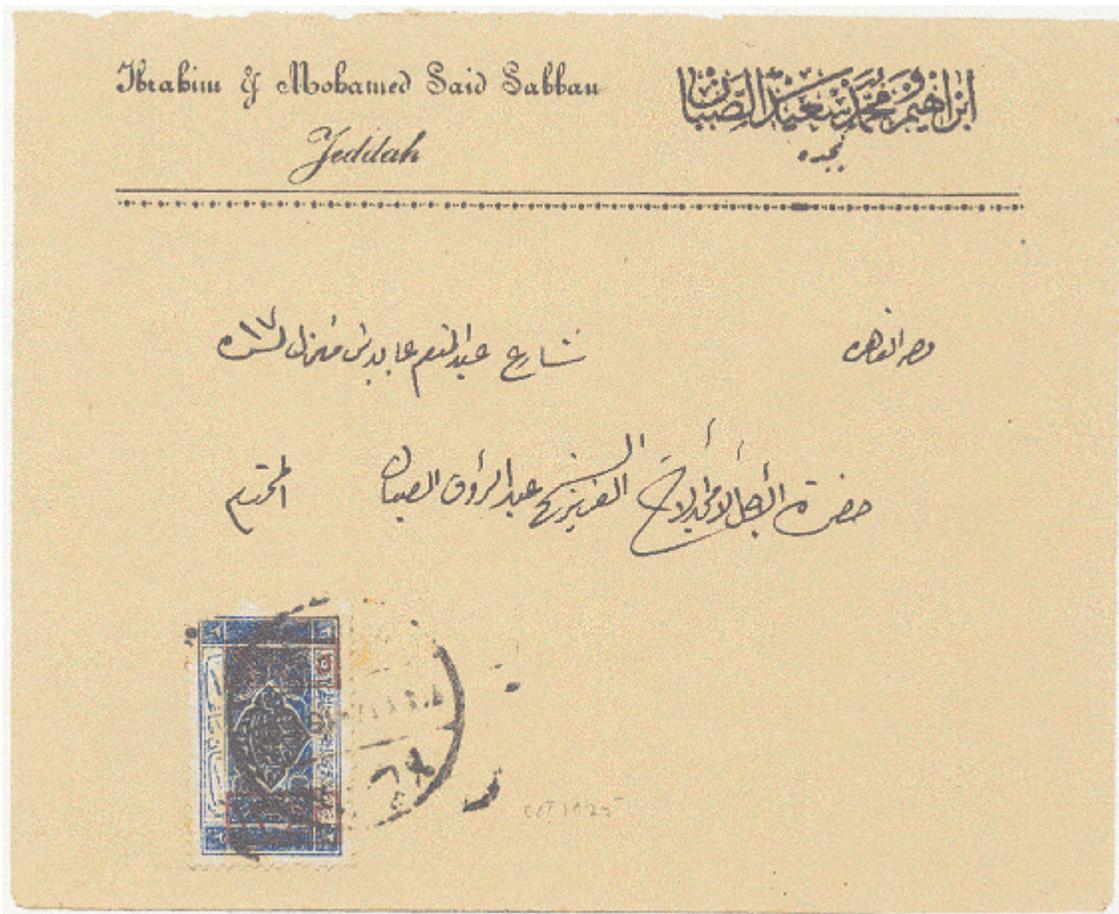
Jeddah to Cairo 9 October 1925; Port Tawfik transit mark 15 October 1925. The address is the same as cover (7), including the talismanic number. Franked with two values of the King Ali series to total 2 Piastres:

1/2 Piastre, Jeddah I printing, blue overprint, year right, setting E, position 5. 1-1/2 Piastre, Jeddah I printing, blue overprint, year left, setting E, position 23.



Cover 9.

Jeddah to Cairo commercial cover 16 October 1925; backstamps: Port Tawfik transit Oct 18 and Cairo machine arrival cancellation. Franked with 2 Piastre King Ali, Jeddah I printing red overprint, year right, setting D, position 5.



Cover 10.

Registered (Jeddah) to Berlin without date stamp at the point of origin; a boxed registration handstamp is present. Transit cancels on reverse: Port Taufiq 25 November and Alexandria on the same day. Arrival date stamp at Spandau, Germany 2 December. Franked with 2 Piastre King Ali (which is underpaid for foreign registry), Jeddah I printing, red overprint, year right, setting E, position 23.



Postscript.

It's widely agreed that the Cairo printing of the King Ali issue never saw postal use. However... Check out the cover below. The stamp in the upper right corner is clearly a typical Cairo printing. Still the post office accepted this stamp as part payment of the then-current foreign air mail rate. The cover was duly cancelled, entered the mail stream, and presently arrived, unchallenged, at its destination. What more could you ask?



Well, let's return to earth. This cover is rather in the nature of a prank (which was successful). The Hejazi stamps thereon were not valid for postage in Dahran (sic) or anywhere else. They might as well be Easter seals (which have also been known to frank mail). But it was fun while it lasted.

And we should change the first sentence above to read "...never saw *legitimate* postal use.

From the Auctions

Compiled by: Martin Lovegrove

In RN72 I mentioned that Corinphila were about to hold an auction. Well, they did, but the items relating to Saudi Arabia did not do very well. There were several mistakes in descriptions and some high starting prices. Only 5 of the 66 relevant items were sold. Note that the prices realized are hammer prices.

Corinphila Auctions (<http://www.corinphila.com>) 21 February 2007

Lots 3634 and 3635, according to RN44.25, look like forgery type 1. Prices are in Swiss Francs (CHF).

Lot	Description	Realized
3597	1924 (Oct 11): Cover to Qubba Palace, Cairo franked by a very rare combination usage of 1922 1/2 pi. scarlet and Proclamation of King Hussein as Caliph gold overprinted 1 1/2 pi. lilac tied by DJEDDA cds in black. Reverse with Qubba Palace arrival (Oct 17). Start price CHF 1500.	CHF 1500
3600	1921 (March): Caliphate 1 pi. blue pair with gold Proclamation overprint, lower stamp with variety '1324' date omitted. Very fine og (unlisted by Gibbons). Start price CHF 250. (<i>This is a 'reprint' forgery - Ed</i>)	Unsold
3615	1925 (Oct): Cover from Taif mailed via Confidah and Mecca to Massaua (Eritrea) via Port Tewfik and Qubba Palace, Cairo. Remarkble cover franked by Nejd 3 pi. brown-red (violet surcharge) tied by bold strike of very rare TAIF cds in black, routed via Camel Train from Mecca to Confidah with transit of extremely rare ALGUNFADA in black at left. Reverse of cover with Port Tewfik, Qubba Palace and Massaua (Nov 3) cds's. Central crease away from adhesive, but an extremely rare and probably unique franking: this 'Camel route' was only utilised whilst Djeddah was under siege during the Civil War from June 7 1925 until December 23 1925. Start price CHF 12000.	Unsold
3625	1986 (Feb 17): 'Kaaba' Booklet with five complete panes of 2 riyals (SB125). Fresh and very fine, this Booklet was never placed on public sale (Gi = £ 250). Start price CHF 300.	CHF 340
3626	1986 (Feb 17): 'Kaaba' Booklet with five complete panes of 5 riyals (SB125). Fresh and very fine, this Booklet was never placed on public sale (Gi = £ 250). Start price CHF 300.	CHF 360
3634	Newspaper Stamps. 1925 (March): 1/8 pi. chestnut overprinted Nejd 1343 in violet, further surcharged 'Matbua' (Printed Matter) in black. A fresh and fine unused example (Gi = £ 2'250).	Unsold
3635	1925 (March): 1/2 pi. scarlet overprinted Nejd 1343 in violet, further surcharged 'Matbua' (Printed Matter) in black. A fresh and fine unused example (Gi = £ 3'500).	Unsold





3597



3600



3615



3634



3635



Enlarged detail from 3635



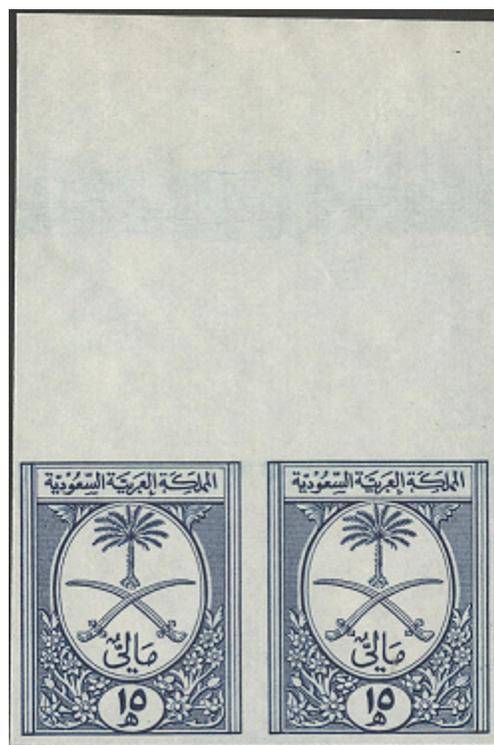
Nutmeg Stamp Auctions (<http://www.nutmegstamp.com>) sale 139, 20 March 2007

There were two lots that caught my eye here and some Makkah Arms overprints that looked like forgeries. I was able to inspect the stamps at Stampex, London in February and that confirmed my suspicions about the overprints. I have added my notes in italics after the catalogue description.

Lot	Description	Realized
12603	20R, Revenue, PI Proof, Renewal of Residential Visa, Pair EF, Dark Blue on thick ribbed paper <i>Thick unwatermarked ungummed ribbed paper, 0.0075in (0.296mm) thick</i>	USD 80
12604	10h, Revenue, PI Proof, Pair EF, Blue on stamp paper <i>The face value should read 15 halalah. Medium ungummed unwatermarked paper, 0.0032in (0.126mm) thick</i>	USD 80



12603



12604

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
http://www.wnsstamps.ch	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.