



الجمعية الدولية للطابع البريدية العربية  
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International  
Random Notes



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A new find  
See [page 4](#)

## 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](mailto:arabphilassocin@aol.com) is no longer in use, please contact Willie King at [willieking@btinternet.com](mailto: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: Marwan Nusair

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](mailto: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 (2008) 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 #75

### *Assembled by the Editor*

With so little Saudi material to publish, I thought I would expand our horizons a little for this issue. Greg Todd has sent me an article on the People's Republic of Yemen, and I have been investigating the background to a cover from the British Military Mission in Taif.

The topic of expanding our coverage to much more of the Middle East has been discussed before, and if I remember correctly, produced no firm conclusion. If any member objects to this wider coverage, or to the inclusion of non-philatelic background information, please let me know, but remember to include an article for publication, otherwise your complaint may fall on deaf ears.

I managed to publish an updated version of Rudy Thoden's revenue catalogue at the beginning of February. This edition is 'Thoden 2008' and brief details of how to order a copy appear later in this journal. If sufficient new material comes to light there will be a Thoden 2009, otherwise you will have to wait until 2010.

Now for the notes.

1. In *Random Notes* #65, page 4, item 3, there appeared a description and illustration of a block of four Makkah Arms ½ qirsh printed on Hejaz ochre railway fiscal stamps. The block showed several two qirsh surcharge overprints, similar to the one used for Nejd postage (Scott 48, SG 243). I have acquired an imperforate copy of the same value Makkah Arms stamp, but printed on ordinary paper, also showing the surcharge.

My stamp shows the surcharge misplaced horizontally to such an extent that only part of the surcharge is visible on each side of the stamp. This is an accidental stroke of good fortune, for it enabled me to measure the space between the overprints. The gap is approximately 18mm whereas on the Nejd stamp mentioned above, it is approximately 17mm. My stamp has a similar spacing to the block shown in RN 65.

An image of the three items together is shown below:



Nejd Scott 48, SG 243

Block from RN 65

New item

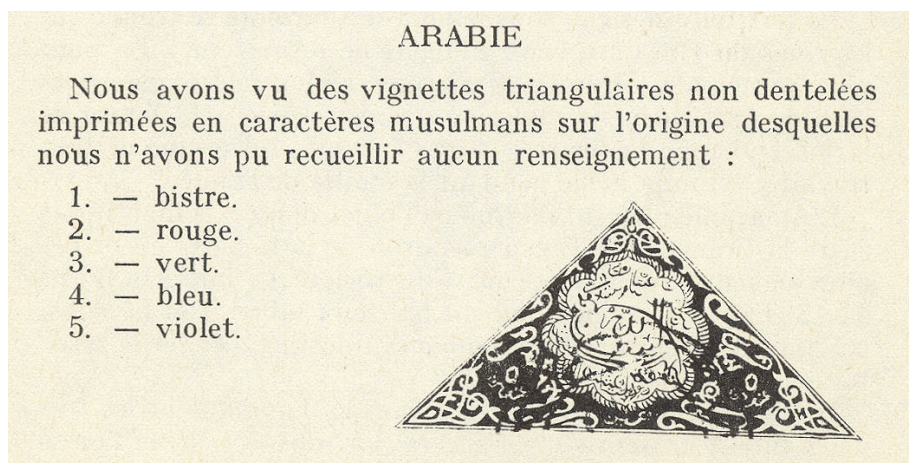




Whether these overprints on the ½ qirsh stamps were trials for an intended issue or just printers waste is not known. I cannot even be sure whether they are genuine; plates produced from composed type would have been dismantled after use and any subsequent plates made for the same surcharge may well have had different spacing and possibly a different font. My own feeling is that the thinner type used for these overprints on the ½ qirsh is similar to the thinner type used on the later plates of the 1 and 1½ qirsh Nejd surcharges and may have been preparatory work carried out in anticipation of further supplies of the 3 qirsh stamp being unavailable for overprinting.

If anyone can supply further information, please contact the editor.

2. I received an interesting bit of information about the large charity tax stamp (Scott RA2, SG 345 ). The relevant part of the message was:  
*... was a part of collection inherited from Mr Kaky who was a very rich man and had a powerful stamp collection. He died few years ago. I heard, but am not sure, that part of his collection was a full original post book of 50 or more of full sheets mnh of the big charity stamps and one rich man bought it from his kids for around \$300,000,00*  
 I look forward to seeing if it comes onto the market, but not paying for it!
3. A reference, new to **Random Notes**, to the bogus triangle issue can be found in *Les Timbres de Fantaisie - Etude historique et descriptive des émissions apocryphes et de fantaisie* by Georges Chapier.



4. Member Dick Tjaden has had more success on eBay:

*Recently I had the luck to find a thus far unrecorded copy of the 20p 1964 Official (SG 520a). Unfortunately the stamp is not perfect - it has a crease and misses a perf, but it has the watermark to the right which was just the one I still needed for my collection. It was in an eBay lot (\$ 15.50) described as "Saudi Arabia revenues".*

A good find Dick; we will forgive the faults!



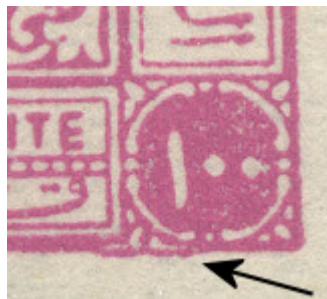
5. The investigation into the facts behind the 1949 airmail issue continues, and I would like some help please. Here are two imperforate pairs of the 100 qirsh stamp. The top pair is on ungummed paper and the lower on off-white gummed paper, Woods type 6, and printed in the shade of the stamps that have the favour cancellations described in earlier *Random Notes*. This left-hand stamp of this latter pair has a flaw (bulging frame) underneath the Arabic value. Has anyone seen this flaw on a genuinely used stamp? Can anyone send me a good quality scan, at 300 dpi or higher resolution, of a complete sheet of the 100 qirsh? I need to be able to confirm that these are not from the normal plate.



Pale purple colour on ungummed white paper



Deeper purple colour on gummed off-white paper



Flaw under value

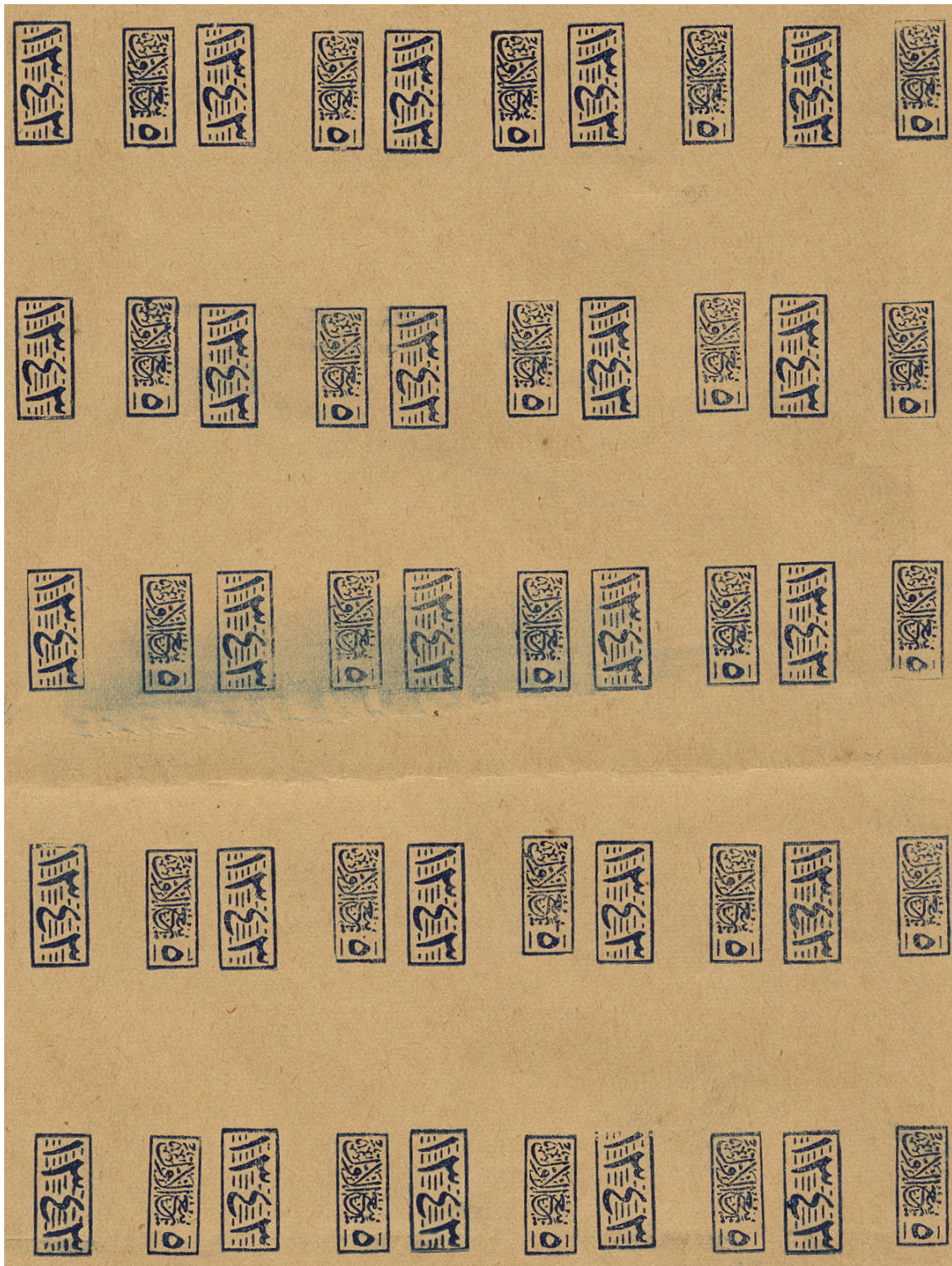


Normal





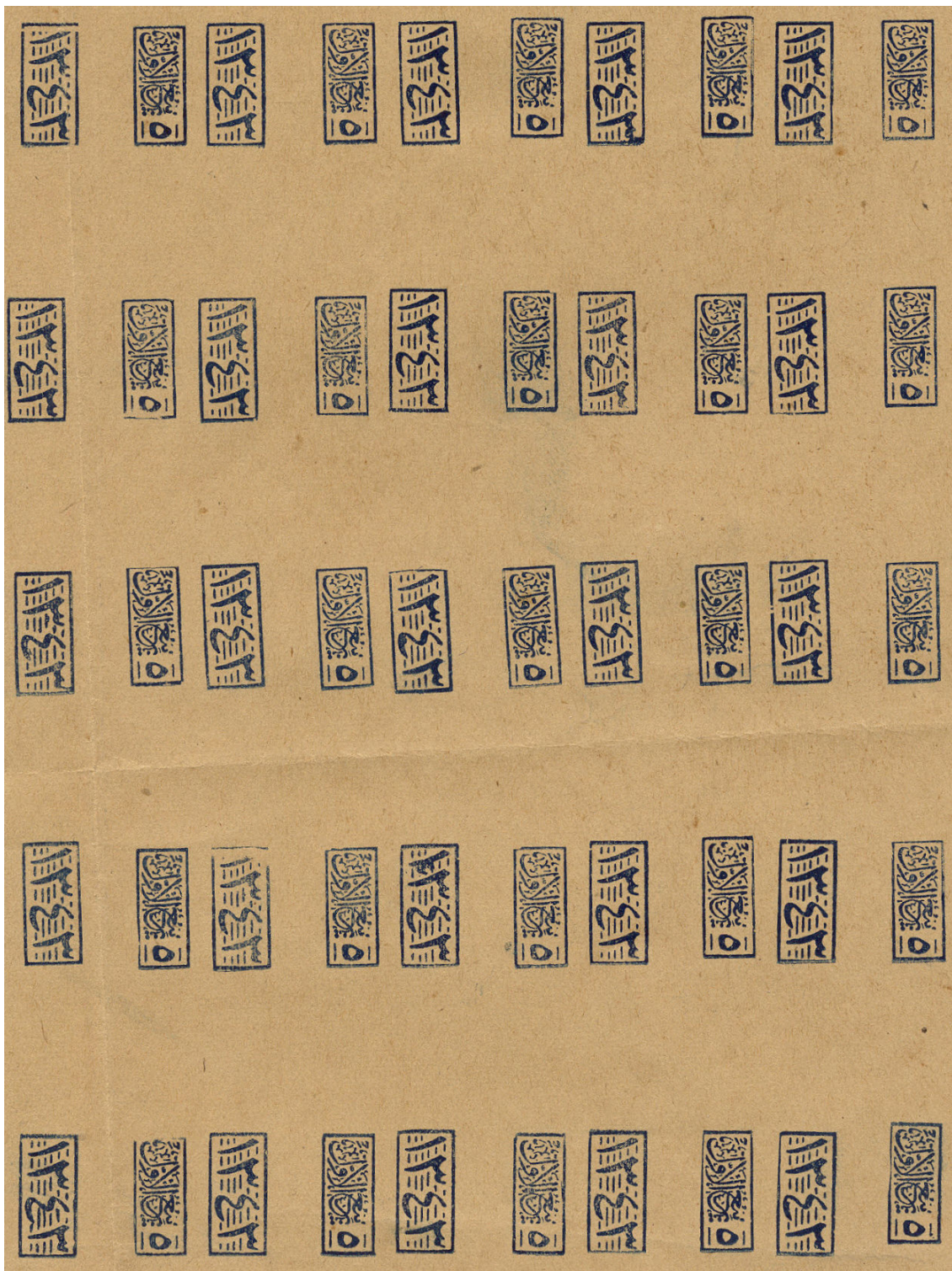
6. I have had the opportunity to examine a sheet of King Ali Cairo postage due overprints, printed in blue on thin brown paper. The quality of the print is very good and I think that this is genuine printer's waste; the print is too crisp to have been produced from a photograph, however it does not appear to be the same as that illustrated in *Random Notes* #38.27. I have several blocks and singles that can be plated to this sheet and if it is a forgery, then it throws into doubt many of the Cairo overprinted postage dues.



Stamp columns 1 - 5







Stamp columns 6 - 10





7. Attendance at an OPAL meeting in February gave me the opportunity of searching for Saudi material at Philatex, London. There was nothing too exciting, but I did find an interesting cover from Jizan. It was a registered cover to the BBC in London and as was often the case, the registration marks were only in manuscript. A registration label was applied in London, indicating the SW31 district, the destination was SW1. The GEZAN postmark was not listed in the series by Kenneth Knight in earlier *Random Notes*, and is similar to type S35 but is unbelted. The date is unclear, but there is a Jeddah transit mark of 17 April 1954 and also a BBC receiving mark of 3 May 1954.



**Jizan to London. Registration label applied in London.**





8. Another contribution from Dick Tjaden is this overprinted bogus triangle. The 5 para overprint is new to me as is the colour for this value, brown instead of red.



9. Not much to report from Spring Stampex, London, except that I managed to obtain several covers from towns and villages in what must be remote locations. The postmarks were not in any of Kenneth Knights articles starting in *Random Notes* #44, so I assume that they are quite scarce. Here is one from ESHAIQUER:



As with the Jizan cover in item 7, this is addressed to the Arabic Section of the BBC in London, but was not registered. The destination and return addresses were both in Arabic.

The ESHAIQUER postmark is similar to type S20 but is undated.

# People's Republic of Southern Yemen

## A Modern Rarity

*By: Greg Todd*

The British left Aden on 29th November 1967 and on the very next day the 'People's Republic of Southern Yemen' was formed.

Prior to this, at a Conference in London in June and July 1964, the British Government promised Independence to the South Arabian Federation, to be achieved not later than 1968, with the British keeping the port of Aden.

The British Labour Party under Harold Wilson announced its intention of abandoning Aden altogether on 22nd February 1966, whereupon the 'Front for the Liberation Of Southern Yemen' (FLOSY) was formed, eventually taking 16 of the 17 states within Southern Arabia. The 'National Liberation Front' (NLF), a more radical party within FLOSY wrestled for future political control, with the NLF after a violent struggle gaining the upper hand between the two factions and breaking away altogether in December 1966.

British Troops began their withdrawal from the Aden area on 25 August 1967 and left the 'People's Republic of Southern Yemen' to its own devices from 29th November 1967 when the last British soldier embarked for home. By the end of September 1967 the NLF had over-run 16 of the 17 states in the area, the Aden Protectorate being absorbed by the end of October 1967.

When one looks at the catalogues, one can see a 'first issue' of stamps, appearing on 1st April 1968, which bore an overprint (in two types, one bearing a 'lower dots' variety under the central word in Arabic) struck in blue or red as per the Gibbons catalogue listing, SG 1-14.

However, prior to this, from late February 1968, the local Postmaster in Aden appears to have 'invented' the listed overprint on his own volition with the handstamp reading 'People's Republic of Southern Republic' in Arabic and English, applied in violet on both the Southern Arabia stamp and to the cover. Examples of these are quite scarce and often, especially so off-cover, appear of a dubious nature, even though the Gibbons footnote reads 'local handstamps were applied, they are of philatelic interest but outside the scope of this catalogue'. I illustrate (fig. 1) a Southern Arabia 25 fils used on a commercial air-letter to Bradford in Yorkshire with the letter thanking Behrens & Sons for the cloth, nylon and hand yarn received. A letter of credit had also already been set up by the senders, Ali Mohamad Al-Garadi of Aden. The 25f. stamp is surcharged twice in violet, measuring 45mm. in length on the English section of the surcharge. The adhesive is tied by the old British "Crater / Aden" double circle datestamp (28th February 1968) with time code (Proud D1), introduced on 1st March 1963. Other examples of this surcharge can be found in black, however those I have recorded are all dated 26th February 1968 (fig.2 ). I believe the surcharge then continued to be struck, sporadically after April 1968, in violet only. The surcharge was not always applied as un-surcharged Southern Arabia adhesives are known used in combination with the April adhesives also (fig. 3). It is unclear whether the surcharge continued to be in use much after the April issue, but I do have a small piece bearing the handstamped surcharge used on 8th December 1968 on a 65f. adhesive (fig. 4). Thereafter, the first issue was used, mainly found struck with Crater-Aden datestamps (single or double circle), Aden G.P.O., Little Aden or Aden Camp postmarks, with more unusual usages found from Maalla, Mukalla bilingual datestamps (either circular or oval), Sheikh Othman or at Tarim.







Figure 1



Figure 1 detail



Figure 2



Figure 3

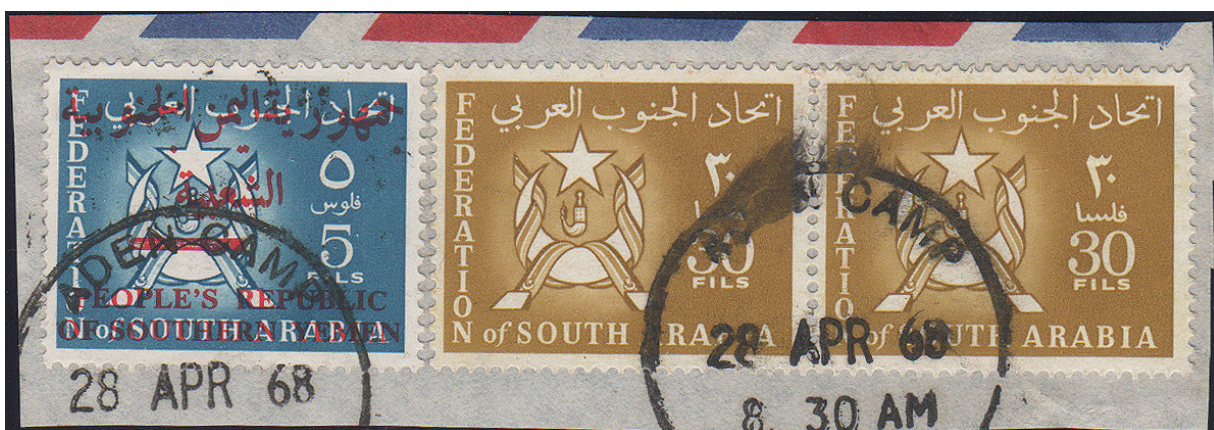


Figure 4

**Editor's note.**

Greg would like feedback about this article from you. Please send comments to me (my details are on page 2) and I will forward them.



## The Makkah Arms 1½ Qirsh Forgery

*By Martin Lovegrove*

In *Random Notes* #74 on page 23, some brief details were given of a 1½ qirsh Makkah Arms stamp printed on buff paper. I now have some more details about this forgery.

The two sheets of proofs or printer's waste of this stamp have revealed information about the plate used for printing. The clue was provided by stamp positions 33, 34 and 35. The lower edge of these stamps had indentations and these are shown below:



**Indentation in lower frame of stamps**

If these indentations matched the perforations of a genuine stamp then perhaps that would be the proof that the forgery plate was produced from a photograph of a genuine plate. The image below shows a genuine stamp spanning the indentations of two of the forgeries in the sheet, and it can be seen that the indentation do match the perforations of a genuine stamp.

Despite the fact that either the photograph or the forgery plate could have been touched up to remove these imperfections, fortunately for us it wasn't, and there are enough imperfections on the other cliches to be able to plate the forgeries with relative ease.



Armed with information I was able to identify the forgeries in my collection and these are listed here and some illustrated on the next page:

1. Basic stamp, no overprint
2. Jeddah large 3-line overprint in black, forgery type 2
3. Jeddah large 3-line inverted overprint in black, forgery type 2
4. Jeddah large 3-line overprint in black, forgery type 4
5. Jeddah large 3-line overprint in blue, forgery type 2
6. Jeddah large 3-line overprint in gold on red, forgery type 2
7. Jeddah large 3-line overprint in black, forgery type 2, Caliphate forgery type 3
8. Jeddah large 3-line inverted overprint in black, forgery type 2, Caliphate forgery type 3





Basic forgery



Genuine



Forgery with Jeddah large  
3-line in gold on red

Both of my copies of the Jeddah large 3-line in gold on red show considerable amounts of gold on red spots, especially in the lower portion of the stamp.

My other sheet of printer's waste, not shown in RN74, has inverted stamps on the reverse.



Producing a forgery plate from a photograph presents us with some problems. Obviously flaws are reproduced, as shown by the position 9 flaw illustrated in Random Note 74 page 23, but also many of the features of the original printing technique can also be found. Thus in this case, any ink squash produces as a result of the relief printing process of the genuine stamp will be reproduced to some extent on the forgery, whatever the printing method employed. Some evidence of ink squash can be found on this forgery as well as the 'reprint' forgeries, but despite this I believe that lithography may have been used for these two types of forgeries.

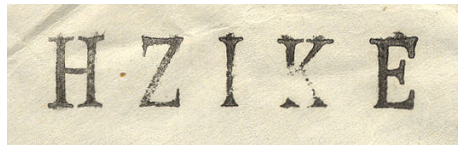
If anyone has more information about this forgery, please contact the Editor.



# HZIKE, or not?

By: *Martin Lovegrove*

The cover shown below was sent from the British Military Mission (Taif?) to Ohio, U.S.A. in 1950. I was interested in this cover not only because I have a couple of other covers from the Mission, but also for the HZIKE mark on the front and rear.



Front and reverse of cover with HZIKE mark

The puzzle of HZIKE remained unsolved until I researched the sender, Major K. E. S. Ellis, Royal Signals. Ken Ellis was an expert in radio transmission and in his lifetime had become a legendary figure among six-metre band operators worldwide. Ken spent more than 50 years actively trying to unravel the secrets of this fickle part of the spectrum and as a result added much to the world's knowledge of propagation at frequencies above 28 MHz. HZIKE should actually be HZ1KE; the '1' in the middle is actually a number one, and HK1KE was Ken's radio call-sign at the time. (HZ = Saudi Arabia, KE = Ken Ellis) An Ellis QSL card is shown below.



HZIKE 1948 Saudi Arabia, QSL card

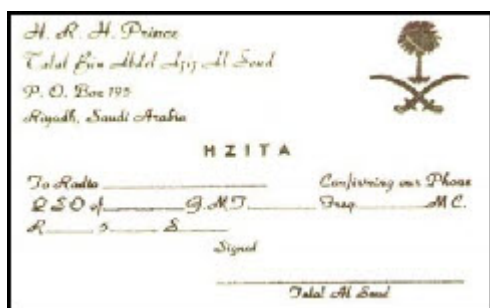


Major K.E.S. Ellis, MBE, Bsc (Eng)



The QSL card conveniently for us ties the British Military Mission (BMM) to Taif.

His job at the BMM was as Communications Advisor to the Minister of Defence. In 1950, Crown Prince Faisal's son had been injured in a motor accident in Paris and for some reason the normal diplomatic communication channels were not functioning. Somehow Ken managed to "hook up" a direct link with Paris enabling a French doctor to communicate directly with the Crown Prince, keeping him informed of the patient's progress. Ken also taught radio to young members of the Royal Household; A Prince Talal QSL card (HZ1TA) is shown below. Ken was clearly held in esteem by his Saudi employers, but the record shows that it was for services to the country's General Intelligence Department that the second highest honour in the country, the Royal Robes and Dagger, was conferred upon Major Ellis in 1950.



Prince Talal QSL card

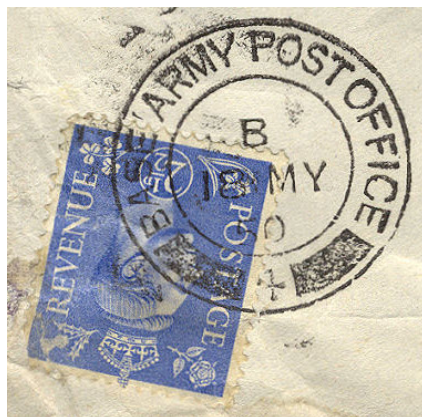


Ken Ellis wearing the royal robes and dagger presented by the King of Saudi Arabia

Sadly, at the age of 92, Ken Ellis died in hospital in Folkestone, England, on June 28th 2001. My thanks go to the UK Six Metre Group for permitting me to reproduce items from their website (<http://www.uksmg.org>).

Note for non-radio hams: A QSL card is a written confirmation of a radio communication.

Back to the cover. It was cancelled BASE ARMY POST OFFICE 18 MY 50, a similar cancel to one posted on 6 June 1950, illustrated below and the cover on the next page. This second cover has a bilingual 'Headquarters - British Military Mission - to Saudi Arabia' cachet.



18 May 1950



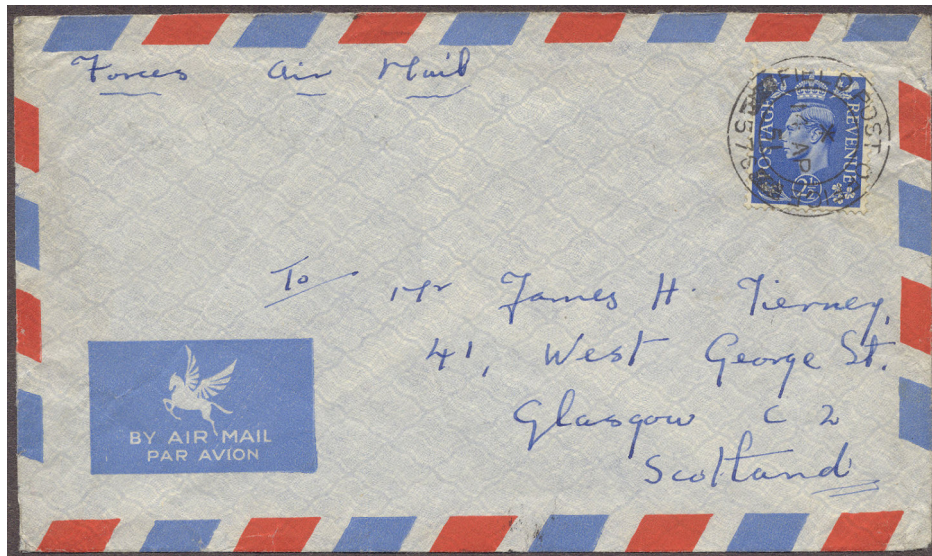
6 June 1950







A third cover, illustrated below, bears a FIELD POST OFFICE 576 cancel dated 14 AU 51.



Field Post Office 576  
14 AP 51

The interesting thing about these latter two covers is that they are addressed to the same person. There is obviously more work to do on these covers and if anyone can help with these or the BMM in general, I would like to hear from them.

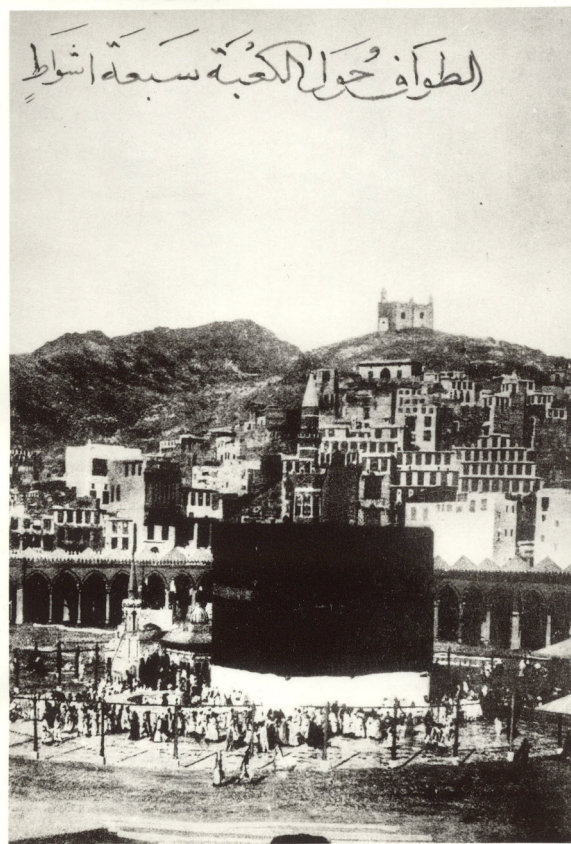


## A Non-Philatelic Addendum to Gebel Abu Qubais Article

*By: Martin Lovegrove*

In *Random Notes* #62, Willie King wrote about Gebel Abu Qubais and its appearance on essays for the first Hejaz stamps and on the early Hejaz revenue stamps. Some interesting, but non-philatelic, items relating to the subject have come into my possession.

The first is an undated photograph that shows the structure quite clearly.



The other items are two engravings and are shown on the next page.







The two views shown here come from different editions (1683-1719) of *Description De L'Univers* by Alain Manesson Mallet (1630?-1706?), a French army engineer. The success of his first edition in French inspired a German edition which appeared in 1684 as *Beschreibung des gantzen Welt-Kreises*, (2nd edition 1719).

The monochrome engraving shown above is from the French edition and the hand-coloured one is from the German edition. The views are almost identical but with one being a mirror-image of the other.

Mallet's maps and pictures are not original but are based on earlier prototypes, such as the work of Marco Boschini and other Italian cartographers and may explain the image reversal and also the difficulty (impossibility?) encountered in mapping the images to the present-day Makkah. I am grateful to Tarik Alireza for help with these engravings; his quote: *'In reality, Makkah is surrounded by hillocks and mountains with many local mosques; certainly the most prominent of these was the Abu Qubais mosque. Other higher ground structures included forts as well.'*



Abu Qubais?



# Thoden 2008

*Now available*

## Thoden 2008

A CATALOGUE  
OF THE FISCAL STAMPS  
OF SAUDI ARABIA  
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ORIGINALLY COMPILED BY R. J. THODEN

Updated in 2007 by Martin Lovegrove

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**RN**



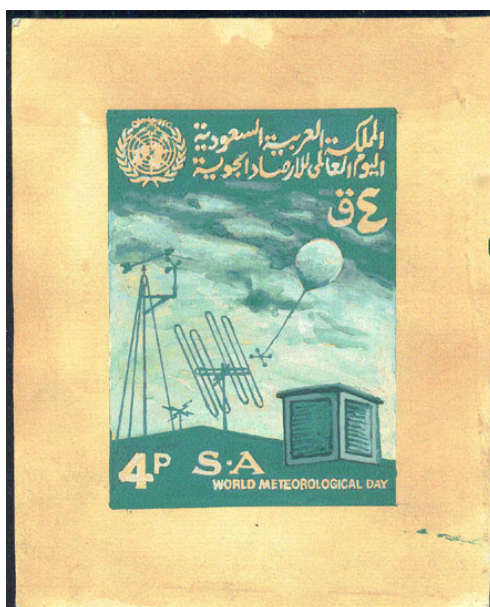
## From the Auctions

*Compiled by: Martin Lovegrove*

Just four items this time.

Another piece of 'artwork' appeared in France International auction 37. It was unsold at a previous auction; I am not sure whether it was sold in auction 37, but it is no longer available.

**SAUDI ARABIA (1967) Meteorological balloon\*. Anemometer\*. Antennae\*. Weather vane\*. Available at USD 1600**  
Original artwork for World Meteorological Day issue. Watercolor on posterboard, design measures 140 x 110 mm. Scott No 454. **Unique!**



Another piece of artwork appeared in Regency auction 64. There were also some Hejaz items.

Lot	Description	Estimate
2253	<b>1985 MECCA-MEDINA HIGHWAY &amp; MAP 20h ESSAY</b> Hand painted essay of Mecca-Medina highway stamp. Heavy white paper 5"x8-1/8" with design within framed area 4-3/8"x6½". Some writing in margins several numbers & set of initials. Very attractive & scarce	Opened at USD 425 but unsold



**Lot Description**

- 2248 **(L61) 1925 CARVED DOOR PANELS ¼pi GREEN, GOLD ON RED OVERPRINT** Realized USD 1800  
 MINT never hinged. Roulette 20 & some extra gold at left (top & bottom). Well centered copy of this RARITY, very fine. Signed on back by David Graham. (SG #62 £1800=US\$3638) Cat \$3000.
- 2254 **(LJ17a) 1925 JEDDA OVERPRINT READING DOWN 20pa RED** Realized USD 525  
 MINT never hinged. Some toning specks & light crease. Very fine appearing. (SG #D88a £400=US\$808) Cat \$550.



Lot 2248. Overprint from position 13.



Lot 2254. Overprint from position 38.



Lot 2253





## Acknowledgements and Contacts

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Filatco	<a href="http://www.filatco.com">http://www.filatco.com</a>
Magan Stamps (Gordon Bonnett)	<a href="http://www.maganstamps.co.uk">http://www.maganstamps.co.uk</a> 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	<a href="http://www.nutmegstamp.com">http://www.nutmegstamp.com</a>
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<a href="http://www.oriold.unizh.ch//static/hegira.html">http://www.oriold.unizh.ch//static/hegira.html</a>	Date conversion
<a href="http://www.filatelia.fi/experts/">http://www.filatelia.fi/experts/</a>	Experts
<a href="http://www.wnsstamps.ch">http://www.wnsstamps.ch</a>	WADP Numbering System - WNS
<a href="http://www.arabianstamps.com">http://www.arabianstamps.com</a>	Good information on Saudi new issues
<a href="http://www.mnagim.com">http://www.mnagim.com</a>	Rare and unusual stamps and proofs from the Middle East.