



الجمعية الدولية للطابع البريدية العربية
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International
Random Notes



MARCH 2009

NUMBER 77

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Good or Bad?
See [page 18](#)

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: 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, (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 (2009) 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 #77

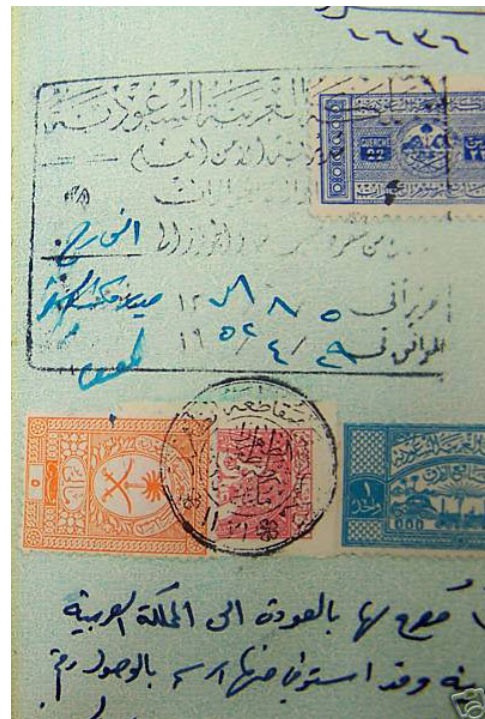
Assembled by the Editor

The lack of contributions has caused this edition to be mainly pictorial; when the pictures run out, there may be nothing left! Unfortunately Willie King is very busy with other philatelic organisations and has been unable to provide the next part of his 1934 Tughra series articles for this edition; I hope we will be able to see it before too long.

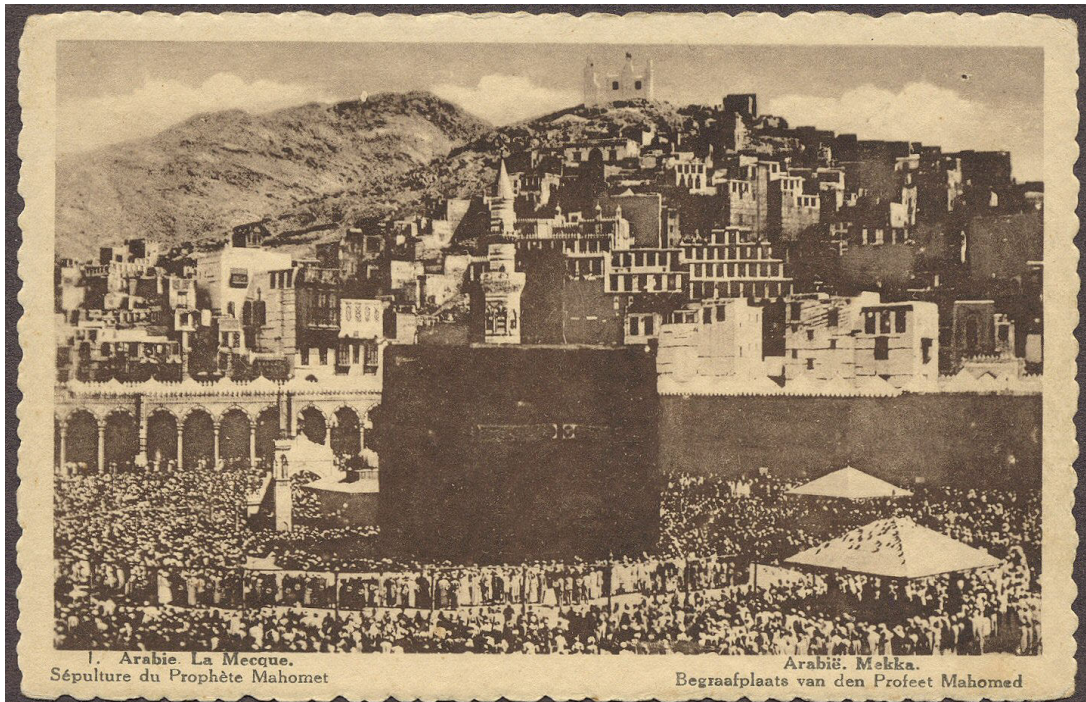
I need anything you can offer, from short notes to full articles. Please help me to keep Random Notes alive.

Now for the notes.

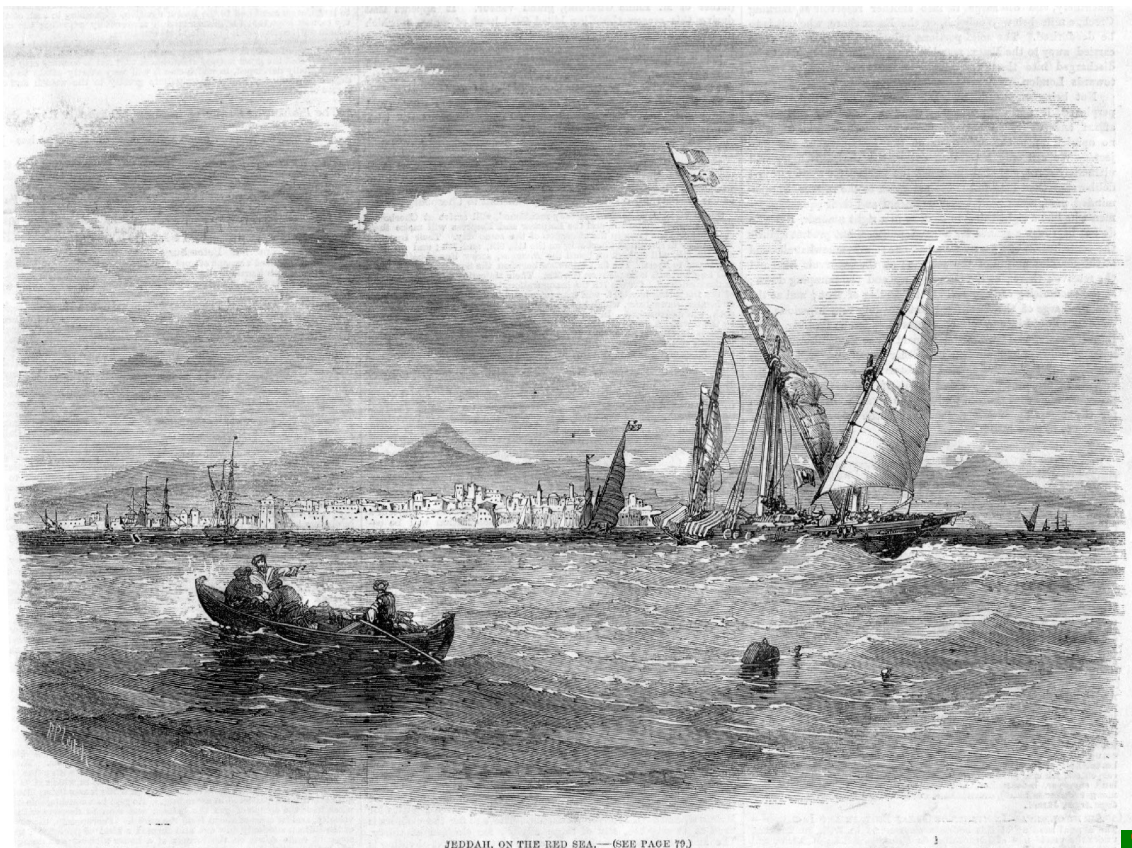
1. RN65.6 item 8 illustrated a major misperforation of the 20 qirsh official stamp Scott O13, SG O455. That was a mint stamp separated along the perforations; here is a used copy separated around the stamp design.
2. One of the CASOC pioneers was William Eltiste. His passport and that of his wife appeared on eBay a few months ago, fetching several hundred USD. Here are a couple of pages from Bill's passport.



3. A photograph of Gebel Abu Qubais, a building featured on the Makkah Arms stamps, appeared in RN75. I recently came across this postcard showing a similar view.



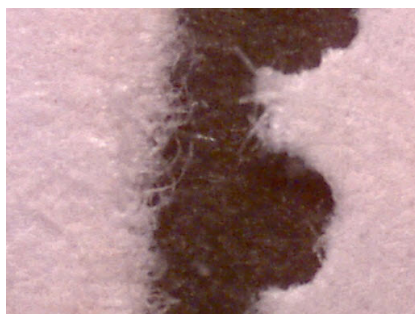
On a similar historic note, Willie King sent me this picture of Jeddah; it is from the front page of *The Illustrated London News* dated Saturday July 24th 1858.



4. Following on from the article 'The Dammam Port Mystery Perforations' in RN76, I made a few notes about the subject stamps. Nothing I found contradicts any of the conclusions listed at the end of the article. See also item 15.

The paper thickness of approximately 0.0035 inches is the same as for the standard sheet and miniature sheet.

The paper is less dense; fibres are more apparent especially at the perforation holes and there is slightly less fluorescence under ultra-violet light.

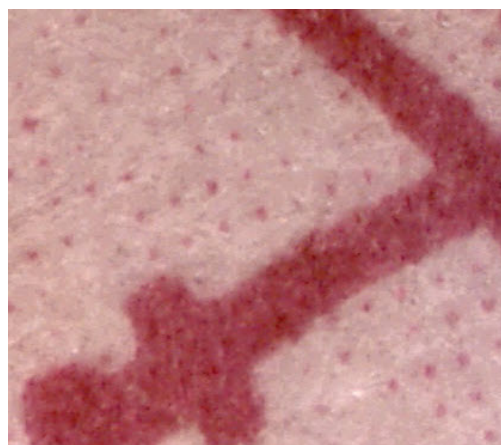


Rough perf at left, normal at right.

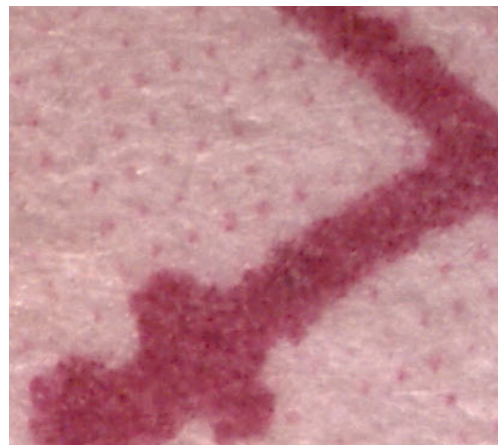


Rough perf stamp (right) shows less fluorescence.

One of the features of the design is that the central area is lightly shaded, and in this litho printing is achieved by the use of very small coloured dots. Using a microscope, I looked at the part of the design close to the crossed swords to see this shading in detail on both the normal perforated sheet stamp and the one with rough perforations.



Standard sheet stamp



Stamp with rough perforations

The only differences I could see were most likely caused as a result of the difference in paper rather than printing plate. When one of these images was made transparent and floated over the other, it could be seen that the shading dots aligned perfectly. I believe this to be because the stamps were printed from either the same plate or plates produced from the same litho transfer or photograph; in other words both are genuine.



Although the alignment of dots could be achieved by producing a copy plate using photographic means, I believe that some detail would be lost.

Incidentally, all copies of all values from the miniature sheets or post office sheets have a dot pattern that matches perfectly, so all stamps of this issue were produced from the same basic litho transfer or photograph with the values being inserted at a later stage in the production process.

Are these the stamps referred to by Mayo as being sub-standard and destroyed by burning? Perhaps some stamps escaped this fate and were perforated, perhaps privately.

5. Following on from the sideways overprint of the large 3-line Jeddah on the 3 qirsh Makkah Arms shown in RN76, here is a 5 qirsh with an offset inverted overprint and also a diagonal overprint, both in black. The stamp is position 22, the inverted overprints are positions 15 and 14, and the slanted overprint is position 30. A reconstruction of the sheet is shown on page 7.



6. The Makkah Arms ½ qirsh with a large 3-line Jeddah overprint in black and an addition ¼ qirsh handstamp usually found on the ‘illegible’ series and catalogued by Gibbons as SG 155r, has featured in RN66.8 item 12 and RN68.7 item 9. Two more copies have been found in a lot purchased on eBay. One is from position 15 and the other from position 22, the latter having the surcharge applied twice. I have not seen a reference to this variety before; is it unique? The position 15 stamp does not fit with the one from 14 shown in RN68, neither does the overprint position match that of position 16 shown in RN66, so at least three sheets or part sheets were used to produce this issue.



Position 15



Position 22 with surcharge double





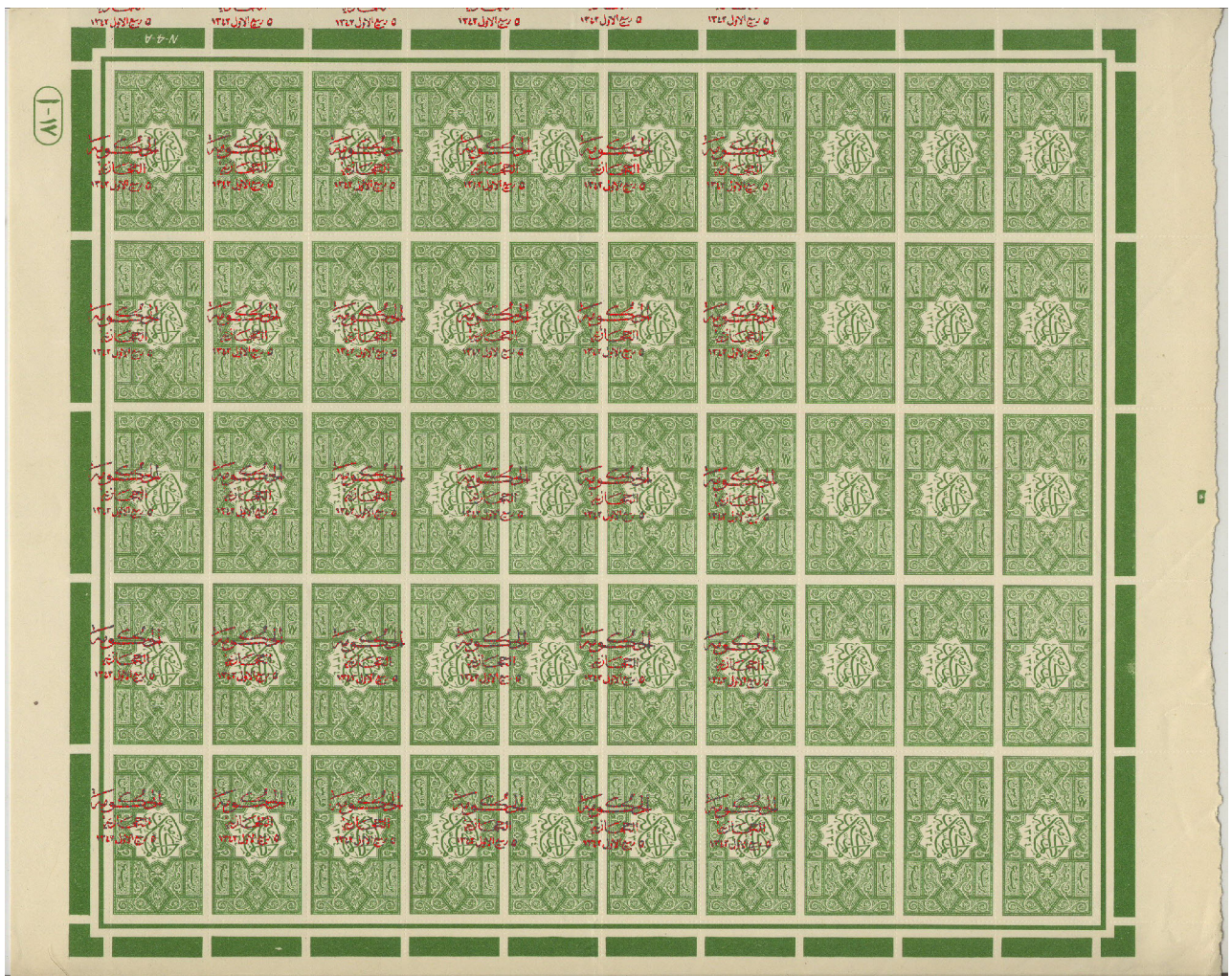
7. Zeppelin covers have featured in an article in RN59 and updates in RN61.5 item 4 and RN69.11 item 14. A cover not mentioned appeared in the Harmer's of London sale on 28 November 2008 as lot 729. The catalogue description was:

1934 Argentina Flight, spectacular registered cover with variety of franking tied at Mecca (31.5. c.d.s.), sent via Jedda (4.6. b.s.) and F'hafen (23.6. c.d.s.) to Pernambuco (27.6. b.s.), one of the rarest of Zeppelin despatches and unrecorded by Sieger or Frost, fine.



8. A copy of a large 3-line Jeddah overprint, reading down, on a ¼ qirsh Survey of Egypt stamp is shown in the 'From the Auctions' section. Based on my copy of this stamp, position 33 of the overprint, I have produced a possible layout of a complete sheet (see next page). Unfortunately, because of the near impossibility of plating the stamps, I could not produce an accurate representation. The stamp in the auction, position 19, does not have its overprint in the expected position, so more than one sheet or part sheets were overprinted. The illustration also shows that not many well-centred overprints could be obtained by overprinting on this issue.





A 'virtual' sheet of large 3-line Jeddah overprint, reading down, on a 1/4 qirsh Survey of Egypt stamp

9. Following an enquiry to me about SG 87, the Makkah Arms 10 qirsh with a 2-line Jeddah overprint reading up, I thought I would try to construct a 'virtual' sheet of that item. My copy is stamp position 14 with overprint position 28; it has a genuine red 'ela' mark on the reverse.

The 'virtual' sheet is on the next page. It would appear that the top left corner of the overprint plate (position 1) was carefully aligned with the top right corner (position 6) of the stamp sheet.



SG 87





A 'virtual' sheet of SG 87 extrapolated from a single copy of stamp position 14 with overprint position 28.

- David Jessich kindly sent me a scan of the single-visit visa stamp recently added to his passport. It is nice to see revenue stamps still being produced. Is this the same as RP65 and the colour in the Revenue Manual is incorrect (brown-orange), or is this a new printing? Is this on watermarked paper? Please let me know.

Has anyone see other values in this series? I would also like to know when they were first issued.

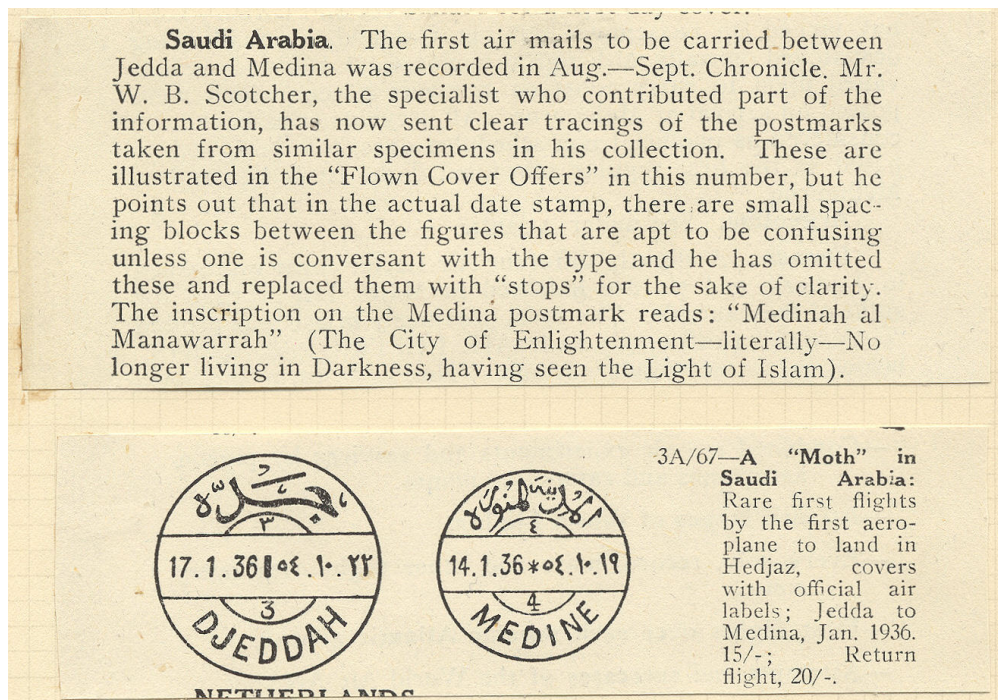


11. In his article 'The Saudi Occupation of Hudeida' (RN37.11-13), Carl Catherman mentioned a souvenir piece with various stamps of Saudi Arabia mounted on lined paper and cancelled with the Yemeni HODEIDA canceller dated 23 June 1934. Illustrated below is a strip of five from such a sheet; I wonder how many were produced?

Note: Another article by Carl on the same subject appeared in RN42.22-26



12. I have seen two very nice album sheets prepared by Mr Willam B Scotcher. These sheets describe the first airmail flights from Madina to Jeddah on 14 January 1936 and from Jeddah to Madina on 17 January 1936. It is interesting to note that one of the clippings, presumably from a printed price list or dealer's publication, gave the price of a cover carried on the first of these flights as 20/- (GBP 1) and on the second as 15/- (GBP 0.75). The album sheets are dated 12 November 1946 for the first flight write-up and a day later for the other. Perhaps the prices quoted were still valid at that time.



Cuttings stuck to album page beneath first cover



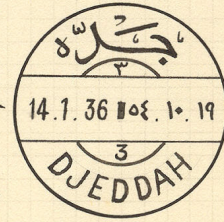
14TH. JAN. 1936. THE FIRST AIR-MAIL SERVICE FROM THE CITY OF MEDINÉ TO THE SEAPORT OF DJEDDAH.

IN JAN. 1936, TALAÁT HARB PASHA, A DIRECTOR OF THE EGYPTIAN AIR COMPANY, - MISR AIRWORK - FLEW TO DJEDDAH IN A D.H. DRAGON PILOTED BY J. MAHONEY, AND BEFORE RETURNING, MADE AN INITIAL FLIGHT TO THE HOLY CITY OF MEDINA. ~ NO MAIL WAS CARRIED ON THIS OCCASION, BUT ON THE HOMEWARD JOURNEY, CARRIED A VERY LIMITED AMOUNT OF MAIL AT THE ORDINARY INLAND RATE OF 1/2 PIASTRE.



HANDED IN ON THE 12TH., BUT THE MAIL DID NOT LEAVE FOR DJEDDAH UNTIL THE 14TH., ARRIVING THERE THE SAME DAY. APPROX. 230 MILES. ~

لَمَدِينَةَ الْمَنَوْرَةِ



~ AL MEDINAH AL MANAWARRAH - AL MEDINAT. ~
~ THE CITY OF ENLIGHTENMENT - THE ILLUMINATED. ~

THE MEDINÉ DATE READS:- 17TH. DAY OF SHAWAL, 1354, A.H., AND THE DJEDDAH D.S. 2 DAYS LATER.



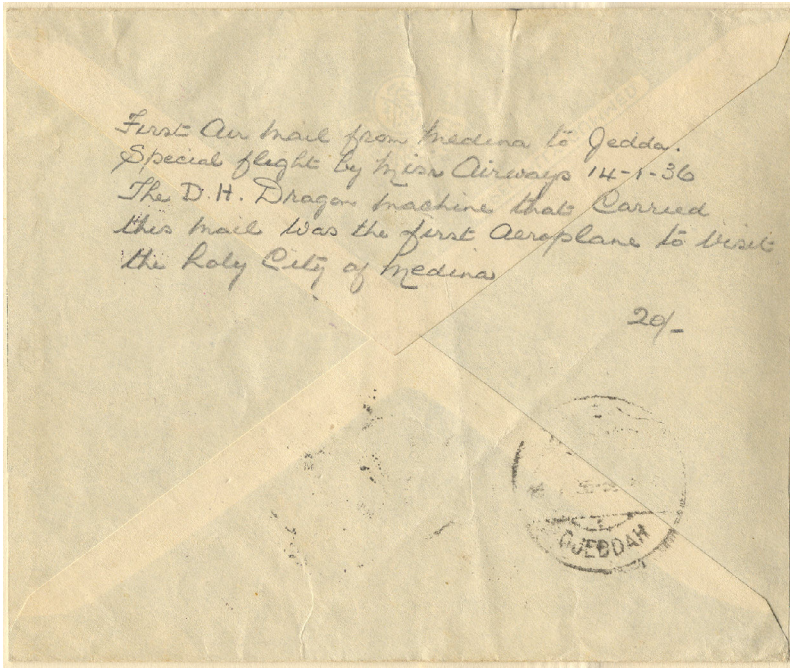
THE TALISMANIC DEVICE TO ENSURE SAFE DELIVERY :-

بدوح
٨٦٤٢

READING - RIGHT TO LEFT,
B.D.U.H. & 2.4.6.8. ~

Cover flown on first airmail flight Madina to Jeddah





Manuscript on reverse of first cover. Note the price of 20/- Was the text written by the dealer?

17TH. JAN. 1936. THE FIRST AIR-MAIL SERVICE FROM DJEDDAH TO THE HOLY CITY OF MEDINAH. 230 MLS.

THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST AIR-BORNE MAIL IN DJEDDAH FROM MEDINAH ON THE 14TH. OF JAN., EVIDENTLY CREATED QUITE A FLUTTER IN THE PORT, AND THE POST-OFFICE OFFICIALS ARRANGED FOR A LIMITED AMOUNT OF LOCAL MAIL TO BE CARRIED ON THE NEXT FLIGHT TO MEDINAH. ~ ~

THE D.H. DRAGON LEFT ON THE 17TH. AND ARRIVED WITH THE MAIL IN MEDINAH THE SAME DAY. ~ ~

THE FLIGHT WAS AN EXPERIMENT, AND NO SPECIALLY PREPARED COVERS WERE CARRIED. مَكَّدْ نَمَّ

COLLECTED, TRANSPORTED AND DELIVERED SAME DAY !!!

THE SEAPORT OF **جدة** = J-Dd-AH (EH)

VARIOUSLY KNOWN AS: JEDDA, JEDDAH, JIDDA, JIDDAH, DJEDDA, DJEDDAH, DJIDDA, DJIDDAH, ETC., ETC., OR GEDDA IN EGYPTIAN ARABIC. ~ ALTERNATIVELY, IT IS ALSO KNOWN AS "BUNDAR AL DJEDDAH" = THE PORT OF ??

THE ARABIC NUMERALS IN THE DATESTAMPS READ:- 22ND. OF THE 10TH. MONTH, 1354. A.H. LUNAR CALENDAR.

By Air Mail.
Jeddah - Medina.

البريد الجوي
PAR AVION

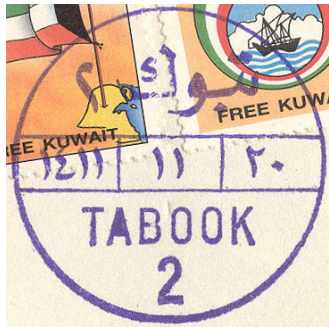
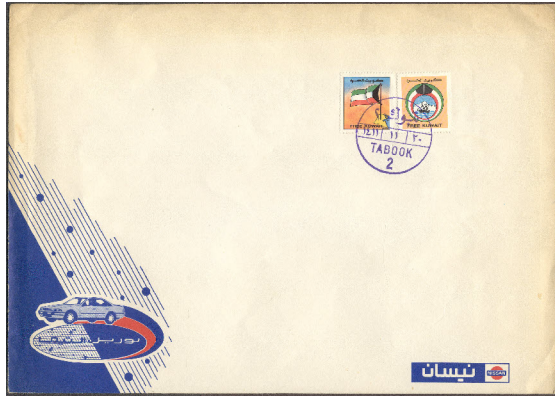
طدنة الطنوره

حضرة السيد حسين عمران جويي المحتتم

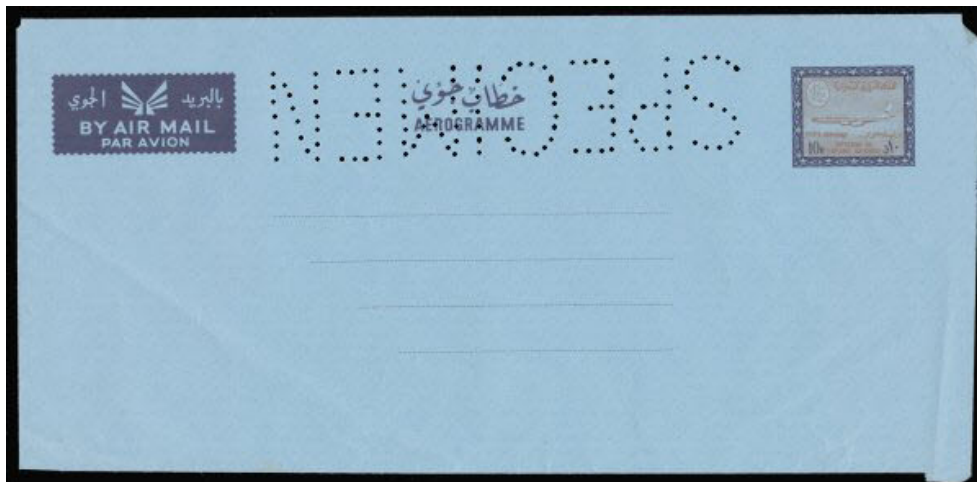
Cover flown on first airmail flight Jeddah to Madina



13. The 'Free Kuwait' labels referred to in RN50.3 and RN71.3 have appeared on eBay in complete sheets. The illustration shows that they were printed in sheets of 96 (12 x 9). There was also an unaddressed 'cover' with these stamps with a nice TABOOK 2, type S151 cancel in violet.



14. Airletters rarely feature in Random Notes; here is one not yet illustrated in our journal. It is the 10 qirsh with an inverted perforated 'SPECIMEN'. I have highlighted where there perforations are; they were not easily seen on the original image.



SPECIMEN airletter



15. Dick Tjaden has kindly sent me some images of perf 6.5 Tughra and Damman Port issues and some details about them. If anyone else has information about these perforation varieties, please let me know; I would like to record as much as possible.



Two pairs and a single 5 qirsh, all with postmarks JEDDAH , 4.1.59, 12.1.59, and 13.11.58 respectively. Paper 9, horizontally ribbed.



Two singles, also JEDDAH, dates unreadable, in a slightly different shade of orange (maybe the "glossy ink" mentioned by Wood). Paper 9 but vertically ribbed.



A pair of the 20 qirsh, cancel unreadable, paper 9, horizontally ribbed.





6 q. with watermark to the left, 8 q. with left and right watermarks respectively. All these can be assumed to originate from miniature sheets.

8 q. with the watermark upright, corresponding to the normal sheets.

All stamps have cancels DJEDDAH 2 or DJEDDAH 4 as far as they are readable.



Commercial cover with 6 and 8 q, left and right watermarks respectively. As with the other sideways watermark varieties, these can be assumed to originate from miniature sheets.



16. In his article 'Reviewing the Tughras', Willie King requested information about nicely perforated copies of the 7/8 qirsh. Dick Tjaden was able to supply images of two of these as well as the perforation varieties in item 15. Thank you very much Dick.



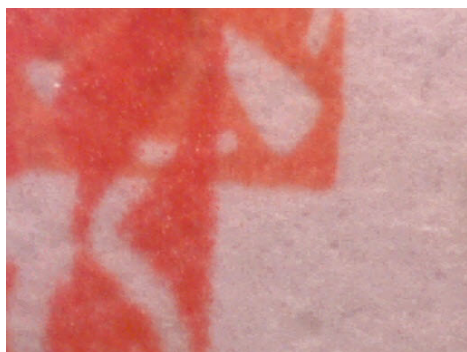
The requirement for this value was, I think, revealed in RN54.25. The domestic surface rate for a 20 gram letter in 1956 was 7/8 qirsh. The 2 qirsh Registration Fee in combination with the 20 gram weight will explain the requirement for the 2-7/8 qirsh stamp.

17. A nice cover from Jeddah to Makkah ruined? Perhaps, but it does show the Jeddah large 3-line forgery type 4 overprints applied to genuine stamps on cover. I am not sure whether this tells us anything about the size of the forgery plate, but I have seen examples of this overprint on genuinely cancelled stamps but off cover.



18. Yet another forgery has been sold from the APS website. This one is the GOSP Faisal unwatermarked 23 qirsh (Scott 442, SG 680) with the frame printed twice. The frames are printed in slightly different shades and an inspection using a 30x magnifying glass revealed that the off-centre frame was printed in xerography, the technology used by photocopiers and laser printers. A couple of years ago I queried the sale of these laser forgeries from the APS website and their reply to me was that they would take no action against the vendor on the condition that refunds would be made if the the offending items were returned. I can understand that for many forgeries, but I am sure there must be someone in the APS who can recognise a laser print. Unfortunately, the buyer has to pay the return postage and that may be a high percentage of the original cost and the item may not therefore be returned. In my view, the APS is, for this type of forgery, making money in an unethical manner.

Incidentally, this stamp also had what appears to be a David Graham signature, but it believed that many of these have been forged.



Left: Laser printed frame looks 'fuzzy' in comparison with the litho-printed genuine frame.

19. For me, Spring Stampex in London was quiet, but I did pick up a copy of the 1964 - 70 100 qirsh olive-grey Official (Scott O47, SG 528), watermark sideways right, a direction not recorded by Mayo and as far as I can see, not reported in Random Notes.



Watermark sideways right



20. Stampex offered me the opportunity to view two items that appeared in a Sphinx auction in 2007 and later in the October 2008 Corinphila sale. The first item was described as:

1924 (Oct 4): The remarkable complete sheet of 50 subjects, showing the 'Hejaz Government, 4 Oct 1924' surcharge (Gibbons Type 15) only. An extraordinary and very rare survivor from the Printer's archive in Jeddah which would conveniently aid the plating of these issues, the sheet probably used either as a 'Proof' or to 'wrap' un-overprinted sheets prior to printing up the surcharges. Overprints struck in black on thick slightly glossy white paper with some creasing and splitting not detracting greatly from the appearance of this important item.

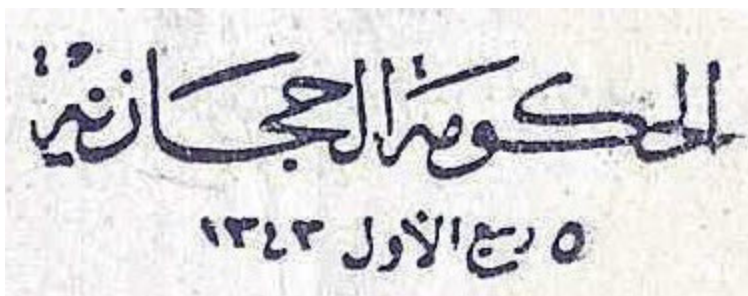
The second item:

1924 (Oct 4): The remarkable complete sheet of 36 subjects, showing the 16mm. 'Hejaz Government, 4 Oct 1924' surcharge (Gibbons Type 16) only. An extraordinary and very rare survivor from the Printer's archive in Jeddah, the sheet probably used either as a 'Proof' or to 'wrap' un-overprinted sheets prior to printing up the surcharges. Overprints struck in blue on thin buff coloured paper, folded into four with creases away from the overprints, in all probability unique.

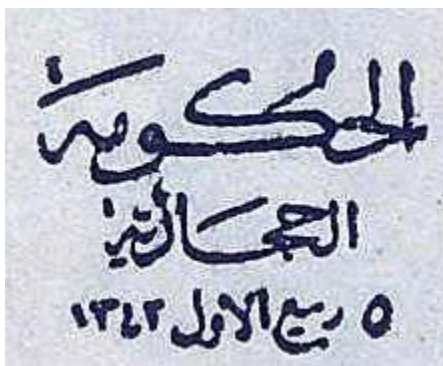
These items were unsold at the Corinphila auction and are likely to cost about GBP 1000 each. (Anyone interested?)

Both the sheets appeared genuine and the printing was extremely sharp as from a new plate. I recognised many of the cliches but one or two interesting features were present and I will report on these in the next issue of Random Notes.

The sheets are illustrated on the next two pages and an example cliché of each is reproduced below.



Position 20



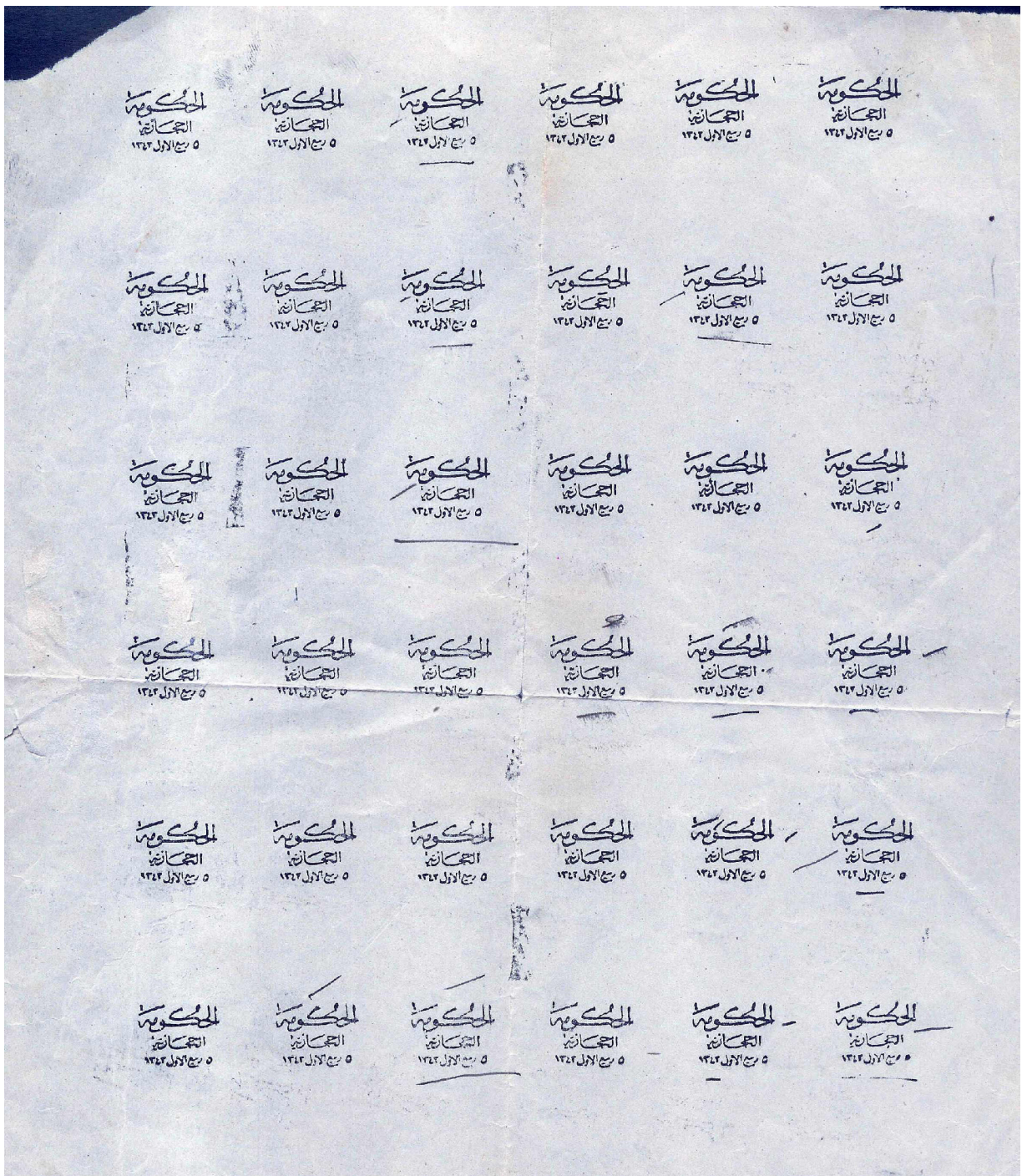
Position 17





Part of Jeddah 2-line overprint sheet





Part of Jeddah 2-line overprint sheet

Postmarks

By: Martin Lovegrove

As expected, the attempt to update the series of articles by Ken Knight is producing more questions than answers. I hope some readers will be able to help.

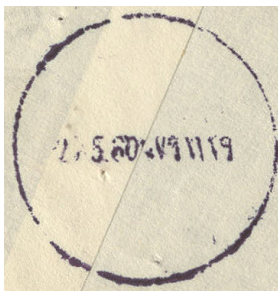
I have also included some interesting covers; perhaps some readers will be able to add to my descriptions.



MISHAAB type S30 (RN47.10). This image shows the letters RA underneath the datebelt. Can anyone supply a scan of either the complete cancel or at least the missing part?



I think this one is a type S45 (RN47.12). Does this have a number beneath the datebelt and is the text ARAR or AR'AR? This one is not listed by Knight.



Ken Knight mentioned many errors that were to be found; incorrect dates, inverted characters etc., but how did this one happen? It is a transit mark on a registered official cover from Makkah to Switzerland, and I assume it to have been applied when the cover passed through Jeddah.



I have quite a few covers showing DHAHRAN A.P. With the Gregorian date but only DHAHRAN with the Hijra. So far I have found it on types SM10L, SS10L and SS10R with dates ranging from 1982 to 1988.



Covers often have a story to tell. A little bit of detective work shows that this cover from KOOYEE to the BBC in London, took a little time to leave Saudi Arabia. The thirteen one-qirsh stamps are cancelled with KOOYEE dated 36/8/72, but the Hijra date on the postmark is 26-4-1382 which equates to 26 September 1962. Chronologically, the next mark is for RYADH on 26 September 1962. So far, so good, but there then appears KOOYEE dated 2 Oct 1962 on the four-qirsh stamp and another mark for RYADH just about clear of the stamps, dated 3 October 1962.

It looks as though this cover was underpaid and returned to Kooyee from Riyadh for additional franking (4 qirsh) before being returned to Riyadh to continue its journey out of the Kingdom. There are no marks to indicate this route; it either travelled under a separate cover for the additional postage or the postman knew the sender!

I understand that KOOYEE is pronounced some thing like 'Quayeyah'.



On the next page is another cover with mixed postmarks is from Riyadh to Belgium. This has a mix of RIYADH 1 and RIYADH 3 marks, type S90 in violet, and all dated 19 September 1973. This may be another cover that required additional stamps.





No mystery is associated with the next cover. Inbound from Manila to Yambu Al-Sinaiyah, the Charity stamps have been added at a later date to embellish the cover; one of them clearly shows part of a previous cancel. I have seen the rectangular 'PRINTED MATTERS/Air mail' cancel on fiscal documents, so even those must be somewhat dubious.



In RN47.12, Ken Knight mentions that the Dhahran type S45 cancel is normally found undated, but that the Gregorian date is sometimes added. I have a registered cover with the date added by a date device after the stamps had been cancelled. It can be seen from the image of two of the postmarks on the cover that although the individual characters that comprise the date are in the same position relative to the other characters, the position of the date is not consistent within the date band, confirming that the date was not part of the device. I suspect that the date was added because the letter was registered.



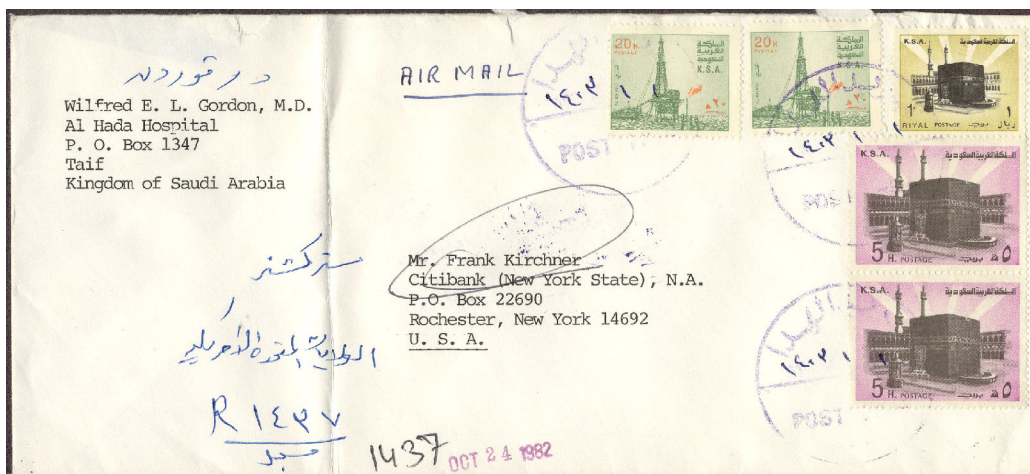
This is consistent with two covers I have from Al-Hada. The postmark, not listed by Knight, has space for the date similar to that found on type SA85 (RN48.11). On the registered cover the Hijra date had been entered in manuscript but was left blank on the unregistered cover.



Left: Date left blank on un-registered cover



Right: Date entered in manuscript on registered cover



Another interesting mix of cancels is this one from Al-Hassa. Originally cancelled with two type SG170 for AL-HASA, actually produced for use on official mail, the stamps were later cancelled with two AL-HASA 8 type S90 strikes. It may be that these were done on the same day, but the eagle-eyed reader will have noticed that the western date on the S90 cancel is after the arrival in Germany. The dates on the SG170 cancel are not clear, but I believe that the dates on both should be 12 June 1975.



From the Auctions

Compiled by: Martin Lovegrove

There has been a lot of auction activity since RN76 was published. Two nice Hejaz items were in the Regency-Superior Public Auction 68 held 15 - 17 August 2008 and Public Auction 70 held 21 - 22 November 2008. Details are from auction 70.

Lot 2246:

(L27b) 1922 HEJAZ ISSUE, ½pi RED, DOUBLE OVERPRINT SHEET

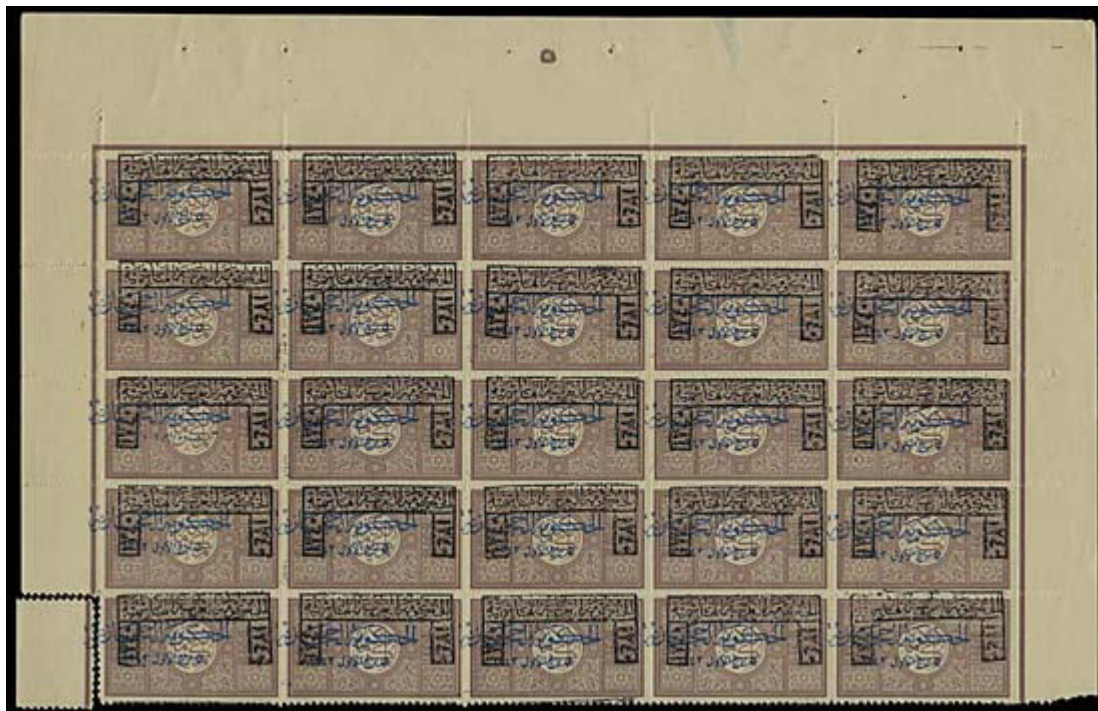
Complete sheet of 50 with some perf separations. Double overprint, one inverted. Nearly all stamps MINT never hinged, a few affected by hinge reinforcements. Stamps fresh and very fine, selvage flaws. (1996 Filato Cert signed by John Wilson) Cat \$8750. *[unsold]*



Lot 2247:

(L68) 1925 JEDDAH ISSUE 1pi LILAC BROWN, LARGE MULTIPLE

Top half of sheet, block of 25. All Post Office fresh, MINT never hinged and very fine. Cat \$4375 for hinged. *[unsold]*



Nutmeg had a Jeddah two-line in gold on blue in their sale 177 on 13 November 2008.

Lot 8264

L61a, Gold on Blue Underprint VF, position 20, thin, well centered, bright & fresh, extremely rare & not offered on the philatelic market since 1960, *Wilson Cert* (SG #62var) Cat. £3,750.00

The suggested bid was \$2000 and the hammer price was \$1600.



Note: Although the overprint is stated to be position 20 it is actually position 25.



The Nutmeg sale held on 18 December 2008 had only one stamp from our area of interest:

Lot 7742

L81, Red Ovprt Reading Down VF, position 19, short perf, bright & fresh, Wilson Cert (SG #94a, £1,400=\$2,100) Cat. £1,350.00



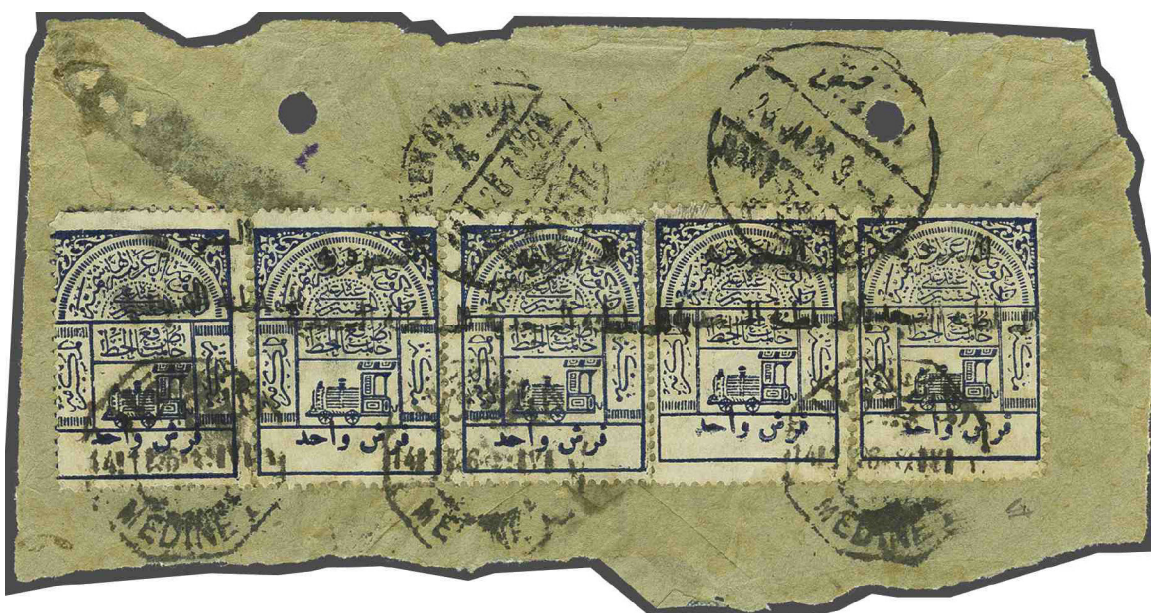
These large 3-line overprints do not come onto the market very often. I have a copy from position 33 of this stamp and one from position 17 with the overprint reading up (unlisted by SG). Both of mine have BPA certificates stating that they are bogus issues; the latter has an APAI certificate stating that it is genuine.

Unfortunately I do not have the results of the Nutmeg auctions.

A nice item in the Corinthia auction held on 18 October 2008 was an example of multiple 'Al Saudia' handstamps. The reserve was CHF 3000.

Medina Provisional. 1926: Large piece of cover franked by Railway Tax 1 pi. blue, two line overprint in black honouring Ibn Saud as Sultan of Nejd, issued unofficially by the Medina Postmaster, five examples, all tied by 'MEDINE' octagonal datestamps and by Port Taufiq and Alexandria cds's. Extremely rare, only one or two complete covers known, this probably being the largest used unit in existence. See Gibbons footnote under Gi. 253.

The stamps are a strip of three from positions 1 - 3 and a pair from positions 13 and 14.



Acknowledgements and Contacts

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