



الجمعية الدولية للطوابع البريدية العربية
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International
Random Notes



JANUARY 2011

NUMBER 80

CONTENTS

The Arabian Philatelic Association International	2
Random Notes #80	3
The Nejd Fee Paid Handstamp - <i>Members' contributions</i>	5
Algeria Day Contribution Stamps - A Plea - <i>Martin Lovegrove</i>	9
Revenues - The 1985 Litho Passport Stamps - <i>Martin Lovegrove</i>	10
Makkah Arms - Jeddah Large 3-line with Postage Due - <i>Martin Lovegrove</i>	12
Hejaz Fee Paid Markings - <i>Martin Lovegrove</i>	14



More help required
See [page 5](#)

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 and updated as Thoden 2008.

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

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 (2009) 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 #80

Assembled by the Editor

As usual, it has been a struggle to fill the pages, but I hope you will find some interest in this edition. Fortunately new member Stephen Roche sent some scans and I have included most of them and added some of my own comments.

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. The copy of SG 155r with handstamp double (RN77.6) and two blocks of SG D33b (RN 74.10) have received certificates from the Royal Philatelic Society London. New discoveries of old material are still being made.
2. There are different types of the DJEDDAH type S30 cancel with number 23. The decorations either side of the office names are different and there are minor differences



in the text, both Arabic and Western. From the covers I have it would appear that the new version was introduced in about 1946.

3. A pair of King Ali stamps with an interesting negative seal appeared on eBay in November this year. It is unlikely that they have any connection with the Hejaz post; has anyone an idea of what they are?



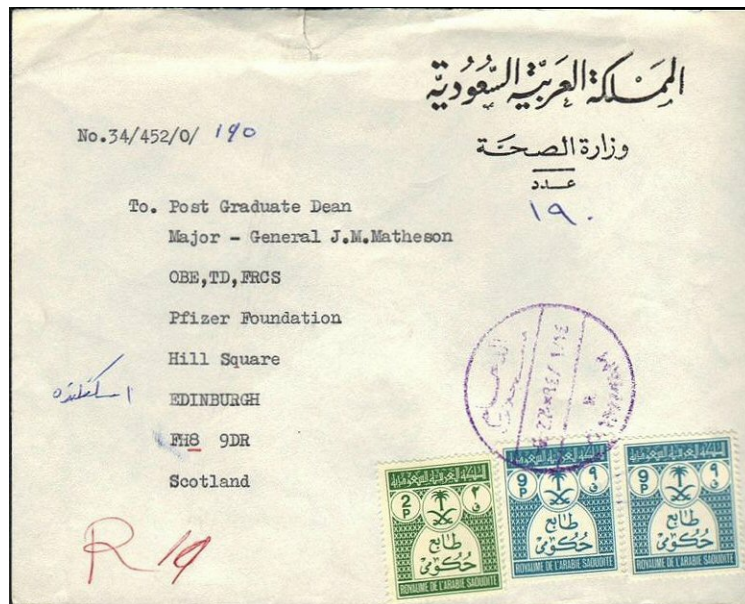
4. Another eBay item was this cover from Jeddah to Denmark. Although it bears two 5 qirsh official stamps, it does not appear to be official correspondence. Can anyone help with this? Perhaps someone would like to write an article about the use of official stamps?



5. Position 21 of the 2-line Jeddah overprint is not an easy one to identify. I offer this characteristic to add to those described in Willie King's excellent article in RN51. The loop to the letter 'miym' in the top line is a useful plating aid and can be broken, usually complete or completely complete. In the case of position 21, the base of the loop bulges outwards, certainly it does in all of the examples in my collection.



6. A pair of the scarce 9 qirsh official stamps (SG O1048, Scott O56) were on a cover seen on eBay. At USD 300 it was too expensive for me and at the time of writing (27 December) had not sold.



Notes continued on [page 14](#)

The Nejd Fee Paid Handstamp

Compiled from contributions

By: Willie King, Marwan Nusair and Martin Lovegrove

The trigger for this article was the appearance of two lots in the Corinphila auction held on 29 November 2010. The subject handstamp has appeared in Random Notes a few times and this seemed to be a good opportunity to assemble much of the information currently known about the handstamp. Inevitably when collating fragments of information, questions arise, and this is no exception. An appeal is therefore made for members to submit whatever they can about this handstamp, whether it is new information or just supporting the facts as they appear here. You can, of course, disagree if you wish, but do try to support your ideas with facts and images if possible.

First of all, the Corinphila lots:

Lot 198. 1924: "Umm Al-Qura" printed envelope with, on front, nine Proof impressions of the Nejd Fee Paid (1 piastre) handstamp (35 x 22 mm) struck in red. Rare and most unusual item. Cert. John M. Wilson (1998).



Lot 199. 1924: "Umm Al-Qura" printed envelope with, on front, nine Proof impressions of the Nejd Fee Paid (1 piastre) handstamp (35 x 22 mm.) struck in violet. Rare and most unusual item: the only two examples this describer has recorded. Cert. John M. Wilson (1998). (*Illustrated on the next page*)

Both of the items sold, the hammer price for each being CHF 750 (approximately GBP 510, USD 790)





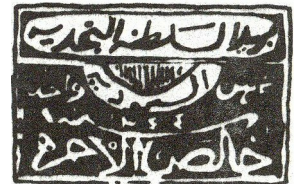
There is one point that is worth noting about the impressions; in both lots, each impression has a small indentation in the bottom frame at the left corner. Let us now consider some other examples:



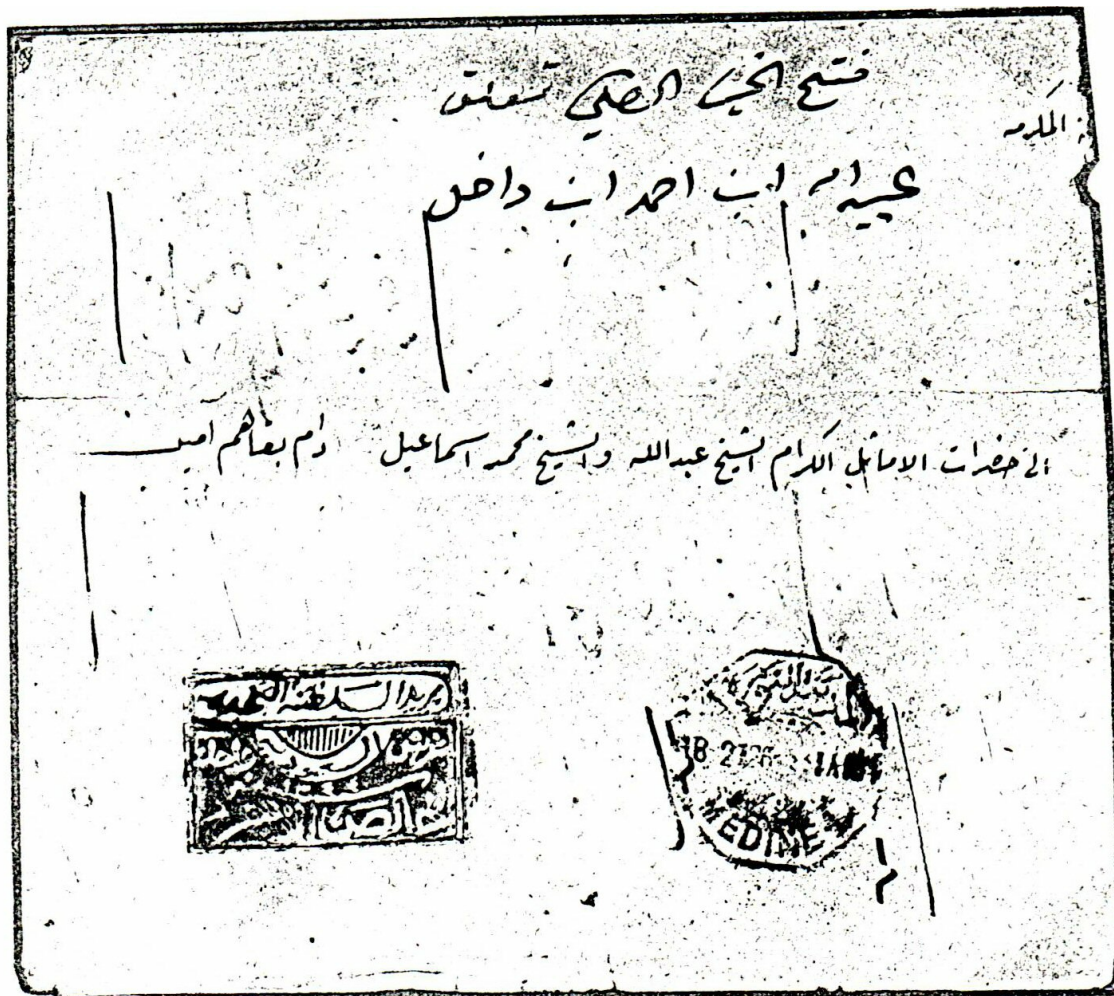
Note that the first two examples do not have the frame indentation, those in the bottom row do. It is fortunate that the first example is on a fragment that has a MEDINE 1 cancel, so that example can be dated to 18 February 1926.



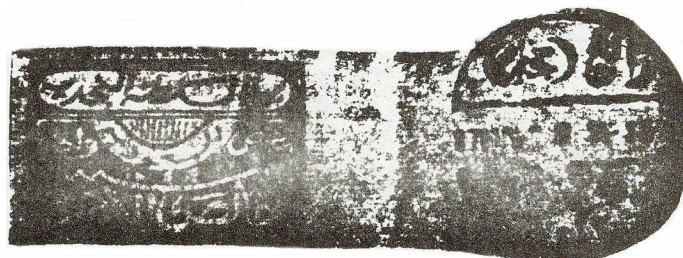
Further examples are available in Random Notes. The handstamp first appeared in an article by Dr Randall Baker in RN4.4. This example has no frame indentation, was dated 16 February 1926 and Dr Baker states the colour was magenta.



A cover was illustrated in RN24.4 and RN39.18 (the same cover). Although the reproduction was not good, it does not appear to have the frame indentation; that would tie in nicely with the 18 February example on the previous page.

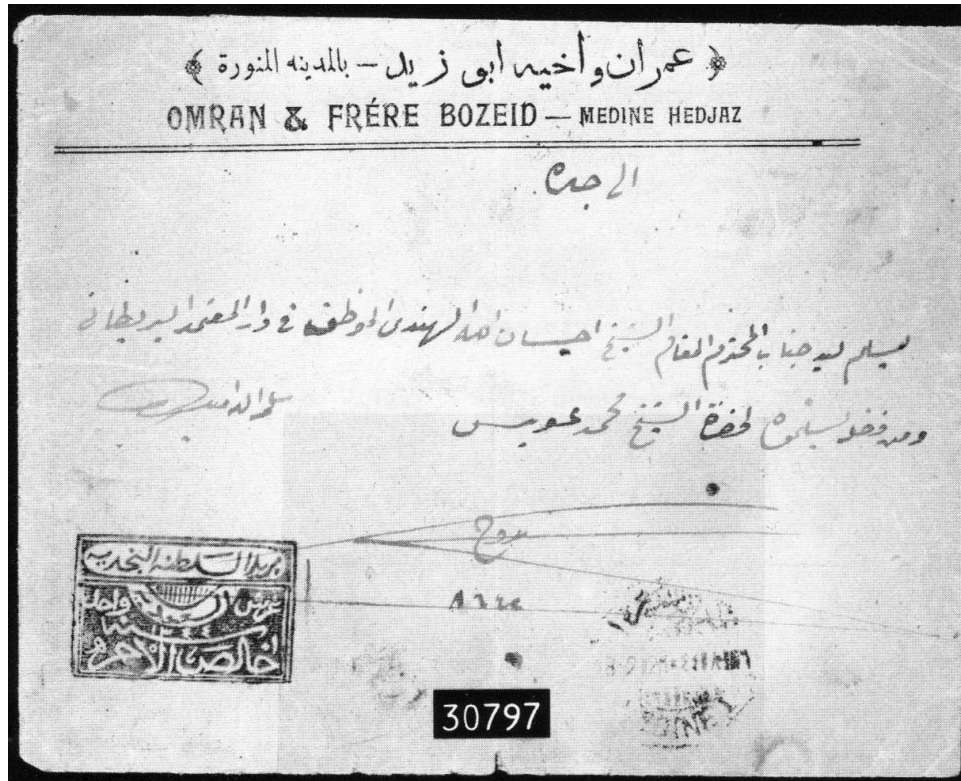


Another dated example was shown in RN33.9.



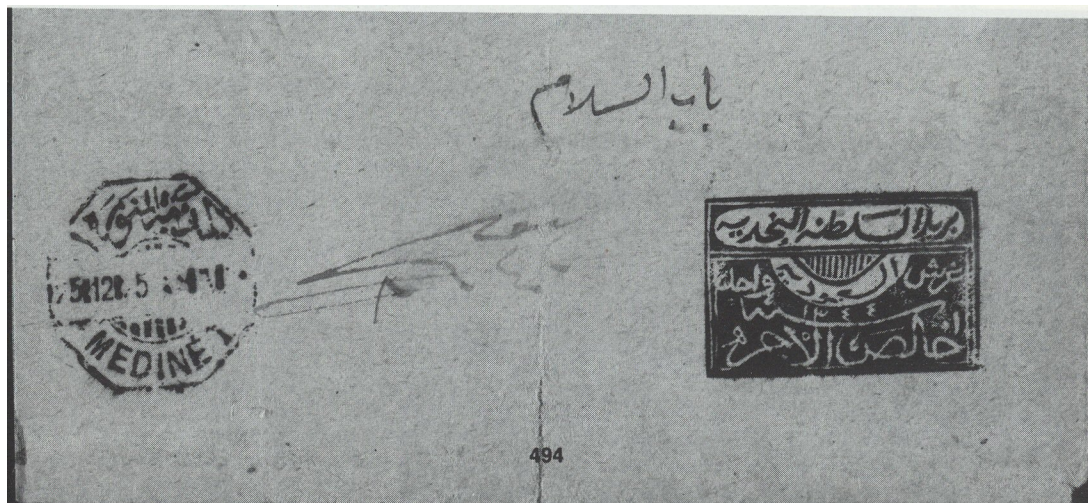
This example has an adjacent Rabigh cancel, unfortunately the date is unclear. Does this imply that Rabigh had its own copy of the handstamp? Perhaps there was only one and Rabigh had it before or after Medina, or perhaps the impression was not applied at Rabigh at all.

A nice cover appeared in the Feldman auction of Alex Kaczmarczyk's collection as lot 30797.



This cover is dated 18 February 1926 and the notch in the bottom corner is not evident on this impression.

Finally, lot 494 in the Hibbert sale (Harmers of London) is a cover dated 25 December 1925 and, as with the previous cover, the notch is not evident.



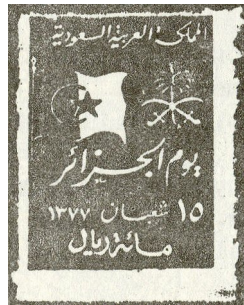
(Continued on [page 14](#))

The Algeria Day Contribution Stamps - A Plea

By: Martin Lovegrove

The Algeria Day contribution stamps are listed in Thoden 2008 and denominations of 1, 10 and 100 riyals are recorded together with a footnote referring to a five riyal stamp. These three values are listed as being rouletted with the one riyal also existing perforated 10³/₄.

References to these stamps can be found in Random Notes 40 and 41. The illustration in RN40 was poor and the stamp was photographed again, probably using a colour filter, and inserted in RN41 and also in the first edition of Rudy Thoden's revenue catalogue.



100 riyal (RN40)



100 riyal (RN41)

My own collection contains three examples:

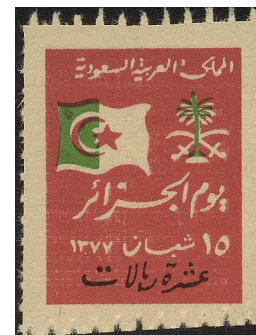
Example 1 is as described in Thoden 2008 as RAL1Y. The main colour is bright rose-red with part of the flag, the palm tree and the value printed in light green. As with the illustrations above, there is evidence of a flag-pole to the left of the flag. The palm tree is in two sections; there is a break in the green colour where it crosses the swords.



Example 1



Example 2



Example 3

Example 2 is another one riyal stamp but rouletted and shows several differences. The value is printed in black, the main colour is dull vermilion, and the palm tree is printed as a single item without a break in the trunk. Additionally there is no evidence of a flag-pole and there are differences in the Arabic text. Example 2 is a 10 riyal stamp printed in a similar manner to example 1; the main colour is carmine.

It seems to me that at least two printers were involved with this issue. If any members can contribute further information, preferably with images scanned at 300 dpi, I would be delighted to receive them. My contact details are on page 2.

Revenues - The 1985 Litho Passport Stamps

By: Martin Lovegrove

These stamps were printed to be used in conjunction with existing values to make up the revised rates introduced in 1985. Thoden 2008 lists five stamps but a sixth, for use as a residence permit, has been identified. The stamps are generally printed on non-luminescent paper with invisible phosphor security tagging which fluoresces yellow under long wave ultra-violet light. Several stamps have been seen with this tagging omitted and the reason for this is not clear. I have seen them on passport pages as well as soaked off pages, so it is not clear whether the stamps missed the tagging process or received a 'dry' print. To add to the mystery, I have copies of the recess printed 20 riyal that have had RP53 stuck on top, and after soaking off the page it was seen that the top stamp had protected the tagging on the lower one, thus producing a stamp with partial tagging. These stamps are 25 years old and maybe the phosphor deteriorates or is easily rubbed off after such a time. (Illustrated on next page)



RP53



RP54



RP54A



RP55

What has not been published, as far as I know, is that the stamps are printed using two plates and either by accident or design, stamps printed in two colours can be found. The four values I have seen are shown above and I am making an assumption that statements made in this article also apply to RP56 and RP57. The draft listing for Thoden 2011 follows:

Non-luminescent paper with security tagging.

			Wmk. direction			
			U	D	R	L
RP53	P9	30R dark gray-green (entry visa) ('86) a. without security tagging				X
RP54	P10	80R orange-brown (re-entry visa) a. without security tagging ('85)				X
RP54A	P9	90R red-brown and brown (residence permit) ('86) a. luminescent paper			X	
RP55	P9	100R brown-olive and deep brown-olive (final exit) ('86)				X
RP56	P9	110R black (residence permit renewal)				
RP57	P9	270R dark green (additional passport fee)				

Where two colours are clearly visible, the colour for the main body of the stamp is given first and the value or 'kingdom' plate second. The year quoted by the description above is the earliest recorded for the stamp and may not be the actual year of issue.



The plates for Thoden types P9 and P10 are shown below:



It is likely that the centre plate for type P9 was used for all values of that type. Shade differences seen so far in the plates for RP54 are minor but confirmation that two plates were used can be gained from observation of plate registration variances.



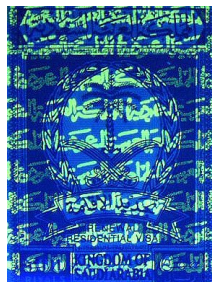
Arabic writing close to centre plate.



Arabic writing set further away.

The reason for printing type P10 from two plates is not clear; maybe additional values were planned.

Security Tagging



Full tagging



Stamps before removal from passport page



Stamp after removal showing that upper stamp had protected the tagging

Makkah Arms - Jeddah Large 3-line with Postage Due

By: Martin Lovegrove

I thought it was about time something was written about this set, so here goes, but it is not meant to be the definitive work on the subject but more the collation of what has been published so far with observations from my collection.

The catalogues list the following:

Stamp	3-line	Handstamp	SG	Scott	Mayo*
½ qirsh scarlet	Black	Black	D149	LJ35	T201
1½ qirsh lilac	Red	Violet	D148	LJ36a	T200
1½ qirsh lilac	Black	Black	D150	LJ36	T202
2 qirsh orange	Black	Black	D151	LJ37	T203
3 qirsh brown	Black	Black	D152	LJ38	T204
3 qirsh brown	Black	Violet	D152a	-	-
5 qirsh olive	Black	Black	D153	LJ39	T205

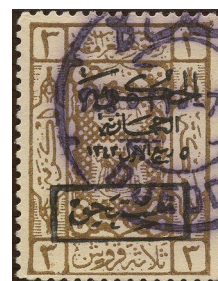
* Note that Mayo does not state the colour of the handstamp in his catalogue.

Most of the stamps can be found mint or used, although ‘used’ stamps invariably have ‘dealer’ cancels. Rudy Thoden mentioned to me that SG D148 has only been found with feint ‘dealer’ cancels. My copy of D152a, the only one recorded so far, has a Khartoum ‘dealer’ cancel.

So were these stamps officially issued? Towards the end of 2009 I managed to purchase a copy with a violet DJEDDA cancel dated 7 December 1925. This almost certainly went through the Hejaz postal system but probably fulfilling a postage role rather than postage due.

I needed to check that the cancel was applied over the ‘mustahiq’ handstamp in order to verify the authenticity of both overprints, and to this end I received help from Patrick Pearson and his team at the Royal Philatelic Society London. Their equipment showed that my original assumption was correct and that we are dealing with a properly issued stamp.

A concern I have about some of the stamps of this series I have in my collection relates to the handstamp. This handstamp is the same one used for the ‘illegible’ postage dues, but there are differences and there are some, perhaps annoying, similarities. The handstamp appearing on the ‘illegibles’ originally had a solid frame that later developed some cracks. Both the solid and cracked frames appear on this series, so it cannot be said that these stamps were produced either before or after the ‘illegibles’, however most of my copies do show cracks.



Solid left frame (but cracked top)



Cracked left frame



Another difference I have noted is that of the inks used. All of my copies of the ‘illegible’ dues have used a thin ink of the type that was used in ink pads, and this is how I assumed the ‘illegible’ dues were produced; manually using a handstamp and ink pad. Some of my 3-line dues have used a much thicker and blacker ink, probably printers’ ink. These stamps show the characteristics found in the 3-line overprints themselves. Some are good, solid overprints while others are broken, perhaps the ink has partially dried on the plate. Whatever the cause, the outcome was far from perfect.

It is interesting to note that in an article ‘Forged Overprints like Scott Illustrations’ in RN32.15 paragraph 9, David Graham noted the use of oily ink on these stamps giving rough impressions. He made no mention of them being forgeries.



Normal ink



Thick ink producing rough impression

Having covered the stamp features, mention should be made of which stamps have received this combination of overprints and it in this respect that I appeal for help. I have stamps not in the list at the beginning of this article and wonder if members have copies of these or any others. None of mine match recognised forgeries and I believe that any differences to the genuine handstamp can be explained by the thick ink mentioned earlier, or by excessive inking of the ink pad, or by wear or damage suffered by the device.

Uncatalogued items

Stamp	3-line	Handstamp
½ qirsh scarlet	Black	Violet
1½ qirsh lilac	Red	Black



Black 3-line with violet handstamp



Red 3-line with black handstamp

Comments to the editor please!

Hejaz Fee Paid Markings

Compiled By: Martin Lovegrove

I have another exhibit for you. This time it is a single frame Gold Medal exhibit of the early Hejaz 'Fee Paid' markings. The pages are reproduced here by kind permission of the owner.

I was sent scans of this exhibit and have had to manipulate them slightly to fit the RN page format; the text remains in its original size but a few of the illustrations have had to be reduced to 80%.

The exhibit starts on the next page.



Notes continued from [page 4](#)

7. There are many modern forgeries in circulation at the moment and with good quality printing coming within the reach of many, the problem can only get worse.

Here is a poor attempt to produce imperforate official stamps. I have not seen the actual stamps but from the image on eBay, the print appears to have been produced using a screen technique, similar to the 'Cairo' forgeries. It looks as though a master plate without the values inserted was produced and from that values inserted to produce the stamps. In the case of the 20 qirsh shown below, the numerals are too small. This should not fool anyone.



Genuine



Forgery



Nejd handstamp continued from [page 8](#)

It is interesting to note that none of the three covers, dating from 25 December 1925 to 18 February 1926 show evidence of the notched corner. So was this damage received late in life or early damage that was repaired? If the former is true then the 'proofs' in the Corinthila auction cannot be proofs but favour items.

Can I ask anyone who can supply information relating to this handstamp to please contact your editor, the details are on page 2. We would like to discover the period and location of usage, colours used, and if any further covers exist.



KINGDOM OF HEJAZ

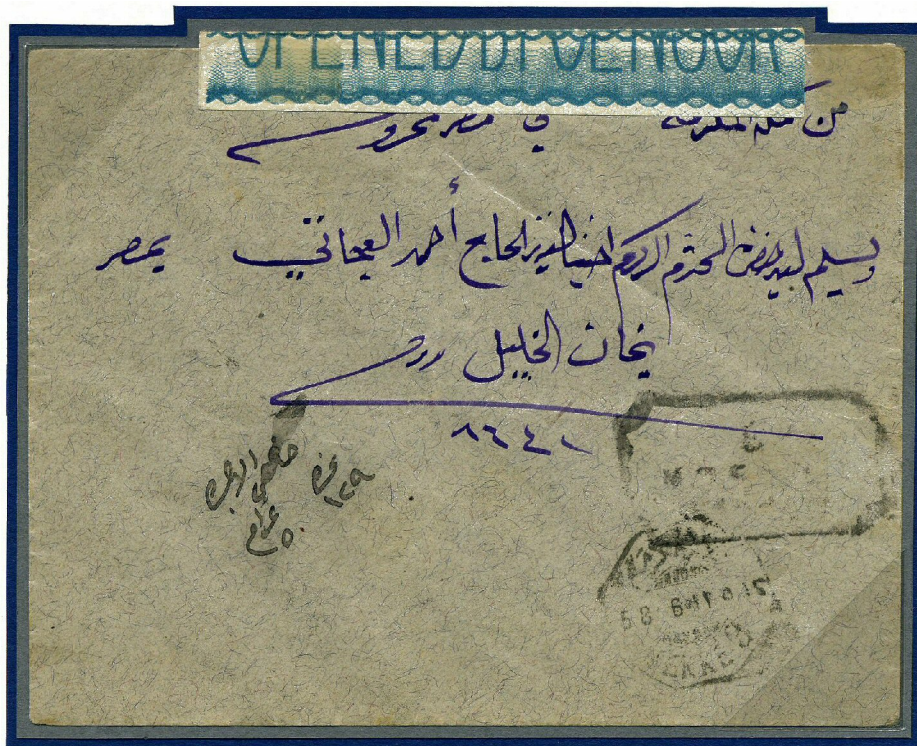
1916 - 1917

PROVISIONAL "FEE PAID" MARKINGS

Ottoman rule ended in the western portion of the Arabian peninsula, known as "Hejaz," on June 16, 1916 (June 27 by the Ottoman calendar), as the Hashemite King Hussein Ibn Ali (with the aid of the British, including "Lawrence of Arabia") had defeated the Turks. As no postage stamps were yet available, mail from the two principal towns, Mecca and Jeddah, were struck with various "FEE PAID" markings until late 1916.

The von Uexkull handbook shows dates and places of use of these markings and notes that in some instances only one or two examples are known. This exhibit shows a range of these markings, including a manuscript forerunner (shown immediately below) which is one of three known, and these are presented in the order of the handbook listings.

The use of the "FEE PAID" handstamps generally ceased after the wide-spread issue of postage stamps (beginning at Mecca during August 1916), but similar markings were used during later shortages of postage stamps. This exhibit shows further unrecorded use of a manuscript "FEE PAID" on registered official letter to England (last page) in August 1917. All "FEE PAID" covers can be considered scarce, with no more than a handful with any given marking known; it is unlikely that a competing exhibit of these could be formed.



August 5, 1916 - Manuscript "FEE PAID" endorsement at lower left (Arabic only) used from Mecca. **One of three known.**

Note bi-lingual former Ottoman datestamp at right, addressed to Cairo and with Egyptian censor tape at top, and showing on reverse transit and arrival datestamps of August 16 and 17. (von Uexkull type A)

USED FROM MECCA

"FEE PAID." in English Only
Used August - September & December 1916



Wrappers for printed matter sent during August 1916 sent to Egypt and Morocco.
Note former Ottoman "MEKKE 3" octagonal datestamps; one shows "DJEDDA"
(Jeddah) transit on reverse. (von Uexkull Type B)

Jeddah was the port through which nearly all mail from from Mecca (65 km inland) was routed.



USED FROM MECCA

"FEE PAID." in Arabic Only - Dotted Lines
Used August-September 1916



August 17, 1916 - sent from "MEKKE 3" to ADEN via Jeddah
with transit and arrival handstamps on reverse.
Censored on arrival at Aden. (von Uexkull Type D)

*Very few examples of the "dotted" marking are known;
this is considered to be the finest extant.*



USED FROM MECCA

"FEE PAID." in Arabic Only - Straight Lines
Used August - September 1916

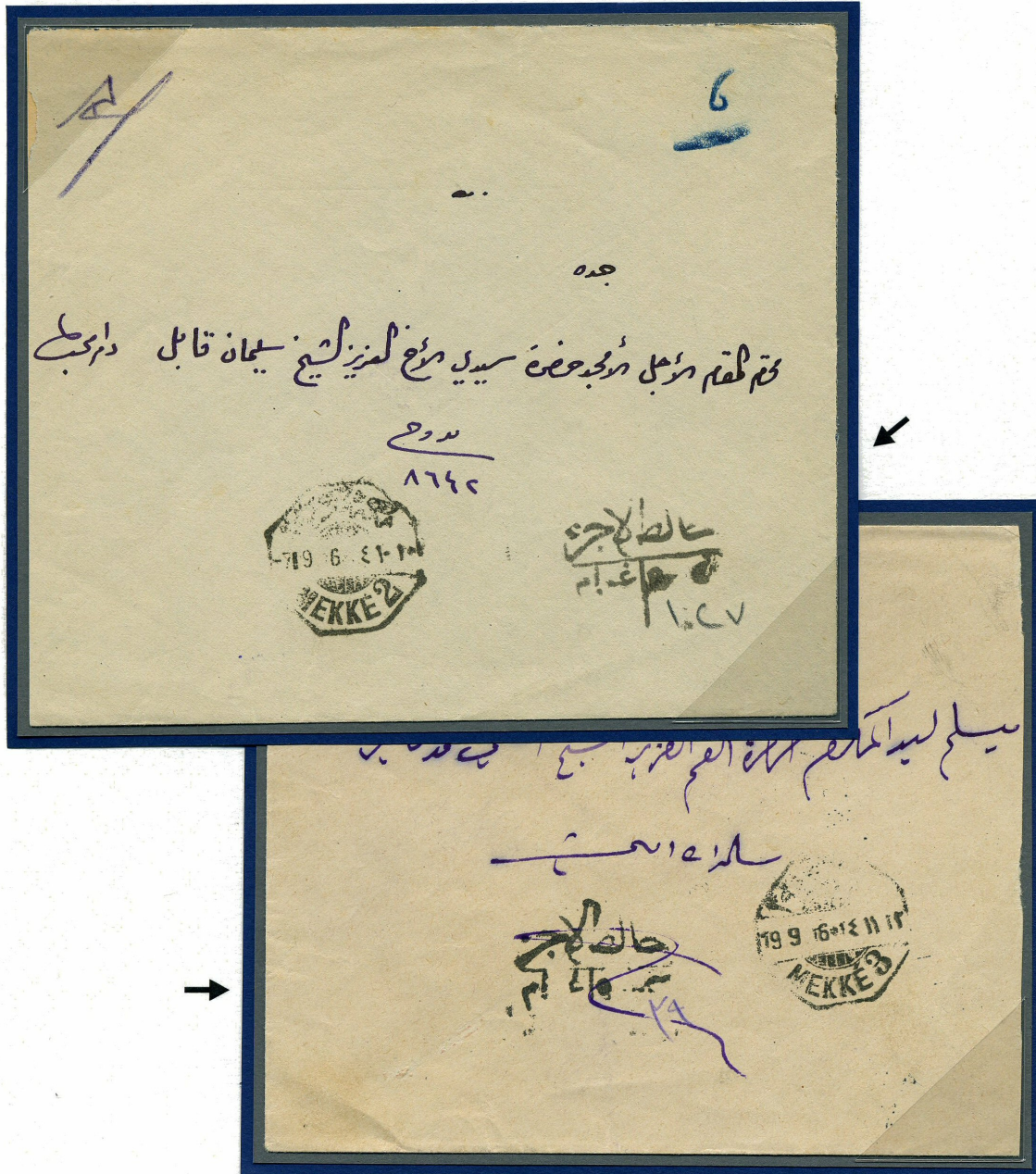


August 30, 1916 - sent via Cairo (received there September 10) and
returned to sender on November 6 (note oval cachet-datestamp).
(von Uexkull Type C)

A similar marking is known with cancels of Taif (July - August 1917).

USED FROM MECCA

"FEE PAID." in Arabic Only - Straight Lines
Used August - September 1916



September 7 & 19, 1916 - sent from "MEKKE 2" and "MEKKE 3" post offices to Jeddah. Differences in the "FEE PAID" handstamps show that each office had its own device - unrecorded by von Uexkull. (von Uexkull Type C)



USED FROM MECCA

Bi-Lingual Unframed Circular "FEE PAID"
Used October - December 1916



October 17, 1916 - sent from "MEKKE" post office to Egypt, sent via Beni Suef, Minya Station and Tanta to Cairo. Returned to sender with special oval datestamp on December 4, 1916. Uncommon usage.
(von Uexkull Type E)



USED FROM MECCA

Bi-Lingual Unframed Circular "FEE PAID"
Several similar devices; used October - December 1916



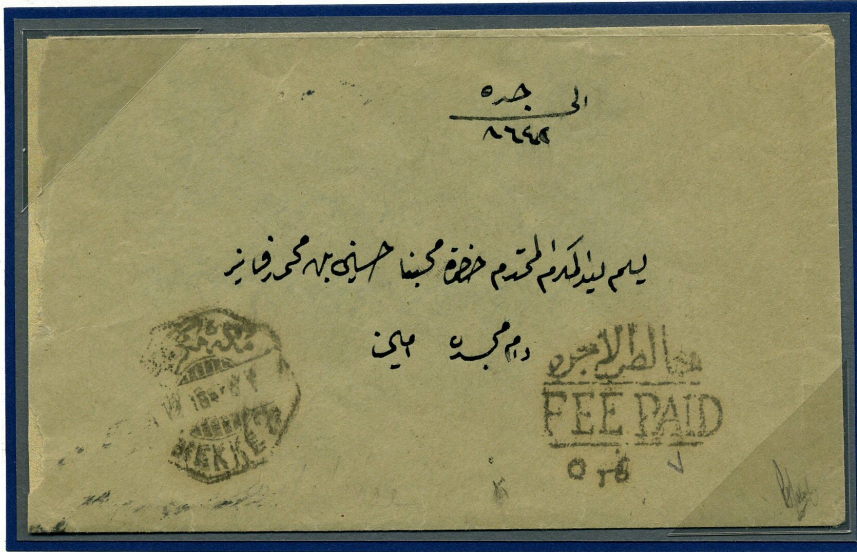
October 2, 1916 - sent
from "MEKKE" to
Paris (von Uexkull
Type E).
EARLY USAGE

November 31,
1916 - also sent
from "MEKKE"
to Jeddah.
(von Uexkull
Type E)



USED FROM MECCA

Bi-Lingual Unframed Circular "FEE PAID"
Several similar devices; used October - December 1916



December 4, 1916 - sent
from "MEKKE 3" to
Jeddah.
(von Uexkull Type E)



December 10,
1916 - sent from
"MEKKE" to
Jeddah.
(von Uexkull
Type E)



USED FROM MECCA

Worn Bi-Lingual Unframed Circular "FEE PAID"

Gradual wear became evident (note "F" of "FEE"); used until March 1917



March 15, 1917 - (Arabic date 21 Jumada Al-Awwal 1335) - sent from Mecca to Jeddah using new all-Arabic datestamp. (von Uexkull Type E)



USED FROM MECCA

Worn Bi-Lingual Unframed Circular "FEE PAID"

Gradual wear became evident (note "F" of "FEE"); used until March 1917

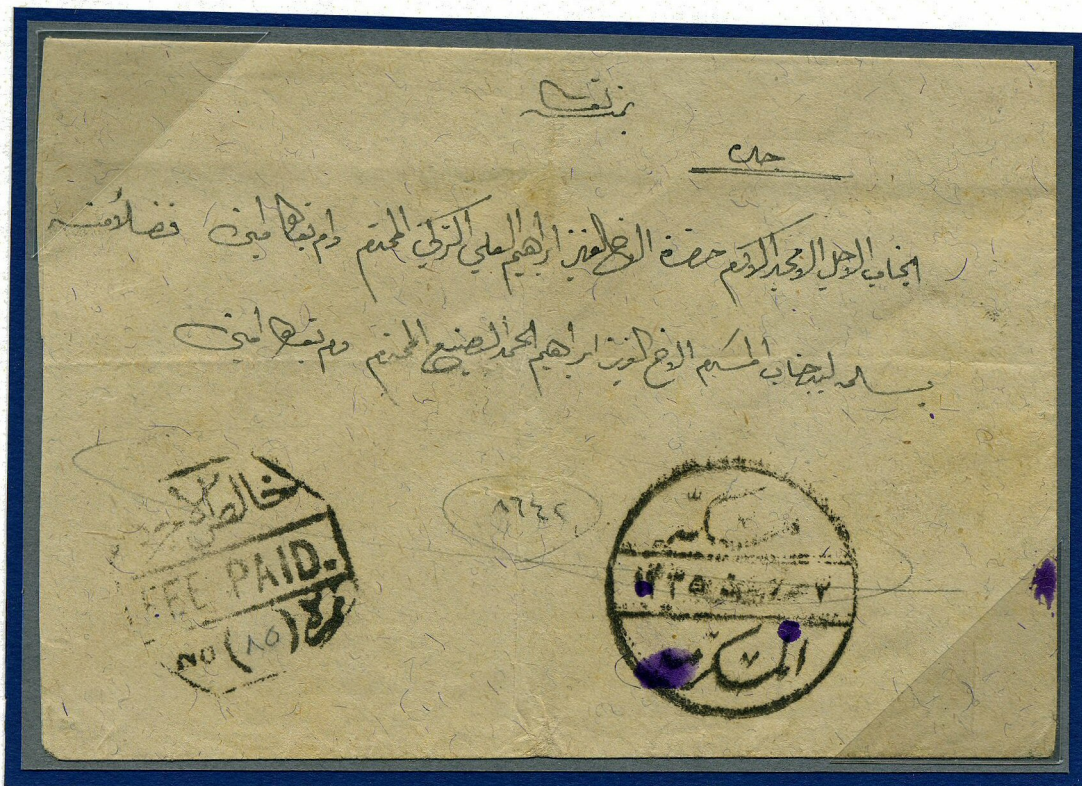


March 1917 - (Arabic dates 20 & 22 Jumada Al-Awwal 1335) - sent from Mecca to Taif. Unusual showing of two datestamps - perhaps sent unpaid and returned to have the "Fee Paid". (von Uexkull Type E)



USED FROM MECCA

Octagonal Unframed "FEE PAID" in Three Sections
Used April-June 1917



May 1917 - sent from Mecca to Jeddah. Note manuscript "85" in lowest segment of cachet. At the present time the significance of these numbers is still being researched. (von Uexkull Type G)



USED FROM MECCA

Octagonal Framed "FEE PAID" in Three Sections

Used April - June 1917



May 1917 - sent from Mecca to Taif. Note manuscript "182" in lowest segment of cachet. At the present time the significance of these numbers is still being researched. (von Uexkull Type G)



USED FROM MECCA

Octagonal Framed "FEE PAID" in Four Sections ("Mecca" at top)
Used May - August 1917



May 1917 - (Arabic date Rajab 1335) - sent from Mecca to Jeddah. Note manuscript "149" and "57" in lowest segment of cachet. At the present time the significance of these numbers is still being researched. (von Uexkull Type H)



USED FROM JEDDAH

Straight-Line "FEE PAID" (without Ornaments)

Used August - September & December 1916

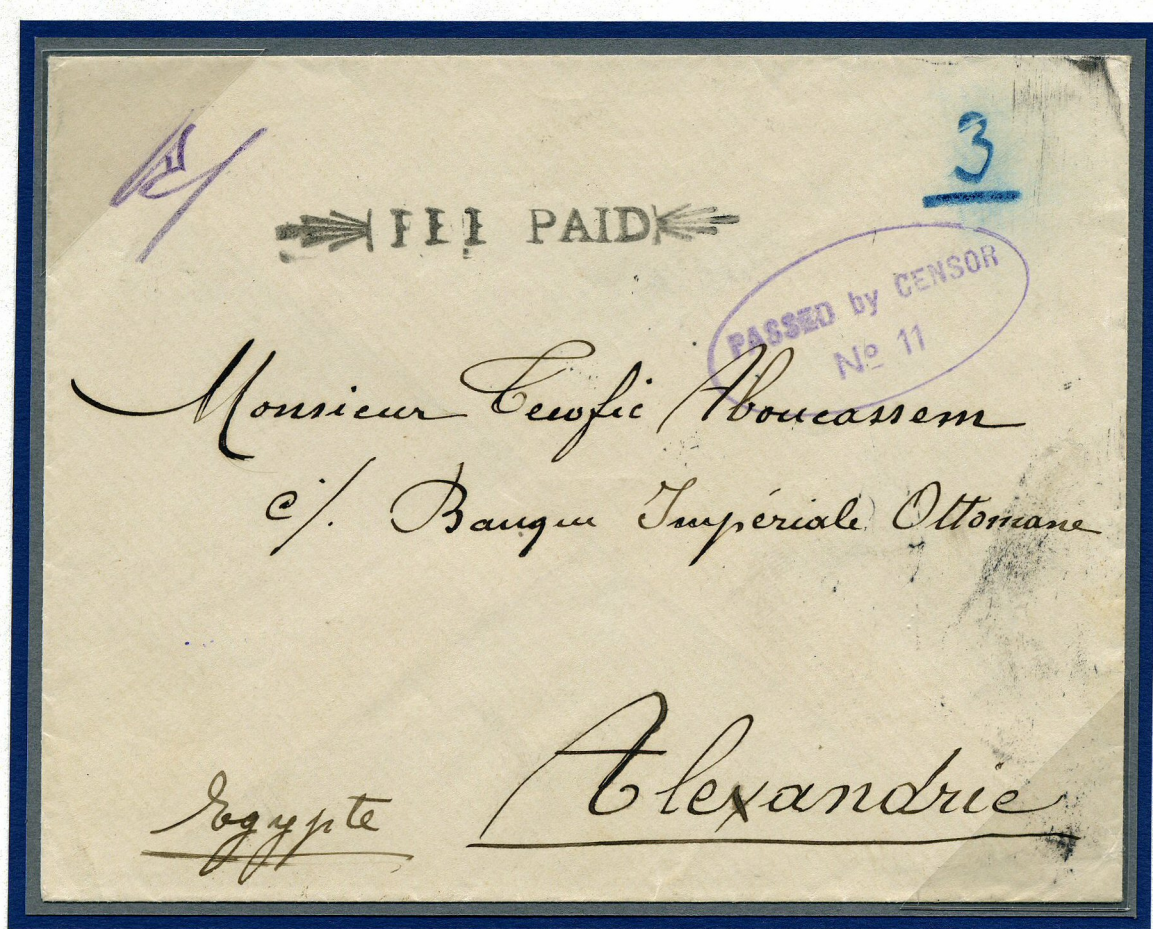


August, 1916 - sent from "GADDAH" to Egypt, censored en route.
Handstamp of August 31, 1916 on reverse. (von Uexkull Type J)



USED FROM JEDDAH

Straight-Line "FEE PAID" with Ornaments
Used September - October 1916



September, 1916 - bank correspondence sent from "Djeddah" to Alexandria, Egypt, censored by the British. Arrival handstamp of September 19, 1916 on reverse. (von Uexkull Type K)



USED FROM MECCA

Unrecorded LATE USE of Manuscript "FEE PAID"



June 11, 1917 - (Arabic date 22 Chawwal 1335) - official mail to ENGLAND, treated as registered, with unrecorded manuscript "FEE PAID" inscription at top right, Port Said transit datestamp of June 20 and London arrival handstamps of July 9 on reverse.

Acknowledgements and Contacts

The following organizations have granted permission for images from their catalogues/websites to be reproduced in this journal:

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
Harmers of London	http://www.harmers.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