



الجمعية الدولية للطابع البريدية العربية  
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International  
Random Notes



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½ qirsh with narrow Caliphate  
overprint  
(see [page 27](#))

## 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 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](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.

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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 #82

*Assembled by the Editor*

I expect many of you know the sad news by now, but member Ralph Barracano passed away on 20 July 2011. An obituary is on the internet at:

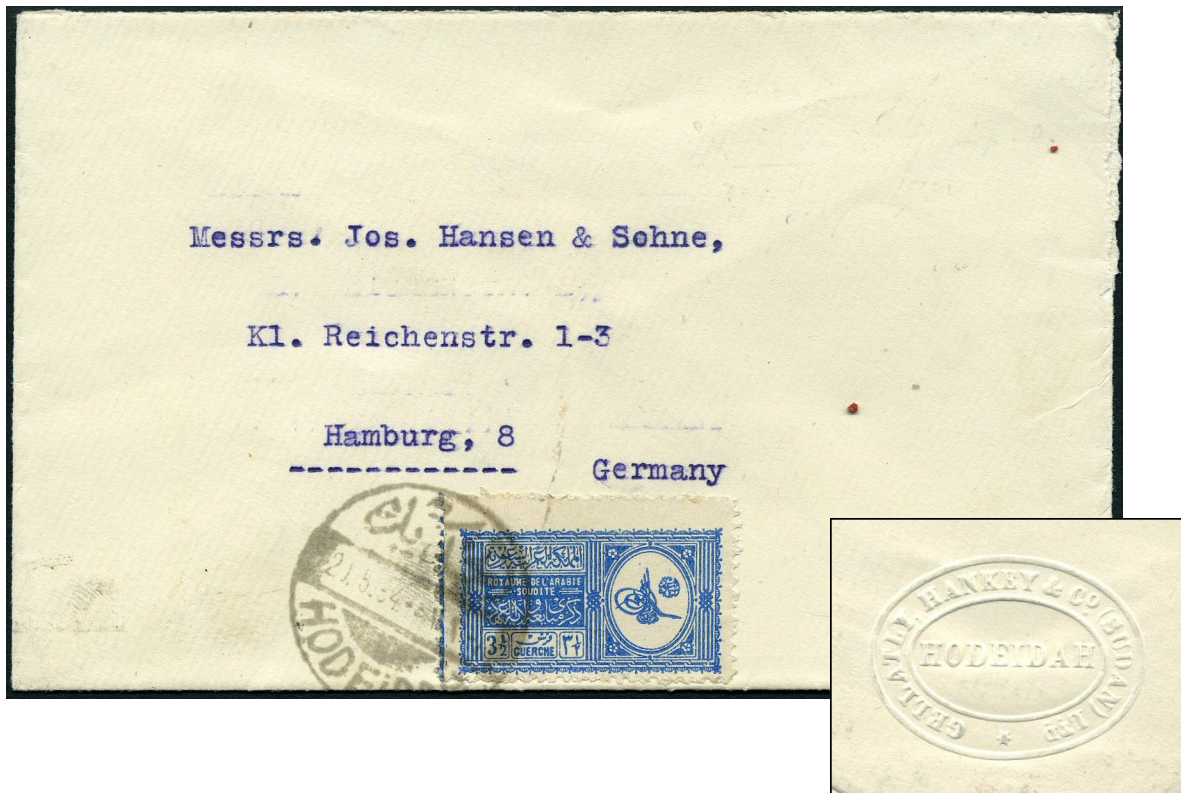
[http://www.aramcoexpats.com/obituaries/2011/07/ralph-\(butch\)-barracano.aspx](http://www.aramcoexpats.com/obituaries/2011/07/ralph-(butch)-barracano.aspx)

where it is also possible to leave a tribute.

Thanks to Jim Kearney and his two-part article on CASOC covers and several small items from other members, we have enough material for a couple of issues, but please send in what you can to ensure regular publication of Random Notes.

Now for the notes.

1. A Hodeida cover that has not yet featured in Random Notes is illustrated here. It is a commercial cover to Germany from the Hodeida office of Gellatly Hankey & Co. (Sudan) Ltd., and cancelled with the Saudi HODEIDA device on 21 May 1934. There are no transit marks.

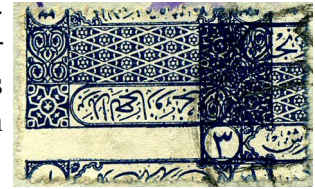


2. Some watermark information on the Dar Al-Asfahani DGA 'proofs': ½ qirsh bistre frame and centre-only dam are unwatermarked and the ½ qirsh carmine frame exists watermark sideways left and right.





3. I thought it was only the Albert Eid covers that had the Hejaz-Nejd proofs and printer's waste, but here is a commercial cover from Makkah to Egypt franked with a 3 qirsh stamp that was printed twice, one inverted (Mayo 682e). Would I be correct in assuming that the stamp was officially issued for postage?



4. I have been sent a scan of the Jeddah 2-line overprint in blue on the 10 qirsh Makkah Arms stamp (Scott L76A, SG 87). On the gummed side is the large 'ela' mark in red and an offset of the overprint. This mark has been seen on forgeries and may not have been applied by Angeloglou. So beware of this mark. I have not been able to plate the overprint from the scan, so I am unable to pass comment on it.



Normal 'ela'



Large 'ela'

The rules above indicate millimetres





5. I have had a request for information about the damage that was done to the stock of stamps during the floods in Riyadh causing some denominations not to be issued and others to be issued in limited quantities. As far as I remember, the stamps affected were certainly definitives but probably included officials and revenues. Rudy Thoden reported that several revenue stamps were seen during a visit to the printing press but were never issued. Perhaps a member would be kind enough to write a short article on the subject.

6. A block of printer's waste with marginal inscription reading:

*Found torn and a fine was withheld from worker salary 19/G....*

7. The 1965 Arafat - Taif road stamps occur misperforated (RN12 item 4). The ones I have seen are shown below:



2 qirsh watermark sideways left



6 qirsh watermark sideways left



8 qirsh watermark sideways right



Found torn...

8. More than 1 sheet of the 4 qirsh Convair 340 (Scott C26, SG 483) watermark upright and misperforated exists; I have seen a complete sheet.



9. I hope to have the article on forgeries for beginners ready for RN 83.

# POSTAL HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA ARABIAN STANDARD OIL COMPANY (“CASOC”)

*By: J. I. Kearney*

My initial purpose was to build upon Rudy Thoden’s article in Random Notes (“RN”) 35 which was an excellent article entitled Early Aramco Postal History. My definition of early Aramco postal history is the CASOC period, from approximately 1932 to 31 January 1944. I was first interested in the notables of the period, but later became interested in postal rates and routes. If there are errors in my research or interpretations, please feel free to make suggestions. As with much of Saudi Arabia postal history, there remain unanswered questions.

## PART ONE

Figure 1 is a cover from Mecca to New York addressed to Karl Twitchell, cancelled 27 September 1932. It is believed to be from Abdullah Sulaiman, the Minister of Finance who was living in Mecca at the time. Return address at upper right is “Al-Hukumah al-Arabiyeh el Hejazia” meaning the Hejaz Arabian Government. Second line is Ministry of General Finance. I believe this was written by Najib Salha, Abdullah’s translator. Twitchell had been in Yemen since 1926 and Standard Oil Company of California (“SOCAL”) loaned Twitchell’s services to the King. Twitchell and Philby were advisors to the King, were never on CASOC’s payroll, but nevertheless closely associated with CASOC. The King sent Twitchell in 1932 to the US to seek mining and oil companies that might be interested in a concession in Saudi Arabia. This cover is related to that trip.

Note that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was named such on 23 September 1932, but it appears new stationery had not been printed.







Figure 1





Figure 2

Figure 2 is a cover from Djeddah to Virginia cancelled 23 March 1933 from Nona Twitchell, wife of Karl Twitchell. Mrs. Twitchell accompanied her husband on various Government functions during the period. Note that the return address used "Hijaz" and Saudi Arabia. Correct postage for registered boat mail. Arrived Danville, Virginia 14 April 1933.





Figures 3 and 4 (see next page) is a cover from Hassa (Hofuf) to California sent by T. W. Koch addressed to Mrs. Koch in California, cancelled 17 December 1933. Postage was 14½q., but the reason is not known. Note that later in this article another 14½q. postage cover will be seen on a Hassa cover. T. W. Koch was about the sixth person to work for CASOC in the Eastern Province having arrived 10 November 1933. Only one other cover is known and that was described in RN #35. It was sent by Art Brown on the same day with the same postage. Cover probably traveled from Hofuf to Al-Uqair and Bahrain. There were three CASOC employees working in Hofuf in 1933: Tom Koch, Art Brown and Allen White.

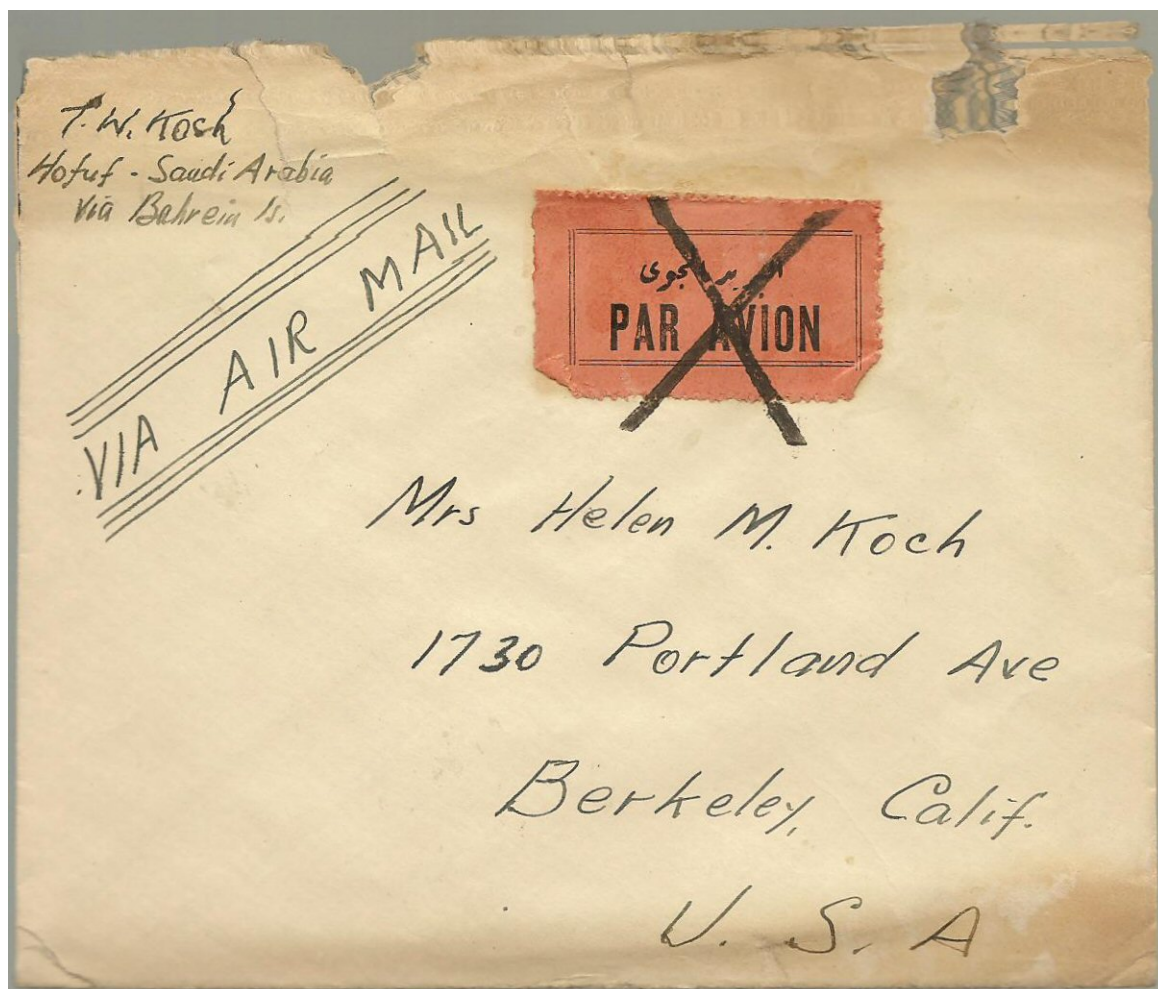


Figure 3

The handstamp cross on the PAR AVION label is a “jusqu’a” mark and would have been applied at the point where airmail is no longer available and the letter transferred to surface mail.





Figure 4





Figure 5 is a cover from CASOC's Los Angeles office to Art Brown, cancelled 19 December 1933. Los Angeles was the Geological Dept. of SOCAL (CASOC's parent company). Mr. Kew, the sender, will be the subject of another Hassa cover. Note the faint Hassa receiving postmark which is the same as the cancellation on the T.W. Koch cover.



Figure 5 (reduced to 70%)

The “KARACHI CANCELLED 6 JAN 34” is a “jusqu’a” mark applied at Karachi after the airmail journey from London to Karachi and before the letter was transferred to surface mail for onward transmission.





Figure 6

Figure 6 is a registered cover from Hofuf to Los Angeles addressed to Mr. Kew, cancelled 11 March 1934. Registered boat mail postage was 7q. which is  $3\frac{1}{2}q.$  for the basic postage plus  $3\frac{1}{2}q.$  for registration. Assumed to be written by Allen White who arrived in the Eastern Province in December 1933. The handwriting matches two other covers sent by Allen White, one on 8 April 1934 from Hofuf to Bahrain and another sent via Bahrain dated late June 1935. Two other covers are known to exist somewhat similar to this cover. They are a registered cover addressed to Mr. Moody, c/o Mr. Kew, in Los Angeles with five copies of the  $1\frac{1}{2}q.$  Heir Apparent issue, owned and exhibited in the past by Mr. Ali Reza.  $7\frac{1}{2}q.$  overpaid by  $\frac{1}{2}q.$  the required postage for a registered letter. Another cover, reportedly owned by a Dubai collector, was mailed to Los Angeles via London, airmail, not registered with  $14\frac{1}{2}q.$  postage. The  $14\frac{1}{2}q.$  postage was made up of four copies of the  $3\frac{1}{2}q.$  Heir Apparent issue and one copy of the  $\frac{1}{2}q.$  Heir Apparent issue. Only about seven covers are known to exist from this period (1933-34) with Hassa cancellations, three of those being registered. Other covers are known to exist with Hassa receiving marks.





Figures 7 and 8 is a registered letter from Hofuf to Bahrain written by Allen White and a copy of the letter is also provided. It was mailed 8 April 1934 and backstamped Bahrain 12 April 1934. This is the cover that leads to the conclusion that the cover dated 11 March 1934 to Mr. Kew was written by Allen White. Postage was 2q. using Scott 131 and 133. The letter sends Heir Apparent stamps to a Mr. Loewenfels in Bahrain and in the letter there is a calculation of the rupee equivalent of the cost of the stamps sent. The letter says “your letter requesting the stamps came just one day after the sale ceased. The postmaster had taken four sets for himself, however, and sold me two of them”. At the end of the letter Allen White says “These sets lack the 1½ qurush which were all gone”. Interesting letter from which one can calculate the rupees/qurush exchange rate. Note that Mr. White was very knowledgeable about Saudi currency. At the top of the letter is the Arabic phrase Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim. Muslims often say this phrase when embarking on any significant endeavor. All but one chapter of the Qur’an opens with this phrase which loosely translated means “In the name of God, most Gracious, most Compassionate”. Many thanks to Mr. Elias Kawar for providing these copies.

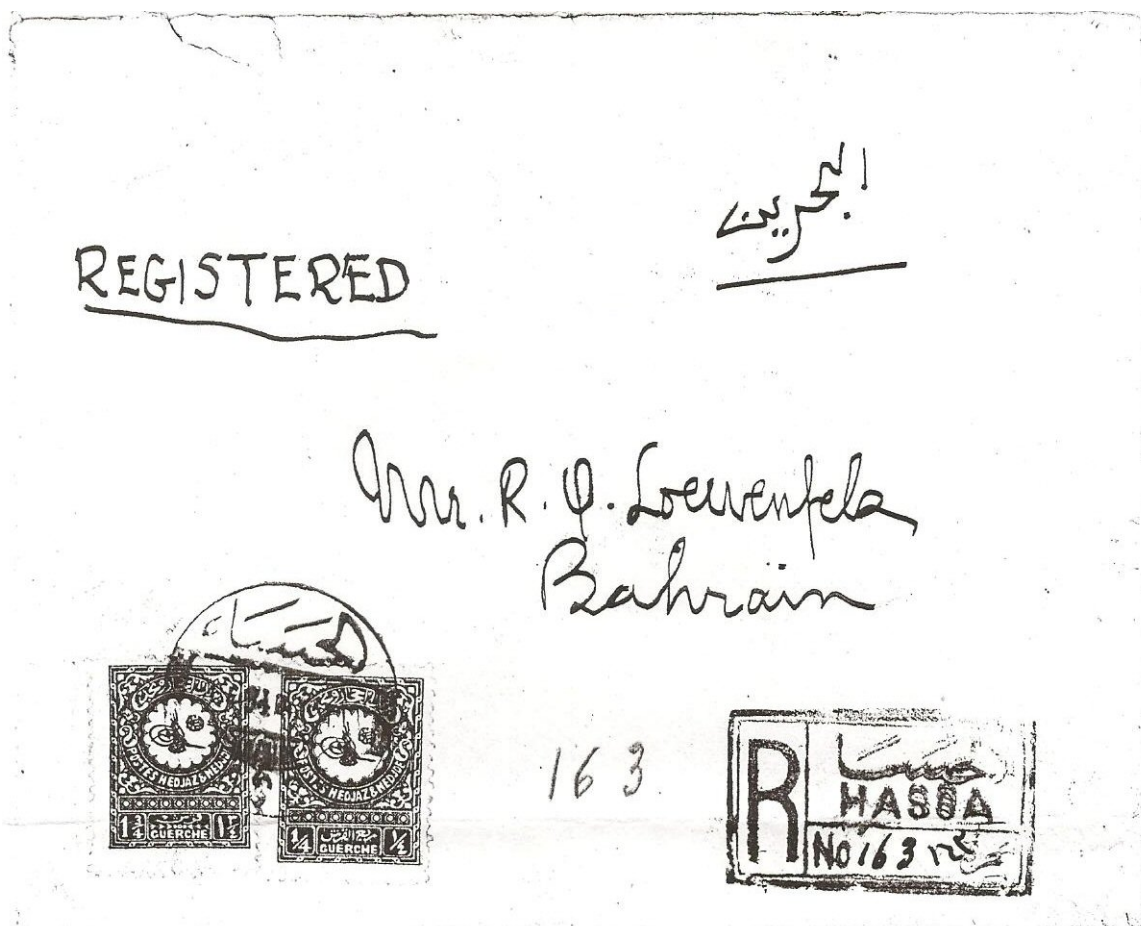


Figure 7



Bahrain backstamp for figure 7



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# 70.35 etc

Kufuf Saudi Arabia  
April 8-1934.

Mr R. Loewenfeld  
Bahrein

Dear Roy -

Your letter requesting the stamps came just one day after the sale ceased. The postmaster had taken four sets for himself, however, and sold me two of them. I am sending them on to you now. One set has the following values

1- Gold pound

1/2 " "

1/4 " "

1 3/4 G.P.

30 gold guruh

20 " "

10 " "

5 " "

3 " "

68

= 68 / 110 G.P.

3 1/2 amiri guruh

1/2 " "

1/4 " "

4 1/4 or 8 1/2 guruh daraj

[ 1 GP = 110 GQ = Rs. 21.26729  
28 1/2 QD = 1 Rupee ]

4 GP = 85 = 1  
16 rupee = 16 - 0  
7 guruh = 0 - 4  
Rs. 108 - 5

These sets lack the 1 1/2 guruh which were all gone. Please deposit the amount to Bests acct at the bank. Yours truly, Allen

Figure 8 (reduced to 75%)







Figure 9

Figure 9 is a cover from Bahrain to California cancelled May 1934. Presumably it was sent by Fred A. Davies while he was working in Bahrain. Later (September 1935) he arrived in the Eastern Province. Later Fred Davies became President of the Arabian American Oil Company ("ARAMCO"), the successor to CASOC.

A few words about Bahrain postage rates. In this article Bahrain postage rates will always be expressed in annas ("as"). One rupee = 16 annas and 12 pies = one anna. Surface postage rates during the period of time covered by this article were 3½as. for the first ounce, 2as. for each additional ounce and the registration fee was 3as. Airmail fees to the United States (in addition to the surface fee) varied from 6as. to 55as. with many changes based on the routes being used. So this cover had 9½as. postage being the 3½as. for the first ounce and the airmail fee of 6as. This airmail fee was in use for the period to 2 September 1939.

This cover has the rarely seen cachet "New York to San Francisco by Air Mail" in red. No transit marks, but it is my best guess the cover traveled to Basrah and then by air to Baghdad, Athens, Brindisi by Imperial Airways, by train to Basle, by air to Paris, surface to New York, and air to San Francisco.

The double circle BY AIR cachet was used on airmail covers from Bahrain between 1928 and 1936.





Figure 10

Figure 10 is a cover from Bahrain to Texas cancelled 20 January 1937. It was sent by Schuyler B. (Krug) Henry. Krug Henry was one of the first two geologists to arrive in the Eastern Province (September 1933). The other was Robert P. (Bert) Miller who arrived the same day. This cover was 9½as., being the 3½as. for the first ounce and the airmail fee of 6as. for the first ½ ounce. This airmail fee was in use for the period to 2 September 1939.

Very few CASOC covers can be found with a CASOC Al Khobar return address. As you may recall a boat carried the mail from Al Khobar in the Eastern Province to Bahrain. This cover is backstamped Paris 29 January 1937. I believe the routing was Bahrain-Baghdad-Athens-Brindisi-Paris-London-New York-Dallas. The fact that it is not backstamped London does not mean, in my opinion, that it did not go through London. The United Kingdom frequently did not backstamp.

Inside this cover was a three-page typed letter dated 19 January describing recent drilling accomplishments and disappointments. The letter was typed in El Alat, which was an important geological formation that looked promising for drilling. Present day El Alat is near the Dammam International Airport.







Figure 11

Figure 11 is a cover from the CASOC office in Jeddah to Bahrain cancelled 27 July 1937. It was sent to George Kellenberg who was a Bahrain Petroleum Company (BAPCO) employee before working in the Eastern Province. BAPCO was established in 1929 by the Standard Oil Company of California, CASOC's parent company. Later Mr. Kellenberg became the Controller of Aramco. Postage was 11q. (3q. for surface postage for a letter weighing less than 20 grams, 3q. for registration and 5q. for the airmail surcharge). The surface postage rate had changed around mid-March 1937 from 3½q.

This cover is backstamped Port Taufiq and Alexandria. I believe the routing after Alexandria was Baghdad-Basrah-Bahrain.





Figure 12

Figure 12 is a cover from the Eastern Province to California cancelled what I assume to be is 4 December 1937. The year is not readable, but the 2as. carmine is the small die which was not available in Bahrain until 1937. Postage was  $3\frac{1}{2}$ as. for the first ounce for surface postage. This rate was in effect for the period late 1931 to 1948. Sender was J. F. Harriss, c/o CASOC, as indicated on the back flap. Mr. Harriss was a CASOC geologist beginning approximately September 1935.

This cover is without backstamps. CASOC boat mail covers are relatively scarce, under my assumption that CASOC employees preferred airmail. The normal route for boat mail was via the Gulf, the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, then on to the United States.







Figure 13

Figure 13 is a cover from CASOC Jeddah to California cancelled 1 February 1938. Postage was 28q. for a 24 gram, registered, airmail letter. This rate is difficult to understand. Is it possible that the 28q. is the basic surface rate of 3q. plus the 3q. for registration plus the 2q. for extra weight (>10 grams) and an airmail surcharge of 20q. Sender Ralph Wells was an assistant to the Manager (Bill Lenahan) of the Jeddah office. Mr. Wells arrived in Saudi Arabia November 1937. A somewhat similar cover was pictured in Random Notes 35. Over the years about 6 of these covers have surfaced, all addressed to the same person.

This cover is backstamped Port Taufiq, Alexandria, San Francisco and Berkeley. I would imagine the routing was after Alexandria, Brindisi, London and New York.





Figure 14

Figure 14 is a cover from Bahrain to California cancelled 12 September 1938. This was an Overland Mail cover with a special postage rate. Postage was  $3\frac{1}{2}$ as. for the basic surface rate, plus  $2\frac{1}{2}$ as. for the overland surcharge regardless of weight. Since this cover has  $10\frac{1}{2}$ as. total postage, two additional ounces of weight required 4as. and the cover was overpaid by  $\frac{1}{2}$ a. This cover was backstamped Basra and Baghdad. The cover traveled by Nairn Transport Company from Baghdad to Jerusalem via Amman, then by train from Jerusalem to Port Said via Lydda and Kantara, and from Port Said by Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O Line) to Marseilles and then on to the US.

Overland Mail was indicated either by manuscript or by a large number of different handstamp types. 33 covers are known to exist originating in Bahrain, three of which are known to be CASOC covers. All the CASOC covers have Overland Mail indicated by manuscript.

Much has been written about the Nairn Transport Company. See Aramco World Magazine, July/August 1981.

(to be continued)





## The D. W. Schaefer Covers

*By: Martin Lovegrove*

I expect most of you either have or are aware of covers addressed to Albert Eid, E.L. Angelou and the Colonial Photo Stores. They are important covers and have helped us confirm the authenticity of stamps and overprints, but they were from a long time ago. Is there a more modern equivalent?

Collectors of Saudi covers from the 1960s will probably have come across a Schaefer cover; envelopes with a neatly typed address and most likely posted from a remote village. These covers may be the only ones in existence from some of these locations and they are thus philatelically important. This is the story behind the covers.



**Dave Schaefer**

David Wilbur "Dave" Schaefer, a keen stamp collector with a specialist interest in Saudi Arabia and United Nations, worked as an auditor and later as an accountant for ARAMCO, finally retiring in 1963. His duties required him to travel extensively within the Kingdom including the "milk run" along TAPLINE. It is apparent that he prepared envelopes before his journeys and had them cancelled at various post offices in the towns and villages. I suspect that he may also have made small diversions to visit some of the more remote places.

One of Dave's more interesting duties was to take the gold sovereigns to the king in Riyadh for his royalties. This was done either monthly or quarterly and he may even have travelled to New York to collect them.

There is a particular significance in this journey. In November 2010 a copy of the 1000 qirsh general documentary stamp, Thoden RG16, appeared on eBay. The description of the item was:

*Saudi Arabia 1948 1000 qirsh revenues intended for use on entry documents of U.S. Gold coins in payment of oil contracts. The only mint recorded copy. Never hinged. Extremely rare.*

TAPLINE was originally planned to run from Saudi Arabia to Haifa, but the Palestinian conflict caused the route to be changed to avoid Palestine and the western terminal became Sidon in Lebanon. The first pumping station was at Qaisumah where the pipeline joined one from the pipe from the ARAMCO fields and where the Saudi oil royalty gagers were located. This location would have been subject to regular audits. The Schaefer covers could also suggest that audits were also carried out at the other pumping stations.

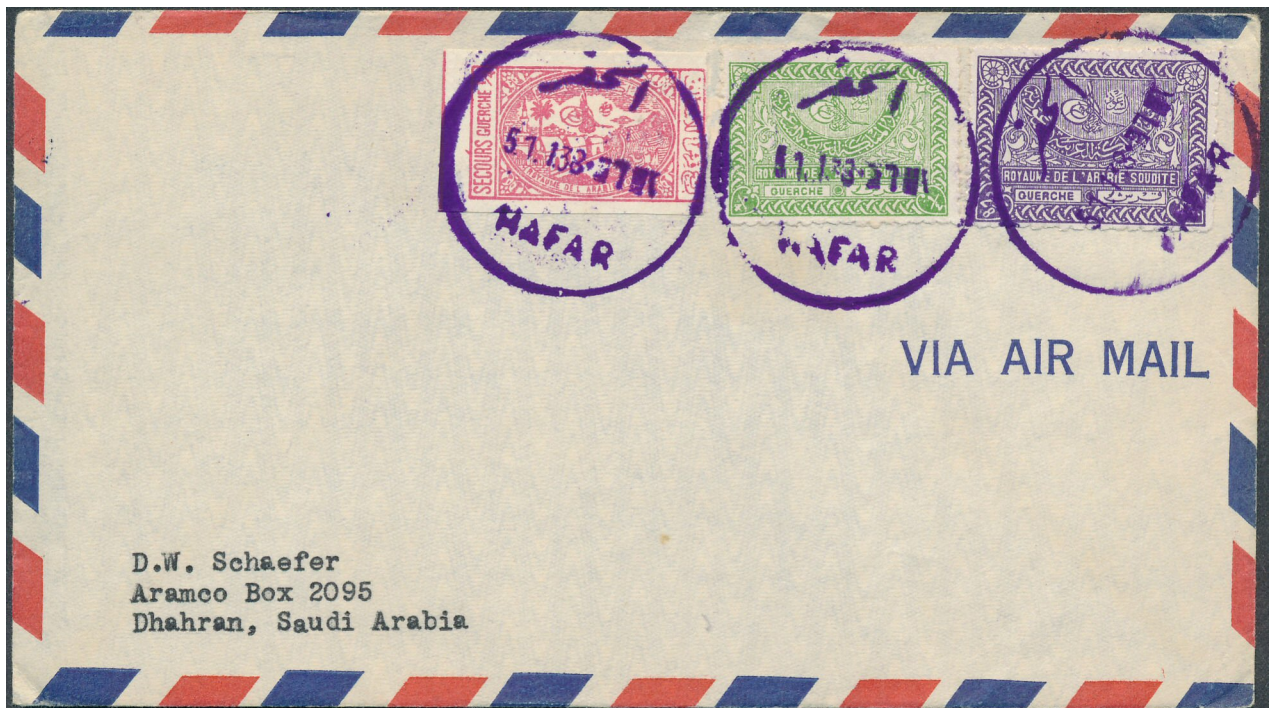


**RG16**





On this page are two covers having identical franking. These are the only covers I have seen that have the same franking but from different locations. Perhaps they were posted on the same journey. The cover above is from El Qaisumah and that below from Hafr (Al Batin), the latter having meaningless dates so frequently encountered with village postmarks. There are no other markings on these items.







The cover above, from Buraidah, has the address in Arabic script and leads me to believe that it actually went through the mail. Most of the covers I have are very clean and most likely were retained by our intrepid collector after receiving the postmark. Buraidah was a small town in 1963, but even here the dates on the postmark are in conflict, although only by a few days. The Hijra date 26-12-1382 is equivalent to 20 May 1963 and not the 17th as indicated.

Below are some village marks from Schaefer covers:



**Neutral Zone**  
8 June 1961



**Al Mowaih**  
29 October 1961



**Naerya**  
Date unclear



**Marat-Najd**  
25 November 1961



**Dawadmi**  
Hijra date amended  
by hand to 16-5-1381  
(26 October 1961)



**Jobeil**  
10 November 1960



**Raheama**  
6 October 1960

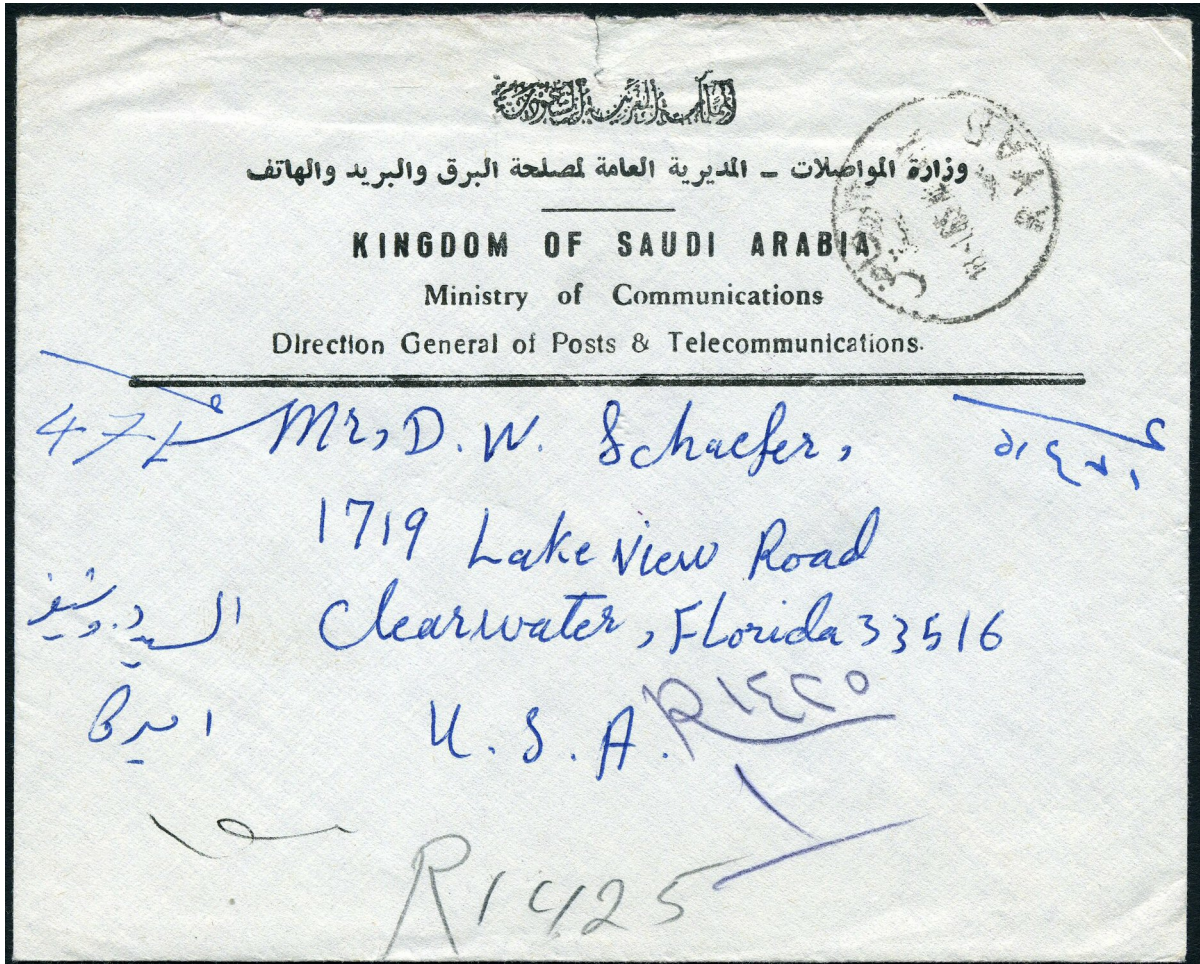


**Tureif**  
(date conflict)





After retiring from ARAMCO and returning to the USA, Dave continued collecting Saudi stamps. Below is a stampless official cover from the Ministry of Communications replying to a request for the King Faisal Installation commemorative stamp. By the time his request was actioned, the ministry had only First Day Covers available and one was enclosed.



David Schafer passed away on June 29, 1983 and his stamp collection was sold. Arrangements for the sale were made by Marty Apfelbaum who was later an unfortunate victim of the Pan American air disaster at Lockerbie.

I am indebted to Nancy Crays, Dave's daughter, who sent me so many stories and memories about her father. Nancy and her husband attended the 2009 ARAMCO reunion in Dhahran.

I would like to hear from any readers have Schaefer covers and would be willing to send me a scan if necessary.

Here are some links that may be of interest:

<http://www.pbase.com/nancycrays/ksa2009>

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=62497645>

# Saudi Sidelines

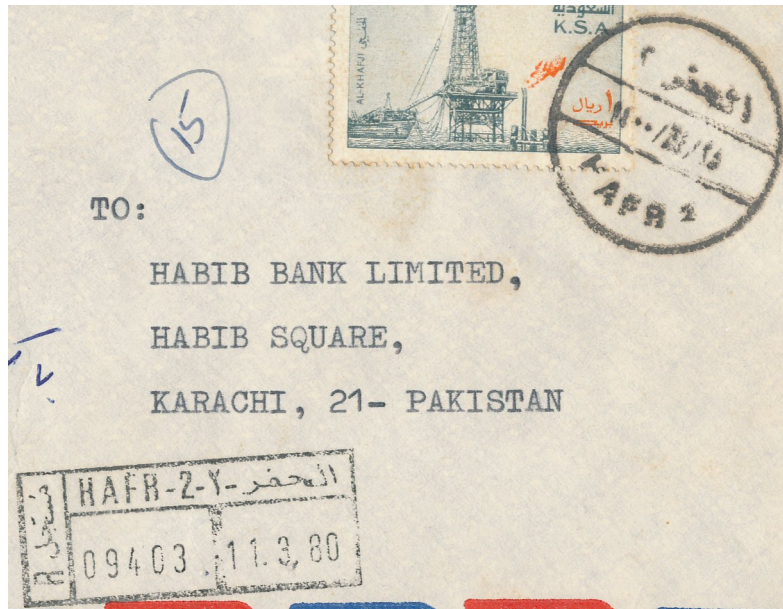
## *Assembled by The Editor from Members' Contributions*

1. Errors in registration labels have featured in Random Notes before; here is an error in the western number which appears as 504 instead of 204. It was corrected by hand.



Number 504 corrected in manuscript to 204.

2. Is this unique to Hafir? The handstamped registration cachet has the counter number 2 included to match the type S195 postmark HAFR 2, or is that co-incidence?



3. Cachets for International Correspondence Week were applied to mail during the week containing 9-10-63 at MECCA and MEDINA 9-10-1965 and are shown full size below. I have also seen JEDDAH 9-10-1963. Has anyone got examples from other cities and dates? The MECCA and MEDINA dates were confirmed by postmarks.



MECCA



MEDINA





4. A few interesting cachets applied at Damman:



"Dear Employee: Please discuss amongst yourselves to ensure the delivery of this letter to the correct addressee next time". Last line is "Reference for discussion" then the partially obscured number.

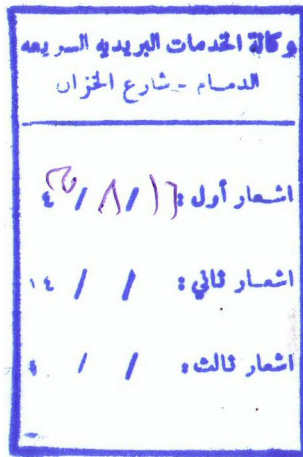


The bottom line "*Markiz Almuuajala Bil Damman*" translates to "Damman treatment centre"

Is the treatment centre for medical conditions or somewhere where mail is disinfected (as is done in several countries for fear of bacterial weapons in envelopes etc, or possibly for disease outbreaks)?



"Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" "Ministry of Telegraph, Post and Telephone" "Eastern Postal Region" "For Stamp Hobbyists" (i.e. collectors)



Cachet used to record attempts to deliver mail. The dates are those when notices are left to inform the addressee that their mail is waiting to be collected.

More cachets will appear in RN83.



# The Caliphate Overprint - An Update

By: *Martin Lovegrove*

No sooner had the ink dried after writing the article for RN81 than new discoveries were made; such is life with Saudi Arabian philately!

Firstly, I was able to obtain a scan of a complete sheet of the ½ qirsh with the Caliphate overprint having a narrow top line and printed in black; there was no trace of gold on the sheet. The image is on page 28. There are three points to note about the overprint on this sheet:

The extra ‘*alif*’ on the top line of overprint, position 3.

The missing ‘*alif*’ on the top line of overprint, positions 8 and 10.

On the second line of the overprint, all of the cliches apart from the first have a short top to the character ‘*kaf*’.

All of these faults were corrected on later sheets.



The top margin of the sheet shows evidence of where the sheet had been stapled into the book for distribution to the post office, and although there is no evidence of the book actually having been issued, it can be assumed from these marks that the sheet was intended to be issued.

The next discovery was that of a complete sheet and parts of another sheet of the ¼ qirsh with the narrow top line overprint in black. The stamps seen had the faults mentioned above corrected. An image of this sheet is on page 29. As with the ½ qirsh black overprint, there is evidence of the sheet having been stapled into a post office book. Stamp position 13 is illustrated below.

Finally, and perhaps the best, was the discovery of a few copies of the 1½ qirsh lilac with the narrow top line but with the entire overprint covered with gold dust as with the normal issue. These stamps were found with a group of the Caliphate postage dues and were in a similar poor condition. The backing paper was still attached to the stamps. The overprint does not show up very well in a scan so the stamp, position 9, was photographed using a back light.

Perhaps there are more Caliphate discoveries to be made; we shall see!







½ qirsh narrow top line in black







$\frac{1}{8}$  qirsh narrow top line in black





## Acknowledgements and Contacts

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