



الجمعية الدولية للطابع البريدية العربية  
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International  
Random Notes



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Mixture of 1 and 10 qirsh  
(see [page 29](#))

## 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

European representative: Willie King

USA 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), Thoden 2008

VON UEXKULL, J.- *The Early Postal History of Saudi Arabia* (2001).

## Random Notes #84

*Assembled by the Editor*

Once again I am grateful to Jim Kearney for sending another excellent article. This one gives some background information into the 1972 auction of Philby covers and Jim describes and illustrates some of them

Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions held a sale of Saudi material in June and July, and a report starts on page 26.

Please send in what you can to ensure regular publication of Random Notes.

Now for the notes.

1. David Jessich has reported a find of a tobacco tax revenue stamp not listed in Thoden 2008. It is a 5 paras rose-red type T4, perf 11½ similar to RT12.

**New value for type T4**



**1971 issue with control**

2. Another new tobacco tax item seen, and illustrated above, is the 1971 issue 3-halalah value with a control overprint. It is the larger of the two sizes of type T8. Controls had not been reported on this issue.

I hope to get the next edition of Thoden finished later this year and expect it to appear as Thoden 2013.

3. Not mentioned in the article in Random Notes #80, Makkah Arms - Jeddah Large 3-line with Postage Due, is the 2 qirsh value imperforate vertically, either on both sides or at left only. This appeared in the Kelleher auction of the 'Mount Sawda' collection as lot 395.





4. Saudis training at military establishments outside the kingdom is nothing new, but I found this one interesting. It dates to 1951 and is addressed to Pilot Officer S.A.Saud at the Officer Cadet Training Unit RAF Spitalgate. He was one of the first Saudis to be trained in England. The cover is from Taif and at the time there was a British Military Mission based there. There is nothing to indicate the identity of the sender.



5. The Makkah Arms stamps printed on Hejaz railway tax stamps, without value indicated, in ochre have appeared in earlier Random Notes. The one illustrated here has some black marks at the bottom. When magnified, it became clear that the marks were part of a Transjordan overprint which was known to have been applied in Amman. The partial overprint was caused by a paper fold, but the question is 'why was printers waste sent to Amman'?





6. A bit of a King Ali mess here! It is a half-sheet of the 10 qirsh with an inverted centre and double overprint, one inverted. None of the overprints are positioned correctly on the stamps. I think that one of the overprints, that with the inverted year at the top of the image below, was applied only to this half-sheet. If anyone is interested in plating the overprints, a 300 dpi scan of this item is available.





## H. St J. B. Philby Auction September 15, 1972

*By: J. I. Kearney*

It has been 40 years since the Arabian Philatelic Association (APA) had its first auction. The auction was memorable in that it was the first of many APA auctions conducted in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and more importantly, it was devoted exclusively to philatelic material related to H. St J.B. Philby (Philby). Philby was the famous Arabist and advisor/confidant of Ibn Saud, the first King of Saudi Arabia. Nothing that the author knows of has been written about this auction.

The circumstances surrounding the auction have been put together by a few individuals who were at the auction and the author's discussions with those individuals. The author preserved the original auction catalog.

During 1972 the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO in those days) acquired correspondence from Philby's estate. ARAMCO approached the APA and asked if the APA was interested in the covers. Presumably ARAMCO was more interested in the correspondence. All of the correspondence was to Philby's wife or Mother, Mrs. M. B. Philby. Philby's wife, and sometimes his Mother, noted the date received on the cover, as you will see. The APA was extremely interested and said yes. ARAMCO put the following restrictions on the auction. One, the sales proceeds would go into the treasury of the APA. Two, no publicity would attend the sale. The APA assumed that this was to be a closed auction and restricted the auction to only dues paying members as of September 12, 1972. John M. Wilson was the Auctioneer. There were 310+ lots and some covers not identified by any lot number. The Auction was conducted in Saudi Riyals to be paid in cash within 30 days of the Auction.

The author approached writing about this auction in the following manner. The auction was grouped by the Auctioneer in similar lots. Where possible a description of each group will be provided and if the material allows it, an example of a cover that was in that group. The group numbers, except for the unnumbered Stampless Covers, are the author's but the group description was the Auctioneer's. There was a lot of duplication within the group as you will see.

### Stampless Covers

There were three lots in the auction, 9A, 9B and 219A containing stampless covers. The descriptions in the catalog are not complete. The author hopefully can describe some of the covers so the reader can get an understanding of what the covers were. And one cover is illustrated. As to which covers belong to which lots, the author can only guess. No individual cover was described in the lots. The author will provide the description in the catalog verbatim and describe what some of the covers could possibly be. It is generally believed that all Philby covers addressed to his wife or Mother came from this auction.

### Stampless Covers – Lot 9A

Five field post covers with field post cancels. From Jiddah, according to recipient's (Mrs. Philby's) notations. Three are censored. From the first 1918 trip (January). Extremely scarce material.



### Stampless Covers – Lot 9B

Stampless covers mailed from Saudi Arabia during the first trip to the Riyadh area. No Saudi cancels. All were sent through Kuwait and have Kuwait backstamps. Rare, historical grouping.

### Stampless Covers – Lot 219A

Bahrain. Extremely scarce lot with special notations of Saudi Arabian origin. All contain Bahrain postal markings. Three are censored (1917 usage). Two have British postage due markings. A rare historical grouping of the greatest value. Someone annotated the catalog “9 covers”.

Here are the covers that I could locate. The author surmises that the covers speak for themselves and identifying the original lot that contained the cover, at this point in time, is not important.

1917 stampless On His Majesty’s Service imprinted cover with Field penciled in over His Majesty’s. Uqair 16/11/17 manuscript. Addressed to Philby’s Mother in the UK. GB postage due (two pence) and GB receiving cds of Jan 1918.

1917 stampless cover from Uqair to Bombay (presumably to his wife who was in Bombay at the time). No other information.

1917 stampless cover from Hofuf to Bombay 20/11/17. Sent to Uqair via camel, then by dhow to Bahrain. Backstamped Bahrain 24/11 and Bombay 7/12.

1917 stampless cover from Riyadh 1/12/17 to his wife in Bombay. Censored. In Philby of Arabia, Philby says he arrived in Riyadh 30/11/17 after starting out from Uqair on 15/11/17. This cover is illustrated on next page. Routing was Hofuf, Uqair, Bahrain, then Bombay.





Outfield Service Mes Ex Inca

Mrs St John Shelby

Officers Hospital Malabar Hill



Bombay

1/12/17  
Royal

Hyderabad  
P.O. Dept



1918 stampless cover from ?? 7/1/18 to his wife in Bombay. With cds Field Post Office on front, Bombay backstamp.

1918 stampless cover from Hafir al Batin (undated). Via M.E.F. Base P.O. (9/4/18) on back with UK arrival 24/5. Censor handstamp on front, "Opened Under Martial Law" label on back.

1918 stampless cover from Shaib Shauki, a village north of Riyadh, (28/4/18). Manuscript "On Field Service Middle East Force" at top. By camel to Kuwait with Kuwait backstamp. Received by Philby's Mother on June 23, 1918.

1918 stampless cover from Riyadh (5/5/18). Manuscript "On Field Service Middle East Force" at top. By camel to Kuwait with Kuwait backstamp. Received by Philby's Mother on June 21, 1918. With boxed Paquebot on front.

1918 stampless cover (28/5/18). Manuscript "On Field Service Middle East Force" at top. By camel to Kuwait with Kuwait backstamp. Sent to Philby's Mother but redirected to Dorset. With faint censor marking and Camberley transit mark (10 AU 18) on front.

1918 stampless cover undated. "On His Majesty's Service" imprinted at top with "Field" in manuscript in place of "His Majesty's". From Wadi Dawasir to Philby's Mother with Kuwait backstamp (30/6/18) and Bombay (12/7). Sent to Philby's Mother who indicated receipt on August 26, 1918. Philby returned to Riyadh from Wadi Dawasir in June 1918.

1918 stampless cover with manuscript "On Field Service Middle East Force" at top. From Riyadh (2/8/1918) via Kuwait (21/8) to England (15/10). This was from Philby's second mission to meet with Ibn Saud.

1918 stampless cover with "On His Majesty's Service" imprinted at top with "Field" in manuscript in place of "His Majesty's". From Kurma (on the Red Sea) to Mrs. Philby in Bombay via Cairo. Faint FPO cancel and censor marking.

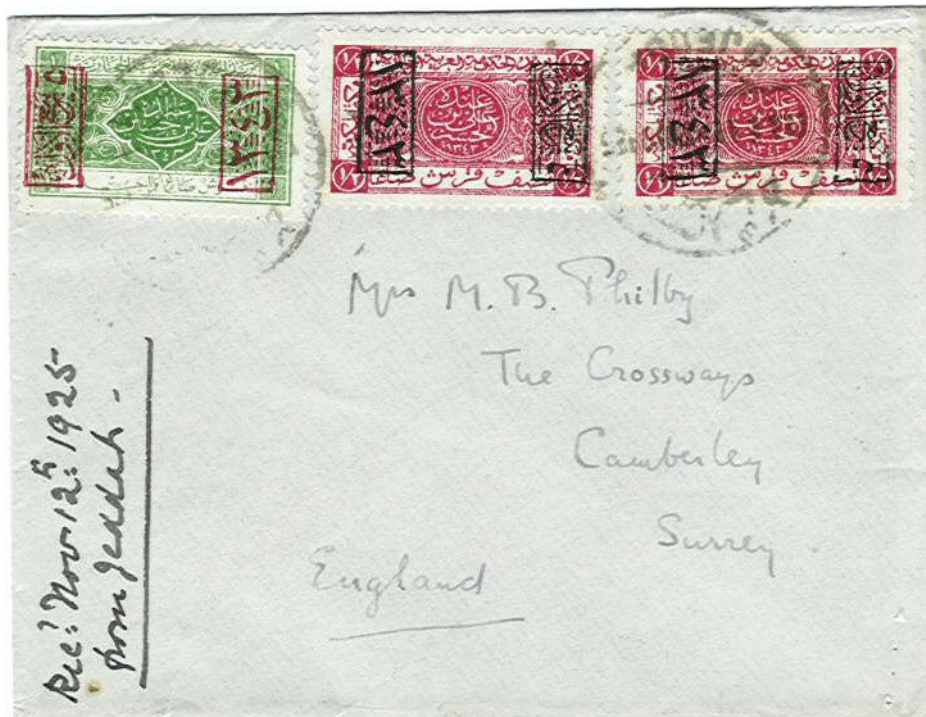
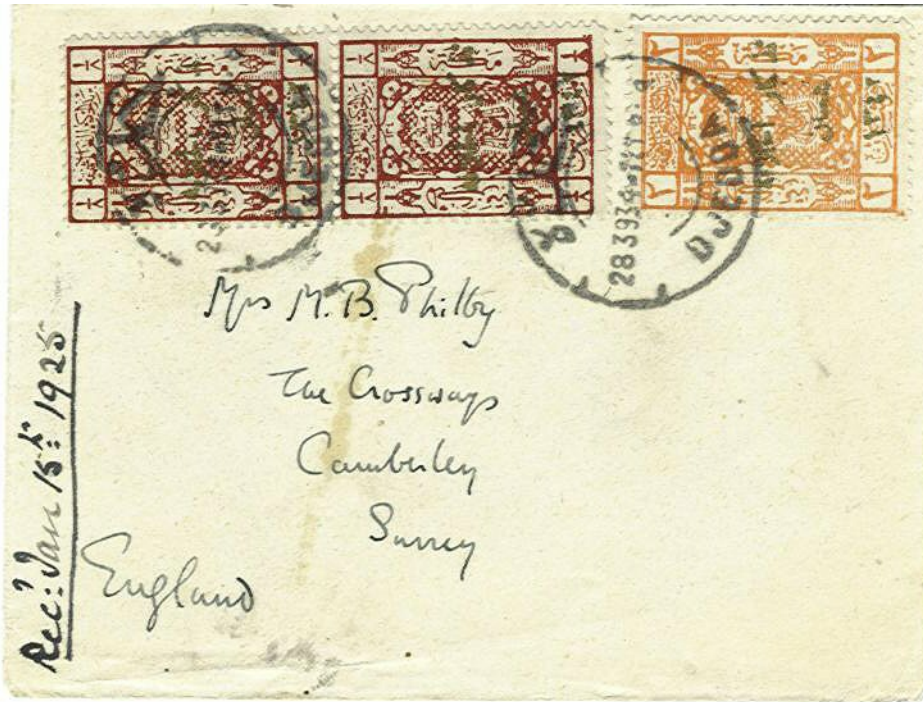
1918 stampless cover with manuscript "On Field Service Middle East Force" at top. From Anaiza, northwest of Riyadh, (9/10/1918) via Kuwait to his Mother in England who indicated receipt on Nov. 28, 1918.





Group One -Hejaz Stamps on cover

Ten lots were listed. Mostly Scott L37 (4 covers), one outstanding cover with the Caliphate issue (illustrated), four King Ali covers (one illustrated), and 5 field post covers from Jiddah with Field post cancels described as one lot.





## Group Two – Nejd Stamps and Covers

Fourteen lots were listed. One lot was a number of stampless covers mailed from Riyadh with no Saudi cancels but with Kuwait backstamps.

All of the covers, except those described above, had Nejd Second Handstamps, with Scott 49 and 51 being the most prevalent. An example is illustrated.



Group 3 – 1927-1930 Covers, Issues of 1926-1927

Twenty covers in this group, mostly all Scott 99 and 100, sometimes single or in combination with Scott 98 or 101, or 102. An example of this relatively common cover to Mrs. Philby could not be located but another Philby cover (Scott 98,100,101) is shown.



Group 4 – Mixed Frankings of 1926-1932 Issues

Eight covers in this group, every one with Scott 101 and with various issues between Scott 131 to 137. Cancelled Jiddah or Mecca. No example illustrated.



Group 5 – Scott 117 on cover

Thirty-five covers in this group, every one with singles of Scott 117 and one with single Scott 127. Five sent from Taif, one from Medina, fourteen from Mecca and the remainder from Jiddah. Jiddah example illustrated.





Groups 6, 7 and 8 – Scott 133 on cover

Sixteen covers in these groups, every one with Scott 133 (three covers with 133 pair). One sent from Taif, two from Riyadh, five from Mecca and the remainder from Jiddah. Jiddah pair illustrated.



Group 9 – Scott 137 on cover

Fifteen covers in this group, every one with Scott 137. Three from Mecca and the remainder from Jiddah. Jiddah illustrated.



Groups 10 & 11 – Remainder Lots and Loose & Stuck Down Heir Apparents

Thirty-one covers in this group, none described. Also 428+ Heir Apparent stamps which are either loose or stuck down. Most are Scott 138 (¼g. yellow green) and 139 (½g. red). No illustrations available.

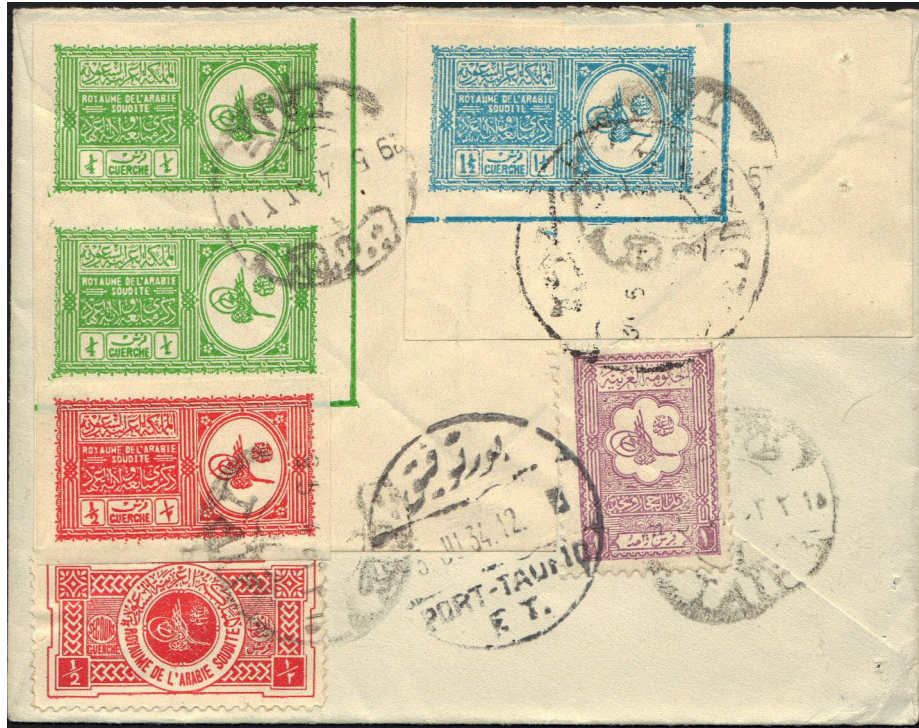




Group 12 – Heir Apparent Stamps on Cover

Actually twenty-six covers in this group, of which twenty-two are Heir Apparents and four are Tughra covers. Extremely interesting group. Illustrated is Scott 138, 139, and 140 all imperforate with Scott 101 and RA-1. Cancelled Taif.

Also illustrated is the more typical cover in this group. Scott 139, 141 and RA-1 cancelled Jiddah.





Group 13 – Tughra Issues on Cover

Approximately one hundred forty-eight in this group, of which some are first airmail issues. Also included in this group are two covers with Scott 173-6 complete.

Illustrated is the more typical cover in this group, Scott 167 and RA-1 cancelled Riyadh.





Group 14 – British , India and Various Issues on Cover to Saudi Arabia

Approximately three hundred plus covers in this group, most of which are from England and India. Illustrated is the typical British cover in this group.



Group 15 – Mostly Foreign Issues on Cover

Approximately three hundred forty-seven plus covers in this group, most of which are from Aden, Algeria, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Ceylon, Egypt, France, Germany, Great Britain, India and Iraq. No illustrations.

Group 16 – Mostly Foreign Issues on Cover

Approximately ninety covers in this group, from Great Britain and Iraq. Many field post covers and cancels. No illustrations.

Group 17 – Mostly Foreign Issues on Cover

Approximately one hundred forty-two covers in this group. All stampless field post covers and cancels. No illustrations.

Group 18 – Mostly Foreign Issues on Cover

Approximately ten covers in this group. All to Kuwait. No illustrations.

Group 19 – To and from Palestine on Cover

Approximately one hundred nine covers. Other than Palestine, a few Sudan, Syria and Turkey. At the end of the auction listing there were a number of odd lots not well identified. No illustrations.

## قافلة الزيت (Oil Caravan)

*By: Martin Lovegrove*

Oil Caravan is Aramco's weekly newspaper and the first issue appeared on 29 October 1953. It has attracted correspondence from all over the Kingdom since its inception; this article shows some received during the 1970s.

These covers are a source of rare postmarks and registration markings, many of the postmarks being of a type apparently unique to the originating post office.

Many of the covers, ordinary and registered, have R-3404 or R-3407 in manuscript in a manner similar to that seen on registered covers, however these are not registration markings but indicate the destination office (room number) within Aramco.

As with many Saudi domestic covers, the postmarks may be incomplete or poorly inked, and the envelopes roughly opened, reduced or damaged. They are rare, so we have to live with that.



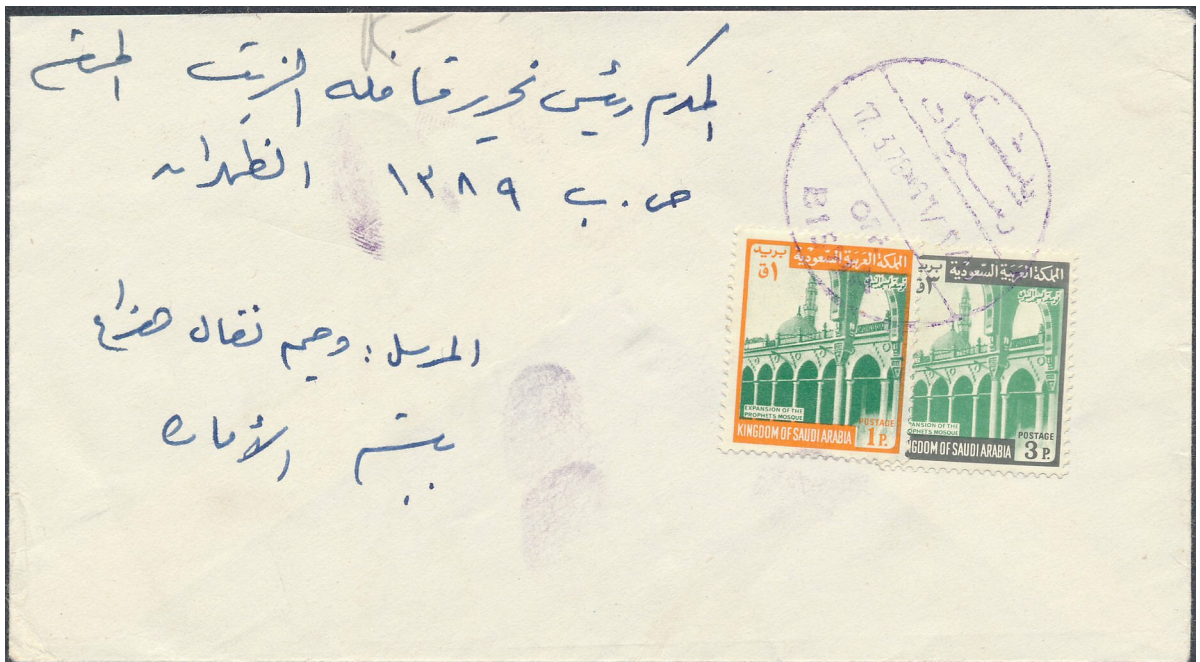
**Cover 1.** From Baha, registered, with undated postmark type SAR110 and Baha registration etiquette. This device is known only from Baha as was intended for outgoing registered mail.







**Cover 2.** Also from Baha but not registered and with undated postmark type SA110. This device is known only from Baha as was intended for outgoing ordinary mail.



**Cover 3.** From Bisha, unregistered, and with postmark type SG170 dated 17 March 1976. This device is known from a few other towns but is rarely seen. It was intended for official mail but the author has not seen it used as such.







**Cover 4.** From Hotat Bani Tameem via Riyadh. The postmark is dated 20 March 1976 and as with cover 3, it is type SG170.



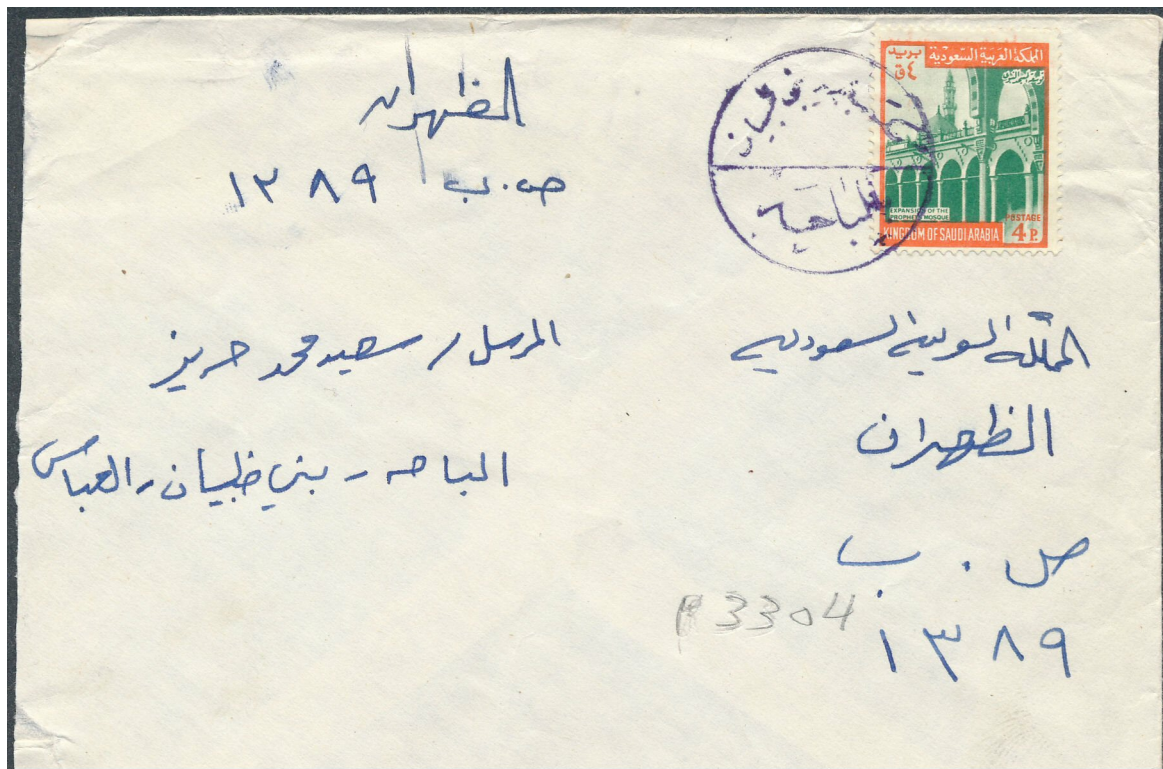
**Cover 5.** From Badr with Badur registration etiquette. The postmark is type SD170 but whether the spelling is BADR or BADUR is not clear. Knight, in RN48, only lists BADR. The cover went via Medina on 26 March 1976.







Cover 6. Pre-printed cover from Al Khafji with unusual ALKHAFJI POST OFFICE - EXPORT cancel.



Cover 7. Although not specifically addressed to Oil Caravan it was sent to their PO Box. The cover from Bani Thubayaan, Baha, has a clear type SA160 cancel, only recorded from this location.





**Cover 8.** The cover has a Circuit Post cancel, type SATP60, inscribed 'The Villages of Hawiyah'. A Taif transit mark is dated 21 March 1976.

Similar covers are known from 'The Villages of Misaan' and 'The Villages of Tura'at Thaqeef'.







**Cover 9.** Unusual rectangular, all-Arabic marking, type SA75, reading "al Sha'oun al Baridiyah" (postal affairs), "al Maktab barid al Qura" (villages post office) and "bil at Tawilah" (in at-Tawilah). At lower right is "al tarikh", or "dated", but in copies seen, there is no date.



**Cover 10.** A superb clear DILAM registration cachet is on this cover, cancelled with Al Dilam 1, type SA100, dated 25 March 1976 and routed via Riyadh 28 March 1976.







**Cover 11.** This cover from Sarat Abidah, Abha, has a scarce, unlisted in Knight, negative seal reading '*markaz barid sabat abidah, abha*'. The cover arrived at Dammam on 20 March 1976.

The postmark types quoted are from Knight (see references).

I hope to be able to include another series of Oil Caravan covers in a later edition of Random Notes.

#### References:

The Postal Markings of Hejaz, Nejd, Hejaz & Nejd, and Saudi Arabia by Kenneth Knight. Random Notes 44 - 53.



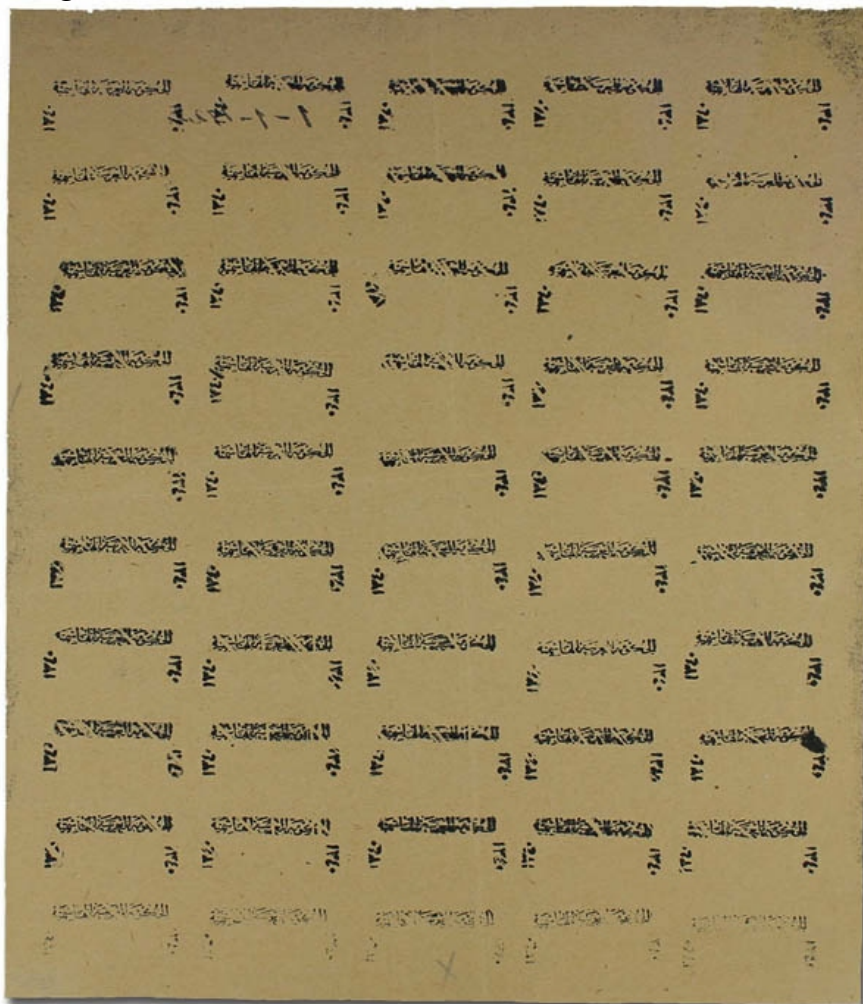
## 'Mount Sawda' Collection Daniel F. Kelleher Auction 630

This collection of Saudi Arabia and its precursors was auctioned at a public auction on 28 June 2012 and in an internet auction on the eleventh of the following month. Conveniently the lots from both auctions appeared in one catalogue.

I liked the way that the collection had been broken down into small lots; there was at least the potential of being able to bid for something without having to have very deep pockets. I followed the public auction live on the internet and it seems that only a handful of bidders got anything; most went to a telephone bidder referred to as 'T2'. Generally the prices were high and reflected the quality of the lots, but there were a couple of mistakes in the descriptions and several forgeries masqueraded as genuine items.

This article illustrates and comments on a few of the items not previously seen in Random Notes and I would like to thank David M. Coogle, Co-Chairman of Kelleher, for giving me permission to reproduce items from the catalogue. Prices are in USD and include premiums.

**Lot 11. "Hashemite Kingdom" overprint, proof impression of the setting of 50, in black on buff paper, from the defaced plate, dated on reverse 1/1/22. Missing dates position 18, 21, 23 and 33, without gum as issued. Realized 561.**



Lots 56, 57 and 58 were complete double-pane sheets of the 10 qirsh Makkah arms, showing clearly that the panes were printed separately. Lot 56 had the centres in the upper pane printed double, lot 57 had the centres in the lower pane inverted and lot 58 had the centres in the lower pane inverted.

Lot 232 was described as:

*Jeddah 4-line small surcharge, proof impression of the setting of 36 (SG 148/149 vars.), used for overprinting the  $\frac{1}{8}$ pi red brown and  $\frac{1}{2}$ pi red Arms of Sherif of Mecca Issue, without gum as issued, Very Fine, a rare proof sheet. Realized 1003.*

That would be very useful for plating assuming it was the final version of the plate. Also complete sheets of 'illegibles' appeared in the following:

**Lot 240.** *Jeddah 4-line small surcharge, 1pi on 3pi brown red, overprint double (SG 152b), complete sheet of 36, without gum, Very Fine, an extremely rare sheet. Scott L140a var. Realized 1770.*

**Lot 277.** *Jeddah handstamped surcharge,  $\frac{1}{4}$ pi on 1pi on 3pi brown red, surcharge error (SG 159q var.), complete sheet of 36, with handstamp double (position 30) and omitted (position 31), without gum, Fine to Very Fine, an extremely rare sheet. Scott L140b var. Realized 2006.*

**Lot 283.** *Jeddah handstamped surcharge, 1pi on 10pi on 5pi olive, surcharge error (SG 160q), complete sheet of 36, the lower row of the sheet has a diagonal row of blind perforations, without gum; one stamp in the sheet is defective, Fine to Very Fine, an extremely rare sheet. Scott L141b. Realized 2124.*

There were several sheets of the Jeddah large 4-line overprint, the significant one being lot 306:

*Jeddah 4-line large surcharge in blue, 10pi on 2pi orange, surcharge error (SG 169b, 169), complete sheet of 36, 10pi surcharges on odd number rows, without gum. Scott L153a, L153. Realized 1062.*

A full-size copy of the overprints from this sheet is shown on page 29. It was as long ago as 1977 in Random Notes #10 that the APA requested sight of this sheet.

A useful addendum to the article in Random Notes #80, Makkah Arms - Jeddah Large 3-line with Postage Due - has been provided by lots 395 (see page 3 item 3) and 396.

**Lot 396.** *1925, Jeddah 3-line overprint and boxed handstamp, 2pi orange, imperf vertically (SG D151 var.), except between sixth column and selvage, bottom margin block of 12, position 26-30, 31-36, without gum, Very Fine, a very rare unlisted block. Scott LJ37 var. Realized 1416.*





Lot 483 may possibly help to solve a problem. Is this stamp a proof of the surcharge?

In the light of the illustration below, it may just be a missing handstamp. Incidentally, the stamp on the right is signed DG, so did David Graham have any information about these missing handstamps?



**Lot 483.**

*"Sultanate Post" overprint in black, 1½pi on ½pi scarlet, imperf, surcharge inverted (SG 242da var.), block of 9, overprint omitted on 2 stamps, position 7-9, 13-15, 19-21. The surcharge of value from unknown setting, o.g., clean; horizontal crease though second row, otherwise Very Fine, a rare combination of varieties. Scott 47b var. Realized 2006.*



So, a very good sale with some significant items. Will the owner(s) of the 'Illegible' sheets share them with us? A plating guide would be most useful.

# The Jeddah Four-line Overprint Mystery

*By Martin Lovegrove*

A comprehensive study by Rudy Thoden and Fred Benedict of this overprint appeared in Random Notes #10, but not much has appeared since then. In relation to the 10 qirsh surcharge on the 2 and 3 qirsh stamps, the study stated:

*The most puzzling aspect of this issue is the existence of 10 qirsh surcharges on 2 qirsh and 3 qirsh basic stamps normally used for 1 qirsh surcharges.*

*According to Warin, the sheet of the 1 qirsh surcharge originally included two positions (1 and 2, at the top left corner of the sheet) with 10 qirsh surcharges. Thus, se-tenant pairs of 10 qirsh and 1 qirsh surcharges from these sheets can exist, but are apparently very scarce. Again according to Warin, this error was corrected when discovered.*

*To compound the mystery are the existence of:*

- a. *A block of four 2 qirsh stamps in which the top two stamps (positions 29 and 30 in the sheet) have a 10 qirsh surcharge, while the bottom two stamps (positions 36 and 36) have a 1 qirsh surcharge (in black).*
- b. *A block of four 3 qirsh stamps in which the top two stamps (positions 11 and 12 in the sheet) have a 1 qirsh surcharge, while the bottom two stamps (positions 17 and 18) have a 10 qirsh surcharge (in black).*

*These stamps plate perfectly against the corresponding positions of the 10 qirsh sheet. Thus, originally, the sheet of 10 qirsh surcharges had at least four positions with the 1 qirsh errors. These errors were corrected by simply adding a dot after the "1", converting the value to "10".*

In my collection I have similar blocks, also in black, but from different plate positions, and all plate against the 10 qirsh sheet.



Positions 15, 16, 21, 22



Positions 1, 2, 7, 8

It is interesting to note that the 3 qirsh error block, illustrated above, is from the same positions as that produced by the 1 qirsh plate.





Trying to work out what happened during the life of this plate has been made easier by the appearance in the Kelleher auction 630 on 28 June 2012 of a complete sheet containing the mixture of 1 and 10 qirsh surcharges. The sheet comprised alternating rows of 10 and 1 qirsh, starting with the top row being 10 qirsh. An illustration of this overprint is on the next page and, apart from the few missing dots, is suitable for plating the 10 qirsh surcharge.

So how did all of this occur? I suspect that a single stereotype was used for the top line, the middle line and the word qirsh in the bottom line; that would account for the consistency in the relative positions of the three lines. The value was added using either another stereo for the number or perhaps individual pieces of type. The latter was probably used because the slant angle of the number "1" does vary. We therefore have the possibility that either the dot was not inserted on all of the clichés, or that an incorrect stereo was used.

There is another possibility. Surcharge position 32 is in a row of 1 qirsh values, but close examination shows evidence of a dot being present; it looks as though the dot may have been partially removed, perhaps making this impression being from a later state of the plate. This is the exact opposite of the theory put forward in RN10 that the dots were added at a later stage. This theory may very well be supported by the damage to 'lam' in the 'lam-alif' in position 8, suggesting a later state of the plate, as shown in the plating guide at the foot of the page.



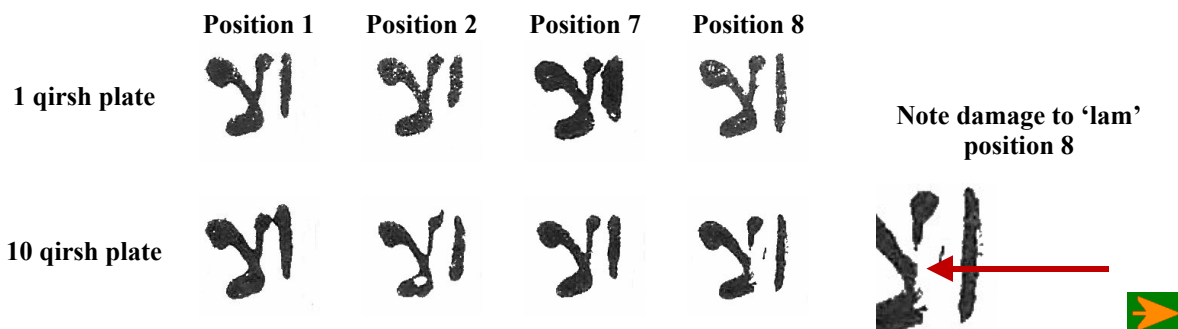
**Position 32 - partially remove dot?**

The partial dot actually suggests another option. The dots were all present but were not set 'type high', in other words were not high enough to receive ink. Incidentally, position 6 on the Kelleher sheet also displays a weak dot.

It looks as though a firm conclusion as to how these varieties originated is not possible, but to compound the mystery, the blocks referred to in RN 10 and the blocks in my collection have black overprints, however the Kelleher sheet has blue overprints. Does that suggest that many sheets of this variety were produced before the error was noticed?

A collecting challenge for the Hejaz enthusiast is to collect blocks of the 2 and 3 qirsh values from positions 1, 2, 7 and 8 showing the 10 qirsh error overprinted from both the 1 and 10 qirsh surcharge plates. An additional challenge is to collect the correct 1 qirsh surcharges but printed using the 10 qirsh surcharge plate.

I illustrate here some plating guides that may help. Note that the first alif on the second line was added by hand, probably after the plate had been assembled, and the shape and size is individual to each position.



The relative positions of the numeral '1' and 'qirsh' are also useful pointers. Position 1 in the 10 qirsh sheet has a small extra dot to the left of the dots belonging to 'qaf'.

→ ١ قرش

المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة
١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش
المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة
١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش
المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة
١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش
المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة
١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش
المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة
١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش
المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة	المكوهة الجحشازبة ٥ بيع الاول ١٣٤٣ سنة
١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش	١٠ قرش

Surcharge plate containing alternating rows of 1 and 10 qirsh values





## Acknowledgements and Contacts

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