



Arabian Philatelic Association International

Random Notes



NOVEMBER 2013

NUMBER 86

CONTENTS

The Arabian Philatelic Association International	2
Random Notes #86	3
21 st Century Errors - <i>D. E. Jessich</i>	7
The Falcon Airmails	9
The S150 Series of Postmarks - <i>Martin Lovegrove</i>	11
Revenue News - <i>Martin Lovegrove</i>	31

This issue has a separate attachment listing the office names used on the S150 series postmarks.



(see [page 4](#))

The Arabian Philatelic Association International

The Arabian Philatelic Association (APA) was established in 1968 in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia by a group of Aramco employees particularly interested in Saudi Arabian philately. The APA had over 300 members and subscribers worldwide during most of its existence. Its journal (*APA Random Notes*), and *Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries*, auctions and new issue service contributed to the large increase in the popularity of Saudi Arabian philately in the 1970s and 1980s. However, interest declined in the 1990s. An initial attempt to start up a conventional Saudi stamp society in the USA failed in the late 1990s. Since then, we have realized that an Internet-based society has a better prospect of success and we have founded the Arabian Philatelic Association International. (APAI). The APAI e-mail address arabphilassocin@aol.com 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

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, (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 (2014) 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), Thoden 2008

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

Random Notes #86

Assembled by the Editor

Thanks to David Jessich, we have a variety of articles and notes in this edition. My article on the S150 series of postmarks finished up far too large for the journal and with many pages of listings, I decided to split it into an article and an attachment. I hope that meets with your approval.

I still need more articles, so please send in what you can to ensure regular publication of Random Notes.

Now for the notes.

1. As usual, eBay provides us with plenty of items and one that caught my eye as new to this journal was a misperfed copy of the 8 qirsh Dammam Port stamp with an extra strike of the perforation comb, shifted upwards by about half the height of the stamp, at the right-hand side. The watermark is inverted.



← Extra strike of perforation comb at right.

2. David Jessich sent me some interesting notes about the March 3, 2013 issue commemorating the King Abdullah Prize for Translation.



The background of the 2 riyal stamp as well as the selvage shows the word “knowledge” translated into six languages. Unfortunately, their translating software missed a couple.

English	Knwledge	Should be	Knowledge
French	Connaissance		
Spanish	Conocimiento		
Russian	-3HaHNe	Should be	
Chinese	知识		
Arabic	المعرفة		



It is unlikely that minor errors like this will be corrected for a commemorative stamp. The only one I can think of was the 1977 King Khalid issue with date error. (Scott 1197-1200, SG 727-728 / 727a-728a.) The six languages shown are the official languages of the United Nations.

Languages by Number of Native Speakers

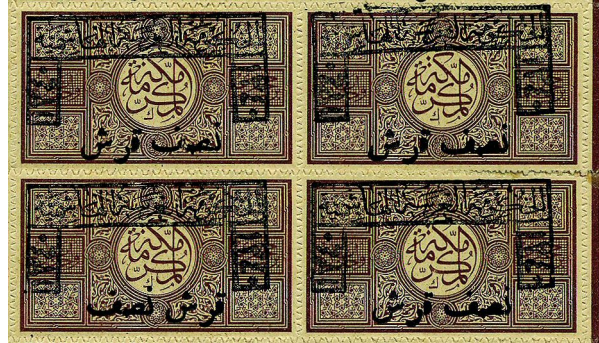
(Source - Wikipedia 2010 update)

Rank	Language	Percent	Million
1	Mandarin	14.1	955
2	Spanish	5.8	407
3	English	5.5	359
4	Hindi	4.5	311
5	Arabic	4.2	293
6	Portuguese	3.1	216
7	Bengali	3.0	206
8	Russian	2.4	154
18	French	1.1	74

3. David also sent this picture of APA members in 1993 but cannot remember all of the names. Can anyone help?

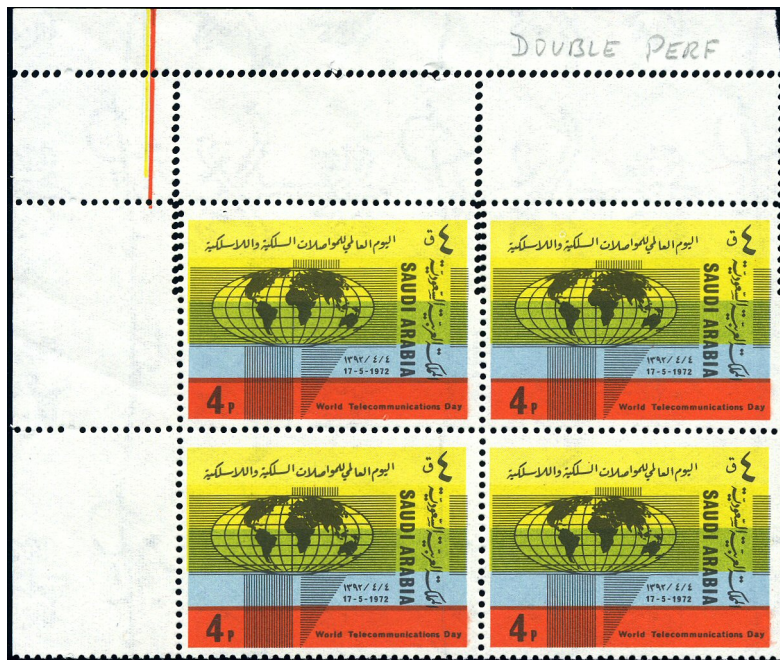


4. I have had a scan of a full sheet of the ½ qirsh surcharge on the 1 para framed overprint stamp (Scott L30, SG 37) since July 2005 without noticing that position 29 had the words of the surcharge reversed. This variety is not even mentioned in Mayo and should be a candidate for inclusion in all of the major catalogues.



Words of surcharge transposed in position 29 of sheet.

5. Following on from item 1, I have seen an example of the 1972 World Telecommunications Day stamp (Scott 630, SG 1058) with an extra strike of the perforation comb at the top of the sheet. The stamp has the watermark sideways right.



Extra strike of perforation comb



6. A couple of forgeries now. The first is a genuine stamp with bogus perforations. The perforation is approximately $8\frac{1}{2}$ but is uneven and the holes are not round. This does not appear to have been done to provide perforations on a stamp with blind perms., but to create a new variety for collectors.



Bogus perforations



The second forgery item is a genuine roulette 20 Survey of Egypt qirsh with a laser-printed first Nejd handstamp. A completely bogus item.



Bogus stamp



Type BC8

7. Barcode registration type BC8 was mentioned in Random Notes #85 and shown as having SPEED POST followed by the town name above the barcode. More information has been obtained from the internet:

*When the government of Saudi Arabia announced the partial privatization of its Postal services, Management & Marketing Company (MMC), Riyadh, a management consulting firm in Saudi Arabia, took the opportunity realizing how important this move would be to the market in general and to MMC's clients in particular. It was also realized that this was a wide field for Outsourcing, for providing unique services to MMC's clients and for adding value and improving the existing delivery of Postal Services. MMC was been granted licenses to fully operate Postal Services Agencies in RIYADH, JEDDAH and AL-KHARJ under the brand name **SPEEDPOST SERVICES (SPS)**.*

That should explain the use of SPEED POST - RIYADH labels on mail from Al Kharj.

21st Century Errors

By: D. E. Jessich

A new error surfaced on eBay in May 2013.... this time with missing inscriptions. The 2012 Arab Postal Day issue appears without the date in English (2012 AD 1433 AH) in the bottom center of the frame and without the issue description in Arabic and English (Arab Postal Day) in the lower right-hand corner of the frame.



Normal



Error

This is a little bit different than the previous two errors where we saw missing Arabic numerals on one or two stamps per sheet. The author is uncertain whether all six stamps of the sheet were printed this way or if it was a transient error on one or more stamps on several sheets.

The previous error was discovered in the Arar city issue of 6 July 2005 and was only on a single stamp (row 2, column 5) in the sheet of 20. It was the missing Arabic value. Scott 1359/1359a, Gibbons 2125/2125a.



Normal



Error

The first modern error was discovered in the 24 December 2003 Hajj issue and appeared on two stamps (row 4, columns 1 and 2) of a few sheets of 50 stamps. They were distributed to New Issue Service members, one to a customer. Scott 1343/1343a, Gibbons 2088/2088a.



Normal



Error



I have seen the Arar error offered on eBay recently and it seems to be reasonably priced. As it was not available to the New Issue Service, the relative scarcity (to the Hajj error) may be hard to judge. While Saudi rarities may never achieve the prices of the inverted Jenny (United States, Scott C3a), which sold in 2007 for nearly \$1.0 million (<http://www.siegelauctions.com/2007/946a/s946a.htm>), collecting them nonetheless is exciting. Finding copies of any of the above on cover would be a real thrill. Good luck hunting.

The only other known value error in Saudi philately is the 16p of the 4th Official series of 1964-1970. A numeral “19” was mistakenly printed on one stamp (row 3, column 4) in the sheet of 25. (Scott O36a, Gibbons O517a). This error exists with watermark sideways left and right.



There are several text errors that also add to the collector’s challenge. These have been reported in previous issues of Random Notes, so I will only list them here.

<u>Scott Catalog</u>	<u>SG Catalog</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Error</u>
179	364a	3g	Afghan Visit	1950	“POSTFS”
184a	369a	10g	Riyadh Capture	1950	Arabic “guerche”
185a	370a	½g	Jordan Visit	1951	“BOYAUME”
186a	371a	3g			
279a	464a	6p	Dhahran Airport	1963	Arabic “Thahran”

The Falcon Airmails

Compiled from information provided by Dr Elias Kawar

As far as the catalogues go, there are only four stamps in this series and these are the only four that were issued:

Denomination	Mayo	Scott	Stanley Gibbons
1 qirsh	A1585	C96	1022
4 qirsh	A1588	C97	1023
10 qirsh	A1594	C98	1024
20 qirsh	A1597	C99	1025



The Issued Falcons

In early 1968 the Saudi Arabian Postal Directorate ordered from the Security Government Press in Riyadh the printing of thirteen denominations bearing the approved falcon design with the following qirsh values: 1, 4, 10, 15, 18, 19, 20, 23, 27, 33, 50, 100 and 200. Before printing any of the above, another order came from the Director of Posts to reduce the quantity to 100,000 for each value because unsold quantities of previous issues were found in post offices around the Kingdom.

It is reported that the initial order was for:

1 qirsh - 5 million

4 qirsh - 500,000

10 qirsh - 1 million

Other values 500,000 each

The Government Press went ahead with the latest order and the whole printing was sent to the Ministry of Finance storage facility which was located in the basement beneath the main building. The drainage of the basement was unable to deal with the heavy rain in Riyadh and the majority of the stock was damaged.



It is said that the four values that were destroyed were distributed to post offices before the flood, but in view of the rarity of the 4 qirsh value, perhaps some stock of those values were also destroyed.



The Unissued Falcons

Your editor would like to thank Elias for the information and to his friend who worked for the Ministry of Finance for sharing his valuable stamps with us.

RN

FREE ADLETS

Random Notes will publish as many free adlets in each issue as will fit on one page. Adlets will run for one issue only but can be renewed by sending a request by email to the editor. There is a maximum of five lines per adlet. The adlet must be relevant to Saudi Arabian philately and the editor's decision is final as to whether an adlet is suitable.

If the adlets can fill a full page, they will appear as the last page in the journal, but partial pages may be used as fillers as required.

APAI (and former APA Dhahran member) seeks copies of Random Notes 51 to 55 to complete a full set of 'RN'. Originals welcome, good photocopies also welcome. In the first instance, please contact me to establish costs and postage. E-mail Richard Fagence at kandr.fagence@btinternet.com

Bound copies of Kenneth Knight's series 'The Postal Markings of Hejaz, Nejd, Hejaz and Nejd, and Saudi Arabia' are available for USD 20 (includes postage) from the editor (eMail weatherings@aol.com).

The S150 Series of Postmarks

By: Martin Lovegrove

In his series of articles for Random Notes 'The Postal Markings of Hejaz, Nejd, Hejaz and Nejd, and Saudi Arabia', Kenneth D. Knight described, and allocated a series of type identification codes to, the cancellations seen on covers since 1916. The articles appeared in various editions of Random Notes from 44 to 52 and recorded the facts known at that time (1989 - 1992).

The information provided in this article is that given by Kenneth Knight and updated and expanded by the author.

The S150, and the similar S260, series of postal cancellations were widely used throughout the Kingdom, starting in about 1984 and used in all sizes of settlements, from villages to cities, and even districts within cities. The design is based on a circle having a diameter of between 34 and 35 millimetres, and a central horizontal datebelt divided into three parts, one for each of the day, month, and year. The date is either the Gregorian or Hijra date. The top segment is used for Arabic text and the bottom for Western. The date format is normally DD-MM-YYYY for a Gregorian date and YYYY-MM-DD for Hijra, but there are exceptions and these are rare.

There are several variations of the basic design and these were allocated separate type designations. Types not identified by Knight have been allocated temporary codes formed by appending an uppercase letter to S150.

In the schematic diagrams appearing in this article, words in italic script surrounded by chevrons are replaced by Arabic in the actual item and words in normal script surrounded by chevrons will be replaced by English words.

A list of offices used in this series and either seen by the author or listed in Knight can be found in Attachment 1 to Random Notes 86.

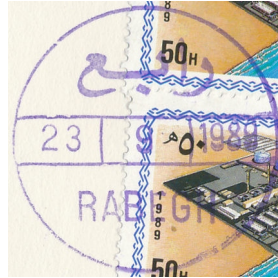
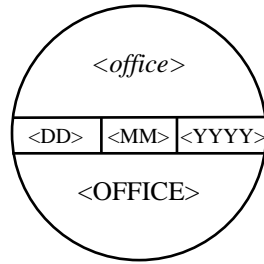


An unusually clear S150 mark from Umm Al Sahiq, a town just a few miles north of Dammam



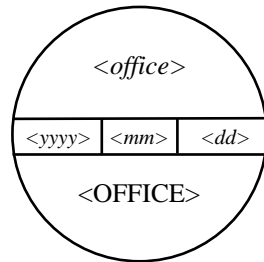
Type S150 - Office name only at top and bottom

Schematic with Gregorian date



Example with Gregorian date

Schematic with Hijra date



Example with Hijra date

Office name at top and/or bottom may also be in two or three lines



Varieties

ALSHIEHIYAH - Only two digits in year.



Varieties (continued)

Date in mixed figures

28



Gregorian date format

YYYY MM DD

Inverted year



Inverted month

Example on Cover



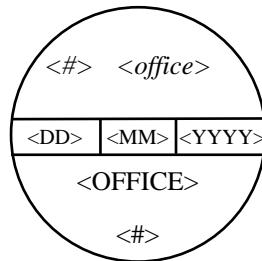
Registered envelope from Al Tawal to Samta with both origin and destination postmarks of type S150 and both cancelling stamp.



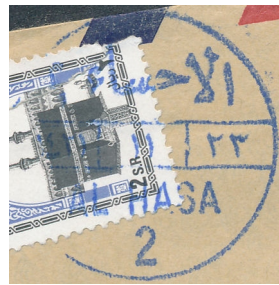
Type S151 - Office name at top and bottom with a counter number. The counter number is to the left of the Arabic name at top and beneath the office name at the bottom.

It is not uncommon for a counter number to change its date type during its life.

Schematic with
Gregorian date

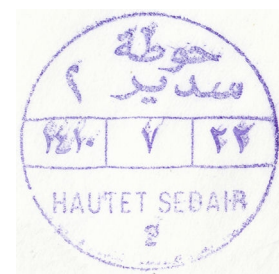
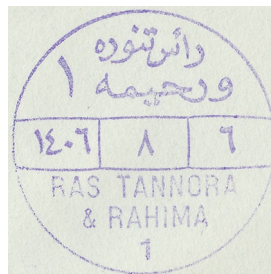


Example with
Hijra date



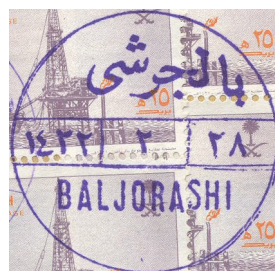
Two date types for AL HASA 2

Office name at top and/or bottom
may be in two lines



Varieties

Counter number at
top and bottom
omitted



Counter number at
top omitted and
number at bottom not
in usual font

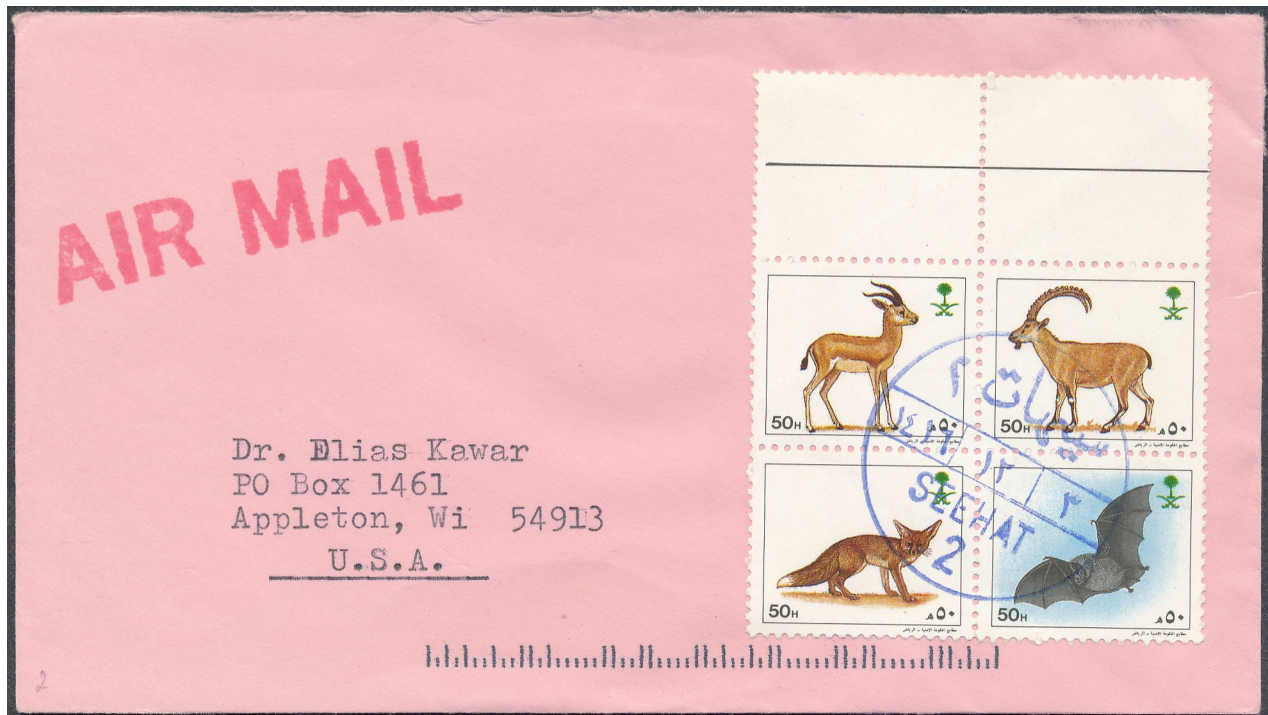


Varieties (continued)

Gregorian date format
YYYY MM DD



Example on Cover

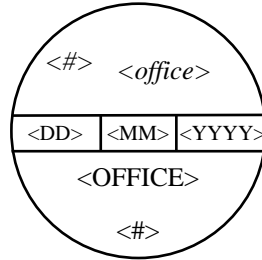


1996 philatelically inspired cover from Sehat, Dammam, to U.S.A.



Type S152 - Similar to S151 but with (post) above the Arabic office name. Office name at top and bottom with a counter number. The counter number is to the left of the Arabic name at top and beneath the office name at the bottom.

**Schematic with
Gregorian date**



**Example with
Hijra date**

Example on Cover



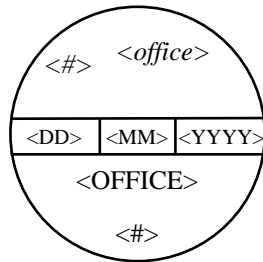
2000 Baghdad to Al Hassa, returned to sender. The Al Hassa mark for 1 May 2000 was applied as the outbound return journey mark.



Type S153 - Similar to S151 but with (central) below the Arabic office name. Office name at top and bottom with a counter number. The counter number is to the left of the Arabic name at top and beneath the office name at the bottom.

It is not uncommon for a counter number to change its date type during its life.

Schematic with Gregorian date



Example with Hijra date

Varieties

Date in mixed figures

21



Gregorian date format

YYYY MM DD



Inverted day



Inverted month



Arabic counter number missing



Examples on Cover



1985 First day cover with RIYADH 6 having Gregorian date and RIYADH 1 with Hijra date (70%)



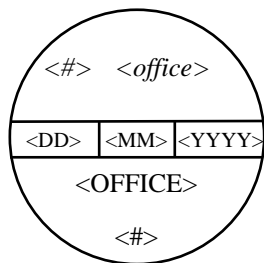
2006 Shari to Egypt with BURAYDAH 4 transit (70%)



Type S154 - Similar to S151 but used at sea and air ports. The counter number is to the left of the Arabic name at top and either beneath the office name at the bottom or incorporated into it, as in A.P. 4.

It is not uncommon for a counter number to change its date type during its life.

Schematic with
Gregorian date



Example with
Hijra date



Office name at bottom may be in
two or three lines



Varieties

Counter number
omitted



Example on Cover



**JEDDAH ISLAMIC SEA PORT 1. Card with German stamp,
posted at sea. (Reduced to 60%)**

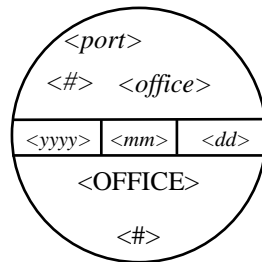


Type S155 - Similar to S154 but with (post) preceding the Arabic office name.

As with type S154, the office name at the bottom may be in two or three rows.

In the schematic diagram below, <port> will be either (airport) or (seaport).

**Schematic with
Hijra date**



**Example with
Gregorian date**

Example on Cover

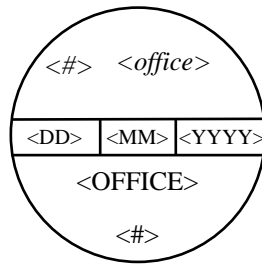


Riyadh local cover to KLM, Royal Dutch Airlines.



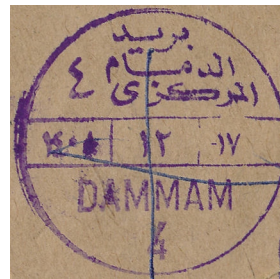
Type S156 - An amalgam of types S152 and S153.

Schematic with
Gregorian date



Example with
Hijra date

Top segment may be in two or
three lines

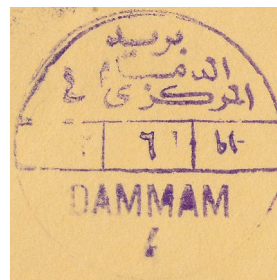


Varieties

Counter number omitted



Inverted day



Example on Cover

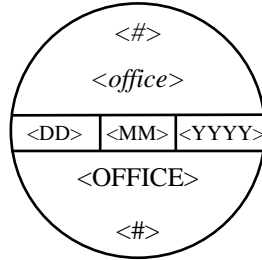


1986 Type S156 on cover posted in Al Sadawi and addressed to Ras Tanura. Al Sadawi is approximately 50 km south-east of Hafr Al Batin in Eastern Province. (80%)



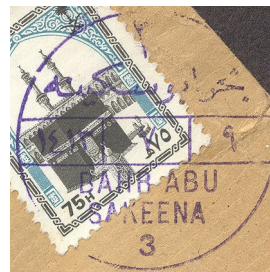
Type S157 - Similar to S151 but with Arabic counter number above the Arabic office name.

Schematic with Gregorian date



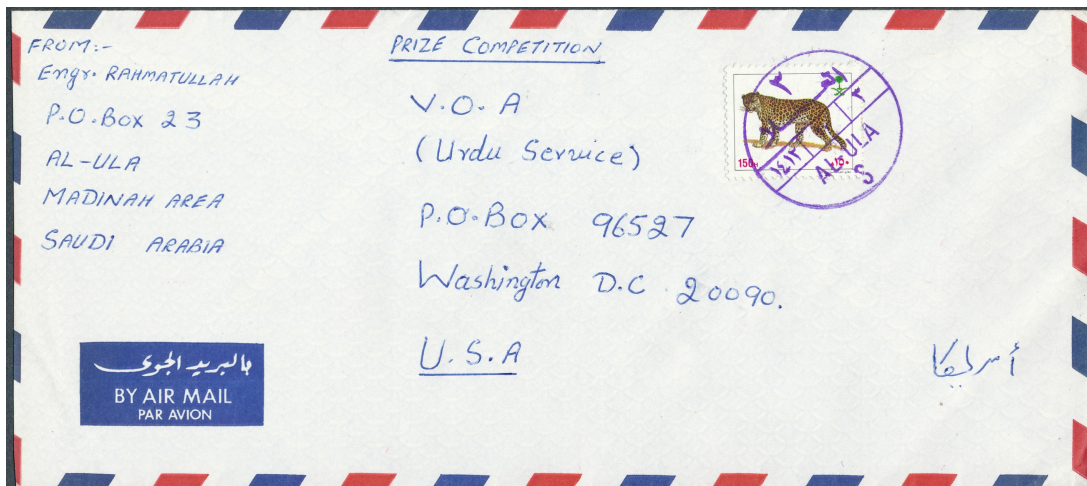
Example with Hijra date

Bottom office name may also be in two or three lines



When used for a port, the Arabic office name remains on one line

Example on Cover

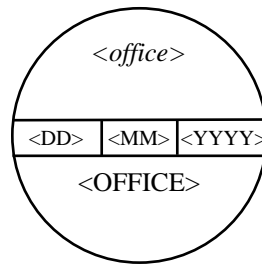


1992 Al Ula to U.S.A with AL-ULA 3. (Reduced to 60%)



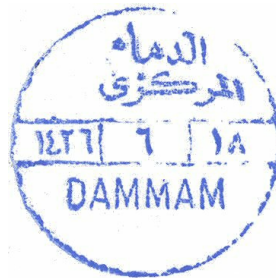
Type S158 - Similar to S150 but with (central) below the Arabic office name.

Schematic with
Gregorian date



Example shown in
RN52 page 15.

This type was illustrated in Random Notes 52 on page 15. The author has not seen any examples of this type and it is likely that it is merely type S153 but with the counter numbers either removed or not receiving ink. An example of DAMMAM 4 type S153 with the counter numbers digitally removed is shown below for comparison.



Unless anyone can confirm that the type exists with the text centred as in type S150, S158 will not appear in any future listings.



Type SH158 - As type S150, but incorporating "PILGRIM'S MAIL SERVICE" in English and Arabic. Used at special post offices during the Pilgrimage to Makkah (Hajj).

Schematic with
Gregorian date



Example with
Hijra date

All of the covers seen by the author bearing this type of postmark were posted on the 9, 10, 15, 16, 17th of Dhu'l-Hijja.

Example on Cover

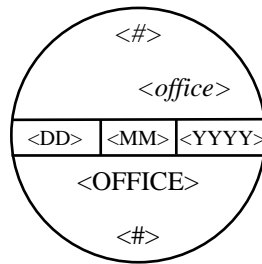


1996 An apparently non-philatelic use on cover from Makkah to Alexandria



Type S159 - Similar to S157 but with (central) following the Arabic office name.

Schematic with
Gregorian date



Example with
Hijra date

Example on Cover



Registered envelope from Najran to Bangladesh, postmark dated 11-6-1414 (24 November 1993)



Type S260- Similar to S157 for use at airports. There is additional text, curved to fit the circle, naming the airport. The Arabic text is in full but the English airport name is abbreviated.

Jeddah: K.A.I.A. POST

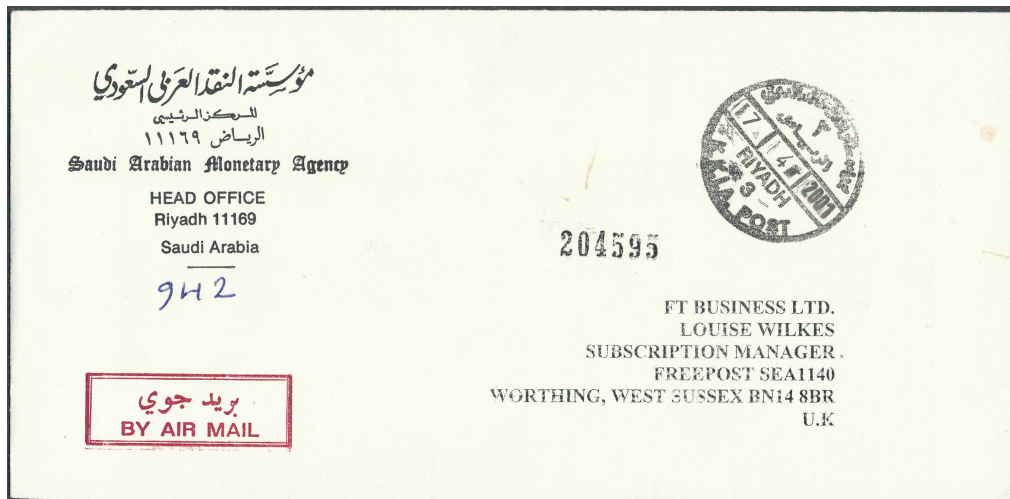
Riyadh: K.K.I.A. POST

Schematic with Hijra date



Example with Gregorian date

Example on Cover



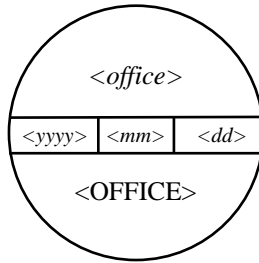
Official cover from The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency to England, postmark dated 17 April 2001.



Types not listed in Knight

Type S150A - Similar to S150 but with (post) above the Arabic office name.

Schematic with
Hihra date



Example with
Gregorian date

The only example with a Gregorian date
seen by the author. This also has the date in
the format YYYY MM DD

Example on Cover



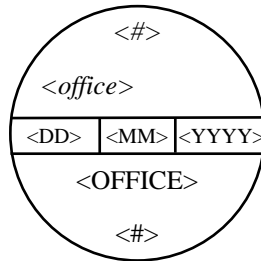
Registered envelope from Domat Al Jandal to Egypt, dated 19-3-1427 (18 April 2006) (70%)



Type S150B - Similar to S157 but with (post) preceding the Arabic office name.

All examples seen by the author have been from Al Confudah.

Schematic with
Gregorian date



Example with
Hijra date

Example on Cover



ALQUNFUDAH 1 in red used as an outbound transit mark on a cover from Al Muzaylif to Egypt, dated 10-8-1424 (7 October 2003) (70%)



Type S150C - EMS.

Schematic with
Gregorian date



Example with
Gregorian date

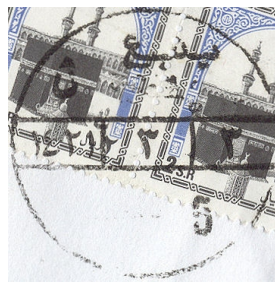
Varieties

YAMBO 5 has the Arabic *al bareed al mumtaz* removed and also YAMBO EMS either partially or fully removed. Presumably the removal was to allow the device to be used on ordinary mail. The exact spelling of Yambo is not known. Additionally, it is not known whether the complete YAMBO EMS 5 was ever used for the purpose originally intended.

YAMBO EMS
partially erased



YAMBO EMS
completely erased



Example on Cover



Revenue News

By: *Martin Lovegrove*

An unusual stamp turned up in a batch of passport pages I received recently. It is the common re-entry visa stamp but in a very strange shade, drab instead of the normal orange. It is perforated 13½ x 13¾. Had it not been on a passport page, I would have dismissed it as a colour changeling, perhaps by chemical means, but this example deserved further investigation.



Normal colour

Error shades



The passport page, dated 13 July 1982, was sold to me as a normal page and showed no sign of interference. When viewed using a microscope, it could be seen that the ink stood proud of the paper surface much more than that shown by a normal stamp, and the ink had almost a metallic look about it, almost as though the design had been made using solder.

I am sure that the ink initially applied was of the correct colour; there are very small parts of the design that show it.

I do not think we can rule out chemical contamination, but my feeling is that the problem occurred during the printing process. It may be that the ink was dried at too high a temperature or passed through the drying phase at a much slower speed than normal. It could, of course, have been an experimental printing. Perhaps someone knows the answer.

I have other similar pages, from 1980 and 1982 and singles in different shades.

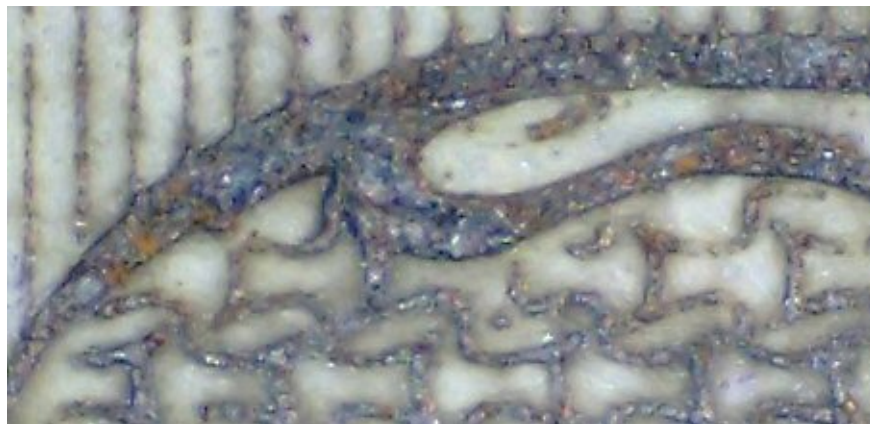




Metallic-looking ink standing proud of the paper surface



Normal



Normal orange colour showing in part of the design

The bi-colour version of the single-visit visa stamp exists on watermarked paper with security underprint and fluorescent security tagging (RP75u) and also on unwatermarked paper with (RP93) and without (RP93a) fluorescent security tagging. The catalogue numbers quoted are the numbers assigned in the next edition of Thoden. The stamps without security tagging should be treated with caution as it is easy to remove it.



RP75u



RP93a



Another revenue forgery has appeared; this time it is the bi-colour certification fee stamp. The forger did not go to the expense of producing recess plates but resorted to photo-litho. The result looked realistic but does not stand up to high magnification; a comparison is shown lower down the page.

The perforations actually appear to be irregular cuts, similar to rouletting, but may have been added after the stamp was removed from the printed sheet. The gauge is just under 20.

The paper is thick and with a textured surface.

This looks like a forgery to fool collectors rather than the authorities.



Several examples similar to the part document shown above have been seen and in all cases it is thought that the handstamps used to tie the stamp to the document, as well as the stamp itself, are forgeries.



Forgery



Genuine

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.ch/en/_news/ 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
Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions	http://www.kelleherauctions.com Auction house operating from Danbury, CT, USA. Very good catalogues.
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.
Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions	http://www.rumseyauctions.com

Useful links

http://www.oriold.unizh.ch//static/hegira.html	Date conversion sites
http://www.islamicfinder.org/dateConversion.php	
http://www.filatelia.fi/experts/	Experts
http://www.wnsstamps.ch	WADP Numbering System - WNS.