



الجمعية الدولية للطوابع البريدية العربية
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International
Random Notes



June 2014

NUMBER 87

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(See article starting on [page 17](#))

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: martin@weatherings.fsnet.co.uk, (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 #87

Assembled by the Editor

There are lots of pages this time and I hope there is something of interest for you.

Your editor met Ken Knight recently and saw some of his postmark material that has yet to be published. He has items that can add to previously recorded postmark types and a lot of 'Al Mumtaz' material that can be the basis for an article.

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

Now for the notes.

1. The unissued Falcon stamps that featured in Random Notes #86 were noted in the production book kept by the Government Printing Press in Riyadh during a visit by APA members on 15 March 1975. Also noted in the book were the 12 qirsh Arabian Horses, 13, 14, 26 qirsh Colonnade and a 17 qirsh Madayin Saleh. Thanks to Dr. Elias Kawar I now have scans of them all apart from the latter.



2. In Random Notes #84 a Philby Cover franked with Caliphate issue stamps, was described as an outstanding cover. I have some more details about this cover.

As with many Philby covers to his mother, the date of receipt appears in manuscript. In this case, 15 January 1925. Also in manuscript is the date either of posting or when the letter was ready for posting; in this case 30 December 1924 and written as 30-xii-24. I have seen this on other Philby covers of the period. The DJEDDAH postmark appears as 28 3 934 . The Gregorian date is obviously incorrect, but the Hijra date corresponds to 2 December 1924; something like 3-6-1343 is expected.



Jiddah
30-xii-24



Details from the Philby 'Outstanding cover'.

From an earlier Philby cover



I have a slightly earlier cover from Philby to his mother. This one was received on 31 December 1924 with Philby's manuscript date on the reverse 19-xii-24. In this case the DJEDDAH postmark is 19 2 934 ; the Hijra date is correct but the Gregorian month and year are not. These were 'interesting times' in Jeddah and perhaps the postal staff had other things on their minds. The siege of Jeddah began 4 January 1925.

3. Illustrated on the next page is a cover that caught my eye on the internet and as the vendor was at spring Stampex in London, I was able to look at it closely. It is an insured cover from Medina to Paris with many transit marks, but my initial attention focused on the Saudi postmarks. Starting at the point of origin, the COLIS MEDINE is a parcels cancel of a type not listed in the articles by Ken Knight. The MANDATS DJEDDAH mark is type ST100, a rare type intended for transfer mail. The routing revealed by the marks on the reverse was:

MEDINE 11 May 1939
 DJEDDAH 13 May 1939
 PORT TAUFIQ 17 May 1939
 BANHA (STATION) 17 May 1939
 ALEXANDRIA date unclear ?? May 1939
 GENOVA 22 May 1939
 GENOVA 23 May 1939
 TORINO 23 May 1939
 MILANO 23 May 1939

The pink declared value on the front looked like the usual type for that period, but with added interest. Note the spelling 'Valenr DècIarêe' (should be Valeur déclarée). But there is one final point that postal historians may be able to help me with; why are there no French marks recording the receipt of this insured letter?

4. Some items that fit nicely into the 'Saudi Sidelines' theme:

21 March 2004 — The 20th GCC Traffic Week began across all six-member countries yesterday morning. All GCC traffic directorates began extensive media campaigns to impress on road users that all sectors of society have a role to play to ensure road safety - hence this year's slogan "Traffic Safety Is a Collective Responsibility".



The first GCC traffic week was launched in 1984 and focused on the importance of using seatbelts. Twenty years later, in Saudi Arabia in particular, road safety remains a major issue.



I understand that the translation is:

"ARBOR WEEK THE TREE IS NATURE'S BEAUTY & SHADE WITH COMPLIMENTS OF THE CENTRAL TAIF POST"

This was seen on a cover from Al Khormah to Riyadh dated 27 February 1988.



50
 زون قومه
 Valenci D'clarée

13
 R
 المدينة
 MEDINA
 12 10 194
 12

D: H. Cléry
 Dumesny,
 Pharmacien
 18 rue de Maubeuge
 Paris
 France



5. **Fake or Fortune?** There is one stamp that I am not entirely comfortable with. The item in question is one of the Nejd rarities, the second handstamp in black on the Makkah Arms qirsh (Scott 38A, SG 224a). I have a copy and have seen scans of a few more. So let us consider the pros and cons:

In favour of being genuine:

The shape of the handstamp looks right and does not match any forgeries listed in the forgeries manual.

Some of the stamps I know have recognised certificates and have backstamps of John Wilson and David Graham.

Very few copies are known; surely more would exist if it was a forgery.

In favour of it being a forgery:

The ink looks watery; most unlike any other Nejd second handstamp impression.

The two examples shown below are from plate position 13 of the first state of the qirsh plate. Positions 13 and 19 were damaged and replaced to produce the second main state of the plate. Although stock control may not have been a strong point of the Hejaz postal authorities, the fact that two sheets were involved with this rare overprint, give cause to query these stamps.



Both stamps position 13, state 1



Scott 38A, SG 224a



Scott 38B, SG 224



Scott 41, SG 227

The enlargements of the handstamps enable a comparison to be made between known genuine items and SG 224a.



6. Every now and then an unrecorded example of an old postmark turns up. This one is similar to type S60 but with the office name at the bottom in Arabic. Unfortunately, the top line in unreadable (to me!). It is dated 20 September 1961/10-4-1381. Perhaps someone has a better copy and can tell us what the top line is.



7. It was reported in RN17.7 that covers of the bogus overprinted Malaria issue existed with the genuine Riyadh FDC cancel. Here is an unaddressed cover with some of these stamps and a genuine RYAD registered cancel type SR50 for 25 August 1962. It is obviously a favour cancel.

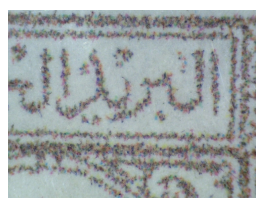
An article about these overprinted stamps appeared as an attachment to RN10 and is included in the bound copy of Random Notes as RN10.5-7.



8. A forgery of the 20 qirsh 1949 air stamp has been seen. It was printed on luminescent paper using the photo-litho process. This is quite a recent forgery and there is a good chance that the other values in this set will appear.



Forgery



Forgery



Genuine

9. I have been made aware of two Hejaz items that have not appeared in Random Notes. They both belong to the 3-line Jeddah overprint postage due series and are different colour handstamps on the 2 qirsh orange. The first shown below has a violet handstamp and the other, apparently postally used, is gold on black. I am informed that the latter was from the Farouk collection.



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 martin@weatherings.fsnet.co.uk).

Saudi Arabian Butterflies

By: D.E.Jessich



A set of eight butterflies native to the Kingdom was issued on August 20, 2007 in two values, SR 2 and SR 3. The photos are identical, with only the backgrounds differing; the SR 2 has eight different earth-tone nature scenes while the SR 3 has one common mauve-colored design. Smaller copies of the butterflies fill the selvedge on three sides. Across the top margin of the SR 2 sheet, stamp “c” is in the upper left corner and the logo for the Saudi Post is in the upper right. For the SR 3 sheet, stamp “a” is used in the upper left.

While there may be many Lepidoptera philatelists out there, I wanted to give the common name for each butterfly’s scientific name, which was printed in English on each stamp. The Saudi Post selected butterflies from four Nymphalidae (brush-footed), three Pieridae (yellow and whites) and one Papilionoidea (swallowtails) families.

It is unfortunate that three of the eight stamps have spelling errors and two have the incorrect scientific names. These errors are repeated in both Scott’s 2014 and Stanley Gibbons 2009 catalogs as well as on the Universal Postal Union (UPU) official website.

Many thanks go to Dr. Torben Larsen who assisted me in this discovery. His seminal text, Butterflies of Saudi Arabia and its Neighbours, published in 1984 by Stacey International, London was a great resource.



| <u>Scott</u> | <u>Gibbons</u> | <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Scientific Name</u> | <u>Remarks</u> |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1388a, 89a | 2171, 79 | Yellow Pansy | <i>Junonia hierta</i> | |
| 1388b, 89b | 2172, 80 | Desert Fritillary | <i>Melitaea deserticola</i> | |
| 1388c, 89c | 2173, 81 | Blue Pansy | <i>Junonia orithya orithya</i> | Genus name is misspelled. Stamp shows " <i>Funonia</i> ". Should be " <i>Junonia</i> " |
| 1388d, 89d | 2174, 82 | Grass Yellow | <i>Eurema hecabe</i> | Butterfly shown is not <i>Junonia orithya cheesmani</i> , It is <i>Junonia orithya orithya</i> . <i>Cheesmani</i> has blue forewings, while the <i>orithya</i> has white ones. |
| 1388e, 89e | 2175, 83 | Common Lime | <i>Papilio demoleus</i> | Genus name is misspelled. Stamp shows " <i>Eyrema</i> ". Should be " <i>Eurema</i> " |
| 1388f, 89f | 2176, 84 | Clouded Yellow | <i>Colias croceus</i> | Genus name is misspelled (but also wrong). Stamp shows " <i>Colitis</i> ". Should be " <i>Colias</i> " |
| 1388g, 89g | 2177, 85 | Blue Spotted Arab | <i>Colotis phisadia</i> | Species name is misspelled (but also wrong). Stamp shows " <i>calas</i> ". Should be " <i>calais</i> ". |
| 1388h, 89h | 2178, 86 | Painted Lady | <i>Vanessa cardui</i> | Butterfly shown is not <i>Colotis calais</i> . It is <i>Colias croceus</i> . <i>Calais</i> has two dots on each forewing, the <i>croceus</i> has only one. |



Scott 1388c, 1389c



Blue Pansy
(*Junonia orithya orithya*)

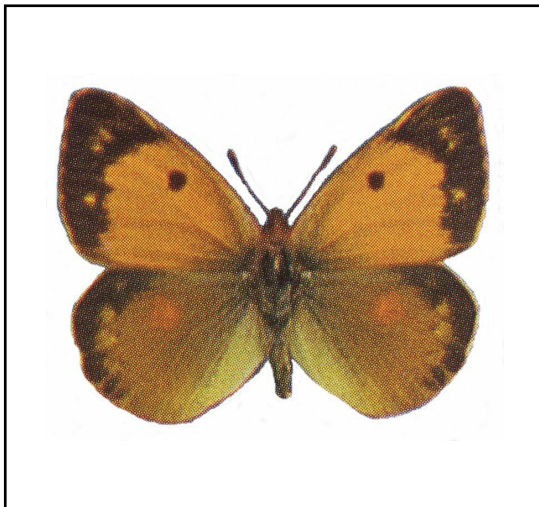
White in forewings



Blue Pansy
(*Junonia orithya chessmani*)

Blue forewings

Scott 1388f, 1389f



Clouded Yellow
(*Colias croceus*)

One dot on each forewing

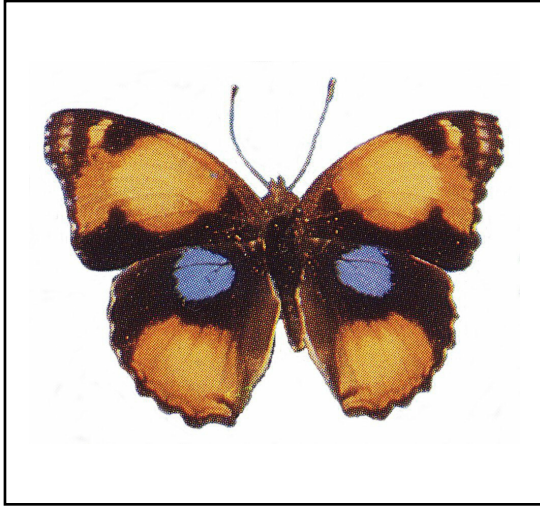


Small Salmon Arab
(*Colotis calais*)

Two dots on forewings



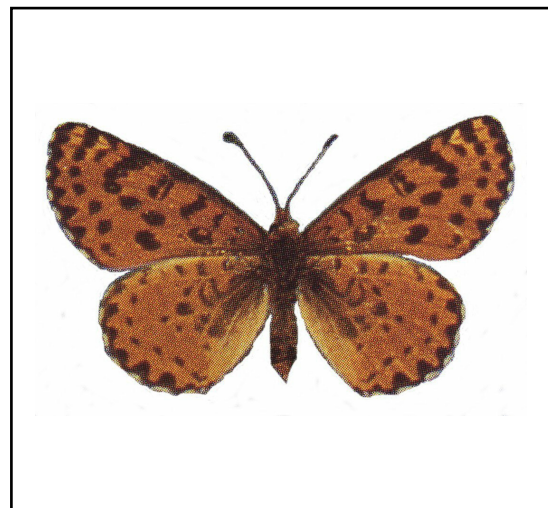
Scott 1388a, 1389a



Yellow Pansy
(*Junonia hierta*)

Nymphalid butterfly found in South Asia.
It is usually seen in open scrub and
grassland habitats.

Scott 1388b, 1389b



Desert Fritillary
(*Melitaea deserticola*)

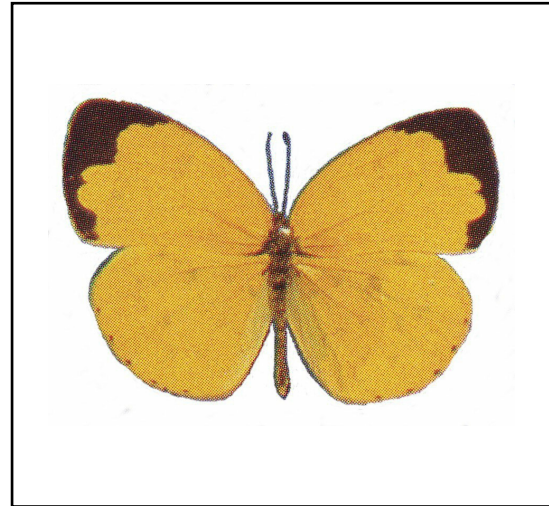
Another nymphalid found in North Africa
(Morocco, Algeria, Libya and Egypt),
Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and
Yemen.



Scott 1388d, 1389d

Grass Yellow
(*Eurema hecabe*)

A small pierid butterfly found in Asia. They fly close to the ground and are found in open grass and scrub habitats.



Scott 1388e, 1389e

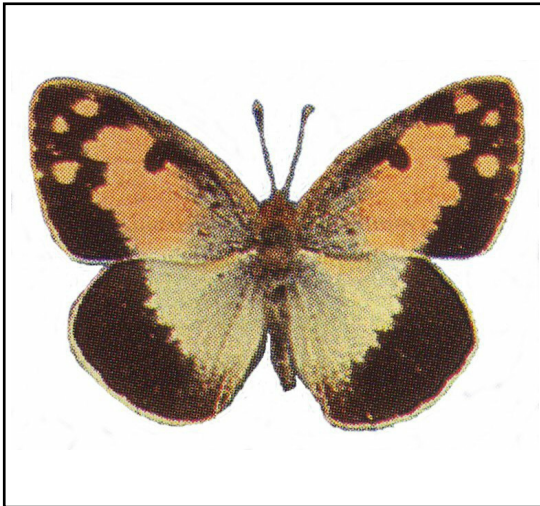


Common Lime
(*Papilio demoleus*)

A common and widespread swallowtail butterfly. It gets its name from its host plants which are usually citrus species. Unlike most swallowtail butterflies it does not have a prominent tail.



Scott 1388g, 1389g



Blue-spotted Arab
(*Colotis phisadia*)

A small butterfly of the Family Pieridae, that is, the Yellows and Whites, which are found in India.

Scott 1388h, 1389h

Painted Lady
(*Vanessa cardui*)

A well-known colorful butterfly, sometimes known in North America as the Cosmopolitan. It is one of the most widespread of all butterflies, found on every continent except Antarctica.



Interesting CASOC Cover

By: J. I. Kearney

On the Pacific Clipper Postal History Web Site an interesting CASOC cover was pictured and it is shown below:



The cover is interesting for two major reasons - one, the author of the article entitled "Covers That Missed The Last Pacific Clipper Flights", makes the argument that the cover missed the last flight from Asia and travelled by ship to the USA, and two, the unusual postage rate of 35½ guerche.

The owner of the cover reports in correspondence with this collector that "The censorship office in San Francisco did not exist until after the Japanese attack on Pearl (Harbor). The last Pacific



Clipper to arrive in San Francisco carrying mail was the China Clipper on Dec. 6, 1941. The Anzac Clipper arrived back in SF on December 7, but carried no mail, as it arrived in Hawaii during the Japanese attack. The Censor Office in San Francisco did not open until Dec. 15 or 16, 1941. Any cover that has a San Francisco censor, was not flown on a trans-pacific Clipper." Note this cover has a San Francisco censor tape.

I believe the cover probably departed Bahrain on Flight BOAC NE140 on the morning of 24 November 1941 (the cover has a Khobar cds of 23 Nov 1941). Bahrain backstamp is not readable. Then it traveled to Singapore arriving there probably on 27 November or Sydney on 1 December. If the cover missed NE140 then Flight NE141 departed Bahrain 27 November arriving in Singapore 30 November and Sydney 4 December. The owner states "The cover was originally intended to connect with Pan Am's Pacific Clipper service at either Singapore or Auckland. By the time the cover reached Singapore or Sydney, it was too late to catch the last Clipper from either location." Aitink and Hovenkamp in their book Bridging the Continents in Wartime state the China Clipper "left Singapore on the 30th November and arrived at San Francisco on the 6th December". In their book the table of FAM14 flights reports the China Clipper departed Singapore on 29 November. Based on the limited amount of information that was available to the author, about the only thing known with certainty is that the cover travelled by ship because of the San Francisco censorship.



As to the postage, contrast this cover with the 65½ guerche above. Note there are not many 1941 covers from Khobar that travelled eastward to the United States. Is it possible that the 65½ guerche cover was a double weight cover (it is manuscripted 20 gr. in pencil on the face). There is a very faint 10 gr. manuscript on the 35½ guerche cover. Then assuming there was some basic postage for any cover, assume 5½ guerche, then would the postage calculation be as follows:

For the 35½ guerche: 10 grams airmail surcharge would be 30 guerche

For the 65½ guerche: 20 grams airmail surcharge would be 2 x 30 guerche resulting in a 60 guerche airmail surcharge.

Editors notes:

The above cover appeared in Jim Kearney's article in RN83.

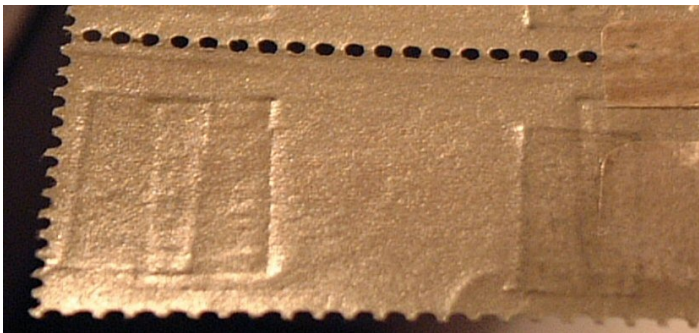
King Ali Issues : Definitives

Update to Random Notes 63 and 64

By Martin Lovegrove

In Random Notes #63, Willie King commented '*Altogether the collecting of the King Ali stamp issues can be a rewarding collecting experience and is thoroughly recommended by the author.*' This article attempts to show that the study of these stamps can be rewarding and that there is more to these stamps than the many varieties of the Cairo overprints.

Differentiating between the Jeddah I and II printings is not always easy and it is wise to use a combination of the methods given in previous editions of this journal. There is however, one method that has yet to be formally revealed. The Jeddah I overprints were produced from a plate containing 25 clichés, but the sheet of stamps had 50. From the study of stamps in my collection, it would appear that the sheet was folded in two before the overprint was applied; this may have been a restriction imposed by the press, or done just for convenience. The outcome of this is that if sufficient pressure is applied during the application of the overprint, then an albino impression would be applied to the gummed side of the other half of the sheet. So for mint stamps, look at the gummed side and if there is an albino impression, then you will almost certainly have a Jeddah I. I have very few mint Jeddah I stamps without this impression. Jeddah II overprints, being from a plate of 50 clichés, should not show this feature. All of my Jeddah I sheets have been folded.



Albino impression on gummed side of Jeddah I printing

In the checklist at RN63.6 the 10 qirsh Jeddah I year left was not listed; I have a copy.

The checklist did not list the Cairo printings in blue with the overprint sideways (horizontal). The following perforated values exist with the year at top:

, ¼, ½, 1, 1½, 3, 5

The following imperforate values exist with the year at top:

, ½, 1½, 2 and the 10 qirsh with centre omitted.

It is probable that all of the values up to 5 qirsh exist imperforate.



With the printing of Jeddah I being done in two stages, there is potential for the second impression being inverted in relation to the first, giving rise to tête-bêche pairs from the centre of the sheet (See RN64). Illustrated here is one such pair and does of course include the 10 qirsh 'year at left' mentioned on the previous page.

It is not known whether such pairs exist for all values.



Another error that can occur on Jeddah I is that one half of the sheet can be overprinted more than once. This is shown at left on the 5 qirsh; it is not known whether it occurs on any other value.

Perforation errors on Jeddah I are not common; a selection is shown below:



Vertically imperforate 2 qirsh blue with red controls, medium setting.



1 qirsh with black controls, narrow setting, imperforate between stamp and margin.



1 qirsh with black controls, narrow setting, imperforate between stamps and also margin.



1 qirsh with black controls, medium setting, imperforate between stamps and also margin.



1 qirsh with black controls, medium setting, apparently imperforate, but may be the same as at left with the perforations removed.



Now for some important news about the introduction of the King Ali stamps. The reports I have seen would appear to be based on the information contained in Daisy Warin's book. The book states:

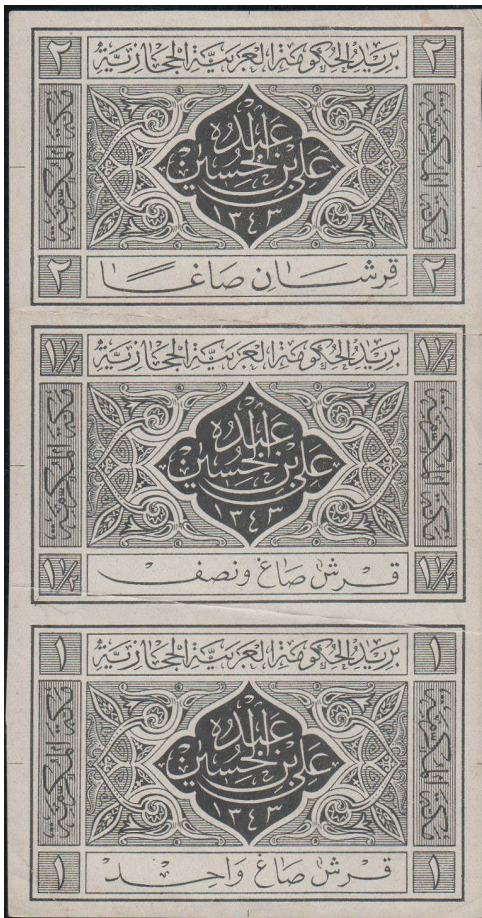
...the Government decided that a fresh supply was needed, and upon which the name of the King should appear. No promise of prompt delivery being forthcoming from the Survey of Egypt, the order was placed with Messrs. Mourafatti, of Cairo.

I had always assumed that this meant that Mourafatti were responsible for the complete process from design to printing. This may not be the case.

It is reported that early in 1914, the archives of the Survey of Egypt (SoE) containing essays of Egypt and other Arab countries were sold. Amongst these were essays of the King Ali stamps. If these facts are correct, it would appear that the design work was undertaken by the SoE but they could not give a printing date that suited the Hejaz government. It is not known who produced the printing plates, but judging from the normal-size stamps from the SoE archives, the completed and approved designs were handed over to Mourafatti for printing.

I have had the opportunity to examine some of these essays and there is nothing visually that causes me any concern. The stamps I have seen are lithographed, in black and on different types of paper and with a quality superior to that of the issued stamps.

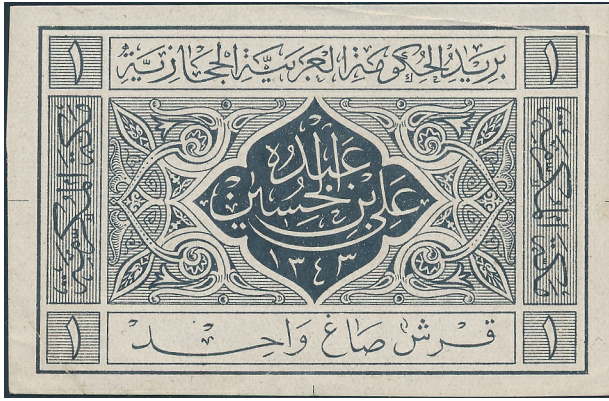
Se-tenant strips of three



Large size imperforate essays, 72mm x 46mm, and perforated normal size strips contain the 1, 1½ and 2 qirsh values. The large size strip has marginal guide lines at the outer edge of the block at the mid point of each design. These can be seen clearly on the full size image on the next page.

Note that the design of the 1½ qirsh was changed slightly for the issued stamps.





Large essay - full size



Essay and released design for 1½ qirsh - full size



Several values, perhaps all, were printed on thin glassine paper 0.001 inches thick. Separate prints were produced for the 10 qirsh value; the frame is the same as the multitude of 'colour trials' that we see, but the centre has additional corner guide marks.



Centre for the 10 qirsh and showing corner guide marks



5 qirsh on thin glassine paper

Examples of essays on buff paper also exist; two such items are shown.

The author would like to receive any information about these stamps and also of the sale of the SoE archives.



The SR100, S170, S171, Sx175 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.

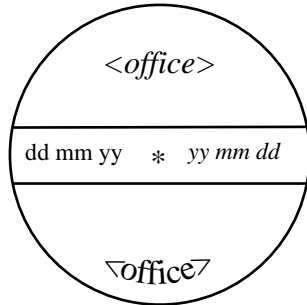
The SR100, S170, S171, Sx175 series of postal cancellations were widely used throughout the Kingdom, starting in the mid nineteen-sixties and used in all sizes of settlements, from villages to cities, and even districts within cities. The design is based on a circle normally having a diameter of about 39 millimetres, and a central horizontal datebelt the Gregorian and Hijra date. The top segment is used for Arabic text written in a straight line and the bottom for English or French, curved to fit the circle. The top of the Arabic may be curved to fit the circumference of the postmark. There are several variations of the basic design and these were allocated separate type designations. 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.

Although some of these marks display the intended use for the device, the actual use seems to have been somewhat indiscriminate.



Type S170 - Office name only at top and bottom

Diameter in range 35 - 40 mm. Only JEDDAH has been seen in two different sizes.



In the list of offices for this and other types, items marked * have not been seen by the author.

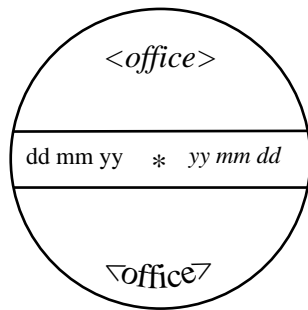
| Office | Colour | |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------|
| ABHA | <unknown> | * |
| AL-HAFR | <unknown> | * |
| AL-KHAFJI | Violet | |
| AL-MANDAK | <unknown> | * |
| ARAFAT | Violet | |
| DAMMAM | Violet | |
| DHAHRAN A.P. | Violet | |
| FAIFA | <unknown> | * |
| HAYEL | Black | |
| HOTAT B. TAMEEM | <unknown> | * |
| JEDDAH | Violet | 35 mm diameter |
| JEDDAH | Violet | 39 mm diameter |
| MECCA | Violet | |
| MEDINA | Black | |
| QURAYAT | Violet | |
| RIYADH | Violet | |
| RUFAIDAH | <unknown> | * |
| SAFANIYA | <unknown> | * |
| SAFWA | <unknown> | * |
| SEHAT | <unknown> | * |
| TABUK | Violet | |
| UNAIZAH | <unknown> | * |
| YANBOU | <unknown> | * |

Note that the ARAFAT mark illustrated above does not have the '*' separating the dates.



Type SD170 - For outgoing mail. The Arabic

"*sadir*" (outgoing) is above the datebelt.



Office

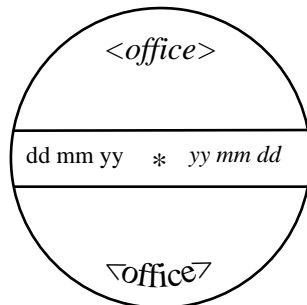
Colour

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|---|
| ABHA | <unknown> | * |
| AL-HAFR | <unknown> | * |
| AL-HASA | Violet | |
| AL-KHAFJI | Violet | |
| AL-KHARJ | Black | |
| AL-QATEEF | Violet | |
| BADR | <unknown> | * |
| BADUR | Violet | |
| BALJURASHI | <unknown> | * |
| BRAIDAH | Violet | |
| DHAHRAN A.P. | Violet | |
| HOTAT B. TAMEEM | <unknown> | * |
| KUNFODAH | Violet | |
| MECCA | Black | * |
| MEDINA | Black | |
| QATEEF | <unknown> | * |
| RANYA | <unknown> | * |
| SAFWA | <unknown> | * |
| SUDAIR | Violet | |
| TAIF | Violet | |



Type SDFO170 - For ordinary outgoing foreign mail. The Arabic *khariji sadir*" (ordinary foreign outgoing) is above the datebelt.

"'adi



Office

Colour

RIYADH

Violet

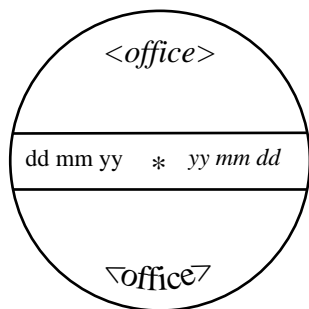


(Reduced)



Type SDO170 - For ordinary outgoing mail. The Arabic outgoing) is above the datebelt.

"'adi sadir" (ordinary



Office

Colour

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| DHAHRAN A.P. | Violet |
| H.ORAIMAL | Violet |
| MECCA | Violet |
| MEDINA | Black |
| RIYADH | Violet |

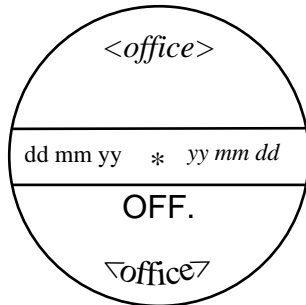


Makkah to Dhahran, registered not ordinary mail, 11 March 1976



Type SG170 - For official use. The Arabic and OFF. beneath it.

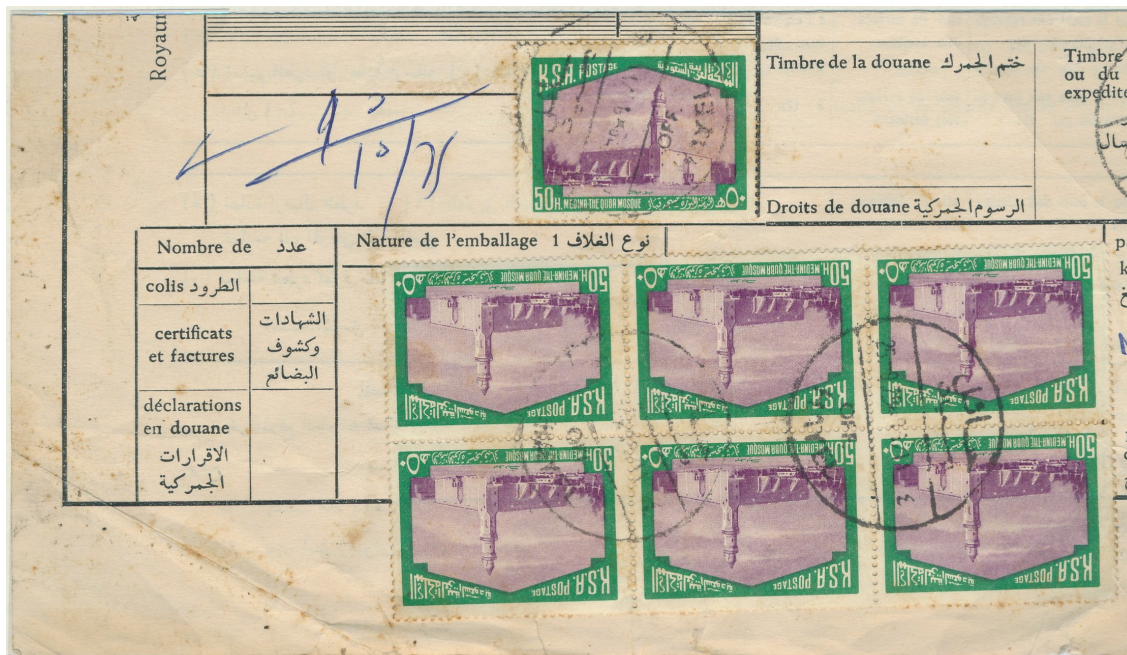
"*rasmiyat*" (official) is above the datebelt



Office

Colour

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|---|
| ABHA | <unknown> | * |
| AL-HASA | Violet | |
| AL-KHARJ | <unknown> | * |
| BISHA | Violet | |
| HAYEL | Black | |
| HOTAT B. TAMEEM | Violet | |



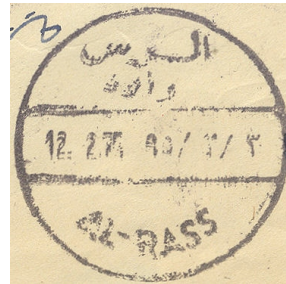
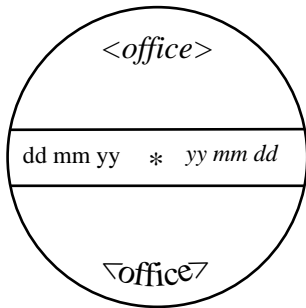
Part of parcel card from Ha'il showing three strikes of HAYEL type SG170. (reduced)

Note. The author has not seen any of this type actually used on official mail.



Type SI170 - For incoming mail. The Arabic

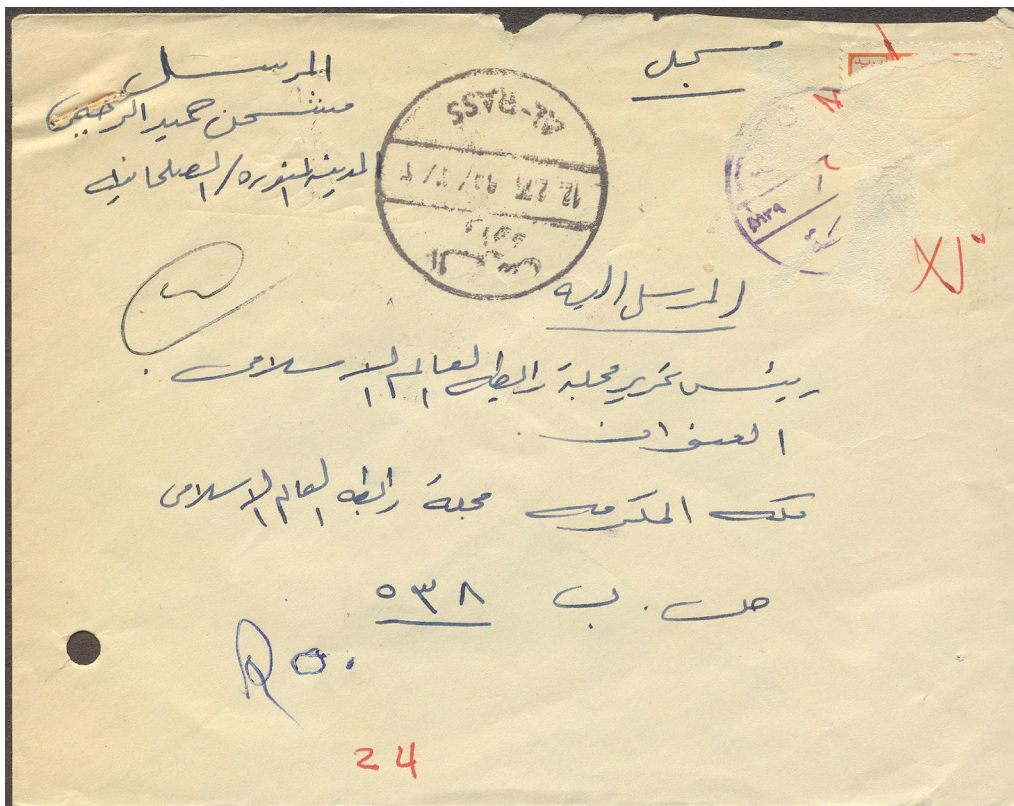
"warid" (receiving) is above the datebelt.



Office

Colour

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|---|
| AFIF | <unknown> | * |
| AL-KHAFJI | <unknown> | * |
| AL-RASS | Black | |
| DAMMAM | Black | |
| DAMMAM | Violet | |
| HASSA | Violet | |

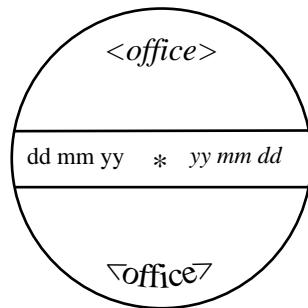


Why was the stamp cancelled in red manuscript and removed?



Type SO170 - For ordinary (not registered) mail. The Arabic above the datebelt.

"adi" (ordinary) is



Office

Colour

AL-JOUF
YANBOU

Violet
Violet

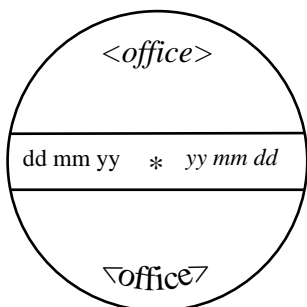


Type SO170 used on registered mail



Type SRD170 - For registered outgoing mail. The Arabic "al musajjalat al sadirat" (outgoing registered) is above the datebelt.

"al musajjalat al



Office

Colour

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|---|
| DHAHRAN A.P. | <unknown> | * |
| JEDDAH | Violet | |
| MEDINA | Black | |
| MEDINA | Violet | |
| RIYADH | Violet | |

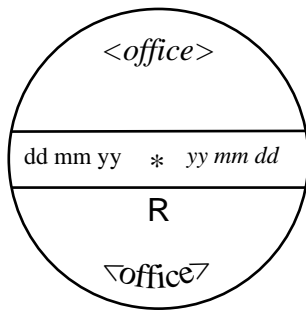


Sanction-busting mail from Medina to Nicosia, 8 December 1969



Type SR100 - For registered mail. The Arabic the datebelt and R beneath it.

"*musajjalat*" (registered) is above



Office

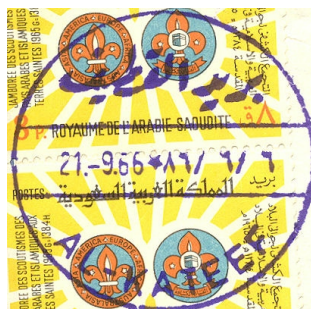
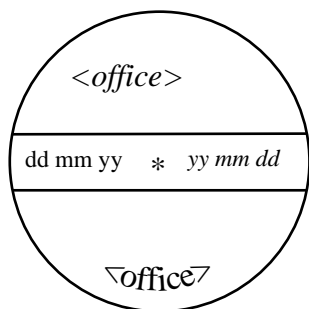
Colour

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| AFIF | Violet |
| AL-HASA | Violet |
| AL-KHAFJI | Violet |
| BALJURASHI | Violet |
| BEESHA | Violet |
| BRAIDAH | <unknown> * |
| DAMMAM | Violet |
| GIZAN | Violet |
| OMLUJ | Violet |
| SHAQRA | Violet |
| TAIMA | Violet |
| TRAIIF | <unknown> * |
| YANBOU | Violet |



Type S171 - As S170 but with the Arabic office name.

"barid" (post) preceding the Arabic office name.



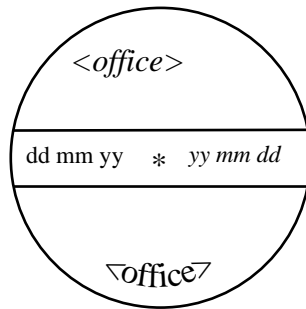
Office

Colour

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|---|
| ABHA | Violet | * |
| AFLAJ | Violet | |
| AL-KATEEF | Violet | |
| DJEDDAH | Violet | |
| KHAIBAR | <unknown> | * |
| MAJMAA | <unknown> | * |



Type SD175 - For outgoing mail. The Arabic "barid" (post) precedes the Arabic office name and "qism al sadir" (outgoing section) is above the datebelt.



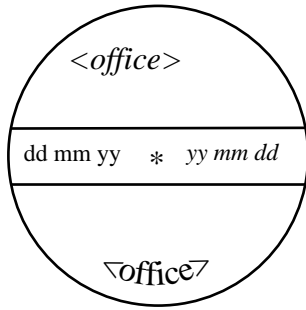
Office

Colour

| | |
|----------|----------|
| AL-RASS | Violet |
| BURAIDAH | Violet |
| KHARJ | Violet * |
| MAJMAA | Violet |
| ONAIZA | Violet |
| SHAQRA | Violet |



Type SDF175 - For foreign outgoing mail. The Arabic "barid" (post) precedes the Arabic office name and "al sadir al khariji" (outgoing foreign) is above the datebelt.



Office

Colour

DAMMAM

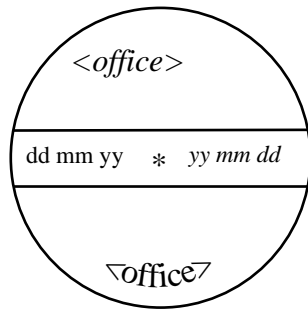
Blue

DAMMAM

Violet



Type SI175 - For incoming mail. The Arabic "barid" (post) precedes the Arabic office name and "qism al warid" (incoming section) is above the datebelt.



Office

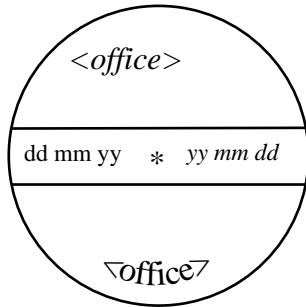
Colour

ABHA
KHARJ

Violet
Violet



Type SIF175 - For incoming foreign mail. The Arabic "barid" (post) precedes the Arabic office name and "al warid al khariji" (foreign incoming) is above the datebelt.



Office

DAMMAM

Colour

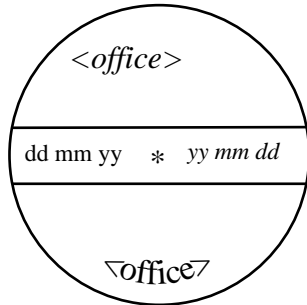
Violet



SIF175 used as a receiving mark on undelivered mail returned from Canada



Type SR175 - For registered mail. The Arabic "barid" (post) precedes the Arabic office name and "qism al musajjalat" (registered section) is above the datebelt.



Office

Colour

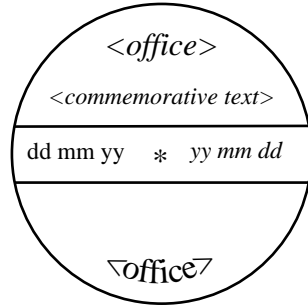
| | |
|---------------|--------|
| AL DURMA ** | Violet |
| AL-KATEEF | Violet |
| KHAMIS MASHIT | Violet |
| KHARJ | Violet |
| KONFUDAH | Violet |

** The office name at the bottom was unreadable on the only example seen by the author.



Types not listed in Knight

Type S170-A - Similar to S170 but with commemorative text in Arabic above the datebelt.



The only text seen by the author is (International Correspondence Week).
 The actual Arabic on the only examples seen by the author is not clear, so may differ from that given above)

Office

Colour

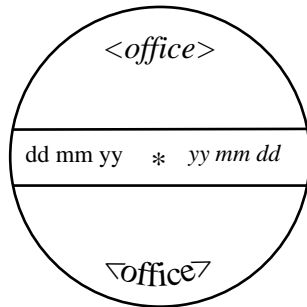
JEDDAH
 RIYADH

Violet
 Violet



Type S170-BI - For incoming foreign mail. The Arabic "*al tanfeez al khariji al warid*" (incoming foreign handling) is above the datebelt.

"al tanfeez al



Office

Colour

JEDDAH

Violet

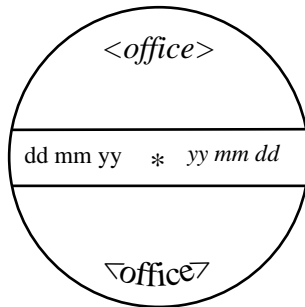


S170-BI on outgoing registered foreign mail



Type S170-BO - For outgoing foreign mail. The Arabic *khariji al sadir* (outgoing foreign handling) is above the datebelt.

"al tanfeez al



Office

Colour

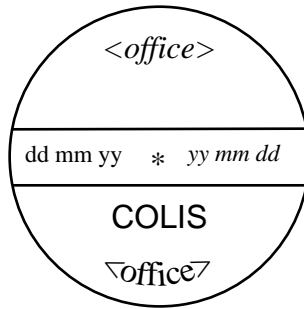
JEDDAH

Violet



Type S170-C - For outgoing parcels. The Arabic parcels) is above the datebelt and COLIS beneath it.

"torood sadir" (outgoing



Seen used on normal postage from Dhahran and on a parcel receipt document.

Office

Colour

DHAHRAN-AIRPORT
DJEDDAH

Violet
Violet

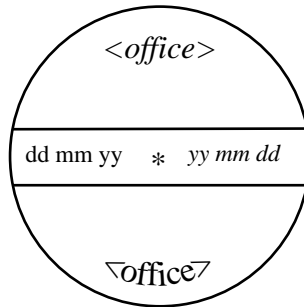


Although the postmark is dated 1976, the Hijra date is for Ramadhan 1383, making the posting some time in January 1964.



Type S170-D - For registered foreign mail. The Arabic "al musajjalat al kharijiat" (foreign registered) is above the datebelt.

"al musajjalat al



Office

Colour

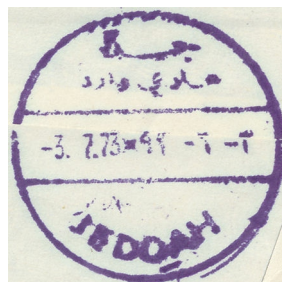
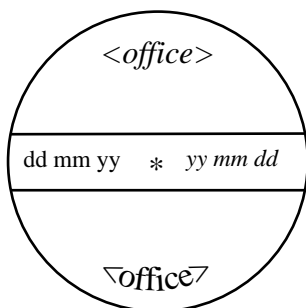
MECCA

Violet



Type S170-E - For ordinary (not registered) incoming mail. The Arabic "warid" (ordinary incoming) is above the datebelt.

"'adi



Receiving mark on the registered cover shown below.

| Office | Colour | Diameter |
|--------|--------|----------|
| JEDDAH | Violet | 34mm |

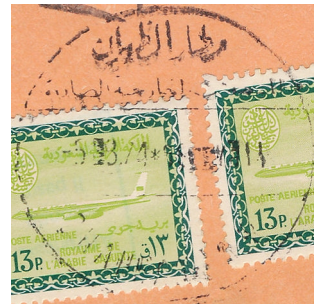
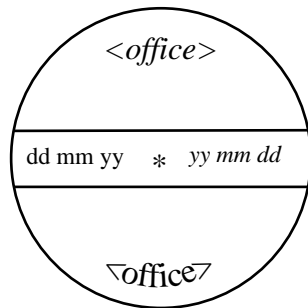


The JEDDAH mark belongs to the S170 family but of a type still to be identified. In the early 1960s, Dar Al Asfahani & Co printed some of the Saudi Arabian postage stamps.



Type S170-F - For registered foreign outgoing mail. The Arabic *musajjalat al kharijat al sadirat* (foreign registered outgoing) is above the datebelt.

"al



Example from cover below

Office

Colour

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| DHAHRAN A.P. | Violet |
| DHAHRAN A.P. | Black |
| RIYADH | Violet |

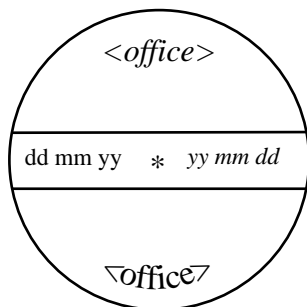


From Dhahran (6 August 1974) to Italy (reduced to 90%)



Type S170-G - For registered incoming mail. The Arabic "al musajjalat al waridat" (registered incoming) is above the datebelt.

"al musajjalat al



Office

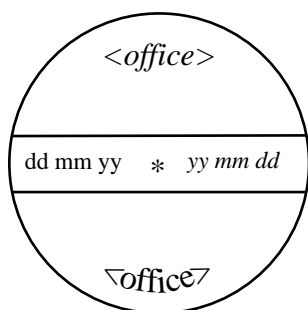
MECCA
RIYADH

Colour

Violet
Violet

Type S170-Ga - For registered incoming mail. The Arabic "al musajjalat waridah" (registered incoming) is above the datebelt.

"al musajjalat



Note the slightly different Arabic spelling of waridat with the final character being instead of .

Office

MEDINA

Colour

Black

One the next page is a rather tatty cover, but with a good TAIMA SR100, MEDINA S170-Ga and a rare Taima registration label. Both postmarks are for 15 June 1973.



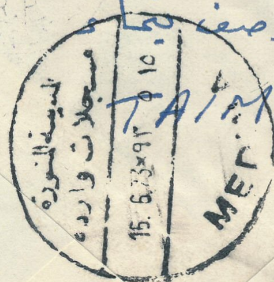
تيماء
 No. 489
 ٤٨٩
 مسجل R



معاهد لتعليم لبريطانية (قسم ٤٤) بناية جابر لاصباح
 شارع الكوروز ولويو - الحجاز ص.ب. (٦٠٨١)
 بيروت - لبنان

٥٥٦
 ١١٧

لله العربي ال
 توصيف تيماء



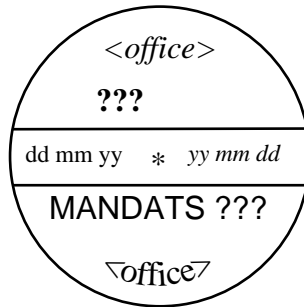
July 74
 467 175

(Reduced to 90%)



Type S170-I - For transit mail. The Arabic ??? above the datebelt and MANDATS ??? below.

"hawalat ????" (??? transfer) is



Office

Colour

YANBO

Violet

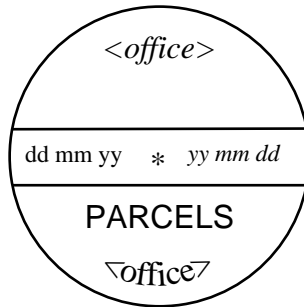
In the only example seen, the second Arabic word was unreadable as was the word following MANDATS.



1966 Yambo to BBC in London. Unfortunately the postmark is not clear enough to be able to determine the exact wording.



Type S170-J - For parcels. The Arabic "torood" (parcels) is above the datebelt and PARCELS beneath it.

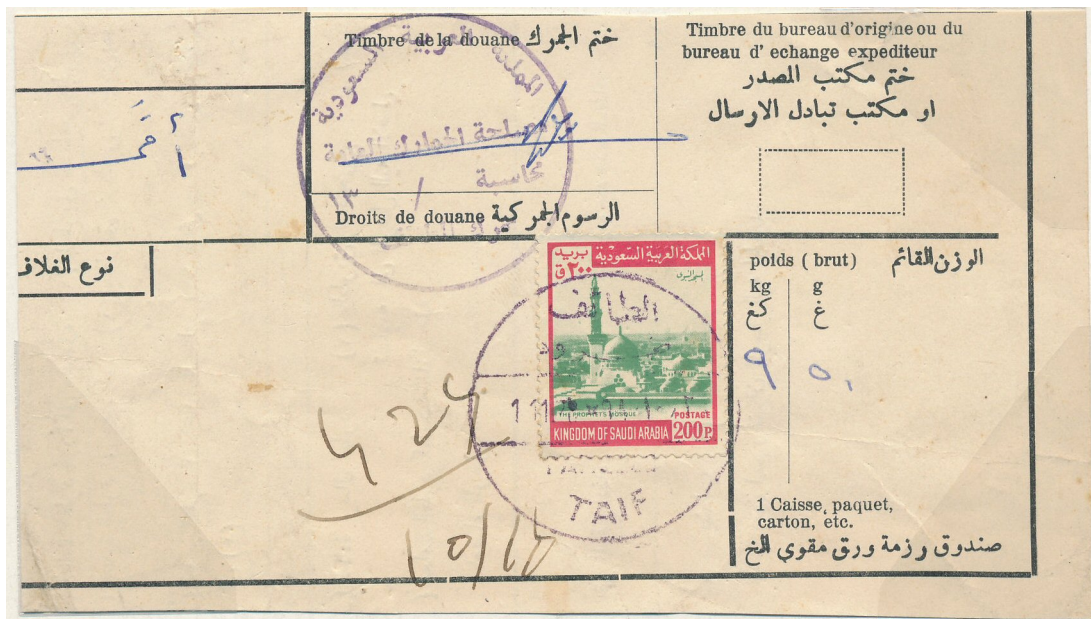


Office

Colour

TAIF

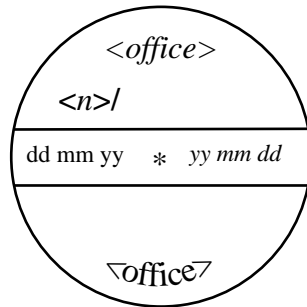
Violet



1978. Part of parcel card from Taif



Type S170-K - For ordinary outgoing mail. The Arabic "*adi sadir*" (ordinary outgoing) is above the datebelt. Following there is a forward slash followed by a counter number. Unusually, the counter number is not repeated beneath the datebelt.



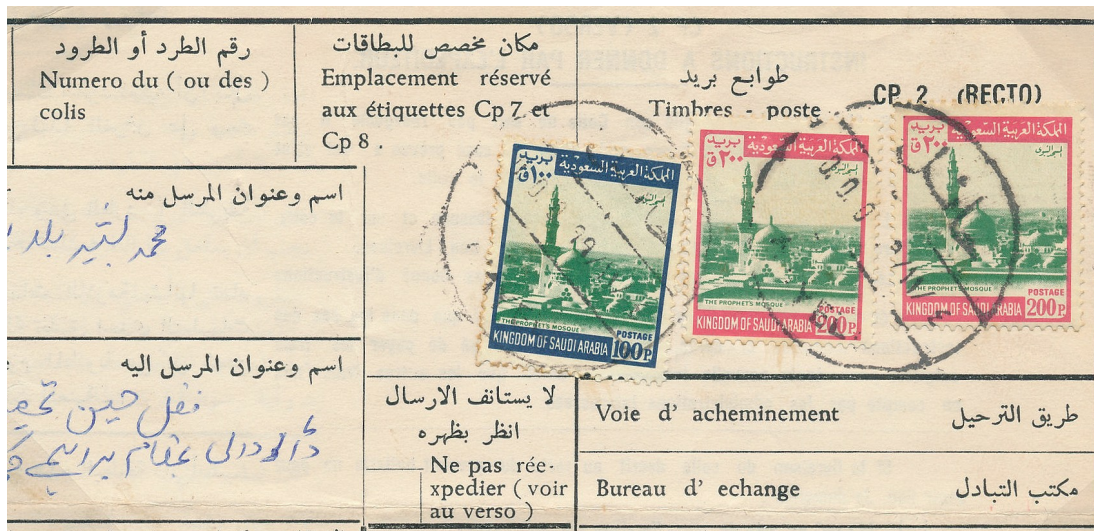
Office

Colour

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| DHAHRAN A.P. (1) | Violet |
| DHAHRAN A.P. (3) | Violet |
| DHAHRAN A.P. (5) | Black |
| DHAHRAN A.P. (5) | Violet |



Unlike the S150 series described in RN86, the marks belonging to the subject series have displayed very few errors, and those seen by the author could easily be described as varieties. There are the inevitable date errors and also variations in the date element separators; nothing of major interest.



Part of parcel receipt with HAYEL cancels showing the Gregorian date as 0.0.0

There are some marks that would appear to belong to the series described, but await positive identification. Only one is clear enough for reproduction below.

The author welcomes any help in identifying the mark shown below or information on type not described in this article.



The text immediately above the datebelt may be / (registered / internal incoming) but confirmation or correction is welcome.

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| Filatco | http://www.filatco.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.post | WADP Numbering System - WNS. |