



الجمعية الدولية للطوابع البريدية العربية  
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International  
Random Notes



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Mystery explained. (See [page 12](#))

## 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: [martin@weatherings.fsnet.co.uk](mailto: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'udiyyah 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 #90

*Assembled by the Editor*

This may well be my last RN. I took the helm in 2002 with RN59 when we had a few contributors, but there are far fewer now and I am struggling to fill the pages on my own. I would like to hand over to someone with the time, and a collection, to be able to fill most of the journal on their own. If there are no volunteers, I can remain as editor, but only that. I will assemble RN from contributions by members with my input being limited to occasional notes. I need the time to get my accumulations out of boxes and drawers and mount them properly. If you are interested, please contact the editor.

It is a shorter RN this time, and for the usual reason - lack of contributions.

Now for the notes:

1. A version of the Al Khobar type SR20c not listed by Ken Knight has been found. The listed version is KHOBAR R-5 and has the Arabic above the date belt reading *tasjeel R5*. The new one has the Arabic *tasjeel R6* but only KHOBAR R beneath the datebelt. There are also differences in the lower ornaments.



تسجيل ر ٥

◀ R-5 ▶



تسجيل ر ٦

◀ R ▶

2. The stamp to the left of SG S292a seems to have had a foreign object on the plate that gives the impression that the paper has been scuffed. The object moved during the print run and may not be present on all stamps in this plate position. The largest marks are indicated below and there is some evidence that smaller marks also exist.



3. Has anyone got a clearer image of this unlisted DHAHRAN-AIRPORT cancel? I have included a schematic diagram of what it may be like, but the Arabic text is not clear and my interpretation may not be correct.



Example 1



Example 2



4. The new style barcode postage labels appear to be having problems. The first example has an unreadable barcode. In this case it would appear that many of the narrow black bars have been joined to an adjacent wide black bar, and in several places the positioning is wrong. The correct Code 128 version is shown below the label.

This label was for domestic postage with destination in Arabic (Riyadh). Top line is 'ordinary - within region'.



Above: Office shown as Al begadhiah

Left: Office with new name and unreadable barcode

Post office 22800 was just Al begadhiah on the previous style of label but it is now Al Begadiyah Al Dawadmi (in Arabic).

The next problem example is a misplaced print. Label shows nothing about the type of mail or the originating office. It is actually from the Al Nasr Postal Agency in the Al Worood district of Riyadh. Misplaced prints have been seen from other offices such as the University Educational Hospital post office, Al Khobar.



5. Forgeries continue to appear on eBay and in an attempt to persuade the bidders that the items are genuine, 'expert' marks have been forged as well. The block of four shows attempts at David Graham marks and the vertical pair shows the 'ela' handstamp appearing in manuscript!

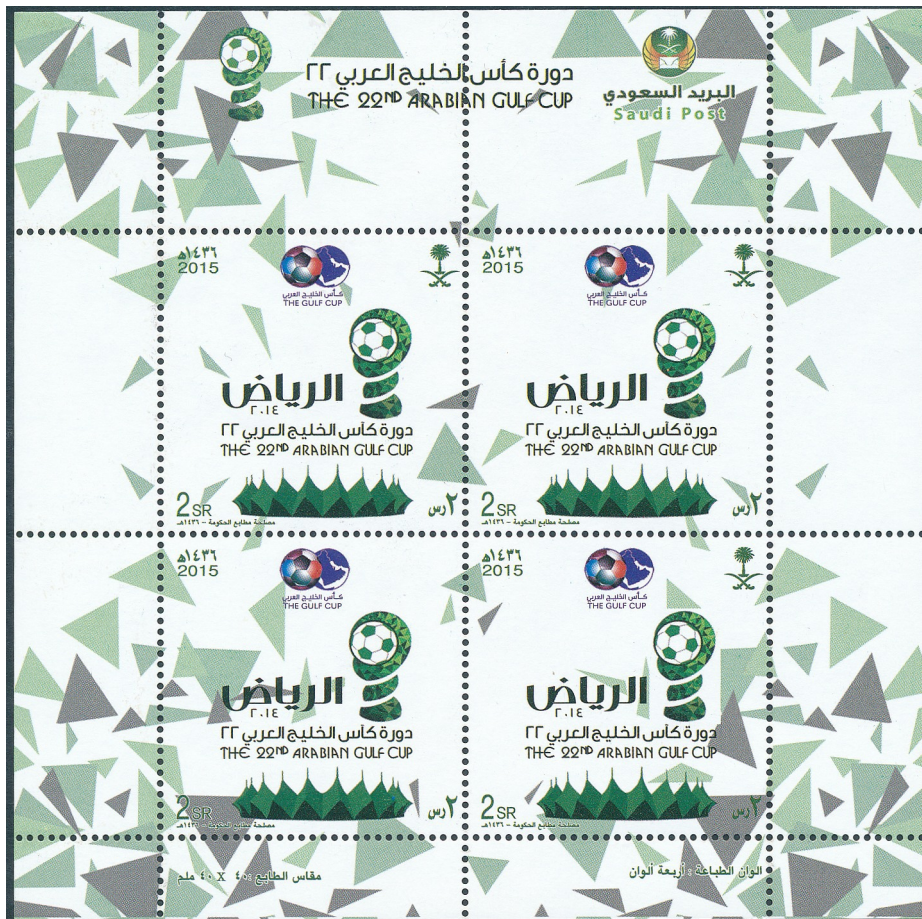


Hopefully no-one was fooled by this; the stamps and overprints are all forgeries.

6. A nice item for Hejaz collectors is this misplaced 3-line overprint. Such happenings are not rare, but in this case the stamp is from position 33 (bottom line of sheet) and the overprints from positions 3 and 4 (top line of sheet). The Caliphate overprint is position 33. Perhaps this is a case of a sheet remainder of a single row receiving the overprint.



7. The stamp issued for the 22nd Arabian Gulf Cup in 2015 has an added twist. The sheet of four stamps shows that each stamp has a different background and as a bonus, the stamp in position 3 has the Saudi emblem omitted. I understand that Scott will be listing this issue as four separate stamps.



8. The 2015 Allegiance to Crown Prince Naif sheet of four stamps gives us some perforation varieties above the top row of stamps with either none, one or two single extension holes. There may be more varieties on this issue; I have yet to see any on the 2015 Allegiance to deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.



# Framed Kaaba Wide Tooth

*By: David Jessich*



The framed Kaaba series of definitives was first issued in 1986. To date there are seven values, two papers and two perforations. As I was sorting through my huge cache of Brylcreem covers, I noticed that a couple of the 75h Framed Kaabas (Scott 987, SG 1451) seemed to be wider than the rest. This was made more obvious by the fact that the stamps had been used on brown envelopes. When I looked closely, I discovered that the top and bottom rows of perforations had a wider tooth on the right-hand edge.

## Background

Wide-tooth stamps are well known to Saudi philatelists, primarily in the Dam-Gosp-Air series, where they are constant throughout the sheet in both the Saud and Faisal De La Rue (non-watermarked) printings. They also exist in a more recent issue of the 25h small Khafji (Scott 1300A, SG 2011).



Scott 401, SG 696





**Perf 14**  
**Scott 1300A, SG 2011**



**Perf 14 x 13.7**  
**Scott 1300A, SG 2011a**

Another example of wide teeth is in the revenue series of passport stamps, RP52. However, in that case, not all stamps in the group have wide teeth, only some of them. As I have not seen complete sheets of these revenues, I am assuming that the wide teeth are a result of an offset (of the vertical perforations) at either the first or last column of the sheet.

I make this guess because a similar offset occurred when printing the wide-margin DGAs, where only the bottom row of the sheet has a wide tooth.



**Scott 265, SG 489**

I will even go so far as to predict that since the wide tooth is on the right, that the wide column will be the first column.



**Scott C32, SG 492**





In any case, it is assumed that the wide column was a result of a shift in the perforating process for that first row (or last, depending on how the paper was fed into the machine). Since not every sheet has this, it is assumed that it was an adjustment that got loose, which resulted in some of the stamps in the sheet being slightly larger. So far only the 75h value has been seen with a wide tooth and only on the right.

### Details

The stamp measures 1mm wider than a normal stamp. Both stamps have 15 perforations horizontally, so they will both gauge at perf 12. But for the specialized collector, this is a significant variety. If anyone has a sheet (or blocks) with wide teeth (of any stamp), please contact the author.



RP52

Scott 987, SG 1251



## Framed Kaaba Checklist

<u>Value</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>SG</u>	<u>Notes</u>
30h	984	1448	
40h	985	1449	
50h	986	1450	
75h	987	1451	
75h	987	1451	Wide tooth
75h	987a	1451a	Perf 14
100h	987B	1451ba	Red
100h	988	1451b	Green
150h	989	1452	
150h	989	1452	Luminescent Paper
150h	989	1452	Broken frame
150h	989a	1452a	Perf 14
2r	990	1454	
2r	990a	1454a	Perf 14



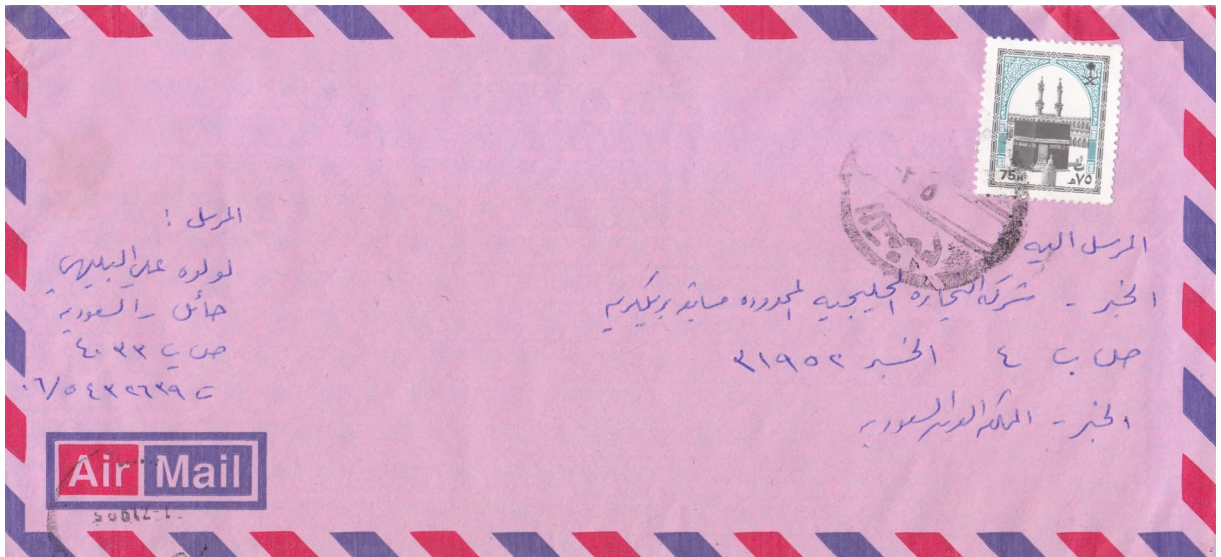
**Original Printing**

**Later Printing**

**Scott 987, SG 1251  
Under Long-Wave UV Light**



Framed Kaaba Wide Tooth  
(From the Bylcreem Competition)



Hand Cancel S200H, Dammam, July 1, 1995



Machine Cancel SM40L, Al-Khobar, July 1, 1995

# Feldman Lot 50180

By: *Martin Lovegrove*

In the David Feldman auction held on 8 December 2015 in Geneva, lot 50180 had some interesting material yet attracted little interest from bidders and even the describer.

The lot was a stockbook containing Saudi-related material from Ottoman times up to about 1988. A label stuck to the inside of the front cover indicated that the stamps one belonged to David G Newton who served as political officer in Jeddah from 1970 to 1973 and later became U.S. Ambassador to Iraq and Yemen.

The entire contents of the lot were illustrated on the internet but the description was somewhat vague:

*1892-1963 Mixed lot of odds and ends in green stockbook including a fine array of Ottoman cancels on stamps with a wide range of towns and cancel types, some Hejaz & Nejd, plus some modern postal history and cancels, mixed to very fine (Est. € 600/800)*

The hammer price achieved was €650 plus 20% buyers commission.

So what was actually in the lot? Well, there were four Hejaz revenues; nothing special apart from the double print, imperforate, 1 qirsh proportional documentary RQ12 var.

There was a good range of cancels on piece, mainly from the period when David Newton was in Jeddah. Two items were from Dr Randall Baker, one of which was a registered postcard from Khaibar to his wife in Jeddah. The postmark was a poor type S25 but quite rare, as is the Khaibar registration label. The card routed via Medina where it received a type S170-Ga mark as described in Random Notes #87.44.



Above: RQ12 var

Left: A Dr Randall Baker personalised postcard to his wife in Jeddah.



There were some Ottoman cancels including some with a high rating from Coles and Walker (C&W). The spelling of town names below is as listed by C&W.



**Mecca, C&W 41,  
rating 25**



**Yanbo el Bahr,  
C&W 47, rating 25**



**Mikhail, listed but no illustration  
in C&W, rating 25**



Another interesting item was an Ottoman KAYBER (HÉDYÉ). This is not listed in C&W but is mentioned by Jakob von Uexkull in *The Early Postal History of Saudi Arabia* (JvU). On page 69 he mentions that this postmark is included in the PTT archives as a proof impression but not known postally used.

The final item of note was a ZUMRUD postmark. This is C&W type C3 but is not listed by them. It is mentioned in JvU where it is noted 'Railway station 20 km North of Bir-el-Jedit, on the pilgrim route. Office listed 1902-16. Daytime telegrammes in Turkish only. No postmarks recorded'.



I believe that the main stamps in the lot were some Makkah Arms essays, presumably mistaken by the describer for common issued stamps.

In *Random Notes #52*, David Graham wrote an article 'COMMENTS ON THE MAKKAH ARMS ISSUE' in which he described an imperforate 1½ qirsh in a shade of red very like that of the ½q. This stamp was illustrated in *Random Notes #88.7*. The article went on to comment on a collection of Makkah Arms essays he saw in Tarik Alireza's collection. Feldman lot 50180 contained a similar collection. I will list the stamps as described by David:

- 1 on cream paper, perf. 11½, in a deeper shade of violet than the issued stamp.
- 2 on coarse light brown paper, like many of the cheap manila envelopes, in deep red, not far different from the normal ½q colour. Perforations are an uneven 11 at right, too uneven to measure at left, and look like teeth marks at the bottom, and with an imperf. margin at top - a sort of mixture that only the Makkah Press could contrive!
- 3 dull maroon on cream paper, perf 11½ (good)
- 4 lake brown on cream, perf 11½ (rough)
- 5 pale dull scarlet on cream, perf 11½ (very rough)
- 6 dull scarlet on cream, perf 11½ (good on three sides, the fourth has a sort of small bite-mark)
- 7 indigo on cream, perf 11½ (good)
- 8 blue black on manila (perf 11½ with some blind on right side and rough 11 ½ at top; perf. about 5 (teeth marks) at bottom.



The following images are from the auction lot and are numbered according to David Graham's list.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

A close examination of stamp (2) could explain the problems David had in measuring the perforations. Several rows and columns received two strikes of the line perforator very close together, and it can be seen from the image below that at the top and left, only some of the perforations from each strike had the paper removed, producing a ragged effect.



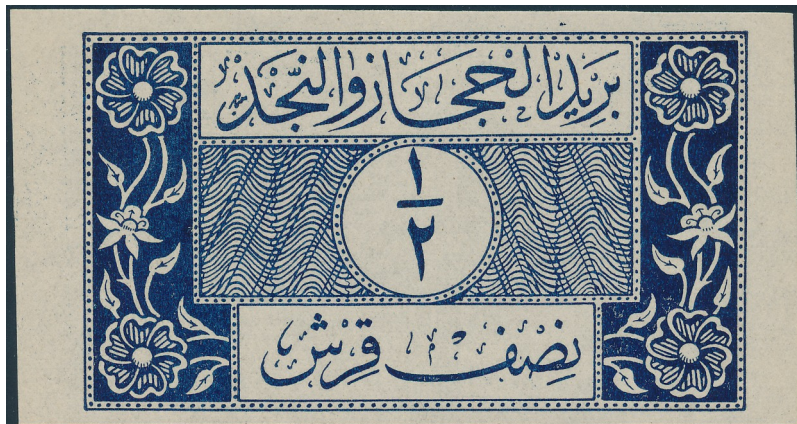
Are these essays genuine? Another copy was illustrated in Random Notes #88.7 and that copy was signed by both David Graham and John Wilson. I think we have to take their word for it. Thank you Feldman for a very good auction lot.

# Hejaz-Nejd Large Size Essay

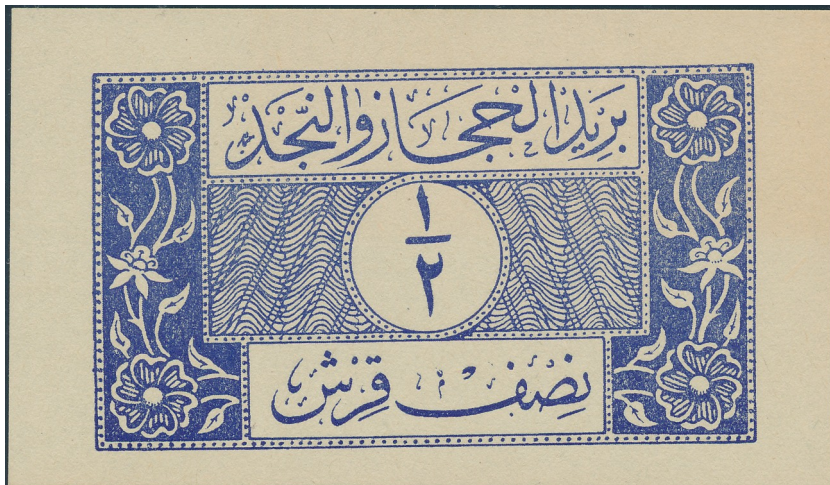
*By: Martin Lovegrove*

Occasionally examples of the Hejaz Nejd large size essays appear on eBay, and not always at attractive prices. The majority are forgeries, and in most cases it is possible to identify them as such.

The design of the essays differ from the released stamps in that the genuine essays have Arabic at the top that reads '*barid al hejaz wa al nejd*' but was changed in the final design to '*barid al hejaz wa nejd*'



**Genuine**



**Forgery**

## Source

All of the genuine examples have been cut from sheets containing three large size (87 x 49) essays and normally four smaller (35 x 20) ones. The sizes stated are approximate and in millimetres. Two of the smaller size stamps are printed in the main colour for the sheet and the other two, when printed, are in violet. Gummed and ungummed sheets have been seen by the author. An example sheet is shown on the next page. Mayo has a comprehensive listing of these sheets; not all have been seen by the author.

## Paper Size

Many of the forgeries in the author's collection are neatly cut from a larger sheet and with large margins around the design. It can be seen from the example on the next page that genuine examples cannot have large margins on all sides; the ½ qirsh can only have large margins on two sides.

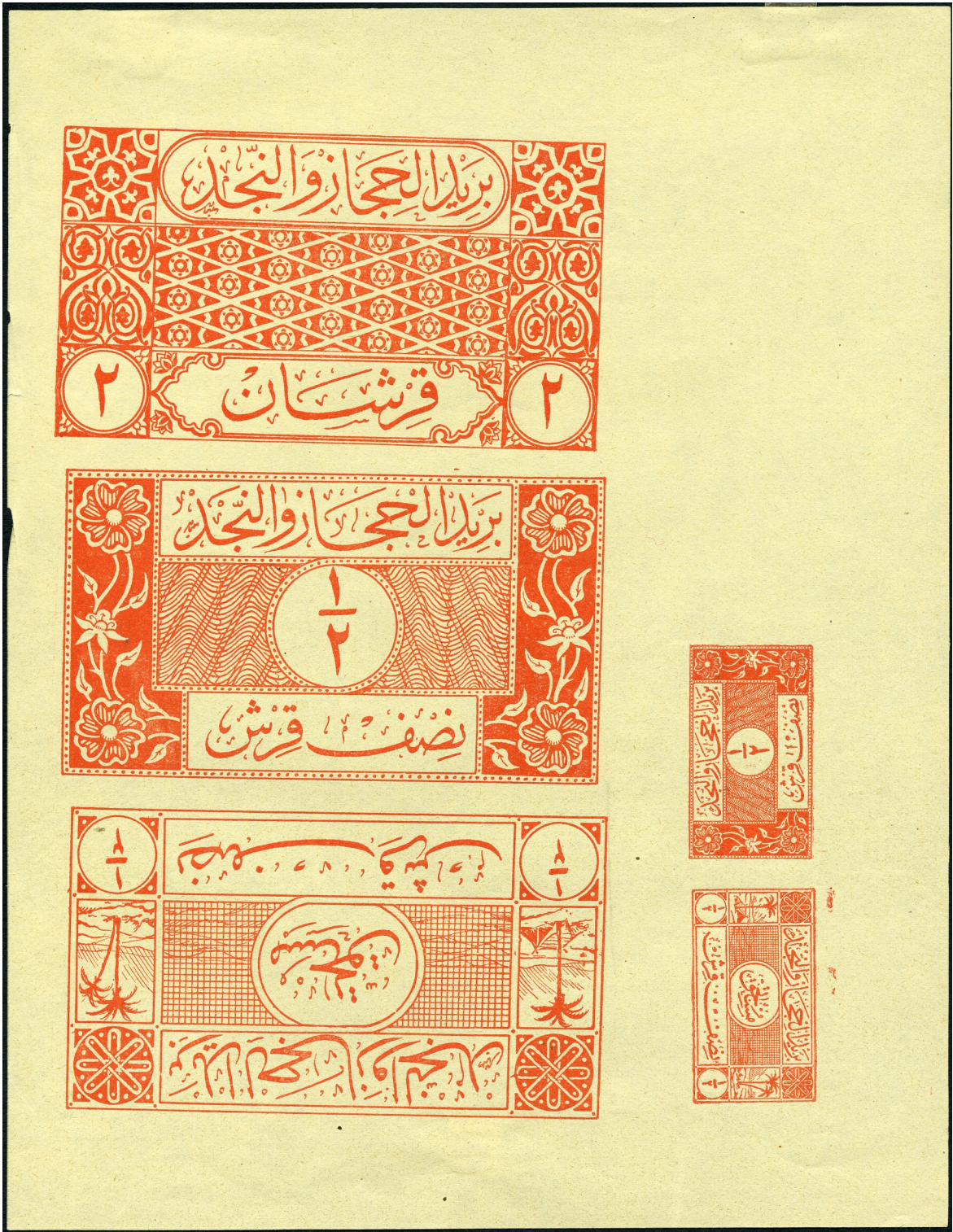




Genuine essay sheet







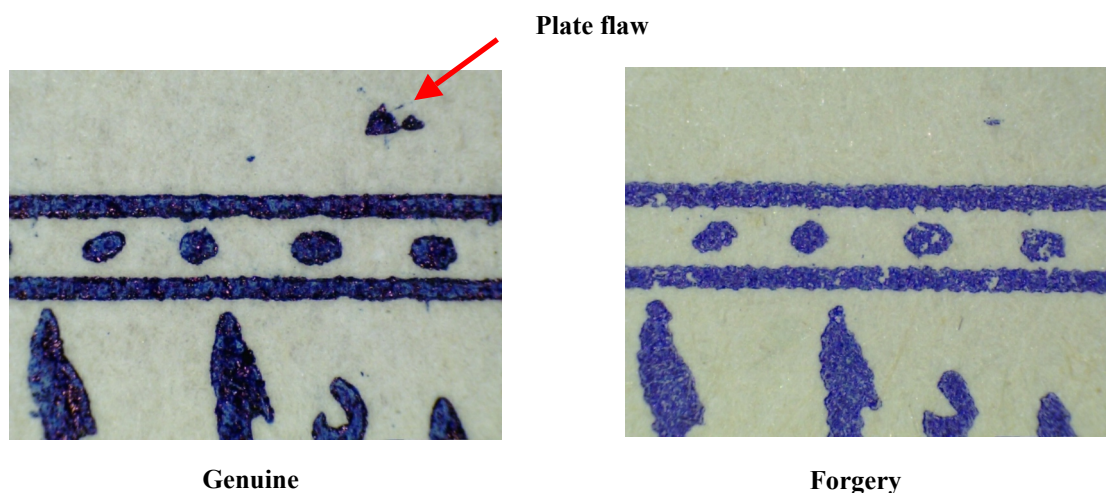
Genuine essay sheet with only two small size stamps



## Print quality

As with many forgeries the print quality is not as good as the genuine item, but it is obvious that the forgeries were produced professionally, so careful inspection is required. In general, the appearance is 'flat' with not much evidence of the ink squash expected for a relief-printed stamp and it is possible that lithography was used. The design on the forged stamps is accurate which suggests that the plates were produced from photographs, but in that process, some definition was lost.

The images below are the output of a microscope used on part of the ½ qirsh value. This value was chosen because it has a constant flaw above the top frame line and it can be seen how much of the detail has been lost in the forgery.



## Paper Type

The forgeries have been printed on several types and colours of paper, as were the genuine stamps, but some of the white paper used shows a degree of fluorescence when subjected to long wave ultra-violet light. This does not happen with genuine stamps of that period.

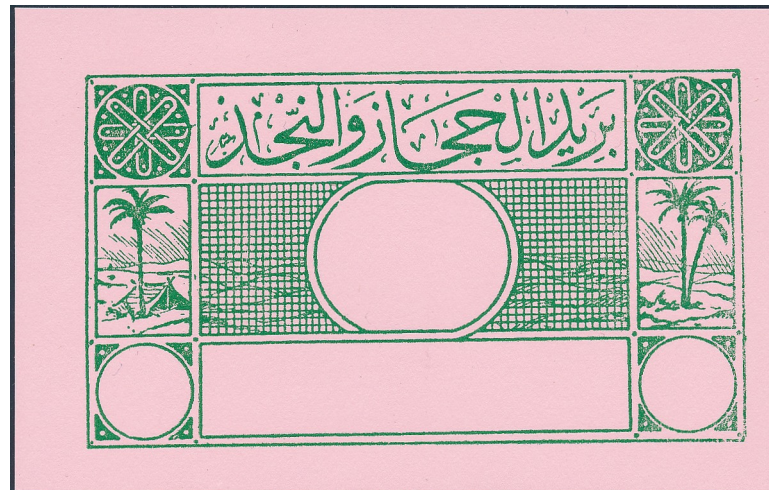
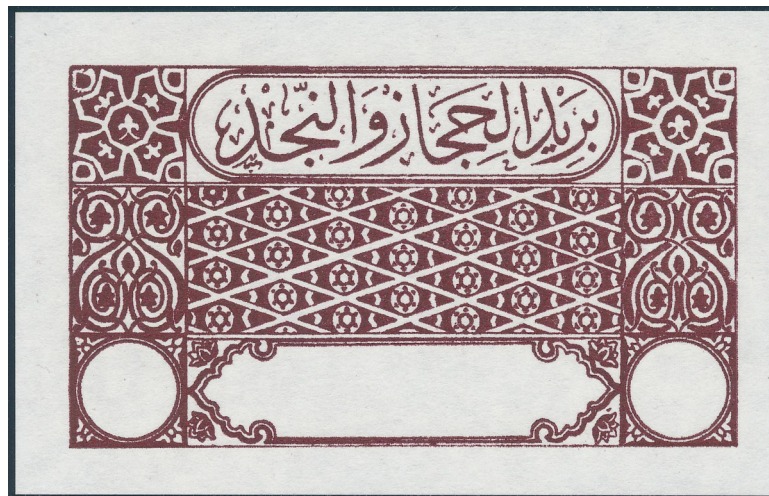
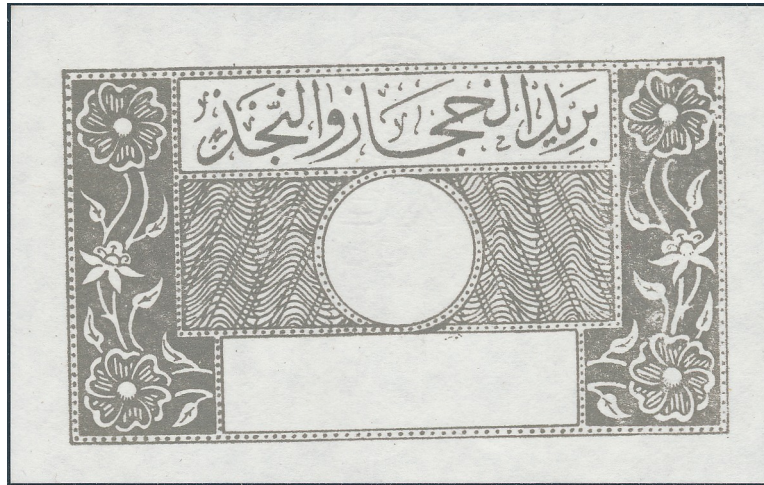
## Colour

Unless you have a genuine item for comparison, it can be difficult to detect forgeries by colour alone.

## Design

Forgeries have been produced with the face value omitted. These are not listed by Mayo and genuine stamps of this type have not been seen by the author. Illustrations of these are on the next page.





**Forgeries with value omitted**

The author would like to receive any comments on these forgeries and also on the genuine items. Please send to the editor; details on page 2.

# Revenue News

*By Martin Lovegrove*

Misperforations are not limited to postage items but appear on revenues as well. A copy of the 500 riyal multiple visit visa stamp on unwatermarked paper appeared on eBay in June 2015 and shows a small amount of double perforations on the left at top and bottom. It is not known if the stamp has phosphor tagging. Can anyone help? I have a copy of a 50 riyal entry visa with security underprint showing similar double perforations.



**Double perforations**



**RF32a**



**RG14**



**RP93**

There have been some recent additions to the Thoden catalogue:

RF32a	Hejaz	Flat rate documentary	2q deep blue, handstamp in red
RG14	Saudi Arabia	General Documentary	250q purple-brown, perf 11
RP93	Saudi Arabia	Manpower Services	150 riyal on white unwatermarked paper with security tagging
RP93a	Saudi Arabia	Manpower Services	150 riyal on white unwatermarked paper without security tagging

The catalogue numbers quoted are those expected to be used in the next edition.



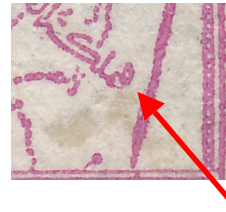
The map stamp, perf. 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> with unscratched inscriptions (RU1Y), has been seen with a broken perforation pin in the line perforator. There is also a constant variety on all map stamp sheets in row 1 stamp 5 where the first part of the word 'al mamlaka' is missing.



Missing perforation



Defective *al mamlaka*



Normal

Proportional rate documentary stamps do not feature very often in passports; this one is a travel permit dating from 1950.



## Acknowledgements and Contacts

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