



الجمعية الدولية للطوابع البريدية العربية
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International
Random Notes



November 2016

NUMBER 91

CONTENTS

The Arabian Philatelic Association International	2
Random Notes #91	3
CASOC Postage Due Cover - <i>J. I. Kearney</i>	8
“The Rest of the Story” Cover From a Seaman on the S.S. Fort Christina - <i>D. E. Jessich</i>	9
Domestic Surface Covers During the Tughra Period 1934-1959 - <i>J. I. Kearney</i>	11
Hejaz-Nejd - an Opportunity - <i>Martin Lovegrove</i>	17
The 200 Riyal Exit and Re-entry Visa Label - <i>Martin Lovegrove</i>	22
Describing Colour - <i>Martin Lovegrove</i>	27
Revenue Update - <i>Martin Lovegrove</i>	28



Greetings! See [page 11](#)

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.

Scott's (2016) and Stanley Gibbons (2016) 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'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 #91

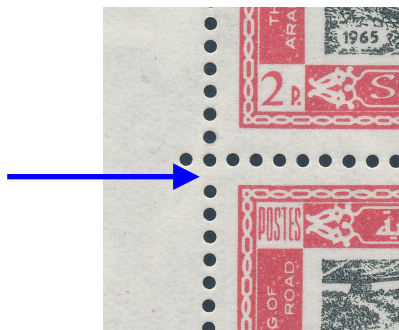
Assembled by the Editor

Thanks to David Jessich and Jim Kearney we have a normal page count and, I hope, some interesting and useful information.

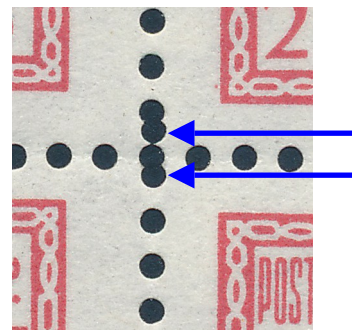
Now for the notes:

1. The set of stamps commemorating the opening of the Arafat to Taif road (Scott 350 - 353, SG 617 - 620) were the last Saudi stamps printed by Dar Al Asfahani, Jeddah. Many of the stamps produced by that company suffered from perforation problems, notable a gap in the perforations usually referred to as a 'wide tooth' that would often cause a less than clean separation when stamps were removed from the sheet. It would appear that on this final issue, the printers had attempted to solve the separation problem without eradicating the underlying cause. Two extra perforation holes were added at the position of the wide tooth giving a crowded look to the perforation holes..

In the block illustrated below, the extra perforation holes have been added at the intersection of the horizontal and vertical perforations in all positions except on the leftmost vertical perforations. The reason for this is not clear, and it may not be consistent. The Editor has marginal blocks where the extra perforations do exist, but bearing in mind the sheets delivered to the post offices were only part of a printed sheet, it could be that only the leftmost vertical perforation on the printers sheet did not receive the extra perforations.



Wide tooth



Extra perforations

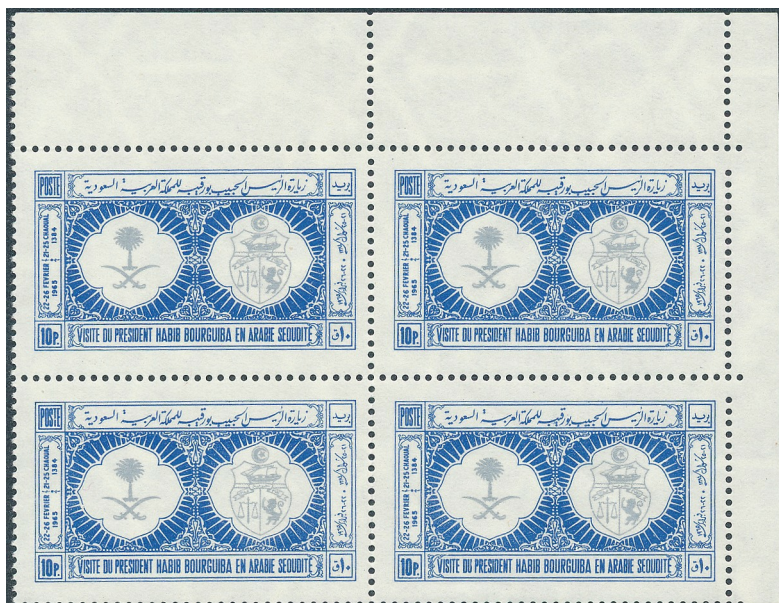


In the margin of the block of four above there is a printing registration mark and for this reason it is probable that these stamps came from the left side of the printed sheet. The Editor has a block of four of the 8p value from a different part of the sheet without a colour registration mark and without the extra holes, so were these extra holes omitted from the left column of the post office sheet?. These extra perforation holes can be difficult to see on single stamps and the Editor would like to hear from members who have stamps that do not have them.

2. While on the subject of Dar Al Asfahani, colour trials of the stamps issued to commemorate the visit of President Bourguiba of Tunisia (Scott 347 - 349, SG 614 - 616) have appeared on the market. The Editor has seen four of these, illustrated below, and the printing characteristics and quality match the issued stamps and appear to be genuine.



The 4p issued stamp has been seen with a wide tooth at top right; this was probably caused by a broken pin and not by the wide tooth problem noted with the Arafat to Taif highway stamps.



3. Un-addressed envelopes from the Royal Yacht 'Mahrousa' have appeared in earlier Random Notes, here is a sheet from the same source with stamps cancelled on the same day as previously recorded, 21 September 1945. My thanks go to Lucien Toutounji for this item.

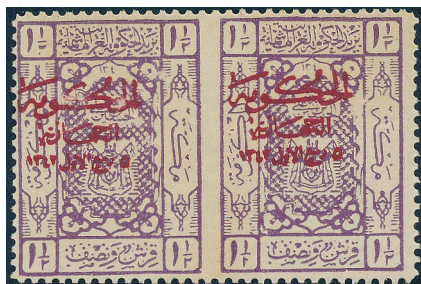
c 1945 Following the historic meeting between King Abdulaziz and King Farouk at Radhwa, agents of the King prepared these two covers with stamps of the King's Tughra on King Farouk's private yacht's stationary "Fakhamet-Al-Bihar" "Mahrousa Al-Yacht Al-Malaki", one bearing 12 stamps up to 100p, and this cover which bears 13 stamps up to 200pi, both with officials and postage dues and both tied with Jeddah cancels, ex-Royal Collection of Egypt.



(Reduced to 80%)



4. Many years ago there was a spelling change to the Holy City when it was officially referred to as 'Makkah'. I thought that this remains the correct version, but I notice on the Saudi Post website that the old spelling is now used.



Our Locations

You can find out through the post offices all post office hours, and the current available services now at those

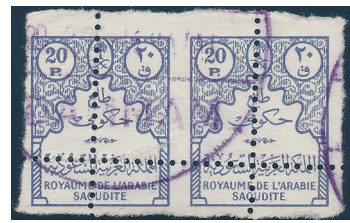
Office/Service Type

Region

- Al Riyadh
- Eastern Region
- Mecca Al Mokarama
- Al Madina Al Moawra
- Al Qassim
- Assir
- Tabouk
- Hail
- Northern Borders
- Jazan
- Najran
- Al Baha
- Al Jouf

5. Above is an example of a type 2 forgery of the large 3-line Jeddah overprint in red. As such it is a common forgery, but in this case the overprints are on a pair of 1½ qirsh stamps imperforate between. I have yet to see such a pair either without an overprint or with a genuine 3-line, although Mayo records the latter as 142p and as 153h with a blue overprint. Can anyone confirm that the Mayo listings are genuine items?

6. In RN77 page 3 item 1, a single copy of the misperforated 20 qirsh official stamp Scott O13, SG O455 was illustrated. That stamp had an unclear postmark, but the pair at right shows use from Dammam.



7. David Jessich sent me a scan of a cover bearing a transit version of type S60. The postmark and a schematic version of it are shown at right.



8. These two MADINA 1 postmarks, type S151, appear to have differences in the letters, but both have the same date and appeared on the same registered cover from India. Perhaps one was used by the department handling registered mail and the other as a normal receiver. Whatever the reason, it would appear that these were two different devices.



9. In RN90 on page 10, there appeared a listing of the framed Kaaba stamps. Missing from the list was the 150h imperforate on three sides and perforated 12 on the other. The stamps were printed on normal (non-fluorescent) paper.

10. A variation of the S150 postmark is shown below. Above the datebelt is the Arabic 'bareed' and beneath it is the office name in Arabic, not seen before on the S150 series. The example below is in blue and the office is Dammam and dated 7-2-1406 (22 October 1985). An example for Dammam in violet has been seen for 17 April 1984.



11. eBay continues to be a good source of forgeries and most are from sellers thinking their stamps are genuine. One recent purchase for me, and at a reasonable price, was an example of the 5 qirsh Makkah arms in a colour similar to the genuine stamp and from the so-called 'Tel Aviv' series of forgeries. All of my example had been in a bright yellow-green shade that really made them stand out from the genuine stamp. I also have a forgery in a colour similar to the darker shade of the genuine stamp, but it may not be one of the 'Tel Aviv' group.



Shades of 'Tel Aviv' forgeries



Genuine



Unknown forgery type



Genuine

Continued on page 16



CASOC Postage Due Cover

By: J. I. Kearney

This is a CASOC cover from Bahrain to California cancelled 29 December 1940. It is believed the cover travelled on B.O.A.C. flight NE 46 which departed Bahrain 30 December 1940 (Aitink & Hovenkamp, 2005). Postage paid was 43½as. which reflected the airmail fee of 40as. plus the surface rate of 3½as. This cover is interesting for several reasons. The airmail fee had previously changed to 45½as. on 21 December 1940. So the postage was underpaid by 5½as. (49as. less 43½as.). The Bahrain Post Office noticed the shortfall and stamped a circled 'T' on the cover and a manuscript 79c indicating the shortfall was 79 gold centimes. The formula for converting a shortfall in annas to gold centimes is multiply the annas shortfall (5½) x 2 x 25 divided by 3½. Then using this formula results in 79 gold centimes (rounded up) (Bahrain Stamps & Postal History).

The US Post Office should have charged the addressee 16 cents. The formula for converting gold centimes to cents for US postage due purposes is divide by 5 and round up.

This cover has the cachet "Via B.O.A.C. to Sydney Pan American Airways to Sanfrancisco". This was the earliest use I could find of this cachet. It is speculation among postal history collectors that the CASOC clerk in Bahrain got tired of manuscripting the routing (see RN 83, p.13, Figure 21 for an example) and created these cachets. Four different cachets exist and these are only seen on CASOC covers.

The routing for this cover was Karachi-Calcutta-Rangoon-Bangkok-Singapore-Sourabaya-Darwin-Townsville-Sydney-Auckland-Noumea-Canton Island-Honolulu-Los Angeles-San Francisco, which first came through Bahrain heading eastward on 24 June 1940 (Aitink & Hovenkamp, 2005).



References

Aitink, H.E., & Hovenkamp, E. (2005). Bridging the continents in wartime: Important airmail routes 1939-1945. Enschede, The Netherlands: de Stichting Luchtpostgeschiedenis Tweede Wereldoorlog.

Bahrain Stamps & Postal History. (n.d.). Retrieved from:

http://www.bahrain-stamps.com/cover_details.php?recordID=292&pos=121&pages=3



“The Rest of the Story” Cover From a Seaman on the S.S. Fort Christina

By: David E. Jessich



A simple notecard-sized cover, sent by a sailor (to his girlfriend ?) from a tanker loading crude in Ras Tanura. The date on the Khobar cancel is blank, but the stamps, other markings, e.g. “Via BOAC” and the return address help narrow it down to 1949.

The tanker, the S.S. Fort Christina, was built during World War II and was a type T2-SE-A1. The T1 types were named after major oil fields in the United States. The T2 types were named after monuments, national parks, forts, battles, historic settlements, trails, lakes and swamps. Later T3 types were built for private companies and named by the company. During the war, American tankers made 6,500 voyages to carry 65 million tons of oil and gasoline from the U.S. and the Caribbean to the war zones and to our Allies.

T2-SE-A1 was the workhorse of the tanker fleet with 481 built. They were:

- 523 feet long overall
- 68 foot beam
- 30 foot draft
- 10,448 gross tons
- Speed 14.5-16 knots
- Capacity 141,200 barrels

The Fort Christina was built by Kaiser Company, Swan Island Yard in Portland, Oregon in February 1945 and was assigned Hull #122. After the war it was sold into commercial service in 1948, but kept the same name. In 1951 she was renamed the Caltex Glasgow. She was finally scrapped in 1966. So the letter had to be mailed between 1948 and 1951.



FROM.
 69 SHAW.
 SS FORT CHRISTINA
 % O.T.C.
 15 W 44th ST.
 NY 18 NY.

The return address is % O.T.C. (Overseas Tankship Corporation) in New York. But according to the ship's registry, they moved their headquarters to the UK in 1950, so now the letter could only be sent in either 1948 or 1949.

ON	LR/IMO	ID	Year	Name	Tons	Change	Registered Owner
247246		2247246	1945	FORT CHRISTINA	10448		U.S. Govt.
		2247246	1945	FORT CHRISTINA	10448	1948	Overseas Tankship Corp.
184345		2247246	1945	FORT CHRISTINA	10448	1950	Overseas Tankship (U.K.) Ltd.
184345	505847	2247246	1945	CALTEX GLASGOW	10448	1951	Overseas Tankship (U.K.) Ltd.



Finally, the Khobar R-5 cancel is a Knight SR-20c, which was in use from 1946 to 1948, so 1948 is presumed to be the date.



S.S. Fort Christina (Photo collection Morten Bjørndalen)

References:

- <http://www.usmm.org/tankers.html>
- <http://www.t2tanker.org/>
- <http://www.aukevisser.nl/t2tanker/id123.htm>
- <http://www.usmm.org/socalships.html>

Note:

By way of comparison, the D.G. Scofield, built in 1916, was the first tanker to load crude at Ras Tanura and was slightly smaller at 457 feet long and 58 feet wide with a capacity of 81,224 barrels.

Domestic Surface Covers During the Tughra Period 1934-1959

By: J. I. Kearney

Collecting domestic surface covers can be somewhat challenging as compared to covers to foreign destinations because not many domestic surface covers exist during this period. The basic rate during this period was $\frac{1}{2}q$. but the weight covered by this rate is not known by the author. The basic rate was most often met by using the $\frac{1}{2}q$. Tughra (Scott 161 or 161a, SG 331 or 331a).

There was one unusual rate during this period and that is shown on the cover below. This Mecca to Jiddah cover seems to be cancelled 28 Ramadhân 1356, equal to 2 December 1937. This was a few days prior to the 'Eid al-Fitr holiday on 5 December 1937. This cover is known as a "greeting card" cover. The rate was established earlier at $\frac{1}{8}q$. for domestic printed matter and small greeting cards.



The $\frac{1}{2}q$. postage could be made up a number of ways. Here four $\frac{1}{8}q$. Tughras are used to make the $\frac{1}{2}q$. This cover was sent from Mecca to Jiddah 31 August 1948.



The ½q. postage made up of two of the ¼q. Tughras. This cover was sent from Medina to Jiddah 4 October 1944.



Here is the basic and most common domestic surface cover. Medina to Jiddah 3 December 1951.



A double rate (1q.) cover sent from Jiddah to Yanbu 24 July 1935.



A registered basic rate (1½q) cover from Dafir to Ryad approximately 13 December 1948. Backstamped Taif, Mecque and Ryad. Dafir is a village in the Western Province.



A double rate registered (2q.) cover from Al-Missejid to Ras Tanura probably 1950.



A quintuple rate (2½q.) cover from Khobar to Ras Tanura 1954. The red S.S. on the cover indicates it should go to the Aramco Senior Staff post office.



Official covers seem to have their own logic when it comes to affixing the correct postage. This cover with 10q. total postage (1q. for registration) was sent from Shariah Court in Dammam to a Jiddah resident.



Editor's note.

My thanks go to Jim Kearney for this article; it explains a small cover I have in my collection. It is a small greetings card cover from Medina to Al Kharj posted on 23-12-1361 (31 December 1942) so probably a New Year greeting. Like the cover illustrated at the beginning of the article, mine does not have a charity stamp. Perhaps we can assume that the postal documents that were exempt from charity tax stamps were printed matter, small greetings cards, and official mail.

Can anyone confirm that or even add to the list?

The size of the small greetings envelope illustrated is 10 cm x 7 cm.

RN

Notes continued from page 7.

- 12. The 1978 Pilgrimage to Makkah, 80h multicoloured with black and blue omitted is listed by Gibbons as 1217a and is illustrated below.



RN

Hejaz-Nejd - an Opportunity

By: Martin Lovegrove

The reputation of the postage stamps from Hejaz-Nejd may have been tarnished by the numerous essays, colour trials, proofs, perforations and papers, described by Mayo as a 'salad'. However, if you can see past those, there may be opportunities for discoveries and certainly for documenting what happened, and when.

These snippets are items that as far as I know have not appeared in Random Notes.

The archives of Stanley Gibbons Stamp Monthly has a few references, some more interesting than others.

July 1931 - As with Transjordan, we regret to announce that nearly all the scarcer stamps of Hejaz and Nejd have been forged.

I think forgeries exist of just about everything up to and including the Pan Islamic Congress issue.

May 1932 - Our agents state that a change in the foreign postal rate is to result in the issue of a new stamp of 2¼ garch denomination.

A ½ garch stamp in our type 45 made its appearance a few weeks back. This, however, has been temporarily withdrawn on the discovery that there will still large stocks of the previous issue available (Cat. No. 268 of Hejaz). It will not reappear until these are exhausted.

Type 45 is SG 310 – 312.

August 1932 - Our agents, in sending us supplies, tell us that only 5000 were printed of the new ½ pi stamp, of which 2000 were sent to Jeddah and the remainder retained for sale in Mecca. They consider it very likely that future printings will differ in some way from the original.

The latest 1¾ pi stamp is momentarily obsolete, but a reprint is being made.

December 1932 - Some time ago we read in various newspapers that the title of the country had been altered to the Kingdom of Arabia-Saudia. We now learn that, as a result of this change, stamps will be issued bearing the new title.

In the Supplement this month the ¼ g. stamp is listed in a slightly redrawn design. All values of the current set can be expected thus as we are told that after each printing – which is done at Mecca before two Government and two Post Office officials – both the dies and plates are destroyed. This means that for each new printing a complete new die must be made, and differences are only to be expected. The gummed paper on which these stamps are printed comes from Cairo.

The destruction of dies and plates will explain why so many different designs appeared in a short period.

November 1933 - The standard foreign rate has been raised from 2¼ g. to 3½ g., and this will probably mean a stamp of the latter value.

February 1934 - New stamps “in memory of the King’s heir” were put on sale on January 1st. The values are ¼ pi., ½ pi., 1½ pi., 3 pi., 3½ pi., 5 pi., 10 pi., 20 pi., 30 pi., £¼, £½ and £1. All, we understand, were issued both perf. and imperf.

Our correspondents, besides giving us the above news, tell us that there is so little use for the current 1 pi. and 2 pi. Postage Dues (D 68/9) that the Finance Ministry has instructed postmasters



to use both of these stamps as ordinary ½ pi. postage stamps when there is any shortage of the right label. We are shown a 2 pi. Postage Due thus used bearing the Mecca postmark of December 12th last year.

The postage dues are now numbered SG D292/3.

The stamps "in memory of the King's heir" are actually the Heir Apparent set and are inscribed 'ROYAUME DE L'ARABIE SOUDITE' although Gibbons continued to refer to the country as Hejaz-Nejd as late as July 1934.

July 1972 - A summary of the Hejaz and Nejd issues appeared and quoted some printing quantities. The first issue of 1926 had only 2000 of each value printed before the colours were changed. Of the new colours, the 3 qirsh had a printing of 91,560, the other values being in smaller quantities, the lowest being 16320 of the ½ qirsh value.

That concludes the SG archives.

Use of SG D292/3 as postage stamps.

It is interesting that these stamps were used for postage without any overprint or handstamp; perhaps someone missed an opportunity!

I have three covers with these stamps and cover the period 25 October 1933 to 4 December 1933. I have only seen examples from Jeddah, Makkah and Medina and the author would like to hear of their use from other locations.

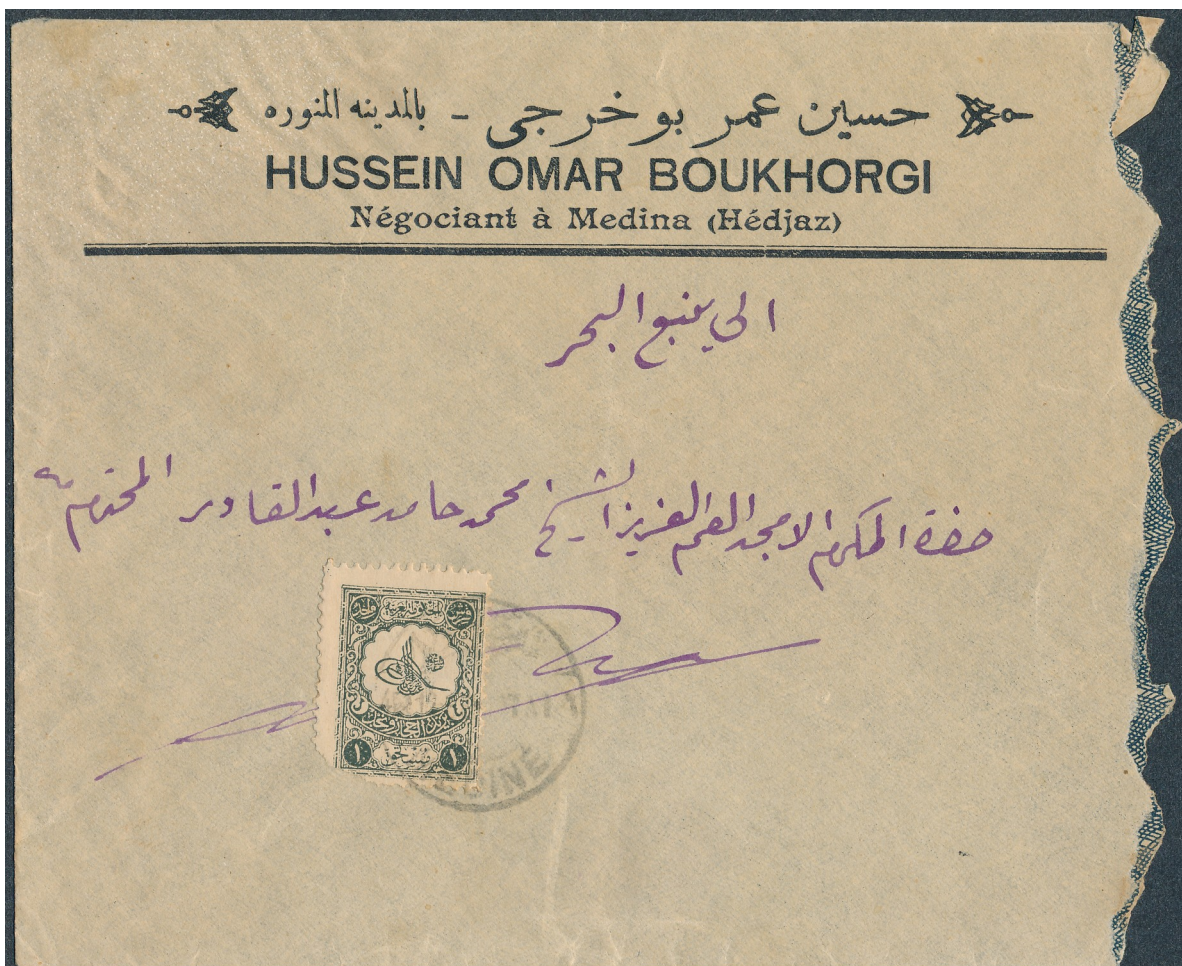


Figure 1. Medinah to Yambo, 4 December 1933



Figure 1 shows use of the 1 qirsh postage due for the standard ½ qirsh domestic rate. Figure 2 shows a quadruple rate (2 qirsh) from Makkah to Jeddah. The size of the large envelope is 23 cm x 14 cm.

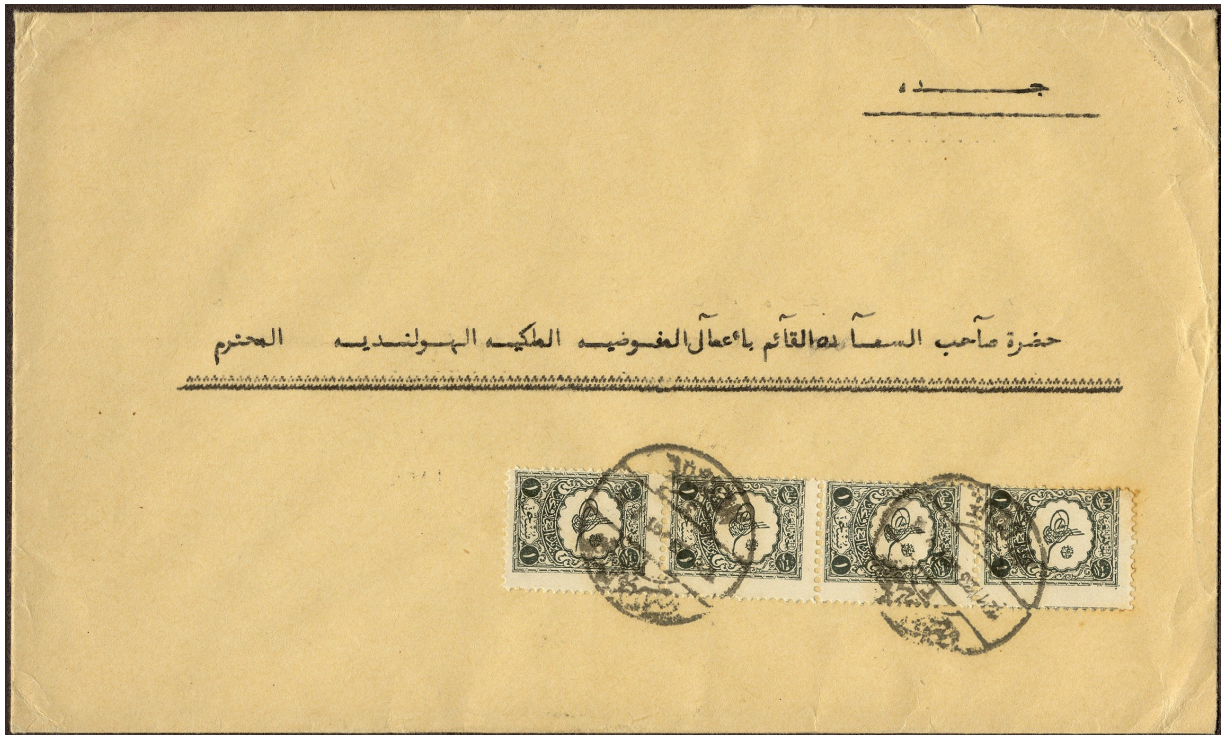


Figure 2. Makkah to Jeddah, 12 November 1933 (reduced to 70%)

Fourth Anniversary of Ibn Saud's Accession

The issue of this set must have been known in advance to collectors because I have a set stuck to paper and cancelled with a MECQUE 4 postmark, type X20, dated 8 January 1930.



Of more interest is the piece below with marginal copies affixed.



There is a letter associated with this piece; it is from a M. Ismail to Lady Ryan written on 25 September 1931 in Cairo. Part of the letter is his description of the stamps along with the note: 'They have been used as postage stamps in the Hejaz for five days only - from 8th to 12th January 1930. So I think they are worth keeping'.

They have been used as postage stamps in the Hejaz for five days only - from 8th to 12th January 1930. So I think, they are worth keeping.

If that usage period is correct then it is perhaps surprising that two different perforations for all values exist and also some dramatic colour shades for the 3½ qirsh value. Whether these shades were as issued or the colours have suffered adverse storage conditions is not known.



Offsets of the design on the gummed side seem to be uncommon but not rare. Below are a few examples.



Some perforation errors were illustrated in RN78.24. Imperforate and dramatically mis-perforated examples exist.



These notes have provided an insight into some of the Hejaz and Nejd items that are not listed in catalogues, but is far from comprehensive. Has anyone studied this part of Saudi philately in detail? Perhaps you should not miss the opportunity.

RN references for Hejaz and Nejd excluding the 'salad' issues.

- 69.8 item 8 - Philby cover early use
- 71.11 item 15 - Sir Hugh Bell cover, early use as above
- 78.24 - Gems and Others from a Grand Collection
- 88.7 item 11 - Use in Tabouk.
- 90.3 item 2 - SG292a

The 200 Riyal Exit and Re-entry Visa Label

By: *Martin Lovegrove*

Examples in the author's collection suggest that this label was in use from 2000 to 2009 and although the design remained basically the same during that period, several minor changes were made. This article describes these changes and also lists other facts that gives this item interest for collectors of revenue items.

One of the main identifying features and often the most difficult to see, is the printer's imprint located in the bottom left corner and aligned vertically.



Imprint for 1427

The imprint is always مصلحة مطابع الحكومة (Government Printing Press) followed by either the year, a number or a location.

Each label carries a unique serial number in red having a maximum of seven digits. When the limit of 9999999 is reached, the serial is allocated a prefix number which is actually part of the printing and appears in the deep grey-green colour of the label text. It is not known whether the serial starts at 1 or whether the sequence actually ends at 9999999.

Illustrations of each type follows, each comprising an actual image of the label and a schematic diagram. In the schematic, the font used is not that used by the printer, but it is sufficient to clearly show the details of the label. An enlargement of the imprint is shown to the left of the schematic diagram.

The label replaces the cachet and 200 riyal re-entry stamp RP62.



Stamp and cachet replaced by the subject visa label.
(Reduced to 75%)



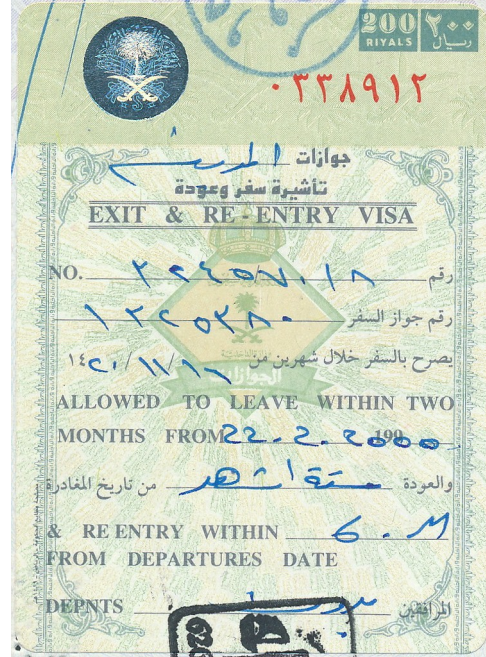
Type 1.

Introduced for the first printing (1419H). Note that the date is pre-filled with 199 although the author has only observed usage from 2000. In this type, the printer's imprint includes the year; it is not known whether it is the year the printing plate was made, or the year in which the order for printing was placed.

مصلحة مطابع الحكومة - ١٤١٩ هـ

جوازات _____
تأشيرة سفر و عودة
EXIT & RE - ENTRY VISA

رقم _____ / _____
رقم جواز السفر _____
يصرح بالسفر خلال شهرين من _____ / _____ / ١٤
ALLOWED TO LEAVE WITHIN TWO MONTHS FROM _____ 199 _____
و العودة _____ من تاريخ المغادرة
& RE ENTRY WITHIN _____
FROM DEPARTURES DATE
DEPNTS _____ المرافقين



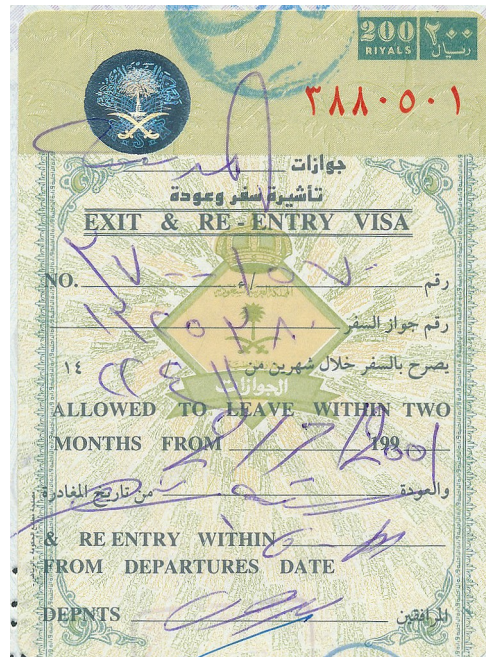
Type 2.

Identical to type 1 but with the year in the printer's imprint year replaced by 'Al Riyadh' in Arabic.

مصلحة مطابع الحكومة - الرياض

جوازات _____
تأشيرة سفر و عودة
EXIT & RE - ENTRY VISA

رقم _____ / _____
رقم جواز السفر _____
يصرح بالسفر خلال شهرين من _____ / _____ / ١٤
ALLOWED TO LEAVE WITHIN TWO MONTHS FROM _____ 199 _____
و العودة _____ من تاريخ المغادرة
& RE ENTRY WITHIN _____
FROM DEPARTURES DATE
DEPNTS _____ المرافقين



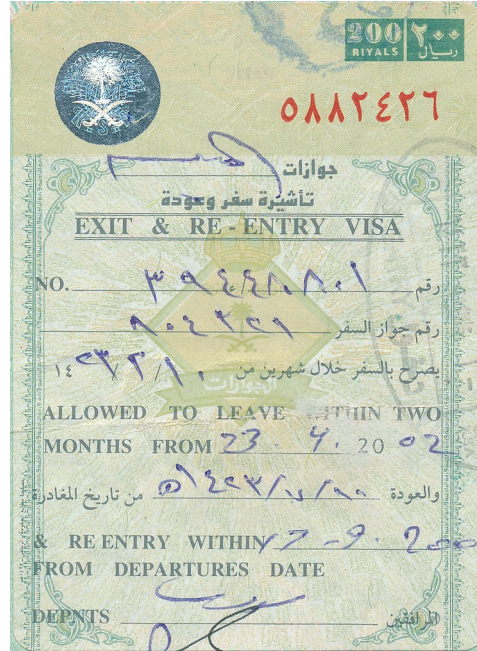
Type 3.

Identical to type 2 but with the 'FROM' year pre-filled to 20 and the year placed after 'Al Riyadh' in the printer's imprint.

مصلحة مطابع الحكومة - الرياض - ١٤٢٢ هـ

جوازات _____
تأشيرة سفر و عودة
EXIT & RE - ENTRY VISA
رقم _____ / _____
رقم جواز السفر _____
يصرح بالسفر خلال شهرين من ١٤ / /
ALLOWED TO LEAVE WITHIN TWO
MONTHS FROM _____ 20
و العودة _____ من تاريخ المغادرة
& RE ENTRY WITHIN _____
FROM DEPARTURES DATE
DEPNTS _____ المرافقين

مصلحة مطابع الحكومة - الرياض - ١٤٢٢ هـ



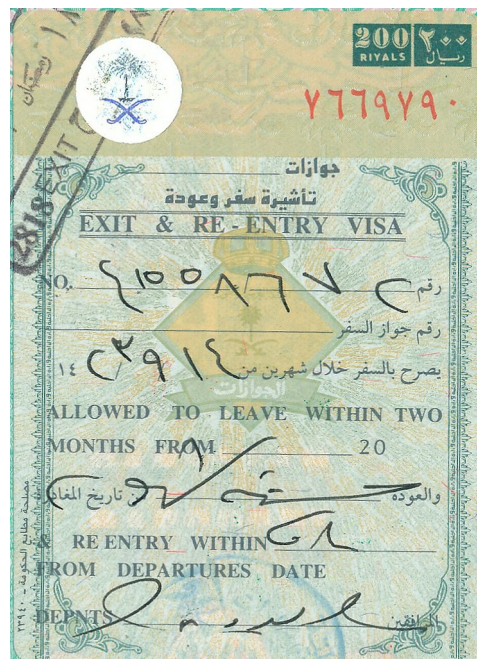
Type 4.

In this type, the printer's imprint contains a number rather than the year or Riyadh. It is likely that the first two digits of the number represent the year.

مصلحة مطابع الحكومة - ٢٣٩٤٠

جوازات _____
تأشيرة سفر و عودة
EXIT & RE - ENTRY VISA
رقم _____ / _____
رقم جواز السفر _____
يصرح بالسفر خلال شهرين من ١٤ / /
ALLOWED TO LEAVE WITHIN TWO
MONTHS FROM _____ 20
و العودة _____ من تاريخ المغادرة
& RE ENTRY WITHIN _____
FROM DEPARTURES DATE
DEPNTS _____ المرافقين

مصلحة مطابع الحكومة - ٢٣٩٤٠



Type 5.

There are two changes made for this type. The serial number now has a printed prefix and the passport holder can now leave within three months of the specified date rather than two.

مصلحة مطابع الحكومة - ١٤٢٤ هـ

١ /

جوازات
تأشيرة سفر و عودة

EXIT & RE - ENTRY VISA

NO. _____ رقم
/ / _____ رقم جواز السفر
يصرح بالسفر ثلاثة اشهر من ١٤ / /

ALLOWED TO LEAVE WITHIN THREE
MONTHS FROM _____ 20

و العودة _____ من تاريخ المغادرة
& RE ENTRY WITHIN _____
FROM DEPARTURES DATE

DEPNTS _____ المرافقين

مصلحة مطابع الحكومة - ١٤٢٤ هـ

١ /

جوازات
تأشيرة سفر و عودة

EXIT & RE - ENTRY VISA

رقم _____ NO. ٤٠٨٣٣٨١
رقم جواز السفر _____ ٥٩٢٨٢٨
يصرح بالسفر خلال ثلاثة اشهر من ١٤٩٥٢

ALLOWED TO LEAVE WITHIN THREE
MONTHS FROM _____ 20 ٢٨١٣٢٠

و العودة _____ من تاريخ المغادرة
& RE ENTRY WITHIN _____
FROM DEPARTURES DATE

DEPNTS _____ المرافقين

Type 6.

This type has major changes to the layout. The hijra year appearing as ١٤٤٥ هـ instead of just ١٤ , the bottom line DEPNTS was removed and a new line NAME added beneath the number line. There is also the erroneous spelling ALLOWD and the straight line following NO. is continuous. This change was made during the 1426 printings. Subsequent printings reverted to type 4.

مصلحة مطابع الحكومة - ١٤٢٦ هـ

١ /

جوازات
تأشيرة سفر و عودة

EXIT & RE - ENTRY VISA

NO. _____ رقم
NAME _____ الإسم
_____ رقم جواز السفر
يصرح بالسفر ثلاثة اشهر من ١٤ / /

ALLOWD TO LEAVE WITHIN THREE
MONTHS FROM _____ 20

و العودة _____ من تاريخ المغادرة
& RE ENTRY WITHIN _____
FROM DEPARTURES DATE

مصلحة مطابع الحكومة - ١٤٢٦ هـ

١ /

جوازات
تأشيرة سفر و عودة

EXIT & RE - ENTRY VISA

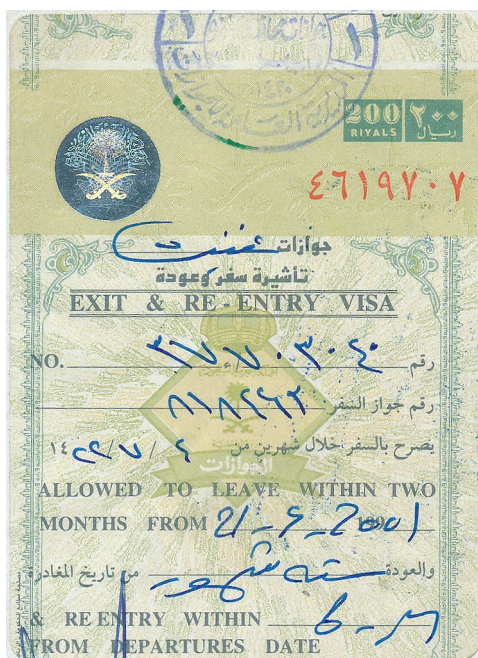
رقم _____ NO. ٩٠٢٣٩٢٨
الإسم _____ ٥٦٧٩٢٧١
رقم جواز السفر _____ ١٤٤٤٠٠٨
يصرح بالسفر خلال ثلاثة اشهر من ١٤٧٨١٢

ALLOWD TO LEAVE WITHIN THREE
MONTHS FROM _____ 20 ٩-٩-٢٠

و العودة _____ من تاريخ المغادرة
& RE ENTRY WITHIN _____
FROM DEPARTURES DATE

Varieties

The only notable variety seen by the author is a type 2 miscut so that the bottom line DEPARTURES did not show.



Miscut label

Summary of issues

	Imprint	Lowest serial	Highest serial	Type
هـ ١٤١٩	(1419H)	0338912	2769743	1
الرياض	(Al Riyadh)	3315447	4682180	2
هـ ١٤٢٢ - الرياض	(Al Riyadh - 1422H)	5177959	5882426	3
٢٣٩٤٠	-23940	7064252	8964852	4
هـ ١٤٢٤	(1424H)	1/85046	1/4083381	5
هـ ١٤٢٥	(1425H)	1/4447476	1/6248612	5
هـ ١٤٢٦	(1426H)	1/6564613	1/7197506	5
هـ ١٤٢٦	(1426H)	1/7738606	1/9523978	6
هـ ١٤٢٧	(1427H)	1/9636297	1/9795090	5
هـ ١٤٢٧	(1427H)	2/197804	2/4276436	5
هـ ١٤٢٨	(1428H)	2/4381340	2/5557045	5
هـ ١٤٢٩	(1429H)	2/6114959		5
٢٩١٨٢٦	(291826)	3/137268	3/427560	5

Note: All imprints begin with - مصلحة مطابع الحكومة

Notes.

Only the serial number of the 1419 printing has been seen with a leading Arabic zero to make the length of the serial number 7 digits.

The information in this article is based on labels in the author's collection. Further information can be sent to the editor, details on page 2, for inclusion in any updates to this article. Information on usage in 1999 and 2010 would be most welcome, and if possible send a scan at 600 d.p.i.

Describing Colour

By: Martin Lovegrove

I find describing colour difficult, especially when my description has to convey a meaning to another person and I have great admiration for those who can describe a colour so that it can be understood by all. When I receive a colour description, I go to my Stanley Gibbons Stamp Colour Key to get a visual representation of the colour. Good though the key is, it does have a limited range of colours, and these are frequently modified by terms such as dull, bright, pale, dark, etc.; the Macmillan dictionary has a long list of adjectives that can be used. It is thus possible to have a description such as pale dull blackish blue-violet. I am lost!

Fortunately it is not often that such detailed descriptions are required, but specialised catalogues are different. How do we approach the problem?

Let us start with the basics. Colour is how we perceive the light reflected from an object, in our case a stamp. If we view a sheet of white paper in daylight, it looks white. If we shine a green light on white paper, it looks green even though the paper is 'white'. So for accurate colour description we need a standard light source and the standard as recommended by Pantone® is a pure white light having a colour temperature of 5000°K.

To illustrate the problem and a suggested solution I will be using an example of a tobacco tax stamp catalogues RT35ZZb in Thoden 2008. The colour is described as 'azure' using the SG colour key and for normal purposes it is good enough. The Pantone® Color Bridge has over 1700 colours printed on coated and uncoated paper. In this example I have used the uncoated paper solid colour; there are also separate displays for CMYK. It does not matter what is used, each colour has a unique code. It can be seen in the example below that one of the Pantone colours gives a closer match; 7458 U looks good when looking at the whole stamp, but if you compare the areas of solid colour in the stamp, 7459 U is a closer match. A catalogue description of the stamp could include both standards and would then be quite specific:

RT35ZZb 1/8 qirsh azure (7459 U)

If discoveries were made of slightly different colours, a different Pantone® number would be shown and the collector would be able to allocate the correct catalogue numbers to their stamps.



After gaining permission from Pantone LLC to publish this article, permission has been granted for me to use the numbers in a catalogue, but it would appear that a licence may have to be obtained before the system can be used where the sale of goods is involved. If anyone has any thoughts on the subject, the author would be very pleased to hear from them.

Pantone is a registered trade mark of Pantone LLC.



Revenue Update

By: Martin Lovegrove

Earlier this year a presentation sheet of revenues and postage stamps, prepared by the Ministry of Finance, was offered as single-stamp items on eBay. It is illustrated below and unfortunately the vendor did not have a scan of the sheet without the superimposed text before the sheet was cut up.

One unrecorded item was the 55 qirsh residence visa stamp; the colour appears to be orange. Of special interest were the 2 and 3 para tobacco stamps in green and carmine but printed on paper that had printed rectangles, rather like the maths paper sometimes used for Saudi documents. It is not known whether they were released in this condition or were proofs or colour trials.



Image reproduced by kind permission of eBay dealer Shehabcoin



Marginal copies of Hejaz revenues are usually imperforate between stamp and margin, but this block of nine proportional rate stamps show that marginal stamps can be perforated on all sides.



The 22 qirsh passport in blue stamp remained in use for a long time; Rudy Thoden recorded its earliest use in 1946 and I have a passport page with one dated 1965. I also have a copy of the stamp printed in light green, perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ and cancelled with a passport device dated about 1962, but it could have been used later than that. Can anyone give me more information about the usage of this stamp?



The stamp is not listed in the Thoden catalogue, but is likely to be listed with the 1937-48 issues.

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