



الجمعية الدولية للطابع البريدية العربية
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International
Random Notes

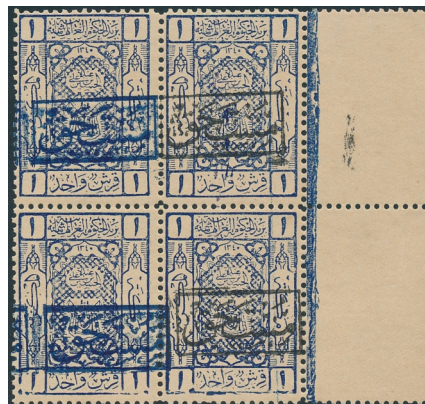


July 2017

NUMBER 92

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The Arabian Philatelic Association International

The Arabian Philatelic Association (APA) was established in 1968 in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia by a group of Aramco employees particularly interested in Saudi Arabian philately. The APA had over 300 members and subscribers worldwide during most of its existence. Its journal (*APA Random Notes*), and *Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries*, auctions and new issue service contributed to the large increase in the popularity of Saudi Arabian philately in the 1970s and 1980s. However, interest declined in the 1990s. An initial attempt to start up a conventional Saudi stamp society in the USA failed in the late 1990s. Since then, we have realized that an Internet-based society has a better prospect of success and we have founded the Arabian Philatelic Association International. (APAI). The APAI e-mail address arabphilassocin@aol.com is no longer in use, please contact Willie King at willieking@btinternet.com

A *Catalog of the Fiscal Stamps of Saudi Arabia* has been written and published by Rudy Thoden and updated as Thoden 2008.

Longer range, we hope to prepare a second edition of the *Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries* to cover the issues not in the original edition, plus the many new forgery discoveries, including very dangerous ones created by modern computer technology.

The following members are currently serving the APAI in the capacities indicated:

Membership secretary and Random Notes distribution: Marwan Nusair

European representative: Willie King

USA representative: David Jessich

USA Distribution Manager: Marwan Nusair

Treasurer: David Jessich

Editor, Random Notes: Martin Lovegrove

Random Notes

The APAI's publication, *Random Notes*, will be issued three times a year, assuming sufficient material is available. The editor is Mr. M C Lovegrove, e-mail: weatherings@aol.com, (The Weatherings, East End, Gooderstone, KINGS LYNN, PE33 9DB, United Kingdom.) Articles on all aspects of Saudi Arabian philately are urgently needed for publication in *Random Notes*, and can be submitted in manuscript, as a text file, as an e-mail or a MS Word document. The right to edit or reject all submissions is reserved. Opinions expressed are those of the authors only. Material from this publication may be reprinted provided credit is given to "Arabian Philatelic Association International" and the author of the article. Please send a copy of the reprint to the editor.

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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 #92

Assembled by the Editor

Once again, 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. In the Mayo catalogue, 977X is a 4 qirsh black and magenta Anti Malaria stamp, imperforate on unwatermarked paper. Mayo suggests that the stamp should be considered a proof. Similar examples of the 4 qirsh in the other released colours for this set also exist but are not listed. Below is an example of the stamp in blue and green, used for the issued 6 qirsh. Not mentioned by Mayo is that the years on the 4 qirsh values are 1381 - 1961, but when issued the years appear as 1381 - 1962. Perhaps the 4 qirsh values should be considered essays.



1381 - 1961



1381 - 1962

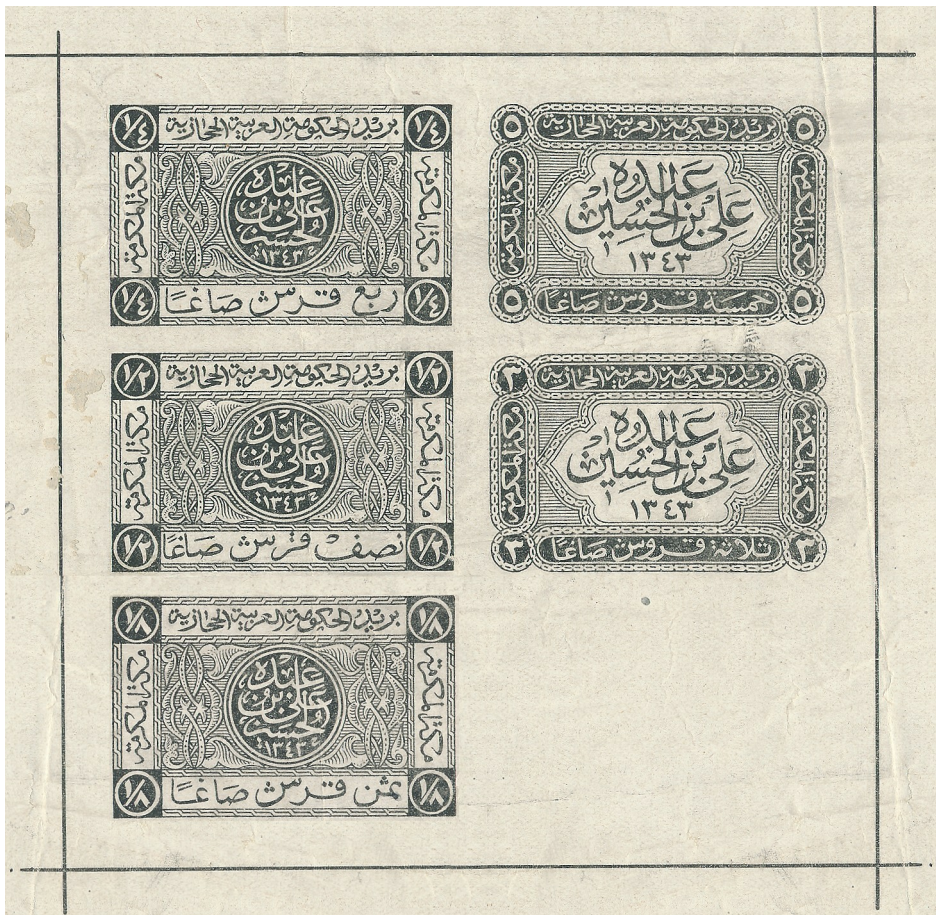
2. The 2 riyal framed Kaaba stamp normally issued in black and violet-blue has been found in the black and turquoise-green colours of the 100 halalah. Apparently, the stamp was discovered in a small village before being withdrawn. It is not known how many were sold from the post office, or indeed how many are now in the hands of collectors.



3. There seems to be a lot of the Nejd matbu'a stamps appearing for sale, many with certificates, most are forgeries but there are genuine items to be had. In view of the controversy surrounding the issue, I am not sure how any can be certified as genuine. I believe the best that can be done is to verify that the stamps conform to the guidelines set by the APA. I have noticed that many offered as genuine have forged Nejd handstamps and that is always a quick and easy way to start. The stamp at right is an obvious forgery; the stamps and both overprints were produced on a laser printer!



4. The Corinthila auction held in November 2016 included some King Ali essays where the stamp size was 45mm x 29mm, Also on the same sheet were part impressions in the larger size of 72mm x 46mm. The part of the sheet showing the 45mm x 29mm stamps had been cut, but a virtual reconstruction is shown below.



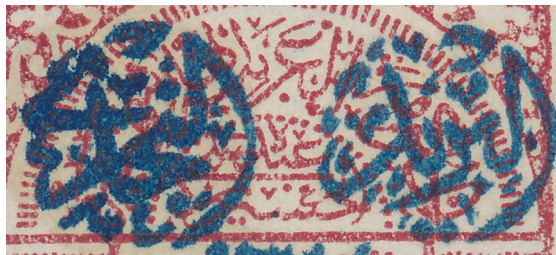
5. A strange stamp appeared on eBay that I immediately assumed to be a laser forgery. The overprint, 'Nejd Post' looks like part of the 1925 Nejd Medina commemoration overprint and is actually relief printed, so is quite a good attempt at being either a genuine overprint or perhaps an essay. There are differences between this overprint and the genuine and also the total forgery types, often referred to as 'Tel Aviv' forgeries. Although it would be nice to think of it as an essay, we have to be realistic and suspect it to be a bogus overprint.



'Nejd Post' detail



'Tel Aviv' forgery



Medina Commemoration (genuine)

6. What is in a barcode? Well, if it is a registration barcode and the item was posted at a postal agency, there may be more in the barcode than you would suspect. I have noticed that some barcode labels are broken into several parts and these notes may apply to just a few agency post offices in the Riyadh region. Both of the examples below are not from Riyadh but the office in Al Kharj that has the postcode 11942. Note that in the second example, the first two digits of the postcode have been omitted.



On the next page is a cover from the agency post office in the Al Sinaiyah district of Riyadh. The postcode, 11353, is shown in the postmark and as the first five digits in the registration barcode. This is an example where the registration number has not been split.





Agency mark and registration barcode both with postcode 11353 (reduced to 70%)

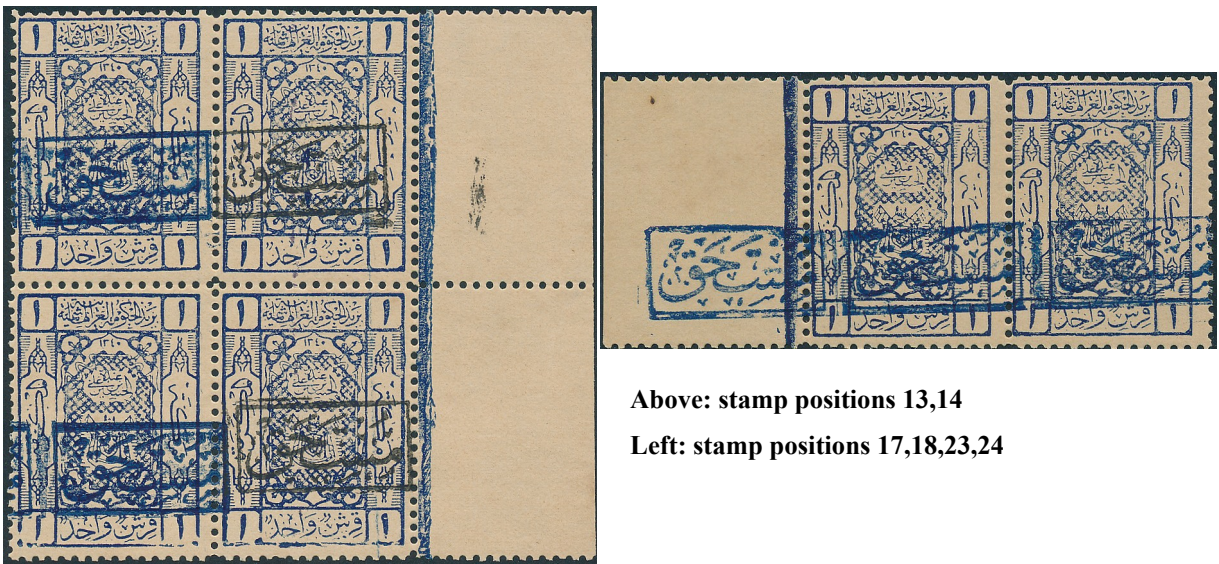
7. A variety of the Hejaz caliphate overprint has come to light; it shows a horizontal bar at top, and other marginal markings at left and bottom. I assume that these are part of the plate used to secure the text and they were set too high and received ink. The stamp is from position 13.



8. In late 2016, the decline in the Saudi economy encouraged the release for sale of many scarce and unique items. The framed Kaaba colour error noted in item 2 was one of them and mint sets, including the 100 p, of the last official stamps also appeared. These sets were put on eBay over a period of time and achieved high prices. Blocks of 25 of these stamps also exist, so the number of these 'rare' stamps is not as few as first thought. One interesting flaw was evident in stamp position 3 of the 2p sheet. The Arabic 2 has some additional ink at the top making it look like 3. Many imperforate commemoratives have also been offered; it is said that only a single sheet of each exists. Can one of our modern experts provide a listing of these stamps?



9. Perhaps the most significant of the offerings was the Hejaz postage due with se-tenant colour overprints. The stamps originated from a sheet of the blue overprint that had the overprint misplaced one column to the left. Column 6 was subsequently overprinted in black with columns 1 to 5 masked so that they would not produce an impression. It could of course be that the original print was black where only column 6 received ink and the other columns were overprinted later in blue with the plate deliberately offset. Who knows? On the block of 4 shown below, all of the overprints are from column 6 and we may be able to determine the order of printing by examining the state of the plate for each colour. It is interesting to note the different vertical separation between the rows, but we do know that these overprint plates were dismantled on several occasions. Both colours are from setting A1. One byproduct of the above is that there will be stamps with the blue overprint having the overprint from the column to the right of the stamp. Your editor has a block of 4 from positions 3,4,9,10 with overprints from positions 4,5,10,11. There will be more out there, but they will be difficult to find.



Above: stamp positions 13,14

Left: stamp positions 17,18,23,24

10. Some DGA (Dam, Gas, Air) stamps seem to be attracting attention. In the Corinphila November 2016 auction, lot 1334 was a set of the Faisal unwatermarked Boeing 720 stamps. The estimate was CHF 1000 but the lot achieved a hammer price of a staggering CHF 21000.



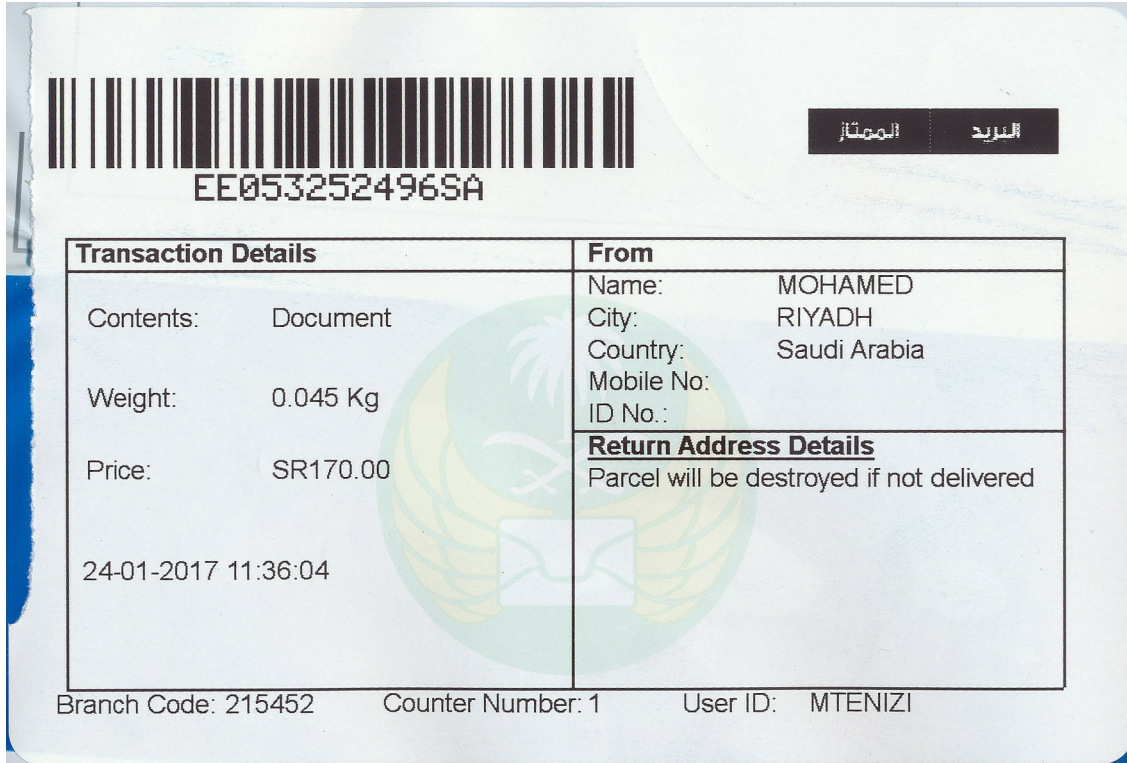
ex 1334

1334→ 1966/75: Boeing 720B, King Faisal cartouche, the airmail set of 25 values to 100 pi. mint, including the great rarities: the 1975 5 p. scarlet & dull green (G1 720 = £ 2750) one of the rarest of all regularly issued stamps in the last fifty years, the listed but unpriced 1975 50 p. indigo & green and the 100 pi. brown & grey (G1 743 = £ 1200), all fresh and very fine, unmounted og. A very seldom seen set. G1 = £ 5'000+.

716/743 ** 1'000 (€ 900)



11. A barcode label that has not yet appeared in Random Notes is this *Barid Mumtaz* label. The service indicator EE at the start of the barcode identifies an EMS item; the UPU S10 standard allocates EA - EZ for EMS. The branch code 215452 identifies the originating post office as the Sidr Agency, Olaya office, Riyadh. The 'destroy if not delivered' instruction is interesting; the package contained valuable stamps!



12. The Arabic on both of the labels below show they were issued at the Central Post Office in Riyadh. However one has a branch code of 20300 and the other 215521. Can anyone explain?



13. David Jessich has kindly submitted some checklists; I hope you find them useful as they contain information that does not appear in catalogues.

Flowers

Scott	SG	Value	Paper	Gum	UV
1115	1597a	50 h	A	Invisible	Bright White
		50 h	B	Invisible	Gray
		50 h	C	Shiny Visible	Gray
1116	1618a	75 h	A	Invisible	Bright White
		75 h	B	Invisible	Gray
		75 h	C	Shiny Visible	Gray
1292A	1956a	1 SR	C	Perf 12	Shiny Visible Gray
	1977a	1 SR	C	Perf 14	Shiny Visible Gray
1117	1639a	150 h	A	Invisible	Bright White
		150 h	B	Invisible	Gray
		150 h	C	Shiny Visible	Gray

Cities



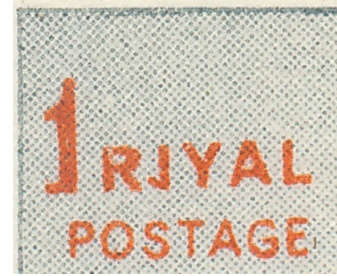
The 20 halalah Riyadh, watermark upright, gummed paper, is also known imperforate.



Scott	SG	Value	Watermark	Gum	UV	City	RN	
900	1365	20 h	Up	Glossy	Gray	Riyadh		
		20 h	Up, imperf.	Glossy	Gray			
907	1366	50 h	Up	Glossy	Gray			
908A	1369	50 h		Invisible	Gray		51.28	
909C	1370	75 h		Invisible	Gray		51.28	
911	1371	150 h		Invisible	Gray		42.28	
901	1367	20 h	Up	Glossy	Gray	Taif		
908	1368	50 h	Up	Glossy	Gray			38.29
908B	1373	50 h		Invisible	Gray			
909A	1374	75 h		Invisible	Gray			47.29
910	1375	150 h		Invisible	Gray			40.07
909	1377	50 h		Invisible	Gray	Jeddah	44.27	
909B	1378	75 h		Invisible	Gray			
911A	1379	150 h		Invisible	Gray			46.28
909	1377	50 h		Visible	White		53.24	
909	1377	50 h		Shiny Visible	White			
909B	1378	75 h		Visible	White			53.24
911A	1379	150 h		Visible	White			53.24
904	1380	50 h				Dammam		
908	1381	75 h						
911A	1382	150 h						
1359	2125	1 r				Arar		
1359a	2125a	1 r		Missing denomination				
1303	2005	50 h		Aerial		Buraydah		
1304	2007	1 r						
1305	2009	2 r						
1306	2006	50 h		Oval		Buraydah		
1307	2008	1 r						
1308	2010	2 r						
1320	1383	1 r				Abha		
1321	1384	2 r						
1346	2109	1 r				Tabuk		
1347	2110	2 r						
1350	2112	1 r				Hail		
1351	2113	2 r						



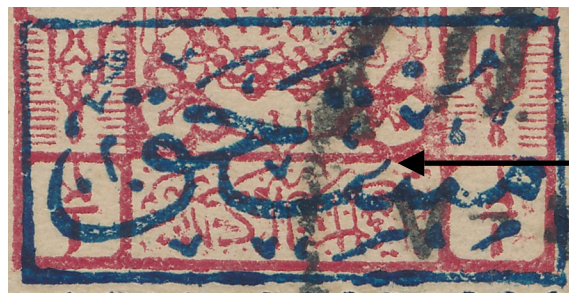
14. This imperforate Khaffji block has a flaw on row 1 stamp 2. Is this RJYAL for RIYAL a constant or semi-constant flaw, or just a single freak? The stamps are original design, paper C, watermark inverted.



15. It is not only Saudi stamps that have laser overprint forgeries. This Hejaz Railway revenue from Transjordan has suffered the same fate. Hejaz Railway collectors beware!



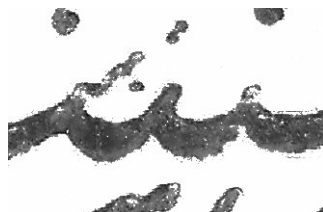
16. Forgeries can be difficult to obtain; owners are reluctant to admit that their prized possessions may be fake and ask high prices. Many forgeries have variations and it is helpful to have examples in addition to the illustrations in the forgeries manual. The Hejaz postage due shown below is a ½ qirsh deep rose with inverted postage due overprint in blue, forgery type 5. A key feature of forgery type 5 is the thin line projecting up from 'taa'. This is present on genuine positions 11 and 29 of setting A, but is a ragged line, not smooth.



Projecting line



Forgery type 5



Genuine position 11



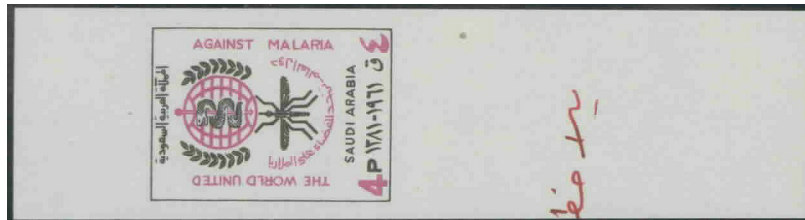
Genuine position 29





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١٣٤٣

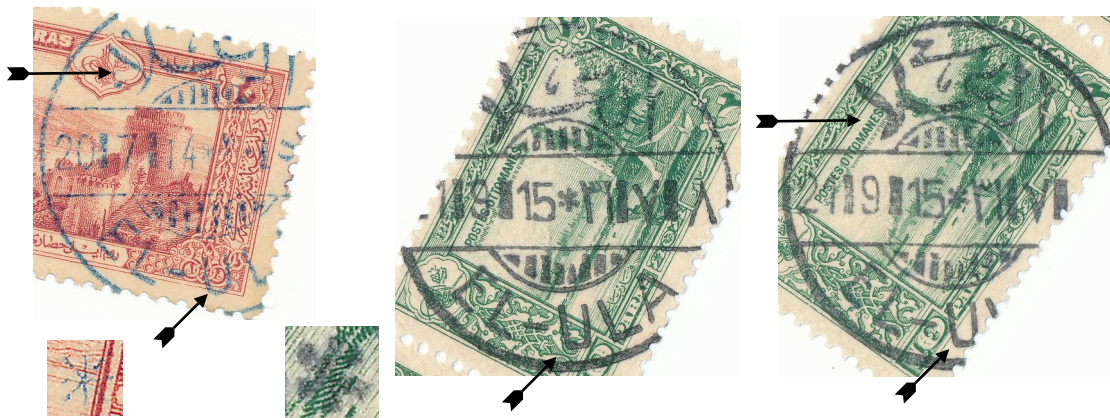
17. Another good example where the forgery manual requires a better illustration is the Jeddah 2-line overprint, forgery type 17. An example is shown above.
18. It is nearly 15 years since Rudy Thoden left us, but the information he passed on to me lives on. One email he sent me relates to item 1 in this issue; part of the message was an illustration of the 4p Malaria essay (Rudy referred to it as an essay) and part of a marginal inscription was visible. Are these stamps in the hands of an APAI member?



During the sales of the Mojadeddi collection, Rudy made a note that on the gold on black unframed Hashemite overprints, many of the stamps show very little gold. It will pay to look closely at these overprints. Willie King did a study of the 20 para postage due which showed that all of the examples he had seen, or were shown in auction catalogues, had the overprint centred low as in the example at right.



19. Many forgeries exist of Ottoman postmarks and a manual of such items is needed. To illustrate a point I have three EL-ULA marks. I think that the first one, in blue, is genuine, and the black ones are forgeries, but an expert opinion is required. The main differences show in the finer lines of the genuine Ula Arabic characters لا, the round-bottom U of ULA, and the eight-point date separating star. The fake star has only six points and the U has a flat bottom. Confirmation of my findings is required.



Domestic Surface Covers 1916-1933

By: J. I. Kearney

This is a continuation of the article "Domestic Surface Covers During the Tughra Period 1934-1959" published in the previous RN. This article will include the Hejaz, the Nejd and the Hejaz & Nejd periods.

The Hejaz period started with rate of 1/2 p. for domestic covers. Below is a cover from Jeddah to Mecca with a cds of 11 February 1920. However this date is incorrect when comparing to the equivalent date of the Arabic of 11 February 1921. Backstamped Mecca 1339 Jamad Althani 12 equal to 20 February 1921. Four of the 1/8 p. makes the rate of 1/2 p.

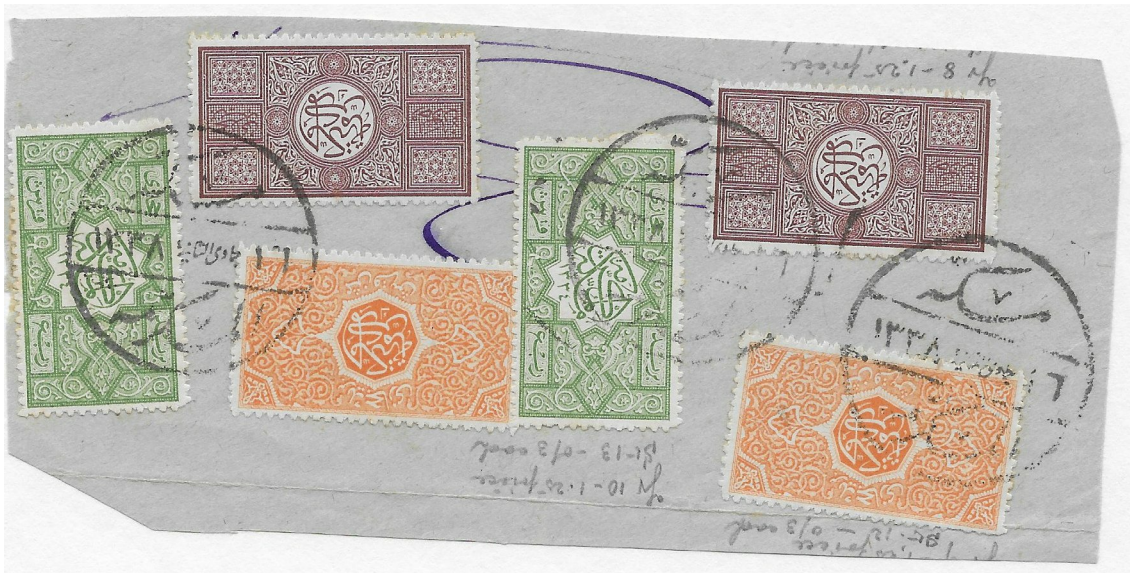


During the period from late 1918 to early 1920 there was a "local" rate of 4/10ths of a piaster to be used between Mecca and Jeddah and vice versa. Below is one such cover from Mecca to Jeddah dated 27 March 1919. The rate was most often made up by using one of each of the following roulette 13 stamps - one para, 1/8th piaster and one 1/4 piaster. One cover has been seen in which 6 of the one paras were combined with one 1/4 piaster to make the 4/10ths piaster rate.





For a double weight cover the rate for this special routing would be 8/10ths of a piaster. Only one cover has been seen. An example of what a cover might look like is shown on the piece below.



In late 1921 the basic rate for local usage was increased to 1 pi. An example with what appears to be a cds of the equivalent of 13 September 1924 is shown below. More information is needed to establish the change in rate.



During the Nejd postal administration the domestic rate remained at 1 pi. Here is a typical local cover of the period dated 21 May 1926. It is believed this was an intra-city Mecca usage.



During the Hejaz and Nejd period the domestic rate decreased to 1/2 pi. More info is needed to pinpoint the date of change. This 1931 Jeddah to Mecca cover has no post office cds, but rather a cachet of the sender. No backstamps except another example of the cachet.



The more typical domestic cover of this period is this late 1932 example. Djeddah to Yanbu. During the last several years there seems to be a relative abundance of local covers addressed to Yanbu. No backstamps.



Arab Post Day Cover

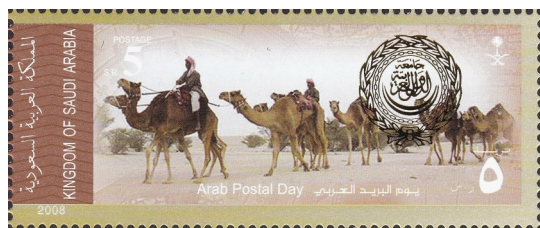
By: David Jessich



This cover was prepared by the author to document that the Arab Post Day commemorative issue of 2008 (SG 2210b, Scott 1399B) was in fact, a regular postage stamp and not a MS as both catalogs currently indicate.

The cover was accepted for mail and issued a registration label in Khobar on 22 November 2016. It went to Dammam the next day and left for Riyadh the following day. A hand stamp was applied in Riyadh three days later on 27 November. It got recorded in the registry system on 28 November and was placed in the addressee's post office box the next day. The recipient finally signed for and collected his mail on 4 December 2016. Total in-country transit time was a week.

What I particularly like about this issue is the dramatic image that is seen under UV light.



Tracking information from Saudi Post:

Tracking#: R1083000082SA		
		Delivered
Date/Time	Details	Office
2016-12-04 - 07:41:38 PM	delivered	N/A
2016-11-29 - 10:52:33 AM	In the P.O.Box	N/A
2016-11-29 - 08:57:56 AM	Arrived To Office	N/A
2016-11-28 - 02:17:25 PM	Departed to -	Central Post in Riyadh office - AR RIYADH
2016-11-28 - 11:16:40 AM	Arrived To Office	Central Post in Riyadh office - AR RIYADH
2016-11-24 - 03:50:25 PM	Departed to - Central Post in Riyadh office - AR RIYADH	Dammam Central Post office - AD DAMMAM
2016-11-24 - 09:12:34 AM	Arrived To Office	Dammam Central Post office - AD DAMMAM
2016-11-23 - 09:44:28 AM	Departed to - Dammam Central Post office - AD DAMMAM	Central Post in Khobar office - AL KHUBAR
2016-11-23 - 08:12:53 AM	Arrived To Office	Central Post in Khobar office - AL KHUBAR
2016-11-22 - 04:38:38 PM	Departed to - Central Post in Khobar office - AL KHUBAR	Al Akrbiyah office - AL KHUBAR
2016-11-22 - 04:36:06 PM	Posting/Collecting	Al Akrbiyah office - AL KHUBAR

At the time of writing, the tracking information is available at:

<https://www.sp.com.sa/en/Electronic/Pages/TrackShipment.aspx?k=R1083000082SA>

The information is removed after 12 months.

APO 816 Usage in Saudi Arabia

By: J. I. Kearney

Random Notes #35 for April - June 1986 first discussed APO 816 in an excellent article entitled Early Aramco Postal History by Rudy Thoden. For those that do not have access to RN #35 it would be appropriate to reprint, in part, what was reported earlier.

In April, 1943, the U.S. government offered Army Post Office (A.P.O.) service to CASOC and BAPCO (Bahrein Petroleum Company) for company and civilian mail. This service started for incoming mail from the U.S.A. in May, 1943, but the Saudi government agreement to use it for outgoing mail was not obtained until May, 1944. The following procedures were worked out between the company and the Saudi government: The individual letters with U.S. postage stamps at the rate of 6 cents per 1/2 ounce were put in a large outer envelope and taken to the Al-Khobar post office. There the outer envelope was weighed and stamps were applied at the rate of 3 qirsh per 1/2 ounce total weight. The stamps were cancelled and the large envelope was handed back to the company which took it to Bahrein on the company launch. It was delivered to the A.P.O. which was then located at Muharraq, a town next to the airport. The A.P.O. apparently moved to Dhahran Airport in December, 1945.

Envelopes were sold at the American canteen at the equivalent of 15 U.S. cents each to cover both the U.S. and Saudi postage. This was a large saving over the cost of sending mail by B.O.A.C. (about 91 U.S. cents) and faster as well. The return address on the envelopes was to be:

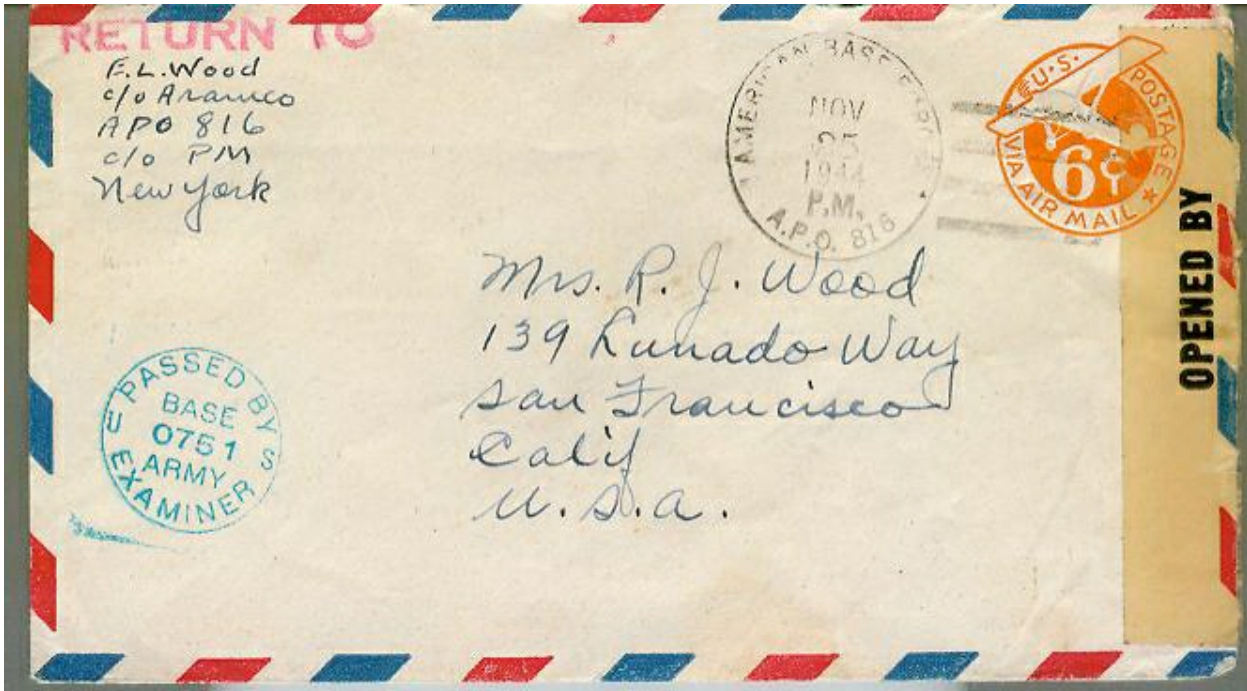
*Employee name
c/o Arabian American Oil Company
A.P.O. 816
c/o Postmaster
New York, N.Y.*

Recently the author has been provided with a wealth of information about A.P.O. 816 from a dealer in Phoenix, AZ who had a large number of A.P.O. 816 covers from a correspondence between Mr. Heder and the United States during the period July 19, 1944 through December 24, 1945. Based on an exchange of photocopies and correspondence it was determined that there exists four different types of A.P.O. 816 cds. The numbering system is the author's.



Type I

AMERICAN BASE FORCES at top of cds, A.P.O. 816 at bottom of cds. A.M. or P.M. in center under date. Many examples in Heder correspondence with earliest usage July 19, 1944, last usage January 16, 1945.



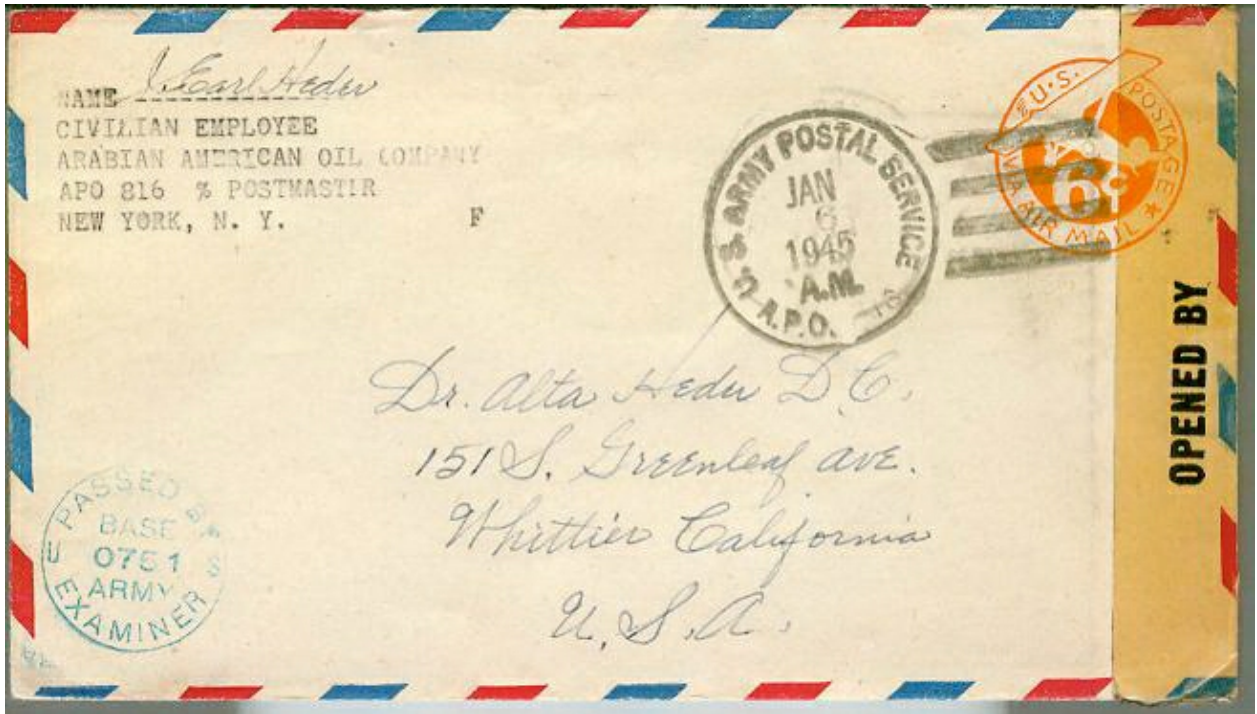
Type II

U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE at top of cds, A.P.O. at bottom of cds. 816 in center of cds below date. 816 is small (7.5mm wide, 3mm high). Heder correspondence has only two examples: September 26, 1944 and October 2, 1944.



Type III

U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE at top of cds, A.P.O. 816 at bottom of cds. A.M. or P.M. added to (below) date. Only one example in Heder correspondence: January 6, 1945.



Type IV

U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE at top of cds, A.P.O. at bottom of cds. Large 816 (10mm wide and 3.5mm high) in lower center of cds. No. A.M. or P.M. below date. Many examples in Heder correspondence with earliest date April 6, 1945, latest date December 24, 1945.



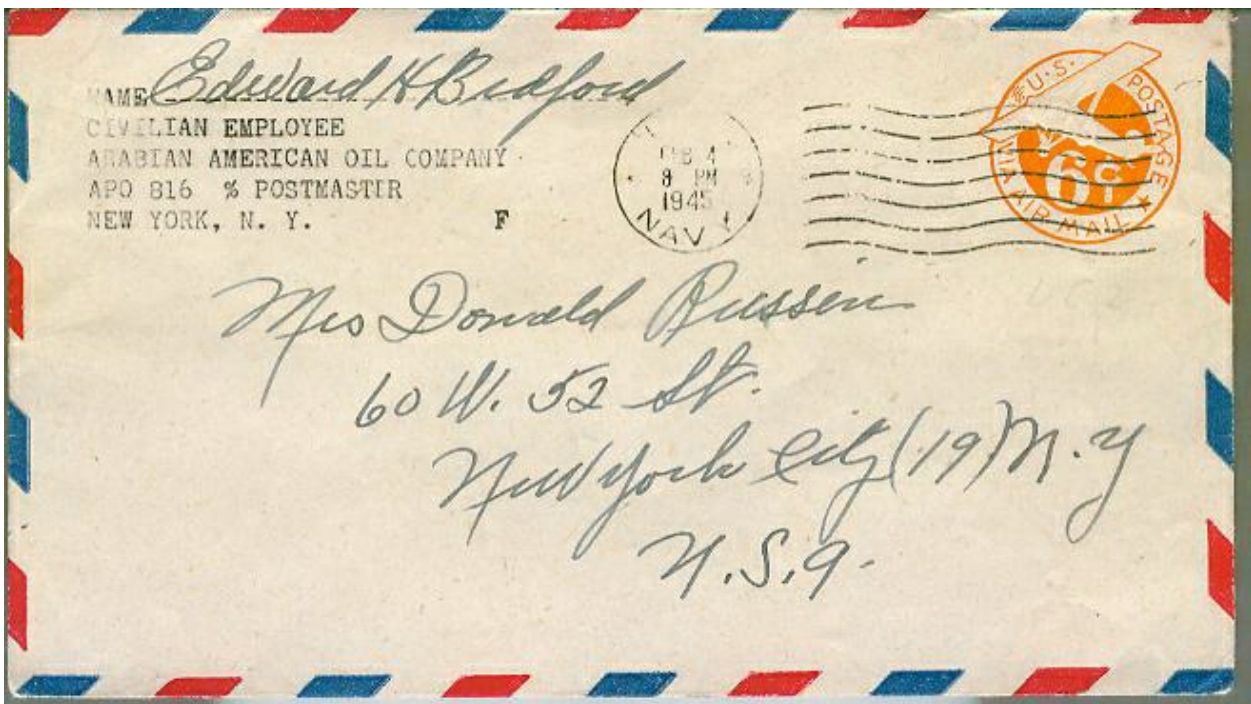
In a publication entitled Numerical Listing of APOs retrieved from https://1a802305.us.archive.org/11/items/numericallisting_of_apos/numericallistingofapos.pdf the following information is reported for A.P.O. 816:

Started in Basra, Iran (sic)	June 23, 1942
Discontinued	October 5, 1943
Al Muharraq, Bahrein Arabia	June 15, 1944
Cairo, Egypt	January, 1946
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia	March, 1946
Ceased Operation	December 31, 1946

Other interesting information

The Heder correspondence has one cover dated December 28, 1945 with APO 678 which seems to confirm A.P.O. 816 use ended in December, 1945.

There is another usage of the return address for APO 816 for which there is no APO 816 cds, but rather a small cds with NAVY in the lower circle (top of circle unreadable) and dated Feb 4, 1945. More information is needed.



Editors Note.

Many thanks to David Grossblat, a dealer whose address is P. O. Box 26387, Phoenix, AZ, 85068, USA, tel 602-863-2242 fax 602-942-4339 who had many examples of A.P.O. 816 correspondence and who was gracious enough to look through his covers and answer questions posed by the author. This sort of co-operation is most welcome.

Dating Covers or Deciphering Those “Hard to Read” Cancels

By: David Jessich

I only recently started collecting covers and now I’m hooked. Each one is unique and more often than not, has a very interesting story to tell. But one of the first tasks before you is to read the cancel. First to know what city the cover was mailed from. Obviously, if the sender has included his return address, that helps. Second, is to see the date that the letter was sent. Registered mail has the added benefit of transit and receiving cancels generally (always ?) applied on the reverse. But for normal mail, we just have to do our best with what we have.

A scanner is probably an indispensable tool these days. They allow so much more magnification than the customary 3.5x magnifying glass. Having other examples of similar cancels also helps, as you now know where exactly to look for the date or counter number.

Finally a knowledge of the typical use of the stamp, first day of issue, design change dates, etc. will help narrow the date possibilities. And for those collectors of Arabic stamps, we have the added benefit of a dual date system; Hijra and Gregorian.

Here is a cover that has two stamps, one a definitive that had a long period of use; 1934-1960, over 25 years. The second is a tax stamp that saw service for only five years; 1937-1942. However, it did appear in two colors, a scarlet and a rose (Scott), vermilion and rosine (Gibbons), so that could (but unfortunately does not) help us narrow the search.

The subject stamp is shown below. It is clearly more orange than pink, so it is the earlier printing. So we are still left with a five-year window.

1937-1942



RM3X
RA3
346
vermilion
scarlet
vermilion

Thoden
Scott
Gibbons

1939-1942



RM3Xa
RA3a
346a
scarlet
rose
rosine

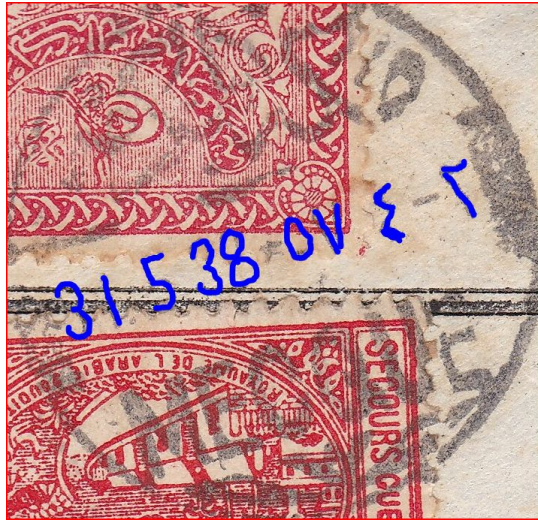




But even a closer look at the definitive could possibly help us. It was issued in two perforations; Perf 11½ and Perf 11. The first one was in use from 1934 until 1947 and the second from 1937 to 1960. In our case, the stamp is a Perf 11½, so that does not help one-way or the other.

So, now on to the date itself. Here are three scans, which I have a) highlighted nothing, then b) what I could clearly see and finally c) my interpretation of the rest of the digits.



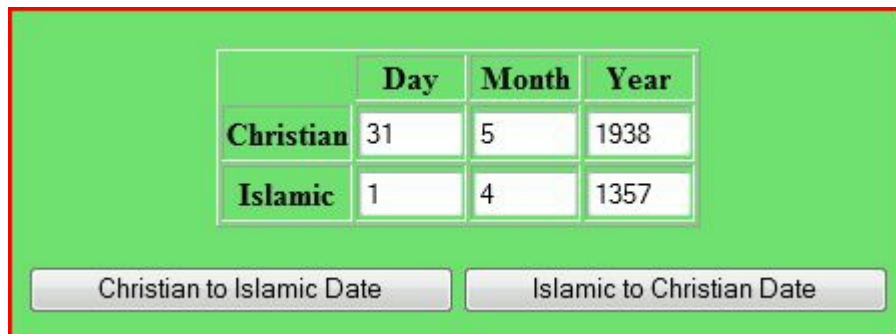


31-5-38 ٥٧-٤-٢

Here was my process: I could clearly see the Arabic day “2” and the Arabic month “4” and then faintly what looked like a year “7”. So my choices were:

1357-04-02
 1367-04-02
 1377-04-02
 etc.

Then when I went to my Islamic date converter program, only the first two were possible matches. i.e. 1938, 1948



And when I looked closely at the Gregorian year, I could just make out the top of a “3” and an “8”, pushing me to guess it was the earliest date. When I converted the Islamic date (subtracting one for rounding error), I got 31-5-1938. Now the “1” of 31 was pretty clear so all I had to do was interpolate the “3” in front of it, as well as the “5” for the month.

My task was complete. Thank goodness I had at least a couple of numbers to start with. Sometimes we’re not so lucky. By the way, the Mecque cancel is a Knight type S32 that was in common use from 1934 to 1939.

Two Double-weight CASOC Covers

By: *J. I. Kearney*

The first CASOC cover, shown below, was mailed from Bahrain to USA with a cds of 13 March 1940. The postage was 2 x 18as. for the double weight plus 3½as. for the surface fee making a total rate of 39½as. The 18as. air fee per each ½ ounce was in effect from 2 September 1939 to 1945. But since the fall of France on 10 May 1940 this route was seldom used. Censored Gibraltar. Cover probably travelled Bahrain-Cairo-Djerba, Tunisia-Gibraltar-London, where the jusqu'a marking (the two red bars) was applied.



This CASOC cover was mailed from Bahrain to USA believed to be 28 January 1941. The addressee noted on the reverse "mailed Jan. 25, 1941, received March 12, 1941". It is believed the cover travelled on B.O.A.C. flight NE 54 which departed Bahrain 28 January 1941. Postage was 94½as. which reflected the airmail fee of 2 x 45½as. plus the surface fee of 3½as. The 45½as. air fee per each ½ ounce was effective 21 December 1940. Cover was censored Karachi and Singapore. Use of the 5 rupees stamp is scarce but is used to pay for double weight covers. It is not known as to the reason for the delayed delivery.



Editor's Note

For readers who are interested in learning more about jusqu'a markings, Ian McQueen wrote a most informative booklet '*Jusqu'a Airmail Markings : A Study*' on the subject. This publication appears to be difficult to locate, but its ISBN is 9780951464328. Even harder to obtain is the supplement published in 1995, ISBN 9780951464335.

Revenue Update

By: Martin Lovegrove

Late in 2016 I became aware of a version of the 150 riyal manpower services stamp that appeared to be a forgery. I am aware of two genuine types of this stamp, one on watermarked paper and the other on a very white unwatermarked paper. Both are comb perforated 14 and use security ink that shows two colours although the stamps are recess printed from one plate.

Genuine



Forgery or essay?



Looking at this new version, we see that it is litho printed and is line perforated 12. There is a security underprint as with the the genuine stamp, but close examination shows that the stamp is printed from two plates; the misalignment of the two colours shows clearly in the magnified view of part of the stamp shown above.

The genuine stamps have a phosphor overprint 'Kingdom of Saudi Arabia' in Arabic but the overprint used for this stamp is a repeated 'Al Malia', but note that all of the dots in the Arabic have been omitted.

There are also differences in the shading at the base of the tree at the centre of the stamp.



So, is it a forgery? A lot of effort has been put into producing this stamp and yet the phosphor overprint is incorrect. Perhaps the wording of the overprint gives us a clue; could it be an essay commissioned by the Ministry of Finance?

Visa labels are plentiful, but the version for transit visas is not often seen:



الغرض: مروراً الى الاردن

Purpose: Transit to Jordan

عدد السفرات : ذهاب وعودة

Number of trips: Out and return

الناقل : برا

Transport: By land

This 11 qirsh general documentary is not listed in Thoden; I have not seen a use for this value. Was it ever issued?



Acknowledgements and Contacts

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