



الجمعية الدولية للطوابع البريدية العربية
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International
Random Notes



September, 2018

Number 93

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The Acting Editor put this issue of Random Notes together and it is obvious that the quality of the publication falls short of the standard we have been used to from Martin Lovegrove. Martin kindly supplied the Random Notes starting on page 3 and Ken Knight sent us the article on World War I starting on page 10.

In addition, we have an article on collecting covers by Yusuf Aidroos, which illustrates some uncommon postmarks and origins.

If anyone has complete or partial sheets of Hejaz stamps with or without overprints, please consider scanning them at 254dpi or 508dpi and sending the scans to me at hejaz@tccincinnati.com where they can join many others on the website. If you are interested in the scans we have please email me.

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

Treasurer: David Jessich

Acting Editor, Random Notes: Marwan Nusair hejaz@tccincinnati.com

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 Acting Editor is Marwan Nusair, PO Box 498788, Cincinnati, OH 45249, USA. 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 or acting editor.

Scott's (2017) 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'udiyah wa al Hijaz wa Najd* (1973)

DONALDSON, N- *The Postal Agencies in Eastern Arabia and the Gulf.* (1975)

WILSON, J.M.- *The Hejaz - A History in Stamps* (1982).

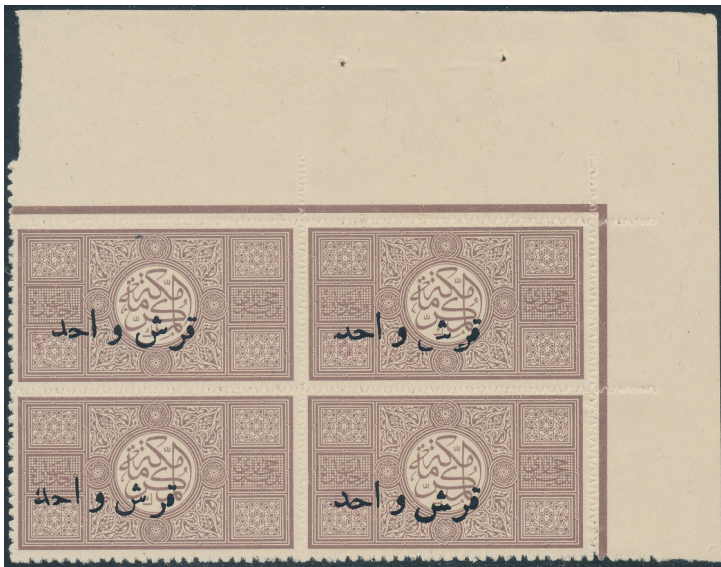
COLES, J.H. & WALKER, H.E – *Postal Cancellations of the Ottoman Empire Part 2* (1987)

THODEN, R. J- *A Catalog of the Fiscal Stamps of Saudi Arabia*, (2001), Thoden 2008

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

Random Notes #93 Assembled by Martin Lovegrove

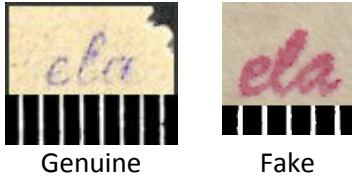
Note 1: It seems that laser overprints are appearing in greater numbers, and it is not only on eBay but also major international auctions houses are offering these fakes. Although they are difficult, if not impossible, to detect from auction images (however good they may be), it is not difficult if you have the stamp in front of you. All you need is a good magnifying glass; 30x magnification is usually sufficient. The following appeared on eBay in March 2018:



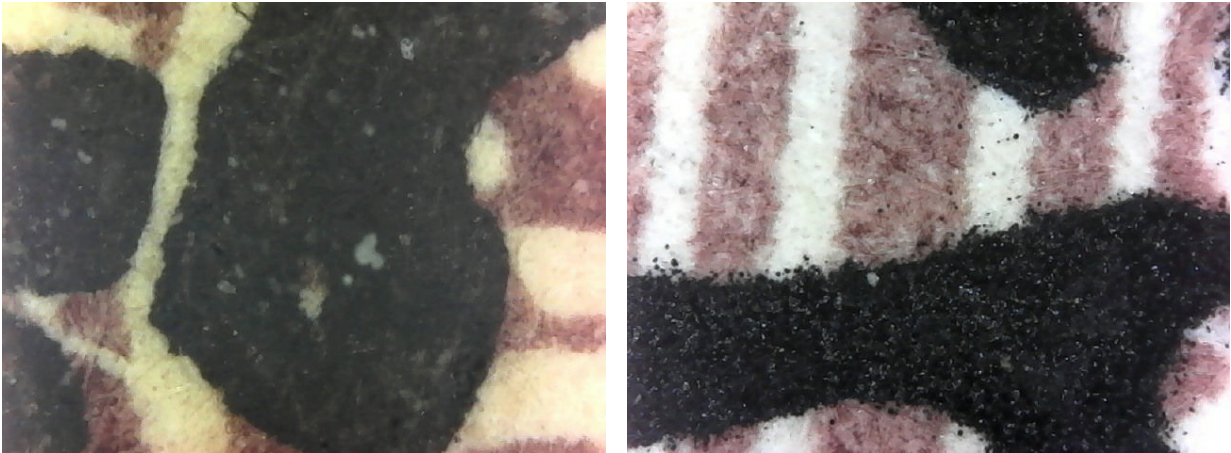
The overprints can be placed to positions 4,5,9 and 10 and therefore match the stamp positions. To strengthen the claim to be genuine, the back also had 'ela' handstamps that looked quite good.



However, the 'ela' handstamps were not good enough as can be seen from comparison with the known genuine handstamp. In the images below, the white lines are spaced 1mm apart.

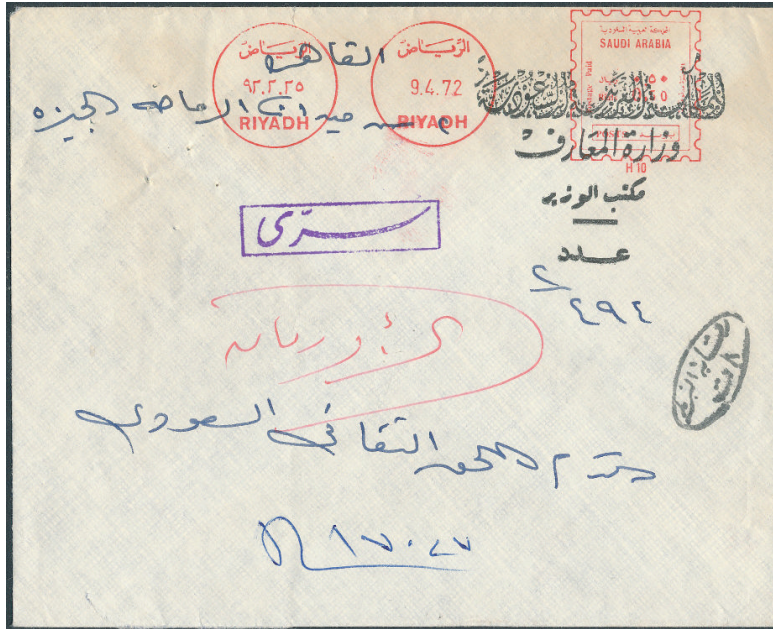


For readers not familiar with printing techniques, a comparison between the clean lines of relief printing and the mass of dots produced by laser printing are shown below:



I am surprised that the major auction houses cannot detect these forgeries, perhaps they are all salesmen and no philatelists.

Note 2: One of the best items to come on the market this year was this official cover with a RIYADH meter mark. With a date of 9 April 1972, this must be the earliest meter mail from Saudi, the usual marks started in about 1977.



According to the International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog, now on Wikibooks at:

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/International_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog/Saudi_Arabia

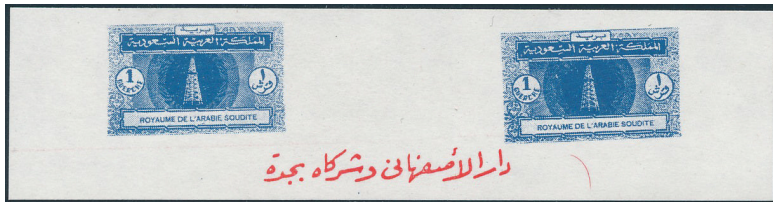
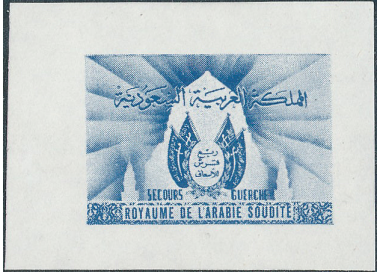
this is a Hasler F-88 type. Perhaps it was a trial at the Ministry of Education and if anyone has more information, please let the editor know. In the context of this cover, the violet handstamp means 'confidential'. The cover is addressed to Cairo and is franked 0.50 Riyal.

Note 3: The printing company of Dar Al Isfahani in Jeddah play a part in the production of Saudi postage stamps, not only producing some stamps in the Dam, GOSP, and Air series, but also producing several essays, presumably in an attempt to get the stamp printing contract. It is reported that five different designs were printed on a single sheet in four colours:

SG colour	Pantone
Yellowish green	362U
Blue	2186U
Red	2348U
Brown	7594U

There were four designs measuring approximately 35 mm x 20 mm and one smaller design 23 mm x 15 mm, presumably at the foot of the sheet, above the Dar Al Isfahani imprint. The actual numbers of each design on the printed sheet is unknown to me.

The paper was gummed and was without any optical brightening agents.



A similar essay showing a Vickers Viscount was also produced, probably with multiple copies in one colour on each sheet. Two colours have been noted, emerald and blue, but no doubt others exist.



Note 4: A strange variety has been seen on the Dhahran Airport type S130 postmark - the Arabic counter number is 10 and the western number is 02.



Note 5: In some ways similar to forgery type 9, this forgery is printed in black without any gold and has very badly formed characters.



Note 6: Collectors of Saudi sidelines may already have examples of the returned mail form CN15. This form replaces the endless numbers of returned mail cachets to be found. This example show mail refused because of the suspension of postal services to Qatar. It would appear that each postal region has, or will have, its own version of the CN15.



Note 7: The Nejd variety ‘words of surcharge reversed’ on the 1 qirsh on ½ qirsh Makkah Arms stamp, occurs on plates with the original thick type, position 30, and the later thin type, position 17.



Thick type



Thin type

Note 8: Random Notes #52, page 4 item 5, describes some ARAMCO outgoing postal markings. It shows two types, an early type stated as being used in 1954 and having a diameter of 44 mm, and a later type stated as being used in 1956 and having a diameter of 32 mm.

Here is an inbound registered cover from Brazil received in Dhahran on 24 August 1954. It is the ‘later’ 32 mm diameter version in black and pre-dates the ‘earlier’ 44 mm type shown in RN52. Note that the date on this example and that shown in RN52, is in French. This appears to be an interesting subject to study.



MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO E ~~CULTURA~~ Cultura
Observatório Nacional



Mr. Joseph A. McInnis

Geodetic Engineer

Box 202

Dhahran

Saudi Arabia

Via Aerea

R 860/1

3A/991

f55-



Note 9: Received from Khalid Omaira regarding the 1947 air mail fees, shown below:

Airmail Fees for the letters, local & to Egypt.

The general postal administration pleased to announce to the public that it has been decided to transfer letters, and parcels, to Egypt and locally by the Saudi airplanes as the attached statement.

Air fees in addition to the normal postage fees.

Saudi Guerche	Postal Route
¼	Between Jeddah & Ta'if for every 20 grams.
½	Between Jeddah & Riyadh, or Ta'if & Riyadh for every 20 grams.
½	Between Jeddah & Dhahran, or Ta'if & Dhahran for every 10 grams.
½	From Saudi Arabia to Egypt - for every 5 grams.

الاجور البريدي الجوي على الطائرات السعودية

ادارة البرق والبريد العامة يسرها ان تعلن للعموم انه قد تقررت نقل الرسائل والطرود الى مصر وفي داخل المملكة على الطائرات السعودية بموجب الاجور المختصة الموضحة في البيان المرفق بهذا بعددتها على اجور البريد الاصلية . ١ - ٣

اجور طرقات المرسلة بالبريد الجوي

على الطائرات السعودية

الاجور الاضافية علاوة على اجرة البريد الاصلية

قروش سعودي

- ¼ ما بين جدة والطائف لكل عشرين غرام .
- ½ ما بين جدة والرياض او الطائف والرياض - لكل عشرين غرام .
- ½ ما بين جدة والطهران او الطائف والطهران لكل عشرة غرام .
- ½ من داخل المملكة الى مصر - لكل خمسة غرام .
- (٢) اجور الطرود المرسلة بالبريد الجوي بالطائرات السعودية .

الاجرة الاضافية الجوية علاوة على اجرة البريد الاصلية

لكل كيلو
قروش سعودي

- ٤ ما بين جدة والطائف .
- ٢٢ ما بين جدة والرياض .
- ٣٣ ما بين جدة والطهران .
- ٤٤ من جدة الى مصر .
- ٦٦ من الطهران الى مصر .

Airmail Fees for the Parcels, local & to Egypt.	
Air fees in addition to the normal postage fees.	
Saudi Guerche	
4	Between Jeddah & Ta'if
22	Between Jeddah & Riyadh
33	Between Jeddah & Dhahran
44	From Jeddah to Egypt
66	From Dhahran to Egypt

Extract from Umm Al Qura newspaper, dated 5th September 1947. .

Note 10: Peter Moorer asks if anyone can identify this stamp, which is Scott C60 or C89 with a closed bridge in the Middle of the stamp instead of left or right. If you can shed any light on this variation please email hejaz@tccincinnati.com.



World War I in Arabia

by **Kenneth Knight**

This short article historical rather than philatelic concerns a postcard I purchased in late 2017 (cost \$3.75). Before describing the card and its sender some brief notes regarding Arabia in the early years of the 20th. Century are perhaps in order.

At the outbreak of WWI most of the ‘Arabia’ was nominally part of the Ottoman Empire ⁽¹⁾, the only part of Arabia truly independent of the Ottomans were those areas of Najd and Hasa reclaimed for the House of Saud by Abdul Aziz (Ibn Saud). The other ‘Power’ in the area was Britain. The British had established several agreements with local rulers, e.g. Kuwait, and occupied other areas subject to Ottoman rule, e.g. Aden and Egypt.

British interests in Arabia were administered by one of two government agencies, the Foreign Office and the India Office. The easiest way to delineate the spheres of influence of these Government Departments is to draw a line North – South through the centre of the Arabian Peninsula, British interests to the East of that line were administered by the India Office, and British interests to the West by the Foreign Office.

The India Office’s representative on the ground was one William Henry Irvine Shakespear, a Captain in the Indian Army. Not only had Shakespear crossed Arabia - Kuwait to Jeddah - he had befriended Abdul Aziz. Shakespear was killed while observing a ‘battle’ between Ibn Saud and Ibn Rashid ⁽²⁾.

Meanwhile in Western Arabia, the Arab Bureau’s principal protagonists T.E. Lawrence and Ronnie (later Sir Ronald) Storrs were inciting the Sherif of Mecca to cast off Turkish rule. In 1916 this resulted in “The Arab Revolt”.

Anybody having seen the movie ‘LAWRENCE OF ARABIA’ could be forgiven for believing that Lawrence and the Arab Army led by Faisal, the Sharif’s son, were solely responsible for defeating Turkish forces in the Hejaz. **This was not so.**

The ‘Arab Regular Army’ comprised of Arab P.O.W.s captured on Gallipoli and in Mesopotamia who switched allegiance was involved, as were the British Navy’s ‘Red Sea Fleet’ and aeroplane pilots of what was to become the R.A.F. In addition, Lawrence was accompanied by an Armoured Car Company and Mountain Gun Battery.

Ernest Rawcliffe (R.A.S.C.) ⁽³⁾

Hejaz Armoured Car Company

My financial situation being what it is I never anticipated owning correspondence from a participant in the ‘Arab Revolt’. However, in October 2017 I acquired the p.p.c. illustrated below. Unfortunately, from a philatelic viewpoint, it was mailed inside an envelope and has no

postal or censorship marks, however, from a historical viewpoint, it has allowed the sender to write a letter length message and include a return address.

Viz: Hedjaz Armoured Cars, Red Sea Littoral, Base 'A'.

The 'Forces War Records' website does not list an Ernest Rawcliffe, R.A.S.C.

The Imperial War Museum's website listed only the fact that Ernest Rawcliffe was R.A.S.C. with the rider "extracted from medals record", which is another way of saying that his service records were lost to Luftwaffe bombing in WWII, but they do have a record of him receiving the British War Medal (over 6,500,000 issued), and Victory Medal (appx. 6,500,000 issued).

In APPENDIX I of Lawrence's memoir 'Seven Pillars of Wisdom' he lists 87 men as comprising the Hejaz Armoured Car Company, 51 of which were Machine Gun Company (M.G.C.) and 37 R.A.S.C. men, including **E. Rawcliffe**.

I haven't been able to ascertain Ernest's exact roll. He could have been deployed at the front with the M.G.C. as driver/mechanic or have been employed in the supply train.

The card is sent after the Armistice when Ernest was on leave in Cairo awaiting demobilisation.

Transcription of Ernest's Message

Wed Nov 20/18

Hedjaz Armoured Cars

Red Sea Littoral, Base 'A'

Dear Friend,

I must thank you so much for your letter + news which you sent me from B'pool, ⁽⁴⁾ and I hope you will forgive me in being so long in replying. I was very pleased indeed that you were having such a nice holiday. I thought of the old times we have all spent together once. I don't care how soon they return I am sure we all thank God that the War is over, and we are trying to be as patient as possible now waiting of demobilisation. I am sure you will feel so glad now Lizzie that there is no danger your Jack going in the army, and I do hope you are both keeping in the best of

health. I am having a very nice time on leave considering, and it is a treat to get back to civilisation for a few days, after being in the desert [sic]. Cairo is a very fine city but not so bracing as Alex with the lovely sea there, but you know there is nothing like old England Lizzie. (Take me back to Dear old Blighty) yes not half. Ah well, when all is said and done I am very thankful indeed that my life has been spared, and I am glad to say that I am still in the best of health, and I hope your dear Father + Mother + Your Will + Jack are keeping well. Kindly give them all my kindest regards + best wishes for a Merry Xmas + a Bright and Happy New Year + please accept same for Jack + yourself. Hoping we shall all meet again soon.

From your sincere Friend.

Ernest Rawcliffe

Footnotes

- 1) This statement is a generalisation, as indeed, are several other assertions. They are made in the interests of brevity.
- 2) Had Shakespear lived, his friendship with Abdul Aziz could have drastically changed the war against Turkey. Imagine the result of Ibn Saud and his Ikhwan attacking Turkish supply lines in Mesopotamia! Or aiding attacks on the Hejaz Railway!
- 3) R.A.S.C. is an abbreviation of Royal Army Service Corps.
- 4) B'pool = Blackpool, then as now a U.K. coastal holiday resort.



Collecting Postally Used Covers (specially of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia).

by Yusuf Aidroos

INTRODUCTION

Stamp collection is one of the very popular Hobby, but collecting the **Postal used Covers** is more advanced, interesting and knowledgeable. Considering Stamp collection (also known as Philately) as Graduation, and then collecting Postal used Covers would be a PhD, which leads to Postal History. Stamps can be a million of same kind, but no two Covers can be identical, and thus, one of a kind!

HISTORY

First Stamp, **Penny-black**, was issued and used on May 06, 1840 in England. A penny was a lot of money in those days, but the concept of pre-paying the postage was a breakthrough, prior to which the addressee had to pay upon receiving the mail.

A lady in London advertised in the local paper for purchase of “used” Penny-black, the only stamp that existed then—for using as wallpaper!

This stimulated the idea of collecting, and perhaps that’s how **Stamp Collection** started.

There may be few hundred thousand Penny-black stamps in the world collections because of the seven years in use, but extremely few of its Covers!

KNOWLEDGE

With a 50 or 100-year-old cover, one can trace through the postmarks and cancellations, the place and person of origin, the destination, how (mode of travel) and how long it took to reach there, year of usage; and from the stamps and surcharges or additional marking, if any, what were the then current postal rates. Just a postage Stamp will not give all this information.

While tracking down routes and other facts from the cancellation, one will learn more about the **History and Geography** of a country or countries, and their relationships. One may also learn another language, if different from his/her own. The British controlled most of the Gulf countries Postal service in the 1930’s, and the Indian stamps with Overprints of respective country names (Bahrain, Kuwait, etc) were used; and in Saudi Arabia, Egyptian and Turkish stamps were used.

Events and unusual postal systems adapted are recorded, like First day covers, Zeppelin flights, Man’s first landing on the Moon, Orbit of Comets, Boat mail, Camel mail, Hajj etc.

ADVANTAGES

People from different walks of lives, a Prince or a Pauper, of different nationalities, speaking different languages, of different ages and of both sexes, has something in common, Philately which includes Stamp collection, Postal History and Covers. They form and gather together at intervals in Clubs in almost all large cities of the world, to exchange their collections and experiences, participate in presentations, exhibitions, auctions, and passing down the knowledge—and that's what the hobby is all about!

Comparative studies for any arguments: Fakes and forgeries are determined and so are the dates of issues of stamps, which are then recorded or records updated.

Other advantages include, good pastime, socializing and making friends with like-minded persons, sharing knowledge, learning and coping with people's different attitudes, learn to: speak, exhibit, organize collections and present with facts; finding special features of the places (mountains, deserts, tourist attractions, resorts etc), deriving pleasure from unusual possession/accumulation, beneficial (value increases with passage of time), keeping away from mischief, and among other things, something to look forward to in retirement!

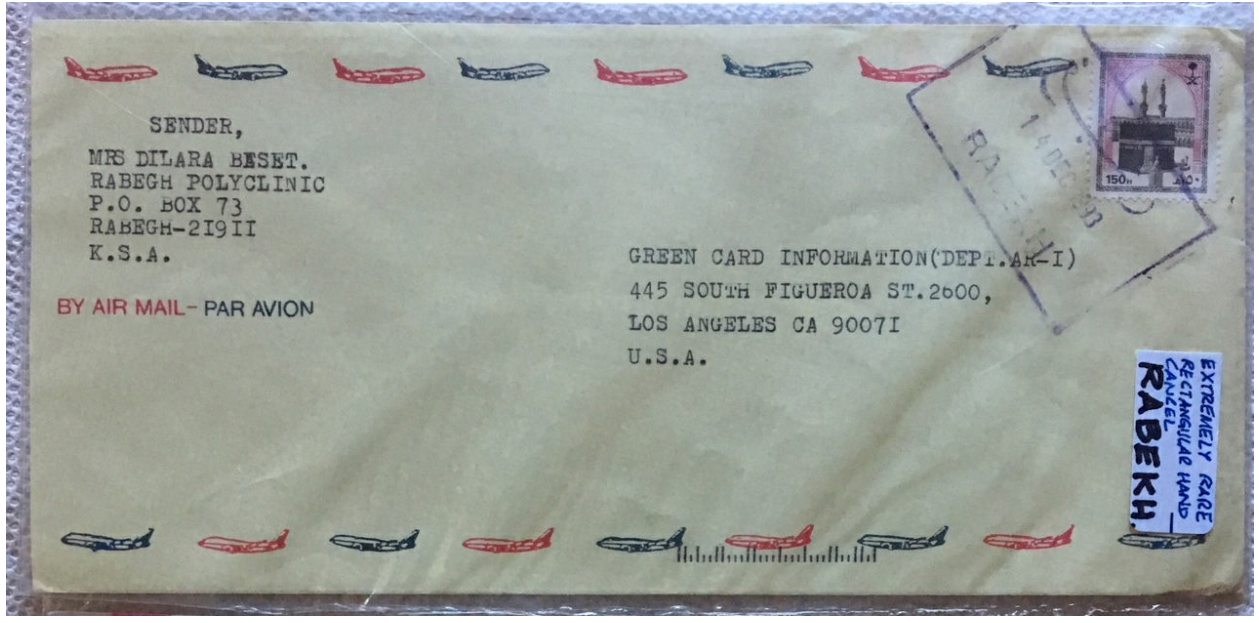
PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION

Like humans, Paper (including Stamps and Covers) also breathes. Therefore, supply of proper air circulation should be monitored. They should also be protected from Water/moisture, Dirt/dust, Sunrays /dryness, Theft and misplacement. It is also recommended that the collection be Recorded, Organized and kept in sequence.

TYPES OF SAUDI COVERS

FDC, or popularly known as First Day-Cancel Covers. These are seldom prepared officially. Riyadh and Makkah clubs prepared some for the collectors, enthusiasts and commemorative-attending dignitaries. Some were specially cancelled for yearly Hajj pilgrimage, which has rare cancels of Makkah, Mena, Muzdalifah, and Arafat. The last three town's post offices function only nine days a year during Hajj.

EXAMPLES OF INTERESTING COVERS

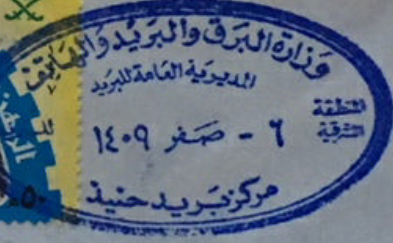






830

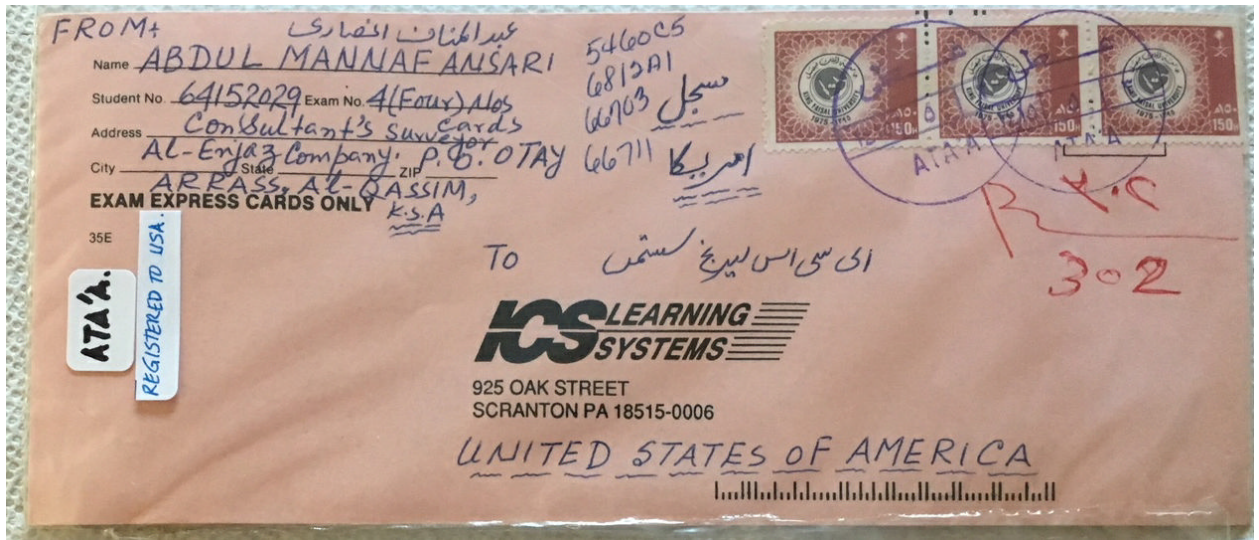
Haneedh

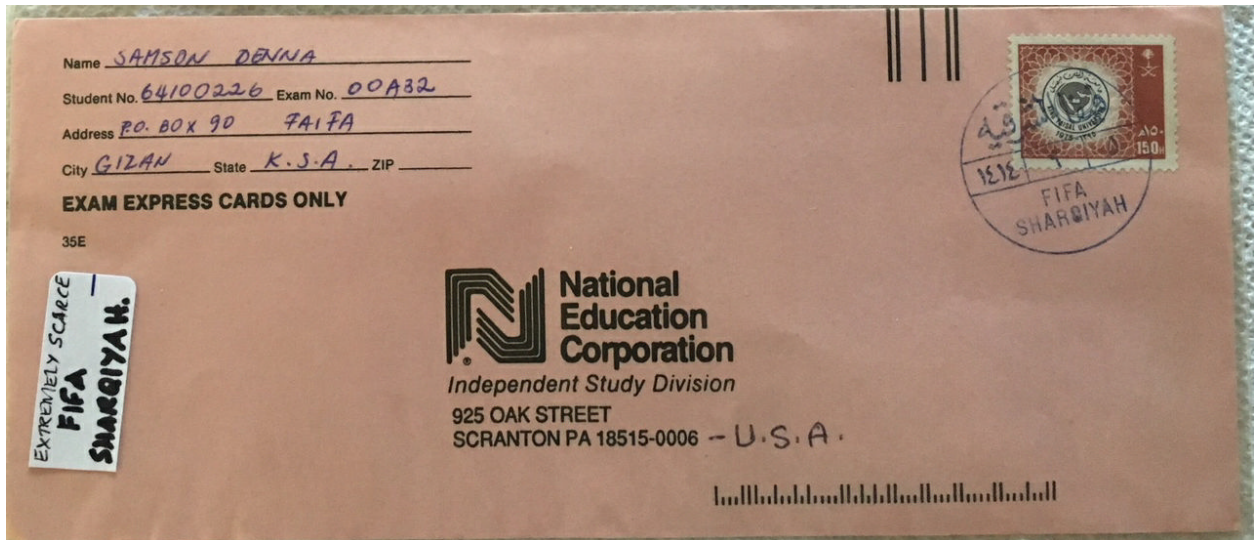


VERY RARE Ovd Cancel
HANEEDH.
 BeckStamp ANNTARIYA

مطيس مرزا
 ص ب ١٧٨٧٤
 الرياض ١١٦٥٥







25/3

AIR MAIL



VERY SCARC
HANDSTAMP
BOAQE.

To, MD. SAHEB HUSSAIN
ROOM NO. 25/3
SAUDI BILADDIN GROUP
SALBUOK CAMP
POST-BOX- NO. 26/06
RIYADH- 11486
K. S. A

FROM
MD. KURAISH ANSARI # 1738
SHAYBHA PROJECT
POST-BOX- NO-1 (ONE)
ABRARA. 31992.
K. S. A

711.7