



Arabian Philatelic Association International

Random Notes

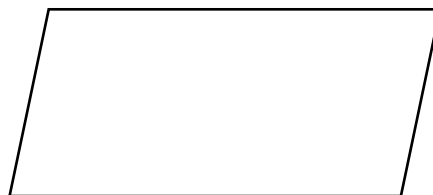


November 2020

NUMBER 95

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Saudi parallelogram stamp? See [page 4](#)

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).

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.

Scott's (2021) 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).

RIACHI, G.D. - *The Sultanate of Nejd, A Philatelic Manual* (2015).

Random Notes #95

Assembled by the Editor

A search through my archives revealed I have enough material for another issue, albeit somewhat small than usual. To make up for that we have a display of maximaphily submitted by Yusuf Aidroos and that is distributed as an attachment to this issue.

I would appreciate any articles, small snippets of information or even questions so that we don't have to wait too long for the next issue.

I have heard it said that the Covid-19 pandemic has given us more time to work with out collections and hopefully submit comments on what has been found, but in reality plenty of other diversions have arisen, so philately still has competition.

The end of the pandemic may be a long way off, but in any case, please stay safe.

Now for the notes:

1. The qirsh 1950 Medical Aid stamp, double impression (Scott RA6a var, SG 348 var, Thoden RM9c) was illustrated on cover in RN94 and a single is at figure 2.. The ¼ qirsh stamp (Scott RA8 var, SG 351 var, Thoden RM11 var) also exists with a double impression and is illustrated below (figure 1), on piece with a clear MECQUE SR56 postmark in violet dated 13 February 1960.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

2. Looking through my scans of the collection belonging to the late Sheikh Al-Thani, I found an interesting diagonal perforation error on the 2 qirsh on 50 qirsh Nejd Capture of Jeddah set (Scott 65, SG 250). I hope it is one that is new to Random Notes (figure 3).
3. The plate for the centres of the 10 qirsh King Ali stamps has right-angle guide marks at each corner of the plate (figure 4), but in my experience they are not always visible.

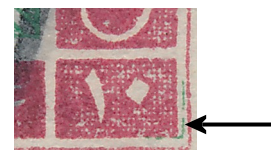


Figure 4



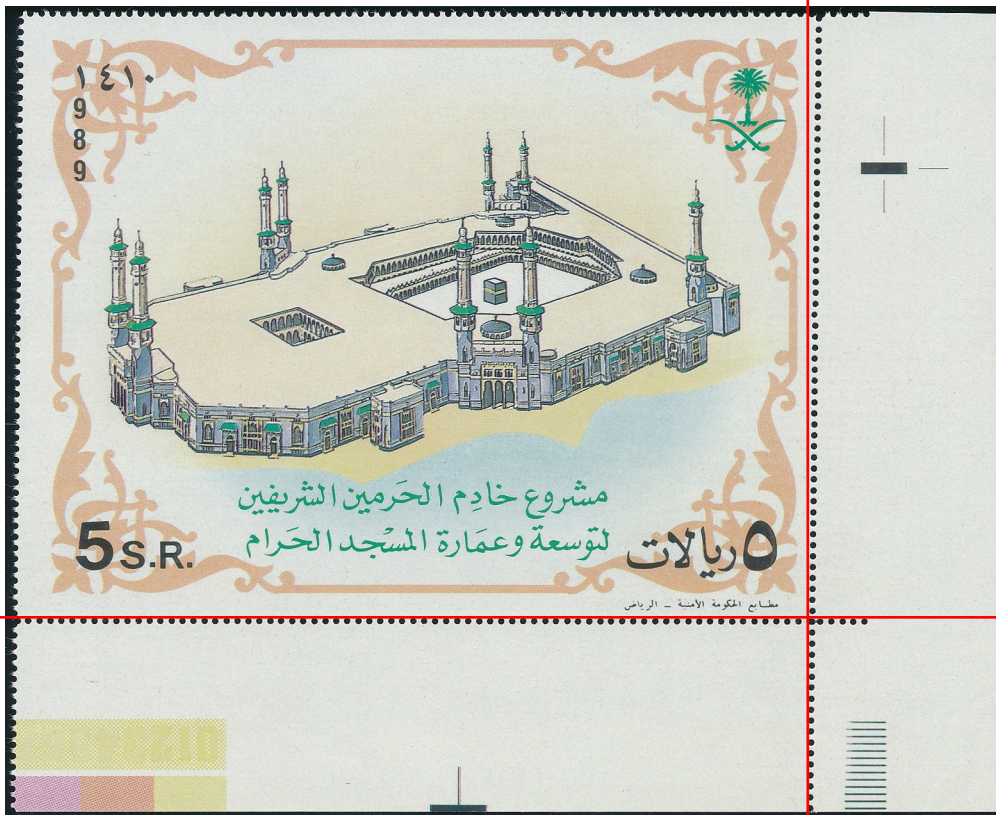


Figure 5

4. Is this the first Saudi parallelogram shaped stamp since the early issues (figure 5)? It was line perforated and if the sheet is not perfectly aligned at a right angle to the perforations in the other direction (I don't know which direction was performed first), then a parallelogram will be the result.
5. I recently received some images of Hejaz stamps with either the unframed or framed Hashemite overprint together with the Jeddah 2-line overprint. All of the 2-line overprints were forgery type 14. I illustrate one of them here at figure 6 at 300% to add to the information in the Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries.



Figure 6



6. It is not often that revenue stamps in complete sheets come onto the market, so this sheet (figure 7) of transit visa stamps, Thoden RP30, will be helpful to some revenue collectors.



Figure 7

7. I expect someone on eBay was delighted with a result, but I suspect it may not have been the buyer. The stamp in question (figure 8) was described as *1925 SAUDI ARABIA SC# P2, NEWSPAPER STAMP MINT \$1500.00, TOP RARITY !!*, but was actually a forgery of Scott P3 catalogued at \$2750 if genuine; both of the handstamps were forgeries as was the very poor David Graham initials on the back. It sold for \$305 (£235 at the time).



Figure 8



Figure 9

8. At about the same time and from the same seller there was a similar item (figure 9) for sale on Delcampe, listed as *ARABIE SAOUDITE - SULTANAT DE NEDJED AN 1925 YVERT NR. 21 MNH ROUGE AVEC 3 CERTIFICATIONS D'EXPERTS AU DOS*. This was Scott P2 catalogued at \$1400 if genuine. It had the same matbu'a forgery and David Graham mark as the eBay item and was priced at €800 (\$5597, £4395). This stamp was later listed on eBay with a 99c start and sold for \$136.10 (£103.80).
9. RN86 contained an article about the S150 series of cancels, most of which had been described in the earlier series of articles by Kenneth D. Knight. The article concluded with three variations previously unrecorded. Another variation has been found and allocated the temporary type code of S150D and is illustrated at figures 10 and 11. This type has (post) above the date belt and offset slightly to the right, and the office name in Arabic beneath it. It would appear that a word existed to the left of but had been erased. This type has only been seen for Dammam and with dates in your editor's collection ranging from 17 April 1984 to 13 June 1993.

Figure 10. Schematic with Hijra date

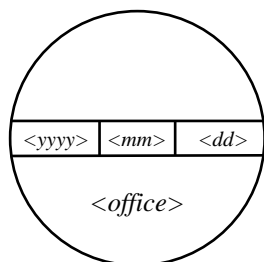


Figure 11. Example with Hijra date



Figure 12

10. Random Notes #64.24 illustrated a cover with a horizontal pair of the 1949 air 4 qirsh stamps that were imperforate vertically and dated June 1958. The stamps do not plate against the single pane sheet so presumably are from the later one with two panes arranged vertically. At figure 12 is a vertical pair, imperforate between, with a MECQUE 21 April 1959 type SR56 violet. No perforation indents between stamps. Possibly positions 16 and 21 from top pane of double pane sheet.



11. Figure 13 shows nice postage due markings but surely bogus on a postal registration card from Hungary, DISZNOS HORVAT 20 February 1947, to Dhahran. Why use an Ottoman 'T' in circle device in 1947 when Saudi Arabia introduced postage due stamps in 1937?



Figure 13

12. There are two things I find interesting about this 18 May 1925 Avis de Reception document for a postal item from Egypt to Jeddah (figures 14 and 15). Firstly it has an example of one of the strange date formats found on type H20 cancellations. The DJEDDA mark is for 29 May 1925 but is written:



295576

Figure 14

Secondly it was posted during the siege of Jeddah but took only 12 days (including start and end day). I purchased it in Egypt on 14 April 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic and it took almost 6 months to arrive. Perhaps it is not a valid comparison!

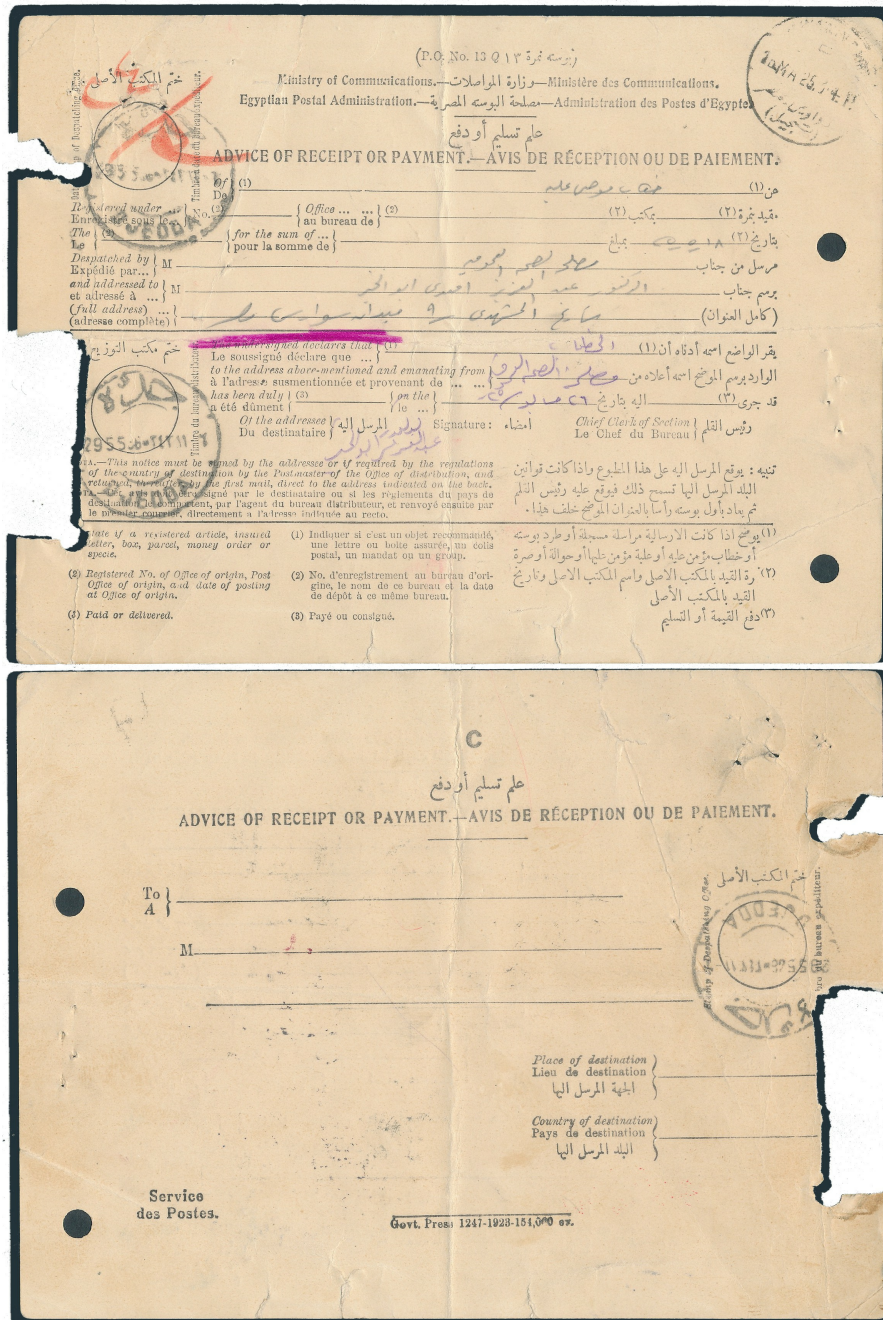


Figure 15

13. This item was a candidate for 'From the Auctions' in this issue, but because of its connection with the previous item, I have placed it here. The cover at figures 16 and 17 was part of Gaertner auction 48 unsold lot 14424, described as:
1925, 1 Pia. black on 2 Pia. orange, two single franks (one with right sheet margin) on registered covers "DJEDDA", both 1925 usages to Cairo/Egypt with arrivals.
 Only the franked sides of the covers were illustrated.. The cover shown at figure 16 was actually from the Hejaz National Party (HNP) and shows the concessionary rate of 2 qirsh for a registered letter enjoyed by the HNP. The letter was posted on 21 May 1925, just 8 days prior to the DJEDDA mark applied to item 12, but shows the same strange date format. The CAIRO arrival is for 28 May 1925. I think the auctioneer missed something here.

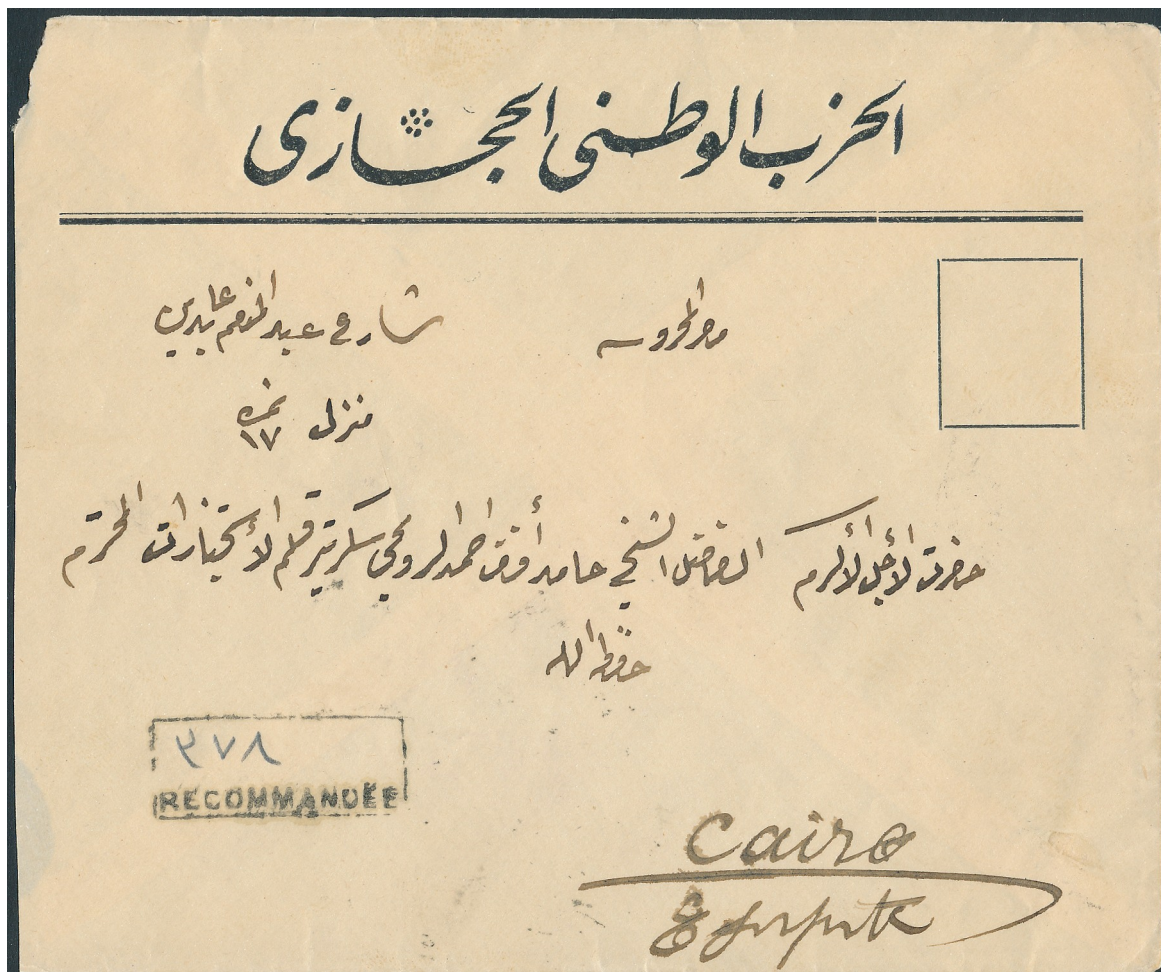


Figure 16



Figure 17

14. Appearing on eBay in March 2020 was this Nejd cover (figure 18). It was auctioned as lot 494 in March 1987 as part of the Harry Hibbert collection. Only part of the cover was illustrated in the catalogue and then only as a monochrome image. The lot was described as:

1925, an envelope sent from Medina to Mecca and showing a perfect strike of the very rare Nejd Fee Paid Ipi negative handstamp in violet and with Medina 1 octagonal datestamp of 25.12.1925 datestamp alongside; the envelope with heavy vertical fold resulting in some tears. Only 3 covers bearing this handstamp believed to exist.

An article about this handstamp appeared in Random Notes #80.



Figure 18

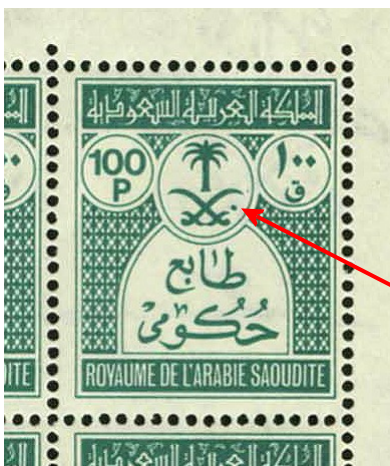


Figure 19

15. Following comments in RN94 on the low cost of obtaining the final set of official stamps issued, a never hinged set was sold on eBay for \$120.50 (at the time slightly less than £92.70).

The final nail in the coffin of the fifth official set must be appearance of the set in complete sheets. I had already been offered ¼ sheets by another vendor in Riyadh. The 100p value is shown on the next page and it is interesting to note that the 'dot' flaw occurs on every stamp in column 10 (figures 19 and 20).



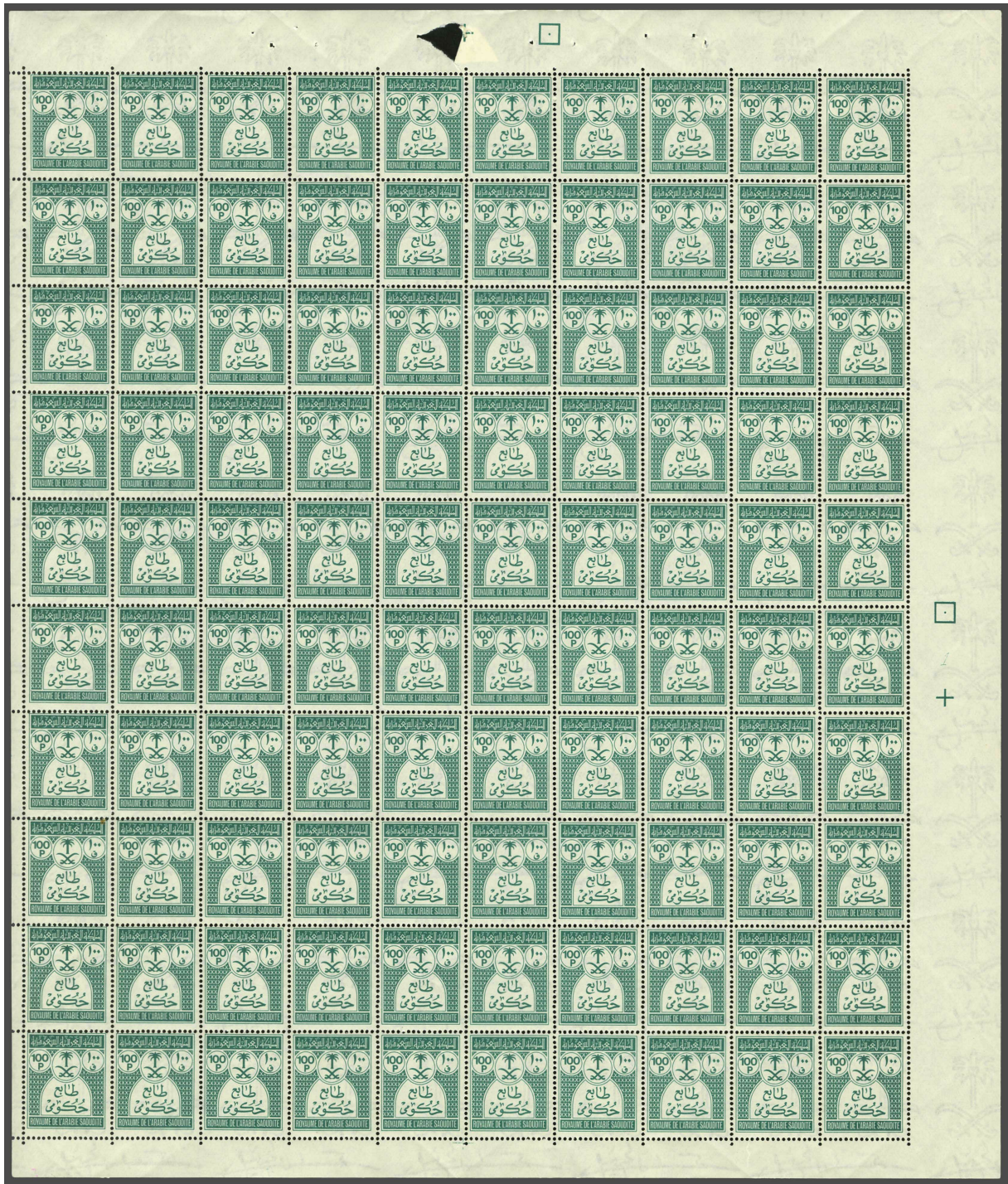


Figure 20

16. While on the subject of official stamps, an interesting label appeared on eBay (figures 21 and 22). I hope an APAI member won it. The addressee, Linotype & Machinery Ltd were manufacturers of printing presses, and I suspect that the label was attached to printing equipment being returned to the manufacturer. The company's factory at Altringham is being demolished, although I believe that a small part of will be preserved. The factory had a beautiful brick building and there is some excellent drone footage taken during the demolition process. Have a look at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAXRIZIKSvQ>. (accessed 8 November 2020) or search for 'Linotype factory demolition'.



Figure 21

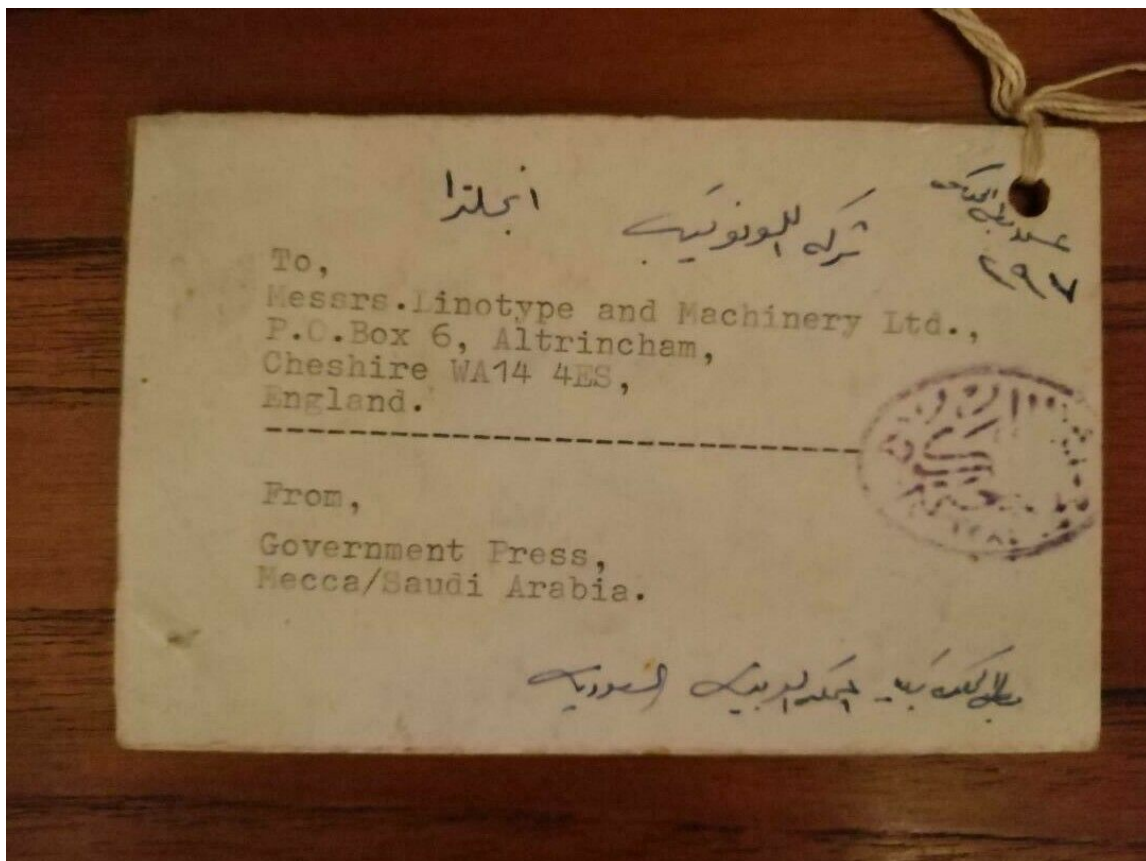


Figure 22

17. If you collect Hejaz stamps overprinted for use in Transjordan, you may be interested in the Hejaz-Transjordan Study Group. A website is under development and will eventually, I hope, contain details of all known genuine and forged items. The site is in its infancy and requires more images to be submitted. There is no cost involved except your time. The site can currently be found at <http://www.mclstamps.co.uk/HTJ/htj.html>. Students of Hejaz forgeries may not have seen the fake 10 qirsh surcharge on the stamp (figure 23) as it may only exist on the Transjordan forgeries. Let me know if you can prove otherwise.



Figure 23
Genuine or forgery?

18. Not reported before in Random Notes is the date on the King Fahd mourning FDC (figure 24). The day in the Gregorian date is written in Arabic (/12/2005).



Figure 24

19. In his book *The Sultanate of Nejd, A Philatelic Manual*, Ghassan Riachi lists the 3 qirsh Railway Tax stamp with an inverted second Nejd handstamp and describes it as extremely rare. The existence of an inverted handstamp on a type I train does not imply that one exists on a type II train. Figure 25 illustrates such an example. One can only guess its rarity as no inventory of rare Nejd stamps exists.



Figure 25

20. Can anyone identify the handstamp shown at figure 26? The stamp appears to have a JEDDA cancel, but it could be a 'dealer' cancel. The abbreviation at the top of the stamp, . . . , is similar to some Transjordan overprints, but they do not have as the final letter. It could mean 'Government of the Eastern'. Perhaps the date of 21 shaban is a clue. Suggestions please.



Figure 26

21. I have a few items from my archives for Hejaz collectors. Figures 27b & b illustrate a philatelic item, but it does have some merit, although not as much as expected. It was described as:

1925, A PHILATELIC COVER ONLY FOR KINGS. PREPARED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE ROYAL COLLECTION OF EGYPT (EX-HARMERS SALE OF 1954 THE PALACE COLLECTIONS OF EGYPT) THE VERY RARE POSTAGE DUE 20 PARA WITH INVERTED TWO LINE OVERPRINT IN RED S.G.D89a WITH S.G. 68, D90a, D92 TIED BY JEDDAH 26/4/25 ON OFFICIAL ROYAL EGYPTIAN COVER "O.H.E.M.S."

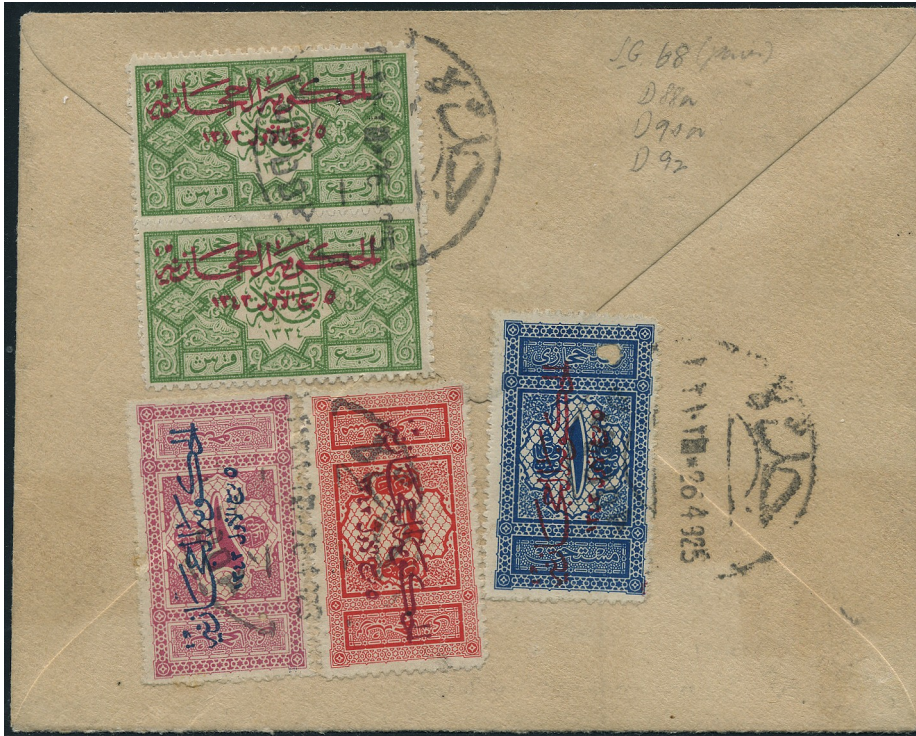


Figure 27a

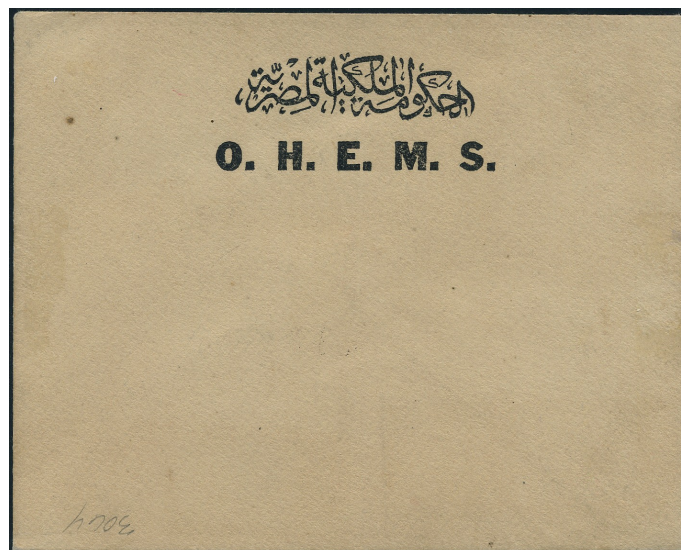


Figure 27b (75%)

The 20 para postage due is actually the slightly cheaper SG D88a, but it is still a good item.



22. The next item, figure 28, is a proof taken after the plate for the small Jeddah 3-line overprint was defaced.

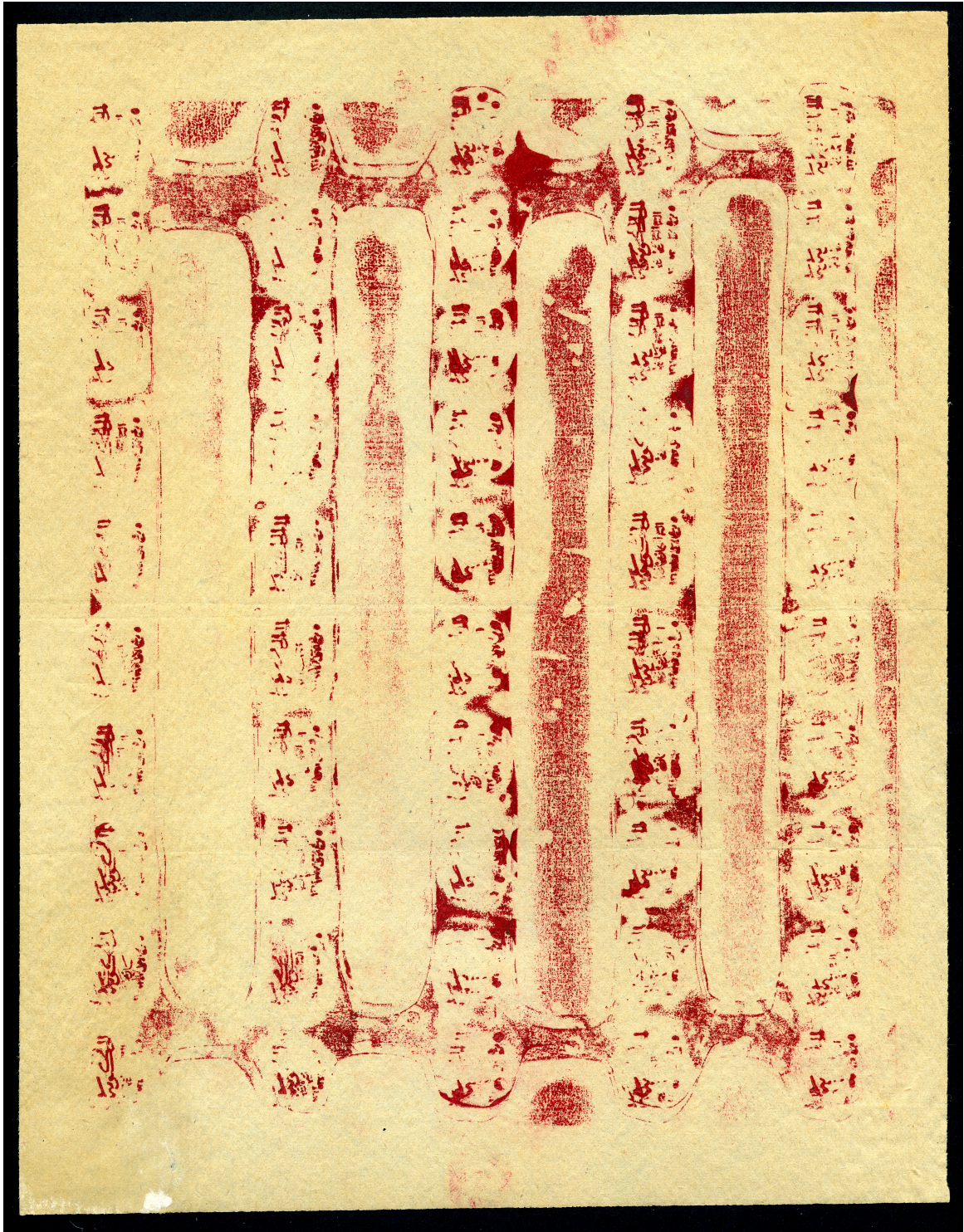


Figure 28



23. Figure 29, is a proof, printed double, taken after the plate for the Jeddah 2-line overprint was defaced.

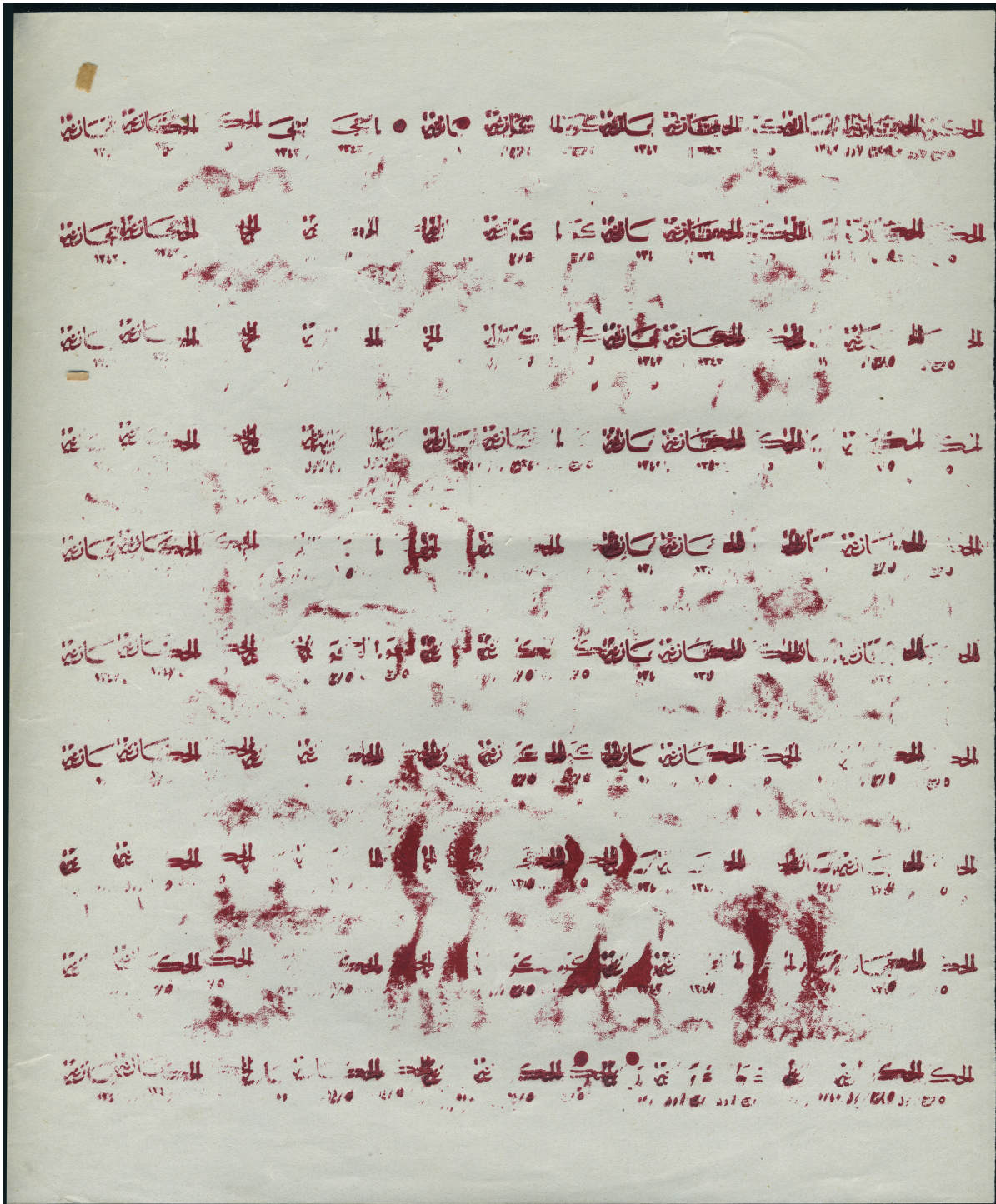


Figure 29



24. The 1924 Hejaz 3 qirsh Caliphate stamp's normal colour is brown, but it has been seen in a brown-olive colour. This version does not appear at auction very often, but earlier this



Figure 30



year a full sheet, figure 30, was offered at auction. I was surprised to see a similar but slightly paler colour, 3 qirsh Makkah Arms stamp on a Transjordan cover, figure 33. The stamp is actually a postage due fulfilling a registered postal service to our friend E. L. Angeloglou in Cairo from Amman, 16 October 1924, the same year as the Caliphate issue.



Figure 31. Normal brown colour



Figure 32. Brown-olive colour



Figure 33

All of the other 3 qirsh postage dues in this set that I have seen have been the usual brown colour. Were these colour variations all from the same printing, or was the colour change caused by climatic or storage conditions?

RN

From the Auctions

Compiled by: Martin Lovegrove

I notice pieces of 'artwork' appearing every now and then and wonder why most of them show the final design in the issued colours. It must be so easy for an artist to produce a good picture of a stamp. Very few appear to be signed and I have yet to find any official documentation on the subject.

I had a browse through the archives of Auktionshaus Gärtner. Go to <https://www.auktionen-gaertner.de> select your language and click in 'CURRENT AUCTION'. You will find a link to the archives.

I like auction houses who give access to archives; Thank you Gärtner.

8th Auction from 5th/7th NOVEMBER 2008

Lot-nr.: 2859 Start: 100.00 € hammerprice: 140.00 €

1968, 1 P. Prophet Mohammeds Mosque, coloured drawn
Original-Essay on carton-paper, size 21,7 x 18,2 cm, Unique!
(M1)



lot-nr.: 2860 Start: 100.00 € hammerprice: 90.00 €

catalog-nr.: 398 Essay condition: Nachgummiert / ohne
Gummierung 1968, 10 P. Damman-Djidda Road, coloured
drawn Original-Essay on carton-paper, size 22,4 x 18 cm,
Unique! (M1)



lot-nr.: 2861 Start: 100.00 € hammerprice: 110.00 €

catalog-nr.: Essay 594 condition: Nachgummiert / ohne
Gummierung 1976, 20 h. Quba mosque in Medina,
accepted large size stamp design, hand drawn with
watercolour on card, very decorative and scarce! (T)



lot-nr.: 2862 Start: 100.00 €

catalog-nr.: Essay condition: Nachgummiert / ohne Gummierung 1984, 150 h. city of Dammam unaccepted large size stamp design, hand drawn with watercolour on card, very decorative and scarce! (T)



Also unsold in 9th auction 18-21 February 2009

And 10th auction 27-30 May 2009

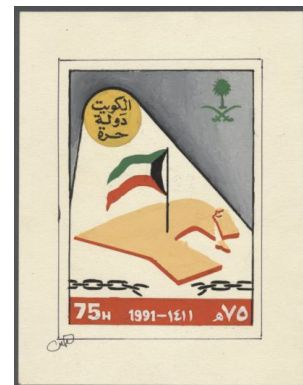
And 11th auction 8th/11th SEPTEMBER 2009 (EUR 60) and 12th 17th/20th NOVEMBER 2009 (EUR 20)

11th Auction from 8th/11th SEPTEMBER 2009

lot-nr.: 2190A

catalog-nr.: 1115 entw condition: start: 100.00 €

1991, 75 H. 'Befreiung Kuwaits' als handgemalter Entwurf (92 x 127 mm) auf dicken Karton mit Signatur des Künstlers (T)



Note

It is interesting to note the differences (or similarities) between the issued stamp, the Gärtner archive, and an example of artwork appearing on eBay. None of the 'artwork' is an exact match and the issued stamp has features not in either of the paintings.



Free Adlets

Random Notes will publish as many free adlets in each issue as will fit on one page. Adlets will run for one issue only but can be renewed by sending a request by email to the editor. There is a maximum of five lines per adlet. The adlet must be relevant to Saudi Arabian philately and the editor's decision is final as to whether an adlet is suitable.

If the adlets can fill a full page, they will appear as the last page in the journal, but partial pages may be used as fillers as required.

New

One Man's Collection - Part 1 - Saudi Arabia: Modern Technology (1970 - 2018)

This part contains Postage Meter Stamps and labels used by the Saudi Arabian postal system that display barcodes. It covers normal registration, EMS (*al barid al mumtaz*) and general purpose postal labels. 142 pages. GBP 15 (USD 20) plus post and packing at cost.

eMail Martin Lovegrove weatherings@aol.com for further details.

Part 2 dealing with items relating to the Hejaz Railway is nearing completion.

Bound copies of Kenneth Knight's series 'The Postal Markings of Hejaz, Nejd, Hejaz and Nejd, and Saudi Arabia' are available for GBP 10 (USD 13) plus post and packing at cost .

eMail Martin Lovegrove weatherings@aol.com for further details.

Acknowledgements and Contacts

The following organizations have granted permission for images from their catalogues/websites to be reproduced in this journal:

Cherrystone Auctions Inc.	https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com
Corinphila Auktionen AG	https://corinphila.ch/en/ The Saudi expert is Gregory Todd who can be contacted at todd@corinphila.ch
Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions	https://db.kelleherauctions.com/php/home.php Auction house operating from Danbury, CT, USA. Very good catalogues.
Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions	http://www.rumseyauctions.com

Useful links

http://mela.us/hegira.html	Date conversion sites
https://www.islamicfinder.org/islamic-date-converter/	
https://www.filatelia.fi/experts/	Experts
https://www.wnsstamps.post/en/WNS-Stamps	WADP Numbering System - WNS.