



Arabian Philatelic Association International

Random Notes



February 2022

NUMBER 98

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| The Arabian Philatelic Association International | 2 |
| Random Notes #98 | 3 |
| The Second Flowers Series - David Jessich | 7 |
| Albarid Almumtaz - Kenneth D. Knight | 15 |
| Update on Framed Kaaba 150h Error - David Jessich | 23 |
| Regional Postmarks of Saudi Arabia - Part 3 - Martin Lovegrove | 25 |
| Saudi Arabian Year Issues - 2020 part 2 - Syed Abrar Ahmed & Martin Lovegrove | 33 |
| The Saudi Arabia Arab Postal Union International Reply Coupon - Martin Lovegrove | 43 |
| From the Auctions | 44 |
| Free Adlets | 45 |



See [page 16](#)

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 later that decade. 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 website is currently at <http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/index.html> and has a page to enable members to contact the 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 (2022) 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 #98

Assembled by the Editor

Another year, another Random Notes. We are approaching that milestone of 100 issues and if all goes well we will see #100 somewhere around October 2022. I would like to publish members' thoughts about Random Notes and what it has meant to them. What would you like to say to John M. Wilson if he were still alive? Please let me know.

In this issue I have included more DGA flaws in the hope that I can encourage members to contribute to the DGA handbook currently being written. Please let me know if you can assist.

Best wishes for 2022 and now for the notes.

1. David Jessich alerted me to an item on the Delcampe auction site. It was a copy of the 1986 Universities 150 halalah with the central design for Umm Al Qura University, Makkah (Scott 1020, SG 1485a), but with the incorrect background and priced at €5,000.



The background for these university stamps is the same geometric pattern for all stamps but with the centre in white shaped to fit the university emblem. I checked my very small collection of this issue and found two such stamps; Willie King sent me a scan of a corner block, and David Jessich has some. There is a possibility that the entire printing in the rose-red shade used the incorrect background plate. If you have anything that disproves this theory, please let the editor know.

Umm Al-Qura University



Normal background



Error background

The background used was the one used for the universities requiring an approximate circle of white:

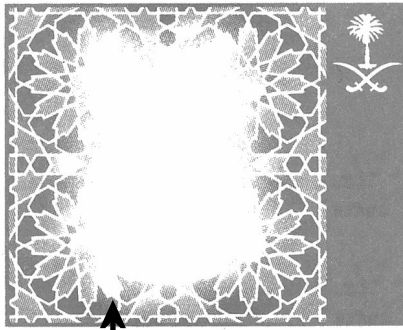
King Faisal University, Al Hasa (example shown on next page).

KFUPM, Dhahran.

Islamic University, Medina.

They may all use the same background, or there may be minor differences. My attempt to reproduce the common parts of the design for all values in the Umm A-Qura series is also shown on the next page; an important identifying feature is the clear white projection at the bottom.





Umm Al-Qura white projection



KFU, Al Hasa

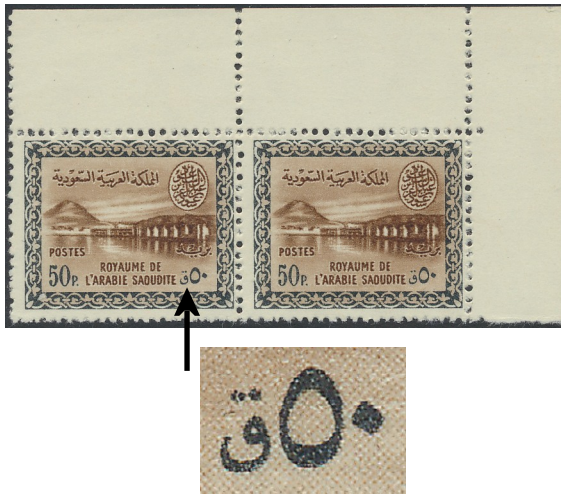
One of my examples of the incorrect plate has the bonus of having the central black design printed double. It is of little importance and happens frequently on reel-fed litho presses when there is insufficient paper tension. The additional print is in grey and the relative positions of the prints shows the direction of printing.



2. The first DGA flaw I can show this time is a long scratch on position 100 of the GOSP centre plate. I have only seen this on the watermarked printings and I would like to hear from anyone who has this flaw on one of the original printings. The images shown are high resolution scans and you can copy them from the PDF file to your photo editor to enlarge them.



3. You have to look carefully at this next flaw. At full size the stamp looks normal, but when magnified, the three dots in are clearly visible. The stamp is position 9 and the flaw may not be constant; confirmation is required.



4. I need to correct an error I made in Random Notes 91 item 9. The part sheet of the Framed Kaaba with the part imperf stamps and labels is perf 13¾ x 14 and not perf 12, and is on ordinary non fluorescent paper. After careful examination of the item I can record that the perforation was made using a single row comb.

5. In Ken Knight's article in RN47.11 he describes postmark type SB100. Two branches of MECQUE are listed but the name of branch 2 was not available. I now have an almost complete scan of that branch and it shows that it was located in the Al Shubaikah district of Makkah. A postmark for Branch 4 also exists and its location is shown as Al Ma'alah, the same as for Branch 1. The branch number is shown just above the datebelt and each branch is different as shown in the diagrams below.



Branch 1



Branch 2



Branch 4
(Arabic text omitted)

It should be noted that Branch 4 has the top line of the datebelt either partially or completely omitted.



6. Following on from RN97 and thanks to David Jessich, I can confirm that the 'dot over first A in JAMAD' flaw in the vertical panel at left, does occur on all stamps in column 2 of both panes.



7. Now for a large Khafji flaw. This may be a problem with a single sheet or it may be a transitional flaw. The top right corner frame line shows damage and I would be interested to know if anyone else has seen it.

Continued on [page 14](#)

The Second Flowers Series

By: David Jessich



Taif Roses

On 1st. September 2020, the Saudi Post issued a second series of flower stamps (Scott 1478). This group commemorates the local production of cut flowers and each type was accompanied by the city where they are predominately produced.

The name and city are only shown in Arabic, so the purpose of this article is to provide the common English name and Arabic pronunciation as well as the scientific name for those flowers. A special thanks goes to Fadi Dalileh for his help in identifying them.

In a Saudi Post Office first, they also issued a SR 7 scented miniature sheet. Other countries have issued similar commemorative stamps promoting their industries. For example, the Swiss issued a stamp that looks and smells like a chocolate bar. Brazil has issued one for coffee. And Estonia has one that looks and smells like a gingerbread cookie. An entirely new thematic collecting field has now been created by the science and study of smells (*osmology*). The Saudi MS contains the suggestion, again only in Arabic, stating: "Leave the card inside the packaging".

The Taif roses on the MS are also depicted on the Medina stamp, column 4, row 2, (Scott 1478i)

A Saudi tourism website which highlights the flower industry of Taif can be seen at this link: <https://www.saudiarabiatourismguide.com/taif-rose-festival/> (as at the publication date of this Random Notes).



Column 5 →

Column 4 →

Column 3 →

Column 2 →

Column 1 →



Column 1



-
[Al-Jarbeerah]
Gerbera - Tabuk



White and Pink Gerbera Daisy
Gerbera jamesonii



-
[Al-Qurunful]
Carnation - Tabuk



Carnation
Dianthus caryophyllus



-
[Al-Munthur]
Wallflower - Yanbu



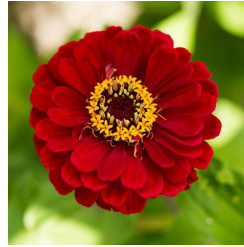
Point Reyes Wallflower
Erysimum concinnum



Column 2



-
[Zenya]
Zenya - Yanbu



Cherry Queen Zinnia
Zinnia elegans



-
[Al-Kareez]
Daisy - Tabuk



African Daisy
Osteospermum balvoyeloi



-
[Al-Khozamah]
Lavender - Riyadh



French Lavender
Lavandula dentata



Column 3



-
[Jiranyum]
Geranium - Yanbu



Ivy Geranium
Pelargonium peltatum



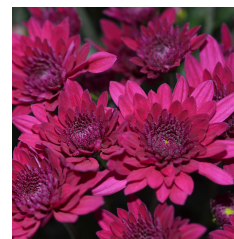
-
[Salvia]
Salvia - Yanbu



Scarlet Sage
Salvia splendens



-
[Al-Kareez]
Chrysanthemum - Tabuk



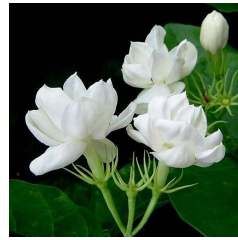
Chrysanthemum Purple Majesty
Chrysanthemum morifolium



Column 4



-
[Alful]
Jasmine - Jizan



Arabian Jasmine
Jasminium sambac



-
[Al-Joury]
Damask Rose - Medina



Damask Rose
Rosa damascena trigintipetala



-
[Lilium]
Lily - Tabuk



Easter Lily
Lilium longiflorum



Column 5



-
[Al-Kareez]
Chrysanthemum - Tabuk



Chrysanthemum Emily
Chrysanthemum emily



-
[Al-Qurunful]
Carnation - Tabuk



Red Carnation
Dianthus caryophyllus

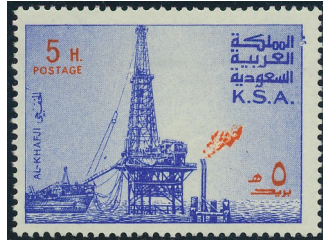


-
[Al-Alaysam]
Alyssum - Yanbu




Sweet Alyssum
Lobularia maritima

Continued from page 6



Khafji frame damage

- 8. Did I miss something here? Are revenues becoming popular? This eBay seller did well for a stamp that usually sells for a couple of dollars.



SAUDI ARABIA ((2 Halala 1971)) CUSTOMS DUTY RARE

Condition: --
"Please Check photos well, you will get what you see"
 Ended: 10 Oct, 2021 20:56:55 BST

Winning bid: **US \$100.00**
 Approximately £73.33 [30 bids]
[Add to list](#)

Postage: **US \$15.00 (approx. £11.00)** Economy International Shipping | [See details](#)
 International postage of items may be subject to customs processing and additional charges.
 Located in: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Delivery: **Estimated delivery within 16-28 working days**
 Seller ships within 2 days after [receiving cleared payment](#).
 Please allow additional time if international delivery is subject to customs processing.

Returns: **14 days returns, buyer pays return postage** | [See details](#)

Payments:

Shop with confidence

eBay Money Back Guarantee
 Get the item you ordered or your money back.
[Learn more](#)

Seller information
 f3-store (568 ★)
 100% Positive Feedback

[Save this seller](#)
[Contact seller](#)
[Visit Shop](#)
[See other items](#)

- 9. Another perforation variation on the Dammam Port stamps. This one is perforated 10.5, has an inverted watermark and a postmark for MECQUE 1.9.61 (1st. September 1961). The others I have seen were posted in September or October 1961 in Jeddah.



- 10. The triangular fantasy stamps still make an appearance and there are two here that are new to RN. The 50 paras blue, shown below, has red cancels instead of the usual black; it is still the same bogus mark. The 75 paras brown has been overprinted 5 parà 5; most unusual.



Continued on page 22



Albarid Almutmaz (Saudi Arabia's Express Mail Service)

By: Kenneth D. Knight

Exotic datestamps and special registration handstamps are the hallmarks of Saudi Arabia's Albarid Almutmaz. A service that was founded to combat loss of trade from the kingdom's postal services to private enterprise carriers and couriers.

The Albarid Almutmaz service, its name literally translates as "superior post" or "excellent post", began July 7th 1984. The launch was preceded by appropriate publicity which included the distribution of a sixteen-page brochure with text in both English and Arabic. As usual with such bilingual publications the Arabic text (written right to left) begins at what westerners would consider the back of the brochure and the English (written left to right) beginning at what westerners would consider the front of the brochure. The Albarid Almutmaz logo - which depicts a stylized hand holding a business card bearing the legend Albarid Almutmaz in both Roman and Arabic scripts in front of an equally stylized globe - appears on both front and back covers. (Figure 1).



Figure 1

The Almutaz logo along with the Saudi P.T.T. logo was incorporated into the design of a label which had to be fixed to every envelope, parcel, or package, despatched via the Albarid Almutaz service. The labels were issued in a variety of sizes to suit the size of the package being carried (Figure 2). These labels are often not used when sending 250mm x 110mm, or smaller, envelopes.



Figure 2

Though operated by the Saudi Arabian P.T.T. the Almutaz service is independent of the Authority's other services and as a consequence has its own equipment, operates its own transport fleet and employs its own operatives. Long distance internal (e.g. inter-province, Dharhan to Riyadh or Jeddah to Ha'il) and international packages sent via Almutaz are forwarded by air, but local collections and deliveries are by ground transport. By 1989 Almutaz orange-yellow Nissan vans and Suzuki jeeps, their side panels decorated with a motif echoing that described in paragraph two above, was a frequent sight in cities throughout the Kingdom (Figure 3).



Figure 3

On inauguration (1984), within Saudi Arabia (and to other Arab countries party to the service) letters, parcels, and packages up to a maximum weight of 20kg were carried at a charge of 50 riyals for the first 500gms and 5 riyals for every additional 500gms. Items for the international service were restricted to a maximum weight of 10kg, and the tariff was 100 Saudi riyals for the first 500gms with charges for extra weight varying dependent on the country of destination. Size restrictions limited Almutaz parcels to a maximum of 1.05 metres in any dimension; and a maximum of 2 metres when adding the greatest circumference in any direction other than the length to the greatest length.

Initially Albarid Almutaz served only Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dammam inside the Kingdom and had international connections to Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and U.A.E. within the Gulf area, and the U.K., France, U.S.A., and Canada outside of Arabia.

Almost immediately the service expanded to include the cities Makkah, Medina, Arrass, Buraidah, Dhahran, Ha'il, Jubail, Khobar, Taif, Unieza, and Yanbu internally. Overseas to Egypt, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland. Thence in short order the international service went worldwide to embrace any country operating an Express Mail service.

All examples of Almutaz mail seen by myself have been franked with meter markings (Figure 4), however, from reading the publicity brochures there is no reason to suppose that postage stamps could not be used in prepayment. However, when the Almutaz post was introduced the face value of Saudi Arabia's highest value postage stamp was two riyals, therefore the smallest and lightest of packets would require the licking and sticking of at least twenty-five adhesive stamps!

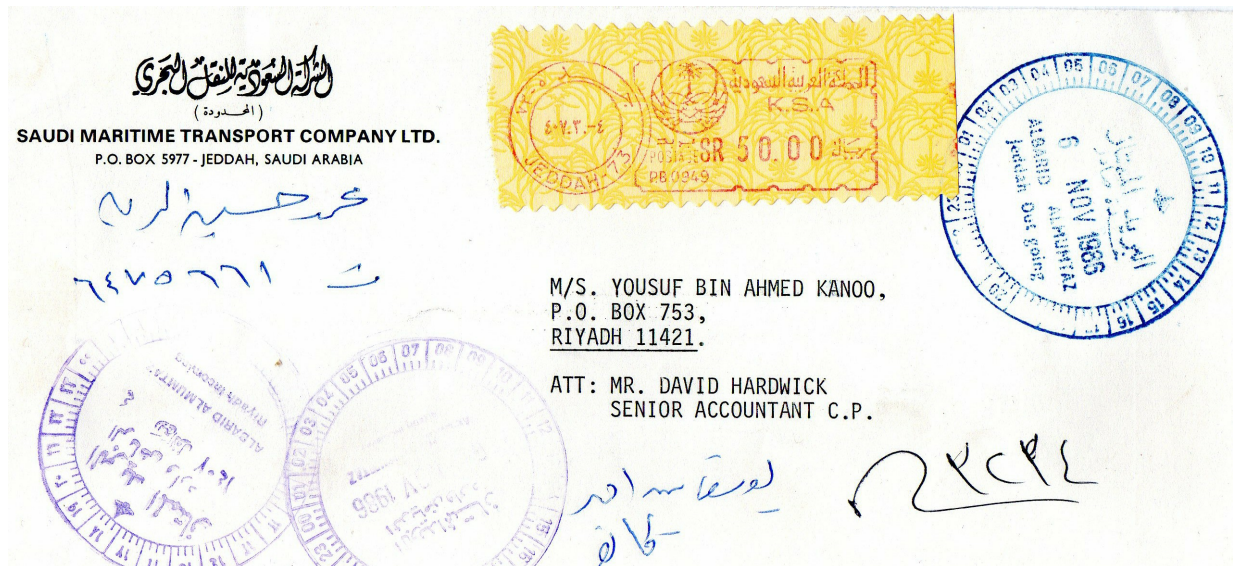


Figure 4

Mention has already been made of the special labels affixed to Almutaz packages however these labels are not the only philatelic evidence of the service. As the means of transit for all consignments was by courier every item was registered, and a special boxed registration cachet (Figure 5) was struck on all items consigned to Almutaz. Sometimes use of the registration cachet was abandoned in favour of a manuscript registration as per figure 4.

Even on ordinary mail Saudi postal officials have a penchant for applying cancelling, departure, transit, and arrival dated handstamps. It comes as no surprise, therefore, that the Albarid Almutaz service has its own identifiable departure and arrival timed datestamps.

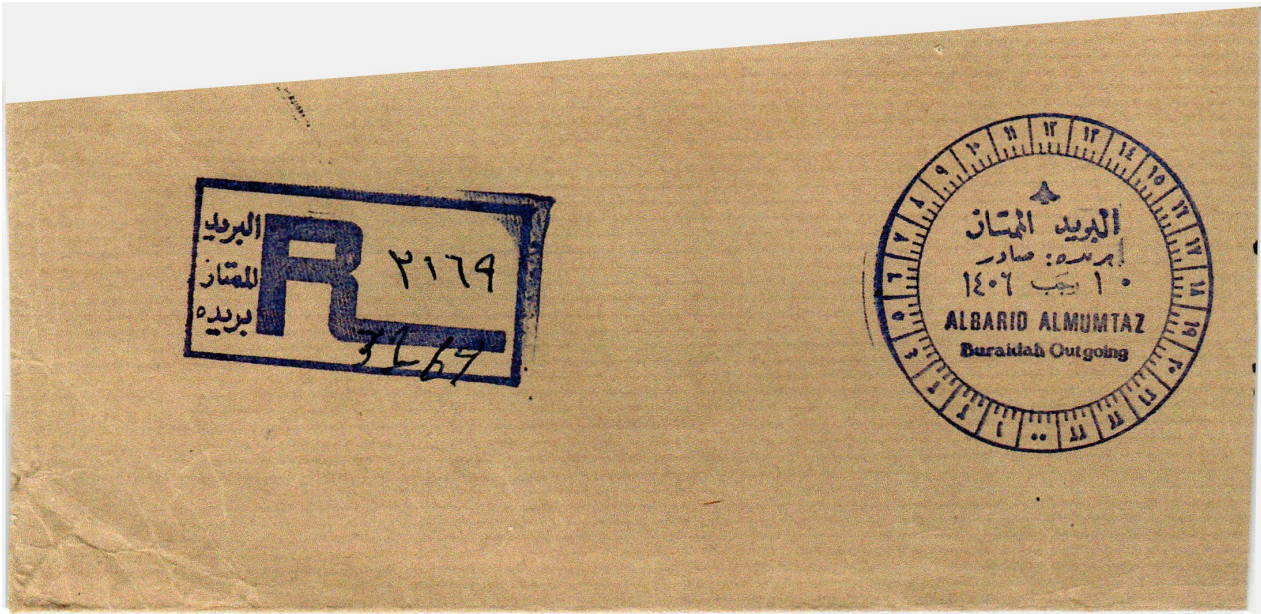


Figure 5

Figure 5 shows an Almuntaaz datestamp for the Buraidah office. The divisions around the rim represent the 24 hours of the day, each hour divided into quarters, the hours designated by Arabic numerals. Figure 4 shows a Jeddah Almuntaaz datestamp with the hours designated 00 through 23 by European numerals. The outer rim of these handstamps is revolved around the central part so that when the datestamp is struck the time of receipt or despatch is shown at the top of device. The design of the Buraidah datestamp incorporates an arrow above the central text to emphasize the indication of the hour of striking.

The postmarks illustrated, like most Saudi Arabian postmarks, are extant in a primarily Arabic or primarily European format. The most obvious sign of this cultural dichotomy is the date. The Jeddah datestamp (Fig. 4) is dated in accordance with the Gregorian calendar. The Buraidah datestamp (Fig. 5) has the date according to the Hegira calendar¹. The top line of the Arabic upper portion of all datestamps reads “Albarid Almuntaaz”. The lower line consists of the town name to the right and on the left the Arabic for despatch () or the Arabic for arrival (). In the case of the Buraidah postmark a colon is used to separate the town name from sadir (departure).

When mailing an Albarid Almuntaaz item a receipt is issued (Figure 6), this too receives a timed datestamp.

Though obviously intended for use on outgoing packets only, the Buraidah datestamp described in the last paragraph has been seen used on both outgoing and incoming mail which passed through the Buraidah office. No doubt this misuse, whether accidental or purposeful occurred elsewhere. Other marks I have seen on Saudi Mumtaaz mail are a rectangular datestamp from Dammam (Fig. 7), a circular Dammam incoming “twelve hour” datestamp (Fig. 7), and an octagonal Riyadh departure datestamp. I have only one example of the rectangular datestamp and one example of the 12 hour datestamp. As per illustration the rectangular stamp has the dateline omitted.

¹ 10.45am, 21 Rajab 1406 (31 March 1986)





البريد الممتاز
ALBARID ALMUMTAZ

0001541

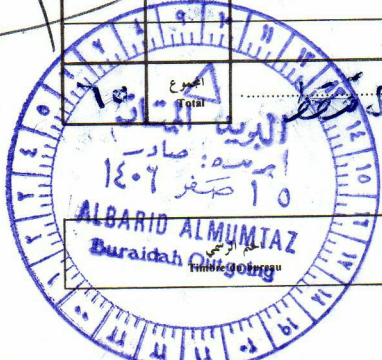
إيصال إستلام بريد ممتاز

REÇU DE RÉCEPTION DU COURRIER ACCÉLÉRÉ

Handwritten notes and stamps at the top of the form:

- Date: 14/10/1406
- Le destinataire: خالد للقرآن
- Adresse & No. de tél: 05 4444 248
- رقم العقد: 248
- Heure de départ: 12:00
- Heure de livraison: 9:00

| عدد No. | رقم التسجيل No. d'en- registrement | المورد Destination | المرسل اليه | Le destinataire | الوزن Le poids | الأجرة Frais |
|------------|--|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 759 | الرياض | تاركا حبيد | | 175 | 70 |
| 2 | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | 789 578 | | |
| 4 | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | |



Handwritten signature and stamp at the bottom right:

- اسم الموظف: خالد السكار
- الوقيع: [Signature]

Figure 6

I am unable to illustrate the octagonal Riyadh datestamp as every example seen was used as a seal across the flap of an envelope and subsequently damaged when the packet was opened.





Figure 7

**Express Mail from other Arab Countries Entering Saudi Arabia
(Only mail seen by the author is described below)**

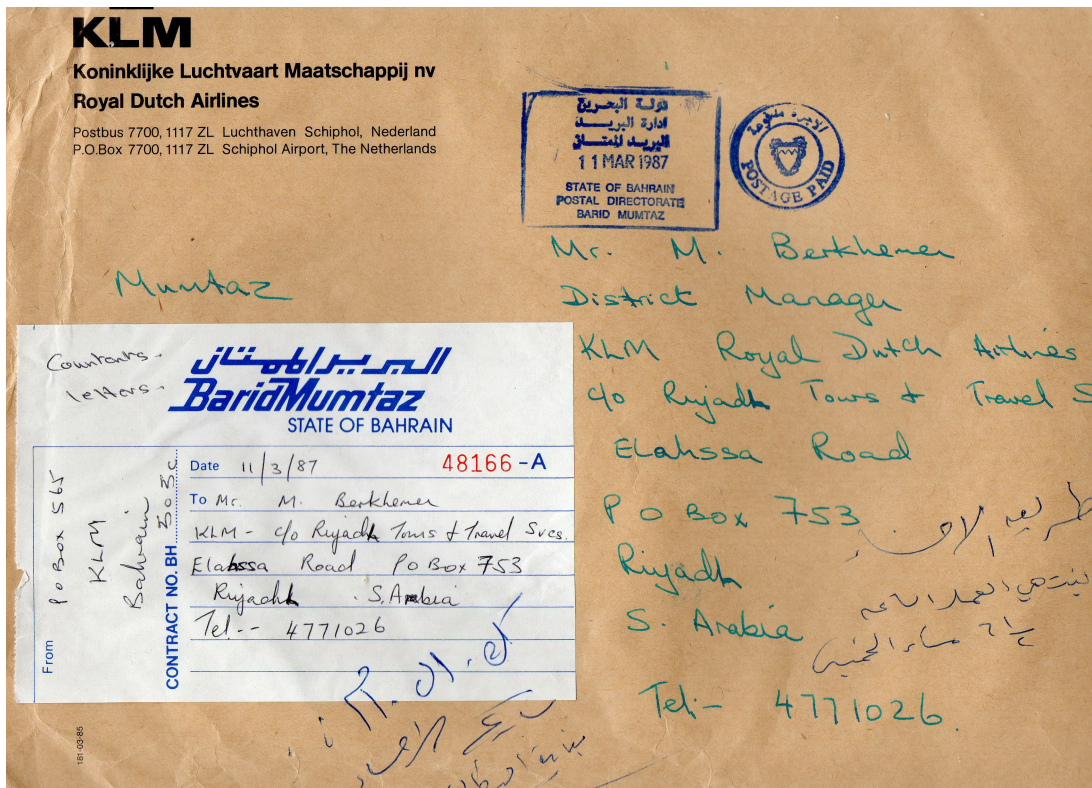


Figure 8

In Bahrain the service was known as 'BaridMumtaz'. Envelopes had a BaridMumtaz label (Figure 8) affixed and two handstamps applied: a rubber bilingual dated boxed handstamp reading 'STATE OF BAHRAIN / POSTAL DIRECTORATE / BARID MUMTAZ', and a bilingual 'POSTAGE PAID' handstamp (Figure 9).



Figure 9

Mail from Egypt had an 'INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS MAIL SERVICE' label affixed and a bilingual boxed 'E.M.S. / POSTAGE PAID' rubber handstamp applied (Figure 10).

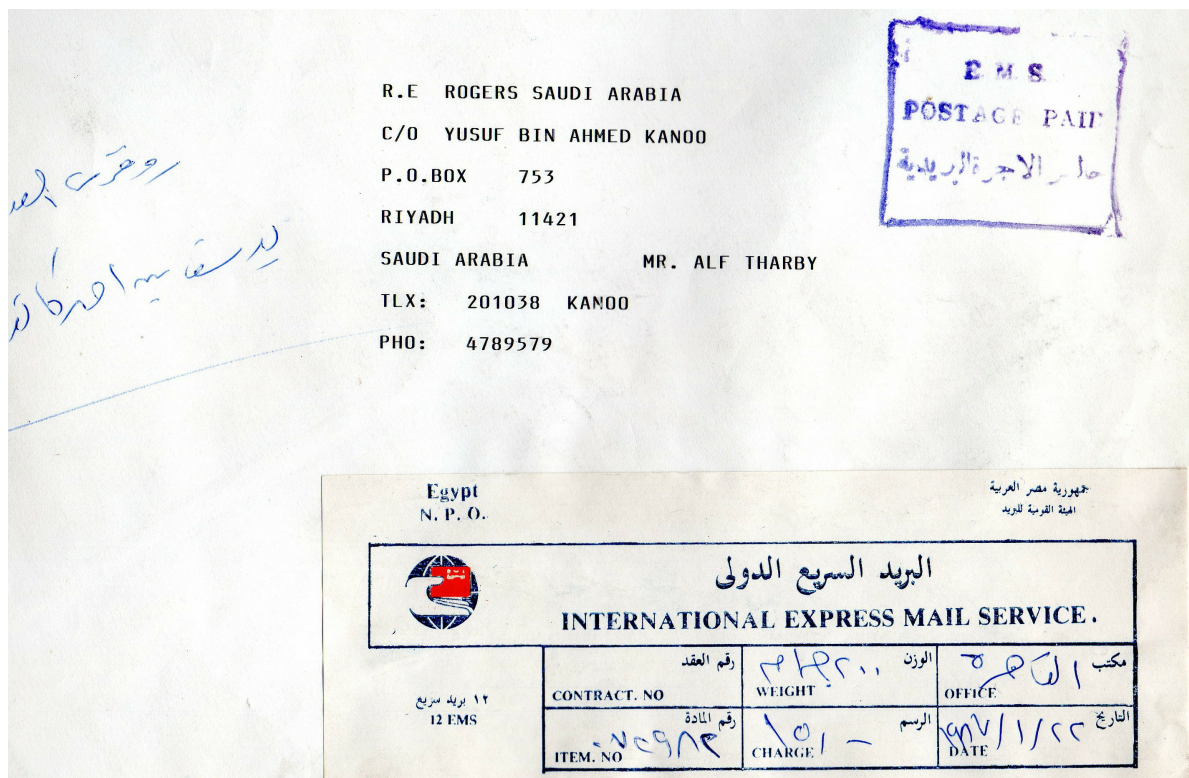


Figure 10

Mail from Qatar had a numbered sticker affixed (Figure 11). The fee for transmission was paid using adhesive stamps (Figure 11) cancelled with a bilingual c.d.s. reading 'MUMTAZ POST - DOHA'.



Figure 11

* * *

On arrival in the kingdom all incoming Express and Mumtaz mail regardless of country of origin received a timed incoming datestamp as per figure 5.

Author's Note.

Although previously unpublished this article was written circa 1990. Postal markings and practices may have changed over the years.

RN



Continued from [page 14](#)

11. The essays of the King Ali 10 qirsh centre printed by the Survey of Egypt have right-angle guide marks in each corner, presumably to assist the registration of the frame. The marks can have sides of equal or variable lengths. The examples below show guides with equal sides (at left) and unequal sides. It is not known whether these appeared on the same sheet or were separate stages of development.



Continued on [page 32](#)

➤

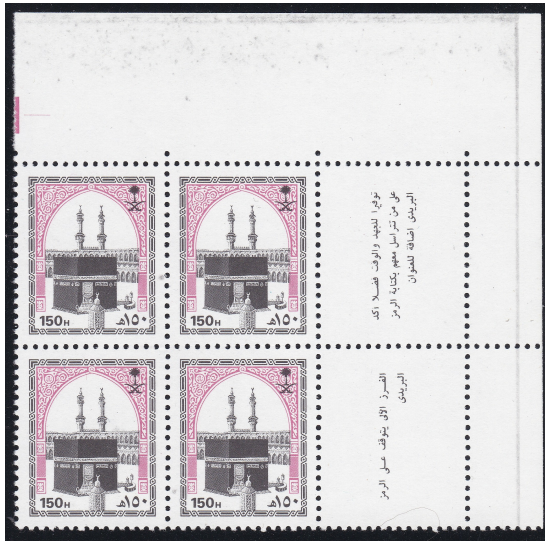
Update on Framed Kaaba 150h Error

By: David Jessich



A complete sheet containing the broken frame error was obtained recently which confirms that the error occurs in all seven stamps of column 12. This was first reported in RN-59.35. The printing also appears to be a different run compared to the normal (perf 12, ordinary paper) issue. (Scott 1454, SG 989).

For one, the post code labels are different, and for another, the perforations are double-row comb (alternating intersections of horizontal and vertical perfs contain a double hole).



Normal Sheet



Sheet with Broken Frame



Column 10/11
Row 3/4



Column 11/12
Row 3/4

Error

It is not known whether any of the double-row comb sheets (with printing error) were released to the public or if they were all destroyed except for a few sheets, which ended up on the market. If any collectors have blocks that do show a double hole perforation, please contact the Editor.



Broken Frame - Column 12

Regional Postmarks of Saudi Arabia - Part 3

By: *Martin Lovegrove*

This part continues the series describing postmarks directly relating to Saudi Post regions, and as before, the marks are separated into those for acting post offices and regular post offices. For the first time in this series postmarks specifying the second-level administrative division, mu fa ah (- Governorate).

Asir Region

Designs for Acting Post Offices

Example 1.

Similar to example 4 of Al Qassim shown in Random Notes 97, but with an outside diameter of 36 mm. The central logo is in a 22 mm. diameter circle and is the standard type. Two five-pointed stars, horizontally opposed, appear between the circles but in this case are pointing up. I have three examples of this type all from different locations with usage in 2002. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Asir region post

Line 2: Acting post <office>



Asir, Acting Ex 1

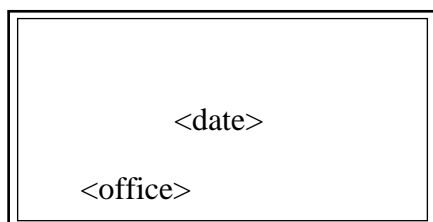
Example 2.

Rectangular design with double outer frame approximately 57 x 29 mm. I have ten examples from eight locations with usage 2002 - 2007. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Asir region post

Line 2: <date>

Line 3: Acting post <office>



Asir, Acting Ex 2



Example 3.

Rectangular arrangement in three lines without a frame, approximately 30 x 20 mm. I have one example with usage in 2012. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Acting post <office>

Line 2: <date>

Line 3: Asir region post

<office>
<date>



Asir, Acting Ex 3

Designs for Regular Post Offices

Example 1.

Double ring circle, 38 mm. diameter containing five lines of text. Only one example seen, used in 2005. The text has the meaning:

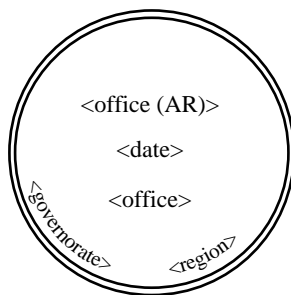
Line 1: Arabic 'Ministry of Communications and Information Technology'

Line 2: Arabic office name

Line 3: Date

Line 4: Western office name

Line 5: Arabic 'barid mintaqa Asir muhafaza <governorate>'. Asir region post, <governorate> governorate.



Asir, Regular Ex 1

Example 2.

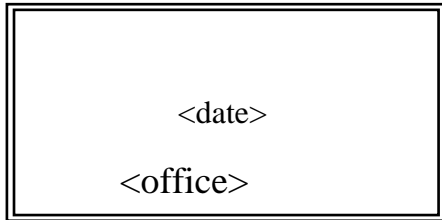
Rectangular design with double outer frame approximately 57 x 29 mm. I have but a single example with usage in 2011. Unfortunately that example is poorly inked and a date may exist in the centre, making it similar to example 1 of the acting post offices in Asir. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Asir region post

Line 2: <date>

Line 3: Post <office>

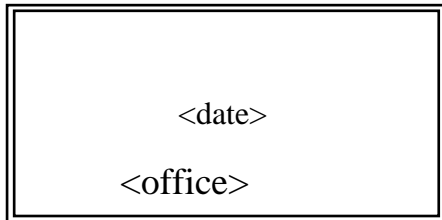




Asir, Regular Ex 2

Example 3.

Identical to example 2 but with (outgoing) placed to the left of the date.



Asir, Regular Ex 3

Example 4.

Rectangular arrangement in three lines without a frame, approximately 38 x 29 mm. I have two examples from different locations with usage in 2011. The text has the meaning:

- Line 1: Asir region post
- Line 2: <date>
- Line 3: Governorate post <governorate>

<date>
<governorate>



Asir, Regular Ex 4

Example 5.

Same as example 4 except bottom line is for a post office rather than governorate. I have three examples from different locations with usage in 2011.

<date>
<office>

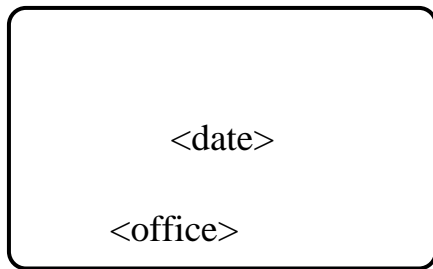


Asir, Regular Ex 5



Example 6.

Same as example 6 except text is framed by a rectangle with rounded corners. I have six examples from different locations with usage 2011 - 2013.



Asir, Regular Ex 6



Cover with examples of this type from Tandahah (front) and Khamis Mushait (back).



Baha Region

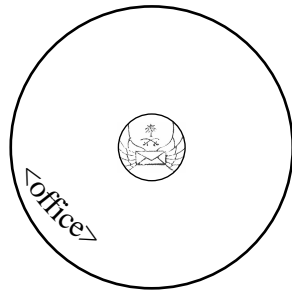
Designs for Acting Post Offices

Example 1.

Single ring with an outside diameter of 38 mm. and text curved to fit at top and bottom. The central logo is in a 9 mm. diameter circle and is the standard type. I have eight examples of this type all from five different locations with usage 1987 - 2004. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Al Baha region post

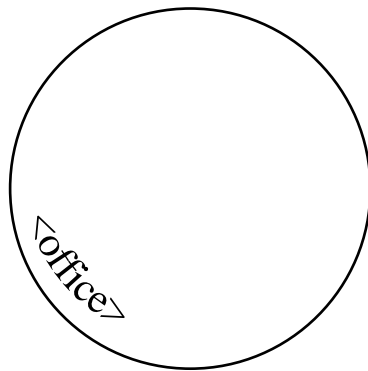
Line 2: Acting post <office>



Baha, Acting Ex 1

Example 2.

Similar to example 1 but has a diameter of 48 mm. and has the central logo omitted. I have one examples of this type with usage 1987.



Baha, Acting Ex 2

Example 3.

Single ring with an outside diameter of 38 mm. and text curved to fit at top and bottom. The central logo is in a 13 mm. diameter circle and is the standard type. Above the logo and curved to fit is 'acting post' in Arabic and beneath the logo in a straight line is the post office name. I have only one example of this type with usage in 2002. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Al Baha region post

Line 2: Acting post

Line 3: <office>

Line 4: Post management <governorate> central

In the example below, the governorate is Baljurashi and the post office is Jabr.



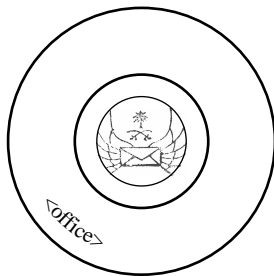


Baha, Acting Ex 3

Example 4.

Similar to example 1 of Al Qassim shown in Random Notes 97, but central logo is surrounded by a circle having a diameter of 18 mm. The outside diameter is 36 mm. and the central logo is in a 12 mm. diameter circle and is the standard type. I have two examples of this type both the same location, with usage in 1999 and 2006. The text has the meaning:

- Line 1: Al Baha region post
- Line 2: Acting post <office>

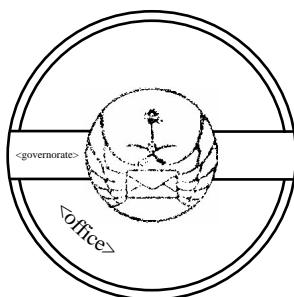


Baha, Acting Ex 4

Example 5.

A double ring, 38 mm diameter, with central logo of the standard type and surrounded by a circle having a diameter of 18 mm. Unusually, there is a horizontal belt in two parts containing governorate details. I have two examples of this type both the same location, with usage in 1999 and 2006. The text has the meaning:

- Line 1: General postal administration Baha region
- Line 2 (left): <governorate>
- Line 2 (right): Governorate (*muhafaza*)
- Line 3: Acting post <office>



Baha, Acting Ex 5



Designs for Regular Post Offices

Example 1.

Single ring circle, 31 mm. diameter containing four lines of text. Only one example seen, used in 2008. The text has the meaning:

- Line 1: <office> post
- Line 2: Western office name
- Line 3: Date
- Line 4: Al Baha region post.

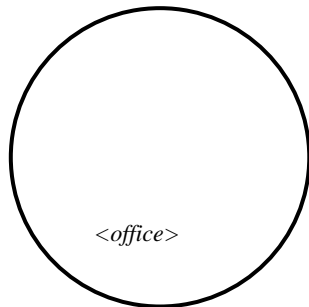


Baha, Regular Ex 1

Example 2.

Single ring circle, approximately 40 mm. diameter containing five lines of text. Only one, badly damaged, example seen, used in 1984. The text has the meaning:

- Line 1: Ministry of Telegraph and Post and Telephone
- Line 2: The General Directorate of Post
- Line 3: Al Baha Postal Region
- Line 4: Post <office>
- Line 5: Outgoing



Baha, Regular Ex 2

Example 3.

A single ring, 39 mm diameter, with central logo of the standard type. There is a horizontal belt in two parts containing postal area details. I have one example of this type on an undated cover with usage possibly 1983. The text has the meaning:

- Line 1: Al Baha region post
- Line 2 (left): Al Baha
- Line 2 (right): Post (*bareed*)
- Line 3: Post <office>





Baha, Regular Ex 3

This article will be continued in the next edition of Random Notes...

RN

Continued from [page 22](#)

12. This final note is another DGA, but this time it is a marginal marking. The coloured shapes in the bottom-right corner are in the colour of the centre plate. I have only the values shown below, all of my other control blocks, with and without perforated margins, do not show these marks. I have seen these marks on an imperforate part-sheet of 6p on watermarked paper, control A/60 (very rare). Any ideas?



RN

Saudi Arabian Year Issues - 2020 part 2

By: *Syed Abrar Ahmed & Martin Lovegrove*

In this series, the items described are as supplied by the Dammam Post Office. Other regions may supply slightly different items and this may particularly apply to First Day Covers.

Unless stated otherwise, all stamps were printed at the Government Security Press, Riyadh.

In the descriptions that follow, the print quantities, where known, are given in parentheses.

23 September 2020: The 90th Saudi National Day

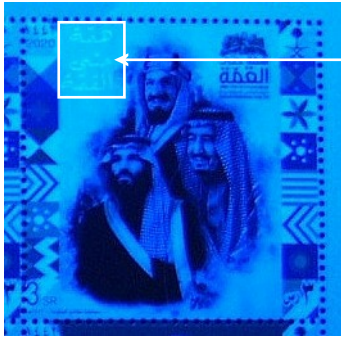
Sheetlet of four 3SR stamps, perforated 14. (15,000)

Miniature sheet 5SR, imperforate.

On the sheetlet there is text printed in invisible ink fluorescing yellow under long wave ultraviolet light on stamps 2 and 3. Stamp 4 has some of the text in the design printed in ink fluorescing white. No fluorescence observed on stamp 1.

The miniature sheet has Arabic text printed in invisible ink fluorescing yellow.





Text printed in fluorescent ink fluorescing yellow, positions 2 and 3.



Part of design printed in ink fluorescing white, position 4.



Miniature sheet with simulation of the Arabic text printed in invisible ink fluorescing yellow. The simulation is approximate in size and colour.



First Day Cover, 23 September 2020.

9 October 2020: World Post Day

Sheetlet of four 3SR stamps with a common design, perforated 14. (15,000)

Individual stamps in the sheetlet have the Saudi Post logo and text printed in invisible ink fluorescing yellow under long wave ultraviolet light. The image on stamp position 3 is the same size as the Saudi Post logo above stamp 2, and the others are approximately 75%. On my example of the sheetlet, these images are very difficult to see.



Logo & text

Sheetlet with simulation of Saudi Post logo printed in invisible ink fluorescing yellow.





First Day Cover, 9 October 2020.

5 November 2020: G20 Summit - Riyadh

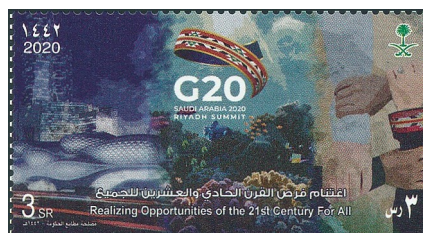
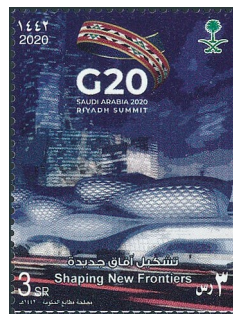
Four 3SR stamps issued in sheetlets of six, perforated 14. (60,000)

Two 5SR miniature sheets, imperforate. (14000)

Individual stamps in the sheetlets have the G20 in the design printed in ink fluorescing pale yellow under long wave ultraviolet light.

The green miniature sheet has the G20 SAUDI ARABIA 2020 in the design printed in ink fluorescing pink.

The white miniature sheet has two lines of text reading G20/SAUDI ARABIA 2020 printed twice in invisible ink fluorescing pink.





Left: Example of sheetlet produced for the three vertical format designs.



Below: The sheetlet produced for the horizontal format design.

Use of fluorescent ink on the miniature sheers



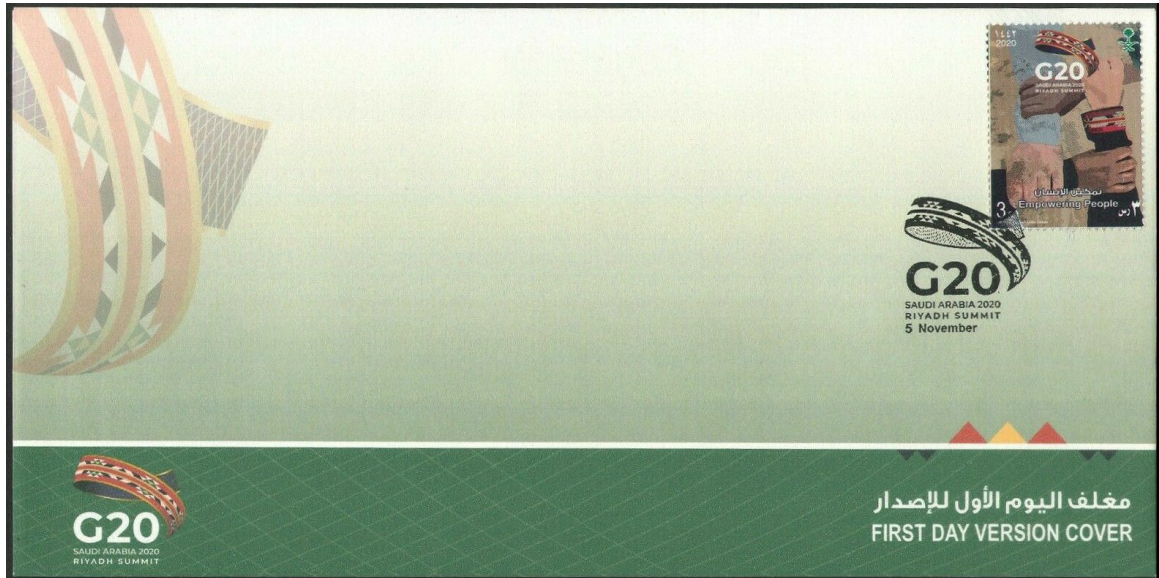
White background miniature sheet with simulation of fluorescent ink.



Green background miniature sheet photographed under ultraviolet light.



First Day Covers were issued for each of the perforated stamps and both miniature sheets. One example of each is shown below.



8 November 2020: Saudi Horse Cup

Sheetlet of two 3SR stamps, perforated 14. (10,000)

Miniature sheet 5SR, imperforate. (5,000)

On the sheetlet there is the Saudi Cup logo printed in invisible ink fluorescing yellow under long wave ultraviolet light on each stamp.

The miniature sheet has a similar, but larger, print using the same ink.

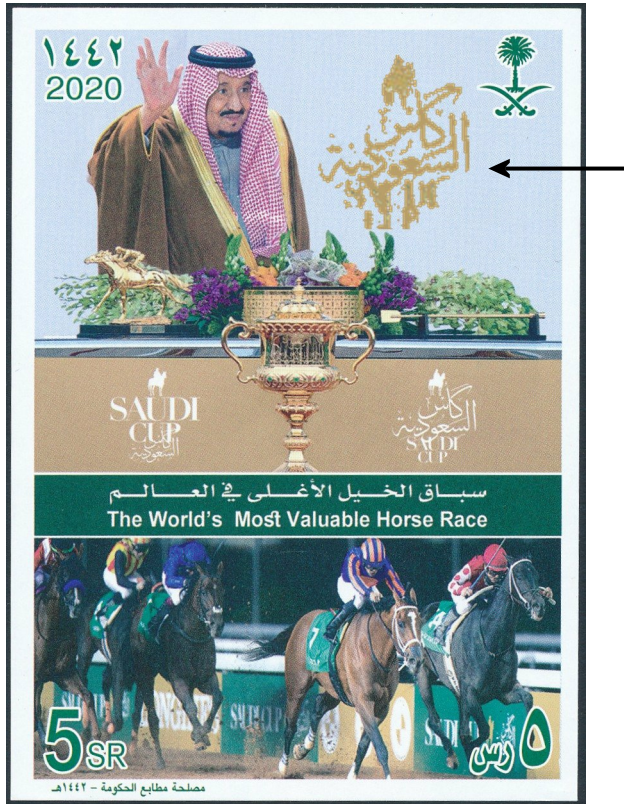


Simulation of logo printed in fluorescent ink on sheetlet



Stamps as issued





Simulation of logo printed in fluorescent ink on miniature sheet

A First Day Cover was issued for the perforated stamps.



12 November 2020: King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre

Sheetlet of two 2SR stamps, perforated 14. (15,000)

The stamps have Arabic and English text printed in invisible ink fluorescing yellow under long wave ultraviolet light.

The approximate position of the fluorescent part is shown below; the typeface used and the colour are for guidance only and are not an exact match.

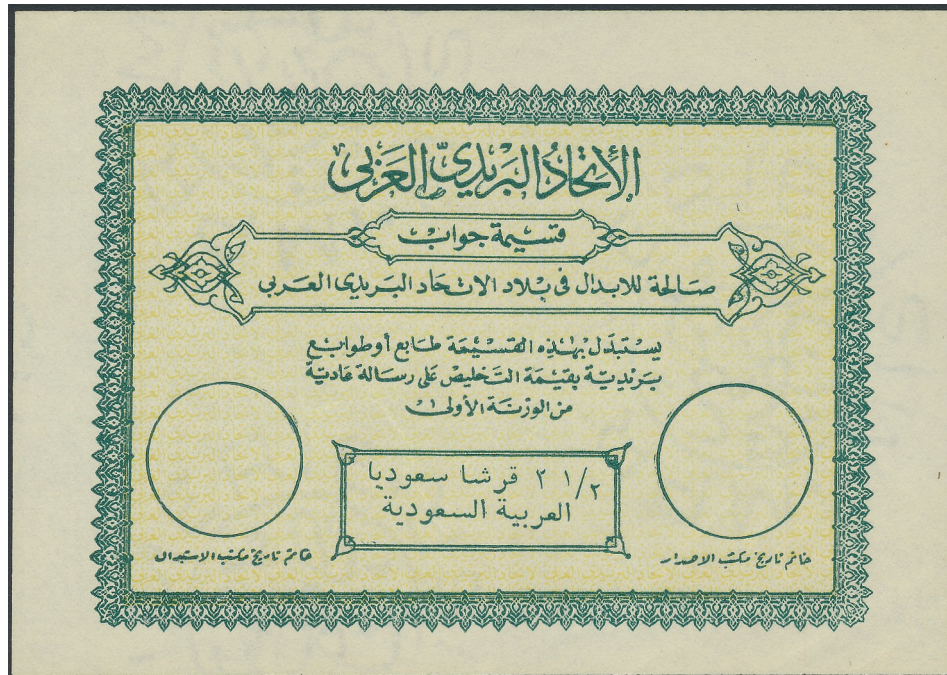


A First Day Cover was produced for a single stamp.



The Saudi Arabia Arab Postal Union International Reply Coupon

By: *Martin Lovegrove*



IMPRIMERIE
Arabic text
MISR

Mayo page 102 has an illustration and description of the Arab Postal Union International Reply Coupon issued by Saudi Arabia in 1956. The text reads:

At one of the early meetings of the Arab Postal Union, it was decided that member nations would issue Reply Coupons as did other postal unions of the world. Without much forwarning the first to release it's coupon was Egypt (March 1, 1956). The other nations followed on dates later that year. Saudi Arabia released her coupons August 1, 1956. Because these coupons were to be used only between member nations of the A.P.U. the coupons are printed entirely in Arabic. The first three lines read, "Arab Postal Union - Reply Coupon - Redeemable in the countries of the Arab Postal Union." The central paragraph reads, "This

coupon is exchangeable for a postage stamp or stamps representing the postage of an ordinary single letter rate." At the bottom center, the value and the name of the issuing country are enclosed in a rectangle with minor corner decorations. The circle for date stamp of the office of issue is in the lower right corner of the coupon. The circle in the lower left corner, is for the date stamp of the office of exchange or redemption.

I can add that the coupon is printed on watermarked paper with IMPRIMERIE MISR, illustrated above, and that my copy has watermark sideways left. The Arabic text in the centre is the Arabic for Imprimerie Misr but the characters are overlapping and stacked up; impossible for me to reproduce. The coupon is 123 x 88 mm. and the diameter of the watermark is approximately 52 mm. My copy has one complete watermark design and two partial ones. Inside the decorative border are multiple lines in yellow of 'Arab Postal Union' in Arabic.

A coupon, issued in Makkah, appeared in the Spink auction 10843 as lot 1295, estimate GBP 100 - 120; it was unsold.

RN

From the Auctions

Compiled By: Martin Lovegrove

We must congratulate Cedarstamps in giving us yet another auction held under the very difficult conditions in Beirut, Lebanon. We were rewarded with Lot 240:

Saudi Arabia. Wrapper of a packet containing photographic material sent by OVERLAND MAIL from Beirut on 3/5/1935 to Mr. Thomas W. Koch, Casoc's chief geologists in Jubail, in the Saudi region of Al Hasa. The package was routed by Overland Mail via Baghdad - Basra - Bahrain. This route began to be operational from 1 July 1933 when British Indian administration started Postal Service to the Saudi region of Al Hasa, indeed with transmission via Bahrain by steamer ship. Franked for 22.50 Piastres corresponding to postage of 15P for small packets up to 250 grams rate and 7.50p for the Registration service. On the back show Basra transit cancel posted on 6/5/1935. MOST PROBABLY UNIQUE, SINCE NO OVERLAND MAIL ADDRESSED IN THE SAUDIS REGION OF AL HASA WAS RECORDED TILL NOW.

With a starting price of €1,900 it achieved a hammer price of €2,200. At the time of the auction, Cedarstamps charged a buyer's commission of 20%. Note that the numeric dates quoted above are in the day/month/year format.



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.

WANTED. Scott/Gibbons L67/76, L77/89a, L78/88, L81/94a, L98/95a, L105/102, L185/unlisted, LJ18/D89. If you can help, contact Mason Kelsey, masonkelsey@gmail.com

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.

WANTED. Articles, notes and images for inclusion in future Random Notes. Anything relating to the postal system in Saudi Arabia will be most welcome.

Please send to the editor.

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/home# The Saudi expert is Gregory Todd who can be contacted at todd@corinphila.ch |
| Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions | https://www.kelleherauctions.com Auction house operating from Danbury, CT, USA. Very good catalogues. |
| Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions | https://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 | WADP Numbering System - WNS. |