



Arabian Philatelic Association International

Random Notes



July 2022

NUMBER 99

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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 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 #99

Assembled by the Editor

Producing this issue has been hard work; this time of year is always busy for me and family health has not been at its best.

I have received a suggestion that we should rename the Random Notes to The ARABIAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL to give it a bit more weight as a reliable news and information medium for Arabian Philately. It is suggested that we should also add other news of interest from collectors and philatelists who collect other countries of the Middle East.

What do you think? Please let me know, my contact details are on the previous page. Remember that the editor can only publish what is received and if nothing comes in then the name of the journal is irrelevant.

I have received some recollections of Jack Wilson from a member and would be delighted to receive any comments you have about Random Notes or help you have received from other members.

Now for the notes.

1. I start with an item from the Ivy & Mader sale of the Kawar Family Collection held on June 30, 1998. Lot 3162 comprised large imperforate gutter blocks, with control numbers, of the Convoir 340 airmail stamps. These enable the upper control numbers to be distinguished from the lower. Unfortunately only the 8p was illustrated; where are the others? Can anyone supply images to assist with the identification of upper or lower controls. They were inserted by hand, so upper and lower differ.



8p upper control

Ex Ivy & Mader lot 3162



2. Relating to item 1, there is a note in RN #9.3:

Imperforates are very scarce. I recall Gamil Atallah telling me that there were only 300 sets of the GOSP and Air imperforates.

I wonder how the quantity of 300 was determined.

3. Misperforation of the 4 qirsh value of the 8th Arab Telecommunications Union Congress, Riyadh, 1966 is well known and a block was illustrated in RN #67. Gutter pairs were mentioned and to complete the illustrations, a gutter block is shown here.



4. Should I have been surprised by this item? Perhaps not, but I was. It is the current barcode label (my type BC15) but on a green and yellow Saudi Post label. I have only seen that paper used for the previous barcode type (my type BC6) during the period 2010 to 2012. This example is dated 3 October 2021 and is from the main post office in Riyadh. Perhaps they are using up all of the old stock of labels before the introduction of the rebranded SPL () labels.



5. I am sure that many, if not most, collectors of Hejaz covers will have seen the blue envelopes addressed to Mrs Frederick Jones, 32 Newport Road, Cardiff, Wales, such as the one illustrated below.



A quick search of Google maps shows what the address looks like now. Things have changed!



32 Newport Road in 2021. ©2022 Google



6. There are some interesting varieties to be found in the 1925 large three-line Jeddah provisional with postage due handstamp. Not reported before in RN, the 2 qirsh exists with the handstamp double and the 3 qirsh exists with the brown-olive shade usually seen on the 1924 Caliphate stamp.



Handstamp double

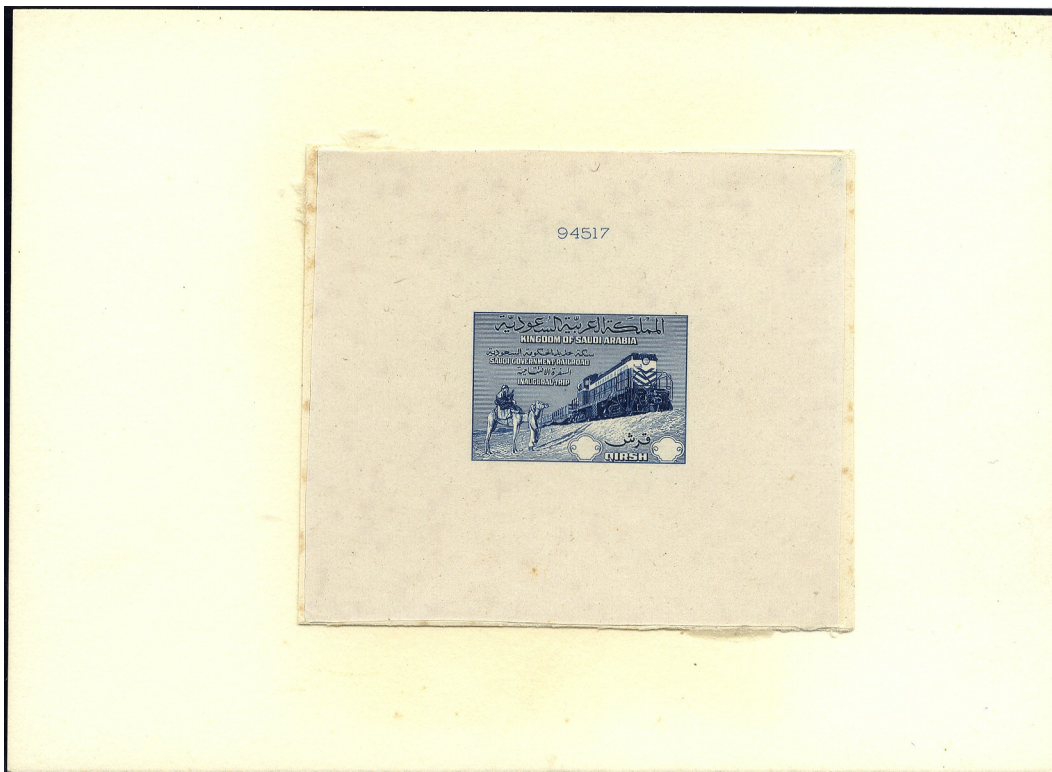


Brown-olive



Brown

7. Occasionally seen at auction and perhaps more rarely in dealers' stock are the 1952 Inauguration of the Damman-Riyadh Railway American Banknote Company die proofs of final state in issued colours on thin wove paper affixed to card, sometimes sunken, size approximately 140 x 100mm., with die number. There is also one with the value omitted.



<u>Value</u>	<u>Die number</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Die number</u>
½	94534	10	94537
1	94535	20	94538
3	94536	Omitted	94517 - blue, green (probably all issued colours)



8. The Harry Hibbert sale by Harmers of London in March 1987 included some of the Hejaz and Nejd imperforate essay sheets comprising a mix of large and normal size stamps. The catalogue noted that sheets contained two normal size stamp, always in violet, but then listed a sheet in blue where these two stamps were omitted. Below is another example of a sheet without the violet stamps but in brown-red. This is also on bluish, ungummed paper. I am sceptical of the sheets where all seven stamps are in the same colour. See also RN83.4 and RN90.15-19.

HEJAZ AND NEJD	
1926 Definitives	
<i>The following 9 lots are Essays; very similar to the issued designs but with slight differences in the inscriptions, each comprises Postage 1/2pi., 2pi. and Postage Due 1/2pi. (inverted) 2 1/2 times normal size, Postage 1/2pi. and Postage Due 1/2pi. normal size in various colours, also Postage 1/2pi. and Postage Due 1/2pi. normal size but always in violet.</i>	
495 E	Gold on ungummed yellow paper, fine. Rare (see photo-plate XXIV) (Mayo ES715/20B)
496 E	Gold on ungummed pink paper, fine. Rare (Mayo ES715/20C)
497 E	Blue on gummed white paper, fine. Rare (Mayo ES715/20G)
498 E	Brown on gummed white paper, fine. Rare (Mayo ES715/20J)
499 E	Brown on ungummed pink paper, fine. Rare (Mayo ES715/20L)
500 E	Green on white gummed paper, small fault in margin, otherwise fine. Rare (Mayo ES715/20S)
501 E	Green on yellowish ungummed paper, fine. Rare (Mayo ES715/20T)
502 E	Orange on gummed white paper, vertical crease affecting the 4 normal size impressions, otherwise fine. Rare (Mayo ES715/20W)
503 E	Orange on ungummed yellowish paper, slight crease in margins, otherwise fine (Mayo ES715/20W)
504 E	A sheet similar to the above nine lots in blue on ungummed bluish paper but without the impressions of the 2 violet stamps, faint crease and small faults in margin, otherwise fine. Rare

Part of Hibbert auction catalogue



Sheet in brown-red without violet stamps, on bluish paper (reduced)



9. The use of ordinary postage stamps on official mail during periods of shortages has been documented in Random Notes (RN58.21 & RN85.16) but although a suspect private item was shown in RN55.4, no mention has been made of genuine official mail bearing both official and postage stamps. Below is a somewhat tatty cover with a 4p Faisal air used in conjunction with 20p official stamps. Postmark MECCA 30 July 1970.



Mix of postage and official stamps

10. While on the subject of official stamps, I note that stamps with a wide perforation tooth got some publicity in RN #90 but I have been unable to find a reference in RN for a wide tooth appearing on a Dar Al Isfahani printed official. So, to keep the record straight, I illustrate one with a wide tooth at left and inverted watermark (Scott O20, SG 501, Mayo O1065V). Can anyone supply a comprehensive list of wide tooth/watermark directions for that issue?



Continued on page 22 ... 

Behind the Official Covers

By: Martin Lovegrove

It is a bit of a (poor?) play on words really. Recently I received an official seal from Dr. Elias Kawar and I was reminded of two examples appearing in RN43.17 (Saudi Sidelines by Yousuf Aidroos). A quick check of my collection revealed that the sealing and identification of official mail could make an interesting study. Just as a starter, here are a few examples; images have been reduced or enlarged as required:

Wax Seals

The first example is from Hejaz and Nejd and posted 15 August 1927 (Figure 1).



Figure 1

This cover is from the Postal Administration department to New Jersey. The cover was sealed by three plain wax seals, one is missing and two are damaged.

The remaining items are post unification.

Figure 2 shows a cover from the Ministry of Finance in Makkah and addressed to the Saudi Legation in London. The author of this article had to visit the Legation in 1965 to collect a visa; there is now a full embassy in another part of London.





Figure 2

This cover has five wax seals and a violet handstamp. The handstamp (figure 3) is a copy of the text impressed in the wax (figure 4).



Figure 3



Figure 4



Adhesive Seals

The different paper and/or foil seals in my possession are tabulated below.

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Diameter (mm)</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Date</u>
5	50	None indicated. Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources	Nov. 1967
6	55	Shura Council	Jun. 1967
7	52	Ministry of Telegraph and Post and Telephone	Jun. 1987
8	55	Ministry of Telegraph and Post and Telephone	-
9	58	Ministry of Planning	Jun. 1987

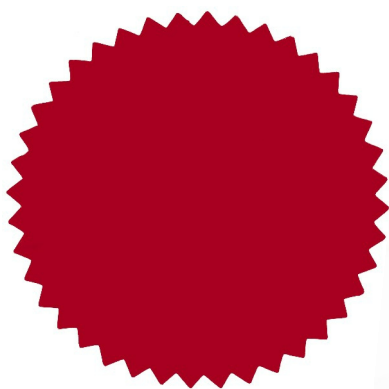


Figure 5



Figure 6*



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

* The detail in figure 6 may not be clear when this page is printed. For best results, view the page at 200% or copy the image and paste into your image editing software.



Handstamps

These are probably the most common type of department identification, but possibly the most interesting. The envelope usually identifies the official organization, but these handstamps will often identify the department within the organization. Figure 10 shows such a handstamp. The envelope identified the source as the Directorate General of Post and the postmark identified the location as Dammam. The handstamp shows the originator as the Parcel Post department; CP being the abbreviation for Colis Postal.



Figure 10

Another one from the Directorate General of Post is this one from Jeddah (figure 11) identifying the department as the Central Post Office Liaison Office.



Figure 11

This has been but a brief excursion into some of the types of markings found on official mail; if anyone is interested, perhaps it would be possible to produce a more informative document. Please contact the editor if you are willing to help.

More Mumtaz

By: *Martin Lovegrove*

In Random Notes #98, Ken Knight gave us an insight into the formation and early operation of the Al Barid Al Mumtaz service. This article shows additional Al Mumtaz items and some more information about items shown in Ken's article.

Labels

I have two basic types of Mumtaz labels. The one illustrated in RN98 I think may be the earliest type and does not have EMS shown. I have seen two different sizes of this type: 75 x 25 mm and 150 x 50 mm (Figure 1). The sizes are approximate because of variations in the trimming of the labels after printing.

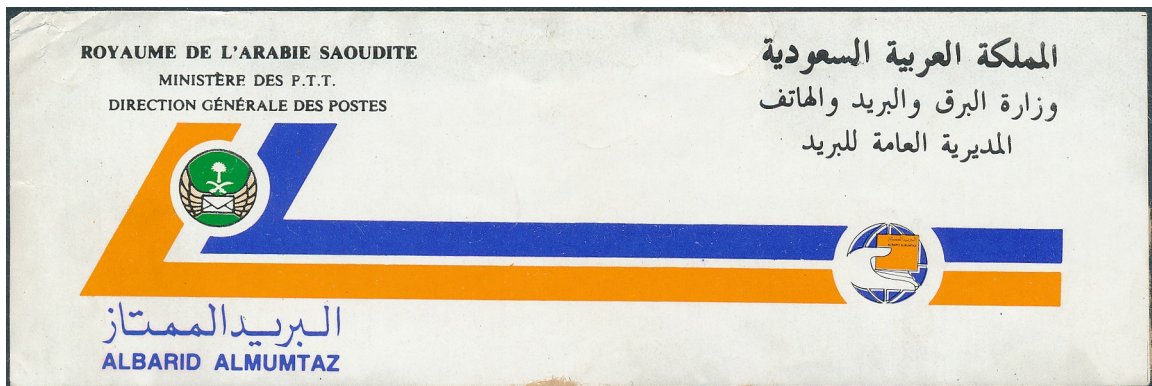
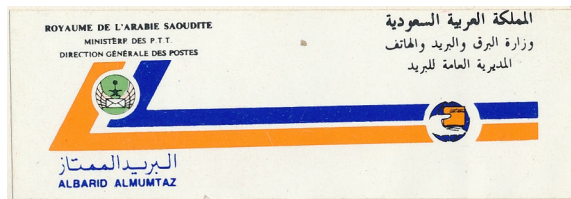


Figure 1

Some copies of the larger size of these labels have been seen with an incorrect accent in the French MINISTÈRE is shown as MINISTÉRE as shown in figure 2.

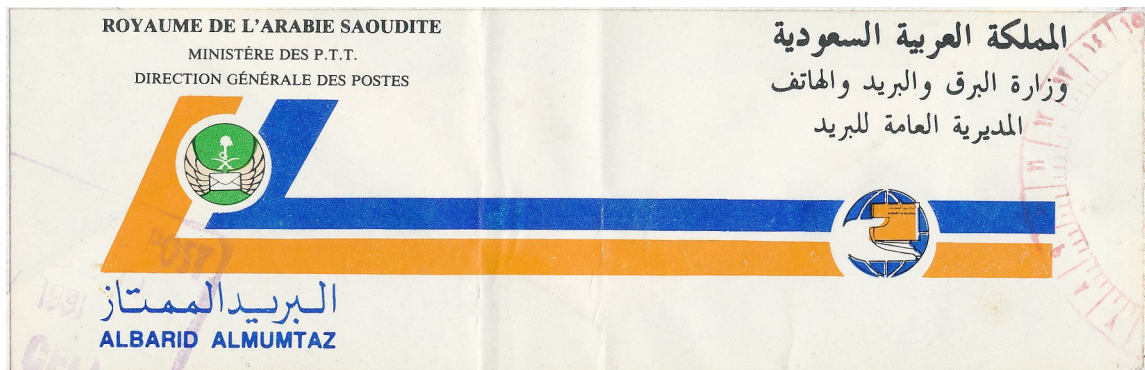


Figure 2



The other, possibly later, label shows EMS in large letters. I have seen three different sizes of this type: 75 x 25 mm, 90 x 30 mm and 150 x 50 mm. The large size is at figure 3.

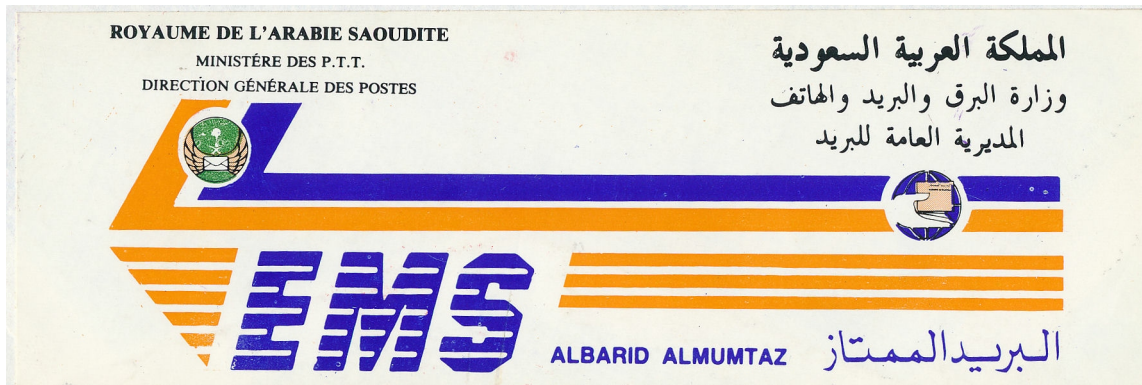


Figure 3

All of my intact large size labels have the incorrect MINISTÈRE, but it should be noted that the post officials frequently remove the EMS from the label and stick that on the envelope as shown in figure 4.

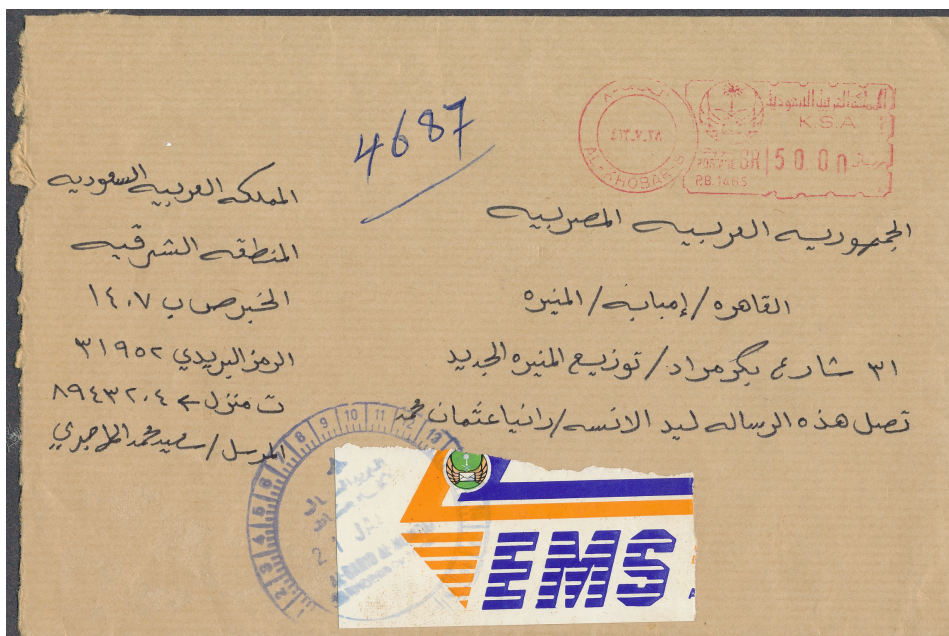


Figure 4

Cachets

EMS/Mumtaz cachets have been applied to both outgoing and incoming mail.

An example of a cachet (figure 5) applied in Taif (1991) to record the registration number of an outbound item. The three lines of text are:

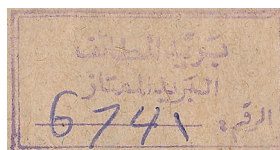


Figure 5

Some external EMS mail to Saudi Arabia received cachets. This item (figure 6) destined for Jeddah received a Jeddah Postal Region cachet to record delivery attempts. The Jeddah arrival was 4 May 1993 and a manuscript date (receipt?) shows 19-11-1413 (11 May 1993).



Figure 6

Saudi Aramco also handled outgoing Barid Mumtaz items and this next item (figure 7) shows a Saudi Aramco DHAHRAN OUT GOING postmark for 4 April 1993 and also a Saudi Aramco cachet for the EMS number.





Figure 7

Stamps

A stamp was issued on 21st April 2019 as part of a UPU celebration (figure 8). A circular from the UPU explains it all:

Berne, 10 December

2018 International Bureau Circular 183

EMS Cooperative – 20th anniversary joint commemorative stamp

Dear Sir/Madam,

The EMS Cooperative of the Universal Postal Union will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2019.

Founded at the Beijing Congress on 10 September 1999, the EMS Cooperative works with designated postal operators to deliver a high-quality, competitive Express Mail Service (EMS) worldwide. The EMS product is the fastest postal product, combining speed with reliability, affordability and customer focus. EMS Cooperative members have achieved significant results in all of these areas over the past two decades.

To celebrate this milestone, the EMS Cooperative and its members are organizing a range of activities, including the issuance of a joint commemorative stamp in 2019. A special 20th anniversary stamp template has been created by the UPU International Bureau for this occasion.

The International Bureau invites all member countries of the UPU's EMS Cooperative to actively take part in this initiative, which serves to promote EMS.

For further information and visual guidelines, please visit the EMS Cooperative website at www.ems.post/en/20th-anniversary-stamp, or contact the EMS Unit at ems.unit@upu.int.

Yours faithfully,

Abdel Ilah Bousseta

Director of Postal Operations

At the time of writing (June 2022) the web page quoted above was still active.

It should be noted that Saudi Arabia started its Al Barid Al Mumtaz in 1984, long before the founding of the EMS Cooperative.





Figure 8

Envelopes and wrappers

A variety of envelopes and plastic wrappers have been used over the years. At figure 9 is a plastic wrapper from Riyadh to the UK, posted on 13-5-1424 (13 July 2003), SR 130 meter mark and cancel of Al Sidr Postal Agency, Riyadh.



Figure 9

Figure 10 shows a later design from Riyadh posted on 24 January 2017, with a label replacing a meter mark and showing postage of SR 170, The Branch Code 215452 is the Al Sidr Agency, Olaya office, Riyadh.



Figure 10

Datestamps

Some circular timed datestamps were illustrated in RN98, but there are many of these and can be found in 12 hour and 24 hour formats and with Hijri or Gregorian dates and usually bilingual.

There are enough for them to justify an article on their own and hopefully that will appear soon. Two examples of timed datestamps differing considerably from those in the previous article are shown in figures 11 (Riyadh receiving) and 12 (monolingual).



Figure 11



Figure 12

The usage of the examples of the timed datestamps in my collection is 1986 - 1994.

I have two rectangular marks applied in addition to the normal postal meter marks. Figure 13 is an example from Dammam and figure 14 is from Riyadh.

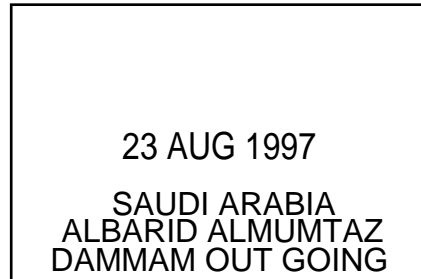


Figure 13



Figure 14

There also exist postmarks similar to the S150 series but with EMS in addition to the normal text (figure 15).

	Earliest / Latest
GIZAN 1	31 Jan 1995
JEDDAH 1	8 Aug 1995 - 11 Jun 1997
JEDDAH 2	1 Feb 1995 - 27 Jun 1997
JEDDAH 4	12 Jul 1997
RIYADH 8	8 Feb 1994
TAIF 1	11 Jun 1997 - 27 Jun 1997

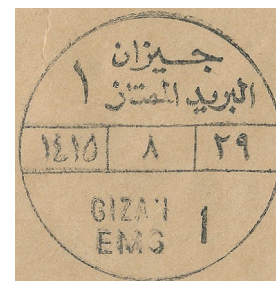


Figure 15



I have but one example of a single ring postmark in red, diameter 50 mm. (figure 16). It looks as though it may be one of the standard timed datestamps with the time ring removed.



Figure 16

Almost - but not quite!

There are some datestamps, usually including 'barid al mumtaz' in the text, that look as though they are for EMS use but have not been used in that way.

Figure 17 shows a YANBO EMS 5 with the office name partially removed and fully removed in figure 18. I have only seen these types used on ordinary mail.



Figure 17

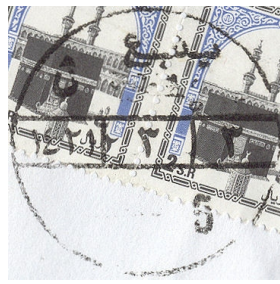


Figure 18

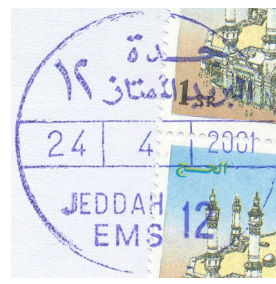


Figure 19

Figure 19 shows an intact JEDDAH EMS 12. I have seen counter numbers 11, 12 and 13 used on French naval philatelic mail in 2001 and 2002. Figure 20 is an example of this usage.



Figure 20



Now it is the turn of postal agencies; I do not know if they handle Mumtaz items but *mumtaz* is included in some of their postmarks. All of my copies are on ordinary mail. The timed datestamp at figure 21 is from the Speedpost Agency in the Shimaisi district of Riyadh with usage in 2007. Immediately below the date is *al barid al mumtaz* (). Also from Riyadh in 2009 is an example (figure 22) from the Arab Postal Services Agency and the bottom line of their rectangular mark with irregular sides is 'al barid al mumtaz'. Figure 23 shows an unclear mark from Al Amal Postal Agency, Yanbu. is the text just beneath the datebelt and usage is 2006. Finally, figure 24 shows an example from the Express Mail agency, Al Kharj in 2011; the curved text in the lower part of the device is .



Figure 21



Figure 22

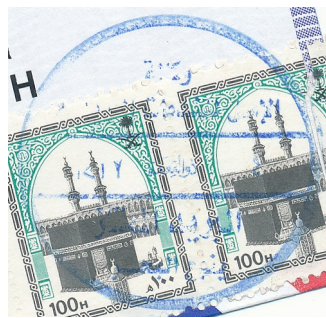


Figure 23

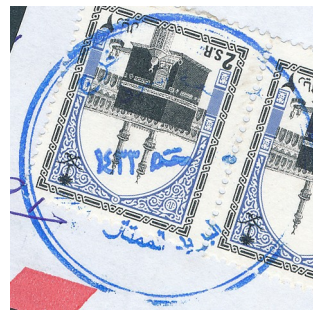


Figure 24

This article has been a rather unstructured excursion through some Al Barid Al Mumtaz items in my collection. Some of the illustrations are not as clear as I would like, but these items appear to be scarce. If anyone has better illustrations or even material not yet shown, please send them to the editor for inclusion in a future article.

Correction to original article in Random Notes #98

The footnote on page 18 should read:

12.15pm, 10 rajab 1406 (20 March 1986)

... continued from page 8

11. There have been no specific references to the large 'Al Saudia' handstamp in past Random Notes so, thanks in part to old Filatco catalogues, I can show some illustrations. These stamps are listed in Scott 2022; Gibbons contains only a footnote regarding the handstamp in general.



Ex Filatco Mail Bid Sale, September 1999.
Postmark 3 January 1926.



Ex Filatco Mail Bid Sale, September 1999,
handstamp sideways reading down. According
to Scott the handstamp also exists reading up.
Date not visible.



Image from Weatherings collection. Another
example was in the Filatco Mail Bid Sale,
September 1999. Both examples are King Ali
year left and postmarked 11 December 1925.


12. In RN68.27 there appeared illustrations of the ½ and 1 qirsh Tughra with "T" postage due. There is currently (June 2022) a copy of the ¼ qirsh on eBay and that is shown below. I offer no comment on the status of these postage dues.
13. Also on that auction site was this copy of the Nejd one qirsh fee paid handstamp on white, smooth paper. It was described as a proof. It could be a proof, but because no records were kept, it could also have been specially prepared for a collector. This lack of records presents a problem for much of Saudi philately and does no favours for good quality items such as this.



¼ qirsh postage due



1 qirsh fee paid

Continued on page 32 ... 

Regional Postmarks of Saudi Arabia - Part 4

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.

Ha'il Region

Designs for Acting Post Offices

Example 1.

Single outer ring with a diameter of 34 mm. and text curved to fit at top and bottom with additional text above the central emblem. The central logo is in a 20 mm. diameter circle and is the standard type. I have three examples of this type from two locations with usage 2002 - 2003. Two have a thicker outside circle than that illustrated. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Acting post <office>

Line 2: Ha'il region post

Line 3: General Postal Administration in Ha'il



Ha'il, Acting Ex 1

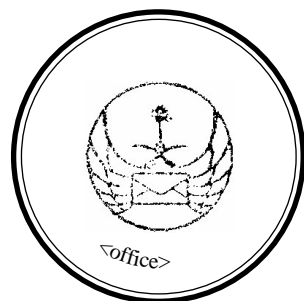
Designs for Regular Post Offices

Example 1.

Double outer ring with a diameter of 39 mm. and text curved to fit at top and bottom. The central logo is in a 20 mm. diameter circle and is the standard type. I have three examples of this type from different locations with usage 2002 - 2003. Two have a thicker outside circle than that illustrated. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Ha'il region post

Line 2: <office> Post



Ha'il, Regular Ex 1



Example 2.

Double outer ring with a diameter of 32 mm. and text curved to fit at top and bottom. The central logo is in a 15 mm. diameter circle and is the standard type. Two five-pointed stars, horizontally opposed, appear between the circles. I have two examples of this type from different locations with usage 2006 - 2007. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Saudi Post Corporation

Line 2: Ha'il region post

Line 3: <office> Post Office



Ha'il, Regular Ex 2

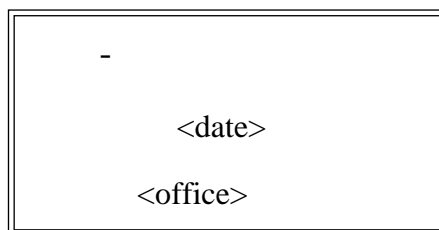
Example 3.

Rectangular postmark 58 x 30 mm. with a double outer frame and three lines of text. I have two examples of this type from different locations with usage 2006 - 2007. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: General Postal Administration Ha'il region

Line 2: <date> (Hijri)

Line 3: <office> Post



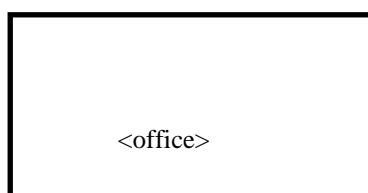
Ha'il, Regular Ex 3

Example 4.

Rectangular postmark 49 x 25 mm. with a single outer frame and two lines of text. I have only one example of this type with usage in 2004. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: General Postal Administration Ha'il region

Line 2: <office> Post



Ha'il, Regular Ex 4



Example 5.

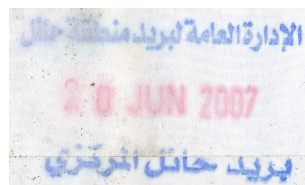
Rectangular unframed postmark 37 x 22 mm. with three lines of text, the date in the centre may have been added in a separate operation. I have one example of this type with usage in 2007. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: General Postal Administration Ha'il region

Line 2: <date> (Gregorian)

Line 3: <office> Post

<date>
<office>



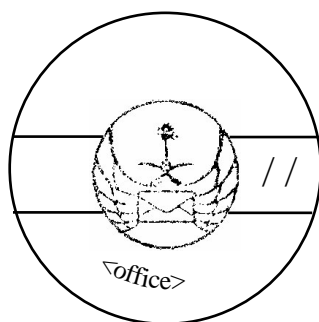
Ha'il, Regular Ex 5

Example 6.

Single outer ring approximately 41 mm in diameter, with central logo of the standard type and surrounded by a circle having a diameter of 21 mm. There are two lines of text, curved to fit the circular shape. Unusually, there is a horizontal belt in two parts, the left one apparently empty, and the right one containing two oblique date separators. I have two examples of this type, from different locations, with usage in 1992 and 2002. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Ha'il region post

Line 2: <office> Post



Ha'il, Regular Ex 6

Jizan Region

Designs for Acting Post Offices

Example 1.

Double outer ring with a diameter of 38 mm. and text curved to fit at top and bottom. The central logo is in a 15 mm. diameter circle and is the standard type. I have four examples of this type from one location with usage in 2003. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Jizan region post

Line 2: Acting post <office>





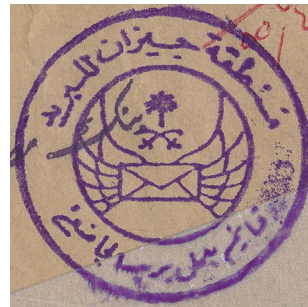
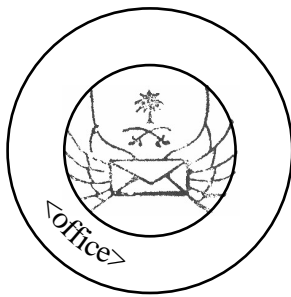
Jizan, Acting Ex 1

Example 2a.

Single outer ring with a diameter of 38 mm. and text curved to fit at top and bottom. The central logo is in a 23 mm. diameter circle and is the standard type. I have three examples of this type from different locations with usage 1982 - 1995. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Jizan region post

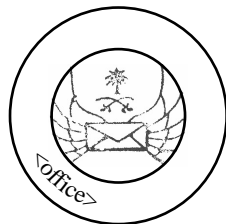
Line 2: Acting post <office>



Jizan, Acting Ex 2a

Example 2b.

The same as example 2a above but with an outside diameter of 29 mm. and the central logo of 18 mm. diameter. I have one example of this type with usage in 2003.



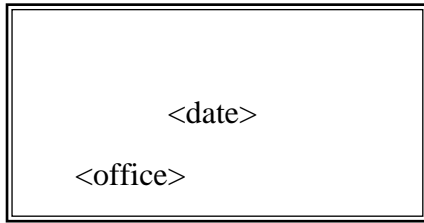
Jizan, Acting Ex 2b



Example 3.

Rectangular postmark approximately 56 x 29 mm. with a double outer frame and three lines of text. I have one example of this type with usage in 2002. The text has the meaning:

- Line 1: Jizan region post
- Line 2: <date> (Hijri)
- Line 3: Acting post <office>



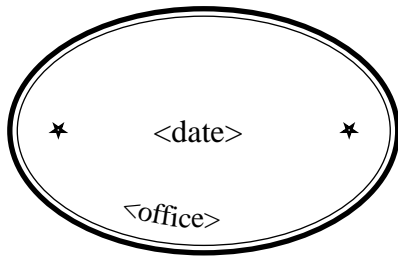
Jizan, Acting Ex 3

Designs for Regular Post Offices

Example 1a.

Double oval with outside measurements, 52 x 33 mm., and text curved to fit at top and bottom. Across the horizontal axis are two stars, pointing down, and a date in Hijri format. I have four examples of this type from three different locations with usage 1998 - 2002. The text has the meaning:

- Line 1: Jizan region post
- Line 2: <date>
- Line 3: <office> Post



Jizan, Regular Ex 1a

Example 1b.

Appears to be the same type as above but with outside measurements, 55 x 35 mm. and a distorted oval. I have two examples of this type from different locations with usage 1999 - 2001. The distortion and increased size may have been caused by the material used for the device reacting with the ink over a period of time.



Jizan, Regular Ex 1b



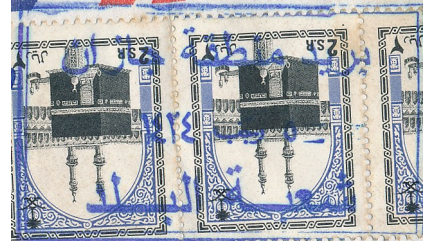
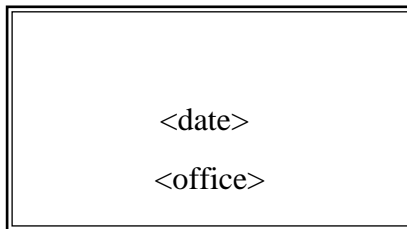
Example 2.

Rectangular postmark approximately 54 x 30 mm. with a double outer frame and three lines of text. I have one example of this type with usage in 2003. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Jizan region post

Line 2: <date> (Hijri)

Line 3: <office>



Jizan, Regular Ex 2

Example 3.

Rectangular unframed postmark approximately 57 x 36 mm. with four lines of text. I have two examples of this type with usage 2005 - 2006. The overall dimensions vary depending on the length of the text. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Saudi Post Corporation

Line 2: Jizan region post

Line 3: <date> (Gregorian in Arabic)

Line 4: <office> Post Office

<date>

<office>



Jizan, Regular Ex 3. 'Al Harith Governorate'

Example 4.

Rectangular unframed postmark approximately 54 x 38 mm., similar to example 3 but with five lines of text. I have one example of this type with usage in 2008. Unfortunately in my example the fourth line is virtually unreadable, but appears to be three words including 'post'. The office name is 'King Fahd Hospital in Jizan'. If other locations use this type, the overall dimensions may vary depending on the length of the text. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Saudi Post Corporation

Line 2: Jizan region post

Line 3: <date> (Gregorian in Arabic)

Line 4: ????? Post ????? - Help required here please.

Line 5: <office>



<date>
 ?????? ??????
 <office>



Jizan, Regular Ex 4

Al Madinah Al Munawwarah Region

This region not only has the usual styles of postmarks but also several unusual ones; they are shown under **Medina Miscellany**.

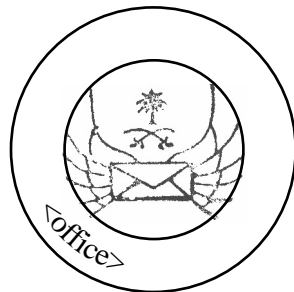
Designs for Acting Post Offices

Example 1.

Single outer ring with a diameter of 38 mm. and text curved to fit at top and bottom. The central logo is in a 24 mm. diameter circle and is the standard type. I have seven examples of this type from six locations with usage 1986 - 2004. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Al Madinah Al Munawwarah region post

Line 2: Acting post <office>



Medina, Acting Ex 1

Example 2.

Double outer ring with a diameter of 38 mm. and three lines of text curved to fit at top and bottom. The central logo is in a 15 mm. diameter circle and is the standard type and both are enclosed by another circle 20 mm. diameter. Across the horizontal axis are two solid circles placed at the ends of the main top text. I have one example of this type with usage in 2002. The text has the meaning:

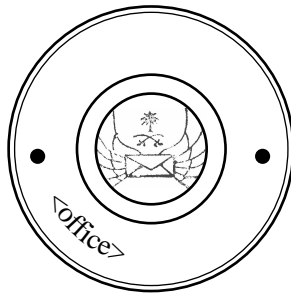
Line 1: Ministry of Telegraphs and Post and Telephones

Line 2: (Very small type and example is unclear. The first word is *mintaq*a and the remaining words may refer to Medina. In the example diagram it is shown in red because of the uncertainty)

Line 3: Acting post <office>

More information about this type is required.





Medina, Acting Ex 2

Medina Miscellany

Example 1.

Rectangular postmark approximately 57 x 23 mm. with a single outer frame and three lines of text. Across the horizontal axis are two solid circles. The office name does not appear on the postmark. I have two examples of this type, both from Al Suwadirah (30 km east of Medina) with usage 2011 - 2012. The text has the meaning:

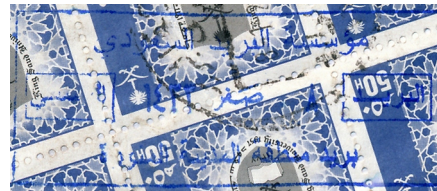
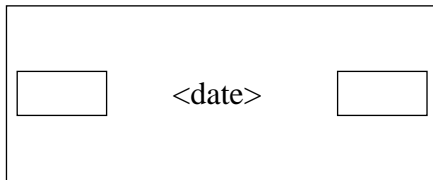
Line 1: Saudi Post Corporation

Line 2 box at left: - this usually means 'official' but in this case I think it could be better translated as 'registered'.

Line 2 centre: <date>

Line 2 box at right: Post

Line 3: Al Madinah Al Munawwarah Postal Region



Medina, Miscellany Ex 1

Example 2a.

Now for two examples, for acting post offices, identical in design but with different text meanings.

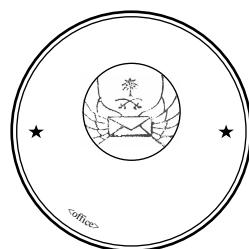
The first is a double outer ring with a diameter of 32 mm. and text curved to fit at top and two lines curved to fit at bottom. The logo is in a 13 mm. diameter circle, but is offset from the centre, and is the standard type. Across the horizontal axis are two stars, pointing up. I have one example of this type from Al Itmah (Al Yutamah) with usage 2007. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Saudi Post Corporation

Line 2: Al Madinah Al Munawwarah Post

Line 3: Acting post <office>

This should be a regional postmark as Al Itmah is 50km from the city of Medina.



Medina, Miscellany Ex 2a



Example 2b.

The second example differs only in the text in the second line where the governorate is specified and, as in the first example, the postal region is not mentioned. I have one example of this type from Al Salhanyyah with usage 2008. The text has the meaning:

- Line 1: Saudi Post Corporation
- Line 2: Governorate Post <governorate>
- Line 3: Acting post <office>

The governorate in my example is Mahd; it is not known if this postmark was used elsewhere.



Medina, Miscellany Ex 2b

Example 3.

This is for regular post offices and has a single outer ring with a diameter of 40 mm. and text curved to fit at top and bottom. The central logo is in a 22 mm. diameter circle and is the standard type. This type may to be for Medina Central only. I have two examples of this type and although the text is somewhat unclear, they both appear to be from Medina Al Munawwarah Central, with usage possibly in the 1990s. The text has the meaning:

- Line 1: Postal affairs Medina Al Munawwarah region
- Line 2: <office>
- Line 3: Receipts (Presumably inbound mail)



Medina, Miscellany Ex 3

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

... continued from page 22

14. Examples of instructional markings have featured in earlier notes (RN43.17,22 and 82.26), but I have not previously seen one for underpaid mail to be returned to sender. I noticed the example below because of the English text. The Arabic translates to 'Return to complete the fee'. The second example of underpaid mail is from Al Quwayiyah (postmark KOOYEE). That cover has no instructional marks but was returned for extra postage, possibly the 4 qirsh stamp. The journey to London started Al Quwayiyah 26 September 1962, Riyadh 26 September 1962, Al Quwayiyah 2 October 1962, Riyadh 3 October 1962. The initial Al Quwayiyah date may be in error by 1 day because the Gregorian date shown was 36/8/72 and a conversion had to be made from 26-4-1382.



Cover with instructional mark on reverse



Returned to Al Quwayiyah for extra postage

Continued on page 48 ...

Saudi Arabian Year Issues - 2020 part 3

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. Simulations of the invisible ink fluorescing yellow are approximate in size and colour.

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

8 November 2020: 1st Global Conference for Giftedness and Creativity

A single 3SR stamp, perforated 14, was issued in sheetlets of four stamps.

On each stamp there is a logo printed in invisible ink fluorescing yellow under long wave ultraviolet light.

The margins at left and right may be perforated or imperforate.



Sheet of issued stamps (reduced)



Simulation of fluorescent ink



Conference logo





First Day Cover, 8 November 2020 (reduced)

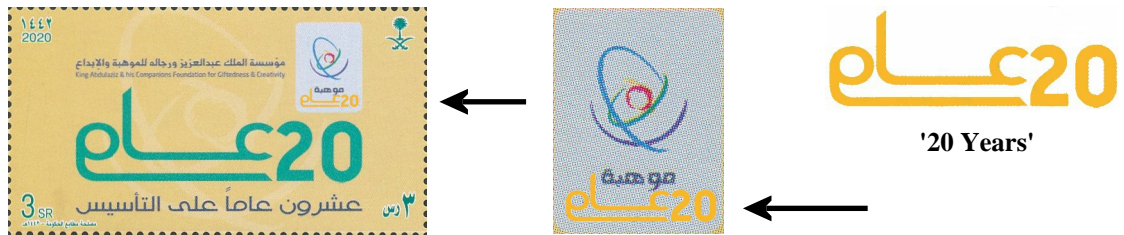
8 November 2020: King Abdulaziz Foundation 20 Years

A single 3SR stamp, perforated 14, was issued in sheetlets of four stamps.

On each stamp there is a logo printed in invisible ink fluorescing yellow under long wave ultraviolet light beneath the 'giftedness' conference logo.



Sheet of issued stamps



Simulation of fluorescent ink



First Day Cover, 8 November 2020 (reduced)

15 November 2020: Dakar Rally - Saudi Arabia

Sheetlet of five 3SR stamps, perforated 14 (15,000). Subjects from top to bottom are BIKES, QUADS, SSV, CARS, and TRUCKS.

Miniature sheet 5SR, imperforate (7000).

On the sheetlet there is Arabic text printed in invisible ink fluorescing yellow under long wave ultraviolet light on all stamps.

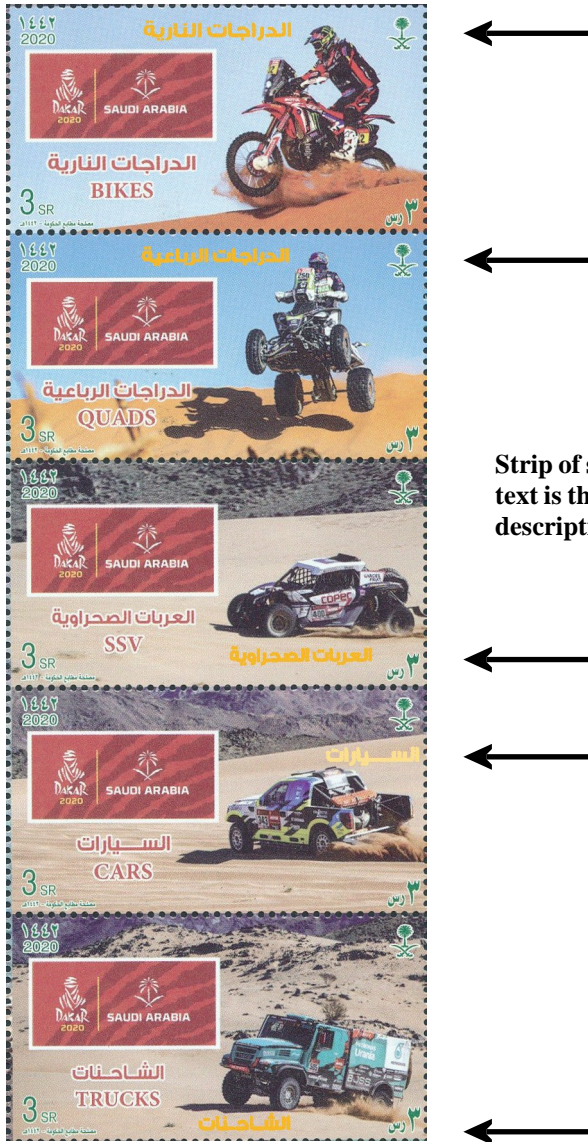
The miniature sheet has Arabic text printed in invisible ink fluorescing yellow.



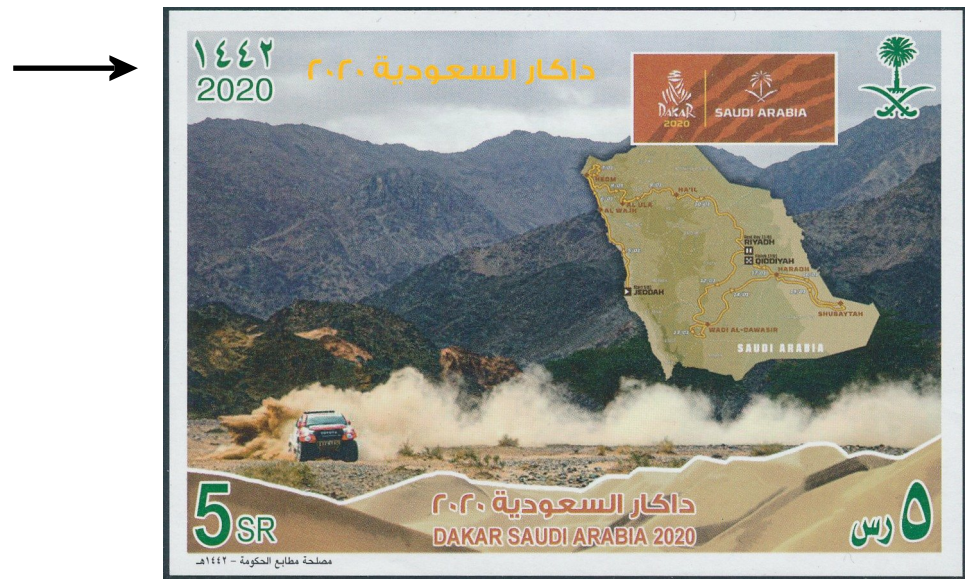


Sheet of issued stamps (reduced)





Strip of stamps with simulation of fluorescent ink. The text is the same as the Arabic shown above the English description of the vehicle type



Miniature sheet with simulation of fluorescent ink





First Day Cover, 15 November 2020 (reduced)

19 November 2020: Haramain High Speed Railway

A single 2SR stamp, perforated 14, was issued in sheetlets of two stamps arranged horizontally. On the stamp there is a logo printed in invisible ink fluorescing yellow under long wave ultraviolet light.



Sheetlet of two stamps (reduced)





Simulation of fluorescent ink



Haramain Railway logo



First Day Cover, 19 November 2020 (reduced)

10 December 2020: 50th Anniversary of the Saudi Press Agency

A single 3SR stamp, perforated 14, was issued in sheetlets of two stamps arranged vertically (10000).

Miniature sheet 5SR, imperforate (5000).

On the stamp there is a logo printed in invisible ink fluorescing yellow under long wave ultraviolet light. It appears to be the same size as the logo design on the stamp.

On the miniature sheet there is a similar logo, but slightly smaller than the design on the sheet.

The reaction of the invisible ink to ultra violet light on this issue appears to be very weak.



Simulation of fluorescent ink



Saudi Press 50th Anniversary logo





Sheetlet of two stamps



Miniature sheet with simulation of fluorescent ink





First Day Cover, 10 December 2020 (reduced)

31 December 2020: 75 years of Saudia

A single 3SR stamp, perforated 14, was issued in sheetlets of two stamps.

On each stamp there is a logo printed in invisible ink fluorescing yellow under long wave ultraviolet light.



Sheetlet of two stamps





Simulation of fluorescent ink



75 years of Saudia logo



First Day Cover, 31 December 2020 (reduced)

31 December 2020: 75th Anniversary of Arab League

A single 3SR stamp, perforated 14, was issued in sheetlets of four stamps.

On each stamp there is curved text 'SAUDI POST SAUDI POST' printed in invisible ink fluorescing yellow under long wave ultraviolet light. This text follows the curve of the numeral '5'.



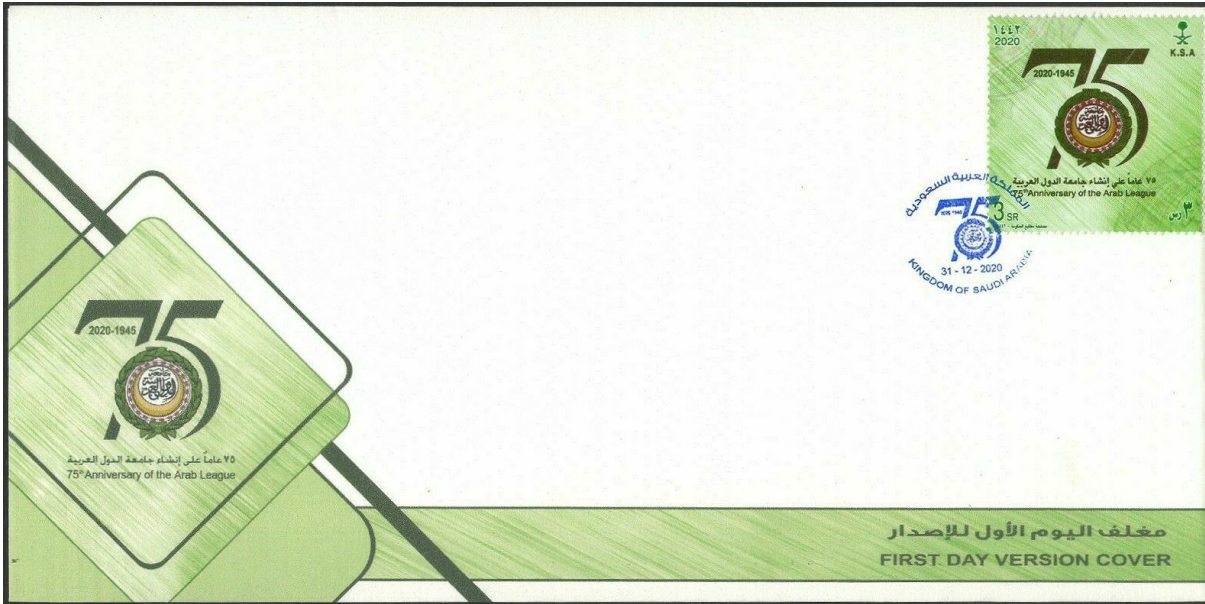


Sheetlet of four stamps



Stamp with simulation of fluorescent ink



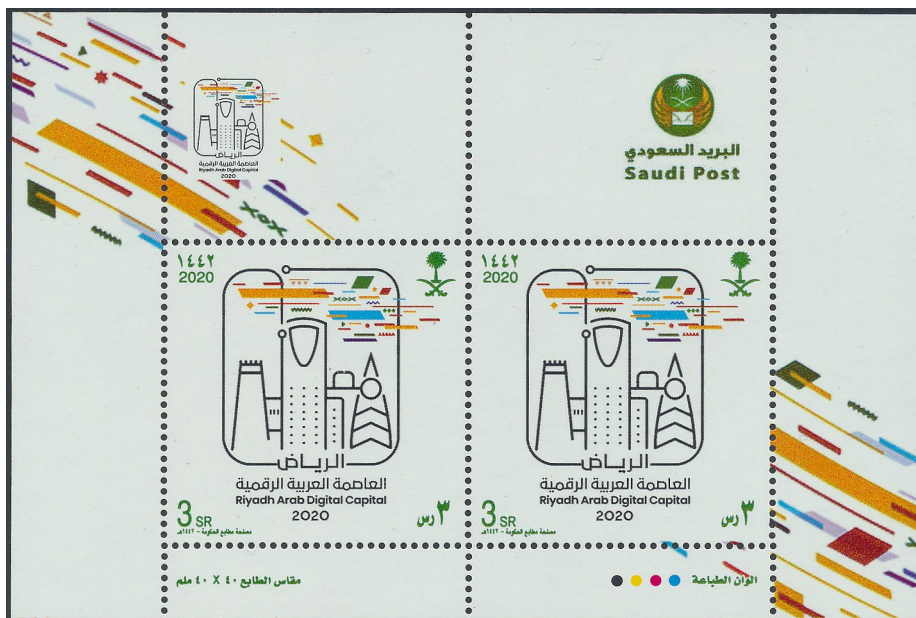


First Day Cover, 31 December 2020 (reduced)

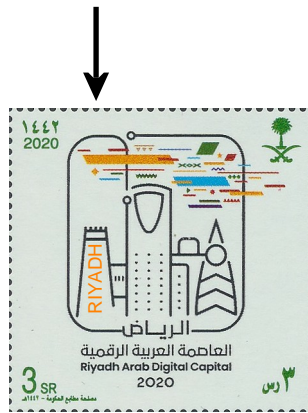
31 December 2020: Riyadh Arab Digital Capital

A single 3SR stamp, perforated 14, was issued in sheetlets of two stamps.

On each stamp there is text 'RIYADH' printed in invisible ink fluorescing yellow under long wave ultraviolet light. This text is sideways reading up inside the tower at left.



Sheetlet of two stamps



Stamp with simulation of fluorescent ink



First Day Cover, 31 December 2020 (reduced)

31 December 2020: International Day of people with disabilities

A single 3SR stamp, perforated 14, was issued in sheetlets of two stamps arranged vertically.

Miniature sheet 5SR, imperforate

On the stamps and miniature sheet there is text 'BUILDING BACK BETTER AFTER THE COVID - 19 PANDEMIC' in invisible ink fluorescing yellow placed just above the horizontal solid black line.

Note that the stamps, miniature sheet, and FDC cancellation use the spelling 'disabilitys' instead of 'disabilities'.





Sheetlet of two stamps



Miniature sheet with simulation of fluorescent ink

The stamps have the same invisible ink text and location as the miniature sheet.





First Day Cover, 31 December 2020 (reduced)

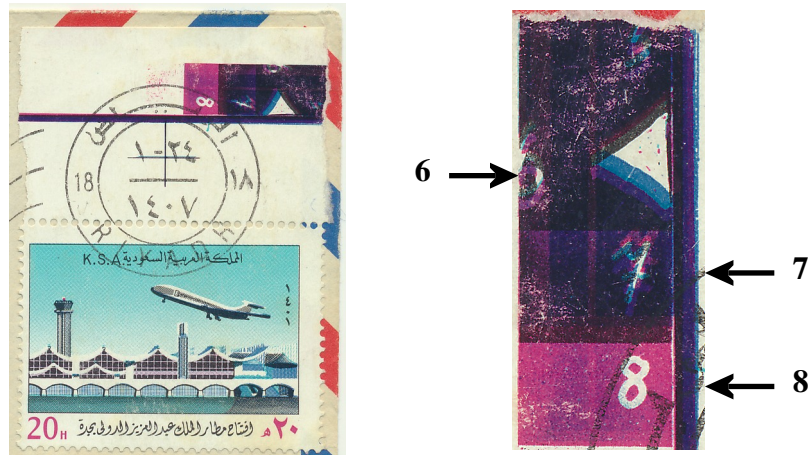
Note

The sheetlets of two, three or four stamps can have a variety of marginal perforation styles. The sheetlet illustrated on the previous page has the top margin perforated (P), the right margin imperforate (I), the bottom margin perforated (P) and the left margin imperforate (I). It could be described as PIPI. The sheetlet of 'Giftedness' stamps on the first page of this article is IPII, but the bottom margin shows part of a perforation hole at the edge of the sheet. How do we describe this?

It would be interesting to list the known perforation combinations for all of the sheetlets issued to date. Has anyone already done this?

... continued from page 32

15. Marginal marks may not be of much interest to some, but they are there and perhaps should be recorded. Below are two numerical marks from commemorative issues. If anyone knows the purpose of these, please let me know.



Complete sheets are usually required to fully appreciate these marking and I would appreciate any scans you have of complete sheets, at 300 d.p.i if possible, for me to put on the APAI website.

16. In February, I noticed on the Delcampe auction site some stamps I had won a few weeks earlier, so the seller could not be in a position to sell them. I reported the seller to Delcampe and within a couple of days the seller's account had been closed. The account had been opened on 18 February 2022 and by the 20th the seller had achieved feedback three 0% and ten 100%. The 100% feedbacks were all achieved on the first day of trading! The 'buyer' giving 100% also joined on the 18th. Both accounts were closed on the 21st. Well done Sébastien Delcampe for a quick response to attempted fraud.

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.

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 mumtaẓ*) 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.

Random Notes #100

Keep your eye on the website, <http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/index.html>. The next edition of Random Notes should be available to download on November 30th 2022 assuming that enough material has been received.

Contributions required, PLEASE.

Acknowledgements and Contacts

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Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions	http://www.kelleherauctions.com 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
http://www.islamicfinder.org/dateConversion.php	
http://www.filatelia.fi/experts/	Experts
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RN Index

The index for all issues of Random Notes is at:

http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/index_html_files/rnindex.pdf