

R.I.P. Modern Saudi Philately



March 16th, 2024

Martin Lovegrove

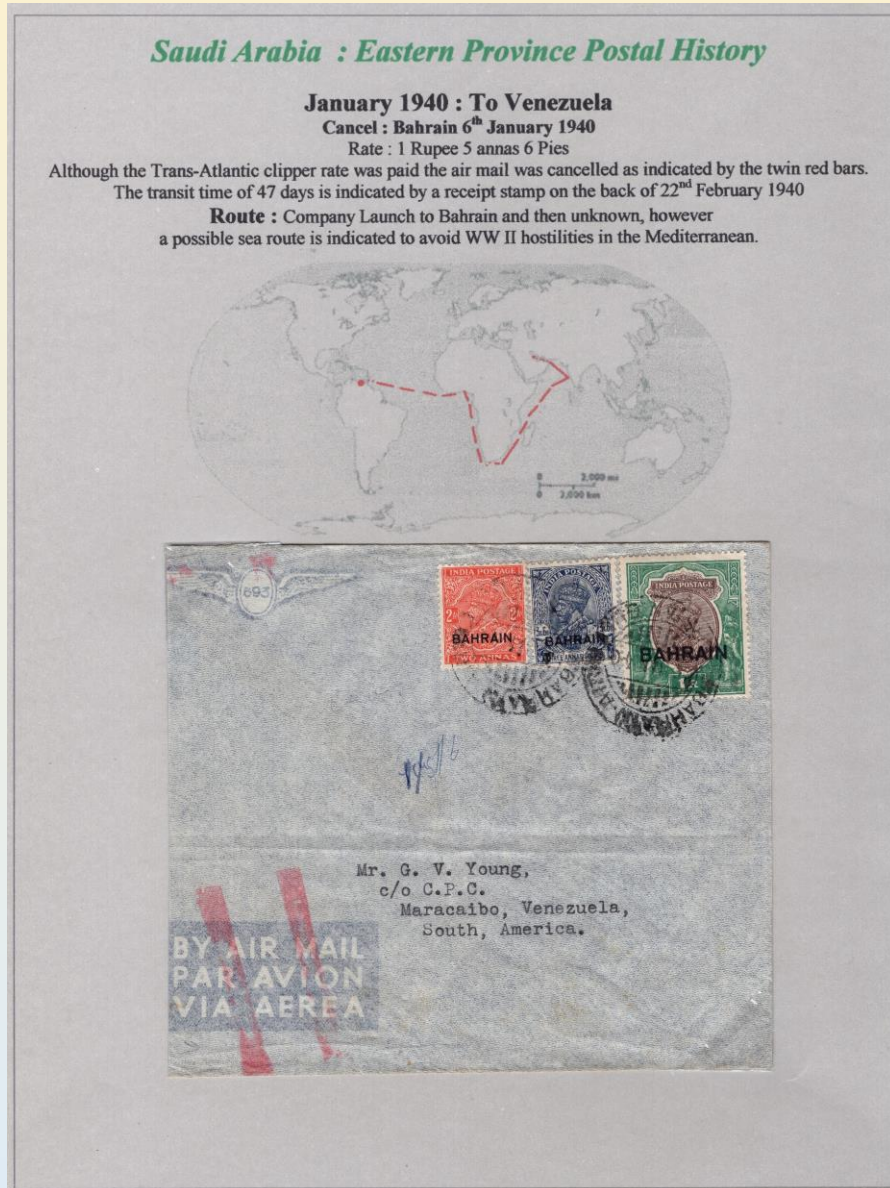
But First...

This sheet is part of a display by Willie King and shows an example of the routing of a CASOC cover to Venezuela. Willie correctly stated that the air mail journey was cancelled by the red bars but assumed that was done at the start of the journey because air travel was not available.

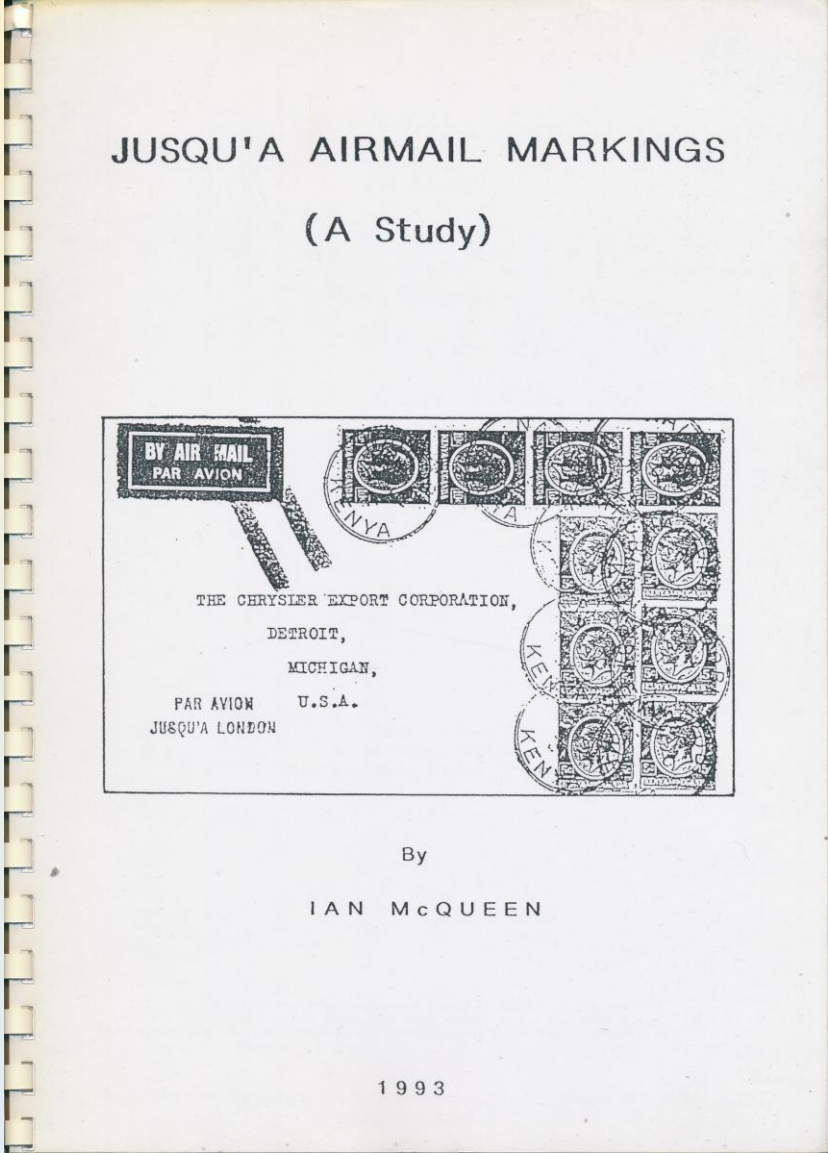
These bars are known as “Jusqu’a” markings and are described in books by Ian McQueen.

These red bars were applied in London, so Willie’s suggestion as to the route taken is incorrect.

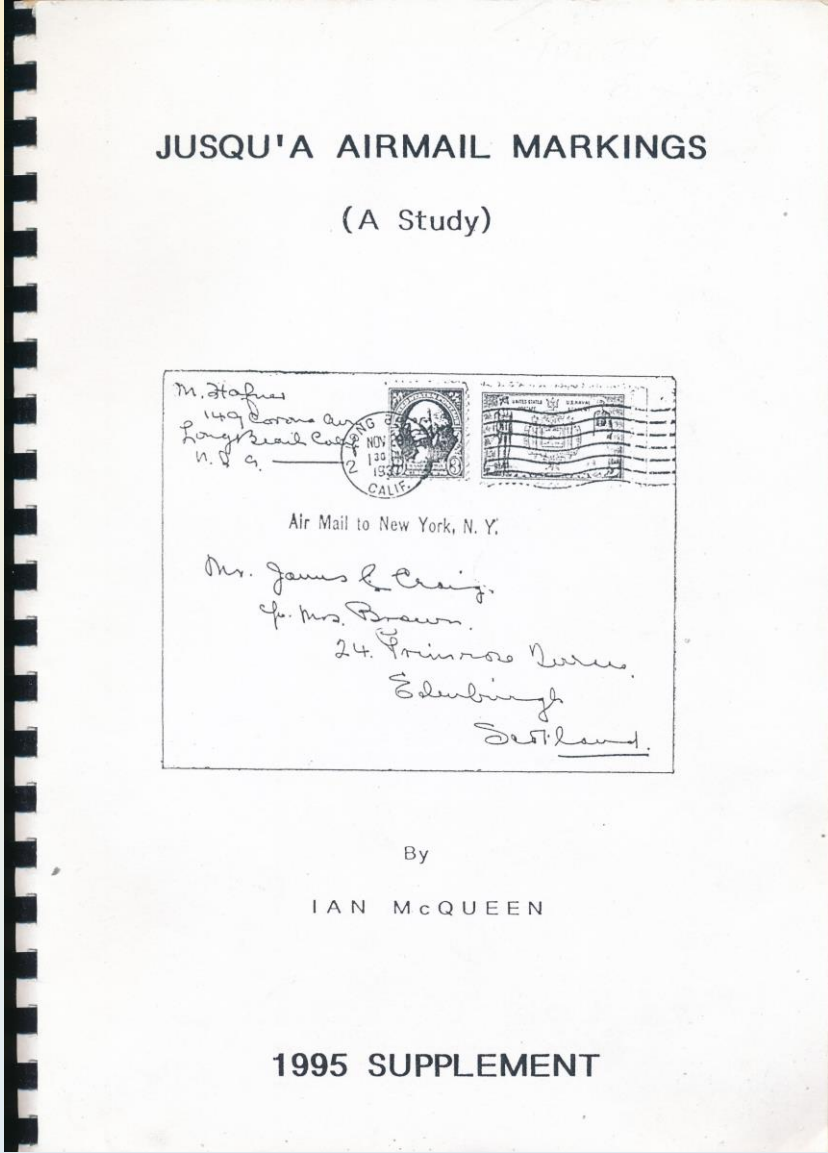
Some of Willie’s displays are on the APAI website.



Jusqu'a Airmail Markings



Two books were published, written by Ian McQueen, containing much detail about these markings.

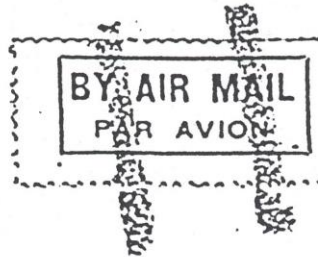


Jusqu'a Airmail Markings



London, Great Britain. 1940-2. Red.

A much neater type, with smaller bars set very far apart, with a space of about 14 mm. between them. Impressions can appear quite different, depending upon the strength of striking and the amount of ink used.



London, Great Britain. 1946. Red.

A very small postwar London air cancel, with two bars set 14 mm. apart.

These are just two types of bars described in the books; there are many more, even for London.

The books contain a total of 273 pages.

Jusqu'a Airmail Markings (A Study) 1993, Published by W.A.Page FRPSL, ISBN 0951464329

Jusqu'a Airmail Markings (A Study) 1995 Supplement, Published by W.A.Page FRPSL, ISBN 0951464337 & ISBN 9780951464328

Unidentified Postmark



This has the appearance of an Ottoman mark. Bahré is the Hejaz town of Bahrah. It is not a modern laser forgery but may be one of the many good-looking forgeries stated by Willie King to have originated in Germany.

Bahré is not listed in Coles & Walker.

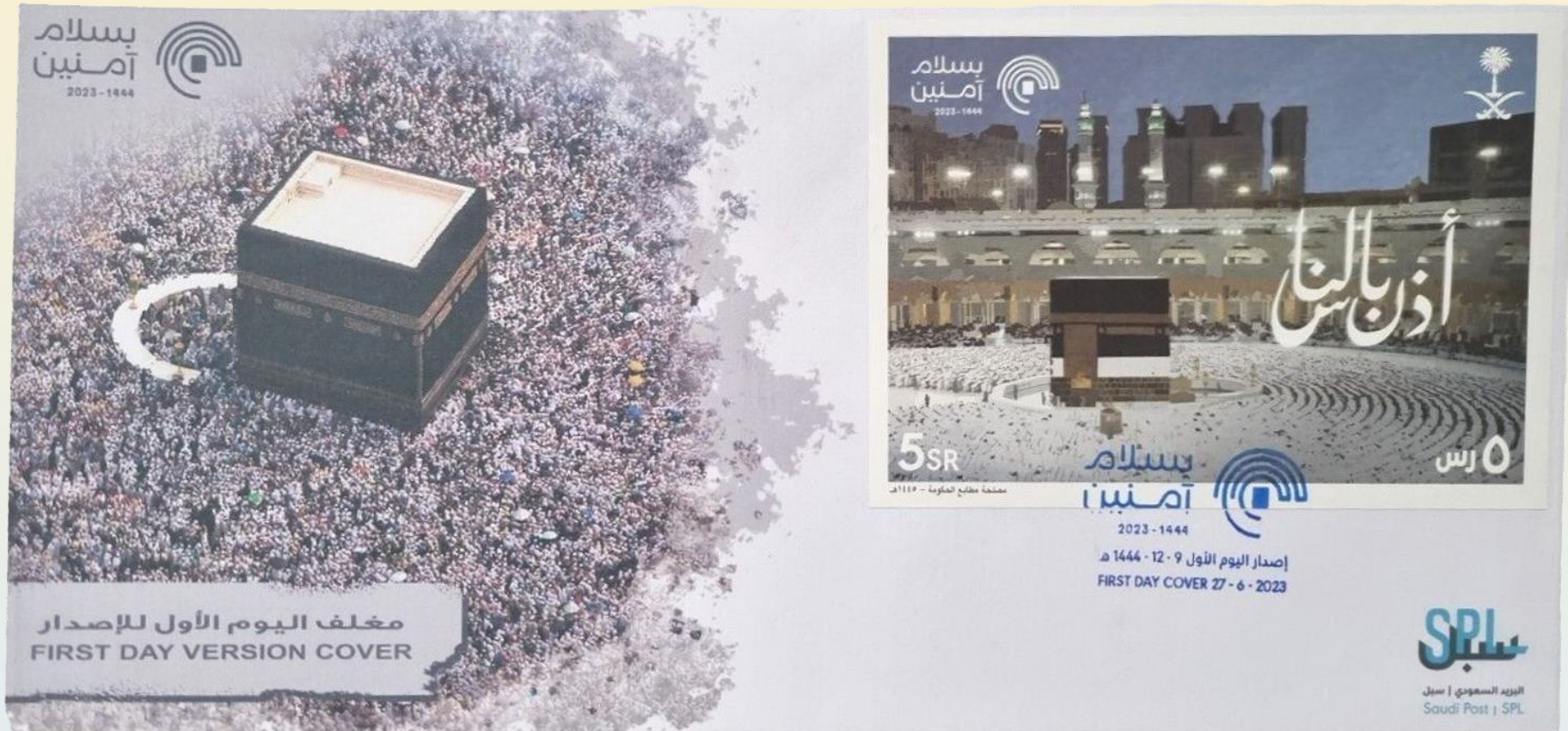
The Early Postal History of Saudi Arabia states:

Situated between Jeddah and Mecca. Post Office listed 1909-16. Services: Domestic and foreign ordinary and registered mail, night and day telegrammes in Turkish.

This type has been recorded in PTT archives as a proof impression but is not known postally used.

Modern Saudi Postage Stamps

Are stamps just for collectors? Will SPL do anything to get money?



Hajj 1444 FDC dated 27 June 2023 but not released until late 2023/early 2024.

Modern Saudi Postage Stamps

You may remember this from Random Notes #101



The story behind this cover was also published in the Middle East Philatelic Bulletin (MEPB) #25.
The editor of that publication has received a reply.

Modern Saudi Postage Stamps

Extracts from the draft reply to the MEPB

My fragmentary observations are based on visits to post offices in March 2023 in the cities of Al-Ula, Al-Wajjh, Jeddah, Medina, Riyadh and Dammam. There were no stamps for sale anywhere. Some post offices no longer had any postmarks at all, most others only had official seals without a date. Only in Al-Wajjh there was still a traditional town postmark.

According to several postal employees, the use of stamps had been officially abolished two or three years earlier.

It got even stranger: the friendly postal employee at the Philatelic Bureau had no knowledge of the operational side of postal services (e.g. postal rates) and, when asked, explained that the stamps were “only intended for collecting” and that they could “obviously not” be used for franking purposes.

And then there was a problem: it was impossible to book a consignment partially franked by the sender as ‘prepaid’. At first it was not clear whether the software did not allow this or the postal employees lacked the knowledge to adjust the entry of data. In practice, this was irrelevant, as a summoned supervisor put his foot down and classified the stamps as “souvenir stickers,” which had no franking value.

Modern Saudi Postage Stamps

Remember, those comments were only a draft.

The full article will be published in MEPB #26.

I encourage you to register for the bulletin.

It is free!

Details are at <http://www.zobbel.de/mepb/mepbulletin.htm>

Modern Saudi Postage Stamps



Did the problem start a long time ago? This 2014 cover had sufficient postage paid using stamps but had to pay the full rate again in order to be registered. At least the stamps were cancelled!

This 'Show & Tell' will be published on the APAI website.

The website URL is shown on page 2 of Random Notes