HEJAZ – NEJD to SAUDI ARABIA 1926 > 1953

During Reign of King Abdulaziz Ibn Saud

Philatelic: The main groups are

- 1. The first issue in 1926, Essays, Postage Dues and Commemorative Overprints
- 2. 1927-32 issues, Definitives and modifications, Postage Dues, Commemorative Overprints)
- 3. 1934 Tughra issues and the subsequent changes in values and perforations
- 4. 1934 war with Yemen leading to the obligatory charity tax issues Page 15
- 5. Oil Company related mail both prewar, wartime and post war.
- 6. Post WWII 'Visit' Commemorative Issues

Frame 1: 1926: The first all Arabic issue created, printed and supplied by Whitehead, Morris and Co with only 4-5 weeks notice in January / February 1926. These were the first and apparently only stamps ever produced by this company and the approach and procedures were novel but their use of oversize prints for proofs and publicity has been continued in later Saudi Issues - and the rest of the world in the form of maximum cards! This initial issue was restricted to 1926 until the Government Press issues were available.

Frame 2 1927 > 1934: Hejaz-Nejd joined the UPU in 1927 and in May 1933 a contract to search for oil was signed. The official Government Press in Mecca provided the first Hejaz-Nejd produced design. This was also initially only in Arabic but with later design modifications included Latin scripts and the country name initially in English and then in French. Hejaz-Nejd changed to Saudi Arabia with the Heir apparent set with valuess in sovereigns and the usage in Hodeida during the Yemen war leading to the charity tax issues.

Frame 3: 1934 > 1953 The definitive 'Tughra' issue were introduced and this frame show these and related Officials, dues and charity tax issues. Some particularly scarce items and covers (framed in red) using these definitives are shown. The "CASOC" (California and Standard Oil Company) on page 20 are notable as are the "Philby" covers used elsewhere. Covers only become plentiful after 1953 ie beyond the period of exhibit.

Frame 4::1945 > 1953 The Charity Tax stamp and the early commemoratives before oil wealth became available. NOTE: GDP for Saudi Arabia was Under £100K for most of the period of this exhibit. The first oil tanker to carry oil was in 1946. By 1950 the old GDP was earned in 1-2 weeks, by 1980 it was in 2 or 3 seconds!





"Let Kim know we are coming home"

Last minute note on Philby cover posted 4th March 1939. 3g rate introduced in March 1937 and new 3g tughra stamp printed and the new smaller hospital tax at the same time. Both perf 11.

Note: Philby was placed on Labour party list of potential candidates on 4th April 1939

Principal References

Arabian Philatelic Association Journal - Random Notes Hejaz, Jeddah and Nejd by Daisy Warin 1927 p119-120 Barid Al Sa'udiyah etc by Max Mayo 1971 p71-101 Gibbons Middle East Cat. Saudi Arabia SG264-382 Scott Cat. Sc69-197 + BoB C1-6 RA1-2 Philby of Arabia by Elizabeth Monroe Aramco's World: History of an Oil Company



Frame 1 First Issue The two colours February and March 1926 issues









Hodeida Yemen 4/6/34 cancel and Charity tax on piece with Mecca 9/7/34 an early cancel >>> Pages 15 and 16



Heir Apparent Page 14





Visit by King Farouk page 25

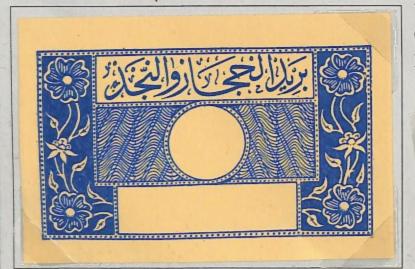
Historical Background: Abdulaziz ibn Saud was born in Riyadh but was forced into exile when the Rashidi's captured Riyadh in 1890. He was established as a leader by recapturing the walled city of Riyadh in central Arabia January 1902. It would be another 30 years before a post office or postal service was required in what is now the modern capital of Saudi Arabia! SEE Page XX for 1936

At the beginning of the 20th century Arabia was bordered by Ottoman Empire 'Vilayets' such as Hejaz, Asir and Yemen in the west and Al Hassa in the east and Mesopotamia to the North. Also around the borders were British 'protectorates' at Aden, Muscat, Dubai, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait and also across the Red Sea Sudan and Egypt.

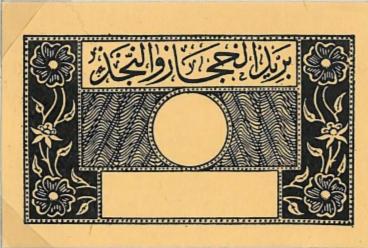
However in 1913 Ibn Saud attacked the Turkish forces based in Hofuf in Al Hassa in the Eastern region and succeeded in forcing them to leave. In 1915 he signed a treaty with Sir Percy Cox agreeing not to attack any of the British protectorates in return for recognition as ruler of Najd and Al Hasa and arms to continue his war with the Rashidi's in Hail who were supporters of the Ottoman Empire.

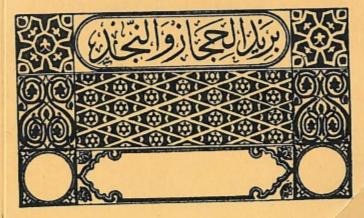
On the west coast Sir Ronald Storrs was encouraging Hussain of Hejaz to rise against the Ottoman Empiere and T E Lawrence was assigned as an 'advisor'!

Hejaz 'Al' Nejd Essays without Value: 1926

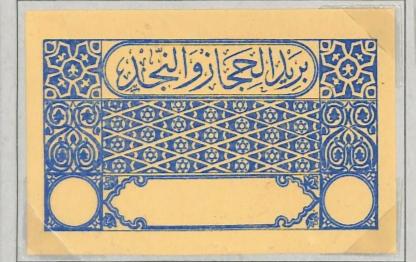


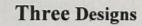
Whitehead & Morris, printers, in Alexandria, Egypt created three potential stamp designs at 250% (87.5 x 50mm) of stamp size. They show the country name in Arabic but no values. 'Essays' were printed individually on thick (0.14mm) soft yellow brown paper with no reaction to UV - trimmed to 97.5 x 65mm. Note paper or size not used for any other essays – nearest colour shown bottom centre.

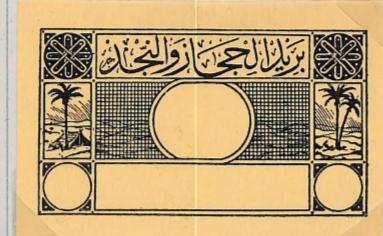






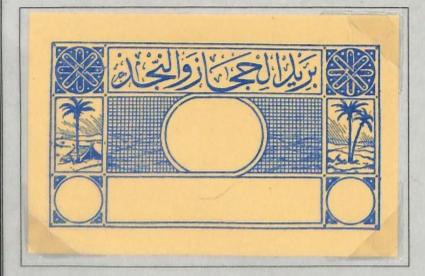






in Black





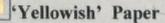
Three Designs in Blue



Postage Due Mayo's



Essay on





Three Designs in Green

HEJAZ - NEJD : The First Issue

Essays for Approval and / or Philatelic and Public Propaganda?

Jeddah - the last city controlled by King Ali of Hejaz surrendered on 17th December 1925 to Abdulaziz ibn Saud of Nejd, who then was recognized on 9th January 1926 as leader of both Hejaz and Nejd.

Whitehead & Morris, Alexandria printers were requested to provide stamps for the 'new' administration of Hejaz-Nejd. This issue appears to be the only stamps they ever produced! Communications

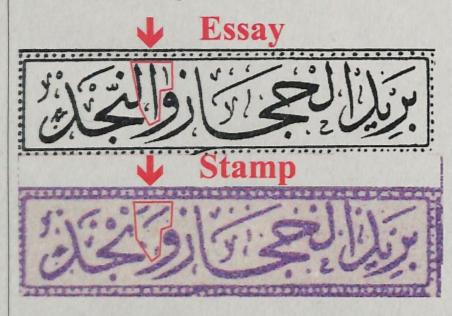
between Jeddah and Alexandria were based on Telegraph or by the weekly mail ship

The change below was required in the format of the Arabic country name in the Essay before the stamps were approved.

Equal 'status or ranking' was to be provided for Nejd

Hejaz wa Nejd or Hejaz - Nejd

Not Hejaz 'and' Nejd as in essay





Mayo ES715/



Stamps from 'Royal' Essay Sheets



VIOLET essays of the ½ qirsh definitive and ½ qirsh postage due cut from the two upper right positions of a 'Royal' essay sheet.

Note: NO large (250%) essays in violet have been recorded

References.

Ref 1: Sept 1927: The Postal Issues of Hejaz, Jeddah 1 Nejd by Daisy F. Warin. Publisher D. Field in London. Page 120 shows a copy of the sheet of essays without any comment or explanation - in an otherwise detailed examination of all issues from 1916-27.

Ref 2: 1973: Barid Al-Sa'udiyyah wa Al Hejaz wa Najd by M. Max Mayo. Published by the author. Pages 77-79 This catalogue shows this sheet of essays together with a listing of 20 different sheets and the component large and normal sized essays in various colours and coloured

Ref 3: 1927 to date: Gibbons, Scott, Michel: No mention! All of the 'major' catalogues have problems in listing or mentioning any Arabian oversize philatelic items. Later issues were occasionally 'noted' or even later as 'a' numbers.

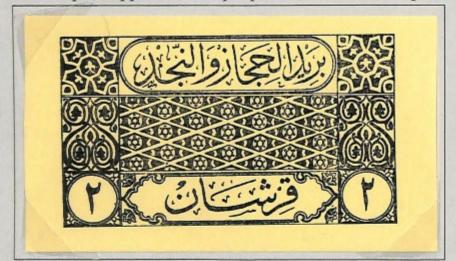
Ref. 4: Sept. 2016 APAI Random Notes Journal: Martin Lovegrove RN 90 pages 15-19. Sheets which show the top pair of small essays are printed in violet in a separate second operation. 1st Printing actually submitted to Hejaz-Nejd for approval - two plates. 2nd Contemporary Printing ie 1927 printings all from one plate in single colour and used for Publicity.

3rd Printings much later (post WWII) on paper strongly reactive to UV.

Essays for Public, Political and Philatelic Propaganda

In 1916 Sir Ronald Storrs directed T E Lawrence (of Arabia) to prepare stamps with Arabic designs to convey the awareness that Hejaz was independent of Ottoman Empire. 10 years later there was apparently great urgency to repeat this procedure to publicize the creation of the new country of Hejaz-Nejd. How else can it be explained, with a **once a week postal service** between Jeddah and Alexandria. could stamps be designed, submitted for approval, rejected, redesigned, delivered, issued, colours rejected and reprinted stamps delivered and re-issued in less than 8 weeks. Essays printed at 250% are used to speed approval from people of the desert with poor eyesight and no funds for spectacles and negligible experience in postal matters which allowed these essays to be used for information and publicity

to public, merchants and officials.



Black on Yellow (No essays printed in black listed by Mayo)



Black on Pink (Not listed by Mayo)







Gold on Yellow: Mayo ES715 / 20Bj

		Paper	Colour	
Print Colour	White	Yellow	Pink	Blue
Black	Shown		Shown	
Gold		Bj	C	
Silver		Ee	Ff	
Blue	Gg	Н		
Brown	Jj	Kk	L	
Brick	N		Pp	
Green	Ss	Т	U	V
Orange	Ww	X	Y	Z



HEJAZ - NEJD: The First Issues

Issued February - March 1926

Printed by Whitehead Morris & Co. Alexandriam, Egypt









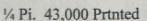




First Printing: D. F. WARIN Reported that the first printing of 100 sheets (2,000 stamps) of each value was delivered in February 1926.

When these went on sale there were immediate complaints - presumably because the colours did not match the UPU guidelines who Hejaz-Nejd were planning to join.







1/2 Piastre



1 Piastre





41,860



3 Piastres 91,560



5 Piastres 30,000

Second Printing: Changed Colours

30,100

The replacement set arrived in a few weeks and was available by March 1926. Quantities printed were reported by Warin.

However, by end of 1926 the Government Press in Mecca had produced new designs and took over stamp production.

Postage Dues



1/2 Pi. 16,320 Printed



2 Piastres 30,000



90,000

30,000 6 Piastres

The dues started with the original delivery but no changes in colour were made.

Note: Postage dues In Hejaz-Nejd and in Saudi Arabia were simply used for regular postage and actual usage for the purpose designated has yet to be recorded.

Philby Cover - 1926



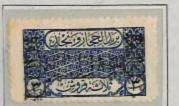
Philby sent this letter 30th November 1926 BUT used a Turkish Notarial Fiscal stamp overprinted in August 1925 to be postally in Mecca and Taif, then legitimately used in Jeddah in 1926 after it surrendered to the Nejdi forces. No record yet of him using the Whitehead Morris printings!

Philby was in Jeddah for less than 3 months at the beginning of 1926 when he arranged the feast following Abdulaziz Ibn Saud being declared leader. He returned briefly in October for two months before returning to London with Abdulaziz's brother Faisal for talks with British Government.











1926 Definitives ↑ & Dues ↓ Overprinted









Piece with MEKKE 'R'(Regd) APA type XR20 29th May 1928 4 weeks earlier than on AP 46p14. 2pi purple defin. is <u>horizontally imperf</u>. (Mayo 726h)

HEJAZ - NEJD: Islamic Congress in Mecca*

June 1926

*Event Celebrated: World Islamic Congress held in Mecca in June 1926 prior to the 1926 Hajj pilgrimage and hosted by Abdulaziz ibn Saud so that delegates (60) from different countries could also attend the annual Hajj pilgrimage.

It was clearly **NOT** the rival Pan-Islamic Congress in Cairo (in May 1926) as wrongly attributed by the Gibbons catalogue and other sources of information such as Mayo and Graham. The Cairo event was mainly an attempt (unsuccessful) to create a new 'Caliph' (ie suggesting King Fuad of Egypt!) following the abdication of King Hussein of Hejaz on 3rd October 1924 just 6 months after he declared himself as Caliph. Abdulaziz ibn Saud's forces attacked and captured Taif in August 1924. Mecca was occupied peacefully in October 1924. In December 1925 Medina and then Jeddah surrendered '

Overprint: The overprint shown below was individually hand stamped on all current issues of Hejaz-Nejd. It reads "The Islamic Congress 20th Dhu Al Qada 1344 (i.e 1st June 1926)"





Posns 7//20 of 5pi Brown with Horizontal Imperf Between (Listed SG/Mayo only w/o opt)





Set cancelled on "Day of Arafa or Hajj" 9th of Dhu Al-Hijjah 1344
Cancel Bilingual APA type X-20 2 weeks earlier than recorded in RN46p14



The pilgrimage can take place at almost anytime but the OFFICIAL Hajj is from the 8th till the 12th of Dhu Al Hijjah.

HEJAZ - NEJD: First Issue Varieties

TENEW)

Imperforate: 3 Piastres 2nd Printing
Warin reported 15 sheets of each
value were supplied imperforate

Printed by Whitehead Morris & Co. Alexandria, Egypt

This set of nine stamps appear to have been the only stamps ever produced by Whitehead & Morris.

Daisy Warin on receipt of sheets immediately noted almost 50 flaws many of which were illustrated in her book.

The ability to 'plate' individual stamps was essential in stamps produced in Hejaz in 1922 which greatly assist verifying if later overprints were genuine or fraudulent.

The printing was arranged and carried out under considerable time pressure by an inexperienced printer with perhaps less security than normal! Also for a distant client with very limited funds



Darker Green: 2 Piastre 1st printing.
Gibbons list two shades



Imperf between stamp position 1 and left margin: 2 piastres light green from 1st Printing Varieties less common but shorter run only 100 sheets. Mayo lists as 663L



Printing error? 2 piastre Postage due printed inverted over ¼ piastre Unusual but listed by Mayo as 678p – both are printed in orange!

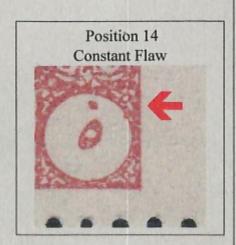


Vertical Imperf Between
5 piastre 2nd Printing
Positions 1-2/5-6
Listed by Mayo & Gibbons

Warin lists the constant minor flaw on stamp 6,



Horizontal Imperf Between ½ piastre Postage Due Gibbons & Mayo list





Lower 3 rows of 5 piastre sheet of the 2nd Printing. Stamp positions 9-20 Warin noted 7 constant flaws on the sheet of 20 of which 5 are in this block. The prominent flaw on stamp 14 is shown in the scan at left.

(ref Warin p 123)

HEJAZ - NEJD: 1926: Proofs and Other Varieties

Printed by Whitehead Morris & Co. Alexandria, Egypt most are listed by Max Mayo

When the first issue of Hejaz designed by T. E. Lawrence was issued in 1916, Just 10 years before these issues for Hejaz-Nejd, many proofs were printed. That complete issue was also printed in blue and also on thick card stock. These Hejaz varieties printed by the Survey of Egypt printers in Cairo were and are - eagerly sought after.

Perhaps their competitors in Alexandria were watching – and of course in 1926 - Hejaz was listed in the Gibbons British Empire Catalogue

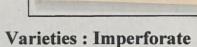




Varieties : Colour Proofs

1 Piastre: Printed in much deeper blue than normal.
 2 Piastres: Pair from positions 1 and 5 in Blue
 Issued colours are green or brown





½ Piastre: Position 20 from 1st printing. Above left. (Gibbons footnote)
 5 Piastres: Left marginal from 2nd Printing. Above right (300 supplied)
 ½, 2 and 6 piastres Postage Dues, Complete left marginal set below (300 supplied)









Comparing the second of the

Proofs Printed on Card



3 pi. Blue on White card Mayo X718Ep



3pi Blue on 'Natural' card Mayo X718Hp



1/4 pi. Orange on 'Natural' card Mayo X714Jp



1pi. Red on 'natural' card Mayo X716Mp



½pi. Green on 'Natural' Card Mayo X715Xp



½ pi Green on Green card Mayo X715Yp

This is the complete group of the Proofs printed on card as listed by Max Mayo in 1971

Selection of Proofs Printed on paper



5 pi. Blue on Blue Mayo X719



¼pi. Purple on Pink Mayo X714U



1/4 pi. Red on Blue Mayo X714L



½ pi. Black on White Mayo X715A



3pi. Blue on 'Natural' Mayo X718H



½ pi Green on White Mayo X715V

In 1970 Max Mayo listed over 40 'Proofs' printed in 8 colours on white paper. He listed a further 90 printrd on 4 other colours of paper- and even on newsprint - see above the card proofs.

HEJAZ - NEJD: Second Issue

January 1927

The 1927 > 1932 Hejaz-Nejd definitive stamps were printed by the Government Press in Mecca. The basic design was based on a central circular panel enclosing the Tughra and the Seal of Abdulaziz ibn Saud. This initial issue contained 3 all Arabic panels translating as

Upper: The Arabian Government

Second: Hejaz and Nejd Post

Third: Value



1/8 Qirsh - Printed Matter



1/4 Qirsh: Local rate



11/2 Qirsh Foreign . Registration Fee



3 Qirsh Foreign



Foreign Insured Money Letter. Postage 3q+ Regd 1½ q + Insurance 6½q = 11q rate Cancel Djeddah 3 dated 17-4-1930 APA Type X10 ref RN46p14



½ Qirsh - Domestic Rate



1 Qirsh - Domestic Registration Fee



5 Qirsh



10 Qirsh

Postage Dues

1 Qirsh Postage Due

2 Qirsh Postage Due



Postage Due Error



The 1 Piastre Postage due on right above has the erroroneous Arabic value of 2 piastres in the upper right roundel instead of 1 piastre.

HEJAZ - NEJD : Second Issue

Varieties 1927 > 1932

The 1927 >1932 Hejaz-Nejd definitive stamps show some quite noticeable shade varieties whilst several values appear stable.





1/8 Oirsh in normal and yellowish





1/4 Qirsh in Sage and Olive Green





1/2 and 1 Qirsh are stable colours





11/2 Oirsh Dark and Light Grey





3 Qirsh in two Grey Green Shades



5 Qirsh Orange-brown

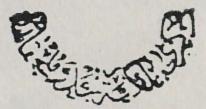


000

10 Qirsh in Dark and Light Brown

Commemorative Handstamp

Marking the 1st Anniversary of Unification on 20th Rajab 1345 (29th January 1927)



152065 10

















1³/₄ Guerche





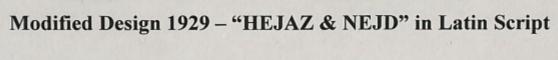
20 Guerche

Imperf Between Error



The 20 Guerche high value was discovered with a single vertical row of perforations missing. Numbers in circulation indicate probably only a single sheet involved.

HEJAZ - NEJD: Saud Tughra & Seal

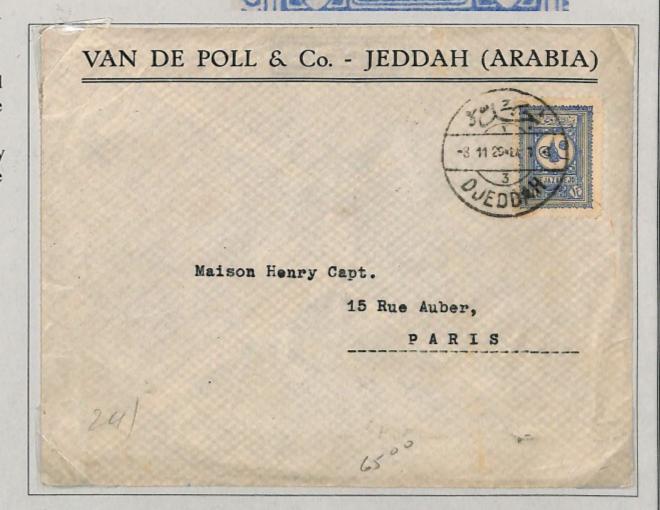


In April 1929 the foreign postal rate was increased from 1½ to 1¾ guerche* and a new stamp for that value was issued plus two high values of 20 and 30 guerche.

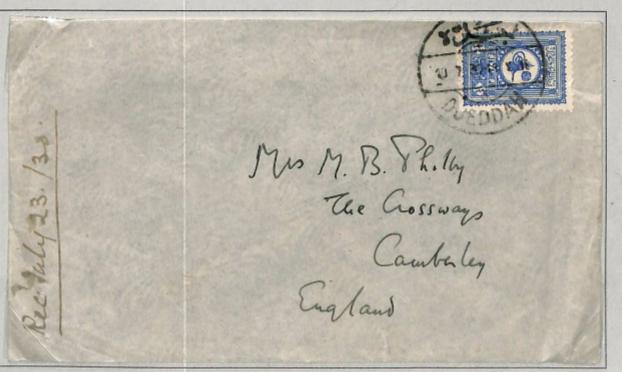
Design: For the first time "Hejaz & Nejd" was included in a panel written in English. The roundel containing the insignia for Abdulaziz ibn Saud is less ornate.

*Change of currency: Whilst the name of the currency units were changed the "actual" value of the lower value currency units used for stamps remained the same and piastre, garch, qirsh or guerche are interchangeable names and all indicate exactly the same value which equates roughly to 1d.

Mecque Type H10 Cancel 20th Dec Djeddah 3 Type H10 transit 21st Dec. Port Taufiq transit 9am 24th Dec. & Cairo receipt 5.30pm 24th Dec 1929 on reverse. Transit time 4 days







Djeddah 3 Type H10 cancel 8th Nov. 1929 Port Taufiq Transit cancel 12th Nov. & Paris receipt 19th Nov. 1929 on reverse. Transit time 11 days

H StJ B Philby to his mother
Djeddah 3 Type H10 cancel 10th July 1930
Port Taufiq Transit cancel 14th July 1930 (back)
Camberley manual receipt 23rd July 1930
Transit time 13 days

11

HEJAZ - NEJD: 4th Anniversary of Unification

January 8th 1930

Printed by the Government Press in Mecca

Design: The centre section shows the tughra and seal of Abdulaziz over the crossed swords and twin palms of the SAUD Family Arms.

The Latin script country name is in French "POSTES- HEDJAZ & NEDJDE"





½ guerche with rose and pink-rose shades. for domestic postage rate.

Domestic cover with pink-rose shade and type H10 DJEDDAH 2 cancel with date 11th January 1930.







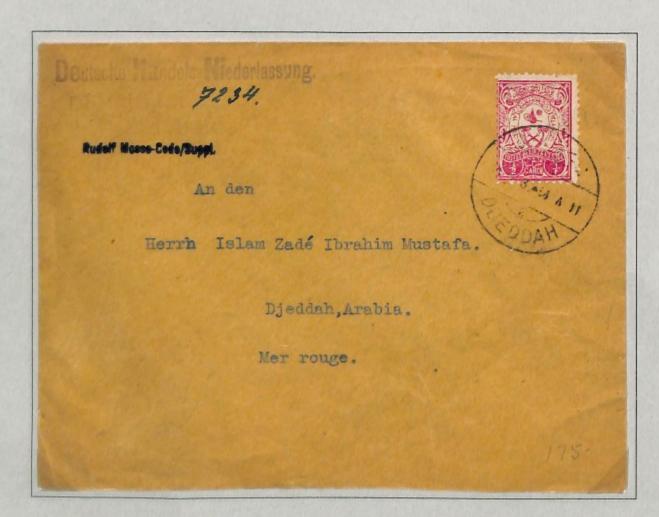
1½ Guerche Violet required domestic registered rate.

for

1¾ Guerche Blue required for Foreign letter rate.

Blocks perforation 111/2, Singles Perf 11









3½ Guerche Green foreign registered rate. Perf 11 singles in two shades of green. Block is perf 11½ in dark green shade.







5 Guerche in black and violet brown. Only recorded perforation is 11. Pair below First day cancel (APA Mecque X20) 2½ yrs earlier than recorded RN47p8





1/8 Guerche Printed Matter



Local Rate



13/4 Guerche Foreign Rate 1931

Printed by Government Press in Mecca Perforation 111/2



1/4 Guerche



1/4 Guerche Local Rate



1/2 Guerche Domestic Rate



21/4 Guerche Foreign Rate 1932-3

Printed by Government Press in Mecca



Perforation 111/2



HEJAZ - NEJD: Saud Tughra & Seal

Two further Modified Designs in 1931 & 1932

"POSTES HEDJAZ & NEDJDE" in French

In 1931 the ¼ and 1¾ guerche stamps were replaced by a new design using the French "HEDJAZ and NEDJDE". Followed in 1932 by replacement for the 1/8 guerche value.

In January 1932 the Foreign Postal rate was increased

from 1¾ to 2¼ guerche. Another modified design was used for the new 21/4 value

and also used for replacement 1/4 and 1/2 guerche values.

1931 Key Design features



1932 Design features

Chrysanthemum roundel + 9 small discs above value

Spherical roundel +7 oval discs above value



1/4 Guerche



½ Guerche



21/4 Guerche Perforation 11 is Scarce - especially for 1/2 guerche





Foreign Postal Rate to UK = 21/4 guerche Perforation 11 Philby to mother using a Sharqieh envelope (his company See at Left). Posted with a Mecque 3 Type H10 cancel 11th Dec.1932. Djeddah 3 Type H10 cancel, Port Taufiq Transit cancel 19th Dec 1932 Camberley manual receipt 28th Dec 1932 Transit time 18 days - Xmas delays!!



Foreign Postal Rate to USA = $2\frac{1}{4}$ guerche : $1\frac{3}{4} + 2 \times \frac{1}{4}$ guerche Mecque 3 Type H10 cancel 24th Jan. 1932 Jeddah 3 Type H10 for 25th Jan. 1932 and Port Taufiq route cancels 31st Jan. 1932 - see below. No USA or other route



Reference Notes

Until 1934 no Western foreigners in Hejaz-Nejd were allowed to leave the city of Jeddah on the Red sea.

Harry Philby, however, was allowed to go to Mecca from 1930 onwards and in early 1932 spent several months travelling across to Hofuf in the eastern province and explored deep into the Rub Al Khali desert.



Proclamation of Emir Saud as Heir Apparent of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

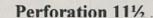
Issued 1st January 1934

On 22nd September 1932 the name Hejaz-Nejd was formally changed to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This set of stamps were printed by the Government Stamps Printing works in Mecca.

Design: The principal country emblems of the Tughra and seal of King Abdulaziz ibn Saud continued but the new country name, in Arabic and French, were incorporated into the left together with the value.

Values: For this set only the sovereign (1/4, 1/2 and 1) was included as a denomination on 3 stamps. All stamps available both perforate 111/2 and imperforate. Total quantities printed are shown by value.



Imperforate (Quantities included in above figures)





1/4 guerche 100,000



10 guerche 10,000



½ guerche 100,000



20 guerche 10.000



1½ guerche 50,000



1/4 Sovereign 10,000



3 guerche 30,000



30 guerche 8,000



3½ guerche 20,000



½ Sovereign 6,000



5 guerche 15,000



1 sovereign 4,000



5 guerche



10 guerche



20 guerche ½ & 3½ guerche with early



30 guerche



1/2 Sovereign



1 Sovereign



<< ½ guerche



Eastern Province Al Hassa Mar 1934 cancel RN47p7



1½ guerche 3 guerche



5 guerche





YEMEN Cancel



10 Guerche 13-2-1353 = (27-5-1934)



20 Guerche 22-2-1353 = (5-6-1934)

15-21-1353 = (29-5-1934) 3½ Guerche Heir Apparent



YEMEN WAR VICTIMS FUND ISSUE





Stamp has part Jeddah APA S35 type Cancel And "SECOURS" French for "Aid" in Design

It was decreed that a tax of ½ guerche was to be paid on all mail in addition to the normal postal fee.

This stamp had to be affixed to every item of mail from mid 1934 until it was replaced by the first Hospital fund issue in October 1936.

Saudi - Yemen War 1934

May-June 1934

& War Victim Mail Tax Issue

Obligatory June 1934 > October 1936

<u>Southern Borders of Hejaz-Nejd</u>: 1926-30: Pre-1916 the province of Asir was nominally under the Ottoman empire. Following discussions in 1926-27 Emir Idrissi of Jizan agreed that Asir would join and become part of the new state of Hejaz-Nejd and, in 1930, the Asir province was formally included as part of Hejaz-Nejd.

However, three years later in 1933. Emir Idrissi decided to switch allegiance to Yemen. Abdulaziz sent his son Saud to Asir in April 1934 and Idrissi fled to Yemen. Saud followed, entered Yemen and captured Hodeida the port of Yemen by 12th May 1934. Rapid negotiations followed and by 14th June the provinces of Asir and Najran were confirmed as part of Saudi Arabia and the Saudi forces departed from Yemen about the 25th June after just 6 weeks. Saudi Stamps Cancelled in Hodeida: Saudi stamps have been found with either the Yemen or the specially made Saudi cancel all of which are very scarce, even although some are philatelic cancels by the Egyptian postmaster in charge of the Hodeida Post Office. Most of those shown here are Ex Thoden collection

<u>Covers</u>: APA have recorded just 9 covers to date which commanded astronomic prices and no new finds have been reported since 1989 and, none of the original covers located have returned to the market.





SAUDI Cancel



0



5 Guerche

10 Guerche



All are on notepaper and cancelled on the same date 11-3-1353 = (23-6-1934) 2 days before withdrawal to Asir

30 Guerche

1/2 Guerche



3½ Guerche











Mecque Cancel dates 27-1036 RN47p8

Charity Postal Tax Issues

May 1934 to 1944

15 May 1934: Fund for Soldiers wounded in war with Yemen - 1/2 Guerche RN53p16

October 1936: Mecca Hospital Tax: Obligatory Mail tax continued but reduced to ½ guerche and the nominated charity changed to the General Hospital in Mecca.

Design : Secours (Aid) remained in left margin and the central design now featured the hospital buildings at Mecca with 3 palms behind the buildings*. Also featured are the Saud Tughra and Seal, a mountain with tents and - a camel – magnifying glass required!

The first printing in 1936 was reduced in size for the 1937 printing (37 x 20mm to 30 x 18mm) and subsequent printings. Later printings showed colour variations and in 1942 the perforation was changed from 11½ to 11.

*The redrawn design with 1 palm commenced in 1945 and are shown on next page.

All stamps on this page printed by the Government Press in Mecca.









1937 Vermilion Perforation 11½

1939 Rosine Perforation 11½

1942 Rosine Perforation 11



Philby Cover to mother from Taif Type X10 cancel Dated 17 Oct 1934 (on front)

Received Nov 12th Transit time 26 days

Corner copy of scarce 3½ guerche for foreign mail (Reduced to 3g in 1937)

Marginal Yemeni war wounded Mail Tax stamp



Domestic ½g Rate Piece
TAIF Type X10
13-5-1940
= 4-4-1359
Hospital Tax Perf 11½



CASOC Early 1942 Cover via Lagos Route after Pacific route closed following Pearl harbour and Hong Kong attacked by Japanese in Dec 7th 1941. Rate 33½ guerche with hospital tax stamp perf 11. Letter apparently started being written 13th Feb but not posted until 21st February Khobar Type S25 cancel dated 21-2-42. British Censor cancel PP/24 and manuscript Los Angeles receipt for 23rd March giving a transit time of 30 days.

Postage Dues Perforation 111/2



1/2 Guerche Issued 1939



1 Guerche Grey Paper Unlisted Variety



1 Guerche White Paper (normal) Issued 1937



2 Guerche Government Printer Imprint Block Issued Safar 1358 = March 1939



"Tughra" Postage Due and Official Issues Issued 1937-1939

Printed by Government Press, Mecca



Royal Palace Riyadh Envelope from Prince Talal Al Saud using 3 Guerche Official To pay Foreign Air Registration Charge



Royal Ham Radio Mail: Riyadh to Vienna - still under WWII Censorship Ryad Registered Cancel 28th Al Akhar 1372 = 14 January 1953

APA Type SR56 2 years earlier than recorded in RN47p14
Riyadh Registration cancel and Blue "Framed R"

Djeddah APA Type SR55 16th January 1953

Cairo Aerodrome — 19th January 1953

Vienna receipt January 24th 1953 10 day Transit

CENSOR: "Alliierte Zensurstelle 287 ZI" Censor mark.

Faint tying Saudi Insignia upper right BUT SUPERB tying censor label INSIDE envelope

Official Stamps Issued 1939 Perforation 11



3 Guerche



5 Guerche



Perforation 111/2



25 Guerche



50 Guerche



100 Guerche



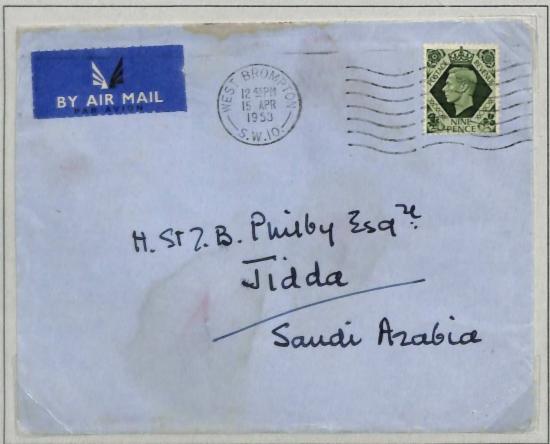
200 Guerche



Letter to Philby from his mother posted in Edinburgh on Aug 12th 1931.

First of 3 letters from the city.

Was she negotiating on his behalf with Ferranti for radio equipment?



Specially Selected Inward Mail

1931: Edinburgh to Jeddah - 14 days by sea

1935: Cristobal, Panama to Jubail - 18 days by air and sea

1953: West Brompton, London to Jidda - by air



Paqueboat Mail from Cristobal Panama to Jubail Eastern Province in June 1935 Via Baghdad, Basrah and Bahrain Island and the Oil Company Launch



Route and times suggested are: Cristobal Panama Paquebot Cancel for Saturday 15th June 1935

Cristobal to New York: Air by South American Clipper: 2-4 days

New York to Europe by Steamer: 9-12 days

From Europe via Baghdad and Basra to Bahrain by Imperial Airways: 3-5 days: Bahrain Receipt Wed. 3rd July 1935
Bahrain to Jubail by company launch: Total Transit time to Bahrain was 18 days.

RATE: 40 cents – approved by ships purser and the captain!



Richard Kerr and Miller were named in RN35p10 as two of the original 10 oil company employees to arrive in Eastern Arabia. Dick Kerr was a pilot and he brought his plane to assist the search for oil from the air! This letter was from his wife who was travelling by ship to Europe via the Panama Canal – and the original letter is in the envelope. This cover formed the frontispiece for RN64 and the letter is transcribed in pages 11-15.

Letter to Philby from his wife Dora – the last recorded. West Brompton cancel for 15th April 1953. Backmark – same day for the Knightsbridge Royal Engineer's Postal Depot which handled mail for British Forces – see above.

9d air rate which had increased from 6d in 1952,

Note Dora Philby died in 1957. His mother May Philby in 1950 and Philby died in Beirut in 1960.



Tughra Definitives

Row 1 Issued July 13th 1934 and Centre Column Issued in 1937 and 1942

Printed by Government Press, Mecca





1/8 Guerche
Printed Matter
Local Eid Cards



1/4 Guerche



1/2 Guerche
Domestic rate



1 Guerche



3½ Guerche Foreign Rate to 18 March 1937



5 Guerche



10 Guerche



20 Guerche

1934 Domestic Cover

Domestic Mail in 1936: Mecca to Jeddah: The ONLY daily mail route – by car Mecca to Riyadh: Twice a MONTH Mecca to Medina: Twice a WEEK Mecca to Yanbu via Jeddah: Twice a month by Khedivial Mail steamer Riyadh to Al Hassa: Twice a month – By Camel (REF RN56p21



1934 Domestic Cover with ½ guerche Tughra +½ guerche Yemen war wounded Tax relief. MECQUE Type S32 New EKD – by 1 day plus on reverse DJEDDAH 3

TYPE S10 1-11-34 new LKD by 16 months(Ref RN47p8 & 5).

Account for 115 Guerche is inside!



3-1937: 3 guerche
Required for new foreign rate.
used same blue colour for stamp





1942: 100 and 200 guerche
Required for heavy oil company
mail by air to California

Philby Cover: 16th Muharram 1356 = 29-3-37

Foreign Rate was reduced to 3 guerche (from $3\frac{1}{2}$ g)

Notified in Umm Al Qura – official Government newspaper

6th Muharram 1356 = 19-3-1937

Ref: RN54p7



When Philby sent this letter NO OIL HAD BEEN FOUND

Cancels: MECQUE AP type S32. Route Poor Dheddah S10 (BUT the history making decision had been taken to drill Well 7 twice as deep as the previous wells.

Oil was finally struck on March 3rd 1938 and on October 16th 1938 the King was informed that "commercial" quantities had been found. WWII intervened and the first shipload of oil to be exported did not leave until 1946!)

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS? NO – JUST HALFWAY!

Tughra Definitives used on Airmail Covers to USA during WWII

Basic Rate 33¼ Guerche: Normally using 20g + 10g + 3g + ¼g Tughras + ⅓g Hospital tax This rate used from November 1941 until 1947







First Recorded Cover at 33¼ Guerche rate. KHOBAR 21-11-1941 Received VALLEJO 8-2-1942.

Inscribed BOAC to Sydney > Pan American Clipper to USA

Brown Bahrein censor tape, triangular censor 11 and faint Bahrein cancel for 30th November MISSED last Clipper flight due to JAPAN attacking Pearl Harbour. By ship to USA -EXAMINED BY 1625 (USA Censor) white tape on receipt overstruck by VALLEJO CALIF. (MARE ISLAND STATION) cancel for Feb 8th 1942. TRANSIT TIME – 80 DAYS!

July 1942 Adams Cover: Via Cairo & Khartoum deleted probably went via Lagos to Trans Atlantic Clipper & US did not Censor.

Khobar S25 cancel 20-7-1942 (15-7-1361)

33¼ Guerche rate plus 3 palms 1/8g tax



O.A.T. Covers

<< Johnson Cover 33¼ Guerche + ½g tax 21-10-1364 = 28-9-1945 Pencil Receipt 10-28-1945 30 day transit

Haskott Cover >>>

65½ Guerche + ½g tax

Double rate cover

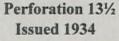
Should be 66½!

Should be 66½! Khobar S25 cancel 28-11-1364=3-11-1945 Ref RN47p11











Perforation 131/2 Issued 1945



Local Greetings Letter Rate ie Same Post Office - Very Scarce!

Saudi Arabia never had a postman delivering mail and no post boxes

Thus a letter taken to a post office and collected from that same post office had a special rate of ½ guerche and also apparently required NO ½ g. Postal tax stamp –

BUT we have not seen sufficient examples to confirm!

Stamp Perforation 11 (10.9)

Cancel Medine Numeral 1: 8th Shawwal 1537 = 30th November 1938

(Gregorian month 10 is probably wrong)

APA Type S30 recorded from July 1937 until June 1946 (Ref RN47p10)



Variety: Double perfs horizontal Imperf vertically at Margin.

Perforation 11 ((10.9)

Tughra 1/8 Guerche – Lowest Value First Issued 1934

Printed by Government Press, Mecca

Thomas Wood, the original APA authority, identified 11 different printings of this stamp based mainly on variations of paper used for printing. Mayo listed 7 and Scotts still list just a single stamp! APA have persuaded Gibbons to list 4 based on perforation and colour.





Perforation 11 (10.9) Issued 1937



Perforation 11 (11.1) Issued 1952



1952 Printing: Perforation 11 (11.1)
Complete sheet of 25; Note marginal line and no imprint



3½ and 3 Guerche Tughra Definitives 3½ Guerche issued to meet the Foreign Rate from July 13th 1934 until 18th March 1937 when rate was reduced to 3 Guerche. Printed by Government Press, Mecca







3½ Guerche Perf 11½ in slightly different shades
Note does NOT exist perforation 11
Minor varieties
Pairs are uncommon on this value

Marginal copy below is imperf on left margin









1937 1st Printing

3 Guerche Perforation 11½ 1938-9

1945 Poor perfs





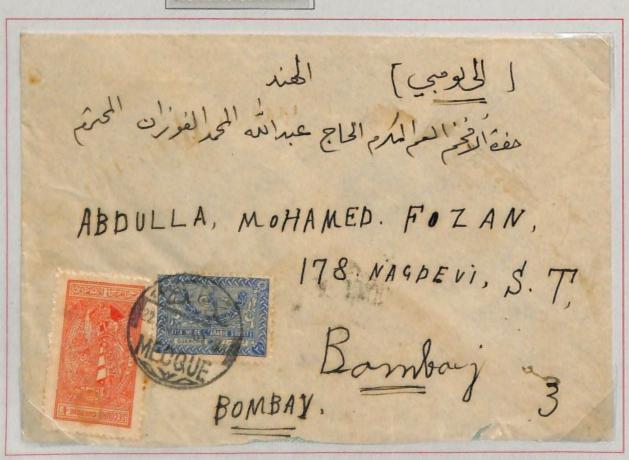


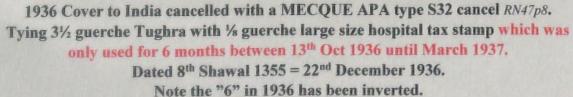


Perforation 11 (10.9) 1940 Good perfs

1942-3

Perforation 11 (11.1)
1 950> Pin perfs or just indents







4th March 1938
Well 7 struck oil!
but it was October before it
was declared commercial



When Philby sent this letter OIL HAD BEEN FOUND

Cancels: MEDINA APA type S30.dated19th Rabi Al-Awwal =19th May 1938 His mother abbotated as received on June 2nd Transit Time of 14 days/

WWII intervened and the first shipload of oil to be exported did not leave until 1946!

"Tughra" High Values First Issued 1942

Printed by Government Press, Mecca

100 Guerche



Perforation 10.9 Issued 1942



Perforation 10.9 100 Guerche are scarce in multiples and much scarcer than the higher 200g value.



Perforation 11½ Issued 1945



100 Guerche on Egyptian Royal Collection card Djeddah 23

High Value stamps were added to the "Tughra" range of stamps in 1942 required due to high costs of wartime airmail charges and increased demand as the oil field development got underway meant many very heavy letters between the field and company headquarters. As expansion was restricted due to wartime restrictions during the war the workforce was reduced to the "100" men who required mail support. Cut outs of a two of these very heavy letters are shown.

Initial the perforations were just under perf 11 and further supplies at 11½ were available late in 1945.



Piece from Heavy Oil Company Envelope Rate = 1332 Guerche + 1/8 guerche Mail Tax + £25+

Unreadable Cancels but
with 1945 perf 11 ½ mail tax stamp and 1946 printing s of
100 and 200 guerche =

200 Guerche



Perforation 10.9 Issued 1942



200 Guerche Government Printer Imprint Block Issued Safar 1365 = June 1946

Piece from Very Heavy Envelope >>

Again probably from 1946 based on stamps in particular the tax stamp.

Rate + 1,829 Guerche + 1/8 guerche Tax = £40+







20 Guerche Proof Pair in Black A

1 Guerche Imprint Block from 1st Printing 1949. Perforation 11 (10.9)



Tughra Airs – 1 to 100 Guerche First Issued 1st October 1949

Printed by Government Press, Mecca

Stamps designed and printed for Air Mail duty.

But these and the normal Tughra stamps were used interchangeably to meet the myriad of rates to foreign destinations required by the arrival of large numbers of foreign oil workers.







20 Guerche Colour trial in Brown – unused colour





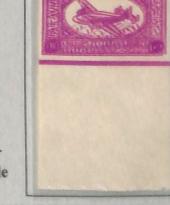




10 Guerche 20 Guerche ▲
Imprint Blocks from First Printing – 1949 Perforation 11 (10.9)

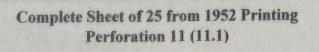






100 Guerche in 2 shades

100 Guerche Imperf ▶
Printed Double



معرالطرام عكالمان على ١٢٦٨



SEDUNS GENORE A





Government Printer above, independent printer below





1/8 Guerche Charity Postal Tax Issues

1945 to 1955

1945: Mecca Hospital Tax: The design was modified and the main change was that two the palm trees were removed and the design generally cleaned up.

However some issues were placed with a private printer who used Litho instead of the Typo used by the Government printer and different perforations and as the perforating pins wore down there were problems with the perforations.

Many colour shades and paper variations are known

Quick Check: The Tughra always touches the Arabic panel at the top in the Government printings but never touches in the lithographic printings. See blue arrow.







Two blocks from the independent printer.1950-52

Upper block: Perforation 7. Clean straight line roulette.

Lower Block: Worn perforator giving impression of a pin perforation 14 – see vertical perfs between corner block which show a pair of 'normal' perforations.



A sheet of the Govt printed stamps Perforation 11 from a 1945 printing

Meeting between King Abdulaziz ibn Saud and King Farouk of Egypt

at Jebel Radhwa near Yanbu

Issued 24th January 1945



½ Guerche Domestic Rate



3 Guerche Foreign Rate



Design shows Royal Egyptian yacht in Yanbu harbour with tented camps near the large conical Radhwa mountain.





5 Guerche



10 Guerche

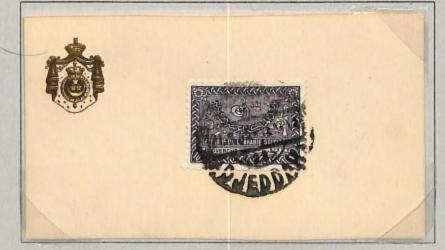
Philby Correspondence

An unusual letter from Philby signed by him (Lower left of front) while on Hajj pilgrimage in Mecca. Addressed to his wife who then forwarded to his mother. The set of the King Farouk visit stamps were affixed to the reverse. Signed by **Philby in Mecca** (bottom left of Front) hand carried to Jeddah – rush to catch airmail/avoid Hajj rush? **Djeddah 2** APA Type H10 cancel with Arabic date of 15th Al-Hijjah-1364 (Tuesday 20th Nov. 1945**)

** Note English Date is the impossible 19-11-1943 London: Opened resealed and 2½d stamps added and forwarded to Mother in Camberley on 27th Nov. 1945.

History Note: Philby arrived back in Arabia on 26th July 1945 (Day Atlee won the election). Perhaps he was now advising family he was joining King Abdulaziz for his 2nd. meeting with King Farouk in Cairo in Jan. 1946.





Ex Egyptian Royal Collection 'Visit Souvenirs'

Left: YANBO APA S36 24th Jan. 1945. 10th Safar 1364 LKD (RN47p9) on ¼g defin. Right: MEDINE 4 APA H10 12th Safar 1364 new LKD (RN47p5) ALSO clear error showing date of 36th Jan. 1945 (Should be 26th) on two 1g Defins & ¼ g Charity tax. Above: DJEDDAH 23 APA S30 21st Sept 1945: 14/10/1364 (RN47p10) on 10g definitive on a card endorsed with embossed gold imprint of the Royal Egyptian coat of arms.





Map Tax Stamp: 1946

Printed by Government Printing Press Mecca

This was an additional obligatory tax of 1/2 guerche placed on all mail posted initially for the first three months of 1946 and then extended until June 1946 but can be found on mail up until September. Reportedly this extra tax was to meet the costs of the meeting with King Farouk of Egypt

Religious objections were raised that the inscription on the flags would be defaced by the cancel so the inscription was scratched out on the printing plate instead.

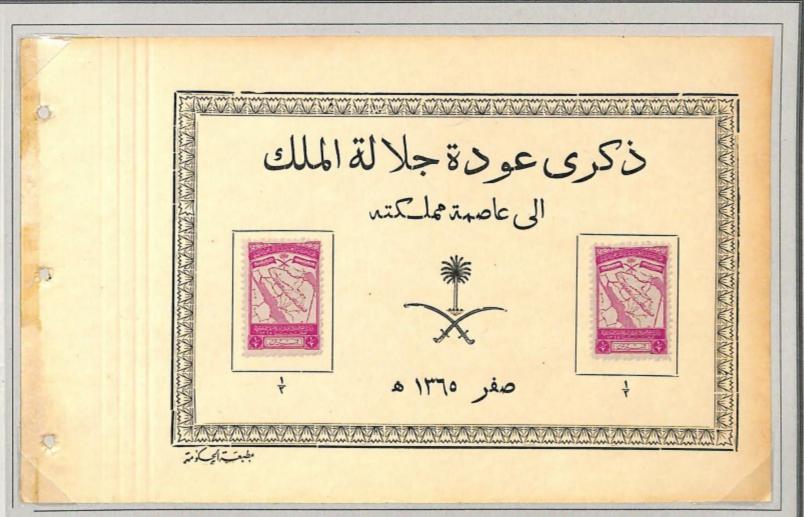


Block is Perforation 11 and Pair Perforation 111/2 Both with inscription on flags intact

Upper: Unscratched Flag Lower: Scratched out



3 guerche BOAT mail rate from eastern province to USA which is not often found. Khobar APA Type S25 cancel dated April 3rd 1946 on unscratched map stamps perf 111/2 and manuscript receipt for May 20th - 47 days. Note Air is deleted on cover.



Page ex Booklet for UPU Both copies are with inscription scratched out flag and perforation 111/2 Dated Safdar 1365 ie January 1946. Signed on back by Mr. K. Safdar of SA Phil Society



Regular 331/4 air mail rate with late use of map stamp - scratched inscription perf 111/2 Al Khobar LKD for APA type S25 of 22nd September per letter inside. Writer had arrived on 27th August following record breaking flight of 41 hours via Gander Shannon. Paris. Rome and Cairo!





Visit of King Mohamed Zahir Shah of Afghanistan

March 1950

First of a series of five visits of foreign leaders to Saudi Arabia between 1950 and 1953.

Stamps printed by Government Press in Mecca in sheetlets of 10 as shown.

Stamp 2 of the 3 guerche value has the "POSTFS" variety.

King Mohammed Zahir Shah reigned in Afghanistan from November 1933 until deposed in July 1973 - and the Afgan troubles began! However he returned and died there in July 2007.



Arms of Afghanistan

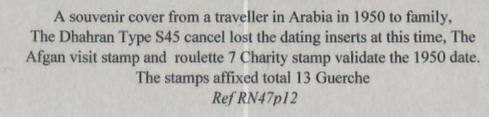


Variety in stamp position 2













50th Hijri Anniversary of Recapture of Riyadh by Abdulaziz Ibn Saud

4th Shawal 1319 = January 1902*

Stamps printed by Government Press in Mecca Perforation 11

Covers show stamps in use for many years - both are 3 years after the issue date.

*Cross checking sources the date of the battle for Riyadh varies by several days. However all are agreed it was January 1902 and the anniversary date on the stamp notes 4th Shawal so the 50th Hijri anniversary was in July 1950.

The recapture of Riyadh marked the beginning of the rise to power of the Saudi family.



1/2 Guerche Domestic Rate



1 Guerche



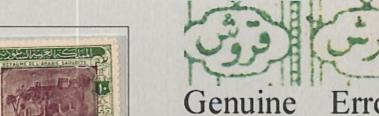
3 Guerche Foreign Rate



5 Guerche



10 Guerche Normal There is an error in stamps position 11 of 20 in sheet.



Error



Tughra and Seal of Abdulaziz Ibn Saud

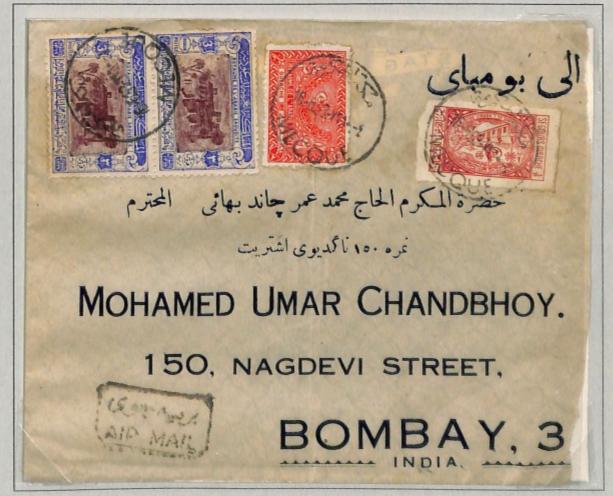




10 Guerche with Arabic error in column on right The Arabic is for 1-2 guerche not 'many' guerche Used copy with Meque cancel 17 Shaban 1369 3rd June 1950 APA type S60



.Cover Jeddah to New York with Djeddah cancel for 30th March 1953 = 14 Rajab 1372. APA type S50 cancel 29mm diameter (Ref RN47p13) Roul 7 tax stamp + 5 guerche Riyadh Capture and pair of 1 guerche Airs



Cover Mecca to Bombay with Mecque cancel for 16th June 1953 = 4 Shawal 1372. APA type S60 cancel 29mm diameter (Ref RN47p13). Bombay receipt for 24th June. Roul 7 tax stamp + 2 x 3 guerche Riyadh Capture and ½ guerche Tughra



Opening of the Dammam to Riyadh Railway

Issued 25th April 1952

Stamps printed by American Bank Note Company
Perforation 12
The oil company built the railway line from Dammam to Riyadh – approximately 300 miles

Specimens





1/2 Guerche Domestic Rate



1 Guerche









Common Co

3 Guerche Boat Mail

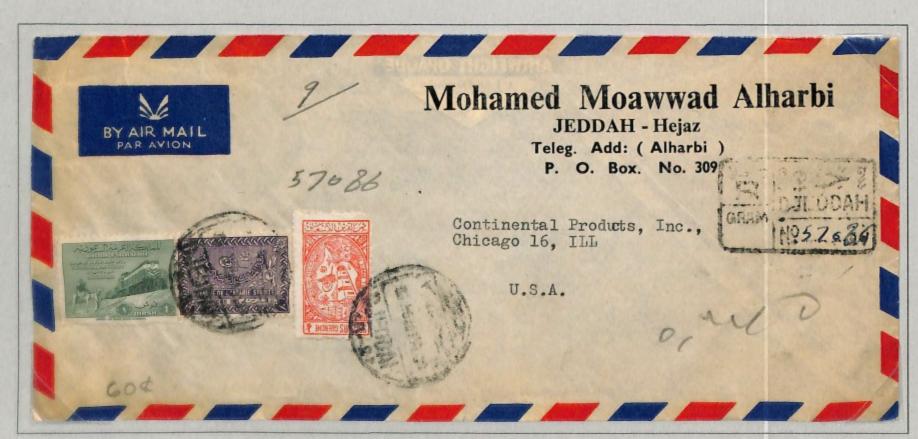


10 Guerche



20 Guerche

When the American Bank Note Company liquidated their Stamp archives in the 1990's these included 6 sheets of specimens totalling 300 stamps



.Cover Jeddah to Chicago with Djeddah at 11 guerche registered Airmail 1 guerche Rail + 10 guerche Tughra + hospital Tax Djeddah cancel for 30th June 1952 and Chicago receipt on back for 7th July 1952.

APA type SR20a cancel 32mm diameter (New LKD by 4 yrs (Ref RN47p10)



Cover Mecca to Bombay-Mecque cancel for 11th July 1952) Bombay Receipt 19th July APA type S34 cancel30mm diameter (Ref RN47p8). (New LKD by 2 months 2 x 1 guerche Railway and 5+ ½ guerche Tughra and Hospital Tax stamp





1/2 Guerche Domestic Rate

Visit of President Chamoun of Lebanon

Stamps printed by Government Press in Mecca Perforation 11 Issued 7th February 1953

President Chamoun, served as president of Lebanon in 1952-58 and at a time the oil company were planning to build an oil pipeline to Sidon on the Mediterranean in Lebanon known as the Trans-Arabian Pipeline (Tapline) (Via Jordan and Syria).



3 Guerche Foreign Rate



Lebanon Cedar



Registered airmail from Medina to Istanbul via Damascus -71/2 Guerche Regd Airmail + 1/8 guerche Tax Roul 7 marginal UNLISTED MEDINE APA type S55 13-2-53 > Rectangular Istanbul 20-2-53

Trans Arabia Pipeline (in Red)





DAHRAN S56 Registered cancel used in Feb1953 - but NOT registered to USA. 51/2 Guerche airmail rate Also with 1/8 guerche Tax Roul 7

Visit of Governor-General Malik Ghulam Mohammed of Pakistan

'Stamps printed by Government Press in Mecca Perforation 11 Issued March 1953

Governor General of Pakistan from 1951-55 the 3rd in that office following Independence of Pakistan



1/2 Guerche Domestic Rate



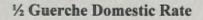
3 Guerche Foreign Rate



Pakistan State Symbol









3 Guerche Foreign Rate





"BOYAUME" ERROR



Normal



Error

The initial printing had BOYAUME instead of ROYAUME DE L ARABIE SOUDITE

It was reported that two sheets of the error were released and the lower pair above show this error.

Visit of the Kings of Jordan

King Talal 1951 and King Hussein 1953

Stamps printed by Government Press in Mecca Perforation 11

King Talal became King of Jordan on 20th July 1951 after King Abdullah was assassinated. He visited Saudi Arabia in November 1951. He abdicated due to ill health on 11th August 1952 and was succeeded by his son King Hussein who in turn visited in July 1953 shortly before the death of King Abdulaziz Ibn Saud om 9th November 1953.

This marked the end of the conflict between the Saudi and Hejazi royal families. .



A 'souvenir;? cover with a cancel of APA Type S49 but appears to be numeral 88 not as 85 recorded (Negative above DJEDDAH)

Reported in use from 8/8/1951.

This is dated 26-2-1952 and no significance identified at present

Ref RN47p12



Jordanian Arms





1/2 Guerche Domestic Rate

3 Guerche Foreign Rate



Slight modification to French Now "POSTE DU ROYAUME" Was Postes Royaume etc