



Arabian Philatelic Association International

Random Notes



December 2024

NUMBER 102

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Kenneth D. Knight

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 first part of this update covering stamp forgeries is about to be published.

The following members are currently serving the APAI in the capacities indicated:

Membership secretary and Random Notes distribution: Marwan Nusair

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, but realistically and single edition once a year is all that is currently possible. 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 (2024) 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 #102

Assembled by the Editor

It has been quite a long time since Random Notes #101 but the time has not been misspent. Part 1 of the new Forgery Manual has been completed and is undergoing a final check before being available for all to download from the APAI website. The manual has been produced as an eBook as a single PDF file and is large at 1.2 GB. The actual location of the file is Google Drive and I know that location is not available to all countries in the world. If that applies to you, send me an email and I will transfer the file to you using wetransfer.com.

One of the articles in this edition is about the 1949 air mail stamps and I thought it would be useful to reproduce the relevant parts of the study produced in 1982 by Tom Wood. I was hoping to produce a digitised copy of the entire study by the end of the year, but that was a bit optimistic; early next year perhaps.

Now for the notes.

1. Unfortunately we start on a sad note; the notes that follow were taken from various obituaries.

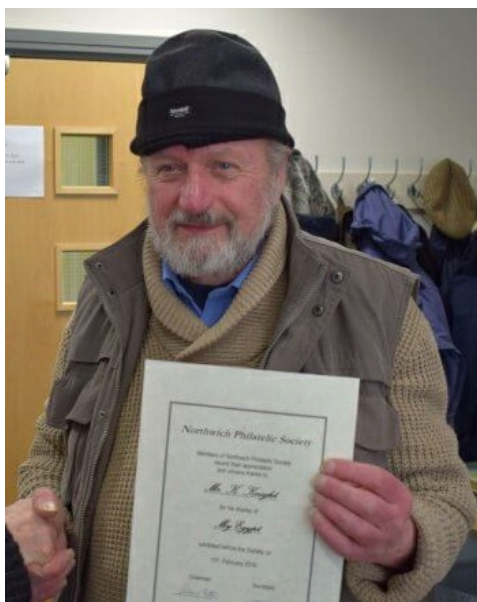
It is with great sadness to announce that our member Kenneth David Knight, (Ken) passed away peacefully at the Royal Oldham Hospital, U.K., on 9 May 2024 aged 79 years.

Ken spent his whole life living in Rochdale, UK and wanted a simple Direct Funeral with no fuss so people could remember him in their own way on 29 May 2024.

Those who knew Ken appreciated that he was a very kind person who liked to help others.

A few years ago your editor spent a day with Ken at his home and had a wonderful time just chatting about Saudi philately. Although his main interest was Egypt, Ken will be remembered by us for his excellent series of articles about Saudi postmarks and although written many years ago, they are still the primary source of information for the subject.

Below is a photograph of Ken with a certificate following his display at the Northwich Philatelic Society '*Egypt, as you've never seen her before!*' The associated talk, given on 5 March 2018, was one of Ken's entertaining philatelic stories.



Ken Knight with his certificate following his display at the Northwich Philatelic Society



2. Reference to the [WADP Numbering System](#) (WNS) occurs occasionally in this journal and if postal authorities keep it current, it would be a very valuable resource. After an absence of a couple of years, Saudi issues have been updated, but it would seem that the miniature sheet for the Giddam issue has been omitted, although SA025.22 appears to have been reserved for it. I also notice the Al Quds issue made on 24 June 2021 is also missing but without a number being reserved. Were these just simple oversights?



Low resolution screen-shot of part of 2022 entry for Saudi Arabia

3. This ¼p medical aid with double impression has a MECQUE 6-8-1379 (3 February 1960), type SR56 cancel. A similar stamp appeared in Random Notes #95 page 3 item 1, and had a similar cancel dated 13 February 1960. Do these two examples suggest that a sheet of the double impression was used in Makkah in early 1960? Because the stamps were sheet fed manually, it is likely that only one sheet of 50 stamps exists with a double impression.

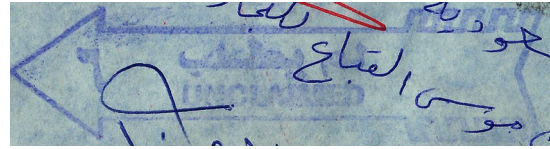


4. This next cover, from Egypt to Riyadh, is a combination of 'Saudi Sidelines' as introduced to Random Notes #43 by Yusuf Aidroos and a registration label. There is an UNCLAIMED 6 arrow cachet along with (repeat) under which appears in manuscript the dates reminders were left for the addressee. The barcode registration label is of a type new to me and was applied on arrival in Riyadh on 21 December 2003 (27-10-1424). The letter was not claimed and I presume returned to sender. I would be interested to know if this type of label has been used in any other city. The top line translates to 'Saudi Post Corporation - Riyadh Region Post'.

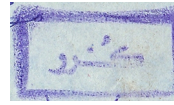




**Saudi Post Corporation -
Riyadh Region Post**



UNCLAIMED 6



'Repeat'



5. In some ways similar to the above label, this was also a registration label applied in Riyadh to an incoming registered item, this time from France.

الوجهة		نقطة توزيع الرياض 2	
اسم العميل		خالد محمد حسن غنيم	
حوال	0541254590	رمز بريدي	12629 ص ب
مبنى	3632	إضافي	6857 وحدة 226 عنوان
منطقة الرياض	المدينة	الرياض	
الحي	حي الملز	الشارع	زرقاء اليمامة
الخدمات	خدمة أوفر- عنوان وطني		
RK364606140FR			

Label for registered letter

David Jessich reports an ordinary, unregistered, letter he sent to Jeddah which received a similar label but with a different style of item number.



الوجهة صادر مكاتب \ المساعدة		
اسم العميل		
حوال	رمر بريدي	ص ب
مبنى	إضافي	وحدة
عنوان مختصر		
منطقة مكة المكرمة المدينة جدة		
الشارع		
الحدي		
مكاتب		
الخدمات		
NORREG0000187906		
		

Label for unregistered letter

Does anyone have any information about these labels?

6. In Random Notes #101.7 item 6, the status of current Saudi postage stamps was discussed. The story was sent to the editor of the Middle East Philatelic Bulletin (MEPB) and it was published in #25. A draft reply was sent and I am grateful to the editor of that journal for allowing me to repeat parts of that reply.

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.

Remember, those comments were only a draft. The full, very informative, article was 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>

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!





Stamps provided sufficient postage

7. A few Transjordan overprints on Hejaz stamps follow. First this official stamp (Scott O1, SG O117) with thin type and the year missing. This error has been recorded on positions 1, 3 and 17, but this stamp is position 4. Just to make life interesting, this position can be found with the year present, but as 1343 instead of 1342. I doubt that this official stamp was ever issued; all 'used' copies I have seen have doubtful postmarks.



8. This 2 qirsh stamp has a Transjordan overprint not seen very often. The forgery can be identified by the fact that the Arabic character 'reh' is short; in the genuine it is long. The stamp and genuine overprint shown below are from position 13.



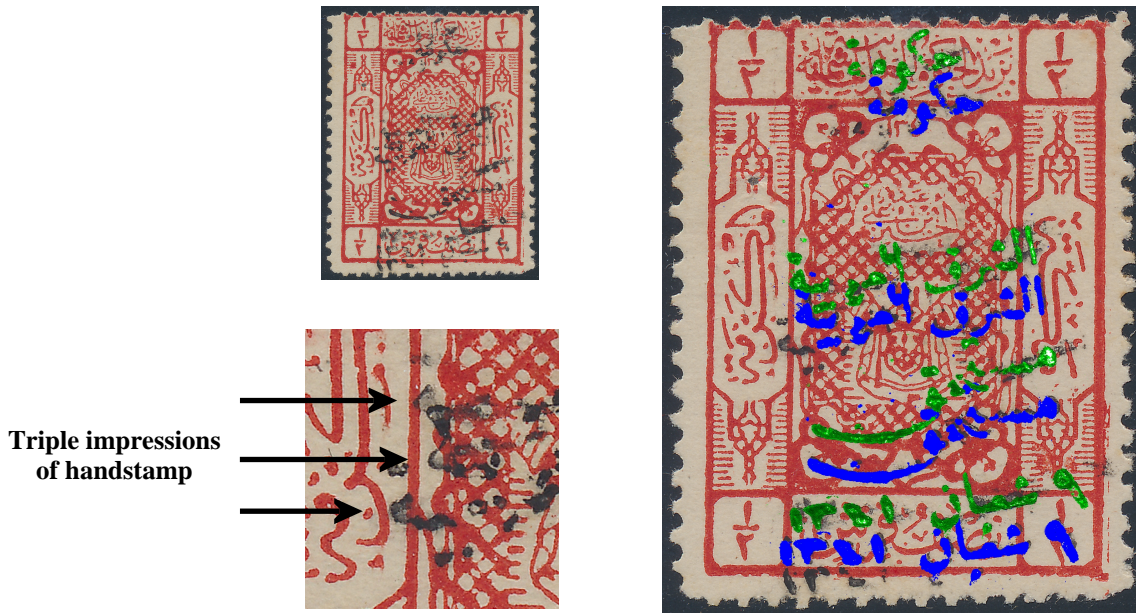
Forgery with short 'reh'



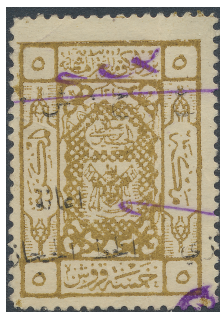
Genuine with long 'reh'



9. The next item does not qualify for catalogue status in Scott and SG, but is a good item. It is a ½ qirsh with a triple impression of the four-line postage due handstamp, Darlow type B and Najjar type C. In the enlarged image below, the impressions have been highlighted in colour with blue being the most complete, green almost complete and black being only partially complete.



10. The final Transjordan is a 5 qirsh Hejaz Railway revenue stamp, as yet unlisted. The Hejaz Railway Aid overprint, in three lines, is shifted to the left somewhat. This overprint was previously known on only the 1 qirsh blue and 2 qirsh orange. It is difficult to get a good image of the overprint from the stamp and so the text has been reproduced below, but not to scale.



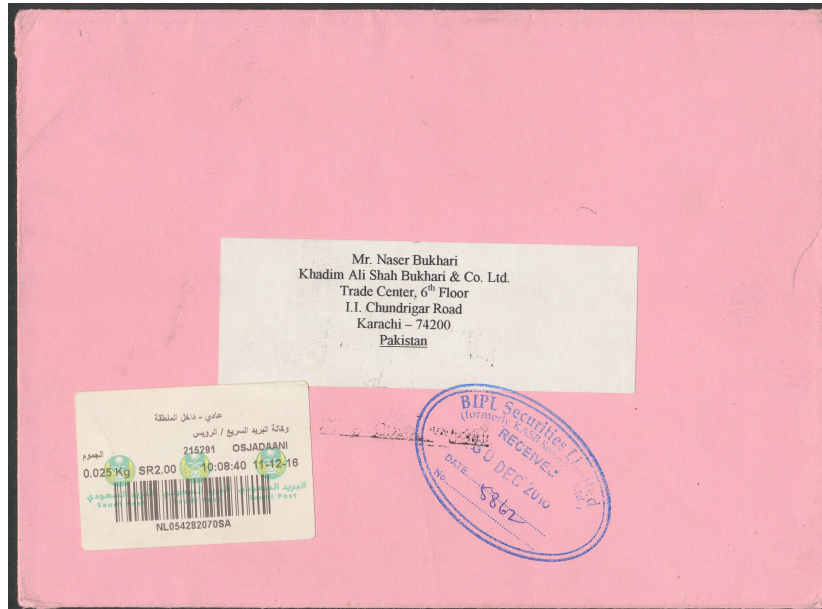
Overprint shifted left

ح . ش . ع
 اعانة
 الخط الحجازي

Arabic text



11. Is this a case of postal fraud? First, a description of the label. In common with several countries, Saudi Arabia makes use of general purpose postage labels instead of postage stamps. The label used here indicates the postal service provided (A), the originating post office (B) and the destination (C). There are also details of the date and time, the item weight, the amount paid (D) and a barcoded item number. In this case the service provided was 'ordinary within region', the originating office 'Speedpost agency, Al Ruwais', the destination 'Jamoum' and the price paid 2 riyals. Although a barcode was printed, the item was not classed as registered mail.



The originating office in Al Ruwais is in a district of Jeddah in the Makkah postal region, as is the destination specified on the label, but from the cover we see that the destination is Pakistan and thus not entitled to the reduced rate afforded to intra-regional mail. The rate charged should have been 4 riyals so was the difference of 2 riyals kept by the counter clerk or shared between the clerk and the customer? The label was printed and affixed to the envelope by the counter clerk and it is probable that the customer did not see it.

Would this have been so evident if just a simple postage stamp been used? Possibly not.

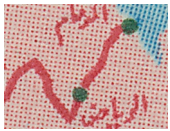
Notes continued on [page 46](#)



1968 Jeddah to Dammam Highway - The Missing Dots

By: Martin Lovegrove

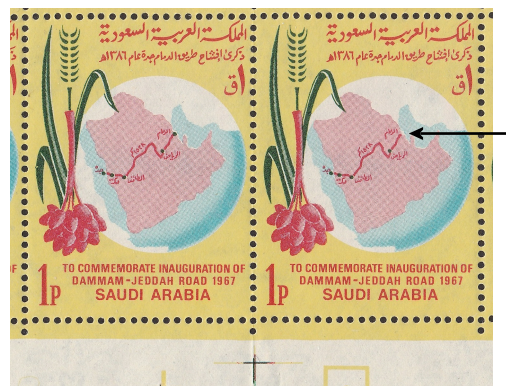
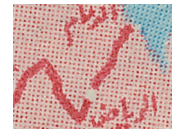
The set of five stamps comprised the 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p & 10p values, printed in sheets of two panes of 60 stamps arranged vertically. The central part of the design depicts Saudi Arabia upon which is drawn, in red, the route of the highway from Jeddah to Dammam. The cities of Jeddah, Makkah, Taif, Riyadh and Dammam are marked by white circles on the road over which are printed green circles. The green dots are the same colour as the leaf and the colour registration of the green is often poor. It has been noted that some of the green dots were omitted from some positions on the sheet. Position 116 on double pane sheet (bottom row, right of centre) has the dot for Dammam missing and it is possible that the equivalent position in the top pane, position 56, has both dots omitted. The stamp with both dots missing is certainly a gutter margin stamp.



Normal green dots for all cities



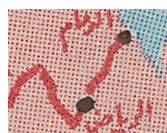
Green dots omitted for Riyadh and Dammam



Missing Dammam dot, position 116

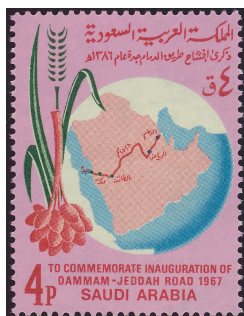
On some stamps the missing dots were corrected by inserting by hand in black using, according to Stanley Gibbons, a ball-point pen, but a roller-ball is a possibility. I tried that method using a ball-point on a damaged Saudi stamp and was not very successful; I usually left dents in the paper and the dots were not very circular. These manual additions can quite often be detected by noting the colour registration of the green ink compared with the white circles. The manually added dots for Riyadh and Dammam are often in a different relative position to their white circle.





Black dots added manually

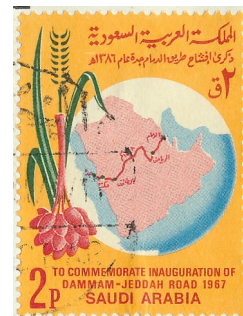
Some dots have been seen in blue and the shape is a much better circle than the black dots. I have only seen this on the 4p.



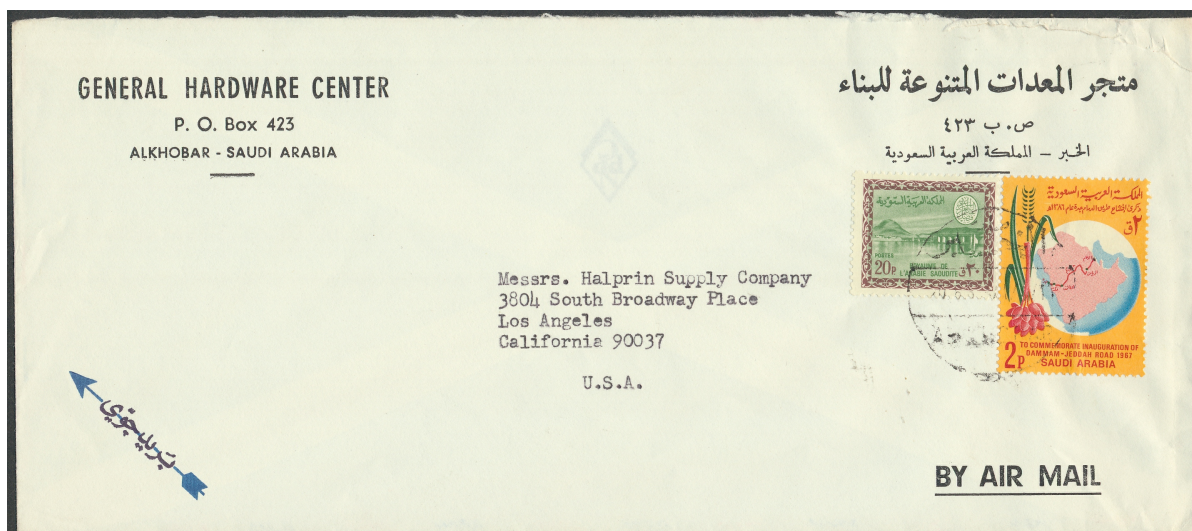
Both dots blue



Riyadh dot green, Damham black



The icing on the cake may actually be this 2p on cover where the dot for Riyadh is in the printed green and that for Damham is in the manually added black. This appears to be an official alteration to the stamp rather than a philatelic afterthought.



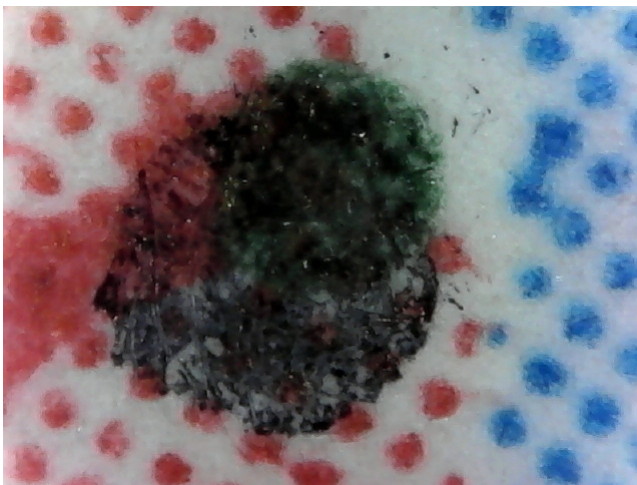
Riyadh dot green, Damham black (65%)



The philatelic cover below was prepared by APA member Thomas Righter and has three copies of stamp with manually added dots for Riyadh and Dammam. A close inspection reveals a disturbing fact: the dots were added on top of the genuine dots printed in green. It is not possible to say whether they were officially added by the post office or added to deceive collectors.



Philatelic cover with three stamps having the added dots (65%)



Black dot manually added over printed green dot. (From 10p stamp on cover shown above)

There is a case for further study of this issue and perhaps a formal addition to the catalogues.

The remaining questions are:

- 'Is the stamp with two missing dots from position 56?'
- Are Riyadh and Dammam the only cities with missing dots?'
- 'Were all five values affected?'
- 'Did blue dots appear on other values?'
- Are there any other colours used for manually added dots?'

The 1949 Air Mail Stamps

By: Martin Lovegrove

The first airmail stamps issued by Saudi Arabia appeared in 1949 and have received little specialist attention. One exception is the study made by APA member Thomas P. Wood, started in 1972 and completed in 1982, and detailed in his publication 'A Study of Saudi Arabia Stamps 1934 - 1964'. The copy of that publication in my possession covers the 1934 - 1960 Tughra stamps in part one, the 1949 airmails in part two, and what Wood described as the postal tax stamps in part three, although we now know these to be revenue stamps. Wood limited his study to paper type, colour, perforation, and some usage dates. Some relevant sections from that study are included later in this issue as an aid to understand this issue.

This article will cover other aspects of the issue not covered by Wood.



The design is bi-lingual (Arabic and French), shows a tail-wheel, twin-engine, mid-wing aircraft with three tail fins. Also included is the face value and some decoration. The aircraft is described in catalogues variously as 'Airliner' (Stanley Gibbons 2016), 'Airspeed Ambassador Airliner' (Mayo 1973 and Scott 2024), Avion de ligne Ambassador (Yvert & Tellier 2015), 'Transport-flugzeug' (Michel 1999). As reported in Random Notes #68 page 20, Mayo, Scott and Y&T are incorrect, but I am not able to identify the aircraft.

The stamps were printed in relief in sheets of twenty-five, five rows of five stamps, surrounded by a marginal rule; the 4 qirsh was later printed in a double-pane format of 50 stamps (page 16). The stamps were printed at the Government press in Makkah as indicated by the printer's imprint below the centre stamp in the bottom row. Mayo reports that the stamps were lithographed in Cairo, but no evidence has been seen to substantiate that statement.

The sheets were line perforated 11 and show the usual variations and wear shown by the tughra issue.

Several different types of paper were used and have been identified in detail by Wood; some of the types, however, will be discussed later because of their significance to this issue. The normal paper thickness is in the range of approximately 0.003 inches (0.08 millimetres) to 0.0045 inches (0.12 millimetres).



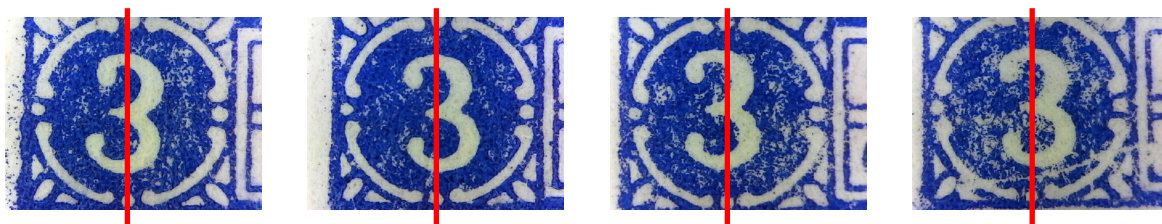
Having noted the basic details of the issue, we can now take a closer look at some design peculiarities.

Common to all the values in this set is the way the individual stamps are arranged on the plate. It is quite noticeable that the bottom row is shifted slightly to the left of the others, some positions in the row are offset more than others. The block below shows stamps 17,18,19,22,23 and part of 24 with black lines overlaid to illustrate the variations in alignment. It is important to note that this variation applies to all values and that a sheet of any one value overlaid on a different value will show an exact match of stamp positions.



Bottom row shifted left

Close examination of sheets will show that the position of the value on each stamp varies slightly, suggesting that these values were added manually to the basic design. This random positioning applies to all values. Below are some examples from the 3 qirsh sheet; the red line, aligned with the lower central white dot, has been added to make these variations more visible.



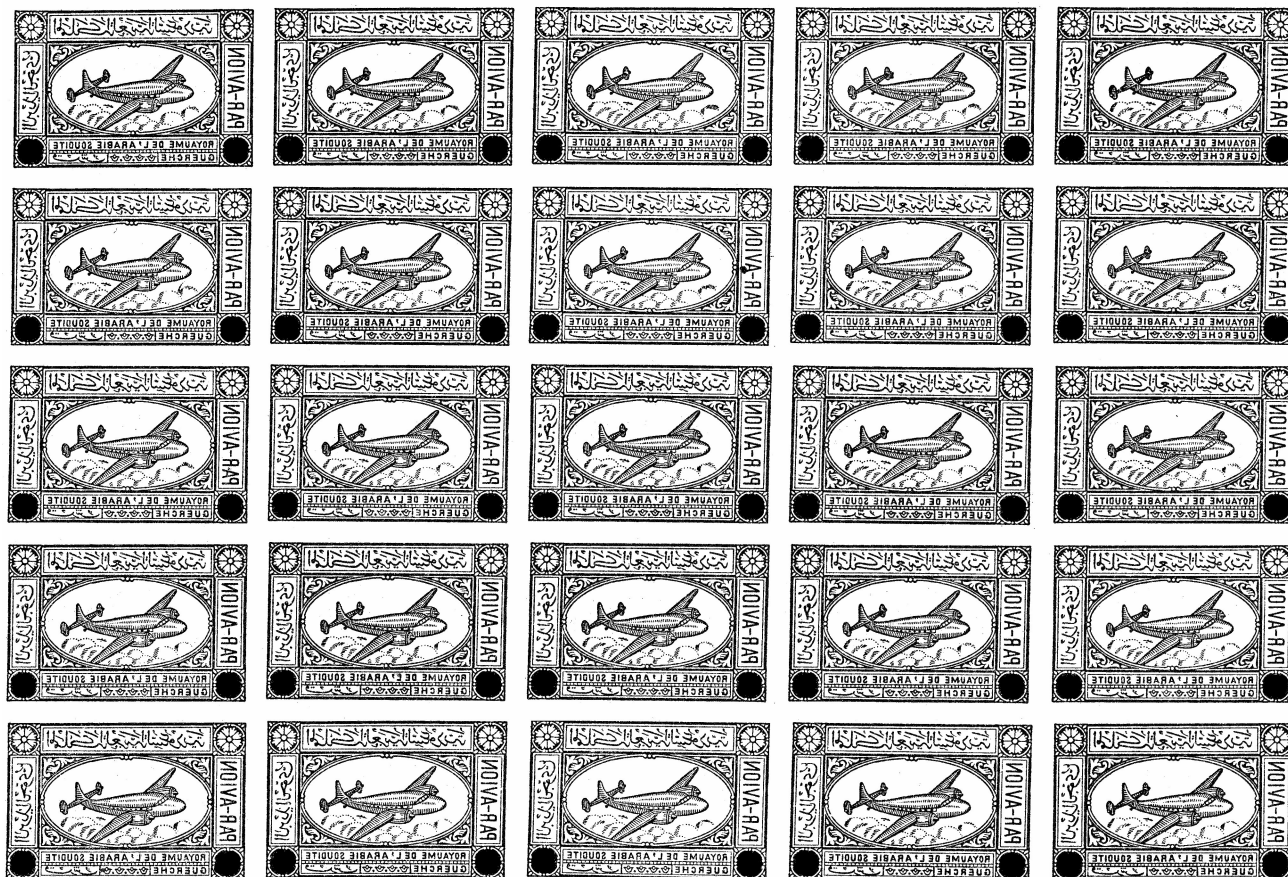
Varying alignment of the number 3

The above notes concerning value position also applies to the Arabic value in the bottom-right corner.



Those two facts, the relative positions of clichés and variable positions of values, suggest that the stamps were printed from a master plate without values which, when copied by stereotyping, had the appropriate values added manually. The master plate would be in reverse and look like the illustration below; the parts coloured black are the parts that will receive the ink. A possible way to achieve this would be to make a mould, either using papier-mâché or plaster, and when dry molten metal is poured into the mould. It may be necessary to produce more than one mould for the required number of plates, in this case six are required.

The values are punched or engraved in the bottom circles and the metal plate mounted on a rigid base.



Master plate of 25 clichés having a blank value and design reversed

In order to produce the master plate of 25, a single design will be carved in hardwood or cut into metal, in reverse, and one or more moulds made as described above. Twenty-five copies will be required to be cast from these moulds to make the master plate. Note that the currency GUERCHE in both Arabic and English is singular and was used for all values.



Initial design in wood or metal





4 qirsh double-pane sheet (80%)



Double-pane plate

The top and bottom panes are virtually identical, indicating that they were produced from the same master stereo, they are also identical with the single pane 4 qirsh. Although I state 'identical' there are slight differences in dimensions, probably caused by paper shrinkage in some of my sheets; the offset rows and relative positions are the same.

Colours

Several shades were listed by Wood and there are many more. Stanley Gibbons lists only one colour for the 10 qirsh, dull purple, but Scott lists two: brown-violet and chocolate. Some examples are shown below; the 1 and 3 qirsh values seem to have more colour variations than the others.. The perceived colour can be as a result of using a different ink, paper, amount of ink, or plate wear or even the cleanliness of the plate.





Five examples of 20 qirsh brown-violet



Three examples of 20 qirsh brown-violet



The shades presented here show the variations that can occur during the long life of a definitive issue. The range of the 100 qirsh has been difficult to assemble due to the much smaller estimated printing and the use on larger and heavier items where the wrapping usually got discarded after use. Multiples of this value do exist but are difficult to find.



Errors and varieties

Perforation errors exist and are mainly either horizontally or vertically imperforate caused by failure of the perforation pins to penetrate the paper. While most of these show blind perforations, genuine imperforates exist. The 4 qirsh example below is an imperforate between stamps posted in Makkah on 21 April 1959.

The pairs and other greater multiples of imperforate stamps together with double prints and prints in unissued colours are another part of the story and will be dealt with later in this article.

Perforation problems have caused irregular pin-perforation examples where the gauge is between 6 and 8. These resemble attempts made by using a sewing machine, but the exact method is not known.

There is also a printing on thick paper approximately 0.005 inches (0.127 mm) thick. The example below was posted in Jeddah on 9 January 1960. Examples on this paper are rare with only two reported at the time of writing.

Offsets of the design on the gummed side do happen, but although rare are probably not very important; it all depends on your degree of specialization.

The misperforated example shows perforation indents between the stamps.



Imperforate between stamps



Offset on gummed side



Misperforated



Thick paper



'Sewing machine' perforations



The 'sewing machine' perforations are so named because of the similarity of the perforations, or perhaps piercings, with the marks made by a sewing machine when used on paper or card. There is no evidence to suggest that this was the method actually used. This method was used when the official perforations were so bad that the perforations were 'blind' and stamps were difficult to separate. It was used on post postage and revenue stamps and the examples seen have originated in Jeddah.

Strangers in the pack

I have to thank APAI member Burl Henry for bringing these stamps to my attention way back in 2006 in his Random Notes #70 article *"TONED PAPER" FORGERIES OF THE 1949 AIRMAIL STAMPS*.

I have been collecting and studying these stamps ever since and have discovered some interesting facts but have come to no firm conclusions as to their true status. For the purposes of this article I will refer to the issued stamps as Type I and these others as Type II.



The basic set of Type II stamps is shown above and there are no obvious differences, apart from the fact that the 3 qirsh is printed on a brownish paper (Wood's type AM1), but that will be dealt with later.

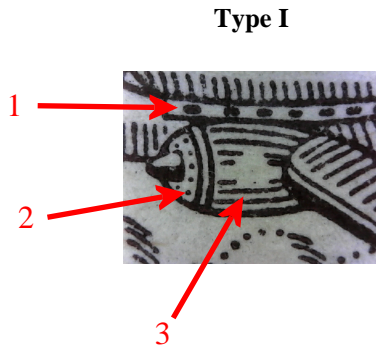
So, how do we tell the difference between type I and Type II? I will start with the easy one first. The Type I 100 qirsh uses ink that fluoresces magenta under ultraviolet light; the type II has a dull reaction. I have found this test to be consistent.



Under u/v light. Left: Type I, right: Type II

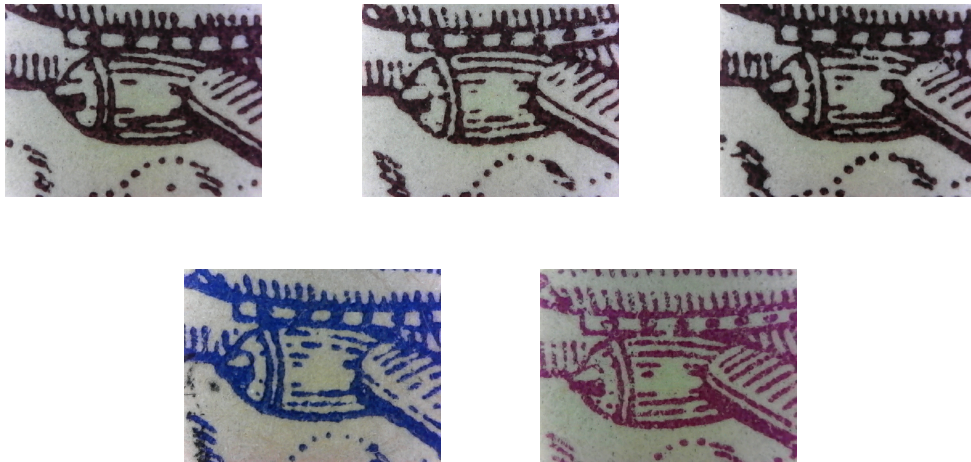


Burl Henry mentioned the differences in the engine hubs or nacelles and the points shown below are ones I have found most useful.



1. The aircraft windows are generally straight sided ovals, rather like an athletic track.
2. Dots behind the spinner, probably representing the cooling fins of the cylinders
3. Clear curved lines on the external surface

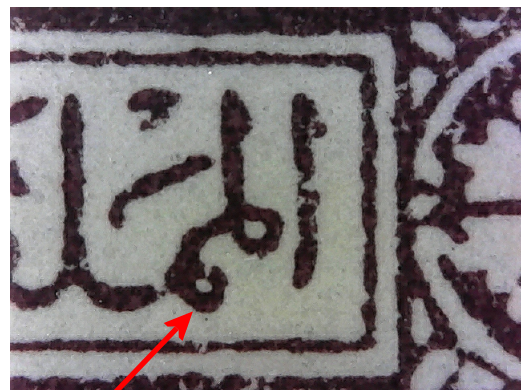
Type II nacelles and windows lack the clarity of type I and it is difficult to find a poorly printed example of type I which comes close to these type II examples.



Another useful feature but perhaps not always applicable to all values or even all stamps on the sheet, is the shape of the Arabic *meem*. In Type I, the second *meem* is solid but in Type II it is open.



Type I



Type II



Notice that the print quality of the type I is much better, but that is not always the case as there are some very poor type I printings in circulation.

Unfortunately, my collection of type II blocks is limited to two corner blocks of ten of both the 10 and 20 qirsh values, and although not ideal, it is sufficient to compare the two types. I will use the 10 qirsh value to illustrate differences between the two types of plate.

Below there is a illustration of a lower-left corner block of type II overlaid on a similar block of type I with the corner stamp being used as the anchor for the overlay. It clearly shows that none of the other three stamps is perfectly aligned and is a good indication that the plates of type I and type II are not the same. Because two plates were used and the values for each stamp were inserted at a separate operation, there is likely to be differences in the positioning of the numerals on each plate and this is illustrated below where position 1 from each plate have been overlaid. Note that all other parts of the design coincide perfectly.



Stamp position 1 - type II superimposed on type I

Another feature of the type II 10 qirsh plate is that the western numerals are not as well defined as in type I; it is quite noticeable that the serifs on type II are either missing or rounded but all cliché positions vary slightly.



Type I



Type II



'Used' versions of Type II will have either a type S62 MECQUE (3) or a type SR56 MECQUE cancel with black being the only colour used. Only two dates have been recorded; 21-1-1955 - 27-5-1374 on SR56 and 31-12-1957 - 10-6-1377 on S62.

These postmarks appear to be genuine, but they may just be very good copies. Most of my type II examples are MECQUE (3) and some have a broken number 3, not seen in genuine marks although I have a genuine copy with a weak bottom curve to the number 3.



Type S62



Broken 3



Type SR56

Paper used for type II

There are three easily identified types of paper that were only used for the type II stamps; these are the types designated by Wood as AM1, AM2 and AM3.

Type AM1

A very thin brownish paper with a smooth and glossy finish on both the front and back and was only used for the 3 qirsh. The thickness varies in the range 0.0025 - 0.003 inches (0.06 - 0.08 mm).

AM1



Type AM2

A coarse brownish paper which is thicker than AM1 and also not as smooth or glossy and was only used for the 3 qirsh. The thickness is approximately 0.0035 inches (0.09 mm).

AM2



Type AM3

A coarse, brownish, but feeling thicker paper in comparison with AM2 and was only used for the 1 qirsh. The thickness however, is the same as AM2 and is approximately 0.0035 inches (0.09 mm).

AM3



Other papers used for the type II stamps range from white to off-white and are either the same as, or can be confused with, the papers used for the tughra series as described by Wood.

Type II errors and varieties

All of the completely imperforate stamps I have seen are type II. It is probable that many sheets were produced because examples have been found on a variety of paper thickness and either with or without gum. The thickness range is 0.0025 - 0.0035 inches (0.06 - 0.09 mm). Most imperforate examples appear to be in the issued colour of the denomination, but there are exceptions.



1 qirsh imperforate pair



1 qirsh imperforate in issued colour of 100 qirsh



Above: 3 qirsh imperforate pair



Right: 3 qirsh imperforate between stamps



20 qirsh imperforate black print



Above: 100 qirsh imperforate double print

Right: 100 qirsh imperforate incomplete marginal rule



The selection shown on the previous page is just a small part of such items known to exist. A search through auction catalogues will reveal many more and it would be useful if the APAI could produce a catalogue of these mystery stamps.

Status of type II stamps

The status of these stamps can only, in the light of current knowledge, be described as 'uncertain'. It is probably just as easy to put forward facts that support the stamps as being genuine as it is to dismiss them as forgeries. In his study 'The First Airmails' Wood made no mention of the existence of two types of stamp.

Attribute	Comment
Colour	The colours closely match the genuine stamps and it is only the reaction of the reddish purple, normally used for the 100 qirsh, under ultraviolet light that differs from the genuine colour.
Paper	Apart from Wood types AM1, AM2 and AM3, the papers are similar to those used for the tughra series. It is not difficult to create explanations for the use of the three AM types if these type II stamps are genuine. Wood actually offered a theory on why these types were used.
Perforation	All of my normally perforated stamps of both types are line perforated 10.9 according to my Stanley Gibbons Instanta gauge. The fact that there are many imperforates, double prints, colour trials etc. is worrying. These sorts of philatelic niceties have not appeared for other sets printed at the Government Press in Makkah.
Postmarks	The postmarks found on type II stamps appear to be identical to the genuine, although obviously cancelled to order (c.t.o.). The c.t.o. status is not worrying as genuine sheets of the 1949 airmails and of the tughras are also available c.t.o.; an example is shown on the next page.

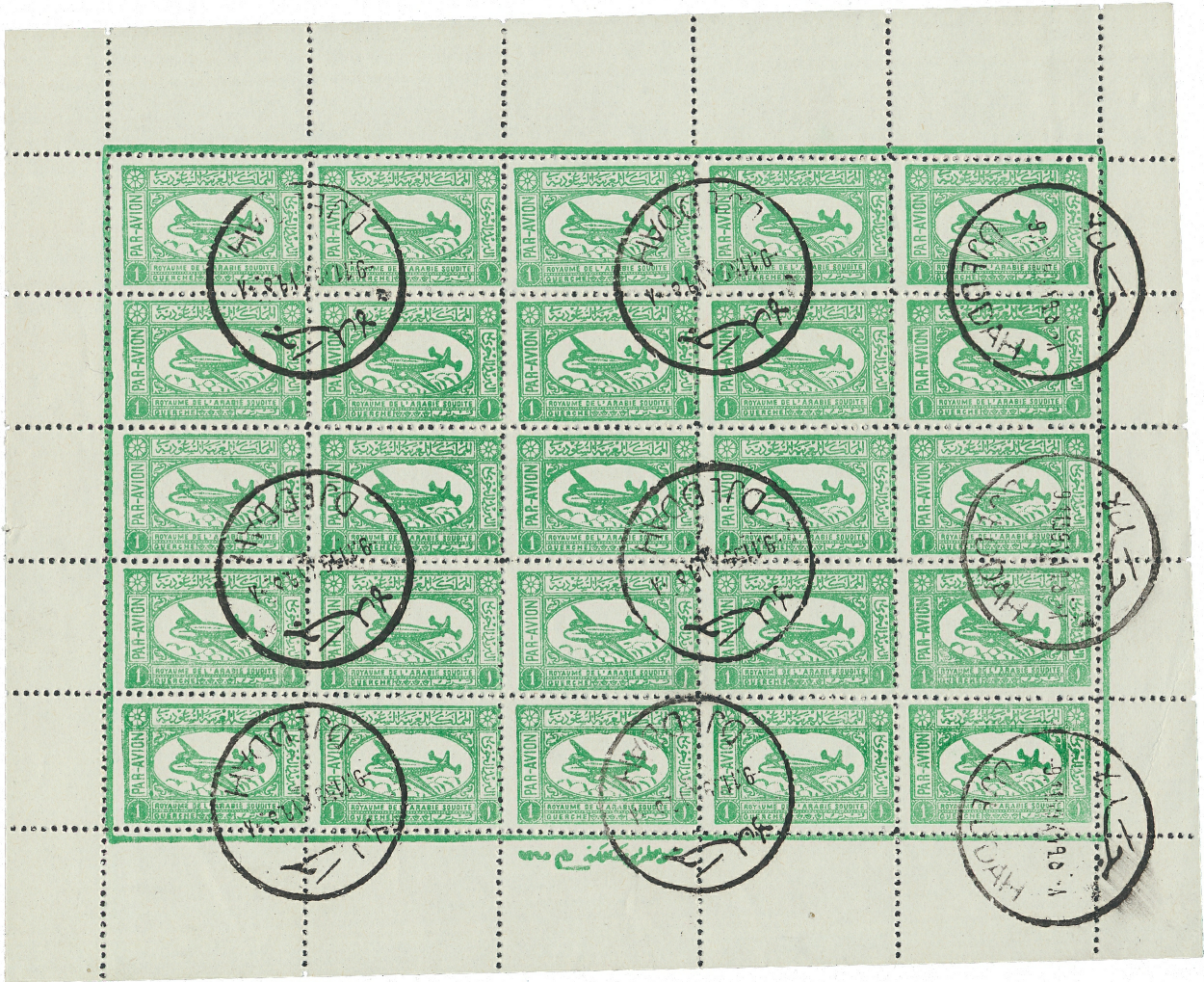
Conclusion

This has been a brief, but detailed in parts, look at the 1949 airmail series. In Stanley Gibbons catalogue just six stamps are listed and in Scott one more. As can be seen in the following article by Thomas Wood, this set of stamps is actually quite complex and with the Type II stamps mentioned in this article, there is a lot more to study. Perhaps someone would like to take on the task, after all they have been given a very good start.

There could be some merit in writing about the 1949 air series in use and possibly to whet your appetite, I show on the next page a 24 January 1960 cover from Al Hassa to Egypt bearing two 1 qirsh air stamps and a ¼ qirsh medical aid tax stamp. Because the date of posting was after the change of currency on 8 January 1960, the 1 qirsh air stamps are actually worth 2 new qirsh, thus the stamps pay the 4 new qirsh rate to Egypt.

There is a lot of philatelic exploring to do!





c.t.o. November 1959 (reduced)



24 January 1960 - Early use in new currency period

The First Airmails

*Some notes extracted from
A Study of Saudi Arabia Stamps 1934 - 1964*

By Thomas P. Wood

The study, completed in 1982, has been the definitive study of the Tughras, Airmails and Medical Aid stamps and is essential reading to complement the other article in this issue relating to the 1949 airmail stamps.

It is hoped that an eBook version of Wood's study will be available for members in 2025.

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EXHIBIT III COLORS



SAUDI ARABIA
THE REGULAR (TUGHRA) STAMPS 1934 - 1960
TYPES OF PAPER

PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION
1	1934	<p>A very thin, smooth, crisp, full-white paper. When lying face down, the stamp design clearly shows through. When held to a light, the paper is clear - no mesh or lines can be seen.</p> <p>All eight denominations of the Tughra set issued in 1934 plus the Heir Apparent series of 1934 were printed on paper type 1.</p> <p>Perfs: 11-½</p>
1A	1935	<p>Same as type 1 except that the paper is cream colored instead of full-white.</p> <p>Perfs; 11-½</p>
2	1935	<p>A thin, smooth, white paper. The printed design of the stamp, similar to Type 1, is visible from the back when lying face down. However, this paper differs from Type 1 in that: (a) when held to a light, a pattern of crossed diagonal lines can readily be seen in the unprinted margin areas of the stamps with small indentations between the diagonal patterns; (b) the paper is white instead of full-white; and (c) the paper is not as crisp as that of Type 1.</p>



PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION
2 (cont)		<p>A ½ qirsh overprinted with a large "T" issued in 1935, a postage due, and the first printing of the 1937 3-qirsh denomination were both printed on type 2 paper perf 11-½. It would appear that a large quantity of type 2 paper was available based on the fact that the first printings of the 100 and 200 qirsh denominations were printed on it, probably in 1942, which is seven years later than when first used.</p> <p>Perfs: 11-½; 10-¾; 11</p>
2A	1938	<p>Same as type 2 except that the paper is cream colored instead of white. When on cover it cannot positively be determined whether the paper is 2 or 2A.</p> <p>Perfs: 11-½; 10-¾; 11</p>
3	1943	<p>A smooth, full-white and opaque paper - the printed design cannot be seen when the stamps are face down. The paper is much thicker in comparison with the previous four types and, except for the color, resembles the gray paper of 1945. Printings on type 3 were very limited based on the relatively small number of used stamps (24) in my collection. Also, based on postmarks, stamps printed on this paper seemed to primarily have been used in Mecca and Medine, although several have an Al Khobar postmark. My earliest postmark is January 1944 so a 1943 usage date is shown as being more representative.</p> <p>Perfs: 11-½; 10-¾; 11</p>



PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION
4	1945	<p>A thick, light-gray paper containing fibers. This paper was also used for printing the Radwa commemoratives in 1945 and for the map stamp of 1946 commemorating the return of Ibn Saud. However, the latter stamp is also printed on paper 5 described next. Type 4 paper was also used for the first printing of the first airmail set in 1949. The gum on type 4 paper is very thick and somewhat difficult to remove. This poor-quality paper and gum probably were purchased during the last year of World War II.</p> <p>Perfs: 11-1/2; 10-3/4; 11</p> <p>It should be mentioned that perforations designated as 11 on Exhibit II for paper types 2 and 3 actually are 10.9, while for paper type 4 both 10.9 and 11.1 were used. On the other hand perforations for paper types 5 through 9, although designated as 11, actually are 11.1. For practical reasons, as well as to conform to general usage, both 10.9 and 11.1 have been shown as 11 on Exhibit II.</p>
5	1947	<p>A thick, dark-gray paper that is noticeably darker in comparison with type 4. This paper contains fibers. It is harder but smoother in texture than type 4. This type 5 sometimes has a brownish or pinkish color. This might be a different or sub-type of paper. The quantities of stamps printed on type 5 appear to be less than those printed on type 4. The map stamp, in addition to being printed on type 4, was also printed on type 5.</p>



PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION
5 (cont)		<p>In addition, there is a second sub-type of 5. This is a very thick paper of which I have four denominations: ½ and 1 qirsh perf 11-½, and 1 and 5 qirsh perf 11. However, these two sub-types of type 5, described above are included with type 5 in this study because only a few copies are in my collection.</p> <p>As a suggestion - in sorting by types 4 and 5 always compare stamps, if possible, of the same denomination.</p> <p>Perfs: 11-½; 10-¾; 11</p>
6	1950	<p>A thin, light cream-colored (or off-white) paper with a smooth silky texture. This paper is ribbed with either narrow vertical or narrow horizontal ridges that can easily be seen when viewed from the back at an angle.</p> <p>Commemoratives printed on type 6 are: Zahir Shah Visit in 1950 and the 50th Lunar Anniversary of the Capture of Riyadh in 1950.</p> <p>My collection includes only six stamps in the Regular issue that are perf 11-½ and type 6 paper. They are all of 10 qirsh value. With this exception, all stamps on type 6 paper for the Regular issue are perf 11 (actually 11.1).</p> <p>Of the 225 stamps on which this study is based (refer to Exhibit II) 81 or 36% have vertical ridges while 144 or 64% have horizontal ridges. Refer also to paper type 9.</p> <p>Perfs: 11-½; 11</p>



PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION
7	1952	<p>A grayish-white paper. It is medium thick (thicker in comparison with type 6). It was used for:</p> <p>One 1951 Commemorative - King Tallal's Visit; Three 1953 Commemoratives - the visits to Saudi Arabia of President Chamoun, Gov.-Gen. Mohammed, and King Hussein; and One 1954 Commemorative - the three value Arab Postal Union set.</p> <p>Perf: 11</p>
8	1955	<p>A thin, soft, full-white paper with a diamond pattern that can be seen from the back when held to a light. This pattern results from indentations between diagonally crossing ridges. The full-whiteness of the paper is a distinctive characteristic. First printings of the 1 qirsh of 1956 and the 2 qirsh of 1957 were on this paper.</p> <p>Perf: 11</p>
9	1957	<p>A coarse, grayish-white paper (generally whiter than that of type 7) of medium thickness (similar to type 7) but with vertical or horizontal ridges easily seen from the back when held at an angle to a light. Also, there is a mottled appearance when looked at with a light in back, as though the paper were watermarked. This paper is much coarser than that of type 6 which also has ridges.</p>



PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION									
9 (Cont'd)	1957	<p>The 2- qirsh stamp of November 1957 was only printed on paper type 9. The last printings of the regular issue (11 denominations) were done on this paper. The 100 and 200 qirsh denominations are not found on this paper. See Exhibit II for details. The quantities printed earlier, on type 5 for the 100 and 200 qirsh stamps, apparently were sufficient to meet demands until replaced in 1960/1961 by the new designs. However, additional printings probably had to be made in 1958 and 1959 on type 9 for 11 values in order to meet continuing needs during these peak years.</p> <p>The relationship of vertical to horizontal ridges for type 9 perf 11 is about the same as for type 6 paper - that is, there are more horizontal than vertical ridged stamps. Based on 221 used stamps out of 228 (7 not included because they are on covers) shows the following:</p> <table data-bbox="890 1276 1294 1451"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="890 1276 995 1312">Vertical</td> <td data-bbox="1114 1276 1150 1312">67</td> <td data-bbox="1225 1276 1283 1312">30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="890 1346 1027 1381">Horizontal</td> <td data-bbox="1098 1346 1150 1381">154</td> <td data-bbox="1225 1346 1283 1381">70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td data-bbox="1082 1402 1150 1451"><u>221</u></td> <td data-bbox="1198 1402 1283 1451"><u>100%</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Vertical	67	30%	Horizontal	154	70%		<u>221</u>	<u>100%</u>
Vertical	67	30%									
Horizontal	154	70%									
	<u>221</u>	<u>100%</u>									

Imperforates Vertical pairs imperforate horizontally are found on this type 9 paper. Denominations included in my collection are the 1/2, 2, 2- and 5 qirsh. Imperforates probably resulted from an ever-increasing demand for these four much needed stamps. This demand in turn resulted in excess usage of perforating machines beyond capacity and with a lack of proper maintenance causing poor quality or non-existent perforations. On the other hand, some stamps are unaccountably (at least to me) well-perforated and with larger holes.



PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION
9 (Cont'd)	1957	Possible explanations are that a new machine may have been put into service in 1959, or that sheets on top of a stack were cleanly perforated whereas those near the bottom were not.
	1958	<p>Perf: 6-½</p> <p>In addition to the 228 used perf 11 stamps, which are the basis for the paper type 9 portion of my study, there are 13 known used copies of 5 qirsh denominations that are perf 6-½.</p> <p>This quantity of 13 is made up of: (a) a strip of three loaned to me by Frank Patterson, III; (b) eight copies shown to me by Art Sundberg during a brief visit to his home in Holland in April 1981; and (c) photocopies sent to me of a pair belonging to R. J. Thoden. Cancellation dates appear to be 1958.</p> <p>In addition, the 4 qirsh airmail on paper type 9 is known to be perf 6-½ The Dammam Port 3p denomination has been reported in perf 6-½. The circumstances surrounding perf 6-½ are not known to me. Postal officials may have authorized a private firm to perforate sheets of stamps during a period when the government machines were either out of order or behind schedule.</p> <p>Perfs: 6-½; 11; partially imperforate.</p>



PART TWO
SAUDI ARABIA
THE FIRST AIRMAIL STAMPS
1949 - 1960
INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

The Saudi Arabian First Airmail series was issued in 1949 and continued in use until about mid-1961, a period of about 12 years. Around the middle of 1960 several values of a new series of regulars and airmails came into use which, when fully issued as a complete set, would eventually replace the Regulars (Tughras) and First Airmail sets. Both of the older sets, however, continued to be accepted indefinitely after January 8, 1960 at the rate of one qirsh being equal to two piasters - the currency in which the new series was denominated.

My previous paper on the First Airmails, prepared in 1972, has now been revised. In addition to this Introduction and Notes, it consists of the following Exhibits:

Exhibit I - Types of Paper

Exhibit II - Papers and Perforations

Exhibit III - Colors by Denomination

This revised study is based on a collection of 727 used stamps plus hand-written back-up data, notes and covers. The main changes in this revision, besides changing to a different presentation format, are in the areas of types of paper and colors.

Notes and comments follow.

1. EXHIBIT I - TYPES OF PAPER

- a. This exhibit describes the characteristics of each type of nine papers on which this First Airmail set was printed, of which I am aware. An approximate first year of usage is also shown for each type. These dates are based on the earliest cancellation in my collection irrespective of denomination and, except for 1949, do not necessarily indicate the year of issue.
- b. Nine types of paper are now described instead of eight which were included in the 1972 study. This is due to the addition of AM3 which, along with AM1 and AM2, apparently was used only for the First Air-mails. There also have been changes in the numbering system - the old 8, 9 and 10 have been changed to 7, 8 and 9 and the former 11 and 12 are now changed to AM1 and AM2.

2. EXHIBIT II - PAPERS AND PERFORATIONS

- a. This exhibit summarizes the actual number of stamps, on which this study was based (727), by denomination by paper type and perforation. It provides statistical information as to which stamps appear to be least common and which are relatively common.
- b. Paper Types - Paper types are fully described in Exhibit I. Type AM3 is new.
- c. Perfs - Perforation 6-½ is new with this study. The existence of a 4 qirsh stamp perf 8 printed on type 9 paper has been brought to my attention. However, because I have not seen it, it has not been included on Exhibit II or on Exhibit III.



- d. Dates - The years shown in each column represent the earliest cancellation date found in my collection for that particular paper irrespective of denomination. These dates do not necessarily equate to the year of issue, except where 1949 is shown.
- e. Denominations - The various denominations of the First Airmail issue are listed down the left side of the exhibit. These are in Saudi qirsh also known as Royal qirsh - eleven of them were equal to one Saudi riyal.

The highest value is the 100 qirsh. In my opinion this denomination is quite scarce in used condition. This opinion is based on: a) Company mail to the U.S. required usage of three to ten 200 qirsh regular stamps, and when occasionally a 100 qirsh stamp was included it seemed invariably to be a regular instead of an airmail; and b) an individual's need for a 100 qirsh stamp was almost non-existent. Only six used stamps of this denomination are in my collection.

Lower denominations of the First Airmails, based on covers in my collection, seemed to have been very popular for usage within Saudi Arabia and to foreign destinations except to the U.S. The reason for airmails not being used too much to the U.S. is that most personal mail required 5-½ qirsh in postage. The tendency was to use two stamps, a ½ and 5 qirsh Tughra instead of a ½ Tughra plus 1 and 4 qirsh airmails.

- f. As to the least common stamps, the following broad assumptions may be made from an examination of Exhibit II:

Least Common Usage

Paper Types	: AM1, AM2, AM3 and 5
Perfs	: 6-½
Denomination	: 100 qirsh on any paper

3. EXHIBIT III - COLORS

This Exhibit includes a revised name for the colors of the several printings of each denomination - revised, that is, in comparison with my 1972 study. That study was based on Scott's names plus my own names for issues not covered by Scott. In an effort to follow a more consistent and standardized system, not only for these airmails, but also for the Tughras and postal tax stamps, I have used the Lipsia Color Guide in identifying colors. For information and comparison purposes both Scott and Mayo color designations are included at the bottom of each denomination grouping on Exhibit III.

4. SHEET LAYOUT

All sheets, with one exception, consist of 25 stamps (5 x 5). The exception, recently brought to my attention, is that the 4 qirsh comes in sheets of 50 stamps - two panes of 5x5 separated by a horizontal gutter.

I have also noticed that the vertical borders of the bottom row of stamps in a sheet (5 x 5) are noticeably shifted to the left in comparison to the horizontal row immediately above the bottom row. I have only been able to verify this on the following:



<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Paper</u>
1 qirsh	7
4 qirsh	7
1 qirsh	8
4 qirsh	8
1 qirsh	9

It is hoped that this revised study will be of value to those who may be interested in this series of airmail stamps. Any comments, suggestions or reporting of additional varieties of papers, perforations and colors would be most welcome.

Thomas P. Wood
December 15, 1981



Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries Part 1 - Postage and Revenue Stamps (2025)

The new forgery manual Part 1 (Stamps) will published in January 2025 and will be available on the APAI website; please download it and have a look. The file is large so the download may take some time for those who have slow internet speeds. The good news is that there is NO COST!

Go to: <http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/forgerymanual.html>

SAUDI ARABIA
THE FIRST AIRMAIL STAMPS

1949 - 1960

TYPES OF PAPER

PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION									
4	1949	The same light gray type 4 as used for the Regular (Tughra) issue. As the first Airmails were issued some 15 years after the Tughra set, it follows that the first five paper types used for the Tughras would not be used for the first Airmails. All six denominations of the Airmails were first printed on paper type 4 - the light gray paper. Perf 11.									
5	1949	The same dark gray type 5 as used for the Tughra issue. Perf 11.									
6	1951	The same thin, light cream-colored (or off-white) paper with a silky texture and narrow ridges, either vertical or horizontal, as used for the Tughra issue. All are perf 11. The 192 used stamps on type 6 paper in the writer's collection, on which this study was based, are split as follows between vertical and horizontal ridges: <table data-bbox="794 1465 1200 1629" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Vertical</td> <td>53</td> <td>28%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Horizontal</td> <td>139</td> <td>72%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td><u>192</u></td> <td><u>100%</u></td> </tr> </table>	Vertical	53	28%	Horizontal	139	72%	Total	<u>192</u>	<u>100%</u>
Vertical	53	28%									
Horizontal	139	72%									
Total	<u>192</u>	<u>100%</u>									

As a comparison, type 6 for the Tughra issue shows 36% vertical and 64% horizontal.



PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION
6 (Cont'd)	1951	<p>Notes:</p> <p>The writer has included two stamps in this group which are on a slightly different paper than the usual type 6. It is noticeably thinner and the ridges are less pronounced. These are two 20 qirsh values perf 11. A carmine-brown color also distinguishes both stamps. See also Exhibit III. The ridges are horizontal.</p> <p>The writer also has a mint imperforate pair of the 100 qirsh value on the normal type 6 paper with horizontal ridges. There is a "Stolow" identification stamp on the back. These stamps are not included in the 192 figure.</p>
7	1953	The same grayish-white paper as used for the Tughra issue. All are perf 11.
8	1955	The same thin, soft, full-white paper with a diamond pattern, when viewed from the back against a bright light source, as was used for the Tughra issue. All are perf 11.
AM1	1955	A very thin brownish paper with a smooth and glossy finish on both the front and back. This information is based on only two used 3 qirsh stamps, perf 11, and each with a 1955 cancellation.
AM2	—	A coarse brownish paper which is thicker than AM1 and also not as smooth or glossy. Information is based on only two used 3 qirsh stamps, perf 11. There are no legible cancellation dates



PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION				
AM3	–	<p>A coarse, brownish, but thicker paper in comparison with AM2. Information is based on only one 1 qirsh stamp, perf 11, with no legible cancellation date.</p> <p>Notes: The above described AM1, AM2 and AM3 papers apparently were only used for the First Airmails. As will be observed from Exhibit II this study is based on only two 3 qirsh stamps for AM1, two 3 qirsh stamps for AM2 and one 1 qirsh stamp for AM3 One of each type was loaned to me by John M. Wilson while the other two belong to the writer. My recollection is that my copies were purchased at a stamp shop in San Francisco prior to 1970. I have a letter from R. H. Courtney in Peoria, Illinois stating that he too has copies of 3 qirsh stamps on AM1 and AM2.</p> <p>My theory on these three types of paper is that since no paper company would supply such inferior paper for use in printing stamps, protective sheets of paper consisting of these three types must have been placed on the top and bottom of each packet of paper in order to protect the normal stamp paper (probably type 8) and the printer merely ran these protective sheets of paper through the printing process.</p>				
9	1957	<p>The same coarse, grayish-white paper, with vertical or horizontal ridges, as was used for the Tughra issue. Mint stamps have a white gum.</p> <p>The 95 used stamps on which this study of type 9 is based, perf 11, are mostly all horizontally ribbed as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="815 1822 1034 1887"> <tr> <td data-bbox="815 1822 919 1850">Vertical</td> <td data-bbox="1007 1822 1034 1850">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="815 1860 954 1887">Horizontal</td> <td data-bbox="999 1860 1034 1887">92</td> </tr> </table>	Vertical	3	Horizontal	92
Vertical	3					
Horizontal	92					



PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION
9	1958	<p><u>Perf 6-½</u> In addition to the perf 11 stamps on type 9 paper there are three 4 qirsh stamps that I am aware of which are perf 6-½: a joined pair owned by R. J. Thoden, and a single on cover in my collection. Although I purchased the cover at auction more than twelve years ago, while still in Saudi Arabia, I only noticed that it was perf 6-½ about a year ago when I was notified as to the existence of this perforation.</p> <p>The cover in my collection appears to be non-philatelic. It is from an individual from Dahomey who was in transit in Djeddah (as stated on the envelope) and is addressed to Morteau, France. The cover is postmarked Djeddah, 1958. Additionally, three of the 5 qirsh regular stamps which are perf 6-½ also show 1958 postmarks.</p>
9	—	<p>Similar to the Tughra issue, these First Airmails on paper type 9 also come partially imperforate. The following are in the writer's collection of used stamps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 qirsh - a vertical pair, partially imperforate horizontally. Some blind perfs can be seen. 3 qirsh - a vertical pair, imperforate horizontally. There are no blind perfs. 4 qirsh - a vertical pair, imperforate horizontally. There are no blind perfs.

Editor's note

The 3 qirsh vertical pair, imperforate horizontally may come from the same source as the pair illustrated on [page 24](#).

The 4 qirsh vertical pair, imperforate horizontally may come from the same source as the pair illustrated on [page 19](#).



EXHIBIT II

SAUDI ARABIA
FIRST AIRMAIL ISSUE 1949 - 1960
PAPERS AND PERFORATIONS

	4	5	6	7	8	AM1	AM2	AM3	9	9
PAPER →										
PERF →	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	6½
DATE →	1949	1949	1951	1953	1955	1955	-	-	1957	1958
<hr/>										
<u>DENOM. IN QIRSH</u>										
1	7	6	77	85	20			1	34	230
3	4	1	21	38	19	2	2		22	109
4	10		33	45	51				24	166
10	8	2	54	38					5	107
20	36	1	5	57					10	109
100	3		2	1						6
<hr/>										
TOTAL USED STAMPS	68	10	192	264	90	2	2	1	95	727

Note: The figures shown above represent the quantities of used stamps in each category on which this study was based

T. P. Wood
December 15, 1981



SAUDI ARABIA
THE FIRST AIRMAIL STAMPS
1949 - 1960
COLOR BY DENOMINATION

Following are listings of colors within denominations for the First Saudi Arabia Airmail stamps issued during the period 1949-1960. The color names are based on the Lipsia Color Guide which was printed in Berlin for Philart Productions Ltd. in London.

Each denomination listing is in paper type sequence which have already been described in Exhibit I. Also, perforations and earliest cancellations are shown for each denomination. These cancellations are based on stamps in my collection.

The Lipsia Color Guide was used in identifying the color names on this First Airmail issue and which was also used for the Tughra and Postal Tax issues. This particular guide was used because it seemed to be the best available for establishing a consistent and standardized approach. For information and comparison purposes the Scott and Mayo color designations have also been included at the bottom of each denomination group listing. It is important that colors be checked or compared under natural light conditions.

It may be noticed that there are three different spellings - Dhahran, Dharan and Dahran. These are not errors in spelling but are the actual postmark names appearing on the stamps.

Information for each denomination follows.



<u>DENOM</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>PAPER</u>	<u>PERF</u>	<u>EARLIEST CANCELLATION</u>
1	Bluish green	4	11	-----
	Bluish green	5	11	-----
	Bluish green	6	11	Djeddah, November 15, 1951
	Bluish green	7	11	Djeddah, August 24, 1953
	Bluish green	8	11	Hassa, October 24, 1955
	Bluish green	9	11	Djeddah, April 1, 1957
	(Light) Bluish green	9	11	-----
	Bluish green	AM3	11	-----
	<u>Scott:</u> Blue green		<u>Mayo:</u>	Green Teal green

3	Cornflower-blue	4	11	Djeddah, August 15, 1949
	Cornflower-blue	5	11	-----
	Cornflower-blue	6	11	Djeddah, January, 1954
	Cornflower-blue	7	11	Airport Dharan, Nov. 22, 1955
	(Light) Cornflower-blue	7	11	Djeddah, 1955
	Cornflower-blue	8	11	Mecque, June 9, 1956
	Cornflower-blue *	9	11	-----
	Cornflower-blue	AM2	11	-----
	Cornflower-blue	AM1	11	1955

* Three distinct shades are noted: Cornflower-blue, blue and grayish blue.

<u>Scott:</u> Ultramarine a. Blue 1958	<u>Mayo:</u> Deep ultramarine Bright ultramarine
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4	Dark orange	4	11	-----
	Dark orange	6	11	Dahran, January 20, 1953
	Dark orange	7	11	Dahran, August 23, 1953
	Dark orange	8	11	Port Dammam, 1955
	Dark orange	9	11	Djeddah, June 2, 1957
	Dark orange (shiny ink)	9	11	-----
	Dark orange	9	6-½	Djeddah, 1958

<u>Scott:</u> Orange	<u>Mayo:</u> Orange Pinkish orange
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<u>DENOM</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>PAPER</u>	<u>PERF</u>	<u>EARLIEST CANCELLATION</u>
10	Dark violet	4	11	Dahran, May 31, 1954
	Dark violet	5	11	-----
	Dark violet	6	11	Mecque, 1955
	Dark violet	7	11	-----, 1955
	Dark violet	9	11	-----, 1960
	<u>Scott</u> : Purple		<u>Mayo</u> :	Violet Grey lilac
<hr/>				
20	Violet-purple *	4	11	Dahran undated
	Blackish lilac **	4	11	-----
	Brownish lilac ***	4	11	Port Dammam, November 13, 1955
	Violet-purple *	5	11	-----
	Carmine-brown (1)	6	11	-----
	Blackish lilac **	6	11	-----
	Brownish lilac ***	6	11	-----
	Blackish lilac **	7	11	Dahran, October, 1953
	Brownish lilac ***	7	11	Port Dammam, 1955
	Dark reddish lilac	9	11	Mint only
<p>* Glossy (or shiny) ink. The color changes slightly after soaking in water ** , Dull ink, not soluble. *** Ink is more soluble than those designated with *. (1) This is on a thinner paper than the usual type 6 paper.</p>				
	<u>Scott</u> : Chocolate a. Brown violet		<u>Mayo</u> :	Lilac brown Brownish purple
<hr/>				

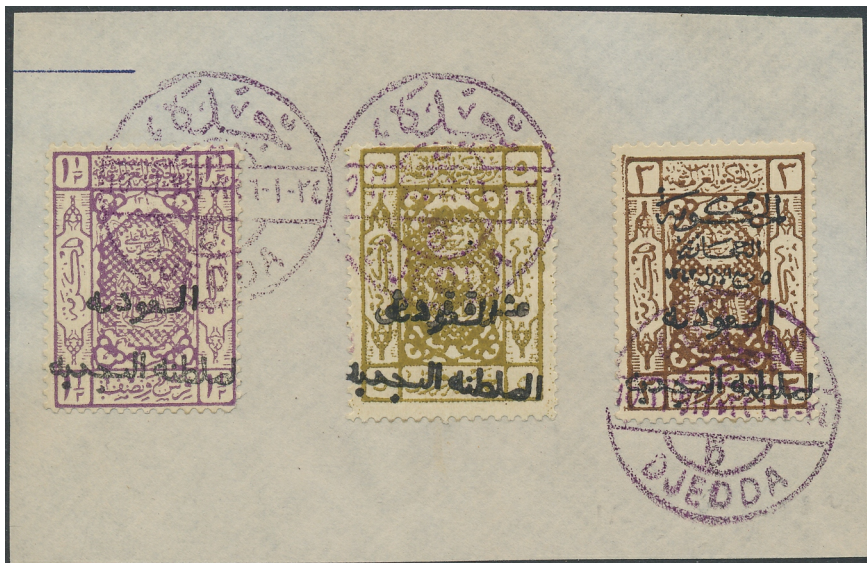


<u>DENOM</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>PAPER</u>	<u>PERF</u>	<u>EARLIEST CANCELLATION</u>
100	Carmine-lilac	4	11	Dhahran, 1953
	Carmine-lilac	6	11	-----, Dec. 31, 1957
	Carmine-lilac	7	11	Djeddah, 1955
	<u>Scott:</u> Violet rose		<u>Mayo:</u>	Magenta pink Pink

RN

Notes continued from [page 9](#)

- If only these were genuine! The Al Saudia overprints are forgeries as is the Jeddah 3-line. The latter is a type 4 forgery which seems to be quite common on these Al Saudia forgeries. I hope to start work on Part 2 of the forgery manual soon, but there is the DGA manual to complete first.



RN

Hejaz : Ottoman Post Offices

Sheet Produced By: Willie A. King FRPSL

This sheet was found in one of the many boxes of documents left by Willie and it is with much gratitude that some APAI members were permitted by Willie's family to investigate what treasures were awaiting discovery.

Probably the first part of an unfinished work, Willie shows some forgeries of Ottoman cancels for Jeddah, Makkah and Medina.

Additional notes supplied by the Editor.

Hejaz : Ottoman Post Offices

Undated Arabic Double Box and Double Ring Cancels
Forgeries?

Jeddah Double Box





Pointers to Forgery.

- 1 Too Good! Source Germany.
- 2 Two dots at lower right
- 3 Left part of Arabic character slim
- 4 In black – easier to forge

Mekkí Mukerrémé Double Ring





Pointers to Forgery.

- 1 Too Good!! Source Germany
- 2 Upper 'w' characters too precise, clean
- 3 'S' Arabic Character abnormal?
- 4 In black – easier to forge

Medina Munawarah Double Ring





Pointers to Forgery.

- 1 Too Good!!! Both from Germany
- 2 Upper dot in centre not at right of word
- 3 Arabic character at right quite different.
- 4 Arabic character in bottom line is open
- 5 Blue is strange shade



Scans of complete cancels ex Uexkull

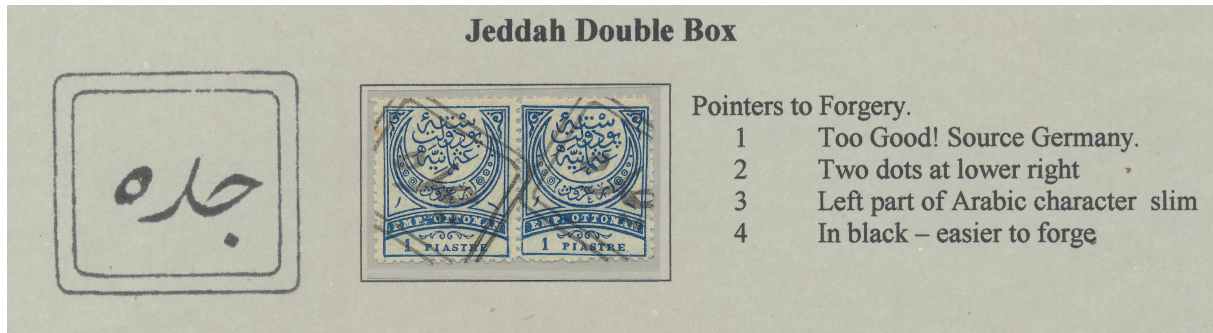
Forgeries of Jeddah, Makkah and Medina (65%)



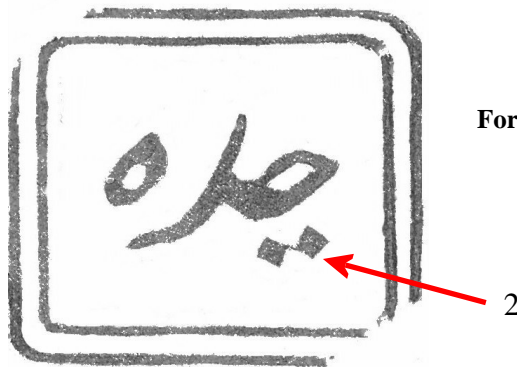
The sheet attributes the illustrations to Uexkull¹, who in turn, states that many of his illustrations were obtained from the PTT proof impressions, but as with most book illustrations they are not perfect and should be used in conjunction with genuine postmarks on stamps.

Jeddah

The forgery shown here is easy to recognize; the Arabic *jeem* has two dots instead of one.



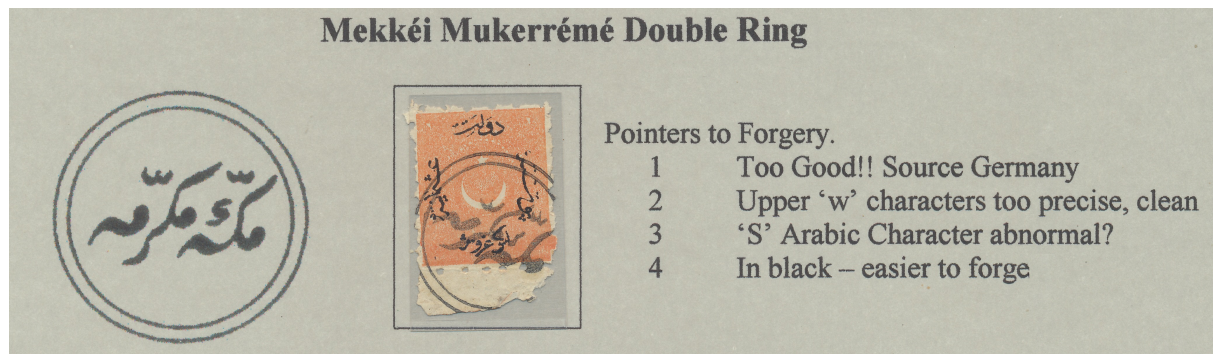
Genuine



Forgery from pair above.
(enlarged)

Makkah

This one is also easy to recognize



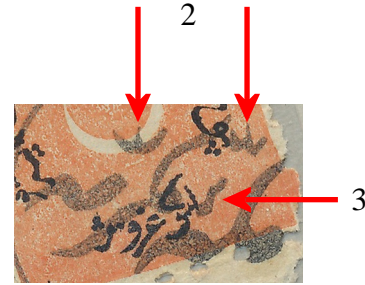


Genuine



Example ex
A ao ullari

Numbers refer to pointers
on previous page.



Compare the example illustrated in A ao ullari² above with that from Uexkull¹ shown on the sheet. In Uexkull¹

the upper 'w' characters (Ar: *shadda*) are level but in the illustration above, the rightmost is much higher. A ao ullari includes images of the postmarks in use and the illustrations in that publication are more reliable. The *shadda* in the forgery are clearly variant and an important identifying feature.

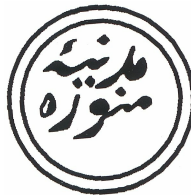
Medina

There are two stamps with possibly the same type of forgery in this section. As with the Makkah illustrations, the A ao ullari² one is the better; the Uexkull¹ Arabic *reh* has an almost constant width but the genuine has a much wider lower part.

Medina Munawarah Double Ring

Pointers to Forgery.

- 1 Too Good!!! Both from Germany
- 2 Upper dot in centre not at right of word
- 3 Arabic character at right quite different.
- 4 Arabic character in bottom line is open
- 5 Blue is strange shade



Example ex
A ao ullari²



Genuine



First two characters of top line
Genuine

The forgery can be identified by its open loop to the Arabic *waw* and the much straighter *dal* in the first two characters of the top line.



Open loop to *waw*



First two characters of top line
Forgery

And finally...

Forgeries of Ottoman postmarks are not limited to those shown here; there are many more. I hope that the subject sheet prepared by Willie will inspire someone to pursue this topic and maybe the work will justify the production of a Volume III to the forgeries manual.

Bibliography

1. The Early Postal History of Saudi Arabia, Jakob von Uexkull, published by Sahara Publications Limited.
2. Illustrated Ottoman-Turkish Postmarks 1840-1929, M. Ziya A. o ullari & M. Bülent Papuçcu o lu, published by Isfila A. . Istanbul 2007, a series of 9 books.

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