

WAK – Ottoman postmark forgeries

1968 Dammam – Jeddah Highway

The missing dots

Stamp Certification

& more

August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Martin Lovegrove

# WAK – Ottoman postmark forgeries

**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

**Mekkeí 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

Willie King prepared many information sheets, many of which led to displays or exhibits.

This sheet was found amongst Willie's collection and there is some merit in looking at this sheet even though it shows only three forgeries. Willie may have prepared a complete display, but only this one was found.


The sheet attributes the illustrations to Uexkull<sup>1</sup>, 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.

1. The Early Postal History of Saudi Arabia, Jakob von Uexkull, published by Sahara Publications Limited.

# WAK – Ottoman postmark forgeries

## Jeddah

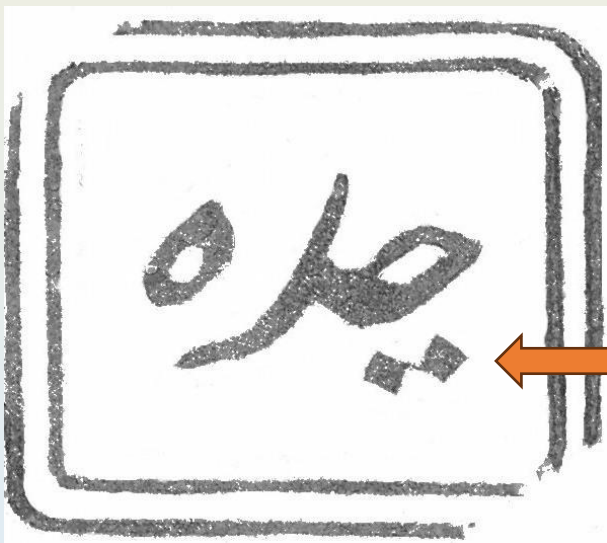
**Jeddah Double Box**



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

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



Left: Forgery from pair above.  
(enlarged)

← 2. Two dots




Right: Genuine (enlarged)

# WAK – Ottoman postmark forgeries

## Makkah

**Mekkéi Mukerrémé Double Ring**



Pointers to Forgery.

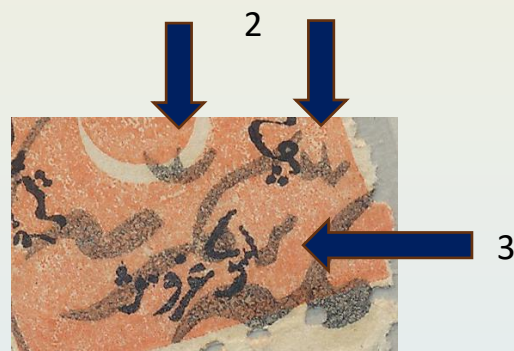
- 1 Too Good!! Source Germany
- 2 Upper 'w' characters too precise, clean
- 3 'S' Arabic Character abnormal?
- 4 In black – easier to forge



Example  
ex Ağaoğullari



Genuine  
(Enlarged)



Numbers refer to  
pointers shown above



Compare the example illustrated in Ağaoğullari<sup>2</sup> above with that from Uexkull<sup>1</sup> shown on the sheet. In Uexkull the upper 'w' characters (Ar: *shadda*) are level but in the illustration above, the rightmost is much higher. Ağaoğullari 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.

2. Illustrated Ottoman-Turkish Postmarks 1840-1929, M. Ziya Ağaoğullari & M. Bülent Papuçcuoğlu, published by Isfila A.Ş. Istanbul 2007, a series of 9 books.

# WAK – Ottoman postmark forgeries


## Medina

**Medina Munawarah Double Ring**

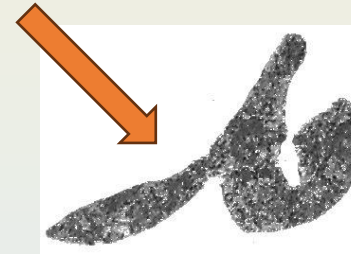


Pointers to Forgery.

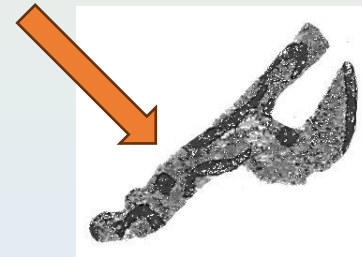
- 1 Too Good!!! Both from Germany
- 2 Upper dot in centre not at right of word
- 3 Arabic character at right quite different.
- 4 Arabic character in bottom line is open
- 5 Blue is strange shade



Example  
ex Ağaoğullari



3. The Arabic *dal* is much straighter in the forgery



Genuine  
(Enlarged)



4. Open loop to Arabic *waw*  
(Enlarged)



## Expert Certificates



The stamp is a Hejaz ¼ qirsh with a three-line overprint, sideways reading up. This stamp normally had an overprint 14 mm wide, but this measures 16 mm. It is rare (only one sheet of 50 was overprinted).

We need a certificate!

# Expert Certificates



No. P.45,267




B. P. A. Expertising  
London - England  
EXPERT COMMITTEE

28-3-1996

The Committee is of the opinion that the

SAUDI ARABIA - Hejaz : 1925 1/4pi green,  
no Wmk. 319-399. overprinted 13, 1917  
optd Type 16 inverted in red, is  
a bogus issue. P.E

Neither the Company nor the members of the Expert Committee can accept  
any liability, either collective or individual, for any opinion expressed



This certificate issued in 1996 states that the stamp is bogus, probably because at that time the stamp was only listed in catalogues with a 14 mm overprint. It should not be difficult for a true expert to plate the 16 mm overprint to position 17.

The 'experts' at the British Philatelic Association may have significant expertise in many countries, but Saudi Arabia is obviously not one of them.

# Expert Certificates



## Arabian Philatelic Association



Certificate : 21107  
Date : 29 December 2001

The item, reproduced below, has been examined and we are of the opinion that it meets the standards of genuineness as required by the Arabian Philatelic Association.

Catalogue Number : Saudi Arabia SG 94a var Scott L81

**Description** : Large Red Three Line overprint reading **Up** on the ¼ piastre green of the first issue. The overprint corresponds to that identified as position 17 when overprinted on the Arms issue. Hinged. \*\*\*\*\*



For the Arabian Philatelic Association

R. J. Thoden

W. A. King

Willie King to the rescue!



# Expert Certificates



*Sergio Sismondo*

Philatelic Expert  
Syracuse, New York & Ottawa, Canada

Syracuse, New York, 2001.02.04.

**HEJAZ, 1921.**

I have examined the Postage Stamp issued by the Kingdom of the Hejaz in December of 1921, “**Egyptian Artwork**” 10 paras lilac-brown, serrate rouletted 13, on white wove paper without watermark, overprinted in black “**The Government of Hashemite Arabia, 1340**” unframed, and further surcharged “**1 Querche**”, Scott #L23, Stanley Gibbons #30, Mayo #34, unused, a reproduction of which, magnified to 125% of true size is below, and am of the opinion that:

The stamp, overprint, and surcharge are **genuine in all respects**, with original gum. I have signed it.

Sergio Sismondo.



AMERICAN PHILATELIC CONGRESS • AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY • AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR POLAR PHILATELISTS • AMERICAN STAMP DEALERS ASSOCIATION • AUSTRALIAN STATES STUDY CIRCLE • BRAZIL PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION • BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP • BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY • CANADIAN STAMP DEALERS ASSOCIATION • CEYLON STUDY CIRCLE OF G. B. • C. S. FRANCAISE DES NEGOCIANTS ET EXPERTS EN PHILATÉLIE • CHINA STAMP SOCIETY • COLLECTORS CLUB OF NEW YORK • COPAPHIL • FEDERAZIONE NAZIONALE COMMERCianti FILATELICI ITALIANI • FRANCE AND COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY • HELLENIC PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA • HONG KONG PHILATELIC SOCIETY • INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE PHILATELY • INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PORTUGUESE PHILATELY • IRAN PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE • ITALY AND COLONIES STUDY CIRCLE • LIBERIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY • MOROCCO & TUNISIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY • PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA • PHILATELIC TRADERS SOCIETY • POLAR POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN • ROSSICA • ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA • ST. HELENA, ASCENSION AND TRISTAN DA CUNHA PHILATELIC SOCIETY • SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB • SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIAN SPECIALISTS • SOCIETY FOR THAI PHILATELY • TURKISH AND OTTOMAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY • UNIONE FILATELICA LOMBARDA • U.S. PHILATELIC CLASSICS SOCIETY • WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE • WESTERN AUSTRALIA STUDY GROUP

Beware of ‘experts’ who certify all countries. This stamp received a certificate because an image of a genuine overprint was a perfect match when overlaid on the subject stamp.

That may be a useful guide but what about forgeries created from photographs of genuine stamps?

Most Hejaz overprints require plating against genuine sheets. (The ‘illegibles’ are virtually impossible to plate)

# Expert Certificates

Should the APAI issue certificates?

The stamp needs to be seen by the appropriate 'expert'. That usually involves posting the item and even items sent by FedEx and similar companies can get lost.

The replacement value needs to be agreed with the owner before the item is posted.

How costly will the insurance be?

Perhaps a practical solution would be to issue opinions based on scanned images, but it needs to be made clear that certain defects and printing techniques cannot be detected using that method.

Remember that, at best, certificates are only opinions based on the knowledge current at the time of issue.

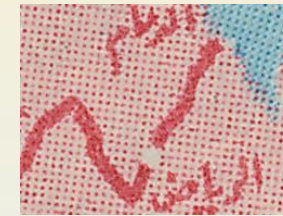
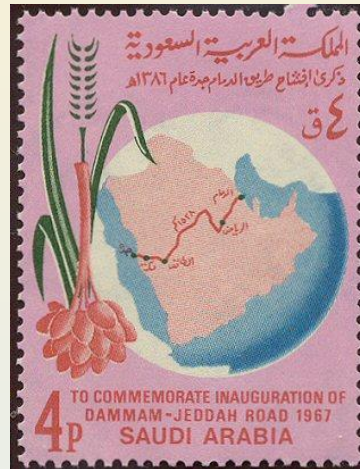
# 1968 Jeddah to Dammam Highway – The Missing Dots

Normal

Missing dots



Green dots



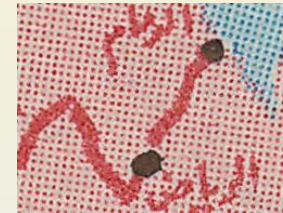
Set of 5 stamps: 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p & 10p.

The design has dots on the road representing Jeddah, Makkah, Taif, Riyadh & Dammam.

The dots were printed in green, the same colour as the leaf. On some sheet positions, the dots for Riyadh and Dammam were omitted.

# Jeddah to Dammam Highway – The Missing Dots

Dots inserted by hand



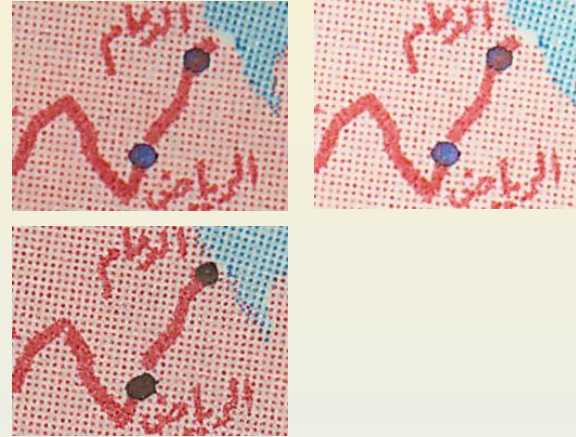
Black dots

On some stamps the missing dots were inserted by hand in black using, according to Stanley Gibbons, a ball-point pen. I tried that method using a damaged Saudi stamp and was not very successful; I usually left dents in the paper and the dots were not very circular.

# Jeddah to Dammam Highway – The Missing Dots



Blue dots



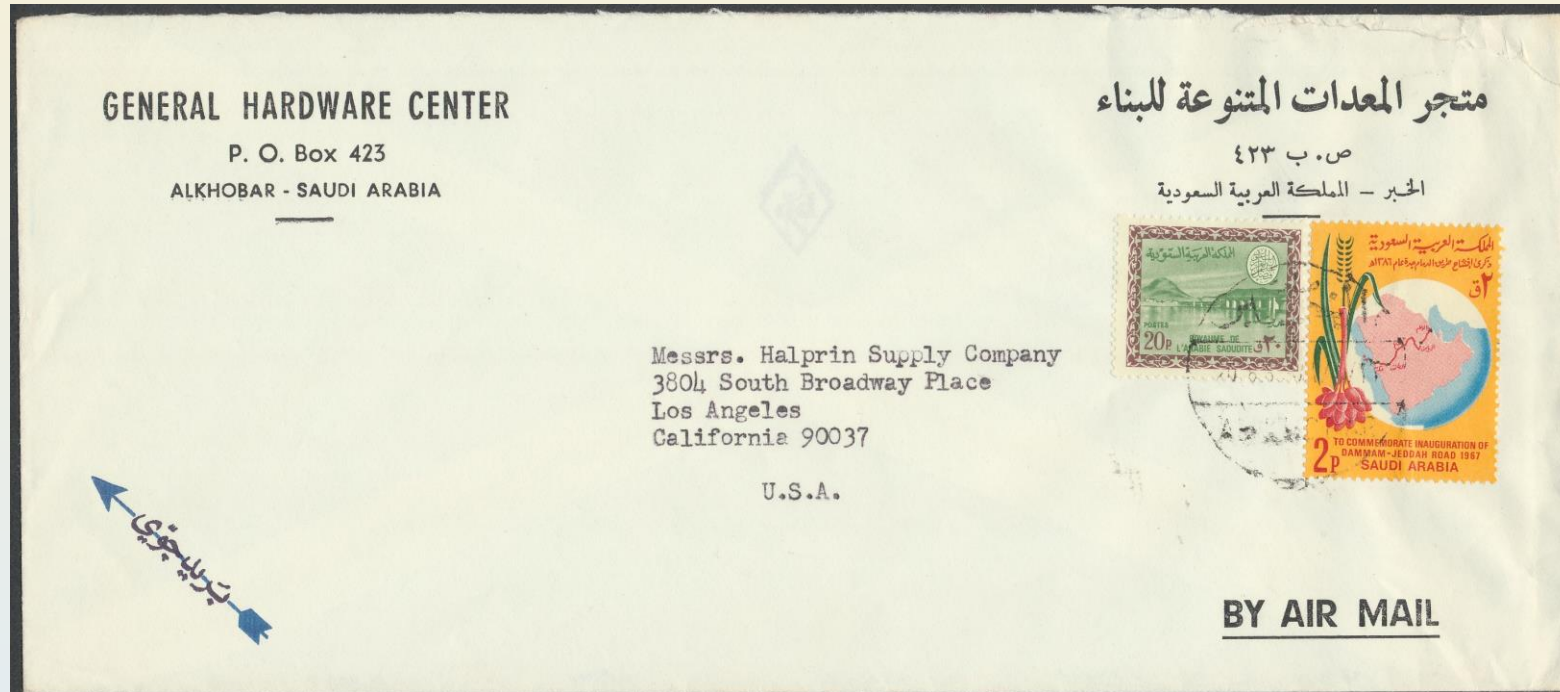
Lightened to show blue colour

Black dots

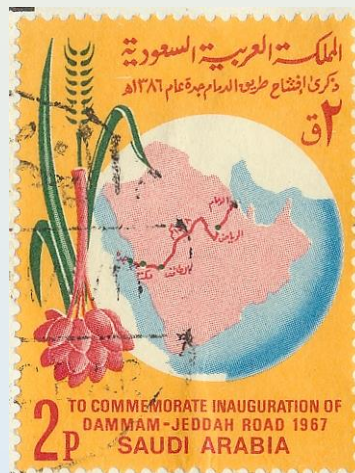
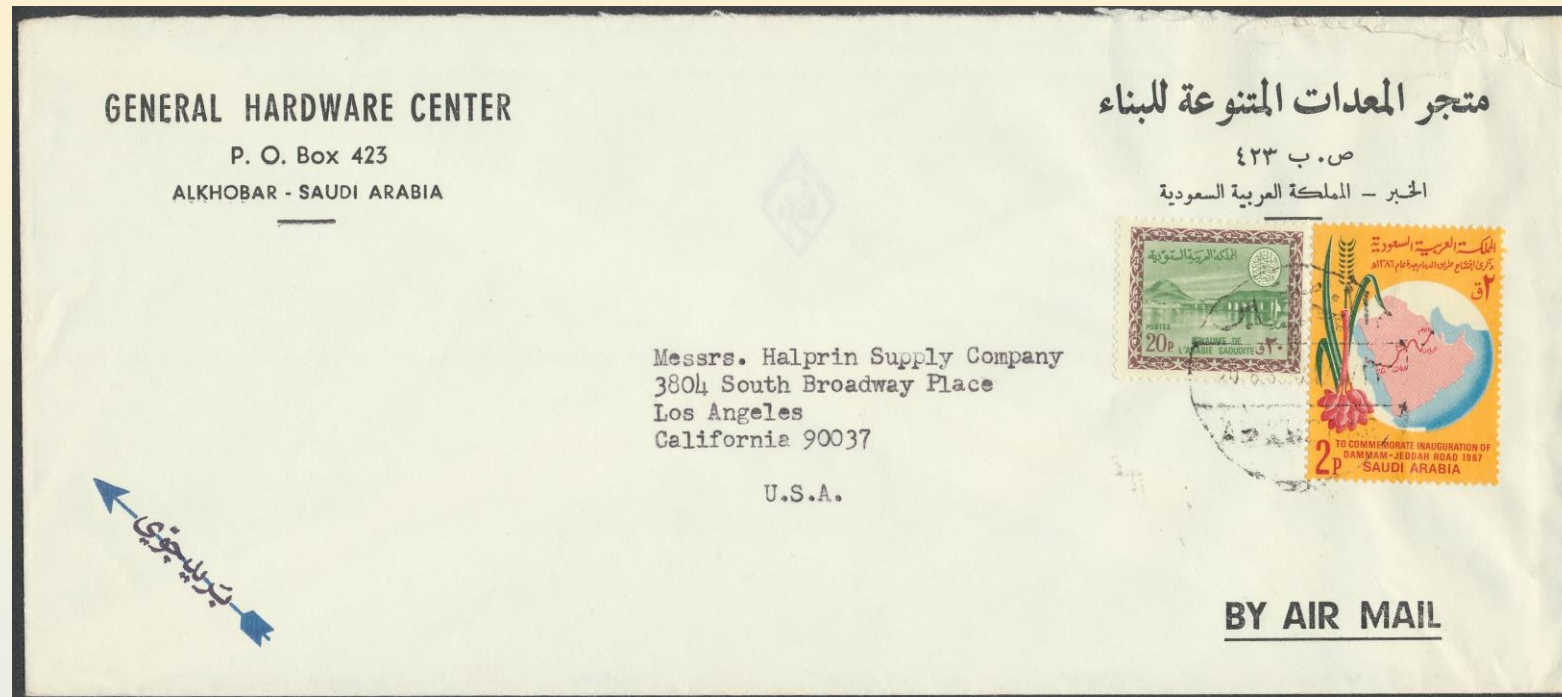
Some dots have been seen in blue and the shape is a much better circle than the black dots.

# Jeddah to Dammam Highway – The Missing Dots

An ordinary cover?



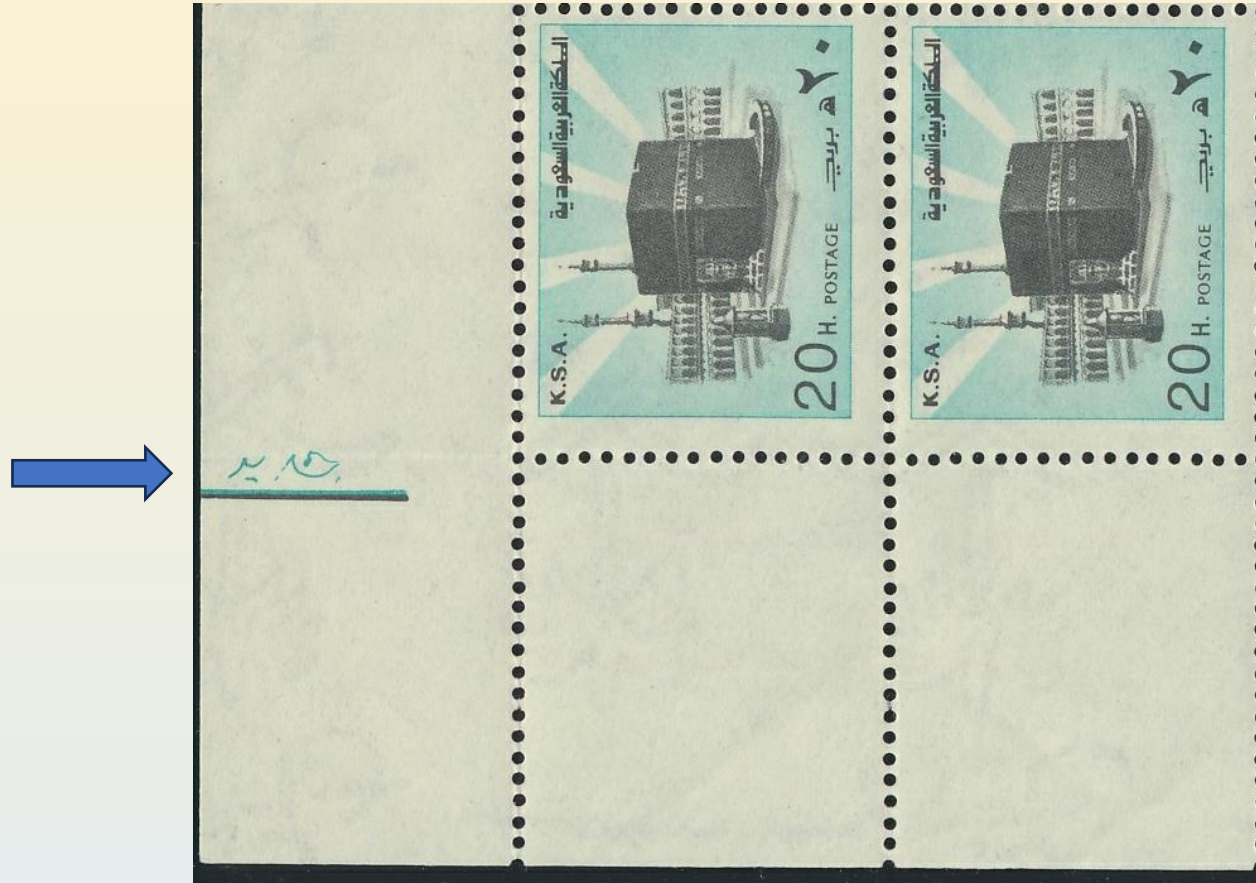
# Jeddah to Dammam Highway – The Missing Dots



Riyadh has green dot,  
Dammam black!

- The remaining questions are, *inter alia*:
- ‘Which plate positions had the missing dots?’
  - ‘Which dotes were missing’
  - ‘Were all five values affected?’
  - ‘Did blue dots appear on values other than 4p?’

# Marginal Marking



What is the meaning of the Arabic?  
Does it mean 'new'? Why?



This 'Show & Tell' will be published on the APAI website. If answers to members' questions are received, they will be added to the relevant page

The website URL is shown on page 2 of Random Notes