



THE *Arab World* PHILATELIST



THE Arab World PHILATELIST

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R. HOWARD COURTNEY
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FRONT COVER - Essay for AuDhali (Yemen ?) and Fujaira. Printed by the same group that printed the first Dubai issues.



EDITORIAL



I am frequently asked by new collectors, or by older collectors who want to start a new area, what I would recommend they collect. My immediate response is to inquire as to their intentions. Are they interested in specific countries, a specific area, covers, stamps, essays, postal stationery, research, etc. When I collect, I collect everything I can locate relating to their postal history - including revenues.

We have a tremendous advantage over most other collectors because so much of what is available has never been documented by research nor listed in catalogs. This can be confusing to a new collector who perhaps wants and needs the research material available before starting. For the more experienced collector this can be a blessing. As I have repeatedly stated, once a catalog is written (assuming it is readily available) more people begin to collect the area.

Consequently, with a greater demand for the material dealers begin to handle it and prices go up.

Very few dealers know much about our area, other than the classic material that appears on a regular basis in the major auction houses. Let me guarantee you that there are collectors for each country who have been collecting for years. Often they do not know each other, do not have the same sources, do not fully understand what it is they have always purchased, and desperately want to communicate with others with similar interests.

My collecting interests certainly fall within this discussion. Primarily, I collect the postal history and stamps of Dubai. Since I am a chronic list maker, I hope to publish a catalog on my research. Dealers laugh at me when I go from table to table at the shows asking if they have any Dubai material. Because they believe all the stamps were CTO'd (cancelled to order) and only made for topical collectors, I have been able to accumulate a very respectable collection of genuine postally used material at a very reasonable price. I will eventually share the twenty-some genuine postal markings I've discovered to date - along with the variety of CTO markings that differ from the former. The major catalogs do not correctly list the stamps of the country as well. Eventually I will pull it all together and publish it for those other "silent" Dubai collectors out there. How many of you have ever seen the wide variety of attractive Dubai postal stationery issued by the country? Do most of you know that there has been a post office in Dubai since 1909?

No matter how new a collector you are to the Arab World you can contribute a great deal to our knowledge by sharing your findings with us in this and other journals.



YEMEN'S WARTIME POSTAL STATIONERY—II

by Bruce Condé



Fig. 1

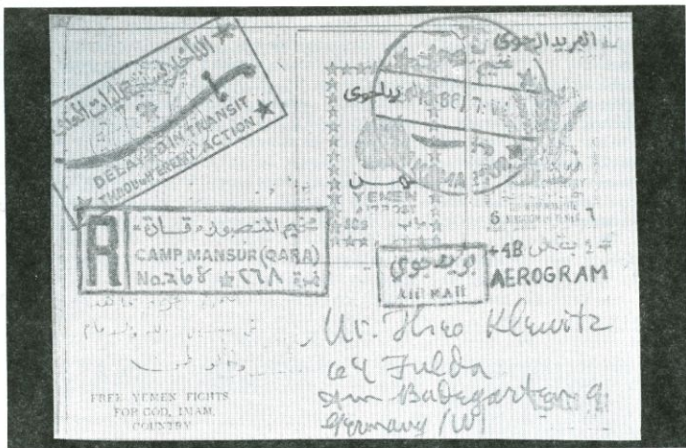
Royalist Yemen's handmade provisional aerogram of 8 November, 1964 (described and illustrated on pp. 22-23 in the Premiere Issue of this journal) was not popular with postal clerks. It was too laborious to make up and not of a convenient size, being a full 50 mm longer than normal Yemen aerograms. Also, it did not hold up well in transit.

The less-than-300 copies had practically been used up by the beginning of 1965, and post office employees breathed a sigh of relief when approximately 1,000 made-up formula aerograms, requiring only the affixing of a 10b stamp, arrived. There was no recorded FD of issue. Sometime in January, the jubilant clerks simply began affixing stamps to batches of 100 at a time and selling them over the counter without additional charge.

Measuring $12\frac{1}{2} \times 9$ cm when folded, these blue-paper aerograms were imprinted in black with a very crude and primitive rendering of the Royal Arms of Yemen (upper left) and the following bilingual (Arabic and English) inscriptions: "FREE YEMEN FIGHTS FOR GOD, IMAM AND COUNTRY" (lower left) and "AEROGARAME--AIR MAIL" (upper right center). Thin black guide lines for folding outlined both front and back of the covers. Outside the left guide line (on the left side back flap) in English only: "First Fold", and, on opposite side "Second Fold". When folded, the back carried three imprinted lines for sender's address, above which were the instructions: "SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS" and "No Enclosure Permitted". The flaps measured $7\frac{1}{2}$ cm in width and the gummed top flap for sealing, folded down 22 mm, with diagonally cut ends.

The copy illustrated (Fig. 1) represents a late use (9 November, 1965) cover, franked with a 10b "British Yemen Relief Committee--1963-1965" commemorative overprint. Although cancelled "Camp Mansur" these covers were not issued at G.P.O., Qara, the Imam's habitual G.H.Q., but at a temporary headquarters in adh-Dhahr near the Saudi border. "Camp Mansur" was wherever the King was, and the cancel travelled with him. It was the only "floating" P.O. in Yemen, all others being fixed locations. Camp Mansur derived its name from the King's reign title: "al-Imam al-Mansur Billah", rather than from a geographical entity.

Fig. 2



A new problem arose later the same year when Royal GHQ was moved from adh-Dhahr back to Shida on the western slopes of Jebel Razih mountain, closer to Qara. Some of the royal baggage was caught in flash-floods and much of G.H.Q.'s stamp stock was ruined en-route, including virtually all of the few remaining 10b adhesives, which covered the combined rate for inland postage (4b) and registry (6b).

There was nothing to do but resurrect the crude "+4 B AEROGRAM" overprint-surcharge which had been used on the 6b letter-sheet remainders of the Old Kingdom and on the 8 November, 1964 provisional aérogram, again with a 6b blue FAO adhesive. One of these (Fig. 2) survived to be used with a 10b additional airport provisional handstamped adhesive as a registered cover to Germany later in 1966. This cover, in

LEFT: Fig. 3
BELOW: Fig. 4



the collection of the dean of Yemen specialists Mr. Theo Klewitz of Fulda, is believed by the writer to be the only one existing today. The writer's copy was lost in a Bedouin sacking of Qara in 1969. The 10b zinc airmail handstamp used to imprint the ("Tesa" self-adhesive plaque) adhesive on Mr. Klewitz' cover had been manufactured in 1965 by the Dar al-Asfahani Press in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and was currently (in 1966) being used to make up stamped envelopes in various colors. One such envelope with violet imprint and an additional 4b adhesive for overweight was sent by the writer on 12 January, 1966 with gift stamps for his stamp collecting godsons in Beirut, is shown as Fig. 3. It is on a Ministry envelope, as the violet was generally used to indicate official use. Use of stamped envelopes was also more popular with the tribesmen than aerograms, as they could enclose two or more letters in a single cover. The popularity of the 10b handstamp brought it to the attention of the chief postal clerk who approached the writer with the following suggestion:

"Sir, why not apply it to the formula aerograms? We are going to run out of 6b stamps soon anyway (it was the airmail rate to all Arab countries as well as the inland registry rate), and it's less trouble than making up the old-type franking."

Accepted! And so was born the 10b provisional aerogram (Fig. 4) on 21 January, 1966. Although the illustrated copy was stamped in violet, others were in black, blue or green, experimentally. Alas, this FDC used to Beirut, is also a unique piece, found there in 1977 after all other copies known to the writer had been destroyed. The issue of less than 500 of these aerograms were only used for a very short time, as word had been received by radiotelephone that same day that 10,000 of the long-overdue Harrison definitive aerograms had arrived from London and that the Yemen Legation in Jeddah had started a sample lot of 500 on its way to Shida. Barring attacks by Egyptian Migs, or the mail truck being blown up by a land mine en-route, this stock was supposed to arrive in about three days' time.

And so it was! January 24th, 1966 found the first batch of Yemen's most attractive postal stationery item, the 10b Harrison-printed definitive aerogram portraying the Imam in battle dress, in the hands of G.P.O., Shida. There had been no time for a FD cachet, so a stand-by one inscribed simply "First Day of Issue--Qara" and "Royal GHQ", with the crown and flag superimposed, was pressed into use and applied in green ink to each of the approximately 100 covers mailed that day (Fig. 5). Only the geographical name (Qara) was technically incorrect. Unlike "Camp Mansur", Qara was not a movable entity and was supposed to have remained the Imam's permanent GHQ



Fig. 5

all during the war, however, he had been driven out in 1964 by an Egyptian offensive designed to cut his supply route to Saudi Arabia, and he had only thwarted the attempt from Shida.

By June, 1966 the Egyptians had been pushed back far enough to permit reestablishing GHQ in Qara where Camp al-Mansur remained until the 1968 campaign when the Imam moved it forward (southward) to al-Mahabeshah in his drive toward the fortress of Hajjah.

The Harrison definitive was Royalist Yemen's last aerogram and remained in use until 1972, surviving the closing of the Saudi postal link with the outside world in 1970, and getting the "8b supplementary desert route fee" overprint during the period of Free Yemen's mail going out through the Rub' al-Khali desert to Trucial Oman.

In the spring of 1968 at al-Mahabeshah, the kingdom's last issue of postal stationery, a set of three postal cards, appeared. These will be dealt with in a final article on wartime Yemen's postal stationery issue - Inshallah.

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Saudi Anti-malaria Overprints

by Abdul Aziz Said

In the Premiere Issue of this journal, the editor wrote an interesting illustrated article on the Saudi Anti-malaria overprints. It was mentioned that these stamps were not available in Saudi post offices until about 7-10 June 1962, and on 3 June, 1962, the Islamic year had changed from 1381 to 1382.

I have in my collection of souvenir envelopes commemorating the Hajj Pilgrimage and stop on Mount Arafat, an envelope which bears the Anti-malaria set and is inscribed "Special Issue, Arafat, Commemoration of Pilgrimage 1381 - 1962," (note that the 3p value was removed and replaced by another stamp). These stamps were cancelled by a souvenir double ring cancellation inscribed "Arafat Post, 13 May 1962," which corresponds to 9 Dhu al-Hijja 1381. This means that the stamps were distributed to at least this post office a few days before this date - three weeks before the passing of the Islamic year 1381. Therefore, there was no need to overprint the stamps with the new year 1382. On the other hand, there was no need for the airmail overprint because in 1961 an airmail issue was released and was readily available in all post offices. It is also common practice in Saudi Arabia to use airmail stamps on surface mail and vice versa.

If you refer to the F.D.C's on page 15 of the original article, you will see that the envelopes are printed only in English, while the F.D.C's issued by the Ministry of P.T.T., for any occasion, are printed in Arabic and English, or in Arabic alone.

It was mentioned in the article that the overprinted stamps began to appear in August 1962, while the illustrated F.D.C's were cancelled in Riyadh with a special cancellation of May 7, 1962, the correct date of issue. This means that the date of the cancellation was three months before the date of issue of the overprints. This is proof that the overprinted stamps and corresponding F.D.C.'s are bogus.*

The Ministry of P.T.T. did not issue special envelopes for this particular issue. Those who were interested had to stick the stamps on ordinary covers and have them cancelled. The accompanying F.D.C. was privately made and cancelled with the first day cancellation.

*Since the publication of the original article the editor has received information that a Middle Eastern stamp dealer and an official in the Saudi government were responsible for the fraudulent overprints. The names were withheld over the years for political reasons and the safety of one person who travelled in the area. It seems likely that these persons had access to the original cancelers or had copies made in view of the F.D.C's that bear the fraudulent overprints, but the correct date of issue of the stamps. Perhaps the next issue of the journal will have more information on the subject, along with the names of the individuals responsible for the overprints.

TOP: Cancelled 7 May 1962

BOTTOM: Arafat Cancellation, 3p stamp replaced

Inset has bogus overprints

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Commemorative Postage Stamp

المملكة العربية السعودية

طابع البريد التذكري

٣ / ١٤ / ١٣٨١ هـ الموافق ١٩٦٢ / ٥ / ٧ م 7 MAY 1962



First Day of Issue

ختم أول يوم

اصدااء خاص

SPECIAL ISSUE

المملكة العربية السعودية

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

عرفات

ذكري حج عام ١٣٨١ هـ - ١٩٦٢ م

Commemoration of Pilgrimage 1381 - 1962



DESIGN DEVELOPMENT AND THE GORDON MEMORIAL ISSUE

BY P. A. S. SMITH



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

These notes are concerned with lot #715 of the Danson/De La Rue auction sale (Robson Lowe Ltd., April 28-29th 1977), and the Sudan Gordon Memorial Issue of 1935.

The Gordon Memorial Issue was placed on sale on January 1st 1935 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the death of General Gordon by the Dervish at Khartoum on January 26th 1885, and removed from sale on March 31, 1935.

The designs are of three sizes. The first, 26 x 28.5mm, was taken from a photograph of a portrait of Gordon painted by Miss C. Ouleis in 1911 (Fig. 1). The second, 40.5 x 32mm, is from a photograph of the Gordon Memorial College in Khartoum which was opened by Lord Kitchner on November 8, 1920 (Fig. 2). The third design, 47.5 x 32mm, is taken from a painting of the "Memorial Service" held at Khartoum on September 4, 1898, by R. Caton Woodville (Fig. 3).

Thomas De La Rue and Co. printed the three designs in sheets of 50 on multiple "S.G." watermarked paper.

The unsold balance of stamps were demonitized on November 15, 1935. The following are the official figures on the quantities printed and sold:

DENOMINATION	PRINTED	SOLD	SIZE
5 milliemes	949,000	821,095	26 x 28.5 mm
10 milliemes	125,000	78,678	
13 milliemes	71,500	25,210	
15 milliemes	126,500	70,656	
2 piastres	110,000	55,829	40.5 x 32 mm
5 piastres	77,500	21,087	
10 piastres	21,500	13,821	
20 piastres	16,500	7,225	47.5 x 32 mm
50 piastres	16,000	5,501	

The Danson/De La Rue auction sale gave the following description for lot #715:

Enlarged Indian ink from designs for the 5m (2), 10m., 13m., 15., 2 pi., 10 pi., 20 pi., and 50 pi. (2) on three large pieces of waxed linen paper, with various manuscript printing instructions, a corner piece of perforated but unprinted board giving high value size, an enlarged blueprint of the Arabic numerals and a piece of paper with various printing instructions, some faults.

The drawings are essentially like the issued stamps, except that, following the manuscript instructions, the Arabic name of the country was changed from "SUDAN" to "AL-SUDAN" (figs. 4-6). The piece of perforated "board" (Fig. 7), is actually only thick paper, and is yellowish; it appears to be comb-perforated, in gauge 13.5 x 14, as used on the issued stamps. The blueprint of numerals is large

and shows both Western and Arabic numerals, the latter 30mm high. There is no specific connection between this item and the Gordon Memorial series although the style of the numerals is the same (Fig. 8).

The last item is actually a piece of stationery with imprint of SUDAN GOVERNMENT OFFICE. On both front and back are written instructions about the Arabic inscriptions to be used. Some of it is in ink, and other parts in pencil. The pencil notations are instructions about the proper form of the Arabic word "qirsh" to be used for the respective denominations.

The foregoing notes are primarily to put these interesting items on record. They are not really essays, but working states in the development of the design. I prefer to think of them as "pre-essays", since they are so far from complete. I do not believe they were ever in Col. Danson's collection, but rather came directly from the De La Rue record books.

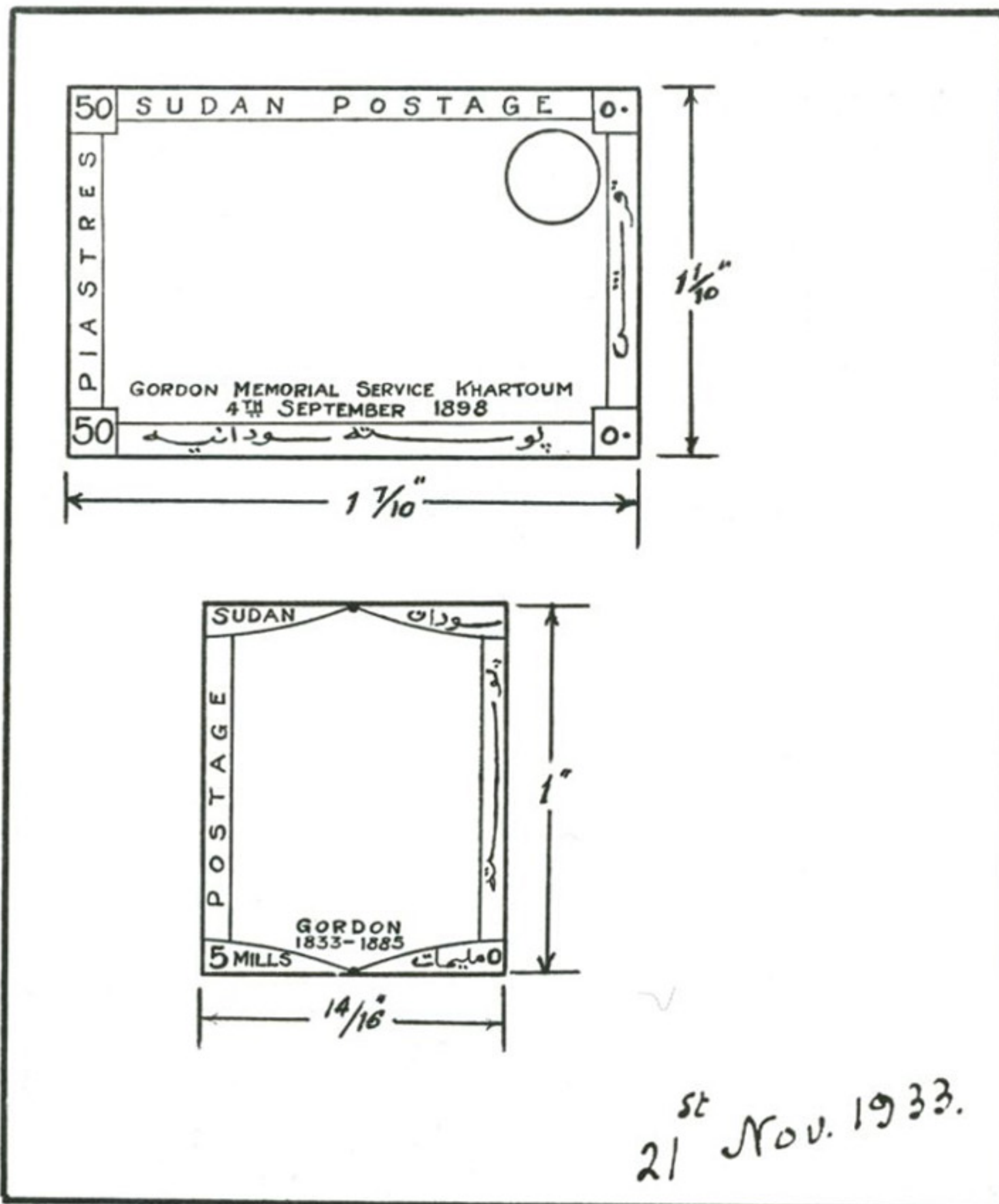
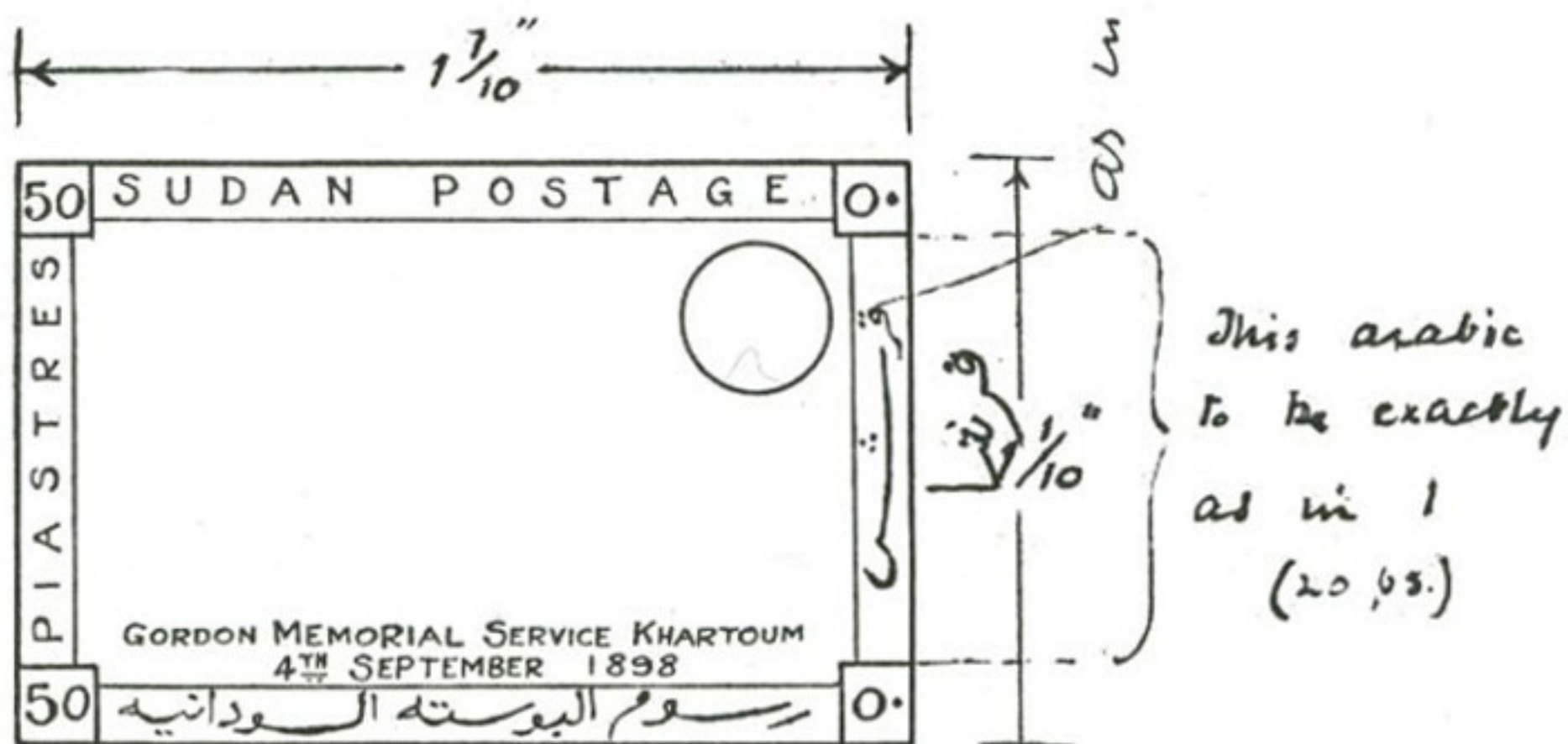
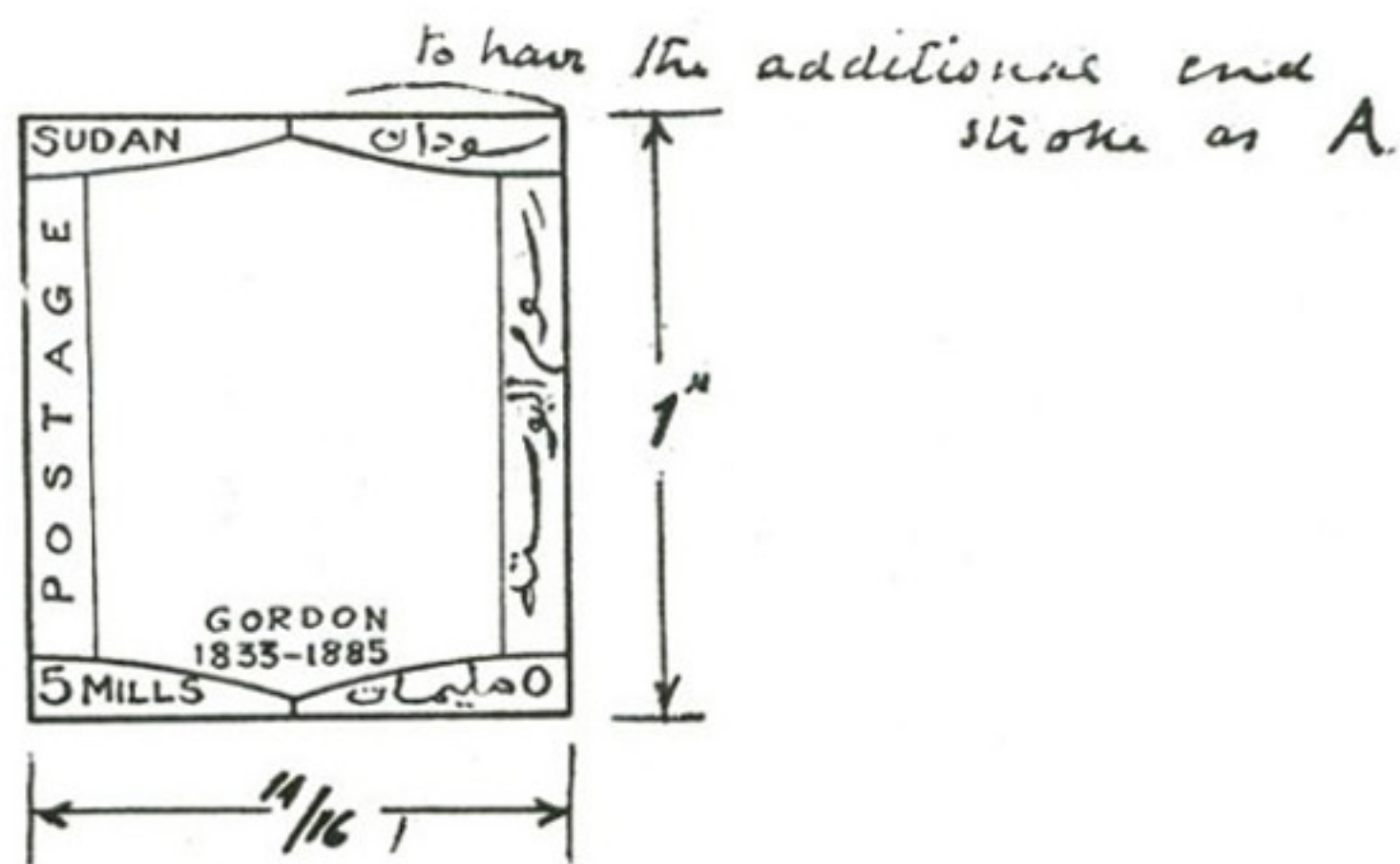


Fig. 4

9



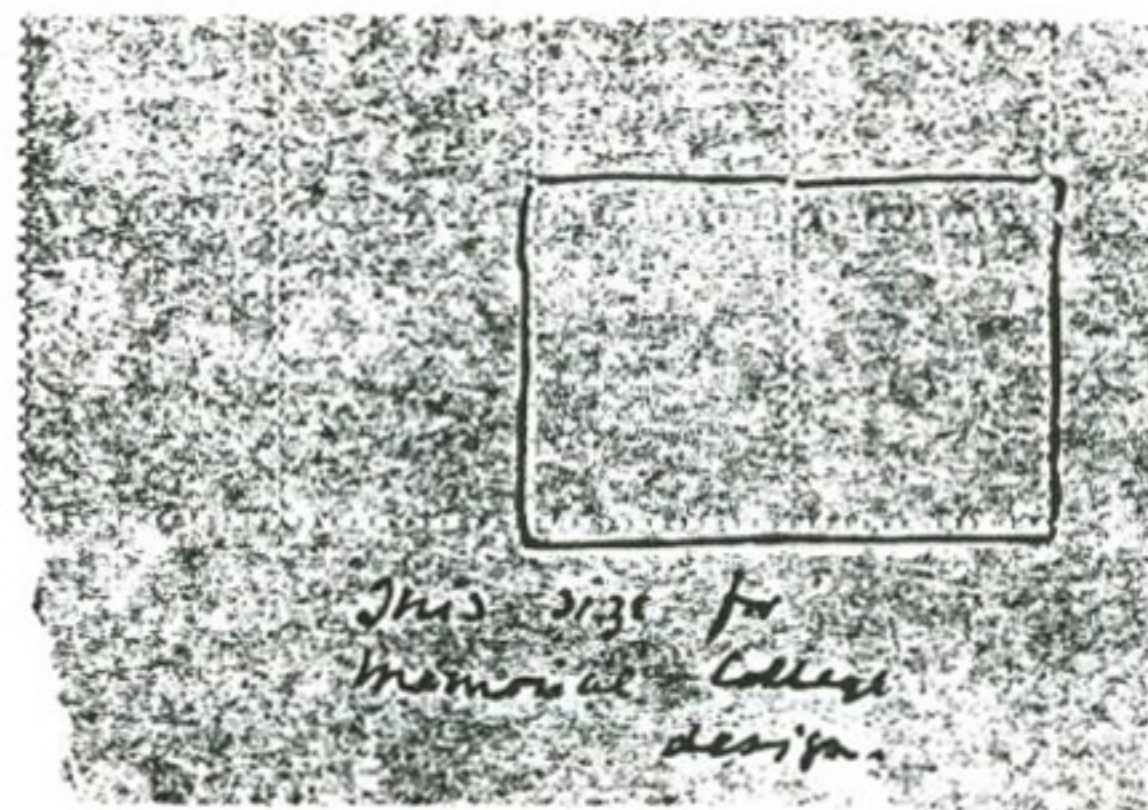
8



26 Nov. 1933.

Fig. 5

LEFT Fig. 7
Perforated board with notation
"This size for Memorial College
design."



1 مصر



2 As A.



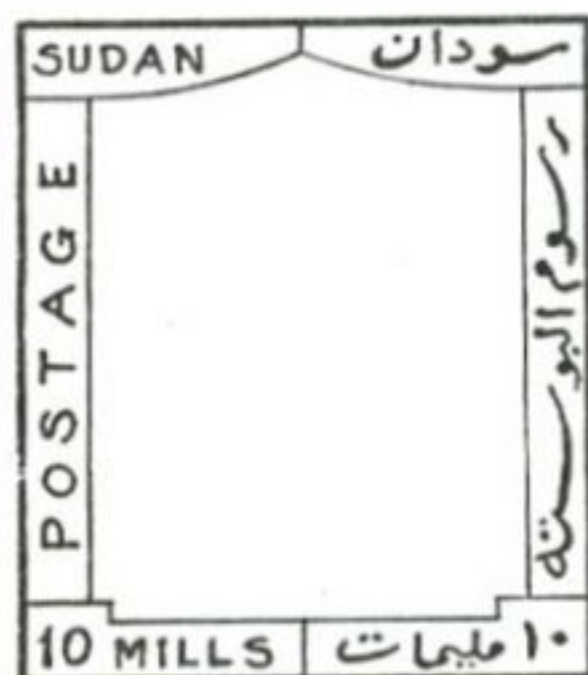
3 As A



4 As A



5 As A

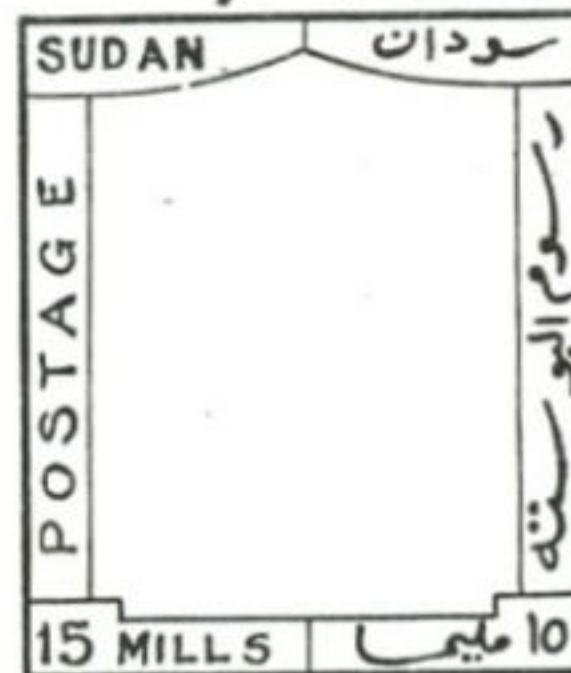


6 As A



As A.

7



Lilla

10th April
1934.

Fig. 6

7204

1 7

1 2

ABOVE Fig. 8

TELEPHONE NO. 1
VICTORIA 6313.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: 1
SUDANOLOGY, ROWEST, LONDON.

SUDAN GOVERNMENT OFFICE,
WELLINGTON HOUSE,
BUCKINGHAM GATE, S.W.1

① in no. 9 for قرش
substitute قرشا as in
no. 1

② in no. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,
8
for سودان substitute
السودان

قرشا
قرشا
السودان

RIGHT Stationery with
instructions

Sudan. 3/3

UNIVERSITY OF SUDAN
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES
Khartoum

5, 6, 7, 8 &

Sudan -

A

السودان

Large
2, 3, 4.
Sudan
السودان

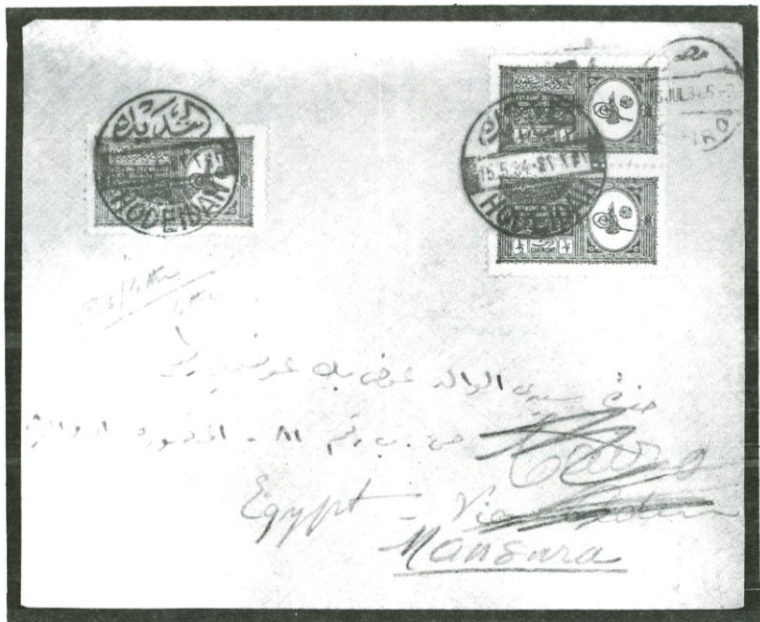
The above copy marked A
supplied by Mr. Wedlock for
Arabic of "SUDAN" appearing
at top of portrait & memorial
college designs. 16.5.34.

Sudan Gordon Issue.

Reverse of stationery on preceeding page

* SAUDI USED IN YEMEN *

BY P. A. S. SMITH



The brief war between Saudi Arabia and Yemen in 1934 is largely unknown or forgotten, but it has left a postal history legacy for the alert philatelist. The war took place over a territorial dispute involving the principality of Asir and the port of Hodeidah. When King ibn Saud invaded Asir to assert his sovereignty, Iman Yahya of Yemen immediately responded by annexing Hodeidah, which Yemen had long claimed. In 1934, the Saudi forces drove the Yemenis from Hodeidah, and for a brief time introduced Saudi stamps. Hodeidah was awarded to the Yemen by the Treaty of Taif that year, and Saudi stamps were withdrawn when the Yemenis reclaimed the city. Examples of Saudi Arabian stamps used in Hodeidah are rare, and covers extraordinarily so.

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The illustrations for this article were provided by the author and Baron Jakob von Uexkull. Note that the covers are addressed to the same person and by the same person.

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(Fig. 1)

THE BAHRAIN "WAR TAX" LABEL

BY JERI COOPER

(Fig. 2)



The Bahrain "War Tax" label has caused considerable interest in philatelic circles. The label is issued to collect funds for refugees of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Post Office sells the labels and passes the proceeds on to the government. Figures to how much is collected are not available, but it is suspected to be considerable. The Bahrain Government uses the funds to supplement its payments to the Arab League. Of interest, a surcharge is also added to movie theater tickets and gasoline sales for the same purpose.

The label is used on both internal and outgoing mail, and is in addition to normal postage. Due to its low value however, its use is not always strictly enforced. In addition, it is not required on mail posted at the airport's departure lounge, as its use might be considered offensive to some passengers there in transit.

It is limited to use in Bahrain and has no connection with the Palestine Liberation Organization, or any other such cause. There are two issues which are described below. It has been claimed that the first issue was still seen on cover for some time after the issue of the second. This is quite possible as the second issue is really only an improvement on the first. Strictly speaking, any mail posted in Bahrain and not carrying the label could be termed postally incorrect, as its use is a state requirement. As a point of interest, very few Concord Inaugural Flight Covers carried it.

The first issue was put on sale October 21, 1973. It was printed locally by the Oriental Press. The label is rather crude, being a rush printing. The hand-drawn inscription is pale blue on a sky blue field. The text in Arabic reads al-majhood al-harbee, "the war effort". There are three areas in the field where the white paper shows through: the center of the Arabic numeral "5", above the center of the top inscription, and below the bottom inscription very slightly to the right of center. Perforation is 14.5. Only a few blocks have been seen, and even in singles it is considered scarce (Fig. 1).

The second issue, also printed by Oriental Press, was put on sale December 1, 1973. This issue is a much better finished item, carefully designed and printed. It is also on white paper with rays emanating from a center circle and circumscribing the text. The text is the same as the first, but this time in Arabic type. The value is at the base of the stamp. Rays and text are in a light blue, but as can happen in printings that go on for long periods, the blue takes on many shades. Under ultraviolet light two types of paper have been identified. One shows up white while the other reacts brownish pink. Again, perforation is 14.5. Labels are printed in sheets of fifty, and there are no code marks on the sheet. No significant errors have been recorded, although a damaged Arabic "5" has been seen at position row 10 down and row 2 across, and a small white dot on the left hand side of the base of the Arabic "5" has been listed. The positions so far listed are rows down 2, 5, and 8, and rows across 1, 4, and 5. The down rows are constant while the rows across vary on different sheets, but remain in line on each sheet (Fig. 2).

I trust these details will be of assistance to collectors who have the label in their collections, and that it solves the mystery for those who have seen it and wondered what it is.

At the present time there is no indication that the Post Office of Bahrain will withdraw it from use, and it can be assumed that it will continue in circulation until some time in the future.

The 4 Bogash Surcharges of YEMEN: 1939-1966

by Carl Catherman

PART 2

The first installment of this article, which appeared in the AWP No. 5, contained several typographical errors which need to be corrected before continuing.

On p. 14, third line from the bottom, following the last word of that line, insert the words "characteristics and result in slight deviations from the". In the last line on the same page, insert " $\frac{1}{2}$ " between "nearest" and "mm."

On p. 16, the caption for Fig. 9 is not only incorrect but would be misleading in any case. The relevant fact here is that Minkus #101x does not exist. Considering the entire body of Minkus listings of 4b surcharges, it becomes immediately obvious that #101x was intended to be the same stamp illustrated in my Fig. 9 but that someone mistakenly used a somewhat deteriorated type "b" handstamp as a model for the illustration instead of the correct type "S". Thus, the caption for Fig. 9 was meant to be "Minkus #101x", not "...101x1" but this is only correct if the illustration of Handstamp 101 in the Minkus catalog is altered to coincide with type "S".

Again on p. 16, in the third line, the sentence ending with the work "frame-line" has been clipped. It should continue with the words "and the 'Y' of this word is slightly more than 1mm from the left frame-line." Note that this totally changes the meaning of the succeeding sentence. Finally, on the same page, in the fourth line of the third paragraph, the "1'mm" should be "1 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm".

EIGHTEEN YEARS OF SURCHARGES

When Imam Yahia granted his permission to overprint the $\frac{1}{2}$ b value of the Berlin issue in the latter half of 1939, two handstamps of type "a" were prepared and placed into service. The handstamps were used for a relatively short time only since the new definitive issue, prepared by Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., arrived from London in time to be placed on sale in January 1940.

This issue was sufficient to fulfill Yemen's postal needs into the Mid-1940's. When stocks of the 4b value began to run low, combinations of lower values began to be used to make up the 4b inland rate. The wastefulness of this practice became immediately obvious in light of the fact that the type "a" handstamps were still available. Thus, in 1945 the useless $\frac{1}{2}$ b value of the Waterlow issue was brought out of the vaults and overprinted (Fig. 14) in relatively large numbers. These were apparently in use until the Mutawakilite Hospital commemoratives were issued in 1946 but stocks of the 4b value of that set were soon exhausted and overprinting was resumed, now on the 5b value of the Waterlow issue. This stamp existed in large quantities and these were sufficient to last until the new definitive issue arrived in 1947 from the Institut de Gravure in Paris.

Partly due to looting during the 1948 revolution, the 4b value of the new French set did not have a long life and in that same year it became necessary to resort to overprinting once again. The 1b, 2b and 3b values of the Waterlow issue were surcharged in quantities sufficient to last into the following year.

During the next few years a variety of stamps were surcharged for internal use and it seems fairly likely that, at least initially this was viewed as a means of disposing of relatively useless low values. Whatever the reason might have been, the 1b, 2b, 3b and 5b values of the old Berlin set were surcharged in 1949. None of these existed in very large numbers, particularly the 2b (Fig. 15) which had been used in pairs during the first shortage of 4b stamps over a decade earlier. Thus, these did not last long and postal officials turned to remaining stocks of the 1b and 2b values of the French set.

However, they were soon faced with a new problem. The type "a" handstamps were ten years old and had seen extensive service during the preceeding several years. Their deterioration was becoming evident and good legible impressions were obtained only by exercising great care in application. Thus, two new handstamps of type "b" were prepared and pressed into service while in the midst of overprinting the 1b and 2b values of the French set. As stocks of these values ran out, the $\frac{1}{2}$ b value (Fig. 16) of the same set began to receive the new type "b" overprints. The type "a" handstamps were presumably destroyed.

A new set of definitives had been ordered from Carte-Valori in Rome, but delays in delivery made it necessary to continue overprinting whatever might be available. When the relatively large numbers of the $\frac{1}{2}$ b French value were exhausted, remaining supplies of the 1b, 2b and 3b Waterlows were resurrected and given the type "b" overprint.



Fig. 14 Scott #44



Fig. 15 Scott #60



Fig. 16 Scott #63

The catalogues assert that these were issued in 1949 but that seems to be rather unlikely. The only evidence in support of this assertion appears to be the existence of these stamps with Sana'a postmarks dated in that year. As previously explained, the date on the Sana'a canceller was not changed after Oct. 24, 1949 and in fact, appears with that date on stamps which had not even been printed then, let alone surcharged. Furthermore, an analysis of the number of known copies of the various surcharged stamps issued from 1949 to 1951 indicates that the type "b" Waterlows could hardly have had a life as long as indicated by the catalogues. It seems much more likely that they did not appear until 1950.

In any case, the next victim of the overprinters was the $\frac{1}{2}$ b value of the Waterlow set. Although many of these had been used up with the type "a" surcharge earlier, sufficient quantities still existed in 1951 to be used with type "b" until the new definitives arrived from Rome later in that year. Incredibly, there was no 4b value in this set, the printers having substituted a 5b value (Fig. 17) in its place! The stamp which should have brought an end to three years of overprinting, through some mix-up, had never been printed.

At this point, postal officials switched over from the 4b Waterlows and began almost immediately to surcharge the 2b value of the new Rome issue. The 3b value of this set was also utilized in the same way, probably beginning in 1952. In either late 1952 or early 1953, when stocks of these began to run low, postal officials were faced with a dilemma. It was not deemed advisable to surcharge the 1b Rome value since the officials hoped to use this to pay the rate for newspapers. On the other hand, Imam Ahmed was displeased with the fact that the French-language country inscription appeared above the Arabic on all stamps of this set and in fact, had demanded that the printers prepare a satisfactory replacement.

After four years of overprints, it was decided to use the 4b value of the postage due set which had been prepared by Waterlow & Sons over a decade earlier. Since there was no internal postage due system in Yemen, these stamps were relatively useless although some values saw occasional use for other purposes and very infrequently they were used on incoming foreign mail which did not bear sufficient postage. The 4b value now came into use exclusively as a regular postage stamp. Of course it had not been printed in large numbers and within a year stocks were running low.

Thus, late in 1953 the 1b and 2b postage dues were brought out and once again, overprinting was resumed. This time however, it was not necessary to prepare large quantities since the stamps that had been ordered from Carte-Valori to replace the unsatisfactory 1951 issue arrived by the end of the year and were placed on sale early in 1954.

However, while the dues were being overprinted a new handstamp of type "c" was brought into use. It appears that this was not done in response to the obvious deterioration of the first type "b" handstamp, but instead to the need for more rapid production, since the steadily deteriorating type "b" device continued to be used in subsequent overprintings. The type "c" was apparently introduced very late in the process of overprinting the dues and is known on the 2b value only (Fig. 18).

The new definitives from Carte-Valori included enough 4b stamps to supply Yemen's need until late 1955 or early 1956. Fortunately, large numbers of the 1b value of the 1951 Rome set were available for once again, no new definitives had been ordered. These were permitted to be released with both type "b" and type "c" surcharges. By this time the first type "b" handstamp was badly deteriorated but it was nevertheless used much more extensively than the relatively new type "c". This was probably due to the fact that the Arabic line of type "c" was rather poorly cut and did not give very legible impressions even when carefully struck.

In any case, the ever-increasing demand for 4b stamps, coupled with the unsatisfactory impressions of the handstamps, made obvious the necessity for a more sensible solution to the problem of providing adequate supplies. Indeed, the Sana'a postmaster had prepared his own unauthorized type "S" handstamp and had applied it to a small number of the 1b value of the Rome set early in October 1956. This monstrosity was immediately suppressed by postal officials.

Fortunately for all concerned, the Imam finally came to the rescue with a personal decree that the 5b value of the 1951 Rome issue (Fig. 17) would henceforth be valued at 4b, *without overprint*. Within the ensuing year, two other stamps were similarly revalued, the 5b of the Official issue and the 5b Waterlow!

This was not yet, however, the end of the surcharges. In apparent retaliation against the Postmaster General for suppression of his type "s" and with an obvious penchant for larceny, the Sana'a postmaster reported the 'discovery' of some 'previously overprinted' stamps. These were the 2b value of the French set and a very few copies of the 1b of the same set bearing the horrendous type "d" surcharge. There can be little doubt that they were private productions of the Sana'a postmaster. The similarity between type "d" and the deteriorated type "b" was close enough to pass the former off as the latter. The fact that type "d" does not appear in the normal upright position is rather curious, but not unexplainable. This might even have been a clever ploy on the part of the perpetrator, for he could then claim that he had not used them previously for precisely that reason.

The full particulars behind this issue undoubtedly will never be known, but whatever they are, the type "d" surcharges were at least tolerated. The 2b value exists in relatively large numbers used and on cover, although it is quite scarce mint. It and the very rare 1b value were the last of the rectangular framed 4b surcharges. The Arab Postal Union 4b commemorative stamp was issued late in 1957 and thereafter, the more frequent appearance of commemorative issues precluded the necessity for further surcharges in the remaining years prior to the 1962 revolution.

The post-1962 surcharges will be dealt with in a later section.



Fig. 17 Scott #71



Fig. 18 Uncatalogued variety,
Scott #J2 with Type "c" surcharge

FORGERIES

Caveat emptor is the operative phrase in Yemen philately, in which almost every conceivable device has been used to defraud the collector. Fortunately, it requires only a little knowledge to detect most of the forgeries of the 4b surcharges. Except in one case, it is pointless to list all the stamps which have received the various forged surcharges and thus, only the surcharges themselves will be discussed.

The first forgeries should more properly be referred to as fakes. These were prepared in 1949 as a result of the scarcity of the 1b, 2b, 3b and 5b values of the Berlin issue with type "a" surcharge. An exporter unable to supply these to the overseas stamp trade, enlisted the aid of a dishonest postal official who surcharged already used copies of the basic stamps. Fortunately for collectors, this was done after the type "a" handstamps had been retired and thus the fraud was perpetrated with the first type "b" device. Ironically, these are some of the best impressions (Fig. 19) ever made with this handstamp. Since no Berlin stamps were ever genuinely issued with the type "b" surcharge, these fakes are easy to detect.

The second category of forgeries consists of two basic types which derive from the same source. These are very common and appear on a great variety of stamps. Again they are easy to detect. All forgeries in this category are characterized by thick frame lines and a gray ink which is lighter than the black ink used for the genuine surcharges.

The first of the two types (Fig. 20) is a replica of the illustration given in the Scott catalogue (Vol. 4, 1980 ed., p. 858), which of course is not an exact reproduction of any genuine surcharge. It is known in two sizes, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 18\frac{1}{2}$ mm and $14\frac{1}{2} \times 20$ mm, and may exist in other sizes as well, including one closer to the correct dimensions of type "a".



Fig. 19 Genuine type "b"
fraudulently applied to
Scott #11



Fig. 20 Forgery of type "a"



Fig. 21 Forgery of type "b"

process similar to that used more recently to manufacture forged U.S. first day of issue postmarks.

Among the most challenging items to appear are the overprints in purplish-black ink. Except for the ink color, these give every appearance of being genuine. Like the stamps in the second category of forgeries, they exist both in mint condition and cancelled-to-order. None are known either on cover or genuinely used. One is at first inclined to believe that they might be proofs. Every example seen is clearly struck, occasionally a bit overinked, but always easily readable.

They exist in two types, one imitating the second type "a" and the other like the second type "b". The purplish-black ink is somewhat greasy, which results in a slightly fuzzy impression. The amount of purple in the ink is variable, sometimes being quite obvious but in other cases it is hardly noticeable. The ink tends to bleed through the paper, creating a bluish reverse impression of the overprint on the back of the stamp, which is often quite clearly visible if the stamp is placed face down on a flat surface.

The second type in this category (Fig. 21) is a replica of the illustration of type "b" which at one time appeared in the Scott catalogue (e.g., Vol. 2, 1970 ed., p. 1486) but has since been deleted. It is also known in two sizes, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 17\frac{1}{2}$ mm and $12\frac{1}{2} \times 16\frac{1}{2}$ mm, and possibly others. This too is not a reproduction of any genuine surcharge. Both types of forgeries in this category were apparently produced by a

When the type "a" imitations are compared to the best available examples of the genuine type "a", no differences are observed except for occasional transient specks of ink on the imitations. The type "b" imitations also have all the characteristics of the genuine overprint, but they are too small! All examples of the purplish-black type "b" overprints seen thus far have a vertical measurement ranging from 15.0 to 15.2 mm, the differences being due to the amount of ink used. However, the genuine second type "b" overprint measures 15.6 mm in the best strikes and although this type is fairly often found underinked, no examples yet seen measure less than 15.4 mm. Thus, the most heavily inked examples of the purplish-black type "b" imitations are slightly smaller than the most lightly inked examples of the genuine surcharge.

These were apparently produced by the same method as the forgeries of the second category, but using genuine overprints as models. The forger must have taken great pains to produce such excellent copies and one has to wonder why he used the wrong color of ink. Had he not made this error, it is doubtful that these forgeries would have ever been discovered.

LITERATURE



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Now, for the first time, the collector of Jordan has a complete catalog with adequate illustrations and descriptions. This work of love and genius is Mr. Souan's 3rd work and equals earlier editions with his usual perception of philately. Each Jordanian issue shown is listed by Stanley Gibbons Catalog Numbers, therefore, it is now easy to put your Jordanian collection in order. This reviewer was so pleased in reading this excellent work of art in Jordanian philately, he could not put it down until he read every page.

Mr. Souan adds some nice sections of personal comments on values and experience with earlier cataloguers as well as comments on pricing.

This catalog is a must for any philatelic library and every collector of the Middle East. N.A. Cohen

EDITOR: The text of the above book was done with a typewriter in cursive script.



Unscratched



Scratched

Saudi Arabia's 1946 Map Stamp

BY R. J. THODEN

The following information, by Rudy J. Thoden, appeared in the Arabian Philatelic Association's RANDOM NOTES No. 17 (Fall 1981), in slightly different form. If you can add to Mr. Thoden's information, please contact him at ARAMCO, Box 1802, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

The stamp in question (illustrated above) is listed in all catalogs as a normal postage stamp, issued to commemorate the return of King Ibn Sa'ud from Egypt. Mr. Thoden suspects that it may not have been a regular postage stamp but a tax stamp. If it is a tax stamp, its use is currently unknown. The following points are significant:

- A. All letters, both domestic and foreign, between late January and August 1946 seen by the author bear one and only one copy of this stamp. No cover with more than one copy has been seen, and no cover from this period without a copy of this stamp has been seen.
- B. Domestic letters, for which postage was 1/2 qirsh, airmail letters to the U.K. for which postage was 1 qirsh, and airmail letters to the U.S.A. for which postage was 16 qirsh, each bear one copy of the 1/2 qirsh Map stamp in addition to the postage. These rates apply to letters originating from the Western Province (Jeddah, Mecca, etc.). Airmail covers to the U.S.A. from Khobar in the Eastern Province have 33 1/4 qirsh in postage, plus the 1/2 qirsh Map stamp. Before January and after August, 1946, covers bear these same amounts of postage, but do not have a Map stamp. A number of covers bear one or more copies of the 1/2 qirsh Tughra stamp (Scott #161a) as part of the postage in addition to the 1/2 qirsh Map stamp. If the Map stamp were just an ordinary stamp equivalent to the 1/2 qirsh Tughra stamp, this mixed usage of 1/2 qirsh stamps on commercial covers is not easy to understand.
- C. The Map stamp has been seen used in conjunction with other categories of revenue stamps on documents. In addition to several pieces, the author has in his possession a complete document which bears, in addition to a single copy of the Map stamp, a 1 qirsh flat rate documentary stamp, a 1 qirsh road tax stamp and a 1/8 qirsh hospital tax stamp, all cancelled by the same circular customs cancellation.
- D. The Map stamp is inscribed totally in Arabic. Other stamps of this period used for postage bear Arabic and French inscriptions. The Map stamp, being totally in Arabic, is consistent with other revenue stamps in this respect.

The inscription on the stamp itself give no clues. In the banners at the upper left and upper right is "God is One and only One, Muhammed is His Emissary". In the panel at the bottom above the denomination is "Commemorating the return of His Majesty the King to the Capital of His Kingdom, January 1946". It is reported that offense was taken by the religious authorities at the defacement of the inscriptions in the banners by postmarks, etc. and that is why they were scratched out.

Examination of about 35 covers bearing a copy of the Map stamp reveals that the unscratched variety, perforated 10 3/4*, was used between January and March, the unscratched, perforated 11 1/2, between March and April, and the scratched, perforated 11 1/2, from April until August. The author has seen only one copy of the scratched flags, perforated 10 3/4, not on cover. This variety is evidently quite scarce.

*Listed in the catalogs as perf. 11

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The work was begun by the Kingdom's master craftsmen, headed by Sheikh Ahmad Badr, the principal goldsmith of Mecca, who hand-worked the door. The craftsmen used 280 kilograms (616 pounds) of pure gold to fashion the door which measures 312 cm tall, 168 cm wide and is 50 cm thick. The door and its outer frame cost approximately 14 million Saudi Riyals, plus the cost of the gold.

The doors were dedicated on Saturday, October 13, 1979 (22nd of Dhu al-Qidah, 1399 A.H.). Two stamps, a 20 and an 80 halala value, were issued on that date, with a printing of 400,000 sets.



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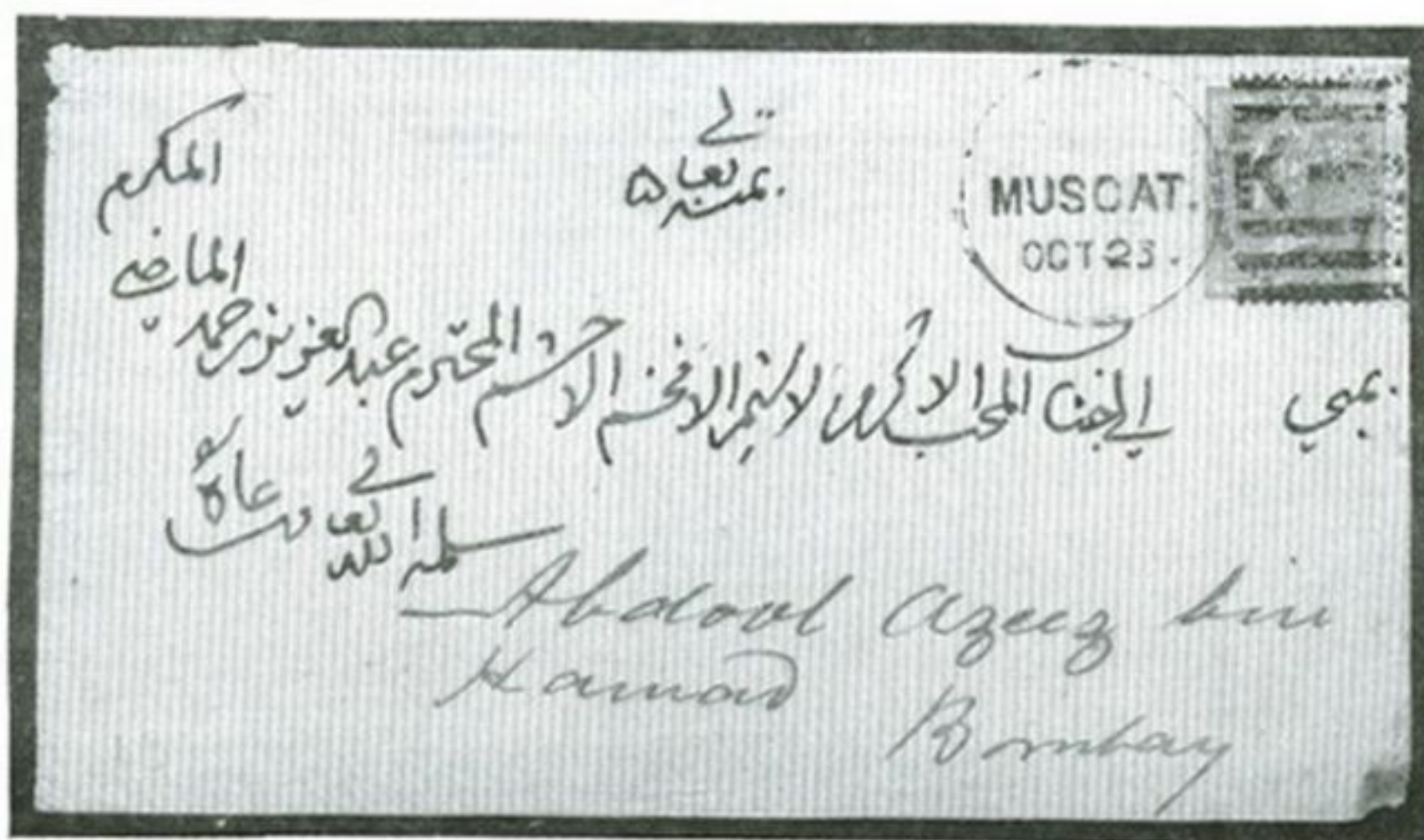
TOPS (Turkey and Ottoman Philatelic Society) publishes "THE TUGRA TIMES" four times a year. Dues are \$5 and should be sent to William Sandrik, P.O. Box 6126, Washington D.C. 20044. Invaluable for the collector of philatelic history.

MUSCAT
NOV 11

The illustrated cover in this article was purchased several years ago in an auction where it was incorrectly listed under the heading of "INDIA" and described as a cover from that country. While the error is understandable, due to the use of Indian postage, the dealer lost considerable money due to his lack of knowledge of Arab World philately. The cancellation is quite scarce and it is a beautiful piece of philatelic history.

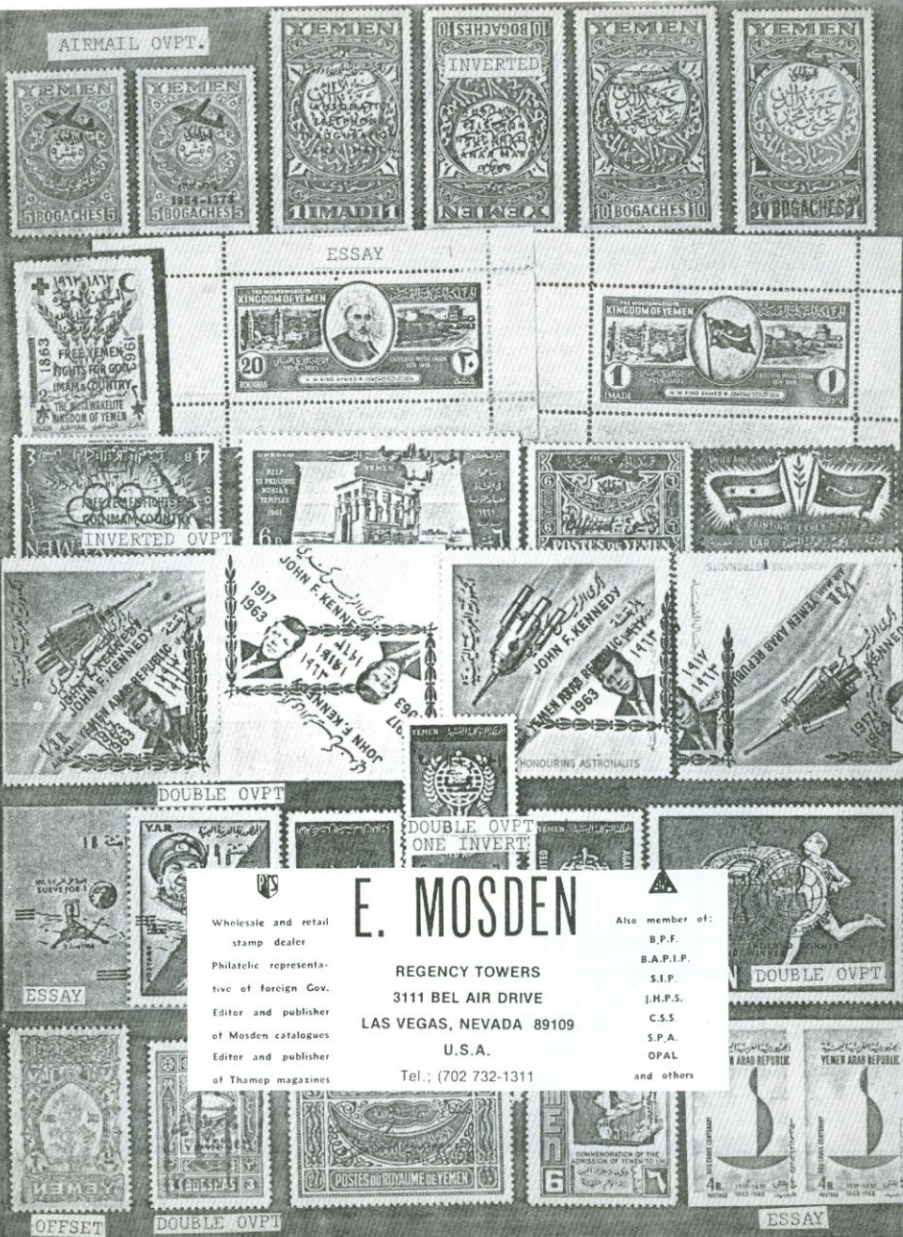
Since all mail was transported to India, the backstamps also have no year date in the cancellations. Fortunately, the illustrated cover has the written notation - "From Sayid Mohd, 17 Dhu al-Qa'da, 1296". The date of posting was October 25. Since the Hegira Year 1296 ran from December 26th 1878 to December 15th 1879, we are able to date the cover as having been sent from Muscat on October 25, 1879.

In his book "THE POSTAL AGENCIES IN EASTERN ARABIA AND THE GULF", Neil Donaldson mentions another cover with this cancellation which was sent by the same merchant and has the notation "Received from Sayid Mohd 12 Dhu al-Qa'da, 1294". The cover has been accurately dated as having been dispatched from Muscat on November 10th 1877. He illustrates another cover cancelled February 17th at Muscat, with a backstamp of February 20th at Karachi. Since there are no notations on the envelope, the year remains unknown. Mr. Donaldson believes the cancellation in question was used from 1873 - 1879. The earliest recorded date seen on cover is November 10, 1877.



25

AIRMAIL OVPT.



ESSAY

OVPT

DOUBLE OVPT

DOUBLE OVPT
ONE INVERT

DOUBLE OVPT

ESSAY

OFFSET

DOUBLE OVPT

ESSAY

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NEGATIVE
RARE



SANAA

SANAA



N° 20

HUDEIDA



SALIF



KARAMAN

HUDEIDA

Scott 3 Direct
print both sides

ONE WITH
ONE WITHOUT OVPT

HUDEIDA

SANAA

TAIF.

AVION OVPT
MISSING

DOUBLE OVPT

COFFEE SET

INVERTED OVPT.

COLOR OF FLAG MISSING



FOR THE RECORD



The above stamps were released on August 31, 1953 (Scott #81 & 81a). They were first printed "BAHRAIN ANNA" and in a subsequent operation the "1/2" was added. Several sheets, through error, did not receive the second printing and a sheet was discovered in the Manama, Bahrain Post Office after half had been sold. The remaining half sheet was withdrawn but two more sheets were later discovered. Neil Donaldson states that there is a "probable total of 600 copies of the error".* Quite a few were philatelically used on cover and sent locally, of which several were cancelled on November 20th and 21st, 1953 at the Muharraq Post Office.

*Neil Donaldson, The Postal Agencies in Eastern Arabia and the Gulf, pp. 151-152.



Type 44a, used about 1907/15



Aden registration marking not listed in the A.L. Hine-Haycock and M.H. Robertshaw book ADEN: Postal Markings 1839-1939. The marking, illustrated above with its accompanying postmark, was applied to a shipping label sent to Bombay on 16 November 1907. The marking was applied in black ink and is shown actual size. The cancellation is enlarged. The actual size is 25mm, with the letters 2 1/2mm in height.

5 فليس

5 Fils

ABU DHABI Scott #80



Abu Dhabi Scott #60 was surcharged in green to meet the seasonal demand for the local greeting card rate. The stamp (Scott #80) was released on December 8, 1971 and was only on sale from the 8th to the 18th, until further supplies of the 5 fils stamp was received. The stamp is seldom seen in dealer's stocks and is rarely seen on cover.

• ١ ٢ ٣ ٤ ٥ ٦ ٧ ٨ ٩
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

The Arabic numerals, illustrated above, are read from left to right when written. This is the opposite of their writing, which is read from right to left.

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