

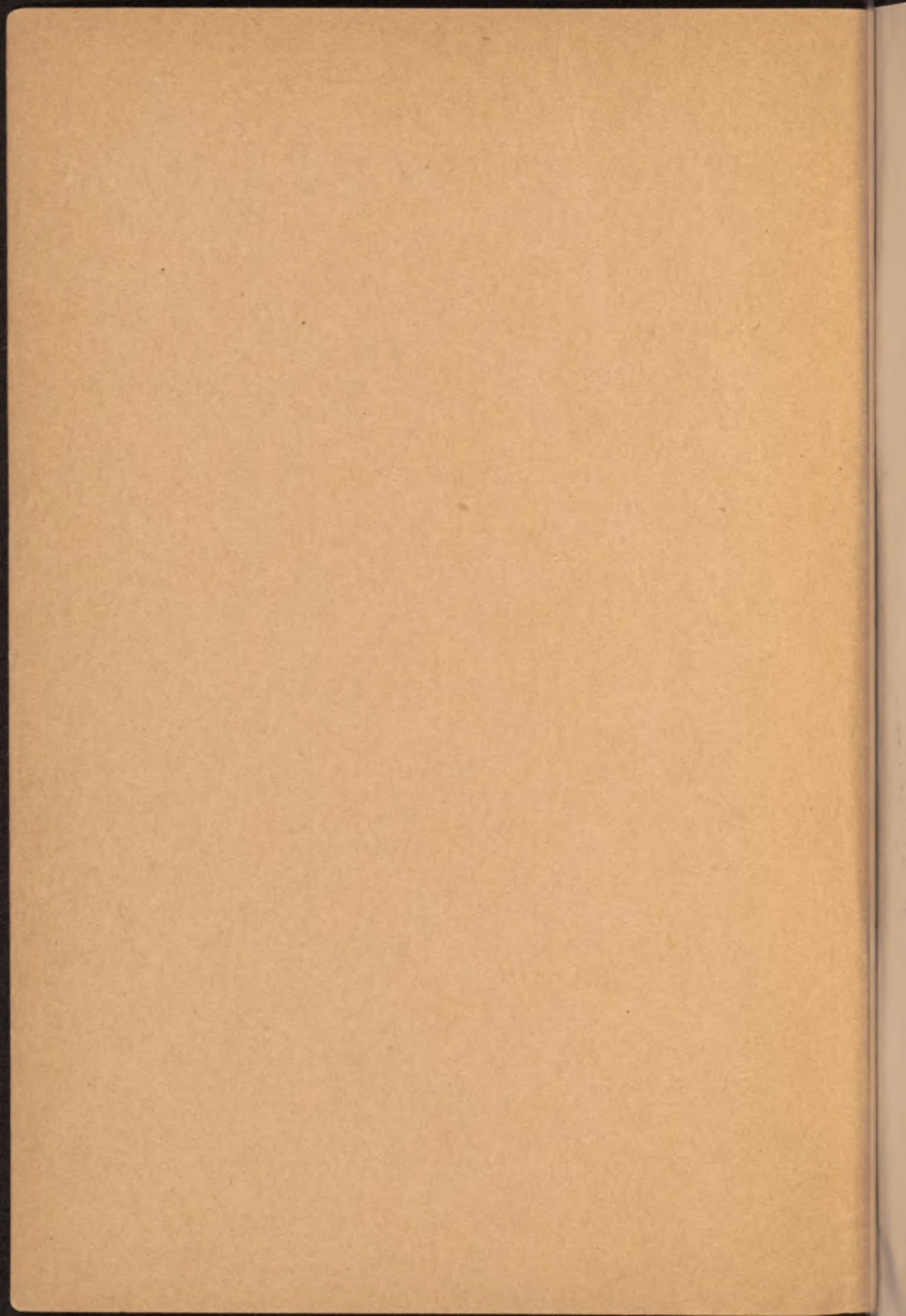
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THE POSTAGE STAMPS  
*of the*  
HEJAZ

*By*  
W. B. HAWORTH  
— AND —  
H. L. SARGENT



THE POSTAGE STAMPS

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OF THE HEJAZ ❧ ❧ ❧

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# THE POSTAGE STAMPS

*of the*

## ■ HEJAZ ■



*By*

W. B. HAWORTH

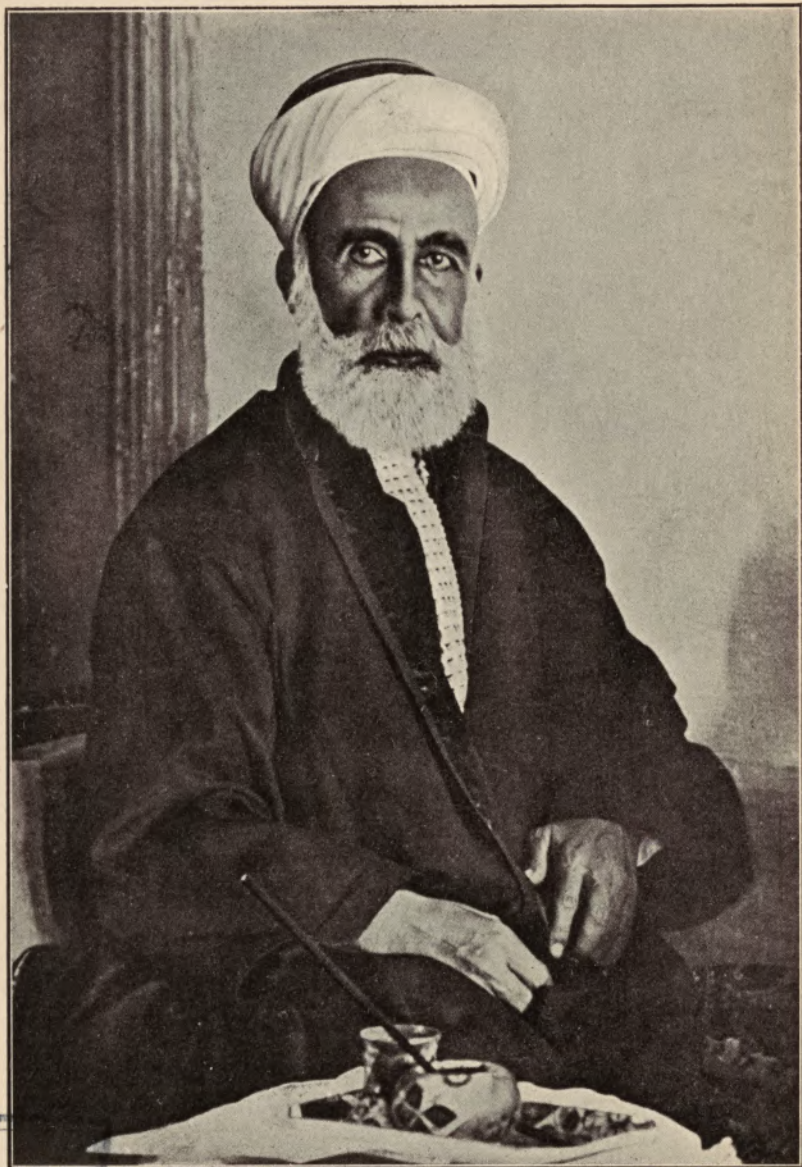
— AND —

H. L. SARGENT

LONDON 1922

Published for the Junior Philatelic Society

By H. F. Johnson, 44 Fleet Street, E.C.4



HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE HEJAZ.

*From a hitherto unpublished portrait*

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## Preface



THE postage stamps of the Kingdom of the Hejaz have received little or no attention from philatelists as yet. With the exception of a short article by one of the authors of the present monograph, published in the "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly" in the latter part of 1920, no student appears to have given the results of his examination of the stamps themselves to the world.

At the end of 1918 the Survey of Egypt issued, in a limited edition, a handbook entitled "A Short Note on the Design and Issue of Postage Stamps Prepared by the Survey of Egypt for His Highness Husein Emir and Sherif of Mecca and King of the Hejaz." It was a magnificently produced work, illustrated with examples of the various essays and also a complete set of the stamps in use at the time, but its published price was five Egyptian pounds, and this at once put it out of reach of all except the more wealthy collectors.

The following pages therefore need no apology. To a certain extent the authors have, of necessity, made use of the official "Note," and they here and now make acknowledgment of their indebtedness. The information contained therein is, however, hardly full enough from the philatelic point of view; for example, the shades of the various printings of each value are not given, and the names of the ink-makers are omitted; neither is any mention made of the types of postmark employed, nor the plate varieties on the one para and other values. These and similar points have all received careful attention, and the results of an extended study are now given to philatelists.

As regards the English form of the Arabic inscriptions embodied in the stamp designs, the "Note" has been carefully followed, and in the matter of town names it

## *Preface*

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has been considered advisable to adopt the spelling used in official correspondence.

Only one thing remains to be done and that is to acknowledge with grateful thanks the courtesies extended to the writers by the Survey of Egypt and His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Jeddah. The multitudinous small points which arose during the preparation of the work were referred to one or other of these sources and every query put to them has received a most valuable reply. It should be added that the table of stamp issues has been brought up-to-date through the kindness of Mr. L. B. Weldon, Surveyor-General of Egypt.

The thanks of the writers are due to Captain H. C. Garrood, M.C., for many items of general information and the various photographs, and also to Mr. Fred. J. Melville for his helpful advice and assistance in the production of the book.

WILFRID B. HAWORTH.  
H. L. SARGENT.

London, August, 1921.

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A GENERAL VIEW OF THE HOLY CITY OF MECCA.

*Exclusive STAMP LOVER photograph*

## Chapter I

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KINGDOM OF THE HEJAZ



THE history of the new Kingdom of the Hejaz is one of almost continual oppression. By the thirteenth century the whole of the Arabian peninsula had, in theory, accepted the faith of Islam. There was, however, a great diversity of dogma and practice, and the overlordship of the Abbasid Caliphs of Baghdad had largely become ineffective. This was due in part to the religious differences and in part to the continual mis-rule, for some two centuries, of the Abbasid pro-consuls and a succession of tyrannical Turkish officers who held the position of "Emir el-Haj." Medina, the old capital, if such it may be called, had rapidly declined in its position, so that by the middle of the tenth century, when the Hasanid Emir el-Haj Jafar seized the city of Mecca, the time was ripe for a change in the official centre of Government.

The Grand Sherifate was born out of a conflict between political and religious interests, and the heretical Caliphs of Egypt fostered the new state, using it as a weapon against the orthodox rulers of Baghdad.

Two sons and a grandson of Jafar succeeded him in his position of Grand Sherif, but there his direct line ended and the power fell into the hands of the descendants of his brother. All these rulers were weak and were more or less directly under the influence of outside powers, but about the year 1200, Katada, a native of the Juheina country, succeeded to the Sherifate. He was a strong man (he claimed to be the nineteenth in descent from the Prophet) and he set up the Hasanid dynasty which still rules the district. Even under this Sherif the land did not quite

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

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gain its independence for an economic reason which has always governed the fate of the Hejaz, namely, that the country is quite unable to support its native population in any standard of comfort above that of a Bedouin, and it is impossible to provide either for the safety or food of the annual host of pilgrims belonging to all nations.

It must, however, be admitted that King Husein has worked wonders during the short time he has been on the throne, towards rendering the lot of the pilgrims much less hazardous. While it is true that raids by the Bedouin on the pilgrim caravans are not unknown, every effort is made to prevent them, and in cases of plunder, liberal recompense is granted, which generosity the simple (!) pilgrims are in many cases not slow to abuse.

When the Abbasids were unable to help him the Grand Sherif made an attempt to gain support from the neighbouring Imamate of Yemen. This failed and it was therefore necessary to turn to the Fatimites and Mamelukes, who at times occupied the capital.

In 1517, Selim The Grim took possession of Egypt and the Hejaz came under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. The power of the Turks gradually decreased, however, until in the last few years of the eighteenth and the early years of the nineteenth centuries, it disappeared entirely under the onset of the Wahabites, the followers of a revivalist prophet named Mohammed Abdul Wahab, who preached a holy war to force all Islam to return to a primitive and ascetic form of worship.\*

The Emir of Nejd, Chief of the Wabahite armies, was driven back to the oases, and from 1819 to 1842 Nejd itself was occupied intermittently by Egyptian troops. Nominal authority was therefore once more gained by the Turks over the Grand Sherifate and it was not until 1916 that the country was finally freed from the hated rule of the emissaries of the Sublime Porte.

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\*These Wahabites, who are mainly a group of hardy oasis-dwellers, are, to the present time, a continual source of disturbance, and only as recently as January, 1921, they made an attack on the kingdom of the Hejaz, marching against Taif, a small town 50 miles E.S.E. of Mecca and attempting to sever the communications between the capital and Medina.

## *A Brief History of the Kingdom of the Hejaz*

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VIEW OF MECCA OVERLOOKING THE KAABA.

*Exclusive STAMP LOVER photograph*

When Great Britain and Turkey declared war in October, 1914, it became imperative to find some local ally to check the danger of the Turks declaring a Holy War and so enlisting the help of the vast numbers of Moslems who were under British rule. The Grand Sherif, Husein, had been nominated to his position by the Porte in 1908, but friendly relations had been established with the British who occupied the Aden peninsula. It was therefore natural to

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

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turn to the Sherifate for an ally, since his refusal to countenance a Holy War would mean that Islam would be divided against herself. Moreover it was felt that an alliance with him would prove of the very greatest benefit to the Allied cause, since not only was he of the holy lineage of the Prophet but also ruler of the very centre of the Moham-medan faith.

We must now hark back a few years to the first prince of the present ruling branch of the Katada House, Mohammed ibn Abd el-Muin el-Aun. He was appointed in 1827 by the Egyptian Viceroy, and after the troublous times of the Wahabite war he had to be very circumspect in his dealings with his nominal overlord. The result was that until his fourth son, Aun "er-Rafik," obtained the throne in 1882 (which he only did after seeing a brother murdered and his own branch of the family dispossessed for two years by a rival house), the Sherifate did not begin to recover any of its former prestige.

The present King of the Hejaz very diplomatically began his reign by a war on behalf of the Porte, which greatly weakened his rivals, the Wahabites of Ibn Saud and Idrisi. This done, Turkey was more or less under an obligation to the Hejaz, and once more the position of the Sherifate began to rise. By careful working Husein managed to extend his authority so that in the summer of 1913 he was the most powerful of the native rulers, not only in rural districts but also in Mecca and Jeddah.

In 1915 he opened negotiations with Great Britain, and in June of the following year he raised his standard of revolt. By the end of 1917 he had been "Malik," or King, for over a year, and all traces of Turkish influence had been removed except at Medina and along the railway line of communication from the North. Even here, however, it had mostly been replaced by the authority of Husein.

The boundaries of the Hejaz have not yet been clearly defined, but they may be taken approximately as follows:—In the North, a line drawn from Akaba to Ma'an; West, the Red Sea; East, a line some 50 miles east of the railway, and South, a little to the south of the port of Kunfuda.

## *A Brief History of the Kingdom of the Hejaz*

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At present H.H. Prince Abdulla rules over the new province of Trans Jordania, which is the country between the Northern boundary of the Hejaz and the river Jordan. This province, however, comes under the Palestine administration.

Before passing on to the geographical details of the country, it may be well to note that the Emir of Nejd definitely threw off the Turkish yoke in 1914 and allied himself to Great Britain, so that there is here another independent power which must be regarded as a potential stamp issuing district.

A few words must be said as to the natural features of the country since these have a direct influence on the working of the post office.

**RIVERS.**—Of these, as usually understood, there are none in the Hejaz; there are, however, numerous wadis, or river-beds, along which the water flows in the time of floods. The longest of these is said to be the Wadi Rumma which rises near Medina and runs north-eastward through Kasim to the Shatt-el-Arab. This wadi is only in the Hejaz for a very small part of its course, and what is undoubtedly the most important river-bed, as far as concerns the Kingdom of the Grand Sherif, is the Wadi Hamdh, one branch of which supplies Medina with its underground water and the other irrigates the palm groves of Ala (The Wadi Jizzil).

**CLIMATE.**—The climate in the coastal districts is very hot and oppressive and Jeddah, owing to the humidity of the atmosphere, is a most trying place for Europeans. Mecca, although the air is very dry, is shut in by the hills and the heat in summer is tremendous; those of the inhabitants who can afford to, go to Taïf some 6000 ft. above sea level and here, as in the inland part of the country, the climate is comparatively cool and agreeable.

**RACE.**—The people of the Hejaz are, at base, Semitic. The original inhabitants have, however, mixed with Jewish, Phœnician, Turkish, Negroid, Hamatic and other races. They are dignified, polite and good-natured, independent to a degree, and of sheer necessity, raiders. Raiding may be said to be the principal pastime of the Bedouins,

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

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and leads to some terrible blood feuds. These feuds were kept down during the war owing to the necessity of combining against the common enemy. But it is greatly to be feared that they will break out again on the slightest provocation. The language is a slightly debased Arabic.

The official handbook issued by the Foreign Office states that the population of the Hejaz is approximately 1,000,000. Of the towns Mecca is the largest with a permanent population of about 70,000; Medina has about 40,000 and Jeddah 30,000.

COMMUNICATION.—The principal means of communication are by roads. These are continually broken up by wadis, and travellers are always in danger from the many wandering tribes of marauders. There is also the Hejaz railway which terminates at Medina. It is a single line of 3 ft. 6 in. gauge with few sidings and very well laid,\* though badly damaged by raids during the war.

Some years must elapse before the railway can be considered of much use, as owing to the lack of funds, repair work will be very slow. Most of the culverts and many of the bridges were destroyed and have been replaced by sand embankments which are periodically swept away by floods.

As regards postal services the British Vice-Consul at Jeddah states that offices are now open at Mecca, Jeddah, Medina, Yambo, El Wejh, Taïf, El Akaba, Kurfuda, and Rabegh. Between the ports letters are carried by sea, but inland, except for the suburban districts around the larger towns, they are taken by caravans, and deliveries are made at no stated intervals. There are no regular collections. Mecca is connected by telegraph and telephone with Jeddah and Taïf, while Medina has a line to Yambo and another to Damascus.

That King Husein is not content to allow thing to stagnate in his kingdom and believes in progress is proved by the fact that a chain of wireless stations is in operation along the coast. There are stations at Jeddah, Yambo,

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\*A good account of a journey from Damascus to Medina over this line is given in Mr. A. J. B. Wavell's book "A Modern Pilgrim in Mecca."

## *A Brief History of the Kingdom of the Hejaz*

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Wejh, Akaba, Ma'an and Medina. The last-named place has an extremely powerful installation, but the other places have "Telefunken" field sets with a range of about 1500 miles.

Automobiles are in great favour in the Hejaz, and a regular service will shortly be installed between Jeddah and Mecca. King Husein now travels to Jeddah by car, whereas, only a short time ago, he performed the journey on mule-back. There are very few towns which are inaccessible by automobile, and no doubt in the future the postal service will be greatly accelerated and improved by mechanical transport.



A VIEW OF THE HOLY CITY OF MEDINA, THE STREETS LINED WITH ARAB TROOPS FOR  
THE EMIR'S ENTRY MOSQUE AT LEFT BUILT BY FALCHRI.

*Exclusive STAMP LOVER photograph*

## Chapter II

### THE INTRODUCTION OF POSTAGE STAMPS AND THE FIRST ISSUE FOR THE NEW KINGDOM



WHEN, in June, 1916, His Highness the Grand Sherif declared his independence, preparations were at once made for the issue of postage stamps. In the East, it should be said, coins and stamps are looked upon as high attributes of Sovereignty, but coins are only for internal use, and as King Husein was anxious to let the world know that his country was no longer under the heel of the Turkish legions, it was decided that stamps should be prepared immediately, since they would travel broadcast over the world.

In July, 1916, the Arab Bureau in Cairo approached the Officers of the Survey of Egypt with the object of ascertaining whether they would undertake the necessary work for the production of the stamps.

At this time ordinary Turkish postal issues were in use in the country, having been introduced there when Turkey first opened offices in her provinces. As was natural, the Sherif ordered the destruction of all stocks in hand, and, in order to tide over the period while awaiting the issue of a special series a "FEE PAID" handstamp was employed in the four offices at that time open. The illustrations show three types which were in use in Mecca, and although they were only officially authorised from the 24th June to the 14th October, 1916, they were occasionally employed after that date. Similar marks were used in Jeddah during the same period, and also in Yambo from the 3rd August, 1916, to the 5th January, 1917, and in Taïf between the 8th July and the 9th August, 1917.

# *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*



Fee paid handstamps used prior to the issue of national postage stamps.

There can be no question as to whether these are collectable or not. They form an interesting stage in the postal history of the Kingdom of Hejaz, and no serious collector who is bent upon forming an historical collection can afford to ignore them.

Returning now to the preparation of adhesive stamps, when the Arab Bureau approached the Surveyor General of Egypt they were told that the Department had had no previous experience of that class of printing, but that they were willing to accept the commission. It should be said here that these first enquiries were made over the telephone.

*Introduction of Postage Stamps and First Issue for New Kingdom*

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Designs suggested by Col. Storrs as redrawn by the Survey of Egypt

Designs were immediately prepared, but meanwhile events had been moving in Mecca. Mr. Ronald Storrs (who is now Colonel Storrs, Military Governor of Jerusalem), at the suggestion of the Emir, sketched a rough stamp showing a view of Gebel Abu Qubeis, a rugged hill to the east of Mecca, where, according to many Moslems, Adam and Eve and their son Seth lie buried.

In August, 1916 (Zu el Qu'ada 5), the Sherif wrote to the British Diplomatic Agent in Jeddah thanking him for the stamps received from Cairo, and the next day Abd el Qâdir, the Director of the Telegraph and Post Office in Mecca, pointed out that the stamps supplied by the Survey of Egypt were not in accordance with the designs made by Colonel Storrs. He requested that the attention of the Survey might be drawn to this fact and that a large number of the pictorial stamps might be printed for the use of the Pilgrims. He further suggested that instead of the words "Hejaz Postage" they should be inscribed "Stamps of the Government of the Sherifate of Sacred Mecca and its Dominions."

Correspondence followed with the Survey of Egypt, who on the 1st October wrote to the Sherif pointing out that :—

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

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1. The main idea of the stamps was to show that they were those of an entirely new and independent nation with no connection whatever with the Turkish Empire.
2. The design of the stamps as supplied was purely Arabic.
3. Pictures and views had been purposely avoided since they were foreign to Arabic art.
4. It was necessary to introduce European lettering on the stamps before they could be admitted for general use by the Universal Postal Union. As a temporary measure, owing to the extreme urgency of the situation, this had been omitted, but it was suggested that the words "Hejaz Government Postage" should be added in English characters together with the value in figures.
5. The letters from the Sherif and the Director of the Telegraph and Post Office in Mecca containing the pictorial design were received too late to make use of them for the Pilgrim season, but the inscriptions suggested would be used on the covers of the book-lets into which the stamp sheets were bound.
6. The design submitted by Colonel Storrs on His Highness's behalf was an obvious copy of the Ottoman stamps.
7. The design could be adopted if the matter were pressed, but it would entail considerable delay, and it seemed a pity to lose such a favourable opportunity as the coming Pilgrim season to inform the world of His Highness's Independence.

On this Abdalla, the Hejaz Minister of Foreign Affairs, wrote on the 23rd October (Zu el Higga 25, 1334) to the British Diplomatic Agent at Jeddah as follows:—

"We have decided to accept the first issue of stamps, namely, that with 'Mecca el Mukarrama' in the middle of the stamp, and not to have the kind with 'Gebel Qubeis', and thus then should be printed of the above kind up to the value of £1000 of different values on the attached list.

"With the best of thanks.

(Signed) ABDALLA,

Minister of Foreign Affairs."

In response to an enquiry, which was addressed to the Survey of Egypt by the writers, this list appears to have been of great length and comprised all the adhesive stamps issued for use by the Turkish Government. The preparation of designs for the stamps in question was, however, never seriously taken up.

Several difficulties had to be faced at the outset, and one of the worst was that of obtaining suitable paper. The first intention of the Survey was to test various kinds with a view to determining which conformed most nearly to the specification of the Egyptian Postal Authorities, and, after the printing was completed, to pass them on to the Egyptian Government Press for gumming. The Government Press, however, found that its gum was unsatisfactory and suggested that the stamps should be



Essays for the one piastre stamp.

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

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printed on paper from England, watermarked with a representation of the Ka'aba, or Beyt Allah, that is, the great sanctuary at Mecca. The Survey inform the writers that no specimens of this paper are now available, and that no attempt was made to print stamps upon it beyond the pulling of a few proofs, which were subsequently destroyed.

Before shipment to Egypt, the watermarked paper was to be transmitted to Messrs. Jones for the purpose of gumming. This firm, however, reported that the paper took the gum badly owing to the fact that it contained too much rag, and accordingly it was discarded as unsuitable. A few proofs were, however, pulled before it was finally condemned; it is stated that all these were destroyed at a later date together with any plate proofs which were taken.

In the end it was decided to make use of a supply of paper on hand at the Survey. This had been obtained originally for printing "Opened by the Censor" labels, and was in part actually used for this purpose.

The next question to be dealt with was that of suitable ink. A careful analysis was made of various kinds in stock and eventually one was selected. In response to an enquiry addressed to them, the Survey state that the name of the makers has not been preserved; the official handbook, however, in the section devoted to this subject, says that it was one of the inks which was employed for map work. Samples of suitable pigments were cabled for from England but there was some difficulty in getting British firms to supply shades other than those usually manufactured by them. This subject will be further discussed when consideration is given to the second printing.

As regards perforation two machines were used. They were both of the "single line" variety, but whereas one of them produced a perforation gauging 12, the other only made 10 holes to the 2 cm. No record was kept as to the number of sheets passed through each machine and consequently the comparative quantities of each perforation can only be roughly arrived at by a study of the supplies of stamps on the market. (See Note at the end of this chapter.)

# Introduction of Postage Stamps and First Issue for New Kingdom



Essays as finally submitted to the King of the Hejaz for his approval.

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

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It was decided that the design should be based on a central panel containing the words " Makka el Mukarrama " (Sacred Mecca), the date of issue according to the Hejira calendar, and the face value of the stamp. The colour was to be either bright red or bright green, these being the colours of the Grand Sherif. When it was settled that the first value to be issued should be the One Piastre it was considered expedient to adopt the Postal Union colour of blue, but at first the exact value was left undecided, and it was only for purposes of experiment that the words Qirsh Sâgh (one piastre) were inserted.

The initial essays were of very poor appearance, the main outlines in each case being a succession of rectangles bearing Arabic inscriptions. The central panel was then changed to a hexagonal form and the small tablets in the framework were also altered. Experiments were made to discover whether the stamp looked better with the inscription in white on a coloured ground or in colour on a white ground, and in the end the former was held to be the more effective. Similar experiments were directed towards the minor portions of the design, so that there are, in all, twenty-three variations illustrated in the official handbook.

We have seen nine of the essays presented to His Highness, and we give illustrations of them above. The first three are in a dull shade of red and bear no figures of value. The second three are printed in steel-blue, " butcher " blue and dull blue respectively, whilst the last group are in dull blue, pale blue and bright blue.

It will be noticed that the third specimen of each group has the frame of the first with the centre of the second. In the original essays this is done by pasting the centre of the second essay over a specimen of the first.

The official description of the design is given in the *London Philatelist* from a document sent to the Royal Philatelic Society along with specimens of the actual stamps themselves. This runs as follows:—

" DESCRIPTION OF DESIGN: Central label bearing the Arabic words ' MAKKA EL MUKARRAMA ' (Holy Mecca). Upper inscription ' BARID HEJAZI ' (Hejaz Post). Lower inscription ' QERSH SÂGH ' (one piastre).

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Roses in lower corners carry the denomination in Arabic numerals (one). The side panels carry in Arabic numerals the date of the Arabic year 1334 (Lunar year after the prophet Mohammed's flight from Mecca to Medina). The main portion of the rest of design is taken from the detail of an ancient prayer niche in the Mosque of EL 'AMRI at Qûs in Upper Egypt. The binding together of the design has been drawn from various sources, all being purely Arabic."

The rough sketch of the finally accepted design was done by Mustafa Effendi Ghozlan, and the details and fair drawings of this and all the other stamps issued to date were made by Mr. A. Kirichdjian.



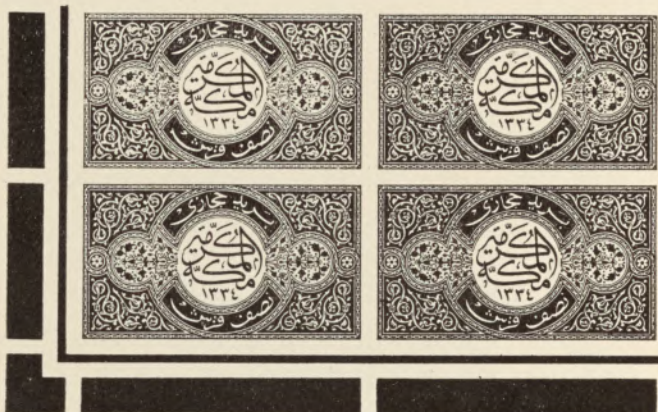
The one piastre as issued.

The method of printing has not been actually disclosed up to the present time. The official handbook, in speaking on this subject says: "The resources of modern photo-process work and offset lithography are great." It must therefore be assumed that some method of printing which was in use at the Survey was employed, and it seems probable that photo-zincography was the actual process adopted.

The first printing was issued on the 20th August, 1916. It consisted of fifty-eight sheets, each containing fifty stamps arranged in ten rows of five. The ink used was at the time in stock and it is officially described as Chinese blue. The sheets were all numbered by hand in the left bottom corner. Only forty of these, or 2000 stamps, were sold to the public; the remainder were sent as samples to the Postal Union Authorities, and donated to various learned societies. The Royal Philatelic Society, London, has six rows (thirty stamps) of sheet No. 45.

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

In the margins there is a heavy "Jubilee line" made up of lengths of rule, and inside this is a fine continuous line. The crossed lines in the corners of the sheet are guide marks for the printers.



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Block of half-piastre showing outer lines and position of control.

An interesting point in connection with the stamps of the Hejaz is the fact that they have always been issued in booklets of complete sheets. In this first printing ten sheets were put up into each booklet and the few odd ones remaining over were bound into booklets of 4 sheets each.

It is said that this printing was only in use in Mecca, and it would appear probable that such was the case, since it appears from the official correspondence that the stamps were urgently required for the Pilgrim season, and, moreover, the only copies seen of the light or Chinese blue shade which have borne a legible postmark were cancelled "MEKKE".

Samples of ink were obtained from England, and an order was placed with Messrs. A. B. Fleming & Co. The supply was received in time for a second printing to be issued on the 20th September, 1916, to the number of 381 sheets or 19,050 stamps.

These were of a bright blue colour and each sheet bore in the left-hand lower corner the Arabic letters **٥-١٦** enclosed in an oval frame. The first character is the native sign for "B", and this was varied for each printing just as is the case with the current stamps of Great Britain; the remaining part of the control is made up of the significant figures of the Georgian year in Arabic. This last was of course only changed annually. The booklets of this printing were made up of ten sheets as a rule, but a few contained fifteen.

There should be no difficulty whatever in separating these stamps from the ones first described, since the latter are in a distinctly "milky" blue whereas the second printing is a much brighter and deeper shade.

On the 24th October a third printing was put on sale. Apparently the ink supplied by Messrs. Fleming was not entirely satisfactory since a new supply had been obtained from the firm of Winstone & Sons. This is a much "harder" and more metallic shade than either of the former and is not nearly so pleasing from the artistic standpoint as the pale blue of the first printing. In all, 272 sheets were printed in this colour, making 13,600 stamps, and the shade is decidedly uncommon. The control used was as follows:— **٥-١٦** and, unlike the arrangement for the previous printings, it was under the centre of the second stamp from the left in the bottom row, instead of under the first. The booklets were all made up of ten sheets.

Both perforating machines were used, and for some reason specimens with the smaller perforation are decidedly scarce in this value. In the pale blue shade, if they exist at all, they must be of the utmost rarity.

The next value to appear was the half-piastre. Seven designs were prepared, all from purely Arabic sources. There are, however, three main types which we will endeavour to describe. The first showed a twelve-pointed star bearing the inscription "Makka el Mukarrama". Around this was another star of a similar number of points and between the second and third, fifth and sixth, eighth and ninth, eleventh and twelfth points were small rectangles. The design was filled in with arabesques and made

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

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Essays for the half-piastre.



up to the rectangular form which had been decided upon as the most suitable one for the issue.

In the second essay the inscription was within a circle surrounded by one and flanked by two others. In its essentials it was very similar to the design finally accepted.

The third showed an octagon within a small rectangle which in its turn was surrounded by four other rectangles so arranged that the outline assumed the approved format.

The first of these essays was subsequently utilised as the basis of the design for the one-quarter piastre.

It having been decided that the second drawing was the most suitable, various experiments were made to see whether the inscriptions should appear in white on a solid ground or in colour on white. There was also some attempt to make the design less complicated, and the lettering on the central panel was reduced in size and re-arranged.

Proofs were then pulled, and, after submission, they were destroyed.

The official description of the selected design reads as follows :—

“ Central label bearing the words ‘Makka el Mukarrama’ (Holy Mecca) with the Arabic numerals of the date of the Arabic year ‘1334’ (Lunar year after the Prophet

## *Introduction of Postage Stamps and First Issue for New Kingdom*

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Muhammed's flight from Mecca to Medina). The top panel bears the inscription in Arabic ' Barid Hejazi ' (Hejaz Post). The bottom panel bears the words ' Nisf Qersh ' (Half Piastre). The general design of the stamp has been taken from the last page of a Qur'ân in the Mosque of Sultan Barqûq, XIV. century."

The rough sketches of this stamp were drawn by Agami Effendi Ali, the fair drawings made and minor details filled in by Mr. Kirichdjian.



The half-piastre as issued.

The ink to be used in printing this value had been somewhat of a difficulty, but finally a red supplied by Messrs. Shackell, Edwards & Co. was selected and the first supplies were put on sale on the 10th September, 1916. We have seen a proof sheet imperforate, printed on a somewhat stouter paper than that used for the issued stamps. As in the case of the one piastre value the sheets were made up of fifty stamps in ten rows of five, and there was the usual double line in the margin. The control was ١-١٦ and was placed in the lower left-hand corner, directly below the angle of the thick " Jubilee " line.

This first printing consisted of 4,100 stamps and these were bound up into booklets of 10 and 21 sheets. In all probability only some 3,600 of these stamps were actually put on sale, the remainder being distributed among the offices of the various countries forming the Postal Union.

A further supply was needed the following month and we find a second printing of 15,600 stamps, or 312 sheets made on the 18th October, 1916, with the control ٢-١٦

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

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under the centre of the first stamp in the bottom row, outside the "Jubilee" lines.

This second edition, although printed with the same ink as was used at first, seems to be in a brighter shade, but the difficulty of distinguishing between single specimens, particularly when used, is very great and not altogether satisfactory unless the control letter is attached.

Both perforating machines were used for both printings and, unlike the one piastre stamps, those perforated 10 are decidedly the scarcer. Indeed the catalogue prices appear to be very much underestimated in the case of the rarer varieties of these two values. The booklets contained 20, 12 or 10 sheets.

While the foregoing stamps were in course of preparation the Sherif, through his Minister, requisitioned a supply of a new value, namely, the quarter piastre. As has already been said, one of the essays submitted for the half piastre stamp was used as the basis for the new design. It was first modified by the removal of the outer star and a redrawing of the whole of the background. After some minor alterations had been effected a fresh design was made with the tablets bearing the inscriptions in a new shape and with the Arabic letters in solid colour on a



Essays for the quarter-piastre.



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white ground instead of in outline. Five further alterations were tried before the design was finally approved, and these differ mainly in the size of the central inscription and other small points.

As in the case of the one piastre value we have seen specimens of the essays actually submitted for the approval of the Sherif. They appear to be at the same time, both essays and colour trials. There are two sheets of paper on each of which the two designs appear: in the case of one they are in a pale yellow green and the sheet is endorsed "Slater and Palmer's Green"; on the other is written "Fleming's Veredine" and the colour is a bright emerald green.

The essay which was approved is thus described in the official circular which was sent out with specimens of the issued stamp.



The quarter-piastre as issued.

"Central panel bearing the words 'Makka el Mukarrama' (Holy Mecca) with the Arabic numeral of the date of the Arabic year, '1334' (Lunar year after the Prophet Muhammed's flight from Mecca to Medina). The two top panels bear the inscription in Arabic 'Barid Hejazi' (Hejaz Post). The two bottom panels bear the words 'Rub' Qersh' (Quarter Piastre). The general design has been worked up from one of the carved panels on the principal door of a Cairo Mosque."

The mosque in question is that of El Salih Talayî, Shari' Quasabet Radwan, Cairo, of the XII. century.

The original drawing of the design was done by Agami Effendi Ali, and as in the case of the other two values, Mr.

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

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Kirichdjian was entrusted with the work of making a fair drawing and filling in the smaller details.

The only printing, made in a green ink supplied by Messrs. Shackell, Edwards & Co., was put on sale on the 3rd October, 1916. The sheets consisted of fifty stamps as before and the marginal markings are unaltered. In all, 340 sheets or 17,000 stamps were produced, with the control **J-17**. The booklets were all of ten sheets each.

Although only one printing was made there are two distinct shades, a bright green and a pale yellow green. The latter is by far the scarcer of the two.

This value is only known perforated 12. It was listed by Gibbons as perforated 10 but is now omitted, and a correspondent in Cairo makes the very definite statement that the stamp with the larger perforation does not exist. A sheet, perforated 12 x 10, is in the collection of His Majesty King George.

Two words of warning must now be added. The first is against specimens of the second or rouletted issue which



The Harbour at Yambo.

have had forged perforations applied. For obvious reasons it is not advisable that any details should be given of this fraud, but collectors will do well to scrutinize their specimens with care.

The other warning is against a possible confusion of the third, or zig-zag roulette, issue with the perforated stamps. It is a very easy matter to confuse the two, and specimens of the latter issue may be found wrongly described in the stock-books of even important dealers. When it is remembered that the perforating punch makes a round hole while the zig-zag roulette gives what in detached specimens appears to be a square hole, it will not be necessary to say more.

#### NOTE ON THE 10 AND 12 PERFORATIONS

A possible theory which would explain this phenomenon is that the perf. 12 variety is an "error." It will be seen, from a study of the dates at which the various printings were made that the second printing of the 1 piastre stamps was in progress at the same time that the  $\frac{1}{2}$  piastre and  $\frac{1}{4}$  piastre values were being produced. The machine perforating 10 had been used for the first printing and was probably in use for the second, so that the red and the green stamps were put through the 12 machine. A few sheets found when "checking" were put indiscriminately through either with the result that the second and third printings of the 1 piastre are found perforated 12, and the first and second of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  piastre are known perf. 10. Of the quarter piastre none are known with the larger perforation all round, but one or two sheets were found to be only part perforated and these were run through the 10 machine.

# SUMMARY

All values are printed in sheets of 50 stamps (10 rows of 5).

| Value     | Shade.               | Date of first issue and subsequent reprints. | Control letters.                            | Number printed. | Perforation.       | Size of Booklets.*    | Name of Inkmaker.               | Name of Designer.       | Remarks.                                             |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Piastre | milky blue           | 20-8-16                                      | Sheets numbered by hand from 1-58 in Arabic | 2,900           | 10 and possibly 12 | 10 and 4 sheets       | not known                       | Mustafa Effendi Ghozlan | Said to have been used in Mecca only                 |
|           | bright blue          | 20-9-16                                      | ٥-١٦                                        | 19,050          | 10 and 12          | 10 and 15 sheets      | Messrs. A. B. Fleming & Co.     |                         | The 12 perforation is much the scarcer in all shades |
|           | deep metallic blue   | 24-10-16                                     | ٣-١٦                                        | 13,600          | 10 and 12          | 10 sheets             | Messrs. Winstone & Sons         |                         |                                                      |
| ½ Piastre | red                  | 10-9-16                                      | ١-١٦                                        | 4,100           | 10 and 12          | 10 and 21 sheets      | Messrs. Shackell, Edwards & Co. | Agami Effendi Ali       | The 10 perforation is the scarcer in both shades     |
|           | brighter red         | 18-10-16                                     | ٥-١٦                                        | 15,600          | 10 and 12          | 20, 12, and 10 sheets | "                               |                         |                                                      |
| ¼ Piastre | green and pale green | 3-10-16                                      | ١-١٦                                        | 17,000          | 12 only            | 10 sheets             | Messrs. Shackell, Edwards & Co. | Agami Effendi Ali       | Two sheets are said to exist perforated 12 x 10      |

\* The odd number of sheets were contained in booklets made up of the sheets left over from each batch received from the perforators.

## Chapter III

### THE "FINE ROULETTES" OF 1916-1917



THE Official "Note" in dealing with the question of the various methods of separation which may be employed in stamp issues, says, "Perforation should, strictly speaking, be adjusted to suit both the strength of the paper used and the size of the stamp. . . . It is also necessary that co-ordination shall be obtained between the two sets of intersecting rows, so that there shall always be a perforation common to every pair of intersecting rows at the point of junction. With the perforating machines in Egypt this could not be arranged, as these were merely designed to give a straight run of holes, and the series of intersecting lines at right angles were independent and un-co-ordinated, and, therefore, the perforations intersected each other irregularly."

To obviate this it was decided to try rouletting, and letterpress rules were therefore set up, making fine cuts in the paper to the number of 20 to the two centimetres.

All three values were issued together on the 23rd Dec., 1916.

In the case of the one piastre there was only a single printing of 49,600 stamps with the control ١٦-ش within a cartouche, under the centre of the first stamp in the bottom row.

A new plate was employed whereon one hundred subjects were etched in two blocks of fifty side by side. Each block was arranged exactly in the same way as the single plates used for the first issue, including the marginal lines. The importance of these marginal markings will be seen later when we come to discuss the next issue.

Booklets were made up, as before, consisting of 20 and 10 sheets.

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

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There was likewise only one printing of the half piastre red, amounting to 48,850 stamps with the control **3-17**. The plate for this value, however, remained as for the previous issue, namely, one block of fifty stamps only. The number of sheets printed is an odd one, namely 977, so that it is not surprising to find that, when they came to be made up into booklets, these contained either 20, 10 or 7 sheets.

In the case of the quarter piastre there were two printings. The first was in sheets of fifty with control **3-17**. These were in a bright yellow-green, and the marginal markings were the same as for the other values. The total number of sheets printed in this shade was 959, making 49,450 stamps. The booklets as a rule contained 20 sheets, but two were made up of 18 and 11 respectively.

On the 5th February, 1917, a second printing was issued, with the control letters **1-17**. There were 185,000 printed in a shade slightly differing from the previous supply. The plates were made up of two panes of fifty as in the case of the 1 piastre value, but there was an alteration in the frame lines. This consisted in the addition of the characters N—4—A reading downwards in white on the broad coloured band opposite the left-hand side of the first stamp in the bottom row.

It is not easy to distinguish specimens of the two printings by means of their shades only. Certain small flaws, however, exist which are constant, as for example in the case of stamp No. 47 on plate 2, in which there is a minute white spot at the bottom of the right-hand character in the rectangle in the North-east corner. Another point which will be of assistance in cases where either the top or bottom margin is adhering to the stamp is the fact that the vertical lines of rouletting do not extend beyond the outer marginal line in the case of the first printing, whilst in the second they are carried to the edge of the sheet.

According to the information supplied by the Survey of Egypt, the booklets were all made up of twenty sheets.

Meanwhile it had been found necessary to prepare a lower value, namely a one-eighth piastre or 5 paras. Two

The "Fine Roulettes" of 1916-17

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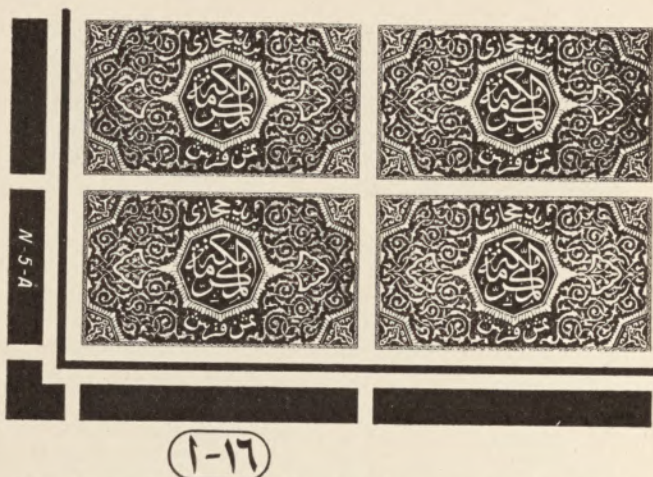
Essays for the 4th piastre.

drawings were made, the first showing an octagon containing the usual Arabic inscription for "Holy Mecca". Above and below this are white cartouches bearing respectively the words "Barid Hejazi" and "Thumn Qersh". The remaining part of the sketch had a fret-work appearance. The second drawing also contains the words "Holy Mecca" within an octagon, but the tablets are removed and the remaining inscriptions almost appear to be part of the design. The background was made up of much finer tracery. This second sketch was selected as the more promising one, and attention was then directed to the introduction of certain modifications, experiments being made with a view to deciding whether the various inscriptions looked more pleasing in colour on a white ground or in white on a coloured ground. Seven of these essays are illustrated in the official "Note." The design as finally approved is described in a circular from the Survey as follows :—

"Central label bearing the Arabic words "Mecca al Mukarrama" (Holy Mecca). Upper inscription "Barid Hejazi" (Hejaz Post). Lower inscription "Thumn Qersh" (eighth of a piastre). The central ornament is based on a fragment of a Qoran design from the tomb of Sultan el Churi, XVI century. The Arabesque ornament forming the background of the design is taken from the stone carving on the sides of the entrance to the Wakfs Ministry in Cairo."

The Ministry referred to corresponds, as far as the Mohammedan world is concerned, with the English Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*



The  $\frac{1}{4}$ th piastre as issued, showing plate and control numbers.

The design was mainly the work of Agami Effendi Ali; the subsidiary writing, however, is due to Mustafa Effendi Ghozlan.

Great difficulty was experienced in working with the orange colour selected for the stamp on account of the delicate contrasts in tint; the shade was, however, one of the most beautiful supplied by Messrs. Shackell, Edwards & Co.

The printing was done towards the end of the year 1916 although the issue did not take place until the 5th Feb., 1917. This fact explains why the control letters are 1-16 which corresponds to "A-16" in English characters.

The plates were made up of two blocks of fifty stamps each, arranged in ten rows of five as before, and 1800 sheets were printed. These were afterwards divided into panes and bound up into booklets of 20 each.

As regards the marginal lines they were similar to those found on the second printing of the quarter-piastre stamp, the inscription N-5-A being in the left-hand

## *The "Fine Roulettes" of 1916-17*

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margin. It is also possible to distinguish between the two panes provided that the first stamp in the bottom row is available. Below the extreme left-hand corner and between the two marginal lines there is a small dot to be found, but whether this denotes the right or left-hand portion of the sheet has not yet been discovered.

Slight variations in shade may be found, but in view of the extremely delicate nature of the colour it is difficult to say whether these are genuine "shades" or merely due to the action of strong light. It is certain that the canary-yellow variety is the result of exposure to the sun.

### NOTE ON CHAPTER III

It is as well to warn collectors against the purchase of specimens of this issue on the so-called "ruled" paper. These stamps have appeared several times in the auction rooms and, at first sight, may lead the unwary astray. A careful examination will reveal the fact that the faint blue lines which appear on the back of the stamps are simply "off-sets" from a sheet of ruled writing paper, to which the stamps had been affixed. Such specimens cannot in any way be considered as varieties.

# SUMMARY

All values are rouletted 20 by means of a series of fine cuts.

| Value.            | Shade.      | Dates of Issue. | Control. | Number printed. | Sheet size. | Booklets.             | Inkmake.                | Designer.                                                             |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 pi.             | blue        | 23-12-16        | ٥-١٦     | 49,600          | 100         | 20 and 10 sheets      | Winstone & Sons         | As before                                                             |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ pi. | red         | 23-12-16        | ٥-١٦     | 48,850          | 50          | 20, 10, and 7 sheets  | Shackell, Edwards & Co. | As before                                                             |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ pi. | green       | 23-12-16        | ٥-١٦     | 49,450          | 50          | 20, 18, and 11 sheets | Shackell, Edwards & Co. | As before                                                             |
|                   | "           | 5-2-17          | ١-١٧     | 185,000         | 100         | 20 sheets             | "                       | "                                                                     |
| $\frac{1}{8}$ pi. | deep yellow | 5-2-17          | ١-١٧     | 180,000         | 100         | 20 sheets             | Shackell, Edwards & Co. | Agami Effendi Ali, with subsidiary writing by Mustafa Effendi Ghozlan |

## Chapter IV

### THE ADOPTION OF THE "ZIG-ZIG" ROULETTE, 13 × 13



THE reason for the change from the straight to the zig-zag rouletting is only hinted at in the official "Note." Perforation had been tried but found unsatisfactory owing to the fact that single line machines alone were available. The straight roulette, it is said, was better, but the detached stamp looked unfinished. What the Survey wanted to do was to find some method of separation which, without weakening the paper too much, would yet preserve the distinctive appearance of perforation. It was for this reason that an experiment was made with a new form of rouletting, and, having been found satisfactory while only comparatively small supplies of the stamps are required, it is still in use.

The first two values to appear with the new roulette were the one piastre and the half piastre. Both these were put on sale on the 13th May, 1917. From this time onwards all the plates consisted of two blocks of fifty stamps, arranged in ten rows of five.

The one piastre bore the control letter **T-W**, and 176,050 were printed. The ink for this and all subsequent printings was supplied by Messrs. Winstone & Sons. The booklets were made up of twenty sheets.

Two distinct shades have been found among a number of specimens used in 1918 and which therefore must belong to this supply. One is a milky blue, almost approaching that of the first perforated stamp; the other is much deeper in colour.

Only one thin, continuous line was in the margin.

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

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No further supplies were required until the middle of 1919. On the 4th August of that year a second printing was put on sale, consisting of 27,000 stamps, and the control letters were ٥-١٩. The plate number, N-1-D, in colour, reading downwards, appears opposite the left-hand side of the first stamp in the bottom row; the shade is a little deeper than that of the first printing.

On the 19th January, 1920, a third printing was put on sale. There were 110,000 stamps in this supply and the control letter was ٥-١٩. This seems to have been in a harder and more metallic shade of blue than either of the two preceding printings. It was prepared during the latter part of 1919.

The information supplied by the Survey of Egypt gives the dates of all editions up to the 1st May, 1921, and states that there was a fourth printing on the 1st December, 1920, which is still in use. The control is ٥-٢٠, and 1740 sheets were supplied. Information is not yet forthcoming to enable the shade of this printing to be identified.

There are two small flaws in this stamp which are worthy of note. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining a complete sheet of one hundred stamps it is not possible to say in which pane they are to be found.

Both are in the top row of the pane, the first being on stamp No. 2 and consists of the addition of a coloured dot in the white part of the character at the extreme right of the central inscription, just at the point where it divides into two curves. The second flaw is on No. 5, in which a small coloured dot is to be found on the upper curve of the "S" character in the centre of the panel.

There are a number of minor flaws, but they can only be seen with the aid of a strong glass; the two mentioned are, however, clearly visible to the naked eye.

As has been said, the half piastre red was issued at the same time as the one piastre. Of the first printing there were 174,500 stamps with the control ١-١٧. Like the higher value the marginal line markings were in one continuous thin line, and the plate number, if such is its significance, was printed in colour, reading downwards,



THE ARRIVAL OF THE HOLY CARPET IN MECCA.

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

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at the left-hand side of the first stamp in the bottom row. In the case of this edition it was N—2—C. The booklets contained 20 and 8 sheets.

A second printing of 90,000 stamps was required in September, 1918, being put on sale on the 3rd of that month. The control letters were **١-١٨**, and the plate number N—2—D was in the same position as for the first printing. From a careful examination of dated copies it would seem that this printing was in a curious pinkish shade of red, quite distinct from the earlier edition.

On the 25th January, 1920, were placed on sale the first stamps of yet a third printing, to the number of 48,000. The control letter was **٢-١٩** and the plate number N—2—D. These were in a brighter shade again, and from the control it would seem that they were actually printed in 1919.

The last recorded edition of this value was issued on the 8th November, 1920. As far as can be seen, there is no difference in shade between this and the third supply. There were 110,000 printed with the control letter **٣-٢٠**.

With the exception of the initial printing all the booklets were made up to contain 20 sheets.

Two interesting flaws occur in the central panel of this value. One (No. 17 on the sheet) is in the form of a dot which is found in the enclosed right-hand curve of the upper "S" like character where crossed by the down-stroke of the reversed "L". The second (No. 34 on the sheet) is a break causing a large white spot in the same "S" character, and is just above the position where the dot before described occurs.

The first flaw has also been found on the stamps of this value in the fine rouletted series, but it is not possible to allocate it to a particular pane owing to lack of material.

Taking the values in the order of their appearance, the next to be considered is a novelty, namely, the one para or 1/40 piastre. This was intended for franking newspapers, etc., and the low charges made by the Hejaz Post Office will be appreciated when it is realised that the face value is equal to about a quarter of a farthing in British currency.

### *The Adoption of the "Zig-Zag" Roulette, 13 × 13*

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It may here be mentioned that His Majesty the King of the Hejaz is himself a newspaper proprietor. He issues a journal entitled "El Kibla," i.e. "the Holiest Place," which derives its name from that spot, the centre of Mecca, towards which every Mahomedan turns in prayer.



Essays for the 1/40th piastre.

An initial essay was made, as illustrated, but the whole design was ineffective, and five amended forms were produced before it was considered satisfactory. The rough sketches were done by Agami Effendi Ali, who drew the main features of his design from the stucco work above one of the entrances to Cairo railway station.

The plates for this value conformed to the scheme in use for the other stamps, namely, one hundred impressions in two blocks of fifty. The marginal lines are narrow, as is the case with the other values already discussed.

The *first printing* was issued on the 24th July, 1917, to the number of 185,800 stamps. They were printed in ink made by Messrs. Fleming & Co., and the shade is a pale purple-brown. The control letters are **١-١٧** and the plate number, which in the case of this value appears below the centre of the last stamp on the sheet in the bottom margin, is N—9—A. The booklets were all made up of 20 sheets.

## The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz

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A further supply was soon required and a *second printing* was issued on the 8th October of the same year. They are in a deeper shade of colour and bore the control  - W. It would seem that parts of some of the sheets were defective since there are said to have been 97,650 stamps in this printing, and as the plates printed 100 stamps in two blocks of fifty, one can only assume that it was necessary to destroy part of this supply.

Here it might be mentioned that the colour does not appear to have been very evenly distributed over the plates in any values of the zig-zag roulette series, since the shade varies in depth in different parts of the same sheet.

The ink used was supplied by Messrs. Fleming & Co., as in the case of the first printing, and the booklets were made up of twenty sheets, with the exception of one, which contained thirteen only.

On the 9th February, 1918, a *third printing* of 193,250 was put on sale. This was in a deeper and "colder" shade and bore the control  - W. The booklets were made up of 20, 14 or 11 sheets.

The *fourth printing* was the last made in the ink obtained from Messrs. Fleming & Co. There were 1940 sheets with the control  - 1A and the stamps were placed on sale on the 17th June, 1918. The shade does not differ materially from that of the last mentioned. The booklets contained twenty sheets.

Towards the end of 1918 it became evident that a further supply would be required shortly, and these were promptly got ready.

For this, the *fifth printing*, fresh ink was obtained from Messrs. Winstone & Sons, and this firm still supplies the Survey of Egypt so far as concerns the one para, one piastre and two piastre values. This issue bears the control  - 1A although it was not actually on sale until the 30th January, 1919. The plate number is N-9-E, and the stamps are in a chocolate-brown colour. One hundred and forty-three thousand were printed, and were made up into booklets of twenty sheets each, which arrangement has been maintained for all subsequent editions.

## The Adoption of the "Zig-Zag" Roulette, 13 × 13

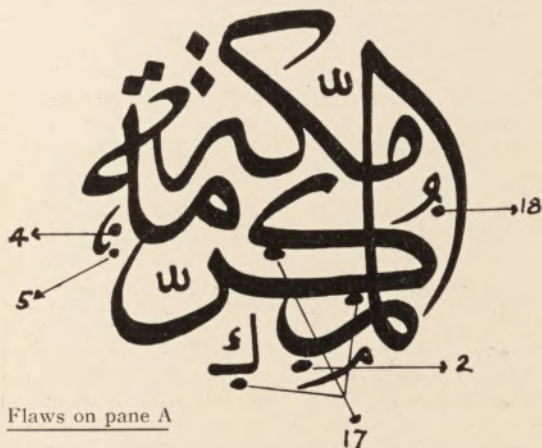
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The *sixth printing* was in a much deeper and brighter shade and amounted to 184,000 stamps. The control letter is ٣-١٩ and the plate number N—9—F. It was put on sale on the 17th July, 1919.

The remaining printings up to the 1st May, 1921, are two—seventh and eighth. Of these the *seventh* was prepared about December, 1919, to the number of 240,000 stamps, with control letter ٣-١٩, and issued on the 2nd February, 1920. The *eighth printing* consisted of 370,000 stamps with control ٤-٢٠, and was put on sale for the first time on the 21st November, 1920.

It is interesting to note the large increase in the size of the supplies of stamps. A study of the table given at the end of each chapter will show that in the case of certain values the consumption had grown more than fifty per cent. in the course of a few months.

These one para stamps are interesting in that they show a number of plate flaws. In every case the flaw consists in the addition of an extra dot or dash to the central inscription reading "Mecca al Mukarrama".



The following table shows the position of the various flaws in pane A. It is not possible to state whether this is the right or left half of the sheet, since these are divided

## The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz

into two before leaving the printer, and the stamps are unobtainable in any other form than that of a single pane :



|      |      |      |     |      |
|------|------|------|-----|------|
| 1    | 2 x  | 3    | 4 x | 5 x  |
| 6    | 7    | 8    | 9   | 10   |
| 11   | 12   | 13   | 14  | 15   |
| 16   | 17 x | 18 x | 19  | 20   |
| 21   | 22 x | 23   | 24  | 25   |
| 26 x | 27 x | 28   | 29  | 30   |
| 31   | 32   | 33 x | 34  | 35   |
| 36 x | 37   | 38   | 39  | 40   |
| 41   | 42   | 43 x | 44  | 45   |
| 46   | 47   | 48   | 49  | 50 x |

The enlarged illustration of the central characters will assist in explaining where these dots are situated.

*The Adoption of the "Zig-Zag" Roulette, 13 x 13*

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The first is on stamp No. 2, a small circular mark appearing below the tail of the reversed letter "L".

No. 4. On the extreme left of the inscription is a small hook-shaped mark. This has a dot at the right of the hook.

No. 5. In the same character, just below the hook, there is a small coloured dot.

No. 17. There are three dots on this stamp. The first is below the left-hand curve of the S-shaped character on the lower part of the inscription; the second is on the inner side of the point where the downstroke of the reversed "L" cuts the "S" for a second time; the third is below the small character shaped like a right angle (thus J) at the bottom of the circle.

No. 18. This flaw is found at the right-hand side of the central panel between the outer part of the lower curve of the "S" and a small hook-shaped character.

No. 22. In the upper left-hand part of the inscription are two dots placed one above the other. Below and slightly to the left is a small mark attached to the curve of the character nearest to the dots.

No. 26. There is a large kidney-shaped flaw between the middle and lower curves of the "S".

No. 27. In the centre of the upper part of the inscription there is a character, which, starting at the top with a horizontal line, continues downwards diagonally from left to right and breaks suddenly into two curves. The flaw consists in a large irregular dot within the left-hand curve.

No. 33. Similar to No. 4, but in place of a dot at the end of the hook there is a small dash.

No. 36. There is a small oblique line below the angle of the small character at the bottom of the circle where the third dot is found in No. 17.

No. 43. There is a small dot in the same position as the kidney-shaped mark found in stamp No. 26.

No. 50. In the central inscription the tail of the "S" character is prolonged to the left, and after forming a loop is carried on in the shape of a semi-circle. Within this curve is a small dot which constitutes the flaw.

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

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There do not seem to be as many flaws in the case of the other pane. The following list gives the principal ones, that is to say, those that can be seen by the collector of normal eyesight without the aid of a magnifying glass, but it has not been possible to allocate them to their positions, except in one instance, owing to the fact that neither of the writers has been able to obtain a sight of a complete sheet of pane B.



Flaws on pane B

(a) Two small dots occur both touching the inner side of the frame line surrounding the central panel, the first being in the centre at the top, and the second to the left of the second pair of diamond-shaped marks.

(b) A single dot is found in the same position as the second of those last described. This has been identified as No. 48 on the pane.

(c) In pane A, No. 17, is mentioned a circular mark below the left-hand upper curve of the S-shaped character. The dot noted in pane B is in the same position but is in the form of an equilateral triangle; it is likewise No. 17 on the pane.

Continuing in strictly chronological order, the next value to appear was a two piastres stamp. Only two essays were prepared, and the rejected design differs but slightly from

## The Adoption of the "Zig-Zag" Roulette, 13 × 13

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2 Piastres as issued.



Essay.

that actually adopted. The artist responsible for the rough drawing was Agami Effendi Ali, and he drew his inspiration from the first page of the Quran of El Sultan Farag (1411 A.D.), which is now in the Museum of Arab Art at Cairo. The lettering is important in this stamp, since it is not in the usual form. The characters are what is known as "Kufic" and they were used for ancient sacred writings, Sura headings and important titles in illuminated manuscripts. In the case of the design under consideration they have been slightly modified in order to make them legible on the small scale to which they had to be reduced.

The first printing appeared on the 20th August, 1917, when 44,750 stamps were put on sale. Like all the other values of the zig-zag roulette series, they were printed from plates containing one hundred subjects in two panes of fifty. The ink was supplied by Messrs. Winstone & Sons, and the colour fully sets off the delicate tracery of the design. The official information supplied to the writers states that the booklets were made up of twenty sheets, but this is possibly an error in view of the figures of the printing. It would seem more probable that there was at least one booklet containing only fifteen sheets, but the point is not one of prime importance, so that it may well be passed over without further remark.

The plate number is N—10—A, and the control ٢-١٧.

A second printing was not required until August, 1919, when, on the 3rd of that month, 25,000 stamps were placed on sale. The control letter was ٢-١٧ and the plate number remained unchanged. The shade of this printing is brighter than that of the first, and specimens may be separated from one another even if a dated postmark is not present to assist. The ink was supplied by the same

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

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makers as before, Messrs. Winstone & Sons. The booklets from now onwards consisted of twenty sheets.

The second printing lasted barely four months, and a third called for before the end of the year. It was not, however, put on sale until the 25th January, 1920. In this supply there were 140 sheets of a hundred stamps each, bearing the control **٣-١٩**. For some reason the two piastre stamps are scarce, both in unused and used condition, and it has not been possible to identify the exact shades of this and the succeeding printing. One other point should be noted, and that is the fact that the plate number is situated below the centre of the last stamp in the sheet, as in the case of the one para value, and not in the left-hand margin where it occurs for the other values.

The fourth printing, and the last which occurred before May, 1921, was put on sale on the 2nd December, 1920. There were 30,000 stamps in this edition and the control letter was **٣-٢٠**.

A block of four proofs of the first printing is in the collection of one of the writers. They are printed on a stout smooth-surfaced white wove paper, in all respects similar to that employed for the proofs of the perforated stamps.

The 24th October, 1917, saw the issue of the  $\frac{1}{8}$  piastre yellow with the control letter **١-١٧**. The ink used was supplied by Messrs. Shackell, Edwards & Co., and 45,950 stamps were prepared. It is probable that the plate number was N—5—A. For some reason the double "Jubilee" line was retained, and if the surmise that the plate number was N—5—A is correct these figures will be found in white on the thick outer rule to the left of the first stamp in the bottom row. The booklets contained 20 sheets, but one was made up of 19 sheets only.

The variation in shade between this and the succeeding printings is very small, and it is only by the use of dated postmarks and control letters that the stamps can be allotted with certainty to the supplies from which they emanate.

A second edition was first issued on the 4th July, 1918, consisting of 94,000 stamps. The double "Jubilee" line was retained, and the control letter was **١-١٨**. The plate

*The Adoption of the "Zig-Zag" Roulette, 13 × 13*

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number was probably N—5—B. All booklets of this value for the future contained twenty sheets.

A third printing was put on sale on the 2nd March, 1919, to the number of 95,000 stamps, with the control  $\text{ب-١٩}$  and a fourth supply, of a like number, with control  $\text{ب-١٩}$  and plate number N—5—C under the last stamp on the sheet, first appeared on the 3rd September, 1919. The shade in which this printing is found seems to be more dull than that of the previous editions.

A large supply of 243,000, with control  $\text{ب-١٩}$ , was printed at the end of 1919 and put on sale on the 29th January, 1920, and these lasted until the 15th November of the same year, when a further edition of 239,000, with control  $\text{ج-٢٠}$  was brought into use.

One value only now remains to be considered, namely, the  $\frac{1}{4}$  piastre. The initial printing with control  $\text{ب-١٧}$  appeared on the 6th November, 1917. They were printed in ink obtained from Messrs. Shackell, Edwards & Co., as were all subsequent editions, in sheets of 100, divided into two panes of fifty. The plate number was probably N—4—B.

As in the case of the  $\frac{1}{8}$  piastre, it is difficult to separate the various printings by their shades only, but the colour makes this value more amenable than the rich yellow employed for the former and these notes may be accepted as substantially correct. The stamps of the first edition are in a much deeper shade than the later ones, and it is comparatively easy to pick them out, although a dated post-mark or the control letter is to be desired.

In all there were 47,550 stamps printed, and made up into booklets of 20, 18 and 15 sheets.

A second supply was printed in the same year, but not put on sale until the 11th March, 1918. This consisted of 94,400 stamps with control  $\text{ب-١٧}$  and probably plate number N—4—C. The shade of this second edition is distinctly paler than the first and seems to have a little more yellow in its composition. The booklets were made up of 20 sheets, but one contained 8 only.

Five months later, the 4th August, 1918, to be exact, yet a third supply was brought into use, the control in this



KING HUSSEIN WITH FIELD-MARSHAL LORD ALLENBY REVIEWING THE TROOPS  
AT JEDDAH.

### *The Adoption of the "Zig-Zag" Roulette, 13×13*

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case was  $\text{C}-18$  and the plate number probably N—4—D. The shade is a very pale green. There were 92,000 printed in the usual sized sheets, and from this time onwards all the booklets contained 20 panes of fifty stamps.

A fourth printing was not needed until the 22nd January, 1919, although the stamps were actually prepared in 1918, as is evidenced by the control letter  $\text{C}-18$ . There were not as many stamps as usual in this lot, the number officially given being 73,000 only. The shade appears to be a more bluish green than found in the previous printings and the plate number most probably is N—4—E.

On the 6th June, 1919, a fifth supply, consisting of 153,000 stamps, was issued. The control letter is  $\text{C}-19$  and the plate number N—4—F.

At the end of 1919 a sixth printing was made of 2120 sheets of 100 with control letter  $\text{C}-19$ . These were not brought into use until the 15th January, 1920. They only lasted some nine months, since, on the 31st October of the same year, the seventh and final printing to date was put on sale. This supply consisted of 236,000 stamps with the control letter  $\text{J}-2$ . The writers have not sufficient information to state definitely whether there was any variation in shade of importance between these two editions.

# SUMMARY

All values printed on sheets of 100 (two panes of 50) and rouletted.

| Value.     | Shade.         | Dates of Issue. | Control and plate No. | Number printed. | Sheets in Booklets. | Ink-maker.              | Designer.         |
|------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 pi.      | purple         | 20-8-17         | ۲-۱۷ (N-10-A)         | 44,750          | 20 and 15 (?)       | Messrs. Winstone & Sons | Agami Effendi Ali |
|            | bright purple  | 3-8-19          | ۲-۱۹ (N-10-A)         | 25,000          | 20                  | "                       | —                 |
|            | purple         | 25-1-20         | ۳-۱۹ ( )              | 14,000          | 20                  | "                       | —                 |
|            | purple         | 2-12-20         | ۳-۲۰ (N-10-B)         | 30,000          | 20                  | "                       | —                 |
| (48) 1 pi. | blue           | 13-5-17         | ۲-۱۷ (N-1-C)          | 176,050         | 20                  | Messrs. Winstone & Sons | As before         |
|            | deep blue      | 4-8-19          | ۲-۱۹ (N-1-D)          | 27,000          | 20                  | "                       | —                 |
|            | metallic shade | 19-1-20         | ۳-۱۹ (N-1-E)          | 110,000         | 20                  | "                       | —                 |
|            | blue           | 1-12-20         | ۳-۲۰ (N-1-F)          | 174,000         | 20                  | "                       | —                 |
| ½ pi.      | red            | 13-5-17         | ۲-۱۷ (N-2-C)          | 174,500         | 20 and 8            | Shackell, Edwards & Co. | As before         |
|            | pinkish-red    | 3-9-18          | ۲-۱۸ (N-2-D)          | 90,000          | 20                  | "                       | —                 |
|            | bright red     | 26-1-20         | ۲-۱۹ (N-2-D)          | 48,000          | 20                  | "                       | —                 |
|            | bright red     | 8-11-20         | ۳-۲۰ (N-2-E)          | 110,000         | 20                  | "                       | —                 |

|                   |                 |          |              |         |               |                            |           |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|--------------|---------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| $\frac{1}{4}$ pi. | deep green      | 6-11-17  | ٥-١٧ (N-4-B) | 47,550  | 20, 18 and 15 | Shackell,<br>Edwards & Co. | As before |
|                   | yellowish green | 11-3-18  | ٥-١٧ (N-4-C) | 94,400  | 10 and 8      | "                          | —         |
|                   | very pale green | 4-8-18   | ٥-١٨ (N-4-D) | 92,000  | 20            | "                          | —         |
|                   | bluish green    | 22-1-19  | ٥-١٨ (N-4-E) | 73,000  | 20            | "                          | —         |
|                   | green           | 6-6-19   | ٥-١٩ (N-4-F) | 153,000 | 20            | "                          | —         |
|                   | green           | 15-1-20  | ٥-١٩ (N-4-G) | 212,000 | 20            | "                          | —         |
|                   | "               | 31-10-20 | ٥-٢٠ (N-4-H) | 236,000 | 20            | "                          | —         |
| $\frac{1}{8}$ pi. | yellow          | 24-10-17 | ٦-١٧ (N-5-A) | 45,950  | 20 and 19     | Shackell,<br>Edwards & Co. | As before |
|                   | "               | 4-7-18   | ٦-١٨ (N-5-B) | 94,000  | 20            | "                          | —         |
|                   | "               | 2-3-19   | ٦-١٩ (N-5-B) | 95,000  | 20            | "                          | —         |
|                   | dull yellow     | 3-9-19   | ٦-١٩ (N-5-C) | 95,000  | 20            | "                          | —         |
|                   | yellow          | 29-1-20  | ٦-١٩ (N-5-D) | 243,000 | 20            | "                          | —         |
|                   | yellow          | 15-11-20 | ٦-٢٠ (N-5-E) | 239,000 | 20            | "                          | —         |

Plate numbers in *italics* have not actually been seen.

# SUMMARY

All values printed on sheets of 100 (two panes of 50) and rouletted.

| Value. | Shade.            | Dates of Issue. | Control and plate No. | Number printed | Sheets in Booklets. | Ink-maker.      | Designer.         |
|--------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| ¼ pi.  | pale purple brown | 24-7-17         | ٢-١٧ (N-9 A)          | 185,800        | 20                  | Fleming & Co.   | Agami Effendi Ali |
|        | deeper do.        | 8-10-17         | ٣-١٧ (N-9-B)          | 97,650         | 20 and 13           | "               | —                 |
|        | "cold" do         | 9-2-18          | ٤-١٧ (N-9-C)          | 193,250        | 20, 14 and 11       | "               | —                 |
|        | " "               | 17-6-18         | ٥-١٨ (N-9-D)          | 194,000        | 20                  | "               | —                 |
|        | chocolate, br'wn  | 30-1-19         | ٦-١٨ (N-9 E)          | 143,000        | 20                  | Winstone & Sons | —                 |
|        | deep do.          | 17-7-19         | ٧-١٩ (N-9 F)          | 184,000        | 20                  | "               | —                 |
|        | " "               | 2-2-20          | ٨-١٩ (N-9-G)          | 240,000        | 20                  | "               | —                 |
|        | " "               | 21-11-20        | ٩-٢٠ (N-9-H)          | 370,000        | 20                  | "               | —                 |

Plate numbers in *italics* have not actually been seen.



A GENERAL VIEW OF THE HOLY CITY OF MEDINA.

## Chapter V

### THE POSTAGE DUE STAMPS



It was not long before the Hejaz Post Office found that there was a need for the introduction of stamps to denote the amount of postage payable on insufficiently stamped packets. The Survey of Egypt were therefore instructed to prepare the necessary designs and submit them without delay. According to the "Note" there was very little time given, and, moreover, the Survey were then extremely busy, so that it was decided to utilise one type only for the three values required, modifying it slightly by varying combinations of positive and negative representations of different portions.

In the first instance eight sketches were made by Agami Effendi Ali, the more important of which are reproduced here and therefore do not need any detailed description. It will be noticed that the differing effect of placing the inscriptions on a solid or fancy background was tried and also various forms for the central panel.

As finally adopted, the design showed a bold figure of value within a central frame of irregular shape. In the case of the piastre values the figures are flanked by small ornaments bearing the value in words. Above and below there are two small panels, that at the top carrying the words "Barid Hejazi" and that at the bottom the single word "Mustahiq".

The original sketches were the outcome of a study of a very old door with metal ornaments at the main entrance, El Ashraf Barsbai, at Shari el Ashrafiya, Cairo.

The one piastre value was submitted as shown and approved, except for the panels, which, it was suggested, would look better in mosaic style. The 20 para value was approved as illustrated, after making the borders

## *The Postage Due Stamps*

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Initial Essays.

of the panels solid and reducing the size of the figures slightly. The highest value, the two piastres, was twice altered. The first objection was that the figure of value was not the same size as those in the other two stamps. The second alteration was introduced after an attempt had been made to print, it being found that the fine lace work at the corners of the central panel would not come out sufficiently distinctly. They were therefore modified slightly and the design finally approved.

Colour trials were taken in five different inks, namely, purple, blue, red, green and orange. These, according to the official information given to the writers, have all been destroyed.

All three values were put on sale on the same day, the 27th June, 1917, and the control letter was the same for each, namely, **٢-١٧**. The plates were made up of 100 stamps in two panes of fifty as before, but, owing to the design being an upright rectangle instead of a horizontal one, each pane was arranged in five rows of ten stamps. The marginal markings consist of the single continuous frame line, the control letter below the first stamp in the bottom row and the plate number below the last stamp on the sheet. The plate number differed for each of the three values. On the one piastre it is N—6—A, on the two piastres N—7—A and on the twenty paras N—8—A.

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*



The Actually Issued Stamps.

The following are the numbers printed :—

|            |   |   |         |
|------------|---|---|---------|
| 2 Piastres | - | - | 184,500 |
| 1 Piastre  | - | - | 182,525 |
| 20 Paras   | - | - | 186,375 |

The booklets of the highest value contained 20 and 10 sheets, while those of the one piastre were made up of 20 and 15 sheets, and of the 20 paras 20 and 12 sheets.

The stamps were rouletted 13×13 with the zig-zag roulette.

## Chapter VI

### POSTMARKS

**T**HE study of postmarks is important for specialists of the stamps of any country, and no excuse is necessary for devoting the final chapter of this brief work to some notes on the interesting cancellations employed by the Hejaz Post Office.

MECCA.—The capital of the Kingdom of the Hejaz is also the centre of the Mohammedan world. It was here that the Prophet Mohammed was born, and every year enormous numbers of pilgrims visit the town. On account of the war these pilgrimages were suspended for a time, but in 1917 they were resumed, and 58,000 people made the journey to the Holy City.



The earliest postmark was octagonal in form and bore the inscription "Mekka El Mukerrama" and the Arabic figure "3" above, together with "Mekke 3" below. Across the centre was the date in English and Arabic. Up to the present this has only been seen on the first printing of the one piastre stamp perforated 10. It seems probable, therefore, that it is a relic of the days of Turkish rule. The latest date on which the writers have seen it used is the 27th November, 1916.

## The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz

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The second type, which also appears to have been used on the perforated stamps only, is circular in shape. A bar across the centre bears the date in English and Arabic, while round the upper half of the curve are Arabic characters meaning "Mekka El Mukerrama", and in the lower half "MEKKE" in Roman letters.



The third type of obliteration used in this town consists of a large single circle divided into three parts by two parallel lines. In the upper and lower segments are Arabic words denoting "Holy Mecca" and across the centre, in the third section, is the date in words and figures in Arabic.

It should be said that all the obliterations applied in Mecca are in black ink.

MEDINA.—Next to Mecca this town is the most important to the Mohammedan since it was here that the Prophet lived after his flight from his birthplace, and here also he died and was buried. It is built in the centre of an oasis, so that it is fairly self-supporting and consists of three

parts—a town, a fort, and a suburb little smaller than the main portion of the place. Sir Richard Burton in his "Pilgrimage to Al-Madinah and Meccah" writes as follows:—"The town itself is about one-third larger than Suez, or nearly half the size of Meccah. It is a walled enclosure, forming an irregular oval with four gates. The Bab al-Shami, or 'Syrian Gate,' in the north-west side of the enceinte, leads towards Jabal Ohod, Hamzah's burial-place, and the mountains. In the eastern wall, the Bab al-Jum'ah, or Friday Gate, opens on the Nijd road and the cemetery Al-Bakia. Between the Shami and the Jum'ah gates, towards the north, is the Bab al-Ziyafah (of Hospitality); and westwards the Bab al-Misri (Egyptian) opens on the plain called the Barr al-Manakhah. The Eastern and the Egyptian gates are fine massive buildings, with double towers close together, painted with broad bands of red, yellow and other colours, not unlike that old entrance of the Cairo Citadel which opens upon the Ramayliyah plain. . . . Beyond this gate, in the street leading to the Mosque, is the great bazar. . . . The houses are, for the East, well-built, flat-roofed and double-storied, the materials generally used are basaltic scoria, burnt brick and palm wood." The population is not so large as in the case of Mecca, which is said to contain 70,000 souls, since it only amounts to about 40,000, excluding the cultivators of the surrounding oasis.\*

The Turks retained a hold upon this town until three or four months after the Armistice, when it was handed over to the King of the Hejaz. The earliest postmark that is found is therefore of a temporary nature only. It is a round seal, 25mm. in diameter, on which an Arabic inscription has been cut so that it appears in colourless letters on a ground of solid colour. According to the information supplied to the writers by His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul in Jeddah, it was only in use from the 15th February, 1919, to the 23rd March of the same year while awaiting the receipt of more orthodox handstamps, and it is therefore very scarce indeed.

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\* See also Chapter IV. of "A Modern Pilgrim in Mecca," by A. J. B. Wavell, for a good account of Medina.

## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

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For a brief time an octagonal cancellation, similar to that used in Mecca, was employed. It is, however, very scarce.



The third type of postmark consists of a double circle with Arabic inscription above and "MEDINE" below. Across the centre, on a panel, is the date in English and Arabic, and the space between the inner circle and this panel is filled up, above and below, with five vertical lines.



A fourth type, which seems to have been brought into use some time in 1920, is similar to the second, but in place of the bars filling the space between the date and the inner circle there is a small figure "3" below in English type and the corresponding Arabic character above.

Like the Mecca cancellations these are only known in black.

JEDDAH.—The port of Mecca has a good harbour running north and south with a breadth varying from 340 to 780 yards. It is the landing place of the large majority of pilgrims bent on a visit to the Holy City of Islam. Some

## Postmarks

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idea of the number of persons passing through the port may be gathered from the fact that in 1910 90,051 landed, of which about two-thirds were conveyed in British vessels. Besides being the principal pilgrim port, Jeddah is also a port of supply for central Arabia, and there is a British Agency in charge of a Vice-Consul.



The earliest type of postmark at present traced is of the usual circular type with "DJEDDAH" below and the Arabic equivalent above. The figure "3" appears above and below the panel containing the date in Arabic and English respectively.



Some time in 1917 a second type was introduced which is now used concurrently with the first. In this the name of the town is written "DJEDDA" without the final "H". Both the figure "3" and also the figure "5" are to be found above and below the date. The impression is always in black for all types, except in the case of "post-marked to order" specimens, on which it is usually impressed in violet.

## The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz

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TAÏF.—The richer inhabitants of Mecca reside in Taïf during the summer months. It is a small town lying up in the mountains some seventy miles to the south-east of the capital, with which it is connected by telegraph. Up to the present there has only been noted one type of obliterator, namely, the usual circles enclosing the town name in Arabic and English. The office number on all the specimens seen is the figure "1".

YAMBO.—Yambo, or Yambo al-Bahr (*i.e.*, Yambo by the Sea), is the port of Medina, from which it is distant about 150 miles due west. A telegraph line connects the two towns. The following description of the port as it appeared to Sir Richard Burton is of interest:—"The town itself is . . . built on the edge of a sun-burnt plain that extends between the mountains and the sea. . . . Viewed from the harbour, it is a long line of buildings, whose painful whiteness is set off by a sky of cobalt and a sea like indigo; behind it lies the flat, here of a bistre-brown, there of a lively tawny; whilst the background is formed by dismal Radhwah, 'Barren and bare, unsightly, unadorned'. . . . Inside, the streets are wide and each habitation placed at an unsociable distance from its neighbour, except near the port and the bazars, where the ground is valuable."

The first postmark in use here consists of a single circle enclosing an Arabic inscription written in thick angular characters. This is known only in black and on the fine rouletted issue.

The second type consists of a large double circle enclosing the town name "YAMBO" below and its Arab equivalent above. The date, as usual, is on a panel across



the centre of the obliteration. No office number seems to have been allotted to this port. In spite of the most rigid instructions which have been issued against the use of coloured inks, this postmark is to be found in a bluish-black as well as the more usual black, and also in violet. A probable explanation is that the Post Office ran out of black cancelling ink and used bluish-black, the ordinary writing ink, or violet, which is in great demand for marking merchandise for camel transport.

EL WEJH.—This, a small port, is in the northern part of the Hejaz, about 170 miles down the coast from the mouth of the Gulf of Akaba. It is a natural harbour, and the town, at the time Sir Richard Burton visited it, was a collection of circular huts "meanly built of round stones. It is about six miles from the port of the same name, which used to receive and quarantine the pilgrims from Egypt, and thrived, like its port, on the sale of water and provisions to travellers." Now the Egyptian and Syrian pilgrims are quarantined at Tor, in Sinai, before entering the Hejaz by Jeddah or Yambo.



## *The Postage Stamps of the Hejaz*

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The post office was opened towards the end of 1917, so that only specimens of the "zig-zag" rouletted issue can be found used there.

The cancellation is octagonal in form, similar to the first one described under Mecca. It has the name in English at the foot and in Arabic above, together with the date in native characters across the centre. The ink was either violet or purple, and in some specimens it seems to be in blue.

EL AKABA.—At the extreme north of the gulf of Akaba stands the port of the same name. The postmarks are somewhat scarce. The handstamp is of the regular circular variety with the name in English and Arabic and the date also in two forms. It is impressed in black. It was used for cancelling sheets to order during the time that it was possible to obtain the Hejaz postage stamps in Alexandria, and we have specimens of the postage due stamps, with full gum, so obliterated.

MA'AN.—At the point where the Damascus-Medina railway crosses the Hejaz frontier is a small town of this name. It is used as a repair centre, and here the trains stop to change engines. One of the writers has recently obtained a specimen of the current half piastre, red, with this postmark. The office must have been opened early in 1921, since it is not included in the list of towns supplied by the British Vice-Consul.

The cancellation is in purple, and consists of a double circle with "MA'AN" below and its equivalent in Arabic above. The date, also in English and Arabic, is in one line across the centre.

KUNFUDA.—This is the official port of the district of Asir, and the outlet of Ebha and Muhail. As far as is known, neither of the towns is claimed by the King of the Hejaz, so that the Asiri will now have to find some other port from which to carry on their trade. No specimen of this cancellation has yet been seen by either of the writers, but it is known that a post office has been opened.

RABEGH.—Some fifty miles to the north of Jeddah is the port of Rabegh. It stands on a creek with good anchorage

## *Postmarks*

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and according to official ideas it should develop greatly as soon as the Hejaz railway is extended.

As is the case with Kurfuda, no specimen of the obliteration has yet been seen.

This completes the list of towns where post offices are known to have been established. Matters are, however, moving so rapidly that in all probability before these lines appear in print new ones will have been opened.

THE END

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