

A Study of Saudi Arabia Stamps 1934 - 1964



A Philatelic Study by Thomas P. Wood

Foreword

Although I never had the opportunity to meet Tom Wood, our paths were separated by both time and geography. The internet was not yet available, making any encounter between us highly unlikely and reliant on mere chance. Nevertheless, Tom and I shared a deep passion for the technical intricacies of Saudi Arabian stamps, as well as a mutual desire to expand our knowledge in this specialised field.

Tom Wood completed his study in 1982, yet its contents remain relevant and valuable to this day. I found his work particularly useful while preparing my article on the 1949 airmail stamps, which appeared in Random Notes #102. Notably, I have not encountered any other publications that examine the various types of paper used in printing the Tughra, Airmail, and Postal Tax Stamps. The contents of this book are as written by the author with very few changes, except that the many pages of manuscript have now been typed.

While more recent studies have enhanced the understanding of these stamps with additional details, it is important to note that Postal Tax Stamps are now classified as general revenue stamps due to their documented use to pay the required government imposed fees on documents.

The letter from Wood to John Wilson, the editor of Random Notes at the time, has been included to set the scene and provide some background information. The note about restricting publication applied at the time of writing and is of course no longer valid.

Martin Lovegrove

Editor 'Random Notes'
Arabian Philatelic Association International

26 October 2025

A STUDY OF
SAUDI ARABIA STAMPS
1934 - 1964

THOMAS P. WOOD

April 1, 1982

Houston, Texas
February 10, 1982

Mr. John M. Wilson
Box 8641 Aramco
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

Dear John:

A revision of my 1972 study covering Saudi Arabia's Regular (Tughra) Issue of 1934-1960, the First Airmails of 1949-1960 and the Postal Tax stamps of 1934-1964 has now been completed. A master set is enclosed for reproduction and distribution from Dhahran as a supplement to the next Arabian Philatelic Association (APA) Random Notes. It is hoped that this revised study will be useful as well as interesting to those collecting Saudi Arabia's stamps relative to that thirty-year period.

Work on this revision commenced back in early 1979 shortly after receiving APA Random Notes Number 13 issued January 12, 1979. Those Random Notes contained David Graham's report on the Postal Tax stamps which primarily covered various catalog differences. While studying Mr. Graham's report I noticed that I had omitted one group of Postal Tax (and Tughra) stamps from my 1972 study - those perf 10 $\frac{3}{4}$. In going back over my records I found that I had included 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ with perf 11. Because of this I decided to redo all three sections of my 1972 study in order to establish the perforation 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ group and at the same time include other later data with regard to types of paper, perforations and colors.

Although you kept urging me to finish the revision, work had to be stopped a number of times due to vacations and five business trips to Tripoli, Libya on behalf of my Company, Occidental Oil & Gas. Both of these activities meant putting my collection and notes away and causing a certain amount of retracing of steps when work was resumed. It is estimated that around 400 hours were spent in carrying out this revision - in hindsight, a terribly high investment of time for these relatively obscure groups of stamps. They are, however, complicated and interesting - at least to me.

Besides giving thanks to Mr. Graham for causing me to start thinking about a revision, and yourself for always urging me to complete it, I also wish to acknowledge valuable input from the following persons:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Frank Patterson, III | - For lending a strip of three of 5 qirsh Tughras perf 6½; and for providing information about the first airmails, and about a notice extending the continuing validity of qirsh stamps beyond January 8, 1960. |
| E. A. Sundberg | - For showing me eight copies of perf 6½ 5 qirsh Tughras and providing suggested changes to Exhibit II. |
| R. J. Thoden | - For providing typewritten in-depth comments and suggestions for preliminary drafts of the three groups of stamps - Tughras, First Airmails and Postal Tax, and for his making two visits to my home in December 1981 and January 1982 to discuss the various aspects of the drafts. His comments, suggestions and observations made this study much better than it otherwise would have been. With one exception, I believe all major points of differences have been resolved. |

The one exception referred to above is my designation of perf 10.9, R. J. Thoden thought they should be 10¾. I was puzzled, prior to our two meetings, as to how this could arise - we both used Instanta gauges. It turned out that he used a thick (about 1 mm) plastic version while I used a thin (about ½ mm) version, and in comparing the two it was found that the perforations did not coincide. I also have a thick version but have always used the thin one because it was easier to work with. A comparison of both types with a metal U.S. Merit shows the following perforation data:

<u>Plastic Instanta</u>		<u>Metal</u>
<u>Thin</u>	<u>Thick</u>	<u>U.S. Merit</u>
12	11.9	12
11½	11.4	11½
11	10.9	11
10.9	10.8	none
10¾	10.65	none
10½	10.4	10½
10	9.9	10

From a practical point of view the differences are somewhat meaningless. The significance, though, is that my 10.9 stamps are included on Tughra Exhibit II in the perf 11 column which includes 10.9, 11 and 11.1. If I had used the thick version they would have measured out at 10.8 and thus I would have included them with the 10¾ group. I feel that the thin Instanta is more accurate because it checks out exactly with the metal U.S. Merit. It is surprising to me that Stanley Gibbons products would have shown this discrepancy. My thick version shows "C. P. Rang, Inv" in the lower right corner, whereas it doesn't appear on the thin version. I believe the thin gauge is the older of the two.

Either concurrently with, or after getting my report in final format, I was advised of a few varieties that were not included in Exhibit II for the Tughras or in Exhibit II for the First Airmails. These are:

Tughras:	One each of a ½ qirsh Type II and a 1 qirsh on paper type 4 perf 10¾ (which R. J. Thoden gave to me) and one each of a 5 qirsh and 20 qirsh on paper type 5 perf 12 (which R. J. Thoden showed to me).
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First Airmails:	One copy of a 4 qirsh that is printed on paper type 9 perf 8.
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I just could not take the time for the considerable effort that would have been required to incorporate the above additions into the study even though they are few in number. No doubt varieties in addition to those above will appear from time to time. Any information regarding "new" varieties would be most appreciated.

I am pleased to have you publish this study in a forthcoming issue of APA "Random Notes". It might be of interest to your subscribers. I would appreciate it, though, that it not otherwise be reproduced without permission. The American Philatelic Society is always seeking original articles so I plan to send a copy to them for review for possible publication in the APS monthly magazine.

Very truly yours,



Thomas P. Wood

A STUDY OF
SAUDI ARABIA STAMPS
1934 - 1964

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PART ONE

SAUDI ARABIA

THE REGULAR (TUGHRA) ISSUES 1934-1960

INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

This important series of postage stamps was in use for about twenty-seven years - from 1934 until gradually replaced by two new regular and one airmail series commencing with a few denominations issued in late 1960 and completed in 1961 except for one denomination issued in 1962. However, the Tughras continued to be valid for postage apparently indefinitely, or as long as the supply lasted, but at the rate of one Saudi qirsh (also known as Royal qirsh) being equal to two piasters. This is because on January 8, 1960 a monetary change was put into effect whereby one Saudi riyal consisted of 20 piasters for both stamps and currency instead of 11 Saudi qirsh for stamps and 22 common qirsh for currency.

The first printing in 1934 of this regular issue consisted of eight denominations but ended in 1961/62 with thirteen denominations in use exclusive of the 3½ qirsh which went out of use around 1938 when it was replaced by a 3 qirsh for the foreign mail surface rate. The first stamps were finely printed with bright inks on a good quality paper. About 1946 the quality of the paper declined. Then, around 1956 the printing and perforations for some denominations deteriorated considerably. This is most noticeable on the ½ qirsh and 5 qirsh denominations for which there was a heavy demand caused primarily by an ever increasing influx of oil workers. This series of stamps is a very complex one due to the varieties of papers, perforations and inks utilized over its twenty-seven year life span. The complexity is demonstrated in Exhibit II for papers and perforations and Exhibit III for colors and perforations.

What follows is a revision of my original study prepared in 1972. This revision, besides being in a different format, includes one more type of paper for a total of eleven; perf 10¾ is separated from perf 11; and perf 6½ has been added. The revision is based on a collection of 1,679 used stamps plus valuable information and help which has been received from several sources.

These exhibits are attached:

Exhibit I	Types of Paper
Exhibit II	Papers and Perforations - A Summary
Exhibit III	Colors by Denomination - Including Papers, Perfs and Earlier Postmarks

Notes and comments follow.

1. Exhibit I Types of Paper

- a. My original study of 1972 identified and described 10 types of paper. This current study is expanded to 11. In comparison to 1972 the changes are the addition of 1A and 2A and the deletion of the old 7. Thus the old 8, 9 and 10 become the new 7, 8 and 9. Each of the 11 types is described in Exhibit I. There could perhaps be two more types. I have included with type 5 a paper that is dark gray with a pinkish coloring and another type that is on extra thick paper.
- b. Ridges - Papers 6 and 9, although different in thickness, are both ridged - either vertically or horizontally. An analysis shows that there are approximately twice as many stamps with horizontal ridges:

<u>Paper Type</u>	<u>Vertical</u>	<u>Horizontal</u>	<u>Total</u>
6	81 (36%)	144 (64%)	225
9	<u>67 (30%)</u>	<u>154 (70%)</u>	<u>221</u>
TOTAL STAMPS	<u>148</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>446</u>

The total stamps for paper type 6 (225) as shown above agrees with the paper type 6 column on Exhibit II. The paper type 9 total of 221 is 10 less than the 231 shown on Exhibit II due to stamps on cover being included in the Exhibit II total but not in the above schedule.

- c. Tughra Postage Dues - As a matter of record I want to mention that I have one mint copy of a ½ qirsh Tughra on paper type 2 which is overprinted with a large "T" in black with Arabic above the "T" and all surrounded by a circle 18 mm. in diameter. It is perforated 11½ and was issued in 1935 per Scott's catalog. R. J. Thoden, in Dhahran, recently advised that he has a 1 qirsh stamp hand-stamped "T" in purple on either paper type 1 or 2 and that the "T" is different from the black "T" on the ½ qirsh. It is Mayo type XLIVb - but is assigned to a ½ qirsh.

2. Exhibit II Papers and Perforations - A Summary

- a. I consider Exhibit II to be useful from the statistical standpoint because it provides an insight as to the relative degree of usage for the various types. Instead of merely showing an "X" for the known papers and perforations, I have shown the actual number of stamps in my collection for each denomination by perforation within paper type in order to provide some guidance as to which are common and which are less common. As previously mentioned, this study is based on a used collection of 1,679 stamps. Perhaps data for some of the spaces which are now blank will eventually come to light.
- b. Paper Types - Paper type numbers 1, 1A, etc., refer to types fully described in Exhibit I.
- c. Perfs - Perforations 6½ and 10¾ are now included. In my 1972 study 10¾ was combined with 11, while 6½ is new. It must be mentioned that perf 11 actually is either 10.9 or 11.1. To conform to general usage I have lumped these together on Exhibit II as perf 11. However, just for the record, my detail listings record that 10.9 is found on papers 2, 2A, 3 and 4 while 11.1 is found on papers 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. R. J. Thoden has provided me with a photocopy of a 5 qirsh and a 20 qirsh stamp which are perf 12 on probably paper type 4 or 5. These are not included in the Exhibit. Hopefully other examples of perf 12 will appear. As to relative scarcity, 6½, based on my statistics, is least common followed by 10¾. Relatively common are 11½ and 11. A summary of perfs listed on Exhibit II shows:

<u>Perf</u>	<u>Total Stamps</u>	<u>%</u>
6½	13	1
10¾	55	3
11	1,176	70
11½	<u>435</u>	<u>26</u>
Total	<u><u>1,679</u></u>	<u><u>100</u></u>

One oddity is noticeable on Exhibit II with respect to the combination of perf 11½ and paper type 6. I have only six 10 qirsh stamps in this combination plus one postal tax stamp. This combination appears to be quite scarce.

Imperforates - My collection includes vertical pairs which are imperforate horizontally on paper type 9 in denominations of ½, 2, 2⅞ and 5 qirsh. Under a magnifying glass no blind perfs are visible.

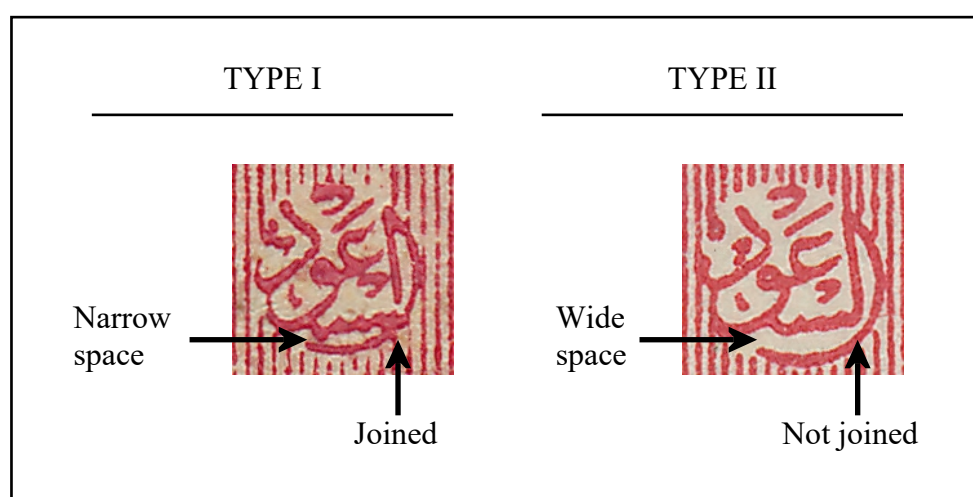
The Stanley Gibbons Instanta Perforation Gauge has been used in my study.

- d. Dates - The years shown at the top of each column on Exhibit II represent the earliest cancellation in my collection for that particular paper and perforation, irrespective of denomination. This date does not necessarily equate to the year of issue. The object was to record the earliest postmark. A dash (-) indicates that there is no legible cancellation in my collection.
- e. Denominations - The various denominations are listed down the left side of Exhibit II, beginning with ⅛ qirsh and ending with 200 qirsh. This series originally consisted of eight stamps issued in early 1934 followed by other denominations first printed in the years shown below:

<u>1934</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
⅛	3	100	⅞	2
¼		200		2⅞
½				
1				
3½				
5				
10				
20				

Denominations are in Saudi qirsh also known as Royal qirsh - eleven of them being equal to one Saudi riyal. On the other hand, the currency up until January 8, 1960 was expressed in common qirsh - twenty-two to the riyal. "Qirsh" is an Americanized spelling and appears on only one series - that for the Saudi Government Railroad commemorative of June 1952 which was printed by the American Banknote Company. Other stamps use various spellings such as guerche, grouch and grouche. Quruch, I have read, is actually the plural of qirsh and generally is used with numbers from 3 onwards. Similarly, grouch and grouche are plural and are found on most 3 qirsh denominations but in some other instances of this denomination guerche (singular) is used. To make it more confusing, "garch" was still another spelling used in 1929. For my study "qirsh" is used throughout for the sake of simplicity.

- f. Design Types I and II - Last year R. J. Thoden brought to my attention that M. D. Schreuder, of the Netherlands, reported in 1975 that there were two types of the basic design. The differences are in the small seal to the right of the Tughra. Illustrations of the two types are:



It appears that only the $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh comes in both types while the other denominations, by types, are as follows:

Type I	$\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{7}{8}$, 1, 2, 3, $3\frac{1}{2}$, 5, 10, and 20
Type II	$2\frac{7}{8}$, 100, and 200

A spot-check of my collection substantiates the above division.

Exhibit II shows a separate line item for Types I and II for the ½ qirsh denomination. From the figures shown, the pattern appears to be that from 1934-1939 Type I only was printed, followed by Type II from 1939-1948, and then both types from 1949-1960. The Exhibit shows totals of 159 and 178 respectively in my collection for Types I and II. Congratulations are due to Mr. M. D. Schreuder for finding and reporting these design differences in 1975 that apparently went unnoticed even though at that time some 15 years had gone by since these stamps were last used.

- g. Quantities - Exhibit II shows a considerable increase in availability of used stamps beginning in 1946 with paper type 4 - the light gray paper. This can be attributed to two factors: (1) the suspension of APO services on March 20, 1946; and (2) the increasing numbers of American employees and families, and hence, increased use of stamps.

The most elusive used stamps seem to be those printed on paper type 3 followed by those perforated 10¾ for all paper types and then 11½ for paper type 6. The denominations that are least common in used condition are the 2 and 100 qirsh. These relationships can be seen on Exhibit II.

Mint stamps have not been included in this study because it was felt that the relatively low quantities in my collection would not contribute too much statistically. However, as a generality, I believe it would be quite difficult at this late date to assemble a complete mint collection by types of paper and perforations mainly because the differences were probably not recognized until too late. Based on the mint stamps which I do have, they seem more available for papers 1, 2 and 9 than for papers 2A through 8. R. J. Thoden wrote to me that mint stamps seem more available for paper types 1 and 9.

- h. ⅞ and 2⅞ Denominations - Although I have no information as to the official reasons for issuing the ⅞ and 2⅞ qirsh denominations, a summary of domestic airmail covers in my collection on which these denominations are used probably provides the answer. These domestic airmail covers are divided into three groups:

(1) Total postage of 1⅜ qirsh consisting of ⅞ (one) + ½ (one) + ⅛ Tax (one):

From			To		
Mecque	Aug.	3, 1956	Raheama	Aug.	8, 1956
Djeddah	Aug.	12, 1956	Raheama	- - -	
Mecque	Aug.	16, 1956	Raheama	Aug.	26, 1956

- (2) Total postage of $3\frac{3}{8}$ qirsh consisting of $\frac{7}{8}$ (two) + $\frac{1}{2}$ (one) + 1 (two) + either a $\frac{1}{8}$ Tax (two) or $\frac{1}{4}$ (one) Tax:

From			To		
Mecque	Sept.	10, 1956	Raheama	Sept.	15, 1956
Mecque	Sept.	16, 1956	Raheama	- - -	
Ryad	March	7, 1957	Raheama	March	11, 1957*
Ryad	July	27, 1957	Dammam	July	30 1957

- (3) Total postage of $3\frac{3}{8}$ qirsh consisting of $2\frac{7}{8}$ (one) + $\frac{1}{2}$ (one) + $\frac{1}{4}$ Tax (one):

From			To		
Ryad	Dec.	18, 1957	Raheama	Dec.	23, 1957*
Mecque	Dec.	24, 1957	Raheama	Dec.	23, 1957

* = a $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh Tughra used in lieu of a
 $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh tax stamp

In addition to the above domestic airmail covers, my collection includes 15 non-philatelic airmail covers mailed from Ryad and Mecca in 1958 and 1959 to Aden Camp on which either a $\frac{7}{8}$ or $2\frac{7}{8}$ qirsh stamp was used in combination with other denominations to make up the total postage. In some instances, on letters postmarked in Ryad, a $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh Tughra was used in place of a Postal Tax stamp.

Conclusions:

- (1) The $\frac{7}{8}$ qirsh denomination, issued in early 1956, seems primarily to have been intended for use on domestic airmail in conjunction with a $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh for a total of $1\frac{3}{8}$ qirsh.
- (2) In late 1956 the domestic airmail rate apparently was changed from $1\frac{7}{8}$ to $3\frac{3}{8}$ qirsh. In early 1957 a $2\frac{7}{8}$ qirsh stamp was issued but letters still required use of a $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh stamp to make up the total postage of $3\frac{3}{8}$ qirsh.
- (3) A 2 qirsh denomination was issued in 1957 probably for use in combination with the $\frac{7}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh denominations.
- (4) Usage of a $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh Tughra in lieu of a Postal Tax stamp seems to have been permitted, at least in Ryad.

- i. High Values - 100 and 200 Qirsh - These high value denominations, first issued in 1942, were used primarily by the Company (Aramco) in sending large heavy envelopes via airmail to San Francisco. One large envelope front which I purchased at a London auction in 1968 contained eight 200 qirsh stamps and one 100 qirsh. An individual's use for either denomination would be almost nil. I can vaguely recall using only one or two 100 qirsh denominations from 1949 until they were superseded in 1960/1961. To put into perspective, the great bulk of personal airmail letters to the U.S. during this period required only 5½ qirsh in postage, plus the tax stamp, or about one twentieth of a 100 qirsh stamp.

A 200 qirsh stamp was equivalent to 18.2 Saudi riyals and would translate to U.S. dollars in the range of \$2.60 to \$5.46 during the period 1942-1960, depending on the exchange rate in effect at a particular time.

Please note that the perf 10¾ column for paper type 2 on Exhibit II shows a date of 1940, whereas the 100 and 200 qirsh denominations shown in this column actually were issued in 1942. As previously mentioned, these columnar dates merely represent the earliest known cancellation in my collection for any stamp in this category without regard to a particular denomination. For example, in subject column, this 1940 date is based on a ½ qirsh value postmarked April 24, 1940. The earliest cancellation in my collection for a 100 qirsh denomination for perf 10¾ paper type 2 is January 5, 1944 while for the 200 qirsh it is July 23, 1945.

3. Exhibit III Colors

This exhibit includes revised names for the colors used for the various printings for each denomination - revised, that is, in comparison with those in my 1972 study. The latter system was based on Scott's names plus my own designations in relation thereto. In an effort to use a consistent and more scientific system for the regulars, first airmails and tax stamps I have identified the colors of the various stamps by using the Lipsia Color Guide. This Guide was printed in Berlin for Philart Productions, Ltd., in London.

I do not know what color chart Scott or Mayo used but only occasionally do the names coincide for Scott, Mayo and Exhibit III (Lipsia). It is assumed that the Scott color name applies to the first printing of each denomination - which probably is the only practical method to follow in a non-specialized catalog. But in so doing, this system ignores changes due to subsequent printings except for two denominations - the 3 and 20. Why these two were singled out for special designation is not known to me.

Color names just can't be described as finely as the eye can recognize differences without causing confusion and misunderstanding for all others. One solution to the naming of colors, it seems to me, would be for a panel of the Arabian Philatelic Association to come up with a consistent and accepted term for colors of all Saudi Arabia's stamps and not for just those covered in this study. I feel that the names assigned in Exhibit III do adhere to a consistent system. Even so, in a few instances I have found it necessary to add terms such as "bright", "dull", etc., to the Lipsia names. Where used, these qualifications are shown in brackets () on Exhibit III.

4. Other Notes

- a. Size - Sizes of the printed surfaces of the Tughras have not been included in subject report on the basis that: (1) except for those perforated 10³/₄, this subject was adequately covered in the 1972 study; and (2) repeating these measurements would not add much of value. It should be mentioned, though, that some stamps within the same denomination group sometimes vary by + or - 0.25 mm.
- b. Sheet Layout - Stamps were issued in sheets of 25 (5 x 5) except that the ½ qirsh type II, which came in sheets of 50 (two panes of 5 x 5 separated by a horizontal gutter).
- c. Exchange Rates - Some highlights of exchange rates between Saudi riyals and U.S. dollars during the period 1934-1960 are:

1934	One Saudi riyal = \$.30
1952	One Saudi riyal = \$.2666 (October 1952)
1955-1958	There was a free market rate. At one period in 1957 seven Saudi riyals (silver or paper) = \$1.00
1958	Beginning June 4, 1958 a controlled free market rate was introduced. Initially, Saudi riyals 5.50 = \$1.00 but was reduced several times in the following months.
1959	By July the free market rate was Saudi riyals 4.50 = \$1.00
1960	On January 8 the dual rate system consisting of an official and free market rate was replaced by one having a par value of one Saudi riyal = \$.2222 or Saudi riyals 4.50 = \$1.00

Primary sources for the above:

- (1) Aramco Employees Handbook - 1950 edition
- (2) International Financial Statistics - International Monetary Fund
Washington, D.C. 1967

Based on the above exchange rates, the following selected postage combinations for Tughras are shown as translated to U.S. dollars up until January 8, 1960. The denominations shown are in Saudi qirsh - 11 being equal to one Saudi riyal:

YEAR	SAUDI QIRSH			
	5½	11	100	200
1942	\$.15	\$.30	\$2.73	\$5.46
1952	.13	.26	2.43	4.85
1958	.09	.18	1.66	3.31
1959	.11	.22	2.02	4.04

5½ Qirsh was the minimum first class airmail rate to the U.S. and the most common usage. Postage generally consisted of one 5 qirsh and one ½ qirsh stamp.

11 Qirsh was required on the next weight for first class airmail. Postage generally was prepaid by using on 10 qirsh and one 1 qirsh stamp.

- d. Transition Period - Up until January 8, 1960, as mentioned above, the most commonly used airmail letter to the U.S. required postage in the amount of 5½ Saudi qirsh which was equal to one-half of a Saudi riyal; at the 1959 exchange rate of SR 4.50 = \$1.00, and one Saudi riyal = \$. 2222, each 5½ qirsh letter cost \$.11 in postage. On January 8, 1960 a currency change went into effect whereby 20 piasters were equal to one Saudi riyal and the minimum weight airmail letter to the U.S. required 23 piasters which came to \$.25, at the Saudi riyal 4.50 = \$1.00 rate, or more than double the previous 5½ qirsh postage rate. This new postage rate, though, was identical to the cost of a minimum weight airmail letter from the U.S. to Saudi Arabia, i.e., 25 cents.

Because the new series of stamps denominated in piasters was not ready on January 8, 1960 the Tughras and First Airmails could be used on the basis that one Saudi qirsh was equivalent to two piasters. Frank Patterson, III recently reminded me that a notice was posted at Aramco mail centers in January 1960 to the effect that the validity of stamps denominated in qirsh was extended at the one qirsh being equal to two piasters rate.

During late 1960 and until around late 1961 there was mixed usage of the Tughras, First Airmails and the three new piaster series. Also, as I recall, the 2P Arab League stamp issued March 22, 1960, and the 2, 5 and 10P International Radio Station set issued June 4, 1960, although denominated in piasters, were sold on the basis of Saudi qirsh, i.e., 11 piasters worth of stamps in these sets were equal to one Saudi riyal. I have several covers to support this usage. Subsequent commemorative issues were then based on 20 piasters being equal to one Saudi riyal.

It is hoped that this study will be of value to all those interested in this series of stamps by helping to classify the stamps by papers and perforations as well as to serve as a basis for further research. Any comments, corrections suggestions, or reporting of additional varieties would be most welcome.

Thomas P. Wood

Houston, Texas

November 5, 1981

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

PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION
1	1934	A very thin, smooth, crisp, full-white paper. When lying face down, the stamp design clearly shows through. When held to a light, the paper is clear - no mesh or lines can be seen. All eight denominations of the Tughra set issued in 1934 plus the Heir Apparent series of 1934 were printed on paper type 1. Perfs: 11½
1A	1935	Same as type 1 except that the paper is cream colored instead of full-white. Perfs; 11½
2	1935	A thin, smooth, white paper. The printed design of the stamp, similar to Type 1, is visible from the back when lying face down. However, this paper differs from Type 1 in that: (a) when held to a light, a pattern of crossed diagonal lines can readily be seen in the unprinted margin areas of the stamps with small indentations between the diagonal patterns; (b) the paper is white instead of full-white; and (c) the paper is not as crisp as that of Type 1.

PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION
2 (cont)		A ½ qirsh overprinted with a large "T" issued in 1935, a postage due, and the first printing of the 1937 3-qirsh denomination were both printed on type 2 paper perf 11½. It would appear that a large quantity of type 2 paper was available based on the fact that the first printings of the 100 and 200 qirsh denominations were printed on it, probably in 1942, which is seven years later than when first used. Perfs: 11½; 10¾; 11
2A	1938	Same as type 2 except that the paper is cream colored instead of white. When on cover it cannot positively be determined whether the paper is 2 or 2A. Perfs: 11½; 10¾; 11
3	1943	A smooth, full-white and opaque paper - the printed design cannot be seen when the stamps are face down. The paper is much thicker in comparison with the previous four types and, except for the color, resembles the gray paper of 1945. Printings on type 3 were very limited based on the relatively small number of used stamps (24) in my collection. Also, based on postmarks, stamps printed on this paper seemed to primarily have been used in Mecca and Medine, although several have an Al Khobar postmark. My earliest postmark is January 1944 so a 1943 usage date is shown as being more representative. Perfs: 11½; 10¾; 11

PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION
4	1945	A thick, light-gray paper containing fibers. This paper was also used for printing the Radwa commemoratives in 1945 and for the map stamp of 1946 commemorating the return of Ibn Saud. However, the latter stamp is also printed on paper 5 described next. Type 4 paper was also used for the first printing of the first airmail set in 1949. The gum on type 4 paper is very thick and somewhat difficult to remove. This poor-quality paper and gum probably were purchased during the last year of World War II. Perfs: 11½; 10¾; 11 It should be mentioned that perforations designated as 11 on Exhibit II for paper types 2 and 3 actually are 10.9, while for paper type 4 both 10.9 and 11.1 were used. On the other hand perforations for paper types 5 through 9, although designated as 11, actually are 11.1. For practical reasons, as well as to conform to general usage, both 10.9 and 11.1 have been shown as 11 on Exhibit II.
5	1947	A thick, dark-gray paper that is noticeably darker in comparison with type 4. This paper contains fibers. It is harder but smoother in texture than type 4. This type 5 sometimes has a brownish or pinkish color. This might be a different or sub-type of paper. The quantities of stamps printed on type 5 appear to be less than those printed on type 4. The map stamp, in addition to being printed on type 4, was also printed on type 5.

PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION
5 (cont)		In addition, there is a second sub-type of 5. This is a very thick paper of which I have four denominations: ½ and 1 qirsh perf 11½, and 1 and 5 qirsh perf 11. However, these two sub-types of type 5, described above are included with type 5 in this study because only a few copies are in my collection. As a suggestion - in sorting by types 4 and 5 always compare stamps, if possible, of the same denomination. Perfs: 11½; 10¾; 11
6	1950	A thin, light cream-colored (or off-white) paper with a smooth silky texture. This paper is ribbed with either narrow vertical or narrow horizontal ridges that can easily be seen when viewed from the back at an angle. Commemoratives printed on type 6 are: Zahir Shah Visit in 1950 and the 50th Lunar Anniversary of the Capture of Riyadh in 1950. My collection includes only six stamps in the Regular issue that are perf 11½ and type 6 paper. They are all of 10 qirsh value. With this exception, all stamps on type 6 paper for the Regular issue are perf 11 (actually 11.1). Of the 225 stamps on which this study is based (refer to Exhibit II) 81 or 36% have vertical ridges while 144 or 64% have horizontal ridges. Refer also to paper type 9. Perfs: 11½; 11

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

PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION
9 (Cont'd)	1957	The 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ qirsh stamp of November 1957 was only printed on paper type 9. The last printings of the regular issue (11 denominations) were done on this paper. The 100 and 200 qirsh denominations are not found on this paper. See Exhibit II for details. The quantities printed earlier, on type 5 for the 100 and 200 qirsh stamps, apparently were sufficient to meet demands until replaced in 1960/1961 by the new designs. However, additional printings probably had to be made in 1958 and 1959 on type 9 for 11 values in order to meet continuing needs during these peak years.

The relationship of vertical to horizontal ridges for type 9 perf 11 is about the same as for type 6 paper - that is, there are more horizontal than vertical ridged stamps. Based on 221 used stamps out of 228 (7 not included because they are on covers) shows the following:

Vertical	67	30%
Horizontal	154	70%
	<u>221</u>	<u>100%</u>

Imperforates Vertical pairs imperforate horizontally are found on this type 9 paper. Denominations included in my collection are the $\frac{1}{2}$, 2, 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ and 5 qirsh. Imperforates probably resulted from an ever-increasing demand for these four much needed stamps. This demand in turn resulted in excess usage of perforating machines beyond capacity and with a lack of proper maintenance causing poor quality or non-existent perforations. On the other hand, some stamps are unaccountably (at least to me) well-perforated and with larger holes.

PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION
9 (Cont'd)	1957	Possible explanations are that a new machine may have been put into service in 1959, or that sheets on top of a stack were cleanly perforated whereas those near the bottom were not.
	1958	Perf: 6½ In addition to the 228 used perf 11 stamps, which are the basis for the paper type 9 portion of my study, there are 13 known used copies of 5 qirsh denominations that are perf 6½. This quantity of 13 is made up of: (a) a strip of three loaned to me by Frank Patterson, III; (b) eight copies shown to me by Art Sundberg during a brief visit to his home in Holland in April 1981; and (c) photocopies sent to me of a pair belonging to R. J. Thoden. Cancellation dates appear to be 1958. In addition, the 4 qirsh airmail on paper type 9 is known to be perf 6½. The Dammam Port 3p denomination has been reported in perf 6½. The circumstances surrounding perf 6½ are not known to me. Postal officials may have authorized a private firm to perforate sheets of stamps during a period when the government machines were either out of order or behind schedule. Perfs: 6½; 11; partially imperforate.

SAUDI ARABIA
THE REGULAR (TUGHRA) ISSUE 1934 - 1960
PAPERS AND PERFORATION

PAPER→	1	1A	2			2A			3			4			5			6	7	8	9		
PERFS→	11½	11½	11½	10¾	11	11½	10¾	11	11½	10¾	11	11½	10¾	11	11½	10¾	11	11½	11	11	6½		
DATE→	1934	1934	1935	1940	1942	1938	1939	1942	1944	10¾	11	1944	1944	-	1946	1947	1946	1947	1947	1952	1956	1957	1958
DENOM.																							
⅛	4		1	1	2		1	4	2			13							19	19	11	6	
¼	4	4			1		2			2	1	18			3					5	14	8	
½ (I)	6	3	8		1	3													28	85	25		
½ (II)				6			3		7	1		11	14		6	4			28	39	59		
⅞																				101	24		
1	6	3	9	5	4	3	3		4			29	11		17	8			22	41	12	25	
2																					1	10	
2⅞																						23	
3			10	3	6	5	1	11				9	4		1	2			21	1	10	14	
3½	9	4	6			4																	
5	5		4	1	3		1				2	16	1	30	1	1	9		55	117	62	50	13
10	4	2	1	1		1	2			2		22	1	28	9	2	6	6		7		3	
20	3	4	3						1		2	32	1	16	12	4	5					9	
100				7								4			5								
200				3	2							85			3								
TOTALS	41	20	42	27	19	16	13	15	14	5	5	239	3	103	57	7	34	6	219	275	275	231	13

T. P. Wood
November 5, 1981

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

indicates not probable

Total
1,679

SAUDI ARABIA
THE REGULAR (TUGHRA) STAMPS
1934 - 1960
COLORS BY DENOMINATION

Color names are provided in the following pages for each printing within each denomination for the Regular (Tughra) stamps of Saudi Arabia. Each denomination group is in Paper Type Number sequence except for 2 and 2A which primarily are in cancellation date order, i.e., 2A may, in some instances, be listed before 2. Paper Types are described in Exhibit I. Perforations and earliest cancellations (if available) are also included for each line item. Earliest cancellation data is based on the used stamps in my collection.

The assigned color names are taken from the Lipsia Color Guide, a guide which was printed in Berlin for Philart Productions Ltd. in London. This same color guide has also been used in determining the colors of the First Airmails and the Postal Tax stamps in order to follow a consistent and standardized approach in describing colors. Colors were determined under natural light conditions. For comparison purposes, Scott and Mayo color designations are included at the bottom of each denominational grouping. As can be seen, the stamp color problem becomes readily apparent.

Please note that the perforations on this Exhibit III include 10.9 or 11.1 instead of 11 as shown on Exhibit II. Because this separation was already available in my basic work papers, it is also shown on Exhibit III on the basis that it might be of interest to others. For practical purposes, however, both 10.9 and 11.1 can be combined and designated as perf 11.

It may be noticed that there are different spellings for cities such as Jeddah, Djeddah; Dahran, Dharan, Dhahran; and Mecque, Mekke. These are not errors in spelling, but are the actual names as shown in English on the postmarks.

Detail follows:

DENOM.	COLOR	PAPER	PERF.	EARLIEST CANCELLATION
$\frac{1}{8}$	Ochre-yellow	1	11½	----- 1936
	Ochre-yellow	2	11½	Mecque, Feb. 7, 1938
	Ochre-yellow	2	10¾	Medine, Dec. 31, 1942
	Ochre-yellow	2A	10.9	Medine, Oct. 8, 1942
	Ochre-yellow	2A	10¾	-----
	Ochre-yellow	3	11½	-----
	Orange	4	11½	Medine, 1947
	Ochre-yellow	6	11.1	Dahran, Dec. 28, 1953
	Orange-yellow	7	11.1	-----
	Orange-yellow	8	11.1	Mecque, May 1, 1956
	Orange-yellow	9	11.1	-----

Scott: Yellow	Mayo:	Yellow orange	11½
		Olive yellow	11½
		Ochre	11½
		Pale orange	11
		Yellow	11

$\frac{1}{4}$	Emerald	1	11½	-----
	Emerald	1A	11½	-----
	Emerald	2	10.9	Mecque, Dec. 29, 1942
	Emerald	2A	10¾	Medine, Mar. 4, 1943
	Emerald	3	10¾	-----
	Emerald	3	10.9	Taif -----
	Emerald	4	11½	-----
	Emerald	5	11½	Khobar, 1947
	Emerald	7	11.1	Djeddah, Feb. 12, 1956
	Yellowish green	8	11.1	Mecque, 1956
	Yellowish green	9	11.1	-----, 1957

Scott: Yellow green	Mayo:	Emerald	11½, 11
		Yellow green	11½, 11

DENOM.	COLOR	PAPER	PERF.	EARLIEST CANCELLATION
1/2	Carmine	1	11½	Mecque, July 31, 1934
	Carmine	1A	11½	Mecque, Feb. 4, 1934
	Carmine	2	11½	Djeddah, Mar. 1937
	Carmine	2A	11½	Mecque, Feb. 7, 1938
	Carmine	2	10.9	-----
	Carmine (pale) *	2	10¾	-- Sept. 14, 1942
	Carmine (pale) *	2A	10¾	Djeddah, April 24, 1940
	Scarlet	3	11½	Medine, Feb. 24, 1944
	Scarlet	3	10¾	Khobar, Jan. 1944
	Scarlet	4	11½	Djeddah, July 3, 1946
	Scarlet	4	11.1	Dhahran, June 13, 1949
	Scarlet	5	11½	Djeddah, - - - 1947
	Scarlet	5	11.1	-----
	Scarlet	6	11.1	Mecque, May 1951
	Scarlet	7	11.1	Dahran, July 19, 1952
	Scarlet	8	11.1	Ryad, Jan. 7, 1956
	Scarlet	8	11.1	-----, 1960
	Scarlet	9	11.1	Mecque, Feb. 8, 1957
	Scarlet	9	11.1	Airport Dharan, Oct. 25, 1958

* My designation to denote a duller carmine

** Five shades

*** Glossy ink (could also be described as shiny)

Scott: Dark carmine	Mayo: Carmine	11½, 11
(a) Rose red	Red	11½, 11
	Rose	11

DENOM.	COLOR	PAPER	PERF.	EARLIEST CANCELLATION
7/8	Pale cobalt	8	11.1	Mecque, Apr. 4, 1956
	Pale cobalt	9	11.1	Mecque, Feb. 8, 1957
	Scott: Light blue	Mayo:	Light blue	

1	Dark green-blue	1	11½	Mecque, Dec. 30, 1934
	Dark green-blue	1A	11½	Mecque, Feb. 24, 1934
	Bluish green	2	11½	Medine, Aug. 17, 1938
	Bluish green	2A	11½	-----
	Dark blue-green	2	10¾	-----, May 1, 1943
	Dark green-blue	2A	10¾	-----
	Dark green-blue	2	10.9	Mecque, Dec. 29, 1942
	Bluish green	3	11½	Mecque, July 6, 1945
	Bluish green (dull)	4	11½	Medine, Sept. 9, 1946
	Bluish green (dull)	4	10.9	Djeddah, July 3, 1946
	Bluish green (dull)	4	11.1	Mecque, July 12, 1948
	Bluish green (dull)	5	11½	Khobar, Oct. 24, 1947
	Bluish green (dull)	5	11.1	Mecque, June 30, 1948
	Bluish green	6	11.1	-----
	Bluish green	7	11.1	Ryad, Aug. 12, 1954
	Bluish green	8	11.1	Djeddah, July 12, 1956
	Bluish green	9	11.1	Ryad, Feb. 21, 1957
	Bluish green (light)	9	11.1	-----
	Scott: Blue green	Mayo:	Prussian green	11½, 11
			Grey green	11½, 11

DENOM.	COLOR	PAPER	PERF.	EARLIEST CANCELLATION
2	Olive-brown	8	11.1	-----
	Olive-green	9	11.1	Djeddah, Feb. 7, 1958
	Scott: Olive green a. Olive bistre	Mayo:	Yellow olive Olive	

27/8	Blue-violet	9	11.1	Mecque, Oct. 17, 1957
------	-------------	---	------	-----------------------

Scott: Violet	Mayo:	Violet
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3	Pale cobalt	2	11½	Mecque, Feb. 7, 1938
	Blue	2	10¾	Mecque, Dec. 29, 1942
	Blue	2	10.9	Mecque, 1945
	Violet-ultramarine	2A	11½	Medine, Mar. 15, 1938
	Blue	2A	10¾	Djeddah, May 1, 1943
	Blue	2A	10.9	----- Apr. 23, 1947
	Violet-ultramarine	4	11½	Mecque, 1949
	Violet-ultramarine	4	11.1	-----
	Violet-ultramarine	5	11½	-----
	Violet-ultramarine	5	11.1	Mecque, 1949
	Blue	6	11.1	Khobar, Aug. 1955
	Cornflower blue	6	11.1	-----
	Cornflower blue	7	11.1	-----
	Cornflower blue	8	11.1	----- Oct. 30, 1956
	Cornflower blue	9	11.1	Dammam, Oct. 29, 1957
	Blue	9	11.1	-----

Scott: Ultramarine (1938)	Mayo:	Powder ultramarine 1937	11½
a. Light blue		Cobalt 1938	11½, 11
		Bright blue 1938	11½, 11

DENOM.	COLOR	PAPER	PERF.	EARLIEST CANCELLATION
3½	Pale cobalt *	1	11½	Jeddah, Sept. 4, 1934
	Pale cobalt	1A	11½	Taif, July 11, 1935
	Pale cobalt	2	11½	Mecque, Feb. 6, 1935
	Pale cobalt	2A	11½	Medine, 1938 (red cancel)

* Slightly lighter shade than the pale cobalt of the 3 qirsh

Scott: Light ultramarine

Mayo: Ultramarine

5	Brown-orange	1	11½	-----
	Brown-orange	2	11½	Djeddah, 1942
	Brownish red	2	10¾	-----
	Brown-orange	2	10.9	Mecque, Dec. 29, 1942
	Brownish red	2	10.9	-----
	Brownish red	2A	10¾	Djeddah, May 1, 1943
	Brownish red	3	10.9	Mecque, - - -
	Brown-orange	4	11½	Djeddah, July 3, 1946
	Brown-orange	4	10.9	Khobar, Oct. 1947
	Brown-orange	4	10¾	Mecque, Jan. 1, 1948
	Brown-orange	5	11½	-----
	Brown-orange	5	10¾	Khobar, Dec. 1947
	Brown-orange	5	11.1	Dahran, May 1953
	Brown-orange	6	11.1	-----, Oct. 9, 1953
	Brown-orange (1)	7	11.1	Dahran, Nov. 1952
	(Light) Brown-orange (2)	7	11.1	Port Dammam, 1955
	Dark orange (3)	8	11.1	Mecque, June 13, 1956
	Dark orange	9	11.1	----- 1958
	Dark orange (4)	9	11.1	----- 1958

(1) Five shades, (2) Five shades + "(Light)" as additional designation

(3) Three shades are noted

(4) Glossy ink (could also be described as shiny)

Scott: Orange

Mayo:

Orange 11½, 11

Red orange 11½, 11

Yellow orange 11½, 11

DENOM.	COLOR	PAPER	PERF.	EARLIEST CANCELLATION
10	Violet	1	11½	Mekke - - -
	Violet	1A	11½	-----
	Violet	2	11½	-----
	Dark violet	2	10¾	Mecque, Dec. 23, 1942
	Violet	2A	11½	-----
	Dark violet	2A	10¾	- - - May 1, 1943
	Dark violet	3	10¾	-----
	Brown-violet	4	11½	Khobar, Dec. 1947
	Brown-violet	4	10¾	-----
	Brown-violet	4	10.9	Djeddah, April 23, 1947
	Brown-violet	4	11.1	-----
	Purple-violet	5	11½	Khobar, Feb. 6, 1948
	Purple-violet	5	10¾	Khobar, May 24, 1946 *
	Purple-violet	5	11.1	Khobar, May 24, 1946 *
	Brown-violet	5	11.1	-----
	Purple-violet	6	11.1	Airport Dhahran, Dec. 1960
	Brown-violet	6	11½	-----
	Brown-violet	6	11.1	-----
	Brown-violet	7	11.1	Djeddah, Oct. 25, 1953
	Brown-violet	9	11.1	Dhahran - - - 1960
	Gray-lilac	9	11.1	Airport Dhahran, Mar. 21, 1960

* On same cover

Scott: Violet

Mayo:

Violet

11½, 11

Brown violet

11½, 11

DENOM.	COLOR	PAPER	PERF.	EARLIEST CANCELLATION
20	Violet-purple	1	11½	-----
	Purple-violet *	1A	11½	-----
	Purple-violet (light) **	2	11½	Mecque, Dec. 23, 1942
	Violet-purple	3	11½	Khobar, - - -
	Purple-violet *	3	10.9	-----
	Violet-purple	4	11½	Khobar, - - -
	Purple-violet *	4	11½	Khobar, Jan. 1948
	Purple-violet **	4	11½	Khobar, Sept. 1948
	Violet-purple	4	10¾	Khobar, - - -
	Purple-violet **	4	11.1	-----
	Purple-violet *	5	11½	Khobar, Feb. 6, 1948
	Purple-violet **	5	11½	Dhahran, - - -
	Purple-violet *	5	10¾	Khobar, Oct. 24, 1947
	Purple-violet**	5	11.1	-----
	Dark brown-carmine	9	11.1	-----
	Dark reddish-lilac	9	11.1	-----

* A glossy or shiny ink which is somewhat soluble in water and changes to a reddish tinge after soaking

** A dull ink

Scott: Purple brown	Mayo:	Purple brown	11½, 11
a. Purple black		Purple	11½, 11
		Grey purple	11

DENOM.	COLOR	PAPER	PERF.	EARLIEST CANCELLATION
100	Carmine-lilac	2	10¾	Jeddah, Jan. 5, 1944
	Dull carmine-lilac	4	11½	-----
	Dull carmine-lilac	5	11½	-----

Scott: Red violet	Mayo: Red violet	11½, 11
	Plum	11

200	Brown-lilac	2	10¾	Jeddah, July 23, 1945
	Brown-lilac	2	10.9	-----
	Dull brown-lilac	4	11½	Khobar, 1947
	Dull brown-lilac	5	11½	-----

Scott: Violet brown	Mayo: Brown	11½, 11
	Red brown	11

PART TWO

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

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

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

Exhibit I - Types of Paper

Exhibit II - Papers and Perforations

Exhibit III - Colors by Denomination

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

Notes and comments follow.

1. EXHIBIT I - TYPES OF PAPER

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

2. EXHIBIT II - PAPERS AND PERFORATIONS

- a. This exhibit summarizes the actual number of stamps, on which this study was based (727), by denomination by paper type and perforation. It provides statistical information as to which stamps appear to be least common and which are relatively common.
- b. Paper Types - Paper types are fully described in Exhibit I. Type AM3 is new.
- c. Perfs - Perforation 6½ is new with this study. The existence of a 4 qirsh stamp perf 8 printed on type 9 paper has been brought to my attention. However, because I have not seen it, it has not been included on Exhibit II or on Exhibit III.
- d. Dates - The years shown in each column represent the earliest cancellation date found in my collection for that particular paper irrespective of denomination. These dates do not necessarily equate to the year of issue, except where 1949 is shown.
- e. Denominations - The various denominations of the First Airmail issue are listed down the left side of the exhibit. These are in Saudi qirsh also known as Royal qirsh - eleven of them were equal to one Saudi riyal.

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

need for a 100 qirsh stamp was almost non-existent. Only six used stamps of this denomination are in my collection.

Lower denominations of the First Airmails, based on covers in my collection, seemed to have been very popular for usage within Saudi Arabia and to foreign destinations except to the U.S. The reason for airmails not being used too much to the U.S. is that most personal mail required 5½ qirsh in postage. The tendency was to use two stamps, a ½ and 5 qirsh Tughra instead of a ½ Tughra plus 1 and 4 qirsh airmails.

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

Least Common Usage	
Paper Types	: AM1, AM2, AM3 and 5
Perfs	: 6½
Denomination	: 100 qirsh on any paper

3. EXHIBIT III - COLORS

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

4. SHEET LAYOUT

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

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

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

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

Thomas P. Wood
December 15, 1981

SAUDI ARABIA
THE FIRST AIRMAIL STAMPS
1949 - 1960
TYPES OF PAPER

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

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

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

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

PAPER TYPE	APPROXIMATE FIRST YEAR OF USAGE	DESCRIPTION
9	1958	<u>Perf 6-½</u> In addition to the perf 11 stamps on type 9 paper there are three 4 qirsh stamps that I am aware of which are perf 6½: a joined pair owned by R. J. Thoden, and a single on cover in my collection. Although I purchased the cover at auction more than twelve years ago, while still in Saudi Arabia, I only noticed that it was perf 6½ about a year ago when I was notified as to the existence of this perforation. The cover in my collection appears to be non-philatelic. It is from an individual from Dahomey who was in transit in Djeddah (as stated on the envelope) and is addressed to Morteau, France. The cover is postmarked Djeddah, 1958. Additionally, three of the 5 qirsh regular stamps which are perf 6½ also show 1958 postmarks.
9	—	<u>Imperforates</u> Similar to the Tughra issue, these First Airmails on paper type 9 also come partially imperforate. The following are in the writer's collection of used stamps: 1 qirsh - a vertical pair, partially imperforate horizontally. Some blind perfs can be seen. 3 qirsh - a vertical pair, imperforate horizontally. There are no blind perfs. 4 qirsh - a vertical pair, imperforate horizontally. There are no blind perfs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Information for each denomination follows.

<u>DENOM</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>PAPER</u>	<u>PERF</u>	<u>EARLIEST CANCELLATION</u>
1	Bluish green	4	11	-----
	Bluish green	5	11	-----
	Bluish green	6	11	Djeddah, November 15, 1951
	Bluish green	7	11	Djeddah, August 24, 1953
	Bluish green	8	11	Hassa, October 24, 1955
	Bluish green	9	11	Djeddah, April 1, 1957
	(Light) Bluish green	9	11	-----
	Bluish green	AM3	11	-----
<u>Scott</u> : Blue green		<u>Mayo</u> : Green Teal green		
3	Cornflower-blue	4	11	Djeddah, August 15, 1949
	Cornflower-blue	5	11	-----
	Cornflower-blue	6	11	Djeddah, January, 1954
	Cornflower-blue	7	11	Airport Dharan, Nov. 22, 1955
	(Light) Cornflower-blue	7	11	Djeddah, 1955
	Cornflower-blue	8	11	Mecque, June 9, 1956
	Cornflower-blue *	9	11	-----
	Cornflower-blue	AM2	11	-----
	Cornflower-blue	AM1	11	1955
* Three distinct shades are noted: Cornflower-blue, blue and grayish blue.				
<u>Scott</u> : Ultramarine a. Blue 1958		<u>Mayo</u> : Deep ultramarine Bright ultramarine		
4	Dark orange	4	11	-----
	Dark orange	6	11	Dahran, January 20, 1953
	Dark orange	7	11	Dahran, August 23, 1953
	Dark orange	8	11	Port Dammam, 1955
	Dark orange	9	11	Djeddah, June 2, 1957
	Dark orange (shiny ink)	9	11	-----
	Dark orange	9	6½	Djeddah, 1958
<u>Scott</u> : Orange		<u>Mayo</u> : Orange Pinkish orange		

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

<u>DENOM</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>PAPER</u>	<u>PERF</u>	<u>EARLIEST CANCELLATION</u>
100	Carminc-lilac	4	11	Dhahran, 1953
	Carminc-lilac	6	11	-----, Dec. 31, 1957
	Carminc-lilac	7	11	Djeddah, 1955

Scott: Violet rose

Mayo: Magenta pink
Pink



PART THREE

SAUDI ARABIA

THE POSTAL TAX STAMPS

1934 - 1964

INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

My previous study of Saudi Arabia's Postal Tax Stamps was issued in 1972. That study has now been redone. It includes new and revised data and presents it in a different and, hopefully, more useful format.

Commencing sometime in 1934 a Postal Tax Stamp became obligatory on each piece of mail. However, this must be qualified because I have a few domestic covers in 1934 and 1935 which did not include such stamps. Also, in 1981 I purchased a group of non-philatelic covers mailed from Ryad to Aden Camp during the years 1955-1960. One envelope mailed on April 26, 1958 included two $\frac{1}{8}$ qirsh Tughra stamps which apparently were used in lieu of a $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh tax stamp. Four other envelopes each included a $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh Tughra stamp instead of a $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh tax stamp. These envelopes were postmarked in Ryad in 1958 and 1959. Apparently such usage was allowed, at least in Ryad. All other covers in my collection include a Postal Tax stamp - until their usage was discontinued in May 1964.

Postal Tax stamps consisted of six basic types as follows, by issue date:

1. 1934 - A $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh denomination. There is a large figure of value within a central circle. Proceeds were to aid those wounded in the Yemeni war. The printing is by typography.
2. 1936 - A $\frac{1}{8}$ qirsh denomination. This is the largest of the Postal Tax stamps - 37 x 20 mm. The central design is a hospital, and proceeds went to the General Hospital Fund. The printing is by typography.
3. 1937 - A $\frac{1}{8}$ qirsh denomination, but smaller in size than the 1936 design - 30.5 x 18 mm. The central design is still a hospital, but the corner ornaments differ. The printing is by typography.

4. 1945 - A $\frac{1}{8}$ qirsh denomination. In comparison with the 1937 design, the differences are:
- a) Much shading has been removed from around the minaret, palm tree and Tughra within the central oval;
 - b) The frame line is single instead of double; and
 - c) The size is 30 x 17.5 mm instead of 30.5 x 18 mm.
- The printing is by typography.
5. 1948 - A lithographed series in $\frac{1}{8}$ qirsh denomination, both perforated and rouletted. The design is similar to the 1945 typographed stamps; however, the lithograph design is sharper and cleaner. The size is smaller - 30 x 17 mm. I have read someplace that these stamps were printed by a private printer or printers, whereas government printers did the typographed stamps.
6. 1956 - A $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh denomination printed by typography. The design is similar to the 1945 typographed stamp. The size, though, is 31 x 17.5 mm instead of 30 x 17.5 mm.

This updated study includes two Exhibits:

Exhibit I Postal Tax Stamps 1934-1964

This exhibit includes information such as denomination, paper number and description, perfs, size, earliest postmarks, and the number of stamps in my collection in that category - mint or used. The categories are arranged in paper type number sequence.

Exhibit II Perforations by Paper Types

This is a summary of the quantities of stamps on which this study was based (1,340 in total) shown by Paper Types by Perforation and Denomination.

Notes, Comments and Observations:

1. This revised study is based on a collection of 1,340 mint and used stamps - 1,338 Postal Tax stamps plus 2 Revenue stamps. A small percentage is on covers. Primarily, the collection is arranged and identified by perforations and denominations within paper types. Thus, in effect the stamp categories are in chronological sequence of usage.

2. Face Value

The face value of the Postal Tax stamps was very small. Examples:

- a) With regard to the $\frac{1}{8}$ qirsh denomination:

Eighty-eight (88) stamps were equal to one Saudi riyal or \$.30 at the 1942 exchange rate, or \$.26 at the 1952 exchange rate.

Thus, each $\frac{1}{8}$ qirsh stamp was worth \$.0034 in 1942 and \$.0031 in 1952.

- b) With regard to the $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh denomination:

Forty-four (44) stamps were equal to one Saudi riyal or \$.222 at the currency exchange rate of 4.5 Saudi riyals = \$1.00 in 1959 This amounts to \$.0051 per stamp.

These Postal Tax stamps, commencing at least in 1948 and until usage was discontinued in 1964, were issued free (one per letter) to Aramco employees at the Aramco Mail Centers (not post offices). In some instances clerks, upon request, would hand out full sheets.

3. Exhibit I

As previously mentioned, this Exhibit provides pertinent data such as paper types, perfs, colors, earliest postmarks, etc., for each category of Postal Tax stamps based on my collection of 1,340 stamps which includes one 1 qirsh and one 5 qirsh revenue stamp. This Exhibit is in Paper Type Number sequence. A brief description of the information included in the columns of this Exhibit is as follows:

Catalog Numbers

A column is provided on the left side of Exhibit I for the user to insert Scott Catalog numbers or any other catalog numbers as points of reference. Scott numbers have been omitted because (a) I did not ask for permission to use them, and (b) I could not precisely relate them to certain classifications in my study. Some examples:

- a) Scott assigns RA2, design number PT2, to the large-size General Hospital stamp and RA3 PT2 to the 1937-42 small-size stamps.

In my opinion the latter designation should be RA3 PT3 and the present RA4 PT3 should become RA4 PT4, etc.

- b) Scott does not mention perfs $10\frac{3}{4}$ or $10\frac{3}{4} \times 10$.

Paper Types

Sixteen types of paper, based on my analysis, were used in printing the Postal Tax stamps - 10 out of 11 types are the same as those used for the Tughras (I do not have any Postal Tax stamps printed on Tughra paper type 1A). In addition to the ten Tughra papers, there are six types used for the Postal Tax stamps only. These are designated PT1 through PT6

and are described in Exhibit I. I have no information as to where any of the sixteen papers were manufactured.

Perforations

Perforations consist of 10, 10³/₄, 10³/₄ x 10, 11, 11 x 10, 11¹/₂ and roulette. Also, imperforates are noted for the rouletted lilac-red color on paper PT5 and on the typographed ¹/₄ qirsh on paper PT6. The Stanley Gibbons "Instanta" perforation gauge was used in measuring perforations.

Colors

As was the case for the Tughras and First Airmails, color designations as shown on Exhibit I were obtained from the Lipsia Color Guide in order to describe colors in a consistent and reasonably scientific manner. Even so, in several instances I have added qualifying terms such as "(pale)" or "(bright)" to "carmine" in order to indicate differences in shades. These qualifiers are always shown in brackets ().

Earliest Postmarks

The earliest postmarks shown are based on the stamps in my collection and do not necessarily reflect the year the stamps were issued except for 1934.

Number of Stamps

The figures shown in the right column merely reflect, for informational purposes, the quantities of stamps in each of the categories on which this study was based. These numbers do provide a statistical guide as to which stamps seem to be plentiful and which seem to be relatively less plentiful.

The 1 and 5 Qirsh Denominations

These are the last two denominations shown at the far right on Exhibit I. Although both denominations were used only for revenue stamps and not as postal tax stamps, they have been included here just for informational purposes due to their being of the same design as the typographed ¹/₈ and ¹/₄ qirsh postal tax stamps. It should be mentioned, though, that the ¹/₈ and ¹/₄ qirsh postal tax stamps were also used as revenue stamps on such documents as passport visas, drivers' licenses, etc. The person from whom a copy of each denomination was purchased had only two copies. To my knowledge used copies have not been seen. It is highly probable that printings were done on papers other than types 3 and 8 as shown on Exhibits I and II.

4. Exhibit II

This Exhibit summarizes on one page for reference purposes the 1,338 postal tax stamps and 2 revenue stamps for which greater detail is provided on Exhibit I. The summary is by perforation, by denomination, by paper type. The year column reflects the earliest postmark in the collection for that particular stamp. It does not necessarily mean the year of issue, except for 1934.

This Exhibit provides an indication as to which stamps are plentiful and which are less plentiful. Those in the latter group, based on my collection, are:

- a) The large General Hospital design issued in 1936. My collection includes only 4 used copies, no mint, and none on cover;
- b) Those printed on paper type 6 for perfs 11½ and 11. My collection includes only 3 perf 11½ and 2 perf 11; and
- c) The lithographed stamps perf 10¾ x 10. My collection includes only 7 - all mint.

As a general observation, mint stamps seem to be plentiful for the lithographed group and the typographed ¼ qirsh denomination but very scarce for the Yemeni War Fund and the large General Hospital design (I have none).

5. Sheet Layout

- a) Yemeni War Fund - no information.
- b) Large General Hospital design - no information - but assume they were in sheets of 25 (5 x 5).
- c) Small Hospital design, ⅛ qirsh:
 - (1) Typographed, Paper 7 and 8 - sheets of 25 (5 x 5), and
 - (2) Typographed, Paper 8 and 9 - sheets of 50 divided into two sections (5 x 5) with a 5.5 mm gutter between sections.
 - (3) Typographed ¼ qirsh - full panes of 50.
- d) Lithographed group - sheets of 40 (8 x 5)

It is hoped that this revised study will be informative and useful. Any information as to errors that might be found, or advice as to the existence of other varieties, would be most appreciated.

Exhibits I and II follow.

Thomas P. Wood
Houston, Texas
December 28, 1981

SAUDI ARABIA
POSTAL TAX STAMPS 1934 - 1964

EXHIBIT I
Page 1 of 11

Cat. No.	Denom.	Paper		Perfs, Size, Color, Earliest Postmarks, Comments	No. of Stamps
		No.	Description		
	1/2	1	Same as Tughra No. 1. A hard, white paper.	Perf: 11½, Typographed Size: 35 x 18 mm. Color: Scarlet <u>Earliest Postmark:</u> Cover: Mecque, May 15, 1934	15
	1/8	2	Same as Tughra No. 2. A white paper with diagonal lines visible when held to a light.	Perf: 11½, Typographed Size: 37 x 20 mm. - The largest of the postal tax stamps. Color: Scarlet but, generally with a lighter overall color in comparison with the above. <u>Earliest Postmark:</u> 1936	4
	1/8	2	Same as Tughra No. 2.	Perf: 11½, Typographed Size: 30.5 x 18 mm. This is much smaller in size in comparison with the previous design. Also the corner ornaments differ. Color: Scarlet <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Djeddah, Dec. 14, 1937 Djeddah, Mar. 29, 1938	11
	1/8	2A	Same as Tughra No. 2A	Perf: 11½, Typographed Size: 30.5 x 18 mm. Color: Scarlet <u>Earliest Postmark:</u> Katif, Nov. 3, 1940	5
	1/8	2A	Same as Tughra No. 2A 7 used	Perf: 11½, Typographed Size: 30.5 x 18 mm. Color: Carmine <u>Earliest Postmark:</u> All in Hassa or Rabigh The dates are illegible, but one appears to be 1940.	7

Cat. No.	Denom.	Paper		Perfs, Size, Color, Earliest Postmarks, Comments	No. of Stamps
		No.	Description		
	1/8	2A	Same as Tughra No. 2A 15 used	Perf: 10¾, Typographed Size: 30.5 x 18 mm. Color: Carmine <u>Earliest Postmark:</u> Djeddah 1940	15
	1/8	2A	Same as Tughra No. 2A 7 used	Perf: 10¾, Typographed Size: 30.5 x 18 mm. Color: (Pale) Carmine <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Okair, Khobar, Hassa, Djeddah, One dated 1941	7
	1/8	2A	Same as Tughra No. 2A 3 used	Perf: 11 (10.9), Typographed Size: 30.5 x 18 mm. Color: Carmine <u>Earliest Postmark:</u> One dated 1941	3
	1/8	3	Same as Tughra No. 3 Smooth, white, thick, and opaque 13 used	Perf: 11½, Typographed Size: 30 x 17.5 mm. Color: Carmine-red Design: This is a new design - 1. Much shading has been removed from the top of the central oval - around the minaret, palm tree and tughra. 2. The frame line is single instead of double; and 3. The height is 17.5 mm. Instead of 18 mm. <u>Earliest Postmark:</u> Djeddah, 1945 One stamp has a wartime censor marking	13

Cat. No.	Denom.	Paper		Perfs, Size, Color, Earliest Postmarks, Comments	No. of Stamps
		No.	Description		
	1/8	4	Same as Tughra No. 4. Light gray 8 used 4 mint <u>12</u>	Perf: 11½ , Typographed Size: 30 x 17.5 mm. Color: Carmine Design: Same as preceding <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Mecque, June 13, 1947 Medine, Feb. 14, 1948	12
	1/8	5	Same as Tughra No. 5. A dark gray paper. Also included in this group is one stamp on a very thick paper which is also used for the Tughra issue.	Perf: 11½ , Typographed Size: 30 x 17.5 mm. Color: Carmine, Scarlet Design: Same as preceding <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Jeddah, 1947 Khobar, Oct. 24, 1947	7
	1/8	4	Same as Tughra No. 4. Light gray	Perf: 11 (actually 11.1) , Typo. Size: 30 x 17.5 mm. Color: Carmine Design: Same as preceding <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Mecque, July 10, 1948 Mecque, July 25, 1948	32
	1/8	5	Same as Tughra No. 5. 6 used 11.1 1 mint 10.9 <u>7</u>	Perf: 11 (10.9 or 11.1) , Typo. Size: 30 x 17.5 mm. Color: Carmine Design: Same as preceding <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> None legible	7
	1/8	6	Same as Tughra No. 6	Perf: 11½ , Typographed Size: 30 x 17.5 mm. Color: Carmine Design: Same as preceding <u>Earliest Postmark:</u> Jeddah, illegible date	3
	1/8	6	Same as Tughra No. 6	Perf: 11 (actually 11.1) , Typo. Size: 30 x 17.5 mm. Color: Carmine Design: Same as preceding <u>Earliest Postmark:</u> Jeddah, Aug. 1949	2

THE LITHOGRAPH SERIES

Cat. No.	Denom.	Paper		Perfs, Size, Color, Earliest Postmarks, Comments	No. of Stamps
		No.	Description		
	1/8	PT1	A coarse, thin, grayish paper. When held to a light, and looking from the unprinted side, a pattern of pronounced diagonally crossing ridges can be seen. Between these ridges are short indentations through which the light shows. This type of paper was not used for either the Tughras or the first airmails, The quality of this paper is very poor. 11 used singles <u>21</u> on covers <u><u>32</u></u>	Perf: 11 x 10. Lithographed Size: 30 x 17 mm. Color: Lilac-red Design: Similar to the preceding design but with a much clearer appearance and finer lines. This group of 32 used stamps consists of 11 singles plus one each on 21 covers which I sent to my wife in California during the period of March through August 1949. <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Dhahran undated used in 1948 and 1949 and Dhahran, May 1, 1949. The writer has not seen cancellations other than Dhahran.	32
	1/8	PT2	A thin, smooth, white paper. It was not used for either the Tughras or first airmails.	Perf: 10¾ x 10; Lithographed Size: 30 x 17 mm. Color: Scarlet <u>Earliest Postmark:</u> Don't know - my copies are all mint.	7

Cat. No.	Denom.	Paper		Perfs, Size, Color, Earliest Postmarks, Comments	No. of Stamps
		No.	Description		
	1/8	PT3	A medium-thick smooth, white paper. Horizontal ridges can be seen on the printed side of most stamps on this paper. On some stamps however, these ridges are quite faint or even non-existent. Possibly there could be two types of paper. PT3 was not used for either the Tughras or first airmails. PT3 resembles Type 6 of the Tughras except that PT3 is not as smooth and is thicker.	Perf: 10 (actually 10.1); Litho Size: 30 x 17 mm. Color: Brown-carmine Based on one sheet, this stamp was printed in sheets of 40 (5 x 8). The sheet has straight edges all around except on the left. <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Dahran, Oct. 25, 1953 Djeddah, Oct., 1953 Ryad. May 11, 1954 Hayel, Sept. 6, 1954 44 used singles 3 on cover 40 mint sheet	87
	1/8	PT3	Same as preceding 28 used 7 on cover 1 mint <u>36</u>	Perf: 10 (actually 10.1); Litho Size: 30 x 17 mm. Color: Lilac-red <u>Earliest Postmark:</u> Dahran, Oct. 26, 1953 Djeddah, Jan 12, 1954	36
	1/8	PT3	Same as preceding 62 used 23 mint 3 on cover <u>88</u>	Perf: Roulette; Lithographed Size: 30 x 17 mm. Color: Carmine Sheets: Based on single copies of stamps in this particular group, sheets of stamps (5 x 8) will show straight edges always at the top and bottom and either at the left or right side. It can be inferred that this would apply to all sheets in the lithograph series. <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> All 62 used stamps show the undated DHAHRAN cancel used in the 1948-1950 period. Covers: Based on letters: Dahran, June 10, 1949 Dahran, July 21, 1949	88

Cat. No.	Denom.	Paper		Perfs, Size, Color, Earliest Postmarks, Comments	No. of Stamps
		No.	Description		
	1/8	PT4	A Thin, smooth, shiny, cream-colored paper. 62 used	Perf: Roulette; Lithographed Size: 30 x 17 mm. Color: Carmine Sheets: Straight edges at top and bottom (and left for certain) based on 62 used. <u>Earliest Postmark:</u> Undated DHAHRAN (1948-1950)	62
	1/8	PT4	Same as preceding	Perf: Roulette; Lithographed Size: 30 x 17 mm. Color: Dark Rose-lilac	7
	1/8	PT5	A cream-colored paper with narrow horizontal ridges. The stamps are mostly printed on the ridged side.	Perf: Roulette; Lithographed Size: 30 x 17 mm. Color: Rose-carmine <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Dahran, Jan. 15, 1953 Dahran, June 21, 1953 Khobar, Sept. 14, 1953	21
	1/8	PT5	Same as preceding 46 used 1 on cover <u>203</u> mint <u>250</u>	Perf: Roulette; Lithographed Three stamps in this group appear to be perf 13½ vertically but the horizontal separation can't be determined. The apparent 13½ perf in my opinion is due to faulty rouletting. One stamp is postmarked Dahran, Dec. 1954 and another Dahran, Jan. 18, 1955. Size: 30 x 17 mm. Color: Lilac-red Sheets: Of 40 (8 x 5) with straight edges on top and bottom and either at the left or right side. There are many instances in a sheet where stamps are imperforate vertically between 4 of the 5 stamps. <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Dahran, March 23, 1953 Dahran, May 7, 1953	250

Cat. No.	Denom.	Paper		Perfs, Size, Color, Earliest Postmarks, Comments	No. of Stamps
		No.	Description		
	1/8	PT5	Same as preceding 13 used 2 on covers <u>15</u>	Perf: Roulette; Lithographed Size: 30 x 17 mm. Color: (Dark) Lilac-red <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Dahran, June 2, 1953 Dahran, Oct. 4, 1953 (cover)	15
	1/8	PT5	Same as preceding 10 used 2 on covers <u>12</u>	Perf: Roulette; Lithographed Size: 30 x 17 mm. Color: Lilac-red <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Khobar, Jan. 30, 1954 Djeddah, - - , 1954 Cover: Ryad, April 13, 1955 <u>Varieties:</u> 1. 7/8 instead of 1/8 2. Faulty rouletting - round pin holes spaced 2.5 mm. apart across the side of one stamp. 3. Weak shading on most of these 12 stamps in the central oval - shading is almost missing above the camel.	12

THE FOREGOING CONCLUDES THE LITHOGRAPH SERIES

THE TYPOGRAPH SERIES RESUMES ON THE NEXT PAGE

Cat. No.	Denom.	Paper		Perfs, Size, Color, Earliest Postmarks, Comments	No. of Stamps
		No.	Description		
	1/8	7	Same as Tughra No. 7, a coarse, grayish-white paper of medium thickness 7 used 1 on cover <u>36</u> mint <u>44</u>	Perf: 11 (actually 11.1) , Typo. Size: 30 x 17.5 mm. Color: Vermilion Sheets: Printed in sheets of 25 with a border in the same color of the stamp which surrounds the stamps. Perforated all around. <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Djeddah, July 8, 1952 Dahran, Dec. 14, 1952	44
	1/8	7	Same as preceding. 13 used <u>25</u> mint <u>38</u>	Perf: 11 (actually 11.1) , Typo. Size: 30 x 17.5 mm. Color: Carmine Sheets: 25 <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Dhahran, June 16, 1955 Mecque, Aug. 13, 1955 Djeddah, Oct. 1955	38
	1/8	8	Same as Tughra No. 8, a thin, soft, full-white paper with a diamond pattern as seen from the back when held to a light. 64 Used <u>25</u> Mint <u>89</u>	Perf: 11 (actually 11.1) , Typo. Size: 30 x 17.5 mm. Color: Carmine, (Pale) Carmine, or (Bright) Carmine Sheets: Printed in sheets of 25 with a border in the same color of the stamp which surrounds the stamps. Just to the left of each "1/8" there is a trace of a line except for the top left stamp. <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Mecque, Nov. 25, 1955 Dammam, Nov. , 1955	89

Cat. No.	Denom.	Paper		Perfs, Size, Color, Earliest Postmarks, Comments	No. of Stamps
		No.	Description		
	1/8	8	Same as preceding 18 used 52 mint <u>70</u>	Perf: 11 (actually 11.1) , Typo. Size: 30 x 17.5 mm. Color: Carmine, (Pale) Carmine, or (Bright) Carmine Sheets: Printed in sheets of 50 divided into two sections of 25 with a 5.5 mm. gutter between each section. Perforated on both sides of gutter. Each section surrounded by a border, just outside the perforations, in the color of the stamp. There are no lines, or traces of lines, to the left of the "1/8". <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Khobar, 1955 Djeddah, July 1956 Mecque, Sept. 1956	70
	1/8	9	Same as Tughra 9, a coarse, grayish-white paper, similar to Tughra number 7 except that number 9 has ridges which can be seen from the back. 16 used 50 mint <u>66</u>	Perf: 11 (actually 11.1) , Typo. Size: 30 x 17.5 mm. Color: Carmine Sheets: As above, printed in sheets of 50 (5 x 10) divided into two sections of 25 each. <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Buraida, 1956 Twelve of sixteen used stamps are in pairs which indicates usage for the new 1/4 qirsh rate. Other cancels are Karya and Djeddah.	66

Cat. No.	Denom.	Paper		Perfs, Size, Color, Earliest Postmarks, Comments	No. of Stamps
		No.	Description		
	1/4	8	Same as Tughra 8, a thin, soft, full-white paper with a diamond pattern as seen from the back when held to a light. 14 used 20 mint <u>34</u>	Perf: 11 (exact); Typo. Size: 31 x 17.5 mm. Color: (Pale) Carmine <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Djeddah, Mar. 21, 1961 Dhahran, Dec. 13, 1961 Note: These 1/4 qirsh postal tax stamps on paper type 8 appear to have been printed later than those on paper type 9. Their usage is the reverse to that of the regular airmails, and 1/8 postal tax stamps.	34
	1/4	8	Same as preceding. <u>15</u> Mint	Perf: 11 (exact); Typo. Size: 31 x 17.5 mm. Color: (Bright) Carmine Whereas the preceding 34 stamps are a fine printing these 15 stamps are poorly printed with blotches of ink on perforations at three corners and, in some instances, at all four corners.	15
	1/4	9	Same as Tughra 9, a coarse, grayish-white, ribbed paper. 2 used 50 mint <u>52</u>	Perf: 11 (exact); Typo. Size: 31 x 17.5 mm. Color: Red-lilac Sheets: Full pane of 50. These are exceptionally well-printed stamps. They probably were the first printing of the 1/4 qirsh.	52

Cat. No.	Denom.	Paper		Perfs, Size, Color, Earliest Postmarks, Comments	No. of Stamps
		No.	Description		
	1/4	9	Same as preceding 66 used 1 mint <u>67</u>	Perf: 11 (exact); Typo. Size: 31 x 17.5 mm. Color: Dark rose-lilac <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Dhahran, May 21, 1956 Mecque, Feb. 6, 1957 Djeddah, Feb. 27, 1957	67
	1/4	9	Same as preceding. 26 used 14 mint <u>40</u>	Perf: 11 (exact); Typo. Size: 31 x 17.5 mm. Color: (Pale) Carmine (Bright) Carmine <u>Earliest Postmarks:</u> Djeddah, Jan. 4, 1957 Khobar, April 2, 1957	40
	1/4	PT6	A smooth, cream-colored paper. 9 used 54 mint <u>63</u>	Perf: 11 (exact); Typo. Stamps are noted imperforate horizontally across two blocks of four. Size: 31 x 17.5 mm. Color: Carmine with shades <u>Earliest Postmark:</u> Dhahran, Dec. 14, 1961	63
Although not postal tax stamps, the following two revenue stamps are included here because they are of the same typographed design as the Postal Tax stamps - They no doubt were also printed on other papers:					
	1	3	Same as Tughra 3	Perf: 11 (exact) Size: 31 x 17.5 mm. Color: Emerald, White gum.	1
	5	8	Same as Tughra 8	Perf: 11 (actually 11.1) Size: 30.5 x 17.5 mm. Color: Indigo, yellow gum.	1
TOTAL					1340

T. P. Wood
December 28, 1981

SAUDI ARABIA
POSTAL TAX STAMPS 1934 - 1964
PERFORMANCES BY PAPER TYPE

EXHIBIT II
SUMMARY

DENOM. PERFS	$\frac{1}{2}$ q		$11\frac{1}{2}$		$11\frac{1}{2}$		$10\frac{3}{4}$		11		$\frac{1}{8}$		$10\frac{3}{4} \times 10$		10		$\frac{1}{4}$ q		1 q		5 q		NO. OF STAMPS	
	$\frac{1}{2}$ q		$11\frac{1}{2}$		$11\frac{1}{2}$		$10\frac{3}{4}$		11		$\frac{1}{8}$		$10\frac{3}{4} \times 10$		10		$\frac{1}{4}$ q		1 q		5 q		NO. OF STAMPS	
PAPER TYPE NO.	(3)		YEAR		ROULETTE		Litho		Litho		Litho		Litho		Litho		Litho		Litho		Litho		(7)	
1	1934		15																				15	
2(1)	1936		4																				4	
2(2)	1937		11																				11	
2A	1940		12						3														37	
3	1945		13																1				14	
4	1947(4)		12						32														44	
5	1947		7						7														14	
6	1949		3						2														5	
7	1952		82						82														82	
8	1955(5)		159						159								49				1		209	
9	1956		66						66								159						225	
PT1	1949										32												32	
PT2	-												7										7	
PT3	1953												123										211	
PT4	1950																						69	
PT5	1953																						298	
PT6	1961																63						63	
TOTALS			15		62		22		351		32		7		123		271		1		1		1340	

NOTES:

- (1) Large format
(2) Small format
(3) Based on earliest postmark
(4) 1948 for perf 11
(5) 1961 for $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh
(6) Revenue stamps
(7) These figures represent the number of stamps on which this study was based.

T. P. Wood
Houston, Texas
Sept. 28, 1981