One Man's Stamp Collection

Observations from the Martin C. Lovegrove Collection

المطبوعات - الدولية

البريد المركزي بالقطيف

41000   MKHBAZ

0.060 Kg   SR9.00   16:58:56 14-10-15

RR022009664SA

Part I - Saudi Arabia: Modern Technology (1970 - 2018)

This part contains Postage Meter Stamps, and labels used by the Saudi Arabian postal system that display barcodes. It covers normal registration, EMS (*al barid al mumtaz*) and general purpose postal labels.

One Man's Stamp Collection - Part 1

Saudi Arabia: Modern Technology (1970 - 2018)

This is the first of a series of booklets and covers registration and postal labels having barcodes and also postage meter stamps. Many of the lists are pedestrian and far from complete, but they do list what I have and may prove useful to collectors making serious studies. I chose this subject for the first book of the series because the parts are clearly defined and it is modern. Modern philately is often ignored and there is now more to postal history than 'routes and rates'.

The book can be ordered from the publisher:

Martin Lovegrove email: weatherings@aol.com

Cost £25 plus postage and packing. Discount offered to OPAL members.

Sample pages follow:

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The sections contained within this book are listed below. Each section has its own page numbering.

Registration Label type BC8

Saudi Post

SAUDI POST - DAMMAM

HA 111 507 770 SA

SPEED POST - JEDDAH

RR 110 032426 SA

SpeedPost Agency

Introduction

This type of label appears to have been used exclusively by postal agencies in major towns and cities. The label usually has the top line as SAUDI POST followed by the city name, but the Speed Post agency (Saree'a Agency) replaced SAUDI POST with SPEED POST. Below the barcode is the registration number in human-readable form.

The barcode is type Code 128 and has a height of from 4 m.m to 15 m.m. It has a horizontal black line running across the barcode, the line appearing anywhere from top to bottom.

The typeface is Times New Roman for serif characters and Arial for sans serif.

Use

The years of usage obtained from examples in my collection appear in square brackets in the lists below.

Dammam

Labels marked Dammam may have been used anywhere in the Eastern Postal Region; the first two letters in the registration number of SAUDI POST labels denotes the location and may be based on the agency name. Following the location code are three groups of three digits followed by SA. An example code:

HA 111 507 770 SA

In the list below, I have added the agency name where known and have offered a suggestion for some of the others.

SAUDI POST - DAMMAM

Height (m.m.)	Code	Location
4	HA	Al Hassa. Al Saei Agency. [2005 - 2007]
5 - 6	BK	Hofuf. Baqaa Agency. [2004 - 2007]
8	AG	Al Khobar. [2007]
8	AY	Dammam. Adama Agency. [2006]
8	BO	Jubail. (Al Bou Ayinayin Agency?). [2006]
8	DY	Dammam. [2006]
8	HA	Al Hassa. Al Saei Agency. [2005]
8	KA	Al Khafji. (Khafji Agency?). [2006]
8	SC	Dammam. [2007]
8	SP	Dammam. [2006]
8	TH	Al Khobar. (Thouqba Agency?). [2005 - 2006]
8	WH	Qatif. Al Waha Postal Agency. [2005 - 2006]
8	YY	Dammam. [2005]

Registration Label type BC11

Five digits in second part of registration number

Seven digits in second part of registration number

Three digits in first part of registration number

Introduction

This label is similar to type BC8 in that it appears to have been used exclusively by postal agencies, but it differs in that it does not have a horizontal black line. The top line is SAUDI POST - followed by the town name, although only RIYADH is in my collection.

Below the barcode is the registration number in human-readable form. Three formats have been seen: Rnnnnn nnnnnSA, Rnnnnn nnnnnnnSA and Rnnn nnnnnnn. The typeface is Arial.

The barcode is type Code 39 and has a height of 4.5 m.m.

Use

SAUDI POST - RIYADH

Registration number format Rnnnnn nnnnnSA with all text in sans serif characters. The first group of five is the postcode of the postal agency.

Height (m.m.)	Postcode	Comment
4.5	11351	[2009]
4.5	11365	Al Dawli Agency, Al Jazeera. [2011 - 2012]
4.5	11382	[2004]

Postal Label type BC15

Errors and varieties

Post office name centralized (line 2) and destination in Arabic at left of line 3.

Only one in my collection.

Barcode only 2 mm high and with additional registration number.

Only one in my collection.

Barcode only 3 mm high and justified to right.

Two are in my collection, one from Baqaa and one from Ha'il.

Text not centred on label causing registration number to be omitted. It was added in manuscript but believed to be incorrect. Barcode reads RR006860820SA not RR008880820SA as suggested by the manuscript.

Although not a label problem, the weight is shown as 0.001 Kg, however the weight of the envelope alone was 0.004 Kg.
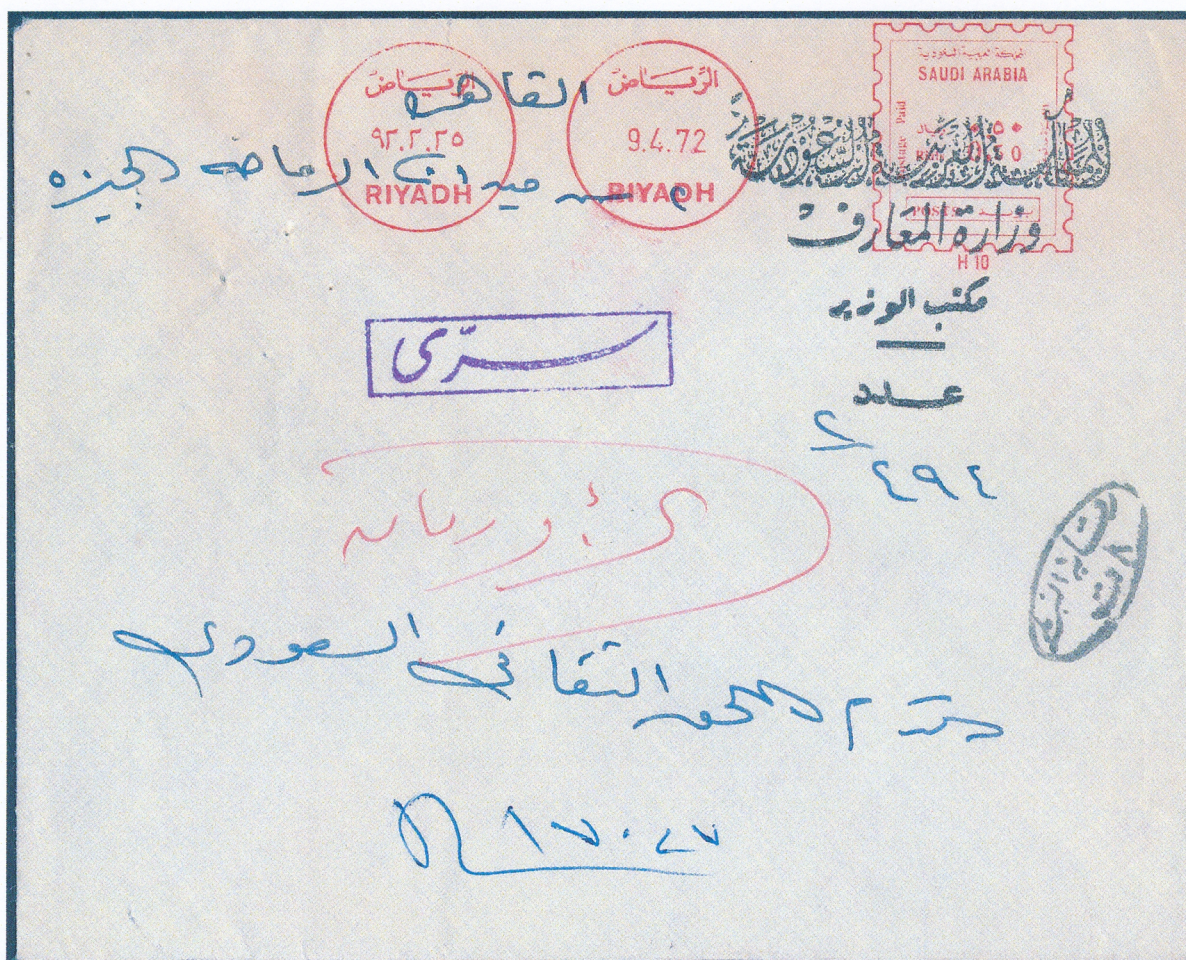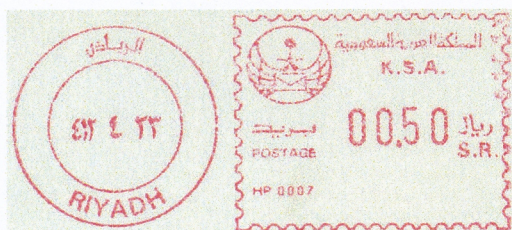
Introduction

Hasler "F-88". As far as I am aware, the cover illustrated below is the only known copy of this meter type. It is dated 9 April 1972 and has the serial number H 10.

Type MH02 pre-dates other Saudi meter type by several years; the previous earliest cover being dated 25 December 1977.

1972 official cover from the Ministry of Education, Riyadh, to Cairo with MH02

Postal Meter type MHP01

Town in sans serif characters

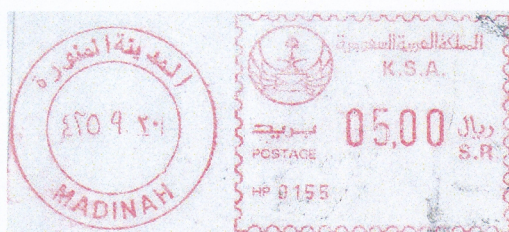**Town in serif characters**

Introduction

Hasler "Mailmaster". Dates seen range from 4 June 1990 to 4 February 2012 and is probably still in use. The dates seen have all been in Arabic in the format YYY MM DD but with various characters separating the elements. Separators seen have been a space, comma, dot, forward slash and underscore. The date numerals are a mix of neat and irregular, large and small.

The serial number is a small HP followed at first by a small four-digit number and later by large digits. Serial numbers seen are in the range HP 0004 to 0101 (small) and HP 0102 to 1046 (large). An example from Makkah shows the serial as 9115 but it is probably meant to be 0115 (large).
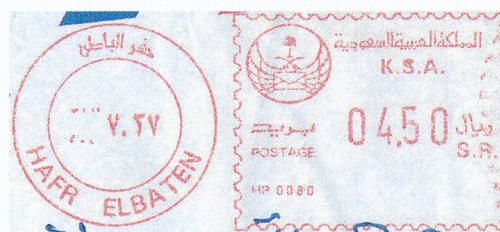
Quite a few varieties have been seen on this type and examples are shown of some. The example from MADINAH shown below displays a mix of neat and irregular numerals. The example from HAFR ELBATEN shows the year split horizontally. Do these examples show that the neat numbers were originally on a rotary selector that gave problems and the date part affected was replaced with a hand-drawn item?

HAFR ELBATEN also had a problem in 2004 with the year missing from device serial HP 0091; the author has several examples from 21 April 2004 to 27 September 2004.

Normally the town or office name is in sans serif characters but BALJARSHI has been seen with serifs (see illustrations above).
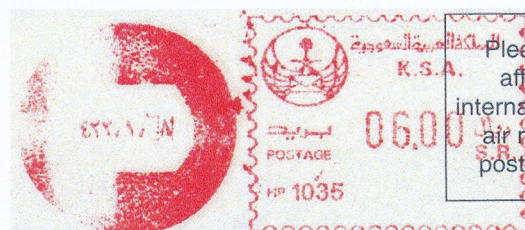

Mix of neat and irregular numerals

Year split horizontally

Serial shown as HP 9115

A messy example from AL HASA