

بيت الحكيم في متد العيون في الجبر والهند

امر بطبعه

صاحب الجلالة ايفتخار على الملك ملك الملوك في بلاد الهند



طوابع بريد اميريه

عشرون صحيفة في كل منها خمسون طابعا

من قيمة قرش صاغ ونصف



The first Hejazi Postage Stamps

One of Husein's first acts following his declaration of Hejazi independence was to order the destruction of all Ottoman stamps and to hurry along the issue of definitive Hejazi replacements – a political propaganda move designed to reinforce the permanence of His Highness's repudiation of Ottoman dominion. All this being aided and abetted by British Intelligence in Cairo, the Arab Bureau, spearheaded, by some accounts, by that mercurial figure T.E. Lawrence, a confident of some members of the Hashemite family and who was soon to help lead Bedu irregulars in their harassment and interdiction of Turkish lines of communications.

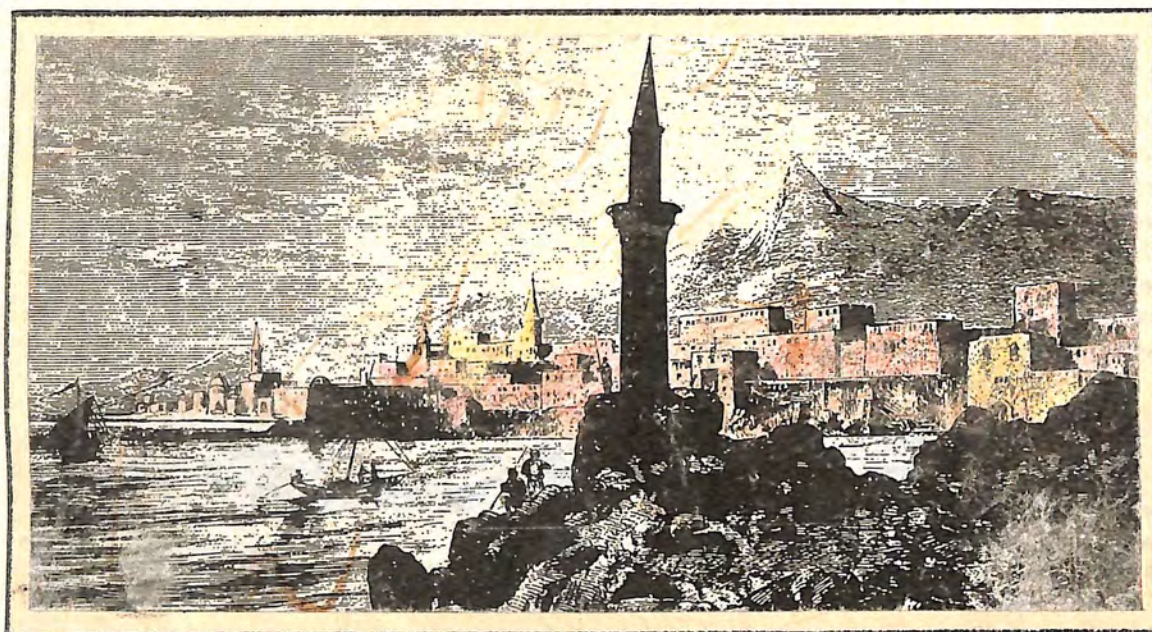
Following the dispatch of essays, designs by Mustafa Effendi Ghozlan were finally approved by Sherif Husein. Different sources give a variety of dates for the issue of the first stamp, the One Piastre Blue, and these appeared in various printings with differences in shade and other characteristics from late August to the end of October 1916, to be followed by other values, the ½ Piastre Scarlet and ¼ Piastre Green, in that order

Currency

40 paras = 1 piastre

1916 issue

The One Piastre Blue is perf 10 while the others, ¼ pi & ½ pi, are perf 12.

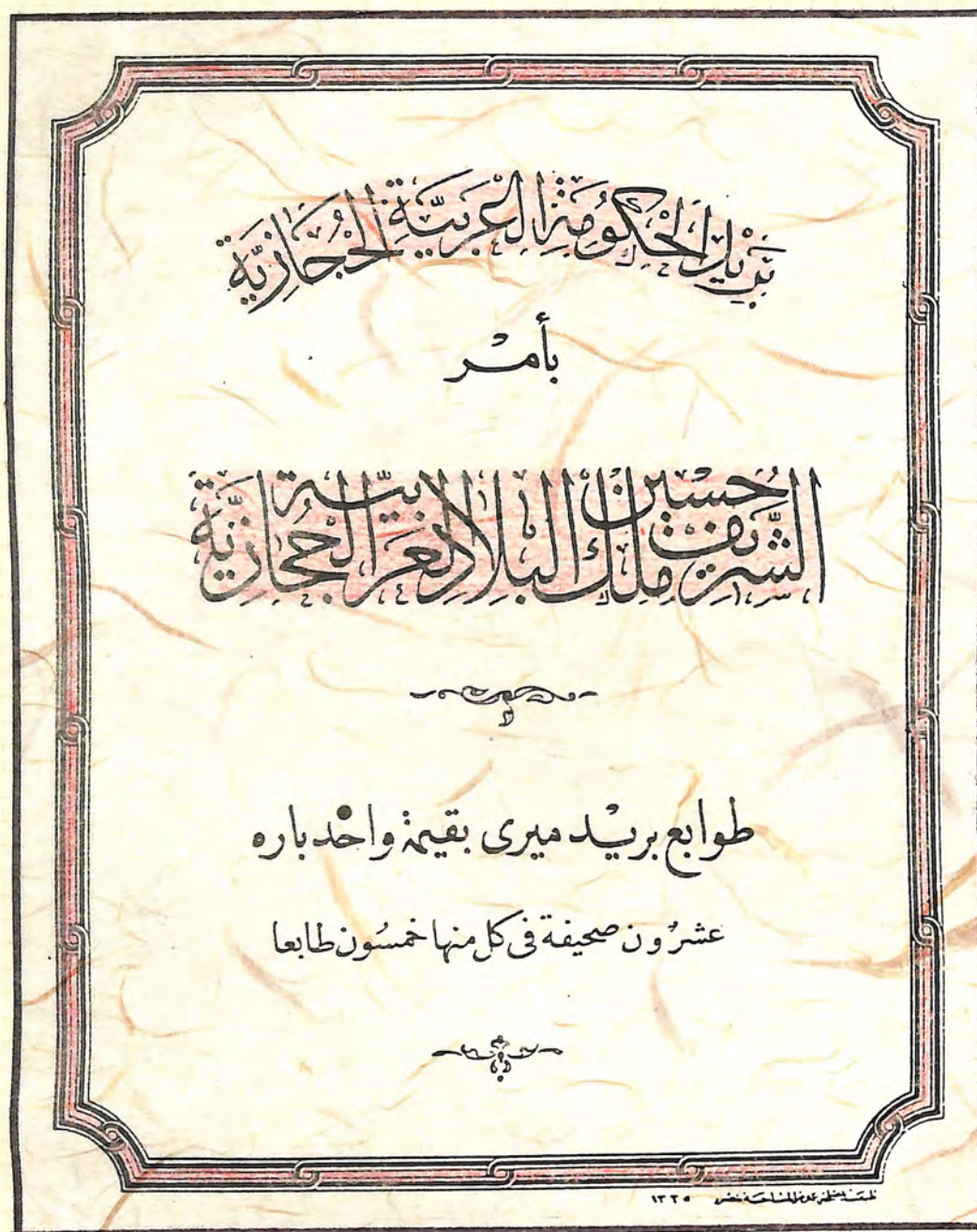


The port of Jeddah on the Red Sea coast of Hejaz, the traditional gateway to the holy cities of Mekkah and Medinah. Also the place of refuge for King Ali ibn Hussein throughout 1925 while under siege from the Ikhwan forces of Ibn Saud

Stamp Booklets

The early stamps were produced in sheets of fifty, ten rows of five, and were issued in booklets to help emphasize their political significance. The top and central inscriptions on the booklet cover (reproduced below) are examples of Hashemite promotion propaganda and read as follows:

Barid al-hukumat al-'arbyah al-Hejaziah (Postage of the Arab Government of the Hejaz)
and
Al-sharif Husein malik al-bilad al-'arbya al-Hejaziah (Sherif Husein, King of the Hejazi Arab Nation)



KING HUSSEIN IBN ALI
29 October 1916 – 3 October 1924

Rouletted Issues

The Survey of Egypt, responsible for the printing of these first Hejazi stamps, was for a number of reasons dissatisfied with the perforations and it was decided to introduce further stamps using a roulette process. These, bearing the same values and designs as the previous issue, appeared on 23 December 1916, to be followed by a further value, 1/8 piastre yellow, on 5 February 1917. The central inscription remaining the same: *Mekkah el-Makarrama* (Mecca the Honoured)

1916 (23 Dec) – 17

The inscription *Berid Hejazi* (Hejaz Post) is at the top of each value and the Islamic date of AH 1334 is included in the central panels, excluding the 1/8 yellow where it is omitted and the 1p blue where it is found in the side panels. The overall designs are taken from various Cairo mosques and reflect the wealth of Arabesque ornamentation readily at hand throughout the city



1917 (13 May – 6 Nov)

A further series with similar designs but with zig-zag roulette 13 appeared throughout 1917. Two additional values were also added: 1 para dull purple (top left), primarily for postage on newspapers, and a 2 piastre claret (top right) bearing a Kufic script central inscription *Mekkah el Mokarrama*



1917 (17 June) Postage Dues

As for the early issues the top panel continues to read *Berid Hejazi* (Hejazi Post)



END OF WORLD WAR I

The end of the Great War saw the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and it was now a question of what to do with the former Ottoman provinces in the Middle East. The period 1920 – 1922 saw the emergency of a new political geography with British and French mandates being created, together with new states such as Transjordan and Iraq. It was the sons of the Hashemite Sherif of Mecca, who had supported the British against the Turks, who were now installed as rulers in these new territories, while their father King Hussein bin Ali, shorn of his ambitions to become "King of Arabia", had to content himself with continuing as the Hashemite ruler of the Hejaz.

Hashemite Arab Government Overprint Issues 1921 & 1922

Earlier Hejazi Post and Postage Due issues appeared as from 21 December bearing a Mecca typographed overprint *Al-Hukumat al-Arbya al-Hashimyeh* and dated 1340 (1922)

1921 (21 Dec) issue



1922 (7 Jan) issue

Unlike the 21 Dec 1921 issue which was typographed by the Survey of Egypt, Cairo, these were overprinted by the State Printing Works, Mecca, employing a lithographic process



Arab Government opt issues (continued). The vertical examples are Postage Due



1922 (Feb) - 23

Hashemite Arab Government Definitive Issue

Printed locally at the State Printing Works, Mecca, these bear the Hashemite Coat of Arms and a variety of Arabic inscriptions, most of which are familiar: the "Hashemite Arab Government Post" at the top, value at the foot, "Honoured Mecca" in the two side panels, and a new inscription immediately above the Sherifian Arms comprising the date of 1340 and *Abdhu Husein ibn Ali* (His [Allah's] slave, Hussein son of Ali)



Hashemite Arab Government issues (continued)



1923 (Jan) Postage Dues

The *Mustihq* (Postage Due) overprint is inverted in the top two examples



1924 (March)

Proclamation of King Hussein as Caliph

Early in 1924 the Mecca printed Sherifian Arms series was reissued bearing the overprint
Tidhkar al-Khalafah Sh'aban 1342 (Souvenir of the Caliphate, March 1342)



The overprints on the above are in black and gold. It is reported that gold dust was applied to the original black overprints so it is likely that the latter are a result of the gold having rubbed off

1924 (Sept)

King Hussein's final stamp issue

The main changes being that of colour and new values



POLITICAL BACKGROUND

It is likely that King Hussein, arising from his friendly relationship with the British whom he anticipated would aid him, dreamed of expanding his political authority over territory hitherto controlled by his neighbours. In Hussein's eyes this probably meant not only the Nejd but also as far north as Damascus and possibly beyond. Out of the question for the British in light of their own strategic objectives, which needed to be coordinated with those of the French, and although Hussein became the loser in these geopolitical manoeuvres, it was his sons who ultimately benefitted from their relationship with the British: Abdullah becoming Amir of Transjordan and Feisal, after an abortive attempt to establish an Arab Kingdom in Syria, becoming the first Hashemite king of Iraq, a hotchpotch of a nation thrown together by the British out of the Ottoman vilayets of Mosul, Baghdad and Basra.

It may well have been Hussain's decision to promote himself to Caliph that accelerated his downfall. This office had recently been abolished in Turkey by Kemal Ataturk, and Hussein's decision must have seemed like a red flag to a bull to his neighbour in Nejd, the Wahhabi Sultan. It was he, Abdulaziz ibn Saud, who was now to take centre stage as far as the future development of Arabia was concerned. No doubt it was the caliphate issue, combined with the banning of the Ikhwan (Bedu of the puritanical Wahhabi cult) from making the Hajj and a dispute over ownership of an oasis, which finally prompted the Nejd Sultan to act.

Stalled for a while by the British who in early 1924 tried to mediate between Ibn Saud and the three Hashemite courts of Mecca, Baghdad and Amman, the resulting Conference of Kuwait failed to resolve anything of substance and the British finally left the haughty and unyielding Hussein to his fate, which was rather fast in coming. In September 1924 with diversionary thrusts directed against Hashemite Jordan and Iraq, the Wahhabi Ikhwan invaded parts of the Hejaz, capturing Taif and imposing a major defeat on the Hashemites. King Hussein abdicated in early October, was promptly granted asylum by the British government in Cyprus, and Mecca surrendered shortly afterwards.

KING ALI IBN HUSSEIN

4 October 1924 – 19 December 1925

The last of the Hashemite rulers of the Hejaz

Ali, the eldest son of the ex-king succeeded his father only to be promptly shut up in Jeddah by Ibn Saud. The Nejd Sultan omitted to press the siege seriously for a while, thus giving Ali breathing space to embark on a stamp issuing bonanza featuring the Jeddah provisionals followed by the so-called permanent type.

Jeddah Provisionals

The Wahhabi occupation of Mecca had resulted in postal officials fleeing to Jeddah with whatever stocks of stamps they could lay their hands on. This included not only current but also early issues that had been discontinued. Many were damaged, eaten by worms, or white ants and stuck together due to the heat and humidity of the Red Sea environment. Usable stamps therefore being in comparatively short supply, and upon the orders of Ali, to prevent usage of other stocks that might have fallen into Wahhabi hands, the stamps now available in Jeddah were overprinted *Al-hukumat al-Hejaziah* 5 Rabi' al'awwal 1343 (Hejaz Government, 4 October 1924). These stamps, although overprinted in Jeddah between January and May 1925, are known to have been postally used in Jeddah, Medina and Yambo, the only major towns free of Wahhabi control.

1925 (Jan – May)

Overprinted on the early 1916-17 issues



SG 66



SG 74



SG 81

Overprinted on 1922-24 Sherifian Arms issue
Grouped in accordance with the overprint colours: red, blue and black



Jeddah Provisional black opts (continued)



Overprinted on the March 1924 "Proclamation of Hussein as Calliph" issue
Examples include some of original "gold dusted" overprints



* Not linked - Gibbons with one only only blue (SG140)
 SG139

Overprints on "Hussein as Caliph" issue (continued)



Postage Dues
 Handstamped "Mustahiq"



New overprint inscriptions
Larger format and with value in script at foot of stamps



Overprints re mainly in red and black, the exception being the 5 pi olive with the Mekkah cancellation which is overprinted in blue

Permanent Type of May 1925

The stock of locally optd stamps was soon exhausted and in May the Govt decided a fresh supply was needed, and upon which the name of the king should be shown. The stamps duly arrived from the printer, Messrs Mourafatti of Cairo, bearing typical Arabesque designs, and with major inscriptions reading: top - *Berid al-Hukumat al Arbyah al-Hejazieh* (Post of the Arab Govt of the Hejaz) and: centre panel - *Abduh 'Ali ibn Husein 1343* (His Slave, Ali, son of Husein, AH 1343). Security being lax many of these new stamps were pilfered and to prevent misuse the Govt decided to overprint all stamps upon their arrival at Jeddah - unoverprinted issues being invalid. The overprints in tablet form refer to the date of the existing Hejaz Govt - 5 Rabi' al'awwal (4 Oct) and the Hejira year 1343 (1924).

Overprinting took place in Jeddah during June 1925



The ¼ pi blue (bottom) are fakes

King Ali issues (continued)
Grouped according to opt colours - blue (top) and black (bottom)



The Jeddah and Cairo Overprinting

Although the overprinting of this issue was initially done in Jeddah, it was subsequently decided that this exercise would be conducted in Cairo, immediately after printing. There are many differences between these two sets of printing and although the stamps displayed have not been differentiated, those with the Arabic year reading downwards are generally regarded as being examples of the Cairo printing, as opposed to the Jeddah which reads upwards

Blue overprints (continued)



Postage Due issues were overprinted during July 1925. Inscriptions being similar to previous issues but with the addition of *Mekka al-Mokarrama* at the foot and *Mustahiq* immediately above



The year 1343 is read downwards, thus indicating a Cairo printing

Whether a gesture of futility or a deliberation provocation to Ibn Saud, King Ali followed in the footsteps of his father and issued his final stamps in "propaganda" booklet form, the cover of which is illustrated below. The major inscriptions (top and centre) read:

Barid al-Hukumat al-'Arbyah al-Hejazieh (Postage of the Arab Govt of Hejaz)

Sahib al-jallaha al-sharif Ali ibn Husein malik al-bilad al-'Arbyah al-Hejazieh
(The illustrious and alert sherif, Ali son of Husein, king of the Arab nation of the Hejaz)



A swan song if ever there was one, for by 23 Dec 1925 Ibn Saud and his Wahhabi Ikhwan had taken both Medina and Jeddah and issued overprinted stamps to commemorate each event. The end of the Hashemite sherifs, for King Ali abdicated on 19 December and a short while later, in early January 1926, arrived Baghdad to live in exile with his brother Feisel, the first Hashemite king of Iraq.

The tables were finally turned early in the 20th century by Abdulaziz ibn Abdul-Rahman al-Saud who succeeded in uniting Wahhabi revivalists and in 1912, under the name of the Ikhwan (the Brotherhood), religious tribal warriors who thereafter spearheaded Abdulaziz's political ambitions, his capture of Riyadh and ultimately the defeat of the Al-Rashids. A committed devotee of Wahhabism, Abdulaziz al-Saud had forged a politico-religious union, with himself as both Emir and Imam of the Nejd and its Ikhwan. By ensuring that all important posts in the ulema, from Grand Mufti, downwards, went to the aal as-Sheik, descendents of Mohammed Abd al-Wahhab, Ibn Saud instituted Wahhabism throughout the land, with he and his immediate successors employing their position not only to defend the aal as-Sheik, but also to enforce their religious intolerance (the legacy of which has continued into the 21st century).

Nejdi/Hejazi Conflict

As the House of Saud rose in the east (Nejd) that of the Hashemite Sherifs of Mecca did likewise in the west (Hejaz). Fanatical religious warriors such as the Ikhwan do not readily adapt to prolonged unemployment and thus the provocations of King Husein of the Hejaz were too good and opportunity to let pass. The ensuing warfare and Ikhwan successes led to the abdication of Husein in early Oct 1924 and to the short-lived succession of his eldest son. As King Ali produced his Jeddah provisionals in early 1925 and ordered a fresh supply of new stamps from Egypt for use from mid-1925 onwards, his Nejdi counterpart, Ibn Saud, was engaged in a similar practice, overprinting a supply of Ottoman postage and fiscal issues and the remains of Hejazi stamps looted after the fall of Mecca.

NEJDI OCCUPATION OF THE HEJAZ

The following are representative of the Nejdi issues throughout 1925 and reflect the rule of Abdulaziz ibn Saud, Emir & Sultan of the Nejd and Imam of the Ikhwan.

Issues appearing at the end of March 1925 bearing a handstamp reading
Berid al-Sultanet al-Nejdia 1343 (Nejd Sultanate Post 1925)

On Ottoman regular issues



On Ottoman fiscal stamps



193

193(a)

194

On looted Hejazi issues



July-August 1925

Similar groups of regular Ottoman postage and fiscal stamps, plus Hejazi issues bearing a redesigned Nejd Sultanate Post handstamp



Handstamped Hejazi issues.
The status of the 1½ pi bisected issue is uncertain



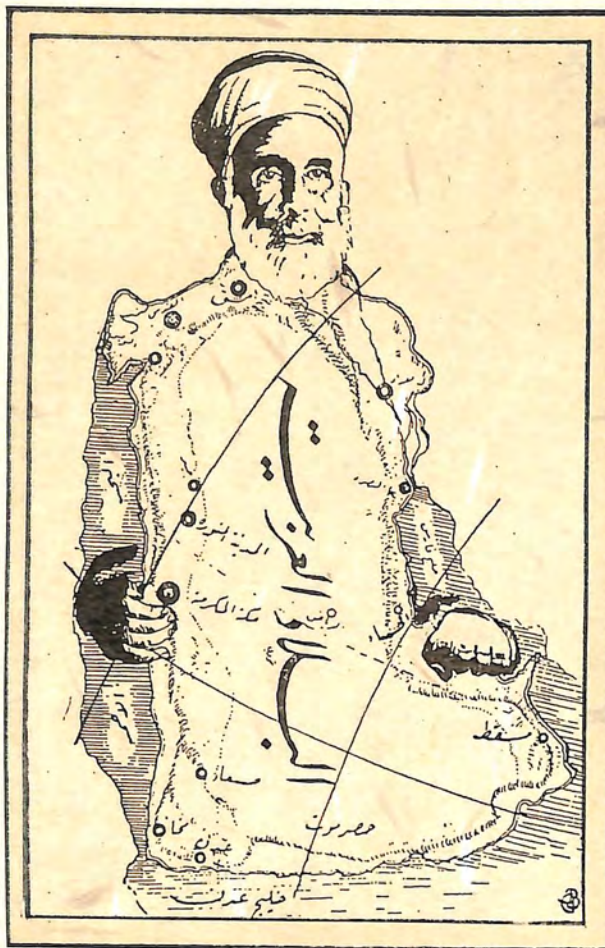
Postage Dues
In August a mixture of Nejd handstamped Hejaz Railway fiscal and postage issues appeared bearing the "Mustahiq" overprint and with value surcharges in the bottom panel of the fiscals



A few further Hejazi issues bearing Nejd handstamps appeared in mid-year (1925) with revised values. Examples represent the 1 pi on ½ pi issue - value opts reading Qirsh Wahid, but Qirsh Wanuf for the final example



King Hussein of the Hejaz and the Arabia which he deluded himself into believing would be his future kingdom. Inscribed *Bilad al-'Arabiyyah* (Land of the Arabs) it embraced the entire peninsula and beyond, including Jerusalem, Damascus and Baghdad, plus the fertile Mesopotamian flood plains of the Euphrates and Tigris in present-day Iraq



Map illustrating the expansion of the Al-Sauds from the time of Abdulaziz's capture of Riyadh from the Ar-Rashids to the fall of Medinah and Jeddah in the Hejaz towards the end of 1925 and ultimately the foundation of the Saudi Kingdom in 1934. (Taken from "Aramco World" 2002 Centennial edition.)



The Ikhwan, the Bedouin warriors who helped spearhead Ibn Saud's early military successes. The inscription on their standards reads *La ilaha illa allahi Muhammadon rasul Allah*, representing Islam's creed, the *shahada*, the first part of which "There is no God but Allah", the *tawheed* (the unity), is given a rather narrow and self-serving interpretation by the Wahhabiyyah which contributed to their intolerance shown towards infidels and other Muslims



25 December 1925

To commemorate the capture of Jeddah
Inscribed *Tithkar al-Jiddah 1344 - Al-berid al-Nejd*
(Commemorating Jeddah 1925 - Postage of Nejd)

The Hashemite Finale

As all the above issues were being handstamped and put on sale to denote the new masters of most of the Hejaz, the finale was also in sight and Ibn Saud accordingly ordered the preparation of two further sets of stamps to mark his impending triumphant entry into Medina and Jeddah. The stamps selected for this purpose were Hejaz Railway Tax varieties bearing appropriate handstamped overprints. The following therefore represent the final two issues of the Nejd occupation of Hejaz.

5 December 1925

To commemorate the capture of Medina
Handstamped *Al-berid al-Nejd 1344 Tithkar al-Medeenah al-Manawarah*
(Postage of Nejd 1925 - Commemorating Medina the Illuminated)

The middle example in the top row is an Ottoman fiscal for use on the Makkah - Damas (Damascus) Railway. The inscriptions are similar to those found on the Hejazi postal issues. The value *khomsomiyye qersh* (500 piastres) is in the bottom panel. An overprinted and surcharged (4 pi) version of this stamp is immediately below

HEJAZ AND NEJD

King Ali of the Hejaz abdicated on 19 December 1925 and on 8 January 1926 Abdulaziz ibn Abdulrahman al-Saud was proclaimed King of the Hejaz and Sultan of Nejd.

1926 (Feb)

Both postage and postage due stamps were issued in February and bear the inscription
Berid al-Hejaz wa Nejd (Hejaz & Nejd Post)



Abdulaziz ibn Saud
Sultan of Nejd & Imam of the Ikhwan

Postage Due Issues



1926 (June)

The First Pan-Islamic Conference, Cairo

The February issues appeared again in June, overprinted to commemorate the Conference

The overprints read *Al-motamar al-Islami 20 Khi alq'ada Senet 1344*



1927 (Jan)

Inscribed "Arabian Government" (*Al-hukumet al-Arabieh*) in top pane and illustrating the tughra of Abdulaziz ibn Abdulrahman and his small seal as Ibn Saud. Beneath is the inscription *Berid al-Hejaz wa Nejd* followed by the value at the foot



1927 Abdulaziz ibn Abdulrahman Rahman toughra issue (continued)



1927 (Jan) Postage Dues
With *Mustahiq* in bottom panel



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THE HEJAZ & NEJD

1927 (29 Jan) issue

The overprint *Thikr Malakat Nejd wa Milhiqat - ha 25 Rajab 1345* (Commemorating the Nejdian Kingdom and Her Dependencies, 29 January 1927). Ibn Saud being officially declared King of the Hejaz & Nejd in February 1927



New Currency

110 Guerche = 10 Rial = 1 Gold Sovereign

1929 issue

Inscribed "HEJAZ & NEJD" in Latin script, the first such usage



1930 (8 Jan)

Marking the Fourth Anniversary of Ibn Saud's Accession

Inscribed "HEDJAZ & NEDJDE"



"A figment built on sand"

This being a quote attributed to T.E. Lawrence who had backed the Sherif of Mecca and felt, together with other observers, that the Saudi regime was destined to fail. With an ulema and Ikhwan psychologically rooted in the past this must have been quite understandable. As there was no mention, for example, of the motorcar or telephone in the Quran and Hadith, there was clearly no precedent for the introduction of such innovations as these and others that were on the modernising agenda of the king. Unauthorised raids by Ikhwan laskars into Iraq and Syria were also a problem and likely to provoke British intervention. Thus the period 1927-31, the early years of the new Kingdom, were essentially a time when the king had to contend with a major Ikhwan revolt. By the end of 1930, however, Saudi loyalists with British support, particularly the assistance of the RAF and a new mechanised combat mobility, had finally decimated the Ikhwan cavalry with their ancient rifles, lances and swords, and the chronic inter-tribal warfare that had bedevilled Arabia since before the days of the Prophet was finally brought to an end, giving way to the formal creation of the State of Saudi Arabia.

FINAL HEJAZ & NEJD ISSUES

1931 -32

The following two groups appeared during this period and reflect the end of the old era – the proclamation of the Saudi Kingdom being little more than a year away and followed the Ikhwan's 1932/33 advance to the south into the Tihama and to the historic town of Najran



SHEET OF
THE
 $\frac{1}{8}$ PIASTRE

1st LINE.
9mm.
2nd LINE.
19mm.
3rd LINE
20mm

DOT
under
Arabic
H



4th 5th
STAMPS
DOT under
"H"

SHORT
K.
1st 5th
STAMPS

