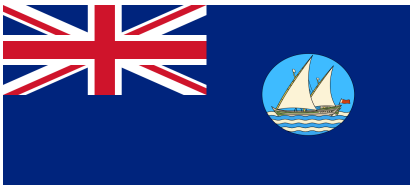
Aden





On 18 January 1839, the British East India Company landed Royal Marines at Aden. Their aims were to establish a supply port and stop attacks by Arab pirates against British shipping to India. The British Government thereafter considered Aden to be an important settlement due to its location, as the Royal Navy could easily access the port for resupply and repairs. Later, British influence extended progressively into the hinterland, both west and east, leading to the establishment of the Aden Protectorate. Aden soon became an important transit port and coaling station for trade between British India and the Far East, and Europe. The commercial and strategic importance of Aden increased considerably when the Suez Canal opened in 1869. From then and until the 1960s, the Port of Aden was to be one of the busiest ship-bunkering, duty-free shopping, and trading ports in the world.

In 1937, Aden was separated from British India to become a Crown colony, a status that it retained until 1963. It consisted of the port city of Aden and its immediate surroundings (an area of 192 km² [74 sq mi]). The Aden Settlement, and later Aden Colony, also included the outlying islands of Kamaran (de facto), Perim and Kuria Muria. Prior to 1937, Aden had been governed as part of British India. Under the Government of India Act 1935 the territory was detached from British India, and was re-organised as a separate Crown colony of the United Kingdom; this separation took effect on 1 April 1937. Through the latter years of its existence, Aden Colony was plagued by civil unrest.

On 18 January 1963, the colony was reconstituted as the State of Aden, within the new Federation of South Arabia. With this Sir Charles Johnston stepped down as the last Governor of Aden. Many of the problems that Aden had suffered in its time as a colony did not improve on federation. Internal disturbances continued and intensified, leading to the Aden Emergency and the final departure of British troops. British rule ended on 30 November 1967. The federation became the People's Republic of South Yemen, and in line with other formerly British Arab territories in the Middle East, it did not join the Commonwealth of Nations.

The Aden Settlement used adhesive postage stamps of British India from 1 October 1854 until Aden became a crown colony on 1 April 1937. As an outpost of the British East Indian empire, Aden was supplied with India's first lithographed adhesives, which became available in Aden just as they were issued on the Indian mainland. Until 1857, the only Aden post office was in the Crater, later known as Aden Cantonment or Aden Camp. Mail was carried by camel to and from Steamer Point. In 1857 a Postmaster was appointed and the main post office was moved to new quarters at Steamer Point. Covers from Aden with the Indian lithographed stamps are rare. Although these stamps did not have an Aden overprint, many of them may be recognised (even off cover) from the frequent use of the number 124 in postmarks, a number assigned to Aden as part of the Indian post office identification system. However, other numbers and letters also were used to identify the offices in Aden: these include 132, 125, A/125, B and B-22.

In 1937, when the Settlement was detached from India and became the Colony of Aden, the new colony received a series of twelve definitive stamps depicting a dhow, produced by De La Rue & Co.

In 1939, a new definitive issue with the effigy of King George VI was issued. The sultans of the two major states in the Hadhramaut (part of the Aden Protectorate) objected to this since they were sovereigns in their own right and were not subjects of the King of the United Kingdom. Therefore the British government issued separate stamps in 1942, with the additional inscriptions Kathiri State of Seiyun and Qu'aiti State of Shihr and Mukalla (later Qu'aiti State in Hadhramaut), with portraits of the respective sultans replacing the effigy of George VI.

In 1951, the definitive issue of 1939 was overprinted with shilling denominations when the British East African shilling replaced the Indian rupee as the legal currency of Aden. Stamps inscribed Aden were used until 31 March 1965 when all were withdrawn. Stamps of the Federation of South Arabia, formed from Aden Colony and Aden Protectorate, were issued from 1963 to 1966.

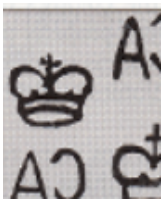
Aden

Watermarks used in the Stamp Issues of Aden.

Watermark 4
Multiple Crown
and Script CA



Watermark 314
St. Edward's Crown
and CA, multiple

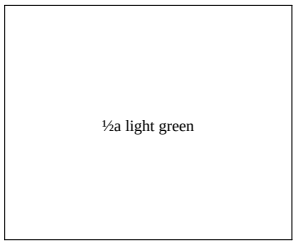


Aden

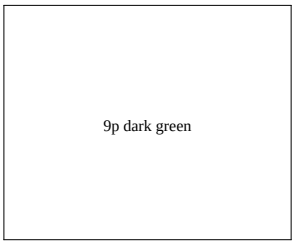
1937 Dhow Issue

Sideways Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

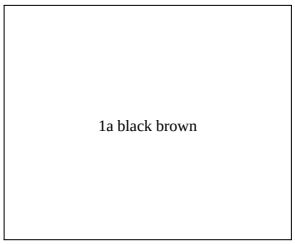
Engraved. Perf. 13x11.5mm



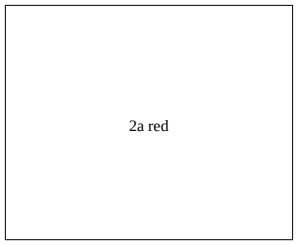
1



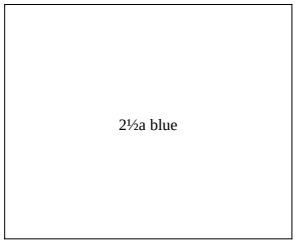
2



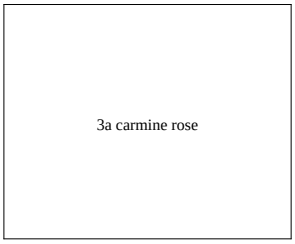
3



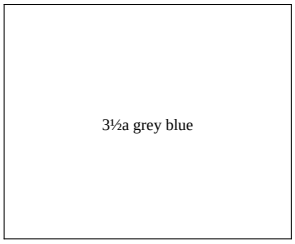
4



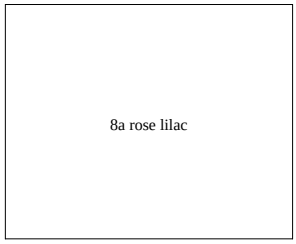
5



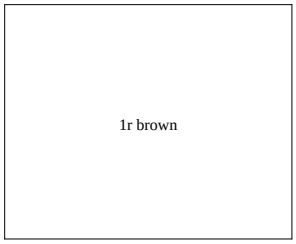
6



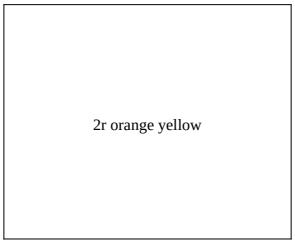
7



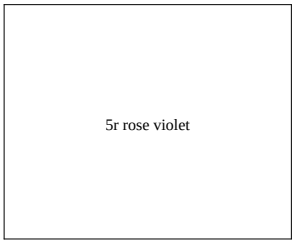
8



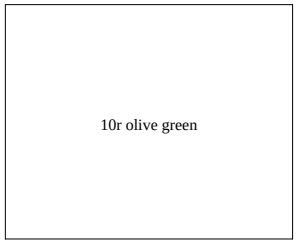
9



10



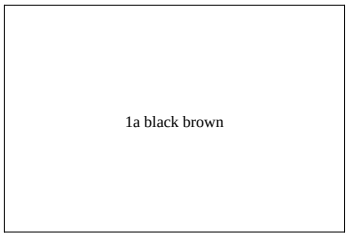
11



12

Coronation of King George VI.
12th May 1937.

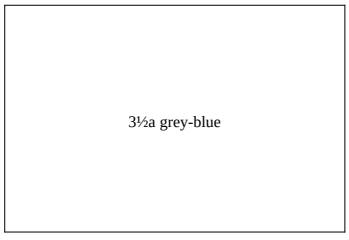
Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4). Perf: 13.5x14mm



13



14



15

Recess printed by De La Rue & Co., Ltd.

Aden

1939 - 1948 King George VI Pictorials

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

Engraved. Perf. 12.5mm

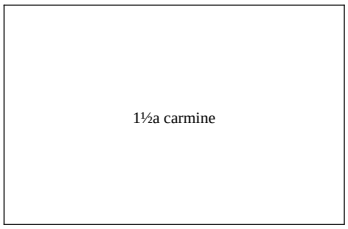
½a green	½a blue-green	¾a brown-violet	¾a dark brown-violet
16 Aidrus Mosque, Crater	16b (1948) Aidrus Mosque, Crater	17 Adenese Camel Corps, Dromedary (Camelus dromedarius)	17 (darker brown) Adenese Camel Corps, Dromedary (Camelus dromedarius)
1a light blue	1½a red	2a dark brown	2a brown
18 The Harbour	19 Adenese dhow	20 Aidrus Mosque, Crater	20 (lighter brown) Aidrus Mosque, Crater
2½a bright ultramarine	3a rose carmine and dark brown	8a orange	14a light blue and brown-black
21 Mukalla	22 Capture of Aden, 1839 (Capt. Rundle)	23 Mukalla	23A (1945) Capture of Aden, 1839 (Capt. Rundle)
1r bright green	2r rose violet and indigo	5r olive green and red-brown	10r dark purple and violet-brown
24 Adenese dhow	25 The Harbour	26 Adenese Camel Corps, Dromedary (Camelus dromedarius)	27 Capture of Aden, 1839 (Capt. Rundle)

Aden

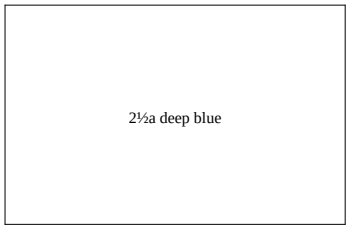
1946 Peace Issue

Engraved

Perforation 13.5x14mm. Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)



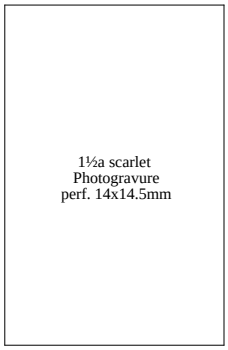
28



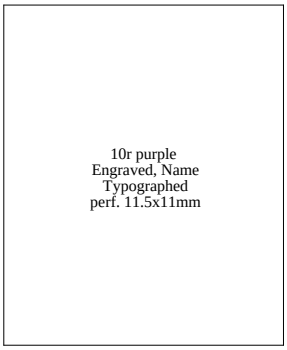
29

1948 Silver Wedding

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)



30

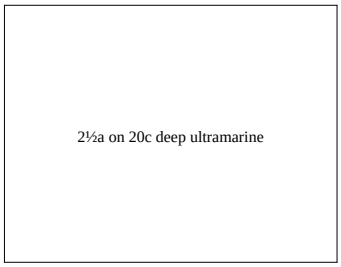


31

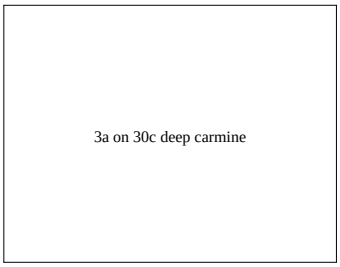
1949 75th Anniversary Of The Universal Postal Union

Engraved; Name Typographed on 33 and 34.

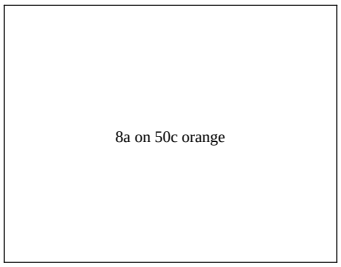
Perforation 13.5mm, 11x11.5mm. Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)



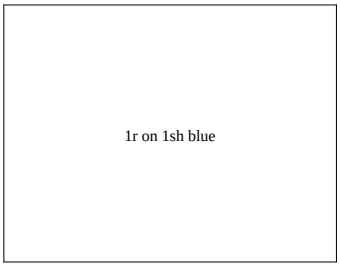
32



33



34



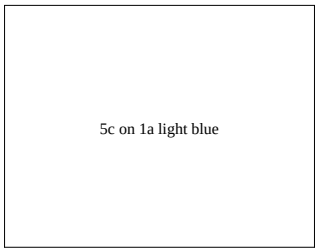
35

Aden

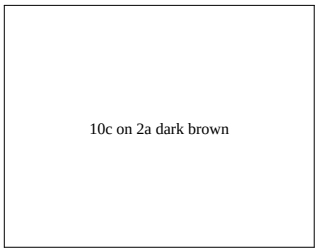
1951 King George VI Pictorial Stamps Of 1939 Surcharged In Cents Or Shillings in black or carmine

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

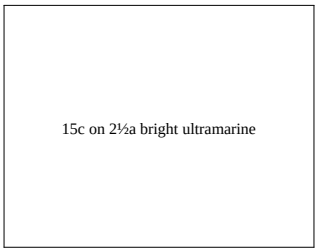
Engraved. Perf. 12.5mm



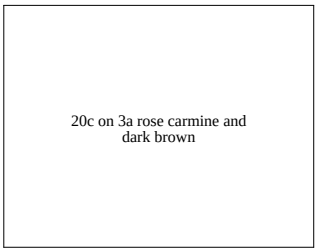
36
The Harbour



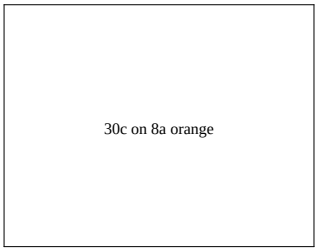
37
Aidrus Mosque, Crater



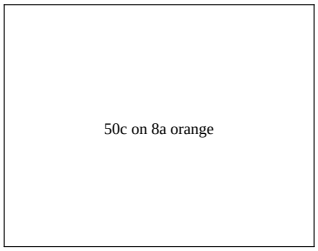
38
Mukalla



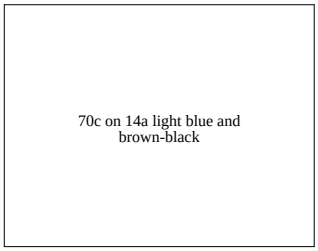
39
Capture of Aden, 1839 (Capt. Rundle)



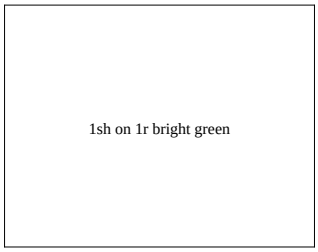
40 (carmine overprint)
Mukalla



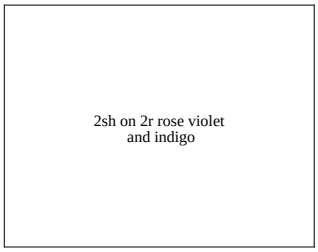
41
Mukalla



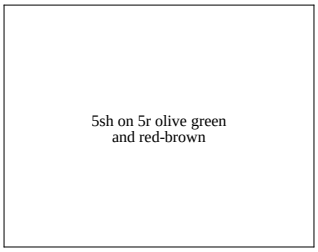
42
Capture of Aden, 1839 (Capt. Rundle)



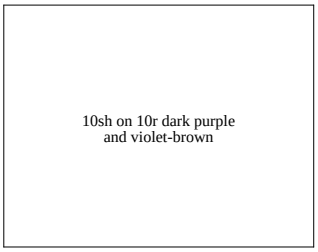
43
Adenese dhow



44
The Harbour



45
Adenese Camel Corps, Dromedary
(Camelus dromedarius)

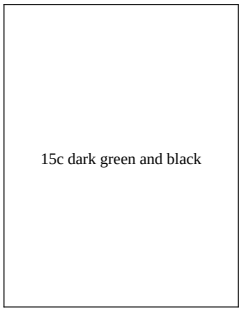


46
Capture of Aden, 1839 (Capt. Rundle)

1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

Engraved; Perf.13.5x13mm



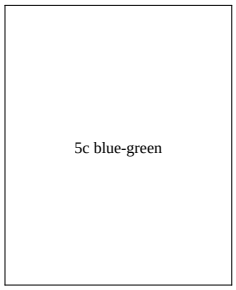
47

Aden

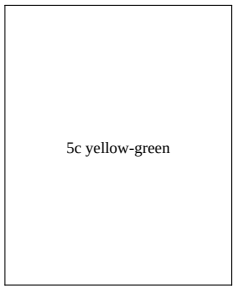
1953 - 1958 Queen Elizabeth II Pictorials

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

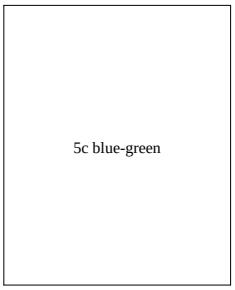
Engraved. Perf. 12mm, 12x13.5mm



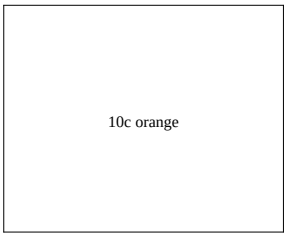
48 (1956 Perf. 12x13.5mm)
Minaret



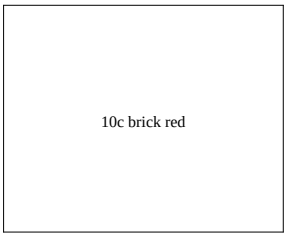
48a (Perf. 12mm)
Minaret



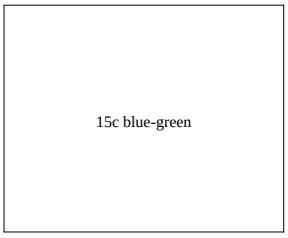
48b (1955 Perf. 12mm)
Minaret



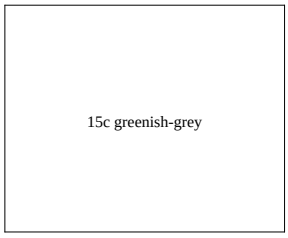
49
Camel Transport, Dromedary
(Camelus Dromedarius)



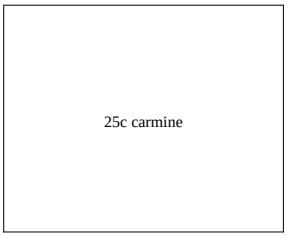
49a (1955)
Camel Transport, Dromedary
(Camelus Dromedarius)



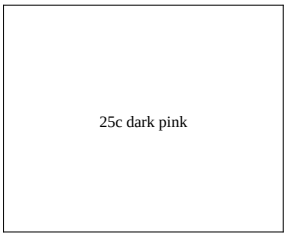
50
Crater



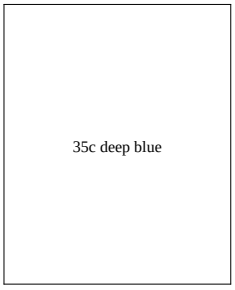
50a (1959)
Crater



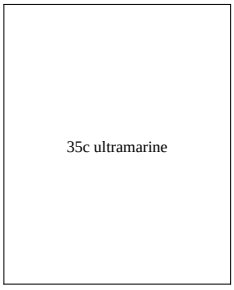
51
Mosque



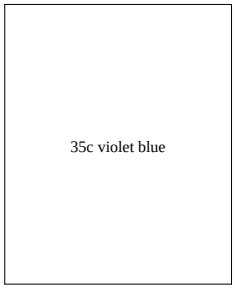
51a (1956)
Mosque



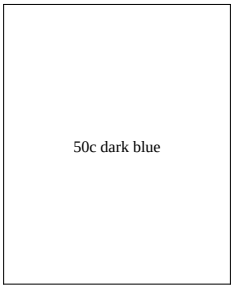
52 (1958 Perf. 12x13.5mm)
Dhow



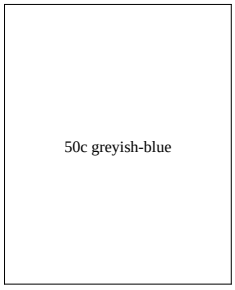
52a (Perf. 12mm)
Dhow



52b (1958 Perf. 12x13.5mm)
Dhow



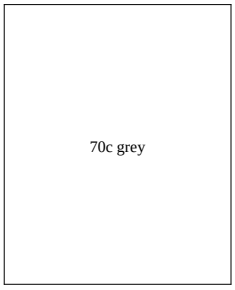
53 (1956 Perf. 12x13.5mm)
Map



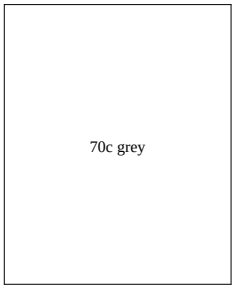
53a (Perf. 12mm)
Map



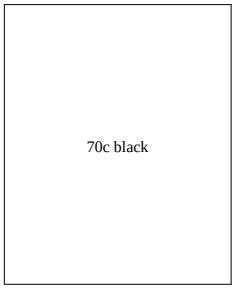
53b (1955 Perf. 12mm)
Map



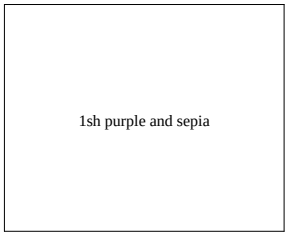
54 (1956 Perf. 12x13.5mm)
Salt works



54a (Perf. 12mm)
Salt works



54b (1954 Perf. 12mm)
Salt works



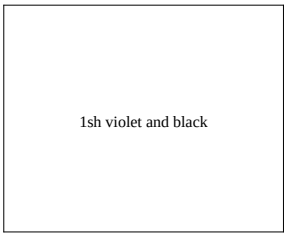
55
Dhow building

Aden

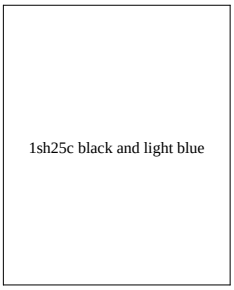
1953 - 1958 Queen Elizabeth II Pictorials, continued...

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

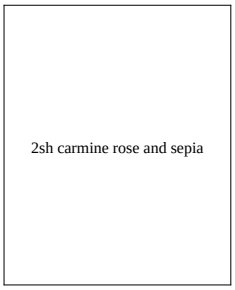
Engraved. Perf. 12mm, 12x13.5mm



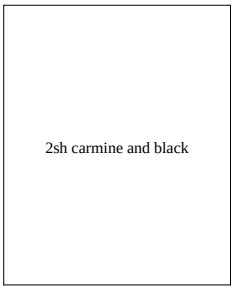
55A
Dhow building



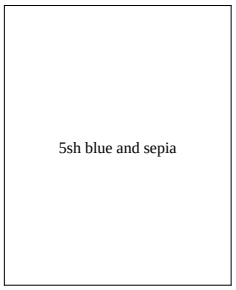
56 (1956)
Colony's badge



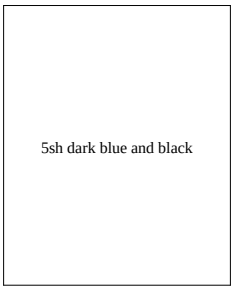
57 (Perf. 12mm)
Aden Protectorate Levy, Dromedary (Camelus dromedarius)



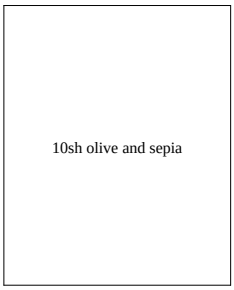
57A (1956 Perf. 12x13.5mm)
Aden Protectorate Levy, Dromedary (Camelus dromedarius)



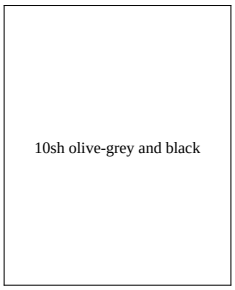
58 (Perf. 12mm)
Crater Pass



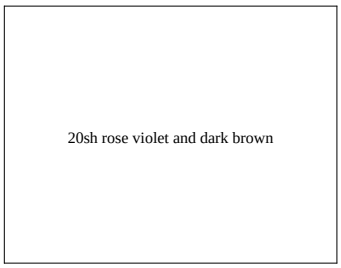
58A (1956 Perf. 12x13.5mm)
Crater Pass



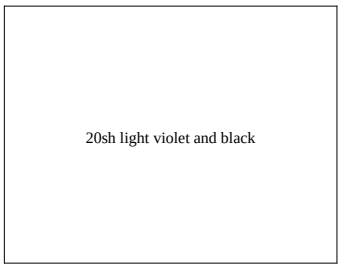
59
Tribesman



60 (1954)
Tribesman



61 (Perf. 13.5x13mm)
Aden in 1572

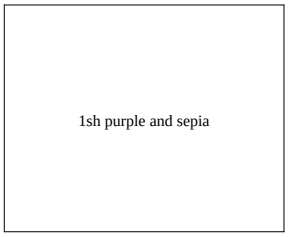


61A (1957 (Perf. 13.5x13mm)
Aden in 1572

1954 Royal Visit. Type of 1953 (55) inscribed “Royal Visit 1954”

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

Engraved. Perf. 12mm

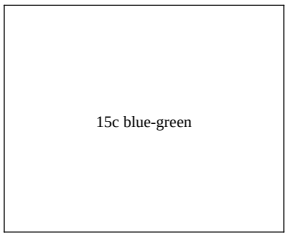


62
Dhow building

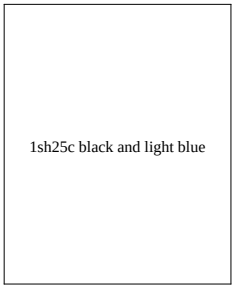
Aden

1959 Issued to commemorate the introduction of a revised constitution. 50 and 56 overprinted “REVISED CONSTITUTION 1959” in red.

Engraved. Perf. 12mm, 12x13.5mm. Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)



63
Crater

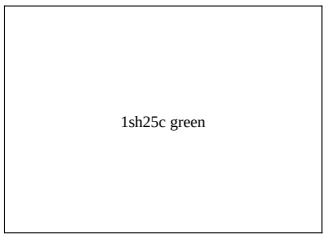


64 (1956)
Colony's badge

1963 Freedom From Hunger

Photogravure

Perf. 14x14.5mm. Watermark: St. Edward's Crown and C.A., multiple (314).

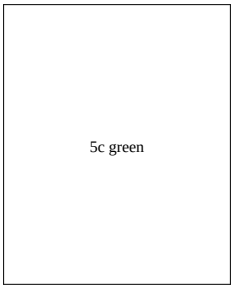


65

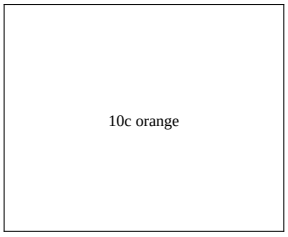
1964 - 1965 Queen Elizabeth II Pictorials (new watermark)

Watermark: St. Edward's Crown and C.A., multiple (314).

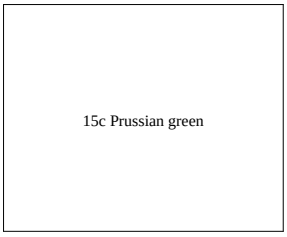
Engraved. Perf. 12mm, 12x13.5mm



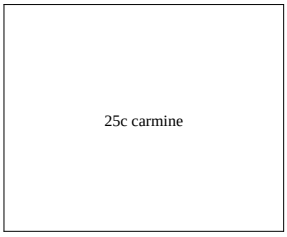
66 (1965)
Minaret



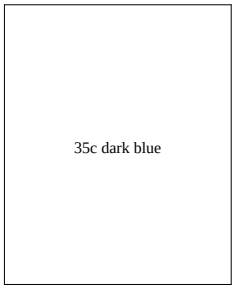
67
Camel Transport, Dromedary
(Camelus Dromedarius)



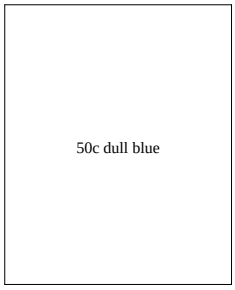
68
Crater



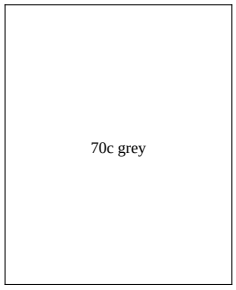
69
Mosque



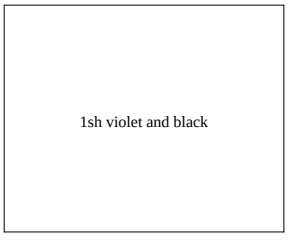
70
Dhow



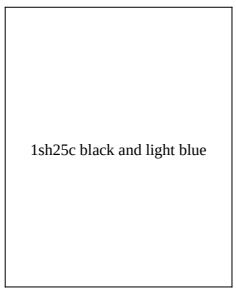
71
Map



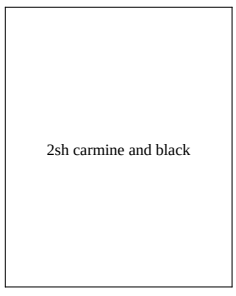
72
Salt works



73
Dhow building



74
Colony's badge



75 (1965)
Aden Protectorate Levy, Dromedary
(Camelus dromedarius)

Aden

Kathiri State of Seiyun

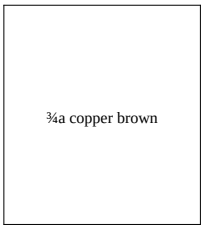
1942 Sultan Ja'far bin Mansur al Kathiri pictorials

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

Engraved. Perforation 14mm



1

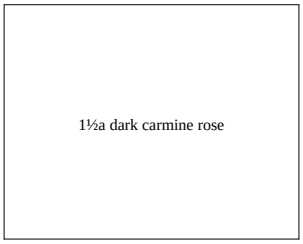


2

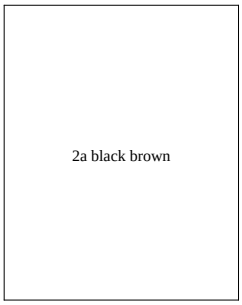


3

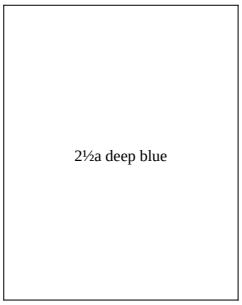
Engraved. Perforation 13x11.5mm, 11.5x13mm



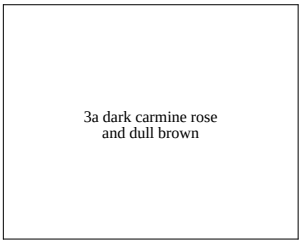
4
Seiyun



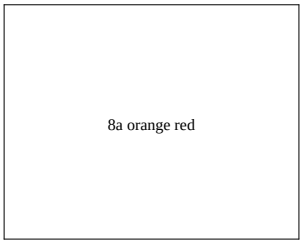
5
Tarim



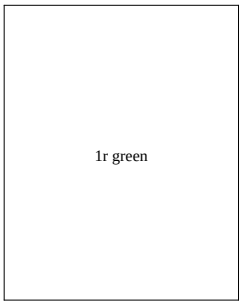
6
Mosque at Seiyun



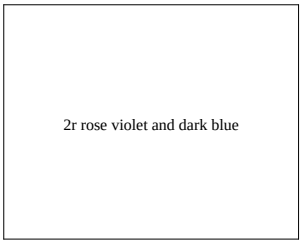
7
Fortress at Tarim



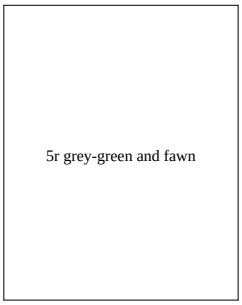
8
Mosque at Seiyun



9
South Gate, Tarim



10
A Kathiri house

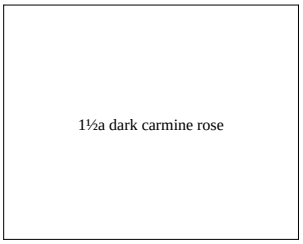


11
Mosque entrance, Tarim

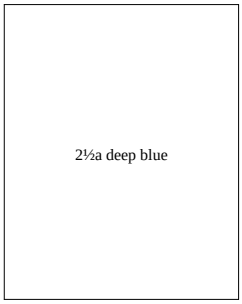
1946 Victory Issue. Nos. 4 and 6 overprinted in black or red

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

Engraved. Perforation 13x11.5mm, 11.5x13mm



12
Seiyun



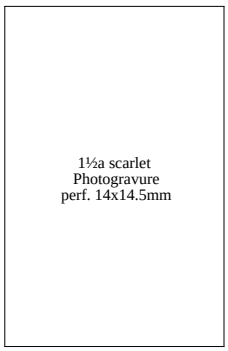
13 (Red overprint)
Mosque at Seiyun

Aden

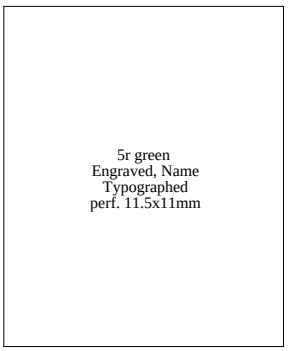
Kathiri State of Seiyun

1948 Silver Wedding

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)



14

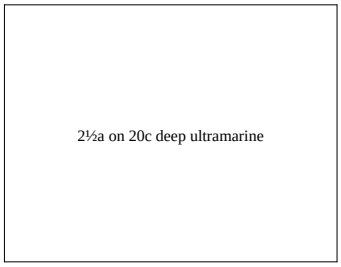


15

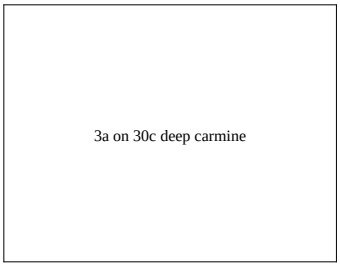
1949 75th Anniversary Of The Universal Postal Union

Engraved; Name Typographed on 17 and 18.

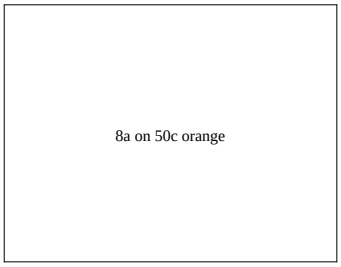
Perforation 13.5mm, 11x11.5mm. Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)



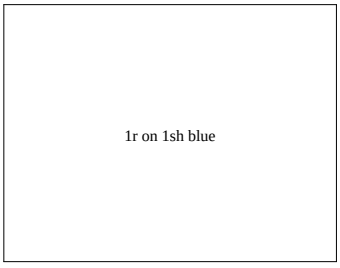
16



17



18



19

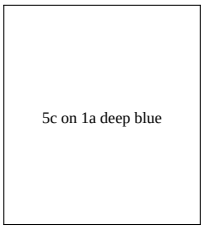
Aden

Kathiri State of Seiyun

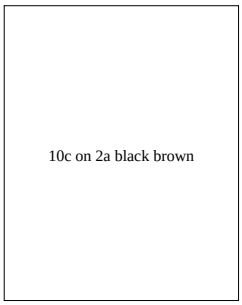
1949 Sultan Ja'far bin Mansur al Kathiri pictorials surcharged in carmine or black with new values

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

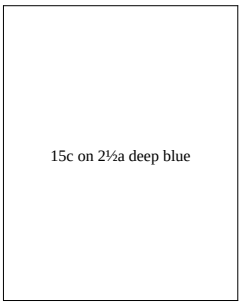
Engraved. Perforation 13x11.5mm, 11.5x13mm



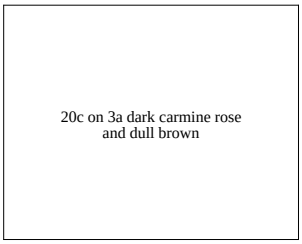
20
Perf. 14mm (carmine opt.)



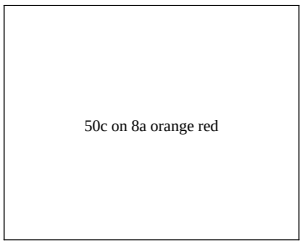
21
Tarim



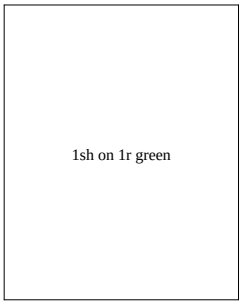
22
Mosque at Seiyun



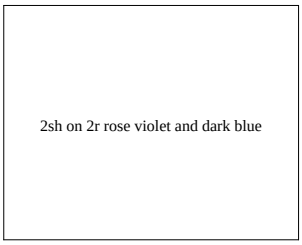
23
Fortress at Tarim



24
Mosque at Seiyun



25
South Gate, Tarim



26
A Kathiri house

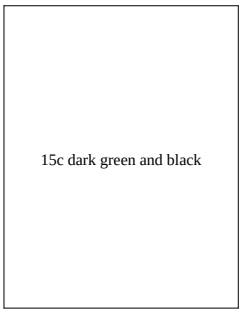


27
Mosque entrance, Tarim

1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

Engraved; Perf.13.5x13mm



28

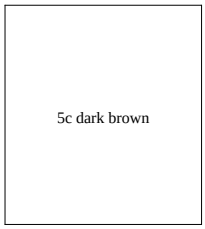
Aden

Kathiri State of Seiyun

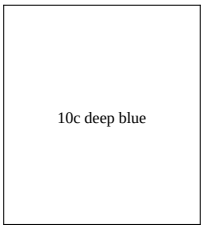
1954 Sultan Hussein pictorials

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

Engraved. Perforation 12.5mm

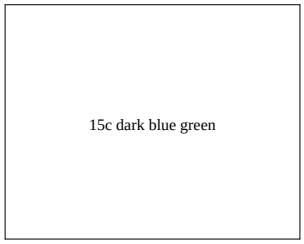


29

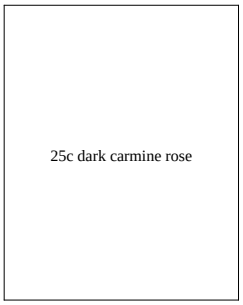


30

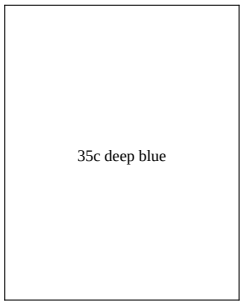
Engraved. Perforation 13x11.5mm, 11.5x13mm



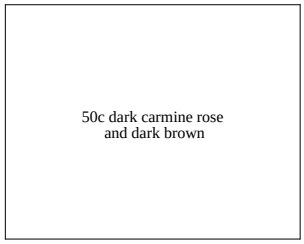
31
Seiyun



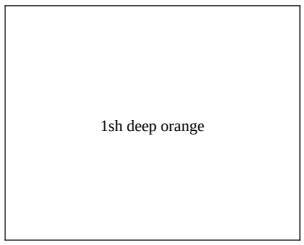
32
Tarim



33
Mosque at Seiyun



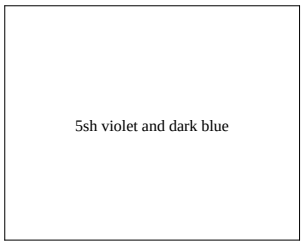
34
Fortress at Tarim



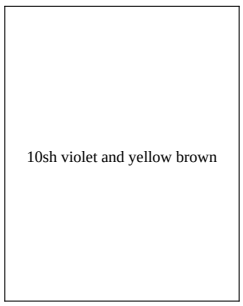
35
Mosque at Seiyun



36
South Gate, Tarim



37
Kathiri house

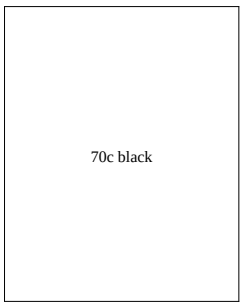


38
Mosque entrance, Tarim

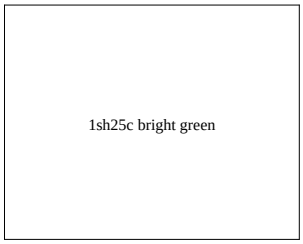
1964 Sultan Hussein pictorials (new watermark)

Watermark: St. Edward's Crown and C.A., multiple (314).

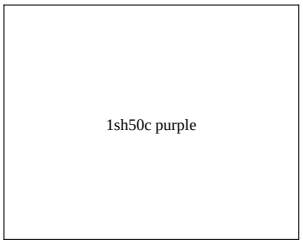
Engraved. Perforation 13x11.5mm, 11.5x13mm



39
Qarn Adh Dhabi



40
Seiyun



41
Gheil Omer

Aden

Qu'aiti State of Shihr and Mukalla

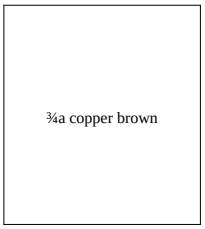
1942 Sultan Sir Saleh bin Ghalib Al-Qu'aiti KCMG pictorials

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

Engraved. Perforation 14mm



1

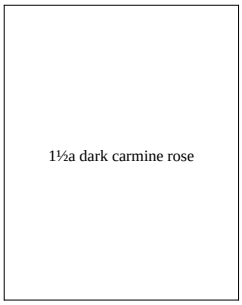


2

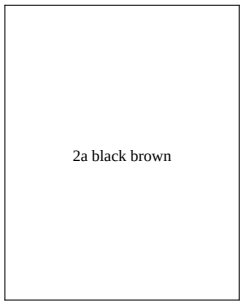


3

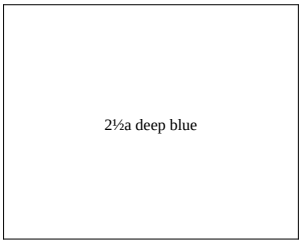
Engraved. Perforation 13x11.5mm, 11.5x13mm



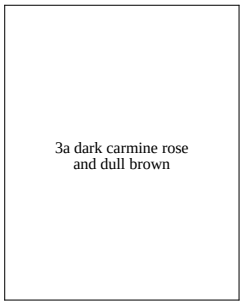
4
Mukalla Harbour



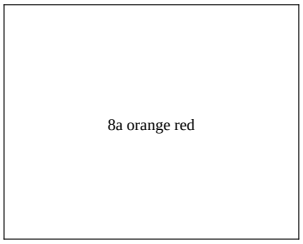
5
Gateway of Shihr



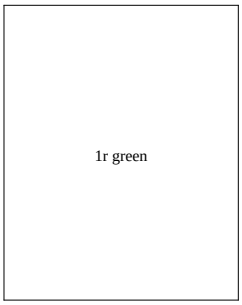
6
Shibam



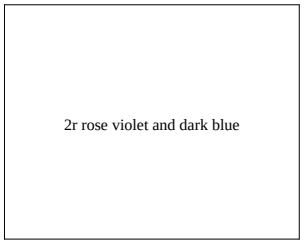
7
Outpost of Mukalla



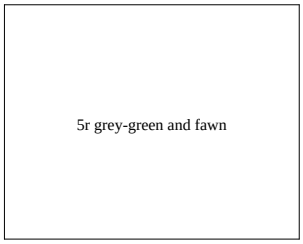
8
'Einat



9
Du'an



10
Mosque in Hureidha

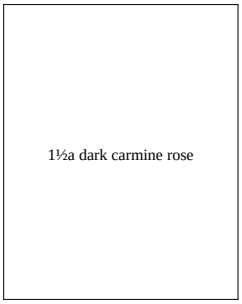


11
Meshhed

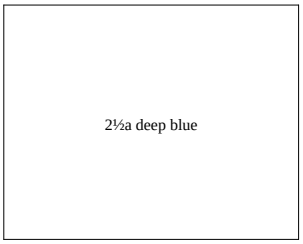
1946 Victory Issue. Nos. 4 and 6 overprinted in black or red

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

Engraved. Perforation 13x11.5mm, 11.5x13mm



12
Mukalla Harbour



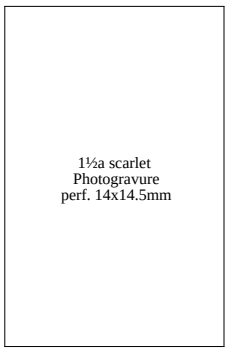
13 (Red overprint)
Shibam

Aden

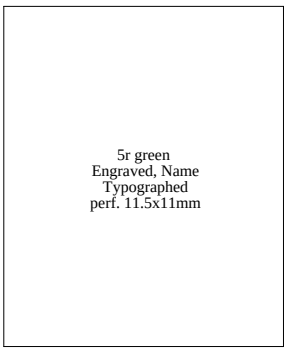
Qu'aiti State of Shihr and Mukalla

1948 Silver Wedding

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)



14

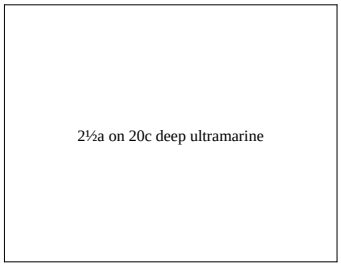


15

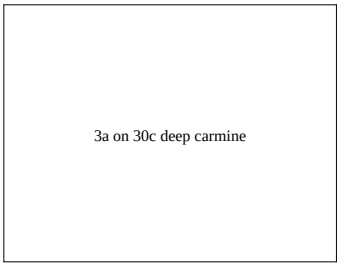
1949 75th Anniversary Of The Universal Postal Union

Engraved; Name Typographed on 17 and 18.

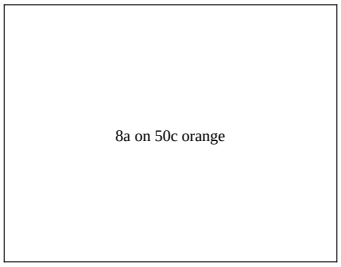
Perforation 13.5mm, 11x11.5mm. Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)



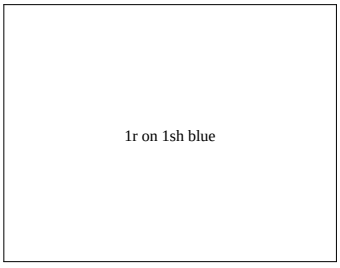
16



17



18



19

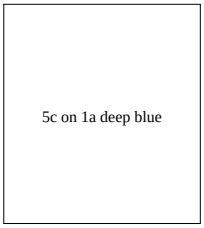
Aden

Qu'aiti State of Shihr and Mukalla

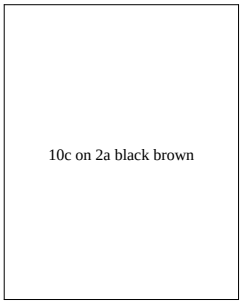
1949 Sultan Sir Saleh bin Ghalib Al-Qu'aiti KCMG pictorials surcharged in carmine or black with new values

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

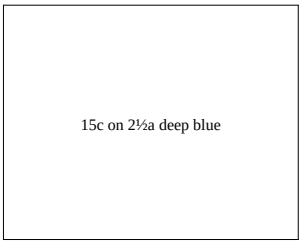
Engraved. Perforation 13x11.5mm, 11.5x13mm



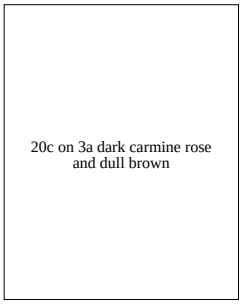
20
Perf. 14mm (carmine opt.)



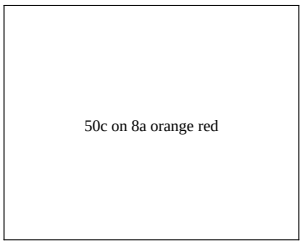
21
Gateway of Shihr



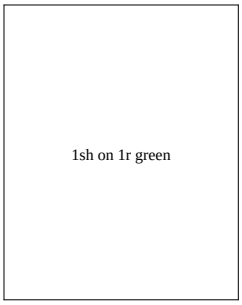
22
Shibam



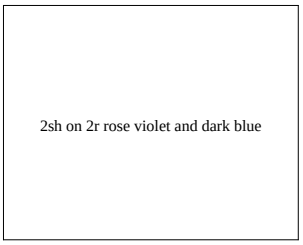
23
Outpost of Mukalla



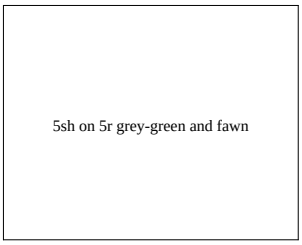
24
'Einat



25
Du'an



26
Mosque in Hureidha

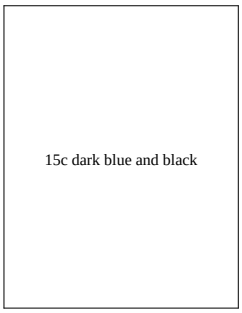


27
Meshhed

1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

Engraved; Perf.13.5x13mm



28

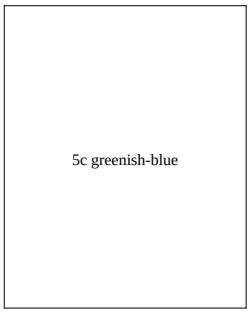
Aden

Qu'aiti State in Hadhramaut

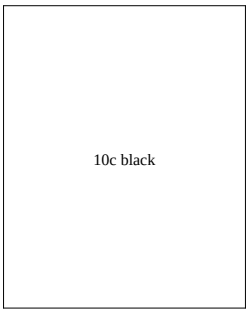
1955 Sultan Sir Saleh bin Ghalib Al-Qu'aiti KCMG pictorials with new values

Watermark: Multiple Crown and Script C.A. (4)

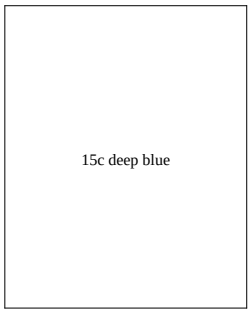
Engraved. Perforation 13x11.5mm, 11.5x13mm



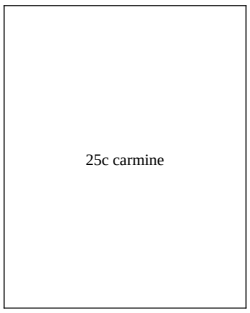
29
Metal work



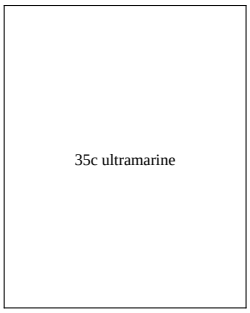
30
Mat making



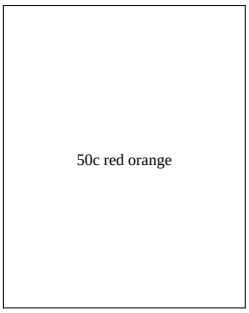
31
Weaving



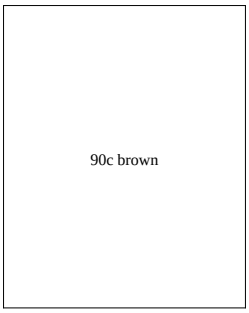
32
Pottery



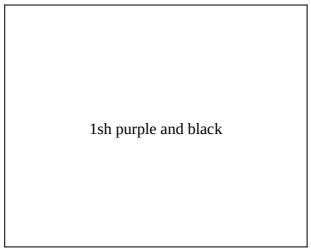
33
Building



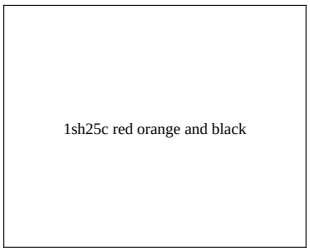
34
Date cultivation



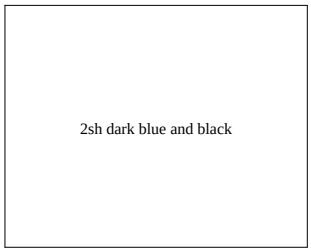
35
Agriculture



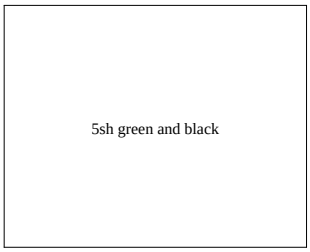
36
Fisheries



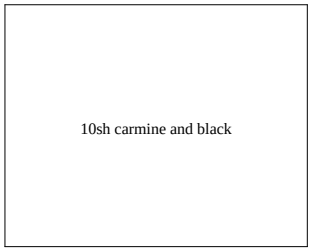
37
lime burning



38
Dhow building



39
Agriculture



40
Lime burning

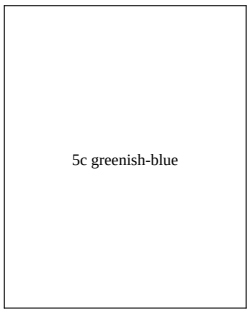
Aden

Qu'aiti State in Hadhramaut

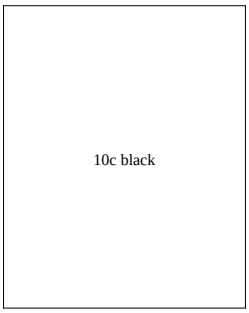
1963 Sultan Awadh II bin Saleh Al-Qu'aiti pictorials with new watermark

Watermark: St. Edward's Crown and C.A., multiple (314).

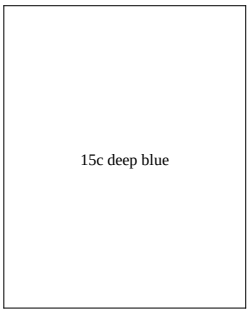
Engraved. Perforation 13x11.5mm, 11.5x13mm



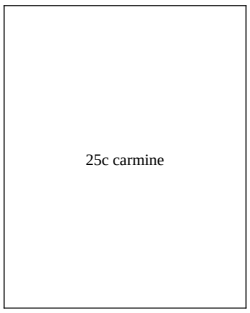
41
Metal work



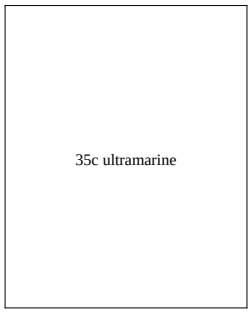
42
Mat making



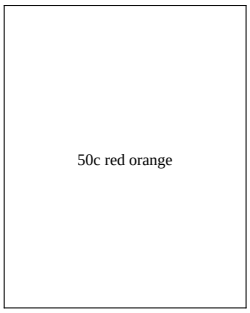
43
Weaving



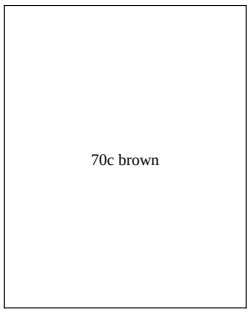
44
Pottery



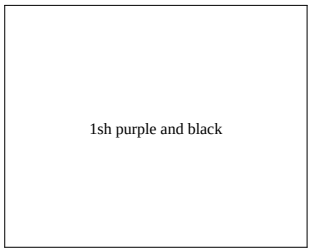
45
Building



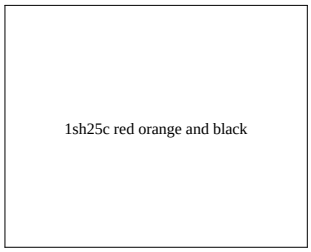
46
Date cultivation



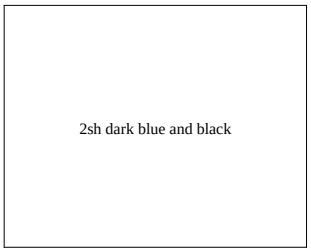
47
Agriculture



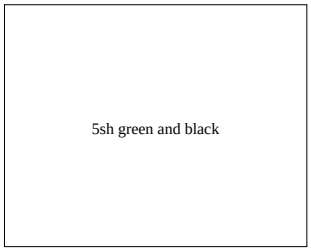
48
Fisheries



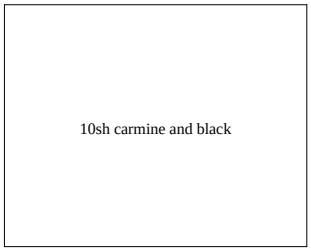
49
lime burning



50
Dhow building



51
Agriculture



52
Lime burning