



THE POSTAL ISSUES OF FAISAL II OF IRAQ 1939-1958

The Life and Death of a Young King

Purpose

Faisal II was a tragic figure in history. He became king at the age of three after his father was killed in a violent car crash, that many claim was no “accident.” His uncle became Prince Regent until Faisal came of age in 1953. In 1941, a pro-Nazi coup overthrew the regent. The British responded by invading Iraq and a week later the monarchy was restored. Throughout WWII Faisal was uprooted from Iraq and sent to England for safety and education. Returning to Iraq, he became engaged to be married only to be killed days before in a coup which killed the members of the royal family and its staff. My goal is to shed light on this king and period of Iraqi history and to ponder both the legacy and “what ifs” in the ongoing turmoil of Iraq.

Scope

This Exhibit covers the stamps issued during the reign of Faisal II. It offers a glimpse into the development of Iraq’s postal history during those nineteen years. Post-coup issues showing the defacement of Faisal II as well as revenue and the Palestine Relief tax stamp and its uses are also shown.

Plan

The exhibit is arranged chronologically for all postal issues, with the revenue and defacement issues shown at the end. Also, special mention is made of Ahmad Mukhtar Baban, the last monarchical prime minister of Iraq who served under Faisal II. He was my wife’s grandfather, of whom she had many good memories.

1. Postal Issues 1939-1958 in Chronological Order
2. Revenue Issues
3. Post-Coup Defacement of Faisal on stamps
4. Faisal’s last prime minister

**Important, scarce or rare items are matted or framed in royal purple*