

# Jordan's Philately Still "In Orbit"

Jordan continues to uphold her end of the stamp contract difficulties with the Middle East Stamp Co., according to translations of various items in the Arab press thereabouts.

In the process — misunderstanding or not — the country also manages to keep well in the van in the issuing of new stamps, according to a reliable informant in that area.

January 1 saw the release of a seven - value set of Jordanian Scouts stamps, with the usual difficulties being encountered by collectors trying to buy the newcomers in Jordanian post offices.

Details of the set are set forth in another article in this week's edition of Linn's (Page 1). Values are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 35, and 50 fils; 24,000 sets perf, and 10,000 souvenir sheets of the 50f., but priced at 100f. each.



A three-value Birds airmail offering appeared December 8. All are in bright multi-color and issued perf (12,000 sets) and imperf (2000 sets).



Denominations and subjects are 150f., bird of Finch family; 500f., (apparently) Bonelli's Eagle (Hieraeetus fasciatus, Falconidae); and 1000f., Smyrna Kingfisher (Halcyon Smyrnensis, Halcyonidae).



Sales deal problems — The difficulties with the Middle East Stamp Co. with which Jordan has entered into a production and merchandising program continue unsatisfactory. Details are included in translations of recent Arab press news items:

"Falastin" December 17 — The government reached an agreement with the Middle East Postage Stamps Co. in Beirut to break up their previous arrangement for the marketing of 90 per cent of Jordanian postage stamps. As a result of this new agreement, the Company will pay the government \$50,000 after it markets four new coming issues.

(Name of paper not given) December 18 — The Under - Secretary of Communications denied that the government broke its agreement with the Middle East Postage Stamps Co. in Beirut. He said the agreement expires (four months hence).

"Falastin" December 18 — (Not quoted in full) A short history of the agreement between Jordan and the Middle East Postage Stamps Co. The Company has to supply and market 42 issues of postage stamps.

(Name of paper not given) December 19 — The Post Office put on sale yesterday the new "Jordan Birds" stamps . . . three values— 150, 500 and 1000 fils (one Dinar);

(Name of paper not given) December 31 — The Post Office officials said the new Jordan Scouts stamps will be put on sale start-

ing tomorrow, Friday (January 1). "Jerusalem Times" January 14 (Amman dateline) — The Ministry of Communications will put on sale January 20 postal stamps commemorating Soviet space flights. The stamps will be distributed to stamp dealers and collectors. (No information on values and other particulars.)

"No wonder we can't get stamps here at the post office, when 90 per cent of them are handled out of Beirut!" is our correspondent's closing comment in his letter of January 16.

## JORDAN'S SCOUTS (Continued from page 1)

Sons Ltd., London, at the High Wycombe factory, the stamps come in editions of 24,000 complete sets, plus 10,000 souvenir sheets of the same design as the 50 fils value, but priced at 100f., and printed in blue in larger format.

Technical details of the series are: 1f. chocolate brown, three scouts crossing a brook using a rope-and-pole bridge; 2f. violet, three scouts practicing applying a sling to support an injured arm; and 3f. yellow brown, three scouts and a scout leader doing physical exercises.

Also 4f. red brown, scout watching another sitting on a log, practicing knot-tying; 5f. yellow green, two scouts cooking over a campfire; 35f. blue, scouts sailing in a boat on a river; and 50f. dark green, scouts sitting round a camp fire.

The scraper-board technique was



Jordan's January 7 set of seven Scout Stamps was especially well researched and designed by Victor Whiteley and David Slater. They obtained authentic source material from the Boy Scouts Assn. in London, then redrew the selected scenes to fit their conditions. Six of the seven central vignettes are shown here from their sketches; in order from the upper left they are for the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 35 fils values. The 50f. is a campfire scene, shown on the actual stamp on page 1.

used in preparing the artwork; in this the picture is obtained by drawing on a specially prepared coated board which has been painted black on its surface (alternatively, a coated black board can be obtained).

With a scraper the top surface of chalky emulsion is scraped away to expose the white coating beneath; if more black is to be added, this can be achieved by painting with India ink.

The effect is similar to that obtained with woodcuts, but of course a photo-mechanical etching has to

be made from the design to produce a cut for printing purposes.

The only Jordanian reference picture which could be used by Mr. Whiteley was the one depicting three scouts exercising; here a photograph of an outdoor camp in Jordan served as basis.

All the other pictures were obtained by adapting photographic reference from London sources, although of course the Jordanians had provided a good sketch of a scout wearing Arab headdress.

Perhaps the well-wooded aspect of the backgrounds of these pic-

tures can be ascribed to the origin of the designs; certainly, the scouts sailing in their boat would be unlikely to do so in Jordan where the river of the same name is the only navigable stream, and forms the border with Israel.

More than 9000 Jordanian boys belong to the Scout Movement, which is affiliated to the World Scout Bureau in Ottawa. The figure has increased rapidly; in 1961 only 5000 boys were members, in 1963, the total was already 7500, approximately.

Fuller details about Scouting in Jordan can be obtained from the local Scout Commissioner, care of the Ministry of Education, Amman, Jordan. The Movement, however, should not be asked to furnish copies of these stamps.