

## Strong Activity In Middle East

A correspondent in Jordan reports considerable stamp activity in that area during the past few weeks, with Saudi Arabia leading off in mid-June with a set of four large commems to note the opening of the Arafat-Taif Road.



Arafat is a hill about ten miles east of Mecca, while Taif is a town some 495 miles farther to the east. The black vignette of the common design shows a map of the rugged mountainous route, with the frames being printed in different colors.

These are vermilion on the 2 piasters, cobalt 4p., lilac 6p., and turquoise green on the 8p. Inscriptions are in both Arabic and English.

Jordan hopped aboard the philatelic bandwagon with three issues around the 20th of June, the total adding up to 19 stamps and two souvenir sheets.



Three multicolored stamps and a matching souvenir sheet noted the Jordanian Pavilion at the New York Fair. Values and frame colors are 15 fils silver, 25f. bronze and 50f. gilt. The 100f. sheet has the gilt frame, with the sheet margins in cobalt.

Next came four values — both perf and imperf — and another souvenir sheet to mark the anniversary of Pope Paul's January 1964 visit to Jordan. The design shows

his portrait at the left and that of King Hussein at the right, with a view of various religious sites in the center.



Here values and colors are 5f. chocolate and mauve, 10f. reddish purple and apple green, 15f. light blue and salmon, 50f. black and magenta, and (souvenir sheet) light blue and violet.

A series of eight stamps, four horizontal and four vertical, and all in the single value of 55p. air-mail — which is the rate only to Pakistan and the Philippines — was available in Jerusalem June 22.

The set is similar in theme and appearance to the 1963 "Shrines", featuring eight "UNESCO — Antiquities of Jerash" remains of former architectural splendor.

The vignettes are in natural colors of the scenes depicted, with frames of complementary colors as follows: Cathedral steps, olive green; Artemis Temple Gate, carmine red; Street of Columns, slate; and South Theater, light blue — all four in vertical format.

Horizontal designs show The Forum, magenta; South Theater, cobalt; Triumphal Arch, bronze green; and Artemis Temple, portico, dark slate. In each of the eight designs the reproduction of the stone coloring is quite accurate, our informant states.