

1925 (2 August)

حكومة
الشعر
العرب
سنة
١٣٤٣

Overview

This overprint was applied to Hejaz King Ali stamps having the values $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2, 3, and 5p; the bi-colour 10p did not receive the overprint and was not sent to Transjordan.

The stamps and Transjordan overprint were designed by the Survey of Egypt, Cairo, but they could not meet the delivery date required by the Hejaz government and the printing contract was awarded to Messrs. Mourafatti, also in Cairo. The survey of Egypt produced essays and final designs for the Hejaz government and the only Transjordan item to come from that source is the overprint printed on thin glassine paper.



Left: Transjordan overprint on thin glassine paper, ex. Survey of Egypt archives.

The stamps are listed by Souan⁶, Robson Lowe⁴, and Whitfield King⁷, and in the current catalogues by Scott⁵ as 122 - 129 and Gibbons² as 135 - 142.

Plate details

Plate size	50 clichés (5 x 10)
Plate construction	Lithograph.
Different plates	Yes
Forgeries	Yes

Najjar³ gives details of the plates. At least three plates were used; one for the 1/8p, 1/4p, and 1/2p, one for the 1p and 2p, and one for the 1 1/2p, 3p and 5p. There is a possibility that a fourth plate was actually used for the 5p. In that publication there also appears a comprehensive illustrated listing of plate flaws.

Stamps

The normal set of stamps as issued were perforated 11 1/2. The production of the Hejaz King Ali stamps was less than perfect and perforation errors are abundant; missing and extra perforations are not difficult to find. Design offsets on the gummed side exist, but there are far fewer of them.

Overprint upright



1/8p



1/4p



1/2p



1p



1 1/2p



2p



3p



5p

Varieties

Najjar³ suggests that the 3p with black overprint is a proof and that one sheet exists perforated and one imperforate. Also found in that publication is the 3p imperforate with a gold overprint; apparently just a single sheet was produced.



Overprint triple



Overprint in black

Perforation error - Imperforate vertically

Although referred to as 'imperforate between' in catalogues, there is a possibility that all copies are imperforate vertically. The 1/8p strip of five shown below also has double horizontal perforations.



Reduced 75%



Overprint error - Incorrect position

Najjar³ illustrates complete sheets of the 3p and 5p with a misplaced overprint similar to the block below.



Inverted overprint

According to Darlow¹ and others, the 1p and 2p did not receive an inverted overprint.



Inverted overprint, perforation errors

Imperforate between stamp and bottom margin



Vertically imperforate and misplaced horizontal perforations



Imperforate, upright overprint



Quite common for Hejaz stamps of the King Ali issue are design offsets on the gummed side; it therefore comes as no surprise to find them on Transjordan stamps.



Imperforate, overprint error - Incorrect position



Imperforate, inverted overprint

According to Darlow¹ and others, the 1p and 2p did not receive an inverted overprint.



Forgeries

The technology used by laser printers and photocopiers, xerography, has made the manufacture of forgeries a simple task. Very realistic results can be obtained when adding black Transjordan overprints to Hejaz King Ali stamps. These forgeries are easy to see when using a 30x magnifier, but impossible to detect from images in an auction catalogue, either printed or online. Below is an example where a misplaced overprint has been added by laser printer to a genuine imperforate ½p having a genuine well-centred overprint. Caveat Emptor!



Stamps 'used' outside of Transjordan

Stamps belonging to this issue can be found with fake Hejaz cancels of DJEDDAH and MEKKE. In Hejaz philately, the cancels are frequently a sign that the stamp is genuine. Hejaz King Ali stamps have been seen with a fake KHARTOUM cancel, and it is possible that this exists on Transjordan stamps.



The story behind these cancels appeared in the journal of the Arabian Philatelic Association, Random Notes, #13; part is quoted here:

For years, Hejaz specialists have been turning the stamps over and smiling secretly at the initials 'ela' on the back. The smiles are caused by the general experience that most stamps so marked turn out to plate against the established sheets. The gentleman who signed all these gems was the Cairo dealer, E. L. Angeloglou. Mr. Angeloglou's shop was burned out at the end of 1951 during a political disturbance. Much of his Hejaz stock was damaged by water and became stuck together. Other dealers bought this stock, and they soaked it apart and remounted it on pieces of paper. They then applied a cancel with a rubber stamp. While these cancellations are "dealer applied", the stamps are usually good. In view of their scarcity, I suggest that the philatelist not turn up his nose at them. Unfortunately, I can't determine which of the various cancels are the ones in question. -- I'd appreciate any further information. Mr. Angeloglou's material was an original stock.

References

1. Darlow, Major J. J., Trans-Jordan A Straightforward Collection. London Philatelist Volume 41, numbers 485 & 487 (May & July 1932).
2. Gibbons, Stanley, Stamp Catalogue Middle East, ISBN 9781911304265.
3. Najjar, A. H., The Stamps of Jordan 1920 - 1965, ISBN 9780953259106.
4. Robson Lowe Ltd., The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Volume III, The Empire in Asia.
5. Scott, 2021 Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue Volume 4 - J-M.
6. Souan, K. C. R., Philatelic History of Jordan 1920 - 1970.
7. Whitfield King & Co., The Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the World Part I, 1948 & 1949 editions.