

1924 Official.



Overview

The above illustration is the generally accepted official overprint using a thick type. It was applied only to the ½p scarlet stamp of the Hejaz.

A version of the overprint using a thin, clearly defined, type also exists, but it has many errors and may be a forgery.

The lack of covers and stamps with genuine Transjordan postmarks means there is a possibility that this issue is either bogus or, at best, prepared but never issued. This issue is not mentioned by Darlow¹ or Robson Lowe³.

This document, therefore, is designed to provide information on what is actually known about the stamps and not to make any claim as to the status of the stamps.

Although this document treats the issue as having two plates, there may only be one plate having several states. Hopefully, as more images become available we will be able to be more certain.

Plate details (Thick type)

Plate size	36 clichés (6 x 6)
Plate construction	Moveable type
Different settings	Not known
Forgeries	Yes

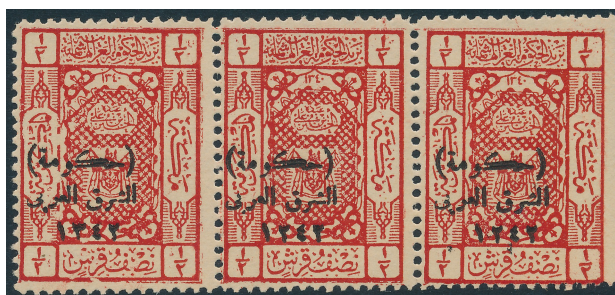
Significant errors and flaws

Souan⁴ lists the 1242 error and Najjar² lists the 1242 error and the position 31 errors. Broken characters are also present. Other flaws are generally the result of plate 'furniture' being set too high and receiving ink during the printing process. The flaws considered significant are:

Plate Position	Description
8,18,23,24	١٢٤٢ for ١٣٤٢ (1242 for 1342)
31	Dot after حكومة (<i>hukumat</i>) in top line
31	First 3 characters (الشد) of <i>al sharq</i> in second line set too low



1242 error position 8



Positions 22 to 24 with position 22 normal and positions 23 and 24 showing the 1242 error.

Position 31



Dot at end of first line



First 3 characters set too low

Plate furniture marks

These are marks left when plate furniture, the pieces of metal or wood used to hold the type in place, are set 'type high' and receive ink. They are not usually constant flaws; it depends upon the plate usage, cleaning and repairs. In this issue such marks can be found in several plate positions and two examples are shown below. The image of a complete sheet found in Souan⁴ and reproduced on page 4 contains some of these marks, one of which is at position 13.



Position 13



Position 35

Perforation errors

As with most Hejaz stamps, perforation errors occur and are therefore likely to be encountered on Transjordan issues.



Imperforate between
stamp and margin



Double vertical
perforations

Used stamps

Used stamps can be found but those seen so far are fake. The stamps below have a bogus Mecca postmark of a type frequently seen in Hejaz philately





Complete sheet from Souan⁴. This sheet contains two instances of double perforation.

The imprint is a date, reading ٢٦ ذى الحجة سنة ١٣٤١ (9 August 1923), and is one I have only seen on ½p Hejaz sheets supplied to Transjordan. This may indicate some official involvement in this issue, whether or not the stamps were officially released and used.



Plate details (Thin type)

(حكومة)
الشرق العربي
١٣٤٢

Plate size	Not known
Plate construction	Moveable type
Different settings	Not known
Forgeries	This overprint may be a forgery itself

Features

This overprint differs from that in thick type not only by the thickness and clarity of the type but also the first three characters in the word حكومة (*hukumat*) are clearly separated.

Significant errors and flaws

Najjar² lists the four errors shown at the top of the next page; all recorded errors are listed below:

Plate Position	Description
1	Year omitted, ش and ق with correct number of dots Year present, ش and ق with only one dot each
2	١٣٢٤ for ١٣٤٢ (1324 for 1342)
3	Year omitted
4	١٣٤٣ for ١٣٤٢ (1343 for 1342)
5	٤٢ (42) in year inverted and reversed
33	First two characters in الشرق (<i>al sharq</i>) inverted and reversed



In the above, figure 7 has both the Arabic 4 and 2 inverted and reversed. ١٣٣٨

The stamps can be plated and will probably be the same as the overprint plate position. The above are: 5 - Position 4, 6 - position 2, 7 - position 5 and 8 - position 3.

To those we can add another with year omitted - position 1, and a different error 'inverted and reversed الـ (alef) and (lam)' - position 33. Position 1 also exists with Arabic characters ش and ق in line 2 having only 1 dot.



الشرق
Correct

النسرق
Error

Position 1 - 'sheen' and 'qaf' with one dot.



Position 1 - missing year.



Position 33 - *alef* and *lam* inverted and reversed.

الشرق

With so many obvious errors, this plate must surely be a forgery designed to provide collectors with 'something different'. Not all plate positions have been examined and it is expected that more errors will be discovered.

References

1. Darlow, Major J. J., Trans-Jordan A Straightforward Collection. London Philatelist Volume 41, numbers 485 & 487 (May & July 1932).
2. Najjar, A. H., The Stamps of Jordan 1920 - 1965, ISBN 9780953259106.
3. Robson Lowe Ltd., The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Volume III, The Empire in Asia.
4. Souan, K. C. R., Philatelic History of Jordan 1920 - 1970 and Philatelic History of Jordan 1920 - 1995 STAMPEXO JUBILEE.