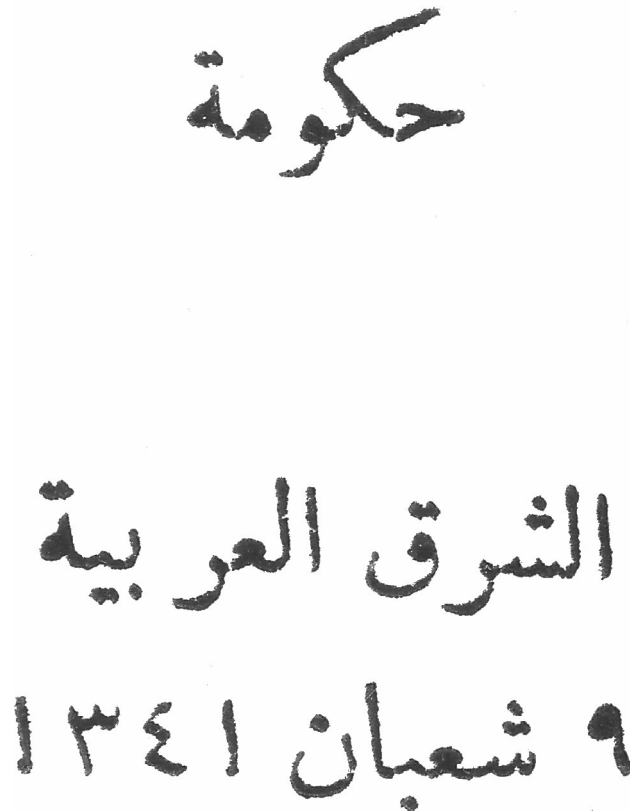


Transjordan
1923 (April) 3-line Overprint
on stamps of the Hejaz

By: Martin Lovegrove



Overview

This overprint was applied to the 1/8, 1/2, 1, 1 1/2, 2, 3 and 5p Hejaz Mecca Arms stamps and also the 1/4 on 1/8 and 10 on 5p surcharged Hejaz stamps of the same design. The 3p was the original brown shade. Only one plate was used for this overprint.

At least with this issue there are plenty of genuine covers to give us confidence that this was not a bogus issue.

The stamps are listed by Scott⁵ 74A - 74I and Gibbons² 89 - 97. This issue is also listed or mentioned in Najjar³, Souan⁶, Robson Lowe⁴, Darlow¹, and Whitfield King⁷.

It is known that several of the values of this issue were issued without the overprint and are very difficult to find.

Forgeries of this overprint exist.

Plate details

Plate size	36 clichés (6 x 6)
Plate construction	Moveable type
Different settings	No
Forgeries	Yes

Significant errors and flaws

Souan⁶ and Najjar³ list many flaws and others have been reported, but perhaps the most important are:

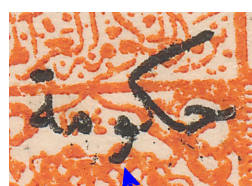
Plate Position	Description
1,16,17	جكومة (<i>jukumat</i>) instead of حكومة (<i>hukumat</i>).
2,34	Broken و (<i>waw</i>) in حكومة (<i>hukumat</i>).
4,15,18	Long upward stroke in به (<i>beh</i>) in (<i>al arabiya</i>)
19,23	Short top to the Arabic letter ك (<i>kaf</i>)
20	Arabic 9 close to شعبان (<i>shaban</i>)



jukumat



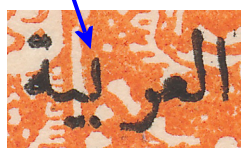
Normal



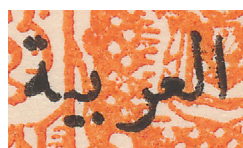
Broken *waw*



Normal



Tall *beh*



Normal



Short *kaf*



Normal



9 close to *shaban*



Normal

Notes

The *jukumat* error is not always clear on position 17 and the dot is very low, suggesting that it is a plate mark rather than an incorrect character.

The broken *waw* flaw is not as prominent in position 34 as it is in position 2.

Najjar³ also reports an inverted number 1 in 1341 in position 20 but this position also exists without this variety.

The top of *kaf* in the short *kaf* flaw is not as short as it is in the 1924 (September-November) overprint.

Top three rows have short *reh* and long *sheen* except for positions 9 and 18, and lower three rows have long *reh* and short *sheen* except for positions 33 and 34.

الشرق الشرق

Long *reh* and short *sheen*

Short *reh* and long *sheen*

Stamps

The one-quarter surcharge on the one-eighth piastre stamp appears with either a long or short tail to ع (ain); the long tail is in positions 13,19,24,27,28,30,31,32,33,35 and 36. Some Hejaz sheets of this surcharge exist without this long tail variety and are believed to be genuine but probably not issued. They were found in the sale of the Mohammad Sadik Al-Mojaddedi family collection.



1/8p



1/2p



1p



1 1/2p



2p



3p



5p



1/4p on 1/8p
short tail ع



1/4p on 1/8p
long tail ع



10p on 5p

Errors

Shifted overprints, both horizontal and vertical, exist as do mis-perforated stamps.

Gibbons², Najjar³ and Souan⁶ all list errors, and there is a certain amount of agreement that the following exist:

1½ and 3p stamps with the overprint omitted in pair with normal.

⅛, ½, 1 and 3p with overprint inverted.

⅛, 1½, and 3p with overprint double.

1½p and 10p on 5p surcharge with the top line omitted.

Souan⁶ additionally reports 1p with double overprint and 1½p, 2p inverted overprint, and 3p with overprint double, both inverted.

The 1½p is known with a double overprint, but the only example seen by the author is a forgery.

Not all of the above errors have been validated and the intention is to illustrate all genuine errors.

Overprint shifted vertically, first line at bottom of stamp



Stamp position 4 with two lines of overprint position 4 at top and the first line of the overprint from position 10 at the bottom of the stamp.

Overprint shifted vertically, first line omitted



A similar vertical shift to that above, but when the stamps are from the bottom row of the sheet, the first line of the overprint does not appear. The stamps at left are from positions 33 and 34.

Double overprint



Inverted overprint



Roughly overprinted stamp from sheet position 8. The inverted overprint has *hukumat* from position 29 and what is normally overprint lines 2 and 3 from plate position 23 and with plate position 22 just showing on its left.

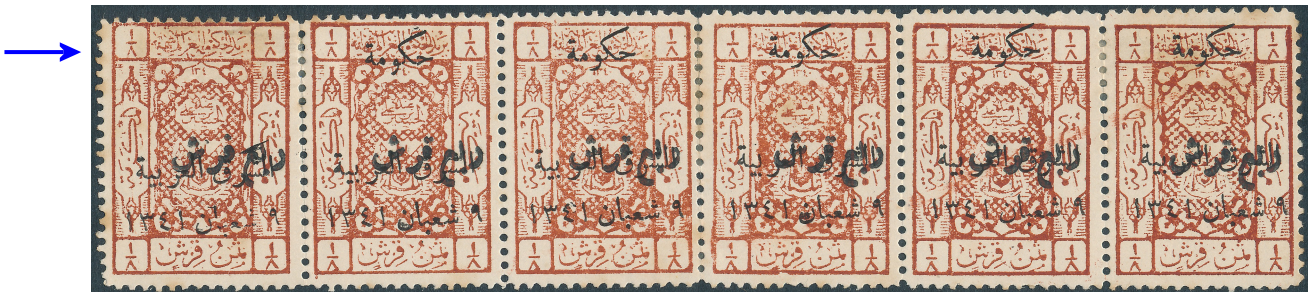


Left: Overprint and surcharge inverted. Overprint with top line at bottom.



Right: As at left but because stamp is from the bottom row of the sheet (position 36) line 2 of the overprint is barely visible and line 3 is omitted. **

Overprint with top line missing



Strip from row 1 of sheet (Positions 1 - 6). The first stamp has the top line of overprint missing.



Another stamp from position 1 with the top line of overprint missing. This time it is on the 10p on 5p surcharge. **

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Heavy and Rough Overprints

Further information is required about the heavy, roughly printed overprint on the 3p shown inverted on the previous page. It also exists upright on the 3p but not yet recorded on any other value, although I have examples of the 2p printed from a dirty plate that are almost as bad. The prospect of it being a forgery is a possibility, but it does plate against the genuine plate. Below is an example of a 3p position 22 and the corresponding overprint on a 2p stamp. Not only does the overprint match the genuine (it overlays perfectly) but it even shows the two extra marks at the right end of line 2 caused by plate 'furniture' being set 'type high'. Some examples of the 3p I have also show signs of being a double overprint.



**Rough overprint
position 22**



**Normal overprint
position 22**

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, various editions.
7. Whitfield King & Co., The Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the World Part I, 1948 & 1949 editions.