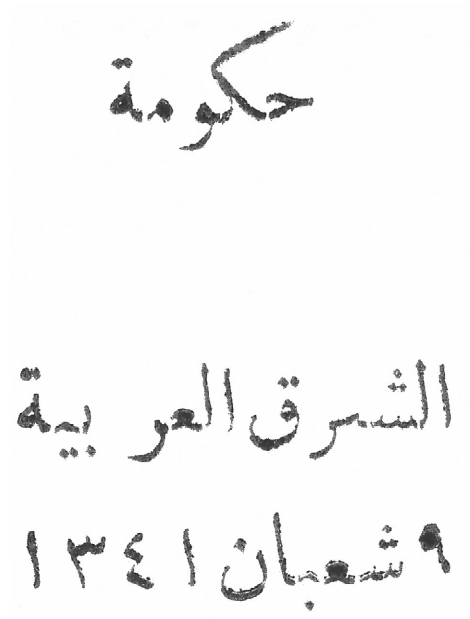


1923 (March-May) 3-line Overprint.



Overview

This overprint was applied to the ½, 1 and 1½, Hejaz Mecca Arms stamps. A ¼p is listed by Gibbons² but is thought to exist only as a forgery; it was not mentioned by Darlow¹.

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 Gibbons² as 121 - 124. This issue is also listed or mentioned in Najjar³, Souan⁶, Robson Lowe⁴, and Darlow¹. There is no reference to this issue in Scott⁵ and Whitfield King⁷.

The complete plate is shown below, but because of the poor perforation alignment with the overprint, several small details were removed during the perforation process. This particularly affects the left end of the second and third lines of the individual overprints and also the bottom of the third line. The illustration is therefore offered for guidance rather than as a study piece.

حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة
الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية
٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١
حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة
الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية
٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١
حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة
الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية
٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١
حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة
الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية
٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١
حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة
الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية
٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١
حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة
الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية
٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١
حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة	حكومة
الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية	الشرق العربية
٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١	٩ شعبان ١٣٤١

Plate details

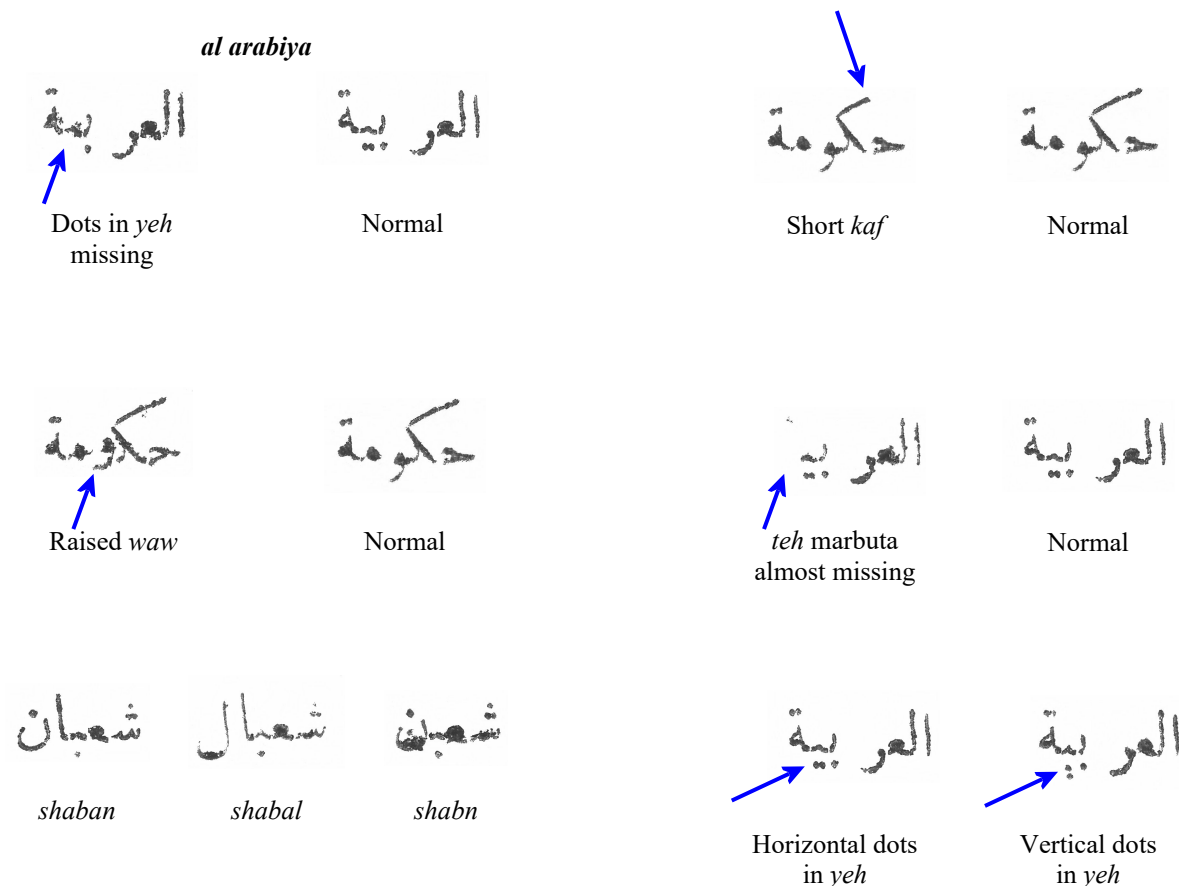
Plate size	36 clichés (6 x 6)
Plate construction	Moveable type
Different settings	No
Forgeries	Yes

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	Two dots forming part of <i>yeh</i> in <i>al arabiya</i> missing
1,2,4,11,15	Short top to <i>kaf</i> in line 1
2	Missing <i>hah</i> in line 1 (recorded in Najjar9) *
3	Raised <i>waw</i> in line 1
4	<i>teh marbuta</i> almost missing in line 2
19	Dropped 1 in 1341 *
24	شعبال (shabal) for شعبان (shaban)
27	شعبن (shabn) for شعبان (shaban)
6,8-17,19,21	The two dots of <i>yeh</i> in <i>al arabiya</i> are vertical
32,36	Long <i>reh</i> in <i>al arabiya</i>
35	العبرية (al abrabiya) for العربية (al arabiya)

* Known to be non-constant



al arabiya

العربية

Long *reh*

العربية

Normal

العربية

al abrabiya

٩ شعبان ١٣٤١

Dropped 1

The *al abrabiya* flaw is probably caused by a combination of a poorly printed long *reh* and a superfluous dot.

In addition to the dropped 1, position 19 had a dropped *teh marbutah*. The latter was corrected at the same time as the dropped 1.

Stamps

The ½p in deep rose (or marone) is only mentioned in Souan⁶, but is classified as a separate stamp by Hejaz collectors and listed by Gibbons² as SG 41c.



½p Scarlet



½p Rose



1p



1½p

Errors

The ½p with inverted overprint exists in both the scarlet and deep rose shades and listed as such in Souan⁶. The former is assumed to be the one illustrated in Najjar³ and the latter is shown below. The 1p exists with a double overprint and is listed in Gibbons², Najjar³ and Souan⁶. An illustration appears in Najjar³ but the black overprint on a dark blue stamp does not reproduce well. Shifted overprints are known and some effectively change the order of the lines.



Inverted overprint
(rose)



Inverted shifted
overprint
(rose)



Imperforate between
stamp and margin.
Also has *shabal* error
(rose)

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.
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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.