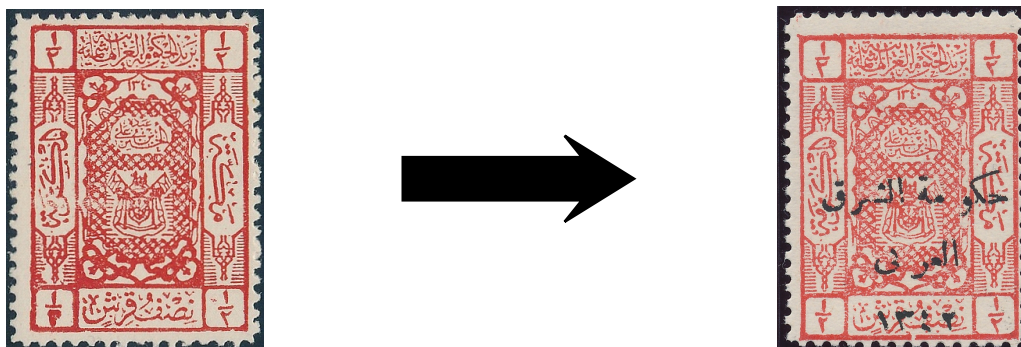


Slide #1 Heading: From Hejaz to Transjordan



This slide introduces the presentation and shows a Hejaz ½ qirsh Sherifian Arms stamp on the left and a similar stamp overprinted for use in Transjordan.

Slide #2 Heading: From Hejaz to Transjordan

This story follows the first postage stamps produced in Mecca (the modern spelling is Makkah) from their creation and implementation in the Hejaz through to their use in Transjordan.

The story is told using not only images of stamps and covers, but also by describing the method of production and illustrating some forgeries of stamps and overprints for both countries.

Note: There are no recorded official documents relating to the design and production of these stamps.

As philatelists we can only study them and draw our own conclusions. This presentation represents my views on the subject and, as usual, I may be wrong!

Beware of Books and Catalogues! Once an incorrect fact has been published, it is likely to be reproduced in other publications, books, journals, catalogues etc. Please be kind to catalogue editors; they rely on information sent to them by collectors and specialist societies, and although they may try to validate the information, that is not always possible. This warning applies to both items that are added to catalogues and to those removed. An example is shown on slide #97 where the ¼ on ½ qirsh 'illegible' was originally listed in Stanley Gibbons catalogues for the area as 149a, then removed, presumably on the advice of an expert, and later reinstated.

Some slides refer to the journal of the Arabian Philatelic Association International, Random Notes. All of the issues are available for free download from the APAI website. At the time of writing (September 2025) the URL is:

<http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/index.html>

Slide #3 Heading: Maps from Wikipedia

Simple maps downloaded from Wikipedia are included in the presentation to give an overview of the area covered by the topic.

Slide #4 Heading: Essay / Colour Trials

Only a single essay design is known of which eight different colour/paper combinations have been recorded; all essays have a face value of 1½ qirsh.

David Graham, the well-known expert on Saudi Arabian philately, examined the examples in the Tarik Alireza collection; his report can be found in Random Notes #52.

David comment on the poor perforations and this was explained in a note in Random Notes #90 page 14 as being caused on one example by a double strike of the line perforator.

Slide #5 Heading: Essay / Colour Trials

This slide shows the basic differences in design between the essay and the issued stamp. The main differences are in the top and side borders where the ornaments have been changed and the style of the Arabic text has been amended.

A detailed study of the design appeared in the article 'Makkah Arms – Design Study' by: Martin C. Lovegrove in Random notes #59.

Slide #6 Heading: The Issued Set – February 1922

This slide shows the seven values issued in 1922 and the changed colour of the ½ qirsh issued in 1923. The change of colour of the ½ qirsh to deep rose may not have been permanent, but without official printing records, it is impossible to know the true facts.

There is also a design difference between the ½ qirsh and the other values; refer to Random Notes #59.

Slide #7 Heading: The Issued Set – February 1922

Plate construction

The plates for each value were created from stereotypes of a master, and it is likely that there was a master for each value. Initially, 36 clichés were assembled in six rows of six, but it would appear that problems arose and a further master was prepared from just three rows of the value and two copies of that master were used to produce a plate of 36. It is possible that the main problems were first encountered during the manufacture of the plate for the one qirsh which caused rows five and six to be discarded and a copy made of rows three and four, which was then added to the top four rows to produce the normal size plate.

Whatever the story, it is often possible to detect the join, either by detecting damage or identifying minor flaws from the top part of the plate repeating in the lower part. The damage between the two parts of the plate may be caused during maintenance when the plate is dismantled and later reassembled, often with a different size gap between the two parts.

Apart from being interesting to some specialists, it is actually relevant to the Transjordan ¼ qirsh sheet.

As far as I know, there are no official records to support any of the theories offered; perhaps it is up to each collector to do their own study.

Some detailed observations about plate construction can be found in the article 'Printing Plates of the Makkah Arms' by Martin C. Lovegrove, published in Random Notes #61.

Slide #8 Heading: The Issued Set – February 1922

One qirsh – the strange variation

This slide offers examples to show the strange construction of the one qirsh plate where the bottom two rows appear to have been derived from rows three and four.

Slide #9 Heading: The Issued Set – 'Proofs'

There is no evidence that proofs were taken from newly constructed plates and placed before a committee for approval. It is more likely that trial prints were taken, often on previously used paper, more often than not the railway tax stamp without value and printed in ochre.

This slide shows just a few examples; there are many more.

Slide #10 Heading: The Issued Set – Production Problems

Many examples of rejected stamps will often indicate that conditions within the print shop were less than ideal, much to our advantage!

Slide #11 Heading: The Issued Set – Production Problems

This slide shows a page from the Al Thani collection illustrating that sometimes poor workmanship did not pay; the print operator had torn the sheet and money was withheld from his wages. A very rare and probably unique item.

Slide #12 Heading: The Issued Set – Production Problems

The stamps were line perforated 11½ manually, often with poor results

This slide shows typical perforation errors; imperforate between stamps, extra horizontal perforations, perforations misaligned, and extra vertical perforations. Diagonal perforations are not unknown.

Slide #13 Heading: First Issue in Use

Typical of many Saudi covers of all eras, the date is a bit of a mess. Although shown as 192934 (19 February 1934), the Jeddah posting date is actually 19 December 1924, a date confirmed by the Hijri date 23-5-1343.

However, this is not an ordinary cover. It was written by Harry St. John Philby to his mother in Camberley, England who recorded the receipt date of 31 December 1924.

Philby covers are sought after but not too difficult to obtain. This one has extra interest. Philby arrived in Hejaz on 28 October 1924 but became ill with dysentery and was evacuated to Aden on 3 January 1925. This is one of the very few items sent by Philby in that period. (Information provided by Willie King).

Slide #14 Heading: The Postage Due Overprint – January 1923

Sheets of the ½, 1 and 2 qirsh values of the initial issue were overprinted in blue or black with a boxed Arabic mustahiq (due).

This slide shows the known upright and inverted varieties of both the black and blue overprints.

The overprint plate was constructed using stereotypes arranged in six individual rows of six clichés. The casting process was not consistent and many flaws exist which should make plating easy. Unfortunately, the printing was also not very good and plating can be difficult. The rows were probably removed at the end of each day and reassembled as required – probably in a different order! The order in which the rows appear on the plate is referred to as the setting. It is known for a row to partially break and produce a slanting overprint for a few clichés. The original work describing the various settings appeared in articles 'PLATING OF THE LARGE FRAMED "MUSTAHIQ" OVERPRINT' by F. C. Benedict and A. Kaczmarczyk in Random Notes #40 and an addendum by the same authors in Random Notes #42.

Slide #15 Heading: The Postage Due Overprint – January 1923

Double overprint

There are two circumstances that produce double overprints:

1. A double strike of the printing plate.
2. When a row, or part of row, of clichés is dislodged and encroaches on the design of the adjacent row.

This slide shows just a few examples; they are scarce.

Slide #16 Heading: The Postage Due Overprint – January 1923

Mixed blue and black

The sheet was overprinted in blue but the plate was offset one column to the left. The missing column at the right of the sheet was added later, but the ink used was black! The setting of both blue and black is A1.

If only one sheet received this treatment, there will be just six se-tenant pairs in existence, and two of them are here!

Slide #17 Heading: Surcharges – February - March 1923

$\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh on $\frac{1}{8}$ qirsh and 10 qirsh on 5 qirsh

It is likely that only one plate of each surcharge was used for stamps issued to post offices, but several other overprint plates have been recorded; these were noted when the Mojaddedi collection was sold and are probably genuine, but perhaps unissued. Any stamps with certificates should state whether the stamp comes from the issued sheet or from the Mojaddedi collection.

The $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh on $\frac{1}{8}$ qirsh has an interesting feature: on 25 stamps the Arabic *ain* has a short tail and the remaining 11 have a long tail.

Slide #18 Heading: The Caliphate Overprint

In March, 1924, King Hussain of The Hejaz was attempting to have himself established as the Caliph of Islam. The Caliphate overprints were a part of his campaign to publicize and legitimize his claim. All seven values of the 1922 definitive issue were overprinted with a three-line overprint in black, upon which was sprinkled gold dust while the ink was wet. Three postage due values were also overprinted.

The initial overprint had the top line written as one word instead of two, which was not only incorrect but looked unsatisfactory. There were two errors on this overprint: A missing alef and an extra alef, both on the top line.

Catalogues list only the $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh stamp as having this narrow overprint, but other values exist and in very few numbers. There is a complete sheet and a few singles of the $\frac{1}{8}$ qirsh with black only overprint in the Al Thani collection. That collection also has a few single copies of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh with the gold overprint. Both the $\frac{1}{8}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh are very rare.

Details of this narrow overprint version and its errors are in an article 'The Caliphate Overprint - An Update' by Martin Lovegrove, published in Random Notes #82 with a short note in Random Notes #89.9 item 10.

There are many forgeries of this overprint.

Slide #19 Heading: The Caliphate Overprint

The words were separated for the bulk of the issue.

The overprint was amended by separating the words in the top line. This slide shows all values of the normal version of the overprint.

The revised overprint also included a rose shade, including a variety with gold omitted; that shade is rare.

Slide #20 **Heading: The Caliphate Overprint**

It is almost inevitable that inverted overprints will be found and we have not been disappointed. This slide shows the three value known with an inverted overprint.

What could not be expected is a missing character in the overprint. In positions 14 and 17 the Arabic *reh* was initially missing; this was corrected for the bulk of the printing. It is difficult to believe that the letter was actually missing without affecting the length of the text. I believe it is more likely that the piece of type was not set 'type high' and thus did not receive ink. To support this theory, there are examples of the 5 qirsh where a minute spot of black ink can be seen where the *reh* should be.

The 5 qirsh with missing character in top line is not listed in Stanley Gibbons catalogue Arabia.

Slide #21 Heading: The Caliphate Overprint

This slide shows the only recorded example of a complete sheet of the rare brown-olive shade and was once owned by Rudy Thoden.

At one time, it was thought that this shade only existed with the Caliphate overprint, but single items have been seen with a Hejaz large 3-line overprint with postage due handstamp, and also with a Transjordan postage due overprint.

Slide #22 Heading: The Caliphate Overprint in Use

Written by Harry St. John Philby to his mother in Camberley, England, who recorded the receipt date of 15 January 1925. There are the usual erroneous DJEDDA dates of 28-3-1934 - 5-5-1343, both are incorrect. On the reverse is a PORT TAWFIK 5 January 1925 and a manuscript posting date of 30 December 1924.

This unique Philby cover has been described as an exceptional cover.

Covers with the caliphate overprinted stamps are rare.

Slide #23 **Heading: The Caliphate Overprint Postage Due**

This is a set of three basic stamps commanding a high catalogue value in Gibbons, but errors and varieties are not listed.

This slide shows the ½ qirsh with the narrow top line of overprint, three values with normal top line and two types of varieties. The missing Arabic *reh* in the top line has been seen on all three values but only the ½ and 2 qirsh stamps are in my collection.

Also shown is a double print of the *mustahiq* overprint caused by one row of the overprint being misplaced downwards.

In his article 'Gibbons 2006 Catalogue : Saudi Arabia' in Random Notes #68, W A King FRPSL writes:

Pricing : D57-D59 : D57 - ½pi Caliphate Postage due. Since 5-8 part sheets available – majority in poor condition. Reduce price by 20% ie from £2,500 to £2,000. Price was increased to £3,000!

D58 - 1pi Caliphate Postage due. Scarcest of 3 values almost all in poor condition. Hold price. Result price increased to £3,000

D59 –2pi Caliphate Postage Due. Few never hinged good copies available, possibly parts of 10 sheets. Suggested price down by 50%. Result – price increased to £3,000.

In 'From the Auctions' in Random Notes #74 there is a note showing how little these stamps can actually command.

Forgeries of this expensive set have not been recorded. Perhaps it was because the set was not in Gibbons Part 1 catalogue and had not acquired a following. It looks as though the set finally appeared in Gibbons in the early nineteen-eighties, but I do not have a complete run of the relevant catalogues to be more precise.

Slide #24 Heading: The Transjordan Connection

Background

Transjordan suffered frequent shortages of postage stamps and early 1923 was no exception. The ruler at that time was Emir Abdullah I and it was probably no surprise that he requested a supply of postage stamps from his father Hussein bin Ali, Sharif and Emir of Mecca.

The stamps sent from Mecca were all of the values of the initial 1922 issue and the two surcharged stamps issued in the Hejaz in 1923.

This slide illustrates a block of four $\frac{1}{4}$ on $\frac{1}{8}$ qirsh with three of them having the long tail to *ain*. Also shown is a vertical pair of 10 on 5 qirsh.

Collectors of the Hejaz stamps can use examples of the Transjordan set to validate their Hejaz overprints (it does require stamps to be plated).

Slide #25 Heading: The First Hejaz Issue in Transjordan

April 1923 overprint

This three-line overprint was applied to the ⅛, ½, 1, 1½, 2, 3 and 5 qirsh Hejaz Sherifian Arms stamps and also the ¼ on ⅛ and 10 on 5 qirsh surcharged Hejaz stamps of the same design. The 3 qirsh was the original brown shade. Only one plate was used for this overprint and can be found as a clear overprint or quite messy. The plate was constructed using individual pieces of type with the potential for each stamp position in the plate to be slightly different. It makes plating easier but forming a complete specialized collection a major headache.

The top three rows have a 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.

This slide shows all of the values with the overprint including both the long and short tailed ain.

There are many flaws, the most prominent being:

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>).

This overprint later received various other overprints and surcharges, so the total number of specialized stamps is very large!

Slide #26 Heading: The First Hejaz Issue in Transjordan

April 1923 overprint in use

Back of cover, Amman 25 November 1923, bearing 2 qirsh with overprint and 1 qirsh without overprint. Transit marks for Jerusalem 27 November 1923, Qantara and Haifa for 28 November 1923 and Mansura 29 November 1923.

Slide #27 Heading: Transjordan – September 1923 Surcharge

April 1923 overprint with additional ½ qirsh surcharge (handstamp)

The ½ qirsh surcharge was applied only to the 1½ qirsh value, and in this case by handstamp. It should be noted that the handstamp was produced using individual pieces of type and examination of sheets show, in some cases, the gap between letters expected in typeset work, and in other cases where the gap has been filled with ink and is not noticeable.

As usual for stamps with the April 1923 overprint, there are many flaws to collect.

Slide #28 Heading: Transjordan – September 1923 Surcharge

April 1923 overprint with additional ½ qirsh surcharge (handstamp)

This slide shows many of the errors of the overprint in combination with errors of position and orientation of the 3-line overprint. I am not sure what caused the handstamp to appear in the selvedge.

Some of these handstamp errors can be found in combination with many of the 3-line overprint flaws; the size of our specialized collection is growing rapidly!

Slide #29 Heading: Transjordan – September 1923 Surcharge

April 1923 overprint with additional ½ qirsh surcharge (typograph?)

Now we get to the controversial bit. Darlow illustrated what he referred to as the typographed surcharge and supplied a good image of it.

This slide shows the illustration by Ledger of the handstamp and, for comparison, an example of the typograph from my collection alongside the Darlow image. Note that the example in my collection has evidence of a straight black line at the top; this is caused by ink being transferred to the frame holding the pieces of type.

Slide #30 Heading: Transjordan – September 1923 Surcharge

April 1923 overprint with additional ½ qirsh surcharge (typograph?)

This slide shows Ledger's view of the overprint; he does not think much of it. So, we have two experts differing views; who do we believe?

The illustration of a block from the George Asch collection shows that it exists. All eight surcharges match the Darlow illustration.

There are times when I feel that those collectors who think that the typograph is genuine, are the ones who have it and probably paid a lot of money. Those who think it is a forgery are those who do not have it. Philately should not be like this.

Slide #31 Heading: Transjordan – September 1923 Surcharge

April 1923 overprint with additional ½ qirsh surcharge (typograph?)

The large space between *sad* and *feh* is not just a normal gap between pieces of type; the *sad* is broken.

We have seen on the Asche block that the overprints are identical, so printer must have selected 36 incorrectly formed *sheen* and 36 broken *sad* characters! That is unlikely, so overprint plate must have been constructed from stereotypes.

Historically, Transjordan have not used stereotypes for plain text overprints.

If the overprint is a forgery, the plate size could be something other than 36, 12 or 18 clichés are the most likely.

Conclusion: Unless genuine covers are found, the status has to be '**uncertain**'.

Slide #32 Heading: Transjordan Postage Due – September 1923

April 1923 overprint with additional *mustahiq* (due) overprint, the 3 qirsh also has a ½ qirsh surcharge

The postage due overprint was applied to stamps already having the April 1923 overprint. The stamps used were the 1, 1½ and 2 qirsh, and the 3 qirsh brown with ½ qirsh handstamp surcharge.

This slide shows the stamps with upright and inverted *mustahiq*.

Slide #33 Heading: Transjordan Postage Due – September 1923

April 1923 overprint with additional *mustahiq* (due) overprint, the 3 qirsh also has a ½ qirsh surcharge

Overprint position 2 had the characters *teh* and *hah* transposed, changing the overprint to *mushatiq*.

This slide shows three values with the overprint upright and one, the 2 qirsh, inverted. The 2 qirsh stamp is from position 25 but for the inverted *mushatiq* error the stamp position should be 35.

Slide #34 Heading: Transjordan Postage Due – September 1923

**April 1923 overprint with additional *mustahiq* (due) overprint, the 3 qirsh also has a ½ qirsh surcharge
- Various errors**

We have the usual range of errors for overprinted stamps; double, double with one diagonal, overprint upright but 3-line inverted, and the 3 qirsh exists as a pair with *mustahiq* inverted se-tenant with a missing surcharge.

Slide #35 Heading: Transjordan Postage Due

Characters transposed error, inverted

With the transposed characters error being in position 2, it would be expected that if the overprint was inverted, it would appear on stamp position 35. In my possession is such a stamp but from position 25. This slide shows the overprint plate offset required to put the error on stamp position 25. Such crazy things have been found on Hejaz stamps but I have yet to see anything quite as bizarre on Transjordan stamps.

It has been pointed out to me that the Arabic *qaf* has a bulbous end and that does not feature anywhere on the genuine overprint plate. Examining the *qaf* under a microscope it can be seen that the bulbous end is mainly ink, but there is a minute bit of damage to the piece of type. We have the problem that Transjordan overprints used a common typeface and type is always likely to get damaged, so this could be genuine.

Examination of the entire word, shows indications that the type may have come from a different source. My conclusion is that the status is **uncertain**, but probably a forgery.

Oh, happy days!

Slide #36 Heading: Transjordan Postage Due – September 1923 – In Use as Postage

April 1923 overprint with additional inverted mustahiq (due) overprint

Shown on this slide is a fragment with 1 qirsh with mustahiq (due) inverted together with 2 qirsh, paying the registered letter fee. The stamp is cancelled AMMAN DISTRICT 16 October 1924 and there are backstamps for HAIFA REGISTERED 18 October 1924, and an incomplete HAIFA•KA???? T.P.O.SOUTH. (The T.P.O. is HAIFA•KANTARA T.P.O. SOUTH)

It is not known if this cover shows accidental use of a postage due stamp, or whether it was because one of the many periods when postage stamps were in short supply.

Black overprints on blue stamps always need investigation using image processing software.

Slide #37 Heading: Transjordan Postage Due – September 1923 (4-line Handstamp)

Design similar to April 1923 overprint with mustahiq (due) included. 3 qirsh has an additional ½ qirsh surcharge applied by handstamp

Only the 3 qirsh value received this 4-line handstamp. The impression of this handstamp varies considerably, from light and clear to dark and heavy.

Slide #38 Heading: Transjordan Postage Due – September 1923 (4-line Handstamp)

Design similar to April 1923 overprint with mustahiq (due) included. 3 qirsh has an additional ½ qirsh surcharge applied by handstamp. Errors and varieties

This slide shows three errors:

1. Normal in horizontal pair with handstamp double (shaky hand) at right.
2. Block of six with handstamp and surcharge inverted on all stamps (ex Ledger).
3. Horizontal pair, surcharge double se-tenant with normal at right.

Slide #39 Heading: Transjordan Postage Due – September 1923 (5-line Handstamp)

Design similar to April 1923 overprint with mustahiq (due) and ½ qirsh surcharge included in design

The bottom four lines of this handstamp are identical to the four-line on the previous slide. So, did the five-line come first and the ½ qirsh surcharge removed to create the four-line handstamp, or was the surcharge added to the four-line to create a five-line?

As usual, the 'shaky hand' double impression errors can be found.

Slide #40 Heading: Transjordan Postage – October 1923 (3-line Handstamp)

Handstamp similar to April 1923 overprint

Covers are known with stamps bearing this handstamp, so we can assume it is a genuine issue.

As usual, there are differing views about the technical details of this stamp.

Ledger describes and illustrates two types of handstamps whereas Darlow states that one is a handstamp and the other typographed. He does not give an indication of the plate size of the typographed version; was it a single or multiple cliché plate? I have two minor variations of Ledger type B, and it is just possible that only one handstamp existed and that variations of the word positioning were caused by the text moving during operation or cleaning.

The print run was probably quite low, and the production of a printing plate was not justified.

This slide shows the two Ledger types with upright handstamp, and Ledger type A with double impression and Ledger type B with inverted overprint. Darlow assigns the inverted overprint to the typographed variety.

Slide #41 Heading: Transjordan Postage Due – October 1923 (4-line Handstamp)

Four-line design with mustahiq (due) included

Six values were overprinted with this 4-line design: ½, 1, 1½, 2, 3 brown, and 5 qirsh. 3 types of handstamp were used according to Darlow (All may have been used on all six values but I do not have them all). To confuse matters, different authors have allocated different identifiers the types.

Darlow	A	B	C
Ledger	(ii)	(i)	(iii)
Najjar	(b)	(c)	(a)

Slide #42 Heading: Transjordan Postage Due – October 1923 (4-line Handstamp)

Four-line design with mustahiq (due) included

This slide shows a block of 15 stamps with Darlow type B overprint. The block shows the fourth line in the handstamp having the same relative position to other lines – clearly a four-line handstamp.

Slide #43 Heading: Transjordan Postage Due – October 1923 (4-line Handstamp)

Four-line design with mustahiq (due) included

As usual, there is plenty of scope for errors and this slide gives three examples.

1. Handstamp double (shaky hand), in pair with normal.
2. Handstamp triple.
3. Handstamp misplaced giving an extra date at top in pair with normal.

Slide #44 Heading: Transjordan Postage Due – October 1923 (4-line Handstamp) – In use as Postage

Four-line design with *mustahiq* (due) included

This cover to stamp dealer E. L. Angeloglou in Cairo, has a single copy of a 3 qirsh stamp in the rare brown-olive shade as seen in the Hejaz Caliphate set. The stamp is cancelled by AMMAN CENTRAL 16 October 1924, with transit marks HAIFA-KANTARA T.P.O. SOUTH 18 October 1924 and HAIFA 18 October 1924, with receiver CAIRO OC 24 (day unclear).

Slide #45 Heading: Transjordan Postage Due – November 1923 (Two Handstamps)

Three-line design with *mustahiq* (due) included and separate handstamp for date

This lower half sheet clearly shows the relative position of date to the top three lines is not constant and was therefore applied at a separate operation by handstamp.

**Slide #46 Heading: Transjordan Postage Due
November 1923 (Two Handstamps)**

Three-line design with *mustahiq* (due) included and separate handstamp for date - Errors and varieties

This slide shows a block of four, the lower two having the date inverted, and a marginal single having the date double (shaky hand).

Slide #47 Heading: Transjordan – Arab Government of the East (January 1924)

Stereotyped monogram

The monogram text means 'Arab Government of the East' and the plate of 36 subjects was almost certainly produced from stereotypes. The overprint was applied to just four values, the $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, and 2 qirsh. Only the $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh was widely used and the 2 qirsh was not placed on sale with just this overprint.

Some details of this issue can be found in Ledger, page 29.

Slide #48 Heading: Transjordan – Arab Government of the East (January 1924)

Stereotyped monogram – Darlow error

The Darlow image is not the correct overprint but is the repaired cliché from position 5. This erroneous illustration was later used by K.C.R.Souan in his books, and also by R.T.Ledger in his book.

An article Transjordan: the 1924 ‘Arab Government of the East’ Overprint appeared in the OPAL Journal, volume 245, August 2023. That article described in detail the monogram, its repaired state, and the various forgeries.

Slide #49 Heading: Transjordan – Visit of King Hussein of Hejaz (January 1924)

Stamps of previous issue with additional overprint

This slide shows the undamaged version of the monogram and the visit overprint. The additional visit overprint was printed in black, but some sheets had gold dust sprinkled over the wet ink.

Slide #50 Heading: Transjordan – Visit of King Hussein of Hejaz (January 1924)

This slide shows the four values overprinted with the monogram and further overprinted with the visit overprint either in black or in gold on black.

The condition of these stamps is typical for this issue; weak , smudgy and poorly centred overprints are common.

Slide #51 Heading: Transjordan – Visit of King Hussein of Hejaz (January 1924)

Errors and varieties

With the visit overprint plate being constructed from individual pieces of type, we have the usual opportunity for errors in the words as well as inverts, omitted, misplaced, imperforate etc.

This slide just a small sample.

The most significant item is the block of four 1½ qirsh.

All positions have both overprints shifted up.

Sheet position 5 - Monogram omitted. (This was the position where the monogram got damaged and later repaired).

Sheet position 12 - 432 for 342 error.

Slide #52 Heading: Transjordan – Official (1924)

Possibly unissued

This is another of those controversial items. It was not mentioned by Darlow or Ledger and although supposedly issued in 1924, only got into the Gibbons catalogue in about 1970. I think this is another candidate for **Status Uncertain**.

Najjar mentions two settings, the second being in bolder type. I think that there was only one plate, but it had errors which were corrected. The bolder type was, I believe, due to wear, or some other action to make the type bolder. The 'wear' theory is possibly strengthened by the existence of intermediate thicknesses.

Slide #53 Heading: Transjordan – Official (1924)

Possibly unissued

Two forms of Arabic ‘*kaf*’ were used in the overprint. The medial form was the correct form and used in positions marked M in the table below. The incorrect initial form is marked I below.

Thick type

¹ M	² M	³ M	⁴ M	⁵ M	⁶ M	
⁷ M	⁸ M	⁹ M	¹⁰ M	¹¹ M	¹² M	
¹³ M	¹⁴ M	¹⁵ M	¹⁶ M	¹⁷ M	¹⁸ M	M = medial <i>kaf</i>
¹⁹ M	²⁰ M	²¹ M	²² M	²³ M	²⁴ M	I = initial <i>kaf</i>
²⁵ I	²⁶ I	²⁷ M	²⁸ M	²⁹ M	³⁰ M	
³¹ I	³² M	³³ I	³⁴ M	³⁵ I	³⁶ M	

Thin type

I do not have a sheet of the thin type stamps, but I have, or have seen, 18 different positions and they all match those in the table above.

Conclusion

I believe I have sufficient evidence to show that there was only one plate, but the quest continues to obtain all positions of the thin type.

Slide #54 Heading: Transjordan – Official (1924)

‘Used’ examples

I have in my collection several 'used' stamps with a Makkah cancel and one with a clear AMMAN cancel.

The September 1923 AMMAN cancel, Najjar type JP 3b, poses some questions:

Is this genuine usage and therefore the stamps were issued before 1924?

Is this unauthorised use of the device in 1924 or later?

Is the AMMAN cancel a forgery?

Was the official overprint applied to a genuinely used stamp?

Slide #55 Heading: Transjordan – Official (1924)

Errors and varieties (thin type)

There are so many errors on this version of the plate that it is difficult to imagine that they were anything other than philatelically inspired, and reinforces the suspicion that this stamp was not officially issued.

This slide show a few examples:

1. The Arabic '*al*' inverted as a pair, so that the word now starts with an inverted initial form *lam*.
2. Year omitted. This error has been reported from several positions. In at least one case, the error was corrected, or was corrected by another error!
3. A block of four showing:
 - a. Year error 1324 for 1342.
 - b. Year error 1242 for 1342.

Slide #56 Heading: Transjordan – Official (1924)

Errors and varieties (normal type)

This slide shows three errors:

1. Dot in top row and malformed '*Al Sharq*'. A strange typographical error in that the three rightmost characters are considerably lower than they should be, and judging by the shape of the rightmost character, the *alef* and *lam* are reversed, making the word read *la sharq*.
2. *Waw* in top line omitted (not constant).
3. Year 1242 for 1342 and imperforate margin.

Slide #57 Heading: Transjordan – March – May 1924

Revised setting of April 1923 overprint

This overprint was produced from new type and applied to the ½, 1, and 1½ qirsh stamps. Both the scarlet and deep rose shades of the ½ qirsh received the overprint although the deep rose shade does not appear in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue.

Just to add some interest to the set, some positions on the plate have the dots under the Arabic *yeh* in *arabiyah* vertical instead of horizontal.

Slide #58 Heading: Transjordan – March – May 1924

Revised setting of April 1923 overprint – errors and varieties

As usual with typeset overprints we can get typesetting errors. The two main ones are in the Arabic month which should be *shaban*. In position 24 we find *shabal* and in position 27 is *shabn*. These errors were not corrected.

Perforation errors also occur and this slide shows a ½ qirsh imperforate at right, and as a bonus it has the *shabal* error.

Slide #59 Heading: Back to Hejaz – New Values and Colour (September 1924)

In September 1924 three new stamps were issued. Two were new values, ¼ and 10 qirsh, presumably to provide a supply when the stock of surcharged stamps became exhausted, and the third was a colour change for the 3 qirsh.

It is doubtful if any of these got proper postal use, although a philatelic cover of the 10 qirsh is known and is illustrated in Random Notes #42.8 item 14.

I have often wondered if the change of colour for the 3 qirsh was the result of a request from Transjordan.

Slide #60 Heading: Back to Hejaz – New Values and Colour (September 1924)

The new colour for the 3 qirsh used the original plate and new plates were prepared for the ¼ and 10 qirsh. The ¼ qirsh used the usual 6 x 6 format but with the bottom three rows inverted, thus providing six tête-bêche pairs in rows three and four. The 10 qirsh, printed in two colours, comprised two panes of 6 x 3 separated by a gutter; the panes being surrounded by marginal rules. The panes were printed in separate operations from the same plate, and it is known for there to be colour differences between panes.

More information can be found in Random Notes:

#60 - Makkah Arms ¼ Qirsh by Martin C. Lovegrove

#49 - THE MAKKAH ARMS 10 QIRSH by W. A. King

The Random Notes index can be used to search of other references.

Slide #61 Heading: Back to Hejaz – New Values and Colour (September 1924)

Complete sheets of the new values

This slide shows complete sheets of the ¼ and 10 qirsh stamps. The ¼ qirsh is imperforate and printed on cream card; it is possibly a 'proof' taken after a plate repair. It is certainly not a proof of the initial state of the plate as it shows the cracked plate in position 13.

Slide #62 Heading: Back to Hejaz – New Values and Colour (September 1924)

Varieties of the new values

Varieties of the $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh include one stamp showing evidence of a cracked plate, which by convention is allocated to position 13, and misperforated vertically.

Examples shown for the 10 qirsh are inverted centre, vertical pair imperforate between stamps, and extra vertical perforations. Stamps with extra horizontal perforations are known but are quite scarce.

Slide #63 Heading: New Values and Colour – ‘Proofs’

As with the 1922 issue, there is no evidence that proofs were taken from the newly constructed plates. It is more likely that trial prints were taken, often on previously used paper.

Shown on this slide:

Imperforate 3 qirsh brown-red printed on upright $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh scarlet.

Imperforate 10 qirsh with centre double printed on upright $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh scarlet.

Imperforate 10 qirsh with centre double, one inverted, printed on inverted $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh scarlet.

Slide #64 Heading: New Values and Colour – ‘Proofs/Trial Prints’

This slide shows a single pane of 10 qirsh frame in violet on buff paper. This also exists in purple on thicker paper.

Many other examples of these trial prints exist in combinations of perforated, partially perforated, imperforate, inverted centre, centre double, centre only, various shades of ink and paper; if you like that sort of thing, it is a collector's dream. Some examples are on the next two slides.

Slide #65 Heading: New Values and Colour – ‘Proofs/Trial Prints’

10 qirsh frame and centre printed separately

This slide shows imperforate block of four of these prints. The 'frame only' print can be found perforated, and as far as I know, the centre-only is always imperforate.

Slide #66 Heading: New Values and Colour – ‘Proofs/Trial Prints’

Examples on this slide are:

Centre colour trial (lake), both perforated and imperforate.

Imperforate inverted centre.

Frame on buff paper (imperforate) and frame on white paper (perforated).

**Slide #67 Heading: New Values and Colour in Transjordan
(September - November 1924)**

Two new values, ¼ and 10 qirsh, and the 3 qirsh in a new colour, were incorporated in a new set of definitives.

This set comprised ten stamps, including two colours for the ½ qirsh; the stamps do not differ from those used in Hejaz.

Five settings of the overprint have been recorded, but in the light of the discovery of many forgeries, these settings have to be reviewed. In addition, there is another setting used to produce the 10p with black overprint; I believe this to be a forgery.

1st setting: Thick type. Used on ⅛p, 1p and 5p.

2nd setting: Bottom three rows inverted. Used on ¼p.

3rd setting: Initially thin, well defined type but became thicker with use. Used on ½p, 1½p, 2p and 3p.

4th setting: Thick type, similar to 1st setting. Used on 10p.

5th setting: Reported to have been used on 5p and showing smaller type.

6th setting: Used on 10p black. (Potential forgery).

I have not seen setting 5.

Slide #68 Heading: ¼ Qirsh in Transjordan

The ¼ qirsh sheet appears to be almost the same as that used in Hejaz

This slide shows a complete sheet of the ¼ qirsh. This sheet is a later version to that first supplied to Transjordan. The sheet shows the top three rows inverted in relation to the bottom three and also the plate crack in position 13. The sheet differs from the Hejaz stamps in that the gap between the first three rows and the bottom three is narrower.

Slide #69 Heading: ¼ Qirsh in Transjordan

The ¼ qirsh sheet appears to be almost the same as that used in Hejaz

This slide shows three vertical pairs of positions 13 and 19, two from Transjordan and one from Hejaz. One of the Transjordan pairs shows the crack in position 13, the other does not.

There are shade differences between the Transjordan stamps and the Hejaz.

Most importantly note that the Transjordan stamps have a narrower perforation gutter between the stamps (sheet rows 3 and 4).

There is, of course, the possibility that later printings with a wider gutter were supplied to Transjordan.

Slide #70 Heading: ¼ Qirsh in Transjordan

The ¼ qirsh sheet appears to be the same as that used in Hejaz – but it is not!

This slide shows a 0.5 mm. grid superimposed on the value panels of rows 3 and 4, and we can see that the gutter between stamp positions 13 and 19 is 2 mm. for the Transjordan plate and 2.8 mm. for the Hejaz.

I have yet to see the Hejaz size sheet used in Transjordan, but it is possible.

Because not all Transjordan stamps from position 13 have a crack, perhaps we can be permitted to surmise that the Transjordan stamps were printed first after which the plate was perhaps dismantled and repaired before the Hejaz stamps were printed. We now have a good check to see if the tête-bêche pairs are genuine – measure the gap! The common Transjordan forgeries are printed on copies of the Hejaz plate.

**Slide #71 Heading: New Values and Colour in Transjordan
(September - November 1924)**

This slide shows a philatelic cover to Germany. The Amman cancel appears to be 31 February 1925! The Haifa transit of 6 March 1925 suggests that the cover was posted either late February or early March.

Of some significance is the fact that the ¼ qirsh stamp is from position 13 but does not have the plate crack.

Slide #72 Heading: Transjordan Fiscal Stamps

Stamps with April 1923 overprint with additional overprint in Arabic: Revenue stamp

The Sherifian arms stamps have the potential for interesting, if not valuable, finds, even in the postal world.

The items on this slide are the only two I have with the April 1923 overprint, but fortunately between them they show the long and short *reh*.

The overprints in black on a blue stamp are not easy to see, and the use of image manipulating software is advised. Anything may be revealed!

We now have the probability of all of the April 1923 overprint varieties existing on fiscal stamps; yet more for our specialized collection!

Slide #73 Heading: Transjordan Fiscal Stamps

1924, Overprinted in two lines, meaning: Arab Government of the East, Revenue stamp

This overprint is typeset and there is thus the opportunity for an incorrect piece of type to be used. On this slide is an example of the Arabic *khah* being used instead of *hah*.

The top line of the overprint is three separate Arabic characters and is similar to the 1924 King Hussein visit (but different characters); there is thus an opportunity for the overprints to be misidentified. Slide #78 is an example of such a misidentification.

Slide #74 Heading: Transjordan Fiscal Stamps

Stamps with 1924 (March – May) overprint with additional overprint Revenue stamp

The 3-line Transjordan overprint has two errors which were not corrected. In position 24 the Arabic month reads *shabal* rather than *shaban* and in position 27 the month reads *shabn*. These errors appear in the fiscal stamps and to add some icing to the cake, the error stamp on this slide not only has the *shabal* error but the revenue stamp overprint has *ghain* instead of *ain*.

Slide #75 **Heading: Transjordan Fiscal Stamps**

Stamps with 1924 (September - November) overprint with additional overprint Revenue stamp

This slide shows a set that can produce surprises. The 1 qirsh stamp can have the *revenue stamp* overprint in black, orange or gold; when printed in black, it is not always easy to see and image manipulating software may come to the rescue.

For the first time, fiscal stamps were produced with a surcharge. The 5 qirsh was surcharged $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh and the 3 qirsh received 1 qirsh.

The revenue stamp overprint used the same plate that was used for the previous issue (slide #73); the *ghain* for *ain* error has been seen in position 24.

Slide #76 Heading: Transjordan Fiscal Stamps

Stamps with 1924 (September - November) overprint with additional overprint Revenue stamp – Used for Postage

The revenue stamp overprint is not always easy to see and it is not known if this cover shows accidental use of a fiscal stamp, or whether it was because one of the many periods when postage stamps were in short supply.

The cover was from KERAK (date unclear) to BEYROUTH 23 November 1924 via AMMAN DISTRICT 19 November 1924 and DAMAS 22 November 1924.

Slide #77 Heading: Transjordan Fiscal Stamps

1923, Stamps with three-line overprint: H.Sh.A / Aid / Hejaz Railway

Another typeset overprint with the usual opportunities for incorrect pieces of type. They exist, but unfortunately not in my collection. One that does exist is Arabic *teh* instead of *noon* in the second line; I have a scan of it..

Slide #78 Heading: Transjordan Fiscal Stamps

1923, Stamps with three-line overprint: H.Sh.A / Aid Railway / Hejazi – Used for Postage

This cover did confuse a collector/dealer. Because the top line comprises three Arabic characters in the same manner as the 1924 King Hussain visit overprint, it was confused with that commemorative overprint and received a note to that effect in manuscript 'King Hussein Commemoration good used'. What a mistake to make! The overprint is much easier to see when a lot of the blue colour is filtered out.

It is not known if this cover shows accidental use of a fiscal stamp, or whether it was because used in one of the many periods when postage stamps were in short supply.

Slide #79 Heading: Transjordan Fiscal Stamps

1923, Stamps with three-line overprint: H.Sh.A / Railway Aid / Hejazi

Similar to slide #77 but with words rearranged. It would appear that this overprint is far scarcer than that with اعانة (aid) as the centre line.

Slide #80 Heading: Back to Hejaz – The Siege of Jeddah

In 1924 Ibn Saud (Abdulaziz bin Abdul Rahman Al Saud), the founder of modern Saudi Arabia, was making progress in taking over the rule of Arabia.

On October 5th 1924 the ruler of Hejaz in western Arabia, Hussein, abdicated and his son Ali was proclaimed King.

On October 13th, the presence Saud's troops forced Ali to abandon Mecca and flee to Jeddah. The machinery and plates required for printing stamps were left in Mecca, but stocks of stamps may have been moved with Ali. It was now necessary to overprint the stamps to prevent unauthorized use by the invading troops. This action was done in Jeddah.

Although the government press was in Mecca there were private printers in Jeddah printing newspapers and books. These printers would have experience in stereotyping and it is likely that the overprints would have been produced by that method.

The map also shows the port of Yanbu Al Bahr, north of Jeddah, and it was via this port that contact with Medina was maintained.

Slide #81 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide)

The original study of this overprint 'A STUDY OF THE JEDDAH LARGE THREE-LINE OVERPRINT' by F. C. Benedict and R. J. Thoden appeared in Random Notes #8.

There are two plates known for this overprint. The first plate, referred to as plate A, was used to print all values apart from the ¼ qirsh. Plate B was used for the ¼ qirsh and part of the 10 qirsh printing. Somewhat surprisingly, plate B has also been found in red on the 1 qirsh and the 1½ qirsh with the Caliphate overprint, and there may be others. Collecting this overprint is not an easy matter!

It would appear that the overprint plate was constructed using stereotyped clichés. The casting process was not perfect leading to small imperfections in each position making plating a relatively simple process. Observations of sheets of overprinted stamps suggest that the *alef* in the bottom line was added manually to each position, thus adding additional plating information.

This slide shows the known values overprinted in red; the ⅛ and 3 qirsh brown are not known with upright overprints. There are two distinct shades of red overprint, we can call them red and scarlet, but the enthusiastic specialist will recognise variations of these two basic colours.

It is from this point that we start experiencing a multitude of errors in overprints and handstamps. A generous view of this state of affairs is that there may have been inexperienced labour performing the tasks, especially handstamping. An alternative reason is perhaps the fact that some well known stamp dealers in the Middle East, Angeloglou, Eid etc., had contacts in the post offices and printing works. We will never know.

There are numerous forgeries of this overprint.

Whatever the reason for the appearance of these errors and varieties, all of the Hejaz stamps shown in this presentation, apart from those marked as forgeries, are produced from genuine plates or other devices.

Slide #82 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) - Red overprint – varieties and errors

There are many different overprint errors to be found as well as perforation errors. It is not difficult to find sideways, both reading up and down, printed in margin, both top and bottom, and not shown on this side are the multitude of stamp pairs, one without overprint. The latter are normally caused by the overprint plate being offset by one column, meaning that the stamp without the overprint will be from the marginal column 1 or column 6.

Slide #83 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) - Blue overprint

This slide shows the known values overprinted, both upright and inverted, in blue.

Slide #84 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) - Blue overprint – varieties and errors

This slide shows some examples of overprinted stamps se-tenant with overprint omitted.

In all cases, the stamp without overprint is either from the first or last column of the sheet.

Slide #85 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) - Blue overprint – varieties and errors

This slide shows some of the usual culprits. Overprint double, double with one inverted, double with both inverted, and overprint sideways.

The double overprints are frequently found as forgeries, lesser so, the sideways.

Slide #86 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) - Black overprint

This slide shows the known values overprinted, both upright and inverted, in black.

Slide #87 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) - Black overprint – varieties and errors

This slide shows a 5 qirsh stamp with an inverted overprint and an additional upright, but diagonal overprint. Diagonal overprints are rare.

Also shown is a large block of 24, imperforate vertically apart from at the extreme right.

Slide #88 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) - Gold on black or red overprint

In a similar manner to the Caliphate issue, gold dust was sprinkled on the overprint while the ink was wet. Adhesion of the gold varied, and overprints that are almost black can be found, but under a microscope a small amount of gold can be seen.

The red underprint was normally found only on the 1 qirsh, but a single example of a 5 qirsh has been seen with gold on red. There must be more, probably 35, but do they still exist?

Slide #89 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) in black or red with additional postage due handstamp

The handstamp was applied in either black or violet.

This slide shows known values, but an example of the handstamp being in gold on black has been recorded but not certified.

The 3 qirsh brown-olive is a rare shade.

There is a good chance that other colour combinations exist. Violet handstamps on the 2 and 5 qirsh values are good candidates.

Slide #90 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) in black or red with additional postage due handstamp (errors)

The basis set is not common, so for errors to be found is a bonus.

This slide shows a stamp with handstamp double and a block of four, vertically imperforate apart from at the extreme right. This is similar to the large block of 24 shown on slide #87 and almost confirms that several sheets were perforated in one operation.

Slide #91 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) with additional ¼ qirsh surcharge

The ¼ qirsh surcharge handstamp is the same as used for the 'illegible' stamps displayed later in this presentation. It is likely that the stamp was produced after the 'illegibles'.

It is believed that the surcharge double error is unique.

It is not known how many sheets received the surcharge, or whether they were complete sheets or remainders; perhaps three sheets were involved.

References: Random Notes #66.8 item 12, #68.7 item 9, #77.6 item 6, and #89.3 item 1.

Slide #92 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) in use

Although obviously philatelic, the many covers sent to the Colonial Photo-Stores in Alexandria have played an important part in Hejaz philately. They have provided examples of genuine overprints and have led to the many forgeries being identified.

Slide #93 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) in use

This slide shows genuine non-philatelic use and is a cover from Jeddah to Egypt. The franking is a ½ qirsh overprinted in black and a 1½ qirsh overprinted in red, a common combination to make the 2 qirsh rate. The stamps are cancelled DJEDDA 15-7-1343 (9 February 1925) and routed via PORT-TAWFIK to Cairo.

Slide #94 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) on stamps with Caliphate overprint - Red overprint - upright

Only three of the Caliphate stamps were overprinted in red with the large 3-line. I have two of the values, the 1 and 1½ qirsh, overprinted with both 3-line plates. The 2 qirsh I have is plate A. Plating of the second plate, plate B, can be difficult and it is usual to assume B if the overprint is not A.

Stamps with the missing Arabic *reh* in the top line of the Caliphate overprint are possible for the 1 and 2 qirsh, but I have not seen any reports of their existence.

Slide #95 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) on stamps with Caliphate overprint - Blue overprint

The known values of stamps overprinted in blue are shown in this slide. Also shown is the $\frac{1}{8}$ qirsh with overprint double, one inverted, and also the 1 qirsh with missing Arabic *reh* in the top line of the Caliphate overprint. The missing Arabic *reh* is possible for the 2 qirsh, but has not been reported.

Slide #96 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) on stamps with Caliphate overprint - Black overprint

This slide shows the known values with the 3-line overprint in black, both upright and inverted.

Slide #97 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

‘Illegible’ overprint, postage. Stamps surcharged with new value in black

As stocks of certain values, the ¼, 1 and 10 qirsh, became exhausted there became a requirement to provide these values using surcharged stamps. The new value was shown in words but was so small as to be unreadable, hence the nickname 'illegible'.

The slide shows all the known values of upright and inverted overprints.

Forgeries exist of this overprint, but beware of laser-printed examples; they are exact copies.

Slide #98 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

‘Illegible’ overprint, postage. Stamps surcharged with new value in black - errors and varieties

A selection of overprint errors are shown, to which can be added perforation errors.

Slide #99 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

‘Illegible’ overprint, postage due

What is believed to be a complete set of upright and inverted overprints are shown on this slide.

It is surprising to see the 10 qirsh stamp being overprinted for postage due; the reason for introducing the 'illegible' surcharged stamps was because there was a shortage of stamps for postage, and that included the 10 qirsh.

I have yet to find a 3 qirsh brown with an inverted overprint. The article 'THE ILLEGIBLES - AN UPDATE' by R.J.Thoden in Random Notes #41 records it as only being available as a forgery.

Slide #100 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

‘Illegible’ overprint, postage due. Stamps surcharged with new value in black - errors and varieties

A selection of errors are shown, to which can be added variations in the positioning of the overprints, suggesting that more than one sheet of certain varieties were printed.

Slide #101 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

‘Illegible’ overprint, postage. Stamps surcharged with new value in black with additional surcharge handstamp in black or violet.

In an attempt to rectify the problem of the value in the overprint being illegible, stamps were overprinted by means of a handstamp showing the new value as a number.

As usual, the overprint can be applied inverted, and at top or bottom. In this slide the handstamp is shown inverted at top for those with an inverted main overprint. The main overprint is only known printed in black.

Slide #102 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

‘Illegible’ overprint, postage. Stamps surcharged with new value in black with additional surcharge handstamp in black or violet. Surcharge (overprint or handstamp) with incorrect value.

With an overprint and handstamp showing the new value, there is the opportunity for the handstamp to show a different value to the main overprint. Just to add to the feast, an incorrectly valued main overprint can be applied to the stamp.

Slide #103 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

‘Illegible’ overprint, postage. Stamps surcharged with new value in black with additional surcharge handstamp in black or violet. There are many surcharge errors and varieties; here are just a few.

When you consider the combinations of handstamp position, colour, multiple strikes, and omissions, it becomes obvious that there can be many variations of error stamps; you will not be disappointed, but there are far too many to display here and anyway they would not make an interesting display.

This slide is designed just to whet your appetite.

Slide #104 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

‘Illegible’ overprint, postage due. Stamps with additional boxed *mustahiq* handstamp in black or violet.

In an attempt to rectify the problem of the *mustahiq* in the overprint being illegible, stamps were overprinted by means of a handstamp showing a boxed *mustahiq*.

As usual, the overprint can be applied inverted.

This slide shows the handstamps in black at bottom for upright overprints or, for inverted overprints, in black or violet (1 qirsh) and either upright at bottom or inverted at top.

Slide #105 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

‘Illegible’ overprint, postage due. Stamps with additional boxed *mustahiq* handstamp in black or violet. There are many surcharge errors and varieties; here are just a few.

When you consider the combinations of handstamp position, colour, multiple strikes, and omissions, it becomes obvious that there can be many variations of error stamps; you will not be disappointed, but there are far too many to display here and anyway they would not make an interesting display.

This slide is, as usual, designed just to whet your appetite.

The ½ qirsh stamp with overprint omitted has been allocated to this set rather than the large 3-line with handstamp *mustahiq* set, because the 3-line set did not use the ½ qirsh deep rose. It is the only copy recorded by the APAI to date.

Slide #106 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line - The overprint included the value, and stamps were overprinted in blue, black, or red

Although the 'illegible' overprints presented many opportunities for philatelists, it was an operational failure' an overprint that could be easily read was required. The 4-line overprint satisfied that requirement.

The original study of this overprint 'A STUDY OF THE FIFTH JEDDAH ISSUE' by R. J. Thoden and F. C. Benedict appeared in Random Notes #10.

It would appear that the overprint plate was constructed using stereotyped clichés. The casting process was good but not perfect leading to small imperfections in some positions, aiding plating. Observations of sheets of overprinted stamps suggest that the *alef* in the bottom line was added manually to each position of all values, and the numeric value manually added for the 1 and 10 qirsh, thus adding additional plating information.

This slide shows the known stamps with upright and inverted overprints in red.

Slide #107 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line - The overprint included the value, and stamps were overprinted in blue, black, or red

This slide shows the known stamps with upright and inverted overprints in blue.

Slide #108 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line - The overprint included the value, and stamps were overprinted in blue, black, or red

This slide shows the known stamps with upright and inverted overprints in black.

Slide #109 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line Black overprint in use.

Newspaper wrappers appear to be very scarce although there must have been many actually used. It is interesting to note the use of two $\frac{1}{8}$ qirsh rather than one $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh.

Slide #110 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line – 10 qirsh errors.

Positions 1 and 2 of the 1 qirsh overprint plate initially had the value showing as 10 qirsh. This error was corrected but se-tenant pairs and blocks can be found. From a philatelic point of view, there is the challenge to differentiate between one of these errors and the erroneous application of a 10 qirsh overprint.

The 10 qirsh errors are discussed in greater detail in an article 'The Jeddah Four-line Overprint Mystery' by Martin Lovegrove in Random Notes #84.

Slide #111 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line – 10 qirsh errors.

This slide shows a se-tenant block of 4 stamps comprising two pairs of 10 and 1 qirsh overprints not from positions 1 and 2.

Slide #112 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line – 10 qirsh errors.

This slide shows an example of a complete sheet of alternating rows of 1 and 10 qirsh. In some case of the 1 qirsh, there is some evidence of a dot forming the Arabic 10, and it could be that the dot is present on all stamps, but was not set 'type high' and thus did not receive ink.

Examination of the 1 qirsh value show the number 1 matches the position and inclination of the number 1 on the equivalent position on sheets containing 36 clichés of 10 qirsh.

It is quite possible that this strange sheet containing a mixture of values was the first attempt at producing the 10 qirsh plate.

Slide #113 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line – Errors and varieties

Errors of the 4-line overprint are limited to misplaced or double overprints. Sometimes the displacement is sufficient to omit the value of the surcharge; plating the overprint is usually possible in order to determine the surcharge value.

Slide #114 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line – Catalogue opportunity

The ½ qirsh stamp with a 3-line overprint and a ¼ qirsh handstamp surcharge (SG 155r, unpriced) is a very rare stamp and is not listed in Scott 2024. Dealers in the U.S.A. confuse it with the ¼ qirsh 4-line overprint and price it accordingly. The ½ qirsh stamp with a ¼ qirsh 4-line overprint (Scott L143, SG 173) is not a valuable stamp.

Slide #115 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line – Water damage

This slide features a stamp that absorbed the inverted design of another sheet after being soaked in water. The stamp also has an inverted overprint and was likely part of Cairo dealer E. L. Angeloglou's stock. 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.

Details of Angeloglou and one of his advertisements can be found in Random Notes #13 starting at page 4, item 14.

Slide #116 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

2-line overprint

The two-line overprint plate was designed for the 1916 Survey of Egypt stamps and comprised 50 clichés, so it was never going to be suitable for the Sherifian Arms 36-cliché plate. Most examples of the two-line overprint on the ½ and 10 qirsh Arms stamps are forgeries.

Details of the overprint can be found in the article 'THE JEDDAH TWO-LINE OVERPRINT' by W. A. King in Random Notes #51.

Slide #117 Heading: The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Jeddah provisional overprints (2-line, 3-line, illegibles with surcharge, and 4-line) in use

Although obviously philatelic, the many covers sent to the Colonial Photo-Stores in Alexandria have played an important part in Hejaz philately. They have provided examples of genuine overprints and have led to the many forgeries being identified.

On this cover, the 2-line overprints are on the earlier Survey of Egypt printed stamps and not the Sherifian Arms stamps.

Slide #118 Heading: Forgeries

The cause of the forgeries

Although not formally part of the British Empire, the political arrangement between Britain and Hejaz made Hejaz a suitable candidate for inclusion in the Stanley Gibbons Part 1 (British Empire) stamp catalogue. Countries favoured with such a listing gained a large following, and thus there was a significant demand for their stamps.

Hejaz, initially as Hedjaz, was included up to the 1928 edition, after which it was moved to Part 2 (Foreign Countries).

Following the fall of Mecca and the flight of King Ali to Jeddah, the supply of the overprinted Hejaz postage stamps was limited and proved to be insufficient to meet the needs of collectors. Thus, a market was created for the private manufacture of such stamps and the world of Hejaz forgeries was created.

The basic forged stamps were not only used for Hejaz stamps, with or without overprint, but also for the stamps of Transjordan. The benefit for collectors of both countries is that if one of these stamps receives an overprint, that overprint must also be a forgery; thus aiding the creation of a catalogue of overprint forgeries.

Slide #119 Heading: Forgeries

It is well known that there are many Hejaz forgeries, both stamps and overprints

Forged Hejaz stamps, including those overprinted for use in Transjordan, are described and illustrated in:

Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries, Part 1 – Postage and Revenue Stamps (2025)
ISBN: 978-0-9558246-3-0 (Digital version only)

The book is obtainable as a free download from the Arabian Philatelic Association International website:

<http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/forgerymanual.html>

Part 2 – Overprints (Including Transjordan overprints on Hejaz stamps) is being written; but is far from completion.

Slide #120 Heading: Forgeries

Books, stamp catalogues and 'named' auction sales are not immune

This slide shows two blocks of forgeries offered as genuine at two different 'named' sales. The provenance of an item belonging to a famous collector is worthless if that item is a forgery.

In my recent experience I have found that auction houses in general do not have the expertise to correctly describe items belonging to non-mainstream countries. That statement holds true even for members of AIEP – association internationale des experts en philatélie, although their errors are rare. We are all human and make mistakes.

Printed material frequently contains errors, usually caused by errors made many years ago and copied from publication to publication. I believe that where possible the original source of claims made is given to enable the reader to perform further research.

Catalogue editors have their own problems. They cannot be experts in everything and they have to rely on specialist societies. If such input from the society is not properly vetted before submission, errors are likely to occur; and they do!

It pays to know your subject and question everything.

Slide #121 Heading: Forgeries

It is well known that there are many Hejaz forgeries, both stamps and overprints

What is perhaps less well known is that there are many Transjordan forged overprints on Hejaz forged stamps. If you can identify the stamp as a forgery, then the overprint will also be a forgery.

This slide shows three stamps from position 31. The first is a genuine Hejaz stamp with a genuine overprint, next is a Hejaz forgery, and finally a Hejaz forgery with a Transjordan overprint forgery. The Transjordan stamp is listed in catalogues as Scott 114c and Stanley Gibbons 126b; I have yet to see a genuine example.

Slide #122 Heading: Forgeries

Bogus item

Forged overprints can occur on genuine stamps as well as forgeries.

This Caliphate overprint with missing year appears quite often in auctions. The overprint is a forgery and can be found both on genuine stamps and forgeries. It is obviously easy to detect because the missing year does not appear on the genuine Caliphate overprint.

Slide #123 Heading: Forgeries

Or are they?

The first stamp on this slide is a forged Hejaz stamp. However good the overprint may look, it has to be a forgery. The stamp is actually a very good looking stamp and has an interesting flaw of 'dot after value' in the top left corner. In the article 'THE MAKKAH ARMS 1/8 QIRSH' by David Graham in Random Notes #41, the author was unable to plate this stamp. That was not surprising really because the stamp is a forgery, type SMH-01-01 [Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries, Part 1 - Postage and Revenue Stamps (2025)].

The other three stamps are genuine basic stamps with an overprint that could be genuine. However, the overprint does not match any of the known genuine Transjordan plates. The 10 qirsh with black overprint is not mentioned by Darlow or Ledger. Najjar, in 'The Stamps of Jordan, 1920 - 1965', refers to it as probably from a trial printing of which one sheet of 36 possibly exists. Because one of the stamps on this slide has a double print, more than one sheet must have been printed, but why does this overprint also appear on the 1 and 3 qirsh values? The 3 qirsh brown with this overprint is not shown on the slide. Are these forgeries? I think they should be described as 'Status uncertain' at best.

Slide #124 Heading: Forgeries

Or is it?

Both of the stamps in this slides are genuine Hejaz stamps from position 34 of the sheet, and the overprint uses the same typeface. The major difference between the two is the Arabic *reh* and *sheen* in *Al Sharq*. Example 1 has a short *reh* and a long *sheen* and example 2 has a long *reh* and short *sheen* and is from a complete genuine sheet. The short *reh* is not known on genuine sheets for this overprint, so example 1 is almost certainly a forgery, but what if the correct *reh* and *sheen* were used? Expertizing can be very difficult when common typefaces are used.

Slide #125 Heading: Forgeries

The Laser Printer problem

These notes also apply to overprints applied using photocopiers. Inkjet forgeries do exist but are not as clear as laser prints.

It is usually the overprint that gets forged, but laser printed stamps of Hejaz are known.

It is usually not possible to identify a laser printed forgery in an online catalogue or image, but for black overprints, the colour may be too black and even, lacking any tone variations.

When the actual stamp is viewed a high power magnifier (30x or greater) the printed line edges are not sharp but many minute dots of fused ink can be seen. This should not be confused on relief printed black overprints where the ink gets absorbed into the paper in an irregular manner.

When forging Hejaz overprints, the skilled forger will match the overprint to the stamp plate position, so beware.

Slide #126 Heading: Journey's End

We have now completed our journey following the development and use of the Hejaz Sherifian Arms stamps from Hejaz to Transjordan with a mid-journey diversion back to Hejaz during the Siege of Jeddah.

We have seen cheap stamps, expensive stamps, and forgeries. Some point that have been made apply to all branches of philately and I hope they have provoked discussion and perhaps disagreement with what I have written.

I am always willing to discuss anything philatelic relating to Saudi Arabia or the Sherifian Arms stamps overprinted for use in Transjordan. Contact me at weatherings@aol.com

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