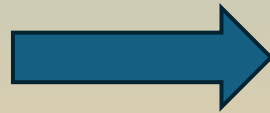


From Hejaz to Transjordan

A Philatelic Journey
Undertaken by Martin Lovegrove



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.

Beware of Books and Catalogues!

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.

Maps from Wikipedia

Hejaz



By Martin Collin

Transjordan and Palestine



By Doron

Essay / Colour Trials

The only essays known are all in various colours for the 1½ qirsh value, the rate for letters to Egypt, and may indicate that this could have been the first value issued.



An extensive study of the design of this issue appeared in Random Notes #59.

Essay / Colour Trials

The design of the issued stamps was closely based on the essays, but there are significant differences, the main one being the design of the side panels.

The stamps were issued in February 1922; the essays probably date from 1921.

Essay



Issued



The Issued Set – February 1922

All of the stamps are denominated in qirsh



$\frac{1}{8}$



$\frac{1}{2}$



1



$1\frac{1}{2}$



2



3



5

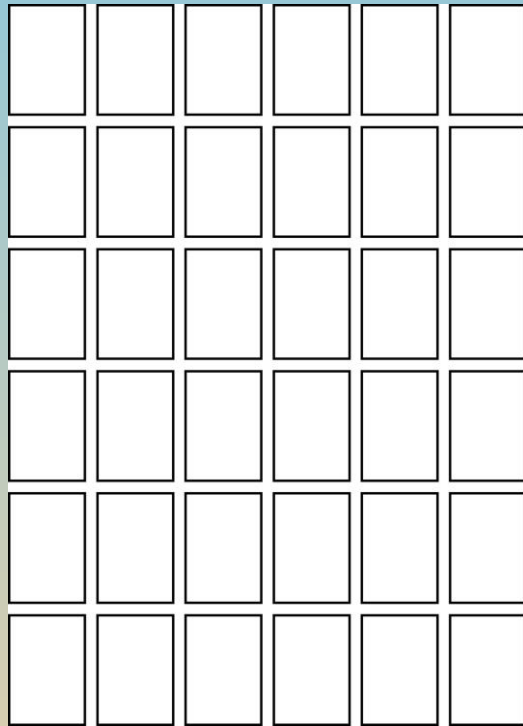
The $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh value appeared in a new colour, deep rose, in 1923



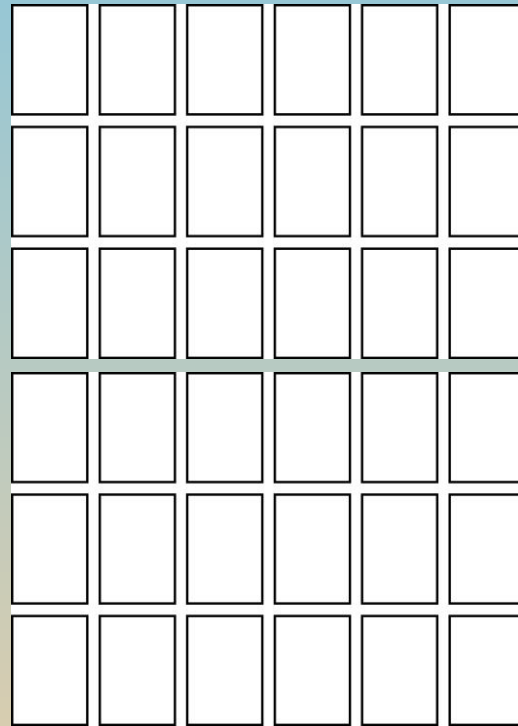
The Issued Set – February 1922

Plate construction. (This will be relevant later)

The initial intention was probably to produce a plate using 36 individual stereotypes, but it looks as though difficulties were encountered.



36 individual stereotypes
($\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh)



Two 18 stereotype groups
($\frac{1}{8}$, 2, 3 and 5 qirsh)



24 and 12 stereotype groups
(1 qirsh)

An extensive study of the printing plates of this issue appeared in Random Notes #61, #63 and #65.

The Issued Set – February 1922

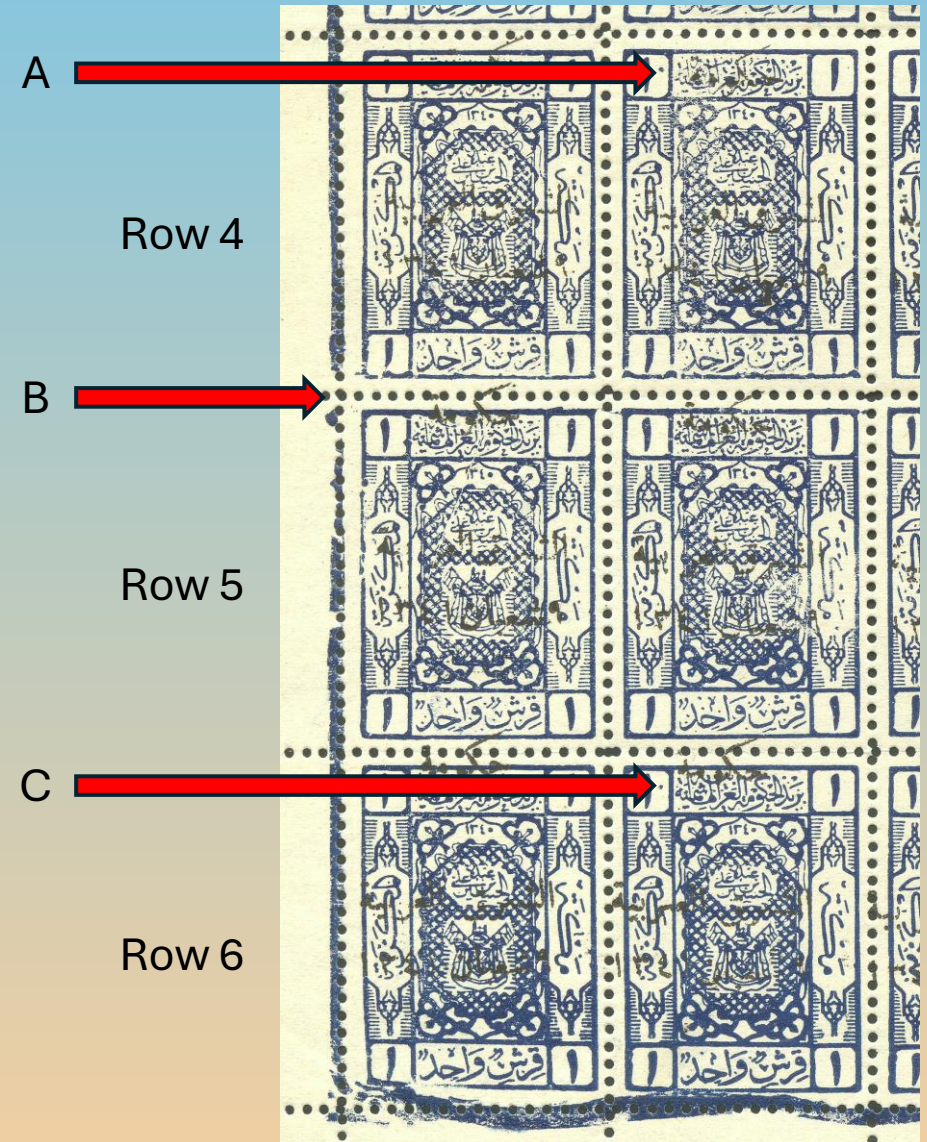
One qirsh – the strange variation

The 1 qirsh value had a strange plate construction.

This value was eventually printed from a plate comprising four rows of six, below which was added a stereotype being a copy of the lower two rows of that top block.

This is easily seen from the repeated dot after the Arabic numeric value in the top left corner of the stamp in sheet positions 20 (A) and 32 (C).

On some printings the marginal rule is broken at the junction of the two blocks, but this feature is not constant. (B)



The Issued Set – ‘Proofs’

There is no evidence that proofs were taken from newly constructed plates.
It is more likely that trial prints were taken, often on previously used paper.



$\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh on inverted
ochre railway tax with
upright tax stamp value



1 qirsh on inverted $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh
postage stamp



$1\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh on inverted ochre
railway tax without value



$\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh on 20 paras
flat rate tax stamp

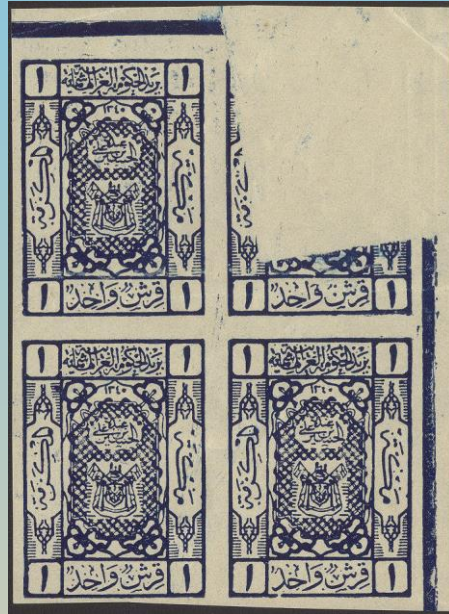


5 qirsh on ochre railway
tax without value

The Issued Set – Production Problems



Both sides
contaminated with
extra ink



Incomplete print



Incomplete print and paper folds

The Issued Set – Production Problems

Page from the Al Thani collection showing that sometimes poor workmanship did not pay.



1/8 Piaster Red Brown Imperf Margin Block of 8
Handwritten on Margin "Found Torn, and a Fine Was Withheld From
Worker Salary 19/G . . ."
Interesting Block

The Issued Set – Production Problems

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



Imperforate
between stamps



Extra horizontal
perforations

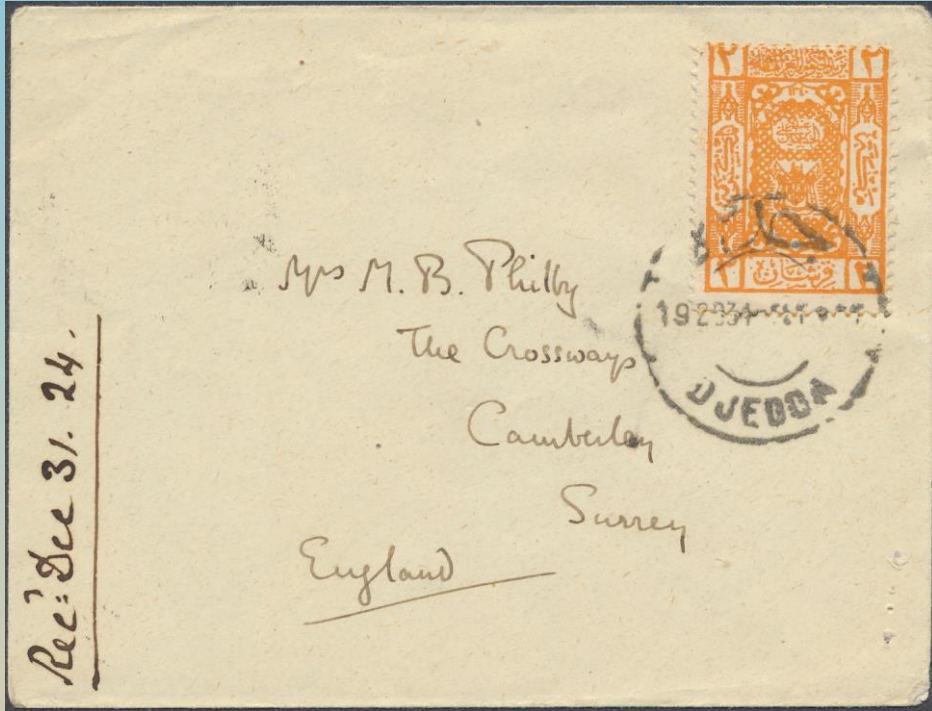


Mis-perforated



Extra vertical
perforations

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 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).*

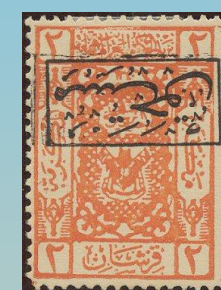
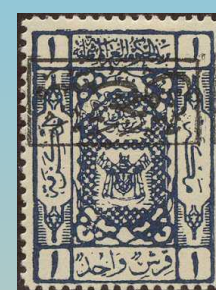
The Postage Due Overprint – January 1923

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).

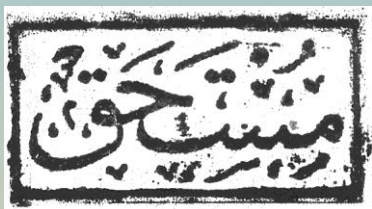
Black upright



Black inverted



Deep rose



mustahiq (due)

Blue upright



Not
known in
deep rose



Blue inverted



The overprint plate was constructed using stereotypes arranged in six individual rows of six clichés.

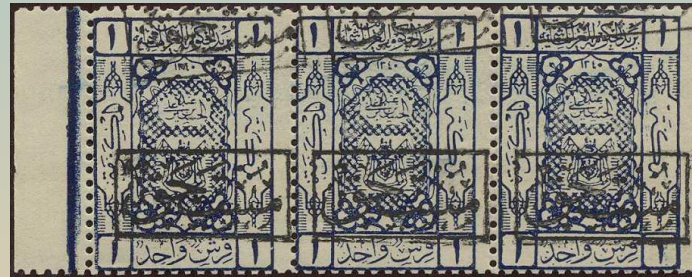
The rows were probably removed at the end of each day and reassembled as required – probably in a different order!

The Postage Due Overprint – January 1923

Double overprint



Two strikes of overprint plate

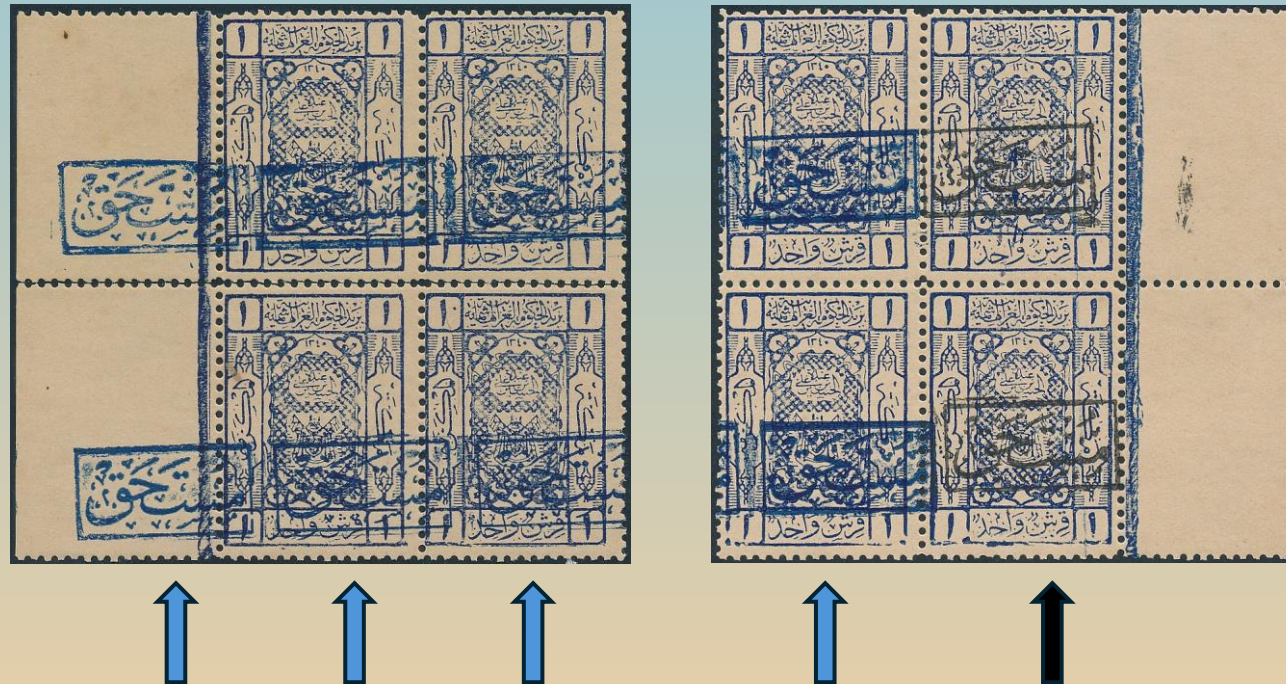


One row of clichés misplaced

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, but the ink used was black!

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



Surcharges – February - March 1923

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



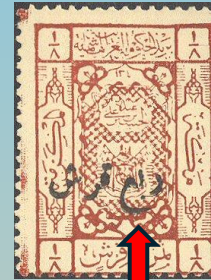
$\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh
Short tail *ain*



$\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh
Long tail *ain*



10 qirsh



Short and long tail to *ain* (ع)

It is likely that only one plate of each surcharge was used for stamps issued to post offices.

Several other overprint plates have been recorded; these were noted when the Mojaddedi collection was sold and are probably genuine.

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.

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 ½ qirsh stamp as having this narrow overprint, but other values exist and in very few numbers.



Gold omitted



Missing *alef*
top line



Extra *alef*
top line

The Caliphate Overprint

The words were separated for the bulk of the issue.

تذکار الخلفه
شعبان
۱۳۴۲



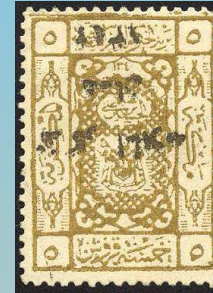
Rose shade



Gold omitted

The Caliphate Overprint

Inverted overprint.



Missing Arabic *reh* in top line
(occurs at positions 14 and 17)

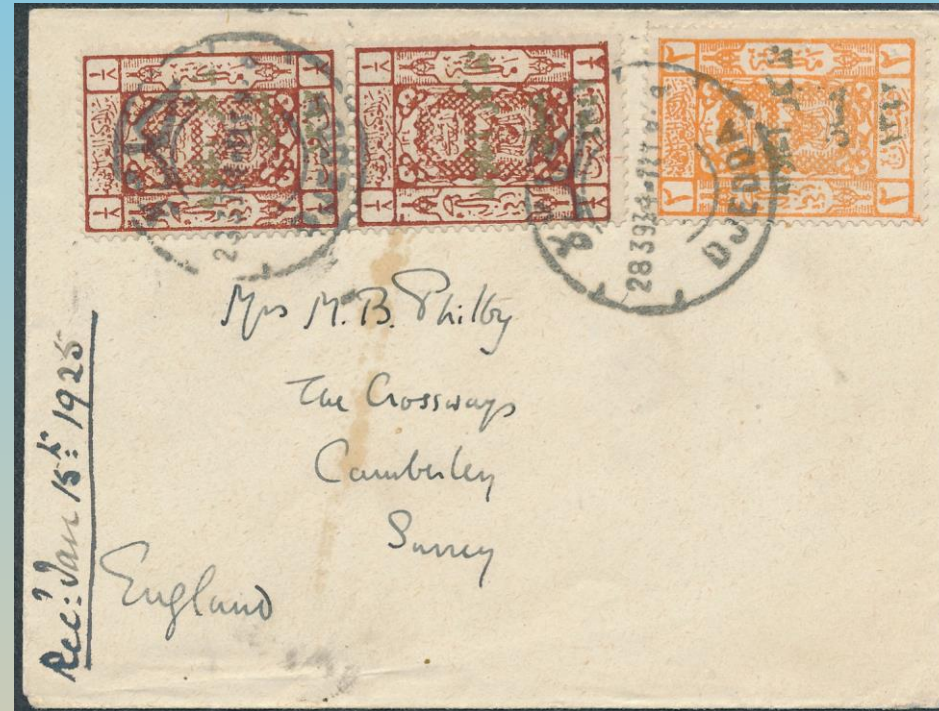


The Caliphate Overprint

Sheet of rare brown-
olive shade
Ex Rudy Thoden.



The Caliphate Overprint in Use



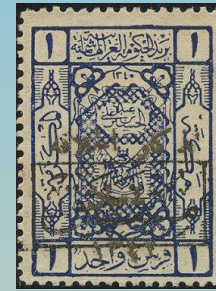
Written by Harry St. John Philby to his mother in Camberley, England, who recorded the receipt date of 15 January 1925. There are the usual erroneous DJEDDA dates of 28-3-1934 - 5-5-1343. On the reverse is a PORT TAWFIK 5 January 1925 and a manuscript posting date of 30 December 1924. A unique Philby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

The Caliphate Overprint Postage Due

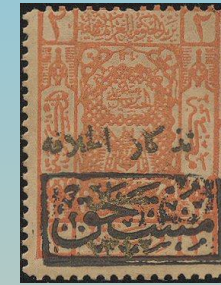
A few sheets of the initial series already overprinted with a boxed *mustahiq* (Due), were further overprinted with the Caliphate commemoration.



Narrow top line



Normal top line



Missing Arabic *reh* in top line



Extra *mustahiq*
at top

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.

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.



It is believed that all of the stamps sent to Transjordan come from one setting of the surcharge for each value. Collectors of Hejaz stamps will probably be aware of other settings for each value. These were noted when the Mojaddedi collection was sold and are probably genuine but not issued.

The First Hejaz Issue in Transjordan

April 1923 overprint

حكومة
الشرق العربية
٩ شعبان ١٣٤١

Two types of *Al Sharq*



الشرق

Short *reh* and long *sheen*

الشرق

Long *reh* and short *sheen*



Short tail *ain*



Long tail *ain*



The First Hejaz Issue in Transjordan

April 1923 overprint in use



Amman 25 November 1923, bearing 2 qirsh with overprint and 1 qirsh without overprint.

Transjordan – September 1923 Surcharge

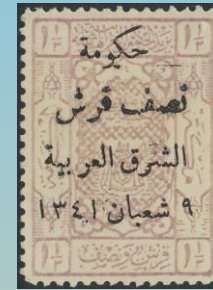
April 1923 overprint with additional ½ qirsh surcharge (handstamp)



Long *reh* and short *sheen*



Short *reh* and long *sheen*



Faded ink shows handstamp clearly

نصف قرش

½ qirsh

Two types of *Al Sharq*

الشرق

Short *reh* and long *sheen*

الشرق

Long *reh* and short *sheen*

Transjordan – September 1923 Surcharge

April 1923 overprint with additional ½ qirsh surcharge (handstamp)



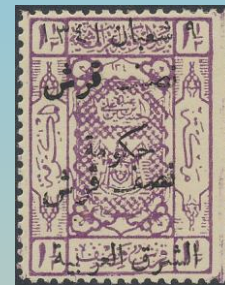
Handstamp double, one inverted



Handstamp double



Overprint too low



Handstamp double, overprint shifted down 1 row



Surcharge inverted



Surcharge inverted, bottom line of overprint at top



Overprint and surcharge inverted



Handstamp in selvedge

Transjordan – September 1923 Surcharge

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



Transjordan – September 1923 Surcharge

April 1923 overprint with additional $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh surcharge (typograph?)



Block from George Asch collection shows identical overprints of surcharge

SURCHARGES OF SEPTEMBER 1923 — JANUARY 1924

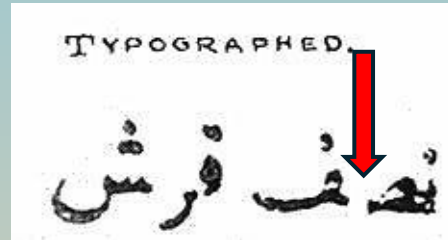
Again the occasion of shortage of the $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre value prompted the the surcharge in September of an unrequired denomination, this time the $1\frac{1}{2}$ Pt. of the April issue and a number, believed to be 1980, were accordingly re-valued by means of a handstamp, a re-production of which is illustrated below. According to some sources a further quantity of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ Pt. value received a similar surcharge by typographure but the evidence is not official or is it convincing. The handstamp surcharge is known inverted, double, double one inverted and omitted in pair with normal. Forgeries exist.

Controversial.

Darlow likes it, Ledger (above) does not.
I have not seen any on cover.

Transjordan – September 1923 Surcharge

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



Ex Darlow.

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 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.

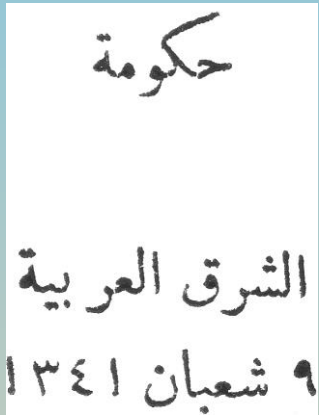
Historically, Transjordan have not used stereotypes for plain text overprints.

Conclusion: **Status uncertain.**

Transjordan Postage Due – September 1923

April 1923 overprint with additional *mustahiq* (due) overprint
3 qirsh with ½ qirsh surcharge

mustahiq upright



April 1923 overprint



mustahiq inverted



mustahiq (due)



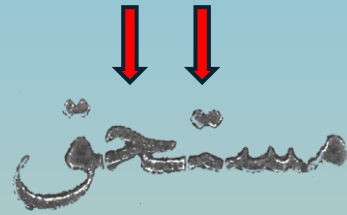
½ qirsh



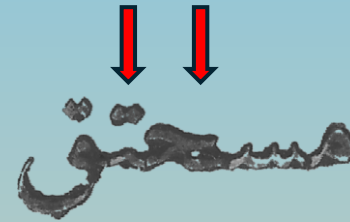
Transjordan Postage Due – September 1923

April 1923 overprint with additional *mustahiq* (due) overprint, 3 qirsh with ½ qirsh surcharge

Overprint position 2 had the characters *teh* and *hah* transposed



normal



transposed

mushatiq upright



mushatiq inverted



Transjordan Postage Due – September 1923

April 1923 overprint with additional *mustahiq* (due) overprint
3 qirsh with ½ qirsh surcharge

Various errors



mustahiq double,
overprint offset on back



mustahiq double



mustahiq double
one diagonal



3-line overprint inverted



mustahiq inverted, surcharge omitted
on stamp at left

Transjordan Postage Due

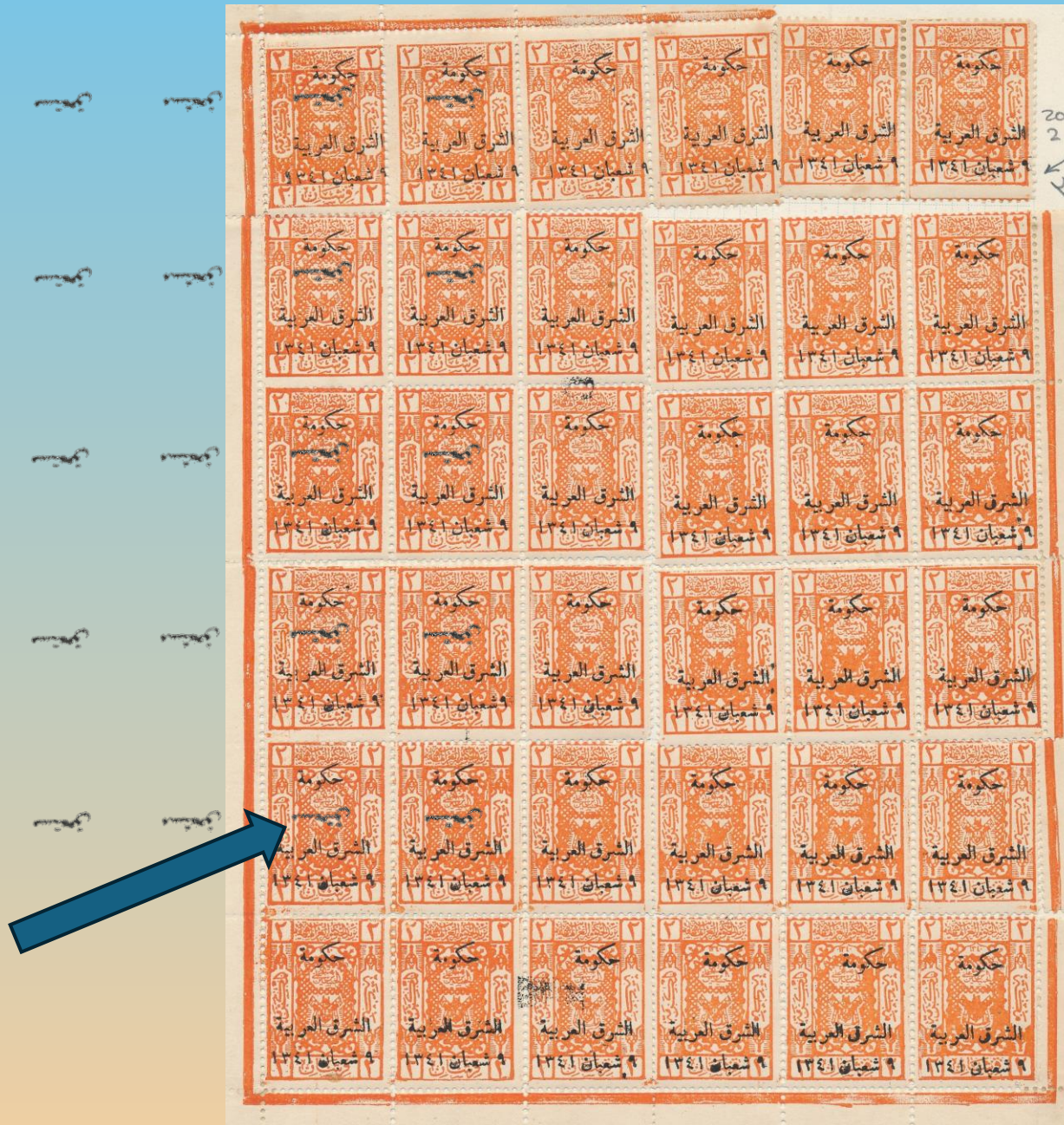
Characters transposed error, inverted



At left is an illustration of offset required to place position 2 overprint, inverted, on stamp position 25.

Because the typeface is a common one, it is difficult to determine the correct status of this overprint.

Conclusion: **Status uncertain, but probably a forgery.**



Transjordan Postage Due – September 1923 – In Use as Postage

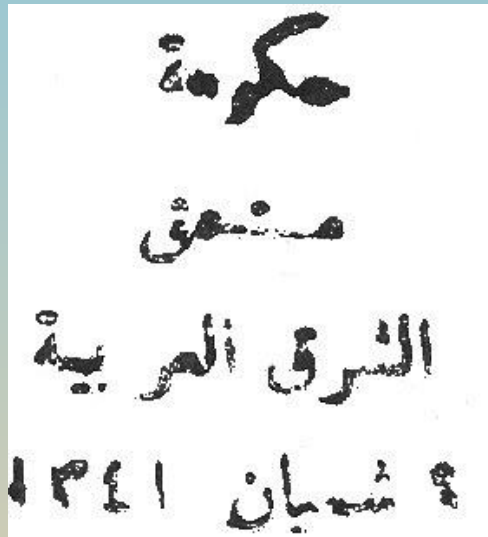
April 1923 overprint with additional inverted *mustahiq* (due) overprint



1 qirsh with *mustahiq* (due) inverted together with 2 qirsh, paying the registered letter fee.
AMMAN DISTRICT 16 October 1924. Backstamped HAIFA REGISTERED 18 October 1924,
HAIFA • KA???? T.P.O.SOUTH (The T.P.O. is HAIFA • KANTARA T.P.O. SOUTH)

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



The impression of this handstamp varies considerably, from light and clear to dark and heavy.

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



Normal with 4-line handstamp
double (shaky hand) at right



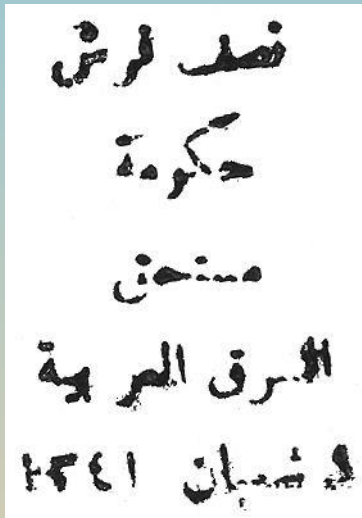
Handstamp and surcharge
inverted on all stamps



Surcharge double with
normal at right

Transjordan Postage Due – September 1923 (5-line Handstamp)

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



All stamps normal



Two stamps with
handstamp double,
both probably due
to shaky hand

The impression of this handstamp varies considerably, from light and clear to dark and heavy.

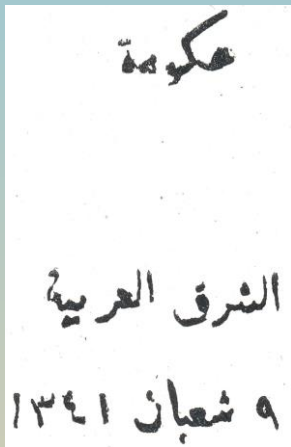
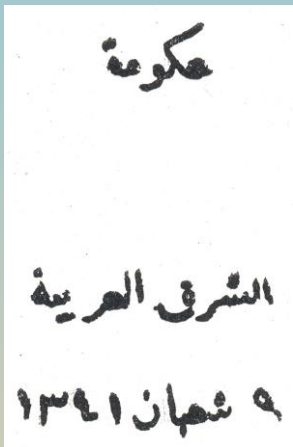
Transjordan Postage – October 1923 (3-line Handstamp)

Handstamp similar to April 1923 overprint

Ledger types

A

B



A



Upright

B



Upright



Double



Inverted

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

Ledger describes and illustrates two types of handstamps whereas Darlow states that one is a handstamp and the other typographed.

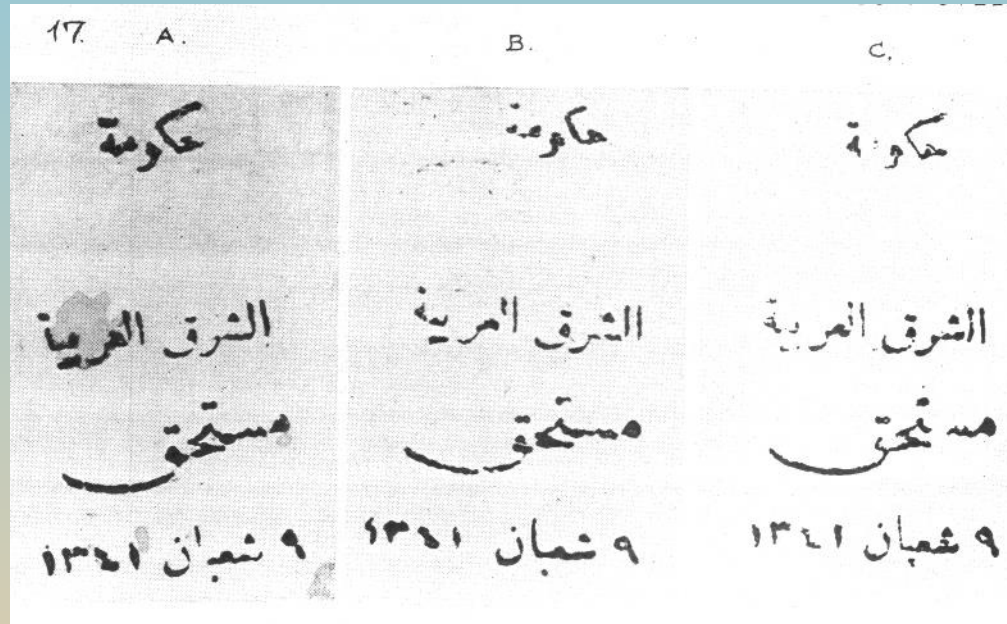
I have two minor variations of Ledger type B, and it is just possible that only one handstamp existed and that variations of the word positioning were caused by the text moving during operation or cleaning.

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

Transjordan Postage Due – October 1923 (4-line Handstamp)

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

3 types of handstamp according to Darlow
(All may have been used on all six values)



To confuse matters, different authors have allocated different identifiers the types.

Transjordan Postage Due – October 1923 (4-line Handstamp)

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



Block shows fourth line of handstamp in same relative position to other lines – clearly a handstamp.

Transjordan Postage Due – October 1923 (4-line Handstamp)

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

As usual, there is plenty of scope for errors



Handstamp double,
in pair with normal



Handstamp triple



Handstamp misplaced
giving extra date at top

Transjordan Postage Due – October 1923 (4-line Handstamp) – In use as Postage

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



3 qirsh stamp in the rare brown-olive shade as seen in the Hejaz Caliphate set.

Transjordan Postage Due – November 1923 (Two Handstamps)

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



Relative position of date to the top three lines is not constant

Transjordan Postage Due – November 1923 (Two Handstamps)

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

Errors and varieties



Bottom two stamps have inverted date



Date double

Transjordan – Arab Government of the East (January 1924)

Stereotyped monogram



Blue partially filtered out
to better show overprint

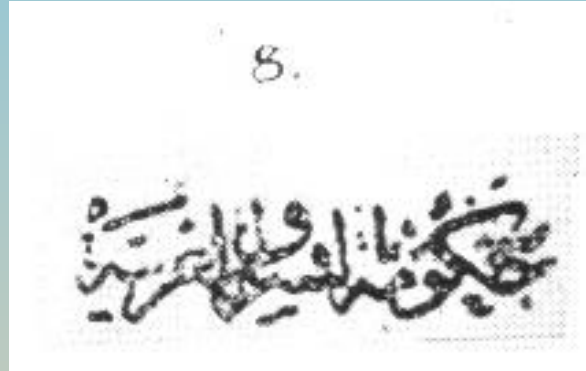
The 1½ qirsh also received the overprint

Transjordan – Arab Government of the East (January 1924)

Stereotyped monogram – Darlow error



Actual overprint



Darlow overprint

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.

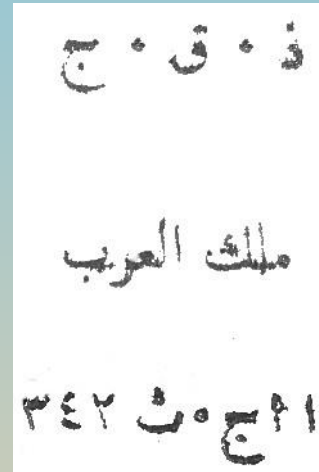
An article Transjordan: the 1924 ‘Arab Government of the East’ Overprint appeared in
the **OPAL Journal, volume 245, August 2023.**

Transjordan – Visit of King Hussein of Hejaz (January 1924)

Stamps of previous issue with additional overprint



Monogram

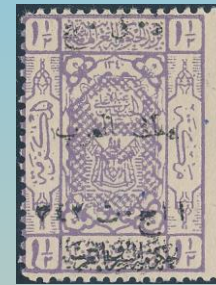


Visit overprint

The additional visit overprint was printed in black, but some sheets had gold dust sprinkled over the wet ink.

Transjordan – Visit of King Hussein of Hejaz (January 1924)

Black



Gold on black



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

Transjordan – Visit of King Hussein of Hejaz (January 1924)

Errors and varieties



Monogram
double



Imperforate



All positions have overprint shifted up
Sheet position 5 - Monogram omitted.
Sheet position 12 - 432 for 342 error



Repaired monogram
Dot at top omitted

Transjordan – Official (1924)

Possibly unissued



Thin type



Thicker type

Although there seem to be two different types used, the difference was probably caused by wear.

Although supposedly issued in 1924, this stamp did not appear in stamp catalogues until about 1970.

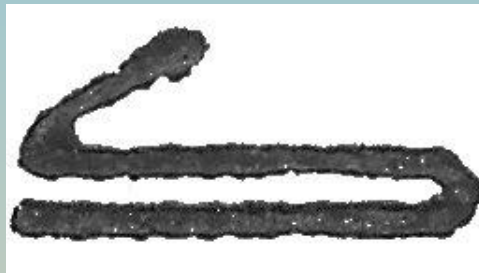
Status uncertain.

Transjordan – Official (1924)

Possibly unissued



Two forms of Arabic '*kaf*' were used



Initial form
(incorrect)



Medial form
(correct)

The type of *kaf* used with thin type matches the type used for the thick type,
for each plate position.

The thin type and thick type belong to the same plate.

Transjordan – Official (1924)

‘Used’ examples

Bogus Mecca cancel.



AMMAN
September 1923.



The 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 overprint applied to a genuinely used stamp?

Transjordan – Official (1924)

Errors and varieties
(thin type)



Arabic Al
inverted



Normal 'al'



Inverted
'al'



1324 for 1342

1242 for 1342



Year
omitted

Transjordan – Official (1924)

Errors and varieties
(normal type)



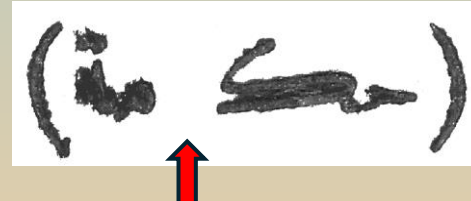
Dot in top row &
Malformed 'Al
Sharq'



Waw in
top line
omitted

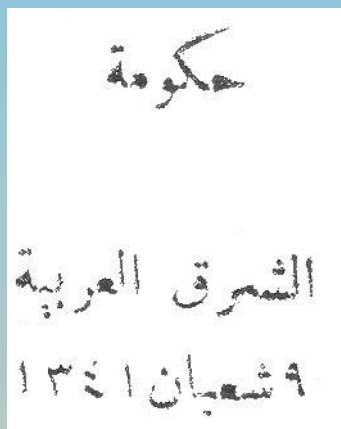


1242 for 1342.
Imperforate
margin



Transjordan – March – May 1924

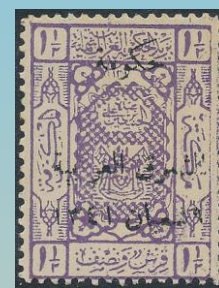
Revised setting of April 1923 overprint



Scarlet



Deep rose



Some positions show the Arabic *yeh* with vertical dots instead of horizontal.
Below are sheet positions 7 and 8 showing both types.



Transjordan – March – May 1924

Revised setting of April 1923 overprint – errors and varieties



Overprint inverted
Deep rose

شعبال

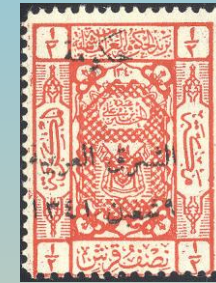


shabal for *shaban*
Imperforate at right
Deep rose

شعبان

shaban

شعبن



shabn for *shaban*
Scarlet

The *shabal* for *shaban* error occurs on all values in position 24

The *shabn* for *shaban* error occurs on all values in position 27

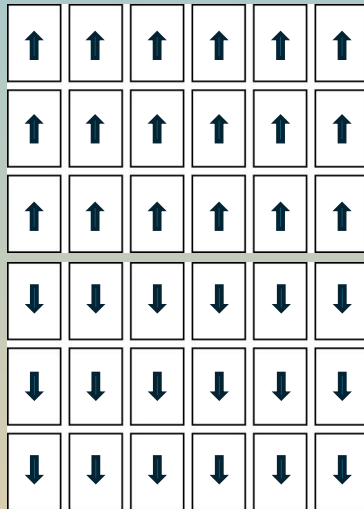
Back to Hejaz – New Values and Colour (September 1924)

Two new values, $\frac{1}{4}$ and 10 qirsh, and the 3 qirsh in a new colour, were issued.



Back to Hejaz – New Values and Colour (September 1924)

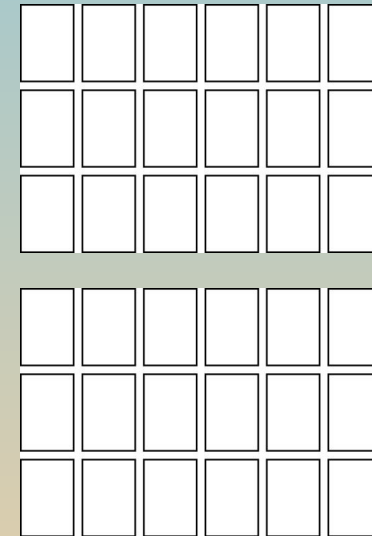
The 3 qirsh used the original plate and new plates were prepared for the $\frac{1}{4}$ and 10 qirsh. The $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh used the usual 6 x 6 format but with the bottom three rows inverted, thus providing six tête-bêche pairs in rows three and four. The 10 qirsh, printed in two colours, comprised 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.



$\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh plate
Arrows show orientation
of design



Tête-bêche pairs



10 qirsh sheet

Back to Hejaz – New Values and Colour (September 1924)

Complete sheets of the new values



Back to Hejaz – New Values and Colour (September 1924)

Varieties of the new values



Cracked plate.
By convention, this
is position 13



Mis-perforated vertically,
and horizontally
imperforate



Inverted centre



Imperforate
between



Extra vertical
perforations

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.



3 qirsh brown-red
printed on ½ qirsh
scarlet

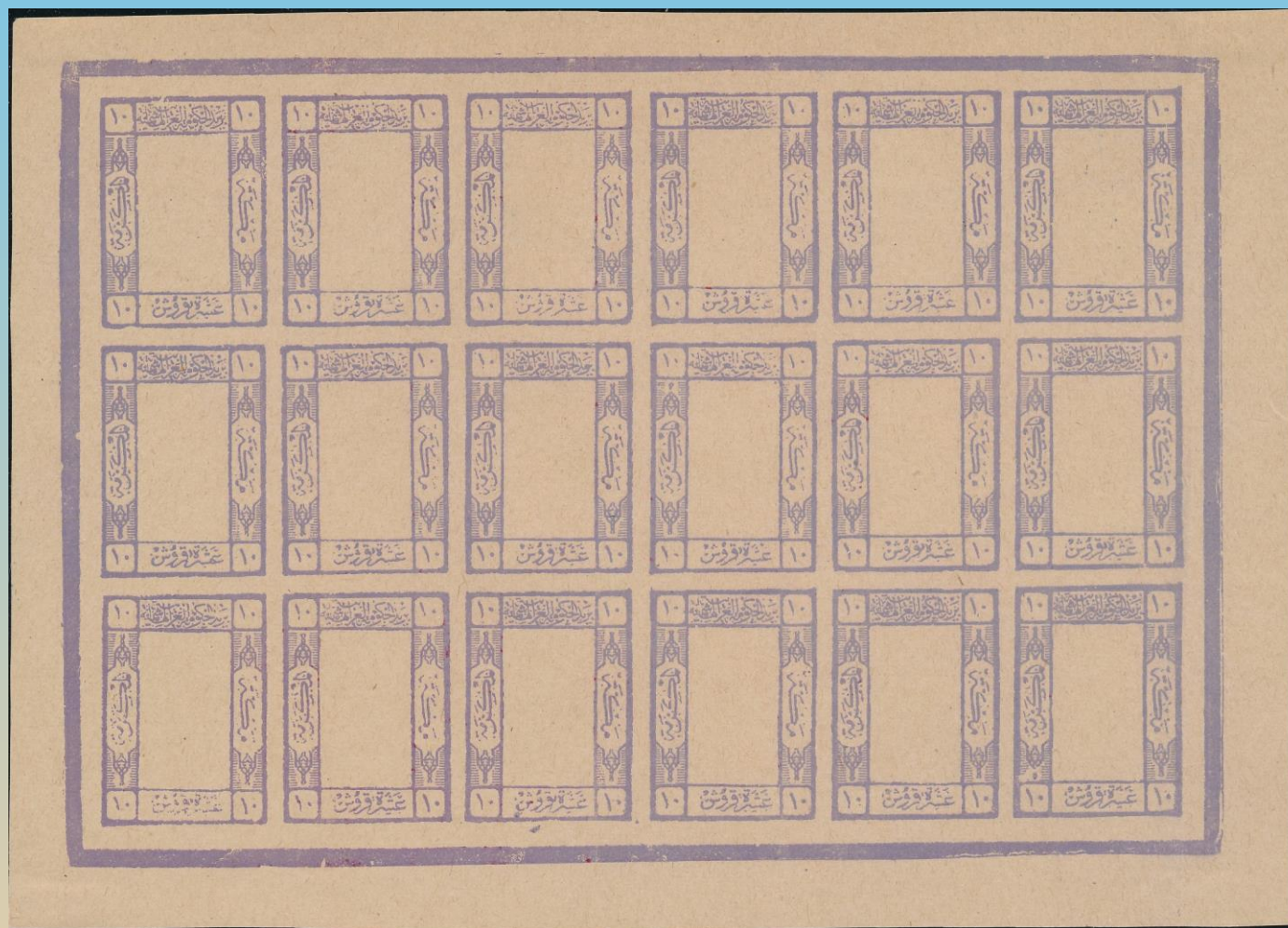


10 qirsh with centre
double printed on ½
qirsh scarlet



10 qirsh with centre double,
one inverted, printed on
inverted ½ qirsh scarlet

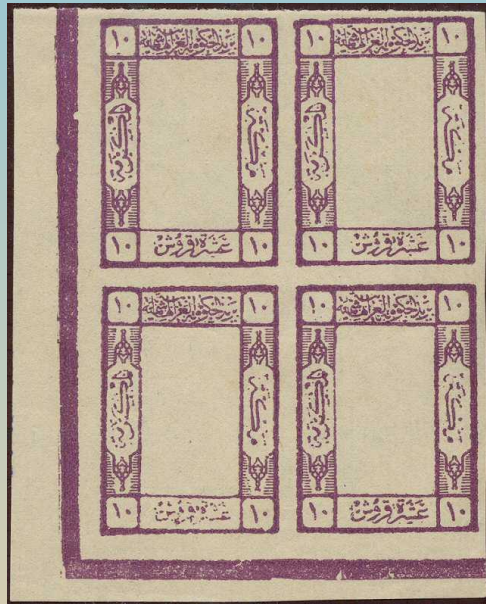
New Values and Colour – ‘Proofs/Trial Prints’



10 qirsh frame in violet on buff paper

New Values and Colour – ‘Proofs/Trial Prints’

10 qirsh frame and centre printed separately



New Values and Colour – ‘Proofs/Trial Prints’



Centre colour trial
(lake)



Inverted centre



Frame on buff
and white paper



New Values and Colour in Transjordan (September - November 1924)

Two new values, $\frac{1}{4}$ and 10 qirsh, and the 3 qirsh in a new colour, were incorporated in a new set of definitives.

حكومة الشرق
العربي
١٣٤٢



Scarlet



Deep rose



¼ Qirsh in Transjordan

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

- Bottom three rows inverted in relation to top three.
- Cracked plate in position 13.
- Narrower gap than Hejaz version between rows 3 and 4.



¼ Qirsh in Transjordan

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

But there are differences; very important differences.

Tête-bêche pairs A and B are from Transjordan and C is from Hejaz. All of the pairs are from positions 13 and 19, however A does not show the cracked plate flaw.

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.



A



B

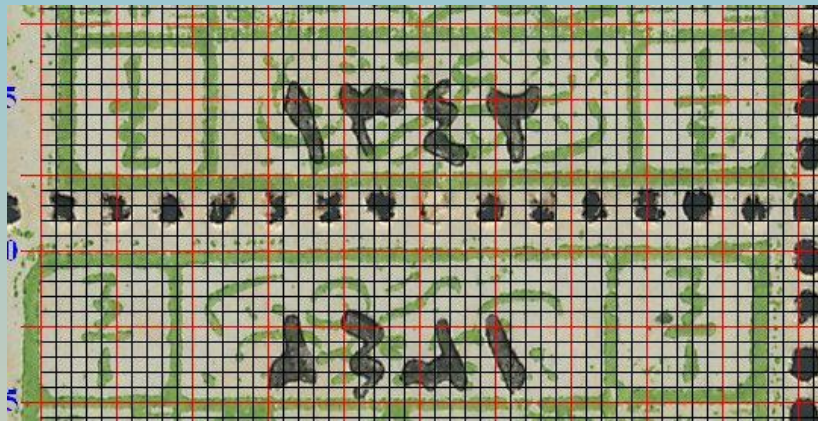


C

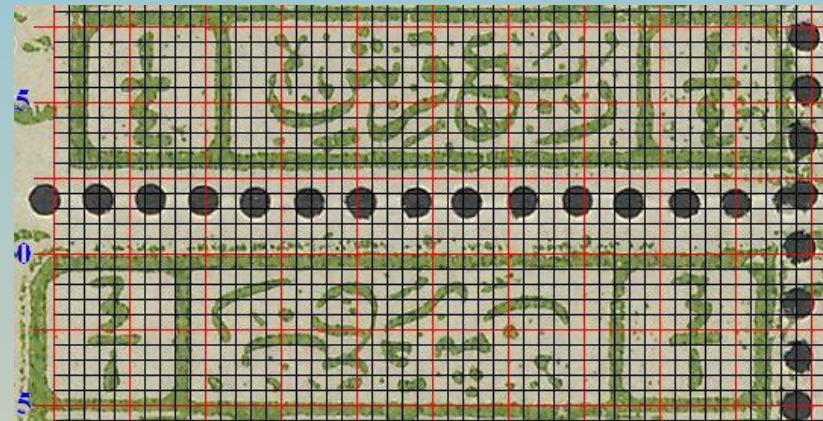
¼ Qirsh in Transjordan

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

By superimposing a 0.5 mm. grid on the stamp images, 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.



Transjordan



Hejaz

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.

New Values and Colour in Transjordan (September - November 1924)

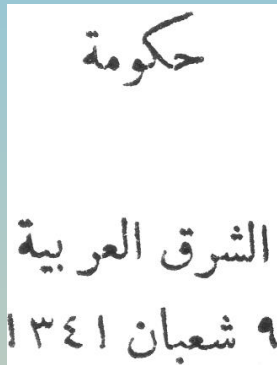
Philatelic cover to Germany. The Amman cancel appears to be 31 February 1925! The Haifa transit of 6 March 1925 suggests that the cover was posted either late February or early March.



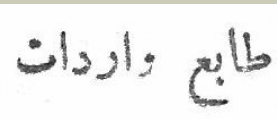
Of some significance, the ¼ qirsh stamp is from position 13 but does not have the plate crack.

Transjordan Fiscal Stamps

Stamps with April 1923 overprint with
additional overprint: Revenue stamp



April 1923
overprint



Revenue stamp



Short *reh* and long *sheen*



Long *reh* and short *sheen*

A black overprint on a dark blue stamp
is not easy to see!



Transjordan Fiscal Stamps

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

ح ٠ ش ٠ ع
طابع واردات



The 1 qirsh blue also
received this overprint



Error: Top right
character خ instead of ح



Inverted overprint

Transjordan Fiscal Stamps

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

حكومة
الشرق العربيّة
٩ شعبان ١٣٤١

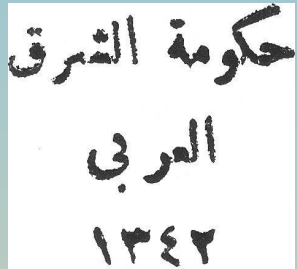
طابع واردات



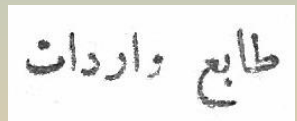
Errors: Bottom line شعيال
instead of شعبان
and غ instead of ع in
revenue stamp

Transjordan Fiscal Stamps

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



Sep-Nov 1924
overprint



Revenue stamp



Revenue stamp
in black



Revenue stamp
in orange



Revenue stamp
in gold



A black overprint on
a dark blue stamp is
not easy to see!



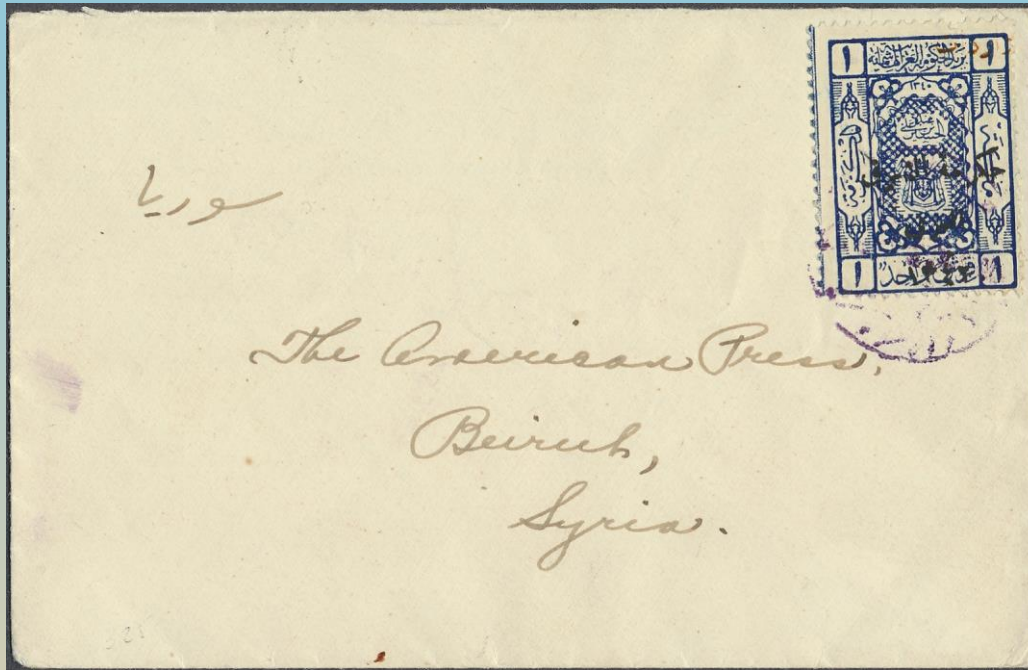
Surcharge
 $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh



Surcharge
1 qirsh

Transjordan Fiscal Stamps

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



← Revenue stamp

It is not known whether the postal use of this stamp was accidental or deliberate; shortages of postage stamps were a common occurrence.

Transjordan Fiscal Stamps

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

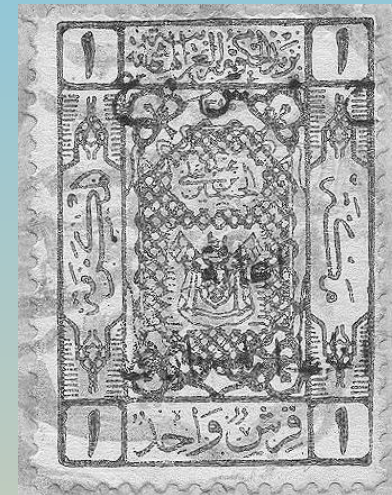
ح . ش . ع
اعانة
الخط الحجازي



Other values may exist.

Transjordan Fiscal Stamps

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



The cover has been annotated in manuscript 'King Hussein Commemoration good used'. The overprint is difficult to see but was obviously confused with the King Hussein overprint which also has a top line comprising a three-letter abbreviation. A rare cover and an expensive mistake to make.

Transjordan Fiscal Stamps

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

ح . ش . ع
امانة الخط
الحجازي



Other values may exist.

Back to Hejaz – The Siege of Jeddah

In 1924 Ibn Saud, the founder of modern Saudi Arabia, was making progress in taking over the rule of Arabia.

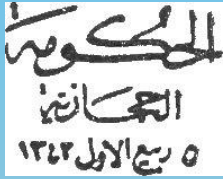
On October 5th 1924 the ruler of Hejaz in western Arabia, Hussein, abdicated and his son Ali was proclaimed King.

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.

There were several types of overprint produced, but only those used on the Arms stamps of 1922 and 1924 are shown in this presentation. The order of issue is not that shown in stamp catalogues but that determined in research by the Arabian Philatelic Association.





The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide)

Perhaps, with an eye on making profits from philatelists, the stamps were mainly overprinted in blue, black, or red.

Red overprint - upright.

1/8 qirsh
not known
upright



3 qirsh
red-brown
not known
upright



Red overprint - inverted.



The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide)

Red overprint – varieties and errors.

Inverted centre,
overprint in
margin



Tete-beche
one overprint
inverted



Horizontally
imperforate



Overprint
sideways
reading up



Imperforate
between



Overprint
sideways
up & down



Top: Overprint sideways
reading down



Bottom: Overprint
double, one sideways
reading up



Overprint
upright



Overprint
inverted

The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide)

Blue overprint - upright.



Blue overprint - inverted.



The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide)

Blue overprint – varieties and errors.



Inverted overprint



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

The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide)

Blue overprint – varieties and errors.

Overprint double, one inverted



Overprint sideways, reading up



Overprint double, both inverted



The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide)

Black overprint - upright.



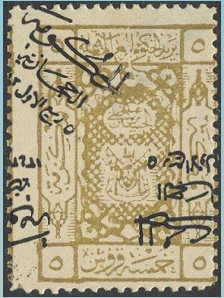
Black overprint - inverted.



The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide)

Black overprint – varieties and errors.



Inverted overprint
with additional
diagonal overprint

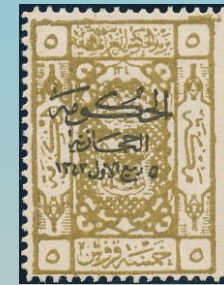
Right: All vertical
perforations missing apart
from final vertical row.



The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide)

Gold on black overprint.



Gold on red overprint.



Only one copy of the gold on red has been recorded by the APAI.

Gold dust was sprinkled on the black or red overprint while the ink was still wet.

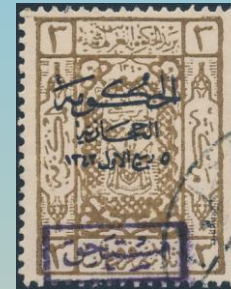
The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

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

Violet handstamp

المملكة
الحجازية
٥ ربيع الأول ١٣٤٢

مستحق



Black handstamp



Brown

Brown-olive

The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

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



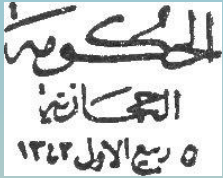
Handstamp
double



Vertically
imperforate

The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

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



¼ qirsh surcharge



Surcharge double

It is believed that three, either complete or part, sheets of this surcharged stamp existed.

The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) in use



The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

Large 3-line (16 mm wide) in use



The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

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

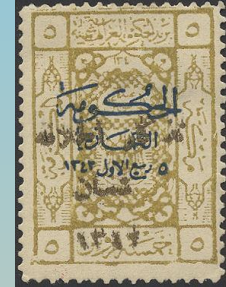
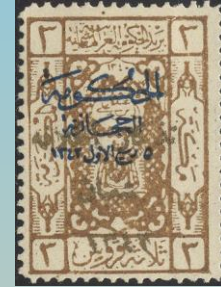
Red overprint - upright.



The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

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

Blue overprint - upright.



Blue overprint
double, one
inverted



Blue overprint - inverted.



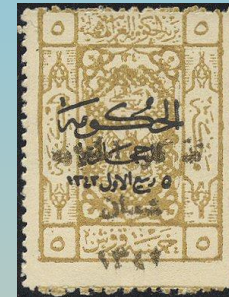
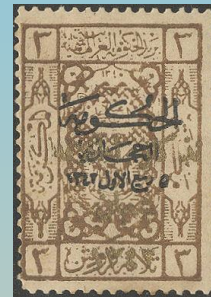
Missing Arabic *reh*
in top line of
Caliphate overprint



The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

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

Black overprint - upright.



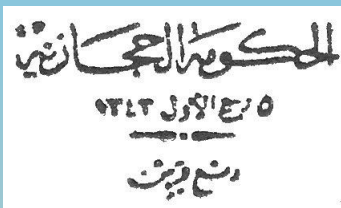
Black overprint - inverted.



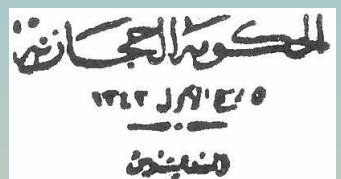
The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

‘Illegible’ overprint, postage

Stamps surcharged with new value in black



¼ qirsh



1 qirsh

Basic set overprint upright



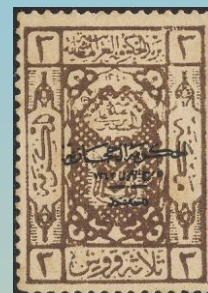
¼ on 1/8



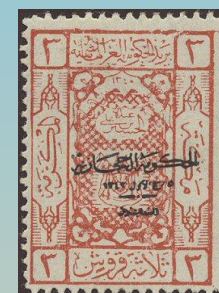
¼ on 1/2



1 on 2



1 on 3



1 on 3



10 on 5

Basic set overprint inverted



¼ on 1/8



¼ on 1/2



1 on 3

The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

‘Illegible’ overprint, postage

Stamps surcharged with new value in black – errors and varieties

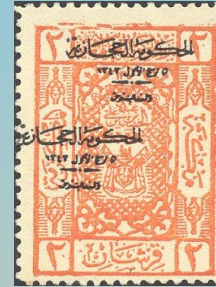
Overprint double, both upright



$\frac{1}{4}$ on $\frac{1}{8}$



$\frac{1}{4}$ on $\frac{1}{2}$



1 on 2



1 on 3

Overprint double
both inverted

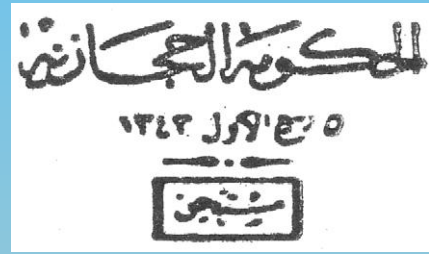


$\frac{1}{4}$ on $\frac{1}{8}$

Overprint double
one inverted



$\frac{1}{4}$ on $\frac{1}{2}$



The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

‘Illegible’ overprint, postage due

Postage due overprint

Overprint upright



Overprint inverted



The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

‘Illegible’ overprint, postage due

Errors and varieties

Mixture of horizontal and vertical overprints, sometimes double

Overprint
double



The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

‘Illegible’ overprint, postage

Stamps surcharged with new value in black with additional surcharge handstamp in black or violet

Basic set overprint upright



¼ on ¼ on ⅛



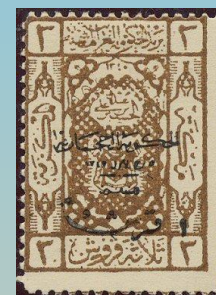
¼ on ¼ on ½
scarlet



¼ on ¼ on ½
rose



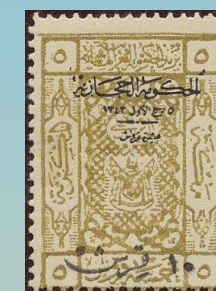
1 on 1 on 2



1 on 1 on 3
brown



1 on 1 on 3
brown-red



10 on 10 on 5

Basic set overprint inverted, handstamp inverted at top



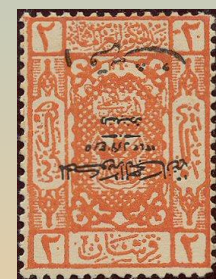
¼ on ¼ on ⅛



¼ on ¼ on ½
scarlet



¼ on ¼ on ½
rose



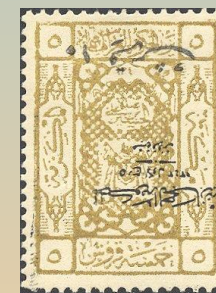
1 on 1 on 2



1 on 1 on 3
brown



1 on 1 on 3
brown-red



10 on 10 on 5

¼ قرش

¼ qirsh

۱ قرش

1 qirsh

۱۰ قرش

10 qirsh

The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

‘Illegible’ overprint

Stamps surcharged with new value in black with additional surcharge handstamp in black or violet

Surcharge (overprint or handstamp) with incorrect value

Correct values:

$\frac{1}{4}$ on $\frac{1}{4}$ on $\frac{1}{8}$

$\frac{1}{4}$ on $\frac{1}{4}$ on $\frac{1}{2}$

1 on 1 on 2

1 on 1 on 3

10 on 10 on 5



1 on $\frac{1}{4}$
on $\frac{1}{8}$



1 on $\frac{1}{4}$
on $\frac{1}{2}$



10 on 1
on 2



$\frac{1}{4}$ on 1
on 2



1 on $\frac{1}{4}$
on 2



10 on 1
on 3



$\frac{1}{4}$ on 1
on 3



1 on 10
on 5



$\frac{1}{4}$ on 10 on 5

The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

‘Illegible’ overprint

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



h/s at top in pair with
h/s double,
one at top



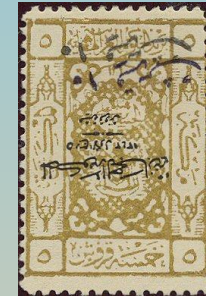
h/s double
one inverted



h/s omitted in pair
with normal



h/s triple



h/s double
both inverted,
one black,
other violet



Overprint double,
one inverted,
handstamp inverted
at top



Small boxed '*mustahiq*'

The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

'Illegible' overprint, postage due

Stamps with additional boxed *mustahiq* handstamp in black or violet

Basic set overprint upright, handstamp upright at bottom



Basic set overprint inverted, handstamp upright or inverted at top or bottom



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



Overprint double,
one sideways
reading up



Overprint
double



h/s double in pair with
normal,
all h/s violet



Overprint double,
one sideways
reading down



Overprint double, one
inverted. One overprint
offset on back



Overprint double,
both inverted,
h/s inverted

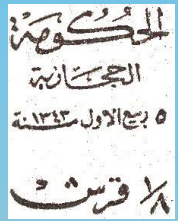


Overprint omitted
on deep rose
shade

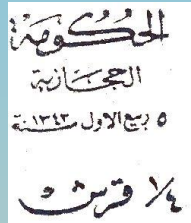
The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line

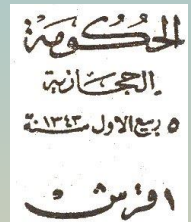
The overprint included the value, and stamps were overprinted in blue, black, or red.



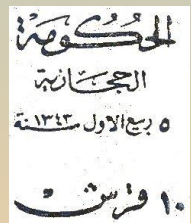
1/8 qirsh



1/4 qirsh



1 qirsh



10 qirsh

Red overprint - upright.



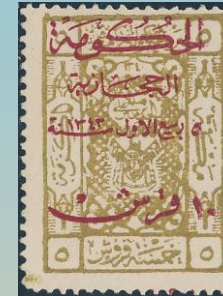
1 on 1 1/2



1 on 2



1 on 3



10 on 5

Red overprint - inverted.



1 on 1 1/2



1 on 2



1 on 3

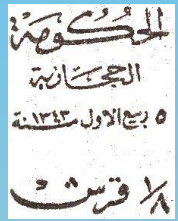


10 on 5

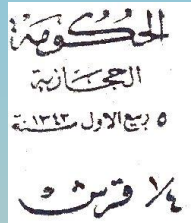
The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line

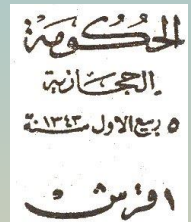
Blue overprint - upright.



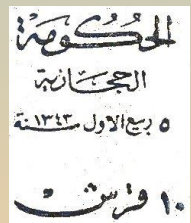
1/8 qirsh



1/4 qirsh



1 qirsh



10 qirsh



1/8 on 1/2



1/4 on 1/2



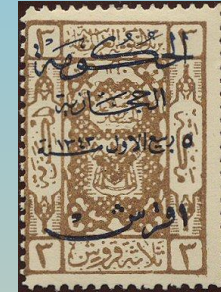
1 on 1/2



1 on 1 1/2



1 on 2



1 on 3



10 on 5

Blue overprint - inverted.



1/8 on 1/2



1/4 on 1/2



1 on 1/2



1 on 1 1/2



1 on 2



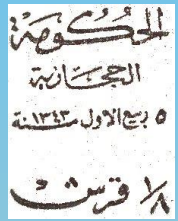
1 on 3



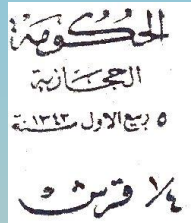
10 on 5

The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

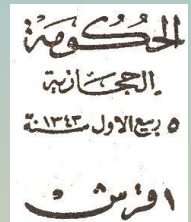
4-line



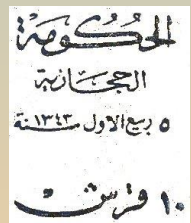
1/8 qirsh



1/4 qirsh



1 qirsh



10 qirsh

Black overprint - upright.



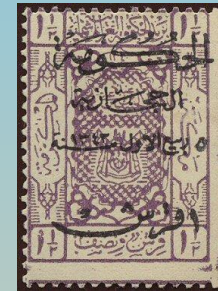
1/8 on 1/2



1/4 on 1/2



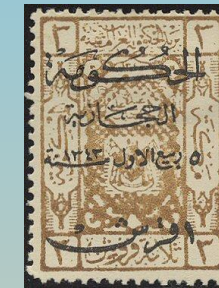
1 on 1/2



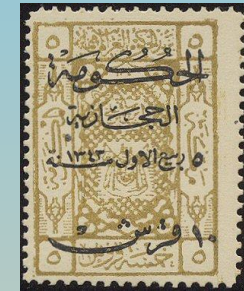
1 on 1 1/2



1 on 2



1 on 3



10 on 5

Black overprint - inverted.



1/8 on 1/2



1/4 on 1/2



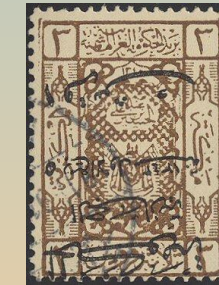
1 on 1/2



1 on 1 1/2



1 on 2



1 on 3



10 on 5

The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line Black overprint in use

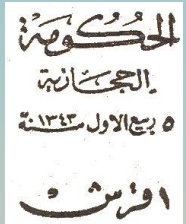


Newspaper wrapper with two 1/8 qirsh. DJEDDA 27-7-1343 (21 February 1925)

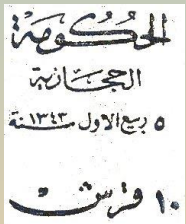
The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

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.



1 qirsh



10 qirsh



Position 2
10 qirsh

Position 3
10 qirsh



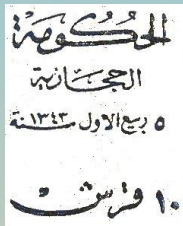
Position 1 – 10 qirsh

Position 7 – 1 qirsh

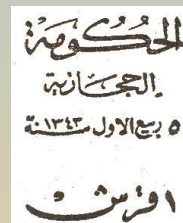
The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line – 10 qirsh errors

However, there also existed a state of the 10 qirsh overprint plate where alternate rows were inscribed 1 qirsh. This error was also corrected, and to provide correct details about the 10 qirsh overprint on a stamp, both the stamp and overprint must be plated so that the plate used can be determined.



10 qirsh



1 qirsh



Positions 15 & 16 – 10 qirsh

Positions 21 & 22 – 1 qirsh

The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line – 10 qirsh errors

An example of a complete sheet is shown here with the value of the rows indicated.



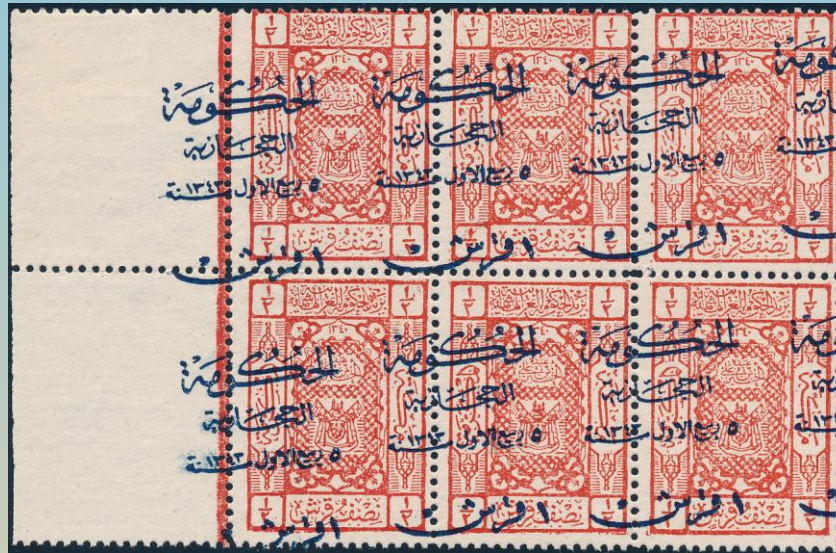
The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line – Errors and varieties

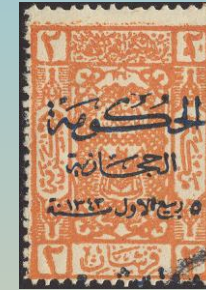
Errors are misplaced or double overprints.



Overprint misplaced,
value at centre



Overprint misplaced and diagonal.



Overprint misplaced,
value not visible.
(Can be placed to
position 5, 1 qirsh)



Overprint double



The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line – Catalogue opportunity

The 3-line overprint with ¼ qirsh handstamp surcharge 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.



4-line
Scott L143
SG 173

Retail approximately GBP 2



3-line with handstamp
SG 155r

International auction > GBP 2000



The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

4-line – Water damage

The 3-line overprint with ¼ qirsh handstamp surcharge 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.



3-line with handstamp
SG 155r

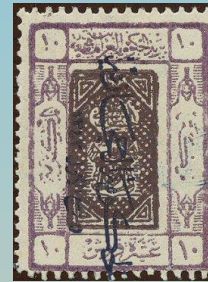
International auction > GBP 2000

The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

2-line overprint



Overprint
reading down



Overprint
reading up

The plate for the 2-line overprint was designed for the stamps printed by Survey of Egypt. The stamps were a different size to the Arms stamps and the plate comprised 50 clichés. Because of the mismatch between stamp and overprint layout, any genuine overprint is unlikely to be well centred. Both the $\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh and the 10 qirsh can be found with the overprint, in blue, reading either up or down.

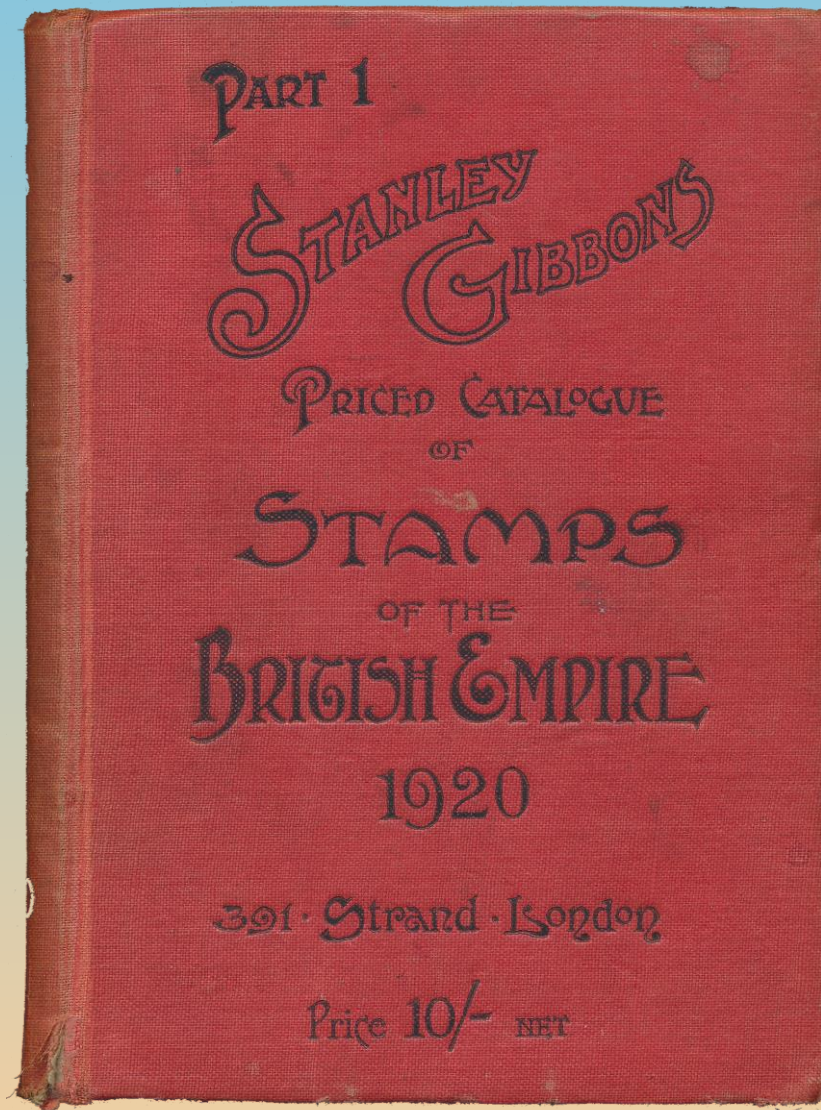
The Siege of Jeddah – Overprinted Stamps

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



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.

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.

Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries



Part 1 - Postage and Revenue Stamps (2025)

(Including Hejaz stamps overprinted for use in Transjordan)

Arabian Philatelic Association International
Edited by Martin C. Lovegrove

Forgeries

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

Hibbert sale lot 771, 10 – 11 March 1987



Forged inverted Transjordan 1924 (Sept – Nov) overprint on forged Hejaz ¼ qirsh (note missing perfs visible)

George Asch sale lot 813, 27 June 1995



Forged inverted Transjordan 1924 (March - May) overprint on forged Hejaz 1 qirsh (note missing perfs visible)

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.



Genuine Hejaz



Hejaz forgery



Transjordan overprint
on Hejaz forgery

All position 31

Forgeries

Bogus item.

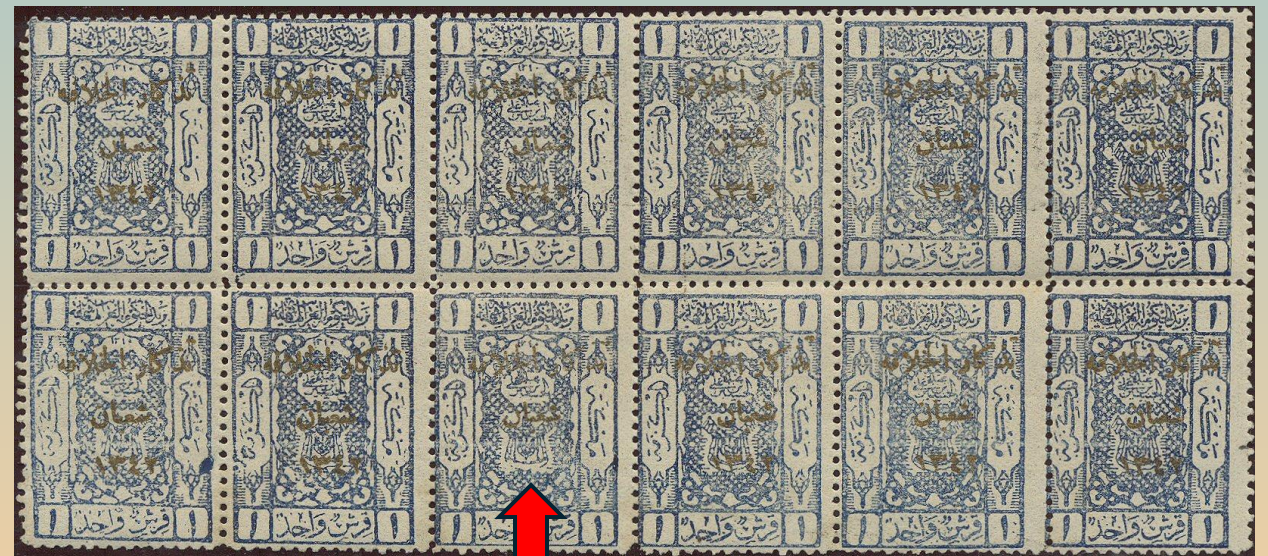


Genuine stamps

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

The missing year in position 9 of the block does not exist in the genuine Caliphate overprint.

We know that the overprint is a forgery because the 1 qirsh stamps below are all forgeries.



Forged stamps

Forgeries

Or are they?



Forged Hejaz stamp.
The overprint is
therefore a forgery.



Position 13



Position 2



Position 25

Genuine Hejaz stamps but overprint does not match any of the known genuine Transjordan plates. 10 qirsh with black overprint is not mentioned by Darlow or Ledger. Why does this overprint appear on the 1 qirsh? Are they forgeries? I think they should be described as '**Status uncertain**'.

Forgery

Or is it?



Short 'reh'



Example 1



Example 2



Long 'reh'

Both of the above stamps 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.

Forgeries

The Laser Printer problem



Second 3-line overprint
added to a genuine
stamp.



Inverted overprint
by laser printer.

Laser printed forgeries always look accurate, but the black ink may be too black and even. Look under a 30x magnifier to see if there are any ink spots.



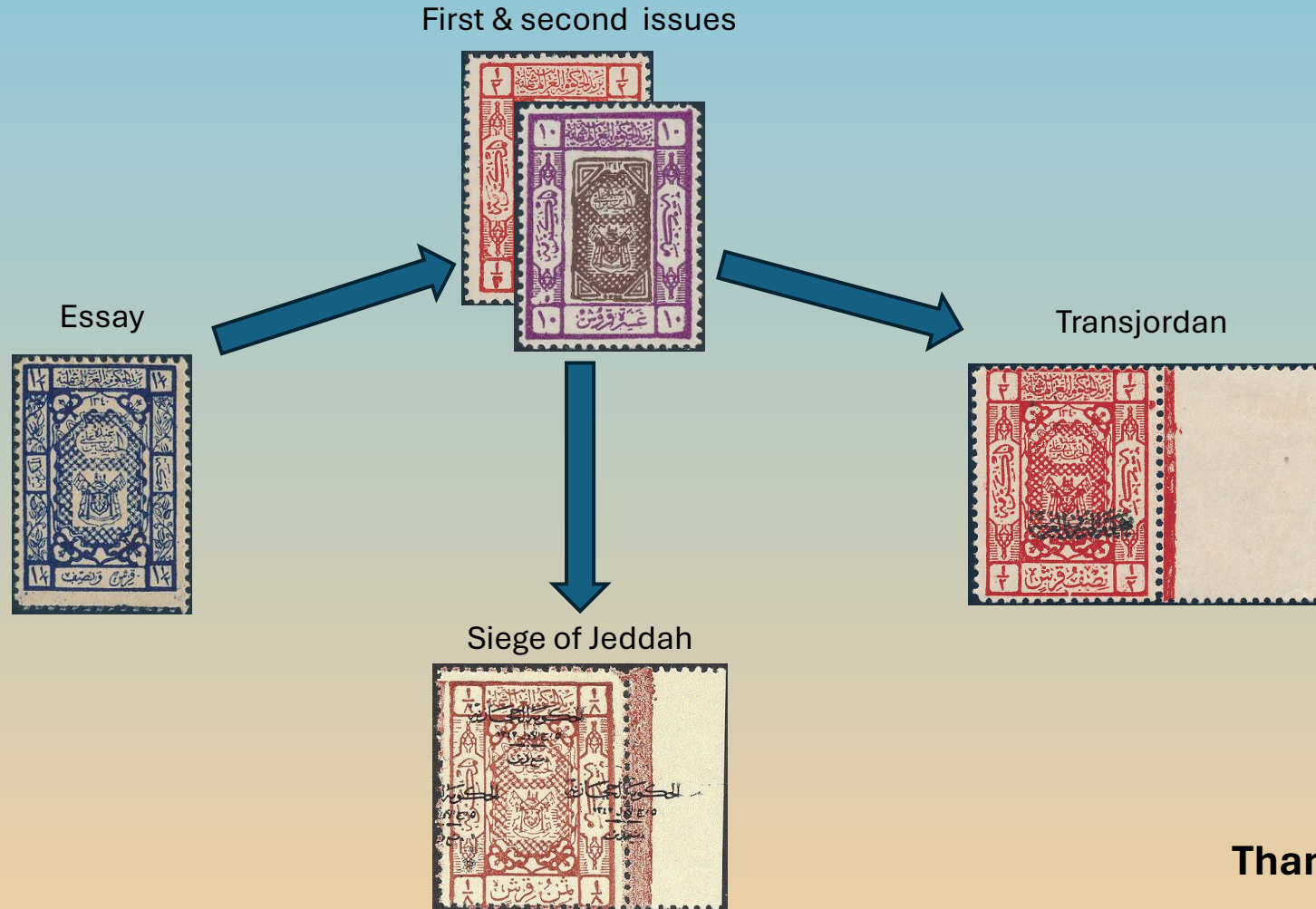
Relief printed



Laser printed

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.



Thank you for watching...