

Hejaz and The Survey of Egypt

The design and production of the first postage stamps for the Hejaz in 1916 was performed by the Survey of Egypt and the Government Press in Cairo, Egypt. It is documented that T.E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) was involved in the process and is reported to have suggested some designs and the gum to be used, but he acted mainly in a liaison role.

The production of postage stamps proved to be a challenge to the Survey of Egypt whose main activities were related to producing maps. The process used for the first issues was photo-zincography. Perforating the stamps to a high standard was a particular challenge and as a result, two perforating gauges and roulette 20 were used before using zig-zag roulette 13 for the bulk of the printing.

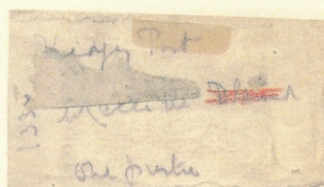
All of the issued stamps and proofs relating to the first issue were printed in sheets of fifty stamps.

This exhibit shows a selection of items that illustrate the the involvement of the Survey of Egypt in producing the first Hejaz stamps in 1916, and later the final stamps for the Hejaz government during siege in Jeddah in 1925. **Items of note are surrounded by a red frame.**

The design process of the first Hejaz postage stamps from essay to final design is described and illustrated in the book 'A SHORT NOTE on the DESIGN and ISSUE of POSTAGE STAMPS prepared by the SURVEY of EGYPT for HIS HIGHNESS HUSSEIN Emir & Sherif of Mecca & KING of the HEJAZ'.

So good was the quality of illustrations in this book that many of the 'essays' seen in collections today have been removed from the book and are not genuine prints.

The stamp below is an essay, annotated number 2 in manuscript, and is one of the final selection of designs (figure 23 in the book):



Hejaz Post

Mecca the Blessed

One piastre

1334

Manuscript on reverse and transcript

In October 1924, King Hussein abandoned Mecca, and the State Printing Works, in the face of the invasion by Abdul Aziz Al Saud and fled to Jeddah. They had only a limited stock of postage stamps and the requirement for new stamps became evident early in 1925. Warin and others record that '*No promise of an early delivery being forthcoming from the Survey of Egypt, the order was placed with Messrs. Mourafatti, of Cairo*'.

The involvement of the Survey of Egypt in the design of the 1925 stamps **is not mentioned** in any of the usual reference books. The **only published works** are articles based on the **personal research by the exhibitor** and printed in Random Notes, the journal of the Arabian Philatelic Association International (APAI). The items in this part of the exhibit are scarce, and numbers of stamps appearing on the market are in **single figures**. The composite item on page 6 is **considered to be unique**.

Bibliography and references:

A Short Note on the Design..., Survey of Egypt, Cairo
Gold medal exhibit, Stampex 2003 - Hejaz: The First Issues, Willie King
Catalogues by Mayo, Scott, Stanley Gibbons, Wilson.
The Postal Issues of Hejaz, Jeddah and Nejd, D. F. Warin
APAI Random Notes numbers 8,13,37,40,42,87,92

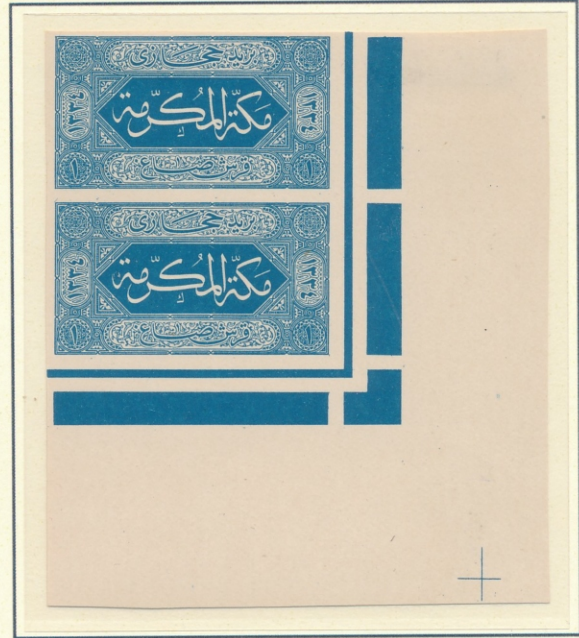
Proofs and Colour Trials

Thick White Ungummed Paper

Postage



1 piastre colour trial
Four sheets printed



1 piastre in issued colour
Six sheets printed



1 piastre in Chinese blue (unissued), roulette 20
Four sheets printed

Postage Due



2 piastres in issued colour
Four sheets printed

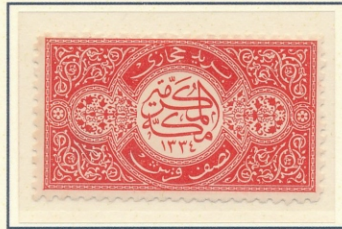
The First Issue

Printing started in August 1916 but the stamps appear not to have been placed in use until October of that year, starting with the 1 piastre.

Line Perforated 12



¼ piastre



½ piastre



1 piastre

Line Perforated 10



½ piastre



1 piastre

Line Perforated 10 x 12



1 piastre

(BPA certificate)

The Arabian Philatelic Association is aware of only **three** 1 piastre stamps having a perforation of 10 x 12; all three have BPA certificates.

The stamps come from part of the third printing made on 24th October 1916.

Main Definitive Issue December 1916 - 1921

The perforating machines proved incapable of giving consistent results and a decision was made to use a roulette for the main printings. Roulette 20 suffered from poor separation qualities but zig-zag roulette 13 proved to be the best that could be achieved.

Roulette 20



1/8 piastre



1/4 piastre



1/2 piastre



1 piastre

Zig-zag Roulette 13



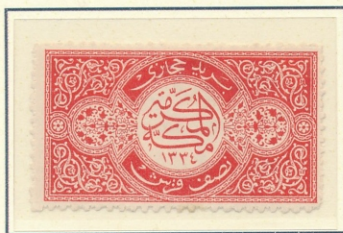
1 para



1/8 piastre



1/4 piastre



1/2 piastre



1 piastre



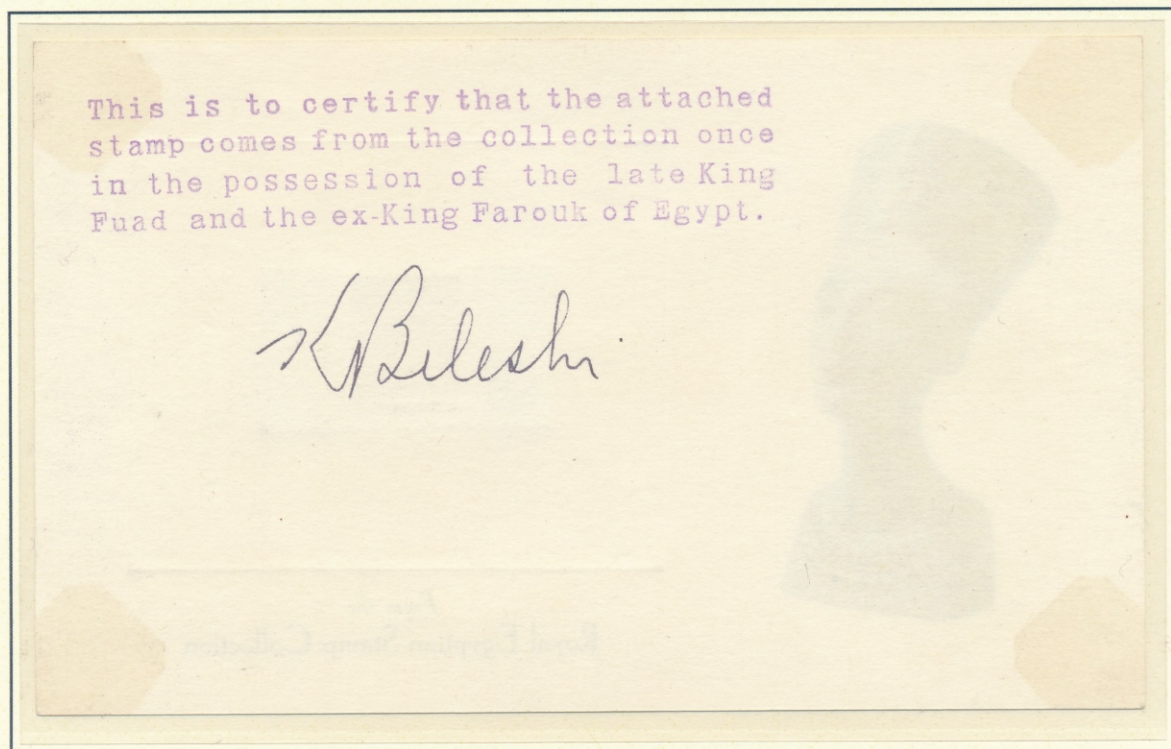
2 piastres

Special Printing on Thick White Card

One sheet of each of the set of six postage and three postage due stamps were printed in blue on thick white paper (0.009 inches) and presented to King Farouk of Egypt and notable personages of the period.



Items from the Royal Egyptian Stamp Collection were endorsed on the reverse.



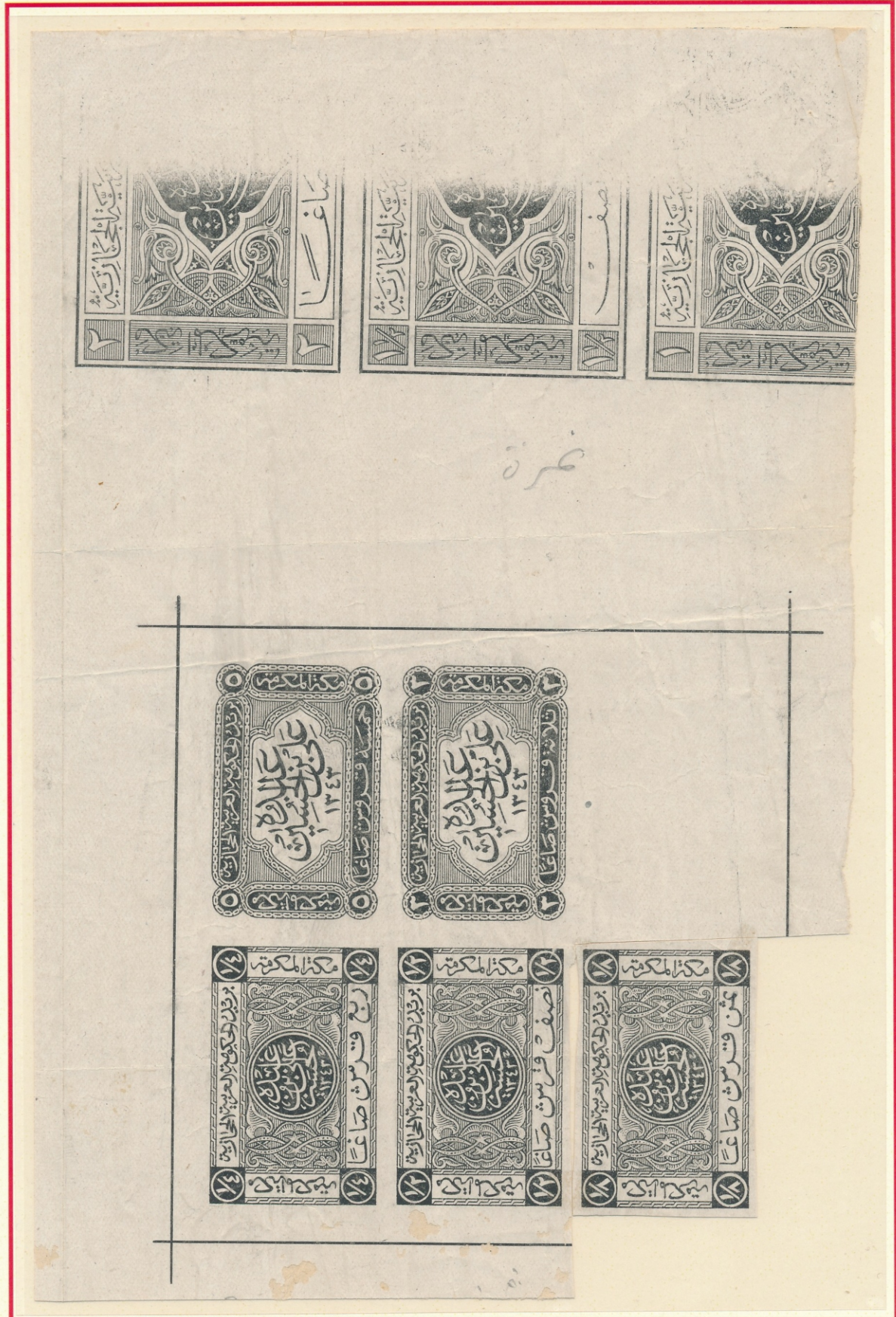
The connection with the Survey of Egypt was broken when, in 1922, the Hejaz designed and printed their own postage stamps.

Hejaz and The Survey of Egypt

King Ali and The Siege of Jeddah

In October 1924, the Hejaz government had lost control of Mecca and the State Printing Works, and fled to Jeddah. They later requested that The Survey of Egypt design and produce postage stamps for them.

Imperforate Essays



Imperforate Essays - Large Size

2 piastres



1½ piastres



1 piastre



The above stamps were originally a se-tenant vertical strip of three. The strip was sold by an Egyptian stamp dealer following the auction of Survey of Egypt archives, but he separated the stamps for re-sale after the original buyer failed to pay for them.

Perforated Essays

Printed on ungummed normal thickness paper (0.0035 inches), and perforated 11½

2 piastres



1½ piastres

1 piastre

This was intended to be the final design for the 1, 1½ and 2 piastres, but minor changes were made to the scrolls in the main design, and the side panels of the 1½ piastres had the background shading removed.

The above stamps were originally a se-tenant vertical strip of three. The strip was sold by an Egyptian stamp dealer following the auction of Survey of Egypt archives, but he separated the stamps for re-sale after the original buyer failed to pay for them.

Imperforate Essays Printed on Thin Glassine Paper

Final design as issued

Postage



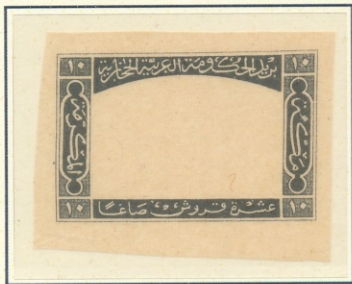
1/4 piastre



3 piastres



5 piastres



Frame for 10 piastres



2, 1 1/2, 1 piastres



Centre for 10 piastres

Postage Due



1/2 piastre



1 piastre



2 piastres



3 piastres

Having completed the design process, Survey of Egypt were unable to meet the delivery date requested by the Hejaz government and the contract for printing the stamps was awarded to Messrs. Mourafatti, Cairo. The Hejaz government fell when the siege of Jeddah ended in December 1925.