

Recent Auctions

(My highlights)

1. David Feldman, December 7th 2025
2. Stanley Gibbons Baldwin's, February 10th 2026

February 21, 2026

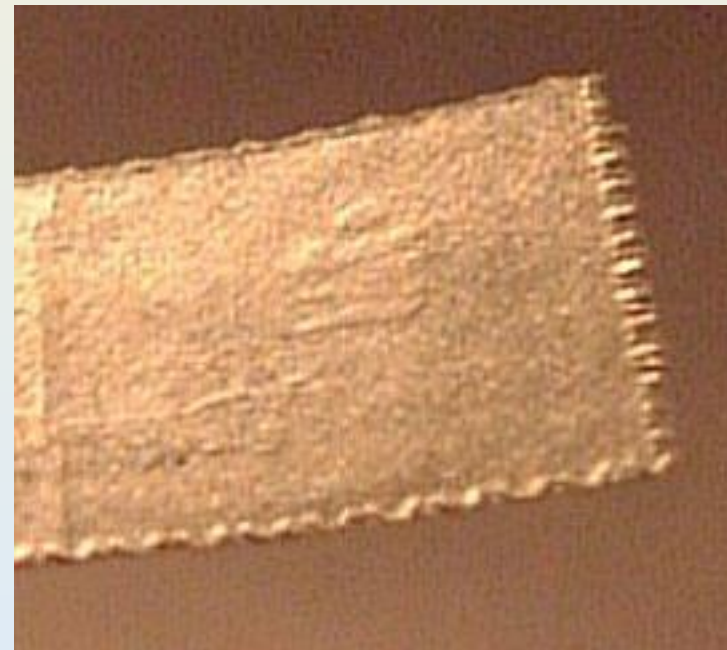
Martin Lovegrove

David Feldman, December 7th 2025

This auction was of special interest to me in that one of the lots, 41391, contained a lot of Hejaz material, including many Caliphate overprints of considerable interest.

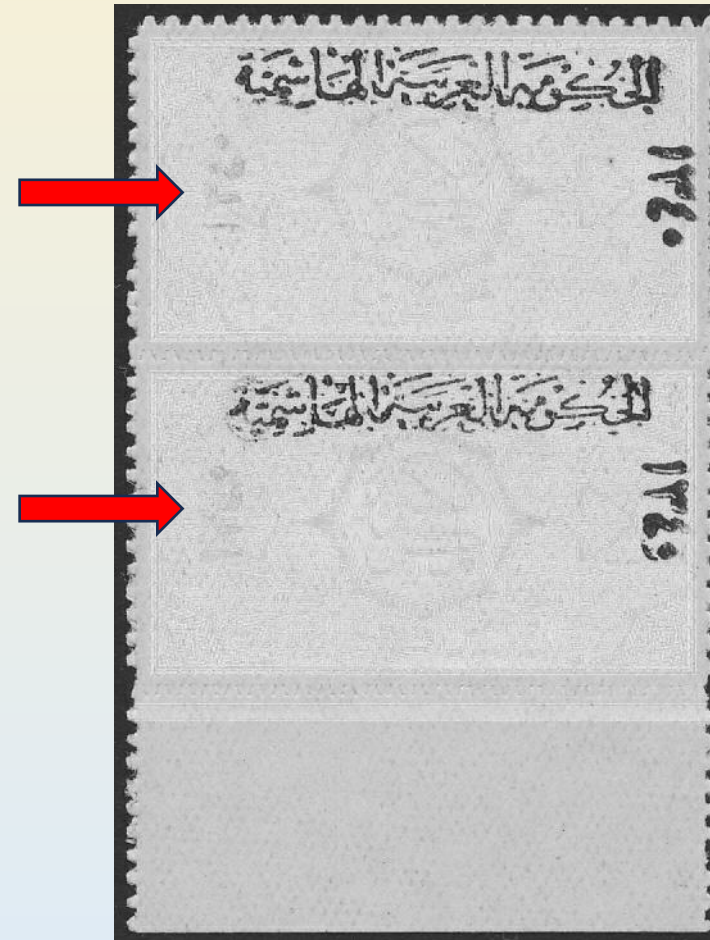
But first for our amusement are two Survey of Egypt items with the unframed overprint having one year omitted.

There was a copy of the 1 para showing no trace of a year at right, but the reverse was like an item shown in Random Notes #69 (illustration at right below). There was a clear raised impression of the year on the gummed side. It could be that a piece of paper had been used to prevent the ink being applied to the stamp.



David Feldman, December 7th 2025

Next is a vertical pair of the ¼ qirsh, both having the year at left omitted. By filtering out the basic colour of the stamp, there is a faint impression of the year. Beware, these forgeries are not rare.



David Feldman, December 7th 2025

One interesting Caliphate item is this strip of six from plate positions 13 to 18. This overprint normally has gold dust sprinkled on the black overprint before the ink has dried. In this case the gold is missing.

The Stanley Gibbons catalogue has a footnote:

Most overprints apparently in black are the result of the gold having rubbed off, but some black proofs do exist.



I am not sure that proofs do exist. I have seen several sheets of the black overprint and also some top marginal copies; all show staple marks where the sheets were assembled into books for distribution to post offices.

In addition, I have not seen any copies that have been subject to physical rubbing.

David Feldman, December 7th 2025

The strip of six from plate positions 13 to 18 has a missing character in the top line in positions 14 and 17, an error widely reported. Unrecorded, as far as I know, is the variety in position 14 of the Arabic *noon* having 3 dots.

This 3-dots variety also occurs in the same position of the Caliphate overprint with a narrow top line.



Stamp and overprint
positions 13 - 18



3 dots
(error)



1 dot
(normal)

David Feldman, December 7th 2025

This block of 6 has the original overprint with a narrow top line but in black. This very rare stamp had been recorded in gold in Random Notes #82.27. The block had the original backing paper adhering to the stamps; it had served well as a reinforcing agent maintaining the integrity of the perforations.



David Feldman, December 7th 2025

Another item in the lot was this strip of 6 from the top row of the sheet. The block shown on the previous slide was also from the top of the sheet, showing that at least two sheets were produced with the narrow top line in black. It is possible that all the sheets in the post office book were similar; where are they now?



David Feldman, December 7th 2025

This block has a complete row of the wide overprint showing the varieties 'missing character in top line' and 'noon with 3 dots' as seen on the 2 qirsh orange shown on an earlier slide . This block also has backing paper preserving the perforations.



Stanley Gibbons Baldwin's, February 10th 2026

This auction contained several of the unsold lots of Willie King's collection. My interest was in lot 2521 which comprised a variety of Sherifian Arms stamps.

There were some interesting singles and a few complete sheets, invaluable for plating. I had already inspected these stamps at Willie's house, although briefly, and was not expecting any surprises. I was wrong!

One stamp mixed up in a large group of singles was this one:



This is another example of the 1½ qirsh overprinted with a Caliphate having a narrow top line in black.

Unlike the previous examples shown in this display, this had paper unaffected by adverse storage conditions. The gum shows only minor damage from slight adhesion with the backing paper, and apart from the damaged corner, is an excellent example of the narrow top line black Caliphate. It is from position 36 and therefore has the overprint variety 'inverted 1 in year'.

This presentation will be published on the APAI website. If answers to members' questions are received, they will be added to the relevant page.

The website URL is shown on page 2 of Random Notes