

Transjordan

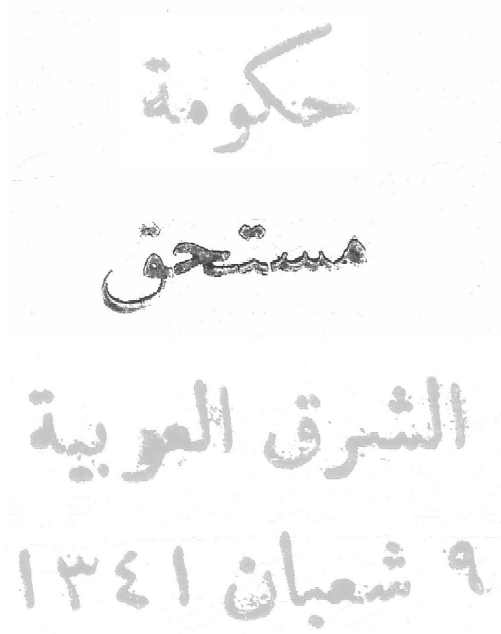
1923 (September) Postage Due Overprint on stamps of the Hejaz

By: Martin Lovegrove

For readers expecting a simple listing from what starts out to be a simple overprint of one word in Arabic, you will be disappointed. It has taken quite a lot of unravelling and even Darlow¹ could not provide the full story. In view of the complexity of these postage dues, this work will have to remain 'work in progress' for some time yet.

I will break this postage due series into five parts and, as usual, forgeries exist.

1. Typographed overprint (12mm long) of مستحق on Hejaz stamps having the three-line overprint.



Overview

This overprint, *مستحق* (*mustahiq*), was applied to the 1, 1½, and 2p Hejaz Mecca Arms stamps. Only one plate was used for this overprint.

At least with this issue there are genuine covers to give us confidence that this was not a bogus issue although the stamps were mainly used for postage and not to collect underpayment.

The stamps are listed by Scott⁷ (J3 - J5) and Gibbons³ (D113 - D115). This issue is also listed or mentioned in Darlow¹, Darlow², Ledger⁴, Najjar⁵, Robson Lowe⁶, Souan⁸, and Whitfield King⁹. Scott, however, gets the methods of application wrong.

It is quite common for this overprint to show signs of 'ink squash' caused by the pressure exerted by the typographic process. Ink is forced from the centre of lines to the edges.



Ink squash
(on مستحق error)

Plate details

Plate size	36 clichés (6 x 6)
Plate construction	Moveable type, each cliché approximately 12 mm in length
Different settings	No
Forgeries	Yes

Significant errors and flaws

These errors and flaws relate only to those found on the postage due overprint; those found on the three-line overprint are covered in the document describing the April 1923 issue.

Plate Position	Description
2	Two characters transposed, مستحق instead of مستحق.
5	Dropped ق, illustrated by Najjar ³ on 2p.
1 - 18	Missing character, مستق instead of مستحق. Noted by Ledger ³ and Najjar ⁴ as being on the 2p.
31	Inverted overprint as sole example in otherwise normal sheet of 2p. Noted by Najjar ⁵ and illustrated by Darlow ² .



Pair from positions 1 (normal) and 2 (transposed characters)

Various catalogues list many printing varieties:

- Inverted
- Double
- Double, one inverted
- Double, both inverted
- Double, one diagonal
- Treble
- Overprint omitted in pair with normal.

When these are combined with the flaws and errors of the three-line overprint, we have a large number of stamps, and a complete listing of genuine combinations will be difficult to achieve.

Examples



Overprint double

Overprint double,
both inverted (right)



Overprint double,
one diagonal



Overprint inverted,
one with transposed
characters

2. Typographed overprint (12mm long) of مستحق on Hejaz stamps having the three-line overprint and ½ p surcharge.



Overview

This overprint is the same as type 1 but applied to the 3p brown Hejaz Mecca Arms stamp with ½p surcharge. The overprint details remain the same as for the previous type but is included here as a new section in order to keep the various types of overprints used for the ½p on 3p separated from those without surcharge.

The surcharge can appear at the top, centre or middle of the stamp.

The stamp is listed by Scott⁷ (J2) and Gibbons³ (D112). This issue is also listed or mentioned in Darlow¹, Ledger⁴, Najjar⁵, Robson Lowe⁶, Souan⁸, and Whitfield King⁹. Scott, however, gets the methods of application wrong.

Examples



Normal,
surcharge at top



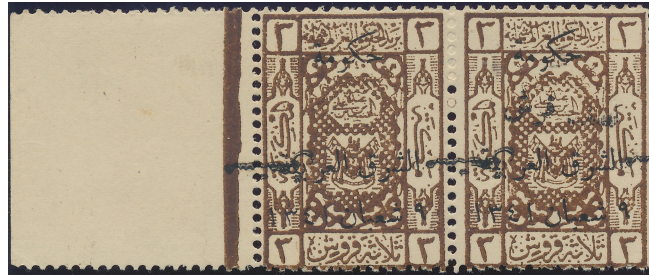
Normal (position 1) in pair with transposed characters (position 2)



Inverted overprint, surcharge at centre



Overprint double



Overprint inverted and shifted horizontally, stamp at left without surcharge, stamp at right with surcharge at centre

3. Four-line handstamp without surcharge.

حكومة
مستحق
الشرق العربية
١٣٤١

Overview

This handstamp was an attempt to combine the three-line overprint with the separate '*mustahiq*' overprint, which in this case is only approximately 10 mm. in length. It was normally used on the 3p brown with ½p surcharge (see next section) but illustrated in Najjar⁵ as an inverted handstamp on a 2p orange.

The stamp is not mentioned in references apart from Najjar⁵ on stamps without an additional surcharge .

I have yet to see any references to the use of this stamp on cover.

Example



2p with inverted handstamp

(Reproduced with the kind permission of Abed H. Najjar)

4. Four-line handstamp with ½ p surcharge handstamped applied separately.



Overview

This is the same handstamp as the previous four-line but use in conjunction with an additional ½p handstamp. As before, the Arabic '*mustahiq*' is approximately 10 mm. in length.

The surcharge can appear at the top, centre or middle of the stamp, and being a handstamp can exist inverted, double and probably other varieties exist. The separate application of the surcharge is confirmed by examining blocks of these stamps where it can be seen that the relative position of the surcharge to the four-line varies considerably.

The stamp is listed by Scott⁷ (J1) and Gibbons³ (D116). This issue is also listed or mentioned in Darlow¹, Ledger⁴, Najjar⁵, Robson Lowe⁶, Souan⁸. Scott, however, gets the methods of application wrong. It is not listed by Whitfield King⁹.

At least one used example exists on a small fragment. I have yet to see any references to the use of this stamp on cover.

Errors

In addition to the normal upright impression, the handstamp is known inverted and double. It exists on stamps with the ½p surcharge omitted and in combination with surcharge varieties.



Surcharge omitted



Normal in pair with handstamp double



Surcharge double in pair with normal



All handstamps inverted

5. Five-line handstamp.

مصنف فرشى
حكومة
مستحق
السرقة العربية
٩ شعبان ١٣٤١

Overview

This appears to be the four-line handstamp described previously with the surcharge added at the top, but it may be that the four-line handstamp is this one with the surcharge removed. It was used only on the 3p brown.

The Arabic '*mustahiq*' is approximately 10 mm.

The only error seen at the time of writing is the handstamp applied double.

The stamp appears to be unlisted in all major works. I have yet to see any references to the use of this stamp on cover.

Examples



Block with top-right stamp having the handstamp applied double.

The quality of the print of this handstamp is variable. The example on the previous page is quite rough, but better quality examples exist as seen at right.



References

1. Darlow, Major J. J., Trans-Jordan A Straightforward Collection. London Philatelist Volume 41, numbers 485 & 487 (May & July 1932).
2. Darlow, Major J. J., Little-Known Rarities of Transjordan, Stamp Review April, 1939.
3. Gibbons, Stanley, Stamp Catalogue Middle East, ISBN 9781911304265.
4. Ledger, R.T., M.B.E., Philatelic History of Jordan 1922 - 1953.
5. Najjar, A. H., The Stamps of Jordan 1920 - 1965, ISBN 9780953259106.
6. Robson Lowe Ltd., The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Volume III, The Empire in Asia.
7. Scott, 2021 Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue Volume 4 - J-M.
8. Souan, K. C. R., Philatelic History of Jordan, various editions.
9. Whitfield King & Co., The Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the World Part I, 1948 & 1949 editions.