

## 1923 (October) 3-line Handstamp.



### Overview

This handstamp was used solely on ½p Hejaz stamps. Two basic types have been identified but the actual number of handstamp devices actually used is not known; it could be one or more.

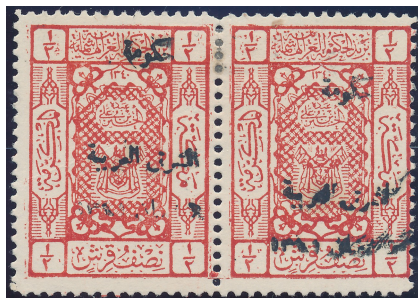
The main difference between the types is that the space between the month and year in the bottom line is greater in type 1, making the bottom line about 1mm longer and protruding more to the left of line 2 than in type 2. The date looks remarkably similar to the postage due stamps of October 1923.

The device appears to have been constructed from moveable type or stereotypes derived from moveable type. The quality of most impressions seen is poor causing it to be impossible to be specific about the number of devices used or even if a large plate was produced. Examples exist of stamps having the rows in slightly different relative positions to each other, suggesting that either the type was not firmly fixed or that rows were moved during cleaning. This means that trying to identify the type by using the relative positions of the rows may not be effective. More blocks of this issue are required in order to resolve some of the unknown details.

Scott<sup>6</sup> mentions the types in a footnote to 103. Gibbons<sup>2</sup> list type 1 as 112 and type 2 as 113. This issue is also listed in Najjar<sup>3</sup>, Souan<sup>7</sup>, Robson Lowe<sup>5</sup>, and Darlow<sup>1</sup>.

## Stamps

A pair of type 1 and a single of type 2 are shown below. The pair clearly shows the use of a handstamp rather than a printing plate.



Type 1



Type 2

Najjar<sup>3</sup> also illustrates an inverted overprint and a double; see below. (Reproduced with the kind permission of Abed H. Najjar)



1 Overprint double on the typographed overprint.

2 Overprint inverted on the handstamped overprint.

## Stamp status

There are plenty of used stamps with genuine postmarks and Najjar<sup>4</sup> illustrates a cover with a strip of three type 1 stamps, so we can be confident that this is a genuine issue.

## References

1. Darlow, Major J. J., Trans-Jordan A Straightforward Collection. London Philatelist Volume 41, numbers 485 & 487 (May & July 1932).
2. Gibbons, Stanley, Stamp Catalogue Middle East, ISBN 9781911304265.
3. Najjar, A. H., The Stamps of Jordan 1920 - 1965, ISBN 9780953259106.
4. Najjar, A. H., The Postal History of Jordan 1400 - 1959, ISBN 9781903022092.
5. Robson Lowe Ltd., The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Volume III, The Empire in Asia.
6. Scott, 2021 Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue Volume 4 - J-M.
7. Souan, K. C. R., Philatelic History of Jordan 1920 - 1970.