

## 1924 (January) Single line Overprint.



### Overview

Stamps with this overprint, reading *Arab Government of the East*, were shortlived as they were withdrawn for additional overprinting for the visit of King Hussein.

The stamps are listed by Scott<sup>6</sup> (½p value only), Gibbons<sup>2</sup>, Robson Lowe<sup>5</sup> (includes two shades of the 1p) and Whitfield King<sup>8</sup>.

Najjar<sup>3</sup> describes the issue and illustrates a block of six ½p.

Darlow<sup>1</sup> managed just two sentences on this issue and it is interesting to note that his illustration of the overprint is that of the variant type from position 5.

Souan<sup>7</sup> mentions this issue and his illustration is the same as Darlow's; no doubt copied.

## Plate details

Plate size	Probably 36 clichés (6 x 6)
Plate construction	Probably stereotype
Cliché variations	Yes
Different settings	Not seen
Forgeries	Yes

Stereotypes are made by producing a master of the intended text, either by carving wood or metal or by building the text from individual pieces of type, and moulding a matrix, or mat, of papier-mâché or similar material to it; the dried mat is used as a mould to cast the stereotype from hot metal.

Individual impressions of this overprint are usually unclear making plating impossible.



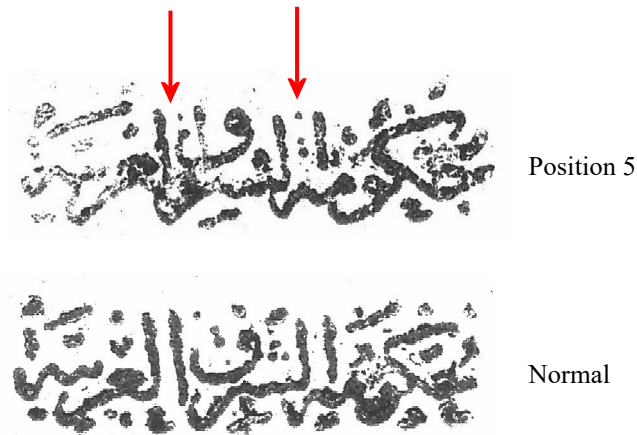
## Cliché variations

Position 5 varies considerably from the norm, so much so that it could even be mistaken for a forgery. The illustration below indicates just two of the main differences. Najjar<sup>3</sup> illustrates a genuine block of 4 of the King Hussein visit issue from positions 5,6,11 and 12; the block clearly shows the wide gap between *alef* and *lam* in *الشرق* (*al sharq*) in position 5 and the normal, smaller, gap in the other positions.

A complete sheet has not been seen and it is not known if any other positions have a similar variation although current observations suggest that position 5 is unique. The situation is not helped by the many instances where the plate has been grossly under or over inked making identification impossible.

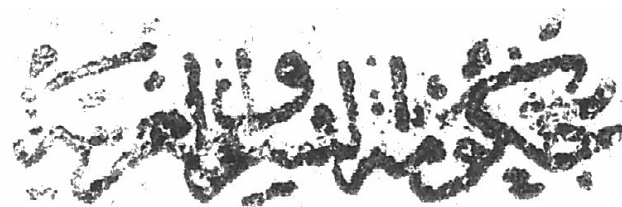
It is not known if the stamps were ever issued with a normal overprint in position 5.

Tail of *qaf* almost touches *lam*      Wide gap between *alef* and *lam*

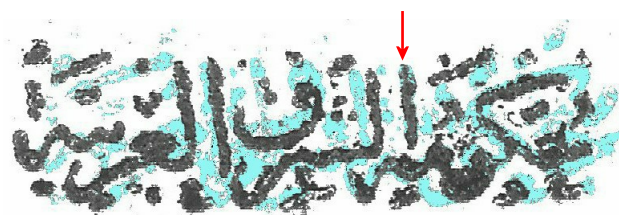


Najjar<sup>3</sup> block. Positions 5,6,11,and 12.

At right are illustrations of the position 5 replacement cliché and a normal cliché (in black) overlaid on position 5 (in cyan). The images on the overlay are aligned on the position indicated by the red arrow and it can be seen that very little else coincides. Whether position 5 was repaired (not very well) or a new cliché manufactured is not known.



Position 5 replacement cliché



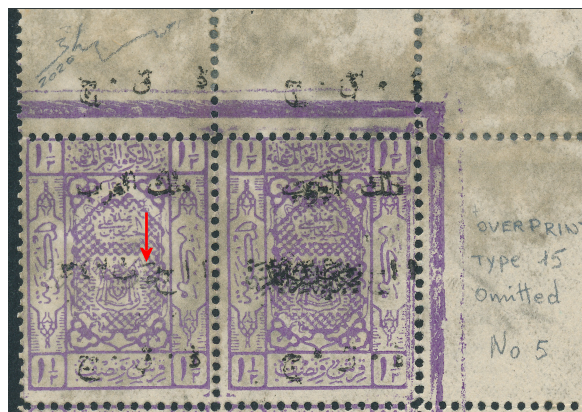
Normal cliché, shown in black, positioned over replacement position 5

### Positions of variant overprint

Most of the sheet has been checked, but generally only small blocks, strips and single stamps were used. There is the possibility that false results could have been obtained if the overprint plate was not correctly aligned with the stamps. Only position 5 has so far been observed as a variant. Position 22 is on a cover in Najjar<sup>4</sup> and appears to be normal, but confirmation is required.

### Stamps

Only the ½, 1 and 1½p were issued with this overprint. The 2p was prepared but only used for the King Hussein visit issue. The 1p and 1½p are scarce.



Position 5 with part missing overprint

### Stamp errors

Gibbons<sup>2</sup> list the ½p with inverted overprint and the 1½p in a pair, one without overprint. I have seen the former only as a forgery and the latter only with a part missing overprint and used for the King Hussein visit issue. Traces of the overprint are indicated above by the red arrow.

Souan<sup>7</sup> suggests that it was the 2p that received an inverted overprint.

Illustrations are required of genuine items.

An illustration of a normal cliché in position 5, preferably a corner pair or block, is required.

## **Stamp status**

There are plenty of used stamps with genuine postmarks and Najjar<sup>4</sup> illustrates covers with the ½p 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.
8. Whitfield King & Co., The Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the World Part I, 1948 & 1949 editions.