

Transjordan

1924 (Sep-Nov) 3-line overprint on stamps of the Hejaz

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حكومة الشرق
العربي
١٣٤٢

Overview

This overprint was applied to Hejaz Mecca Arms stamps having the values $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2, 3, 5 and 10p, the 3p being the red-brown version and the $\frac{1}{2}$ p appearing in both the scarlet and rose (referred to in several places as marone) shades. Forgeries of several of these values are known to exist.

Most plate positions can be plated according to features displayed by the individual pieces of type, but the type wore, became damaged or was replaced, and those facts combined by difference of appearance caused by the amount of ink applied to the plate and the amount of pressure used during the printing process, can make accurate plating a very difficult task. Similarly, the basic Hejaz stamps can be plated, but they also suffered wear and damage and several sheets of each value are required in order to achieve even moderate success.

Najjar² reports doubt as to whether the $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 10p values were ever officially released for use. A philatelic cover has been seen with the remaining values of the set and it is likely that more such covers exist.

This document describes only the genuine overprints used; forgeries are the subject of a separate document.

Plate details

Plate size	36 clichés (6 x 6)
Plate construction	Moveable type
Different settings	Yes
Forgeries	Yes

The technique of using moveable type to construct the overprint plates not only allows type to be replaced when worn or damaged, but also gives the possibility of individual characters, complete words or lines, moving horizontally. In the pages that follow, images of the various settings are shown, but these must be taken as a guide only. There could be many variations of the horizontal positioning of words in each setting, but the distance between rows of words should not vary from the initial state of the plate.



Right: An example of typesetting in Arabic

Settings

Five settings have been recorded, but in the light of the discovery of many forgeries, these settings have to be reviewed. In addition, there is another setting used to produce the 10p with black overprint; the status of this is currently unknown. The first five settings are as reported by Souan⁴ and Najjar²; Darlow¹ and Robson Lowe³ reported things slightly differently.

1st setting: Thick type. Used on 1/8p, 1p and 5p.

2nd setting: Bottom three rows inverted. Used on 1/4p.

3rd setting: Thin, well defined type. Used on 1/2p, 1 1/2p, 2p and 3p.

4th setting: Thick type, similar to 1st setting. Used on 10p.

5th setting: Reported to have been used on 5p and showing smaller type.

6th setting: Used on 10p black. (Status unknown)

Details of the last two settings have yet to be recorded.

Significant errors and flaws on 1st setting

Souan⁴ and Najjar² list many flaws and others have been reported, but perhaps the most important are:

Plate Position	Description
4,6,18,22	Inverted 1 in 1342 (Not constant). Only position 6 listed in the reference works.
5	Short top to the Arabic letter ك (<i>kaf</i>)
7	جكرمة (<i>jakramat</i>) instead of حكومة (<i>hukumat</i>)
24	جكومة (<i>jukumat</i>) instead of حكومة (<i>hukumat</i>)
31	١٢٤٢ for ١٣٤٢ (1242 for 1342)

Notes

Two sheets have been seen where the overprint in position 6 is normal but the inverted 1 in 1342 appears in position 22 on one sheet and positions 4 and 22 on the other. A single 1p stamp from position 18 has been seen with this flaw. Although the inverted number one moved around the plate, the other flaws mentioned above remained constant.

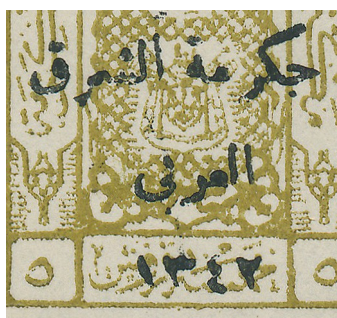
Setting 2 was based on this plate and the method used to convert setting 1 would enable setting 2 to be modified and become setting 1 again. With all of this movement of rows of type, it is no wonder that flaw position did not always remain constant.



Position 4
Inverted 1 in 1342



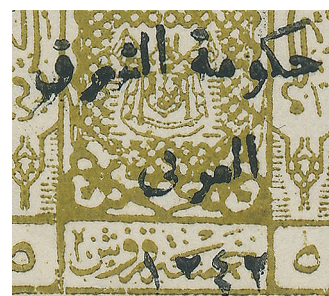
Position 5
Short top to *kaf*



Position 7
jakramat instead of *hukumat*



Position 24
jukumat instead of *hukumat*



Position 31
1242 for 1342

2nd Setting

Thick type. Used on ¼p.

This appears to be setting 1 with each of the bottom three rows individually inverted to match the inverted stamps. The numbers coloured red and in brackets are the plate positions in setting 1 from which this setting was derived.

حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ (1)	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ (2)	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ (3)	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ (4)	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ (5)	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ (6)
حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ (7)	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ (8)	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ (9)	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ (10)	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ (11)	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ (12)
(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)
حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ ٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (24)	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ ٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (23)	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ ٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (22)	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ ٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (21)	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ ٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (20)	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢ ٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (19)
٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (30)	٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (31)	٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (32)	٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (33)	٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (34)	٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (35)
٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (36)	٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (35)	٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (34)	٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (33)	٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (32)	٥٣٥١ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ ١٣٤٢ (31)

With this setting there is the problem of deciding which is the top of the plate. To maintain the relationship between this setting and setting 1, the plate has been aligned with the 'jakramat' instead of 'hukumat' error in position 7.

Significant errors and flaws on 2nd setting

Souan⁴ and Najjar² list many flaws and others have been reported, but perhaps the most important are:

Plate Position	Description
7	جكرمة (<i>jakramat</i>) instead of حكومة (<i>hukumat</i>)
6,16,18,22	Inverted 1 in 1342 (Not constant)
17	Short top to the Arabic letter ك (<i>kaf</i>)
24	جكومة (<i>jukumat</i>) instead of حكومة (<i>hukumat</i>)
31	١٢٤٢ for ١٣٤٢ (1242 for 1342)

Notes

The plate positions above are those shown in red on the previous page and is probably the best way of showing the relationship between settings 1 and 2.

As with the first setting, variations occur. 'Inverted 1 in 1342' has occurred in position 6, and position 18 having a normal overprint has also been seen.

As with setting 1, it is only the inverted 1 in 1342 that is not constant.



Position 6
Inverted 1 in 1342



Position 7
jakramat instead of *hukumat*



Position 17
Short top to *kaf*



Position 24
jukumat instead of *hukumat*



Position 31
1242 for 1342

3rd Setting

Initially the type was thin and well defined, but later became worn and resembled the other settings. Used on ½, 1½, 2, and 3p.

حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢
حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢
حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢
حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٣	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢
حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢
حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢

Initial version of plate showing thin type.

Significant errors and flaws on 3rd setting

As with other settings, there are many flaws, but perhaps the most important are:

Plate Position	Description
5	Short top to the Arabic letter ك <i>kaf</i> (Late state; early shows slightly broken)
8	Short top to the Arabic letter ك <i>kaf</i>
13,26	جكومة (<i>jukumat</i>) instead of حكومة (<i>hukumat</i>)
18	Dropped 2 in 1342
20	١٣٤٣ for ١٣٤٢ (1343 for 1342)

Notes

Position 21 has a top stroke to *kaf* slightly longer than position 8 but still short of the length displayed in all of the other positions.

The relative horizontal alignment of the three rows within a single cliché is not constant, suggesting that the plates were dismantled for cleaning or storage.



Position 5
Broken top to *kaf*



Position 5
Short top to *kaf*



Position 8
Short top to *kaf*



Position 13
jukumat instead of *hukumat*



Position 18
Dropped 2 in 1342



Position 26
jukumat instead of *hukumat*



Position 31
1342 for 1343

Variation of type thickness

This can be shown to be caused by wear rather than by use of replacement type. In the example below are two vertical pairs both positions 20 and 26; both pairs show the 1343 for 1342 error in position 20 and the *jukumat* for *hukumat* error in position 26. The pair in scarlet is from an early printing with well defined type and the pair in rose is a later print showing worn type.

It would appear that from the many copies seen, the printing in rose always showed worn type whereas both states of overprint can be found amongst the scarlet stamps.



4th Setting

Thick type. Used on 10p.

This appears to be setting 1 with the row spacing changed to suit the double-pane printing of the 10p. Close inspection reveals that the horizontal positions of the lines has changed in relation to each other and in some cases the word spacing has changed. As an example, position 31 which has the 1242 error, has the words on the top line closer together than on setting 1.



Significant errors and flaws on 4th setting

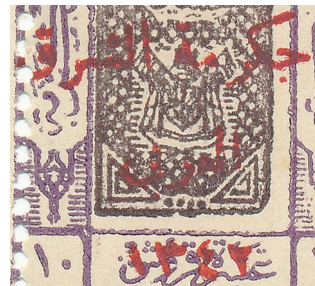
Souan⁴ does not list the flaws for this setting but simply states that it is similar to setting 1. The most important are:

Plate Position	Description
6,22	Inverted 1 in 1342
7	جكرمة (<i>jakramat</i>) instead of حكومة (<i>hukumat</i>)
24	جكومة (<i>jukumat</i>) instead of حكومة (<i>hukumat</i>)
31	١٢٤٢ for ١٣٤٢ (1242 for 1342)

Separating the overprint on this plate seems to be impossible; a quick attempt to reproduce the plate is on the previous page with examples from a normal plate below.



Position 6
Inverted 1 in 1342



Position 7
jakramat instead of *hukumat*



Position 24
jukumat instead of *hukumat*



Position 31
1242 for 1342

Stamps

The basic stamps are shown below. In addition, extra horizontal and vertical perforations have been recorded. Inverted overprints on the 1/8, 1/4, 1 and 3p, although not all may be genuine. Najjar² illustrated a 1/8p with inverted overprint; the stamp is from position 7 so the overprint should be from position 30. It does not plate with my setting 1 sheets, but because the type appears to have been moved quite a lot during its life, I cannot comment on its status.



Rose

Scarlet



The normal plate arrangement of the stamps was 6x6 but the ¼p had the bottom three rows inverted relative to the top three and the 10p had a gutter between the top three rows and the bottom three. These arrangements gave rise to two special blocks.



Tête-bêche pairs



Gutter pairs



Najjar² ¼sp with inverted overprint

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

Items to research

10p overprint in black.

This is believed to be a forgery and as such it is listed in the document relating to forgeries of the 1924 (Sep-Nov) overprint. The main feature is that the Arabic characters at the end of the first line (رق) appear to be joined. A block of four is illustrated in Najjar² and shows this feature well.



Single overprint



Double overprint

Left: Najjar² block
(Reproduced with the kind permission of Abed H. Najjar)

Hejaz printer's waste?

- 1 5p olive on ochre fiscal without value and ½p, both inverted. 5p and overprint are position 23 and the ½p is position 19.
- 2 5p olive on ochre fiscal without value, overprint double, imperforate pair. Main stamp and overprints are positions 28 and 29.
- 3 Partial overprint caused by paper fold. The stamp is from position 10.



1



2



3

References

1. Darlow, Major J. J., Trans-Jordan A Straightforward Collection. London Philatelist Volume 41, numbers 485 & 487 (May & July 1932).
2. Najjar, A. H., The Stamps of Jordan 1920 - 1965, ISBN 9780953259106.
3. Robson Lowe Ltd., The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Volume III, The Empire in Asia.
4. Souan, K. C. R., Philatelic History of Jordan 1920 - 1970.