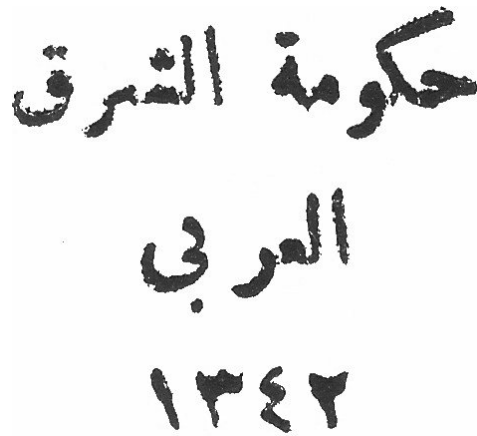


Transjordan

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

By: Martin Lovegrove



حكومة الشرق
العربي
١٣٤٢

Genuine overprint

Overview

The genuine 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.

The overprint plates used for the genuine 1924 (Sep-Nov) issue were constructed from moveable type and as such there existed opportunities for type replacement, movement and damage. There is evidence to show that the alignment of the words about the vertical axis can not only vary between individual clichés, but can vary between different states of a cliché. Therefore, 'floating' a scanned image of a genuine stamp over one being checked, can only be used as one tool in a toolbox and not as a definitive check for genuineness.

Some forgeries of this issue are common, others rare; they may be applied to genuine Hejaz stamps or forgeries. A collector of Transjordan overprints on Hejaz stamps would be extremely wise to study the Hejaz Mecca Arms stamps in detail.

The forgery type numbers are mine and have not been based on any other published work; a definitive forgeries manual for Transjordan stamps is required.

Forgery type 1

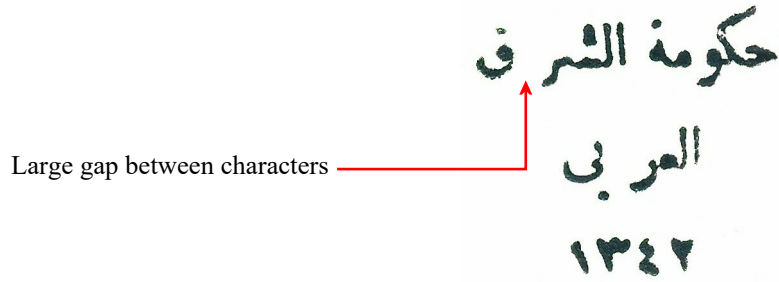


Plate size	18 clichés (6 x 3)
Plate construction	Moveable type, possibly used to produce one or more stereotypes from which the final plate was constructed.
Different settings	Not known.

This forgery is that most likely to be found on the forged Hejaz stamps. A very similar overprint appears on genuine Hejaz stamps and it is possible that the differences can be attributed to plate wear.

This is a realistic forgery closely resembling the thin type of the genuine setting 3 and in particular, position 1 of that setting. In this forgery, on each cliché, there is a large gap between 'reh' and 'qaf' on the top line although some genuine positions share this feature. As with the genuine overprint, there are several broken and malformed characters on this plate.

حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢
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Examples of type 1 overprint on forged Hejaz stamps

The fake Hejaz stamps usually seen with this type of overprint are the 1/8, 1/4, 1, 3 red, and 10p values printed from 36-cliché plates although fake 12 cliché plates are known of the 1/8 and 3p red-brown stamps. The colours of these stamps can vary greatly from the genuine and the 1/8 and 1/4p values show a range of colours.



Inverted overprint



Stamp printed from 12-cliché plate.
Note dot after value at upper left (Plate position 9)

Notes

It is thought that the inverted overprint on the 1/4p exists only as a forgery.

It has been observed that when the stamp is held at an angle to the light, the black ink of the overprint appears shiny, but that may be a function of the paper. An example of this forgery printed on a forged stamp from a twelve cliché plate and possibly on different paper, does not display shiny ink.

Version 1

Examples of type 1 overprint on genuine Hejaz stamps

These do not appear to be as common as the overprint on fake Hejaz stamps.

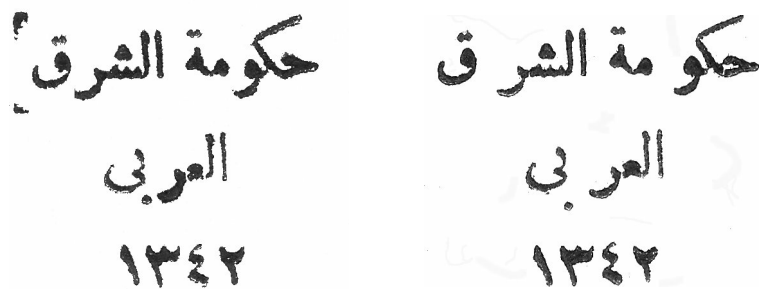


This stamp is from position 10 and the overprint is from position 10 of the forgery type 1 sheet.



This stamp is from position 35 and the overprint is from position 17 of the forgery type 1 sheet. Note the dots of 'teh marbuta' in the top line are missing.

Forgery type 2



Two examples of forgery

Plate size	Not known
Plate construction	Moveable type
Different settings	Not known.

This overprint uses a different form of the Arabic letter 'reh' than that used on the genuine plate. The style of letter was used on earlier overprint plates.

This forgery is almost correct and may not be easily identified. Because moveable type was used, overprint sizes will vary.

It is assumed to be a forgery because they have been found on forged Hejaz stamps.



Forgery 'reh'



Genuine 'reh'

Examples of type 2 overprint

Only six examples of this forgery have been recorded, four on genuine Hejaz stamps (three different face values) and two on forgeries. There are undoubtedly many examples in existence but probably mistaken for genuine stamps.



Genuine stamps

Forgery stamps

حكومة الشرق

العربي

١٣٤٢

Plate size	30 clichés (6 x 5)
Plate construction	Produced photographically for litho printing.
Different settings	Unlikely.

This forgery is easy to detect in that the design of the underlying stamp is not accurate; perhaps appalling would be a better word to use.

The overprint plate was constructed using 30 identical images.

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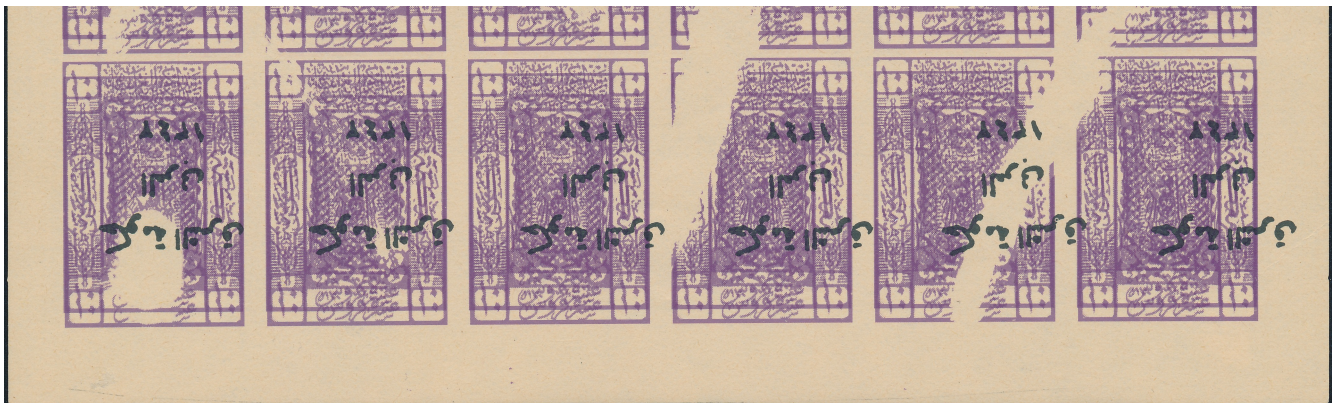
حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢	حكومة الشرق العربي ١٣٤٢
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Examples of type 3 overprint on bogus Hejaz stamps

The producer of this overprint really made a meal of it. As can be seen from some examples below, not only are the design details and colours incorrect, but there are also upright, inverted, and sideways overprints, perforated and imperforate stamps, double stamp print, and overprints applied to defaced plates. The standard of these stamps does not warrant a detailed list.



حكومة الشرق
العربي
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Overprint cropped at right, resulting in 'hah' of hukumat being omitted. This error occurs on the entire leftmost column of the sheet.



Forgery type 4

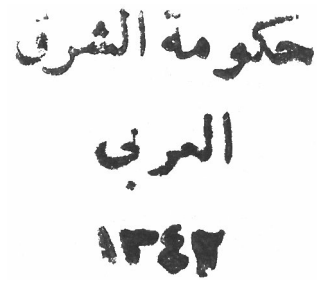
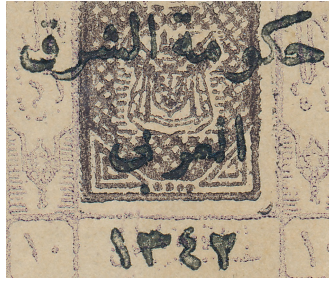
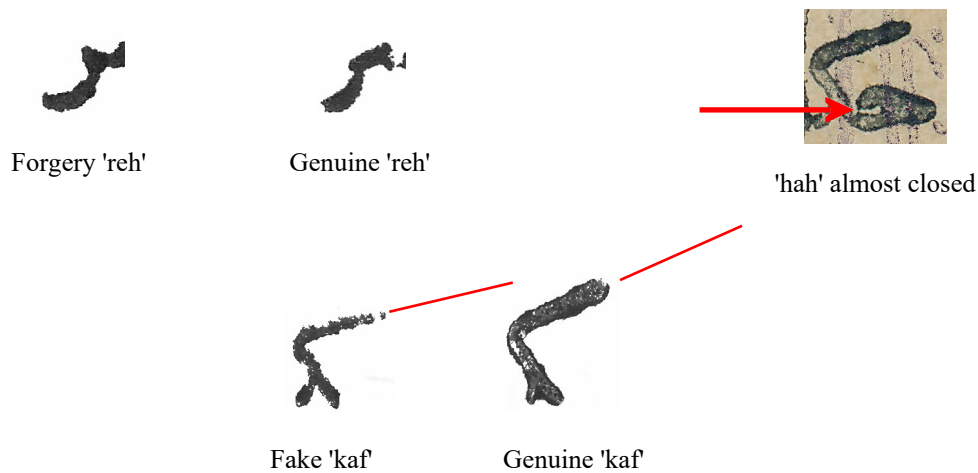


Plate size	Not known
Plate construction	Moveable type
Different settings	Not known.

This overprint is similar to forgery type 2 and uses a different form of the Arabic letter 'reh' than that used on the genuine plate. This style of letter 'reh' was used on earlier overprint plates.

This forgery is almost correct and may not be easily identified. Because moveable type was used, overprint sizes will vary. There are slight differences between the typeface used on this forgery and that used for type 2. The characters are thicker and less clearly defined. Note that on the top line, 'reh' touches, or almost touches, 'qaf', and the 'mouth' of the Arabic 'hah' is almost closed. In addition, 'kaf' is not as tall as the genuine and the top sloping bar is nearer to horizontal than the genuine.



Examples of type 4 overprint

This type of forgery has been seen on the 1p, 3p brown and 10p genuine stamps with either a single or double overprint in black. The 3p brown does not exist in genuine form.



Overprint double

Two examples of the 3p are illustrated above to show that differences between examples of this type can exist; one has heavy numerals in 1342 and the other shows numerals similar to genuine stamps.

And Finally...

Generally these forgeries are not much of a financial problem because the genuine stamps are cheap. An exception to this is the 1/4p with inverted overprint which can be priced at around \$100, some time a lot less which can make them attractive.

Provenance is generally not a word associated with these issues, but it should be noted that examples have existed in 'named' auctions. The reader is better off studying these stamps and developing their own expertise.