

HEJAZ



Counterstamp of Al-Hejaz

HEJAZ, KINGDOM OF
MEDINA-MECCA Counterstamp

1/10 IMAD I/4 18MM .833 FINE 3.0 GRAMS

▲OV: Counterstamped = Al-Hejaz on
(1918) AH 1337 YEMEN Y-5

POPULATION: Hejaz Province - c.1914 - 300,000
including Mecca with 80,000 inhabitants.

FOOTNOTE: The coinage of the Al-Hejaz, as for all of Saudi Arabia at the time, was the Austrian trade dollar - Maria Theresia thaler. For small coinage various Turkish coins were counterstamped incused with the arabic *Al-Hejaz*. The author during nearly thirty years of reading coin lists and catalogs and viewing thousands of small silver coins at coin shows has only seen the one illustrated from his collection which has a *Scott Semans*, pedigree.

FOOTNOTE: Mecca, capital of the Turkish Province of Hejaz in Arabia, birthplace of Mohammed and the central and most Holy city of all Islam. An aqueduct built by Zubaidah (810), wife of Harun Al-Rashid, brings good water from the mountains to the east. By its position, Mecca commands the trade routes connecting lower Hejaz with North, South, and Central Arabia, and it has at all times been a commercial and religious center. The streets are somewhat regular, but unpaved; dusty in summer, and muddy during the rainy season. The houses are often five stories high...The only manufacture of Mecca are rosaries and pottery,...The inhabitants make their living chiefly by letting rooms at the time of the pilgrimage to the pilgrims who come here often to the number of 100,000. The largest number of these pilgrims are Malays and Indians; then comes Negroes, Persians, Turks, Egyptians, Syrians, Tartars, and Chinese. *New International Encyclopedia, 1910.*

FOOTNOTE: Hejaz - In June of 1916 Hussin-Ibn-Ali, Grand Sherif of Mecca, proclaimed himself King, and revolted from Turkey. Turkish troops were hurried south, forces destined for another invasion of Egypt being diverted to this new theatre of War. The Meccan forces constituted a friendly army on the right of the British Expeditionary Force in Palestine, and Sir E.H.Allenby, Commander-in-Chief, aided Hussein with armored cars and airplanes. When Allenby, on his advance northward, crossed the Jordan and raided Amnon on the Hejaz Railroad, Emir Faisal (Hussein's son and an army commander) seized the opportunity to advance on El Kerak, which he captured April 7, 1918. The Australian Flying Corps was aiding Faisal at this time, bombing the railroad and took trains dispatched by the Turks with reinforcements for their garrisons still holding out at Ma'am and Medina. Finally, with the opening of Allenby's battle of Samaria, September 19, 1918, Hussein's forces seized Deraa and took part in the advance on Damascus, which the Arabian King entered on October 3, 1918. The independence of the Kingdom of the Hejaz has been recognized by the Allies in December, 1916 and it was confirmed in Paris at the Peace Conference in 1919. King Hussein abdicated October 3, 1924, in favor of his son, to be succeeded a year after by Ibn Saud of Nejd as King of Hejaz. Hejaz was united with the Sultanate of Nejd, January 11, 1926, and Hussein was exiled to Cyprus, but five years later he joined his son Emir Abdullah of Transjordan, at Mman. He died June 4, 1931. He was buried in the Mosque of Omar at Jerusalem amid demonstrations of esteem from Mohammedans, Jews and Christians alike.

FOOTNOTE: Hejaz meaning "barrier" is now part of Saudi Arabia and since the oil boom, has very modern and prosperous cities. Jeddah has a population of over 2,000,000 today.



Al-Hejaz upper left on the Red Sea