Counterstamp of Al-Hejaz

HEJAZ, KINGDOM OF
MEDINA-MECCA Counterstamp

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

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 Harum 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.