

XXIV

Postage Due Stamps and Practices

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When postage stamps were introduced in Egypt in 1866 they were not accompanied by postage due stamps. Letters not fully prepaid were struck with a boxed handstamp reading AFFRANCATURA / INSUFFICIENTE and the amount to be collected was marked by either a handstamp (usually) or large cursive figures in black ink. The amount was computed by doubling the correct postage for the item and then subtracting the amount of any stamps applied¹ (Fig. 1). Presumably all postage due markings were applied at the



Fig. 1 An 1866 cover franked 2x10pa. (= half piaster), only half the required amount, and taxed “1½”pi. (= 2x1pi. less ½pi.).

office of origin, if it was Egyptian; if the item arrived from abroad, the amount to be collected was apparently marked at the office of entry (usually Alexandria). This system remained unchanged until the end of the Third Issue.

The UPU adopted a new system for reckoning international postage due, effective April 1st 1879. This was simply to charge double the deficiency; the amount of the deficiency was to be indicated by the country of origin, in gold centimes². For a totally unpaid letter the result was the same as before, but for partly paid letters the effect was a reduction. There was a substantial gain in simplicity as the receiving country did not have to know the various postal rates of the sending country, or even the rate of exchange of its currency. It was, of course, still necessary for the receiving country to mark the letter with the amount due in its own currency.

The 1884 Issue

Eventually Egypt decided to issue specific postage due stamps, presumably for the general reason that accounting would be simplified and petty embezzlement prevented. By this time the UPU system for reckoning postage due had been adopted for the internal mails as well. The preliminary documents and correspondence on the subject are not known, although they may be buried in the archives deposited with the Egyptian Postal Museum. The contract for printing the stamps was awarded to V. Penasson of Alexandria, the firm responsible for printing the Second Issue of ordinary stamps, even though the contract for ordinary stamps was then with Thomas De La Rue & Co.

Printing took place³ in 1883; lithography, with which Penasson was experienced, was chosen. The denominations, 10 and 20 paras, and 1, 2, and 5 piasters, were the same as



Fig. 2 Unfinished die proof (asterisk at top left).

the current ordinary stamps, except for the absence of a 5pa. value. The procedure by which the printing stones were built up can be deduced from surviving material. A die for the 20pa. value was drawn; a die proof (Fig. 2) from a stage just short of completion

survives⁴. It has a prominent asterisk in the top panel, presumably to identify it as unfinished, and various drafting lines remain, all to be removed before the original stone of four subjects was generated from it. A proof print also survives of the dies (drawings) of the numerals of value and the corresponding inscriptions (Fig. 3). Evidently, the

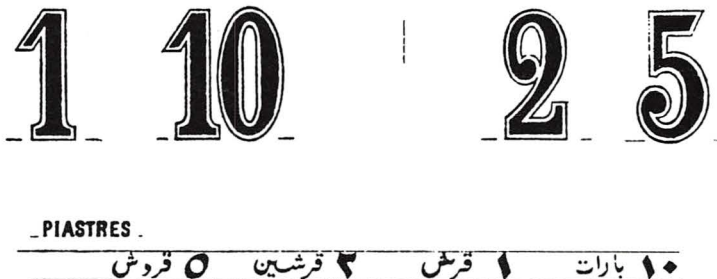


Fig. 3 Die proofs of the numerals and inscriptions (courtesy of V. Andonian).

procedure was to take impressions from the 20pa. die, blocking out the value indications and then replacing them with those of the other denominations⁵. This was done in blocks of four so as to produce five original stones, proofs in black of which survive. The new values were transferred in two operations for the 10pa. and three for the piaster values: numeral; Arabic value; PIASTRE(S).

The procedure resulted in tiny variations in the four subjects in each block in the form of fine details of the relative positioning of the numerals and denomination inscriptions (except for the 20pa.), or of small flaws of impression (breaks in the letters or lines, or specks of color). These are the origin of the four Types of each value⁶ that are described in the Appendix to this chapter.

The five original stones (block reports) were used to make paper transfers which were laid down on a lithographic stone to make a printing surface of 100 subjects. Any block of four thus contains one of each Type. Since the frames with the top and side inscriptions were derived for all values from the die for the 20pa., characteristics of that die can be discerned on every stamp of all denominations. Among these⁶ is a very small downwards bulge from the thin, innermost frameline, below IR of PERCEVOIR (Fig. 4). (The prominence of this feature varies with position in the sheet and on some subjects it is almost unnoticeable.)

Fig. 4
Die characteristic: minute
bulge on the innermost
frameline, below IR.



Paper and Watermark

The paper for printing was supplied to Penasson by the government bursary (or supply office, "Economat"). It was a remainder from the printing of the Second Issue, a very smooth paper well suited to lithography. The postage due stamps also show the same sort of watermark as the Second Issue, a crescent and star with sharp points and sharply defined edges (14mm wide x 11mm high), unlike conventional watermarks. It was evidently not applied by a dandy-roll acting on the freshly laid paper pulp, but at a later stage. This might have been on the damp sheets just after they were lifted from the paper-making blanket, or, as some writers have proposed⁷, even after the stamps had been printed. The device for impressing it would have had to be stronger than a conventional dandy-roll in order to produce the high pressure required for impressing the paper when it was firmer; it may even have been a flat plate. I am inclined to believe that the watermark was applied before printing, in spite of arguments to the contrary, for two reasons. The paper was regarded as security paper by the Economat, which accounted for every sheet (1961 sheets were furnished to Penasson, of which 1650 were used and the excess was required to be returned³). It is unlikely that unwatermarked paper would have been treated with such care. Furthermore, the correspondence with Penasson makes no mention of a dandy-roll or its equivalent, even though the other devices, the dies and printing stones, were required to be delivered to the Postal Administration when the printing order was completed³. The second reason is that the watermark is found impressed from the face side of the stamps as well as from the back, for all values⁶, and neither orientation is rare. It would have been an easy oversight (if indeed it was considered as such) to feed the paper to the press with indiscriminate orientation, but it would be unlikely for the printed sheets to have been fed into a 'watermarking' machine carelessly in face-up or face-down orientation.

The sheets of postage due stamps bear in the margins the same watermarked inscriptions that were used on the Second Issue; the top and bottom marginal watermark includes a value designation: FRANCOBOLLI PIASTRE EGIZIANE 2 (or other denomination). Each side is watermarked AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE V. R. POSTE EGIZIANE. However, the denomination expressed in the watermark does not usually correspond to that of the stamps. I do not know if all watermark denominations exist on the postage due stamps; I suspect not. In addition to the marginal watermark, the top margins of the sheets have a printed inscription in the color of the stamp: 100 CHIFFRES TAXES DE 2 PIASTRES (or other value).

Quantities

A report³ by a representative of the Postal Administration who inspected the Penasson works upon completion of the contract gives the quantities shown in Table 1. These are slightly higher than Penasson intended to invoice because he wanted to withhold a few sheets that had imperfections in the gumming and appearance. However, the inspector decided that the imperfections were not significant and accepted every sheet. The imperfect sheets included some with missing lines of perforation, thus accounting for the imperforate and partly imperforate varieties that are known.

Date	10pa.	20pa.	1pi.	2pi.	5pi.
1883	22,600	22,600	37,600	75,200	7,000
1884 July	19,000	21,100	7,500	62,500	
1884 Dec.	51,800	51,800	71,800	151,800	
Totals:	93,400	95,500	186,900	289,500	7,000

The stamps were printed in a strong, honest, middle-of-the-road red, the same for all values. On a few, seldom seen, copies the impression is not fully inked, especially in the large colored areas of the numerals (these may have been among those that Penasson considered to be defective). They were put into use on January 1st 1884. The Director General of Posts considered whether a 5pa. value might be needed and was informed that although there would be no use for it on internal mail, certain types of letters from abroad were known to arrive requiring such amounts as 15, 25, or 35 paras postage due³. The Director General decided to handle the matter by directing that such amounts be rounded up to 20, 30, or 40pa., etc. Postage due thus became slightly more expensive than before, when any amount due could be marked on the letter with precision.

A supplementary printing was ordered on July 18th 1884 and a further printing was ordered in December⁸. The quantities for the three printings are given in Table 1. It has not been possible to distinguish the three printings; color control was apparently very accurate. The printing stones were unchanged, having been kept under sealed wrapping by the Postal Administration between printings.

The stamps were distributed to the territorial post offices in the Sudan⁹ as well as domestic offices. Cancellations of Souakin, Massawah, Wadi Halfa, Dongola, and Korti are known; all are rare, those of Souakin and Wadi Halfa being the least so.

Proofs

The apparently unique proofs of the unfinished 20-para die and the value indicia have been mentioned. In addition, there are proofs in black on plain paper or carton of the finished stamps. Most, if not all, of them are proofs from the original stone and were printed as blocks of four on small sheets of paper with large margins. The singles, which are not rare, probably came from such proof blocks. Proofs on plain paper were sent to the Director General along with the printing stones, according to the report³ of the inspector, Mr. Giordano, but he did not state whether these were plate proofs of 100, original-stone proofs in blocks of four, or singles, nor did he state the quantity or color.

These proofs are easy subjects for the forger and it appears that photographic reproductions have been marketed as genuine proofs. They would be difficult to detect without a detailed technical comparison of the paper and ink, except for the fact that control of the size of the prints has not been precise. Comparison with the issued stamps by overlapping is the simplest way to detect discrepancies in dimension. Other forgeries also exist; these are described further on in connection with forgeries of the stamps as issued, collectively for the 1884, 1886, and 1888 issues.

Proofs in colors are described in connection with the 1888 issue, for which they served as essays.

A mysterious proof of the 5pi., in black, exists with very wide margins and cannot have come from a sheet or proof of the original stone; it has guide lines at upper and lower left and at upper right¹⁰. It appears to be genuine, for it shows the characteristic of the genuine die, but its status is enigmatic.

The 1886 Issue

When an additional order was required in 1886, the Economat no longer had a sufficient supply of security paper and paper had to be obtained on the open market¹¹. To give this paper a sort of official status, each sheet was struck with the circular cachet of the Secretariat of the Postal Administration in blue in the left margin (Fig. 5). An order for

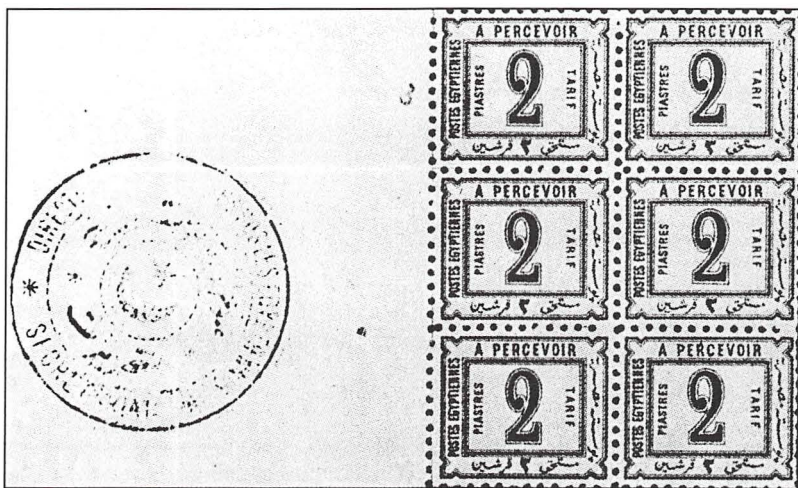


Fig. 5 A block of the 1886 2 piaster showing marginal handstamp.

stamps was sent to Penasson in May and it was filled in two deliveries (Table 2). Neither the 10pa. value nor the 5pi. was ordered. In November a further requisition was placed, this time including the 10pa. The order was completed on November 25th and the official confirmation was dated December 6th.

Date	10pa.	20pa.	1pi.	2pi.
1886 May 6	—	10,000	30,000	80,000
May 25	—	10,800	30,500	80,900
Nov. 23	40,000	40,000	70,000	150,000
Totals:	40,000	60,800	130,500	310,900

The absence of the 5pi. from these printings was a consequence of the large quantity remaining from the 1884 issue. This value had seen an average use of only 50 copies per month¹¹ throughout Egypt and the supply on hand was estimated to be sufficient to last into 1892.

Besides being on unwatermarked paper, the 1886 stamps were in a new shade, an orange-red according to the Gibbons Colour Guide, notwithstanding the Stanley Gibbons catalog description as “rose-red”. The impression was not quite as sharp as the 1884 printings, a result that may be attributed to the new paper, the new ink, or deterioration of the printing stones. The same stones were used as before and the stamps can be plated to the same positions by means of the many minute flaws⁶.

The major catalogs give August 1st 1886 as the date of issue, but the basis for that date is questionable. The Postal Administration did not regard the 1886 printings as a separate issue and supplies must have been available well in advance of August 1st. Furthermore, the new stamps were probably commingled with the watermarked ones. The 10pa. value was most certainly not issued on August 1st, for it had not yet even been printed. It could not have been issued until December at the earliest and may not have seen actual use until 1887.

The 1886 20pa. is the most valuable of the 1884–86 issues even though the quantities printed do not suggest it. There were two unused blocks of four in the Palace Collections, and Mehanny Eid⁷, writing in 1966, knew of only one other block. There could not have been a significant quantity of this stamp in the remainders sold in 1888 (see ahead), but the scarcity of the stamp in used condition is harder to understand. In contrast, the 1884 5pi. which was issued in a far smaller quantity, is not exceptionally scarce unused, but is very difficult to find used (only ca. 3100 copies appear to have been used over the four years of its currency). Dr. W. Byam considered the 1884 2pi. to be a rarity in blocks of four and noted¹² that blocks of neither this or the 1886 20pa. were shown at the 1946 international exhibition in Cairo.

By the time the 1886 postage due stamps were issued the only territorial offices in operation were Souakin and Wadi Halfa. Their cancellations on postage due stamps are rare, considerably more so than on the contemporary ordinary stamps.

Sale of Remainders

The conversion from paras to milliemes as the smallest unit of currency that took place in Egypt in 1888 required new postage due stamps, and at the same time the inscriptions for all values were revised, with a different color adopted for each denomination. As a consequence, the remaining stock of the red stamps became obsolete and the entire

quantity was offered for sale the same year⁷. The stock was officially described as consisting of 4800 – 10pa., 270 – 20pa., 9390 – 1pi., 13,920 – 2pi., and 3900 – 5pi. No differentiation was made between watermarked and unwatermarked stamps, but Eid presumed that the stock was mostly unwatermarked (except, of course, the 5pi.). This sale probably accounts for the majority of the unused stamps available to philatelists. The remainders were sold uncanceled, but some were apparently cancelled to order using resurrected obsolete (and in some instances defective) date-stamps of Alexandria.

The 1888 Issue

A new set of five values was put into use on January 1st 1888. They were printed by V. Penasson as before and were in the same design except for changes in the inscriptions. The old 10-para value was replaced by one of 2m., and the 20pa. by one of 5m. The piaster values were altered as well, the word TARIF at the right being replaced by PIASTRE(S) (Fig. 5). These changes entailed the creation of a new die that was replicated in the same manner as before to produce printing stones of 100 subjects. The original stone of four subjects for each value gave rise to four Types, as before, but their characteristics were new¹³ (see the Appendix to this chapter).

Generation of the new dies began with proofs of the outgoing piaster-value stamps taken from the original stones plus blocks of the 2m. and 5m. with a subsequently rejected Arabic inscription. These were printed (in blocks of four) on a single sheet of paper containing all denominations, in several colors (yellow, green, red, grey). The grey proofs were used for indicating the desired changes in the inscriptions by means of a pen (the ink is now faded to a pale brown) (Fig. 7).

The first dies for the 2 and 5m. had the inscription “tenths” in Arabic in the bottom panel, instead of “tenths of piaster” (Fig. 6). These reached the stage of stones of 100 subjects before being rejected. Proofs are known in black and in yellow, and also in green for the 2m. and in grey and in red for the 5m., imperforate. Examples are now rare. The largest multiples I have seen are marginal blocks of six.



Fig. 6 Essay with rejected Arabic value inscription (bottom panel).

Proofs of the issued design are known for all denominations, in black (imperforate only; a full sheet exists of the 2m.), yellow, green, orange, and rose-carmine (imperforate or perforated, the latter possibly being a later, philatelic embellishment). The paper is distinctly thicker than that of the issued stamps and not quite so white. The colored proofs may well have been color trials. The 1pi. also exists imperforate and gummed; I have seen it only in the issued color of blue. All these proofs appear to be from the printing stones of 100 and are not rare. Proofs exist of the 1pi. imperforate with double impression, one inverted, and of the 2pi. in orange-yellow imperforate with triple impression; they are probably best considered to be printer’s waste. The 2pi. with double impression, one inverted, perforated, may be of similar status.

The paper was the same as the 1886 issue, including the official cachet struck in the left sheet margin. The perforation, in contrast, was changed to 11½.

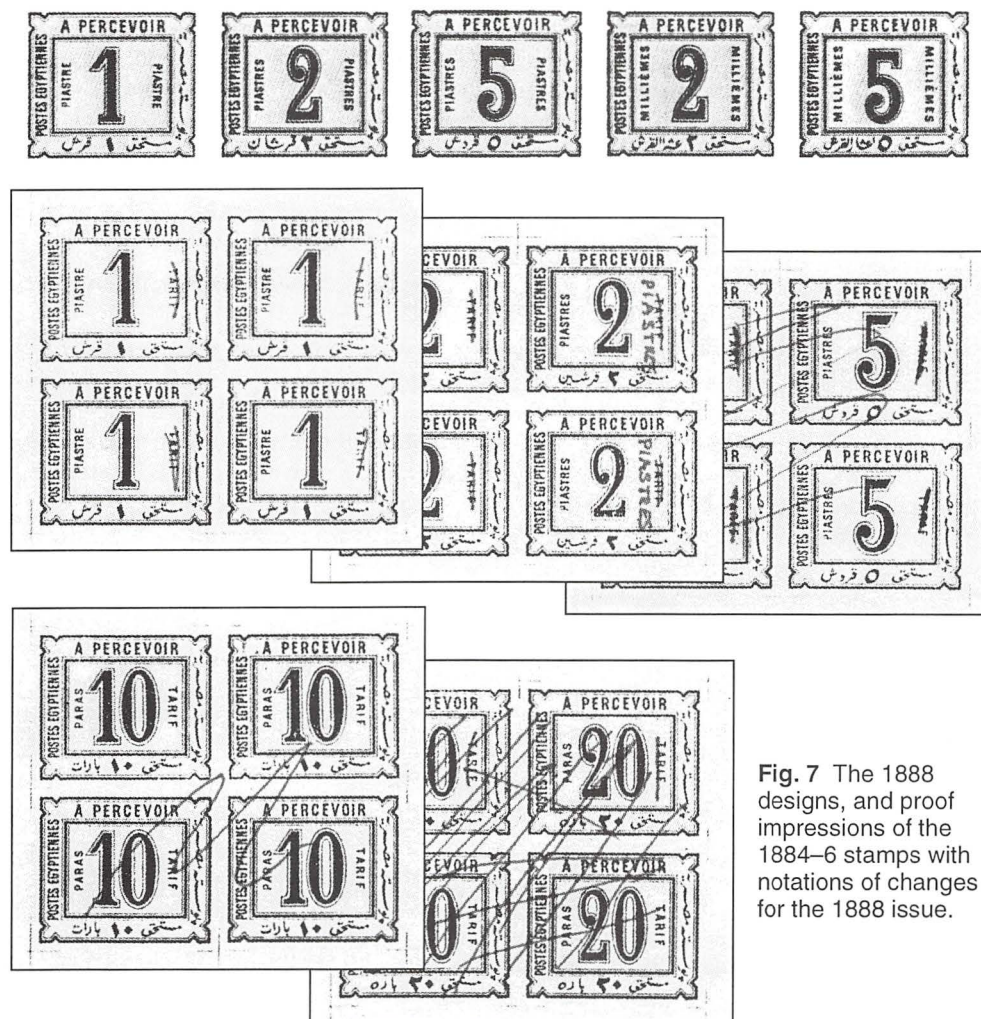


Fig. 7 The 1888 designs, and proof impressions of the 1884–6 stamps with notations of changes for the 1888 issue.

The colors chosen corresponded to those of the ordinary stamps then in use: 2m. – green, 5m. – rose-red or rosine, 1pi. – pale blue to steel blue, 2pi. – yellow-orange to orange-yellow, 5pi. – deep bluish slate (following the Gibbons Color Guide, not the catalog). The choice of denominations was made without sufficient forethought by simply converting the two para values to the millieme equivalents. However, there was no need for a 5m. value (the equivalent of 20 paras) since the rate for prints had been converted to 2m. (not 2½m.) and the corresponding postage due charge was 4m. This choice was corrected in the following issue (1889).

Apart from the identification of the four Types (arranged as before in blocks of four having one of each; see the Appendix to this chapter), the stamps of this issue can be plated. The plating characteristics of the 2 and 5m. have been described¹³. The 5pi. has a special feature: one of the characteristics of Type III is a dot after the word *PIASTRES* at the left. However, this dot is missing on position 11, which is part of the upper left corner block. This dot may have been an accidental addition to the original stone after

the first transfer had been made. In any event, it is such an easily seen variety that it is listed in the general catalogs. Fakes made by adding the dot to genuine stamps of the other Types can be detected by looking for the other characteristics of Type III.

The quantities printed have not been divulged, although the relevant correspondence may still lie in the unindexed archives of the National Postal Museum in Cairo. In view of the previous experience with the 5pi. value, the new 5pi. was probably printed in a much smaller quantity (1500 would have been an adequate supply for two years' use). It is a moderately rare stamp and the majority of examples offered on the market are forgeries (see ahead). A few unused blocks are known, one as large as nine, and one used block of four exists.

Like the 1886 issue, the 1888 postage due stamps were used in the territorial offices in Souakin and Wadi Halfa; examples are rare.

Perforation of the 1884, 1886, & 1888 Issues

All stamps were perforated on a line perforator. The 10½ gauge used for the 1884–86 stamps may have been considered inconveniently coarse; the 11½ used for the 1888 stamps is easier to tear. One pin was removed at intervals of each stamp width from the horizontal 10½ perforator so that the vertical and horizontal perforations would not overlap, but it was evidently difficult to align the gaps accurately. As a result, stamps are often found with a wide tooth near the corners. On the 1888 stamps it is the vertical perforations that have a pin removed at the junctions. On the 1884–86 stamps the horizontal perforations reach only to the outer edge of the stamps; the vertical perforations extend for two holes above and two holes below the stamps. On the 1888 stamps the arrangement is reversed on the very limited number of marginal pieces that I have seen. The sheet margins of all issues are very wide.

A consequence of the use of a line perforator is the ease of inadvertently skipping a line or even neglecting to perforate an entire sheet in one direction. Examples of such errors exist for all three issues¹⁴. The possible categories are:

Imperforate
Imperforate vertically
Horizontal pair imperforate between only
Imperforate horizontally

Vertical pair imperforate between only
Block imperforate between horizontally
and vertically (Fig. 8)
Various double perforations



Fig. 8 A block imperforate between vertically and horizontally, and a used imperforate pair.

The general catalogs mostly list such varieties without distinguishing between horizontal or vertical orientations and the auction catalogs follow suit (although in some cases an illustration provides the distinction). Several of the perforation errors are known used. Double perforation is surprisingly uncommon; I have seen only the 1886 2pi. And 1888 2pi (double horizontal perforation). Severe vertical displacement of the perforation is known on the 1886 2pi. For the 1888 issue there is the problem of distinguishing between imperforate proofs and issued errors. Although some philatelists believe there is a difference in shade, that may not be a reliable criterion; paper thickness, previously mentioned, is better. Of the imperforates, only the 2m. is known used in a pair, but a reasonably convincing single of the 2pi. cancelled at Alexandria is known. The inconsistent state of the available information is summarized in Table 3.

TABLE 3
IMPERFORATE & PARTLY PERFORATED VARIETIES 1884–1888

Variety	Imperf. pair	Imperf. vertically	Horizontal pair imperf. between	"pair imperf. between"	Imperf. & double impression	Double perf.	Block imperf. between hor. & vert.
1884							
10pa.	A, G, Z, ★	A, Z, S, ★	A	G, Z	Z		
20pa.					Z		
1pi.							
2pi.							
5pi.							
1886							
10pa.		A, S [†] , ★, ○	★, ○	G, Z			
20pa.				G, Z			
1pi.			A, ★, ○	G [†] , Z [†]			
2pi.		★		G, Z		Z	
1888							
2m.	A, ○		S, ★	A, G [†] , Z [†]			Z, ★
5m.	A						
1pi.	A	A, ○		G, Z [†]			
2pi.	A, Z					○	
5pi.				Z			

A – Auction catalog. G – Gibbons catalogs. S – Scott catalogs. Z – Zeheri catalogs

† – Listed used as well as unused. ★ – seen by me unused. ○ – seen by me used.

NOTE: Catalog listings do not usually distinguish between vertical and horizontal pairs imperforate between.

Forgeries of the 1884–88 Stamps

The simple design of the first three issues of postage due stamps lends itself readily to forgery and all the stamps, even the least valuable, have been forged. The forgeries exist both uncanceled and with forged cancellations, some of which are very convincing.

The simplest first-line defense against forgeries is a check on the perforations. Whereas the genuine stamps have a coarse gauge of 10½, one of the commoner forgeries of the 1884 and 1886 stamps is perforated 14, a very obvious difference. The second line of defense is to look for the identifying characteristics of the dies: that for the 1884 and 1886 stamps has already been described (Fig. 4); for the 1888 stamps there is a thin vertical line connecting the inner thick and outer thin horizontal framelines, very close to the upper right corner of the central rectangle, and a tiny serif on the right side of the foot of P of PERCEVOIR (Fig. 9). The 5m. has an additional die feature: a

Fig. 9
Characteristics
of genuine 1888 stamps.



minute dot just below the three dots of the Arabic word in the lower panel, to the left of center. The third line of defense is to see if the stamp matches one of the four transfer Types. Many forgeries can be detected by the fact that the thin framelines are too thick and the white space between them and the thick framelines is too narrow.

Many of the 'used' forgeries can be recognized by the forged cancellations. The obvious ones are of the obsolete Type V (inscribed POSTE EGIZIANE); Porto Said is the most usual (Fig. 10). The infamous Swiss forger Fournier also used forged postmarks of small towns (e.g., Sedfa, Ebnoub). Shades of color are useful in some cases, the most important of which is the 1888 5pi. The forgeries are mostly printed in a flat grey that is distinct from the bluish shade of the genuine.

Some forgeries of the 1888 postage dues exist with completely missing letters or even the full word PIASTRE; these are, of course, not errors, and the forgeries are easily recognized by the absence of the die characteristics between the inner frame lines at upper right.. The 1884 2pi. has been reported with the letters IF of TARIF missing, but since such a variety does not exist on the known full sheets of this stamp, its status is suspect (I have not been able to examine it).

Lastly, there is a very deceptive forgery of the 1884 issue on apparently genuine watermarked paper (even to the marginal inscriptions). It is reported to have been made by Barkhausen, who designed the original stamps, in the 1890s. The color is an excellent match. The perforation is of the correct gauge but it differs from the genuine in not showing omitted pins in the horizontal perforations at each junction. Furthermore, the horizontal perforations extend right through the sheet margins. A definitive test is the absence of the characteristic of the original die and the impossibility of matching the stamps to any of the four Types of the original stone. Imperforate proofs in black that appear to be of this forgery also exist.

The most dangerous forgeries are covers on which genuine stamps have been provided with forged cancellations. These are very well produced and individual examples are quite convincing. The numerals of the date lines, especially the 8's, often give a clue that an item is forged. If it is possible to find a common contemporary off-cover stamp with the same apparent cancellation, careful comparison may show up



Fig. 10 Examples of forgeries.

the forgery (the comparison item need not be a postage due stamp). The forged covers are generally not consistent with postal rates and dates and a knowledge of these aspects helps greatly in detecting them. Fortunately, forged covers of this type are rare (but genuine covers of these issues are also very scarce to rare).

The 1889 Issue

Only a few months after the 1888 issue was put into use the Postal Administration was in correspondence with Thomas De La Rue & Co. about having the postage due stamps printed by the British firm¹⁵. An order was placed on June 8th 1888. Sample stamps of the 1888 issue were sent to De La Rue as models. The original intention to produce the new stamps by lithography was abandoned when it was found that De La Rue's fugitive inks were not suitable for that process (why fugitive inks should be important with postage due stamps is not apparent) and the stamps were typographed like the contemporary ordinary stamps.

Artist's essays, hand-painted in stamp size on brownish, translucent paper (Fig. 11), were sent to Egypt, approved, and returned (August 1888). The 5pi. denomination was not included in the order, which consisted of 2m., 4m., 1pi., and 2pi., the colors to be like the ordinary stamps then in use, as before (Fig. 12). There was no precedent for a color for the 4m., however, and maroon was adopted. The initial supply was charged on December 20th: 115,200 – 2m., 115,200 – 4m., 115,200 – 1pi., and 230,400 – 2pi.

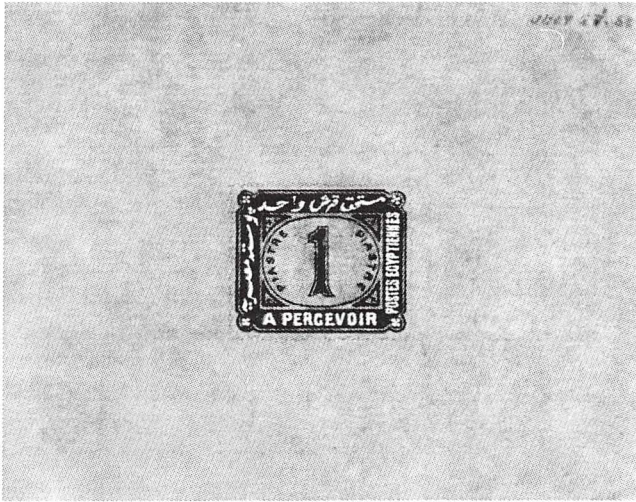


Fig. 11 Artist's painted design for the 1889 1pi.

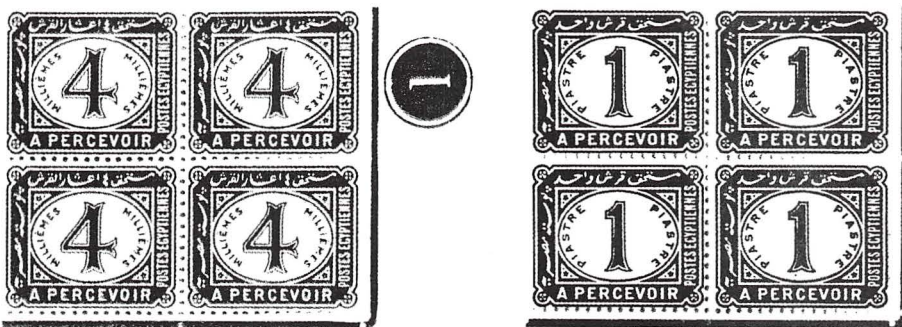


Fig. 12 The 1889 issued designs.

A number of die proofs in black on glazed card, with or without notations such as BEFORE HARDENING, AFTER STRIKING, in some cases initialed H.G. in manuscript, came on the market from the De La Rue archives. Archival press-run sheets have also come on the market. At first, these were perforated and they would be indistinguishable from the issued stamps except for marginal notations that consist of the signatures or initials of the press men and a handstamped date. In the early 20th century the press-run proofs were left imperforate (Fig. 13) (the 2pi. is not known in this state).

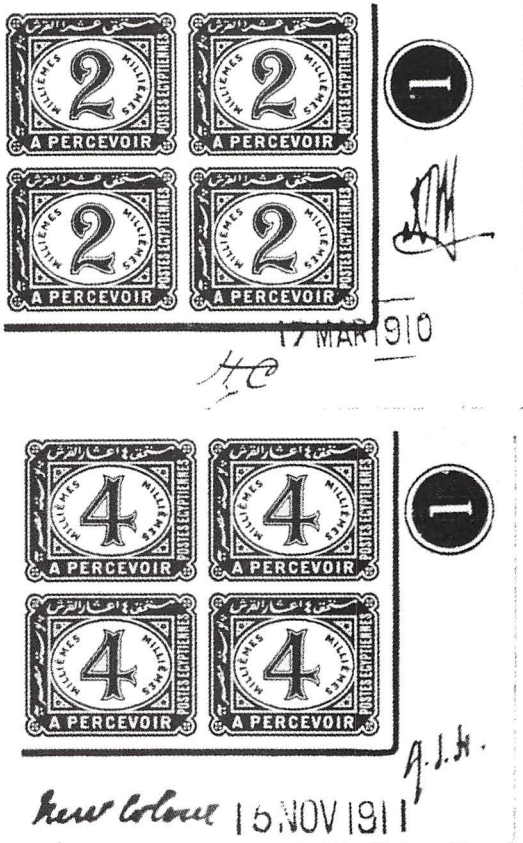


Fig. 13 Imperforate press-run proofs showing initials of the press men and handstamped date.

2pi. was usually omitted from the annual orders and the requirements for the 1pi. were increased. With so many printings, it is surprising how little variation in color occurred. The 1pi. shows the greatest range, from pale ultramarine (early to middle period) to blue (late printings); the 2pi., initially printed in a dull yellow, became orange-yellow in a later printing (1905). The 4m. was fairly constant in color, but in a letter¹⁷ dated February 1st 1911 De La Rue proposed to alter the ink, which would result in some change in the color. The change was approved by Egypt in the same month. The archival press-run sheet (imperforate, dated 14 NOV 1911) bears the notation "new colour", but the difference from the earlier printings is only that of a minor shade.

The precise date of issue of the 1889 postage due stamps is not known; the Stanley Gibbons catalogs state "April". It may have been that the new stamps were put into use as supplies of the old ones were used up, but a study of dates in cancellations has not yet been made (the latest date that I have seen for the previous issue is April 23rd 1889).

The De La Rue firm changed all of their stamp printing from ordinary to chalk-surfaced paper in about 1906. The Egyptian postage due stamps were included and all four values were printed on such paper from then on. Melville¹⁸ gives 1906 as the date for the 2m. and 1907 for the others.

The plates were in De La Rue's standard format: four panes of 60 separated by gutters, with continuous buffer bars surrounding each pane (De La Rue's second style plate for Egypt¹⁶). The watermark, a crescent and star, each with rounded points, and with POSTES EGYPTIENNES reading downward in the vertical gutter, was the same as that of the ordinary stamps. The perforation, 14x13³/₄ applied by a comb perforator, was also the same as the ordinary stamps (the "perf. 14" stated in some catalogs is not exact). All values exist with inverted watermark; examples are scarce, but not rare. No errors of perforation are known.

This issue was in use until 1914 or later, when the sideways-watermarked issue succeeded them. New orders were placed annually¹⁷, generally for quantities similar to or larger than the initial order. However, when the internal letter rate was reduced to 5m. in 1890 the demand for the 2pi. postage due stamp, which had until then been twice the letter rate, fell drastically, and that for the 1pi. rose in proportion. Consequently, the

In the 19th century this issue was used in the Sudan: in Souakin, Wadi Halfa (Fig. 14), and Tokar (the last is very rare). After 1898 only those stamps overprinted SOUDAN were used there.

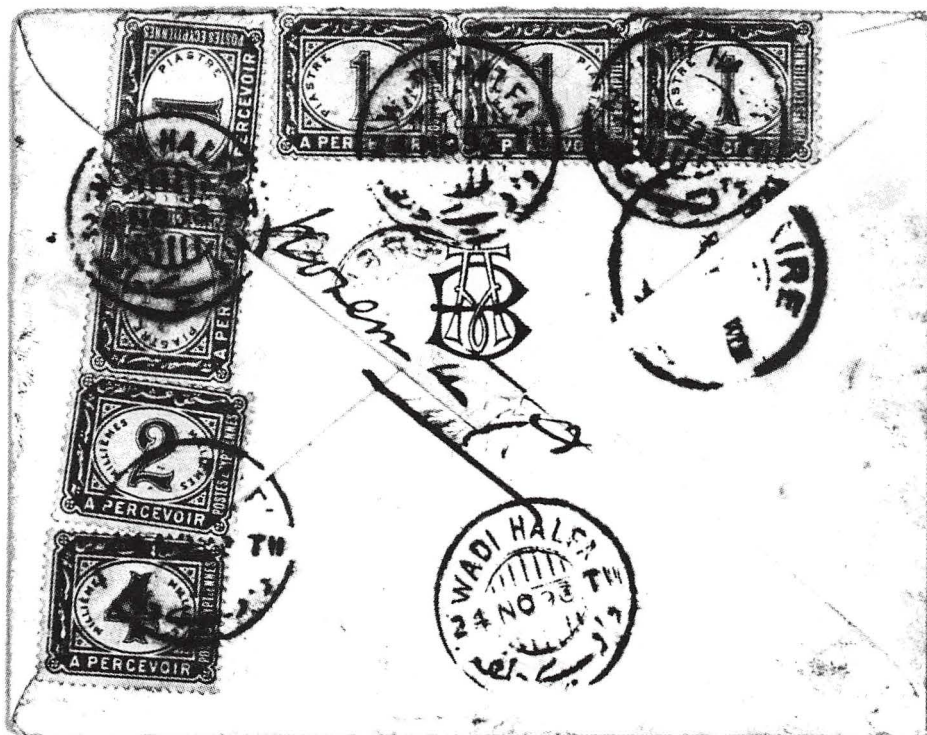


Fig. 14 Use of the 1889 stamps in the Sudan (Wadi Halfa): Scotland to Cairo, franked 2d.; overweight and rated 65 gold centimes (= 2pi.8m.); charged double, 5pi.6m. The charge was not paid at Cairo and the letter was forwarded to Halfa and the charge collected there.

Bisection and the 1898 Provisional

When the military campaign to regain the Sudan was launched in 1896 large numbers of Egyptian troops went to the front, which at first was not far from Wadi Halfa. As the campaign progressed deeper into the Sudan it became difficult to supply postage stamps to the advancing soldiers. Enlisted men and noncommissioned officers at the front had already been granted a specially reduced rate of 3m. for single letters (which also applied to letters sent to them). Since unfranked letters from locations where no stamps were available would incur postage due of 6m., through no fault of the sender, a special dispensation was put into effect¹⁹; unfranked letters endorsed by the commanding officer of the corps were taxed at only the single rate, 3 milliemes, instead of double. However, no 3m. postage due stamps existed. To meet the new need, a decree was issued on

February 14th 1898 authorizing the use of a 2m. postage due stamp together with a diagonal bisect to make up the required 3m. (Fig. 15). This was put into immediate effect.

DECREE

In accordance with the regulations now in force, the postage on letters from and to non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Egyptian army, in garrison on the frontier, as well as at Suakin and Tokar, is fixed at 3 milliemes for prepaid and 6 milliemes for unpaid letters.

This tariff is applicable also to the letters of soldiers taking part in the Expedition to the Sudan; and in consideration of the fact that such soldiers will most frequently be in places where they are unable to obtain postage stamps, it has been decided that unpaid letters sent by them shall only be liable to the single rate of 3 mil., instead of 6 mil. Consequently, all unpaid letters duly countersigned by the officer commanding the corps to which the sender belongs, and coming from a part of the Sudan where no post office exists, will only be charged on delivery with 3 milliemes. For the purpose of indicating this rate the department proposes to convert the 2 piastres Unpaid Letter stamps into 3 milliemes by means of a surcharge; but until these stamps are ready the 3 mil. rate may be represented by an Unpaid Letter stamp of 2 mil., together with the half of a similar stamp divided diagonally.

Meanwhile, a provisional 3m. stamp was put into production in Cairo by surcharging the 2pi., which was a denomination no longer in high demand. The provisional stamps



Fig. 15 Emergency bisection of the 2m. to meet the 3m. concession charge for letters from soldiers.

were issued in April or May; the Gibbons catalogs state “April”, but May 7th has also been asserted to be the date. I have seen an example cancelled 26 IV 98. Distribution was evidently slow, for I have a cover bearing the bisected 2m. used at Hamoul and cancelled 30 V 98.

The surcharge was typographed in panes of 60 from which the left and top marginal paper was removed. Six subjects were set from type and served as a matrix from which stereotypes were cast²⁰, giving rise to six Types. At that point the procedure diverged from that used the year before for the first issue of Sudan. A detailed study by Grimmer²¹ has demonstrated that the stereotypes were not assembled in strips of six, but were handled as single stereotypes which were assembled in random order to form the printing plate. The Types are illustrated in Figure 16 and their distribution in the first state of the plate is shown in Figure 17.

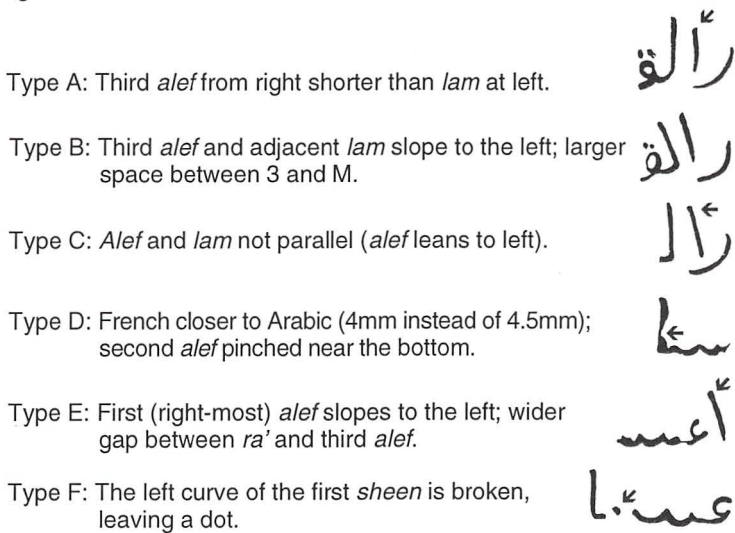


Fig. 16 The six Types of the 1898 surcharge.

A	B	C	D	E	A	C	F	D	C
A	A	E	A	C	F	E	C	A	C
F	D	A	E	F	F	C	F	D	A
C	E	F	D	F	A	D	B	D	A
E	E	B	F	E	B	B	B	B	F
D	E	B	C	C	E	D	A	B	B

Fig. 17 The distribution of the six Types in the pane of 60.

The provisional went through several printings (which may have followed close upon one another) and the plate underwent a series of changes, giving rise to six States. Single

stamps cannot be allocated to a specific State of the plate, except those that come from certain positions, as will be described.

State 1. Distribution of Types as in Figure 17; the subjects in the right-hand column are complete and undamaged; position 36 has a damaged Arabic numeral ٣, resembling an Arabic ٣ (Fig. 18).

State 2. The entire right-hand column of subjects has been shaved off along the right edge, so that only a vestige remains of the Arabic numeral, which now resembles the Arabic numeral *ethnain* (٣); on some subjects in this column, part of the 's' has been removed as well (Fig. 19).

State 2A. As State 2, but with an additional surcharge of a heavy Arabic ٣ covering the vestigial ٣ (Fig. 20).

State 3. The faulty right-hand column of subjects has been replaced with new stereotypes, which now consist of Types D, E, F, A, A, C (top to bottom).

State 4. The damaged stereo in position 36 has been replaced by a new one (now Type B). The tops of the letters 's' in the entire top row of subjects have been damaged to a greater or lesser extent, being severely squashed downwards (Fig. 21); in the bottom row, the curved bottom of the Arabic letter ش (lowest and leftmost part of the surcharge) has been slightly shaved or flattened on positions 52 and 56 to 59.

State 4A. A late stage of State 4, showing damage to the "ll" of Milliemes (most of the second "l" is missing) (Fig. 22).

The order in which the States developed seems indisputable²¹, although it is based only on the logic of the circumstances rather than on official documentation. The reasons for the successive changes are speculative, although there can be little doubt about most of them.

The shaving that produced State 2 was presumably the result of damage to the right-hand edge of the plate. An attempt to repair it was overzealously pursued and too much metal was removed. The State 2 surcharge is always displaced slightly to the right, so that the Arabic numeral falls near to, or even on, the perforations. Stamps from this State are extremely scarce and presumably most of the apparently small printing was recalled for correction (I do not know of a used example). Thus arose State 2A. The superposed Arabic numeral (Fig. 20) is large and is positioned slightly high. It has such a thick stem that it is not always easy to discern the remains of the original numeral. The precise, regular positioning of the new numeral suggests that it was applied as a matrix of six in a printing press, but Grimmer reported an apparent exception that may have been from an exploratory attempt at applying it.

In State 3, the damaged subjects (positions 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60) were replaced from a supplementary stock of stereotypes. The Types utilized were different, with the result that any block containing the affected positions can be differentiated from State 1 by the arrangement of the Types in it. The arrangement is unique for each possible block and it is not necessary to have the right-hand margin to know that one has a block from the right of the sheet. However, unless a block includes position 10 or 60, it is not possible to determine whether it is from State 3, 4, or 4A.

In State 4 the surcharge is a characteristic dull grey-black, in contrast to the glossy black of the other printings. This State is presumably the result of a further inspection of the stamps, in which it was at last noticed that position 36 had a damaged Arabic numeral, which confusingly resembled an Arabic ٣ (Fig. 18). Replacing the offending stereo would have required loosening the forme, and in the process, all the subjects in the top row suffered damage with the results shown in Fig. 21. If this was noticed, it was not regarded seriously, and printing went ahead. Individual stamps from positions 1 through

Fig. 18
State 1, position 36:
damaged Arabic
numeral.



Fig. 19 State 2,
right column.



line of the "shave"

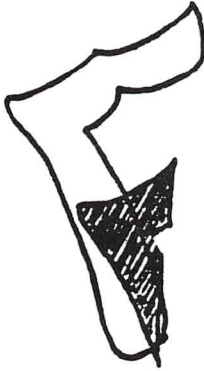


Fig. 20 State 2A, right column:
provisional correction, Arabic numeral ٣
on top of ٣.

Fig. 21
State 4, top row:
examples of the
damaged 's'.



Fig. 22
State 4A, position 60:
damaged "l" of Milliemmes.



10 can thus be allotted to State 4 or 4A. A block can also be allocated to these States if it includes position 36 (as determined from the arrangement of Types in it). State 4A differs from State 4 only in the damage to position 60. This damage was apparently never corrected. McNeille^{22a} stated that he had seen it only in orange-yellow, "whereas the previous printings were in orange".

Plate proofs exist, printed on plain paper, imperforate. I know of only a vertical pair, consisting of Types D and E; the pair appears to be from positions 10 and 20 of State 3.

In addition to the six Types, there are many features, small to large, associated with specific positions. They are the result of the process by which the stereotypes were cast or of the subsequent handling. They consist of broken letters (Arabic or Roman), missing dots, etc. Any stamp can be plated by a study of these features; they have been described by Grimmer²¹.

Stamps of this issue are always on ordinary paper, the basic 2 pi. stamp on chalk-surfaced paper not having been printed until several years later.

The surcharging was hurriedly done and misplacements, some quite severe, are not rare.

Several types of errors resulted. In the simplest case the surcharge is shifted horizontally or vertically so as to fall across the perforations; the surcharge is thus split between two (or more) stamps, forming the variety *à cheval*. When the displacement is as great as the dimensions of the stamp some of the stamps escape surcharging and errors in the form of pairs, one stamp without surcharge, occur. The States of the setting for these errors have not generally been recorded. However, I do not know of any of them from States 2 or 2A.

For some of the faulty sheets in which some stamps remained unsurcharged, attempts at correction were made²³. The method used was to stop out all of the plate except the part corresponding to the positions left unsurcharged so that only that part gave an inked impression. The sheet was then run through the press a second time. This procedure produced varieties having a double surcharge, one of which was albino. The stopping-out step was not precise and some stamps received a second surcharge that was partly inked. In other cases an inked surcharge that was *à cheval* received a properly positioned albino surcharge as well (Fig. 23).



Fig. 23 A block showing rectification of a misplaced surcharge by a second impression.

I do not know of a full double surcharge on this stamp (i.e., having two fully inked impressions). Several sheets were inserted into the press upside down, however, and inverted surcharges are not rare. A variety with an inverted surcharge on the back has been reported²⁴; it was apparently caused by a corner of the sheet having been folded over.

Although this provisional is a fairly common stamp and used copies are abundant, covers are real rarities. This curious situation may be the result of sociological factors; most of the letters requiring this stamp would have been addressed to families of little education, not inclined to save correspondence. The same circumstances apply to the bisected 2m.; it is scarce but not rare on fragment, but full covers are truly rare (the low valuation given in the general catalogs is grossly misleading).

The demand for covers was met a long time ago, perhaps even before 1920, by forgers^{25,26}. Using the plentiful unused 2m. and 3m./2 pi. stamps, they produced covers of such convincing appearance that their nature was not detected until 1958. Genuine covers are nearly always addressed in Arabic (exceptions exist); the officer's endorsement is likewise in Arabic (Fig. 24). A large proportion are addressed to smaller towns and nearly all the covers are tatty, with worn edges and many tears, and they are more or less dirty. Although some forgeries are also addressed in Arabic, most of them are addressed in well written European handwriting and the majority are addressed to "Victor Nahman" (Fig. 25). These are usually endorsed in English, "Feild service, no stamps

منه سركه
الى العياضه اليمنه

Fig. 24 Genuine proper use of the 1898 provisional.



From Capt. J. Lyons
DAMNATI
3 VI 98
بارحالي

Fig. 25 A "Nahman" forged cover.

V. Nahman Esq
ALEXANDRIE
3 VI 98
Alexandria
No. 100
7. 10. 98

available”, and the name of an English soldier. It is a characteristic that the misspelling “Feild” appears in the endorsement. Not surprisingly, these forged covers are reasonably fresh and clean. The postmarks of origin on them are generally forged, although the stamps are genuine (comparison with contemporary genuine cancellations is recommended); the cancellations on the postage due stamps are either forged or applied by favor.

In later years, when the volume of unpaid soldier’s letters slackened off, the provisional was used for general purposes. It did not correspond to any other rate by itself, but pairs could be used on letters originally requiring 3m. postage (unstamped local letters, or items franked at the 2m. rate for printed matter, but found to be liable to the letter rate). Examples are scarce to rare.

The 1905 Provisional

The provisional surcharging was repeated in 1905 from a new plate²². The need for doing so is not apparent since the military campaign in the Sudan had subsided and the number of soldiers in places without post offices must have been small to non-existent. I know of no example of the 1905 issue used on a soldier’s letter. Nevertheless, used examples are not rare. The only examples I know of on cover, however, are in pairs used to collect 6 mils. or with other values, and even these are rare (Fig. 26).



Fig. 26 A cover showing use of the 3m./2pi. provisional of 1905 in a pair along with 2x2m. to collect 10m. postage due (the provisional has an inverted surcharge). A fragment from the Italian P.O. in Constantinople short-paid 10pa. (= 2.5m.) and charged 5m. postage due by means of 3m./2pi. and 2m. postage due stamps.

An apparent essay for the 1905 surcharge is known, differing from the one eventually used by the presence of a period after Milliemes and in size²⁷. Both lines measure 21mm; the Arabic letters are large (on the issued stamps the Arabic is 18mm long) (Fig. 27). The angle is only 10° from the horizontal whereas the surcharge on the issued stamps is at 20°. Piperno reported²⁸ a letter from Lt. Col. J.R. Danson in which he stated his belief that the essay was lithographed, but the copies I have seen are typographed, although not deeply indented. He also described a block of 4 that a Major E.I.H. Moffatt bought “personally from the Postmaster (the Curator of the Government Stamp Collection)” at the G.P.O. in Alexandria. This may be the control number (1) block from the lower right corner that has been recorded. The surcharge is obviously set from movable type and there are small differences in the alignment of the Arabic with the French parts, such that each subject on the block is different. A fifth type exists which is on a single and is printed farther toward the bottom of the stamp. The other known examples of this rare essay might be of still different types, but I have not been able to examine them. It appears that the printing surface (plate of 60, or a smaller block?) was built up in the same way as the issued stamps, but more cannot be said because of the lack of other multiples.

The reason that this essay was not adopted may have been that it obscured the side inscriptions, POSTES EGYPTIENNES and Arabic equivalent. Shortening the surcharge and increasing the angle left these inscriptions clear on the issued stamps. The Zeheri catalog lists a variety “stop after Milliemes”, without specifying that it is the essay that is meant. No such variety exists on the panes of the issued stamp. However, the faulty listing has inspired forgers to create the variety by adding a false stop to otherwise genuine stamps.

The issued stamps have a surcharge that differs in minor respects from the 1898 issue and in one major respect: there is a hamza ‘e’ above the first alef ‘l’, the vertical character immediately to the left of the Arabic numeral, thus ‘l’ (Fig. 28).

No piece larger than a half-pane of 30 is known and it is presumed that the panes were divided into two before distribution²² or before overprinting. No examples with sheet margin are known and it is believed that the margins were removed before printing. The setting was 60 subjects, more likely two settings of 30, as two kinds of half-pane are known, differing in the plate flaws present. As with the 1898 issue, six subjects were set in type, from which ten stereographic units of six were produced. The six resulting Types were not distributed randomly, however, but are arranged in vertical columns²⁹, like the 1897 SOUDAN overprints. They differ from one another largely in the relative positions of the Arabic and European letters, but there are other small differences, especially in the elevation of the European letters with respect to the base line.



Fig. 27

The essay with a period after 'Milliemes', and a pair of the issued stamp of 1905 with partly missing Arabic and damaged serifs on M.



Fig. 28 The 1905 overprint.

Position 27 on one of the two half-panes shows a prominent variety: a leaning or “drunken” ‘l’; the first ‘l’ is bent to the right so that its top rests against the second ‘l’ (there is also damage to the 3 and the ‘s’) (Fig. 29). This half-pane I arbitrarily call B. Other collectible varieties are a short first ‘l’ (position 17, half-pane B) and part of the Arabic (that below ‘ie’) missing (position 17, half-pane A). The short ‘l’ is not broken, but is from a different typeface; it is therefore probably a substituted stereo. The variety “missing part of Arabic” appears to be a case of poor contact, either because the printing surface was not level or because the make-ready was unsatisfactory; on strongly inked examples, all of the Arabic prints. There are also other small plate flaws, among them being damage to the serifs at the top and bottom of the right leg of M (visible on the illustration in the Zeheri catalog and on a complete half-pane A on which it is in position 17, not 20 as stated in Zeheri). Substitution of all of column 2 would this convert half-pane A into B.



Fig. 29 The six Types, with the “drunken” ‘l’ (shaved 3 on the two stamps above it) and the short ‘l’ (half-pane B).

Unlike the 1898 issue, displaced surcharges do not seem to exist on this issue. Inverted surcharges, however, are reasonably abundant and a pane of 30 (including the “drunken” ‘l’ variety) was in the Palace Collections, and one (the same?) was offered in an auction by H.R. Harmer in New York in 1961. Examples exist both used and unused; most, but not all, of the used ones are cancelled at Nakada. Double surcharges exist in two forms: with one impression faint (probably a “kiss” print) and with two firm, fully inked impressions. It is a moderately rare error, known only unused; all three of the plate varieties (positions 17, 22, 27) have been reported as double surcharges. An especially rare error is the double surcharge in pair with a normally surcharged stamp; I know of it only unused. In another type of error the surcharge is rotated, the sheet having been fed into the press at an angle of 90°; that is, at least one sheet was fed into the press sideways³⁰. The sideways surcharge is actually at right angles to the normal position

and thus slopes from upper left to lower right (Fig. 30). Furthermore, the spacing no

longer fits the stamps and most examples are à cheval.

The exact date of issue has not been determined. The basic stamp utilized came from stocks on both ordinary and chalk-surfaced paper. The color is a medium yellow-orange (errors on deep orange or yellow stamps should be regarded with great suspicion).

Type 1. 3 to s is 20.00mm; r below e; i below left leg of m.

Type 2. 3 to s is 19.85mm; r below e; i below left leg of m.

Type 3. 3 to s is 19.80mm; r below e; i between è and m.

Type 4. 3 to s is 20.00mm; r between m and e; i below è.

Type 5. 3 to s is 19.90mm; r between m and e; i below è.

Type 6. 3 to s is 20.00mm; r between m and e; i below right side of è.



Fig. 30
Surcharge sideways.

The 1914 Issue

With the advent of the 1914 pictorial series of ordinary stamps³¹ the sheet format was changed to panes of 100, a long-overdue arrangement needed to facilitate accounting for stamps denominated in a decimal system. New plates for the postage due stamps were prepared. The 1914 inventory¹⁷ of the De La Rue firm lists “plates of 200 set” (thus two panes per plate) for each of the values, including the 2pi. However, the 1914 ordinary stamps had upright dimensions whereas the postage due stamps were horizontal. In order not to incur the considerable expense of a separate manufacture of paper, requiring a new dandy-roll, the same paper was used. The result was that the watermark was positioned sideways. It is found facing left or right. Although a 2pi. plate was prepared, no stamps from it appear to have been issued and this value is not known with sideways watermark.

The shades of the 1914 stamps are similar to the late printings of the previous (1889) issue. The 2m. is often (but not always) a darker green without the faintly turquoise tint of the earlier ones, the 4m. is slightly deeper and perhaps slightly more reddish, the 1pi. is a fairly deep blue. All the sheets of this issue have an uninterrupted buffer bar around each pane (second-style plates¹⁶) and control number 1.

Imperforate proofs in the issued colors (presumably press-run proofs) exist for all three values. They were found in the De La Rue archives when they were put on the market in the 1970s.

The precise dates of issue of the sideways-watermarked stamps is uncertain. The Stanley Gibbons catalogues (1994) state “1918”, which is years too late; I have reliable record of the 2m. cancelled 2 X 15, the 4m. 12 XI 14, and the 1pi. XI 14, as well as many dates in 1915 and 1916, including covers. As the plates were already in existence in 1914, that is presumed to be the actual year of issue for all three values.

The 1921–22 Issue

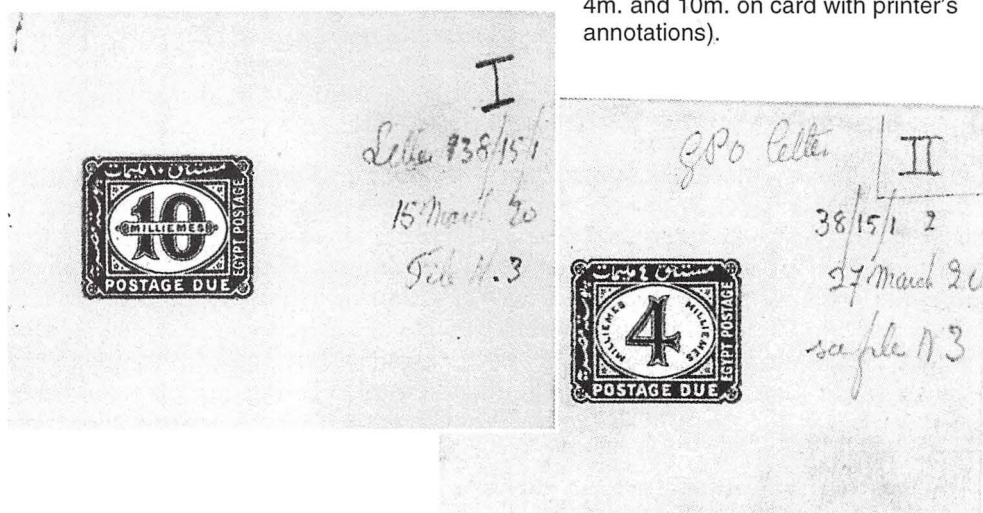
Thomas De La Rue & Co. lost the stamp-printing contract to Harrison & Sons, Ltd. of St. Martin’s Lane, London, in 1920. Although the De La Rue dies were used by Harrison’s to produce new plates for the ordinary stamps, the dies for postage due

stamps were not used. The reason was presumably that the old dies were inscribed in French and the new postage due stamps were wanted with English inscriptions, to be consistent with the ordinary stamps.

Harrison's entrusted the engraving to C.G. Lewis of Ealing who used the same designs, changing only the French inscriptions. The 1pi. denomination, however, was revised so as to be expressed as 10 milliemmes, again consistent with the ordinary stamps. Die proofs in deep blue on unglazed card, dated in manuscript in March 1920, exist (Fig.31).



Fig. 31 Harrison die proofs in blue including the unissued 20m. (the 4m. and 10m. on card with printer's annotations).



The work continued apace, and a letter to Lewis from Harrison's dated July 7th 1920 states, "We shall be sending during the coming weekend the following plates: . . . the 4 milliemmes Postage Due to be cleared of lead and touched up . . . so that we may proceed with the printing during the coming week." It is obvious from this that the stamps would have been ready for shipment to Egypt in plenty of time to be put into use in that year. Although Gibbons gives the date of issue as October 1921, that is far too late as *The Times* of London for April 27th 1921 had already chronicled the 2m. and 4m.

The new stamps were typographed as before. They were printed in sheets of 200 as two panes of 100 arranged side by side with a vertical gutter printed with "pillars" (horizontal hollow bars with vertical lines inside) and with an interrupted buffer bar around each pane. The control numbers no longer consisted of white numerals on disks of color, but were composed of a letter (A or B) and two numerals corresponding to the year of printing (Fig. 32). For all three values (2, 4, and 10m.) the first printing bore control A.20. Perforation was 14x13½ from a comb machine. The paper had a new watermark, a trio of small crescents and stars in an all-over arrangement³¹ such that more than one trio (or parts thereof) fell on each stamp. The 2m. is known with inverted watermark (scarce). Unfortunately, only fragments of the Harrison records have survived

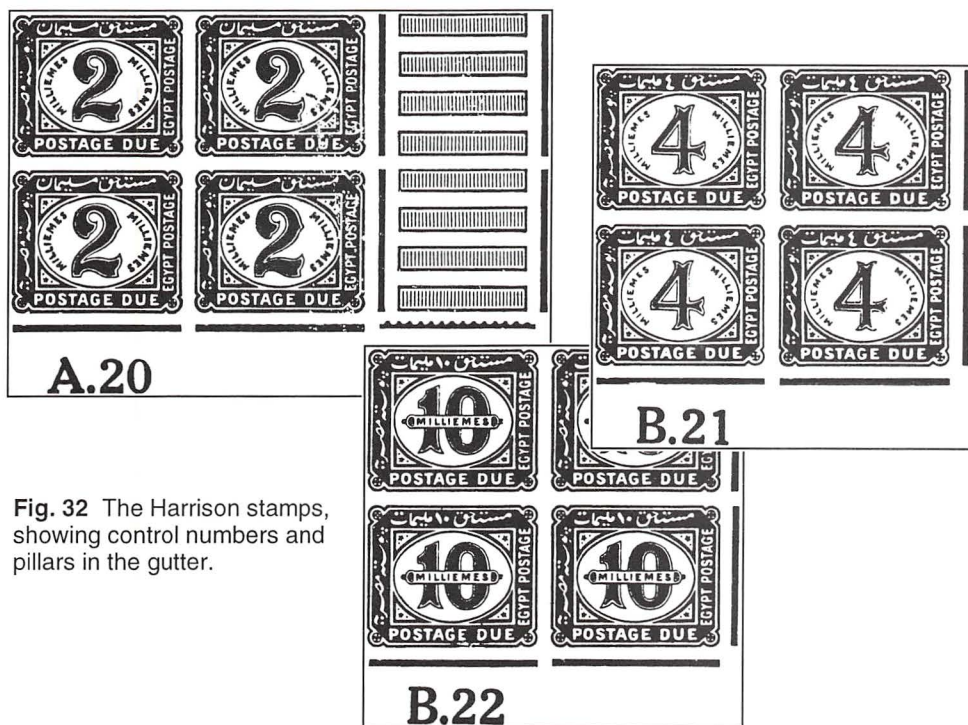


Fig. 32 The Harrison stamps, showing control numbers and pillars in the gutter.

and the quantities printed have not been made known. The colors were only roughly similar to the De La Rue issue: the 2m. was a deeper green, the 4m. became scarlet, and the 10m. a deeper blue.

It is evident from the cited instructions to the engraver that Harrison's did not have quite the skill of De La Rue at plate-making. A number of small plate flaws can be found; they are especially noticeable in the lettering³². They cannot all be listed here, but representative examples are:

2m.

Position 90, right pane – there is a break in the outline of the '2' at the upper side of its base and POSTAGE appears to be recut.

10m.

Position 24, left pane – the top bar of the first E of MILLIEMES is broken.

Position 57, left pane – the head of P of EGYPT is obliterated by a white blob.

Position 100, left pane – I of MILLIEMES is short.

Position 2, right pane – a large bump extends upwards toward the second M of MILLIEMES, which has a serif at the bottom left of its right leg.

Position 59, right pane – the foot of the first L of MILLIEMES is almost wholly missing.

Several subjects in the right-hand columns show evidence of recutting of the letters of POSTAGE.

Harrison's prepared for the possibility that a 2pi. (20m.) stamp would also be required and a die for it was engraved. Proofs of it, together with the three issued denominations, in milky blue exist imperforate on plain paper mounted as a set on a small sheet of card (Fig. 32). At least two sets are known. Nothing further came of the proposed 20m.

In 1921 the postal rates were changed and the colors of the ordinary stamps had to be changed to conform with the UPU policy on colors. Although it was not strictly necessary, the colors of the postage due stamps followed suit. The colors of the 2m. and 4m. were interchanged and the 10m. became lake red like the ordinary 10m. stamp. All three values in the new colors exist with inverted watermark (scarce).

The date of issue of the new colors is generally taken to be 1922 and the earliest control numbers of the 2m. scarlet, **B.22**, and the 10m. lake red, also **B.22**, are consistent with that. However, the 4m. green has **B.21** as the earliest control number, so it is possible that it may have been put into use before 1922. Nothing more precise is known about the dates of issue, and no study of postmark dates has been published.

The same plates as for the first colors were used, except for the changes in the marginal control markings. The 2m. scarlet went through four printings: **B.22**, **B.23**, **B.24**, and **B.25**. The 4m. green had five printings: **B.21**, **B.23**; **B.24**; **B.25**, and **B.26**. The 10m. lake red had four printings: **B.22**; **B.23**; **B.24**, and **B.25**. The plate flaws were repeated on each printing, insofar as has been observed.

In view of the short life of the first colors it is not surprising that they are quite scarce on cover. The 10m. blue is much harder to find used than the catalogue values suggest.

The Crown Overprints

The establishment of the Egyptian monarchy was commemorated by overprinting both the ordinary and the postage due stamps. The overprint consisted of a crown and an Arabic inscription like the ordinary stamps, oriented diagonally from lower right to upper left, crown downwards for all values and upright for a part of the quantity of the 2pi. Although the overprinting utilized both lithography and typography for the ordinary stamps³³, the postage dues are known only with a lithographed overprint. For further details see Chapter XVII.

In addition to the 2pi., the 2m. red also exists with crown upright. It was not issued in this condition, but a nearly complete sheet came to light about 30 years later³³. It is presumed to be of proof status. All known examples show toning due to storage in hot, humid conditions. An undocumented report³⁵ near the time of issue states that the 2pi., in contrast, was issued with crown upright in a quantity of 8,000 and 26,000 with crown inverted. The sheets were divided before overprinting and partial impressions of the overprint fell on the horizontal gutter (Fig. 33). Although this occurrence is normal, pieces showing it are scarce. The only error on this issue is on the 2pi. The overprint is severely misplaced vertically so as to straddle the perforations; it has the crown inverted.

The stamps are presumed to have been put into use on the same date as the ordinary stamps: October 10th 1922. As supplies were used up, the unoverprinted stamps came into use again. Consequently, the overprinted postage dues are very scarce on cover.

Although the subject has not been thoroughly studied, it appears that only one printing of the overprinted stamps was made (in contrast to the overprinted ordinary stamps). The "crushed crown" variety (creased transfer) that occurs on the ordinary stamps (Chapter XVII) from one of the lithographic printings³³ is not known on the postage due stamps.



Fig. 33
The 2pi. with overprint on the gutter.

The 1926 New Design

A decision having been made early in 1925 to print postage due stamps in Egypt, a design was sketched by the Postal Administration³⁶ and sent to the Survey Department in July 1925. A carefully drafted version was prepared and photographic prints of it were approved by the Ministry of Finance in December. The design was an upright rectangle featuring a large numeral in the center and inscriptions in Arabic and French (Fig. 34).

A working drawing four times the ultimate size was prepared and photo-originals were made from it. For each value one photo-original was taken and the figures and words of value were drawn on it in opaque white. From these photo-originals unit positives of 20 subjects (5x4) were prepared with a step-and-repeat camera. Master



Fig. 34
The 1926 design.

negatives and then plates for offset lithography³⁷ were generated by "the Douglas process". The 30m. denomination was prepared in the same way, but in larger size. The choice of 20 subjects for the unit positive is odd because a plate of 100 (10x10) cannot be simply made up from five exposures; four exposures plus two more consisting of only half of the matrix of 20 would be required.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 200 consisting of two panes of 100 that were separated before being perforated. The perforation by a comb machine was 13x13½ for the low values and 13½x14 for the larger 30m. The paper was watermarked with a crown and Arabic F (ف), the same as for the ordinary stamps of the time.

The original set was composed of six values:

2m. - black to grey-black	8m. - plum to red-violet
4m. - yellow green to deep green	10m. - rose lake to brick red
5m. - brown	30m. - violet

The new high value corresponded to the charge on unfranked UPU letters, the rate for which had risen from the equivalent of 10m. to 15m. since the previous issue. Each value carried a control number in the corner sheet margin; this was A/26 for the first printing that was dispatched³⁶ on May 18th 1926. The color of the 2m. was changed to vermilion in 1937 and that of the 4m. to sepia in 1931 and then back to green in 1934. Two new values, 6m. grey-green to dull green and 12m. brick red, were issued in 1940 when postage rates were raised. A 20m. red-brown was added to the set in 1956. The various control numbers and the quantities printed (where known) are shown in Table 4. From 1950 control numbers appeared in both European and Arabic characters.

Control No.	Date Dispatched	Quantity	Control No.	Date Dispatched	Quantity
	2m. black		A/36	16 MY 36	130,000
A/26	18 MY 26	261,300	A/37	8 JY 37	20,000
A/28	7 AU 28	67,500	A/38	26 FE 38	60,000
A/30	24 AP 30	130,000	A/39	20 JY 39	170,000
A/31	11 MY 31	60,000	A/40	3 AU 43	120,000
A/32	27 JY 32	220,000	A/43	18 AU 43	64,000
A/34	28 MY 34	190,000	A/44	4 SE 45	78,500
A/35	17 JN 35	127,500	A/45	4 JY 46	225,000
A/36	16 MY 36	130,000	A/50	?	?
	2m. vermilion			5m. brown	
A/37	8 AU 37	130,000	A/26	24 AP 41	261,000
A/38	26 FE 38	25,000	A/27	25 MY 27	270,000
A/39	20 AU 39	115,000		6m. green	
B/39	11 DE 39	85,000	A/40	24 AP 41	225,000
A/40	22 JN 40	340,000	A/41	6 JY 42	225,000
B/40	10 MY 41	1,140,000	A/50	?	?
A/41	6 AU 42	575,000		8m. plum	
A/53	?	?	A/26	18 MY 26	267,000
	4m. light green		A/35	17 JN 35	130,000
A/26	18 MY 26	271,200	A/36	16 MY 36	60,000
A/27	25 MY 27	100,000	A/38	26 FE 38	30,000
A/28	7 JN 28	110,000	A/39	20 JY 39	60,000
	4m. sepia		A/40	3 AU 40	105,000
A/31	11 MY 31	140,000	A/43	18 AU 43	66,000
A/32	27 MY 32	120,000	B/43	21 NO 43	225,000
	4m. green		A/45	4 JY 46	62,500
A/34	28 MY 34	65,000	A/50	?	?
A/35	17 JN 35	125,000			

Control No.	Date Dispatched	Quantity
10m. rose lake		
A/26	28 MY 26	434,700
A/27	25 MY 27	30,000
A/28	7 AU 28	175,000
A/29	26 MY 29	150,000
A/30	24 AP 30	240,000
A/33	14 JN 33	120,000
A/34	28 MY 34	560,000
A/36	16 MY 36	220,000
A/37	8 JY 37	280,000
A/38	26 FE 38	165,000
A/39	20 JY 39	225,000
A/40	3 AU 40	565,000
A/44	9 SE 45	229,000

Control No.	Date Dispatched	Quantity
A/46	11 SE 46	569,000
A/47	?	?
A/50	?	?
A/51	?	?
A/52	?	?
12m. brick red		
A/40	24 AP 41	1,160,000
20m. red-brown		
A/55	?	?
30m. violet		
A/26	18 MY 26	262,600
A/27	26 MY 27	50,000
A/50	?	?

The printings vary in shade from year to year more or less distinctly, and in some instances, markedly. Some of these are listed in the Zeheri catalog. Otherwise, quality control was very good. The only known perforation variety is on the 4m. green, "partly imperf." (missing perforation holes) according to Zeheri and known only used. The watermark is consistently upright except for a small quantity, possibly only one sheet, of the 10m. of which examples with inverted watermark are known both used and unused and the 20m., which seems not to be quite as scarce as the 10m. in this condition.

Proofs, commonly known as "Royal proofs", were printed in full sheets on thick paper, imperforate, and overprinted CANCELLED on the back, for every printing, and ended up in the Palace Collections³⁸. The 10m. from control number A/47 is an exception; the overprint on the back is in Arabic. These proofs have since been widely dispersed. Another type of proof, characterized by severely misplaced perforations (Fig. 35), was printed on gummed, watermarked paper, in full sheets for each printing³⁹. These, too, have been dispersed.

A prominent plate flaw exists on the 2m. in position 82 of every other pane from printings A/40, B/40, A/41, and A/53. There are three dots instead of two over the last (bottommost) letter of the Arabic inscription in the left panel (Fig. 36).

As wear made it necessary, new plates were prepared using either the same photo-originals or the same master negatives. Several plates



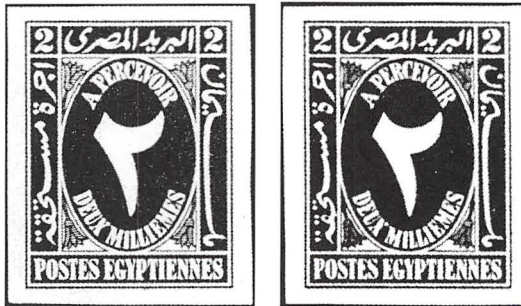
Fig. 35 Skewed perforations.



Fig. 36 Plate flaw: three dots instead of two in the left panel (upper right stamp).

were required for the values with long lives and heavy use. In most respects the stamps printed from new plates differ little or not at all, except for one feature. The exposure intensity in the photographic steps for building up the plate varied enough to lead to stamps with a slightly different appearance. The lotus flowers in the four corners are the most sensitive parts to the differences in exposure because they are made up of thin lines. On some plates the flowers are lightly outlined and shaded with sharp lines; even the stems can be seen to have horizontal shading lines. On these plates the colorless parts of the framelines are slightly wider than those on the darker plates. At the other extreme, some plates have the flowers made up of thicker lines, even to the point of appearing to merge, and the stems are nearly solid. The inked areas slightly encroach on the colorless parts of the framelines making them thinner (Fig. 37). Still other plates are intermediate. The 6m. and 12m. stamps were printed from just one plate and are representative examples of light stamps. The 10m. deep brick red, control number A/47, is a good example of a dark stamp (the proofs on thick paper of this printing are the only ones with an Arabic inscription on the back instead of CANCELLED).

A shortage of 2m. postage due stamps arose suddenly on July 11th 1940 when the letter rate was raised from 5m. to 6m. with no advance notice. In the emergency, ordinary 1m. and 2m. stamps were pressed into service for use as postage dues⁴⁰ (Fig. 37). Ordinary stamps were again used in 1947, and probably at other times, when a shortage developed at a particular post office; such use was probably not specifically authorized, although the precedent had been set in 1940.



Light and dark impressions



Provisional postage due stamps.

Fig. 37

“King of Egypt and Sudan” Overprints

When the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement was abrogated by the Egyptian Parliament and King Farouk was declared to be king of Sudan as well as Egypt in consideration of the historical fact that Egypt had ruled the Sudan in the 19th century, all current stamps, including the postage dues, were overprinted the same as the ordinary stamps with a commemorative inscription in Arabic, including the date of the proclamation, October 16th 1951 (Fig. 38). The overprinted stamps were issued on January 16th 1952.

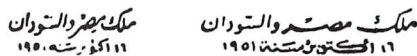


Fig. 38 The 1952 overprints.

Color trials of the overprint were prepared for each stamp, one sheet to a color⁴¹. Each denomination of the postage due set then current exists with proof overprints in black, blue, green, red, and brown, with the following exceptions:

The red stamps – 2 and 12m. did not receive the red overprint.

The green 4m. did not receive the green overprint.

The 8m. – plum to brown-violet was not overprinted in brown.

The 5m. was no longer in use and was not overprinted.

The colors chosen for the issued stamps were:

2m. – blue

4m. – black

8m. – blue

10m. – blue or black

12m. – blue

30m. – red

Two markedly different shades of the 10m. basic stamp, rose lake and brown red, were overprinted. Overprinting errors (Fig. 39) occurred on four values. A sheet each of the 2m. and 8m. were overprinted upside down. At least one sheet each of the 2m. and 12m. was poorly placed in the press and received a horizontally misplaced overprint; a part of the overprint fell on the stamp to the right. The same type of error occurred with the 10m., but was much more drastic. The overprint was applied slanting from lower left to upper right and not only straddled many stamps, but missed some altogether, giving rise to a small number of strips with one or more stamps without overprint. The “extra dot” plate flaw of the 2m. also exists overprinted. The overprint variety Arabic 66 for 16 exists only on the 6m.



Fig. 39 Misplaced overprint, missing on some stamps.

Issues of the Republic

When Egypt was declared to be a republic after the overthrow of the monarchy in July 1953, the king's portrait was obliterated on the ordinary stamps, but the postage due, official, and express stamps, which did not bear the portrait, continued in use. This was in spite of the fact that the watermark was distinctly royalist. It was not until 1958 that the need for further supplies arose. By then new paper had been obtained, watermarked

with a heraldic eagle and the name Egypt in Arabic (*misr*). The 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, and 30m. were printed on this paper and a new value, 20m., was added. The colors were much the same as before; the 20m. was a lake red. The date of issue has not been recorded accurately; some catalogs give 1958–59 and others give 1960. All values have the control number A/57 or Arabic equivalent so the earlier date seems more probable. The 2m. and 30m. exist with inverted watermark and are quite scarce thus.

A further change of watermark happened in 1962. This consisted of the letters U.A.R. and the Arabic *geem*, *'ain*, and *meem* (أ ع ح) for the United Arab Republic. New printings of the postage due stamps were made on this paper. The 6m. and 8m. were omitted, the 10m. value was revived, now in chestnut, the 12m. became lake brown, and the 20m. red-brown.

Three years later the last issue of Egyptian postage due stamps was issued, inscribed U.A.R. Almost everything about them was different: design, paper (unwatermarked), perforation, inscriptions, printing method, and colors. Essays of various designs, painted in multicolor on drawing board in large size, were prepared (Fig. 40). The chosen design (Fig. 41) was printed on white, unwatermarked paper by photogravure:

2m. – black-violet and orange	20m. – dark violet and pale blue
8m. – deep blue and pale blue	40m. – emerald and orange
10m. – green and bright yellow	

They were perforated 11½x11. The current *Stanley Gibbons Catalogue: Part 19 Middle East*, 5th ed., describes these stamps as being on paper colored in the second of the colors given above, but this is an unobservant gaffe. The numerals as well as the sheet margins are plain white.

The new stamps were printed by the Postal Authority Press, Cairo. In place of the former control numbers, the margins of the sheets show an imprint in black of the date of printing and a serial number.

Not long after this set of postage due stamps was issued the use of special stamps to collect postage due was abolished. Ordinary stamps were prescribed instead and have been used as postage due stamps since then. The remaining postage due stamps became acceptable for primary franking. Although these stamps are not overly scarce in used condition, I have yet to see an example used on a cover to collect postage due; the few covers I have seen show their use for simple postage.



Fig. 41 Issued design.

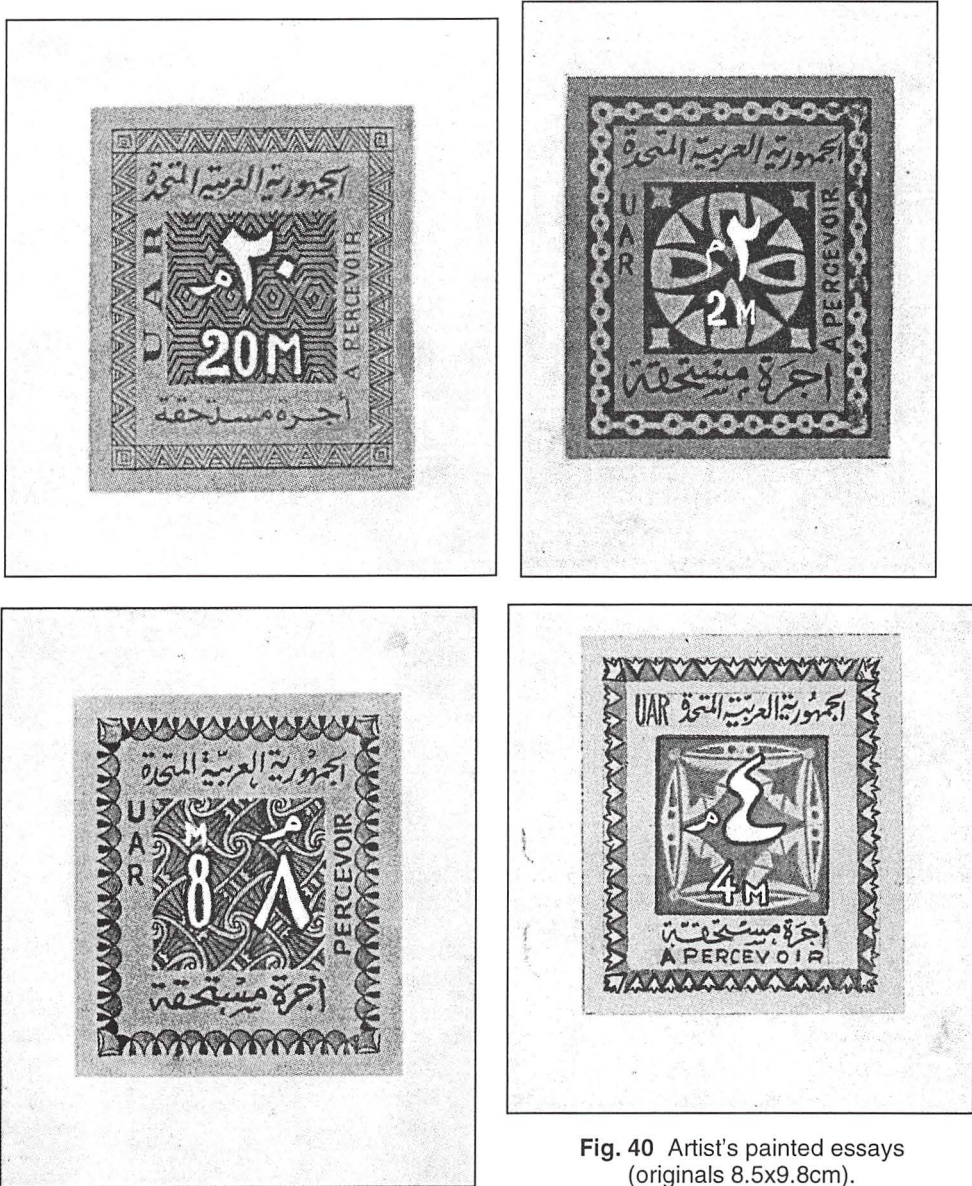


Fig. 40 Artist's painted essays
(originals 8.5x9.8cm).

Postage Due Markings

The first markings to indicate postage due before special stamps were issued have been mentioned at the beginning of this chapter. A selection of the cursive numeral handstamps is shown in Figure 42. The boxed T that was introduced later was the standard UPU design, but several small variations in size occurred as new devices were required (Fig. 43). Although the boxed T was primarily used to indicate the need for postage due treatment, it also had another function. When postage due could not be

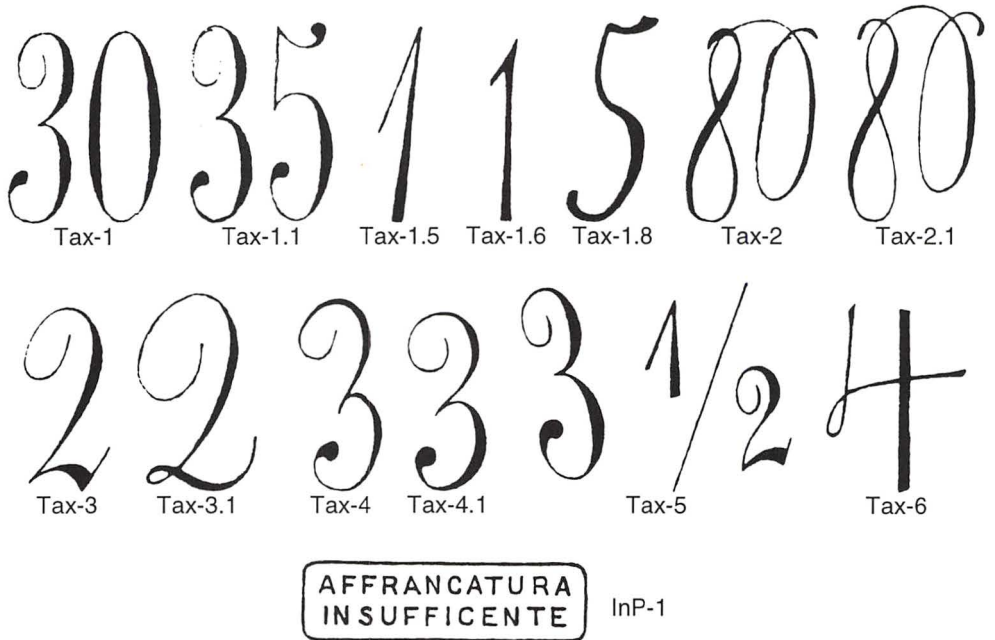


Fig. 42 The early postage due markings (after R.S. Blomfield).

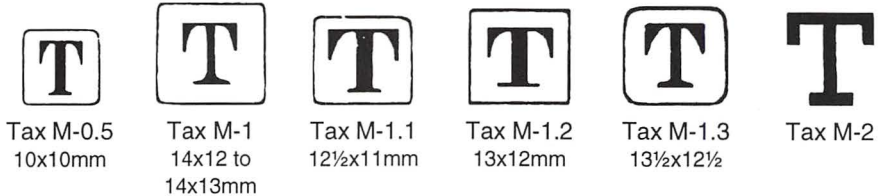


Fig. 43 Boxed T handstamps (after R.S. Blomfield).

collected for whatever reason, the letters would generally be forwarded or returned to the sender and any postage due stamps on them had to be annulled. The boxed T was used for this purpose (Fig. 44). When it is found struck directly on a postage due stamp it is the equivalent of “void” or “annulled”. If the letter incurred postage due at its ultimate destination, fresh postage due stamps were applied.

Besides the boxed T, some informational postage due handstamps were used at one time or another. The language used for the first such markings was Italian, but by the late 1870s postage due markings became bilingual: French and Arabic (Fig. 45). Such handstamps were for use elsewhere on the cover and were not intended for use as cancellations.

At some time after the 1926 issue was put into use an alternative to the boxed T was introduced for annulling postage due stamps. This is a horizontal

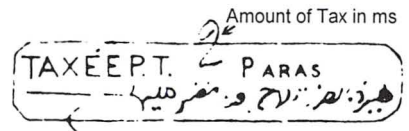


Fig. 45 Bilingual postage-due handstamp, with the amount inserted manually (early 1880s) (after R.S. Blomfield).



Fig. 44 A cover showing use of the boxed T to annul Egyptian postage-due stamps before returning to sender.

rectangle divided into three bands. The bottom band is inscribed TAX(E) NON / PERCUE and the top band contains the Arabic equivalent; the center band is either blank or filled with diagonal lines (Fig. 46).

Finally, it is interesting to note that from the 1890s to 1910 (or later?) postage due stamps can be found with traveling post office cancellations of the Alexandria-Cairo and Port Said-Cairo routes. The latter is often of the type bearing the additional inscription FOREIGN MAILS. These were used on the sorting cars on the trains that met arriving ships. I have seen dates from 1892 to 1910. The issues of 1888 and 1889 can be found cancelled on the Challal-Wadi Halfa TPO; I have seen dates in 1889 and 1890 only.

NOTE:

A tax of 5m. was in force for an unknown period (1930s, 1940s to ?) on letters addressed "Poste restante" (presumably applied only at offices where house delivery was normally provided); in 1968 the tax was raised to 10m. The tax was collected by means of fiscal stamps and therefore does not fall in the postage-due category⁴².



Fig. 46 Bilingual handstamp for annulment.

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Appendix

The Four Types of the Postage Due Issues of 1884–88

The features that distinguish the Types are mostly quite small and not all of them will show up well in the printed illustrations. Their locations are indicated by the drawn circles. It is important to keep in mind the fact that these features, which are mostly flaws arising from the lithographic transfer process, may vary slightly from one stamp to another and some of them are nearly invisible on certain sheet positions. However, some of the identifying features will always be present.

In referring to the thin framelines, the terms ‘outer’ or ‘outermost’, ‘middle’, and ‘inner’ or ‘innermost’ are used since there are three concentric thin frames. The word ‘speck’ is used where the feature is extremely small, compared to a ‘spot’. The term ‘break’ is used where a line is nearly or completely broken through; in other cases, ‘gouge’ is used for a large flaw, ‘notch’ for a smaller one, and ‘nick’ for one even smaller. ‘Broken’, used in connection with letters, is used to indicate a defect in which any part of the letter is not fully printed.

Individual plate positions often have flaws specific to them alone; they may be colored flaws or uncolored. Their presence should be allowed for in determining the Type of any stamp.

In the following descriptions the order of position of Arabic letters is right to left, as Arabic is written (bottom to top for the inscriptions in the right side panel). But to avoid ambiguity the terms “leftmost”, “topmost”, etc. are generally used.

1884 & 1886 – 10 Paras

TYPE I

- a. The innermost thin frameline at the left has a spot of extra color in line with the P of EGYPTIENNES.
- b. The outer thick frameline at the bottom has a white spot in line with the right edge of the 0 of 10.
- c. At the left, the second S of POSTES has a nick in its upper curve.
- d. In the numeral 0 the interior thin outline has a break at its bottom right.
- e. The lower thick inner frameline has a curved gouge in line with the second Arabic letter, *alef*, in the left word.
- f. The lower thin outer frameline has a small break below the left end of the Arabic inscription.

TYPE II

- a. The thick inner frameline has two notches, one at the left in line with the TE of POSTES and one at the top between A and P of A PERCEVOIR.
- b. In the lower panel the thin frameline is broken above the Arabic numerals.
- c. In the upper panel the upper thin frameline has two breaks to the left of A.
- d. At the left the inner thin frameline is broken in line with the AR of PARAS.
- e. In the numeral 0 the interior thin outline has a small break in line with the F of TARIF.

TYPE III

- a. In the left panel the thin frameline to the right of TE of POSTES is broken.
- b. In the numeral 0 the interior thin outline is broken at its lower right.
- c. In the bottom panel there is a small dot of color just off the upper left of the Arabic numeral 1.
- d. In the central numeral 1 the outline at the top is joined (or nearly so) to the body of the numeral by a colored mark.
- e. In the right panel there is a minute speck of color to the right of (i.e. above) the long Arabic letter *seen* in line with but well below the pair of dots that lies to the right of TARIF.

TYPE IV

- a. In the bottom panel the outer thin frameline is broken in line with the middle of the Arabic word in the right section.
- b. On the body of the numeral 1 there is a small white spot about halfway up.
- c. In the word PARAS there is a small speck between P and A.

1884 & 1886 – 20 Paras

TYPE I

- a. In the word PARAS there is a small projection from the top of s.
- b. The interior outline of the numeral 2 has a break in the right side level with T of TARIF.
- c. In the lower part of the right panel the long Arabic letter *seen* is nicked near its middle.
- d. In the upper part of the right panel there is a nick at the top of the loop of the Arabic letter *sad* in line with TA of TARIF.
- e. The P of PARAS has a small white spot near the middle of its stem.
- f. The C of PERCEVOIR is nicked at upper left.

TYPE II

- a. In the top panel the thin frameline is broken below C.
- b. The last E of EGYPTIENNES has a nick in the bottom of its bottom bar.
- c. In the lower right corner the indent at right has a thin line joining the thick and thin framelines near the point of the indent.
- d. In the numeral 2 the body is nicked at the very top.
- e. In the numeral 0 the body has a nick near the underside of its top.
- f. In the bottom panel just to the left of the Arabic numeral there is a short vertical line from the thin upper frameline. Further to the left the thin frameline is broken above the space between the leftmost Arabic letters.

TYPE III

- a. The outline of the numeral 0 has a large break at lower right.
- b. In the upper part of the right panel the right thin frameline is broken near the topmost (last) Arabic letter.
- c. The top outer frameline has a nick above I of PERCEVOIR.
- d. In the left panel the middle thin frameline is broken to the right of (i.e. below) the last E of EGYPTIENNES.
- e. Outside the bottom frameline, almost exactly below the space between the Arabic numerals, there is a speck of color (sometimes punched out by the perforation).
- f. Outside the top frameline above EV there is a spot of color (sometimes punched out by the perforation).

TYPE IV

- a. To the right of T of TARIF the thin innermost frameline is broken.
- b. The outer frameline at left has an inward projection in line with I of EGYPTIENNES, touching the thin frameline (or almost so).
- c. The last E of EGYPTIENNES has a bulge on the bottom bar.
- d. Outside the lower left corner, in line with the bottom frameline, there is a speck of color (sometimes punched out by the perforation).

1884 & 1886 – 1 Piaster

TYPE I

- a. The outer thin frameline above C of PERCEVOIR has a large break.
- b. In the bottom pane the lower thin frameline has a small upward projection just to the left of the Arabic numeral.
- c. The outline of the numeral 1 is broken at the very top.
- d. In the Arabic word *qirsh* (just to the left of the Arabic numeral) a wispy line joins the curl of the right letter to the left dot of the pair over it (this is not present on every stamp of the Type).

TYPE II

- a. In the top panel the outer thin frameline is broken to the upper right of C.
- b. In the bottom panel the middle thin frameline has a large break just to the right of the Arabic numeral.
- c. In the bottom panel in the leftmost Arabic word *qirsh*, there is a speck of color above the leftmost curve.

TYPE III

- a. In the lower left corner a thin vertical line joins the thick and thin framelines.
- b. The T of TARIF has a nick in the underside of its crossbar at left.
- c. In the bottom of the right panel the left part (tail) of the Arabic letter *wau* (و) is nicked.
- d. In the bottom panel the leftmost Arabic letter has a spot of color above its leftmost point.

TYPE IV

- a. The innermost thin frameline is broken below the second E of PERCEVOIR.
- b. In the bottom panel the lower thin frameline is broken below the leftmost Arabic letter.
- c. In the right panel there is a colored mark on the outer thin frameline to the right of the topmost Arabic letter.
- d. At the very top of the numeral 1 the outline is joined to the body by a vertical line.
- e. In the upper left part of the central panel there is a speck of color aligned below the A of PERCEVOIR.
- f. The R of PIASTRE is surmounted by a small dot.
- g. The I of PERCEVOIR has a small projection from its upper right side.

1884 & 1886 – 2 Piasters

TYPE I

- a. In the right panel the middle thin frameline is broken in line with the T of TARIF.
- b. The innermost thin frameline at the bottom of the central panel is broken at about one-quarter of the way from the right.
- c. In the bottom panel the thin frameline above the leftmost part of the Arabic inscription is broken.
- d. The outermost thin frameline at the bottom has a break just to the right of the Arabic numeral.
- e. There is a speck of color to the upper left of the A in the top panel.
- f. In the bottom panel there is a minute speck above and to the left of the leftmost Arabic letter.

TYPE II

- a. In the right panel the upper part of the loop of the letter *sad* is broken through.
- b. The innermost thin frameline of the central panel is broken in line with the head of P of PIASTRES.
- c. The outline of the numeral 2 has a small break at the level of RE of PIASTRES.
- d. In the areas enclosed by the outline of the numeral 2 there is a short, slanting line of color.
- e. In the right panel the middle thin frameline is broken level with the left end of the crossbar of T of TARIF.

TYPE III

- a. The outer outline of the numeral 2 is broken level with the second S of PIASTRES.
- b. In the bottom panel the upper right tip of the Arabic numeral has a nick.
- c. The inner thick frameline at the right is nicked at the right edge level with the space in RI of TARIF.
- d. The bottom thick frameline has an upward bump about one-third of the way from the left (i.e., below the diagonal line that is the Arabic letter *re'*).

TYPE IV

- a. The V of PERCEVOIR has a large gouge in its left arm.
- b. The right vertical part of the inner thick frameline has a large nick on its right side near the top corner.
- c. In the bottom panel the thin frameline above the Arabic numeral is broken.
- d. There are extra specks of color in the bottom panel around the left end of the right Arabic word.

1884 & 1886 – 5 Piasters

TYPE I

- a. In the P, A and S of PIASTRES there are defects.
- b. The top line of the innermost thin rectangle is broken in line with the P of PERCEVOIR.
- c. The first R of PERCEVOIR has a small break at the top.
- d. In the bottom panel, left end, there is a small white spot in the curve of the leftmost letter.
- e. In the lower left corner the bottom of the outer thick frameline has a deep notch between the corner and the indent.
- f. In the bottom panel there are several small specks of color just to the left of the Arabic numeral.

TYPE II

- a. The second E of PERCEVOIR has a flaw hanging from its middle bar.
- b. The inner thick frameline below the first E of PERCEVOIR is nicked on the upper side.
- c. In the bottom panel the curve of the leftmost Arabic letter has a comma-shaped appendage at its lower left.
- d. Between the R and C of PERCEVOIR there is a small speck of color.
- e. In the bottom panel the *wau* (ج) of the left Arabic word *qroosh* has a speck of color to the left of its tip.

TYPE III

- a. Above the first R of PERCEVOIR the thin frameline has a small downward projection.
- b. Below the P of PERCEVOIR the thick frameline has a minute white dot in it.
- c. In the bottom panel the curve of the leftmost Arabic letter *sheen* has a small spot inside and a small projection leftward from the left side.
- d. In the bottom pane there is a minute speck of color to the right of the Arabic numeral (this feature also occurs in Type IV).

TYPE IV

- a. In the bottom panel the bottom thin frameline has a small upward projection to the left of the Arabic numeral.
- b. On the left side the outer thin frameline is broken, level with the E of POSTES.
- c. Following the second S of POSTES there is a small speck.
- d. To the right of the numeral 5 there is a speck of color near the bottom corner of the flag of the numeral.
- e. Between the R of TARIF and the frameline there is a small speck (not present on all stamps of this Type).
- f. Feature d. of Type III.
- g. The vertical back of the 5 is in line with the space between E and R of PERCEVOIR (in the other Types, it is in line with the stem of R).

1888 – 2 Milliemes

TYPE I

- a. The I of PERCEVOIR is broken near the bottom.
- b. In the bottom panel the outer thin frameline is broken, in line with MILLIEMES at right.
- c. In the right panel, near the bottom, there is a spot of color between the two parts of the Arabic word *posta*.
- d. In the bottom panel there is a tiny spot of color below the Arabic numeral.
- e. The left part of the inner thick frameline is nicked on its left side, level with IE of EGYPTIENNES.
- f. Between the P of EGYPTIENNES and the the outer thin frameline there is a small speck of color.

TYPE II

- a. In the right panel at the top of the Arabic inscription there is a prominent dot off the end of the *re*, close to the inner corner.
- b. In the left half of the bottom panel the outer thick frameline has an upward projection and the outermost thin frameline has a break, both aligned with MILLIEMES.
- c. In the bottom panel the leftmost Arabic letter *sheen* has a spot of color off the tip of its curve and the outer thick frameline is nicked below the same curve.
- d. On the numeral 2 there is a deep notch on the under side of its ball.

TYPE III

- a. The T of EGYPTIENNES has a projection to the left at the middle of the stem.
- b. On the numeral 2, at its upper right, there is a spot of color attached to the body, nearly extending to the thin outline.
- c. The outer thick frameline at the right has an outward projection at the level of the first Arabic letter and the lower horizontal part of the inner thick rectangle.
- d. In the bottom panel the Arabic numeral has a downward projection from its flag.
- e. Between the letters V and O in the top panel there is a dot.
- f. On the bottom of the numeral 2 there is a small downward projection from its outline.

TYPE IV

- a. To the left of the S of the right word MILLIEMES there is a speck of color (missing on stamps nos. 58 and 100).
- b. In the left word MILLIEMES the left stem of the first M is thin and defective.
- c. In the bottom panel the curve of the leftmost Arabic letter has a comma-shaped attachment at its bottom and the thin frameline is broken below it.
- d. Near the middle of the body of the 2 there is a small white dash.
- e. In the top panel the middle thin frameline has a large break below the space between A and P.

1888 – 5 Milliemes

TYPE I

- a. In the bottom panel, at the middle left, the first Arabic *re'* (ر) extends farther to the left than on the other Types.
- b. In the thick uppermost frameline there is a complete break above the O of PERCEVOIR.
- c. In the bottom panel, just to the right of the Arabic numeral, the bottom thin frameline is broken.
- d. In the bottom panel the leftmost Arabic letter has a spot of color below its curve and another off its tip.

TYPE II

- a. Between the E and V of PERCEVOIR there is a spot.
- b. The second E of PERCEVOIR has a blob on its middle bar.
- c. In the right panel between the Arabic *seen* and the outer frameline, about level with the second E of MILLIEMES, there is a small speck of color.
- d. In the right panel the middle thin frameline is broken at the level of the lower horizontal part of the thick inner rectangle.
- e. In the lower left corner the outer thin frameline is broken at the point of the lower indent.

TYPE III

- a. Left of the S of EGYPTIENNES the thin frameline is broken.
- b. The first R of PERCEVOIR has a projection on the curve of its right leg.
- c. Below the right leg of the second R of PERCEVOIR there is a large white spot on the inner thick frameline.
- d. In the bottom panel, midway in the left part of the Arabic inscription, the *re'* almost touches the *alef* above it.

TYPE IV

- a. In the left panel the stem of the T of EGYPTIENNES has a spot attached to its side, about halfway up.
- b. In the right panel the topmost Arabic letter *te' marbuta* is partially broken.
- c. In the right panel the outer thin frameline is broken level with the upper stem of the second M of MILLIEMES.
- d. In the bottom panel, in the left part of the Arabic inscription, the second *alef* (ا) has a projection on its left side.
- e. In the top panel the I of PERCEVOIR is cut off at its bottom, and the thin frameline below it is broken.
- f. On the left side the outer thick frameline has an outward projection level with the O of POSTES.

1888 – 1 Piaster

TYPE I

- a. In the word PIASTRE at left the crossbar of the T is broken short at its right.
- b. In the word PIASTRE at right the I is nicked at its bottom right.
- c. In the bottom panel the thin frameline is broken above the right-hand part of the Arabic inscription, between the two pairs of dots.
- d. Near the lower right corner the outer thin frameline is broken below the right end of the Arabic inscription.

TYPE II

- a. In the bottom panel the leftmost Arabic letter has only two dots instead of three.
- b. Below the leftmost Arabic letter the outer thick frameline has a slanting break.
- c. The inner thick frameline has a deep notch on its under side below the first R of PERCEVOIR and the thin frameline is broken below the P.
- d. Between A and P in the top panel there is a small dot, high up.

TYPE III

- a. In the bottom panel the lower thin frameline is broken below the rightmost letter *qaf* of the left part of the Arabic inscription.
- b. In the word PIASTRE at right there is a spot of color on the upper right curve of R.
- c. In the right panel there is a dot to the left of the Arabic level with R of PIASTRE.
- d. Above the C of PERCEVOIR the outer thick frameline has a large gouge on its under side.

TYPE IV

- a. The C of PERCEVOIR resembles a G and is joined to the frameline below it by a thin line and the first R is broken at its bottom left.
- b. On the right side the innermost thin frameline is joined to the thick one by a thin oblique line a little below the level of the E of PIASTRE.
- c. In the word PIASTRE at left there is a small forward projection from the bottom of the stem of the R.
- d. In the bottom panel the curve of the leftmost Arabic letter has a bump just to the left of the bottom.

1888 – 2 Piasters

TYPE I

- a. In the bottom panel the left tip of the leftmost Arabic letter *nun* is short.
- b. Above the A in the top panel the outer thick frameline is gouged on its upper side.
- c. In the word PIASTRES at left the A has a break or nick at its upper left.
- d. On the right side the innermost thin frameline is broken at about the level of the second S of PIASTRES.

TYPE II

- a. Above the first R of PERCEVOIR there is a prominent spot of color adhering to the thin frameline.
- b. In the top panel, between A and P, there is a small speck.
- c. On the numeral 2 the top of the body is joined to the outline by a thin line and there are two projections on the right side of the body, level with P and I of PIASTRES.
- d. The bottom of the body of the 2 has a small upward white notch.
- e. In PIASTRES at left the top of the A is broken or notched.

TYPE III

- a. On the left side, to the right of O of POSTES, there is a spot of color between the middle thin frameline and the inner thick one.
- b. In the right panel, among the three dots of the lowest Arabic letter, the leftmost dot is broken.
- c. In PIASTRES at right the A has a small projection from the lower part of its left leg.
- d. The innermost thin frameline on the left side is broken, level with the space between S and T of PIASTRES.

TYPE IV

- a. In the top panel the top of the A is broken off and there is a prominent spot of color to the lower left of it on the thin frameline.
- b. In the right panel the middle thin frameline is broken just below the level of the second S of PIASTRES.
- c. In the bottom panel, above the Arabic letter *alef* (ألف) the middle thin frameline is broken.
- d. In the bottom panel the right Arabic word has a large blob joining the linear part to the pair of dots above (this flaw is absent on stamps nos. 98 and 100).

1888 – 5 Piasters

TYPE I

- a. Above the first E of PERCEVOIR the outer thick frameline has a large break.
- b. In the bottom pane, the leftmost Arabic letter has a bump on its lower left curve, and there are some specks of color around the letter.
- c. In PIASTRES at left the crossbar of the T is bent down at its left.

TYPE II

- a. The O of POSTES is almost broken through on the middle of its right side.
- b. In the bottom panel the middle thin frameline is broken to the left of the Arabic numeral above the pair of dots.
- c. Below the right-hand word PIASTRES the horizontal innermost thin and thick framelines are joined by an oblique line.
- d. On the numeral 5 the top of the ball of the body is joined to its outline by an upward line.

TYPE III

- a. There is a prominent dot following the word PIASTRES at the left (absent only from stamp no. 11).
- b. In PIASTRES at right the stem of the P is slightly beveled at its lower left.
- c. In the bottom of the right panel the Arabic *wau* (و) has a large break (just up from the three dots).
- d. In the right panel, to the right of the long stroke of the Arabic *seen*, a minute crescent-shaped speck is present (absent on stamp no. 77).
- e. The flag of the 5 is joined to its lower outline by an oblique line.
- f. At the left the outermost thin frameline has a small break level with IE of EGYPTIENNES.
- g. Above the bottom panel the thick frameline has a downward bump above the first Arabic letter left of the numeral.

TYPE IV

- a. In the bottom panel the middle thin frameline is broken above the Arabic numeral.
- b. In PIASTRES at left the upper part of R is notched or broken.
- c. In PIASTRES at right the crossbar of T is nicked and short.
- d. In the bottom panel there are breaks in the thin frameline below the leftmost Arabic letter.
- e. The right innermost thin frameline is joined to the thick one by a projection, about level with the A of PIASTRES.
- f. The curved part of the body of 5 is joined on its inner side to the outline by an oblique line, about level with T of PIASTRES.