

XXXIX

Postal Paper

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Introduction

There are two major categories of postal paper: those that are affixed to covers and related mail items as labels or seals, and those that serve in other ways. The labels that are affixed to covers may be further subdivided into those that are affixed by the Post Office, such as registration labels, insured value labels, parcel post labels, and officially sealed labels, and those that are generally applied by the public, such as air mail and express labels. Censorship sealing labels are treated in Chapter XL and interpostal seals in Chapter XXXIV. The other types of postal paper comprise Post Office forms given to or used by the public (receipts and postage-due notices, notices and announcements displayed for public information), items sold to the public (international reply coupons), packaging items (e.g., bands for wrapping packets of postal stationery), and internal post office forms (manifests, accounts, notices to postmasters). Some of the various announcements are described in the chapters to which they relate and are therefore not taken up in this chapter.

Registration Labels¹

In the 19th century registered letters were identified by various handstamps; labels for the purpose appear to have come into use in Egypt in the first decade of the 20th century (earliest noted date, November 1906). Most, but not all, incorporate the name of the office bilingually or in Arabic only. They also contain a serial number, necessarily printed separately. The identifying feature of all is a large capital R which may be at the right or left end. Registration labels were rarely postmarked, therefore the date of use and the office, if the name is not incorporated, can only be determined when they are on cover.

Labels were printed in red, red plus a black number, or black, on white or colored gummed paper. Some are clearly typographed and some lithographed. They were printed

in sheets and separated by perforation or rouletting (in some instances the separation is syncopated; i.e., the cuts or holes are in pairs). An unusual format, seen in the 1960s, consists of the label attached on the left to a receipt form bearing the same number; only the label part was gummed. Use of registration labels appears to have been abandoned (1970s?).

The list that follows is the result of a preliminary survey rather than a study in depth and the dates given are only a rough guide and could probably be extended by many years in either direction. Furthermore, additional types, not necessarily scarce, may well exist. The list is arranged according to appearance characteristics; a chronological arrangement is not feasible because loose examples are not dated and covers, especially in more recent years, are often dated illegibly.

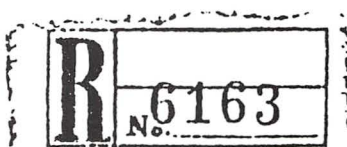
A more thoroughly researched and enlarged classification and listing has very recently been published,^{1c} too late and too extensive for inclusion in the list printed below (its primary classification is based on the color of the printing and the paper, rather than the format as used here). The following points should be borne in mind: the letter "R" may vary from quite narrow to broad and may have a straight or cued right leg; the serial numbers may be printed or handstamped; different typefaces may be used in the name of the office; perforation or rouletting may not be sufficiently clean-cut to be measured; paper color, when not white, may be in many shades from flesh and orange through pink to rose, and sometimes even lilac; "No." may be written "N^o."; CAIRO may be spelt in Arabic either *al qahera* القاهرة or *masr* مصر. Only some of these variations are included in this list.

In the list below 'e' = English spelling of the office; 'f' = French spelling.

A – 'R' at left, flag at right

A-1. Rectangular box, ca. 15x37mm, two panels, with number in the lower one.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Upper panel blank. Black; perf. 10.
 Black on peach; perf. 10 (seen OC 47).
 Black on crimson; rouletted 7 (seen MR 63).
 Red with red number; perf. 14 (very blind) (JY 69–AU 72).</p> <p>2. Office name in upper panel, Arabic above European.
 <i>e.</i> Black; perf. 10. Cairo (seen OC 48).
 <i>e.</i> Black on red; perf. 10. Cairo (OC 36–JA 43). Alexandria, Moh, Bey Farid.
 <i>e.</i> Black on pink; perf. 10. Cairo (DE 34). Alexandria.
 (also P. Said, Rue Fouad 1^{er}, Qena).</p> | <p><i>f.</i> Black on peach; rouletted 14 in paired cuts. Le Caire (SE 66).
 <i>f.</i> Black on red; rouletted 13. Le Caire (AU 61–JN 63), P. Said (seen MR 55).
 <i>f.</i> Black on red rouletted 7. Le Caire (seen JA 63).
 <i>f.</i> Red with red number; perf. 12. Le Caire (seen MY 68).
 <i>f.</i> Red with red number; rouletted 13+ (seen AP 69).</p> |
|--|---|



A-1



A-1.2

A-2. Rectangular box with number below R., ca. 21x49mm.

No horizontal division in flag; office name in Arabic only, with Arabic number below.

Black with red name; perf. 12 in paired holes. Cairo (seen 74).

Black with red name; rouletted 6. Cairo.

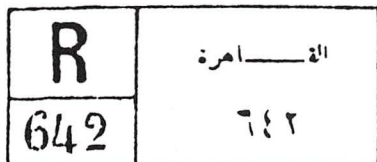
Black with red name; perf. 6 in paired cuts. Cairo (seen DE 74).

A-3. Rectangular box without line between R and flag, ca. 19x29mm.

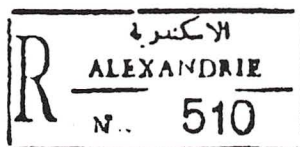
Office name in upper panel, Arabic above European.

f. Deep magenta; rough roulette 6. Alexandrie.

f. Crimson with crimson number; very rough roulette. Le Caire (AP 71-NO 72).



A-2



A-3

A-4. Rectangular box without bottom line; two horizontal lines make three panels; frame double-lined.

1. No office name; number in central panel.

Black; perf. 10. (JA-AU 38).

2. Office name in upper panel in

European, in lower panel in Arabic.

e. Black; perf. 10. Cairo (JA 20-OC 23).

f. Black; perf. 12. Caire (DE 11-JA 13).

f. Black; perf. 10. Caire (seen JA 15).

Alexandrie.

f. Black; perf. 11. Caire.

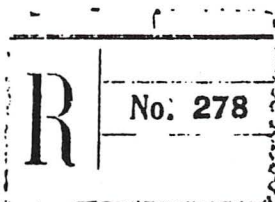
f. Black; perf. 12. Alexandrie (seen JA 08).

3. As 2, but Arabic in the top panel, European in the bottom one.

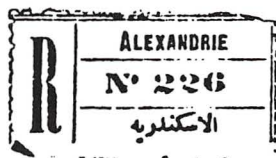
e. Black; perf. 10. Alexandria (seen AU 12).

Cairo (AU 28-JY 38). Qena (seen JY 34).

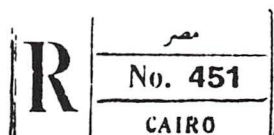
(also Ghuriya ('29-'36), Emad el Din ('33-'44))



A-4.1



A-4.2



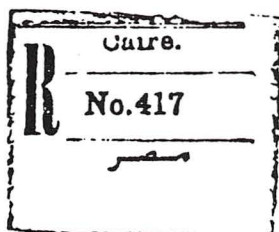
A-4.3

A-5. Like A-4, but without vertical frame or dividing lines.

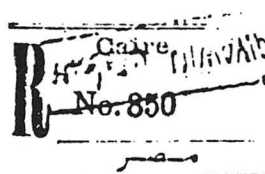
1. *f.* Black; perf. 10. Alexandrie. Caire.

2. As above, but with handstamped boxed bilingual name of another office.

Black; perf. 10. Dawawin over Caire (seen AU 10).



A-5.1

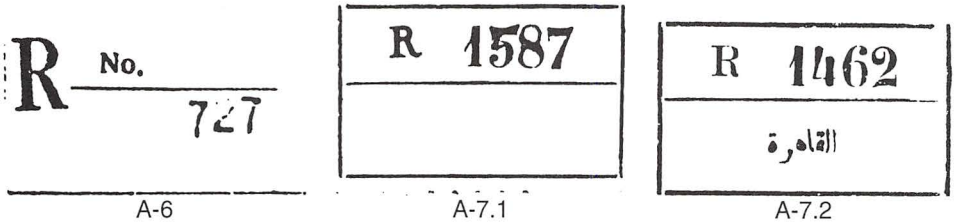


A-5.2

A-6. Vertical line to left of R only; one horizontal dividing line. R may extend from top to bottom without "No.", or may be confined to the top panel without "No.". No office name. Black; rough perf. 14 (in 7 pairs of holes). (Seen JA 64). (The perforations nearly obliterate the thin

A-7. Box made of four rules, ca. 37x22mm; one horizontal dividing line; upper panel contains R and a large number.

- 1. Lower panel blank. Black (1960s); Red, perf. 6½. (1980s).
- 2. Lower panel contains office name in Arabic. Red; perf. 6½. Cairo (seen DE 85), Bab el Luq, Mellau.
- 3. Red, Arabic above English in top panel (Port Said, Alexandria).

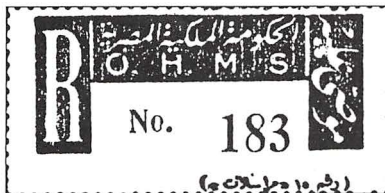


A-8. R and inscriptions in intaglio; three panels form an arch.

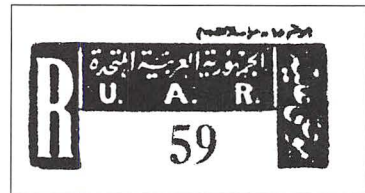
- 1. Inscribed O.H.E.M.S. (seen AU 44-NO 47). Black on red; perf. 10 (seen 1934). Dark blue on red; perf. 10 (seen DE 39). Dark blue on light green; perf. 10. (seen AP 42). Green on white; perf. 10-10½.
- 2. Inscribed O.H.M.S. Pale green on white; perf 12½. (seen JY 36 - DE 49)
- 3. Inscribed U.A.R. Green on white; rouletted.



A-8



A-8.2



A-8.3

B - 'R' at right, flag at left

B-1. Rectangular box, ca. 15x37mm. Two panels, with number in lower one.

- 1. No office name, black on rose. e. Black on lilac; perf. 10. Cairo, Ghouria.
- 2. Office in upper panel, European above Arabic. e. Black on red; perf. 10. Cairo.
- e. Red with black number; perf. 10. Cairo (seen OC 15). Alexandria (NO 06-MR 11).
- e. Black on rose or flesh (Alexandria).

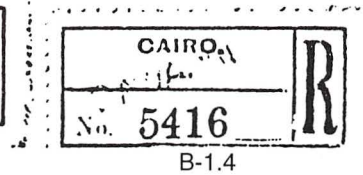
- f.* Red with black number; perf. ?
Caire (seen MY 08), Alexandria.
- f.* Red with black number; perf. 13.
Caire.
3. Arabic name above the European.
e. Black on deep orange; perf. ? Cairo
(seen 29).
4. As 2., but with bilingual handstamp of
another office.
- e.* Red with black number; perf. 12.
Dawawin over Cairo (seen AU 18).
(Note: the handstamp was applied
after the label was affixed.)
- e.* Red with black number; perf. 12.
Handstamp in European letters
only, unframed. Dawawin over
Cairo (seen JA 09).



B-1.2



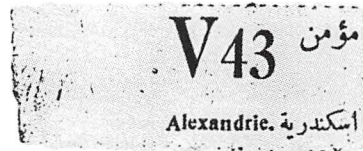
B-1.3



B-1.4

Declared Value or Insured Labels

Labels resembling registration labels but with a large V in place of R are known used on covers of money letters with insurance paid for the declared value. Too few have been recorded to allow any useful estimate of the period of use to be made, but examples have been seen from the 1930s. In addition to the example illustrated, labels otherwise identical exist with a double-lined frame of thin rules. Those seen are all black on dark rose.



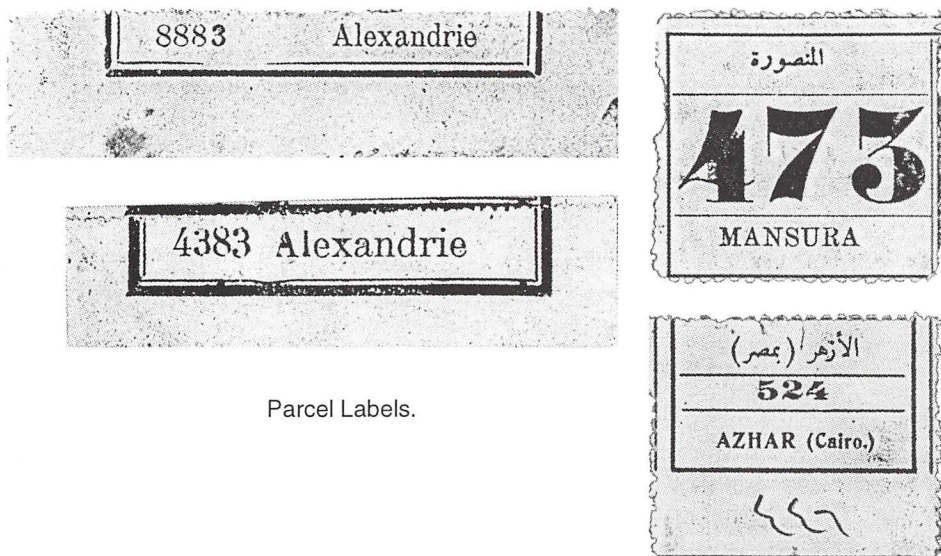
Parcel Labels and Parcel Cards

I know of three types of parcel labels, but more may well exist. The first to have been used consists of a number and "Alexandrie" surrounded on three sides by an outer thick and inner thin frameline, and perforated across the top; it appears that the labels were printed with two parts separated by a horizontal line of perforation, the lower part being intended for application to parcel forms and the upper part (inscriptions unknown) to be retained by the post office. The frame is 56mm wide, "Alexandrie" is 25mm long, and the numerals are 3.5mm tall. These labels appear to have been applied only at Alexandria, whether or not the parcel was mailed there (I have an example mailed in Cairo, dated 11 NO 83, with the Alexandrie label). A second version of this label, seen used in 1897, has a frame 57mm wide, with "Alexandrie" 19mm long, and numerals 2.8mm tall. Both versions are printed in black on off-white to buff paper of poor quality.

Nearly square (35x31mm) red labels having three panels, Arabic name at top, European at bottom, and large, bold numerals in the middle, were used in the early part of the 20th century. They are perforated 10 on four sides. I have seen examples inscribed ALEXANDRIA, ALEXANDRIE, MANSURA, and TANTA.

Smaller labels printed in red on white paper and composed of three panels in a rectangular frame measuring ca. 32x20mm, inscribed with the office name in Arabic in the top panel, in European letters in the bottom panel, and having a number in the

middle panel, were put in use later (seen from the 1920s) and may still be in use. I have seen them only for Cairo, Azhar (Cairo), and Alexandria; they are perforated 10 on three or four sides.



Parcel Labels.

Parcel Cards (Dispatch Notes), of dimensions 18 to 19mm by 13 to 14mm, printed on thick, buff stock of poor quality, were used in Egypt since at least the early 1880s. Those intended for international use were at first inscribed only in French. They are headed BULLETIN D'EXPEDITION and are provided with spaces for the affixing of stamps and for the postmark of origin, as well as lines for the address, the insured value if any, the amount of reimbursement if any, the weight, and the name and domicile of the sender.

These forms usually bear high-value stamps, sometimes in multiples. Early in the 20th century similar forms were introduced with inscriptions in English and French, headed DESPATCH NOTE - BULLETIN D'EXPEDITION and printed on grey or rose stock. Still later (1930s?) the language reverted to French only, in a revised format. In the UAR period the inscriptions were changed to French and Arabic. The new parcel cards were printed in green on white stock in a much revised format. They were accompanied by a customs declaration form in the same size and color.

For internal parcels, parcel cards inscribed in French and Arabic were provided. They are of special interest because of the lengthy explanation of regulations that is printed on the backs. The earlier ones were on yellow stock; later ones are found on buff, pinkish tan, or blue stock. In the 1970s internal parcel cards inscribed only in Arabic came into use. At some time, perhaps in the 1940s, parcels became subject to a fiscal tax that was paid by means of fiscal stamps affixed to the parcel card. Receipt forms for internal parcels also exist, inscribed in French and Arabic, and headed simply COLIS POSTAUX.

Form. N° 1. 014 - 5-6-25.000 ex.

(نمرة 224 224 ٢٢٤)

<p>COUPON قسمه (Pent être détaché par le destinataire) (يسوغ المرسل إليه أخذها) TIMBRE DU BUREAU D'ORIGINE</p> <p>ختم المكتب الأصلي Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur اسم وعنوان المرسل منه</p> <p>Place réservée pour l'impression en creux, du cachet en cas de colis avec assurance. عمل معد للضمان في الختم في البيع الأخر إذا كان مؤمناً على فيه الظروف</p>	<p>POSTES ÉGYPTIENNES البوستة المصرية</p> <p>Service des colis postaux pour l'intérieur أشغال طرود البوستة في داخلية القطر</p> <p>BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION حافظة الإرسال</p> <p>Ci-joint _____ colis portant l'adresse suivante: طرود برسم رقم هذا عدد _____</p> <p>Nom et adresse exacte du destinataire جناب <i>M</i> _____ اسم وعنوان المرسل إليه بالضبط _____</p> <p>Lien de destination _____ الجهة المرسل إليها</p> <p>VALEUR ASSURÉE P.T. _____ القيمة المؤمن عليها _____ (En toutes lettres et en chiffres) كتابة ورقيا</p> <p>MONTANT DU REMBOURS! P.T. _____ القيمة الخرجولة _____ (En toutes lettres et en chiffres) كتابة ورقيا</p> <p>Avis de réception. N° _____ Poids _____ Kgr. كيلو _____ gr. غرام _____ (١) _____ (١) _____ (١) _____ (١) _____ علم التسليم (١) _____ (١) _____ (١) _____ (١) _____</p>	<p>Placé réservé pour l'application des tickets-poste. Taxe pour chaque colis Pt. 5. Droit d'assurance. 10 paras pour chaque Pt. 100 ou fraction de Pt. 100. Droit fixe pour remboursement, à payer au moment du dépôt du colis Pt. 1.</p> <p>عمل لصق طوابيع البوستة رسم كل طرد هو خمسة دروس مبري رسم التأمين هو عشر بارات عن كل مئة غرام وكبوالمة غرض اما الرسم المترد عن التصيل فهو غرض واحد مبري بحال التسليم للبوستة</p>
<p>TIMBRE DU BUREAU (بند وصول الحافظة)</p> <p>ختم المكتب</p>	<p>Reçu le colis وصلنا الطرد</p> <p>(١) _____ (٢) _____</p> <p>(١) Avec ou sans. (٢) Signature du destinataire. بعلم أو بغير علم التسليم (٢) أيضا المرسل إليه</p>	<p>TIMBRE DU BUREAU (ختم المكتب)</p> <p>ختم المكتب</p>

<p>(نمرة 224 224 ٢٢٤)</p> <p>COUPON DU BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION قسمة حافظة الإرسال Timbre à dates du bureau d'origine ختم المكتب المرسل منه ذو التاريخ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">○</p> <p>Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur. اسم وسجل اقامة المرسل منه</p> <p>Ce coupon pourra être détaché par le destinataire. يسوغ للمرسل إليه حفظ هذه القسيمة</p>	<p>POSTES ÉGYPTIENNES بوستة مصر</p> <p>Bulletin d'expédition de Colis Postaux pour l'intérieur حافظة ارسال طرود البوستة التي برسم داخلية القطر</p> <p>Ci-joint un colis postal à l'adresse de: رقم هذا طرد بوسته باسم _____</p> <p>Montant à recouvrer du destinataire au profit de l'expéditeur: قيمة ما يتحصل من المرسل إليه برسم المرسل منه _____ P.T.</p> <p>Taxe du mandat-poste (2) رسم حوالة البوستة _____ (2) _____</p> <p>TOTAL P.T. يكون _____</p> <p>Partie de la formule à remplir par l'Agent au moment du dépôt du Colis. قسم الطبوع المتصفي تجريره بمعرفة وكيل البوستة عند استلام الطرد</p> <p>N° d'ordre du colis répondant au numéro du récépissé نمرة الطرد المتسلسله المطابقه للايصال _____</p> <p>Poids Kg _____ gr _____ وزن كيلو غرام غرام _____</p> <p>avis de réception (3) (٣) _____ علم بالايصال _____ (3) _____</p> <p>(1) En toutes lettres et en chiffres. (2) À remplir par le bureau de destination. (3) Avec ou sans. (١) كتابة ورقيا (٢) يتحرر به معرفة المكتب المرسل إليه (٣) بعلم بالايصال أو بدون ذلك</p>	<p>Timbre poste (P. T. 5) طبعة بوسته غرض تعرفه ٥</p> <p>Timbre poste (4 P. T.) طبعة بوسته غرض تعرفه ٤</p>
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Timbre du bureau de destination à l'arrivée du bulletin.
ختم المكتب المرسل اليه
مند وصول المحافظة

Timbre du bureau de destination (à la consignation du colis)
ختم المكتب المرسل اليه
مند تسليم الطرد

وعلما الطرد Reçu le colis

Reverse of internal Parcel Cards, showing instructions

Extrait du Règlement.

Les colis postaux doivent être présentés au guichet accompagnés d'un bulletin d'ex. Aitien. Toutefois il est permis de faire usage d'un seul bulletin d'expédition pour plusieurs colis émanant du même expéditeur et destinés à l' même personne. Cette faculté ne s'applique qu'aux colis avec remboursement et avec assurance de la valeur, pour lesquels un bulletin d'exp. est obligatoire. — Ce bulletin est fourni gratuitement à l'expéditeur et doit être rempli par lui pour ce qui le concerne. — Les bulletins d'expédition sont envoyés aux destinataires par les soins de l'Administration. L'expéditeur reçoit sans frais, au moment du dépôt, un récépissé de sa envoi. — Le montant maximum de remboursement dont les colis peuvent être grevés ainsi que la limite supérieure de l'assurance de la valeur, sont fixés à P.T. 10,000 par colis. — Les énonciations qui sont susceptibles de porter atteinte au contenu sans laisser une trace apparente de violation, et entre les colis avec assurance doivent être scellés par un cachet à la cire, avec empreinte ou marque spéciale de l'expéditeur. L'empresure du ce cachet doit être reportée sur le bulletin d'expédition et retenu. — Le poids maximum pour chaque colis est fixé à 5 kg. 5, et le colis ne doit pas avoir de dimensions hors de proportion avec un poids. — L'expéditeur d'un colis grevé de remboursement recouvré directement du bureau de destination, après que le remboursement aura été effectué, un mandat de poste, pour la somme dont le colis était grevé, moins le montant de la taxe dudit mandat, laquelle est fixée à 25 paras pour chaque 100 piastres ou fraction de 100 piastres. — Sauf le cas de force majeure, lorsque un colis postal a été perdu, spolié ou avarié, l'expéditeur ou, à défaut ou sur la demande de celui-ci, le destinataire a droit à une indemnité correspondant au montant réel de la perte ou de l'avarie, sans toutefois que cette indemnité puisse dépasser, pour les colis avec valeur assurée, le montant de cette valeur, et pour les colis ordinaires la somme de 100 piastres. L'expéditeur d'un colis perdu a, en outre, droit à la restitution des frais d'expédition. La réclamation n'est admise que dans le délai de six mois, à partir du dépôt du colis à la poste; passé ce terme, le réclamant n'a droit à aucune indemnité. — L'expéditeur d'un colis postal peut obtenir un avis de réception de cet objet, en payant d'avance un droit fixe de P.T. 1. Ce droit sera représenté par un timbre-poste apposé sur l'avis même. — Les colis postaux sont délivrés contre présentation du bulletin d'expédition muni de la signature du destinataire ou d'une personne autorisée à signer pour lui. — Avant la livraison, le destinataire est tenu, le cas échéant, de payer le montant indiqué sur le bulletin dans la partie réservée au remboursement. — L'Administration cesse d'être responsable des colis postaux dont les ayants-droit ont pris livraison.

L'expéditeur a le droit de joindre une recte partie de coupon, des communications quelconques pour le destinataire.

Returned Mail Labels and Envelopes

Labels crudely printed in black on white paper, having a list of reasons for return in French and Arabic to be ticked as appropriate, came into use not earlier than the 1940s. They superseded the RETOUR handstamps that had been used previously.

Closely related to the labels are Return Envelopes inscribed SERVICE DES REBUTS in which undeliverable letters were enclosed for return to the sender. They are made of buff paper of low quality. The earliest I have seen is dated 20 AO 81.

مرتب للارسل بسبب:

Retour au destinataire pour cause:

Inconnu	غير معروف
En Voyage	سافر
Refuse	رفض
Demenage	هجرة
Adresse insuffisante	عنوان ناقص
Non réclamé	لم يطلب
Absent	غير موجود

A Returned Mail label.



A Returned Mail Envelope.

Postal Receipts

Printed forms to serve as receipts for various types of payments include those for registered letters, post office boxes, money orders, and advice of reception. The earliest ones are inscribed only in Italian² and are headed AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE R. POSTE EGIZIANE, AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE POSTE EGIZIANE, AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE VICE REALI POSTE EGIZIANE, or AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE POSTE KHEDEUIE EGIZIANE (not necessarily all in capitals) (receipts issued by the *Posta Europea* are mentioned in Chapter IV). They were customarily struck with a CASSA date-stamp or an ordinary one. Money order forms and receipts for transmission of “gruppi” (parcels of gold coins or other valuables) had 20 paras in stamps affixed and cancelled with a CASSA date-stamp³; the receipt part received only the date-stamp.

The headings of the several kinds of receipt in this period are: “Ricevuta della Polizza” (parcels of value); “Ricevuta del Vaglia” (money orders); “Ricevuta dell’assegno” (money order); “Bolletta di Deposito” (registered letter receipt), or “Ricevuta di Ritorno di Lettera”. The last customarily bear a 1-piaster stamp⁴. Receipts for transmission of “gruppi” had no special heading.

After French began displacing Italian as the language of the Post Office from 1877, the language used in the receipts followed. The earliest that I have seen is a receipt for a registered item; it is headed POSTES EGYPTIENNES / *bosta masriya* / *Reçu de l'objet recommandé* etc., with a space for the date-stamp of the receiving office (Assiout Caisse, 8 MA 84). Another kind of receipt was for official correspondence (correspondances du Gouvernement et des Dairés); it bears the inscription *Reçu les Correspondances ci-dessus*

AMMINISTRAZIONE
delle *V. R. Poste Egiziane*.

Ricevuta della Polizia

N° 53

Spedizione del Sig. C. Laurson
al Sig. *_____*
di *Un Gros*
in *Aliff* Marca L. 5. 1
P. Eg. *55/00*
l'addi 15 - 3 - 1866

BOLLO DELL'UFFIZIO
POSTE EGIZIANE
MARZ
CAIRO
CASSA

Uffiziale di Posta.
[Signature]

Tassa *CASSA* P. Eg. *104. 20*

Lit. Gauthier, Fougères & C. Paris.

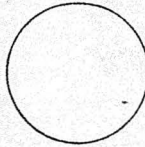
Receipt for dispatch
of a "group".

indiquées. Very much later, receipts were produced trilingually in English, French, and Arabic; the earliest I have seen is an internal money order receipt, Jan. 1903. International money order receipts, however, used only English and French. In the years since the overthrow of the monarchy, receipts have appeared in Arabic only.

10881

(P. No. 28. ٢٨ رقم)

الختم ذو التاريخ



وزارة المواصلات
Ministry of Communications
مصلحة البريد
EGYPTIAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

رقم مسلسل
Consecutive No.

98

Date Stamp

Received from *Mrs. Donald Heyman*

the sum of 128 ل.م.ع

for charges as indicated below { No. ٧ محصل كل لوزخ أدناه

Originating from السراي الصادر من

Collection Order ... أوراق تحصيل

Cash on delivery ... قيمة محمول بها على

Demurrage for 1250A عوائد أرضية عن

Customs dues, charge for clearing and other charges ... عوائد جمركية وعوائد للتخليص وعوائد متنوعة

Franked Newspapers and Consular Correspondence ... التخليص قدا على الجرائد ومراسلات القناصل

Guarantees for Keys or Retailer's Discs ... تأمينات على المفاتيح أو القفط

Miscellaneous⁽¹⁾ ... متنوعة (1)

	L. E. م. ع	M. مليم
Collection Order		
Cash on delivery		
Demurrage for		
Customs dues, charge for clearing and other charges		١١
Franked Newspapers and Consular Correspondence		
Guarantees for Keys or Retailer's Discs		
Miscellaneous ⁽¹⁾		
TOTAL		128

TOTAL ... الجملة

Receipts for payment of customs duty on a parcel and for mailing a registered item.

665 A. 1951-5000 ext.

Registered article / Objet recommandé { No. وصل من مراسلة مسجلة فترة

Sender / Expéditeur { M

Addressee / Destinataire { M

Destination

{ acknowledgment of receipt / avis de réception } علم الوصول

Clerk - Le Commis, المستقدم



Postage Due Notices

Notices to the effect that mail to the addressee was held at the post office against payment for postage due were probably used for mail addressed to a post office box or to a street address. The earliest of these, however, were statements of accounts due, provided monthly to firms or individuals reliably known to the Post Office. More information is to be found in Chapter XXIV. A related type of notice advises the recipient of customs charges due on mail held at the Post Office.

(No. 15 D 10 نبرا)

POST OFFICE — مصلحة البوستة — POSTES

Timbre & duty
التمليك والرسوم

The Delivery Office hereby informs }
Le bureau de la Distribution informe }

M. Le Andrew Warder-Aldam. Esq. 3 Colaba

يعلن فـلم التـمليك وبيع

that the following articles are lying to his address, viz — }
qu'il existe à son adresse: } *له موجود باسمه المراسلات الآتية*

Letter

Unpaid correspondence for *8* Millièmes ملبي _____
مراسله مستحقة عليها أجره بقية _____

Correspondance taxée pour Millièmes _____

Bulky articles. _____
Objets volumineux. _____

ملفات كبيرة الحجم

An example of a Postage Due Notice.

Advice of Reception

Notices giving advice of reception were probably introduced in the Italian period, as noted under "Receipts". A related situation is that in which the sender inquires after the fact whether a registered letter has been properly delivered. For this service a special form in French and Arabic was provided. An example of such a form sent to Germany in 1890 is shown.

Air Mail and Motor Mail Labels



When a special routing linking Egypt with Baghdad by the Nairn brothers motor service across the Syrian Desert was introduced in 1923, labels inscribed MOTOR MAIL, printed in red in sheets of 6x12, were provided⁵. Unused ones are not very scarce, but examples properly used on cover are hard to find and much in demand.

(نمرة ٣٩ ٣٥)


ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES D'ÉGYPTE
 مصلحة البوستة المصرية

علم التسليم
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION *recommandé*

L'Expéditeur de l'objet suivant (1) *recommandé*
 مرسل الارسالية الاتي بيانها وهي (١)

portant le n° *٣٤* et l'adresse de M *Kearl*
 ومؤثر عليها بكرة برسم جناب *Germerstein*

désire savoir s'il a été reçu. يرغب الاستعلام عما اذا كانت تسلمت أم كيف

Timbre à date du bureau

 واخذت في ٣ فبراير ١٨٩٠

L'employé des Postes,
 مستخدم البوستة
[Signature]

L'envoi ci-dessus désigné m'a été remis contre reçu le *Germerstein*
 الارسالية الموضحة أعلاه تسلمت بالايصال اللازم بتاريخ *3. February 1890*

Timbre à date du bureau destinataire
 سنة ١٨٨

Signature,
 الامضا *[Signature]*

Advice of Reception forms (the latter one is still stapled to a registered letter that could not be delivered).

ايصال علم وصول

الراسل : *فتية المهاجرين والراغبين*

العنوان : *٣٥ شارع رمسيس بالقاهرة*

المرسل إليه : *الأستاذ محمد بن محمد*

العنوان : *٤ شارع رمسيس بالقاهرة*

تاريخ الاستلام : *١٩٦ / ١ / ١*

توقيع المستلم : *[Signature]*

Trée,
 gna-
 nvoi
 nule
 teur,
 repté
 (١)
 بص
 الم
 الم
 الم

Air mail service over the same route followed shortly and analogous labels, printed in blue, were provided to identify letters intended for it. These were the first of the many air mail labels used in Egypt. In the ensuing years both privately produced and officially provided air mail labels came into use⁶. Some of the private ones had the additional function of identifying the desired air line in a period when carriage by different air lines incurred different rates of postage; such labels also advertised the air lines. The following list is based largely on the catalog of Muller^{6a}, augmented with information from Sears⁷ and my own collection.

1924 (1) AIR MAIL. Blue; perf. 10; sheet format 12x11.

1929 (1) AIR MAIL. Dark blue; perf. 10; sheet format 11x12.
Same, imperf.

1931 (2) PAR AVION. Blue; perf. 10; sheet format 11x12 or 10x11.

1931 (2) PAR AVION. Dark blue; perf. 12; sheet format 11x12. (Exists with double vertical perforation.)

(M. of C. P. O. No. 25 B.)



1

(M. of C. P. No. 25 B.)



2

1931 (3) BY AIR MAIL / PAR AVION. Blue; perf. 11½ horiz.; booklet panes of 4 (Imperial Airways).

1931? (4) by air mail / PAR AVION. Blue; rouletted 6½; booklet panes of 4 (Imperial Airways).

1934 (5) PAR AVION. Blue; zigzag roulette; booklet panes of 4 (Imperial Airways).



3



4



5

1934? (6) As 5, lettering somewhat thicker; perf. 11½; booklet panes of 4 (Imperial Airways).

1934 (7) 16 July. PAR AVION. Dark blue; perf. 10; thick or thin paper; sheet format 8x26.

1934 (7) Pale blue or ultramarine; perf. 10.

1935 (7) Blue; perf. 11; booklet panes of 4 (Imperial Airways).

1935 (7) Feb. Blue; rouletted; booklet panes of 4 (Imperial Airways).



6



7

1935 (8) BY AIR MAIL. Blue; rouletted horiz.; booklet panes of 4 (KLM).

1937 (9) April. PAR AVION / AIR MAIL. Blue; rouletted horiz.; booklet panes of 4 (KLM).

1937 (9) Oct. (Blue; perf. 14 horiz.; booklet panes of 4 (KLM).



8



9

- 1937? (10) BY AIR MAIL / PAR AVION.
Dark blue; perf. 11½ (die-cut?).
1939 (11) PAR AVION Blue-black; perf. 11
horiz.; booklet panes of 4 (Misr
Airlines).
1939 (12) AIR MAIL Blue; perf. 12 (ALA
LITTORIA).



- 1940 (13) PAR AVION Blue; perf. 11 (AIR
FRANCE).
194? (14) Dark blue; perf. 11½ (AIR
FRANCE).
194? (15) Light blue; perf. 11 (AIR FRANCE).



- 194? (16) Blue; rouletted (AIR FRANCE).
1947 (17) AIR MAIL-PAR AVION Red and
dark blue; die-cut (TWA) (also
with 'By' written in red before
'TWA').
194? (18) Blue; perf. 11 (BOAC).



- 1948 (19) Green; perf. 11 (SAIDE); sheets of
16 - also imperf..
1957? (20) PAR AVION Blue; perf. 10½.
19?? (21) Blue and black; die-cut (British).
19?? (22) Blue and red; rouletted (?)
horizontally (USA).



196? (23) Blue and red; die-cut (TWA).



23

195? (24) Blue and red; die-cut.



24

Labels 21 to 24 have been seen on covers mailed in Egypt, but they may not have been available there; they were probably carried along by travelers.

NOTE

Many labels other than those listed exist inscribed PAR AVION and *barid al-gawiy*. They were issued in other countries that use the Arabic alphabet (Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Iran). The Mair catalog^{6b} lists five more labels from the 1950s and 1960s, but I have not seen them on an Egyptian cover.

The covers of the booklets that contained air labels are not without interest.



Covers of some
air mail label booklets.



Express Labels

Four types of express labels are known used: inscribed in French only, black on red, perf. 10½ (two sizes of lettering); inscribed in French and Arabic (*musta'agel*), black on rose, perf. 10½; inscribed in Arabic (*mukhsos*), black on red, apparently rouletted on one or two sides (seen used JY 57). The fourth one represents a change in Arabic wording: *musta'agal* has been replaced by *mukhsos* ("special"). A fifth label is known, but has not been seen on cover; it is inscribed in Arabic only (*musta'agel*) and is printed in red on white, unlike the others. These labels do not seem to have been much used.

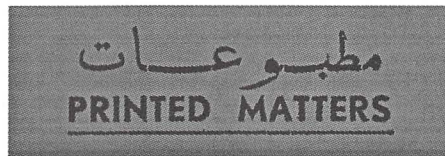


Express label (see Chapter XXVI Fig. 2 for earlier types).

Printed Matter Labels

Examples of an imperforate label inscribed PRINTED MATTERS and Arabic equivalent are known on covers of the 1960s, but such labels may have been used over a much longer time.

A Printed Matter label.



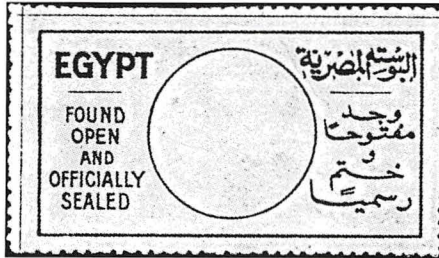
Officially Sealed Labels

The wording on these labels explains their purpose. Prior to the issue of the first of the labels so inscribed in 1907, interpostal seals were sometimes used for the purpose (Chapter XXXIV). Only the Yvert & Tellier catalog has made an effort to list these seals (and even to price them, although none is rare). The numbers 1 to 7 in the list that follows correspond to those of Yvert & Tellier; the others, which came into use later⁸, are numbered somewhat arbitrarily because dates of issue are uncertain. All are printed in black on white paper. The earlier ones are reported by Cox⁹ to have been supplied in booklets containing 25 panes of 20. They were lithographed except for label 2, which was typographed. The variants noted below differ only slightly; they have been illustrated by Cox. The top sheet margins carry small imprints of various forms, all identifying the

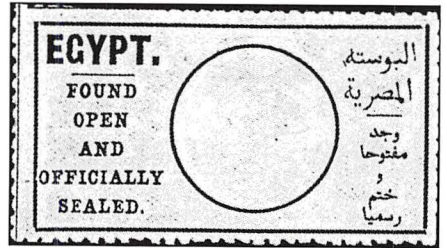
label as No. 51A and the printer: McC. & Co. Ltd. (presumably McCorquodale; label 2 only); I.N. (Imprimerie Nationale), or Govt. Press.

- 1906 (1) Perf. 12 or imperf.
- 1908 (2) Perf. 10.
- 1913-15 (3) Perf. 12 (4 variants).
- 1920-23 (4) Perf. 10 (4 variants).
- 1924-25 (5) Perf. 10 "OR TORN"
- 1926 (6) Perf. 10 "TROUVÉ" (3 variants).

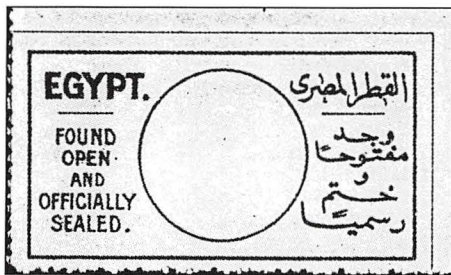
- 1927-30 (7) Perf. 10 "TROUVÉE" (3 variants).
- The spelling with accents on both E's of TROUVÉE occurs in positions 5, 7, 10, and 12 of the sheet in 1928, and positions 7, 10, and 12 of the 1929 printing.



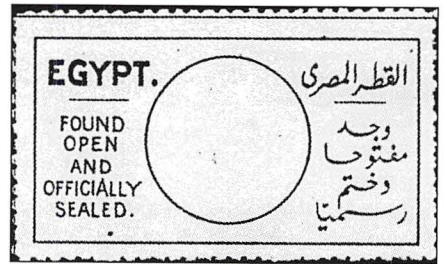
1



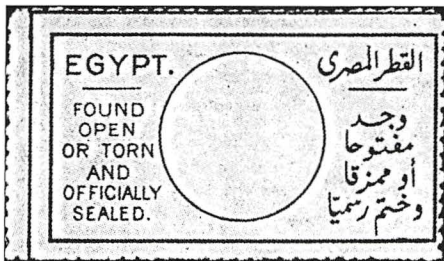
2



3



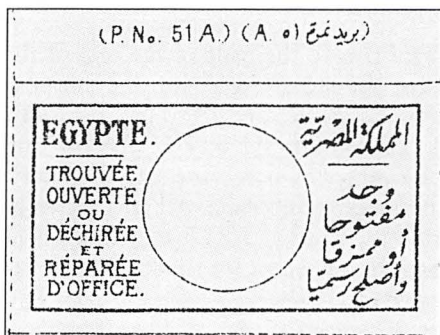
4



5



6



7



7 var.

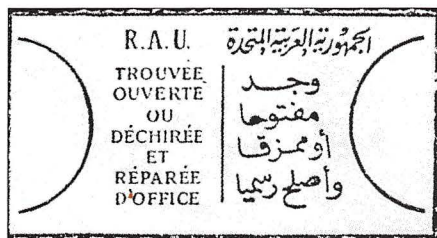
- 1931-35 (8) Perf. 10, split circle (5 variants) ? (14) RAE rouletted 6. Two variants:
 1961? (9) UAR Perf. 10½. A. *ya* of *'arabiya* above the top
 1958? (10) RAU rouletted 6. of the dividing line.
 1961? (11) UAR rouletted. B. *ra'* above the dividing line.
 1961? (12) As 11, but perf. 10. 1989? (15) As 14, but red.
 1968? (13) Finer lettering, rouletted. 1996? (16) As 14, but inscriptions in
 sloping capitals, and with the
 misspelling "DESMIREE".



8



9



10

13



14/15

Related to the foregoing are some imperforate labels, black on white or white on black, inscribed EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT (see Other Labels, ahead); they were sometimes used to seal letters found open.

International Reply Coupons

The UPU Congress of 1907, held in Rome, established the regulations for international reply coupons to be issued by member countries. Egypt had submitted a proposal for a postal stationery envelope for the same purpose (illustrated in Chapter XXXIII), but the final decision favored the proposal from Great Britain for special coupons. More information on the history of the subject, with the actual texts of the UPU Articles concerning reply coupons and subsequent modifications at later Congresses, is to be found in a comprehensive article by Cocatre and Boulad¹⁰, extracted from a project for a catalog of world-wide reply coupons¹¹.

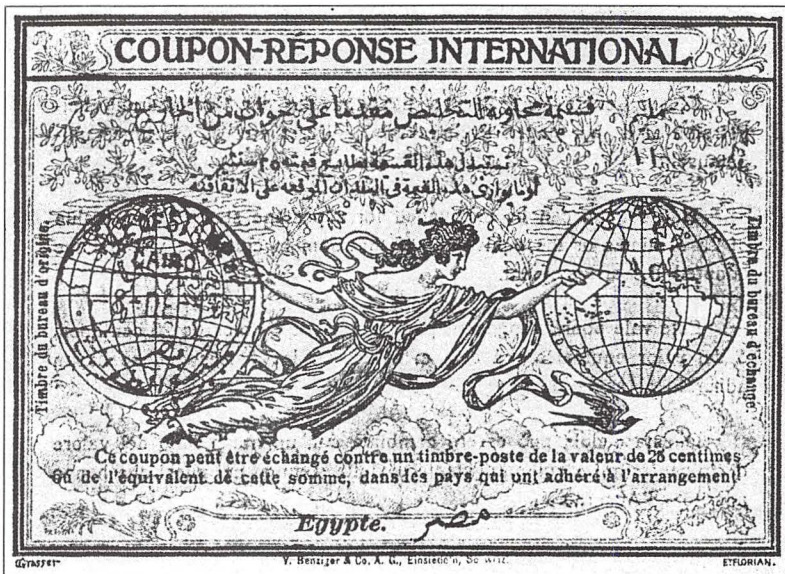
The coupons were printed for the UPU in Switzerland by Binziger & Cie, Einsiedeln, upon requisition by each country (the printer's imprint appears outside the bottom frame of all coupons). The country is charged only the cost of printing. The coupons were initially valid for exchange for stamps to the value of 25 centimes or equivalent, which was the external rate for a letter of the first weight stage. It was specified that the coupons would actually be sold for 28c. Upon presentation by the recipient at a post office, stamps were provided and the coupon was retained by the post office for accounting use. In later years, following World War I, inflation led to progressively increased rates. The growth in importance of international air mail following World War II led to the practice of using two coupons to obtain stamps equivalent to the air mail rate.

The following list includes only those types known to have been issued by Egypt, but there are some additional sub-types known for other countries which may also have been issued by Egypt. The general scarcity of reply coupons causes special difficulty in making a catalog of all varieties for a particular country. Those that have survived are ones that were never presented for exchange. Stocks do not exist and it would be difficult to purchase large quantities (some countries severely limit purchases, out of suspicion that they may be used to circumvent control of currency exchange). Those listed here are those in the list compiled by Cocatre and Boulad in 1956, supplemented by some more recent issues. The latest one listed is inscribed UAR and it is probable that it was succeeded by ones inscribed ARE or "Egypt" that have not yet been reported.

Model A

Coupons A-1 to A-4 are watermarked 25c. / UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE / 25c., and are printed in dull blue with a grey-green ornamental background, on pale tan paper.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1907 (1 NO) A-1. 11 millimètres. Inscriptions on the back in German (4 lines), English, Spanish, and Italian; horizontal rules separate the four paragraphs. | 1908 A-2. 11m. As A-1, without the dividing rules on the back. |
| | 1909 A-3. 11m. As A-2, but the German text is reduced to 3 lines. |



Model A

1922 A-4. 20m. New text is overprinted in red at right angles to the original text on the back (required by

changes made at the UPU Congress in Madrid).

Model B

Model B was issued with a new watermark, 40c. / UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE / 40c.

1926 B-1. 20m. The design is as Model A, with the globes replaced by blank circles.

Model C

Model C has a watermark no longer showing a currency value: UPU in large, double-lined letters; printed in dark blue with a yellow-buff background in the central square on white paper.

1930 C-1. 20m. Text the same as on C-4.

1931 (1 NO) C-2. 23m./20m. Surcharge typographed in red.

1934 C-3. 25m. On the back, the four inscriptions are in three lines each.

1935 C-4. 25m. On the back, the German, English, and Spanish inscriptions are in four lines each, the Italian in three. The German ends with *für einen gewöhnlichen Auslandsbrief der ersten Gewichtsstufe umgetauscht.*

1937 C-5. 25m. As C-4, but the German reads *für einen einfachen gewöhnlichen Auslandsbrief umgetauscht.*

1937? C-6. 25m. As C-5, but the German is in Gothic letters.

1940 C-7. 25m. The text on the face is changed from *les Pays de l'Union* to *les Pays de l'Union Postale Universelle.*

1943 C-8. 25m. The text on the back is in four paragraphs of four lines each (instead of 4/4/4/3).

1948 C-9. The inscriptions on the back changed to English, Arabic, Japanese, Spanish, and Russian.

1951 C-10. 35m. The printer's imprint is 18mm long.

1952 C-11. 35m. The imprint is 13mm long.

1955 C-12. 40m/35m. Handstamped surcharge in black.

1953? C-13. 40m.

Model C



1963? C-14 60m. The Arabic typeface is changed; the country name is "Republique Arabe Unie"; the inscription in the lower-left box

reads *Empreinte de contrôle / du Pays d'origine / date facultative.*
1968? C-15 as C-14 but 65m.

Dieser Schein wird in allen Ländern des Weltpostvereins gegen ein oder mehrere Postwertzeichen im Gesamtwert der Gebühr für einen einfachen gewöhnlichen Auslandsbrief umgetauscht.

This coupon is exchangeable in any country of the Universal Postal Union for a postage stamp or postage stamps representing the amount of postage for an ordinary single-rate letter destined for a foreign country.

يمكن استبدال هذه القسيمة في جميع بلدان الاتحاد البريدي العالمي بطابع أو طوابع بريدية بقيمة التخليص على رسالة عادية من الوزن الأول برسم المحارج

於等換兌國各盟郵國萬在得券本
票郵之費郵重起信平外國寄國該

Este cupón podrá ser canjeado en todos los Países de la Unión Postal Universal por uno o varios sellos postales que representen el importe del franqueo de una carta ordinaria de porte sencillo destinada al extranjero.

Этот купон обменивается во всех странах Всемирного почтового союза на одну или несколько почтовых марок, представляющих стоимость оплаты простого письма в одну единицу веса по назначению за границу.

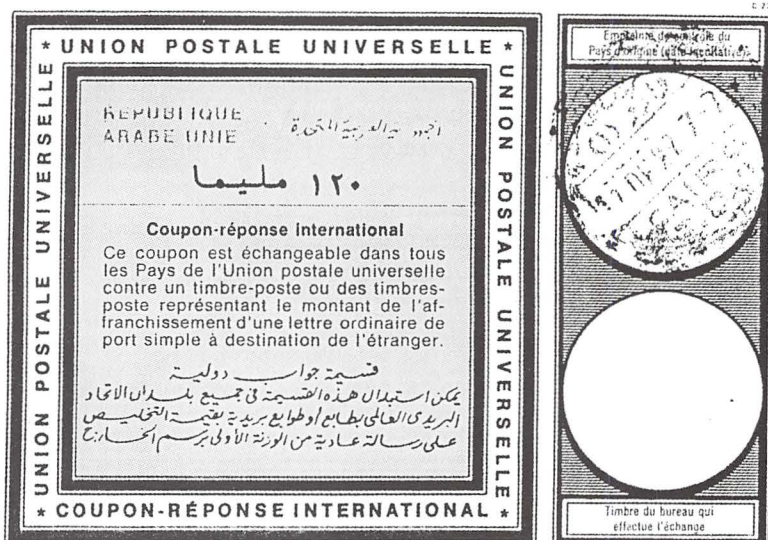
The text on the back of C-9 to C-14.

Model D

Model D is printed in light blue with a yellow background in the central square. The country name is in red. The usual printer's imprint is absent.

1960s D-1. 65m.

ca. 1970 D-2. 120m. "Republique/Arabe Unie."



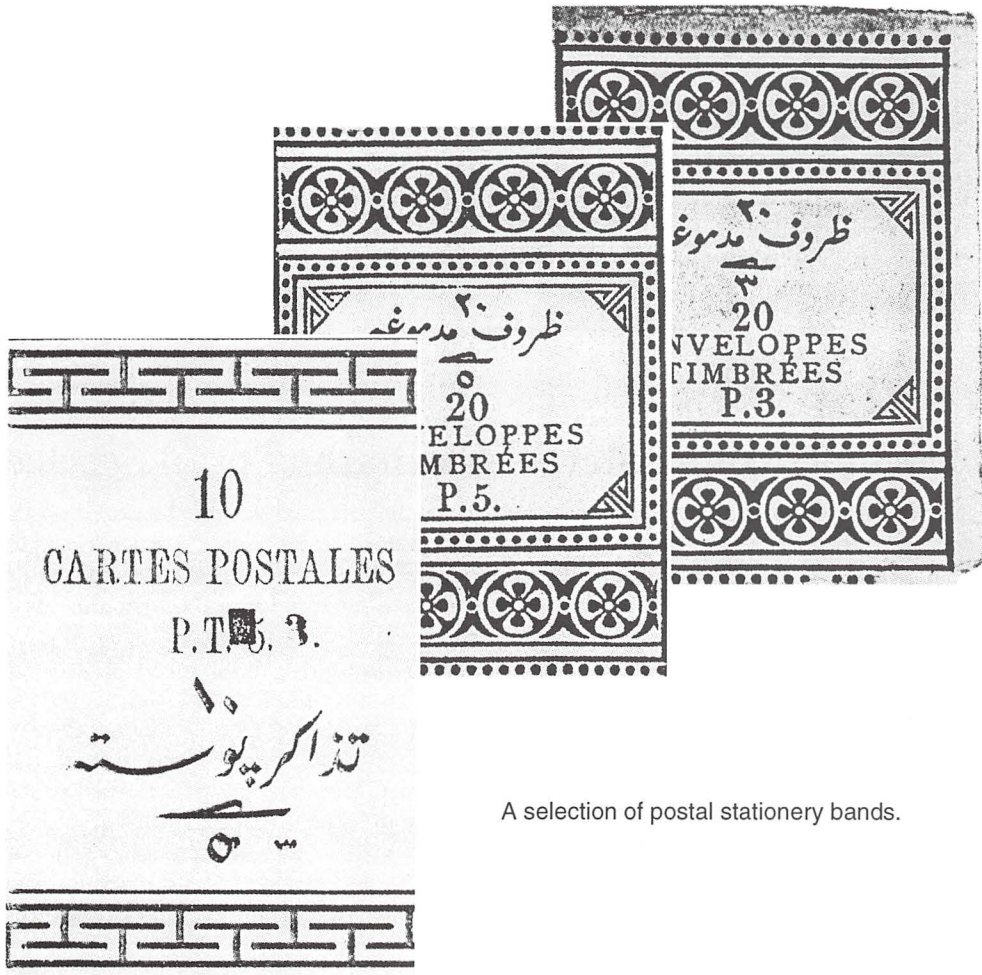
Model D

In recent years the UPU changed over to coupons having no country name, with or without price of sale (225m. and 400m., in red, known); they are printed in blue with a pale yellow background design on paper watermarked single-lined UPU in multiple (earliest seen 1991, but probably introduced much before).

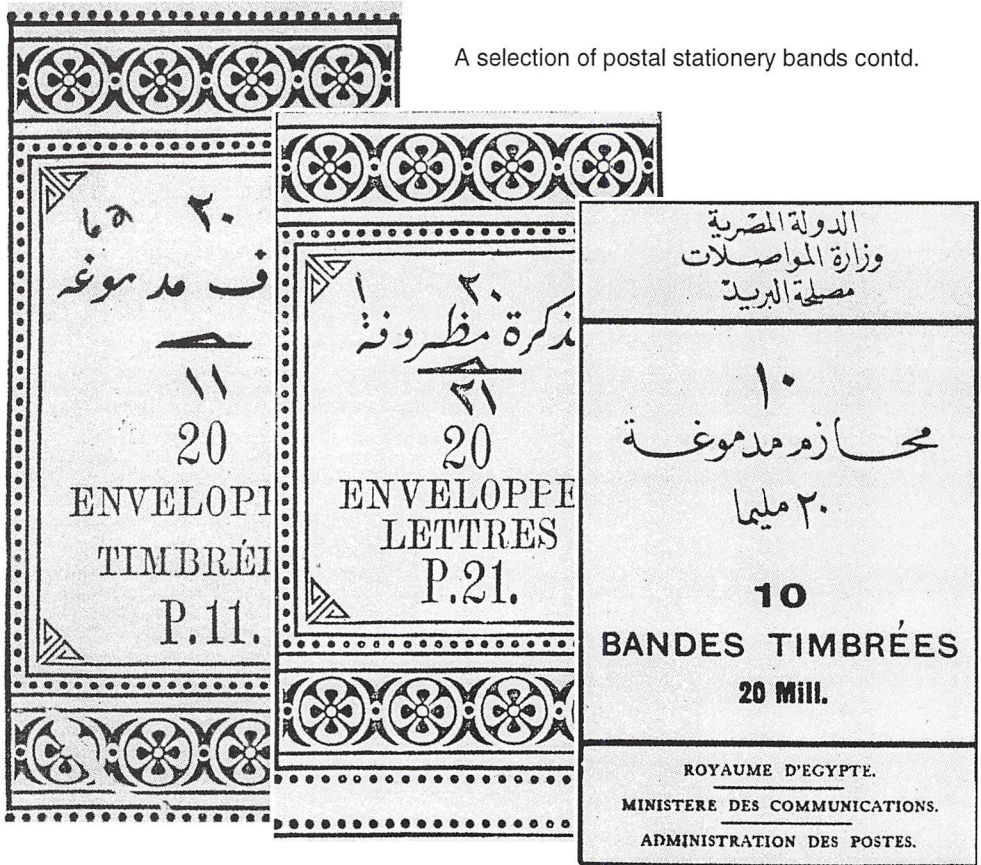
Postal Stationery Bands

Each issue of postal stationery (envelopes or postal cards) was delivered to the Postal Administration collated into packets of 10 or 20 held by a paper band with a printed bilingual identification of the kind and quantity of item. The bands provided by the De La Rue Company were ornate and were printed in various colors (red, green, brown, grey-blue). The bands were imprinted with the sale price of the packet rather than the denomination; for example a packet of 20 1-millieme envelopes cost 3pi. (1.5m. for each envelope). When an item was revalued by surcharging, so was the corresponding band.

The Survey Department continued the practice, but with plainer bands, printed in black.



A selection of postal stationery bands.



Documents for Internal Use in the Postal Service

It is impossible to catalog the various kinds of documents used within the postal service because only scattered examples are known. However, many such documents ranging from postal correspondence to printed notices distributed to postmasters are held in the Cairo Postal Museum. Many of them are of intense interest for the information they contain. A selection of the most important ones has been published over a span of many years in *L'Orient Philatelique*, with translations by Ibrahim Chaftar (most of these are cited in the chapters in this book concerned with the corresponding subject). In general, early internal correspondence was in Italian, but notices were quadrilingual (Arabic, English, French, and Italian). Another category includes paper items intended to accompany mail in transit. Such items are tags for mail bags, facing slips, and manifests of registered letters. In recent decades internal forms and directives are mostly in Arabic only. Although all such items are intrinsically collectible, substantial problems in the form of difficult availability, large size, fragile paper, and cryptic functions reduce their popularity for inclusion in collections and the feasibility of putting them in exhibitions.

Other Labels and Forms

Labels 132 D. These are labels inscribed EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT, either black on white or white on black. They are die-cut and are gummed. They appear to be intended primarily for identification of letters, but instances exist where they are used as closure seals.



Labels M. of C. 52Q or 52Q. These labels are inscribed either POST OFFICE (white on black; die-cut) or EGYPTIAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION (black on pink; rouletted). An example of the latter exists struck with the circular date-stamp of Cairo in 1965.



Label P. 44. Black on white; use uncertain.

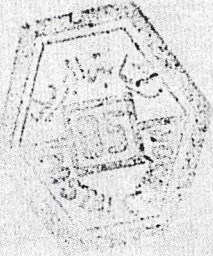
(P 44.0D. ٤٤ بريد)

الاسم Nom	حساب نمرة
مجموعة	
Signature ou cachet du déposant.	امضاء المودع أو ختمه
Date.	التاريخ

A label with greenish lettering on black has been seen on a November 1921 cover, inscribed PUBLIC CUSTODIAN / ENEMY PROPERTY / IN EGYPT / CAIRO; there is no label number.

Remboursement labels. Labels inscribed "Remboursement", in some cases accompanied by "Value Payable" and *moghool ilaya*, as authorized by the UPU in 1891, have been seen with dates of 1906 to 1909, but their use probably extends for much longer.

Censorship notices. Two forms, dated during World War II, referring to damage or missing contents, the first in blue, the second in dull pink, have been recorded. Both bear strikes of the postal censor handstamps usually seen on covers.



(FORM No. 11 P.C.)

الرقابة ليست مسؤولة عن تمزق هذا الخطاب .
This
 The censorship is not responsible for the
 mutilation of this letter.

(FORM No. 12 P.C.)

رقابة البريد

المرفقات المذكورة

لم توجد في الخطاب عند فتحه . قبل عمل التحريات البريدية الرجاء التأكد من مرسل الخطاب عما اذا كانت المرفقات به فعلا . وفي الحالة الايجابية يجب على المرسل منه أن يستعلم من مكتب المصدر الأصلي ذاكرا أن المرفقات الى الرقيب . وأنى استعلام يرسل الى مصلحة البريد يجب أن يكون مصحوبا بغلاف الخطاب واذا أمكن بغير فتحه . ولا يعطى أى تعويض عن ضياع محتويات خطاب الا اذا كان الخطاب مؤمنا عليه (لا مسجلا فقط)

POSTAL CENSORSHIP

Enclosure mentioned *Ce point le negatif d'une photo*

was missing when the letter was opened. Before making enquiries of the Post Office, please ascertain definitely from the sender of the letter whether the article in question was actually enclosed. If so, the sender should make enquiry of the Postal Administration of the country in which the letter was posted, mentioning that the enclosure was missing when the letter reached the Censor. The cover of the letter, and, if possible, such of its contents as were received, should accompany any communication to the Postal Administration.

No compensation is given for the loss of the contents of a letter for or from a foreign country, unless the letter was insured (not merely registered) with the Post Office.

References

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- c. J. Sears, *QC XVI* (6), 147–57 (whole no. 181, June 1997).
2. P.R. Feltus, *QC XIV* (10), 273 and 279 (whole no. 162, June 1992).
3. A. Mazloun, *L'OP* No. 95, 415–16 (July 1956).
4. A. Dazzi, *L'OP* No. 95, 456–7 (July 1956).
5. N. Collins, *QC XIII* (9), 178–80, 230 (whole no. 149, Mar. 1989).
- 6a. F. Muller, *Catalogue des Etiquettes Aéropostales*, 2nd edition, La Maison de la Poste Aérienne, Paris, 1947. pp. 82–6.
- b. G. Mair, *Catalogue of Airmail Labels*, The Postal Label Study Group, La Mirada, CA, 1991.
7. J. Sears, *The Air Mails of Egypt*, self-published, Pinner, Middx, 1990. pp. 176–81.
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11. “Essai de Catalogue de Coupons-réponse de tous les pays”, *L'Entier-Postal* 1938 (Dec.) to 1939 (Dec.) and 1950 (Oct.) onwards.