

**The Egypt Study Circle – Interim Report No.2****Study VI.,****The Postal Markings of Egypt, 1866 to 1880**(Study VI entrusted to **R. Seymour Blomfield**, C.P.E. No. 243).

This report is a supplement to the first interim report published in "L'orient Philatélique" No. 30, October 1936. A number of new types; have come to light and are presented herewith.

**Acknowledgment:** To the previous list of those assisting in the preparation of Study VI must be added the name of Mr. F.A. Smyth (C.P.E. No. 411) of Cairo, and also that of Col. O.K. Tancock (C.P.E. No. 335) for his translations of the seal markings.

**General Remarks:** Relative to the numeral, or numeral followed or preceded by "T" which occurs below the (late in many types, Lieut.-Col. G.R. Worthington-Wilmer (C.P.E. No 365) received the following communication:

"I.C.

P. No. 11, A.D.)

Ministère des Communications. Administration des Postes d'Egypte.  
Adresse Télégraphique 'Bareed'

Le Caire, le 8 July, 1936.

Dossier No. 31-5/2

Objet Postmarks.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter dated 24th ultimo, addressed to the Postmaster, Port Tewfik, I have to inform you that the letters "F. T." at the base of the present postmarks refer to "Foreign Traffic."

As regards the letters T1, T2, etc., which were on the earlier postmarks, the letter "T" indicates "Traffic" and the numbers were used to distinguish between the postmarks handled.

Yours faithfully, (Signature illegible) Postmaster General."

**Illustrations:** The circular types should be round hurt owing to faulty photography or unequal shrinkage of the paper, the vertical diameter scales about 1 mm. more than the horizontal diameter).

In this report the undated markings have been placed before the dated ones, in order to conform with the other Studies. Under the description of Types all new ones and also old ones for which the illustrations have been revised are indicated with an asterisk\*.

**Description of types:**

Type \*A. This group is composed of "seal" marking. All so far recorded have the Arabic inscriptions in white on a solid circle or ellipse. The year inscribed on the s(-ads is the date when they were made. Due to faulty photography the illustrations of these markings are slightly larger than actual size. The translations of the inscriptions were kindly made for the Egypt Study Circle by O.K. Tancock, and Charles Fox prepared the illustrations.

Type \*A-1. The inscription reads Bosta Assiut (Assiut Post). The diameter is about 19.5 mm. Byam has this on a pre-stamp cover dated 1862.

Type \*A-1.1. The legible portion of the inscription reads Qena Bosta (Keneh Post) with possibly a date at the bottom of the seal. The dimensions are 16 mm. wide by 14 mm. high. The only recorded example is on a pre-stamp letter sheet headed "Luxor, Feb. 20, 1858" addressed to Italy.

Type \*A-2. The large blank space at the top was badly smudged on the only example seen, but there was probably a place name and date in this portion. The rest of the inscription reads: Sana-Maktub Bosta-Meseriye Miriye (- year, Egyptian Government Letter Post). The diameter is about 21 mm. It is known on cover cancelling a 1 Pt. stamp of the 1867 issue.

Type \*A-3. The inscription reads Maktub Bosta-Khediviye Meseriye-Sana (Egyptian Khedivial Letter Post-Year). The characters in the blank space at the bottom were too blurred to reproduce in the illustration but Tancock believes that these are a date and the town name Cheshmé (on the mainland opposite Chios). The diameter is approximately 27mm. This marking is known on a 1 Pt. 1872 on small piece of cover.

Type \*A-4. The inscription reads Chanak ?ia-1868 Sana-Maktub Bosta-Meseriye Miriye, Fort Chank-Year-1868 Egyptian Government Letter Post). The diameter is approximately 21mm. There are several examples of this mark known on the 1 Pt. 1867 and it is also known on a cover obliterating a pair of the 20 para 1867.

Type \*A-5. The inscription may be translated Medilli 1865 Sana Maktub Bosta Khedivyeh-Meseriyeh (Mitylene-1865-Year-Post Office-Khedivial Egyptian). The dimensions are approximately 26 mm. by 22.5 mm. Seen on cover obliterating 1 Pt. 1867.

Type \*A-6. This marking is inscribed (Office-Post-Correspondence-Official-Cairo-1866.). The diameter is about 20 mm.

Type C. F.A. Smyth has written as follows in reference to Types C-3 and C-3.1\* : "Am informed that originally the 'Enquiry, office was attached to the 'Direction' Management) and as all enquiries must be accompanied by P.T. 2 in stamps, which are placed on a special form and then cancelled, this particular cancellation was used." Due to the similarity in design it would seem that Types C-1 C-2 and C-4 were very likely used for the same purpose. These markings would thus not have the postal status of those used on letters, but due to their use by a division of the Post Office and their occurrence on postage stamps they are worthy of inclusion in this study. In our opinion they are not necessarily fiscal markings as they were used apparently in connection with a fee paid for a service rendered by the Post Office. Types C-6 and C-7 have been included in this group on account of their semi-postal status. These two markings have been seen obliterating interpostal seals,

Type C-1. This marking has been seen on the 1 Pt. 1867 but the town name does not show. Blomfield has an example in blue inscribed "Porto Said" on a Port Said Inter-postal (May's Type V, Die C, issued 187.1-76).

Type \*C-3.1. This is the same as Type C-3 except that the star and crescent face to the left instead of to the right. It has been noted struck in black, red and in violet on the 1 Pt. 1879. Mackenzie-Low has this on a stampless cover addressed to Alexandria post marked Cairo 10-I-89.

Type \*C-4. Three examples of this Type have been seen. I. Khalil Chaftar has this on a cover from Scibin-El-Kom and on an interpostal of 1877 from the same place. The diameter is approximately 30 mm. outside and 18 mm. inside.

Type \*C-5. Gabriel Boulad and Mackenzie-Low each have this marking on the 1 Pt. 1872 (or 1875?). The Arabic reads Esna-Khediviye Bosta-Meseriye (Esna-Khedivial Post-Egyptian). The diameter of the outer circle is 28 mm. and the inner is 18mm. It was perhaps used by the "Enquiry" office as mentioned above. F.A. Smyth has submitted a 1 Pt. 1872 showing a portion of a similar marking. The inner circle seems to be larger and the letters of the inscription between the circles smaller. The lower Arabic inscription seems to be the same as in the illustration, but that at the top differs. The initial letter of the town name seems to be "S." Jean Boulad has this marking from Dongola on 2 Pt. of 1872, and Mackenzie-Low from Luxor on 2 Pt. of 1872. I. Khalil Chaftar has this marking from Kena, Sohag, and Wadi Halfa.

Type \*C-6. This marking has been seen on an Alexandria Interpostal (May's Type IVa). The first word in the circular inscription is probably Direzione but may be Amministrazione. Sezione Contabilita (Accounts Department). Apparently it is an official marking of this department which would probably not have been used on mail matter, except possibly official mail. Its use on an Interpostal may indicate the latter use. The diameter of the outer circle is 30 mm. and the inner 20.5 mm.

Type \*C-7. This marking, incomplete, as shown, is on an Alexandria Interpostal (May's Type IVb). The diameters of the circles are 30mm. and 19.5 mm. respectively. Sezione Rifiuti (Refusals Department) is the Italian version of the inscription Bureau des Rebutis, used at a later date, and refers to that department of the Post Office which took charge of Unclaimed Refused, or Not Found mails.

Type \*CC-1. This straight line type is known on the stamps of 1867. The first example from which the illustration is drawn is incomplete but the town is evidently "Frescné" The letters are 7mm. high. The second example of this type is from Minie with letters 10 mm. high. A further example from the same town has letters 12 mm. high.

Type D-1, Smyth has this marking on a cover (not cancelling the stamp) dated Jan. 1872 and also as an obliteration on a single 5 para. of 1872. Byam's cover was noted in the first Interim Report. Mackenzie-Low possesses this marking on an Interpostal Seal of Alexandria.

Type \*D-2. Dalla Stazione is in letters 5.5 mm. high enclosed in a linear frame about 51 mm. by 10mm, Mackenzie-Low reports this on the 1 Pt. and 2 Pt. 1872.

Type E, Gabriel Boulad suggests another explanation for the use of these markings. He thinks that they may have been used on letters posted too late to catch a certain boat (or train) merely to indicate to the recipient the reason for the delay in receiving the letter and not to indicate the payment of a special fee. This may be the correct solution.

Type \*G-1. This type occurs on stampless covers. The frame varies from 28.5 to 32mm. by 8 to 11mm and the letters are 3 to 3 mm, High.

Type \*G-2. This marking has been noted on three covers dated Feb. 1, 1869, 1871, and Jan, 5, 1872, and has been seen on stamps of the 1875 issue.

Type \*H-1. The inscription on this marking may be translated as Insufficient Postage and this adequately describes its use. It has been noted on covers and pieces dated from Sept. 14, 1866 to August 3, 1876. Mackenzie-Low's cover, dated August 3, 1876, also bears the Type 1-4 marking. The frame is 36 to 37 mm. by 10 mm., and the letters slightly less than 2.5 mm, high.

Type K. This group consists of markings indicating the amount of postage due to be paid by the recipient. Prepayment of postage was only compulsory on registered mail. They are all hand-stamped in black.

Type \*K-1. This type number has been reserved for a possible 40 centimes rate.

Type \*K-2. 80 centimes rate.

Type \*K-2.1. 80centimes rate. The figures are formed somewhat differently from those of Type K-2, as indicated in the illustrations.

Type \*K-3. 2 piastres rate.

Type \*K-4. 3 piastres rate. This marking has been noted used on the same cover with Type H-1, the cover being dated Aug. 1876,

Type \*K-5. 3½ piastres rate.

Type \*K-6. 4 piastres rate.

## DATED MARKINGS.

Type I-1. This type has been seen with the date in the centre thus: 22-66-Agos, instead of 22-Agos-66. No doubt this was due to carelessness in changing the type in the hand-stamp.

Type I-2. The date in this marking is known in reversed order, (such as 20-67-Ago-2) as for Type I-1.

Type \*I-2.1. This is similar to Type I-2 except that the ornaments at each end of the town name consist of a group of four dots instead of one large one. The diameter is 27.5 mm. Mackenzie-Low has examples dated 12. Jan. 66 and 18 Apr. 66.

Type II-1. Smyth reports two earlier dates for this Type: 27 Jan. 69 (town name un-decipherable) and Alessandria, 25 Apr. 69.

Type II-2. The period of use of this "type now appears to have been considerably longer than was at first supposed Smyth has Desuk, 19 Marz., 68, and Byam has Suakim, 21 (?) 68.

This "type has also been seen from Magaga.

Type II-3. This Type is now known with dates from 29 Aug. to 30 Nov. 69.

Type \*II-4. A new illustration made from genuine examples of this marking accompanies this Report. It should replace the former illustration which was made from a forged marking. The following distinguishing features have been determined by the Egypt Study Circle:

### Genuine

1. Space between Poste and Egiziane.
2. Outer circle 28.5 mm.
3. Inner circle 17.5 to 18 mm.
4. 21 mm. between centres of the two stars.
5. 14 mm. between centre of star and the P. of Poste.
6. Line drawn through upright bar of T of Poste and centre of circle passes through right hand corner of A of Dardanelli.
7. G of Egiziane is square at foot.
8. R of Dardanelli has square top.

### Forgery

1. No space.
2. 28 mm.
3. 16 mm. Wide, 17 mm. high.
4. About 19.5 mm.
5. About 14 mm.
6. Line passes through centre of the A.

The Egypt Study Circle consider either black or blue-green to be the genuine colours for this marking.

Type II-5. For a discussion of the significance of the word Cassa see remarks under Type V-8.

Type III-1, This Type was used in Egypt as well as in the offices in Turkey. We have seen it from Godeba, 22 Sept. 1875. I. Khalil Chafter reports this marking. was in use at Ismailia till 18-Nov. 1878.

Type III-2. This Type has been reported struck in purple, Cairo, 7 Ago. 1870.

Type III-3. The date of use of this Type can be extended to 18-Giu-1879.

Type III-4. There is a variation of this Type with somewhat smaller figures for the year (late. Magaga, 16 Ott., 78, T1, has been noted with the 78 in the smaller figures.

Type III-5. We have seen this from Mehalla dated 76 on pair of 2 pt. 1874. Except for the date the postmark is perfectly clear, and fully bears out our opinion that the letters "V.R." were deliberately removed. Mackenzie-Law has a cover from Suez bearing this mark with V.R. dated 18 July 76, and Byam has cover from same place with V.R. removed dated 10 Aug. 76. It would seem the V.R. was removed between the two dates.

Type \*IV-1.1. This is a somewhat similar marking to Type IV-1. The year date is replaced by a segment of a circle composed of concentric lines. We cannot explain why the year date was omitted. Byam reports this marking on the 5 para. and. 2 pt. 1872, and Mackenzie-Low on the 2 pt. 1872. These are the only examples known. The diameter of the circle is between 24.5 and 25 mm. Blomfield has Type IV-1 from Suakim dated 5 May 77, so it seems that the year date was eventually replaced.

Type \*IV-1.2. This Type is similar to Type IV-1, but the date is in smaller figures and T1, etc., has been added below it. The diameter is approximately 25 mm. This marking is known from Siut (Assiut), Minuf, and Zagazig. All these are struck in black and the Zagazig marking also occurs in blue. The dates recorded range from 27 Mar. 75 to 24 Dec. 78.

Type IV-2. Smyth reports an example of this Type from Zagazig, dated 7 Mar. 1874. It varies from the illustration in that the diameter is approximately 25 mm. instead of 23 mm. However, the diameter of the Alexandria post-mark (as illustrated) is actually between 23.5 and 24 mm. and not 23 mm. as stated in the first Interim Report on Study V1.

Type IV-2.1. The marking discussed, but. not illustrated, in the first Report, as Type IV-2.1, has now been placed with the un-dated markings as Type C-5.

Type \*IV-3. The illustration of this Type has been completed and revised. There should be only one "o" after the figure in the centre. The diameter of the outer circle is about 24 mm. and the inner circle 15.5 to 16 mm. The Italian form of abbreviating the ordinals is to add "o," corresponding to the English "th." Therefore the date of the example illustrated is the 21st day of the 10th month, or 21 Oct. 73. The latest date seen is October 1875. The majority of specimens seen are dated '73.

Type \*IV-3.1. This is a variation of Type IV-3. The year date is placed in the centre instead of at the top and the letters of the inscription between the circles are bigger. The diameter of the outer circle is about 23.5 mm. and of the inner circle 14.5 mm. It appears that this Type was used at Cairo while Type IV-3 was used at Alexandria. The only dates seen by the Circle are 22 March 73 and 9 May 73.

Type \*IV-5. Byam has this marking, dated 74, on the 5 Pt. 1872, and this is the only example so far recorded. Though incomplete, this marking is believed to belong in the "Khedeuie" group.

Type \*V-2.1 The only example of this Type we have seen was a lack stamp on a cover submitted by Smyth. It differs from Type V-2 in that the letters and figures of the date are without serifs. The year date also, is in smaller figures. The diameter is about 22 mm.

Type \*V-2.2 This Type is similar to Type V-2 but the year date is in full and without serifs. Mackenzie-Low reports two examples: Alessandria, 11 Dic., 1876, and Rarnses, 25 Ott., 1875. Diameter 22.5 mm.

Type \*V-3.1 The year date is in full but otherwise this marking is similar to Type V-3. The diameter is about 22.5 mm. The dates seen range from 1 April 1878 to 26 Oct. 1878.

Type \*4.1 This is similar to Type V-1 but the year date is full. The diameter is 22 to 22.5 mm except as noted below. Alessandria, Porto Said and Tanta have been noted in this Type. Blomfield has an example from Ismailia which is between 23 and 23.5 mm. in diameter and with larger letters, nearly 3mm. high as against less than 2.5 mm. for the other offices. Dates have been noted from 21 May 1874 to 21 Aug. 1878.

Type \*V-4.2 This Type is not illustrated since it, came to hand after the photostats had been prepared. It is similar to Type V-V-1 except that the letters of the town name have serifs. The only example seen is from Benha, on a cover in Byam's collection, dated 11. Dic., 1874, TIII. Diameter 24 mm,

Type V-5. This Type has been seen and reported from the following additional towns: Assouan, Ghirgeh, Kartum, Kassala, Sohag and Wadi-Halfa (several examples). Byam reports, among several examples, Kartum, 3 Sept. 76, on a stampless cover, and Kartum, (?) 79, on the 1 Pt., 1879. The period of use is thus extended to 1879.

Type V-6. Further examples of this Type have been seen, the latest dated 3 Jan. 79.

Type V-8, Byam reports a cover with the 20 para. 1867, cancelled with this Type dated Alexandria, 17 April 70. The cover is addressed to France and bears the French Alexandria post-mark on a French stamp. The normal local rate in Alexandria would have been 10 para only. This appears to be the first example of a "Cassa" marking on cover. Its postal status would seem to be thus established, although it may have been used through error or carelessness, an unlikely happening in view of the peculiar rate. The "Cassa" markings are always seen on stamps to the total face value of 20 para. We have seen the "Cassa" markings on Interpostal seals from Cairo, Tanta, Damietta and Zifta.

Regarding the significance of the word "Cassa" G. Boulad has written as follows: "The post offices have many services: ordinary letters, registered letters, parcel post, money orders (mandats), postal savings (caisse d'épargne). In the small offices, several services are grouped together, but in the larger offices these services are separated. The money order and postal savings services constitute "la Caisse." These services have, therefore a postal cachet which carries the word 'caisse' formerly 'cassa'. According to "Les Postes en Egypte" the Caisse d'Epargne did not come into existence until 1901 Therefore, during the period under discussion, "cassa" was evidently restricted to money order business.

Jean Boulad sent for inspection several covers of recent (late, circa 1935, bearing the marking Sidi-Gaber, Cash. These covers indicate that use of the Cassa, and Caisse, markings may have been regular but it still is not clear why they should be used on letters.

Type V-10. This Type was also used at Suez.

Type \*V-12.1. This Type is similar to Type V-12 but the letters of Stazione are only- 2mm. high instead of 3mm. The year date is in full. Only this one example has been seen.

Type V-13. The dates of use of this Type have been somewhat extended: ALES. (Alessandria), Jan. 1876 to 22 March 1877, and COSP (Costantinopoli), 10 Dec. 1875 to Feb. 1877. The illustration in L'O.P. Oct. 1936 omits the period after ALES. Perhaps these were used on boats of the Khedivial Mail Line. Mackenzie-Low reports this marking on the 10 para. 1874, dated 27 Oct., 1878, but the space below the date is blank (ALES or COSP missing). The Study Circle think that ALES or COSP may have formed part of the movable portion of the hand-stamp and might quite conceivably have dropped out.

Type V-13-1. Gabriel Boulad has submitted a photo of a Type similar to Type V-13. In the place of ALES (or COSP) are a series of vertical lines or letters about 2.5 mm. high. On careful examination we are inclined to consider them letters rather than lines. The word, if such it is, is considerably longer than ALES but is too blurred to decipher. Only the lower part of the markings shows on a 20 para.. 1875. We refrain from illustrating it until a clearer copy comes to light.

Type \*V-C-1. This is a "travelling office" type, no doubt used on the railways between Alexandria and Cairo. A similar marking, which will be assigned the same Type number (V-C-1) is known bearing the inscription Cairo-Ales. This must have been used for the run in the opposite direction. The diameter is about 21.5 mm. From the recorded examples the period of use is 1 Jan. 1875 to 7 March 1878, but this can probably be extended.

Type \*IV-B-1. We have seen only the one example of this Type, as illustrated, and believe it to be genuine. It is on an Interpostal for Roda (May's Type V. Die E) issued 1877-80. The year date is rather blurred but

appears more like 77 than any other year. The diameter is between 22 and 22.5 mm. All the inscriptions are in French. If the date is 1877, this is the earliest French type so far recorded. On account of its difference from the other French types it has been placed in a new main group, VI-B. Since the above was written J.R. Raeburn reports this marking on the 10 para. Of 1874, date incomplete.

Type \*VII. There are variations in the "A" obliterator used with the different post-marks. Revised illustrations herewith. The differences are tabulated below:

Type	Width	Height
VII-1	18 mm.	26.5 mm.
VII-1.1	"	"
VII-2	19.75 mm.	26 mm.
VII-3	19.5 mm.	27 mm.

Vertical measurement of the centre space between bars.	Brackets.
10.25 mm.	Wide apart, 7 mm. long.
9.5 mm.	"
10.25 mm.	Close, 7.25 mm. long.

### Remarks

VII-2: "A" flat on top. VII-3: Pointed on top, ellipse is slightly pointed at top and bottom.

The transverse measurement of "A" across tile foot ranges from 7 mm, (VII-2) to 8 mm. (VII-3). In Type VII-2 the space between the two portions of the duplex is greater than that shown in the illustrations.













Type \*VII-1, Gabriel Boulad states that the translation of the Arabic in the lower half of the circle is "Caisse Depart" and that therefore the French inscription should have the same meaning; the word "Caisse" has therefore been added to the illustration shown in the first Interim Report. For the significance of the word "Caisse" see above under Type V-8. The Arabic inscription at the top reads Alexandria.

Type \*VII-1.1 This Type was probably used at a post office maintained in the rail-way station at Alexandria and perhaps else-where. The Arabic inscriptions at top and bottom are the equivalents of the respective French inscriptions. The "A" obliterator, as noted above, is the same as for Type VII-1.

Type \*VII-2. The Arabic inscription is the rendering for Alexandria. The "A" is flat on top.


















Type \*VII-3. Here again the Arabic corresponds to Alexandria.

Type \*VIII-1. Group VIII includes all markings, (except the duplex types) with the town name at the top and the Arabic equivalent at the bottom. The date is between two lines in the centre. The markings are similar to Type VII-3 but are not combined with an obliterator as a duplex. Type VIII-1: Byam has a copy of the 1 Pt. 1879 dated 1880. I. Khalil Chaftar has this marking front Hehya dated I-JAN-1880. This marking used by some of the offices in Turkey, the Sudan, etc., and will be referred to in Study I. The diameter is 25 mm.

 <p>A-1</p>	 <p>A-1.1</p>	 <p>A-2</p>
 <p>A-3</p>	 <p>A-4</p>	 <p>A-5</p>
 <p>A-6</p>	 <p>C-3.1</p>	 <p>C-4</p>
 <p>C-5</p>	 <p>C-6</p>	 <p>C-7</p>
<p>FESCI</p> <p>CC-1</p>	<p>MINIE</p> <p>CC-1</p>	<p>DALLA STAZIONE</p> <p>D-2</p>



<p>FRANCA</p> <p>G-1</p>	<p><i>Franca</i></p> <p>G-2</p>	<p>AFFRANCATURA INSUFFICIENTE</p> <p>H-1</p>
<p>80</p> <p>K-2</p>	<p>80</p> <p>K-2.1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>K-3</p>
<p>3</p> <p>K-4</p>	<p>3 1/2</p> <p>K-5</p>	<p>4</p> <p>K-6</p>
<p>POSTE VICE-REALI EGIZIANE 18 APR 66 1 CAIRO</p> <p>I-2.1</p>	<p>POSTE EGIZIANE 13 OTTO 69 17 DARDANELLI</p> <p>II-4</p>	<p>POSTE KHEDEUIE EGIZIANE 6 OTT SUAKIM</p> <p>IV-1.1</p>
<p>POSTE KHEDEUIE EGIZIANE 4 MAG 77 T 1 SIUT</p> <p>IV-1.2</p>	<p>POSTE KEDEUIE EGIZIANE 73 21   10 T 2 ALESSANDRIA</p> <p>IV-3</p>	<p>POSTE KEDEUIE EGIZIANE 9'5: 73 T 2 CAIRO</p> <p>IV-3.1</p>

 <p>IV-5</p>	 <p>V-2.1</p>	 <p>V-2.2</p>
 <p>V-3.1</p>	 <p>V-4.1</p>	 <p>V-12.1</p>
 <p>VI C-1</p>	 <p>VI B-1</p>	 <p>VIII-1</p>
  <p>VII-1</p>	  <p>VII-1.1</p>	
  <p>VII-2</p>	  <p>VII-3</p>	