

NOTES ON POSTAL SERVICE MARKINGS 1865-79

by A. Schmidt. (ESC 198)

Two new markings, PS-17 and PS-18

These markings have recently turned up on interpostal seals. It has not been possible to make complete cuts (i.e. tracings) from the strikes available, but the markings are distinctive enough to have been allocated new PS numbers. The notes which follow may help readers to locate more strikes in their collections which will enable me to complete the cuts in the record.



PS-17



PS-10



PS-18

Dimensions (mms) 27 x 10.5

27.5 x 18

PS-17. I have examples on IP IVc, Ve, and VI (377G), and Seymour Blomfield also has an example on IPVe. All the strikes are in black. Two of them show the area at the bottom of the outer label; both indicate the presence of an ornament, but neither makes clear the detail of this ornament. It is likely to be similar to that in PS-10, a marking which has the identical outer label inscription. (Incidentally ornament is missing from PS-10 in the current issue of the data sheets).

PS18. I have two examples on IP VI (377A and 377I). One is struck in black, in blue. The inscription in the centre is practically certain to be SEZIONE RIFIUTI. The bottom of the outer label is undoubtedly ALESSANDRIA; the rest is mainly conjectural at present, but it could well be POSTE KEDEVIE EGIZIANE.

New data and observations on PS-3.5

I have a examples on IP Va (TEL EL KIBIR 224a), and IP Vc (TEL EL 321a and TEL EL KIBIR 321) The strikes are in blue as well as black, and the cut made from them is shown in Figure 1. The third letter of the town name seems to be L and not the tentative H given in the data sheets.

(CANTARA). My part-strike in black on IP IVa (KANTARA 129) is shown in Figure 2. Unfortunately only part of the first letter of the town name is visible - the rest falls off the interpostal - and it just might be the letter C. Its position rules out the possibility that this is a strike of TEL-EL-KIBIR.



Fig 1

Dimensions (mms) 25 x 15.5



Fig 2

(25 x 14.5)



Fig 3

26.5 x 16.5

The markings in Figures 1 and 2 are very similar and the cancellers must have been made from practically identical basic dies. If we now consider Figure 3, which is the illustration for PS-3-5 in the data sheets, it can be seen that this differs in several significant respects including size. We could, of course, be dealing with a second and different die for TEL EL KIBIR. However, the illustration was taken from a cut in the record which was made, not from original material but from a photograph or tracing sent in by a collector. It is much more likely that the information was misleading or inaccurate, and that this second version of the marking does not really exist.

POSTAL MARKINGS 1880-1952
AN APPEAL FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SOME MARKINGS OF UNCERTAIN TYPE

by **A. Schmidt** (ESC 198)

The record for study VI contains a number of markings which are not fully understood, either because we have been unable to decipher the indicia in the markings, or because there is some doubt about their use or function. These markings are illustrated and detailed in the following paragraphs, and I would appreciate hearing from anyone who can clarify their position or who has examples on cover.



The three Q1 markings are clearly related to each other by the French “Renseignements” (information) and the Arabic استعلامات (= enquiries). Q1a was found on interpostal type XI; Q1b as incomplete part-strikes on a 1933 2m Air Mail and on a 1938 2m postage Due; and Q1c on an official sealing label. The markings are in the record under a provisional “Information” type. It is suggested that there was (and is ?) a section in the post office which answered questions about the service and which had a canceller of its own to use on replies.



Q2 was found on a 1922 5m Crown Overprint. The strike was incomplete; the lower and presumably Arabic part, which might have helped to identify it, unfortunately fell off the stamp. The indicium “C.O.S.” is unknown in any other marking.

Q3 and Q4 are illustrated together as it is likely that they are related. Q3 is not too uncommon and has been seen on 1884 5pi, 1888 10Pi, 1893 2pi, 1889 4mm Postage interpostal type X1. An early suggestion was that M.I. = Ministry of Information, so that Q3 would be a similar type of marking to Q1 above.

Q3



Q4



Q4 was recently found on interpostal type VI (3773 and 377G), both strikes dated 21 Feb 92, and also on a 1879 2pi, the strike dated 14 Jun 93. The interpostal. 377G is almost always cancelled by some sort of Cash marking, hence the latest suggestion that M.I. = Mandats Internationaux, and that M.P.I. = Mandats Postaux Internationaux.

Q5 is on a cover in the collection of P.A.S.Smith, and is the only example recorded to date of this type of marking. The cover is addressed to Cairo. On the front it bears a 1923 5m cancelled by Q5, there is also a further strike of Q5; it is back-stamped Akmin, Cairo-Asyut & V.V. TPO, and Cairo.

Diyabat has been described as a “very small place” (presumably near Akhmin?). Perhaps some “very small places” used this type of marking in lieu of the normal c.d.s., and this could explain its rarity; alternatively it could be a type of rural service or temporary marking.