

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

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No. XI.

December 1941.

EGYPT. 1 P.T. 1867 DOUBLE PRINT.

By E. F. Hurt.

For the members of the Egypt Study Circle who are unaware of the above variety, the following will probably be of interest.

Looking through the remain of some early numbers of the " SCHWEIZER BRIEFMARKEN-ZEITUNG " I came across an illustration of a cover showing a pair of the 1 P.T. 1867, imperforate and double printed.

The explanation of this piece, as given, was as follows :-

" The cover illustrated comes from the collection of rarities of a well-known Doctor and our readers will realise what a fine piece this exceptional rarity is. As far as we are aware this is a variety so far unrecorded - the double print of the 1 P.T. 1867, incidentally imperforate. The cover is postally used and the two stamps are each cancelled with the large single-circle date stamp " POSTES VICE REALI EGIZIANI, CAIRO. ", dated " 28 SETT. 1868. " The same postmark is repeated on the cover. "

Unfortunately the whole cover is not illustrated so that it is impossible to say to where it is addressed.

The " SCHWEIZER BRIEFMARKEN-ZEITUNG " adds the comment that it would be interesting to know if this is a case of a proof piece passed through the post or from an odd sheet that was issued to the P.O. in error.

From the commencement of the address on the cover where the addressee is referred to as " EGREGGIO ", I should imagine that the cover was addressed to Italy and the postal rate in this case is, of course, correct.

It would also be interesting to know if the illustration allows the Die Varieties of the two stamps to be recognised and if it is possible to say from which stone (Byam's classification) they come.
Can the Author answer these questions ?

Ed.

INDEX OF THE PHILATELIC LITERATURE OF EGYPT.

By A. S. Mackenzie-Low.

(Continued from Q. C. No. 10.)

PART IV. - GENERAL.

EGYPT. By G. B. Duerest.

(P.R. XVIII - 1897. Nos. 9 - 11.)

NOTES ON THE STAMPS OF EGYPT. By G. JOHNSON, B.A.

(S. C. F. - 1900 - Nos. 133, 134)

EGYPT. By E. J. Nankivell.

(G. S. W. - 1907, No. 130.)

STAMPS OF EGYPT. By J. C. Rix.

(P.S. - 1907. No. 1.)

EGYPT FOR MODERATE SPECIALISTS. By P. L. Pemberton.

(P. J. Of G.B. - 1909. Nos. 224, 225, 227.)

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF EGYPT. By William Ward.

(M.W.S.N. July 2nd. 1910)

NOTES ON THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF EGYPT. By A. S. Mackenzie-Low.

(S.G.M.J. - 1922. Nos. 551, 553, and L.O.P. No. 20.)

ECHOS ET NOUVELLES.

L.O.P. Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18,

19, 20, 21, 23, 24.

Comments. These articles include - Postal information, New Issues,
and Air Mail Notes.

NOTES & QUESTIONS - NOTES & DEMANDES

L.O.P. Nos. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, (Illustrations)

NOUVEAUTÉS DE L'ORIENT. By Jean Boulad.

L.O.P. Nos. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40,
41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47.

Comments. An excellent chronicle of the new issues of Egypt -
Varieties and Control numbers are listed. Illustrations.

DIVERS - MISCELLANEOUS.

L.O.P. Nos. 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47.

SAVIEZ - VOUS QUE . ? By J. B.

L.O.P. Nos. 32 and 33. Illustrations.

THE PHOTOGRAVURE PROCESS AS APPLIED TO POSTAGE STAMP PRINTING.

A paper read at the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, Brighton, 1932.

By B. Guy Harrison Esqre.

The Philatelic Congress Year Book, 1932.

Comments. The author describes in details the printing process as
applied to the 1923 - 24 issue of Egypt.

THE HOUSE OF MOHAMMED ALI. Illustrations. By G. Seymour Thompson.

L.O.P. No. 34.

LES LANGUES EMPLOYES DANS LES TIMBRES D'EGYPTE. Illustrated. By Jean Boulad.

L.O.P. Nos. 36 and 37.

THE SACRED TALISMANIC NUMBER. Illustrated.

Notes by A. C. Webster, Abel Gawad el Ghazali, H. R. Cox and
Douglas McNeille,

L. O. P. No. 37.

COMPARATIVE TABLES OF MUHAMMADAN AND CHRISTIAN DATES.

Compiled by Lt.-Colonel Sir Wolsley Haig, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.M.G.,
C.B.E., M.A. (Dublin)

(London: Luzac & Co., 46 Great Russell Street, W.C. 1., 1932.)

33 pp. Bound cloth. Pub. 2/-

Comments. The tables in this book will enable one to find the
exact equivalent of any day in any month from the
beginning of the Muhammadan era.

EXHIBITIONS.

EGYPT AT " TIPEX ". An eye-witness' account.

L. O. P. No. 29. pp. 98 - 101.

P.E.X.I.P. - 1937. By Jean Boulad.

L. O. P. No. 34.

EXHIBIT OF EGYPT AND THE SUEZ CANAL AT THE STAMP CENTENARY EXHIBITION,

LANCASTER HOUSE, May 6th. - 14th, 1940.

By A. S. Mackenzie-Low.

(Q.C. No. VIII. pp. 15, 16.)

STUDY CIRCLES.

STUDY CIRCLES. A paper read before the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, Cambridge, 1938. By Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E.

The Philatelic Congress Year Book, 1938.

Comments. The Author describes in details the working of the Egypt Study Circle.

MEETINGS OF THE EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE.

Recorded in - Q.C. Nos. 1,2,3,4, and 5.

Recorded in - " Stamp Collecting " march 30th. August 24th. & November 23rd, 1935. February 15th., March 7th., April 4th., May 9th., June 20th., September 26th., November 14th. and December 5th., 1936. January 2nd, April 3rd., and July 10th. 1937.

Comments. In the account of the meetings details are given of interesting stamps shown of Egypt and Sudan, and new discoveries described.

PART V. - ADHESIVE STAMPS. GENERAL ISSUES.

(ISSUE OF 1866.)

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS. EGYPT.

(S.C.M. February 1st. 1866.)

Comments. This is the earliest recording of the first issue of Egypt in a British Philatelic Journal. A description of the stamps and over print is given.

There is an illustration of the 10 para value, also of an essay stated to have been submitted to the Viceroy for his approval.

EGYPT 1866. THE 20 PARAS BLUE.

By Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E.

P.J.G.B. April 7 June 1930. Reproduced in L.O.P. Nos. 22 & 23.

Comments.

This paper and display was awarded the Sir Nicholas Waterhouse Cup for 1930 for the best paper on a stamp or issue of the XIX century, in open competition among members of the Herts Society.

The author states how his study was based on the proof sheets of the first issue, and goes on to describe the method of production, and how he discovered there were 10 types for each value. These are fully described and illustrated in the case of the 20 paras value, also the setting of the overprint. A continuation of the study of this issue by the author will be found in L.P. Of March, April and May 1931.

EGYPT. FIRST ISSUE 1866.

A paper read before the Royal Philatelic Society, London on January 29th 1931, by Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E., F.R.P.S.L.

L.P. March, April and May 1931.

Comments.

This paper was awarded the Tapling Medal. In the author's valuable research work on this issue he deals fully with the method of production and the study an description of the ten types of the 5, 10, 20 paras and the 10 piastres values, also the overprints.

There are excellent illustrations to show how the types are recognised and diagrams of the proof sheets illustrating the make-up of the stones.

VARIETIES UNCHRONICLED, UNCATALOGUED, OR NOT GENERALLY KNOWN. EGYPT 1 P.T. Of 1866.

By Alexander J. Séfi.

P.J. Of G.M. March 1927.

Comments.

The variety described and illustrated occurs on stamp No. 37 left-hand pane on the proof sheet.

THE 1884 ISSUE OF EGYPT. SOME NOTES. By E. F. Hurt.

The Decree giving notice of the changes of colour in 1884 reads as follows :-

" La Direction Générale a l'honneur d'informer le public que cette administration vient d'émettre de nouveaux timbes-poste du 10 et 20 paras et de 1 et 5 piastres aux coulers suivantes :

10 paras	vert.
20 paras	rose.
1 piastre	bleu.
5 piastres	Gris.

" Cette nouvelle emission sera mise en cours a partir du 15 décembre prochain.

" Les timbres-postale mêmes valeurs actuellement en circulation continuerent a server soit isolément, soit conjointement avec le nouveaux pour l'affranchissement des correspondances jusqu'au 31 décembre 1885. A partir de cette date ils n'aurent plus cours et cessèrent d'être acceptés par les bureaux de poste égyptiens.

" Les timbres de 5 paras et de 2 piastres continuerent a etre les memes que ceux actuellement en cours.

" Alexandrie 20 novembre 1884. "

The above not only gives us the date of issue of the four values in the new colours but also the date at which the former stamps of these values were to be rendered obsolete.

Is the order of shades for 20 para and 1 and 5 P.T. known ?

Ed.

MARKET JOTTINGS. By Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E.

THE MARTIN-HURST collection sold by Harmer, Rooke on October 9th. and 10th. 1941, contained some items of interest to collectors of Egypt there being thirty-three lots comprising stamps of Great Britain used at either ALEXANDRIA or SUEZ. Two covers cancelled B O I, on bearing S.G. Z 398 dated 26th. September 1862, and the other S.G. Z 384, two copies of 6d no letters, dated 9th. December 1862 fetched 55/-. A very nice cover bearing a pair of 3d rose small letters, dated 1st. September 1864 also from Alexandria, went for 50/-. Six copies of 2/- blue and seven copies of 5/- rose, fair to fine, with reasonably clear B O I markings realised 55/-.

The B O 2 items were mainly examples of an interesting piece of postal history, there being twelve covers, sold as separate lots, forwarding telegrams, sent from Great Britain to Suez, by post to Bombay. Franking was by either 6d lilac, small letters, in pairs, or 1/- green, small letters. The dates ranged from 28th. October 1863 to 28th. December 1864. One cover, dated 13th, July 1864 carried two copies of the 1/-. In several instances the message was enclosed and referred to the buying or selling of cotton, with sundry shrewd comments. The average price realised was 25/5 a cover, the top figure being 35/- and the lowest 15/-. To me these were very human documents and I only regret that the auctioneer failed to secure one of them for my collection.

On December 1st. 1941, H. R. Harmer sold fifteen lots of Egypt. The most interesting contained stamps of the Boulac printing of the third issue, including perf 12½ 1 P.T., block of 25; 2½ P.T. block of 20; perf 13¼ X 12½ 10 para block of 10; 2 P.T. block of 20 - all mint and with margins. There were several smaller mint blocks. The price realised for the 140 stamps was £8 or less that 1/2 a stamp.

Gascoigne " SUDAN ". Sale by Robson Loew, 11th. December 1941.

Some prices realised. By Dr. R. J. C. Thompson, C.M.G., D.S.O.

1897, 5 Mill. Overprint inverted, £2. 1921 - 22. 1 Mil. to 15 Mils. and 2 P.T. in mint imperforate pairs. £8-10-0. O.S.G.S. 1 Mil. overprint inverted. block of four, £8. O.S.G.S. 1 Mil. Vertical Pair, one with round stops. Overprint inverted. £7-10-0. O.S.G.S. 1 Mil. Vertical pair, One with round stops. Overprint, double £8. Army Official; Horizontal overprint with dropped " O " and bottom line of large overprint. £21. Army Official, Army reading down. Note of exclamation, £5-5-0. Army Official. Army reading down, small overprint, no. 6. £7. Army Service. 1 Mil. block of four : lower pair with " Service " omitted. £21. Army Service. 1 Mil. Inverted overprint. £3-5-0. Army Service. 2 Mils. strip of five, bottom stamp without overprint. £1. Army Service. 2 Mils. With " Army " omitted, pair, £9-10-0. Army Service. 5 Mils. with overprint inverted. £9. Army Service. 5 Mils. " AMRY " £42. Army Service. 1 P.T. with " S " of " Service " omitted. £5. Army Service. Wmk. Quatrefoil. 2, 5, & 10 P.T. in mint blocks of four. £15.

THE FIRST EGYPTIAN POSTAGE DUES. Notes by E. F. Hurt.

The first Postage Dues were issued on January 1st. 1884 for use on unpaid letters, and the following is a translation of the Notice concerning their issue & use.

NOTICE.

The public are informed that as from January 1st. 1884 all correspondence taxable as unstamped or underpaid will have special stamps attached " Postage Dues ", representing the exact amount of tax to be paid by the recipient.

As a result no postage due for unpaid or underpaid letters whole be paid unless the letter or packet delivered has attached to it a " Postage Due " (chiffre taxe) representing the value of the sum to be paid.

Alexandria. December 29th. 1883.

Although these were actually Postage Due stamps in the strict sense of the term it will be noted that in the above notice, originally in French, they were referred to as " Chiffre-taxes", the old term applied to the hands stamps used on unpaid letters or on letters on which certain charges were payable and which represented in figures the amount to be collected and delivery. This had, of course, been the custom everywhere before the issue of stamps especially where the prepayment of letters was not obligatory.

The above mentioned postage dues were not to be sold to the public although from the outset it was laid down that collectors could have them cancelled to order in accordance with a ruling of the British Postal Director in Egypt at the time.

SOME NOTES FROM " A HANDBOOK FOR TRAVELLERS IN EGYPT. "

Published by John Murray, 1873.

Extracted by F. S. Mumford.

continued from Q.C. No. X. Page 13.

PORT SAID.

Page 344. The through steamers between Europe and the East, of the P. & O. Co., the Messageries, the Austrian Lloyd, the Rubattino, and others, all stop at Port Said. The steamers of the Messageries, Austrian Lloyd, Russian Steam Navigation and Azizieh Cos between Alexandria, the Syrian coast, and Constantinople, call at Port Said, in 18 hours from Alexandria, and 15 from Jaffa, and generally stay from 8 to 10 hours in the harbour.

SOME NOTES FROM " A HANDBOOK FOR TRAVELLERS IN SYRIA AND PALESTINE. "

Published by John Murray, 1858.

Extracted by F. S. Mumford.

Page LVIII. THE POST-OFFICE IN SYRIA is yet in its infancy. There are weekly mails between Jerusalem and Beyrout, performing the distance in about four days; there is a bi-weekly post between Damascus and Beyrout, taking about twenty-two hours in fine weather, but occasionally a fortnight in winter; and there is a weekly Tartar from Damascus to Hums, Hamah, Aleppo, and Constantinople, making the whole distance in twelve days. He leaves on Wednesday. All letters by these routes must be addressed in Arabic or Turkish, and prepaid. The Turkish posts have no connection with those of any other country; and consequently letters for foreign countries must be sent either through the consuls, or the post agents of those countries resident at the seaports. There is no English mail to Syria, but the French mail steamers carry closed bags from the consulates to Alexandria. Letters sent in this way must be handed to the consuls, and cannot be prepaid. The French postal arrangement is quick and safe, though frequently altered. At present mail steamers run every fortnight from the coast of Syria both to Alexandria and Constantinople. They touch at Alexandretta, Latikia, Tripoli, Beyrout, and Yafa; and at any of these ports letters can be posted (prepaid or not) to Italy, France, England, or America. The postage to England is as follows:—

	Fr.	Cent.
Not exceeding ¼ oz	0	60.
- - ½ oz	1	20.

and so on.

Those wishing to forward letters to England from the interior of the country must enclose them to some Banker or Merchant at a seaport.

A courier carries a letter-bag from the English consulate at Damascus to meet the French steamer at Beyrout on its way to Alexandria; and on the arrival of the mail from Alexandria he returns to Damascus with letters and despatches. Connected with this courier is another who crosses the desert to and from Baghdad on a dromedary in from eight to ten days. The latter is in the pay of the English consulate at Baghdad.

Austrian steamers also carry mails at intervals of 15 days from Beyrout to Smyrna, Constantinople, Germany, and England. Travellers should always inquire at the British consulates or agencies the time of the departure of the mails. Letters forwarded from England to travellers in Syria ought to be addressed to the care of the consuls at Beyrout, Jerusalem, Aleppo, or Damascus ; or else to the care of a Merchant or Banker.

Page 78. JERUSALEM. Letters should be addressed to the care of the English consul, or of Mr. Bergheim, Banker; and if not found according to address, they may be enquired for at the office of the Messageries Imperiales, near the Yafa Gate, where they are often detained until applied for. The mails from England and France arrive, via Alexandria and Yafa, each alternate Thursday, and depart also on the same day. Letters for Smyrna, Constantinople, and Greece are despatched on the previous Tuesday, so as to meet the French steamer proceeding northward at Yafa. There is an overland Turkish post to Beyrout every Wednesday, arriving on the following Sunday, and vice versa. The Consulate, where strangers will be most likely to find their letters, and where they are required to enrol their names on arrival, is situated on Mount Zion, beside the English church, and just opposite the citadel.

Page 288. JOPPA. French steamers now (1858) call (weather permitting of course) on alternate Wednesdays, bringing European mails from Alexandria, and proceeding northward to Beyrout and Constantinople. Also on the Thursdays following, taking mails to Alexandria for Europe. Austrian steamers likewise call about once a fortnight, but their times are frequently changing.

THE FIRST MILLIÈMES ISSUE.

Notes by E. F. Hurt.

The change of currency in the postage stamps of Egypt from paras to millièmes was made known by the following postal notice in December 1887 : This notice was issued to the post offices :

1. Nouvelle émission de timbres-poste et de cartes postale.

A partir du 1er janvier prochain les timbres postales actuels de 5 et 10 paras seront remplacés par de nouveaux timbres de 1 et 2 millièmes. En conséquence dans l'expédition pour la consommation du mois de janvier les timbres de 5 et 10 paras seront remplacés par des timbres de 1 et 2 millièmes.

Sous aucun prétexte ces nouveaux timbres ne devront être vendus des 5 et 10 paras actuels ; ceux qui resteront devront être renvoyés à cette Direction Générale avec le compte rendu du mois de décembre, et leur contrevaletur portée au crédit de ce compte sous une rubrique spécial " Timbres de 5 et 10 paras renvoyés. "

Il est bien entendu que les dispositions contenues dans Le Bulletin du 20 octobre dernier, No., 42, Art. I, n'aurent plus effet à partir du 1er janvier et que l'on pourra délivrer au public les catégories de timbres qu'il demandera.

Il sera également mis en course dès le commencement de l'année des nouveaux timbres-poste de 5 Millièmes qui sont destinés à remplacer les 20 paras actuels, ainsi que des nouvelles cartes postales dont la valeur est exprimée en millièmes. Cependant, comme il existe encore un certain stock des timbres de 20 paras et des cartes postales actuelles, les nouveaux timbres de 5 millièmes, ainsi que les nouvelles cartes, ne seront expédiés aux bureaux en général que lorsque les anciens seront épuisés.

Les quelques bureaux qui, dans leur approvisionnement pour le mois de janvier recevront des nouveaux timbres de 5 millièmes ainsi que des nouvelles cartes postales, ne devrent, sous aucun prétexte, en vendre aavant le 1er. de l'an, et, a partir de cette date, ils pourrent les vendre avec les anciens.

Si d'ici a la fin du mois, les titulaires venaient a avoir besoin des timbres de 5, 10, et 20 paras, ainsi que des cartes postales actuelles, ils auraient a adresser une demande supplémentaire.

Des instructions seront données ultérieurement aux agents au sujet du délai de validité des timbres actuellement en cours.

2. Nouvelle émission de chiffres-taxes des valeurs suivantes :

- 5 Piastres.
- 2 Piastres.
- 1 Piastre.
- 5 Millièmes.
- 2 Millièmes.

Il a été adopté pour chacun de ces valeurs la meme couleur que pour le timbres-poste du meme valeur.

On continuera a faire usage des chiffres-taxes actuele jusqu'a ce que le stock en aura été épuisé. Exception sera faite pour ceux de 10 paras qui, a partir, du 1er. Janvier, ne devrent plus server et seront remplacés par ceux de 2 millièmes.

En consequence, dans les expéditions de chiffres-taxes pour la consommation du mois de janvier, les 10 paras seront remplacées par des nouveaux de 2 millièmes. Les chiffres-taxes de 10 paras, qui resterent aux titulaires le 31 décembre au soir, devrent être renvoyées a cette Direction Générale avec la compte-rendu du mois de décembre, et leur contre valeur portée au crédit sous une rubrique speciale " Chiffres-taxes de 10 paras renvoyés ".

(ii) Des enveloppes timbrées de piastre I qui seront vendues $\frac{1}{2}$ millième par enveloppe en sus de la contre-valeur du timbres-poste ; les 20 enveloppes couteront dans piastres 21.

Les timbres-poste de 5 et 10 paras cesseront d'être vendue a partir du 1er. janvier, mais ils continuerent a etre valables soit isolément, soit avec les nouveaux pour l'affranchisement des correspondences jusqu'au 30 juin 1888. A partir de cette date, ils n'aurent plus cours, et jusqu'au 31 décembre 1888 seront échangés contre d'autres timbres á la Direction Générale des postes ; après ce dernier terme, ils ne seront plus acceptés a quelque titre que ce soit.

" Alexandrie, le décembre 1887. "

One or two interesting points arise from the above postal instructions.

Has anyone seen any of the new currency stamps in use before the 1st. of January 1888? Although the regulation on this point was strict, it is possible seeing that it was provided that supplies might be sent to offices well in advance of that date and there was always a possibility of a sudden shortage of the 5 and 10 paras.

Also, although the validity of the 5 and 10 paras was several months after the issue of the millièmes stamps, how many covers have been seen with mixed frankings of the two issues. From my own observation I should say that the wily inhabitants of Egypt, Arab, Egyptian, French or Italian must have been pretty slick at returning any paras values they had in case there as " a catch somewhere",

Though we know that in many countries, Egypt included, the parsimonious habit was only to buy a stamp when you had a letter to post and to take your letter to the post office at the same time.

It was rather a curious regulation which forbade the sale of 5 and 10 paras after January 1st. but which allowed the 20 paras to be sold " until the stocks were exhausted ", although, like the 1 and 2 millièmes, the new 5 millièmes stamps were simultaneously available for supply to the offices. It will be noted that the reason given for this apparent anomaly is that there still " existed a certain stock of the 20 paras " . Presumably therefore we can take it that the stock of the 5 and 10 paras stamps was at that time almost exhausted and it is probably for that reason that not only are these two values definitely scarce used in 1888 but also why one does not find them on covers in combination with the new issue. It would, however, be interesting to find out what were actually the earliest dates of usage of the 5 millièmes in certain offices, since they were not actually put into use at the period at which they were available. Catalogues, of course, give the date of issue of all three values as the same but in this instance issue to the Post Offices did not necessarily imply issue to the public.

It will further be noted that whereas any stocks of the 5 and 10 paras were to be returned for destruction after January 1st. it was not so with the postcards. For these the instruction is that the new issue can be sold simultaneously with the old, evidently with the idea of saving paper !

When were S.G. 100 and 101 issued ? They are not mentioned in this P.O. notice though catalogued as coming out on the same day. Then as to the shades of the 1, 2, and 5 millièmes - Which came first ? Can any member produce evidence ?

Ed.

WANTS SECTION.

Mr. E. F. Hurt of 12 Dalkeith Road, Harpenden, Herts seeks :-

Posta Europea Interpostals and also Posta Europea covers. He desires to complete his collection of this local post, if possible.
