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THE HISTORY OF THE FOREIGN POST OFFICES IN EGYPT.

THE POSTS OF GREAT BRITAIN IN EGYPT.

By Brigadier C.D. Rawson, C.B.E.; D.S.O..

( continued from Vol. III. Page 163 )

POSTAL TELEGRAMS.

The first Atlantic cable was laid in August 1858 and, although unsuccessful, it opened the eyes of the world to the possibilities and advantages of this type of communication.

In 1857 a scheme to link England with India was made and powers obtained from the Turkish Government to carry a line cross Egypt and lay a cable in the Red Sea. To do this a British owned company was formed called The Red Sea and India Telegraph Company.

A line 3043 miles long was laid between Suez and Karachi - one part from Suez to Aden ( 1358 miles ) with intermediate landings at Kossoir and Suakim was laid in 1859 - the Aden - Karachi section being laid the following year. The line had to be abandoned owing to faults and lack of repair facilities.

In 1861 a cable was laid from Malta to Alexandria touching at Tripoli and Benghazi by the Anglo-Mediterranean Telegraph Company, communication to England being via Italy.

This cable was constantly interrupted and another was laid from Malta to Alexandria in 1868 and in the same year another from Suez to Bombay via Aden by the Red Sea and India Telegraph Company thus completing communication from England to India.

Before 1868 telegrams had to be dispatched by post from Suez to India

and a number of covers are in existence franked at the Suez Post Office with British adhesives and cancelled with the B02 obliterator. The rate of postage was one shilling.

The Eastern Telegraph Company (British) was formed in 1868 and telegraphic communication across the Red Sea was established in 1872. Before this date cables were forwarded by post.


V. POSTAL MARKINGS.

1. Classification.


( C ) C A I R O .

<u>Type.</u>	<u>Illustration.</u>	Period of use from covers recorded. Earliest. Latest.	<u>Ink.</u>	<u>Function &amp; Remarks.</u>
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I. CROWNED CIRCLE FRANK STAMP.

I-1.  25-4-60. 11-1-61. Red. As frank stamps to defray postage.

II. DATED CIRCULAR MARKINGS.

II-1.  10-2-61. 6-10-61. Black. Information.  
29-1-72. 19-7-73. Blue.

No obliterator was issued to Cairo.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION.                      CAIRO.

Type I.    Crowned Circle Frank Stamp.

I-1.            A single circle intersected at the top by a crown. This is a true circle and is not flattened, the diameter being 20 m.m. The crown is 9 m.m. high and 9.5 m.m. side. Within the circle is the legend "PAID AT CAIRO" in three lines. The letters of "PAID" and "CAIRO" are 3 m.m. high, those of "AT" 2 m.m. high. The stamp was struck only in red. It was issued at Cairo on 23 March 1859.

In red.	Earliest date	25-4-60.	(Hinde)
	Latest date.	11-1-61.	

Type II.    Dated circular markings.

II-1.            A single circle 19 to 20 m.m in diameter. In the upper half of the circle is the word CAIRO with code letter "A" or "C" over it. Height of letters 2.5 to 3 m.m. Cairo 13.5 to 14 m.m. wide. In the lower half is the date in two lines, letters 2.5 to 3 m.m. high.

Stamp struck in both black and blue.

It came into use on 23 March 1859 with the Crowned Circle Frank Stamp.

Letter A.	In Black.	Earliest date.	14-3-68.	(McGowan)
		Latest date.	6-10-71.	
Letter C.	In Black.	Earliest date.	10-2-61.	(Rawson)
		Latest date.	25-1-64.	
Letter A.	In Blue.	Earliest date.	29-1-72.	(Rawson)
		Latest date.	19-1-73.	
Letter C.	In Blue.	Earliest date.		
		Latest date.		

BRITISH ADHESIVES USED AT PORT SAID.

Stanley Gibbons' catalogue, Part 1. p. 42 states :-

"Stamps issued after 1877 can be found with the Egyptian cancellation "PORT SAID" but these are on letters posted from British ships."

In August 1891 a Postal Convention was signed in Vienna in which it was agreed that correspondence placed in a letter box on a packet boat about to enter a port of call should be franked by postage stamps according to the tariff of the country to which the packet boat belonged. The letters were taken ashore and the stamps cancelled at the local post office.

Stamps are found thus with the PORT SAID postmark but less frequently marked "PAQUEBOAT" or "PLEINE DE MER" with the additional postmarks of Suez

or Port Tewfik. Although there are instances of such use before 1 August 1891 it is doubtful if they are authentic, but there is a rare usage before the Gibbons date of 1877.

The front of t a cover from Port Said to Liverpool franked by an Egyptian 1 P.T. stamp cancelled with the Egyptian postmark of Port Said dated 9 November 1872. It also bears a pair of British 4d plate 12 cancelled with the Alexandria obliterator B01, Type III with date stamp of 11 November 1872 on the front of the cover. ( McGowan )

### 3. FORGED POSTMARKS.

A good example of a forged B02 obliterator is in the Hearn collection. On some of the penny rose red stamps with plate number, ink dissimilar to the normal appears to have been used for the marking, which may indicate that the obliteration is forged.

## VI. POSTAL RATES BETWEEN EGYPT AND ENGLAND.

### Early days.

In 1657 the first Act of Parliament was passed fixing rates for postage, but no provision was made at that time for letters to and from any other part of the world except Europe. Letters for Asia and Africa were carried by merchant vessels. These rates to Marseilles and other ports in the Mediterranean were 12d for single, 24d for double letters and 45d per ounce weight.

By the Act of 1660 the British Post Office was brought under Parliamentary control and the basis of our modern system formed. The conveyance of letters to foreign countries was restricted to English ships under penalty of £100 for each offence.

In 1744 war necessitated the establishment of sailing packets to Gibraltar and Minorca and, in 1803, again as a war measure, packets were run between Falmouth, Gibraltar and Malta.

In 1806 the rates from Falmouth for single letters to Gibraltar was 2ld and to Malta 25d.

### The long sea route to Egypt.

In December 1840 the contract with the P. & O. S. N. Co. was signed. Letters for Malta, Greece and the Ionian Isles, Egypt and the East Indies, if forwarded FROM Falmouth and by Her Majesty's packets in the Mediterranean were subjected to a uniform rate of 2/6 single ( one quarter ounce ) , 5/- double, 7/6 treble and 10/- per ounce weight, and so on in proportion from whatever part of the U.K. they were dispatched. All letters sent by Falmouth had to be marked "via Falmouth", otherwise they were retained and sent by the India and Malta mail through France via Marseilles in the monthly British packets. By 1843 the rate had been reduced to 1/- per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.

### The Overland Route.

Meanwhile, in 1836, England and France had signed a postal treaty, confirmed in 1837, by which the rates on letters passing between any other

country and the U.K. through France were fixed.

The rates for single letters between Malta and Egypt, 38d.

By 1843 the overland rate had been reduced to 20d pre one quarter ounce.

In 1863 rates from Alexandria to England by long sea and overland by Marseilles were lowered to 6d and an extra 1d from Suez to England 7d.

In 1873 by the new Convention with the Egyptian Government postal rates were as follows :-

Incoming Letters.

Prepaid letters from Malta or Gibraltar to any address in Egypt 6d.

ON unprepaid letters entering Egypt from Malta and Gibraltar  
3 P.T. 20 paras.

Unprepaid letters from India, Ceylon, Straits, China, Japan,  
Australia and New Zealand 4 P.T. 10 paras.

Outgoing letters.

Single letters from Egypt to England, prepaid via Brindisi  
4 P.T. 5 paras.

Single letters from Egypt to England, prepaid via long sea  
3 P.T. 10 paras.

From Egypt to Malta and Gibraltar 2 P.T. 20 paras.

To India, Ceylon, Straits, China, Japan, Australia & New Zealand  
3 P.T. 10 paras.

Until the Convention of 1873 came into force, rates for all letters from Egypt to the East were charged at a single rate of 1/- per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz weight at either Alexandria or Suez. On the Convention being operative Egyptian stamps could be used.

In 1875 Egypt had joined the U.P.U. and the rate became  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.

In 1905 Egypt and the Sudan came into line with the countries which adopted the 1d rate and charged 5 milliemes.

VII. MAIL CARRIED BY GREAT BRITIAN FOR OTHER COUNTRIES.

(a) FRANCE.

- (1) The earliest example is a cover from Calcutta to Bordeaux dated January 4th 1839 which was handled by the Waghorn Agency. It bears the cachet " CARE OF Mr. WAGHORN SUEZ".
- (2) Letter from Alexandria to Paris marked "PAR BATEAU ANGLAIS" bears Alexandria date stamp. Type I-2 dated 20 March 1951. It has the

Malta purification mark. It was transhipped to a French packet bearing a cachet "PACQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERRANEE " in oval frame, and the Marseilles and Paris arrival marks. Postage rate 30 centimes (Danson) country and the U.K. through France were fixed.

- (3) Letter from Alexandria to Marseilles bears French date stamp of Alexandria on front dated 9 December 1858, has Malta purification mark and red "PAQ ANG" Marseille arrivals tamp date 16 (?) Dec 52. Postage rate 90 centimes (Rawson)
- (b) ITALY. In 1845 the Peninsula Service ( later P & O ) established a branch LINE TOUCHIGN Italy as part of a service to Constantinople from Malta.
- The earlier example is a letter postmarked at the British post office Alexandria DE 21 1851 with the P&O ANG Marseille and Malta purification markings on front of cover. The letter travelled via Antibes and reached Leghorn 5 GEN 1852 (Coomer)
- (c) AUSTRIA. In 1865 two covers to China and two to Bombay from Trieste which were handled by British service from Alexandria eastward have been recorded.

VIII. PHILATELIC MATERIAL AVAILABLE.

The following are noted.

- (a) Examples of the Crowned Circles on cover, particularly that of Suez. The Alexandria Crowned Circle has not been seen in black, nor the Suez Crowned Circle in red.
- (b) The B02 obliterator is rarer than the B01 obliterator.
- (c) Obliterator Type II ( five bars ) is very scarce on cover.
- (d) Examples of Co-operation between Britain and Italy in the carriage of mails are very rare.
- (e) No example combination covers emanating from Egypt have been seen bearing British adhesives with -
- (1) Egyptian Government Franks.
  - (2) Italian adhesives.
  - (3) Egyptian adhesives.

Those with French adhesives are very rare.

- (f) Material coming into Egypt is much rarer than outgoing material.
- (g) Covers from Egypt during military expeditions therein are rare.
- (h) British adhesives on letters from Egypt to France or U.S.A. are rare.
- (i) No registered mail from Egypt carried by the British service has been seen.

(j) Covers from Egypt to England between 1858 and 1868 are seldom seen.

IX. SOME PROBLEMS AWAITING SOLUTION.

- (a) On what date was the Packet Agency at Cairo established.
- (b) The Alexandria obliterator was changed thrice while that of Suez remained unchanged. Why was this?
- (c) Why have none of the Mobile "Tombstone" date stamps ever come to light? nor the Al7 obliterator.
- (d) The application of British adhesive stamps on transit mail through Egypt from other countries for accountancy purposes requires further study.
- (e) Why has no example of British mail being carried by the Posta Europea been found?
- (f) Alexandria date stamp, Type II-1 was struck in black, blue or red. What was the significance of these colours, if any ?

E R R A T A .

Page 136. "Early Packet Service". Third paragraph line 3.  
and "The Admiralty Packet Service" Second paragraph line 2.  
FLAMOUTH should read FALMOUTH.

Page 137. "P & O Steam Navigation Co." Third paragraph last line but one.  
On the red of the FLAG should read On the red of the FLY.

Page 141. First word in last line of paragraph 2  
CANAL should read CAMEL.

Pages 153 - 158 inclusive. and pages 161 - 163 inclusive.

TYPES III-1; III-2; III-3; and III-4

should read

TYPES IV-1; IV-2; IV-3; and IV-4.

( conclusion. )



THE POSTAL STATIONERY OF EGYPT

By Jean Boulad.

Translation from the French - First published in L'O.P. July, 1950.

With reference to the information of an essay of an Egyptian entire, published in L'Orient Philatelique dated April 1950 page 349, I have gathered some more details—which I believe are, if not yet unpublished, least not much known—on other essays of Egyptian postal entries.

In the course of my visit to Europe in May-June 1950, I was fortunate in buying what is probably the most important collection of Egyptian and Sudanese entires; it was part of the magnificent general collection of postal stationery built up by the late A. Schoeller of Paris. The Egyptian portion contains some essays which I believe are very rare and certainly not yet known in Egypt, as regards the Sudan lot, there is a great quantity of entires overprinted "SPECIMEN" which has not been studied.

Essays of 1865-1869.

Before describing the three copies which are now in my collection, I think it is interesting to reproduce a translation of what J.B. Moens wrote on this subject in his book "Timbres d'Egypte et de la Compaigne de Suez" published at Brussels in 1880. On pages 30 and 31 we read :-

" In 1865, an Italian, Negroni, proposed the type depicted opposite which was not accepted because the stamps printed by Messrs Pellas Bros, had already all the qualities required by the Mohamadan law. On the four sides there is a Turkish inscription overprinted in black, it reads as the black inscription on the accepted postage stamps".

" These essays, very very rare nowadays, have been counterfeited, by Prévost ( of Paris we believe ), by order of the Commander A. de T. The pearls are bigger, the rays of the star are longer and thinner. Prints have also been made on paper and on cardboard of different colours, glazed and not glazed, with and without overprint; in short, there are prints for all tastes."

The statement by J. B. Moens may be correct but we have not had the opportunity to see as "many different essays" as he describes.

Thanks to a very fortunate opportunity we found the name and address of the Commander A. de T. referred to in the above mentioned article. It is precisely one of those essays which gives this information. The envelope is addressed and left open— i.e. as printed matter unfranked, through the French Post Office - to "Monsieur le Commandeur Angelo de Tedesco, 14 bis. Boulevard Poissonière, Paris." This letter is postmarked on the front with the departure date stamp of Alexandria, the 19th December 1869 and bears the numeral "6" corresponding to the double rate - 30 centimes - for a letter to France. On the back the arrival date stamp of Paris (60) is of the 26th December 1869.

On the inner side of the flap of the envelope a manuscript note in French may be translated as follows : , “ Essay proposed to the Egyptian Government Cairo the 15th December 1869.”

1. This envelope is the first of the set.

On the back, at the crossing of the four flaps, there is a very clear impression in black of the 20 para essay; this picture corresponds to the illustration of the essay No. 2, Zéheri 5th edition, but with the value “20” instead of “00” and without the inscription “EPREUVE” and also without the Turkish inscription. The size of the envelope is 145 X 110 m.m. the paper is white and diagonally laid.

A similar essay exists in the collection of our French friend, Mr. A. Cocâtre of Paris, it is in mint condition.

2. Print of the 10 para in brick colour on the bottom of the right corner of the envelope on the left there is a print of the inscription of the 1 piastre in the same colour. The print corresponds to the picture of the essay No. 7 Zehéri 5th edition. The envelope is of green laid paper, size 140 X 72 m.m.

3. Print of the 10 para, in lemon, in the lozenge shape, in the middle of the right side of the envelope; the black inscription on the stamp is that of the 20 para. The stamp is the same as the previous one.

The envelope is of plain bluish paper, its size is 143 X 80 m.m

As a confirmation of the explanation given by J. B. Moens we wonder what was the meaning of such “essays” in 1869 at a time when the issue with Turkish inscriptions was already long out of date.

#### Essay about 1889.

This copy which corresponds to the 1889 issue No. 21a – i. e. blue 1 piastre stamp depicting a pyramid and the sphinx embossed in a circle with French and Arabic inscriptions, white laid paper watermarked “Postes Egyptiennes” in script; size of the envelope is 146 X 111 m.m.– is in addition overprinted in black in the top centre with a French-Arabic inscription which may be translated “Universal Postal Union / Egypt / Reply-Envelope”.

We have no information concerning this overprint.

We believe it is an essay prepared for the suggested creation – between the countries members of the U.P.U.– of an reply envelope on the same lines as the reply postcards. It seems that this scheme was abandoned.

It would be interesting and useful, in order to be able to complete this summary, to know of similar essays existing in other collections. If their owners would kindly submit them to me in order that they may be examined, recorded and even described in the magazine, they will contribute to the progress of our knowledge in this matter.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE POSTAL MARKINGS

Of Foreign Countries operating postal

Services in Egypt & its territorial waters.

By Dr. Gordon Ward.

1. In primary groups according to the country involved, e.g. Australian, Austrian, French, Italian, British, South African, Turkish, United States post office markings.
2. With few exceptions ( e.g. Norway and Poland ) these primary groups will need to be subdivided according to the political circumstances which brought foreign postal services into being, e.g.. Wars, Particular agreements with Egyptian authorities, sudden emergencies, e.g. World War, Official Agreements, Civil Disorders, etc.
3. Only within each subdivision of national groups would the actual classification of individual markings be attempted and, firstly, according to whether these postmarks were used in connection with :-
  - (a) Ordinary post, i.e. surface post.
  - (b) Air posts.
  - (c) Maritime posts.
  - (d) Postal stationery.

Thus, a typical classification might be -

- (1) National group - British
- (2) Political group - Second World War.
- (3) Functional group - Surface post.

The next sub-division should usually be into :-

- (1) Dated markings
- (2) Undated markings.

Finally would come typological subdivision. These would vary in each group and would tend to make themselves, e.g.

- (1) National group - British
- (2) Political group - Second World War.
- (3) Functional group - Surface post.
- (4) Dated postmarks.

(5) Security hand stamps with "E.601" to "E.608" below and B.P.O. M.P.O., F.P.O., etc. above with date between.

or

Double circle FIELD POST OFFICE handstamps

or

BASE ARMY OFFICES - - various types.

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Change of address.

- 8. D.B. Armstrong, White Gates, The Riviera, Sandgate, Kent.
- 54. Brigadier C. D. Rawson, C.B.E.; D.S.O., Ladysfield, Thrupton.  
Andover, Hants.
- 80. D. A. Humphries, 21 Egerton Gardens, London. S.W. 3.

Resignations.

- 55. H.R. Holmes, 28 Lynton Road, New Malden, Surrey.
- 73. Mrs. E. L. Morgan, Cefn Eithin, Swansea, Glam.

New Member.

- 81. Capt. Lionel Phillips, Lorraine, Abbey Road, Chertsey, Surrey.
-

SUBSCRIPTIONS. 1952.

Subscriptions to the Egypt Study Circle for the current year - £1-0-0. -

became due on January 1st. and the Treasurer would be glad to receive a

remittance at your early convenience.

174 Buxton Road,  
Stockport,  
Cheshire,  
England.

F.S. Mumford,

Hon. Secretary-Treasurer.