

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE.

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR.

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THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR .

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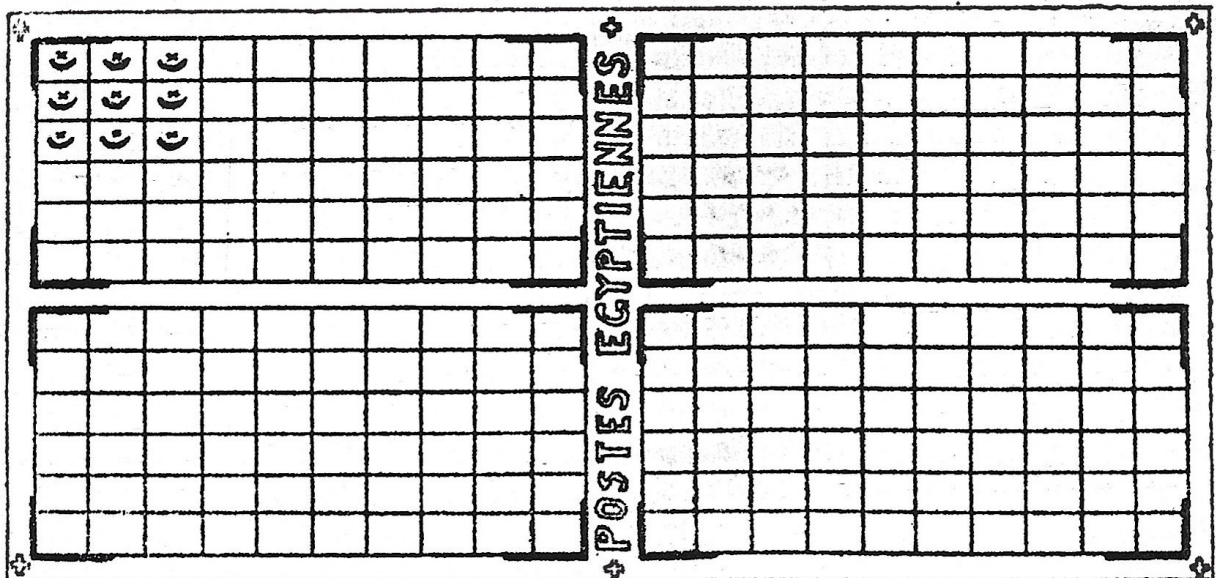
THE WATERMERKS OF THE DE LA RUE ISSUES OF EGYPT, 1879 - 1902.

by A. J. Revell.

continued from page 72.

Diagram of a full sheet (Not to scale)

The heavy lines in the corners represent the "SPACER" watermarks in the position they would occupy if the sheet was positioned correctly.



The Gutter Margin Watermark.

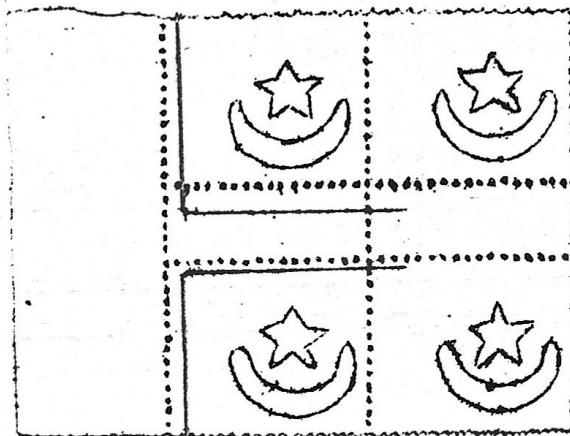
This appeared only on the central vertical "gutter" margin and is in the form of the words, "POSTES EGYPTIENNES", spaced out the whole length of the vertical margin between the four panes of the sheet of 240 stamps. (See diagrammatic drawing of full sheet.)

The "Spacer" Watermark.

This is a right-angled bracket in each corner of each pane to enable (I assume) the printers to position the sheets so that the "Star and Crescent" watermark became centralised on each stamp. On a correctly positioned sheet this "Spacer" watermark would become obliterated by the teeth of the perforating machine, but should the sheet be incorrectly positioned this watermark would become apparent on either the sheet margins or on the corner stamps of each pane, either in a vertical or horizontal position or even both.

In the many thousands of stamps I have examined in this study I have only found a matter of a few dozen stamps with this watermark impressed upon them, which seems to reflect that De La Rue carried out their work to a high degree of accuracy.

Small watermarked crosses also appear in six positions on the sheet margins.



In the commencement of this article I mentioned that the two varieties of watermark appeared only up to 1884 but there is one other item that I feel ought to be mentioned that appears after 1884. This is on the 2 milliemes value (green) of 1902, and is a " NO WATERMARK " variety. I have three copies of this variety. All these are postmarked ALEXANDRIE and dated 26.VII.04. This points to one of two probable causes :- I. These stamps are from an unwatermarked sheet. II. They are from a watermarked sheet that was so badly positioned that they were printed on what was to be the sheet margin.

These are the only three copies I know of and are not listed by Zeheri.

The 1914 Pictorial Issue of De La Rue.

In 1914 De La Rue brought out their well known Pictorial issue also bearing the "Star and Crescent" watermark. As previously mentioned, it was only on the "Sphinx and Pyramid" issues of 1879-1884 that the two different types of watermark appeared and after that the watermark was always Type II until the cessation of these issues.

But, now the inexplicable appears in the form of these two types of watermark again making their appearance in 1914 after a lapse of 30 years, and the question remains, WHY? A check list of this issue follows and it will be noticed that there are five different types of watermark to be found on the 5 millieme value.

Check List of the two sizes of watermark on the Pictorial Issues of 1914.

Value, Mills.	Colour.	Type I.		Type II.				Remarks.
		(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	
1	Sepia	X	X	X				
2	Green	X		X				
2	Turquoise			X				
2	Emerald	X						
2	Deep Green on grey paper	X						
3	Orange	X		X				
3	Orange yellow	X						Zeheri lists Inv.
4	Vermillion	X						Zeheri lists Inv.
5	Lake	X	X	X		X	X	
10	Dark blue	X		X				Zeheri lists Inv.
20	Olive			X				Zeheri lists Inv.
50	Purple.			X				
100	Slate			X				
200	Marone			X				
2/3	Orange	X						

The Zeheri items listed in the Remarks column appertain to stamps I have not seen and therefore cannot say whether these are to be found with watermarks Type I or II.

In conclusion I should like to thank Colonel Danson for the loan of his panes and blocks, W.H.Cheavin for his close co-operation in providing the Electron Radiographs, and members of the Egypt Study Circle in giving their valuable help. Although I feel that the study is as near complete as possible I should welcome any new information or variety being brought to my notice.

THE EXPRESS LETTER STAMPS .

Some Notes prepared by Captain Lionel Phillips from a letter received from Mr. G. T. Houston of Melbourne Australia.(No.83).

Varieties of the First Issue. 25 November, 1926.

One stamp in the first vertical row (position unknown) has a constant green dot protruding to the right, from the middle of the "O" of 20. These stamps show the background shading carried to the perforation on three sides, but not past the left-hand frameline opposite the margin.

One stamp, presumably from the bottom row of the pane shows the background shading carried to the left, top and right perforations, but only a $\frac{1}{4}$ m.m. past the bottom frameline.

One stamp on cover, presumably from the fifth vertical row of stamps has the background shading carried to all perforations except the right-hand side.

Two stamps from the same position have a number of constant green dots -

- (1) Just over "R" of Express.
- (2) On horizon under first palm tree on the left.
- (3) Inside the front wheel rim (extreme left).
- (4) Over the "zero " (dot) of the Arabic numeral 20.

Both above stamps show also a double hairline going right through the stamp, transversing the rear wheel, and touching the "T" of Egypte.

Varieties of the 1929-43 Issue.

An examination of complete panes of 50 stamps, Control A/36, show the following easily noticeable flaws :- Nos. from left to right, 1 to 5, 6-10, etc. up to 46-50 in the bottom horizontal row.

- Stamp No. 9. 2 dots of screen (centre) missing. Top centre.
10. Broken shading right panel over Arabic letter T.
 12. 4 dots of screen joined in a cross near head.
 13. Flaw in foliage of second tree from left.
 14. White dot over "M" of ROYAUME.

- Stamp No. 21. Broken shading right panel over Arabic 2.
Dash across foliage of second tree from left.
22. Broken shading right panel together with dot of Arabic letter "G" forming a white dash.
25. 4 dots of screen joined into a cross near motor cycle lamp.
26. Broken shading left panel under second "E" of EXPRES.
31. Broken shading right panel above Arabic "Yeh".
39. " White cloud " between the two large palm trees, break in left bottom circle.
41. Broken shading inside right crescent and north east of right circle.
- x43. White dots left of "R" of ROYAUME.
47. Broken shading inside right circle.
48. Enlarged inner frame-line over second palm tree.
49. Broken shading right circle.

Control A/40, stamp No. 47 shows the right arm of letter "Y" of EGYPTE dented from the inside, in red ink, also the shading is broken inside the right crescent.

Third Issue, March 1943.

The top panel is modified and redrawn. Inscription is changed from -

" AL DOWLAT AL MASRIEHT " (The State of Egypt) to

" AL MAMLAKET AL MASRIEHT " (The Kingdom of Egypt)

The reduction in size, previously noted, is in width only, not in height.

For this issue it would appear that the centre design has been cut $1\frac{1}{4}$ m.m. at left and right to fit the new sized frame. It is noted that none of the four corners of the centre design fit into their counterparts in the frame.

The Following flaws have been located on a complete sheet (A/42).

- Stamp No. 4. White flaw in left circle affecting slightly figure 6.
7. Left circle joined by red dash to letter " E " of EXPRES.
9. White dot under " E " of ROYAUME.
11. Semi-circular dent of red frameline at left bottom corner.
23. Broken inner red frameline under " E " of EXPRES.
24. Large white dent in outer top frame line, 11 M.M. from right corner.
26. Red dot before man's head.

Stamp No. 41. White dent in frameline under "E" of EXPRES.

50. Enlarged inner red frameline above first palm tree on left.
There are many minor flaws not noted above.

Varieties of the Fourth Issue. 1944 - 52.

Stamps from Controls A/43 are found in three different shades of both frame and centres.

Stamps from Control A/46 have a medium brown frame with a light bluish grey centre.

For descriptive purposes the stamps are placed in four groups -

- | | | |
|----------|--|--|
| Group I. | Frame; the darkest brown of the four groups.
Centre; dark grey black. | } Control A/43. Most, but not all varieties common to both these groups. |
| II. | Frame; the lightest brown of the four groups.
Centre; Light grey. | |
| III. | Frame; Medium brown shade, between Groups I and II.
Centre; Grey. | } Control A/43. but of different shape to groups I & II. |
| IV. | Frame; Medium brown, similar to Group III.
Centre; Light bluish grey. | |
- } Control A/46. It can be seen that the "8" of A/43 has been erased & converted to A/46.

The Control A/43 with letter and figures slightly inclined to the right appears on sheets of both printings (Groups I and II above) and further research is necessary to decide whether Group I or Group II is the earlier printing.

Group III with Control A/43, with straight letter and figures is no doubt the result of a third printing, whilst, in Group IV, we have the same straight letter and figures with the "3" erased and a "6" substituted, traces of the 3 being in some cases still discernable.

Here follows the main varieties in these groups -

GROUP I.

- Stamp I. Broken brown frameline over head.
2. White flaw on "S" of "POSTES", white dot on "X" of EXPRES, white dot on fez.
 3. Dent in brown frameline under front wheel.
 4. Half of third star in left crescent missing, black dot before head.
 5. Brown dash in second "S" of POSTES, brown dot under "M" of MILLS.
Broken brown top frameline.
 7. Dent in inner frameline over first palmtree at left, grey dot outside stamp under right circle.

- Stamp 8. White dot in left crescent, large white dent under Arabic "K" over head.
9. White dot in "R" of RAYAUME, white dot over Arabic YEH (over 4th tree from left).
14. Broken top frameline over 6th tree from left, large white dash in right frameline over Arabic "G", white dash through "O" of 20.
16. White dot over "EG" of EGYPTE.
- ☒ 20. Brown dot outside stamp in margin 4 m.m. from frameline (in line with Arabic "G". Grey dot further out and lower, probably cut off by printer - see Group II.
21. White dent over Arabic "S" in MASRIEHT.
- ☒ 22. Additional star in right crescent between first and second stars, thus forming large brown dash, white dot under left elbow.
24. White dot of Arabic "K" and "T".
29. White dash, foliage of 5th tree from left.
30. Broken top frameline over second Arabic "L" (from right to left).
31. White dot in "I" of MILLS.
- ☒ 33. White dot in foliage of 6th tree from left, grey dots outside stamp near left circle.
- ☒ 36. Grey dot in "T" of POSTES.
- ☒ 37. Smudge at right of right crescent, "Bird" over rear wheel.
(Weaker than in Group II.)
- ☒ 38. Square containing left crescent badly smudged.
- ☒ 39. Light spot over Arabic "K" near frameline, bottom line of shading under MILLS partly doubled.
- ☒ 41. Brown dot outside frameline, top right.
- ☒ 47. "Sword in man's back" and small red dash inside front wheel.
(Note. this dash is RED and not BROWN. The red colour is not yet explained. It is printed by the plate bearing the frame designs and appears also in the printing of Group 2 in the same position relative to the frame).
- ☒ 49. "Bird" at right of foliage of 6th tree from left. White dash protruding from "O" of ROYAUME towards "R" of the same word.
50. White dot on right crescent, white dot or smudge forming large acute accent on first "E" of EGYPTE, white dot protruding to left from second "E" of EGYPTE.
- ☒ Stamps underlined and marked ☒ are common to both Groups I and II.

GROUP II.

Control A/43 with letter and figures slightly inclined to the right.

Underlined varieties appear in both Groups I and II.

- Stamp 1. Blurred grey dot inside front wheel.
3. Zig-Zag grey dot before frontwheel.
4. "Football" over fez (large grey full circle) touching Arabic "K".
5. Brown dash in second "S" of POSTES, brown dot under "M" of MILLS.
6. Grey blur under "EG" of EGYPTE.
9. Large grey smudge joining "Y" and "A" of ROYAUME, white dot in Arabic 4.
11. "Bird" over lamp.
16. Large grey dot on man's back.
17. Star over 5th tree from left.
19. Grey hairline going from the left hand to the front end of the mudguard and from there turning up on to the third tree from the left.
20. See Group I.
22. See Group I.
24. Grey dot in Arabic over sixth tree from left.
31. Grey near horizontal line going from "M" of MILLS to left frameline.
33. See Group I.
- 36, 37, 38, 39, 41. See Group I.
45. Grey dot in "S" of EXPRES, the dots forming the sky and desert in the grey centre are mostly damaged and irregular, also various dark grey dots at right, "tassle of fez" flowing in wind.
- 47 & 49. See Group I.
50. Many grey dots missing or damaged in sky and desert.

GROUP III.

Control A/43 with letter and figures straight.

(Underlined varieties are common to Groups III and IV.)

- Stamp I. White dash $\frac{1}{5}$ m.m. long descending nearly vertically from right end of top white frameline.

- Stamp 7. Dent in top frameline 6 m.m. from right corner.
8. White dash inside right crescent - through 4 lines of shading.
 18. Smudge on Arabic "YEH" (over 4th tree from left.)
 21. Dent in left frameline under "R" of EXPRES.
 30. Grey dash N.W. of foliage of 2nd tree from left.
 31. Grey line descending from 1st. Arabic "M" of top panel in a curve through house on right end of horizon to dots of Arabic "YEH" of BARID in side panel.
 40. Grey smudge before head.
 42. Small grey dash through right bulge of Arabic "K".
 44. Brown dot in Arabic "L" of MESTAGEL.
 45. "Bird" N.W. of lamp, Red dot inside frontwheel (Note colour) broken white frameline over D.
 48. Dot under "E" of ROYAUME.
 50. White dot in "E" of POSTES.

A number of minor flaws also exist in the sheet.

GROUP IV. Control A/46 with letter and figures straight.

Figure "3" of A/43 being removed and still partly visible, and replaced by figure 6.

Note varieties common to Groups 3 and 4.

Stamp 1. See Group III.

4. Break in top curved brown frameline over second Arabic "L" from right. doubled shading line over "4" of 40.
15. White dash over lamp near top of sky.
19. Brown dot in "O" of ROYAUME, white dot in left frameline over "O" of POSTES.
21. White dot on "A" of ROYAUME.
26. Broken shading over top star of right crescent.
27. Vertical white line over Arabic "K".
37. Smudge over "E" of ROYAUME.
38. Broken shading lines enlarging dot over Arabic "T" of MESTAGEL, (right panel)

- Stamp 39. Broken frontwheel at bottom.
41. Inverted comma after "S" of MILLS.
46. Misshapen third star in left crescent.
48. See Group III.
50. Brown dot in second Arabic "A" of right panel. (from right).

A faint line of grey dots is visible along the bottom framelines of all stamps of the bottom row of the pane.

All the centres of the 10 stamps of the first vertical row show traces of a line going vertically through all ten grey centres, approximately in a position between "E" and "G" of EGYPT.

It would appear that there are other printings, probably with different shaped Control Numbers as two used copies from the bottom row (with margin), position unknown at present, have variety " Larger brown dot after 40 in left circle ". This variety does not appear in any of the sheets described above.

MEETING OF THE CIRCLE.

The 74th meeting of The Circle was held at the home of the Royal Philatelic Society, London on Saturday January 16th, 1954 when twelve members - J.H.E. Gilbert (in the chair), J.R. Danson, W.C. Hinde, R. Leslie, A.S. Mackenzie-Low, C. Minett, A.L. Pemberton, L. Phillips, C.D. Rawson, Gordon Ward, E.H. Warren, E.H. Proctor and G. Seymour Thompson were present.

A Greetings Telegram was received from Dr. Byam who was unable to be present as he had just moved into a new house.

Before tea, the Barred Overprints of Egypt were fully discussed, Gordon Ward taking charge. He pointed out that three values of the young King, viz. 3, 6 & 13 Mills., overprinted Palestine, and two values, viz. 3 & 6 Mills without other overprint occurred with the barred overprint, probably large stocks of these values were available owing to the change in postage rates which took place during the war.

There were also no less than 29 stamps overprinted PALESTINE including the 3 young King, mentioned above, which received the barred overprint, again probably because there cannot have been much demand for the Palestine overprinted stamps in that part of the country occupied by Egypt and large stocks would probably be available.

There are at least five settings of the barred overprint and it occurs inverted on certain values.

It is curious that the barred overprints did not appear until 8 months after the King abdicated and no reason for this was advanced.

The status of the double bars was discussed fully. There appear to have been three firms responsible for the overprinting, viz. The Survey Department, The National Printing Company, and the Railway Printing Department. None of the

double bars was produced by the Survey Department, a few by the National Co. and the majority by the Railway Printing Department.

The general feeling was that these double overprints were suspect though a few were on record as having done postal duty to this country and the general opinion was that considerably more information was required before they could be accepted as genuine errors. Forgeries have been recorded but none seen by the Circle.

List of the stamps showing single and double bars known to the Circle.

First Issue (Young King)

Single bars : 3 & 6 mills. Double bars: 3 & 6 mills.

Second Issue.

Single bars : 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 30, 50, 100, 200, 500 mills. & £E1.

Double bars. 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, and 30 mills.

First Issue (Airs).

Single bars : 5, 7, 8, 20, 30, 40 mills. Double bars : 7, 30, 40 mills.

Palestine overprint.

Single bars : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 30, 40, 50, 100, 200, 500 mills and £E1.

Double bars : 1 mills. (Mazloun has reported double bars on the £E1.)

Palestine (Airs).

Single bars. 3, 7, 8, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 100, & 200 mills.
(Mazloun has reported double bars on the 3 mills.)

Sudan overprint.

Single bars : 2, 10, ~~15~~, 40, 20 mills. Double bars ; 1, 2, 4, 10 mills.

Sudan overprint (Airs).

Single bars : 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 30, 50, 100, 200 mills.

Double bars : 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 30, 50, 100 mills.

Palestine + Sudan (Airs)

Single bars : 2, 5, 5p mills. Double bars : None.

After tea Mackenzie-Low gave a very interesting talk on the forthcoming sale of Ex King Farouk's stamps and mentioned many items which used to belong to him giving, in some instances, the Auctioneer's estimated value together with the sums he paid for these items many years ago. He also pointed out that some rare items which were in his collection did not appear in the sale catalogue. These items, it seems, have been deposited in the Postal Museum, Cairo.

Finally, Minett reported changes in the numbers and location of Air Force Offices. The latest details are as follows :-

MEAF 9	Port Said.	MEAF 15	Fanara.	MEAF 25	H.Q. 205 Group
10	H.Q. M.E.A.F.	15	Kabrib.	25	H.Q. 206 Group
10	Abu Sueir.	15	Kasfareet.	25.	Abu Sultan.
10	El Ferdan.	15	(Xeros) Cyprus.	25	Abyad FPON/C2.
10	Ismailia.	16	Port Tewfik.	25.	Devirsoir.
10	Telecom Centre.	16	Shallufah.	25	Fayid.
15	El Hamra.	16	Suez.		

E. 602 and FAROUKE.

by Dr. Gordon Ward.

The Series of postmarks E.602 to E.615 is well known to Egyptian philatelists but most of them are unrecorded after the year 1941. The few exceptions to this rule which I have seen are as follows :- E.604 dated 27.2.44. This is from a postmark illustrated in "Stamp Collecting" for 18.6.44. I have eleven other records of this mark but none are later than 1941. It is quite likely that this date is an error. E.605 used in June 1943. This is on a cover addressed from Field Post Office 655. The cover is in the possession of our member Mr. Revell but I have not seen it. E.608 dated 13.1.44. This is on a cover with Australian Commonwealth stamps, and with a registration mark "U.P.S., E.L.C.20" (Unit Postal Station, Eastern Lines of Communication). This cover may have come from Kantara. I have now received three covers with the B.P.O./Date/E.602 hand-stamp. These have all been used to contain telegrams and are dated 6, 9, and 29 of March 1947. The telegrams originated in Rhodes and were delivered at a Transit Camp at Ismailia. There is no doubt that E.602 was in use at Ismailia on these dates.

In the same batch of correspondence there were two examples of the rare postmark error FAROUKE for FAROUK in the inscription "Aeroport Farouke". Both are dated 22 June '47.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

71. John Firebrace, Little Chart, Walden Road, Chislehurst, Kent.

POSTAL MARKINGS OF EGYPT, 1865 - 1880.

Mr. A. S. Mackenzie-Low asks us to state that he still has a few sets of the illustrations of these 120 postal markings available for members at 5/- the set; also, Data sheets for mounting these illustrations and recording earliest and latest dates at 6/- the set. Orders may also be booked for illustrations after 1880 which are expected shortly. Price not yet fixed. Application should be made to Mr. Mackenzie-Low.
