

E G Y P T S T U D Y C I R C L E

T H E Q U A R T E R L Y C I R C U L A R

Volume VII No. 9

Whole Series No. 81

MARCH 1972

FUTURE MEETINGS

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----|--|
| 3rd June 1972 | ... | Third Issue - 20 paras and 1 piastre
Litho and Typo.
Introduced by E.L.G. MacArthur. |
| 5th August 1972 | ... | Civil Censor Markings World War II.
Introduced by J. Benians. |
| 7th October 1972 | ... | Krench/British Campaign 1798/1801 and
the Arab Revolt of 1882.
Introduced by J. Firebrace. |
| 2nd December 1972 | ... | Postal Stationery.
Introduced by C. W. Minnett. |

E G Y P T S T U D Y C I R C L E

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THE Q U A R T E R L Y C I R C U L A R

Published by the Egypt Study Circle

Vol. VII No. 9

Whole Series No. 81

March 1972

Officers

President	Lt. Col. J.R. Danson, M.C., T.D., Dry Close, Grasmere, ^{F.R.P.S.L.} Westmoreland.
Chairman	J.H.E. Gilbert, R.D.P., F.R.I.S.L.. Morven, West Close, Middleton-on-Sea, Bognor Regis, Sussex.
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Editor of the Quarterly Circular		H.A.G. Potter, 12, Middle Row (High Street), Maidstone, Kent.

--oOo--

REPORT of the 139th Meeting of the Egypt Study Circle held at the offices of the British Philatelic Association, London, on the 5th February 1972.

Our Chairman, John H. E. Gilbert, presided and the following members were present: P. Andrews, J. Benians, K. Brown, C. Gilders, S. Horesh, C. Minnett, A. Mishrick and R. Potter. One visitor, Mr. K. Moore, was welcomed.

Prior to the meeting John Firebrace called in and afterwards Mac Arthur arrived for the informal session.

The Pictorial Issues of 1914-22: The notes which follow summarise those aspects covered at the meeting, the discussion ^{was} led by Charles Minnett to whom John Revell (E.S.C. No. 78) had very kindly loaned his specialized collection of the issued stamps.

For those interested in the designs of the stamps on which archaeological subjects are depicted reference was made to an article by Mario Piatolli (translated into French by G. Dazzi) which appeared in 'L'Orient Philateli-que' of October 1954.

At this point the fugitive nature of the inks used was mentioned and collectors were warned of the dire consequences which result from treatment with benzine or immersion in water (even if not boiled!).

The 1914 De la Rue Issue: Very few flaws have been observed on this issue although some scratches seen may be attributed to plate damage.

Several members produced imperforate proofs of all values in singles or multiples and it was noted that, although Zeheri lists them on unwatermarked paper, they exist also on watermarked paper (reference Palace sale lot 300). These may be the imperforate varieties which Zeheri lists under the issued stamps and of which no used examples appear to have been recorded.

The two types of watermark to be found on this issue were described originally by John Revell in 1953 and they are illustrated in the "Byam" sale catalogue on page 80 in relation to the earlier De la Rue Sphinx and Pyramid issues.

Type I (narrow) has an overall width across the horns of the crescent of 13 mms. and an overall height from the underside of the crescent to the top of the star of 14 mms.

Type II (wide) has the above dimensions in reverse.

The following is a summary of points of interest found for each value:

1 millieme (Z.44) - Examples with both watermarks are common. Zeheri does not list this value with inverted watermark but the Revell collection has a used (undated) example which is Type I. Lars Alund (E.S.C. No. 105) had previously reported one in his own collection and we would be grateful if he will let us know it's type and c.d.s. if used. This variety would appear to be rare.

2 milliemes (Z.45) - Examples with the Type I watermark are green. Two mint

examples which appear to be on a grey paper (Revell/Minett) were viewed but no unanimous opinion was reached as to whether they were in their original states as issued.

Examples in emerald (Revell) were considered to be colour changelings.

Most of this value with Type II watermark occur in the so-called 'turquoise' (Z.45a) colour which is in fact more accurately described as blue-green. However, one example in green was shown (Revell) and this would appear to be scarce.

No example with inverted watermark was produced although this is listed by Zeheri (Z.45b).

3 milliemes (Z.46) - Most examples with Type I watermark are orange in colour, the yellow-orange shade being less common.

Only two used (undated) specimens (Revell/Minett) with Type II watermark were shown, both were orange and would appear to be scarce.

No example with inverted watermark was produced although this variety is listed (Z.46a). However, a used copy (MALLAWI - 7 II 14) with Type I has since been found in the Potter collection and must be considered scarce.

4 milliemes (Z.47) - All examples shown had the Type I watermark and none with Type II has appeared as yet, which suggests that if it does exist it must be rare.

No example with inverted watermark was produced although this variety is listed (Z.47a).

5 milliemes (Z.48) - The colour of this stamp is particularly liable to change when treated with water or benzene.

A great many are found with Type I watermark but examples with it inverted (Z.48a) are less common.

Those with Type II watermark seem equally common but only one inverted example (used Cairo 12 VII 17 or 19) was produced (Horesh) and this would appear to be rare.

Stamps from booklets with Type II watermark sideways facing left (Z.48b) or right (Z.48c) are quite common.

10 milliemes (Z.49) - Watermarks Types I and II seem equally common with this stamp which can be found both clearly and heavily printed, and sometimes with streaks. Writing to John Revell in 1952 E.H. Warren (E.S.C. No. 69) explained that 'the dark blue ink is difficult for the printer to work (as) it has a tendency to fill up the design. The printer gets over this by occasionally working the forme out with paraffin and when this is done the first few sheets off the machine lack the proper density of colour and sometimes show streaky marks.'

No example with inverted watermark was produced although this variety is listed (Z.49a).

A constant flaw on stamp no. 91 was shown (Revell). It consists of what could be described as a white acute accent occurring at the base of the nearer

colossus.

The Large Format Stamps

These occur only with Type II watermark and some specimens have it inverted.

20 milliemmes (Z.50) - A specimen with inverted watermark (Z.50a) in the Revell collection (used CAIRO/SPECIE - 13 MAR. 20) and another (Horesh) were shown and these may be considered very scarce.

50 milliemmes (Z.51) - This value is particularly susceptible to colour change when treated with water or benzine.

No example with inverted watermark was produced although this variety is listed (Z.51a).

100 milliemmes (Z.52) and 200 milliemmes (Z.53) - The Revell collection contains large used blocks of 12 (100 milliemmes) and 28 (200 milliemmes).

No examples with inverted watermark appear to be known and none is listed by Zeheri.

THE 1915 PROVISIONAL ISSUE:

This issue was not included in our study but specimens with Type II watermark appear to be unrecorded.

THE 1921-1922 HARRISON PICTORIAL ISSUE:

The watermark on this issue consists of the multiple star and crescent in groups of three.

The happy co-incidence of D^r. Mishrick's fleeting visit to this country enabled us to view a number of his recent acquisitions which included the following:

- a) The unadopted essay for the new 15 milliemmes value produced by De la Rue depicting a mosque. This was in blue on an imperforate 'miniature sheet' (Z. essay No. 65) and was illustrated in colour in Robson Lowe's catalogue of "The Kings of Egypt and their Stamps".
- b) The Harrison imperforate proofs on thin white card with the multiple star and crescent watermark, of both types of the 15 milliemmes design as issued.
- c) A set of the imperforate proofs on watermarked paper. These may be the imperforate varieties which Zeheri lists under the issued stamps and of which no used examples appear to have been recorded, and
- d) A marginal block of four of the 4 milliemmes printed by Harrison and Sons in vermilion on paper with the multiple watermark reversed. This actual block originally formed the top left corner of the part pane of 28 (Control A.20) which was unsold at the 'Palace' Sale (lot 309) and from which the top right corner block of four had already been detached before being offered in Robson Lowe's 'The Kings of Egypt and their Stamps' (page 29).

The Revell collection contains a 10 milliemmes carmine imperforate stamp printed on gummed thin buff card which is not recorded in Zeheri or,

apparently, elsewhere and its status is at present unknown to us. Although it was found, undescribed, in a collection of proofs of the 1914 issue it is possible that, since the top margin is only 0.5 mms. wide, it is a cut-out from the gummed flap of a registered envelope.

No controls other than those listed by Zeheri were recorded by the members present.

This issue abounds with plate flaws, many of which are constant (and occur also on the Crown Overprints and O.H.E.M.S. stamps).

Specimens with reversed watermarks are uncommon but examples of most of the low values were shown (Revell/Minett).

1 millieme (Z.55) - The Revell collection contains an interesting and well written up study of the flaws to be found on this stamp; in addition to examples of the well known "missing dots" (Z.55a) and "frame broken" (Z.55b) varieties in pairs and blocks. Some eighteen broken or damaged frame lines and small white dots were illustrated - many having been proved to be constant.

2 milliemes green (Z.56) - A minor flaw consisting of a break across the right vertical frame line, 11.25 mms. from the top, occurs on one of Revell's specimens and has been found repeated on a 2 milliemes vermilion (Minett).

Perhaps the most important item in the whole collection is a mint block of four with the major retouches found and described recently on the vermilion stamps by George Houston (E.S.C. No. 83) - see "Quarterly Circular" Vol. VII No. 6 page 90. The stereos concerned being numbers 59, 60, 69 and 70.

The article describes the damage affecting the stereos and the corrections carried out on them, and hereunder follow comparative details of those found on the block of the green stamps:-

- No. 59 - the retouching to the outer frame line at top right is very clear, it is also slightly noticeable at top left. The white dots in panel at right middle are not very obvious.
- No. 60 - the white dots in panel at right bottom do not appear. The irregular shading occurs between the two necklaces. There is no broken corner above the "E" of "POSTAGE". Additionally there is a slight bulge of colour over the 'nun' in the right hand panel. Revell has also a single example of this stereo (green) in a later state showing the shading between the two necklaces almost solid and the ear less clearly defined.
- No. 69 - the redrawn top left corner of this stereo is as described by Houston. There is also a retouched line of shading just above the head.
- No. 70 - the redrawn bottom left corner of this stereo is as described except that the damage to the corner at bottom left of central design is almost non-existent.

4 milliemmes green (Z.59) - A specimen in yellow-green appeared to be a colour changeling.

5 milliemmes pale rose (Z.61) - one mint specimen has buff tinted gum of a coarse texture very much like that used on many of the pre-war George VI British Colonial stamps.

Two used stamps with reversed watermark almost certainly same from booklets.

10 milliemmes deep blue (Z.62) - a used example has a very noticeable white flaw caused by breaks in two lines of shading 3 mms. to the left of the forehead of the nearer colossus. Dr. Mishrick confirmed that he too had a copy.

15 milliemmes blue (Z.64) - a remarkable case of doubling occurs on a used specimen, with reversed watermark (Minett collection) and consists of intermittent lines just to the right of:-

- a) the left hand solid panel under the letters "POST".
- b) the thin dividing line under the letters "YPT POST".
- c) all the Arabic letters and dots (with the exception of the two under the final letter 'yeh') under the words "EGYPT POSTAGE".
- d) the thin line against which the left hand ends of the lines of shading stop for most of its length, this doubling being on, and at right angles to, the lines of shading.

20 milliemmes (Z.66) - a mint copy (but with Crown Overprint) in an unusually bright shade was shown (Horesh). Whilst it was pointed out that green was particularly prone to colour change no unanimous opinion was reached. Dr. Mishrick reported that he had a similar pair and it was agreed that he would let us see it for comparison.

50 milliemmes (Z.67) - one used example with blind perforations near the bottom was shown (Minett).

C.W. Minett (E.S.C. No. 77).

REPORT of the 140th Meeting of the Egypt Study Circle held at the offices of the British Philatelic Association, London, on the 25th March 1972.

John Gilbert presided, and was supported by Peter Andrews, Jim Benians, Leslie Bowyer, Ken Brown, John Hobbs, Stanley Horesh, Charles Minett, Dean Turton, Pip Whetter and P. E. Woodland. A welcome was given to the latter, a new member from the Isle of Wight, and his first attendance at one of our meetings. "Mac" MacArthur was only able to meet us afterwards at the "informal session".

The Chairman congratulated John Hobbs on winning a silver medal at

the recent 'Stampex' for his display of British Military Concession Mails.

The main subject of the meeting, the study of the "Egypt Postage Prepaid" postmarks of World War II, was led most ably by Jim Benians (E.S.C. No. 123) who described the peculiar conditions arising from the use of independent Egypt as a Base for British and Empire Forces and the fact that their mails had been passing through the Egyptian Post Office. The result was the provision of special date-stamps, manufactured locally, which were issued to and used by unit postal clerks of the Forces in lieu of the normal Field Post Office datestamps which were relegated for use chiefly on counter work including the stamping of postal orders.

Normally, as soon as operational units left Egyptian soil they reverted to the use of Field Post Office datestamps, but on those occasions when they had to return to Egypt they again used E.P.P. marks, although not necessarily the same numbers they had used previously.

The E.P.P. series of numbered circular datestamps is known to run consecutively from 1 to 154 although 155 has been notified but not yet confirmed. So far some twenty numbers remain unrecorded.

Jim pointed out that, although all were of one basic design, three types with a diameter of 27.5 mms. to 28 mms. may be recognised by the arrangement of the date-line, and to these types temporary recording numbers have been allocated. The first (known to us as Type I) has the date slugs spread out and spaced by dashes, the second (Type II) has the slugs close together and separated by periods and the third (Type III) has the month indicated by Roman numerals - this last is recorded only for Nos. 27, 39 (?), 54, 70, 88, 99 and 105.

Due to loss or wear and tear replacements had to be made from time to time, in some cases the new c.d.s. was made smaller, having a diameter of only 24.5 mms.: this is Type IV and is known for Nos. 26, 40, 52, 55 and 71.

The series appears to have been introduced generally on the 1st May 1941 (although the odd example is known dated during the latter part of April) and continued in use well after the end of the War, a few numbers being known with dates in mid-1947.

At the Base Post Office in Cairo a continuous type machine cancellation (Type V) with five wavy lines separating the c.d.s.'s (which had an asterisk in place of a number) was introduced about July 1942. Early in March 1943 the wavy bars were replaced by a slogan "It Pays to Lend" (Type VI) and this continued in use until the autumn of 1945.

Jim's researches have established that 'gremlins' were around for, sometime between April and June 1944, one of the datestamps of the machine seems to have disappeared in part or wholly - later it was replaced by a larger die.

E.P.P. Type I



E.P.P. Type II



E.P.P. Type III



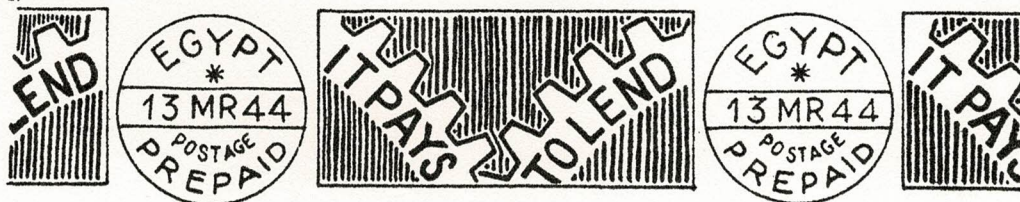
E.P.P. Type IV



E.P.P. Type V



E.P.P. Type VI



Types V and VI are found used most often as transit or arrival marks on the backs of envelopes.

Time did not permit a complete survey of all the numbers but it was clear that the following were scarce or rare:-

Nos: 9 23 39 46 49 85 91 92 94 98 101 105 to 111
114 to 117 119 120 122 125 to 128 130 133 to 136 139 to 141
144 to 147 149 150 and 155.

Owners of any of these are urged to report full details including censor types and numbers and names of censoring officers (wherever legible) to Jim Benians or to the Keeper of the Philatelic Record.

In thanking Jim for his objective presentation of a very difficult subject the Chairman remarked on the dedicated work which he had put into his recordings.

Note: The illustrations which are included in these notes (page 136) were prepared by Charles Minett from specimens in his collection.

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Our thanks to THE COLLECTOR'S CLUB, New York, for their kind co-operation regarding information on the stamps and postal history of Egypt. The Keeper of the Record thanks them, also, for extract from their recently published library list.

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The attention of our newer members is drawn to the fact that the Editor does have, on behalf of the Circle, a stock of many of the back numbers of the Quarterly Circular. These can be supplied at 40p each plus postages, to members only, on application to the Editor or the Secretary/Treasurer.

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NOTES FROM THE KEEPER OF THE PHILATELIC RECORDCharles W. Minett, (E.S.C. No. 77)EARLY 19TH CENTURY MAIL IN ALEXANDRIA

The following is a translation (à la Minett) from the French of an interesting extract sent in by Dr. A. Winter (E.S.C. No. 149):-

Travels of Ali Bey el Abbassi in Africa and Asia between
the years 1803 - 1807.

(Domingo Badia y Lebllich)

Paris, Didot, 1814 (3 volumes)

The Post in Alexandria

"The skippers of small ships which come frequently from Smyrna, Constantinople and other places, are entrusted with letters for Alexandria, voluntarily or by special arrangement.

On their arrival they go to the streets and houses with the letters enclosed in a handkerchief or small bag which they carry in their hands, and it happens that often the letters fall into the road and are lost.

Anyone who thinks he has a letter to receive stops the carrier on his way and asks him for his bag. He (the carrier), who usually does not know how to read either arabic or european writing, gives it to him and in this way the inquisitive provide the means to make pass through their hands all the correspondence of the town, on the pretext of finding the letters which they pretend to expect and, by means of a small gratuity, take for them from those who agree.

I tremble thus to see exposed the honour and the fortune of the private individuals and the political interests of different nations which have consuls in Alexandria."

Ali Bey goes on to suggest the idea of a public correspondence establishment, but the individual disputes of the Europeans always bring to it an insurmountable obstacle.

The extract has been taken from "Four Spanish Travellers to Alexandria in Egypt" by Don Enrique Garcia de Herreros, edited under the auspices of the Archaeological Society of Alexandria (1923).

POSTAL STATIONERY

Although the November Circle meeting on this subject is still a summer and an autumn away, already Leslie Bowyer (E.S.C. No. 98) has let me have a very useful list of the earliest dates appearing on used items in his collection. I am truly grateful.

AIR MAILSa) 1931 Commemorative Issue

We are indebted to Ernie Kehr (E.S.C. No. 39) for very kindly providing the Record with photographs of panes of 50 of both values of the "Graf Zeppelin" surcharges.

b) 1937 Crash Cover

Ken Davis (E.S.C. No. 148) has sent a photo-copy of a cover salvaged from the Imperial Airways Flying Boat "Cygnus" which crashed into the sea on take off from Brindisi on the 4th December 1937 when homeward bound carrying mails from New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, Malaya, Burma, Ceylon, India, Iraq, Palestine and Egypt.

The cover is addressed to Redhill, Surrey and is of particular interest because the adhesives, which have been washed off and lost, were cancelled by the "PAQUEBOT/PORT-SAID" c.d.s. (Type SP.0 - 4) dated 1 DE. 37 2.15 p.m. which indicates that, in all probability, it was franked originally by Great Britain stamps and posted on the high seas aboard a British ship bound for the East.

It bears a framed cachet (33 x 23 mms.) with the words in four lines "DAMAGED BY/SEA WATER/IN AIRPLANE/ACCIDENT" which was applied on arrival in London.

The "Cygnus" carried a large consignment of mail and items are recorded bearing two other types of framed and one unframed cachet of London and also with two types of French cachet on mail addressed to France.

Unhappily two lives were lost in the crash.

Footnote:

Recently we turned up a letter from a dealer, writing in 1963, who enquired, not unkindly, whether the Keeper of the Philatelic Record was an Egyptian disc jockey.

--oOo--

MEMBERSHIP

NEW: We extend a sincere welcome to the following new members:-

W. O' Reilly (E.S.C. No. 156) Manor Farm House,
Norton St. Philip,
BATH, BA3 6NE
Somerset.

Frederick A. Ford (E.S.C. No. 157) 8, Aston Road,
London Road,
SALISBURY,
Wiltshire.

B. E. Conway (E.S.C. No. 163) 32, Downsvie Road,
Upper Norwood,
LONDON, SE19 3XB

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

P. E. Whetter (E.S.C. No. 133) Flat 1, Burrells,
25, Court Downs Road,
BECKENHAM, BR3 2TG
Kent.

RESIGNATION:

Arthur M. Neu (E.S.C. No. 145) New York, U.S.A.

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Societie Philatelique d'Egypte, Cairo.

Attention of members of the Societie Philatelique d'Egypte is drawn to the above change of address of 'Pip' Whetter, who has now been appointed Agent in the United Kingdom for the Society,

AIRPOST HISTORY

by

Dr. A. Winter (E.S.C. No. 149).

In an old issue of "L'Aviette Postale" dated April 1931, I found the text of a letter that our readers perhaps do not know and which may be of interest to them.

It is a letter written in 1914 by Ahmed Zaki, Secretary to the Egyptian Cabinet. It is addressed to the Moudir of Charkieh. What is very interesting is that it is presented as the first letter sent by airmail in Egypt, thanks to Vedrines the French flyer who carried it from Cairo to Zagazig.

The letter is dated 11 January 1914. Now we know that Marc Pourpe flew from Cairo to Khartoum a few days before, taking with him the first airmail from Egypt: but if we admit that Vedrines left the very day when the letter is dated (on 11 January) he has thus arrived on the same day, considering the small distance between Cairo and Zagazig and he would have been the first to have carried an airmail letter to its destination, as Marc Pourpe arrived in Khartoum only on the 12th January.

But this is only a hypothesis and it has little importance. If by any chance this letter had been kept, it would be a fine piece anyway! This is the text:-

CAIRO

January 1914

My Dear Pacha,

How times have changed! Some centuries ago, Egypt's Sultans used the air way not for travelling but to transmit and receive correspondence by "Pigeongrammes". Several postal stations for carrier-pigeons marked out their vast Empire, from the Assouan Cataracts to the banks of the Euphrates and to the foot-hills of the Taurus. Your province of Charkieh had the privilege to possess two stations of this type, Blibeis and Salhieh.

Nowadays, air post is in the process of becoming organised but in such a way that the pigeons have to give in to the overwhelming competition that the human genius has put before them; for, as Vedrines, the one who ravished the empire of the air to the birds, the fearless rider of the clouds, said yesterday: "The birds cannot fly. Which one among them would fly with its feet upside down?"

I am glad to be the first one to send you, with the help of the famous French flyer, accompanied with the Egyptian sportsman, our
(Continued on page 153).

THE THIRD ISSUE1872 printings.

by

E.L.G. MacArthur (E.S.C. No. 125).

(being the written report promised in
"Report of the 136th Meeting of the Circle" - see
"Quarterly Circular" Volume VII No. 7 p.99)

I have the privilege of being asked to give this talk on the 1872, first printing. I will follow this up with my written report, when I hope that anything I am now going to say will be more fully explained. As the written report is liable to be lengthy, I intend to write it in chapters so that, if necessary, it can be produced in successive numbers.

I begin this talk, my first major venture in this field, with some trepidation. Being the first venture, however, has some advantages. I have not been afraid to look at some of our accepted opinions from a different angle. To me science is a study of evidence, not recitation of a creed. If all the factors were known there would be no explanation needed, but since we do not know all the factors we must propose reasonably acceptable answers in certain carefully selected and managed cases, being careful however not to reject other factors and so arrive at a spurious unity.

My main interest over the last few years has been the 1872 issue, and the 20 paras value in particular. To have a better understanding of this stamp I have had to do considerable research, diligent reading, visiting various establishments which specialise in stamp production and, very pleasantly, looking at various collections both at home and abroad. This research has naturally led to a better understanding of my study of the whole issue which, I must point out, is not complete.

In the examples that I am now about to put before you the 20 paras will predominate; this is because I have more of this value, but the point I will wish to illustrate will be common to all values. I have tried not to get too involved with the second printing, but it is impossible not to encroach on it as the two are inextricably mixed.

Before I begin on the subject proper, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous help and encouragement I have been given by members, particularly John Gilbert, Charles Minett, Peter Smith, and Ibrahim Chafar, not only to prepare for this talk but also over the years. I would also like to thank those members who have so generously loaned me material to look at,

mainly from the Danson, Kuyas, Kassab, Gilbert, Peter Smith, Lars Alund, Mishrick and Antonini collections.

Finally I would say that without the previous great study done by Dr. Byam and his colleagues, I do not think that I would have had the heart to take on this study.

Historically, Egypt was ruled by Ismail Pasha, and although nominally under Turkish jurisdiction was virtually independent of Turkey. Ismail Pasha assumed the title of Khedive in 1867, but the title was only confirmed by the Sultan of Turkey in 1873.

Ibrahim Chaftar, a most distinguished philatelist and indefatigable student, uncovered some very important documents relating to this issue. These documents (see Appendix "A") have helped considerably in the study of this issue. I will be referring to certain passages in these documents to make points later.

(Editor's note: Appendix "A" will be included in this number, for clarity, rather than wait until the article is completed in future numbers).

The result of the discovery finally put to rest the controversy as to whether the printings were done by Penasson in Alexandria or by the Khedive's Printing and Paper Works at Boulac in Cairo. Ibrahim Chaftar, when he produced the 1950 Zeheri, shows the two printings as being done in Cairo. Mehanny Eid in a very clear article in 'L'Orient Philatelique' (No. 68 of October 1949) makes this very obvious. Both printings were undoubtedly done at Boulac, including the lithographs. The discrepancies mentioned between the initial order and final delivery are easily explained as a) there were previous partial deliveries and b) there was rejection of poor quality sheets. With regard to wastage I will be referring to this subject when I speak later about perforating and paper.

It is very interesting to speculate, when reading the correspondence, but one is finally led to the conclusion that despite all of Muzzi's attempts to get the order for Penasson, the order was finally placed with the Khedive's Paper and Printing Works at Boulac. There must have been some interesting intrigue involved but I feel that financial considerations finally decided the matter.

The Issue was formally announced by decree on 19th December 1871 (see Appendix "B") and the stamps were to be issued on the 1st January 1872. In this respect I show you a 20 paras dated 1st January 1872 and Professor Smith has a 1 piastre similarly dated. Note that a new value has been introduced, the $2\frac{1}{2}$ piastre, to conform with the Austro-Egyptian Treaty whereby letters franked with this duty would be delivered anywhere in the Austrian Empire, from any office in Lower Egypt.

We now come to the consideration of the series of processes which culminate in the finished product, the stamp. These are the essays, dies, proofs, moulds, stereotypes and stones, paper, ink, printing methods, gumming and perforating. I will take them in this order and will give a brief paragraph on the use of the issue, and a list of Post Offices open during this period. I will finally give a summary of what I have said.

ESSAYS:

As far back as 1869 essays were being submitted for any proposed new issue. It is not known whether this was by invitation or wishful thinking. I would now like to show you essays numbers 29 to 40 in the current Zeheri catalogue. It was No. 40 that was eventually adopted and I pass round a printing of this *** The name of the artist is unknown but please note how like Penasson's No. 39 it is and also how it follows the style of Skipper and East's No. 38. ***Die-proof (Appendix D2).

I feel it appropriate at this time to submit, for your examination, a sheet containing two complete mint sets of all the values, including the lithographs of the 20 paras from Stones A and B and 1 piastre. Please note the difference in appearance between these two sets. One may qualify for the expression "poor quality" but the other can only be said to be of high quality. We can only come to the conclusion that the early writers, who condemned this issue, saw only stamps of the poorer quality.

We know of the confused reports as to whether the issue was printed by typography or lithography, and again can only conclude that the whole issue, as you are now seeing it, was not studied by these early writers. Dr. Byam had quite a struggle to get official recognition as to the 20 paras and 1 piastre being printed by both typography and lithography. There is still no evidence of the other values also being printed by lithography and in my opinion, having looked at hundreds of stamps, I am convinced that only the 20 paras and 1 piastre were printed by both methods, the rest of the values being printed only by typography.

DIES:

There is no record of the name of the engraver but it is very likely that he was a local man. There are certain aspects of these dies that are very puzzling and new evidence, which I will put before you, should make us revise some of our opinions about them. I will first state the facts that we have, and also reasonable conclusions already reached, after a study of the stamps themselves.

We know that:

- a) There were seven working or subsidiary dies used. The evidence is in the early correspondence, where it states that seven steel dies were recovered from Boulac by the Ministry of Finance.
- b) The seven steel dies mentioned were not original or master

dies. In the first printing the 1 piastre die had damage to the bottom right hand tablet and the 2 piastres had damage to the last arabic letter in the top tablet. This damage does not show on the 1874 printings and we must, therefore, conclude that these areas were replaced when the dies were sent back to Boulac in 1874.

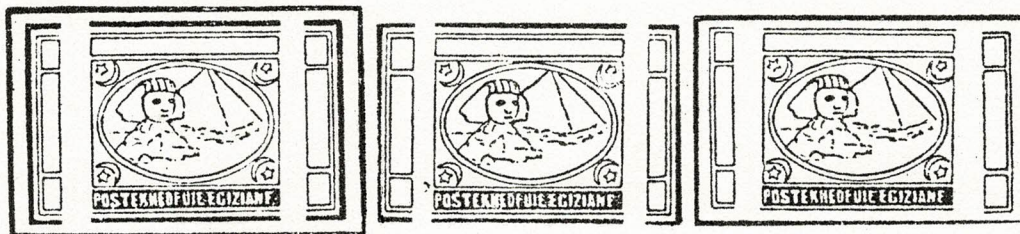
- c) The same dies were used for both the 1872 and 1874 printings. I show you a $2\frac{1}{2}$ piastres of 1872 and 1874; note the similarity of the flaw affecting the inner white (thin) line, above the arabic writing in the top tablet. This die flaw is constant to stamps of both printings. I also show you a 5 piastres of 1872 and 1874; note the coloured flaw above the first "E" of "Khedeuie" in the bottom tablet and in the thin white line above it. This die flaw is constant to all stamps of both printings. An examination of the other stamps will also show constant similarities of die peculiarities.
- d) The die for the 5 para was a composite die. The value tablets of the second printing being transposed leaves us with seemingly no other conclusion.
- e) The central section of the die for the 1 piastre is different to the central section of the die used for all other values. A study of the stamps conclusively proves this. Note the difference between the body of the Sphinx, the lines across the pyramids, the upper margin of the head-dress of the Sphinx, the lettering in the top and bottom tablets and the background design, which is not only different but also extends into the top tablet.

The next step to consider is the composition of the dies.

For the 1 piastre Dr. Byam says:- "Die I was used to produce the 1 piastre stamp only, and was the only die employed to form the moulds for this value, in 1872 and in 1875. This die appears to have been an engraving on a single piece of metal, no part of which was used for Die II."

Dr. Byam's contention was that the presence of the fourth piece of the die, the enclosing metal frame, was proved by the evidence of constant split outer frame lines seen on stamps from many units, which suggested partial separation of the two elements of which the frame was composed, when the die was used to strike the mould.

Editor's note: The sketches and accompanying notes on the next page are reproduced from "L'Orient Philatelique" Number 102, page 101, by kind permission of the publishers.



- (LEFT) Die II. A composite die, comprised of four parts: the inner frame line of the design is also compound, being formed by portions at the edge of the three central sections of the die and, outside these, an enclosing metal frame locking the other portions in position.
- (CENTRE) The die for all values, including the one piastre, as envisaged by Fred J. Melville in 1915; no enclosing metal frame to bind together the three parts of the die.
- (RIGHT) Die II, described by H.G. Watson in 1916, when he recognised a separate die for the one piastre. Watson considered "the outer frame line to be formed by the enclosing metal frame alone."

I now put before you ten typographs and ten lithographs, of the one piastre, and picked at random (see Appendix C2). Please note the constant split outer frame lines and, in some instances, where the thin coloured inner frame line does not join with the corresponding frame line at the bottom right hand. This evidence, if we use the previous line of reasoning, can only mean that the one piastre was also enclosed by a metal frame and also that the die could be of a composite nature.

Whilst on the one piastre it has been suggested that there were two dies used and these were named daughter dies "A" and "B", the contention being that the stamps with the bottom right hand value damaged were from one daughter die and the others from the second daughter die. I personally discount this theory. If there had been two dies for the one piastre, then eight dies would have been recovered from Boulac in 1872, but we have positive evidence that only seven dies were taken back by the Ministry. I discussed this with Peter Smith and he agrees that this could be so, moreover he has been studying these stamps and feels the one piastre can

be grouped in more than two types. We came to the conclusion, after much discussion, that an answer to this could be mould groups, and our study of the one piastre, which is only now beginning, should throw some light on the subject.

Now I come to the composition of the dies and particularly to the suggestion that the enclosing metal frame had been added at the die stage. In my study of the 20 paras some units, with damage to the outer frame, puzzled me. I could understand the split frame lines and had accepted that the outer frame lines were composed of segments on the die completed by an enclosing metal frame, but I could not understand a solid stereo behaving in the way it had done with quite a few units.

I would now like to show you some of the stamps that caused me to have second thoughts about the composition of the dies.

In the first example (Appendix C Line D) the stamps are all from the same stereo. Note that the first stamp has a perfectly normal upper frame line. The second stamp now shows a slight lifting of the outer segment, and finally the third stamp shows the damage at its worst: The outer segment of the frame has not only lifted away but has now split in two. Also of interest is that the inner segment of the outer frame line is untouched.

I also show you a second example (Appendix C Line E), but this time it is on the right hand frame. Exactly the same thing has happened as with the previous example.

I now show you various stamps (Appendix C Line F) with damage to the outer frame lines. Note how it is always the outer segment which is damaged. Please pay particular attention to the following one piastre examples (Appendix C2), and note how the damage to the "1" in the bottom right hand value tablet extends right across and into the inner segment of the outer frame line, but does not affect the outer segment of the frame. I have not seen an example where, in relation to this fault, the damage is also to the outer segment - and I have looked at hundreds of these stamps.

The evidence I have put before you would suggest that the outer segment of the outer frame line was not part of the stereo and could, therefore, have been added not at the die stage, but later, probably when the forme was being arranged. The suggestion that the outer frame was present at the die stage and was to hold the other pieces together seems more probable to me, but I feel that this further evidence should be brought to your notice.

Reaching these various conclusions gives us a fair idea as to how the dies could have been made (see Appendix D). I would like to add another probability to the previous suggestion that the oval and design

were first engraved and then pressed into another die; it is that, not only were the oval and design engraved in negative, but also the skeleton frame lines. These would be the master dies. These could be:-

- a) the die which was eventually used for the one piastre complete in one piece, and a centre section for the other values, plus undenominated side tablets.
- or b) two centre sections complete as to oval and upper and lower frame lines with possibly undenominated side tablets added but not joined to the centre sections.

These master dies would then be pressed into original dies and engraved with the writing in the top and bottom tablets, the spandrels or crescents, and any other area which was to show as white on the stamp; the design being worked in by a Rose type machine. Pairs of value tablets would then be engraved and denominated to the amount required to make up the rest of the values. The composite die would then be cut and trimmed so that all three pieces fitted properly.

From all this I have the impression that the Ministry were not in possession of the master dies, as it would have been much easier to make complete original dies and so do away with the cumbersome composite die. The clue as to the die makers may lie in this, for I feel that with the design being so like Penassons, that this company in fact made the master dies and had only submitted the denominated original dies to the Ministry for approval. We know that it was only at the last minute that they lost the contract and knowing this may have destroyed the master dies. The Ministry then had no alternative but to use the dies in their possession or start again.

DIE MAKING

Steel used in die making had to be very carefully manufactured and then prepared for the engraver. The metal had to have a perfectly smooth surface and be absolutely level all over its surface. Perkins and Bacon of London had invented a process by which steel could be softened or hardened at will, and this process was of great help to the die makers. It allowed them to engrave in soft steel which could then be hardened and pressed into soft steel again or used directly for stereo making. Perkins and Bacon also perfected another useful instrument for the die maker: the Rose machine. It was a form of lathe designed to cut geometric, circular or oval, designs of perfectly even depth in metal. These designs if incorporated in the pattern were virtually impossible for the forger to duplicate exactly.

To be continued.

THE THIRD ISSUEAPPENDIX A
-----TRANSLATION

No. 64 - B.1 To His Excellency
4 Gz H. Cherif Pacha.
3rd June 1871.

Excellency,

As the current issue of postage stamps cannot last beyond the end of this year - and this fact has been ascertained by very careful calculations - I beg to draw your attention to the situation, so that you can give me your instructions for reprinting the stamps and about any alterations you may consider advisable. Although there is ample time, I thought it best to broach the matter now, in view of the possible delays in so important a work, and the serious consequences resulting from a postponement of even a week.

In order to help Your Excellency when considering the matter, it is necessary for me to know: if the 1872 issue shall be absolutely similar to the present one, or if some modifications in the colours or in the printing will be required; if the denominations will be maintained or changed, if the work will be allotted to a local printer or sent abroad; and finally if the Ministry will undertake this work or if, as in the past, I shall have this entrusted to me.

As for the first question, I think it indispensable to change the colours, and in order to assure protection against forgery, I think it advisable to vary, if only slightly, the lithographic design by altering the details, while leaving it in the main unchanged.

On the second point, I propose to add to the present series, a new P.T.2.20 para postage stamp, required at all Post Offices since the Austro-Egyptian Postal Agreement came into force.

On the last two points, only the Minister is competent to make a decision and I am not entitled to give a personal opinion: should this brief statement not be sufficient, I remain entirely at your service for any further explanations you may desire; but I beg to draw attention to the reasons for avoidance of delay given at the beginning of this letter and I hope to be honoured by an early reply.

Yours very faithfully,

(Signed) G. MUZZI.

TRANSLATION

No. 85 B - 1

17th July 1871.

Excellency,

I have the honour to send herein, to Your Excellency, a copy of the contract I made in accordance with your instructions with H. E. Hussein Hosny Bey, Manager of the Khedive's Paper Factory and Printing House, for the delivery of 8,300,000 stamps to be effected in the first fortnight of December next.

I think I can flatter myself that, by this contract, I have truly interpreted your Excellency's orders and, at the same time, safeguarded the interests of this Administration.

Please accept, Excellency, an expression of my respects.

(Signed) G. MUZZI.

To His Excellency,
Cherif Pacha,
President of the Council.

TRANSLATION

No. 34 = H. 3

alexandria. 14th March 1872.

Re: Taking delivery of the new stamps of the third issue, at the Khedive's Paper Factory and Printing House.

You are hereby requested to take over the new stamps of the third issue printed by the Khedive's Paper Factory and Printing House in Cairo. as this operation must be accurately carried out, you will find herewith a copy of the contract passed between myself and H.E. Hussein Hosny Bey - manager of the above mentioned factory, in order to conform with the clauses of this agreement.

You are also informed that you will be assisted in this operation by Mr. Panazione - Senior Clerk, and by Anwar Effendi - Clerk, both officials detailed to the Cairo Local Direction, who has been notified in this connection.

When taking delivery of the stamps, you will have to check:

- (1) That their printing is clear and the pattern and design correspond to the contract. In case some sheets are not in proper condition, you will have to reject them.
- (2) That the lithographic stones as well as the proof-copies and the sheets

you have rejected are handed over to you.

Should you decide to destroy the rejected sheets of postage-stamps, you may do so - by mutual consent - but after drawing up an official report.

- (3) Should the contractor not deliver the number of stamps stipulated in the above contract, you are allowed to accept such part delivery and give a receipt for only such stamps as you have received.
- (4) Finally, you will withdraw from the above mentioned contractor all the receipts given by this General Management for previous partial consignments, and will give an inclusive receipt.

As soon as this operation is completed, you will hand over all the postage-stamps and the devices for their printing, to the officer whom you will find there, who has been appointed by the Ministry of Finance, against a clear receipt which is to be remitted to me.

No doubt you will appreciate the delicate nature of this mission and I need not stress that every care and accuracy should be used.

(Signed) The General Manager.

To Mr. L. Guarnieri,
Secretary,
Alexandria General Management.

TRANSLATION

No. 35 - H. 1

Alexandria. 21st March 1872.

re: report on the receiving and delivery
of the new issue stamps.

Complying with the terms of your letter No. 34 of the 14th instant - ordering me to take delivery of the stamps of the new issue from H.H.'s Paper Factory and to remit the same to an Official of the Ministry of Finance - I beg to inform you that the whole transaction has been carried out in conformity with your instructions.

I beg also to notify that the stereotypes in lead of all the seven values as well as the proof sheets of the stamps have been - by mutual consent - destroyed by fire.

Only the seven steel dies have been put into a wooden box - closed and sealed - which was handed over to the Official of the above mentioned Ministry, with all the stamps; and a proces-verbal was drawn up.

To complete my mission, I have only to remit to your Excellency

herewith the receipt, in arabic, for the said postage stamps, signed by the Official of the Ministry of Finance and the consignee of the stamps, who has been appointed for the purpose of the said Ministry.

(Signed) L. GUARNEIRI

The Secretary.

To H. E. Muzzi Bey,
General Manager,
Khedivial Postal Administration,
Alexandria.

TRANSLATION

The undersigned declares to have received from Mr. L. Guarnieri chief clerk at the Khedivial Mail, and Mr. Tosnaighian, agent of the Cairo Post Office, in settlement of the stock of postage stamps ordered at the printing house and remitted to the above mentioned gentlemen, duly checked and counted sheet by sheet in the presence of Mahomed eff. Refaat moawen of the Ministry of Finance especially delegated for that purpose.

I take delivery of the above mentioned stamps already consigned to the aforesaid gentlemen, this document being different from that given by them to the printing house. Whereof I declare by the present to have received the under-mentioned from the same gentlemen.

3,600	5	
4,100	0.10	
2,200	0.20	
22,000	1.00	
1,800	2.00	
100	2.20	
<u>150</u>	5.00	
<u>33,950</u>		number: <u>6,790,000</u>

(thirty three thousand and nine hundred and fifty sheets, counting six million and seven hundred and ninety thousand stamps).

10th Moharram, 89.

(Ahmed el Bouhi: signature).

PROCES - VERBAL

On the 10th Moharram 1289 (19th March 1872) in the presence of Hassan Bey Hosny and the Maaon (Assistant) :

Receipt of 33,950 sheets representing a total amount of 6,790,000 postage stamps drawn up by the warehouse keeper of the Finance - Ahmad el Buhi - in the name of Mr. L. Guarneiri, Secretary of the General Management of the Khedivial Egyptian Postal Administration, commissioned to take delivery of the stamps from the Khedive's Printing House, this being the balance of the order passed to the above mentioned firm. He was assisted by his son, Named John (Giovanni).

END OF APPENDIX "A"

AIRPOST HISTORY - continued from page 138.

our young and active friend Hassan bey Annis, the first air letter which will carry to you through the space, my regards and also my congratulations to the population of your capital.

By this, Zagazig will thus become the first Egyptian station of the future air postal service.

Long live science!

Long live progress!

(Signed) AHMED ZAKI

Secretary to the Cabinet.

---oOo---

THE THIRD ISSUEAPPENDIX B
-----POSTAL CIRCULAR Number 6661. Section 1a.Alexandria 19th December
1871.

In accordance with the enclosed notice, the new postage stamps will be put into circulation as from the 1st January 1872, and although the combined use of the present and the new stamps is allowed up to the end of the said month, yet the sale of the old ones will cease after the 31st December 1871 and the remaining quantities, if any, will be remitted to the Direction General during the first days of January 1872, debiting its account with the amount.

The postage stamps of the obsolete issue which at the fixed date, i.e. at the end of March 1872, would have been exchanged against the new ones, will be sent at the end of the month, with the respective statement, to the Direction General Accounts Department, which will authorise debiting the amount on the monthly statement.

With regard to the means of being supplied with the new postage stamps, nothing has changed in the usual procedure followed up to this day and those who are entitled will simply have to transmit in due time the usual application to the Direction General.

Messrs. The Agents are entrusted with the distribution of the notices that are transmitted to them to the Local Authorities and the well known and most influential persons in the locality where they reside, and as stated in the notice itself, will show to the public, the copy attached to the fac-simile of the new issue, so that no one would pretend that the stamps had not been given enough publicity by the Administration.

In conclusion we inform you that it is strictly forbidden to exchange the old postage stamps by the Offices before 1st February, 1872, as it is stated in the said notice.

The General Director.

(The above is reprinted from 'L'Orient Philatelique' No.110 Page 85/86, to whom credit is given).

POSTAL CIRCULARNumber 67881. 2nd Section.
Subject: New Postage StampsAlexandria
27th December 1871.

With reference to circular No. 6661, which announced the new issue of postage stamps and gave summarised instructions thereupon, we are sending you fac-similes of the said stamps, which will be put on sale as from the 1st January 1872. In the morning of this day, before office working time, you will gather all the unsold stamps of the old issue, enclose them in an envelope, and despatch them to this Direction General by the first boat ready for departure, debiting us with the amount, as instructed in Circular No. 6661 referred to.

It is therefore understood that as from 1st January 1872, you cannot anymore retain or sell any stamp of the old issue. However, up to the 31st of the said month, you may accept from individuals any letters franked with the old stamps which they may have already acquired. But, as from 1st February, this facility ceases completely, and you will refuse accepting or cancelling these stamps on letters, either in case you find them in the box or when they are handed over to you, being of no value any more.

If anyone would ask you to exchange old stamps for new ones, even during the period in which they are both in use, that is up to and including the 31st January, you should refuse downrightly. Such an exchange is entirely forbidden.

Among the sets you will find also stamps of Pi. $2\frac{1}{2}$, though in a comparatively small quantity. This stamp is exclusively designed for mails sent through Austria; for this reason you will not be able to use it except on some letters dispatched through the said way; and as such letters are rather of a limited number, we are sending you a very small quantity of $2\frac{1}{2}$ Pi. stamps.

It is recommended that you pay much attention to the instructions included in the said Circular No. 6661, and in the present one also, in order to avoid any misunderstanding or inconvenience.

The Sub-Director General.

POSTAL CIRCULAR2nd Section
Circular No. 10
Subject: Agents ordering stamps.Alexandria
3rd January 1872.

This Direction General has noticed that Agents send their orders for postage stamps as often as three times per month, and as this procedure is causing evident complications to the Accounts, they are requested to submit their orders for supply of stamps once a month.

Therefore, the Chiefs of all Offices must know approximately the monthly average sale of stamps, but in order to avoid being short of stamps, they can order a small quantity in excess of the foreseen average, since they have the facility to account for the remaining balance by deducting it from their next order.

In a word, they must organize their work in such a way as to place a single monthly order for stamps, except of course in exceptional and extraordinary cases.

The Sub-Director General.

POSTAL CIRCULAR

2nd Section

Alexandria

Circular No. 1844

11th April 1872.

Subject: Discontinuance of exchanging old stamps.

We hasten to remind you that in accordance with Circular No. 6661 the exchange of old stamps with new ones has ceased on the 31st March 1872, and consequently all those still remaining in your hands cannot be accepted at this Superior Office.

The Sub-Director General.

POSTAL CIRCULAR

2nd Section

Alexandria

Circular No. 1937

15th April 1872.

Subject: Orders for stamps.

Agents are requested not to forget to show their signature and the hand-stamp of their Office on the orders they submit for supply of stamps; otherwise, this Direction General will be compelled to take severe measures against those who fail to act accordingly.

The Sub-Director General.

POSTAL CIRCULAR

1st Section

Alexandria

Circular No. 3682

31st July 1872.

Subject: Withdrawal of the Notice concerning the Third Issue of Stamps.

On 19th December of 1871, the 1st Section of this Direction General sent a circular to all Agents, advising them that as from 1st January 1872 new stamps would be put into circulation.

On this occasion it sent to every Agency a printed notice, with a facsimile of the new stamps affixed at the foot of the notice, to be demonstrated to the public.

Henceforth, such a demonstration being unnecessary any more, you are kindly requested to return to this Superior Office the said notice with the stamps affixed on it.

You are advised, by the way, that in case you will not return the requested notice within three days after receipt of the present advice, the Administration will pass to your debit the cost of the stamps in question.

The Sub-Director General.

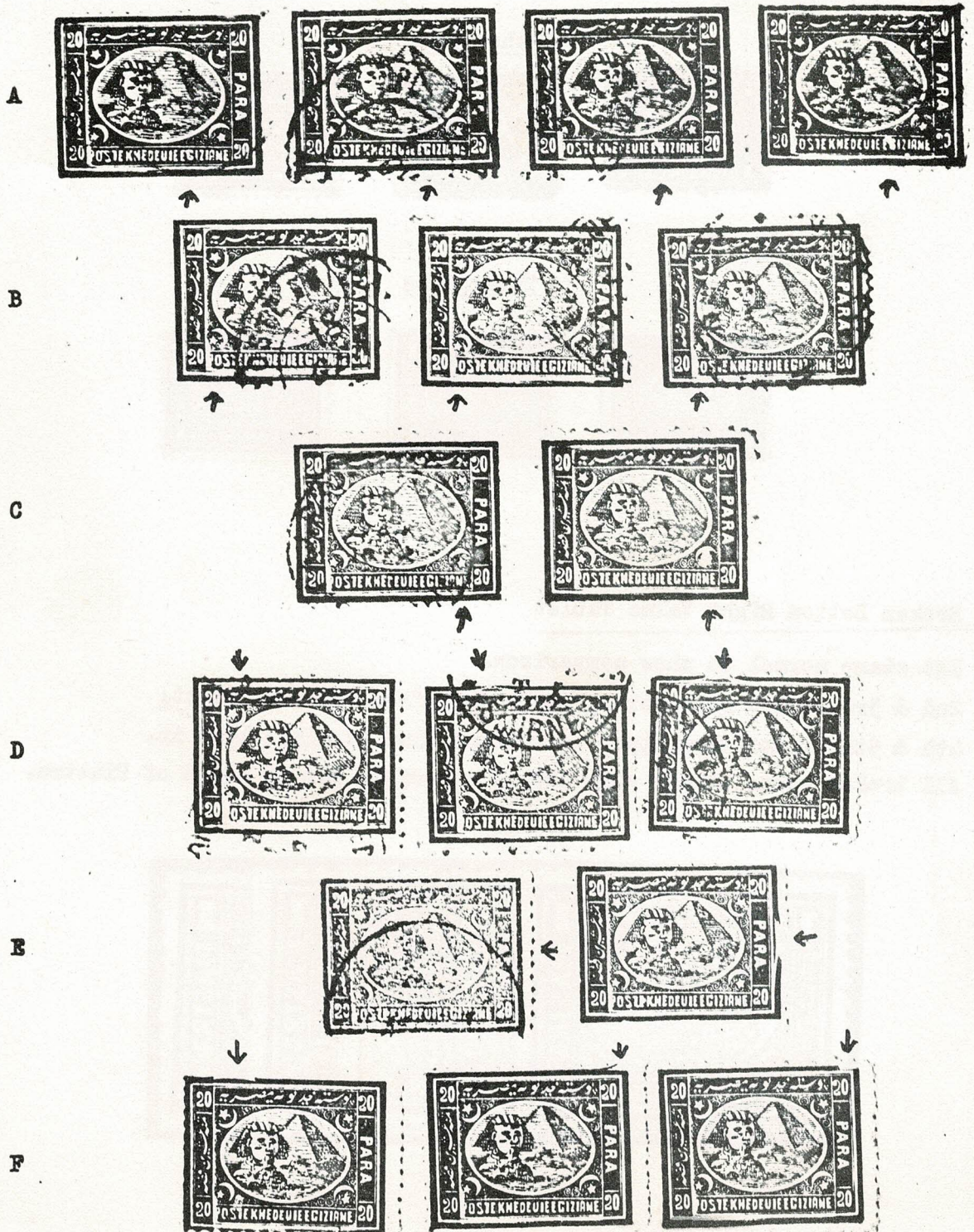
The Postal Circulars in Appendix 'B' are reprinted from 'L'Orient Philatelique' No. 111, pages 178 to 184 - our thanks to the Society for permission to reproduce. Editor.

END OF APPENDIX "B".

There now follows:

APPENDIX	C - i	which should be paged	158
	C - ii	" " "	159
	D - i	" " "	160
	D - ii	" " "	161

- A,B,C = Progressive flaws caused by deterioration of the stereo metal.
- D,E = Progressive flaws caused by pressure during printing. Note the way the outer segment of the frame separates.
- F = Various flaws showing damage to the frame lines.



1872 - 1 Piastra

Split FramesLithographsTypographsBroken Bottom Right Value Tablet

1st stamp normal to show comparison.

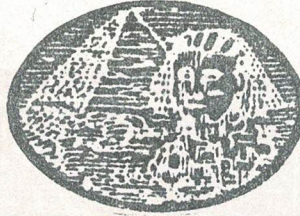
2nd & 3rd stamps show normal upper thin frame line at right:

4th & 5th stamps show upper thin frame line at right bent in.

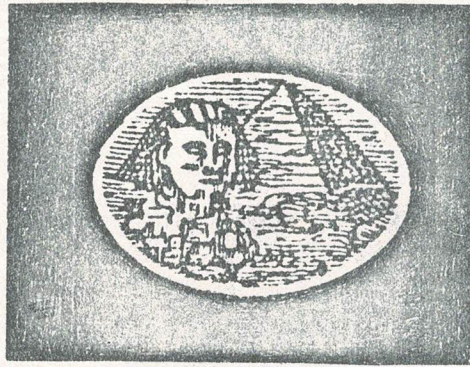
All broken value stamps show dot of colour in top of 1st A of Piastra.



- 1st Stage:- Design cut in reverse in an oval soft steel die and hardened - Master die.
- 2nd Stage:- a) Oval die pressed into a rectangular soft steel die.
b) Areas not to print cut away, rose machined and hardened, either as A or B - Original die.
- 3rd Stage:- Die pressed into another soft steel die and hardened, either as A or B - Working die.



1st



2nd a



2nd b



3rd

Lithograph Die Proof of the 1872, 1 piastra - note the second last letter in the bottom inscription; on the die it was "H" but was finally altered to "N".

