

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. 12

Whole Series No. 84

DECEMBER 1972

FUTURE MEETINGS

14th April 1973	...	...	Interpostal Seals. Presented by D.H. Clarke and B.E. Conway.
3rd May 1973	...	...	Special Meeting during Congress.
2nd June 1973	...	...	Bar Overprints. Presented by W.C. Andrews.
4th August 1973	...	...	Hotel Postmarks. Presented by F.W. Benians.
13th October 1973	...	...	Third Issue. 20 paras and 1 PT. Litho. and Typo. Presented by E.L.G. MacArthur.
1st December 1973	...	...	1866 Issue. Presented by P. Andrews.

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REPORT of the 143rd Meeting of the Egypt Study Circle held at the office of the British Philatelic Association, London, on the 7th October 1972.

John Gilbert presided, and the following members were present: Peter Andrews, Jim Benians, Ken Brown, John Firebrace, Stanley Horesh, Charles Minett, Madame Sotiraki, Dean Turton, Pip Whetter. Apologies were received from E.L.G. MacArthur and R.A.G. Potter.

John Firebrace (E.S.C. No. 71) introduced the study of the afternoon "The French/British Campaign 1798-1801 and the Arabi Revolt of 1882". He commented that information held in the 'Record' was meagre, and that material of the two periods under discussion was difficult to find.

The study proper began with a letter from Bonaparte, General en Chef, to Admiral Canteaume dated 1st December 1798, but without postal markings. This was followed by a letter from Kleher who succeeded to the command when Bonaparte returned to France.

Postal History material included straight line hand stamps from Benesouef and Le Caire (in black and red) and Siouth; and manuscript towns of origin Rahmanic and Siouth.

The Commissaire Ordonnateur en Chef cachet was shown in both sizes and similar oval manuscript markings. Examples of manuscript rates, both cancelled and uncanceled were shown. We have no real knowledge of these yet.

The French portion ended with an example of a letter from the 9th demi-Brigade in General Reynier's division which pierced the British blockade and was landed at Toulon, where the V.A.M.P. TOULON mark was applied.

The British Campaign portion opened with a letter from Nelson written from Naples on the 6th December saying that he had 'hurried from Egypt early in August' which would be shortly after the Battle of the Nile. This was followed by a letter "On His Britannic Majesty's Service" (but without postal markings) to the Turkish Supreme Vizier, telling him of the death of General Abercromby.

Letters from British troops seem to be scarcer than letters written by the French. Three were shown, all to England and all with ship letter marks of Deal, Portsmouth and Plymouth. Perhaps more Egypt Campaign letters lie undetected in Ship Letter collections.

The 1882 Campaign from a postal history point of view is possibly more accurately referred to as the Arabi Revolt since this title makes it easier to understand the use by the military of the Egyptian Civil Post Office. Several covers using the civil post office in Alexandria and Ismailiah were shown for late August. The Army Post Office began operations on the 28th August.

Officers letters cost 2½d. to send and other ranks 1d. They could be sent paid or unpaid and examples were shown of each. Unpaid letters were correctly charged single rate at destination, and generally took between nine and twelve days in transit.

British Forces also used Egyptian 20 paras postcards, and the information which these contain is often valuable for movements and locations.

Two covers from the Indian Contingent were shown, with the circular date stamps reading Field Force Post Office No. 1 and No. 2 respectively. These are rare.

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It should be added that John set the scene for his display, and created atmosphere of the period, with a fine thematic display of Napoleon's life with stamps, engravings and photographs. These included review of his army at Lyons before leaving France, and the conquest of Malta en route to Egypt.

The Chairman congratulated John on his excellent display which all present had found so very interesting and instructive.

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REPORT of the 144th Meeting of the Egypt Study Circle held at the National Liberal Club, Whitehall Place, London S.W.1, on the 2nd December 1972.

J.H.E. Gilbert presided, and the following members were present: P. Andrews, L. Bowyer, K.C. Brown, D.H. Clarke, C.A. Gilders, Mrs. G.A. Hide, J.S. Horesh, E.L.G. MacArthur, C.W. Minett, G.D. Turton, R. Wheatley, P.E. Whetter. Apologies were received from F.W. Benians and R.A.G. Potter.

In opening the meeting John Gilbert expressed satisfaction at seeing so many members present, he gave a warm welcome to Mrs. Hide and

the new members, and congratulated Ken Brown on obtaining a venue for the meeting at such short notice as the British Philatelic Association's room was no longer available.

The secretary reported that an invitation had been received to nominate two delegates for 'Congress 1973'. He also stated that he had set aside six days in 1973 for Circle meetings.

The Editor of the Quarterly Circular, through the Secretary, reported that the cost of producing the 'QC' was rising sharply, and also that a new size (decimal) paper would soon have to be used. It was agreed that a review of the annual subscription should take place as it was essential to the Circle that the excellence of the Quarterly Circular be maintained.

The Keeper of the Philatelic Record presented two items for opinion - two 1866 20 paras which were purported to be perforation 13 all round. The stamps were genuine but it was agreed that the perforations were not.

A discussion ensued as to future procedure at meetings the result of which showed the majority to be in favour of the following order:

- Officers Reports.
- Circle business.
- Review of the main topic of the previous meeting.
- Main topic and display.
- Any other business.

It was noted that time could be saved if members with pertinent material would, prior to the meeting, contact the leader of the discussion so that the material could be presented in the proper sequence. This also applied to new and previously unrecorded material which, where possible, should be sent to the Keeper of the Record for inclusion in his report.

Mac demonstrated to members, with the help of two actual size photographs of the two 1872 10 paras sheets, his exciting discovery as to the importance of the perforations in relation to plating. (See the chapter on perforations - Third Issue continued, in this number - Editor).

The main subject of the meeting was then introduced - "The Postal Stationery of Egypt". This was led by Charles Minett whose separate report is included in this number.

The Chairman congratulated Charles on his excellent handling of a most interesting subject, and which he remarked on as gaining in popularity with many collectors. He wished all a very happy New Year, and members unanimously congratulated the officers of the Circle on a very interesting and successful year, with a special vote of thanks to Ken Brown for his excellent and capable take-over of the Secretary/Treasurer's duties.

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NOTES FROM THE KEEPER OF THE PHILATELIC RECORD

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

The French Consular Office, Alexandria

Leslie Bowyer (ESC No. 98) has shown us a commercial cover addressed to Marseilles bearing a 50c. 'Merson' of Alexandria cancelled by the normal double-circle (the inner is dotted) datestamp ALEXANDRIE/ 18/JUIN/04/ EGYPTE and backstamped at Marseilles on the 23rd June.

In addition, on the front, is a violet rubber handstamp PAR COURRIER AUTRICHIEN (56.5mm. x 2.75mm.) which may be translated as 'By Austrian Post (or Mail)'

**PAR COURRIER AUTRICHIEN**

There was, of course, no Austrian Consular office in Egypt in 1904 and since the cachet is in French one may assume it was struck by the firm of S. Petsaly, Alexandria, whose imprint is on the back of the envelope.

But for this instructional mark one would have expected this letter to have been carried direct to Marseilles either by a steamer of the Menageries Maritime or by one of the British or German Lines since, so far as we are aware, the Austrian Lloyd ships served only the Eastern Italian ports and Trieste. We seek enlightenment.

A Dongola cover of 1884.

Peter Smith (ESC No. 74) has sent a copy of an intriguing cover in his collection. It is an OHMS envelope (which has a manuscript "Not" placed in front of the "On") franked by a pair of 1884 provisional 20 paras/5 piastres cancelled by two strikes of the Italo-Arabic cds of Dongola (Type V-5) which we illustrate.



Addressed to K.W. Anstruther Esq., Royal Engineers, Walpole Street, New Cross, London, it bears the arrival backstamp of London S.E. (LB/DE 29/84). The address has been crossed out and the words "Orange River" scribbled across, it has been re-directed to "Telegraph Battalion, Bechuanaland, So. Africa" and bears the forwarding duplex mark of New Cross (X/DE 30/84) and the Cape Town arrival cds (D/JA 22/85). On the front is a pencilled note "On line to Taungs" (a place some twenty miles south of Vryburg).

The translation of the Arabic date in the Dongola cds is 11/December/80 which, from the above mentioned details, is clearly incorrect.

Peter Smith says that he has never encountered this type of postmark with dates later than '80 with the exception of Barbar which is known with the Arabic dot changed in manuscript to "1" (i.e. '81) - there is an example of this illustrated in Colonel Danson's article in the 'West-End Philatelist' for May/June 1950, and a reduced illustration of it in 'LOP' April 1954 page 369, and he goes on to suggest that this type of cds was provided with date slugs in single units bearing both digits covering the years from 1874 (when it was first recorded - in June) to 1880.

This contention is supported by a note in the Record to the effect that the late Surgeon-Captain F.F. Mahon (ESC No. 27) had an example of this type of cds., of Kassala on which the date had been altered in manuscript from 80 to 81.

(Footnote: In the 'Mahon' sale (H.R. Harmer 9th November 1948) lot 405 comprising five of his six recorded 1 piastres (1879) together with a 2 piastres, all with datestamps of Kassala realised £12.10s. (estimated at £10). Lot 404 contained fifteen 1 piastre rose and one 20 paras blue cancelled Barbar which fetched £26 (estimated £20). Lot 406 contained thirty-one Sudan postmarks on Egyptian stamps - Khartoum, Souakin, 'with a few Tokar'. Realised £16 (estimate £15).

Where are they now??

#### An Egyptian Government Label.

Another item from Peter Smith is a cover franked by a 1 piastre from Ghouria (Cairo) in February 1888 addressed to a Parisian bookseller. On the reverse are transit marks of Cairo and Port Said and a French cds. of arrival. On the obverse is an imperforate pink label with English and Arabic inscriptions. Tying it, perhaps fortuitously, is a rough circular stamp with "N.18" (has this any postal significance?). We illustrate both.





Four more of these labels, but this time on white paper, have been used to tie down the flap of a portion of a large registered cover shown to us by Peter Andrews (ESC No. 122). Printing characteristics on these are identical with those on Peter Smith's example yet this second cover, from Giza (Branch) to London, is dated November 1921.

Peter Smith has been in touch with Jean Boulad d'Humieres (ESC No. 16) who does not think that it is a specifically postal label, but was used by a government office in lieu of officially imprinted stationery. The latter thinks too that the circular mark may be foreign, only accidentally falling on the label. My own views coincide with these especially as neither cover carries a departmental imprint or handstamp yet both were posted in offices much used by government departments. Any further information or opinions would be most welcome.

#### W.W.1 - The French Naval Air Force in Egypt.

A further example of the French Flight's mail has been seen by Kenneth Davis (ESC No. 148) who has sent a xerox copy of an unfranked cover addressed to a Madame Louis Meot in Clamart, France, part of the sender's address is on the reverse and includes the name Meot and "aviation maritime--Port Said".

The front has the cds. "CORR. D'ARMES/PORT SAID" dated 11/JAN/15 (similar to our illustration) and the double circle cachet AVIATION MARITIME/de Port Said (Port Said is in manuscript) with an anchor in the centre which is similar to that on the card reported by Dr. Winter (Quarterly Circular No. 82 page 164). The cover was back-stamped 19th January on arrival.



W.W.1. The French Navy in Egypt.

In addition Ken Davis reminds us of the French 'Forces Navale du Levant' by sending a xerox of a picture postcard (of the Citadel of Cairo) addressed to Grenoble bearing the CORR. D'ARMÉES/PORT SAID cds. dated 1(?)0/MAI/20 and the triple-circle cachet of the MARINE FRANÇAISE/PORT-SAID with anchor in centre which is similar to the one illustrated above except for the band bearing the wording which is 5.5 mm. wide instead of 4.75 mm. as illustrated, thus making the greater diameter 34.5 mm. instead of 33 mm..

The smaller cachet (illustrated) occurs in blue on local picture post-cards with messages in French dated 22 Dec. 1916 (Len Perry - ESC No. 9 - collection) and 29 Jul., and 26 Oct. 1917 (both Minett collection). Since these three are unaddressed and have no postal markings it would seem probable that they were despatched enclosed in envelopes.

From late in 1914 British and French Naval Forces assisted in the defence of the Suez Canal which was threatened by Turkish Forces operating from Sinai.

1923 King Fuad Issue.

Ken Brown (ESC No. 138) kindly advises us that he has a used copy of the 200 mills. (Zeheri No. 93) with reversed watermark used at Alexandria (date uncertain). Hitherto unrecorded, its discovery means that only the £1. of this issue remains to be found with this watermark variety.

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55th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

To celebrate their 25th Anniversary the Civil Service Philatelic Society is acting as host to this year's Congress, which is being held in London at the Bonnington Hotel in Southampton Row, from Monday 30th April to Friday 4th May 1973. J.H. Gilbert (ESC No. 50) and C. Gilders (ESC No. 134) will be the Circle's delegates.

It is planned that the Egypt Study Circle will hold a special meeting during Congress on the evening of Thursday the 3rd May 1973, at 8.00 p.m.

Will any member who can attend this meeting please notify the Secretary of the Circle, in order that the organisers of Congress may be informed.

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MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members:-

E.S.C. No. 169 Mr. I. Holly,  
C/ Copertex Lda,  
Av. Almirante Reis,  
14, 6' - D LISBON,  
Portugal.

E.S.C. No. 170 E. Menne Larson,  
Bymarks Alle 22,  
DK 9500, HOBRO,  
Denmark.

A further change of address is noted for:

E.S.C. No. 130 K. Pogson,  
11, Vicar Park Road,  
Norton Tower,  
HALIFAX,  
Yorkshire. HX2 ONL.

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IN MEMORIAM

We were very glad to hear of the death of our senior member, Mr. E. H. Warren (ESC No. 69), on the 19th November 1972, at the age of 92½ years, at his home at Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.

He was an early member of the Circle and had been a most useful and helpful member over the many years. As a former master printer his chief interest lay with the primary techniques encountered in stamp production, and it was his good advice which helped us with so many of the printing problems in connection with Egyptian stamps both of the earlier issues and the photogravure issues of the later period.

Our sympathy is extended to his family. We shall always remember him as a kindly and gentle man, ever friendly and willing to help others at all times - and he will be greatly missed. We are grateful that he has had and enjoyed such a long and useful life, and are proud to have had the opportunity of knowing him.

(John H.E. Gilbert).

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NOTES ON THE POSTAL STATIONERY OF EGYPT

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by

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

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The main subject discussed at the Circle meeting on the 2nd December 1972 was Postal Stationery and a general display mounted in groups, each arranged chronologically, was passed round and later supplemented by the material of the members present.

Although our President was unable to attend he had sent fourteen pages of De la Rue essays and proofs, previously unseen by most of the members present, and these were interposed in the group which contained envelopes.

At the end of these notes, by kind permission of Col. Danson, I record for the first time in detail this material.

In addition Leslie Bowyer produced nine examples which tallied with some of the above.

Of the later issues photographs, from our Record of essays held in the Government Postal Museum in Cairo, were shown. These had been given by Chaftar Bey to Dr. Byam in 1950 and are listed in detail below.

A number of printing flaws occurring on postcards and letter-cards were viewed, some are patently constant and should aid us in determining how many images went to form a printer's sheet. At our February 1973 meeting we are having a short resume when I expect to elaborate on these characteristics and later extend these notes by means of illustrations.

The dates of issue of the various values are very imprecise and I will be glad to receive earliest dates of material in the collections of members. In this connection I wish to thank R. Seymour Blomfield, Dr. A. Winter and Leslie Bowyer who have responded already.

I wish to thank also Ibrahim Chaftar and Mehanny Sid for having provided me with information and George Houston who had sent items from his collection for the display.

Today by far the best listing remains that of Jean Boulad and A. Cocatre which was published in booklet form in Paris in January 1947. It was a revised edition of Jean Boulad's article which appeared in "L'Orient Philatelique" in 1936/37 (Numbers 27, 28 and 31).

The more modern listings of Billig (1948) and Higgins and Gage (1966), whilst being of some assistance, contain a number of inaccuracies.

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Record of Photographs of Essays held in the Government Postal Museum in Cairo.

Pictorial Issue

10 milliemes Colossi by De la Rue dated 13th december 1912, and later adopted for use on the envelope and letter-card of 1913/14.

King Fuad Issues (Not Adopted)

- A) Full face, front view, inscription in Arabic, dated 20th March 1924.  
2, 4, 5 and 15 milliemes.
- B) Head facing to right, inscriptions in Arabic and French dated 10th June 1925.  
2, 4, 5 and 15 milliemes.
- C) Three-quarter portrait, inscriptions in Arabic and French, dated 10th June 1925.  
2, 4, 5 and 15 milliemes.
- D) As 'B' but with an additional outer ring inscribed in English "Registration & Postage Fee", dated 19th June 1925.  
15 milliemes.
- E) As 'C' but with an additional outer ring inscribed in English "Registration and Postage Fee", dated 19th June 1925.  
15 milliemes.
- F) Centre die of head facing to right, dated 10 (or 18) February 1927.

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Record of Lt. Col. Danson's fourteen sheets of Postal Stationery, Essays, Die Proofs, etc.

- 1. 1887 Original centre die, working state. Trial print in red.
- 2. 1887 a) Die proof, uncoloured. "23 Sep. 87" and "BEFORE HARDENING".  
b) " " in blue " " "  
c) " " " M/s "Original Die" "26 Sep. 87"  
and "AFTER HARDENING".

3. 1887 ONE PIASTRE

- a) Essay, original die, in blue, working state, pyramid shaded (partly removed).
- b) Original No. 2 die, in issued colour blue (pyramid white). "13 Dec. 97" and m/s "2".
- c) Essay, in blue (pyramid shaded), probably from a subsidiary die and taken from a) above. "4 APR. 88".
- d) Die proof in red.

4. 1888 TWO PIASTRES

- a) Working state in blue.
- b) " " in blue. Dated "7 Sep. 88".
- c) " " in blue. Dated "27 Sep. 88" and "BEFORE HARDENING".
- d) " " in blue. Dated "26 Oct. 88" and "AFTER HARDENING".

5. 1889 5 MILLIMES

- a) Original die, working state. In red.
- b) " " . In red. Dated "13 Aug. 89".
- c) Die proof. In carmine. Undated.

6. 1889 5 milliemmes

- a) Original die proof. In red. Dated "24 Sep. 89" and "BEFORE HARDENING".
- b) Proof of subsidiary die. In red. "18 Jul. 90" and m/s "No. 2".
- c) " " " " In red. "18 Jul. 90" and m/s No. 3

7. 1889 1 millieme

- a) Original die, working state. In red.
- b) " " . In red. Dated "13 Aug. 89".
- c) Undated essay. In red. (The lines and inscriptions are much coarser than in the original die).
- d) Original die. In red. "24 Sep. 89" and "BEFORE HARDENING".

8. 1894-01 1 millieme
- a) Undated die proof. In red.
  - b) Original die proof. In red. "10 Jul. 84" and "BEFORE HARDENING".
  - c) Subsidiary die proof. In red. "23 Nov. 96" and m/s "No. 2 die".
9. 1900-01 1 millieme
- a) Working state, new original die. In red. "28 Nov. 00".
  - b) Subsidiary die for impressing envelopes in sheets In red. before cutting and folding. "23 Jan. 01" and m/s "4".
  - c) -ditto- In red. "23 Jan. 01" and m/s "5".
  - d) -ditto- In red. Undated and m/s "6".
  - e) -ditto- In red. Undated and m/s "8".
10. 1900-01 2 milliemes
- a) Original undated die. In red.
  - b) Original die (?). In carmine.
  - c) Subsidiary die. In red. M/s "4".
  - d) " " In red. M/s "5".
11. 1889 2 milliemes
- a) Subsidiary die. In red.
  - b) Original die, working state. In red. "13 Aug. 89".
  - c) Essay from original die. In red.  
J.H.D. says "The inner circle appears to have been printed in colour, and then the white dots painted in by hand. Note also the 3 circular pencil marks at 11 o'clock, also the compass hole in the centre" (white dots instead of solid white circle).
12. 1908 3 milliemes
- a) Original die, working state. In red.
  - b) " " . In red.
  - c) " " (?). In red.
13. 1908 3 milliemes
- a) Subsidiary die proof. In red. "17 Jul. 07"
  - b) " " " In red. "18 Jul. 07" and m/s "No. 2".

Continued on page 221.

MORE ABOUT HOTEL POSTMARKS

by

Dr. A. Winter (E.S.C. No. 149)  
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With these short notes I wish to give some new extreme dates of use together with a description of a few not yet described types which are in my collection.

A) New first dates

Shepherd's Hotel: Type 6 ; 3-11-07  
Continental Hotel: Type 5 : 2-III-22  
Type 11: 22-DE-36

This last one is a (non-official) first day cover of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty stamps, Zeh. No. 56/58.

Gherizeh Palace Hotel: 24-III-94  
Cooks Office : Type 10. 4-MA-33 (in blue)

B) New last dates

Cooks Office : Type I : 11-IV-07 (!)  
Luxor Hotel : Type 2 : 2-III-10  
Luxor Winter Palace: Type 1 : 3-1-08  
Savoy Hotel Assouan: Type 1 : 8.1.10  
Simon Artz : Type 2 : 11-MR-58

C) Meter Markings

Shepherds type 11 - last date 3-IX-71

This marking is really unique as four languages are used in it! A Latin motto, Arabic and English wording in the two left strikes and French in the right one (Postes, HAU, Egypte).

Semiramis type 4 - first date 29-IV-61. in red.

The circle at left is not an open cotton flower as suggested by Mnsr. Jean Boulad d'Humieres in the Italian magazine "Il Collezionista" (19 October 1968), but a drawing of Assyrian queen Semiramis with a peacock on each side.

To finish, let us note that a slight change may occur in these markings, as 'HAU' becomes '...', but I have not yet seen any such marking.

D) New postmarks

Hilton Hotel Cairo type 4 (?) - same as type 2 but no letter "E" in "NIL" and no hyphen between "Nil Hilton". There is also a "T" under "Cairo" in all strikes seen.  
My extreme dates of use are: 24-II-66 and 8.IX.71.



Sheraton Hotel Cairo. This newly built hotel has a post office, the exact opening day I do not know. The cds. is 25 mm. in diameter, has a double circle, the inner broken by the date bridge; Arabic at top, "POST" under the date and "Cairo Sheraton" at bottom. There seems to be a constant defect in the outer circle, at 5 o'clock. Date seen 16-V-71.

To be complete, for the hotel fan, one must point out the special and nice first day cancellation which was produced for the stamp issued for the centenary of Mena House Hotel and opening of the Sheraton one on 23-III-70; it depicts and mentions both hotels.

#### E) Registered Hotel Markings

While many registered covers with hotel postmarks bear an ordinary label, one finds sometimes a rectangular special marking with a big "k" at left and name of the hotel at bottom in English (Blomfield Reg. No. 6.3). I have noted this marking for the following hotels (not all in my collection):-

Continental (1926, 1932), Shepheard (1937), Savoy Cairo (1912), Cook's Office (1909), Winter Palace Luxor (1930) and Simon Arzt (1940).

I suppose further studies would show this marking to have existed in each Hotel Post Office.

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#### NOTES ON POSTAL STATIONERY.

Record of Lt. Col. Denson's fourteen sheets of Postal Stationery, Essays, Die Proofs, etc.

Continued from page 219

- 14 1913 Issue a) Original die proofs (?). In red.  
1, 2, 3, 5 and 10 milliemmes.  
b) Subsidiary die proof. In red. M/s "4".

C.W. Minett 7.12.72.

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THE THIRD ISSUE

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by

E.L.G. MacArthur.  
(E.S.C. No. 125).  
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Continued from Volume VII No. 11 (September 1972) page 207.

PERFORATING.

I have had to rewrite this chapter in the light of some very interesting discoveries I have made recently.

Very little, if anything, has been written about the perforations of this issue, and no serious study appears to have taken place previously. The only reference to perforations seem to have been about the scarcity of some stamps with particular perforations.

Gibbons give the perforations as  $12\frac{1}{2}$  and  $13\frac{1}{2}$ , Zeheri give them as  $12\frac{1}{4}$  and  $13\frac{1}{4}$ . Zeheri do, however, in their notes, state that the correct gauge for their  $13\frac{1}{4}$  is  $13\frac{1}{3}$ . Mathematically the correct gauge is  $13\frac{1}{3}$  and I am sure that this is what the designer meant it to be. The workmanship, however, was so poor that the line was very irregular, gauging  $13\frac{1}{2}$  and also  $13\frac{1}{2}$ , in some few places, but the majority are  $13\frac{1}{3}$ .

Mathematically the gauge is worked out as follows:-

$13\frac{1}{3}$  - The pins are 1mm. thick and 0,5 mm. apart.  
This means 10 holes in 15 mm. and  $13\frac{1}{3}$  holes in 20 mm.  
(or 2 cms.)

$12\frac{1}{2}$  - The pins are 1 mm. thick and 0.6 mm. apart, this means  
10 holes in 16 mm., and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  holes  
in 20 mm. (or 2 cms.).

Due to the generosity of Dr. Abdullah Mishrick (E.S.C. No. ) I have been able to study the only recorded sheets of the First Printing, the  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{3}$  and  $13\frac{1}{3}$ , of the 10 paras value. I have also been able to scan sheets of the Second Printing, of all the values. The Keeper of the Philatelic Record has fine photographs of all these, which can be purchased at very reasonable prices.

The same two single line machines were used for both the first and second printings, as a close look at the sheets prove. The pattern of the lines of perforation are the same. The 10 paras sheets give the following pin counts:  $12\frac{1}{2}$  horizontal - 180 pins;  $13\frac{1}{3}$  horizontal - 199 pins;  $13\frac{1}{3}$  vertical (both sheets) - 289 pins. The heads may however have been capable of carrying a greater number of pins. The perforations on the 10

paras sheets, and on all known marginal multiples of the first printing, do not perforate the sheet completely, there is a good margin of unperforated paper all round; this was done intentionally so as to prevent the sheet falling apart during handling. As an aid to visual understanding I would refer you to any large marginal multiple shown in Robson Lowe's sale catalogue of "Byam's Egypt", in "L'Orient Philatelique" No. 102, or in the H.K. Harmer's Palace Sales catalogue.

It is this pattern of the line of perforations which gave me the first inkling of their importance, and then the sudden realisation that I had at last found the answer to my problem of completing the plating of the 20 paras first printing, and indeed to the eventual plating of all the missing sheets. I am pleased to announce that I have completed the plating of the 20 paras, and have started on the 20 paras lithographs, stones A and B. I am also tentatively beginning the plating of the 1 piastre typographs, which I suspect came from two or more formes.

The pattern of the  $12\frac{1}{2}$  line is very regular, there is some variation, but the holes are fairly evenly spaced and only very slightly out of alignment. The  $13\frac{1}{3}$  line gives a very different pattern altogether, the holes are unevenly spaced and are also very noticeably out of alignment. I am personally appreciative of this as it allows me, with some patience, to marry the pattern of perforations on a stamp to the corresponding pattern on the line of perforations and, by cross reference, to exactly place the stamp in its position on the sheet. This plating is relatively easy when the stamp gauges  $13\frac{1}{3}$ ; when the stamp also gauges  $12\frac{1}{2}$  the job of plating is slightly harder, due to the regularity of the  $12\frac{1}{2}$  perforations.

Examination of the 10 paras sheets show that the first vertical line of perforations is different to the remaining 10 lines, and also that the last horizontal line is different to the preceding 20 lines. Further examination shows that this is due to the first vertical and last horizontal being perforated in the opposite direction. This could have been due to the operator not having enough paper near the end of the operation, to feed the sheet under the machine correctly, and so had to reverse the sheet to get in the last line. This, I believe, also may go to prove that these machines had no ratchet refinement. When we come to the 1 piastre we find a confusing variation, some of the 1 piastre also appear to have the last vertical different to the preceding 10, and the first horizontal different to the following 20. This apparent confusion may, I believe, eventually help me to solve the question as to how many 1 piastre typograph formes were used.

The single line perforating machines of this time were fairly simple. They consisted of a head containing the perforating pins, and a base with corresponding holes to take the pins. The head was raised and lowered mechanically by means of a large side-set wheel, or by a treadle device, somewhat similar to that which operated the foot treadle sewing machine. I believe that the operation, once started, had to be completed,

and this could be the cause of the double perforations we occasionally see on some stamps. There were refinements such as a stripper plate which worked independently of the head, its function was to detach the sheets from the pins as the head rose. There was also a ratchet refinement, its function was to allow the distance between the lines of perforations to be preset, and which, after each operation, pulled the sheet a calculated distance ready for the next descent of the head. In the case of the 1872 perforations, measurement and observation show that this last refinement was not present on the machines used. In place of the ratchet device, machines had a graduated metal rule, on the left hand of the operator, by which it was possible to move the paper required distances.

The head was in two pieces, the lower portion of the head, the stripper plate if present, and the base plate were all drilled at one operation, so as to ensure that the pins fitted perfectly. When the pins were fitted into the lower part of the head, the upper part was clamped on and stopped the pins rising when under pressure.

The cutting surfaces of the machine were the edges of the holes in the base plate and the flat edges of the pins. These two complimented one another in the same manner as the two blades of scissors. The efficiency of the cutting action was impaired when the cutting edges got blunted or prevented from meeting properly, as when the holes became blocked with the cut out 'confetti'. The end result of this can be seen in blind and torn perforations on many of the sheets and individual stamps. A good workman would ensure that the pins were regularly sharpened or replaced by new ones. With respect to the clogging of the holes in the base plate, by the cut away pieces of gummed paper, the operator had to frequently clear these holes, and therefore some machines can be found where the holes have been enlarged at the bottom of the base plate so as to give a funnel effect; alternatively a gutter was cut right along the row of holes at the bottom of the base plate. These innovations allowed the cut away pieces to fall away more readily.

The perforating of the sheets was a long and tedious process, but one which had to be carefully done so as not to spoil them. If nearly 35,000 sheets had to have 33 lines of perforations, put on each sheet one at a time, we can begin to understand the magnitude of the job. If the work had to be hurried the operator selected two, three and even four sheets, and after ensuring that the gutters between the stamps coincided, he would perforate in multiples; this naturally led to some of the lower sheets having the perforations cutting into the design.

I have been requested to comment on the scarcity of the values, perforated  $1\frac{3}{8}$ . The following mathematical exercise is speculative and depends on complete uniformity at all stages, it is also based on the assumption that the total number of sheets is as that shown at Appendix A (Quarterly Circular March 1972). We also have good reason to believe, from observation, that some values are scarcer than shown. I refer

particularly to the 20 paras and 1 piastre, for these two values include both lithographs and typographs and we do not know, at this moment, in what proportion these were.

The  $12\frac{1}{2}$  machine had to perforate 21 horizontal lines per sheet and the  $13\frac{1}{2}$ , to begin with, only 11 vertical lines - therefore the  $13\frac{1}{2}$  did approximately twice the number of sheets that the  $12\frac{1}{2}$  did in the same time. For example, if we take the 5 paras with 3600 sheets: by the time the  $12\frac{1}{2}$  has done 1200 sheets,  $13\frac{1}{2}$  has done 2400 sheets.  $13\frac{1}{2}$  then starts on the 1200 sheets done by  $12\frac{1}{2}$ , and by the time he has done these  $12\frac{1}{2}$  has done 600 of the 2400 passed on to him by  $13\frac{1}{2}$ . This now leaves 1800 sheets to be perforated horizontally.  $13\frac{1}{2}$  now shortens his line of pins from 289 to 199, and they both now begin to perforate at an equal rate, this would mean 900 sheets perforated  $13\frac{1}{2}$  all round.

The rough approximation, expressed in sheets, is:-

	$12\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{1}{2}$		<u>Total sheets</u>
5 paras	2700	900	=	3600
10 paras	3100	1000	=	4100
20 paras	1700	500	=	2200
1 piastre	17000	5000	=	22000
2 piastres	1350	450	=	1800
$2\frac{1}{2}$ piastres	75	25	=	100
5 piastres	115	35	=	150

There are some stamps that merit special attention. I have seen and carefully examined a 20 paras perforated  $12\frac{1}{2}$ , and a 20 paras lithograph and a 1 piastre typograph, both perforated  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ , and a  $2\frac{1}{2}$  piastres perforated  $13\frac{1}{2}$  all round. A very careful check shows that all the perforations examined are genuinely made by the  $13\frac{1}{2}$  and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  machines. The  $2\frac{1}{2}$  piastres is particularly interesting as the horizontal perforations have been cut by pins 207 to 224, this means that the  $13\frac{1}{2}$  did not prepare his machine for perforating the short horizontal line by reducing his number of pins to 199 as he had done on all other occasions.

There is, I believe, a simple and reasonable explanation for these rarities. When the sheets were being checked it was noticed that some lines of perforation had not been made, so they were taken to the nearest convenient machine to have the omission corrected. We know that all such omissions were not detected, for we have examples of part-imperforates.

A possible explanation for the contention that the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  piastres

perforated  $1\frac{1}{2}$  should be included in the above category could be that the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  and 5 piastres, being so few in number, were brought for perforating together. The  $2\frac{1}{2}$  piastres (100 sheets) was placed by the  $12\frac{1}{2}$  machine, prepared for short line horizontal perforating; and the 5 piastre (150 sheets) placed by the  $13\frac{1}{2}$  machine, prepared for the longer vertical perforating. By the time  $13\frac{1}{2}$  had done the 150 sheets of the 5 piastre  $12\frac{1}{2}$  had done 75 of the 100 sheets of the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  piastres.  $13\frac{1}{2}$  then took these 75 and began to perforate them vertically, by which time  $12\frac{1}{2}$  would have perforated the remaining 25 sheets horizontally, leaving none for the  $13\frac{1}{2}$  to do.

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CORRIGENDA

Quarterly Circular Volume VII, No. 11, September 1972.

Page 198 "Bibliography" line 9. Read Nos. 1, 4, 5, and 8.

Page 199 Opposite "Page 149" Type IV/3 - latest noted is  
25.12.77 (not 67).

Page 206 below dotted line - "BANI NAZAR" 11 October 1962

Page 207 Line 9. - Oheid (El Abiad)

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It is regretted that illustrations were omitted relating to Michael M. Sacher's "Additional Notes, British Post Offices in Egypt", and they are now given below:



Fig. I

REGISTERED

Fig. II



Fig. III

INSUFFICIENTLY PAID

Fig. IV

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