

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 VIII No. 4

Whole Series No. 88

DECEMBER 1973

FUTURE MEETINGS

2nd February 1974	...	Third Issue 20 paras and 1 piastre Lithographed and Typographed. E.L.G. MacArthur.
6th April 1974	...	Subject to be announced.
1st June 1974	...	" " "

All to be held at the 'George', George Court, Strand, London, WC2
at 2.30 p.m.

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REPORT of the 149th Meeting of the Egypt Study Circle, held at the 'George', George Court, Strand, London, on the 1st December 1973.

J.H.E. Gilbert presided, and the following members were present:-

P. Andrews, B. Conway, E.L.G. MacArthur, and C.W. Minett.

Apologies were received from K. Brown, J. Firebrace, S. Horesh, R. Potter and P. Whetter.

The Chairman read a letter of acknowledgement received from Charles Fox accepting gratefully the honour of Life Membership offered him by the Circle.

Peter Andrews then led the discussion on the main subject of the meeting 'The First Issue, 1866'. It is hoped that Peter will be able to prepare a full report for inclusion in the Quarterly Circular at a later date.

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For the record it should be noted that the Meeting scheduled for the 13th October 1973 was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

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REPORT OF A VISIT paid by the Circle to the Oriental Philatelic Association, London, at the 'White Swan', Farringdon Street, on the 11th December 1973.

Due perhaps to the unsettled travelling conditions prevailing at the time (and the fact that no camels were readily obtainable) only three Circle members were present - B.E. Conway, J.A. Firebrace, and C.W. Minett (all incidentally also members of O.P.A.L.). In addition Peter Andrews had provided some supporting sheets from his collection.

John Firebrace commenced the display with 21 sheets of letters and covers of the 1882 Arabi Revolt (a detailed report of this material will appear in the next Quarterly Circular (March 1974)).

The second part of the display consisted of 8 sheets from Peter Andrews supported by 4 sheets from Charles Minett dealing with the First Issue. This included a 9 x 5 pane from the top left corner of a proof sheet of the 5 piastres value (perforated 13), and other proofs and issued stamps including printing flaws on both the background design and the black inscription. Two covers showing the use of the

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9 x 9 retta to cancel adhesives prior to the 31st July 1866 with datestamps of origin alongside were followed by two more on which the adhesives had been cancelled by the cds of origin with a second strike elsewhere, these being dated in October and November 1866. Some forgeries were shown including used and unused examples of the 10 piastres denomination produced by Salama.

For the third section Bertram Conway showed the Crown Overprints of 1922. The four types were illustrated and described using the 1 millieme value - included were blocks of four with the broken frame and missing dots varieties. A representative selection of all values followed with varieties: the 'Crushed Crown' (on 15 milliemes type 1), overprint double (100 milliemes type 1) and 'a Cheval' (1 millieme type 1). Three other varieties which are regarded as having been clandestinely produced from the genuine printing surface were shown (20 milliemes type 1 inverted, 1 and 2 milliemes type III double). A fine violet strike of the Lloyd Triestine Piroscapo 'Asia' occurred cancelling a strip of three 5 milliemes type II on a cover to Zurich.

Charles Minett continued with World War II cards and covers from and to German prisoners of war held at camps in Egypt. These were supplemented by half-a-dozen topical sketches from a Prisoners of War magazine named 'Tribune' which was published at Camp No. 380 at Geneifa in the Canal Zone.

John Firebrace closed the display with a selection of 20 sheets of military material from the Nile Expedition, the Army of Occupation and the Sudan during 1883-1885. (A detailed report of this material will appear in the March 1974 Quarterly Circular).

C.W.M.

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NOTES FROM THE KEEPER OF THE PHILATELIC RECORD

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

Interpostal Seal on cover of 1876.

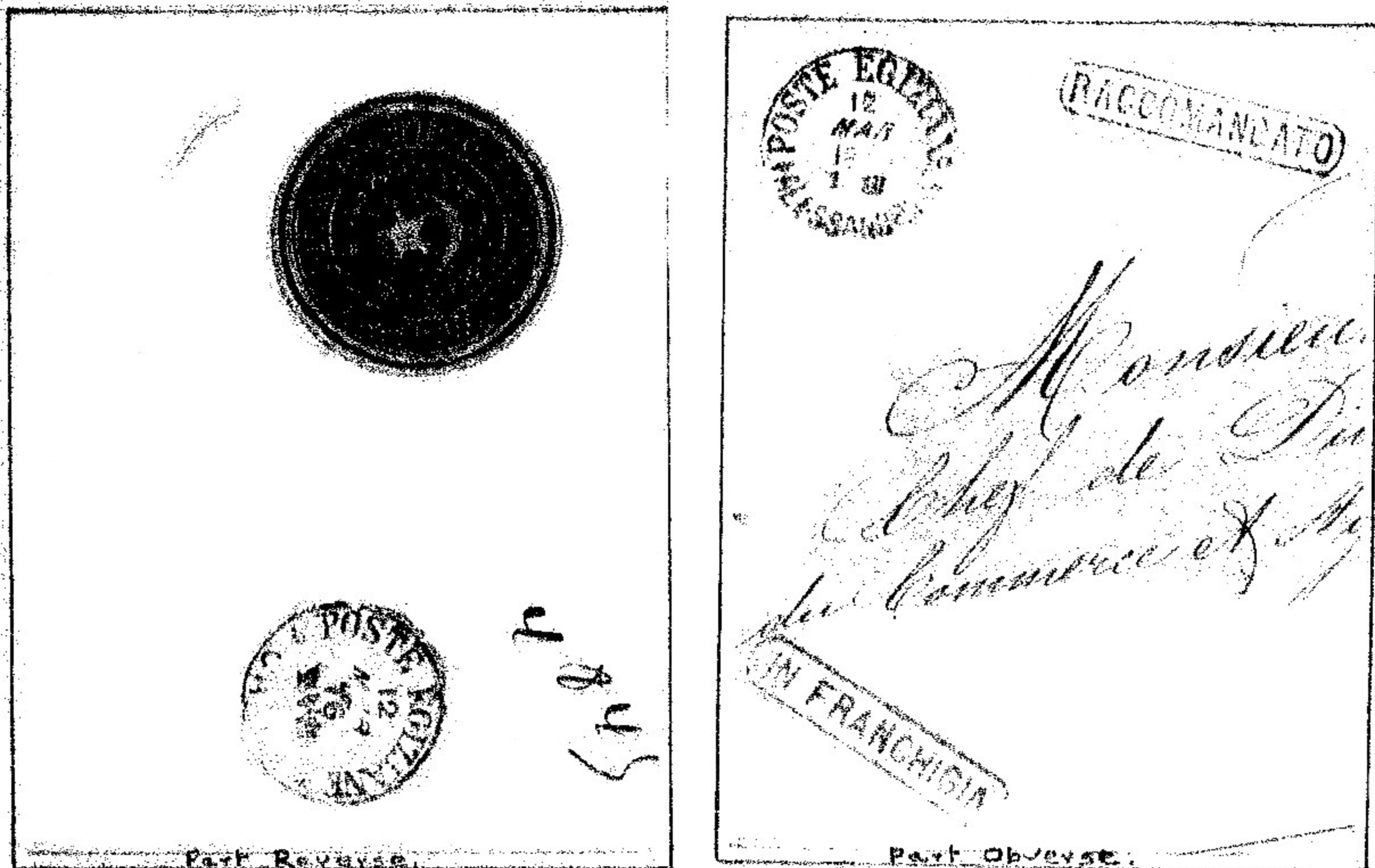
A cover of exceeding interest is in the collection of Mr. J. Kedrierski of the U.S.A., and with his kind permission I now record full details.

It is a large envelope of the Chief Post Office with the printed heading 'POSTE KEDLUL EGIZIANE/ DIREZIONE GENERALI' and is addressed to 'Monsieur Acton, Chef de Division au Ministere du Commerce et Agriculture (Commerce exterieuse), Caire.'

Since it was an inland official letter it bears no adhesive stamp but has two circular datestamps in black of 'P ste Egiziane/

Alessandria', one Type V-2n (12/blank/76/III) and the other Type V-2.3n (12/Mar/1876/T III). In addition it has a framed 'IN FRANCHIGIA' (Free or Franked) Type FRA-5 in greenish-blue and a framed 'RACCOMANDATO' Type neg-6 in black. On the reverse is the cds of 'Poste Egiziane/Cairo' Type V-2.2n (12/Mar/76/T III) in black.

Also on the reverse, tying the flap, is the embossed indigo on buff Interpostal Seal Type VI of Alessandria (2nd Type -kehr No. 377D). Although the seal itself is not tied to the cover by a postmark the flap was torn round it when being opened and there seems no reasonable doubt about its use being authentic. It bears the inscription 'DIREZIONE GENERALE DELLA POSTE KHELEUTIE/ALESSANDRIA' and according to Moens was issued in October 1872.



The envelope itself has no watermark but under the flap is the impression 'David Robertson & Co./Alexandria Egypt'.

The fact that the 'IN FRANCHIGIA' handstamp was struck in colour, whereas all the other markings are in black, seems to indicate that it was applied by the sender (or one of his staff) and not by a postal sorting clerk. It is the only example so far recorded by the Circle.

(Note: The photographs which accompany these notes are slightly under-size).

Notes from the Keeper of the Philatelic Record - continued.Interpostal Seal on a 'Wreck' cover of 1905.

We are glad to have received from Dr. A. Winter (ESC No. 149) a photo-copy of a commercial registered cover addressed to Credit Lyonnais at Alexandria from its agency in Geneva. Two or three Swiss stamps have been washed off but one (which may not have belonged to this cover) has been replaced incorrectly, the datestamp of origin is 'GENEVE/25 II 05 - 8'.

On the obverse is the well-known two-line bilingual unframed cachet 'SAUVE DU NAUFRAGE DU "CAIRO" / SAVED FROM THE WRECK OF S.S. "CAIRO"' which we illustrate.

SAUVÉ DU NAUFRAGE DU "CAIRO "
SAVED FROM THE WRECK OF S. S. "CAIRO "

On the reverse is the arrival datestamp of 'ALEXANDRIA/A/7 III 05 II' and tying the flap, but itself untied, is the embossed Interpostal Seal Type VIa bearing the inscription 'POSTE KHEDIVIE EGIZIANE/ GABINETTO DEL DIRETTORE GENERALE'.

The 'Cairo' was a mail carrying steamer of the Italian Florio Rubbati line which encountered rough seas as it approached the Port of Alexandria and foundered on the rocks off Agami Point on the 5th March 1905. The passengers and crew were got ashore safely the following day together with a great quantity of mail which had suffered from its immersion in sea water. In some cases envelopes were re-sealed at the Head Post Office in Alexandria by means of the old interpostal seals (special resealing labels were not issued until 1906, perhaps because of the need evidenced by this occasion).

Two examples, also bearing Interpostal Seals may be found illustrated in 'L'Orient Philatelique' No. 115 (April-July 1965, pages 472-473 (I. Chافتar collection).

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1923 - 1926* FIRST PORTRAIT ISSUE

RETOUCHES AND FLAWS

by

Ibrahim Chaftar (ESC No. 42).

"Si jeunesse savait et vieillesse
pouvait, les choses en seraient mieux".

"If youth had experience and old age
ability, things would get on the better".

Immediately after the proclamation of the Kingdom of Egypt on 15th March 1922 the Egyptian Postal Authorities decided to translate that event on the current postage stamps.

Two measures were taken:-

- i) to ask the supplier of the Egyptian stamps - at that time Messrs. Harrison and Sons, the British firm - for estimates and new designs incorporating the portrait of the new Sovereign.
- ii) in the meanwhile, and until the arrival of the projected issue, to apply a quick overprint on the current stamps.

The chosen overprint, a black one, was to be in Arabic only in two lines surmounted by a royal crown:

"Al Mamlaka el Masria / 15 March 1922"
(The Kingdom of Egypt / 15 March 1922).

Four types and a quantity of sub-types have been recognised. We give a short indication, with dates of issue for each (!).

Type I	Lithographed	10 October 1922
Type II	Typographed - small crown	December 1922
Type III	" - large crown	January 1923.

In July 1923 the bulk of the current Egyptian stamps supplied by Harrisons already overprinted in black was issued. This particular overprint, well executed, was approved by the Egyptian General Post Office on the 6th February 1923. The quantity of this last supply was equal or bigger than the whole quantity overprinted

*It is time to call this issue "1923-1926" instead of 1923-24 as we know of some values (2 and 5 mills.) with control C/26. The following issue 1925-1934 appeared only in 1927.

! Robson Lowe 'Byam' sale catalogue October 1961, page 88.

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locally for some values.

Type IV London overprint Typographed July 1923.

We suppose that the Egyptian Government invited or received offers from other sources as we see in existence many die proofs and essays, which were all rejected.

There are die proofs and colour trials for which at least four printers were responsible: The Survey Department, Cairo, Perkins Bacon Ltd., Harrison and Sons, Bradbury Wilkinson and Co.. Essays were submitted in offset-lithography, typography, recess and grain or screened photogravure showing the King's head in various designs and sizes with both inscriptions in French and Arabic, English and Arabic, and finally in Arabic only.

Harrison intended to produce the stamps by recess printing and he applied for estimates to Perkins Bacon Ltd. who was urged to prepare the die engraving and submit sketches and die proofs. Pressed by the Egyptian Government, Harrison sent numerous sketches and essays, and amongst them proofs in corn and screened photogravure. the earliest dated 3rd May 1922.

When the Perkins Bacon die proofs in recess were finally received they were not so attractive as those previously submitted in photogravure. The photogravure proofs were, therefore, approved as the process chosen and new proofs and colour trials were solicited for the accepted sketch.

This Egyptian decision perplexed Harrisons who, however, accepted the contract.

The sketches for all the stamps of the 1923 issue, as eventually produced, were drawn by Perkins Bacon. Harrison states definitely when writing to that firm on the subject:

"The sketch of the 5 mills. stamp which you have already prepared is to be the model of the other values".

In the same letter, dated 15th May 1922, the final paragraph reads:

"...I am sorry for many reasons that the recess method has not been adopted as I am afraid that the photogravure process is still very uncertain in its results and until the issue is successfully produced will entail a considerable amount of anxiety". (!!)

From the above correspondence between Harrisons and Perkins Bacon it is established that these two firms were responsible for the essays Zeheri No. 69a and 69b: the ordinance and design are exactly as the stamp issued, the central portrait excepted, but this portrait appeared

!! Robson Lowe 'Byam' Sale catalogue October 1961, page 92.

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on other Harrison essays.



Below we publish, for the first time, four engraver's proofs, by courtesy of the Postmaster-General in 1945. These were on glazed paper on sunken cards in colour. These were amongst many others "Essays and Proofs" in the Egyptian Museum, Cairo (No. 65 'Section des Timbres Postes'), but unfortunately without any indication of source of origin.



These four die proofs: 1 mill., 3 mills., 4 mills., and 10 mills. were dated 20th March 1924, which is a very late date if we consider that all the values of the First Portrait Issue 1923/26 had already been issued, and I am unable to understand for what purpose they were sent. All indications suggest that Perkins Bacon were responsible for them as the design is exactly as the one issued, and was their entry in the International competition for the Second Portrait issue of 1925/34.

It was only on 16th April 1923 that an advance supply was delivered by Harrisons: a 5 mills. value of the new set was issued.

The other values were released much later, one by one beginning October 1923 till 19th March 1924.

This new issue attracted at once the interest of the Philatelic World and especially the Egyptian Government which decided (August 1924) to have its stamps printed in Egypt. It ordered the necessary machines, capable of printing stamps by the photogravure process,

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from specialized manufacturers in England.

By the end of 1924 the preliminary experiments began for printing the postage stamps locally by the photogravure process. The machinery and equipment began to arrive from England in March 1925. The printing machines and presses were erected and tested and after adequate experiments the etching and printing of photogravure cylinders commenced under the guidance of two specially engaged foreign experts.

Before the end of 1925, the total work was in full production and large initial deliveries were made to the General Post Office but the 1925/34 set was eventually issued only in 1927.

It is not until September 1928 that we see the Philatelic Press publishing the first detailed article in the 'Philatelic Journal of Great Britain' - "Egypt, retouches on the King Fuad Issue of 1923-24" by A. J. Sefi (!!!)

The author, an eminent philatelist, capable writer and researcher was stimulated by some 1923 retouches and flaws displayed at the Herts Philatelic Society by Dr. Byam.

In that comprehensive and much illustrated article, there is a full description of the retouches and flaws. The author inviting philatelists to study both this issue and the printing process.

He mentions that he compared his finds with Dr. Byam. From the article we see that he had to hand: one sheet 1 mill. B/23, one sheet 10 mills. no control, and two sheets of the 5 mills. one C/23 (same as Dr. Byam's sheet) and another C/24. Also that Sefi succeeded in accumulating a good quantity of used copies of which he collected some thousands.

We had then to wait until December 1937 when Douglas MacNeille (LSC No.), an ardent and enthusiastic philatelist, published his monumental article "Egypt, 1923/24 retouches and flaws" which appeared in instalments in 'Gibbons Stamp Monthly' from December 1937 until April 1938. **

MacNeille refers to a paper delivered at the Brighton Congress 1932, by G. Harrison, a Director of Harrison and Sons, saying that the 1923/24 issue was originally planned to be produced by recess printing.

He then briefly stated that the process from the original drawing to the actual printing cylinder was :-

!!! 'Philatelic Journal of Great Britain' September 1928, page 174-9.
 ** reprinted in 'L'Orient Philatelique' 1940. Number 45 (Volume IV)
 pages 8/16 and pages 60/62.

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1. Original design.
2. Negative (single).
3. Positive of 100 stamp size units.
4. Carbon print from positive.
5. Printing cylinder.

Note that I draw particular attention to '3' - Positive of 100 stamp size units.

The author established the basic methods of studying the issue, but unfortunately the limited material available in his collection and the large stock of E.L. Angeloglou had not given him the full opportunity to conclude. It was at that time that I met for the first time (1938) this good friend in the person of Angeloglou, and we had lengthy talks. To these two gentlemen I am indebted for a great deal of information and hints and I take this opportunity to express to both these master philatelists my respectful appreciation.

Mac Neille recognized 8 different controls and a sheet with no control for the 5 milliemes, but he eventually had in his hands for that value:-

2 different sheets control C/23 'A' and 'B'
 1 sheet B/24 'A' with control measurements different to the two sheets C/23 previously mentioned.

This made three sheets. The five other different controls were.

A block of 30 (5 x 6) C/23.
 A block of 56 (8x7) no control. (Which he assumed to be a previous state of C/23).
 Three other blocks of four.

He bitterly complained that he did not have a fair chance to complete his conclusions.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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THE "B.A./E." KILLERand the Egyptian Campaign (or Arabi Revolt) of 1882

by

John Firebrace (ESC No. 71)

There are two versions of the "B.A./E." Killer. The first, and the one of genuine usage in this campaign, consists of thirteen bars, seven complete and six broken by the insertion of the letters 'B.A./E.'

The second version was not used during the campaign but was created for the General Post Office exhibition of 1890. It consisted of seven bars, three complete and four broken.



Illustrations of these two marks have been reproduced fairly frequently and include:-

Thirteen bars

G.P.O. (London) Record Book.

Strikes of 6 handstamps on 25th August 1882
for issue to Egypt.

Stamp Magazine August 1957, September 1962.

Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia Volume II page 255.

Thirteen bars - photographic reproductionsL'Orient Philatelique January 1941,
Hinde collection.Robson Lowe auction catalogue 22 July 1959,
Hinde sale.

Seven bars

G.P.O. (London) Record Book.

Strikes of 6 handstamps on 25th
February 1885, and 6 more on
2nd April 1885, for issue to Egypt.

The American Philatelist. April 1929.

The Philatelist. November 1939.

Robson Lowe auction catalogue. 21 December 1939.
Yates sale.

Thirteen and Seven bars together

Stamp Collecting. 5th September 1942

McKeels. 16th August 1943

L'Orient Philatelique. April and July 1945

Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia. Volume II page 256.

The Keeper of the Philatelic Record has knowledge of only two
examples of the genuine thirteen bars killer:-

i) On 2½d. blue, plate 22, lettered JC on piece accompanied
by part strike of the British Army Post Office Egypt cds
"B/SP 25/82".

ii) On 2½d. blue, plate 22, lettered BE.

Both strikes are incomplete and are illustrated in the Hinde sale
catalogue lot 341. They are now in the Danson collection.

In the Robson Lowe sale of 16th May 1973 Lot 694 includes the
description "1881. 1d. lilac on small piece cancelled by superb
B.A./E. killer". The example sold for a modest price against an even
more modest valuation and was of the seven bars variety.

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As we complete this number it is with deep regret that
we learn of the death of our Chairman, John H. E. Gilbert.

On receipt of the sad news our Honorary Secretary sent
a letter of condolence, on behalf of all members, to his
sons and their families.

A full appreciation will appear in the next number of
the Quarterly Circular.
