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EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

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June 10	...	...	(a) Interpostal Seals, A. Schmidt * (b) Joint Meeting with Sudan S.C.
August 12	...	...	* General
October 14	...	...	"Beginners, Please"

\* subject to revision

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EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

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We decided to close Volume IX with the last issue, numbered 7 & 8. at page 93. (Many readers, we hope, will no longer have page 93 - they will have completed it with details of Hotel postmarks in their own collection and sent it to Jim Benians).

So this is page 1 of the new Volume X, in A4 format. There are advantages in using this format, but we believe that overseas members may have a problem in getting standard sized binders: perhaps an enterprising U.K. member can organise a supply?

We are glad to launch Volume X with studies by two distinguished contributors. Mr Ibrahim Chaftar has done further research on the 1879 5-paras "Joined Characters" flaw, which he himself discovered originally, and he has produced a well-illustrated study, leading to his conclusions as to how this flaw was generated. Newer members of ESC may like to know that Mr Chaftar is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. The other substantial study, by our President, Professor Peter Smith (also a Fellow of the "Royal"), deals with the little-known State Post founded by Mohammed Ali.

It is not difficult to produce a good-calibre journal when contributions of this calibre are received. But we have to look beyond the next one or two issues and enquire where further substantial study reports are to come from. We hope that each leader of a major Study Section will provide a major contribution to the QC (but we will not refuse a minor contribution, even just a progress report).

Smaller contributions are particularly wanted, because they generate a much wider interest.

This issue and, we hope, all future issues, make a point of PARTICIPATION, in the opportunities given for contributions by members to filling gaps in the recorded information. Everybody will be given a stimulus by Ibrahim Chaftar to look again, more carefully, at the 1879 5-paras, and to report what is found, while Tony Schmidt is positively pleading for information. Kenneth D. Knight suggests that we have a regular feature column updating previously-published studies in minor ways - a very good idea. All these are ways in which every member can make a positive contribution to the study of Egypt. Even if he finds nothing relevant in his own collection, a member is likely to see things which he did not notice before.

It has been decided to continue the New Issue detail, even though the same may possibly appear elsewhere. Cyril Defriez points out that Egypt has about 30 new issues per year, so that we shall be up to date before the end of this volume.

"LONDON 1980" is the name chosen for Britain's next International Stamp Exhibition. It will be held at Earls Court, London, W1, from 2nd to 10th May, 1980 and is likely to be bigger than our last International, "Philympia", in 1970.

ESC held a special meeting at Philympia - shall we do similarly in 1980?

What exhibits of Egypt will London 1980 have? At Philympia there were these :-

- E. Antonini - 1st three issues and earlier material
- J.H.E.Gilbert- Suez Canal, Dues, Crowned Circle, Canadian Voyageurs
- Dr G. Khouzam- Posta Europea
- "Peter Pass" - Consular and territorial post offices
- R. Jeidel - Waghorns, Transit Company, Marc Poupe
- J.E.O.Hobbs - 1932 Forces Postal Concession
- A.G.Piperno - Postage Due Stamps 1884 - 1905
- J.H.E.Gilbert- early pioneering airmail flights
- E.A. Kehr - Pioneer airmails
- J. Firebrace - Egypt & Sudan Soldiers' Mail 1882-98
- Literature - "Egyptian Topics"

Are YOU planning YOUR exhibit in London 1980? - remember that you need to have won at least a Silver Medal at National level, to qualify for entry.

Finally, apologies for having to carry over some contributions to the next issue, principally the concluding part of Jim Benians' "Hotel Postmarks".



REPORT of MEETING of the EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE held at "The Peacock", Maiden Lane,  
174th Meeting held 1978, February 1 W.C.2.

The Meeting was attended by the President, Professor P.A.S. Smith, the Chairman, J. Sears and Messrs M.S. Abou-Alam, P. Andrews, F.W. Benians, B. Blow, D.H. Clarke, G.M. Dorman, C.E.H. Defriez, J.A. Grimmer, J.S. Horesh, K.D. Knight and A. Schmidt.

The Chairman welcomed our President, Professor Peter Smith, who would be resident in London for a few months this year.

The Secretary reported that we were assured of our venue at "The Peacock" for 12 months.

The Chairman reported having discussed the possibility of a joint meeting with the Sudan Study Circle; they appeared not keen. Dennis Clarke suggested extending a meeting, rather than have an additional meeting which would cause travelling problems for some; this was approved and the Chairman would discuss further with the Sudan S.C. with a view to extending the E.S.C. Meeting on June 10 and inviting them.

The Quarterly Circular was discussed and it was agreed that we should continue to give New Issue details, even if there should then be an overlap with the content of any future issues of L'Orient Philatelique. The Editor hoped to set up a number of series, of which New Issues was one, and possibly Reports on Postmarks would be another. The Quality of illustrations of the New Issues was poor, and it was hoped to change to Xerox copying for the future. The President drew attention to the difficulty, in U.S.A., of getting binders, etc., in A4 format.

The President mentioned that the Gilbert and Danson sales in 1977 included a number of items from the De La Rue archives which were not so described.

The first subject of display by Professor Peter Smith was Travelling Post Offices. He regretted that he had little material with him, but he kindly donated to the Circle Library a photocopy of the work "L'Egypte et ses Chemins de Fer" which was an excellent source of reference to the development of the railways, and thus directly of interest as to postal communications.

The President's second subject was Postal Stationery. He reported having studied this subject recently with Charles Hass, resulting in a number of new discoveries. He showed several examples of P.S. watermark illustrations which had been improved by Charles Hass, and these were agreed to be excellent. Examples of different Arabic Script watermark were shown, also different tongue shapes, in the small size P.S. envelopes, caused by different knives. Differences in printing were shown, as between photogravure and offset half-tone, and there were different screens and different angles of the mesh. The 1953 "bars" overprints on Postal Stationery were very scarce, compared with the similar obliterations on stamps. Later P.S. issues showed considerable differences in colour. Dennis Clarke then shown an excellent range of his own P.S. collection, in support of the speaker.

The President's third subject was Intaglio Seal Cancels, and he showed a number. He noted that in some cases, e.g. the Dardanelles, the intaglio seal was the earliest type of cancel known. He considered it possible that they had some official connotation, and he considered it likely that they were originally made for use with sealing wax.

The closing display of a long meeting was given by Jim Benians, who gave the second half of his display of Hotel Postmarks.

- - - - -

Jim Benians is in the news. At the National Philatelic Society Cup Competitions on February 4, he won the Thematic Section with Egypt Hotel Posts; he also won the Postal History Section with "Hampshire".

Jim Benians' book: "EGYPT POSTAGE PREPAID MILITARY DATESTAMPS 1941-47" is to be published shortly by N.P.S. The price is not yet known, but it is hoped to have a price concession for E.S.C. members.



by Ibrahim Chaftar

SCANNED 21/9/11

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I came across this important variety in the shop of my dear friend Mr E. L. Angeloglou in 1943. Together we immediately went rapidly through the sheets and panes which this helpful Egypt stamp dealer had in stock. We found two sheets of 4 panes of 60.

The first sheet, in the light brown tint, had its four corner blocks missing, these having been sold previously as control blocks, but the variety was still in place: number 7 of the right upper pane of 60, narrow watermark inverted. This, in a block of four with upper edging attached, was then removed and, later on, was housed in the famous Egypt collection of Mr A. Ceysens.



The second sheet (of 4 panes of 60) was on toned (light buff) paper, in the dark brown tint, and its four corner blocks were missing also. The variety did not appear on number 7 of the right upper pane. I confess that we gave no special attention to the kind of watermark on this sheet.

Later, Mr Angeloglou, whose loss is so regretted, found a specimen in his used stock. This had narrow watermark upright and was also passed to Mr Ceysens.

I kept, for my personal collection, the used example with narrow watermark inverted which I had first discovered and I used it to illustrate the 1950 Zeheri Catalogue which I edited, as President of the Philatelic Society of Egypt.

That illustration\* shows clearly the details of the variety: the joining of the bottom Arabic characters, the signs of horizontal scratches below and in the bottom frame, and the curved white line under the first "re" of "masriya". I described the variety as "caractères arabes liés" (Arabic characters at bottom connected).

The study carried on by A.J.Revell: "THE WATERMARKS OF THE DE LA RUE ISSUES OF EGYPT 1879/1914" and the comments of G.T.Houston of Australia, first published in Q.C. Vol. IV, Nos 41/42 and 44, of December 1953/June 1954 and January 1955, interested me and, in my opinion, called for further investigations. My personal collection was poor in these items, as I had sold them 'en bloc' in 1942, but I was hoping to go through the A. Ceysens collection. This was the only reference collection which we had in Egypt, the whole stock of Mr Angeloglou having been destroyed in the Cairo fire in January 1952. Unfortunately, this proved not possible as Mr Ceysens died suddenly in 1957 and his collection was no longer available.

In his good article on "THE DE LA RUE FLAWS", published by Mr Lars Alund in L'O.P. No. 123 of April/Oct 1970, page 351, he gave a good description of the variety "joined characters" of the 5-paras, 1879. The author reports that he was successful in acquiring two copies, one with upright, and the other with inverted, watermarks, also a block of four with upper edging attached, including the variety. Unfortunately, we have not been informed of the colour of the stamp, paper, gum, whether watermarks narrow or wide, etc. The same author reported also that, at

/ Belgica 1972 . .

\* See 1972 Zeheri, page 55; this is not the illustration above - Editor



at Belgica 1972, Mr Marzouk of Egypt showed a 5 paras 1879 with joined inscription, but again there was no information as to colour, gum, watermark type, or whether mint or used.

Our late Keeper of the Philatelic Record of the Egypt Study Circle, Mr Charles W. Minett, reported in Q.C. Vol. VII, No. 83, September 1970, pages 189/190 on the acquisition of sheets, panes and blocks of the De La Rue issues 1879/1914 by our late Life President, Lt. Col. J.R.Danson. Our late colleague kindly made this material available to any member of the Circle wishing to study these stamps.

Mr Minett, accompanied by our late Chairman, Mr J.H.E.Gilbert, whose loss we so regret, studied the Danson material and took notes. I give below in extenso their paragraphs concerning the 5 paras 1879 :-

" 5 Paras 1879 - The "Joined Characters" Flaw (Zeheri 23b and 23d)

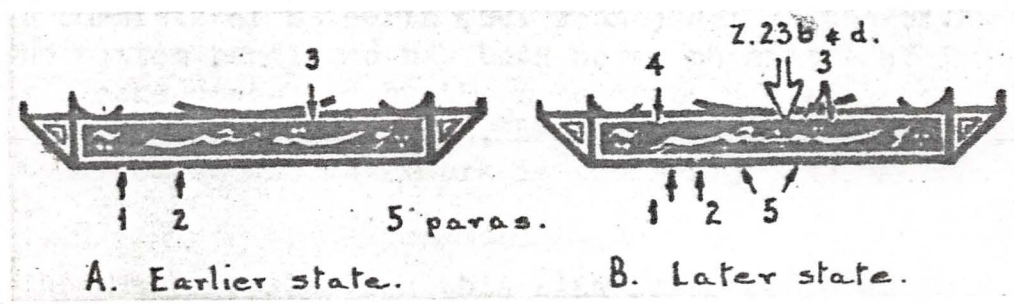
"This occurs on stamp no. 7 of the upper right hand pane of 60 (10 x 6) from the sheets of 240 (4 panes of 60 each) bearing the plate number ( 1 ),  $\frac{1}{1}$  (  $\frac{1}{1}$  )

"Col.Danson has this flaw on a sheet printed in brown on white paper with the narrow watermark inverted (Z 23d) and with white gum. In the MacArthur collection this variety occurs on a similar stamp in a top marginal block of 6 (3 x 2), only in this case the colour is very slightly deeper shade of brown.

"These two examples show also the curved white line under the first 're' of 'masriya' which, so far as I am aware, was first reported by Lars Alund (ESC No. 105) in L'O.P. No. 123 (April/October 1970) page 351. He has specimens with both normal and inverted watermark and it would be helpful if he would let us have details of the colours of the stamps, paper, watermark type and gum.

"However these flaws together with other nicks and scratches must have developed after the plate has been in use for some time since in the Danson collection there is a second sheet which shows the same stamp in an earlier state with only 3 nicks. The peculiar thing is that this sheet (which has the same plate numbers) is printed in sepia (Z 23) on heavily toned paper (light buff) with toned gum and with the wide watermark (upright), which we have considered was used for later printings. Dates of used copies would be most useful.

"The following drawings illustrate the two states :-



- "A. - The earlier state shows (at 1 and 2) nicks in the bottom frame line, and 3 is a short white scratch to the right of the two dots of the 'te' of 'Posta'.
  - "B. - The later state shows (at 1 and 2) the curved line, but only one of the nicks in the bottom frame line. At 3 there are two nicks, one being a development of the earlier scratch. At 4 there is an additional nick. At 5 there is the joining of the Arabic characters with signs of horizontal scratches below and in the bottom frame line.
- "In addition a number of flaws have been observed on Danson's sheets but only two of them occur on both sheets."



5-Paras 1879 - Joined Characters Flaw - I. Chافتار - continued

Another mention about the 5 Paras 1879 was also reported during a meeting of the Circle (Q.C. Vol VII, March 1971, page 66) :-

" . . . Ron Potter produced a complete sheet of the 1879 5 Paras (control 1 in circle at top left and bottom right; 1 in rectangular box at top right and bottom left) - of which stamp No. 33 (No. 13 in the right pane) had the Arabic characters nearly joined somewhat resembling the variety listed and illustrated by Zeheri as 23b. He was not sure that this had any connection with the more pronounced catalogue variety but it could reasonably be an early state of such. Other sheets, or panes, with the same control numbers have been seen without any trace of this flaw. It will be remembered that Lars Alund reported a top marginal block of four with the joined Arabic characters variety in the top row (L'O.P. No. 123 - page 351). Is there any connection? - No pun intended . . . "

Dr Cantel Bey, an eminent Egyptian philatelist of the last century, quoted in "CATALOGUE OFFICIEL DE LA SOCIETE FRANCAISE DE TIMBROLOGIE - 1905/6" that the Egyptian G.P.O. gave as presents to notabilities 40 imperforate sets, seven values only, the 10 paras grey being missing. This event probably took place some time before this last value was issued, 25 January 1882.

All the imperforate sets offered for sale in auctions were with narrow watermark inverted: the collection of Mackenzie Low, Dr Cecil Rix, Hinde, Dr W. Byam, Koubbeh Palace and others - all were from the bottoms of sheets.

Moustapha Pasha Fathy was the bidder for the Egypt portion of the Ferrari collection auctioned in Paris in 1925. When the Pasha disposed of it in 1942, Mr A. Ceysens acquired the unique imperforate pair set, bottom of sheet, narrow watermark inverted, which was found amongst this wonderful accumulation. Another imperforate set, bottom corner of sheet, same watermark, was added to my collection.

In 1963/64, I investigated with my friends, Me Gabriel Bouland and M. Tsamis, all the used and unused blocks or singles (several hundreds) available of the 5 paras 1879 with large watermark and we came to the conclusion that no used stamp with large watermark is dated prior to 3 February 1885. This particular stamp and another copy used 21 April 1885 are actually in my collection. No copies have been found with inverted watermark.

The paper used for the 1879/84 issues was with the narrow watermark. In the middle of the Post Office sheet, if the watermark is viewed upright, appears (reading upwards) the inscription "POSTES EGYPTIENNES" in watermark style. No student of the scene has informed us if the sheets of the 1884/88 issue have a similar watermark inscription.

This has to be investigated, and I beg the Egypt philatelists who can help to report to our Keeper of the Record, or to the Editor of L'O.P.

The details of the "spacer watermark" given by A.J. Revell (right-angled brackets in each corner of each pane to enable the printers to position the sheets) are correct regarding the issues 15 December 1884 and later.

These spacer watermark brackets are not connected one with another: the left one to the right one, neither is the left upper one with the lower left one, nor the upper right with the lower right, nor the lower left to the lower right one. The upper wing of the bracket is just a few millimetres longer than the width of the corner stamp and the side wing of the bracket is just a few millimetres longer than the side of the same corner stamp.

The spacer watermark appears on all sheets of regular postage stamps supplied by De La Rue in sheets of 240 (4 panes of 60), as from 15 December 1884 to 7 January 1914. This is the case also for the Postage Dues of 1889 and successive overprints, the "No Value" Official stamps of 1893 in sheets of 240 units, and the Official overprints on regular issues of 1884/1913.

We have to emphasize that the description of the "spacer watermarks is not

/ valid . .



5-Paras 1879 - Joined Characters Flaw - I. Chافتار - continued

valid for the 1879/84 issue: there were instead straight watermark guide-lines surrounding each pane, but having the same purpose as the right-angled brackets above described.

I have in my used collection several blocks, pairs and singles which, after benzine treatment, demonstrate this fact: a corner block of four 10-Paras mauve, which in fact is a left upper pane corner; a block of four 10-Paras grey, which is a left upper corner pane; a block of four 1-Piastre rose which is a right corner bottom pane; several pairs and singles from different positions of edges of panes; two blocks of 5-Paras 1879: one of six (3 x 2) containing the variety "joined characters" and another block of eight (4 x 2): these two blocks show the continuous watermark guide-line all along the upper row of stamps. All this material shows that the watermark guide-line runs continuously all round the panes.

This fact is important for the demonstration I intend, regarding the differences between the two 5-Paras 1879: one with the narrow watermark, inverted or upright, and the other with large watermark, which has been found upright only.

- - - - -

The details quoted in the 1967 Zeheri Catalogue relative to the issue of 1879 to 1884 give, in fact, the quantity ordered on De La Rue in July 1878\*. In the outcome we see that the needs went beyond the estimates. Two and a half years after this issue appeared, the 2,000,000 stamps of the 10-Paras mauve (all inverted narrow watermarks) were exhausted and the 1 January 1881 10-Paras lilac-rose (all inverted narrow watermarks) followed. Less than a year later, the 27 January 1882 10-Paras grey was in circulation (narrow watermark upright). The 10-Paras green was issued on 15th December 1884 (large watermark upright), less than three years later.

In January 1884, fearing a shortage of the 20-Paras, a huge stock of unwanted 5-Piastres green, 1,000,000, were overprinted 20-Paras and these were issued on 1st February 1884. We draw attention to the first quantity ordered for the 5-Piastres in 1878, which was 150,000 stamps only.

The volume of postal business had doubled in Egypt from 1880 to 1885, according to official G.P.O. statistics and certainly, after the start, additional supplies of the other values were ordered, received and used: 5-Paras, 20-Paras, 1-Piastre, 2-Piastres and 5-Piastres. This explains the different shades and position of the watermarks, upright or inverted.

It is possible that it was realised that the correct position of the watermark is to show the horns of the crescent upright, and the supplies were printed accordingly. The watermark upright started with the 10-Paras grey in 1882.

I am happy to relate here two philatelic events which I encountered in 1941 and 1944. The first one is relative to the 1-Piastre rose. During the summer of 1941, following the start of war, some foreign businessmen closed their premises, and accountancy books and furniture were on sale on handcarts in the streets of Alexandria. Mr Angeloglou bought one of these books for a few shillings, it had few pages used. When, some time later in Cairo, he was about to use the book, what was his surprise when, in its pages, he came across a brand-new brilliant mint complete sheet of 240 stamps of the 1-Piastre rose-red with the controls (1) 1 with narrow watermark upright.

1 (1)

This sheet was later sold at a good price to Mr Ceysens. I wonder where this sheet is now, as I think it is unique !

The other event is that, one day in 1944, I found a genuine 10-Paras grey, with full original white gum, but perforated 12 instead of 14 and UNWATERMARKED. I started correspondence with my friends in London, Dr W. Byam and others, in the hope of getting information about that stamp. They were unable to give me any. During the London International Stamp Exhibition, 1950, a senior Distinguished Philatelist kindly let me enjoy viewing a unique and wonderful Egypt Collection.

/ On . .

\* See Document No. 7, L'O.P. No. 89, January 1955, page 55 - from the article which I published under "Les émissions De La Rue de 1879/1906" - Author.



5-Paras 1879 - Joined Characters Flaw - I. Chافتar - continued

On an album page we came across a second similar copy of this 10-Para grey: full original white gum, perforated 12 instead of 14 and UNWATERMARKED. This kind of stamp, the kind gentleman explained to me, was used by stamp printers as samples to be shown to potential customers. I have never come across or heard of another such 10-paras grey.

- - - - -

If we examine closely the Postal Notice dated 20 November 1884, announcing the issue of 15 December 1884, we can read :-

"The General Postal Direction has the honour to inform the public that this Administration is issuing to the public new stamps of 10-paras and 20 paras, and 1 piastre and 5 piastres, in the following colours :-

- |           |   |       |            |   |      |
|-----------|---|-------|------------|---|------|
| 10 paras  | - | green | 20 paras   | - | pink |
| 1 piastre | - | blue  | 5 piastres | - | grey |

"This new issue will come into circulation after December 15 next. The stamps of similar values, now in circulation, will continue to be available either solely or in conjunction with the new ones, for franking correspondence up to December 1885, after which date they will be no longer current and will cease to be accepted by the Egyptian Post Offices.

"The stamps of 5 paras and 2 piastres will continue to be the same as those actually current."

I have underlined the last paragraph of this notice. It is thus established that, during the validity of this issue, the 5 paras 1879 continued to be used, from 15 December 1884 to 30 June 1888. These were nominally the same colour but in fact the colour became sepia or dark brown, printed on toned paper (light buff), with toned gum and with wide crescent watermark. As a matter of fact we see also that the new 10 paras green was printed on the same heavy toned paper.

The quantity issued of the 5 paras 1884 must have been nearly the same as for the 5 paras 1879 because, although it was in use for only 3½ years against 5½ years for the 1879, the volume of postal business continued to progress. The statistics of the G.P.O. inform us that, if the quantities dealt with in the chapter: "Newspapers, Visit-cards, Printed Matter, Samples . ." increased during the 1880-85 period to double the amount of the previous period, that of 1885-1890 was at least 40% more than the previous period, 1880-85.

We can now distinguish philatelically between the two printings of this 5 paras, as follows :-

5 Paras	1879
Narrow Watermark	Revell Type I

- - - - -

- A - PAPER
- a) White machine paper, medium wove with a well-finished surface, similar to the paper used to print British Crown Colonies during the same period. White gum.
  - b) There were 240 stamps on the sheet, arranged in four panes containing 10 horizontal by 6 units = 60 stamps. The two upper panes are separated from the two lower panes by a margin of 10 mm, unwatermarked. A "gutter" width 25mm separates the two right panes from the two left panes.

B - WATERMARK  
Revell Type I: NARROW crescent, width across the horns of the crescent 13mm and a five-pointed star the height of which is greater than the width; overall height from the underside of the crescent to the top of the star 14 mm.

5-Paras 1879 - Joined Characters Flaw - I. Chaftar - continued

characteristics of the 5-paras 1879 - continued

- C - GUIDE-LINE WATERMARK
  - 1) Continuous watermark guide-line all round each of the four panes. Watermark registration points: small watermark crosses appear in six positions in the sheet margins.
  - 2) Was there a continuous watermark guide-line to assist in cutting each sheet correctly from the next? This point has to be investigated and reported to the Circle, please!
- D - WATERMARK POSITION
 

At the beginning of the issue: watermark inverted for all values. Then, further supplies: upright.
- E - POSTES EGYPTIENNES
 

Inscribed in double line, sans-serif capitals, in watermark style, in the whole length of the vertical margin "gutter" between the four panes of the sheet of 240 stamps: reading up, when the watermark is upright.

-----  
 5 Paras 1884  
 Wide Watermark Revell Type II  
 -----

- A - PAPER
  - a) Nearly the same paper as for the 5 paras 1879, except that it is toned (light buff); gum toned. Paper at least used also for the 10 paras green, same issue.
  - b) Same arrangement in four panes of 60, and same disposition for the "gutter" and the separation between the panes.
- B - WATERMARK
 

Revell Type II: LARGE crescent. Dimensions the reverse of Type I: width across the horns of the crescent 14 mm, and a five-pointed star the width of which is greater than the height. Overall height from the underside of the crescent to the top of the star 13 mm.
- C - SPACER WATERMARK
  - a) Right-angled brackets as spacer watermark at the four corners of each pane. Registration points: six small crosses watermarked in the corner of each pane.
  - b) Continuous watermark guide-line to allow registration for correctly cutting each sheet from the next one.
- D - POSITION OF WATERMARK
 

Always upright - never met inverted.
- E - GUTTER
 

I have no definite information on the "gutter" margin between panes of the sheet with wide watermark. This has to be investigated and reported to the Circle, please!

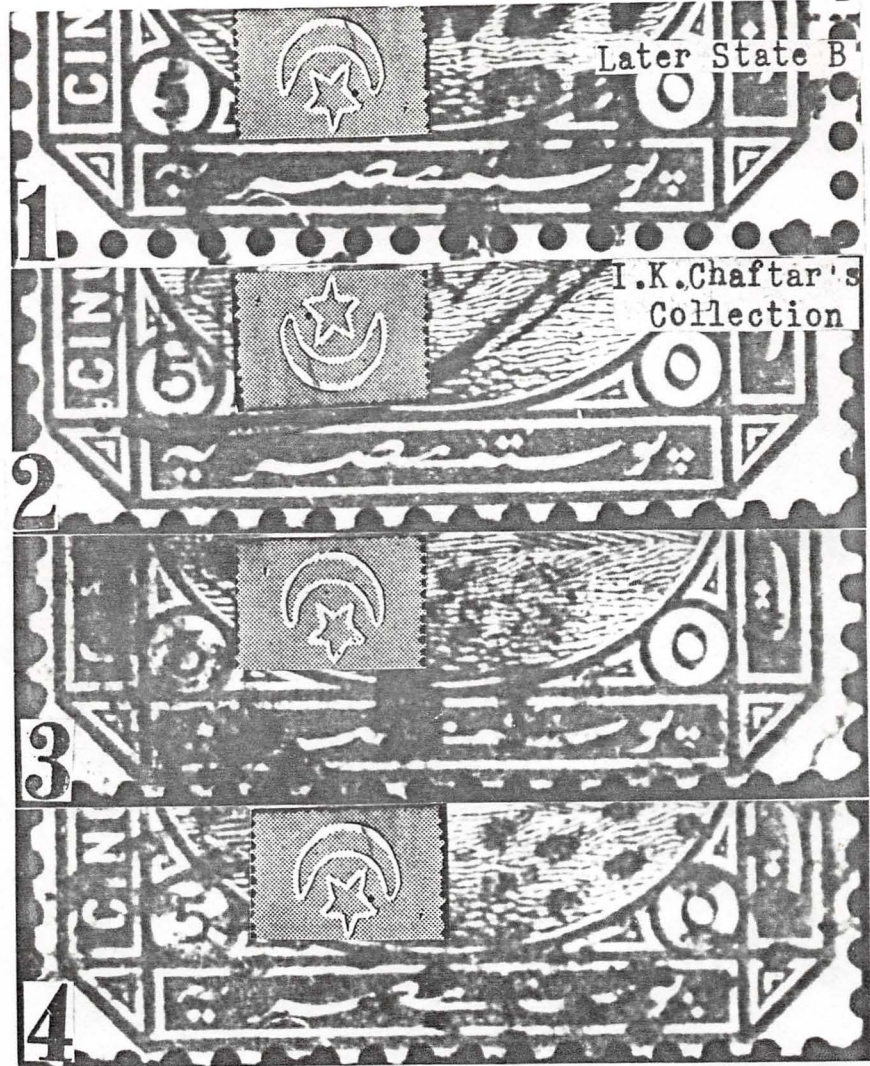
N.B. For information: De La Rue introduced the use of "Jubilee" lines and "Pillars" in G.B. only in 1887. It is probable that these improvements were applied to the Egypt stamps as from 1888 issue.

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 5 Paras 1879 "Joined Characters" Flaw  
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From among the few stamps put aside during the last fifteen years, I have found four used specimens of the variety "Joined Characters". The variety occurs, in its full development, only on stamps with narrow watermark: Revell Type I (See next page for photograph of 'Later State B').

These four stamps, numbered in large figures '1, 2, 3 & 4' show the curved line under the "re" of "Masriya" and all the different nicks described by C.W. Minett.





1  
2  
3  
4

They are all with narrow watermarks, Revell Type I: Nos 1, 3 & 4 inverted; No. 2 upright.

All of them are obviously light brown. No. 1 is dated 2 NOV 79 TI SUEZ, Poste Egiziane, V.R. removed, type Blomfield III-5, and the variety is the left top stamp in a used block of six (3 x 2). The three upper stamps show a continuous thin watermark guide-line on the top of the body of the inverted crescents.

Stamp No. 2 shows this thin watermark guide-line, on the horns of the crescent of the upright narrow watermark, for the whole width of the stamp.

On the narrow inverted watermarks of Stamps 3 & 4, this thin watermark guide-line is on the whole width of the stamp and on the top of the body of the inverted crescent.

When the registration watermark crosses of a sheet are incorrectly slowed down before printing, the watermarked guide-line becomes visible on the sheet. This fact helped me to recognise the variety "joined characters" as this line proves that the 'patient' under examination is a top-edge stamp.

N.B. - it should be noted that the nicks Nos 1, 2, 3 & 4 developed in the upper and lower white frame lines. This means that some "ink crust" must have formed and then been cleaned with an instrument, which is the origin of the damage to these frames in the creation of the nicks.



## 5-Paras 1879 -- Joined Characters Flaw -- I. Chaftar -- continued

On no other stamp, amongst the hundreds examined, have I found such nicks or differences in the evenness of the frame width, as is seen on the stamp having the "joined characters" flaw, both earlier and later states.

The printing base used by De La Rue was a plate to print a Post Office sheet of 240 stamps, divided into four panes of 60 units. It was the practice of this firm, at that time, to take as many separate lead moulds from the die, as there were to be units of the printing plate of 60; these were then clamped together in a special chase and built around with solid metal furniture, and a shell of copper was deposited by electrolysis. After further operations, this first pane of 60 was strengthened and used to make other identical panes of 60 by electrolysis. Four panes were then assembled to form a printing plate, which was then strongly backed, trimmed and finally coated with steel facing to resist wear.

When I started to study the "joined characters" variety, and bearing in mind the De La Rue method of building the pane of 60 units, and when I found the Earlier State A of the variety, showing not only the different nicks described but also a thin, nearly invisible, white line joining the characters, I thought it was a 'primary' defect which should be repeated on the other three panes. After scrutinising a good number of the 5 paras 1879/1884, I came to the conclusion that it was a defect which came "abrupto" only on stamp No. 7 of the upper right pane during the printing operation.

After running off a quantity of sheets, the plate slowly became cracked and scratched so that the printing surface (the 'ups' between the Arabic words "Bosta" and "Masriya") was bent inwards, so becoming a 'down' non-printing surface, thus creating the Earlier State of the variety, State A, and then the Later State B on that particular stamp, with watermarks of the narrow Revell Type I.

I must add that the printing of a small quantity, such as was ordered for the 5 paras 1879, involved printing only about 8,000 sheets of 240 units, and this would have been done 'in no time', so to say, by the team of the De La Rue handpress workmen, and this in several batches as necessary during the life of this particular stamp, 1879 to 1884.

I give here enlargements of the lower panels of five stamps, number 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, which I have collected, showing the Earlier State A of this interesting variety (please see illustrations on next page).

Here we come to a puzzle which needs some effort to be properly understood. I will describe these stamps separately and I would draw attention to the fact that numbers 3, 4 and 7 are on the paper I called previously the "5 paras 1884" with the new large crescent watermark, Revell Type II (always upright). The other two stamps, number 5 and 6, have the characteristic narrow crescent watermark, Revell Type I, of the first printings of the 1879 issue. I have recently come across another used copy, identical to No. 6, which I have not illustrated here.

Stamp No. 3 - A mint stamp, printed in brown with WIDE upright watermark on a heavily-toned paper (light buff), toned gum. This specimen shows the nick No. 3 of the Earlier State, also the 'sui generis' curved line and all the three nicks Nos 1 & 2 in the bottom frame line.

I must add that there is visible, although faint, a white line joining the Arabic characters, which developed in subsequent printing to form the variety "joined characters".

A new feature to be noted: letter 'sad' of 'masriya' is open on its left side, transforming this letter into 'ha'. The word now reads 'mahriya' which has no meaning. There is NO THIN WATERMARK GUIDE-LINE.

Stamp No. 4 - A mint stamp printed in brown with WIDE upright watermark on a heavily-toned paper (light buff). Same description as Stamp No. 3. One faint nick at No. 3. Opened 'sad' as on Stamp No. 3. NO THIN WATERMARK GUIDE-LINE.





- Stamp No. 5 - A used specimen printed in light brown, NARROW upright watermark. Two nicks at No. 3 and another at No. 4, which shows only on the later state of the printings. The 'sui generis' curved line is showing faintly. Nicks Nos. 1 & 2 show. The faint, but visible, white line joining the Arabic characters is there. Here the letter 'sad' is intact. THIN WATERMARK GUIDE-LINE, the whole width of the stamp.
- Stamp No. 6 - A used specimen printed in light brown, NARROW inverted watermark. Two nicks are visible at 4; the 'sui generis' curved line and the nicks Nos 1 & 2 are showing. The white line joining the Arabic characters is present. Two nicks show at No. 3. Opened 'sad', as stamp No. 3. THIN WATERMARK GUIDE-LINE, the whole width of the stamp.
- Stamp No. 7 - A used specimen printed in brown on white paper, WIDE upright watermark. Two nicks visible at No. 4. The 'sui generis' curved line and the nicks Nos. 1 & 2 are showing. The white line joining the Arabic characters is present; there are two nicks at No. 3. Opened 'sad', as stamp No. 3. NO THIN WATERMARK GUIDE-LINE.



A New Minor Variety

Three used specimens, Nos. 8, 9 & 10, illustrated below, show a new minor variety, now reported for the first time. The Arabic letter 're' of 'masriya' shows a white protuberance with a printed dot in the colour of the stamp in the middle. Also, this letter 're' is thicker than the normal. This protuberance changes the pronunciation of the word 'masriya' into 'masweya', because it transforms the letter 're' into 'waw'.

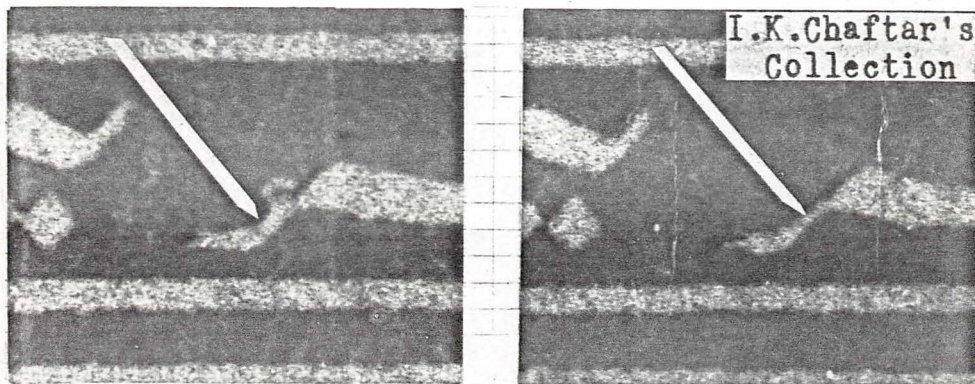
This variety is constant, but its position is unknown. These three specimens are all with the narrow watermark, Revell Type I, inverted on Stamp No. 8, but on Nos. 9 & 10 it is upright. The colour is light brown.

Since the manuscript of this article was written, a mint copy with this variety has been found: narrow watermark inverted, white paper and gum.



Thickened letter 're'

Normal





## C O N C L U S I O N

As I said previously, to try to analyse what happened to the printing plate used for the 5-paras De La Rue 1879 & 1884, we have the following facts to consider :-

(a) The 5-paras 1879 was first printed from a plate of 240 units, divided into four panes of 60 units, each pane of 10 horizontal units by 6 vertical rows, with two joined horizontal panes positioned adjoining two other similar panes of 60 units, Control (1) - 1  
1 - (1)

The paper is watermarked with the narrow crescent, Revell Type I. Each pane has a continuous watermark guide-line all around.

The variety "Joined Characters Flaw" is visible on that printing in State A (Earlier State), i.e. the Arabic characters not yet joined, but there are the three characteristic nicks noted as Nos. 1, 2 & 3. That noted as No. 3 consists of short scratches to the right of letter 'te' of 'Poste'. But there is also a very thin, nearly invisible, white line joining the characters.

(b) Then, during subsequent printings, State B (the Later State) developed. This has the curved line between nicks Nos. 1 & 2. Nick No. 4 appeared and, at No. 5, the complete "joined Arabic characters", with signs of horizontal scratches, below and in the bottom frame line.

Probably, during the following years, there were further printings from the same plate but, in 1884, new colours were introduced for some values, although the 5-paras and the 2-piastres values retained the same colours as for the 1879 printing.

In the meantime, a new style paper was used and a new watermark introduced: large crescent, Revell Type II, with a new layout of the partition watermark guide-lines; there are no watermark guide-lines all round the panes of 60, but a right-angled bracket watermark at each angle of the four panes of 60 units: size, a little more than the width of a stamp. Query: any text watermarked in the vertical space which divided the sheet of 240 units into two adjoining vertical double panes.

However, before printing the new order of 1884, the plate of the 5-paras had to be put into expert hands to be repaired and to eliminate the crack in the electrotype shell of 60 units which was the cause of the variety "Joined Arabic Characters Flaw", Zeheri 23b and 23d. For this purpose, the back of the plate had to be stripped and cleaned, and the skilled worker had to push back the edges of the crack in the metal to the correct level, to produce a flush surface capable of printing correctly again. But because the crack was not soldered, the thin white line joining the characters remained and was reproduced on the printed sheets: thus we also have the Earlier State A on the 5-paras 1884.

We have, then, this first Earlier State A (with nearly invisible white line joining the Arabic characters) on the two types of paper of the 5-paras 1879: narrow crescent, Revell Type I, and the large crescent Revell Type II. If, by chance the paper was wrongly positioned, we can see part of the watermarked guide-line on the 1879 paper, but not on the 1884 paper. But both these stamps will show the Earlier State A variety, with the thin, nearly invisible, line joining the characters.

This is my explanation of the appearance of the Earlier State A and the Later State B of the 1879 and 1884 issues of the 5-paras printed by De La Rue. I shall be grateful to any of my readers who have any comment on the opinions expressed as to these interesting varieties and who would communicate with me at this address: Ibrahim Chaftar, 8 Rue 47, Smouha, Alexandria, Egypt; or with the Editor of L'O.P., Cairo.

NEW ISSUES

(all stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R. Egypt)

<u>Commemorative stamps</u>	<u>SG 1240</u>	<u>SG 1241</u>
Occasion	Refugees Propaganda	UNESCO Campaign for Preservation of Nubian Monuments
Date of Issue	24 October 1974	24 October 1974
Designer	Ibrahim el Torky	Waheeb Farag
Design	"Agression Registers"	Philae Temple
Denomination	20 mills	55 mills
Sheet	35 stamps (5 x 7)	50 stamps (5 x 10)
Stamp dimensions	40 x 40 mm	25 x 42 mm
Perforation	11½	11 x 11½
Watermark	Multiple Eagle	Multiple Eagle
Quantity printed	1,000,000	400,000
Supplementary	To remind the World of their fair case and their right to return to their motherland	The island of Philae contains some of the most beautiful monuments which are partly submerged in the River Nile.

<u>Commemorative stamps</u>	<u>SG 1242</u>	<u>SG 1243</u>
Occasion	Greetings stamp	International Savings Day
Date of Issue	7 November 1974	7 November 1974
Designer	E. Calivis	Ibrahim el Torky
Design	Arum Lily	Pile of coins
Denomination	10 mills	20 mills
Sheet	100	50
Stamp dimensions	25 x 30 mm	43 x 25 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½	11½ x 11
Watermark	Multiple Eagle	Multiple Eagle
Quantity printed	?	?

<u>Commemorative stamp</u>	<u>SG 1244</u>
Occasion	Health Insurance Organisation
Date of issue	7 November 1974
Designer	Lofty el Sawaf
Design	Organisation and Cameos
Denomination	30 mills
Sheet	35
Stamp dimensions	40 x 40 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½
Watermark	Multiple Eagle
Quantity printed	?



NEW ISSUES

(all stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R.Egypt)

<u>Commemorative stamps</u>	<u>SG 1245</u>	<u>SG 1246</u>
Occasion	. . . . . Famous Egyptians . . . . .	
Date of Issue	. . . . . 8 December 1974 . . . . .	
Designer	?	?
Design	Abbas Mahmoud el Akkad (writer)	Mustafa Lufty el Manfalouty (journalist)
Denomination	20 mills	20 mills
Sheet	. . . . . Issued se-tenant in horizontal pairs . . . . .	
Stamp dimensions	25 x 43 mm	25 x 43 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½	11 x 11½
Watermark	. . . . . Multiple Eagle . . . . .	
Quantity printed	?	?

<u>Commemorative stamps</u>	<u>SG 1247</u>	<u>SG 1248</u>	<u>SG 1249</u>	<u>SG 1250</u>
Occasion	. . . Post Day - Ancient Treasures . . .			
Date of Issue	. . . . . 2 January 1975 . . . . .			
Designer	. . . . . H. Y. Mikhail . . . . .			
Design	Sacred Ibis (Maat facing Thoth)	Glass 'fish' vase	Pharaonic gold vase	'Sign of Life' mirror
Denomination	20 mills	30 mills	55 mills	110 mills
Sheet	. . . . . 50 stamps . . . . .			
Stamp dimensions	50 x 30 mm	50 x 30 mm	30 x 50 mm	30 x 50 mm
Perforation	11	11	11	11
Watermark	. . . . . Multiple Eagle . . . . .			
Quantity printed	. . . . . 1,000,000 . . . . .			

<u>Commemorative stamps</u>	<u>SG 1251</u>	<u>SG 1252</u>
Occasion	Om Kolthoum commemoration	Mohamed's Birthday
Date of Issue	13 March 1975	25 March 1975
Designer	Lofty el Sawaf	Saber Ahmed Saida
Design	Om Kolthoum (Arab singer)	Crescent, Globe, El Kaaba and Aksa Mosque
Denomination	20 mills	20 mills
Sheet	50 stamps (10 x 5)	50 stamps (10 x 5)
Stamp Dimensions	30 x 50 mm	30 x 50 mm
Perforation	11	11½
Watermark	Multiple Eagle	Multiple Eagle
Quantity printed	1,500,000	1,000,000
Supplementary	All the Arabs knew her and her fame spread all over the world. She left an inheritance in the art of singing, immortalising her for ever.	

NEW ISSUES

(all stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R.Egypt)

<u>Commemorative stamps</u>	<u>SG 1253</u>	<u>SG 1254</u>
Occasion	Cairo International Fair	World Health Day
Date of issue	25 March 1975	7 May 1975
Designer	Fahima Abdel Azime Ali	Lofty el Sawaf
Design	Emblem of the Fair	Kasr el Ainy Hospital
Denomination	20 mills	20 mills
Sheet	50 stamps (10 x 5)	50 stamps (5 x 10)
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm	43 x 26 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½	11½ x 11
Watermark	Multiple Eagle	Multiple Eagle
Quantity printed	1,000,000	1,000,000
Supplementary	The Fair was situated on an island surrounded by gardens and hotels. Representatives from many countries met to show their industrial progress	The hospital is the oldest in Egypt. The building once belonged to a rich leader of the Mamelukes.

<u>Commemorative stamps</u>	<u>SG 1255</u>	<u>SG 1256</u>
Occasion	. . . . . S c i e n c e D a y . . . . .	. . . . .
Date of issue	. . . . . 7 M a y 1 9 7 5 . . . . .	. . . . .
Designer	Waheeb Farag	Saber Saida
Design	Children reading book	Pupils and graph
Denomination	20 mills	20 mills
Sheet	50 stamps (5 x 10)	50 stamps (5 x 10)
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm	26 x 43 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½	11 x 11½
Watermark	Multiple Eagle	Multiple Eagle
Quantity printed	1,000,000	1,000,000
Supplementary	Education based on science and faith achieves progress in the economic development of the state.	

<u>Commemorative stamps</u>	<u>SG 1257</u>	<u>SG 1258</u>	<u>SG 1259</u>
Occasion	. . . . . R e - o p e n i n g o f t h e S u e z C a n a l . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
Date of issue	. . . . . 5 J u n e 1 9 7 5 . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
Designers	. . . . . S a b e r S a i d a & L y d i a F a r i d . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
Design	. . . . . P r e s i d e n t S a d a t a n d S h i p s . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
Denomination	20 mills (postage)	30 mills (air)	110 mills (air)
Sheet	50 stamps	50 stamps	50 stamps
Stamp dimensions	62 x 29 mm	62 x 29 mm	62 x 29 mm
Perforation	11½	11½	11½
Watermark	. . . . . M u l t i p l e E a g l e . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
Quantity printed	1,000,000	500,000	500,000



NEW ISSUES

(all stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R.Egypt)

<u>Commemorative stamps</u>	<u>SG 1260</u>	<u>SG 1261</u>
Occasion	Festivals 1975	25th Anniversary, International Irrigation & Drainage Commission
Date of issue	20 July 1975	20 July 1975
Designer	Saber Saida	Lydia Farid
Design	Belmabgoknis flower	The I.C.I.D. Emblem
Denomination	10 mills	110 mills (air)
Sheet	100	50
Stamp dimensions	25 x 30 mm	43 x 26 mm
Perforation	11	11 x 11½
Watermark	Multiple Eagle	Multiple Eagle
Quantity printed	5,000,000	1,000,000

<u>Commemorative stamps</u>	<u>SG 1262</u>	<u>SG 1263</u>	<u>SG 1264</u>
Occasion	. . . . . 23rd Anniversary of the Revolution . . . . .		
Date of issue	. . . . . 23 July 1975 . . . . .		
Designer	A. Saladine	Ibrahim el Torky	Saber Saida
Design	Spotlight on village	'Son et Lumiere' display	Tourist map of Egypt
Denomination	20 mills	20 mills	110 mills
Sheet	35	50	6 stamps (2 x 3)
Stamp dimensions	40 x 40 mm	43 x 26 mm	76 x 85 mm
Perforation	11½	11½ x 11	11 x 11½
Watermark	. . . . . Multiple Eagle . . . . .		
Quantity printed	1,000,000	1,000,000	75,000

<u>Commemorative stamps</u>	<u>SG 1265</u>	<u>SG 1266</u>	<u>SG 1267</u>	<u>SG 1268</u>	<u>SG 1269</u>
Occasion	. . . . . 6th Arab School Sports Tournament . . . . .				
Date of issue	. . . . . 2 August 1975 . . . . .				
Designer	. . . . . Ibrahim el Torky . . . . .				
Design	Volleyball	Running	Tournament Emblem	Basket Ball	Football
Denomination	20 mills	20 mills	20 mills	20 mills	20 mills
Sheet	The five stamps were issued se-tenant in horizontal strips, within the sheet.				
Stamp dimensions	. . . . . 26 x 43 mm . . . . .				
Perforation	. . . . . 11 x 11½ . . . . .				
Watermark	. . . . . Multiple Eagle . . . . .				
Quantity printed	?	?	?	?	?

NEW ISSUES

Note: Not all illustrations are actual size - please see dimensions given in data.



SG 1240



SG 1241



SG 1242



SG 1243



SG 1245

SG 1246



SG 1244



SG 1247



SG 1248



SG 1249



SG 1250



SG 1251



SG 1252



SG 1253



SG 1254



NEW ISSUES



SG 1255



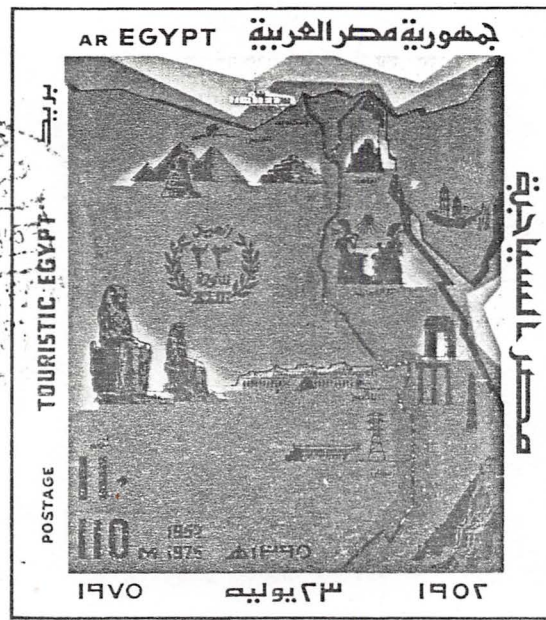
SG 1256



SG 1257



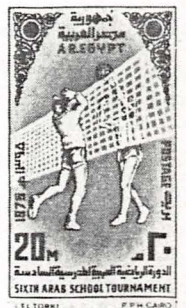
SG 1260



SG 1264



SG 1261



SG 1265



SG 1262



SG 1263



## THE STATE POST FOUNDED BY MOHAMMED ALI

by Professor P. A. S. Smith (ESC 74)

Civilian postal service in Egypt is commonly thought of as beginning with the Posta Europea in 1832, and even most specialists are only vaguely aware of the courier service developed by Mohammed Ali at an earlier date. In fact, the private postal service operated by Carlo Meratti, which became the Posta Europea under Tito Chini, served only Cairo and Alexandria. It remained confined to the two main cities until the 1850's, when Giacomo Muzzi expanded the service to other towns in the Delta. Even the expanded service never reached south of Cairo, and Upper Egypt was not included in the Khedivial Post until 1873. These great gaps in postal service in Egypt were partly filled by the official state couriers.

Much less is known about the "Post of Mohammed Ali", owing to the rarity of surviving letters carried by it. The only substantial source of information is the book "Les Postes en Egypte", published by the Egyptian Post Office on the occasion of the Postal Union Congress held in Cairo in 1934. Mohammed Ali was appointed Governor of Egypt in 1805. At some time after that, he established a messenger service between Cairo and the principal provincial towns, strictly for government purposes.

According to "Les Postes en Egypte", the courier service was by runners in relays, and was a daily operation, requiring 24 hours for passage between Cairo and Alexandria. For Middle Egypt (south of Cairo), the service was weekly, and for Upper Egypt, monthly. After the conquest of the Sudan in 1821, the service was extended to Khartoum, by means of camels; a letter from Cairo to Khartoum is said to have required fifty days !

"Les Postes en Egypte" states that the service was at first placed under the direction of Sheikh Omar el Hamad, who was later succeeded by Hassan el Badihi. Although the service was closed to the public, private individuals could apply to el Badihi to arrange the hire of a messenger. This system eventually evolved to an established arrangement for including private messages in the pouches of the official couriers, on payment of a fee according to weight and distance. The unit of weight was the dirhem (1 dirhem equals 3.12 grams). For Middle Egypt, "Les Postes en Egypte" states that the charge varied between 10 and 30 paras; for Upper Egypt, the charge rose from one to three piastres, and for the Sudan, the charge per dirhem ranged from 3 pi. 25 para to 6 pi. 5 para.

It is stated that the state service in the Delta was closed as the Posta Europea expanded, and later, as the Khedivial Post that succeeded the Posta Europea was extended up the Nile to Middle and Upper Egypt, the state courier service contracted accordingly. The latter thus lasted until 1874, when the Khedivial Post made its grand expansion to Khartoum and beyond, embracing the principal towns of Upper Egypt and the Sudan.

Philatelic evidence of the operation of this postal service is sketchy, and letters carried by it are so rare that not more than a half dozen examples from any one office are recorded in the Record of the Circle. The only ones to come up at auction in the last fifteen years, to my knowledge, were the three in the Byam sale. None were shown at Philypia or SIPEX, and only one exhibit at INTERPHIL 76 included any. It is the recording of four new examples by Erich Häffele that prompts this article.

Nothing from the earliest period of this post is known, although examples may well be lying about unrecognized. It seems unlikely that handstamped postal markings were used in the early period, a circumstance that would detract greatly from their philatelic interest, and thus might explain their obscurity. The known examples date from the 1850's, and are characterized by small intaglio seal handstamps inscribed "bosta", the name of the office, and the year in which the seal was engraved. Four such seals are known: Girga, Esna, Qena and Asyut. These small markings, commonly poorly struck, are not very prominent, and might easily



## The State Post founded by Mohammed Ali - continued

be overlooked; consequently, it is not unlikely that others exist, but have not been recognized for what they are.

The inscribed dates are in the Moslem calendar. The earliest is that of Qena, "71", which is 1271 A.H. or 1855 A.D. The dates of letters bearing these seals may be many years later, however, and can only be determined if there is a manuscript notation inside, or if the cover bears supplementary date stamps applied if the letter was forwarded through the Khedivial or other post. The dates listed in the accompanying table summarize what has been seen.

The seals are found struck on either the front or back of the letters, and may have functioned as a frank. However, they are invariably accompanied by a manuscript notation referring to the weight of the letter and the fee paid. The available examples are so few that the basis of the charge is still obscure, but it seems likely that both weight and distance were involved. Weights were expressed in dirhems (1 dirhem is 3.12 grams), and the charges in either paras ("fadda") or piastres, but the notations were so hastily scrawled that it is very difficult to be sure what they say. One letter from Girga to Cairo is inscribed "1 dirhem / 1 piastre", whereas another one travelling the same route is inscribed "30 fadda". In any event, postage appears to have been paid to destination, for there are no postage due markings. This is so regardless of whether the letter was handled entirely by the state post, or was forwarded for part of the distance by the Khedivial Post. Some of the letters bear the additional handstamp "Franca".

Generalizations are dangerous when based on such limited evidence, so it may be better to describe and illustrate specific covers.

GIRGA

- I. undated inside or out; presumed to be early owing to the absence of markings of the Khedivial Post; addressed to Cairo in Arabic and Greek; endorsed "paid by Mr Hawaza Idiaby 2 fadda" on the front, and "dirhem 2 / piastre 2" and the name of the receiving official on the back; struck with the seal of Girga in gray-black on the back.
- II. (illustration 1) dated February 1873; addressed in Arabic to "Cairo, Muski garden, Patriarchate, Anbar Avanosios Bishop of Coptic Catholics in Egypt"; endorsed "bosta Sohag" and "answered 19 - - -" on the front, "30 fadda as fees" on back; struck with the seal of Girga in gray-black, and the c.d.s. of Cairo in Type IV-3.1 dated 12 / 4 / 73 / T3 on the back, and the c.d.s. of Siut in Type IV-2.5m dated 1(5) / FEB / 1873 / T and "Franca" in Type Fr-3 on the front.
- III. (illustration 2) (Häffele collection) dated in 1873 (date stamps); addressed in Arabic "from Sohag to Cairo, Archdeacon Agha Bioosh of the Coptic Catholics - - -"; endorsed "to be delivered through the kindness of - - -" on front, and "dirhem 1 / piastre 1" on the back; struck with the seal of Girga and the c.d.s. of Cairo dated 4 FEB 1873 T II in Type III-2.5m on the back, and the c.d.s. of Siut in Type IV-2.5n dated 1 FEB 1873 T I and "Franca" in Type Fr-3 on the front.

QENA

- I. (illustration 3) (Smith collection, ex Fox) dated at Luxor, 20th February, 1858; addressed in Italian to "Sig. B. Biondelli digniss. Professore e Direttore dell'I.R. Gabinetto Numismatico / I.R. Accademia di Brera / Milano / Italia", plus Arabic inscription consigning the letter to the care of a Mr. Kunschler, agent of the Austrian Post in Cairo; endorsed in Arabic on the back "weight - - - / 25 twenty-five - - -"; struck on the reverse with the seal of Qena, Italian c.d.s. "MILANO 21/3", and rectangular boxed PORTALETTE / 1 DISTRIBUZIONE; on the front is struck faintly in bluish the Austrian c.d.s. ALEXANDRIEN / 8 / 3; manuscript "9/9" is marked in red crayon on the face. This letter is the only one I know of that is addressed outside of Egypt; the content is an almost euphoric description of the ancient monuments.



QENA

- II. (Häffele collection) dated April 1873 (date stamps); addressed to Agios Brohai (?) -- Muski, at Cairo; endorsed at top left "Father Michael --", and at lower left, "paid for by Father Michael Beghar Ghorsi"; on reverse, "4 (g. ?) / 1 (?) pi.", and a number which may be a date "1289" or "1589"; struck on back with the seal of Qena and the c.d.s. of Cairo in Type IV-3.1 dated unclearly, and on the front with the c.d.s. of Siut in Type IV-2.5n dated 3 APR 1873 T I.
- III. (Häffele collection, ex Byam) dated March 1868 (date stamp), addressed to Lady John Scott, Lauder, Berwickshire, Scotland; endorsed on the front in Arabic "at the hand of Mustafa -- at Luxor", and "to blessed Cairo / to be given to the headmaster of English School". On the back is the intaglio seal of Qena, the circular date stamp of Minia (Type II-2n) 27 MARZ 68 3T, the date stamp of Lauder (arrival) AP 14 1868; there is also a scrawled reckoning of weight and charges, but the meaning is uncertain. The front bears a second strike of the Minia date stamp, dated one day later (28 Marz), and the circular date stamp of the British Post Office at Cairo AP 1 68.

This cover was clearly handled by the civil postal service from Minia onwards, for the railway had by this date been extended to Minia. There are no postage due markings, and no indication about how the postage from Cairo to Scotland was paid.

- IV. (Häffele collection, ex Byam). This is also an envelope dated December 1871 (date stamp); addressed to Mrs Ewing, American Mission, Cairo; endorsed on the front in Arabic "mail from Pastor Ewing postage paid", and "from Qous to Cairo / to be delivered to Miss Ewing at the American School". The front also shows the circular date stamp of Roda (Type III-2.5n) 12 DIC 1871 T1, and the back bears the Qena intaglio seal and the circular date stamp of Cairo (Type III-2.5n) 13 DIC 1871 T III, as well as a scrawled reckoning of weight and charges, not readily decipherable.

This cover is interesting for the evidence it gives that there was no office at Qous; presumably the letter was carried by private hand to the nearest office, Qena. By this date, the civil post had been extended further down the Nile, to Roda.

In addition to these covers, it is worth noting that a loose copy of the 2 piastre stamp of the Second Issue is known cancelled with the same Qena intaglio seal (Häffele collection, ex Gilbert).

ASYUT

- I. (Smith collection, ex Byam) envelope dated in April, 1870 (date stamps); addressed to Mrs. Ewing, American Mission, Cairo; inscribed in Arabic on the face "to Cairo" and "from Dr. Watson / fee paid"; endorsed on the back with cryptic indication of weight and fee, presumably; struck with the seal of Asyut, and the c.d.s. of Cairo in Type III-2.5n dated 3 APR 1870 T III on the back, and on the front with the c.d.s. of Minia in Type III-2.5n dated 3 APR 1870.
- II. (Häffele collection) dated March, 1872 (date stamps), year date 1288 (A.H.) inside; addressed to Cairo, Avonsios Bishai Bishop of Coptic Catholics -- --; endorsed on the front "sent through the kind offices of Father Toma of Minia Monastery", and on the back with notation of weight and fee which seems to be "43 g / 120 fadda"; struck on the reverse with the seal of Asyut in bluish and the c.d.s. of Cairo in Type III-2.5n dated 8 MAR 1872 T III, and on the front with the c.d.s. of Roda in Type III-2.5n dated 7 MAR 1872 T I. (illustration 5).

The foregoing examples are chosen only because they are the ones available to me, as originals or photocopies. One can conclude from them that there were no offices at Sohag or Luxor, since letters originating at those places were post-marked with the seals of offices downstream from them. The rates paid, insofar as they can be deciphered, do not appear to be excessive, and apparently include onward handling by the Khedivial Post where applicable. It is interesting that



## The State Post founded by Mohammed Ali - continued

all but one of these examples is ecclesiastical correspondence, but it is uncertain whether this is typical. Presumably there was little commerce with Upper Egypt in those years.

No letter going outward from Cairo by the Post of Mohammed Ali seems to have survived. However, I have one cover in my collection that appears to be an example of a letter originating in the Viceroyal Post, addressed to a place served by the courier service. It is a small, very light envelope, which appears to have been unsealed, addressed to Asyut, and franked with a single copy of the 20 paras of the First Issue, cancelled with the c.d.s. of Cairo in Type I-2.5n (illustration C). The date is not clear, although the month begins with A; because of the franking, the year must have been 1866 or 1867, at which period the Viceroyal Post had not yet expanded south of Cairo. There are no backstamps, so we can only presume that it was delivered at Asyut. With a light enclosure, the letter could quite possibly have not exceeded one dirhem in weight. The rate is not a normal one, and in fact, I have never heard of another example of a First Issue cover franked 20 paras, unless postage due was charged. The unsealed greeting card rate was 10 para within the Viceroyal Post; it does not seem unreasonable that 10 paras paid the rate for the Viceroyal Post, and another 10 paras paid for the state courier. On the other hand, the carriage of this letter south of Cairo, its origin, must have been entirely by courier, the Viceroyal Post acting only as a receiving office, and the full 20 paras may have been credited to the state courier service.

There is a similar cover in the Häffele collection (ex Gougas), addressed to Asyut, but franked with a 10 and a 20 para stamp of the First Issue, cancelled Cairo (Type I-2.5n) 13 MAG 66 2 T and dated inside "30 zul higga 1282". The route is thus the same as the 20 para cover, but we cannot know if the different rate was the result of a different weight, or a revision in rate structure. The message inside concerns a financial transaction about cotton.

A postal document found by Jean Boulad d'Humieres in an old archive has a bearing on this subject. An extract was published in *L'Orient Philatelique* Vol. IV, No. 53, January 1946, on page 439. It is dated January, 1867, and gives the rates for letters sent to Upper Egypt. For Asyut, the charge was 30 paras per dirhem, in addition to the normal postage of 1 pi. to carry the letter to Cairo from places in Lower Egypt. It is thus ambiguous with respect to letters originating in Cairo itself. It is also stated in that document that newspapers, samples, registered letters, and printed matter were not accepted for Upper and Middle Egypt. The reason for the 20-para rate on my cover referred to above thus remains a mystery. However, there is no question of any other stamp having fallen off; there is not a trace of any kind of any additional franking.

The foregoing document is also informative with respect to the rates discussed earlier in this article for letters from Girga, Asyut and Qena, although one must bear in mind that they would apply to the date of publication, January 1st, 1867, and they may have been different at other times. In fact, as the railway pushed southwards and Viceroyal (later Khedivial) post offices were opened, the surcharges for letters for Upper Egypt may have been reduced. Such events would have begun with the opening of the office at Minya, August 1st, 1867. The rates quoted are these: Minya, 20 paras; Asyut, 30 paras; Girga, 1 piastre; Qena, 1 piastre 10 paras (all per dirhem).

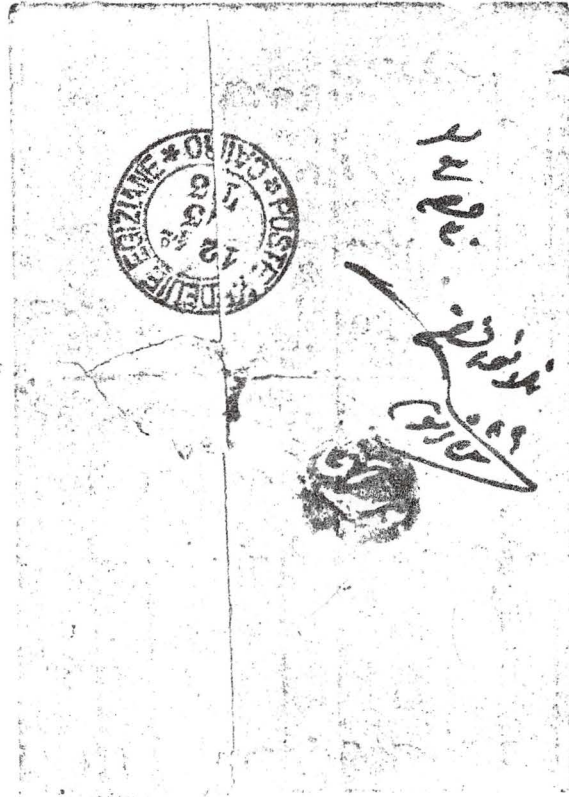
It is significant that the list of destinations in the document of January, 1867, does not include Sohag or Luxor. This is in accord with the fact that the letters described earlier that originated from those places bore the seals of nearby listed offices (Girga or Qena). The remaining destinations in the list presumably also had seal postmarks, yet to be discovered. They are: Beni-Souef; Fayoum; Fachn; Esna (seal known); Assouan; Korosko. The destinations listed for the Sudan were: Wadi Halfa; Berber; Dongola; Khartoum; Sennar; El Take; Cordofan; and Fazoglou. What an exciting event it would be to find a cover with the seal of one of these Sudanese localities !

The State Post founded by Mohammed Ali - continued

(Note: in these notes, "civil" and "Viceregal" post have been used interchangeably).

In conclusion, I gratefully acknowledge the kind assistance of Dr Abdallah Mishrick in deciphering the Arabic inscriptions.

Peter A. S. Smith

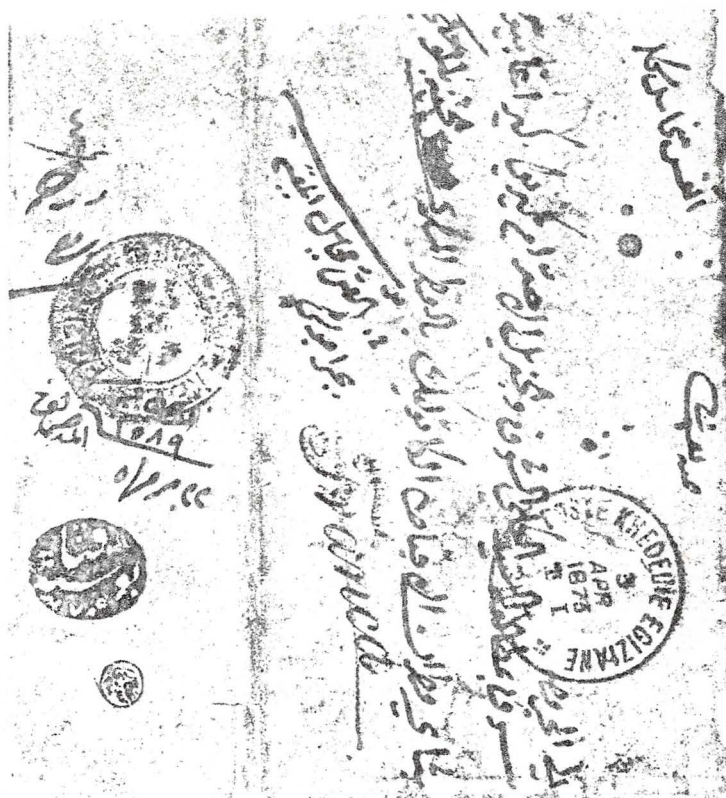


1. Girga II

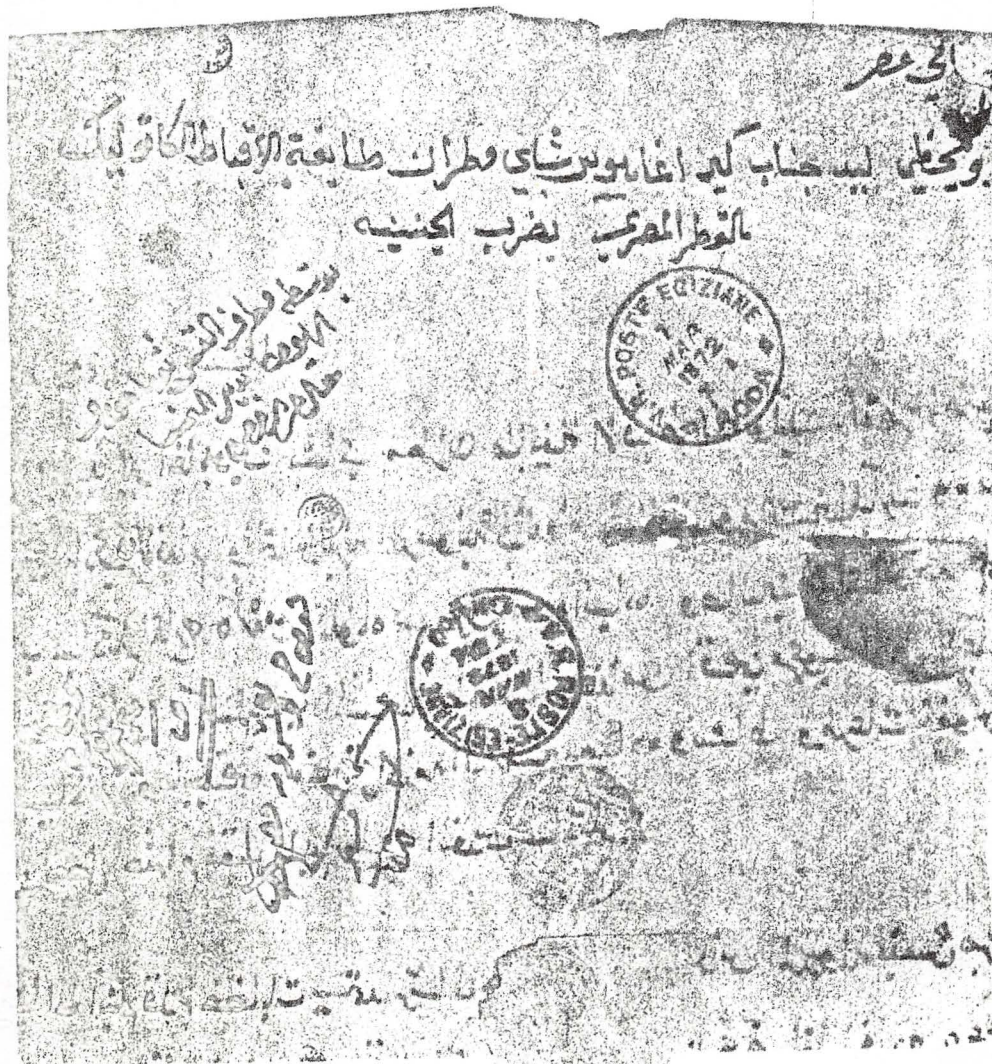


2. Girga III





4. Qena II



5. Asyut II







NOTES ON POSTAL SERVICE MARKINGS 1865-79

by A. Schmidt (ESC 198)

SANNOT. 7/3/10

Two new markings, PS-17 and PS-18

These markings have recently turned up on interpostal seals. It has not been possible to make complete cuts ( i.e. tracings ) from the strikes available, but the markings are distinctive enough to have been allocated new PS numbers. The notes which follow may help readers to locate more strikes in their collections which will enable me to complete the cuts in the record.



PS-17

Dimensions (mms)

27 x 18.5



PS-10



PS-18

27.5 x 18

PS-17. I have examples on IP IVc, Ve, and VI ( 377G ), and Seymour Blomfield also has an example on IP Ve. All the strikes are in black. Two of them show the area at the bottom of the outer label; both indicate the presence of an ornament, but neither makes clear the detail of this ornament. It is likely to be similar to that in PS-10, a marking which has the identical outer label inscription. (Incidentally, the ornament is missing from PS-10 in the current issue of the data sheets).

PS-18. I have two examples on IP VI ( 377A and 377I ). One is struck in black, the other in blue. The inscription in the centre is practically certain to be SEZIONE RIFIUTI. The bottom of the outer label is undoubtedly ALESSANDRIA; the rest is mainly conjectural at present, but it could well be POSTE KEDEVIE EGIZIANE.

New data and observations on PS-3.5

TEL-EL-KIBIR. I have examples on IP Va ( TEL EL KIBIR 224a ), and IP Vc ( TEL EL KIBIR 321a and EL TEL EL KIBIR 321 ). The strikes are in blue as well as black, and the cut made from them is shown in Figure 1. The third letter of the town name seems to be L and not the tentative H given in the data sheets.

( KANTARA ). My part-strike in black on IP IVA ( KANTARA 129 ) is shown in Figure 2. Unfortunately, only part of the first letter of the town name is visible - the rest falls off the interpostal - and it just might be the letter C. Its position rules out the possibility that this is a strike of TEL-EL-KIBIR.



Fig 1

Dimensions (mms)

25 x 15.5



Fig 2

(25 x 14.5)



Fig 3

26.5 x 16.5

The markings in Figures 1 and 2 are very similar and the cancellers must have been made from practically identical basic dies. If we now consider Figure 3, which is the illustration for PS-3.5 in the data sheets, it can be seen that this differs in several significant respects including size. We could, of course, be dealing with a second and different die for TEL EL KIBIR. However, the illustration was taken from a cut in the record which was made, not from original material, but from a photograph or tracing sent in by a collector. It is much more likely that the information was misleading or inaccurate, and that this second version of the marking does not really exist.

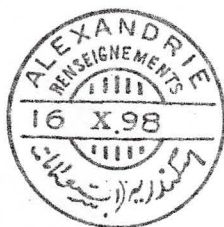
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POSTAL MARKINGS 1880-1952

AN APPEAL FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SOME MARKINGS OF UNCERTAIN TYPE

by A. Schmidt (ESC 198)

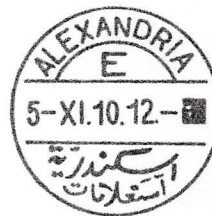
The record for study VI contains a number of markings which are not fully understood, either because we have been unable to decipher the indicia in the markings, or because there is some doubt about their use or function. These markings are illustrated and detailed in the following paragraphs, and I would appreciate hearing from anyone who can clarify their position or who has examples on cover.



Q1a



Q1b



Q1c

The three Q1 markings are clearly related to each other by the French "Renseignements" (= information) and the Arabic استعلامات (= enquiries). Q1a was found on interpostal type XI; Q1b as incomplete part-strikes on a 1933 2m Air Mail and on a 1938 2m Postage Due; and Q1c on an official sealing label. The markings are in the record under a provisional "Information" type. It is suggested that there was (and is ?) a section in the post office which answered questions about the service and which had a canceller of its own to use on replies.

Q2

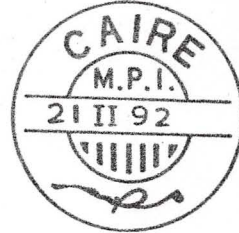


Q2 was found on a 1922 5m Crown Overprint. The strike was incomplete; the lower and presumably Arabic part, which might have helped to identify it, unfortunately fell off the stamp. The indicium "C.O.S." is unknown in any other marking.

Q3 and Q4 are illustrated together as it is likely that they are related. Q3 is not too uncommon and has been seen on 1884 5pi, 1888 10pi, 1893 2pi, 1889 4m Postage Due, and interpostal type XI. An early suggestion was that M.I. = Ministry of Information, so that Q3 would be a similar type of marking to Q1 above.



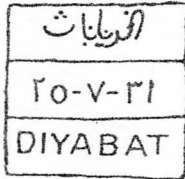
Q3



Q4

Q4 was recently found on interpostal type VI ( 377B and 377G ), both strikes dated 21 Feb 92, and also on a 1879 2pi, the strike dated 14 Jun 93. The interpostal 377G is almost always cancelled by some sort of Cash marking, hence the latest suggestion that M.I. = Mandats Internationaux, and that M.P.I. = Mandats Postaux Internationaux.

Q5



Q5 is on a cover in the collection of P.A.S. Smith, and is the only example recorded to date of this type of marking. The cover is addressed to Cairo. On the front it bears a 1923 5m cancelled by Q5, there is also a further strike of Q5; it is back-stamped Akmin, Cairo-Asyut & V.V. TPO, and Cairo.

Diyabat has been described as a "very small place" (presumably near Akhmin ?). Perhaps some "very small places"

used this type of marking in lieu of the normal c.d.s., and this could explain its rarity; alternatively it could be a type of rural service or temporary marking.

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AN ALEXANDRIA "LAZARET" POSTMARK - by V. Denis Vandervelde - 15 January 1978

It is now clear, beyond reasonable doubt, that there was a lazaretto in Alexandria in the latter half of the 19th century. This establishment, in addition to housing the passengers and crew of ships arriving in times of epidemic, also disinfected mail. The cachet certifying disinfection (which seems to have been in use only briefly) is dealt with at length in "Pratique", organ of the Disinfected Mail Study Circle, and interested readers are urged to apply to me at 25 Sinclair Grove, London N.W.11 for membership (£ 3.50 or U.S. \$ 7.00 per annum).

But a very different marking has now come to light, strongly suggesting that the establishment was still functioning (not necessarily in the same way, of course) in the early years of the 20th century. Unfortunately, the only strike so far seen by me is on a pair of adhesive stamps and illegibly dated. The handstamp is a 27 mm cds with ALEXANDRIA round the top, with LAZARET in a horizontal plane immediately beneath, and the date in a single line below that, across the diameter of the circle. The lower half is in Arabic, as usual at this period.

Until a dated cover turns up, hypotheses may be unwise, but in 1900 Trieste had a postbox at its comparable institution, which used a bi-lingual c.d.s. reading "Seelazaret". So there is at least a likelihood that there was a similar box at Alexandria, intended for the use of passengers of quarantined ships. Can any reader confirm, preferably with dates of usage ?

EDITOR'S NOTE: the reproduction is from a poor original photocopy. The year is not distinguishable and it is not known whether the adhesives are chalk-surfaced and thus 1902 or later.

ESC Member Mamdouh Abou-Alam kindly translated: "the Arabic words at the lower half of the cancel (القسم الطبي) mean "Medical Quarantine" more or less the translation of 'Lazaret' and this term is usually used for special quarantine in ports and airports when they have to check for valid Certificates of Health. The other word 'البحر' is Alexandria.

