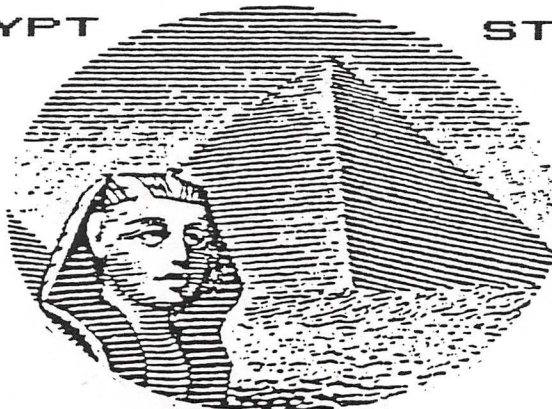


THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

EGYPT STUDY



CIRCLE

Volume XII

Number 5

MARCH QUARTER, 1985

Whole Series 133

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Egypt Study Circle, London
and the contributors

Next Meetings

to be held at "The Peacock"
Maiden Lane London WC2

1985

- April 13 - Prisoner-of-War and Internee
mail (Mr J S Horesh)
- June 8 - Fuad 1927 issue
(Mr A J Revell)

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE - THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

Volume XII Number 5 -- March Quarter 1985 -- Whole Series No. 133

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- - - - -

Editorial . . .

This issue goes to press on 26th March 1985, two months after the last double-size issue, so that another month has been pulled back from the former state of arrears, and we can now claim to be on top of things.

A minor hiccup hit the New Issue illustration pages in our previous issue. We inadvertently included illustrations to accompany the listing in this QC., as well as those in the last. They are repeated now, for ease of reference. (Could have been worse !)

Let us suppose that, unknown to Egypt collectors, there have been stamp issues over some decades, with related design essays, proofs, and postal history. There are items of great interest, and great scarcity, to be found. Dennis Clarke has established such a collection area with his Meter Marks and Franking Machines, and his Study Report with the same title is begun in this issue. If you want to collect early meter covers, don't delay a further moment !

We are glad to welcome JO back again: space shortage prevented his appearance in the Sept-Dec joint issue. A mine of information, extracted at no little effort by Mike Murphy. (See pages 92-94).

Mr Blackburn's article on a British Forces' Unit, COPO(ME), was referred to Mr Jim Benians first; (editors do such where any study has a particularly vigorous and capable study leader) and Jim thought the article very good, is well worth publishing, and he is glad that other people can use his EPP book to build on.

By chance, two different, but research-dedicated, Circle Members delivered short articles on Missing Perforation Pin varieties. Both articles have been held over previously because of shortage of space, but Mr Themis Dacos's work, which reached us first, is in this issue. Mr Mike Murphy's article will be in the next issue.

We have just learned that Mr Peter R Feltus (ESC 114) will visit Egypt in May, Israel (for ISRAPHIL May 14-22), and he will look in on friends in Athens, Lausanne, Paris and London. We wish him well with his exhibit of 2nd issue in Israel.

REPORT OF ESC MEETING IN LONDON

Meeting held 9th February 1985 at "The Peacock" Maiden Lane London

Mr J Sears (Chair) and Messrs W C Andrews, F W Benians, D H Clarke, C E H Defriez, J.A.Grimmer, E Hall, J S Horesh, A J Revell and P E Whetter braved the snow.

The Chairman reported invitations to ESC members to put in a joint display at The British Philatelic Exhibition this autumn, and read out a list of possible subjects.

The Chairman reported on Mr Peter R Feltus' recent letter as to his publication intentions and discussion followed.

Mr E Hall reported four new member applications.

The subject of this meeting was "10-Sheet Displays" and the following material was shown:-

Mr J Sears showed Registration Labels, referring to an article in the QC by Professor Peter Smith in 1975.

Mr J S Horesh showed some 19th and early 20th century military covers and spoke of the British military presence from the time of the Arabi revolt, 1882.

Mr W C Andrews showed covers including one from Alexandrette (Turkey) 1925 with an interesting route, a 1926 cover with "MOTOR MAIL" sticker and one of his ancillary collecting interests, regimental crested envelopes.

Mr C E H Defriez showed 1927-35 Fuad control blocks, with progressive (altered) years.

Mr J A Grimmer showed 1922 OHEMS overprints.

Mr E Hall showed Sudan overprints on DLR and speculated on why there should be so many, and such obvious, forgeries of low-value items: possibly these were procured by stamp packet assemblers, striving for the largest possible number of different stamps.

Mr A J Revell showed Posta Europea and referred to differences on Cairo Type II.

Mr F W Benians showed covers from his collection of the elusive SEAMENS HOME, Alexandria and gave some interesting background. It appears that this was a civilian post office, although located in non-government premises. The throughput of mail was probably low, especially as regards registered mail, of which there were only three or four per annum, proved by the registration serial numbers.

Mr P E Whetter talked about a newly-discovered forgery of the Monarchy overprint on the 1914 DLR 100m; Mr D H Clarke's display was of the 3rd issue, dealing with distinguishing points of the 1st and 2nd printings.

Regrettably, the meeting ran out of time during the last two displays.

(all stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R. Egypt, and with Upright Watermark Multiple Eagle unless noted otherwise)

<u>Commemorative Stamps</u>	<u>SG 1531</u>	<u>SG 1532</u>	<u>SG 1533</u>
Occasion P o s t	D a y	50th Anniversary of Misr Insurance Company
Date of Issue 2nd January 1984	14th January 1984
Designer	M. Hamid	E. Calivis	M. Roushdy
Design	Restored Quaitbay Fort	Restored Citadel of Salah el Din, and Mohamed Ali Mosque	Emblem and Insurance Document embracing family
Denomination	6 piastres	23 piastres	3 piastres
Sheet	35 (5 x 7) No Wmk	35 (5 x 7) No Wmk	50 (5 x 10)
Stamp dimensions	40 x 40 mm	40 x 40 mm	43 x 26 mm
Perforation	13	13	11
Quantity printed	500,000 (Litho)	250,000 (Litho)	1,000,000
Supplementary	-		One of the major insurance companies in the Middle East. It was founded by the late economist, Talat Harb.

SG 1534SG 1535

Occasion	16th Cairo International Book Fair	17th Cairo International Fair
Date of Issue	26th January 1984	10th March 1984
Designer	A. K. el Husseiny	W. Farag
Design	Open Book, Fair Emblem and Globe	Fair Emblem within Pyramids and Ear of Wheat
Denomination	3 piastres	3 piastres
Sheet	50 (10 x 5) Wmk Sideways	50 (5 x 10)
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm	43 x 26 mm
Perforation	13.5 x 12.5	11.5 x 11
Quantity printed	1,000,000 (Litho)	1,000,000
Supplementary	-	-

SG 1536SG 1537

Occasion	25th Anniversary of Assiout University	75th Anniversary of Co-operative Union
Date of Issue	10th March 1984	17th March 1984
Designer	M. Abdalla	E. Calivis
Design	University Badge and ray of light marking Assiout on map	Co-operative Emblem
Denomination	3 piastres	3 piastres
Sheet	50 (10 x 5) Wmk Sideways	50 (10 x 5) Wmk Sideways
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm	26 x 43 mm
Perforation	11 x 11.5	11 x 11.5
Quantity printed	1,000,000	1,000,000
Supplementary	Assiout University is the only University in Upper Egypt. It serves the educational, social and cultural needs of the whole area.	



SG 1532



SG 1531



SG 1531/2



SG 1534



SG 1533



SG 1533



SG 1535



SG 1535



SG 1534



SG 1536



SG 1536

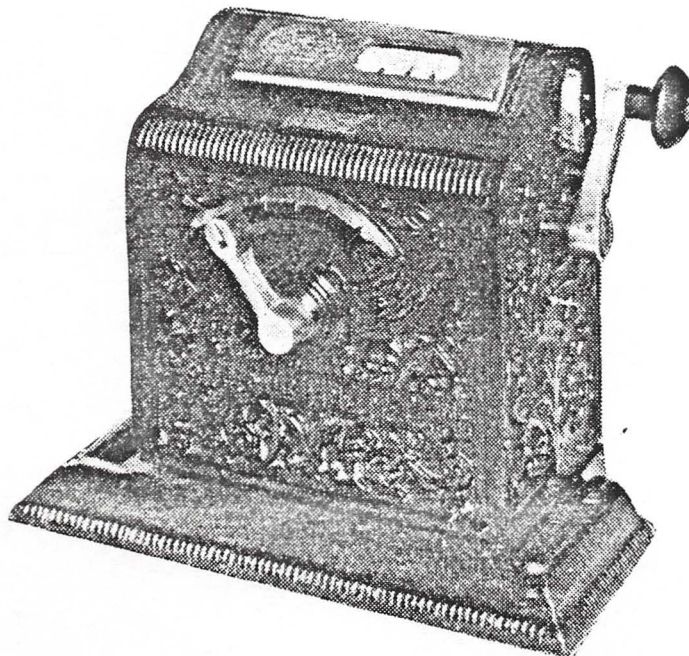


SG 1537



SG 1537

1922 : EGYPT'S FIRST FRANKING MACHINE



MOSS NZ Model D

and impressions from the 5 fixed value dies



METER MARKS and FRANKING MACHINES - Part 1

[NOTE: this is an important study, in an unfamiliar field, based on what is probably the best collection existing of this material. Mr Clarke has helpfully made his collection available for selection of illustration subjects. Thanks are also due to Mr Peter Andrews for supplying the typing from the original draft of this article, in which a number of tricky editorial problems were solved - EDITOR]

- - - - -

Metered franking machines and their markings as used in Egypt seem to have raised very little enthusiasm among philatelists. It is therefore not too surprising to find that information on this subject is limited to a few articles in the specialist publications of the philately of Egypt, and some notes made by Mackenzie Lowe, found in the records of Egypt Study Circle.

This article makes no pretence at completeness and it is hoped that Circle Members will be able to contribute information (and good illustrations).

It would have been possible, in presenting this outline of the usage of meters in Egypt, to have adopted a chronological arrangement of the material: it has been preferred instead to deal separately with the various machines used.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION. The following extracts are taken from a survey entitled "THE MAILS" BY Horace N. Soper, published 1948 by Universal Postal Frankers Ltd. This publication looks at the history and organisation of postal franking, and the methods of payment: it is an informative resume of the mails, generally.

" Backroom boys in many countries of the world more clearly saw that the system itself involving the purchase, moistening and affixing of fragments of paper to the mail for subsequent obliteration by the Post Office might well be replaced by some mechanical means whereby prepayment of the mails might be made by the approved use of a machine to imprint the mail and keep a register of same."

" The originator of such a system would appear to be Carle Bushe of Paris who took out a British patent in August 1884, covering an apparatus for impressing and registering stamps to supersede adhesive stamps. The foreword of his patent is of particular interest :-

'It is indisputable that the adoption of movable stamps did away with a great deal of trouble and annoyance, but it is impossible for progress to stop there, for that system still presents numerous inconveniences not only for the Government, but for the public. In fact the application of adhesive stamps which is so easy and convenient when a few only are to be used at one time, becomes a serious matter, and entails a serious loss of time when hundreds of letters, circulars, newspapers and so forth have to be despatched daily.'

" Before the end of the century a dozen or more patents were lodged in the British Patent Office, developing the system of metered mail. S H Hannay of London appears to have been the originator in 1888 of an improved machine for affixing to Pillar Boxes to frank letters against the insertion of a coin.

" Both of these inventors would appear to have lived a generation before their time; their ideas for several reasons met with no success whatsoever. "

1922 : EGYPT'S FIRST FRANKING METER : MOSS NZ (F.V.5)

PROOF IMPRESSIONS from the U.P.U. Collection, London

EGYPT
Postage Prepaid Impressions
1922



The large 2 in circle
in centre of each impression
is the machine identity number

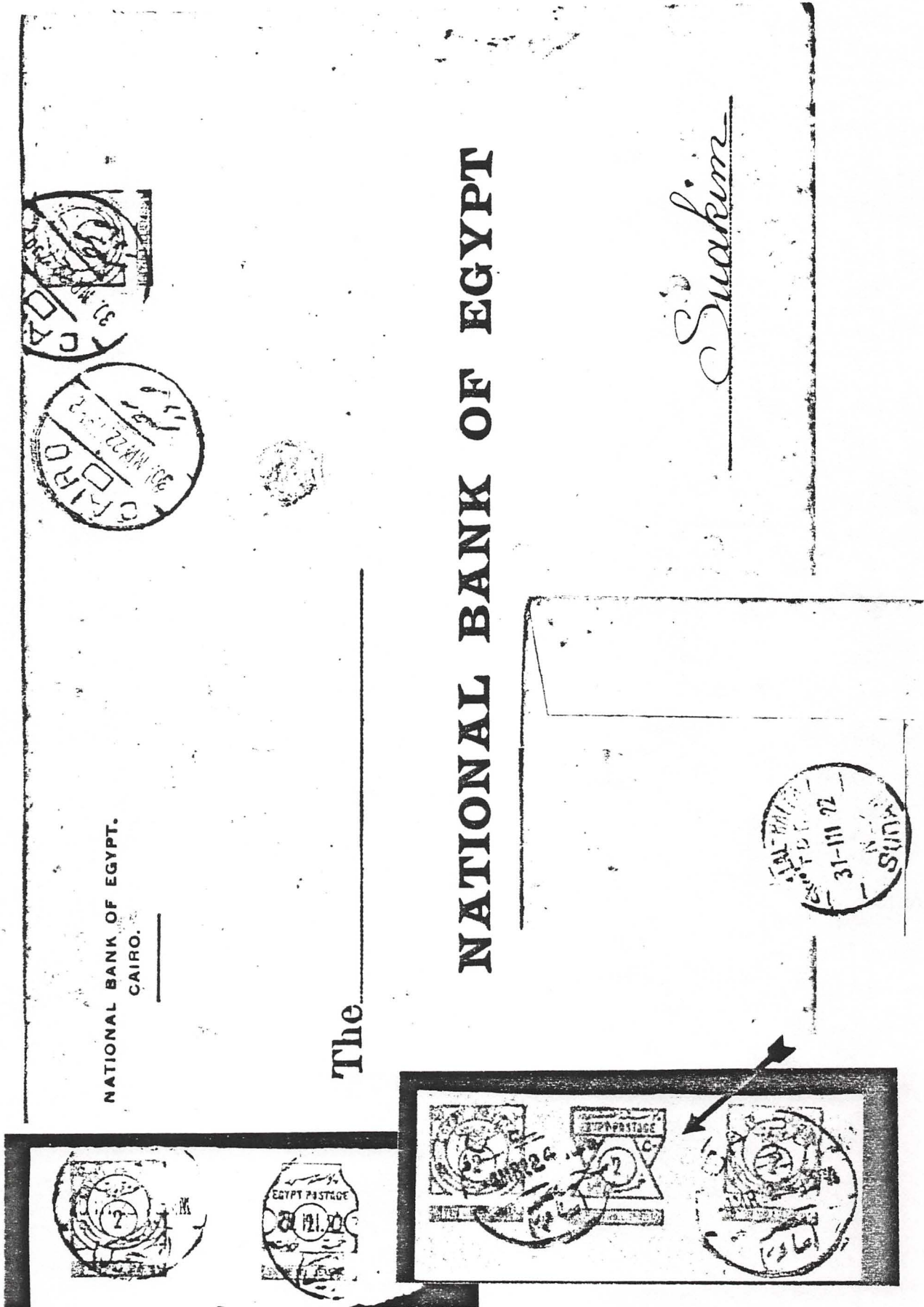


UNIVERSAL "MIDGET" Essay

UNIVERSAL "MIDGET"
1933 Essay
(this machine not used
in Egypt)

Midget 3492
21/4/3

Franking in magenta ink applied by MOSS NZ Model D (FV5) Machine
Example on National Bank of Egypt cover postmarked CAIRO 30 MR 22
backstamp, inset, Shallal-Halfa / T P O / 31 III 22



NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.
CAIRO.

The

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

Suakin

SHALLAL-HALFA
T P O
31-III-22
SUAKIN

(below) Five impressions on two pieces including (arrowed) the very rare 50-millimes value postmarked CAIRO 4 MR 22 4.30 (only 3 copies known)

General Introduction to Meter Franking Machines

The first Government to sanction the substitution of franked impressions for adhesive stamps was that of New Zealand in 1904. The inventor was Ernest Moss, his early models being of the coin-freed slot variety. The 1906 model was set for One Pound coins and printed, through a ribbon, any one of five fixed values. The machine locked off when the value of One Pound had been expended.

This new machine gave satisfaction but, the gold coins being a temptation to larceny, a credit machine was submitted by Moss, and was duly approved. Moss later patented a pre-set locking meter.

Meter mailing revolutionised despatch of business mails throughout the world. Unlike adhesives, meter franks cannot be chemically cleaned and the imprinted impressions are non-negotiable. Meter mailing was also beneficial to the Post Office by the fact that metered mail reaches them prepared, cancelled and postmarked, ready for sorting.

Quoting again from "The Mails" (Soper, 1948): " After the first World War the problem in central Europe was to design a machine capable of dealing with wide variations of currency; this was met by the Francotype Company of Berlin with a model to print any value from 1 Pfennig to 99.99 Marks. In America the high speed printing of stamp impressions was visualised, the Postage Meter Company of Stamford used a power-driven Cancelling machine fitted with a locking meter."

"The Postage Meter Company's Impression Franking machines were first licensed by Congress in 1920. There was a separate meter for each value, to print, register and lock off when credit was exhausted. They were the first power-driven high-speed machines."

TERMINOLOGY

The terminology of meter mark collecting differs in some areas from that accepted and understood by philatelists generally. The descriptions in the following paragraphs quote heavily from "The Meter Postage Stamp Catalogue" by S.D. Barfoot and W. Simon.

TYPES OF METERS

Firstly, what are meters ? Correctly designated 'metered franking machines', but being generally referred to as 'meters', these are machines which print, directly onto the mail, impressions of franks of different denominations. The categories of their usage fall into three basic types :-

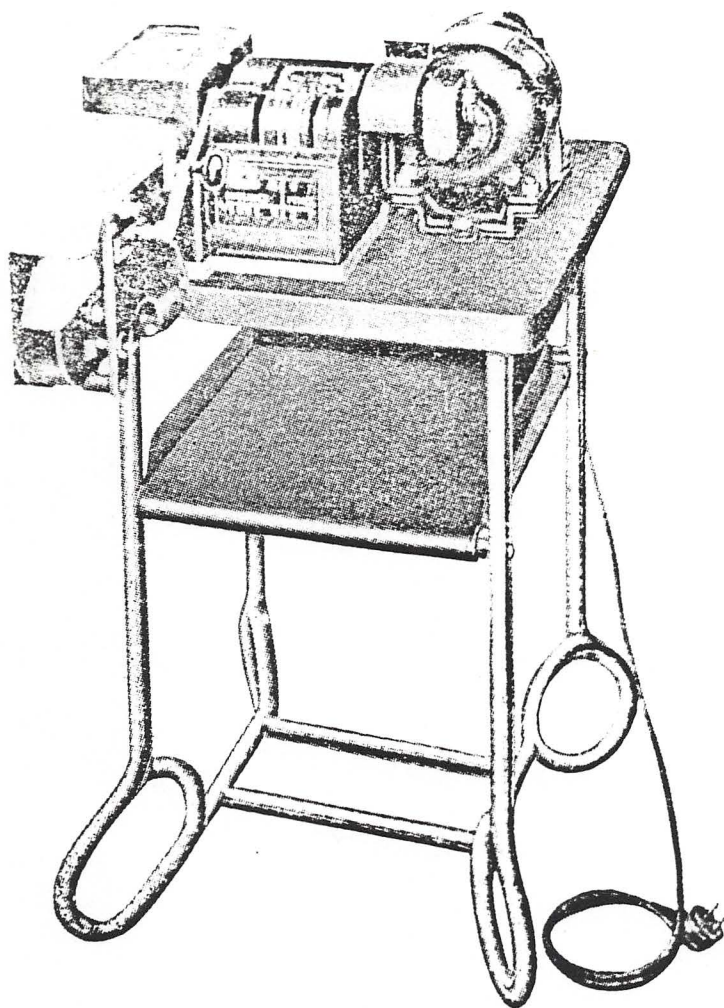
"A. Use by private firms or government departments under licence from a postal authority.

"B. Use by Post Offices to frank mail handed in.

"C. Coin-freed machines installed in public places for the use of the general public to frank their own mail by the insertion of a coin or coins to the required value. (This type of machine should not strictly be described as a meter, since it is really a mechanical or automatic franking device to be used on bulk mailings etc. by private firms or by Post Offices and is extensively used in the U.S.A.)."

/ Continued . . .

1937: MULTI-VALUE Model I MACHINE by UNIVERSAL POSTAL FRANKERS



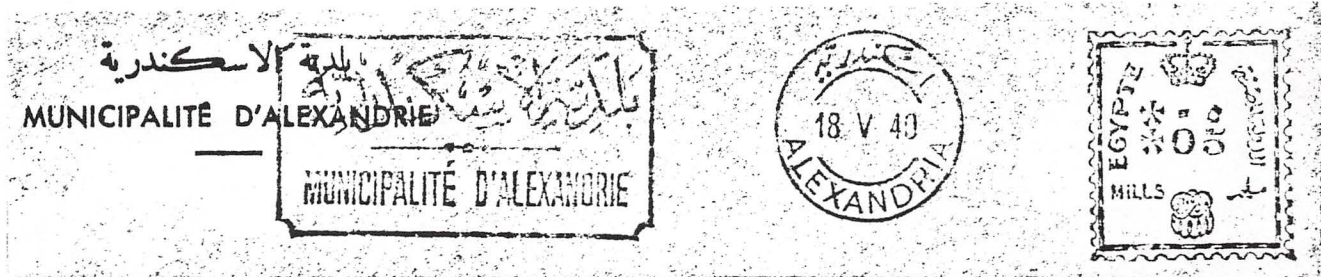
Electrically-operated
first used in Egypt,
1937

Franking format:
Slogan at left,
Town mark, centre,
Stamp die type 11
with Farouk touhra

The double-circle town mark has
single line date, month in Roman,
two-digit year, no stops between.

e.g. 18 V 40 (as below)

SOME EARLY USERS



The classification of franking machines is derived from the method used to produce the imprint, the different types being as follow:-

Fixed-Value Machines

These machines are equipped with a separate dies for each value of its franking range, the denomination figure being an integral part of the die. (Some fixed-value machines have only one die [F.V.1])

Limited-Value Machines

Equipped with a single-frame die with a limited number of separate value segments which are brought into position for use by the operation of a lever or dial.

Multi-Value Machines

These have a single-frame die into which can be printed a figure of any denomination by the operation of a key or lever on a cash register principle, the number of possible denominations depending on the number of banks of keys.

Essays, Proofs and Specimens

ESSAYS are impressions produced by the manufacturers for submission to postal authorities for their approval or rejection, and therefore may resemble impressions from machines actually used, or not, as the case may be.

For example: essays of early British Pitney Bowes machines are known, of different designs, only one of which resembles that actually used on the machines after they were licensed.

Essays of Midget machines for Czechoslovakia and Bermuda, and of Neopost machines for Poland and China are found, but no licences for their use were granted.

PROOFS

These are impressions or 'pulls' taken when a machine is ready for despatch to the Agents for sale or renting, and are often kept by the manufacturers for reference purposes. In the case of Fixed Value and Limited Value machines, the proofs usually show all the different values produced by the machine. In Multi-Value proofs the maximum value is often shown.


Some proofs are found on blank envelopes, or small sheets of paper, others on envelopes or cards bearing the imprint of the manufacturer; these sometimes have the addition of the word "SPECIMEN". The date shown is usually that when the proof was taken, and can therefore earlier by some time - even years - before the first date of use. In other cases the date is fictitious, or an impossible one.


In some instances the Town Mark may have a solid circle, or the identity number may be uncut. This occurs when the engraving work is normally done in the country of use. Through misunderstanding, machines have been used in this condition, e.g. in Belgium and India, Neopost impressions have appeared with solid circles for the town mark; in Kenya and Uganda, with a solid rectangular plate in place of the identity number.

MULTI-VALUE Model I MACHINE by UNIVERSAL POSTAL FRANKERS

1938 : ADVERTISING SPECIMEN

THE MULTIVALUE
UNIVERSAL
POSTAL FRANKER





“Slogan,,

Dispositif de publicité
interchangeable à volonté

Date

Timbre

variable de 1^m/m à 999^m/m
en une seule impression.

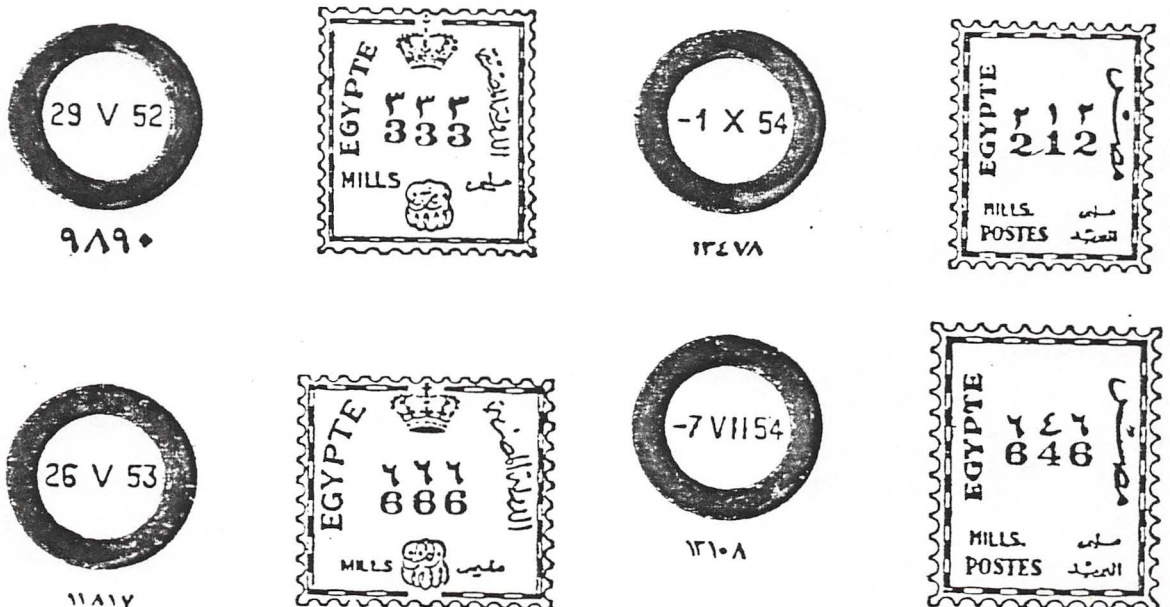
SPECIMEN

Concessionnaire exclusif pour l’Egypte
MARC SOUSSI - Téléph. : 26493
18, RUE DE FRANCE - **ALEXANDRIE**

Sous-Agent au Caïre :
P. F. BAGANI
1, RUE BORSA GUEDIDA (Kasr-el-Nil)
TELEPHONE : 50210

1950's : Various PROOFS produced from either Model I or Model O

These have a solid circle instead of the Town Name, and Machine Identity number in Arabic beneath the Town Mark
The Proof Dies are of different sizes and layout, the earlier two with Royal symbols (Crown, Toughra)



Occasionally "proofs" are found which have been obtained by favour of the user after the machine has been licensed. From Multi-value machines these often show a "00" value.

SPECIMENS

These are mainly employed for advertising purposes and are often produced from special machines kept for demonstrations, the impressions often being made on advertising cards and incorporating 'SPECIMEN' or similar wording in the frank or Town Mark.

An equally important use for specimen impressions, however, is concerned with slogans which are of course in nearly all cases unofficial and designed at the request of the user of the machine. Each new slogan die is generally placed in the demonstration machine and impressions obtained for reference, the date usually being that of the day when the impression was made.

It will be appreciated that it is often difficult to distinguish between essays, proofs and specimens, especially when cut from envelopes or cards. From the collecting point of view essays are by far the most interesting, but proofs may be of great use in establishing what values were originally produced on certain Fixed Value or Limited Value machines.

MACHINES USED IN EGYPT

Three Moss NZ model D (FV5) machines were imported into England from New Zealand, as manufactured by Universal Automatic Postal Franking Machine Co. Ltd, the parent company of Universal Postal Frankers Ltd, London. This type of machine had been used in New Zealand from 1911, but earlier types were in use from about 1904.

One machine, no. 1, was sent to India, another (no. 3) being kept in London for demonstration purposes by Universal Postal Frankers Ltd, which had been formed to introduce the machines into Europe and other foreign markets.

The remaining machine (no. 2) was delivered on a trial basis to the Postal Administration in Cairo. It was then rented to the National Bank of Egypt in Cairo, being delivered on 27th February 1922, the first postal franking machine to be used in Egypt (and the only machine of this type). On 1st April 1922, after being in use for only about one month, the National Bank informed the Egyptian Postal Administration that the machine was malfunctioning: frankings were being applied, but not being recorded.

The dial readings of the machine were recorded at the time and show how the amount paid by the bank to the Post Office, £E 162.289 mills, was made up. The meter reading was 45,860 on opening on 27 Feb 1922, and 204,418 on 31 March, on closing. There was an addition of 4,001 mills for units which had failed to register, and an allowance of 270 mills for spoiled impressions.

The National Bank machine was fitted with dies for 2, 4, 5, 10 and 50 mills. In the centre of each die is the figure 2 in a circle, identifying this as machine no. 2. The 4 milliemes is known only as specimen impressions and until recently it was believed that the same applied to the 50-milliemes die. However, there are now three known examples. Mr Gabriel Pustel has found an example correctly postmarked CAIRO 14 III 22, Mr D H Clarke has one on piece postmarked CAIRO 4 MR 22 4.30; there are no details of the other.



Messrs. The American Express Company, Inc.,
P.O.B. 2160,



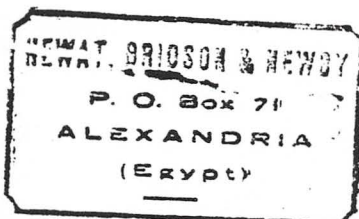
Frankings cancelled by Postmark

5 milliemes Inland
Sealed Letter rate

USER: (above) E L Bristow
(centre) Rotary International



Alphonse Greiss Bey,
15, Kasr-el-Nil Street,



1943: Franking no longer cancelled
by postmark

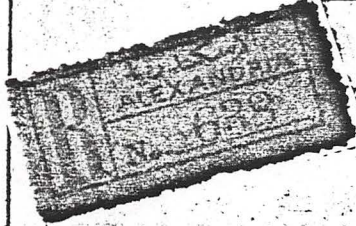
6 milliemes Inland
Sealed Letter rate

*Royal Exchange Assurance,
Royal Exchange Building,
50, Sh. Kasr el Nil,
Cairo*

If not delivered within 5 days please return to P. O. Box 71, Alexandria.
إذا لم يتسلم في ظرف خمسة أيام يعاد للصندوق البوستة نمرة ٧١ بالاسكندرية

FRANKINGS BY UNIVERSAL MULTI-VALUE Model I

THE LAND BANK OF EGYPT
BANQUE FONCIÈRE D'ÉGYPTE
ALEXANDRIE



The American Express Company Inc.,
P. O. B. 2160,



1939: 15 mills Inland
Registered rate

RECOMMANDÉ

LE CAIRE.

1953: 50 mills applied
to Collection Order
Memorandum of Egyptian
Postal Administration



Orig. No. of Office of Origin
No. prop. du bureau d'origine

No. of Office of Destination
No. prop. du bureau des valeurs

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS — وزارة المواصلات — MINISTÈRE DES COMMUNICATIONS

EGYPTIAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES D'ÉGYPTE

حافطة عن قيم التحصيل
COLLECTION ORDER MEMORANDUM
BORDEREAU DES VALEURS A RECQUERIR

At post-office of destination
Déposés au bureau de Post. d.
par M.
Residing at
demeurant à

المسادة لمكتب
من جناب
المقري

Govt. Press 2916 A 1-49 110,000 ex.

<p>إذا قدمت رسالة مضمونة أو جهازاً مضموناً أو مضموناً مضموناً able article, an insubstantly the sender Date of delivery, recurrence, etc. Date, etc. 200 50 francs.</p>	<p>اسم المدين Name of debtor Nom au débiteur</p> <p>عنوان Address Adresse</p>	<p>عدد الأوراق ونوعها Number and Nature Acature of Objects des Valeurs</p>	<p>تاريخ الاستحقاق والملاحظات Date when due and remarks Echéance et Observation</p>
---	---	--	---

METER MARKS and FRANKING MACHINES - continued

To comply with postal regulations in Egypt at the time, and be treated as normal mail, all mail franked by a meter had to be postmarked in the usual manner. Consequently, all genuinely used covers etc. should be cancelled with a CAIRO postmark within the dates 27th February to 31st March 1922.

Proofs are known to exist on Government paper both with and without watermark.

Ink: it had been decided at the Madrid Postal Convention in 1920 that the colour for all postal franking marks would be red. In the case of the first Egyptian franking machine, however, magenta ink was used during its operational life, up to 31st March 1922. This is explained by the fact that it is the identical colour which had been in use in New Zealand for a considerable time. When the machine was sent from London to Cairo it was apparently overlooked that the magenta colour was incorrect - had the period of use been longer it is likely that it would have been corrected and a red ribbon substituted. It is known that impressions in Red exist but they must be regarded as reprints or posthumous proofs.

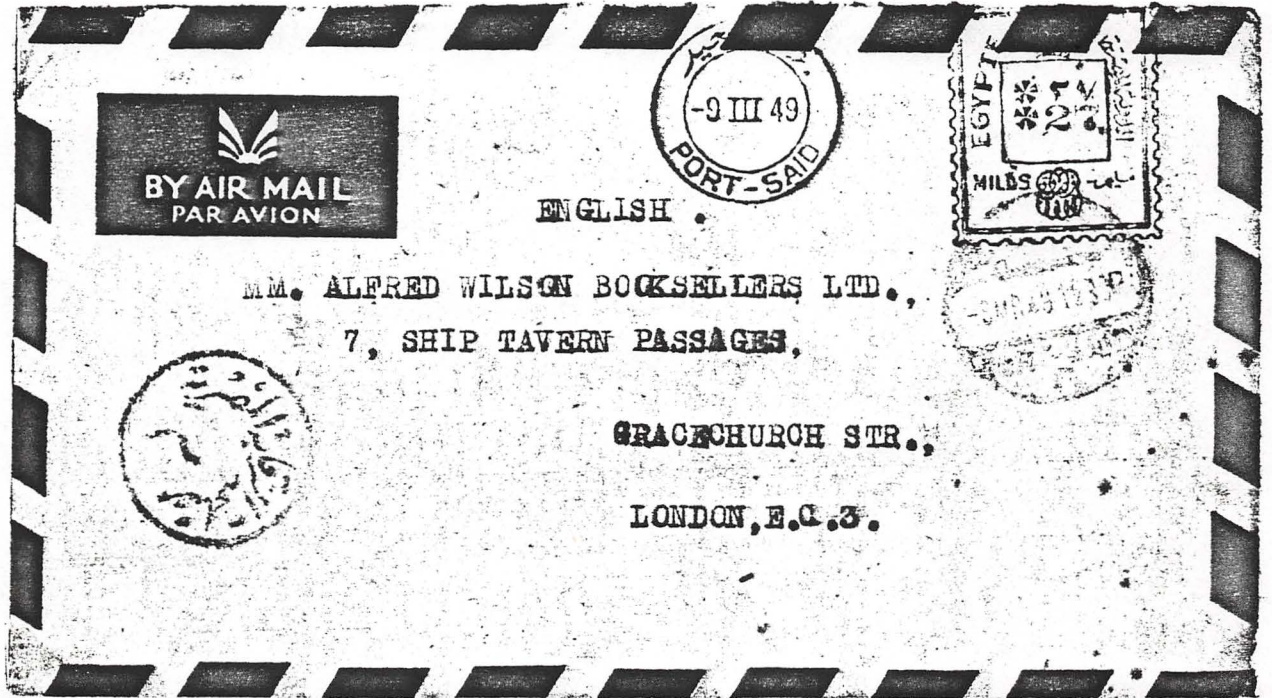
In 1926 Universal Postal Frankers Ltd introduced a new hand-operated meter into their range, the Frankopost "MIDGET" (F.V.3), with dies for 3, 5 and 10 milliemes. This machine was never used in Egypt but is mentioned here because the company prepared essays for Egypt in 1933. Illustrated is an example in the Pitney Bowes Ltd records at Harlow. It is likely that the essays were submitted to the Egyptian Postal Authority for a licence which was apparently not forthcoming, and was subsequently abandoned by Universal. The design was essentially the same as that currently used in Gt Britain, and this may have had something to do with its non-acceptance.

From 1933, up to 1953 with the deposing of King Farouk, all franking dies had the symbols of Egyptian sovereignty incorporated in the die design: the Royal crown and Toughra (cypher), first of Fuad I then, from 1937, that of Farouk I. However, the dies made during Fuad's reign continued to be used for a considerable time after his death.

1938 saw the re-entry of Universal Postal Frankers Ltd into the Egyptian market with their Universal (M.V.) model I machine which continued to be used until the company produced an improved model O machine in 1951. Some of the pre-1951 machines had identity numbers which were in Arabic and appear below the Town Mark. Between 1938 and 1951 there were at least ten different types of dies, many of them later being adapted for use under the Republic. This was done by removing the crown and toughra, and can be viewed as "Provisional" until replacement dies were installed with a modified design. These, again, later became obsolescent as the country adopted several changes of title, i.e. EGYPT, EGYPT/UAR, A.R. EGYPT. This impact on the die designs will, of course, have applied to all the various suppliers of postal franking machines in the post-revolution years.

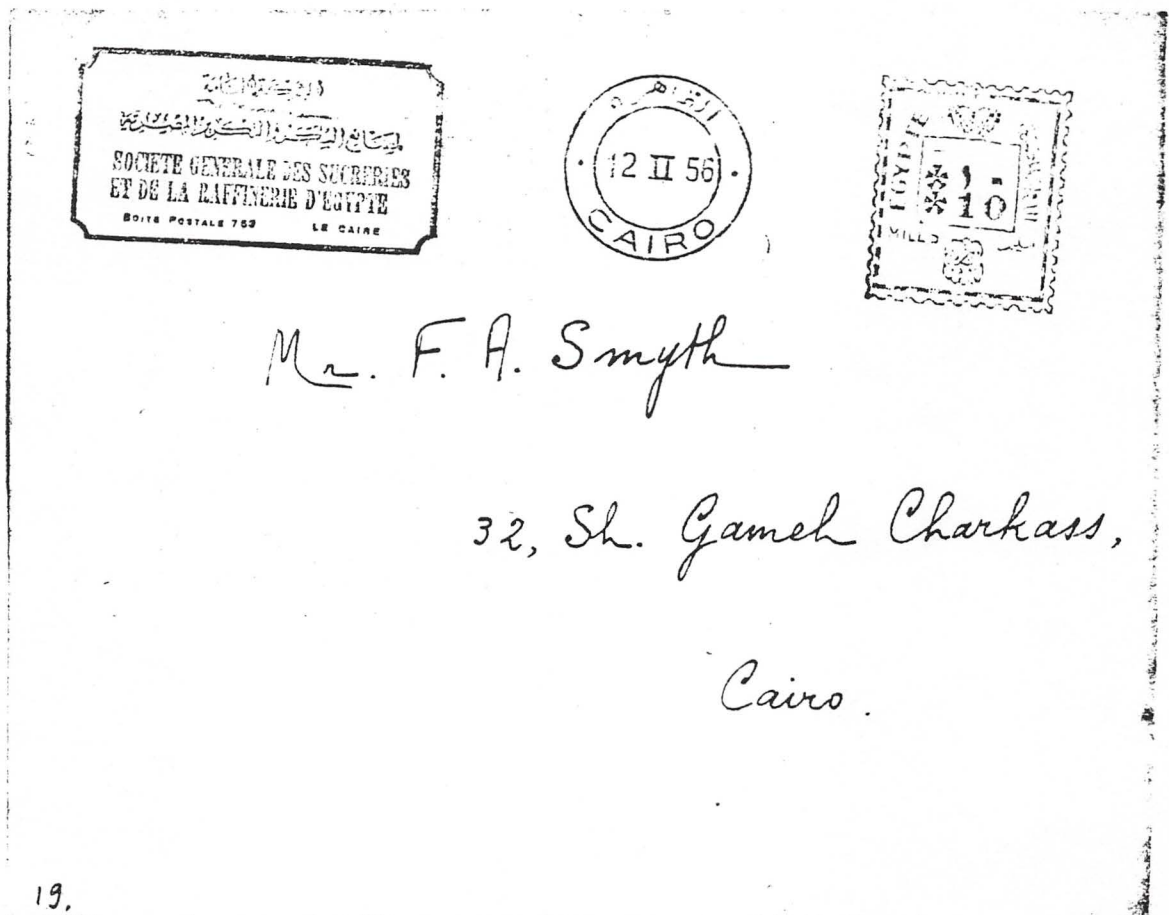
(to be continued)

[NOTE: The illustrations featured in this part relate to machines described above, and to franking impressions produced by them, including the Universal Multi-Value machine model I. Very similar material from the model O is not included above, but will be found in our next issue, which will feature a further instalment of Mr D H Clarke's Study - Editor]



(above) 1949 franked 27 mills Air Mail rate to UK
with Port Said transit mark and Civil Censor mark

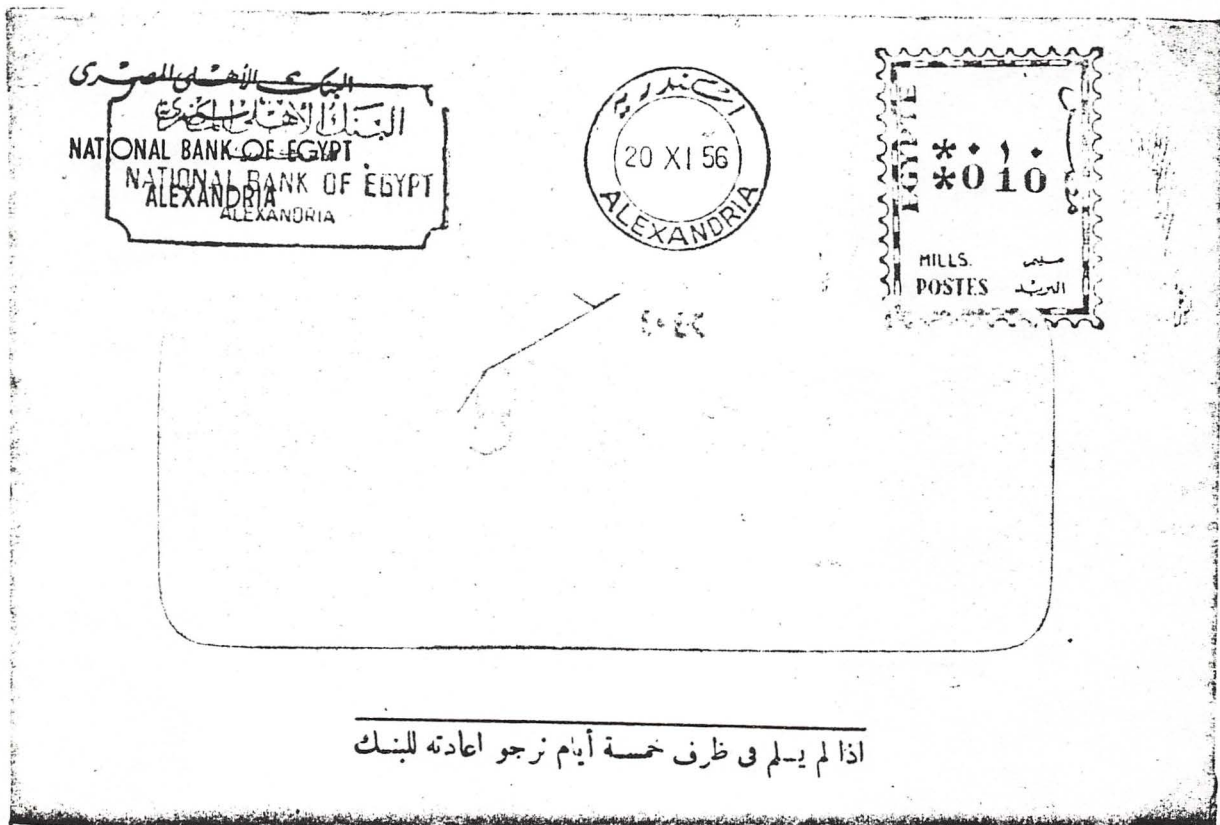
(below) 1956 franked 10 mills Inland Letter rate



COVERS FRANKED BY UNIVERSAL MULTI-VALUE Model I
Post-Monarchy: new Town Mark (with Machine Identity below)
and new large-format Franking Die with no Crown/Toughra



(above) 1954 Air Mail cover addressed to Dr Byam
(founder of Egypt Study Circle) Machine Number 11818
(below) 1956: larger die (30 x 37 mm) accommodating 3-digit value
Machine Number 4043



AMENDMENTS NEEDED TO J H E GILBERT'S LISTING OF AIRMAIL RATES

(Published in L'Orient Philatelique, No. 125 [April 1972] pp 129-136)

- by W C Andrews (ESC 132)

There are some errors in this listing, possibly due to typesetting errors.

Surface Weight Surcharge Inclusive
rate for Air rate

(1) Opposite the date "1/3/38" is the following :-

"Weight scale reduced to 10 grams	15m	10g	13m	28m"
-----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	------

This does not agree with illustration No. 4, the heading thereto stating "15 mills rate from 1st March 1938 until 3 Sept 1939"

Which is correct ? Perhaps the illustration heading is, as this has a cover showing the 15-mills rate (but I have no means of checking this).

(2) The last two figures in the last two rows, under the heading "Inclusive rate" appear to be transposed. Surely they should be, first, 100m, and second, 120m. This is borne out by the totalling of the Surface Mail rate with the Surcharge for Air Mail.

(3) The entry for "31/8/53" should read :-

"31/8/53 Increase in weight to 20 grams and in surface mail charge :	32m	20g	15m	47m"
---	-----	-----	-----	------

(4) There is an omission requiring the following insertion immediately after the item above :-

"-/12/53 Increase in surface mail charge to 37 mills	37m	20g	15m	52m"
---	-----	-----	-----	------

It always gives me a little personal satisfaction when (occasionally !) I manage to relate covers to the correct postage rate. If somebody does undertake the revision of this listing I think the whole article should be checked with original material if possible, and continued up to the present time. The question will be: where does one find confirmation of the rates ? I hope it will be possible to republish the whole table at a later date, perhaps when it has been amended and extended to the present time.

W C Andrews (ESC 132)

NOTE: The Gilbert listing in L'OP is perhaps no more than a framework in cataloguing routes, rates, etc., and much work is needed to make it complete and reliable. Your editor dared an attempt to make sense of the list, and of the illustration captions. Illustration No. 2 has a caption referring to "7th May 1934" which, according to the listing, should be 1st May 1934. The caption to illustration No. 3 "28 Mills Rate from 1st Feb. 1937 until 1st March 1938" does not link with any entry to be found in the listing.

We need a careful revision, as this information is vitally important to many collectors. Further - this information has to be easily available to newer members who do not have runs of L'Orient Philatelique to hand. Possibly JO will be a useful source of details as to changes of rates, etc. 'JO' is Mr Mike Murphy's extracts from "Journal Officiel" - 1917 appears in this issue.

WANTED !! - an enthusiastic member to take on this important revision. He will get a lot of help from Circle Members - Editor.

JOURNAL OFFICIEL

Extracts by J M Murphy (ESC 240)

[REMINDER: These extracts are from the official Egyptian Government organ. Mr Murphy is happy to include items bearing perhaps remotely on the postal services; it is up to the enthusiast to search these extracts for portions directly related to his own interests. The practice of showing the active dates in brackets at the end of each entry unfortunately ceased during the War; the listing dates must be taken only as approximate. The spelling of the original French and English text has been retained, so that some well-known places may appear under unfamiliar guises.

[This entire work is the effort of Mr Murphy, from his original idea to list postal service events, to typing the chosen extracts.

[The last extracts from JOURNAL OFFICIEL appeared in the June 1983 issue of The Q.C. (Vol. XI, number 10; Whole Number 126). It is intended that further extracts will be included in each future issue of The Q.C. The "stock" of JOURNAL OFFICIEL to which Mr Murphy has access continues into the Republic period although, regrettably, the year **1918 is missing**, as are all issues **prior to 1913**. Can any Member help with these missing numbers, please ?

- EDITOR]

1917 - i

1917 comment by JMM

Wartime difficulties continue. Reopening of Baharia Oasis and El Arish POs, Egypt selling new Hedjaz issue at a premium, parcel delivery and duplicate letter arrangements, sinking of the Mooltan.

Jan 1 (1,3): Owing to the suspension of communications with Greece, the public is reminded that it is useless to continue posting correspondence for that destination. Such correspondence cannot be forwarded, and will merely be accumulated in the Post Office pending the resumption of communications.

Jan 15 (5,1): Sultan's decree (dates Jan 11, to take effect Jan 15) - Readdressing of insured letters will attract a second fee, unless for reason of postal service error.

All insured letters not collected from the Post within 48 hours of advice to the recipient will attract a fee of 20mills a day for each £100E or fraction of insured value, to a maximum of 100mills a day.

Feb 1 (11,3): The following imports by post are prohibited by the United Kingdom: gold (including coin and articles partly manufactured from gold), silver (manufactured, other than for watches and watch cases), jewellery of any description.

Feb 19 (16,3): Parcels addressed to French troops in France are free of Customs duty whether or not the contents consist of usually prohibited merchandise (playing cards, matches, etc. excepted).

Customs declarations for parcels for France, Corsica and Algiers should show the full name and address of the addressee, and whether the goods are for Government use.

1917 - i i

Feb 22 (17,3): Baharia Oasis PO will reopen on March 1.

(17,5): The Egyptian Postal Administration has been charged with selling the new Hedjaz issue of stamps to collectors, with a 5 per cent fee on top of face value of one-quarter, one-half and 1 P.T. Orders should be addressed to the Direction Generale des Postes, Alexandria.

Mar 8 (21,5): The public is requested not to lodge claims with the Civil Post Office concerning delays in delivery of letters or parcels posted by them to military addressees, unless they hold documentary proof that such articles have not been received within a month of the date of posting.

Considerably more time is often necessary for the delivery of postal matter for the military than is the case of correspondence exchanged between civilians.

Mar 29 (28,4): A civil PO will be reopened at El Arish on April 1, services to include Savings Bank but not specie groups, insured letters or insured parcels.

May 3 (38,6): The Postal Administration reminds the public, as the fact seems to have been lost sight of, that there exists a service of delivery of parcels by special messenger at the domicile of the addressee, thus obviating the necessity of sending a messenger to withdraw it from the Post Office.

The additional tax for this service, in the case of an inland parcel, is 10mills only, and 20mills for a foreign parcel.

When it is desired that a parcel should be delivered at the residence of the addressee, a request to that effect may be written on the despatch note, to which the extra fee aforementioned should be affixed in the shape of postage stamps.

May 7 (39,2): As a consequence of the entry into the War of the United States of America upon the side of the Allies, the postal restrictions concerning the despatch of printed and illustrated matter to that country have been abolished.

May 14 (41,14): Direct mail between Egypt and Italy has been suspended until further notice. All parcels for Italy will therefore be despatched by way of France and the postage thereon will consequently be augmented by 20mills for each parcel in favour of the French Post Office.

May 17 (42,10): From May 15, the value of British Postal Orders issuable to individual purchasers for payment in India is limited to fsg20 a day.

Jun 7 (48,1): Sultan's decree (dated May 30, to take effect June 1) - Fixes charges for the internal postal parcels service to and from Dakhlah Oasis at 40mills up to 1 kg; 50mills from 1-3 kg.

Jul 5 (57,2): To eliminate the difficulties experienced by banking and commercial houses in Egypt in transmitting duplicate copies of important correspondence so as to ensure that the copies are not despatched by the same mail as the originals, the GPO is adopting the following system:-

Originals and duplicates of correspondence should be posted simultaneously.

The registration of the original documents is optional, but in any case they should bear the ordinary foreign postage.

The duplicates must invariably be registered and the covers clearly endorsed "Duplicates" in red ink in the left-hand upper corner of the address side. Such duplicates must bear the ordinary registered postage according to the country of destination, together with an extra fee of 20mills which will ensure that they are forwarded by a mail subsequent to that which carries the originals.

1917 - i i i

Jul 9 (58,5): The latest times for posting parcels in Cairo and its branch offices for despatch to the Sudan on Thursdays and Mondays are 12 noon at branch offices and 3pm at Cairo Central PO.

Mail (both letters and parcels) services with Greece have been resumed. COD parcels and Money Orders services remain suspended.

Aug 6 (65,6): The public is hereby notified that correspondence for the following countries:-

Great Britain and transit, France and transit, Russia, Switzerland, United States of America, South America, Italy and transit, Malta and Rhodes, posted at Alexandria since July 16 after 3pm up till July 19 at 3pm and in Cairo since July 16 after 5.30pm and up till July 19 at 5.30pm, was despatched by the P&O Steamship Navigation Company's "Mooltan", which sunk.

Registered correspondence deposited at the Central offices one hour prior to the hours indicated above was also despatched by this steamer.

The above dates, however, do not apply strictly to correspondence for neutral countries in view of censorship operations.

Senders of British Postal Orders by the above steamer are recommended to forward details of the payees, registering them to address their claims for duplicates direct to the Controller, Money Order Department, GPO, London.

Aug 16 (68,3): At the request of the Ceylon GPO, the maximum amount of a Money Order issuable in Egypt upon Ceylon is £10 and only one order a week may be exchanged between individuals.

Sept 3 (73,3): The public is notified that the import into the United Kingdom of sugar by Parcel Post from Egypt is prohibited.

Sept 10 (76,12): No articles of any description are allowed to be exported to Greece by Parcel Post without the production of a special permit issued by the British Ministry in Athens.

The public is reminded that letters addressed by civilians to the military must invariably be prepaid at the ordinary rates of postage.

Neglecting to observe this rule will render such correspondence to be sent to the Dead Letter Office and returned thence to the sender.

Oct 4 (83,5): Parcels service suspended with Aden, except for military. Ditto for Sweden, Norway, Holland Oct 15; Mozambique, Zanzibar Oct 22; Denmark Nov 1; Dutch Guiana Nov 15.

Nov 29 (101,3): Parcels service with Dutch East Indies and Dutch Guiana resumed.

Dec 6 (103,3): Sultan's decree (dated Dec 3, to take effect Jan 1) - fixes parcel post charges to Sudan at 50mills to 1 kg, 80mills 1-3 kg, 110mills 3-5 kg.

This account of one Middle East unit, its datestamps and censor marks, owes much to Mr Benian's "Egypt Postage Prepaid Military Datestamps 1941-1947" published by National Philatelic Society. The illustrations are adapted from his and the same type numbers are used.

By the middle of 1940, with our forces withdrawn from Norway and France, the Middle East became the main theatre of war for Allied troops. Italy declared war on Great Britain and France and thereby prompted immediate response from the RAF in the bombardment of aerodromes in Libya and Italian East Africa while Egypt severed diplomatic relations. General de Gaulle's Free French Forces joined the Allies in seeking to liberate the Vichy-government-controlled colonies of North Africa, Syria and Lebanon. Thus in addition to the fighting which was to rage in North Africa until May 1943, and subsequently in Sicily and Italy, Allied forces were engaged in British and Italian Somaliland, Greece, Abyssinia, Eritrea, Crete, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, Persia and Madagascar. In the twelve months to mid-1941 there were never less than two campaigns being fought at the same time.

Fortunately, in February 1940 as the first Australian and New Zealand forces arrived in Egypt, steps to establish a Middle East Base had been furthered by the sending out, as Director of Ordnance Services, of Brigadier (later Major-General) W. W. Richards. He had served in Egypt before and immediately started to create Base Depots and Workshops, exploit local resources and explore others in India and South Africa. The installations included three Base Ordnance Depots, No. 4 at Abbassia, No. 5 at Tel el Kebir and No. 2 in Palestine, and early in 1941 Brigadier H.C. Whitaker was sent out as Assistant Director of Ordnance Services (Provision) to 5 BOD. The practice at this time was for each BOD to have its own provision element but the need to centralise provision and inventory control was soon realised and in November 1941 a central provision organisation formed from personnel of the three BODs was set up at Mena under the command of Brigadier Whitaker as Deputy Director of Ordnance Services (Provision). At the outset the unit comprising 48 officers and 300 RAOC clerks was known as RAOC.DDOS(P).MEF but after one month this was changed to DDOS(P).GHQ.MEF. During a period of about 11 weeks censor mark type A36 No. 932 was used together with E.P.P. datestamp type III No. 27 but for two years thereafter the unit censor mark was type A5 No. 1837.

In December 1941 Japan entered the war and posed a threat across the Indian Ocean which helped to frustrate General Auchinleck's thrust against the Afrika Corps and led to his consolidating his forces along the El Alamein line. Orders came from GHQ for the Provision Office to move into Palestine and it arrived in Haifa in the first week of July 1942 to be known simply as DDOS(P).MEF. The upset to an organisation dependent upon accurate and up-to-date records and the availability of fully-trained civilian staff can be imagined but the expertise and experience of the military personnel kept it functioning. After 6 or 7 weeks in Haifa the unit found new accommodation in Tel Aviv where it remained for the rest of 1942 and, of course, during the whole of its sojourn in Palestine, mail was postmarked FPO.121.

From the beginning of 1943 the unit began to re-assemble at Mena and by March it had moved to its final location in Cairo's Citadel. Mail cancelled on the 18th March by unnumbered EPP datestamp with slogan IT PAYS TO LEND has been recorded, EPP type II No. 118 in the following September and EPP type I No. 29 in November. For about twelve months from October 1943 the name was again modified to DDOS.P.Mediterranean.MEF, by December EPP type I No. 14 had become the regular datestamp and some time between February and April 1944 a new censor mark type A6 No. 8705 was acquired. Finally, in September or October 1944, the unit was renamed COPO(ME) Central Ordnance Provision Office (Middle East) and so it remained until its dissolution in 1946.

/ Continued . . .

At the height of its activity the unit consisted of 79 officers, 457 RAOC other ranks, 91 attached other ranks (mainly REME), 268 Palestinian ATS and 369 local civilians. they dealt with more than 400,000 item headings and, at the peak period, an average of 38,000 daily transactions.

E. Blackburn (ESC 244)

Table of markings, with first and last dates seen

DATESTAMP	earliest	latest	CENSOR type	STAMP Number	earliest	latest
EPP No. 27 Type III	20.11.41	2. 2.42	A 36	932	15.11.41	22.1.42
			A 5	1837	2. 2.42	16.2.44
FPO 121	3.11.42	5.11.42				
IT PAYS TO LEND Type VI	18. 3.43					
EPP No. 118 Type II	26. 9.43					
EPP No. 29 Type I	? .11.43					
EPP No. 14 Type I	30.12.43	12. 5.45	A 6	8705	23. 4.44	12.5.45

OFFICIAL UNIT NAME	from	to
RAOC.DDOS(P).MEF	15.11.41	
DDOS(P).GHQ.MEF	12.12.41	
DDOS(P).MEF	20. 7.42	16.10.43
DDOS.P.MEDITERRANEAN.MEF	30.10.43	2. 9.44
COPO(ME)	12.10.44	(Onwards)

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INTERPOSTAL SEALS - by Tony Schmidt (ESC 198)

The date of opening of the post offices at Kafr-el-Cheikh, Koutour and Talah

There is a conflict of evidence about the opening dates of these three offices. On the one hand, a Notice about the postal service - dated c. 1889, discovered by Ibrahim Chaftar and the text of which appeared in "L'Orient Philatelique" No. 113 of April-July 1964, pp. 334-345 - states that these offices were opened in 1879. On the other hand, no postmarks of these offices with a date prior to 1880 have so far been reported; these offices are not thought to have used postmarks of a type earlier than VIII, and again no dates prior to 1880 have so far been reported for type VIII postmarks; and there are some known errors in the Notice.

But there does in fact exist corroboration for the Notice from an unlikely quarter, that is the section on interpostal seals in J.-B. Moens catalogue "Timbres d'Egypte et de la Compagnie du Canal de Suez" published in 1880. An examination of the list of offices for Kehr Type VII on page 104 shows that it includes only offices opened prior to 1876, plus KAHR-CHEIH, KOUTOUR and TALAH; it excludes any of the offices known to have opened in 1880 and which make up the bulk of Type VII interpostals. It follows that our three offices were either opened prior to 1880, or were the first to be opened in 1880.

The situation as regards Koutour and Talah remains open, but is now resolved insofar as Kafr-el-Cheik and Type VIII postmarks are concerned.

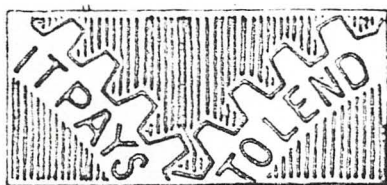
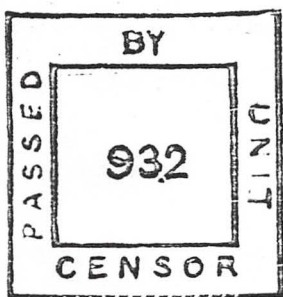
INTERPOSTAL SEALS - by Tony Schmidt (ESC 198) - continued

With the assistance of Michael Barker and Mark Dorman, I have recorded so far a total of 5 cancellations - all on type VII interpostal KA-FR-CHEIH (with the suggestion that Type VII interpostal KAFRE CHEIK is a later printing) and all being Type VIII postmarks - dated 1879 viz :-

28	NOV	79	(two examples, one illustrated below)
8	DEC	79	
17	DEC	79	
2 (1)	?	79	



BRITISH FORCES' UNIT: C.O.P.O. (M.E.)
 - Mr E Blackburn
 Some datestamps & censor marks mentioned



MISSING PERF. PINS - T. Dacos
 (best seen from back of stamps)
 Newest discoveries: 2m & 10m



MISSING PERFORATION VARIETIES - by Themis Dacos (ESC 220)

In 1974 I found a missing perforation variety on a 2-mills green of the DLR 1888 issue (Zeheri No. 37).

This find was illustrated in L'OP No. 128, page 372, and I had mentioned to friends that this kind of variety, although produced accidentally, should be considered rare: the De La Rue issues were handled carefully and there had been no report in any journal that such varieties existed. Up until now I have not seen reported any find on the perforation of the DLR issues 1879-1906 (the pyramid issues), perhaps because they are considered of minor importance. The only varieties which are reported from time to time on DLR were those on the watermark, colour and printing flaws.

The stamp which I found ten years ago was cancelled at the Ras-el-Tin Post Office on 15 JAN 1903 and the missing perforation was on both vertical sides, near the top corners (illustrated).

After so many years of expectation, but without any news (in this case the adage "no news is good news" did not apply!) I had almost forgotten this when . . . there it was! It has been my good luck again to come across a similar variety on a 5 mills red stamp of the 1888 issue (Zeh. No. 41). It was lying happily among a few hundred 'pyramids' which I had bought in bulk for study. This time the missing perforation is located on both top corners. The stamp was used in 1907 but the small part of the cancel does not reveal the name of the town. Is it ABU HOMUS, possibly? (Illustrated).

Now that a second case is reported it seems to me that there must be more waiting to be found, and the following is my point. This kind of variety is the result of a broken pin (drift?) on the perforating machine. Until the damaged pin is discovered, a certain quantity of sheets of stamps will have passed through and some will have been delivered (although, as I believe, the task of sorting out any faulty sheets must have been carefully performed).

The fact, however, that two examples have been found is a strong proof that an (unknown) number of sheets must have slipped through without being noticed and, even if this is not so, there must have been 9 more stamps in the same row from the Ras-el-Tin sheet, and a further 9 stamps from the Abu Homus (?).

No matter what happened, and how, I consider that this kind of variety on the De La Rue issues to be rare. I have examined some 30,000 stamps of these pyramid issues, in the last twelve or fifteen years, and these two cases were the only ones I have noticed.

In recent years, we have had two cases of 'missing perf.' varieties being accepted for record in the Zeheri catalogue. One is Zeh. No. 156a, the green and blue 100-mills commemorative stamp of 1957 issued on the occasion of the re-opening of the Suez Canal. The other is Zeh. No. 15b Air, the red 10-mills air stamp of the 1933 issue.

I should welcome comments from fellow-members. What would they have to add, or object to? Certainly, I do not group, with the careful work done by De La Rue, the poor perforating work done on the 1874-5 Boulac second printing (Zeh. Nos. 14aa-20aa) which made hopelessly numerous perforation varieties.

I delayed mailing this letter, with a remarkable consequence. I did not have to wait ten years to find the next example of missing perforation! The new find is on a used 10-mills violet of the Farouk portrait, obliterated with 3 bars (Zeh. No. 189). The right-hand side has one perforation missing (illustrated). Well, it is not DLR, but it is a missing perforation variety all the same!

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE LIBRARY - Stocks of Periodicals

For some time now I have wondered why it is that, when we have so many calls from Members for back-numbers of "QC", there is no complete run held by the Library which could be used as part of the Library for lending and, when the excess supply produced at the time of printing is exhausted, for photocopying for sale to Members. Furthermore, there is no complete run of L'Orient Philatelique in the Library, which I believe is an omission. I ask myself why this should be so particularly when, unlike many philatelic societies, our main function is study and research. Having spoken to many Members both during and outside meetings I have invariably found that people agree that the Library should have a complete run of each of the above-mentioned periodicals.

As far as back-numbers are concerned the following is a list of what is currently available; a stroke between two numbers indicates that these numbers were contained in a single issue copy, and an asterisk indicates that there are less than five copies (two asterisks means a single copy only).

LIBRARY STOCKS OF THE QC

Volume	Number	Whole Series No.	Low Qty	Volume	Number	Whole Series No.	Low Qty
V	11/12	59/60		IX	1/2/3	97/98/99	
VI	4/5	64/65	*	IX	4/5	100/101	
VI	6/7	66/67		IX	6	102	
VI	8/9	68/69		X	1	105	*
VI	10	70		X	2	106	*
VI	11	71		X	3	107	
VI	12	72		X	4	108	
VII	1	73		X	5	109	
VII	2	74		X	6	110	
VII	3/4	75/76		X	7	111	
VII	5	77	*	X	8	112	*
VII	6	78		X	9	113	*
VII	7	79	**	X	10	114	
VII	9	81		X	11	115	
VII	11	83	*	X	12	116	
VII	12	84	**	XI	1	117	
VIII	1	85		XI	2	118	
VIII	2	86		XI	3	119	*
VIII	3	87	*	XI	4	120	
VIII	4	88	*	XI	5	121	
VIII	5	89		XI	6	122	*
VIII	6	90	*	XI	7	123	
VIII	7	91	*	XI	8	124	
VIII	8	92	**	XI	9	125	
VIII	10	94		XI	10	126	
VIII	11	95		XI	11	127	
VIII	12	96		XI	12	128	**

(Unlisted = Nil Stock; * = < 5; ** = 1 only)

/ Continued . . .

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE LIBRARY - Stocks of Periodicals- Continued

If Members feel that the Library should have a complete run of both "The QC" and L'Orient Philatelique and, for that matter, Egyptian Topics, then, clearly, we should go about producing them. I have access to a photo-copier, the Circle will, I'm quite sure, buy sufficient photo-copy paper, but, as a relatively new Member myself, I do not have copies which are not represented in the list above. It cannot possibly be economically viable to have reprints produced other than as photo-copies.

I THEREFORE APPEAL TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE COPIES OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED ABOVE to :-

(a) Express their views on whether or not a complete run should be produced for the Library.

(b) Express their views on whether photo-copies should be produced for sale to Members who require them, and

(c) Provide copies for photo-copying if they agree.

The above remarks apply of course to "The QC" in the first instance but I do feel that a complete run of L'Orient Philatelique and, to a lesser degree, Egyptian Topics, would complement the Library and I would be happy to do the necessary copying if Members can - and are willing to - supply the necessary originals.

On the subject of complete runs, we have in the Library, kindly donated by the late Charles Minett, a run of "TPO", the official magazine of the T.P.O. and Seapost Society, from Volume 5, No. 2, dated March-April 1951 to Volume 28, No. 4 (Whole No. 166) dated July-August 1974, with the single exception of Volume 10, No. 2, (Whole No. 56) dated March-April 1956. Whether or not that particular number contained a useful article on Egypt I do not know, but it does seem a pity if a Member has borrowed it, to leave that gap. If you have the Library copy please return it ! Otherwise, if a Member happens to have one that could be photo-copied to complete the Library run, then I would appreciate hearing from them.

October, 1984

John Davis (ESC 213) Librarian

*
* NOTICE OF BOOK PUBLICATION - Mr Peter R Feltus *
*
* THE PRIVATE SHIP LETTER STAMPS OF THE WORLD - PART 3 *
* The Suez Canal Company - by Jean Boulad d'Humieres, *
* S. Ringstrom and H. E. Tester *
*
* (March 1985) This book will be available next month. It will *
* be a high-quality hardbound book of 288 pages with many *
* illustrations and enlarged color reproduction of a 40 centimes *
* sheet. Prompt orders are advised as early books will have the *
* 1950s "souvenir sheet" of 4 facsimiles tipped in (there aren't *
* enough for all the books). Send \$45 (postpaid) to :- *
* P.R.Feltus P.O. Box 5339, Berkeley, CA 94705 USA *
*
