

The Quarterly Circular

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EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

September 17th 1972 Officials (an introduction) and "New
Issues" C.E.H. Defriez

November 12th British Consular Post Offices in Alexandria and
Cairo. D.J. Davis and P.R. Bertram

Meetings are normally held at the Victory Club, Seymour Street,
Marble Arch, London. Members usually congregate in the Bar from
1.00 p.m. onwards and meetings start at 2.30 p.m.

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contributors

IN THIS ISSUE

Members interested in censored mail will find Peter Andrews' comprehensive update of post second world war censorship marks of great interest. The study provides an excellent example of how the combined contributions of a Study leader, individual Circle members and the QC can further the work of the Circle.

The solution to the "control" number confusion of the early De la Rue pyramid issues has been provided by Peter Smith. That the answer to the problem was suggested by a specialist collector of Ceylon after reading his article in the London Philatelist, is testimony to the value of communication by publication in philatelic journals.

John Sears provides another episode of Air Jottings - this time drawing attention to, and seeking further information on "Jusqu' a" markings. These seem to be uncommon on items mailed from Egypt. A previous article in this series has provided interesting new information on transatlantic airmail services during the second world war which is the subject of a letter from Menne Larsen. Other letters cover a wide variety of topics.

Michael Dahl, Editor

SECRETARY'S REPORT

CORRECTION AND APOLOGIES

In my account of the meeting of the 28th November 1993 (QC No. 167, Dec. 1993, p.83) I reported that Pierre Grech had dedicated his presentation to Gabriel Boulad. This should have read "Pierre Grech dedicated his presentation to Jean Boulad d' Humieres". I offer apologies to all concerned.

MEMBERS NEWS

AWARDS AT EXHIBITIONS

At Posen in 1993 Kurt Wolfsbauer (ESC 197) won a Large Vermeil award for an exhibit of Pre-stamp and stampless covers from Egypt. At Bangkok in October 1993 he won another Large Vermeil award for an exhibit entitled The Austrian Consular Post in Alexandria.

NEW MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

- ESC 441 MONS. JEAN L. BAUDU
 9 Rue Martin Witkowski, 69005, Lyon, France.
 General Egypt.
- ESC 442 ABDULLAH ALI AL SHAIKH AL QUDAIHI
 PO Box 82, Aramco, Nijma 31311, Saudi Arabia.
 Royal Period of Egypt.
- ESC 443 MONS. ROGER STANLEY
 Chez Masse, 16210 St. Quentin de Chalais, France.
 General Egypt.

- ESC 444 MR. RICHARD A. SIMCOX
122 Lye Green Road, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, HP5 3NH,
U.K.
Middle East (Member of OPAL and Iran Phil. Soc.).
- ESC 445 MAGDI MOUKHTAR ABDE HADI
71, Syria Street, Mohandessin, Cairo, Egypt.
1866 to 1952, control blocks King Farouk issues.
Member of Philatelic Society of Egypt.
- ESC 446 MONS. PIERRE MENIAUD
Le Castellard 14, 23 Rue de Champagne,
69370 St. Dider au Mont d'Or, France.
Egypt 1866 to 1952.
- ESC 447 MR. ROY SUMMERS
22, Greenfields Road, Wombourne, South Staffordshire,
WV5 0HP, U.K.
General Egypt.
- ESC 448 MR. MICHAEL C. BRAMWELL
23 Sherington Road, London, SE7 7JW, U.K.
Egypt before 1940 including Ciderella material.
- ESC 449 DR. HANY HELMY MAKRAM
PO Box 2702, El Horria, Heliopolis, Cairo.
Postal History and 1st issue.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- ESC 110 MR. WILLIAM C. SCHEETZ
104 Myrtle Avenue, Newark, New York, 14513-1840,
U.S.A.
- ESC 206 MR. JOHN STEELE
803 Dunbarton Drive, North Augusta,
South Carolina 29841-5210, U.S.A.
- ESC 225 DR. H. KLEINSTUCK
64285 Darmstadt, Ludwig-Buchner-Strasse 15,
Germany.
- ESC 242 MR. ROBERT L. TOTH
80-65 High Point Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256,
U.S.A.
- ESC 298 HERR AXEL ZUEHLKE
Heinestr. 3, 41464 Neuss, Germany.
- ESC 417 SIG. LUCA BIOLATO
Via della Fontanella 4, 00187 Roma, Italy.
- ESC 436 MONS. ANDRE MATTER
c/o Mr. John Arpel, 11 Rue de Vosges,
68220 Hegenheim, France.

Meeting on 5th March 1994

Present	T. Awff	L. Balian	P.R. Bertram
	P. Bottrill	D.H. Clarke	J. Davis
	C.E.H. Defriez	S.A. Fikry	E.H. Fraser-Smith
	K. Hagopian	C.F. Hass	S. Horesh
	G.A. Jeyes	C. Kelemenis	J.M. Murphy
	A. Ott	J. Sears	V. Varjabedian
	B. Watterson	(19 members)	

There were apologies from:

W. Andrews	M.G.C. Dahl	J. Grimmer
J. Revell	N. Watterson	

The Chairman opened the meeting with a warm welcome to members visiting from abroad.

Five new members were unanimously accepted. The Secretary reported that the Society ties were selling well. A letter from the Hungarian Specialist Society was considered. They will be hosting a meeting of Specialist Societies in Birmingham in 1995 and were asking whether the Circle would like to man a stand at that meeting. After lengthy discussion it was decided not to support the event.

Further discussion took place about celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Circle next year.

There followed a 10 sheet display by members

J. Sears	Errors on overprinted postal stationery.
L. Balian	The 1938 Leprosy Issues - varieties, handstamps and cancellations, also a Kafr Zayat/Atfe cover of 1866.
C.F. Hass	Parcel cards to Djibouti 1918-1925.
J. Davis	Mail from Egypt to Italy 1670 to Posta Europea era.
B. Watterston	"Please help" - questions and items of interest.
T. Frazer Smith	Cairo '91 Exhibition items.
A. Ott	Station and TPO markings.
R. Bertram	Stampex acquisitions.
J.M. Murphy	Rural post.
P. Bottrill	Photographs - fore-runners of picture postcards.
S.A. Fikry	1874 Issue - covers, tete-beche items, multiples.

Meeting on 14th May 1994

Present	P. Andrews	W.C. Andrews	P.R. Bertram
	D.H. Clarke	J. Davis	C.E.H. Defriez
	P. Grech	E. Hall	G.A. Jeyes
	J.M. Murphy	J. Sears	B. Sedgely
	and guests	M.C. Bramwell	H.H. Makram
	who subsequently became members.		

There were apologies from

M.G.C. Dahl
P.E. Whetter

S. Horesh

J.A. Revell

The Chairman, John Sears, opened the meeting by welcoming our two guests. There followed further discussion of the forthcoming 60th Anniversary of the Circle in 1995.

John Sears then led the meeting, the subject being "Cancellations of minor towns and villages in Egypt up to 1939". Many members had brought along material ranging from partial strikes to whole covers bearing cancellations which they were either unable to identify or to locate. Additional material included an excellent range of maps, Baedekers and copies of official documents giving details of the locations and populations of villages, all of which proved invaluable to the meeting.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF EGYPT

There have been some recent changes of the Officers of the Philatelic Society of Egypt. Dr. Adel Farid replaces Hassan el-Morsi as President. Although not a member of the ESC, Dr. Farid is well known to many of our members. He is supported by Vice-President, Mohammed Shams ed-Din (ESC 337); Secretary, Professor Nabil el-Hadidi (ESC 369 and our Agent in Egypt) and as Treasurer, Es-Sayyid Yehia.

Hassan el-Morsi will be remembered (especially by those who attended the exhibition in 1991) for his hard work together with Samir Fikry in organizing and running CAIRO '91. Hassan remains on the Committee of the Society which also includes Sherif Samra (ESC 311).

Robin Bertram Secretary/Treasurer

LIBRARY NEWS

Several members have responded to my request for items for the Library (QC No. 167 Dec 1993, p.84).

Jack Cousins has donated a complete run of Egyptian Topics numbers 1 - 44.

Menne Larsen has given copies of L'Orient Philatelique numbers 101 and 105 and numbers 121 and 122 have been given by Peter Smith.

Khetcho Hagopian has donated his 1992 Catalogue of Egyptian Aerophilately. This is written and published by Khetcho himself and very good it is too.

I would like to express my thanks on behalf of the Circle to these members for their most generous offers. There are still many items on the previous "shopping list" which I would like to acquire for the Library. If members can help with any further items or have other material which they think would be useful for the Library, I would be delighted to hear from them.

John Davis Librarian

CIVIL CENSORSHIP IN EGYPT 1948 TO 1974

Peter Andrews (ESC 122)

Since publication of the original article on this subject in 1974¹ much additional information has come to light. It is therefore appropriate to publish an update.

The following listing incorporates data from the study session report of 1989² and from the subsequent letter from Glyn-Jones in 1991.³ Thanks are also extended to W.C. Andrews (ESC 132), C. Defriez (ESC 172), D.R.P. Glyn-Jones (ESC 231), J. Jensen (ESC 183), A. Winter (ESC 149) for further information in letter form, and also information from the collection of the late K.D. Knight (ESC 150).

At the study session on 8th July 1989 the question was raised as to why no covers with resealing labels had been found after the 27th July 1965. We are indebted to J. Jensen for details of covers bearing resealing labels up to and including 1974. The Cairo daily newspaper, Al Akhbar, reported that President Anwar Sadat of Egypt issued a decree on 17th November 1974 "abolishing censorship of mail entering or leaving the country".

References

1. Andrews, P. Civil Censorship in Egypt 1948 to date. Quart. Circ. VIII, No. 92, 1974, p.97.
2. Bertram P.R. Civil Censorship: 1948 onwards. Quart. Circ. XII, No. 152, 1989, p.269.
3. Glyn-Jones, P. Civil Censorship. Quart. Circ. XIV, No. 158, 1991, p.171.

Type a

(اصتارة رتمة دوت) (اصتارة)
 صلعة الرقاة المصرية صلعة
 صلعة بمعرفة الرقيب صلعة

seen in use 11-6-48 to 25-11-49 on both incoming and outgoing postal items.

Type b (In blue on green paper)

صلعة الرقاة المصرية صلعة
 صلعة بمعرفة الرقيب صلعة
 صلعة الرقاة المصرية صلعة
 صلعة بمعرفة الرقيب صلعة

seen in use 25-4-48 to 2-5-49 on both incoming and outgoing postal items. Printed on two types of green paper, one being coarser and giving a much heavier and more badly defined impression due to ink spread.

Type c (as b but black on shades of white paper)

seen in use 14-6-48 to 14-6-74 on both incoming and outgoing postal items.

Type 1

seen in use ?-6-49 to 2-10-60



Type 2
seen in use
25-4-48 to 9-2-61



Type 2.1
as type 2, but having
arabic 'mim' in place
of arabic 2. Seen in
use 6-4-52 to 8-7-53



Type 3
seen in use
20-5-49 to 17-3-50



Type 4
seen in use
26-7-58 to 20-8-58



Type 5
seen in use
25-4-48 to 11-6-67



Type 5.1
as type 5 but
having arabic 2
in place of arabic
1. Seen in use
25-4-48 to 11-6-67



Type 6
seen in use 25-4-48 to 5-10-57 in black,
grey, red, magenta, green, blue and
purple.

A new method of sealing (seems to indicate
that the envelope was unsealed) by means
of a small strip of paper fixed vertically
across the envelope flap and tied with
type 6 No. 83 at each end. Dated
28-MA-52.



Type 7
seen in use
10-7-56 to 10-2-73
in black and red.
Internal number 15
now seen.



Type 8
seen in use
4-2-62 to 14-6-74
in black and purple.
Internal numbers 15
and 157 now seen.



Type 9
seen in use
9-6-48 to 14-12-53
in black, violet
or blue. Diameter
23.5 mm.



Type 10
seen in use
2-10-48 to 15-6-49
in black and blue
incoming and outgoing
diameter 25.5 mm.



Type 11
seen in use
29-6-48 to 15-8-50



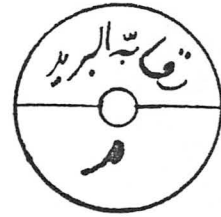
Type 12
seen in use
19-12-53 to 24-7-60



Type 13
seen in use
3-3-54 to 17-3-58
Diameter 24 mm.



Type 14
seen in use
8-2-54 to 15-10-60
Diameter 27 mm.



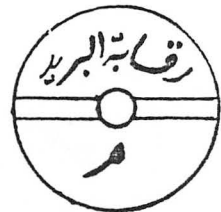
Type 15
seen in use
17-7-54 to 2-11-56



Type 16
seen in use
23-12-53 to 19-3-58



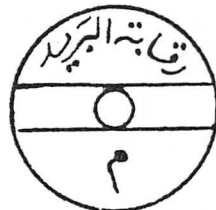
Type 17
seen in use
19-1-54 to 21-4-57



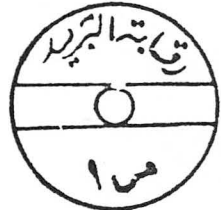
Type 18
seen in use
5-4-55 to 7-9-60



Type 19
seen in use
27-7-59



Type 20
seen in use
10-4-60 to 17-5-61
Only seen on postal
items into Egypt.



Type 21
seen in use
25-7-58 to 23-12-60
incoming and
outgoing.



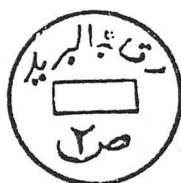
Type 22
seen in use
9-2-54 to 10-9-59
incoming and outgoing.



Type 23
seen in use
22-2-54 to 6-1-59
Also noted on cards.



Type 24
seen in use
19-1-54 to 21-12-60



Type 25
seen in use
?-12-60 to 1-11-61 (no arabic number)
2-4-61 to 6-5-61 (arabic number 1)
13-5-60 to 24-1-61 (arabic number 2)



Type 26
seen in use
29-11-60 to 21-12-60
(Arabic number 2)



Type 27
seen in use
17-4-54 to 21-8-61



Type 28
seen in use
23-10-54 to 27-8-60
diameter 25.5 mm.
latest date 27-9-55 (no1)
latest date 27-8-60 (no2)



Type 29
seen in use
18-1-62 to 18-11-63



Type 29.1
seen in use
?? 68 to 1-4-70



Type 30
seen in use
6-1-62 to 2-7-64
latest 19-7-63 (no1)
latest 5-2-63 (no4)



Type 30.1
seen in use
9-1-73



Type 31
seen in use
22-5-62 to 11-4-64
(arabic numbers 3 and 4)



Type 32
seen in use
19-3-67 to 28-9-71



Type 32.1
seen in use
17-3-65



Type 33
seen in use
23-8-48 to 8-1-51



Type 34
seen in use
5-6-51 to 13-3-58



Type 35
seen in use
7-9-58 to 20-12-60



Type 36
seen in use
2-3-58 to 22-1-61
(Arabic number 1)



Type 37
seen in use
24-11-62 to 15-4-67
new integral number
(no6) 20-10-65

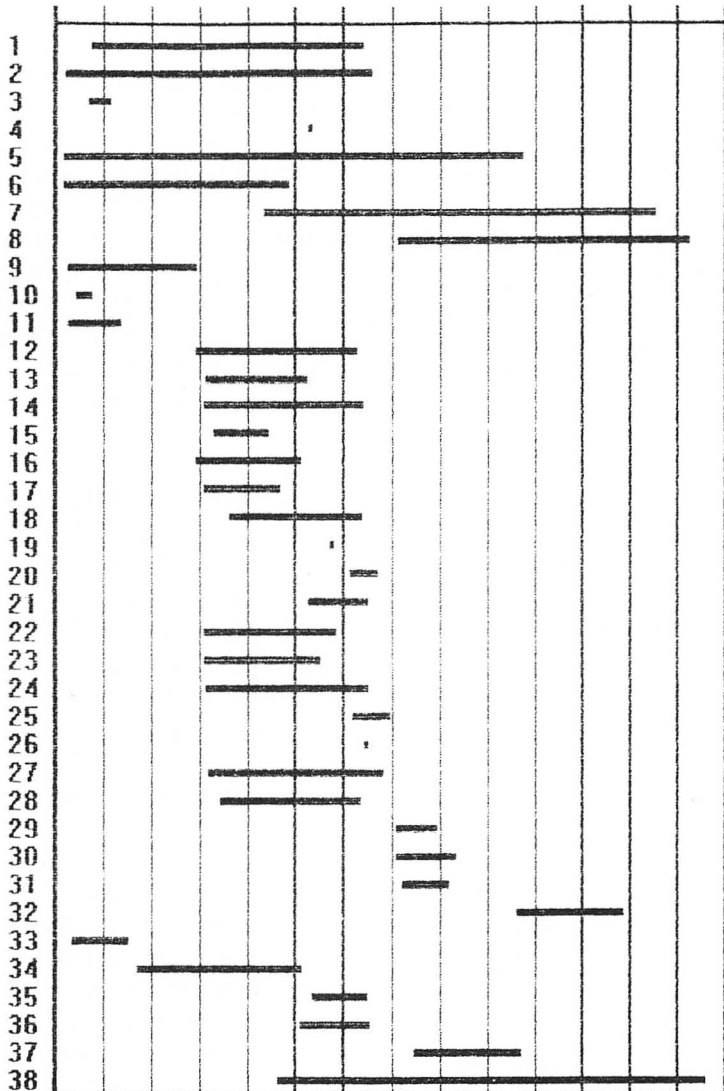


Type 38
seen in use
14-4-57 to 6-11-74
new integral number
(no10) 6-11-74



Type 39
New type. Seen at present used only for
publications censorship ?-7-69 to 4-1-70.
(This drawing is not an accurate picture
of the censor mark since any covers seen
have had only very blurred impressions).

1948 50 52 54 56 58 60 62 64 66 68 70 72 74 76



The chart shown here gives, in graphical form, an overview of the information given in the listing above and incorporates also any data contained in previous articles or at the beginning of this article.

.....

There have been no additions to the details relating to Types 26, 27, 31, 33, 35 and 36 since the original description in 1974. They are included here in order to provide a complete list. Editor.

Scanned. 28/9/11

DE LA RUE PLATE NUMBERS AND CURRENT NUMBERS

Peter A.S. Smith (ESC 74)

In my discussion of the Fourth Issue published last year in the London Philatelist, the curious fact was mentioned, without explanation, that the sheets of the earlier stamps usually had two types of "control" numbers in the side margins.¹ One type consists of a colourless numeral on a solid, circular ground, and the other type consists of a coloured numeral inside a rectangular frame having recurved corners (Fig. 1). The two types of numbers occur on the same sheets, but on different panes, and the numbers generally do not agree. The circular type appears at the top of the left sheet margin and at the bottom of the right one; the rectangular type occurs at the bottom of the left margin and at the top of the right.

After the appearance of that article, Mr. Hugh Osborne of Newcastle kindly wrote to me on the subject. He collects Ceylon, and has a special interest in the De La Rue issues. According to his information, the two types of "control" numbers are actually 1) the plate number (circular), and 2) the current number (rectangular). The plate numbers start with 1 for the first plate prepared for each denomination, whereas the current numbers start with the first plate prepared for each country. This system is established for Ceylon and many other countries for which De La Rue printed stamps. If it was applied to Egypt, it might be possible to make sense of the enigmatic situation with the Fourth Issue.

The Zeheri catalogue lists various "control" numbers for the 1879 issue, and purports to distinguish between the two types. However, when attempts to apply the foregoing system to the Zeheri listing are made there is no agreement, only pervading inconsistency. I have been able to confirm some, but not all, of the numbers listed. Mr. Osborne suggested that there might be errors in the Zeheri list, perhaps involving confusion between the two types. He pointed out that the plate number of each denomination should be 1, with additional numbers 2, 3, etc., for those values requiring several plates. The current numbers, however, would logically begin with 1 for the 5 paras, and proceed with 2 for the 10 paras, 3 for the 20 paras, 4 for the 1pt., 5 for the 2pt., and 6 for the 5pt.

There was nothing inconsistent with this view in my collection, and it had the virtue of explaining the part-sheet shown in Fig. 1, with plate number 1 and current number 2. However, the lack of a wide selection of panes and full sheets prevented further progress. The breakthrough came from Trenton Ruebush, who informed me that he has sufficient panes and sheets to confirm nearly all of the current and plate numbers proposed by Hugh Osborne. There now can be no doubt that they are correct, and that the Zeheri listing is, indeed, mixed up.

The 1pt. rose, the most heavily used value, required two or more plates, as shown by the confirmed plate numbers. The current number for plate 1 is 4, and for plate 2, it is 7 (because it was evidently prepared later, after the plate for the 5pt). On the other hand, the lesser used 10-para denomination required but one plate, which was used for all four of the colours in which it was eventually printed.



Fig. 1. 10 para (SG.51 Ze26). Right hand margin of sheet with date of printing (8 DEC 81) in top right corner, circular control number 1 in bottom right margin and rectangular current number 2 top right.

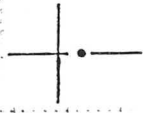


Fig. 2 4 mill (SG.62 Ze40) of 1888. Right hand margin of sheet shows only circular control number 1 beside each pane.



By the late 1880s, De La Rue abandoned current numbers, and subsequent plates bore only the plate number, one in each corner of the sheet of 240. The 1888 stamps in 1 millieme currency thus mark the end of current numbers. I have seen the 2 mills with the number 1 in each corner of the sheet, in the rectangular frame of the current numbers. This must be considered an error, for a current number 1 would make no sense, whereas the plate number would necessarily be 1. The Zeheri listing implies that plate 1 of the 1 mill was similarly treated.

The 1, 2, and 5pt. denominations continued in use for a long time, and eventually even the 2 and 5pt. required new plates. These were prepared after the abandonment of current numbers, and only the new plate number, 2, appears once on the outside margin of each pane. Thus it is that the 5pt. grey was printed from plates having plate number 1 and current number 6, and later from plate 2 without current number. Similarly, the 2pt. orange-brown was printed from plate 1, current number 5, and from plate 2 without current number. The situation with the 1pt. blue is not completely clear, but it appears that this value was printed from plate 2, current number 7, and from plates 3 and 4 without current numbers. The uncertainty is that the Zeheri listing implies that plate number 3 was printed in the rectangular frame of the previous current numbers. Perhaps members of the Circle may have an example showing plate number 3, and can confirm this. The 3, 4 and 5mills and the 10pt. denominations are not known with current numbers, and all plates had only circular plate numbers (Fig.2) insofar as I am aware.

It is clear that the entire listing of "control" numbers in Zeheri for the period 1879-1906 is rife with errors and is unreliable.

Further insight into De La Rue's practices with plate and current numbers can be gained from two recent publications.^{2,3}

References

1. Smith, P.A.S. Egypt: the Fourth Issue. London Philatelist 102, 1993, p.117.
2. Ince, J., Sacher, J. The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region. The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 1992.
3. Fricks, E.E. Collectors Club Philatelist, in press.

.

At the recent Study Circle meeting of 8 July, 1994 two marginal examples of the 1888 2 mills were shown with the "wrong" rectangular framed plate number 1 as described above. Were any sheets of the 1 mill or 2 mills value of this issue printed with the correct circular plate number 1? Editor.

AIR MAIL JOTTINGS NO. 10
THE JUSQU'A MARKINGS

J. Sears (ESC 188)

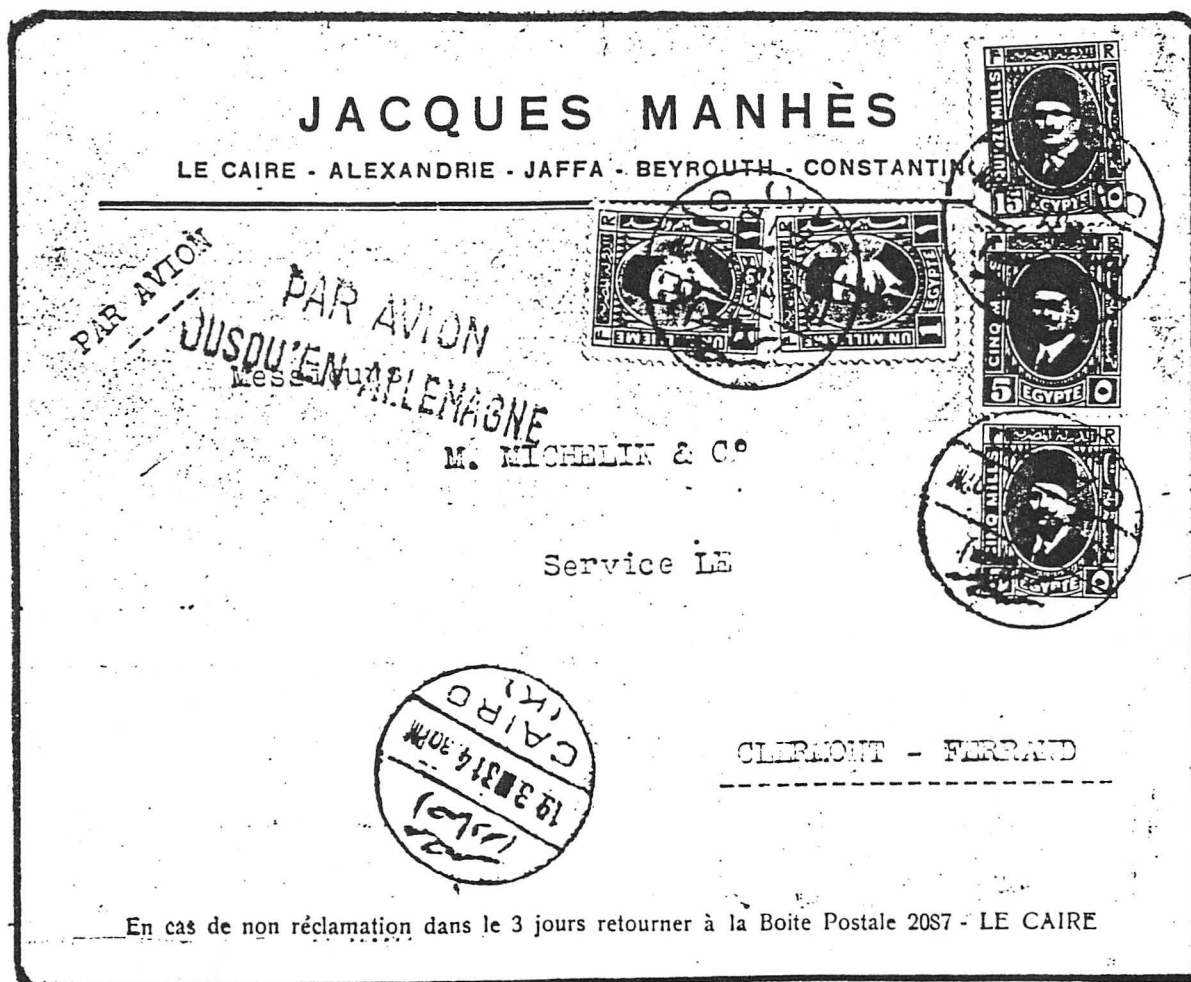
A very useful book entitled "Jusqu'a Air Mail Markings (A Study)" by Ian McQueen was published last year. Priced at £10 its 110 pages contain a lot of information on these markings, and also include a section devoted to the markings cancelling Airmail instruction vignettes. The scope is worldwide, but there is little reference to markings originating in Egypt.

As Mr. McQueen explains, these cachets (handstamps) were generally applied at the commencement of a letter's route to its destination in order to indicate that it was to be carried by air only up to the location (country or city) shown in the cachet. The rest of the journey was to be by surface route. As air mail became more available after the war the cachets dropped out of use. They are not seen after the mid 1950s.



This is the usual type of design. "Jusqu'a" means "as far as" or "up to". The originating office would normally have completed the instruction in script, although sometimes cachets are seen with the country (or town) printed in.

As the author acknowledges, these markings are scarce on mail from Egypt. The only illustration I can offer is the one below. It was shown to me by John Revell (ESC 78).



The rate of 27 mills is a mystery since at this time it should have been 25 mills (10 + 15). Perhaps the sender thought that as the only Air Mail stamp available was the 27 mills value, this should have been the correct rate. The cachet reads "JUSQU'EN" rather than Jusqu'a. The EN also means "to" and substitutes for A when the following word begins with a vowel.

The route of this letter is interesting, the backstamps being Alexandria 21.111.31, Berlin 25.3.31 and Clermont Ferrand 27.3.31. The Imperial Airways route for mail was: by air to Athens, by train to Nish in Serbia and then by air to Belgrade - Budapest - Nuremberg - Cologne - London. Passengers travelled by train from Athens to Paris until May 1931. The route was then changed so that travel was by air to Genoa via Athens and then by train to Paris. This cover must have been off loaded at one of the German airports, travelling by train to its destination via Berlin.

Will members please advise us (with illustrations) of any covers they have with "JUSQU'A" or "JUSQU'EN" cachets.

While discussing recent air mail publications, Frank Jones of the British Aerophilatelic Association has written a book called "Etiquettes Par Avion - By Air Mail", 55pp, £12.50. It is also worldwide in scope with many illustrations of air mail etiquettes and two pages in colour. It is a worthwhile addition to the library of anyone interested in air mails.

.

Corrections. QC No. 168 Mar 1994

p.130 R. Bloomer (ESC 435)

P.135 Wedding Stamp. line 3 should read :-
The Wedding Stamp of 20 Jan. 1938.....

LETTERS

Transatlantic Service from Lagos 1945

Sir, I read with interest John Sears' article Air Mail Jottings No. 9 (QC No. 168, Mar 1994, p.129). I do not know whether the cachet is commercial or official. However "Merchant Airmen" published by the British Government in 1946 provides clear evidence of the existence of a BOAC transatlantic route from Lagos-Bathurst via South America to the USA. This publication¹ details the purchase from the USA in 1941 of three Boeing 314A flying-boats. The following paragraphs from pages 155 and 156 give informative details of the service provided and of the routes followed by these aircraft.

"They were bought primarily in order to strengthen the route between Britain and West Africa. It was to be found, however, that they needed certain engineering overhauls after every 120 hours' flying. Since servicing of the Boeings is highly specialised, and draws on some 14,000 different spare parts which must be bought from a number of different firms in America - and since no facilities existed in wartime Britain for such intricate work - the aircraft were flown back to the United States for overhaul after each shuttle between Britain and West Africa. In this way grew up an intermittent transatlantic service, the only one Britain flew in 1941 with flying-boats. Obviously the aircraft did not make the journeys empty. They carried to full capacity Government freight, mail and passengers, but those who travelled in the Boeings were only those whom the Government wished to travel to help the war effort, and they travelled free".

The three Boeings were named Bristol, Berwick and Bangor. The first of them, Bristol, was handed over to British airmen in April 1941.

"Until October Bristol, Berwick and Bangor flew from Britain to West Africa on the route Foynes, Lisbon, Bathurst and Lagos. After each homeward journey to Britain, they made return flights from Foynes to Baltimore via Newfoundland. Thus they alternated a return trip to West Africa with a two-way crossing of the Atlantic.

But in winter the direct route over the Atlantic was no longer feasible for flying-boats. Even discounting the force of winter gales from the west, the waters at Botwood froze over. Captain Rogers therefore took one of the Boeings across the South Atlantic, and surveyed the winter route which they all followed until Botwood was clear of ice the following summer. These routes formed a kind of round tour in a series of loops. After engineering overhaul at Baltimore, the Boeings flew through Bermuda and Lisbon to Foynes: then south, via Lisbon and Bathurst to Lagos: then north to Bathurst: then they struck out westwards across the South Atlantic, via Belem in Brazil, and through Trinidad to Bermuda to fetch up once more at Baltimore".

A footnote indicates that later the Boeings flew to Poole rather than Foynes. A later sentence (p.165) reads "The Boeings flew - as they still fly - stolidly over the course returning each time for servicing at Baltimore". The phrase (underlined above) in the present tense seems to indicate that the routes were still

being flown at the time that the document was written, ie 1945 or 1946. The existence of the route in the winter of 1945/46 is confirmed by Norman Clowes' remarks. BOAC withdrew its Boeing 314 flying-boats from the transatlantic service on March 7th, 1946.

It is possible to interpret the cachet in two different ways - either a) all the way by BOAC or b) by BOAC from Cairo to Lagos and then by transatlantic air mail to the USA (regardless of the air company). I do not think that it is possible to state whether the cover was carried across the Atlantic by BOAC or PANAM without detailed knowledge of time-tables and the location of the US censor.

The Cairo-Lagos route was established before the war. It was much in demand during the war in the desert. It lost much of its significance for the war effort in 1943, but was still of importance for supplies to India via Asmara. I think that BOAC was still operating the route in 1945.

I do not know whether U.S. Foreign Air Mail Route 22 was still operating in 1945. A survey had already been made in 1942 for a direct flight from North America to Cairo by Boeing 307 'planes. Two were allocated to this route by Military Transport Command, but I do not know whether mail was carried.

Viben 54,
DK 6270 Tønder,
Denmark.

E. Menne Larsen (ESC 170)

Reference

1. Merchant Airmen - The Air Ministry Account of British Civil Aviation, 1939-1944. Ministry of Information. His Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1946.

John Sears comments:-

I am most grateful for this information. I have obtained a copy of the book to which Mr. Larsen refers. As can be seen from the routes quoted in his letter there is no mention of Miami. I therefore tend to the view that it was flown by an American carrier, at least from Lagos to its destination, because of the Miami transit markings. Certainly it could have travelled by BOAC as far as Lagos.

I have also had a letter from Mr. Ian McQueen (of OPAL) who shares my interest in cancelled Air Mail Markings. He sent me a photocopy of a cover bearing the same cachet sent to the same addressee and from the same sender as that shown in the article. The franking is the same and the transit and arrival marks correspond exactly. However the Alexandria cancellation is dated 27 FE 45 - one week later. What a coincidence!

Return to Sender Cachets

Sir, Although I suspect that more information will come from Egyptian members, I am tempted to comment on the 1961 letter and its cachets described by Anton Jansen (QC No. 168, Mar 1994, p.136).

Over the years I have built up a substantial collection of mail addressed to individuals on named ships, be they crew members or passengers. It is not surprising that many items are addressed to various shipping agents at Port Said. In the 'Appendix to Lloyd's Register Book' for 1950 there is a list of telegraphic addresses which includes Giulio De Castro & Co., PO Box 262, Port Said, the address to which the letter was sent. This leads me to infer that that firm was a shipping agent with Italian connections. Presumably they were quite used to receiving mail for individuals on their principals' vessels passing through Port Said and various delays no doubt led to many letters missing the boat. In the case in point, there was no ship named, hence the comment at the foot of the cover - in English as being more likely to be understood than Italian.

I suggest that the large trilingual cachet was applied by G. De Castro & Co, that the black 'RETOUR' and 'NON RECLAME' marks were the work of the Egyptian Post Office and the the violet 'Retour' was part of the return-to-sender procedure in Germany.

20 Ogden Drive,
Lakeside,
Cardiff CF2 6LL,
U.K.

Norman Clowes (ESC 349)

Unrecorded Flaw on the 30 mills of 1953



Normal



Flaw

Sir, I have noticed a small flaw on the 30 mills mosque value of 1953. This flaw consists of a white spot like a small additional cloud about 2 mm right of the minaret and below the letter T in EGYPTE. I now have four examples of this flaw. Unfortunately I have not got whole sheets of this value, but perhaps other members will be able to locate its position in the sheet.

S:t Larsgatan 38c
S-582 24 LINKOPING
Sweden

Lars Alund (ESC 105)

Interpostal Seals - Merlander, Barckhausen and Koch

Sir, "Die Administrationsmarken Aegyptens" is the title of an 8 page pamphlet in German on the subject of interpostal seals. Presumably published in 1890, the title translates as "The Administration Stamps of Egypt", and it was "a free publication during the exhibition of these stamps by G. Koch in Cairo (Egypt)". The ESC library possesses a copy of this interesting pamphlet, as well as a fairly good translation of it into English.

No individual other than G. Koch is mentioned in the pamphlet, and at the end there is a reference "Philatelist 1890 No. 2". This refers to an article in "Der Philatelist", the journal of the International Society of Philatelists at Dresden, in the second issue of 1890 which is dated 1 February. I have obtained a copy of this article through the kind offices of the Philatelic Department of the British Museum, and I can state that a) the article in "Der Philatelist" is written by Ludwig Merlander of Alexandria (this name is not unknown to me - I have seen it on a number of Egyptian covers), and b) except for a few minor and one major change, the Koch pamphlet is a reprint of the Merlander article.

The minor changes include the correction of some typographical errors, a modification of the statement concerning Kehr Type III proofs, the addition of two more offices to those under Kehr Type VIIA, and the addition of two further Types to the list of interpostals of the General Administration. The major change is in a pair of short consecutive paragraphs, as shown below:

MERLANDER

Die Feststellung der Ausgabezeit erfolgte bei den ältesten Emissionen auf Grund der Durchsicht einer grösseren Anzahl gestempelter Exemplare; die Angaben über die Zeit der späteren Ausgaben verdanke ich der Güte des Herrn L. Barckhausen, welcher seit langen Jahren im Hause V. Penasson thätig ist.

Die Steine zu den alten Emissionen bestehen nicht mehr; sie sind bei dem im Jahre 1878 stattgehabten Brande der genannten lithographischen Anstalt, untergegangen.

Translation: The date of issue of the older issues was determined by examining a large number of post-marked examples; for issue dates of the later issues, I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. L. Barckhausen, who has been with the firm of V. Penasson for a long time. The stones for the old issues no longer exist; they perished in the fire which occurred in the year of 1878 in the fore-mentioned lithographic works.

KOCH

Die Feststellung der Ausgabezeit erfolgte bei den ältesten Emissionen auf Grund der Durchsicht einer grösseren Anzahl gestempelter Exemplare.

Die Steine zu den alten Emissionen bestehen nicht mehr; sie sind bei dem im Jahre 1878 stattgehabten Brande der lithographischen Anstalt von V. Penasson untergegangen.

Translation: The date of issue of the older issues was determined by examining a large number of post-marked examples. The stones for the old issues no longer exist; they perished in the fire which occurred in the year of 1878 in the fore-mentioned lithographic works of V. Penasson

This sinister excision of Barckhausen (Penasson's lithographer, whose name is usually spelt Barkhausen) is little short of a philatelic crime. One can only conclude that Koch intended to give readers of his pamphlet the impression that he was its author, and to this end he deliberately and cynically omitted the names of both Merlander and Barckhausen.

The ESC library now has a copy of the Merlander article, and perhaps henceforth we can treat the Koch pamphlet as the slightly modified reprint that it is.

Stonecroft, Leafy Lane,
Rudloe, Corsham,
Wiltshire, SN13 0LE,
U.K.

Tony Schmidt (ESC 198)

Inverted Watermarks-1953/56 Definitives

Sir, I have recently found a copy of the 50 mills value of the 1953/56 issue (SG no 428, Ze no 228) with inverted watermark. This variety has not been recorded previously as far as I am aware. Some years ago I found the 100 mills value (SG 429, Ze 229) with inverted watermark. I have three copies of this last mentioned variety, probably emanating from the same correspondence.

To date the following values of this issue have been found with inverted watermark, viz:

4 mills	(SG 417, Ze 271a) ¹	
10 mills	(SG 419, Ze 219b) ²	
(defense)		
30 mills	(SG 423, Ze 223a) ³	
50 mills	(SG 428, Ze 228)	Now recorded
100 mills	(SG 429, Ze 229)	Now recorded

A closer look may reveal other values of this issue with inverted watermark. It seems unlikely that only I should be lucky enough to have such varieties amongst his duplicates.

S:t Larsgatan 38c
S-582 24 LINKOPING
Sweden

Lars Alund (ESC 105)

References

1. L'Orient Philat. No. 91, (Jul) 1955, p.143.
2. L'Orient Philat. No. 93, (Oct) 1955, p.276.
3. L'Orient Philat. No. 96, (Oct/Jan) 1955/6, p.471.

Ad Hoc Conference to improve the Catalogue Listings
of Dates of Issue

Sir, The annual national convention and exhibition of the American Philatelic Society is scheduled for August 18th to 21st, 1994, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I am organizing a conference of members of the Circle and others interested in Egyptian philately to deal with the many inaccuracies and uncertainties in the dates of issue (and in some cases, obsolescence) of Egyptian stamps. The precise day and venue within the convention will be set later. Those who cannot attend, but have data to contribute, are urged to send it to me beforehand; photocopies are ideal, but information in any form would be welcomed! The following Table lists the principal questions. Postmark dates where there is a question mark are requested.

ISSUE	EARLIEST	ISSUE	EARLIEST
1869:		1923-4:	
10pa violet	?	Any dates earlier than SG lists	
20pa bright green	?	1927-37:	
1874/5:		1m	?
5pa	?	2m	?
10pa	?	3m pale brown	?
10p	?	green	?
1pt	?	deep brown	?
2pt	?	4m green	?
2½pt	?	brown	?
5pt	?	5m	?
1879 Provs:		10m	?
5pa/2½pt	?	13m	?
10pa/2½pt	?	15m blue	?
1881:		purple	?
10pa claret	?	20m blue (small)	?
1906:		blue (large)	?
4m	?	olive	?
1921-2		40m	?
1m	?	50m	?
2m	?	100m	?
3m	?	200m	?
4m	?		
5m	?		
10m	?		
15m SG 96	?		
15m SG 97	?		
20m	?		
50m	?		
100m	?		

ISSUE		EARLIEST	LATEST
1886 DUE	10pa	?	?
	20pa	?	?
	1pt	?	?
	2pt	?	?
1888 DUE	2m	?	?
	5m	?	?
	1pt	?	?
	2pt	?	?
	5pt	?	?
1889 DUE	2m	?	
	4m	?	
	1pt	?	
	2pt	?	

ISSUE		EARLIEST	LATEST
1905 DUE	3m/2pt	?	
1927 DUE			
Any dates earlier than SG lists.			
"1918" DUE			
Sideways wmk. Any dates earlier than 1915.			
1921 DUE	2m green	?	?
	2m red	?	?
	4m red	?	?
	4m green	?	?
	10m blue	?	?
	red	?	?
1893 OFFICIAL			
Sideways wmk.			
1913 OHHS		?	?
1915 OFFICIAL			
	2m	?	
	4m	?	
	5m	?	
1922-3 OFFICIAL (OHEMS)			
	1m	?	
	2m	?	
	3m	?	
	4m	?	
	5m	?	
	10m blue	?	
	10m lake	?	
	15m SG 0118	?	
	SG 0119	?	
	50m	?	
1923-4 OFFICIAL			
Any dates earlier than SG lists.			

811 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Ann Arbor
Michigan 48103, USA

P.A.S. Smith (ESC 74)

Army Post 3 mills 1936 - Date of issue.

Sir, Recent catalogues of Stanley Gibbons give 9 November 1936 as the date of the 3 mills green Army Post issue. However, Hobbs¹ in his definitive work gives the date as 1 December 1936. Can anyone clarify this situation?

9A, Melanie Place,
Orewa, Hibiscus Coast,
New Zealand.

Peter F. Goodwin (ESC 297)

Reference

- Hobbs, J.E.O. British Forces in Egypt, Postal Service 1932-40, 2nd Edition, 1984, p.68.

Montreal 1976 - XXI Olympiad Labels

Sir, I have recently acquired a set of multicoloured labels in blocks of 4 as illustrated below. There are six values. Two of the blocks are se-tenant. All are inscribed "Montreal 1976" and "XXI Olympiad" and are designated in MLS (not mills). No country name is shown.

They have been described to me as labels produced by Egypt to sell in Canada to defray their Olympic team expenses - but the Canadians refused to allow this. Is this information correct? Where were they printed and how were they to be sold and at what price? Any information will be welcomed.

I am writing in similar vein to Mark Dorman of the Cinderella Club.

Flat 4, Ravine Court,
Meriden Close, Canford Cliffs,
Poole, Dorset, BH13 7JU,
U.K.

G.A. Jeyes (ESC 293)

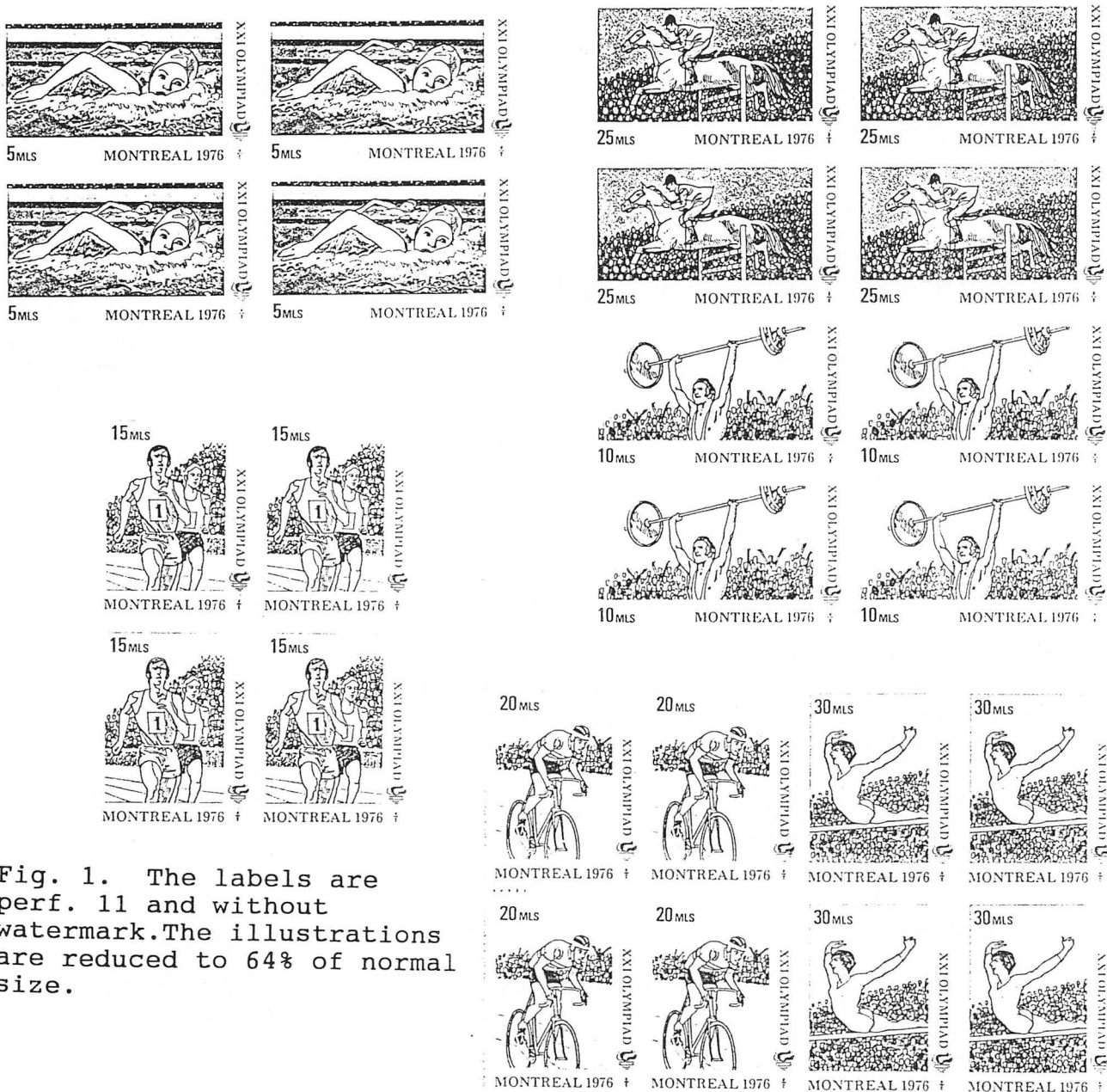
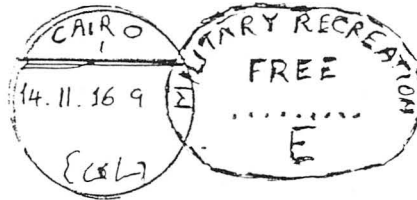


Fig. 1. The labels are perf. 11 and without watermark. The illustrations are reduced to 64% of normal size.

Question Time 113 - Soldiers' Cafe Cairo/Free/...../F

Sir, I cannot answer specifically the question posed by Dennis Clarke (QC No. 153, Mar 1990, p.15). However I have recently obtained a Tuck's oilette postcard (No. 9631) which has a c.d.s. of Cairo of 14.II.16 superimposed on an oval cachet MILITARY RECREATION/FREE/...../E in pinkish red. Since the SOLDIERS CAFE is lettered 'F' I wonder if there was a series of these 'FREE' marks. Can other members comment?



The illustration is from a tracing of the card, and shows the size and details.

9A Melanie Place,
Orewa, Hibiscus Coast,
New Zealand.

Peter F. Goodwin (ESC 297)

Cercle Khedivial

Sir, I have a cover bearing a 1 pi. blue of 1884 used from Alexandria to London on 23 IV 88. The back flap bears a red embossed crest of the "Cercle Khedivial". What was the "Cercle" - a social or sporting club perhaps?



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Meriden Close, Canford Cliffs,
Poole, Dorset, UK, BH13 7JU.

G. Alan Jeyes (ESC 293)

Forgeries: 1866 10pi. "Die Proof"

Sir, In an October 1993 mail auction this description appeared: "1866 Single die proof on gummed paper of the 10pi slate blue, two very large margins, Sc. 6, S.G. 7, rare". I was able to examine this intriguing and previously unknown item. It was easily recognizable as a "Salama" forgery. These have been minutely described for all values by Chafter in two articles in L'Orient Philatelique.^{1,2} The features of the 10pi. forgeries are detailed on pages 213 -226 of the second article. The back of one of the E's has no gouge, neither numeral 1 is tapered, the centres of both numerals 0 are simple ovals (not distorted as is one of them on genuine stamps), and the vowel mark above the middle of the bottom part of the overprint is comma-shaped with a long, thin, nearly horizontal tail. What is new is that this is not one of the final forgeries, for



they were printed on a residue of the genuine, watermarked paper, in sheets. This item is on unwatermarked paper, and the enormous margins at the top and bottom show that it did not come from a sheet, but possibly from a horizontal strip, if not printed as a single impression. It is thus presumably either a die proof used by Salama, or a proof of an original stone in the form of a strip (of unknown length) prepared by Salama in the process of building up his printing stone.

811 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Ann Arbor
Michigan 48103, USA

P.A.S. Smith (ESC 74)

References

1. Chafter, I. The Forgeries "Salama" of the 1866 Issue.
L'Orient Philat. No. (Apr) 1972,
p.105.
2. Chafter, I. The Forgeries "Salama" of the 1866 Issue.
L'Orient Philat. No. 126, (Jan) 1973,
p.213 - 226.

ESC Expert Committee

Sir, I know that the Circle has an Expert Committee. Could you furnish me with further details about this. Whom should I contact and what are the costs?

Churchillweg 114,
6706 AE Wageningen,
Netherlands.

Anton J. Jansen (ESC 383)

Reply from Peter Andrews

I am the Chairman of the Expert Committee of the ESC. I will happily deal with any enquiries related to items on which an opinion is required and I collaborate with members or others who have expert knowledge on a particular subject.

The cost depends on the difficulty of forming an opinion and the number of people (and the related postage costs) when it is necessary to consult. The minimum charge for members is £2 sterling plus postage. Should there be a possibility of an extended examination period or excessive cost the owner would be informed and asked if the costs are acceptable.

51 Elizabeth Road, Moseley,
Birmingham, B13 8QH, UK.

Peter Andrews (ESC 122)