

The
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THE
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**Carmichael
& Todd**
PHILATELISTS
PTS
GREGORY C.G. TODD

EGYPT.

De La Rue Ipi. ultramarine used on Advice of Receipt form #39, cancelled at Alexandria (June 8, 1886) with 'Tripoli/Syrie/Turquie' confirmation of arrival datestamp below (June 11, 1886). Reverse showing further Alexandria datestamp of distribution to sender (June 17, 1886). Rare.

(نمبر ٣٩ ٨٩)
ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES D'ÉGYPTE
مصلحة البوستة المصرية

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION علم التسليم

L'Expéditeur de l'objet suivant (1) *Lettre recommandée*
موسل لارسالية الاتي بيانها وهي (١)

portant le N^o *24489* et l'adresse de M. *Ch. Saporio*
à Tripoli
بوسم جناب روضو عليها نمرة

désire savoir s'il a été reçu. يوجب الاستعلام عما اذا كانت تسلمت ام كيف

L'Employé des Postes.
مستخدم البوستة
J. Saporio

L'envoi ci-dessus désigné m'a été remis contre reçu le *11 Juin 86*
لارسالية الوصحة اعلاه تسلمت بالاىصال اللازم بتاريخ
1886 سنة ١٨٨٠

Signature,
لاعضا
صبرود
طوب

(1) Indiquer la nature de l'envoi, si c'est un objet recommandé, une lettre de valeur déclarée, ou un colis postal avec ou sans valeur déclarée.
Cet avis doit être renvoyé, sous recommandation d'office, au bureau d'origine, muni de la signature du destinataire; si ce dernier ne consent pas à le signer son refus et la remise de l'envoi doivent être attestés par l'employé du bureau de destination, lequel utilise à cet effet la formule ci-dessus en la modifiant. Le bureau d'origine se charge, ensuite, de le faire tenir à l'expéditeur, comme objet recommandé.
Au moment de l'expédition on doit attacher cette formule à l'envoi avec une épingle, excepté pour les colis postaux, pour lesquels elle doit être attachée au bulletin d'expédition.

(١) يتوضه نوع الارسالية اذا كانت مسجلة او خطاب ذا قيمة مقررة او طرد بوستة مؤمن او غير مؤمن عليه
يصبر رد هذا العلم مسجلا رسميا للمكتب المرسل الاصلى بعد امضائه من المرسل اليه فان لم يقبل امضاه يتوضه من مستخدم المكتب المرسل اليه من ذلك وعن تسليم الارسالية على هذا المطبوع بعد اجرا تعديله به ثم على المكتب المرسل الاصلى ان يسلم هذا مسجلا للمرسل منه
يحال تصدير الارسالية يرفق بها هذا المطبوع مشموكا بدبوس انما تستثنى من ذلك طرود البوستة اذ يقتضي ارفاق المطبوع المذكور بحافظة ارسال

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Meetings dates for 2016

The September meeting will be held at 2.30pm at **Stampex**, at the Design Centre in Islington (where members normally congregate a little earlier in the hope of a quick start to a two-hour meeting); and in November we meet at 2pm in the **Victory Services Club**, Marble Arch, London (where members usually meet in the ground-floor bar from 1pm).

Sept 17, 2.30pm	Stampex Stampex Sept 14-17	Ten Sheets	All members
Nov 5, 2pm	Services Club	Revenues Interpostals	Richard Wheatley Jon Aitchison

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Facebook

Meeting Report: July 16 2016



Cyril Defriez, left, pointing out a detail of the original artist's drawing for the Narmer Palette se-tenant pair issued in 1986 (SG 1620-21); and John Clarke, right, who kept his audience mystified and intrigued by looking more at the backs of his stamps than the front

PRESENT: Peter Andrews (Chairman), John Davis (Librarian/Deputy Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Edmund Hall (Webmaster/Editor), Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Peter Grech. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: John Sears (President), Neil Hitchens (Committee), Sami Sadek (Committee), Joe Chalhoub, Angela Child, Pauline Gittoes, Paul Green, Alan Jeyes, Roman Rimonis, Greg Todd, Richard Wheatley.

It was a small but select group that met to view two most unusual displays at our mid-summer meeting. The Chairman welcomed those present and regretted to have to report the absence of our President, John Sears, because his wife Pat had had cardiac surgery only a couple of days before. The meeting wished her well for a speedy recovery. The Chairman then gave a brief report, see p244, on ESC attendance at the New York World Stamp Show at the beginning of June, and congratulated several members on winning excellent medals, including: Greg Todd (ESC 585), Large Gold for his First Issue (8 frames); Hany Salam (ESC 580), Gold for his 19th century Maritime Mail routes (8 frames); Trent Ruebush (ESC 179), Gold for his Fourth Issue (5 frames); and Lucien Toutounji (ESC 249) Gold for his Lebanon Airmail, to 1950. Stephen Schumann (ESC 679) was in the Championship Class with his New Zealand postal stationery 1876-1940.

Our Editor attended the New York meeting and enjoyed catching up with old friends but somehow didn't get to have a longer chat with some. He mentioned he did not buy anything, quite frustrating, but had talks with some about disposing of his collection due to health reasons. Already a third of his collection has gone to auction, all non-Egypt and on show at Stampex. He is now preparing his Egypt for disposal by the end of the year.

Members were advised that the forthcoming Spring Stampex 2017 would have a Middle East theme, based on the former Ottoman Empire, and that the organisers would welcome displays from ESC members. We have a minor problem with contact details, but as soon as we have anything concrete the Secretary will inform all members.

The Secretary dealt quickly with admin: apologising for a slip in his email naming the wrong speaker today, appealing for illustrated lists of lots for our big autumn auction to be sent to him by August 15 if possible; and announcing that nine Facebook members had taken advantage of the "temporary free membership" offer for 2016. All are active on the internet, and it will be interesting to see how many follow up with full membership in 2017. Officers reported that the next QC is in course of preparation with a varied series of new articles – but that there is always room for more; that finances were in order; and ditto the Library.

We then turned to the first of the day's displays, the Circle's New Issues collection, by Cyril Defriez (ESC 172). We have heard much about this collection, but never before seen it in real life, and members were overawed by the amount of effort and sheer hard work that Cyril has put into it since he was "volunteered" by Major ELG MacArthur to maintain the collection on its formation in the early Seventies. For 45 years he has carefully researched, arranged and mounted on more than 550 album pages all of Egypt's new issues, their FDCs and information sheets, as they arrived so regularly from Cairo until the interruption of the Arab Spring uprisings. We are now in the course of trying to fill in gaps since 2011 – and as Cyril is now 88, he rightly feels that he has done more than his share in maintaining such an important asset (see panel right).

Volunteer required!

No arm-twisting involved, just a willing volunteer needed to take over the care and development of the Circle's New Issues collection, which is growing too large for Cyril Defriez's downsized new house. All those interested should please contact the Secretary.

Unable to carry the full collection with him, Cyril showed over 100 pages, explaining that at first the mint stamps were hinged, as was the fashion of the day – but he switched to Hawid strips when a Year pack of blocks of four arrived from the Philatelic Bureau, making hinging impossible. Thank goodness. Over the years all stamps – definitives, commemoratives, air mails, officials, dues ... everything... has arrived from Cairo, and the Circle is infinitely grateful to Egypt Post for continuing this important service. It even extends where necessary to full sheets – and we were fortunate to be sent the 2004 Bar Association sheet before the sitting president was literally cut out of it. Complete sheets are not easy to find.

From new issues we turned to old with the second speaker, John Clarke (ESC 497), who has been carrying out personal research into an area rarely explored – that of the "cancelled-back" stamps produced by the Egyptian Post Office on behalf of its royal patrons from 1926, when the Survey Department took over printing the nation's stamps, until Nasser's revolution.

Because the first sheet of each stamp was specially printed on stout, unwatermarked, ungummed paper and not perforated, John feels that they should be designated as proofs. On the reverse of each sheet was diagonally printed "Cancelled" in English. On later issues, starting in March 1947, the printing on the reverse was ordered changed to Arabic by King Farouk.

Stamps required!

John Clarke's engrossing and novel delving into the cancelled-backs could use some help. Will all members who have examples, and especially in blocks, please contact John with a view to furnishing scans or photos for further research.

Little has been written about these sought-after items, which were first revealed at the Qubba Palace sale of the royal collections, beyond George Lee's catalogue. But John has delved deeper, and by comparing control-numbers (indicating the year of printing) with the cancelled-back, has come up with some interesting conclusions.

First, he learns, the reverse of the card was printed before the face, so that a stock of preprinted card was available; and second that the preprinted cards must have been square, to allow for any size of printed sheet of stamps. Bear in mind that only 25 stamps (one full sheet) were printed for Fuad's 58th birthday; and there were as many as 16 plates for the definitives and the postage dues.

George Lee (and today's catalogues) state that the last printing of the 1937 Farouk 200m was made in 1946, so the reverse should only exist with "Cancelled" in English. But Peter Smith had a copy with Arabic "Cancelled" – and after an article in the *QC*, Peter Andrews also found that he had a copy. John has seen both copies and confirms that both are genuine. In view of this it seems possible that the 30m, 50m and 100m – as well as the 200m – could also exist with the Arabic "Cancelled".

All in all, including another thought-provoking excursion into upright and sideways applications of the reverse cancellations, John left the whole meeting intrigued. Clearly there is much still to be discovered. As the Chairman said, summing up a riveting afternoon: "Congratulations to both speakers, who have put an enormous amount of time and effort into two fascinating displays."

Special ESC Meeting at New York 2016

Trenton Ruebush (North American Agent)

The 2016 New York International Stamp Show was held from May 27 to June 4. On May 29 18 members of the ESC from Canada, Egypt, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as several visitors, got together for an informal ESC meeting at the Show venue. Each member introduced himself/herself and gave a few details about his/her collecting interests.

ESC dues for the printed and online versions of the *Quarterly Circular* and options for paying dues were discussed. Our Editor, Edmund Hall, who had made the trip from London, pointed out once again the problem the *QC* was facing in terms of shortages of articles and made an appeal to members to submit articles. The ESC website was described and was recommended to members as an excellent resource for Egyptian philatelists.

In addition, Hani Sharestan reminded members of the ESC Facebook page. Finally, Sherif Samra pointed out that the Philatelic Society of Egypt is planning on holding an exhibition in Egypt in early 2018 and welcomed all members.

ESC members were well represented at the show by a series of excellent exhibits (the number of frames is indicated in parentheses). No medals were awarded for one-frame exhibits.

Gregory Todd, UK	Egypt – 1866: The First Issue	(8) LG. GOLD
Hany Salam, Egypt	Egypt: Maritime Mail Routes, 19th Century	(8) GOLD
Trenton Ruebush, USA	Egypt's Fourth Issue, 1879-1913	(5) GOLD
Lucien Toutounji, USA	Lebanon Air Mail 1919-1950	(5) GOLD
Guy Dutau, France	Haiti First Issues (1881-1887)	(5) GOLD
Mahmoud Ramadan, Egypt	Egyptian Government Post, 1814-1922	(8) LG. VERMEIL
Khaled Mustafa, Egypt	Postal Stationery of Egypt, 1865-1930	(8) LG. VERMEIL
Brian Callan, Ireland	Graf Zeppelin DLZ 127 – postal Globemaster	(8) LG. VERMEIL
Richard Wheatley, UK	Netherlands East Indies Mail 1789-1877	(8) LG. VERMEIL
Jon Aitchison, UK	Guernsey /Adhesive Revenue Stamps	(5) LG. VERMEIL
Albert Briggs, USA	The ABCs of Patent Medicines	(5) LG. VERMEIL
Richard Wilson, USA	Three Millièmes Army Post Stamps 1936-41	(1) 87
Amr Laithy, Egypt	Graf Zeppelin LZ 127 Egypt's Flight	(1) 86
Tarek Mokhtar, Egypt	Shibin El-Kom Postmarks 1870-1922	(1) 86



The meeting ended with a group photograph, after which many members stayed around to renew acquaintances and exchange information.

Front row: *Caroline Scannell, Atef Sarian, Joe Chalhoub, Trent Ruebush, Lucien Toutounji, Sherif Samra, Vahe Varjabedian.*

Second row *Tarek Mokhtar, Mohamed Soliman, Hany Ibrahim, Edmund Hall, Osama Gaber, Hani Sharestan, Marcus Orsi (non member), Jon Aitchison, Hany Makram, ?,*
Back row *Richard S Wilson ?*

A few members had left before the picture was taken.

Hani Sharestan has also written about the show in the *The Arab Collector* at <http://the arabcollector.tk/>

An Interesting Zeppelin Cover

John Clarke (ESC 497)



This Zeppelin cover may interest members because of its “hotel” relationship. The cover was sent from Alexandria to Jerusalem on April 9 1931, with the pair of stamps affixed to an envelope of the Pension Russell House (ex Pension Villa Yolanda) with the printed address Sporting Club – Ramleh (Sidi Gaber).

There are three splendid strikes of the Alexandria / Graf Zeppelin cds and a two-line red handstamp LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN / AGYPTENFAHRT 1931. The backstamps are Cairo 9 APR 31 7.30P and a Jerusalem machine roller of 13 APR 31 11am after the mails were carried by train. The 50 mills stamp is from position 1, showing the two varieties: 1951 for 1931 and the 5 spaced out from the 0.

I would be happy to hear any comments from members.

As I mentioned in the last *QC* (June 2016, p234), my plea for articles met a fantastic response. If your article is not published here, please be patient: it will appear. The choices made for this issue do not in any way imply that those not yet published are any less worthy. I try to use first those I have had for the longest time, but really it’s all about juggling to make the pages fit: one of my own articles is more than three years old! I have in hand exciting and important articles of many pages, and hopefully all will soon be in print. **Editor**

The PORT-SAÏD Local Overprints, 1899.

Pierre Louis Grech (ESC 266)

Recently I added another postcard to my collection of 1899 PORT-SAÏD local overprints. It reminded me that the results of the search by Peter Smith, Charlie Hass and myself for these stamps on cover had never been fully published. While the stamps can be found detached or in small blocks, they are very rare on cover. Over 45 years only 8 such items had been identified. After an interval of 20 years my new acquisition makes it 9 (but no doubt more must lie undiscovered). This article is intended to record those items known so far.

A summary of the background: Ferdinand de Lesseps died on 7 December 1894. At the general meeting of the Canal Company shareholders, on 9 June 1897, it was agreed to fund a statue to de Lesseps, to stand at the entrance to the Suez Canal at Port-Saïd. (Refer to the article "The Statue of Ferdinand de Lesseps" by P.L. Grech in QC No. 248, March 2014, pp. 3-10). The inauguration was set for 17 November 1899, which was also the 30th anniversary of the official opening of the Suez Canal.

Meanwhile, on 6 October 1899 the French Postal Administration decreed that the stamps sold in the French P.O.s at Alexandrie and Port-Saïd had to be overprinted respectively with the names of those cities. On 18 October a shipment of 9,000 10c Sage stamps overprinted PORT-SAÏD were dispatched from Marseille, other values to follow. On 16 November the Port-Saïd postmaster not having received those other values applied to the French Consul for permission to overprint locally his existing stock with the name Port-Saïd so as to have such stamps available for the forthcoming festivities. Refer to the earlier *op.cit.* and to P.L.Grech's "The French Post Offices in Egypt", Vol. 2, Chapter 29, as well as J.H. Chalhoub/C.F. Hass "The Nile Post".

The overprinting was carried out by the firm of V. Colomb using as a model the overprinted 10c from France which had arrived three weeks earlier. Although the point size selected was nearly identical, the shape of the available characters could not match exactly. The letters of the local overprint were sans-serif (an analogy being Arial versus Times New Roman), and there were no double dots above the i (*diæresis*). It was also in red ink on *all* the values, based on the 10c stamps received. The printer would not know that the Paris overprints on the other values would include some in blue and in black. The enlargement in *Fig.1* illustrates the differences.



Fig.1 - Paris (left) and Local Overprints.

Every value from the 1cent to 5 Francs was overprinted, including the left-over 5c dark green type II stamps (*Fig.1*) which would never exist in the regular Port-Saïd set from France. The overprinted quantities were low as the P.O.'s stock was rather small, having been run down in preparation for the arrival of the new stamps from Paris. The local overprints were sold from 17 to 24 November when they ran out (*myth #1*), and were replaced by the official overprinted stamps from France which had arrived on the 22nd.

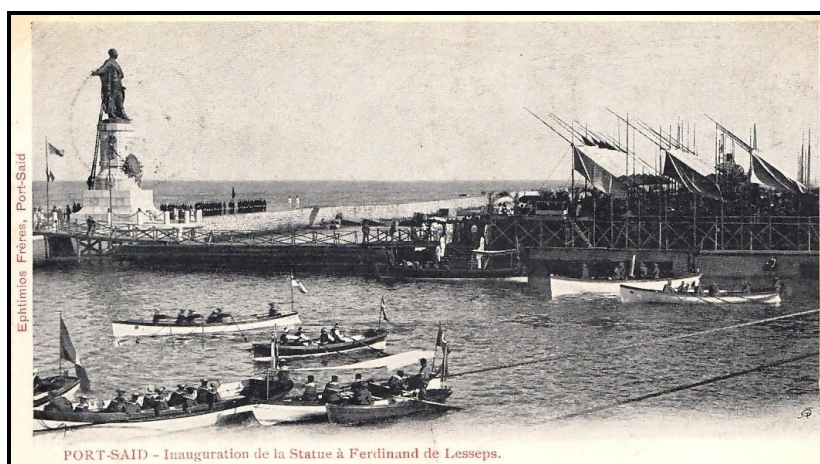


Fig.2 - Inauguration of the statue, 17 November 1899.

There was virtually no mention of this first local overprint issue in stamp catalogues in the early part of the 20th century, and information about it had been lost, until brought to light by an article in the French magazine *L'Écho de la Timbrologie* of 15 April 1928 (page 578), which also stated that most of the stamps were used on non-philatelic mail (*myth #2*).

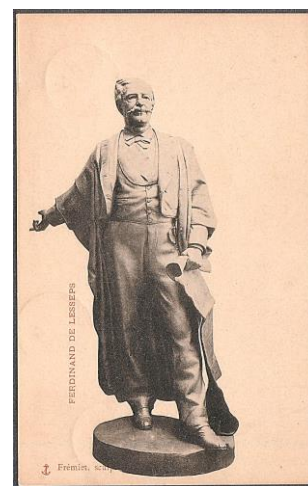
In spite of this report, these stamps sank back into oblivion, until resurrected in an article in *L'Orient Philatélique* No. 125, of April 1972 (pp. 121-124), by Dr. A. Winter, in answer to a query from Prof. P.A.S. Smith in an earlier issue (No. 121). Between them they owned the 2c, 5c deep green and 5c yellow-green. Dr. Winter recounted the 1928 story from the *Écho*, adding that supposedly 200 stamps of each value had been overprinted (see "The Nile Post" for a more plausible analysis of quantities). That article led to the identification by collectors, on close inspection, of a few postcards in their collections bearing these rare stamps, including the discovery of the 1c, 3c and 4c (*lot 837, Robson Lowe auction, 5 April 1978*).

There the matter rested until 1996, when there appeared at the Roumet postal auction house in Paris a number of these local overprints. Every one of the 14 values of the 1899 Paris Overprint set was there, but instead bearing the **PORT-SAÏD** local overprint. There was also the 5c dark green stamp mentioned earlier. Some of the values, especially the yellow-green 5c were in large blocks of 25. Stamps which until then had been considered as rarities were available in some quantities. This disproved the statement (*myth #1*) that the stamps had been sold out by 24 November.

These stamps had been released on the market by an Egyptian collector who had acquired them from the descendants of the Navarre family in Egypt. André Navarre, last postmaster of the French P.O. at Port-Saïd, had been allowed to retain the stock of demonetised stamps after the P.O. closed permanently on 31 March 1931. As well as numerous later Millèmes surcharged issues, this included a quantity of the Sage local overprints. These stamps continued trickling onto the market for several more Roumet auctions, and are now being re-sold elsewhere, sometimes as "essays", by some dealers apparently unaware of the real background.

As mentioned earlier, these stamps on-cover remain very scarce, the joint research over many years only yielding eight postcards. All the cards are identical and reproduce the 2 metres high scale-model (maquette) prepared by the sculptor Frémiet (*Fig.3*). The cards were obviously sold at the French Post-Office with the stamps already affixed to a value of 10c, the UPU postcard rate. As evidenced by the unaddressed cards, all the stamps were pre-cancelled with the same postmark, Port-Saïd 17 November 1899, the day of the statue's inauguration. No evidence has been found of any letters bearing these stamps, apparently disproving their use mostly on non-philatelic mail (*myth #2* above), since it seems all were sold for the occasion to visitors and collectors.

Fig.3 - The 2m maquette by Frémiet.



In 1978, the former Suez Canal Company gifted this model of the statue to the city of Versailles, where it still stands. (De Lesseps was born at Versailles).

In the following listing, the illustrations of items No.1 to No.6 are below par, originating from poor photocopies made many years ago.

ITEMS KNOWN TO DATE (all cards with Frémiet's de Lesseps maquette):

Card No. 1 : Franked 5c yellow-green + 5c dark green. Dr Anthony Winter collection (1972).
To Mr. O. Roche, Place du Piloni, St. Jean d'Angély, Charente Inférieure.
Arrival postmark, 28 November 1899 (two strikes).

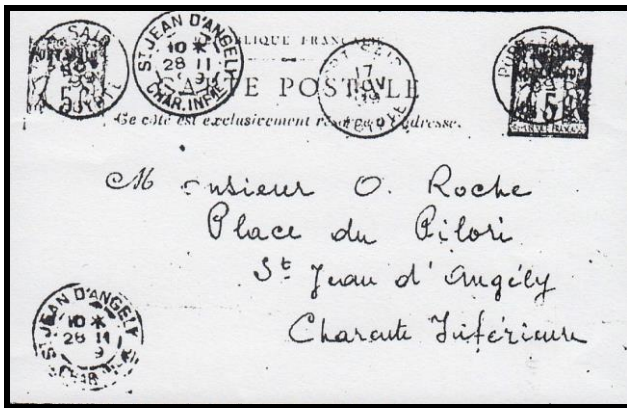
Card No. 2 : Franked horizontal pair 5c yellow-green. C.F.Hass collection (1996).
To M. le Comte d'Odendorff, Consulat d'Allemagne, Port-Saïd. (In town; no arrival CDS).

Card No. 3 : Franked 5c yellow-green + 5c dark green. C.F.Hass collection (1996).
To Mr. G. Perrineau, Négociant à St. Jean d'Angély, Charente Inférieure.
Arrival postmark, 28 November 1899 (two strikes).

Card No.4 : Lot # 450 of the C.F. Hass auction on 10 August 1996. Acquired by Michael Barker (ESC).
 Franked 5c yellow-green + 5c dark green.
 To Mr. J. Jerrineau, Négociant à St. Jean d'Angély, Charente Inférieure. No arrival CDS.
 The similarity of address with Card No.3, may indicate that the address could have been added later with the spelling of the name of the addressee misinterpreted.

Card No. 5 : Lot # 837 of Robson Lowe International Ltd auction, 5 April 1978, Sale III.
 Franked 1c + 2c + 3c + 4c. Unaddressed.

Card No. 6 : Lot # 838 of Robson Lowe International Ltd auction, 5 April 1978, Sale III.
 Franked 5c yellow-green + 5c dark green.
 To Mr. O. Roche, Place du Pilori, St. Jean d'Angély, Charente Inférieure. No arrival CDS.



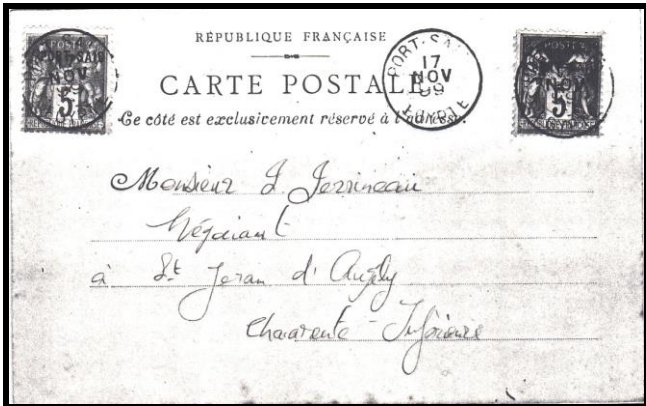
Card No.1



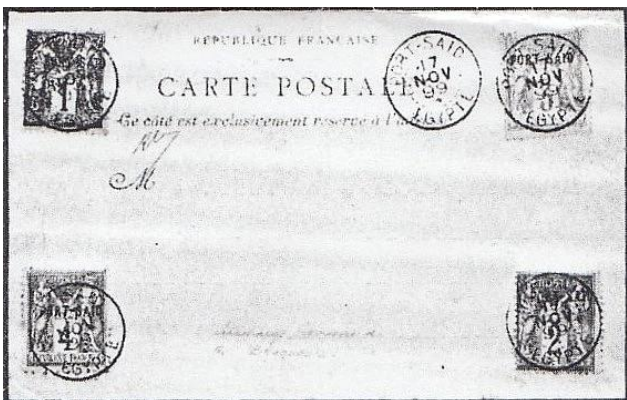
Card No.2



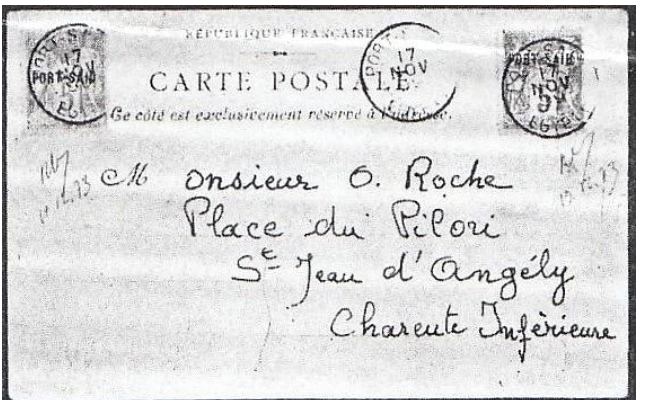
Card No.3



Card No.4



Card No.5



Card No.6

Fig.4 - Postcards No.1 to No.6

Card No. 7 : Franked with a vertical pair of the 5c yellow-green. Pierre Louis Grech collection, 1982.
Addressed to Mr Alex Ivanoff, Russian Consul at Alexandrie.
Large Egyptian Post arrival date-stamp 23 November 1899.

Card No. 8 : Franked 5c yellow-green + 5c dark green.
P.L. Grech collection (ex-Jean Boulad d'Humières, 1984). Unaddressed.

Card No. 9 : Franked 1c + 2c + 3c + 4c. (Similar to card No. 5). P.L. Grech collection, 2016.
Unaddressed. New discovery.



Fig.5 - Postcards No.7 to No.9.



Fig.6 - Paris Overprints above and Local Overprints below (from Postcard No.9).



A Continuing Enigma: the S.Y. Argonaut of London

John Davis (ESC 213)

Many years ago now I put a query to members concerning a postcard acquired for almost nothing. The query concerned how a steam yacht out of London – for that is what the S.Y. stands for – could have struck a ship's hand-stamp on a pair of DLR 2 millièmes paying the postcard rate to England in February 1905 from, of all places, Alexandria. This was long before the internet, and I was advised that the steam yacht plied mainly between the United Kingdom and the Norwegian ports of Oslo, Bergen and Narvik. So, what was it doing in Alexandria?



Fig.1. The original postcard with S.Y. Argonaut cachet.

Eventually, in order to write up my postcard, I investigated the internet to find that the vessel was built in 1879 by R. & H. Green at Blackwall in London. She was 3345 feet long and had a beam of 40 feet, weighing in at 3274 tons.

Owned by W.H. Lynn at the time of the postcard, S.Y. *Argonaut* had been sold by the Royal Steam Packet Co. who traded as Royal Mail Lines of London. It seems that W.H. Lynn owned, or functioned as, the Co-operative Cruising Co. So, perhaps a Mediterranean cruise, calling in at Alexandria, would have enabled the postcard to be posted there?

An intriguing addition to the information on the internet advised that, after a collision with the steamer *Kingswell* out of Newcastle, off the coast of Kent and Sussex, S.Y. *Argonaut* sank on September 29 1908. She now lies upright in 34 metres of water, measured down to the deck, and five sailors were lost in the tragedy.

Imagine my delight when this weekend at a stamp fair I came across a postcard of S.Y. *Argonaut* with, on the business side, a ten centimes French "Sower" stamp cancelled Marseille Étranger in February 1905, the very same month in which my postcard was posted from Alexandria. Clearly she had been in the Mediterranean in the month concerned, so problem solved. Or was it?



Fig.2. S.Y. Argonaut on postcard posted at Marseille

In addition to the postcard of the steam-yacht, I purchased a British postcard franked one halfpenny Edward VII with a London roller cancel dated January 23 1907. It intrigued me because it advertised "The Cruise of the S.Y. Argonaut" for £12 per head, and mentioned that she called at Constantine, Minorca, Algiers, Malta, Catania for Taormina, Palermo, Naples and Villefranche for the Riviera.

No mention then, of Alexandria, or even the eastern end of the Mediterranean.

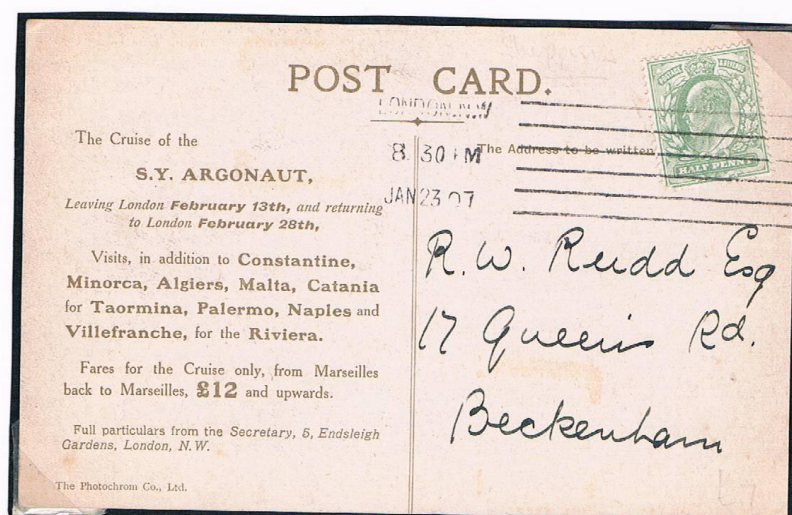


Fig.3. Postcard with advertisement for S.Y. Argonaut cruise.

So, I am still none the wiser, but it would seem that a 1905 Mediterranean cruise would possibly have had different ports of call from that of 1907. Any further information would be greatly appreciated.

Postmarks Plea

Ronny Van Pellecom (ESC 497)

In connection with my forthcoming book on Alexandria, I'd be enormously grateful if members would be kind enough to search their collections and provide me with scans of the following cancellations:

TPO Aboukir-Alexandrie, Rosette-Alexandrie, Rashid-Aboukir, Alexandra-Idfina

Zahria, Victoria station, Montazah, Kharaba, Lac d'Aboukir, Mamura, Moascar Aboukir, Tarh, Edkou

TPO Alexandrie-Mex, Mex-Alexandrie, Alexandria-Mex & V.V.

Nuzha, Manazel

TPO Hammam-Wardian, Wardian-Omayed, Alexandria-Dabaa

Amria-Mayut, Bahig, Hammam, Omayed, Abt-el-Rahman, Dabaa, Foka

Mersa Matrouh, Siwa

Scans please to ronny.van.pellecom@telenet.be

Stamped Covers from Massawa

Gregory Todd (ESC 585)

I am lucky enough to own one of the covers illustrated in the listing that follows. I have also been fortunate, however, to have been an auction describer for Corinphila since 1999 and thus I have had the opportunity to handle six of the eight covers listed here. My interest in compiling this list was stirred with the advent of ownership of one (No. 6) and describing a further two others recently, in the Peter Smith auction (No. 3) and in preparation for Corinphila's future charity sale (No. 5).

There was another spur to action in a line from Peter Grech in his excellent *French Post Offices* books⁽¹⁾ concerning the lost cover (No. 4) illustrated in his first book in which he stated: "A couple of covers are known from Massawa" - this eventually made me search out what I believe to be the complete group listed below. I believe the list to be correct as far as auctioned material goes, but it extends only to *stamped* covers with the Poste Khedevie Egiziane / Massawa datestamp.

A. "Poste Khedevie Egiziane / Massawa" covers to Marseille from the Assouad Frères correspondence

1. Massawa, January 23, 1875: Cover to Marseille, endorsed via Brindisi, French Packet, franked by 1872 20pa+1p+2pi = 140 paras, Alexandrie / Egypte transit (Feb 5), taxed '14' decimes due on arrival. Ex collection Cihangir (Corinphila, May 2000, lot 2645)



2. Massawa, March 6, 1875: Cover to Marseille, via Brindisi, franked 1872-75 20pa+1pi = 60 paras, 'Pos. Angl. / Alex' transit and 'Paq. Angl. Brindisi / Modane' (March 27) cds. Taxed '14' decimes on arrival. Ex collection Cihangir (Corinphila, May 2000, lot 2644)

3. Massawa, March 27, 1875:

Cover to Marseille via Brindisi, franked 1872
 1pi+2½pi = 140 paras, 'Pos. Angl./Alex' (April 12) transit, 'Paq. Angl. Brindisi / Modane' (April 16) and taxed '14' decimes on arrival. Signed Todd. Ex collection Charles Fox (privately), Peter Smith (Corinphila, May 2015, lot 5711). Hany Salam collection



4. Massawa, August 20, 1875: Cover to Marseille, French Packet, franked by 1872 5pa+2x2pi = 165 paras, 'Alexandrie / Egypte' (Sept 10) transit and taxed '10' decimes on arrival. Signed Sorani. Ex collection Colonel J. R. Danson 'Sudan' (Robson Lowe, Geneva, April 1977, lot 513); collection Emile Antonini (Feldman, April 1983, lot 32344), thereafter appeared in Harmers, London (March 11, 1993,

lot 425). Illustrated in *The French Post Offices in Egypt Part One*, by P. L. Grech on p.161. *This cover was stolen from Gerald Bodily in New York in the mid-1990s and has not been seen since.**

5. Massawa, October 17, 1875:

Cover to Marseille via Brindisi, franked 1872-75
 5pa+20pa+1pi+2x2pi = 225 paras, 'Pos. Angl./ Alex' (Oct 30) transit cds, 'Paq. Angl. Brindisi / Modane' (Nov 7), taxed '14' decimes due on arrival. Certs. E. Diena, Todd. Ex collection Cihangir (Corinphila, May 2000, lot 2643), S. Wyler (2016). Corinphila June 2016





6. Massawa, November 13, 1875: Cover to Marseille, French Packet, franked 1872 5pa+2x2pi = 165 paras, 'Alexandrie / Egypte' cds (Nov 27), carried from Alexandria on the *Eridan* (Nov 30) arriving Marseille (Dec 7), taxed '10' decimes on arrival. Greg Todd collection.*

B. Covers not addressed to Marseille

7. Massawa, January 11, 1879: Cover to Cairo franked 1874-75 10pa grey in vertically tête-bêche block of four = 40pa. Ex collection Cihangir (Corinphila, May 2000, lot 2647). Internal 1 piastre rate



8. Massawa, February 24, 1879: 'Petite' cover with pair of 1874 20pa = 40pa. Ex collection W C Hinde (Robson Lowe, Oct 1957, lot 455). Internal 1 piastre rate. I have not traced this cover since Hinde

Lot	Description	Valuation	Stamps
		2.54 p.m.	
	<i>Syria</i>		
450	○ BEYROUT: 1867 5 par. (2), 10 par. (2) and 1p. with fine impressions of the "V.R. POSTE EGIZIANE BAIROUT" datestamp, one thinned, also an 1879 unstamped cover from Beyrout to Alexandria showing B.P.O. c.d.s. and charged postage due	£8	5
451	☒ LATAKIA: 1867 1p. used on 1871 cover to Alexandria, datestamp clear but a little rubbed (see Photo on page 31)	£15	1
452	○ TRIPOLI: 1867 1p., 1872-75 1p. and 1879 20 par. with fine "TRIPOLI" datestamps	£7	3
	<i>Eritrea</i>		
453	☒ MASSAWA: 1872-75 5 par. and 2p. (2) used together on 1875 cover to Marseilles, clearly cancelled	£11	3
454	○田 — 1872-75 5 par., a block of four (partially severed) with two tête-bêche pairs and with central cancellation (see Photo on page 31)	£16	4
455	☒ — Ditto, 20 par., a vertical pair used on petite 1879 cover, clearly cancelled (see Photo)	£7	2

December 23, 1872: Cover with 1872 2pi tied by 'Massawa' datestamp. This cover is a normal 2 piastre double rate cover from Suez to Cairo with a faked endorsement 'Da Massaua' in violet ink at top and faked 'Massawa' datestamp applied; note for example, the '7' in the datestamp compared to the above covers and the lack of 'information' (second) strike of the despatch cancellation prevalent in all of the Egyptian Postal Service at this time. First noted by J. H. E. Gilbert (David Feldman, May 2001, lot 30487). Sold for 6,000 Swiss francs to the late Adel Farid and later returned to DF. Still on the open market



* One of these two covers is presumably that described but not illustrated in the William C Hinde sale (Robson Lowe, Oct 1957, lot 453): "1872-75 5 par. and 2p. (2) used together on 1875 cover to Marseille, clearly cancelled". Estimated £11, it realised £20.

The above descriptions and photographs show that, besides the two 1879 usages at the internal 1 piastre rate, all the other known covers are from the Assouad correspondence. This correspondence has, on the evidence of the lot sold in the William C Hinde auction, certainly been known prior to 1957.

All the Assouad covers are dated 1875, and it should be pointed out that while France joined the UPU (GPU) in July 1875, France fully adopted the changes required only on January 1, 1876. Strangely, Egypt was also admitted into the UPU on the same day. It should be noted that the French outward tariff to Egypt (80 centimes) at this date made no charge distinction on whether the mail was carried by British or French Packet or via Brindisi. Both Egypt and France were using 10 gram weight stages by 1875.

The French rates were standard whether carried by British or French ship from France to Alexandria from March 1875 with the single rate of 80 centimes for under 10 grams; the return journey on the above covers appear to differ in the rates charged, under the *Tarif de 1er. Janvier 1871*' (British Paquebot via Brindisi) unpaid letters were charged 1fr 40c under 10 grams. Under the *Tarif de 1er. Juillet 1871* (All Paquebots) unpaid letters were charged 1fr under 10 grams.

However P L Grech points out in *The French Post Offices in Egypt* that the postal rates from Alexandria from July 1, 1871 to December 31, 1875 were separated: 'via Marseille' prepaid at 80 centimes under 10 grams with unpaid letters charged 1 franc on arrival; and 'via Brindisi' prepaid at 1 franc 20 centimes for under 10 grams with unpaid letters charged 1 franc 40 centimes on arrival.¹

This leaves covers 4 and 6 mailed via French Packet direct to Marseille, each charged at 1 franc, correct on the above principle. The four other covers are all endorsed 'via Brindisi' and are therefore all correct on the above rate scale, being charged 1 franc 40 centimes due on arrival. Thus we can conclude that the French Post Office correctly took no notice of the Egyptian frankings on the covers and the letters (presumably all "single rate" on despatch) were all charged at the single unpaid letter rate on arrival in Marseille.

Journey times between Massawa and Alexandria varied as per the list below -

1. MASSAWA JAN 23 - ALEXANDRIA FEB 5 = 13 DAYS.
2. MASSAWA MAR 6 - ALEXANDRIA MAR 19(?) = 16 DAYS.
3. MASSAWA MAR 27 - ALEXANDRIA APR 12 = 17 DAYS.
4. MASSAWA AUG 20 - ALEXANDRIA SEPT 10 = 21 DAYS.
5. MASSAWA OCT 17 - ALEXANDRIA OCT 30 = 13 DAYS.
6. MASSAWA NOV 13 - ALEXANDRIA NOV 27 = 14 DAYS.

From this we can glean one point - that the steamers involved were probably due to leave weekly(?) on a Saturday, as four of the covers were cancelled on that day. The two which did not were close - cover 4 was cancelled on a Friday and cover 5 on a Sunday.

The Egyptian rates are, to my mind, absolutely inexplicable so far:

Cover 2 is franked at 60 paras (1pi 20pa).

Covers 1 and 3 are franked at 140 paras (3pi 20pa).

Covers 4 and 6 are franked at 165 paras (4pi 5pa).

Cover 5 is franked at 225 paras (5pi 25pa).

However, on close examination of the contents of my cover 6, the cover states that the letter was being despatched with *5 Balles qualité superieure via l'entremise de Monsieur P. Limonidas de Suez*. Interestingly the writer also asks for both sugar and absinthe to be sent to him on the next ship; presumably life in Massawa in 1875 would seem sweeter through a glass! The rates are so different that one could suppose that the various packages carried by the steamer were paid via postage on the accompanying letter. However, at present this is only a theory.

I do hope to be corrected by our esteemed membership. Do please respond!

References:

1. Grech, Pierre L, *The French Post Offices in Egypt*, Part One (2012), p.171.

AUSTRIAN STAMP CANCELLED CAIRO EGYPT

Looking through a dealer's Egypt stock recently, as you do, I came across an Austrian stamp, the 10 heller carmine value of the set issued in 1910 to commemorate the eightieth birthday of Emperor Franz Joseph I. It is cancelled with a fairly clear date-stamp of CAIRO with a smaller EGYPT in a segment of the upper inner circle and dated 11 VIII 14.

I have attempted to draw an illustration of the date-stamp but my hand is not as steady as it used to be, so I trust it will be recognised. Actually, I have never come across this cancellation before and wonder whether the whole thing is a forgery. But the stamp itself is not valuable, so why would anyone go to so much trouble? Is there another explanation or am I seeing things?

If posted on board an Austrian ship, either in the Suez Canal or at another port, say Alexandria, why is it cancelled at Cairo?



Why is the date slightly off centre to the left within the date-bridge?

I would be grateful for opinions, comments and hopefully an explanation. Thank you in anticipation.

John Davis
(ESC 213)

Military Matters - Force Publique

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

Although the Belgian Army surrendered to the Germans in May 1940, exiled Belgian authorities declared that the Congo would support the Allied cause. Any protest was crushed by the Force Publique, the Belgian colonial army in the Congo. The Belgian Congo accelerated production of valuable resources for the Allies, including 160,000 tons of copper a year; 9,000 tons of rubber in 1943 and 11,300 in 1944; 12,500 tons of tin in 1943 and 17,300 in 1944; and uranium for the development of the atomic bomb. A provisional understanding was soon made with the British authorities, who took control of all Belgian shipping, and received such portion of the Congo's exportable products as it desired. On the other hand the Congo would be treated as de facto part of the British Empire

Meanwhile back in Belgium a group of right-wing parties headed by the Rex Organization proposed to the Germans that they be allowed to raise a corps of Belgian aviators and enough Belgian officers to command a regiment of colonial soldiers ready for the time when the Germans invaded the Belgian Congo. They would naturally be equipped by the Germans and of course under their command, but the idea was dismissed by the Germans.

The Force Publique in Africa, consisting of three brigades of infantry, was mobilised in the Belgian Congo to fight with the Allies in Africa. Governor-General Pierre Ryckmans and Lieutenant-General Paul Ermans, commander-in-chief, took part in discussions with the South African and British military missions in Leopoldville which resulted in some Belgians being sent to help in the East African Campaign in southern Abyssinia. The Congolese troops, under the direction of Major-General Auguste Gilliaert, Belgium's solidly built, 6ft general, were commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Leopold Bronkers Martens

While the wartime expansion of the Force Publique was constrained by lack of European leadership on account of its racist policy of "whites" only officers, and only from occupied Belgium, three mobile brigades each comprising 6,000 soldiers and 4,000 porters were dispatched from the colony in January 1941. The brigade undertook a precarious route, transported by truck, railway and riverboat some 2,000 kilometres from Congo to Juba in South Sudan and then into western Ethiopia.



Fig.1

I found a map of the journey on the internet, but part of it doesn't make sense and does not accord with the scant information I could find. Parts of the route were over uncharted territory and maps for the area have different names for what appear to be the same place. Some of this is due no doubt to changes of place names once the Congo was free of Belgian rule. I have tried to use place names of the time but can't be sure of that. I have drawn my own map, which I think is the route taken.

In the prewar period the main form of transport was by river so the initial section was by the River Congo to Bumba. Like the Nile parts are difficult to traverse because of the rapids. Built between 1924 and 1937 by a Belgian company mainly to help with mining activities in the northeast of the country, the Vicongo line of some 600mm (1ft 11 5/8 in) gauge was a portage railway bypassing the rapids. This carried the force to Mungbere, from where a difficult overland journey took them to Juba in Sudan. Here the column turned north along the White Nile, then still in the dry season. River boats brought them in five days to Malakal, home of the Shilluk people. At Melut the column turned eastward, pushing trucks through a waterless desert 250km to Kurmuk on the Ethiopian border.

The first aim of attack was Asosa, in the region drained by the Blue Nile. The combined attack of the Congolese troops and the King's African Rifles began on March 11, 1941, just six weeks after the Belgians left the Congo. The Italians were completely taken by surprise to meet the combined thrust. They abandoned Asosa, pushing southward to join their next garrison along the Ethiopian massif at Ghidami, 120 miles away. In late May 1941 the Belgian Major-General Gilliaert cut off the retreat of the Italian General Pietro Gazzera in Ethiopia and accepted the surrender of 7,000 of his troops (including eight generals) and took 7,600 rifles, 200 machineguns, 18 cannon and 250 trucks. Some 500 Force Publique troops were killed in the campaign.



During the Abyssinian Campaign, the Belgian forces in the Sudan were served by the Sudanese military postal services, and the military field hospital was served by the postal service of the army to which it was attached.

In July 1942 a 13,000-strong Force Publique brigade was shipped to southwest Nigeria to prepare for an invasion of the adjacent Vichy French territory of Dahomey (today's Benin), but this was cancelled in November when the territory switched to Free French control. The force in Nigeria first used a double ring Military Post 1 or 4 (Fig. 9) cancellers and a bilingual Military Censorship / Belgian colonial troops.

The office was installed in Ibadan and then in December in Lagos; it was closed in March 1943

As a result, the brigade was transported to the Middle East, being shipped around the Cape to Suez but because shipping in short supply 18 motorised columns, totalling 2,000 men in 850 trucks, undertook another mighty trek, driving 6,000 kilometres from Zaria in northern Nigeria through Chad and Sudan to Cairo. While the Congolese troops in Egypt were reorganised and re-equipped along British lines, a continued shortage of European personnel kept them out of the European and Burma campaigns.

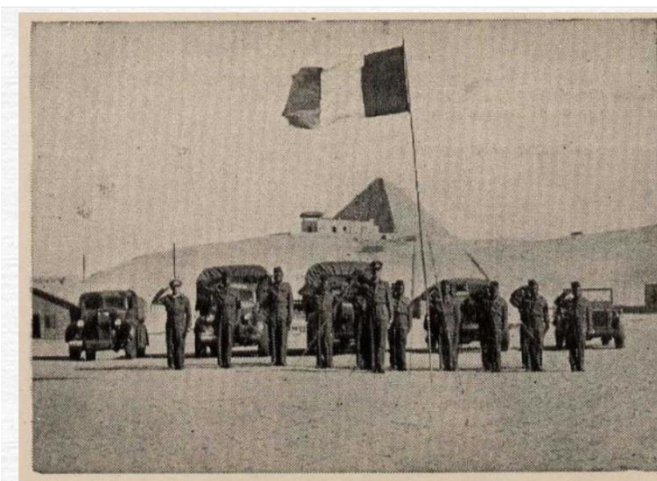
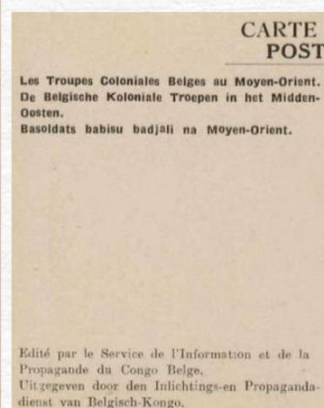


Fig.2



Card taken from <http://www.congoposte.be/bupostemil2.htm>. Showing *Les Troupes Coloniales Belges* in Egypt. The soldiers have swapped to British battledress but retained their distinctive tarbush.

I have made a mock-up based on the postcard. I don't know if there were any shoulder flashes but most of the Free Belgians had the Belgian flag.

Beginning in June 1943, the Force Publique garrisoned the Suez Canal, where they guarded prisoner camps, roads and storage facilities. In April 1944 the brigade helped to suppress fighting between royalists and communists in an exiled Greek brigade. In May the Congolese were transferred to security duties in Palestine and were eventually sent home between September 1944 and January 1945.

Philatelic evidence is correspondingly thin on the ground. I have only a few covers outbound and few covers inbound that are not in my own sparse collection. Peter Smith¹ makes passing reference in his book and there is a single query in the *Forces Postal History Journal* some twenty years ago. In the Alan Brown auction of December 1996² two lots offered some four incoming and two outgoing covers; the combined hammer price was £290. The one illustrated is addressed to Boulad in Cairo with EPP81, 3.DE.42 and then BASE ARMY POST 4, dated 28.FE.44 and the Belgium BPM 101 dated 28.FE.44. Benians³ lists EPP 81 at this time used by the Free French and BAP 4 was the main sorting depot for the British Forces. That the Belgium BPM 101 has the same date would suggest that it was held at the same place. Why BPM 101 was used is uncertain, unless the sender states on the reverse that he was with the Belgian forces.

A military post office opened in Cairo in April 1943, with the task of supporting troops stretching out from Tripolitania to Syria, via Egypt, Palestine and Lebanon.

At the beginning this office used the double-circle datestamp with the number 4 (*Fig. 9*), which the expeditionary force had used in Nigeria for the Middle East and came via the Cape. The datestamp became confused with some postmarks used by some Free French units so the British authorities decided to allocate a distinctive type of datestamp to the contingent which was intended as the first in a recognizable series.

This new datestamp, manufactured in Cairo, was put into use in June 1943. It is rectangular, measuring 41 x 22mm, and divided into three horizontal sections of different heights. On two lines in the top part is the text POSTE MILITAIRE / N°101; in the middle section the date, month in letters and the year; and in the lower section the words CONGO-BELGE (*Fig.10*). The Cairo office was issued with two cachets: one with the initials B.P.M 101 M.E.F. on one line, the other with B.P.M. 101 / M.E.F (*Fig. 11*) on two lines in larger lettering (Bureau postal militaire 101 – Middle East Force). These different postmarks of the Belgian colonial troops in the Middle East were withdrawn from service after the closure of the office in November 1944. I believe the office operated from the British Base Office 4. The information above comes from the articles by Zaalen.⁶

This coincides with the transfer to Palestine. One can assume that mail was then handled from there, making the Cairo office redundant, and that probably the British military system handled their mail. I have not seen any philatelic evidence to support this.

For the three-sectioned rectangular POSTE MILITAIRE, N°. 101, date, CONGO-BELGE dates I have are: 16 JUL 1943; 19 AOUT 1943; 30 AOUT 1943; 17 SEP 1943; 30 AOUT 43/44?; 9 FEV 1944; 28 FEV 1944; 12 MAI 1944 and 30 AOUT 1944. On Delcampe I found a cover that quite clearly has the date 9 JUIN 1948 thankfully the seller has also shown the back of the cover, which has an indistinct receiving mark of Elizabethville 28-7-43 so it seems reasonable that the date 9 JUIN 1943 could be added to the list. Overall, the list then spans 9 JUIN 1943 to 30 AOUT 1944, which fits well with statements on the website <http://www.congoposte.be/bupostemil2.htm>.⁴

From the Cavendish website⁵ I found two references to past auctions, date unknown and without illustrations. One single cover with date is described as *from 3rd Congo Expeditionary Corps franked with 7F B.Congo stamp*. Another lot under CIGARETTE CARDS reads: *BELGIAN CONGO - ALLIED CONTINGENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST; Nov. 1943 - Sept. 1944 group of five stampless O.A.S. envs. all addressed to Belgian Congo and all with mostly very fine large boxed "POSTE MILITAIRE/No.101/CONGO-BELGE" datestamps (used at Cairo), and all censored; 3 with British military censor marks (one also with v. fine "CENSURE/15/CONGO BELGE"), one with printed "CONGO BELGE" censor label & one with blue "CENSURE MILITAIRE/TROOPES COLONIALES BELGES" in blue. Scarce group. (5 covers).*

Benians also mentions two EPPs associated with Belgians:

EPP 57	Kassassine	Belgian in camp 30.JA.42
EPP 149		Belgian unit 12.JU.43

Now the EPP 57 is too early for use by the Force Publique, so it was used either by a Belgian with the British Forces or the actual date should be 30.JA.43.

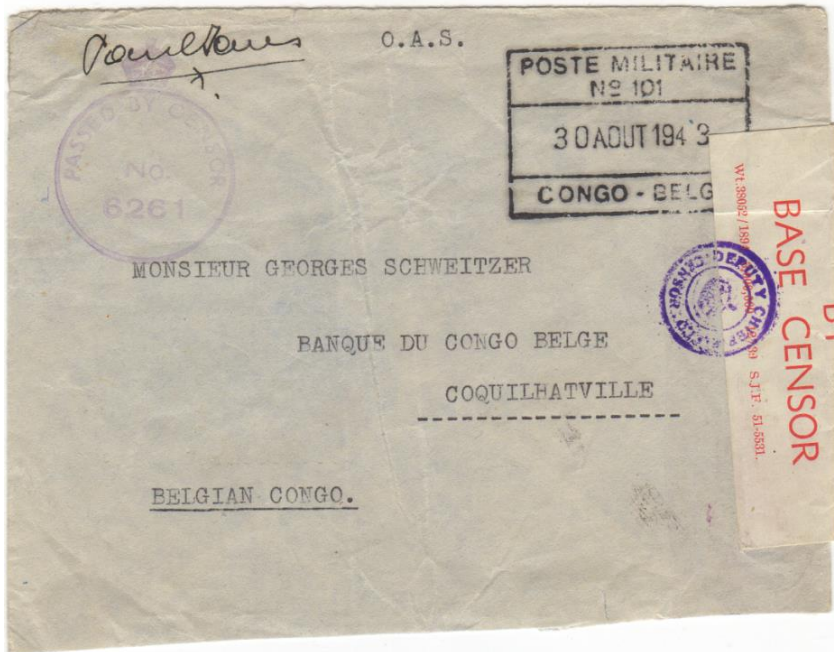


Fig.3

Cover cancelled by 101 BPM MEF 30 August 1943. Note the characteristic gap between the 4 & 3 of 1943 Censored by the British and stampless, suggesting that like other Middle East troops, postage was free.



Fig.4

Registered cover cancelled by 101 BPM MEF 19 August 1943. Censored by the British, the registration label is similar to those used by the French. The stamp suggests registered mail had to be paid for. The website shows a similar registered cover dated 16 JUL 1943 with registration number N° 93

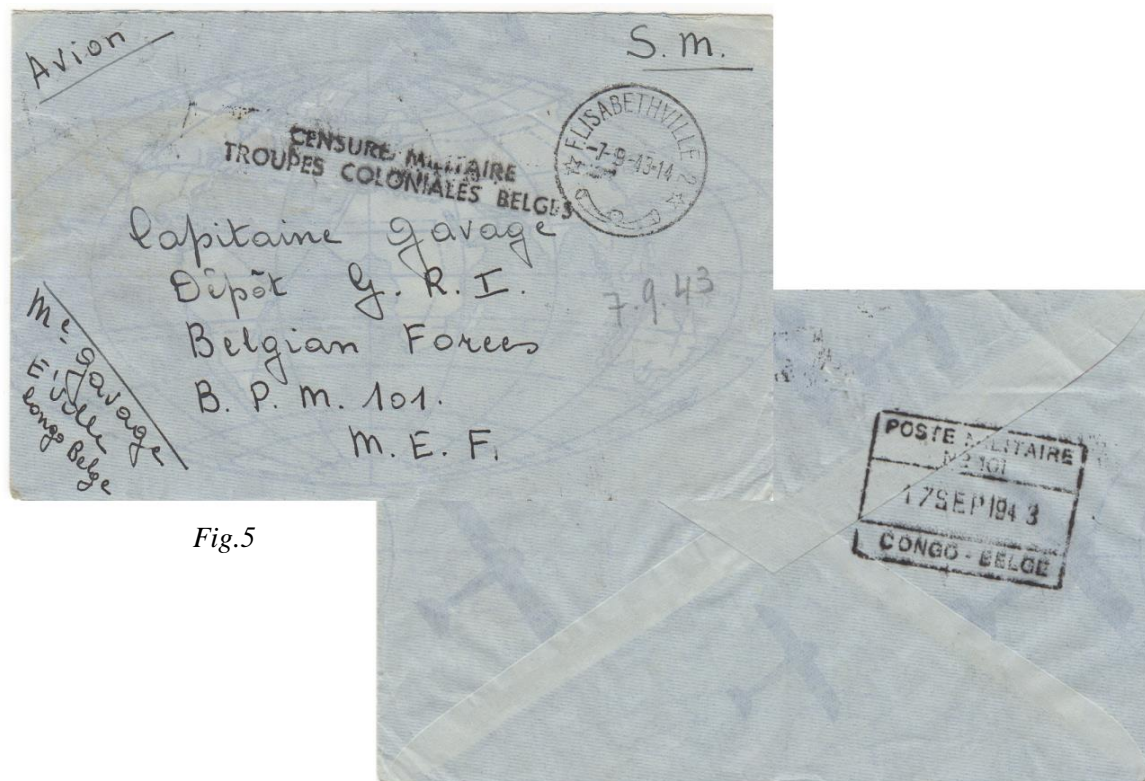


Fig.5

Cover to the Belgian forces at BPM 101 from the Belgian Congo backstamped 101 BPM MEF used as a receiving mark. The censor mark CENSURE MILITAIRE TROUPES COLONIALES BELGES is similar to one used in Nigeria so was most likely applied at the point of departure.



Fig.6

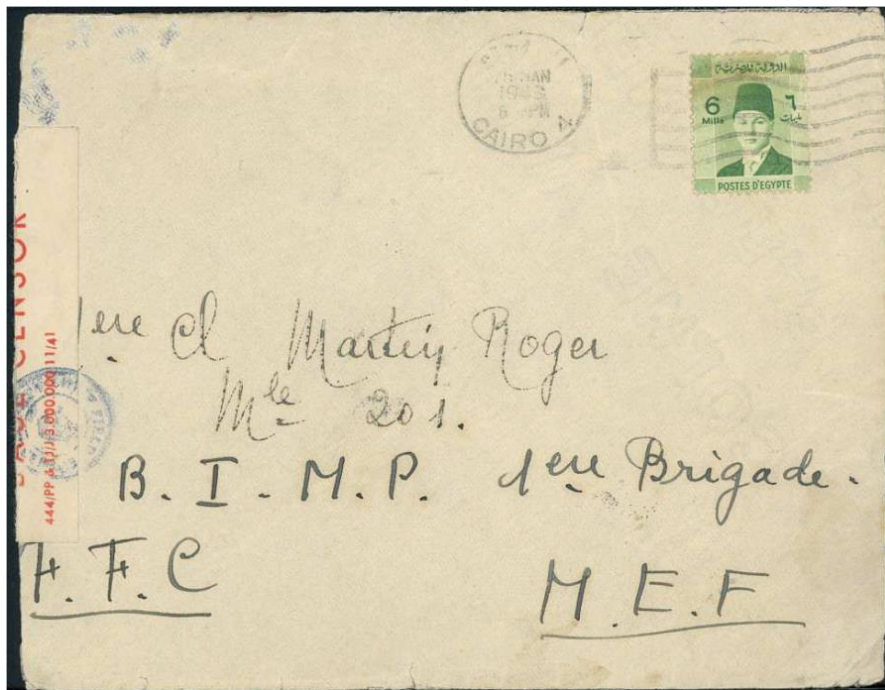
Cover showing the straight line CENSURE CONGO BELGES

Fig.7



Cover clearly dated 9 JUN 1948 but with a backstamp 24-7-1943. I can only assume the postal official used the wrong year-slug. It also has CENSURE MILITAIRE TROUPES COLONIALES BELGES similar to Fig.5. Where the censor marks were applied is unclear to me: Egypt or the Congo.

Fig.8



Internal cover though the Egyptian post sent at the internal rate, confirming that the 1st Brigade was stationed in Egypt.

Censorship was set up in the Belgian Congo by enactment No75/PT of May 17 1940.

At first it was used only by civilian authorities, but enactment No102/PT of March 6 1941 extended its use to the military authorities.

As a result, censor marks used by either of the services responsible for censoring mail can be found on mail going through military post-offices



Fig.9

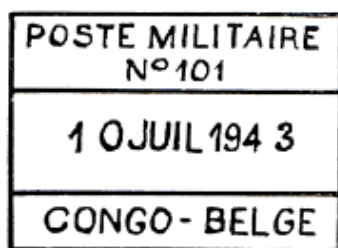


Fig.10

B. P. M. 101 M. E. F.

Fig.11

Zaalen in his articles mentions five military censor markings for the Belgian Congo but I have seen only the two illustrated in relation to post to Egypt.

**CENSURE MILITAIRE
TROUPES COLONIALES BELGES**

Fig.12

CENSURE CONGO BELGE

Fig.13

These were only used in the Belgian Congo while in Egypt British censor marks were used of Dynes⁷ type 500 comprising a large circle with crown on top, fig.7.

References:

1. *Egypt: Stamps and Postal History*, Peter A. S. Smith, 1999
2. *The Alan Brown Collection of Military Postal History*, Cavendish Auctions, December 6, 1996
3. *Egypt Postage Prepaid Military Date Stamps 1941 to 1947*, F. W. Benians, 1978
4. <http://www.congoposte.be/bupostemil2.htm>. The site on the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi was created by Charles Stockmans and acknowledges J. Fr. Zaalen as the writer of the article on 101 BPM MEF
5. *Also War Covers*, Cavendish (no illustrations) and *Delcampe* have yielded some information.
6. "Les postes militaires de campagne au cours de la guerre mondiale 1939-1945", *Balasse* magazine No.56,59/60 & 58, April 1948. J.Fr.Zaalen. (Great thanks to Nick Martian for the invaluable translation)
7. *World War Two Censor Marks*, edited John Daynes FPHS 1986.

Our web pages keep growing



Over the past few months several new pages and features have been added to the website. The digitising of back copies of magazines and some philatelic books have been added: at the time of writing the *QC* is now available right back to *QC* 105 of March 1978, and all 46 issues of *Egyptian Topics* are now on site, covering Nov 1968 to Oct 1972. Though sometimes derided as a

less than serious publication, it contains several authoritative articles by the likes of Boulad, Hass, Smith and Winter, some of them representing the only substantial work on the topic. Also digitised are 25 issues of *L'OP*, with more to follow.

Added to the section on the First Issue is Greg Todd's award winning collection and the presentation by Costas Kelemenis to the Circle some years ago. In the military section WWII articles added include one on the Afrika Korps, and for WWI the Distaccamento Italiano di Palestina, both of which have previously barely been considered in Egyptian philatelic literature. The Circle's research on TPOs adds several dozen variants to the postmark listing by Peter Smith, and more research continues. And Peter's magnificent book *Egypt: Stamps and Postal History*, has been digitised and added to the site for all to use.

Truly, a treasure-chest of valuable data to enhance one's knowledge and enjoyment of our hobby.

Study of Re-sealing Labels (Strips) Used in Censorship of Civil Mail in Egypt 1939-45

Ted Fraser-Smith (ESC 238)

This article should be read in conjunction with my introduction to Part One,
QC March 2014, Vol. XXII No 1, Whole Series 248, p.20

Part Two: A second printing 1940-45.

I have studied a further 330 labels, and find that 178 of them fit this “second” printing, which I now describe.

This printing was typeset with a 2:1 S:L proportion. All measurements are taken from the right-hand side of the sheet in millimetres.

The key to this study is the position of the L (long) form **المراقبة المصرية** of the Arabic script for *al-maraaqabah al-masriyah*, EGYPTIAN CENSORSHIP, which occurs at 62, 158, 253, 349, 445 and 540mm from the right edge of the sheet. [In Part One the L form was in 3:1 S:L proportion and occurred at 125, 250, 375mm from the *left* edge of the sheet.]

A diagram D (*see next page*) showing the significant measurement variations has been compiled. These variations cause the juxtapositions between Arabic and English script to vary in descending rows.

As seen in the photocopy page that follows, these rows are shown in the reproduction of part of the “full” sheet. The cutting up of labels from the “full” sheet was more inconsistent than those from Part One, so I have not shown a distribution table.

To follow this article, a Part Three has been compiled from 76 labels (2:1 S:L proportion) about 12 rows deep and spreading from 560-100mm.

I have also found 12 examples (labels) with the L portion alien to Parts One, Two and Three, spreading eight rows deep and 300mm wide, with undefined script borders. I am left with about 30 labels to determine which rows they fit.

To carry on with this research I will be happy to receive copies of any examples that members may have.

Membership changes

Restored to membership:

ESC 524 Wallace A Craig

ESC 541 Jack Graham

ESQ 625 Mohab Akhnoukh

New temporary members

ESC tmp8 Elaine Millard, 1 Mordaunt Lane, Ryhill, Duston, Northampton NN5 7RJ

(Egypt all areas, Sphinx/Pyramids, colours/shades/varieties/postmarks, Salt Tax cancels)

ESC tmp9 Ehab Magdy Fahmy Saied, PO Box 942316, Amman 11194, Jordan

(Egypt until 1952)

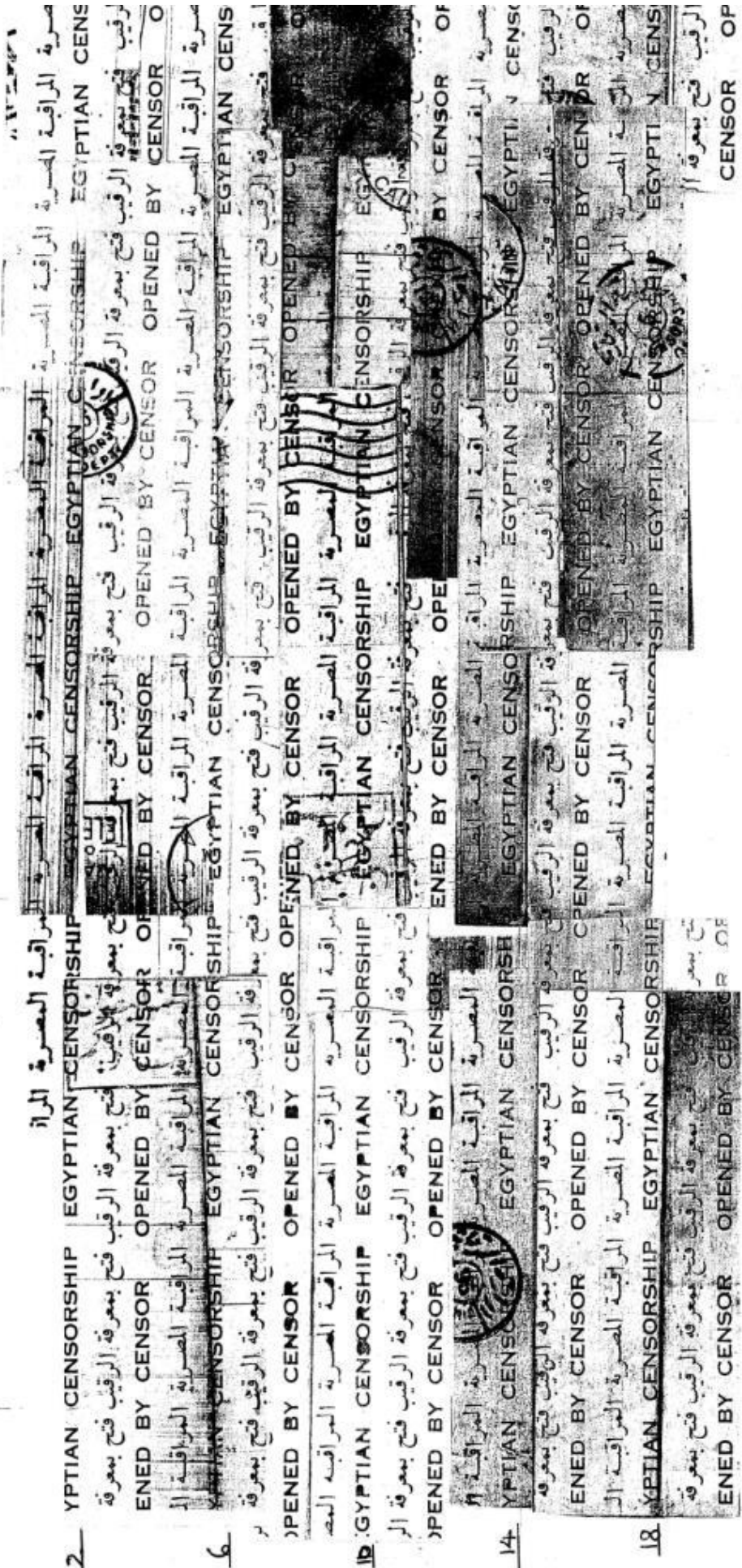
Position	480-485	475	450-440	422-420	384-380	324-314	230	190-186	196-186	92-90	70-60	8	Position
ROW	fath gap	relationship of censorship or arabic	P ← gap → E mm	relationship of censor or arabic	fath gap	P ← gap → E mm	relationship of EGYPTIAN dot arabic	fath gap	P ← gap → E mm	relationship of Letter N	P ← gap → E mm	RELATIONSHIP LETTER KETTER	ROW
2		د	9	أ	4	10	ن	8½	ن	ن	8½	ن	2
4	5	د	9½	أ	4	8½	ر	4	د	د	9	د	4
6		د	9½	أ	4½		ن	4	ن	د	9	ن	6
8	4½	د	9½	أ	4½	9½	ر	8½	د	د	9	د	8
10		د	9½	أ	4	8½	ن	5½	ن	د	9½	ن	10
12	4½	د	9½	أ	4½	8½	ر	4	د	د	9½	د	12
14		د	9½	أ	4½		ن	8½	ن	د	9½	ن	14
16	5	د	9½	أ	4½	8½	ر	9	د	د	8½	د	16
18		د	9½	أ	4½		ن	8½	ن	د	9	ن	18
20	4½	د	9½	أ	4½	10	ر	5	د	د	8½	د	20
22							ن	8½	ن	د		ن	DIAGRAM

Diagram showing significant measurement variations that cause the juxtapositions between Arabic and English script to vary in descending rows.

560

445

349



A section of the "full" sheet reconstituted from illustrations of recovered labels showing (approximately) 250mm from the right edge of the sheet to the left-hand edge at 562mm and 20 lines deep. The author has managed to compile the full width – but unfortunately we have space to reproduce only the left-hand edge