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APRIL - 13 - 14 - & - 15



HE SPREAD TERROR IN ATLANTIC CAPE MAYS SALEM

BURLINGTON CUMBERLAND GLOUCESTER COUNTIES

SHELBURNE HOTEL ATLANTIC CITY N.J.

with the editor

Spring again and with it comes the finale to the 1972-1973 Exhibition Season, while most of the major Auction houses are winding down until Fall and the arrival of the new catalogs.

It has not been an idle season for Topics. We have endeavored to bring you items of lasting import on a variety of subjects that will provide useful data in years to come. While we may not be a "slick" in the printing category, we feel that content is the all-important item and our efforts are directed toward this continuing goal. Our next effort for May/June should be no exception.

We will conclude the fine study by Ibrahim Chaffar; a complete review of the Billen's sale by Dr. Peter A.S. Smith along with some new additions to the perfins study by Dr. Winter.

You will note a lack of new issues in this number due, not to our neglect, but rather the lack of emissions from Cairo in the past few weeks. However, don't despair, those of you eagerly awaiting the Cairo post. Four new items are already scheduled i.e., the Cairo Interfair due sometime late in March; a 20 mil stamp for Family Planning and a 30 mil value for Telecommunications. Air-mail will be represented by a 110 mil. commemorative of the Son et Lumiere, Karnak Temples.

Back to our next issue, we also have an interesting story on the wreck of the S.S. CAIRO, doomed to a watery grave in 1905 illustrated with two of these rare covers; Dr. Winter, of course. Peter Feltus has promised another of his all-too-rare articles on the fiscals and revenues.

As we go to press Robson Lowe has just completed two fine sales of Egyptian material and one, that of Mr. George Gougas, had to be a rare treat for many. Hopefully, someone will be able to give us a recap for our next issue.

And finally, a note on our own auction. All of the old auction remnants have been cleared and a new auction is planned. Tentatively scheduled to begin in the Fall, it will be conducted by Mr. Peter Feltus, well known to most of us, when he returns from a trip to Hong Kong this summer.

HAVE A PLEASANT SPRING !

J. Boulad d'Humieres, FRPSL

The author, well known to devotees of Egyptian philately the world over is associated with The Academy of Philately in Paris as a member correspondent.

When visiting "PHILYMPIA '70" in London, my attention was drawn — amongst so many wonderful items presented in the "Egyptian Section" by a letter sent from Paris to Cairo by "BALLON MONTE" in 1870, during the "Siege of Paris".

It was then that I decided to try to record all of the known similar items (letters) addressed to Egypt and sincerely, it is not an easy task, because such items are not plentiful and their owners are not easy to discover.

Further, the editor of Egyptian Topics has recently informed me that he had acquired for his Egyptian airmail collection, a "Ballon Monte" letter addressed to Alexandria. This decided me to present immediately to the readers of this journal the first result of my attempt.

Unfortunately, I have not been able, in every instance, to obtain all of the details I needed and expected. It will be greatly appreciated if other owners of similar letters will be kind enough to forward an accurate description of letters in their possession with, if possible, good photographic reproductions.

* * *

As most serious philatelists know, when Paris was surrounded by the Prussians from the 13th of September 1870 to the end of January 1871, the Government had been transferred to Tours and later to Bordeaux from the 12th of December to the South of Paris.

Exchange of mail was no longer normally possible between Paris and the rest of France and Abroad. Therefore, it was decided to send out of Paris, at irregular dates, but as often as necessary, balloons loaded with mail bags which were to be conveyed by normal postal services after the balloons had

"BALLON MONTE"

Paris

to

Egypt

1870

1871

landed away from the Prussian troops stationed around Paris.

The first balloon, called "LE NEPTUNE", took off on the 23rd of September 1870: it was followed by 56 others, all officially sanctioned, until the 28th of January 1871 when the "siege" was lifted at the end of January 1871.

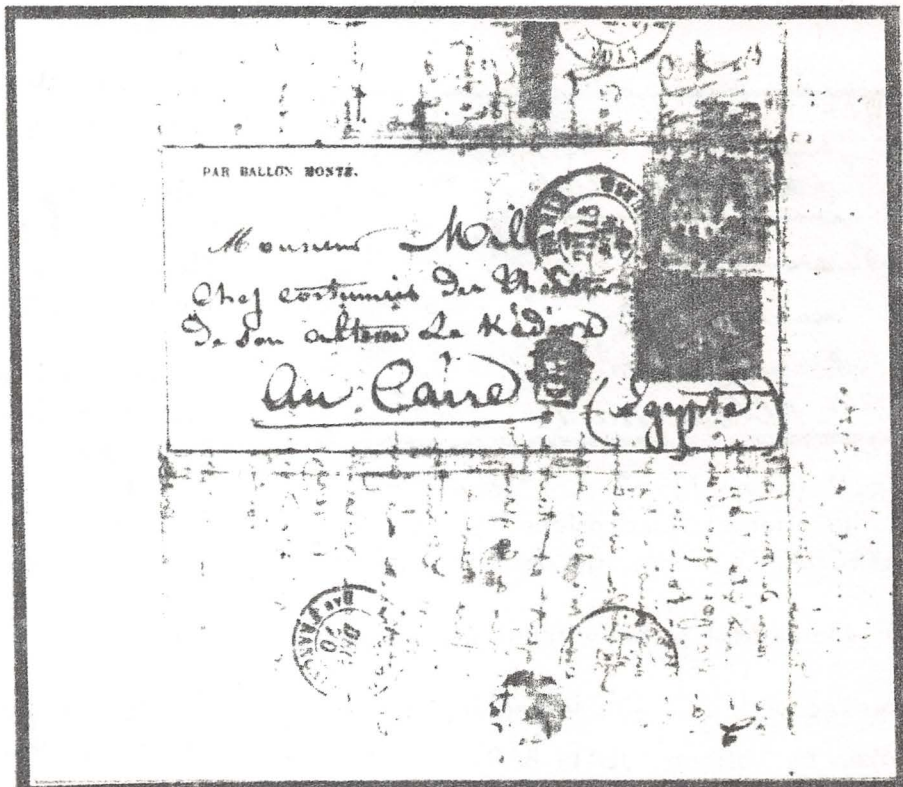
Actually, 67 balloons took off; the extra

eleven were not official and they did not carry any official or post office mail.

Following is a description of the letters addressed to Egypt that I have recorded up to the present time. I know that this is not a complete listing but it is a first stage.

The postage rate for these letters was the ordinary one in force then for conveyance by the normal route i.e., 40 centimes.

- 1) To CAIRO, from the collection of JOHN H. E. GILBERT, of Sussex, England. (Right).



1) Letter addressed to CAIRO

"LETTRE - JOURNAL DE PARIS, Gazette des Absents", No. 7, dated 12 November 1870, addressed to:

Monsieur MILLETT
 Chef Costumier du Theatre
 de Son Altesse de Thedive
 au Caire (Egypte)

It is franked with the 10c and 30c laureated Napoleon, cancelled by the star of dots with No. 1 of Paris.

Taken by the balloon "GENERAL ULRICH", which took off on the 18th of November 1870.

Postmarks:

Paris, Place de la Bourse	15 Nov. 70
Lyon a Marseille 2	27 Nov. 70
Caire, Bau. Francais	3 Dec. 70

2) Letter addressed to SUEZ

Letter with "Par Ballon Monte" in manuscript. (No illustration available).

Addressed to: Monsieur LEMAIRE

Franked with 40c, a Suez, Egypte.

Taken by the balloon "ARMAND BARBES",

which took off on the 7th of October, 1870.

Postmarks:

Paris (3)	3 Oct. 70
Marseille (12)	16 Oct. 70
Suez, Bau. Francais	23 Oct. 70

LETTERS ADDRESSED TO ALEXANDRIA

The following five letters (Nos. 3-7) are all addressed to:

Madam EUGENE HESS
 aux soins de Messrs. Barker & Cie.
 Alexandrie, (Egypte)

These are part of a correspondence sent from Paris by her husband.

3) MANUSCRIPT LETTER with "Par Ballon Monte" and "3 Octobre 1870" also manuscript.

Franked with 2 x 20c laureated Napoleon, cancelled by the star of dots with No. 1.

Taken by the balloon "ARMAND BARBES", which took off the 7th of October 1870.

Postmarks:

Paris, Place de la Bourse	4 Oct. 70
Marseille	16 Oct. 70
Alexandrie, (Egypte)	22 Oct. 70

(Continued on the following page)

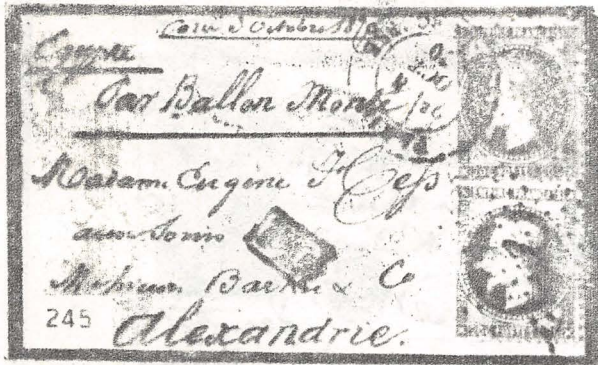


Fig. 2 (Cover No. 3) Lot No. 425 of the offer at fixed prices 1971 by G. MARCHAND, 7 Passage des Princess Paris

4) Manuscript letter without special mention.

Franked with 2 x 20c laureated Napoleon.

Taken by balloon "JEAN BART No. 1". It was also called "GUILLAUME TELL" or "CHRISTOPHE COLLOMB" which took off on the 14th of October 1870.

As the letter had been handed to the crew of the balloon it was posted at Troyes after the landing.

Postmarks:

Manuscript date in the letter 13 Oct. 70
Lozange of dots with "40/34" of Troyes struck on the postage stamps.
Alexandrie, (Egypte) 22 Oct. 70

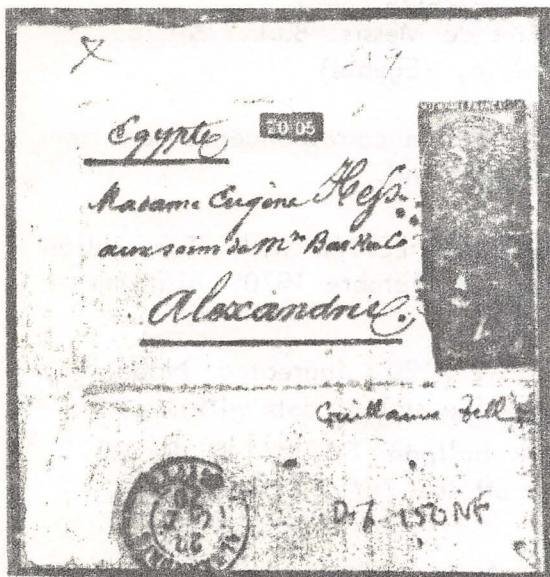


Fig. 3 (Cover No. 4) Lot No. 2005 of the 55th and 56th sales of offers, of Comptoir des Timbres (G. ROBINEAU), 5 Rue Drouot, Paris.

5) "LETTRE - JOURNAL DE PARIS, Gazette des Absents", No. 16, dated 14th of December 1870.

Franked with 2 x 20c Ceres, cancelled by the star of dots with No. 1., and the 1c laureated Napoleon sealing the flap on the obverse barely tied to the cover with the Alexandria cancel.

Taken by the balloon "LE PARMENTIER" which took off on the 17th of December 1870.

Postmarks: PD boxed — in red.

Paris, Place de la Bourse	15 Dec. 70
Marseille	29 Dec. 70
Alexandrie, (Egypte)	7 Jan. 70

See illustrations on following page. . . .

6) "LETTRE - JOURNAL DE PARIS, Gazette des Absents", No. 23, dated 7th January 1871.

Franked with for 40 centimes.

Taken by the balloon "LE DUQUESNE", which took off on the 9th of January 1871.

Postmarks:

Paris, Place de la Bourse	7 Jan. 71
Lyon a	21 Jan. 71
Alexandrie, (Egypte)	28 Jan. 71

7) "LETTRE - JOURNAL DE PARIS, Gazette des Absents", No. 30, dated 21st of January 1871.

Franked with 40c. Stamps washed off, portion of the Paris star of dots remains.

Taken by the balloon "LE RICHARD WALLACE", which took off the 27th of January 1871 and was lost in the open sea in front of the Golfe de Gascogne. Packets of letters from this balloon were found later on the shore in the vicinity of La Rochelle.

Postmarks:

P.D. in red struck on the letters found on the shore.
Lyon a Avignon 20 Feb. 70 in error instead of 20 Feb. 71.
Marseille 20 Feb. 71
Alexandrie, (Egypt) 10 Mar. 71

No. 7 is illustrated on the following page. . . .



Fig. 4 (Cover No. 7) Lot No. 709 of the 70th sale on offer; of the 6th of June 1972 of G. SIMART of Paris.

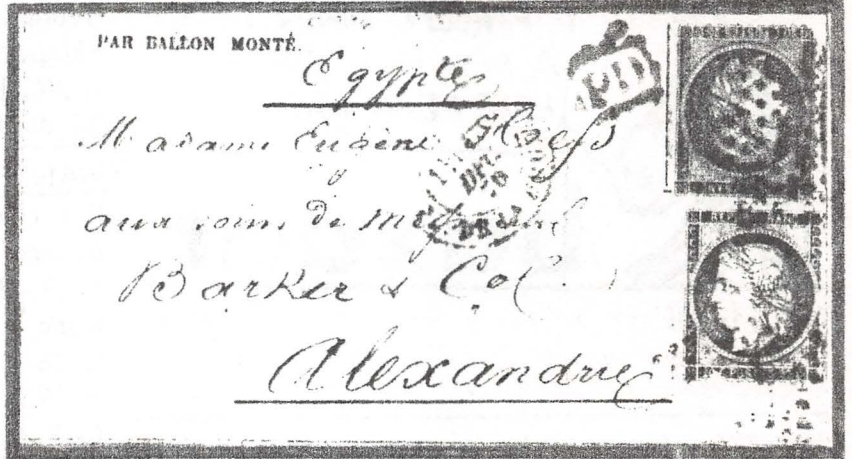


Fig. 5 (Cover No. 5) Collection of Gordon B. Garrett of Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

Fig. 6 (Cover No. 5) at right. The obverse side showing the 1c stamp, used as a seal with the imprint of the sender in green — 53 Rue Vivienne / H. LE ROY / Courtier's Place de la Bourse / 95 / PARIS.

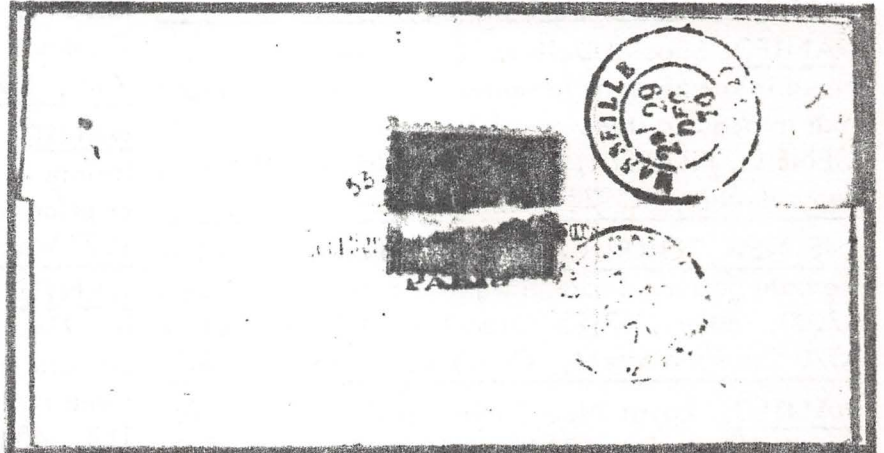
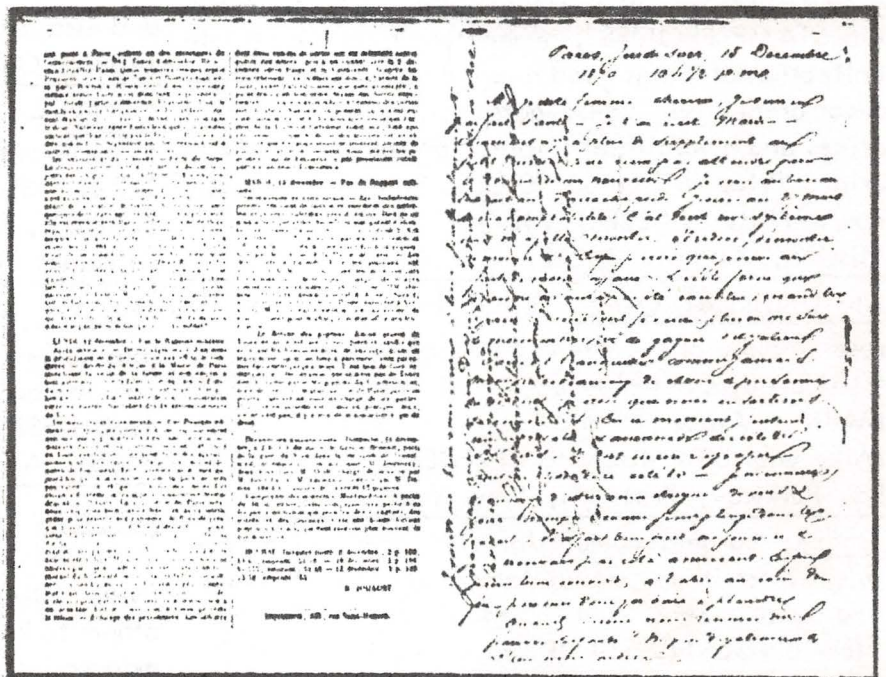
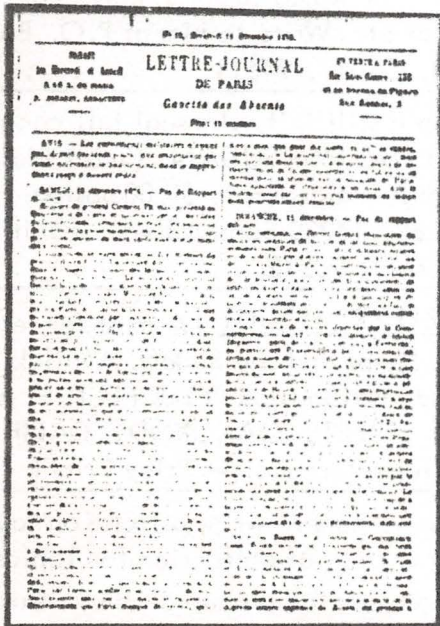
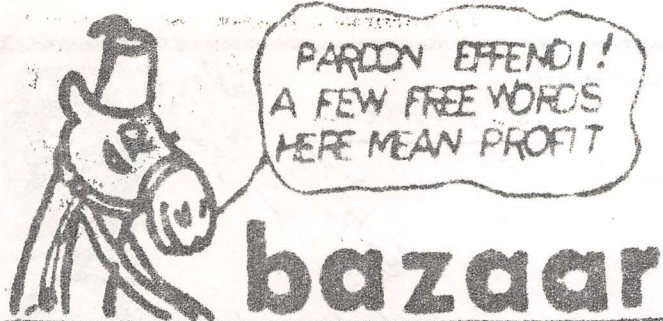


Fig. 7 below — The text of the lettre journal, Gazette des Absents, reduced





There is NEVER a Charge for WANTS or OFFERS listed for our readers in EGYPTIAN TOPICS . . .

WANTED: Souvenir Sheets — Scott's #B6a & B6b, mint, (NH preferred), at a reasonable price. Would also like mint copies of C3 & C4 mint. If you can help drop a line to GUS KATHMAN, 6216 W. 35th Street, St. Louis Park, Minnesota, 55416. Please quote your price when writing.

WANTED: Special Delivery Stamps — Scott E1-5. Need information as to source of supply. Would like to acquire items on cover, and essays or proofs. GENE D. PILARSKI, 24 Mary Lue Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15223 . . .

THE NEW ZEHERI CATALOG: Available for immediate delivery. Special price to P.S.E. members \$7.00, others, \$7.75. Order from PETER R. FELTUS, 4970 Desmond Street, Oakland, California, 94618

WANTED: Egypt No. 7 mint. If you have a spare drop a line to DR. FRANK AUTRY, P.O. Box #714 Corsicana, Texas, 75110 . . .

AVAILABLE SOON! The all new "CATALOGUE OF STAMP PROOFS", emanating from the private collection of Kings Fuad and Farouk of Egypt. Now a comprehensive, up-to-date listing with current prices and a wealth of information not previously in print. Price will be \$6.00 U.S. Reserve your copy now. Write to ALBERT MIZRAHI, P.O. Box #1214 Mission, Kansas, 66222, U.S.A. . . .

AN UNUSUAL OFFER: A full sheet of the 13 mil. rose carmine of the 1944-51 Farouk Issue. Zeheri #151 bis b, Control A/50, the INVERTED WATER-MARK - "Arabic F" and Crown, p. 98 (1972 Ed.). Make your offer direct to: FREDERIC COSTI, 8404 Bay Parkway, Brooklyn, New York, 11214 . . .

OFFER: Large accumulation and variety of material, better items, cancellations etc., both Sudan and Egypt. Send want list to William G. Bagg at NEW ENGLAND STAMP CO., 45 Bromfield St. Boston, Massachusetts., 02108 . . .

WANTED — Egypt, Sudan, British & Italian African Colonies with Military Markings, German Feldpost in North Africa, E.A./A.P.O. during W.W. II & Boer War. Write: WALTER BJORK, 54 W. 84th St., New York, New York, 10024

WANTED — By your editor — A few Pioneer Air Post items of Egypt and the Sudan i.e., Cobham covers (1925-6), Mittelholzer flights to Africa in 1929-30, Sir Arthur Coningham's R A F flight to Kano in 1925. Also Palace imperfs: C-2 & C-6 C-18 - 25 and Scott S-30 — C-36. R A F label of 1934 (Heliopolis) and Carbery vignettes. Write G.B. Garrett, P.O. Box #36491, L.A. Calif.,

WANTED — Postal History as covers: P.O.W. covers; Turkish Offices in the Holyland, Covers to or from Palestine (Egypt; Palestine, U.A.R.). War Covers, period 1948 - 1956 - 1967 and related material. Send details to R. J. Cohen, P. O. Box #162, Parkchester Station, Bronx, New York, 10462 . . .

WANTED — Odd lots, album pages or accumulations of Egypt - U.A.R. - Sudan. Send description and prices first to: CHARLES W. MAYER, 1927 Wakefield Dr. Nashville, Tennessee, 37215

WANTED — R A F labels issued for the Air Meet in 1934: also a Graf Zeppelin Suez cancellation on card or cover. Need the E.E.F. cancels — all three types. If you can help write to: Dr. WINTER, 45 Rue Carves, 92, Montrouge, France.

V. ANDONIAN is interested in acquiring additional items among the Royal imperfs, early covers and essays of Egypt etc. Write to him at P.O. Box 11093, Oakland, Calif., 94611 . . .

OFFER — A couple still left. Unusual felt cachet on unaddressed FDC from SUDAN. (Scott Nos. 142 & 143) the anti-malaria set. \$1.00 postpaid. BLAKE R. WHEELER, 14230 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades, California, 90272 . . .

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WANTED — New Authors to write articles on favorite subjects in our area of collection for Topics. Every collector has something unusual they want others to know about. Here's your chance. Fancy manuscripts not necessary. If we can read it — We can print it !!!!

L. N. & M. Williams

THE

MAHDI'S

"STAMPS"



A mysterious, little-known issue of stamps has been shown to us by J.A. Firebrace of Chislehurst, Kent, England. They purport to be stamps of the Mahdi, a fanatic religious leader of the Sudanese dervishes towards the end of the 19th century and who clashed with British troops on more than one occasion. According to the late H.G.D. Gisburn and G. Seymour Thompson in the book "Stamps and Posts of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan", there are few postal relics of the Mahdi period; but there are some labels purporting to have been issued at that time but which are bogus. It is rather significant that the authors neither described nor illustrated the design of the bogus stamps, and one forced to the conclusion that neither Gisburn nor Thompson had any specimens in their collections.

We, too, must admit that until the Firebrace examples were sent to us we had not seen them before nor could we trace any mention of them in Melville's "Phanton Philately", Chapier's "Les Timbres de Fantasia et Non-officials", or Rommel's "Catalogue of Speculative and Fraudulent Stamps" serialized in "Die Post" many years ago. From this we conclude that specimens are extremely scarce.

The design shows a seated figure, presumably meant to be the Mahdi, surrounded by half-naked women, and enclosed in an oval frame; that in turn is enclosed in a rectangular framework

which is strongly reminiscent of that of the Egyptian 2 and 5 piastres of 1879. "Mahdi" appears in the left tablet, "Postes du Sudan" at the top, what seems to be a monolith (Cleopatra's Needle?) at the right of something that at first glance looks like an inscription in Arabic at the foot. A numeral in black is set in each corner. The "values" and colors we have seen are: 1 (?) rose-carmine, 2 orange, 5 sage-green, 5 brown, 10 mauve and 20 gray-lilac.

Close inspection of the "Arabic" inscription reveals its true nature: it consists, from left to right, of a teacup, a spoon, a long stem pipe, a crescent (or banana), perhaps a scimitar and two unidentifiable objects on a plate. If the labels' status had been uncertain before there can be no question that these objects condemn it.

Who produced them, or why, is shrouded in mystery, but if it was hoped to sell them in any appreciable quantity on the philatelic market that intention was doomed to failure. The scarcity of specimens tells its own tale. If any reader can provide the true story of this "issue" we should be most interested to know of it and will pass on the information to the correspondent.

I hope that this will give you food for thought and possibly lead to a solution of the mystery.

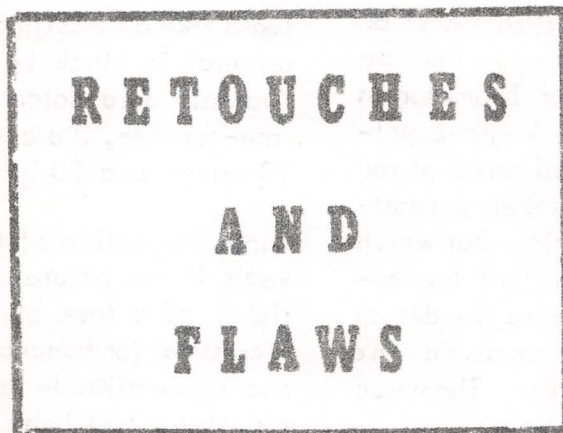
L. N. & M. WILLIAMS.

Ibrahim Chaftar

EGYPT'S

First Portrait Issue

1923 - 1926



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

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

PART II - Continued from
the January - February issue

Mr. E. C. EHRMANN in his
paper published in "STAMP
COLLECTING", 21/28 Aug.
1964 (6) mentioned that the
First photogravure press used
at Hayes by Harrison & Sons
was a "Johannisberg B.T.I."
machine (7) with a printing
surface 570 x 700 mms. i.e.,
570 mms. circumference of
the cylinder & 700 mms. in
length. If we take into con-
sideration that the dimen-
sions of the 1923/26 stamps
produced are for the low
values, $\pm 21 \times 25$ mms. &
for the high values, $\pm 25 \times$
 30 mms. we can see that
there is room on the cylin-
ders for four panes of 100 (10
 \times 10) for the low values and
only two panes for the High
values, provided the panes
are placed sideways: the
length of the stamps along
side the length of the cylin-

ders. This can be proven by the shifting of the
color impression on certain stamps which show a
blurring of the color in the direction of the ro-
tation of the printing surface (clockwise).

(6) E. G. Ehrmann A.I.I.P. "Harrisons, Stamp
Printers (an account of their early work to
mark the 30th Anniversary of the First G.B.
Photogravure Stamps", 1964.

These dimensions of the B.
T.I. cylinder allow imposi-
tion of four panes of 100
(10 x 10). low values, but
we cannot say that this was
eventually the case for the
1923/26 Issue printed by
Harrison. There is also
the possibility that their
printed sheet was composed
of only one or two post
office sheets of 100 units
each (10 x 10).

Some of my notes taken in
1947-48 were published in
L'OP (8) under the guid-
ance of a Cairo technician
in the Survey Department
competent in the Egyptian
photogravure technique. I
will take this opportunity
to present herein more pre-
cise information on that
particular point; the multi-
positive and its imposition.
I must add that the follow-
ing notes concern the
Egyptian practice however,

we must remember that the machines in use in Egypt
in 1925/37 were almost identical to those in use
by Harrison for the 1923/26 Issues.

(7) B.T.I. stands for "BOGENTIEFDRUCK", and
denotes flat-bed feed for cut sheets (same ref-
erence 'Ehrmann' as footnote No. 6.).

My notes read:

"The Master positive comprising the complete imposed window of stamps is the final stage in the photographic work. The Master positive is obtained semi-mechanically by exposing the unit negative in a 'step-and-repeat' machine which builds up the rows of individual stamp images at precise intervals horizontally and vertically. The time of each exposure and the illumination is controlled automatically so that each separate image is identical.

Until 1937 the stamp imposition was adopted to suit the cylinder sizes of the photo-gravure machines then in use, all of the low and intermediate high values being in two windows each of 100 stamps (10 x 10). The machine sheets were divided before being perforated. The post office sheet thus consisted of one window of 100 stamps.

The 500 mil. and 1 Pound value stamps were imposed and printed in sheets of 25, (5 x 5) only.

The stamps required for the manufacture of stamp booklets were imposed in a special manner to facilitate the make-up and cutting of the books. This imposition comprised four windows, each of 60 stamps (6 x 10) of which, in each window, 3 x 10 were upright and the adjacent 3 x 10 were reversed."

Now, in 1972, we have access to the marvelous book "FUNDAMENTALS OF PHILATELY" by L.N. & M. WILLIAMS (1971) (9), and I hasten to give the definition these eminent authors give for the expression "multipositive":

"multipositive or Master positive or Bipositive is a large 1/4 inch thick photographic glass pack — at least as large as the eventual printed sheet of stamps — and the images are produced photographically with the aid of a 'step-and-repeat camera'."

We see that the multipositive or master positive is at least as large as the eventual printed sheet of stamps. This means that there can be one, two or possibly four windows of 100 (10 x 10) on a B.T.I. cylinder for the low values and that the "no control" sheets of the different low values could be one, two, and perhaps four on the same cylinder. This would explain why Dr. Byam and A. J. Sefi and Douglas MacNeille were finding that their sheets did not correspond with each other. Evidently there is also the possibility that the printing sheet was composed of only one post office sheet.

(9) Published in serial form in the American Philatelist, official publication of the American Philatelic Society, edited by Jim Chemi (1971).

Mr. Revell, in his article — well exposed and documented "The King Fuad Portrait Issue — 1925 1934 — first printed in the Q.C. and then reprinted in L'OP. (10) points also to the multipositive as a pane of 100 (10 x 10) when he says:

". . . . To produce the multipositive a negative of the selected photograph is placed in a step-and-repeat camera to produce in reverse positive on a glass plate, a pane of 100 subjects. . ."

But, he added that on the cylinder there were two panes of 100.

Although Mr. Revell explains that there is a difference in the shape of a specific control, this had its origin in that the variation sometimes denoted whether the pane of 100 is from the top or the bottom of the sheet of 200 stamps. This may also denote that the control blocks are from different cylinders as many cylinders were made during the experimental stages.

(10) L'OP. No. 119, January/April 1968, on pages 16 through 39. The King Fuad Portrait Issue of 1926/34, by A. J. REVELL.

(Continued on the following page)

EGYPT'S FIRST PORTRAIT ISSUE — 1923 / 1926 (Continued)

Concerning the two panes on the cylinder Mr. Revell does not mention how these two panes (which may adjoin side by side, but not always one on top of the other) have been produced: by successive imposition by the step-and-repeat camera? and this will produce two multipositives absolutely different one from the other, or imposed by two carbon tissues obtained from one and the same multipositive which will give twin brothers?

On a comparison of the author's statements that we referred to, none stated the number of post office sheets (100) units on a machine sheet. They all mention a multipositive of 100 units only. Dr. Byam only suspected that we have no evidence that there was one multipositive only on the cylinder.

Now, if there is one multipositive of 100 units, how is it repeated twice or more often on a cylinder — two or more carbon tissues exposed from the same multipositive of 100 and adjusted on the cylinder? This will give rise to tremendous difficulties in registering the two, or more carbon tissues, apart from all of the delicate and exacting handling required.

Is it not easier to impose two or more panes of 100 units by the step-and-repeat machine?

The 5 mill. stamp was certainly the value chosen to make the experiments with as the bulk of the yearly order is, for that value, (+10,000,000 stamps) according to my estimates based on statistics published in "Les Postes en Egypte" by the G.P.O. in 1934.

This quantity, which makes 100,000 post office sheets a year, certainly required many cylinders to be used. Philatelically, Dr. Byam recognized 10 different control C/23's and no control: of B/24, five different were recognized and six different of B/25.

It is possible that one or two cylinders were produced with one multipositive of 100 units to make experiments, but probably not more because it would be uneconomical. Thousands of

used copies produced very few of the varieties retouches or flaws found on the 'no control' or on some of the early C/23 sheets.

The experimental cylinders had so many defects that most certainly, they were discarded from the cylinders accepted for the actual printing.

We, here in Egypt, came to a different conclusion regarding the number of different controls (ten according to Dr. Byam), recognized for the 5 mil. C/23. In a small booklet published in 1941, Gabriel Boulad writes that different controls for the 5 mil. C/23 are 19; for the B/24, 8 and for the B/25, 16.

To effect a conciliation of all of the opinions we have to refer to the physical evidence available to Egyptian philatelists here, and Abroad. I am at the disposal of any serious student on the matter. The recording of the retouches and flaws will certainly help to settle the study.

The matter — an academic discussion — is not so important but it does exert influence on: a) How many multipositives of 100 were used and b) The different positions of the retouches and flaws originating from these multipositives, or from the working cylinders.

— 10 —

Harrison and Sons also printed the 1923/26 Portrait issue in booklets by this new process — collogravure (this being their trade name for photogravure). It is known that a 5 mil. booklet containing four panes of six stamps of 5 mils each, 120 millimetres and a composite booklet containing two panes of six stamps of the 5 mil., one pane of the 10 mil. and a pane of six of the 15 mil. were issued. The dates when these booklets were first put on sale in Egypt has not, apparently, been recorded.

Mr. J. Revell wrote to Harrison & Sons who replied that they were unable to give any information regarding: date of issue, quantities printed and the make-up of the printing sheets.

(Continued on the following page).

We know that the first previous booklet delivered by those printers to the Egyptian G.P.O., issued on the 12th of June 1921, was of the 5 mil. lake No. 4. Information given in a letter from E. G. Ehrmann to Mr. Revell (August 1964) states that the Egyptian booklets printed by Harrison followed the British style formation in accord with the contemporary booklets of Great Britain.

"The lay out of the sheet from which these British booklet pages were cut was 12 stamps wide with a gutter margin of half stamp width in the center to provide selvages. The stamps are in groups of three tete beche.

Vertically, the sheet measures 20 rows and from these 12 x 20 stamps, 40 booklet panes would be cut. This arrangement has not been altered during the Egyptian period but there will be some difference in the marginal printing."

All of the panes of six seen by Mr. Revell, lake No. 4, pink No. 5 or pink No. 6 (crown overprint) or Fuad No. 7 bear normal watermarks. Although he has in his collection three used singles from the No. 5 booklets; without doubt from the booklets owing to the clipped perfs, one with normal watermarks and two with inverted watermarks. He states that this would bear out that they were printed tete beche.

I have, as pink 5 mil., stamps originating from booklets, a complete mint pane of six, two used blocks of four, a used horizontal strip of three from the top pane; a used horizontal pair with bottom edge; four used stamps bottom right edge and three used stamps top right edge. All of these stamps are with normal watermarks and from panes with the binding on the left. Besides, I have 13 used stamps, ten from the top and three from the bottom panes. I have only two singles from the top panes with inverted watermarks. This makes a total of 39 stamps with normal watermarks with only two inverted.

The First Portrait Issue booklet No. 7 & No. 8 are scarce and it seems that nearly nothing was collected and saved in Egypt. The Koubbeh Palace sale doesn't list any lot containing any of these booklets. Mr. Revell has seen an unused pane of six of the 5 mil. and he has in his collec-

tion, three pairs and a strip of three, all used and all with normal watermarks.

In my own collection I have, as stamp booklet No. 7, a complete mint pane of six and a complete mint 120 mil. booklet containing four panes of six stamps. All of these stamps are with the normal watermark and with the binding on the left. Besides, I have 159 used stamps originating from booklets including a horizontal bottom pair. These too, are all with normal watermarks.

Fortunately the Dr. Byam sale included twelve booklets in two lots.

Lot No. 738 —

A selection of booklets (6) with four panes of six stamps of 5 mils. (2) two panes of six stamps of 5 mils., a pane of 10 mils. and a pane of 15 mils.; the last two exploded and incomplete with three panes of six stamps of 5 mils., one of the last booklets with inverted watermark (132 stamps).

Lot No. 739 —

Four 120 mil. booklets with pink covers containing four panes of six stamps of 5 mil. of the dark red-brown containing various flaws annotated on the back of the booklet (96 stamps).

All twelve booklets contained stamps with normal watermarks except the one incomplete booklet of 5 mils. with inverted watermarks. On this there were no indications on the placement of the bindings, either left or right.

If the great lines of the layout indicated by Mr. Ehrmann were followed, then half of the booklets Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, printed would have the watermarks inverted.

This has not been the case as shown by the booklets of stamps described above, except in the case of the incomplete pane of the 5 mils. booklet No. 7, the ex-Byam in lot No. 738.

I recently read a very interesting article by Mr. Tony Wiseman in "The Stamp Lover", The issue of March / April 1970. A detailed description of the layout of the printing sheet intended for booklets (Great Britain) attracted my attention and I find it useful to quote from this description.

(Continued on the following page)

EGYPT'S FIRST PORTRAIT ISSUE -- 1923 / 1926 (Continued)

"Because the panes must be bound on the left, the ordinary sheet of stamps presents problems because only the left hand margin can be used for this purpose. In order to make use of the width of the special paper of which stamps are printed it is necessary, therefore to make suitable plates. Any of the standard works of reference describe at least one method of laying out stamps on each row; first a binding margin then three stamps printed the right way up and immediately adjacent, three stamps printed upside down.

This means that the third and fourth stamp in the row are what is known as "tete beche" to each other i.e., one is upside down in relation to the other (11).

After the first six stamps in the row there is a gutter margin of sufficient width to take two booklet bindings which is followed by six other stamps. The first three of these are the right way up and the second three being the inverted trio, or upside down. On the right side there is a further booklet binding margin. Therefore, there are in any row, exactly six stamps the right way up and six stamps upside down. The stamps that are upside down when viewed in the normal way have inverted watermarks."

The layout then, as described above, certainly means that exactly half of the booklets printed from these plates have the watermark inverted and half have them in the normal position (12).

From a quantity of 8,000 stamps used stamps of the 5 mil. Fuad 1923/26, I sorted out 150 stamps; without doubt from booklets owing to the clipped perforations. All were with normal watermarks with the exception of four.

The result was a surprise to me. I remembered the same fact from the 1920/22 issue where, from a lot of 2,600 used 5 mils. pink, I sorted out only nine stamps with inverted watermarks, two of them from booklets.

I suspected then that the make-up of the plates used to print the stamps intended for use in booklets could perhaps have been different from what our information so far indicated.

I looked again carefully at the 159 stamps from the booklets of the 1923 Fuad issue. I was astonished to find that the same varieties found on the normal sheet C/23 and the no control sheet were reproduced on some of these stamps. Illustrated on the following page (Fig. 4) are reproductions of twelve stamps, six of them from booklets showing the various varieties described AND six stamps from normal sheets showing the SAME SIX VARIETIES.

The booklet stamps, without doubt, originate from the same multipositive as that used for the printing of the normal sheets because these varieties appear in blocks or vertical strips which indicate conclusively that they are from post office sheets and not from booklets.

How can booklets be cut from normal post office sheets that do not provide enough selvedge for the booklets from a carbon tissue from a multipositive intended for normal post office sheets, how could the carbon tissue be used to prepare a cylinder?


In the previously mentioned article on "Egyptian Booklets Printed in Great Britain", the authors, Jean Boulad and John Revell suggest that the make-up plate for booklets was on the basis of the tete beche disposition so that all of the booklets can have the binding at the left notwithstanding that there will be stamps


(11) Stamp Booklets - Great Britain - "A make up mystery" by TONY WISEMAN B. A. in the "Stamp Lover" - March/April 1970.

(12) The principle reason for the binding at the left and the make-up in tete beche disposition are imperative to make up the individual watermarks of that period centered in every stamp to be on the paper available. (For Great Britain Edward VIII). For the Egyptian multiple Crescent and Star watermark this is irrelevant. (Author's note).

PHOTOS — Nos. 4a and 4b

BOOKLET VARIETIES ON THE 5 MILLIEME

No. 1 — Inclined colored dash right to left on the white edge of the right label containing  nearly at its lower end G. 6. I have this variety on two vertical strips of three and one of them with upper margin. The variety is on the third row of a sheet.

No. 2 — Protruding color under the first Arabic letter in the white edge of the right label containing  B.7. I have this variety in a block of 3 x 3 and in a vertical block of ten 2 x 5, variety imperf., watermark IX with bottom margin. The variety is in the 9th row of of a sheet.

No. 3 — Colored dash 2 mms. long on top right bud, G.4. I have this variety on two vertical strips of three.

No. 4 — This is the famous variety Dr. Byam described in his article quoting that it is the only attempt to retouch the Arabic writing he had seen. The Arabic word... in the left hand label, the letters under which there are two dots have been roughly reshaped by three ill-placed lines. This Byam variety is in a used block of eight. Some years before he had also seen a single stamp with this variety C/D.1.

No. 5 — Additional white dash on the last Arabic letter of D.1. I have this variety on the top stamp of a vertical strip of three. Also in a block of four from a used booklet pane. The variety is on the second row from a pane, normal watermark, and left opening.

No. 6 — This is the famous variety described by Douglas MacNeille and Dr. Byam "Tuft of hairs in the ear". This is stamp No. 35 in two different controls — C/23 and a sheet of no control, D.4. I have this variety on an upper vertical block of ten 2 x 5 with margin attached imperforate, watermark IX. The variety No. 35 is in the fourth row.



Fig. 4a

The First Portrait Issue
1923/1926

Sheets		
1	2	3
Booklets		
1	2	3

Booklet Varieties



Fig. 4b.

Top shows positions 1, 2, 3 as they appear on the panes for sheets and booklets.
Lower same positions 4, 5, 6

Sheets		
4	5	6
Booklets		
4	5	6

with inverted watermarks.

How can an available multipositive be used to fulfill such conditions ?

The easy way, in my opinion, is to build up a new special multipositive for the booklets but, then certainly, the same flaws of the previous multipositive will not be repeated.

Besides, in my opinion, the tete beche disposition is not imperative for that issue as the new watermark adopted during the Harrison contract — the small watermark type VII, "The Multiple Treble Crescent and Star", allows shifting in all directions so that every stamp will bear the watermark or a portion of the watermark.

In 1945, while doing some research in the G. P.O. in Cairo, I came across a letter along with an answer relative to proofs of the London Crown Overprints of 1923. I made an exact copy of these two documents and I held them for 27 years without publishing their contents, fearing that I might have failed to copy them accurately.

In this letter, dated 12 January 1923, a Director of Harrison & Sons Ltd. informs:

"In accordance with your instructions of the 27 Nov. 1922 we beg to submit proofs of:

One sheet of 5 mil.)
Two sheets of 1 mil.) all 240 set
Two sheets of 15 mil.)

showing the overprint from the plates which we have prepared for the smaller size.

As the colour of the one and fifteen milliemmes renders the overprint rather indistinct in black, we are submitting alternative proofs surcharged in red for these values.

We will arrange to proceed with the overprinting immediately we receive your instructions."

In answer, The Postmaster General, Cairo, re-

plied on 6 February 1923:

"Gentlemen:

With reference to your letter BGH/BK of January '2/23 I have to inform you that the printing of the surcharge is satisfactory.

It is suggested however that the printing should be slightly heavier especially over the darker coloured stamps.

Surcharge should be printed exclusively in black and not in red.

To me these documents remained a puzzle from that time until recently when I began thinking about the plate make-up for the EGYPTIAN BOOKLETS for that period.

I was puzzled by the 240 units in a sheet of the 5 mil. stamp knowing that Harrison printed the ordinary stamps in a post office sheet composed of two panes of 100 (10 x 10) one on top of the other.

Now, with the suggestion that the 1920/22 booklets have come from a printing plate of 240 units, the matter makes sense. This explains why the stamps with the black London Crown Overprint formed a sheet of 240 units for a 5 mil. sheet. it was a stand-by plate then used for printing stamp booklets.

In typographic printing it is easy to arrange the stereotypes to provide selvages on a special post office sheet from which 40 booklet panes could be obtained with six stamps each, watermarked in the same direction, or disposed in such a way as to be tete beche. Also the selvedge (pillars) can be disposed in several manners allowing binding at the left for all of the booklets, giving half of the quantity inverted watermarks or not: disposing the stamps with the head of the sphinx the right way up or not. All of these dispositions according to the disposibility of the paper size at hand, or a paper size that could be provided for. The watermark entry FOR EVERY STAMP was then secured with the "treble Crescent and Star" watermark.

(Continued on the following page)

A plate of 240 units for the 5 mil. was on hand in January 1923. Harrison used that plate, which had been used for fulfilling the booklet order, to pull a sheet overprinted in black as a proof for the Crown Overprint.

If the sheet had a tete beche make-up, this sheet or part of it, would have survived, as the sheet of red overprints of the 1 and 5 mils. have survived because the people handling the stamps in that period were acknowledged experts.

This for the 5 mil. sheet. But for the two sheets of the 1 and 15 mil. I suppose that Harrison sent two truncated sheets of 120 for each of these values (to complete the 240 unit set), one sheet overprinted in black and the other of the same size and format overprinted in red. The plates for the overprint were arranged to suit the size of the so-truncated sheets.

These truncated sheets of 120 each must have been a complete upper pane (control attached) and 20 stamps (2 rows of 10) from the lower pane with the gutter between the panes untouched.

Dr. Byam had in his collection (Lot No. 682 of his catalog sale) the control block of four of the left bottom block of four with the variety of no dots on stamp No. 100 and the broken frame variety on stamp No. 90, overprinted in red for the 1 mil. at the FIRST CAIRO EXHIBITION in 1946.

We don't know anything about any other control blocks of four, or left bottom corner blocks top pane overprinted in red.

The remaining stamps overprinted in red are spread throughout the entire world among Egyptian specialists. From the early times it was known that only one pane of each value (1 & 15 mil.) had been overprinted in red, however nobody had come across, or knew about the existence of a 5 mil. tete beche Crown Overprint in black. The 5 mil. sheet of 240 was overprinted in black and if it had a tete beche it would certainly have been retained by the very clever people who scattered the red overprints. The black overprint of the 1, 5 and 15 mil. were very common when the issue was on sale and they

have not attracted attention.

Certainly Harrison arranged his ex-booklet plate of 240 units of the 5 mil. to receive the crown overprint in a normal way. How thrilling it would have been if that sheet had been retained, later reaching the interested philatelists.

I have, in these lines, put forward this "make-up mystery" and I hope the explanation will render good satisfaction to the query: how to make up the plates for the Harrison booklets Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 have been prepared and most specially, that for the No. 7 & 8 booklets (First Portrait Issue) which added the building of the ad-hoc multipositive difficulty.

* * *

We will conclude this fine study in our next issue with Chapter 11. This chapter will deal with the double impressions to be found on the 1923/1926 issue. It will be lavishly illustrated with fourteen greatly enlarged photos making the detail sharply apparent for excellent study possibilities.

NEW EGYPTIAN COLLECTORS' DIRECTORY PLANNED IN '73

Philatelists interested in the stamps and postal history of Egypt should be pleased to learn that a second edition of the informative EGYPTIAN COLLECTORS' DIRECTORY will be published this year. The first edition, published in 1968, listed 138 Egypt specialists in all corners of the world, with details of their special interests. It also contained additional information and articles of particular interest relative to philately in our area, including details of the Philatelic Society of Egypt The Egypt Study Circle and the Oriental Phil. Ass'n. of London, including details of the benefits each has to offer and data on how to join these groups. The Second Edition will be even bigger & better.

All collectors of Egypt who are interested may be listed in the new Directory and receive a completed copy on publication — both for \$3.00 (1.25 Sterling or its equivalent).

For a questionnaire and details write to Peter R. FELTUS, 4970 Desmond Street, Oakland, California, 94618, U.S.A.

Dr. A. Winter

More About FRENCH ARMY in EGYPT

1898

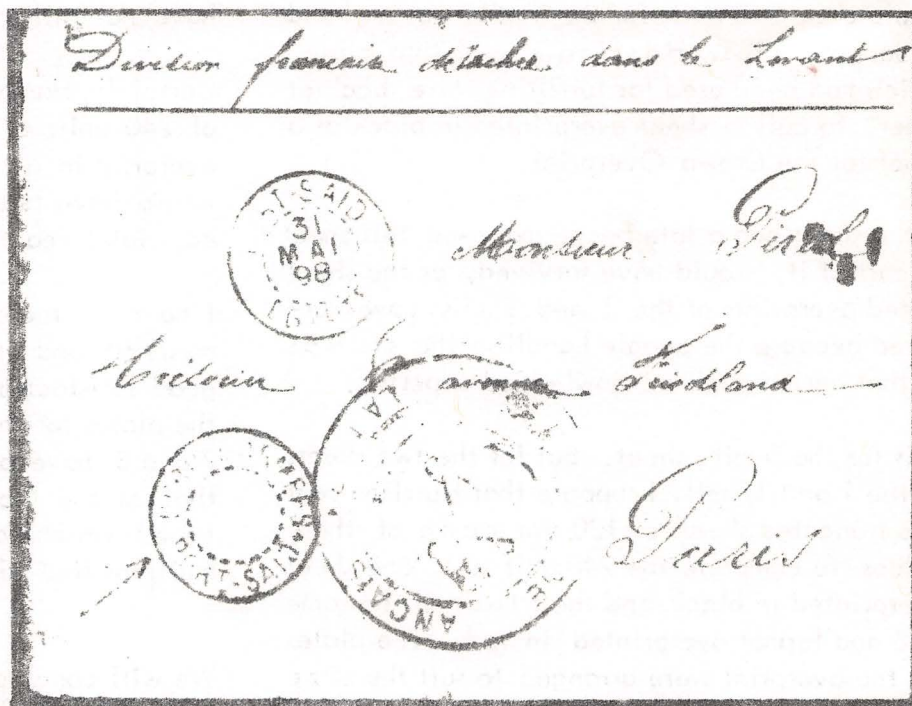
AN ANSWER TO A QUERY CONCERNING THE FRENCH ARMY COVER ILLUSTRATED

In Topics, Volume 4, No. 2, was presented a very interesting item from Dr. Bostwick's collection.

To answer the question asked at the end of the article: What was the French army doing on Egyptian soil in 1898. It is necessary to go back in time and to study the military history of the Mediterranean basin at the end of the 19th Century.

Following the different treaties signed between countries of the Levant and France, the military of the latter had to intervene several times, always with war ships: e.g., during the slaughters between Druses and Maronites in 1860 and later in the island of Crete.

This island was under Turkish domination in 1890. In 1895, public disturbances broke out following the slaughter of the Christian inhabitants of the island by the Turkish garrison. A Greek Squadron was sent to Crete to help the opposition against the Turks. The Sultan asked then for the intervention of European countries



in an effort to find a solution to the Cretan problem. This explains how France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, Austria then Germany sent warships and settled contingents in the main towns of the island. The French Marine light Infantry stayed until about 1900.

The mail of these soldiers bore the hand written indication: "Division française détachée en Crete" or various readings of this text. Free postage was granted to them on 17 April 1897.

It was at the beginning of the year 1898 that one of the destroyers of this division detached to Crete was sent to Port Said following public disturbances which broke out among the personnel of the Suez Canal. Three ships succeeded one from the other during the first 8 months of 1898, among them the "Wattigny" and the "Condor". The mail from the sailors of the destroyer then stationed at Port Said bore the indication "Détachée dans le levant" as this ship had gone temporarily from Crete to Egypt. The Civil stamp struck on Dr. Bostwick's item is the ordinary handstamp of the French office in Port Said. The handstamp "correspondance d'Armees, Port Said", the date-marker, which had been removed when it was used jointly with the civil handstamp, was struck to justify the free postage of the letter.

(Continued next page - col. 1 - bottom)

Letter to the Editor

In the November/December 1972 issue of TOPICS we presented an interesting note on a copy of Zeheri's No. 214, dealing with one of the "Nubian Monument" commemoratives submitted by TOM HOMA. It showed a good deal of distortion and appeared blurred.

Relative to this JOHN F. COUSINS writes from England with the following notes.

"Re: Tom Homa's "blurred" printing stamp of the 1959 Nubia Monuments Issue, I can't claim anything quite like this but, of the four copies in my possession, three have an appreciable red-brown tinge in the margins on both sides of the picture. In these the picture is also dark and light and the shades much toned down. The fourth copy is on an official First Day Cover and has (almost) white margins. It is considerably more distinct and lighter in shade."

WATERMARKED — YES or NO ?

JOHN COUSINS also writes about listings in our new issue column. The first item "Society of Friends Art", appeared in the July/August 1972 issue; the second "The Twentieth Anniversary of the Revolution", in the September/October 1972 issue.

In both cases we listed them with the normal watermark of Multiple Eagle. John says:

"In both Topics and Stanley Gibbons supplement the issues for Society of Friends Art and 20th Anniversary of the Revolution — 2 stamps and a miniature sheet are stated to be on watermarked paper (Multiple Eagle). The copies in my possession have no watermarks! Wrong information from Cairo ?

MORE — FRENCH ARMY IN EGYPT

Finally we can read the large marine handstamp (which is not a censorship marking) which always appears on military naval mail "Marine francais, Service a la Mer" with an anchor in the middle. Another variety exists with the following text: "Marine Francais — anchor — Port Said".

SUDAN PAIR WITH UNUSUAL "NON POSTAL" OVERPRINT

We recently came across a unique item from the Sudan. We can find no listing or mention of it in any of the normal sources and we wonder if someone can give us an answer ?

The item in question, illustrated below, is on a pair of the 3 P.T. issue of 1927 (Zeh. #47, p. 364 1972 edition), blue and red-brown.

They are surcharged in Arabic and English, reading in English "NOT VALID FOR POSTAGE" in two lines while the Arabic appears to translate into "1 mil or (MEELM 1). It is identical to the surcharge that appeared on the 10m. denomination revalued 5m. for the military in 1940 except for the numeral, now 1 instead of 5.



Was it used as a kind of fiscal or, more likely was it used as fractional currency during a coin shortage ? We seem to recall reading about something of this kind long ago. The printing appears superior to most that we have seen emanating from the Sudan in those days. Could it be completely bogus ? We think not. Can you help ?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued)

Just to be sure we hadn't goofed John, we checked back on the official circulars issued by Cairo and find that these were listed with watermarks. In contrast, the issue for King Tut, stamps and souvenir sheet, lists them "without" watermarks. It is possible that a quantity of paper remained from the Tut emission (issued in April) followed by the Art stamps in May and the 20th Anniversary issue in July and they used it up. Perhaps it was issued both ways ?

I have checked several copies of each in my own collection and find them all unwatermarked.

Perhaps someone in Egypt can help us on this ?

* * *

THE PHILATELIC LITERATURE OF EGYPT

"AN ANNOTATED RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY"

By GORDON B. GARRETT

With Valuable Assistance From CHARLES FOX

SECTION X — POSTAL MARKINGS

FROM THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR — EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE OF LONDON

PROGRESS REPORT ON STUDY IV — POSTA EUROPEA — MacKENZIE-LOW, A.S., Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 7-10. A list of the types of the Posta Europea and government franks with the recording of the earliest and latest dates known at that time (February 1938).

Vol. 1, No. 7, pp. 4-6, Illustrations of the registered markings, postage paid, additional listing of dates. Necessary for the student of this era.

THE EGYPTIAN TRANSIT COMPANY — MacKENZIE-LOW, A.S., Vol. 1, No. 6, pp. 3-5, Dec. 1939. Excellent data with illustrations of the Cairo and Suez markings.

THE POSTA EUROPEA — BYAM, Dr. Wm., Vol. 2, No. 4, p. 44, August 1943. Brief notes on a change of type numbers in the Posta Europea types.

BRIGGS & CO. — HURT, E.F., Vol. 1, No. 4, pp. 6-7. March 1939. Short but interesting notes on this little publicized aspect of Egyptian Postal History.

THE POSTS OF FRANCE IN EGYPT — HURT, E.F., Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 1-7. May 1938. Good illustrations of the various markings with much useful data on dates of usage. (Study II)

NOTES ON THE RUSSIAN, GREEK AND FRENCH POST OFFICES IN EGYPT — BOULAD, Jean, Vol. 11, No. 2, p. 23, Dec., 1942. Brief but interesting notes of value to the student.

THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF EGYPT FROM 1866 — MacKENZIE-LOW, A.S. Vol. 1, No. 2, p. 9, May 1938. Brief notes without illustration on the markings of Scio, Kassala, Alexandretta.

OFFICIAL MARKINGS — GOVERNMENTALES — Vol. 1, No. 3, pp. 1-2, November 1938. An illustrated article with good information on this lesser known cancellation.

THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF EGYPT SINCE 1880 — MacKENZIE-LOW, A.S., Vol. II, No. 12, Dec. 1945, pp. 175-178. An excellent and comprehensive listing of these markings but without illustration.

THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF EGYPT, 1865 — 1880 — BLOMFIELD, R.S. Vol. III, No. 8, pp. 102-108, Sept. 1949. A comprehensive listing by dates showing the earliest and latest dates known at that time; one page of good illustrations.

HOTEL POSTMARKS — WARD, DR. Gordon, Vol. IV, No. 2, p. 17, May 1952. A listing of 25 different hotel markings known at that time with a request for information to add to the list.

POSTAL MARKINGS ASSORTED — WARD, Dr. G., Vol. IV, No. 4, pp. 57-60, July 1953. An excellent text explaining some 16 different unusual markings with illustrations of each.

***NOTE: Many additional markings on the foreign post offices in Egypt and on military mail are available to us. These will be listed in detail with the appropriate sections as they are covered.

Ken Pierce

NAPOLEON IN

On page 68 of the Quarterly Circular of the Egyptian Study Circle of London, Vol. VII, No. 10, of June 1972, is illustrated the then only recorded manuscript town of origin mark for SIOUTH (Assiout) from the Napoleonic Campaign in Egypt in 1798-1801. A photo of that illustration appears at right.

The actual cover, illustrated below, is yet another example of the town of origin manuscript SIOUTH, that I recently acquired. It is distinctly different from the example previously recorded.

This letter, consisting of three pages, was written during 1800 by the translator and secretary of General de Brigade DONZELOT and is addressed to: AU GENERAL COMMANDANT EN CHEF L'ARMEE D'ORIENT, A SON QUARTIER GENERAL AU KAIRE (Cairo).

The letter is signed by General Donzelot and countered by him with an early form of notarization by which he agrees that his signature is a true one.

A SECOND MANUSCRIPT COVER WITH THE RARE MARKING OF "SIOUTH" (ASSIOUT) DISCOVERED

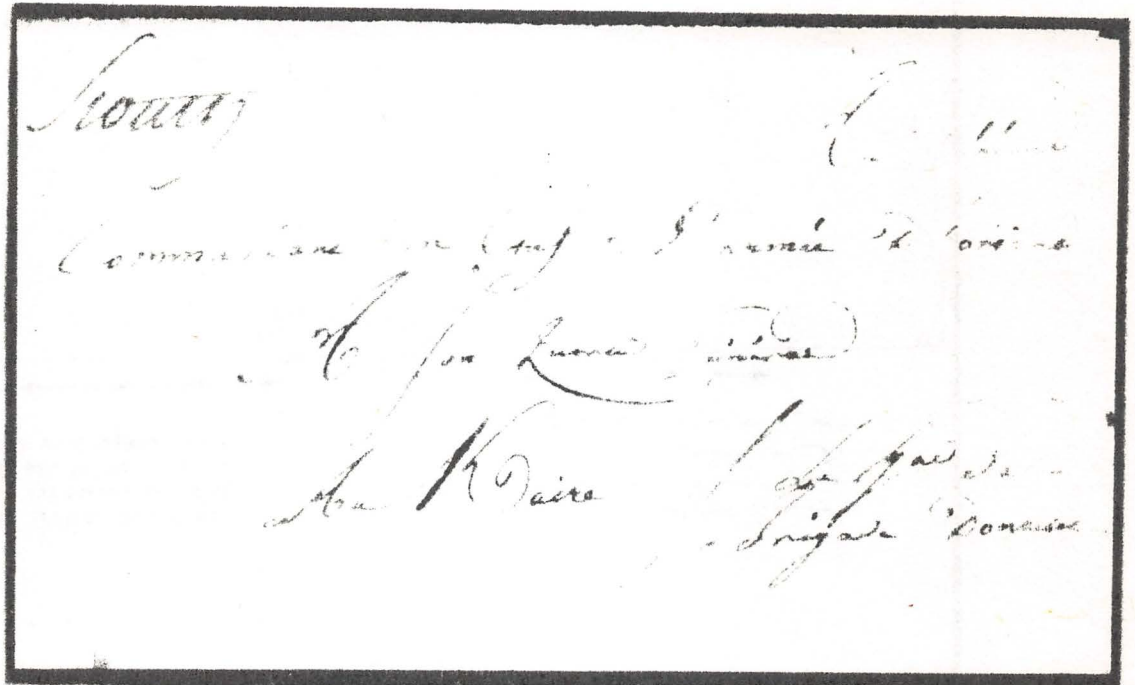
EGYPT

1798

1801

Siouth

10 Oct 1800 | recorded



HELP NEEDED ON REVENUE STUDY

For more than a decade Peter Feltus has been working on a specialized study of the various issues of Egyptian fiscals and revenues (Salt Dept., Tobacco Tax, Gen. purpose, Consular Service stamps etc.). Robson Lowe of London has recently announced plans to publish a series of foreign revenue catalogs. Current plans call for inclusion of the results of the Feltus study as the basis for the Egyptian volume.

It is hoped to make this volume as complete and up to date as possible by the date of publication. Additional information is needed. You may have material to further the study and, if what you have needs clarification, he will be happy to share his information with you. He is always willing to buy or trade to mutual advantage. If you are interested in revenues write to Feltus at 4970 Desmond St. Oakland, California, 94618, U.S.A.

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

THE 30 MILL AEROGRAMME ISSUED IN 1972

At long last we have managed to acquire a copy of this elusive item. Printed on pale cream colored paper, the label (upper left is orange. The stamp is orange and green. Printing on the envelope is orange except the line "second fold here, both in English and Arabic, in green. Border and the building overprint in the center is in very pale lavender.

