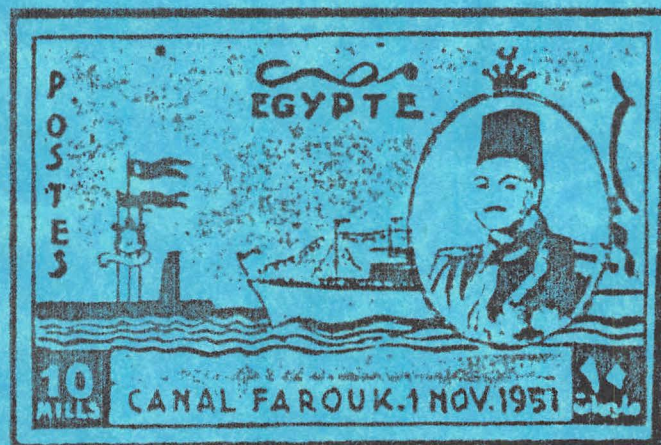


EGYPTIAN TOPICS



Vol. 6. No. 6.

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Sept. — Oct. 1972

EGYPTIAN TOPICS



EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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Philatelic Society of Egypt should be sent to
Dr. P.A.S. Smith, the American Agent. To
avoid confusion his address is available from
the editor by mail . . .

SESCAL
OCTOBER 25-27
1974



MAIL DELIVERY
1874

with the editor

Following a number of requests the next number of Egyptian Topics will Not be the beginning of Volume 7, following our custom of the past six years. Instead it will remain with Volume 6 as No. 7 to end our file at the end of the calendar year and we will begin Volume No 7 with the January/February 1975 issue.

No, we haven't forgotten the formation of the new Society but we did find a large amount of work was necessary in preparation. We expect to have the ballots for a Society name and for our officers ready for inclusion with the mailing of our next issue and, hopefully, the Society will be a reality by the first of the year.

Many names have been suggested along with a word of caution from many to the effect that a name must not be chosen that will in any way conflict with the Philatelic Society of Egypt — or with the journals of any other organization devoted to Egyptian philately. We have enjoyed excellent relations with the P.S.E. and its officers and we have no desire to be in competition. This applies equally well to the Egypt Study Circle and to O.P.A.L. There is a definite need for each of us. Topics is intended as a natural supplement, on a regular six-times a-year organ with as much original material as we can find and to present it in an interesting manner, hopefully, for years to come.

We have already been contacted officially by the Organizing Committee for SESCAL and we have been allotted a minimum of 100 frames — for exhibition purposes for the October 1975 show here in Los Angeles. To take advantage of this, perhaps in conjunction with our first annual convention, we will require some kind of a commitment early in the new year. Write to me if you are interested in an Egyptian show.

The Grand Award winner will be eligible for for the famous APS "Champion of Champions" competition in Philadelphia in 1976 as a complement to our country's Bi-Centennial celebration. A win in that show by an Egyptian collection would be a tremendous boost to Egyptian Philately.



PARDON EFFENDI!
A FEW FREE WORDS
HERE MEAN PROFIT

bazaar

There is NEVER a Charge for WANTS or OFFERS Listed for our Readers in EGYPTIAN TOPICS.

* * *

CORRECTION: Mrs. Nancy E. "TEX" Schaefer, writes to say your editor "goofed". She doesn't want Sudanese cards or covers. (Unfortunately no one answered — she was going to send 'em all to your editor who might have had a field day). **TEX DOES WANT** British Forces Seals on cover to enlarge her exhibit for future showings. If you can help write to her: 1719 Lakeview Road, Clearview, Florida, 33516 . . .

OFFER CANCELLED: Peter Feltus advises he is now completely out of back issue of L'OP. The response from his last ad **HERE** was overwhelming.

WANTED: MORE AUCTION BIDDERS.

AUCTION HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO:

NOVEMBER 25TH, 1974

MAIL IN YOUR BIDS NOW !

WANTED: For inclusion in forthcoming catalog, on **FRANCE USED IN EGYPT** which will begin in Serial form in Egyptian Topics soon. **ANY ODD** or unusual material of this area and era not commonly known. We want to make it as complete as possible and we do **NEED YOUR HELP !** Write to **KENNETH PIERCE**, Director of Systems, % City of Hope, 1500 East Duarte Road, Duarte, Calif. Zip Code is 91010. Please do it now ? . . .

WANTED: More readers to help us with **PHILATELIC FUN AND PROFIT** by sending us a sketch and a brief description of your interesting errors.

AND, while we are at it. We can't understand ? why more readers don't take advantage of trading and swapping in this column which is **FREE** If you have put it off — sit down and do it now — it will appear in our next issue.

Plan an exhibit — Participate in the Show of your choice and help publicize Egypt and the Sudan. Our prices will never go up if they never hear of us and the interesting things we collect !

MAIL AUCTION

TOPICS MAIL AUCTION SALE #2 (The new Series) is now a thing of the past. Following are the realizations for those of you who like to keep your hand on the current market. 38 Lots were sold out of the 50 offered including the books, to twelve successful bidders.

While we would have preferred to offer three or four times as many lots, those that were offered were, for the most part, quality items, many of which realized significantly over the estimates.

LOT NO.	REALIZED	LOT NO.	REALIZED
1	\$ 27.50	21	\$ 8.00
2	115.00	22	14.00
3	15.00	25	5.25
4	6.00	27	7.00
5	38.00	29	7.00
6	22.00	30	2.00
7	27.50	31	20.00
8	27.00	32	11.00
9	12.00	33	8.25
10	20.00	34	5.00
11	35.00	35	6.00
12	37.50	37	15.00
13	30.00	39	5.00
14	22.50	44	4.00
15	20.00	45	4.00
16	52.50	46	12.50
18	6.00	48	12.50
19	7.00	49	7.50
20	25.00	50	10.00

Unlisted lots did not receive bids. . .

1975 A TRIP TO ANTIQUITY 22 Day Tour to Egypt & Lebanon

(213) 466-7771

6916 HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90028

J. Bouled d'Humieres, FRPSL

Translated by the kind permission of the Author from the original French version that appeared in J.P.S., October 1973

With additional notes by the Author.

A PROJECT FOR A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP UNTIL NOW UNKNOWN

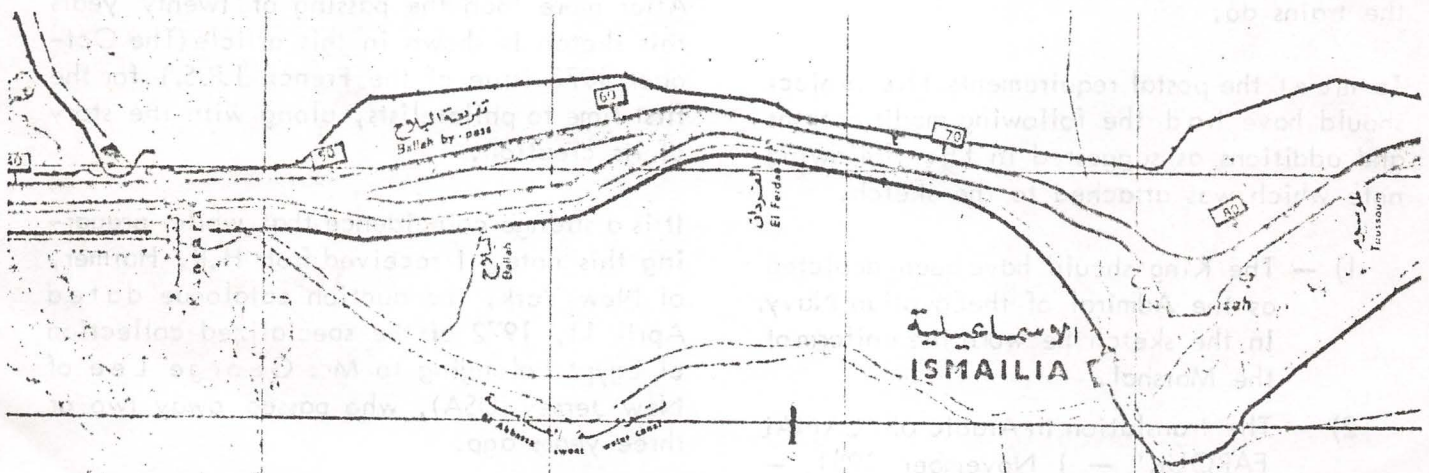
After the last war, maritime navigation through the Suez Canal became increasingly more intensified in both directions and the ships passing each other in both directions created problems always more difficult to solve.

A project to construct a straight-line divider for a length of approximately 10 kilometers (approximate length in miles 6.25) to facilitate the passing of ships so as to speed up transit had been studied since 1947 and was rapidly completed.

It is located between Kantara and Ismailia. This is between the 51st and 60th kilometer marking (approximately 31.9 and 37.5 miles).

An artificial island has thus been constructed between the two branches between the old and the new waterway. (See fig. 1, below).

Fig. 1 — The SUEZ CANAL between Kantara and Ismailia. The "By-Pass is clearly indicated".



**A Little
"SHORT
POSTAL
HISTORY"
of the
SUEZ
CANAL**

The new system began to function on July 23, 1951. It should have been inaugurated officially on November 1, 1951 by King Farouk under the new name "CANAL FAROUK," who

SUEZ CANAL POSTAL HISTORY — By Jean Boulad d'Humieres, FRPSL (Continued)

sailing on his personal yacht from the North side, was going to cut the symbolic ribbon, which would have been barring the entrance at that time.

A commemorative stamp of 10 milliemes, in green, would have been issued for the event.

For that purpose the Postal Administration had requested from the Canal Company the submission of essays for the projected stamp issue.

It was the author of this article who, at that time, was attached to the company's administration and was asked to take charge of the project due to his philatelic and postal knowledge and experience.

This occurred during the period of 12th to 15th of September 1951.

Together with Mr. R. BAUCHET, Chief of the Architectural Bureau of the Company, a sketch was hurriedly made. (Fig. 2).

It depicts the royal yacht entering the New Canal from the Northern Entrance where the light house may be seen at the North Point, the King's portrait being in the vignette.

The format is horizontal, 82 X 52 mm. color in pale green in water color.

It should be remembered that in maritime traffic ships sail to the Bow side (to the left) — and pass on the Stern side (on the right) — as the trains do.

To meet the postal requirements the project should have had the following modifications and additions as suggested in the following note which was attached to the sketch.

- 1) — The King should have been depicted as the Admiral of the Egyptian Navy. In the sketch he wore the uniform of the Marshal.
- 2) — The translation in Arabic of "CANAL FAROUK" — 1 November 1951, —



Fig. 2 - The original sketch prepared by Mssrs. d'Hunier and Bauchet of the Suez Canal Company.

should have been placed above the French text.

With some slight technical modifications which the Survey Department — printer of Egyptian stamps, could have made, the future stamp would have been submitted to the King for approval.

Due to political differences between the Palace and the Government, the planned ceremony was cancelled. The projected issue of this commemorative stamp was abandoned and the sketch returned to its authors on October 16, 1951.

After the Revolution of July 23, 1952 and the abdication of King Farouk, the canal was simply called a "BY-PASS".

After more than the passing of twenty years this sketch is shown in this article (The October 1973 issue of the French J.P.S.) for the first time to philatelists, along with the story of its creation.

It is a strange coincidence that while preparing this note, I received from H.R. Harmer, of New York, the auction catalogue dated April 11, 1972 of the specialized collection of Egypt belonging to Mr. George Lee of New Jersey (USA), who passed away two or three years ago.

While going through the lots I was really surprised to find Lot #248E described as:

"1951 prepared Farouk Canal Issues, 10m. in five different colors on watermarked paper, fine".

Thanks to the kindness of my friend, Prof. Peter A. S. Smith of Ann Arbor, Michigan, I was able to get a photograph of these unusual essays. (Fig. 3 below and cover).

Being largely inspired from the sketch prepared by the Suez Canal Company, the Survey Department made a single design for 10 mills value following the usual specifications in force at that time; that is; printed on watermarked paper of that period — Royal Crown and the Arabic Letter "F" — in only five copies of two colors each, imperforate, stuck on presentation card, to be submitted to King Farouk as it was customary with all projects at that time.



Fig. 3 — The essay produced by the Survey Department and delivered to King Farouk in five color combinations.

THE COLORS OF THE ESSAYS ARE:

<u>Design:</u>	<u>Portrait:</u>
Brown	Violet
Brown	Green
Green	Blue
Green	Brown
Blue	Brown

This project brings the following comments concerning the design itself.

1 — Since the subject was maritime, the King should have been depicted in the Admiral's uniform instead of the Marshal, as suggested several times, and in the note attached to the sketch of the Canal Company.

2 — The freighter sailing out of the Canal is traveling in the opposite direction; in fact as mentioned previously, the ship sails on the bow side. On the company's sketch this rule has been observed.

3 — The ship depicted is an ordinary freight carrier, whereas it would have been more appropriate to depict the King's personal yacht, on board which he was going to inaugurate the "new" portion of the Canal, to be christened in his name.

Removed from its presentation card these five essays — there should not be any other in existence — have gone to Mr. George Lee's collection.

Following his death they were offered at auction. They are now in another collector's hands.

This is a part of the "Short Postal History of the "Suez Canal" which would have been completely unknown to philatelists were it not for the coincidental finding of these two

projects for a commemorative stamp which has never been issued.

Bibliography:

H. R. Harmer's Auction Catalog of the Sales. Issued in April 1972.

"Harmer's Auction of the George Lee Sale" A report in depth by Dr. Peter A. S. Smith in Egyptian Topics, Vol. 4, No. 5 — July / August 1972.

HELP TO PUBLICIZE EGYPTIAN PHILATELY.
EXHIBIT IN THE STAMP SHOW OF YOUR CHOICE. OUR AREA IS ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING IN THE WORLD.

Ben Pierce

THE FIRST QUERY concerns the VINGT-CINQ surcharge of Port Said (Scott No. 16; Yvert Nos. 19, 19b) and there are two items in question . . .

1. I have a used copy of Scott # 16, Yvert # 19B, on Sage TYPE II. The catalogs note this overprint on type I only. I have examined about 50 copies of this stamp in the last six months and have not found another on type II. In close comparison with many on type I, the overprint on the type II appears similar and genuine in all respects. Obviously it is possible that a sheet of the type II was overprinted along with the type I's, as it was available at the time of overprinting. May I request our readers to examine their copies of this stamp and to report any examples of type II?
2. The second query on the VINGT-CINQ surcharge has to do with the printing on the selvedge of this stamp. Charlie Hass of Pennsylvania reports a copy with the full overprint printed on the selvedge. A similar item appeared in an Apfelbaum auction last year. The question is: Does the overprint appear across the entire selvedge, or just with certain margin stamps? Would readers with top or bottom margin copies or pieces please report on the presence or non-presence of the overprint on the selvedge indicating (if possible) the location of the stamp or piece on the sheet.

The next query has to do with the entire first issue of Port Said and particularly with the diæresis or double dots over the 'i' of Said. Charlie Hass and I have confirmed missing the right hand dot of the diæresis on the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 25 and 50c and the 2Fr. I have examples of the 2, 5, 10 and 20c with both dots missing but no one example on any stamp of this issue with the left hand dot missing and the right hand dot present. Do you?

French Offices in

EGYPT



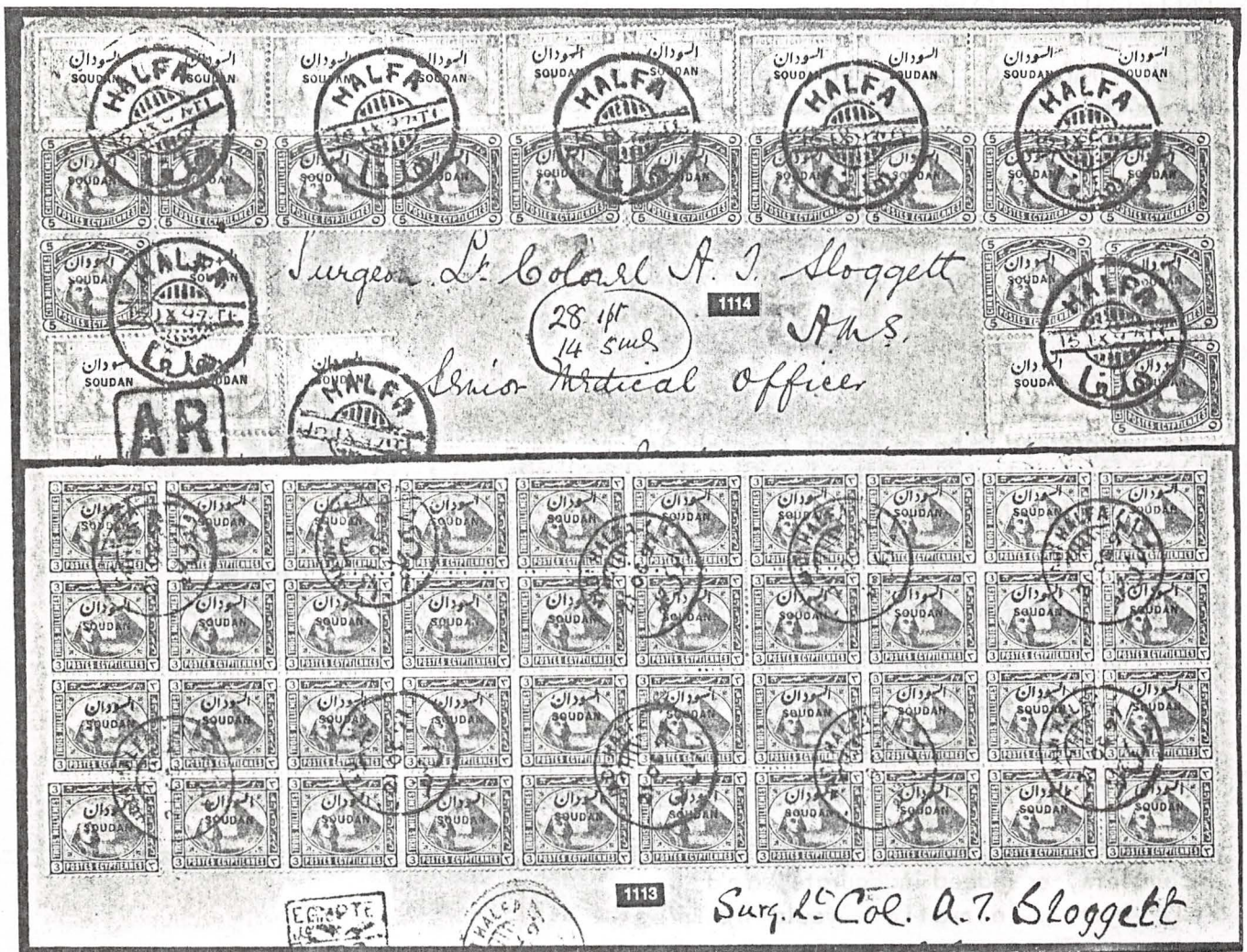
QUERY?

Close examination of these stamps shows the left hand dot stronger in almost all cases. Charlie is positive and I tend to agree, that as this (right dot missing) is a fairly common occurrence it is due to the dot breaking or of an initial faulty plate. It is possible that in some instances there was a wearing down of the plate but then, why the right hand and not the left hand dot?

Anyway, comments are solicited as are the locations of any large multiples of this issue so that this condition can be further investigated and perhaps plated.

NEXT: Is anyone aware of, or can provide me with information (excluding Col. Deloste's books) on the location and Trésor et Poste number of French Armed Forces in Egypt at any time? (Continued on page 115 col. 2).

Market Notes



The two superb and rare items illustrated are slated to fall under the hammer at the Gibbons Merkur Auction October 10 - 11 - 12, 1974. The catalog describes them:

Lot No. 1113 — Sudan 1897 - 3 m. orange in a block of 40 on a large cover from Wadi Halfa addressed to Alexandria.

Lot No. 1114 — 5 m. carmine, a strip of 10, a pair and two singles and the 1 PT. blue, (28 copies) on large piece, also from Wadi Halfa to Alexandria.

And from STANLEY GIBBONS AUCTION of 11 September 1974. Mr. J. A. Firebrace, knowing the editor's interest in aerophilately sent us the following, on which we bid vigorously. . .

Lot No. 48 — EGYPT - 1910 (13 Feb.) HELIOPOLIS / PILOT ROUGIER
Special aeronautic postcard (No. 101) cancelled at Heliopolis Aerodrome.
ALSO the FLIGHT VIGNETTE unused. Valuation 80 Pounds Sterling.

Lot No. 49 - 1919 (March and April) MILITARY AIR SERVICE
21 Mar. O.H.M.S. cover from Alexandria to Bir Salem (Palestine) with flight cachet TYPE I, AERIAL POST/EEF, Army Post Office marks of despatch and arrival.

Lot No. 50 — Similar cover of 1 April with TYPE III (Erroneously listed as circular cancel)

Lot No. 51 — Similar cover of 1 May (late date) TYPE II, boxed in Purple. All est. ± 80.

Kenneth D. Knight

INTRODUCTION:

SOME TIME AGO, I decided to produce an introduction to my collection of Egyptian stamps, a few notes on the early posts. Initially, I envisaged two or three album pages of notes, however, the idea ran away with itself, and to date the section relating to the pre 1866 post in Egypt runs to twenty odd pages, exclusive of both the Napoleonic or Posta Europea systems, and is no doubt still far from complete.

I do not pretend to be an expert Egyptologist, or historian; all of the following facts have been extracted from other works on the subject.

To date, I have not included any notes on the Mameluk pigeon posts. Although I do have quite extensive notes (including post routes, etc.) of this period, I wish to see the articles relating to the pigeon posts in L'OP, Nos.20 and 109, before completing my write-up of this topic.

As stated above, the following notes may be incomplete, or indeed inaccurate, and any relevant information would be most welcome. There remain many questions to be answered, e.g. (1) Do any of the Amarna tablets mention postal rates, or timings? (2) Are there wall paintings/reliefs — showing scenes that could be added to a topical collection on this subject? (3) Any information whatsoever relating to postal services under the Ottoman?

THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN POSTS . . .

The earliest Egyptian writings (circa 3000 B.C.) were ill-fitting for correspondence, but the development of a cursive hieratic script, and the use of papyrus upon which messages could be written with reed pens made letter writing possible.

A scribe, as would be used to write such mes-

The "EARLY" POSTS of EGYPT

sages is featured on the forty millieme stamp of the 1959-60 issue of Egypt (Zeheri #261, page 114).



The earliest known document which makes mention of the posts is a letter from a father to his son, in which he writes of "the post leaving for abroad". This document dates from the Twelfth Dynasty (2000 B.C.) and by which time an empire wide mail service had been established for official and military correspondence.

The express messengers of the King (Symmaci) carried the posts either as land runners or stretched out on a narrow punt which they

propelled with their feet through an intricate network of canals in the Nile Valley.

In the British Museum, London, there is preserved an Eighteenth Dynasty (circa 1500 B.C.) letter written in hieratic script on papyrus which was sent from Thebes (present day Luxor) by a Montuhotep, and is addressed to the scribe Aasqmoose of Peni. The letter is apparently one of a series and after six lines of greetings, consists of instructions regarding the building of a house for Montuhotep by one Amonmose.

Excavations at Tel-al-Amarna uncovered many clay letter tablets with cuneiform inscriptions, that passed between the courts of Amenophis III and Amenophis IV and the rulers of the Hittites, Babylonia, Cyprus, Cilicia, etc., between the years 1405 to 1352 B.C. Apparently, the various subject territories of Palestine and Syria still required correspondence in this form, rather than on papyrus.

Photographs of many of the cuneiform letter tablets found at Tel-al-Amarna, (the site of the court of Akhnaten (Amenophis) IV) have been published in the philatelic and non-philatelic press from time to time. The cut-out picture that I have mounted in my collection is addressed to Amenophis III and is written by Aki-izzi, governor of Katna. It reports invasion of the king's territories and also a dispute between the writer and the king of Khatti; he also asks the pharaoh for assistance.

In addition to the land and river mail services RAMSES the Great is reputed to have instigated a pigeon post system.

The official mail services described survived with varying

degrees of efficiency through the wars with Assyria and the Persian Conquest, until 332 B.C. when the Persians were ousted by Alexander the Great. (1)

During this period, merchants and richer members of the public were employing slaves for their own correspondence, and there seems little doubt that poorer members of the community were able to have their messages conveyed by the same couriers.

Slate palette of King Narmer (recto). (Courtesy, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York)

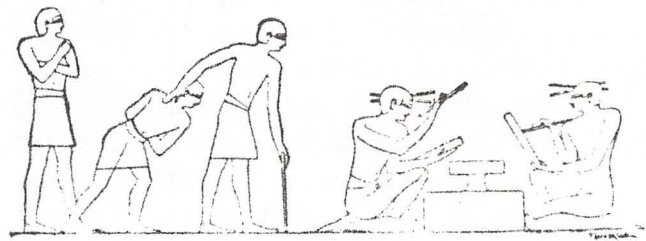


Scribe's equipment. Scribe's palette; wood, Ptolemaic; from Gerza. Scribe's ink saucer; obsidian; Twelfth Dynasty; from Lisht. Palette and writing utensils; wood; from Sheik Abd el-Kurna. Inkwell; wood, Middle Kingdom; from Thebes. (Courtesy, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York)

THE EARLY POSTS OF EGYPT by Kenneth D. Knight

THE ASSYRIAN MAILS IN EGYPT . . .

The Assyrians had a postal service of their own for official and military messages, which kept the center of administration at Ninevah (Near Mosul in Iraq) in touch with occupying governors throughout the conquered territories; examples are known of reports being received from places deep into Egypt as Memphis (Now Sakkara near Cairo).



—Before the Scribes.

THE PERSIAN MAILS IN EGYPT . . .



—Amenophis III. and his daughter; the double is the second figure.

The Persians entered and conquered Egypt in the Sixth century B. C.

By the time of King Cyrus (539 B.C.) the Persian Empire which stretched from Indus to Thrace, and the Caucasons to Libya, had

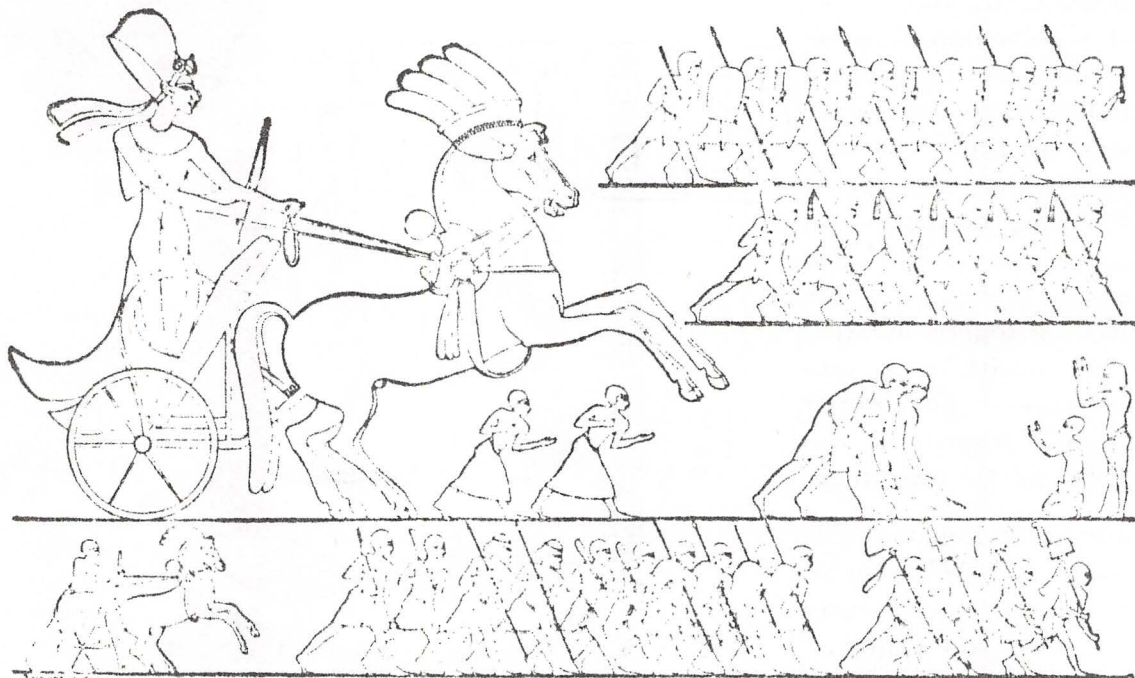
established mail services along the old trade routes, and are described by the ancient Greek geographer, Heroditus. (1)

The persian mails are also referred to in the Holy Bible. (2)

Footnotes:- Excerps from . . . "Histories by Heroditus".

"Nothing is more expeditious than the method of transmitting messages invented and used by the Persians. Along each route at regular intervals equal to one days journey, were relays of men and horses, houses in stations specially constructed for the purpose. Snow, rain, cold or darkness could not prevent the messengers carrying on their work with the greatest haste.

Footnotes:- (1) See appropriate sections for further details relative to the Assyrian and Persian Posts.



—Pharaoh (Amenophis IV.) and his Escort.

THE PTOLEMIC POSTS IN EGYPT . . .

On the death of Alexander the Great (323 B.C.) Egypt came under the rule of Ptolemy; and ex-General of Alexander's who re-organized, and to some degree extended the existing systems — with the addition of a camel post for carrying goods.

Documents found at El Hibeh dating from the Third Century B.C. relate to the postal system at Fayoum. The oasis village of Fayoum handled the correspondence to and from Upper Egypt and the court. Records were kept which gave not only the hour of arrival and despatch of mails, but also the name of the courier carrying them. Mail was carried in each direction two times each day. The time to Alexandria was only four days.

In order to expedite the above services the postmaster had in his charge, forty-four couriers, a camel driver for the parcel post and a police agent. Obviously mail robbery is not restricted to modern times.

It appears that at this time there was a mail boat service on the Nile for public use, which was far slower than the official mails.

The Ptolemaic postal system continued, with an ever increasing lowering of efficiency, uninterrupted until the time of Cleopatra (30 B.C.) when Egypt came under the auspices of Rome.

Footnotes:- (Continued from previous page)

The first man to arrive passed the despatches to the second who then passed them on to a third and so on, until the despatches arrived at their destination."

(2) Excerpts from the "Bible"

Esther III, 13

"And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces to destroy, to kill, and to



Preserved statue of the famous "squatting scribe of Memphis (now Sakkara). Scribes carried great influence.

THE ROMAN MAILS IN EGYPT . . .

The Romans are not known to have interfered to any great extent with the existing routes and administrations, in the interior of Egypt, however, they did to a certain degree, extend and improve the postal services. During this period (5) camels were largely used.

(Continued on the following page) . . .

cause to perish, all Jews . . . The posts went out, being hastened commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the Palace."

Esther VIII, 10-14

"And he wrote in the king Asahuctus name and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters, by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels and young dromedaries."

THE EARLY POSTS OF EGYPT by KENNETH D. KNIGHT

The Roman Post, "cursus publicus" as it is known, was originally established by the Emperor Augustus (circa 20 B.C.) correspondence being carried by horseback or horsecart, between a series of relay stations. The stations were of two separate types of establishment; "Mutationes" being simply stations placed at intervals between "Mansiones" which were important halting places where one could obtain board, lodging and vehicle repairs.

At the head of each such establishment was a director ("stationarius") who managed the slaves carrying out their various duties as stable boys, postillions, blacksmiths, ostlers and so on. He also controlled the passports of messengers and recorded details of incoming and outgoing mails.



New trends in artistic tastes introduced by Amenophis IV are exemplified in this limestone statue of the King

The correspondence was carried by couriers known as tabellarii, which individuals could vary their routes and whose working hours were irregular.

The posts vehicles were light two-wheeled coaches drawn by two horses and carried a load of 200 kilos. These coaches were built to statutory dimensions and specifications.

In every district or province a prefect of transport (Præfectus Vehiculorum) controlled the day to day organization of the service.

During the reign of Diocletian, towards the end of the Third Century A.D., under the administration of Maximian, inspectors known as "Curosi" were appointed, whose duty it was to overlook the local postmasters and their establishments and report to the Prefect of the Prætorian Guard.

The later Roman Empire (Byzantine), improved the service by the addition of an express post (cursus velox) and a slower parcel post (cursus clabularis). (6)

Under the Emperor Justinian (527-565 A.D.) horses were done away with and from then on the Roman postal system went into decline.

A very large number of milestones connected with the Roman posts have been found all over Europe, the Near East and North Africa.

Contrary to its name, the "cursus publicus" was for official mail only, and could not be used by the public at large. However, many landed proprietors established fast posts for their own private correspondence. In this connection I have located reports of a document dated 550 A.D. which is an agreement, where by a certain Aurlius Sirinous agrees under specific terms and for payments in gold, wine and wheat annually to organize and operate the necessary relay stations and provide horses and men for a "rapid" post, carrying letters for Valerius Sirinous.

THE ARAB POSTS IN EGYPT . . .

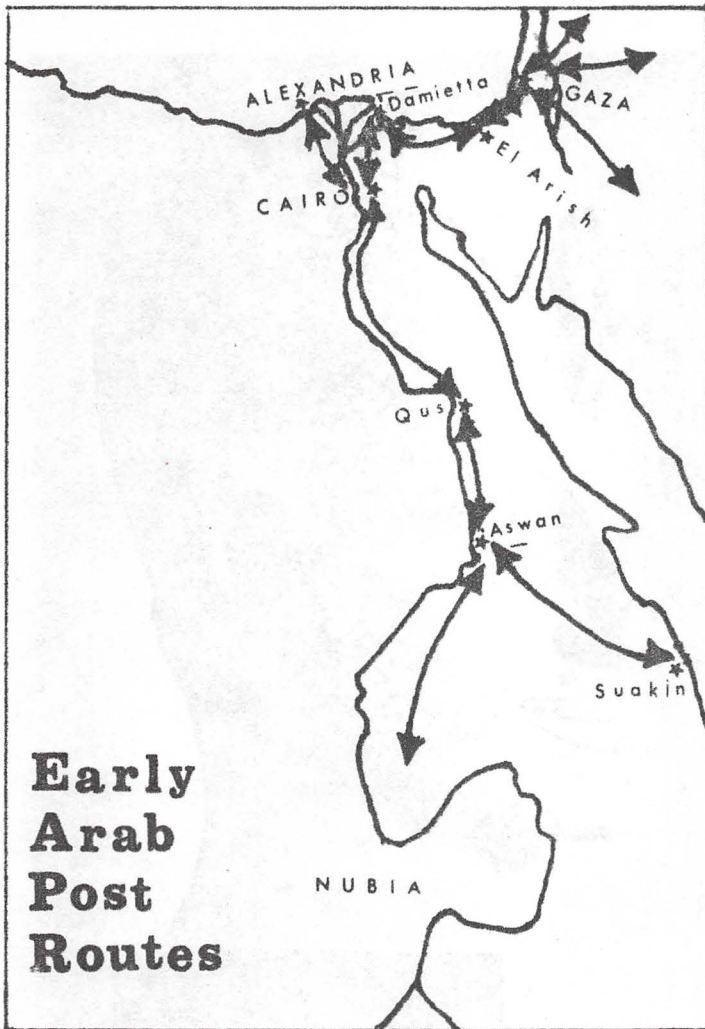
The Arab Postal system was founded in 679 by the Caliph Mu'awiya, the first Ummayid Caliph. He copied the Greek and Persian posts, and indeed, it is supposed that initially, he used Greek and Persian agents.

From the early days there was close cooperation between the Arab postal system and that of the Persians.

The Arab services made use of the Roman mail routes in Egypt, and again there were the two

services; a fast one for which horses were employed (7), and a slower one served by camels and messengers on foot.

A MAP OF EGYPT & SUDAN SHOWING THE ARAB POSTAL ROUTES . . .



Footnotes:- (1)

LIST OF THE ARAB POSTAL ROUTES

- Cairo to Qus (via Asyut)
- Cairo to Alesandria (via Damanhour)
- Cairo to Damietta (via Bilbeis)
- Qus to Suakin (via Aswan)
- Qus to Nubia (via Aswan)
- Damietta to Gaza (via El Arish)
- Gaza into Syria, Palestine, Arabia, etc.

THE MAMELUK POSTS . . .

During the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries A.D. the Mameluk Sultans of Egypt maintained an efficient postal service throughout Egypt and greater Syria (Nowadays, Syria, Lebanon,

Palestine and Jordan), by means of a courier service. At first this was purely a foot service but later camels were added for the heavier and bulkier mail, whilst for a short period (1260-77) horses were used throughout.

The early Mameluk posts roughly followed the same routes as the Arab posts viz: along the Nile into upper Egypt.

From Cairo to Damietta, thence to Gaza and onwards.

From Cairo to Alexandria.

The Mameluk's introduced for the first time, a form of uniform for the couriers. The uniform, consisted merely of a yellow silk scarf bearing a large silver plaque, on one side of which was the confession of fairth from the Qoran, and on the other, the name and title of the ruling sultan.

Incidentally, this period of the development of posts in Egypt is represented on the 10 mill stamp issued by the U.A.R. for Post Day on 2 January 1966.



Zeheri No. 391, page 205-6 10m. multicolored. (Not illustrated are the two airmails, p. 272. Nos. 105 and 106, issued se-tenant with label.

stamp issued by the U.A.R. for Post Day on 2 January 1966. The stamp depicts the silhouette of a mail courier on horseback a carrier pigeon and a parchment letter. Other values in the set show aspects of the

Ancient Egyptian Posts and modern airmails.

THE VENETIAN MAILS . . .

The Ancient Republic of Venice which had extensive contact with the Ottoman Empire, operated a regular mail service for the use of merchants. Letters sent between Venice, Constantinople, Crete, Cyprus and Greece during the Fourteenth Century, although by no means plentiful, do appear on occasion.

(continued on the following page)

THE EARLY POSTS OF EGYPT By KENNETH D. KNIGHT

Covers to and from Egypt, or points within Egypt, e.g., Alexandria to Venice, Damietta to Alexandria, have been recorded.

POSTAL SERVICES OF THE

OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN EGYPT . . .

There appears to have been no organized postal facilities during the period of Ottoman rule, indeed, the only references I have been able to trace of Turkish involvement in the post of Egypt are: a) the destruction of the lofts used by the pigeon posts in 1402, and b) the document which follows, verbatim, as filched directly from the Quarterly Circular of the Egypt Study Circle of London.

Translation from the French of an extract from: "The Travels of Ali Bey of Abassi in Africa and Asia between the years 1803 - 1807", Paris, Didot, 1814 (3 Vols.).

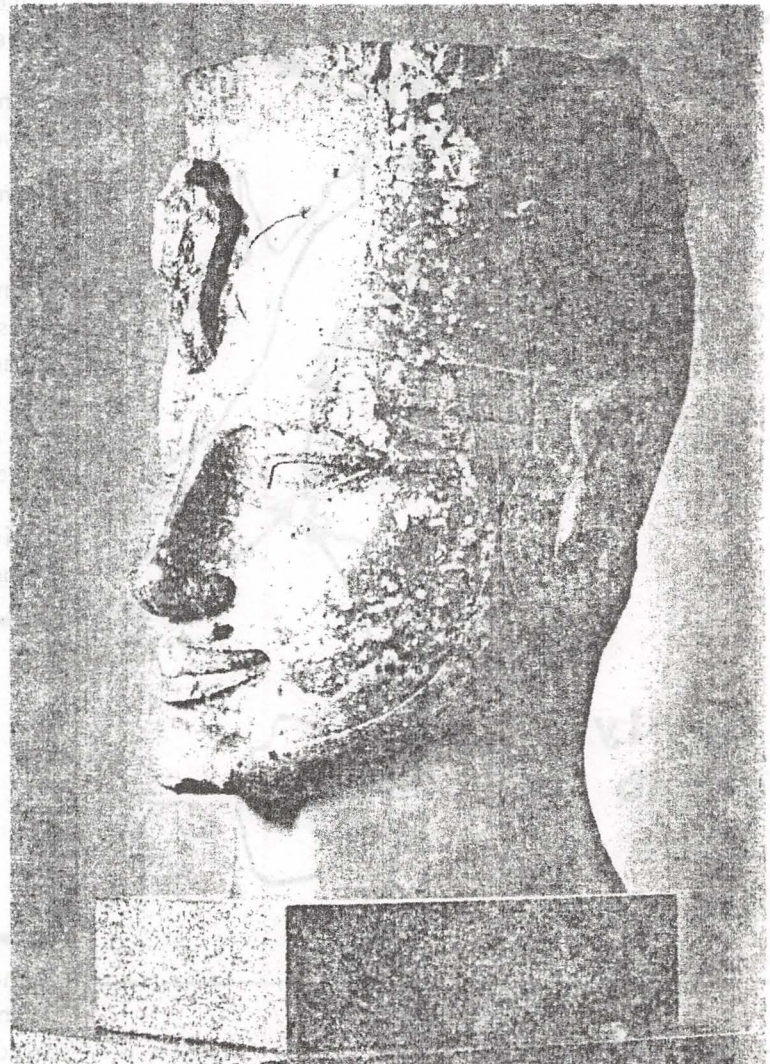
"The captains of small ships which came frequently from Smyrna, Constantinople, and other places, are entrusted with letters enclosed in a handkerchief or small bag which they carry in their hands, and it happens that often the letters fall into the road and they are lost.

Anyone who thinks he has a letter to receive stops the courier on his way and asks him for the bag. He (the carrier) who usually does not know how to read either Arabic or European writing gives it to him and in this way the inquisitive provide the means to make pass through their hands all the correspondence of the town, on the pretext of finding the letters which they pretend they expect and, by means of a small gratuity, take for themselves from those that agree.

I tremble thus to see exposed the honor and the fortune of the private individuals and the political interest of different nations which have Consuls in Alexandria.

With such conditions prevailing, is it any wonder that so many European countries established their own mail services in Egypt?

Below is illustrated a bust of AMENOPHIS III under whose reign, Egypt probably experienced the zenith of her power abroad and of luxury at the Royal Court.



THE MAILS (1805 - 1848)

UNDER MOHAMED ALI . . .

Mohamed Ali organized a new up-to-date courier service, with relay stations set two hours distant from each other, and posts from his nerve centre, the Palace at the Cairo Citadel which was, unfortunately, burned down recently, left daily for destinations in Lower Egypt, weekly for Middle Egypt, and monthly for Southern Egypt.

With the conquest of the Sudan in 1821, the

service was extended as far south as Khartoum. The service was not, however, for public use, although it is believed that the private individual could approach the postmaster or courier and strike a bargain: "bakshish", as a visitor to Egypt learns, then as now, is an inbred characteristic, part of the way of life in Egypt.

Bibliography:

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A History of Egyptian Archaeology - by Fred Gladstone Bratton. Published by the Thomas Y. Crowell Company, N.Y. 1968. (Illustrated).

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Lands and Peoples - The World in Color. Part 19 in a Series by the Grolier Society - First published 1929 at New York. Illustrated in full color.

The Land of the Sun God - Hanna Rydh with translation from the original Swedish by A. Barwell. Published In Boston, by Little, Brown & Co., 1929. (illus.).

WE EXPECT TO ENCLOSE BALLOTS FOR A NAME AND TO ELECT THE NEW OFFICERS OF OUR INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY WITH OUR NEXT ISSUE. . .



-A Scribe, from the figure restored by M. Heuzey

QUERY - FRENCH OFFICES IN EGYPT . . .

(Continued from page

I would also appreciate your checking your military covers and providing me with the date, Tresor et Poste number and return address, if present, of any French forces in Egypt covers. I am trying to compile a definitive listing of these which will appear in these pages when completed.

Finally: Is anyone doing any research on the 1921 surcharges of Alexandria, or are aware of any that may have been done?

Please: Any answers to these queries should be directed to the editor or Kenneth Pierce, Director of Systems, City of Hope Medical Center, 91010.

Ben Pierce

FRENCH OFFICES IN EGYPT

A RARE AND UNIQUE WAR COVER

The FOLDED LETTER, illustrated herewith was written by a secretary and signed "BONAPARTE" by him, in Cairo, in November 1799.

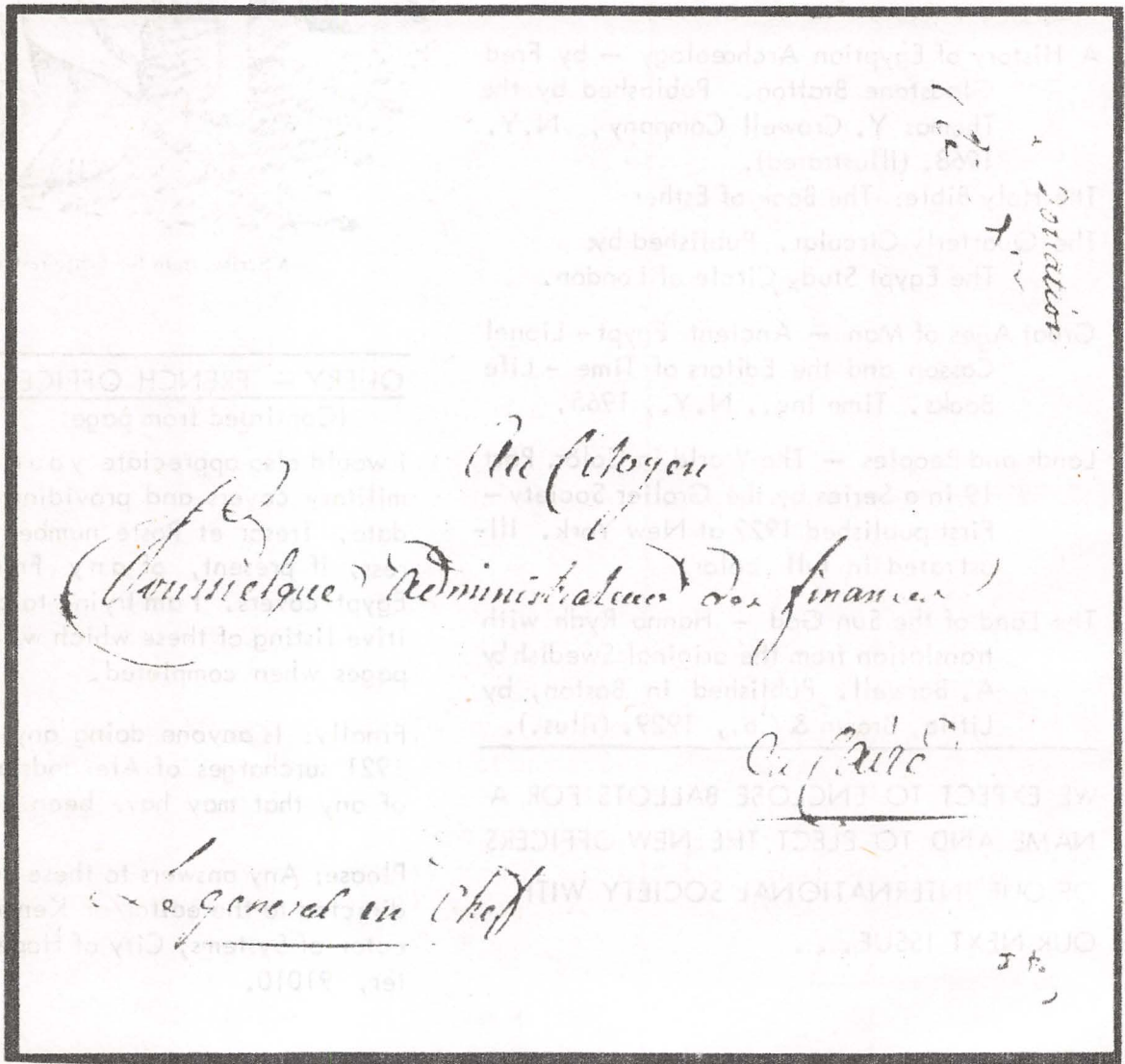
The letter is addressed to Citizen Poussielgue, Administrator of Finances, Cairo. At the bottom under the address appear the words "General in Chief" indicating the sender. It bears no postal markings.

The letter itself is on Napoleon's stationery which is watermarked F. IOHANNOT (the papermaker).

At the upper left, in manuscript, are the words, DONATIONS, GIFTS, REWARDS and an illegible signature or perhaps the french word REGU, "received". These words could be a filing key.

Illustrated at right is the front of the letter as addressed

This is in the hand of a secretary rather than Napoleon himself although he personally signed the letter.



NAPOLEON

LETTER

in

EGYPT

Donations, & presents, recompense No.

(Cairo)

LIBERTÉ

ÉQUITÉ

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

à Paris le 20 Brumaire

BONAPARTE, Général en Chef,

au Citoyen Poussielgue.

*Le général Reynier se plaint de n'avoir pas reçu les
pelisses, Beniches etc que je lui avais accordés pour
faire des présents à vos gens de la lui faire passer.*

Bonaparte

The location given is Cairo with revolutionary date which transposes to November 1799.

The text translates:

"To Citizen Poussielgue":

"General Reynier complains not to have received the Pelisses, Beniches etc. that I had granted to him, in order to make gifts. I beg you to have them passed to him".

"BONAPARTE"

The word "Pelisses" means thick cloaks. The meaning of the word "Beniches" is unclear. (Could it be from an Arabic word?). General Reynier was "Directeur des Revenus in Nature" (Director of the Incomes in Kind).

Kenneth D. Knight

1867 — 5 Piastres — FORGERY — Used

PHILATELIC

FUN AND PROFIT

Continuing from where we left off in our last issue we begin with the 5 Piastre De La Rue of 1902-06. Send us your interesting varieties & flaws and help us keep this feature as a permanent column . . .

1902-06 — The 5 Piastre slate — No. 35b Zeheri, pg. 57. (Mint Copy)



Line instead of a dot to the Arabic inscription in the right hand vertical column.

Note*** The stamps illustrated are NOT varieties. They are used to illustrate the stamp.

1927 - 34 100 Mills (Zeheri p.79 #114 (Used)

A shade variety, probably a changeling, but the copy in question is black - not a very deep purple, but black, the same color as the postmark. Anybody got anything similar ?

A NAPOLEON LETTER USED IN EGYPT . . .

(Continued from previous page).

The letter was accompanied by a Certificate of genuineness as to the signature. Napoleon incidently was known to be able to dictate 3 or 4 different letters at the same time. His handwriting was almost illegible and the only known letters completely by his hand were love letters.

The last love letters of his sold in France two years ago for \$16,000. Needless to say this letter had a slightly lower price tag, although Napoleon's Egyptian correspondence is relatively scarce as much was destroyed when the French left Egypt.



Three examples from the editor's reference collection. All are from 1 to 2 mm. larger than the genuine original. I have five or six others two with genuine cancels, the other bogus and some perf and imperf. Diamond of dots (simulated) is the trade mark of Fournier who forged the entire second issue.(ed).

Ken goes on to say: "At first glance this stamp appears to be genuine, however, the following differences are noted on close inspection.

- a) Slightly larger in height than the genuine stamp; the difference being visible to the naked eye when placed adjacent to a genuine stamp.
- b) The forgery is printed on unwatermarked paper.
- c) The forgery is perf. 11-1/2 on all four sides.
- d) There is some slight variation in the Arabic script.

The copy in my collection has a cancellation consisting of concentric rings.

Is any further information relative to this forgery available ? Are there similar forgeries of other values in this issue ?

Ed's additional note: A very interesting and a timely topic. ALL of the early issues of Egypt have been extensively forged and your editor has several of each in his reference collection with which we hope to do an article as soon as time permits.

1963. — 80 mill Airmail Stamp (Zeh. p. 277 No. 99a (without watermark). The middle stamp in a used strip of three.



Broken mim normal
Break in the Arabic letter 'mim' just before the value.

REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

CENTENARY OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION FOUNDATION — 1874 / 1974

Date to be issued:	9 October 1974	Colors:	2PT.	Salmon, pink, brick red, yellow, black, brown and white.
Denominations and Design:	2PT. - depicts the emblems of the UPU & UPAF	4PT.	Turquoise blue, green gray, pink and blk.	
	4PT. - depicts the emblems of the Arab Postal Union and the UPU	10-1/2PT.	Lavendar, pale lavender, pink, black, white, turquoise, gry	
	10-1/2PT. - depicts the emblems of the African Postal Union and UPU	Watermark:	None	
Dimensions:	30 x 40 mms.	Printing:	Thomas De La Rue and Co., London By the "Dalacryl" Process.	
Sheet:	50 stamps (5 x 10)	Quantity:	2PT.	150,000 stamps
Perforation:	13		4 & 10-1/2 PT.	100,000 each.



UNUSUAL UNLISTED PLATE FLAW DISCOVERED

An unusual plate flaw occurs on the 100 mill stamp of the First Fuad Issue (Zeheri No. 91), issued on 15 December 1923 (page 74), in the purple color.



The flaw consists of a pronounced line from the upper right top to the lower left bottom curving diagonally across the face of the stamp. (See illustration).

While Douglas McNeille and Dr. Byam did a comprehensive study in L'OP in Nos. 46, 47, and 71 where many flaws and retouches are described and photographed, this is not among them. Does anyone know of, or have in their collection, a similar item ?

This unusual flaw is from the collection of Mr. Edgar Eaton of Michigan. Ed would also like to know if there is any simple way to remove the paper and sticky goo from the backs of his stamps. He has tried soaking them in lukewarm water but says it causes them to curl up.

If you can help him drop a line to him at:
39441 Van Dyke, Apt. 202, Sterling Heights, Michigan, 48078

COMMEMORATIVES OF THE 20's and 30's ARE IN INCREASED DEMAND ???

If you have been keeping abreast of the market in recent months you will note that many of the regular commemorative sets such as the Geographical Congress, the Twelfth Agricultural Congress, the Navigation Congress and a number of others in this era are not as plentiful as they once were and, they are showing steady, if unspectacular gains !

Mayor Proclaims Stamp Month in Kansas City

For the first time in a United States Post Office an exhibition devoted solely to Egyptian Philately will be held at Kansas City, Missouri through the courtesy of our old friend Albert Mizrahi.

Dr. Charles Wheeler Jr., Mayor has issued a proclamation declaring the period October 20 through November 18, 1974 as "Stamp Month" in honor of this unique display.

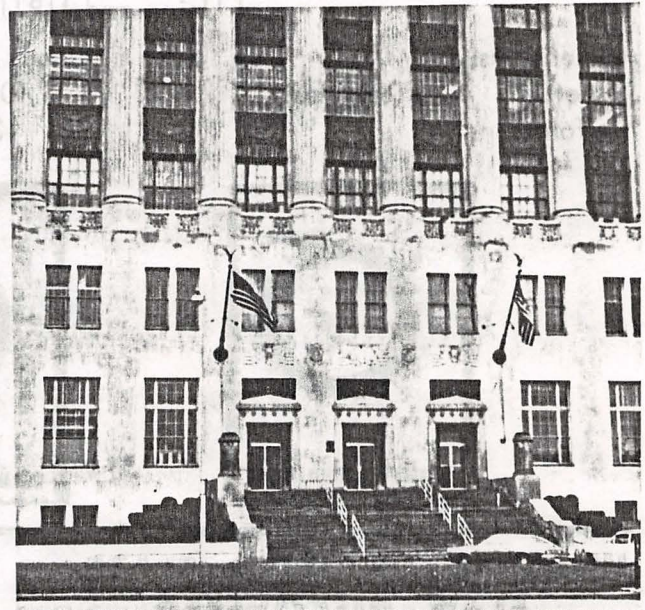


Photographed while making arrangements for the exhibition are Theodor C. Bland, Postmaster/District Supervisor of the Main Post office in Kansas City, Missouri (on the left) & Albert E. Mizrahi, President of the Eastman Stamp and Coin Club (on the right).

This unusual exhibition is under the direction of Dr. Khatab Hassani, of the Department of Biometry, Kansas University Medical Center Mr. John Fadel and Mr. Henry Taraboulos.

Mr. Mizrahi, a former editor and publisher in Cairo of the Egyptian Daily, "Alsaraha" and a weekly "Al-Tasira" is the owner of Albert's, a fine photographic Studio in Mission, Kansas.

He is also a collector of Middle East material, covering a span of more than 45 years. Egyptian stamps from the first issue in 1866, under the regime of Khedive Ismail Pasha and through the current period of President Anwar El-Sadat. In addition, the very unique imperforate proofs from the collections of the late Kings, Farouk and Fuad, sold at auction at Koubeh Palace in 1954 will be on display.



The Main Post Office in Kansas City, Missouri where the exhibition will take place

A special cachet and cover will be featured by the Post Office in honor of the occasion.

I AM WELL INTO THE ALEXANDRIA PORTION of the FRENCH OFFICES IN EGYPT CATALOG that I have been compiling. I still need the cooperation of you readers however.

Reports of any items from the French Offices in Egypt NOT listed in Scott, Zeheri, Yvert, Maury or Gibbons will be appreciated. Offers for sale of any France in Egypt or related material are gratefully requested. Kenneth Pierce

LATE BAZAAR ITEM RECEIVED . . .

WANTED Cancels of Austrian P.O.'s in the Levant on DANUBE S.N. Company stamps — Write: R. S. BLOMFIELD, 5107 Cayuga Dr., Knoxville, Tennessee, 37914.

WANTED Editor is interested in in the Philatelic literature of all countries for personal library. Books, journals, pamphlets, numbers of "Stamps" before Vol. 60; any items on Norwegian airmails, Canadian Revenues, selected numbers of British stamp journals et. Write Gordon Garrett, address on masthead.