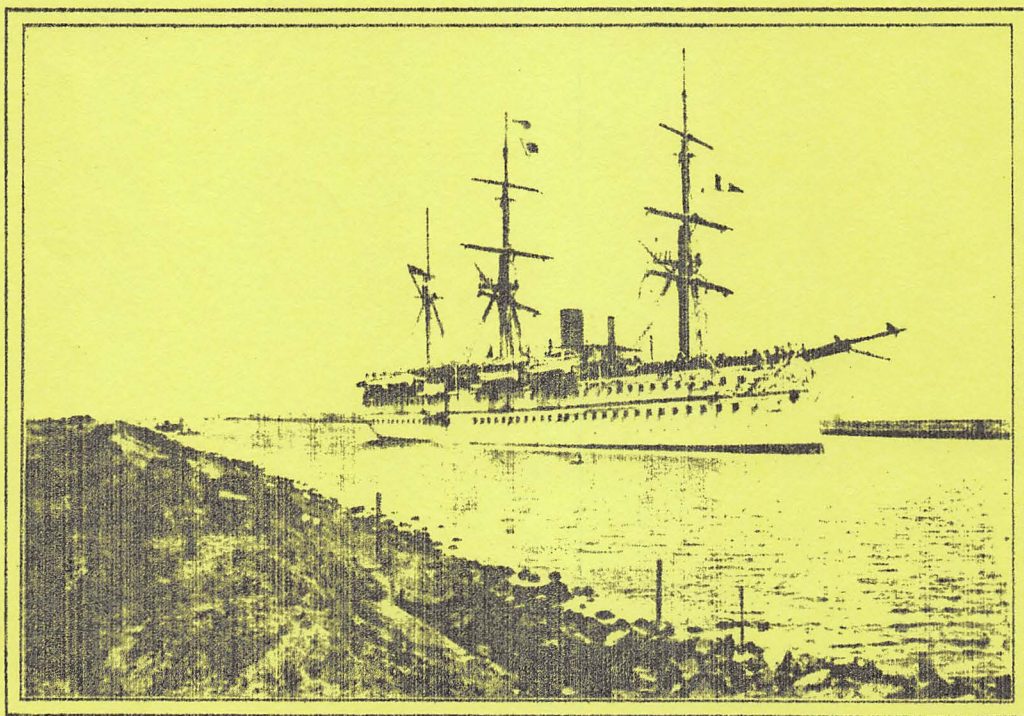


EGYPTIAN  
PHILATELIC  
TOPICS



BRITISH TROOPSHIP PASSING THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL — 1900

Vol. 7. No. 2

Whole No. 39

Mar. — Apr. 1975



# EGYPTIAN PHILATELIC TOPICS



EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

**GORDON B. GARRETT**

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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF  
EGYPT PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

PRESIDENT	DR. PETER A. S. SMITH
VICE PRESIDENT	PETER R. FELTUS
SEC'Y - TREASURER	GORDON B. GARRETT

Please send all news items and subscriptions, articles, wants and offers, to the publisher.

Matters pertaining to the Philatelic Society of Egypt — which is not to be confused with this Society — should be sent directly to Dr. Smith who is also the American Agent for Egypt. His address will be supplied by the editor . . .

Egyptian Philatelic Topics is published six times yearly at Torrance, California, U. S. A. and all dues (\$4.00 per year, U. S. and CANADA, are payable in advance to the Sec'y-Treasurer. All overseas dues are \$5.00 yearly for extra post.

TELL YOUR EGYPT COLLECTOR FRIENDS —  
HELP YOUR SOCIETY GROW 1

## *with the editor*

With this issue we begin publication under our new name "EGYPTIAN PHILATELIC TOPICS". This is more nearly in keeping with our actual subject as we have had some criticism since the old name did not clearly define the scope of our pursuits as philatelic — of course, justified.

News of interest this month, apart from a warm welcome from your new President, will be our first organized meeting as a new Society. It will take place on Friday evening, April 19th during WESTPEX in San Francisco. Tom Olson, one of our stalwarts in the Bay Area is setting it up with the help of our new Vice President, Peter Feltus and, of course, all members are invited. Those living in the Bay area will be contacted by Tom or Peter as to time and place. Those from out of town, and there will be several from the Southland, will be advised at the show. Your editor, having been invited to work on the jury of this prestigious national will be in attendance on all three days. A formal program is planned plus a general discussion on philately Egyptian as well as a fine opportunity for us to get acquainted.

Hopefully many more of these group meets geographically compatible, can be arranged. Perhaps the forerunners to our "First Convention", maybe in time for SESCAL at Los Angeles in October ?

A super auction was held in Zurich March 24th-27th by Mabaphila AG. Our correspondent was on the spot and we will have a list of prices realized in time for our next issue, at least on the better items — and believe me, included were 11 of the finest lots of early airs on cover offered in a long time. ALL were marked "rare" and "beautiful" and if the descriptions and illustrations were any criteria — indeed they are.

Prices estimated were very high. It will be interesting to see what they actually bring ? ? ?

Begin now to prepare your exhibit for SESCAL. This will be our first opportunity in a long time to exhibit Egypt and the Sudan in strength. The resulting publicity alone will be a great boost.

Copies of the Prospectus will be sent as soon as we receive them. Remember, it is an OPEN and all are invited, no matter where you live.



## OF OLD THINGS AND NEW

You, the readers of EGYPTIAN TOPICS, and now the members of EGYPT PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL, have done me much honor by electing me to be your first president. It is a position whose functions are still rather vague, and, since we are spread so far apart, we have never had a meeting, and may never be able to have one with more than a token handful of members. I have had the pleasure of meeting some of you, scattered as far as from Egypt to Australia, but I realize that most members must have voted for a name without a face or personality to go with it. Perhaps over the next year something can be done about that by means of this column, and by face to face meetings, when the opportunity arises. If travel brings you to Ann Arbor, please let me know, and perhaps we can manage to whittle away some of our isolation from each other.

We are now an association, organization, club, or society, by mutual agreement. We can aim ourselves where we wish, and can accept responsibilities such as we agree, and can undertake all sorts of new activities if we have the energy. All this, however, requires a constitution as a guide for orderly operation, and as insurance of continuity, even though it be a simple one. In the next few months, some of us will try to set out a draft for your comments. Meanwhile, any suggestions that members may have would be welcome and helpful. How many officers should we have? Should we have a Board of Governors? How long should a term of office be? How should the purpose of our association be expressed? Should we consider incorporating as a non-profit organization? What activities should we provide for? Give us the favor of your thoughts!

Nearly all collectors new to Egyptian Philately want to know where they can find out what is known about their specialty. For many other countries, it would be possible to direct them to a book, but the philately of Egypt is so rich in variety and complexity that no book has yet been written. Two pamphlets, now over fifty

years old, and all that one can turn to (Melville's "Egypt", and Dalwick's "The Stamps of Egypt"). To go beyond these, there is a variety of booklets on narrower aspects, and the larger amount of material such as L'Orient Philatelique and the London Philatelist. These are not very easily accessible to most collectors, although they can be consulted at the library of the Collectors Club in New York, and at the American Philatelic Research Library in State College, Pa., among other places.

The Egypt Study Circle has planned a comprehensive work on Egyptian philately for four decades, and much of the ground work has been completed. A renewed effort is now being made to bring it all together and bring it up to date for publication, and if energy and enthusiasm hold out, collectors of Egypt may yet have their long-needed book. Meanwhile, we do have the specialized catalog begun by George Zeheri, now known as "The Zeheri Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Egypt, U. A. R., and Sudan". The 1972 edition is the latest; one cannot say if another edition will ever be produced, considering all circumstances affecting philately in Egypt today. Its 396 pages are indispensable for a serious collector of Egypt.

I have had a lot of experience with Egyptian philately, and although there is still a great deal that I don't know, there are a lot of questions I can answer, and more for which I can point the enquirer toward a probable source of the answer. Please don't hesitate to write if you think I can help — (a stamped envelope would be appreciated).

*Arthur Smith*



# Charles Minett...

## AN APPRECIATION

The recent announcement that CHARLES MINETT, Keeper of the Philatelic Record of the Egypt Study Circle, has crossed the threshold of death conceals the living personality whom so many specialists in Egypt had the pleasure of knowing and corresponding with. Charles was an architect with the Air Ministry in London, and since his retirement a few years ago, lived in the family house, "Fairmead", in Tankerton, on the Channel coast. He used to maintain high "digs" in an old building close to the British Museum when he was working in London. He was a bachelor, who always seemed to have plenty of time, and had a remarkable ability to remain untouched by the tyranny of schedules under which most of us live. A good conversation about Egyptian stamps over a pint of lager with a friend was always more important than catching the last train home, and many a time Charles ended up sleeping on someone's couch, or chasing up a hotel room in London late at night. Alas, too few of us allow the heart to determine our priorities!

As Keeper of the Record, Charles was in charge of the reference collection and the extensive file of photographs, documents, publications, etc., belonging to the Egypt Study Circle. He not only maintained them, but he read them, correlated them, and reported on them from time to time in the Quarterly Circular. He became a true expert on Egyptian philately, and was in charge of the Circle's Expertizing Service, and was frequently consulted by the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society. He would also respond freely and warmly to informal enquiries from collectors, and many of us cherish his carefully written letters, with observations based on the discriminating eye of a draftsman and the penetrating insight of a scholar.

Charles was the last active link of the Egypt Study Circle with the early days when the famed Dr. Byam was its Chairman. He had been in Egypt during World War II, and carried back with him a lasting affection for that country. He cultivated a knowledge of Arabic ranging from soldier's street Arabic to the written language. Even after 25 years, he fondly remembered "Stella" beer, the domestic beer of Egypt (still made, by the way), although he was not ill disposed to the British varieties.

London will not be the same for collectors of Egypt, and it is hard to realize that one can no longer excitedly write off one's latest findings or hypotheses to Charles, and get an enthusiastic answer containing something new to think about. He will be missed most by the Egypt Study Circle, at whose meetings he was so often the center of attention, in spite of his self-effacing manner. His friends and admirers have lost someone irreplaceable.

Peter Smith



Peter A S Smith FRPSL

IN THE AUTUMN OF 1973, the firm AUSTROPHIL held an auction in Vienna containing several pages of lots of Egypt. Most of the lots consisted of 19th century stamps, pieces, and a few covers, apparently gathered for their postmark interest. The descriptions were unusual, for they did not make use of the identifications developed by the Egypt Study Circle and publicized in L' Orient Philatelique over the last forty years, but consistently made reference to "Lindberg" in such phrases as "nach Lindberg sehr selten", "Lindberg unbekannt", etc, and this same practice was continued in a sale in 1974. These circumstances puzzled and intrigued us, for I had never heard of such a person nor any study of Egyptian Postal markings that might be known by that name, even though I had been specializing in Egypt since the 1930's.

I believe I have found the answer to this mystery in the form of an article serialized in "Die Postmarke - Sammlerwoche" in 1926-7. The article, entitled "Die Poststempel Aegyptens", is by Paul Lindenberg, then of Berlin, who later settled in New York. He was well-known to collectors of Egypt, one of his several specialties, until his death about four years ago. In spite of the difference in spelling of his name (probably an error on the part of the auctioneer), I feel sure this article is the source of the AUSTROPHIL describer's information.

The article was a pioneer study of Egyptian postal markings, and was perhaps ahead of its time, since it made no discernible impact on the mainstream of Egyptian Philately and was soon forgotten. Mr. Lindenberg

EGYPTIAN

POSTAL

MARKINGS



A

LITTLE

KNOWN

PIONEER



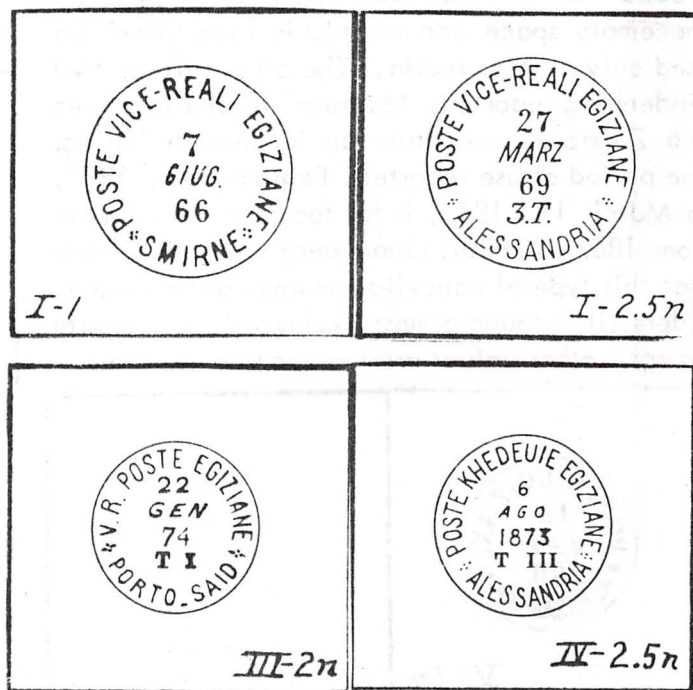
must have been fairly young in 1926, and the study was accordingly based on a very limited span of experience only. Furthermore, there were few others interested in the subject then, and Lindenberg apparently worked without contact with collectors outside of Germany and Austria, basing his study largely on his own collection and observations. Considering these circumstances, it was a noteworthy accomplishment.

It is understandable that in the nearly fifty years since the Lindenberg study, a large amount of new information has come to light, and the Egypt Study Circle type charts and data sheets recently published contain many times the information in the Lindenberg article. Conclusions about dates of use have been drastically revised, and many questions about circumstances of use or purpose of markings are now better known. Since the restating of this obsolete information in the AUSTROPHIL catalog may serve to perpetuate errors, it is proper to analyse the article at this time, and to make rectifying comments.

E. S. C. Type I cancellations (inscribed POSTE VICE REALI EGIZIANE) were reported by Lindenberg only for Alexandria, Cairo, Suez, Mansura and Gedda; earliest date January 8, 1866, latest date September 26th, 1870. This type is now known for no less than 29 offices, and the period of use extends from 1865 to 1875. Lindenberg's second type corresponds to E. S. C. Type III (inscribed V. R. POSTE EGIZIANE); he lists it for Alexandria, Cairo, Mansura, Suez Zagazig, Fescne, Bairout, Jaffa, Smirne, and Metelina, with earliest date of March 31st., 1868, and latest date April 21st., 1880. The list of offices using this type has been greatly expanded, but the period of use is only slightly longer than he concluded. It is remarkable that he recorded IAFFA, one of the rarest of Egyptian cancellations, yet was unaware of many offices that are much commoner, albeit scarce.

Lindenberg's third type is E. S. C. Type IV (inscribed POSTE KHEDEUIE EGIZIANE) and is described as among the scarcest, with only two dates seen for ALESSANDRIA (Mar. 27, 1873, and Dec. 2, 1875). and one for ZAGAZIG

(Sept. 22, 1877). Although this is indeed a scarcer type than E. S. C. Type I or III, it is by no means as rare as Lindenberg suggests. It is known for many offices (13) over a period of 1871-1880.



Examples of Paul Lindenberg's first three types, with current Egypt Study Circle numbers corresponding to them.

Lindenberg's fourth type corresponds to E. S. C. Type V (POSTE EGIZIANE).

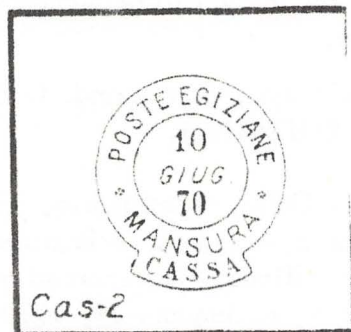
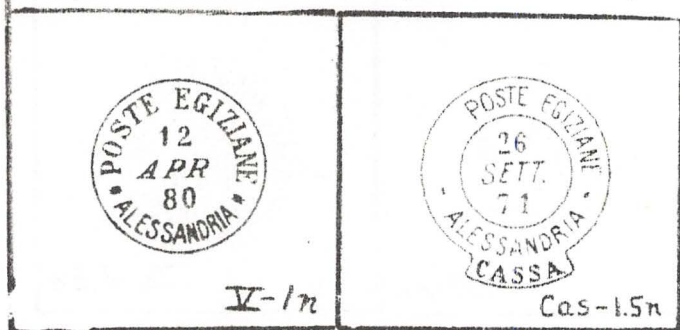
He lists it only for Cairo, Alexandria, Ismailia, Port Said and Tanta, whereas it is now known for 13 additional offices. His recorded period of use, June 14, 1869, to January 19, 1880 can be revised now to span March 1, 1873, to 1881. The early date reported by Lindenberg is at first sight a puzzle, being so much before the earliest date ever observed by over a score of specialists studying the subject for several decades. I believe the answer to this inconsistency lies in a forged cancellation of Cairo in Type V. This forgery is clever enough to be dangerous, and has been used with 1869 dates on Second Issue stamps, particularly examples of printer's waste printed on both sides, imperforate proofs and faked bisects. It is characterized by a break in the circle below the A of CAIRO.

The first E. S. C. "Cash" type, inscribed POSTE EGIZIANE/CASSA, is Lindenberg's fifth type. He states that all examples known to him had an



EGYPTIAN POSTAL MARKINGS — A LITTLE KNOWN PIONEER by P.A.S. SMITH (Cont.)

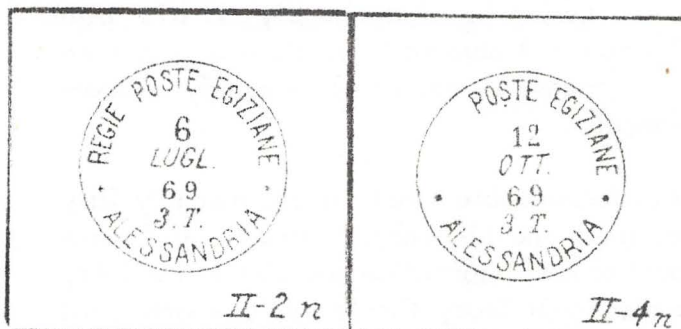
empty space before the word POSTE, and concluded that a word had been excised. In fact the empty space occurs only in Type Cas-1.5n used only at Alexandria. The other offices that Lindenberg reported, Mansura, Michalla, Suez and Zagazig, constitute an incomplete listing. The period of use reported, February 15, 1871, to March 11, 1875, is far too short (now known from 1867 to 1880). Lindenberg correctly stated that this type of cancellation was used on money orders (it is found almost exclusively on 20 para stamps; other values are very scarce to rare).



Examples of Lindenberg's fourth and fifth types with current Egypt Study Circle type numbers corresponding to them . . .

Lindenberg's sixth type is E. S. C. Type II, inscribed REGIE POSTE EGIZIANE. He reported it for Alexandria, Cairo, Massawa, and Suakin. This is a curious selection, for the latter two Red Sea Offices are true rarities in this type of cancellation, whereas a considerable number of domestic offices now known are omitted. The dates of use, beginning of June to the middle of September, 1869, are essentially correct, except for Suakin, which used this type of as late as 1872. In September, the word REGIE was removed at all offices using this type, apparently by hammering the letters down while

the revised handstamp was continued in use. Lindenberg gave October, 1869, as the latest date, but Alexandria has been reported as late as 1872.



The two states of Lindenberg's sixth type, with the current S. S. C. type numbers. . .

Lindenberg commented on the significance of the indicia T1, T2, or T1, TII, etc., found in most, but not all, early date stamps. He stated that T stood for "treno", and indicated the "train" on which the letters were sent. This must be false and the evidence is clear cut. Constantinople and Smyrne, for example, being overseas offices, could not send letters by train, yet their postmarks incorporated this indicium, and domestic local letters (addressed within the city of mailing), which by their nature did not travel by train, received the same type of cancellation. The letter T could have stood for "tempo" (time), or "turo" (tour). This would be consistent with use to indicate the collection time, or the tour of duty during which the article was cancelled. It is significant that in later years, the cancellations included specific times (e.g., "9:30 AM") instead of the "T" numbers.

The article at this point makes some general comments on scarcity, correctly pointing out that Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said and Suez are the commonest offices seen. This fact, he explained results from the circumstance that most of the Europeans lived in these cities, and they were the heaviest users of the posts. Some other large towns are not very far behind the frequency of the foregoing cancellations, however, Tanta, Mansura, Zagazig; considerably behind these come Damiat, Damanhour, Zefta, Mahalla, and Kaf-er Zaiat.

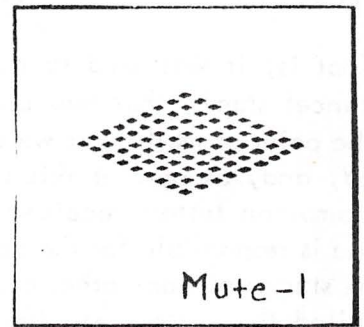
(Continued on following page).



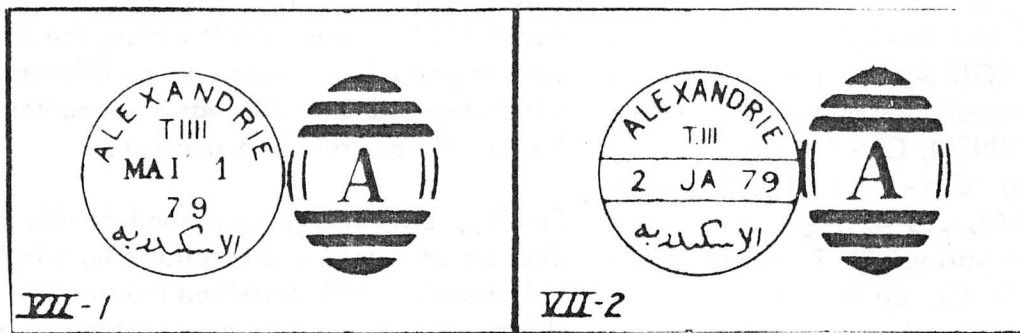
The "A-cancellation" of Alexandria, also called "Brückenstempel" by Lindenberg, because the date was in a band bridging the circle. It is presented in this article as a puzzle, owing to incomplete and seemingly inconsistent information then available. These are the date stamps struck in duplex with a capital "A" in an oval of bars. Because this cancellation resembles British cancellations, it has sometimes been thought to be an army cancellation introduced in the 1882 intervention by the British in Alexandria ("Arabi rebellion"). Lindenberg did not repeat this piece of pure speculation, for he had evidence to prove that it must have been introduced several years before the military action (examples are known on Third Issue stamps). He did not realize that the various fragmentary examples he had seen represented several different types (E. S. C. Types VII-1, VII-2, Cas-4, Sta-8) with different inscriptions. The earliest date now known for an "A" cancellation is July 1878.

The original form of the "retta", as encountered on the early stamps.

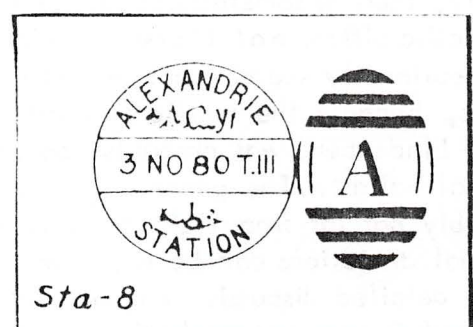
Lindenberg's "Rhombenstempel"



standing the statements in the Kohl-handbuch, the retta (or diamond of dots) was used from the very first day of use of Egyptian stamps, and it is a relatively common cancellation on the First Issue. The fact is that it was initially prescribed as the normal obliterator for use at all Egyptian post offices. A few months later, this requirement was rescinded, when it was realized that stamps could be effectively cancelled with the date stamp itself, and with less work. After mid-1866, the retta is rarely seen, and stamps



TYPES  
of the  
DUPLEX "A"



Examples of Paul Lindenberg's "BRÜCKENSTEMPEL" in duplex with "A"; The corresponding Egypt Study Circle designations are illustrated at lower left.

The retta, called by Lindenberg "RHOMBENSTEMPEL", is discussed at some length. This cancellation is often represented as a ship cancellation or as a "Nile steamer" cancellation, but Lindenberg, even fifty years ago recognized the evidence against this view. Notwith-

of the Second Issue cancelled with the retta are of considerable rarity. The retta becomes commoner on the Third and later issues, apparently as a result of a new role for it; it was used at any office to cancel stamps that arrived from elsewhere with the stamps not yet cancelled.



That is, it was used to correct oversights, to cancel stamps that had escaped cancellation at the point of mailing or were too lightly cancelled, and, as part of this picture, to cancel stamps on letters received from ships. This last use is responsible for the appearance of the retta on stamps of many other countries whose ships sailed the eastern Mediterranean — British, Greek, Russian, Austrian, Turkish, etc. The retta commands no premium on the First Issue, and only a small premium on later issues, except for the Second Issue, but its rarity on covers before World War I makes early covers — after 1866 of substantial value.

It is interesting to note what types of early cancellations were not mentioned in the Lindenberg article; their omission conforms my general experience that they are unusually scarce. The omitted types include E. S. C. Type I-4 (POSTE V. R. EGIZIANE), II-5 (double-ring "POSTE EGIZIANE"); IV-3 and IV-3.1 (double-ring POSTE KEDEUIE EGIZIANE); IV-4, 5, and 6 (double-ring bi-lingual, without date); VI, the POSTES EGYPTIENNES); Cas-2.5 (POSTE EGIZIANE/VAGLIA); Cas-3 (POSTE KEDEUIE EGIZIANE / CASSA); Cas-4; the many straight-line markings; The various PS Types (having a crescent and star in the center instead of date indicia), and the various intaglio seal markings. Similarly, there is something to say for the view that specific offices not listed by Lindenberg are exceptionally scarce, but one should be cautious, because the sample of stamps examined by Lindenberg was probably too small for statistical validity. The general picture gained is probably not far from right, but a number of individual deviations can be expected. However, a detailed discussion of the individual scarcity of Egyptian cancellations is a large subject, and is beyond the scope of these brief notes. Interest in the subject appears to be rather limited, and is focused largely on the classic period — the period of use of the first three issues, when Italian was the officially used European language.

The remainder of Lindenberg's article summarizes the history of the post-classic cancellations up to the early 1920's. He noted the transition from Italian to French plus Arabic in-

scriptions, and the general adoption of a format with the date in a narrow equatorial band. He noted also the variations from this format: the type with the crescent and star above the date band; the double-ring type, and the type with vertical bars filling the segment between the office name and the date band. He correctly noted that these types lasted until about 1906, when a new style of circular date stamp was introduced. The new type had the date indicia in a relatively wide band, and the orthography of the place names changed from French to English (e.g., "Damiette" became "Dumyat", "Caire" became "Cairo", "Alexandrie", became "Alexandria", etc.). He also briefly discussed the capital letters found above or below the date bands on some cancellations. He had correctly deduced that "A" stood for "arrive", "D" for "depart", and "R" for "recommande" up to about 1906, but after that, nearly all letters of the alphabet began to appear. While "R" or "R.D." (registry department) kept their significance, the other letters were apparently used simply to differentiate the handstamps used at the various counters of the larger offices from one another.

Finally, Lindenberg mentioned briefly the introduction of machine cancellations, with or without slogans, and described the boxed "T" handstamps, used to invalidate postage due stamps when the postage due was not in the event collected.

Lindenberg's study is thus remarkably comprehensive, and in its time was certainly the best authority on Egyptian postal markings. However now, after half a century, it has only historical interest, and it can only be misleading for auction describers to make use of it.

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#### WHERE TO WRITE ? ? ?

For all matters pertaining to the Philatelic Society of Egypt: Including dues for members of the Society in Cairo — also enquiries for help with Egypt philatelic problems (See article p. 22) Contact Dr. Peter A. S. Smith, Dept. of Chemistry at the University of Michigan, 48104.

All news items and dues for Egypt Philatelists International AND free Wants and Offers. Send directly to the Editor, Gordon B. Garrett.



DENYS J. VOADEN

# RUSSIAN

## Offices in

## EGYPT ?



## QUERY ?

I was interested to see in LINN'S of today's date a notice of your journal.

I am not at present a specialized collector of the stamps of Egypt but, some years ago the three items in the accompany illustration were presented in the Journal of the Rossica Society in the form of a query (Vol. No. 66, page 65, 1964). As far as I know the question has never received a satisfactory answer and I wonder if any of the members of your Society, collecting Egyptian material might be familiar with it ?

It has been suggested that these stamps (labels), may have been used in connection with fiscal fees on documents for displaced persons, especially Armenians, but I think this highly unlikely as the Armenian return was post 1945, while the design of these three stamps seem closely allied to the high values of the King Fuad issues and the King Farouk issues, especially Scott Nos. 148 and 149 and 240 (Zeheri Nos. 116 & 117, and 145).



Scott's #117



Scott's #240

In some instances these stamps strongly resemble some of the earlier Egyptian revenue types, and even more striking is their resemblance by characteristics to the issues of Turkey.

Noting that the currency is in P. T. (Piastres), rather than Egyptian pounds, milliemes or even Russian Rubles, it follows that there is an Arabic usage of some kind denoted.

If any of our readers can help this writer to a solution to his dilemma, long unanswered by the Rossica's — please write to the editor and we'll print the answer in our next issue. Ed.





*Ben Pierce*

THE AUTHOR HAS RECENTLY ACQUIRED one of the most fascinating covers it has been his experience to see from the early overland mail period. Despite 10 different postal markings there is a very important question that this cover poses for which an answer is respectfully requested.

First, however, a description of the entire. It is an entire letter folded four times, 74 mm X 125mm in its folded state, from Calcutta to London. It has parallel disinfection slits 48 mm apart. The markings on the obverse are:

1. M/S "per overland Bombay and Marseilles"
2. Black boxed "Indes Orien Par Alexandria" (Salles #728)
3. Black C. D. S. French P. O. in Alexandria, October 7, 1838 (E. S. C. Type I), note that this is an early date for this C. D. S. as the earliest recorded by the Egyptian Study Circle is August 7, 1838.
4. Red Boxed "India" 35 mm X 18 mm.
5. Red Oval "Paquebots de la Mediteranee" (Salles #727)
6. Black C. D. S. "Purifie au Lazaret Malte" (Meyer Type C11, subtype B)
7. Black boxed "British Foreign" -- which is 28 mm X 15 mm
8. Red framed "Calcutta Steam-Letter 1838, Aug. 23, Paid (15 in M/S)"
9. Blue C. D. S. Paris
10. Black C. D. S. London 29th October 1838

The letter left Calcutta on the 23rd of August 1838. In the letter the writer advises that the steamer "Semiramis" had left Bombay" in endeavoring to beat thru the monsoon . . . But has been obliged to "put back" and the writer assumes it is still in Bombay and that it

FRANCE

IN

EGYPT



A 1838

OVERLAND

MAIL

ENTIRE

will carry this letter. The "Semiramis" has been referred to by Sidebottom as an East India Company steamer which carried the Bombay mail to Suez.

There is no indication when the letter arrived in Suez, however, we know it was in Alexandria on the 7th of October 1838. a total of 46 days. Sidebottom documents the trip from Alexandria to Suez at approximately 2-1/2 days.



From Alexandria the letter was put aboard a French Packet as in late 1837 the British Admiralty Packets in the Mediterranean (the Peninsular Steam Navigation Company) had lost their biggest and fastest ship, the "Don Juan" and their service was hence erratic at best. The French Packet stopped in Malta and the mail was fumigated. Then most likely, the letter proceeded to Marseille continuing via the French Packet. Thence by coach to Paris, Boulogne, Dover and finally London arriving 67 days after dispatch from Calcutta.

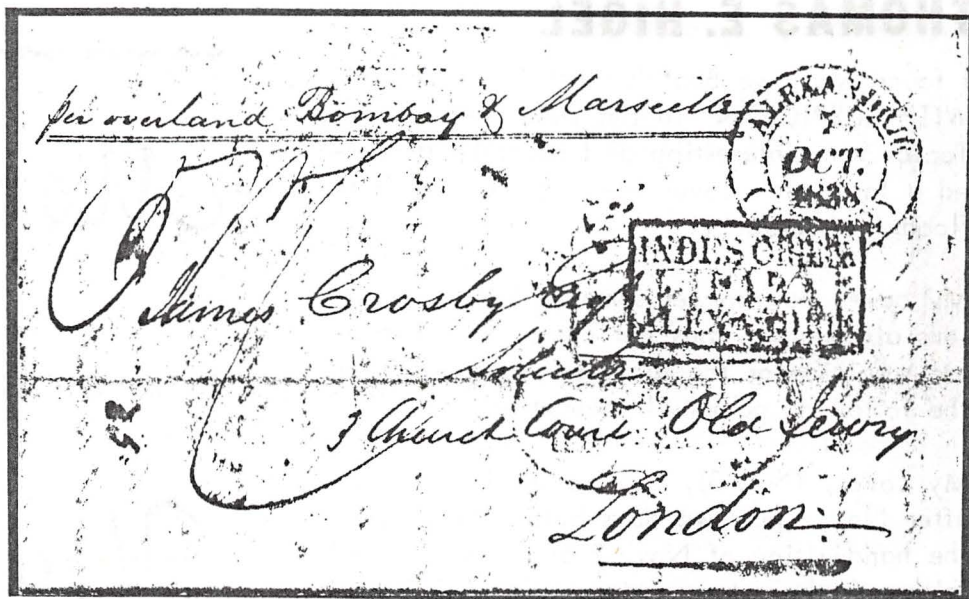


Fig. 1. The obverse of this unique cover illustrating the various markings described, from the author's collection.

The entire, despite its many markings, shows no agent marks. According to Sidebottom the known westbound Waghorn entires, India-England, for the period 1837 — 1839 averaged a transit time of 78 days.

The author now questions: 1. How did the entire get from Suez to Alexandria? and, 2. If there was an existing service that could forward mail faster than Waghorn's average, why

the need for Waghorn's services? 3. As Waghorn was operating during the period shown could this letter have been carried by Waghorn's service? Sidebottom lists two Waghorn cacheted letters at this time going west. One from Bombay to London in August 1838 with no transit times given and another from Madras to London, dispatched on September 3, 1838 with a 56 day transit time bringing it to London on the 29th of October the same day as this entire.

It was also known that Waghorn was using the French Packet at this time. If anyone can shed some light on what the author queries please write either the editor or the author: Kenneth Pierce, Director of Systems City of Hope Medical Center, 1500 East Duarte Road, Duarte, California, 91010

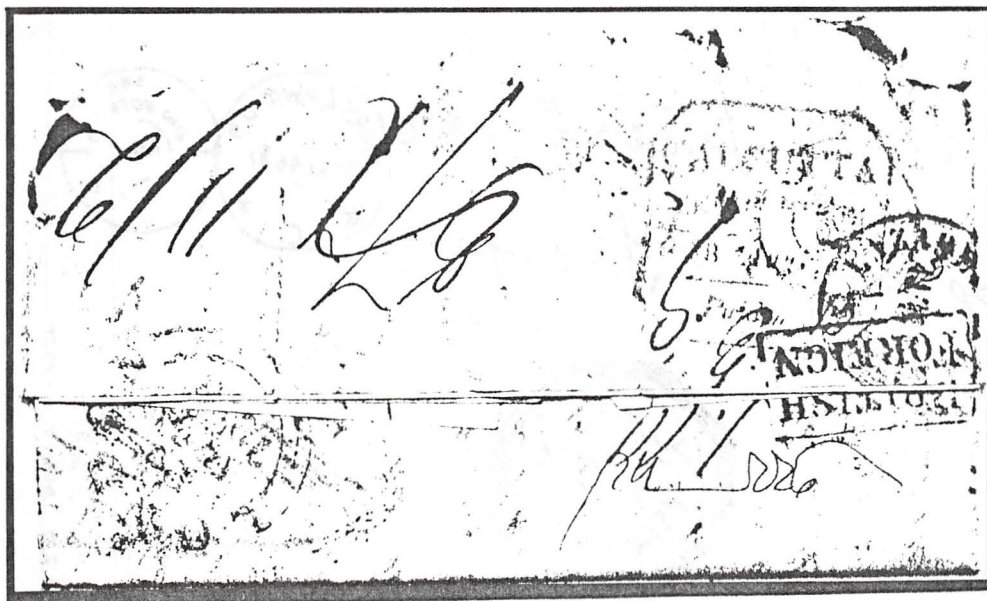


Fig. 2. The reverse of the cover showing the red framed "Calcutta Steam-Letter" and Meyer's Maltese purification lazaret.

References: SALLES; "La Poste Maritime Francais, in "tome II, "Les Paquebots de la Mediterranee". MEYER, Dr. K.F. "Disinfected Mail" SIDEBOTTOM, J., "The Overland Mail".



# THOMAS E. HIGEL

I found Marlowe Booth's "FROM POLAND WITH SUSPICION" in the December Issue of Topics very interesting as I recently acquired a third such cover — are they going to flood the market ?

My cover may answer some of Booth's questions although it does not completely eliminate suspicion as the table of comparison on the following page will demonstrate.

My cover, (No. 3), was posted in Warsaw after No. 1 but two days before No. 2. As the handwriting of Nos. 2 and 3 is identical (although the return address of No. 2 is covered by the censor label) they were apparently addressed by the same person. This explains why both bear the Warsaw "04" mark and lack the Polish censor mark — they were obviously mailed by the same person at the same place and they both bypassed a censor.

Fig. 1 (below) is the front of author's cover.

*More*

**POLAND**

*Via*

**EGYPT**

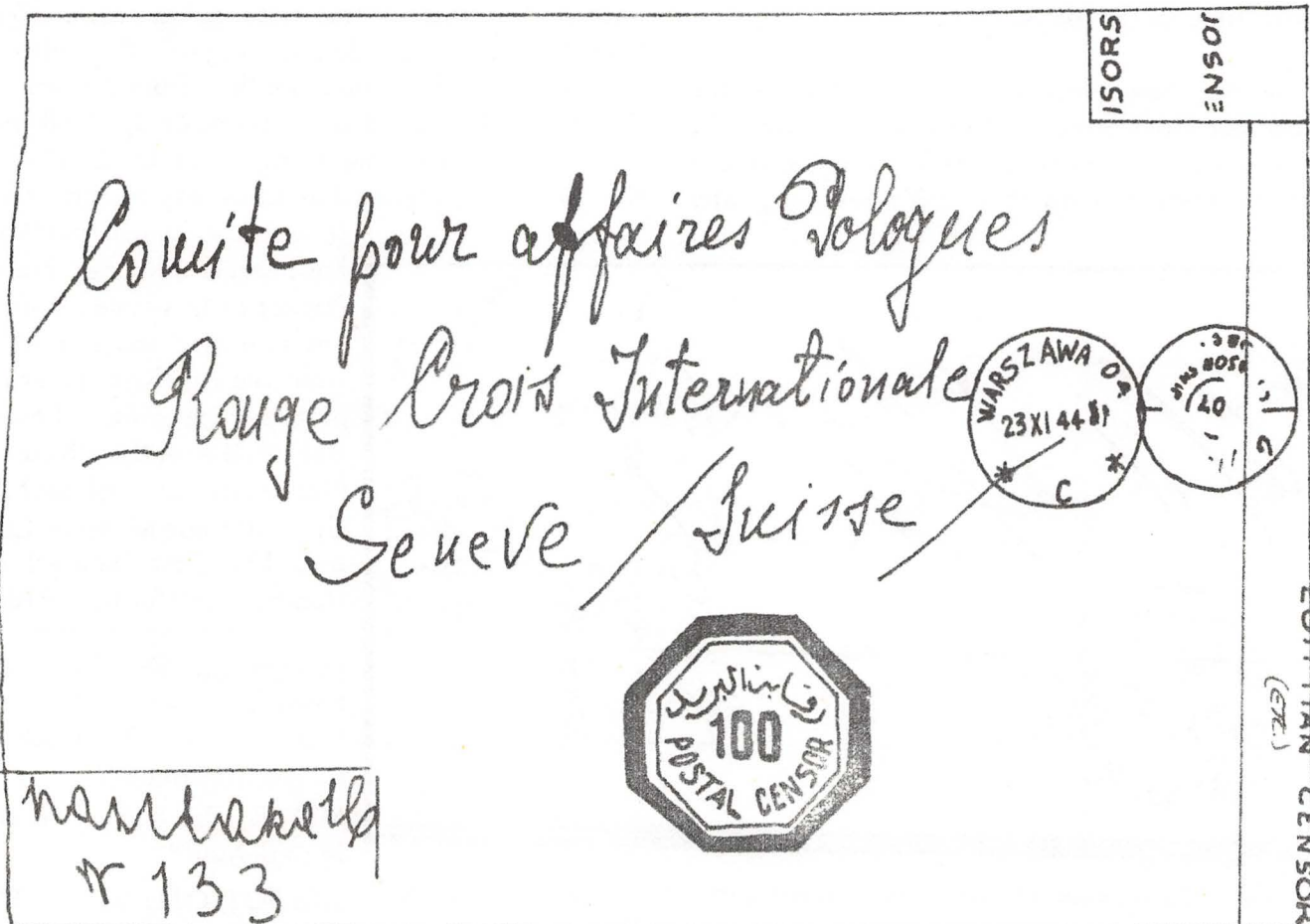


FIG. 1 - OBV. (121 x 173 mm.)



MARKING	COVER #1	COVER #2	COVER #3
Warsaw 23	19 XI 44	—	—
Warsaw 04	—	25 XI 44	23 XI 44
Ankara	26... 3 45	—	8 2 45
Gibraltar	—	—	20 MR 45
Geneva	15 V 45	15 V 45	10 IV 45
Egypt			
(Boulad #2)	107 Obv.	107 Obv.	107 Obv.
" "	49 Rev.	45 Rev.	45 Rev.
(Boulad #4)	X (present)	—	X Violet
Polish censor	X	—	—
Registry mark	Warsaw 23	Manuscript 16	Manuscript 16 greenish
Rev. number	006435	006343	005261

Fig. 2 (below) depicts the reverse of the author's cover (No. 3, described above in comparison).

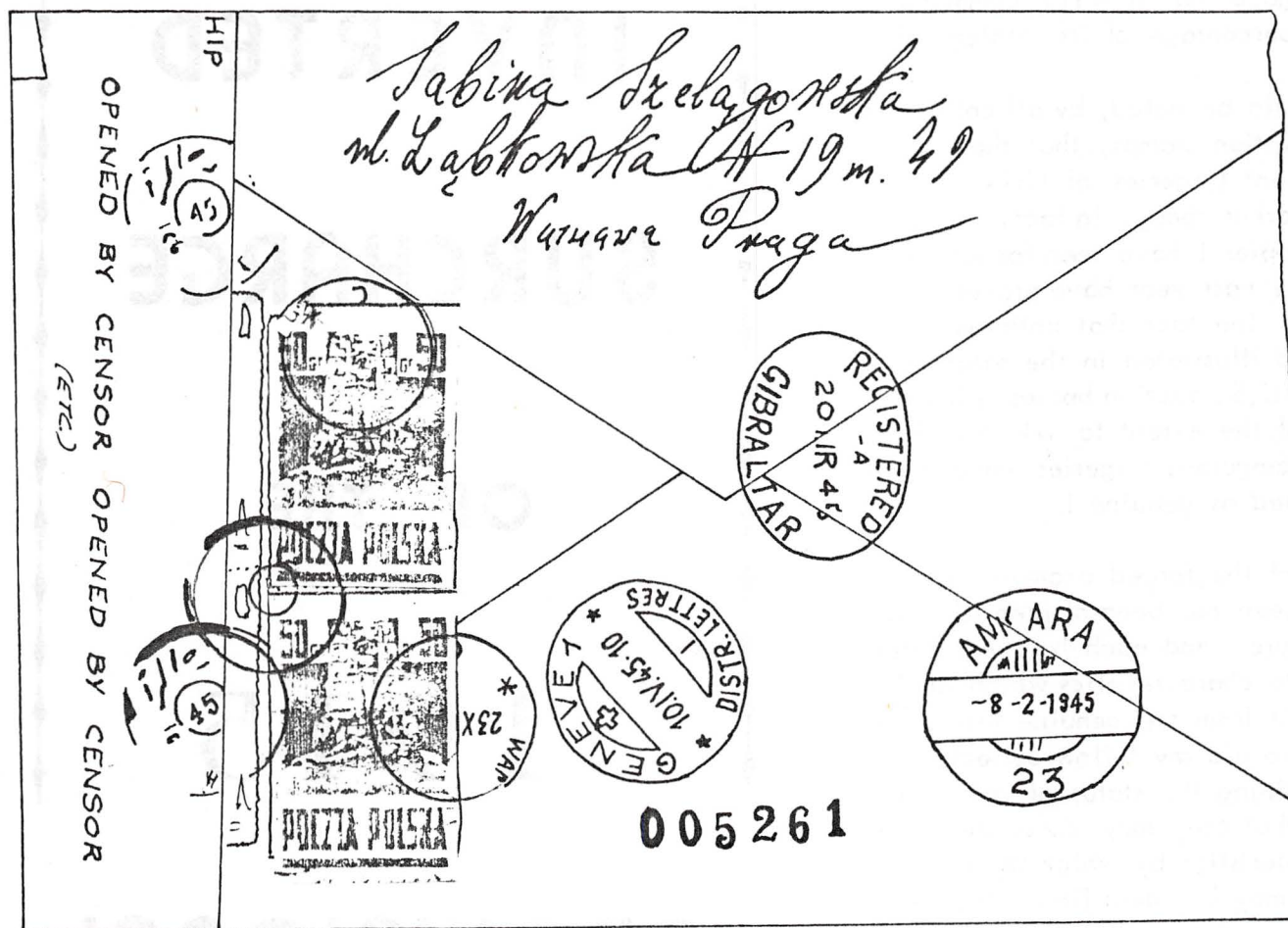


FIG. 2 - REV.

At this point the plot thickens — the handwriting on No. 1 is suspiciously like that found on the other covers although they bear a different return address. Furthermore, for some reason cover No. 3 arrived at Geneva nearly a month earlier than covers 1 and 2 although it was posted after No. 1 and before No. 2 — the latter items arriving in

the same date ! The Gibraltar marking may be a clue that cover No. 3 took a different route upon leaving Egypt. This would explain the stamped numerals on the reverse as probably being a filing number of the Red Cross and thus cover No. 3 bears a lower number because it arrived earlier.

(Continued on page 36)



**CHARLES E. HASS**

One of the more difficult-to-obtain examples of Egyptian Stamps with inverted surcharges or overprints is the 2 Millieme Provisional Surchage of 15 October 1915 (Scott #60a, Zeheri #54b). While there exist (or existed), theoretically, at least, 200 copies of this error, examples are seldom seen on the philatelic market. When this elusive item does appear at auction, the chances are very good that it will command a high percentage of its catalog value.

It should be noted, by all collectors of Egyptian stamps, that there exist excellent forgeries of this item on the market today. In fact, the only two copies I have seen for sale during the past year have proved to be bogus. The fact that both were listed and illustrated in the catalogs of major U.S. auction houses is indicative of the extent to which these very dangerous forgeries have been accepted as genuine!

Each of the forged examples that I have seen has been of identical manufacture, and each has exhibited definite characteristics which distinguish it from the genuine error. In order to aid my fellow collectors in determining the status of any such error that they may encounter, the characteristics by which the genuine invert may be identified will be described, comparing them to those of the bogus item.

On the following page, with enlarged illustrations, I will point out the various minute differences by which this forgery can be detected perhaps saving some fellow member a considerable amount of money.

# FORGERY

OF THE

INVERTED

SURCHARGE

OF THE

1915

PROVISIONAL

2 MILL.



PHOTO "A" (below) — The characteristics of the genuine surcharge are:

1. The printing having been done by typograph, the surcharge is impressed into the paper, and often will show in relief on the reverse of the stamp. This is especially evident on mint copies. Upon close examination with a high power magnifier (at least 20x), it will be seen that there are fairly equal pressure ridges of ink surrounding each letter and character, the result of the ink on the raised printing surface of the typographic plate having been forced from under the type by the pressure of the press. The depth of the impression may also be easily discerned under the magnifier.

THE NORMAL STAMP



Photo "A"

2. The type is generally sharp, and is of even thickness throughout. The angles of all corners of the French "2 Milliemmes" are quite sharp and pointed.

3. All letters of "Milliemmes" are on an even base with one another.

4. The angled base of the extreme right-hand Arabic letter is flat, and the letter appears to face outward to the right.

PHOTO "A" (above) — The characteristics of the forged surcharge are:

1. The printing apparently having been done by the application of a hand-held photographically reproduced, single cliché, there is no depth to the impression, nor are the pressure ridges of ink surrounding the type of equal proportions. Some ink outline may be evident, but will present an uneven, gloppy appearance, and will not be consistent throughout the area of the surcharge.

2. Most of the type is rough in appearance, and is of uneven thickness. Some letters have rounded or broken corners. (These characteristics are evidently the result of a loss of detail during the photographic reproduction of the original). It may also be noted that the "2" of the forgery is slightly narrower than that of the genuine surcharge.

THE "FORGERY"



Photo "B"

3. All letters of "Milliemmes" are not on an even base, the "ll" being on a higher level than the others. The capital "M" has a short right-hand leg.

4. The extreme right-hand Arabic letter appears to be more compact. Its angled base is curved, and the letter appears to hook downward and to the left. (This may be the result of damage to the forgery cliché).

I must emphasize that the illustrated examples are enlarged to twice their normal size, making the

(Continued on the following page)



MORE POLAND VIA EGYPT (Cont. fr. p.

Complications arise, however, when one considers the Ankara and Egyptian marks. If covers 1 and 2 went in the same post why does No. 2 lack the Ankara mark and the Boulad No. 4 censor? Also, why do the same two censor marks occur on covers 2 and 3 but not 1 and 2? Obviously, the latter could differ by there being more than one censor on duty but: is the combination on covers 2 and 3 coincidence? Probably, in that the censor numbers at any point are limited.

Unfortunately, this is not the factual answer desired by Booth and facts would be most welcome. It is my opinion that these covers are probably legitimate rather than permutations.

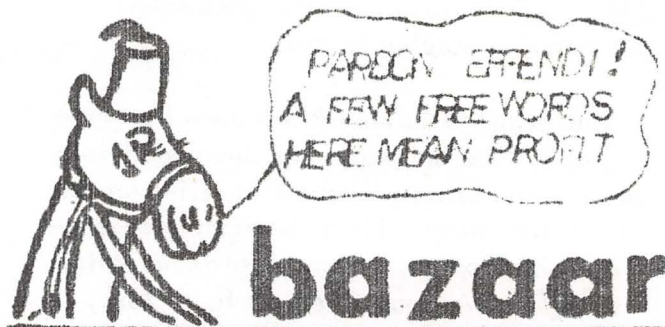
FORGERY — (Continued from previous page)

defects of the forgery much more obvious than they would normally be. Great care should be taken in the examination of any suspect example. A high-power magnifier is a prerequisite to any accurate analysis, as the characteristics of the printing technique of any stamp are not easily distinguishable, i.e., with a 10x or 12x glass.

It is hoped that this article will prove of service to any collector who has had doubts regarding the status of an example of the 1915 Provisional Surcharge. I shall emphasize that any stamp bearing an overprint or surcharge should be examined very carefully by the buyer, as forgeries exist in nearly all cases. Expertization is a must for any stamp of value! It should also be remembered that all stamps of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd regular issues of Egypt, as well as all of the first three dues issues have been cleverly forged.

I would ask any collector having an example of this forgery to contact me. I also seek, preferably for purchase, any forgeries of Egypt and the Sudan, particularly those of the 1897 Sudan overprints on Egyptian stamps. It is my intention to compile a reference work dealing with all forgeries of these two countries.

If you can help in this study write to: Charles F. Hass, P.O. Box #106, Jenkintown, Penna. 19046, U.S.A.



A FREE WANTS and OFFERS column exclusively for the use of our MEMBERS to Buy, Sell or Swap. If you don't need it — Trade it!

FOR SALE - AN UNUSUAL OFFERING Collection of over 90 control blocks of the Farouk era. 1972 Zeheri Cat. is \$140-150. Noted are Zeh. Nos. 127, 129 to 141 in blocks of 4 or 6. A/41 A/42 A/43, A/44 B/43 A/43 B/42 A/42 and many more. Many with both wide and narrow spacing, short stroke, etc. Also 146 to 155 less 151, varieties perf to the bottom and perfs only to bottom of stamp. Some slight duplicate. ALSO a collection M & U on sheets of 531, including sets, commems, airs, special deliveries, in some duplication, including high values. We see E-1, (3), several mint sets of the 30's plus four mint sets of semi-postal Zeh. 96-99, plus many older issues from De La Rue etc. A real gold mine for the specialists - not picked over. Total Zeheri Cat for these is \$158. Both lots go for first check at \$160.00. Will send sample of photos to serious buyers. This is a consignment from an overseas member who asked us to ehlp.

WANTED — KING FOROUK 1937-44 series Scott Nos. 206-216, I need blocks with control numbers, full sheets, later overprint issues, interesting cancellations, covers, anything interesting or unusual. Will buy or trade Egypt. Can you help? Write: ROBERT C. BREIGH, 2006 San Sebastian, B-232, Houston, Texas, 77058.

CHARLIE HASS needs mint copies of almost all of the watermark varieties after 1879, as well as many of the other varieties listed in Zeheri. If you have any such material available please let him know. Write to: P.O. Box 106, Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, 19046 . . .

SUDAN WANTED — 1966 on in USED condition by specialist. Will pay premium. These are hard to come by and connection would be appreciated. Write: Ben Babington, 48 Hill Street - Apt. 12C, Morristown, New Jersey, 07960



# BILL ITTEL ANSWERS

## OUR 'CURIOUS' QUERY

In the November issue of Topics we ran a small "query" under the heading of "CURIOUS" which they were — meaning, of course, the item at the foot of page 139. While they seemed to be Greek or Turkish we always like to ask questions about odd things that just might, in some manner, fit into our own collecting interests. Back came two replies, both of which are accurate and in some detail. We are sure that you will be interested in the answer. We were!

BILL ITTEL of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, well-known as an author and researcher in the revenue field, where many of us have similar interests, he has gone to considerable trouble to enlighten us with the following:

IN RE: your CURIOUS? in the November-December issue of Egyptian Topics, the stamps you pictured are Turkish Municipal Revenue Stamps, specifically for the various wells in Constantinople. They were issued in 1876 at 20 paras on various colored papers, printed in black. (1) rose, (2) yellow, (3) green, (4) blue, (5) white, (6) lilac, and (7) brown. The different colors of paper, seven in number, were used on designated days of the week but I do not know which.

The wells were, and you will note on your stamps, that the name is given in four languages (a) Kanli Kavak, (b) Kara Kowlak, (c) Guezuz Tepe, (d) Ayazma, (e) Kaich Dagh, (f) Ketcha, and (g) Tchamlidja. (Armenian, Greek, Latin, and Arabic).

I have found some in other than the 20 para value but do not know when they were issued.

- 30 paras Ketcha - rose, violet and blue
- 30 paras Kaich Dagh - rose, yellow and blue
- 40 paras " " - rose, orange, green, and blue
- 30 paras Kanli Kavak - rose, yellow, green, blue and brown
- 40 paras Hunkiar - yellow, green, blue and violet
- 40 paras Katchak Poulow - Yellow, green, blue, violet and brown
- 60 paras Katchak Poulow - rose, yellow, violet and brown
- 80 paras Katchak Poulow - yellow, blue and brown
- 100 paras Katchak Poulow - yellow



I think all of these must be before 1886 at which time a little more refined issue appeared. I recall reading once, although not word for word, exactly what I read, where a British author of the 1890's said to keep away from the Turkish municipals. He said they look like they were engraved by a myopic artisan using a barely shaped flint! Does that not describe them?

Bill -

VAHAN ANDONIAN of Oakland, California — always helpful when we need him also replied in a similar vein, advising us of the various languages used, the fact that they were of Turkish origin although he did not know of their use for a well tax.



**E. MENNE LARSEN**

# U N FORCES IN EGYPT

## THE DANOR BATTALION

The following article — in two segments — of which this is the conclusion, was written specially for Egyptian Topics readers by E. MENNE LARSEN, of Hobro, Denmark; an avid collector of Egyptian material and an expert on the United Nations Forces in Egypt and the Middle East. Mr. Larsen is also the editor of a very fine and informative Danish Philatelic Journal printed in Danish and English, entitled "POST HISTORISK TIDSSKRIFT". It is the official journal of the Postal History Society of Denmark.

# 1956

# 1967

## THE PARCEL MAIL:

Previously I referred to parcels sent to and from DANOR BN p. o. by SCANAF via Capodichino/Pisa.

Each parcel was accompanied by an address card on which the stamps were affixed. The DANOR postmaster applied one of the postmarks mentioned previously on this card together with a numbered registration label. The registration label was divided into two parts. One part was affixed to the addressee card, the other part to the parcel itself. (See fig. 10 on the following page). Beside the number, which was printed in black, it reads: Dansk FN-kommando / UNEF (in red). The stationery used as addressee card was the usual Danish type, but shortage may have been the inspiration to produce some locally. (See fig. 11). The stamps on the addressee card were cancelled on their arrival at the

Kbh TOLD p. o. (Customs p. o.) by postmarks reading: KØBENHAVN/TOLD. (see previous).

## FOREIGN STAMPS ON MAIL FROM THE DANOR BATTALION POST OFFICE . . .

Some philatelic covers franked by Canadian Stamps have (by mistake) been mailed through DANOR BN p.o. The Danish Postal Administration accepted these covers upon the arrival in Copenhagen and cancelled the stamps with a PAQUEBOT mark which normally is used on ship letter mail to certify the validity of foreign postage. A single cover with a few Norwegian stamps has been cancelled in the same way. Even though the covers are of philatelic

(Continued on following page)



origin the use of the PAQUEBOT — mark on them was outside the control of the sender.

THE UNEF TRAINING CENTER IN DENMARK

. . . was located at Jagerspris Barracks near Copenhagen. All mail from this camp is forwarded via the local civilian post office and is cancelled by a postmark reading "JAGERS-PRIS". Mail from the UNEF units may be distinguished by the sender and/or by cachets in use here.

Some of these cachets are shown on the following pages in Figs. 13 - 14.

SUMMARY:

DANISH POSTMARKS USED IN GAZA

D - 1A(G) Dansk FN-Kommando  
 UNEF  
 (UNEF 13 X 3 mm) (fig. 2)



Fig. 10 - The parcel registration label of DANOR BN.

- . . . a) 27 MAR 57 — AUG 57
- b) 58 (?) / 59 — 25 JAN 62

(Continued)

Kupon 23		388 UNEF Dansk FN-kommando					
Afsenderens navn: CPL Frede Møller		Modtagerens navn og adresse: Hr. Claus Wede Hansen				Forlang postkittering enten i postkvt. bogen eller paa løs blanket.  OPJENSE HØJDKLÆBERT. Dansk FN-kommando UNEF	
DANLO HQ UNEF		Ryslinge,					
UNEF.		Fyn.					
(Empty)		(Empty)					
(Empty)		Denmark					
Antal pakker 1		Vægt: 5		Angaaende pakkens afhentning se bagsiden			

Fig. 11 - Locally manufactured addressee card from DANOR BN UNEF with part of parcel registration label No. 388 (see above). Also DANOR BN postmark. (cfr. Fig. 6) Postmark: København TOLD.



DANISH POSTMARKS USED IN GAZA — SUMMARY (Continued from previous page)

D - II A	DANSK FN KOMMANDO w/crown and asterisk in a pointed circle. Diameter 30 mm. (fig. 3.).	AUG 57 — 58 (?) / 59
D - II B	As D-II A, but text: DANISH UN COMMAND. Diameter 32 mm. (fig. 4.).	As D - II A
	D-II A & D-II B are known with additional dates (fig. 5.).	JAN/FEB 58
D - I Ba	Type as D-I A(G) (UNEF: 11 X 4 mm. (fig. 6.).	25 JAN 62 — APR 65
D - I Bb	As D-I Ba. Was the only mark of this type in use after April 1965.  D-I Ba & D-I Bb have only been used in Gaza.	25 JAN 62 — en of 65 /(?) early 66
D - III	UNEF free mail postmarks used beside the Danish stamps. Replace D-I Bb	65 (?) / 66 — APR 67
D - IV	København Omk PAQUEBOT mark used on DANOR mail with foreign stamps, in addition to D-II A.	
D - I A (OMK)	as type D-I A(G) Used at Kbh Omk post office.	1957 (?) — 1967 (?)
D - I A (T)	as type D-I A(G) Used at Kbh Told post office	1957 (?) — 1967 (?)



Fig. 13 — Is an example of the cachet used at the training center at Jagerspris Barracks along with Fig. 14 (below) . . .

**FN-AFDELINGEN**  
 Regnskabskontoret  
 Jagerspris  
 Jagerspris

The Kbh. TOLD p.o. had three identical copies of this mark. They are known on mail from other Danish UN units e.g. from the Congo and Cyprus.

A mark reading DANCON/UNFICYP (39 X 4) has been used at Kbh. Told p.o. on mail from GAZA. This mark was supposed to be used on mail which arrived w/o postmark from the Cyprus mail unit. (To be continued next issue).

DO THEY FOLD UP ?

News sources say 1000 ton ships have been seen secretly going through the Suez Canal in both directions. Question: How do you disguise a 1,000 ton vessel to make it look like just another passing camel? (Ellery Denison noted in Bill Gold's column in the District (DC) Line. ).



# ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

## A MEMORIAL TO THE LATE GREAT CHANTE MADAM OM KOLSOUM.

Unfortunately our usual information sheet from Cairo did not accompany the stamp so we are not able to give all of the detailed information we usually supply.

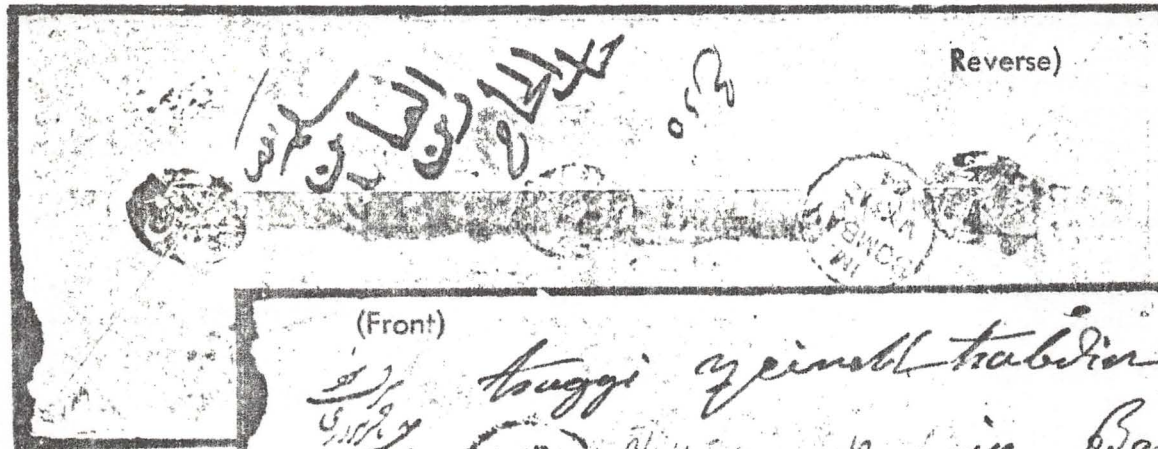


Date of Issue: 13 March 1975  
 Denomination: 20 mills  
 Designer: LOTFY EL SAWAF  
 Design: A portrait of the head of Mdme. KOL(TH)SOUM.  
 Dimensions: 30 x 50 mm.  
 Sheet: Not known  
 Perforation: (Actual perf. by measure - 11-1/4  
 Color: Reddish Brown  
 Watermark: (Specimen appears unwmk) ?  
 Printing: Rotogravure — Postal Printing House  
 Quantity: ?

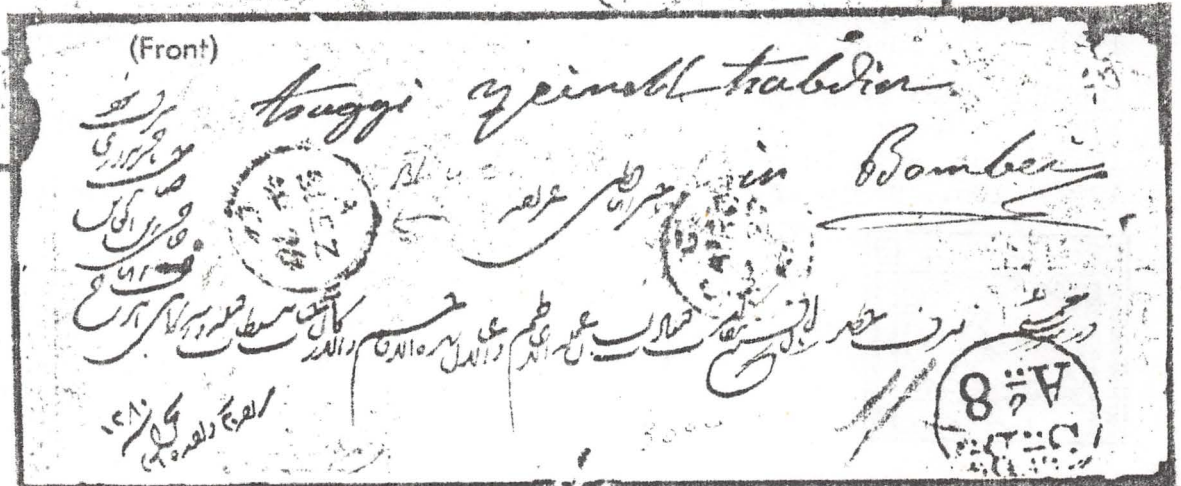
### OFFICIAL REPRINTED IN NEW COLOR



Date of Issue: 13 March 1975  
 Denomination: 1 mill  
 Designer: Not listed  
 Design: Same as the Issue of 1 July 1972  
 Dimensions: 22 x 26 mm.  
 Perforation: 11-1/2  
 Watermark: ?  
 Sheet: 100 Stamps (10 x 10)  
 Color: Pale blue and black  
 Printing: by PPH in Cairo — Rotogravure  
 Quantity: Not listed for Officials & Defins.



An interesting cover with a story to tell. Can you help? A reader would like details ??





**PETER R. FELTUS**POSTAGE & FISCAL STAMPS OF EGYPT  
Member: S.P.E., E.S.C., O.P.A.L., A.R.A., & A.P.S.

March, 1975

Pricelist of Egyptian Errors & Varieties. Numbering from 1972 Zeheri.

<u>DEFINITIVES:</u>	1922	100m. with Double Crown Ovpt.. block of four, fine	\$335.
	1922	100m. with Inverted Crown Ovpt. (from Palace sale lot 320), fine	120.
	1947	20m. printed on the gummed side (#154a), pair, one stamp torn.	40.
	1952	30m. with Double blue Ovpt. (#175b), fine	25.
	1952	40m. with Double Ovpt. (#176a), fine	25.
	1955	4m. with EGYPT at bottom & missing (#236a & 236b), fine vert. pair	25.

<u>COMMEMORATIVES:</u>	1943	5m. + 5m. Ferial, strip of four showing four of the Essays of the Ovpt. described in Zeheri, fine	225.
	1946	17m. + 17m. Fuad, with Inverted Wmk. (#86a), fine	6.
	1955	5m. Arab P.U., Vertical strip of five, one with Part of Ovpt. & one Without Ovpt. (#141a), fine	125.
	1955	5m. Arab Posta Union, with Inverted Ovpt. (#141c), fine	30.
	1956	10m. Afro-Asia Fest, with Misplaced Branch (#147a) & Badly Misplaced Branch (#147b), and normal. fine	8.
	1957	10m. Al-Azhar, Without the Ovpt. (#157a), fine	25.
	1957	15m. Al-Azhar, Ovpt. Little Misplaced & Badly Misplaced (#158a), f.	8.
	1960	Arab League Center, Without Black Insc. (#222a), fine	120.

<u>AIRMAILS:</u>	1931	100m. Zepp, pair, one with Dot below year (#4a), v.f.	35.
	1933	1m. Pyramids, with Center Misplaced (#5b), fine	15.
	1933	10m. Pyramids, Perf. Incomplete (#15b), block of four, fine	5.
	1933	30m. Pyramids, with Center Misplaced (#17b), fine	30.
	1946	30m. M.E.A.N.S., with Double Ovpt. (#35c), v.f.	80.
	1946	30m. M.E.A.N.S., with Inverted Ovpt. (#35d), v.f.	135.
	1948	200m. S.A.I.D.E., block of four, one Without Date (#49b), v.f.	15.
	1948	200m. S.A.I.D.E., Ovpt. Misplaced (unlisted), block of four, v.f.	20.
	1953	15m. Barrage, with Inverted Wmk. (#63a), sheet corner pair, v.f.	3.
	1953	40m. Barred Farouk, with Inverted Wmk. (#72a), fine	3.

<u>OFFICIALS:</u>	1922	1m., 2m. & 5m. Blocks of four, each with one Large Hamza (#17c, 18a & 20a), fine	20.
	1922	3m., with Larhe Hamza (#19a), v.f.	80.
	1922	3m. OHEMS, with Reversed Wmk. (#23c), block of four, marginal, v.f.	32.
	1922	15m. OHEMS, block of four, one the M spaced out from E (#28f), f.	110.
	1924	1m. & 4m. Fuads, pairs, each with one Large type Ovpt. (#31b & 34b), fine	20.
	1924	2m., 3m. 10m. & 15m. Fuads, blocks of four, each with one Large type Ovpt. (#32b, 33b, 36b & 37b), fine	60.
	1924	10m. Fuad, Used vert. strip of five, two show Large type Ovpt., f.	25.

<u>POSTAGE DUES:</u>	1884	5pt., block with top selvage & Wmk. Impressed on Face	60.
	1898	3m on 2pt., Strip of four, two stamps Without Ovpt. (#19f), fine	100.
	1952	2m., with Inverted K.E.&S. Ovpt. (#42c), fine	15.
	1952	10m., Strip of four, two with Ovpt. à Cheval & two Without Ovpt. (#46b & 46c combination), fine	40.

