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Topics

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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THE AMERICAN AGENT FOR THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF EGYPT

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Published six times yearly, at Los Angeles Subscription \$3.00 per year, US and CANADA Overseas subscriptions, add \$1.00 for post

Please send subscriptions and news items to the publisher. Annual dues and matters pertaining to the Philatelic Society of Egypt should be sent to Dr. Smith in Michigan...



with the editor.

The big news with this issue, among other things is the end of the long and costly Postal Strike in the British Isles. No mail since January and many of us who carry on a correspondence overseas, have sorely missed our regular communications. By the time you receive this copy of the Journal all should be back to normal.

Another item we must stress is the editor's change of address. After several years in one spot, our building was sold, forcing us to find new accomodations, not an easy task with wife, bird, dog (small) and an accumulation of books, papers, catalogues and irreplacable junk (according to my wife). Although we promptly notified our P.O. of the change, they happily ignored us for a week or so and we strongly suspect some of our mail may have been returned. If so, please remail to our new address:

> 1245 No. KINGS ROAD Los Angeles, Calif., 90069

We note too, that Spring fever and the impending tax collector have taken their toll among our contributors. I know it's a time worn plea — but please, fellas ! We do need more material for Topics. Everyone has some special item he is proud to show. We urge you to share it with your fellow collectors. Just give us the facts, we'll help.

A glance at the regular philatelic publications shows us little in the way of award winners in the Egypt - Sudan area in recent months. Are we sitting on our past laurels; afraid to venture forth for the first time, or just inclined to a little procrastination ? I strongly urge you to enter the exhibition circuit and check out our material with the various bourse dealers. Some great finds have been made in showtime penny boxes and, dealers are more prone to stock and display our material if interesting exhibits attract attention and generate request from show goers. Many good shows will be held in the Spring of 1971. Now is the time !

OUR COVER

Our cover for this issue depicts a full imperforate pane of the 4th Xmas Seal Issue, of the 1st printing. We have politely lifted this illustration from John Hobbs excellent book, and we acknowledge its use with thanks.







N. A. A.F.I. British Forces in EGYPT 1932 - 1936

ENLARGED TO 38 Millimeters in Circumference - Norm. $27\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

These franks, loaned by the Egyptian Government to the British Military Authorities and applied to the upper right hand corner of the front of the envelope on all military mail to indicate that the correct postage had been paid with the "seal" affixed to the reverse. The importance of this frank lies in the fact that it would be taxed, or subject to, postage due on arrival.

Various numeral franks were allotted to the different offices. Each office was assigned two or more numerals in the event of loss, breakage or misplacement.

Following is a list of the numeral franks and the office where they were used:

l and 3	-	CAIRO (Camp Commandant HQ BTE)
2		
4,5&6		CAIRO (Military Post Office)
		MOASCAR (H.Q. Canal B.D.E.) #7
		was lost after brief usage.
9 and 10	·	PORT SAID (O.C. Troops)
11 and 12	-	ABU-SUEIR (No. 4 Flying Train-
		ing school).
		ABOUKIR (R.A.F. Depot)
15 and 16	-	ALEXANDRIA (Military Hospital,
		Ras-el-Tin).
1 7 and 18		ALEXANDRIA (H.Q. Alex. area).
19		MOASCAR (See under 7 and 8).
20, 21, 22		
23 and 25		CAIRO (See under 1 and 3).
24		Not allotted
Allotted 1	ate	r - 1, 3 and 23 to MOASCAR
		used at MERSA MATRUN
		sferred to CAIRO

In addition, a Rhetta or Rhomboid of dots was used, mostly black, occasionally red.

EARLY IN 1932, the Egyptian Government de cided to raise the Postal rates for the basic charge from 10 to 15 milliemes. A large number of British soldiers and airmen were stationed in Egypt at the time and this increase was the cause of so much grousing that an arrangement was made between the Egyptian Government on one side, and by the Military and Air Force Authorities on the other whereby the Egyptian Post Office was to be guaranteed a certain sum in exchange for which the service personnel were allowed to continue to send their mailat the old rates subject to certain conditions (See copy of Postal Concession). This concession covered only letters sent to Great Britain and Ireland. The Seals and Stamps were sold by N.A.A.F.I. (Navy, Army, & Air Force Institute) canteens, subject to the rules of the concession, the cost of producing the seals to be borne by N.A.A.F.I., who sold them at face value to the service personnel.

With the introduction of the stamps of the ARMY POST in 1936 and 1939, and the influx of large numbers of troops from Australia, New Zealand and other Empire Countries in 1940, restrictions were relaxed to a considerable extent and we find the Farouk Army Stamps on mail addressed to Great Britain & Ireland, as well as to Australia, New Zealand, and to a lesser degree to South Africa and India. The use of these special stamps was discontinued in 1941.

For a complete and comprehensive listing of of these seals and stamps, the varieties and errors; the proofs, covers and postmarks, we recommend the work of JOHN E. O. HOBBS, reviewed in Topics, Vol. 2, No. 4, p. 72.

* 😤

POSTAL CONCESSION.

From the 1st November, 1932, members of the Army and Royal Air Force in Egypt, and their families, may send ordinary letters to the British Isles, including the Irish Free State, at a reduced price.

The old and new prices are:

Weight		Old	rates	
120 gr	ammes	15 1	Mills.	
21 40		28		
4160	59	41	19	
6180	*9	54		
		each	addi amm	tional cs or cf.

10 Mills. 20 " 30 " 40 " Plus 10 Mills for each additional 20 grammes or part thereof.

New rates

The Special Scals (value 10 Milliemes - 1 Piastre) which will be used in lieu of Egyptian Postal Stamps, may be bought from all N.A.A.F.I. Institutes and Canteens, and will be stuck on the back of the envelope.

The N.A.A.F.I. have been good enough to print the Seals free of cosi and to sell their without profit. They must be paid for in cash when purchased.

The letters must be posted in Regimental or Unit post boxes and not in Egyptian post boxes. Post boxes will also be placed at the following addresses:

> Military Post Office, Ablassia. Military Post Office, Cairo. Entrance Hall, H.Q., B.T.E. Entrance'Hall, H.Q., Middle East. N.A.A F.I. Shop, Heliopolis, and in such places at out-staticus as may be considered necessary to meet local requirements.

Letters will be despatched in the same way as they are at present and here will be no delay by using the new system.

Registered letters, letters for Air Mail, letters containing valuables, and purcels, must continue to be despatched through Egyptian Post Offices with Egyptian postal stamps, also all letters and parcels for places other than the British Isles, and Irish Free State.

The money paid for the Special Seals will be collected from the N.A.A.F.I. by the Command Paymaster for the purpose of realizing the considerable sum of money which has to be paid to the Egyptian Government for the concession.

The Lieutenant-General Commanding and the Air Vice Marshal have incurred a serious financial responsibility in the matter, and it is hoped therefore that all members or the Army and Royal Air Force in Egypt, and their families, will use this new system of postage and so help to establish it on a sound footing and eliminate the risk of financial loss.

Should they not do so the scheme will have to be abandoned.

The concession has been difficult to obtain, it is a definite advantage to those concerned, and there is every reason why it should receive the support of the Army and Royal Air Force Commands in Egypt.

It is difficult to foresee the financial result at present, but should there be any profit, consideration will be given to the best method of expending it for the benefit of those who are entitled to participate in the scheme.









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THE FIRST POSTAL SEAL (Issued November 1, 1932)

Brindisi H.B. Crof Stepkin Alder Sakon. Fostboure. Susses.

"FRONT" of an envelope addressed to Sussex in England via Brindisi

Circular date stamp M. P. O. 5 NO 32 8-9 P CAIRO

Numeral 4 handstamp in RED, allotted to Cairo

The first seal, designed by Lt. Colonel C. Fraser depicted the lettering in blue while the Badge of the N.A.A.F.I. and the frame were printed in orange-red or vermilion. Perforated 11 on unwatermarked paper.

Printing was by Hanbury Tomsett & Co., Ltd. of Willesden, London. The initial printing was 500,000 in sheets of 80 then broken up into panes of 20 and made into booklets of 100; five pages each of 20 (4×5) .

Reverse side of cover franked with Type one inscribed - "POSTAL" SEAL, properly affixed in accord with the postal concession, as noted in paragraph 2. Obliterated with the RHETTA, in black.



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ONE OF THREE MAJOR "CONSTANT" VARIETIES

FOUND ONLY ON THE "LETTER SEAL"



An unused block of four from a paneof 20 containing stamp No. 15 which shows major variety "A diagonal line from the middle to the top right of the letter E in SEAL, as indicated by the arrow.

Other varieties do exist, some constant to both the POSTAL SEAL and the LETTER SEAL, as well as varieties that are confined to either the first or second series (some, of a minor nature do not merit listing). In all, a total of 22 are constant, and 8 are semi-constant. (Figures from Hobb's Postal Service of the British Forces in Egypt, 1932 - 1940).

The other major varieties, not shown, include the upper portion of the "A" in the Seal as a solid triangle, and a large dot at the top left side of the second "I" in British.



Unusually interesting is this fine example of No. 15 used on cover with the rhetta obliteration. See above for detail. Front of this cover carries the crowned handstamp in red with the numeral "6", allotted to Cairo, and the circular date stamp M. P. O., 20 MR 34 - 12 - 1 P - CAIRO.

THE LETTER STAMPS AND THE JUBILEE ISSUE

SERIEB THREE Through SEVEN

This series of five stamps are identical in design consisting of shaded letters and the Sphinx in the background. Original work is from the pen of Miss Waugh who at that time resided in Cairo. Apart from the basic design the vary widely by color, perforation, and overprinting in the case of Nos. 6 & 7.

The following illustration on piece of Air-Force envelope (note winged R.A.F. insignia just above the stamp); cancelled on departure with the rhetta, and the machine slogan cancel of Alexandria. It also shows arrival marking of "CARLISLE, CUMBERLAND" 5 P.M. 22 OCT 1934. All markings are in black. An excellent example of the Third Series, issued on 1 June, 1934. Crimson Color.

The 4th series was issued on 5 December '34 and is identical to the 3rd series except that the color was changed to green. Printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd., in



sheets of 40, in separate frames of 20 each.

Series 5 appeared on 24 April, 1935, again identical in design BUT, with a significant change in perforation, now 14 as opposed to $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ for the two previous issues. While only 250,000 of Series 3 & 4 were printed, 405,000 of Series 5 were issued. All were sold except 100, which were destroyed. This issue is noted for the "blank perf" variety. Series 6 is one of the most interesting and the scarcest of the Letter Stamps. A total issue of only 27,000, it appeared to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V.

Design again was identical but this time it was printed in blue with the words "JUBILEE COMMEMORATION 1935" in red, diagonally upward from the lower left corner in three lines.

A major variety occurs in the overprint on this issue. The right leg of the letter "J" in Jubilee is short. This break occurs three times per sheet of 80. It is not constant in every pane although it does appear twice on some panes of 20.

Series 7 issued 22 December, 1935 was issued for Christmas, 1935. 10,000 copies were overprinted (series 5) in black in 2 lines, "XMAS 1935, 3 MILLIEMES". It is also known as the "Xmas Seal Provisional".

Series 7 has also been known to have been reprinted in an additional quantity of 500, 000, of which less than half were sold. We do not agree that these should be listed as series 7, but rather as an "A" number additional to Series 5.

A great number of small varieties appear on each issue of the Letter Seals. For a comprehensive listing we again refer you to the specialized work of John E. O. Hobbs, previously mentioned.

The Xmas Stamps (Camel design) will be covered as a group on the following pages although they first appeared in 1932.



The first Letter Seal (Series three) on a piece from the reverse of the envelope showing a complete Alexandria machine cancel dated 20 OCT 34, 6-A. (SEE L'OP, Vol. VIII-84

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CHRISTMAS SEALS

As all collectors of Egyptian stamps know, the Egyptian rate for Christmas or Festival cards is 4 Milliemes, however, by special dispensation the military were permitted to enclose cards in envelopes and mail them to Great Britain or Ireland for 3 Milliemes IF the flaps were not sealed.

The first of these seals, designed by Sgt, W. F. Lait of the Royal Army Service Corps, and printed by the Amalgamated Press (Walker & Co., in Cairo) appeared on 26 November, Following this a shortage developed result-1932. Perforation is 112 rough in black on azure paper. Nos. 1 through 4 are identical except for color. No. 2 is brown - lake on white paper; No. 3 blue on white paper, and No. 4 orange - red on white.

At this time (late in 1935) a large number of British troops were stationed in Egypt and demand far exceeded the supply, consequently a "Second printing" was necessary, appearing on 18 December, 1935 they are of of slightly lighter shade of reddish orange with a total printing of only 21,500. Only 12,000 were sold with the remainders being destroyed. The second printing is on toned paper.

ing in the overprinted "Provisional discussed as Series 7. While there may be room for doubt as to whether it belongs in the Xmas category with the Camel Seals, or remain in Letter Seal category is open to debate.



A fine copy of the very rare imperf tete-beche

proof shown at the right is in the collection of Cmdr. William H. Wells of San Leandro, Calif.

TEM FORCES IN ST. MITTIEM

Tete-beche Proof (Illustrafrom John E. O. Hobbs book)

The example shown on cover is of the Second series (brown - lake) issued on 13 November, 1933. It was mailed from CAIRO to ENGLAND on 20 December, 1933. Numeral 6 was assigned to Cairo, later on to Alexandria. Note the offset 6 on the reverse of the cover.

Again, numerous varieties exist on the Christmas Seals and listed in detail in John Hobbs book.



FEE : 70=H-M-S-12 30 30 A OFESSOR CLARENCE C. COOK. ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, KINGSTON, ONTARIO, CANADA. M. F. B. 299 **300**м—8-34 H.Q. 1772-39-278

The cover shown above addressed to Kingston, Ontario, Canada does not have the necessary Military handstamp and has been taxed (note the boxed "T" in lower left corner) by virtue of its having been sent to a Country (Canada) not covered by the original Postal Concession. Postage - due stamp is cancelled with the obliteration of the General Delivery window at Kingston on Feb. 14, 1936. The 1 Piartre Letter Stamp on the reverse is cancelled by blue crayon in place of the rhetta and bears marking of the Military Post Office, Alexandria, Jan. 26, 1936, plus the arrival marking of Kingston.

This cover, properly hand stamped with numeral "21" (Headquarters Cairo) must must have considered overweight. It received a large manuscript 3d and letters F. B. (Foreign Branch) on arrival in England, together with the Postage-due stamp cancelled at Canterbury. The usu-



al boxed "T" appears under the cancel.

(To be continued in our next issue).

Gordon B. Garrott HOVERCRAFT



TER CONTRACTOR - Extantio 10. MAR. 1959 NADI HALFA MAILS

White Nile Expedition c/o Post Office Wadi HALFA 10/3/6.9

We have long been aware of the experimental mail services by Hovercraft, in fact, back in the early 1960's we were privilaged to watch early U. S. experiments on Oakland's (Calif.) Lake Merritt, and later to ride in the hovercraft on San Francisco Bay. To this day we are not entirely sure whether it is fish or fowl. While it is actually a watercraft, it certainly becomes airborne while under way, if only for a few inches. Consequently we are inclined to place it in the "airmail" category". Boy !this should shake up the pens and paper and turn on my favorite "checker uppers".

To the point, a series of stages, seven in number took place in Egypt and the Sudan as The White Nile Hovercraft Expedition during February and March, 1969. We are happy to illustrate here a portion of one of these covers, carried from Wadi Halfa to Khartoum (Stage 3).

A brief report of this experiment was duly reported in the September 1969 issue of the AERO FIELD, p. 91, published in England by Francis J. Field Ltd., and edited by N. C. Baldwin. We take the liberty here of quoting this brief passage for our readers with our thanks to Mssrs. Field and Baldwin.

The White Nile Hovercraft Expedition carried a mail over seven stages, but unfortunately the sixth stage was lost when the hovercraft was being carried by a lorry over a bridge, which collapsed. The other 6 stages were postmarked as follows: Stage 1, Alexandria 25/2/69; Stage 2, Aswan 1/3/69; Stage 3, Wadi Halfa (Sudan) 10/3/69; Stage 4, Khartoum 15/3/69; Stage 5, Malakal 22/3 1969, and Kampala (Uganda) 2/4/69. The covers bear a map of the White Nile area, and also depict a hovercraft.

We are indebted to Alfred J. Moses, Stamp Editor of the Los Angeles Herald - Examiner and Assoc. Editor of the National StampNews for this illustration.

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J. Boulad d'Humieres Comments on 1866 Otems

Comments on previous articles and the query on the 1866 Issue of Egypt.

We refer to L'ORIENT PHILATELIQUE, No. 117, April 1966 - January 1967, page 613 and the article of Dr. Peter Smith.

10 para - The variety shown in fig. 2, mentioned as constant on stamp No. 65 does not exist on the photographic reproduction I have of the proof sheet of that value, neither on stamp No. 65, nor on any of the other 199 stamps of the sheet. How can this difference be explained ?

<u>20 para</u> - The variety mentioned on No. 79 of the sheet - upper left hand corner broken - occurs on stamp No. 78 in the photograph I have of this value. Which, finally is the correct number ?

Now, we refer to EGYPTIAN TOPICS, Vol. II, No. 5, July - August 1970; the article / query of W. F. Billens.

<u>20 para</u> - Fig. 1. This variety is constant on stamp No. 14.

20 para - Fig. 2. This variety could be constant on stamp No. 77. It is a very nice one for which I congratulate the owner.

I have been able to plate these stamps thanks to the photographic album of the proof sheets of the issue of 1866, executed in April 1949 by the Survey Department for the Philatelic Society of Egypt and for a few subscribers, among whom I, fortunately was included.

Mr. d'Humieres is a Fellow of the Royal and the Academie Francais. He is an acknowledged expert on the stamps of Egypt and on the Suez Canal. We are grateful for his help.

missing! Sudan Colors

RALPH TIPPER writes from Toronto, Canada with what we believe might be one of those rare finds we all hope some day to encounter, "MISSING COLORS" !

Ralph writes, "Recently I acquired a lot of Sudan, all mint, from 1951 to early 1962. In this lot I found a 15 m. and 55 m. pair inscribed 'World Refugee Year, 7 April 1960' which seemed odd to me (all of the other stamps in the lot are quite normal) so I compared them with a similar pair in my collection and in the store's stock book which are described by Zeheri, 1967 edition as Nos. 133/134 as 15 m. black, ultramarine and red - brown (Scott Nos. 128/129, black, buff and ultramarine). The 55 m. black, red and pale sepia (Scott, black, beige and orange)."



"The pair in the lot are colored as follows: the 15 m. is black and ultramarine with the <u>RED</u> - <u>BROWN</u> or BUFF missing; 55 m. is black and red with the <u>PALE SEPIA</u> or <u>BEIGE</u> missing."

Ralph says his pair is perfed $13 \ge 13\frac{1}{2}$ on multiple S G watermarked paper with normal gum. Design is identical except for this missing color on both values. (NOTE: Both Scott and Zeheri list perforation as 14 ?).

Has anyone seen a similar variety ? If they are genuine at least 49 more of each value must exist somewhere ? ? ?

Please let us know if these should come to your attention.

motored or wall all the word betaupy . In

Dr. a. Winter

Taxe à percevoir

Some additional comments and another fine example of the four line handstamp "Taxe a percevoir/pour insuffisance/d'affranchissement/Le Receveur Principal", which first appeared in Vol. 2, No. 2 of Topics, page 37, by Dr. D. C. Jordan, in Vol. 2, No. 3, pages 55 & 57 by Jean Boulad d'Humieres and Dr. Jordan, and Vol. 2, No. 4, page 73, by Dr. Peter A.S. Smith.

I quite agree with the interpratation given by Dr. Jordan: it is the temporary use of ordinary stamps as as postage due stamps. The Yvert and Tellier catalogue, France and Colonies, French Offices Abroad, Vol. III, 1940, (which generally gives sound information), quotes this exceptional use saying that "In November 1921

some stamps cancelled by a special handstamp were used as postage due stamps".

Here, there is a mistake as the letter presented by Dr. Jordan bears the date of May, 1921. It would be interesting to know the dates put on other known letters to situate the limit dates of use. It is certain that these items are very rare and not well-known as they are not quoted in most of the catalogues.

The handstamp is always violet and there is no receiver's signature. Six different stamps have been seen with this cancellation. All are ordinary stamps of Port Said, 1921. They are: the 2m. on 50 (49A) blue-green, the 4m. on 10c (50) pink, plus a double overprint variety, of which it is pointed out, the 10 m. on 25c (53) blue, 15 m. on 50c (55) brown and gray, the 30 m. on lf. (57) carmine and olive green and the 60 m. on 2f. (58) purple and yellow, Yvert and Tellier numbers. Their value is estimated to be from \$40.00 for the first to \$200.00 for the final item (Maury Catalogue Vol. II 1970 edition).

1.3	ALA
Madame	& Mousien Bernard Chaylus
	Port Jaid reevoir Squpte
POST	RANCA SECTOR Princes

The item I have is stamped with a French 25c blue "sower" obliterated in France. Unfortunately the date is illegible. Note also that the cover contains the triangular hand stamp (tax ue) in black. The stamp of Port Said is the 15 m. on 50c.

If the reason for taxing Dr. Jordan's letter is obvious enough (non-stamped letter), it is not so clear as far as mine is concerned as it bears the regular 25c rate. We can only suppose that it is due to the excessive weight of the letter, or that it has been struck by courtesy of the Post Office.

FOR SALE

SUDAN COVERS 1912/13 PERIOD

ALBERT QUAST

BROOK 1, HAMBURG 11, W. GERMANY

EGYPTIAN TOPICS

Poten a. S. Swith

ANSWERS

ORIGINAL QUESTIONS FROM MR. MILLER MORRIS OF AMARILLO, TEXAS APPEARED ON PAGE 40 OF EGYPTIAN TOPICS, VOL. 3, NO. 2.

In our last issue under the title "QUERY" we ran a series of five questions having to do with postal history matter of the Sudan. They came originally from Miller Morris of Amarillo in a letter asking for help. Your editor attempted to answer them but, lacking sufficient detail to satisfy Mr. Morris. As a result we ran them asking for assistance from the "experts". Initially, they appeared not too difficult however, after careful digest they cannot be passed over lightly.

To date we have received only one reply ? ? Tough fellas ? Dr. Smith did reply and his answers follow:

1) What was the actual date of issue of of the 1897 5 mill provisional ?

I have never seen the exact date officially recorded for the issue of the 5 mill of the first issue of Sudan. The earliest postmark date I have seen is June, and I have covers as late as 1898 franked with mixtures of other values to make up the 5 mill rate, as though there was a shortage. However, T.F. Marriner in his booklet "Sudan", published in 1915 by David Field, states that the 5 May 1st. Marriner's booklet, incidentally, gives considerably more detail about this issue than does the Gisburn and Thompson book.

2) When did the Port Sudan P. O. open ?

I do not know when the Port Sudan Post Office was established, but certainly it was many years before 1909. The statement in Gisburn and Thompson about 1909 is misleading. It was the port - that is, the new quay - that was officially opened, dedicated, or something of that order, in 1909. The town, and its post office, was in existence much earlier.



Are Type 10 El-Obeid cancels scarce ? 3)

I don't believe EL OBEID date stamps with the name in a straight line are rare, though they certainly are not common. I do suspect that Gisburn and Thompson did not express themselves clearly, and that they actually meant that this style of postmark was used for very few offices, perhaps only for EL-



OBEID. I have an example dated 1918, while Gisburn and Thompson illustrate a marking from 1908, so evidently it had a long term of use.

(The illustration at the left is from the editor's collection, with clear date of 7 XII 1907. Among 21 others, years

of 1912 and 1913 predominate.).

Why does the Country name Sudan appear 4) on Tewfikia cancels ? Was it because of the Fashoda incident ?

Tewfikia cancellations bear the word "SUDAN" in order to distinguish it from Tewifikia in Egypt. There are at least three Tewfikia's: one in the Nile delta, one close to Wadimill and the 2 P.T. values were issued on Halfa, and one far south near Fashoda. Only the first two had post offices; the last was more of an expedition encampment than anything else. The earliest postmarks are spelt "TAOFIKIA", and date, at least, from 1892. They are, of course, found only on Egyptian stamps. It is still controversial as to which place used this cancellation. The concensus of opinion seems to favor the Sudanese location. In the 1890's, the Thomas Cock steamers carried the mail as far as Wadi Halfa, and the Postal Guides for this period list a stop at Tewfikia. They list both post offices of this name, and the Sudanese one is designated as being in "Nubia".

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SUDAN QUERY (Continued)

5) Who was the Khartoum postmaster prior to the time of the Mahdi ?

I can't give any information about the postmasters at Khartoum or anywhere else in the Sudan, but it is possible that such information is recorded somewhere. Perhaps it should be mentioned that Gisburn and Thompson's weakest area is the Egyptian Post in the Sudan prior to 1885. There were many offices in operation, all using Egyptian Dongola, Berber, Kassala, Korti stamps: and Suakin, and of course, Wadi Halfa. The latter dates back to 1867 or 1869; Khartoum was opened in 1873. In the 1890's other offices were opened: Tokar, Dabroussa, Wadi Halfa Camp, Taufiqia, and possibly Debeira Ishket, Faras, Sara and others.

There may well have been more than one post master at Khartoum, which was open for nearly twelve years. Egyptian stamps are also known with a seal cancellation of Gedaref. A good deal of such information has been published; among many places, in the PHIL-ATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN which carried an article on Egyptian stamps used in the Sudan in the March, 1958 issue. Gisburn and Thompson is useless for this period of Sudanese Postal History.

GABRIEL BOULAD 1881 - 1970

We have received belatedly, a clipping from L'ORIENT, the Beirut Daily, advising us of the death of GABRIEL BOULAD, in November.

Mr. Boulad was one of the "Grand Old Men" of Egyptian philately; the winner of numerous accolades and awards of prominence: at Cairo, 1946, in New York in 1947, and again in Lisbon, 1953.

A member of the Philatelic Society of Egypt No. 382 and the Egypt Study Circle of London, he was well known in the Mid-East and in Europe.

His many articles on specialized phases of Egyptian philately, published over many years in L'Orient Philatelique, will remain as a fitting memorial to this man who spent a lifetime in his studies, and who continually shared his vast knowledge with all who were interested. Our sincere condolences to his family.



There is never a charge for WANTS or OFFERS listed for our readers in Egyptian Topics.

WANTED: Correspondence with anyone who can supply me with the new issues of Egypt at a reasonable profit over face. Also need some 1960 - 1971 issues. Write to GUS KATHMANN, 3606 Kipling Ave. St. Louis Park, Minn., 55416

<u>WANTED</u>: Selected items - from the Royal imperforates. Write to V. ANDONIAN, P. O. Box 11199, Piedmont Station, Oakland, California, 94611.

OFFERS: See the list of special offers in Vol. 3, No. 1 of Topics. Many hard - to - get items, priced for sale. Write to FLOYD H. DAEHN, 5849 Park Ave. Minneapolis, Mn. 55417 SPECIAL OFFER - LITERATURE: We have received a letter from: CHARLES A PFELBAUM, BOOKs, 39 Flower Road, Valley Stream, New York, 11581 offering the following lot for

\$40.00 postpaid. Write if interested.
13 various catalogues of Egyptian stamps
40 copies - Egyptian Newsletter
7 copies - Egyptian Topics
9 copies - L'Union Postale, 1935-1950
Catalog of the Hinde sale of Egypt / Sudan
A copy of Byam's Egypt

Several other various items

In addition, he offers 366 items for a total of \$120 intact, or will sell as individual groups - such as:

71 copies of American Philatelist - 1960's 38 London Philatelist - 1960's 4 Billigs Handbooks (Not itemized) 32 Bureau Specialists - 1956 - 1960 36 Mercury Stamp Journal - 1951 - 1962 Plus many other odds and ends.

PETER FELTUS is back from his extensive and lengthy tour of the Continent. He is still looking for that elusive copy of L'OP No 28 If you can help write to him at: 4970 Desmond Street, Oakland, California, 94618 . .

W. F. Billens

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PHILATELIC

FUN AND PRO

Here, to keep the ballrolling, are a couple of more items for my continuing series of PHILATELIC FUN. (I imagine we ought to drop the "& PROFIT" in the title. I meant profit in the sense of satisfaction, but in print it seems to connote material reward - few of my "flaws" will ever amount to an iota in extra cash - but they do point a direction by which a modestly knowledgeable amateur can build his collection. This, in my opinion, is the name of the game !

So

MORE PHILATELIC FUN

ARRIVAL OF EGYPTIAN TROOPS AT GAZA

The large green commemorative (Arrival of Egyptian Troops at Gaza) of June 15, 1948,



(Zeheri catalogue (1967), No. 103, page 152) has an interesting flaw. A large white mark, resembling an apostrophe, above and between "P" and "T" in the lower panel. (Fig. 1). It is about as large and just as prominent as the dot of "i" in "Mai" directly below.

I also note, on another stamp, a small white dot over the Arabic numeral zero at the lower right. (Fig. 2).



Figure 1



Finally, at least one stamp exists with a small green dot in the "1" of the numeral "10" at the

lower left. (Fig. 3).

A total of 449,752 stamps of this commemorative were issued.

Figure 3



the upper left. printing plate.

I mention them since I've encountered two, but they are probably nothing more than specks of dirt on the Fig. 5.



FORCES EGVPT 1940

A new book entitled "POSTAL SERVICE OF THE BRIFIGH FORCES IN EGYPT - 1932 - 1940, compiled by JOHN E. O. HOBBS, appeared in January. 1970. Published in London by the author, it gives a wealth of information in this specialized area - 40 pages, 9 of photos.

Noted is a comprehensive treatment of all of

the known variation, postmarks (illustrated) adequate listing of the various known errors, reproductions of the stamps and covers and a price list intended to be current and useful as a guide for mint, used, in full panes, and on cover. A new, and to our mind, more useful numbering system is employ-



ed. He offers credit to many of our colleagues in the Egypt Study Circle for their aid.

It is available, postpaid in the U.S. from our reader, WALTER BJORK. 54 West 84th St., New York, 10024. Price is \$3.00.



MOHAMED ALI PASHA

The equally large brown and green commemorative (Mohamed Ali Pasha) issued August 2, 1948 (Zeheri No. 110, page 154) boasts a break in the lower shoreline of the lake at the upper left of this stamp. It is a pretty prominent break (about 0.5 mm.) and it may be constant. See Fig. 4.

I have two others each with large spots of green ink at

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

HIGH DAM

Issued to coincide with the birthday of the late Egyptian President, Gamal Abdel Nasser and a tribute to to the opening of this great engineering feat. It stands as one of the largest in the world. Ultimately it will convert millions of acres of wasteland into productive soil, plus abundant power both to aid the Egyptian economy.



THE SOUVENIR SHEET

DATE OF ISSUE: DENOMINATION: 2 Stamps - 100 & 200 Mills WATERMARK: DESIGN: 2 Stamps, each with a portrait PRINTING: of Gamal Abdel Nasser. tric Generating Station of the dam in the background. DIMENSIONS: 136 x 80 mm. Blue, Emerald green & Brown Multiple Eagle Steel engraving for the stamps, rotogravure for the background. Printed by the Postal Printing House, in the U.A.R. 100,000 sheets

PERFORATION:







NASSER DEFINITIVES

DATE OF ISSUE: DENOMINATIONS: DESIGN: DIMENSIONS: PERFORATION: SHEET: COLORS:

WATERMARK:

QUANTITY:

Imperforate QUANTITY:

15 January, 1971 200 & 500 Mills Portrait of Nasser 40 x 40 mm. 11 1/2 35 stamps (5 x 7) Illustrations from photos Colors are unknown Multiple Eagle Unlisted

Special Mini-Souvenir Sheet Offered UNICEF - U.N. - Local Post - Penal Philately In Combination

A novel cinderella collector's item will be offered by the 906 Stamp Club on a one-day-only cachet cover on April 24, 1971. The cachet notes the 15th Anni versary of the penal club, while incorporating a new, (4th) issue of the 906 Loca Post stamp. For orders, send 25¢, (for each cover) to: Cachet Covers - 13-19EX-71 906 STAMP CLUB c/o A. G. Gauthier Post Office Box 100 So. Walpole, MA 02071



MERAWI

Controversy

For many years a serious controversy existed over a simple cancellation. "Simple" because it was a perfectly legitimate marking of the military outpost "MERAWI"; certainly controversial as it appeared under several dates, in different months, in the latter half of 1896 — several months prior to the. official date of issue of the first provisional stamps of the Sudan, March, 1897. So serious in fact, that even the renowned & highly regarded Gibbons catalog changed the date backward to September 1896, based then on a few copies which had come to light.

Much has been written concerning this odd dating, with the final conclusion that the Merawi postal clerk of that day, was at best working in the dark, or that he was a blind individual (another alternative might have been his inability to read, a peculiarity not uncommon in our own P.O. department at present). while only an error in the date on the canceller can explain it - short of deliberate forgery, it certainly would be interesting now to hear the real story from that particular clerk, first hand!



In support of the contention that an erroneous date stamp was used, we show here two covers, once in the possession of Capt. L. G. Hearn F.R.P.S.L. and the ESC of London showing the 1896 Merawi marking, backstamped at Halfa and Cairo in the same month one year later, 1897. These illustrations in the British "Stamp Collecting", November 5, 1938 in connection with an article by D. B. Armstrong. We acknowledge this source and take the liberty of reproducing it here.

Refuting any claim of valid usage is certain proof in the form of statements from several British military men who were in the area at the time, among them, Col. E.A. Stanton who later achieved fame as the designer of the "Camel" stamps of the Sudan. He says there were no adhesives of any kind available and that any mail was forwarded in a n unfranked condition with postage - due being collected on delivery.



We have seen very few copies of this particular item over the years, and we have wondered how many actually exist ? And in what denominations ? Those we have seen were all of the lower denominations. Now, after several years your happy editor has acquired a copy with an excellent strike dated 2 OC 96 on the 5 Piastre value.

It appears to me that two different cancellers were in use, one with Roman numerals in the month and one in the French manner i.e. OC, DE, etc., I have seen the error only on the French type. Perhaps our readers might check to help determine if this is true ?

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Stamp Collecting, Nov. 5 '38 by Douglas B. Armstrong

L'Orient Philatelique, Vol. III, No. 39 in January, 1939, by G. Seymour Thompson.

Gino Piperno

Postal Cancellations

In numbers three and five (1970) of Egyptian Topics, both Dr. Peter A. S. Smith and Gordon Garrett, have dealt with postal cancellations on fiscal stamps; and with these notes I am pleased to follow the same subject.

Photo A (below) shows an envelope franked with two 5 mills fiscal stamps, and consequently taxed for 20 mills; but its peculiarity consists in the fact that for these 20 mills, there has been used a normal 10 mills postage due stamp of the 1927/41 set in use during that period, but for the remaining 10 mills, two ordinary stamps of 5 mills each from the Farouk issue have been utilized. Both of these were cancelled in manuscript with a large "I", together with what I believe to be the initial letters of the postman.

FISCAL STAMPS

As strange as it may seem, this is not the first time that ordinary Egyptian postage stamps have been used to tax letters. Perhaps a few readers will remember that from the llth of July, 1940 the rate of a normal local letter was increased from 5 mills to 6 mills. Consequently, letters posted on the 13th of July, 1940 and delivered on the 14th of the same month, were taxed for two mills (i.e., double the difference involved for the above change of rate).

Photo B (on the following page) shows an envelope posted on the 13th of July at Alexandria and delivered on the 14th at Ismailia,

Due to the change of rate this envelope has also been taxed for the additional two mills.

chef du tanice du canaf de Serry

MARCH - APRIL 1971

EGYPTIAN TOPICS

POSTAL CANCELLATIONS ON EGYPTIAN FISCAL STAMPS (Gino Piperno)

he l de 911

At the post office in Ismailia it seems that there was a lack of postage due stamps of the two mill denomination, and therefore a normal, ordinary Farouk stamp has been used by the postman, cancelled by a large framed nTn.

We can therefore deduce that owing tounforeseen circumstances, ordinary Egyptian stamps have occasionally been used to tax letters.

It would be greatly appreciated if any of our readers having other examples of ordinary definitives used as postage dues would advise our editor so we may complete the documentation of these interesting items.

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THE PHILATELIC LITERATURE OF EGYPT

"AN ANNOTATED RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY"

By GORDON B. GARRENT

With Valuable Assistance From CHARLES FOX

SECTION VI AIRMAIL

THE FOLLOWING REFERENCES ARE TAKEN FROM L'ORIENT PHILATELIQUE AS NOTED:

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- LES ETIQUETTES AEROPOSTALES D'EGYPTE BOULAD, Jean, No. 24, April, 1935, pp. 8 & 9 In French. Interesting illustrations of various Air Mail labels, Including Heliopolis, Imperial Airways, and official issues.
- <u>NOTES AND QUESTIONS</u> BOULAD, Jean, No. 25, July, 1935, pp. 21 & 22. In French. Notes on flights between Cairo/Haifa, Egypte/Cologne, Egypt/South America, and Egypt/Bratislava. Also some notes on Heliopolis RAF Display in Egypt in 1935
- FIRST REGULAR POSTAL FLIGHTS FROM EAYPT BOULAD, Jean, No. 25, July, 1935, pp. 6-9 In French, but easy to follow. A chronological listing, annotated with notes of the RAF or Airline carrying the mail, rates between the cities on the way, beginning with 1921 to June, 1935. Excellent.
- LA POSTE AERIENNE IN EGYPTE Author Unlisted, Vol. III, No. 34, October, 1937, page 164 (F), Notes on flights from Egypt to Africa/South America, Central and So. America. Burma and the United States.

LISTE CHRONOLOGIQUE DES PREMIERS JOURS D'UTILISATION PAR L'EGYPTE, DES DIFFERENTES LIG-

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- THE EARLY AIR STAMPS OF EGYPT AND THE SUDAN EDWARDS, W. Buckland, Vol. IV, No. 53, pp. 428 - 431. Interesting and well illustrated with singles, 1st. flight covers of Imperial Airways, the Graf Zepp cancels and Sudan material.
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MARCH - APRIL 1971

EGYPTIAN TOPICS

THE PHILATELIC LITERATURE OF EGYPT (Continued)

- Le NISR PREMIER QUADRIMOTEUR de la S.A.I.D.E. a effectue le 23 AOUT 1948, SON VOL INAUG-
- URAL LE CAIRE ROME KHAYAT, Georges, VOL. V, No. 64. October, 1948, pp. 464 466. (F) Story of the flight with photo of plane. Good description of the issue.
- EGYPT AND SUDAN NOTES THOMPSON, G. Seymour, Vol. VI, No. 65, January 1949, pp. 1 4. A good discussion of flaws on the Palestine overprints for Air, and the S.A.I.D.E. overprints with varieties. Interesting.
- THE GRAF ZEPPELIN OVERPRINTS (In Arabic). Vol. VII, No. 74, April, 1951, pp. 132-140. Text is in Arabic but profusely illustrated with varieties of the overprints and a Zeppelin cover to Palestine, all of which are self-explanatory.
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- B.O.A.C. COMET JETLINER SERVICE FIRST FLIGHT BETWEEN LOND AND CAIRO AND RETURN Author unlisted. Vol. VII, No. 80, October, 1952, p. 500. (F) Two covers covering both legs of the flight are illustrated together with dates and data.
- OVERPRINT VARIETIES OF EGYPT EID, Mehanny, Vol. VIII, No. 84. pp. 213 215. Illustrated with drawings of the varieties in the Palestine overprints plus the K.E. & S. overprint on the 7 mm.

NOTE ADDITIONNELLE AU SUJET DES OBLITERATIONS DE LA POSTE AERIENNE ET DES AERODROMES D'EGYPTE

BOULAD, Gabriel, Vol. VIII, No. 84, October 1953, pp. 223 - 225. Illustrations of the airmail cachets in English, French and the comb. Arabic. and two types of Cairo

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- MARC POURPE GILBERT, J.H.E., Vol. X, No. 100, Jan / April, 1959, pp. 741 747, In both French and English. Interesting story of an additional "find", il ustrated, plus 3 historic photos. Translated to English by A. Mazloum, Notes by d'Humieres.
- <u>AIRGRAPHS</u> EID, M., No. 105, October, 1961, pp. 273/4. Information on the military "Airgraphs, their production and use with two illustrations of the canceller used.
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- AN ESSAY FOR THE M.E.A.N. CONFERENCE ISSUE OF 1946? SMITH, PETER A. S., No. 120, July-October, 1968, p. 83. Enlarged illustration showing major differences in the overprint although text is the same. Is it an essay?

(To be continued in the May / June Issue)

TELL A FRIEND ABOUT EGYPTIAN TOPICS - THE JOURNAL FOR SPECIALISTS OF EGYPT AND THE SUDAN

MEET OUR NEWEST ADVERTISER

We take a great deal of pleasure in introducing our newest advertiser to our readers MR. ALBERT QUAST, PHILATELIST, Hamburg 11, Brook 1, West Germany.

As our readers already know, we are very selective in our advertisers, and we accept only those dealers who are known to us, or who come to us highly recommended.

A list of Mr. Quast's credits include: The Collectors Club, New York, Postal History Society, New York, The China Stamp Society, Inc., and China Philatelic Society of London, Mexico - Elmhurst Philatelic Society International, Int. Society of Guatemala Collectors, The Society of Costa Rica Collectors, Maritime Postmark Society, Rossica Society of Russian Philately, The Postal History Society and the British Philatelic Association.

We know Mr. Quast to be fair and reliable. To those of you disposing of quality material, it may be to your advantage to deal in the rising European market. By the same token, those specialists among us may find items unobtainable elsewhere. When you do write to Mr. Quast, please tell him you saw it in Egyptian Topics.

Special Awards & Trophies Abound 13-IPEX-71

Penal Philately has once again been recognized for its aim—people contact through an understanding of Philately. The 906 Stamp Club at the Massachusetts Correctional Institution, South Walpole, Mass. will record another "first" with the awarding of the special HISSMAN AWARD FOR SPACE COVERS at 13-IPEX-71, April 24th); the first time the award has been offered in a Penal Philatelic Exhibition.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Hissman, in attendance with other honored guests, will make the presentation to the meritorious exhibit during the 15th Anniversary festivities. The purpose of the Award, being self-evident, is to foster the collecting of this popular topic, philatelic souvenirs of the "Space Age".

A total of 28 Trophies will be awarded in eight catagories, (1st, 2nd and 3rd in each) and three trophies: GRAND AWARD TROPHY, for Best of Show; PRESIDENT'S TROPHY, for Best Exhibit by any institutional inmate; and COMMITTEE AWARD, (trophy) for Best Exhibit by a 906 Associate Member. There will be two HONORABLE MENTION Ribbons available in each catagory. A floor auction and bourse will be held and special cachet covers available. Door prizes will be presented.

Special Mini-Souvenir Sheet Offered

UNICEF - U.N. - Local Post - Penal Philately In Combination

A novel cinderella collector's item will be effered by the 906 Stamp Club on a one-day-only cachet cover on April 24, 1971. The cachet notes the 15th Anniversary of the penal club, while incorporating a new, 4th issue, of the 906 Local Fost stamp.

The First Local Post from an American Prison offers a mini-souvenir sheet honoring UNICEF with a trilogy of: the anniversary of 906, new local post stamp, and UNICEF in combination on each cachet cover from the 13th Immate Philatelic Exhibition, 1971, (13-IPEX-71).

Proceeds from the sale of these covers will be presented to a representative of UNICEF, as the inmate and associate members of 906 express their concern for the most innocent victims of today's global avarice.

Covers will be franked with the U. S. commemorative stamp honoring the United Nations. Peelable labels will be used for addressing No. 6 envelopes, cancelled at "IPEX STA." on April 24th. No covers will be sent under separate cover. For orders, send 25¢, for each cover, to:

For Covers:

Cachet Covers, 13-IPEX.71

906 STAMP CLUB

For Prospectus

William Redmond,

13-IPEX-71 Chairman

c/o A. G. Gauthier P. O. Box 100 So. Walpole, MA 02071

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

JUST AS WE CO TO PRESS THE FOLLOWING EMISSIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM CAIRO. INFORMATION ON QUANTITY PRINTED IS NOT YET AVAILABLE. SIZE OF SHEETS IS BASED ON PREVIOUS EMISSIONS:

> DATE 6 MARCH. 1971 OF ISSUE:

CAIRO INTERNATIONAL FAIR

DENOMINATIONS: 20 Mills DIMENSIONS: 25 x 42 mm. DESIGNS: Modernistic symbols with cogs above and pyramids below. PERFORATION: 11 1/2 COLORS: Mauve, violet dark & pale yellow black, white, gray 50 stamps (5 x 10) SHEET: WATERMAKR: Multiple Eagle PRINTING: Rotogravure CONTROLS: QUANTITY:

9TH CONGRESS OF ARAB POSTAL UNION

20 Mills, and (Air Mail) 30 Mills 42 x 25 mm.

Map of Africa and the Middle East symbol of the Arab Postal Service and the post horn. 11 1/2

20 m. Pale blue, orange & green 30 m. Pale gray-green, orange & deep blue-green

50 stamps (5×10) each value Multiple Eagle

Postal Organization House in the U.A.R. Date of Issue and Serial Number Not listed

20 Mills 42 x 25 mm. Globe of the world Africa predominant and Cotton Boll. 11 1/2 Bright blue, pale green, beige, and brown, white 50 stamps (5 x 10) Multiple Eagle

EGYPTIAN COTTON







WAR POSTAGE





