

EGYPT.

1866. The First Issue.

The plan of the Exhibit is as follows: a brief history of the postal system just prior to 1866, showing examples of the Postal European system used internally and overseas and the Government Post system from April 1865 until December 31, 1866.

The overseas usages demonstrating the same system employed after the first issue's introduction. We see the Essays as requested by the Egyptian Postmaster General, these include two of the five recorded Essays by Negroni of Paris and the more numerous examples in somewhat similar style, prepared by Prevost of Paris.

Finally the Essays and Proofs by Pelkas of Genoa, the eventually contracted printer of the issue, are shown.

These include rarities such as the 1 piastre value overprinted 10 paras and the 2 piastre value overprinted 20 paras of which only three examples exist, perforated Proofs in multiples, showing the marginal inscriptions as used on the issued sheets.

Also shown is a half sheet of 100 of the watermarked paper utilized by Pelkas. As this particular item does not 'display' well an illustration of the watermark types is shown.

On the remaining frames the set of seven different values, issued on January 1, 1866 are shown in detail stamp by stamp, beginning with the 5 para grey value and an explanation of the two background types found on all values of the issue through to the 10 piastre.

A guide to the perforation of the sheets follows, as the sheet size of 200 was the same for the seven values, with the exception of the 1 piastre issued in two panes of 100 divided by a gutter margin. It should be stated that all multiples of the first Egyptian issue can be considered scarce, to quote Peter A S Smith FRPSL from 'Egypt Stamps & Postal History' 'Although blocks of four or larger are known for all values they are rare to very rare' and in this Exhibit the 5 para is represented by two strips of four and a block of four, the 10 para with two remarkable unused blocks of six, a strip of three and a strip of four on letter. The 20 para is represented by a block of four perforated and imperforate with watermark, the 1 piastre by the largest known multiple of the first issue, the famous block of 53. The 10 piastre value by the unique unused pair ex King Farouk.

Due to the perforation and watermarked paper of the issue not being adopted successfully, perforation and watermark varieties are displayed along with selected background and overprint retouches, errors and plate varieties.

Covers are exhibited within the stamp display, primarily under the 1 piastre value which was the normal internal rate for a 10 gram letter.

Even with the 1 piastre value covers from locales other than Alexandria and Cairo are infrequently found and the Exhibit also includes a Territorial Post Office cover from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia bearing the 1 piastre, this being one of the four recorded examples. This is the second earliest stamped cover known from Saudi Arabia.²

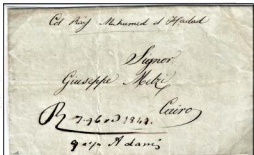
Combination covers with the Austrian, French, British and Italian Post Offices are also shown to illustrate how mail was sent abroad bearing the first issue, which was not valid for prepayment of postage to foreign countries outside the Turkish Empire.

The remaining values on letter can be considered extremely unusual and examples of the 5 para, 10 para, 20 para and 10 piastre values recorded (There are only three covers with 5 piastre and 10 piastre values recorded) are noted here along with a study of the extant cancellations, instructional markings applied to unpaid letters, short paid letters, a registral cover, registration receipt forms and a Consular Mail entire all being used within the period from January 1, 1866 until July 31, 1867.

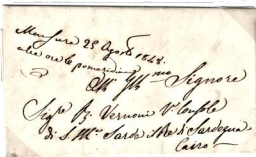
Posta Europea.

Courier Mail sent in 1841 and 1848.

Earlier letter sent prior to the organisation of the Posta Europea,
1848 letter mailed from an Office yet to open under the Posta Europea.



October 30, 1841: Letter from Atfe to Cairo
endorsed at top "Col Razi Muhammed el Hadad" and carried by hand.
Atfe's Posta Europea Office opened in 1864.



August 25, 1848: Letter from Mansura to Sardinian Consul in Cairo,
endorsed at top "Mansura 25 Agosto 1848 - a tre ore le pomeridiane"
(at 3 o'clock in the afternoon) and carried by hand.
Mansura's Posta Europea Office opened in 1866.

The Posta Europea.

Prior to the first issue of adhesives, the Egyptian Postal Service was, to all intents and purposes, contracted out to Giacomo Muzzi's private 'Posta Europea' postal service.

In 1862 the Egyptian Government had awarded the mail contract to the Posta Europea service with the proviso that Egyptian Government mail was to be carried free of charge.

In lieu of payment for the use of the Egyptian State Railways in distribution of the mails.

The Posta Europea service opened up Offices where the newly built Railway reached larger towns and these offices were later to become Egyptian Post Offices.

Initially Giacomo Muzzi, Director of the now thriving Posta Europea Postal service, with Vittorio Chioffi, requested permission, on June 7, 1864 from Ismail Pasha, the Viceroy of Egypt, to issue and sell Postage Stamps. They wished to carry mail at a uniform charge within the Country instead of mail being charged by distance carried.

The time taken to mark the rate paid or due on a letter could thus be saved. The Viceroy's reply must have startled Muzzi & Chioffi, as instead of granting permission to their Company he purchased their business outright on behalf of the Egyptian Government.

A deed of sale was signed on October 29, 1864 the transfer of ownership was effective from January 2, 1865. Giacomo Muzzi was made Postmaster General of the new 'Government Post' service.



*July 10, 1862: Internal cover from Zifta to Alexandria.
Handstamped 'Posta Europea/Zifta' and dated in manuscript.
Rated in crayon '20' = 1 piastre 20 paras.
(There were 40 paras to each Piastre).
The rate would be lowered to 1 piastre on January 2, 1866.*

*Sixteen 'Posta Europea' Offices were opened: Alexandria and Cairo in 1844.
Atfe, Benha, Berket El Sah, Damanshour, Damkuta, Galuh, Kafr Zayat, Mansura,
Mehalla, Sarnanauf, Suez, Tanta, Zagazik and Zifta between 1857 and 1860.¹*

The Posta Europea.

The first handstamp of Alexandria.

Recorded dates of use: April 4, 1844 until June 21, 1848.



May 20, 1845: Cover from Alexandria to Cairo, addressed to the Sardinian Consul, struck with Type I handstamp "Posta Europea-In Alessandria D'Egitto" in black. On the earlier wagon rate notifications are unusual as most mail was carried under contract, this letter, unlike the one below, is rated "1 1/2" piastres in manuscript.



May 3, 1847: Cover from Marseille carried outside the Mails to Alexandria, where posted through the Posta Europea system to Cairo, addressed to the Sardinian Consul. Struck with Type I handstamp "Posta Europea-In Alessandria D'Egitto" in blue.

The Posta Europea.

The first handstamp of Alexandria.

Oval handstamp, Type I, reading "Posta Europea-In Alexandria D'Egitto".
Recorded dates of use: April 4, 1844 until June 21, 1848.



May 23, 1846: Cover from Casale de Monteferrato, Sardinia to Cairo, addressed to the Sardinian Consul, with two-line dated despatch, prepaid 1 lire 50 centesimi in manuscript.
Reverse with Livorno transit (June 3) and French Post Office "Alexandrie-Egypte" datestamp (June 11), thence transferred to the Posta Europea and struck with "Posta Europea-In Alexandria D'Egitto" in black.¹

Illustrated in "Posta Europea" by Ambassador Luca Biolato on page 743.



Reduced copy of the reverse.

The Poste Europee.

The Second Handstamp of Alexandria.

Old handstamp, Type II, now reading "Direzione Della Posta Europea-Alessandria D'Egitto".
 Recieved dates of use: January 7, 1851 until December 5, 1860.



July 25, 1851: Cover from Elivrio with framed cachet "Consolato G. Sadro-in Livorno"
 to the Sardinian Consul in Cairo, prepaid 60 centesimi in manuscript.
 Transit of French Post Office "Alexandrie-Egypte" datestamp (Aug 11)
 transferred to the Poste Europee system with Poste Europee datestamp of the same day in black.



September 6, 1854: Internal cover from Alexandria to Cairo endorsed "preme" (first)
 with sender's cachet in green and Type II "Direzione Della Posta Europea-Alessandria D'Egitto".

The Posta Europea.

Internal and External Usages from Samanud.



January 6, 1864: Internal cover from Samanud to Alexandria.
"Posta Europea/Samanud" handstamp in blue-green.
Rated in crayon "120" = 1 piastre 20 paras.



October 16, 1863: Letter from Abouir forwarded privately to Samanud by Krebser & Cie.,
where placed in the Posta Europea system and sent to Alexandria.
Transferred to the Italian Post Office in Alexandria, prepaid in cash,
with blue "Alessandria D'Epitto/Poste Italiane" (Oct 19).
Sent on via Ancona, Bologna, Luzern and Zurich to Basle, Switzerland (Oct 28).

Illustrated in "Posta Europea" by Ambassador Luca Bolognini on page 737.

The Posta Europea.

Registered Mail.

The registration service is believed to have been in use from 1858 and, from the entire letter below, certainly from 1859. Originally this service was without handstamps and the docketing was of manuscript notation and number.

Straight line registration handstamps reading "Per Conseguenza" were introduced, copied from the then current cancellations used by the Tuscan Post Office.



1859 (arabic dated 1242): Cover from Tanta to Alexandria sent registered. Manuscript docketing number "No. 63" and "r" plus the additional postal charge in red crayon struck with "Per Conseguenza" and Type III "Posta Europea-Tanta" handstamps in deep blue ink.¹

Just two registered letters from Tanta have been recorded during the Posta Europea period. Smith: "All registered letters are rare".²

Illustrated in 'Posta Europea' by Ambassador Luca Biakato on page 520.

The Posta Europea.

Registered Mail.



April 17, 1864: Cover from Kafer-Zayat to Alexandria sent registered with manuscript note of "3" piastres in blue cursive at top and red "A" denoting Alexandria as addressed entirely in arabic. Struck on despatch with Type V "Posta Europea-Kafer Zayat" in blue and framed "Per Consigna" registration handstamp. Type VI Alexandria "Posta Europea-Alexandria" arrival datstamp in black.¹

Framed registration handstamps reading "Per Consigna" were introduced, copied from the then current cancellations used by the Treasury Post Office.

Smith: "All registered letters are rare".²

Illustrated in *Posta Europea* by Ambassador Luca Biolato on page 554.

*The sole recorded example
of registered Posta Europea mail from Kafer-Zayat.*

1. Spence, A. Denis.
2. Smith "Tugger Namps & Postal History", page 18.
3. Ex collection Ambassador Biolato.

*The Posta Europea.
Essays for proposed Stamp Issue.*



1863-1864: Essays for proposed adhesive stamp issue, rectangular labels in black on white paper in four different denominations with "Piastr Tarifa": 1 piastre, 1½ piastres, 2 piastres and 3 piastres, rates which were applicable to both the Posta Europea service and the later Government Post.
Only two sets of these Essays have been found, the other being in the Roth collection, ex King Farouk.

The lower row shows the second type of Essay, with imprinted "Posta Europea - Bono Per Para - Mansura" again Italian showing denominations with 10 paras, 20 paras, 30 paras and 1 piastre values on yellow, deep blue, green and rose-white papers.
This set is one of three complete sets recorded and the Essays are mounted on the album page upon which they were originally found. These Essays became the basis from which the Interpostal Seals were issued under the auspices of the Egyptian Post Office from 1864.

This stamp project was aborted—the Interpostal Seals were only ever utilized as Official stamps with no value indicated. However, these Essays demonstrate the initial attempt to issue a set of stamps for pre-payment of postage in Egypt.¹

¹ Quarterly Circular, Egypt Study Circle, Volume 323, No. 2, March 1992, by Craig Todd.
An excellent Arabist/philatelist Carol Bland.

1866-The First Issue.

The Government Post.

After the transfer of ownership, the Posta Europea service was replaced by the Government Post and the genesis of the first adhesive stamp issue was born.

From April 15th 1865 the old Posta Europea cancellations gave way to those that would be used alongside or cancelling the first issue adhesives: 'Poste Vice-Reali Egiziane' (Egyptian Vice-Royal Post)-Giacomo Muzi, being of Italian extraction, ensured that Italian became the Official Postal language of Egypt for the duration of the first issue.

The cancellations were in Italian, the short inscriptions were in Italian, Registration Receipt forms (as we shall later see exhibited here) were in Italian and indeed, so was the 1867 Postal Notice for the introduction of the second adhesive issue.



April 26th 1865. Cover from Becha to Alexandria cancelled by 'Poste Vice-Reali Egiziane-Becha' datetstamp in black, rated 1 piastre to pay in blue manuscript crayon.

Reverse with 'Poste Vice-Reali Egiziane-Alessandria' datetstamp (April 27th) struck in black.

*The supply of the new 'Poste Vice-Reali Egiziane' datetstamps was made available to at least thirteen Post Offices from April 15th 1865, this being the number so far recorded using this datetstamp in the year 1865.6
Offices using this type of cancellation, including minor sub-types, on the 1866 first issue increased to a recorded total of 24.*

*Mailed just eleven days after issue,
this is the earliest Government Post cover from Becha.*

The Government Post.

Earliest Recorded Cover.



April 17, 1865: Cover from Alexandria to Mansura struck with "Poste Vice-Roali Egiziane-Alessandria" datestamp in blue-black. "Poste Vice-Roali Egiziane-Mansura" arrival of the following day in blue on reverse.¹ Rated with "2" piastres in blue crayon, the tariff at this date being unclear: from May 31, 1865 it was confirmed as 1 piastre for under 750 grams.

This is the earliest recorded Government Post letter from any Post Office, showing the earliest known usages of both of these datestamps, Smith listing Alexandria as April 18, 1865 and Mansura as April 22, 1865.²

Illustrated in 'Poste Farougi' by Ambassador Luca Biolato on page 390.

¹ *Ex collection Ambasciador Biolato*.

² Smith 'Suppl. Recueil de Postal History', page 23.

The Government Post.



September 4, 1865: Cover from Alexandria to the American Mission in Cairo with 'Poste Vice-Royale Egyptienne-Alexandria' datestamp in black. PVRE-Cairo arrival of the same day struck in blue on the reverse. Rated 2 piastres 20 paras due in blue crayon manuscript, a form of rate notation used under the Poste Europeen.



June 18th 1865: Cover from Tanta to Mansura with 'Poste Vice-Royale Egyptienne-Tanta' datestamp in black. PVRE-Mansura arrival of the same day struck in blue on reverse. Prepaid 1 piastre 20 paras in red crayon manuscript.

The earliest recorded Government Post cover from Tanta.¹

¹ Egyptian Postal Markings 1865-1870, P. Adams and EDC, 1970.

The Government Post.

Cover to Marseille via the French Post Office.



June 8, 1865: Cover from Cairo to Marseille with 'Poste Vice-Royal Egyptienne Cairo' datestamp of despatch in blue. Whilst there were no manuscript charges on the letter pertaining to the Government Post this cover would have been charged 1 piastre for the journey from Cairo to the French Post Office in Alexandria arriving the following day. From there it travelled via the French 'Paquebots de la Méditerranée' service on the steamer 'Mueris' arriving Marseille June 16th 1865.

Charged with handstruck 10 decimes due handstamp on arrival. It will be seen that all mail to overseas destinations had to be prepaid to Alexandria, as there were, as yet, no reciprocal facilities for Postage Due mail. This was to be rectified by the issue of Postage Due handstamps along with the first adhesive stamps on January 1st 1866.

The Government Post.

On January 2, 1865 the Poste Française concession, with eight years of it's contract left to run, was sold back to the Egyptian State Government by Giacomo Muzi and the heirs of Tito Cusi for the sum of 400,000 French Francs. Giacomo Muzi, with the title of Beg, was nominated as the Director General of Posts.



96, di Protocollo 1817

OGGETTO

Lettere di Sanclizia

M. S.
S. J. Muzi
Cairo

Alessandria, 22 dicembre 1864

M. S.

Ho l'onore di compiacere al S. V. Re che
esemplari del nuovo regolamento si
fatta che andrà in vigore col 1.º gennaio
prossimo. Per ordine superiore le viene
data parte che è amministrata, e data
parte ad alcune le lettere che relative alla
introduzione dei francobolli egiziani.
Sperando che altri della più distinta stima e
considerazione.

M. S.
M. S.

December 23, 1865: Letter as headed "Direzione Generale delle Vire-Regali Poste Egiziane notepaper," written in Alessandria and addressed to Cairo, personally signed at base "Muzi Beg", just a week prior to the first issue of adhesive stamps.

The Government Post.

Final Day of Stampless Mail.



December 31, 1865: Cover from Alexandria to Cairo, prepaid 1 piastre with manuscript crayon marking in blue as practiced by the Poste Européenne mail system.

Cancelled by "Poste Vice Reale Egizienne-Alexandria" datestamp in black, Cairo arrival, in black, on reverse dated the same day.

The Government Post period runs from April 15, 1865 until December 31, 1865. The first adhesive stamps were issued on January 1, 1866 thus the cover above represents a 'last day' usage.¹

1866-The First Issue.

Pellax Essays.

Muzi ordered Essays to be prepared in 1865, contracting overseas to printers with Essays recorded from Negroni and Prevost, both of Paris; however the eventual successful printer of the issue, were the Pellax Brothers of Genoa.



Essay.



Issued 5 piastre.



Essay.

Essays by Pellax probably for proposed Italian issue of 1865.
Lithographed on wove paper, imperforate, no watermark, without gum.

Possible fanciful view of the Lighthouse at Alexandria.
Note the '1' corner value tablets (similar to the issued 1866 Egypt 5pt.)
and background oval printing in blue (left) and in grey (right)
which is similar to the background of the eventual 1866 issue 5 pt. and 10pt. values.



Essays by Pellax for a proposed Italian issue of 1865.
Lithographed on wove paper, imperforate, no watermark, without gum.

More similar to advertising labels for the Pellax Brothers.
Left example valued '10' in deep brown on deep blue and blue with 'Pozzelli Pellax, Genova'
and right example valued '10' with pale clove shade (similar to Egypt 1866 1pt. colour)
and pale blue, with 'Pellax, Genova'.

Besides the Egyptian accepted Essays that follow, these are the only known
Essays for postage stamps recorded from Pellax Brothers of Genoa.

The following Essays were prepared against a design sketched by the Egyptian Government
and hence the similarity in the prepared Essays as shown on the following pages.

1866-The First Issue.

Negroni Essays.

Muzi ordered Essays to be prepared in 1865, contracting overseas to printers with Essays recorded from Negroni and Prevost, both of Paris; and the eventual successful printer of the issue, the Pellis Brothers of Genoa.

The Essays were prepared against a design sketched by the Egyptian Government and hence the similarity in the prepared Essays as shown on the following pages.



*1 piastre red overprint (bir ghraush)
on 10 para yellow, imperforate
on thin white glazed paper.*



*1 piastre yellow overprint
on 10 para lilac, imperforate
on thin white glazed paper.*

*Smith² records just three Negroni Essays,
these two being additional to that total.*

*It is interesting to note that the background recorded colours
of the Negroni Essays: blue, lilac, yellow and pink
were all eventually utilised: for the 20 para, 1 piastre, 2 piastre and 10 piastre values.*

Prevoist Essays.

The Prevoist Essays were engraved in Paris and probably copied from Negroni's Italian Essays.

They do differ, the Prevoist Essays shown below can be compared to those on the previous page as follows—the numeral '10' and 'Para' being considerably fatter on the Negroni Essays.

The proposed 10 para value was the only value utilised whilst the overprint can be found reading 1 piastre or 20 paras.



10 para.

*Thick white card paper
without overprint
in rose, brown, green and carmine.*



10 para.

*Thin diagonally laid paper
without overprint
in brown on pink.*



10 para.

*Thin diagonally laid paper
without overprint
in carmine on lilac.*

*The 'laid' lines in the paper are thicker
than those used for the 'Envelope' types that follow.*

Prevost Essays.

Prevost also printed a series of Essays, with the overprint now reading '20 paras', the background stamp value remained 10 paras.



10 paras.

*Thin to medium wave paper
in brown on buff or blued paper
overprinted 20 paras in black.*



10 paras.

*Medium wave paper
in yellow on white
overprinted 20 paras in black.*

Prevost Essays.



10 para.

Medium laid paper.

In black on cream and in steel blue on grey tinted paper.

Overprint 1 piastre in circle at left.



10 para.

Thick white, glazed card paper.

In black, overprint 1 piastre in circle at left.

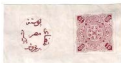


10 para.

Thick white, glazed card paper.

In black, overprinted 1 piastre in blue.¹

Prevost Essays.



10 para Essays with Overprint 1 piastre in circle.

*Engraved on white or tinted thin to medium wove paper.
Various colours-schist yellow was employed for the 1866 2 piastre,
the other shades shown were not used. However the yellow, green and brown
colours were employed for the 1867 issue 5 para, 20 para and 5 piastre values.*

Prevost Essays.



10 para.

Thin to medium wove coloured paper.

*In green on blue grey, in black on green, in black on yellow
and in brown on bright orange yellow.*

Overprint 1 plaque in circle at left.¹

Prevost Essays.



10 para.
Thick white card paper
in black overprinted 1 piastre
in black.



10 para.
Thick salmon coloured paper
in black overprinted 1 piastre
alongside in black.



10 para.
Medium weight paper 'postal stationery' essay,
in brown with overprint 1 piastre.¹

Prepaid Essays.



10 pape.

*Medium wove paper 'Postal Stationery' Essay,
in yellow with overprint 1 piastre in circle.
The value is shown in the arabic characters at right.¹*



10 para.

*Medium wove paper 'Postal Stationery' Essay,
in green on blank paper with overprint 1 piastre in circle.
The value is shown in the arabic characters at top.²*

Prepaid Essays.



10 para.

*Medium wove paper 'postal stationery' Essay,
in orange red with overprint 1 piastre.*

The value is shown in the arabic characters at right.



10 para.

*Medium wove paper 'postal stationery' Essay,
in orange red with overprint 10 paras
struck over the stamp area.*

without the circle surrounding the overprint Essay.

Prevost Essays.



10 para.

Two Essays on the same Envelope.

Lower Essay: on medium wove paper 'Postal Stationery' Essay in rose red without the overprint Essay alongside.

Upper Essay: 'Egypste' '100' para in 'milikier' version of the same shade, listed by Zehrer¹, Smith², Ballou³ and Robson Lowe as an 1869 Prevost Essay, note the differences in value and the central vignette with blank central motif.

*Either both designs were Essays projected for the 1886 issue,
or old stock was utilized for the new project.
Only two examples recorded.*

¹ Zehrer Catalogue, Edited by M. Ballou.
² Egypt Stamps & Postal History, Peter Smith, 1998.
³ Stamps of Egypt, Louis Ballou, 1900.
and The Kings of Egypt & Their Stamps, Robson Lowe, 1986.

Pellas Proofs.

*Imperforate on white good quality paper, without watermark.
The colours used are those selected for the issue however the issued adhesives
are in somewhat duller shades of the same colours with differences
in the paper opacity and the intensity of the overprinting ink.*

The two background types are detailed in this Exhibit under the issued stamps of the issue.



5 para.

Type II, Matrix Types 1 and 2.

Lower two stamps with frame breaks above NE corner.



5 para.

Type II-1-II-II.

Matrix Types 6-5-6-6/7-4-7-7.



10 para.

Type I-II/II-II.

Deep Brown.



10 para.

Type I.

Pale Brown.

Pelias Proofs.

The relative quantity of these Proofs have enabled philatelists to plate the first issue adhesives, without recourse to the issued stamps which are extremely rare in multiples.



20 para.
Type I-II-III.



20 para.
Type I-II-III.
Upper left stamp with large break
is overprint "Posta" at top.
Positions 141-142/161-162.



1 piastre.
All Type I.
Lower right stamp
with break in right
vertical frame-line.

I A N E



1 piastre.
Type I-II-III.
Marginal inscription
Right Post
Positions 18-19/28-29.

Pellas Proofs.



2 piastre.
Type II-II/II-I.



2 piastre.
Type I.¹



3 piastre.
Type II.
Long tail to "Mursu"
(Egyptian) to left word of overprint.
Constant in positions 141-160,
the eighth horizontal row.¹



10 piastre.
Type I-I/I-II-II.
Positions 108-207/146-147.²



10 piastre.
Type I-I/II-II.
Third stamp with diagonal line
through SE corner
repaired before issue.

¹ Ex Collection of the Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
² Ex collection Peter Smith.

Pellus Proofs.

*More accurately, the un-overprinted background Proofs below are more probably from Printer's waste.
It is probable that most pre-printing Trials utilised the plates of the 10 piastre as this value had the lowest initial issued printing, the background Proofs of the 5 piastre being more elusive.*



10 piastre.

*Watermarked thin paper.
In pale grey-blue, singles in darker shades, one printed on both sides.
Block¹ as exhibited is Type II-II/1-II.*



*5 piastre.
No watermark,
Type I.
Thin paper.*

*5 piastre.
No watermark,
Type I.
Turkish 'Tanzim'
(stamp) overprint doubled
at right.*

*Proof imperforate on good quality paper
without watermark.
Types II-II/1-1. Matrix Types 9-9/4 (inverted) and 7.
Positions 173/194.*

On the 10 piastre Pellus Proofs sheets the bottom horizontal row of the sheet, positions 181-200 were mixed Transfers as Transfer Type 10 was removed and thus the issued stamps are mixed Transfers of background and overprint type.

*It is known that a Type 'B' stone must have existed
but marginal multiples examples of the issued stamp do not exist and
'much further research is needed to fully determine Stone B's configuration'.²*

Pellas Proofs.

10 Piasres.



Type I-4/II-II.

Matrix Types 9-9/2-5.

Matrix Types 2 and 5 are replaced Transfers
in the bottom row of the sheet as Matrix Type 10
had been removed from the printing stone.¹

Horizontally imperforate, perforated 13 vertically.

Right Paste Positions 172-173/192-193.

Inscription at base 'DIT' near complete

from lower marginal inscription 'Ministero Dei Lavori Pubblici'.



All Type II.

Matrix Types 7-7-7/8-8-8-8.

Horizontally imperforate, perforated 13 vertically and imperforate at right,
two rejoined blocks of four.

Note break in circle (arabic 'and') in central word
on the fourth stamp in the upper row.

PELLAS PROOFS.

Perforation Trials.

Pellas also printed perforated Proofs, from the imperforate Proofs previously seen. These were again on thicker paper and in glossier colours than those eventually issued. It is extraordinary that the 'Proof' paper was not eventually used in the manufacture of the 1866 issue. Of a much higher quality and less porous, it appears to have adapted to being both gummied and perforated more readily than the issued stamps on the paper supplied by the firm of Bondi in Turin.

Both the imperforate and perforated Pellas Proofs display very few of the flaws and abrasions that the plate suffered whilst printing the issued adhesives, many of the issued stamps show a loss of detail in the printing that is altogether absent on the clearer Proof printings shown below.

The two background types and ten matrix types referred to here are examined under the issued stamps of the issue.

Corner block and
rejoined strip of
four and block
of six showing
complete
inscription at left
'FRANCOBOLLI'
and 'LIST' of
'PUBBLICAT'
at base.



Left Pane
Positions 101-103/
121-123/141-144/
161-162/181-182.



5 para greenish grey,
Type H-II-I/I-I-I/I-I-I-I/I-I-I-I/I-I-I-I.
Matrix Types 5-4-3-2 and 1. The setting was inverted.
Perforated 13.

Pellus Proofs

40 Pages

As multiples of the issued stamps are either non-existent and all but un-obtainable, I have attempted to show as many Marginal Inscription pieces as possible in displaying the perforated Pelles Proof.

The full sheet of 200 was 10 horizontal rows of 20 stamps.

The inscriptions on the sheet, read horizontally at top:

"VICE REALI" and "POSTE EGIPTIANE"

vertically reading up at left: "FRANCISVILLE PA"

vertically reading down at right: "FRANCIBOLLI PIASTRE 1"

inverted, horizontally at base of sheet: "MINISTERO DEI LAVORI PUBBLICI"
(Ministry of Public Works).

Corner block
rejoined from
block and strip
of four and
block of six,
showing part
inscription at
top with last
"K" of EGIZIANE
and complete
FRANCOROLL

Positions
19-20/39-40/
57-60/78-80/
98-100.



Type IV-IV/IV-IV/IV-V-IV-IV/V-IV-IV/V-IV-IV.

Matrix Type 1-1, 2-2, 3-8 (inserted)-3-3, 4-7 (inserted)-4-4

Perforated all round.

PELLAS PROOFS.

20 Para.

Matching corner reconstruction to the 10 para Proof.



20 para.

Type 8-9/10-11/12-13/14-15/16-17/18-19/20-21/22-23/24-25/26-27/28-29/30-31/32-33/34-35/36-37/38-39/40-41/42-43/44-45/46-47/48-49/50-51/52-53/54-55/56-57/58-59/60-61/62-63/64-65/66-67/68-69/70-71/72-73/74-75/76-77/78-79/80-81/82-83/84-85/86-87/88-89/90-91/92-93/94-95/96-97/98-99/100-101/102-103/104-105/106-107/108-109/110-111/112-113/114-115/116-117/118-119/120-121/122-123/124-125/126-127/128-129/130-131/132-133/134-135/136-137/138-139/140-141/142-143/144-145/146-147/148-149/150-151/152-153/154-155/156-157/158-159/160-161/162-163/164-165/166-167/168-169/170-171/172-173/174-175/176-177/178-179/180-181/182-183/184-185/186-187/188-189/190-191/192-193/194-195/196-197/198-199/200-201/202-203/204-205/206-207/208-209/210-211/212-213/214-215/216-217/218-219/220-221/222-223/224-225/226-227/228-229/230-231/232-233/234-235/236-237/238-239/240-241/242-243/244-245/246-247/248-249/250-251/252-253/254-255/256-257/258-259/260-261/262-263/264-265/266-267/268-269/270-271/272-273/274-275/276-277/278-279/280-281/282-283/284-285/286-287/288-289/290-291/292-293/294-295/296-297/298-299/300-301/302-303/304-305/306-307/308-309/310-311/312-313/314-315/316-317/318-319/320-321/322-323/324-325/326-327/328-329/330-331/332-333/334-335/336-337/338-339/340-341/342-343/344-345/346-347/348-349/350-351/352-353/354-355/356-357/358-359/360-361/362-363/364-365/366-367/368-369/370-371/372-373/374-375/376-377/378-379/380-381/382-383/384-385/386-387/388-389/390-391/392-393/394-395/396-397/398-399/400-401/402-403/404-405/406-407/408-409/410-411/412-413/414-415/416-417/418-419/420-421/422-423/424-425/426-427/428-429/430-431/432-433/434-435/436-437/438-439/440-441/442-443/444-445/446-447/448-449/450-451/452-453/454-455/456-457/458-459/460-461/462-463/464-465/466-467/468-469/470-471/472-473/474-475/476-477/478-479/480-481/482-483/484-485/486-487/488-489/490-491/492-493/494-495/496-497/498-499/500-501/502-503/504-505/506-507/508-509/510-511/512-513/514-515/516-517/518-519/520-521/522-523/524-525/526-527/528-529/530-531/532-533/534-535/536-537/538-539/540-541/542-543/544-545/546-547/548-549/550-551/552-553/554-555/556-557/558-559/560-561/562-563/564-565/566-567/568-569/570-571/572-573/574-575/576-577/578-579/580-581/582-583/584-585/586-587/588-589/590-591/592-593/594-595/596-597/598-599/600-601/602-603/604-605/606-607/608-609/610-611/612-613/614-615/616-617/618-619/620-621/622-623/624-625/626-627/628-629/630-631/632-633/634-635/636-637/638-639/640-641/642-643/644-645/646-647/648-649/650-651/652-653/654-655/656-657/658-659/660-661/662-663/664-665/666-667/668-669/670-671/672-673/674-675/676-677/678-679/680-681/682-683/684-685/686-687/688-689/690-691/692-693/694-695/696-697/698-699/700-701/702-703/704-705/706-707/708-709/710-711/712-713/714-715/716-717/718-719/720-721/722-723/724-725/726-727/728-729/730-731/732-733/734-735/736-737/738-739/740-741/742-743/744-745/746-747/748-749/750-751/752-753/754-755/756-757/758-759/760-761/762-763/764-765/766-767/768-769/770-771/772-773/774-775/776-777/778-779/780-781/782-783/784-785/786-787/788-789/790-791/792-793/794-795/796-797/798-799/800-801/802-803/804-805/806-807/808-809/810-811/812-813/814-815/816-817/818-819/820-821/822-823/824-825/826-827/828-829/830-831/832-833/834-835/836-837/838-839/840-841/842-843/844-845/846-847/848-849/850-851/852-853/854-855/856-857/858-859/860-861/862-863/864-865/866-867/868-869/870-871/872-873/874-875/876-877/878-879/880-881/882-883/884-885/886-887/888-889/890-891/892-893/894-895/896-897/898-899/900-901/902-903/904-905/906-907/908-909/910-911/912-913/914-915/916-917/918-919/920-921/922-923/924-925/926-927/928-929/930-931/932-933/934-935/936-937/938-939/940-941/942-943/944-945/946-947/948-949/950-951/952-953/954-955/956-957/958-959/960-961/962-963/964-965/966-967/968-969/970-971/972-973/974-975/976-977/978-979/980-981/982-983/984-985/986-987/988-989/990-991/992-993/994-995/996-997/998-999/1000-1001/1002-1003/1004-1005/1006-1007/1008-1009/1010-1011/1012-1013/1014-1015/1016-1017/1018-1019/1020-1021/1022-1023/1024-1025/1026-1027/1028-1029/1030-1031/1032-1033/1034-1035/1036-1037/1038-1039/1040-1041/1042-1043/1044-1045/1046-1047/1048-1049/1050-1051/1052-1053/1054-1055/1056-1057/1058-1059/1060-1061/1062-1063/1064-1065/1066-1067/1068-1069/1070-1071/1072-1073/1074-1075/1076-1077/1078-1079/1080-1081/1082-1083/1084-1085/1086-1087/1088-1089/1090-1091/1092-1093/1094-1095/1096-1097/1098-1099/1100-1101/1102-1103/1104-1105/1106-1107/1108-1109/1110-1111/1112-1113/1114-1115/1116-1117/1118-1119/1120-1121/1122-1123/1124-1125/1126-1127/1128-1129/1130-1131/1132-1133/1134-1135/1136-1137/1138-1139/1140-1141/1142-1143/1144-1145/1146-1147/1148-1149/1150-1151/1152-1153/1154-1155/1156-1157/1158-1159/1160-1161/1162-1163/1164-1165/1166-1167/1168-1169/1170-1171/1172-1173/1174-1175/1176-1177/1178-1179/1180-1181/1182-1183/1184-1185/1186-1187/1188-1189/1190-1191/1192-1193/1194-1195/1196-1197/1198-1199/1200-1201/1202-1203/1204-1205/1206-1207/1208-1209/1210-1211/1212-1213/1214-1215/1216-1217/1218-1219/1220-1221/1222-1223/1224-1225/1226-1227/1228-1229/1230-1231/1232-1233/1234-1235/1236-1237/1238-1239/1240-1241/1242-1243/1244-1245/1246-1247/1248-1249/1250-1251/1252-1253/1254-1255/1256-1257/1258-1259/1260-1261/1262-1263/1264-1265/1266-1267/1268-1269/1270-1271/1272-1273/1274-1275/1276-1277/1278-1279/1280-1281/1282-1283/1284-1285/1286-1287/1288-1289/1290-1291/1292-1293/1294-1295/1296-1297/1298-1299/1300-1301/1302-1303/1304-1305/1306-1307/1308-1309/1310-1311/1312-1313/1314-1315/1316-1317/1318-1319/1320-1321/1322-1323/1324-1325/1326-1327/1328-1329/1330-1331/1332-1333/1334-1335/1336-1337/1338-1339/1340-1341/1342-1343/1344-1345/1346-1347/1348-1349/1350-1351/1352-1353/1354-1355/1356-1357/1358-1359/1360-1361/1362-1363/1364-1365/1366-1367/1368-1369/1370-1371/1372-1373/1374-1375/1376-1377/1378-1379/1380-1381/1382-1383/1384-1385/1386-1387/1388-1389/1390-1391/1392-1393/1394-1395/1396-1397/1398-1399/1400-1401/1402-1403/1404-1405/1406-1407/1408-1409/1410-1411/1412-1413/1414-1415/1416-1417/1418-1419/1420-1421/1422-1423/1424-1425/1426-1427/1428-1429/1430-1431/1432-1433/1434-1435/1436-1437/1438-1439/1440-1441/1442-1443/1444-1445/1446-1447/1448-1449/1450-1451/1452-1453/1454-1455/1456-1457/1458-1459/1460-1461/1462-1463/1464-1465/1466-1467/1468-1469/1470-1471/1472-1473/1474-1475/1476-1477/1478-1479/1480-1481/1482-1483/1484-1485/1486-1487/1488-1489/1490-1491/1492-1493/1494-1495/1496-1497/1498-1499/1500-1501/1502-1503/1504-1505/1506-1507/1508-1509/1510-1511/1512-1513/1514-1515/1516-1517/1518-1519/1520-1521/1522-1523/1524-1525/1526-1527/1528-1529/1530-1531/1532-1533/1534-1535/1536-1537/1538-1539/1540-1541/1542-1543/1544-1545/1546-1547/1548-1549/1550-1551/1552-1553/1554-1555/1556-1557/1558-1559/1560-1561/1562-1563/1564-1565/1566-1567/1568-1569/1570-1571/1572-1573/1574-1575/1576-1577/1578-1579/1580-1581/1582-1583/1584-1585/1586-1587/1588-1589/1590-1591/1592-1593/1594-1595/1596-1597/1598-1599/1600-1601/1602-1603/1604-1605/1606-1607/1608-1609/1610-1611/1612-1613/1614-1615/1616-1617/1618-1619/1620-1621/1622-1623/1624-1625/1626-1627/1628-1629/1630-1631/1632-1633/1634-1635/1636-1637/1638-1639/1640-1641/1642-1643/1644-1645/1646-1647/1648-1649/1650-1651/1652-1653/1654-1655/1656-1657/1658-1659/1660-1661/1662-1663/1664-1665/1666-1667/1668-1669/1670-1671/1672-1673/1674-1675/1676-1677/1678-1679/1680-1681/1682-1683/1684-1685/1686-1687/1688-1689/1690-1691/1692-1693/1694-1695/1696-1697/1698-1699/1700-1701/1702-1703/1704-1705/1706-1707/1708-1709/1710-1711/1712-1713/1714-1715/1716-1717/1718-1719/1720-1721/1722-1723/1724-1725/1726-1727/1728-1729/1730-1731/1732-1733/1734-1735/1736-1737/1738-1739/1740-1741/1742-1743/1744-1745/1746-1747/1748-1749/1750-1751/1752-1753/1754-1755/1756-1757/1758-1759/1760-1761/1762-1763/1764-1765/1766-1767/1768-1769/1770-1771/1772-1773/1774-1775/1776-1777/1778-1779/1780-1781/1782-1783/1784-1785/1786-1787/1788-1789/1790-1791/1792-1793/1794-1795/1796-1797/1798-1799/1800-1801/1802-1803/1804-1805/1806-1807/1808-1809/1810-1811/1812-1813/1814-1815/1816-1817/1818-1819/1820-1821/1822-1823/1824-1825/1826-1827/1828-1829/1830-1831/1832-1833/1834-1835/1836-1837/1838-1839/1840-1841/1842-1843/1844-1845/1846-1847/1848-1849/1850-1851/1852-1853/1854-1855/1856-1857/1858-1859/1860-1861/1862-1863/1864-1865/1866-1867/1868-1869/1870-1871/1872-1873/1874-1875/1876-1877/1878-1879/1880-1881/1882-1883/1884-1885/1886-1887/1888-1889/1890-1891/1892-1893/1894-1895/1896-1897/1898-1899/1900-1901/1902-1903/1904-1905/1906-1907/1908-1909/1910-1911/1912-1913/1914-1915/1916-1917/1918-1919/1920-1921/1922-1923/1924-1925/1926-1927/1928-1929/1930-1931/1932-1933/1934-1935/1936-1937/1938-1939/1940-1941/1942-1943/1944-1945/1946-1947/1948-1949/1950-1951/1952-1953/1954-1955/1956-1957/1958-1959/1960-1961/1962-1963/1964-1965/1966-1967/1968-1969/1970-1971/1972-1973/1974-1975/1976-1977/1978-1979/1980-1981/1982-1983/1984-1985/1986-1987/1988-1989/1990-1991/1992-1993/1994-1995/1996-1997/1998-1999/2000-2001/2002-2003/2004-2005/2006-2007/2008-2009/2010-2011/2012-2013/2014-2015/2016-2017/2018-2019/2020-2021/2022-2023/2024-2025/2026-2027/2028-2029/2030-2031/2032-2033/2034-2035/2036-2037/2038-2039/2040-2041/2042-2043/2044-2045/2046-2047/2048-2049/2050-2051/2052-2053/2054-2055/2056-2057/2058-2059/2060-2061/2062-2063/2064-2065/2066-2067/2068-2069/2070-2071/2072-2073/2074-2075/2076-2077/2078-2079/2080-2081/2082-2083/2084-2085/2086-2087/2088-2089/2090-2091/2092-2093/2094-2095/2096-2097/2098-2099/2100-2101/2102-2103/2104-2105/2106-2107/2108-2109/2110-2111/2112-2113/2114-2115/2116-2117/2118-2119/2120-2121/2122-2123/2124-2125/2126-2127/2128-2129/2130-2131/2132-2133/2134-2135/2136-2137/2138-2139/2140-2141/2142-2143/2144-2145/2146-2147/2148-2149/2150-2151/2152-2153/2154-2155/2156-2157/2158-2159/2160-2161/2162-2163/2164-2165/2166-2167/2168-2169/2170-2171/2172-2173/2174-2175/2176-2177/2178-2179/2180-2181/2182-2183/2184-2185/2186-2187/2188-2189/2190-2191/2192-2193/2194-2195/2196-2197/2198-2199/2200-2201/2202-2203/2204-2205/2206-2207/2208-2209/2210-2211/2212-2213/2214-2215/2216-2217/2218-2219/2220-2221/2222-2223/2224-2225/2226-2227/2228-2229/2230-2231/2232-2233/2234-2235/2236-2237/2238-2239/2240-2241/2242-2243/2244-2245/2246-2247/2248-2249/2250-2251/2252-2253/2254-2255/2256-2257/2258-2259/2260-2261/2262-2263/2264-2265/2266-2267/2268-2269/2270-2271/2272-2273/2274-2275/2276-2277/2278-2279/2280-2281/2282-2283/2284-2285/2286-2287/2288-2289/2290-2291/2292-2293/2294-2295/2296-2297/2298-2299/2300-2301/2302-2303/2304-2305/2306-2307/2308-2309/2310-2311/2312-2313/2314-2315/2316-2317/2318-2319/2320-2321/2322-2323/2324-2325/2326-2327/2328-2329/2330-2331/2332-2333/2334-2335/2336-2337/2338-2339/2340-2341/2342-2343/2344-2345/2346-2347/2348-2349/2350-2351/2352-2353/2354-2355/2356-2357/2358-2359/2360-2361/2362-2363/2364-2365/2366-2367/2368-2369/2370-2371/2372-2373/2374-2375/2376-2377/2378-2379/2380-2381/2382-2383/2384-2385/2386-2387/2388-2389/2390-2391/2392-2393/2394-2395/2396-2397/2398-2399/2400-2401/2402-2403/2404-2405/2406-2407/2408-2409/2410-2411/2412-2413/2414-2415/2416-2417/2418-2419/2420-2421/2422-2423/2424-2425/2426-2427/2428-2429/2430-2431/2432-2433/2434-2435/2436-2437/2438-2439/2440-2441/2442-2443/2444-2445/2446-2447/2448-2449/2450-2451/2452-2453/2454-2455/2456-2457/2458-2459/2460-2461/2462-2463/2464-2465/2466-2467/2468-2469/2470-2471/2472-2473/2474-2475/2476-2477/2478-2479/2480-2481/2482-2483/2484-2485/2486-2487/2488-2489/2490-2491/2492-2493/2494-2495/2496-2497/2498-2499/2500-2501/2502-2503/2504-2505/2506-2507/2508-2509/2510-2511/2512-2513/2514-2515/2516-2517/2518-2519/2520-2521/2522-2523/2524-2525/2526-2527/2528-2529/2530-2531/2532-2533/2534-2535/2536-2537/2538-2539/2540-2541/2542-2543/2544-2545/2546-2547/2548-2549/2550-2551/2552-2553/2554-2555/2556-2557/2558-2559/2560-2561/2562-2563/2564-2565/2566-2567/2568-2569/2570-2571/2572-2573/2574-2575/2576-2577/2578-2579/2580-2581/2582-2583/2584-2585/2586-2587/2588-2589/2590-2591/2592-2593/2594-2595/2596-2597/2598-2599/2600-2601/2602-2603/2604-2605/2606-2607/2608-2609/2610-2611/2612-2613/2614-2615/2616-2617/2618-2619/2620-2621/2622-2623/2624-2625/2626-2627/2628-2629/

Pellus Proofs.

1. *Plasma*.

The marginal inscription on the 1 piastre value was of a smaller print size measuring 3mm high instead of the 5mm lettering used on the other values. Reinscribed blocks of four and six and a strip of four showing the inscription.



1 minute.

Type II-II/II-II, II-I/II-I/II-I/II-I/II-I.

Eight Fine Positions

219-120/137-140/157-160/179-180/199-200

North stupa, position 140 showing large white flow in lower frame.

Ninth stamp, position 199 lacking dash in top 'besta' part of overprint.

Full marginal inscription at right: PLASTRE 1.

The colour of the Pellus Proofs compared well to the issued stamp, in contrast to the other values.

These Proofs, like the issued 1 piastre, are without watermark; the difference lies in the paper thickness and the perforation quality of the Proofs.

Pellus Proofs.

Multiples.



5 para.

Type II-1/II-1.
Matrix Types 9-2 (inserted)
10-1 (inserted).
Perforated 13 all round.

Left Pane.

Positions 167-168/187-188.
Inscription at base 'ORI' of 'TAVERN'.



10 para.

Type II-1/II-1.
Matrix Types 1-10 (inserted)
2-4 (inserted).
Perforated 13 all round.

Right Pane.

Positions 14-15/24-25.
Inscription at top 'E' of 'POSTE'.
Matching block to the 20 para below.



20 para.

Type II.
Matrix Types 10-10/9-9
all inserted.
Perforated 13 all round.

Positions 14-15/24-25.
Inscription at top 'E' of 'POSTE'.



2 Piastre.

Type II.
Matrix Types inserted.
Perforated 13 all round.
Positions 106-107/120-121.

Pellas Proufs.

5 Piastres.

*A further rejoined block from the top right corner of the sheet.
The blocks shown prior to this and the one below exhibit many of the ten types of the background
and are therefore excellent reference pieces for the specialist.
Dr. Byam and Peter Smith have reproduced illustrations of the ten types,
only the 2 piastre and 5 piastre values were not illustrated in their articles.¹*



5 piastre.

All Type II.

Matrix Types 1-2, 3-4-5.

Perforated 13 all round.

Right Pane Positions 16-20/38-40/58-60/70-80/99-100.

Position 99 shows a diagonal white flaw in NW upper right '5' tablet.

Inscription at right 'FRANCOBOLLI' complete

and 'ZIANE' of 'EGIZIANE' at top.

Pellis Proofs.

Perforation Trials.

Pellis Brothers had great difficulty in perforating the undermarked paper supplied by Bond; as the gauge used was not big enough for the sheets.

Under the issued 5 para value I have explained the sheet of 200 and the eventual format of the perforating gauge, however Perforation Trials exist, without undermark, on slightly thinner paper than the issued stamps.



10 para.



20 para.



2 piastre.

Perforated 12 1/2.

It is not clear whether these Trials were made for the 1866 issue.

The Perforation size exactly matches that employed for the 1867 issue.

The above Perforation Trials could therefore have utilised remainders of the first issue probably on paper being tendered for the second.

There is no doubt that the succeeding issue was altogether better perforated than the first.



5 para.
Perforated 11 1/2.



1 piastre.
Perforated 12 1/2.



20 para.
Perforated 11 1/2.



5 piastre.
Perforated 13 1/2.



2 piastre.
Perforated 13.



10 piastre.
Perforated 13 1/2.

Original Perforation Trials, perforated within a range from 11 to 13, most frequently encountered with perforation 13 all round.

Pellas Proofs.

Block Working Proof of the Background.



1 piastre.

*Block of eight from left of sheet
in black on un-watermarked paper.*

Type II/II/I/II-I/II/I/II.

*Only one part sheet known,
many of the Proofs were damaged.*

*Note the gutter margin at left peculiar to the 1 piastre
which was printed in two panes of 100 with the dividing gutter
as seen here between the two panes.¹*



1 piastre.

*Proof imperforate
on good quality
un-watermarked paper.*

All Type II.

Pelias Proofs.

*Lithographed by Pelias Brothers of Genoa
who were awarded the contract to print the first issue
of Egyptian stamps, these particular Proofs are in the issued design
and should properly be termed overprint Trials.*

*It is unlikely that any of the Pelias Brothers printer's spoke or read Arabic
and the Proof below were probably, judged by their rarity, from a few presentation sets
prepared for final acceptance by the Postmaster General Musti Bey and the Pasha himself.*



1 piastre claret value.

*Issued colour imperforate
watermark upright Proof
with error of overprint
'20 paras'.*

The 1 piastre value was issued without watermark.

*The stamp has pin-holes in all four corners
as if mounted for presentation,
or used as a 'Working Proof' by the Printer.*



2 piastre yellow value.

*Issued colour imperforate
watermark upright Proof
with overprint
'20 paras'.*

There are believed to be only three known examples of this Proof.¹

Pyramid & Sun Watermark.

The Watermarked paper was ordered through Pelkas and supplied by Bondi of Turin.

Correspondence exists to show that Pelkas was unhappy with the paper supplied, being of the wrong size and too absorbent of the gure which was applied to the stamps after printing, so as to leave stains and disfiguring the adhesives so badly that they were unacceptable.

The paper has a rough fibrous surface and did not react well to the Pelkas perforating machine, being supplied in a size that was larger than required for the sheets of 100 adhesives.



Half sheet of the watermarked paper with 100 watermarks arranged 10x10.

There are two noticeable types of the watermark—with the narrow side of the pyramid at left and narrow side at right.

The watermark can be found upright, inverted and reversed on all four sides, however only the 5 para and 2 piastre watermark upright and the 10 para inverted, can be considered scarce or rare.

The star above the pyramid has 10 rays above the Pyramid, occasionally found with one or two rays omitted.

There are tiny differences in each of the watermark bits. The sheet is exhibited folded in half with watermark as illustrated.



1866-The 5 Para Value.

The perforation varieties seen on the previous page were caused by Bond's paper and the Pellis Brother's poor perforating machines.

The format of the sheet of 200 is reproduced below¹ and the pattern of perforation which might be inserted, reversed, or inserted and reversed on different sheets provided perforation varieties other than the standard measurement of $12\frac{1}{2}$. Basically the sheet was run through a 12 gauge machine and the areas not yet perforated run through with a gauge 13 machine.



As seen from the diagram, the sheet would contain the following:

- A. 1 stamp perforated 13 all round.
- B. 2 stamps perforated 13 on three sides.
- C. 1 stamp perforated 13 on two adjacent sides.
- D. 8 stamps perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$.
- E. 18 stamps perforated $13 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.
- F and G. 26 stamps perforated 13 on one side only.
- 144 stamps correctly perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ all round.



Perforated $13 \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times 13 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ (E).
Type I.



Perforated $13 \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times 13 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ (F & G).
Type II.
Position 167.

Inking flaw on base frame line at right.



Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times 13 \times 13$ (C).
Type II.

1866-The 5 Para Value.

There are two orientations for the background on each of the seven values.
Therefore the two types can be found side by side or tête-bêche.

Illustrations of the two Types are shown below and their arrangement on the sheet of 200 resulted in 76 examples of Type I and 122 examples of Type II on each sheet.

The stamps were printed in Matrix Stones of 10 in vertical columns;
and the ten Types were researched and illustrated in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*
by Dr. William Blynn this information being up-dated and reprinted by Peter A.S. Smith.
I have taken the illustrations from Smith's book with his kind permission.¹



Type I.
Ray of Star
points at NE corner.



Type II.
Ray of Star
points either side
of NE corner.

The Two Types.



Type I.
Watermark Inverted.
Perforated 12½.



Type II.
Watermark Inverted.
Perforated 12½.

The watermark is almost universally found inverted on the 5 para value
whereas with the other values in the set both watermarks are found on an almost equal basis,
with the exception of the upright watermarked 2 piasstre and inverted watermark on the 20 para,
although neither of these are as scarce or sought after as the watermark upright 5 para.



Type I.
Watermark Upright.
Perforated 12½.



Type II.
Watermark Upright.
Perforated 13x13x12½x12½(C).

The 5 para with upright watermark is a rarity.¹ Smith.¹

1866-The 5 Para Value.

The 5 para value was issued for pre-payment of Newspapers and Wrappers at the internal postage rate.

Printed in grey greenish slate and paler shades of same, the stamp and overprint being lithographed and printed in sheets of 200. The order was completed and the stamps sent to Cairo on September 30th 1865.

300,000 stamps were supplied by Peliss, a total of 290,800 being sold. Watermark Inverted. Perforated 12½.



5 para.

*Unused strip of four.
Perforated 12½.
Types I-II-II-II.*

*Matrix Type 4.5.5.5.
Positions 73-76.*



*Perforated 12½.
Type II. Matrix Type 10.
Position 8.*

Retouch of the upper leaf of the floral background, ornament with top of one petal erased.¹



*Perforated 13/12½/13/12½.
Type II. Matrix Type 9 (inverted).
Position 25.
Coloured blob over NE corner "Para".*

1866-The 5 Para Value.

Multiples.



Type II.

Matrix Types 2,3,4,5.

Perforated 12½.

Vertical strip of four.

September 24th 1866 datestamp.



Type I.

Matrix Types 8 and 9.

Positions 149-150/169-170.

Perforated 12½x12½x12½ (F and G).

Very worn state.¹



Type II-1/II-1.

Matrix Types 5-6/5-6.

Positions 87-88/107-108.

Perforated 12½.

Vertical pair at left with

Matrix inverted.²

¹ Based on Philip's collection.

² Based on Moseley's collection.

1866-The 5 Para Value.

The perforating machines were inadequate for the paper supplied and imperforate and partially imperforate varieties occurred.



Type I.
Imperforate all round.¹



Type I.
*Imperforate on three sides,
perforated 13 vertically or right.*



Type I.
*Perforated 13x12½x13x12½ (E).
Position 183 on the sheet.
Matrix Type 1, overprint Type 10.²*



Type I.
*Perforated 13x12½x13x12½ (E).
Position 187, 189, 190, 192, 193, 199 or 200.
Matrix Type 10, overprint Type 10.*



Types I-II.
*Perforated 12½, vertically
imperforate.¹*



Type II.
*Perforated 12½, vertically imperforate.
All above stamps with Watermark Inverted.¹*

1866-The 5 Para Value.

Major Overprint Variety.



5 para.

*Imperforate Pallas Proof pair,
positions 131 and 132.*

*Position 132 showing the variety
Loop of Arabic word 'sadi' missing in central overprint.
Note that this overprint error was not corrected
at the Proof stage.¹*



5 para.

*Issued stamp.
Type I, Matrix Type 7.
Watermark Inserted.
Perforated 12 1/2.
Position 132.*

*Loop of Arabic word 'sadi' missing in central overprint.
Only 1400 stamps can exist.*



5 para.

*Imperforate Pallas Proof.
Position 132.²*

1866-The 5 Para Value.

Newspaper Rate.

17th October 1866:

'La Trombetta' Newspaper,
addressed to the Italian
Consulate in Alexandria.¹

ANNO VII

Alessandria, 17 Ottobre 1866.

Tribunale Consolare d'Italia

N. 2270



LA TROMBETTA

Franked by single 5 para cancelled by
black circular Poste Vice Reali Regia-
Alessandria' date stamp.
The 10 para value was issued primarily
for the Newspaper Rate and
the local Printed Matter Rate.²

¹ Signed A. Doria.
² B. B. collection-Belgium.

1866-The 5 Para Value.

Pair on Cover.

Local Usage for Printed Matter.



*January 17th 1867: Locally used cover mailed within Alexandria - 'EV' - 'En Ville'
at Printed Matter rate of 10 paras.*

The rate applied to non-periodical prints and greetings cards only.

Examples are rare.¹

*Franked by vertical pair of 5 para, Type II/I, cancelled by
"Poste Vice Royal Egizienne-Alexandrie" datestamp.²*



*January 11th 1866.
"Poste Vice Royal Egizienne-Constantinople".
Early usage in Constantinople.*

1. Peter Smith 'Egypt Stamps & Postal History'.
a. In Collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

1866-The 5 Para Value.

Cover with 5 para and 10 para.



*January 17, 1867. Cover from Alexandria to Cairo,
carried at Printed Matter rate of 10 paras.*

*As a sign of deference to a High Official, Ottoman Empire covers of this period
are encountered where the rate, in this instance 10 paras,
was deliberately overpaid to honour the addressee.
Letter addressed to M. de Coudray Deaneh Bey, Hotel d'Orient, Cairo
and the sender added the 5 para to honour the Official.*

*5 para, Type II, wmk upright, perforated 12½x12½.
10 para, Type II, watermark inverted, perforated 13½x12½x12½.
Cancelled "Poste Vice Reale Egitone-Alessandria" with
Cairo arrival datestamp on reverse of the same day.*

The only recorded cover bearing this franking.¹

1866-The 10 Para Value.

The 10 para value (one quarter of a piastre) was issued to pay the card rate or the Printed Matter rate excluding Newspapers where a further rate reduction was applied to 5 paras.

The 10 para was, along with the 5pa., 20pa., 5pi. and 10pi. entirely printed by lithography and therefore like the 5 para had the two types of background (upright or inverted) and was made up of ten types on a vertical format Matrix Stone to form the sheets of 200.

On the sheet there were 83 examples of Type I and 117 examples of Type II.

250,000 stamps were printed of which 238,600 were sold.

Watermarked. Perforated 12½.



The Two Types.



*Type I.
Clear loop down.*

*Type II.
Clear loop up.*



*Block of six,
Perforated 12½.
Watermark Upright.*

Type II-1-I/II-I-I.

*Matrix Stone Type 9-2-2/10-2-1.
Positions 174-176/194-196.*

The largest unused multiple of this stamp.

1866-The 10 Para Value.

Unused and Used Multiples.



*Block of six.
Perforated 12½x13 compound.¹
Watermark Upright.*

Type II-I-II/II-I-II.

*Matrix Stone Type 1-9-1/2-10-2.
Positions 17-19/37-39.*

The largest unused multiple of this stamp.



*Perforated 12½.
Watermark Upright.*

Type II.

*Matrix Stone Type 7-8-9-10.
Cancelled in Alexandria.*

1866-The 10 Para Value.



Perforated 13/12 1/2x13/12 1/2 (K).

Type I-M/I-L.

Watermark Upright.

Matrix Stone Types 3,8/2,9.

This format is repeated five times within positions 143-153/253-279 in the eighth and ninth rows of the sheet.

Print "Poste Vice Reale Egitiane-Alessandria" datestamp of July 8, 1867.



Perforated 12 1/2.

All Type I.

Watermark Upright.

Matrix Type 6.

Positions 205-208.

"Poste Vice Reale Egitiane-Cairo" blue datestamp of October 23, 1866.



Perforated 12 1/2.

Type I-II-4-I.

Watermark Upright.

"Poste Vice Reale Egitiane-Alessandria" datestamp of March 12, 1866.

Note the break in the loop of the vertical "Masriya" overprint at left on the first stamp.

1866-The 10 Pairs Value.



Imperforate pair.

*Type I/II.
Watermark Inserted.*



Used strip of three.

*Perforated 12 1/2.
Type I/II/III.
Watermark Inserted.
Matrix Types 6,6,5.*



*Pre-printing paper fold
running vertically
through centre of stamp.*

*Perforated 12 1/2.
Type I.
Watermark Upright.*

*Considering the overall problems with perforating
and living up the stamps for the sheet,
it is remarkable that more frequent varieties
of this nature did not occur.*



*Imperforate vertically,
perforated 13 horizontally.
Position 181 on the sheet,
the lower left corner stamp.*

*Type I.
Watermark Upright.
Matrix Type 10.²*

*Imperforate stamps are found
from the vertical first or last row
of the sheet where the perforation
13 machine was used to perforate the
sides of the sheet not perforated by the
perforation 12 1/2 machine.*

1866-The 10 Para Value.

Perforation Varieties.



*Imperforate, perforated
across centre of stamp
horizontally.
Type I. Watermark upright.*



*Pair perf. 12½ by
imperforate vertically.
Type I-II.
Watermark Upright.¹*



*Perforated 12½ with
extra line horizontally across
at top of stamp.
Type II. Watermark Inverted.*



*Perforated 13x12½x13x13 (R).
Type II.
Watermark Upright.
Only 2 stamps in the sheet
were perforated thus.*



*Perforated 13x12½x13x12½ (E).
Type II.
Watermark Inverted.
Position 197 on the sheet. Matrix Type 10.
28 stamps on the sheet perforated thus.²*



*Perforated 12½x12½x12½x12½ (F & G).
26 stamps on sheet with this perforation.
Type II.
Position 179 on sheet. Matrix type 9.²*



*Perforated 13x12½x13x12½ (E).
17 stamps on the sheet with this perforation.
Type II.
Matrix type 7.¹*

¹ In collection of Sir Wemyss-Quinn Elmshurst B.
² These varieties.

1866-The 10 Paras Value.

Cover to Cairo at 1 Piastre Rate.



July 19th 1867: Last month of use cover from Alexandria to Cairo
franked by horizontal strip of four 10 paras
(Types I/II/1/II) cancelled by 'Poste Vice-Regale Egyptienne-Alexandria'
datestamps with Cairo arrival of same day on reverse.¹

It is interesting to note that the 10 paras value
is nearly always found on cover used to make up the 1 piastre
(4x10 paras) rate in July 1867.

The 1 piastre value had run out in Alexandria and Cairo
by the 16 and the 19-July, 1867 respectively.

It can be evidenced by the cover above and the pair below that the 10 para remainders
were utilized in Alexandria at the same time as the bisected 2 piastre value was being used.



17th February 1867.

Perf 12 1/2.
Type I.

Strip of four used at Sarnand.²



23rd July 1867.

Perf 12 1/2.
Type II/1.

Pair used in Alexandria.

¹ R. Collection of His Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
² R. collection S. Filby.

1866-The 10 Para Value.

Printed Matter Rate-Taxed in Error.



February 6, 1867: Printed Matter Rate cover locally used within Cairo
correctly franked by a single 10 para value (Type II)
tied by "Poste Vice Royal Egypte-Cairo" datestamp in blue.

Not originally recognized as a Printed Circular, the cover was taxed
and the framed 'Affrancatura-Insufficiente' applied.

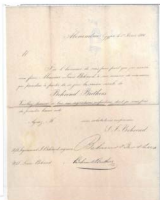
Manuscript '1.30' being the amount scheduled for tax to be paid-
1 piastre 30 paras being double the letter rate of 1 piastre, less the 10 paras
already paid by the 10 para adhesive originally applied.

The postage rate was found to be correct as franked and both the manuscript
change and framed Instructional handstamp were deleted.

This Instructional handstamp was probably supplied
at the same time as the retia and Postage Due devices in early 1866,
the earliest recorded usage of the 'Affrancatura-Insufficiente' handstamp
is on a cover dated March 8, 1866 used in Alexandria,
this cover being exhibited under the 20 para value in this collection.
The earliest usage of the handstamp from Cairo is dated March 25, 1866.¹

1866-The 10 Para Value.

Printed Matter Rate.



February 15, 1866: Printed Matter entire locally used within Alexandria
franked by single 10 paras (Type II) cancelled by reds in black.
"Poste Vice Reale Egiziane-Alessandria" datestamp at left.

Smith states: "The 10 para, which was intended for non-periodical prints,
is very scarce used as a single on cover".

It is interesting to note that neither the Dr. Byars, E. Antonicini, C. Gougas, W. Fox, W. Achterberg, C. Cotta,
nor K. Wolfbauer collections possessed an example of this franking.

1866-The 20 Para Value.

The 20 para (piastre) value was issued in greenish blue to clear pale blue shades.

Illustrations of the two Types are shown below and their arrangement on the sheet of 200 resulted in 101 examples of Type I and 99 examples of Type II on each sheet.

The stamps were printed in Matrix Stones of 10 in vertical columns.

The stamp and overprint were printed by lithography, and there are five different types of the lithographed overprint.

250,000 stamps were supplied by Pollas of which 240,199 were sold.

Watermark found equally inverted and upright. Perforated 12 1/2.



The Two Types.

Type I.
Crescent closed
in top centre oval.

Type II.
Crescent wide
in top centre oval.



20 para.

Block of four
Type I-II/II-II.
Watermark Upright.

Matrix and Overprint Types 4 and 5.

'Fewer than five blocks known'. Smith.¹

1866-The 20 Para Value.

Perforation Varieties and Types.



Perforated 12 1/2.
Type II.
Watermark Inverted.

Position 118.
Matrix Type 5. Overprint Type 5.
White flaw in left vertical outer frame-line.¹



Perforated 12 1/2 x 12 1/2 x 12 1/2 (D).
Type I.
Watermark Upright.

Position 200.
Matrix Type 10. Overprint Type 5.
Extra comma in arabic 'mirsiak' in
overprint at left.¹



Perforated 13 x 12 1/2 x 12 1/2 (F & G).
Type II.
Watermark Upright.

Position 25.
Matrix Type 3. Overprint Type 1.
Background Matrix Type 9 was
faulty and replaced by Type 3.¹



Perforated 13 x 12 1/2 x 12 1/2 (F & G).
Type I.
Watermark Inverted.

Position 22.
Matrix Type 2. Overprint Type 2.
Defective Transfer.
Left vertical frame-line missing.¹



Perforated 13 x 12 1/2 x 12 1/2 (F & G).
Type I.
Watermark Upright.

Large vertical pre-printing paper fold at NE corner.

1866-The 20 para Value.

Perforation Varieties, Matrix Types.



Imperforate block of four.

Type II-II/I-I.

Watermark Upright.¹

*Matrix Types 8 and 7,
overprint Types 3 and 2.*



Perforated 12¹/₂ x 13¹/₂ (D).

Type I.

Watermark Upright.²

Matrix Type 6. Overprint Type 1.

Position 120-blob on head of 'R' of

'Para' at upper left corner.

From final, 20th column on sheet.



Perforated 12¹/₂ x 13¹/₂ (D).

Type I.

Watermark Upright.

Matrix Type 1. Overprint Type 5.

Position 128-SW corner figure '20'

joined by white line,

prior to retouch.

8 stamps on the sheet perforated thus.

1866-The 20 Para Value.

Perforation Varieties and Types.



Type I.

*Perforated 13013013012½.
Watermark Upright.*

Position 59.

Matrix Type 8. Overprint Type 3.

*Unusually for this gauge of perforation the stamp
is not from the corner of the sheet where the outermost
rows intersected.*

*This stamp is from the third row and nineteenth column,
therefore from a sheet on which apparently the first four rows
of horizontal perforations were produced on the 13 gauge machine.¹*



Type II.

*Perforated 13013013012½ (B).
Watermark Upright.*

*Only 2 stamps on each sheet
perforated thus.²*



Type II.

*Perforated 13012½013012½ (E).
Watermark Upright.*

*Position 11 on the sheet,
large white flaw next to SE 'Para'.
Matrix Type 10. Overprint Type 1.¹*



Type II.

*Perforated 12½012½013012½ (F & G).
Watermark Upright.*

*26 stamps on each sheet
perforated thus.*



Type II.

*Perforated 12½013012½013 (D).
Watermark Upright.*

*Position 6 on the sheet.
Matrix Type 10. Overprint Type 1.¹*

¹ See certificate.

² See Collection of the Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

1866-The 20 Para Value.

Horizontal and Vertical Pairs.



*February 6, 1866: Cover from Cairo to Suez,
franked by horizontal pair of 20 para, Type I,
cancelled by "Poste Vice Reale Egitienne-Cairo" datestamps
with Suez arrival on reverse.*

An early usage of the 20 para on letter.¹



Type II/T.

*Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Upright.*

*Matrix Types 4 and 5.
Overprint Types 4 and 5.*

1866-The 20 Para Value.

Covers at 1 piastre rate.



May 24 and June 25, 1866: Covers at 1 piastre rate to Cairo bearing vertical and horizontal pairs of the 20 para, perforated 1245, each cancelled by *Redda* cancellations with "Poste Vice-Roïale Egitienne-Alessandrie" datestamps of dispatch.

1 piastre paid the internal rate for a 10 gram letter.

1 Top cover in *Bent Collection*.

2 Lower cover in *Collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II*.

1866-The 20 Para Value.

Corner example perforated 13 and cover at 1 piastre rate.



20 para.

Type I.

Perforated 13 all round.
Watermark Upright.

Position 20.
Overprint Type 1.

*The stamp is from the upper right corner of the sheet with huge margins (30mm.) on two sides, the outer rows of the sheet only being perforated on a 13 gauge machine.
"One of the great rarities of Egypt's first issue."¹*



*March 23, 1866. Cover from Cairo to Alexandria,
franked by horizontal pair of 20 para (both Type I), perforated 13, watermark upright,
Transfer Type 7, cancelled by "Poste Vice Royale Egypte-Cairo" datestamp.
Reverse with "Poste Vice Royale Egypte-Alexandria" datestamp of the following day.²*

¹ Quoted from Hahn certificate (1941).
² Signed collector's copy.

1866-The 20 Pure Value.

Short Fold Tapered Cover.



March 8, 1866: Cover from Alexandria to Turin,
franked by single 20 para (Type II) adhesive tied by Ratto cancellation in black.
'Poste Vise Reali Egitiane-Alessandria' datestamp at right of dispatch.

Cover was part paid 20 paras (piastre) for the 1 piastre letter rate and taxed at Alexandria with framed 'Affrancature-Insuffisante' in black.

Manuscript 1' (piastres) due being 20 paras short paid
and 1 piastre fine for double the deficiency.

Reverse with Poste Vica Raúl Reginiano-Tanta' datestamp in black.

This cover pre-dates the earliest recorded usage of the "Affrancatura-Inadeguata" instructional handstamp by 17 days.¹

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

1,200,000 of the 1 piastre stamps were delivered by Peliss of which 1,190,657 were sold.

As this value was typographed there were no Matrix Stones used and the die was replicated 200 times by stereotyping.

Plates resulted and the stamp has been plated from the Peliss Proof sheets.

The Plate for the 1 piastre unlike the other values, consisted of two pages of 100 stamps, separated by a vertical gutter margin with rows of vertical perforations.

Only one gutter pair of the issue is recorded.



The Two Types.

Type I.
Loops touch.

Type II.
Loops apart.



Block of four.
Type II-1/1-I.
Perforated 12-10.

"Even blocks of four are rare."



Type II.
Arabic 'Masriqa' overprint at left,
broken at centre. Non-constant.



Type I.



Type II.
Dot between 'P.E.' missing
in NW corner.

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Multiple of Issued Stamp.



*Types I-I/II-I.
Perforated 12 1/2 all round.¹*

Multiple of the Pelkos Perforation Trial.



*Types I-II/I-II/II-II.
Perforated 13 all round.*

*Note the brighter colours of the Proof,
both in background and in overprint.*

*The paper opacity of the Proof shows the overprint coming through the reverse
and the intensity of the overprinting ink is a very deep black.
Neither of these traits are repeated in the issued stamp.*

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

The 1 piastre value was the only one issued without a watermark, due to the larger amount of stamps needed for the basic 10 gram internal rate and the problems Peliss had with the watermarked paper and perforating machine it is probable that permission was granted to use ordinary paper, as we have seen that Peliss Proofs exist with watermark.

The 1 piastre background and overprint was printed by Typography, the only stamp of the issue printed in this manner.



The Largest First Issue Mint Multiple. 1 piastre. The famous block of 53.

Left pane. Positions: 12-14, 19-20, 22-30, 32-40, 42-70.

Position 13-'4' for 'i' in upper right corner.

Position 22-perforation missing, double perf at top.

Position 23-winged 'i' variety in upper right corner.

Position 37-flare in SE corner frame line.

Position 60-solid background, no dot between 'P' & 'E' at upper left corner.

Position 69-break in upper Arabic overprint.

Perforated 12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280-1281-1282-1283-1284-1285-1286-1287-1288-1289-1290-1291-1292-1293-1294-1295-1296-1297-1298-1299-1300-1301-1302-1303-1304-1305-1306-1307-1308-1309-1310-1311-1312-1313-1314-1315-1316-1317-1318-1319-1320-1321-1322-1323-1324-1325-1326-1327-1328-1329-1330-1331-1332-1333-1334-1335-1336-1337-1338-1339-1340-1341-1342-1343-1344-1345-1346-1347-1348-1349-1350-1351-1352-1353-1354-1355-1356-1357-1358-1359-1360-1361-1362-1363-1364-1365-1366-1367-1368-1369-1370-1371-1372-1373-1374-1375-1376-1377-1378-1379-1380-1381-1382-1383-1384-1385-1386-1387-1388-1389-1390-1391-1392-1393-1394-1395-1396-1397-1398-1399-1400-1401-1402-1403-1404-1405-1406-1407-1408-1409-1410-1411-1412-1413-1414-1415-1416-1417-1418-1419-1420-1421-1422-1423-1424-1425-1426-1427-1428-1429-1430-1431-1432-1433-1434-1435-1436-1437-1438-1439-1440-1441-1442-1443-1444-1445-1446-1447-1448-1449-1450-1451-1452-1453-1454-1455-1456-1457-1458-1459-1460-1461-1462-1463-1464-1465-1466-1467-1468-1469-1470-1471-1472-1473-1474-1475-1476-1477-1478-1479-1480-1481-1482-1483-1484-1485-1486-1487-1488-1489-1490-1491-1492-1493-1494-1495-1496-1497-1498-1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504-1505-1506-1507-1508-1509-1510-1511-1512-1513-1514-1515-1516-1517-1518-1519-1520-1521-1522-1523-1524-1525-1526-1527-1528-1529-1530-1531-1532-1533-1534-1535-1536-1537-1538-1539-1540-1541-1542-1543-1544-1545-1546-1547-1548-1549-1550-1551-1552-1553-1554-1555-1556-1557-1558-1559-1560-1561-1562-1563-1564-1565-1566-1567-1568-1569-1570-1571-1572-1573-1574-1575-1576-1577-1578-1579-1580-1581-1582-1583-1584-1585-1586-1587-1588-1589-1590-1591-1592-1593-1594-1595-1596-1597-1598-1599-1600-1601-1602-1603-1604-1605-1606-1607-1608-1609-1610-1611-1612-1613-1614-1615-1616-1617-1618-1619-1620-1621-1622-1623-1624-1625-1626-1627-1628-1629-1630-1631-1632-1633-1634-1635-1636-1637-1638-1639-1640-1641-1642-1643-1644-1645-1646-1647-1648-1649-1650-1651-1652-1653-1654-1655-1656-1657-1658-1659-1660-1661-1662-1663-1664-1665-1666-1667-1668-1669-1670-1671-1672-1673-1674-1675-1676-1677-1678-1679-1680-1681-1682-1683-1684-1685-1686-1687-1688-1689-1690-1691-1692-1693-1694-1695-1696-1697-1698-1699-1700-1701-1702-1703-1704-1705-1706-1707-1708-1709-1710-1711-1712-1713-1714-1715-1716-1717-1718-1719-1720-1721-1722-1723-1724-1725-1726-1727-1728-1729-1730-1731-1732-1733-1734-1735-1736-1737-1738-1739-1740-1741-1742-1743-1744-1745-1746-1747-1748-1749-1750-1751-1752-1753-1754-1755-1756-1757-1758-1759-1760-1761-1762-1763-1764-1765-1766-1767-1768-1769-1770-1771-1772-1773-1774-1775-1776-1777-1778-1779-1780-1781-1782-1783-1784-1785-1786-1787-1788-1789-1790-1791-1792-1793-1794-1795-1796-1797-1798-1799-1800-1801-1802-1803-1804-1805-1806-1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812-1813-1814-1815-1816-1817-1818-1819-1820-1821-1822-1823-1824-1825-1826-1827-1828-1829-1830-1831-1832-1833-1834-1835-1836-1837-1838-1839-1840-1841-1842-1843-1844-1845-1846-1847-1848-1849-1850-1851-1852-1853-1854-1855-1856-1857-1858-1859-1860-1861-1862-1863-1864-1865-1866-1867-1868-1869-1870-1871-1872-1873-1874-1875-1876-1877-1878-1879-1880-1881-1882-1883-1884-1885-1886-1887-1888-1889-1890-1891-1892-1893-1894-1895-1896-1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904-1905-1906-1907-1908-1909-1910-1911-1912-1913-1914-1915-1916-1917-1918-1919-1920-1921-1922-1923-1924-1925-1926-1927-1928-1929-1930-1931-1932-1933-1934-1935-1936-1937-1938-1939-1940-1941-1942-1943-1944-1945-1946-1947-1948-1949-1950-1951-1952-1953-1954-1955-1956-1957-1958-1959-1960-1961-1962-1963-1964-1965-1966-1967-1968-1969-1970-1971-1972-1973-1974-1975-1976-1977-1978-1979-1980-1981-1982-1983-1984-1985-1986-1987-1988-1989-1990-1991-1992-1993-1994-1995-1996-1997-1998-1999-2000-2001-2002-2003-2004-2005-2006-2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025-2026-2027-2028-2029-2030-2031-2032-2033-2034-2035-2036-2037-2038-2039-2040-2041-2042-2043-2044-2045-2046-2047-2048-2049-2050-2051-2052-2053-2054-2055-2056-2057-2058-2059-2060-2061-2062-2063-2064-2065-2066-2067-2068-2069-2070-2071-2072-2073-2074-2075-2076-2077-2078-2079-2080-2081-2082-2083-2084-2085-2086-2087-2088-2089-2090-2091-2092-2093-2094-2095-2096-2097-2098-2099-2100-2101-2102-2103-2104-2105-2106-2107-2108-2109-2110-2111-2112-2113-2114-2115-2116-2117-2118-2119-2120-2121-2122-2123-2124-2125-2126-2127-2128-2129-2130-2131-2132-2133-2134-2135-2136-2137-2138-2139-2140-2141-2142-2143-2144-2145-2146-2147-2148-2149-2150-2151-2152-2153-2154-2155-2156-2157-2158-2159-2160-2161-2162-2163-2164-2165-2166-2167-2168-2169-2170-2171-2172-2173-2174-2175-2176-2177-2178-2179-2180-2181-2182-2183-2184-2185-2186-2187-2188-2189-2190-2191-2192-2193-2194-2195-2196-2197-2198-2199-2200-2201-2202-2203-2204-2205-2206-2207-2208-2209-2210-2211-2212-2213-2214-2215-2216-2217-2218-2219-2220-2221-2222-2223-2224-2225-2226-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-2273-2274-2275-2276-2277-2278-2279-2280-2281-2282-2283-2284-2285-2286-2287-2288-2289-2290-2291-2292-2293-2294-2295-2296-2297-2298-2299-2300-2301-2302-2303-2304-2305-2306-2307-2308-2309-2310-2311-2312-2313-2314-2315-2316-2317-2318-2319-2320-2321-2322-2323-2324-2325-2326-2327-2328-2329-2330-2331-2332-2333-2334-2335-2336-2337-2338-2339-2340-2341-2342-2343-2344-2345-2346-2347-2348-2349-2350-2351-2352-2353-2354-2355-2356-2357-2358-2359-2360-2361-2362-2363-2364-2365-2366-2367-2368-2369-2370-2371-2372-2373-2374-2375-2376-2377-2378-2379-2380-2381-2382-2383-2384-2385-2386-2387-2388-2389-2390-2391-2392-2393-2394-2395-2396-2397-2398-2399-2400-2401-2402-2403-2404-2405-2406-2407-2408-2409-2410-2411-2412-2413-2414-2415-2416-2417-2418-2419-2420-2421-2422-2423-2424-2425-2426-2427-2428-2429-2430-2431-2432-2433-2434-2435-2436-2437-2438-2439-2440-2441-2442-2443-2444-2445-2446-2447-2448-2449-2450-2451-2452-2453-2454-2455-2456-2457-2458-2459-2460-2461-2462-2463-2464-2465-2466-2467-2468-2469-2470-2471-2472-2473-2474-2475-2476-2477-2478-2479-2480-2481-2482-2483-2484-2485-2486-2487-2488-2489-2490-2491-2492-2493-2494-2495-2496-2497-2498-2499-2500-2501-2502-2503-2504-2505-2506-2507-2508-2509-2510-2511-2512-2513-2514-2515-2516-2517-2518-2519-2520-2521-2522-2523-2524-2525-2526-2527-2528-2529-2530-2531-2532-2533-2534-2535-2536-2537-25

The 1 Piastre Value.

Trial Perforation 13 and Cover with "Winged 4 for 1" variety.



Trial Perforation 13.

Positions 6-8/16-18.

Type II-1-1/1-1-1.

*Top Marginal block of six with part imprint 'Real!' at top.
This block would fit in the large multiple of the issued stamp exhibited on the previous page.*



*March 14, 1866: Cover from Tanta to Cairo.
Franked by 1 piastre cancelled by retto with "Poste Vice Reali Egitienne-Tanta" datestamp alongside.¹*

1 piastre, Type I, Position 23 on sheet.

"Winged 4 for 1" variety,

in upper right corner, lower left corner as displayed above.

The variety is also shown in the block of 33 1 piastre exhibited on the previous page.

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Marginal Multiple.

Block of ten from lower right of the left Pane of the sheet.



*Block of ten subjects with gum.
Interpaneau sheet margin at right.*

Positions 59-60/99-100

[Position 69 with break in upper arabic 'Posta' overprint, pos. 89 with damaged numeral '1' at upper right.

Types I-II/I-II/I-II/I-II/I-II.

*Perforated 13 1/4 all round on lower four stamps,
perforated 12 1/2 x 13 1/2 x 12 1/2 x 13 1/4 (D)
on the upper six stamps.¹*

*Note 'LA' of 'LAVORI' imprint in lower margin.
All blocks are rare...²*

One of the largest recorded multiples of the first issue.

¹ Ex Collection Peter & J. Smith.
² Peter Smith: *Eight Stamps & Postal History*.

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Interpaneau Multiple.

The sheets were typographed and the die replicated 200 times by stereotyping.

*The Plate for the 1 piastre consisted of two panes of 100 stamps,
with an interpaneau margin in between the two panes.*

*The outer sheet marginal inscription reads 'Vice Reali Poste Egitiane' across the top of the sheet
'Ministero Dei Lavori Pubblici' across the base of the sheet and 'Francovaldi 1 Piastre' on each side.*

There was no marginal inscription in the interpaneau margin.



1 piastre.

Strip of three.

Interpaneau margin with part "Post" of "Poste" sheet marginal inscription.

Type II-II-L.

Compound Perforations 13012 1/2 x 13013 and third stamp 13012 1/2 x 13012 1/2.

Positions 10/101-102.

*Prior to the discovery of this multiple, only one marginal multiple was known,¹
a block of four showing the interpaneau margin at right.
This is the only multiple recorded with stamps either side of the interpaneau margin.*

The 1 Piastre Value.

Imperforate Between pair with "Winged 4 for 1" variety.



Perforated 12 1/2 x Imperforate between and at left side and at top.

Positions 13/23.

Type 1/1.

*Lower stamp with "Winged 4 for 1" variety in upper right corner.¹
Probably unique in this format.*



*Perforated 12 1/2 x Imperforate vertically.
Part interpanneau margin at left.*



*Imperforate Proof block of nine subjects
from upper right of the right pane of the sheet.*

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Imperforate and Partial Perforation Varieties.

As usual with the issue, horizontal and vertically imperforate pairs can be found, as well as completely imperforate varieties.

These can only be told apart from the Peliss Proof by their colour shade and printing definition.



*Imperforate
Peliss Proof.
Type I.*



*Imperforate
Peliss Proof.
Type II.
Overprint error with
downward shift.*



*Perforated 12 1/2 by
imperforate vertically.
Type I.*



*Perforated 12 1/2 by
imperforate vertically.
Type II.
Unused and used.*



*Imperforate horizontally
by perforation 12 1/2.
Type II/I.*

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Plate Flaws and Perforation Varieties.



Perforated 13x12 1/2x13x12 1/2 (E).

Type II.

18 stamps on the sheet perforated thus.
"Poste Vice-Roi Egiptien-Damiette"
November 1, 1866.



Perforated 12 1/2x12 1/2x13x12 1/2 (F & G).

Type I.

26 stamps on the sheet perforated thus.



Perforated 12 1/2x13x12 1/2x13 (D).

Type II.

8 stamps on the sheet perforated thus.



Perforated 12 1/2.

Type II.

Dot between "P.E" missing,
in NW corner.



Perforated 12 1/2.

Type II.

Dot between "P.E" missing,
in SE corner.



Perforated 12 1/2.

Type I.

Dot between "P.E" missing,
in both NW and SE corners.



Perforated 12 1/2.

Type I.

Large white flaw below
"Bir Grouah" overprint.
Position 140.



Perforated 12 1/2.

Type I.

Large Transfer fold in
NE corner tablet.

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Cancellation of Suez and Mail to the Suez Canal.



*1 piastre, used block of six,
Types II-I/II-I/I-I,
perforated 12½ all round.
Cancelled "Poste Vice-Real Egitienne-Suez"
June 22, 1866.*

Unique. The largest recorded used multiple of this stamp. ¹



January 23, 1866. Cover from Benha via Zagazik to El-Ghise on the Suez Canal, addressed to Mr. Couroux at the "Canal Maritime de Suez" and endorsed "près (near) Ismaïlia". Prepaid with 1 piastre, Type II, tied by 8½ point "retto" cancellation in black during first month of issue. Backstamped "Poste Vice-Real Egitienne-Benha" and "Poste Vice-Real Egitienne-Zagazik" (January 24). ²

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Plate Flaws and Varieties.



Perforated 12 1/2x12 1/2x12 1/2x12 1/2 (F & G).

Type II/L.

Vertical pair, early usage at Suez 10th January 1866.

Positions 62/R2.

Upper stamp shows flattening of the arabic overprint 'Bir Grouh' at base.

Early printing as Position 62 was to develop the 'No dot between P.E' variety in later printings.¹



Perforated 12 1/2x12 1/2x12 1/2x12 1/2 (F & G).

Type II.

Flat base to 'Bir Grouh' overprint at base.

26 stamps on the sheet were perforated thus,

eight stamps on the sheet of 200 show the flat base overprint.



January 12, 1867.

Piece with 1 piastre, Type II, showing left hand arabic overprint

"Marrisa" (meaning Egyptian) with no final loop, changing the meaning to "Victorious".

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Letter from Venice mailed on arrival in Alexandria.



December 18, 1865: Cover from Venice to Cairo
written as a letter of introduction from one Antonio Meyer in Venice
to Prospero Venezian for Attorney Jos. Langugnani "who is going to Egypt
with the intention of establishing his residence there..."

Mailed on arrival in Alexandria, the letter being written prior to the issue of adhesive
stamps in Egypt on January 1, 1866
was mailed with Egypt 1 piastre cancelled by the *di dot retta* cancellation
with "Poste Vice-Reali Egitiane-Alessandria" datestamp at right (January 10, 1866).
Reverse with "Poste Vice-Reali Egitiane-Cairo" arrival datestamp in black.

A unique usage.

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Early Usages.



*Piece bearing 1 piastre, Type I, perf. 13x12 1/2x12 1/2 (F & G).
Cancelled "Poste Vice-Réali Egiptienne - Cairo" datestamp,
January 8, 1866.*



*January 3, 1866: Cover from Cairo to Tanta.
Pranked by 1 piastre, perf. 12 1/2, Type II, cancelled by 81 dot rettu handstamp in black
with Poste Vice-Réali Egiptienne Cairo datestamp.*

Reverse with Poste Vice-Réali Egiptienne Tanta arrival of the same day.

Initial regulations stipulated the use of the rettu with identification datestamp alongside.

*Used on the Third Day of Issue:
only one other earlier usage of this stamp on letter has been recorded.*

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Early Usages and Double rate cover.



January 17, 1866: Cover at double the 1 piastre rate from Alexandria to Suez
franked by two 1 piastre adhesives
used in third week of issue cancelled by *Reita* of dots
with 'Poste Vice Real' Egiptane-Alexandria' datstamp alongside,
Cairo and Suez datstamps of the same type on reverse dated the following day.¹

The right hand stamp, Type II, shows the variety 'PE' for 'P.E.' in the NW corner.

2 piastres paid the letter rate for above 10 grams.



January 6, 1866.
'Poste Vice Real' Egiptane-Cairo'.



January 22, 1866.
'Poste Vice Real' Egiptane-Cairo'.

¹ Ex collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Double Rate Covers.

Double rate was due for letters over 10 grams and under 20 grams.



December 6, 1866: Double rate cover from Alexandria to Cairo with horizontal pair of 1 piastre, Type II, cancelled by "Poste Vice Royal Egiptese-Alexandria" datestamps.



April 20, 1867: Double rate cover from Alexandria to Tanta with vertical pair of 1 piastre, Type I/II, cancelled "Poste Vice Royal Egiptese-Alexandria" datestamps.

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Short Paid Cover.



February 1, 1867: Cover from Cairo to Alexandria, the entire weighing 12 grams.
Paid by single 1 piastre cancelled by blue "Poste Voie Embl. Egyptienne-Cairo" datestamp.

Weighing over 10 grams, the cover sets double weight and thus was taxed 3 piastres with handwriting '3' and framed "Affrancatura-Insufficiente" applied in blue-black.
1 piastre paid by adhesive but short paid 1 piastre for 2 piastre double rate, 1 piastre to make up correct postage and 2 piastre fine at double the original deficiency.¹

The earliest recorded usage of the Postage Due '3' piastre handwriting by five months.²

¹ Egyptian Postal Markings 1860-1870, Peter Pilma Egypt Study Circle.
² In collection R. Hightower.

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Consular Post Office in Constantinople.

1 Piastre was the basic internal rate for letters under 10 grams.

These rates applied also to the Consular Post Offices.

A 'Port to Port' rate of 1 piastre being effected; thus a cover from Gedda to Suez would be charged at 1 piastre, whilst a cover to Zangazig, would be charged 2 piastres for the additional overland leg of the journey.

1 piastre used from Constantinople, Turkey.



May 21, 1867: Cover from Constantinople to Alexandria.

Forwarded by single 1 piastre, Type 1, paying the 'Port to Port' rate cancelled by two strikes of "Poste Vice Reali Egitiane-Constantinople" datstamp.

Reverse with Alexandria arrival (May 20).¹

*The Egyptian Consular Post Office in Constantinople
was opened on June 13, 1866
and closed on June 30, 1867.*

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Territorial Post Office in Gedda.

1 piastre was the basic internal rate for letters under 10 grams.

These rates applied also to the Territorial Post Offices.

A 'Port to Port' rate of 1 piastre being effected; thus a cover from Gedda to Suez was charged at 1 piastre, whilst a cover for example addressed to Zaqaziq, would be charged 2 piastres for the additional overland leg of the journey.

1 ~~piastre~~ sent from Gedda (Jeddah), Saudi Arabia.



May 30, 1867: Cover from Gedda to Suez.

Franked by 1 piastre, Type II, paying the 'Port to Port' rate cancelled by two strikes of "Poste Vice Consul Eginiane-Gedda" datstamp.

Stated and treated as disinfection against cholera.

Post covers are recorded with this stamp¹, this being the second earliest first issue usage from Gedda.

The earliest recorded off cover usage in Gedda is noted as October 17, 1866.²



July 30, 1867.

The three line date is entirely inverted.

The second issue was released on August 1, 1867.

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Combination Cover.



March 11, 1867: Cover from Cairo to Trieste,
franked by Egypt 1 piastre for internal postage from Cairo to Alexandria,
cancelled by "Poste Vice Reali Egiziane-Cairo" datetamp in blue.

The letter was transferred to the Austrian Post Office in Alexandria
with "Alexandrien" datetamp (March 13) and straight line 'Paiato' (Paid) in black.
Prepaid 15 soldi from Alexandria to Trieste with manuscript notation in blue *orayon*
to this effect on reverse. Trieste arrived March 19, 1867.

In the 'Rules for the Internal Postal Service', a decree of December 21, 1865
stated: 'Foreign Letters must be franked by Egyptian stamps as far as
Alexandria, the foreign postage must then be paid in the stamps
of the country that is responsible for delivery to their destination'.



August 4, 1866: Piece with Egypt 1 piastre
cancelled by red 'Poste Egiziane Vice Reali-Cairo' in red.
Late usage of straight line 'Alexandria' of Austrian Post Office,
with manuscript 'Austriaco' above.

The Austrian Post Office.

There was just the one Austrian Post Office in Egypt at the time of the First Issue, that of Alexandria. The Austrian Lloyd Agency was still operating in Alexandria until closure on the ratification of the Austro-Egyptian Postal Convention in 1868. However the Post Office remained open until September 30th 1889.



March 20, 1867: Cover from Alexandria to Vienna via Trieste.
Struck with the large 2grn. circular "Alexandrien" datestamp and sent unpaid.
Charged at Trieste with "20" handstamp in blue for the amount due in kreuzers.

Reverse with Trieste (March 25) oval and red Vienna arrival (March 27).

The cover proves that there was a 2grn. diameter "Alexandrien" datestamp,¹
the normal size found on stampless covers, in use from 1853, to 22mm., from 1863 onwards 23mm.

One Egyptian Piastre was equivalent to 10 soldi or kreuzer,
thus the rating of the above letter is the same as the Egyptian at this time:
1 piastre for a Port-to-Port letter, 1 piastre for internal delivery.

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Combination Cover.



July 7, 1867: Cover from Suez to Vienna, Austria
franked by Egypt 1 piastre for internal postage from Suez to Alexandria,
cancelled by "Poste Vice-Roi" Epistème-Suez datestamp in black.

The letter was transferred to the Austrian Post Office in Alexandria
with Austrian Italy 1864 15 soldi brown, perf. 9½, applied and tied by "Alexandrien"
datestamp (July 9) and reverse with Vienna arrival (July 10).¹

This cover is illustrated in the Ferchenbauer specialised catalogue of Austria on page 388
and in "Mischfrankaturen" by Dr. Anton Jerger on page 309.

This is the sole recorded Austrian combination cover known from Suez.²

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Combination Cover.



January 15, 1867: Cover from the Suez Canal to Marseille via Alexandria
franked by Egypt 1 piastre for internal postage between Zagazik and Alexandria
cancelled by "Poste Vice-Réale Egyptienne-Zagazik" which also
cancels the France Empire 1862 40 centime, proving both to be applied on departure.
Cancelled again by French Post Office with '1080' gros chiffres in Alexandria.
Thence via the "Paquebots de la Méditerranée" with red cachet and
Marseille arrived January 26th 1867 on reverse.¹



April 5, 1866: France 1862 40 centime
cancelled by large part
"Poste Vice-Réale Egyptienne-Caire" distamp.

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Combination Cover.



January 25, 1867: Cover from Zifta & Mitg. to Brighton, England
franked by Egypt 1 piastre for internal postage between Zifta & Mitg. to Alexandria
cancelled by "Poste Vice Reali-Egienne-Zifta & Mitg." datestamp in black.

Letter was transferred to the British Post Office in Alexandria
with Great Britain 1865 6d. plate 5 applied and cancelled by "BO" obliterator
above "Alexandria" datestamp of January 26.
Thence via Marseilles to London with Brighton (February 7) arrival on reverse.

"Zifta & Mitg." was an Egyptian Post Office serving twin towns on opposite banks of the Nile in the Delta,
"Mitg." being short for "Mit Gharra".

In the "Rules for the Internal Postal Service", a decree of December 21, 1865
stated: "Foreign Letters must be franked by Egyptian stamps as far as
Alexandria, the foreign postage must then be paid in stamps
of the country that is responsible for their delivery to destination".

"Letters franked with adhesives of both the Egyptian First Issue and of the British Post Office
are of great scarcity, with no more than ten examples recorded
of which five are on in-coming covers."

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Combination Cover.



*March 18, 1867: Cover from Cairo to Livorno via Alexandria and Brindisi
franked by Egypt 1 piastre for internal postage between Cairo and Alexandria
cancelled by "Poste Vice-Royale-Egypte-Cairo" datestamp in blue.¹*

*Transferred to Italian Post Office and franked by Italy 1863 60 centesimi
cancelled by "234" numeral obliterator, thence via Italian Steamer with franked "Piazzale Postali Italiani".
Reverse with Livorno arrival March 25th 1867.²*

*Italy only opened a single Consular Post Office in Alexandria in 1863, initially under Sardinian auspices.
The British had three Consular Post Offices at Alexandria (opened 1839), Cairo (1836) and Suez (1847)
and combination covers with the 1866 issue are recorded from Alexandria.*

*Austria had two Offices: one at Alexandria (opened 1845), Cairo (1865), Port Said and Suez
(both Offices opened after the 1866 issue was de-monetised),
combination covers with the 1866 issue are all scarce but most common with French adhesives.*

*Greece had one Consular Post Office in Alexandria (opened 1833)
with just one piece known in combination with the 1866 issue.³*

*Russia opened Offices in Alexandria (1857) and Port Said (1867),
there are, however, no combination covers known with the stamps of the Russian 'Ropli' Agency.
The Ottoman Empire was served by the special "Port-to-Port" rate of 1 Egyptian piastre
applicable between Egyptian Consular and Territorial Post Offices.*

1. By Collection, ex-Alexander Miletis.

2. Dr. Euan Dixon collection.

3. By collection of J. J. J. J.

1866-The 1 Piastre Value.

Combination Cover.



September 17, 1866: Cover from Zapsak to Genoa, Italy
franked by Egypt 1 piastre for internal postage from Zapsak to Alexandria,
cancelled by "Poste Vice Reali Egitto-Zapsak" datestamp in black.

Mailed via the Italian Post Office in Alexandria and struck there with
"Alessandria D'Egitto-Poste Italiane" datestamp (September 18).

No adhesive was applied for onward transmission.

Carried by Italian Steamer with framed "Pirasci Postali Italiani"
and Livorno arrival September 26, 1866 and charged "80" centesimi due
with black "N" handstamp.¹

In the 'Rules for the Internal Postal Service', a decree of December 23rd 1865
stated: Foreign letters must be franked by Egyptian stamps as far as
Alexandria, the foreign postage must then be paid in the stamps
of the country that is responsible for their delivery to destination.²

Due to the above decree, mail without Italian adhesives is much scarcer than prepaid mail.

¹ Ex Collection (Giangiacomo Orlandini & Partners).

² Copyright copyright 1988.

1866-The 2 Piastre Value.

The 2 piastre value is the most difficult to 'type' and work with due to its colour and also because the printing was carried out in an entirely different way to the other stamps of this issue, being produced by Pellas with typographed overprint on lithographed background.

500,000 stamps were supplied by Pellas of which 165,400 were sold.

Due to the rarity of unused multiples it has to be stressed that the unused remainders were in all probability destroyed. Just five multiples are supposed to exist.

The overprints of the 2 piastre design have been studied, there are no repeated flaws and thus no recognisable types.

Presumably the overprint was stereotyped and replicated 200 times, this method producing flaws in the overprint lettering and distorted frame-lines on the stamp.



Type I.
10 Curved S's.
Narrow E'.



Type II.
11 Curved S's.
Wider E'.

The Two Types.



Marginal Inscription 'TER' of 'Ministère'.

Perforated 12 1/2 x 15.
Watermark Inverted.
Type I.

Smith - 'Only a few pieces have survived with marginal rule attached'.¹



Perforated 12 1/2 x 15.
Watermark Upright.
Type II.

1866-The 2 Piastre Value.

This Overprint Variety.



2 Piastre.

*Imperforate pair.
Watermark Inverted.¹
Type I-I.*



*Perforated 12 1/2x15.
Watermark Inverted.
Type I.*

*Note the extremely 'thin' overprint,
Peter Smith attributes this to a Trial printing
in which the typography 'make-ready' blanket
was too hard, thus resulting in poor contact
and some 'skipping' of the overprint.*

¹ Ex collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
² Peter A.F. Smith Typesetters & Postal History.

1866-The 2 Piastre Value.

Varieties.



Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Inverted.
Type I.



Perforated 12 1/2 x 12 1/2 x 12 1/2.
Watermark Inverted.
Type I.



Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Inverted.
Type II.

Three examples with the full width between stamps,
this space showing the danger inherent
in the purchase of imperforate varieties.



Vertical pair, imperforate horizontally 12 1/2.
Watermark Inverted.
Type II/I.



Imperforate.
Watermark Inverted.
Type I.

Smudged upper overprint.



Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Inverted.
Type I.

Extra line of vertical perforations
(12 1/2) through centre of stamp.

1866-The 2 Piastre Value.

Varieties and Flaws.



2 piastre.

*Perforated 12½.
Watermark Inverted.
Type I.*

*Adherence to plate prior to printing,
leaving the NE corner value tablet blank.*



*Perforated 12½.
Watermark Inverted.
Type I.*

*Extra line of vertical perforations
(12½) through centre of stamp.*



*Perforated 12½.
Watermark Inverted.
Type I.*

*Pre-printing paper-fold
leaving 18mm. vertical
blank strip.*



*Perforated 12½x13½x12½x13 (D).
Watermark Inverted.
Type I.
May 20, 1866.*

Only 8 stamps on the sheet perforated thus.

1866-The 2 Piastre Value.

Perforation Varieties.



Perforated 13x12 1/2x13x12 1/2 (E).
Watermark Inverted.

Early Printing with background sharp
and clear, finely struck thicker overprint.
Type I.



Perforated 13x12 1/2x13x12 1/2 (E).
Watermark Inverted.

Late printing with thinner, fainter
overprint. Type I. Position 191.
Matrix Type 10.

Only 18 stamps on the sheet perforated thus.¹



Perforated 12 1/2x13x12 1/2x12 1/2 (E).
Watermark Inverted.

Position 139 on the sheet.
Type I. Matrix Type 7.



Perforated 13x12 1/2x13x12 1/2 (E).
Watermark Inverted.

Position 183 on the sheet.
Type I. Matrix Type 10.

Only 18 stamps on the sheet perforated thus.¹



Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Upright.
Type II.



Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Upright.
Type II.
January 30th 1867.

1866-The 2 Piastre Value.

Double Rate Letter.



June 8th 1867. Double Rate cover from Cairo to Suez
franked by single 2 piastre yellow tied by blue
"Poste Vice Reali Egitienne-Cairo" datetamp,
paying the double weight (above 20 and under 20 grams) letter rate.

Reverse with "Poste Vice Reali Egitienne-Suez" arrival in black.
Note the Cairo short spelling of "Guigno" (June) as "Glu" and Suez as "Guig"
in the dispatch and arrival datetamps.¹

¹ RPSL certificate
in Collections of A. Mahdick and R. Wilson.

1866-The 2 Piastre Value.

Double-Byte Characters

The 2 Piastre value was issued to pay the Registration of 2 piastres or the double weight (above 10 and under 20 grams) internal letter rate.



January 25, 1867: Cover from Alexandria to Tanta with a postmark cancelled "Poste Vice Royal Egypte-Alexandrie" datestamp.
Reverse with Tanta arrival of the same day.²



April 10, 1867: Large piece with 2 piastra
cancelled "Poste Vice-Reali Egitto-Cairo" datestamp in blue.

1866-The 2 Piastre Value.

Registered Cover.

The 2 Piastre value was issued to pay the registration fee of 2 piastres or the double weight (above 10 and under 20 grams) internal letter rate.



October 2, 1866: Registered cover from Cairo to Alexandria, franked at 3 piastre rate (1 piastre postage + 2 piastres registration) bearing 1 piastre and 2 piastre adhesives cancelled by "Poste Vice Reali Egitiane-Cairo" datestamp and framed "RACCOMANDATE" (Registered) handstamp in black. Alexandria arrival on reverse of the same day.¹

The earliest recorded first issue registered cover.



*February 2, 1866.
2 piastre on piece cancelled by its dot retta
with "Poste Vice Reali Egitiane-Alexandria"
datestamp alongside.*

1866-The 2 Piastre Value.

Bisects of the 2 piastre value were authorised for use in Alexandria and Cairo after stocks of the 1 piastre value were exhausted.

Alexandria was authorised to bisect the 2 piastre for use as a 1 piastre from July 16th 1867 (Postal Circular 1678 of July 13, 1867).

Cairo was authorised to bisect the 2 piastre from July 20th 1867.

The second issue of adhesives were released from August 1st 1867, so the bisects were in use for just two weeks in Alexandria and ten days in Cairo.

The bisects were always cut diagonally.



July 32, 1867.

PVRE-Alexandria datestamp.

Reverse of large piece shows Darwishhour same day arrival datestamp.¹



August 1, 1867.

'PVRE-Alexandria' datestamp.

First day of issue for the second series of Egyptian stamps, which are recorded used on August 1.

1866-The 2 Piastre Value.

Directed Usages.

At first glance, the cover below appears erroneously placed in the collection. However, this rather unassuming cover shows the usage of a 1 piastre adhesive during the "bisection" stamp shortage period in Cairo between July 20 and July 31, 1867.



July 27, 1867: Cover from Cairo to Alexandria franked by 1 piastre, cancelled by "Poste Vice Royal Egiptene-Cairo" datetstamp in blue. The request allowing for the diagonal bisection of the 2 piastre adhesive due to a shortage of the 1 piastre was granted by Post Office Circular No. 1703 dated July 25, 1867. This cover with an intact 1 piastre appears, so far, to be a unique usage.¹



July 25, 1867: Large piece bearing diagonally bisected 2 piastre cancelled by "Poste Vice Realio Egiptene-Cairo" datetstamp in blue.

¹ Osmer's article in *Quarterly Circular for Egyptian Study Circle*, March 2002.

1866-The 2 Piastre Value.

Triple Rate Port to Port Cover.



*April 2, 1867: Cover from Alexandria to Suez, Turkey
franked at triple to "Port to Port" 1 piastre special rate applicable
between Alexandria and Egyptian Consular Post Offices abroad.*

*Franked by 1 piastre and 2 piastre adhesives paying the triple weight (under 30 grams) step,
cancelled by "Poste Vice Reali Egiziane-Alessandria" datestamps.
Reverse with Egyptian Consular Office "Poste Vice Reali Egiziane-Suez"
arrival datestamp April 3, 1867.*

*A unique franking-all other combination usages
of these two adhesives are internal usages with the 2 piastre pre-paying the registration fee.*



*1 piastre.
Cancelled at Suez
October 6, 1866.*



*2 piastre.
Cancelled at Suez
June 1866.*

*The Consular Post Office in Suez
opened on November 14, 1865 and closed on June 30, 1882.*

1866-The 5 Piastre Value.

In common with the 5 para, 10 para, 20 para and 10 piastre values, the 5 piastre was printed entirely, background and overprint, by lithography.

Therefore the stamp has the two background types and also ten different types on the vertical Matrix Stone.

Like the 10 piastre value, a vast number of stamps were printed compared to ensuing sales, Pellas supplied 300,000 stamps of which but 18,400 were sold.

Whilst the stamp is more frequently encountered in unused condition it is by no means common and this suggests that remainders were destroyed.



The Two Types.

Type I.

Ornament clear of circle.
'5' upright, larger
upper part to '5'.

Type II.

Ornament touches circle.
'5' tilted to left and
'5' parts equal.



5 Piastre.
Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Upright.
Type II.



5 Piastre.
Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Inverted.
Type II.



5 Piastre.
Broken '5' in South West corner.
Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Upright.
Type I.
Matrix Stone Type 5.
Positions 81-100.



5 Piastre.
Broken '5' in South West Corner.
Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Inverted.
Type II.
Matrix Stone Type 5.
Positions 81-100.

1866-The 5 Piastre Value.

Used Examples.



5 Piastre.

*Perforated 12½.
Watermark Upright.*

*Type I.
December 1866, Cairo datestamp.¹
Just 18,400 stamps were sold.*



5 Piastre.

*Perforated 13012½0013012½ (D).
Watermark Upright.*

*Type I.
Retro cancellation.*



*Perforated 12½.
Watermark Inverted.*

*Type II.
Retro cancellation.¹*



5 Piastre.

*Perforated 13012½0013012½ (D).
Watermark Inverted.*

*Type I.
Datestamp.*



*5 Piastre with 2 Piastre horizontal pair
used on small piece.*

Perforated 12½.

*Type II.
27 July, 1867 Alexandria
datestamp.
The 2 piastre pair is perforated 13 at base.²*

1866-The 5 Piastre Value.

The Ten Types on the Vertical Matrix Stone.

Descriptions from Dr W. Ryan's article in the FUGB.

Transfer Types 1-6.



Matrix Stone Type 1.
Loop of band touches NE circle.
Top of '5' in NE corner indented
above. Lower white frame line
broken near from SE circle.
Position 4, overprint type 1.



Matrix Stone Type 2.
Coloured flow in circle round
P.E. in SE corner, break
in right outer frame line, 15mm
from top of stamp.
Position 29, overprint type 2.



Matrix Stone Type 3.
Break in outer border of SE
loop of band at extreme right.
Position 36, overprint type 3.



Matrix Stone Type 4.
Coloured flow on looped
band just above SW loop.
Position 77, overprint type 4.



Matrix Stone Type 5.
Broken '5' in SW corner.
Position 86, overprint type 5.



Matrix Stone Type 6.
White flow in background
between lower frame line
and curved white line above.
Position 108, overprint type 6.

The Type 4 exhibited here also shows the variety
'Large break in the arabic 'Posta' overprint at top'.
Defective overprint transfer, constant in position 77.

1866-The 5 Piastre Value.

The Ten Types on the Vertical Matrix Stone.
Descriptions from Dr W. Byam's article in the *PAGB*.

Transfer Types 7-10.



Matrix Stone Type 7.
Design inverted (Type II).
Break in outer frame line below
junction of circle in NE corner.
Position 121, overprint type 7.



Matrix Stone Type 8.
White break in outer coloured
margin of circle in SE corner.
Position 158, overprint type 3.
Inverted overprint intended
for position 49.



Matrix Stone Type 9.
Circular coloured flaw in white
at NW corner below 'P.E'.
Position 159, overprint type 9.



Matrix Stone Type 10.
Design inverted (Type I).
No break in NE corner circle.
Position 10, overprint type 10.

The Type 7 exhibited here also shows the variety
'extra dot above left (Misriah) Arabic overprint'
thus altering the Arabic to read 'Misr Miniah'.

Damaged by the lithographic transfer, this is the
most significant variety on the sheet of 200.

1866-The 5 Piastre Value.

Imperforate and Perforation Varieties.



5 Piastre.

*Imperforate.
Watermark Inverted.*

Type II.



5 Piastre.

*Perforated 12 1/2 by
Imperforate vertically.
Watermark Inverted.*

Type I.



5 Piastre.

*Perforated 12 1/2 by
Imperforate vertically.
Watermark Inverted.*

Type II.



5 Piastre.

Broken 'S' in South West corner.

*Perforated 12 1/2 x 13 x 12 1/2 x 13 (D).
Watermark Upright.*

Type II.

*Matrix Stone Type 5.
Positions 87-100.*

1866-The 5 Piastre Value.

Error of Overprint.

The 5 Piastre Value overprinted 10 Pistres.



5 piastre.

*Normal Overprint.
Watermark Upright.
Perforated 12 1/2.*

Type II.



Error 10 piastre on 5 piastre.

*Perforated 12 1/2x15.
Watermark Upright.*

Type I.¹



Error 10 piastre on 5 piastre.

*Perforated 12 1/2x15.
Watermark Upright.*

Type II.²



10 piastre.

*Matrix Type 6.
Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Upright.*

Type I.³

¹ St. Collection des Monnaies de l'Empire Ottoman.
² RPA certificate.
³ Egypt Study Circle certificate.

1866-The 5 Piastre Value.

Error of Overprint, Imperforate.

The 5 Piastre Value overprinted 10 Pistres.



Error 10 piastre on 5 piastre.

*Imperforate.
Watermark Upright.¹*

Type I.



Error 10 piastre on 5 piastre.

*Imperforate.
Watermark Inverted.²*

Type II.



Error 10 piastre on 5 piastre.

*Imperforate Proof
without watermark.*

Printed on both sides.²

Type II shown.

¹ Orléans Philatelic Foundation.

² In Collection for Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

1866-The 5 Piastre Value.

Three Colour Piece.



March 2, 1867: Large piece of heavy linen-backed envelope mailed from Cairo bearing 1866 1 piastre, Type II; 2 piastre, Type I and 5 piastre, Type II adhesives all cancelled by two strikes of "Poste Vice Royal Egypte-Cairo" datestamp in blue.

There are two known three colour first issue usages recorded on piece, both being exhibited in this collection.¹

¹ See collection Dr. Agnew (1961), A. Michael (1961) and "Pasha".

1866-The 10 Piastre Value.

A 10 Piastre value was not actually required and the scarcity of both unused and used examples can be attributed to both printing figures and stamps sold. Whilst there were 200,000 stamps printed, only 7,600 were sold, the remainder of the stamp must have been destroyed or the stamp would be far more frequently encountered.

It is interesting to note that the 1867 second issue values were the same as the 1866 issue, merely substituting a 2 piastre value for the 10 piastre.

The 10 piastre was entirely printed by lithography, both the background and the overprint.

As usual there are two types, upright and inverted, of the background, but the 10 piastre is more difficult to tell apart than any save the 2 piastre, the latter being difficult to distinguish on account of its colour.

There were only 9 Types on the vertical Matrix Stone for the 10 piastre, the 10th being replaced by Types 1-9 across the sheet in the positions normally occupied by the 10th Type, positions 181-200.

Watermarked. Perforated 12 1/2.



The Two Types.

Type I.

Line through 'o' passes ornament, 1 tapered to foot centre of 'o' asymmetrical. Damaged 'E' at top. 125 stamps on sheet.

Type II.

Line through 'o' between ornaments, 1 is not tapered to foot & thin. 'E' is upright and straight. 85 stamps on sheet.



Unused pair.

*Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark inverted.*

Type II.

Matrix Stone Type 9, from positions 160-180.

The largest unused multiple is a unique block of four, watermark upright. No other multiples are known this is, therefore, the largest unused multiple with watermark upright.

1866-The 10 Plastre Value.

Further Matrix Types.



Stone A.

*Perforated 12½.
Watermark Upright.*

Type II.

Matrix Type I.

*Break in coloured oval frame line—retouch of spot above 'P' in SE corner,
wide breach in centre of upper frame line.*

Position 18-20.¹



Stone A.

*Perforated 12½.
Watermark Upright.*

Type I.

Matrix Type III.

Bulge in vertical frame line at SW corner.²



Stone A.

*Perforated 12½.
Watermark Inverted.*

Type II.

Matrix Type III.

*Bulge in vertical frame line,
at NE corner, overprint transfer
Type B, applied inverted.²*

¹ In collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
² Same composite. In collection Albert.

1866-The 10 Piastre Value.

Further Matrix Types.



Stone A.

*Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Upright.*

Type II.

Matrix Type IV.

Small break in SE corner 'P.E.' triangle.

Additional bar of colour under centre of base frame line.¹



Stone A.

*Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Upright.*

Type II.

Matrix Type V.

*Break in both outer frame lines
at NW corner, damaged 'E' in NW 'P.E.'*



Stone A.

*Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Upright.*

Type I.

Matrix Type VI.

*Small detached coloured piece in
left vertical margin below NW triangle.*

1866-The 10 Piastre Value.

Further Matrix Types.



*Perforated 12½.
Watermark Upright.*

*Type II.
Matrix Type VII.
Flattened 'o' in SW corner triangle.¹*



*Perforated 12½.
Watermark Inverted.*

*Type II.
Matrix Type VIII.
White specks in NE triangle frame lines,
small dent in outer horizontal frame line in SW corner.*



*Perforated 12½x12½x13x12½ (F & G).
Watermark Inverted.*

*Type II.
Matrix Type IX.
Break in outer frame line below 'F' in SE corner.
The perforation variety occurred 26 times on the sheet.*

*Position 177 on the sheet of 200.
Positional flaw showing dot outside the vertical
frame line at right.*

1866-The 10 Piastre Value.

Perforation Varieties.



*Imperforate.
Watermark Inserted.*

*Type II.
Probably of Proof status.¹*



*Perforated 12 1/2
Imperforate vertically,
Watermark Upright.*

Type I.



*Perforated 12 1/2 x 12 1/2 (II).
Watermark Upright.*

Type II.

Only 8 stamps on the sheet with this perforation.



*Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Upright.*

*Type II.
Additional line of vertical 12 perforations
through stamp at left.²*

¹ RPH surpluses. In reference sheet.

² In collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

1866-The 10 Piastre Value.

Used Examples.

The 10 piastre, with only 7,600 examples sold is much scarcer in used condition.

Catalogue values for this stamp do not so much reflect rarity as popularity—a stamp as uniformly unappealing as this should perhaps be collected in unused condition if only for aesthetic reasons.



*Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Upright.
Type II.¹
Cancelled by Retta.*



*Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Upright.
Type II.
Cancelled by Retta.*



*Perforated 12 1/2;12 1/2;13;12 1/2 (E).
Watermark Upright.
Type I.
Circular PVRE datestamp.*



*Perforated 12 1/2.
Watermark Upright.
Type I.²
Circular PVRE datestamp.*



*Perforated 12 1/2;13;12 1/2;13 (D).
Watermark Upright.
Type II.
Circular PVRE datestamp.*

Only one cover is known bearing this stamp.

1866-The 10 Piastre Value.

There were 9 Types stone lithographed on 2 Matrix Stones,
the tenth type being replaced at random by any of the other nine across the sheet.
There was probably a defect on the Plate and the transfers from the Stone were discarded.
Imperforate Pallas Proof sheets are all from Stone 'A'.

As some stamps do not plate, there was therefore, obviously a second Plate,
known as Stone 'B'.

Whilst much further research is still needed to fully determine the configuration of the second plate
and that of its corresponding background stone, the plating of this Stone has been hampered
by the individual rarity of the stamps themselves.

Stone B.



Perforated 12½.
Watermark Upright.

Type II.

Matrix Type I.

Characteristics as above.

Major break in central arabic 'MISR' overprint,
and retouched flaw below the 'P' in SE corner.
Probably from Positions 18, 19 or 20 from Stone B.¹



Perforated 12½.
Watermark Upright.

Type II.

Matrix Type II.

White flaw to right of 'P.E.'
triangle in SE corner.²



Perforated 12½.
Watermark Upright.

Type II.

Matrix Type II.

Background from second
row of sheet, overprint not Type 2.¹

1866-The 10 Piastre Value.

Combination usage on piece.

Three colour franking.



Perforated 12 1/2.

Type II.

*Used on small piece in combination
with 1866 1 piastre and 2 piastre*

*cancelled by
"Poste Vice Royal Egypte-Alexandria"
27 January, 1867.¹*

*Only two three colour usages are known on piece,
the other example is also exhibited in this collection
under the 5 piastre value.*

1866-The Cancellations.

We have seen that from April 25, 1865 the *Posta Europea* cancellations gave way to those that would be used alongside or on the first issue: "*Poste Vice-Roal Egitiane*" (Egyptian Vice-Royal Post).

Probably on January 1, 1866 at the same time as the adhesive stamps were first issued to the public, further cancelling devices were issued to Postmasters.

These are all shown in this Exhibit and include the ubiquitous *tu dot* (500) "*Retha*" handstamp, and cancelling devices issued for registration, insufficiently or part paid mail and for collection of Postage Due.



February 23, 1866: Cover from Cairo to Alexandria, mailed without a 1 piastre adhesive with despatch datestamp "*Poste Vice-Roal Egitiane* Cairo" and Alexandria arrival of the same day on reverse.

Taxed with '80' (80 paras=2 piastres) handstamp, for double the deficiency of postage due. The Postage Due numeral handstamp "80" was introduced in early 1866 probably alongside the first issue, as there were no plans to introduce adhesive Postage Dues.

The Due handstamps were to remain in use for over fifteen years, the above cover being the earliest recorded date of use, the second known example being struck on August 7, 1866.⁷

1866-The Cancellations.

The Retta.

This obliterator, of 81 dots formatted nine by nine, was used from the beginning of the issue to cancel the new adhesives. By April 1866, the retta began to be replaced as a canceller by the circular datestamp "Poste Vice-Royale Egyptienne".



March 26, 1866: Cover from Alexandria to Cairo
franked by 1 piastre cancelled by the retta
with "Poste Vice Royale Egyptienne-Alexandrie" datestamp alongside.¹

The retta is universally found struck in black in the nineteenth century, the retta cancellation was to remain in use after its initial replacement, for over eighty years, initially to cancel stamps which had escaped notice of the Postal clerk and later used to cancel mail from the British Forces in the 1930's.



Pair, perforated 12-15.
Both Type 1.

Complete retta cancellation.²

¹ Dr. Elvert Collection.

² Dr. Elvert Collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

1866-The Cancellations.

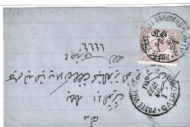
The "Poste Vice-Roi d'Egypte" Datesamps.

The circular dated cancellation is universally found on covers of the first issue and found struck more frequently on stamps postmarked after April 1866 when the retia was replaced as the permanent cancellation.

The Cancellation was introduced on April 15th 1866 and was not specifically produced for the first issue. Normally found struck in black, although Cairo and Alexandria, as we shall see on the following pages, also used red and blue ink.



September 18, 1866: Cover from Manoura to Alexandria
franked by 1 piastre adhesive cancelled
"Poste Vice-Roi d'Egypte-Manoura" datesamp.
Alexandria arrival of the same day on reverse.



January 10, 1866: Large piece bearing 1 piastre
cancelled contrary to initial regulations, by the circular
"Poste Vice-Roi d'Egypte-Cairo" datesamp instead of the retia.

The three line date in the cancellation is followed by the time code:
1T, 2T and 3T, were the three codes used, with or without the "T".

1866-The Cancellations.

The "Poste Vice Reali Egitiane" Dateshangs.

All first issue covers of Egypt are, with the exception of the single 1 piastre on letter, very scarce. However, mail from towns other than Cairo and Alexandria are elusive and have always been difficult to locate.



*June 2, 1866: Cover from Suez to Alexandria
1 piastre, Type I, cancelled "Poste Vice Reali Egitiane-Suez".*



*April 29, 1866: Large piece from Cairo to Suez
bearing 1 piastre, Type II, with adhesive cancelled
"Poste Vice Reali Egitiane-Cairo" and the arrival alongside
"Poste Vice Reali Egitiane-Suez" of the same day and time code.*

1866-The Cancellations.

The "Poste Vice Reali Egiziane" Datestamps.

In approximately April 1866 the *retta* cancellation used for obliterating the adhesives was replaced by the "Poste Vice-Reali Egiziane" datestamp as a canceller.



July 6, 1866: Cover from Cairo to Alexandria with 1 piastre cancelled by *retta* in black (a late use thus) with red "Poste Vice Reali Egiziane-Cairo" datestamp and, on reverse, the latest recorded date of use on cover of the "Poste Vice Reali Egiziane-Alessandria" datestamp in red.

Alexandria used red ink from June 20 until July 11, 1866.
Cairo used red ink from July 2 until August 20, 1866.¹



PVRE-Cairo,
July 29, 1866.



PVRE-Cairo,
August 4, 1866.



PVRE-Cairo,
July 12, 1866.

¹ R. G. Damer's article for Egypt Study Circle.

1866-The Cancellations.

The "Poste Vice Reali Egiziana" Datestamps.

Unpaid Taxed Cover to Constantinople.

Stampless unpaid Mail was charged at double the deficiency.



July 10, 1866: From Alexandria to Constantinople.

"Poste Vice Reali Egiziana-Alessandria" despatch datestamp struck in red.

Sent unpaid at the 1 piastre Port-to-Port rate.

*Charged with handstruck "50" in black (50 paras = 2 piastres)
for the amount due on receipt in Constantinople.¹*

*The "Poste Vice Reali Egiziana-Alessandria" datestamp in red
is extremely uncommon: only six strikes have so far been recorded on cover,
two of these being applied on arrival,
all are struck between June 22 and July 11, 1866.*

1866-The Cancellations.

The 'Poste Vice-Réel Égyptien' Datestamps.

Cairo's experiment with coloured cancellations continued.

After the red ink trials that took place between July 1st and August 20th in Cairo, blue was introduced in late 1866. This remained in use in Cairo, which occasionally used black ink too, until the end of the issue and into the beginning of the second adhesive issue.



July 13, 1867: Cover from Cairo to Alexandria
franked by 1 piastre cancelled 'Poste Vice-Réel Égyptien-Cairo' datestamp in blue.

Alexandria arrival datestamp of the same day on reverse in black.¹

Black was nearly always used by the Alexandria Post Office.

A late usage of the 1 piastre: blocking of the 2 piastre value began at Cairo on July 29th 1867.



PVRE-Cairo.
December 30th 1866.



PVRE-Cairo.
May 13th 1867.²



PVRE-Cairo.
May 20th 1867.

The use of blue ink was not in a uniform period but is not found
utilised before September 3, 1866.³

1. Richard A. Stearns.

2. An collection of New Egyptian Queen Elizabeth II.

3. Personal article with Egypt Study Circle.

1866-The Cancellations.

Cairo Datestamp in Blue.

Blue ink was used in Cairo between September 3, 1866 and August 1, 1867.



June 10, 1867: Cover from Cairo to Hotel de l'Europe, Alexandria with 1 piastre cancelled by "Poste Vice Reali Egizienne-Cairo" datestamp in blue.



January 24, 1867: Cover from Cairo to Alexandria mailed unpaid. Taxed with handstamped "80" (80 paras = 2 piastres) for double the 1 piastre original deficiency.

1866-The Cancellations.

The "Poste Vice Reali Egiziane" Datestamps.



October 5, 1866: Cover from Damanhour to Alexandria
franked by 1 piastre, Type II, cancelled "Poste Vice Reali Egiziane-Damanhour".



October 19, 1866: Cover from Zifta & Mit Gharer to Cairo,
franked by 1 piastre, Type II, cancelled by "Poste Vice Reali Egiziane-Zifta & Mitp."¹

Zifta and Mit Gharer were villages on opposite sides of the Nile with just the one Post Office.

1866-The Cancellations.

The "Poste Vice Reali Egiziane" Datestamps.



April 13, 1866: Cover from Kafr-Zayat to Alexandria
franked by 1 piastre, Type I, cancelled by retto in black
with "Poste Vice Reali Egiziane-Kafr Zayat" datestamp alongside.
Reverse with Alexandria arrival of the following day.

The earliest recorded usage of the Kafr-Zayat datestamp.¹



August 26, 1866: Cover from Alexandria to Cairo
franked by 1 piastre, Type II, cancelled by two strikes
of Poste Vice Reali Egiziane-Alexandria" datestamp
without time code and year above month, error of dating.

1866-The Cancellations.

The 'Poste Vice-Real Egitiziane' Datestamps.

Mail from towns other than Cairo and Alexandria is always elusive, further examples are shown below. The difficulty of the search is exacerbated by the size of the cancels, being larger than the stamp itself, the cancel very often only shows the top half of the datestamp, not the more philatelically interesting lower half.



April 27, 1867: Cover from Zaqaziq to Alexandria with 1 piastre cancelled 'Poste Vice-Real Egitiziane-Zaqaziq'.



*February 1867.
PVRE-Tanta.*



*July 1867.
PVRE-Darnasuta.*



*April 1, 1867.
PVRE-Suez.*



*March 5, 1867.
PVRE-Kaire Douar.
Earliest recorded date of use.¹*



*May 14, 1867.
PVRE-Cairo.
Late usage in black ink,
normally found in blue at this date.*

¹ Dr. Miro Kagan, *Raj. Egyptian Postal Markings* (Pohos & St. John's collection).

1866-The Cancellations.

Star & Crescent Cancellation.

This cancellation is only known used on the first issue in two towns, Gedda (Jeddah) in Saudi Arabia and at Desuk.

Desuk was a small village on the Rosetta branch of the Nile and the Post Office only opened in 1867.



*Star & Crescent
cancellation.*



"Poste Vice Roul Egiptiane-Desuk".

*Handstamped twice in black
on 1 piastre already lightly used in Alexandria.*

*Either a fraudulent re-use of the adhesive
or a 'safety' cancellation applied to prevent re-use.*

1866-The First Issue.

Registration Receipt Form.

AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE POSTE EGIZIANE

N.° *4363.*

BOLLETTA IN DEPOSITO

di un' articolo raccomandato consegnato dal
 Sig. *Consolo G. J. Italia*
 abitante a *Algeria*
 per il Sig. *Capo L. Signale*
 abitante a *Cairo*

Adda *25/5/97*

L'UFFICIALE DI POSTA
N. Balby

Peso grammi
115.

Valore dichiarato
cento quarantun mila.
 e (a) bollette *quattro*
Cinquante sette

POSTE REALI EGIZIANE
 26
 MAR
 97
 ALESSANDRIA

May 26, 1867: "Bolletta IN Deposito" sender's registration receipt form with "Amministrazione Delle Poste Egiziane" at side, used for a letter from Alexandria to Cairo.

Cancelled by Poste Vice Reali Egiziane-Alessandria' distestamp.

Note weight: '115 grammi' and manuscript notation of value:

"Valore dichiarato cento quarantun mila e quattro cento cinquanta sette" (14456) currency either Piastres or Italian Lire.

1866-The First Issue.

Consular Mail.

Consular Mail was carried free of charge.



*November 2, 1866: Cover from Italian Vice-Consul in Suez to Italian Consul in Cairo.
Mailed with green Vice Consular cachet, without adhesive.
Cancelled by "Poste Vice Reali Egiziane-Suez" datestamp in black,
Cairo arrival datestamp in black on reverse.*

*Letter written on October 31st with dateline on the entire reading:
"Suez a bordo del Hodeida" (Yemen).*

*Consular Mail within Egypt was carried within the Postal system free of all charges.
Smith¹ states that "provided that the Official imprint of or handstamp is used...
mail to addresses within the country is free..." Smith goes on to state:
"The custom presumably began with the formation of the UPU",
this last statement being based on an 1877 cover in the Biolato collection.*

*The cover above shows that the practice was accepted well before Egypt
joined the formative GPU-UPU in July 1875,
however the links between the Egyptian and Italian Postal Services
were already formed and both Services shared an operating language.*