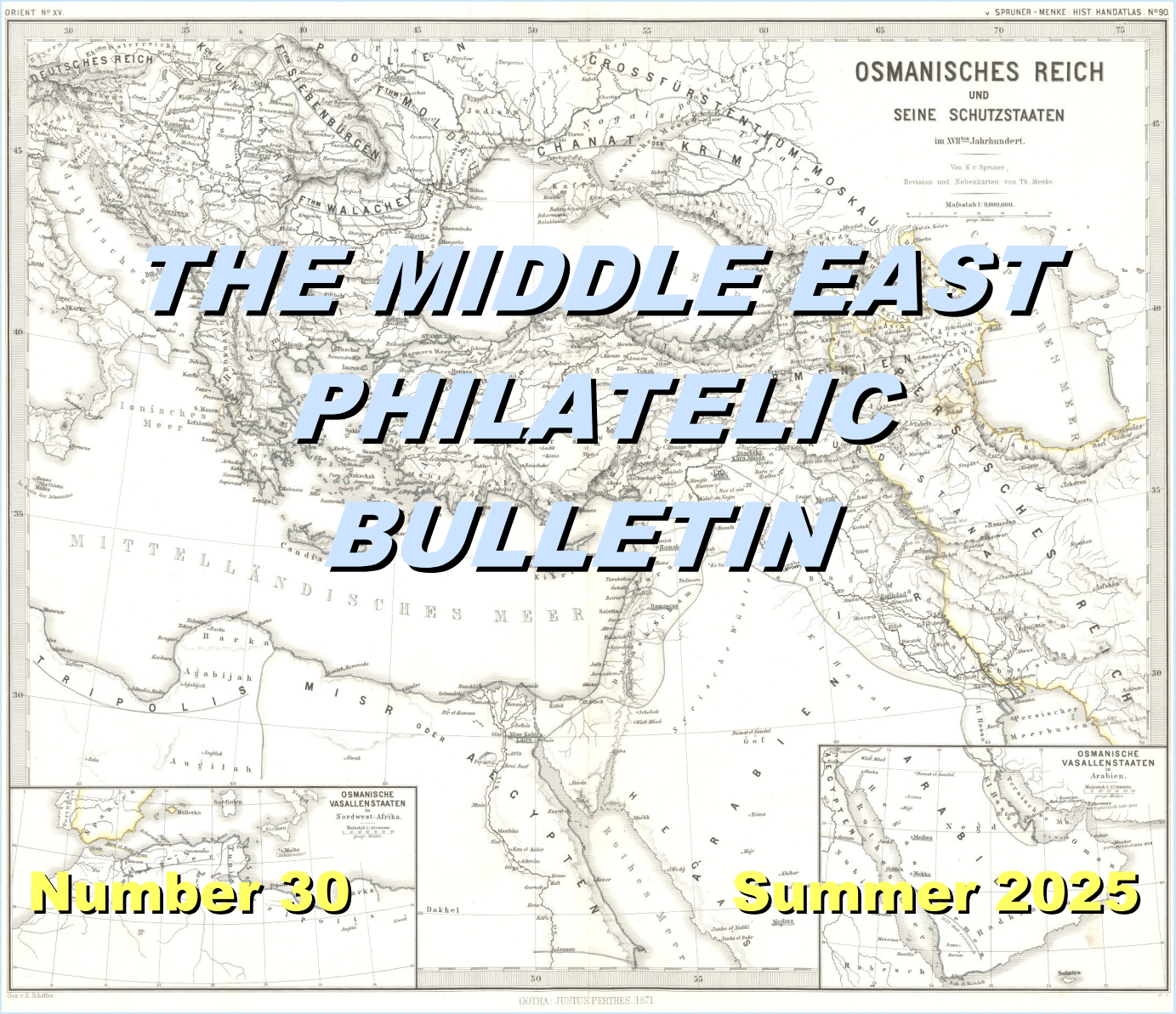
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THE MIDDLE EAST PHILATELIC BULLETIN

Number 30 Summer 2025

The Bombay–Aden Sea Post Office: A Timeline

'Last-Minute' Mail received on Board Steamer in Suez

German Military Cachets in the Ottoman Empire

İstanbul Views on Stamps: Sultan Ahmed Mosque

Ounces or Grammes? Weight Units in Iraq

The Turkish Parliament Buildings on Stamps

Mail Routes and TPOs of Trans(Jordan)

UNRWA – Refugee Aid in Palestine since 1949

Archive: Ottoman Revenue Stamps: Imperforate Proofs Album

Archive: Annual Report of the Postmaster-General of Egypt for 1877

plus Reactions, Comments, Queries, and more!

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CONTENTS

Mike Dovey: The Bombay–Aden Sea Post Office : A Timeline.....3
Bo Andersson: The Sea Post Office: 'Last-Minute' Mail received on Board Steamer in Suez.....14
Volker Fredebold: The Baghdad Provisionals on Cover.....22
Horst Borlinghaus, Arno Schmolke, and Walter Stegmüller: Cachets of German Army Troops and the German Imperial Navy in the Ottoman Empire and Caucasus during World War I – Part 1: Introduction and Replacement Formations (Pascha II).....24
Hakan Yılmaz: İstanbul Views on Stamps (1914-1921) – Part 1: Sultan Ahmed Mosque (Sultan Ahmet Camii).....32
Rainer Fuchs (FRPSL, AIJP): Ounces or Grammes? Update on Weight Units used by Iraqi Post in the 1920s.....40
Hakan Yılmaz: The Turkish Parliament Buildings on Stamps.....47
Hoseinali Tahvildari: Postal Correspondence to the Judiciary in the Reza Shah Era.....56
Avo Kaplanian: Mail Routes and TPOs of Trans(Jordan).....73
Yehuda Kleiner: WWI Postal Censorship with Reference to Palestine.....94
Jean-Louis Emmenegger (AIJP): UNRWA – Refugee Aid in Palestine since 1949.....102
Bernd-Dieter Buscke (AIJP): Jordan 1954: Rare Palestine "Fils" Overprint Franking.....111
Wilfried Korber: Rare Meter Marks of Turkey: SATAS.....113

Reactions, Comments, Queries

Tobias Zywietz: EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025.....116
Tobias Zywietz: How do Turkish Postal Rates work today?.....117
Dr. John K. Courtis: Book Presentation: "O.H.M.S. Postal Stationery and Social Philately".....118
Michael Sharnoff: The Arab-Iranian Stamp War over the Persian Gulf.....121
Tobias Zywietz: Philatelic Antiquarian Bookshop Philabooks reopens.....121
Jens Warnecke: Ottoman Empire in WW I: Stamp Shortages?.....122
Martin Lovegrove: Digital Resources on Saudi Arabian Forgeries and Stamps.....124
Bernd-Dieter Buscke (AIJP): New Discovery: Jordanian "P.P" (Fee Paid) Cachet from 2003.....125
Oral Avcı: Ottoman Postal History Research Association = Osmanlı Posta Tarihi Araştırma Derneği.....126
Rainer Fuchs (FRPSL, AIJP): 2025 South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition (SAVPEX).....127
M. Bülent Papuççuoğlu: Book Announcement: "Turkish Stamps Specialized Catalogue: Republic of Türkiye 1924–1945"....128
Tobias Zywietz: Exhibits Online and Studies at the Academy of Turkish Philately Website.....129
Tobias Zywietz: Obituary: Mehmet Kühut Alanyalı (1939–2025)....131

Archive Section

Tobias Zywietz: Ottoman Revenue Stamps: Imperforate Proofs Album (II).....133
Annual Report of the Postmaster-General of Egypt for 1877.....175
Arthur G. Ferard: The Indian Mails to Brindisi and Bombay (1895/1897).....201

Recent Philatelic Journals.....210
Adverts Section.....219
Editorial.....259
Imprint.....261
Data Protection Policy.....262
In the Next Issue.....268

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The Bombay–Aden Sea Post Office
A Timeline

by Mike Dovey

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In **1840** the Peninsular & Oriental Line (P&O)[1] agreed with the British Government a contract to carry mail from Britain to Egypt at a fee of £34,200 per annum, luckily for P&O this being the lowest tender of the four interested companies. The contract was offered on the basis that P&O would begin a service east of Egypt through to India and this was duly created when the *Hindustan* sailed via the Cape of Good Hope to Suez to commence this second part of the contract.

In **1841** Arthur Anderson of P&O had visited Egypt and had arranged with the Pasha of Egypt a way of joining the east and west voyages together. The agreement covering passengers, cargoes and most importantly mail provided for the following:

- A 48 mile passage along the Mahmoudieh Canal, constructed with forced labour in 1819–1821, that linked Alexandria and Atfeh – a port on the Nile. The boat was in fact pulled by horses and the journey took some twelve hours.
- A river steamer voyage of some 240 miles from Atfeh to Bouliac, the port for Cairo. This journey took another fifteen hours.
- A 36 hour ride from Cairo to Suez in a horse drawn buggy, the route was 84 miles and passengers travelled in open trucks with a canvas roof and although it included up to 12 hours to stop for refreshments, etc. The whole episode was not for the faint-hearted. Luggage, cargo and the mail was carried by up to 4000 camels which always travelled faster than the passengers and the ship at Suez was invariably held up pending the passengers catching up.

This was the beginning of the mail contract that would eventually grow into the Bombay–Aden Sea Post Office. Originally known as the Bombay–Suez Sea Post Office the name was changed to Bombay–Aden Sea Post Office when Aden began to appear in the date-stamps.

1851

It was hoped that times could be vastly improved with the construction of the new railways, including routes that would link Alexandria and Suez, alas Cairo wasn't reached until 1856 and Suez in 1859. When the railways were eventually finished then the linking of the two steamers was vastly improved.

1859

The Postmaster General in Great Britain announced a determination to sort mails on the homeward bound steamers from Alexandria to both Marseille and Southampton, with a view to a partial or a complete sorting. The question was asked of the Government of India as to whether they would bear the cost of part of the scheme and this was declined as it was felt that British sorters would not understand how many of the duplicated names in India could be sorted.

1 Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.



Fig. 1: An entire from Mauritius to Bordeaux dated 7.12.1854 with a "PACKET LETTER" cancel, carried on the SS *Bombay*, etc.

1860

The Indian Government in Bombay reported that on P&O steamers postal clerks were employed to sort mail on vessels leaving Marseille and on arrival at Valletta in Malta they would transfer to a homeward bound vessel and sort mails on the way back to Southampton and that if this was the case then perhaps mail could be sorted on P&O vessels travelling from Suez to Bombay, and while all believed it to be a good idea nothing could be done due to the poor state of Indian finances at the time and so the idea was not pursued.



Fig. 2: A small envelope from London to Tasmania dated 7.07.1860 with a "SHIPLETTER INWARDS FREE" cancel, carried on the vessels SS *Ceylon* and SS *Behar*.

In 1864 Lord Lawrence revived the idea of sorting mail and after discussions between the Director General and the Government in Bombay while the idea of sorting mail seemed a good one again all talks came to nothing and any plans were dropped.

1867

The plans were revived as by now there was a weekly communication between Great Britain and India and in a new experimental contract with the P&O provision was made for a postal sorting office and for free accommodation for sorters east of Suez. The Government of India, maybe seeing the very low cost of such an accommodation, authorised and arranged for six sets of sorters to work on fifty two voyages a year between Bombay and Suez, each set comprising a head sorter, a sorter and two packers. The calculation was based on a voyage of fifteen days in each direction with between two to six days in port at each end.

The 1867 Postal Contract between the British Government and P&O was effective from the 1st February 1868. The contract for the mails was signed between the British Post Office and P&O for mails between Great Britain and Bombay. British personnel were used from Southampton to Alexandria while Indian staff from the Indian Post Office were contracted for the voyages from Suez to Bombay. The first steamer involved in the contract was the SS *Sumatra* which left Bombay (now Mumbai) on 29th February 1868. From 1868 until 1872 only the mail on the eastward bound vessels was sorted while any westbound mail was guarded only, eventually mail going westbound was also sorted.

1869

The Suez Canal was opened. Built and engineered by the Frenchman Ferdinand de Lesseps it paved the way for a much easier linking of steamers and cut transit times so that everything including the mail could travel through Egypt much faster. The opening of the canal did pose problems for P&O and the contract it had with the British Post Office, as for the first five years until 1874 the Post Office insisted that all mail was to be carried overland as per the contract and not by the new cheaper route through the canal. This was solved in 1874 when a new contract was drawn up with a £20,000 reduction in contract fees.

The whole episode had become a farce with a steamer dropping the mail at Alexandria, continuing through the canal, then on arrival at Suez picking up the same mail which had arrived by train and while the Post Office were not against the transit of mail by steamer through the canal they were intent on reducing the value of the contract, which by 1874 they had succeeded in doing.

1870

The experiment was made permanent as the whole episode had been so successful. Mail arriving in Bombay could be placed with ticket holders for overland mail to the interior within ten minutes instead of maybe having to wait until the following day as it would be a minimum of six hours before the same mail could be available. The Indian sea sorting office sorted mails for Britain although the General Post Office did not reciprocate by sorting the mail for India, the latter being done at sea, which enabled London to dispense with the high cost Naval Agents.

The new revised contract still provided for sorting accommodation east of Suez but there was no such provision for anything going west of Suez and therefore it was deemed that the Master of the vessel should take charge of all mail west of Suez, based on the fact that the Indian sea-sorting was so good that by the time it arrived in the Mediterranean there was nothing to sort.



Fig. 3: A small envelope from Reading to India dated 2.07.1872 with a Type 2 "SEA POST OFFICE" (indice D) cancel, carried on the SS *Behar*.

1873

The six sets of staff were collectively known as the "Marine Postal Service, Suez & Bombay" and comprised of six mail officers, six assistant mail officers, six supernumerary assistant mail officers and twelve packers which meant that each Set had a staff of five personnel. When the service was reduced to Bombay to Aden, and the sets were reduced to three, the number in each set was steadily increased so that by 1908 each set had twenty-nine workers comprising an assistant mail officer, fifteen sorters, and thirteen packers.



Fig. 4: An envelope from Peterchurch to India dated 7.08.1873 with a Type 2 "SEA POST OFFICE" (indice F) cancel, carried on the SS *Deccan*.

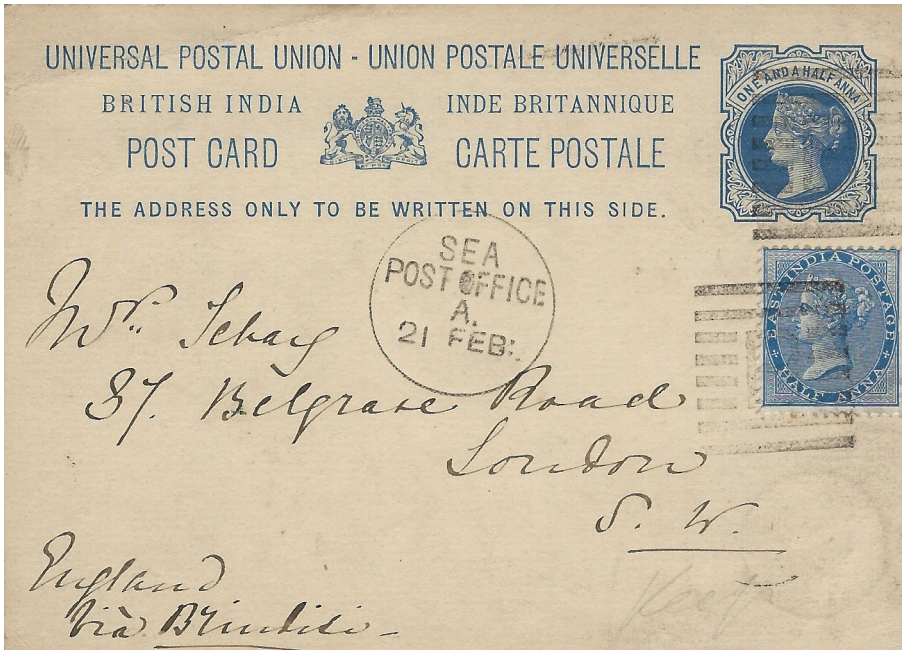


Fig. 5: A postcard from India to London dated 21.02.1880 with a Type 3 "SEA POST OFFICE" (indice A) cancel, carried on the SS *Bokhara*.

1890

The amount of work involved had grown to such an extent that with the number of men required to operate the system there was not enough accommodation on board the vessels or the supervision needed to improve the service. The voyage which had been Bombay to Suez was altered to Bombay to Aden due to the fact that P&O had decided to tranship mails between outward and homeward vessels in the port of Aden including vessels en route from Australia.

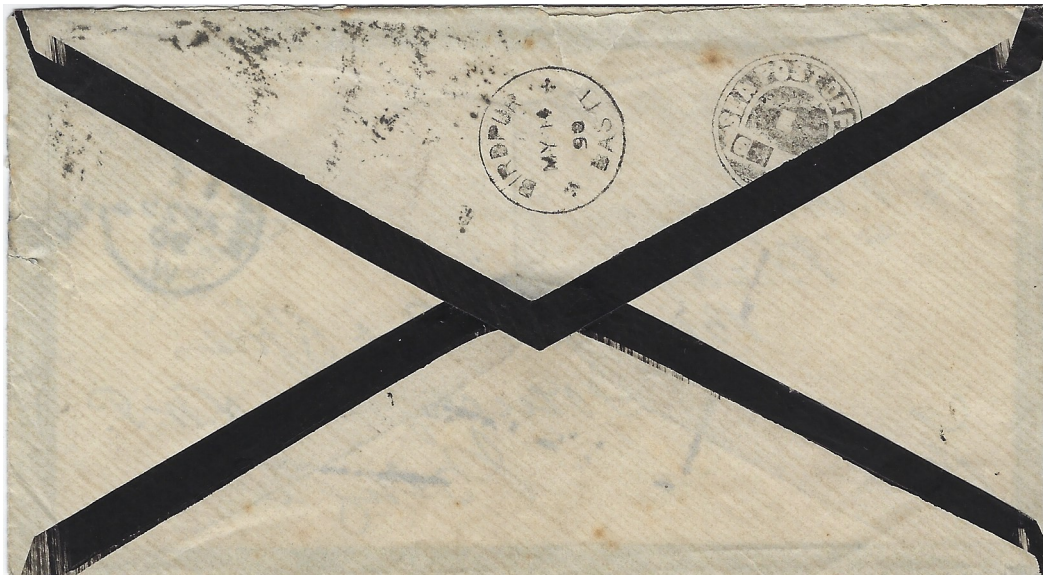


Fig. 6: An envelope from Hammersmith to India dated 14.05.1890 with a very **rare intaglio** "SEA POST OFFICE" cancel, carried on the SS *Assam.* Maybe only 5 copies known.

It should also be pointed out that while the volume of mail was on the increase P&O were always having the value of any contract reduced as the voyage times improved and the value of the mail contracts from China and India to Great Britain in the ten years up to 1888 reduced from around a total of £450,000 to £285,000 per annum.

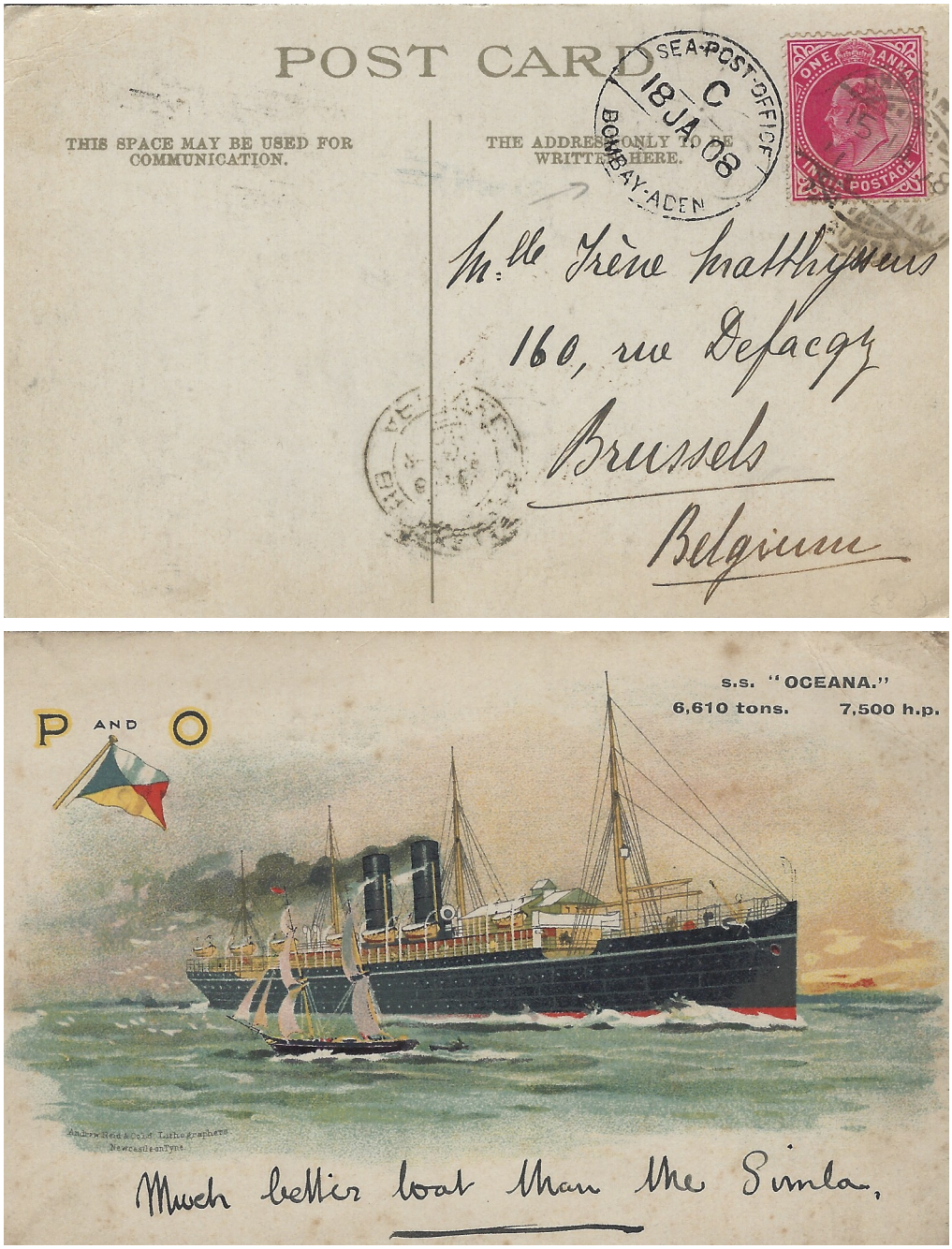


Figs. 7 and 7a: A postcard (back and front) from India to the USA dated 17.01.1903 with a Type 7A "SEA POST OFFICE" (indice C) cancel posted on board the SS *Arabia*. The front of the postcard showing the SS *Arabia*. This design is maybe the first one ever attempted by P&O for their ships and is **extremely rare**.

1899

Following a question asked in Parliament, a special inquiry was set up to find out the effect of the Imperial penny postage and the workings of the Sea Post Office staff. It came to the conclusion that the work involved and carried out by the staff was very exacting and there was a consideration as to whether it could be better to sort the mails either in Bombay or in the Railway Mail Service. While it was decided that sorting mail at sea was to carry on there would have to be a number of changes.

Another inquiry followed in **1905** following a representation to the Secretary of State for India by an MP, where it was again stated that the working conditions inflicted on the staff were not acceptable and were of a "peculiarly trying nature," and with mail for sorting expanding at a minimum of 10% per annum it was felt that this could not carry on in its present form and something must be done to solve the problem. The increase in volumes of mail was not reflected and the accommodation available was very limited on each of the steamers.

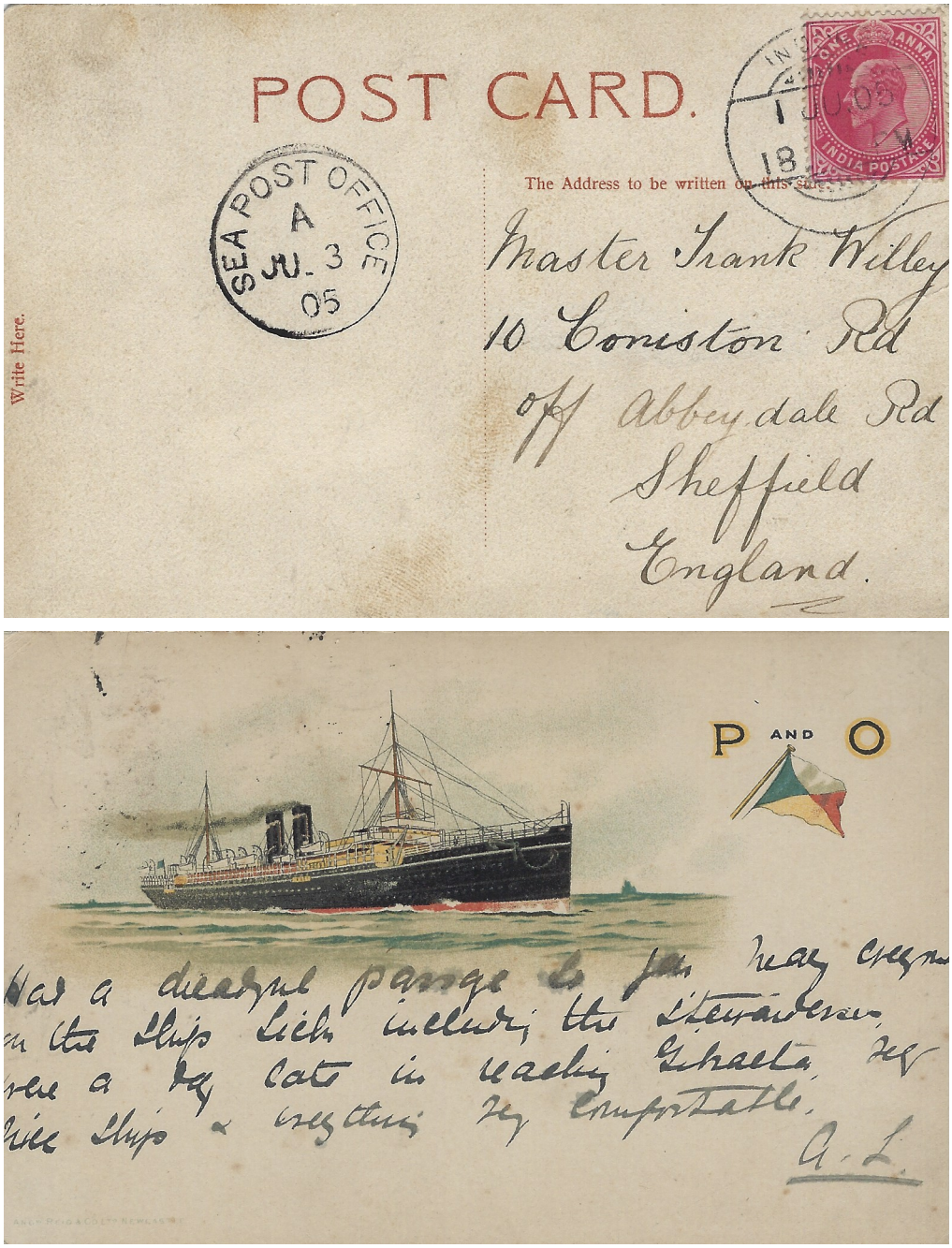


Figs. 8 and 8a: A postcard from India to Belgium dated 18.01.1908 with a Type 9 "SEA POST OFFICE" (indice C) cancel posted on board the SS *Oceana*.

1907

The subject of abolishing the Sea Post Office altogether, or at least restricting it to very small proportions, was again raised as it had become apparent that the workload of mail could not be covered with the restricted accommodation on board each vessel. There was a strong opinion that the time had come to radically alter the work and take sorting ashore as the amounts of mail to be processed could not be covered.

Within a year in **1908** it was eventually decided that something had to be done and that there had to be a radical rethink as to working practices and the Postmaster General in Bombay had the task of examining what could be done.



Figs. 9 and 9a: A postcard from India to Sheffield dated 3.07.1905 with a Type 7B "SEA POST OFFICE" (indice A) cancel posted on board the SS *Arcadia*.

At this point in **1908** the situation was that mail from Great Britain consisted of 60% sorted for various parts of India and 40% unsorted due to mail arriving in London for India on a Friday night not being sorted but transferred straight to the steamer. Any mail received from other countries was unsorted.

All unsorted mail, with the exception of trade circulars and price lists, was sorted between Aden and Bombay and an average voyage would consist of around 150,000 items to be sorted, 7,000 registered items to be specially dealt with and another 6,000 items which were either unpaid or underpaid and were to be taxed with postage dues. With this kind of input and workload and the severe lack of accommodation for such sorting a breaking point had been reached.



Figs. 10 and 10a: A postcard from Brighton to Karachi dated 20.03.1913 with a Type 9 "SEA POST OFFICE" (indice C) cancel posted on board the SS *China*.

There was a suggestion that the sorting voyage could be extended beyond Aden as far as either Suez or Port Said however this was not a viable proposition as the Australian steamers arrived at Aden every fortnight to tranship mails etc. Another big reason for not extending the voyage, apart from the cost involved, was the fact that close supervision of sorters and packers was not a viable proposition anymore. The old General Post Office in Bombay had been moved to new extended premises near the Victoria Terminus and so the fact that there was no room to deal with the incoming mails was a problem no more, and it was reckoned that with a staff of around 150 land based workers all of the mail from any steamer could be sorted, and/or transferred by sections of the Railway Mail Service (RMS) in and out of Bombay. Mails leaving India could be sorted by various Mail Offices and carried, and/or sorted, again by the RMS.

With the conditions at sea becoming even more untenable and the lack of security it was decided to abolish the sorting of mail at sea but to do so on a reducing scale with a gradual reduction to avoid any dislocation in the disposal and transfer of foreign mails. The various Indian Chambers of Trade and Commerce were consulted and it was decided that no full change could be made until the new Alexandra Docks in Bombay were completed. The Bombay Port Trust would provide a sorting hall for all mail to be transferred straight from the steamers to the pier and into the sorting hall. In this way mail could be loaded into special trains so that the RMS could then carry on the work.

1914

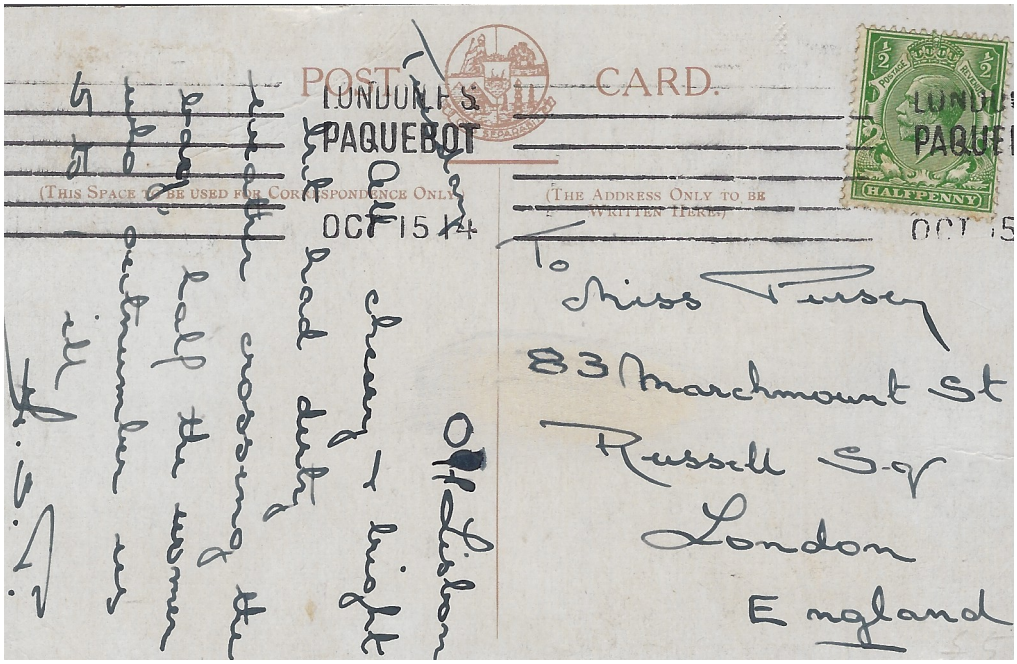
The whole question was finally resolved with the outbreak of the War. The sailings of the P&O steamers became irregular and all accommodation for sorting was removed and so the sorting of both inward and outward mails had to be done at the Bombay General Post Office. The sorting of the homeward mail was undertaken on land from 14th August 1914 and the last inward mail sorted on board arrived on 27th August 1914. Even allowing for wartime conditions mail left on trains from Bombay within seven hours of the steamer docking, the Sea Post Office was formally abolished and the Indian share of the Eastern mail contract was reduced by £8,800 a year.

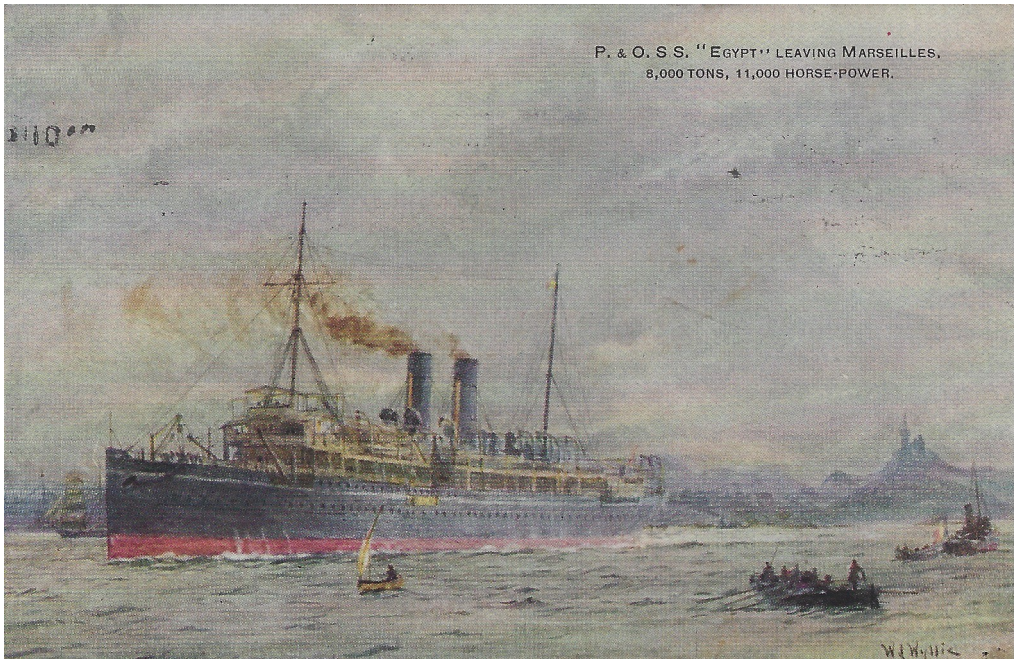
In other parts of the world White Star Line, sailing between Liverpool, Southampton and New York, in conjunction with American Line sailings, used a staff of four on each ship when crossing the Atlantic while the German steamers from Hamburg and Bremen to New York used a staff of three. By comparison the Indian Post Office by 1914 on board the P&O steamers used a staff of 103 across the three Sets – each Set comprising one assistant mail officer, seventeen sorters and fourteen packers making 96 in total with another seven probationary sorters. The men were only actually working for half of their time at sea and so with a larger staff, properly organised the work that took the sea sorters five days could be done in a matter of hours. However it must be said that no other post office in the world undertook to move and sort so much mail and to this end the Postal Administration in Bombay are to be commended.

1918

Following the end of hostilities in 1918, and the Sea Post Office long since finished, mail was landed direct into the Foreign Mail Sorting Office on the Ballard Pier. It was opened and sorted by a team of 150 workers and within three hours the mail was ready for shipment on travelling post offices (special trains) which would leave the station pier for Calcutta, Lucknow, Madras, and the Punjab, where it would be sorted as it moved on its way to its final destination.

It is also a fact that P&O steamers sailing onwards to China had sorters working on the routes from Penang to Singapore and also from Hong Kong to Shanghai and cancellations are available for both of these routes. However while they are an integral part of the postal history of mails shipped by the P&O Line they are not covered in this article.





Figs. 11 and 11a: A postcard from India to London dated 15.10.1914 with a 128AA "PAQUEBOT" cancel, posted on board the SS *China* when mail posted at sea now was treated as paquebot mail

Mike's books "The Bombay–Aden Sea Post Office 1868–1914" and its companion "Timetables & Statistics for the Sailings between Bombay & Suez" were reviewed in MEPB 18. See Mike's advert in this issue.

The BOMBAY–ADEN SEA POST OFFICE book is the fullest and ultimate bringing together of all known information on the subject and will never be beaten by anyone now or in the future.

The BOMBAY–ADEN SEAPOST OFFICE TIMETABLES again is the bringing together of all known information on the subject and is a must for anyone sitting with a postcard and an SPO date – the ship and sailing dates can be found easily.

For details please contact Mike at mikedovey@btinternet.com.

The Sea Post Office: 'Last-Minute' Mail received on Board Steamer in Suez

by Bo Andersson

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In mid-1872 the Indian Post Office introduced a late shipboard facility in Bombay which allowed mailers to post late letters on the quayside right up to the steamer's departure, after closing time of the Pier Post Office.[1] A newly discovered letter indicates that there was a similar postal facility in Suez, though only for a short span of years.



Figs. 1 and 1a: Late fee letter to Aden 1874. Postmarked with 10-barred obliterator and "SEA / POST OFFICE / C / 26 [--]" applied on P&O *Pekin* departing Suez on 26th June 1874 for Aden. Received "ADEN. STEAMER. POINT / JUL: 1". No further markings. The back flap is intact apart from damages in either end. Size: 72×117 mm (present condition).

The cover in question is shown in *fig. 1*, a fragile and worm-eaten letter addressed to Abdalhada Essain in Aden whose name is written in both Arabic and Latin letters. It is franked a pair of 6 pence Great Britain postage stamps, each cancelled with a single 10-barred hand-stamp. Alongside

1 Andersson, Bo: *The Sea Post Office : 'Last-Minute' mail received on board steamer in Bombay*. In: MEPB; no. 29, 2025, pp. 23–41.

is endorsed "Late / fee / 6[d]" in red crayon. On reverse there are two Indian postmarks: An Aden Steamer Point mark for 1st July 1874 applied on arrival at Aden and a partial Sea Post Office transit-stamp that appears to be a type 3 mark struck by Set C and showing the date "26". The type 3 transit-stamps, also called the 'no-year' type were introduced in the Sea Post Office by mid-1873.

The single multi-barred obliterator is a mute hand-stamp that was issued by the Indian Post Office to experimental post offices,[2] one of which was the Sea Post Office, from the commencement of the service in June 1868. As per existing practice the obliterator was accompanied by a date-stamp for the post office concerned. We are thus dealing with a late letter obliterated in the Sea Post Office and the two date-stamps tie in with the Set C voyage of P&O *Pekin* that left Suez on 26th June 1874, called at Aden on 1st July and then proceeded on to Bombay.

The Single Multi-Barred Obliterator used in the Sea Post Office on Passenger Mail

The combination of multi-barred obliterator and Sea Post Office transit-stamp is known from a small handful of covers from the early years of the Sea Post service. Another example of the 10-barred obliterator and a Set C date-stamp is seen in *fig. 2*. Both marks are struck in the same light olive-green colour as that of the PD marking on the cover front thus confirming their cohesion.



Figs. 2 and 2a: Passenger mail posted on P&O *Khedive* in 1873. Postmarked with 10-barred obliterator, "PD" and "SEA.POST.OFFICE / C / 26 4.73", on the *Khedive*. Transit "A / SUEZ / AP 26 / 73". Arrived "LONDON S W / ON / MY 3 /73". The steamer left Bombay 14th April, called at Aden 21st April and reached Suez on 26th April. Letter posted on the last day of sailing, then landed in Suez and carried overland to Alexandria, thence by steamer to Brindisi and onwards to London by P&O mail train.

2 An 'experimental post office' (official term used by the Indian Post Office) is a post office set up on an experimental basis to see if there is sufficient mail to warrant a permanent post office.

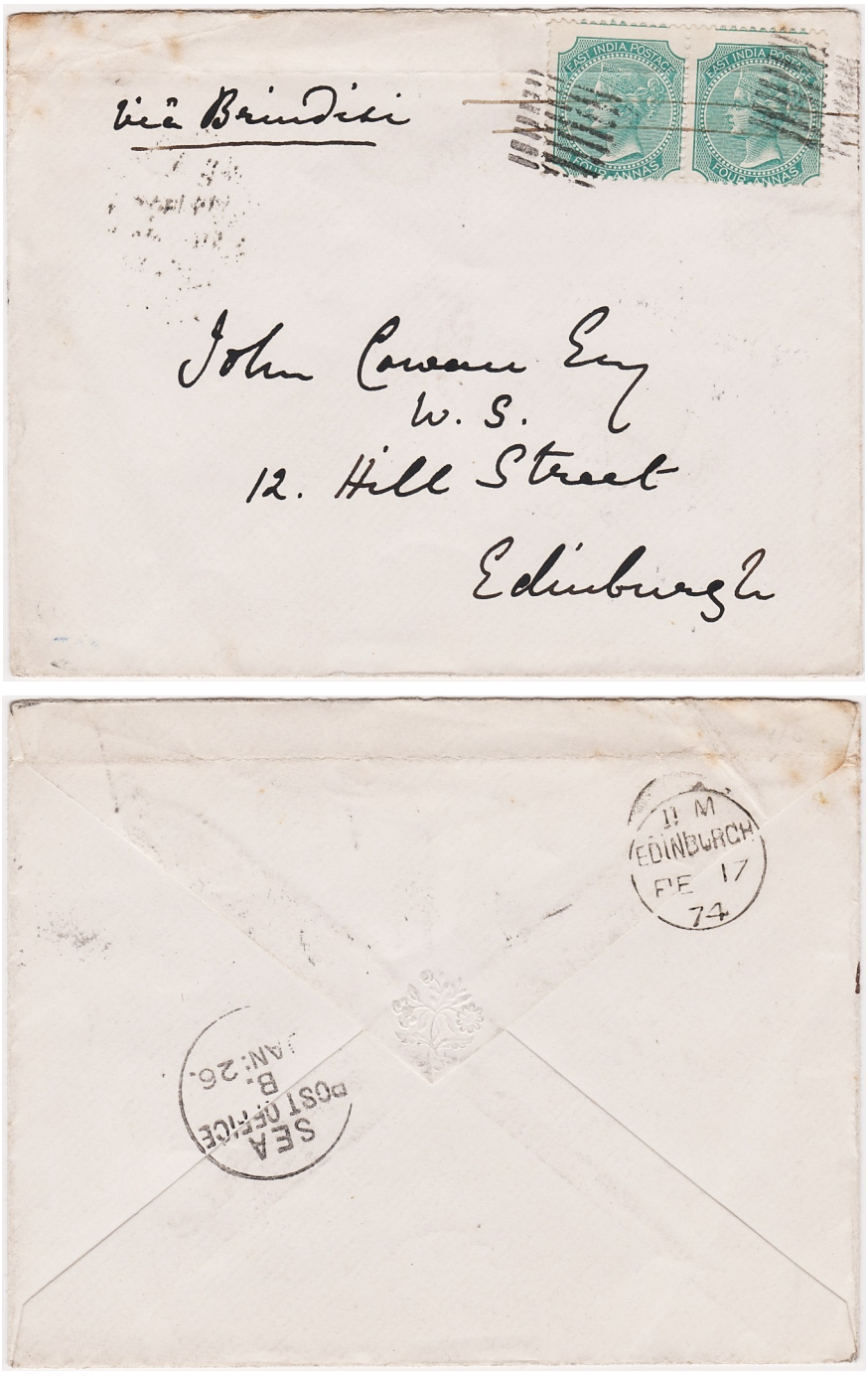
This letter was posted on the P&O *Khedive* when nearing Suez on 26th April 1873. On arrival the cover was transit-stamped at the British Post Office in Suez and then forwarded to England. The cover is paid 8 Annas for the first letter rate, India via Brindisi to England.

The cover in *fig. 3* is addressed to Bombay and franked 6×1 Anna. It is cancelled with a 9-barred obliterator and postmarked by Set A on the *Sunda* on 19th August 1873, on the last day of sailing when nearing Suez. The letter has no other postmarks which suggests that it was bagged in the Sea Post Office with other mail for Bombay. The steamer returned from Suez a few days later, also manned by Set A.



Figs. 3 and 3a: Passenger mail posted on the *Sunda* in 1873. Postmarked with 9-barred obliterator accompanied by a large type 2 oval "SEA.POST.OFFICE / A / 19.8.73" on reverse.
Posted when nearing Suez. The *Sunda* left Bombay on 1st August and reached Suez on 19th August. The steamer returned from Suez on 22nd August and arrived at Bombay on 4th September.
Before 1874 the date in the date-stamp for mail posted on board indicates the actual day of posting.
The 6 Annas letter rate is equivalent to the contemporary first letter late from India to Egypt.

Some 8 examples of passenger mail obliterated with the single multi-barred obliterator in the Sea Post Office have been recorded.[3] All are charged single letter rate and franked with Indian postage stamps, which the passengers could buy in the Sea Post Office. *Fig. 4* shows an example of the 8-barred obliterator struck by Sea Post Office Set B on a letter paid 8 Annas to England. The letter was posted on board the *Malwa* leaving Bombay 26th January 1874.



Figs. 4 and 4a: Letter to Scotland, paid 8 Annas tied 8-barred obliterator and back-stamped "SEA / POST OFFICE / B. / JAN: 26" on P&O *Malwa* departing Bombay 26th January, arriving Suez 8th February. Arrival "11 M / EDINBURGH / FE 17 / 74".

3 The single multi-barred obliterators known from the Sea Post Office are different as to the number of bars. Set A is recorded with a 9-barred obliterator, Set B with an 8-barred obliterator, Set C a 10-barred obliterator, while Set D is recorded with a 12-barred obliterator. So far, no multi-barred obliterators are recorded for Set E and Set F. Passenger mail handled by these sets are either obliterated with a transit-stamp or the postage is left uncancelled with a Suez transit-stamp alongside. The multi-barred obliterator in the Sea Post Office was replaced by the "B-1" obliterator in 1874. The usage periods of the two types of obliterators were overlapping for some months.

The Single Multi-Barred Hand-Stamp used at the Land-Based Pier Post Office in Bombay

The single multi-barred obliterators known from the Sea Post Office are not to be mixed up with the single 10-barred obliterator used in the Pier Post Office in Bombay. Figure 5 illustrates an example on a letter, posted and cancelled with the 10-barred obliterator in the Pier Post Office on 26th May 1873, then subsequently transit-stamped in the Sea Post Office on the P&O steamer *Behar*. It is franked 8 Annas for the first letter rate via Brindisi to England plus 4 Annas late fee, which was in effect at the Pier Post Office from 1st July 1871 to August 1876, when it was reduced to 2 Annas.



Figs. 5 and 5a: Late letter from the Pier Post Office in Bombay to Glasgow in 1873.
Paid 8 Annas for first letter rate plus 4 Annas late fee. Obliterated with the 10-barred mute hand-stamp accompanied by "APOLLO PIER BOMBAY / 26 MY.. / 73".

Subsequently transit-stamped "SEA.POST.OFFICE / C / 26.5.73" on the *Behar* departing Bombay 26th May, arriving at Suez 11th June. Arrival "6 M / GLASGOW / JU. 19 / 73".

The cover was "FORWARDED BY / FINLEY, MUIR & Co. / BOMBAY".
(Collection Abhishek Bhuwalka)

Where was the Late Fee Letter Posted?

The late letter in *fig. 1* bears neither name nor location of the sender. It was definitely cancelled on board steamer on an eastbound voyage, however, given its nature as a late letter it cannot have been posted during voyage; so, where was it mailed?

The British franking makes one think of the British post offices in Egypt. There were two of them in 1874, in Alexandria and in Suez,[4] and it is worthwhile to focus on Suez. Not only was Suez the port of departure for the Sea Post Office; the addressee on the late letter to Aden seems to be the same receiver known from at least one contemporary cover posted at the British Post Office in Suez, *fig. 6*. It is paid single letter rate 6 Pence, obliterated with the hand-stamp "BO2" in a barred oval issued to Suez and accompanied by a Suez date-stamp. Other letters from the British Post Office in Suez and likewise rated 6 Pence, were destined to India, many of which were subsequently sorted and transit-stamped in the Sea Post Office.[5]

It all suggests that the late letter was posted by a non-passenger, probably a a merchant residing in Suez, after closing time of the British Post Office and therefore requiring an extra fee that was set at double the ordinary letter rate; and as such the letter was received for postal disposal in the Sea Post Office. The letter was probably mailed on the quayside in a moveable box that was taken on board shortly before departure.[6]

Conclusions

The late shipboard facility in Suez would have been launched by the British Post Office in Suez in order to accommodate business and trading interests with India. Moreover, it can only have been established by prior agreement with the Indian Post Office in Bombay. Whether it was introduced contemporary with or prior to the formation of the late shipboard service in Bombay in June 1872 is uncertain, but the service in Suez would have come to an end no later than on 1st April 1878, when the British Post Office in Suez was abolished.

The late letter was cancelled on board P&O *Pekin*. The Sea Post Office at work on the *Pekin*; that is exactly what was depicted on an engraving published in THE GRAPHIC by the end of 1875 and shown here in *fig. 7*.[7]

Acknowledgements

I thank Abhishek Bhuwalka for sharing an image from his collection. I also thank Estelle Leclère of *The Museum of Philately* for permission to use a page from the collection of Samir Fikry; and Tobias Zywietz for his help with the article.

4 The third British Post Office in Egypt, located in Cairo, was abolished in 1873.

5 Cf. the two collections in the Museum Of Philately by Fikry and Chalhoub.

6 According to a memorandum dated 7.01.1876 sent from GPO in London to the PMG in Calcutta (see Proud 2014, pp. 12–13), the *Hydaspes* and some other mail steamers were provided with a moveable letter box on the leg between Suez and Aden. Although the boxes were clearly a handover from the past and installed by the British Post Office before the Sea Post Office was set up in June 1868, the boxes were apparently still existing at the end of 1875. By then, the PMG in Bombay wanted the boxes to be dismantled. It makes sense if these boxes would have been used for posting late letters in Suez, like the letter in fig. 1. After the advent of the Sea Post Office in 1868 the steamers were provided with a steamer letter box for posting ordinary passenger mail paid with Indian postage stamps. These boxes would have been set up by the Indian Post Office, cf. printed Memorandum of 6383 in my article in MEPB 29.

7 The *Pekin* made two voyages to Bombay in 1875. The engraving probably followed the voyage from Suez on 24th October 1875. The other voyage was in April.
In 1873 each of the 6 sets consisted of 5 postal workers: 1 mail officer, 1 assistant mail officer, 1 supernumerary assistant mail officer and 2 packers. On this scene from the end of 1875, it seems that yet another postal worker had been added to the staff.

EGYPT

THE SUEZ CANAL ZONE

Suez

The Consular British Post office in Egypt

1874



A 1874 cover from Suez to **Aden** franked with a 6d British stamp fulfilling the rate needed for that route cancelled by the numeral obliterator "BO2" of British P.O in Suez and its cds type D2 dated 1st of August 1874 alongside and Aden Steamer Point on reverse as shown above

1876







A 1876 morning cover from Suez to POONA via Bombay, India franked with a British stamp 6d plate 15 pre-paying the rate for that route to India through the British P.O. in Suez cancelled by the numeral Suez obliterator "BO2" with its cds dated July 7th 1876 alongside with transit datestamp of the SEA POST OFFICE the same day and POONA arrival one dated July 19th on reverse as shone above.

Fig. 6: Page 23 from the collection of Samir Fikry.[8]

8 Fikry, p. 23. Reproduced with the kind permission of *The Museum of Philately.*

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- The Graphic : Indian supplement, 4.12.1875.
- Andersson, Bo: *The Sea Post Office : 'Last-Minute' mail received on board steamer in Bombay*. In: MEPB; no. 29, 2025, pp. 23–41.

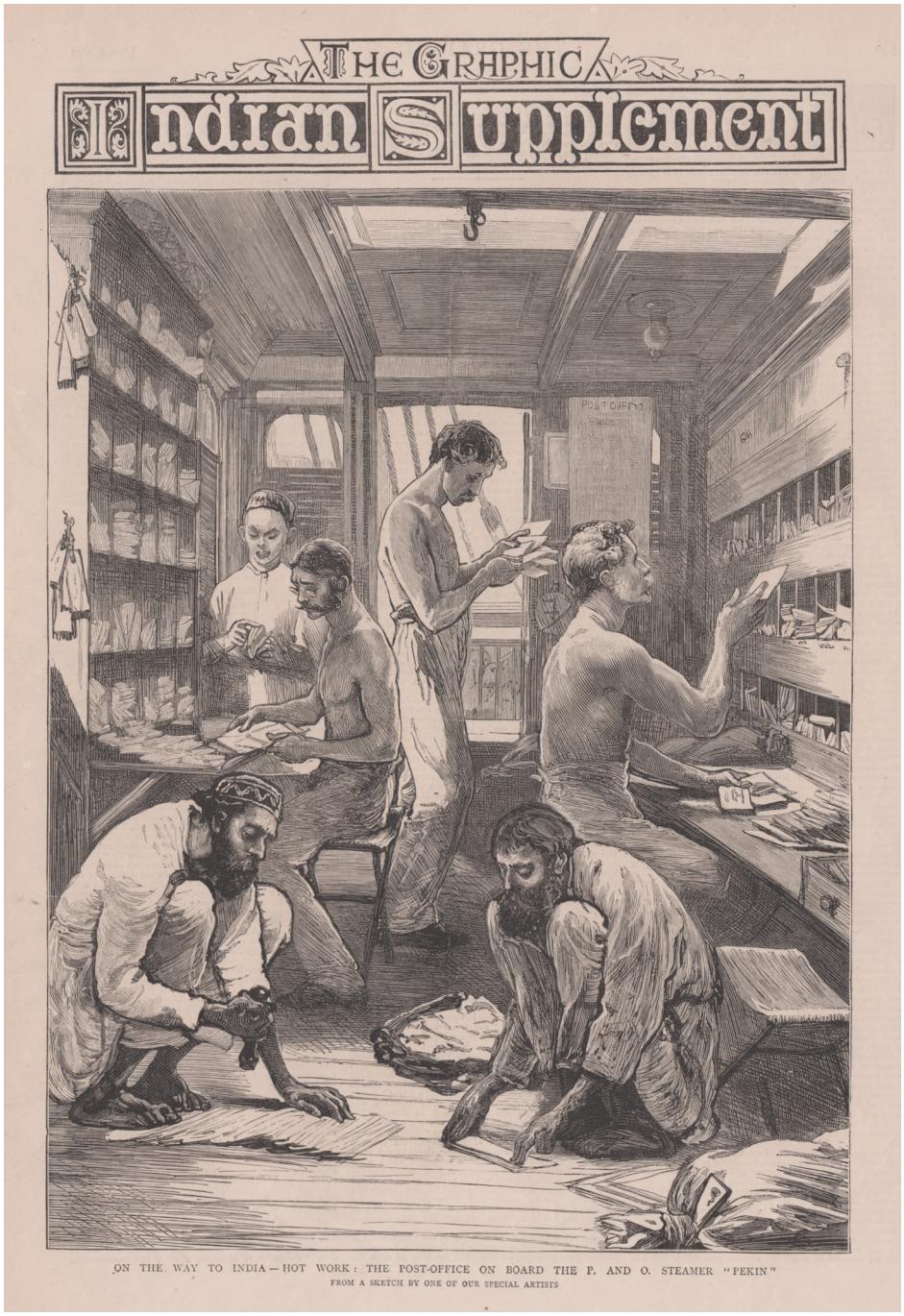


Fig. 7: ON THE WAY TO INDIA – HOT WORK : THE POST-OFFICE ON BOARD THE P. AND O. STEAMER "PEKIN".[9]

9 The Graphic, Indian Supplement, 4.12.1875, p. 13: "From a sketch by one of our special artists."

The Baghdad Provisionals on Cover

by Volker Fredebold

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In MEPB 5,[1] the state of research on the Baghdad provisional covers was described. I can now present three covers with these bisected and overprinted provisionals. These covers are among the great rarities of Turkish philately.





Figs. 1 & 2: Type I
(Paiste/Pearson: Type II)[2]





Figs. 3 & 4: Type II
(Paiste: Type I, Pearson: Type Ib)





Figs. 5 & 6: Type III
(Paiste/Pearson: Type III)



Fig. 7:

Letter with negative seal postmark "Postahane-i Bağdad 1299" to Karbala with arrival postmark "Postahne-i Kerbela-i Muhalla 95". Bisected 2 piastres stamp (MiNr. 56) with type I overprint.

The address was written in Hebrew and Arabic.

1 Giray, Kemal, und Tobias Zywietz: *Baghdad provisionals revisited*. In: MEPB, no. 5, 2017, pp. 3–8.
2 Figs. 2, 4, and 6 are taken from Paiste, Gary: *Die Baghdad-Provisorien*. In: Türkei-Spiegel, no. 45, 1998, pp. 40–43.

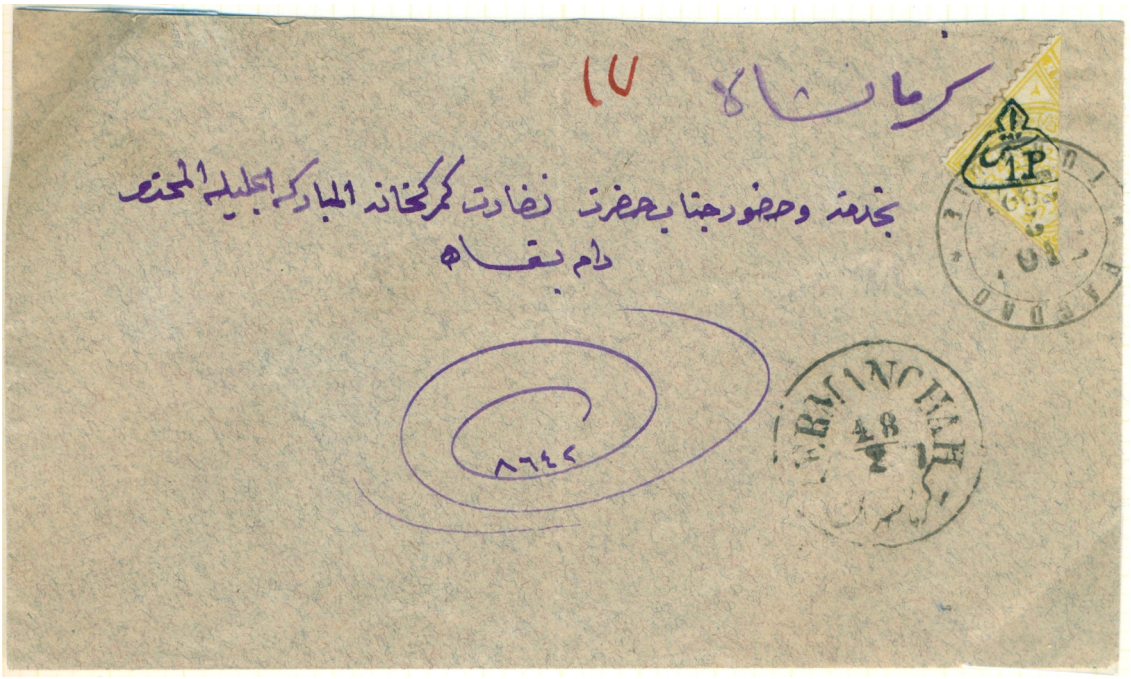


Fig. 8: Letter to Kermanchah (Persia) from “BAGDAD / TURQUIE / 10 / 2 / 92”.
Bisected 2 piastres stamp (MiNr. 62) with type III overprint.
In the centre the incantation (bduh) “٨٦٤٢”, which was intended to protect the contents of the letter from evil influences.

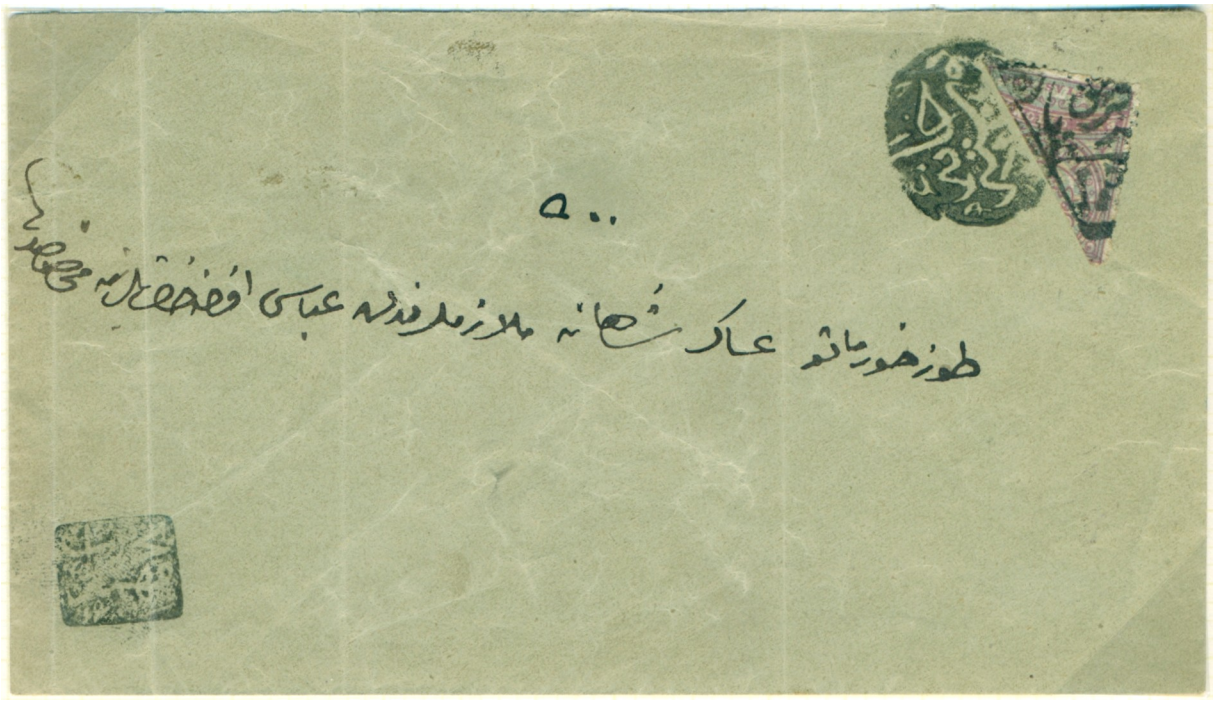


Fig. 9: Official letter from Baghdad “Postahane-i Bağdad 1299” to Tuz Hurmatu.
Bisected 2 piastres stamp (MiNr. 56) with type II overprint.



Fig. 9a: The “Tuz Hurmatu Telegraf ve Postahane” arrival cancellation on the reverse.

Cachets of German Army Troops and the German Imperial Navy in the Ottoman Empire and Caucasus during World War I
Part 1: Introduction and Replacement Formations (Pascha II)

by Horst Borlinghaus, Arno Schmolke, and Walter Stegmüller[1]

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Introduction

German field post in Turkey during the First World War has led a shadowy existence in philatelic literature in recent years.[2] In a new series of articles, together with specialists Arno Schmolke and Walter Stegmüller, I am attempting to revitalise this topic. We will be focussing on the formations in action, their postmarks and cachets and the periods they were used in Turkey. Readers are requested to send corrections and missing postmark images to me (scan or photocopy).[3] If the strikes of postmarks and cachet are not perfect, they will be retouched.

The series will begin with chapters that have not yet been fully researched.

In the past, several collectors and experts on the subject have dealt with this topic in extensive publications. First and foremost is Werner Ahrens, who wrote numerous articles in the mid-sixties in the German journal SAMMLER-LUPE. I will not go into detail about the other authors who have worked diligently, as most of them have not cited any sources and have probably never seen the inside of the relevant archives.

The two most important sources for this series of articles are official documents:

- the "Feldpostübersichten" (summary compilation of field post facilities)
- the "Übersicht der Behörden und Truppen in der Kriegsformation" (summary compilation of the offices and troops in the war formation)

Taken together, these two documents provide information on the units that were deployed, their replacement formations, dates of disbandment or renaming, and much more. Also important are the affiliations to branches of service, which are not always clear by a unit's designation.

In the following list, the postmarks and cachets of the units that were deployed in Turkey from the beginning to the end of the war are dealt with first. It is necessary to limit the period of use to the theatre of war in the Ottoman Empire, as the postmarks were often also used on the European fronts.

The postmarks and cachets were mostly produced in Germany and were used in the areas the troops were assembled and on their journey to Turkey. The cancellers were ordered by the unit from private companies and the text did not always correspond to the budgeted name of the unit. Each unit had at least one postmark or cachet. In Turkey, however, marks were also produced by local companies or made by the units themselves.

After the armistice of the German troops on 11th November 1918 (for Turkey the war had already ended on 30th October 1918), numerous troops and their postmarks arrived in Constantinople returning from Russia, Ukraine and Georgia via the Black Sea. Mail from these troops and their postmarks will not be dealt with initially.

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1 First published in Rundbrief <Arge Deutsche Feldpost 1914–1918>, no. 219, 2021, pp. 13–20. Translated by Tobias Zywietz.
2 Like the journal of the Arge Deutsche Feldpost 1914–1918.
3 Herr Borlinghaus can be contacted at nezual@t-online.de.

There are postmarks and cachets with German inscriptions for:

- budgeted units,
- unbudgeted units (troop divisions for specific, time-limited missions, e.g. with the name of their respective leaders),
- Turkish units with German embedded personnel, e.g. the Turkish Grand Headquarters.

The *Militärmission* and its field post was a Turkish organisation, while the Pascha II units (Army Group F, Heeresgruppe F), including the German Field Post 663 with its individual field post stations, on the other hand, were a purely German affair. The distinction between the German army units and the Turkish army is not always clear. As all archives are currently closed due to the pandemic,[4] I will tackle this topic at a later date. If the postmarks also contain Arabic script, they are probably Turkish units with German embedded personnel, but this also needs to be verified.

In this first part, the replacement formations and the seals and sealing labels will be dealt with.

The Replacement Formations of the Pascha II Units at the Neuhammer am Queis Training Area and in Turkey

The mixed replacement formations for the Pascha II units (*Asienkorps*) were assigned to the infantry, although subordinate units belonged to other branches of the armed forces.

Mixed Replacement Section (Gemischte Ersatz Abteilung), Pascha II (24.09.1917–23.02.1918)

Formed in October 1917 according to the Ministry of War (Kriegs-Ministerium, KM) order of 24th September 1917 at the Neuhammer on Queis training ground in Upper Silesia.

Its purpose was to cover the personnel requirements for the Pascha II Expeditionary Corps (Expeditionskorps Pascha II) and for Army Group Command F. For this purpose, it was composed of formations from the branches represented in the Pascha II Expeditionary Corps and was also replenished by the home authorities.

The Deputy General Command of the 6th Army Corps in Breslau was responsible for replacing the personnel of the Pascha II units. It passed on the requested requirements to the relevant replacement formations located in Silesia and in the Berlin area. For the field artillery battery of the mixed replacement Section (gemischte Ersatzabteilung) Pascha II, for example, this was the 2nd Replacement Section of the Field Artillery Regiment 6 (2. Ersatzabteilung des Feldartillerie-Regiments 6) in Breslau.

However, suitable soldiers were also seconded from the entire army.

1st Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II (1. Gemischte Ersatz Abteilung Pascha II) (23.02.1918 to end of war)

Formed by renaming the mixed replacement division Pascha II according to KM order of 23rd February 1918. Mobile since the transfer to Turkey.

2nd Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II (2. Gemischte Ersatz-Abteilung Pascha II) (23/02/1918 to end of war)

Formed on 2.04.1918 according to KM order of 23.02.1918, immobile (Neuhammer military training ground).

4 This article was first published in 2021.

1st Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II	2nd Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II at Neuhammer military training ground
Staff 1st Company (1. Kompanie) 2nd Company (2. Kompanie) 3rd Company (3. Kompanie) Machine Gun Company (Maschinen-Gewehr-Kompanie) Cavalry Platoon (Kavallerie-Zug) Field Artillery Battery (Feldartillerie-Batterie) Infantry Gun Platoon (InfanterieGeschütz-Zug) Medical Company (Sanitäts-Kompanie) Intelligence Section (Nachrichten-Abteilung) Engineer Replacement Section (Pionier Ersatz-Abteilung) Motorised replacement - Section F (Kraftfahr Ersatz-Abteilung F)	Staff 1st Company 2nd Company 3rd Company Machine Gun Company Cavalry Platoon Field Artillery Battery Infantry Gun Platoon Medical Company Intelligence Section

Already at the Neuhammer am Queis training area, the individual active sub-units were formed from the Pascha II replacement sections and sent on the long railway transport to Turkey. As soon as these were detached from the replacement sections, the postmarks bear the designation of their actual formation without the addition "gem. Ers. Abtlg. Pascha II". However, as was usually the case in World War I, there were long periods of continued use of old cancellations. The dates of the Ministry of War are the budgeting dates, but the cancellations were usually available earlier. These were commissioned by the formations from private companies and used regardless of the date of the Ministry of War's budgetisation.

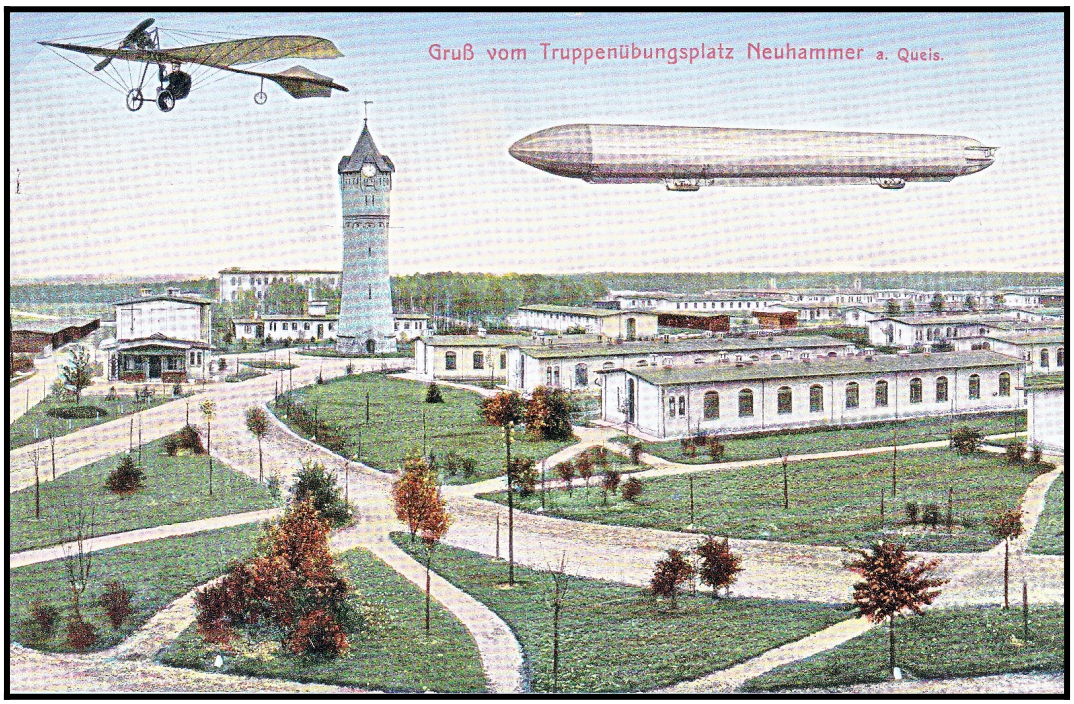


Fig. 1: Neuhammer am Queis military training ground (Truppenübungsplatz).

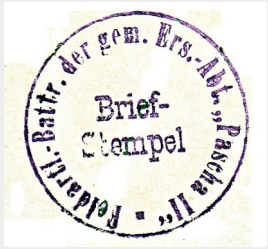
The 1st Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II (I. gemischte Ersatzabteilung Pascha II) also used the cancellations from the "Gemischte Ers. Abtlg. Pascha II" period (24.09.1917–23.02.1918) brought in from in Neuhammer am Queis to Turkey. Therefore, the date and the field postmark are the only way to recognise who ultimately belonged to the 1st Section. All covers cancelled in Turkey from 23rd February 1918 onwards can be assigned to the 1st Section.

It is not always possible to determine whether the three infantry companies of the Ersatzabteilungen forwarded their replacements to the companies with the same number of the infantry battalions 701 to 703, e.g. 3rd Replacement Company to 3rd Company Infantry Battalion 701 (3. Kompanie

Infanterie-Bataillon 701) or to 3rd Company Infantry Batalion 702 or 703. It is also conceivable that they were transferred to the 1st or 2nd Company.

The 1st and 2nd Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II (I. und II. gemischte Ersatzabteilung Pascha II) are still listed in the Field Post summary compilations in September and October 1918.[5]

Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II (Gemischte Ersatz Abteilung Pascha II) (24.09.1917–23.02.1918)[6]

1st Infantry Company (1. Kompanie Infanterie) *(so far only known as manuscript markings)*	2nd Infantry Company (1. Kompanie Infanterie) *(so far only known as manuscript markings)*	3rd Infantry Company (3. Kompanie Infanterie) *(so far only known as manuscript markings)*
Maschinengewehr-Komp. der gemisch. Ersatz-Abt. Pascha II (Machine Gun Company of the Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II) 	**Kavallerie-Zug der gem. Ers. Abt. .Pascha II** (Cavalry Platoon Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II) 	**Feldart..-Battr. der gem. Ers.-Abt. „Pascha II“** (Field Artillery Battalion of the Mixed Replacement Section “Pascha II”) 
Infanterie Geschütz Zug (Infantry Gun Platoon)	**Sanitäts Komp.** (Medical Company)	
	Nachr. Abt. gem. Ers. Abt. Pascha II (Intelligence Section of the Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II) 	**Nachr. Abt. gem. Ers. Abt.** (Intelligence Section of the Mixed Replacement Section) 

1. gem. Ers. Abtlg. Pascha II (1st Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II) (23.02.1918 to end of war)

Formed by renaming Gemischte Ersatz Abteilung Pascha II (Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II) according to KM order of 23.02.1918, mobile since the transfer to Turkey.

Stab der Gemischten Ersatz-Abtlg. Pascha II
(Staff of the Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II)



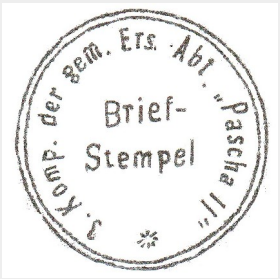
5 See bibliography.
6 October 1917 according to KM order of 24.09.1917.

1. Komp. Infanterie I. Gemischte Ers. Abteilung Pascha II
(1st Company Infantry, 1st Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II)

2. Komp. Infanterie I. Gemischte Ers. Abteilung Pascha II
(2nd Company Infantry, 1st Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II)



3. Komp. Infanterie I. Gemischten Ers. Abteilung Pascha II
(3rd Company Infantry, 1st Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II)



Masch. Gew. Komp. I. Gemischte Ers. Abteilung Pascha II
(Machine Gun Company,1st Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II)

Kavallerie-Zug, I. Gemischte Ers. Abteilung Pascha II
(Cavalry-Platoon, 1st Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II)

Feldartl. Battr. I. Gemischte Ers. Abteilung Pascha II
(Field Artillery Battery, 1st Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II)

Infanterie-Geschützzug der gem. Ers. Abtlg. „Pascha II" (Infantry Gun Platoon of the 1st Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II)

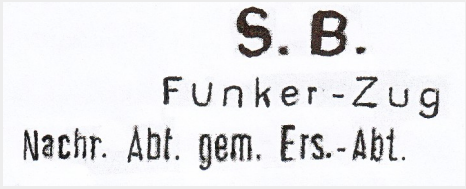


Sanitätskompagnie I. Gemischte Ers.-Abteilung Pascha II
(Medical Company, 1st Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II)



Nachr. Abtlg. I. Gemischte Ers. Abteilung Pascha II
(Intelligence Section, 1st Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II)

Funker-Zug Nachr. Abt. gem. Ers.-Abt. (Pascha II)
(Wireless Platoon, 1st Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II)



Pionier-Ers.-Abteilung Deutsche Feldpost 663
(Pioneer Replacement Section, German Field Post 663)

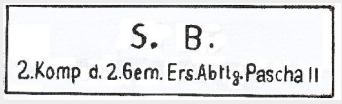
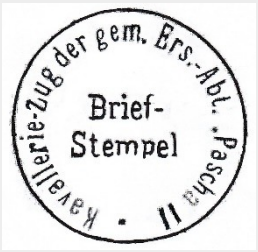


KRAFTFAHR–ERSATZABTEILUNG „F"
(Motorised Replacement Section „F")



2. gem. Ers. Abtlg. Pascha II (2nd Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II) (2.04.1918– end of war)

Formed on 2.04.1918 according to KM order of 23.02.1918, immobile (Neuhammer military training ground).

1. Komp. Infanterie (1st Infantry Company)	**2. Komp. d. 2. Gem. Ers. Abtlg. Pascha II** (2nd Infantry Company of 2nd Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II) 	**3. Komp. Infanterie** (3rd Infantry Company)
Masch. Gew. Komp. der 2. Gemischten Ers.-Abt Pascha II (Machine Gun Company, 2nd Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II)	**Kavallerie-Zug der gem. Ers.-Abt. Pascha II** (Cavalry Platoon, Mixed Repl. Section Pascha II) 	**Feldartl. Battr. der 2. Gemischt Ers.-Abteilung Pascha II** (Field Artillery Battery, 2nd Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II)
Infanterie Geschützzug d. 2. Gem. Ers.-Abtlg. Pascha II (Infantry Gun Platoon of the 2nd Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II)	**Sanitätskomp. d. 2. gemischt Ers.-Abteilung Pascha II** (Medical Company of the 2nd Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II)	**Nachrichten- Abteilg. / d. 2. gemischt Ers.-Abt. Pascha II** (Intelligence Section of the 2nd Mixed Replacement Section Pascha II) 

Closure Seals of the Militärmission (Military Mission) and of the Kaiserliche Marine (Imperial Navy) in Turkey[7]

Closure seals are usually used as sealing labels or as sender information on Field Post or embassy/consulate mail. The latter organisations often forwarded their mail via the Field Post. This is an interesting ancillary area, which is presented here only as examples. Many diplomatic missions of the German Reich also had naval attachés and army attachés as embassy staff and these naturally also used the Field Post. These seals and sealing labels are not postmarks, but were accepted as such.

7 The postmarks and seals shown are not true to scale and mostly not in the original colour.



MILITÄR-MISSION / KONSTANTINOPEL
(Military Mission Constantinople)



DEUTSCHE TELEGR.-ABTEILUNG *BALKAN*
(German Telegraph Section Balkans)



N.O. DER O.H.L. BEI OSM. O.H.L.
(Nachrichten-Offizier der Obersten Heeresleitung bei der osmanischen Obersten Heeresleitung = Intelligence officer of the Supreme Army Command at the Ottoman Supreme Army Command)



Brennstoffkommando Arabien
(Fuel Section Arabia)



KAISERLICHE MARINE *SONDERKOMMANDO IN DER TÜRKEI*
(Imperial Navy, Special Unit in Turkey)



KOMMANDO DER FLUSSABTEILUNG EUPHRAT
(Command of the Euphratus River Section)



KAISERLICHE MARINE *KOMMANDO DER ETAPPE KONSTANTINOPEL*
(Imperial Navy, Special Rear Command, Constantinople)



KAISERLICHE MARINE * SONDERKOMMANDO IN DER TÜRKEI*
(Imperial Navy, Special Command in Turkey)



HEERESGRUPPENKOMMANDO F. * NACHR.-OFF. *
(Army Group Command F, Intelligence Officer)

Closure Seals of the German Consulates in Turkey[8]



KAISERLICH DEUTSCHES KONSULAT *IN BEIRUT*
(Imperial German Consulate in Beirut)



KAISERLICH DEUTSCHES KONSULAT *IN SMYRNA*
(Imperial German Consulate in Smyrna)



KAISERLICH DEUTSCHES KONSULAT *IN ALEPPO*
(Imperial German Consulate in Aleppo)



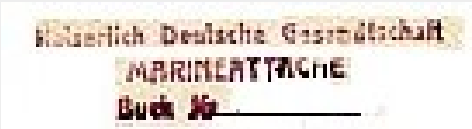
KAISERLICH DEUTSCHES VICE - KONSULAT *IN JAFFA*
(Imperial German Vice-Consulate in Jaffa)



KAISERLICH DEUTSCHES GENERAL-KONSULAT IN CONSTANTINOPEL
(Imperial German Consulate-General in Constantinople)



Stempel: KAISERLICHES GENERAL KONSULAT IN CONSTANTINOPEL
(Imperial German Consulate-General in Constantinople)



Formularstempel: Kaiserlich Deutsche Gesandtschaft / MARINEATTACHE / Buch Nr
(formular cachet: Imperial German Mission / Naval Attaché / book no.)

Sources and Literature

- *Feldpostübersicht Ausgabe A (Stäbe) Nr. 251*, issued 4.09.1918
- *Feldpostübersicht Ausgabe B (Truppen) Nr. 253*, issued 18.09.1918
- *Feldpostübersicht Ausgabe A (Stäbe) Nr. 259*, issued 30.10.1918
- *Feldpostübersicht Ausgabe B (Truppen) Nr. 254*, issued 30.10.1918
- *253. Verzeichnis der nicht beim Feldheer befindlichen Stäbe und Truppen, 18.09.1918*; as of 17.09.1918
- *Übersicht über die Behörden und Truppen in der Kriegsformation*. Reichsdruckerei, Berlin 1918

8 The postmarks and seals shown are not true to scale and mostly not in the original colour.

İstanbul Views on Stamps (1914–1921)
Part 1: Sultan Ahmed Mosque (Sultan Ahmet Camii)

by Hakan Yılmaz

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The mosque was built between 1609 and 1616 during the reign of Sultan Ahmed I. Following the devastating losses in the Zsitvatorok Peace Treaty (Zitvatorok Antlaşmas) and the war with Iran, Sultan Ahmed I decided to build a grand mosque in Istanbul to re-establish Ottoman power. The mosque was built on the site of the Byzantine emperors' palace, in front of the Hagia Sophia Basilica (the main imperial mosque of Istanbul at the time) and the Hippodrome, and has dominated the city skyline ever since.

The complex includes Ahmed's tomb, a *madrasa*, and a soup kitchen. The mosque is known as the Blue Mosque by foreigners due to the magnificent hand-painted blue tiles that adorn its interior walls.



Fig. 1: "Mosqué du Sultan Achmed" as seen from the west. Unknown publisher. The card used in 1908.

Sources and Literature

- Yılmaz, Hakan: *İstanbul views on Ottoman postcards ; part 4: the Sultan Ahmed Mosque (Sultan Ahmet Camii)*. In: MEPB, no. 29, 2025, pp. 42–58.



Fig. 2:
The image of the Sultan Ahmet Mosque was used on the 1 kuruş stamp of the first London series (MiNr. 235, İSFİLA 467).





Figs. 3 and 3a, 4, and 5:

Form of a money transfer order for of 4,104 kuruş sent from Çorum to Samsun, using a total of 11 1 kuruş stamps of the front and reverse.







Fig. 6:

The Foreign Postage series.
The stamp was issued for use on letters sent abroad (harici posta) overprinted with a red five-pointed star (MiNr. 245, İSFİLA 480).





Figs. 7 and 8:

An envelope sent to Germany with a 1 kuruş foreign postage stamp, cancelled with the Istanbul 1 postmark.



Fig. 9:

Abolition of Foreign Posts
(Ecnebinin Lağvı) series.

The first overprint on the stamp was made for the Ecnebinin Lağvı series, issued in 1914 to commemorate the abolition of foreign post offices. (MiNr. 255, İSFİLA 491).



Figs. 10 and 11:

An envelope sent to Germany with a 1 kuruş Ecnebinin Lağvı stamp, cancelled with the Istanbul 2 postmark.





Fig. 12:

The Second London Series
(II. Londra).

The 1 kuruş stamp from the Second London series, printed in 1920, uses the same design. The most significant difference between this stamp and the one printed in 1914 is the absence of Sultan Reşad's tuğra
(MiNr. 679, İSFİLA 936).



Figs. 13–15:

Five 1 kuruş stamps from the Second London series on a cover sent to Germany, with a Kızıl-oprak cancel and Istanbul exit stamp on the envelope.







Fig. 16:

The 1 kuruş stamp was used in the Cilicia region (Adana/Mersin), which was occupied by the French after the Moudros Armistice, with a surcharge applied by the French between 1919 and 1921.





Figs. 17 and 18: "Cilicie" Surcharge.
Part-sheet cancelled in Adana and philatelic envelope with the Tarsus postmark (11.01.1920).





Figs. 19 and 20: Edirne Greek Occupation Overprint
The occupation campaigns initiated by the Greeks in Anatolia and Thrace in the days following the Armistice of Mudros culminated in the invasion of Edirne and all of Eastern Thrace on 25th July 1920. Edirne remained under Greek occupation for over two years.
The Greek Occupation Forces overprinted the relevant stamp for use in the occupied regions.





Figs. 21 and 22: Two examples of the Feke Overprint.
Images taken from the İSFİLA catalogue (YPA 6 and YPA 36).





Figs. 23 and 24: British Occupation of Iraq
"Iraq in British Occupation" 2 ½ Annas Overprints.



Fig. 25:

Baghdad in British Occupation
The "Iraq in British Occupation" overprint was applied wih new value "2 Ans" (2 Annas) on the 1914 Foreign postage stamps.

Images taken from joint
OPAL Journal/Tuğra Times, no. 236, 2017,



Fig. 26: Cover from Baghdad to Switzerland with "Iraq in British Occupation" 2½ Annas overprint.





Figs. 27 and 28: Arab Kingdom of Syria overprints.
Images taken from joint OPAL Journal/Tuğra Times, no. 237, 2017,

Ounces or Grammes?
Update on Weight Units used by Iraqi Post in the 1920s

by Rainer Fuchs (FRPSL, AIJP)

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In 2017 I asked in this journal[1] for information on weight units used by Iraqi Post in the 1920s, especially during the time the Overland Mail has started in September 1923. With the British occupation of Iraq, Iraqi Post used the imperial weight units of ounces and pounds in order to calculate their postage fees. But by 1925, all references are to metric units: grammes and kilogrammes.

The literature listed in that article was not at all clear and even had a gap for the years of 1922 to 1923. My extensive communication with other collectors during the past years was unsuccessful in obtaining an original copy of the respective regulations or postal decrees. Many collectors mentioned the weight units were already grams but could not provide a proof for it.

An appeal on Facebook in May 2023 finally brought a breakthrough: a collector from Baghdad informed me that he has access to the original decree and agreed to send me images.[2]

There are quite a number of Overland Mail covers from Iraq, sent in 1924–1927, with a postage rate which let me to this assumption: the Iraqi postage rate for covers was calculated by ounces (1 ounce = 28.35 grammes) whereas the Overland Mail surcharges (at least initially) per 20 grammes. Most common covers with these discrepancies are registered Overland Mail covers with a rate of 12 annas.

Only with some very few postage rates these differences are noticeable. There are other rates which do only match if the rate was calculated by ounces and grammes, but covers with higher rates are quite scarce.

Date of the Cover	Total Rate in annas	Postage Rate in ounces					Overland Mail Surcharge in grammes						Registration	Assumed weight of the cover
		1	2	3	4	5	Upto 20	21 – 40	41 – 60	61 – 70	81 – 100	101 – 120		
	12	3					3	3					3	Between 20 grammes and 28,35 grammes (1 ounce)
25.09 1927	16.5	3	1,5				3	3	3				3	Up to 56.70 grammes (2 ounces)
14.01. 1925	30	3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	Between 100 grammes and 113,4 grammes (5 ounces)

1 Fuchs, Rainer: *Ounces or Grammes? Request for Information on Weight Units used by Iraqi Post in the 1920s.* In: MEPB, no. 6, 2017, pp. 5–8.

2 He provided the scans under the condition not to share them. so a transcript must suffice.

The registered cover sent via Overland Mail from Baghdad to Haifa (*fig. 1*) with a rate of 12 annas. The cover must have had a weight between 20 grammes and 28.35 grammes (1 ounce). If the cover had a weight above 1 ounce but below 40 grammes it would have been subject to another 1½ annas postage for a total of 10½ annas for an ordinary cover or 13½ Annas for a registered cover.



Figs. 1 and 1a: Registered Overland Mail cover from Baghdad to Haifa, franked 12 annas.

The registered cover was sent via Overland Mail from Baghdad to Haifa (*fig. 2*) with a total postage rate of 16½ annas.

However, in 1921 rules transcribed below, the weight units are now clarified and the rate for the different mail items were as below, the cover appears to be overfranked for a cover up to 20 grammes or underfranked for a cover up to 40 grammes.

The registered cover sent via Overland Mail from Baghdad to Haifa (*fig. 3*) with a rate of 30 annas.



Figs. 2 and 2a: Registered Overland Mail cover from Baghdad to Haifa, franked 16½ annas.

Conclusion

What are the reasons that these covers are wrongly franked? The assumed rate calculation can be found in the table above and I cannot believe the postal clerk made a calculation error.



Figs. 3 and 3a: Registered Overland Mail cover from Baghdad to Haifa, franked 30 annas.

By the Council of State.

ROYAL IRADAH.

113. WE THE KING OF ʿIRAQ

Pursuant to the proposal of the Minister of Communications and Works and with the occurrence of the Council of Ministers do herby decree as follows :—

(i) These rules may be called "the amendment of the 'Iraq rates of Postage and Postal Fee Amendment Rules 1921."

(ii) The following rates shall be payable with effect from August 1922, on Letters, Post Cards, Books, Patterns and Sample Packets :—

INLAND SERVICE

	Annas
(a) *Letters*—	
For a letter not exceeding 20 grammes	2
For every additional 20 grammes or part of that weight	1
(b) *Post Cards*—	
For a single Post Card	1
For a reply Post Card	2
(c) *Books Printed Papers Commercial Papers, Patterns and Sample Packets*—	
Not exceeding 20 grammes	1/2
Exceeding 20 grammes but not exceeding 50 grammes	1
Every additional 50 grammes up to 2,000 grammes	1

MAXIMUM WEIGHT FOR PATTERN AND SAMPLE PACKETS 500 GRAMMES

(d) *Blind Literature Packets*—	
For a packet not exceeding 500 grammes in weight	½
For a packet exceeding 500 grammes but not exceeding 2,500 grammes	1
For a packet exceeding 2,500 grammes but not exceeding 3,000 grammes	2
(e) *Registration Fee*—	
For each article registered	3
Acknowledgment Fee for each article registered	3
(f) *Certificate of Posting*—	
For every unregistered Letters, Post Cards or Packets posted by the sender at the same time.	1

FOREIGN SERVICE

All countries including United Kingdom, India and British Possessions

(a) *Letters*—	
For a letter not exceeding 20 grammes	3
For every additional 20 grammes up to 2,000 grammes	1½
(b) *Post Cards*—	
For a single Post Card	1½
For a reply Post Card	3
(c) *Books and Printed Papers*—	
For every 50 grammes or part of that weight	1½
(d) *Commercial Papers, Patterns and Sample Packets*—	
For the 100 grammes or part of that weight	3
For every additional 50 grammes or part of that weight	1½

MAXIMUM WEIGHT FOR COMMERCIAL PAPERS AND OTHER PRINTED MATTERS 2,000 GRAMMES

MAXIMUM WEIGHT FOR SAMPLES AND PATTERN PACKETS 500 GRAMMES

(e) *Blind Literature Packets—*

For a packet not exceeding 500 grammes in weight	½
For a packet exceeding 500 grammes but not exceeding 2,500 grammes	½
For a packet exceeding 2,500 grammes but not exceeding 3,000 grammes	3

(f) *Registration Fee –*

For each article registered	3
Acknowledgment Fee for each article registered	3

THE FOLLOWING FEES SHALL BE PAYABLE, WITH EFFECT FROM AUGUST 1922, ON MONEY ORDERS ISSUED ;—

INLAND MONEY ORDERS

Every ten rupees or fraction thereof	2

FOREIGN RUPEE MONEY ORDERS.

Every ten rupees or fraction thereof	3
Advice of payment	2

STERLING MONEY ORDERS.

As notified from time to time.

THE RATES OF POSTAGE ON PARCEL SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS, WITH EFFECT FROM AUGUST, 1922 ;—

INLAND

For every 1,000 grammes (2 lbs.) or part of that weight	6
For every additional 1,000 grammes	6

LIMIT OF WEIGHT 1,000 GRAMMES

Registration Fee	3

REGISTRATION COMPULSORY.

FOREIGN.

(a) *India.*

	Rs.	a.	p.
For a parcel not exceeding 3 lbs. 1½ Kilo	1	4	0
,, ,, ,, 7 ,, 3 Kilos	2	8	0
,, ,, ,, 11 ,, 5 Kilos	3	12	0

(b) *All other countries including United Kingdom and British Possessions International rates as published from time to time.*

(**111.**) The Minister of Communications and Works is charged with the execution of this order.

Made at Baghdad this 29th day of Dhil Qaada 1370 and 24th day of July 1922.

FAISAL.

Prime Minister
ABDUL RAHMAN.

Minister of Communs. & Works.
SABIH.

Further Research

The law "No. 46 of 1927" quotes two earlier laws, namely "Law for Surcharges on Air and Overland Mails, No. 22 of 1925" and "Law for the amendment of the rates of postage in ʿIraq and the revised Postal Fee Rules for 1922, No. 10 issued on the 20th February, 1924" as well as the "ʿIraq rates of Postage and Postal Fee Amendment Rules 1921," of which I have never seen a copy or even a transcript.

I therefore ask all collectors to come forward with their information on postal rate during the Kingdom of Iraq. It would be also nice if other collectors come up with Overland Mail covers bearing rates that do not match the grammes/grammes but the ounces/grammes calculation, eventually at a later date a conclusion can be found in why these strange rate covers were sent.

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The Turkish Parliament Buildings on Stamps

by Hakan Yılmaz (edited by Tobias Zywietz)

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The Turkish Parliament opened on 23rd April 1920 with the first meeting of 120 representatives of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM) in Ankara. Since then, the Parliament has moved several times to other, specially constructed, premises.

On 16th March 1920, Istanbul was occupied by the British. The Ottoman Chamber of Deputies (Meclis-i Mebusan), which had declared the National Pact (Misak-ı Millî) on 28th January, was adjourned on 2nd April and subsequently dissolved by the Sultan:[1]

> *The dissolution of the Meclis-i Mebusan opened the way for a new parliament in Anatolia. A communique sent by Mustafa Kemal Pasha on March 19, 1920, announced that elections were to be held throughout the country in order to convene a new parliament that would have extraordinary powers. It also stated that this parliament would convene in Ankara. In addition, the members of the dissolved parliament were called to become the members of the new parliament.*
>
> *After the elections, the new parliament, consisting of members elected from the provinces and a group of members from Meclis-i Mebusan, was opened on April 23, 1920. Although there was a total of 324 members of Parliament, only 115 members were able to attend the first meeting.*

It was therefore decided that a national assembly should be convened in Ankara, a then small provincial capital in central Anatolia, with less than 30,000 inhabitants. The only suitable meeting place in the city was a single-storey building with a basement, two balconies, prominent eaves and a garden. It was located in the corner of what is now Ulus Square.

The house was designed during the final years of the Ottoman Empire as the party headquarters Young Turks party Committee for Unity and Progress (İttihâd ve Terakkî Cemiyeti) at the suggestion of Enver Pasha. Construction began in 1915 based on plans by architect Salim Bey, with the project being carried out by military architect Hasip Bey. The conversion to a parliament building was overseen by Assembly member Necati Bey.

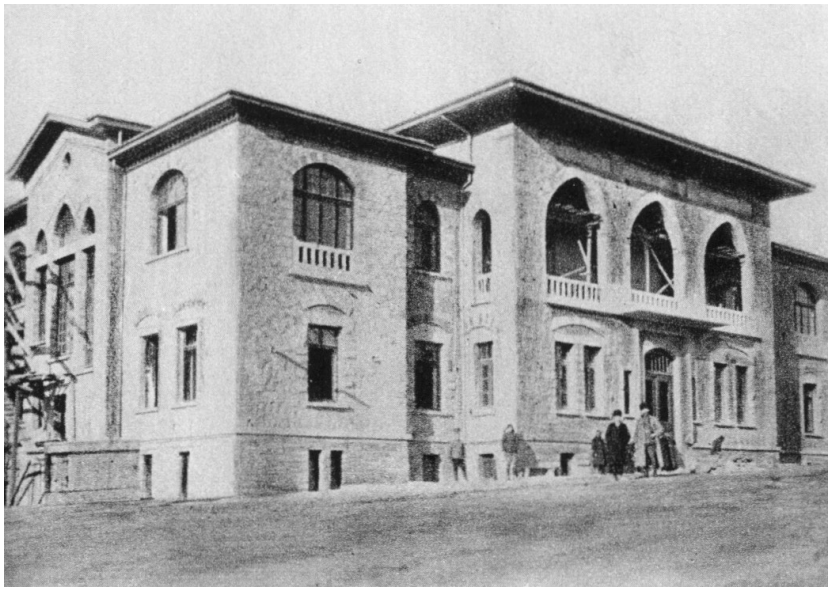


Fig. 1:

The building of the Grand National Assembly.

Source: Karl Klinghardt: *„Angora–Konstantinopel : Ringende Gewalten“* (1924).

1 The Grand National Assembly of Türkiye: History. Online: https://global.tbmm.gov.tr/history.

The Grand National Assembly opened on 23rd April 1920 with a ceremony attended by 115 representatives, despite the construction not being complete. This building served as the home of the Turkish Grand National Assembly for over five years, until 18th October 1924.

Initially the Ankara Government (Ankara Hükûmeti, Büyük Millet Meclisi Hükûmeti) operating under the name Muvakkat İcra Encümeni or Meclis-i Vükelâ (Temporary Executive Board, Council of Ministers) from 3rd May 1920 was established to oppose the Ottoman government in İstanbul. The Republic of Turkey was officially declared on 29th October 1923.

The building witnessed the transition to the parliamentary system on 23rd April 1920; the formation of a Provisional Executive Committee (Heyet-i Vükelâ), headed by Mustafa Kemal Pasha, on 25th April; and the constitutional processes of 20th January 1921 and 20th April 1924, which saw the adoption of the first and second constitutions (Teşkîlât-ı Esâsîye Kanunu: 1921 Türk Anayasası and 1924 Türk Anayasası). From here the War of Independence was also directed.

January 1922: The First Turkish Stamp of the First Parliament Building

This stamp is one of seven in the series, each with a different value and colour but the same design. It depicts the Grand National Assembly building.[2] It was printed by Genovese printers Barabino[3] and is therefore known as the "Genoa Print" (İSFİLA 1096–1102, MiNr. 787–792) during this transitional period.

It is the first Ottoman stamp to feature an Ankara building. The crescent and star, symbolising the Turkish flag and the nation, are in the top corners, with "Ottoman State Posts" in Sülüs (Thuluth) script inbetween. Stone carvings traditional to Anatolia decorate the sides. The bottom centre panel features the script "Grand National Assembly".

The 1963 Stamp

This building later became the headquarters of the Republican People's Party (Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi) until 1952, after which it was transferred to the Ministry of Education (Milli Eğitim Bakanlığı). In 1957, the decision was made to convert the building into a museum representing the Republic. The historical building reopened on 23rd April 1961 as the Museum of the Grand National Assembly (Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi Müzesi), becoming the Museum of the War of Independence (Kurtuluş Savaşı Müzesi) in 1981.

The 1963 stamp is the highest value in a series of nine (İSFİLA 2285, MiNr. 1866): it depicts the building of the First Turkish Grand National Assembly: "İlk T.B.M.M. Binası."





Figs. 2 and 3: The First Parliament Building on stamps of 1922 and 1963.

2 According to Anameriç and Rukancı, the photo was taken from an angle close to the current location of the Victory Monument.

3 I.G.A. Barabino & Graeve, Genova, Italy.



Figs. 4–4b: Cover sent “Azası’na Mahsus” (belongs to the members of Parliament) with postmark “Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi”, to Ma’arif Emin’i Mütemmim Nevzad Bey Efendiye (head of the education in Sivas region).





Türkiye
Büyük Millet Meclisi

Azası’na Mahsus
(belongs to the members of Parliament)

The 1970 Stamps

In 1970 a series of two stamps, designed to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, was issued (İSFİLA 2565–2566, MiNr. 2173–2174).

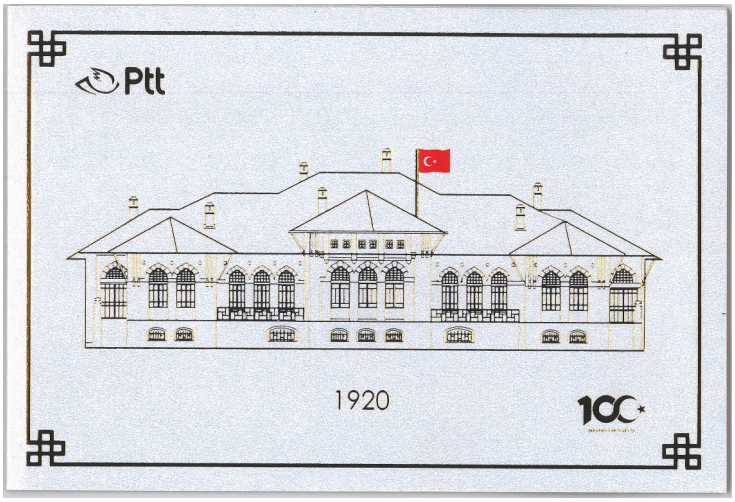
Both stamps feature colourised photographs taken during the opening ceremony of the Parliament on Friday 23rd April 1920. This proceeded in the traditional manner: with a public prayer at the nearby Hacı Bayram Mosque (Hacı Bayram Veli Câmii) and the ritual sacrifice of sheep, whose meat was distributed to the poor.

Delegates from almost every region of the country attended the ceremony to show their support for the Republic. The opening speech was delivered by the assembly's oldest member, Şerif Bey (representative for Sinop).[4]





Figs. 5 and 6: The First Parliament Building on stamps of 1970.







Figs. 7–9: The buildings of the Grand National Assembly were again featured on a series of stamps in 2020. The stamps depicting the building were issued on 23.04.2020 (İSFİLA 4956–4957, MiNr. 4572 – 4773).

4 Mehmet Şerif Avcıoğlu Bey (1845–1929). Cf. also Anameriç and Rukancı.

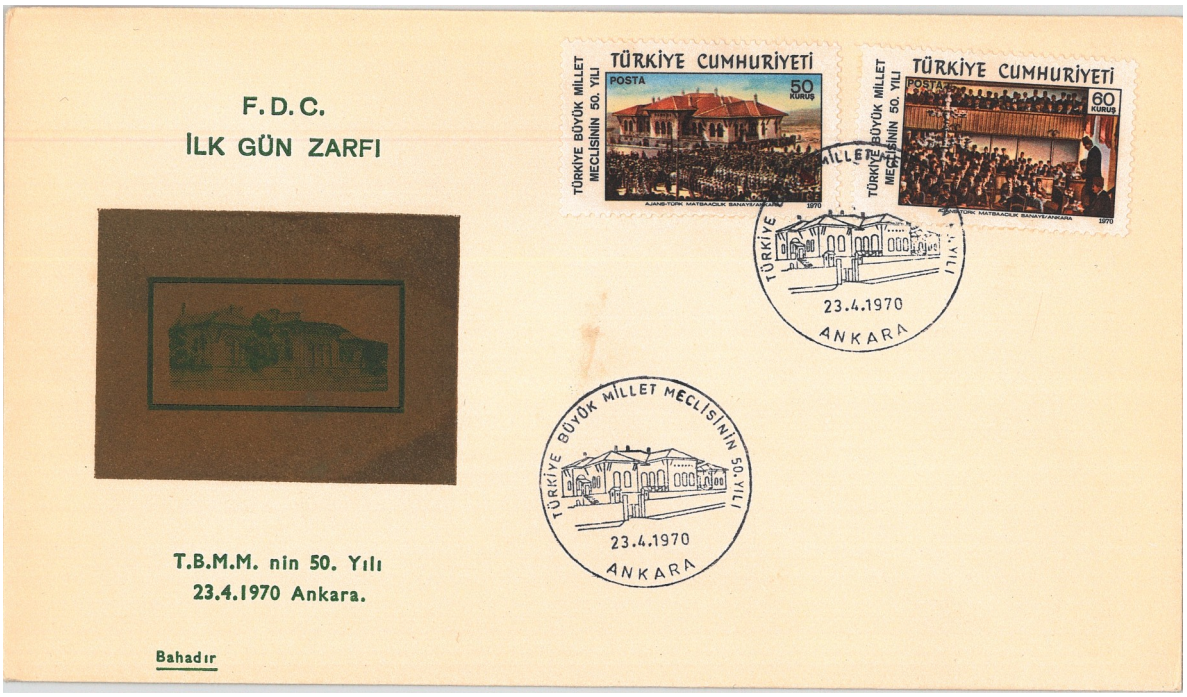


Fig. 10: FDC for two 1970 60 kuruş stamps (MiNr. 2173–2174): 23.04.1970.



Fig. 11: "Türkiya Büyük Millet Meclis'i Hükûmet'i" on a telegram receipt (enlarged).
Cancel: Galata, 2.03.1923.[5]

In the first years when the Ottoman Empire collapsed and the new state, the Republic of Turkey was established, the Ottoman Empire text on many official receipts or forms was changed to "Government of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye" by hand or with a hand-stamp as in this example.

5 Although the Galata postmark and many others began to be used during the Ottoman period, they were also used by the new Republic until 1929, when the Latin alphabet was adopted.

The Second Parliament Building (II. TBMM Binası)

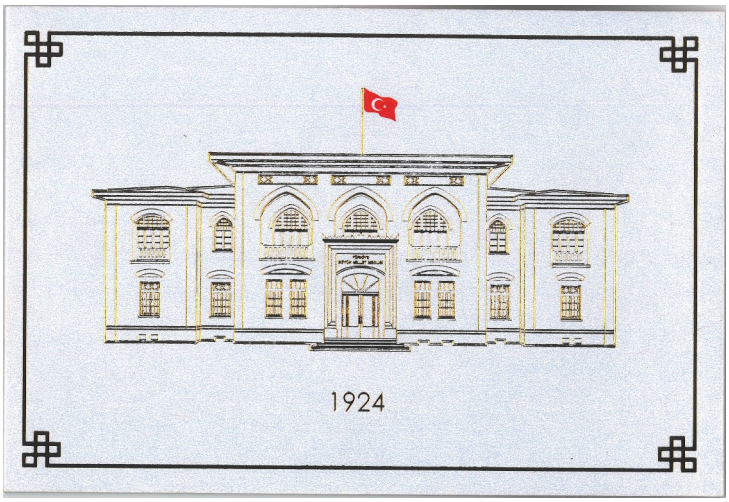
In 1924, the Turkish Parliament moved to newly-built premises just 250 metres away. The opening of the Second Parliament building took place on 18th October 1924. President Atatürk's principles and revolutionary reforms were implemented here between 1924 and 1961.

After 1960, the building served as the headquarters of the short-lived military Central Treaty Organization (CENTO).[6] Following the dissolution of CENTO in 1979, the building was handed over to the Ministry of Culture for repurpose. On 30th September 1981, it reopened as the Museum of the Republic (Kurtuluş Savaşı Müzesi).



Fig. 12:

This official stamp (Resmî Pul, İSFİLA R253, MiNr. 244) was released on 4.07.2005. It is part of a series of six stamps depicting historical sites on Cumhuriyet Street in Ulus, Ankara.











Figs. 13–17: The stamp depicting the second building was issued on 23.04.2020 (İSFİLA 4958, MiNr. 4574).

6 It existed from 1955 to 1979 with members Iran, Iraq (1955–1959), Pakistan, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

The Third Parliament Building (III. TBMM Binası)

Designed as early as 1938 by the Austrian architect Clemens Holzmeister (1886–1983), the building is located in the Bakanlıklar neighbourhood of Ankara (several kilometres further south) and was the third premises for the Turkish Parliament.

The first stamp (İSFİLA 2288, MiNr. 1893), the last in a series of three issued in 1963, was issued to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Republic:[7]

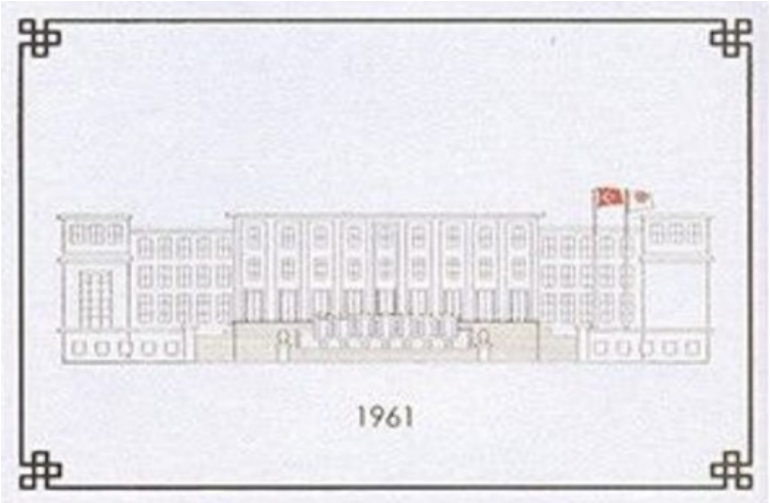
> *In the foreground on the left of the stamp, Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk can be seen looking up at the sky while wearing civilian clothes. Behind him is the new Parliament building, which opened in 1961. The gaze of Atatürk looking up at the horizon with hope in front of the Parliament building, with a flag on its roof, conveys a message of the immortal leader of the Parliament. The composition, which features the state flag and its founder, as well as the first president of the Parliament, represents the foundations of the Republic of Turkey.*

The second stamp, issued on 23rd April 2005 (İSFİLA 3834, MiNr. 3437), consists of two stamps to commemorate the 85th anniversary of National Sovereignty and Children's Day (as declared by the Child Protection Agency Himaye-i Etfal Cemiyeti). Both are celebrated on 23rd April. The stamp's motif is the Third Parliament building as a symbol of national sovereignty.





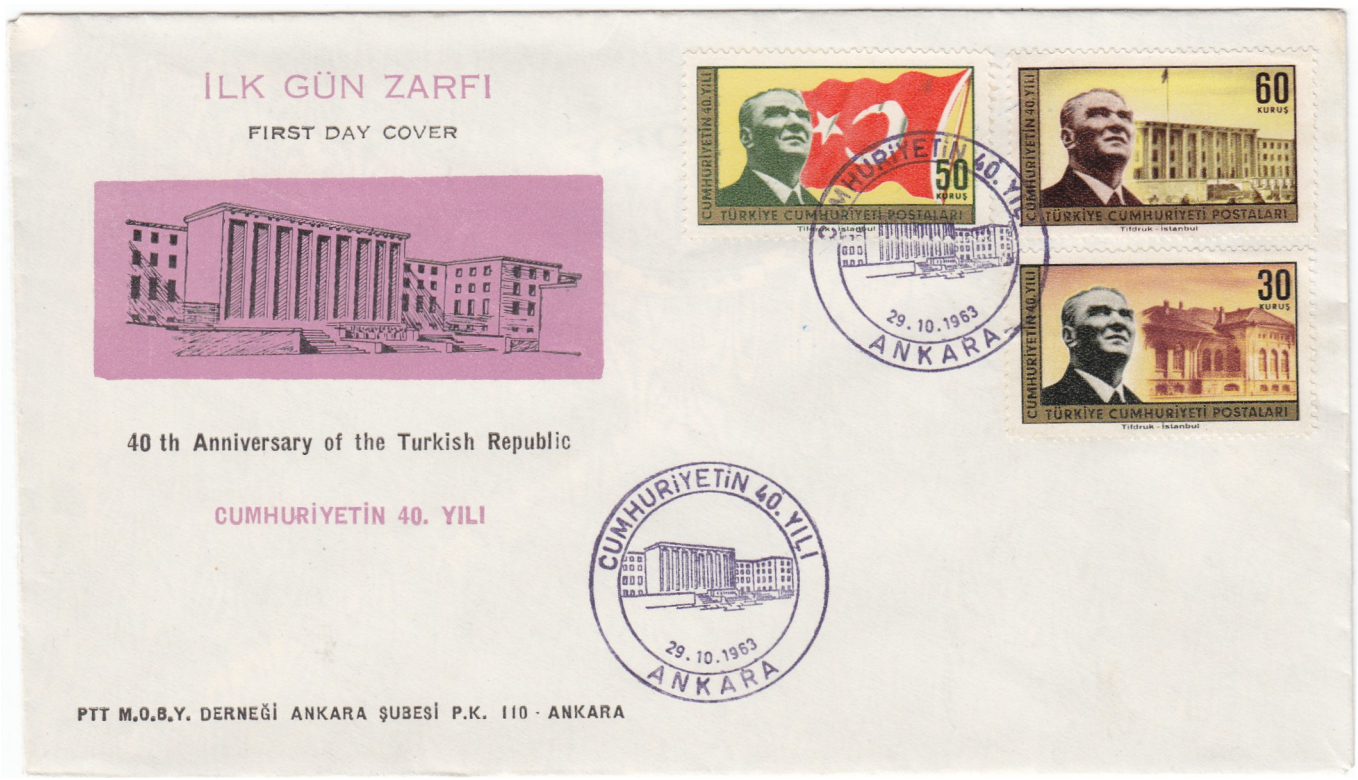
Fig. 18: The 1963 stamp (İSFİLA 2288, MiNr. 1893). *Fig. 19:* The 2005 stamp (İSFİLA 3834, MiNr. 3437).



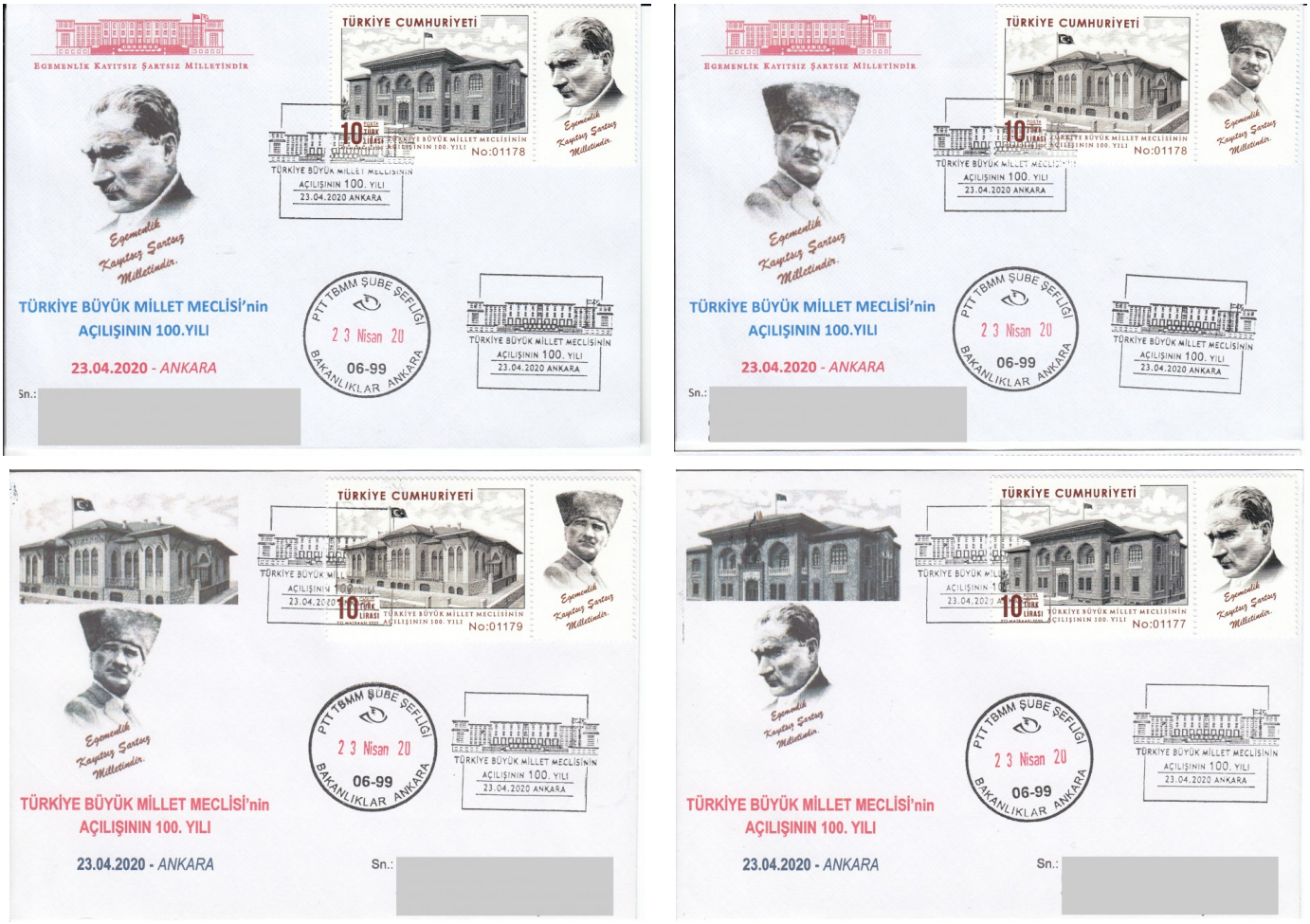


Figs. 20–21: The Grand National Assembly current or third (III. TBMM Binası) on a stamp issued on 23.04.2020 (İSFİLA 4959, MiNr. 4575).

7 Anameriç and Rukancı.



Figs. 22: FDC of the 1963 series.



Figs. 23–26: Four FDCs of the 2020 issue (23.04.2020).

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- *History.* In: Grand National Assembly of Turkey. Online: https://global.tbmm.gov.tr/history.
- Anameriç, Hakan: *Posta Pullarında Başkent Ankara Seçmeler (1922-2008)* / Yrd. Doç. Dr. Hakan Anameriç, Doç. Dr. Fatih Rukancı. Ankara: Vehbi Koç Vakfı, 2010. 122 p. ISBN: 978-605-62083-0-0. Online: https://cdn.ku.edu.tr/cdn/files/VEKAM/vekam-pul-kit.pdf
- Various articles in Wikipedia and further internet resources.



Fig. 27:

Special postmark on a 1922 cover, as shown by Volker Fredebold in MEPB 28: „Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi“ (Grand National Assembly of Turkey), 12.01.1922.

In addition to the date of posting in the centre, the postmark bears the opening date of parliament on the left and right: 23 Nisan 1336 (23.04.1920).
The circular postmark with segments shortened at the sides, double arc above and ellipse below is inscribed only in Turkish, as is the date 12.1.38 (12.01.1922).

Postal Correspondence to the Judiciary in the Reza Shah Era

an exhibit by Hoseinali Tahvildari

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This article was constructed from an exhibit that Hoseinali Tahvildari presented at the third Annual Virtual Stamp Show of the Iran Philatelic Study Circle in 2023.

The modernisation of Iran's administrative organisation, especially the judiciary, during the first Pahlavi era means that the postal correspondence of the Reza Shah era is of special historical and philatelic importance. Prior to Reza Shah's reign, envelopes containing petitions sent to the judiciary were rarely found. Following the modernisation of the judiciary, however, many petitions were sent daily, indicating the restoration of credibility and the systemic organisation within the judiciary. As far as I know, the philatelic aspect of justice has not yet been explored. The common denominator of all the items is that they were delivered to the judiciary by post.

As the Qajar era reached its conclusion, although a ministry was in existence under the title of "Justice", for a variety of reasons, people refused to resort to the judiciary and instead attempted to resolve disputes without the involvement of the court system. Reza Shah (1925–1941) sought to modernise Iran in a comprehensive manner, and in this context, the judiciary was also subject to reform. The newly constituted Judiciary was formally inaugurated on 26th April 1927, and people subsequently began to address their disputes to the newly established judicial body. The purpose of this article is to demonstrate the role of postal correspondence in the post-modernisation era of the Judiciary, highlighting the degree of confidence that the populace placed in the newly established judicial system. The conventional approach of maintaining covers within the courts is also evident.

Departments of Justice

The central organisation of the Ministry of Justice was divided into three general departments:

1. General Department of Judicial Affairs
2. General Department of Administrative Affairs
3. General Department of Real Estate Registration

Public Courts – محاکم عمومی

1. Misdemeanour Court (minor offences) – صلحیه (دعاوی با نصاب اندک و امور خلافی)
2. Court of First Instance – ابتدایی (حقوقی و جزایی)
3. Appellant Court – استیناف
4. Supreme Court – دیوان عالی تمییز

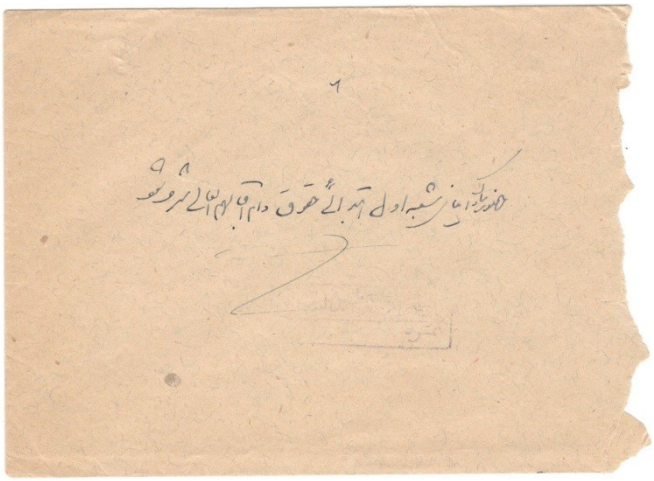
Special Courts – محاکم اختصاصی

1. Religious Court – محاکم شرع
2. Peace judges (minor religious issues) – حکام صلح (موضوعات شرعی جزیی)
3. Commercial Court – محاکم تجارت
4. Disciplinary Court – محکمه انتظامی
5. Criminal Court of government employees – دیوان جزای عُمال (کارکنان) دولت
6. Tax Court – دیوان دادرسی دارایی
7. Military Court – محاکم نظامی

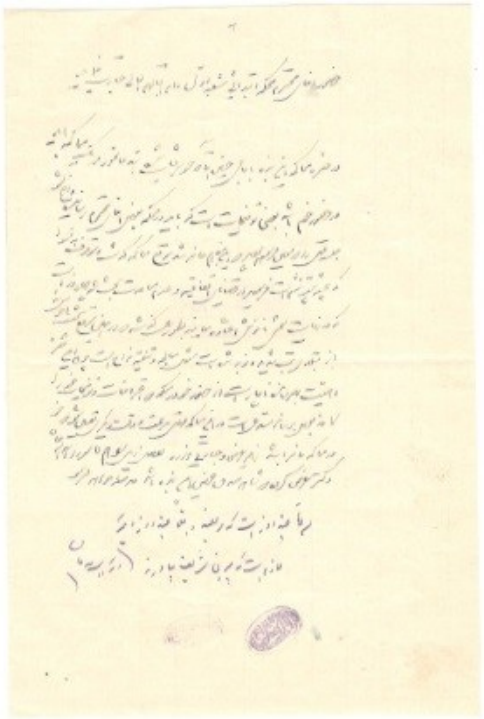
Two Examples of Correspondence to the Judiciary in the Qajar Period

During the Qajar period people did not send their complaints to the judiciary by mail because they did not trust the administrative and judicial system. The proof of that is the small amount of correspondence that has been left from that time.

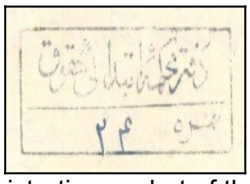
Here are two examples which were not sent by the post service. The exact date is not known, but they are probably related to the end of the Qajar period.



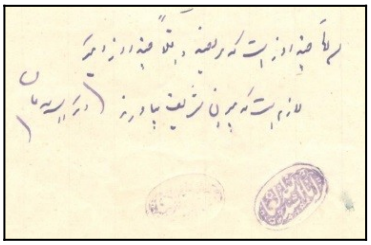




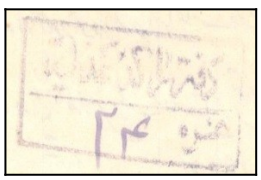
Petition letters inside the envelopes



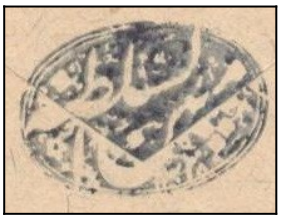
The registration cachet of the court.



Doctor's confirmation that the litigant is unable to attend.



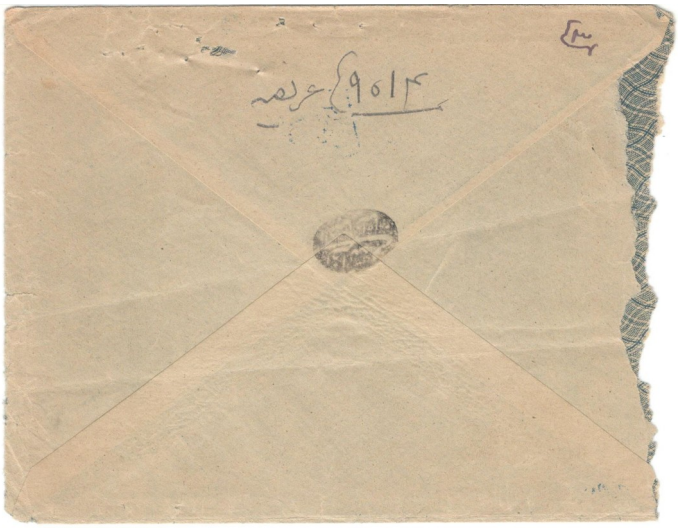
Seal of entry to the filing office.

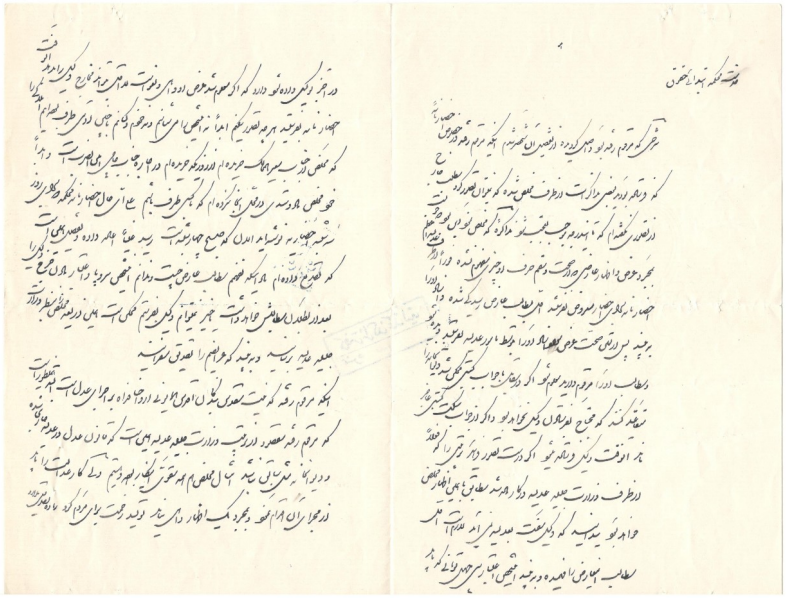


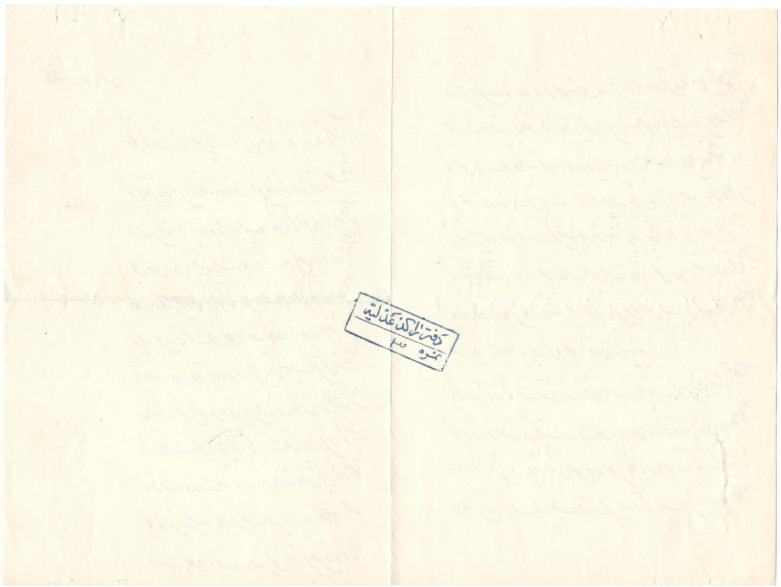
Stamp of the sender.

Figs. 1–1f: Registered cover with petition, undated (Qajar era).





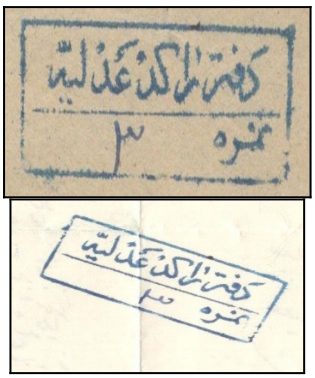




Petition letters inside the envelopes

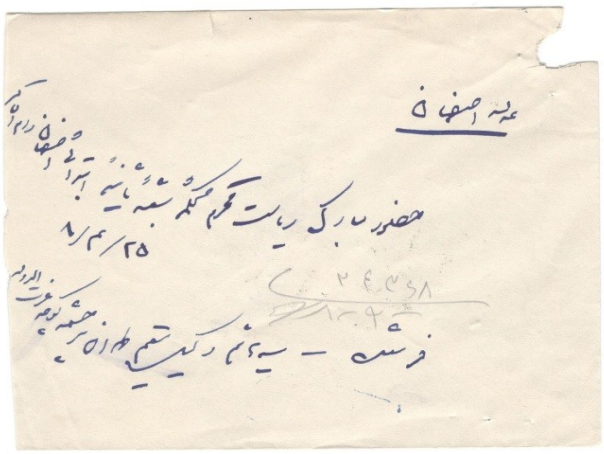


Traces of archival pinholes.

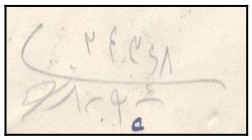


Seals of entry to the filing office

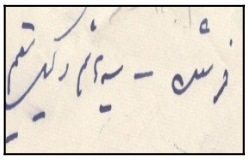
Figs. 2–2e: Registered cover with petition, undated (Qajar era).



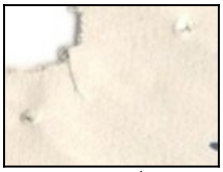




Registration number and postage rate



Seyedhashem Vakil (one of the famous lawyers)



Tear.[1]

Figs. 3–3d: 16.07.**1929**, cover from Tehran to Isfahan, franked with pair of 9 ch. From 1929 Coronation issue. All tied by Tehran (16.07.1929) depart and Isfahan (17.07.1929) arrival postmarks. The sender, Seyed Hashem Vakil, was one of the famous lawyers of the Reza Shah's era. The cover is addressed to the president of the second branch of the Court of Instance of Isfahan. It has archival pinhole marks and signs of tearing. Letter fee: 6 ch., registration fee: 12 ch. Total postage fee: 18 ch.







Sandogh seal.

Traces of archival pinholes.



Figs. 4–4c: 28.08.**1930**: cover from Isfahan to Tehran, franked with 3 ch. and three copies of 1 ch. of 1929 Coronation issue. All tied by Isfahan (28.08.1930) depart postmark and the Tehran (31.08.1930) arrival postmark. Sent to the Magistrates' court, which has heard religious cases. It has some archival pinholes. Letter fee: 6 ch.

New Currency

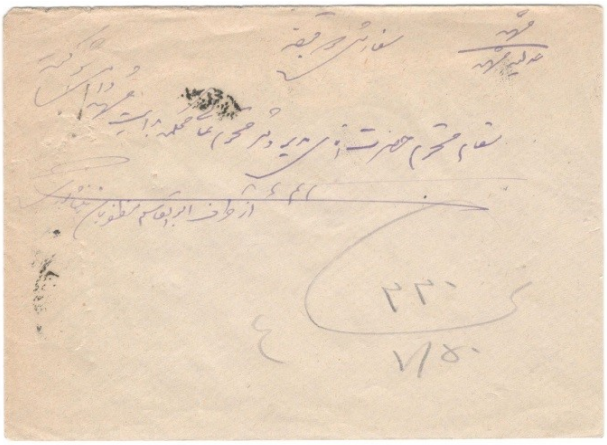
In February 1930, the official currency was changed from Kran and Chahi[2] to Dinar and Rial;[3] although the introduction of the units and their usage on stamps only happened at the beginning of

1 The tear caused by pulling was not part of the archiving method. Caused by someone who brought it to the market, but reduced the collection value of the envelope.

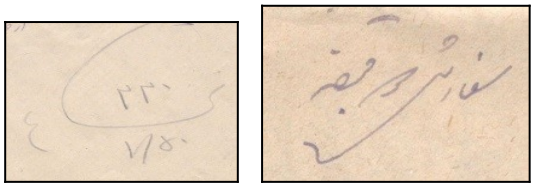
2 Keren, Qiran, Qerun, Kran, Chran. قِرُون . – Chahis, Shahi, شاهی .

3 Dinar, Denar. دینار . – Rial, Real,ریال .

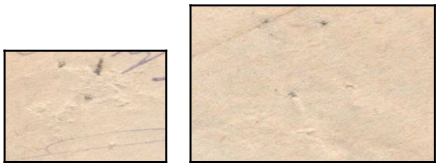
March 1932. The new Pahlavi Dinar was different from the Qajar Dinar. At the time of Pahlavi, 1 Rial was equal to 100 Dinars and 1 Toman[4] was equal to 1,000 Dinars. During the Qajar era, each 1 Kran was equal to 20 Chahis or 1,000 Dinars and 1 Toman was equal to 10,000 Dinars.





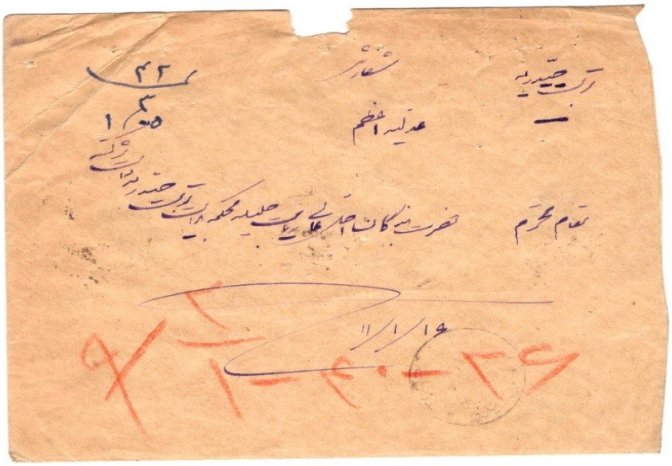


Registration number (left) and
postage rate & weight 4 Miskals (right).



Traces of archival pinholes.

Figs. 5–5e: 30.04.**1931**, double registered cover from Nichabour to Mashhad, franked with 10 ch. & 1 kr. of 1929 Coronation issue. All tied by Nichabour (30.04.1931) depart and Mashhad (1.05.1931) arrival postmarks and addressed to the director of the office of the Court of First Instance in Mashhad. It has some archival pinholes. Letter fee 12 ch, registration fee 12 ch., AR (*avis de réception*) fee 6 ch. Total postage fee: 1 kr. & 10 ch.



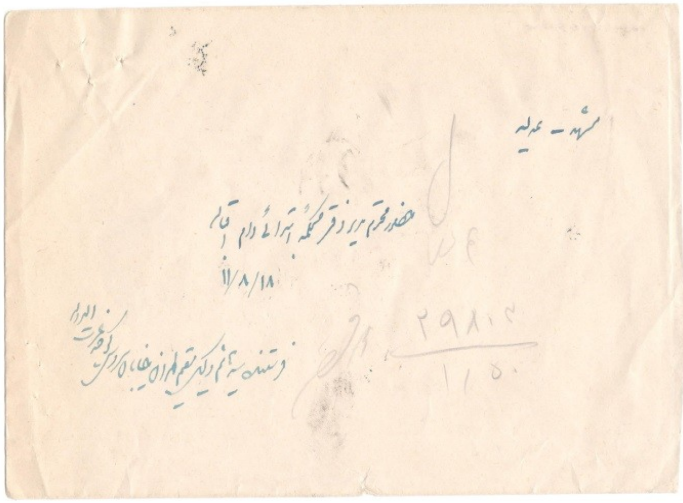




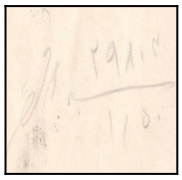
Figs. 6–6b: 6.04.**1932**, registered cover from Torshiz[5] to Torbett Heideri, franked with 5×2 ch. and 1 kr. (1929 coronation issue), all tied by Torshiz (6.04.1932) depart postmark. It is addressed to the president of the Court of First Instance of Torbett Heideri. The cover has some pinholes and tearing.[6]

Letter fee: 18 ch., registration fee: 12 ch. Total postage fee: 1 kr. and 50 di.

4 Toman, Tuman, تُمن. .
5 On 30.07.1934, the name of Torshiz was changed to Kashmir.
6 Tearing due to pulling, was not part of the archival method and reduces the value of the envelope. This envelope is displayed because of the postmark of Torshiz which is no longer called by this name.







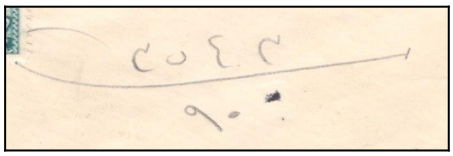
Registration number and postage rate.



Traces of archival pinholes.

Figs. 7–7c: 9.11.**1932**, 'double registered' (AR) cover from Tehran to Mashhad, franked with 6 ch. (1931/32 definitive issue) and 24 ch. (1929 coronation issue). All tied by Tehran (11.09.1932) depart and Mashhad arrival postmarks. The sender, Seyed Hashem Vakil, was one of the famous lawyers of the Reza Shah's era. It is addressed to the director of the office of the Court of First Instance of Mashhad. It has some archival pinholes.
Letter fee: 12 ch., registration fee: 12 ch., AR fee: 6 ch. Total postage fee: 30 ch.





Registration number and postage rate, written by the postal clerk.



The tear caused by pulling was not part of the archiving method.

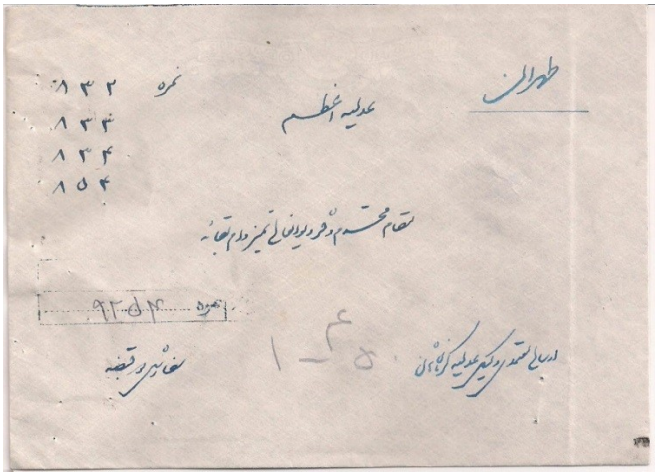


Teheran postmark on the reveres.

Figs. 8–8c: March **1933**, registered cover from Tehran, franked with a pair of 9 ch. (1929 coronation issue). All tied by Tehran (?.03.1934) postmark and addressed to the third branch of the Supreme Court.

The cover has some archival pinholes and shows tearing.

Letter fee 6 ch. Registration fee 12 ch.
Total postage fee 18 ch.

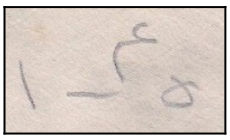




Traces of archival pinholes.



The wax seal of the sender.



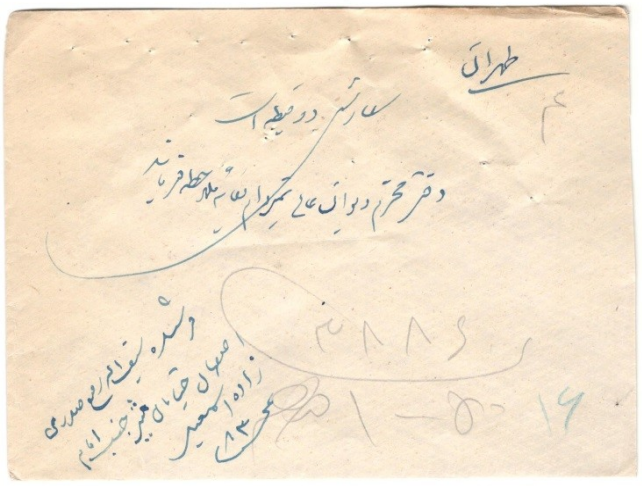
Postage rate and weight: 4 miskals.



Figs. 9–9d: 17.11.**1933**, 'double registered' (AR) cover from Kirmanchah to Tehran, franked with 60 di. and 2×45 di (1933/34 definitive issue). All tied by Kirmanchah (17.11.1933) depart and Tehran (20.11.1933) arrival postmarks, with wax seal of the sender on the back. The cover has some archival pinhole marks.

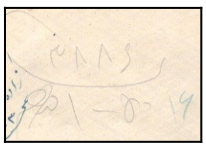
It addressed to the office of the Supreme Court. The sender was a lawyer.

Letter fee: 60 di., registration fee: 60 di., AR fee 30 di. Total postage fee: 1 r. and 50 di.





Traces of archival pinholes.



Registration number and postage rate.



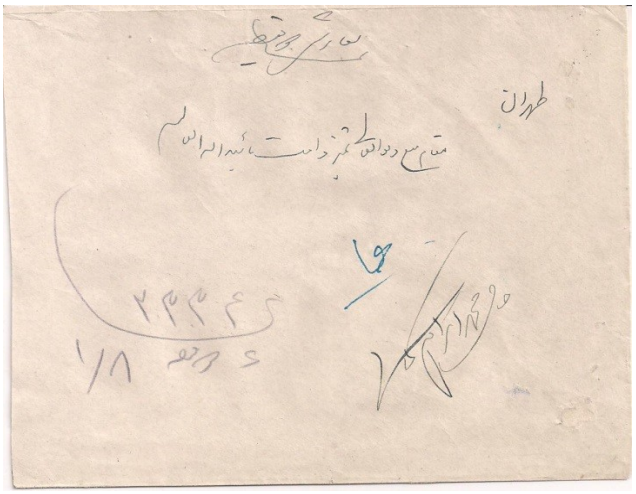
The weight was 4 Miskals.



Figs. 9–9d: 8.07.**1933**, 'double registered' (AR) cover from Isfahan to Tehran, franked with three copies of the 10 ch. stamp of the 1929 Coronation issue. All tied by Isfahan (8.07.1933) depart and Tehran (11.07.1933) arrival postmarks.

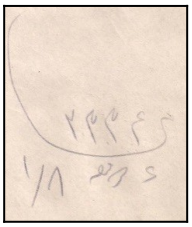
It addressed to the office of the Supreme Court and has some archival pinholes.

Letter fee: 12 ch., registration fee: 12 ch., AR fee: 6 ch. Total postage fee: 30 ch.





Figs. 10–10d: 26.11.1934, 'double registered' (AR) cover from Gorgan to Tehran, franked with 60 di. & 1/20 r. of the 1933/34 definitive issue. All tied by Gorgan (26.11.1934) depart and Tehran (29.11.1934) arrival postmarks. Addressed to the Supreme Court.



Registration number, postage rate, weight 6 Miskals, and AR.

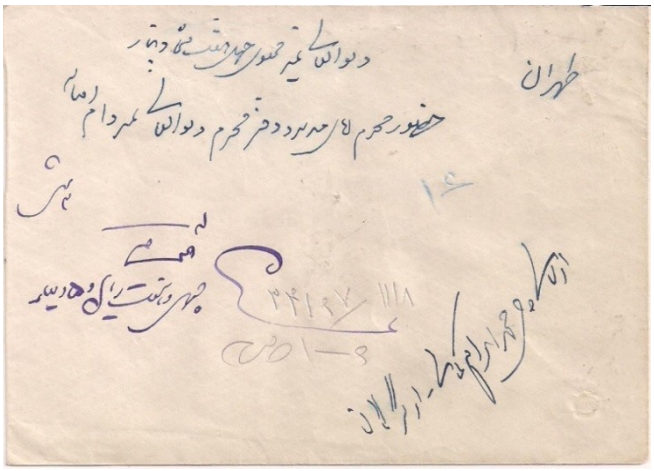


Gorgan postmark.



The cover has a punch and some pinholes.
Letter fee: 90 di., registration fee: 60 di.,
AR fee: 30 di.
Total postage fee 1 r. and 80 di.

Traces of restoration.[7]





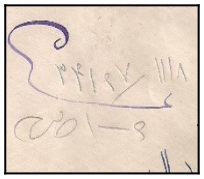
Figs. 11–11d: January 1935, insured double registered (AR) cover from Gorgan to Tehran, franked with 60 di. and 1 r. of the 1933/34 definitive issue. All tied by Gorgan (?.01.1935) depart and Tehran (22.01.1935) arrival postmarks.
Addressed to the office of the Director of the Supreme Court.

The cover has a punch and some pinholes and the wax seals have been removed.

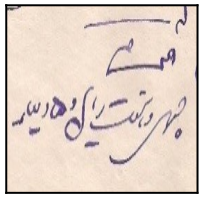
Letter fee: 45 di.; registration fee: 60 di.,
AR fee: 30 di., insurance fee: 25 di.
Total postage fee: 1 r. & 60 di.



Repairs.[8]



Registration number and postage rate.

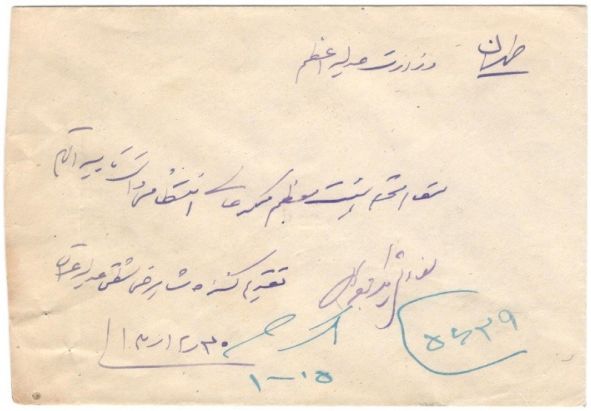


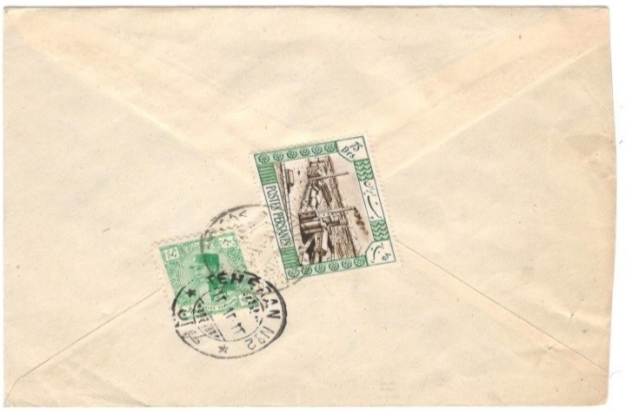
Contained 47 rials and 5 dinars (in notes).

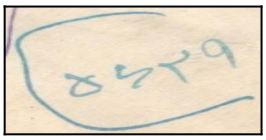
7 The cover has been repaired by the National Archives of Iran
8 The cover has been repaired by the National Archives of Iran

Language Reforms

With the establishment of Academy of Iran[9] on 20th May 1935, many foreign words became replaced by Persian equivalents. The Arabic for justice عدالة (*adliya*) was changed to the Persian-derived دادگستری (*dadgostari*) as well. However, the use of the Arabic words continued for years. The envelopes before 1935 all had the Arabic header *adliya* or *adliya azam*.







Registration number and postage rate.

Figs. 12–12e: 11.03.**1935**, registered cover from Arak to Tehran, franked with 30 di. of the 1933/34 definitive issue and 75 di. of 10th anniversary (1935) issue. All tied by Arak (11.03.1933) depart and Tehran (14.03.1935) arrival postmarks.

The cover is addressed to the Supreme Disciplinary Court and has some archival pinholes.

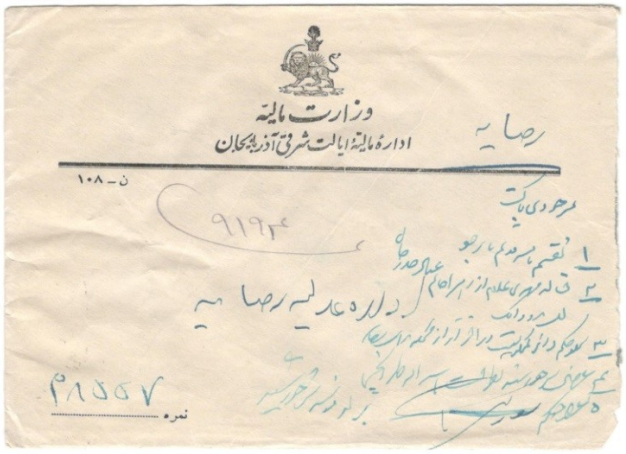
Letter fee: 45 di., registration fee: 60 di., Total postage fee: 105 di.



Cement factory stamp.[10]



Traces of archival pinholes.







The State oval seal indicates that postage fee was free of charge.



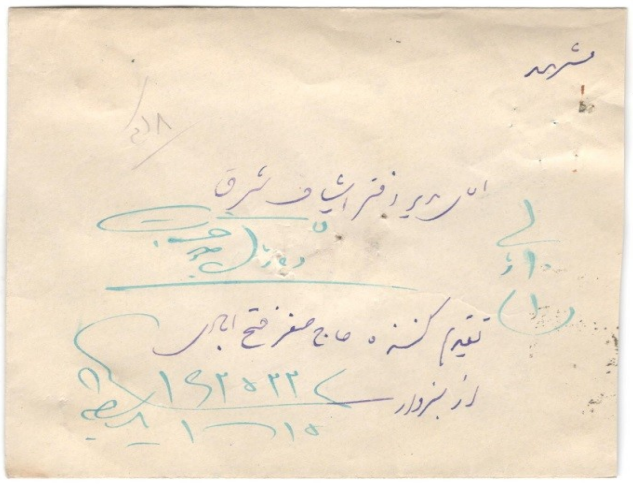
The two airmail stamps of 12 and 15 ch. were clumsily attached by a forger.

Figs. 13–13d: 6.12.**1935**, a government envelope with the letterhead of the Ministry of Finance, East Azerbaijan State Finance Department. Addressed to the Rezaiyeh (renamed Urmia in 1979) Justice Department in West Azerbaijan Province.

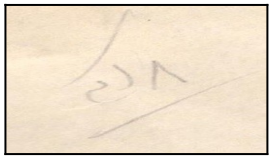
The cover has been manipulated by attaching two airmail stamps.

9 فرهنگستان ایران , now Academy of Persian Language and Literature (فرهنگستان زبان و ادب فارسی).

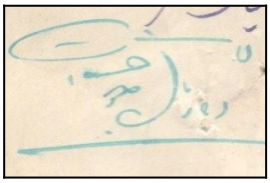
10 Considered one of the first series of commemorative stamps, its domestic use has been limited.







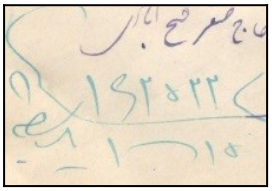
The weight of the envelope was 8 grammes.



Contained 10 Rials in banknotes.

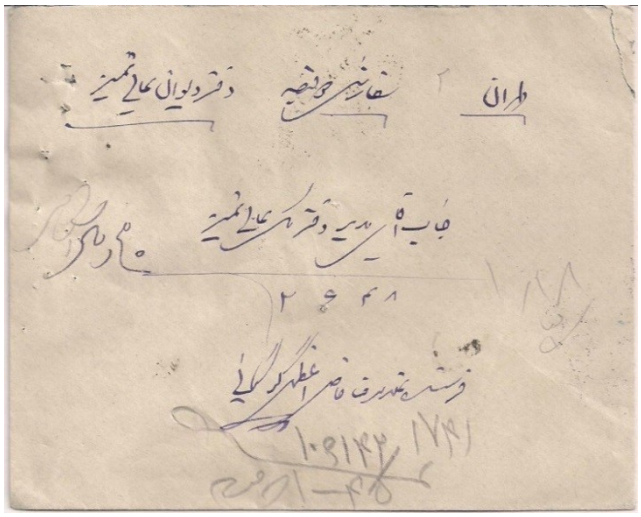


Traces of archival pinholes.

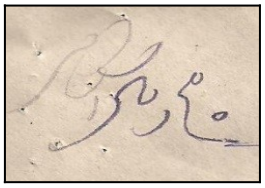


Registration number and postage rate.

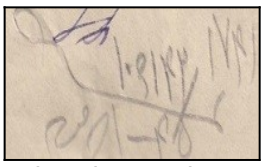
Figs. 14–14e: 20.04.**1936**, insured registered cover from Sabzevar to Mashhad, franked with 15 di. and 1 r. (1935 definitive issue). All tied by Sabzevar (20.04.1936) depart and Mashhad (21.04.1936) arrival postmarks. Addressed to the director of the Eastern Appeal office.[11] Contained was 10 r. in cash and has archival pinholes. Letter fee: 30 di., registration fee: 60 di. and insurance fee: 25 di. Total fee: 1 r. and 15 di. (115 di.).







Contained 5 Rials.



Registration number and postage rate.



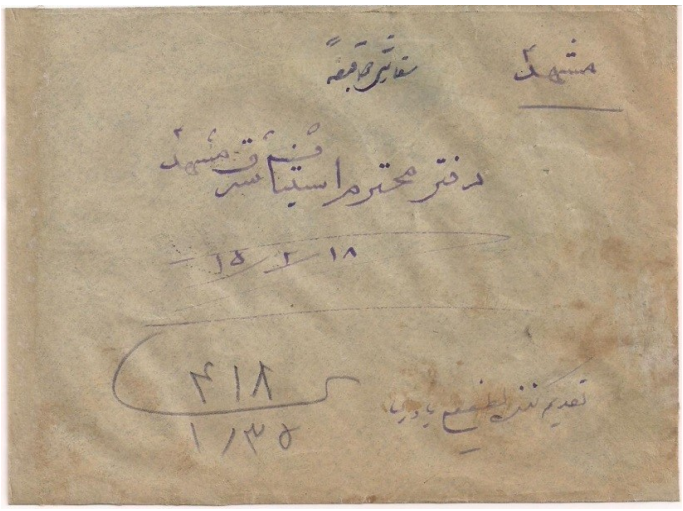
The wax seal of Gorgan post office.



Traces of archival pinholes.

Figs. 15–15d: 25.01.**1936**, 'double registered' (AR) cover from Gorgan to Tehran, franked with 45 di. and 2×50 di. (1933/34 definitive issue). All tied by Gorgan depart and Tehran (28.01.1936) arrival postmarks, with the wax seal of Gorgan post office. Addressed to the director of the office of the Supreme Court. The cover has some archival pinholes. Letter fee: 30 di., registration fee: 60 di., AR fee: 30 di., insurance fee: 25 di. Total postage fee: 145 di.

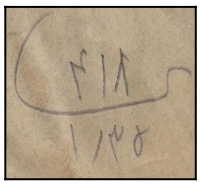
11 'Eastern' refers here to the province of Khorasan.







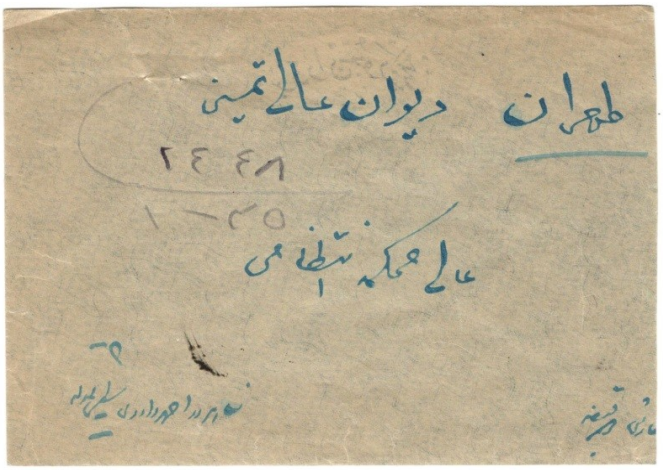
Traces of archival pinholes.



Registration number and postage rate.

Figs. 16–16c: 10.05.**1936**, 'double registered' (AR) cover from Torbett Heideri to Mashhad, franked with 27 ch. (Majlessi issue overprinted "POSTES IRANIENNES" in 1935).[12] All tied by Torbett Heideri (10.05.1936) depart and Mashhad (11.05.1936) arrival postmarks.

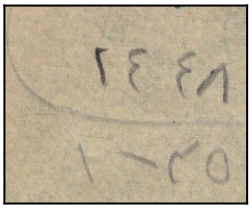
Addressed to the East Mashhad Appeal Office.
The cover has some archival pinholes.
Letter fee: 45 di., registration fee: 60 di., AR fee: 30 di.
Total postage fee: 135 di.



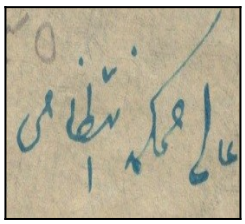




Traces of archival pinholes.



Registration number and postage rate.



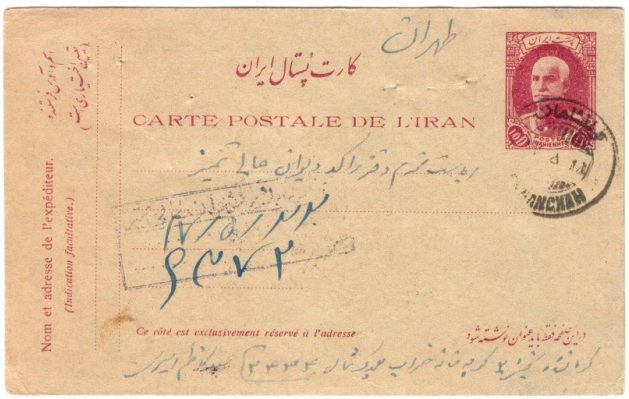
Supreme Court and Supreme Disciplinary Court.

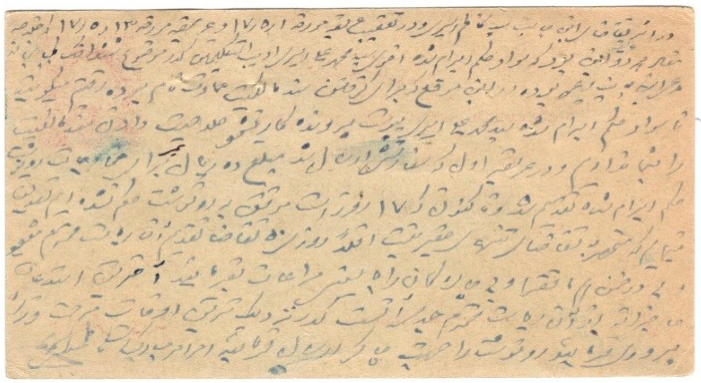
Figs. 16–16c: 5.10.**1937**, 'double registered' (AR) cover from Chahroud to Tehran, franked with 3×5 di. and 4×30 di. of the 1936/37 definitive issue. All tied by Chahroud (5.10.1937) depart and Tehran (7.10.1937) arrival postmarks.
The cover has some archival pinholes.

Letter fee: 45 di., registration fee: 60 di., AR fee: 30 di. Total postage fee: 135 di.

12 The stamps of Majlessi issue overprinted "POSTES IRANIENNES" have been used less than the same without the overprint.

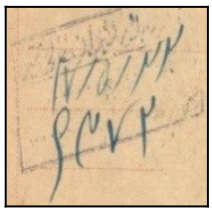
On 1st Farvardin 1318 (22nd March 1935), the name "Perse" was changed to "Iran" and the use of the designations "Perse" and "Persia" was prohibited. Then, in December 1935, "Iran" was overprinted on the stamps. The new stamps arrived quickly and superseded the overprinted stamps, so the latter were used only for a brief period.







Traces of archival pinholes.

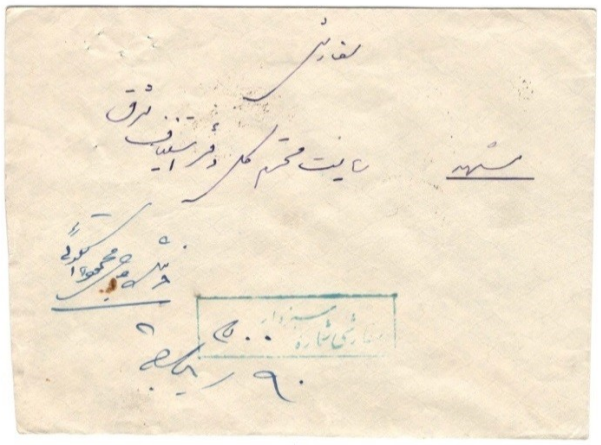


Registration number and postage rate.

Figs. 17–17c: 10 di. postcard with 1936 Reza Shah portrait of the French imprint issue. Sent from Kermanshah with postmark, arrived in Tehran on 13.08.1936.

Addressed to the filing office of the Supreme Court (cachet). It features some archival pinholes.

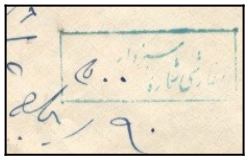
Correspondence with the courts was not been done by postcard and it is the only example which I have seen so far.







Traces of archival pinholes.



Registration cachet of Sabzevar and postage rate.

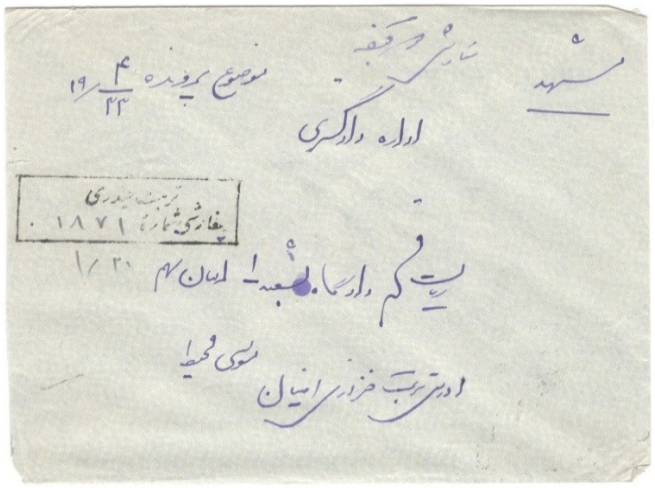


Majlessi stamp overprinted "POSTES IRANIENNES" were used for a short time. I have seen few envelopes sent to the courts with them.

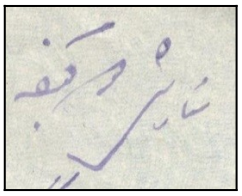
Figs. 17–17c: 15.04.**1939**, registered cover from Sabzevar to Mashhad with Sabzevar registration cachet, franked with 11 ch. of Majlessi issue (overprinted "POSTES IRANIENNES") and 5 di. and a pair of 15 di. of the 1936/37 definitive issue. All tied by Sabzevar (15.04.1939) depart and Mashhad arrival postmarks.

Addressed to the head of the General Office of Eastern Appeals Court.

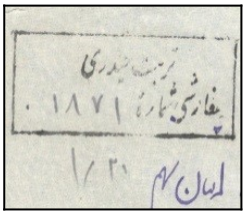
The cover has some archival pinholes.
Letter fee: 30 di., registration fee: 60 di.,
Total postage fee: 90 di.







Double registered (AR)

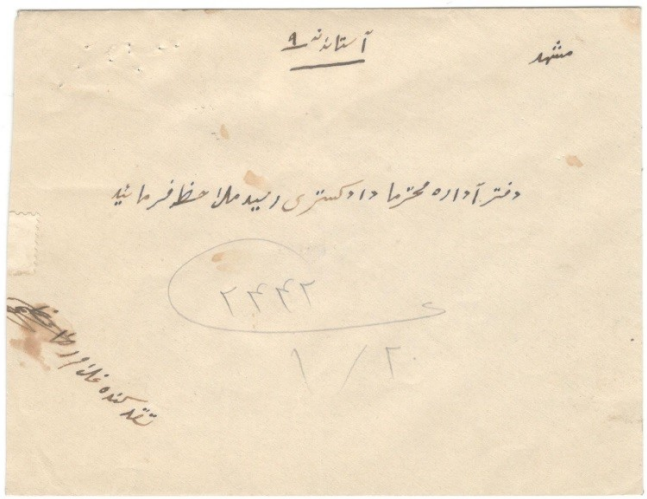


Registration cachet of Torbett Heideri and postage rate.

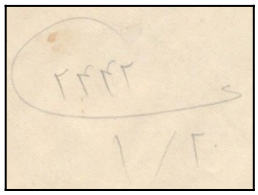


Traces of archival pinholes.

Figs. 18–18d: 8.10.**1940**, double registered cover from Torbett Heideri to Mashhad with Torbett Heideri cachet, franked with two copies of 10 di.and 1 r. (1938/39 definitive issue). All tied by Torbett Heideri (8.10.1940) depart and Mashhad (?.10.1940) arrival postmarks.
Addressed to the President of the First Branch of Mashhad city. The cover has some archival pinholes. Letter fee: 30 di., registration fee: 60 di., AR fee 30 di. Total postage fee: 1 r. and 20 di.







Registration number & postage rate



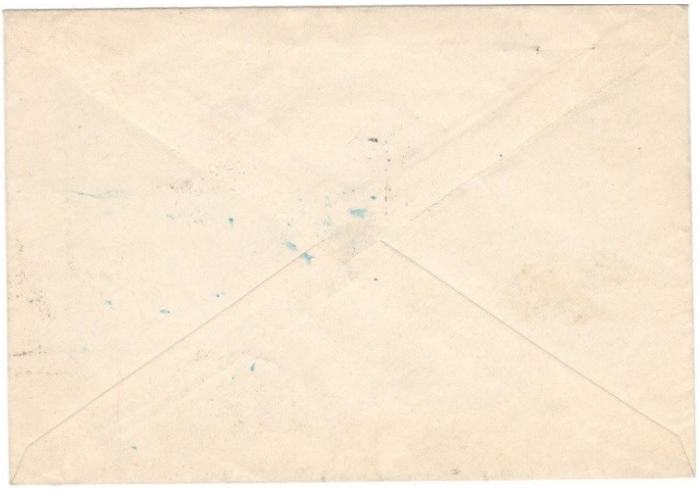
Traces of archival pinholes.

Figs. 19–19d: 23.09.**1940**, registered cover from Birdjend to Mashhad, franked with two copies of 10 di. and 1 r. of the 1938/39 definitive issue. All tied by Birdjend (23.09.1940) depart and Mashhad (24.09.1940) arrival postmarks.

Addressed to the Office of the Justice.

The cover has some archival pinholes.
Letter fee: 60 di., registration fee: 60 di.
Total postage fee: 1 r. and 20 di.





Figs. 20–20d: 5.12.**1940**, cover from Tehran to Mashhad, franked 30 di. of the 1938/39 definitive issue.
All tied by Tehran depart and Mashhad (5.12.1940) arrival postmarks.
Addressed to the President of the First Branch of Mashhad. The cover has some archival pinholes.

Letter fee: 30 di.

Due to the importance of ensuring arrival, envelopes sent to the courts were usually in the form of registered or double registered (AR). This is the only example without registration recorded.

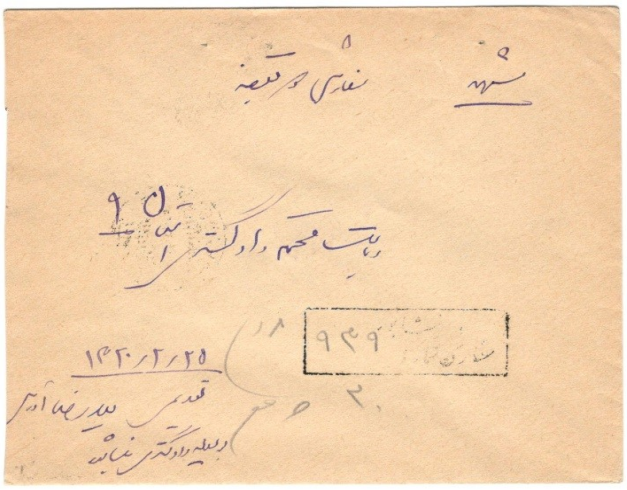




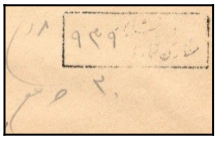
Traces of archival pinholes.



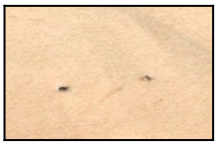
Postal stamp of region number 1.



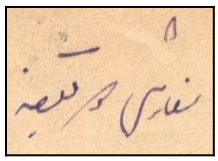




Double registered (AR).



Traces of archival pinholes.



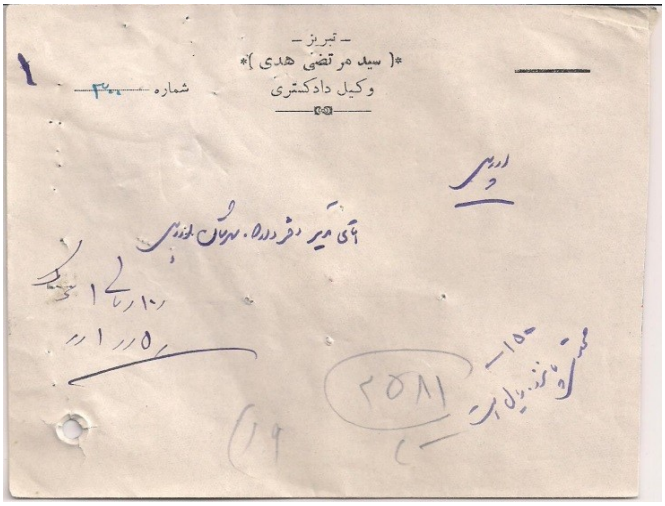
Registration cachet of Nichabour, postage rate and AR.

Figs. 21–21d: 15.05.**1941**, double registered cover from Nichabour to Mashhad franked with 50 + 60 + 90 di. of 1938/39 definitive issue. All tied by Nichabour (15.05.1941) depart and Mashhad (17.05.1941) arrival postmarks.

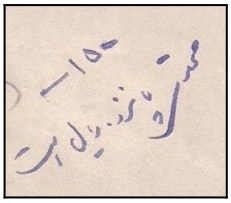
It is addressed to the chief Justice of the 9th province.[13] The cover has some archival pinholes.

Letter fee 50 di., registration fee: 1 r., AR fee: 50 di.
Total postage fee: 2 r. (200 di.).

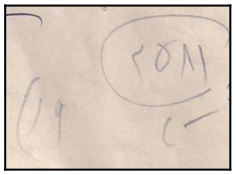
13 During the time of Reza Shah, each province was known by its own number: Khorasan was number 9.



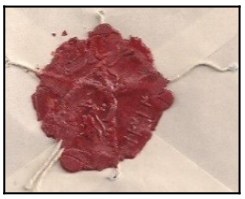




15 r. cash inside.



Registration number, weight and postage rate.

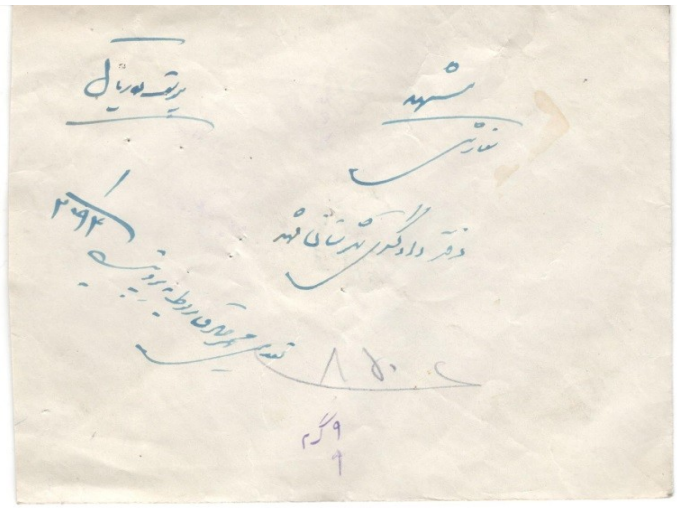


The wax seal of the sender, a lawyer.

Figs. 22–22d: 3.07.**1942**, insured registered cover franked with four copies of 50 di. of the 1938/39 definitive issue. Tied by Tabriz (3.07.1942) depart postmark with wax seal of Tabriz post office 1935 on the back.

Addressed to the director of court office of Ardabil city. It has some archival marks and pinholes.

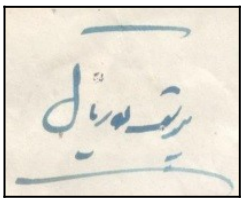
Letter fee: 50 di., registration fee: 1 r., insurance fee: 50 di. Total postage fee: 2 r. (200 di.)



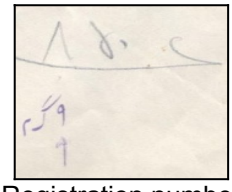




Traces of archival pinholes.



10 r. cash inside



Registration number and weight.



Insurance wax seal of Torbett Heideri P.O.

Figs. 23–23e: 23.02.**1942**, insured registered cover franked with 2 r. (1938/39 definitive issue). All tied by Torbett Heideri depart and Mashhad (23.02.1942) arrival postmarks.

Addressed to the Justice Office of Mashhad city. The cover has some archival pinholes.

Letter fee: 50 di., registration fee: 1 r., insurance fee: 50 di. Total postage fee 2 r. (200 di)



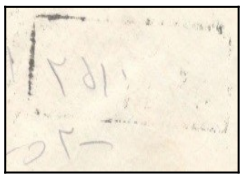




Traces of archival pinholes.



Traces of archival pinholes.

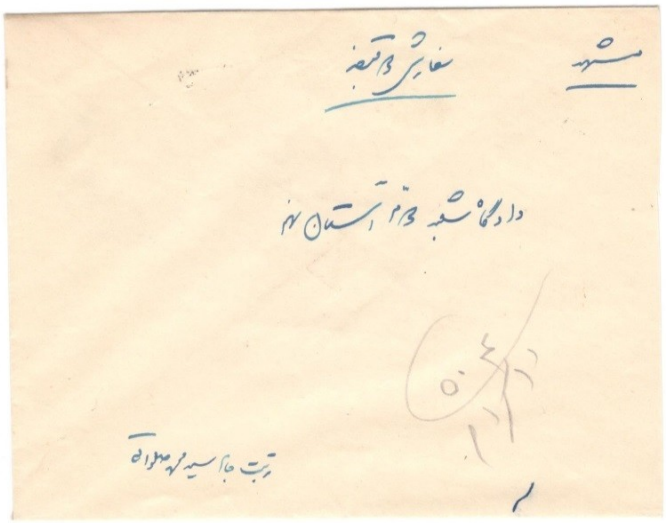


Registration cachet of Nichabour and postage rate.

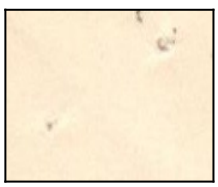
Figs. 24–24d: 10.09.**1942**, registered cover from Nichabour to Mashhad with Nichabour registration cachet, franked with two copies of 1 r. (1938/39 definitive issue). All tied by Nichabour (10.09.1942) depart and Mashhad (11.09.1942) arrival postmarks.

Addressed to the Prosecutor of the 9th province. Featured archival pinholes.

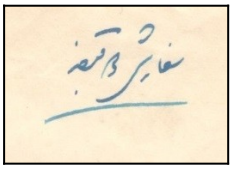
Letter fee: 1 r., registration fee: 1 r.
Total postage fee: 2 r.



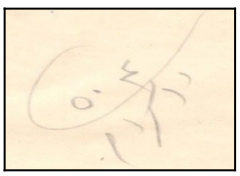




Traces of archival pinholes.



Double registered (AR).



Registration number and weight.



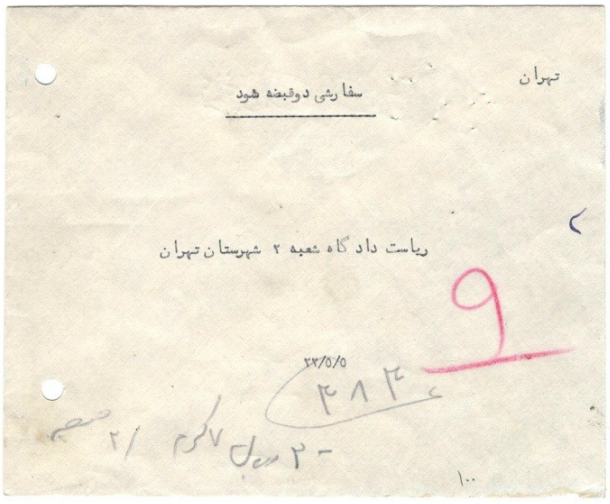
Postmark of Torbett-Djem.

Figs. 25–25e: 14.05.**1943**, 'double registered' (AR) cover from Torbett-Djem to Mashhad, franked with 2 r. of the 1938/39 definitive issue. Tied by Torbett-Djem (14.05.1943) depart and Mashhad (18.05.1943) arrival postmarks.

Addressed to the second branch of Mashhad city court. It features some archival pinholes.

Letter fee: 50 di., registration fee: 1 r., AR fee: 50 di. Total postage fee 2 r.

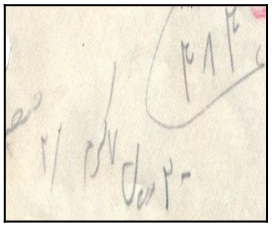








There are traces of needling and two punch holes. Most envelopes have the effect of a punch hole. This item is one of the few that has two holes.

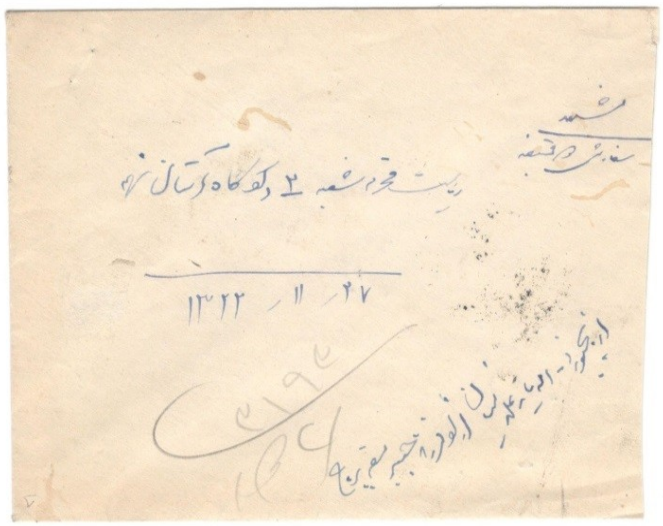


Registration number, weight, postage rate and double registered (AR)

Figs. 26–26d: 28.07.1943, double registered cover from Qom, franked with pair of 1 r. of the 1938/39 definitive issue, all tied by Qom (28.07.1943) depart and Tehran (29.07.1943) arrival postmarks.

Addressed to the President of the Second Branch of Tehran city court. Some traces of archival pinholes and two punch holes.

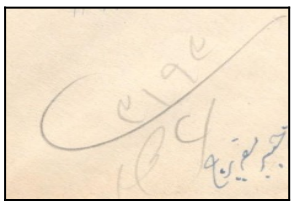
Letter fee: 50 di., registration fee: 1 r., AR fee: 50 di. Total postage fee: 2 r.



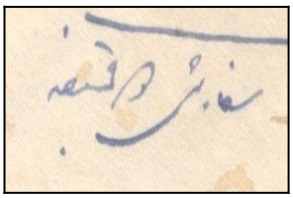




Traces of archival pinholes.



Registration number and AR.



Double registration (AR).

Figs. 27–27d: 22.02.1944, 'double registered' (AR) cover franked with two copies of 90 di. (1938/39 definitive issue) and 2×10 di. (1942 definitive issue). All tied by Bojnourd (22.02.1944) depart and Mashhad (26.02.1944) arrival postmarks. Addressed to the President of the Second Branch of 9th province court. If features some archival pinholes. Letter fee: 50 di., registration fee: 1 r., AR fee: 50 di. Total postage fee: 2 r.

Mail Routes and TPOs of (Trans)Jordan

by Avo Kaplanian

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Not much has been published in philatelic literature about the mail routes and TPOs of the Jordanian mail. Abed H. Najjar dedicated only a couple of pages in his classical book "The Philatelic History of Jordan 1400–1959" on this subject:[1] He listed nine routes of the mail that left Amman to different destinations in the world. He writes that all overseas mail was either sent from Amman to Haifa and then by sea to its destination, or through Jerusalem and then overland to Port Said and Alexandria where it was dispatched again by sea. All mail from different towns in Jordan was sent to Amman first before dispatch and Haifa was the most-used transit place.

The article is in two parts: the first part deals with the different transit routes while the second is about the train stations and the TPOs. All the covers shown here are from my own collection.

The transit postmarks are the basis of the routes that were followed.

Transit Routes



Figs. 1 and 1a: Cover from London franked with 1½ d stamp, machine cancelled 30. or 31.03.1928. Addressed to Capt. L. K. Lockhart[2] at the Transjordan Frontier Force (TJFF) in Zerka, "Transjordania". The underfranked cover was taxed upon arrival at El-Zarka on 13.04.1928 with 4 and 8 millièmes Jordan Postage Due stamps. Transit skeleton date-stamp of Haifa on the back: 9.04.1928.



1 Najjar, 2009, pp. 76–81.

2 Captain Leslie Keith Lockhart, MBE, MC, RA (1897–1966).



Fig. 2 and 2a: Cover bearing one 1 piastre stamp (dark blue) and one ½ piastre (orange) stamp with a wide right-hand margin. The two stamps are cancelled by the oval "idarat al-barid Madaba" dated 12.03.1925. The cover was mailed in Madaba to Amman (15.03.1925) with the (faint) Amman District cancel first, then transit via Haifa 16.03.1925 to Toledo, Ohio.





Figs. 3 and 3a: Registered cover flown from Kerak (9.12.1931) to Basel, Switzerland, franked by eight King Abdullah stamps, all tied by four Kerak cancels with blue on white registration label and black on blue Air Mail label. Backstamped en route by date-stamps of Kerak, Amman, Haifa, Jerusalem, Tiberias, Brindisi, TPO Pescara–Milan, and Basel.
Manuscripted at top with the two lines "(Karama–) Cairo – Brindisi (–London) / and Brindisi–Venezia".
Another manuscripted line in the centre, underlined in red reading " Only by Air Mail".

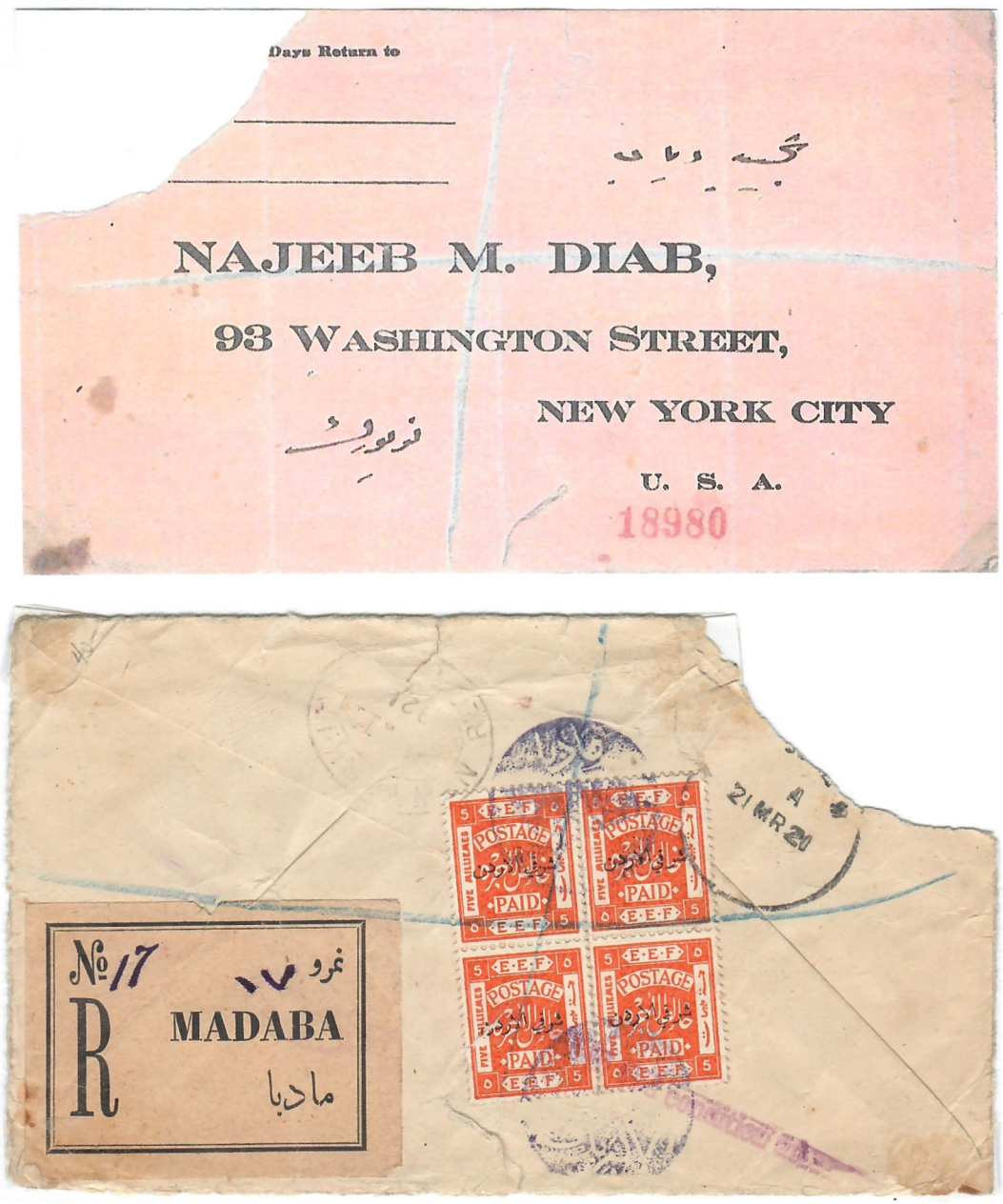


Fig. 4: Registered cut-down cover bearing a block of four 5 millièmes overprinted Palestine stamps used with two strikes of the deep violet negative seal postmarks of Madaba dated 19.03.1921 and addressed to New York with the unusual large black on white registration label of Madaba (bilingual No. 17 in manuscript). Furthermore, we see on the front the transit postmark of Jerusalem 31.03.1925 and the arrival date-stamp of New York 11.04.1925.





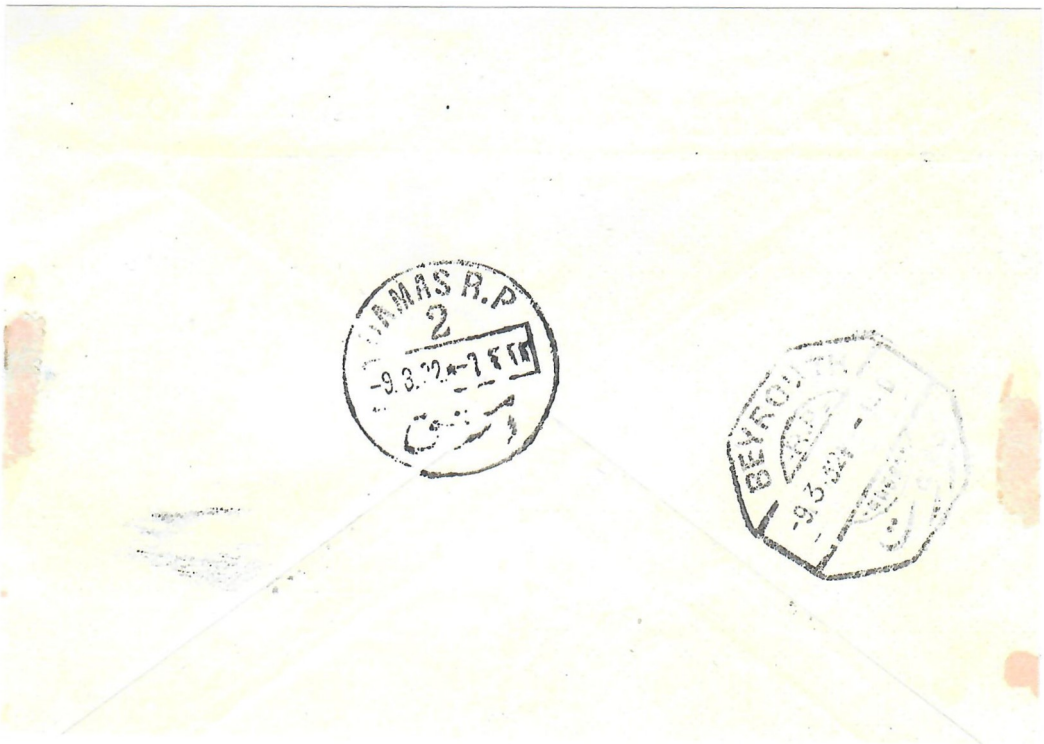
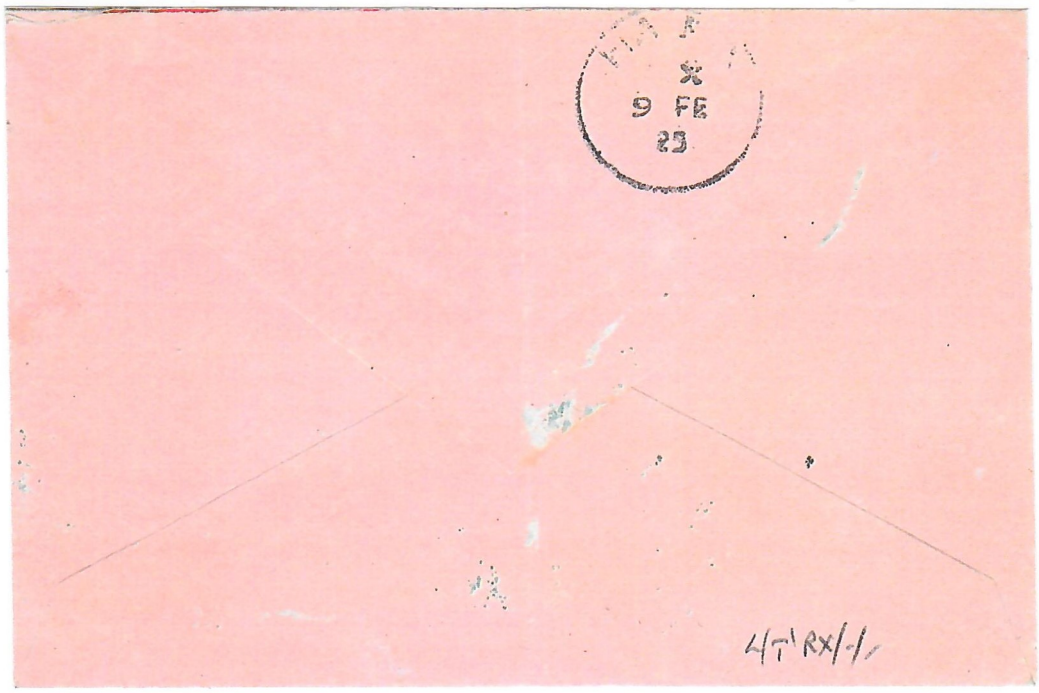


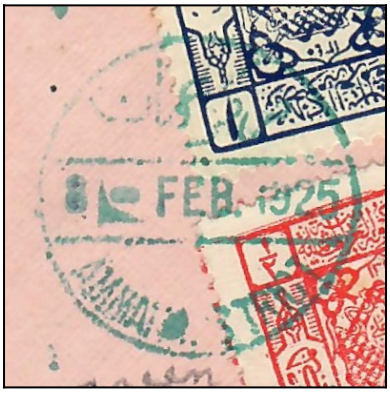
Fig. 5 and 5a: Commercial hotel cover mailed in Amman on 7.03.1932 to Beirut.
The route is first to Damascus and then to Beirut, attested with the circular cancel of Damascus and the octagonal date-stamp of Beirut, both are dated 9.03.1932.



Figs. 6 and 6a: Official registered cover mailed in Amman on 28.03.1929 to London, franked by five King Abdullah stamps with a total of 35 mils. On the back we see a circular date-stamp of Amman (28.03.1929) and an oval registered postmark of Haifa dated 30.03.1929 plus two different arrival postmarks of London, both dated 10.04.1929.







Figs. 7–7b: Cover mailed in Amman with the Amman District postmark of 8.02.1925 to Aldershot, England, franked with a 1 piastre dark blue and a ½ piastre red overprinted stamps of Hejaz.
A transit Haifa circular date-stamps of 9.02.1925 is seen on the back.
What's interesting here is the Amman District postmark in green.



Figs. 8 and 8a: Salt cover mailed on 18.12.1926 to the German Colony in Jerusalem, bearing a 5m orange overprinted stamp (Waterlow printing) with a violet cancel. Transit date-stamps of Amman (18.12.1926), Haifa (20.12.1926), and a Jerusalem arrival postmark (21.12.1926) are seen on the back.



Figs. 9 and 9a: Official registered cover mailed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Amman, bearing three copies of the 20 mils King Abdullah stamp plus two copies of the 15 mils obligatory tax stamps for 'Aid to the Arabs of Palestine'. The stamps are cancelled by the big oval Amman Registered postmark dated 17.08.1950. On the back we see the transit postmark of Beirut dated 19.08.1950 plus the arrival postmark of Geneva with the date 21.08.1950.



Figs. 10 and 10a: A postal stationery registered envelope mailed in Zerka on 7.08.1937 by officer Martin Wrzesinski of the Transjordan Frontier Force (T.J.F.F.) in Zerka to Bait Vegan[3] near Tel Aviv. The cover is franked by three different King Abdullah stamps with a total of 25 mils.
On the back we see the following five date-stamps: Zerka 7.08.1937, Amman 7.08.1937, Oval registered Jerusalem 8.08.1937, oval registered Tel Aviv 9.08.1937, and Bait Vegan skeleton 9.08.1937.

3 Today: Bat Yam.

Travelling Post Offices

Now we move to the TPO covers. But before we do that I would like to go to the Amman Station postmarks because all the Jordan TPO postmarks known to us originated in Amman.

The first cover shown here (*fig. 11*) was mailed from Amman Station on 14th February 1928. It was addressed in Arabic to a Transjordan Frontier Force (T.J.F.F.) officer in the city of Samakh in Palestine with the transit date-stamp of Haifa 14th February 1928 . The arrival postmark on the back is dated 15th February 1928.

In *figs. 12 and 13* we see another two Amman Station covers. The one in fig. 12 was mailed to Mosul, Iraq and was dated 4th August 1927, while the one in fig. 13 was mailed to London on the 20th July 1927 and was mailed by an officer Zerka with the transit machine cancellation of Haifa.

A different and more modern postmark is shown in *fig. 14*. Just like the previous Amman Station postmark, this one is in Arabic and English but it has the date 30th May 1956 in a date-bridge. On the back we see the transit and arrival postmarks of Amman and Ramallah.

Fig. 15 shows a registered cover mailed in Madaba with the date of 29th November 1925, franked by four different overprinted "East of Jordan" stamps with a total of 30 millièmes (3 piastres). The cover carries in black the phrase "Paid Registered 120" on the front and was mailed to Leeds, England. On the back we see the transit postmarks of Amman plus the oval Registered Haifa postmark and the TPO of Haifa–Kantara South date-stamp dated 1st December 1925.

Fig. 16 shows a registered cover mailed in Amman (Amman District cancel) to Alexandria dated 2nd December 1924. Violet Amman registration mark "No. 806" in manuscript. The cover travelled first via Haifa–Kantara TPO South with the date 4th December 1924 before arriving in Alexandria on 5th December 1924 (see back of the cover).

The next TPO is that of Amman–Deraʿa (*fig. 17*) dated 23rd January 1932 and was mailed to Cheltenham, England.

Another Amman–Deraʿa cover is shown in *fig. 18*. It was addressed to Jerusalem and was dated 31st August 1940. It carries on the back the interesting double circular sender cachet reading "Transjordan Frontier Force / Signals". In addition to that, the cover has on the front the hexagonal bilingual "Passed By Censor / Transjordan 1" mark in violet. The next TPO is that of Amman–Maʿan". This postmark is more difficult to find than the previous Amman–Deraʿa one and is shown in fig. 19. It is dated 18th August 1935 and was mailed to Vienna by Sgt. Alex Goldstein of the TJFF 'D' force in Maʿan.

Finally in *fig. 20* we see a more modern Amman–Maʿan TPO postmark. It is used on a local cover mailed on the 29th August 1960, a rather late date of this elusive TPO postmark.



Figs. 11 and 11a: Cover mailed from Amman Station on 14.02.1928. It was addressed in Arabic to a Transjordan Frontier Force (T.J.F.F.) officer in the city of Samakh in Palestine.
Transit date-stamp of Haifa 14.02.1928.
The arrival postmark of Samakh on the back is dated 15.02.1928.



Figs. 12 and 12a: An Amman Station cover mailed to 6 Squadron, RAF, Mosul, Iraq, on 4.08.1927. Transit machine cancellation of Haifa.



Figs. 13 and 13a: Another Amman Station cover, this one is mailed to London on 20.07.1927 by a medical officer in Zerka. Transit machine cancellation of Haifa.

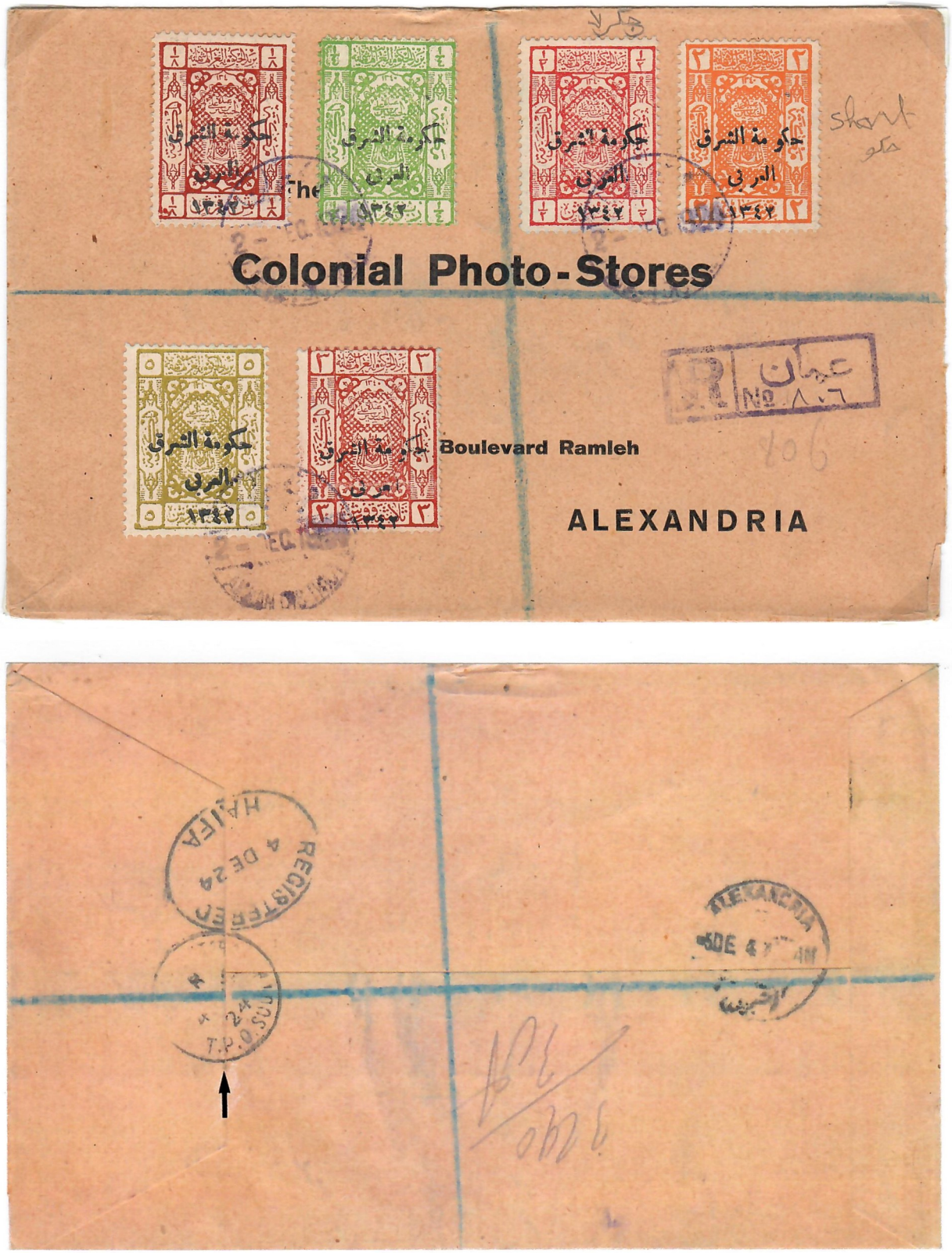


Figs. 14 and 14a: A more modern use of the Amman Station postmark, this one is in Arabic and English with the date 30.05.1956 in a date-bridge. On the back we see the transit and arrival postmark of Amman and the arrival mark of Ramallah.



Figs. 15 and 15a: A registered cover mailed in Madaba on 29.11.1925, franked by four different overprinted “East of Jordan” stamps with a total of 30 millièmes (3 piastres), addressed to Leeds, England.
The cover carries in black the phrase “paid registered 120” on the front.
On the back we see the transit postmarks of Amman plus the oval Registered Haifa postmark and the TPO of Haifa–Kantara South of 1.12.1925.

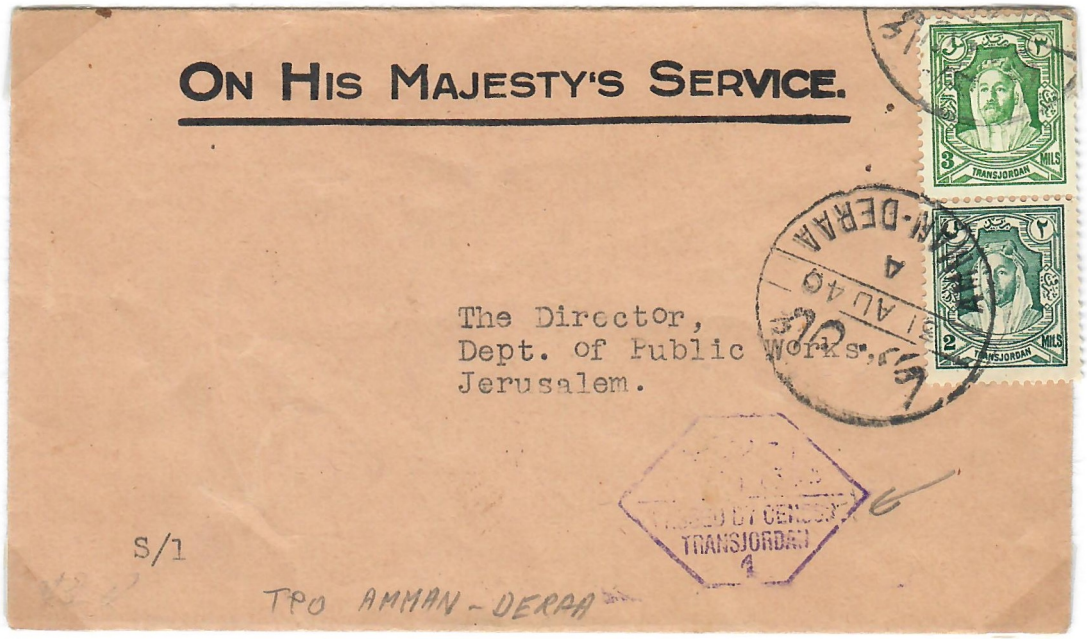




Figs. 16 and 16a: A registered cover mailed in Amman (Amman District cancel) to Alexandria, 2.12.1924. Violet Amman registration mark "No. 806" in manuscript. The cover travelled first via Haifa–Kantara TPO South (4.12.1924) before arriving in Alexandria on 5.12.1924.



Figs. 17 and 17a: Cancel of TPO Amman–Deraʿa dated 23.01.1932, mailed to Cheltenham, England.



Figs. 18 and 18a: Another Amman–Deraʿa TPO over, official correspondence addressed to Jerusalem and dated 31.08.1940.
It carries on the back the interesting double circular sender cachet reading “TRANSJORDAN FRONTIER FORCE / SIGNALS / 31 AUG. 1940”. In addition to that, the cover has on the front the hexagonal bilingual “PASSED BY CENSOR / TRANSJORDAN / 1” mark in violet.





Figs. 19 and 19a:

On this cover to Vienna there is the rarer
TPO Amman–Maʿan postmark, 18.08.1935
Mailed by Sgt. Alex Goldstein of the TJFF 'D' force in Maʿan.







Figs. 20 and 20a:

A more modern Amman–Maʿan TPO postmark, here used on a local cover mailed at rather late date of this elusive TPO postmark: 25/29.08.1960.

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- Proud, Edward B.: *The postal history of Palestine and Transjordan*. Heathfield: Proud-Bailey, 2006. 376 p. ISBN: 1-872465-89-7.

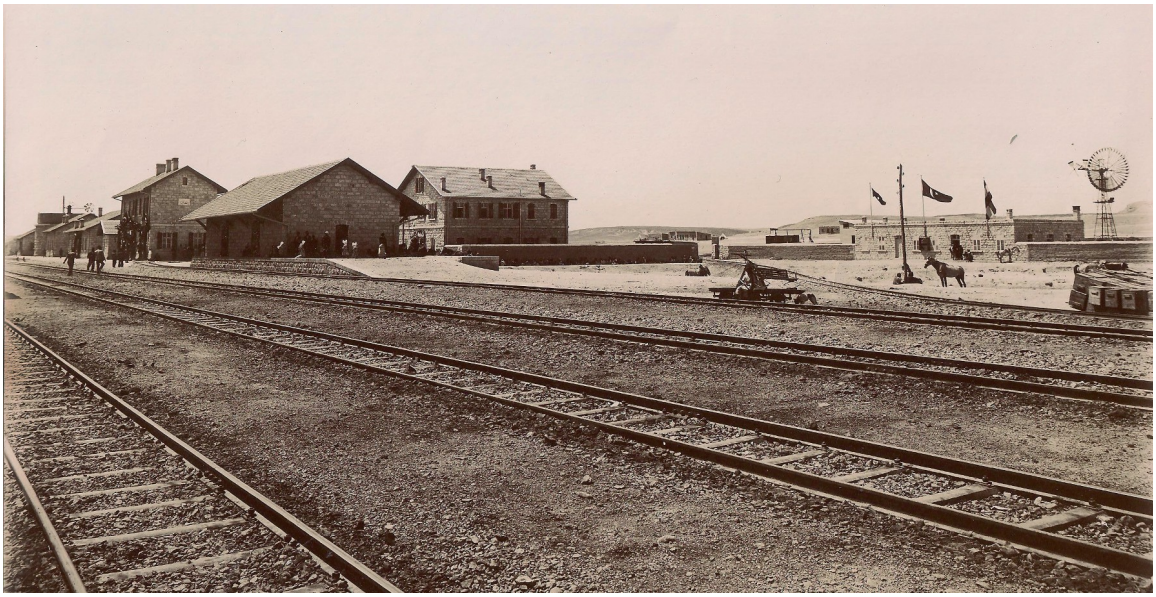


Fig. 21:

Maʿan Station, ca. 1907 [photo: Ir. B. Zäringer, in: Al-Barid 80].

WWI Censorship in Palestine – An Overview

compiled by Yehuda Kleiner[1]

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Foreword

Postal censorship is a philatelic topic of postal history. It is a vast one, especially when world wars involving several nations are concerned. Thus, to write a full scale article describing the particular facets of the postal censorship of each of the combating nations is nearly impossible. For this reason I chose to compile an article which discusses the characteristics of Postal Censorship that are common and similar to most armies and civil institutions. Reference is made to certain structures, such as the Ottoman one and examples of actual postal censored items are given. The article is an introduction to the philately of Censorship intended to contribute to a better understanding of this collecting area.

Introduction

Postal censorship is the inspection or examination of mail, most often by governments in peace times and by military or s specially established civil organisation in war times.

Historically, postal censorship is an ancient practice; it is usually linked to espionage and intelligence gathering. Both civilian mail and military mail may be subject to censorship, and often different organisations perform censorship of these types of mail. In the 20th Century wars, the objectives of postal censorship encompassed also economic warfare, social moods as well as security and intelligence.

Censorship in times of war is also used as an indispensable propaganda weapon: its task to keep the people in an atmosphere of utter ignorance and unshaken confidence in the authorities, and to allow their boundless indoctrination, so that they would, despite terrible losses and privations, accept holding on until the bitter end and the complete "knock out" of the enemy.

> *"If people really knew, the war would be stopped tomorrow! But of course they don't know and can't know. The correspondents don't write and the censorship would not pass the truth."*
>
> *David Lloyd George (1863–1945), Prime Minister of Great Britain*

Organisation of Censorship

Whereas on the continent censorship was introduced and justified by the proclamation of the state of siege, in Britain and later in the United States the parliamentary bodies had to be consulted. Censorship was thus authorised in Britain by the Defence of the Realm Act 1914 (DORA)[2] in the USA by the anti-Espionage Act but not introduced before 1917,[3] and similar legislation in Germany, France, and the Ottoman Empire, soon after the breakout of hostilities. A simplified scheme of the Ottoman postal censor organisation in Palestine is given below (*fig.1*).[4]

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1 Slightly revised version of an article originally published in Holy Land Postal History, no. 132/133, 2017, pp. 28–39. Some of the source material could no loner be traced. The author can be contacted at yehudak73@gmail.com.

2 4 & 5 Geo. 5. c. 29. The act was passed by Parliament on 8.08.1914, just four days before the outbreak of war.

3 40 Stat. 217, The Espionage Act of 1917 came into force on 15.06.1917. Its predecessor was the Defense Secrets Act of 1911 (36 Stat. 1084)

4 See p. 1037.1 in: Steichele, Anton: *Die osmanische Post.* Chur, 1981, 184 p.

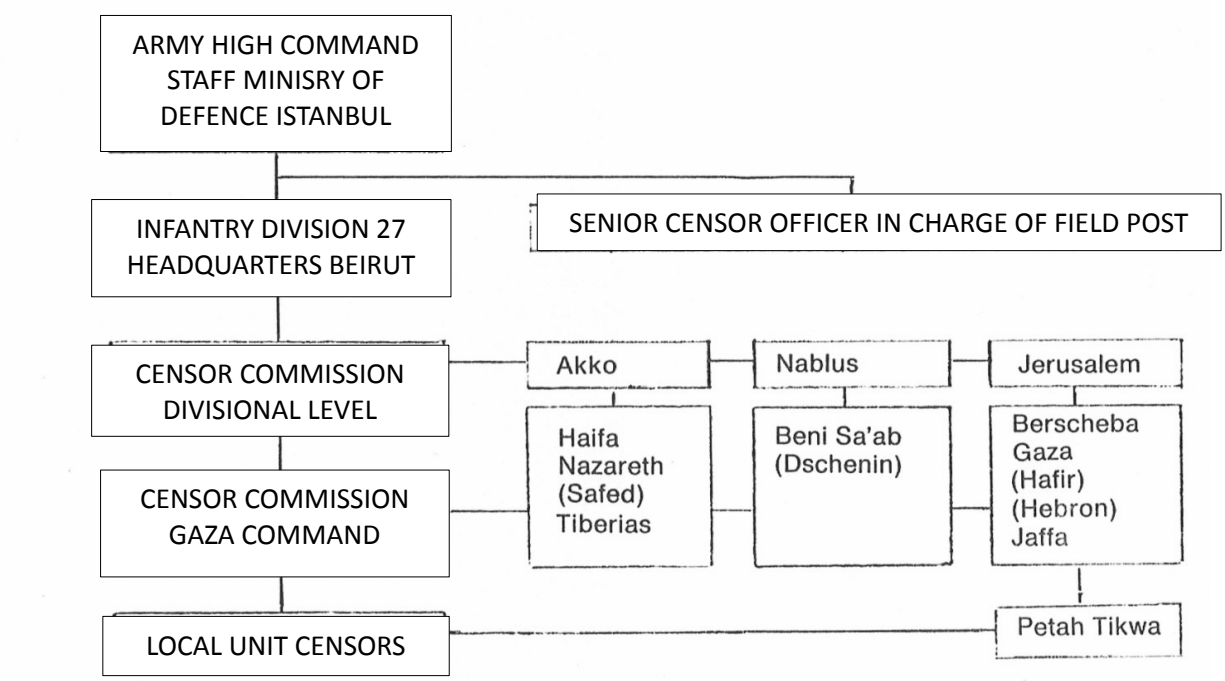


Fig. 1: Ottoman censorship scheme in Palestine.[5]

The British War Office founded MI7, a propaganda department of its own, which included a section of censorship of military matters. The censors – in Prussia, Russia and Austria mostly career officers and in Britain and France mostly civilians – received their instructions from the service departments of the military authorities, and from various ministries (in Germany sometimes even directly from the chancellor) and passed them on.

In France, local authorities had an important, and in Germany a decisive, influence. In France censorship was not only subordinated to the Ministry of War, but also to the prefects of the fifty-five departments and the commanders of the twenty-one military regions, and its work was duplicated by 300 provincial control missions. Altogether 5,000 censors were on duty throughout the war. Germany had assigned more than sixty military commanders who operated the censorship in line with guidelines from the Kriegsministerium (Ministry of War) in Berlin.

In all armies, sooner or later, postal control was introduced. Its aim was to look for disclosure of military secrets, to test the morale of the soldiers, and to find out about 'subversive ideas' in the correspondence of soldiers and civilians.

In Italy only the correspondence between the soldiers and their families in the so-called 'war zones' (i.e. border zones and areas with strong socialist influence), was centrally controlled, but by the end of 1917 it was extended to all civilian letters as well.

In the French army central postal control started only as of January 1915, however from July each army corps had a commission of twenty members who opened the letters. "Subversive" paragraphs in letters were *caviardé* (deleted with ink and aniline pencil) by the censors – and a significant number was not transmitted at all. It seems that there was no postal control in the American army but the French censors took care of its soldiers as well, destroying their postcards and censoring their letters. The quantity of American letters controlled is estimated at 180,000 out of 5 to 7 million French letters per week.

In the German and British armies censorship of the soldiers' correspondence was at first handled by their own officers. Even when central censorship was introduced the secrecy of correspondence was still violated. In Italy, France, Germany, and Austria soldiers could be punished and even court-martialled for letters containing supposedly "exaggerated and false information". In Italy, some

5 Translated from Steichele, 1981, p. 1037.1.

servicemen were even executed on the spot. In order to escape control, soldiers in all armies sometimes asked comrades on leave to post their letters at home, but in the German army such voluntary 'postmen' were sometimes controlled and searched on the trains and severely punished.

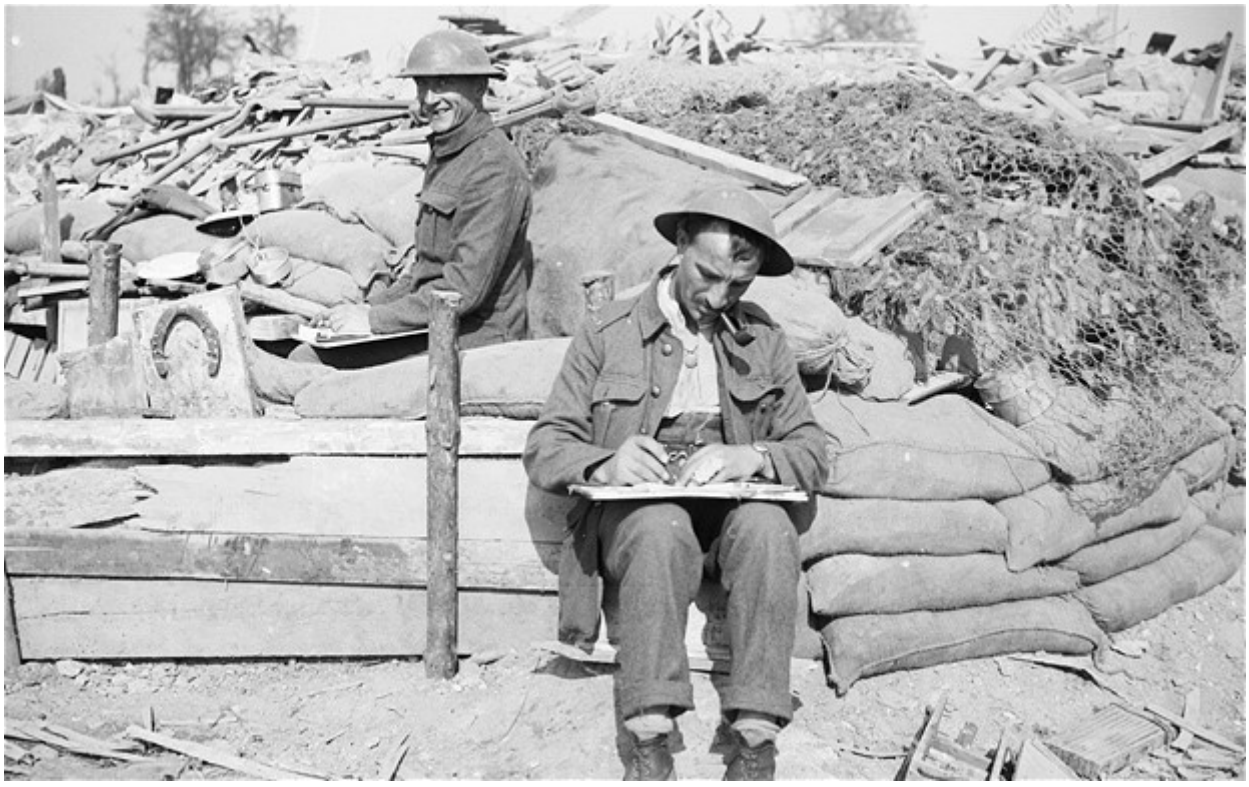


Fig. 2: A British soldier writing home from the trenches on the front line.

In Britain, civilian correspondences were also censored and in 1918, between 4,000 and 5,000 persons were busy censoring. In Austria, civilian letters to the soldiers mentioning food shortage and hunger were confiscated so as not to "endanger the discipline of front troops and negatively affect their spirits". In France, the correspondence of 'suspect' civilians was controlled by police after September 1915 but not intercepted.

To operate and to control the censoring activity censor manuals were used by the various censor commissions attached to army commands.

Fig. 3 shows an example of a typical page from a censor book of a naval commanding centre showing the censor reference number and name, the type of censor mark and the ship. Similar censor books existed at division level of grounds forces.

What was Relevant to Censorship in Soldiers's Letters?

The following categories concern delicate topics which were in all countries usually suppressed either explicitly or after preventive censorship.

1. Criticisms of the army and unauthorised information about military operations, especially about military failures or mutinies.
2. Information about casualties at the front – on the German side alone an average of 1,158 soldiers fell per day.
3. Unauthorised letters of soldiers, those who were prevented of writing due to disciplinary measures.
4. Information about espionage and counter-espionage.
5. Pacifist subjects and activities.

There were many other thorny subjects as well but censorship was not handled equally in all

belligerent countries and the instructions could vary from time to time. As a general rule all events which could alarm the population were usually forbidden or put under preventive censorship.

The terrible food shortages in Austria and Germany culminating in the 'turnip winter' of 1916/1917, could not really be passed over in silence but had to be excused and minimised. Censorship regulations to this effect were issued.

The jokes about the infidelity of wives was another thorny problem because many soldiers, absent from home for a long time, did not trust their spouses. Such writings either explicit or inactive were either suppressed or modified. Nevertheless some jokes and cartoons could slip through.

Unframed PASSED BY CENSOR

CENSOR Ref	INITIALS or NAME	POST MARK(S)	DATE(S)	VESSEL	COMMENTS
3A1	R.F.Ashley-Spencer	8 bar	3.12.15	Hospital Ship *Magic*	Also with ms RFM, but no fit to *Magic*, unless a badly written RFA.
3A2	RDW	n/r			Only one RDW in the Navy Lists: Lt Richard D Williams. 1915 no ship; 1916 *Reliance*;1917 *Texel*
3A3	EMWH	X mute		*Reliance*/*Manica*	Surgeon Edward MW Hearn, apptd to *Manica*, but has *Reliance* as return address – base ship. Why two marks (with 3A46) ?
3A4	BO'H	FPO a	25.5.17	*Rutheria* (water vessel and stores ship	Paymaster Bernard P. O'Hara
3A5	ARU	8 bar		*Minotaur*	Surgeon Algernon R Upton; also with ms GSBL of Surgeon George SB Lang, *Minotaur* in 1917.
3A6					Australian army
3A7	JWD	8 bar		*Ebro* ?	Possibly Surgeon Probationer James W Duncan, but there is a major RM with these initials.
3A8	JW ON ACTIVE SERVICE			*Reliance*	Engineer Captain James T Willoughby, on the books of *Lord Nelson*, but accommodated in *Reliance*.
3A8	W ON ACTIVE SERVICE	London m/c	17.3.16	*Reliance*	Paymaster Septimus Walker
3A8	M ON ACTIVE SERVICE	London m/c	1.5.15	*Reliance*	Surgeon Vincent McGee
3A69	WGA	Drem	18.9.18	East Fortune Airship Base	Captain WG Amos
3A83	□JD The hollow square seems to be part of the mark	London m/c	18.9.16	*Cyclamen*	Surgeon Probationer James S Durward

Unframed PASSED CENSOR

CENSOR Ref	INITIALS or NAME	POST MARK	DATE	VESSEL	COMMENTS
3A9	AGVF	8 bar		*Marshal Ney* (probably)	Surgeon Arthur G Valpy French. At Chatham 1916, *Marshal Ney* from 3/17. Later in *Vindex* in the Med – but would not be an 8 bar cancel. Would he have censored while in Chatham naval hospital ?

Fig. 3: Information from a censor manual book:
The Naval Command with the name of the censor, his mark and the name of the ship.
In ground forces the name/number of the platoon replaces the ship's name.

Each week, more than 12 million British letters were delivered to soldiers during the First World War, providing opportunities to exchange news with family and friends, request parcels and confirm that they were still in one piece. As the main method of communicating with home, servicemen placed huge importance on correspondence which, from our modern perspective, can reveal the writer's thoughts, beliefs and experiences while providing an immediacy often lacking in diaries or memoirs. Letters therefore remain a vital source for understanding the First World War.



Fig. 4:

There were many designs of censor marks used on letters, documents and parcels. This one, a triangle with the crown in the centre is commonly used on letters from soldiers of the ground forces.

Some news was not disclosed before the end of the war, like the sinking of the dreadnought HMS Audacious in October 1914. A more famous case is that of the *Lusitania*. Sunk on 7th May 1915 by a German submarine, it was not only a passenger ship but functioned as well as a military cargo and a troop transporter. Besides approximately 1,200 passengers, it also had ammunitions and sixty-seven Canadian soldiers aboard. Too detailed descriptions of enemy's atrocities which might demoralise the population or spread panic, were banned.

In the Baltic provinces of Russia with their numerous Baltic-Germans, all German words or phrases had to be removed from publications and letters. News about deportations from occupied territories, jokes about the Kaiser, Turkish atrocities and all illustrations had to be submitted to preventive censorship.

Censors in all countries also stopped exaggerated propaganda such as the denigrating of the enemy and of foreign politicians, the praising of atrocities, and appeals to the worst instincts because they were worried about the emotional effects on the population.

Censoring was a tedious and boring task as described by one censor:

> *Censoring is interesting at first, but it rapidly becomes boring; no letter is allowed to leave without it having been read by an officer and franked by him on the envelope; fortunately my platoon do not write very long letters though they write very often. A typical letter starts like this. 'My Dear Father and Mother, Ellen and Mary, I take pleasure in writing these few lines hoping that you are in the pink as it leaves me at present.' Many of the men talk awful drivel about cannon balls flying around them, but as a general rule they are short and rather formal*

letters… The men always write very extravagantly after a spell in the front line – 'All the ravines were full of dead Germans and Bulgars', 'It was absolute Hell!', 'I said more prayers then than at all of the Church parades I've attended'.

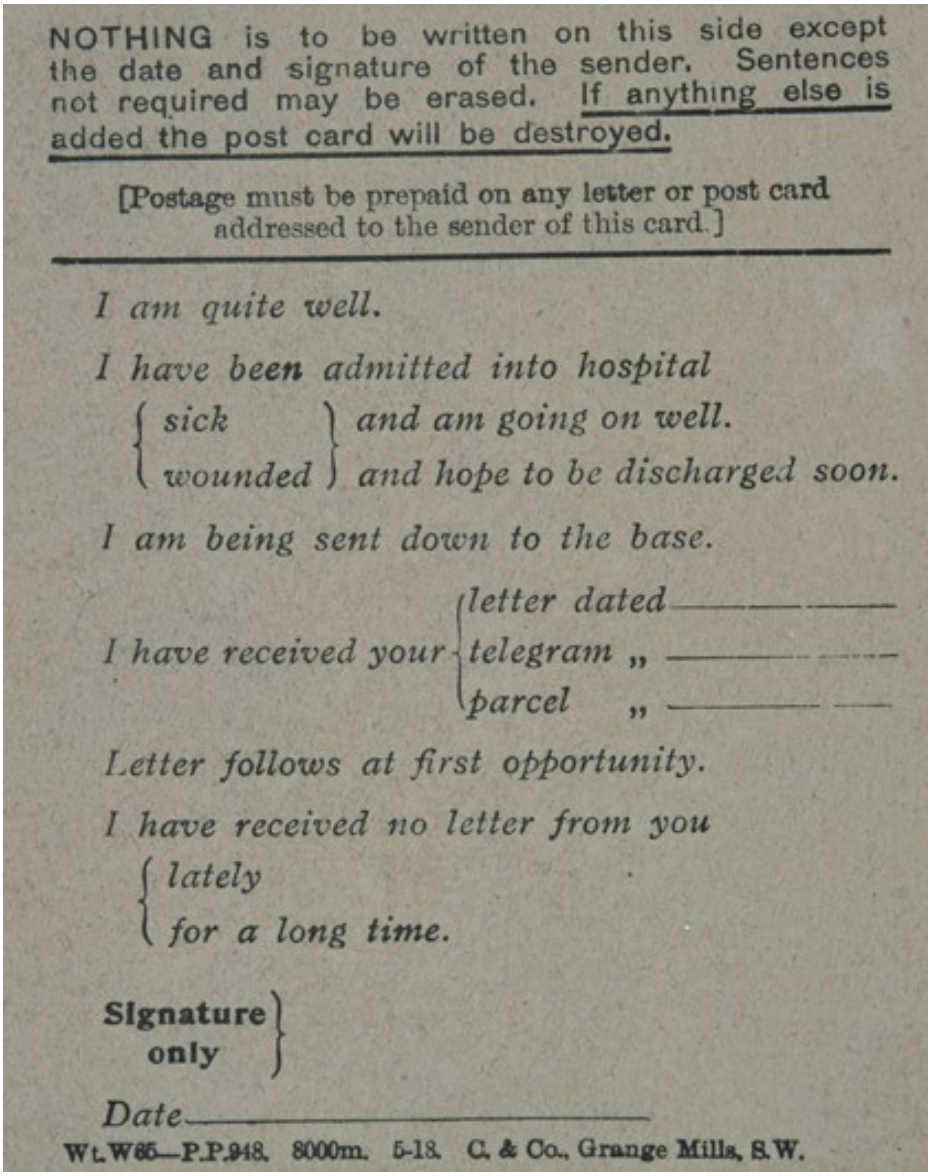
What was the Role of Self-Censorship?

Self-censorship either for patriotic reasons or for fear of sanctions was widespread. It was facilitated by the patriotic attitude of most soldiers who would willingly cooperate in order to support the homeland in danger.

On the other hand soldiers were afraid of being punished for letters containing criticisms, and would not dare to mention grievances and abuses unless the letters could be carried home by comrades on leave.

Another option was the Field Service Postcard, a pre-printed card (pictured below in *fig. 5*) with optional text which could be deleted as appropriate to transmit basic information ("I am well, letter to follow") in a quick and simple way. A soldier confirmed the importance of such postcards:

It's a wonderful thing, a Field Service Postcard. It costs nothing, takes no time, and needs no mental energy. It is in fact the essence of laziness, the ideal of the wordless correspondent and the bored nephew alike.



NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.]

I am quite well.

I have been admitted into hospital { sick / wounded } and am going on well.

I am being sent down to the base.

I have received your { letter dated _____ / telegram „ _____ / parcel „ _____ }

Letter follows at first opportunity.

I have received no letter from you { lately / for a long time. }

Signature only

Date _____

Wt. W85—P.P.948. 8000m. 5-18. C. & Co., Grange Mills, S.W.

Fig. 5:

The 'lazy, wordless' writing card.

Examples of Censored Letters from Palestine



Fig. 6: Reverse of a 1917 censored letter from Jerusalem to New York: Ottoman censor label.

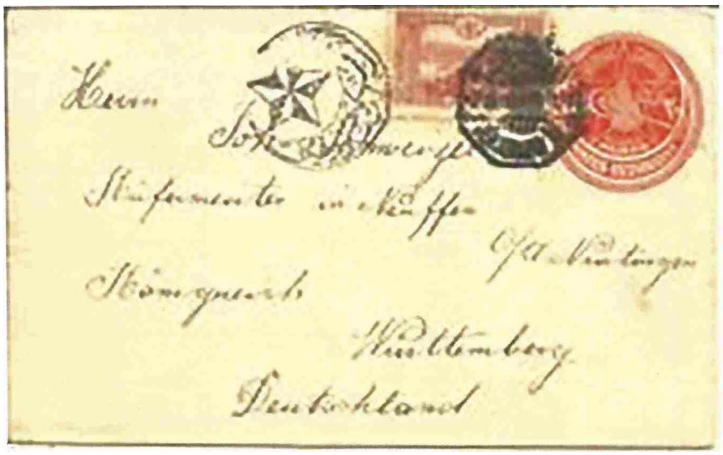


Fig. 7: 1915 censored letter from Jerusalem to Germany. The crescent with the star in the centre is the most used censor cachet of the Ottoman Army in Palestine.



Fig. 8: Postcard from Beersheba to Bohemia (Austria-Hungary): "Feldpost / Mil.Miss. / A.O.K.4 / 24- 5-1916", violet "K.u.K. Gebirgsartillerieregiment No. 6 * Haubitzbatterie No. 2" unit cachet, bold red "ÜBERPRÜFT" censor mark, "W1" in circle (Vienna censor control).

Short period of this field post cancel at Beersheba: 20. to 30.05.1916.



Fig. 9: Jerusalem Consulate official mail, large fancy circular violet "DEUTSCHES REICH / AUSWÄRTIGES AMT" (foreign office) hand-stamp and violet "Reichsdienstsache" (Empire postage free official mai)l. Berlin arrival postmark of 16.05.1917.[6]

Being official mail carried by an diplomatic courier **no censorship** was required.

6 The "Kaiserin Auguste Victoria-Stiftung auf dem Oelberge in Jerusalem" (a.k.a "Ölbergstiftung") was a privileged society headed by the Emperor's wife and therefore exempt from German postage. All marks were added to the letter in Berlin. In Ottoman and British Mandate times, the charity controlled the *Augusta Victoria Hospital* (attached to the *Church of the Ascension*), and today still operates the *Evangelical Pilgrims and Meeting Centre*. *(editor)*



Fig. 10: 1918 registered picture postcard from Palestine to Port Saïd, Egypt with “ARMY POST OFFICE / 44” postmark. 15m franking (SG 3 & 4) and framed “PALESTINE CENSORSHIP / No. 2” hand-stamp
Also “FIELD POST OFFICE / GM1” and “ARMY POST OFFICE / SZ 22”.

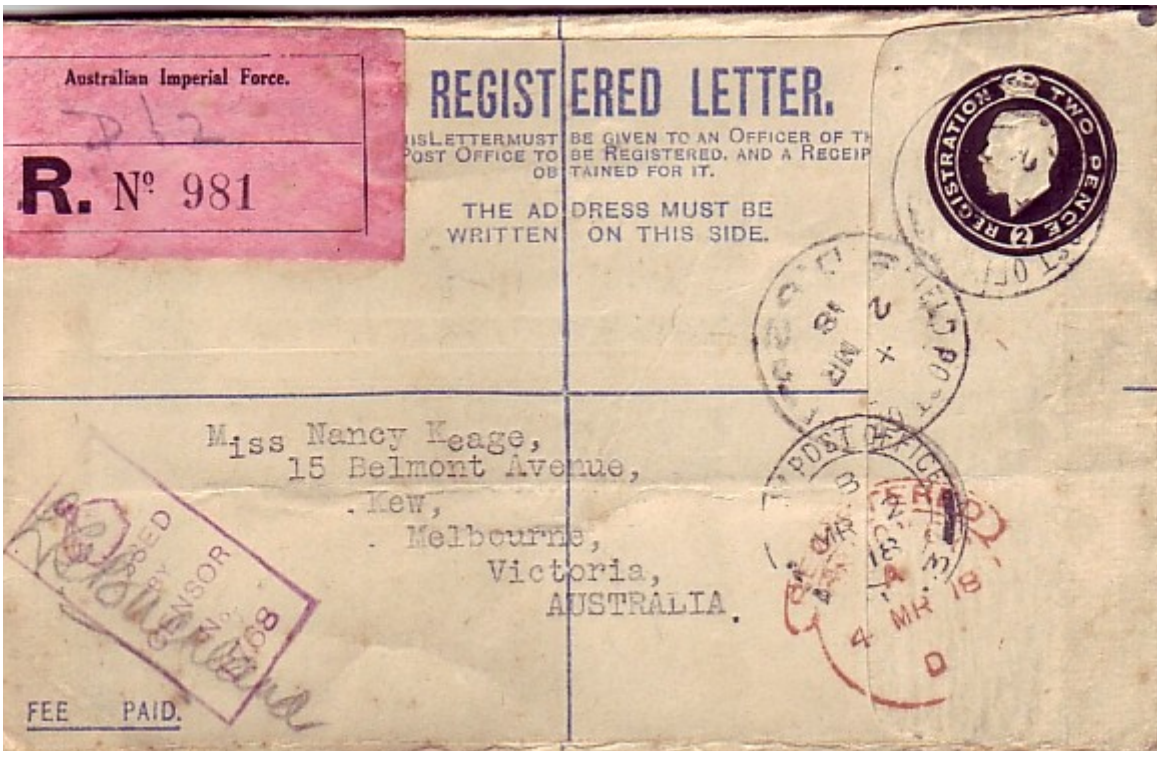


Fig. 11: 1918 registered Letter from the Western Front to Australia with “FIELD POST OFFICE / D 62” (3rd Australian Division) and “PASSED BY CENSOR / No. 1768”.
Australian Imperial Force registration label and Kew arrival postmark.

UNRWA – Refugee Aid in Palestine since 1949

by Jean-Louis Emmenegger (AIJP)[1]

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The United Nations agency UNRWA has been on the ground in Palestine since 1949, providing aid and assistance to Palestinian refugees. Here I focus on some postal and philatelic aspects.

The least we can say is that the work of UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) has been in serious jeopardy for several months now, with Israel calling for it to be abolished altogether and some countries questioning their financial support. What does the future hold for UNRWA? We'll leave that for the politicians and diplomats to debate among themselves. What we are interested in here is showing the postal history of UNRWA over its 75 years, illustrated with documents (letters and stamps) relating to it and its presence in the Gaza Strip, in particular.

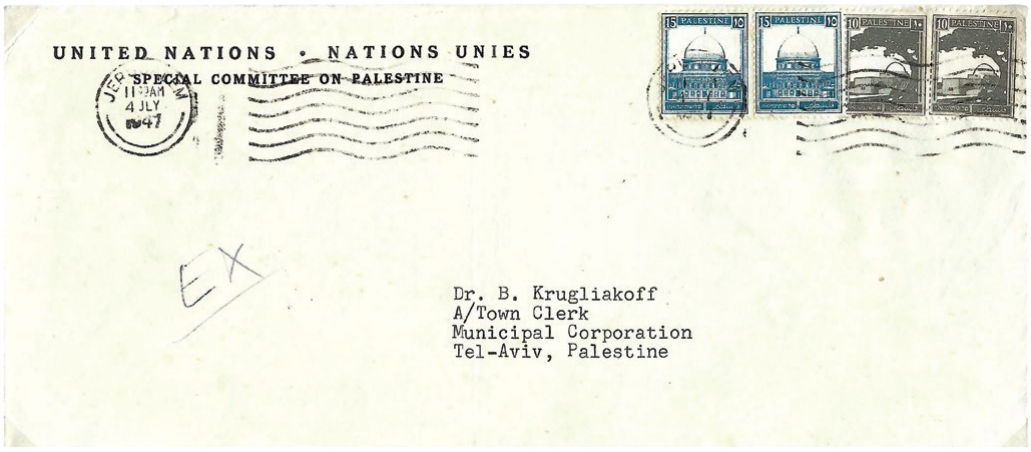


Fig. 1:

Letter sent in 1933 to Kingston (England) from Gaza, which was then part of the territory under British Mandate administration. The stamps are those of the British Mandate, as is the Gaza postmark.

Fig. 2:

Official UNSCOP (United Nations Special Committee on Palestine) envelope posted in Jerusalem in July 1947. The stamps are those used during the British Mandate in Palestine. This type of letter is very rare.



1 Revised reprint of *L'UNRWA est en Palestine depuis 1949*, in: Timbres Magazine, May 2025, pp. 34–39.



Fig. 3:

Envelope from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva, Switzerland, posted in 1940 to Tel Aviv, Palestine, with English censor cachet and sealing strip in Palestine.

1947-1948 : Years of Change

A brief historical review is essential for understanding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. At the Lausanne Peace Conference in 1922/1923, the Ottoman Empire had to cede Palestine to Great Britain. The British administered Palestine until they announced that they would end the mandate they had received from the League of Nations in 1922 and that they would leave Palestine in May 1948. The United Nations (UN, founded in 1945) took over the Palestine case and on 15th May 1947 set up the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), which published a report drawn up by the UN delegates who had visited the country. On 29th November 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 181, which provided for the creation of two independent states, one Jewish and the other Arab. While the Jews present in Palestine (who had emigrated in large numbers after the end of the Second World War) accepted the creation of a Jewish state, the Palestinian Arabs refused to create what could have been their state.



Fig. 4:

Registered letter posted in Gaza (Egypt) in 1954 to London (England). All the postage stamps are Egyptian stamps overprinted "PALESTINE" in English and Arabic.



Fig. 5:

Egyptian Post FDC for the "Egyptian troops marching on Gaza" stamp issued in 1948. Cairo postmark dated 15.07.1948.

Fig. 6:

Registered envelope sent from Beirut (Lebanon) France on 24.11.1948. The sender is a French officer belonging to the United Nations Mediator's Mission for Palestine, headed by the Swede Folke Bernadotte, who was assassinated in Jerusalem.



Violent and incessant fighting ensued between the soldiers of the Jewish state and the Palestinian Arabs, supported by Jordan. But nothing could be done: the State of Israel was born on 14th May 1948. The capital of the new Jewish state was Jerusalem. But the fighting caused the resident Arab population to flee, and the Palestinians were driven out by the Israeli military, who destroyed their villages. This was the sad forced exodus of the Palestinians: for them, it was the "Nakba" (the catastrophe).



Fig. 7:

Letter from an American military observer (officer) of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation, posted at Nablus, Palestine. The stamps are those of Transjordan (one bears a 'Palestine' overprint). With a censor mark.

1949: Creation of UNRWA

These Palestinian Arabs, driven from their lands that they had to abandon, moved to neighbouring countries: Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and, in the south, to the Gaza Strip. Soon there were

750,000 of them, and soon their numbers would exceed 1.5 million. But who was going to help these Palestinian refugees? To this end, the UN decided at the end of December 1949, with its Resolution 302, to create the UN agency UNRWA following the first Arab-Israeli war of 1948 to 1949.

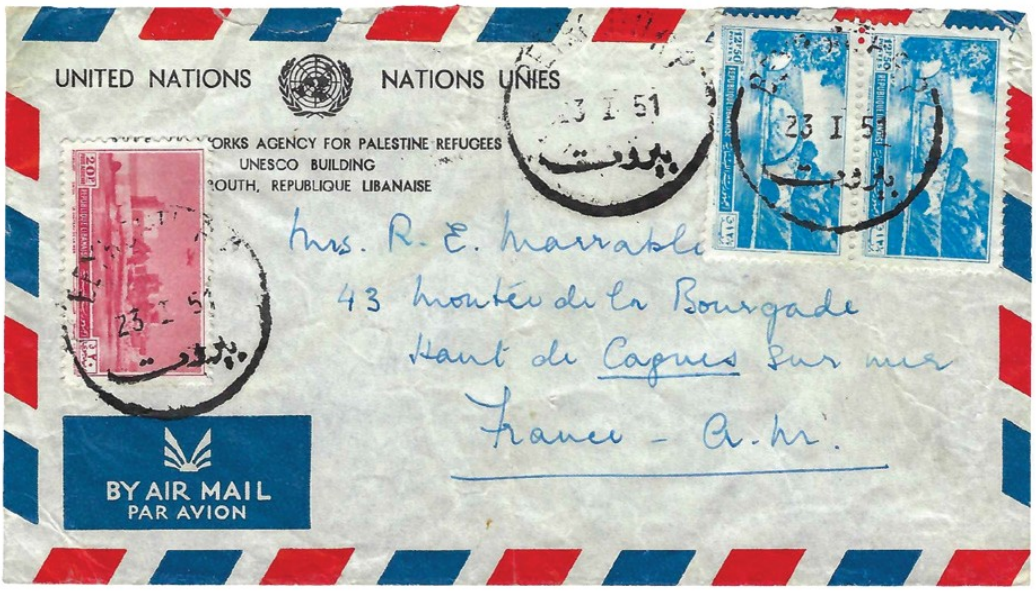


Fig. 8:

Envelope with UNRWA letterhead, Beirut 1951, addressed to France.

UNRWA, together with the International Red Cross (ICRC), which was already present in the region, was responsible for delivering essential supplies to Palestinian refugees living in camps. Over the decades, UNRWA added medical aid, built hospitals and opened schools. UNRWA set up regional offices in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt. UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund), a specialised UN agency created in 1946, also provides targeted aid to children. In fact, historians point out that these Palestinian refugees expected to be able to return to their villages once the fighting was over, but by 1950 they realised that they would not be able to return to their ancestral lands.

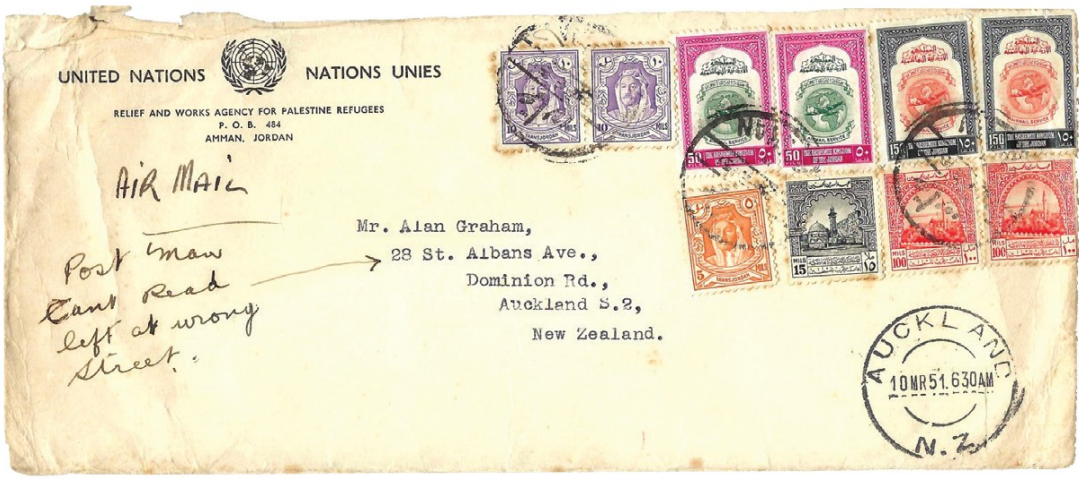


Fig. 9:

Envelope with UNRWA letterhead, Amman office, Jordan, 1951, to Auckland, New Zealand.

UNRWA Envelopes and Stamps

In terms of postal history, to document UNRWA's activities over the 75 years of its existence, we will be looking for letters sent by the agency's regional offices, posted in Beirut (Lebanon) and Amman (Jordan), franked with postage stamps from these two countries. Envelopes with pre-printed letterheads were used and are particularly interesting. UNRWA also sometimes affixed its purple administrative cachet to the front of its envelopes. Letters addressed from the ICRC in

Geneva (Switzerland) to its offices in Palestine (Tel Aviv and Jerusalem) in the years 1949 and1950 are also interesting for documenting this theme.

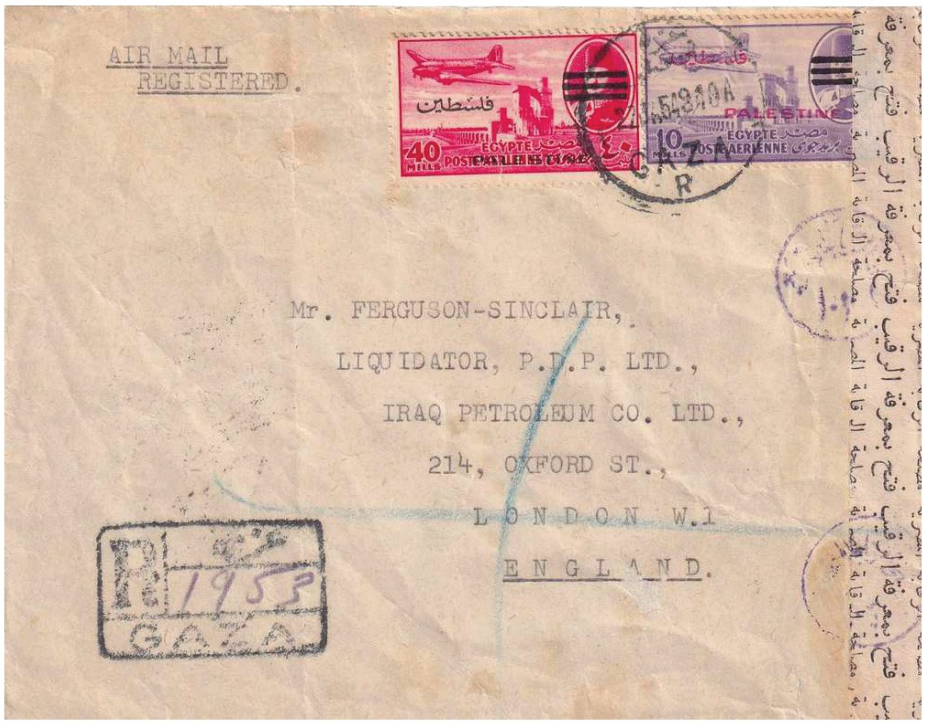


Fig. 10:

Registered cover, posted in Gaza 1948 to London, with overprinted Egyptian stamps. With censorship strip of the Egyptian post office.

Gaza: A Tragic Story

The Gaza Strip lies as an enclave to the south of the State of Israel, which surrounds it almost completely (to the west is the sea). To the south, it borders Egypt (the border is at Rafah). This territory now belongs to the Palestinian Authority, but in reality it is governed by Hamas. We won't go into political considerations here. But what is interesting for us postal history collectors is that Gaza belonged to Egypt from 1948 to 1967 (occupation, then Egyptian administration), then to Israel (which invaded during the Six Day War in 1967), then Gaza was ceded to the Palestinian Authority in 1993 (under the Oslo II Accords). Let's look at these three stages again.



Fig. 11:

Letter posted in Gaza 1959 to Vienna with overprinted Egyptian stamps and with the violet UNRWA official seal on the left.
Egyptian censor cachet.



Fig. 12:

Pre-printed envelope with UNRWA letterhead, Beirut (Lebanon) office, to London, posted 1955.



Fig. 13:

Envelope on UNICEF letterhead, Cairo office, Egypt, to Nicosia, Cyprus. Franked with Egyptian stamps (five have the overprint 'PALESTINE').

On 15th May 1948, the Egyptian army took control of Gaza after the departure of the British (an Egyptian stamp issued in 1948 is dedicated to this event). On 1st June 1948, the Egyptian Post Office overprinted a large number of stamps with the word "PALESTINE" printed in red and black. These stamps were part of the standard series and airmail stamps. Between 1958 and 1967, 79 Egyptian stamps were overprinted with the word "PALESTINE".

Letters deposited at the Gaza post office and franked with these overprinted Egyptian stamps and cancelled with the Gaza postmark were highly sought after. Until 1967, Egypt militarily occupied the Gaza Strip pending a resolution of the Palestinian question.



Fig. 14:

Registered letter from Gabalia (Jabaliya), 4 km from Gaza City, franked with an Egyptian postage stamp overprinted 'PALESTINE'. It is addressed to a Danish soldier in the UN Force (UNEF I), which was stationed in Gaza.



Figs. 15–18: Examples of four Egyptian postage stamps overprinted "PALESTINE" (in English and Arabic).

On 5th June 1967, Israel waged the Six-Day War and regained control of Gaza. Israel then opened its own post offices in Rafah, Khan Yunes, Dir El Balah and Gaza. Israeli postage stamps were sold and used for franking. The postmark mentions the name of each of these towns at the bottom (thus also "Gaza"). In March 1979, Israel gave the Sinai back to Egypt, which it had occupied since June 1967, but kept the Gaza Strip: many years later this territory became administered by the Palestinian Authority.

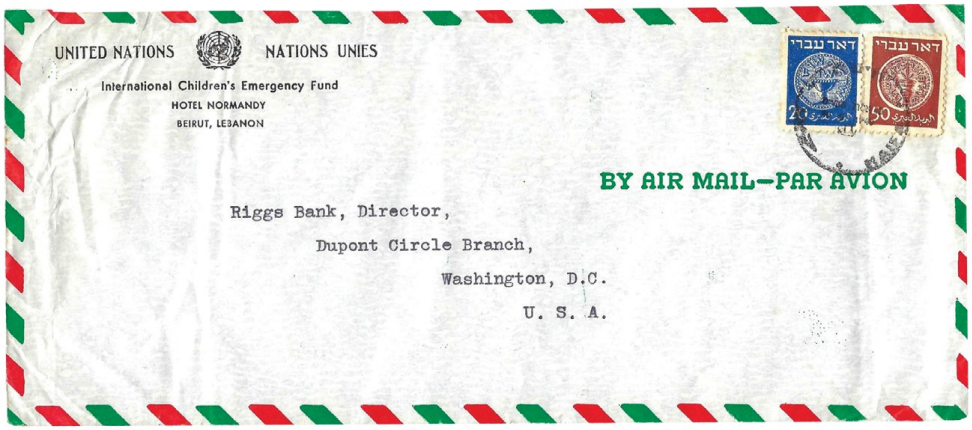
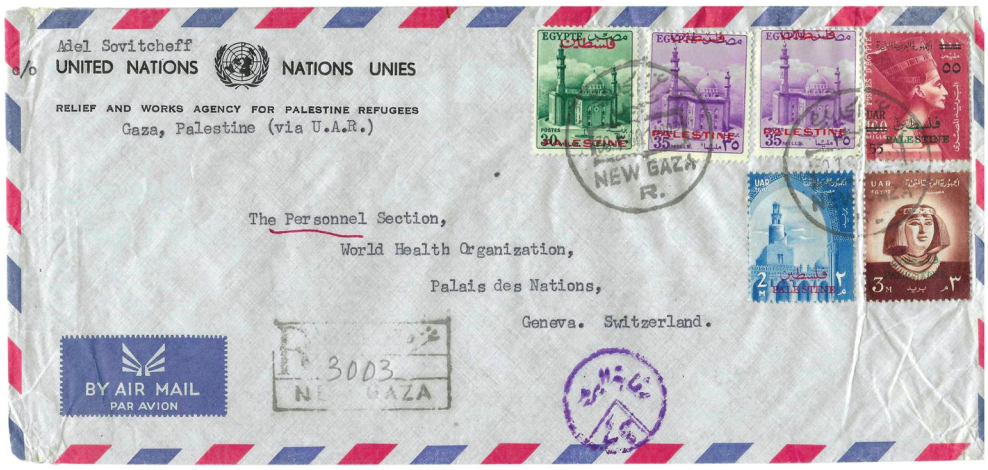


Fig. 19:

Cover with the pre-printed letterhead of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund based in Beirut (Lebanon), bound for Washington (USA), but posted in Israel (postage: Israeli stamps; postmark: year illegible).

Fig. 20:

Official envelope from UNRWA, Gaza office (see the indication given by the sender: "Palestine, via U.A.R.") sent by registered mail to Geneva (Switzerland). The stamps are Egyptian, overprinted with "PALESTINE". Egyptian censor mark and New Gaza postmark (year illegible).



The Palestinian Authority

Finally, in 1994, the Palestinian Authority took over and set up its own Post Office, issuing its own postage stamps and using its own postmarks. In January 1995, the first post offices were opened, initially in 12 towns and villages, then in a further 10. Specific postmarks were used in each town and mail to other countries was forwarded to Jordan. But, as we know, the Israelis, with their

intense bombing in retaliation for the Hamas attack on 7th October 2023, destroyed 70–80% of Gaza. Its inhabitants have had to flee, and even UNRWA is no longer able to help those who have stayed, because Israel is preventing any aid from reaching Gaza.



Fig. 21:

Egyptian postage stamp from 1948, with the map of the Gaza Strip and the inscription "GAZA PART OF ARAB NATION" on the stamp (right).



Fig. 22:

Egypt postage stamp with the inscription "EGYPTE 15 MAI 1948" (bottom). We see the map of the Gaza Strip and the Egyptian army marching on Gaza.

In the West Bank

After May 1994, in application of the Oslo Accords, the Palestinian Authority took control of 10 enclaves in the West Bank, including the cities of Jericho, Nablus, Ramallah and Bethlehem. In these enclaves and towns, residents can use Palestinian Authority post offices. These postage stamps (the same as those used in Gaza) are sold and used in these offices. The first Palestinian Authority stamps were issued on 9th October 1994. The cost of printing the stamps was covered by Germany. For a few months, the Israeli postal services refused to accept these stamps as postage: so the Palestine Post white self-adhesive labels were affixed to the Palestinian stamps with a purple "Palestinian Authority / Postage Paid" cachet. However, the Palestinian postage stamps are officially recognised by the Universal Postal Union for franking mail from Palestine to other countries.

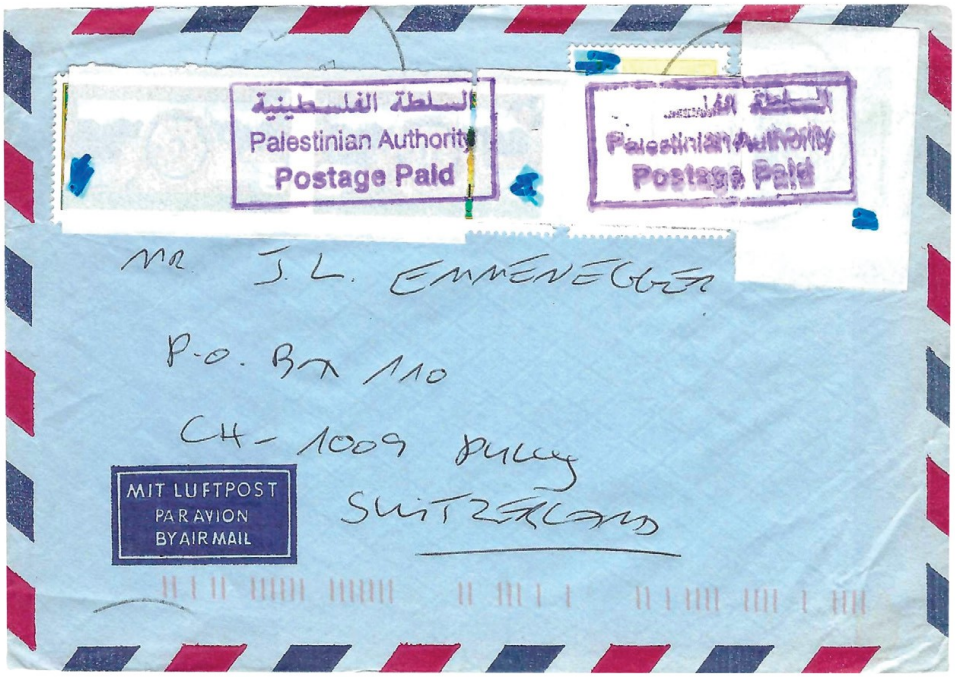


Fig. 23:

Letter to Switzerland franked with Palestinian Authority postage stamps with white labels to mask them and a a purple "Palestinian Authority, Postage Paid" cachet.

Conclusion

UNRWA is closely linked to the future of Gaza. A global political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must therefore be found. Today, however, we are a long way from seeing a global solution emerge. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is therefore likely to last for many years to come.

The theme of the Middle East and its conflicts is a very interesting and wide-ranging one for the study of the postal history of this region. It offers philatelists many ways to become fascinated by the history and postal relations of the countries in this region, which has been under tension since 1946-1948.

We would like to thank the collectors who kindly provided us with some of the images that illustrate this article.

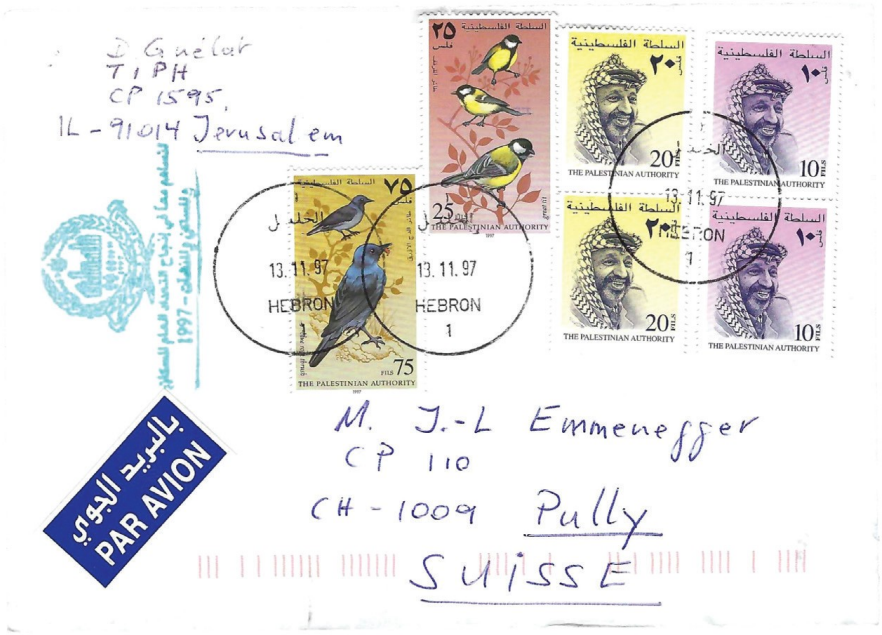


Fig. 24:

Letter posted in 1997 from the town of Hebron, located in the territory administered by the Palestinian Authority. The stamps are those of the Palestinian Authority. On the right are 4 stamps with the portrait of Yasser Arafat. The sender is a (Swiss) observer from the 'TIPH' (Temporary International Presence in the City of Hebron) mission in Hebron.

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Jordan 1954: Rare Palestine "Fils" Overprint Franking

by Bernd-Dieter Buscke (AIJP)

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The stamp issues of Jordan in the early 1950s are recorded differently and often incompletely in the various stamp catalogues. This is partly due to the assassination of King Abdullah I on 20th July 1951 in Amman, the very short reign of his son King Talal from 6th September 1951 to 8th August 1952 (abdication due to illness), and the enthronement of his grandson King Hussein II on 1st October 1953.

A stamp issue printed in Great Britain for the reign of King Talal only arrived in Jordan after his interim abdication, was no longer issued and was officially abandoned (see *fig. 1 to the right*).[1] In addition, a new currency denomination (*fils* instead of *millièmes*) was introduced in 1950, which (due to a shortage of stamps) made it necessary to issue provisional stamps during 1952.



Fig. 2: Franking rarity from Jordan 1954: Cover from Amman to Mafrak. The 3 mils stamp with regular overprint "PALESTINE" had erroneously received a second overprint for the new currency Fils.

In connection with parallel stamp issues for the occupation of Palestine in 1948, overprinting errors occurred during the transition period in Jordan in the production of these provisional issues, which produced stamps that are not listed in all stamp catalogues due to their rarity (e.g. Michel and Scott).

1 Some stamps, printed by Thomas De La Rue Ltd. in London, escaped their destruction. See Ghassan Riachi's article *Jordan King Talal issue* in The Levant, vol. 5, no. 2, 2009, pp. 29–30, 36. Riachi shows there the 20 fils stamp in fig. 1, as well as some proofs of the series sold at the dissolution of De La Rue's archive.

Among the sheets of stamps with the portrait of King Abdullah inserted at the printing works for overprinting the new currency, there were a few sheets with Palestine overprints in the 2 Mils (three different perforations) and 3 Mils denominations. In this way, these stamps (Stanley Gibbons 314d, 314e, 314f and 315b) were overprinted with the surcharge for the new currency and issued unrecognised.[2]



The cover shows one of these erroneously printed and issued values which, to the author's knowledge, has not appeared on cover a second time in the last 60 years. The cover shown here is therefore unique. There are only a few mint stamps, and – as far as is known to date – no cancelled ones, and apart from the one shown, no covers with these stamps are known. Even Najjar cannot show such a cover in his work.

The cover with a company address[3] shows, among other things, SG 315b at top right, along with additional franking. It was posted in Amman on 16th August 1954 with destination Mafrak and transported by land (not airmail) to arrive the same day (see Mafrak postmark 16th August 1954). It is franked with 15 fils postage due for the overland route with domestic postage.



The provenance of the cover is named as Jordan collector Prey in the former GDR, who realised his collection, known to the author at the time, on eBay after the fall of communism in 2010.

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2 See illustrations in Abed Habib Najjar's book *The Stamps of Jordan 1920-1965* on p. 128.
3 Spinney's Ltd. was then a chain of department stores and supermarkets in areas of the Middle East under British influence. It still exists today.

Rare Meter Marks of Turkey: SATAS

by Wilfried Korber[1]

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Rare Commercial Meter Mark (SATAS) from İstanbul (1969): 'LK 1924'

I can show here a rather rare commercial Meter Mark from Turkey and a matching advertising card from the French company SATAS. The cover bears the imprint of a SATAS 'Baby' franking machine dated 26th December 1969, the advertising card is unfortunately not dated. However, it shows an illustration of the very compact machine, which was intended for smaller companies.[2]



Fig. 1a: Meter mark from İstanbul dated 26.12.1969.



Fig. 1: Meter mark from İstanbul on airmail letter to Neugersdorf (Saxony) dated 26.12.1969: 90 Kuruş.

1 The SATAS 'Baby' part is a revised reprint from Bericht <Forschungsgemeinschaft Post- und Absenderfreistempel>, no. 96, 2024, pp. 38–39, and Türkei-Spiegel, no. 153, p. 15.

2 All covers are from the author's collection.

Hawkins/Stambaugh list this meter mark in their standard work's country listing of Turkey in the BC section and assign it the catalogue number BC3.[34] The year 1965 is stated as the first year of use, and the size of the value box is given as 21×25 millimetres.

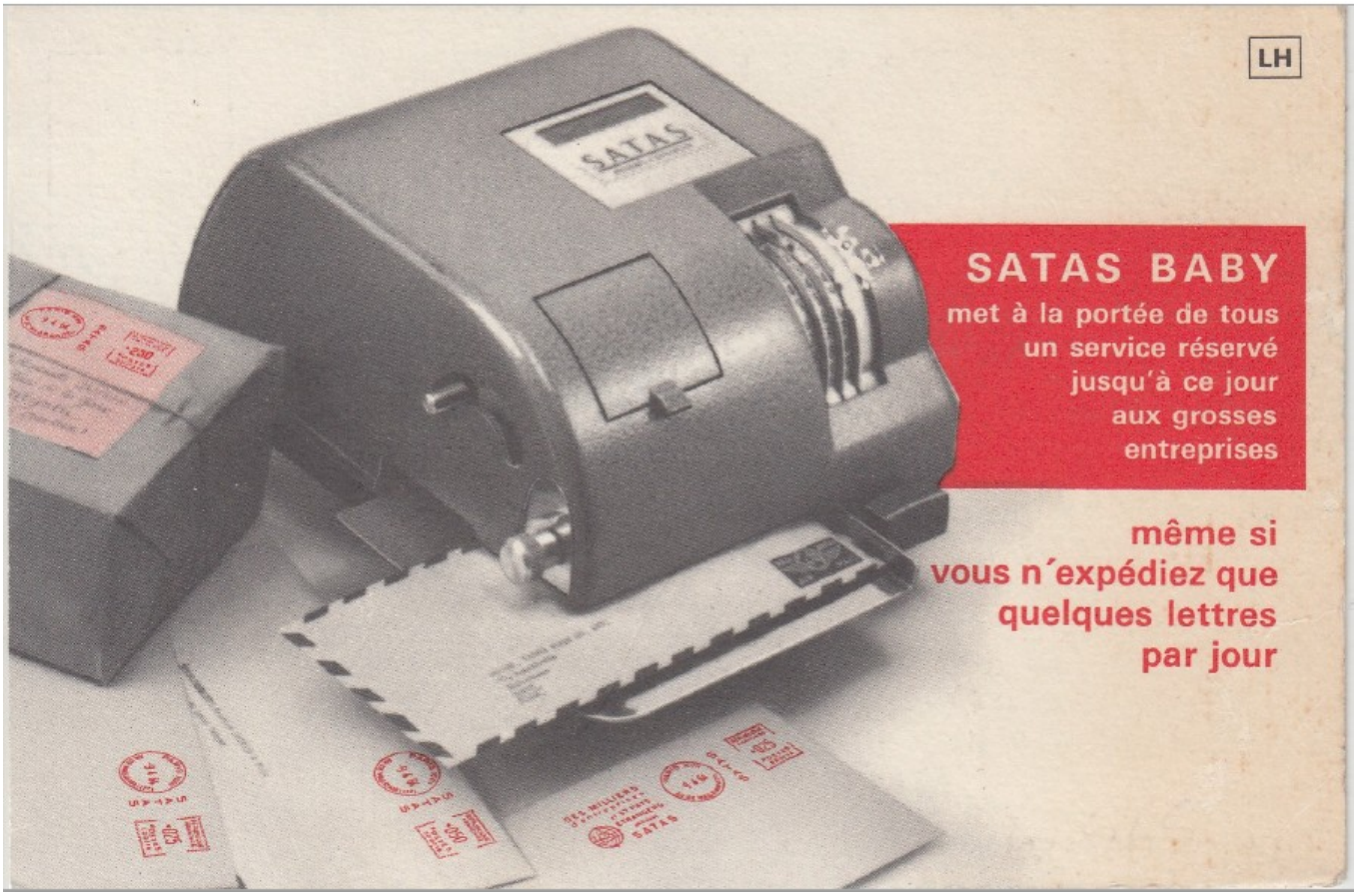


Fig. 2: Advertising card 'SATAS BABY' (in French).

Editor's request: Who can name the company behind "LK 1924"? There was a Mercedes-Benz lorry (Schwerer Kurzhauber) with this designation in the sixties. But just one model among many others. The pyramid logo somehow doesn't fit either…

SATAS 'Rotary' Franking Mark from İstanbul (1964)

Here I can show another franking mark of the French company SATAS from my collection – again used in İstanbul.

The mark is on an airmail letter from the company Mıgırdiç Arat ve Ortakları (Mıgırdiç Arat & Co.), metal traders in Sirkeci, Kayseri Han 10,[5] to Montana A.G. für Bergbau, Industrie und Handel in Vienna (Austria). The franking shown in the value box is 130 kuruş.

The cover bears the imprint of a SATAS 'Rotary' franking machine dated 20th or 28th December 1964. Due to the lack of an advertising slogan next to the town/date mark, only the - obviously un-engraved - field between the town mark and the value box remains to classify the meter: one must deduce that the machine was used at a counter of the İstanbul main post office as a franking meter.[6]

3 Hawkins, Joel A. & Stambaugh, Richard: *The international postage meter stamp catalog*. Goodyear, 2005, p. 1070. This catalogue continues to be updated by the Meter Stamp Society: see *Turkey.* In: International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog. Online: https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/International_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog/Turkey.

4 S.a. Gleixner, Otto: *Die Absender- und Postfreistempel der Türkei.* Seefeld, 1995. 16 p.

5 Just a few hundred metres from both the main station (to the east) and the main post office (to the south).

6 S.a. note on p. 8 of Gleixner.



Fig. 3a: Franking meter from İstanbul dated 20. or 28. (?) December 1964: 130 kuruş.



Fig. 3: Cover with the December 1964 meter mark.

Hawkins/Stambaugh list this postmark in their standard work in the Turkey country listings in the BC section and assign it the catalogue number BC2.[7] The authors state 1962 as the first year of use. As with the SATAS 'Baby', the SATAS 'Rotary' is a machine with freely adjustable value digits, i.e. a so-called multi-value machine (MV).

7 Hawkins/Stambaugh, 2005, p. 1070.

Reactions, Comments, Queries

This section gathers reactions, comments, criticism, and queries sent in by readers in response to articles published in MEPB, or in general.

EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025 (Tobias Zywietz)

Tobias Zywietz reports:



EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025 was held under FEPA patronage and FIP recognition by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) earlier this year:

www.europhilex2025.co.uk

The exhibition was held in Hall 9 of the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham from 7th May to 11th May. The 10,000 m² hall provided space for over 60 dealer stands (including a stand for Royal Mail) and over 2,000 exhibit frames. Numerous society meetings, seminars and auctions, and the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists ceremony were held during the the five days.

The Court of Honour featured the world's most valuable stamp, the 1856 British Guiana 1c black on magenta (courtesy of Stanley Gibbons), together with other exhibits of great rarities.

The Jury judged a total of 304 exhibits and 120 items of literature nad awarded a 43 Large Gold Medals and 85 Gold Medals.

Middle East Exhibits at EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025 (Selection)

Exhibitor	Title	Award[1]
A1 Court of Honour		
Hany Salam	Egyptian Maritime Postal History	–
1 FEPA Grand Prix Class		
In Memory of Franco Rigo	Venice, Europe, the contagion, the disinfection ... (postal history of the health office from XVI to the XIX century)	–
Akthem Al-Manaseer	The forgotten War – IEF 'D' and the war in Mesopotamia 1914-1918	–
2C Traditional Philately		
Peter Vanuga	Unique of the First Issues of Persia – The Lion and The Sun	V (82)
Alfred Khalastchy	European Printers and the Postage and Revenue Stamps of Iraq	G (90)
Atef Sarian	The Second Issue, Egypt 1867 – 1871	LG (95)
Atef Sarian	The Third Issue, Egypt 1872 – 1879	G (90)
Atef Sarian	The De La Rue issues of Egypt, 1879	V (83)
Houssam Mhaissen	British stamps used in Beyrout	SB (67)
Atef Sarian	First Issue, Egypt 1866	LV (86)
Tarık Ali Reza	Kingdom of Hejaz 1916-1925	LV (85)
Aly Gabr	Egypt: The Third Issue 1872 & 1874-75	G (91)
Aly Gabr	1932-41 Egypt's Postal Concession to the British Forces	LV (87)

1 Cf. FIP evaluation grades: http://www.f-i-p.ch/wp-content/uploads/GREV-English.pdf.

Abdulnasir Naji	Portraits of the three Kings of Iraq and their overprints	LV (86)
Khalid Khwaja	Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 1920-1967	S (70)
3B Postal History (Europe)		
Antonello Fumu	1855/85 – The mail service in the North Africa ports	LG (93)
Atadan Tunaci	Ottoman Postal History; Routes, Rates, and Cancellations between 1840-1862	G (90)
Alan Christopher Mellaart	The Registered Mail of the Ottoman Empire (1840-1923)	LV (88)
3C Postal History (ROW)		
Fadi Barcha	Overview of some Lebanese Ottoman cancellation – piece of History.	V (80)
Gerrit Jan van Zellem	Travelling Postoffices (TPO'S) in Egypt	V (82)
Ben Shlomo	Transition from the Palestine Mandate to the State of Israel	V (83)
Bernardo Longo	Syriana	LV (85)
Iqbal Hussain Nanjee	Postal History of Aden	LV (83)
A. Emre Utku	Airmail rates applied in Türkiye between 1919 and 1960	--
6 Postal Stationery		
Jon Aitchison	Egypt postal stationery registered envelopes, letter sheets and registered letter sheets	LV (85)
Behruz Nassre-Esfahani	Persia, Qajar Postal Stationery, Issued 1876-1925	LG (96)
L1 Literature		
Ed Kroft	The Doar Ivri First Issue of Israel	LV (87)

How do Turkish Postal Rates work Today? (Tobias Zywietz)

Editor: The Turkish PTT website https://www.ptt.gov.tr/tarifeler lists the current tariffs:

Fees for postal internal items = Posta Gönderileri Ücret Tarifesi (as of 3.03.2025): Letters (Mektup), postcards (Posta Kartı), telegrams (Telgraf Normal/Acele), faxes, printed matter (Basılmış Kağıtlar), mail for the blind (Sekogramlar), courier and freight mail (Kurye & Kargo), special services (registered mail, etc.), packaging materials, etc.

International *shipping rates = Yurt Dışı Gönderi Terifeleri (as of 9.08.2024): Letters/documents (Dökuman), small parcels (Kücük Paket), parcels (Koli), ? (Dökuman Paket APG).*

However, there is one special feature here: International rates are quoted in SDR (Special Drawing Rights) and exchange rate calculations are based on the indicative Turkish Central Bank (TCMB) exchange rates determined at 15:30 on the previous business day.[2]

The postage rate for an international item (that includes a 20 grammes letter) can therefore fluctuate daily depending on the exchange rate. I cannot say how this works in practice or how the central bank's official exchange rate directly influences postage rates from one day to another.[3]



We would love to hear from readers about their experiences!

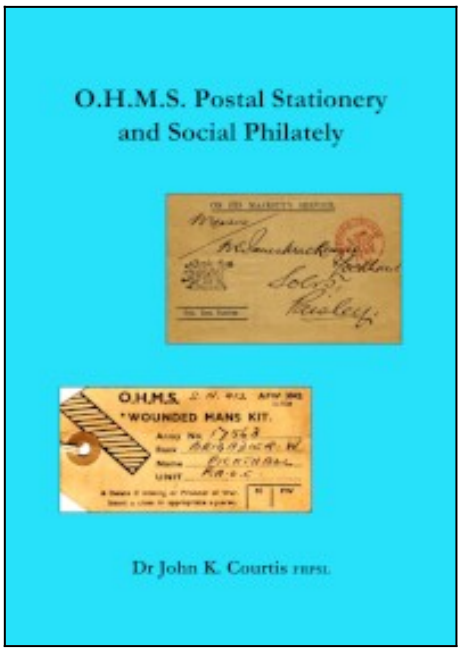
PS: There is also a 'Philatelic Internet Branch': https://www.filateli.gov.tr/. In addition to all kinds of stamps, FDCs, etc., you can even find official stamps (Resmî Pul) at face value there!

2 *"Fiyatlar SDR (Özel Çekme Hakları) cinsinden olup kur hesaplamalarında bir önceki iş günü saat 15:30'da belirlenen gösterge niteliğindeki TCMB kurları dikkate alınmaktadır."*

3 In 2014, 1 SDR was 2.50 Lira, in 2021 10 Lira, at the beginning of this year it cost 40 Lira, and today it costs 54 lira. See https://www.google.com/finance/quote/XDR-TRY?

Book Presentation: "O.H.M.S. Postal Stationery and Social Philately"
by Dr. John K. Courtis (FRPSL)

Contemporaneously with the private sector and its Post Office postal stationery is the public sector with its "On His/Her Majesty's Service" headed official postal stationery and forms. This book is about official postal stationery and forms and examines a comprehensive collection of lettersheets, postcards, wrappers, war economy address labels, and miscellaneous items. To limit the scope of the exposition, the category of envelopes has not been included in this study.

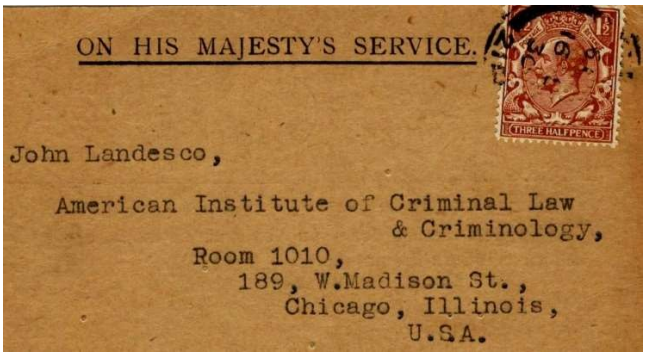


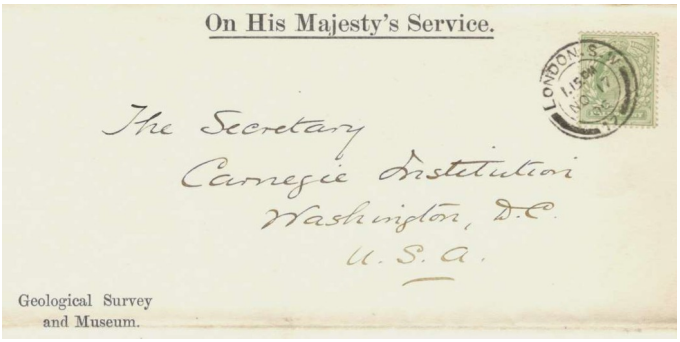
The examples illustrated in this book deal with 191 years of government postal stationery communications for the period 1802 to 1993. There is no known handbook or database of official forms used by government in all its manifestations in communications within and between itself, and with members of the public. The literature on OHMS material is poorly developed apart from niche areas such as returned letters, licenses, and some postal history topics.

While completeness is a nice aim, a comprehensive and systematic record of what has appeared on the internet since 2000 is a reasonable start from which others can build in the future. For the past quarter of a century, the author's focus has been on postal wrappers which extended to official wrappers and letter-sheets. Postcards and Address Labels were added but not envelopes. This book extends an invitation to others to tackle official envelopes, which are a big and important part of the overall story about official forms.

The total number of forms is unknown: serious collectors of OHMS material claim that there are at least 500 known different forms. This book seeks to identify and examine a comprehensive sample of letter-sheets, postcards and other items. There is no master record of official forms so what has been pre-printed and used by many government departments over the past 200 or so years needs to be documented as items come to hand.

A considerable number of letter-sheets, wrappers, postcards, etc. have included a series of code numbers, usually located at the base. These are warrant numbers instructing the printing of quantities and the date of orders. No record of these master codes has yet been discovered, probably because that no such code book exists. Instead, each government department has autonomously executing warrants for printing quantities as the need arose. Such a formal record, however, would be a useful proxy of what was issued before, during and after the war years.





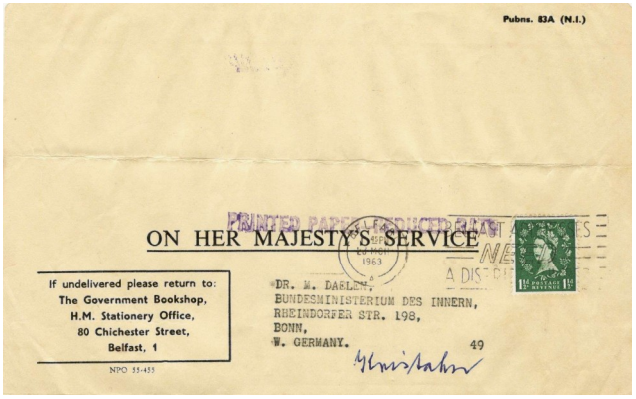
Most items are headed "On His/Her Majesty's Service." There are a few other terms such as "Britannic Service" which was the official diplomatic title for overseas mail. These printed headings varied in terms of font size, upper and lower casing, serif, sans-serif, underline or not, and

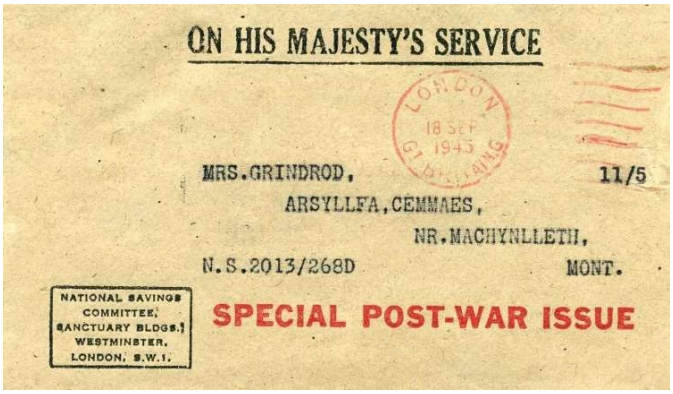
with or without dot at end.

Some items included are headed "OHMS" in manuscript. That does not make them any less official. Many letter-sheets with "O.H.M.S." in pen have preprinted forms on the reverse side, often dealing with matters of Legacy and Succession Duty. Moreover, while preprinted forms (or letters) seek to cover the bulk of issues of that government department, there are cases where a unique response is warranted and these are handwritten, sometimes in copybook lettering, but sometimes barely legible.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE – upper case serif letters with varieties in font size and bolding
On His Majesty's Service – serif letters with varieties in font size and bolding
ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE – upper case sans-serif letters with varieties in font size and bolding
On His Majesty's Service – sans-serif letters with varieties in font size and bolding
ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE – upper case script-style letters, with varieties in font size and bolding
On His Majesty's Service – script-style letters, with varieties in font size and bolding
ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE – upper case serif letters with varieties in font size and bolding
On Her Majesty's Service – serif letters with varieties in font size and bolding
ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE – upper case sans-serif letters with varieties in font size and bolding
On Her Majesty's Service – sans-serif letters with varieties in font size and bolding
ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE – upper case script-style letters, with varieties in fonts, size, and bolding
On Her Majesty's Service – script-style letters, with varieties in fonts, size, and bolding
ON HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SERVICE – upper case sans-serif letters with font size and length varieties
ON HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SERVICE – upper case serif letters with font size & length varieties
ON HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SERVICE – upper case serif letters with font size & length varieties
O.H.M.S. – upper case serif letters, with varieties in spacing, font styles, sizes, and bolding
OHMS – upper case sans-serif letters with varieties in spacing, font styles, sizes, and bolding

For those with an interest in social philately, this O.H.M.S. material is ideal for considering who sent the item, to whom, where and why. The tentacles of government in examining its population are apparent, insinuating itself when executors fulfil the terms of wills, probate, taxes, and all manner of machinations in tax reporting.



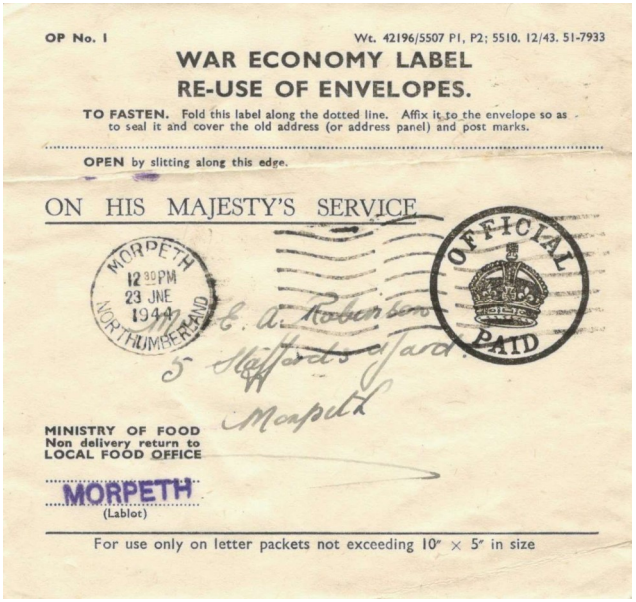


To demonstrate how some items could be brought 'to life,' a social philately approach was injected into the analysis. For example, when licence fees or duties were payable on dogs, armorial bearings, carriages, servants, horses, etc., the first step was to detect the identity of the 'lord of the manor.' The next step was to uncover a portrait of that individual or pictorial postcard of the manor house, castle, or estate of the property in question. Matching the OHMS form with a pictorial postcard of the place or person involved put an image to the person named on the form. When this was not possible, an alternative was to explore the addressee destination. Towns, villages, even hamlets, were identified, their history and evolution revealed briefly and again, a suitable pictorial postcard obtained to better contextualise the form.

What is the most important *raison d'être* of this book? It is the presentation of several hundred official forms together with their specific details so as to curate these items lest they become lost to posterity. It is not a catalogue as such because it is only a sample of what is expected to exist.

How might a book of this nature be useful to different groups of readers? The primary group is philatelists. A reason the area of O.H.M.S. postal stationery has received less interest to date is

partly due to a lack of literature support. The philatelist has now a comprehensive listing of what material is extant. This is useful in identifying the type and range of material not only for different influences of government, but also for collectors focusing on a particular type of quasi- postal stationery. Postcards, wrappers, letter-sheets, and war economy labels can each be followed for England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. Traditional philatelic content regarding payment of postage, postmarking details, auxiliary markings, and destinations can be studied. Particularly useful will be the different impressed Crown Official Paid indicia.





One area not previously examined in the literature is address labels bearing O.H.M.S. headers. An address label is an important contribution to the efficiency of the postal system by improving the likelihood of the item being delivered correctly to the designated address. During the war years the economy label (a subset of address labels) was employed to reduce paper wasted by re-using envelopes. The label was affixed over the old delivery address and the cover was then re-used. Many of the war depots, barracks, stores, and other military establishments used these labels. These are illustrated in a separate section.

Contents

Preface	
Section 1. On His Majesty's Service Postal Stationery and Forms	1
Section 2. Official Lettersheets of Great Britain and Wales	17
Section 3. England and Wales Taxation Lettersheets	123
Section 4. Official Lettersheets and Wrappers of Scotland	252
Section 5. Official Lettersheets and Wrappers of Ireland	347
Section 6. Official Postcards	354
Section 7. Official Postal Wrappers	442
Section 8. Official Address Labels	523
Section 9. Other O.H.M.S. Usages	586
Appendix A: User-Entities known to use Crown Official Paid Impressions on Postal Stationery	609
Appendix B: Form Numbers attached to User-Entities	612
Appendix C: Distribution of Year Dates of Illustrations	618
Appendix D: Franking Types used on Official Mail	619
Index	625

Bibliographic Record

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Orders to: Claire@historystore.ltd.uk

The Arab-Iranian Stamp War over the Persian Gulf (Michael Sharnoff)

Michael Sharnoff writes:

I have recently published an article in the academic periodical THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA:[1] "The Arab-Iranian Stamp War over the Persian Gulf: 1949–1973".[2] From the abstract:

> *Until the late 1950s, Arab countries commonly referred to the Persian Gulf by an Arabic rendition of its traditional name; "Khalij Faris" (lit. The Gulf of Persia). However, the rise of pan-Arabism and the growing influence of Gamal Abdel Nasser led to a shift in terminology, with some Arab leaders switching to the "Arabian Gulf" to promote Arab nationalist ideology and challenge Iranian nationalism and Tehran's claims to the Persian Gulf. This study examines how this naming dispute was reflected in Iranian and Arab postage stamps – official state issued materials that serve as tools for ideological messaging and national identity reinforcement. The analysis begins in 1949, when Iran issued its first stamp featuring a map with the inscription "Persian Gulf," and ends in 1973 following the decline of pan-Arabism after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the death of Nasser in 1970, and the last Arab-Israeli war in 1973.*
>
> *Throughout this period, Iranian stamps consistently highlighted the Persian Gulf to assert sovereignty and reinforce national identity. In contrast, Arab states rarely depicted the "Arabian Gulf" on their stamps, instead prioritizing the use of philatelic imagery to delegitimize Israel and express support for the Palestinian cause. By exploring how stamps functioned as instruments of political communication, this study deepens our understanding of Arab-Iranian competition over the Persian Gulf and the broader role of visual propaganda in geopolitical disputes.*

Editor: Michael is Associate Professor, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University, Washington, DC.[3] Michael is offering to provide MEPB readers with the article on request: michaelsharnoff@gmail.com.

Philatelic Antiquarian Bookshop Philabooks reopens

Editor: In 2023 I reported that the popular philatelic antiquarian bookshop Philabooks had to close. Recently, Björn Rosenau was able to resume operations as successor to the previous owner. He writes on the new website https://philabooks.myshopify.com:

> *I was a good customer and friend of Burkhard Schneider, who founded and built up philabooks. When Burkhard had to give up the business due to illness, I didn't want this 'institution' to disappear, so I took over the inventory and the business. Since then, I have been running philabooks alongside my family, job and hobbies.*
>
> *So please bear with me: I am passionate about what I do, but as a 'side job,' everything takes a little longer. For example, our main warehouse is not in Frankfurt (for cost reasons). Therefore, orders are usually only shipped once a week.*

1 The Journal of the Middle East and Africa. ISSN: 2152-0844 (print), ISSN: 2152-0852 (online). Online: www.tandfonline.com/journals/ujme20.
2 26.05.2025. 22 pages. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/21520844.2025.2500765.
3 See https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1620-1758.

Ottoman Empire in WW I: Stamp Shortages? (Jens Warnecke)

Jens Warnecke writes:

The block of 100 stamps shown here was recently offered on Delcampe. The 'recommissioning' of older already demonetised stamps was, as is well known, justified by the impending stamp shortage. Due to the outbreak of the First World War, deliveries from the printers in London stopped.

When you see this piece, you have to doubt that reasoning: a complete sheet with 100 of the 'scarce' stamps – overprinted to eliminate the shortage – and then cancelled in one go on 29th November 1916 for no reason at all. Thus postally cancelled and sold to some collector as a philatelic speciality. And there are many such 'collector's items'.



www.delcampe.net mraeg01

In any case, from 1915 onwards, the required mail of the public was franked and forwarded to the recipient without any problems. For me this raises two questions:

- How high was the demand for stamps really during wartime?
- How many stamps that were no longer needed and demonetised were stored over the decades?

Both questions are closely related. Of course, they can no longer be answered with any certainty today.

Obviously, however, far too many stamps have always been printed. The demand for stamps for purely private rather than business or official mail ultimately depends on how many people are able and willing to write letters. However, the number of stamps produced was evidently also a matter of prestige in Constantinople, which had little to do with the reality in the rest of the Ottoman Empire.

Editor: A study by Turkish academic Salih Kış (whose concluding remarks I briefly summarise here), may provide a clue:[4]

> *In 1906, the Commission for the Utilisation of Old Stamps transported the stamps and parcel cards stored in the cellars of the Topkapı Palace to the lottery department of the Imperial Mint for sorting and classification. The presence of old stamps worth 34,270,916 kuruş according to the 1892 audit may have extended the duration of the sorting and classification work. However, there is no information on how many stamps were to be sold in the end, or on the procedures and principles according to which this stamp sale was carried out and what revenue it generated for the treasury.*
>
> *However, Kış refers to later auctions: in 1912, for example, a newspaper advert announced that antique stamps were to be auctioned. The auction was organised under the supervision of the Postal and Telegraph Directorate of the Ministry of Finance. At the end of this auction, 385,314 kuruş were raised from the sale of stamps with a nominal value of 1,767,262½ kuruş.*

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4 A summary of Kış' study will be published in the next edition of MEPB.

Digital Resources on Saudi Arabian Forgeries and Stamps (Martin Lovegrove)

Martin Lovegrove[1] writes:

Following the publication of part 1 of **"The Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries"** earlier this year by the Arabian Philatelic Association International (APAI), work on part 2 has now started. Part 2 on overprints is under development as an eBook in PDF format. Development version 1 has the first part of some leaflets produced by Willie King in 2003–2005. Although these are old, they are still relevant and contain information which will not be included in the current re-write of the manual; it will be too time-consuming. Excerpts from the foreword:

> *Between 2003 and 2005, Willie embarked on an ambitious project to prepare leaflets for what he envisioned as a comprehensive replacement for the 1985 Forgeries Manual. This new work was intended to be an invaluable resource for fellow collectors and researchers, offering not only detailed descriptions of various forgeries but also insights into their rarity and potential risks to collectors. […]*
>
> *Willie's meticulous approach was evident in the level of detail he aimed to include in these leaflets. His goal was to create a more detailed and informative guide that could serve as a significant improvement over the previous manual. He recognised the importance of providing accurate information to help collectors navigate the complexities of identifying and understanding Saudi Arabian forgeries. […]*
>
> *Willie King's legacy lives on through these recovered works, serving as both a valuable resource for collectors and a poignant reminder of his dedication to philately. His contributions continue to inspire and educate, ensuring that his passion for Saudi Arabian forgeries is remembered and appreciated by future generations.*

This very early development draft comprises 37 pages on overprint forgeries of postage and revenue stamps, with many detailed illustrations. Many of the images are high resolution, 600 or 1200 dpi, and can be extracted from the PDF file and copied into the reader's image editing software where they can be enlarged. The target audience is not only the collectors of Saudi Arabia but also those interested in the stamps of Hejaz overprinted for use in Transjordan. I hope you find the publication useful.

Part 1 in PDF format has a size of 1.18GB, so may take a while to download. Part 2 in its current stage amounts to 15 MB. The files are available as free downloads:

http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/forgerymanual.html

Another work has now reached a second development version: the **"DGA Handbook"**. The aim of the handbook is to provide the reader with everything known about the Wadi Hanifa Dam, GOSP and Airmail definitives of 1960–1975 (158 MB). It is accompanied by the handy **"DGA Identification Guide"** as a separate PDF (5 MB).

If you have information, pictures, documents, etc., relating to these stamps, please contact me.

Free download: http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/resources.html



Wadi Hanifa Dam



GOSP



Convair 340

1 Contact form at: http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/contact.html or via weatherings@aol.com.

New Discovery: Jordanian "P.P" (Fee Paid) Cachet from 2003
(Bernd-Dieter Buscke (AIJP))

Bernd-Dieter Buscke (AIJP) writes:

A cover with an imprint of a Jordanian rubber hand-stamp "P.P" (port payé = fee paid) in black from 2003 was recently purchased on eBay. This cachet was previously unknown to the author. It shows the following inscriptions in two languages (Arabic/English):

خالص الاجره		Fee paid
البريد الأردني		Jordan Post
عمان		Amman
JORDAN POST		Jordan Post
AMMAN		Amman
P.P		Port payé



The letter was posted in Amman on 25th March 2003 and cancelled with a rubber hand-stamp "Amman City Center / Outgoing" in purple. The destination is Cairo (القاهرة).

Who among the readers can tell us more about this "P.P" cachet, e.g. the date of introduction, are similar cachets known from other places? Please send any information to the editor.



Ottoman Postal History Research Association = Osmanlı Posta Tarihi Araştırma Derneği (Oral Avcı)

Oral Avcı writes:

We are happy to inform you that we have officially submitted our application to the Directorate of Civil Society Organizations under the Istanbul Governorship to establish the Ottoman Postal History Research Association. For nearly two years, we have been working with the vision of uniting our research efforts on Ottoman postal history under the framework of an independent, scholarly association.

Our aim is to conduct our future endeavours in a more institutional and professional capacity:collaborating with distinguished academics from universities, seasoned philatelists, collectors, and all enthusiasts of Ottoman history, postal heritage, and related fields.

Given the expansive geographic scope of the Ottoman Empire, we recognise that the history of Ottoman postal services resonates beyond present-day national borders. Thus, we are eager to connect with scholars and philatelists from across the globe who share our passion for this rich historical domain.

The founding members of the association are: Turhan Turgut, Bülent Papuççuoğlu, Mehmet Günyeli, Prof. Dr. Zekeriya Kurşun, Prof. Dr. Ebubekir Ceylan, Tuncay Uzun, Gökhun Yılmaz, Oral Avcı, Levent Akbulut, and Ömer Lütfi Küçükosman.

We hope this marks a meaningful step for both our academic community and the broader appreciation of Ottoman postal history. Keep up to date with our upcoming activities on our official website: https://www.osmanlipostatarihi.org/.

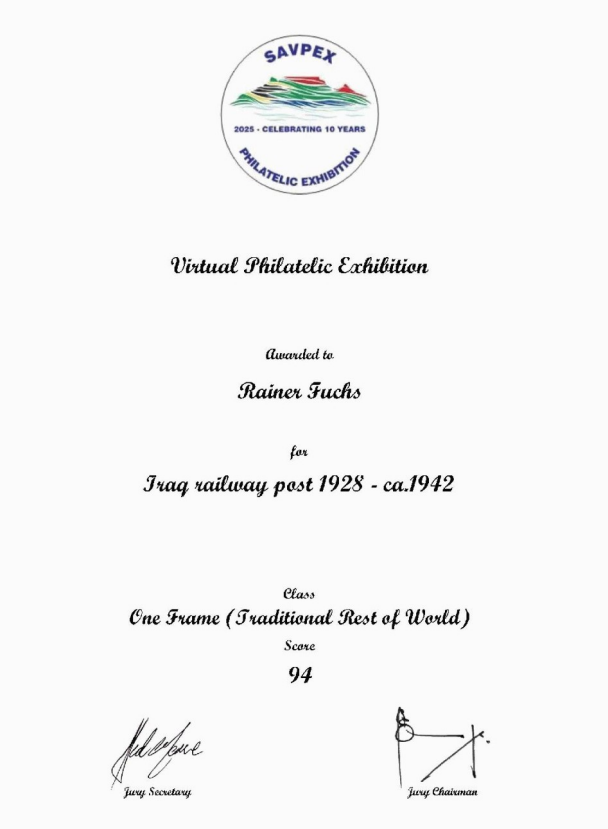


2025 South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition (SAVPEX) (Rainer Fuchs)

Rainer Fuchs (FRPSL, AIJP) writes:

My two-frame exhibit of *Iraqi Railway Postage Stamps* participated at the 2025 South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition (SAVPEX) organised by the Philatelic Society of the Orange Free State under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. It was awreded 94 points, the highest score achieved for this exhibit to date.[1]

Editor: Congratulations to our regular contributor: Best of Show! The list of exhibits (including from previous years) can be found here: https://stampssa.africa/exhibits/#SAVPEX. All exhibits are available as PDF files!


SAVPEX
2025 - CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

Virtual Philatelic Exhibition

Awarded to

Rainer Fuchs

for

Iraq railway post 1928 - ca.1942

Class

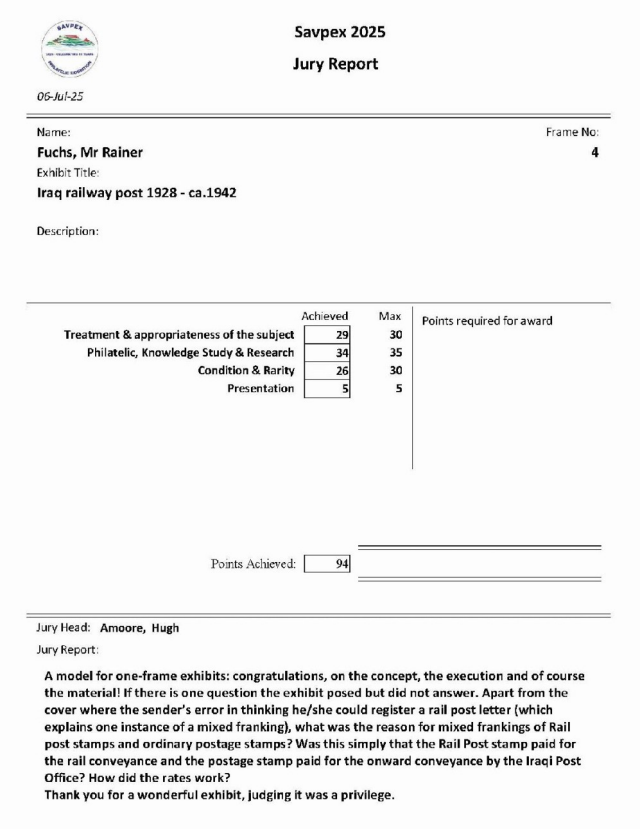
One Frame (Traditional Rest of World)

Score

94

Jury Secretary

Jury Chairman


Savpex 2025

Jury Report

06-Jul-25

Name: Fuchs, Mr Rainer

Frame No: 4

Exhibit Title: Iraq railway post 1928 - ca.1942

Description:

	Achieved	Max
Treatment & appropriateness of the subject	29	30
Philatelic, Knowledge Study & Research	34	35
Condition & Rarity	26	30
Presentation	5	5

Points required for award

Points Achieved: 94

Jury Head: Amoore, Hugh

Jury Report:

A model for one-frame exhibits: congratulations, on the concept, the execution and of course the material! If there is one question the exhibit posed but did not answer. Apart from the cover where the sender's error in thinking he/she could register a rail post letter (which explains one instance of a mixed franking), what was the reason for mixed frankings of Rail post stamps and ordinary postage stamps? Was this simply that the Rail Post stamp paid for the rail conveyance and the postage stamp paid for the onward conveyance by the Iraqi Post Office? How did the rates work?
Thank you for a wonderful exhibit, judging it was a privilege.

Here are some exhibits of interest to MEPB readers (selection):

- Fuchs, Rainer: Iraq railway post 1928–ca. 1942 (94 points)
- Choudalakis, Konstantinos: Crete: Errors and varieties of "ΕΛΛΑΣ" overprint (1908) (83)
- Paschos, Athanasios: The special stamp issue for the Thessaloniki International Fair 1934-1942 (76)
- Abdul, Mughni Khaled: Kuwait: Varieties of Registration Handstamps and Labels 1915-1948 (75)
- Dimitriadis, Ioannis: Russian money letters to Athos 1870 -1919 (80)
- Gholamzadeh, Faraz: Censored envelopes from World Wars I and II titled Bushehr (77)
- Perin, George: The British "Eastern Telegraph Company, Limited" in the Dodecanese 1912-1931 (78)
- Sengupta, Chandan: 1931 England–Australia 1st and 2nd Survey Flights and Indian aerophilately (85)
- Lukes, Emanuel: Postal services in the Levant (69)
- Mughni, Abdul Khaled: Mail between Kuwait & Palestine: Boycott, Censorship, Nationalization (86)
- Mughni, Abdul Khaled: IA first flights through Kuwait 1932–1934 (81)
- Hafez, Adam: Airmail of Egypt 1927-1937 (74)
- Abdul-Mughni, Khaled: Kuwait "Postage Due" and connected instructional marking (82)
- Al Rais, Ali: A decade of postcards history in Kuwait "Rate & Routes" (76)

1 Note that under FEPA and FIP rules one- and two-frame exhits are not awarded medals.

Book Announcement: Turkish Stamps Specialized Catalogue: Republic of Türkiye 1924–1945 (M. Bülent Papuççuoğlu)



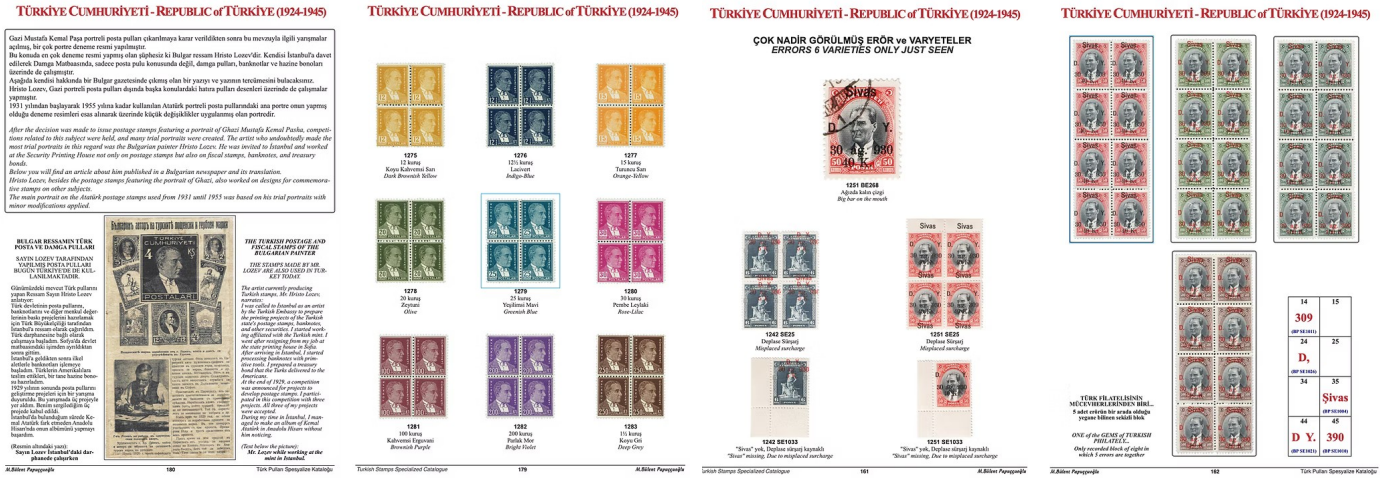
M. Bülent Papuççuoğlu recently announced a new edition of the bilingual specialised Republic of Turkey stamp catalogue. From the foreword by Turhan Turgut:

This study [is] centring the stamp issues of the Republic from 1924 to 1945 is a special enquiry into the significance of stamp errors in the wider context of philately. It is an exceptional study which shows how a simple error can transform an ordinary stamp into a sought-after collector's item, and how a moment frozen in time can emerge.

Starting from the souvenir stamps o f the Lausanne Peace Treaty to the 1945 Census commemorative block, it is a balanced combination of scientific research and the presentation of a unique narrative of each error. The work also captures the visual impact of these errors with the help of a wealth of illustrations, essays and application examples, enabling the collector to appreciate the subtleties of the subject.

As collectors, we are attracted to printing shifts, colour and perforation errors, misalignment and other discrepancies in the printing of stamps. These imperfections not only make these stamps very valuable but also invite reflection on the myriad factors that led to their creation. Errors therefore also represent fragments of time often accompanied by stories of carelessness, coincidence and new discoveries. This work meticulously details a wide range of stamp errors, from the subtle to the spectacular, and provides context to help collectors at all levels understand the significance of each variety.

The final chapter presents for the first time a collection of essays that were not issued as stamps and their series was unknown. In addition, the contribution by distinguished philatelist Selçuk Akar of banknotes with the same designs as the stamps further increases the importance and value of the work. Embracing the errors and defects o the period under study serves to bring to the forefront the human element inherent in philately, a pursuit driven by the desire to uncover the unknown buried in our postal heritage. I am therefore delighted to invite the reader to embark on the rich journey that makes each error an opportunity to learn, appreciate and connect with the past. It is my hope that this catalogue will serve not only as a reference work but also as a means of further exploration and study into the world of Turkish philately.



M. Bülent Papuççuoğlu: *Turkish Stamps Specialized Catalogue:Republic of Türkiye 1924–1945 = Türk Pulları Spesyalize Kataloğu: Türkiye Cumhuriyeti 1924–1945*. 2025. 600 p.
ISBN: 978-625-00-2856-8. 100 €.

Exhibits Online and Studies at the Academy of Turkish Philately Website

Editor: The website of the **Türk Filateli Akademisi** *(TFA, affiliated to the Turkish Philatelists' Federation TFDF and recently celebrating its tenth anniversary) is now online. The site, largely bilingual, will be continuously improved: https://www.filateliakademisi.net/. Since the beginning of 2025, TFA has been accepting international members who specialise in Ottoman, Turkish, Balkan and Middle Eastern philately. Membership is by invitation and requires the recommendation of two existing members.*

There are new sections with interesting material: Topical articles are now added in the new "Akademi Arşiv (Academy Archive)" section at https://www.filateliakademisi.net/en/akademi-arsiv. It features a recent study by Mehmet Akan on the few facts known about ***Postal Bonds****, and a study by Selçuk Akar and Ozan Kuntay on* ***PTT Stamps Promotion Brochures****. One other addition is a page presenting a large number of exhibits:*

https://www.filateliakademisi.net/en/sergilenmis-koleksiyonlar

These include:

Traditional Philately:

- HACKMEY, Joseph Tughra Stamps of Ottoman Empire (1862-1864)
- GİRAY, Kemal Stamps and Postal History of Azerbaijan (1918-1923)
- FREEMAN, Michael D. The "Duloz" Stamps of Ottoman Empire
- YAZGAN, Serdar The Young Republic of Turkey (1924-1939)
- GİRAY, Kemal Ottoman Stamps Printed in Austro-Hungarian State Printing House, Vienna during World War I
- AKDUMAN, Kayhan Stamps of the Government of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (Ankara Government) 1920-1923
- GİRAY, Kemal Ottoman Empire The "Duloz" Issues 1865-1882
- ŞEN, Erdoğan (R.I.P.) Anatolia / Anadolu
- CANGELARIS, P. The Western Thrace Autonomous Government "Muhtariyet" Issue (1913)
- MANTADELIS, Ar. Balkan Entente: The Joint Issues of 1937/8 and 1940
- CANGELARIS, P. Greek Issues of Thrace 1920
- ŞEN, Erdoğan (R.I.P.) Turkey / Türkiye
- PAPUÇÇUOĞLU, M. Bülent Specialized Republic of Turkey

Postal History:

- HESS, Wolf (R.I.P.) Crimean War - The Baltic Campaign of 1854/55
- AKAN, Mehmet The Last Post Office of the Empire: Ankara (1841-1945)
- PAPUÇÇUOĞLU, M. Bülent Government of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (Government of Ankara) Post Offices
- TUNACI, Atadan Postal History of the War of Independence
- GİRAY, Kemal Ottoman PoWs in the Great War
- FUCHS, Rainer Overland Mail: Baghdad - Haifa (1923-1948)
- AKAN, Mehmet The Postal History of the Eastern Anatolia (1840-1928)
- ARLI, Emre An Etude on Octagonal Postmarks of Post-Alphabet Reform, Turkish Philately
- ÖZELTÜRKAY, Mahir Turkey Postal History (1875-1918)
- ÖZOĞUL, Ali Doğan Romanian Civil Censorship (1941-1945)
- ARSMAN, Cengiz (R.I.P.) Maritime Mail of Ottoman Empire
- HİÇDURMAZ, Güneş Ali Turkey - Printed Matter Rates (1866-1929)
- ARLI, Hakan A Study of Postmarks Used in the Territories of Adana Province (1840-1928)
- BERKİL, Hakan Ottoman Postal History of Aydın Province (1780-1923)
- TUNACI, Atadan Postal Services and Routes Between Ottoman and Persian Empire
- ÖZAND, Pınar (R.I.P.) Postal History of the Greek-Turkish War of 1919-1922
- HESS, Wolf (R.I.P.) Cuba - "The Triangular Trade"
- BAKTAGÖR, Burak Eskişehir Postal History
- MUHONEN, Ari Mail of the Red Guards Area, Finland, Spring 1918
- AĞAOĞULLARI, Edip The Postal History of Thrace
- AKAR, Selçuk Posta Beiye Branches İstanbul Stamps (1922-1930)
- TODOROV, Orlin Bulgaria. Steamship Traveling Post Offices Along the Danube River (1881-1914)

- GALINOS, Alexandre Le Service Postal Rural aux Territoirs actuel Turcs sous Administration Hellénique
- ŞEN, Erdoğan (R.I.P.) Adapazarı Damgaları
- GALINOS, Alexandre La Grande Guerre: Prisonniers de Guerre liés à La Turquie
- PAPUÇÇUOĞLU, Hülya Postal History of the Government of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (1920-1923)



Postal Stationery:
- AKAN, Fırat Hatay State
- KURAN, Timur The End of the Ottoman Empire as Seen Through its Postal Stationary (1914-1926)
- TODOROV, Orlin The First Postal Stationary of Bulgaria from 1879
- NASSRE, Behruz Persia, Qajar Postal Stationary, Issued 1876-1925
- YAZGAN, Serdar Postal Stationeries of Turkey (1919-1950)

Aerophilately:
- AKAR, Selçuk Turkish Republic Period Air Mail (1924-2014)
- GEMİCİOĞLU, Cüneyt Chronologically Ordered Source of Information on Turkish Aerophilately

Thematic Philately:
- ALTUNBAŞ, Mahmut International Postal Union
- AĞAOĞULLARI, M. Edip The Summer Olympic Games
- GIKAS, Christos The Divine Liquid

Youth Philately:
- AKAN, Yasemin Advertising and Postal Labels of Turkey

Revenue, Social Aid and Special Stamps:
- AKAN, Mehmet Haydarpaşa Harbor Parcel Post Stamps
- AKAR, Selçuk Turkish Air Association Aid Stamps
- VLIET, Oscar van der Captured on an Island! Revenues of Crete
- EĞİLLİ, Enis Red Crescent
- AMBRUŞ, Francisc Principality of Bulgaria, general revenues 1903-1909
- AMBRUŞ, Francisc Romania - King Carol 1 effigy, 1911-1919

Open Class:
- MELEK, Şükrü General Cemil CONK, Beloved Grandfather Cemil
- TUNACI, Atadan The Battle of Suez Canal
- YAZGAN, Serdar Four Generations in Ayvalık
- TUNACI, Atadan First Pan-islamic Financial Project: Hejaz Railway
- DIMITRIADIS, G. Hotel "Grande Bretagne" / Athens: 150 Years of (Postal) History
- AMBRUŞ, Francisc 100 Years of Romanian Commerce and Stock Exchange, 1847-1947

Picture Postcards:
- KAZANCI, Necati Rivers of Türkiye on Old Postcards

Experimental Ephemera:
- AKAR, Selçuk Symbols of Governance

Obituary: Mehmet Kühut Alanyalı (1939–2025)

On behalf of the Board of **Arge Osmanisches Reich/Türkei** (AROS):

On 2nd July 2025, our founding member and honorary chairman Kühut Alanyalı passed away. We mourn the loss of one of the most influential members of our association. When our Ottoman Empire/Turkey study group was formed, Kühut Alanyali was already a world-renowned collector of stamps and postal history of the Ottoman Empire. Wilhelm Weber contacted him and recruited him as a founding member of our association.



Kühut Alanyalı was born in İzmir and lived in Germany since 1962. He was married and had two children. After studying architecture and engineering in İstanbul, he established several companies and was the managing owner of the WERT Group as well as an independent entrepreneur in the construction, fashion, textile, and hospitality industries.

He had been collecting stamps since the age of seven and had assembled an internationally renowned collection of the Ottoman Empire, focusing on Tuğra, Duloz, Empire, pre-philately, Lianos/İstanbul city post. Alanyalı also collected German states (especially Württemberg), pocket watches and Far East sea shells. He was an enthusiastic golf player.

He was a member of the Royal Philatelic Society London, the İstanbul Philatelic Association and the Heinrich von Stephan Stamp Collectors' Guild in Böblingen.

He used his reputation in international philately to establish contacts for our association. For many years, he was a staunch supporter association, both organisationally and financially. His success as an independent entrepreneur had enabled him to assemble extensive collections. Tragically, it was the insolvency of his group of companies that forced him to sell his collection.[1]

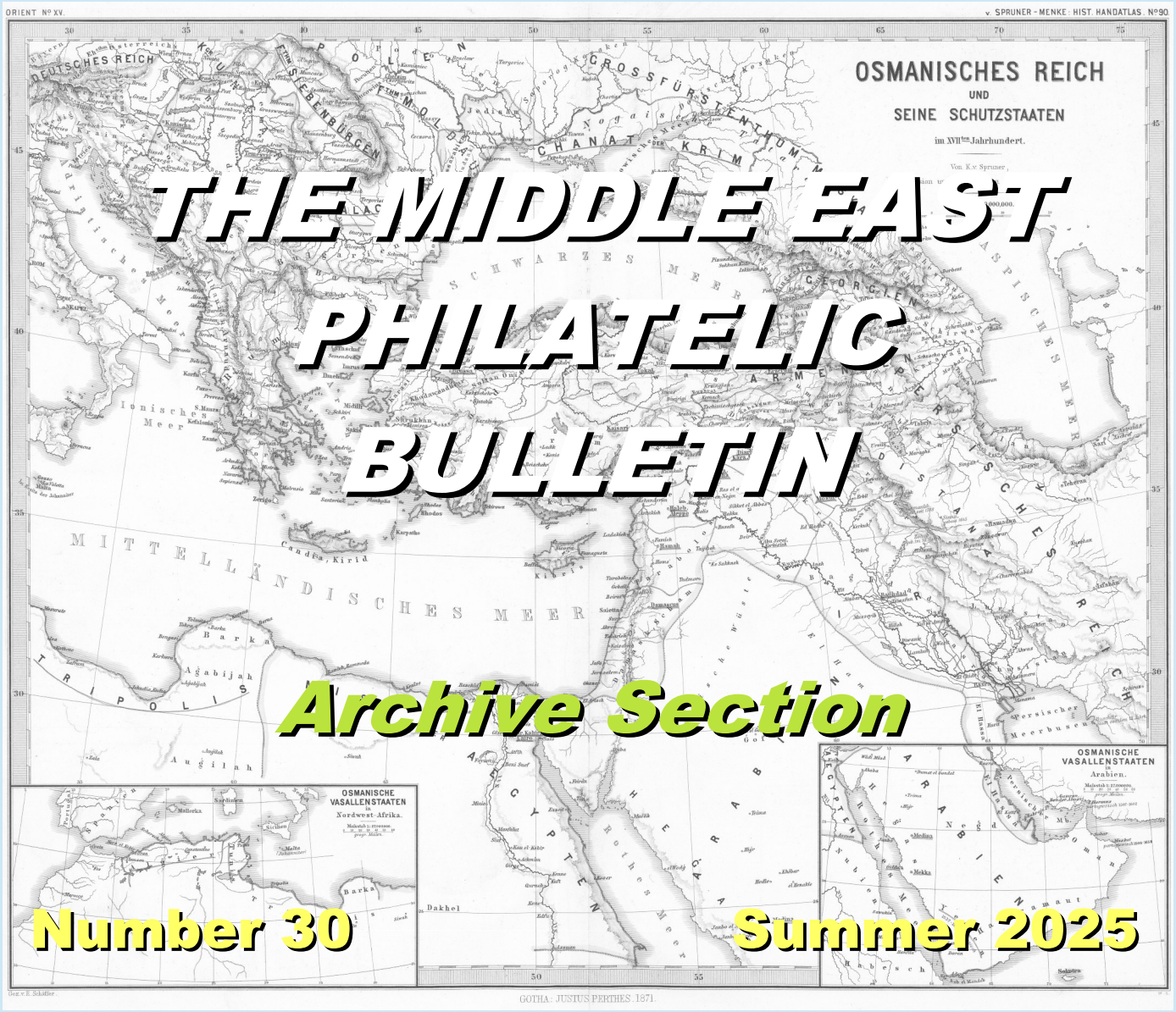
Unfortunately, many of today's members were not able to meet him personally at the annual meetings. However, it quickly became clear that the provenance 'ex Alanyalı' was a special mark of quality. He always brought parts of his fantastic collections to the meetings in Kirchheim and surprised even seasoned specialists with the scope and quality of his collection items.

After the sale of his collection, contact with the association unfortunately broke off more and more. However, as a founding member who had done so much for our association, he remains unforgotten. We have lost one of the great personalities of our association. We will remember him with gratitude.

May he rest in peace.

Otto Graf (1st Chairman), Tobias Zywietz (2nd Chairman), Jens Warnecke (Treasurer)

1 The Tuğra section was auctioned in two parts in 2013 at David Feldman as the 'Sultan Collection'; other parts of the collection were apparently purchased by two dealers and partially itemised.



THE MIDDLE EAST PHILATELIC BULLETIN

Archive Section

Number 30 **Summer 2025**

The 'Archive Section' provides usually reprints of long-lost or forgotten journal articles, booklets or books, only with sparse annotations, or legal texts. These are primarily intended for documentary purposes in the digital age.

In this edition I document another Ottoman Revenue Stamps Imperforate Proofs Album, the Annual Report of the Postmaster-General of Egypt for 1877, and two articles by Arthur G. Ferard (1895/1897) on the Indian Mails to Brindisi and Bombay.

Ottoman Revenue Stamps: Imperforate Proofs Album (II)

by Tobias Zywietz

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In MEPB 28 I showed an imperforate proofs presentation album offered at auction.[1] It was an elaborately bound album of calligraphically decorated presentation pages with pasted-in Ottoman revenue stamps of the late 19th century. The album was dated to 1310 (1893/94). Description:[2]

> *An extraordinary folio presentation volume (56x43cm) of imperf proof sets (at least 17 sets, 229 stamps) of the various types of revenue issues of the 1870s-90s affixed to magnificent gold-decorated pages incorporating Hijri and Gregorian dates. The covers decorated in metal-work, the front cover with the Sultan's Tughra and 'Reshad', ornate title pages entirely in Arabic. The binding in need of some restoration due to damage from poor storage, mainly including losses to the top and bottom of spine, warping and water damage to the red moiré silk lining and boards, however the pages themselves have fortunately not been affected, aside from a little staining to the margins of the final two pages. The inscriptions, decorations and the proof stamps are in beautiful fresh condition. With such a binding and craftsmanship of illustration, this is clearly an important book, if not unique then certainly produced in an extremely low number.*

The lot was estimated to £1,000–£1,500; at the auction it reached £7,500, with a buyer's premium of 25% that is £9,300 or 11,500 € or US-$ 12,500.

At Siegel Auctions another similar copy, but with only 31 pages (some looses and in poor condition), was auctioned in 2024.[3] It achieved US-$ 4.500:

> *Turkey, c. 1890, Presentation Book of Revenue Stamps. 16 x 12" velvet book with gilt edges, 31 pages with the revenue stamps up to that point, cut imperforate and neatly affixed on the pages, there are also pages that contain the Sultan's seal, all of the original pages present, but a few have become separated from the book, includes a handwritten note from the Foreign Ministry, Very Fine, these were distributed by the Sultan to high-level diplomats, a rare and beautiful presentation book, the first we have encountered*

A collector has now sent me scans of a similar presentation album. He writes:

> *There were four to five different versions of these albums, two of which also included postage stamps. At the time, these were probably all cut up: today, there are few complete albums, and certainly none in this condition.*[4]

There's also a cover letter saying:

> *This album was presented in 1889 by Sultan Abdul Hamid to Her Majesty the German Empress on the occasion of her visit to Constantinople and was dedicated to me in 1895 by His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Wilhelm as a personal gift.*
>
> *Charlottenhof Palace, May 1922. Ed. Tuschinski.*[5]

The album is for sale, see below.

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1 Zywietz, Tobias: Ottoman revenue stamps: imperforate proofs album. In: MEPB, no. 28, 2024, pp. 58–63.

2 Link: https://auctions.tennants.co.uk/auction/lot/lot-turkey/?lot=2510061.

3 Siegel Auction, Sale 1327, July 2024, lot 5695. Online: https://auction.siegelauctions.com/sale/1327?Filter=true&Status=pre&LotNumber=&SearchTerm=5695 and https://vimeo.com/957822559?share=copy.

4 "Von diesen Alben gab es 4 bis 5 verschiedene Ausführungen, zwei auch mit postalischen Briefmarken gemischt. Dieses wurden damals wohl alle zerschnitten: heute gibt es wenige kpl. Alben, in dieser Erhaltung schon gar nicht."

5 "Diese Album wurde im Jahre 1889 von dem Sultan Abdul Hamid Ihrer Majestät der Deutschen Kaiserin anläßlich Ihres Besuches in Konstantinopel überreicht und mir im Jahre 1895 von Seiner Kaiserlichen Hohheit Kronprinz Wilhelm als persönliches Handgeschenk gewidmet. Schloß Chartlottenhof, im Mai 1922. Ed. Fuschinski."

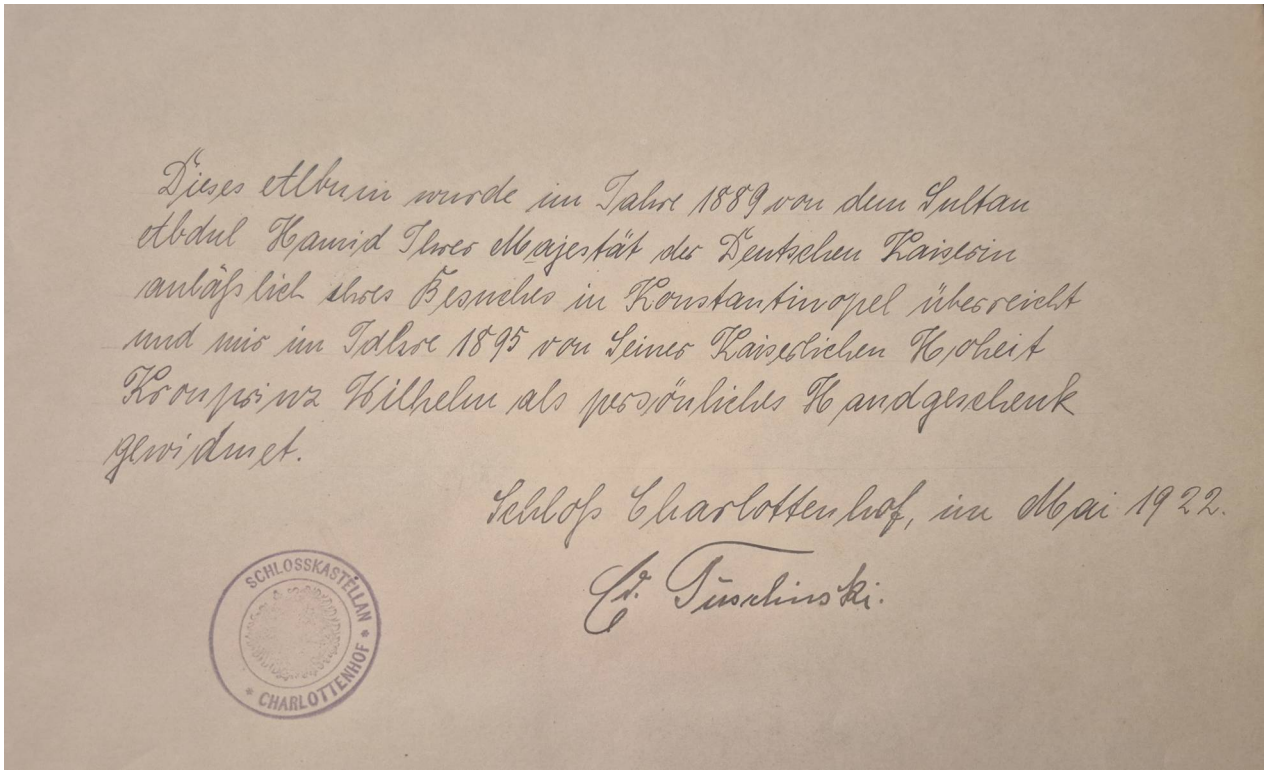
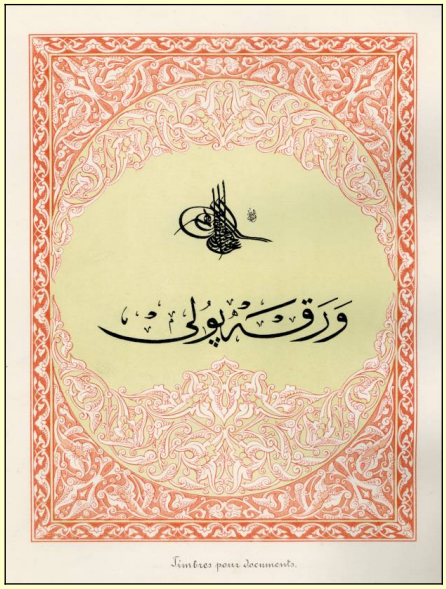


Fig. A1: Cover note dated 1922 by Ed. Tuschinski (?), Castellan at Schloß Chartlottenhof. The seal says: "Schlosskastellan, Charlottenhof" (castellan = the castle's administrator).

Gratis-Anzeige 30/201

Ottoman Revenue Stamps: Imperforate Proofs Album 1889

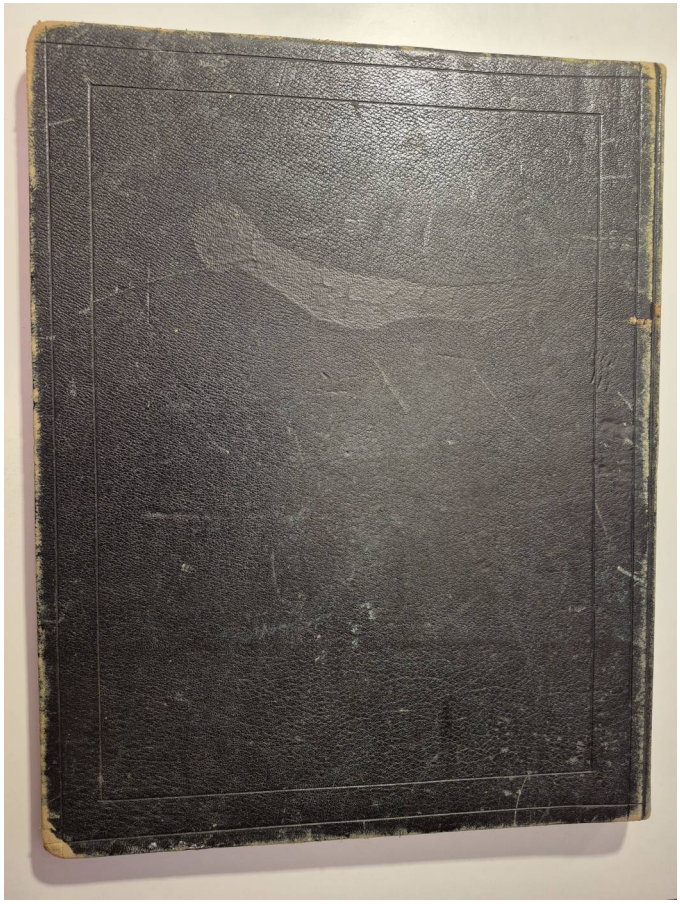


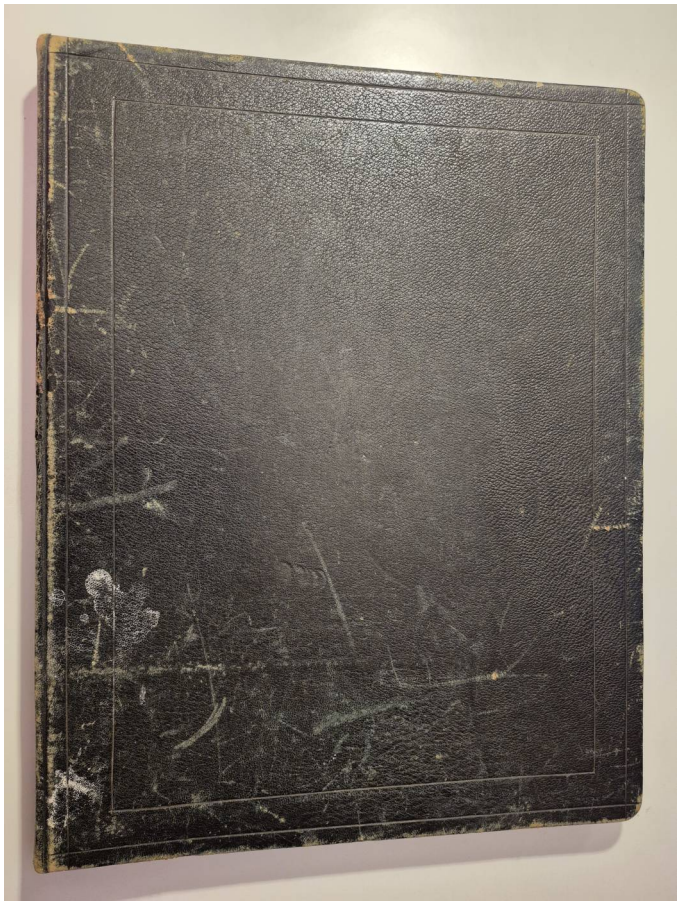
The album, as presented in MEPB 30, is for sale.

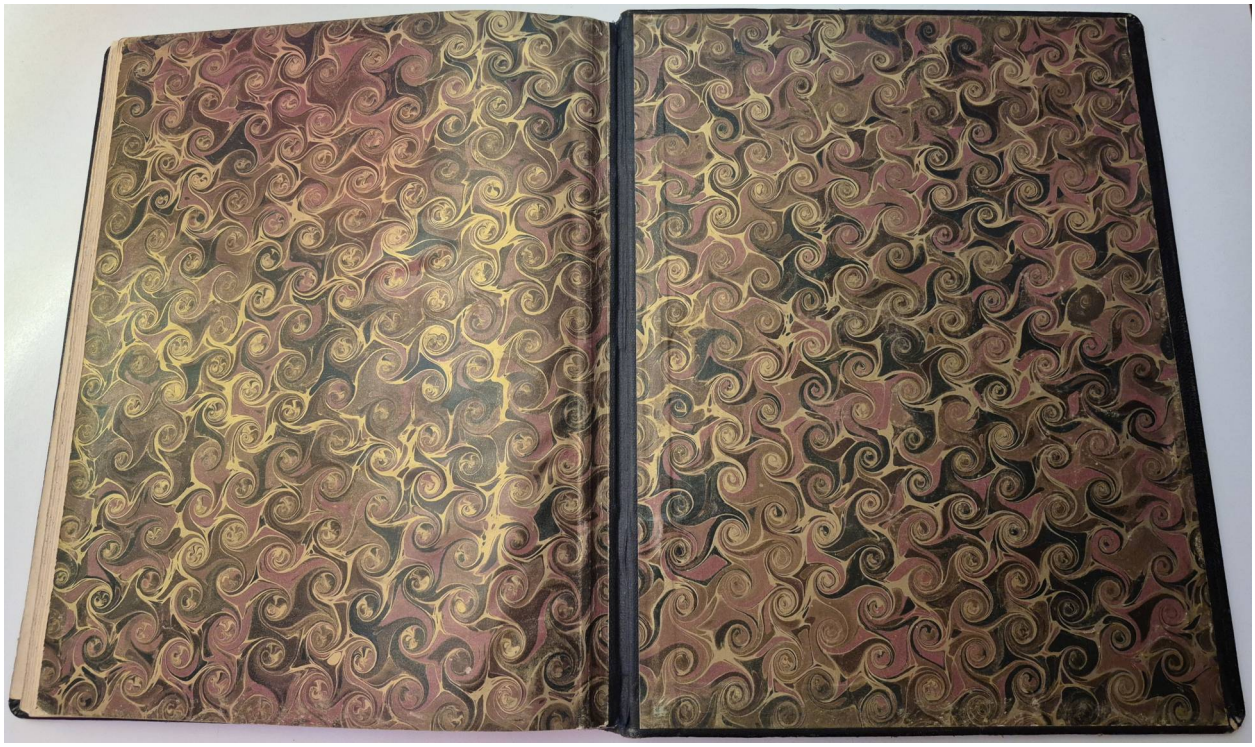
This album was presented in 1889 by Sultan Abdul Hamid to Her Majesty the German Empress.

The 39 lavishly decorated pages with affixed imperforate Revenue Stamps are in excellent condition.

Enquiries to:
Tobias Zywietz
mep-bulletin@zobbel.de
The seller wishes to remain anonymous.
Offers and enquiries are forwarded by the editor.







Figs. A2–A4: The leather binding on the outside and the starting pages inside.



Fig. 1: Timbres pour documents.



Fig. 2: Emission de 1291 (1875–76).



Fig. 3: Emission de 1305 (1889–90). Deuxième édition de l'émission.



Fig. 4: Timbrs du Minstère des affaires étrangères.



Fig. 5: Emission de 1298 (1882 – 83). Timbres pour le Consulat.



Fig. 6: Emission de 1303 (1887–88). Timbres du Bureau du contentieux pour les affiares mixtes.



Fig. 7: Emission de 1306 (1890–91). Timbres du Bureau de nationalité.



Fig. 8: Timbres de l'Administration des Mines et Forêts.



Fig. 9: Emission de 1293 (1877–78).



Fig. 10: Timbres du Ministère de l'Intérieur.

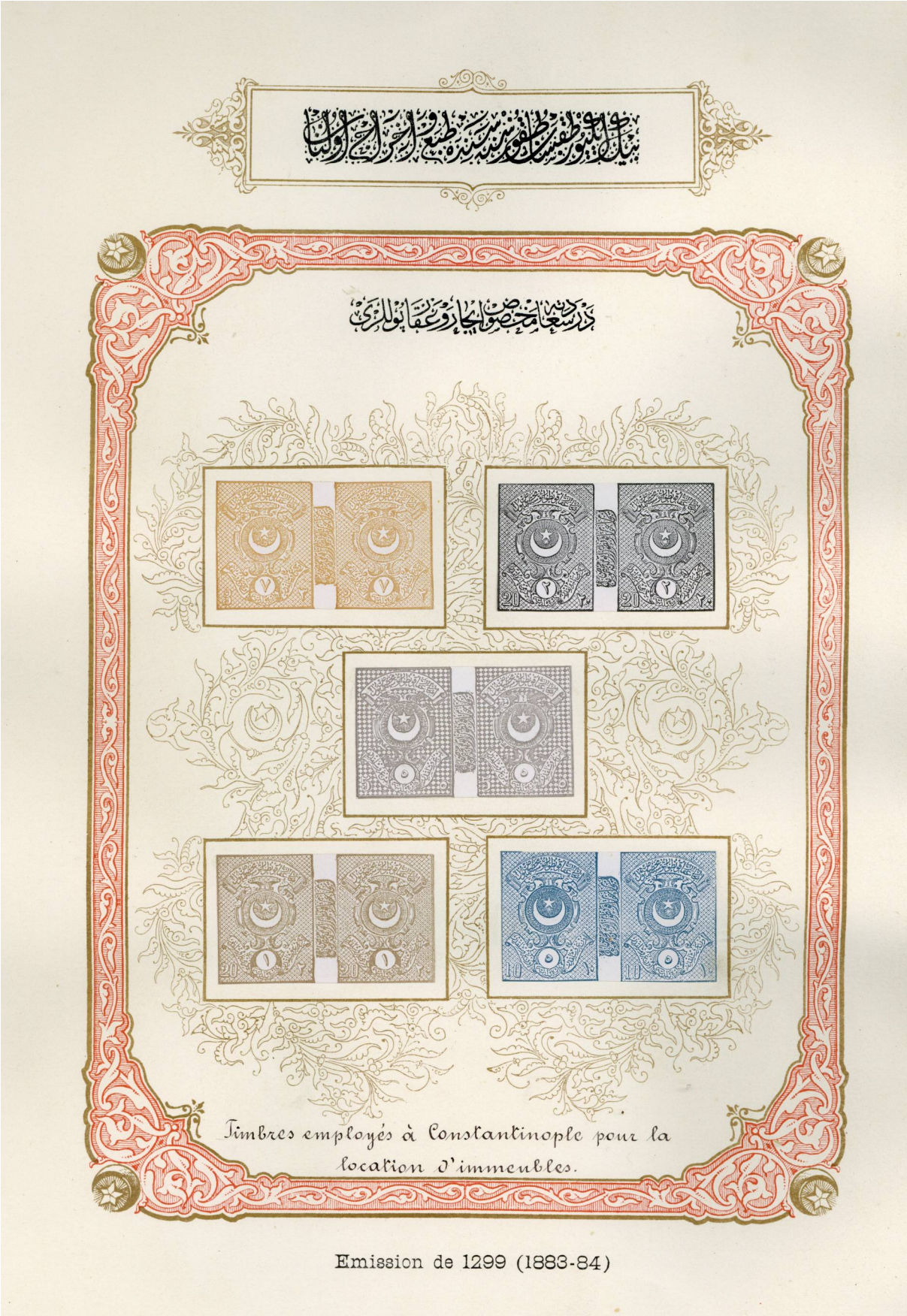


Fig. 11: Emission de 1299 (1883–84). Timbres employés à Constantinople pour la location d'immeubles.

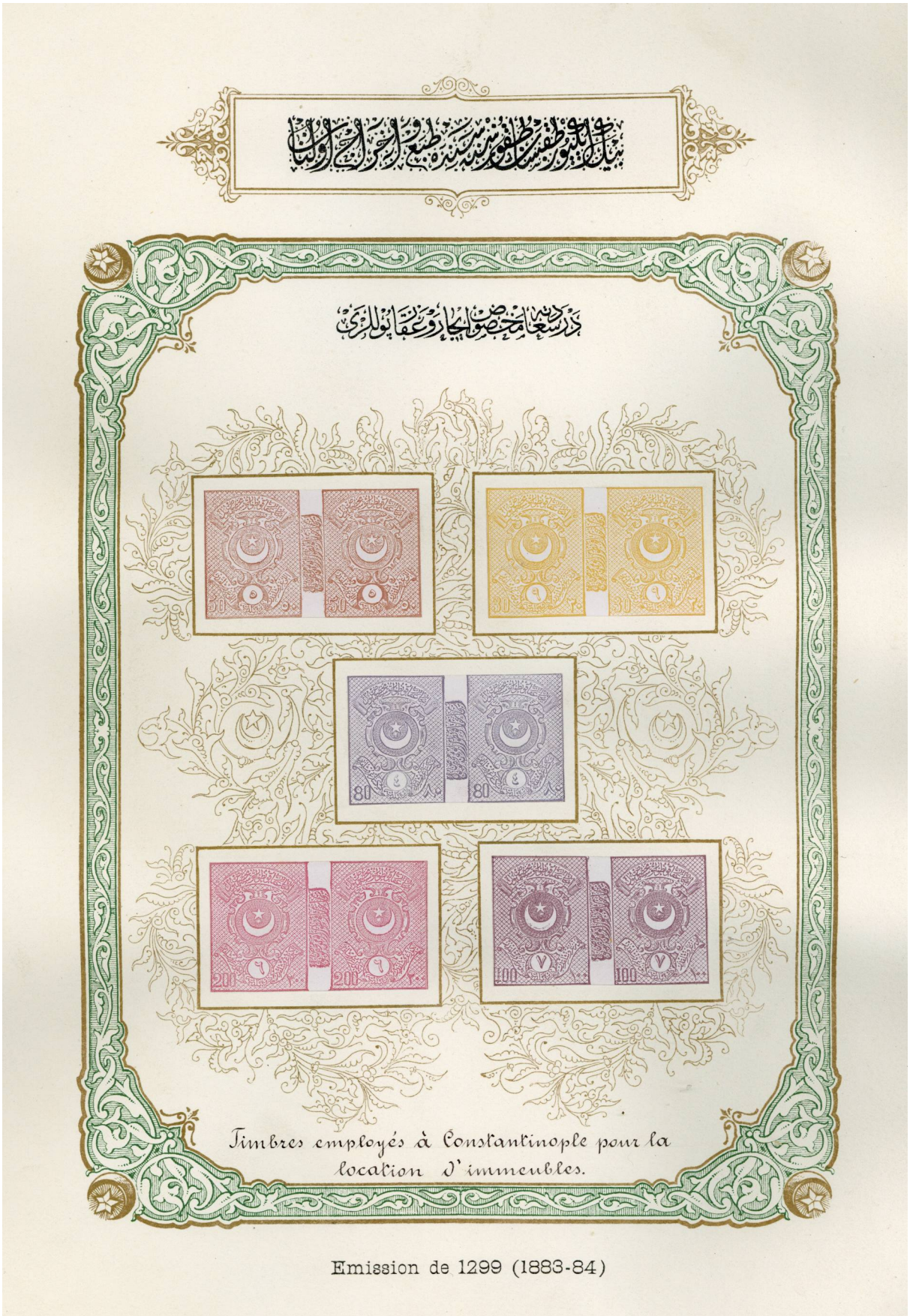


Fig. 12: Emission de 1299 (1883–84). Timbres employés à Constantinople pour la location d'immeubles.

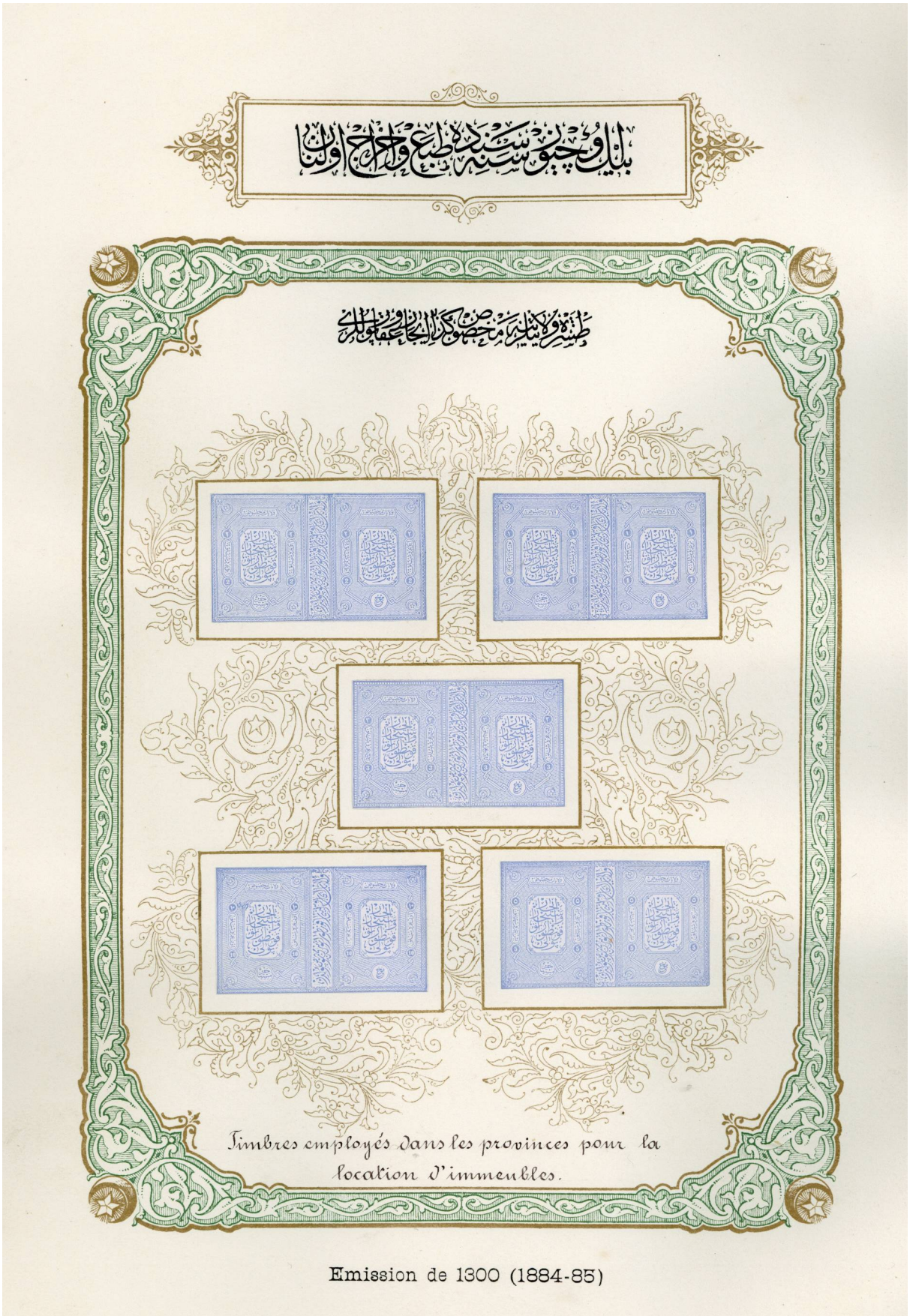


Fig. 13: Emission de 1300 (1884–85). Timbres employés dans les provinces pour la location d'immeubles. (Part I: 1–10 p)

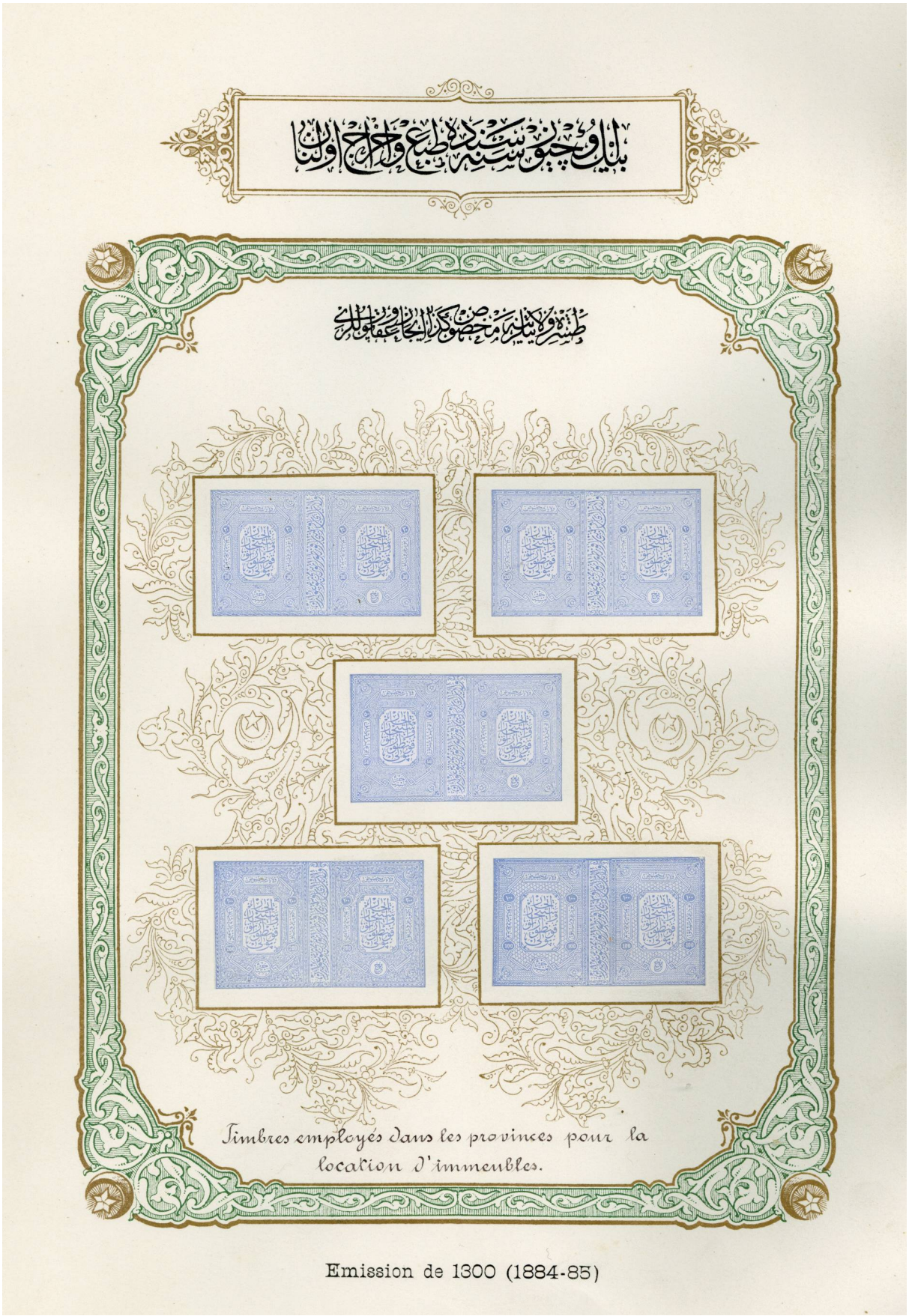


Fig. 14: Emission de 1300 (1884–85). Timbres employés dans les provinces pour la location d'immeubles. (Part II: 20–100 p)



Fig. 15: Emission de 1291 (1875–76).



Fig. 16: Emission de 1294 (1878–79).



Fig. 17: Emission de 1294 (1878–79).



Fig. 18: Emission de 1304 (1888–89). Droits proportionnels.



Fig. 19: Emission de 1304 (1888–89). Droits proportionnels.



Fig. 20: Emission de 1304 (1888–89). Droits fixes.

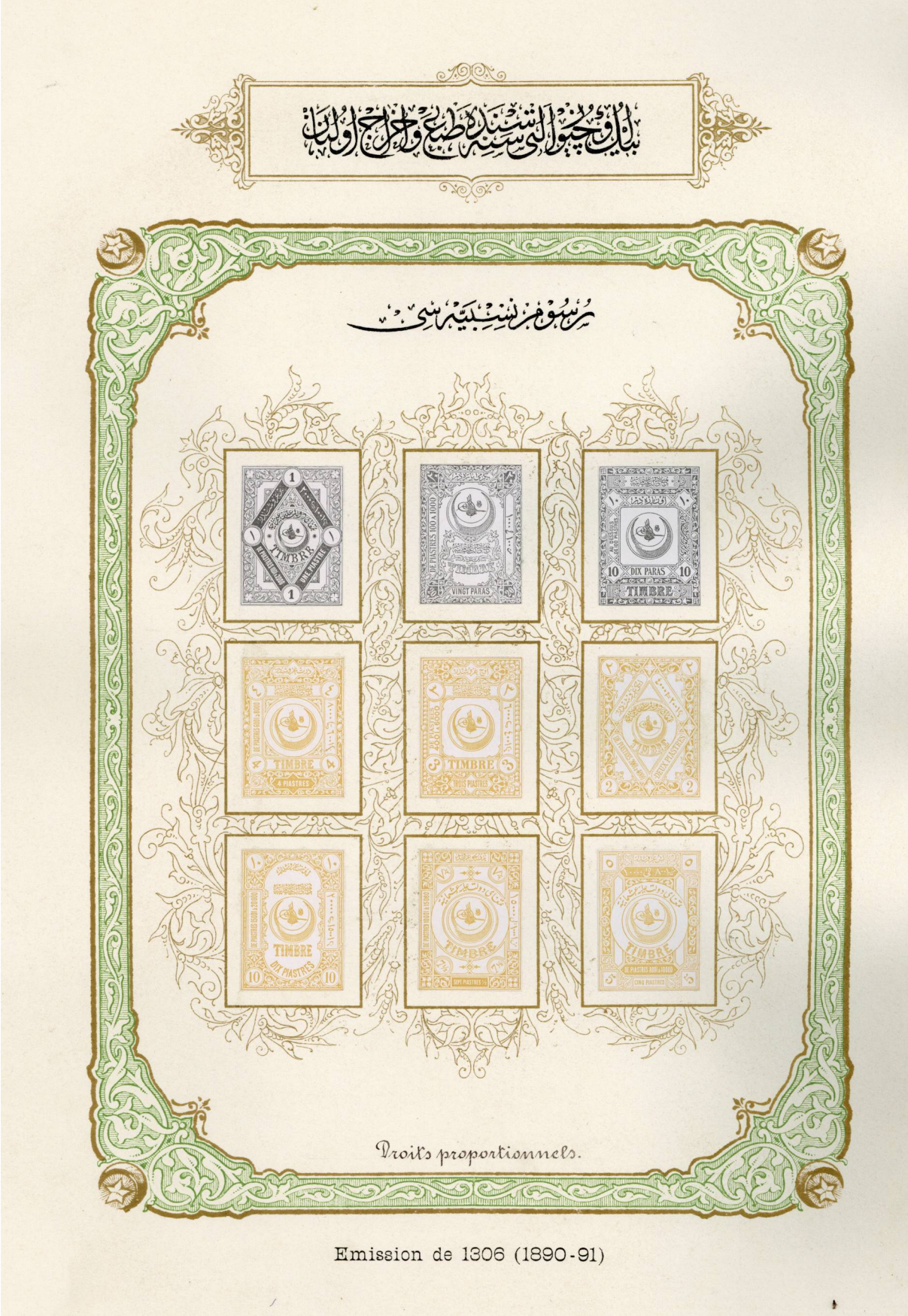


Fig. 21: Emission de 1306 (1890–91). Droits proportionnels.



Fig. 22: Emission de 1306 (1890–91). Deuxième édition de l'émission.



Fig. 23: Emission de 1306 (1890–91). Droits proportionnels.

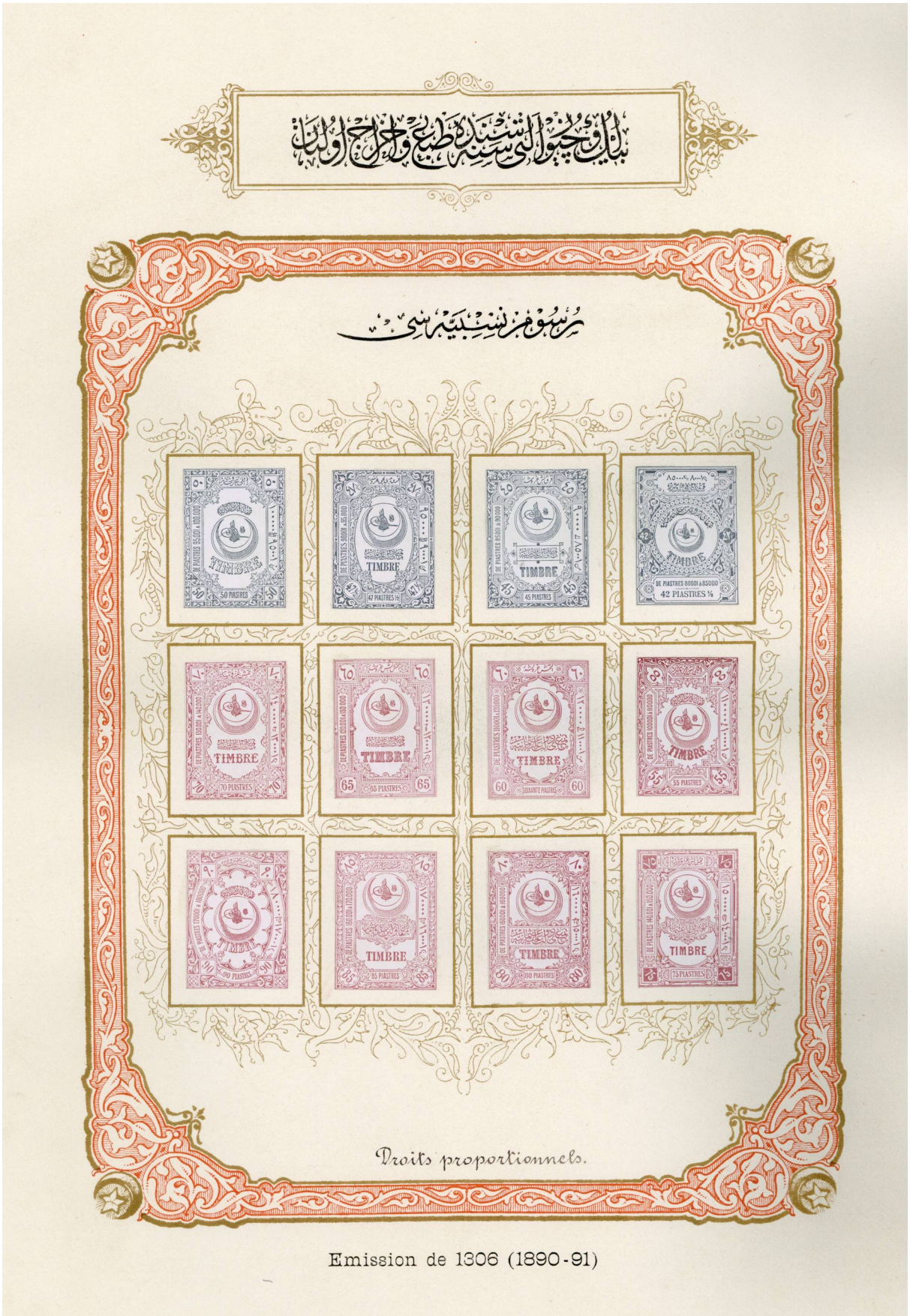


Fig. 24: Emission de 1306 (1890–91). Droits proportionnels.



Fig. 25: Emission de 1306 (1890–91). Droits proportionnels.



Fig. 26: Emission de 1306 (1890–91). Droits fixes.



Fig. 27: Emission de 1306 (1890–91). Droits proportionnels.



Fig. 28: Emission de 1306 (1890–91). Droits proportionnels.



Fig. 29: Emission de 1306 (1890–91). Droits fixes.



Fig. 30: Timbres prêts à être émis. Droits proportionnels.



Fig. 31: Timbres prêts à être émis. Droits fixes.



Fig. 32: Timbres por les provinces où le papier-monnaie n'a pas cours.



Fig. 33: Emission de 1294 (1878–79).



Fig. 34: Emission de 1294 (1878–79).



Fig. 35: Timbres de visa gratuit por le Tabac.



Fig. 36: Timbres du Ministère de la Justice

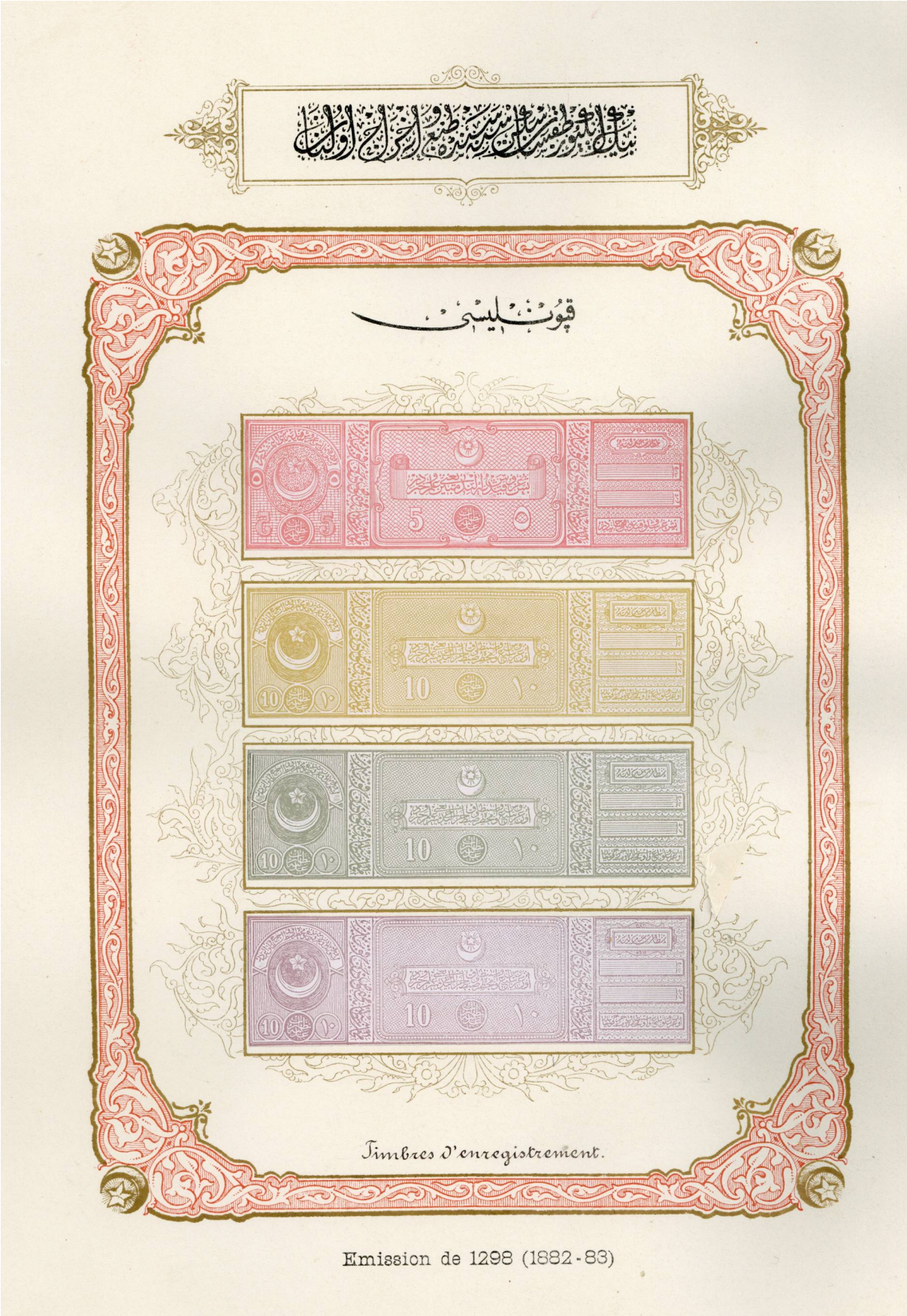


Fig. 37: Emission de 1298 (1882–83). Timbres d'enregistrements.



Fig. 38: Emission de 1298 (1882–83). Timbres d'enregistrements.



Fig. 39: Emission de 1298 (1882–83). Timbres d'enregistrements.

Annual Report of the Postmaster-General of Egypt for 1877

found and translated by Tobias Zywietz

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Introduction

During my search for interesting material for MEPB I studied a run of a German official journal. Two years after the reunification of Germany, the official gazette of the German Post Office AMTSBLATT DER DEUTSCHEN REICHS-POSTVERWALTUNG was given a fortnightly supplement, initially entitled DEUTSCHES POSTARCHIV : BEIHEFTE ZUM AMTSBLATT DER DEUTSCHEN REICHS-POSTVERWALTUNG, changing its name in 1876 to ARCHIV FÜR POST UND TELEGRAPHIE : BEIHEFT ZUM AMTSBLATT DER DEUTSCHEN REICHS-POST- UND TELEGRAPHENVERWALTUNG. It's a treasure-trove for articles on matters concerning the post, the telegraph, and railways, spanning from technical applications of newly discovered electro-magnetic waves, to plans for building a railway across the Sahara, to the application of law on who owns a letter at what stage of its postal transmission … to name just a few examples. Many editions also contain official annual reports of the German and foreign postal administrations, translated to German and often summarised.



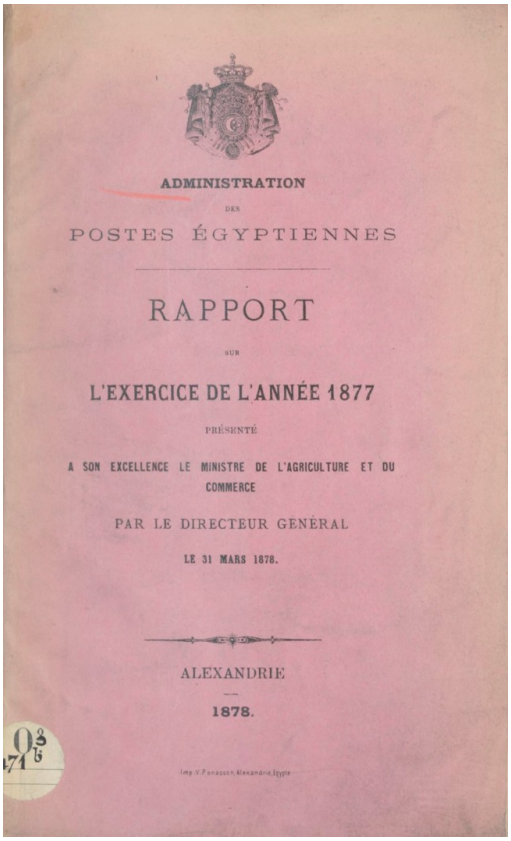
The first Annual Report I came across[2] was for 1877 submitted by Postmaster-General Alfred Caillard[3] (pictured on the right, *fig. 1*) to the Ministry of Finance. The same German journal published summaries of these reports (though not for every year) until 1909. They are mainly statistical accounts of the postal service, numbers and types of letters transported, parcels, money orders, number of post offices, revenues and expenses, etc. Some include interesting accounts of accidents, quarantine measures, rates changes, the rural service, the Sudan war, etc., one even reports the provision of the first Postal Guide (1888/89) with its lists of rates and itineraries.

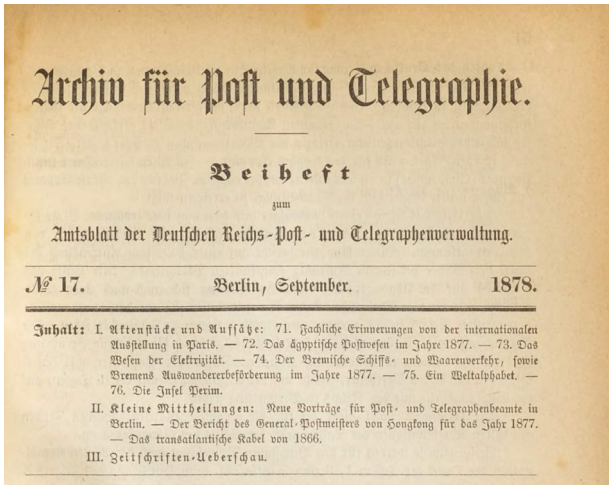
All these publications are not truthful translations, but to a large extent summaries of the key events and statistics. So I am still looking for the Annual Reports of the Postmasters-General of Egypt pre-WWI in their original form. I should very much like to consult these to corroborate what I found so far.

I posted requests and a few excerpts on the Egypt Study Circle's Facebook page. Mike Murphy, the editor of the ESC's journal QUARTERLY CIRCULAR kindly published a request in the September 2024 edition.[4] In MEPB 28 I asked readers for information.[5] Mike found a copy of the 1898 report, but otherwise no leads emerged. By chance I then discovered a digital copy of the 1877 report on Gallica (part of the Bibliothèque Nationale Française).

Hereon follows the translation of the original report, the original French text (with image scans), the German journals' account in German (with image scans) and translated from German into English.

1 Copyright extends the translation of the text and the annotations.
2 In: Archiv für Post und Telegraphie : Beiheft zum Amtsblatt der Deutschen Reichs-Post- und Telegraphenverwaltung, 6. 1878, no. 17 (September 1878), pp. 521–526.
3 Alfred Caillard (1841–1900), Postmaster-General (1876–1879), Director General of Customs (from 1879). It should be noted that this is the new postmaster general's own account of his achievements. At the end of his term of office, Caillard left behind a company that was once again in deficit. Image kindly provided by Mike Murphy.
4 Quarterly Circular of the Egypt Study Circle, no. 290 (vol. 25, no. 7, September 2024), pp. 157–158.
5 Zywietz, Tobias: *Egypt: Postmaster-General Annual Reports 1877–1909*. In: MEPB , no. 28, 2024, p. 151–152.




Archiv für Post und Telegraphie.

Beiheft
zum
Amtsblatt der Deutschen Reichs-Post- und Telegraphenverwaltung.

№ 17. Berlin, September. 1878.

Inhalt: I. Aktenstücke und Aufsätze: 71. Fachliche Erinnerungen von der internationalen Ausstellung in Paris. — 72. Das ägyptische Postwesen im Jahre 1877. — 73. Das Wesen der Elektrizität. — 74. Der Bremische Schiffs- und Waarenverkehr, sowie Bremens Auswandererbeförderung im Jahre 1877. — 75. Ein Weltalphabet. — 76. Die Insel Perim.
II. Kleine Mittheilungen: Neue Vorträge für Post- und Telegraphenbeamte in Berlin. — Der Bericht des General-Postmeisters von Hongkong für das Jahr 1877. — Das transatlantische Kabel von 1866.
III. Zeitschriften-Uebersicht.

Fig. 2: Cover of the September 1878 edition of Archiv für Post und Telegraphie.

Fig. 3: Cover of the report for 1877.[6] Administration des Postes Égyptiennes: "Rapport sur l'exercice de l'année 1877" Alexandria: Impr. V. Penasson, 1878.

Egyptian Postal Administration: Report on the Financial Year 1877

Presented to His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture and Trade
by the Director General on 31st March 1878
Alexandria, 1878

Reorganisation

In this first report on the financial year of the Egyptian Post Office, it may not be superfluous to recall that at the beginning of 1877, the Post Office Administration had just undergone a radical reorganisation.

The original organisation of the Egyptian state posts dates back to the start of the year 1865, when the Khedive's government took over the management of the postal service in Egypt. This organisation was implemented hastily and did not lend itself easily to the rapid expansion of the service, so that towards the end of 1875 it was recognised that the composition of the administration left much to be desired in terms of personnel, which had been increased excessively, while general expenditure was no longer in line with the needs of the service. These two facts, among others, explained the deficits that had recurred annually in the postal balance sheets since the first year of

6 Source: Gallica, online: https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k62230072?rk=21459;2.

the establishment of the Post Office.

To remedy this situation, which was becoming increasingly serious and even threatening to hinder the regular running of the service, it was necessary to take energetic measures, the need for which was demonstrated by complete success.

The table below, which shows the postal balance sheet for each of the years 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, and 1877, demonstrates quite clearly the profit obtained as a result of the changes made during the last five months of 1876.

	Income	Expenditure	Deficit	Surplus
1873	4,983,558	5,185,018	201,460	
1874	5,238,573	5,999,467	760,893	
1875	5,651,928	6,380,710	728,781	
1876	6,335,304	6,655,540	320,235	
1877	6,997,656	5,699,385		1,298,271

It should be noted that the 1877 expenditure includes a sum of approximately P.T. 900,000, representing the amount of arrears from previous years settled during the 1877 financial year.

Although it was feared that these savings could not be made without compromising the safety and speed of the service, all doubts in this respect have been dispelled by the results obtained, some of which are mentioned below. Moreover, if these reductions had been made in such a way as to deprive the administration of personnel or equipment necessary for the service, the 1878 budget would undoubtedly have suffered, which did not happen.

It should also be noted that the personnel budget contributed to the savings by a reduction of 25% on the previous year's total, while the general expenditure budget showed a reduction of more than 50%.

The reduction under the heading “salaries” was partly absorbed by payments of compensation to employees made redundant. A total sum of almost 400,000 P.T. was set aside for this purpose by order of His Highness the Khedive, while pensions were decreed in favour of those who were entitled to them due to the length of their service.

Interior Service

Among the extensions of the postal service, inaugurated in 1877, we should first mention the re-establishment of post offices in Kordofan and Darfur, and in Fashouda, Sennar, and Fuzoglu. Thanks to the energetic assistance of H. E. Gordon Pasha, Governor General of the Sudan, the preparatory work for the opening of several post offices in these provinces was already well advanced by the end of the year, so that the most remote towns of the Sudan will soon enjoy a regular postal service. An experienced and capable agent was sent to Khartoum with the title and functions of Inspector to supervise the work of these offices.

In Lower Egypt, changes to the service of postmen on foot have enabled the inhabitants of several inland villages not served by a railway line to exchange letters with their correspondents in Cairo or Alexandria within twenty-four hours, and new mail lines have been established at the request and with the guarantee of merchants with establishments far from postal routes. These changes were greatly appreciated by the parties concerned, who expressed their satisfaction in letters of thanks to the Administration.

The re-establishment of a railway post service between Alexandria and Cairo has greatly accelerated the distribution of letters from abroad in the latter city. Correspondence from subscribers to private mailboxes is picked up for delivery immediately upon arrival of the mailbag at the office.

In the course of 1877, the Egyptian postal administration suffered two accidents, one caused by fire

and the other on the railway. The fire occurred in Cairo during the night of 8 to 9 February in a building forming part of the complex owned by the Daïra of Her Serene Highness the Princess Mother, in which the post offices and the flat of the local Director are also located. From the house where it started, the fire spread so quickly to the Director's house that he barely had time to escape with his family as the flames engulfed the offices below. At the time of the fire, there was a sum of P.T. 6,000,000 in the postal safe, which was due to be dispatched by the first train in the morning, as well as a large number of letters, etc. Thanks to the dedication and efforts of the Director, the post office was able to avoid the fire. Thanks to the dedication and efforts of the Director and employees, skilfully led by Mr Halton, the Deputy Director General, not a single letter, not a single piaster was lost, and the service was not interrupted for a single moment.

The second accident occurred at Kafr-Zayat on 24th October 1877. Two trains collided on the bridge, and in the ensuing destruction of the carriages, including the postal compartment, the escorting cavass was killed, and the bags of correspondence and groups of cash were scattered along the way. The postal commissioner, immediately after recovering from the shock he had received, set about collecting the items, and with the help of the agent of Kafr-Zayat and his assistants, he succeeded in gathering everything together, except for a sum of P.T. 36,857½ which, having escaped from a group, fell into the river from where it could not be recovered.

The development of correspondence during the year 1877 shows a slight decrease on that of 1870, as far as domestic exchanges are concerned. The number of letters sent during. 1877 was 1,918,651, and that of printed matter and other items 711,778. Registered letters and other items included in the first total were 37,044. The second total includes 9,948 packages of merchandise samples, an increase of 37% on the number of these items sent in 1876.

Inland shipments by money orders and in cash reached 52,007, with a value of 1,211,951,706 P.T. (piastres tariff, about £12,500,000). The increase in this respect in 1877 was 15 per cent. It should be noted that these comparatively enormous monetary transactions were effected without any loss and even without error.

Losses of securities or ordinary letters are not always to be attributed to the negligence of postal employees, as will be seen from the following account:

In December 1877 an envelope containing a letter and a bill of exchange (both in Hebrew) for the sum of 20,000 P.T. was deposited at the Mehalla post office. The envelope bore no handwritten address, but on the back was printed the company name of a trading house in Vienna, to which the envelope must have belonged.

In the absence of a more precise indication, the letter was sent to Vienna, from where it was returned with the explanation that its contents did not belong to the address of this firm. Following investigations, the Administration was able to discover the sender and return the letter and the value it contained.

International Postal Orders

The international postal order service has so far only extended to exchanges with Great Britain and Italy, which are governed by agreements signed in 1873 and 1872, respectively. The following table shows the movement of currency between Egypt and these two countries during the year under review.

Between Great Britain and Egypt
(excluding the cities of Alexandria and Suez)

	Number	Amount
Money orders issued in Egypt	474	P.T. 247,208.16
Money orders issued in Great Britain	30	P.T. 9.000.20
Total	204	P.T. 256,208.36

Between Italy and Egypt
(excluding Alexandria)

	Number	Amount
Money orders issued in Egypt	4,521	P.T. 3,606,784.19
Money orders paid in Egypt	270	P.T. 346,041.10
Total	4,851	P.T. 3,952,825.29

It is to be hoped that these exchanges by Postal Orders will be extended to all the countries of the Postal Union following the Paris Congress which is due to meet in May of this year. Plans to regulate a postal order service between all the countries of the union have already been studied by the French Administration and the International Bureau in Berne.

General Postal Union

Exchanges of correspondence between Egypt and the other countries belonging to the Postal Union are governed by the Berne Treaty of 9th October 1874. Correspondence exchanged with Great Britain, France, Italy and Turkey is sent directly as sealed dispatches. Correspondence with Austria-Hungary is sent via Italy, as were most items exchanged with the other countries of Central Europe.

During 1877, the correspondence exchanged between Egypt and other countries showed the following totals:

Letters	617,432	of which 30,472 were registered
Printed matter, etc.	352,989	of which 10,259 were samples.

The temporary withdrawal of the Khedévieh steamship service to the Levant during the war caused a sharp drop in the number of letters sent to this area. The Egyptian Administration, in agreement with the administrations concerned, took advantage of the stoppages of the mailboats of Messageries Maritimes and Rubattino (Naples) to speed up the postal service between Egypt and France and Great Britain. As a result of this arrangement, the transit time for correspondence sent by these ships was reduced by 24 hours between Alexandria and Paris and between Alexandria and London.

The Egyptian Post, which was represented at the first congress of the Postal Union, could not join without making great sacrifices for which it has not yet been able to find compensation in an increase in the number of items sent to Europe. For most of the countries of the Union, the sacrifices entailed by the reduction of taxes on letters sent to Egypt could be compensated by the increase in correspondence exchanged with other neighbouring countries, on which there was no transit duty to be paid. But Egypt, separated from all the other countries of the Union by a stretch of sea whose crossing exceeds the limits of free maritime transit, still has to pay these duties; as well as territorial transit duties on all connections except those to Italy, Greece and Turkey. In addition to its exceptional geographical position, Egypt could have used the competition it faced from foreign offices established in its territory to obtain the right to levy an extraordinary tax to offset the sacrifices it had to make to join the Union. The Egyptian Post nevertheless insisted on maintaining the uniformity which is one of the fundamental bases of the Union, and decided to levy only one tax for correspondence to all the countries of the Union, the amount of which remained well within the limits prescribed by Art. 3 of the Treaty of Berne. In calculating the losses it would suffer as a result of the reductions in its tariff, the Egyptian Administration had to take into consideration the additional revenue it would receive from correspondence sent abroad from the cities of Alexandria, Suez and Port Said. There was no reason to believe that the States concerned intended to restrict the application of the Treaty in Egypt by excluding these three cities, all the more so since, according to Article 9 of the Treaty, each country of the Union should keep in full the taxes collected both on franked outgoing letters and on franked letters delivered on arrival.

The foreign offices, which were established at a time when there was no organised international service in Egypt and which met a real need in the country, no longer had any reason to exist as long as the Egyptian Post was in direct contact with all the countries of the Postal Union.

In the course of 1877 the Egyptian Government, conscious of the need to find a solution to this question before the meeting of the new Postal Congress, where projects whose development would lead to new sacrifices were to be discussed, made known its desire to the administrations concerned through the intermediary of the Bureau Berne. Later, negotiations entered into directly with the English administration led to a favourable outcome, and a convention, the purpose of which was to abolish the English offices established in Egypt, was signed in London on 14th November 1877. The delays caused by the political situation meant that the negotiations with the other countries could not be brought to a successful conclusion during the year.

However, as the principle of the right to a postal monopoly has already been recognised in Egypt, there is every reason to hope that in the course of 1878 the Egyptian Post Office will be in a position to exercise this right throughout Egyptian territory.

The staff of the Administration on 31st December 1877 was composed as follows:

1	Director General	21	5th Class Employees
1	Deputy Director General	31	6th Class Employees
2	Heads of Division	10	Writers (clerks)
6	Heads of Section	6	Receivers
22	Heads of Office	127	Guards, Servants, etc
19	1st Class Employees	13	Boatmasters
26	2nd Class Employees	15	Agents in Upper Egypt and Sudan
34	3rd Class Employees	195	Couriers (including 130 for Upper Egypt)
40	4th Class Employees	147	Camel Drivers (in Upper Egypt & Sudan)
Total	716		

The regularity and safety with which the postal service was handled on the railway lines to Siut and Suez, through the Nubian Desert to Khartum, across the Red Sea to Zeyla and in the countries of the Levant upto Constantinople, provide proof of the dedication and diligence of the officials of all grades.

In conclusion, I think I should point out that although the Egyptian Postal Administration can only boast of a financial success in 1877, albeit accompanied by some improvements and an expansion of its service within certain limits, it has been constantly working on more far-reaching reforms, most of which were implemented in the first few months of 1878. In view of the circumstances that preceded and led to the administrative reorganisation, it was necessary to ensure the accuracy of all budget forecasts before embarking on reforms.

Once it was certain that all the budget forecasts had been achieved, and that the staff were filled with experienced employees and had a foolproof organisation and equipment, the Administration was quick to devote part of its savings to carrying out reforms, the most important of which are contained in the Decree of His Highness the Khedive dated 17th March of the current year, which reduces the postal tariff by approximately 30 to 60 per cent on the old taxes.

The Director General.
(signed) A. CAILLARD.

Alexandria, 31st March 1878.

Internal Service Correspondence

Designation of Correspondence	1876 numbers	1877 numbers
Ordinary letters of all categories	1,535,508	1,484,684
Registered letters including those with a declared value	35,949	37,044
Government letters	365,353	396,923
Newspapers and periodicals	412,328	421,489
Non-periodical printed matter, business papers, etc.	95,135	280,341
Samples	11,030	9,948

Postal Orders, Cash and Valuables

Designation	1876		1877	
	numbers	amount P.T.	numbers	amount P.T.
Postal orders	17,418	22,884,328	20,149	24,248,437
Gold groups[7]	25,340	905,183,214	25,589	1,108,767,320
Silver groups	6,287	69,629,053	3,005	36,139,742
Mixed groups	2,936	50,764,834	2,024	38,022,243
Valuable objects	145	969,508	119	819,057

International Service Correspondence

Designation of Correspondence	1876 numbers	1877 numbers
Ordinary letters of all categories	672,334	586,960
Registered letters including those with a declared value	26,824	30,472
Newspapers and periodicals	324,479	306,263
Non-periodical printed matter, business papers, etc	29,152	36,467
Samples	20,865	10,259

Postal Orders

Designation	1876		1877	
	numbers	amount P.T.	numbers	amount P.T.
Anglo-Egyptian postal orders	398	210,506	504	256,209
Italo-Egyptian postal orders	5,317	4,689,331	4,851	3,952,825

7 Cash consignments.

Administration des Postes Égyptiennes: Rapport sur l'Exercice de l'Année 1877

présenté à Son Excellence le Ministre de l'Agriculture et du Commerce
par Le Directeur Général le 31 Mars 1878.
Alexandrie, 1878.

Réorganisation

Dans ce premier rapport sur l'exercice budgétaire de la Poste Egyptienne, il ne serait peut-être pas superflu de rappeler qu'au commencement de l'année 1877, l'Administration des Postes venait de subir une réorganisation radicale.

Son organisation primitive datait des premiers jours de 1865, époque à laquelle le Gouvernement s'attribua la Direction du Service Postal en Egypte. Cette organisation, effectuée à la hâte, ne se prêta pas facilement aux extensions rapides du service, de manière que, vers la fin de 1875, il fut reconnu que la composition de l'administration laissait beaucoup à désirer sous le rapport du personnel, qui avait été augmenté outre mesure, tandis que les dépenses générales n'étaient plus en rapport avec les besoins du service. Ces deux faits, entr'autres, expliquaient les déficits qui se reproduisaient annuellement dans 1es bilans postaux depuis la première année de l'institution de la Poste.

Pour remédier à celte situation, qui, en devenant de plus en plus grave, menaçait même d'entraver la marche régulière du service, il a failli procéder à des mesures énergiques, dont la nécessité a été démontrée par une réussite complète.

Le tableau ci-dessous qui présente le bilan postal de l'exercice de chacune des années 1873,74,75,76 et 1877, démontre assez clairement le bénéfice obtenu à la suite des changements effectuées pendant les cinq derniers mois de l'année 1876.

	Recettes	Dépenses	Déficit	Exédant des Recettes
1873	4,983,558	5,185,018	201,460	
1874	5,238,573	5,999,467	760,893	
1875	5,651,928	6,380,710	728,781	
1876	6,335,304	6,655,540	320,235	
1877	6,997,656	5,699,385		1,298,271

Il est à noter que dans les dépenses de 1877 figure une somme de 900.000 P.T. environ, représentant le montant des arriérés des années précédentes soldés pendant l'exercice 1877.

S'il était à craindre que ces économies ne pouvaient être réalisées sans porter atteinte à la sécurité et à la célérité du service, tous les doutes à cet égard ont dé être dissipés par les résultats obtenus, dont quelques uns sont mentionnés plus loin. Du reste, si ces réductions avaient été réalisées de façon à priver de l'Administration du personnel ou du matériel nécessaire au service, le budget de 1878 s'en serait indubitablement ressenti, ce qui n'est pas arrivé.

Il est à remarquer aussi que le budget du personnel a contribué aux économies par une diminution de 25 % sur le total de l'année précédente, tandis que celui des dépenses générales comportait une diminution de plus de 50 %.

La réduction sous le chapitre «appointements» a été absorbée en partie par les paiements des indemnités allouées aux employés licenciés. Une somme totale de prés de 400.000 P.T. a été réservée à cet effet par ordre de S. A. le Khédive, tandis que des pensions ont été décrétées en faveur de ceux qui y avaient droit, en raison île la durée de leur service.

Service de l'intérieur

Parmi les extensions du service postal, inaugurées en 1877, il faut signaler en premier lieu rétablissement de bureaux de poste dans le Kordofan, et le Darfour, et à Fashouda, Sennaar et Fuzoglu. Grâce au concours énergique de S. E. Gordon Pacha, Gouverneur Général du Soudan, les travaux préparatoires pour l'ouverture de plusieurs bureaux de poste dans ces provinces étaient déjà avancés à la fin de l'année, de sorte que les villes du Soudan les plus éloignées, jouiront bientôt d'un service postal régulier. Un agent expérimenté et capable a été envoyé à Khartoum avec le litre et les fonctions d'Inspecteur pour surveiller le travail de ces bureaux.

Dans la Basse-Egypte des modifications effectuées dans le service des courriers à pied ont permis aux habitants de plusieurs villages de l'intérieur, non desservis par une ligne de chemin de fer, d'échanger des lettres avec leurs correspondants au Caire ou à Alexandrie dans les vingt quatre heures, de nouvelles lignes de courriers ont été établies sur la demande et avec la garantie de négociants ayant des établissements éloignés des routes postales. Ces modifications ont été très-appréciées des intéressés qui ont exprimé leur satisfaction dans des lettres de remerciments adressées à l'Administration.

Par le rétablissement du service d'un bureau ambulant entre Alexandrie et le Caire la distribution dans cette dernière ville des lettres arrivant de l'étranger a été de beaucoup accélérée, les correspondances des abonnés aux boites privées étant piétés pour la livraison immédiatement après l'arrivée de la malle au bureau.

Pendant le cours de l'année 1877, l'Administration a essuyé deux désastres, dont l'un par suite d'incendie et l'autre sur le chemin de fer. L'incendie eut lieu au Caire pendant la nuit du 8 au 9 février dans une habitation faisant partie du bâtiment de propriété de la Daïra de S. A. la Princesse-Mère, dans lequel sont situés aussi les bureaux de poste et l'appartement du Directeur Local.

De la maison où il avait pris son origine, le feu passa dans celle du Directeur avec une telle rapidité qu'il n'eut guère le temps de.se sauver avec sa famille tandis que les flammes envahissaient les bureaux au-dessous. Au moment de l'incendie, il y avait dans la caisse postale une somme de P.T. 6.000.000, qui devait être expédiée par le premier train du matin, et bon nombre aussi de lettres, etc. Grâce au dévouement et aux efforts du Directeur et des employés, habilement dirigés par M. Halton, le Vice-Directeur Général, pas une lettre, pas une piastre ne fut perdue, et le service n'a pas été interrompu un seul instant.

Le second désastre se produisit à Kafr-Zayat, dans la journée du 24 octobre 1877. Deux trains s'y rencontrèrent sur le pont, et dans la destruction des wagons, y compris l'allège postale, qui s'ensuivit, le cawass d'escorte fut tué, et les sacs de correspondances et les groups de numéraire furent éparpillés sur le chemin. Le commissaire postal, aussitôt remis du choc qu'il avait reçu, se mit à recueillir les objets, et, aidé par l'Agent de Kafr-Zayat et ses adjoints, il réussit à rassembler le tout, sauf une somme de P.T. 36.857½ laquelle, s'étant échappée d'un group, tomba dans le fleuve d'où elle ne put être recouvrée.

Le mouvement des correspondances pendant l'année 1877 indique quelque peu de diminution sur celui de 1870, en ce qui regarde les échanges à l'intérieur. Le nombre des lettres expédiées pendant. 1877 fut de 1.918.651, et celui des imprimés et autres objets de 711.778. Les lettres et autre envois recommandés, compris dans le premier total, étaient de 37.044. Le second total comprend 9.948 paquets d'échantillons de marchandise, ce qui donne une augmentation de 37% sur le nombre de ces objets expédiés en 1876.

Les envois de numéraire dans l'intérieur du pays par mandats de poste et en espèces atteignirent le chiffre de 52.007, pour une valeur de 1.211.951.706 Piastres au Tarif (environ 12.500.000 Livres Sterling). L'augmentation de ce chef en 1877 était de 15 pour cent.

Il est à noter que ces transactions monétaires comparativement énormes ont été opérées sans aucune perte et même sans erreur.

Les pertes des valeurs ou des lettres ordinaires ne doivent pas être toujours attribuées à la négligence des employés postaux, ce dont on conviendra en apprenant le fait raconté ci-dessous.

Au mois de décembre 1877 une enveloppe contenant une lettre et une lettre de change (toutes deux en langue hébraïque) pour la somme de 20.000 P.T. fut déposée au bureau de poste de Mehalla. L'enveloppe ne portait aucune adresse écrite à la main, mais sur le revers on trouva imprimé la raison sociale d'une maison de commerce à Vienne, à laquelle l'enveloppe avait du appartenir.

Faute d'indication plus précise la lettre fut expédiée à Vienne, d'où elle fut renvoyée avec l'explication que son contenu n'était pas à l'adresse de cette maison. A la suite des recherches faites, l'Administration est parvenue à découvrir l'expéditeur et à lui rendre sa lettre ainsi que la valeur qu'elle contenait.

Mandats-poste internationaux

Le service international des mandats de poste ne s'étend jusqu'à présent qu'à des échanges avec la Grande-Bretagne et l'Italie, lesquels sont réglés par des conventions passées en 1873 et 1872 respectivement. Le tableau suivant indique le mouvement des valeurs entre l'Egypte et ces deux pays pendant l'année qui nous occupe.

Between Great Britain and Egypt
(Les villes d'Alexandrie et de Suez exceptées).

	nombre	montant
Mandats émis en Egypte	474	P.T. 247,208.16
dº » dans la Grande Bretagne	30	P.T. 9.000.20
Total	204	P.T. 256,208.36

Entre l'Italie et l'Egypte
(Alexandrie excepté).

	nombre	montant
Mandats émis en Egypte	4,521	P.T. 3,606,784.19
dº payés » dº	270	P.T. 346,041.10
Total	4,851	P.T. 3,952,825.29

On peut espérer que ces échanges par Mandats de poste s'étendront à tous les pays de l'union Postale à la suite du Congrès de Paris qui devra se réunir au mois de mai de cette année. Des projets ayant pour but la réglementation d'un service de Mandats-poste entre tous les pays del'union ont déjà été misa l'étude par les soins de l'Administration française et du Bureau International de Berne.

Union Générale des Postes

Les échangés des correspondances entre l'Egypte et les autres pays appartenant à l'Union Postale sont réglés par le Traité do Berne du 9 octobre 1874. Les correspondances échangées avec la Grande-Bretagne, la France, l'Italie et la Turquie sont expédiées directement en dépêches closes. Celles pour l'Autriche-Hongrie sont expédiées par la voie de 1 Italie, ainsi que la plupart des objets échangés avec 1rs autres pays de l'Europe centrale.

Dans le courant de l'année 1877, les correspondances échangées entre l'Egypte et les autres pays offrent les totaux suivants:

Lettres	617.432	dont	30.472 recommandées
Imprimés, etc.	352.989	»	10.259 échantillons.

La suppression temporaire du service des paquebots de la Khédévieh dans le Levant pendant la guerre a causé une forte diminution dans le nombre des correspondances expédiées dans ces parages.

L'Administration égyptienne, d'accord avec les Administrations intéressées, a profité des arrêts des bateaux-poste des Messageries Maritimes et de la Compagnie Rubattino à Naples pour accélérer le service postal entre l'Egypte et la France et la Grande-Bretagne. Par suite de cet arrangement le temps nécessaire au transit pour les correspondances expédiées par ces bateaux a été réduit de 24 heures entre Alexandrie et Paris et entre Alexandrie et Londres.

La Poste égyptienne, qui fut représentée an premier congrès de l i mon Postale, ne put y adhérer sans faire de grands sacrifices pour lesquels elle n'a pas encore pu trouver une compensation dans une augmentation du nombre des correspondances expédiées en Europe. Pour la plupart des pays de l'Union les sacrifices que comportaient les réductions des taxes sur les lettres expédiées en Egypte pouvaient se trouver compensés par l'augmentation des correspondances échangées a\oc les autres pays limitrophes, et sur lesquelles i! n'y eût aucun droit de transita payer.

Mais l'Egypte, séparée de tous les autres pays de l'Union par une étendue de mer dont la traversée dépasse les limites du transit maritime gratuit, doit toujours payer ces droits ; ainsi que les droits de transit territorial sur toutes les correspondances à l'exception de celles à destination de l'Italie, la Grèce et la Turquie. Outre sa position géographique exceptionnelle l'Egypte aurait pu faire valoir, contre les sacrifices que son adhésion à l'Union lui imposait, la concurrence que lui faisaient les bureaux étrangers établis dans son territoire, pour obtenir le droit de percevoir une taxe extraordinaire.

La Poste Egyptienne a néanmoins tenu à garder l'uniformité, qui est une des bases fondamentales de l'Union, s'étant décidée à ne percevoir qu'une seule taxe pour les correspondances à destination de tous les pays de l'Union et dont le montant restât bien en dedans des limites prescrites par l'Art. 3 du Traité de Berne. En calculant les pertes qu'elle essuyerait par suite des réductions opérées clans son tarif l'Administration égyptienne avait dù prendre en considération les recettes additionnelles qui lui reviendraient des correspondances expédiées à l'étranger des villes d'Alexandrie, de Suez et de Port-Saïd, puisqu'il n'y avait aucune raison de croire à l'intention des Etats intéressés de restreindre l'application du Traité en Egypte par l'exclusion de ces trois villes, ut cela d'autant plus que, d'après l'Article 9 du Traité, chaque pays de l'Union devrait garder en entier les taxes perçues tant sur les lettres affranchies au départ que sur celles non affranchies distribuées à l'arrivée.

En effet les bureaux étrangers, établis dans un temps où il n'existait pas en Egypte un service international organisé, et qui suppléaient alors à un besoin réel du pays, n'avaient plus de raison d'être du moment que la Poste Egyptienne se trouvait en relations directes avec tous les pays de l'Union Postale.

Dans le cours de l'année 1877 le Gouvernement Egyptien, pénétré de la nécessité de trouver une solution à celle question avant la réunion du nouveau Congrès Postal, où l'on devait discuter des projets dont le développement amènerait de nouveaux sacrifices, a fait part fie son désir aux Administrations intéressés par l'entremises du Bureau Berne.

Plus tard, des négociations entamées directement avec l'Administration Anglaise aboutirent favorablement, et une Convention, ayant pour but la suppression des bureaux anglais établis en Egypte, fut signée à Londres le 14 novembre 1877. Les délais occasionnés par la situation politique n'ont pas permis de mener à bonne fin dans cette année las négociations engagées avec les autres Etats.

Pourtant le principe du droit du monopole postal étant déjà reconnu à l'Egypte il y a tout lieu d'espérer que dans le courant de l'année 1878 la Poste Egyptienne se trouvera à même d'exercer ce droit dans tout le territoire égyptien.

Le personnel de l'Administration au 31 décembre 1877 était composé comme suit:

1	Directeur Général	21	do. » 5 »
1	Vice-Directeur Général	31	do. » 6 »
2	Chefs de Division	10	Ecrivains
6	Chefs de Section	6	Receveurs
22	Chefs de bureau	127	Gardiens, Servants, etc
19	Employés de 1re Classe	13	Bateliers
26	do. » 2 »	15	Agents dans la Haute-Egypte et le Soudan
34	do. » 3 »	195	Courriers (dont 130 pour le service de la Haute-Egypte)
40	do. » 4 »	147	Chameliers (dans la Haute-Egypte et le Soudan)

Total 716

Les conditions de régularité et de sécurité dans lesquelles s'est effectué le service postal sur les voies ferrées jusqu'à Siout et Suez, à travers les déserts de la Nubie jusqu à Kartoum, sur la Mer Rouge jusqu'à Zeyla, et dans les pays du devant jusqu'à Constantinople, témoignent de l'empressement et du dévouement des employés de tous les grades.

En conclusion, je crois devoir faire observer que si comme résultat de l'exercice 1877, l'Administration des Postes Egyptiennes ne peut se vanter que d'un succès financier, accompagné cependant de quelques améliorations et d'un développement de son service dans certaines limites, elle s'est occupée sans cesse à murir de plus grandes réformes, dont la plupart ont été mises à exécution dans les premiers mois de l'année 1878. On reconnaîtra la nécessité qu'elle subissait, en vue des circonstances qui avaient précédé et amené la réorganisation administrative, de s'affermir en s'assurant de la justesse de toutes ses prévisions budgétaires avant de se lancer dans la voie des réformes.

La certitude de la réalisation de toutes les prévisions du budget une fois constatée, les cadres du personnel remplis d'employés expérimentés, et possédant une organisation et un matériel a toute épreuve, l'Administration n'a pas tardé à consacrer une partie de ses économies à l'effectuation de réformes dont les plus importantes se trouvent réunies dans le Décret de Son Altesse le Khédive daté du 17 Mars de l'année courante, lequel apporte au tarif postal des réductions de 30 à 60 pour cent environ sur les anciennes taxes.

Le Directeur Général.

(Signé) A. CAILLARD.

Alexandrie, le 31 Mars 1878.

Service Interne
Correspondances

Désignations des Correspondance	1876	1877
	Nombre	Nombre
Lettres ordinaires de toute catégorie	1,535,508	1,484,684
Lettres recommandées (y compris celles avec déclaration de valeur)	35,949	37,044
Lettres gouvernementales	365,353	396,923
Journaux et imprimés périodiques	412,328	421,489
Imprimés non périodiques, papiers d'affaires, etc.	95,135	280,341
Echantillons	11,030	9,948

Mandats-poste, numéraire et objets de valeur

Désignation	1876		1877	
	Nombre	Montant P.T.	Nombre	Montant P.T.
Mandats-poste	17,418	22,884,328	20,149	24,248,437
Groups d'or	25,340	905,183,214	25,589	1,108,767,320
id. d'argent	6,287	69,629,053	3,005	36,139,742
id. misxtes	2,936	50,764,834	2,024	38,022,243
Objets de valeur	145	969,508	119	819,057

Service international
Correspondances

Désignations des Correspondance	1876	1877
	Nombre	Nombre
Lettres ordinaires de toute catégorie	672,334	586,960
Lettres recommandées	26,824	30,472
Journaux et imprimés périodiques	324,479	306,263
Imprimés non périodiques, papiers d'affaires, etc	29,152	36,467
Samples	20,865	10,259

Mandats-poste

Designation	1876		1877	
	Nomb.	Montant P.T.	Nomb.	Montant P.T.
Mandats Anglo-Egyptiens	398	210,506	504	256,209
id. Italo-Egyptiens	5,317	4,689,331	4,851	3,952,825

Das ägyptische Postwesen im Jahre 1877

Der erste Verwaltungsbericht, welchen der im Jahre 1877 eingesetzte Generaldirektor des ägyptischen Postwesens[8] über das seiner Leitung übergebene Verkehrsinstitut erstattet hat, enthält über die Geschichte und die Handhabung der Posten im Pharaonenlande Mittheilungen, denen wir das Nachstehende entnehmen.[9]

Die erste Organisation der ägyptischen Staatsposten datirt aus dem Anfange des Jahres 1865. Zu dieser Zeit übernahm die Regierung des Khedive die Leitung des bis dahin als Privateinrichtung betriebenen Postdienstes in Aegypten.[10] Die ursprüngliche in Eile vollzogene Organisation hielt nicht Schritt mit der schnellen Steigerung des Postverkehrs; die Zusammensetzung des zahlreichen Verwaltungspersonals ließ zu wünschen übrig; die Ausgabe stand nicht in richtigem Verhältniß zu den Anforderungen des Dienstes. Diese Thatsachen tragen dazu bei, die Ausfälle erklärlich zu machen, welche bei der Postverwaltung alljährlich wiederkehrten. Da diese Sachlage von Jahr zu Jahr bedenklicher wurde und schließlich die Regelmäßigkeit des Postdienstes in Frage zu stellen drohte, so war Ergreifung energischer Maßregeln geboten. Dieselben bestanden in einer durchgreifenden Umgestaltung der oberen Verwaltungsbehörden.

Dank derselben hat sich das Defizit, welches noch im Jahre 1876 sich auf 320 235 Piaster belaufen hatte, während des Jahres 1877 in einen Ueberschuß von 1 298 271 Piaster verwandelt.

Der Bericht versichert, daß diese Ersparnisse ohne jede Beeinträchtigung der Sicherheit und Schnelligkeit des Postdienstes erreicht worden sind. Ihr wesentlicher Bestandtheil ist durch eine Einschränkung der unverhältnißmäßig hohen allgemeinen Ausgaben erzielt worden, welche eine Verringerung von mehr als fünfzig Prozent erfahren haben.

Unter den im Jahre 1877 durchgeführten Erweiterungen des Postdienstes verdient in erster Linie die Einrichtung von Postanstalten in Kordofan, Darfur, Fashouda, Sennaar und Fazoglu erwähnt zu werden. Dank dem energischen Eingreifen des General-Gouverneurs des Sudan, Gordon Pascha, waren die vorbereitenden Arbeiten für die Eröffnung mehrerer Postanstalten in den genannten Provinzen gegen Ende des Jahres bereits erheblich gefördert, dergestalt, daß die abgelegensten Städte des Sudans sich bald eines regelmäßigen Postdienstes zu erfreuen haben werden. Ein erfahrener und befähigter Beamter ist mit dem Titel und den Befugnissen eines Inspektors nach Kartum gesandt, um den Dienstbetrieb dieser Postanstalten zu überwachen.

Die in Unterägypten eingeführten Verbesserungen in dem Dienste der Postfußboten haben den Einwohnern einer größeren Anzahl von Dörfern im Innern des Landes, welche nicht an einer Eisenbahn belegen sind, die Möglichkeit geboten, Briefe mit ihren Korrespondenten in Cairo oder in Alexandrien innerhalb 24 Stunden auswechseln zu können. Um einem längst gefühlten Bedürfnisse abzuhelfen, sind auf Verlangen und unter Garantie von Kaufleuten, welche, entfernt von den Postanstalten, Niederlassungen gegründet haben, neue Botenposten eingerichtet worden.

Durch die Einrichtung einer Bahnpost zwischen Alexandrien und Cairo hat die Bestellung der für die letztere Stadt vom Auslande eingehenden Briefsendungen an Beschleunigung gewonnen, um so mehr, als den Inhabern von Privat-Briefkasten die Briefsendungen unmittelbar nach dem Eintreffen der Post bei der Postanstalt zur Verfügung gestellt werden.

Im Laufe des Jahres 1877 hat die ägyptische Postverwaltung zwei Unfälle erlitten, den einen in

8 Alfred Caillard, 1876–1879.

9 Man beachte, daß hier die Eigendarstellung des neuen Generalpostmeisters und seiner Verdienste kolportiert wird. Am Ende seiner Amtszeit hinterließ Caillard einen wieder defizitären Betrieb.

10 Die von Carlo Meratti gegündete Posta Europea ging an dessen Neffen Tito Chini und Giaccomi Muzzi über; nach dem Tod von Chini kaufte die ägyptische Regierung das Unternehmen für 950.000 Francs auf. Der neue Konzern Postes Égyptiennes startete 1865 mit Giaccomi Muzzi als Generaldirektor (Postmaster General). Nach dem Rückzug von Muzzi wurde Alfred Caillard 1876 neuer Generalpostmeister. Caillard's Modernisierungsmaßnahmen beinhalteten auch den Wechsel zur französischen Sprache bei Stempeln, Postwertzeichen und im inneren Betrieb. 1879 wechselte Caillard als Generaldirektor zur ägyptischen Zollverwaltung. Sein Nachfolger wurde Walter Halton.

Folge eines Brandes, den anderen durch einen Zusammenstoß zweier Züge auf der Eisenbahn. Der Brand fand zu Cairo in der Nacht vom 8. zum 9. Februar in einem zu der Residenz der Mutter des Vizekönigs gehörigen Gebäude statt, in welchem die Postbüreaus und die Wohnung des Lokal-Postdirektors sich befinden. Von seinem ursprünglichen Herde übertrug sich das Feuer mit solcher Schnelligkeit auf das Haus des Direktors, daß dieser kaum die Zeit hatte, sich mit seiner Familie zu retten, während die Flammen die unten gelegenen Büreaus zerstörten. Beim Eintritt der Feuersbrunst befand sich in der Postkasse eine Summe von 6 000 000 Piastern, welche mit dem ersten Frühzuge abgesandt werden sollte, nebst einer beträchtlichen Anzahl von Briefen und anderen Postsendungen. Dank dem Eifer und den Anstrengungen des Direktors und der Beamten, welche durch den Vize-Generaldirektor Halten in umsichtiger Weise geleitet wurden, gerieth weder ein Brief, noch ein Piaster in Verlust; auch der Dienst wurde keinen Augenblick unterbrochen.

Der zweite Unglücksfall ereignete sich am 24. Oktober 1877 in Kafr-Zayat, wo zwei Eisenbahnzüge auf der Brücke aufeinanderstießen. In Folge der dadurch herbeigeführten Zertrümmerung der Wagen wurde ein die Post begleitender Unterbeamte getödtet und die Briefsäcke, sowie die Packete mit Geldern auf der Brücke umhergestreut. Nachdem der begleitende Beamte sich von dem Stoße, welchen er erhalten, wieder erholt hatte, sammelte er die Gegenstände unter Beihülfe des Beamten in Kafr-Zahat und dessen Gehülfen. Mit Ausnahme eines Betrages von 36 857 Piastern, welcher aus einem Packete in den Fluß gefallen und nicht wiederzuerlangen war, fanden sich sämmtliche Postsendungen wieder vor.

Die Zahl der im Jahre 1877 beförderten Briefe betrug 1 918 651, die der Drucksachen und sonstigen Gegenstände 711 778. Von diesen Sendungen wurden 37 044 unter Einschreibung befördert. Die Geldsendungen im Innern des Landes, mittels Postanweisungen oder in baarem Gelde, betrügen 52 007 Stück zum Gesammtbetrage von 1 211 951 706 Piastern = 12 500 000 Pfund Sterling.

Zu bemerken ist , daß dieser verhältnißmäßig sehr bedeutende Geldverkehr sich ohne irgend welchen Verlust oder Irrthum abgewickelt hat. Daß der Verlust von Werthsendungen und gewöhnlichen Briefen nicht immer der Nachlässigkeit der Postbeamten zuzuschreiben ist, ist eine bekannte Thatsache. Auch die ägyptische Postverwaltung befindet sich in der Lage, einen Belag hierfür zu liefern.

Im Monat Dezember 1877 wurde bei dem Postbüreau in Mehalla ein Brief in hebräischer Sprache aufgeliefert, welcher einen Wechsel über 20 000 Piaster ebenfalls in hebräischer Sprache enthielt. Auf dem Umschlage fand sich eine handschriftliche Bezeichnung des Empfängers nicht vor, dagegen befand sich auf der Rückseite des Umschlages der Firmenstempel eines Wiener Handelshauses, in dessen Besitz der Umschlag mithin gewesen sein mußte. In Ermangelung genauerer Angaben wurde der Brief nach Wien gesandt, von wo derselbe indeß mit der Benachrichtigung zurückkam, daß der Inhalt nicht für das Wiener Handelshaus bestimmt sei. In Folge der angestellten Nachforschungen gelang es der Verwaltung gleichwohl, den Absender ausfindig zu machen, wonächst demselben der Brief nebst Inhalt zurückgegeben wurde.

Was den internationalen Postanweisungsverkehr betrifft, so erstreckt sich derselbe zur Zeit nur auf Großbritannien und Italien. Die bezüglichen Verträge wurden in den Jahren 1873 bz. 1872 abgeschlossen. Die Zahl der im Jahre 1877 in Aegypten eingelieferten Postanweisungen betrug für Großbritannien 474 Stück zum Betrage von 247 208,16 Piaster, für Italien 4521 Stück zum Betrage von 3 606 748,19·Piaster. Eingegangen sind in diesem Zeitraume in Aegypten aus Großbritannien 30 Stück zum Betrage von 9000,20 Piaster, aus Italien 270 Stück zum Betrage von 346 041,10 Piaster.

Wie bekannt, ist Aegypten dem Allgemeinen Postverein gleich bei der Gründung desselben beigetreten.5 Der Austausch der Briefsendungen mit Großbritannien, Frankreich, Italien und der Türkei erfolgt in geschlossenen Briefpacketen. Die für Oesterreich-Ungarn, sowie für die übrigen Länder Mitteleuropas bestimmten Sendungen erhalten auf dem Wege über Italien ihre Beförderung.

Die Gesammtzahl der im Jahre 1877 zwischen Aegypten und den übrigen Vereinsländern

ausgewechselten Briefsendungen betrug: Briefe 617 432, darunter 30 472 Einschreibbriefe; Drucksachen, Waarenproben u. s. w. 352 289 Stück.

Die zeitweilige Einstellung des Dampfschiffsdienstes der Gesellschaft „Khedevieh“ in der Levante während des Krieges hat eine erhebliche Herabminderung der Korrespondenzen nach jenen Gegenden zur Folge gehabt.

Im Einverständniß mit den übrigen betheiligten Verwaltungen hat die ägyptische Postverwaltung die Postschiffe der Messageries Maritimes und der Gesellschaft Rubattino in Neapel sich dienstbar gemacht, um hierdurch eine beschleunigte Beförderung der Postsendungen zwischen Aegypten einerseits, Frankreich und Großbritannien andererseits herbeizuführen. Durch diese Einrichtung ist die Beförderungsszeit zwischen Alexandrien und Paris und zwischen Alexandrien und London um 24 Stunden vermindert worden.

In Folge des Beitritts Aegyptens zum Allgemeinen Postverein hat die ägyptische Postverwaltung bedeutende Opfer bringen müssen, für welche sie noch keinen Ersatz durch Steigerung des Postverkehrs mit Europa gefunden hat. Die Einbußen, welche die Herabsetzung des Portos für die nach Aegypten bestimmten Briefsendungen für die meisten Vereinsländer mit sich brachten, wurden durch die Vermehrung der Korrespondenz mit den Grenzländern, für welche Transitkosten nicht zu zahlen waren, theilweise ausgeglichen. Aegypten dagegen, welches von den sämmtlichen übrigen Vereinsländern durch das Meer in solcher Ausdehnung getrennt ist, daß die Grenzen für den kostenfreien Seetransit überschritten werden, hat diese Kosten beständig zu tragen. Ebenso hat die ägyptische Postverwaltung für sämmtliche Vereinskorrespondenzen, mit Ausnahme der nach Italien, Griechenland und der Türkei bestimmten, das Landtransitporto zu tragen. Außer seiner, in dieser Beziehung ungünstigen geographischen Lage hätte Aegypten gegenüber den Opfern, welche ihm der Beitritt zum Allgemeinen Postverein auferlegte, den Umstand geltend machen können, daß die im ägyptischen Gebiete eingerichteten fremdherrlichen Postanstalten dem einheimischen Postwesen eine erhebliche Konkurrenz machen, um hierdurch das Recht der Erhebung außerordentlicher Portosätze zu erwerben.

Nichtsdestoweniger hat die ägyptische Postverwaltung im Interesse der Gleichförmigkeit sich entschlossen, nach sämmtlichen Vereinsländern nur eine Taxe zu erheben, deren Höhe sich innerhalb der durch den Artikel 3 des Berner Vertrages vorgeschriebenen Grenzen bewegt. Bei Berechnung der Verluste, welche die ägyptische Postverwaltung durch die Herabsetzung der Taxen erleiden mußte, wurden auf der anderen Seite die Mehreinnahmen aus denjenigen Korrespondenzen nach dem Auslande in Betracht gezogen, welche in Alexandrien, Suez und Port-Saïd und zwar zur Zeit bei den dortigen fremdherrlichen Postanstalten zur Auslieferung gelangen. Es lag kein Grund zu der Befürchtung vor, daß die interessirten Staaten die Ausführung des Berner Vertrages in Aegypten durch Ausschluß dieser drei Städte beeinträchtigen würden, zumal nach Artikel 9 des Vertrages jedes Land des Vereins die Taxen für die aufgelieferten frankirten Briefe, sowie für die eingehenden unfrankirten Briefe ungetheilt zu beziehen haben solL. Dies fremdherrlichen Postanstalten sind in Aegypten zu einer Zeit eingerichtet worden, wo daselbst ein internationaler Postdienst noch nicht bestand. Während sie damals einem wirklichen Bedürfnisse Abhülfe schafften, verlieren sie ihre Bedeutung und die Berechtigung ihres Bestehens, nachdem die ägyptische Postverwaltung nunmehr mit allen Ländern des Allgemeinen Postvereins in unmittelbare Beziehungen getreten ist.

Der ägyptischen Regierung schien es nothwendig, eine Lösung der obigen Frage vor dem Zusammentritte des Pariser Postkongresses herbeizuführen, weil auf demselben wiederum Vorschläge berathen werden sollten, deren Verwirklichung neue Opfer erforderte. Sie hat daher ihren Wunsch den betheiligten Verwaltungen durch Vermittelung des Internationalen Postbüreaus in Bern zu erkennen gegeben. Die mit der britischen Verwaltung späterhin unmittelbar eingeleiteten Verhandlungen nahmen einen günstigen Verlauf und führten zum Abschlusse eines, am 14. November 1877 zu London unterzeichneten Vertrages, welcher die Aufhebung der britischen Postbüreaus in Aegypten zum Gegenstand hat. Die politische Situation hat nicht gestattet, die mit den übrigen

Staaten in derselben Angelegenheit eingeleiteten Verhandlungen zum Abschluß zu bringen. Hoffentlich wird Aegypten sich jedoch im Laufe des Jahres 1878 in der Lage befinden, das Postregal im ganzen ägyptischen Gebiete auszuüben.

Das Personal der ägyptischen Postverwaltung war am 31. Dezember 1877 wie folgt zusammengesetzt:

1	General-Direktor,	20	Beamte 5. Klasse,
1	Vize-General-Direktor,	31	Beamte 6. Klasse,
2	Divisions-Chefs,	10	Schreiber,
6	Sektions-Chefs,	6	Einnehmer,
22	Büreauvorsteher,	127	Wächter, Diener, etc.
19	Beamte 1. Klasse,	13	Kahnführer,
26	Beamte 2. Klasse,	15	Agenten in Ober-Aegypten und dem Sudan,
34	Beamte 3. Klasse,	195	Kuriere (davon 130 für den Dienst in Ober-Aegypten),
40	Beamte 4. Klasse,	147	Kameelführer (in Ober-Aegypten und dem Sudan).

Im Ganzen 716 Köpfe.

Die Regelmäßigkeit und Sicherheit, mit welcher der Postdienst gehandhabt worden ist auf den Bahnlinien bis Siut und Suez, durch die Nubische Wüste bis Kartum, über das Rothe Meer bis Zeyla und in den Ländern der Levante bis Constantinopel, liefern einen Beweis für die Hingebung und den Pflichteifer der Beamten jeden Grades.

Schließlich möchte noch zu erwähnen sein, daß wenn die ägyptische Postverwaltung als Resultat des Jahres 1877 sich nur eines finanziellen Erfolges in Verbindung mit einigen Verbesserungen und der Steigerung und Entwickelung des Verkehrs innerhalb gewisser Grenzen zu rühmen hat, dieselbe doch beständig bedacht gewesen ist, noch weitere Reformen anzubahnen, deren Ausführung zum großen Theil schon in den ersten Monaten des Jahres 1878 stattgefunden hat.

Ein Theil der erzielten Ueberschüsse ist zur Verwirklichung der in Aussicht genommenen Reformen verwendet worden. Unter den Letzteren ist in erster Linie die erhebliche Herabsetzung der Taxen hervorzuheben, welche durch Dekret des Khedive vom 17. März 1878 genehmigt ist. Die Herabsetzung der Taxen beträgt nach diesem Dekrete ungefähr von 30 bis zu 60 Prozent gegenüber den früheren Taxen.

The Egyptian Postal System in 1877

translated by Tobias Zywietz[11]

The first administrative report, which the Director General of the Egyptian Postal Service,[12] appointed in 1877, prepared for the administration entrusted to his management, contains information on the history and handling of the posts in the land of the Pharaohs, from which we extract the following.[13]

The first organisation of the Egyptian state posts dates back to the start of the year 1865, when the Khedive's government took over the management of the postal service in Egypt, which until then had been run as a private institution.[14] The original hastily implemented organisation did not keep

11 The report is unsigned. Found in: Archiv für Post und Telegraphie : Beiheft zum Amtsblatt der Deutschen Reichs-Post- und Telegraphenverwaltung, 6. 1878, no. 17 (September 1878), pp. 521–526.

12 Alfred Caillard, 1876–1879.

13 It should be noted that this is the new postmaster general's own account of his achievements. At the end of his term of office, Caillard left behind a company that was once again in deficit.

14 The Posta Europea, founded by Carlo Meratti, passed to his nephews Tito Chini and Giaccomi Muzzi; after Chini's death, the Egyptian government bought the company for 950,000 francs. The new concern Postes Égyptiennes was launched in 1865 with Giaccomi Muzzi as Postmaster GeneraL. After Muzzi's retirement, Alfred Caillard became

pace with the rapid increase in postal traffic; the composition of the numerous administrative staff left much to be desired; the expenditure was not in proper proportion to the requirements of the service. These facts help to explain the deficits that recurred every year in the postal administration. As this situation became more alarming from year to year and finally threatened to jeopardise the regularity of the postal service, energetic measures had to be taken. These consisted of a radical reorganisation of the higher administrative departments.

As a result, the deficit, which in 1876 had amounted to 320,235 piastres, turned into a surplus of 1,298,271 piastres in 1877.

The report assures that these savings were achieved without any impairment of the safety and speed of the postal service. The essential part of the reform has been achieved by reducing the disproportionately high general expenditure, which has been reduced by more than fifty per cent.

Among the extensions of the postal service carried out in 1877, the establishment of post offices in Kordofan, Darfur, Fashouda, Sennaar and Fazoglu deserves to be mentioned first and foremost. Thanks to the energetic intervention of the Governor General of the Sudan, Gordon Pasha, the preparatory work for the opening of several post offices in the aforementioned provinces was already considerably advanced towards the end of the year, so that the most remote towns of the Sudan will soon be able to enjoy a regular postal service. An experienced and competent official has been sent to Khartum with the title and powers of an inspector to supervise the operation of these post offices.

The improvements introduced in Lower Egypt in the service of postmen on foot have made it possible for the inhabitants of a large number of villages in the interior of the country, which are not served by a railway, to exchange letters with their correspondents in Cairo or Alexandria within 24 hours. In order to meet a long-felt need, new messenger posts have been set up at the request and under the guarantee of merchants who have established branches away from the post offices.

The establishment of a railway post service between Alexandria and Cairo has sped up the delivery of incoming mail for the latter city from abroad, all the more so as the mail is made available to the owners of private letter boxes as soon as it arrives at the post office.

In the course of 1877, the Egyptian postal administration suffered two accidents, one as a result of a fire and the other due to a collision between two railway trains. The fire took place in Cairo on the night of 8th to 9th February in a building belonging to the residence of the Viceroy's mother, in which the post office and the flat of the local postmaster are located. The fire spread from its original source to the director's house with such speed that he barely had time to save himself and his family while the flames destroyed the offices below. When the fire broke out, there was a sum of 6,000,000 piastres in the post office safe, which was to be dispatched with the first early morning train, along with a considerable number of letters and other mail items. Thanks to the diligence and efforts of the director and the officials, who were prudently led by the deputy Director General Halton, neither a letter nor a piastre was lost; nor was the service interrupted for a moment.

The second accident occurred on 24th October 1877 in Kafr-Zayat, where two railway trains collided on the bridge. As a result of the wagons being smashed, a sub-officer accompanying the mail was killed and the sacks of letters and parcels containing money were scattered across the bridge. After the accompanying official had recovered from the blow he had received, he collected the items with the help of the official in Kafr-Zahat and his assistants. With the exception of an amount of 36,857 piastres, which had fallen out of a parcel into the river and could not be recovered, all the postal items were found again.

The number of letters carried in 1877 totalled 1,918,651, that of printed matter and other items 711,778. 37,044 of these items were sent by registered maiL. Money sent within the country, by

the new Postmaster General in 1876. Caillard's modernisation measures also included the switch to the French language for postmarks, postage stamps and internal operations. In 1879, Caillard moved to the Egyptian customs administration as Director General. His successor was Walter Halton.

postal orders or in cash, totalled 52,007 items, amounting to a total of 1,211,951,706 piastres = 12,500,000 pounds sterling.

It is to be noted that this relatively very important monetary transaction was carried out without any loss or error. It is a well-known fact that the loss of valuable items and ordinary letters is not always due to the negligence of postal officials. The Egyptian postal administration is also in a position to provide an example for this.

In December 1877, a letter in Hebrew was delivered to the post office in Mehalla containing a bill of exchange for 20,000 piastres, also in Hebrew. There was no handwritten designation of the recipient on the envelope, but on the reverse of the envelope was the company stamp of a Viennese trading house, which must have been the owner of the envelope. In the absence of more precise information, the letter was sent to Vienna, from where it was returned with the notification that the contents were not intended for the Viennese trading house. As a result of the enquiries made, the administration nevertheless succeeded in locating the sender, and the letter and its contents were returned to him.

As far as international postal order traffic is concerned, this currently only extends to Great Britain and Italy. The relevant agreements were concluded in 1873 and 1872, respectively. The number of postal money orders despatched in Egypt in 1877 totalled 474 for Great Britain, amounting to 247,208.16 piastres, and 4,521 for Italy, amounting to 3,606,748.19 piastres. During this period, 30 items totalling 9,000.20 piastres were received in Egypt from Great Britain and 270 items totalling 346,041.10 piastres from Italy.

As is well known, Egypt joined the General Postal Union as soon as it was founded.[15] The exchange of letters with Great Britain, France, Italy and Turkey takes place in closed packets. Items destined for Austria-Hungary and the other countries of Central Europe are sent via Italy.

The total number of letters exchanged between Egypt and the other countries of the Union in 1877 totalled 617,432 letters, including 30,472 registered letters; printed matter, goods samples, etc.: 352,289 items.

The temporary suspension of the steamship service of the “Khedevieh” company in the Levant during the war resulted in a considerable reduction in correspondence to those regions.

In agreement with the other administrations involved, the Egyptian postal administration has made use of the mail ships of the Messageries Maritimes and the Rubattino company in Naples in order to speed up the transport of mail between Egypt on the one hand and France and Great Britain on the other. This facility has reduced the transport time between Alexandria and Paris and between Alexandria and London by 24 hours.

As a result of Egypt’s accession to the General Postal Union, the Egyptian postal administration has had to make significant losses for which it has not yet found a replacement by increasing postal traffic with Europe. The losses incurred as a result of the reduction in postage for letters destined for Egypt from most of the member countries were partially offset by the increase in correspondence with border countries, for which transit costs did not have to be paid. Egypt, on the other hand, which is separated from all the other member countries by the sea to such an extent that the limits for free sea transit are exceeded, has to bear these costs constantly.

Likewise, the Egyptian postal administration has to bear the land transit fees for all Union correspondence, with the exception of items destined for Italy, Greece and Turkey. Apart from its unfavourable geographical position in this respect, Egypt could have used the fact that the foreign postal establishments set up on Egyptian territory are in considerable competition with the local postal service to acquire the right to levy exceptional postage rates as a counterweight to the losses imposed on it by joining the General Postal Union. Nonetheless, in the interest of uniformity, the Egyptian postal administration has decided to levy only one rate for all the member countries, the

15 1874, the name changed to Universal Postal Union in 1878.

amount of which is within the limits prescribed by Article 3 of the Berne Treaty.

In calculating the losses suffered by the Egyptian postal administration as a result of the reduction in rates, the additional revenue from correspondence sent abroad, which is currently being delivered to the foreign postal services in Alexandria, Suez and Port-Saïd, was also taken into account. There was no reason to fear that the interested states would interfere with the execution of the Berne Treaty in Egypt by excluding these three cities, especially since according to Article 9 of the Treaty, each country of the Union is to receive the postage for the delivered franked letters, as well as for the incoming unfranked letters, in its entirety. These foreign postal services were established in Egypt at a time when an international postal service did not yet exist there. While at that time they met a real need, they lost their significance and any justification for their existence now that the Egyptian postal administration has entered into direct relations with all countries of the General Postal Union.

It seemed necessary to the Egyptian government to bring about a solution to the above question before the Paris Postal Congress convened, because proposals were again to be discussed at that congress, the realisation of which would result in new losses. It therefore made its wish known to the administrations concerned through the intermediary of the International Bureau of Posts in Berne. The negotiations subsequently initiated directly with the British administration took a favourable course and led to the conclusion of a treaty signed in London on 14th November 1877, the subject of which was the abolition of the British post offices in Egypt. The political situation has not allowed the negotiations initiated with the other states on the same matter to be finalised. Hopefully, however, Egypt will be in a position in the course of 1878 to exercise the postal regime throughout the Egyptian territory.

The staff of the Egyptian postal administration on 31st December 1877 was composed as follows:

1	Director General	21	5th Class Employees
1	Deputy Director General	31	6th Class Employees
2	Heads of Division	10	Writers (clerks)
6	Heads of Section	6	Receivers
22	Heads of Office	127	Guards, Servants, etc
19	1st Class Employees	13	Boatmasters
26	2nd Class Employees	15	Agents in Upper Egypt and Sudan
34	3rd Class Employees	195	Couriers (including 130 for Upper Egypt)
40	4th Class Employees	147	Camle Drivers (in Upper Egypt and Sudan)

Total heads: 716

The regularity and safety with which the postal service was handled on the railway lines to Siut and Suez, through the Nubian Desert to Khartum, across the Red Sea to Zeyla and in the countries of the Levant upto Constantinople, provide proof of the dedication and diligence of the officials of all grades.

Finally, it should be mentioned that although the Egyptian postal administration can boast of a financial surplus as a result of the year 1877 in connection with some improvements and the increase and development of traffic within certain limits, it has nevertheless been constantly anxious to initiate further reforms, the implementation of most of which has already taken place in the first months of 1878.

Some of the surpluses achieved have been used to realise the envisaged reforms. Among the latter, the considerable reduction in rates, which was approved by decree of the Khedive on 17th March 1878, should be emphasised first and foremost. According to this decree, the reduction in rates amounts to approximately 30 to 60 per cent compared to the previous rates.

ADMINISTRATION

DES

POSTES ÉGYPTIENNES

RAPPORT

SUR

L'EXERCICE DE L'ANNÉE 1877

PRÉSENTÉ

A SON EXCELLENCE LE MINISTRE DE L'AGRICULTURE ET DU COMMERCE

PAR LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

LE 31 MARS 1878.

ALEXANDRIE

—

1878.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ALEXANDRIE R.F. DON N° 25793

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES ÉGYPTIENNES

RAPPORT

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PRÉSENTÉ A SON EXCELLENCE LE MINISTRE DE L'AGRICULTURE ET DU COMMERCE

PAR LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

le 31 Mars 1878.

REORGANISATION.

Dans ce premier rapport sur l'exercice budgétaire de la Poste Egyptienne, il ne serait peut-être pas superflu de rappeler qu'au commencement de l'année 1877, l'Administration des Postes venait de subir une réorganisation radicale.

Son organisation primitive datait des premiers jours de 1865, époque à laquelle le Gouvernement s'attribua la Direction du Service Postal en Egypte. Cette organisation, effectuée à la hâte, ne se prêta pas facilement aux extensions rapides du service, de manière que, vers la fin de 1875, il fut reconnu que la composition de l'administration laissait beaucoup à désirer sous le rapport du personnel, qui avait été augmenté outre mesure, tandis que les dépenses générales n'étaient plus en rapport avec les besoins du service. Ces deux faits, entr'autres, expliquaient les

déficits qui se reproduisaient annuellement dans les bilans postaux depuis la première année de l'institution de la Poste.

Pour remédier à cette situation, qui, en devenant de plus en plus grave, menaçait même d'entraver la marche régulière du service, il a fallu procéder à des mesures énergiques, dont la nécessité a été démontrée par une réussite complète.

Le tableau ci-dessous qui présente le bilan postal de l'exercice de chacune des années 1873,74,75,76 et 1877, démontre assez clairement le bénéfice obtenu à la suite des changements effectuées pendant les cinq derniers mois de l'année 1876.

	Recettes	Dépenses	Déficit	Excédant des Recettes
1873	4.983.558	5.185.018	201.460	
1874	5.238.573	5.999.467	760.893	
1875	5.651.928	6.380.710	728.781	
1876	6.335.304	6.655.540	320.235	
1877	6.997.656	5.699.385		1.298.271

Il est à noter que dans les dépenses de 1877 figure une somme de 900.000 P.T. environ, représentant le montant des arriérés des années précédentes soldés pendant l'exercice 1877.

S'il était à craindre que ces économies ne pouvaient être réalisées sans porter atteinte à la sécurité et à la célérité du service, tous les doutes à cet égard ont dû être dissipés par les résultats obtenus, dont quelques uns sont mentionnés plus loin. Du reste, si ces réduc-

tions avaient été réalisées de façon à priver l'Administration du personnel ou du matériel nécessaire au service, le budget de 1878 s'en serait indubitablement ressenti, ce qui n'est pas arrivé.

Il est à remarquer aussi que le budget du personnel a contribué aux économies par une diminution de 25 0/0 sur le total de l'année précédente, tandis que celui des dépenses générales comportait une diminution de plus de 50 0/0.

La réduction sous le chapitre « appointements » a été absorbée en partie par les paiements desindemnités allouées aux employés licenciés. Une somme totale de près de 400.000 P.T. a été réservée à cet effet par ordre de S. A. le Khédive, tandis que des pensions ont été décrétées en faveur de ceux qui y avaient droit, en raison de la durée de leur service.

SERVICE DE L'INTÉRIEUR.

Parmi les extensions du service postal, inaugurées en 1877, il faut signaler en premier lieu l'établissement de bureaux de poste dans le Kordofan, et le Darfour, et à Fashouda, Sennaar et Fazoglu. Grâce au concours énergique de S. E. Gordon Pacha, Gouverneur Général du Soudan, les travaux préparatoires pour l'ouverture de plusieurs bureaux de poste dans ces provinces étaient déjà avancés à la fin de l'année, de sorte que les villes du Soudan les plus éloignées, jouiront bientôt d'un

service postal régulier. Un agent expérimenté et capable a été envoyé à Khartoum avec le titre et les fonctions d'Inspecteur pour surveiller le travail de ces bureaux.

Dans la Bassse-Egypte des modifications effectuées dans le service des courriers à pied ont permis aux habitants de plusieurs villages de l'intérieur, non desservis par une ligne de chemin de fer, d'échanger des lettres avec leurs correspondants au Caire ou à Alexandrie dans les vingt quatre heures. De nouvelles lignes de courriers ont été établies sur la demande et avec la garantie de négociants ayant des établissements éloignés des routes postales. Ces modifications ont été très-appréciées des intéressés qui ont exprimé leur satisfaction dans des lettres de remercîments adressées à l'Administration.

Par le rétablissement du service d'un bureau ambulant entre Alexandrie et le Caire la distribution dans cette dernière ville des lettres arrivant de l'étranger a été de beaucoup accélérée, les correspondances des abonnés aux boîtes privées étant prêtes pour la livraison immédiatement après l'arrivée de la malle au bureau.

Pendant le cours de l'année 1877, l'Administration a essuyé deux désastres, dont l'un par suite d'incendie et l'autre sur le chemin de fer. L'incendie eut lieu au Caire pendant la nuit du 8 au 9 février dans une habitation faisant partie du bâtiment de propriété de la Daïra de S. A. la Princesse-Mère, dans lequel sont situés aussi les bureaux de poste et l'appartement du Directeur

Local. De la maison où il avait pris son origine, le feu passa dans celle du Directeur avec une telle rapidité qu'il n'eut guère le temps de se sauver avec sa famille tandis que les flammes envahissaient les bureaux au-dessous. Au moment de l'incendie, il y avait dans la caisse postale une somme de P.T. 6.000.000, qui devait être expédiée par le premier train du matin, et bon nombre aussi de lettres, etc. Grâces au dévouement et aux efforts du Directeur et des employés, habilement dirigés par M. Halton, le Vice-Directeur Général, pas une lettre, pas une piastre ne fut perdue, et le service n'a pas été interrompu un seul instant.

Le second désastre se produisit à Kafr-Zayat, dans la journée du 24 octobre 1877. Deux trains s'y rencontrèrent sur le pont, et dans la destruction des wagons, y compris l'allége postale, qui s'ensuivit, le cawass d'escorte fut tué, et les sacs de correspondances et les groups de numéraire furent éparpillés sur le chemin. Le commissaire postal, aussitôt remis du choc qu'il avait reçu, se mit à recueillir les objets, et, aidé par l'Agent de Kafr-Zayat et ses adjoints, il réussit à rassembler le tout, sauf une somme de P.T. 36.857 1/2 laquelle, s'étant échappée d'un group, tomba dans le fleuve d'où elle ne put être recouvrée.

Le mouvement des correspondances pendant l'année 1877 indique quelque peu de diminution sur celui de 1876, en ce qui regarde les échanges à l'intérieur. Le nombre des lettres expédiées pendant 1877 fut de 1.918.651, et celui des imprimés et autres objets de 711.778. Les lettres et autre

envois recommandés, compris dans le premier total, étaient de 37.044. Le second total comprend 9.948 paquets d'échantillons de marchandise, ce qui donne une augmentation de 37 0/0 sur le nombre de ces objets expédiés en 1876.

Les envois de numéraire dans l'intérieur du pays par mandats de poste et en espèces atteignirent le chiffre de 52.007, pour une valeur de 1.211.951.706 Piastres au Tarif (environ 12 500.000 Livres Sterling). L'augmentation de ce chef en 1877 était de 15 pour cent.

Il est à noter que ces transactions monétaires comparativement énormes ont été opérées sans aucune perte et même sans erreur.

Les pertes des valeurs ou des lettres ordinaires ne doivent pas être toujours attribuées à la négligence des employés postaux, ce dont on conviendra en apprenant le fait raconté ci-dessous.

Au mois de décembre 1877 une enveloppe contenant une lettre et une lettre de change (toutes deux en langue hébraïque) pour la somme de 20.000 P.T. fut déposée au bureau de poste de Mehalla. L'enveloppe ne portait aucune adresse écrite à la main, mais sur le revers on trouva imprimé la raison sociale d'une maison de commerce à Vienne, à laquelle l'enveloppe avait dû appartenir.

Faute d'indication plus précise la lettre fut expédiée à Vienne, d'où elle fut renvoyée avec l'explication que son contenu n'était pas à l'adresse de cette maison. A la suite des recherches faites, l'Administration est parvenue à découvrir l'expé-

diteur et à lui rendre sa lettre ainsi que la valeur qu'elle contenait.

MANDATS-POSTE INTERNATIONAUX.

Le service international des mandats de poste ne s'étend jusqu'à présent qu'à des échanges avec la Grande-Bretagne et l'Italie, lesquels sont réglés par des conventions passées en 1873 et 1872 respectivement. Le tableau suivant indique le mouvement des valeurs entre l'Egypte et ces deux pays pendant l'année qui nous occupe.

Ertre la Grande Bretagne et l'Egypte

(Les villes d'Alexandrie et de Suez exceptées).

	Nombre		Montant
Mandats émis en Egypte...	474	P.T.	247.208.16
dº » dans la Grande Bretagne	30	»	9.000.20
Total Nombre	504	Total P.T.	256.208.36

Entre l'Italie et l'Egypte

(Alexandrie excepté).

	Nombre		Montant
Mandats émis en Egypte	4.521	P.T.	3.606.784.19
dº payés » dº	270	»	346.041.10
Total	4.851	P.T.	3.952.825.29

On peut espérer que ces échanges par Mandats de poste s'étendront à tous les pays de l'Union Postale à la suite du Congrès de Paris qui devra se réunir au mois de mai de cette année. Des projets ayant pour but la règlementation d'un service de Mandats-poste entre tous les pays de l'Union ont déjà été mis à l'étude par les soins de l'Administration française et du Bureau International de Berne.

UNION GÉNÉRALE DES POSTES.

Les échanges des correspondances entre l'Egypte et les autres pays appartenant à l'Union Postale sont réglés par le Traité de Berne du 9 octobre 1874. Les correspondances échangées avec la Grande-Bretagne, la France, l'Italie et la Turquie sont expédiées directement en dépêches closes. Celles pour l'Autriche-Hongrie sont expédiées par la voie de l'Italie, ainsi que la plupart des objets échangés avec les autres pays de l'Europe centrale.

Dans le courant de l'année 1877, les correspondances échangées entre l'Egypte et les autres pays offrent les totaux suivants :

Lettres..... 617.432 dont 30.472 recommandées
Imprimés, etc. 352.989 » 10.259 échantillons.

La suppression temporaire du service des paquebots de la Khédévieh dans le Levant pendant la guerre

a causé une forte diminution dans le nombre des correspondances expédiées dans ces parages.

L'Administration égyptienne, d'accord avec les Administrations intéressées, a profité des arrêts des bateaux-poste des Messageries Maritimes et de la Compagnie Rubattino à Naples pour accélérer le service postal entre l'Egypte et la France et la Grande-Bretagne. Par suite de cet arrangement le temps nécessaire au transit pour les correspondances expédiées par ces bateaux a été réduit de 24 heures entre Alexandrie et Paris et entre Alexandrie et Londres.

La Poste égyptienne, qui fut représentée au premier congrès de l'Union Postale, ne put y adhérer sans faire de grands sacrifices pour lesquels elle n'a pas encore pu trouver une compensation dans une augmentation du nombre des correspondances expédiées en Europe. Pour la plupart des pays de l'Union les sacrifices que comportaient les réductions des taxes sur les lettres expédiées en Egypte pouvaient se trouver compensés par l'augmentation des correspondances échangées avec les autres pays limitrophes, et sur lesquelles il n'y eût aucun droit de transit à payer. Mais l'Egypte, séparée de tous les autres pays de l'Union par une étendue de mer dont la traversée dépasse les limites du transit maritime gratuit, doit toujours payer ces droits ; ainsi que les droits de transit territorial sur toutes les correspondances à l'exception de celles à destination de l'Italie, la Grèce et la Turquie. Outre sa position géographique exceptionnelle l'Egypte aurait pu faire valoir, contre les sacrifices que son adhésion à l'Union lui imposait, la concurrence que lui faisaient les bureaux étrangers

établis dans son territoire, pour obtenir le droit de percevoir une taxe extraordinaire. La Poste Egyptienne a néanmoins tenu à garder l'uniformité, qui est une des bases fondamentales de l'Union, s'étant décidée à ne percevoir qu'une seule taxe pour les correspondances à destination de tous les pays de l'Union et dont le montant restât bien en dedans des limites prescrites par l'Art. 3 du Traité de Berne. En calculant les pertes qu'elle essuyerait par suite des réductions opérées dans son tarif l'Administration égyptienne avait dû prendre en considération les recettes additionnelles qui lui reviendraient des correspondances expédiées à l'étranger des villes d'Alexandrie, de Suez et de Port-Saïd, puisqu'il n'y avait aucune raison de croire à l'intention des Etats intéressés de restreindre l'application du Traité en Egypte par l'exclusion de ces trois villes, et cela d'autant plus que, d'après l'Article 9 du Traité, chaque pays de l'Union devrait garder en entier les taxes perçues tant sur les lettres affranchies au départ que sur celles non affranchies distribuées à l'arrivée.

En effet les bureaux étrangers, établis dans un temps où il n'existait pas en Egypte un service international organisé, et qui suppléaient alors à un besoin réel du pays, n'avaient plus de raison d'être du moment que la Poste Egyptienne se trouvait en relations directes avec tous les pays de l'Union Postale.

Dans le cours de l'année 1877 le Gouvernement Egyptien, pénétré de la nécessité de trouver une solution à cette question avant la réunion du nouveau Congrès Postal, où l'on devait discuter des projets dont le développement amènerait de nou-

veaux sacrifices, a fait part de son désir aux Administrations intéressées par l'entremise du Bureau International de Berne. Plus tard, des négociations entamées directement avec l'Administration Anglaise aboutirent favorablement, et une Convention, ayant pour but la suppression des bureaux anglais établis en Egypte, fut signée à Londres le 14 novembre 1877. Les délais occasionnés par la situation politique n'ont pas permis de mener à bonne fin dans cette année les négociations engagées avec les autres Etats.

Pourtant le principe du droit du monopole postal étant déjà reconnu à l'Egypte il y a tout lieu d'espérer que dans le courant de l'année 1878 la Poste Egyptienne se trouvera à même d'exercer ce droit dans tout le territoire égyptien.

Le personnel de l'Administration au 31 décembre 1877 était composé comme suit :

1	Directeur Général	
1	Vice-Directeur Général	
2	Chefs de Division	
6	Chefs de Section	
22	Chefs de bureau	
19	Employés de	1re Classe
26	do.	» 2 »
34	do.	» 3 »
40	do.	» 4 »
21	do.	» 5 »
31	do.	» 6 »
10	Ecrivains	
213	*A reporter*	

213	*Report*
6	Receveurs
127	Gardiens, Servants, etc
13	Bateliers
15	Agents dans la Haute-Egypte et le Soudan
195	Courriers (dont 130 pour le service de la Haute-Egypte)
147	Chameliers (dans la Haute-Egypte et le Soudan)
Total 716	

Les conditions de régularité et de sécurité dans lesquelles s'est effectué le service postal sur les voies ferrées jusqu'à Siout et Suez, à travers les déserts de la Nubie jusqu'à Kartoum, sur la Mer Rouge jusqu'à Zeyla, et dans les pays du Levant jusqu'à Constantinople, témoignent de l'empressement et du dévouement des employés de tous les grades.

En conclusion, je crois devoir faire observer que si comme résultat de l'exercice 1877, l'Administration des Postes Egyptiennes ne peut se vanter que d'un succès financier, accompagné cependant de quelques améliorations et d'un développement de son service dans certaines limites, elle s'est occupée sans cesse à mûrir de plus grandes réformes, dont la plupart ont été mises à exécution dans les premiers mois de l'année 1878. On reconnaitra la nécessité qu'elle subissait, en vue des circonstances qui avaient précédé et amené la réorganisation administrative, de s'affermir en s'assurant de la justesse de toutes ses prévisions budgétaires avant de se lancer dans la voie des réformes.

La certitude de la réalisation de toutes les prévisions du budget une fois constatée, les cadres du personnel remplis d'employés expérimentés, et possédant une organisation et un matériel à toute épreuve, l'Administration n'a pas tardé à consacrer une partie de ses économies à l'effectuation de réformes dont les plus importantes se trouvent réunies dans le Décret de Son Altesse le Khédive daté du 17 Mars de l'année courante, lequel apporte au tarif postal des réductions de 30 à 60 pour cent environ sur les anciennes taxes.

Le Directeur Général.

(Signé) A. Caillard.

Alexandrie, le 31 Mars 1878.

SERVICE INTERNE

Correspondances

Désignation des Correspondances	1876	1877
	Nombre	Nombre
Lettres ordinaires de toute catégorie	1.535.598	1.484.684
Lettres recommandées (y compris celles avec déclaration de valeur)	35.949	37.044
Lettres gouvernementales	365.353	396.923
Journaux et imprimés périodiques	412.228	421.489
Imprimés non périodiques, papiers d'affaires, etc.	95.135	280.341
Echantillons	11.030	9.948

Mandats-poste, numéraire et objets de valeur

Désignation	1876		1877	
	Nomb.	Montant	Nomb.	Montant
		P.T.		P.T.
Mandats-poste	17.418	22.884.328	20.149	24 248.437
Groups d'or	25.340	905.183.214	25.589	1.108.767.320
id. d'argent	6.287	69.629.053	3.005	36.139.742
id. mixtes	2.936	50.764.834	2.024	38.022.243
Objets de valeur	145	969.508	119	819.057

SERVICE INTERNATIONAL

Correspondances

Désignation des Correspondances	1876	1877
	Nombre	Nombre
Lettres ordinaires de toute catégorie	672.334	586.960
Lettres recommandées	26.824	30.472
Journaux et imprimés périodiques	324.479	306.263
Imprimés non périodiques, papiers d'affaires, etc.	29.152	36.467
Echantillons	20.865	10.259

Mandats-poste

Désignation	1876		1877	
	Nomb.	Montant	Nomb.	Montant
		P.T.		P.T.
Mandats Anglo-Egyptiens	398	210.506	504	256.209
id. Italo-Egyptiens	5.317	4.689.331	4.851	3.952.825

BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE IMPRIMÉS

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Beiheft

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Inhalt: I. Aktenstücke und Aufsätze: 71. Fachliche Erinnerungen von der internationalen Ausstellung in Paris. — 72. Das ägyptische Postwesen im Jahre 1877. — 73. Das Wesen der Elektrizität. — 74. Der Bremische Schiffs- und Waarenverkehr, sowie Bremens Auswandererbeförderung im Jahre 1877. — 75. Ein Weltalphabet. — 76. Die Insel Perim.

II. Kleine Mittheilungen: Neue Vorträge für Post- und Telegraphenbeamte in Berlin. — Der Bericht des General-Postmeisters von Hongkong für das Jahr 1877. — Das transatlantische Kabel von 1866.

III. Zeitschriften-Uebersicht.

I. Aktenstücke und Aufsätze.

71. Fachliche Erinnerungen von der internationalen Ausstellung in Paris.

Der Zeitraum zwischen der letzten Weltausstellung in Wien, sowie der gelegentlich des hundertjährigen Jubiläums von den Vereinigten Staaten Amerikas veranstalteten und der gegenwärtig in Paris eröffneten Allgemeinen Ausstellung ist zu kurz, um darauf rechnen zu lassen, daß neue Erfindungen, Entdeckungen und Konstruktionen hinsichtlich der Telegraphie in großem Umfange in die Erscheinung treten werden.

Nichtsdestoweniger weist auch die jetzige Ausstellung einige neue, geistvoll erdachte Apparate auf. — Von nennenswerthem Umfange ist allerdings nur die Telegraphenausstellung in der französischen Abtheilung. Sie gehört zur 65ten Klasse und füllt einen ansehnlichen Saal in dem Maschinen-Annex. In den nicht französischen Abtheilungen sind die Telegraphen-Ausstellungen nur verschwindend klein zu nennen und nur sehr schwer aufzufinden, weil sie, anscheinend ohne irgend ein festes Prinzip zu befolgen, an den verschiedensten Stellen untergebracht sind, zumeist allerdings in der Maschinenhalle, zum Theil aber auch in anderen Räumen und bei anderen Ausstellungsgegenständen, zum Theil in selbstständigen und entlegenen kleinen Gebäuden.

durch ein kleines Stück Kohle oder Blei ꝛc. leitend mit einander verbunden; nachdem der Strom die gehörige Kraft erhalten hat, verbrennt oder schmilzt das Verbindungsstück und der Lichtbogen entsteht. Mit dem Verbrennen der Kohle schmilzt gleichzeitig die aus Sand und Glaspulver bestehende isolirende Masse der »Kerze«, so daß immer die Kohle, gewissermaßen der Docht der Kerze, frei bleibt. Um die beiden Kohlen gleichmäßig verbrennen zu lassen und dadurch immer auf gleicher Höhe zu erhalten, soll mit Wechselströmen gearbeitet werden. Nach einer anderen Einrichtung werden die beiden Kohlenstücke von verschiedener Dicke hergestellt, um gleichmäßig verzehrt zu werden. Ein Kerzenpaar soll über eine Stunde dauern, und in jeder Lampe sollen 4 Kerzenpaare aufgestellt und die Einrichtung so getroffen sein, daß nach dem Abbrennen des einen Paares ein selbstthätiger Umschalter das folgende Paar einschaltet. Die Beleuchtung dauert etwa von 9 Uhr bis 12½ Uhr. Wohnt man auf der Straße dem Verlöschen bei, dann erst kann man die Wirkung des elektrischen Lichtes recht deutlich erkennen. Obschon die Gasflammen, welche neben den elektrischen Glocken roth und trübe erscheinen, fortbrennen, so glaubt man sich im ersten Augenblicke in völliger Dunkelheit zu befinden, und während man vorher auf jeder Stelle der Straße mit Bequemlichkeit feine Schrift lesen konnte, glaubt man in den ersten Sekunden nach dem Auslöschen der elektrischen Lampen im Dunkeln herumtappen zu müssen.

Das große Verkaufsmagazin zum »Louvre« ist ebenfalls mit elektrischem Lichte erleuchtet, und es soll gegenwärtig von der Stadt Paris mit Jablochkoff ein Vertrag wegen der gleichen Beleuchtung auf einer weiteren Anzahl öffentlicher Plätze und Straßen abgeschlossen sein.

In der Russischen Abtheilung fand sich ein Schrank mit gewöhnlichen Morse-Apparaten, einem tragbaren Militär-Apparat, Weckerwerken, Siemens'schen magneto-elektrischen Zeigern und ein Eisenbahnläutewerk mit selbstthätiger optischer Signalfahne.

Für Belgien hatte de Vos einen tragbaren Militär-Apparat, den schon oben erwähnten Morse nach dem »nouveau système encreur« und einzelne Sonderrelais ausgestellt; daneben fanden sich ein Exemplar des in Middelkerk bei Ostende benutzten Kabelblitzableiters und verschiedene Feuerwehr-, Hotel- ꝛc. Signal-Zeigerapparate.

Der Schweizer Hipp hatte sich eingefährt mit einer Sammlung von elektrischen Uhren, einem Chronoskop zur Bestimmung der Anfangsgeschwindigkeit der Geschosse und einem »chronograph à bande Morse, permettant d'enregistrer l'instant précis d'un observation« nach dem bekannten Prinzip mit zwei Stiften, von welchen der eine die regelmäßigen Zeitintervalle, der andere den Augenblick der Beobachtung verzeichnet.

72. Das ägyptische Postwesen im Jahre 1877.

Der erste Verwaltungsbericht, welchen der im Jahre 1877 eingesetzte Generaldirektor des ägyptischen Postwesens über das seiner Leitung übergebene Verkehrsinstitut erstattet hat, enthält über die Geschichte und die Handhabung der Posten im Pharaonenlande Mittheilungen, denen wir das Nachstehende entnehmen.

Die erste Organisation der ägyptischen Staatsposten datirt aus dem Anfange des Jahres 1865. Zu dieser Zeit übernahm die Regierung des Khedive die Leitung des bis dahin als Privateinrichtung betriebenen Postdienstes in Aegypten. Die ursprüngliche in Eile vollzogene Organisation hielt nicht Schritt mit der schnellen Steigerung des Postverkehrs; die Zusammensetzung des zahlreichen Verwaltungspersonals ließ zu wünschen übrig; die Ausgabe stand nicht in richtigem Verhältniß zu den Anforderungen des Dienstes. Diese Thatsachen tragen dazu bei, die Ausfälle erklärlich zu machen, welche bei der Postverwaltung alljährlich wiederkehrten. Da diese Sachlage von Jahr zu Jahr bedenklicher wurde und schließlich die Regelmäßigkeit des Postdienstes in Frage zu stellen drohte, so war Ergreifung energischer Maßregeln geboten. Dieselben bestanden in einer durchgreifenden Umgestaltung der oberen Verwaltungsbehörden. Dank derselben hat sich das Defizit, welches noch im Jahre 1876 sich auf 320 235 Piaster belaufen hatte, während des Jahres 1877 in einen Ueberschuß von 1 298 271 Piaster verwandelt. Der Bericht versichert, daß diese Ersparnisse ohne jede Beeinträchtigung der Sicherheit und Schnelligkeit des Postdienstes erreicht worden sind. Ihr wesentlicher Bestandtheil ist durch eine Einschränkung der unverhältnißmäßig hohen allgemeinen Ausgaben erzielt worden, welche eine Verringerung von mehr als fünfzig Prozent erfahren haben.

Unter den im Jahre 1877 durchgeführten Erweiterungen des Postdienstes verdient in erster Linie die Einrichtung von Postanstalten in Kordofan, Darfur, Fashouda, Semaar und Fazoglu erwähnt zu werden. Dank dem energischen Eingreifen des General-Gouverneurs des Sudan, Gordon Pascha, waren die vorbereitenden Arbeiten für die Eröffnung mehrerer Postanstalten in den genannten Provinzen gegen Ende des Jahres bereits erheblich gefördert, dergestalt, daß die abgelegensten Städte des Sudans sich bald eines regelmäßigen Postdienstes zu erfreuen haben werden. Ein erfahrener und befähigter Beamter ist mit dem Titel und den Befugnissen eines Inspektors nach Kartum gesandt, um den Dienstbetrieb dieser Postanstalten zu überwachen.

Die in Unterägypten eingeführten Verbesserungen in dem Dienste der Postfußboten haben den Einwohnern einer größeren Anzahl von Dörfern im Innern des Landes, welche nicht an einer Eisenbahn belegen sind, die Möglichkeit geboten, Briefe mit ihren Korrespondenten in Cairo oder in Alexandrien innerhalb 24 Stunden auswechseln zu können. Um einem längst gefühlten Bedürfnisse abzuhelfen, sind auf Verlangen und unter Garantie von Kaufleuten, welche, entfernt von den Postanstalten, Niederlassungen gegründet haben, neue Botenposten eingerichtet worden.

Durch die Einrichtung einer Bahnpost zwischen Alexandrien und Cairo hat die Bestellung der für die letztere Stadt vom Auslande eingehenden Briefsendungen an Beschleunigung gewonnen, um so mehr, als den Inhabern von Privat-Briefkasten die Briefsendungen unmittelbar nach dem Eintreffen der Post bei der Postanstalt zur Verfügung gestellt werden.

Im Laufe des Jahres 1877 hat die ägyptische Postverwaltung zwei Unfälle erlitten, den einen in Folge eines Brandes, den anderen durch einen Zusammenstoß zweier Züge auf der Eisenbahn. Der Brand fand zu Cairo in der Nacht vom 8. zum 9. Februar in einem zu der Residenz der Mutter des Vizekönigs gehörigen Gebäude statt, in welchem die Postbüreaus und die Wohnung des Lokal-Postdirektors sich befinden. Von seinem ursprünglichen Herde übertrug sich das Feuer mit solcher

Schnelligkeit auf das Haus des Direktors, daß dieser kaum die Zeit hatte, sich mit seiner Familie zu retten, während die Flammen die unten belegenen Büreaus zerstörten. Beim Eintritt der Feuersbrunst befand sich in der Postkasse eine Summe von 6 000 000 Piastern, welche mit dem ersten Frühzuge abgesandt werden sollte, nebst einer beträchtlichen Anzahl von Briefen und anderen Postsendungen. Dank dem Eifer und den Anstrengungen des Direktors und der Beamten, welche durch den Vize-Generaldirektor Halten in umsichtiger Weise geleitet wurden, gerieth weder ein Brief, noch ein Piaster in Verlust; auch der Dienst wurde keinen Augenblick unterbrochen.

Der zweite Unglücksfall ereignete sich am 24. Oktober 1877 in Kafr-Zayat, wo zwei Eisenbahnzüge auf der Brücke aufeinanderstießen. In Folge der dadurch herbeigeführten Zertrümmerung der Wagen wurde ein die Post begleitender Unterbeamte getödtet und die Briefsäcke, sowie die Packete mit Geldern auf der Brücke umhergestreut. Nachdem der begleitende Beamte sich von dem Stoße, welchen er erhalten, wieder erholt hatte, sammelte er die Gegenstände unter Beihülfe des Beamten in Kafr-Zayat und dessen Gehülfen. Mit Ausnahme eines Betrages von 36 857 Piastern, welcher aus einem Packete in den Fluß gefallen und nicht wiederzuerlangen war, fanden sich sämmtliche Postsendungen wieder vor.

Die Zahl der im Jahre 1877 beförderten Briefe betrug 1 918 651, die der Drucksachen und sonstigen Gegenstände 711 778. Von diesen Sendungen wurden 37 044 unter Einschreibung befördert. Die Geldsendungen im Innern des Landes, mittels Postanweisungen oder in baarem Gelde, betrugen 52 007 Stück zum Gesammtbetrage von 1 211 951 706 Piastern = 12 500 000 Pfund Sterling.

Zu bemerken ist, daß dieser verhältnißmäßig sehr bedeutende Geldverkehr sich ohne irgend welchen Verlust oder Irrthum abgewickelt hat.

Daß der Verlust von Werthsendungen und gewöhnlichen Briefen nicht immer der Nachlässigkeit der Postbeamten zuzuschreiben ist, ist eine bekannte Thatsache. Auch die ägyptische Postverwaltung befindet sich in der Lage, einen Belag hierfür zu liefern.

Im Monat Dezember 1877 wurde bei dem Postbüreau in Mehalla ein Brief in hebräischer Sprache aufgeliefert, welcher einen Wechsel über 20 000 Piaster ebenfalls in hebräischer Sprache enthielt. Auf dem Umschlage fand sich eine handschriftliche Bezeichnung des Empfängers nicht vor, dagegen befand sich auf der Rückseite des Umschlages der Firmenstempel eines Wiener Handelshauses, in dessen Besitz der Umschlag mithin gewesen sein mußte. In Ermangelung genauerer Angaben wurde der Brief nach Wien gesandt, von wo derselbe indeß mit der Benachrichtigung zurückkam, daß der Inhalt nicht für das Wiener Handelshaus bestimmt sei. In Folge der angestellten Nachforschungen gelang es der Verwaltung gleichwohl, den Absender ausfindig zu machen, wonächst demselben der Brief nebst Inhalt zurückgegeben wurde.

Was den internationalen Postanweisungsverkehr betrifft, so erstreckt sich derselbe zur Zeit nur auf Großbritannien und Italien. Die bezüglichen Verträge wurden in den Jahren 1873 bz. 1872 abgeschlossen. Die Zahl der im Jahre 1877 in Aegypten eingelieferten Postanweisungen betrug für Großbritannien 474 Stück zum Betrage von 247 208,16 Piaster, für Italien 4521 Stück zum Betrage von 3 606 748,19 Piaster. Eingegangen sind in diesem Zeitraume in Aegypten aus Großbritannien 30 Stück zum Betrage von 9000,20 Piaster, aus Italien 270 Stück zum Betrage von 346 041,10 Piaster.

Wie bekannt, ist Aegypten dem Allgemeinen Postverein gleich bei der Gründung desselben beigetreten. Der Austausch der Briefsendungen mit Großbritannien, Frankreich, Italien und der Türkei erfolgt in geschlossenen Briefpacketen. Die für Oesterreich-Ungarn, sowie für die übrigen Länder Mitteleuropas bestimmten Sendungen erhalten auf dem Wege über Italien ihre Beförderung.

Die Gesammtzahl der im Jahre 1877 zwischen Aegypten und den übrigen Vereinsländern ausgewechselten Briefsendungen betrug: Briefe 617 432, darunter 30 472 Einschreibbriefe; Drucksachen, Waarenproben u. s. w. 352 289 Stück.

Die zeitweilige Einstellung des Dampfschiffsdienstes der Gesellschaft »Khedevieh« in der Levante während des Krieges hat eine erhebliche Herabminderung der Korrespondenzen nach jenen Gegenden zur Folge gehabt.

Im Einverständniß mit den übrigen betheiligten Verwaltungen hat die ägyptische Postverwaltung die Postschiffe der Messageries Maritimes und der Gesellschaft Rubattino in Neapel sich dienstbar gemacht, um hierdurch eine beschleunigte Beförderung der Postsendungen zwischen Aegypten einerseits, Frankreich und Großbritannien andererseits herbeizuführen. Durch diese Einrichtung ist die Beförderungszeit zwischen Alexandrien und Paris und zwischen Alexandrien und London um 24 Stunden vermindert worden.

In Folge des Beitritts Aegyptens zum Allgemeinen Postverein hat die ägyptische Postverwaltung bedeutende Opfer bringen müssen, für welche sie noch keinen Ersatz durch Steigerung des Postverkehrs mit Europa gefunden hat. Die Einbußen, welche die Herabsetzung des Portos für die nach Aegypten bestimmten Briefsendungen für die meisten Vereinsländer mit sich brachten, wurden durch die Vermehrung der Korrespondenz mit den Grenzländern, für welche Transitkosten nicht zu zahlen waren, theilweise ausgeglichen. Aegypten dagegen, welches von den sämmtlichen übrigen Vereinsländern durch das Meer in solcher Ausdehnung getrennt ist, daß die Grenzen für den kostenfreien Seetransit überschritten werden, hat diese Kosten beständig zu tragen. Ebenso hat die ägyptische Postverwaltung für sämmtliche Vereinskorrespondenzen, mit Ausnahme der nach Italien, Griechenland und der Türkei bestimmten, das Landtransitporto zu tragen. Außer seiner, in dieser Beziehung ungünstigen geographischen Lage hätte Aegypten gegenüber den Opfern, welche ihm der Beitritt zum Allgemeinen Postverein auferlegte, den Umstand geltend machen können, daß die im ägyptischen Gebiete eingerichteten fremdherrlichen Postanstalten dem einheimischen Postwesen eine erhebliche Konkurrenz machen, um hierdurch das Recht der Erhebung außerordentlicher Portosätze zu erwerben. Nichtsdestoweniger hat die ägyptische Postverwaltung im Interesse der Gleichförmigkeit sich entschlossen, nach sämmtlichen Vereinsländern nur eine Taxe zu erheben, deren Höhe sich innerhalb der durch den Artikel 3 des Berner Vertrages vorgeschriebenen Grenzen bewegt. Bei Berechnung der Verluste, welche die ägyptische Postverwaltung durch die Herabsetzung der Taxen erleiden mußte, wurden auf der anderen Seite die Mehreinnahmen aus denjenigen Korrespondenzen nach dem Auslande in Betracht gezogen, welche in Alexandrien, Suez und Port-Saïd und zwar zur Zeit bei den dortigen fremdherrlichen Postanstalten zur Auflieferung gelangen. Es lag kein Grund zu der Befürchtung vor, daß die interessirten Staaten die Ausführung des Berner Vertrages in Aegypten durch Ausschluß dieser drei Städte beeinträchtigen würden, zumal nach Artikel 9 des Vertrages jedes Land des Vereins die Taxen für die aufgelieferten frankirten Briefe, sowie für die eingehenden unfrankirten Briefe

ungetheilt zu beziehen haben soll. Die fremdherrlichen Postanstalten sind in Aegypten zu einer Zeit eingerichtet worden, wo daselbst ein internationaler Postdienst noch nicht bestand. Während sie damals einem wirklichen Bedürfnisse Abhülfe schafften, verlieren sie ihre Bedeutung und die Berechtigung ihres Bestehens, nachdem die ägyptische Postverwaltung nunmehr mit allen Ländern des Allgemeinen Postvereins in unmittelbare Beziehungen getreten ist.

Der ägyptischen Regierung schien es nothwendig, eine Lösung der obigen Frage vor dem Zusammentritte des Pariser Postkongresses herbeizuführen, weil auf denselben wiederum Vorschläge berathen werden sollten, deren Verwirklichung neue Opfer erforderte. Sie hat daher ihren Wunsch den betheiligten Verwaltungen durch Vermittelung des Internationalen Postbüreaus in Bern zu erkennen gegeben. Die mit der britischen Verwaltung späterhin unmittelbar eingeleiteten Verhandlungen nahmen einen günstigen Verlauf und führten zum Abschlusse eines, am 14. November 1877 zu London unterzeichneten Vertrages, welcher die Aufhebung der britischen Postbüreaus in Aegypten zum Gegenstand hat. Die politische Situation hat nicht gestattet, die mit den übrigen Staaten in derselben Angelegenheit eingeleiteten Verhandlungen zum Abschluß zu bringen. Hoffentlich wird Aegypten sich jedoch im Laufe des Jahres 1878 in der Lage befinden, das Postregal im ganzen ägyptischen Gebiete auszuüben.

Das Personal der ägyptischen Postverwaltung war am 31. Dezember 1877 wie folgt zusammengesetzt:

1	General-Direktor,
1	Vize-General-Direktor,
2	Divisions-Chefs,
6	Sektions-Chefs,
22	Büreauvorsteher,
19	Beamte 1. Klasse,
26	» 2. »
34	» 3. »
40	» 4. »
20	» 5. »
31	» 6. »
10	Schreiber,
6	Einnehmer,
127	Wächter, Diener ꝛc.,
13	Kahnführer,
15	Agenten in Ober-Aegypten und dem Sudan,
195	Kuriere (davon 130 für den Dienst in Ober-Aegypten),
147	Kameelführer (in Ober-Aegypten und dem Sudan).

Im Ganzen 716 Köpfe.

Die Regelmäßigkeit und Sicherheit, mit welcher der Postdienst gehandhabt worden ist auf den Bahnlinien bis Siut und Suez, durch die Nubische Wüste bis Kartum, über das Rothe Meer bis Zeyla und in den Ländern der Levante bis Constantinopel, liefern einen Beweis für die Hingebung und den Pflichteifer der Beamten jeden Grades.

Schließlich möchte noch zu erwähnen sein, daß wenn die ägyptische Postver-

waltung als Resultat des Jahres 1877 sich nur eines finanziellen Erfolges in Verbindung mit einigen Verbesserungen und der Steigerung und Entwickelung des Verkehrs innerhalb gewisser Grenzen zu rühmen hat, dieselbe doch beständig bedacht gewesen ist, noch weitere Reformen anzubahnen, deren Ausführung zum großen Theil schon in den ersten Monaten des Jahres 1878 stattgefunden hat.

Ein Theil der erzielten Ueberschüsse ist zur Verwirklichung der in Aussicht genommenen Reformen verwendet worden. Unter den Letzteren ist in erster Linie die erhebliche Herabsetzung der Taxen hervorzuheben, welche durch Dekret des Khedive vom 17. März 1878 genehmigt ist. Die Herabsetzung der Taxen beträgt nach diesem Dekrete ungefähr von 30 bis zu 60 Prozent gegenüber den früheren Taxen.

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73. Das Wesen der Elektrizität.

Mit der Ueberschrift: »Elektrizität ist Licht«, ist der Redaktion dieser Blätter aus Batavia das Schreiben eines hochgeschätzten Fachgenossen zugegangen, welches wir unsern Lesern nachstehend in sinngetreuer Uebersetzung aus dem Englischen mittheilen.

»Liegt die Möglichkeit vor, daß dasjenige, was wir jetzt allgemein mit dem Namen Elektrizität zu belegen gewöhnt sind, nichts weiter ist als Licht, und daß eben Licht, und nichts als Licht, die unzähligen Drähte von einem Ende der Welt nach dem anderen Ende in allen Richtungen durchströmt? Warum sollte Licht in einer mehr verkörperlichten Form in Silber oder Kupfer oder Eisen nicht besser wirken, als in der Atmosphäre? Warum nicht schlechter in Guttapercha oder Glas? Was ist denn auch der Blitz? Ist er nicht eine Entladung kondensirten Lichtes? Warum sollte die Erde nicht ebenso gut, wie einen vom Baume fallenden Apfel, auch das Licht nach ihrem Mittelpunkte zu anziehen? Wenn dies der Fall ist, würde dadurch nicht das ewige Feuer erklärt werden, welches unter unseren Füßen lodert?

Kann das Licht nicht positiv und negativ sein? Und ist es ferner nicht unzerstörbar? Wenn es dies ist, sollte da nicht eine Ausgleichung eintreten müssen, so oft die Erde, dieser große Condenser, zu stark mit Licht geladen ist? Muß man dann nicht vernünftigerweise annehmen, daß die dadurch verursachte Entladung ungemein kräftig ist, und daß sie an den Polen zum Vorschein kommt? Ist nun nicht das Nordlicht diese Entladung in positivem, das Südlicht dieselbe in negativem Sinne? Wird nicht diese Entladung alle das Licht leitenden Drähte auf viele Meilen im Umkreis durchströmen und eine störende Wirkung auf sie ausüben? Und geschieht dies nicht in Wirklichkeit?

Was ist ferner eine Batterie? Ist es nicht eine Vorrichtung, um Licht anzusammeln? Und was ist ein Mikrophon anders, als ein Apparat zur Veränderung der Stärke des Lichts bei dessen Durchgang durch lichtleitende Körper? Erklärt uns nicht diese Annahme das Geheimniß des Magneten und manches andere?

Ich gebe mich der Hoffnung hin, daß Ihre Leser diesen Gegenstand nicht für des Nachdenkens unwerth halten werden; sollten sie aber denselben weiter verfolgen, so würden sie mich verbinden, wenn sie die Ergebnisse ihres Denkens — seien sie nun

The Indian Mails to Brindisi and Bombay (1895/1897)

by Arthur G. Ferard

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In his article in MEPB 29 "The Sea Post Office: Last-Minute Mail received on Board Steamer in Bombay", Bo Andersson presented a small section concerning the Sea Post Office of an article published in 1895 in the British journal ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND. The same journal had published two years earlier another article about the railway journey of the mails from London to Brindisi, where they were transshipped onto the steamers to Port Said. Both shed some light to the workings of this important mail connection. I think MEPB readers might be interested in this, so I transcribed both articles.

In re Brindisi : The Indian Mail Intervening

by I. M. O.[2]

The Editor of this magazine—a man for whom (naturally) I have a profound respect—has "approached" me on more than one occasion with the object of obtaining my written views on the subject of a trip to Brindisi and back in charge of the Indian Mail. I have told him that I have no views, and that, having done the trip so often, my mind has become a blank on the subject. The Editor, always incredulous, does no believe me. Let me think. Well, the only incidents which stand out forcibly in my recollection are two attacks of malarial fever which laid me up for three months each, and one railway accident: on which occasion, waking about 3 a.m. near Amiens from a feverish dream, I found myself on the floor of the allège[3] and the train running a hideous race against time over the sleepers, quite innocent of rails. This incident ended in a general crumpling up of the train, and a shock from which my nervous system was slow to recover. I was languidly curious afterwards to know how it all happened, and, strange as it may seem, I have never derived one grain of consolation from hearing that the special Indian Mail train had on this occasion been entirely overlooked by the railway officials, who, after the passage of the ordinary night mail from Calais to Paris, had leisurely taken up the rails over which I was to travel, and omitted to put them down again. I hope this does not often happen on a Friday night. For myself I now, before leaving Calais, absorb a few sulphonal tabloids,[4] so that I may always be in a position to go one better than the other sleepers in case of a similar accident occurring.

No, the journey to Brindisi is not without its dangers and disappointments. I mind me of one man whose train was maliciously cut in twain by a designing Italian railway porter, and who skipped off gaily on his road with the Indian Mail, leaving all the bags for Australia reposing at a station. These bags subsequently found their way on to the line for Naples, and when in the perilous Abruzzi, fell foul of many bullock waggons, resulting, I was told, in a scene of carnage (and baggage) which could only be adequately described by the unfortunate officer who was not there.

1 Copyright extends to the transcription and the annotations.

2 I.M.O. [pseud.]: *In re Brindisi : The Indian Mail Intervening.* In: St. Martin's-Le-Grand, vol. 5, 1895, no. 17 (January 1895), pp. 49–53. Stated author: I.M.O. Given the provenance of the illustrations, I assume that the actual author is Arthur G. Ferard. Ferard had a diverse range of interests in cultural history. He is especially known for his artistic contributions as an illustrator.

3 Balustrade or parapet.

4 Sleeping pill, marketed by A .Burroughs Wellcome & Co. in their "Tabloid" range: "Tabloid Sulphonal."

Then, not long ago, one dear young gentleman was locked into his compartment, which could by no manner of means be induced to open. It thus came to pass that this dignified official had to be extracted at intervals through the window like a winkle from his shell. He has not been over the road since, I understand, but the memory of this performance still haunts the Adriatic.

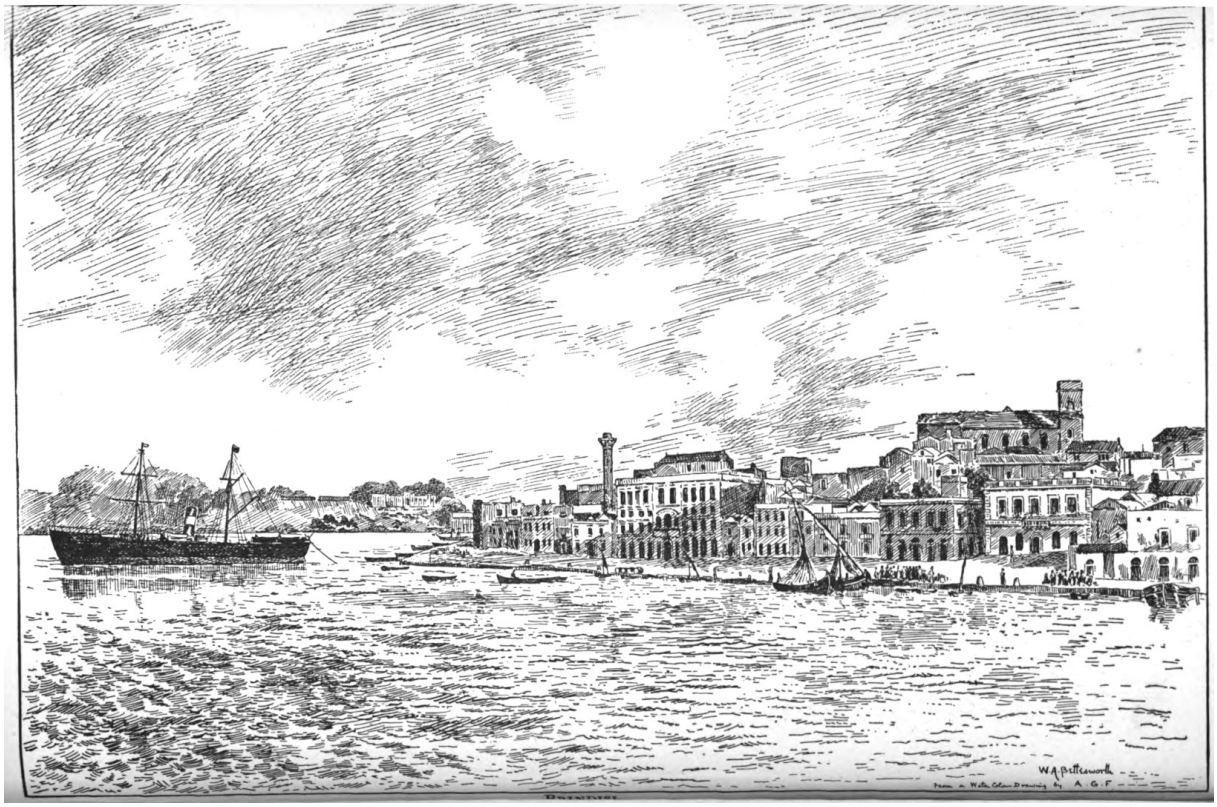


Fig. 1: Brindisi.
Illustration by W.A. Bettesworth,[5] based on a water-colour drawing by A.G.F.[6]

Attached to the Indian Mail train is a French Travelling Post Office, which proceeds as far as Modane.[7] The travelling sorters are a shrewd set, and one of them is endowed with some power of mimicry. Nothing is more agreeable to me during the last hour on French territory than to invite this cheery fellow into my compartment and hear him expatiate[8] on the various Indian Mail officers with whom he is brought in contact; and so at Brindisi they are all known and have their nicknames: the regulars and the substitutes. But wild horses should not tear these names from me.

It is impossible to exaggerate the loneliness of the journey from Calais to Brindisi by special train. The distance is nearly 1400 miles, and it frequently happens that, except in giving a receipt for the French bags at Modane and exchanging a growl with the Postmaster of Turin—who persists in spite of all protest in rousing one from slumber in the middle of the night in order to enquire how many bags the train contains—the whole distance is traversed in a funereal silence lasting two solid days and nights. The regular officers who spend their lives in this manner no doubt find means of varying the monotony, or else use becomes second nature; but to some of the substitutes, doing the journey occasionally only, it must occur that while the journey lasts there are few harder ways of earning a livelihood.

But then there is the compensating advantage of the rest and change to be obtained at that pestiferous[9] little seaport on the Adriatic which exists merely to embark and disembark mails and

5 Walter Ambrose Bettesworth (1856–1929), artist and cricketer.
6 Arthur G. Ferard.
7 Modane, Modana, town in Savoy, on the French/Italian border. Since 1871 the railway line to Turin proceeds through the Fréjus Rail Tunnel.
8 To explain in detail.
9 Infested with pestilence, disease-plagued.

passengers passing between Europe and the East. If you are very lucky you may, after despatching your steamer in the small hours of Monday morning, have five or even six days to yourself before the return mail is in. This time can be utilised in various ways. You can stay in bed all day if you like and defy the mosquitoes through your net; or you can (in the summer) go for a sail in a boat placed at your disposal by the ever ready and courteous Robert Mellor of the P. & O. Company —"Signor Roberto," as he is simply called everywhere in the town—or the said Roberto will accompany you and mix crafty beverages destructive of your interior, but, ah! what a boon after a swim round the lighthouse! Or, if so minded, you can go shooting. Just now there are plenty of excellent snipe and woodcock, affording good sport and costing you nothing, for no shooting is preserved away down there! Then Mr. Low, the P. & O. Company's agent, and his hospitable wife and charming daughters will be delighted to see you, and the young ladies will seek your impressions of Brindisi and compel you to inscribe them in an album kept for the purpose.

If none of these entertainments suit you then take your meals regularly at the Hotel International (one of the worst in Europe) and sit outside the hotel afterwards. That will give you malarial fever and fully occupy your spare moments for many a long day. Stay! There is, of course, yet another refuge. You can sketch! Fancy my forgetting that! Why, this hasty scrawl of mine is actually "written round" a sketch of Brindisi, which it is true, I have not yet seen, but which I am credibly informed is a masterpiece. At any rate, I know the artist. This sketch, in my opinion—mind, I have only *heard* of it at present—was the first step towards undermining a fine constitution. A long course of sitting on damp house-tops and lurking in still damper boats to get a good perspective, produced the rheumatico-nervous dilapidation which, after filling the pockets of the doctors at Aix-les-bains,[10] has sent my poor artist friend on a voyage to Egypt in search of health. By a strange coincidence his ship, even as I write these lines, is nearing the fatal shores of Brundusium, where, should he be rash enough to land, I hope he will be dissuaded from making any further dangerous pictorial attempts to increase the already large circulation of this magazine.

I have by no means exhausted my list of the sharp thorns awaiting those who, with the aid of *Ollendorff's Italian Grammar*, go forth to tempt Fortune with the Indian Mail. It arrives—and in these days of fast steamers by no means rarely—that on reaching the end of the outward journey, jaded, travel-stained, and ill-tempered, the pleasant news awaits one that the homeward ship is "expected in to-morrow!" Only last month, one of the mail officers, who left Dover as usual on a Friday morning for Calais and Brindisi, was back again in the cheerless hall of the Lord Warden the following Thursday about dinner-time, having covered nearly 3,000 miles of ground in less than seven days. This in itself is bad enough, but worse remains behind: for a considerable portion of the pay of an Indian Mail officer depends upon the length of time he is away from head-quarters. Thus is personal exhaustion in the cause of the State requited by a substantial diminution of *per diems.*[11]

About six years ago I contributed an article to the *National Review* in which the Indian Mail Service, past and present, was fully dealt with. I will not insult the readers of *St Martin's* by assuming for a moment that they have forgotten this article. This being thus, there is no necessity for me to spread any official details upon these pages. I simply appear in the character of the Greek chorus, or rather, perhaps, in that of the showman who introduces the magic-lantern slides, and whose introduction is naturally all the more enjoyable when, as in my case, he has not seen the slides. I do not really know what part of Brindisi has been sketched by my friend F.[12] Being a man of much classical erudition, he has probably chosen Pompey's Pillar. Yes, Pompey has a pillar at Brindisi, as in most other places south of Tuscany; and this pillar marks, as they mostly do, a termination of our old friend the Appian Way. Let me hope that the Way in which he has dealt with the subject is, in the fullest sense, a 'appy un!

I. M. O.

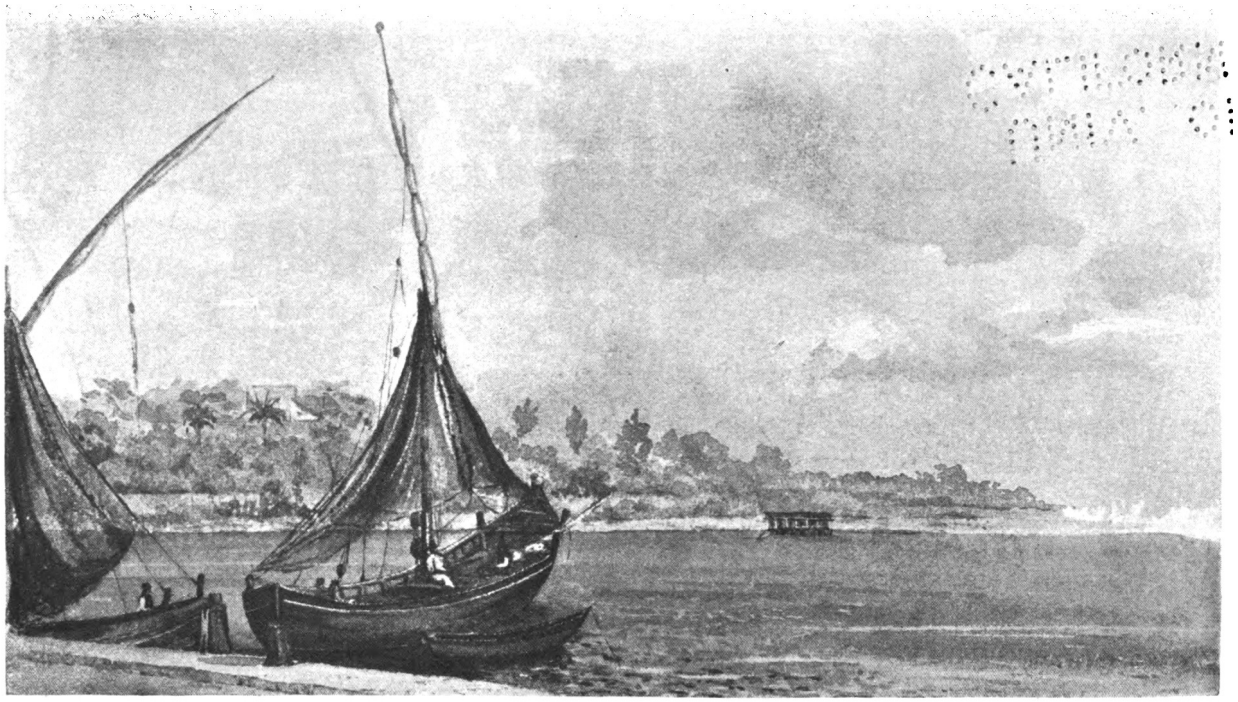
10 Aix-les-Bains, popular spa town in Savoy.
11 Daily allowances.
12 Arthur G. Ferard.

With the Indian Mail from London to Bombay

by Arthur G. Ferard [1]

In an article which appeared in the pages of this magazine in January 1895, a vivid account was given of the trials and experiences which await the adventurous aspirant to a trip to Brindisi in charge of the Indian mail, to say nothing of the risk of meeting an errant bacillus on the way, or, if he chance to possess a would-be artistic turn of mind, of undermining his constitution by an undue exposure to the elements. In the instance which was given nature, it is believed, ultimately triumphed over art, and the untimely fate prognosticated by the writer was fortunately averted.

Since that article was written but little change has taken place in the arrangements for the continental transit of the mail beyond the fact that the service has been accelerated and the journey from Calais to Brindisi is now timed to occupy thirty-six hours only. Now and again the vagaries of the barometer have given rise to variety in the form of a *détour* necessitated by the flooding of a river, or the fall of an embankment; but, unless some such untoward incident occurs, the Indian mail officer must rely on his own resources to relieve the monotony of his journey. In the way of amusements he can certainly exercise his fancy freely, ranging from the game of patience which naturally suggests itself to the preparation of an artistic lunch, a tune on the cornet, or a suicidal attempt at shaving when the train is hurrying along at the rate of fifty miles an hour. There is a fable that in one instance imagination went so far as to suggest a race with the train when it stopped for a moment at a wayside station.



From a water colour drawing by A. G. Ferard.

ADRIATIC FISHING BOATS IN BRINDISI HARBOUR.

Fig. 1: Adriatic Fishing Boats in Brindisi Harbour.
From a water colour drawing by A. G. Ferard.

Surprising to relate the train proved an easy winner; but the other competitor, determined to make a brilliant finish, or possibly alarmed at the prospect of being left behind altogether, surpassed himself by taking a marvellous flying leap through the window of the last carriage, which was that of the

1 Arthur G. Ferard: *With the Indian Mail from London to Bombay*. In: St. Martin's-Le-Grand, vol. 7, 1897, no. 26 (April 1897), pp. 127–135.

Italian Travelling Post Office. He alighted on the back of a somnolent[2] sorter, who displayed a not unnatural resentment and unmistakeable evidences of an intention to eject the intruder as a villain of the deepest dye. The phrases of choice Petrarchian Italian in which an explanation was offered merely increased the agitation of his nerves, and it was only by the production of a large key (or was it a flask) that the visitor finally succeeded in proving himself to be nothing worse than a worthy official from St. Martin's-le-Grand,[3] in charge of the mail vans.

Those vans, by-the-bye, are but ordinary vans, and, like other vans, they have a perverse habit of getting out of order in the most inconvenient places. On one occasion—this was some years ago, when the mail and overland passengers were conveyed to Brindisi by the same train—two vans and the sleeping car, in which the mail officer was travelling, broke down in a spot where it was impossible to replace them. Of course this occurred in the early hours of a snowy morning, and a make-shift had to be resorted to when everyone who was not asleep was trying to be so. Garments were huddled on anyhow or nohow, and not until the train had re-started was it discovered that all prospects of breakfast had disappeared with the deserted car, and that many hours must elapse before any food could be obtained. If there was a popular person on board at that moment it was the Indian mail officer, who was the proud possessor of a tea basket, with tea but no water, a plum cake, and a pot of Dundee marmalade.

Such a *contretemps*[4] would not be likely to occur now-a-days. The passengers travel to Brindisi in the splendid *train de luxe* of the P. & O. Company, equipped with a restaurant and every comfort; but the mail officer, who follows with his precious load in a train all to himself, must depend for sustenance on his own resources. And he need not on that account be pitied. By the courtesy of the French and Italian governments, he may take with him, from Benoist or Gunter if he please, all manner of delicacies in or out of season, without fear of annoyance from the petty exactions of *octroi* or *dazio con sumo*.[5]

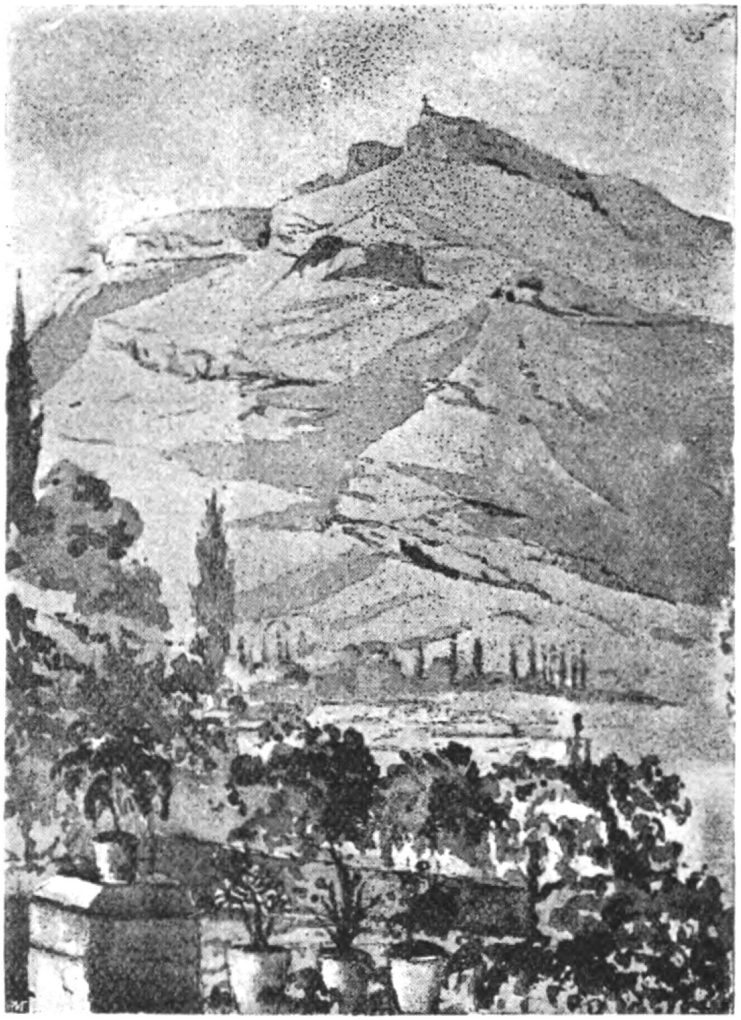
So far as the Post Office is concerned the reason for the separation of the mail and passenger trains is not far to seek. Since the adoption of the reduced postage rates in force in this country the Eastern mail has been steadily on the increase. Even on ordinary occasions as many as ten vans are frequently required to contain the British bags alone, and these vans would make up a train of more than respectable length without the Travelling Post Offices which are attached both in France and Italy.

The readers of this Magazine are of course aware what extraordinary misconceptions the general public entertains in regard to the proper functions of the Post Office, the manner in which they should be performed and the amount of work that has to be got through. The Eastern mail service affords a striking instance of this. On all sides irresponsible persons will be found eager to criticize the arrangements and offer suggestions, but of these same persons not one in a hundred has the least conception of what the mail consists. It is by no means unusual for an officer who has travelled across the Continent in charge of the mail to be asked whether he has the whole of it in his own compartment, and whether he is not harassed with anxiety as to the fate of any extra bags there may not be room for, say at Christmas time.

As a matter of fact even on ordinary occasions the bags not infrequently number over 1,800, each of which weighs on an average 50 lbs., and on the 4th of December last they reached the enormous total of 2,148, representing a gross weight of 118,548 lbs.,[6] the largest mail that has ever left this country. These bags are not all despatched from London at the same time or even conveyed across the Channel by the same boat; but they all unite at Calais, and the last portion of the mail, which is despatched on Friday evenings, is by far the greatest. The journey across France is too well known to need description. The scenery does not really become interesting until one approaches the

2 Sleepy or dozy.
3 St. Martin's Le Grand, location of the British General Post Office (GPO) in the City of London from 1829.
4 Inconvenience or setback.
5 Customs duty or Customs duty with surcharge.
6 Ca. 54 tons.

mountains of Savoy, encompassing the beautiful Lac de Bourget and extending onwards with increasing splendour to form the gigantic rampart which separates France from Switzerland and Switzerland from the sunny plains of Lombardy. There are many points of interest for those who have leisure to visit them, but the mail train waits not even for the mail officer, and only a passing glimpse can be bestowed, if one happens to know where to look, on such historical spots as the burial place of the House of Savoy or the rural Charmettes, on a spur of the hills above Chambéry, where Rousseau and Madame de Staël loved and parted.



From a water colour drawing by A. G. Ferard.

THE NIVOLET ABOVE CHAMBÉRY.

Fig. 2:

The Nivolet above Chambéry.
From a water colour drawing by
A. G. Ferard.

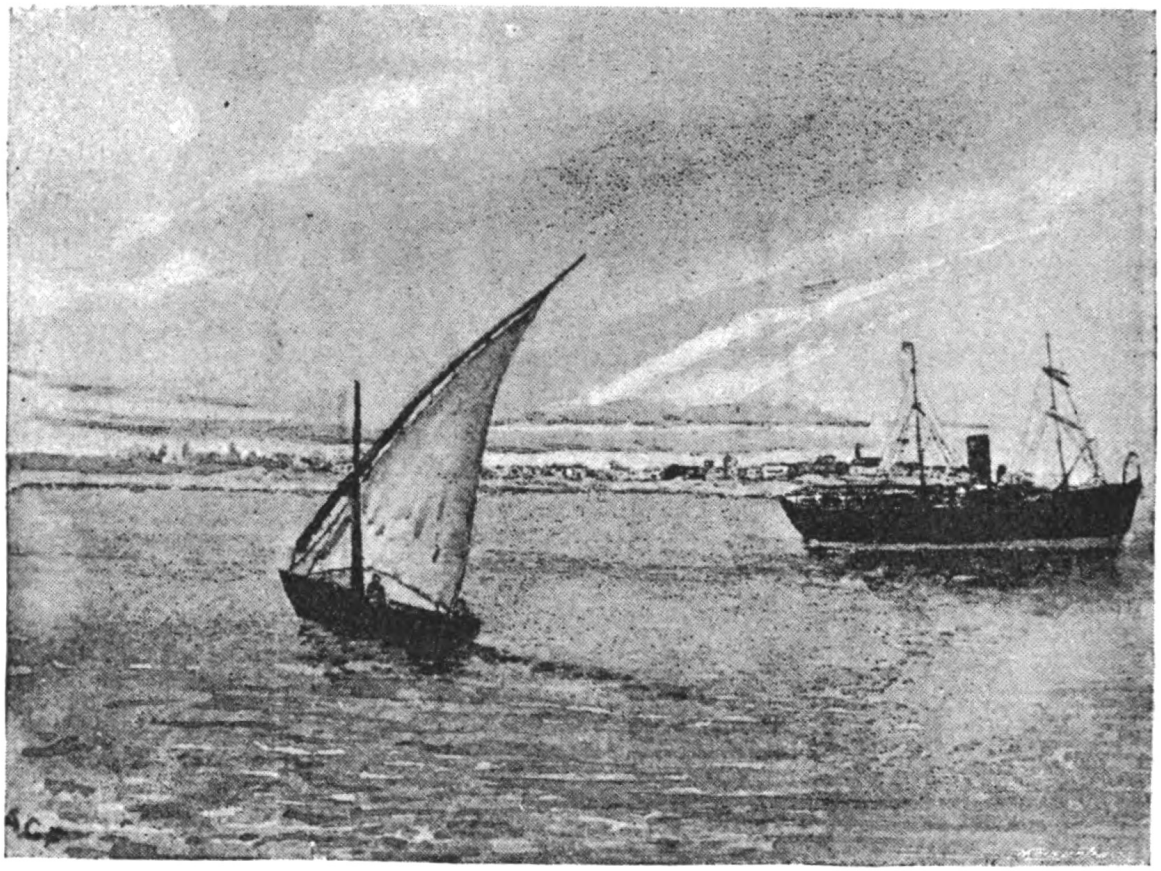
At Modane the train passes from French to Italian control, and the very air there seems charged with subtle indications of the traditional jealousy which is supposed to animate the two races. The French officials in the station do not or will not speak a word of Italian and the Italian officials turn a deaf ear to French. Even the station clocks join in the rivalry, and if the Italian clock on one platform tells you it is time for dinner the French clock on the other says you have 55 minutes to wait. 'E dunno where 'e are, as the bard says; and it is a relief the next morning to find yourself gliding peacefully along within a few yards of the Adriatic with its azure waters and picturesque fishing boats.

Here too there are many interesting spots one would like to visit, Pesaro, the birthplace of Rossini, and a host of quaint villages and castellated townlets on the slopes of the Apennines. Over this portion of the journey the heat is sometimes terrific and the dust almost always appalling. The fine Adriatic sand enters the compartment in clouds, deposits itself in thick layers on everything within

reach, beginning with the mail officer himself and refusing to spare even the provisions he has provided for his sustenance.

But Brindisi is reached at last. The railway there, unfortunately, does not extend along the quay to the deep water basin where the P. & O. Packet is in waiting, and the mails are transferred at the marine station from the train to vans which convey them to the ship's gangway, some three or four hundred yards off. The physique of the horses which draw these vans is suggestive neither of quantity nor quality, but they manage somehow or other to do what is required of them, and that is all that can be said in their favour. Fodder is scarce in southern Italy, and money still more so, whence, although the port of Brindisi possesses great natural advantages, it cannot boast, except on paper, of the conveniences and attractions which are to be found at rival ports on the Mediterranean.

For many years past great schemes have been on foot for the adornment of the place, but owing to the want of the wherewithal they are generally of an abortive nature, and so far the only results seem to be a flickering electric light or two and a half-built theatre with no prospect of ever being opened. When the P. & O. Packet has sailed on Sunday night the tired out mail officer naturally makes straight for his bed, and the Brindisines in general follow his good example and sink into a more or less torpid[7] state of existence until the homeward Packet arrives.



From a water colour drawing by A. G. Ferard.

IN THE ROADS OF SUEZ.

Fig. 3: In thr the Roads of Suez.
From a water colour drawing by A. G. Ferard.

The first port of call after leaving Brindisi is, of course, the low lying Port Said, which even a short distance off has the appearance of a group of buildings rising straight out of the sea. A few years ago this place was regarded as a refuge for the scum of the earth; but it has advanced with the times,

7 Sluggish.

and now goes in for a tennis club, amateur theatricals, and other amusements suitable for the fashionable watering place into which it would develop. Notwithstanding its showy shops there is still more of the coaling station about it than anything else, as anyone who arrives there on board an outward bound P. & O. Packet has ample opportunities of discovering; and for this reason it compares unfavourably with its older rival Suez, at the other end of the canal.

Suez no longer enjoys the importance it once possessed in connexion with the Indian mail service. From the year 1870, when the Brindisi route was first adopted, until 1888, the mails used to be conveyed by steamer to Alexandria, and thence by train to Suez, where they were transferred to another steamer which carried them on to Bombay. Thus they did not pass through the canal at all, except under special circumstances, such as quarantine in Egypt; and at that time, moreover, the regulations of the Canal Company did not permit steamers to pass through during the night. It is only within a comparatively recent period that the transit by night has been authorized for vessels complying with certain requirements as to electric lights, requirements which, it is needless to say, the British Packets are in a position to fulfil. The passage through the Canal is at all times interesting, but at night it is singularly weird and picturesque, with the light shooting its powerful rays far ahead, and illuminating the barren and inhospitable desert which extends on either side.

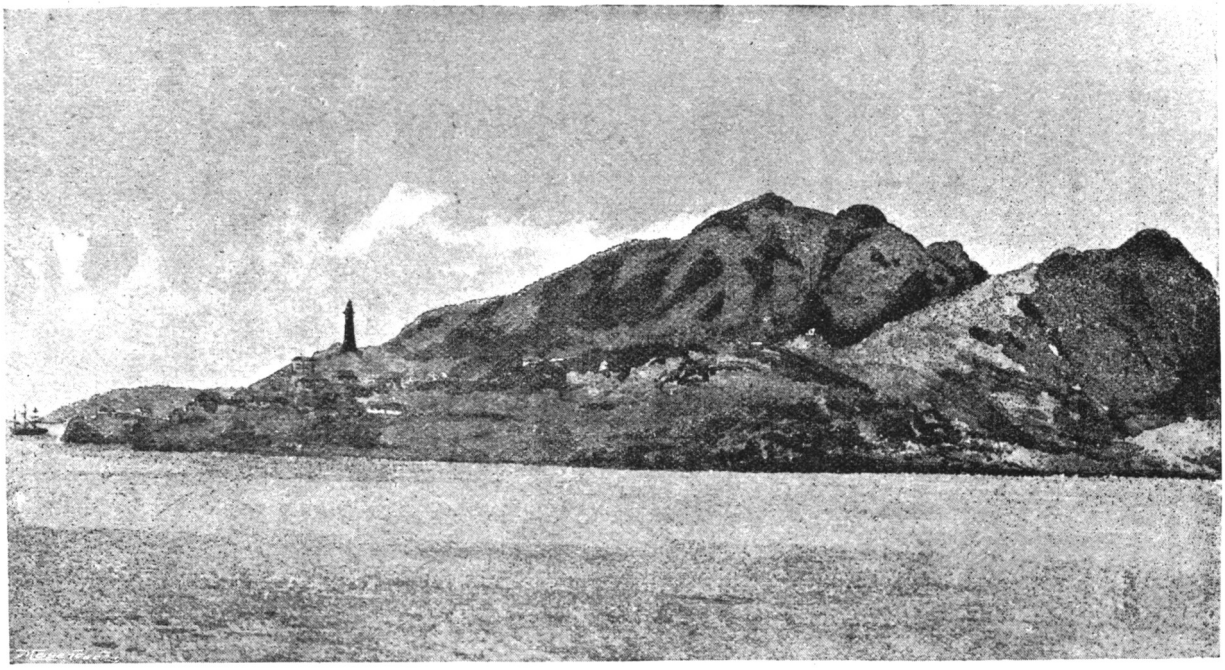
The sorters of the Indian Sea Post Office used at one time to come on board at Suez, but now the mails are not dealt with on the voyage down the Red Sea, and operations only commence at Aden. The total staff of the Aden-Bombay Sea Post Office consists of two European inspecting mail officers, three assistant mail officers and 33 sorters. At the present time the two latter categories comprise three Europeans, 17 Eurasians, 14 Portuguese or East Indians and two Parsees. These are divided into three sets of ten sorters, each set under the charge of an assistant mail officer, so that there are three sorters in reserve who relieve their comrades by turns and enable them to have a week's longer stay in Bombay. Their usual stay there is about six days. Each set leaves Bombay in turn and goes back from Aden in the next outward Packet after an interval of about three days. How they employ that interval is a point on which I have no information. Some perhaps, after the manner of their kind, sit upon their heels and gaze at the sun, and if the others require further amusement it is to be hoped they are not hard to please, for Aden can scarcely be reckoned among the blest[8] places of the earth. Its barren rocks cannot even boast of a single tree; and the only people who find life tolerable there are the steamer passengers, who employ the few hours of their stay in making curly-headed boys dive for sixpences, or in bargaining for indifferent ostrich feathers they do not want and queer-shaped baskets they have no room to stow away.

The mail to be landed at Bombay consists on an average of 724 bags and about 110 parcel boxes. The parcel boxes are taken on to destination intact, but the rest of the mail is entirely sorted by the Sea Post Office before arrival in Bombay, no light task in these days of quick voyages, when the run from Aden is sometimes accomplished in four days. The charges to be collected on unpaid and insufficiently paid correspondence of all kinds have to be indicated in Indian currency on each article ; and the Sea Post Office has also to sell stamps to passengers on board, to receive late fee letters in port, and to dispose of ordinary and registered letters posted on board during the voyage. The work is at all times abundant, and the pressure occasionally very great.

Before the Packet arrives in harbour the mail bags are arranged on deck in the order in which they have to be landed, so that they may be disposed of without delay, some being sent to the railway, some transferred to other steamers, and the remainder delivered in the harbour or at the pier. Naturally the arrival of the mail from home is an event eagerly looked forward to from one end of India to the other; and if, when the mails reach Bombay in the morning, there is a possibility of overtaking the regular night mail train which has left Bombay for Calcutta on the previous evening, a special train with the European correspondence is despatched after it. Some firms and newspaper offices arrange on payment of a fee of twelve rupees a year to have special bags for them made up in the Sea Post Office, and they take delivery of these bags at the ship's side; other ticket holders

8 Blessed.

who pay the same fee enjoy the privilege of receiving their letters at the General Post Office in Bombay about 1½ hours after the Packet has come to anchor. The mails for Sind and the Persian Gulf are generally transhipped in the harbour to a steamer of the British India Steam Navigation Company, and mails for H.M. ships stationed there are handed over on the spot.



From a water colour drawing by A. G. Ferard.

ADEN FROM THE SEA.

Fig. 4: Aden from the Sea.
From a water colour drawing by A. G. Ferard.

It will thus be seen that the Indian Post Office is very much on the alert when the mail arrives, and anxious to do its best by the public it caters for. Let us hope that that public displays more than the usual gratitude, and, if an occasional packet of wedding cake falls a prey to an audacious rat who has crept unperceived into the mail room, that the intended recipients do not always declare it has been devoured by the Post Office. It certainly would not matter much if it were, as wedding cake proverbially goes bad on the voyage to India, and had better be eaten at home.

On this point, however, there is no need to enlarge, the chief aim of this article being to see the mails safely brought to that coral strand, which if anyone expects to find at Bombay, in pink and white, he will be sadly disappointed. Nevertheless, to a new comer, the attractions on landing there are multifarious, and the difficulty is which to choose. Here a screeching steam launch is suggesting a visit to the caves of Elephanta, there a pious Fakir clothed in the smaller half of a pocket handkerchief fascinates with his orisons and genuflexions, and somewhere else a conjuror is making a mango tree grow out of nothing under the shelter of a table cloth.

Official zeal, however, and the anticipation of a kindly welcome will perhaps suggest a call on the courteous Postmaster-General, Mr. Symmons, who has just come down to his office after a hard day's hunting. Readers, do not be shocked, it is only 10.30 a.m., and the hounds have met at 4! Further prospects of enjoyment will perhaps be offered by him in the shape of a visit to the Byculla Club, and in the meanwhile the best thing to do seems to be to seek refuge from the sun on the verandah of Watson's Hotel. Let us therefore return thither, with a fervent hope that someone has unexpectedly vacated a room, and that it will not in the end be necessary to spend the night camping like a Hindoo idol on the top of one's portmanteau in a corner of the hall.

Arthur G. Ferard.

Recent Philatelic Journals

by Tobias Zywietz

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A selection of articles related to Middle East Philately from recent philatelic journals. Please enquire with each society for its conditions of supply.

The Levant Vol. 12, No. 5 – May 2024

Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society
English, A4, colour, US-$ 4·00

The editor shows an 1890s postcard depicting a market scene from Mostar (Bosnia) (73).
Richard Rose on interpreting Ottoman postal cancels, focussing on the calendar and dates used (75–80).
Richard Barnes looks at the the Gaeta issue of Montenegro (81–83).
Peter Winders shows a Yemen Arab Republic civil war censored cover (84–86).
Allen Smith presents a 1913 Serbian propaganda postcard: "Serbia rescues the Balkans" (86).
Gus Riachi continues his series on forgeries looking at the ١٣٣٦ (1336) Ankara overprints (87–88).
The editor notes the rarity of the stamp used for franking the cover of the Great National Assembly shown by Volker Fredeold in Türkei-Spiegel 148 (88).
The editor recommends MEPB and the president reports on sustaining members (73)

The Levant Vol. 12, No. 6 – September 2024

Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society
English, A4, colour, US-$ 4·00

Mehmet Akan's article (first published in Türk Pulculuğu, no. 33, 2008) about Aero Espresso Italiana flights in Turkey is reprinted (96–101).
Marc Milzman looks at the saga of Fethi Bey & Nuri Bey: "Undelivered Airmail – 1914" (94, 102–104).
Ed Kroft researched Ottoman mail service for inhabitants of Jewish agricultural settlements in the Hoy Land, 1882–1914 (105–117).
The ONEPS president reports the board elections: Adel Kanaan, President; Akhtem al-Manaseer, Vice-President; Allan Smith, Secretary; Will Kearney, Treasurer Richard Rose, Journal Editor; Marisa Galitz, Webmaster; Robert Stucell, Past President (94).

The Levant Vol. 13, No. 1 – January 2025

Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society
English, A4, colour, US-$ 4·00

Richard Rose presents a photo of the Air Martyrs' Column in Istanbul, provided by Uzay Togay (1).
Richard Rose and Elia Anz studied the early Revenue stamps of Jordan (2–8).
Michael Sharnoff has his article "The Hashemite regime : a postal history of nation-building" reprinted [sadly with extremely poor quality images] (9–18).
This issue's "Watch your step" column focuses on forgeries of the Free French Syria (SG 1a) (18).
Jack Kifedjian presents postal history items related to the Near East Relief charity organisation (19–20).
Adel Kanaan (President), Marisa Galitz (Webmaster) and Richard Rose (Editor) report (1).

The Levant Vol. 13, No. 2 – May 2025

Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society
English, A4, colour, US-$ 4·00

Robert Gray resarched Ottoman Prisoners of War held in Burma during WWI (23–29).
The editor presents a 1921 philatelic cover from İstanbul to H.E. Harris, Boston (29).
Abdulnasir Hilal Naji notes the ALA Littoria S.S. flight service in Iraq during 1939–1941 (30–34).
Tobias Zywietz unearthed a academic study on the sale of old stamps to generate income for the bankrupt Ottoman state (35–38).
Denis Doren looks at the short-lived British military postal history of Long Island [Chustann/Uzun Ada] in the Gulf of Smyrna, inluding the labels "GRI LONG ISLAND" (39–40).
Editor Richard Rose reports on exhibition awards, MEPB, and backissues (21). Obituary for Robert Wade Stuchell (22). Arabian Philatelic Association International (APAI) (40).

Türkei-Spiegel 150 – 4/2024

Arge Osmanisches Reich/Türkei
German, A4, colour, €7·50

Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi's "The Wing of Islam" gives a summary about the history of the Postal Service in Egypt and Syria in the Umayyad, Abbasid, and Mamluk periods (part 2) (5–10).
Hans Paul Soetens revises Passer on the plate errors of the 5 Paras Empire issues (11–23).
Hans-Dieter Gröger presents further gems of Turkey: the first postal card uprated to non-UPU countries Panama 1877 (24).
Volker Fredebold reports on the rare postmarks Eminönü (Constantinople) (25–26).

A 1881 sketch makes fun about how supposedly a telegram was delivered in Massawa (27–28).
Mehmet Akan researched the 'Payas Post' and the Postkrieg about Hatay in 1938/1939 (I) (29–36).
Bernd-Dieter Buscke presents the second part of his catalogue of Hotel postmarks, cancels and cachet of Jordan (37–41).
Bernd-Dieter Buscke reports the late use of a British Mandate postmark (42).
Medal on the occasion of the Kaiser's visit to Turkey in 1917 [125,000 €] (48).

Türkei-Spiegel 151 – 1/2025

Arge Osmanisches Reich/Türkei
German, A4, colour, €7·50

Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi's "The Wing of Islam" gives a summary about the history of the Postal Service in Egypt and Syria in the Umayyad, Abbasid, and Mamluk periods (part 3) (5–10).
Volker Fredebold shows the Baghdad provisionals on cover (11–12).
Jens Warnecke researched Passer's 5 types of MiNr. 638 = ISFILA 898 (overpr. on soldiers in trenches) (13–20).
Mehmet Akan researched the 'Payas Post' and the Postkrieg about Hatay in 1938/1939 (part 2) (21–29).
Tobias Zywietz reviews "Otto Liman von Sanders" (Rolf-Detlev Neß) and "The Ottoman Empire and early Republic Post … in the Vilayet Trabzon" (Kemal Giray) and offers digitised versions (PDFs) of Passer's "The Stamps of Turkey" and Tanrıkut's "Türkiye posta ve telgraf ve telefon tarihi ve teşkilât ve mevzuatı" (31–32)
RFI: German troops and field post in Turkey WWI (32).
New books and the announcement for "Postal Rates Turkey 1920–1950" (Mehmet Akan) (34).
Richard Rose corrects an error for the date of issue of Iraq 1942 10 fils carmine (MiNr. 105/SG 216) (35).
The editor shows an 1898 picture postcard of Constantinople (44).
Jens Warnecke reports on the 2024 AGM (36–40).

Türkei-Spiegel 152 – 2/2025

Arge Osmanisches Reich/Türkei
German, A4, colour, €7·50

Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi's "The Wing of Islam" gives a summary about the history of the Postal Service in Egypt and Syria in the Umayyad, Abbasid, and Mamluk periods (concluding part 4) (5–10).
Volker Fredebold presents a newspaper wrapper with the rare "Sublime Porte Maʿlûmat-ı Şâhânesi Bâb-ı Âli Posta Şubesi" (10).
Ibrahim Heckmann studied the life and legacy of Mevlana Rūmī "The Prophet of Love" (11–18).
Hubert Gerzabek sent in a series of letters from a British officers in Bulgaria during the Crimean war (1854), annotated by Tobias Zywietz (19–24).
Jens Warnecke gives an update on his research into the overprints MiNr. 638 (ISFILA 898) (26–28).
Parviz Sahandi and Wolfgang Leimenstoll look at the late introduction of IRS in Persia in 1926 (29–30).
Bernd-Dieter Buscke poses the question whether some stamps were in fact used as charity labels (31–34).
Tobias Zywietz reviews the bool by Alan Mellaart: "Ottoman Empire Postal History of Greece" (35).
Martin Bohnstedt adds a new Jordanian hotel post cancel (36).
New Turkey issues: Yüreğimde Filistin = Palestine in my heart (2024 (44).
New members, AROS 40the anniversary plans, new books (37–39).



Türkei-Spiegel 153 – 3/2025

Arge Osmanisches Reich/Türkei
German, A4, colour, €7·50

The Egyptial postal system in 1877 [found by Tobias Zywietz] (5–8).
Hans-Dieter Gröger shows the earliest Turkish stationery to India and returned (9).
Jens Warnecke: Lack of stamps in WWI? (10–11).
Bernd-Dieter Buscke (AIJP): Kalei Soultanié 6 on cover: unique piece from 1917 (11).
Briefmarken retten die Türkische Staatskasse? (I) [basierend auf einem Artikel von Salih Kış] (12–14).
Wilfried Korber: Rare Meter Marks of Turkey: SATAS, (1969) (15).
Jan Sangers: The Mail Route from Persia to Dutch East India in 1932 (16–22).
Bernd-Dieter Buscke (AIJP): Differentiation of overprints of the Jordan Occupation of Palestine (Abdullah definitives) (23–26).
Jean-Louis Emmenegger (AIJP): UNRWA – Refugee Aid in Palestine since 1949 (27–35).
Q&A: Validity of Turkish stamps in old Lira currency (38); Current tariffs of the Turkish post (38), short notes (39); New books (39–40).
Bernd-Dieter Buscke: QSL card of King Hussein (44).
Inviation for the autumn meeting and AGM (36–37). New members (38).

The Quarterly Circular 288 (Vol. 25, No. 5) – March 2024

The Egypt Study Circle
English, A4, colour, –

Ramez Atiya revisits the MacArthur plating of the 1872 20 para stamp (100–103).
Chance for a royal station postmark (103).
Mahmoud Ramadan continues research of the postal development of Upper Egypt, Nubia Sudan (104–109).
Jos Strengholt reports on the Marc Pourpe Cairo–Khartoum flight mails (110–113).
Ken Sanford starts a series on Mediterranean and Aegean shipwrecks of World War I (114–120, iii).
Paul Grigg: Why I collect Egypt (iv).
Meeting reports (98), Obituary: Brian Sedgeley (99); Elections at the Phil. Society of Egypt (100).

The Quarterly Circular 289 (Vol. 25, No. 6) – June 2024

The Egypt Study Circle
English, A4, colour, –

Hany Salam presents from his Suez Canal Company collection (124–129).
Hani Sharestan reports on a new Fouad 1926 birthday issue variety (130).
Ken Sanford present the second part of his study into shipwrecks in the Mediterranean and Aegean, 1917/18 (131–138).
Mahmoud Ramadan concludes his study of the vice-royal post: The 'philatelic nation' of Upper Egypt, Nubia & Sudan [II] (139–144).
John L. Hayes: Why I collect Egypt (iv).
Report of the Annual General Meeting 8.03.2024 with income/expenditure and full accounts] (122–123, iii).

The Quarterly Circular 290 (Vol. 25, No. 7) – September 2024

The Egypt Study Circle
English, A4, colour, –

David Ogden features the 'Eye of Horus' and King Farouk in his beginner's corner (149–150).
Paul Grigg present a second part to his study of Suez Canal stamp forgeries by Saatjian (151–154).
John Clarke reports the discovery of the Ghirgheg V-4 postmark on cover (154).
Ramez Atiya continues the series on the 'MacArthur' plating of the 1872 20 paras stamp (155–157).
Tobias Zywietz searches for the Postmaster-General's Annual Reports for 1877–1909 (157–158).
Ken Sanford looks at Imperial Airways crash mail with an Egyptian connection [City of Alexandria, G-EBVG, 26.10.1926; City of Rome, G-AADN, 26.10.1929; City of Cairo, G-EBMW, 11.10.1930; Satyras/Scipio, G-ABFC, 24.05.1931; City of Birmingham, G-EBLO, 16.06.1931; City of Karachi, G-AARY, 22.08.1931; City of Arundel, G-EBOZ; Satyras, G-ABFC, 4.03.1933, Astraea, G-ABTL, 2.11.1935; Sylvanus, G-ABFB, 9.11.1935; City of Khartoum, G-AASJ, 31.12.1935; City of Alexandria, G-EBVG, 24.03.1937] (159–165).
Sami Sadek dissects a 1909 cover with four TPO marks, retracing the letter's journey: Tanta–Damanhur, Sherbin–Kallin, Cairo–Alexandria, Cairo–Teh El Baroud (166–167).
John Davis reports a misdirected cover Bulkeley to Bolkly, Alexandria (167–168).
Ahmed Abouesh answers 'Why I collect Egypt' (iii).
Meeting report 1.06.2024 (146). Mike Murphy reports in his editorial about the challenges for the Study Circle (147). Neil Hitchens reports the new stewardship of the ESC Library (148).

The Quarterly Circular 291 (Vol. 25, No. 8) – December 2024

The Egypt Study Circle
English, A4, colour, –

Paul Grigg dissects forged covers of the Sudan campaign (175–179).
Pierre Louis Grech reports on the Muzzi medal once lost and found (180–181).
Ken Sanford continues his series on Imperial Airways crash mail with an Egyptian connection in part 2 [Courtier, G-ADVC, 1.10.1937; Cygnus, G-ADUZ, 5.12.1937; Aurora, VT-AEG, 15.01.1938, Cordelia, G-AEUD, 23.01.1938; Corio, VH-ABD, Cooee, VH-ABF, 16.07.1938; Electra, G-AFYU, 21.12.1939; Hannibal, G-AAGX, 1.03.1940] (182–185).
David Ogden looks in his beginner's column "The Eye of Horus" at The Suez Canal and the Suez Canal Company stamps] (186).
Scott Van Horn presents at UAR stamps of the 1964 New York World's Fair (187–190).
Michael Knaubert queries whether there was a regular sea postal service to El Tor (Sinai) (190–191).
Sami Sadek answers 'Why I collect Egypt' (192).
David Ogden reports from his philatelic visit to Alexandria (170–173). Obituary for Dr. Ibrahim Shoukry (174). Changes to the meetings schedule (174). Invitation for the 2024 MacArthur Award (iii).

The Quarterly Circular 292 (Vol. 25, No. 9) – March 2025

The Egypt Study Circle
English, A4, colour, –

David Ogden's beginner's column "The Eye of Horus" focuses on the Palestine overprints (194).
Ramez Atiya researched for his exhibit the proofs and dies of the second issue (196–200).
Michael Knaubert looks at a postcard and describes its connection with the hunt for Emin Bey (201–205).
David Ogden starts a series "Stamps That Tell A Story" with an article on Talaat Harb and Banque Misr (206).
Pierre Louis Grech reprises the information on the postmarks of the French post offices in Egypt from his out-of-print book (207–213).
Richard Wheatley tells the story of Samuel Shepheard's retirement to England (214–215).
Ronny v. Pellecom explains why he collects Egypt' (216).
Obituary for Dr. Ibrahim Shoukry (195). The editor laments the lacklustre provision of articles in "Half a century of deaf ears" (205).



The Quarterly Circular 293 (Vol. 25, No. 10) – June 2025

The Egypt Study Circle
English, A4, colour, –

Scott Van Horn looks at the 1953 Queen Nefertiti issue (223–225).
David Ogden's "The Eye of Horus" beginner's column gives an introduction to the British Forces in Egypt stamps (226).
Robert C. Porter researched the 20 paras lithographs of 1872 (227–230).
Ronny van Pellecom and Alain Stragier studied the Fayoum Light Railway Company (232–240).
David Ogden continues his series "Stamps that tell a story" with Sa'ad Zaghloul Pasha (iii).
Mike Murphy Study Circle votes for the future (217). A. W. Gould reports the Egypt Study Circle's accountsfor 2023/2024 (218). Mike Murphy reports the changes to operating the Circle as suggested at te AGM an approved by the membership (QC will no longer be printed): Countdown to the Study Circle's transition (219). Report of the AGM 10.05.2024. ESC has 164 members (219–222).
Pierre-Louis Grech solves the mystery about page 15 in the first volume von the ESC Quarterly Circular (231).
Mike Murphy answers "Why I collect Egypt" (iv).

L'Orient Philatélique 162 – December 2023

Facebook: L'Orient Philatélique
English, partly Arabic, ca. B5, colour, –

Ahmed Nabil presents pages from his exhibit "The high values 100mil and 200mil of the 1922 Crown over-print" (3–6).
Alaa Massoud shows pages from his exhibit "Simon Arzt, Port Said" (8–24).

L'Orient Philatélique 163 – March 2024

Facebook: L'Orient Philatélique
English, partly Arabic, ca. B5, colour, –

Vahe Varjabedian shows the different types of 'shell' perfins on Egyptian Stamps (15–17).
Hani Salam's speech as President of the Egyptian Philatelic Association] (3). EPS Board of Directors election report] (4–13). Dr. Mohamad Omar reports on the Arab Stamp Exhibition (19–25).

L'Orient Philatélique 164 – June 2024

Facebook: L'Orient Philatélique
English, partly Arabic, ca. B5, colour, –

Vladimir Kachan reports on sericulture (silk production) in Africa: history reflected in philately (9–19).
Kareem Darwaza shows material on the tobacco manufacturer Theodoro Vafiadis & Co (21–23).
Yasser Omar shos a page from his exhibit on King Fouad first portrait series [Harrison Specimen, Specimen, Colonias] (24).
Report on youth philately: 'future philatelists' (3–6).

L'Orient Philatélique 165 – May 2024

Facebook: L'Orient Philatélique
English, partly Arabic, ca. B5, colour, –

Mohamad Omar looks at the Al-Bazid Al-Hadith stamps (15th Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition) (3–4).
Vahe Varjabedian reports on Joss & Löwenstein perfins on a Egyptian postal stationery card (6).
Hani Salam looks at the first Bizidi Khuna 8181 "Khalas Al-Ujra" (AGENZIA DEI PIROSCAFI A VAPORE EGIZIANI/CONSTANTINOPOLI) (7).
Ali Abdelmegeid researched Egyptian revenue-stamped papers 1843–1930 (9–24).

Al Barid Nieuwsbrief 7 – August 2024

Filatelistische Contactgroep Islamitische Wereld
Dutch, A4, colour, PDF only, –

Avo Kaplanian present the second part of his research into Postage Due covers in (Trans)Jordan (4–8).
Jos Strengholt & Jan van Zellem present further machine cancels (9–10).
Jan van Zellem reports new issues on Gaza & Palestine solidarity from Jordan and Libya (14–16).

Al Barid Nieuwsbrief 8 – November 2024

Filatelistische Contactgroep Islamitische Wereld
Dutch, A4, colour, PDF only, –

Avo Kaplanian reports on lesser known revenue stamps and banderoles for tobacco during the British Mandate over Palestine (3–8).
Folkert Bruining discusses Bokhara Embassy Mazar-i-Sharif/Buchara in Mazar-i-Sharif post office (9–11).
Jan van Zellem reviews "De Bagdad Berlijn Express" by Ana van Es (12).
Jan Sangers, Theo Heeft, Theo Kesters present gems from their collections (13–18).
Avo Kaplanian researched the only vending machine booklet of Jordan (18–24).

The editor present the 2023 Egyptian block 'Greco-Roman Museum' (24).

Al Barid Nieuwsbrief 9 – February 2025

Filatelistische Contactgroep Islamitische Wereld
Dutch, A4, colour, PDF only, –

Jos Strengholt reports on spells on mail items: "May the Djinn be with you" [beduh 8462] (3–7).
Theo Kester shows a 1904 item from Bandar Linga (Iran) (9–11).
Theo Kester reviews "The Impact of Political Events …" by Dr. Fariborz Goodarzi (11–14).
Jan van Zellem reports on new issues regarding the Gaza conflict (14–16).


Al Barid
Nieuwsbrief
البريد
Nummer 10 Zomer 2025
Inhoud:
- Van de redactie — Jan van Zellem — 2
- Agenda — 2
- Postbode in Egypte: "Moge de Djinn met je zijn" — Jos Strengholt — 3
- Een Bodoeh (Djin) in Iran — Theo Kester — 8
- Corinphila — 10
- Briefcontactcursus — Hans Elzelingen — 11
- Jaarverslag Egyptische post 1877 — Tobias Zywietz — 13
- Nieuwe uitgiften Gaza — Jan van Zellem — 15
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Al Barid Nieuwsbrief 10 – April 2025

Filatelistische Contactgroep Islamitische Wereld
Dutch, A4, colour, PDF only, –

Jos Strengholt continues a piece about mystical numbers [bduh 2468] (3–9).
Hans Elzelingen shows a cover from Mekka to Stockholm (1956) an one from Djedda via Egypt to Paramaribo (Suriname) (1943) (11–12).
The editor translated the Annual Report of the Egyptian Post for 1877 (as reported by Tobias Zywietz) into Dutch (13–15).
Jan van Zellem reports on new issues concerning the Gaza conflict (15–16).

The Dhow 96 (Vol. 25, No. 2) – June 2024

Aden & Somaliland Study Group
English, ca. A4, colour, –

Malcolm Lacey shows a cover from the John Cooper collection: a letter from Aden to Spain during the Civil War in 1937 ([1]).
Tony Cochrane provides a cover from Aden via Marseilles to London in 1867 (3).
Jamie Smith contributes a page from the UPU archive of the Portuguese postal administration in Goa showing the 1937 Aden definitives and the coronation set (4).
Mike Pettifor presents an unusual 'honour' envelope from Aden to Iraq in 1942 (5).
Neil Williams discovered an unlisted Postage Due mark used in Aden 1954/55 (6).
Neil Williams looks at philatelists' attempts to get postmarks from Socotra in the early 1950s, before there was any postal service to the island (7–10).
The editor shows a photo of an Aden Airways Vickers Viscount srs760D VR-AAW in the mid-1960s (10).
Majed Halawi shows final colour proofs for the Kathiri State 1942 definitive issue (11).
Germain Mentgen researched postal routings of Ala Littoria through Sudan: Rome–Kassala January 1936 (12–13).
Germain Mentgen translated an article by Roberto Gentilli published in "Guerra Aerea sull'Etiopia 1935-1939" on the Italian aviation company Aviotrasporti S.A. Roma (14–15).
Björn Sohrne contributes a 1931 Sana'a to Port Said cover, redirected to Lebanon (16).

The Dhow 97 (Vol. 25, No. 3) – Sept. 2024

Aden & Somaliland Study Group
English, ca. A4, colour, –

Sue Hopson presents a 1883 letter from the Seychelles posted at Aden (1).
Publication notice for Germain Mentgen's "The Italian Occupation of Somaliland Protectorate, August 1940 until March 1941" (2).
Tony Cochrane shows a 1883 registered letter from Aden to Paris via French mail steamer (3).
Neil Williams updates his research on a 1943 Aden & Somaliland Protectorate airmail crash cover [Sunderland, G-AGIB, 5.11.1943] (4–6).
Germain Mentgen researched the new cancellations and registration labels of post offices on independence day of Somaliland Protectorate, 26.06.1960 (7–13).
Mike Pettifor shows incoming mail for HMS Eclipse, Aden 1880 (14).
Ute Dorr reports on a forerunner to Somaliland Protectorate: Somali Coast Consulate, 25.07.1885 (14–15).
Jamie Smith shows the Aden & states victory commemoratives 1946 from the Goan UPU archive (II) (16).

The Dhow 98 (Vol. 25, No. 4) – Nov. 2024

Aden & Somaliland Study Group
English, ca. A4, colour, –

Neil Williams presents a 1939 postcard from Canada to Aden, taxed 2 annas due to the compulsory Empire Air Mail Scheme (1).
Neil Williams shows a registered cover from Seiyun/Mukalla to the Netherlands in 1939 by the writer Daniel van der Meulen, franked ½ anna (3–4).
Michael Cox and Brian Livingstone researched the Somaliland Protectorate's unadopted George VI pictorial definitives (I) (4–10).
Germain Mentgen presents a cover from the King's exact day of his silver jubilee, 6.05.1935 (11–12).
Germain Mentgen show George VI 1942 stamps overprinted in new currency, 1.04.1951 (13).
Andrew Gondocz displays a 1910 India reply card and a 1925 incoming taxed card (14).

Neil Williams presents a 1953 parcel Mukalla to Sweden, franked 5 shillings (15).
Jamie Smith continues his series on the Goan UPU archive with the 1949 royal silver wedding & UPU commemoratives and meter mail (16).

The Dhow Special Edition 8 – Nov. 2024

Aden & Somaliland Study Group
English, ca. A4, colour, –

Mike Pettifor & Neil Williams publish their study as special issue 8 of The Dhow: **"Military Censorship of Mail in Aden & Wartime Routes during World War Two"**. It spans 92 pages: Allied forces in Aden in WWI (3), GHQ Middle East field censorship regulation 1940 (4–5), RAF censorship (6–31), Army censorship in Aden (32–38), Naval censorship (39–48), Forces postal facilities (49–70), Free French forces (71), US forces in Aden (72–74), Wartime postal service (75–86).

The Dhow 99 (Vol. 26, No. 1) – March 2025

Aden & Somaliland Study Group
English, ca. A4, colour, –

Neil Williams shows a 1966 Aden covered demonstrating thr impact of the introduction of Federation Dinars on postal rates (1).
Jerone Hart shows a 1831 Aden cover sent via the 'Southampton Service' (3).
Neil Williams continues his series on Aden airmail rates with October 1951 to March 1953 (4–7).
Germain Mentgen reports on air crashes on the ALA Littoria Empire line Rome-Asmara-Addis Ababa (8–10).
Andrew Gondocz looks at items from Sanaa 1968 and from Hadibo (Socotra) 1995 (11).
Michael Cox and Brian Livingstone present more Somaliland Protectorate's unadopted George VI pictorial definitives (12–15).
Malcolm Lacey shows a postcard of P&O's RMS Canton, 1952 (16).
Index to volume 25 of The Dhow (nos. 95–98) (15–16).



The Dhow 100 (Vol. 26, No. 2) – x 2025

Aden & Somaliland Study Group
English, ca. A4, colour, –

The editor Neil Williams celebrates 100 issues of the journal by reprinting some of the best articles of the last 25 years (1–2).
Ed Druce reports on reply-paid postal stationery used in Aden [The Dhow 1 (2000)] ([1–5]).
Jerone Hart researched covers of Eastern Telegraph Co. stations at Aden [The Dhow 17 & 18 (2004)] ([6–12]).
Tony Cochrane shows mail of "Mission Aden" 1933/1934 [The Dhow 24 (2005)] ([13–14]).
Brian Allcock looks at "A ship on a stamp" [The Dhow 26 (2006)] ([15–17]).
Gary Brown researched the World Health Organisation issue of 1966 [The Dhow 28 (2007)] ([18–24]).
Cliff Gregory reports on the Somaliland Field Force 1st and 3rd expedition [The Dhow 44 (2010)] ([25–27]).
Alastair Kennedy looks at forces air mail concession rates 1945–1960 in British Somaliland and Somalia [The Dhow 48 (2012)] ([28–30]).
The editor shows some covers of The Dhow special issues ([31–32]).

Al-Zajel No. 2 – الزاجل – March 2020

Emirates Philatelic Association
Arabic and English, ca. A4, colour, –

Al Quds: Capital of Palestine ([65], [1]).
Ismaïl Amer-El-Khedoud: The second Emirati figure to appear on the Emirates stamp (64–61, 2–5).
Ismaïl Amer-El-Khedoud looks at Palestine on the Emirates stamp (60–57, 8–12).
Loay abd Ulrazzak Alalbani reporst on the Arab joint issue of 2019: القدس – Al Quds (56–52, 13–17).
Khalid Ali Al Omaira shows slogan postmarks for the Palestinian cause (51, 6–7).
A. Zohir Mordjani reports on Laidi Tayeb (50–47, 18–19).
Fodhil Diguer writes about the origin and importance of philately (47–43, 20–24).
Reports on EPA activities: Sharjah International Book Fair 2009; Makassar National Stamp Exhibition 2019; Sharjah Stamp Exhibition 2019; 48th National Day celebrations, UAE embassy in New Delhi; Umm Al Quwain exhibition for rare heritage; Solidarity with the Chinese people; Future activities; EPAEX 2020 Stamp Exhibition Dubai (42–38, 25–29).
Amer Alzarouni shows UAE new issues (37–35, 30–32).
Reports on Emirates Post activities (34, 33).
Reports on post offices news (34, 33).
Endless support for the Arab cause: 1969 Abu Dhabi charity labels ([2]).

Random Notes 100 – April 2023

Arabian Philatelic Association Int.
English, ca. A4, colour, digital only, gratis

Martin Lovegrove assembled short notices for Random Notes #100: Barcoded registration labels for official mail with Saudi Post logo, and with SPL logo; Different first day cancels for the two 3 Riyals issues of 23.12.2021; Stamps issued on paper with fluores-

cent fibres; Missing date in first day cancels for the National Day 1992 issue; Delay of the Hajj 1443 issue; QR code on the 2022 'Digital Tourism Strategy' block; DGA errors: split dots on "ق" (50p) and damaged frame (75p); security details stated in issue brochures; Updated Al Barid Al Mumtaz stationery; 1953 Royal Visit issue: changed cliché setting leads to variety on 'jubilee line' at the top margin; missing fluorescent ink on the 2020 Falcon issue (RN97.28); barcode label without 2D-barcode; 2 Royals road tax stamp 1971; 20 Riyals 'Entry Visa' stamps [forgery]; ½p Hejaz Caliphate overprint forgery; postmark "ALGHAAT"; 3q Damman Port variety; machine cancel SM10 (Djedda 1950–1960); Postmark "BEESHA" (S22 or S48); 5h Khafji paper fold and errors; Al Barid Al Mumtaz date-stamp Riyadh; 1982 50h Kaaba perforation error; Cover forgery (1924 Transjordan) (3–16).

Martin Lovegrove reports on instances of misaligned numerals: the leaning '3' of Radhwa [1945] (19–20).

Martin Lovegrove continues his series on regional post-marks of Saudi Arabia with a fifth part (21–23).

Martin Lovegrove studies Visa labels of 2000/02 (24–28).

D. E. Jessich and Martin Lovegrove report the Saudi Arabian new issues of 2021 (I) (29–33).

Martin Lovegrove shows a 1918 "O.A.S." cover from Aqaba to Cairo, 2×1/2p from the Cherrystone of 13.12.2022 (35–36).

Reaching the 100th issue, Martin Lovegrove and Jim Kearney recollect on Jack Wilson, founder editor (3). Martin Lovegrove remembers Willie A. King (1940-2023) (17–18).

Random Notes 101 – November 2023

Arabian Philatelic Association Int.

English, ca. A4, colour, digital only, gratis

In Random Notes #101 Martin Lovegrove assembled short notes on a number of topics: Line cancel "PAR AVION 1948"; Sample sheet of the second watermark paper produced by Wiggins Teape; Iban Saud University, 15h, plate variety 'deformed 5' on pos. 104; Al Barid Al Mumtaz rates booklet; 1992 Al Barid Al Mumtaz with meter cancel (Rahwah-1); Status of Saudi new issues; Water damage to stamps due to the Angeloglou fire and 1971 flooding at the Saudi ministry; Mixed franking of postage and revenue stamps; 1960 Arab League imperforate with gutter block of 4; 10h Khafji with forged Hejaz overprint; Survey of Egypt series, ½q and 1q overprint on 20p with plate error at "ش"; Bourgiba visit 1965; 8p colour trial; 1q Arms: double prints with forged large *mustahiq* overprint; Questionable perforation variety; Signature of stamp designer Ibrahim Al-Turki; 10q 1923 overprint forgeries; Bourguiba visit with missing silver colour; Marginal marking: cross with "TOP"; Double perforation; Transjordan: four-line postage due (inverted) on 1½ q; Transjordan: questionable 1924 official stamp (SG O117). (3–10, 12, 14, 18, 32, 38).

James Kearney presents cover with Hejaz 8/10ths Piastres (11–12) and Kearney looks at early Hejaz & Nejd airmail usage (13).

Martin Lovegrove presents 'Rocket' essays (15–17).

Martin Kuriger researched Saudi *Avis de Réception* (1, 19–22).

Martin Lovegrove presents the 1973 'Tourist' booklets (23–28) and reports on a forged cover (29–31).

Martin Lovegrove present the 6th part of regional post-marks of Saudi Arabia (33–36).

Martin Lovegrove presents some omitted items from his list of historic Scott catalogue number changes in RN 96 (37–38).

Martin Lovegrove reports from past auctions: Saudi airletter; ½pi + P.D. ½pi, 4 imperf se-tenant pairs in violet, slightly different design of issued stamp on large ungummed sheetlet; 5g orange block of 8; Saudi occupation 1934: two covers Hodeida–Aden & Hodeida–Aden–Egypt (39–41).

Suggestion to rename the journal to "Arabian Philatelic Journal" (3); APAI website (44)


الجمعية الدولية للطوابع البريدية العربية
ملاحظات عابرة
Arabian Philatelic Association International
Random Notes
December 2024 NUMBER 102

CONTENTS

The Arabian Philatelic Association International 2
Random Notes #102 3
1968 Jeddah to Dammam Highway - The Missing Dots - Martin Lovegrove 10
The 1949 Air Mail Stamps - Martin Lovegrove 13
The First Airmails - Thomas P. Wood 27
Hejaz : Ottoman Post Offices - Willie King FRPSL 47

Kenneth D. Knight

Random Notes 102 – December 2024

Arabian Philatelic Association Int.

English, ca. A4, colour, digital only, gratis

In Random Notes #102 Martin Lovegrove assembled short notes on a number of topics: Editorial; Kenneth David Knight [obituary]; Saudi new issues at WADP; 1/4q medical aid double impression 1960; 2003 cover with new barcorde reg label; Saudi reg label on incoming mail and label for unregistered mail; Validity of postage stamps for franking [referencing MEPB 25 and 26]; Overprint varieties on the Transjordan overprint on the 1/2q; Forgery of the Transjordan overprint on the 2q stamp; Triple overprint on the 1/2q stamp; New discovery of the Hejaz Railway Air overprint on the 5q stamp; Wrong franking label on a 2016 cover; Forgeries of Al Saudia overprint (3–9, 46).

Martin Lovegrove looks at the 'missing dots' of the 1968 Jeddah to Dammam Highway issue (10–12).

Martin Lovegrove researched the 1949 Air Mail Stamps (13–26).

Thomas P. Wood's notes on the first airmails are reprinted from "A Study of Saudi Arabia Stamps 1934–1964" (27–46).

Publication notice for "Reference Manual of Saudi

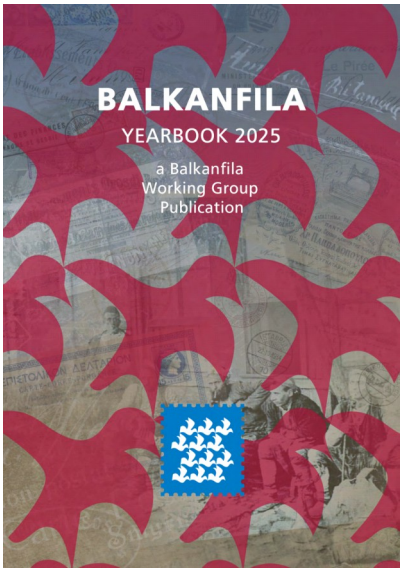
Arabian Forgeries : Part 1 ; Postage and Revenue Stamps (2025)" (37).
The editors shows as page from Willie A. King's Hejaz collection: forgeries of Ottoman cancels from Jeddah, Makkah and Medina (47–50).



Al-Zajel No. 3 – الزاجل – – March 2020

Emirates Philatelic Association
Arabic and English, ca. A4, colour, –

Khalid Al-Omaira looks at the British postal administration of Abu Dhabi (1963/66) (63–71, [73], [b], 2–10).
Abdulla Khoory presents errors and varieties of the Sheikh Shakhbut's overprint issue (60–62, 11–13).
Ismaïl Amer El-Khedoud portrays Sheikh Shakhbut (1889-1905) (14–17).
Terry Jones reflects on Arabian Gulf post offices (56–59, 18–21).
Khaled Abdul Mughni looks at "post and health guidance : Kuwait case" (50–55, 22–27).
Khaled Al-M'amri reports on "The first biological war in history ... Corona revives it" (28–30).
Fodhil Diguer writes on "Philately: from passion and experience to specialization and investment" (I) (36–39).
Ismaïl Amer El-Khedoud looks at Al-Jahai Hall "From the fortress of Hakha to the symbol of Dawat" (40–41).



Balkanfila Yearbook 2025 (Selection)

Balkanfila Working Group
English, A4, colour, –

Svetislav D. Jelić and Vladimir Milić write on the first Serbian stamps of 1866 ([6–14]).
Mehmet Akan shows the 'philatelic face' of the 10th anniversary of the Turkish Republic ([15–25]).
M. Levent Acar researched the war orphans tax stamps (Evlâd-ı Şüheda) ([33–49]).
Emmanuel Georgoudakis looks at foreign post offices in Ottoman Empire ([50–66]).
George Thomareis reports on the foreign post offices in Thessaloniki ([67–76]).
Mehmet Edip Ağaoğulları researched the occupation of Edirne ([77–83]).
Alexios Papadopoulos looks at the routes & rates of the British post office in Smyrna ([84–89]).
Emre Utku researched the optional use of additional domestic airmail service in Turkish foreign airmails ([115–122]).
Serdar Yazgan research the editor Jean D. Contaxis: 'the Eye of Ayvalik' ([150–160]).
Erdal Tanil looks at B. Kohn and the promotion of professions in the Ottoman Empire on postcards ([161–169]).
Hakan Akcaoğlu researched the multilingual trade cards and non-muslims in the Ottoman economy ([170–184]).
Hakan Yılmaz reports on the first shopping centre of the Ottoman Empire: Orosdi Back – Ömer Effendi Store ([185–197]).

Iran Philatelic Study Circle Bulletin 218 December 2023

Iran Philatelic Study Circle
English, A4, colour, –

Werner Lade researched the compulsory surcharge stamps for telegrams as of 1950 (4670–4676).
Behruz Nassre looks for the earliest date of use of for 1902 Rosette overprints prior 25.03.1902 (4677).
Martin Kuriger presets the second part of his research into registration hand stamps (4678–4691).
Behruz Nassre present a new IPSC book: "The Impact of Political Events on the Postal History of Persia in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries" (vol. 1) by Dr Fariborz Goodarzi (4692).
IPSC news and meeting report (4669).

The Israel Philatelist – Winter 2024 (Vol. 75, No. 1) (Selection)

Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc.
English, ca. A4 (letter), colour, US-$ 6·95

Gregg Philipson shows interesting 1995 Gaza items (7).
Fred Korr researched the Red Cross civilian postal message scheme of World War II (12–20).
Ed Kroft continues his series of uncommon destinations of Mandate Palestine with a tenth part (22–23).
Moshe Kallmann looks at 1948 partition map labels (31).
Ed Kroft investigates Kibbutz Nitzanim during the 1948 Egypt-Israel war (32–41).

Sid Morginstin presents gems from the 1948 interim period (42–43).
Arthur Harris looks at new discoveries among occupation revenue stamps (Agrah Sherutim) (53).
Sid Morginstin analyses a 1948 redirected cover (54–55).
Ed Kroft reviews the book by Yacov Tsachor and Zvi Aloni "The Doar Ivri Issue of Israel" (56).
Sid Morginstin and Bob Lewin are on a quest for Doar Ivri black proofs (58–60).
Ed Rosen presents Ralph Perry & David Pearlman's book "Postkarten zur Erinnerung an die Reise des Deutschen Kaiserpaares in den Orient 1898" (61) as well as Harvey D. Wolinetz' book "The Arab Israeli conflict/war through postage stamps & philately" (61).
'Ask the expert' gives advice on Israel catalogues [Bale Israel] (63).

The Israel Philatelist – Spring 2024 (Vol. 75, No. 2) (Selection)

Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc.
English, ca. A4 (letter), colour, US-$ 6·95

Josef Wallach looks at mail of interned 'Templars' in Palestine during World War II: a "Concentration camp" in Tel Aviv? (10–11).
Robert Pildes presents part 15 of his forerunners of the Holy Land series (12–15).
Ed Kroft continued his series of Palestine uncommon destinations with an 11th part (26–27).
Moshe Kallmann looks at the various Jewish state partition map stamps (28).
Arthur Harris catalogues the Israeli "vacation stamps" (Bul Houfshah) (29).
Melvin A. Richmond presents part 16 of his Palestine Mandate small town postmarks series, featuring Petah Tiqvah and Qalqilya (42).
Uria Selwyn present incoming Israwel Postage Due covers (45–46).
Josef Wallach continues his introduction to the Gaza Strip under Israeli occupation, 1967–1994 (II) (47–48).
Arthur Harris looks again at the traffic safety revenue stamps of Israel (II) (49–50).
Sid Morginstin reviews some English-language Israel catalogues (51–52).
Sid Morginstin researched the 1957 Israel 'Defense' issue (53–55).
Editor Donald A. Chafetz resign after 21 years; new editorial committee chaired by Ed Kroft. Les Glassman reports from the EFIRO 2024 in Bucarest (43–44).

The Israel Philatelist – Summer 2024 (Vol. 75, No. 3 and Vol. 76, No. 1) (Selection)

Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc.
English, ca. A4 (letter), colour, US-$ 6·95

The editor presents a 1943 parcel to the US, franked 12,715 mils (3).
Ed Kroft researched the Ottoman mail service for inhabitants of Jewish agricultural settlements in the Holy Land from 1882 to 1918 (4–13).
Joel Slutzki starts a series on Palestine Mandate rates & routes (1927–1948) with local mail rates (14–18).
Lawrence Fisher looks at pro-Palestinian slogans (19) and stamps (23).
David S. Ball reports on the "PEDI" courier service during WWII (20–22).
Arthur Harris shows ministry-specific Israeli revenue stamps (25–27) and Israeli traffic safety revenue stamps in a third part (28–30).
Ed Kroft presents further Holyland gems (31–32).
Edward Rosen looks at early newspapers (36–38).

The Israel Philatelist – Summer 2025 (Vol. 76, No. 2) (Selection)

Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc.
English, ca. A4 (letter), colour, US-$ 6·95

Edward Rosen presents Israel items from the Jan Bart collection (3–5).
Hadi Orr reasearhed the history of postcard publishers Eliahu Brothers (I) (18–27).
Ed Kroft continues his guide to internet use for Holy land philatelists (28–30).
Joel Slutzki presents the thr part of his series in Palestine rates & routes (1927–1948) with further surface mail items sent abroad (31–39).
Arthur Harris reacts on Israel 'shana tova' envelopes – private stationery with 'yashir lamisrad' indicia (54–57).
Arthur Harris reports on the usage of 1948 Israel Postage Due stramps for Revenue purposes (58–60).
The Ed Kroft hands over the editorship to Steven Friedenthal. [the new edito promptly created a simpler by clearer layout for his first edition, some hickups will surely bew resolved as Steven finds his ways (1).
Obituary: Raphael Livant (2).
Les Glassman reports on Israel exhibits at EuroPhilEx (49–51).
Ed Rosen delivers a President's message (64).

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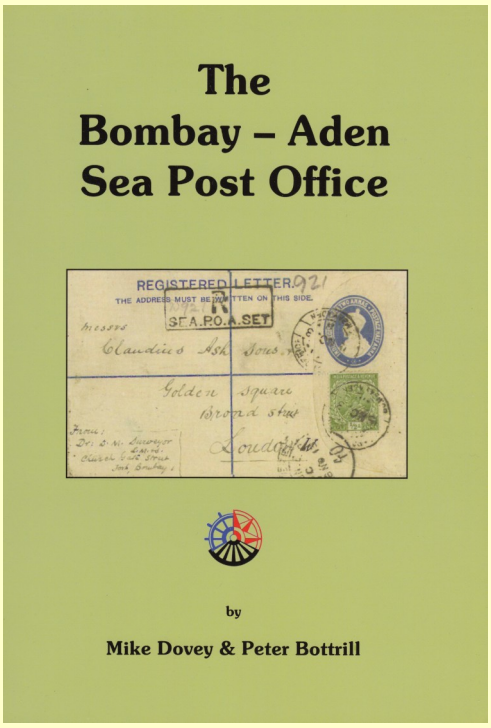
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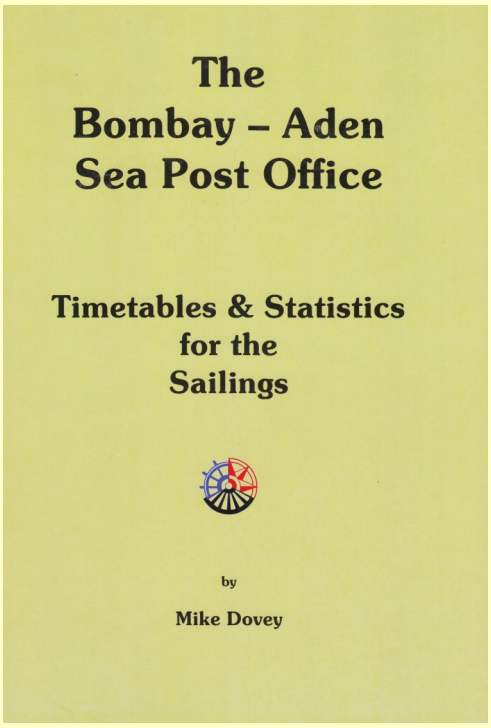
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To register and place an ad please contact the editor: mep-bulletin@zobbel.de

ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 25/203





The BOMBAY–ADEN SEA POST OFFICE book is the fullest and ultimate bringing together of all known information on the subject and will never be beaten by anyone now or in the future. Priced at £35.50 it is a bargain.

The BOMBAY–ADEN SEAPOST OFFICE TIMETABLES again is the bringing together of all known information on the subject and is a must for anyone sitting with a postcard and an SPO date – the ship and sailing dates can be found easily and is a bargain at only £12.50

Bought together they would be £48 but for readers of this journal the two books can be bought for only £44 plus postage to anywhere in the world.

For details of this offer please contact by email: mikedovey@btinternet.com

This is an offer not to be missed

Private Gratis-Anzeige 03/001

World War One Indian Army Field Post Offices

For research purposes, collector is interested in exchanging scans and information on the WWI Indian Army Field Post Offices in what is today Lebanon, Syria and Cilicia.

Replies to:
Bob Gray
robertgray@me.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/006

Palestinian Authority Revenue Stamps

Wanted:
Palestinian Authority revenue stamps
Israeli Military revenue stamps
MNH as well as on document

Replies to:
Arthur Harris
arthurhythec@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 28/003

For Sale: Extensive Egypt Collection

Extensive used collection from the first overprints to early 1970s. It can be purchased either in its entirety at a fraction of Scott or in parts as listed here (stamps are organized according to Zaheri catalogue, shipping from USA extra):

1. Covers & Postal stationery
2. 1866 surcharges w/diff watermark orientations
3. 1867 Sphinx / 4. 1872-9 Sphinx
5. 1879-1926 / 6.PORT FUAD opts
7.1927-1970s. / 8. Express issues
9 Postage Dues / 10. Officials
11. Military incl British / 12. Port Said
13. Alexandria / 14 Palestine (Mandate)
15. Errors, varieties and Interpostals

Please contact for details
Jeff Siddiqui
jeffsiddiqui@msn.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/010

Palestine Mandate: Censor Permits

Certain institutions and companies were permitted to send correspondence, particularly bulk mail and circulars, free of censorship. The correspondence had to bear a special hand-stamp certifying the nature of the correspondence and bearing the permit number. I am trying to collate a definitive list of permits and see what was attributed to each censor office. I am also looking for the applicable rules and regulations which dealt with this and any other supporting information.

Contact:
Martin Davies
kuitman@btinternet.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 26/003

Exchange: Lebanon, Syria and Jordan

I want to trade Canada for Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. I need most stamps after 2000.

I am interested in stamps, souvenir sheets, revenues, Postal Stationery, locals and Cinderellas. Do not collect FDC and covers. Welcome mint or used stamps.

Offers to:
Richard Barnes
rtbarnes@shaw.ca

Private Gratis-Anzeige 26/002

Syria and Lebanon Revenue Stamps and Documents

I mainly collect Syrian Revenue Stamps and documents, postcards and envelopes. I have a nice collection of extra materials of the aforementioned fields.

I live in the Netherlands and would like to meet new people to share my passion with them and exchange revenues and documents.

Replies to:
Maen Neama
asure71@gmail.com



Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/004

Palestine Mandate 1918–1927

To complete and illustrate my article series on official postal announcements I'm looking for covers, cards, forms and images thereof, showing:

- rare usage of stamps
- postal rates, unusual franking
- rare destinations
- postal forms, telegram forms

Replies to:
Tobias Zywietz
zobbel@zobbel.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 10/004

Holy Land Cancels on Austrian Stamps

Collector seeking to purchase the following Holy Land-related material with postmarks from Jerusalem (Gerusalemme), Jaffa, or Haifa (Caifa):

Lombardy-Venetia stamps from 1863 or 1864, perf. 14 or perf. 9 (Michel: 14–23)

Austrian Levant 20 Para on 10 Heller with varnish bars (Michel: 40)

Austrian Crete 25 Cent (Michel: 3)

Replies to:
Aaron Huber (APS member)
ashuber@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/009

Wanted: German to English Translator for Philatelic Literature

I am seeking someone who can translate selected chapters of Eva Zehenter's book on WWI military postal history of Austro-Hungarian troops in Turkey: "Stempelhandbuch der k.u.k Truppen in der Türkei." Must be familiar with military postal history terminology. I can supply the material as a pdf document. Will pay reasonable fee.

Replies to:
Zachary Simmons
zsimmons101@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/005

Palestine World War I

For research purposes I'm looking for originals, photocopies, or scans of issues of

The Palestine News

This was the weekly military newspaper of EEF and OETA(S), published in Cairo in 1918/1919.

Replies to:
Tobias Zywietz
zobbel@zobbel.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/009

1956 Suez Canal Crisis & United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

Looking for interesting covers of this period and UN Peacekeeping Operations such as UNEF I and UNIKOM as well as operations on the African continent.

Can offer much likewise material as well.

Please contact:
Marc Parren
marcparren@hotmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 14/002

Wanted: Perfins

Perfins (stamps and covers) of the Middle East, Levant, Turkey and Egypt.

Offers to:
Rainer von Scharpen
Tucholskyweg 5, 55127 Mainz, Germany
rainervonscharpen@t-online.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 29/003

Wanted: Switzerland to Palestine

To improve my collection on Palestine, I'm looking for letters sent from Switzerland to Palestine from 1800 to 1960 (also early Israel).

Please send scans to:
J. L. Emmenegger, Switzerland
jl.emmenegger@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 29/001

The postal History of Banks

Collecting and buying covers on the postal history of banks: covers, letters and other relevant documents or information.

If you have relevant items or knowledge, please contact me.

Offers to: Phil
redndblack1841@gmail.com

And where is your Ad?

Just write to the editor to register your name and e-mail address, and you will be entitled to place an ad of your own in the next issue of MEPB!

mep-bulletin@zobbel.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 14/006

Research into Ladino Correspondence

For an archival database, I'm looking for correspondence (letters and post cards) from/to the Ottoman Empire and the Balkans 1850–1913 (Serbia, Roumania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Greece, Austria) written in a script that looks like Arabic or Hebrew but is actually the Jewish script "Soletreo". It encodes an old Spanish called Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) spoken by Sephardic Jews. Don't worry about a correct identification: I'll do that.

Please send scans/photocopies to
D. Sheby (hosp@voicenet.com)

Gratis-Anzeige 29/002

Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries – Part 1: Postage & Revenue Stamps

Published under the editorship of Martin Lovegrove, this book is now available as a **free download**:
http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/forgerymanual.html

134 pages (1.18GB) with many high-quality illustrations for closer study. A must for Saudi Arabia, Hejaz and Transjordan collectors

Private Gratis-Anzeige 10/005

Qatar Postal History

Collector looking for unique Postal History items such as covers, letters, rare overprints and surcharges.

Offers to:
Adil Al-Husseini, P.O. Box 695, Doha, Qatar
ezgert@yahoo.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 03/009

Jordan Postal Rates 1948–1967

Information on all Jordan postal rates during the Palestine annexation period (1948–67) is requested. I am trying to compile my own list as I cannot find any tables in the literature.

Replies to:
Paul Phillips
paulxlpe@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 11/002

Ottoman Transdesert Mail
Overland Mail Baghdad–Haifa
Iraq Railway Stamps 1928–1942

Advanced research collector and exhibitor is interested in exchange of information, philatelic and historical material, photos, etc. related to the mentioned areas as well as purchase of interesting items missing in my collections.

Additional information can be found on my award winning websites:
http://fuchs-online.com/overlandmail
http://fuchs-online.com/iraq

Replies to:
Rainer Fuchs
rainer@fuchs-online.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 10/008

International Reply Coupons

I collect International Reply Coupons (IRC) worldwide, 1907 until today. I am always interested to buy both single items and entire IRC collections and lots of whatever size.

A good stock of duplicates (only IRCs) is available for trade and exchange. Please contact me with whatever questions or suggestions you would like to make.

If you are a country collector and interested in information about IRC of your country please also don't hesitate to contact me!

Replies to:
Wolfgang Leimenstoll
wolfgang.leimenstoll@t-online.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/008

Wanted: Jordan Postal Cards and pre-1949 Airmail

I'm looking for pre-1949 Airmail covers, both inwards and outwards; used 1956 12 Mils Postal Cards; other postally used Postal Cards and Souvenir Cards.

Offers to:
Bernie Beston, P.O. Box 5513,
Bundaberg West, Qld. 4670, Australia.
bernardbeston@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 24/009

Iran International Reply Coupons

For research purposes I'm looking for originals, photocopies, or scans of International Reply Coupons of Iran (Persia)

Information on all Iran IRCs during 1925–2002 with the date of change of values is requested.

Replies to:
Parviz Sahandi
parviz.sahandi@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 02/004

United Nations in the Middle East

I offer commercially used (really mailed) covers from UN observation missions and military forces for sale:
UNTSO, UNEF I and II, UNDOF, UNIFIL, etc.

Can be sorted out by contingents nationalities.

I'm looking for early UN missions 1947–1950 in Israel and Palestine, such as:
UNTSOP, UN-Mediator Mission, UNSCOP, etc.

Replies to:
J. L. Emmenegger, Switzerland
jl.emmenegger@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/012

Wants: Sharjah, Yemen, Oman

Sharjah	Scott O1-9, NH or used (S.G. O101-09)
Yemen	Scott 597, 607, 615, 632, 633, 634, 635, C145 (S.G. 74, 82, 94, 112, 126, 127, 128, 129)
	Yemen (combined), any, used
Oman	Scott 110, 111, 112, 114, 115, 116, 118, any, used
	(S.G.: same numbers)

Buy or trade.

Offers to:
Burl Henry
henrysatshamrock@aol.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 26/001

Wanted: Jordan 1993–2023

Any issues of 1993 to 2023: Hadrian's Monument or Petra Definitives and Revenues. Especially proofs, blocks and multiples or unusual usage.

Offers to:
Bernie Beston, P.O. Box 5513,
Bundaberg West, Qld. 4670, Australia.
bernardbeston@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/008

For Sale: Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia stamps, singles and sets, mint and used.

Please contact:
Marwan Nusair
+1-513-289-6337
hejaz@tccincinnati.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 28/002

Exchange: Ottoman Stamps

Interested in Ottoman Empire stamps, to purchase or exchange for stamps from another Middle Eastern country.

Please email:
howardjkogan68@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 28/001

Wanted: Israel Postal Orders

Looking for prutot, lirot, shekel and new shekel values. Will purchase individual or multiple orders through PayPal, Zelle or credit card.

Replies to:
Arthur Harris
arthurhythec@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 30/001

McDonald: Revenues of Ottoman Empire and Republic of Turkey

I'm looking to purchase a copy of
"Revenues of Ottoman Empire and Republic of Turkey" by William T. McDonald.
Preferably the 2nd edition but I would also be interested in the 1st edition. Delivery to Canada.

Please email J Morton at
juderaven1@yahoo.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 10/006

Jordan and Palestine Revenue Stamps and Reply Coupons

Wanted:

Revenue Stamps of Jordan

Revenue Stamps of the Palestinian Authority

International Reply Coupons (IRCs) of Jordan and Palestine

Offers to:

Avo Kaplanian, Noordeinde 82,

1121 AG Landsmeer, Netherlands

avo1945@hotmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 15/003

"Holy Land Postal History"

I offer a complete run of the journal "Holy Land Postal History" (1979–2017) to anyone willing to collect if from me in Teaneck, New Jersey.

Contact:

Mark Sommer

735 Elm Avenue, Apartment #3D

Teaneck, New Jersey 07666,USA

brocean@aol.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/003

U.K.-based Collector always interested in buying Egypt for his Collection

I am particularly interested in revenues, Cinderellas, perfins, telegrams, officially sealed labels, Interpostal Seals, Suez Canal Company, stamp dealer's mail, franking meters, Great Bitter Lake Association, Postal Concession, postal stationery, printed illustrated envelopes and anything unusual,
but I also buy mainstream subjects.

From single items to whole collections, please let me make you an offer.

Please contact Jon Aitchison:

+44 (0) 1279 870488

britishlocals@aol.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 15/002

Wanted: "Dear Doctor" and related drug advertising postcards

Many pharmaceutical companies (Abbott Labs, Biomarine, and Squibb, etc) used postcards sent from exotic locations to promote their products. These are commonly called "Dear Doctor" postcards since many start with that salutation. Abbott postcards were mailed between 1956-1968 using 182 different cards found to date to 34 countries and in 10 languages. On my website www.deardoctorpostcards.com
I have documented over 10,000 such items. There are many more discoveries to be made. Let me know what you have!

Please contact Tom Fortunato

stamptmf@frontiernet.net

Private Gratis-Anzeige 28/004

Wanted: Egypt Postal Bulletin 1904

I'm looking for the **1904** volume of the Egyptian Postal Administration's official gazette, the Bulletin Postal Égyptien

Please contact Mike Murphy:

egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 28/005

Wanted: Survey of Egypt 1930s Maps of Egyptian Cities

I'm looking for 1:10,000 scale maps of Egyptian cities published in the 1930s by the Survey of Egypt.

I am also missing the **Assiout area map** at 1:100,000 scale.

Please contact Mike Murphy:

egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 25/002

Wanted: Philatelic Friends

Wanted Penfriends from whole world who collect Stamps, Coins and Currency Notes.

Please contact:
C. Abraham Jos
abrahamjohanncheeran@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 25/004

Wanted:
BALE Palestine Catalogue 2010
BALE Holyland Catalogue 2008

Send offers to:
J. L. Emmenegger, Switzerland
jl.emmenegger@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 10/001

Covers: Iraq–USA / USA–Iraq

I'm looking for interesting covers of Iraq to USA as well as USA to Iraq for the period 1939 to 1945.
Send images (jpeg) with your asking price or ask for my at-market offer.

Replies to:
K. David Steidley, Ph.D.
David@Steidley.com

ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 02/008

Ottoman Cancellations Software

Ottoman Cancellations software for identifying, cross-referencing, cataloguing and documenting Ottoman Cancellations and fragments thereof.

Please ask for free demo version (Windows), user manual, and conditions of sale from:

George Stasinopoulos
stassin@cs.ntua.gr

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/010

Persia & Yemen Postal History

Collector of Postal History of Persia (before 1930) and of Yemen (before 1945) wishes to purchase interesting items.

Replies to:
Bjorn Sohrne
bjornsohrne@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 04/002

Holy Land Stamps and Literature

I seek high quality and high value Holy Land stamps and postal history as well as Literature (eg. The Holyland Philatelist, BAPIP Bulletins, and monographs).

Please contact:
rnasch@fairmanage.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 22/005

Wanted: Greek Rural Post

I am looking for documents from the Greek rural post from 1911 until now and also from the fore-runners "Dimotika Tachydromeia." I would also be very happy about a philatelic exchange!

Please contact:
Benedikt Eberhardt
BEberhardt@beberhardt.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 22/003

I am interested in adding to my list of articles at

A Philatelic Bibliography for Yemen and the Arab Gulf States

The list is very heavy on American and English sources, and lighter on other sources. I would appreciate additions to the list.

Please contact:
Andrew Gondocz
andrew_gondocz@yahoo.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 14/003

Wanted: Palestine World War I

Wanted for collection are examples on cover of the following Army Post Office cancels:

APO SZ52 used 1918
APO SZ53 used 1918
APO SZ54 used 1918
APO SZ55 used 1918/19
Unusual WW1 covers from Palestine

Offers to:
Joel Weiner
jweiner@ualberta.ca

ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 27/001

Jordan & Palestine Postal History




Specialized items and retired Collections
Available for sale now and limited to stock on hand!

Postmarks, Proof strikes, Stamps, Covers and First Day Covers.

Watch me on Ebay:
https://www.ebay.com/usr/philapal

Write to:
Kamal A. Kawar, 34 Sage Crest Loop,
Weaverville, NC 28787, U.S.A
services@kamsys.net

Private Gratis-Anzeige 14/005

Wanted: Palestine Covers (Jordanian Occupation)

I am looking for covers sent from Palestine franked with Jordanian stamps overprinted "PALESTINE"

Send offers (with scans please) to:
J. L. Emmenegger, Switzerland
jl.emmenegger@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/002

Judaica (Not Israel)

I am Interested in Judaica-themed stamps from all over the world (not from Israel).

I have many to sell, or ideally exchange with fellow collectors.

Also interested in countries that have issued anti-Israel themed stamps too.

Please contact Gary at
judaicathematicsociety@talktalk.net

Private Gratis-Anzeige 27/003

Jerusalem Postal History

Collector looking to buy or exchange covers, postcards, and postal forms with Jerusalem postmarks from the Turkish and British Mandate posts, including TPOs and military mail.

Replies to:
Haim Malka
Hmalka22@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/005

Wanted: Smyrna Postal History

Entire letters to and from Smyrna dated before 1800.

Replies to:
Gene Ekonomi
gekonomi@tecfen.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 22/002

Transjordan: Help Required

I am researching the Transjordan overprints on Hejaz stamps and there are two issues in particular causing me trouble. These are:

- the 1924 official stamp (Scott O1, SG O117)
- the 1923 ½ qirsh surcharge on 1-½ qirsh typograph overprint (Scott 91a, SG 111)

I am after scans and information. Please contact me first so that we can discuss the finer details.

Please contact: Martin Lovegrove –
weatherings@aol.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 19/003

Middle East Stamps: Varieties & Errors

I'm Interested in buying rare mint Middle East / Arabian stamps, imperforates, errors, varieties, proofs, essays, and colour trials.

My speciality is Egypt: the classical & Royal period, proofs and essays (1866–1962).

The other countries I collect are: Aden, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE, and Yemen, also Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Offers to:
Adel Al-Sarraf
asarraf11@hotmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 27/005

Moorer's Interactive Philatelic Index

I want to add more references to my bibliographic project:

If you have (list of) articles or books, I would like to hear from you.

Did you write a book on Middle Eastern philately, send me the bibliographic information and I will add it.

If you are a philatelic society and want to safe-guard your journal for eternity contact me. We can place your journals in the open access Zotero Philatelic Repository for future collectors.

Please contact me:
Peter Moorer
petermoorer1960@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 27/002

Holy Land Turkish & Foreign POs: Registered Mail & Rarities

As a specialist collector of Holy Land material I am always interested in acquiring scarcer items of both Turkish offices and foreign post offices.
I am currently particularly interesting in acquiring **registered mail** and if you have surplus items please would you send me scan copies together with the price being sought. Please note I am only interested in nice clean covers with good strikes.

I hope to hear from you:
Martin Davies
kuitman@btinternet.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/013

Turkish Occupation of Thessaly

Collector is interested in any postal history material related to the Turkish occupation of Thessaly 1897–1898.
Exchange of information is also highly welcome.

Offers to:
Otto Graf
otto@skanderbeg.net

Private Gratis-Anzeige 24/001

Anti-Israeli Picture Postcards

I am interested in anti-Israel/Zionist contemporary picture postcards.

Replies to:
Lawrence Fisher
gymtrainer@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 19/004

Red Cresent Thematics Ottoman Empire and Turkey

I am looking for material concerning the theme "Red Crescent" in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey. I am especially looking for covers or cards (maybe FDC) with the cancellation from the **Red Crescent Exhibition Istanbul 1959**.

Please offer with picture and price to:
Jens Warnecke
jens.warnecke@web.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 24/008

Middle East Stamps & Covers

I'm looking for MNH stamps of the Middle East, also recent issues Lebanon, Iraq, and Syria. Commercially used covers from Syria from 2011 onwards. Also used/sent covers from Trucial States, Yemen, and Aden.

I can offer MNH and some used Middle East.

Please contact:
Ralf Kollmann
ralf.kollmann@gmx.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 24/003

For Sale: Ottoman Empire & Turkey, Cilicia (French Occupation) Stamps, Covers, Postcards





Please contact: Hakan Yılmaz
hakanmotel61@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 24/006

Russian Postal History (pre 1917)

I offer postal history of Russia until 1917: Receipts, registered covers, covers with seals (including Zemstvo).

Please write to:
Andrey Musikhin
am2277@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 24/005

Buying FDCs

WWII Victory: 1. Iran, 2. Lebanon stamps, 3. Lebanon m/s

UPU 1949–1950: 1. Iran, 2. Lebanon m/s, 3. "PALESTINE" on Jordan, 4. Syria s/s

Please write with details to:
Jeff Siddiqui
jeffsiddiqui@msn.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 24/007

Wanted: Iran/Persia Stamps and Postal History

I am interested in buying Iranian/Persian stamps, covers and other philatelic items.

Please write to:
Masoud Valafar
mvalafar84@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/004

Wanted: Ottoman Empire – Hungary

We are looking for mail from the Ottoman Empire to Hungary or vice versa for the period 1900 to 1920.

Please send colour scans of your offers to:
Ute & Elmar Dorr
utedorr@web.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/002

For Sale: UAE Complete Collection 1971–2016

United Arab Emirates Complete Collection from 1971–2016 including all issued booklets in mint condition.

Please contact:
Syed A. Ahmed
abraralki@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 18/006

Wanted: Palestine Blues No. 1

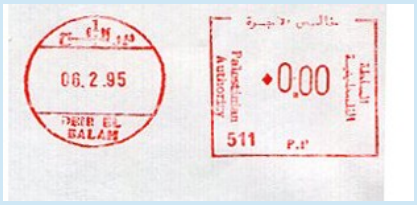
I need help to finish a thematic collection: I am looking for a stamp from the "Blues" (Bale 1) with clear dated postmark:
16th February 1918

Offers with scans to:
mmf@comxnet.dk

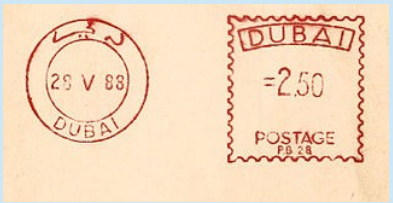
Private Gratis-Anzeige 23/102

Meter Markings

I'm looking for meter markings on cover for these countries:
Abu Dhabi (Pitney Bowes "Automax" multivalue) – **Bahrain** (Neopost limited value)
Palestinian Authority (Francotyp Cc multivalue) – **Dubai** (Pitney Bowes "Automax" multivalue)
Qatar (Pitney Bowes-GB "Automax" multivalue) – **Iraq** (Universal "Multi-Value")









Offers to: Bernard.Lachat, bernard.lachat@bluewin.ch

Private Gratis-Anzeige 05/003

1992 Israel–China First Flight Cover Wanted



I am looking to purchase a First Flight cover Tel Aviv–Beijing of 3.09.1992. I have other covers from this event, but am looking for this specific cachet as pictured.

Apparently less than 100 registered covers exist.

Offers to: Mark Sommer, brocean@aol.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/007

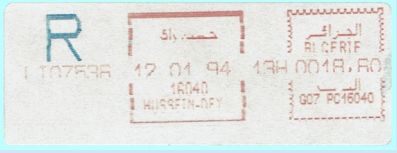
French-made Meter Markings





For research study I look for mail from all countries (except France) franked by franking machines like those used in French post offices. They can often be identified by the indication of time in the imprint.







Offers to: Luc Guillard, lucguillard@wanadoo.fr

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/003

Wanted: Mint Saudi & GCC Stamps

Serious collector interested in buying mint Saudi Arabia and GCC nations stamps for my Collection. I am also interested in revenues, telegrams, officially sealed labels, franking meters, postal stationery, printed illustrated envelopes related to Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco).

Please contact:
Syed A. Ahmed
abraralki@gmail.com

ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 04/003

The BAPIP Bulletin 1952–2016

The complete archive of the BAPIP Bulletin, the journal of the **Holyland Philatelic Society**, has been digitised.
Available are entire issues or individual articles from 1952–2016.

Visit:
www.zobbel.de/stamp/lit_09.htm

ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 02/007

Lebanese association of collectors of Stamps and Postal History LAP

The Lebanese Philatelic Association (LAP) encourages and promotes philately and postal history collecting in Lebanon. It represents Lebanon in the world body of philately, co-operates with Arab and International Philatelic Associations and clubs. It holds symposia and exhibitions and provides a committee of experts for Lebanese stamps and postal history.
The association's journal *LAP Magazine* is published every four months.

www.lapsite.org

Private Gratis-Anzeige 07/001

Palestine Articles by Major J. J. Darlow

For research purposes I'm looking for originals, photocopies, or scans of philatelic articles on Palestine by Major J. J. Darlow published in the 1920s and 1930s, especially two pieces published in 1922 in Harris Publications' journal

The Philatelic Magazine
(nos. 170 and 171).

Replies to:
Tobias Zywietz
zobbel@zobbel.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/004

Wanted: Arabian Gulf Postal History

I'm looking for Arabian Gulf postal history for research or purchase.

India used in the Gulf: Muscat, Guadur, Persia, Iraq, Bahrain & Kuwait
British Gulf: Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Dubai, Abu Dhabi & Muscat
Independent postal administrations: Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, UAE & Oman

Please contact:
Thomas Johansen at
arabiangulfphilately@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 20/001

For Sale: Israel Stamps and Postal History

My specialised Israel/Palestine collection is for sale. I am willing to break it down to sell it in pieces. I have uploaded scans of most of the collection to Google Drive:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_as0sVI9XEBfND1CCouuFO710A6eSwox?usp=sharing

For further details contact Adam Caplan
adam.caplan@intel.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/011

Wanted: Syrian Postage Rates 1982–1987

I'm looking for postage rates in force in Syria from 1982 to 1987, domestic and international rates, airmail surcharges, etc. Partial information or ways to obtain information welcome.

Contact:
Luc Guillard
lucguillard@wanadoo.fr

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/005

Postal Wars "Postkrieg"

Collector of worldwide postal war/Postkrieg and "disputed political propaganda" on mail is selling his double covers with postal war countermeasures and covers with meter marks and entires on history.

Ask for selling list by email:
Jan Heijs
heijsmo@xs4all.nl

What is postal war? See www.postalwar.info

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/001

Turkey to Persia Postal History

I'm looking for early Ottoman covers, 1850s to 1870s, sent from Ottoman POs via Bayazid to Persia, and material related to the "Northern Route" between Turkey and Persia.

Replies to:

Bjorn Sohrne

bjornsohrne@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 20/004

Palestine Mandate: Postage Due Rates & Charges

I need help in relation to exchange rates used to calculate Palestine Mandate period postage due rates and charges. If you can help me please make contact:

Martin Davies

kuitman@btinternet.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 20/003

Wanted: Sudan Revenues

Social Insurance stamps – Revenues issued since the 2019 revolution – Civil war victims – Police Fund – Directly embossed – Field Telegraph (not Army Telegraphs)

Please contact David Sher

sh25ngc3603@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 20/005

Wanted: Palestine Mandate Small Towns

Collector of Small Town postmarks looking for postal history material from or to Small Towns.

Please send offers (with scans please) to:

Oren Gazenfeld

oren@gazenfeld.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 20/006

Jerusalem Postcards and Documents

Private collector is always interested in postcards and documents from Jerusalem. Please make your offer to:

Peter B. Feuser

feuser-weyrich@t-online.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 19/001

WANTED: Royalist Yemen Postal Stationery Cards

I am looking for the 1½ b. green "Radio" cards, "Darul Asfahani" printing, ca. 1970, Types I and II (not the Harrison printing). Thanks if you can help!

Replies to:

Andreas Svrakov

asvrakov2008@live.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/007

French-made Meter Markings

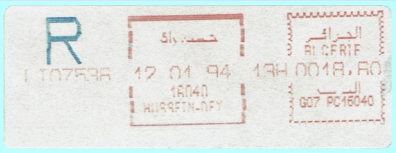




For research study I look for mail from all countries (except France) franked by franking machines like those used in French post offices. They can often be identified by the indication of time in the imprint.







Offers to: Luc Guillard, lucguillard@wanadoo.fr

Private Gratis-Anzeige 23/001

Early Postal History: England and Italy

Collector of early postal history 1400–1750 of Italy and England, is interested in buying good quality material of the subject.

Offers only with Scans please! Payment by PayPal or bank transfer.

Please contact me by email to:

Yehuda Kleiner

yehudak73@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/007

Qatar Postal History

Looking for Qatar Postal History items.

Covers of the 1950s – 1960s.

Stamps with errors such as inverted & misaligned overprints (no colour trials please).

Replies to:

Adil Al Husseini, PO Box 695, Doha

State of Qatar

ezgert@yahoo.com – APS # 121752 (since 1982)

ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 27/201



The Pretoria Philatelic Society

est. 1898



Join our ZOOM meetings!

We host meetings every second Thursday.
The first meeting as a guide will have a theme or a letter and anyone can participate for about 10 minutes each to give everyone a chance to present. The second meeting is where a guest speaker will share their expertise with us for about 45 minutes which leaves time for a Q&A session.

You can email me if you would like to receive the meeting invites: adelbulpitt@gmail.com

And where is your Ad?

Just write to the editor to register your name and e-mail address,
and you will be entitled to place an ad of your own in the next issue of MEPB!

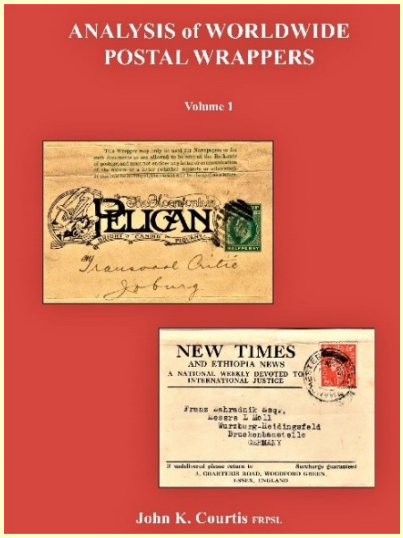
mep-bulletin@zobbel.de

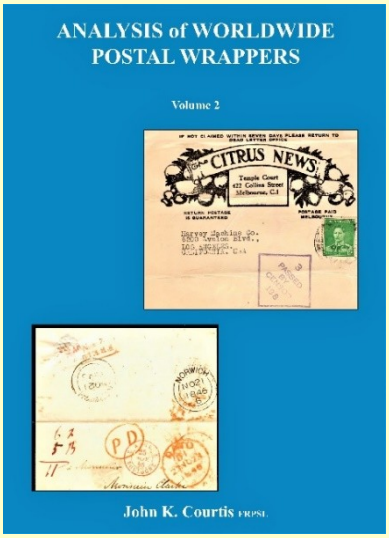
ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 19/201

Analysis of Worldwide Postal Wrappers

Attributes of Postal Stationery, Postal History and Social Philately

by Dr. John K. Courtis FRPSL



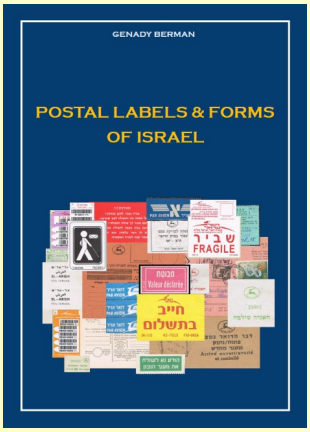


Volume 1: 1 Nature and Role of a Wrapper; 2 Book & Newspaper Posts; 3 Attributes of a Wrapper; 4 Indicia; 5 Perfinned Wrappers; 6 Overprinted Specimen Wrappers; 7 Text Instructions; 8 Watermarked Paper; 9 Uncut Multiples; 10 Registered Wrappers; 11 Postage Due Wrappers; 12 Wrappers by Air Mail; 13 Postmarks on Wrappers; 14 Uprated Wrappers; 15 Destination Countries of Wrappers; 16 Routes to Africa, Asia & Australasia; 17 Routes to Europe, Americas & Caribbean

Volume 2: 18 Auxiliary Markings; 19 Merchant Marks; 20 Embossed-to-Order; 21 Overprinting on GB Wrappers; 22 Overprinted – Worldwide Survey; 23 Labels, Cinderellas and Seals; 24 Censor & Consular handstamps; 25 Side Collections; 26 Private Postal Wrappers; 27 Country Census of Pr. Wrappers; 28 Mourning Wrappers; 29 Official Wrappers; 30 Parcel Wrappers; 31 Analytical Techniques; 32 Clustering; 33 Market Characteristics.

Vol. 1 and Vol. 2, 33 Chapters, 930 pages: £50 plus postage

Orders: Claire Scott at the Postal History Society: claire@historystore.ltd.uk



ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 10/007

Israel Postal Labels and Forms Catalogue

Extensive listings of forms and labels: Registration, Official Registration, Air Mail, Express, AR, Insurance, COD, Parcels, Non-Delivery, Customs, and many more.

Book, 2017, 84 pages. ISBN: 978-965-572-473-8. US-$ 40 plus p&p.
Large Vermeil Medal at World Stamp Championship 2018.

Enquiries to:

Genady Berman

bermangenady@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 22/004

For Sale: PNA Christmas Sheets 1999 (type II)

I am selling complete sets of 5 sheets Palestinian Authority Christmas 1999 issue in mint condition.
Sheet type II, which was sold for postal use only:
Michel 126, 128, 130, 132, 134 / SG PA 147, 149, 151, 153, 155 / Scott 108a to 112a

Each sheet of type II has 10 identical stamps, ie. no silver stamp in the upper row as is with the sheets of type I, which were printed for the philatelic market only. Mint sheets of type II are extremely rare.



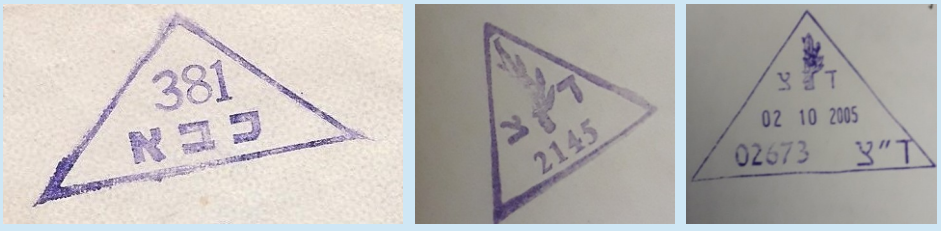
Special offer fo readers of MEPB: one set of the 5 sheets 45 € + postage for registered mail.

Please contact Thomas Schubert at thschubi@outlook.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/001

Wanted: Israel's Triangular Military Unit Handstamps

There are 3 styles of triangular Handstamps used on Military Mail in Israel. The first style lowest numbers were used from 1948 to about 1960. I am trying to collect all of these and am still missing a few numbers. The mid period ran from approximately 1960 to 1980.

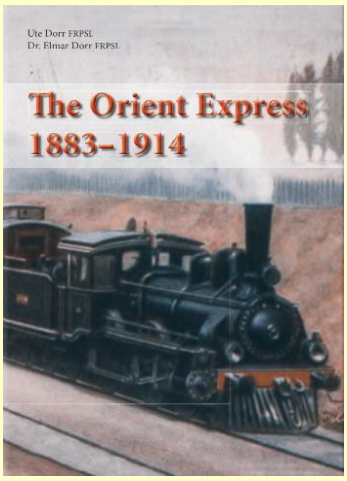


I have almost a complete run of these numbers but am still looking for a few of them including 1014, 1021, 1032, 1035, 1043, 1048, 1049,1060, 1091, 1094 and 1098 and a few others. The most recent zero series style started about 1980 and is still in use. Zero series numbers I am looking for include 01433, 01455, 01526, 01636, 01833 to 01860, 02129 and 03350.

I am trying to collect all the numbers and I estimate that there are over 5000 issued across the 3 styles. I am also looking for your lists of numbers to check against my database. All correspondence and offers to trade material welcome.

Please contact A. Harris via stamps@gmx.co.uk

ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 14/007



The Orient Express 1883–1914

The postal history study by Ute Dorr & Dr. Elmar Dorr is now available in English!

Original 2019 German edition, 162 pages, (mostly) coloured illustrations, A4, hardback. Price: 49 €

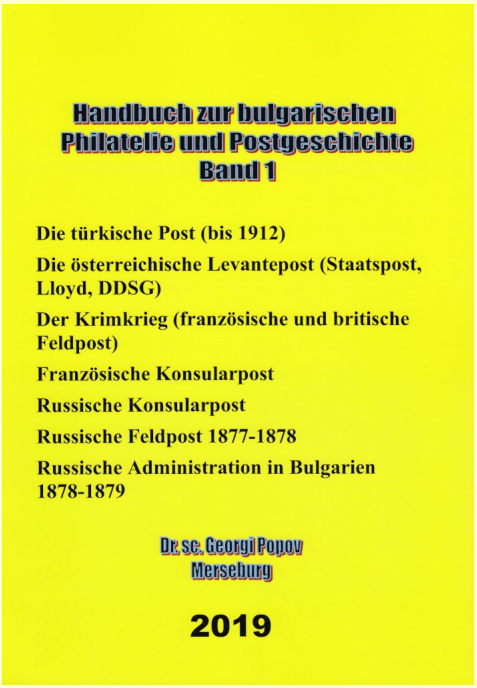
New 2020 English edition, 162 pages, (mostly) coloured illustrations, A4, hardback. Price: 49 €

Please enquire for postage & packing fees.

Ute Dorr, Pistoriusstr. 3, 73527 Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany, utedorr@web.de

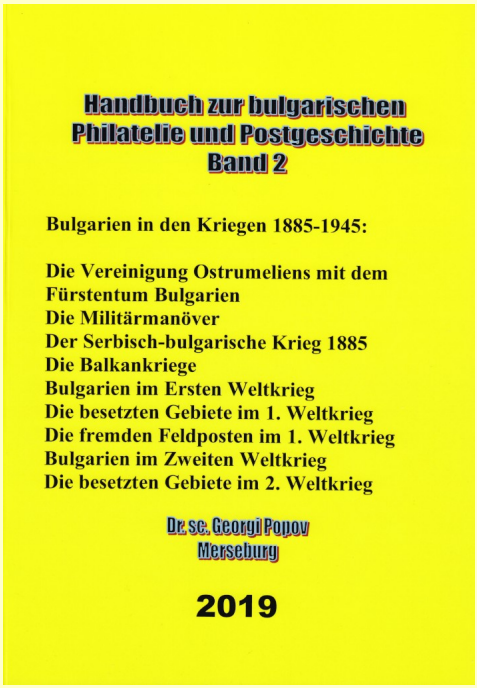
ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 18/201

Handbook of Bulgarian Philately and Postal History by Dr. sc. Georgi Popov



Volume 1: 380 pages, A4, full colour, German

Turkish Post, Austrian Post, Crimean War, French and Russian Consular Posts, Russian Field Post, Russian Administration of Bulgaria 1878/9



Volume 2: 442 pages, A4, full colour, German

Bulgaria at War 1885–1945: Unification with Eastern Roumelia, Manoeuvres, Serbo-Bulgarian War 1885, Balkan Wars, WWI with Occupations and Foreign Field Posts, WWII with Occupations

Price: 58 € per volume. P&P per volume: Germany 5 €, EU 17 €, World 22 €

Orders: Dr. Georgi Popov, Paul-Gerhardt-Str. 12, 06217 Merseburg, Germany, gpopov@t-online.de

ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 22/201

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Stamps of Persia and Iran – for the beginner and advanced collector
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http://hipstamp.com/store/bluecollarwrench



ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 25/203

BRIEFMARKEN – MÜNZEN – ORDEN
ANSICHTSKARTEN – GELDSCHEINE

geerbt oder über Jahre selber gesammelt?
Nun wissen Sie nicht, was Ihre Schätze eventuell wert sind oder wie Sie diese zu Geld machen können?

Als Vereinsvorsitzender seit 2000 und mit über 15 Jahren Berufserfahrung in Philatelie und Numismatik berate ich Sie gerne. Das mache ich für Sie kostenlos und völlig unverbindlich aus Freude an meinem Hobby!

Kontaktieren Sie mich, besuchen Sie meine Homepage oder schicken Sie mir Bilder Ihrer Schätze – mal schauen, was dabei herauskommt…

Peter B. Feuser
Tel.: 02104-44074 (Anrufbeantworter)
Mobil: 0151-54732701 (Mailbox, Signal, SMS, Telegram, Threema, WhatsApp)
Mozartstraße 13, 40822 Mettmann
Postfach 100123, 40801 Mettmann
www.der-neanderthaler.com





ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 28/201



Looking for Middle Eastern stamps? I am a reputable stamp dealer, specializing in Middle Eastern philately. My expertise includes handling new stamp issues from: Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and Jordan

Whether you're a collector or trader, I'm here to assist you with your stamp needs.

Let's connect and grow your collection!

Chucri Saba, 16-6140 Beirut, Lebanon

Tel/WhatsApp: +961 3 693326 – Email: chucri.saba@hotmail.com

ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 30/202



Gratis-Anzeige 28/202

Do you collect Egypt's Interpostal Seals?

Visit us at www.interpostals.com



We are missing several Interpostals listed in Kehr's Catalog but never seen.
Do you possess any of these? Contact us at info@interpostals.com

ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 07/201



Extensive Stock of Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan



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Website: gadtechnology.ca/shirwani.html

ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 25/201



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Your Destination in Central Switzerland
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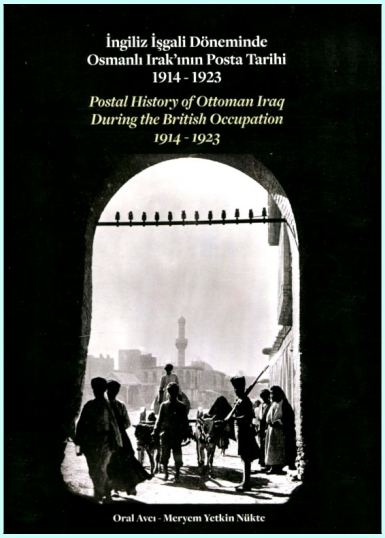


Kimmel Museum Bauernhof
Gotthardstrasse 18
6410 Goldau

www.kimmelstiftung.ch
info@kimmelstiftung.ch
+41 41 530 46 99

ℋ – Gratis-Anzeige 25/202

Postal History of Ottoman Iraq During the British Occupation 1914–1923
by Oral Avcı and Meryem Yetkin Nükte



Oral Avcı and Meryem Yetkin Nükte argue that it is possible to trace Iraq's appearance through the postal stamps. Through an exhaustive analysis of postal stamps and other rare historical documents in Avcı's personal collection, the authors unravel the processes whereby Iraq became an internationally recognized state after World War I.

The book tells the fascinating story of Iraq's emergence by focusing on the mysteries embedded in the postal stamps and other documents from the early 20th century. It offers a fresh perspective on Iraq's early 20th-century history by closely addressing such questions.

Kerkük Vakfi, 2021
ISBN: 9786057414724
285 pages, A4, Turkish and English, hardback
Price: £50 plus postage.

Enquiries to Oral Avcı: oavci60@gmail.com

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One of the highlights of the Institute is his role as a **specialized library**, collecting guidebooks and old postal maps as well as modern philatelic editions. The library includes more than 13,000 items (volumes and booklets). Over time, the library has become a proper documentation centre on organized postal communication. The library is divided into special sections: the periodicals section contains almost 2,000 titles. The special collection of commercial philatelic publications (auction catalogues, fixed-price offers, promotional material, traders' price lists) numbers 15,000 items.

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for Documentation and Research on Oman and the Arabian Gulf

The Oman Studies Centre is pooling resources on Oman and the Gulf to support research on Oman and to provide advisory services. In addition to the Oman Library with books, maps, and documents, the information pool includes special collections such as a philatelic collection and a numismatic collection. For our philatelic collection we buy stamps, postal history, stationery, and documents in the following areas:

- India used in Muscat and Gwadar
- Pakistan used in Muscat and Gwadar
- British Post Office in Muscat
- Muscat & Oman, Sultanate of Oman
- "rebel stamps" State of Oman and Dhufar

We currently also buy early postcards of Oman (pre-1970) and Muscat quarter Anna varieties to complete collections that will result in the publishing of specialised catalogues in these two fields.

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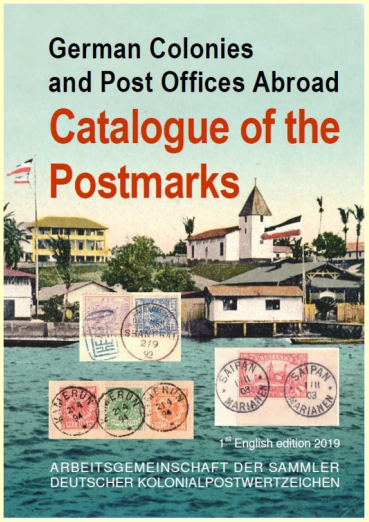
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German Colonies Study Group

The Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Sammler Deutscher Kolonialpostwertzeichen e.V. was founded in 1928 and is the oldest still existing study group in the German philatelic federation BDPh, and with some 400 members also one of the largest specialist societies.



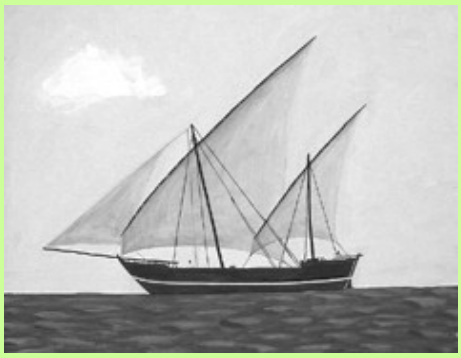
It publishes every year two issues of its journal "Berichte für Kolonialbriefmarkensammler" and two newsletters.

The latest edition of the society's postmark catalogue, "German Colonies and Post Offices Abroad – Catalogue of the Postmarks" (in English) is available at 39 € (plus p&p).

Information on the collecting areas and publications can be found at: www.kolonialmarken.de

Contacts: Tilmann Nössig – geschaeftsfuehrer@kolonialmarken.de

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The Aden & Somaliland Study Group

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The GB Overprints Society

The GBOS promotes the collection and study of overprints on British stamps and postal stationery and their usage, from the first overprints for use outside the United Kingdom issued in Cyprus in 1880 right through the "British Levant" issues to the final use of overprints when the British postal agency at Muscat closed in 1966.

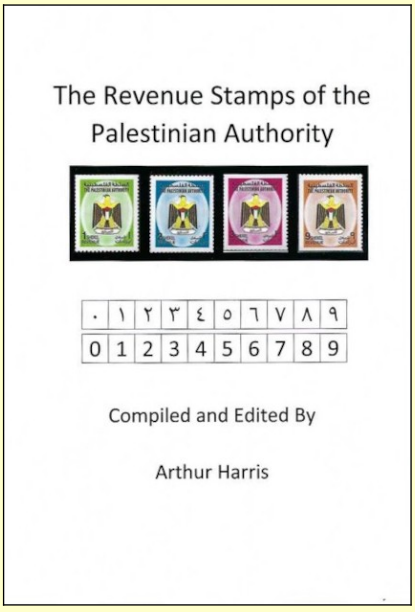
The GBOS range of interests also includes revenues and postal orders overprinted for use abroad as well as the British departmental overprints.

Collectors at all levels are always welcome, whether experienced researchers or beginners. We have an informative and lavishly illustrated website and publish a quarterly journal "The Overprinter", available in paper form or electronically. We have also published books on overprinted British postal stationery for use in many countries, including the Middle East and the Gulf.

For more information visit the website at http://www.gbos.org.uk
or write to the GBOS Secretary, 118 Maldon Road, Tiptree, Colchester CO5 0PA, UK

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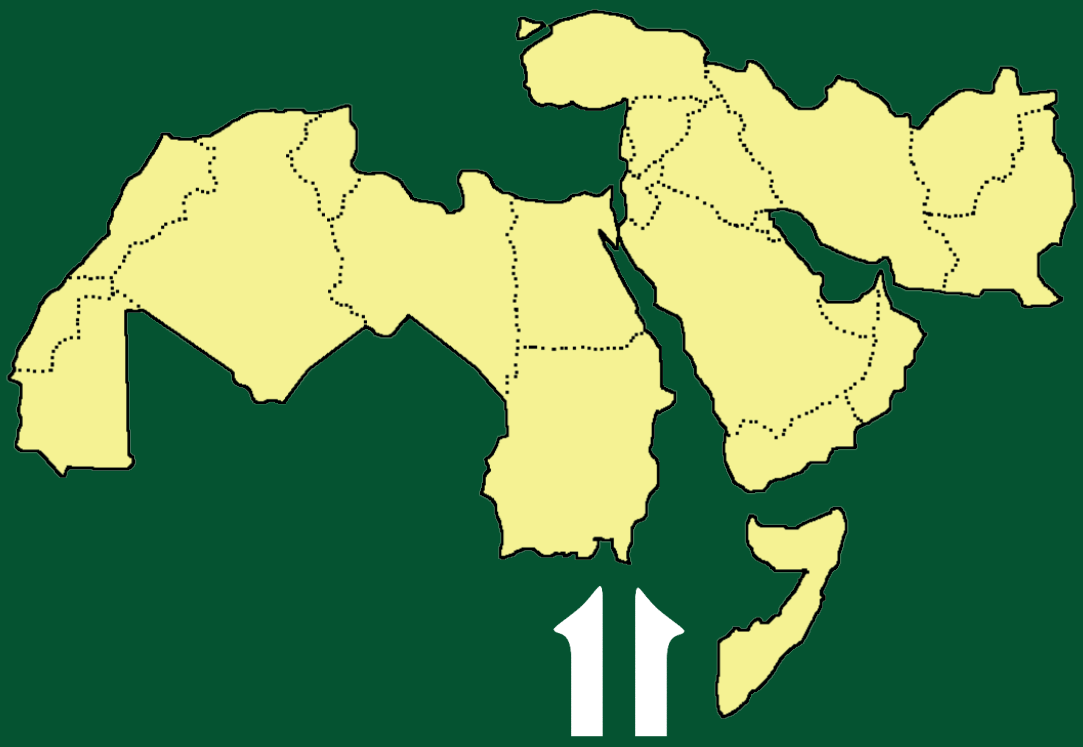
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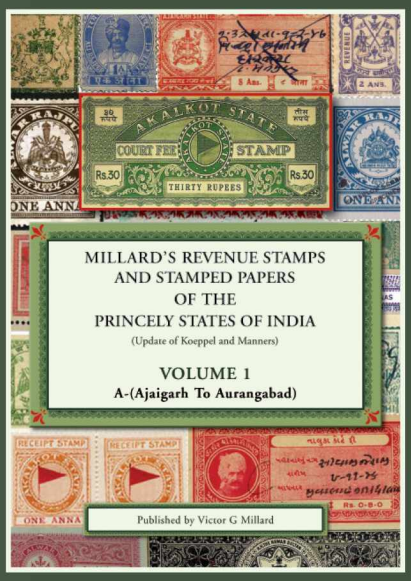
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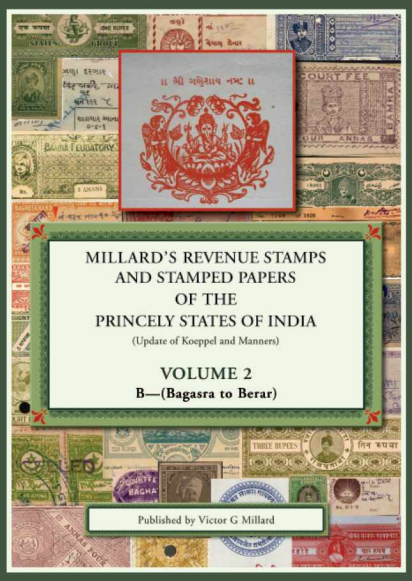
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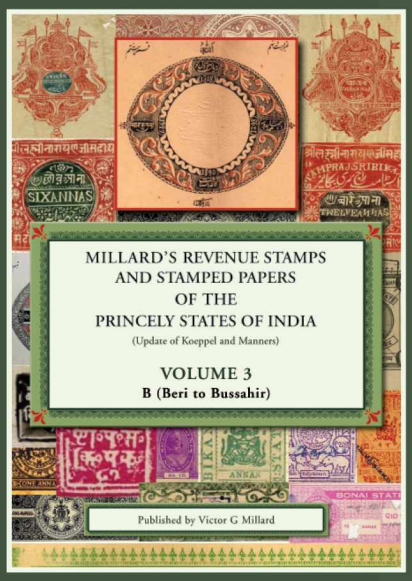
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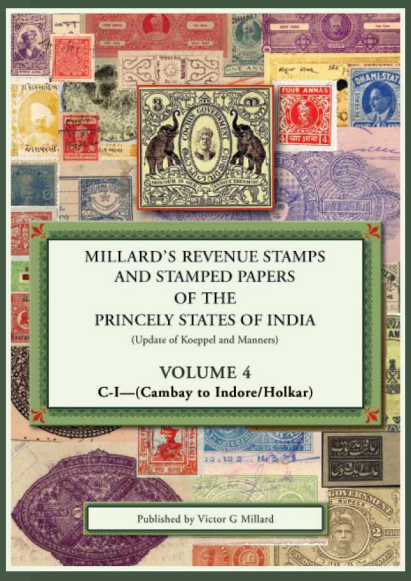
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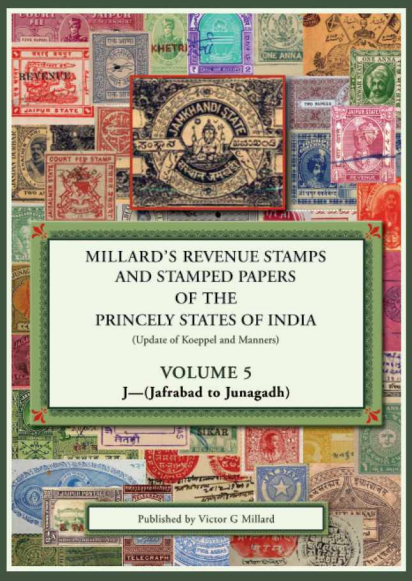
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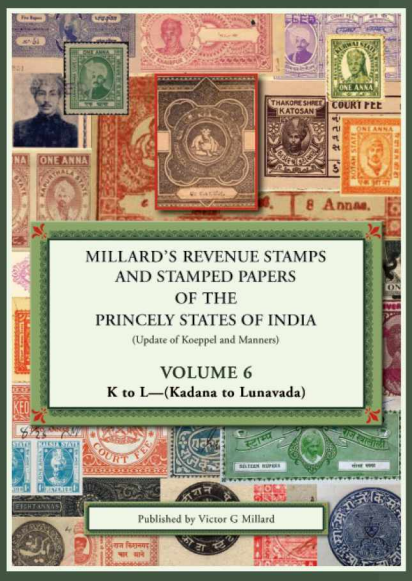


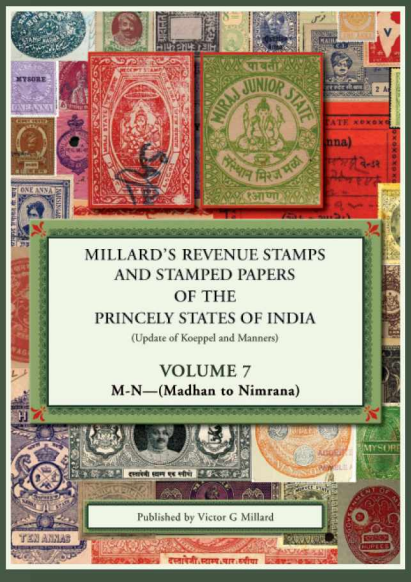


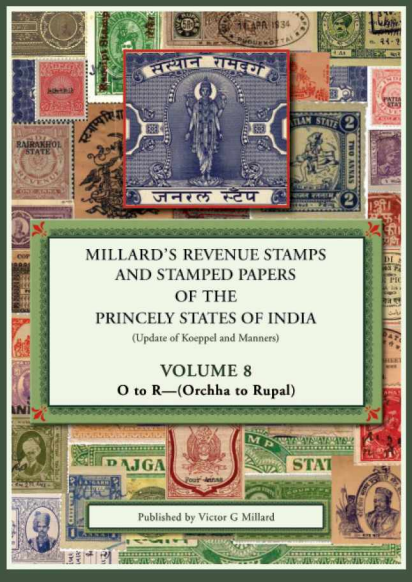


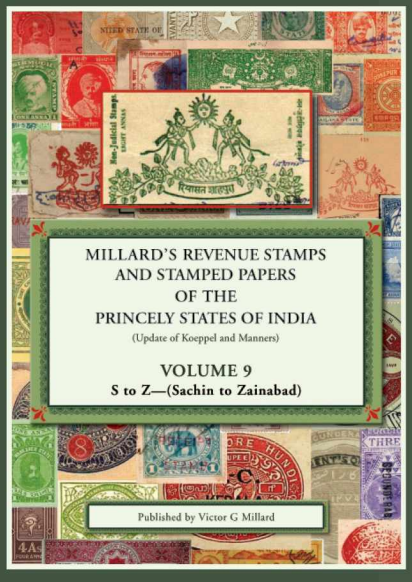












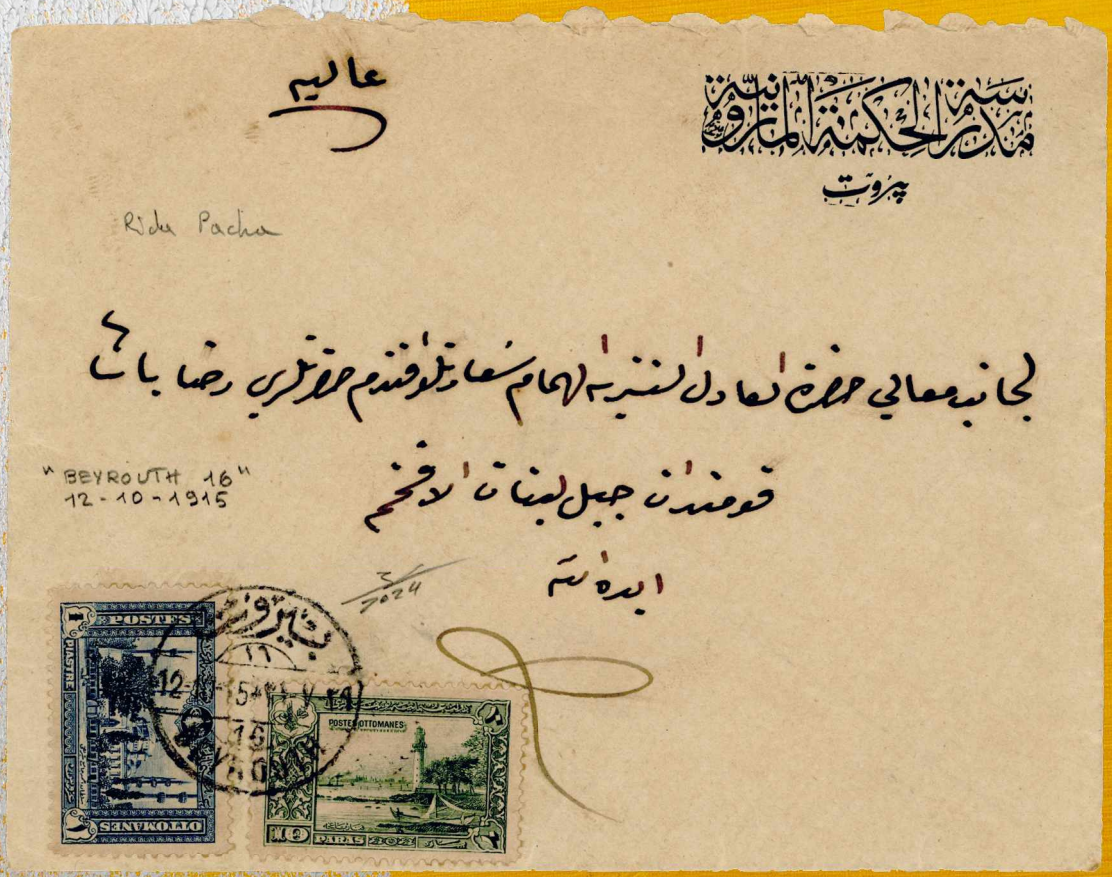
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Handbook of Turkish Philately – Part I: Ottoman Empire

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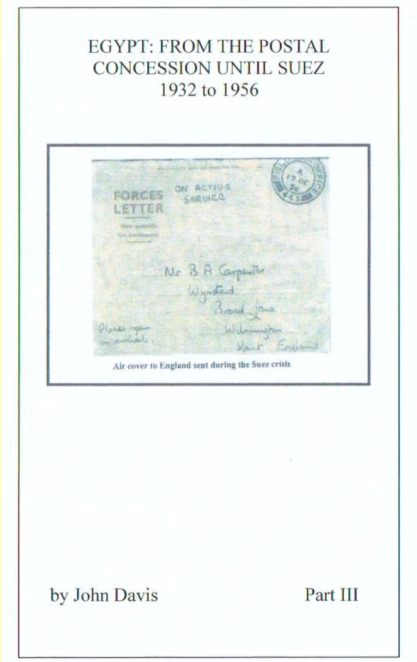
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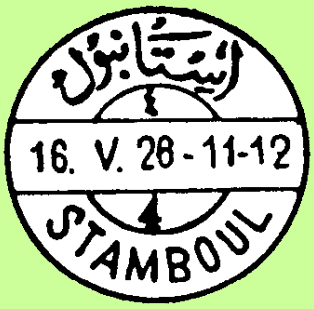
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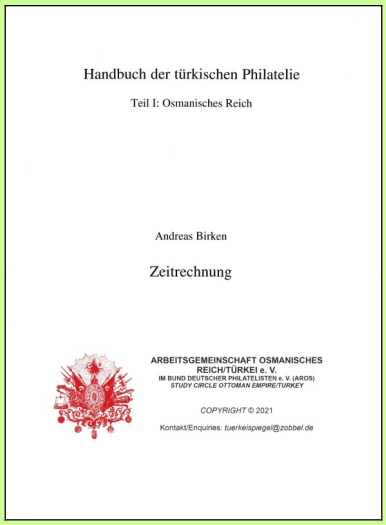
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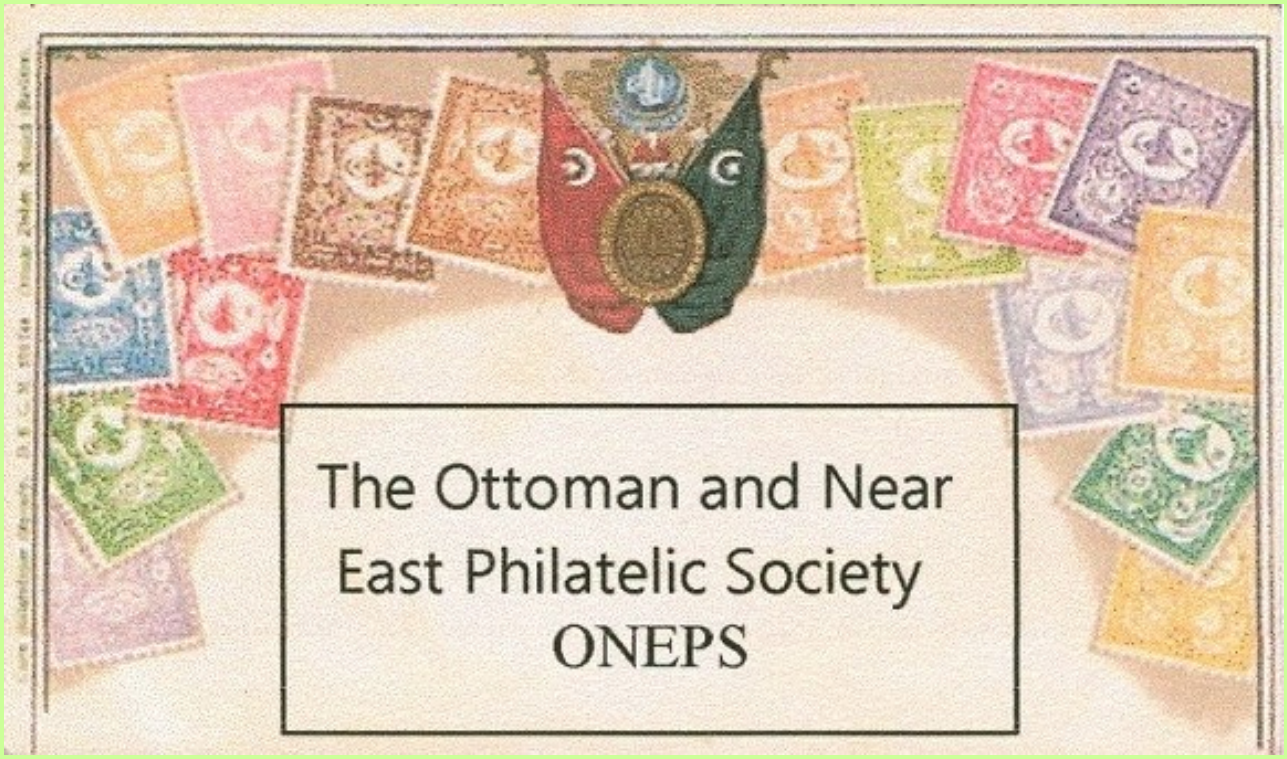
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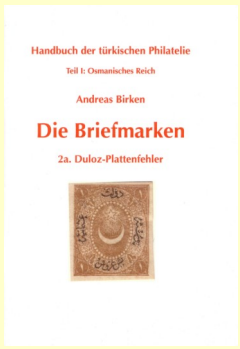


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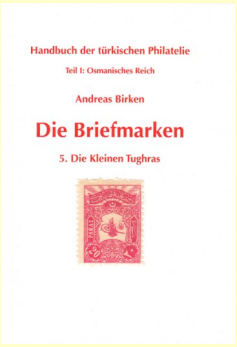


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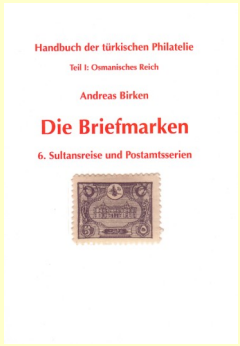


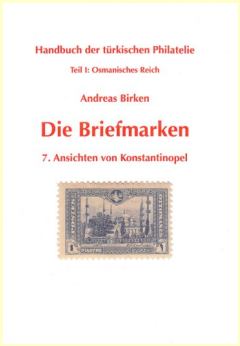


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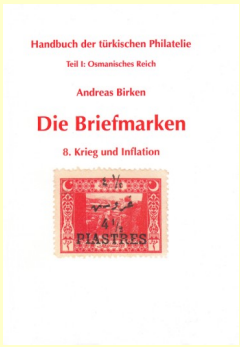


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Editorial

by Tobias Zywietz (mep-bulletin@zobbel.de)
Publisher & Editor, The Middle East Philatelic Bulletin

Personal Note

At the end of June, my computer broke down and had to be repaired. Since then I am able to work again, for some times I do not have full access to all my data, in particular emails. If you have written to me in recent times and the matter is still unresolved, please write to me again.

In this Issue …

As nobody reads these editorials, I will spare you any more of my musings. Only a few key words: It is getting harder to gather interesting articles of a high quality. So I have to appeal for more people to come forward with their ideas.

I will give all the assistance needed to create an article, but there needs to be a core idea and some material: stamps, covers, documents. Nothing comes from nothing…!

Contributions

I will consider any article of quality for potential inclusion: be it a large article with original research, a small piece looking at a particular aspect, a concise description of an interesting cover, or a long-forgotten piece of research rediscovered. It can be original writing, or material already published. I will help, advise, and guide. Translation into English can be arranged, and all steps and processes are closely coordinated with the author.

Articles should be submitted as plain text (TXT), rich text (RTF), LibreOffice/OpenOffice (ODT), MS Word (DOC, DOCX) or Adobe Acrobat (PDF). Images can be JPEG/JPG- or PNG-files in 300dpi (or higher) resolution. Rights to texts and images not belonging to the author should be cleared, or at least be flagged-up, so that I can deal with any such issues. If in doubt: just ask! I will strive to resolve any such occurring problems.

Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank all contributors and all those aiding and encouraging me in the creation of this journal. The list would be too long to print here, so I mention just one non-philatelist, who, as native speaker, helped me with proofreading and gave advice on style of writing, namely *Colin Booth*. Several organisations and persons gave me general permission to reprint articles from their journals and archives. One person I have especially to thank is the late *Barry D. Hoffman*, copyright owner of F.W. Pollack's THE HOLY LAND PHILATELIST. *Many thanks to all!*

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I would like to thank all readers who have donated amounts following my appeal. I will not mention any names here as some donors like to stay anonymous. The donations will be used primarily to maintain the website, e.g. increase storage and traffic capacity.

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Future Articles and Research Projects

This is a selection of topics and articles I am working on, together with many authors, to include in future issues of MEPB. If you have information, illustrations, articles, opinions, about any of these subjects, please let me know!

- PNA Issues: Gaza Freedom Fleet 2011
- İstanbul Views on Ottoman Postcards: The Dolmabahçe Palace
- German Military Cachets in the Ottoman Empire
- Specialities of Ottoman Philately: 5p Duloz
- The Italian Post Office in Smyrna
- How the Sale of Old Stamps saved the Ottoman Empire
- Orosdi Bank
- The International Reply Coupons of Syria

- Jordan: Postage Stamps or Charity Labels?
- Archive: 25 Years German Post Office in Constantinople
- The 1840 Ottoman Post Inaugural Public Announcements (14.10.1840 and 1.11.1840).
- The 1863 Inaugural Public Announcements for Postage Stamps
- Palestine Revenues Revisited
- Book Review: Kartpostal Editörlero (Yılmaz)
- Book Review: Illustrated Postmarks of Iran
- The "Er Ramle" Zeppelin covers of 1931
- Iran: Postal Correspondence (Judiciary) II
- Haydar Pasha
- 25 Years of the German PO in Constantinople
- Caravan Route Basra–Aleppo
- The French Military Mission in the Hejaz
- 17th Century Mail by French Merchant Ships
- The RAF Postal Service in Sharjah
- Overland Mail Surcharges of Iraq, 1923–1929
- Overland Mail Route Instruction Labels
- Court Fee Stamps of Palestine Mandate
- Habbaniya Provisionals – Revisited
- Book Review: Anglo-Egyptian & French Colonial Censorship in WWII
- Archive: Mail Communications and the Indian Post Offices in the Persian Gulf
- Archive: The Telegraphs of the Persian Gulf
- Lebanon 'Palestine Aid' covers
- RAF Emergency Air Mail 1919: Aerial EEF
- The Iraq/Kuwait Postal War
- Posta Beyʿiye Şubesi (Péra Palace Hotel)
- Jordan Stamps & Banknotes, Jordan Half-Dinar Banknote
- Telegraph Codes: Mosse, Liebèr, Bentley, & al.
- Kuwait Paquebot Mail Service (abandoned)
- Revenue stamp usage: Durazzo 1907, Trieste 1865, Candia 1890
- Early Postcards of Muscat
- Service Automobile Palestine–Syria
- Book Review: Israel Postal Labels (G. Berman)
- Archive: F. Perlberg's Bilder aus dem Heiligen Lande
- Archive: Annuaire Oriental (1891), Indicateur Égyptien (1897), Egyptian Directory (1908)
- The Austrian Post Offices at Simi and Dardanellen
- Turkish Red Crescent obligatory tax stamps on cover
- Ottoman Field PO 46
- Ottoman Field PO 72/77
- Lebanese Consular Revenues (abandoned)
- Post-WWII Iraqi Censorship
- Syria: Coronation 1920
- The International Reply Coupons of Palestine
- The International Reply Coupons of Syria
- The International Reply Coupons of Lebanon
- Gulf States Barcodes
- The Stamps of South Kurdistan
- Aden Stamps & Photos
- WWII Emergency Banknotes: Syria, Lebanon, Djibouti
- The History of Banknotes in Kuwait
- S.S. Karlsruhe
- Saudi Mail Rates
- The Postal History of Maadi
- British Postage Rates to Palestine
- Mandate Postmarks of Lebanon and Syria
- Mail Connection Jerusalem/Damascus
- Tripoli Postal History
- Currency of the Arab Kingdom of Syria
- Ottoman Passport Fiscals
- The Kaiser's Visit to the Holy Land (abandoned)
- Taxed in Constantinople 1866
- Osmanli Postarlari 1337
- Ottoman Fiscal Stamp Law 1893
- Lebanon Underprints
- Book Review: The Postal History of Paiforce
- Ali Noussret Pulhan Pricelist 1928
- Palestine Mandate Entire Variety (PR13)
- Maritime Transport: Cuppa Lambros

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Mailing List Data Protection Policy

by Tobias Zywietz (mep-bulletin@zobbel.de)
Publisher & Editor, The Middle East Philatelic Bulletin

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(2) die Verarbeitung unrechtmäßig ist und Sie die Löschung der personenbezogenen Daten ablehnen und stattdessen die Einschränkung der Nutzung der personenbezogenen Daten verlangen;
(3) der Verantwortliche die personenbezogenen Daten für die Zwecke der Verarbeitung nicht länger benötigt, Sie diese jedoch zur Geltendmachung, Ausübung oder Verteidigung von Rechtsansprüchen benötigen, oder
(4) wenn Sie Widerspruch gegen die Verarbeitung gemäß Art. 21 Abs. 1 DSGVO eingelegt haben und noch nicht feststeht, ob die berechtigten Gründe des Verantwortlichen gegenüber Ihren Gründen überwiegen. Wurde die Verarbeitung der Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten eingeschränkt, dürfen diese Daten – von ihrer Speicherung abgesehen – nur mit Ihrer Einwilligung oder zur Geltendmachung, Ausübung oder Verteidigung von Rechtsansprüchen oder zum Schutz der Rechte einer anderen natürlichen oder juristischen Person oder aus Gründen eines wichtigen öffentlichen Interesses der Union oder eines Mitgliedstaats verarbeitet werden.

Wurde die Einschränkung der Verarbeitung nach den o.g. Voraussetzungen eingeschränkt, werden Sie von dem Verantwortlichen unterrichtet bevor die Einschränkung aufgehoben wird.

Ihr Recht auf Einschränkung der Verarbeitung kann insoweit beschränkt werden, als es voraussichtlich die Verwirklichung der Forschungs- oder Statistikzwecke unmöglich macht oder ernsthaft beeinträchtigt und die Beschränkung für die Erfüllung der Forschungs- oder Statistikzwecke notwendig ist.

4. Recht auf Löschung

a) Löschungspflicht

Sie können von dem Verantwortlichen verlangen, dass die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten unverzüglich gelöscht werden, und der Verantwortliche ist verpflichtet, diese Daten unverzüglich zu löschen, sofern einer der folgenden Gründe zutrifft:

(1) Die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten sind für die Zwecke, für die sie erhoben oder auf sonstige Weise verarbeitet wurden, nicht mehr notwendig.
(2) Sie widerrufen Ihre Einwilligung, auf die sich die Verarbeitung gem. Art. 6 Abs. 1 lit. a oder Art. 9 Abs. 2 lit. a DSGVO stützte, und es fehlt an einer anderweitigen Rechtsgrundlage für die Verarbeitung.
(3) Sie legen gem. Art. 21 Abs. 1 DSGVO Widerspruch gegen die Verarbeitung ein und es liegen keine vorrangigen berechtigten Gründe für die Verarbeitung vor, oder Sie legen gem. Art. 21

Abs. 2 DSGVO Widerspruch gegen die Verarbeitung ein.
(4) Die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten wurden unrechtmäßig verarbeitet.
(5) Die Löschung der Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten ist zur Erfüllung einer rechtlichen Verpflichtung nach dem Unionsrecht oder dem Recht der Mitgliedstaaten erforderlich, dem der Verantwortliche unterliegt.
(6) Die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten wurden in Bezug auf angebotene Dienste der Informationsgesellschaft gemäß Art. 8 Abs. 1 DSGVO erhoben.

b) Information an Dritte

Hat der Verantwortliche die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten öffentlich gemacht und ist er gem. Art. 17 Abs. 1 DSGVO zu deren Löschung verpflichtet, so trifft er unter Berücksichtigung der verfügbaren Technologie und der Implementierungskosten angemessene Maßnahmen, auch technischer Art, um für die Datenverarbeitung Verantwortliche, die die personenbezogenen Daten verarbeiten, darüber zu informieren, dass Sie als betroffene Person von ihnen die Löschung aller Links zu diesen personenbezogenen Daten oder von Kopien oder Replikationen dieser personenbezogenen Daten verlangt haben.

c) Ausnahmen

Das Recht auf Löschung besteht nicht, soweit die Verarbeitung erforderlich ist

(1) zur Ausübung des Rechts auf freie Meinungsäußerung und Information;
(2) zur Erfüllung einer rechtlichen Verpflichtung, die die Verarbeitung nach dem Recht der Union oder der Mitgliedstaaten, dem der Verantwortliche unterliegt, erfordert, oder zur Wahrnehmung einer Aufgabe, die im öffentlichen Interesse liegt oder in Ausübung öffentlicher Gewalt erfolgt, die dem Verantwortlichen übertragen wurde;
(3) aus Gründen des öffentlichen Interesses im Bereich der öffentlichen Gesundheit gemäß Art. 9 Abs. 2 lit. h und i sowie Art. 9 Abs. 3 DSGVO
(4) für im öffentlichen Interesse liegende Archivzwecke, wissenschaftliche oder historische Forschungszwecke oder für statistische Zwecke gem. Art. 89 Abs. 1 DSGVO, soweit das unter Abschnitt a) genannte Recht voraussichtlich die Verwirklichung der Ziele dieser Verarbeitung unmöglich macht oder ernsthaft beeinträchtigt, oder
(5) zur Geltendmachung, Ausübung oder Verteidigung von Rechtsansprüchen.

5. Recht auf Unterrichtung

Haben Sie das Recht auf Berichtigung, Löschung oder Einschränkung der Verarbeitung gegenüber dem Verantwortlichen geltend gemacht, ist dieser verpflichtet, allen Empfängern, denen die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten offengelegt wurden, diese Berichtigung oder Löschung der Daten oder Einschränkung der Verarbeitung mitzuteilen, es sei denn, dies erweist sich als unmöglich oder ist mit einem unverhältnismäßigen Aufwand verbunden. Ihnen steht gegenüber dem Verantwortlichen das Recht zu, über diese Empfänger unterrichtet zu werden.

6. Recht auf Datenübertragbarkeit

Sie haben das Recht, die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten, die Sie dem Verantwortlichen bereitgestellt haben, in einem strukturierten, gängigen und maschinenlesbaren Format zu erhalten. Außerdem haben Sie das Recht diese Daten einem anderen Verantwortlichen ohne Behinderung durch den Verantwortlichen, dem die personenbezogenen Daten bereitgestellt wurden, zu übermitteln, sofern

(1) die Verarbeitung auf einer Einwilligung gem. Art. 6 Abs. 1 lit. a DSGVO oder Art. 9 Abs. 2 lit. a DSGVO oder auf einem Vertrag gem. Art. 6 Abs. 1 lit. b DSGVO beruht und
(2) die Verarbeitung mithilfe automatisierter Verfahren erfolgt.

In Ausübung dieses Rechts haben Sie ferner das Recht, zu erwirken, dass die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten direkt von einem Verantwortlichen einem anderen Verantwortlichen übermittelt werden, soweit dies technisch machbar ist. Freiheiten und Rechte anderer Personen dürfen hierdurch nicht beeinträchtigt werden.

Das Recht auf Datenübertragbarkeit gilt nicht für eine Verarbeitung personenbezogener Daten, die für die Wahrnehmung einer Aufgabe erforderlich ist, die im öffentlichen Interesse liegt oder in Ausübung öffentlicher Gewalt erfolgt, die dem Verantwortlichen übertragen wurde.

7. Widerspruchsrecht

Sie haben das Recht, aus Gründen, die sich aus ihrer besonderen Situation ergeben, jederzeit gegen die Verarbeitung der Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten, die aufgrund von Art. 6 Abs. 1 lit. e oder f DSGVO erfolgt, Widerspruch einzulegen; dies gilt auch für ein auf diese Bestimmungen gestütztes Profiling.

Der Verantwortliche verarbeitet die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten nicht mehr, es sei denn, er kann zwingende schutzwürdige Gründe für die Verarbeitung nachweisen, die Ihre Interessen, Rechte und Freiheiten überwiegen, oder die Verarbeitung dient der Geltendmachung, Ausübung oder Verteidigung von Rechtsansprüchen.

Werden die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten verarbeitet, um Direktwerbung zu betreiben, haben Sie das Recht, jederzeit Widerspruch gegen die Verarbeitung der Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten zum Zwecke derartiger Werbung einzulegen; dies gilt auch für das Profiling, soweit es mit solcher Direktwerbung in Verbindung steht.

Widersprechen Sie der Verarbeitung für Zwecke der Direktwerbung, so werden die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten nicht mehr für diese Zwecke verarbeitet.

Sie haben die Möglichkeit, im Zusammenhang mit der Nutzung von Diensten der Informationsgesellschaft – ungeachtet der Richtlinie 2002/58/EG – Ihr Widerspruchsrecht mittels automatisierter Verfahren auszuüben, bei denen technische Spezifikationen verwendet werden.

Bei Datenverarbeitung zu wissenschaftlichen, historischen oder statistischen Forschungszwecken:

Sie haben auch das Recht, aus Gründen, die sich aus Ihrer besonderen Situation ergeben, bei der Verarbeitung Sie betreffender personenbezogener Daten, die zu wissenschaftlichen oder historischen Forschungszwecken oder zu statistischen Zwecken gem. Art. 89 Abs. 1 DSGVO erfolgt, dieser zu widersprechen.

Ihr Widerspruchsrecht kann insoweit beschränkt werden, als es voraussichtlich die Verwirklichung der Forschungs- oder Statistikzwecke unmöglich macht oder ernsthaft beeinträchtigt und die Beschränkung für die Erfüllung der Forschungs- oder Statistikzwecke notwendig ist.

8. Recht auf Widerruf der datenschutzrechtlichen Einwilligungserklärung

Sie haben das Recht, Ihre datenschutzrechtliche Einwilligungserklärung jederzeit zu widerrufen. Durch den Widerruf der Einwilligung wird die Rechtmäßigkeit der aufgrund der Einwilligung bis zum Widerruf erfolgten Verarbeitung nicht berührt.

9. Recht auf Beschwerde bei einer Aufsichtsbehörde

Unbeschadet eines anderweitigen verwaltungsrechtlichen oder gerichtlichen Rechtsbehelfs steht Ihnen das Recht auf Beschwerde bei einer Aufsichtsbehörde, insbesondere in dem Mitgliedstaat ihres Aufenthaltsorts, ihres Arbeitsplatzes oder des Orts des mutmaßlichen Verstoßes, zu, wenn Sie der Ansicht sind, dass die Verarbeitung der Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten gegen die DSGVO verstößt.

Die Aufsichtsbehörde, bei der die Beschwerde eingereicht wurde, unterrichtet den Beschwerdeführer über den Stand und die Ergebnisse der Beschwerde einschließlich der Möglichkeit eines gerichtlichen Rechtsbehelfs nach Art. 78 DSGVO.

Data Protection Policy

This is a non-binding translation into English. The only legally binding text is the German "Datenschtutzerklärung" above.

All references are to the German text of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR, German: Datenschutz-Grundverordnung, DSGVO).

Data protection is of particular importance to me. Use of my electronic journal pages is possible without any indication of personal data.

The processing of personal data, such as the name and e-mail address of a person, is always carried out in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and in accordance with the country-specific data protection regulations applicable to me. By means of this data protection declaration I would like to inform the public about the type, scope and purpose of the personal data collected, used and processed by me. Furthermore, data subjects will be informed of their rights by means of this data protection declaration.

As data controller, I have implemented numerous technical and organisational measures to ensure the utmost protection of the personal data processed via this website. Nevertheless, Internet-based data transmissions, like e-mail, may in principle contain security risks, so that absolute protection cannot be guaranteed. For this reason, every person concerned is free to transmit personal data to me also in alternative ways.

I. Name and address of the person responsible

The person responsible in the sense of the General Data Protection Regulation and other national data protection laws of EU member states as well as other data protection regulations is:

Tobias Zywietz
Hauptstr. 10
75245 Neulingen
Germany
Phone: +49-(0)7237-44 39 03
E-mail: mep-bulletin@zobbel.de
Website: www.zobbel.de

II. General information about data processing

1. Scope of processing of personal data

In general, I only process personal data of users if this is necessary to provide information by way of a mailing-list. The further processing of personal data only takes place with the user's consent.

2. Legal basis for the processing of personal data

Insofar as I obtain the consent of the data subject for the processing of personal data, Art. 6 para. 1 lit. a EU General Data Protection Regulation serves as the legal basis for the processing of personal data.

In the processing of personal data required for the performance of a contract to which the data subject is a party, Art. 6 para. 1 lit. b DSGVO serves as the legal basis. This also applies to processing operations that are necessary to carry out pre-contractual measures.

As far as the processing of personal data is necessary for the fulfilment of a legal obligation, which is subject to me, Art. 6 Abs. 1 lit. c DSGVO serves as legal basis.

In the event that the vital interests of the data subject or another natural person require the processing of personal data, Article 6(1)(d) DSGVO serves as the legal basis.

If processing is necessary to safeguard a legitimate interest of mine or of a third party and if the interests, fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject do not outweigh the former interest, Art. 6 para. 1 lit. f DSGVO serves as the legal basis for processing.

3. Deletion time of data and storage

The personal data of the person concerned will be deleted or blocked as soon as the purpose of storage ceases to apply. Furthermore, data may be stored if this has been provided for by the European or national legislators' regulations, laws or other provisions to which the person responsible is subject. The data will also be blocked or deleted if a storage period prescribed by the aforementioned standards expires, unless there is a need for further storage of the data for the conclusion or fulfilment of a contract.

III. Mailing-List

Every user is free to subscribe for free to my mailing list via e-mail. This does not create any obligations for the user.

1. Description and scope of data processing

The following data is collected:

1. surname and first name of the user
2. e-mail address of the user

2. Legal basis for data processing

The legal basis for the temporary storage of data is Art. 6 para. 1 DSGVO.

3. Purpose of data processing

The purpose of the mailing list is to provide the user with information about the contents and appearance of the journal.

4. Storage duration

The user can leave the mailing list at any time. The data will be deleted immediately.

5. Possibility of objection and elimination

The collection of data for the provision of the mailing list is absolutely necessary for the operation of the mailing list. Consequently, there is no possibility of objection on the part of the user. The user can, however, object to the storage at any time and thus leave the mialing list.

IV. E-Mail contact

1. Description and scope of data processing

You can contact me via the e-mail address provided on my website. In this case, the user's personal data transmitted by e-mail will be stored. In this context, the data will not be passed on to third parties. The data is used exclusively for processing the conversation.

V. Rights of the person concerned

If your personal data is processed, you are affected within the meaning of the DSGVO and you have the following rights vis-à-vis the person responsible:

1. The right to information

You can ask the person in charge to confirm whether personal data concerning you will be processed by me. If such processing is available, you can request the following information from the person responsible:

(1) the purposes for which the personal data are processed;
(2) the categories of personal data processed;
(3) the recipients or categories of recipients to whom the personal data concerning you have been or are still being disclosed;
(4) the planned duration of the storage of the personal data concerning you or, if specific information on this is not possible, criteria for determining the storage period;
(5) the existence of a right to rectification or deletion of personal data concerning you, a right to limitation of processing by the controller or a right to object to such processing;
(6) the existence of a right of appeal to a supervisory authority;
(7) any available information on the origin of the data if the personal data are not collected from the data subject;
(8) the existence of automated decision-making including profiling in accordance with Art. 22 para. 1 and 4 DSGVO and – at least in these cases – meaningful information on the logic involved and the scope and intended effects of such processing for the data subject.

You have the right to request information as to whether the personal data concerning you is transferred to a third country or to an international organisation. In this context, you may request to be informed of the appropriate guarantees pursuant to Art. 46 DSGVO in connection with the transmission. This right to information may be limited to the extent that it is likely to make it impossible or seriously impair the realisation of research or statistical purposes and the limitation is necessary for the fulfilment of research or statistical purposes.

2. The right of correction

You have a right of rectification and/or completion vis-à-vis the data controller if the personal data processed concerning you are incorrect or incomplete. The person responsible shall make the correction without delay.

Your right to correction may be limited to the extent that it is likely to render impossible or seriously prejudicial the achievement of the research or statistical purposes and the limitation is necessary for the fulfilment of the research or statistical purposes.

3. Right to limitation of processing

Under the following conditions, you may request that the processing of personal data concerning you be restricted:

(1) if you dispute the accuracy of the personal data concerning you for a period that enables the data controller to verify the accuracy of the personal data;
(2) the processing is unlawful and you refuse to delete the personal data and instead request the restriction of the use of the personal data;
(3) the data controller no longer needs the personal data for the purposes of the processing, but you do need them to assert, exercise or defend legal claims, or (4) if you have filed an objection to the processing pursuant to Art. 21 para. 1 DSGVO and it has not yet been determined whether the legitimate reasons of the person responsible outweigh your reasons. If the processing of personal data concerning you has been restricted, such data may only be processed - apart from being stored - with your consent or for the purpose of asserting, exercising or defending rights or protecting the rights of another natural or legal person or on grounds of an important public interest of the Union or a Member State.

If the processing restriction has been limited according to the above conditions, you will be informed by the person responsible before the restriction is lifted.

Your right to limitation of processing may be limited to the extent that it is likely to render impossible or seriously prejudicial the achievement of research or statistical purposes and the restriction is necessary for the fulfilment of research or statistical purposes.

4. The right of deletion

a) Duty of deletion

You may request the data controller to delete the personal data relating to you immediately, and the data controller is obliged to delete this data immediately, if one of the following reasons applies:

(1) The personal data concerning you are no longer necessary for the purposes for which they were collected or otherwise processed.
(2) You revoke your consent, on which the processing was based pursuant to Art. 6 para. 1 lit. a or Art. 9 para. 2 lit. a DSGVO, and there is no other legal basis for the processing.
(3) You file an objection against the processing pursuant to Art. 21 para. 1 DSGVO and there are no overriding legitimate reasons for the processing, or you file an objection against the processing pursuant to Art. 21 para. 2 DSGVO.
(4) The personal data concerning you have been processed unlawfully.
(5) The deletion of personal data relating to you is necessary to fulfil a legal obligation under Union law or the law of the Member States to which the data controller is subject.
(6) The personal data concerning you were collected in relation to information society services offered pursuant to Art. 8 para. 1 DSGVO.

b) Information to third parties

If the data controller has made the personal data concerning you public and is obliged to delete it pursuant to Art. 17 para. 1 DSGVO, he shall take appropriate measures, including technical measures, taking into account the available technology and the implementation costs, to inform data processors who process the personal data that you as the data subject have requested the deletion of all links to this personal data or of copies or replications of this personal data.

c) Exceptions

The right to cancellation does not exist if the processing is necessary

(1) to exercise freedom of expression and information;
(2) to fulfil a legal obligation required for processing under the law of the Union or of the Member States to which the controller is subject, or to perform a task in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority conferred on the controller
(3) for reasons of public interest in the field of public health pursuant to Art. 9 para. 2 lit. h and i and Art. 9 para. 3 DSGVO;
(4) for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or for statistical purposes pursuant to Art. 89 para. 1 DSGVO, insofar as the law referred to under a) is likely to make it impossible or seriously impair the attainment of the objectives of such processing, or
(5) to assert, exercise or defend legal claims.

5. Right to information

If you have exercised your right to have the data controller correct, delete or limit the processing, he/she is obliged to inform all recipients to whom the personal data concerning you have been disclosed of this correction or deletion of the data or restriction on processing, unless this proves impossible or involves a disproportionate effort. Recipients have the right vis-à-vis the person responsible to be informed about these recipients.

6. Right to data transferability

You have the right to receive the personal data concerning you that you have provided to the person responsible in a structured, common and machine-readable format. In addition, you have the right to transmit this data to another person in charge without obstruction by the person in charge to whom the personal data was provided, provided

(1) processing is based on consent pursuant to Art. 6 para. 1 lit. a DSGVO or Art. 9 para. 2 lit. a DSGVO or on a contract pursuant to Art. 6 para. 1 lit. b DSGVO and

(2) processing is carried out by means of automated methods

In exercising this right, you also have the right to request that the personal data concerning you be transferred directly from one data controller to another data controller, insofar as this is technically feasible. The freedoms and rights of other persons must not be affected by this.

The right to transferability shall not apply to the processing of personal data necessary for the performance of a task in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority conferred on the controller.

7. Right of objection

You have the right to object at any time, for reasons arising from your particular situation, to the processing of personal data concerning you under Article 6(1)(e) or (f) of the DSGVO; this also applies to profiling based on these provisions.

The data controller no longer processes the personal data concerning you, unless he can prove compelling reasons worthy of protection for the processing, which outweigh your interests, rights and freedoms, or the processing serves to assert, exercise or defend legal claims.

If the personal data concerning you are processed for direct marketing purposes, you have the right to object at any time to the processing of the personal data concerning you for the purpose of such advertising; this also applies to profiling, insofar as it is associated with such direct marketing.

If you object to the processing for direct marketing purposes, the personal data concerning you will no longer be processed for these purposes.

You have the possibility to exercise your right of objection in connection with the use of Information Society services by means of automated procedures using technical specifications, notwithstanding Directive 2002/58/EC.

For data processing for scientific, historical or statistical research purposes:
You also have the right to object to the processing of personal data concerning you for scientific or historical research purposes or for statistical purposes pursuant to Art. 89 para. 1 DSGVO for reasons arising from your particular situation.

Your right of objection may be limited to the extent that it is likely to make it impossible or seriously impair the realisation of the research or statistical purposes and the limitation is necessary for the fulfilment of the research or statistical purposes.

8. Right to revoke the declaration of consent

You have the right to revoke your data protection declaration of consent at any time. The revocation of consent shall not affect the legality of the processing carried out on the basis of the consent until revocation.

9. Right of appeal to a supervisory authority

Without prejudice to any other administrative or judicial remedy, you have the right of appeal to a supervisory authority, in particular in the EU member state where you reside, work or suspect the infringement, if you believe that the processing of personal data concerning you is contrary to the DSGVO.

The supervisory authority to which the complaint has been submitted shall inform the complainant of the status and results of the complaint, including the possibility of a judicial remedy under Article 78 DSGVO.

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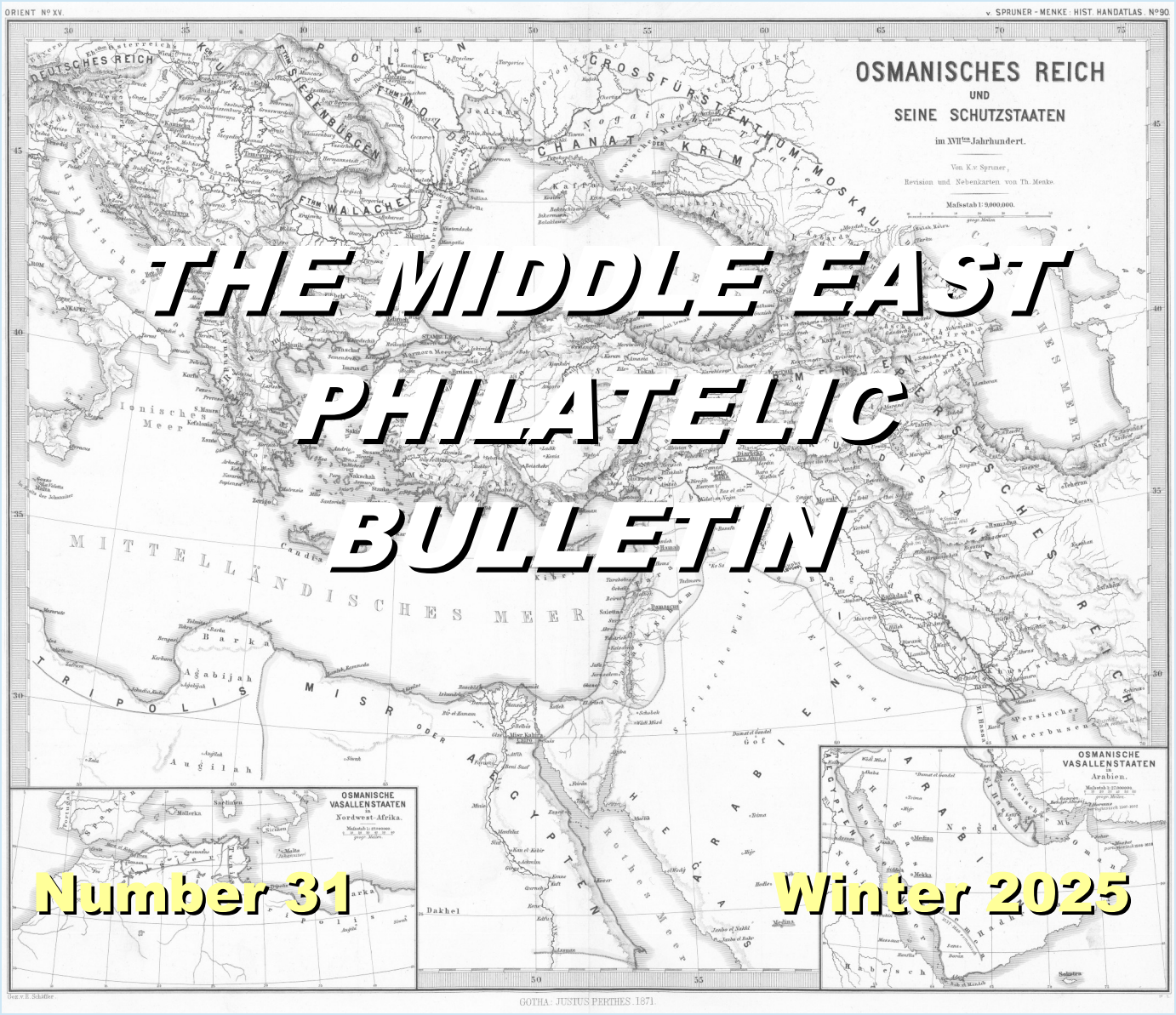
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German Military Cachets in the Ottoman Empire
Specialities of Ottoman Philately: 5p Duloz
The Italian Post Office in Smyrna
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