

A Philatelic Study of Egypt's Earliest Postage Due Issues, 1884–1889

“T FOR TAXED”: Egypt’s 1ST Steps into Fiscal Accountability

PURPOSE & SCOPE OF EXHIBIT

This exhibit commemorates Egypt's foundational journey into formalized postal taxation through its first four postage due issues -1884, 1886, 1888, & 1889. It illustrates Egypt's transition from manuscript accounting markings toward a standardized postage due system, in accordance w/ evolving UPU regulations for unpaid & underpaid mail. The exhibit traces the evolution of these stamps from conception to usage, framing their development within Egypt's broader postal modernization.

ORGANIZATION & PRESENTATION

This five-frame exhibit is organized chronologically & thematically by issue & denomination. Each chapter presents design & production elements, postal tariffs, & usage—both domestic & international—along w/ important varieties & relevant auxiliary markings.

The exhibit is divided into 5 chapters:

1. **Postage Dues in Egypt Prior to the First Issue**
2. **The First Issue: 1884**
3. **The Second Issue: 1886**
4. **The Third Issue: 1888**
5. **The Fourth Issue: 1889**

The exhibit balances philatelic scholarship w/visual clarity & is designed in accordance w/FIP competitive exhibiting standards. Items accompanied by certificates of authenticity are marked with ©, while original research is noted w/an open book icon 

All items of significant rarity are bordered in **RED** for emphasis.

RARITY & DIFFICULTY OF ACQUISITION

While mint examples of these issues are modestly available, genuinely used covers; especially those contemporaneous w/ the issues—are extremely scarce. Among the most difficult material to obtain are:

- **Pre-philatelic taxed covers** from various foreign post offices operating in Egypt
- **The original bilingual circular** (Italian and Arabic) announcing the 1884 issue to postmasters
- **Color trials, essays, and proofs** from all four issues
- **Covers franked with the 1884 & 1886 issues**, which are particularly elusive
- **Correctly taxed covers** w/ matching adhesives showing authentic postal deficiencies
- **Inbound mail** showing UPU-compliant double deficiency applications
- **Usages from uncommon destinations**, which are seldom seen

Given the rarity & breadth of the material presented, this may represent the **FIRST COMPREHENSIVE PHILATELIC EXHIBIT EVER DEVOTED TO EGYPT'S POSTAGE DUE STAMPS.**

TREATMENT & RESEARCH

The exhibit adopts a thematic & analytical approach. It begins w/taxation practices prior to adhesive & proceeds through the design, approval, & issuance of each series. Areas of research include:

- **Essays, proofs and color trials**
- **Both recorded & unrecorded varieties, studied through blocks & reconstruction**
- **Postal markings & “T” handstamps**

Original research is integrated throughout, especially in identifying forgery characteristics, interpreting postal rate changes, & documenting usage patterns. Supporting material includes UPU regulations, Egyptian postal circulars, and archival records. This approach aims to contribute both philatelically & historically to the study of Egypt's early postage due system.

REFERENCES

1. Egypt: Stamps & Postal History — Peter A.S. Smith (1999), James Bendon Ltd Chapter XXIV

- a. 1884 Issue: Pages 406 & 409
- b. 1886 Issue: Page 410
- c. 1886 Issue: Pages 411-412
- d. 1889 Issue: Pages 417-418

For purposes of this synopsis, I have listed the reference pages that are most explanatory of the different issues. Other articles from journals, especially the Quarterly Review of the Egypt Study Circle, Articles in L'Orient Philatélique, Egypt Philatelic Society (Cairo) & The Nile Post Catalog were invaluable sources of information.



A PHILATELIC STUDY OF EGYPT'S EARLIEST POSTAGE DUE ISSUES, 1884–1889

T FOR TAXED

EGYPT'S 1ST STEPS INTO FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

PURPOSE & SCOPE OF EXHIBIT

This exhibit commemorates Egypt's foundational journey into formalized postal taxation through its first four postage due issues -1884, 1886, 1888, & 1889. These issues illustrate Egypt's transition from manuscript or hand stamped accounting markings toward a standardized & accountable postage due system, in accordance w/ evolving Universal Postal Union (UPU) regulations for unpaid & underpaid mail. The exhibit traces the evolution of these stamps from conception to usage, framing their development within Egypt's broader postal modernization & administrative reform of the late 19th century.

ORGANIZATION & PRESENTATION

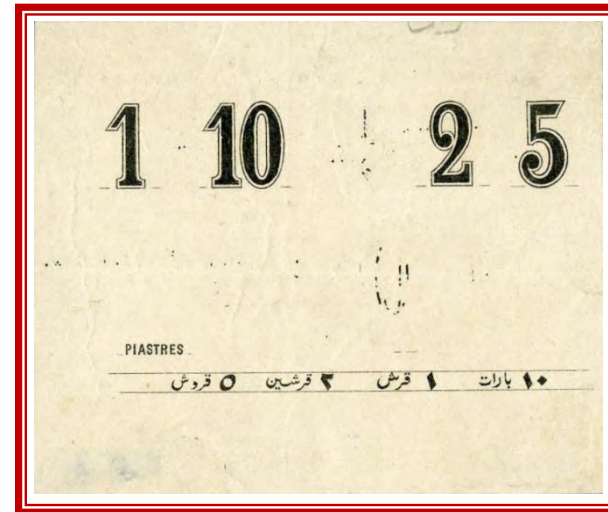
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1884

Proof containing European language, 1, 2 & 5
PIASTRES plus 10 (PARAS), as well as Arabic numerals
& corresponding words.



ISSUED 20 PARA STAMP

The key to the production of the 5 values:

Evidence suggests that the original design was created for the **20 PARAS** value, from which all other denominations were subsequently derived. This conclusion is based on the absence of 20 PARAS in proof sheets & uniform placement of the word "**PARAS**" across all **20 PARAS** types.

For the **10 PARAS** stamp, the original "20" was removed, but "**PARAS**" remained unchanged, indicating reuse of base design. In higher values such as **1, 2, & 5 PIASTRES**, inconsistencies in placement & alignment of numerals & words (e.g., "**P**" in "**PIASTRES**", "**ES**" in "**POSTES**") point to separate transfers of new figures & labels onto the original master.

These differences collectively confirm that all values were adapted from a single original artwork—presumed to be the **20 PARAS**—even though no proof of the original master or intermediate matrixes survives.

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