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Montée de la Grand Rue de Pera, now Yüksekaldırım Street that goes up from the beginning of Bankalar Street in Karaköy to Pera. 1913. A classic postcard produced by Lapina (Paris). Courtesy of Uzay Togay.

From the President

EPS Annual Meeting – NAPEX June 10, 2017

Attendees: Members – G. Brown, Y. Corapcioglu, O. Graf, M. Michaels, R. Stuchell.

Guest – S. Sancaktar

Treasurer’s Report – Marwan Nusair: Bank balance as of May 1, 2017 was \$10,762, a decrease of \$2029 from 2016. We had extra expenses in 2016 which included website services, the NY2016 Stamp Show, and the *Turkish Republic Postal Rate* booklet.

Dues receipts are approximately \$2700 per year. Our editor, Richard Rose, recently moved back to San Antonio, Tx. where he estimates the cost of three journals per year at about \$2350, including postage. At this cost level, the Society is financially sound.

Secretary’s Report – Rolfe Smith: We have 118 members now vs. 120 in 2016. Of the 118 members, 11 opted for online membership only (no hard copy of the journal). A geographic breakdown: US – 70, Turkey – 15, 13 other countries – 33

Turkish Representative – Kaan Ertem. I would like to thank Mr. Ertem who took over from Mahmut Emirmahmutoglu and has performed a great job collecting dues, promoting ONEPS, and finding new members.

2018 Annual Meeting – We decided to meet at NOJEX in New Jersey in early September.

Awards Received by ONEPS members at NAPEX 2017

Large Gold

R. Stuchell: *Ottoman Post in Lebanon 1841-1918*
 Also the ONEPS Gary Paiste Memorial Award

Gold

Y. Corapcioglu: *Postal Rates in the Republic of Turkey 1920-1963*
 Also American Philatelic Society Award for Research

Vermeille

O. Graf: *Ay yıldiz: Star and Crescent The Stamp Issue of the Forming Years of the Turkish Republic*

Silver

G. Brown: *Town postmarks of the early French Mandate in Lebanon*

Bob Stuchell

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THE OTTOMAN and NEAR EAST PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Society was established in 2000 and is an affiliated organization with the American Philatelic Society. New members can join by sending a completed application plus appropriate dues to the Secretary (checks only in \$US payable to ONEPS). Applications can be obtained from the Secretary or downloaded from our website www.oneps.net. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the Treasurer. Dues are payable by Dec. 15 each year.

Membership dues are in two classes: A) paper Journal + on-line North America - USD \$20, all other countries \$25, € 25 or £20. B) on-line Journal only, USD \$12, € 11 or £ 9. If paying by check

In UK, send checks to Mr. Michael Fulford, Ruth Cottage, Main Street, East Langton, Leics. LE6 7TW. mikefulford@eastlangton.com>

In Turkey, send checks to our Representative in Turkey (see below).

Our Treasurer has set up a payment option using **Paypal**. If you use the "gift" feature, Paypal charges the sender a small fee and the Society receives the full amount. Otherwise Paypal charges 4.5% which is subtracted from the payment we receive. If paying by Paypal without using the gift option, please add \$1.50 for paper copy level or \$0.50 for online membership. Payments go to <oneps@tccincinnati.com> Members should indicate their name in the "note" area and mention that the payment is for ONEPS dues.

ONEPS now has a **eBay** account, which is another avenue for membership. Subscription to The Levant is included in the cost of membership. Members who join in mid-year pay the annual dues and receive all issues of The Levant plus any special issues for the calendar year. Changes of address, email, etc. are to be sent to the Secretary

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The Levant is published three times a year and mailed at First Class Rates in the USA and Canada, and at Airmail Rates to Overseas members. Advertising Policy: Members are allowed free ads in The Levant's classified section. Formal advertisements and notices are charged \$100 for a full page, \$50 for a half-page, \$30 for a quarter page. Camera-ready material is required. ONEPS reserves the right to reject and/or limit advertisements. Articles appearing in The Levant may be reprinted with the approval of the Editor, unless personal copyright by the author is claimed. Back issues can be obtained from the Editor for \$4.00 each, plus postage.

Articles, Letters, Reviews, Announcements, Questions, and Information related to any aspect of Ottoman, Turkish, and Near East philately should be sent to the Journal Editor, Dr. Richard Rose. The next issue will appear only when YOU write up something about your collecting interests, or encourage another collector to do so. We also reprint articles, so please bring to the Editor's attention any article which has appeared in another journal or magazine (permission will be sought).

The Internet ---- Log on to our Society ONEPS Web page <www.oneps.net> and find links to The Oriental Philatelic Association of London (OPAL), Die Arbeitsgemeinschaft Osmanisches Reich/Türkei (AROS).

What first attracted me to the perfins from the Ottoman territory was the fact that the same perfins (perforated initials) can be found in stamps of the Levant issues of different European countries as well as in stamps of the Ottoman Empire. Today 55 different perfin patterns are known to have been used by companies in the Ottoman Empire. In this article I intend to write only some general notes about the use of perfins in the Ottoman Empire.

As the use of postage stamps increased, the problem of protecting stamps from theft by both the post office authorities and by employees of large commercial houses increased proportionately. Stamps had been removed from the mail in transit by dishonest postal clerks and stolen by employees from large firms, either for resale or for personal use.

In 1868 in Great Britain, a Mr. Joseph Sloper invented a machine to perforate stamps with

a design or with perforated initials, now called perfins. The advantages to be gained in the protection of postal accounts were soon apparent and the practice of using perfins eventually spread to continental Europe. By 1880 stamps with perforated initials were in use by many firms all over Europe. It was only logical then that large European firms continued this practice when they opened their branches in Constantinople and in other towns of the Ottoman Empire. See *fig. 1* for an example of perfins in Austrian Levant stamps.



Fig. 1: Perfins **O.C.M.** of **O**riental **C**arpet **M**anufacturers Ltd. in Smyrna, on a registered letter to Switzerland

In the nineteenth century Constantinople had grown well beyond the limits of the walls of the former capital. The main trading and residential centres were now situated on the opposite side of the Golden Horn, in the former Genoese and Venetian quarters of Galata and Pera, where a large modern city was developing and where a growing number of European firms had their office buildings.

Very large firms, for instance important banks like Wiener Bank-Verein¹ and Crédit Lyonnais, sent their mail to customers in many different countries. These firms offered their mail to the foreign post office where they expected to get the best service for delivering the mail fast and accurately to the addressee. So the mail to Austria was usually brought to the Austrian Levant post office, while the mail to France was usually offered to the postal clerks of the French Levant post office. Of course the mail through the Austrian Levant post office had to be franked with Austrian Levant stamps and the mail through the French post office should be franked with French Levant stamps. That is the reason why we can find the same perfin in Levant postage stamps of different European countries (*fig. 2*).

¹Founded in 1869 as "k. k. privilegiierter Wiener Bankverein" with its headquarters in Vienna's Schottengasse. One of the forerunners of today's Bank Austria. (editor)



Fig. 2 : Perfin **BIO** of **Banque Impériale Ottomane**, Constantinople, in Levant stamps of Great Britain, France, Italy, Austria, and Germany.

For letters to addressees in Ottoman towns without a foreign post office, the mail had to be franked with postage stamps of the Ottoman Empire. That's why many perfins, which are known in Levant stamps of different countries, can also be found in stamps of the Ottoman Empire or Turkey. Sometimes the perforated initials of the perfin user are combined to form a monogram. That is the case for the perfins of the well known French bank *Crédit Lyonnais* (fig. 3).



Fig. 3: Perfin CL monogram.

Finally I would like to show this 'CL' monogram perfin of *Crédit Lyonnais* on a cover franked with two stamps of the Ottoman Empire - both perforated CL - and addressed to Zurich in Switzerland (fig. 4).

The front of the cover shows one red and one black rectangular cachet while there is also a large red seal on the reverse, all in Ottoman script. The black cachet and the seal both are marks of censorship in Istanbul. The red cachet on the front is a private mark of the sender, saying that the letter is in French. To let the letter pass censorship it was the sender's duty to state the language on the cover (fig. 5).

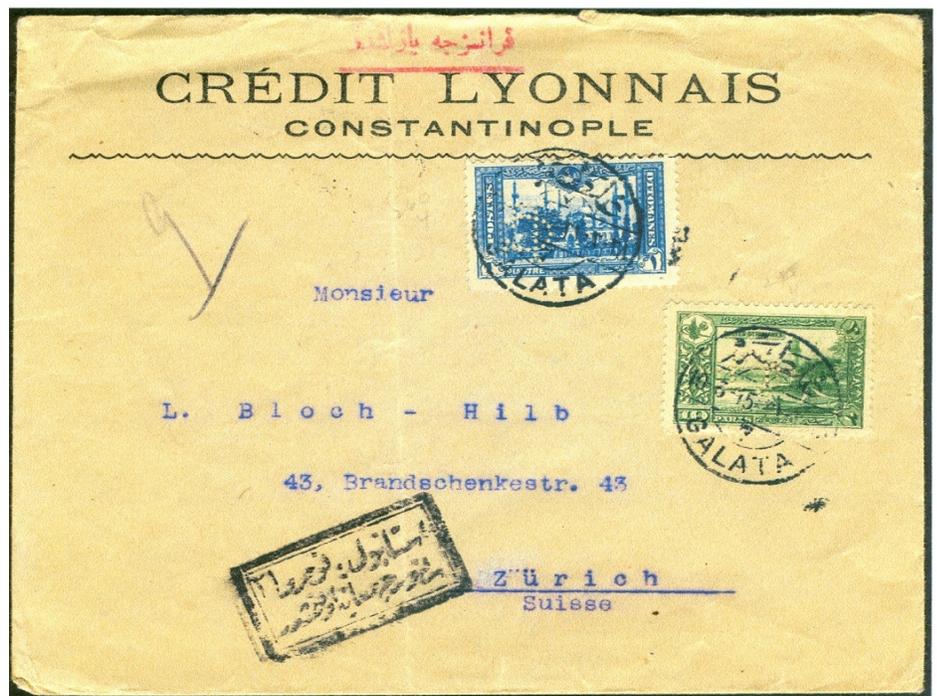
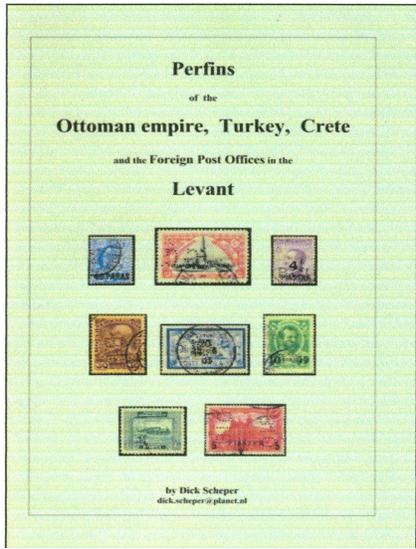


Fig. 4: Cover with perfin of *Crédit Lyonnais*, Constantinople, sent to Zurich on 10.03.1915.



Fig. 5: Handstamps “fransızca yazılmıyptır” (written in French); “sansürce muayene olunmushtur” of Istanbul Censor 31; red Istanbul censor seal, on back flap of cover. .



Note. Dick Schepers is the author of *Perfins of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey, Crete and the foreign post offices in the Levant*. (2009. 70 pages) which is now out-of-print. Even Dick hasn't got any copies left, but one might still find it on the second-hand market. The booklet can be borrowed from the Royal Philatelic Society Library (London). No American philatelic library lists it among its holdings.

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FIRST ISSUE OF TRANSJORDAN

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Introduction

After the Turks were driven out of what is now Jordan during World War 1, the area became known as the Occupied Enemy Territory (East) which used the stamps of Palestine for postage, once issued in 1918. On the 25th April 1920, a mandate to administer Palestine and a separate one for Transjordan, which was specially excluded from that of Palestine, was given to the Government of Great Britain. Post offices were opened at Amman, El-Salt, Ajloun (Irbid), Medaba and Kerek in October 1920. Stocks of Palestine stamps remaining in Jerusalem were overprinted with the word “East of Jordan” in Arabic during October 1920, but released in November 1920 to be the first stamps for use in the newly established country. The stamps were available for about two years, though usages were very limited. (Najjar 1998, 2006).

Printing Details

The stamps were produced by overprinting the stocks of Palestine stamps remaining in the Jerusalem Post Office with the overprint East of Jordan, شرقي الاردن *sharqi al-ardun* in Arabic. This was carried out at the Greek Orthodox Convent in Jerusalem in 1920. No production materials for the overprints exists. Different types of setting arrangements of the overprints and variety errors known.

The Specimens

These were on Palestine stamps overprinted شرقي الاردن *sahrqi al-ardun* and hand stamped SPECIMEN in red, shown in **Figure 1**. I have recorded only one set on the perf 14. 📄

The Stamps

The underlying stamps were printed in full panes of 120 (12 x 10) and the sheet, which consists of 2 panes, was split into two separate panes (upper and lower) before overprinting. Two different perforation were issued, 14 and 15 x 14. The overprint was done in black on all values except the 1p value, which was overprinted in silver.



Perf. 14 Issue

Eleven values were issued 1m (millieme), 2m, 3m, 4m, 5m, 1p (piastre), 2p, 5p, 9p 10p and 20p. Quantity printed is known for only five values. These are the 2m (12,000 stamps), 3m (2,400), 4m (2,400), 1p (12,000), 2p (2,400). The 1p, 10p, and 20 p values only appeared in this perforation. Stanley Gibbons states that the 2m value in both perfs exist with the overprint in silver. As the 2m value was the first value to be printed and delivered, it is possible that the silver overprint was used as a trial or proof on some quantities. I have not seen any genuine unused copies of this stamp.

Perf. 15 x 14 Issue

Fig. 2 📄

The different perforation appeared as a result of the failure of the perforation machine at Somerset House in the UK. Quantity printed not known. Less than 20 copies of the 9p value of this perforation are known, as the vast majority was further overprinted for a later issue. A block of four is shown in **Figure 2**. Forgeries are known.



Types of Overprint

Figure 3-A and **Figure 3-B** show eight major types of known overprints for all issued values, for both perfs, with Type 2 considered as the normal type. The various types differ in the lettering of the overprint شرقي الاردن, each variety is given an identifying letter. A ninth type (called Type 1a), shown in **Figure 4**, appeared on position 96 of the sheet (the last stamp on the eight row of the upper pane, R8/12). This type is believed to have replaced a damaged or worn type on the printing block on setting B. It is only known on the 3m, 2p, and 5p values, perf 15 x 14.



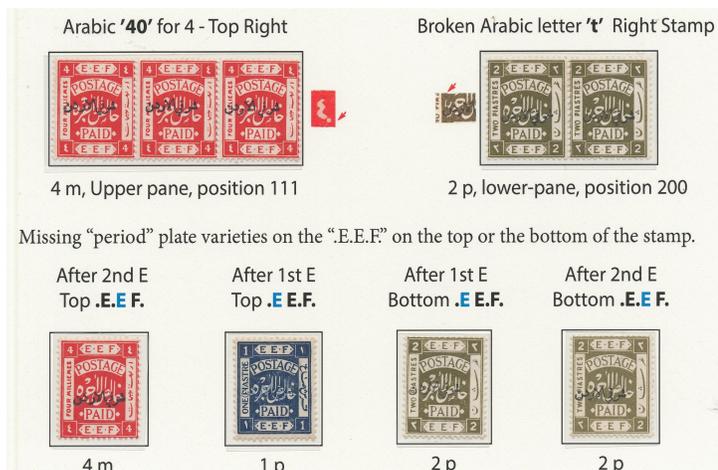
Fig. 6

Major Varieties

The 1m value of both perforations which appeared with an inverted overprint are shown in **Figure 6**. Four sheets in perf 14 were apparently discovered in January 1921 and two sheets in perf 15 x 14 appeared late in 1922. The former by far being more scarce, as more than three quarter of the inverted printed values were destroyed. One full pane of the 1m value perf 15 x 14 is known intact.

Several plate varieties and flaws are known on the original printing panes. Three major varieties are shown

Figure 7.



Usage

Usages are known with both perforations with several of philatelic nature. The absence of published postal tariffs was probably not followed at the time of this issue as the officials were not always up-to-date with rates. Several anomalies are seen on usage. (Najjar 2006).



Figure 8 show cancellation of AMMAN in violet for all known values addressed to England, with Jerusalem c.d.s. dated 4 April 1922 and London c.d.s. dated 13 April 1922 on reverse. London registration label on front. The 3m and 5m are with perf 15 x 14, while the 1, 2 and 5m and the 1, 2, 5, 9, 10 and 20p are with perf 14.

Collecting this issue is a challenging task in terms of its scope, acquisition, and varieties.

References

R.T. Ledger, *Philatelic History of Jordan 1922-1953*, Greek Convent Press, Jerusalem, April 1953.
 A.H. Najjar, *The Stamps of Jordan 1920-1965: A philatelic Study*, Sahara Publication Ltd., 1998.
 A.H. Najjar, *The Postal History of Jordan, 1400-1959*, Sahara Publication Ltd., 2006.

The Mystery of the ‘Habbaniya Provisionals’

Rainer Fuchs (FRPSL, AIJP)¹

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To understand the history and background of these stamps I have to explain the quite complex circumstances surrounding Habbaniya. I’ll make it as concise as possible, but as elaborate as necessary. Nevertheless, the story is very interesting in any case, even for collectors who are not interested in the stamps and postal history of the Middle East.

The History of the Habbaniya Base

In Habbaniya, a small city in Iraq, situated around 90 km west of Baghdad on the banks of the eponymous lake, a *Royal Air Force* base was inaugurated on 19th October 1936 by the British Armed forces. The base had initially been named *R.A.F. Dhibban*, but was renamed on 1st May 1938 *R.A.F. Habbaniya*. There are covers in either name, but in fact both designations refer to the same military establishment.

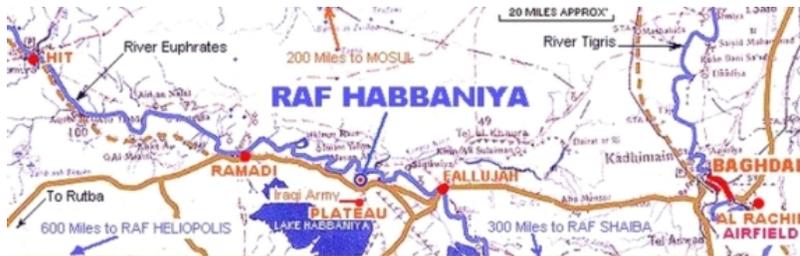


Fig. 1: Map of Habbaniya and surroundings.¹



Fig. 2: Insignia of RAF Habbaniya.²

R.A.F. Habbaniya was very extensive in size and equipped with a hospital, several staff quarters, dining-halls, swimming pools, cinemas, a theatre, tennis courts and riding stables, even a sailing club was available to staff. Because the base had its own power-plant as well as a water and sewage treatment plant, it was in these aspects totally independent from any outside supply.

Situated inside the base were the quarters for the civil staff and their families, referred to as “civil cantonment.” Water taken from the river Euphrates enabled the irrigation of lawns, flowerbeds and even a botanical garden. After the end of World War II the families of the British personnel lived at the base and a school was opened.² The base itself, without considering the airport, was surrounded by a fence with a length of 11 km,³ which gives an impression on the dimensions of the establishment. It was basically a self-contained small city, clearly demonstrated by the plans shows further below (see *figs. 6-7*).

¹A German version of this article was originally published in Michel Rundschau in 2015.

²Pius, 2007, makes an estimate of the population in the 1950s: “Of the eight or ten thousand inhabitants 60 to 65% only was Assyrian and the rest were Kurds, Arabs, Armenians, Indians, Pakistanis, Yezidis, etc. The British personnel with their families (which are not included in the above figure) living in RAF Station part of Habbaniya was only 1,200 to 1,500.”

³Around 7 miles.

The airport itself was located outside the fenced base. It was very well equipped and in later years an important transit point for flights carried out by (amongst others) *British Overseas Airways Corporation* (BOAC). The base remained in operation until 31st May 1959 and was given up by the British following the July 1958 revolution in Iraq. The base was taken over by the Iraqi Air Force and, until recently, was operated as an important air base under the name al-Taqaddum.⁴

The Historical Background⁵

After the end of World War I, the Iraqi Kingdom was granted to Great Britain as a Mandated Area by the League of Nations. The Mandate terminated in 1932 and relation between both countries were settled by the 1930 Anglo-Iraqi Treaty.⁶ The British occupation between 1917 and 1932 maintained British paramountcy and installed an Arab king: Faisal I. This had the effect that Iraqi nationalists opposed the king and the Anglophile policies of the government. This led to several attempted coups between 1936 and 1941. Within the Iraqi military, resistance coalesced in the groupings “Circle of Seven” and “Golden Square.”

In the political arena, Anti-British forces were led by the former Prime Minister of Iraq, Rashid Ali al-Gaylani.⁷ Because of his political views, he had to step down several times from his political functions. In order to bolster support for their Anti-British ideas these forces cooperated with the German embassy. Iraq broke off diplomatic relations with Germany in 1939 after the outbreak of World War II, but had not severed its ties with Italy, which had entered the war against Great Britain in 1940. The British exercised a lot of pressure towards the Iraqi Government in order to ensure that diplomatic relations between Iraq and Italy were broken.

On 1st April 1941 a military coup by Arab-nationalist officers of the “Golden Square” group and politicians close to al-Gaylani took place with the goal to topple the Iraqi government and to end British influence. Prince ‘Abd al-Ilah,⁸ who reigned for the still minor King Faisal II,⁹ the so-called boy-king, was charged with violation of the constitution and harming national unity.

The rebels established a Government of National Defence and al-Gaylani called for the removal of the escaped prince and his replacement by Sharif Sharaf.¹⁰ After Sharaf had been elected as new Regent, he named al-Gaylani as new Prime Minister and asked him to create a new government.

The British side was very concerned about the changed situation in Iraq from the beginning due to the country’s strategic importance. To test the new government’s position and commitment towards the Anglo-Iraqi alliance, the British government asked for permission to land troops at Basra under the pretext that these would be transferred to Palestine. On the basis of bilateral treaties, al-Gaylani would not be in a position to simply reject this request. Under pressure from the officers of the “Golden Square,” he issued pre-requisites for the landing of the troops, for their immediate transfer to Palestine. The actual goal of the British, however, was a permanent military presence in Basra for which further troops had already been designated. The first troops landed on 18th April 1941 without any problems, but the British also alarmed their airbase in Habbaniya, against which the

⁴Longer runways were built in 1952 further south to the original Habbaniya airfield. See Wikipedia article: [Al-Taqaddum Air Base](#).

⁵Based on the German Wikipedia article [Militärputsch im Irak 1941](#).

⁶Preceded by the 1922 Anglo-Iraqi Treaty.

⁷Rašid ‘ĀAlī al-Kailānī, 1892–28.08.1965.

⁸Abd al-Ilah, 1913–14.07.1958, Regent of Iraq, 1939–1953.

⁹Fayʿal, 2.05.1935–14.07.1958, reigned Iraq as King Faisal II (ath-thānī), 1939–1958.

¹⁰A Hashemite prince, cousin to King Faisal II. See p. 103 in Tripp, Charles: *A History of Iraq*. 3rd ed. CUP: 2007. ISBN: 978-0-521-70247-8.

Iraqi government immediately raised protest. In reaction, Iraq moved substantial troops and from on 30th April occupied the hills around Habbaniya.



Fig. 3: Censored cover from Habbaniya to South Africa, 29.04.1941, the day before the siege of Habbaniya started. On reverse transit postmarks Baghdad and Basra, each dated 18.07.1941. It appears that the cover was stuck due to the siege for about 50 days at the Iraqi Post Office at Habbaniya. Only after the siege and the re-start of the Iraqi postal service it was transported to Baghdad for onward transport.

Iraq demanded that the British stop their flights and troop movements, and in response the British demanded the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops. As this was not adhered to, the British Ambassador in Iraq, Kinahan Cornwallis, ordered attacks against the Iraqi troops and airports, starting on 2nd May. The Iraqi troops were taken by surprise and suffered severe losses of troops and material. In parallel, British troops based in Trans-Jordan had been alarmed and prepared for an invasion of Iraq.

To support anti-British forces in Iraq, the German government upon instigation by diplomat Fritz Grobba¹¹ decided to supply weapons and military support. Due to the long distance, the latter could only be accomplished by fighter airplanes for which the *Luftwaffe* created the special unit “*Sonderstab F*.” In coordination with France,¹² 20 German and 12 Italian fighter planes were moved via Syria to Iraq on 6th May 1941. Large number of weapons and material from Syrian holdings were transported overland into Iraq. But due to the preparation for *Unternehmen Barbarossa*,¹³ Germany was not very keen to be engaged unprepared in a larger open conflict with the British.

Despite Iraqi troops outnumbering the British, they were quickly overrun with the help of troop reinforcements from Trans-Jordan. Within a few days, the British took Fallujah and reached Baghdad. The limited means of weapons and aid provided by the Axis powers could not challenge the air superiority of the British. The attack on Baghdad started on 27th May 1941 and within

¹¹Fritz Konrad Ferdinand Grobba, né Arthur Borg, 18.07.1886–2.09.1973, German Ambassador to Iraq 1932–1939.

¹²The Vichy Regime.

¹³“Operation Barbarossa” in English, the German Army code name for the attack on Russia on 22.06.1941.

four days, the Iraqi government capitulated. Although 'Abd al-Ilah (nominally as the regent) and a pro-British government were restored, the British effectively occupied Iraq until 1947.

The Habbaniya Provisionals

Communication and transport of mail to and from Habbaniya was carried out by aircraft. It is assumed that the stock of Iraqi stamps required for correspondence at the besieged air base was soon exhausted and the Postmaster prepared the 'Habbaniya Provisionals,' as they are now known. Production appears to have been by means of a single hand-stamp which was struck on covers on which the value of postage was entered by the postal clerk in red ink.

الحبانية	al-Habbaniya
خالص الاجرة	Postage Paid
فلس	fil

Fig. 4: The inscriptions of the hand-stamp.

The author knows of 16 different denominations, which are shown here. The denominations follow the values of the Iraqi definitive stamp series issued in April 1941 (MiNr. 97–118, SG 208–227). Only the high values of ½ Dinar and 1 Dinar, for which there was hardly any postal use, are missing.



1 Fil (sic!)



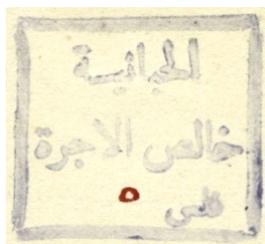
2 Fils



3 Fils



4 Fils



5 Fils



8 Fils



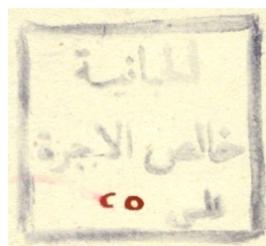
10 Fils



15 Fils



20 Fils



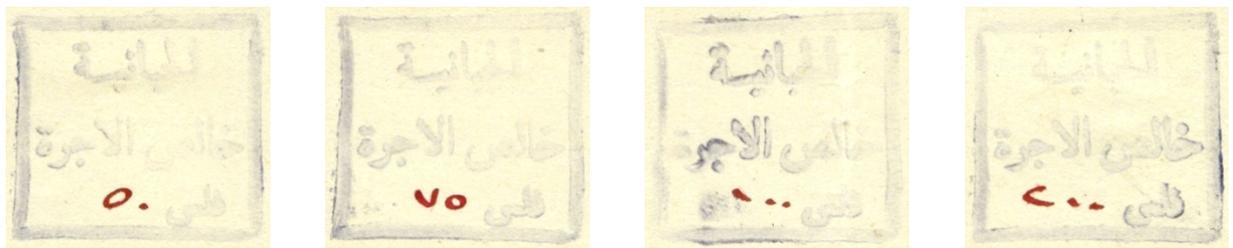
25 Fils



30 Fils



40 Fils



50 Fils

75 Fils

100 Fils

200 Fils

Fig. 5: The 16 known values as cut-outs.³

It appears that only **one** hand-stamp had been prepared; at least no obvious or striking differences are recognisable from examples seen. The varying breadths of the border-line and letters are certainly caused by differences in the way the hand-stamp, evidently made of rubber, has been struck.

The Two Post Offices at RAF Habbaniya

Importantly the base had two post offices which served different purposes and also used different stamps. Unfortunately, the few available maps of the base (see *fig. 6-7*) are not of best quality, nevertheless the details of these maps go beyond the scope of this article. Several persons who had lived at the base at that time confirmed the existence and locations of both post offices:

- 1 - British RAF Post Office under the responsibility of the Royal Air Force, using British stamps.
Postal address: *M.E.A.F. 19*, which later became *B.F.P.O. 61*.¹⁴
- 2 - Iraqi Post Office, using ordinary Iraqi stamps for correspondence of non-military personnel.

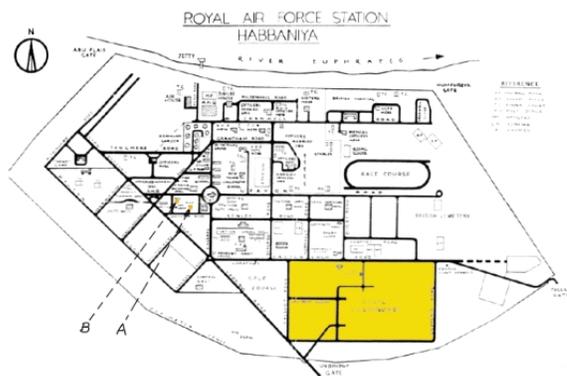


Fig. 6: Outline plan of RAF Habbaniya Base.⁴
The "civil cantonment" is marked in orange.
A = RAF Post Officers; B = Iraqi Post Office.

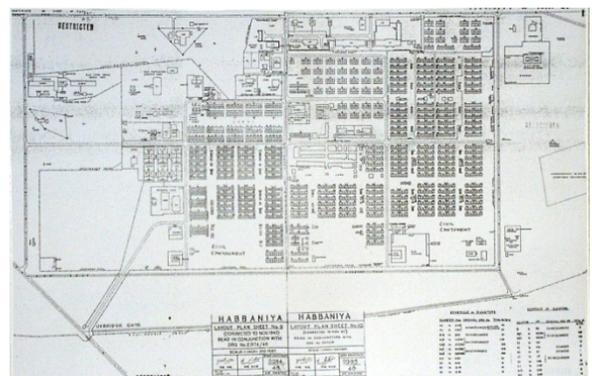


Fig. 7: Detailed plan of the "civil cantonment" of the RAF Habbaniya Base, giving an impression of the size of the base.⁵

Questions and Doubts

Why do the hand-stamp imprints only show Arabic text? In case they had been created and issued by the RAF Post Office, one could assume that they would have been at least bilingual

¹⁴M.E.A.F. stands for Middle East Air Force; B.F.P.O. stands for British Forces Post Office.

English/Arabic, if not even English only. Especially since for military mail British stamps had been used. It is hard to imagine that a British Military Post Office would replace British stamps by such Arabic Provisionals.

Were these issues prepared by the Iraqi Post Office located at the base, of which the Postmaster sympathised with the rebels?

Are these only fantasy issues, i.e. *cinderellas*? Against the cinderella theory goes the fact that almost nothing is known about them. The creator of such fabrications usually produces large quantities and markets these extensively, as his only reason is profit-making.

I am not aware of any covers or fragments of covers, neither commercial nor philatelic, with these essentially '*postage paid*' hand-stamps. If any reader here has any images of covers or other postal material with these hand-stamps, or images of additional denominations or just any additional information on their use, the author would be most thankful to receive this.

Notes to Figures.

1. Source: Skeet Michael: The Battle for RAF Habbaniya, Maps: www.skeetww2.co.uk/memap.html.

2. Source: The Official Unit Badge (Crest) of RAF Habbaniya. Wikimedia Commons.

< en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:RAF_Habbaniya_Unit_Badge.jpg. Licence: British Crown Copyright.

3. Images taken from the David Feldman Autumn 2014 auction.

4. Source: RAF Habbaniya Association, < www.habbaniya.org/Maps.html. >

5. Map supplied by Dr. Christopher D. E. Morris of RAF Habbaniya Association.

Sources and Literature

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Designs For The Ottoman Pictorial Stamps 1913-1920

Bill Robertson (+ 2011)

This article originally was published in OPAL many years ago and Bill Robertson's collection has been sold and dispersed. The project to match post card images to those on Ottoman pictorial stamps seems like a worthy and interesting undertaking, so this version is reprinted in hopes that others will take up the challenge to compile a more complete listing, with images of the post cards. The Editor

Starting with the “Recapture of Adrianople” stamp in 1913, through to the 1917/18 issue, most of the Ottoman pictorial stamp designs seem to have been taken from picture postcards available in Turkey at that time. In all 24 stamps out of the thirty-three stamps analysed can be shown to have originated in this way.

Use of the term “equivalent” is not meant to be exact. In many cases the engraving on the stamp is an exact copy of the card, for instance the tiny figures on the 1914, 5pi, “War Ministry” stamp are all reproduced exactly. Others are exact, but the stamp may only show an extracted section from the card. The portrait of the Sultan is one example, the 1914, 2.5 pi, “Candili” is another, as is the 1917, 2 pi, “Seraglio Point”. One or two seem to have been altered slightly. The engraving on the stamp of the 1914, 100 pi, “Ahmed’s Fountain” includes a small figure which is not on the card; the 1914, 10 pa. “Lighthouse Garden” stamp has the smoke from the ship blowing in the opposite direction.

What is tantalisingly unclear is whether, the Ottoman Post Office provided the designs to Bradbury & Wilkinson on postcards, which would have been a very simple thing to do; or did they send proper photographic reproductions provided by the photographer, who also made the originals available to the postcard publishers. The cards are not all the work of one (or even two) photographers. Several of the cards have been located, postally used, with dates preceding the issue of the stamps.

What follows is a listing with post card equivalent rarity values.

Post Card Equivalent Rarity values:

- 10=never seen or heard of
- 9=exists but not seen, or seen in copy only
- 8=only one example seen
- 7=only two or three seen
- 6=one or two turn up every year
- 5=three or four turn up each year
- 4=if you look hard at a bourse you might find one
- 3=you should find this at a bourse
- 2=most postcard dealers will have one
- 1=almost every bundle of Ottoman cards will have these



The “Recapture of Adrianople” issue printed by Bradbury and Wilkinson.

SG 353 – 355 (Scott 251-253) 10, 20 & 40 paras.

Card: Editeur A. Ilieff 6516 featuring the Mosque of Selim, Adrinople

Card Rarity: 8

The 1914 pictorial set of seventeen stamps was also printed by Bradbury & Wilkinson.

Obelisk of Theodosius. SG499 (Scott 254) 2 para.

Engraved by H.Lauchli. Photograph by Sebah & Joaillier

Card: Editeur Max Fruchterman, Constantinople, No. 1530

Card Rarity: 7

Column of Constantine. SG500 (Scott 255) 4 para.

Engraved by J.E. Syson. Photograph by Sebah & Joaillier

Card: Editeur Max Fruchterman, Constantinople, No. 1745

Card Rarity: 2

Seven Towers Castle, Yedikule. SG502 (Scott 257) 6 para.

Engraved by J.E. Syson

Comment: A card with the “Seven Towers” which is quite close to the picture of the stamp is in the author’s possession, but it is not the correct angle.

Card Rarity: 10



Leander’s Tower. SG501 (Scott 256) 5 para.

Engraved by J.Potts. Card: unattributed; No. 9 / 4412

Comment: approx. 30% of the card appears on the stamp

Card Rarity: 4

Lighthouse Gardens. SG503 (Scott 258) 10 para.

Engraved by A.B. Hill. Card: Editeur MJC; No. 12.

Comment: The smoke from the ship is shown blowing to the right, in the stamp.

Card Rarity: 3

Roumeli Hissar. SG504 (Scott 259) 20 para.

Engraved by J.E. Syson. Card: Unattributed.

Comment: The ship looks as if has been added to the picture after the photograph was taken.

Card Rarity 1

Mosque of Sultan Ahmed. SG505 (Scott 260) 1 piastre.

Engraved by A.B. Hill Card: Unattributed.

Card Rarity: 5



Martyrs of Liberty Monument. SG506 (Scott 261) 1.5 piastre.

Engraved by A.B. Hill. Card: Unattributed.

Comment: a similar card shows the monument from the other side and is about rarity 5.

Card Rarity: 7

Fountains of Suleiman. SG507 (Scott 262) 1.75 piastre.

Engraved by J.E. Syson

Comment: This image of the “Fountains of Suleiman” is contained within the stamp of (and the card) of the 25pi “Mosque of Sulieman”, but taken from a slightly different angle.

Card Rarity: 10

Crusier *Hamidiye*. SG508 (Scott 263) 2 piastre.

Engraved by A.B. Hill

Comment: There are several postcards with pictures of the warship, but none have been found so far showing the ship in the beam-on angle that it appears on the stamp

Card Rarity: 10

Candili, Bosphorus. SG509 (Scott 264) 2.5 piastre.

Engraved by J.Potts Card: Editeur MJC; Nr. 7.

Comment: the image is taken from about one third of the card.

Card Rarity: 5



Former Ministry of War. SG510 (Scott 265) 5 piastre.

Engraved by J.E. Syson. Card: unattributed.

Card Rarity: 3

Sweet Waters of Europe. SG511 (Scott 266) 10 piastre.

Engraved by J.Potts. Card: Editeur MJC; Nr 310.

Comment: the figure on the right of the card has been moved slightly left to be in the frame.

Card Rarity: 8

The Suleiman Mosque. SG512 (Scott 267) 25 piastre.

Engraved by J.E. Syson Card: unattributed, Nr. 52 (poss. as SG501).

Comment: The building shown in SG507 is the same as this one, and the fountains (for ablutions under the arches) are the same in both stamps. Close examination shows that they were not engraved from the same picture.

Card Rarity: 5

The Bosphorus at Rumeli Hissar. SG513 (Scott 268) 50 piastre.

Engraved by J. Potts Card: IPA/CT 10772.

Card Rarity: 8



Sultan Ahmed's Fountain. SG514 (Scott 269) 100 piastre.
 Engraved by W.B. Downey
 Card: E.F. Rochart; No. 113;
 Constantinople Editions d'Art de l'Orient.

Comment: a small figure has been added to the foreground in the stamp.
 Card Rarity: 6

Sultan Mehmed V. SG515 (Scott 270) 200 piastre.
 Engraved by Enrique Vaquer. Card: Editeur MJC, No. 332.
 Comment: The Sultan's portrait is taken from a waist-length portrait reproduced on a postcard.
 Card Rarity: 7

Bradbury and Wilkinson produced essays which had two additional designs.
 Looking across the Golden Horn towards the Yeni Mosque. 8 para.
 Card: unattributed 187/8218.
 Comment: A card with an equivalent design is in the author's collection.
 Card Rarity: 6

General Post Office. Alternative for the 50 piastre.
 Comment: According to contemporary sources, it would be impossible to take this photograph because of the narrow street. No card with this design has been seen.
 Card Rarity: 10

During the war stamp printing was transferred to the Vienna State Printing Works in 1916, but the stamp/card link continued.



Of these designs, no postcard of the "Sentry" stamp has been seen, although the others have been found, including the new portrait of the Sultan.

The "Martyr's Column" has not been seen, nor have the two 'Map' stamps. However there are quite a number of map cards around, and the author has not yet looked for equivalents for the two stamps.



For the 1917 War charity stamp "Off to the Front": no postcard has been seen.
 The two stamps with military themes issued in 1917 have not been seen on card.

M E M B E R N O T I C E S

I will purchase any kind of items related to **Overland Mail Baghdad-Haifa** and Iraqi Railway stamps. Rainer Fuchs, Am Burkardstuhl 33, 97267, Himmelstadt, Germany. <rainer@fuchs-online.com >

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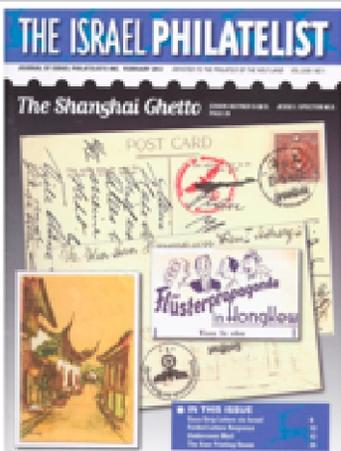
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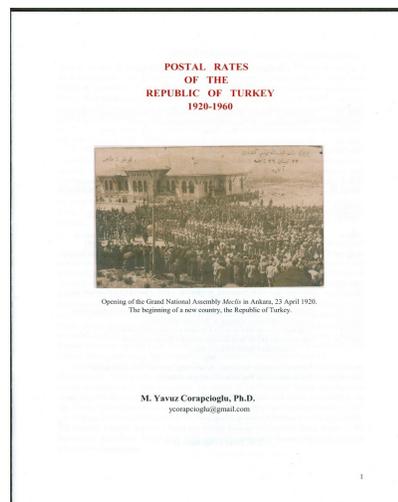


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Copies of this 24p guide can be obtained from the Journal editor, for US \$6.00 / €6.00 / £5.00