Sudan: The Camel Postman Issues 1897 – 1991

A Display to the Royal Philatelic Society London

by

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1897 Imperforate trials for the first camel postman issue (ex. De La Rue Archives)

Thursday 1st October 2009

"Appendix" sheet dated December 16th 1897 with twenty different imperforate 2m trials (ex. De la Rue Archives).

Sudan: The Camel Postman Issues 1897-1991

Scene:

The headquarters of the X1 Sudanese Battalion, (Col. MacDonald's Brigade), Nile Expeditionary Force, stationed at Korti, in the early summer of 1897.

Present:

Major-General Sir Herbert Kitchener, Commander-in-chief, Egyptian Army,

Capt. Edward A Stanton, Second-in-command, X1 Sudanese.

The following interview took place;

Kitchener: "I want you to design a stamp for the Sudan. You are to go on drawing designs until you produce something I approve of. It's up to you to produce something suitable and it is not to contain my portrait or that of anyone else. I'll be back in a week when you are to produce something. Good morning."

Stanton: "…not being anxious to be shot at dawn in a week's time as my brother officers kindly hinted my fate would be, I spent a somewhat worried 36 hours." *(extract from a letter to Dr. Byam (Founder, Egypt Study Circle) in 1926).*

Introduction

The display features the history, development and usage of the Camel Postman design from its inception in 1897 until 1991. The development of each issue is illustrated by proofs, colour trials and other production items from the archives of Messrs. De La Rue & Co., Ltd. Changes to format, denomination, watermark, paper and printing plates are shown. Stamps on cover or card illustrate unusual usage or destination.

The stamps were printed to a high standard. Thus varieties are few in number and generally occur amongst overprinted stamps issued for official purposes or produced locally to meet unforeseen shortages. Overprints and stamps punctured 'SG' and 'AS' are included in the display.

The De La Rue Archives

In March 1966, Mr. A.G. Norman, Chairman of Messrs. De La Rue & Co., Ltd., handed over to Sir Ifor Evans, Trustee of the British Museum, on permanent loan, the vast philatelic records accumulated by his company throughout more than a century of stamp printing for countries throughout the world. Among the most famous of the stamps produced by De La Rue was the Sudan "Camel" issue of 1898 which was represented in the collection by the original order signed by Lord Kitchener (then Major-General Sir Herbert Kitchener, of the Egyptian Army); the original sketch prepared by Capt. E.A. Stanton and colour trials, proofs and issued stamps, which had remained basically unchanged since 1898.

The archives were subsequently sold by Robson Lowe Ltd., much of the Sudan material by public auction in April and November 1977.

The sale of the De La Rue archives has contributed significantly to our knowledge of the camel postman stamps and their production. However such progress is not without certain disadvantages.

Since 1977, Appendix sheets have been cut up. The letter from Kitchener ordering stamps from De La Rue & Co., one of the 1906 Appendix sheets and the 1940 5m on 10m proof sheet of 120 overprints have been damaged. Other items have been stored by collectors in wholly unsuitable conditions.

Layout and structure of the display

Oversize items are displayed in frames 13 and 14.

Frames	Date	Description
1,2 & 13	1898	First Issue on rosette watermarked paper; overprints and official stamps,
3 – 5 & 14	1902	Second Issue: change of watermark to star and crescent ; new values; overprinted and perforated official stamps,
6 & 14	1921	Third Issue: introduction of reduced format millieme values; official stamps
7- 10	1927	Fourth Issue: change of watermark to 'S.G.'; new values; overprints and official stamps,
10 & 11	1948	Fifth Issue: introduction of revised Arabic inscription; 50pt value introduced; official stamps
11	1948	Commemorative Issues: Golden Jubilee of the Camel Postman design; Opening of the Legislative Assembly,
11	1951	Sixth Issue: camel postman design retained for the 50pt denomination.
12	1954	Self-Government.
12	1962	Seventh Issue: £LS1 denomination depicts modified camel postman design
12	1991	Eighth Issue: camel postman design used for the £LS20 denomination

1897 The Origin of the Design

The history of the famous camel postman design has been published previously, however, for sake of completeness and accuracy, the full account given by Capt. Stanton, in a letter to Dr. Byam in 1926, is reproduced in the Appendix.

On 6th June 1897 Kitchener wrote to Messrs. De La Rue and Co., enclosing approved designs and asking for stamps and estimates to be prepared. Messrs De La Rue & Co., replied on July 2nd stating costs and timescales for delivery, that the stamps would be produced by the key plate system and printed in fugitive inks.

1898 The First Issue – frames 1, 2 & 13

Further correspondence ensued about the delivery time and the duty plate colours. On 20th November De La Rue sent a colour scheme for the stamps, printed from the 2 millieme plates. Following criticism about the danger of *'confusion between the duties'* De La Rue sent a further 36 colour combinations.

E.
7597

Head Quarters, Egyptian Army,

War Office, Cairo,

June 6th 1897

Sir

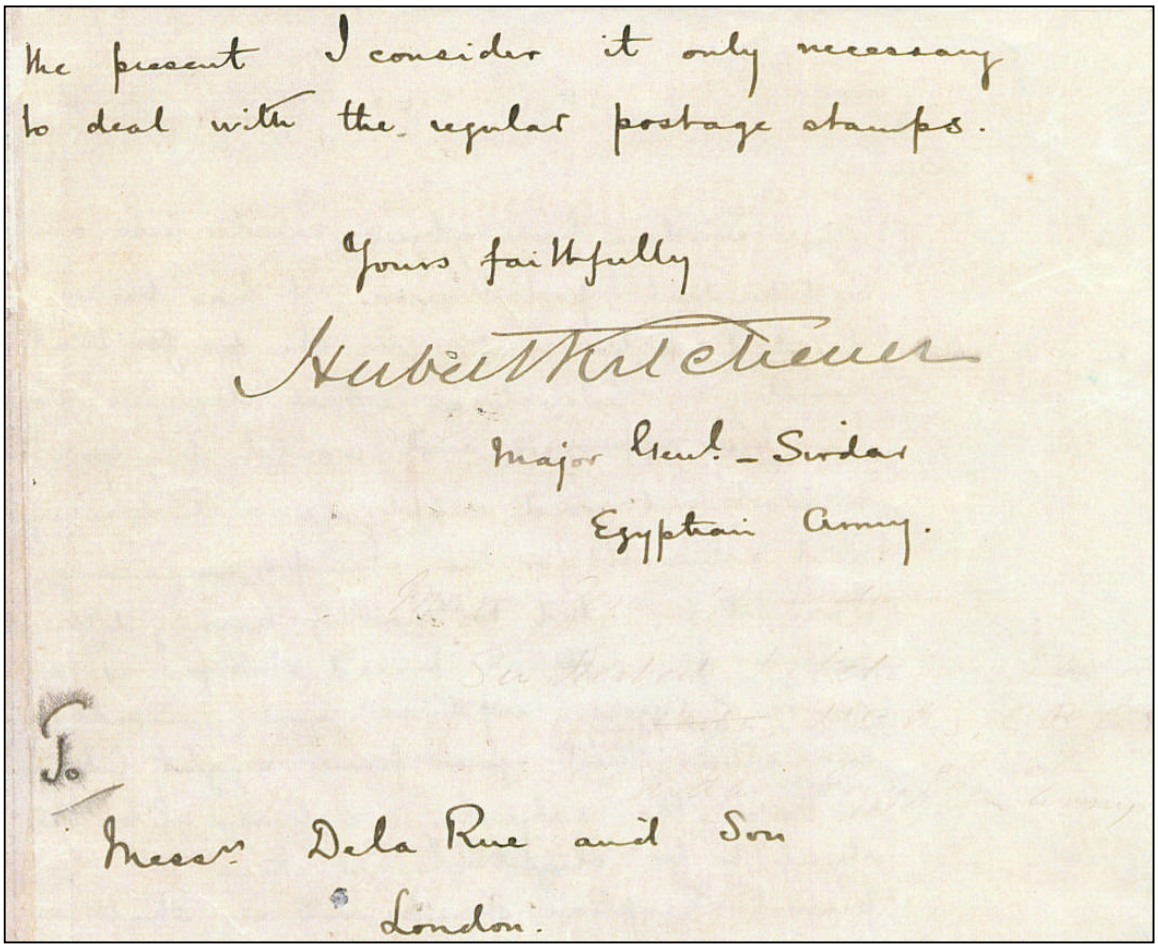
The Soudan having been made into an independent postal area, it has been decided to have special stamps for that country. I enclose certain designs, which have been approved and would beg you to work out and supply me with drawings and estimates for the stamps necessary. I should be glad to know if having different patterns for different priced stamps is a source of greater expense and generally any suggestions for designs that your firm might like to make on the subject. I should like the stamp to be slightly larger than the present Egyptian stamps and we shall require stamps of :—

1 millième
2 "
3 "
5 "
1 piastre
2 "
5 "
10 "

List in Arabic characters enclosed.

Subsequently we may require post cards, postal envelopes and other stamps but for

The letter from Sir Herbert Kitchener to Messrs. De La Rue & Co., ordering stamps for the Sudan.


the present I consider it only necessary
to deal with the regular postage stamps.

Yours faithfully

Herbert Kitchener

Major Genl. – Sirdar

Egyptian Army.

To

Messrs De la Rue and Son

London.

The reverse of the letter bearing Kitchener's signature

On 3rd July 1898 the Financial Secretary informed De la Rue & Co., that *'the watermark in the paper has given dissatisfaction in certain quarters – being a cross'* and asked that further supplies be printed on paper watermarked with a star and crescent similar to that used by the Egyptian Postal Administration.

Post offices and postal facilities increased significantly during the Nile Expedition 1897-98. First issue camel stamps were used at 34 post offices. Usages are known on wreck mail, TPO mail, and to unusual destinations.

In January 1901 1m stamps were issued punctured 'SG' for use by government departments. They were followed by 1m and 10pt stamps overprinted 'O.S.G.S.' issued respectively in 1902 and 1906. The 1m is known with inverted overprint. Minor varieties also exist.

The 2pt, 5pt and 10pt were issued overprinted 'Army Service' for use by the Army.

Due to a temporary shortage of 5m stamps 60,000 copies of the current 5pt stamp were surcharged 5m at Khartoum and placed on sale in September 1903. Six panes (180 stamps) were printed with the overprint inverted, and later used. Forgeries of the error are known.

Key Items– frame 1

- A cover from Capt. E.A. Stanton to his father General Stanton in England franked by 2m, 3m and 5m overprinted Egyptian stamps cancelled 'Berber 16 JA 98' (the stamps were superseded by the camel issue on 1 March 1898). Provenance: Giovanni Freschi (1993).

- A preliminary master die proof and 2 working proofs of the vignette with uncleared surround and tablets.

A working die proof of the vignette

- A re-directed cover to Maj. Peile, South African Field Forces, franked 1m, 2m & 3m cancelled 'Wad Ramly 7 DE 99'. The only recorded example of this cancellation on cover.

- A 5m soldier's concessionary rate cover from Sgt. A. Hales, 1st Btn. Royal Warwickshire Regiment, bearing the cachet "Wet through collision on the Nile" applied to mail involved in an incident during April, 1898. 16 covers have been recorded. Provenance: Henry Mauerberger (1989).

- A 5m internal rate cover, to Major Sandbach, Governor of Nubia, Halfa containing a 12 page letter signed by Major Douglas Haig (later Field Marshal Earl Haig), describing a reconnaissance in force of the Dervish camp on 5th April, 1898 by Col. Broadwood's cavalry.

- A 1pt overprinted postal stationery envelope from Suakin to Angola via Berber and Lisbon with a 1pt camel stamp added to pay the registration fee. Provenance: "Cihangir" (2000).

Key Items – frame 2

- Block of 20 1m stamps punctured 'SG' and a block of 30 1m stamps overprinted 'O.S.G.S.' with constant varieties.

- 1 millieme stamp with inverted 'O.S.G.S.' overprint.

- 5pt overprinted 5 milliemes - a strip of 4 stamps and a single with inverted overprint on a front addressed to Monsieur L Colucci, Cairo. Provenance: Col. J R Danson (1977) Norton Collier (2005).

Key Items – frame 13

- A letter to Messrs. De La Rue & Co., dated 6th June 1897 signed by Major-General Sir Herbert Kitchener ordering stamps for the Sudan. Provenance: Col. J. R. Danson (1977), Graham Cooper (1986), Norton Collier (2004).

- A sheet headed "Sudan Postage Colour Scheme" with eight imperforate 2 m trials in the colours of the issued set, written at the side of each trial is the value that each colour combination is to represent, also 2 bisects, one for the colour of the 2 pt vignette, the other for the frame of the 5m, handstamped at foot "PASSED/12 Nov 97" Provenance: Col. J.R. Danson (1977), Colin Boston (2000) Norton Collier (2004).

- An "Appendix" sheet dated December 16th 1897 with twenty different imperforate 2m trials, a piece with eight imperforate trials and 8 others off paper. Provenance: Col. J.R. Danson (1977), Colin Boston (2000), Sir Gawaine Baillie Bt., (2005).

1902 The Second Issue – frames 3 - 5 & 14

Printings on star and crescent watermarked paper were issued on the dates shown in the following table as stocks of the earlier issue were exhausted:

Denomination	Date	Denomination	Date
1m	May 1905	5m	December 1903
2m	Nov 1902	2pt black & blue	February 1908
3m	March 1903	2pt purple & orange-yellow (chalky paper)	22 December 1921
4m blue & bistre	20 January 1907	5pt	February 1908
4m vermilion & brown	October 1907	10pt	February 1911

A 4m denomination was added to the series to meet a new rate introduced in 1906 for postcards and letter cards to Great Britain. The first printing in blue and bistre was 180,000 copies. About this time plate 1 began to show signs of wear and its gradual deterioration can be seen in progressively more coarse and blotchy impressions with faint Arabic inscription and portions of the design missing.

De La Rue prepared a new duty plate in October 1906 and a key plate in March 1907. In October 1907 the colour of the 4m was changed to vermilion and brown in deference to U.P.U. regulations that stamps of an equivalent value of 10 centimes used by member countries should be printed chiefly in red. It was the first to be printed from key plate 2. For the first time the key plate number appeared in the sheet margin.

All denominations are on unsurfaced paper except the 2pt purple and orange issued in 1921 which is only on chalk surfaced paper. The 5 pt and 10pt also appear on chalk surfaced paper.

Three plates were used. Early printings are from plate 1, in use until October 1907. Plate 2 was used from October 1907 to 1925 and all values were printed from it. Plate 3 was used from December 1921 to March 1927 for the 2pt purple and orange, 5pt and 10pt denominations on chalk surfaced paper.

On 1 January, 1905 stamps for exclusive use by the Army were introduced. Before that date, official stamps punctured 'SG' and those overprinted 'O.S.G.S.' were used by the Army under the same conditions as Government Departments. The current 1m camel stamp was overprinted 'Army Official' at Khartoum on half panes of 30 stamps. There are numerous varieties.

Large & small overprints

"ARMY" reading down

Overprint horizontal

Between January 1906 and May 1911 the 1m, 2m, 3m, 5m, 1pt, 2pt, 5pt and 10pt values were issued overprinted "Army Service" in two horizontal lines. The first setting of the overprint, allocated to the 1906/08 period is characterized by a long tail to the 'y' in 'Army'. A later setting has stamps with a short tail to the 'y' in 'Army' and is known as the 1908/10 setting. The issue is rich in errors and varieties including, double overprint, inverted overprint, triple overprint and double overprint, one inverted. Forgeries are plentiful.

Overprint inverted

Overprint double

Overprint double, one inverted

Overprint partly triple

The 1m, 2m, 3m, 5m, 1pt, 2pt black & blue, 2pt purple & orange yellow, 5pt (chalk surfaced paper) and 10pt punctured 'AS' replaced the overprinted Army Service stamps on 1 January 1912. There was only one printing (600 stamps) of the 10pt supplied in September 1914 and it is therefore a rare stamp. All values have been forged particularly the 10pt.

1m, 3m, 5m, 1pt, 2pt, 5pt and 10pt stamps were overprinted 'O.S.G.S.' – 'On Sudan Government Service' by De La Rue in sheets of 120. Constant varieties exist on most values and examples are shown in frame 5. In 1912 the practice of overprinting for official stamps ceased for 24 years. In the intervening period 1912 - 1936 puncturing the letters 'S.G.' was re-introduced.

Key items – Frame 3

- Vignette die proofs endorsed 'BEFORE STRIKING' & 'AFTER STRIKING' dated Sept 5.
- A 15c Belgian Congo postcard from Dungu in the Lado Enclave to Geneva with additional franking of 1m & 2m camel postman stamps cancelled 30 August, 1909.
- 2pt purple and orange-yellow specimen stamp and imperforate plate proofs. Provenance: Col. J R Danson (1977).

Key items – Frames 4 & 5

- A complete 100 millieme booklet and a partly used exploded booklet with stamps from plate 2.

A block of the 10pt from plate 2 punctured 'AS'

- 1m stamps overprinted 'Army Official' showing errors and varieties, mint, used and on cover. A half pane of 30 stamps showing the positions of constant varieties.
- 1m and 5m stamps overprinted 'Army Service' showing errors of overprint and 5m stamps used on a parcel card.
- 1m to 10pt Army Service stamps punctured 'AS' and Official stamps punctured 'SG' in corner blocks of four from plate 2. Provenance: The Palace Collection of King Farouk.

Key items – Frame 14

- 1m, an *"Appendix"* sheet from the printer's archive dated 11th April 1906 with 15 different imperforate trials, one endorsed at the corner "stamp selected". Provenance: Col. J.R. Danson (1977), Colin Boston (2000), Sir Gawaine Baillie Bt., (2005).
- 4m, an *"Appendix"* sheet dated 5th February, 1907 with thirteen imperforate colour trials, one marked with four crosses Provenance: Col. H.E. Hebbert (1977), Colin Boston (2000), Sir Gawaine Baillie Bt., (2005)

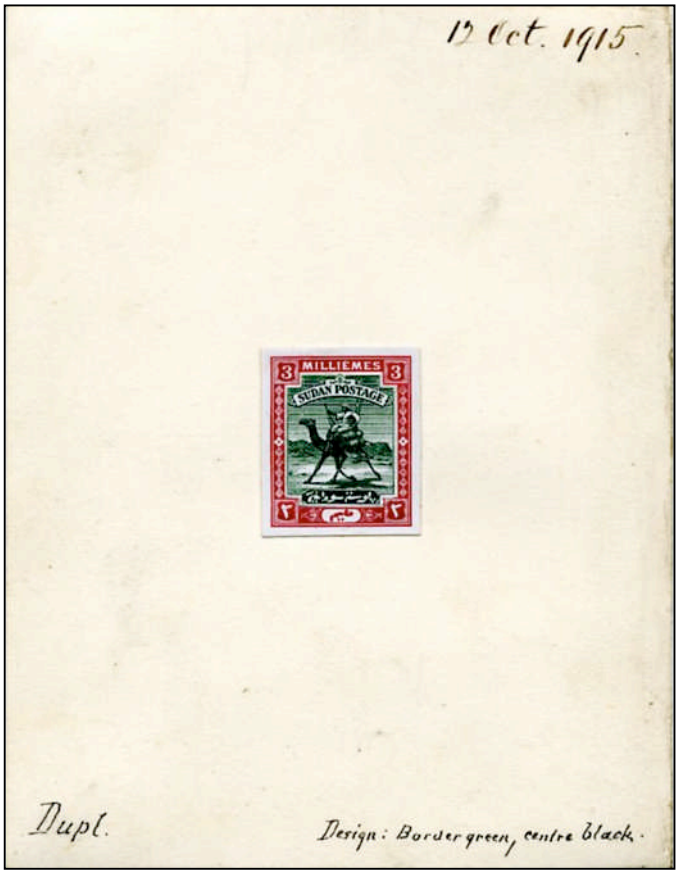
1921 The Third Issue – frames 6 & 14

The change to a reduced format was considered by the Sudan postal authorities soon after receipt of the large sized stamps but postponed for many years due to the expense of making new dies and plates. On 6th February 1915 the Director of Sudan Posts and Telegraphs wrote to De La Rue & Co., asking if the size of the current stamps could be reduced to the size of those at present in use in Great Britain. Essays were submitted dated 19th March 1915, 12th October 1915, Dec 17th 1915 and 23rd May 1916.

On 26th June 1916 the Director of Sudan Posts informed the printers it had been decided to postpone any alterations whilst the war lasted.

At the 7th Universal Postal Union Congress at Madrid in 1920 postal rates were changed which required a new denomination, 15m, for letters up to 20 grams. The change provided an opportunity to reduce the size of the millieme values to 19 x 22.5 mm.

The series is an interesting one offering the collector a wide range of proofs, essays, colour trials, specimens and printer's samples. Examples shown in frame 6 include some previously unrecorded items.



It should not be assumed that the small Camel stamp is merely a reduced facsimile of the original. Close examination will reveal a number of minor design differences.

The 3, 4, 5 and 10m small camel stamps were issued punctured 'SG' for use by Sudan government departments and the 2m, 5m and 10m were issued punctured 'AS' for use by the Army.

Key items – Frame 6

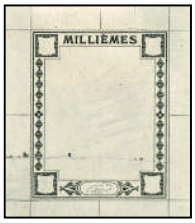
- 3m composite photographic essay in green and red, mounted on card (89 x 115 mm) endorsed "12 Oct. 1915", "Dupl" and "Design: Border green, centre black". Provenance: Col. J R Danson (1977), "Oscar" (1999).

Key items – Frame 6 (continued)

- 3m composite photographic essay in grey and brown on card (89 x 115mm) endorsed "Dec 17th 15", "See page 95", "Lines on Hills taken down on print/Fore & middle ground taken down" and "Dupl". Provenance: Col. J R Danson (1977).

- A working proof on glazed card (92 x 61 mm) of the vignette with uncleared surround and engraving of shadows incomplete, dated in pencil "12.July",

- A composite die proof of frame and vignette of the 1m with uncleared surrounds. Provenance: Norton Collier (2005).



- A working die proof of the frame on thin quadrille paper with blank value tablets.

- 1m to 15m frame die proofs handstamped "BEFORE STRIKING", each with a manuscript date. Provenance: Sir Gawaine Baillie Bt., (2005).

- Previously unrecorded imperforate proofs. Provenance: Norton Collier (2005); Lt. Col. Sir John Inglefield-Watson Bt. (2007).

2m proof on glazed card

Proof on unwatermarked gummed chalk-surfaced paper

- Large (4) and small (7) format printer's samples in un-issued colours on chalk-surfaced paper, perforation 14, overprinted "SPECIMEN". Provenance: Colin Boston (2000).

- 1m to 15m small format imperforate colour trials in issued colours overprinted "SPECIMEN". Provenance: Colin Boston (2000).

- 3m & 5m used on 'Flight' magazine illustrated postcard carried by Sir Alan Cobham on Imperial Airways Survey Flight to South Africa in December 1925.

Key item – Frame 14

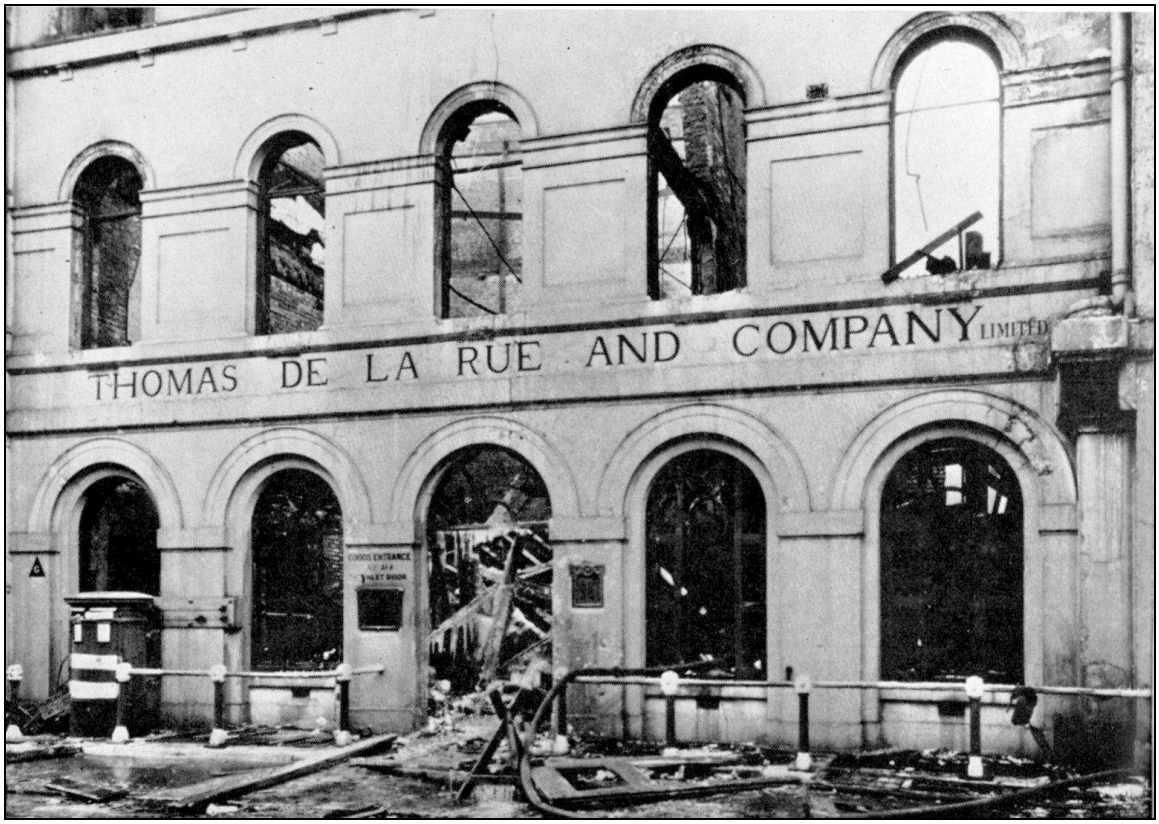
- An *"Appendix Sheet"* dated 11th April (year torn off), bearing fifteen imperforate 1m colour trials, one endorsed *"1 Mill. 21.7.21"* another *"2 Mill Col 4.7.21"* Provenance: Col. H.E.Hebbert (1977), Colin Boston (2000), Sir Gawaine Baillie Bt., (2005)

1927 The Fourth Issue – frames 7 to 10

In 1926 it was agreed that the watermark be changed to 'SG', representing 'Sudan Government' and this coincided with a requirement for new printings of all values in current use. During the period 1927-42 new key plates were made to replace worn originals and 3, 4, 6, 8 and 20pt values were added to meet new postal rates.

The issue is an interesting one because of the wartime substitute paper used when chalk surfaced paper was unobtainable and the difficulties of printing and supplying high quality stamps under wartime conditions due to extensive damage to De La Rue's premises.

After the blitz



"…the difficulty of printing high quality stamps under wartime conditions"

The Indian Security Press at Nasik was requested to print a limited issue of stamps – the 1941 'Palms' issue and perforated trials for this issue are displayed in frame 10.

All values of the fourth issue (except the 4pt) were printed on chalk surfaced and a wartime substitute (ordinary) paper. The 4pt was only printed on chalk surfaced paper. Unused stamps on chalk surfaced paper have brownish yellow gum whilst those on ordinary paper have white gum.

On 21 July 1931 the Director of Sudan Posts asked the printers to produce designs which could be printed by the letterpress or recess methods. They were rejected by the Governor-General, Sir John Maffey, because they departed completely from the original camel design.

In 1931 the 5m, 10m and 2pt denominations were overprinted "AIR MAIL" by De La Rue & Co., to coincide with the first stage of the Imperial Airways England - Cape Town route. Minor varieties exist on all values. On 18 July 1932 a further Air mail provisional was issued consisting of the 1927 2pt denomination overprinted "AIR MAIL" and also surcharged "2½" in English in the upper corners and in Arabic in the lower corners. Varieties have not been recorded although the overprint has been forged.

In January 1940 there was a shortage of 5m stamps when the printers De la Rue & Co., were unable to supply a new printing. To overcome this 240,000 copies of the 10m were surcharged '5 Mills' in English and Arabic by McCorquodale (Sudan) Ltd at Khartoum on half sheets of 120 stamps (2 panes of 60 each). The surcharging was so badly executed (408 half sheets - 48,960 stamps had to be destroyed) that many non constant varieties appear. No two similarly positioned panes are identical in all respects.

A major non-constant variety is the so called 'inserted 5' which occurs on stamp 23 of the lower right pane of some sheets.

In 1940 there was a need for a 4½pt denomination to meet the rate for Forces letters to England and 119,760 copies of the 8pt denomination were surcharged locally at Khartoum, the majority of which were sold as single copies. The overprinting was poorly executed and generally appears dirty and ragged with many errors and varieties.

The earlier provisional was insufficient to meet the demand and 60,000 copies of the 5m value were surcharged 4½ PIASTRES in English at Khartoum. It is unusual and dangerous to uprate the value of a stamp is this way. There are no known varieties although the surcharge has been forged.

60,000 copies of the 3pt denomination were overprinted at Khartoum "Not Valid for Postage 1 millieme" and used as currency to meet a temporary shortage of the 1m coin in the Sa'dun, Abu Gabra, Abu Matariq, Buram, Ed Da'ein and Mumallah areas of Darfur province.

The 3, 4, 5 & 10m, 2, 5 & 10pt all on chalk surfaced paper were issued punctured 'SG' for official purposes. They ceased to be used on internal official mail in 1932 but continued to be used for official mail to foreign destinations until replaced by those overprinted 'SG' in 1936.

All values were overprinted 'SG' for use on official mail.

Key items – Frame 7

- 1m to 15m frame die proofs in black on unglazed card without markings. Provenance: William Frazer (2004).
- Nine imperforate 10pt trials on gummed watermarked paper in un-issued colours.
- Three imperforate 20pt trials on ungummed watermarked paper in the issued colours of the 4pt, 6pt and 8pt denominations.

Key items – Frame 8

- Nine unadopted essays rejected by the Governor-General in 1931. Provenance: Colin Boston (2000).

Key items – Frame 9

- A proof sheet of 120 impressions of the 1940 5m on 10m overprint.
- A proof block of six of the 1940-41 4½pt on 8pt, surcharge.
- A complete sheet of 60 stamps of the 1940 4½pt on 8pt. Provenance: Norton Collier (2005).

Key items – Frame 10

- A proof block of six of the 1940-41 4½pt on 5m surcharge.
- Perforated trials of the 1941 'Palms' provisional issue. Provenance: Colin Boston (2000).

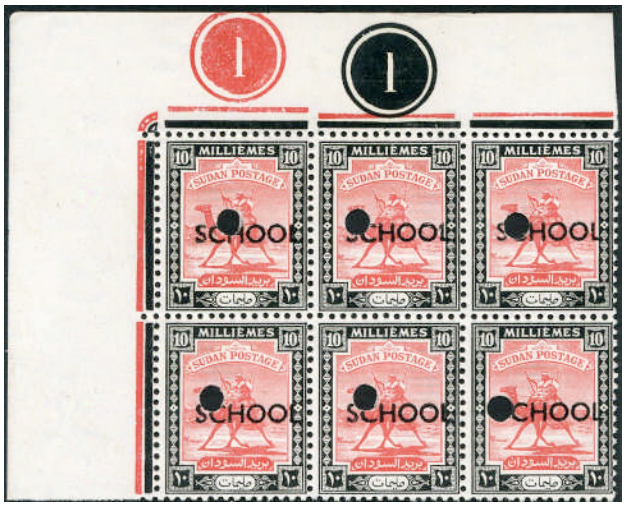
1948 The Fifth Issue – frames 10 & 11

This issue was the result of a decision to modify the Arabic inscription at the foot of the vignette from "bosta Sudaniya" to "barid al-Sudan". A new high value, 50pt, was added to the range of denominations available.

De La Rue printed this issue on chalk surfaced paper with multiple SG watermark perforation 14, except for the 8pt and 20pt which were printed on ordinary paper. Also, the 20pt exists on chalk surfaced paper perforation 13. The 10pt was later reprinted on ordinary paper and therefore exists on both papers.

For the first time plate numbers for vignette and duty plates appear in the margins of the sheets. Generally plate 1 was used for both the vignette and duty plates although vignette plate 2 was used for the 4pt and the 20pt perforation 14.

All millieme values exist with a flaw which consists of an extra dot above the arabic character 'nun'. It appears on the third stamp of the second row although it is not constant on the 2 and 4 millieme values.



The 2, 4, 20 and 50pt denominations are known with a typewritten "New Issue" overprint apparently for pre release publicity purposes and samples are known to have been sent to the Editor of the Sudan Star, Khartoum for promotional articles in the newspaper.

All values in this issue are known overprinted 'SCHOOL' for use at the Posts & Telegraphs, Training School in Omdurman. Also, all values were overprinted 'SG' for official use.

Key items – Frame 10

- Frame die proofs of the 4m, 5m, 6pt & 8pt denominations on glazed card.

Key items – Frame 11

- 1m to 50pt overprinted "SCHOOL" and security punched.
- The 2, 4, 20 and 50pt denominations overprinted "New Issue".

1948 Commemorative Issues and the 1951 Sixth Issue – frame 11

On 1 March 1948 the Camel Postman design had been in use for 50 years and to commemorate the occasion the original 2pt black and blue of 1898 was issued with a surround containing the inscription "Sudan Stamp Jubilee 1898 - 1948" in English and Arabic added to the design.

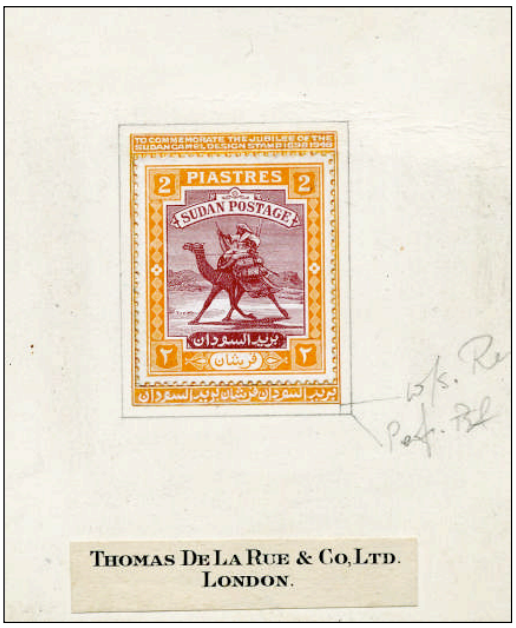
The opening of a Legislative Assembly in 1948 was the first move towards self-government. Two denominations, 10m rose red and black and 5pt brown orange and deep green stamps were issued on 1 October 1948.

When the 'Camel' stamp had been in use for fifty years the Sudan Government decided there should be a complete change and invited the submission of designs for a new definitive series.

The Director of Posts and Telegraphs in a circular of 1 July 1951 announced that a new issue of stamps would be placed on sale on 1 September 1951. They portray life and conditions in the Sudan except for the 50pt which has the Camel postman design. The Government had decided to retain 'this very popular and well esteemed design which was so closely connected with the origin and development of the Sudan Postal Service.'

The 50pt stamp was overprinted 'SG' for official use. It is also known overprinted 'SCHOOL'.

Key items – frame 11 - Camel Postman Jubilee

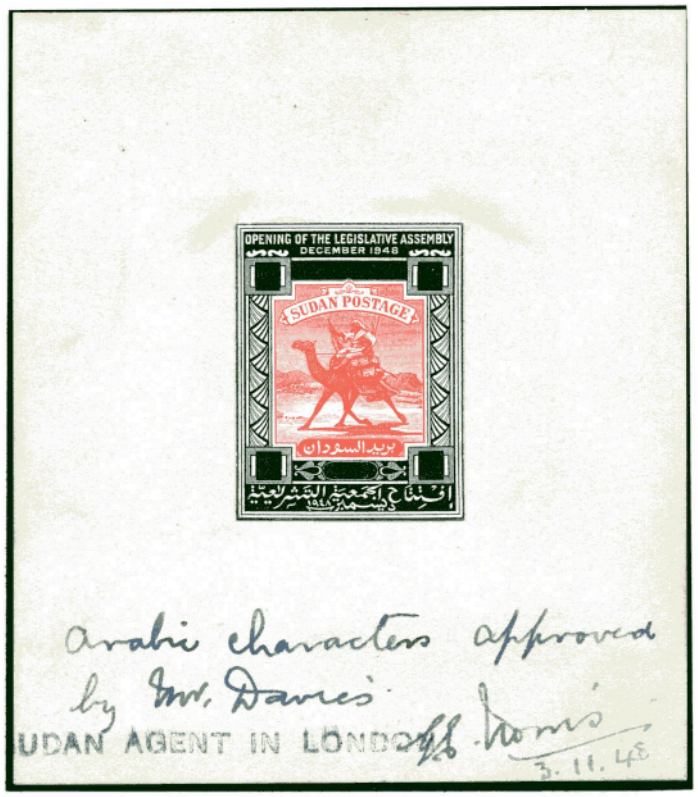


- A 1948 2pt purple and orange adhesive mounted on a card (77 x 91 mm) with a hand painted orange and white border with titles at top and Arabic inscription at foot, endorsed *"WS Red/Perf Bl"*. Provenance: Col J R Danson (1977), Graham Cooper (1986) "Oscar" (1999).

- A 2pt black and blue original camel design with perforations removed mounted on card around which the accepted border has been hand painted in blue and white. Provenance: Col J R Danson (1977), Graham Cooper (1986) "Oscar" (1999).

Key items – frame 11 - Legislative Assembly

- A printed composite essay with black value tablets of the accepted design in red and black on card (90 x 102 mm) endorsed *"Arabic characters Approved / by Mr Davies"* with "SUDAN AGENT IN LONDON" handstamp and signed *"G. E. Davies / 3.11.48"* Provenance: Col. J R Danson 1977).

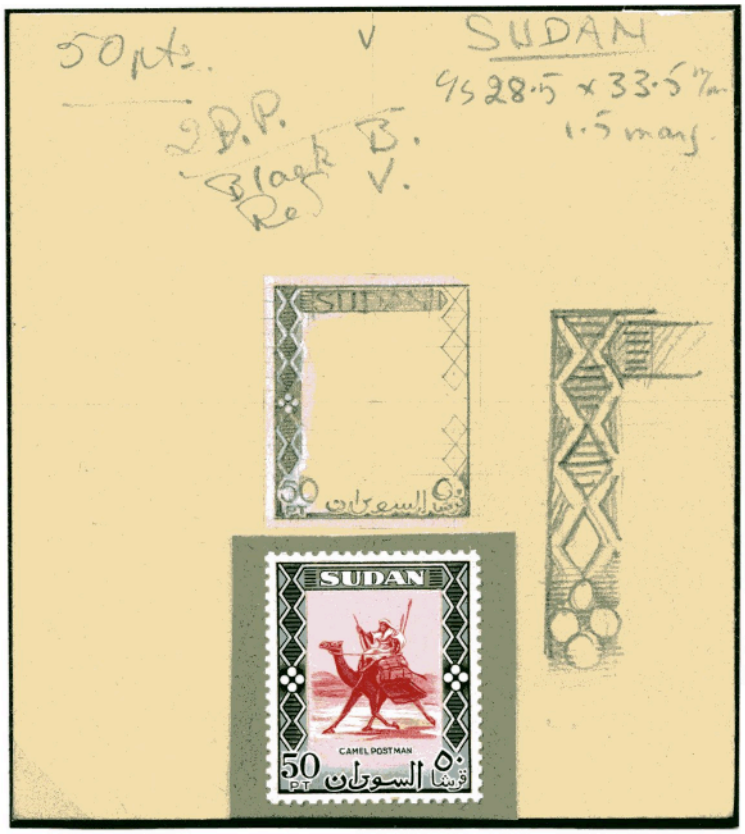


- A die proof of the vignette on glazed card endorsed *"650/12"*. Provenance: William Frazer (2004).

Key items – frame 11 - the Sixth Camel Postman Issue

- A hand painted essay in black and carmine in a design similar to that issued, mounted on a card on which is an original pencil sketch of the frame Provenance: Col. J R Danson (1977), Eyre (1987), "Oscar" (1999).

- Die proofs of the frame and vignette in black on separate glazed cards endorsed "806 / 375" and "806 / 417". Provenance: Col. H E Hebbert (1977), Colin Boston (2000).



Hand painted essay for the 1951 50pt denomination and pencil sketch of the frame

1954 Self-Government & the Seventh and Eighth Issues – frame 12

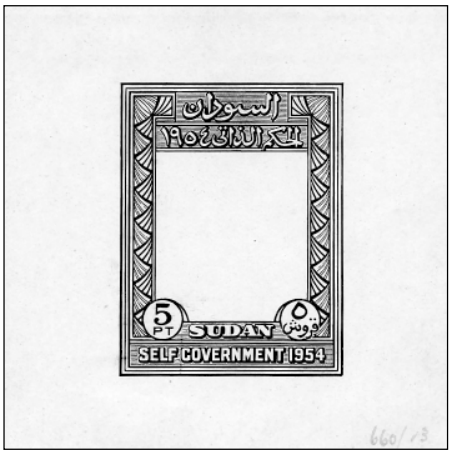
On 1 May 1953 it was announced that 15m, 3pt and 5pt postage stamps would be issued to commemorate the introduction of Self-Government. There was uncertainty whether self-government would be achieved in December 1953 or January 1954. All Post Offices and Agencies were therefore supplied with two different printings dated 1953 and 1954 and the P & T Department went to considerable lengths to ensure the correct ones were sold on the day of issue, 9 January 1954.

The 7th permanent issue replaced the 1951 series from 1st October 1962. It was decided to retain the camel postman design for a new value, one Sudanese pound (LS.1), added to the series which continued in use for more than 25 years and is both interesting and challenging for philatelic research. Some printings of the LS.1 denomination on Rhinoceros watermarked paper were overprinted in Arabic for official use by De La Rue & Co., with the Arabic letter 'ha' and 'seen' the equivalents of 'H' and 'S' for 'Hakumat al-Sudan'.

In 1991 the 8th Permanent Issue replaced the long running 1962 issue and the Camel design was again retained for the 20 pound denomination (LS.20) 'in view of the popularity of the design which was so closely connected with the origin and development of the Sudan Postal Service.'

Key items – frame 12 - 1954 Self Government Issue

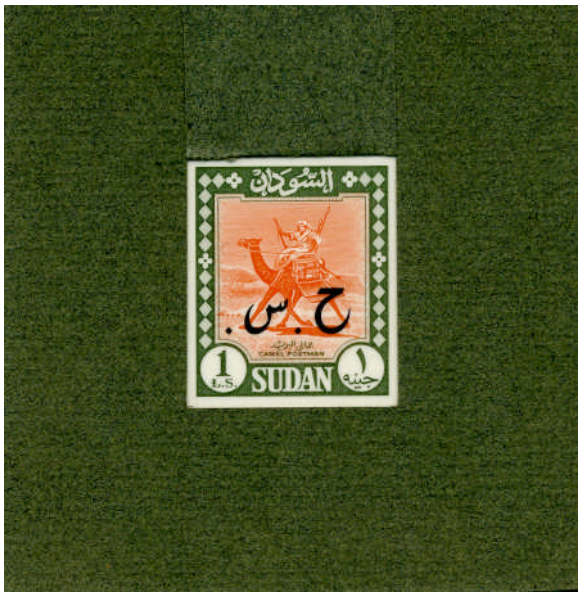
- 15m, 3pt and 5pt die proofs of the frame and vignette on six glazed cards with manuscript endorsements. Provenance: Col J R Danson (1977).



Key items – frame 12 - Seventh Camel Postman Issue

- a block of six the LS.1 denomination in orange and deep olive green perforated "TDLR SPECIMEN"

- Imperforate proof of the LS.1 denomination in orange and deep olive green on glazed paper mounted on green card overprinted in Arabic for official use and endorsed on the reverse "PROOF Thomas De La Rue & Company Limited, Basingstoke, Hants 24.7.90."



- a block of six the LS.1 denomination in orange and deep olive green overprinted in Arabic for official use and perforated "TDLR SPECIMEN"

Key items – frame 12 - Eighth Camel Postman Issue

- a block of ten the LS.20 denomination perforated "TDLR SPECIMEN"
- a block of four the LS.20 denomination overprinted in Arabic for official use and perforated "TDLR SPECIMEN"

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Brian Jones, FRPSL., a founder member and past President of the Sudan Study Group for providing the photographs of Capt. E.A. Stanton (page 1) and the premises of Messrs. De La Rue & Co., "After the Blitz" (page 13).

Appendix

The letter written to Dr. Byam by Captain E.A, Stanton[1]

Knightsbridge House,
Newbury.

May 18th 1926

My Dear Byam,

Although it is some 29 years ago since I designed the Sudan Camel Stamp I will endeavour to the best of my recollection to comply with your request and give you some particulars of how the camel stamp came into existence.

I was at the time serving with the Egyptian Army as 2nd in command of the X1th Sudanese and we were stationed at Korti a small village in the Dongola province which we had just re-conquered from the Dervishes.

I remember receiving one day a largish postal packet from Major Jimmy Watson[2] then ADC to the Sirdar, Sir H Kitchener[3] and a real personal friend.

The packet contained a letter from Jimmy Watson saying the Sirdar wished me to see the enclosed contents, that he was shortly coming to Korti and wanted me to see him as he desired that I should try and draw for him a suitable design for a new Sudan stamp to take the place of the surcharged Egyptian one.

The packet also contained an exceedingly attractive drawing of Abu Simbel temple by some well known artist whose name I have unfortunately forgotten but who was travelling on the Nile at the time and who in submitting the design of Abu Simbel temple added that his terms for same if accepted were 25 guineas (if I remember correctly).

Whether it was the 25 guineas or the fact that Abu Simbel was actually just outside the Sudan boundary Kitchener put a big blue pencil query opposite the 25 guineas and added "send this to Stanton and let me see what he can do."

I well remember thinking I could not possibly do anything as good or suitable. The artist had left the door of the temple as the space for the stamp value and the whole design struck me as extraordinarily attractive and original, and it was with no little trepidation that I awaited Sir H Kitchener's arrival at Korti.

On my interview with "K" as we called him some few days later his instructions were that I was to go on drawing designs till I produced one he approved of. He would give me no suggestions but said "It's up to you to produce something suitable and it is not to contain my portrait or that of anyone else."

I rather gathered that at this time "K" was chafing under the control from Cairo and possibly thought an individual stamp for the new Sudan would be a step in the right direction. The interview was closed with the statement that he would be back in a week's time by the end of which I was to produce something.

Not being an artist in the accepted term and not being anxious to be shot at dawn in a week's time as my brother officers kindly hinted my fate would be, I spent a somewhat worried 36 hours.

Then the mail came in and I scanned the various illustrated papers looking for inspiration. Various rough sketches I had made had all been thrown into the waste paper basket and I was getting desperate when on the last page of, I think it was the Illustrated London News I saw the advertisement of Messrs. Treloar's Carpets a string of camels laden with carpets.

The idea struck me why not try a single camel in lieu of a string and why not mail bags in lieu of the carpets?

Our mails always came by boat and camel where the one would not go the other did. The die was cast and my first design should be a camel.

Accordingly next morning I got hold of the sheikh of our friendly Arabs the Hawawir tribe and persuaded him to ride past me several times on his camel while I photographed him with a postcard sized box Kodak I had. The films were not a success and I would not in any case have had them printed in the time as I had no paper, but I noticed sufficient of the camel's movements to remark that both legs on one side were unlike the horse and donkey's movement off the ground at the same time.

The next trouble that I was up against was that I had no suitable paper - my drawing block was too small and Korti did not possess a single shop leave alone a stationer. The Regimental Orderly Room could only produce lined paper, however I eventually go hold of 2 sheets of white foolscap - not exactly the sort of paper one would select for choice for a water colour but no matter they had to do. A paint box I had, minus several paints including yellow of any sort and rather necessary for reproduction of Camel colours and desert.

One paint brush a large one at that and not of the Camel hair variety. With these implements I got to work and in sepia or black and white produced a fairly respectable drawing of a Camel of the Hageen or riding variety as opposed to the Zoo or baggage variety with an arab in flowing garments holding two spears on his back and <u>not</u> Slatin Pasha[4] as some persons have hinted. Attached to the saddle were two mail bags which took the place of the carpets in the advertisement.

With a fine pen and as a piece of optimistic bluff I printed on one bag the word Khartoum and on the other Berber. I say bluff because at the time we were a good many hundred miles away from either of these Sudan cities and had not conquered them.

To brighten up the picture and to fill up an ugly space of white paper under the drawing I added a row of coloured reductions with suggested combinations of colours such as my paint box could produce. Whether Messrs De La Rue & Co who eventually printed the stamps adhered to my colour suggestions I cannot now remember but they certainly did more or less adhere to the size of these reductions which was considerably larger than the normal postage stamp because forsooth my large brush would not lend itself to the very fine detail required in a stamp of the ordinary size.

Somewhat in fear and trembling I presented myself on Sir H. Kitchener's return with the sketch effort No 1and to my intense surprise he expressed his entire approval and notified me that no further efforts were necessary on my part. I was intensely relieved and somewhat pleased. I was not at any rate to be shot at dawn this time.

Some months later the stamp appeared and feeling pleased that my effort had succeeded I wrote to Jimmy Watson and said that though of course I had no terms in the sense of pecuniary remuneration I should esteem it as a very great favour if the Sirdar would sign a set of the new stamps for me adding that I had designed them.

The answer I received from so ready a wit as Jimmy Watson may or may not have been off his own bat but it was as follows - "K" says certainly old boy, provided you pay for the stamps!"

In due course I received the set signed by Lord Kitchener as he afterwards became and as far as I know I was never charged with their face value some 4/-.

I had forgotten to say that in the left hand corner of the stamps I attempted to represent the ribs of the carcass of a dead camel, which have been taken by many to be coarse blades of grass - but the carcasses of dead camels were a more frequent sight along the desert tracks at the time than blades of grass.

Not long afterwards I was asked to design another stamp for "Postage Due" and as the boat and the camel had always brought us our mails I produced the small tax stamps which has a gunboat and native sailing craft on it.

Yours sincerely

E. A. Stanton

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[1] Edward Alexander Stanton was born on 15th November 1867 and died on 2nd December 1947. He was commissioned on the 5th February 1887 and served in the Egyptian Army from 1896 to 1908 attaining the rank of Lewa (Pasha). He was Governor of Khartoum from 1904-08.

[2] Major James Kiero Watson, CVO, CMG, DSO, 60th Rifles (KRRC) a man of great diplomatic skill and a trusted member of Kitchener's staff.

[3] Major-General Sir Horatio Herbert Kitchener, Appointed Sirdar of the Egyptian Army in 1892 he served in the Nile Expedition of 1884-85 and most operations against the Mahdiya from 1885 - 1898.

[4] Baron Rudolph von Slatin, GCVO, KCMG, CB, born 7th June 1857, died 4th October 1932. An Austrian soldier of fortune and famous in the Sudan. He survived 12 years captivity at the hands of the Mahdists from 1883 to 1895.

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The "Sudan Postage Colour Scheme" sheet with eight imperforate 2m trials in the colours of the issued stamps approved on the 12th November 1897 (ex. De La Rue Archives).

"Appendix" sheet dated 11th April 1906 with 15 different 1m imperforate trials, one endorsed at the corner "stamp selected"(ex. De la Rue Archives).