

SUDAN

USAGES OF THE PROVISIONAL OVERPRINTS OF 1897

Sudan's first definitive stamps, issued March 1, 1897, were provisional overprints applied to eight current Egyptian stamps by Imprimerie Nationale in Cairo. Postage dues were also overprinted (pages 2 and 14).

In July, 1897 the stamps were hand-overprinted TEL in an oval for usage in the telegraph system (p. 15).

The stamps were current for one year and began to be replaced by the first of the camel postman stamps on March 1, 1898.

Remainders of the 5m overprint were perfinned S.G. in February, 1900 for official usage (p. 16), but were superseded within a year by similarly perfinned camel postman stamps.

The supply of provisional overprint usages is very limited, and most of the covers shown here are scarce to rare. Among the most scarce and interesting are the only cover with these stamps showing U.S. postal markings (p. 4), a complete set on cover (p. 13), 172 telegraph overprints used on a telegraph form (p. 15), and an official perfin usage (p. 16). Unusual destinations include Philadelphia (p. 4) and Hungary (p. 5).

Items in the exhibit are sequenced, to the extent possible, according to increasing face value of the eight basic stamps, followed by one page each for postage due overprints, telegraph overprints, and official perfins.

Throughout this exhibit, ten milliemes equal one piastre.



An inverted overprint on piece,
canceled January 15, 1898 at Debbeh.
(Royal Philatelic Society of London and
American Philatelic Society certificates.)

SYNOPSIS

SUDAN - USAGES OF THE PROVISIONAL OVERPRINTS OF 1897

The exhibit shows usages of all eight of the regular postage overprints of 1897, plus two due covers, a telegraph overprint usage, and an official SG puncture cover. (Unused stamps, overprint varieties, and reprints are not addressed.)

The Title Page gives a brief history of when and how this issue was used.

Most of the items in this exhibit are scarce to rare, or even unique in some respect. Unique usages or markings include the only known cover of this issue with U.S. postal markings (p 4), the only known Korti cancel of its kind (p 6), the only known 4p franking (p 11), the highest known franking (p 12), and the largest telegraph multiple (172 stamps) on a telegraph form (p 15). Other scarce items include an inverted overprint on the 5m (Title Page), due covers (pp 2, 14), a usage to Hungary (p 5), a full set on cover (p 13), underpaid covers (pp 2, 3), and a cover bearing both Sudan and Egypt dues (p 14).



Wadi Halfa to Alexandria, September 20, 1897, franked with a pair of 1m overprints (one with a 'smashed S') and a 1p postage due improperly used to pay postage. Back-stamped Alexandria September 24 and Military Post Office Alexandria September 27 (ex Charles F. Hass).



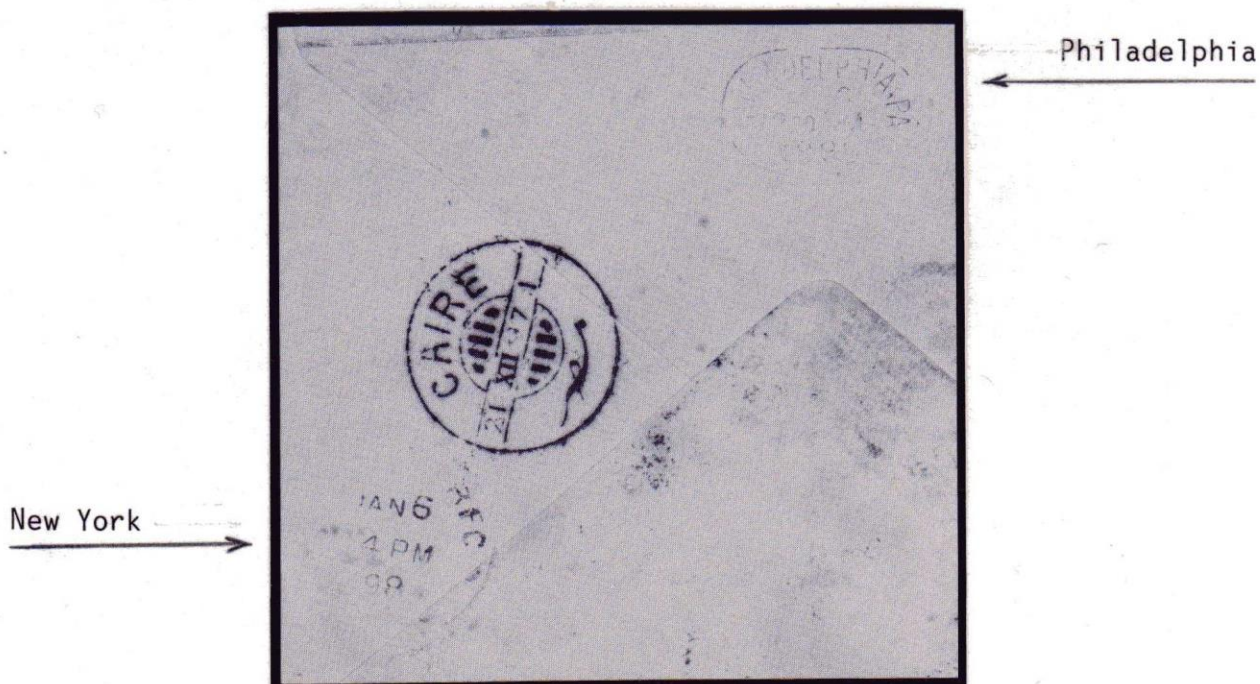


Abu Fatmah to Cairo, October 23, 1897; backstamped Halfa October 26 and Cairo November 2. Franked with a single Type I overprint 2m, underpaid 3m, marked 'T' for postage due, which was apparently never collected (ex Hass).





Wadi Halfa to Great Britain, December 14, 1897, via Cairo, December 21, to Surbiton Kingston-on-Thames, December 29. Great Britain stamp added, but not canceled. Redirected to Philadelphia by way of New York, January 6, 1898. Pairs of the 2m and 3m values pay the 1p rate. This is the only known provisional overprint cover with United States postal markings (below, ex Hass).

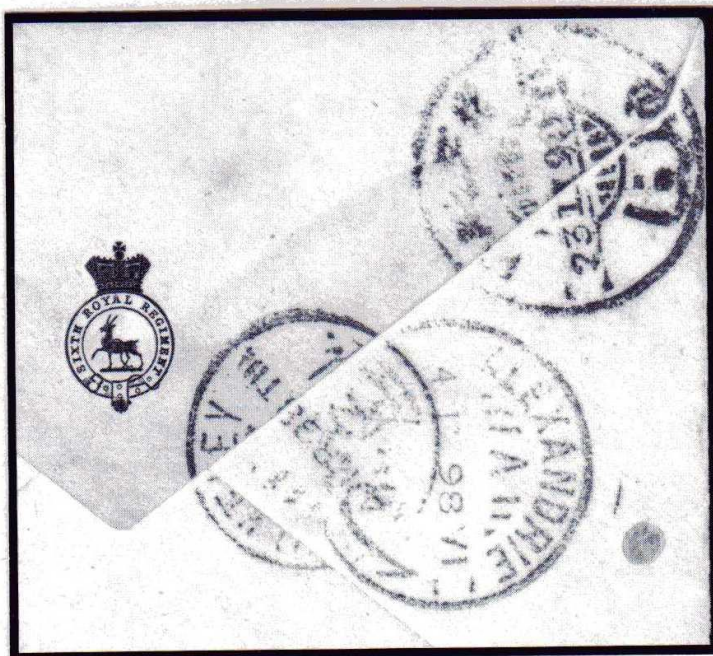


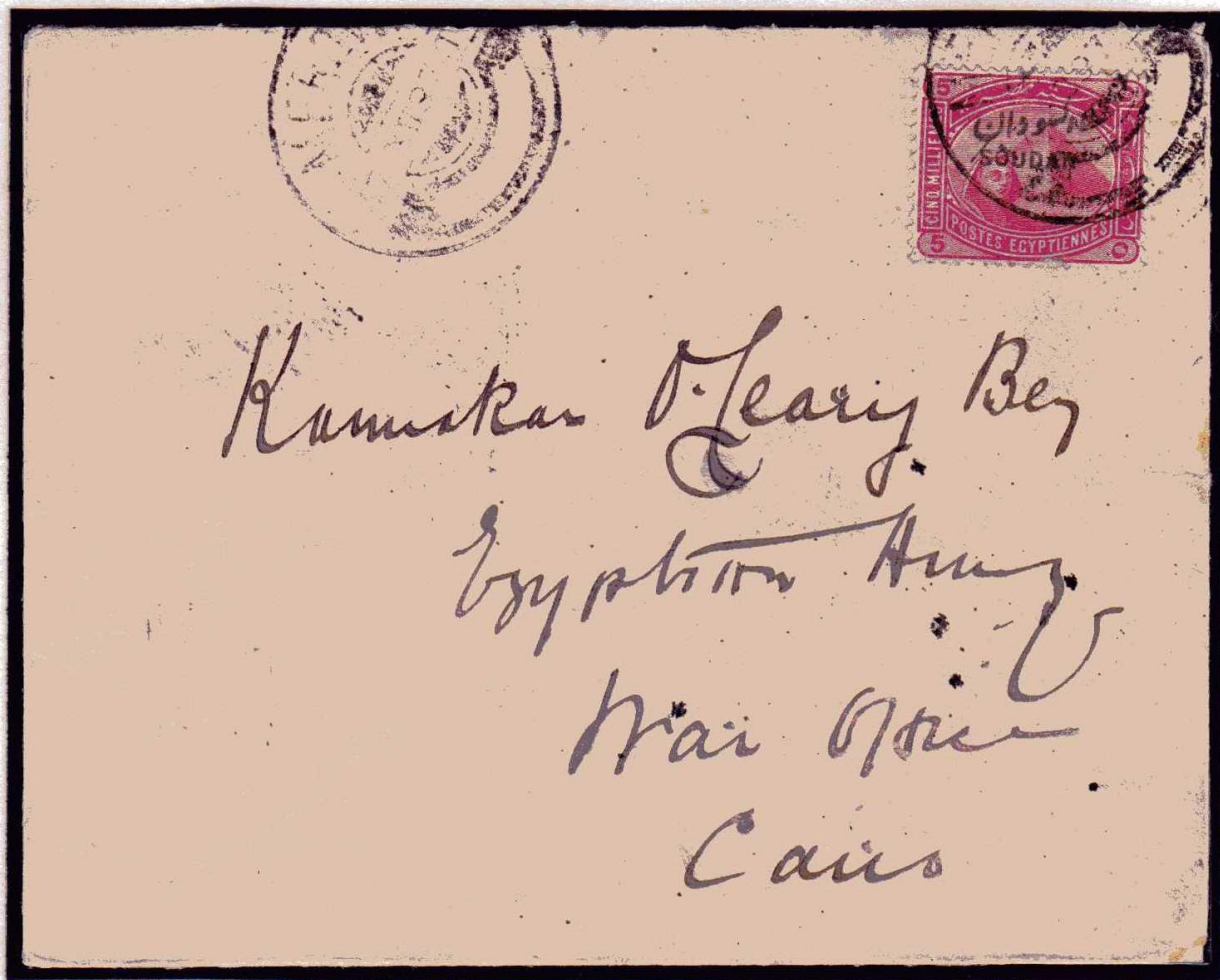


A 5m letter sheet uprated with 1m, 2m, and 3m adhesives. Sawakin to Hungary, January 23, 1898. (ex Hass)

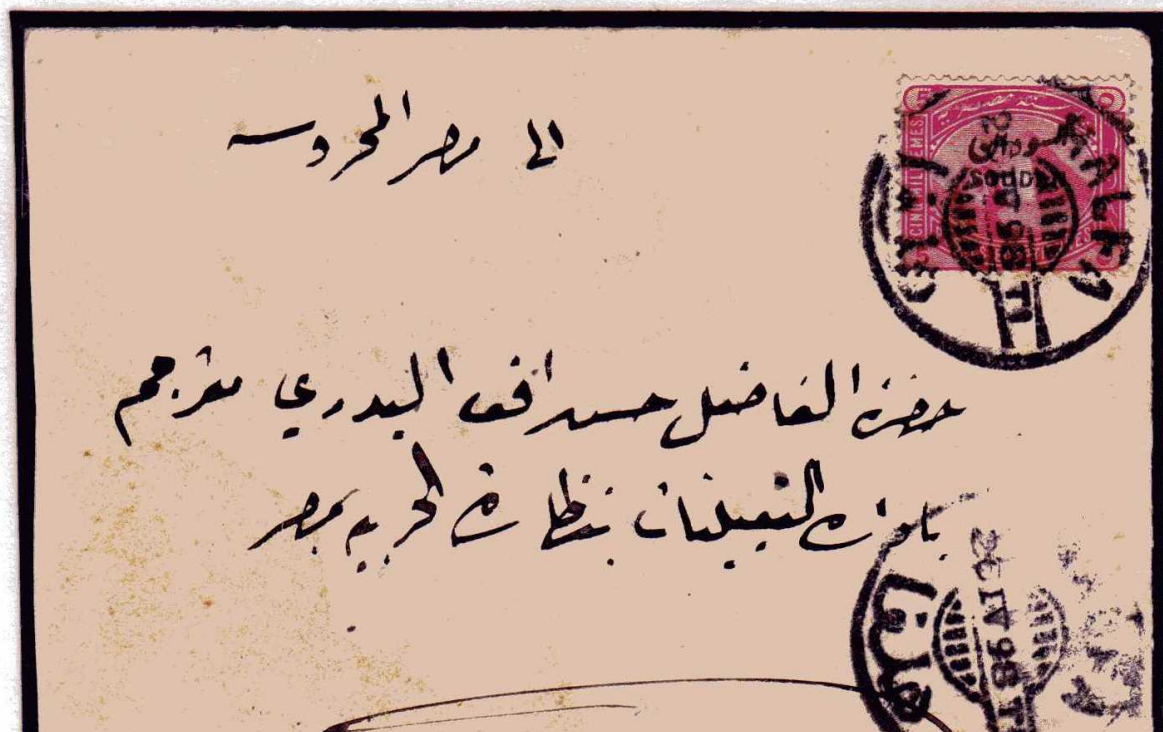


Korti to Alexandria, February 17, 1898, backstamped Halfa February 23, Alexandria March 4, and Bulkeley March 14. The basic 5m rate is paid with two stamps, believed to be the only cover with this postmark bearing the provisional over-print issue (ex Hass).





The 5m is most often seen, as this was the basic rate for local mail. Above, Merowi to Cairo, December 17, 1897, backstamped Wadi Halfa Camp December 20 and Cairo December 28 (ex Norton Collier). Below, a native cover, Wadi Halfa to Cairo, April 26, 1898, backstamped Cairo May 2 (ex Hass).



J. E. MORTIMER & C^o WADY HALFA (UPPER EGYPT)

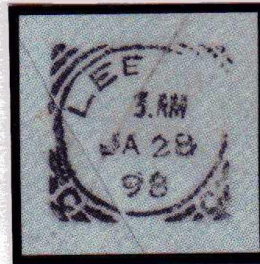
Angleterre



*J. C. Chadwick Esq
Morton Villa
Corkigan Road
Headingley
Yorkshire
Leeds*



Wadi Halfa to Leeds,
January 14, 1898, re-
ceived January 28.
Three stamps pay the
basic 1p rate.
(ex Hass)



VICTOR NAHMAN

فيكتور نمان بالاسكندرية

ALEXANDRIE - EGYPT

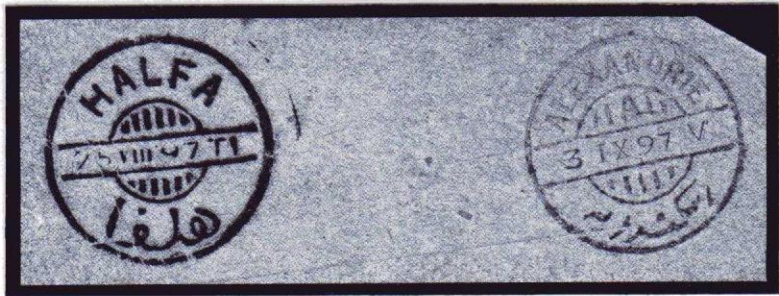


Victor Nahman



Alexandrie

Registered, Dongola to Alexandria, August 20, 1897, via Halfa August 25, received September 3. The five-color 2p 1m franking is overpaid by 1m if double weight or 6m if single weight (ex Hass).





Above, registered, Wadi Halfa to Alexandria, September 24, 1897, backstamped in Alexandria September 25; a five-color franking (ex Hass). Below, Wadi Halfa to Cairo, October 13, 1897, backstamped October 23. The 1p 9m rate is contrived (ex Collier).



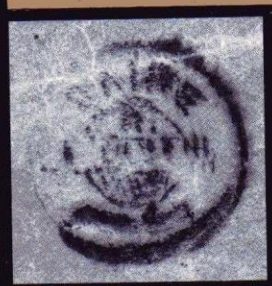


المحمول

صا الفاعل المحول



Soudan



Part of a wrapper from a heavy registered cover, Dongola to Cairo, November 20, 1897, received December 1. The unique 4p franking pays for registration, plus six times the basic postal rate (ex Hass).

Wadi Halfa to Alexandria,
registered, October 21,
1897 with 20 copies of
the 5m and 15 of the
5p for a total frank-
ing of 85p.



Surgeon-General A. F. Sloggett
Head Quarters
Alexandria.

Addressed to
a philatelist,
grossly overpaid,
backstamped Oct-
ober 36 (sic) in
Alexandria (ex
Hass).



J. E. MORTIMER & C^o WADY HALFA (UPPER EGYPT)

Registered letter



Captain Blenkinsop

*P. F. S.
Turf Club
Cairo*



Registered, Wadi Halfa to Cairo
November 30, 1897, received in
Cairo December 7. Overfranked
with a complete set of eight.
(ex Hass)



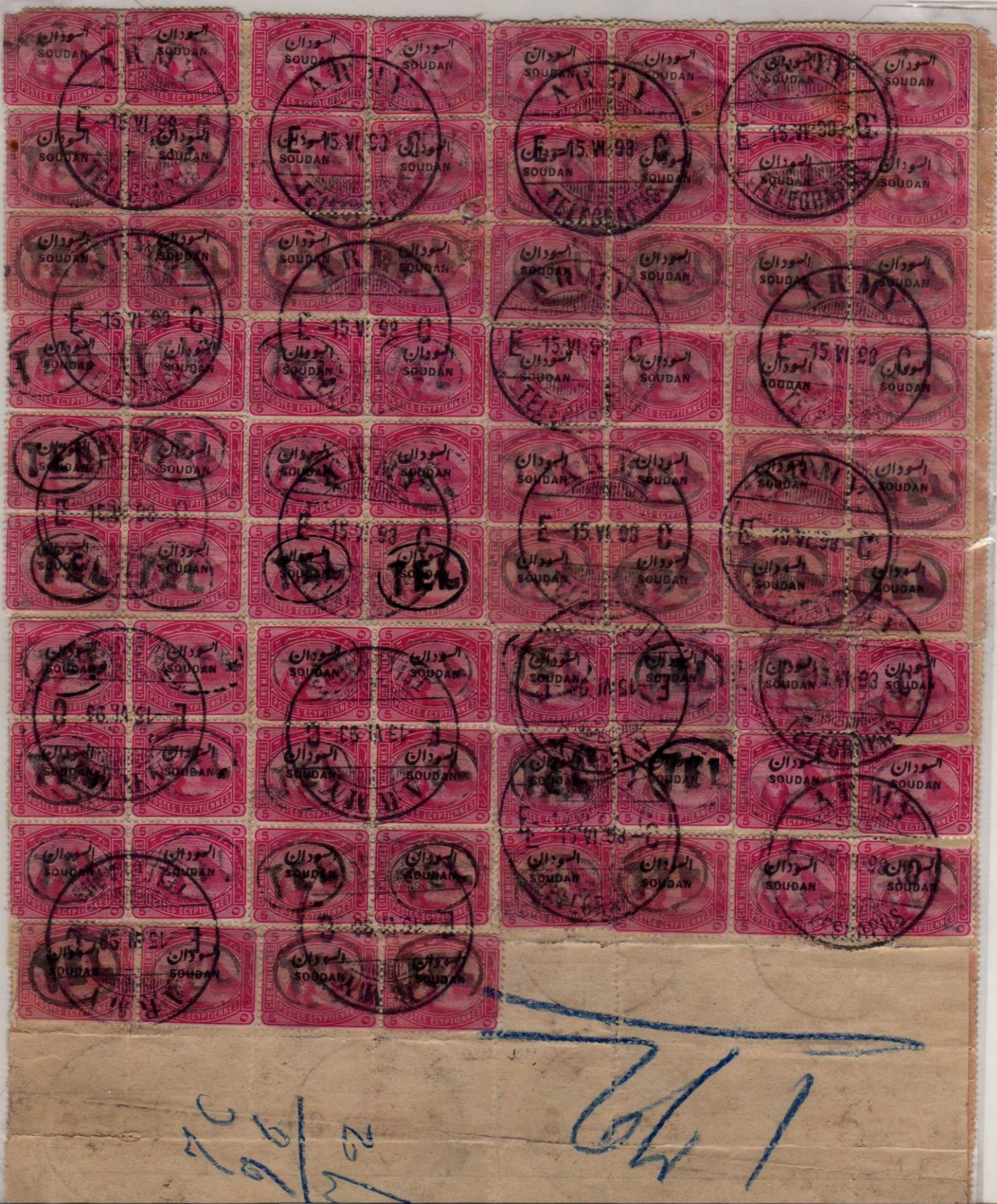
Egyptian postage due stamps were also overprinted for use in the Sudan.



Cairo to Merowi August 24, 1897, paid with Egyptian 1m stamp on the back (below), underpaid 4m, also stamped on front with boxed T for postage due. Received at Wadi Halfa Camp 'August 3' (should be August 30 or September 3) and returned to Cairo, where a pair of 4m due stamps were affixed September 7 to indicate twice the deficiency. Egyptian dues were nullified with a boxed T on the stamps and a Cairo September 9 strike on the front. Received September 17 at Wadi Halfa, two pairs of Sudan 2m dues were attached on the front, canceled September 19, thus paying twice the 4m deficiency (ex Hass).



In July of 1897 the basic overprints were further hand-overprinted TEL in an oval in blue and black for usage within the telegraph system.



Above, one side of a telegraph form franked with 172 stamps canceled June 15, 1898, with the Egyptian Corps cancel, as indicated by the E and C in the cancel (ex Hass).

In February, 1900 remainders of the 5m overprint were perfinned S.G. for official usage. Sheets were folded prior to being punctured, so the S.G. appears in various orientations. Covers are scarce. Shown, Berber to Cairo via Wadi Halfa, August 22, 1900, with S.G. perfin reversed, type V overprint.

Handwritten numbers and markings at the top of the envelope, including the number 7 and some illegible Arabic script.

كاتب بريد
السودان
بريد
البريد



The provisional overprints of 1897 were generally supplanted by the first camel postrider stamps of March 1, 1898 and were seldom seen after the turn of the Twentieth Century.