

The “neglected” stamps of Sudan - Postage Dues

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This image from an auction site on the internet, all other items to be shown are my own.

Issue 1 : March 1897

Same principal as the Provisional issue of the same date – current Egyptian stamps were overprinted in panes of 6 x 10.

The 4 values chosen (2m, 4m, 10m & 20m) were maintained for all future issues as well.



If you are can't afford/find full strips of each overprint type, individuals can be acquired by carefully examining the overprint.

Overprint Type 1				
Type 2				
Type 3				
Type 4				
Type 5				
Type 6				

Watermark contemporary
Egyptian.



In addition to a regular cancellation, sometimes a capitol "T" in a box was added somewhere on the letter, maybe on the actual stamps. [I'm not sure why that was necessary]



Often the correct values were not available so a Postage Due stamp would be bisected. Here are two examples (Shendi & Wad Medani) each adding up to 6 milliemes due - the tax for an unpaid local postcard or printed matter. [n.b. Wad Medani not listed in Stagg]. Note unusual vertical bisect on right hand example.



Issue 2 : 1901 January – 1926.

First “Gunboat” issue. Produced by De La Rue first on ordinary paper from 1901. Then in 1924 a print run on chalk-surface paper was produced for the first 3 values (but not 20m).

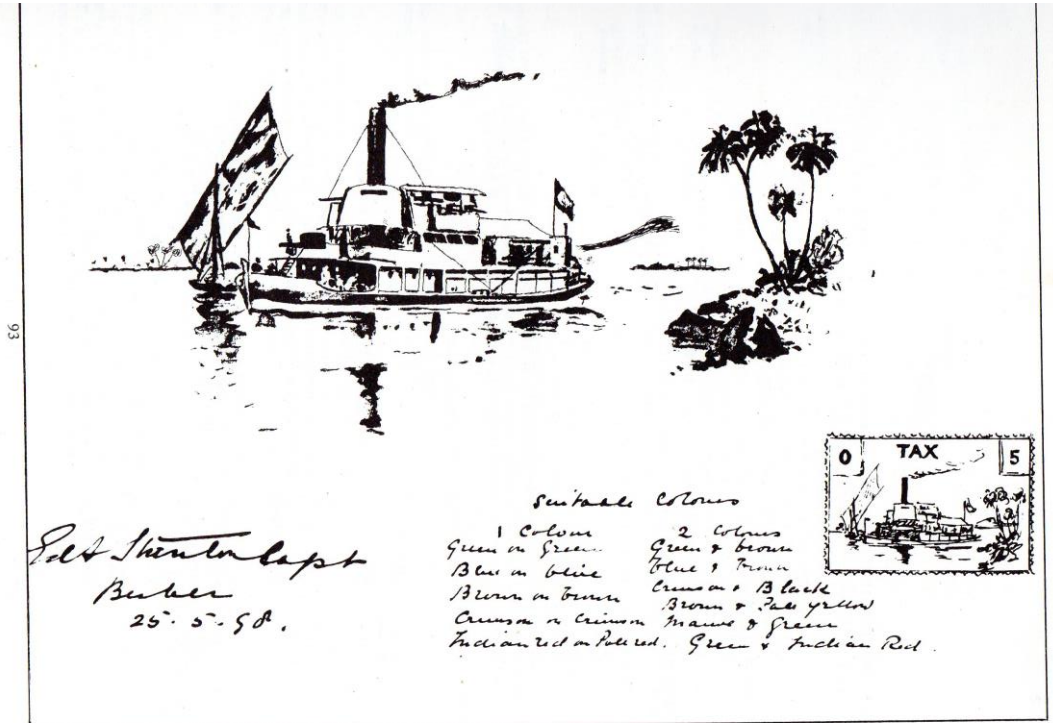


Watermark was the classic star & crescent used on many early Sudanese stamps, but seen sideways on this issue. However, a variety with upright watermarks is known on at least 2 of the values (though pretty rare).



Which gunboat?

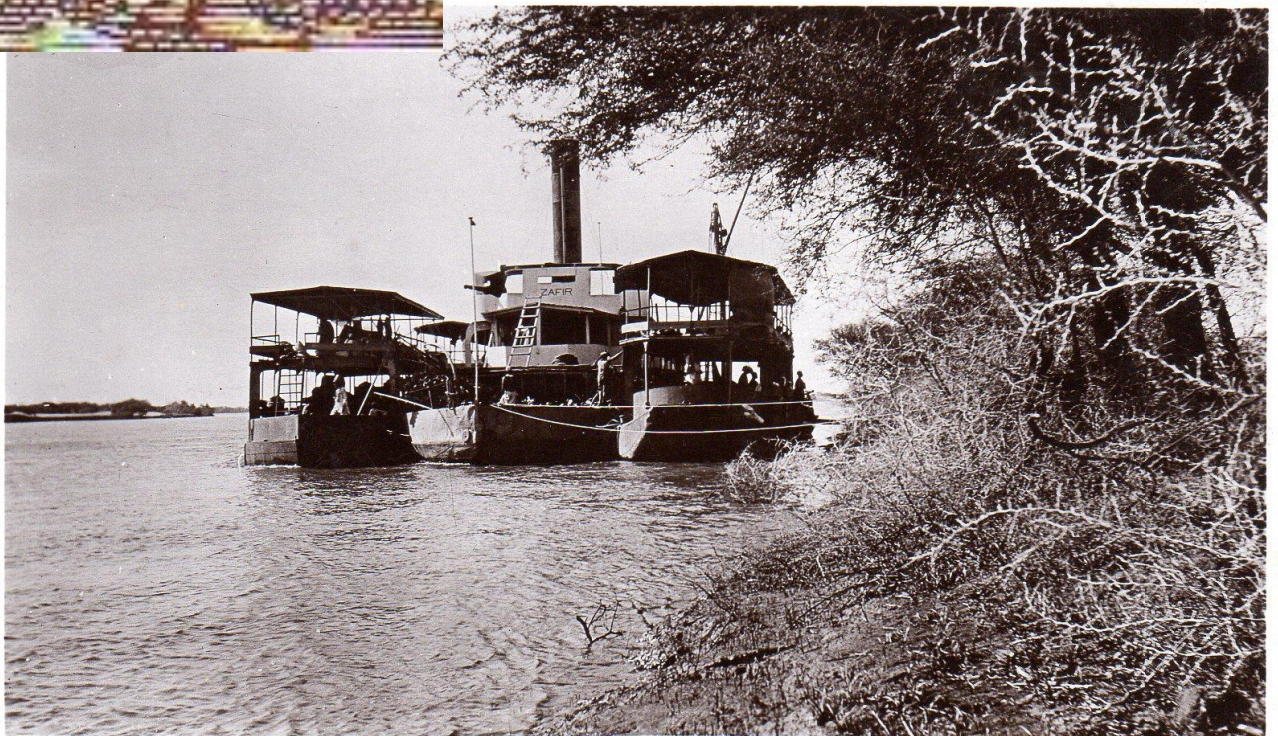
Stanton's proposed design, May 1898. Said to show the gunboat Zafir.



Original sketch by Captain (later Colonel) E. A. Stanton CMG.



El Zafir was a class of 3 boats: Zafir, Nasir & Fateh. Zafir launched 1896, but sank 28 Aug 1898 just before Battle of Omdurman, salvaged 1899, renovated in 1925.



More on bisects –the vast majority are on the Provisional issues - see Stagg for details. Stagg says only 2 places are known to produce bisects on First Gunboat issues – Omdurman (1901) & El Obeid (1904). Here are such examples:



This is a 4m bisected dated “?? XI 01”.
Not clear what a 2m tax would be for?



This example is a bisected 20m value dated “22 X 904”. The charge of 10m would be for an unstamped letter within Sudan.

The last recorded use of a bisect is late 1904.

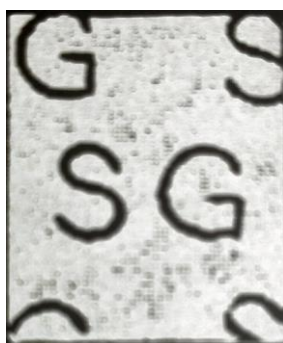
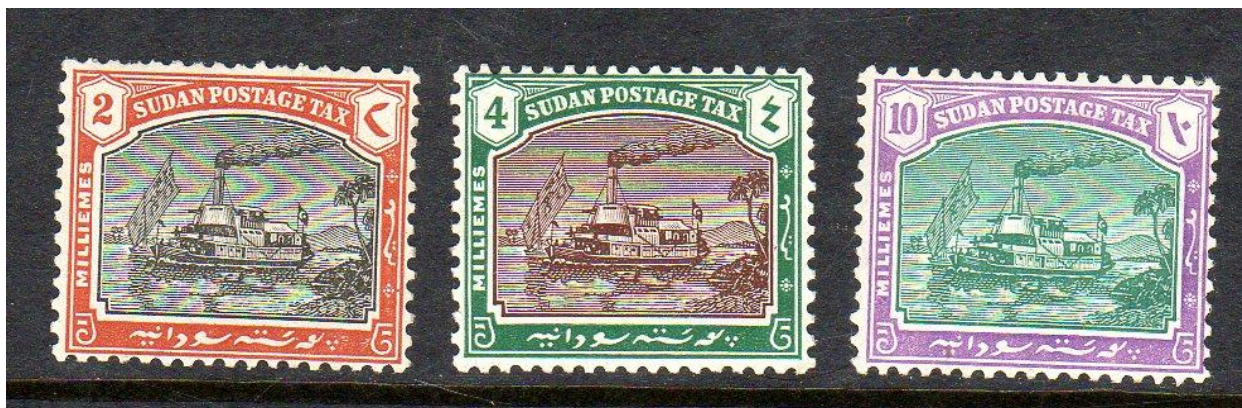
Cross-issue bisects are rare. This one used in Omdurman features 4m postage due stamps from both the Provisional issue & the first Gunboat issue.

- Dated “21 X 01” it suggests the postal clerk was using up the old stock just as the new issues were also becoming available.
- It shows two 4m stamps, one bisected, giving a total postage due of 6m. This would be the charge for an unstamped postcard within Sudan.



Issue 3 : 1927-30

Chalk surface paper + new SG watermark. Only 3 values produced this time (again, no 20m). No known bisects.



Only one catalogue variety: some 10m were printed on ordinary paper.



Issue 4 : 1948 – new Arabic inscription. All 4 values produced again. Same watermark (SG) as previous issue.



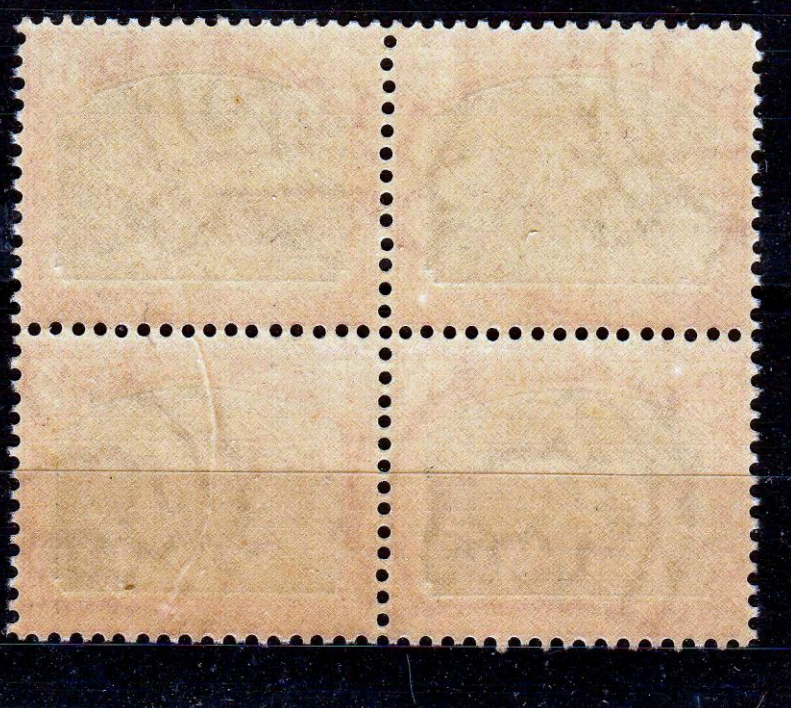
According to Stanley Gibbons this issue is the rarest of all four. They quote a catalogue value of £50 for a mint set, and £150 for a used set.

I do not know why these are thought to be so uncommon, nor why used examples are supposedly especially rare (I have quite a few of both, mint & used).

Did the post office simply stop using the specialist Postage Due stamps and just used the standard camel issue ones instead – with the “T” superimposed?



Issue 5 : 1979/1980 re-issue with new watermark. 10m and 20m only. Used examples are extremely scarce.



Forgeries exist!



Forged overprint. Cancel is Egyptian town Chandaouil = Shandawil. Ink in forgery gone violet.



Forged overprint. Cancel is an Egyptian inter-governmental cancel

Is this a genuine bisect (courtesy Bill Barclay on Facebook)?



Recommended reading:

- “Gunboat postage due stamps”
by Paul Grigg CP #71 (2005)
Article #542 in the CP archive
- “Sudan stamps & stationery”
Stagg pages 89-93.
- **NILE RIVER GUNBOATS
1882–1918**

