

1879. Provisional Issue.

The Bulaq 1874-75 2½pi value having become obsolete with the reduction in the rates due to the UPU, this value was overprinted in order to provide the more needed 5 para for Newspaper rate and the 10 para value for the Greetings or Card rate.

Unaccepted Essays for the Surcharge in red or black were not considered to be obvious enough and the eventual Surcharges were laid down on groups of ten vertical subjects by the Government Printing Works at Bulaq. Both perforation types, 12½ and 12½x13¼ were employed, the latter perforation being scarcer on both values.

The order for the De La Rue printed issue of 1879 and the accompanying Stationery Cards had already been placed and this issue was only ever perceived as temporary.

The stamps were issued on January 1st 1879, the De La Rue issue being released on April 1st 1879.



5pa. on 2½pi. violet. Perforated 12½.



10pa. on 2½pi. violet. Perforated 12½.

1879. The Provisional Issue.

10pa Tête-Bêche Pair.

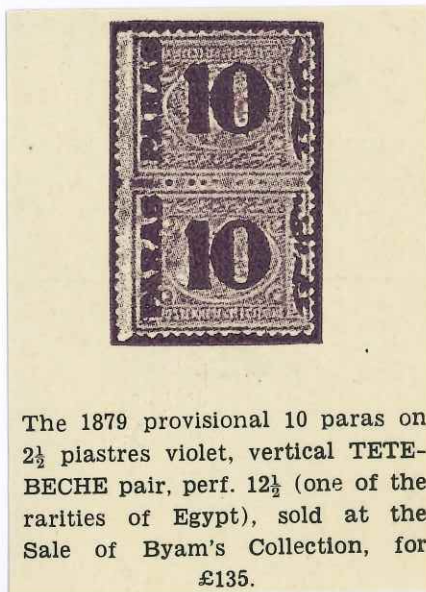
As on the previous issue, position 154 on the sheet of 200 was again inverted.



Vertical tête-bêche pair, perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$.

Ex the Dr.Byam collection, purchased on its disposal in 1962 by G.T.Houston.

*Believed to be the finest
of the ten or twelve pairs recorded,
with original 'blind' perforations.*



The 1879 provisional 10 paras on $2\frac{1}{2}$ piastres violet, vertical TETE-BECHE pair, perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ (one of the rarities of Egypt), sold at the Sale of Byam's Collection, for £135.

Contemporary cutting from 'Orient Philatelique' concerning the sale of the above pair.

Inverted Surcharges.

Both values and both perforation exist with surcharge inverted.



5pa. on 2½pi., perf 12½.



5pa. on 2½pi., perf 12½.
Alexandria January 30th 1879.



10pa. on 2½pi., perf 12½.



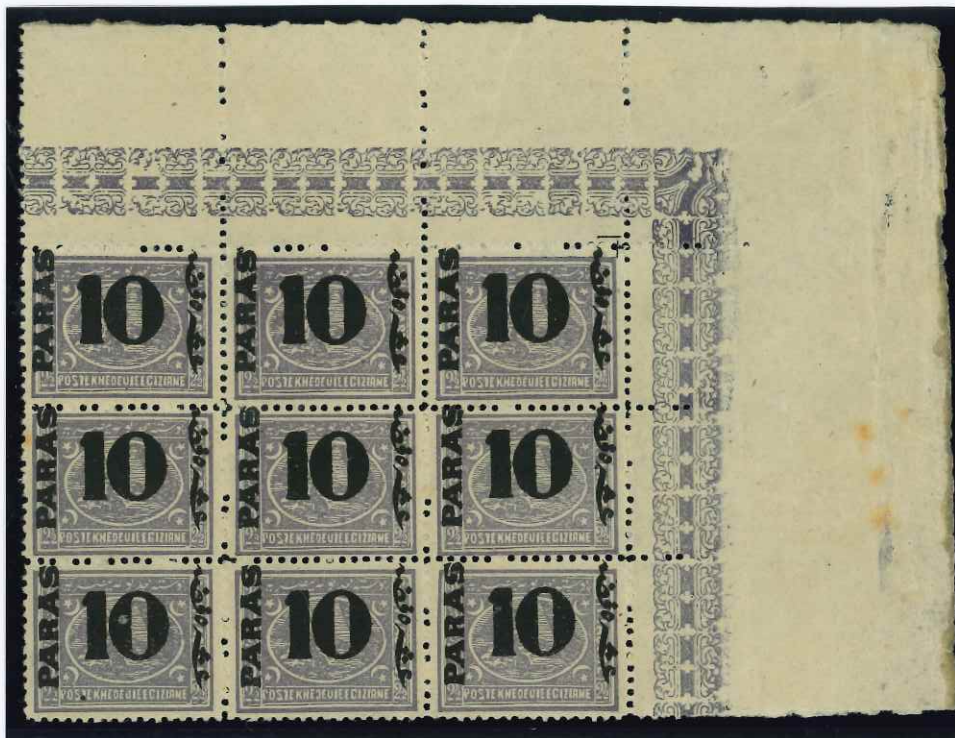
10pa. on 2½pi., perf 12½.
Mansura March 10th 1879.



Block of the 5pa. on 2½pi., perf 12½. Watermark inverted.
Note the blob on the figure '5' in surcharge on the lower left stamp,
probably caused by a perforation punch-hole adhering to the plate.

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10pa on 2½pi.



10pa. on 2½pi. violet to deep violet. Perforated 12½.

Two multiples, block of nine from upper right of sheet-note the un-inked blob in Surcharge '10' on lower left stamp, position 28 on sheet.

The block of four in the deeper shade shows the same flaw on the upper right stamp.

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5pa on 2½pi.

Perforated 12½x13¼.



Block of forty eight. This perforation is much scarcer than catalogues suggest, whilst Smith states 'this perforation is much less common on the surcharged stamps'.