THE INTERPOSTAL SEALS OF RAMLE, EGYPT

by Paul L Karting, Holland

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

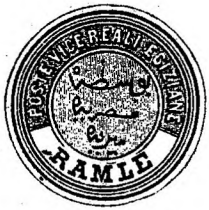
Fig. 3 

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

A few years ago I found some interpostal seals of RAMLE, and was surprised that the only such seal mentioned in Holy Land postal history was that of JAFFA (fig 1). In response to enquiries, it was stated that these seals were of RAMLEH, which is the eastern part of the city of Alexandria, Egypt.

Reference is made to articles by this writer, published in both the Dutch and Swiss/German society journals. The information that these seals related to RAMLEH Egypt, and not to Palestine, is by no means generally known. For example, in a recent well-known auction catalogue this description was given:- 'Ramle interpostal seal of the Egyptian Post Office in the Holy Land'.

In 1859 the Postal administration of Egypt was run by two Italians: Tito Chini and Giacomo Muzzi. They operated it on behalf of Posta Europa, who had been granted the concession in return for an annual payment to the Egyptian authorities.

A new contract was signed in 1862, for a further ten years, and this included the handling of official correspondence. The seals were introduced to distinguish between official and commercial mail.

To introduce these seals fully to collectors and auctioneers, a list of them may be useful.

According to A E Kehr's catalogue 'The Interpostal Seals of Egypt 1864-1892' there were 17 different interpostal seals used in Ramle(h).

Type 2, 1865/66 size 33½mm, No 31, Colours: bistre, flesh-white, pale-blue, magenta and brown. (fig 2) RAMLE

Type 4a, January 1868, size 39mm, No 141, Colours: bistre, dark-blue, magenta. (fig 3) RAMLE

Type 5, January 1871, size 39mm, No 168, colours: black on white paper, and black on bistre paper. (fig 4) RAMLE

Type 7, used between 1879-1880, size 39 to 39½mm, No 453, colour: vermillion (fig 5) RAMLEH

Type 8, size and colour as type 7, No 581, (Ramleh) Staz-Fleming, (Ramleh) Staz-Bulklely, and (Ramleh) Staz-Schutz.

Type 8a,1882, size and colour the same as type 8, only the inscription in the centre is different. No's 700, 701 and 702; Ramleh (station Bacos),Ramle (station Bulkley) and Ramleh (station Schutz).

Types 8 and 8a were used at railway stations.

It is hoped that collectors will now understand that the seals relating to RAMLE have no place in a Holy Land collection.

References: The Interpostals of Egypt 1864-1892 by Ernst A. Kehr 1962.
'Wo liegt Ramle ?' by P.L. Karting, Der Israel Philatelist No, 62, May 1978
'Waar ligt Ramle ?' by P.L. Karting, Nederland-Israel Philatelie No. 110

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