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E G Y P T _ S T U D Y _ C I R C L E

T H E _ Q U A R T E R L Y _ C I R C U L A R

Volume X Number 3

Whole Series No. 107

S e p t e m b e r _ 1 9 7 8

Principal Contents

More about Waghorn - F. Rowland Hill	pages 55-56
Covers from the Cairo Philatelic Office - S. A. Goudsmit	57-61
The 1884 Provisional 20 para / 5 piaster - P. A. S. Smith	62
New Issues - C. E. H. Defriez	63-66
Index to Volume IX - J. A. Grimmer	Supplement

Future Meetings

1978 October 14	"Beginners, Please"
December 9	World War 1 - F.W.Benians

Officers - 1978

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EGYPT. AIR MAIL. 1922.

TEHERAN - BAGHDAD - CAIRO.

OPERATED BY THE R.A.F., (FROM 1922 TO 12.1.27).

BY AIR MAIL BAGDAD - CAIRO

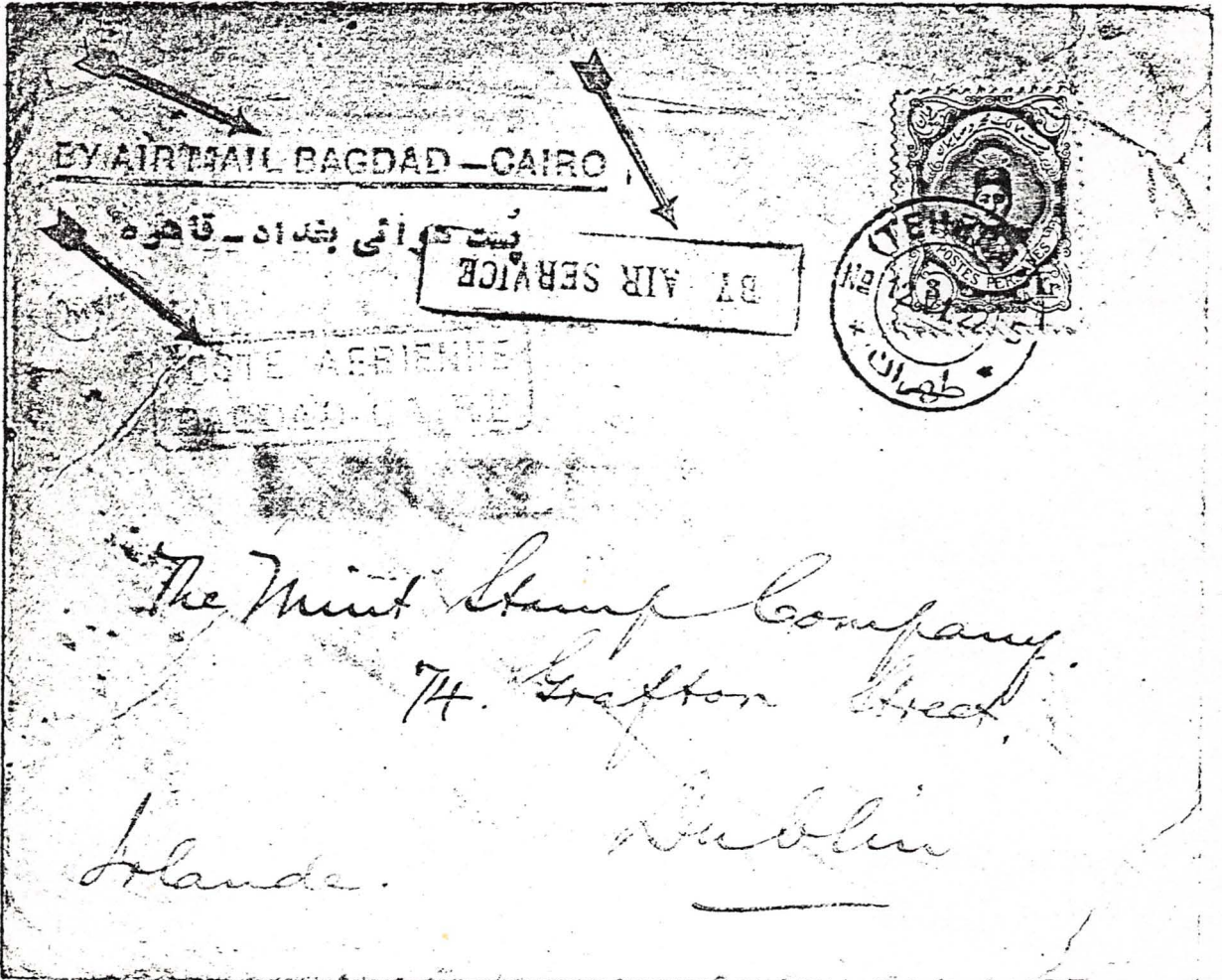
بست هوآنی بغداد - قاهره

BY AIR SERVICE

POSTE AERIENNE BAGDAD-CAIRE



Rate 3 Kv. (Adhesive re-fixed).



FROM TEHERAN N°5 (12.VI.22) via BAGHDAD G.P.O (IRAQ)(24 JUN.22) TO DUBLIN.

By way of replying to 'Question Time 1' in the June issue, John Firebrace (ESC 71) has kindly supplied the illustration above. It is a page from the late Charles Minett's Air Mail collection and his write-up indicates that the Teheran-Baghdad-Cairo route was operated by the R.A.F. from 1922 to 1927.

First an apology for the very bad illustration pages included with the June issue. These were done on a duplicator, using stencils cut electronically, which is usually very good for outline illustrations. Evidently the stencil machine was not working correctly and the stencils passed too much ink, causing smudging when the pages were taken off the duplicator. The three worst pages have since been reprinted by litho from the same originals and will you please use the three loose pages enclosed as replacements in your copy of the June Issue. This standard of illustration printing will be maintained in future.

Second, another apology ! Despite what your Editor believed was careful checking, there were errors in printing Tony Schmidt's contribution in the June Issue: "Interpostals as Reported in 1867/68". Also enclosed with this Issue is a Correction Slip which please affix to page 43.

On the subject of production of the "Q.C.", this Issue brings another change and it is hoped you will agree that this is a substantial improvement. While ESC is devoted to the study of Egypt philately, there are a number of humdrum administrative tasks which must necessarily be done, but which involve a small number of people in work not in the least related to stamp collecting and study. Every so often, this Circle (and no doubt other bodies) benefits enormously because of an individual who can do something for us. One such is Ken Davis (ESC 148) who is able to have these pages printed by offset-litho at a charge to ESC of the cost of materials only. Thanks to Ken, we are going to have a better printing at a lower cost . . . what can YOU do to help ESC ?

Despite the impression which may have been given by the illustrations in the June Issue, there has been, in this Editor's short experience, a very big intake of Members' contributions - no fewer than 15 Members have contributed to this Issue. Much of the material is in very short form, which is ideal for widening the coverage of our chosen country. Thank you, Members - and please keep it up !

What of Members who have not contributed during the past two years ? Or who have not yet contributed at all ? You can see, from the content of this Issue, how important it is to have even very short items - surely you can supply one or two such items each year ?

What of Members who are relatively inexperienced in Egypt philately ? You have shown good sense in joining ESC - surely it will make even better sense to put the many queries you must have to the other Members in "Question Time" ?

All good things come to an end . . . Peter Smith has had to return to U.S.A. His stay in London has provided UK Members of ESC with contact with an extraordinarily knowledgeable man.

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REPORT of MEETINGS of the EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE held at "The Peacock", Maiden Lane, W.C.2.

176th Meeting, held 10 June 1978

The Meeting was attended by the President, Professor P.A.S.Smith, the Chairman, Mr J. Sears, and Messrs Abou-Alam, P.Andrews, F.W.Benians, D.H.Clarke, M.Dorman, C.E.H.Defriez, J.A.Grimmer, J.S.Horesh, A.Schmidt and P.E.Whetter.

Mr J.S.Horesh presented a report by Major E.L.G.MacArthur who regrettably has having hospital treatment for eyesight. Members expressed sympathy and hoped to see him at Meetings regularly again before too long. "Mac" had received a submission for the Expert Committee, being perforated and imperforate pairs of the 1914 4-mills, having the 'wide' watermark (Revell Type II). It was confirmed that this was the Type II and not an intermediate type between this and Type I (narrow). "Mac" considered these to be proofs and had found that all watermarked proofs had the Type II watermarks. Also shown was the 1914 5-mill Type II (wide) watermark, inverted, used, in Mac's collection: this was the only known copy and had been expertised by ESC on 17 April 1972, Certificate 176.

Mr P.E.Whetter showed a pane and some multiples of the 1914 DLR 10-mills, blue, plate 2, which had Type II watermark inverted.

The main feature of the afternoon was a talk by Mr A.Schmidt on Interpostals, and this was a tour de force. He set the scale of the subject by drawing attention to the fact that there were, effectively, 26 different issues, some with up to 100 town names and

REPORTS of MEETINGS - continued

were in use for 25-30 years. This was equivalent to the task of reviewing all the regular stamp issues of a major country. He distinguished a number of different usages of IP's including by Post Offices, official use and registration. Of the Postal Regulations, only 3 referred to Interpostals, so that information as to the subject was not easy to find. He believed that 99% of IP's were used within the Post Office, so that use otherwise was scarce and surviving covers are very rare. He hoped to do a report for the Q.C. in due time, but was not ready yet.

The Meeting concluded with a short display by the President of Egypt used in the Sudan.

177th Meeting, held 12 August 1978

The Meeting, which dealt mainly with administrative matters, was attended by the President, Professor P.A.S. Smith, the Chairman, Mr J. Sears, Dr Kleinstock and Messrs P. Andrews, F.W. Benians, B. Blow, D.H. Clarke, G.P. Green, J.A. Grimmer, J.S. Horesh, A. Schmidt and P.E. Whetter.

The Chairman welcomed Dr Kleinstock whose specialities were 1st and 2nd Issues, Used Abroad, Controls and Foreign P.O.'s in Egypt. He had been fortunate enough to acquire a collection which had formed the basis of the illustrations in the Zeheri catalogue.

Professor Peter Smith reported that L'Orient Philatelique Number 129 had been issued, and the main content was the article by Ibrahim Chaftar on the 5-paras 1879 Joined Characters Flaw, and many pages of New Issues.

The President reported a variety found on 1922 Crown Overprint on Harrison 4-mills; the variety is on the underlying stamp but has been seen only on the overprinted stamps so far. The Arabic figure '4' at top right, together with its square, has been clumsily repaired. Mr J.A. Grimmer produced other copies and it appeared that there could be two states, one with more damage. There was repair also to the top of the right-hand panel. This variety was found to be No. 79 in the lower pane; there was no sign of damage to neighbouring stamps, nor to the same stamp in the upper pane.

Another discovery reported by the President was that the essay in red of the Monarchy overprint on the 1 and 15-mill values showed two kinds. The differences included shade and depth of impression.

The Chairman produced papers from the Brigadier Rawson collection of World War 2 FPO's which had been kindly lent by Mr J.A. Firebrace. The papers consisted of a list of the FPO's (the first such list to have been seen) plus a map of the postal organisation. Mr F.W. Benians, who had drawn up a map on theoretical grounds for his book on E.P.P.'s, expressed pleasure in finding proof that his assumptions were correct. The matter of the "Secret" classification was discussed and, subject to clearance as to this, it was thought that the material was very suitable for publication.

The President showed a cover of the Egyptian Army (not the British Army) of WW2 with censor mark and censor seal label. He also showed a slogan-type EPP on a letter sent to USA which appears to have been missorted, going to the wrong censor. Mr F.W. Benians identified this as the 'missing circle' variety.

The President also showed a SUEZ Ambulant mark, with Crescent and Star. This was an instance of a single town-name, and appeared to be used to or from a place where only a small amount of Egypt mail was likely. Peter Smith suggested that it may have been sorted on board a tender stationed at Suez which would then transfer to a steamer with that destination. The mark was known only as a transit mark and not as a cancel. The English-language form of Ambulant is T.P.O. and this, with a single town-name, would have the same use. He appealed for Xerox copies of any similar single-town Ambulant or TPO marks in the possession of Members, so that he could study further.

Mr J.S. Horesh produced material in reply to "Question Time 1" (reproduced - Editor).

Mr F.W. Benians suggested that ESC should have a summer meeting out of town. After discussion, the Chairman said that he would write to provincial members as to this.

The President spoke of his visit to Cairo, where he attended a meeting of the P.S. of Egypt. They were wishful of producing a new Zeheri Catalogue, and had cash and paper stock. There were difficulties, chiefly that no printer in Egypt was able to type-set in English and currency regulations prevented this work from being done abroad.

In the March 1977 issue of the Q.C. I published some articles about Waghorn, hoping to get a study going again, or at least to receive some comments. Alas, the replies to these were but two in number, one simply confirming some items in the supplementary list of covers. Mr Rudi Jeidel, however, did raise the matter of the deadness of the Persian Gulf duck, putting forward the difficult question: 'If there was mail by that route, where are the letters?'. Where indeed? However I submit here the chaotic story of the mails in July 1840, and hope that I may receive some comments, however pungent, on my interpretation of this matter.

As a reminder of the theoretical procedure we should have the following: Departures from Bombay on 1st June (BERENICE) and 1st July (ATALANTA); Arrivals at Suez about 17th of the month, Departures from Alexandria about 24th (R.N. vessel) and arrival in London about 10th, some 40 days in all. Not that there is any evidence that it ever happened despite Waghorn's claims of average times of 35 days.

Now observe the difference between theory and practice :-

26 June 1840

. . . list of passengers arrival at Suez on 15th inst per BERENICE from Bombay.

6 July 1840

This informs you that letters via Suez from Bombay on 1st June through this Agency will probably reach you on 2nd prox. several days before Govt. mails by same opportunity. We have taken necessary precautions to that effect should the Steamer arrive at Suez on or before the morning of the 15th inst in which case we will despatch all letters for merchants by that medium under cover through the French Post Office.

16 July 1840

We greatly fear that notwithstanding our arrangements to forward the mails from Bombay up to 1st June will be foiled through the non-arrival of the Steamer at Suez at the time we expected, the 14th or 15th. This is rather vexatious as we have taken every precaution to have it despatched on the 17th or 18th per French Steamer. The French Consul General through our persuasions had agreed to detain the Steamer until the morning of the 18th should we have had intelligence of the arrival of the mails at Suez, which we have not yet received, consequently they will proceed with the Govt. mail by the English Steamer along with the mail via Persian Gulph on the 26th or 27th inst.

16 July 1840

The ALECTO came in this evening . . .
17th. The French Steamer waits till 4 o'Clock pm, if no news arrive till that hour, she starts; the ALECTO for Beyrout tomorrow morning the 18th when she is to wait until 25th when if no mails from Bombay arrives she returns to Alex and proceeds to Marseilles with the mails from Bombay up to 1st June via Suez which will not fail to be down here on her return. Capt. Freind's Schooner has orders to remain at Beyrout for the Mails via Persian Gulph in case they should not be in time for the departure of the ALECTO on 25th inst. If the ALECTO does not bring the Mails via Persian, immediately on the arrival of the Schooner ours shall be forwarded by the first French Steamer.

26 July 1840

The . . . enclosed . . . arrived from India on 24th inst via Suez.
. . . the non-arrival of any letter or Newspapers to our care per Mail from India via Persian Gulph arrived from Beyrout on 23rd July by ALECTO. Neither did parties here who expected receiving letters as usual from India by that opportunity. However we wrote to Mr Zammit* to get our mail by that opportunity from the quarantine & furnished him with a procuracy for the purpose giving him the necessary instructions about making up all letters for Firms in England in a Packet & to forward them to Marseilles per PROMETHEUS with strict instructions to pursue the same plan with said packet as that with last month's India Mails . . . the utmost exertions were used on our part to convince the official authorities here of the propriety of opening those mail bags which had no address on them, and which no doubt contained our letters & those for Alexandria Merchants. However these bright geniuses were not to be convinced & preferred letting the letters for Alex go forward to be returned to us in some two months hence in preference to taking the trouble of untying a few bags.

* Mr Zammit - Waghorn's agent in Malta.

(26 July 1840)

Mails via Suez with dates from Bombay up to 1st June have arrived here from Tor where the ZENOBIA that brought them from Aden is now repairing her engines, and go forward by this opportunity. We have received only some 30 letters by her, which considering their being 22 days older than those by Gulph per ALECTO we forward by ordinary routine via Marseilles.

The Mails of the 4th from London were forwarded from Suez on 22nd inst per PALINURUS Brig-of-War to Aden, the ZENOBIA is to wait at Suez for August Mails. The Mails of 1st June were conveyed to Aden per CONSTANCE Schooner.

5 Nov 1840

In answer to yours of 15th Octbr, the complaints about Parcels are not our fault. The vessel stationed in the red sea broke down and did not go her proper trips so what with that & with the monsoon Parcels from May to July were much delayed.

QUESTIONS

What was BERENICE up to? She made Suez on 15th June, which must mean that she left Bombay before 1st, her proper time, and did not have the mails with her. What was expected about 15th July? Possibly ZENOBIA, which would be delayed unexpectedly by being required for active service at Aden, where an Arab attack took place on 9th July but, even so, since the 1st June mails were even then 45 days en route, the scheme for speeding them up seems a bit pointless. It may be noted that nobody was more vociferous about delays to the French ships than Waghorn, yet here is his agent happily holding them up.

When did PALINURUS arrive at Suez, and what, if anything did she bring? Possibly 'the enclosed', though as this did not reach Alex till 24th and PALINURUS was away back to Aden by 22nd, this looks unlikely.

Why was ZENOBIA to await the August mails and take them only as far as Aden, where, presumably, they would have to take pot luck? It was BERENICE'S job. The Red Sea breakdown in May and the monsoon surely doesn't explain all this. It looks as if this would entice people to use the Persian Gulf route, which clearly was there to be used, even if idiocy at Alexandria could cause even more chaos.

This route had been in use, on and off (rather more off) since Alexander's day. The trouble was that it was near the Persian-Ottoman border, and since there was a semi-permanent sort of war between them, the borders were highly infested by bandits (or patriots, in modern parlance). In 1837 Col. Chesney led an expedition to investigate this route, but little seems to have emerged from it to give any encouragement to use it. Still, everybody expected to get letters in Alexandria, and ALECTO went to Beyrout specially to fetch them. I would expect Waghorn letters to carry Type 1 handstamps cachets CARE of MR WAGHORN, ALEXANDRIA, as this would be the address in Egypt for letters through his agency coming by the Persian Gulf. The only extant letter with this cachet dates back to 1836 and carries no other handstamp, but since there was a contemporary Cosseir cachet in the hands of the same agent in Calcutta, the implication is surely that the Type 1 is a direction to go by the Gulf. This absence of handstamps by that route may be a reason for the apparent absence of letters remarked by Mr Jeidel - but the survival rate of any letters is a small one, and even if the route was used, it would probably only be during the S.W. monsoon period, so the number of letters would be only of the order of a quarter of those by the Red Sea at best, and probably a good deal less.

Finally, a word about ALECTO. She was the crack frigate of her day, and, since she was due to leave Marseilles on the 9th, she made Alexandria in 7 days, which was remarkable going for the time. Alas, by 1845 she was obsolete, for she was a paddler, and by then the screw had come into use. She was the ship chosen for the famous trials with the screw-steamer RATTLER, and she lost heavily; in the tug-of-war she was towed backwards at 2.8 knots when steaming full ahead.

If anybody is interested or, even better, infuriated, by all this please write to me at 12 Cranford Avenue, Whitefield, Manchester M25 7SJ. It would encourage me to feel that it was worth while trying to get things going on the subject.

F. Rowland Hill

COVERS from the CAIRO PHILATELIC OFFICE

by S. A. Goudsmit, O.B.E., Ph.D. (ESC 180)

Over the last dozen years I have amassed (I don't want to say collected) a sizeable number of official envelopes from the Cairo Philatelic Office. A short note describing the various types may be of some value to those interested in postal history. Most of these envelopes contained the pamphlets announcing new issues. These too have gone through an evolution about which I plan to report later. Since the contents of these covers was often heavier and smaller than the envelopes themselves, they were generally received in rather poor condition with corners wrinkled and even torn. An address label was attached with excess glue which also did not improve the appearance.

Two major types of covers have been used so far, first the standard thin airmail envelope and later a larger and heavier white cover. The printed text on them has changed in time and also shows minor variations. In the following descriptions the given dates are those first appearing on the covers in my possession, and are merely intended as a guide, they are not necessarily the first date of use.

I hope that readers can complete and correct my preliminary account.

Covers

- 1 Light blue thin airmail envelope (107 x 239) with red, white and blue border. The upper left corner has "United Arab Republic, Postal Authority, Philatelic Office, Cairo" in four typographed lines. The same appears in Arabic in the right corner (1.6.65).
- 1a,b The same as No. 1 but with a dash under the inscriptions. No dot after "Cairo". Narrow (a) and wide (b) spacing of "Cairo" (a: 30.5.66; b: 26.6.67).
- 1c Same as No. 1, but no dot after "Cairo" (5.12.66).
- 2 Similar airmail cover, but without colored border. An extra line is inserted United Arab Republic reading "Egyptian Region". A short dash appears under the inscriptions (2.9.65).
- 3 Cover like No. 1 but without colored border (14.12.65). A dot is printed after "Cairo".
- 3a Similar to No. 3, but with a dash under the inscriptions. No dot after "Cairo" (15.5.66).
- 3b Similar to No. 3, no dot after "Cairo", no dashes under the inscription (15.8.66).
- 4 Large white envelope (149 x 196 mm). Corner inscriptions similar to those on No. 1c lithographed in blue, the Arabic is more cursive. Also a box with "By Airmail, Par Avion" (29.1.68).
- 5 A fine black printing of "United Arab Republic" as on No. 1a, but with a different typographical style for the second line in the Arabic text. "By Airmail, Par Avion" in a small box. (2.11.75, the same date as No. 6b).
- 6 Same envelope as No. 4 but typographed and with text changed to "Arab Republic of Egypt". "Postal Authority" is replaced by "Postal Organization", which is a more correct translation of the Arabic. A dash appears under the inscriptions (24.12.73). Note that the change to "Arab Republic of Egypt" occurred on postage stamps on 28.9.71. Thus earlier covers may have escaped my attention. However, "United Arab Republic" covers are still used later from time to time. The color varies from blue to almost black. There are also variations in the paper quality.
- 6a The same as No. 6 but shorter Arabic lines and a shorter dash. (7.5 instead of 12.5 mm). (13.5.76).
- 6b The same as No. 6 but the dash under the English inscription is missing (2.11.75).
- 7 A new black and occasionally blue printing of No. 6 with the Arabic inscription in a different style (9.3.77). Variations in the paper quality occur.
- 7a The same as No. 7 but the dash under the English inscription is missing. (24.8.77).
- 8 A different size white cover (112 x 239 mm) inscribed "A. R. Egypt, Postal Authority, Philatelic Office, Cairo". The Arabic inscription is similar to No. 5.

Exceptions: Coarse brown covers of the same size as No. 4 have been used with an Arabic inscription at the top center, reading "United Arab Republic, Ministry of Communications, Postal Organization". A handstamp in English only reads "U.A.R. Postal Authority, Philatelic Office, Cairo" and a small handstamp has "Air Mail". (2.12.67; 8.11.67 and 11.1.68). A smaller version of this envelope was used on 7.10.69.

Cancels and handstamps

The covers carry a machine cancel, applied to the bottom of the envelopes, showing the date and "Cairo, Philatelic Office" in Arabic and English.

A boxed slogan "Welcome to the U. A. R." was added (15.5.66) and later changed to "Welcome to Egypt" (18.12.72).

The earlier envelopes have a circular handstamp in Arabic, reading "Mail Inspection" and a number, from the currency export control authorities. Some envelopes have the four corners clipped off for this purpose (20.11.65; 14.12.65 and 20.1.66). Currency control was discontinued near the end of 1972.

The envelopes also carry a small handstamp with T. P. (Taxe perçue) and a dotted line in a box. Initials or a name are inscribed in this in Latin script, not in Arabic, but nevertheless hard to read.

Occasionally a large size cancel from the philatelic office appears. On one envelope the machine cancel gives 20.16.65, the hand cancel 26.10.65. A few envelopes also show a handstamp with "Printed Matter" in a box.

Names

Lastly, a few remarks about the "postmasters" whose signatures appear in the TP boxes. The number of different ones is limited and it is unfortunate that they are only partly decipherable. Here follows the probable first and last dates of appearance for a few names, but I do not guarantee that I read them correctly. By far the most frequent signature is the one I read as "Azhar".

" J "	1.6.65 to 12.6.67
"Cl "	20.10.65 to 18.4.70
"Zenb"	2.12.67 to 16.5.76
"Azhar"	24.12.73 to present
"Fadil"	20.6.74 to present
"Laurice"	24.11.76 to present

About five more names occur only once, and "Samie" appears five times between 21.11.76 and 20.4.77. It would be nice to obtain some more information about these people and their function. One cover, dated 14.9.65 (type 1) happens to be without TP box.

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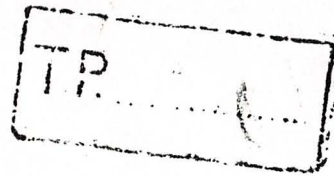
SOME RECENT ENCOUNTERS with FORGERIES and FAKES - by P. A. S. Smith

1879 Provisionals. Forgeries of inverted and misplaced surcharges on this issue have been known for a long time. There are at least two types of forgery, probably more. Just a few years ago, George Houston, a long-time member of the Circle, noted that the catalogue value of the tete beche variety of the 5 para/2 $\frac{1}{2}$ pt. had risen sharply, such that this variety had become the most valuable catalogued item of Egypt. He remarked that the difference in value between the tete beche of the basic stamp and that of the overprint had become large enough to attract the attention of forgers, and predicted that forged surcharges on genuine tete beche pairs might soon be found on the market. Well, it has happened. I was recently shown, in a dealer's reference collection, a vertical tete beche pair with a forged 5 para surcharge. It was well done, but readily recognizable to the alerted collector by the shape of the flag of the 5, the under side of which differs clearly from the genuine. The forged surcharge was apparently made from a plate of several subjects, for the edge of an adjacent surcharge could be seen on the right margin. The alignment of the surcharges was tilted slightly from the vertical, incidentally, a feature rarely, if ever, seen on the genuine.

This item bore on the back the guarantee marks of two experts (?). Perhaps they were placed there before the forged surcharge was applied, or perhaps they, too, were forged. In any event, I would never put any faith in a guarantee mark; they are easily forged and are often wrong.

** Peter Smith will encounter some more forgeries and fakes in our next issue.

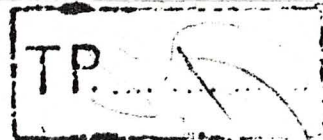
UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC
POSTAL AUTHORITY
PHILATELIC OFFICE
CAIRO



No. 3a

الجمهورية العربية المتحدة
هيئة البريد
مكتب خدمة هواة الطوابع
القاهرة

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC
EGYPTIAN REGION
POSTAL AUTHORITY
PHILATELIC OFFICE
CAIRO

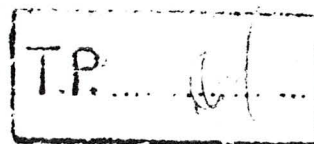


No. 2

الجمهورية العربية المتحدة
الإقليم المصري
هيئة البريد
مكتب خدمة هواة الطوابع
القاهرة

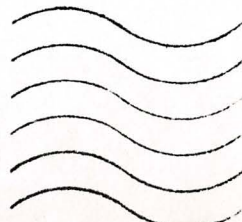
55 B.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC
POSTAL AUTHORITY
PHILATELIC OFFICE
CAIRO



الجمهورية العربية المتحدة
هيئة البريد
مكتب خدمة هواة الطوابع
القاهرة

DR. S. A. GOUDSMITH
DPT. OF PHYSICS
BROOKHAVEN NAT'L LAB. ; UPTON N.Y.
J. S.



No. 1

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC
POSTAL AUTHORITY
PHILATELIC OFFICE
CAIRO

TP al

الجمهورية العربية المتحدة
هيئة البريد
مكتب خدمة هواة الطوابع
القاهرة

No. 4



DR. S. A. GOUDSMITH
DPT. OF PHYSICS
BROOKHAVE NAT'I LAB. , UPTON N. Y.
U. S. A.

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



WELCOME
TO
THE U.A.R

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC
POSTAL AUTHORITY
PHILATELIC OFFICE
CAIRO

TPA

الجمهورية العربية المتحدة
هيئة البريد
مكتب خدمة هواة الطوابع
القاهرة

No. 5

2156 A.
S. A. GOUDSMIT
DEPT. OF PHYSICS
BROOKHAVEN - NAT.
LAB. UPTON, N. Y. 11973
U. S. A.

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



WELCOME
TO
EGYPT

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
POSTAL ORGANISATION
PHILATELIC OFFICE
CAIRO

No. 6

Telegram

جمهورية مصر العربية
هيئة البريد
مكتب خدمة هواة الطوابع
القاهرة

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
POSTAL ORGANISATION
PHILATELIC OFFICE
CAIRO

No. 7

Telegram

جمهورية مصر العربية
هيئة البريد
مكتب خدمة هواة الطوابع
القاهرة

A. R. EGYPT
POSTAL AUTHORITY
PHILATELIC OFFICE
CAIRO

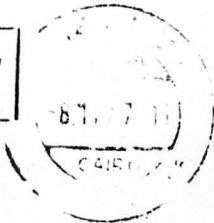
No. 8

Air Mail

جمهورية مصر العربية
هيئة البريد
مكتب خدمة هواة الطوابع
القاهرة

1901.A.
DR. S. A. GOUDSMITH
C/O PHYSICS DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA
RENO, NEVADA 89507
U.S.A.

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



TO
EGYPT

Although the Zeheri catalogue does not list anything in the way of a proof for this stamp, proofs of the surcharge do indeed exist, and in two forms. From time to time there appear on the market examples of the surcharge in black, on plain white paper, perforated to stamp size. Although these are not at all common, they generally change hands at low prices, probably because their status is not known, and there may be more than a little suspicion that they are forgeries or fantasies. A few years ago I acquired the first multiple that I had ever seen: a pair. I was later able to fix its position in the pane by small variations in the surcharge that are also found on the issued stamps. There thus seems to be little question that these are proofs of some sort, taken from the original printing stone. The paper is without watermark, and the perforation is of a different gauge from that on actual stamps.

On a different occasion I acquired from a source in Italy a pane of 60 of the surcharge on white, unwatermarked paper, totally imperforate. The paper has a somewhat aged appearance. The man who sold it to me, a man long known in Egyptian philatelic circles and of excellent repute, informed me that it had been obtained from the effects of a refugee from the Egyptian Revolution, and may have had some connection with the Penasson family, but this must be considered only as hearsay.

The pane shows the many tiny variations that can be recognized on the actual stamps. It also shows small guide lines (more nearly, crosses) between each subject, along the entire outer perimeter of the pane. These are typical lithographic guidelines, similar to those seen on some examples of the 1867 issue, the 1879 provisionals, and the 1884-88 postage dues. Until today as I write, I had thought that my proof pane may have been the entire setting, the stamps having been surcharged in panes of 60 rather than in full sheets of 240 (four panes separated by gutters). However, I have just been shown a large piece of precisely similar paper, folded into four, bearing proof impressions of four panes, disposed exactly as are the panes of the basic stamp. Small differences in the guidelines make it virtually certain that this proof sheet was made from a stone of 240 subjects, rather than of four impressions of a stone of 60. The stamps must therefore have been surcharged in unbroken sheets. The quantity issued is, in fact, a multiple of 240.

I have never seen offered any other examples of the imperforate proofs. There must at one time have existed three other panes, the companions to mine; where are they? The preparation of two proof sheets is not unreasonable, for one might have been wanted for filing in the archive, and the other for submission to appropriate authorities. Perhaps for the latter purpose, a proof sheet was divided into panes, each to go to a different individual.

A curious aspect of this issue is its justification. It did not correspond to any widely used rate, and, in fact, I have never seen a cover on which a single was used, although I have seen many covers franked by pairs to pay the ordinary letter rate. It has been stated that 20 para was a concession rate for enlisted men's mail, and that the military campaign of 1884-5 in the Sudan generated a need for such a value. It is consistent with this statement that an unusually large proportion of this provisional is found used from offices in Upper Egypt or the Sudan, including the offices of Korti, Dongola and Wadi Halfa, which were in the thick of the campaign. Nevertheless, the covers from these places that I have seen are all franked with pairs. It is possible, of course, that surviving covers are heavily weighted in favor of officers' letters; can any reader produce a single of this stamp on cover, or a cover from an enlisted man contemporary with it?

There is one other way in which a single 20 para might have been used: letters posted within the Cairo or Alexandria postal districts to addresses within the same district. Such covers are hard to come by, but I have seen a number, franked by the 20 para blue, the 20 para rose, or pairs of the 10 para, but never the provisional. Nevertheless, the provisional was obviously distributed to Cairo and Alexandria, for cancellations of those offices on loose stamps are not rare.

(all stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R.Egypt)

<u>Commemorative Stamps</u>	<u>SG 1285</u>	<u>SG 1286</u>
Occasion	. . . Cairo International Fair and Alexandria Biennale . . .	
Date of issue	. . . . . 1 5 t h M a r c h 1 9 7 6	
Designer	Saber Saida	Waheeb Farag
Design	Fair Emblem	Biennale Medal
Denomination	20 mills	20 mills
Sheet	. . . . 5 0 s t a m p s (1 0 x 5)	
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm	26 x 43 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½	11 x 11½
Watermark	. . . . . M u l t i p l e	E a g l e
Quantity printed	1,000,000	1,000,000
Supplementary	Leading international firms and national companies participated in the fair.	Artists from the Mediterranean attended this exhibition and displayed paintings, engraving and sculpture.

	<u>SG 1287</u>	<u>SG 1288</u>
Occasion	Inauguration of Faith and Hope Society	World Health Day
Date of issue	7th April 1976	7th April 1976
Designer	Waheeb Farag	Saber Saida
Design	Two hands holding disabled person.	Pharaonic Eye & W.H.O. emblem
Denomination	20 mills	20 mills
Sheet	35 stamps (7 x 5)	50 stamps (10 x 5)
Stamp dimensions	40 x 40 mm	43 x 26 mm
Perforation	11½	11½ x 11
Watermark	Multiple Eagle	Multiple Eagle
Quantity printed	1,000,000	1,000,000
Supplementary	The Society was formed to care for and to rehabilitate the disabled.	This year the subject is the campaign against blindness.

	<u>SG 1289</u>	<u>SG 1290</u>
Occasion	5th Anniversary of Rectification Movement	Centenary of Arbitration Service
Date of issue	15th May 1976	15th May 1976
Designer	Ibrahim el Torky	Lotfy el Sawaf
Design	Scales of Justice	President Sadat and emblem
Denomination	20 mills	20 mills
Sheet	50 stamps (10 x 5)	50 stamps (10 x 5)
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm	43 x 26 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½	11½ x 11
Watermark	Multiple Eagle	Multiple Eagle
Quantity printed	1,000,000	1,000,000
Supplementary	Corrective measures to re-assert respect for the law and the rights of the individual	-

(all stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R.Egypt)

<u>Commemorative Stamps</u>	<u>SG 1291</u>	<u>SG 1292</u>	<u>SG MS 1293</u>
Occasion	Centenary of Newspaper Al-Ahram	24th Anniversary of the Revolution	
Date of issue	25th June 1976	. . . . . 23rd July 1976	
Designer	Waheeb Farag	. . . . . Lotfy el Sawaf	
Design	1st page of 1st issue of the newspaper	. President Sadat and World map . .	
Denomination	20 mills	20 mills	110 mills
Sheet	50 stamps (5 x 10)	25 stamps	Miniature sheet
Stamp dimensions	43 x 26 mm	51 x 43 mm	85 x 75 mm
Perforation	11½ x 11	11 x 11½	Imperforate
Watermark	Multiple Eagle	. . . . . Multiple Eagle	
Quantity printed	1,500,000	1,500,000	?
Supplementary	One of the leading newspapers in the Middle East.	President Sadat's visits to neighbouring countries and talks which he held acquire a new aspect.	

SG 1294

Occasion	Festivals 1976
Date of issue	10th September 1976
Designer	A. el Hossini
Design	Flower (Vollota Speciosa)
Denomination	10 mills
Sheet	100 stamps (10 x 10)
Stamp dimensions	30 x 26 mm
Perforation	11
Watermark	Multiple Eagle
Quantity printed	5,000,000
Supplementary	-

SG 1295

SG 1296

SG 1297

Occasion	. . . . . Third Anniversary of Suez Canal Crossing		
Date of issue	. . . . . 6 t h O c t o b e r 1 9 7 6		
Designer	Waheeb Farag	Saber Saida	Saber Saida
Design	Pres. Sadat & Redice Oil Refinery	Water and ear of wheat	Monument of 6 Oct 1973; Martyrs & Unknown Soldier
Denomination	20 mills	20 mills	110 mills
Sheet	50 stamps (10 x 5)	25 stamps (5 x 5)	?
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm	51 x 43 mm	76 x 85 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½	11 x 11½	11 x 11½
Watermark	. . . . . M u l t i p l e E a g l e		
Quantity printed	1,000,000	500,000	75,000
Supplementary	-	-	-

*** Cyril Defriez (ESC 172) will be glad to hear from Members having additional details of New Issues.

(all stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R.Egypt)

<u>Commemorative Stamps</u>	<u>SG 1298</u>	<u>SG 1299</u>	<u>SG 1300</u>	<u>SG 1301</u>
Occasion	. . . . . U N I T E D N A T I O N S D A Y			
Date of issue	. . . . . 2 4 t h O c t o b e r , 1 9 7 6			
Designer	A. El Hossini	S. El Shahat	Saber Saida	Lotfy El Sawaf
Design	Animals on Papyrus leaf	Dome of Aqsa Mosque	'Isis' Philae Temple	UNESCO Emblem
Denomination	20 mills	30 mills	55 mills	110 mills
Sheet	50 stamps (5 x 10)	50: (5 x 10)	50: (5 x 10)	50 stamps (5 x 10)
Stamp dimensions	62 x 29 mm	43 x 26 mm	29 x 62 mm	43 x 26 mm
Perforation	11½	11½ x 11	11½	11½ x 11
Watermark	. . . . . M u l t i p l e E a g l e			
Quantity printed	1,000,000	400,000	400,000	250,000
Supplementary	'Literature for Children'	'Palestinian Refugees'	'Preservation of Nubian Temples'	'30th Anniversary of UNESCO'

SG 1302SG 1303

Occasion	Population and Housing Census	Centenary of Egyptian Geographical Society
Date of issue	22nd November 1976	22nd November 1976
Designer	Waheeb Farag	Lotfy el Sawaf
Design	Population graph and skyline	Society Medal and map of the Nile
Denomination	20 mills	20 mills
Sheet	50 stamps (5 x 10)	50 stamps (10 x 5)
Stamp dimensions	43 x 26 mm	26 x 43 mm
Perforation	11½ x 11	11 x 11½
Watermark	Multiple Eagle	Multiple Eagle
Quantity printed	1,000,000	1,000,000
Supplementary	The 10th census taken in Egypt, the first being in 1882	-

SG 1304SG 1305SG 1306SG 1307

Occasion	. . . . . P O S T D A Y			
Date of issue	. . . . . 2 n d J a n u a r y 1 9 7 7			
Designer	. . . . . H a l i m Y a c o u b			
Designer	Akhnaton	Daughter of Akhnaton	Nefertiti	Akhnaton (full face)
Denomination	20 mills	30 mills	55 mills	110 mills
Sheet	. . . . . E a c h 5 0 s t a m p s (1 0 x 5)			
Stamp Dimensions	. . . . . E a c h 2 6 x 4 3 m m			
Perforation	. . . . . E a c h 1 1 x 1 1 ½			
Watermark	. . . . . E a c h M u l t i p l e E a g l e			
Quantity printed	1,000,000	1,000,000	500,000	500,000
Supplementary	-	-	-	-

Note: not all illustrations are actual size - please see dimensions in data sheets



SG 1285



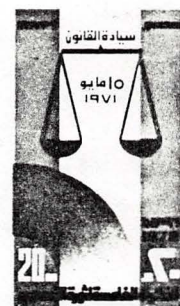
SG 1286



SG 1287



SG 1288



SG 1289



SG 1290



SG 1291



SG 1292/3



SG 1294



SG 1295



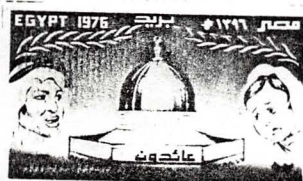
SG 1296

الذكرى الثالثة للعبور



110 M 17 أكتوبر 1976 بريد 1396 P.P.H. CAIRO

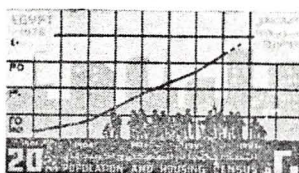
SG 1297



SG 1299



SG 1301



SG 1302



SG 1298



SG 1300



SG 1303



SG 1304



SG 1305



SG 1306



SG 1307

L E T T E R S t o t h e E D I T O R . . .

from F.W.Beniens (ESC 123) - 'The Book'

" I strongly support Mr Rudi Jeidel (ESC 129) in his contention that the information we do have in each of the studies be published in the Q.C. and the membership also be encouraged to update this from their own resources.

" Long before Mr Jeidel made his point I had personally begun to work on these lines. The 'Hotel' study entrusted to me has been brought up to date and has now been published in the Q.C. As a direct result two previously unrecorded datestamps and one meter mark from the Hilton Hotel have come to light.

" Ten years or so ago John Firebrace and the late Charles Minett passed over to me the EPP portion of their own military studies. It has been an amazing and rewarding experience to me, how at every stage the help and goodwill of many people has been extended to me - so that in the end it has been possible to publish a book on the results for the benefit of all. These projects of mine would not have been possible if not only the holders of major collections, but the owners of the odd cover or so had not co-operated. It may be that the single item holds the key to solving a problem.

" When a work is published it is important that due acknowledgement is given to the sources of the information it contains.

" I view with concern Mr Ron Harris's contention that his correspondence has not been answered. But we must be mindful that a ready made answer may not always be available. The results of getting data together must be measured in terms of years and not days or weeks before a sufficient amount has been collated for a tentative answer to be suggested. Also most of us have workaday careers to look after.

" However, if Mr Harris or any other member may care to correspond with me or via the Q.C. on any of the following topics they will be assured of a reply :-

World War 1 - Military Postal History; Civil Censorship
World War 2 - Military Postal History; Civil Censorship
'Hotel' Postal markings "

- F.W.Beniens, 27 The Lawns, Tylers Green, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 8BH

*** Beginning with the very early days of ESC, there has been continual discussion about publishing 'The Book' (a virtual encyclopaedia of Egypt philately and postal history). Those wanting to publish parts of it as soon as a reasonable amount of information has been assembled have lost the argument to those who aim at perfection before anything is put into print. In your Editor's view, this is a tragic mistake, and much research has been lost, perhaps permanently. Jim Beniens' experience is that an interim publication will attract new information which would not otherwise have been found - a strong point in favour of publishing incomplete information, rather than none. What do Study Leaders think? Can we hear from those who are willing to publish now - and from those who are not? - Editor.

from P.E.Whetter (ESC 133) - Auction Catalogues

" I should like to mention the question of Auction Catalogues. There are so many auctioneers now operating that it is beyond my pocket to subscribe to all their catalogues and I am wondering whether those interested could club together to subscribe to a reasonable number and pass them round - or circulate Xerox copies at cost. "

- P. E. Whetter

*** Do we have a workable idea here? Members willing to join in Pip Whetter's Auction Catalogue Circle should contact him. If there is a good response, ESC will consider asking Auction Houses for free copies, in view of the potential buying readership - Editor.

Q U E S T I O N T I M E . . .

Q. Time 1R.A.F. Airmail Service from Cairo to Baghdad

This question was raised by Bill Andrews in the June Issue and three Members have contributed replies to this.

First, chronologically, was a letter from John Firebrace (ESC 71) enclosing a copy page from the late Charles Minett's collection, which is reproduced as the September Frontispiece on page 52.

John also supplied a copy of another cover, which unfortunately will not reproduce, being an example of official mail. It is addressed to an officer whose name and squadron have been obliterated, at R.A.F. Hinaidi, Baghdad, Iraq. It bears the cachet of the Accounting Section, 21 Squadron, with manuscript date, 15. 5. 23, presumably the sender and their despatch date. On the cover is a straight-line datestamp, 16 May 1923, which is presumably the receiving date at the Flight. The cover is headed: "Per Air Mail Cairo - Baghdad". A circular stamp ARMY SIGNALS dated 26.V.23 was applied at Hinaidi, as was a similar stamp, but with blank periphery, having 'AHQ - 26.V.23' in the centre.

Next, Pip Whetter (ESC 133) wrote in to say that he has a cover which was flown on the first weekly service by Imperial Airways from Cairo to Baghdad, which left Cairo on 6th April 1927. In his write-up of this item, he noted: "In January 1927, Imperial Airways took over the 'Desert Service' between Cairo and Baghdad previously operated by the R.A.F. and at the same time extended it to Basra on the Persian Gulf. The service operated fortnightly until 6th April 1927 when a weekly service was introduced".

Finally, Stan Horesh (ESC 188) dealt with this at the ESC Meeting on August 12 and has provided material for copying. He has produced the following Table to show the development of this route :-

24 Feb 1919	1st Flight Baghdad - Cairo; cachet A2 in conjunction with F.P.O. 55
6 May 1919	R.A.F. made first flight in a single day.
12 May 1919	Lots 2606 and 2606A in the John Gilbert Egypt Sale comprise covers to U.K. from Iraq with red cachets CIVIL POSTS / IRAQ / AERIAL and backstamped FPO 85
4 Aug 1921	First mail from England (1 official letter) carried over Cairo to Baghdad air line. Arrived Baghdad 17.8.21.
21 Aug 1921	First Acceptance from U.K. (official correspondence only) for Cairo to Baghdad service.
13 Oct 1921	First Acceptance from U.K. for public mails, Cairo - Baghdad line. Air rate 1/- per oz. Endorsement 'By Air Cairo - Baghdad'. Service operated on October 13th and 20th, then fortnightly.
15 Dec 1921	U.K. air fee reduction from 1/- to 6d per oz for Cairo - Baghdad Acceptances.
1922-23	Bi-weekly service Baghdad - Cairo; cachet A3 and Official Mail impressed with A4.
28 Nov 1923	U.K. air fee reduction from 6d to 3d per oz for Cairo - Baghdad acceptances.

(We are glad to acknowledge the source of the Table above as the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia Volume III and Francis J. Field: "British Airmails").

Stan Horesh also produced the following material at the Meeting, and this is illustrated on pages 69, 70 :-

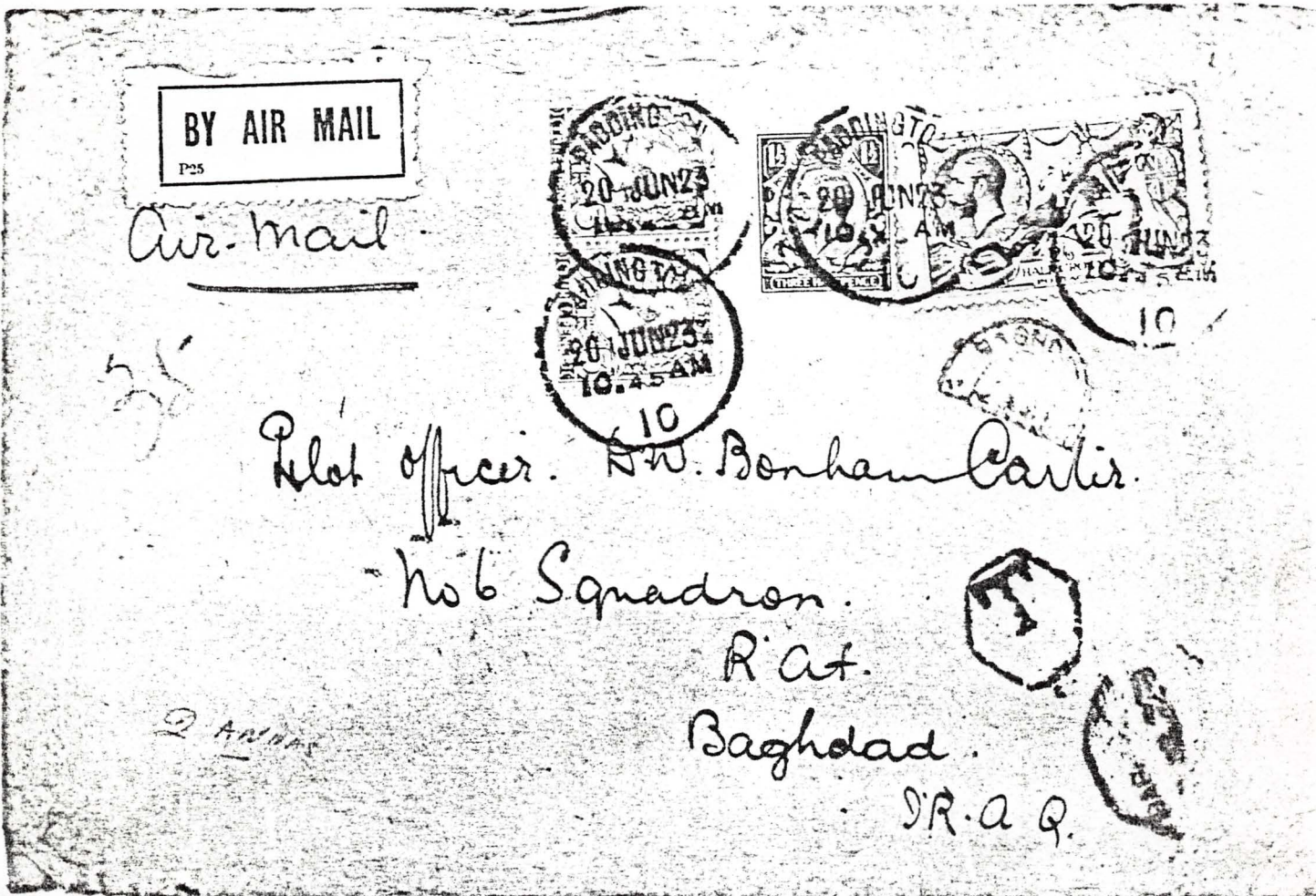
Reproductions of cachets in Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia, Volume III (Our reproduction is with the kind permission of Robson Lowe).

Strike of cachet A4 on two separate pieces.

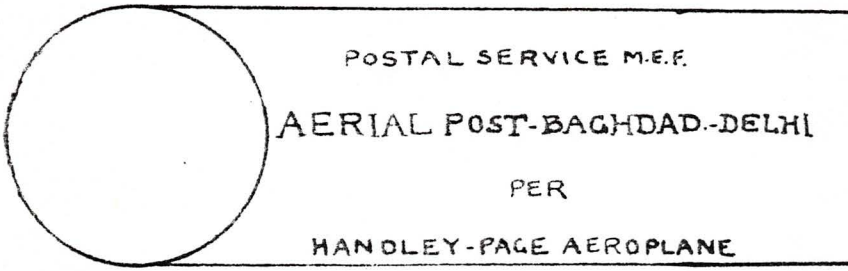
Covers from London and Hastings to Baghdad on 20 June 1923 and 23 Aug 1923 respectively.

R.A.F. AIRMAIL SERVICE - CAIRO to BAGHDAD

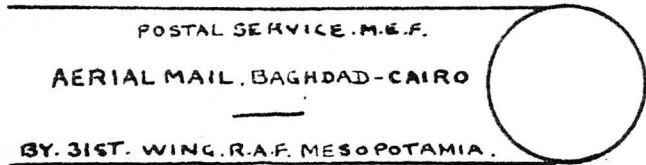
Both Covers are back-stamped BAGHDAD CANTONMENT 10 July 23; 15 Sep 23



A1

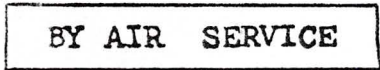


A2



Reproduced by kind permission of Robson Lowe

A3

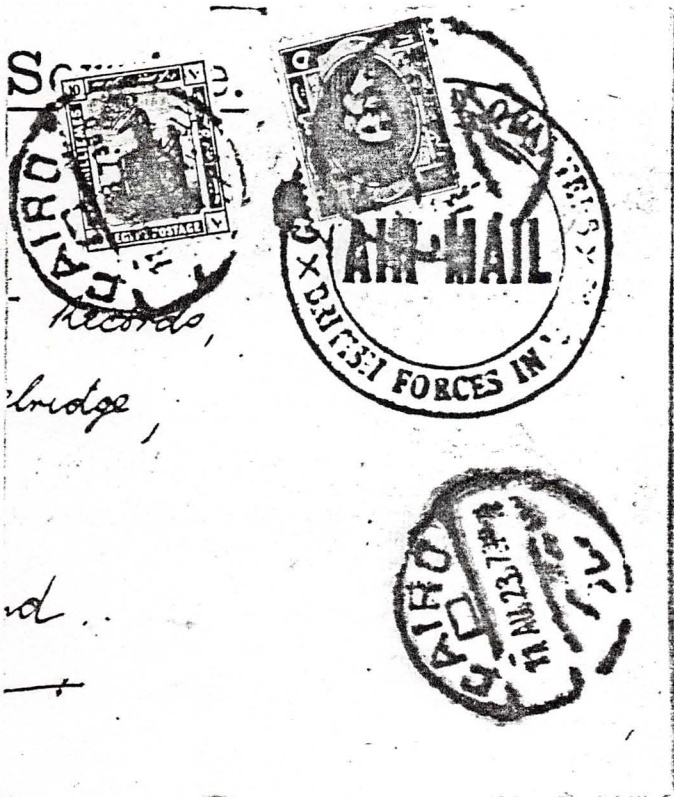


[43]

A4



[44]



Cachet A4 on piece

Q. Time 2 Plating of British Forces' Seals

This question was also posed by Bill Andres in the June Issue but unfortunately there have been no replies - dare we say - yet ?

Q. Time 3 - submitted by Ron Harris (ESC 182)Coding of Cairo Machine Cancels

" Recently while browsing through a pile of commercially used envelope, I found a buff window envelope with a machine cancel. This is a Cairo D cancel dated 31. 3. 59, with wavy lines. The second line down is broken at the right end and in the gap provided is an arabic "15". On the rear is an identical machine cancel of Alexandria A dated 1. 4. 59, but this does not have the gap in the wavy lines.

Can anyone give me any further information on this, and why it is used ?

After finding this I took a look at the rest of the covers used around the same time and this is not on any of them. "

** Please see illustration on page 72. This Question shows the points of interest which can arise from modern material - I hope we shall have a big response - Editor.

- - - - -

U P D A T A = Update your Data !Update 3 - submitted by A. Schmidt (ESC 198) - ALEXANDRIA "LAZARET" Postmark

" Denis Vandervelde has been good enough to lend me the stamp pair bearing this strike as noted in QC No. 105, page 29. I have made a nearly complete cut for the Record, it is illustrated on page 72. The stamps are the 1888 5m, and the year date on the strike is not clear but is almost certainly 1893 or 1895. "

Update 4 - submitted by A. Schmidt - TEL-EL-KIBIR (QC 105, pages 27-28)

" Mark Dorman has two part-strikes in black on Interpostal Seal IP VII and IP VIII which are both of the type shown in Figure 1. He has kindly lent them to me to complete the cut of this strike, it is illustrated on page 72. With these extra examples to measure, the size averages out at 25 x 15 mms. "

Update 5 - submitted by C.E.H.Defriez (ESC 172) - 'STAR and BRIDGE' Cancel

" Reference the article in Sept/Dec 1977 QC (Nos 103-104), page 81, by Th. Dacos on the "Star and Bridge" cancellations, the earliest known date for SUEZ is given there as 5.III.08. I have a cancellation of 11.VII.07 in my collection and I enclose a photocopy (Reproduced on page 72). I don't know Mr Dacos' address to advise him nor do I know if anyone is doing a study on this subject, so I thought I would let you know for the Q.C. "

Update 6 - submitted by J.F.Cousins (ESC 202) - SEAMEN'S HOME, ALEXANDRIA

" At an ESC meeting earlier in the year I was chatting to a member about the above and gathered that its exact location was uncertain. However, browsing through a "Services Guide to Alexandria" which has been lurking in my 'archives' for some 35 years, I came across two references :-

- (1) " . . the Seamen's Home at Quay 33, within the Docks"
- (2) " Seamen's Home, Club & Hostel, Gate No. 22, Customs House."

" I don't know the name of the member I was talking to and in any case thought the information might be of interest to other members who have come across the "Seamen's Home" cancellation and wondered where it was located. "

** Our thanks are due to Members who go to the trouble of supplying information and, where appropriate, illustrations so that we can all increase our store of knowledge. Let's have much more - let's be dazzled by all the light at present hidden under bushels !

- Editor

AMBULANT / T.P.O. with single TOWN NAME

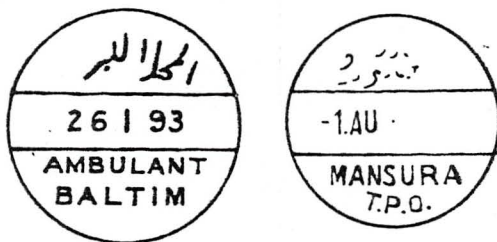
Mr A. Schmidt (ESC 198) writes as follows and has provided the c.d.s. illustrations.

Our President, Professor P. A. S. Smith, is researching the Egyptian T.P.O. cancellations with a single town name and the as yet unclear circumstances under which they were used. A considerable number of covers will need to be analysed before any firm conclusions are drawn, and he would be very grateful if readers could send him Xerox copies (front and back) of any covers they may possess bearing these single-town cancellations.

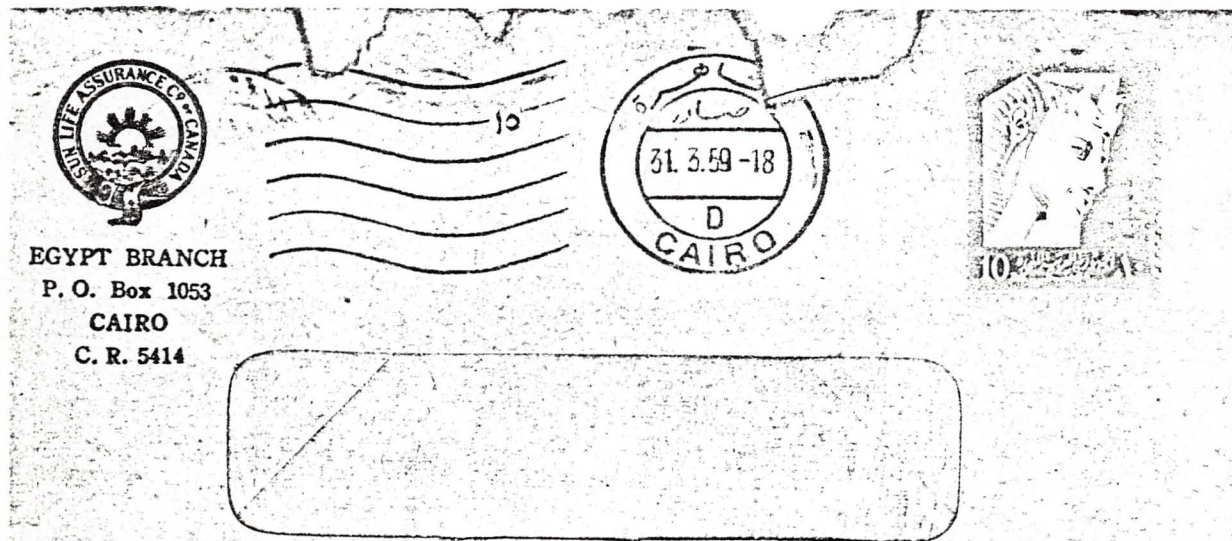
The normal towns encountered are SUEZ and PORT-TAUFIQ, with a number of types as illustrated.



Two incomplete strikes for BALTIM and MANSURA are in the Record, and ALEXANDRIA has been reported.



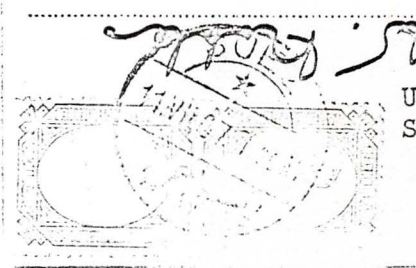
QUESTION TIME 3 - Arabic '15' in wavy-line Machine Cancel (see page 71)



Update 3



Update 4



Update 5
Star & Bridge
Suez

EGYPT THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

Whole Series Numbers 97 to 104. 8 Issues: March 1976 to December 1977

	Page
<u>DEFINITIVE ISSUES</u>	
<u>1st Issue 1866</u>	
Display by E.L.G.MacArthur	75
<u>3rd Issue 1872/75</u>	
Display by E.L.G.MacArthur	2
<u>De La Rue Issues</u>	
Queries on Archive material: V. Andonian	60-62
<u>OTHER ISSUES</u>	
<u>Airs</u>	
Bar overprints on Airs: W.C.Andrews	20-25
<u>INTERPOSTAL SEALS</u>	
Display by A. Schmidt (Type 2 with Rural Cartouche cancels)	53 X
Usage to seal across string-tied bundles: D.H.Clarke	53, 56-57 X
<u>NEW ISSUES</u>	
October 1974: C.E.H.Defriez	77-80
Exchanging UAR-inscribed stamps for A.R.Egypt stamps: C.E.H.Defriez	77
<u>FORGERIES</u>	
of Heliopolis Air Meeting (1910) datestamps: J. Boulad d'Humieres	14-19
of Bar Overprints on Airs: W.C.Andrews	20-25
of Circular Datestamps by Xerography: P.A.S.Smith	44 X
<u>POSTAL HISTORY</u>	
Heliopolis Air Meeting, Feb. 1910: J. Sears	14
" " " Status of Postcards: J.Boulad d'Humieres	14
" " " Forgeries of Datestamps " "	14-19
Hotel Postmarks: F.W.Beniens (Part 1)	82-93
Proprietary Post Offices in Egypt: F.W.Beniens (Part 1)	82-93
World War 2: Italian Internee mail from Egypt in WW2: F,W.Beniens	26-31
British Forces' postal services 1932-40: J.E.O.Hobbs' display	3
<u>USED ABROAD</u>	
Senhit/Senekhit - Red Sea littoral: E. Antonini	46-49 X
" " Commentary: E.L.G.MacArthur	50-52 X
Used Abroad and in The Sudan - Relative scarcity of cancellations: P.A.S.Smith	63-69 X
<u>PERFINS</u> : R.E.Harris	8
<u>CAMPAIGNS</u>	
The projected Suakin-Berber railway in the Egyptian campaign of 1885: J.Firebrace	10-13

U S E R S w i s h i n g t o r e d u c e t h e I N D E X P A G E S
t o t h e s a m e s i z e a s V o l u m e I X s h o u l d
t r i m a l o n g t h e l i n e a b o v e .

OVERLAND ROUTE

Reviving Waghorn Studies: F. Rowland Hill	35-45
Waghorn - Supplementary List of known Covers: F. Rowland Hill	37-39

POSTMARKS & CACHETS

"Egyptian Postal Markings - 1865-79"	
Amendments to Data Sheets: A.Schmidt	58-59
Egyptian P.O.s abroad and in The Sudan: P.A.S.Smith	64-65
Heliopolis Aerodrome: J.Boulad d'Humieres	14-19
Hotels (various): F.W.Benians	89-92
Intaglio Seals: P.A.S.Smith	65
Italian Internee Camps, Fayed, Ramses City, Tantah: F.W.Benians	26-31
Mouderie/Senhit: E.Antonini/E.L.G.MacArthur	46-52
Senhit (Eritrea): E.Antonini/E.L.G.MacArthur	46-52
"Star and Bridge" (Solid Star) cancels: Th. Dacos	91

THE SUDAN

Display by E.C.W.Stagg	4
------------------------	---

PROCEEDINGS OF EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE, ETC.

Accounts: 6 Aug to 31 Dec 1975; Year to 31 Dec 1976: D.H.Clarke	73
Appointments: J.S.Horesh to Deputy Chairman	2
E.L.G.MacArthur to Chairman of Expert Committee	5
P.A.S.Smith to President; J.Sears to Chairman	32
J.A.Grimmer to Editor	76
Auctions: of Danson collections, Switzerland, April 1977: P.R.Feltus	54
"The Book"	54
Chairman's Page (E.L.G.MacArthur): 1; (J.Sears)	71
Membership Matters	9, 34, 55, 72
Obituary: D. Grover: 2; J.R.Danson	5, 6-7
Reports of Meetings	
162nd Meeting, 7 Feb 1976: 2; 168th Meeting, 12 Feb 1977	33
163rd 3 Apl 1976 2; 169th 16 Apl 1977	53-54
164th 5 Jun 1976 3; 170th 11 Jun 1977	54
165th 7 Aug 1976 4; 171st 13 Aug 1977	74
166th 2 Oct 1976 5, 7; 172nd 8 Oct 1977	75
167th 4 Dec 1976 32; 173rd 10 Dec 1977	76
Other Societies	
Sudan Study Group - formation	55
Visits to Egypt: J.Sears: 53; P.R.Feltus	54