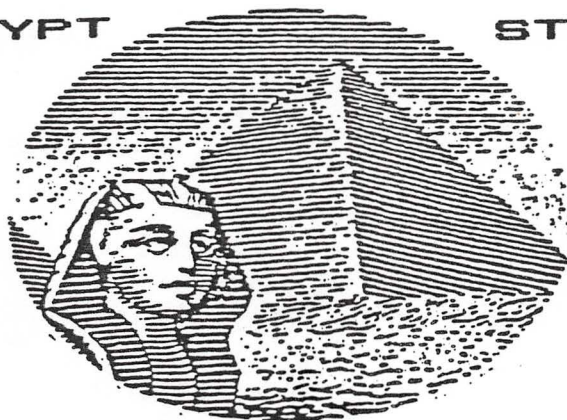


THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

EGYPT STUDY



CIRCLE

Volume XII

Number 8

DECEMBER QUARTER, 1985

Whole Series 136

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New Venue for Meetings

THE VICTORY CLUB
SEYMOUR STREET
MARBLE ARCH

Dates of 1986 Meetings

February 1st

March 8th
(to coincide with
STAMPEX)

June 7th

August 9th

October 4th

December 13th

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

O F F I C E R S

as at December 1985

=====

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CHAIRMAN	Mr John Sears 49½ Uxbridge Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4SL
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN	Mr J S Horesh London
SECRETARY/TREASURER	Mr C E Grey 6 Urlwin Walk, Myatt's Fields South, London SW9 6QG
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CHAIRMAN of the EXPERT COMMITTEE	Mr Peter Andrews Birmingham
LIBRARIAN	Mr D John Davis 3 Prospect Place, Beechen Cliff, Bath, Avon
KEEPER of the PHILATELIC RECORD	Mr Dennis H Clarke 49 Tregelles Road, Hoddesdon, Herts

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF LIST OF MEMBERS' ADDRESSES

At a Circle Meeting held on 21 December 1985 the matter of publishing members' addresses was discussed.

It was decided that an up-to-date list of members' addresses WILL BE PUBLISHED IN A FORTHCOMING ISSUE OF THE QC EXCEPT WHERE A MEMBER REQUESTS THAT HIS ADDRESS SHOULD NOT BE DISCLOSED.

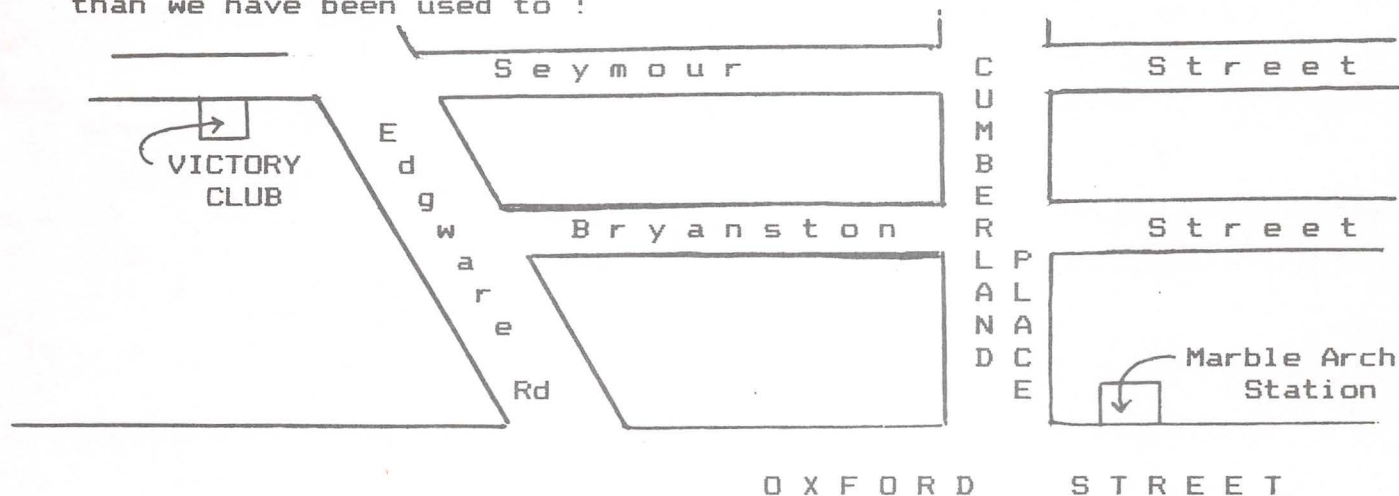
(Members who wish addresses to be withheld will be listed showing ESC Number, Name, Town and Country only).

If you wish your address to be withheld please write to the editor: John A Grimmer, 48 York Road, New Barnet, EN5 1LJ England.

CIRCLE NOTICES

VENUE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Future meetings of Egypt Study Circle will be held in the Committee Room at the VICTORY CLUB, Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London W.1. This is about a five-minute walk from Marble Arch Underground Station (Central Line). Parking is just as bad as in Maiden Lane, WC2, with no meters after 1.30 p.m. The accommodation is very much better than we have been used to !



MEETING DATES FOR 1986

Saturdays, commencing at 2.30 p.m.

February 1st	March 8th (to coincide with STAMPEX)	June 7th
August 9th	October 4th	December 13th

CIRCLE MEMBERS' EXHIBITION SUCCESSES

Congratulations to: Lord Lars Alund (ESC 105) for his entries in four Internationals: Italy (Vermeil); Madrid (Silver); Helsinki (Silver) and Tel Aviv (Vermeil).

Congratulations to: Mr Themis Dacos (ESC 220) for his two entries at Athens, 1985: "Egypt, Specialised Collection" and "Egypt, Airmails" both of which earned him a Large Silver medal.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF EGYPT

The following letter was received by Mr John Sears, Chairman of Egypt Study Circle, and was warmly appreciated by members at the December meeting to whom this was read :-

Cairo, Nov 24th, 1985

Dear Mr John Sears,

On the occasion of the 50th birthday of the English Egypt Circle, our society have the pleasure to extend its deeply sincere congratulations for this important matter.

Meanwhile I personally have the pleasure on behalf of our board of directors, as well as all the members of our society, to take this opportunity to wish you, as well as all members of your society, every success and prosperity.

President, The Egyptian Society
(signed) Hassan Abdo

THE JUBILEE EXHIBITION - 1985 - LIST OF EXHIBITS

<u>Frame Nos</u>	<u>ESC Member</u>	<u>Subject and Notes</u>
1	Chairman	Introduction: background history of ESC, the display, photograph of Dr Byam; medals won by the QC
2	J A Grimmer	Early: Payrus, Venice, Mediterranean
3	J S Horesh	Posta Europea, all types
4	P Andrews	1st issue; plate proofs
5,6,7	P R Feltus	2nd issue; blocks, die proofs, trials
8,9	D H Clarke	3rd issue
10,11	ditto	De La Rue Pyramid & Sphinx issues
12	J S Horesh	De La Rue 1914 pictorials
13,14	P E Whetter	Crown overprints; different printings
15	J A Grimmer	1st Fuad portrait - essays & proofs
16	ditto	Fuad commemoratives
17,18	P Andrews	"The Last Pharaoh" (Farouk)
19,20,21	C E H Defriez	Modern, including design revision instructions in Arabic
22,23	J Sears	Miniature Sheets
24	J A Grimmer	1893 Official, including on cover
25 to 32	A J Revell	Study of Fuad 2nd portrait 5mills with all different screens distinguished, plus enlarged illustrations
33,34	R Lockwood	Hotel covers
35	J M Murphy, (drawing on	Thomas Cook & Son covers
36	material of the late F W Benians)	The Seamen's Home, Alexandria
37,38	D J Davis	Postal History of Airmails
39	J M Murphy	TPO's
40	D H Clarke	Rural PO's
41,42	F R Hill	Waghorn
43,44	P L Grech	French Post Offices
45,46	A Schmidt	Interpostal Seals
47	C E Grey	Civil censorship
48,	Sinai	E Hall
49	J A Firebrace	Napoleonic covers
50	ditto	The British in Egypt
51 to 54	J S Horesh	Egyptian Expeditionary Force, WW1
55	E Blackburn	British Forces' postal concession
56	E Hall	Military covers, World War 2

THE JUBILEE RECEPTION

A pleasant couple of hours were spent at the reception, which was organised by Mr J S Horesh at "The Barley Mow", close by the Exhibition Hall. The costs of exhibiting the ESC entries were met by the British Philatelic Trust. Mr J Sears, ESC Chairman, welcomed particularly those members who had travelled from Egypt or from USA. Mr J S Horesh, Vice-Chairman, thanked Mr John and Mrs Pat Sears, whose hard work had made the Jubilee Exhibition a success. Mr Fikri, from Egypt, kindly gave the occidentals copies of a large print of 1867 2nd issue on - yes ! - real papyrus.

Members attending included: Messrs W C Andrews, L Balian, M Barker, P R Bertram, D H Clarke, D J Davis, C E H Defriez, P R Feltus, S A Fikri, C F Hass, P L Grech, C E Grey, J A Grimmer, K B Hagopian, J S Horesh, A J Revell, A Schmidt, J Sears and P E Whetter.

- - - - -

[Please notify Editor of any errors or omissions, for rectification]

REPORT OF ESC MEETINGS IN LONDON

(No report is available as to the meeting held in August).

Meeting held 12 October 1985 at "The Peacock" Maiden Lane, London WC2.

Mr J Sears (Chair) and Messrs W C Andrews, D H Clarke, D J Davis, C E H Defriez, P L Grech, J A Grimmer, C Hass (USA), J S Horesh, P Sherman and P E Whetter.

The Chairman welcomed new member Peter Sherman, and visitor from USA, Charlie Hass. The meeting then proceeded to the display which was on the subject of The Suez Canal Company's stamps and was given by Mr Peter Botterill.

Mr Botterill displayed remarkable material, and the depth of his specialisation was also remarkable, including historical background, printing techniques, plating characteristics, etc. There was extensive coverage of several forgers' work.

Meeting held 21 December 1985 at The Victory Club, Marble Arch, London (notes supplied by J Sears Esq).

1. Chairman's Report for 1985.

The attendance at our Meetings has not been so good as in previous years, and we still seem to suffer from the problem of new members who attend once, but not again.

The Membership fluctuates, but gradually edges upwards, and now stands at 130.

The high spot of the year was our Jubilee Display at BPE when 18 members contributed material, about 180 members of the public came to see it, and we had many favourable comments. The Social Event at the end of the Exhibition also went very well.

Very sadly one of our most active members, Jim Benians, died during the year, and he will be badly missed. It is good to know that Mike Murphy is continuing the book on Hotel etc. Postmarks, and he will be responsible for leading the Study in this area.

Dennis Clarke is also making progress with his Book on the Post Offices of Egypt.

We have established a new venue for our meetings in the future - The Victory Club, Marble Arch, and this promises to be a considerable improvement on the Peacock.

A tribute was paid to John Grimmer for the continuing excellence of the QC.

Edmund Hall has been under considerable pressure of work for the past months, and has been wanting to give up the work of Secretary/Treasurer, and Ted Grey has enthusiastically agreed to take on the job. The handover will be completed very early in 1986. A sincere vote of thanks was recorded for all Edmund's work in the past, he says that he will continue to run the Auction.

/ Continued . . .

Meeting Report for 21 December 1985 - continued

The new Secretary's address is as follows :-

Mr C E Grey
6 Urlwin Walk
Myatt's Fields South
London SW9 6QG

It was agreed that the Subscription for 1986 and until further notice should be £8 per annum, partly to cover the increased rent for the new venue, and partly to enable the QC in future to be sent by Airmail to overseas members.

2. The Policies and Aims of the Circle for the future

The rest of the Meeting was devoted to a discussion on these matters, to which every member present made a contribution. The following decisions were taken :-

a) The subject matter of the Studies should be revived, and new Studies inaugurated.

b) A Study will be in the charge of a Study Leader who would preferably be an expert in the particular field, or at least someone who would be concentrating on the subject in a specialised manner. Or the Study would be developed by a Co-Ordinator to whom the subject might be of secondary interest. The functions would be as follows :-

- A Co-Ordinator will
- (i) Be the focal point for correspondence concerning the Study.
 - (ii) Answer queries of other members, or endeavour to find the answers.
 - (iii) Advise the Record and the QC of progress being made
 - (iv) Discuss the progress of the Study at Circle Meetings, and report problems, and hopefully obtain solutions.

A Study Leader will undertake the same responsibilities as the Co-Ordinator and will also :-

- (i) Lead an in-depth investigation of the subject
- (ii) Collate all the information published in the QC or LOP into a Study Folder for eventual publication together with the new information obtained into a separate monograph as a chapter of "The Book".

Meeting Report for 21 December 1985 - continued

3. The following Studies were inaugurated (or re-vitalised) with Members at the Meeting assuming the responsibilities shown.

a)	Postmarks of Hotels and other Institutions	Mike Murphy - Leader
b)	Postmarks in general	Edmund Hall - Leader
c)	Civil Censorship	Peter Andrews - Leader (assisted by Ted Grey)
d)	Farouk Issues	Peter Andrews - Leader
e)	UAR Issues	Cyril Defriez - Leader
f)	Express Stamps and their Postal History	Pip Whetter - Leader
g)	Second Issue	Brian Sedgeley - Leader
h)	First Fuad Issue	John Sears - Leader
i)	Air Mails	John Sears - Leader
j)	Stamp Booklets	Pip Whetter - Co-Ordinator
k)	Bar Overprints	Bill Andrews - Co-Ordinator
l)	Official Stamps	Mike Murphy - Co-Ordinator
m)	French Post Offices	Peter Grech - Leader
n)	T P O's	Mike Murphy - Co-Ordinator
o)	Meter Marks	Dennis Clarke - Co-Ordinator
p)	British Consular Post Offices	John Davis - Leader

4. It was further decided at the Meeting that for purposes of chosen from UK Members, to facilitate reporting to Meetings.

5. There is a notice in this QC regarding members' addresses, and a list of addresses will be published in the next issue. In the meantime correspondence should be sent via the Secretary.

6. The list of Studies above is by no means exhaustive, and it will be added to; if any member would care to volunteer as a Study Leader or Co-Ordinator, please let the Chairman know as soon as possible.

7. It has become increasingly difficult to arrange a programme for Meetings throughout the year, and it is hoped that Study Reports will go a long way to solving this problem.

8. It was also decided that a part of each Meeting be set aside for Members to show "New Acquisitions".

FROM THE PRESIDENT . .

AMERIPEX. this important International Stamp Exhibition is to be held in Chicago in May 1986.

I have secured a meeting room for the use of EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE and the SUDAN STUDY GROUP for a joint gathering. This joint meeting will be held on Monday, May 26th, from 3:00 to 4:45 pm, in the HYATT REGENCY O'HARE, in the "American Room". The hotel is adjacent to the Exhibition site.

There will be a program, and time before and after it for informal talk. At least some of the attendees will want to leave together for a drink and eventually a meal following the meeting. The meeting is intended for all collectors of Egypt and The Sudan.

"THE TRAVELLING POST OFFICES OF EGYPT" by Peter A S Smith, published by Mobile Post Office Society, 1983. Many collectors tell me that they did not know that it had been published in 1983. I have eight copies with me and the price from me is £ 4.00 - to be paid to EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE. Overseas Members wanting copies sent by Airmail should please add \$ 2.62 to their remittance.

When my small supply has gone, copies will have to be ordered from Mobile Post Office Society, who have a much larger supply. Their address is :-

M P O S, RFD No. 1,
Box 91, Contoocook, NH 03229, U.S.A.

The price from MPOS is \$ 6.00 postpaid within the U.S.A. Overseas surface mail requires 27c. more, and air mail \$ 2.89 more.

To facilitate remitting (and lower exchange charges), members can deposit the entire amount, converted to sterling, to my personal account at Barclays Bank, 93 Baker Street, London W1A 4SD, account number 90851949, and inform me; I will then write a cheque in dollars and send the order on to MPOS. The sum of £0.16p (22c.) should be added to the total to cover postage on my letter to MPOS.

This book is also available from: Mr Peter R Feltus, P.O. Box 5339, Berkeley, CA 94705 U.S.A., and from: Vera Trinder Ltd, 38 Bedford Street, London W.C.2, England.

THE TRAVELLING POST OFFICES OF EGYPT

By
PETER A.S. SMITH

FRPSL
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

© Mobile Post Office Society 1983

Developed from a continuing Study of long standing
undertaken by the Egypt Study Circle

STUDY VI - The POSTMARK STUDY - E Hall (ESC 239)

It is nearly two years since I issued the rehashed postmark data sheets and 'threatened' at the time a series of articles. In that interval I have not been totally idle, but have been collecting and photocopying as many articles as I can on Egyptian Postmarks, for the Record - four inches thick to date. Nor have the many recipients of the data sheets (two printings were required to satisfy demand !) been idle either. Many thanks for the data already sent in and apologies to those I have not yet individually replied to - mostly those who sent in the greatest amount of information. It does indicate the interest in the Circle for this Study.

I still have not resolved the knotty problem of numbering, etc., and I receive as many different ideas as the number of people I ask. So abandoning all thoughts of classification at present I am using the same temporary numbers as on the data sheets as these have proved to be a satisfactory way of passing on information.

As was my intention two years ago I hope to include in each QC an article covering one aspect of the postmark study. In it will be the Record as it now stands, with some précis of the published articles from various philatelic magazines and the odd note added by myself. I will then in a future QC, one or two issues later, publish all the data that will flood in on that particular subject. It is here that the success or failure of the exercise rests. Everyone can add something. This is not a study of the exotic; here the commonest Cairo postmark has as much importance as a "used abroad, inverted date slug in rare puce". I am no more knowledgeable about postmarks than anyone else, in fact much less so than many in the Circle, so do not treat my reports as Gospel and please do correct any errors I make. "It is well known that postmark type XYZ is not as you say. The article by that well-known and expert philatelist ABC in the renowned magazine Stamp-Wotsit clarifies the point. I fail to understand why you have missed this and continue to mislead the Circle." Wonderful stuff - just keep it coming ! I emphasize that this is not my study, it is Study VI of the Circle.

I have had some difficulty in deciding where to start. My first attempt clashed with what some one else was doing. I have no wish to cut across what anybody else is doing and in this case I stated he had six months in which to publish - that was a year ago. There will be no pattern in the order of subject treated, it's as the whim takes me, and I have chosen the 'POSTMEN' Postmarks to start off with. I have done so because I have to date only found one article on them, in French, and since I am not conversant with that beautiful language, I have managed to persuade Mike Murphy (ESC 240) to do a translation. The descriptions of the postmarks are my own. I also wish to give more weight to the Arabic used and will be seeking help along these lines. With ten per cent of our members being speakers of Arabic I can see no excuse now for not doing so. I also wish to extend the study beyond 1952 and see today's postmarks as having as much a place in this study as any.

POSTMEN Postmarks, Sheet U

The 'POSTMEN' Postmarks were written about by Gabriel Boulad in L'OP for October 1954, pp 456-468. He refers to an earlier article in 1939 by himself and also to a similar thing in Switzerland where a Geneva postmark has 'FACTEURS' in it. He then continues with :-

/ Continued . . .

POSTMEN Postmarks, Sheet U - continued

"In Egypt, Cairo seems to have been the first town to inaugurate this type of cachet, with a bilingual marking; my example dating from March 2, 1918. This appears on an Avis de Reception (receipt); in the upper half it reads in English: "Cairo Postmen" and below, the Arabic text "as-sa'alah bi-Misr" with date and hour indication (fig U.2)"

He says this was used until about 1930, often cancelling the stamps. A second type U.5 appeared on February 9, 1936, and continued to the end of 1941. Type U.8 appeared on March 13, 1937, for a short usage. U.11 appeared from June 21, 1941, and he says ". . . has the addition of the words "Express Delivery" in English and Arabic (barid al-mast'gil), which indicates that it was especially created for the Express courier service". He says type U.8 appeared in 1953 and that these are the only types known to him for Cairo.

For Alexandria he says the first type known is U.2 with the letter "B" first seen for March 2, 1922, continuing to 1927, used on Postal Administration cards notifying reception at the Post Office. For U.2 with the letter "A" he gives the period November 11, 1924, to 1929. Type U.3 appeared in 1936 and continued until 1942. Type U.6 he dates as "at least from 1940 ." and has the Arabic "Iskandria sal'ah" and ". . . the English words 'Postmen', 'Alexandria' are relegated to the lower half". He illustrates one for 1949.

For Port Said he says: ". . . my evidence on this subject is not as strong. I hope that a philatelist from Port Said might complete the information I shall give on its cachets". He points out that 'Facteurs', the French for postmen, is used and the earliest use, type U.7, known to him is July 31, 1933, and the latest, August 22, 1940. U.10 containing 'Qism Sani' (the third quarter, a district of Port Said) he states only having seen one example dated June 14, 1938, and continues: ". . . and even that is not very clear . . . I wonder if there is not an error of orthography in the word 'Facteurs'. I leave to others the task of resolving this problem."

Gabriel Boulad concludes his article with: "It remains to define the use of the 'Postmen' and 'Facteurs' cachets in Egypt . . . it seems that they started by having a postal use within the service, for use on Avis de Reception receipts, or to give notice to the addressee of the arrival of certain envelopes or objects. Later they became used on letters returned from sender or for cancelling stamps paying for the return. Finally they also served for the deliveries of the Express courier and, on occasions, for the Registered courier. If other information on the subject should be forthcoming from fellow philatelists, I should be happy to hear of it."








So, fellow Circle members, please report all the dates of the types illustrated and any other that contain any of the key words for this group. Report how you see fit and send photocopies if you think it beneficial. I would suggest something along the lines:-

U.1 date 5. Ap. 99

or: as U.2 with letter D in place of A

etc.

POSTMEN Postmarks, Sheet U

	TEMP No.	CDS TYPE	CONTENT, UPPER SEGMENT	CONTENT, LOWER SEGMENT
	U.1	Ring & Bar	Curved POSTMEN Straight town name	as-sa'alah bi-Misr
	U.2	Ring & bar	Curved town name with letter	curved POSTMEN
	U.3	Ring & Bar	Curved town name	curved POSTMEN
	U.4	Ring & bar	straight-line as-sa'alah bi-Misr	curved POSTMEN & town name
	U.5	Ring & bar	straight-line as-sa'alah bi-Misr	curved POSTMEN over town name
	U.6	Ring & bar	straight-line town name in Arabic above sa'alah	straight POSTMEN above curved town name
	U.7	Ring & box	as-sa'alah above straight-line town name in Arabic	FACTEURS above curved town name

POSTMEN Postmarks, Sheet U

	U.8	Ring & bar	as-sa'alah bi-Kahira	straight-line town name above curved POSTMEN
	U.9	Ring & bar	straight-line as-sa'alah el-Kahira	straight-line town name above curved POSTMEN
	U.10	Ring & bar	as-sa'alah above town name & district in Arabic	straight-line FACTEURS above curved town name & district
	U.11	Ring & bar	sa'alah qozea(?) el-Kahira above barid al-mast'gil	straight-line town name & POSTMEN above EXPRESS DELIVERY

KEY WORDS: Postmen - Facteurs - sa'alah

NOTES ON ARABIC USEDUSED IN (temporary numbers)

sa'alah	Postman	U.1/4/5/6/7/8/9/10/11
Misr	Cairo	U.1/4/5
bi	with/of	U.1/4/5/8
el-Kahira	Cairo	U.8/9/11
barid	post	U.11
mast'gil	express delivery	U.11

Query: qozea' (?) - is this Arabic for swift ? U.11

N.B. I may have been inconsistent in either saying "town name", or actually quoting it; I have quoted the actual town name if it has a prefix, e.g. bi- .

NEW ISSUES by C. E. H. Defriez

(all stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R. Egypt, and with Upright Watermark Multiple Eagle unless noted otherwise)

<u>Commemorative Stamps</u>	<u>SG 1544</u>	<u>SG 1545</u>
Occasion	Festivals, 1984	1st Cairo Internationale Biennale
Date of Issue	1st June 1984	1st June 1984
Designer	Mahmoud Yousri	S. Rafah
Design	Pink (flower)	Decorated mask
Denomination	2 piastres	3 piastres
Sheet	100 (10x10) No watermark	50 (10x5) Wmk sideways
Stamp dimensions	25 x 30 mm	26 x 43 mm
Perforation	11	13.5 x 12.5
Quantity printed	5,000,000	1,000,000 Off-set Litho
Supplementary	-	The Biennale specialised in Painting, Sculpture and Engraving by Arab artists

SG 1546

Occasion	32nd Anniversary of the Revolution
Date of Issue	23rd July 1984
Designer	Ibrahim el Tahtawi
Design	Symbol of Atomic Energy, Electricity Pylons, Agricultural Machine
Denomination	3 piastres
Sheet	50 (5 x 10)
Stamp dimensions	43 x 26 mm
Perforation	11.5 x 11
Quantity printed	1,000,000
Supplementary	-

	<u>SG 1547</u>	<u>SG 1548</u>	<u>SG 1549</u>	<u>SG 1550</u>	<u>SG MS 1551</u>
Occasion	The Olympic Games, Los Angeles				
Date of Issue	28th July 1984				
Designer	M. Y. Abdel Hamid.				
Design	Boxing	Basketball	Volleyball	Football	The 4 stamps in Min. Sheet
Denomination	3 piastres	3 piastres	3 piastres	3 piastres	30 piastres
Sheet	50	(10 x 5)	Watermark Sideways		No Watermark
Stamp dimensions	each 26 x 43 mm				130 x 80 mm
Perforation	each 11 x 11.5				Imperforate
Quantity printed	2,000,000				60,000 Litho
Supplementary	Egypt participated in the games depicted on the stamps. SG 1547/50 were printed together in se-tenant strips of four stamps and one label bearing the Games Emblem and the Egyptian flag.				

NEW ISSUES AND THEIR SPECIAL CANCELS

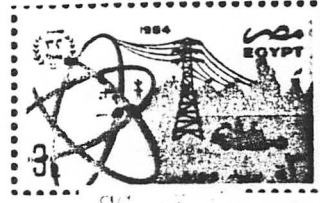
Please refer to the DATA SHEETS for dimensions, as not all illustrations are actual size



SG 1544



SG 1544



SG 1544



SG 1546



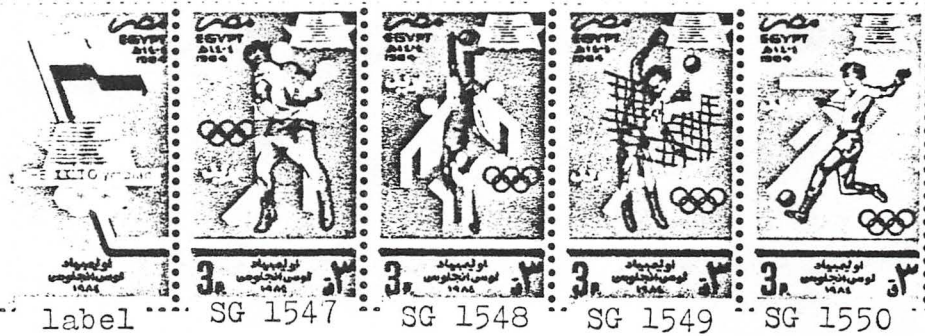
SG 1545



SG 1545



SG 1547/51



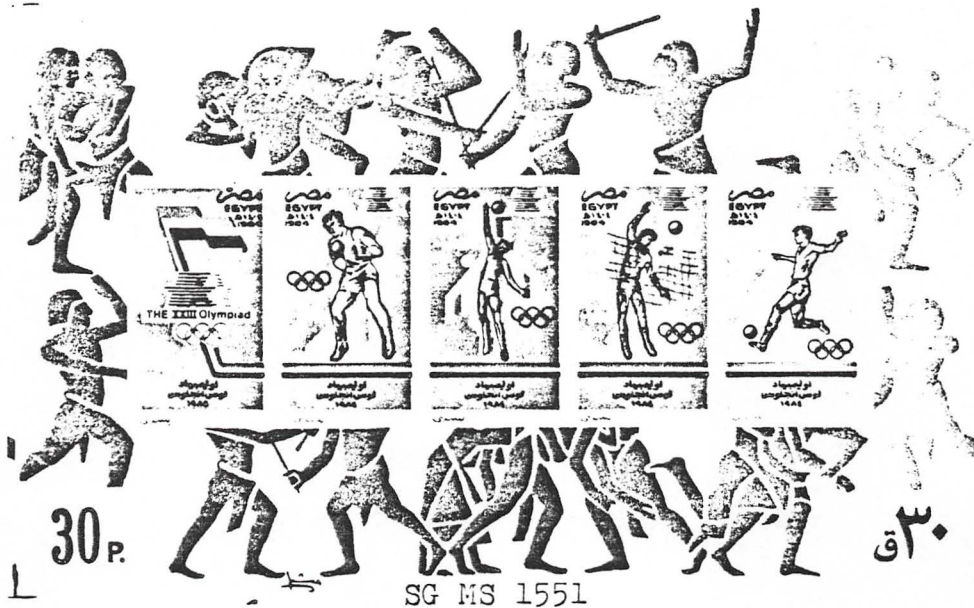
label

SG 1547

SG 1548

SG 1549

SG 1550



30P

SG MS 1551

QUESTION TIME

NEW QUESTIONS

Q. TIME 79 - Ahmed Hamdi Tunnel under the Suez Canal
Question put by R E Harris (ESC 182)

Enclosed is a copy of a press report of July 6, 1980, of the new "Ahmed Hamdi" Tunnel under the Suez Canal, 10 miles from Suez. I have never seen any more news of this tunnel or the proposed second tunnel since this report. Can any member provide further information on this please ?

[The cutting sent by Mr Harris is from the Egyptian Gazette and is reproduced in full below]

'TUNNEL WILL MAKE SINAI BLOOM'

You can hear the big ships' propellers passing over overhead as you drive under the Suez Canal along a subterranean highway linking Africa and Asia. President Anwar el Sadat depicts the Ahmed Hamdi Tunnel (named after a dead Egyptian hero of the 1973 Middle East conflict) as a symbol of peace that opens the way to developing the barren lands of Sinai, recently regained from Israel.

Months of work lie ahead before it is ready for everyday traffic. tunnelling is complete, however the last metres of road have just been laid. Above, a northbound convoy led by a Greek-registered container ship cruising through the canal, whose waters are a dull grey at this point some 17km from its southern entrance. Inside the tunnel, built by a British-Egyptian partnership, temporary strip lighting was strung up as workmen bolted on the first laminated plastic sheets that will form the inside wall. The tunnel's lining is of 60cm-thick reinforced concrete rings linked together. Each ring consists of 15 pieces weighing 3 tonnes each and a special sulphate-resistant concrete has been used to counter the high salt content in the canal water.

On either side of the road, raised gantries are now in place that will support narrow walkways only wide enough for pedestrians to move in single file. Driving eastwards towards Sinai, the road dips to a maximum depth of 51 metres beneath the water's surface then curves to the right. The curve is to avoid higher ground on the east bank. Near the low point the car splashed through puddles but elsewhere the road was dry. British site engineers said new construction methods made it one of the most watertight tunnels of its size in the world and seepage should be no problem.

The 10.4 metre diameter tunnel was bored through clay and mudstone. It was sunk so deep so that there is room, if long-term plans should materialise, to build a second Suez Canal alongside the present one. Ventilation systems still have to be installed. Air will be pumped in from beneath the road and sucked out through exhaust ducts overhead. Also to be installed under the road are two water pipelines that will carry the Egyptian government's oft-expressed hopes of "making the Sinai desert bloom". The pipes are now stacked near the west entrance to the tunnel.

Q. TIME 79 - TUNNEL UNDER THE SUEZ CANAL - continued

Under the Middle East peace agreement, Egypt has regained about two-thirds of the Sinai territory it lost to Israel in the 1967 war. In Cairo, planners talk about Sinai as a new frontier. There are schemes to divert Nile water to the arid regions, create agricultural settlements, exploit mineral deposits and build cities for Egypt's overspill population. The Suez tunnels - there are proposals for two more further north - are a first step.

At the moment the tunnel ends in the Sinai sand. "I don't know why but it is always hotter on the Sinai side" a sweating British engineer said. - Reuter.

Q. TIME 80 - "TRESOR et POSTES" cancel
Question put by Peter F Goodwin (ESC 297)

What is this cancellation please ? It is 27 mm diameter, single line circle in black on block of four of 1 centime grey of the 1902-21 issue, perforated 14 x 13 1/4 on 'Blanc' type inscribed ALEXANDRIE.

Q. TIME 81 - W E K Perfin
Question put by R E Harris (ESC 182)

I recently made a successful bid in an auction for Egyptian Perfins. In these there were two 'Pyramid' issues: Zeh 34 (1 piastre blue) and Zeh 41 (5 mills rose) which had this perfin [see illustration - Editor].

This perfin is not in the list compiled by Dr A Winter - is this a new perfin ? I should like to have more news of this.

Q. TIME 82 - PORTRAIT OBLITERATION on 1952 50m 'Egypt & Sudan'
Question put by Peter F Goodwin (ESC 297)

I have recently obtained from a local dealer a cover which to me is odd - ? It is a 50-milliemmes (Cairo Citadel) 2nd Farouk portrait 1947-51 which has already been overprinted in red "King of Egypt and the Sudan" and it has THREE THIN BARS obliterating the face.

- (i) Gibbons does not list this value with 3 bars
- (ii) The three bars are much thinner than all the other examples in my collection.

As will be seen from the enclosed photocopy (illustrated - Editor) it was used at EL DABAA on 15 OC 53, 9-10A. I also wonder if 50 milliemmes (5 piastres) was the correct AIRMAIL to the U.S.A. at that time ?

If any members can enlighten me on this one I would be happy to hear from them.

Q. TIME 83 - 1967 COVER with "DUMB DATESTAMP" and CENSOR MARK
Question put by Kenneth D Knight (ESC 150)

I enclose photographs of the obverse and reverse of an airmail cover from Cairo to Aden; I also enclose a drawing of the (faint) censor. Puzzling me are: (i) the apparently "dumb" datestamp on the reverse of the cover (ii) the censor mark on the front of the cover.

/ Continued . . .

Q. TIME 83 - 1967 "DUMB DATESTAMP" and CENSOR MARK (continued)

Are these marks of Egyptian origin? At first glance the censor mark appears similar to some of those listed by P. Andrews in his study (QC 92, Dec 1974). However, the Arabic text of this particular marking is, to say the least, parsimonious when compared with those listed by Mr Andrews and prompts the question of its origin. The "dumb" c.d.s. on reverse of the cover is of a size commonly used for Egyptian postmarks of this period, but the cover is already cancelled by a datestamp of Cairo Air Port, the point of departure from Egypt. What would be the point of applying this transit/backstamp in Egypt? The censor mark is struck in violet. The Cairo Air Port 'A' c.d.s. is dated -1.1.67. Can any member please clarify?

Q. TIME 84 - NUMBER-IN-CIRCLE MARKS ON COVERS GREECE-EGYPT

I am enclosing drawings of two marks found on covers sent from Greece to Egypt. The earlier mark (small circle enclosing the number 9) struck in black on the front of the cover dates from 1948. The later mark struck in red on the reverse of the cover dates from 1949. Both covers bear the Egyptian censor markings on the front. I have other covers to the same person and same address in Cairo from several countries which do not have such markings. Am I correct in assuming the markings to be censor marks of Greek origin?

FAKED PERFORATIONS - 1923 Fuad 5 mills - P E Whetter (ESC 133)

An interesting selection of 'proofs' of this stamp came under the hammer at a recent London auction, particulars as follows :-

1	Corner block of eight	perf 14 x imperf
2	Horizontal marginal pair	perf 14 x 11
3	Vertical pair	perf 14 : imperf between
4	(Three) vertical pairs	perf 11 x 14
5	Horizontal pair	perf 14 x 11
6	Horizontal pair, from bottom right corner	perf 14 : imperf between
7	Block of eight (4 x 2)	imperf x 14
8	Right-hand marginal block of 4	perf 14 (top and bottom), remainder imperf
9	Right-hand marginal block of 4	perf 14 (top, bottom and left), remainder imperf
10	Horizontal pair	perf 14 : imperf between

All forty stamp proofs were watermarked Zeheri type IX.

I was able to examine this lot at home and I am virtually certain that all the perforations were faked.

In spite of the fact that the lot was offered 'as is' it fetched £ 240 plus 10% buyer's premium.

'Caveat emptor' !

[Mr Whetter is a member of the ESC Expert Committee - Editor]



9.25
بالتالي
بمخاطبة

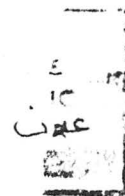
Q. TIME 82

Aegis Trading Co.

Post Box.



ELIZABETH . N. J.



حضرة د. وليد إلفيزي من احمد عمر بازرعه
شارع ابن بيدر
كريت - عدن
سيد احمد عمر بازرعه واخوانه

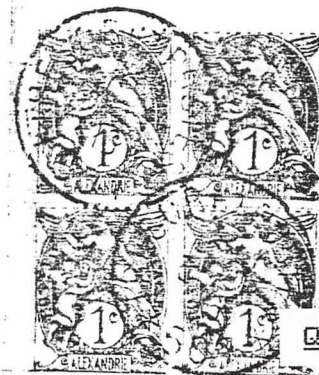
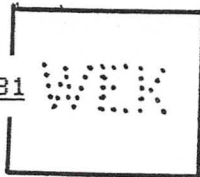
AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Q. TIME 83

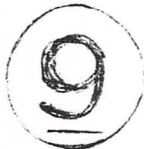
Struck in violet on cover to Aden
CAIRO AIR PORT c.d.s. -1.1.67
"DUMB" arrival or transit c.d.s on reverse



Q. TIME 81



Q. TIME 80



Q. TIME 84

Struck in black on front of cover
GREECE to EGYPT 1949. Has
Egyptian Censor Mark (type 10) on obverse



Q. TIME 84

Struck in red on back of cover
GREECE to EGYPT 1949. Has
Egyptian Censor Mark (type 10) on obverse

QUESTION TIME

Response to Q. Time 50 by Kenneth D Knight (ESC 150)
 Question posed by L Alund in QC 126 (June 1983): Intaglio Seal

The reproduction of the seal marking on this P.S. card in my copy of the QC leaves much to be desired; it is impossible to read the town name (lower segment) but I can decipher enough of the upper inscription to guess that it reads, or is intended to read, "maktab bosta khedewiya masriya". However in my QC there appears to be an extra character (? pair of dots ?) in the word 'maktab': could this extra character be a star ?

If the seal mark is genuine it is either type A6 (without star) or A7 (with star).

The seal has a couple of interesting facets which were not mentioned in Q. Time 50. The first is the late date of use; the second is the fact that the seal does not appear to have a year of manufacture in its design.

May I suggest that Lord Alund reports the seal to the leader of Study VI and submits his cover to the ESC Expert Committee for verification.

Response to Q. Time 54 by Kenneth D Knight (ESC 150)
 Question posed by P R Bertram in QC 126 (June 1983):
 Ottoman Adhesive overprinted

Ottoman stamps were overprinted with the Turkish letter B (ب) for use on foreign mail, that is, mail OUTGOING from the Ottoman Empire, to encourage Turkish residents and visiting foreigners to use the Ottoman Postal Services in preference to the Consular Post Offices of other countries, Britain, Austria, etc., which operated inside the Empire. Such overprinted Turkish stamps were only valid on mail posted at a Turkish Post Office. The stamp illustrated is therefore superfluous to the franking of the cover. Why it was affixed must, I'm afraid, remain a mystery. Perhaps the sender was recently arrived in Egypt from the Holy Land or the Hedjaz and had intended posting his/her letter before arrival in Egypt.

Response to Q. Time 55 by Kenneth D Knight (ESC 150)
 Question posed by P R Bertram in QC 126 (June 1983):
 Motto impressed on envelope

"Touch not the cat but a glove" is the motto of the Mackintosh clan. In this instance the word "but" should be taken as meaning 'without' or 'except with'. The crest on the envelope illustrated is the Mackintosh crest.

Response to Q. Time 70 by Kenneth D Knight (ESC 150)
 Question posed by L Alund in QC 128 (Dec 1983): Jordan Labels

Further to the reply by J M Murphy in QC 129/130: as I do not read Arabic (except on the most elementary level) I am not in a position to dispute or correct Mr Murphy's translation of the inscriptions of the stamps in question. However I would point out that the original name for Jordan was Transjordan, an Anglicised translation of the Arabic "East (of the River) Jordan".

/ Continued . . .

Response to Q. Time 70 - Jordan Labels - continued

This would suggest that the stamps are considerably older than divined by Mr Murphy, probably dating from before 1946 when the British Mandate for "East (of the river) Jordan" became the "Kingdom of East (of the river) Jordan". Dating the stamps pre-1950 also explains why the face values are expressed in milliemes, the then Jordanian currency.

Response to Q. Time 78 by David Carew (ESC 193)
 Question posed by P E Whetter: 1933 Airmail set: Printing Plates





The 1933 Airmail issue was originally produced by Offset Lithography. Separate printing plates of the centre panel and frames were prepared by the Douglasgraph Process. Prior to 1937 all two-colour stamps were produced lithographically owing to difficulty of registration on existing Photogravure machines available in Egypt. When approval was granted in 1939 by the Postmaster General, for four values to be produced in Photogravure, single colours were used (5 mills - warm brown; 10 mills - violet; 25 mills - plum; 30 mills - dark green. It was necessary to revert to the original photographs and prepare a new photo-original of the centre panel, hence the differences in the centre panel of the two printing processes, especially as regards the horizon in relation to the pyramids.

Printed sheets of 100 were produced, consisting of two panes of 50 (5 x 10) each, with control number which occurred in right margin by side of stamp number 50 (and up to the margin by stamp number 45 in the case of later altered controls on the photogravure cylinders). The two panes were separated prior to perforating which was done by a single-comb perforator. All pieces I have seen are top feed which gives Top margin imperforate, Bottom and Right margins perforated through and Left margin with single extension hole.

In original issue the lithographed centre panels were printed after the frame from four plates. Alignment was usually very good but some sheets show the centre panel misplaced to varying degrees. Zeheri lists the more dramatic errors.

Printing was on original sheet of 100 prior to separation of panes and so any variety will only be seen on ONE of the two panes obtained from the sheets.

Under the value tablet at top left of the stamp the lines of shading break to larger white area under line 5 which is short to start with. An extra dot variety occurs under the middle of this line. I have this with 2-mills grey, 5 mills, 8 mills and 60 mills.

	Line 1 = thick	:	<u>Value</u>	<u>Plate</u>
	Line 3 = broken	:	2m grey	CP 1
	Line 5 = short	:	5m	CP 2
		:	8m	CP 2
		:	60m	CP 3

The position of this variety is not known to me but I believe it to be somewhere in the second vertical row of sheet: not 2 or 47. This suggests it is constant on plates 1,2 and 3, or that the Circle Record of the plates is wrong.

JOURNAL OFFICIEL

Extracts by J M Murphy (ESC 240)

1918, 1919

1919 comment by JMM

Despite all attempts, I have so far been unable to obtain a copy of the 1918 volume: I hope it might later be added. 1919 contains few details of the nationalist uprising since events happened so quickly: the JO records, however, how postal services were gradually restored by June 5. Abolition of Censorship July, parcels arrangements to Palestine/Syria, Suez Canal Zone established, prohibition of stamp sales from postal trains.

Jan 2 (1,3): The French Military Base, Port Said, whither postal parcels for Syria have hitherto been forwarded for transmission to destination, having intimated its inability to continue to do so, such parcels should no longer be accepted for any locality in Syria, whether or no they are accompanied by a permit.

Jan 9 (3,2): Owing to the termination of the cotton season, the specie and insured letter services with Shiblanga, Bir Shams and Nikla POs will be discontinued with effect from January 15 1919.

Jan 16 (6,1): All correspondence for Alsace and Lorraine will henceforth be accepted and forwarded to destination through the French Postal Service.

The suspension of the despatch of correspondence to Belgium has been raised.

The Greek Postal Authorities advise that postal relations with Turkey and Bulgaria are not yet resumed. Hence the Egyptian Postal Administration is unable to forward correspondence; any letters found in letter boxes will be retained pending resumption.

Jan 20 (7,2): Cut tobacco, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco and snuff for Syria must be forwarded in separate parcels and not parcels containing other goods.

The ordinary (not insured) parcels service to and from post offices in occupied territories in Mesopotamia (Iraq) has been resumed, as well as with the Indian POs of Abul Khasih, Amara, Baghdad, Basra, Basra City, Fao, Kut, Naseriyeh, Qulat Saleh, Suk esh Sheyukh and Zanzibar.

Goods despatched to Syria must be accompanied by (i) a Permit to Trade, application for which must be addressed to the GSI (h), GHQ 2nd Echelon, EEF; (ii) an Export Licence from the War Trade Department, the Residency, Cairo. NB - The GSI forwards the Permit to Trade to the War Department, Cairo, which, if export is approved, will transmit it, together with the Export Licence, to the exporter for presentation to the Customs or Post Office as the case may be.

An examination will be held at 9.30am on February 1 at the Alexandria Direction Locale des Postes for recruitment of candidates for postmen in the city of Alexandria at a monthly salary of £4E. Candidates must conform to the following conditions - Egyptian nationality; physically fit; possess a primary school certificate, or, as an alternative, a certificate of ability for secondary studies; age 20-30. Candidates may not be, at present, attached to another branch of the Government Administration.

Jan 27 (9,2): Correction (see para 3 in Jan 20 above) - this regulation applies to Palestine, not to Syria.

Feb 10 (14,2): War Trade Department notice - it is no longer necessary, in exporting to Greece, to obtain recommendation from His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Athens. But it is still necessary to obtain export licences from the War Trade Department before despatching goods of which the export from Egypt is prohibited.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL OFFICIEL - continued

1919 - ii

From Feb 6, parcels for Palestine cannot be accepted without an export licence from OETA (South). Distinct from the licence of authority to trade, it should specify the quantity of each lot of goods, and should be attached to the despatch note to be handed in at the PO together with the parcel. The Postal Administration takes this opportunity of confirming the public notice of May 1918 to the effect that the Post Office, as well as the Military Authorities, declines all responsibility in the event of theft, spoliation or damage sustained by the parcels.

Feb 13 (15,2): Egypt-Cyprus insured letters and insured parcels services resumed.

Feb 27 (19,2): Correspondence (unregistered and uninsured) now accepted for Turkey.

Mar 17 (24,4): The civil PO at Mersa Matruh has been reopened.

Registered correspondence now accepted for Trento, Trieste and other territory occupied by the Italian Army on the Adriatic littoral.

Mar 31 (28,2): The public is informed that the specie, insured letter and insured parcel services are suspended until further notice.

Until further notice, ordinary, COD and insured parcels will not be accepted for transmission.

Postal packets of all kinds, except parcels for Finland, Archangel, Murmansk and Siberia, and personal domestic letters only for Estonia are now accepted for transmission via London.

Apr 7 (32,3): Examination for Alexandria and Lower Egypt probationary Post Office clerks at Alexandria Apr 29. Salary £60E per annum, rising to £72E after one year's satisfactory service for the Secondary Education Certificate Part II.

Examination in Cairo Apr 26 for probationary fourth-class clerks to serve in the Post Office in Cairo or Upper Egypt. Conditions as above.

Examination in Cairo Apr 29 for postmen (conditions as Jan 20 above).

Until further notice, registered articles will not be accepted from the public for any localities in Upper Egypt, with the exception of Wasta and the Fayoum.

Unregistered mail matter (but not parcels) are accepted for the Caucasus and Black Sea posts.

May 5 (43,3): Parcels for Palestine will again be accepted by the Alexandria Central PO and branch offices for despatch to destination by way of Port Said by Khedivial packet on the 1st, 11th and 21st of each month.

In response to representations by this Administration, and since a parcel post from Egypt to the United States already exists, the US has agreed to the establishment of a reciprocal parcel post from the United States to Egypt. The public may henceforth request its American correspondents to forward goods to Egypt by parcel post.

The despatch of parcels from India for Egypt, which had been temporarily suspended, has now been resumed.

May 15 (46,3): The service of express trains No. 19 (Cairo-Alexandria) and No. 24 (Alexandria-Cairo) will be resumed on May 11; the hours of departure are as follows: - From Cairo, 4.15pm, from Alexandria 3.30pm.

To ensure despatch by these trains of correspondence posted at the Central PO, the public is earnestly requested to post its ordinary letters not later than 3pm in Cairo and 2.30pm in Alexandria. This precaution is the more necessary in view of the fact that the night train service has not yet been resumed.

The parcel post service with Syria is suspended in accordance with a notification received from the French Military Authorities.

1919 - i i i

Jun 5 (53,3): The public is hereby notified that all branches of the Postal Service are now working normally and the temporary dislocation due to the recent disturbances no longer exists. The only exceptions are those of certain localities at which trains do not halt at present, and particulars concerning those localities will be furnished on application at any post office.

Jul 15 (66,3): Postal parcels for Trentino, Istria, Dalmatia and Curzolari are now accepted on the same conditions as those for Italy. COD parcels are not accepted and the maximum amount for insured parcels is 300 francs.

Jul 24 (69,3): Parcel services with Cuba and Mexico are resumed, but the Egyptian Postal Service cannot accept responsibility for delays in delivery sustained by parcels in consequence of the irregular service of mail steamers.

Jul 28 (70,7): Martial Law notice - The censorship in Egypt will be abolished at midnight 23rd/24th July.

The censorship in Occupied Enemy Territory (Syria, Palestine and Cilicia) will, however, be retained. The following conditions apply to telegraphic correspondence with Occupied Enemy Territory:

1. A limitation of the languages used to plain English, French and Italian;
2. Limitation of codes used to ABC (5th edn), Scotts (10th edn), Liebers, Western Union, Broomhalls, Broomhalls Rubber Edition, Meyer's Atlantic Cotton Code, Bentley, Riverside.

Signed GHQ, EEF, July 23 1919.

(70,8): The parcels service (not insured or COD) with Palestine and Syria is to be resumed from August 1 via civil Post Offices in those countries. Lists of POs in Palestine and Syria indicating the PO and the locality from which the parcels must be withdrawn are available from any PO. No indemnity will be paid in case of loss, spoliation or theft of a parcel addressed to Palestine or Syria. Permits for export from Egypt to Palestine/Syria must still be obtained.

From August 1 a money order (non-telegraphic) service will be inaugurated with all localities in Palestine and Syria. Lists of localities and names of POs at which money orders are payable may be seen at all POs in Egypt.

COD and insured parcels are not accepted for Belgium.

(70,9): From August 1, Beni Hodeir and Fant railway stations reopen for passengers and goods.

Sept 4 (81,4): Parcels for Holland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark are now accepted without licence from the War Trade Department.

Sept 11 (82,6): Tender for Postmaster-General, GPO, Alexandria, to supply uniforms and supplies for 1920-21. Contracts awarded in 110,6 (Dec 4) total £E23,401.552, in 115,3 (Dec 22) a further £E1,912. Tenders published in 109,6 and 110,6 include supply of steel date stamps etc; according to 4,4 (Jan 12) of 1920, four tenders were received, and engraving contract won by H.Margosches, Alexandria.

Sept 15 (83,2): Payment of British postal orders by civilian POs in Palestine and Syria will continue to be effected until further notice.

Registered correspondence will be accepted for Constantinople.

With reference to a notice published in March 1918, the public is again reminded that the import of cotton into the United States through the Post Office is prohibited under the Quarantine Plant Act.

1919 - iv

Sept 18 (84,2): Martial Law proclamation - 1. There shall be no further restrictions on travelling into, from or within the Suez Canal Zone...whether by rail, road, canal or otherwise; and 2. proclamations dated May 18 1916, Oct 18 1916, Feb 27 1917, Oct 15 1917 and Oct 12 1918 regulating travel are cancelled.

Signed W.N.Congreve, Lt-Gen, C-in-C, EEF (Sept 18).

(84,3): The public is hereby notified that postage stamps will not henceforth be purchasable from postal trains save in stations where no PO exists, as it is undesirable that the attention of the travelling postal staff should be diverted from their work in connection with the reception and consignment of mails.

Payment of British postal orders in Syria will cease after October 31. Postal orders will continue to be paid in Palestine.

A parcels service (not COD) with Switzerland has been resumed, and no certificate is necessary for the despatch of parcels unless they contain export-prohibited articles.

Oct 30 (99,2): Martial Law proclamation setting "apart an area for use for military purpose."

All territory on the east and west banks of the Suez Canal shall for the time being form a military area. No entry is allowed to unauthorised persons unless they be a bona fide traveller by rail, water or main road. (Details of specific area given).

Signed W.N.Congreve, C-in-C, HM Forces in Egypt (Oct 23)

Nov 3 (100,4): Examination advertisements for postmen and Post Office clerks, details much as above (Apr 7).

Parcels despatched to Palestine must be packed in strong wood, tin, canvas or similar, not paper or cardboard. The packing must be so as to make tampering with the contents obvious. Liquids not packed in double receptacles will be refused.

The issue of money orders from Tunis on Egypt is suspended.

Registered correspondence now accepted for Germany and Austria.

In case of transit through Egypt of postal parcels containing articles the export of which from Egypt is prohibited without notification on the manifest, the relevant documents should be submitted to the War Trade Department, The Residency, Cairo, for decision as to whether or not they may be despatched.

Nov 17 (104,2): Correspondence addressed to the War Trade Department, The Residency, Cairo, should be duly stamped. If insufficiently prepaid or unstamped, it will be refused by the addressee.

Ordinary and registered correspondence now accepted for Bulgaria.

Nov 27 (108,4): The export of cotton seed, hitherto prohibited to save Allied countries, is now authorized for all destinations (except Russia).

Dec 8 (111,6): From Dec 15, Sanabo station will reopen for passenger traffic.

Dec 15 (113,4): To give postal staff a weekly day of rest, working hours from Jan 1 will be amended to: Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said and Suez - Sundays and holidays stamp sales 8-noon, distribution of correspondence (registered and ordinary) 10-noon, cash, parcel post and registration in departure windows closed, one only house-to-house delivery.

Provincial offices - rest day Friday apart from offices which at present close on Sundays. Important localities open for 1½ hours, others for 30min. All will despatch ordinary correspondence collected from boxes as usual.

EGYPTOLOGY'S PATRON ENCOUNTERS THE POST

- extracted from "A Thousand Miles Up The Nile" (Amelia Edwards)

That indefatigable and insatiably curious traveller, Amelia Edwards (who gives a hint of her outlook on life by titling her autobiography "My First 100 Years"), reveals an insight into the early Egyptian postal system in her most famous work, "A Thousand Miles up the Nile". Miss Edwards, later to found the Edwards Chair of Egyptology at University College, London, visited Egypt first in 1873-4: I append two extracts from her report :-

(page 144, from Luxor): The postmaster (an ungainly youth in a European suit so many sizes too small that his arms and legs appeared to be sprouting out at the ends of his garments) was profuse in his offers of service. He undertook to forward letters to us at Assuan, Korosko and Wady Halfah, where post-offices had lately been established. And he kept his promise, I am bound to say, with perfect punctuality; - always adding some queer little complimentary message on the outer wrapper, such as "I hope you well my compliments;" or "Wishes you good news pleasant voyage." As a specimen of his literary style I copied the following notice, of which it was evident that he was justly proud :-

"NOTICE: On the commandation. We have ordered the post stations in lower Egypt from Assiut to Cartoom. Belonging to the Post Kedevy Egyptian in good order. Now to pay for letters in lower Egypt is as in upper Egypt twice. Means that the letters which goes from here far than Asiut; must pay for it two piastres per ten grs. Also that which goes far than Cartoom. The letters which goes between Asiut and Cartoom: must pay only one piastre per ten grs. This and that is, to buy stamps from the Post and put it upon the letter. Also if somebody wishes to send letters insured, must two piastres more for any letter. There is orderation in the Post to receive the letters which goes to Europe, America and Asia as England France, Italy Germany, Syria Constantinople etc. Also to send newspapers patterns and other things. Luxor the 1st January 1874. L'Ispettore, M. ADDA."

This young man begged for a little stationery and a penknife at parting. We had, of course, much pleasure in presenting him with such a modest testimonial. We afterwards learned that he levied the same little tribute on every dahabeeyah that came up the river; so I conclude that he must by this time have quite an interesting collection of small cutlery.

From this point where the railroad ends, the Egyptian and Nubian mails are carried by runners stationed at distances of four miles all along the route. Each man runs his four miles, and at the end thereof finds the next man ready to snatch up his bag and start off at full speed immediately. The next man transfers it in like manner to the next; and so it goes by day and night without a break, till it reaches the first railway station. Each runner is supposed to do his four miles in half-an-hour, and the mail which goes out every morning from Luxor reaches Cairo in six days. Considering that Cairo was 450 miles away, that 268 miles of this distance had to be done on foot, and that the trains went only once a day, we thought this a very creditable speed

(page 233, arriving in Korosko): It was half-twilight, half-moonlight by the time we reached the mooring-place, where Talhamy, who had been sent forward in the small boat half an hour ago, jumped on board laden with a packet of letters, and a sheaf of newspapers. For here, where the great caravan-rouote leads off across the desert to Khartum, we touched the first Nubian post-office. It was only ten days since we had received our last budget at Assuan; but it seemed like ten weeks. / Continued . . .

Extracts from "A Thousand Miles Up The Nile" - continued

(page 334, back at Korosko after having visited Abu Simbel, February 16 1874): On arriving at Korosko, where there is a post-office, he (a member of the party) also despatched a letter to The Times, briefly recording the facts here related. That letter . . . appeared on the 18th of March following . . .

[Extracts selected by J M Murphy ESC 240]

AL-AZHAR MILLENARY - Further notes: J M Murphy (ESC 240)

Mr Rudi Jeidel (ESC 127) has kindly responded to my note about the Letter Sheet FDC of the 1957 Al-Azhar Millenary set by reporting a similar sheet in green, and I am grateful for his response and for his erudite notes taking further the details of the sheet's printing, particularly in the matter of the third-page illustration. If I might further clarify the position, it seems to me that on the page in question both lines of type - Old Islamic Characters, and Islamic Arts, and their equivalents in Arabic - are set clear of the blocks containing the drawings (my original note mistakenly referred to these blocks as "vignettes"). Perhaps surprisingly, these blocks are slightly different sizes, the upper 130mm wide and 88mm deep, the lower 130mm by 86mm. In both of the examples in my collection, the right-hand Arabic word in the lower caption (fanum - arts) very slightly overlies the lower edge of the illustration block, indicating at least two passes through the printing machine.

* As a footnote to the above, I should like to add my most grateful thanks to Mr Peter Feltus (ESC 114), who has very kindly supplied me with a "normal" FDC of the set in question, similar in all respects to the front cover of the Letter Sheet originally illustrated (though only 93mm deep, like all other FDCs of the period), and printed, like Rudi Jeidel's Letter Sheet, in green. So my original problem is solved: the Letter Sheet did NOT form the only FDC. Next question: do fellow members know of any other FDC Letter Sheets ?

[This matter was first raised by Mr Murphy in The QC for September 1983, Volume XI, No. 11 (Whole 127), pages 282-5. Mr Jeidel's response appears in The QC for Sept/Dec 1984, Volume XII, Nos. 131-132, page 68 - Editor]

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL OFFICIEL - continued

1919 - v

Dec 15 (113,5): Postal Administration tenders (see Sept 11) above, including "for the engraving works in general, including the manufacture of rubber stamps required during the period of the year April 1 1920 - March 31 1921". The tenderer to be a professional engraver of known standing, residing in Alexandria. Contract won by Henry Margosches (4,4 of 1920).

Dec 29 (117,5): From January 1 1920, the maximum trade charge on parcel originating from or addressed to the United Kingdom, Gibraltar and Malta is fixed at £stg40 per parcel. The sender cannot have the trade charge cancelled or reeuced after posting. Each parcel subject to trade charges must bear on its cover and on the back of the despatch note a request signed by the sender to the effect that if found undeliverable after 15 days the parcel should either be abandoned or returned at the sender's expense.