
The Quarterly Circular



EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

December Quarter 1988

Volume xiii No. 8

Whole Series No. 148

NORMAL VENUE FOR MEETINGS: THE VICTORY CLUB, SEYMOUR STREET
MARBLE ARCH, LONDON

MEETINGS DETAILS

1989

Jan 7 Forgeries

March 4 "10 Sheets per member"

May 20 Postal Stationery: Registered Envelopes, Wrappers, Letter-cards

July 8 Civil Censor marks, 1948 onwards

Sept 9 Hotel and non-Post Office postmarks generally, to bring the
Record up to date

Nov 4 (to be arranged)

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NEXT AUCTION DEADLINE: Lots to reach Mike Murphy by 22 April 1989, please

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE - THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

Volume XIII Number 8: December Quarter 1988: Whole Series 148

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| 1938 Envelope to mark a Royal birth (used); also 1938 and 1951 special envelopes, Farouk's weddings | |
| L Balian, S Samra - edited | J M Murphy 162-164 |
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- - - - -

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

M. Jean Boulad d'Humières has been elected an Honorary Life Member of Egypt Study Circle.

- - - - -

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Our next issue, for the March Quarter 1989, will carry reports from the various Officers of Egypt Study Circle. The Editor hopes that all officers will contribute to this annual coverage of the Circle's administration so that all our activities will be reviewed.

- - - - -

Subscriptions . . .

. . . for the year 1989 have been set at £10. U.S.A. members will have a facility to pay in U.S.\$, to our newly-appointed agent in U.S.A., Mr Charles F Hass. All U.S.A. members are being contacted in regard to this arrangement. ALL members, in U.K. and elsewhere, are earnestly asked to pay their subscriptions promptly, please! It makes our planning difficult, and causes much worry, when we are nearing the end of the year, and our subscriptions banking is low, which is what has been happening.

from the CHAIRMAN . . .

I have the greatest pleasure in announcing that M. Jean Boulad d'Humières (ESC 16) has been elected an Honorary Life Member of Egypt Study Circle.

- - - - -

Discussions with colleagues have led to these points being agreed:-

1. The "subscription year" of the Circle will run from Jan 1st.
2. Subscriptions received from members in 1988 will be taken as relating to the year 1988, unless those members also pay in advance for succeeding years.
3. Lists of paid-up members have been found to be confusing and will no longer be published in The QC.
4. Mr C F Hass (ESC 181) has kindly agreed to act as Collecting Agent in U.S.A. for Circle members resident there.
5. The amount of the subscription will be raised to £10 with effect from 1st January 1989. We regret having to make this increase, but it was foreshadowed last year, and the recent increase in postal charges has made it inevitable.

- - - - -

The Circle enjoys low printing costs, thanks to Mr Ken Davis (ESC 148). Although, so far, only The QC is currently produced, it is intended that more publishing will be undertaken in future, and members can therefore derive more benefit from our arrangement. A number of publishing projects are being planned and, in this way, our predecessors' hopes of "The Book" are being revived.

John Sears (ESC 188) Chairman

REMINDERS

1. Volunteers are wanted to be able to offer guidance and practical assistance in the disposal of deceased members' collections. Please initially contact the Chairman, Mr John Sears.
2. The Circle needs an Agent who must, it is considered, be resident in Egypt, and who would undertake to report changes in postal rates, postal facilities, and related matters. Our object is to publish details of these changes regularly in The QC, so that present and future members, and collectors of Egypt in general, will have this important information. We are very anxious to be able to provide this service to our members: Egypt residents are asked kindly to contact the Chairman, Mr John Sears.
3. Mr J M Murphy (ESC 240) has been substantially involved in the research into Civil Censorship matters. He comments that the late Jim Benians used to record civil censor handstamp markings, as a small part of his very many study subjects, but that since he died nobody is recording them at all ! Mike Murphy hopes that somebody will come forward now to take up this interesting subject and will look further at the information in this, and recent QC's. It should be possible to trace the use of the markings, relate them to the language in which the subject cover is written, or to particular destinations and so on . . . Come along, somebody !

LONDON MEETINGS REPORTS

Meeting held 12th November 1988 at the Victory Club, Marble Arch

Attending were Mr J Sears (Chairman), Mr H S Horesh (Deputy Chairman) and Messrs P Andrews, A Bates, P R Bertram, D Carew, D J Davis, C E H Defriez, E Hall, C Kelemenis, J M Murphy, A J Revell and P E Whetter. Mr Costas Kelemenis from Athens and Mr D Carew, Hove, were welcomed as members who did not often have the opportunity of attending.

Apologies reported: Messrs W C Andrews, D H Clarke and C E Grey.

The programme for 1989 was formulated as follows :-

| | | | |
|----------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jan 7th | Forgeries; | March 4th | 10 Sheets per member; |
| May 20th | Postal Stationery; | Reg'd Envs, | Wrappers, Letter Cards; |
| July 8th | Civil Censor marks, | 1948 onwards; | |
| Sept 9th | Hotel and non-Post Office postmarks generally, | to bring the Record up to date. | Nov 4th (to be arranged) |

The main purpose of the afternoon was the study of the 1st Farouk issue and this was most admirably led by Mr Peter Andrews, assisted by Mr A John Revell. The paper which was produced by Mr Andrews was a most professional and comprehensive work. This will be published in due time either in the QC or as a separate chapter of "The Book". (Notes by Mr J Sears).

Autumn Stampex. 1988

- reported by Mr J Sears (ESC 188)

We must congratulate the following members on their successes in exhibition at Stampex, London, Autumn 1988.

Mr Leon Balian (ESC 251) displayed the history of the Official Mail from pre-stamp covers/letters with seals, including the overprinted issues (with examples on cover) to the more modern Official Stamps and covers. He was awarded a Silver Medal and also took the special Ebby Gerrish Trophy.

Mr John Davies (ESC 213) displayed stamps from the Postal Concessions which were available to British service personnel in Egypt prior to World War II, the highlight, perhaps, being an example of a genuinely used small 3-mill green Army Stamp on cover. Award: Silver Medal.

Mr Reg. Lockwood (ESC 250) had a Postal History exhibit entitled "Mails in Transit through Egypt". This display emphasised the role of Egypt as a "junction" for world trade and mail. Covers were shown from all parts of the world with evidence of their passage through Egypt. Award: Silver-Bronze medal.

In the Melville Youth Competition (up to 11 years Class) there was an entry from a Miss E J Russell (not yet a Circle member !) called "The Philatelic Sphinx" which consisted of a collection of stamps and postal stationery of Egypt featuring the Sphinx. A well-put-together display which unfortunately did not reach the medal class. (Thought to be too neatly typed for an 11-year old ?)

The Secretary's Page

- C E Grey, Secretary/Treasurer, Egypt Study Circle.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

ESC 206 Dr John C H Steele Jr, M.D. P.O. Box 7603,
North Augusta, S.C. 29841 U.S.A.

ESC 257 Dr M M Michaels, P.O. Box 8067, Palatka,
Florida 32078 U.S.A.

ESC 309 Mr C A R Piteira Praca Marques de Pombal,
3-1 Esq 1200 Lisboa Portugal

RESIGNATIONS OF MEMBERS

| | | | |
|---------|---------------|---------------|--------|
| ESC 135 | Dr C Jordan | Ontario | Canada |
| ESC 325 | K E Pollock | San Francisco | USA |
| ESC 319 | W O Wittering | Royston | UK |
| ESC 328 | D F Collins | Dundee | UK |

DEATH OF MEMBER

The Secretary records with great regret the death of :-

| | | | |
|--------|----------------|------|-----|
| ESC 17 | Mr Charles Fox | Ohio | USA |
|--------|----------------|------|-----|

RECTIFICATION OF MEMBER'S NAME

ESC 310 to read: P J Lenard (not Lennard - apologies !)

I wish to thank all members for the very prompt replies and cheques sent for our services to you via the QC and the London "Meets".

We have been forced to increase the dues to £10 across the board and also to arrange a collection point in the United States for a central account: every cheque from overseas in dollars costs £3 to clear, so in many cases we receive only £5 - much less than it costs to publish the QCs and post them.

I apologise to members who have "bent my ear"; O.K. I am sorry but unless I get firm we cease to exist. I for one think that the membership of a study circle such as ours is worth every penny/cent.

I hope to serve you all for many years to come and I enjoy your letters and remarks. It hurts me to find resignations as I feel perhaps I could have done more. Every best wish for the New Year; and I look forward to 1989 and sharing it with you.

Your Secretary/Treasurer with a big heart (and bent ears !):

- Ted Grey

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)

Commemorative Stamps

SG 1661

| | | |
|------------------|---|--------------|
| Occasion | 5th Anniversary of Restoration of Sinai | |
| Date of Issue | 25th April 1987 | |
| Designer | Nadia Abdel Fatah | |
| Design | Saladin's Citadel and map of Sinai | |
| Denomination | 5 piastres | |
| Sheet | 50 (10 x 5) | No watermark |
| Stamp dimensions | 30 x 50 mm | |
| Perforation | 13 | |
| Quantity printed | 500,000 Lithographed | |
| Supplementary | The Sinai Peninsula is now considered to be an important Tourism region | |

SG 1662

SG 1663

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Occasion | Festivals 1987 | Saudi Arabia - 'Yesterday and Today' Exhibition, Cairo |
| Date of Issue | 24th May 1987 | 17th June 1987 |
| Designer | Ibrahim el Torky | N. Shaker and I. E. El-Tahtawi |
| Design | Dahlia flower | Pyramid and Camel Train |
| Denomination | 5 piastres | 15 piastres |
| Sheet | 100 (10 x 10), no watermark | 50 (5 x 10), no watermark |
| Stamp dimensions | 25 x 30 mm | 50 x 30 mm |
| Perforation | 11 | 13 |
| Quantity printed | 5,000,000 | 500,000 lithographed |
| Supplementary | - | The Exhibition was open from 17th June to 6th July. It showed the achievements of the Kingdom during the last 15 years. |

SG 1664

SG 1665

SG 1666

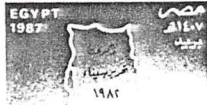
SG 1667

SG(MS) 1668
AIR MAIL

| | | | |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Occasion | - - - - - | Tourism Year in Egypt | - - - - - |
| Date of Issue | - - - - - | 18th June 1987 | - - - - -] [30th Sept 1987 |
| Designer | - - - - - | Ibrahim El Tahtawi | - - - - -] [I. El Tahtawi |
| Design | Column, Sphinx & Qaitbay Fort | Saint Catherine's Monastery | Colossi of Thebes |
| | | | Temple of Luxor] [(same design as the four stamps) |
| Denomination | - - - - - | 15 piastres (each) | - - - - -] [30 piastres |
| Sheet | - - - - - | 40 (4 x 10) | - - - - -] [Min. Sheet, no watermark |
| Stamp dimensions | - - - - - | 50 x 30 mm (each) | - - - - -] [140 x 90 mm |
| Perforation | - - - - - | 13 (each) | - - - - -] [Imperforate |
| Quantity printed | - - - - - | 150,000 (each) lithographed | - - - - -] [50,000 litho |
| Supplementary | Printed in se-tenant blocks of 4 within the sheet, each block forming a map, with each subject pinpointed. | | |

NEW ISSUES AND THEIR SPECIAL CANCELS

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



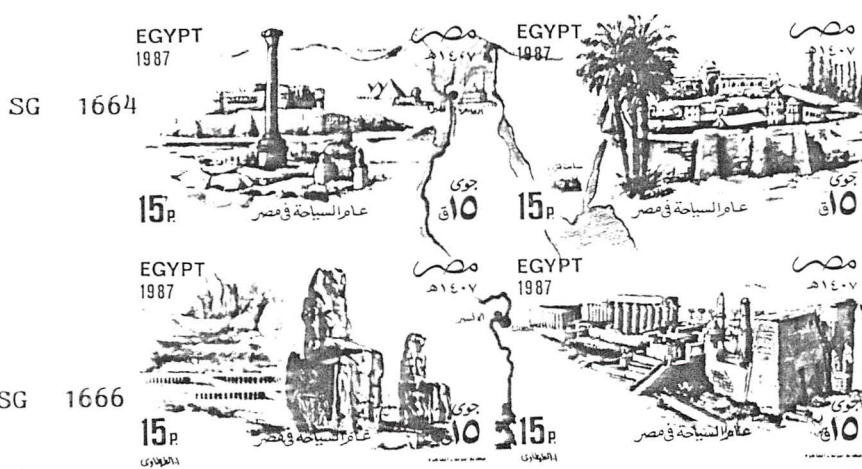
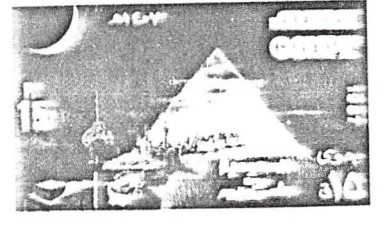
SG 1661



SG 1662



SG 1663



SG 1664

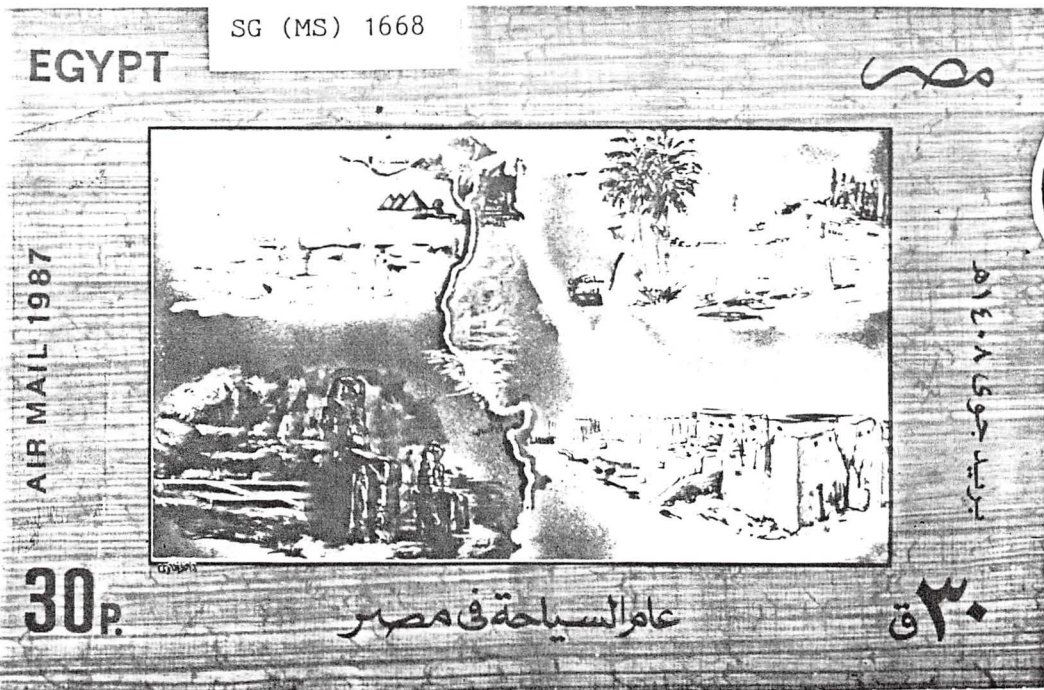
SG 1666

SG 1665

SG 1667



SG 1664 - 1667 inclusive

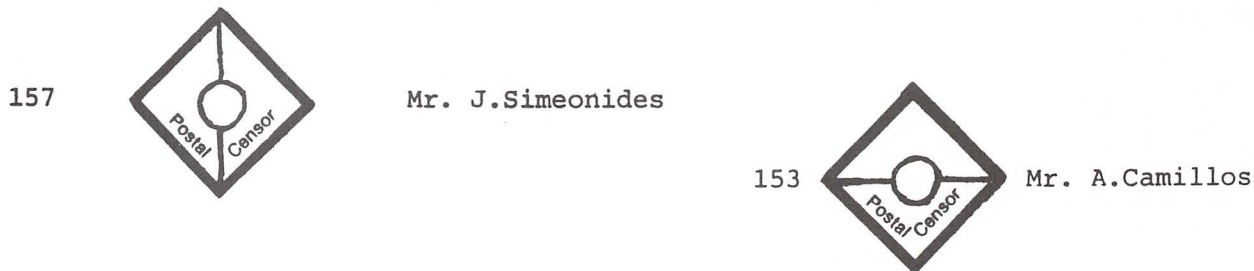


SG (MS) 1668

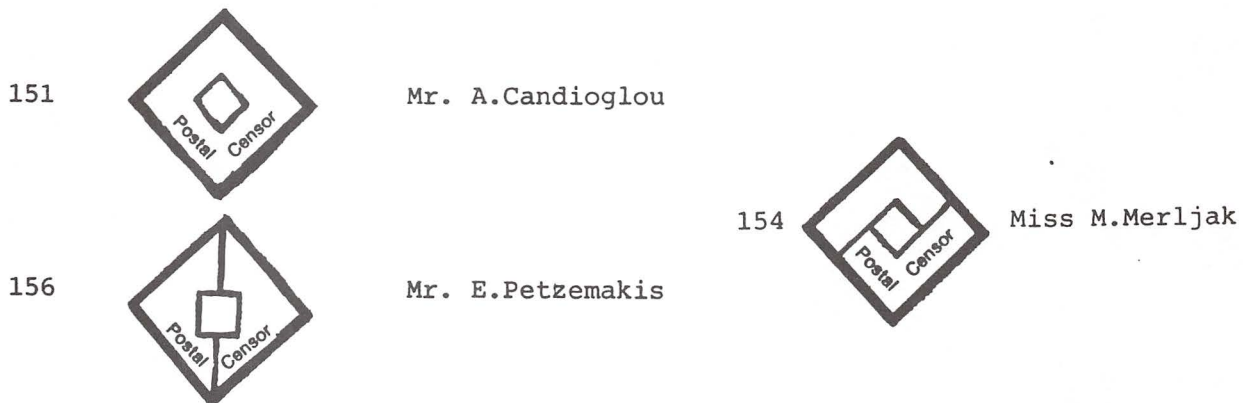
SG (MS) 1668

2. Boulad Types 34-60 (continued)

Single-bordered diamond with a circle

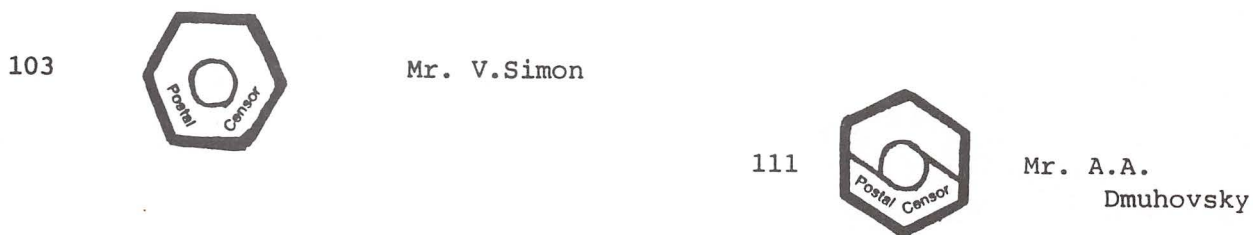


Single-bordered diamond with a square or oblong



Hexagons

Single-bordered hexagon with a circle









[NOTE: The reversion from double-bordered diamonds (previous sheet)^{*} to single-bordered diamonds is an accurate reflection of the original sheets, in which the diamonds above are displaced on a separate sheet right to the end of the collection.]

* see page 133, September 1988 QC - Editor



** in regard to "unimproved illustrations", please see Editor's note, on page 131, September 1988 QC.

Single-bordered hexagon with a square or oblong


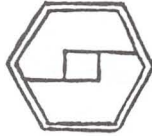


No. 109 (unimproved**)

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------|-----|---|--------------------|
| 109 |  | Mrs. B.Assim | 117 |  | Mr. S.Stein |
| 118 |  | Mrs. E.Kurpershoek | 120 |  | Mr. K.A. Devletian |
| 122 |  | Mr. M.I.Farhi | 123 |  | Mr. R.Khoury |

Double-bordered hexagon with a circle



- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------|-----|---|-------------|
| 170 |  | Mr. B.Iltchenko | 178 |  | Mr. W.Allan |
|-----|---|-----------------|-----|---|-------------|

Double-bordered hexagon with a square or oblong

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|------------------|-----|---|--|
| 162 |  | Mr. S.Nissenbaum | 164 |  | Mr. M.Juster [Impression on sheet upside-down.] |
| 176 |  | Mrs. I.Taragano | 177 |  | Mr. S.Passy |

Octagons

Single-bordered octagon with a square or oblong

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|-----|---|--------------|
| 127 |  | Miss E.Radinger [Sheet record has a <u>double-bordered octagon</u> , rather than single as described.] | 135 |  | Mrs. A.Bigio |
|-----|---|---|-----|---|--------------|

** see Editor's note, page 131, September 1988 QC

CIVIL CENSORS IN THE CAIRO POSTAL MUSEUM - continued

Double-bordered octagon with a circle



Miss A.Youssoufian

190



Mrs E.Kovacs



No. 188 (unimproved**)



Mrs. H.Hunt

196



Mr. N.Louiso

Double-bordered octagon with a square or oblong



Mr. S.A.Anastasiades

194



Miss I.Pinto



Mr. O.Batmanian

Circles

Circle with a circle

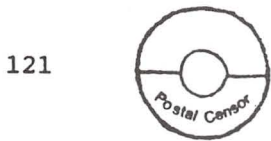


Mr. E.Talarewitch

110

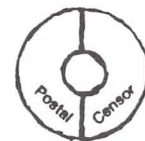


Mr. M.Novotny



Mr. R.Setton
[The only sheet
impression
in red.]


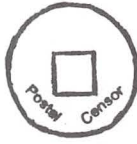




136





Mr. A.Makram

** see Editor's note, page 131, September 1988 QC



Circle with a square or oblong

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------------------|-----|---|--|
| 105 |  | Miss I. Stephenson | 129 |  | Mr. E. Harari |
| 145 |  | Mr. Mohamed Abdel Halim El Borai | 147 |  | Mr. Mackenzie-Penderel <i>[Sheet shows this on its side.]</i> |
| 148 |  | Mr. W.J. Maltass | 155 |  | Mr. R. Friedmann |





Circle with a circle in a single-bordered hexagon

| | | | | | |
|-----|--|----------------|-----|--|-------------------------|
| 232 |  | Mrs. H.S. Levy | 234 |  | Mr. Shafik Zaky Youssuf |
|-----|--|----------------|-----|--|-------------------------|


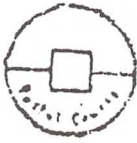
Circle with a circle in a double-bordered hexagon

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------|-----|---|---------------|
| 213 |  | Mrs. M. Leonard | 216 |  | Mr. J.J. Levi |
|-----|---|-----------------|-----|---|---------------|

Circle with a square or oblong in a double-bordered hexagon

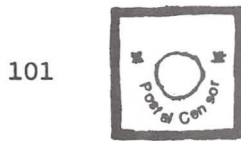
| | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------|-----|---|--------------------|
| 218 |  | Mr. Mohd. Sadek | 226 |  | Mrs. Mansell-Jeune |
| 227 |  | Mr. A. Coenca | 228 |  | Mr. K. Medzadour |

Circle with a square or oblong in a single-bordered hexagon

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------|--|---|---------------------------|
| 233 |  | Mrs. I. Gibbons | |  | No. 105 (unimproved**) |
|-----|---|-----------------|--|---|---------------------------|

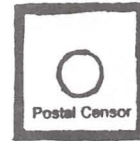
Squares

Single-bordered square with a circle



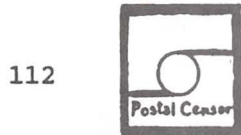
101

Mr. F.Chidiac



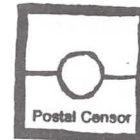
108

Mr. V.P.Kitrilaki



112

Mr. P.N.Shagury



133

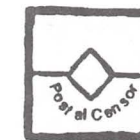
Mrs. M.Ohanian

Single-bordered square with a square or oblong



119

Mr. S.A.Aquilina



130

Dr. H.Lowy



132

Mrs. M.Neel

Single-bordered square with a circle and a square inside it



207

Miss R.Chahriman



208

Mr. H.Cousin

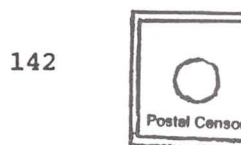
Single-bordered square with concentric circles



209

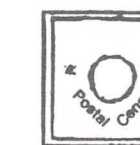
Mrs. V.Osmond

Double-bordered square with a circle



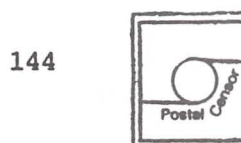
142

Mrs. M.Grant



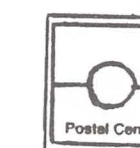
143

Mr. G.Sayegh



144


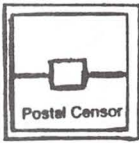


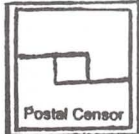
Miss L.Gryllis



149

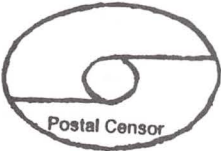
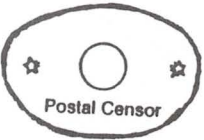
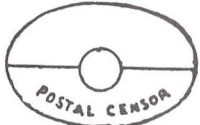
Miss A.Georgacopulo

Double-bordered square with a square or oblong

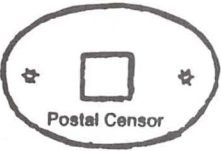
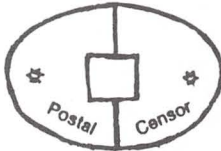
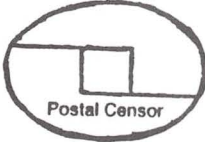
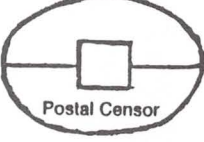
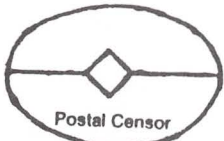
- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|-----|---|---------------------|
| 137 |  | Mr. A.A.Vacalopoulos <i>[Sheet impression is upside-down.]</i> | 138 |  | Mr. Th.Nicolopoulos |
| 139 |  | Mr. A.Alexanian | 140 |  | Mr. Panos Markettos |
| 146 |  | Mrs. L.Golding | | | |

Ovals

Oval with a circle
















- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|--|-----|---|--------------------|
| 185 |  | Mr. R.Friedmann | 187 |  | Mr. M.J.Cassimatis |
| 198 |  | Mrs. M.-T.Odent <i>[POSTAL CENSOR in capital letters.]</i> | | | |

Oval with a square or oblong

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|--|-----|---|------------------|
| 182 |  | Miss A.Tomich | 189 |  | Mr. J.A.Maggiore |
| 191 |  | Personnel Office (Mr. Mackenzie-Penderel) | 195 |  | Office |
| 199 |  | Mr. A.Chaker | | | |

3. Boulad Types 19-33

[These impressions, all with lettering in capitals, range from 58 to 100; again there are unexplained gaps, and no date to the sheets.]

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------|----|---|--|
| 58 |  | Mr. V.Devletian | 59 |  | Mrs. M. Ben Lassin |
| 64 |  | Mr. Sobhi El Sayed | 66 |  | Mr. N.Elimelek |
| 70 |  | Mr. Edib Essad | 79 |  | Mr. J.Palmier [Sheet shows this on its side.] |
| 83 |  | Dr. K.Schur | 84 |  | Mr. G.Glynn |
| 85 |  | Mrs. B.Badran | 87 |  | Mrs. Musgrave-Thomas |
| 88 |  | Mr. D.Diacomides | 89 |  | Miss P.Bakalian |
| 90 |  | Miss L.Medzadour | 92 |  | Mr. A.Bahari |
| 100 |  | Mr. A.Krivaksine | | | |

The Postal Museum's file records perhaps ask more questions than they answer - but at least one statement may safely be made: we now know the names (or the departments) of those who used the censor hand-stamps illustrated. Which leads to the next question: how were the hand-stamps allocated?

First it may be noted that there is no duplication of issues, ie, no-one has two stamps, apart from the abovementioned Omar Rouchdy in Section 1; and Mr Mackenzie-Penderel, one being Circle file 129, the other in his capacity as (head of?) the Personnel Office, Oval file 191. In other words, every hand-stamp is individual and immediately recognisable.

Second, it may not immediately be obvious, but there is an overlap between the file numbers of Section 1 above with Section 3 - the numbers 58, 79, 87, appear in both sections - and of Section 1 with Section 2 - 105, 110, 111, 112 and 118 all appear twice - but there is no overlap between Sections 2 (which runs from 101 to 234) and 3 (58-100). Thus it is possible that Sections 3 and 2 may form a continuous file; but it is certain that Section 1 was a separate entity, as is also suggested by its use for (in general) office designations rather than individuals.

Section 1 (Boulad 7-8): It is my understanding that although Boulad illustrates a 120, and the Museum record runs up to 118, no number higher than 114 has been recorded (this may be out of date). Running a quick eye down the records kept by Jim Benians reveals that the following numbers are not recorded, though we now know they existed: 8, 23, 39, 82, 87, 110, 111. If we suppose that the date 15 June 1944 also applies to the typing of the list of Section 1, we find that numbers 1,3,5,11,24,46,58,71,77,96, and 114 were all used before that date; and that only 79, 105, and perhaps 107 (month obscured) and 112 (retta cancels) are recorded as having come into use after that date.

My own meagre collection contains (of those on the Museum list) only 87 (Suez to Curacao, 5 DE 42, with Censor label tied with a 5); and 107 (retta to India, arrived 3 JAN 40, Censor label untied).

Section 3 (Boulad 19-33): Boulad illustrates none of those on the Museum list, though Benians' records run up to 100. He does not record 64, 70, 83, 84 or 90; and 58, 59, 66, 79, 85, 87, 88, 89 and 100 are all recorded before the putative date of 15 June 1944. The single recorded 92 has no date.

My collection (from the Museum list): 58, Cairo to Edinburgh, 30 MA 40), 59 (two covers Sth Africa to Alex, arrived 24 AP 43 and 30 MA 43), 85 (Peru to Alex, arrived 22 AP 40).

CIVIL CENSORS IN THE CAIRO POSTAL MUSEUM - continued

Section 2 (Boulad 34-60): Not easy to deal with, though it is probably important to note that these stamps were in use before the one concrete date on the Museum list - 15 June 1944. According to Benians' records, this applies specifically to Diamond 167 and 168; Hexagons 120, 122, 123, 170, 176 and 178; Circles 102, 105, 110, 129, 216, 233; Squares 209; Oval 195. Of all of Benians' recordings, only Oval 198 (24 AP 45) does not appear before 15 June 1944.

Of Boulad's illustrations in this area, only 42, 44, 47, 51, 55, 56, and 60 do not appear in the Museum list, though the latter has many not recorded by Boulad: Diamonds 158, 165, 167, 168, 172, 179, 180, 152, 153, 157, 151, 154, 156; Hexagons 111, 109, 117, 120, 122, 123, 178, 162, 176, 177; Octagons 135, 190, 196, 186, 194, 200; Circles 102, 121, 136, 129, 147, 148, 155, 232, 234, 213, 218, 226, 227, 228; Squares 101, 108, 112, 130, 207, 208, 142, 143, 144, 149, 137, 138, 139, 140, 146; Ovals 185, 187, 189, 191, 195, 199. Those underlined appear to have been recorded by Benians.

My own collection has Square 142 (no date, Red Cross to Switzerland, stamps cancelled in indelible pencil); Square 140 (Port Said to USA, 29 JU 44), Circle 213 (no date, retta cancel, MEFRA correspondence to Cairo), Diamond 168 (Cairo to USA 26 SE 44), Hexagon 200 (two covers, Sth Africa to Alex, arriving May and Sept? 1943), 117 (Ismailia to France, 4 MA 45). Also two not covered in the list: As 178 with upright central bar (Port Said to USA, 23 SE 42); and As 103 with horizontal central bar (France to Alexandria, July 1940). I append below illustrations of those marks of Section 2 recorded by Benians but not in the Museum list.

To return to the system of allocation of hand-stamps, it seems clear from the above that although the Section 2 list is dated 15 June 1944 (and the other two lists seem likely to have been issued on the same day, since there is no evidence to the contrary), the stamps in question had all been in use for some time. Why then were the lists issued? To record a change of user? Or to record the status quo? Or some other explanation? The first seems the most likely; and perhaps more research may prove interesting: it seems logical and attractive to believe that those with special linguistic gifts should censor mail marked in their own language - and indeed some of the Section 2 groups do seem to fall into language categories. For instance, double-bordered squares are held by Vacalopoulos, Nicopoulos, Alexanian, Markettos (and Golding) - presumably all Greek speakers. Similarly, single-bordered diamonds with a square or oblong (151, 154, 156) might be Turkish-speaking; there are obvious German, Slav, Armenian, Russian, Jewish and Arabic names. Did each have a linked category of mail? There seems to have been a requirement that mail be marked "Written in such-and-such language" - so that it could go to the appropriate censor?

The range of file numbers in Section 2 is 101-234; yet 51 intermediate numbers are missing. What hand-stamps were issued to these phantom censors? And when? The illustrations below may indicate the answer to the former. But the latter question may never be answered.

One more question: It seems that Circle 121, belonging to Mr. R. Setton - the only one on the Museum sheets recorded in red rather than purple - has not been seen on cover. Why not?

Hand-stamps recorded by Benians not in Museum list



Boulad 44
OCT 42



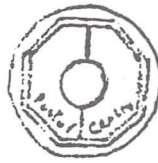
Boulad 47
JU 43



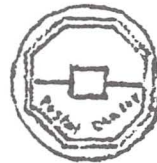
JAN 43



FEB 44



JY 44



MR 44



AP-JL 45



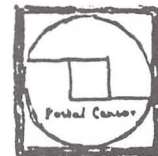
Boulad 60



Boulad 42
FE42-JU 42



Boulad 55



Boulad 56
1944



Boulad 51

J M Murphy (ESC 240)

Response to Question Time

Response to Q. Time 91 and 92 by Mr Reda Gowaily (ESC 327)

Question put by Mr Robin Bertram (ESC 137) in The QC Vol. xiii, combined numbers 5 and 6, for March and June quarters 1988.

Intaglio Seal markings inside Posta Europea entire

While going through the Q.C. for March & June Quarters 1988, I happened to notice Q. Time 92, being a question raised by Mr P R Bertram (ESC 137) about Intaglio Seal markings inside Posta Europea entire.

I can explain that this intaglio seal is a personal one which was very common in the last century. To some extent similar seals are still being used by some Egyptians, especially those who cannot read or write; these are mainly rural people.

I should like to justify my answer with the following observations:- (please see fig. 6b, page 105, QC 145/6, March/June 1988 - Editor)

1. We can easily find the sender's name which is hand-written at the end of the text:

محمد الشيمي = Mohammad Al Shemi.

The seal impression, which is close to the sender's name, can be seen to be:

محمد الشيمي = Mohammed Alshemi

- and this is the same.

This shows that the sender of the letter did not know how to write. The letter appears to have been written by a professional letter-writer, and the sender has affixed his seal to prove that he is the real sender of the letter. There are professional letter-writers in Egypt today.

The seal impression is not, of course, a postal mark.

2. The date of the letter can be clarified: the Entire Letter shows the handwritten date as :-

17. Jamadi Al Awal, 1280 (in Islamic Hijri years),
= 17.5.1280 Hijri

This corresponds with 29.10.1863 (Gregorian)

The year engraved in the intaglio seal is also :-

١٢٨٠ = 1280

The date as written in the letter, translated to 29.10.1863, is confirmed by the Posta Europea datestamp: 30.10.1863.

EDITOR: grateful thanks to Mr Reda Gowaily for his elegant response to this problem. It is clear that the use of a seal to validate a letter applies equally well if struck on the outside of the letter: Mr Gowaily has settled Question Time no. 91 as well as No. 92 !

Question Time

Response to Q. Time 94 by Mr Themis Dacos (ESC 220)

Question put by Mr Peter F Goodwin (ESC 297) in The QC Vol. xiii, combined numbers 5 and 6, for March and June quarters 1988.

Subject - Greek Religious Cachet

This is a cachet in Greek of the Greek Orthodox Monastery of Saint Catherine which was built by the [Byzantine] Emperor Justinian I in 529 A.D. on Mount Sinai.

The letters are actually posted from Gebel-el-Tor, a port on the Gulf of Suez about 40 miles from the Monastery.

Editor: Mr Dacos's response takes the form of a copy of his album page (written up in Greek and English !) the content of which is reproduced below. Further Question: since the monastery was built in A.D. 529, why does the Egyptian commemorative stamp of 1966 refer to " 566 A.C. " ?

THE MONASTERY OF MOUNT SINAI
 -bird's eye view-
 Η ΙΕΡΑ ΜΟΝΗ ΤΟΥ ΣΙΝΑΙ
 -γενική άποψη-
 مشهد عام لدير طور سيناء
 LE COUVENT DU MONT SINAI
 -vue générale-

POST CARD
 TAXYΔΡΟΜΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΚΙΟΝ

*Dgchel Tor
 26. OCT 37
 arr Coire 27.10.37*

*du Sinai.
 L'expédition du
 11-10-1934
 Jacqueline*

*M. Jean Doulad
 9. rue Shouarbi
 Le Caire*

Response to Question Time

Response to Q. Time 95 by Mr John A Firebrace (ESC 71)

Question put by Mr Peter F Goodwin (ESC 297) in The QC Vol. xiii, combined numbers 5 and 6, for March and June quarters 1988.

Subject - Hospital FREE mark

2 NEW ZEALAND GENERAL HOSPITAL

This Unit sailed from New Zealand in the Hospital Ship "Marama" on 5th December 1914.

During March 1915 it became established at the Egyptian Army Hospital at Pont de Koubbeh, Cairo (which name appears on the "FREE" handstamp).

The Officer Commanding was, for a short time, Major W Byam (Yes !).

In June 1916 the Unit sailed for England in the Hospital Ship "Marama".

The accompanying illustration of the "FREE" mark is, regrettably, not a perfect circle, as it should be. It is taken from "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", Volume III, page 354, and it is Type 35.

As to **Free Postage** - this was not officially granted until 24 May 1915, but mail with cachets such as this was normally sent post free before this date.



35

this ought to be circular !

The Editor on Question Time:

The three (effectively four) replies in this issue are to Questions raised by UK member Mr Robin Bertram and NZ member Mr Peter Goodwin, both of whom are very productive of Question Time topics. We need members with enquiring minds to raise such questions: who would have heard of Dr Arnold, but for Tom Brown and his school friends? Our thanks therefore to members who write to us with questions - but we want more !

There must be many members who possess philatelic and postal history material of Egypt which contains aspects which they do not completely understand. They will be doing many other members as well as themselves a useful service by raising these in "Question Time".

On several occasions, a question which looked to be straightforward, with just a simple and obvious answer, has turned out to have aspects which have attracted contributions from some of our best brains.

Grateful thanks are due to the knowledgeable members who have replied to these questions, and many others in past issues. One pointer to the future is that, increasingly, substantial responses are coming from collectors and specialists from Egypt and other parts of the Arab world, as with the replies to Question Time numbers 91 and 92.

Contributions from Mr Leon Balian (ESC 251) and Mr Sherif Samra (ESC 311)
edited by Mr J M Murhpy (ESC 240)

Two of our Cairo members have responded typically generously to the query raised by Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264) in QC XII, Joint Issue 11-12 (Whole Series 139 and 140), Sept/Dec 1986, page 258, in which he suggested that a mistake in the Arabic lettering on an envelope intended to mark the birth of a royal child - the masculine spelling was used, and the baby turned out to be Princess Ferial! - might have led to its suppression.

Leon Balian (ESC 251) produced several similar souvenir covers, including another of the type under consideration (marking the marriage at Abdin Palace on 15 March 1939 of Farouk's sister, Fawzia, to the Crown Prince of Iran; a used version of this cover now published by Lucien Toutounji, QC Whole Series 145-6, pp. 107-8), indicating that their production by the National Printing House was a regular occurrence. They include (Figs. 1 and 2) two illustrated covers marking the wedding on 20 January 1938 of Farouk and the former Safinaz Zulficar, daughter of an Alexandria judge and renamed Farida on her marriage; and another (Fig. 3), somewhat less flamboyant, to mark his second marriage, on 6 May 1951 to Narriman Sadek, aged 16; this marriage also ended in divorce, soon after the fall of the royal house.

Sherif Samra (ESC 311) went two steps further, providing a used royal birth cover (Fig. 4) - like the Fawzia wedding cover mentioned above, bearing Official stamps, and the following notes:

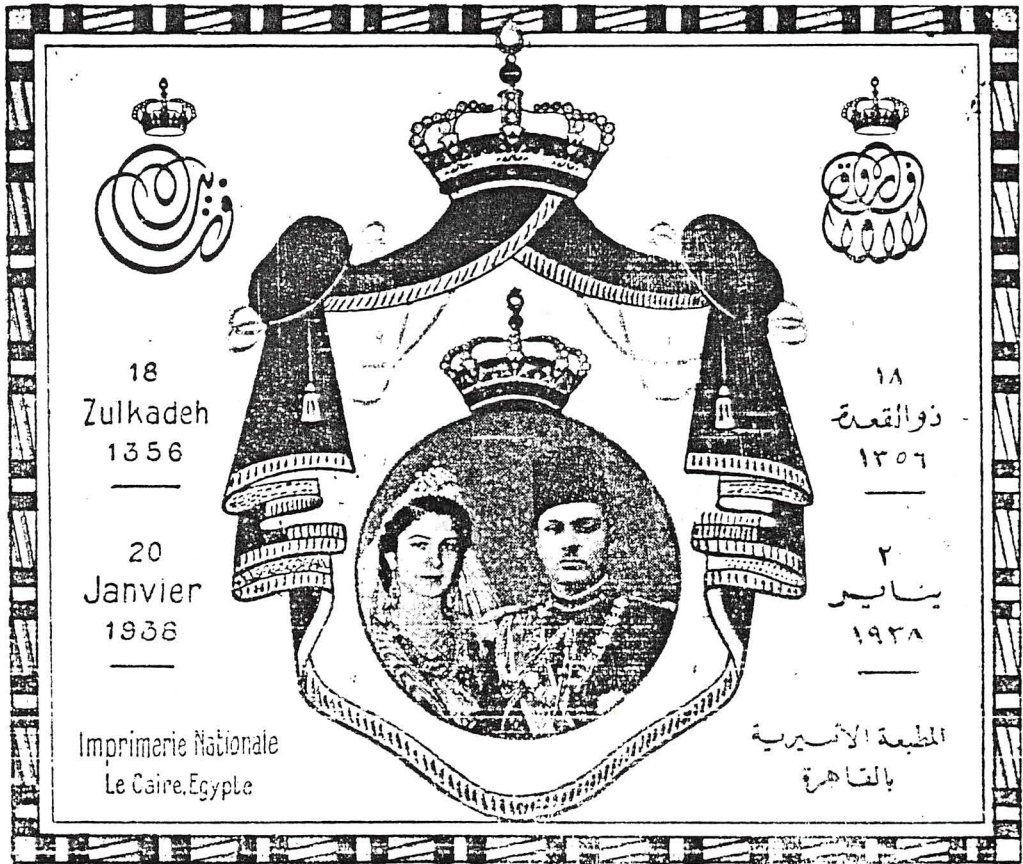
The first time I saw an identical mint envelope was in Cairo, just a few months before the note in the QC; I was able to obtain the cover, perhaps from the same source as the Toutounji example. I was under the impression that it had been produced for the use of the royal family, though no-one to whom I spoke in Cairo could confirm it. I was also told of the Arabic masculine usage in the word "royal child".

But on reflection this information appeared much less convincing, for in fact in the Classical Arabic used in this case the word المولود *al-mulood* applies equally to boys and girls. So many other words follow the same pattern, and it is a common error to add the letter ة or ه (each pronounced *-ah*) to the end of a word to form a feminine noun. For example, عضو *'adw* (member), مدير *mudir* (manager), رئيس *ra'is* (chairman) and وزير *wazir* (minister) should not have a final *-ah* to form the feminine: in each case the noun covers both sexes. Use of المولودة *al-muloodah* for a royal princess simply would not be correct Classical Arabic.

That raises the question of whether printers working directly for the royal family could have made, or would have been allowed to make, errors of this sort. Were envelopes in fact issued carrying the word المولودة *al-muloodah* for the royal princesses? I do not know, but it seems most unlikely.

To confirm my argument, I also illustrate (Fig. 4) a similar envelope, though slightly larger (177mm by 131mm, against 154mm by 124mm), recently acquired in London. It bears two official stamps of the 1926-35 issue to carry it to Paris, as well as the BULAQ-CAIRO/T cds of -4.DE.38 and the (sadly illegible) oval cachet of a Government department. This must surely mean that the envelopes were circulated, for in light of the Toutounji used example this cannot be a single illicit use. Was it designed for senior government personages during a specific period? Or from a royal courtier? I hope that members with similar used copies might help to shed light on these questions....

Figure 1 and figure 2 : illustrated covers marking the wedding on 20 January 1938 of Farouk to a judge's daughter, then renamed Farida



تذكار
عقد زواج حضرة صاحب الجلالة ملك مصر
فاروق الأول
١٨ ذوالقعدة ١٣٥٦ - ٢٠ يناير ١٩٣٨

SOUVENIR
du Mariage de S.M. le Roi d'Egypte
FAROUK 1^{er}
18 Zulkadeh 1356 - 20 Janvier 1938

موضع
طابع البريد

Figure 3 Less flamboyant envelope for occasion of second marriage, to Narriman, 6 May 1951

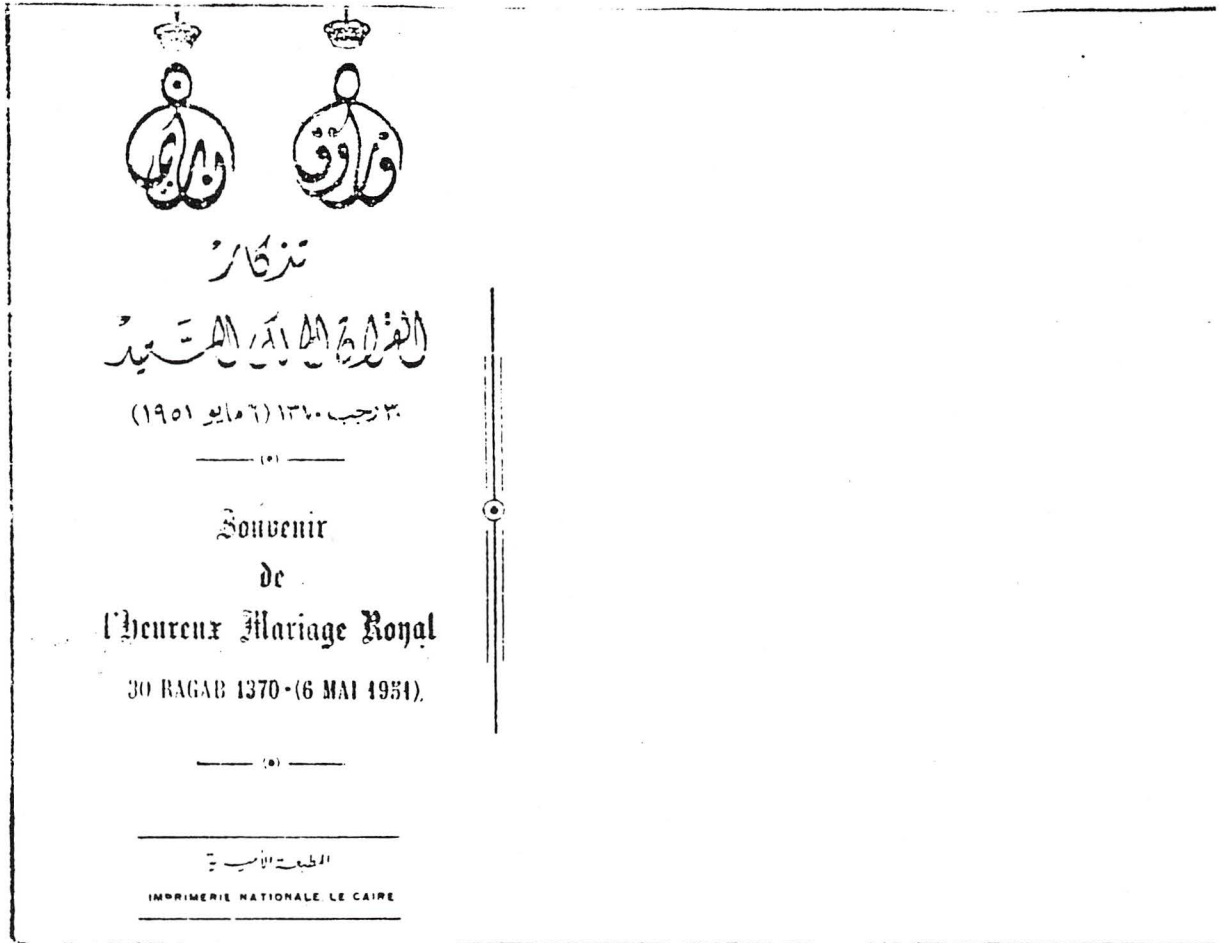
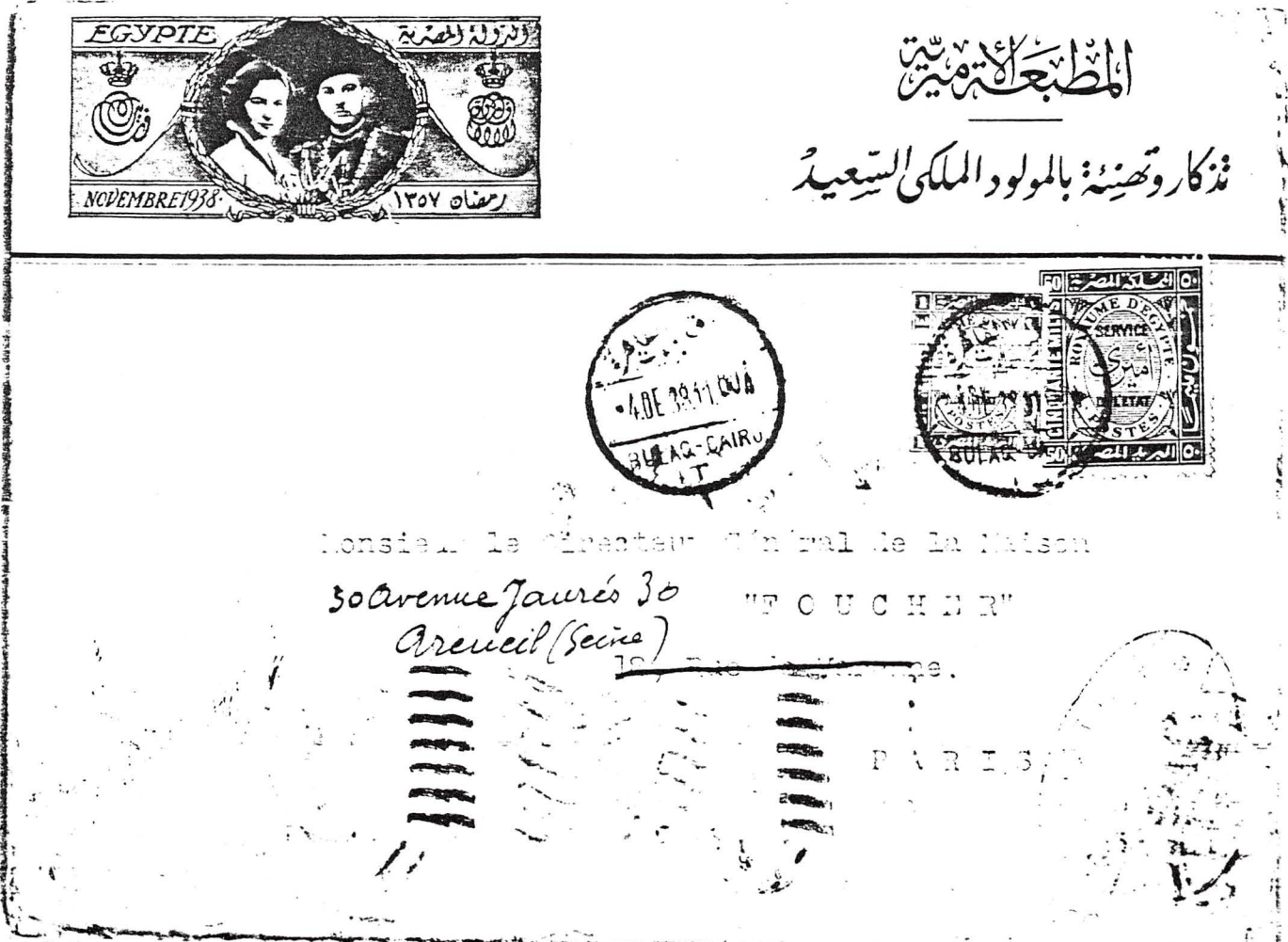


Figure 4 :special envelope: of birth of Princess Ferial USED 4 Dec 1938



JOURNAL OFFICIEL : 1926 - continued

Extracts by J M Murphy (ESC 240)

1926 - iv

May 29 (51,4): Following the notice published in the press on February 10, 1926, the Postmaster-General has the honour to inform the public that the postage stamps issued in commemoration of the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition will not be available, with effect from 1st June next, for the prepayment of all categories of correspondence, insured letters and boxes, and parcels destined for the interior of Egypt or abroad.

In consequence all postal items posted on 1st June 1926 and prepaid with the above postage stamps will be considered as unprepaid and will be taxed in consequence.

It is to be noted that the sale of these postage stamps will be suspended with effect from the above mentioned date.

Owing to a shortage in postage stamps, prepayment on correspondence from Persia will be provisionally represented by the impression on the envelope of a stamp wording "Taxe Percue".

The Postmaster-General has the honour to inform all Navigation Companies that the Egyptian Postal Administration is ready this year to undertake the sale by Post Offices of pilgrimage tickets for the account of the Companies which would solicit the intervention of the Postal Administration to that effect.

Companies desirous to avail themselves of the above opportunity are required to submit their application to the Postmaster-General together with their conditions.

May 31 (52,8): The Postmaster-General has the honour to direct the attention of the public that postal items, in the form of letters containing paper values and documents of value as well as boxes including jewels and precious articles insured for a declared amount, are admitted between Egypt and Syria & Lebanon.

Ordinary and telegraphic Money Orders, as well as COD parcels, may be exchanged with Estonia from May 15. Amounts in sterling, maximum £40.

Consequent upon the impending summer season, and with a view to the delivery of correspondence addressed to Ramleh without delay, summer residents are required to call the attention of their correspondents to the necessity of inscribing on the envelopes the name of the Ramleh PO from which they desire to receive their correspondence.

The non-inscription of the Post Office of destination may result in the delay or non-delivery of the correspondence for insufficiency of address.

June 7 (Special, 57): New Cabinet named under Adly Yeghen Pacha as Prime Minister (Ahmed Ziwer Cabinet had resigned same day). New Communications Minister Mohamed Mahmoud Pacha.

Jun 14 (60,6): Change in Lloyd Triestino Express sailing times - now leaves Alexandria 1pm Friday instead of 1.30pm; so latest hours of posting are Alexandria Central PO noon instead of 12.30 for ordinary correspondence and 10.45am instead of 11.15 for registered items.

Jul 1 (64,1): Hassan Mazloun Pacha, Director General of Posts, named as a member of the co-ordinating committee for the 1927 Congress of the International Statistical Institute.

1926 - v

July 15 (68,3): India complains that use of the green-label Customs form on correspondence is a "very weak percentage"; the Postmaster-General urges the public to use the label.

Class 2 PO has been opened at Bani Mahomadiat (Asyut Mudiriya), with Savings Bank facilities.

Aug 2 (74,3): Following the notice published in the press [not in JO] on July 22, 1926, in connection with the fire which broke out on the ss "Fontainebleau" of the Messageries Maritimes, the Postmaster-General has the honour to inform the public that from a further communication received, it transpires that parcels destined for Djibouti and Abyssinia have also been saved.

Aug 2 (74 Supplement): Ministry of Communications 12-page Notice on regulations governing the use of "radio-electroniques" in Egypt, ie, ship, air etc broadcasting and inter-communication.

Aug 9 (76,3): Dead Letter Office sale August 23 and following days.

Aug 19 (79,5): Ordinary and Telegraphic Money Order Service and COD parcels inaugurated with Lithuania September 1. Sterling, to maximum £40.

Sept 27 (92,3): Colombia notes that letters containing dutiable goods sent without the green-label Customs declaration will henceforth be "subject to internal legislation" rather than being returned if not withdrawn by the addressees.

Sept 30 (93 Insert): The Fifteenth Parliamentary Session (took place 19 July), discussing the Postal Administration during the Budget debate, reported that 36 new Post Offices and 22 new ambulant postal services had been provided in 1926/26.

Sept 30 (93,5): The Postmaster-General has the honour to inform the public that Express Letters will be accepted at a late hour of posting at both Cairo and Alexandria Stations for transmission by the Night Trains provided that after the closure of the Post Offices they be handed over from the interior of the station to the despatching clerk at the Cairo Station or Attarine Post Offices up to 11pm.

Oct 18 (99,7): Persian PO complains that address wrappers, "being generally made of a quality of paper insufficient to resist the shocks of transport and to sustain without damage a long voyage necessitating numerous handlings, the newspapers, periodicals and printed matter, originating in abroad for Persia, mostly arriving without address and are necessarily sent to the Dead Letter Office". Egyptian PO advises: write name and address on item itself as well as on wrapper.

Oct 25 (101,2): Royal Decree initiating Express Mails Service (in French)/

We, Fouad I, King of Egypt,

Having regard to the Decree of 29 March 1897 concerning postal services and to Law No 10 of 27 March 1921 fixing postal tariffs;

On the proposal of our Minister for Communications and with the agreement of our Council of Ministers;

Decree:

Article 1. The Postal Administration is authorised to carry out the distribution by express routes of pieces of correspondence in the internal service.

(Continued.....)

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL OFFICIEL - continued

1926 - v1

Oct 25 Continued...

Express items will be delivered by the postal agency to the addressee's destination by special carrier.

The service will function under the conditions ordered by the Postal Administration in its regulations.

Article 2. Express items will be carried, in accordance with the regulations, on payment of a special fixed tax of 15 milliemes, which must be paid in advance.

Express items not totally prepaid in advance will be carried by the normal methods.

Article 3. The service of express delivery will be limited to areas and to categories of correspondence as laid down by Notices of the Ministry of Communications.

Article 4. Our Minister of Communications is charged with carrying out the present Decree, which becomes valid thirty days after its publication in the "Journal Officiel".

Signed at Mountazah Palace, 9 Rabi Tani 1345
(ie, 16 October 1926)
Fouad.

Signed also by the Prime Minister, Adly Yeghen, and the Minister of Communications, Mohamed Mahmoud.

Oct 28 (102,1): Sir John Loader Maffey named Governor-General of Sudan, replacing Sir Geoffrey Archer (Oct 24).

(102,6): GPO tender seeking 222 waterproof capes and 34 oilskin overcoats for 1926-27 (returnable November 9).

Nov 11 (106,2): PMG notice that the Lloyd Triestino steamer ss "Vienna" which arrived at Alexandria on Tuesday morning November 9 instead of 8pm on Monday, carried most of the Italian mails. Mails usually received from Great Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland did not arrive.

Nov 15 (107,7): South Africa and Bechuanaland prohibit the import of dutiable articles by letter post from January 1 1927.

Nov 18 (108,2): PO Class 2 (with Savings Bank) opened in the Khoronfish quarter of Cairo, on November 15 will also be admitted to the services shown in regard of Letter (K), page 510 of Postal Guide No. 43 (English edn, 1925).

Nov 22 (109,7): Tender for "construction of Kantara Post Office" (returnable to Inspector, Eastern Division, Buildings, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, on November 24).

Nov 29 (111,3): PO Class 2 (with Savings Bank) to be opened at Port Fouad on December 1, also admitted to British Postal Orders, insured letters and parcels to maximum value of L.E.20.