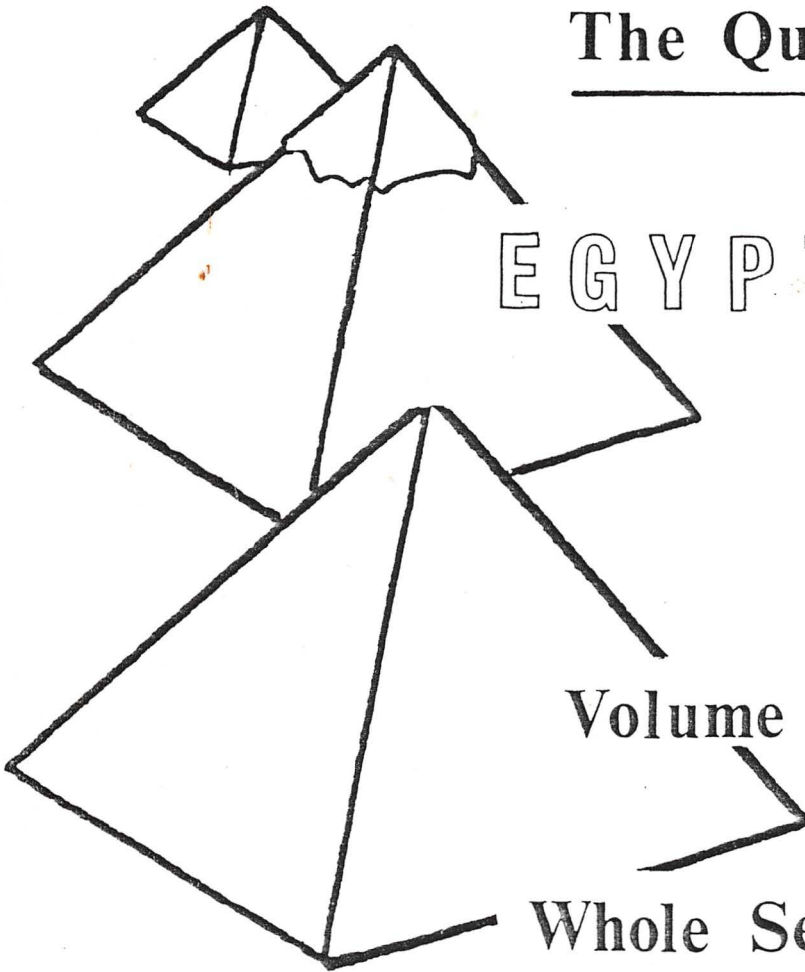


"INDIA 89" International Exhibition:

SAMIR FIKRY WINS INTERNATIONAL GRAND PRIX !

The Quarterly Circular



EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

March Quarter 1989

Volume xiii No. 9

Whole Series No. 149

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

MEETINGS DETAILS

1989

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.

THE NEXT AUCTION

Lists of Lots (not the Lots themselves) should reach
Mike Murphy by 22 April 1989, please.

- the Editor's apologies for the incorrect notice in the
previous Q.C.

Samir Fikry wins
INTERNATIONAL GRAND PRIX
at "INDIA 89" International
with his "NILE" COLLECTION

Mr Samir A. Fikry (ESC 305) acted as the Egyptian Commissioner to the Indian International Philatelic Exhibition, INDIA 89. In this capacity he went to India with four Egyptian collections, being the property of the collectors as below, and with details as shown :-

(A) POSTAL STATIONERY section

- (1) Exhibitor: Mr M Shams EL DIN (ESC 337)
Award: SILVER MEDAL
- (2) Exhibitor: Mr K HAGOPIAN (ESC 304)
Award: LARGE VERMEIL MEDAL

(B) AEROPHILATELY section

- (3) Exhibitor: Mrs Jeanne F Wanis
Award: LARGE SILVER MEDAL

(C) TRADITIONAL section

- (4) Exhibitor: Mr Samir A FIKRY (ESC 305)
Title: The "NILE" Collection (200 BC up to 1872)
Award: LARGE GOLD MEDAL WITH SPECIAL PRIZE
and,
Further Award: THE INTERNATIONAL GRAND PRIX

There were eight awards of "Large Gold with Special Prize" at INDIA 89, including two from Indian exhibitors, and one each from USA, Israel, Italy, Turkey, Argentina - and Mr Fikry from Egypt.

Mr Fikry's "NILE" collection had not been exhibited for two years, in compliance with the rules of International Exhibitions.

The LARGE GOLD awarded is Mr Fikry's fourth in three years.

The candidates for the International Grand Prix were Mr Alberto Barcella, from Italy, and Mr Samir Amin Fikry from Egypt. The Italian candidate had already won no fewer than three Grand Prix awards.

Mr Fikry is the first competitor from Egypt, Africa or from anywhere in the whole of the Middle East, to win an INTERNATIONAL GRAND PRIX.

The "NILE" collection will be entered in both SOFIA and PARIS international exhibitions this year.

WE OFFER CONGRATULATIONS to Mr Samir Fikry on his outstanding achievement which will elevate the importance of ESC's specialist study areas. We wish him equal success in future Internationals.

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE - THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

Volume XIII Number 9: March Quarter 1989: Whole Series 149

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Subscriptions: members in U.S.A. have the facility to pay in U.S.\$, to our Agent in U.S.A., Mr Charles F Hass.
All members, in U.K. and elsewhere, are earnestly asked to pay their subscriptions promptly, please ! To the many members who have done so - our grateful thanks.

- - - - -

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE : O F F I C E R S as at 31 March 1989

PRESIDENT Professor Peter A S Smith, Department of Chemistry,
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich 48109, USA

CHAIRMAN Mr John Sears, 496 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

EDITOR Mr John A Grimmer, 48 York Road, New Barnet,
Herts EN5 1LJ

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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8 March 1989

LONDON MEETING REPORT

Meeting held on 7th January 1989 at the Victory Club, Marble Arch

Attending were Mr J Sears (Chairman), and Messrs P Andrews, W C Andrews, P R Bertram, D H Clarke, P L Grech, C E Grey, E Hall, J M Murphy, A B Schofield and P E Whetter. Apologies: Messrs A Bates, J A Grimmer and Major E L G MacArthur. The study session which was the main purpose of the meeting then followed. It was on the subject of Forgeries.

Officers' Reports

Chairman's Report for 1988

1988 was another year of gentle progress, the meetings in London were well attended (by our standards) and as usual the subject matters were full of interest. The Study Leaders had obviously gone to a lot of trouble in preparing for their meetings. This was especially so on the last three occasions, viz. Rural Post (D H Clarke and J M Murphy), Express Mail (P E Whetter) and 1st Farouk Issue (Peter Andrews); a lot of interest was generated.

The '10 Sheets per Member' meeting is an annual event which always taxes the ingenuity and inventiveness of those participating, but provides a very rewarding session.

Why is it that not more of our U.K. members attend the London meetings? Should we try a Provincial Meeting again? Please let me have your views. Rest assured that when you do come you will receive a very warm welcome, and I guarantee there will be something to interest you.

Once again it is my pleasant duty to record our thanks to the Officers of the Circle for all their valuable contributions during the year; we could not survive without them. I must specially mention our Editor, John Grimmer, and the Secretary-Treasurer, Ted Grey, for their continuous efforts.

We look forward to 1989 with enthusiasm, and perhaps even more to 1990 when the London International Exhibition is held. Plans are already in hand for a day to be devoted to the Philately of the Nile in co-operation with the Sudan Study Group; members will be kept advised. - John Sears (ESC 188) Chairman.

Keeper of the Record

In discussion with the Editor as to his activities for 1988, Mr D H Clarke (ESC 165), the holder of this office, indicated that the Record was in poor condition when he took over. Mr Clarke's predecessor, the late David Grover, held the position for a short time only, following the death of Mr Charles Minett, ESC's assiduous Keeper of the Record for many years. This seems to have been a time of confusion and much of the original recording by Mr Minett has been lost, possibly by not being passed to the Circle at that time. It appears that this position is moribund, as no current data is being collected for addition to the Record; Mr Clarke, however, is responsible for safekeeping of the surviving papers.

Officers' Reports

Hon. Librarian's Report: 1984 to 1988

It is some four years now since I last formally reported to the Circle and during that time the sale of back numbers of Q.C. has continued and many books have been acquired.

Most back numbers supplied to members (at one quarter of the current annual subscription per copy, with a discount for bulk purchase), have come from the remainder of the print run but stocks of some back numbers, those with the more popular articles, have long since run out. As a result, and because many requests have been received for these popular numbers, recourse has been made to photo-copying as well as to purchase when available.

In some cases the Library is missing an original from which to make such photo-copies and a list of 17 such appeared in a recent Q.C. with a request; offers to supply 5 of these have since been forthcoming - many thanks.

However photo-copying has proved controversial with some and I would welcome the views of Members. Please write to the Editor.

Approximately £100 per annum, inclusive of postage has been received from the sale of back numbers over these four years and, apart from postage and photo-copy paper, revenue has been spent on acquiring books, pamphlets, leaflets and journals for the Library. A long run of L'OPs has been acquired and apart from the above-mentioned 17 copies a full run of QCs is now held.

A list of acquisitions will appear in the next QC and I am working on re-drafting the list as it badly needs updating.

Members' views would be welcome on what you consider should be in the Library, as opposed to the Record; please write to the Editor.

I have been acquiring books, almost always second-hand, both at auction and from bookshops, and one or two people have donated photo-stats of their collections, or, more accurately, entries in international exhibitions that have won awards. In addition one or two donations of books or leaflets have been received; many thanks.

Rather than acquire such works as Ted Proud's "History of British Army Postal Service" Volumes I to III and Stanley Gibbons' catalogues, I have been looking for biographies such as General Gordon, Ferdinand de Lesseps and Samuel Shephard (all found!) and Amelia Edwards' "A Thousand Miles up the Nile", Kinglake's Eothen and Herold's "Napoleon in Egypt" (again all found!). I am still trying to acquire, cheaply of course, Professor Vatikiotis' work on the history of Egypt, from Mohamet Ali to Mubarrak and John Marlowe's "Spoiling the Egyptians". Can anyone help?

Members who attend meetings are welcome to ask me to bring books to be borrowed to those meetings and I'll gladly do so. On average about a dozen books a year are borrowed - not nearly enough for what is now a good Library.

Officers' Reports

Hon. Secretary's Report

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following New Members :-

ESC 364	Mr Arthur Melvin Neu,	120 Vermilingea Avenue New York NY 10034	USA
ESC 365	Mr Dimitri Papadimitriou,	231 Preston Ave Shreveport LA 71105	USA

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

ESC 16	M. Jean Boulad d'Humières	Carlton Hotel, 4 Rue du Cour 1007 Lausanne	Switzerland
--------	---------------------------	--	-------------

(M. d'Humières, who was elected an Honorary Life Member in January, is now very ill)

ESC 237	Mr P H Herdman,	Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL14 7UB	UK
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ADDRESS CHECKS

ESC 105	Mr Lars Alund, FRPS, L, (notified 1984)	Gustav Adolfsgatan 21, S - 582 32 Linköping, Sweden
ESC 124	Mr Afa Letts	12A, High Grove Wood End Tettenhall Wolverhampton WV6 8LQ UK

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

I always enjoy getting letters from members, especially from afar, and more especially when conveying good news. So, thanks to U.S.A. member Richard R. Notman (ESC 342) for his letter, and hearty congratulations on his five-frame exhibit of Classic Egypt. Richard's Classic Egypt received a vermeil medal in March 1988 at the Garfield-Perry show, which is a show at national level. Then, in November, it won a Gold Medal at PITTPEX 88. Well done, sir !

POSTSCRIPT: Mr Charles F Hass (ESC 181) visited last week (for "Stampex") and kindly passed £200 to me, being U.S. members' current year's subscriptions collected by him as agent for the Circle. If we had continued to receive payment by individual checks on U.S. banks, it would have cost us over 30% in bank charges, which is a lot to lose, so - thanks, Charlie !

- Ted Grey, Secretary/Treasurer, Egypt Study Circle

Officers' Reports

Editor - The QC in 1988

In 1988 we went back to a strict quarterly basis for the QC. During last year there were distributed the equivalent of FIVE quarterly issues (Sep 1987 to Sep 1988). From 1984, there have been seven double-size issues of The QC. These double issues did not skimp on content, but rather long gaps appeared between issues. Now that we are firmly tied again to issuing The QC on a quarterly basis, the Editor is subjected to twice-as-frequent mental pressure in regard to the state of the "IN" tray for the next issue. This torture may lead to calls being made on members for material for the QC - when did YOU last submit an article, or a question, or an answer to somebody else's question ?

We are fortunate in that our contributors include the best brains studying the philately, postal history and other relevant aspects of our chosen collecting country - Egypt. This is so with modern branches of study equally with the classic period of Egypt's philately. To put modern studies into perspective, no World War II matters, including the Civil Censor areas now being studied, existed when the Circle was formed !

Egypt's wealth of philatelic history has a spread of interest over a large number of subjects, and has depths of interest to be found in every such subject. No better subject country can exist !

Possibly the best classic subject article published in 1988 was by Spanish member Mr C Th J Hooghuis: "Napoleon Bonaparte in Egypt"; the listing by Mr J M Murphy of Civil Censors in Cairo Postal Museum is likely to be of immediate use to the largest number of members. The article on Express Mail by ESC Chairman John Sears is perhaps the most likely to be the first intimation of a future subject of importance. In addition, there have been the regular features on New Issues (Mr C E H Defriez) and Mr J M Murphy's extracts from the Journal Officiel, while Question Time has been active. All this content helps to make the current Volume xiii one of lasting value and interest.

For the editor's peace of mind it is fortunate that we have so many very keen collectors of aspects of Egypt which the early great minds might well have found incomprehensible.

The QC requires more than the editor's efforts. Primarily there are the major contributors: the QC could not survive without them. A special thank-you here to the busiest of the majors for some years now, whose work is deep in its research, is wide in its range of subjects, is faultless in its presentation and, with no dilution, is generous in acreage . . . thank you, Mike Murphy ! There are, of course, the practical matters: arranging the text printing (a big thank-you to Ken Davis), while the remainder of the practical needs, viz. printing the illustration pages, collating the pages (i.e. turning several cubic feet of printed paper into QC copies sorted into page number order), stapling, stuffing into envelopes, addressing them (mostly correctly), stamping them appropriately for their destinations - the workhorse here, ESC's Chairman, John Sears, deserves the biggest thank-you of all.

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

ACCOUNTS - YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 1988

REVENUE ACCOUNT =====	1988	1987
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions received for current year	1,040.74	852.00
Late subscriptions for previous year	52.83	Nil
Expert Committee fees	Nil	Nil
Auction commission, less expenses (dealt with in separate account)		
Donations and miscellaneous income	13.10	Nil
	-----	-----
TOTAL INCOME FOR THE 12 MONTHS	1,106.67	852.00
	=====	=====
EXPENDITURE		
Hire of Rooms for meetings	117.00	106.50
Printing and despatching the QC, stationery, officers' expenses, etc	665.53	888.40
Subscription to British Philatelic Federation	20.00	15.00
	-----	-----
TOTAL COSTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS	802.53	1,009.90
	=====	=====
SURPLUS OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR 1988 (1987: shortfall)	304.14	(157.90)
	=====	=====
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1988 =====		
ASSETS		
	£	£
Circle Library, Circle Records and QC stocks		(Valued at £ nil)
Cash at Bank	778.15	361.49
	-----	-----
TOTAL ASSETS	778.15	361.49
	=====	=====
LIABILITIES		
Members, for next year's subscriptions received in advance	327.96	78.44
Cost of The QC, Dec 1988 quarter (not yet incurred), etc.	225.00	362.00
	-----	-----
TOTAL EXTERNAL LIABILITIES	552.96	440.44
	=====	=====
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (1987: deficit)	225.19	(78.95)
	=====	=====

AUCTIONS AUTUMN 1987/SPRING 1988: PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT

	Autumn 1987	Spring 1988
	-----	-----
Total sales	£ 1,995	£ 2,303
	=====	=====
<u>INCOMINGS</u>	£	£
7.5% Commission received	149.60	172.72
Postages paid by Buyers	54.45	48.13
	-----	-----
	204.05	220.85
	- - - -	- - - -
<u>OUTGOINGS</u>		
Postage and photocopying of Catalogues	74.20	84.76
Postage and packing of lots	57.34	43.20
Sundry expenses	17.16	11.64
	-----	-----
	148.70	139.60
	- - - -	- - - -
<u>NET PROFIT</u>	55.35	81.25
	=====	=====

AUCTIONS BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 1988

	£
<u>NET ASSETS</u>	
Current Assets: Balance at bank	117.94
Payment in advance: printing costs, next auction	104.72

	222.66
Current Liabilities: Refunds etc due to members	86.06

SURPLUS of Current Assets:	136.60
	=====
<u>AUCTION FUND: Surpluses on auctions up to Spring 1988</u>	136.60
	=====

The last two auctions have been well supported by both vending and buying members and I think you may all be interested in seeing how the expenses and profit work out. I hope more members will be encouraged to put material into our future auctions.

Thanks are due to Mike Murphy for his work in producing the typed auction lists, to Pip Whetter for despatching the Lots and to Ted Grey for accepting the bids and, with Mike, working out the successful bidders. I am glad to say that, due to the quality of the Lots on offer, the Autumn 1988 auction is the biggest yet, and this will form part of the Auction Report for the 1989.

J Sears, Chairman, 21 January 1989

Please note that lists of Lots (NOT the Lots themselves !) for the NEXT AUCTION should reach Mike Murphy by 22nd April 1989.

His address is: Flat 5, 45a Crystal Palace Road,
East Dulwich, London SE22 9EX.

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

	<u>SG 1669</u>	<u>SG 1670</u>
Occasion	Loyalty Day - 32nd Anniversary of General Intelligence Service	Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition
Date of Issue	26th June 1987	23rd July 1987
Designer	M Roushdy	Said el Badrawi
Design	Pharaonic Eye on Map	Exhibition Emblem
Denomination	5 piastres	5 piastres
Sheet	42 (7 x 6) No Wmk	35 (5 x 7) No Wmk
Stamp dimensions	40 x 40 mm	40 x 40 mm
Perforation	13	11.5
Quantity printed	500,000 lithographed	500,000
Supplementary	-	The Exhibition was held in Alexandria
	<u>SG 1671</u>	<u>SG 1672</u> <u>SG(MS) 1673</u>
Occasion	Int. Year of Shelter for the Homeless/Architects Day	Performance of Opera 'AIDA' at Pyramids, Giza
Date of Issue	2nd September 1987	- - - 21st September 1987 - - -
Designer	W Farag and S A Azim	- - - - Lotfy el Sawaf - - - -
Design	I.Y.S.H. Emblem, Trowel and Buildings	- - Scene from the Opera - -
Denomination	5 piastres	15 piastres 30 piastres
Sheet	(?) 42 (7 x 6) no watermark	42 (7 x 6) Min. Sheet no watermark no watermark
Stamp dimensions	40 x 40 mm	50 x 30 mm 70 x 70 mm
Perforation	13	13 Imperforate
Quantity printed	500,000 Litho	500,000 Litho 60,000 Litho
Supplementary	-	This Performance was from 21st to 30th September 1987
	<u>SG 1674</u>	<u>SG 1675</u>
Occasion	Inauguration of Cairo Underground Metro	Production Day
Date of Issue	27th September 1987	1st October 1987
Designer	M Roushdy	Ibrahim el Tahtawi
Design	Train in Underground Station, and Metro Emblem	Head composed of industrial symbols
Denomination	5 piastres	5 piastres
Sheet	42 (7 x 6) No Wmk	42 (7 x 6) No Wmk
Stamp dimensions	50 x 30 mm	40 x 40 mm
Perforation	13	13
Quantity printed	500,000 Lithographed	500,000 Lithographed
Supplementary	The line is the first of its kind in the Middle East	On this day, prizes are given for Productivity to employees in the private and public sectors

NEW ISSUES AND THEIR SPECIAL CANCELS

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

SG 1669



SG 1669



SG 1670



SG 1670



SG 1671



SG 1671



SG (MS) 1673

عرض أوبرا عايدة بهرطقة الأهرام
٢٩-٢١ سبتمبر

SG 1672 and
SG (MS) 1673



SG 1672



SG 1674



SG 1674



SG 1675



SG 1675

"Motor Mail" Labels

- Unusual Usage - by Norman J. Collins

In my request for help from members of Egypt Study Circle as regards Overland Mail, I mentioned the usage of MOTOR MAIL labels from Iraq. To keep my promise of a spin-off for your journal, I illustrate one of the two examples of this usage known to me in figure 1. This cover was posted in Basra, Iraq, on the 6th January 1925, and arrived in London on the 19th of that month.

Since I wrote my request for help a further unusual usage of the Motor Mail label has come to hand. This cover, which is shown in figure 2, is a registered cover posted at AJAMI Branch Office of Jaffa on 21st September 1925, and it arrived in Baghdad on the 25th of September.

I also mentioned a cover from Egypt with a cachet reading: BY OVERLAND MAIL / HAIFA-BAGDAD. This cover is shown in figure 3 and was posted at Port Said on 20th October 1926, arriving at its destination Abadan on the 25th of October.

Acknowledgements: I would like to record my thanks to Jeffrey Shapiro, Marvin Siegel and Joseph Wofchuck, of The Society of Israel Philatelists, for supplying the illustrations.

[The illustrations are on the two following pages - Editor]

- - - - -

The Egyptian Post Office in Jaffa

- a request for help: by Norman J Collins

As well as the Overland Mail book I am also working on an English version of Anton Steichele's FOREIGN POST OFFICES IN THE HOLY LAND. If any member of Egypt Study Circle has a cover with the postmark of the Egyptian P.O. in Jaffa, or a cover with the Interpostal Seal of Jaffa, could they please send photocopies or photographs to: Norman J. Collins, 21 Torrington Drive, Thingwall, Heswall, Merseyside L61 7UZ, England.

[Mr Collins is generous with his articles and illustrations - there is a further article from him for our next issue of The QC. This request from Mr Collins for reciprocal help must be warmly supported by us: will ESC members with relevant material please supply copies as requested above. Thank you ! - Editor]

- - - - -

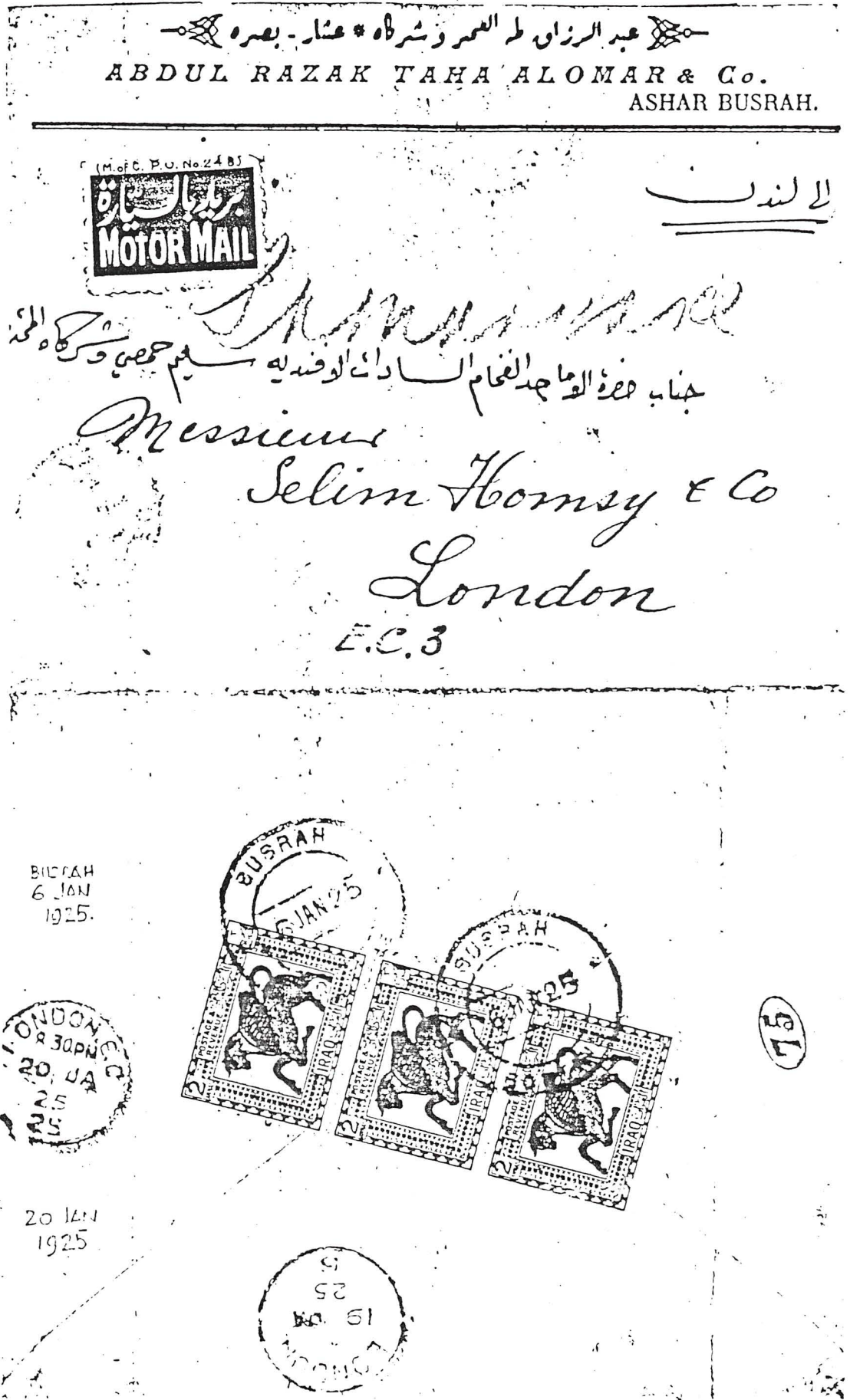
ESC - REMINDERS

1. Volunteers are wanted to be able to offer guidance and practical assistance in the disposal of deceased members' collections.
2. The Circle needs an Agent resident in Egypt, and who would undertake to report changes in postal rates, postal facilities, and related matters for publication as a regular feature in The QC.

For either activity: please contact the Chairman, Mr John Sears.

Unusual use of MOTOR MAIL Label

Figure 1: HAIFA-BAGHDAD MAIL DURING THE BRITISH MANDATE
Label on opened-out cover FROM Iraq



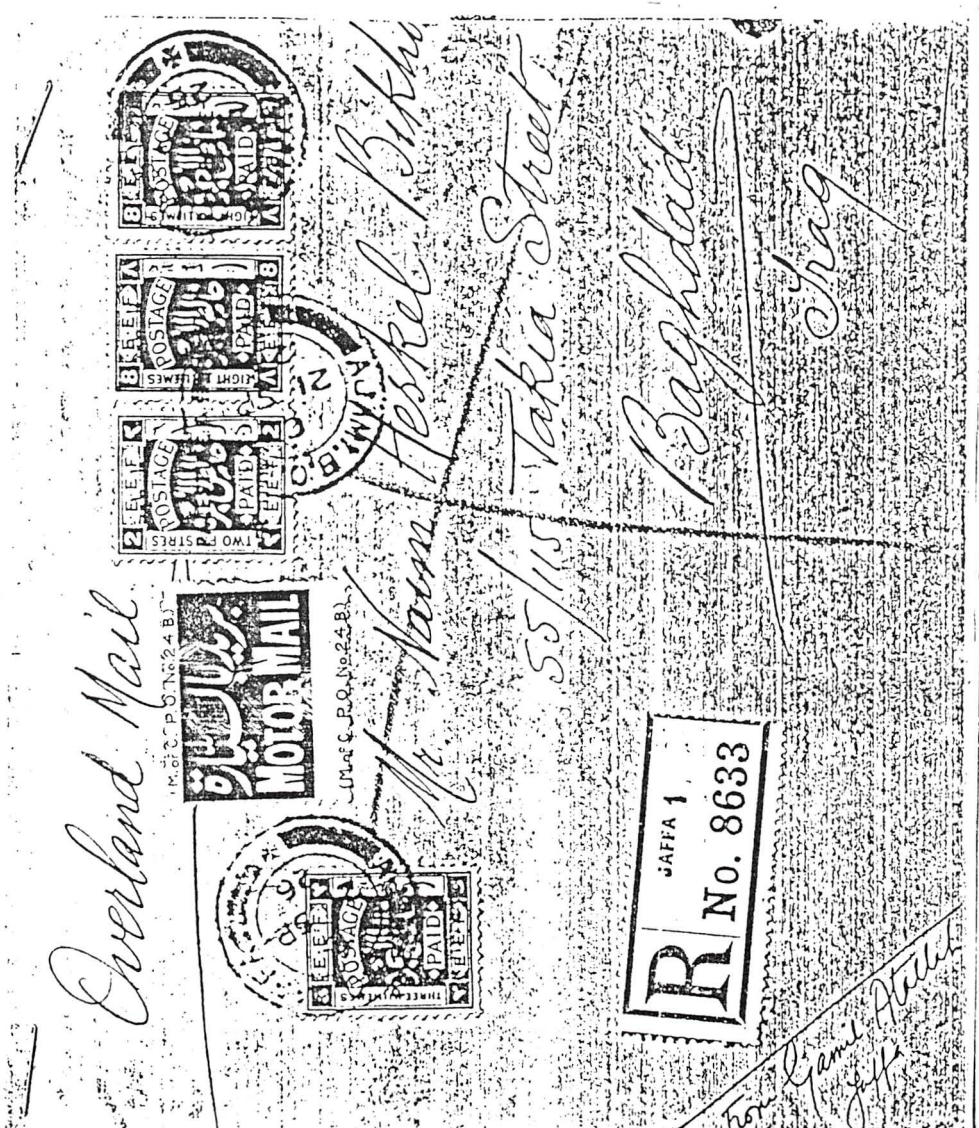
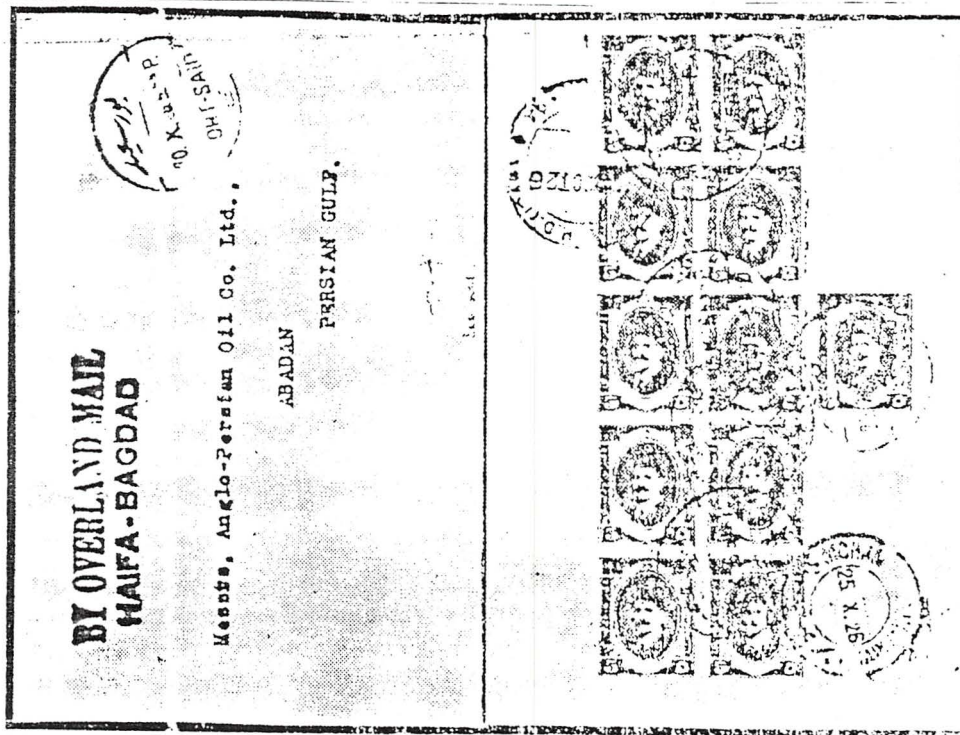


Fig 2 Label on cover from AJAMI (Jaffa) to Baghdad

Fig 3 Cachet: BY OVERLAND MAIL HAIFA-BAGDAD

EXPRESS

INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS MAIL SERVICE

- by J. Sears (ESC 188)

Following the notes in QC no. 147, Mike Murphy (ESC 240) has drawn my attention to another type of E.M.S. label.

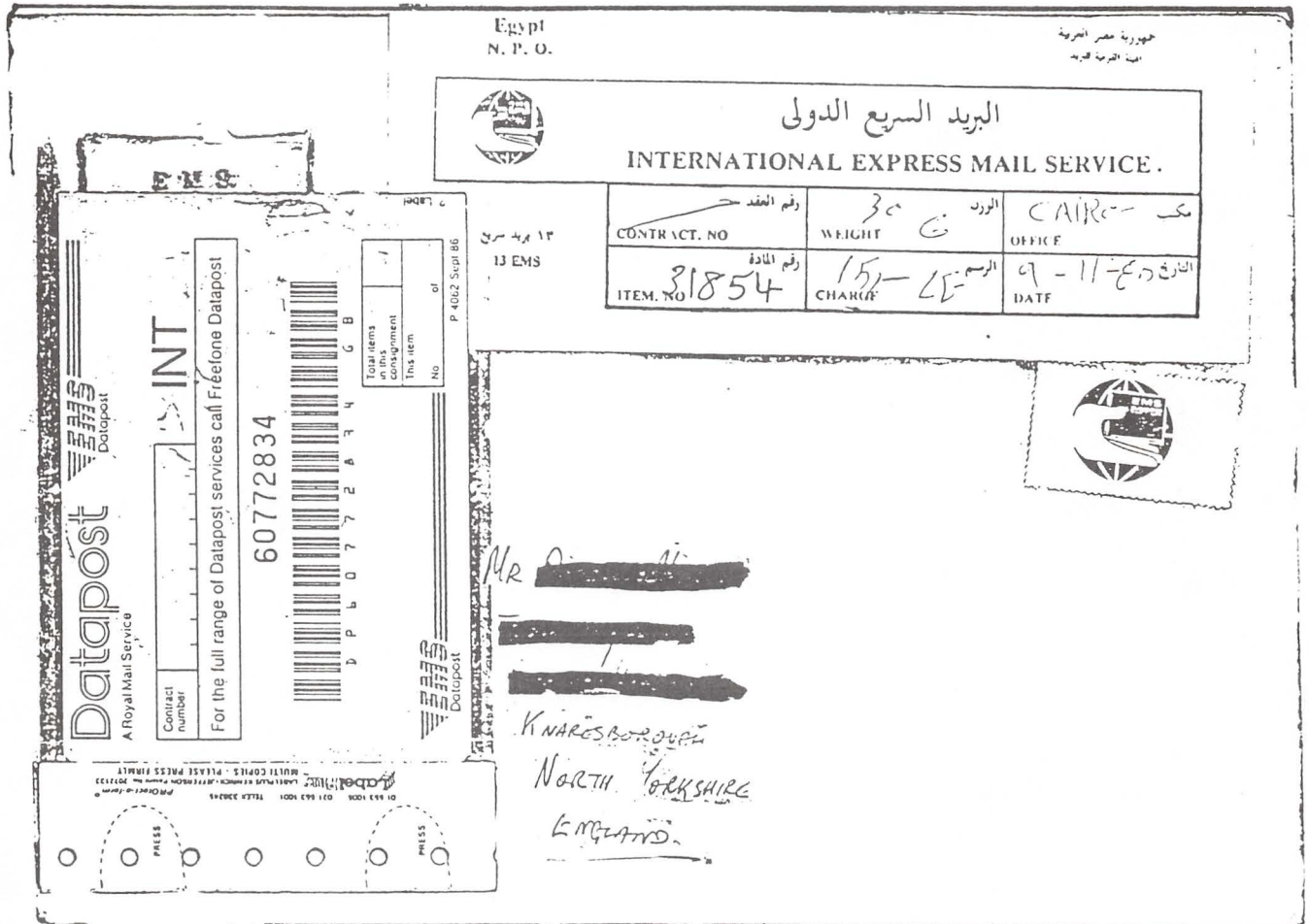


Figure 3a above illustrates a complete cover (full dimensions: 260mm x 184mm). In this case the British Post Office has added its "Datapost" sticker, presumably to ensure easy identification, and this partly covers the E.M.S. Postage Paid cachet (in violet) applied in Egypt (see Fig. 2a - QC 147).

The full measurements of the E.M.S. label are 175mm x 70mm, slightly wider than Fig. 2b (of QC 147). "International" has been added to the printed heading, and also "Egypt N.P.O." to the top left and right corners. The form is printed blue on white with the EMS "letter in hand" symbol, orange.

The item details are as follows :-

Weight - 30 gms Office - Cairo Item no. - 31854
 Charge - £E 15.00 Date - 9.11.86

/ continued . . .

[This article first appeared in the Civil Censorship Study Group's "Bulletin", June 1988 issue, Whole Number 79, and our thanks are due to Mr Warn, the author, and to Mr A Torrance (ESC 344), editor of CCSG, for their kind permission to reproduce in "The QC". Thanks particularly to Mr John Firebrace (ESC 71) who drew my attention to this article - Editor]

The standard work of reference on WW2 Civil Censorship in Egypt was written by M. Gabriel Boulad and was published in the October 1946 issue of L'Orient Philatélique. The translation by Gayle Mayo appeared in the CCSG Bulletin Volume 6, No. 2, December 1978.

M. Boulad stated that the Egyptian censorship organisation was fully prepared for its work at the outbreak of war and the earliest censored material is known from September 4th 1939, the day when the establishment of censorship was proclaimed.

Amongst the many censor marks described by M. Boulad is a reference to certain exceptional handstamps known used for brief periods. One of these is the subject of this study. It is one of only two handstamps amongst at least sixty varieties to use only an English text. (See Boulad figure 95). [- illustrated on a following page as "Type 2" - Editor].

Quotation from Boulad . . . "one reports first of all, in the first days of the war, the use of a large censorship stamp, which is distinguished not only by its form, which greatly surpasses the size of the first ordinary type (i.e. Egyptian type IMW), but also by its exclusive use of the English language without any Arabic text. This is probably what caused the rapid abandonment of the usage of this stamp, which served during a few days of the month of September 1939, with only numbers 2 & 19 to my knowledge".

It is my contention that these handstamps were taken to and used in Egypt by British Censors, sent there soon after war began, to hold a watching brief on British interests as served by Egyptian censorship practice.

My reasons are, to quote again from Boulad . . . "In principle, although expected to be able to be exercised on all correspondence . . . censorship was nevertheless not so exercised, as a general rule and with exceptions, except on correspondence coming from or going to foreigners". It is held reasonable to assume that the foreigners referred to were those resident in Egypt and therefore of primary concern to the Egyptian authorities.

From the British standpoint, which had a common interest with the Egyptians on any matter potentially hazardous to the stability of that country, Egypt represented a secondary but still vital cause of concern due to its importance as a major location for transit mail exchange and in particular of the subsequent onward transmission of airmails. In Egypt lay the last possible opportunity for censorship of mail unexamined at source for whatever reason in the case of British areas, or because of a state of neutrality in others.

/ continued . . .

British Civil Censorship in Egypt - Early WW2 - continued

Airmails from the whole of Africa addressed to neutral, middle-European destinations, would there be transferred from the primarily British air services to those of neutral but suspect Italy. Such transit mail could for a period have been of lesser interest to the newly operating Egyptian authority. Further, the Egyptians may initially have been diffident of using their closures reading 'Egyptian Censorship' in Arabic and English, on mail to and from neutral countries, whereas British handling and the use of the Type 22 'Opened by Censor' closure was less specific concerning the place of censorship.

I have traced eleven examples of the use of the special British handstamp; these may include the two noted by M. Boulad. The eleven fall naturally into three groups, which should be considered separately.

The first group comprises two covers which are of outstanding importance as examples of censored transit airmail. Both bear PC22 'Opened by Censor' labels, tied with the (so far) only recorded strikes of the type 1 'Passed by Censor' handstamp. They indicate a degree of co-operation between the Egyptian and British authorities.

The second group of eight covers show no sign of Egyptian censorship, were not opened officially and all bear a strike of the type 2 handstamp, i.e. type 1 with the words 'Passed by Censor' excised. They all carry Egyptian adhesives and were postmarked at or near locations where British censors would need to be stationed, i.e. at Alexandria and Cairo where the British Flyingboats landed and at Alexandria and Port Said for mails from ships.

It may be significant that this group were all to places abroad and appear to be of French or English language origin. They seem to have been handled by the British censors before being put into the Egyptian Post Offices. They may have been submitted to the censors unsealed. Whether this was done on a formal or informal basis must be a matter of conjecture; it could be simply that the senders had personal access to the censors and that this method showed a time advantage.

The final group comprises one cover which originated in Canada and was addressed to Italy. It was opened and resealed with a PC66 'Opened by Censor' label when in transit through the U.K. and on delivery at Rome was re-addressed to Cairo. It has a Cairo arrival datestamp for September 21st and bears a strike of a type 2 censor handstamp which ties the re-addressing label.

Advice of any further examples will be most welcome.

Fore-runnerType 1Type 2

Fore-runner: shown only to illustrate the similarity of design and hence to stress the British origin of the subject handstamps.

Known on cover, Liverpool-Bournemouth, dated 30 December 1939.

Offered as Lot 60 in CCSG Auction during 1980.

Type 1. Believed to be the as-issued state. Known used only on foreign transit airmail through Egypt.

Type 2. The modified type seen on French- and British-origin surface and airmail posted in Egypt during 1939.

TABLE: Examples known, in order of postmark date

Dated	Posted, or censored, at	Hand-stamp number	Origin	Going to	Surface or Air	Comment
15 Sept	Alexandria	3	Egypt	UK	Surface	To Philip Boulad, London
18 Sept	Port Said	3	Egypt	UK	Air	
18 Sept	Port Said	3	Egypt	UK	Surface	
18 Sept	Port Said	1	Egypt	India	Air	GB adhesive, under Egyptian
20 Sept	Port Said	1	Egypt	UK	Air	Also has Naval Censor No.
20 Sept	Cairo	9	Egypt	USA	Air	Air only to London
21 Sept	Port Said	1	Egypt	UK	Air	Posted at El Mansura
21 Sept	Cairo	2	Canada	Egypt	Surface	
28 Sept	Alexandria	19	Egypt	UK	Surface	Registered at Alexandria
(Nov)	Cairo	18	Belgian Congo	Belgium	Air	H/stamp tied PC22 label
(Nov)	Cairo	18	S. Africa	Switz.	Air	- ditto -

THE 5 MILLS OFFICIAL STAMP OF 1913, OVERPRINTED "O.H.H.S."

IN QUOTES....

(Some Important Points Concerning This Very Elusive Stamp)

By Charles F. Hass

In Question Time #89 (Q.C. #145/146), Lars Alund showed an example of an official stamp of the 1913 unilingual 'O.H.H.S'-overprinted issue, which had an unusual mark preceding the letter 'O' of the overprint. Said mark consisted of a small right-angled figure followed by a square dot. As I am an avid student of this and all overprinted stamps, I was immediately intrigued by the anomaly, and would like to shed some light on the results of my investigations, as they relate to Lars' hypothesis that the stamp bears some relation to the very rare variety, which Zeheri chooses to call "overprint between inverted commas" (Zeh. #8f official stamp - See figure #1).

Very little is known about the variety, which I would more accurately call "overprint in quotation marks". It is indeed one of the rarest stamps of Egypt, and I know of the existence of no more than a dozen or so examples. The theory behind its existence is that a workman, having received the order to overprint a quantity of 5m stamps with the letters "O.H.H.S.", assumed the quotes to be part of the intended overprint, and set them up in loose type as a result of his assumption. This seems to me a very plausible explanation, given the degree of literacy in Egypt at the time. It has further been proposed that the quotes were removed after the error was detected, before many impressions had been made, and that the overprinting forme continued in use, sans quotes.

This is only partly true. Yes, the quotes were removed, and additional impressions were subsequently made. However, they were apparently few in number, as examples without quotes are just as rare as those with quotes!

The normal overprinting forme used to produce the bulk of the 1913 5m official consisted of 240 subjects, stereotyped in groups of twelve, of which there were twenty to make up the forme of 240. I have two complete sheets in my collection, both of which are identical, with the exception of some movement between groups of stereos. One sheet is control #5, and the other is control #6. The only variety of note, other than the broken letters 'O' (positions #189, 209, 229), is the missing 'stop' (pos. #130). All of these are the result of impact damage to the stereos prior to printing.

There is a very rare variety, found on the 'O.H.H.S.' with quotes, that appears nowhere on the sheets of stamps from the normal forme. That consists of a very considerable spacing out of the '.S.'" portion of the overprint, creating a large gap after the second letter 'H'. This is illustrated as figure #2. I know that this variety exists on stamps without the quotes, as I have seen one photo of such a variety, and have found a reference to two additional examples in a Robson Lowe sale of 1973 (28 Feb., lot #994). These stamps could not have come from the common forme, as they represent a typesetting variety prior to stereotyping, and such a variety would therefore be repeated in each group of stereos.

/ continued....

THE 5 MILLS OFFICIAL STAMP OF 1913 - continued

The format of the forme from which the 'quotes' stamps were overprinted is a mystery to me. Not enough examples are available to me for study purposes, so I can only make the observation that the forme, although it was definitely composed of groups of stereotypes, was not in the same 6x2 arrangement seen in the stereotypes of the common forme. There is no question that the images with quotes are stereotyped, as the crude and incomplete letters, particularly the quotes, are characteristic of poor stereotyping. However, the one strip of three stamps that is known shows three different types of stereotypes in a horizontal row, the left-hand stamp being the 'spaced-out' variety. If the arrangement were vertical 6 by horizontal 2, then the right-hand stamp would also have to be the variety.

All of this brings me to Lars' variety, with the right-angled mark and square dot. As we know that the forme was used after the quotes were removed (probably by the use of a metal router, the common method employed to remove unwanted, or 'dead' metal that is type-high), we would expect to possibly find positions in which the quotes were not completely taken away. Figure #3 shows a horizontal pair, with quotes. Note that in the left-hand stamp, although it has quotes preceding the 'O', they are incomplete, and are exactly the configuration of Lars' example! It appears that Lars' stamp is one that has come from the forme after removal of the quotes, and that these poorly stereotyped quotes were missed by the workman! This is indeed another very scarce item that I'll be on the lookout for (I've never seen one, in the many years that I've carefully looked at quantities of these stamps).

Why the forme with quotes removed was used only briefly, I cannot say. Peter Smith has suggested that the stamps with quotes were proofs, with the quotes-removed stamps being the proofs showing the result of the removal. I think that this is unlikely, as there seems to have been a wider range of use of these stamps, with cancels from four or five offices, than the limited usage of surplus proofs would indicate. Perhaps the forme was scrapped because of further damage (possibly as a result of careless routing of the metal). It appears that the types of the stereotyping matrix may eventually be identifiable if enough examples are studied, but this will take time and good fortune, as the stamps are rare. I note that the fine exhibit of Egyptian officials, shown by Leon Balian at Fall 1988 Stampex, included another example of the variety seen by Lars Alund.

I hope that these comments will be of interest to E.S.C. members, and that they will turn up additional examples of these scarce stamps. I'd be happy to hear of any success stories!

"O.H.H.S." ~~TO H.S.~~

Figure #1

Figure #2

"O.H.H.S." ~~TO H.S.~~

Figure #3

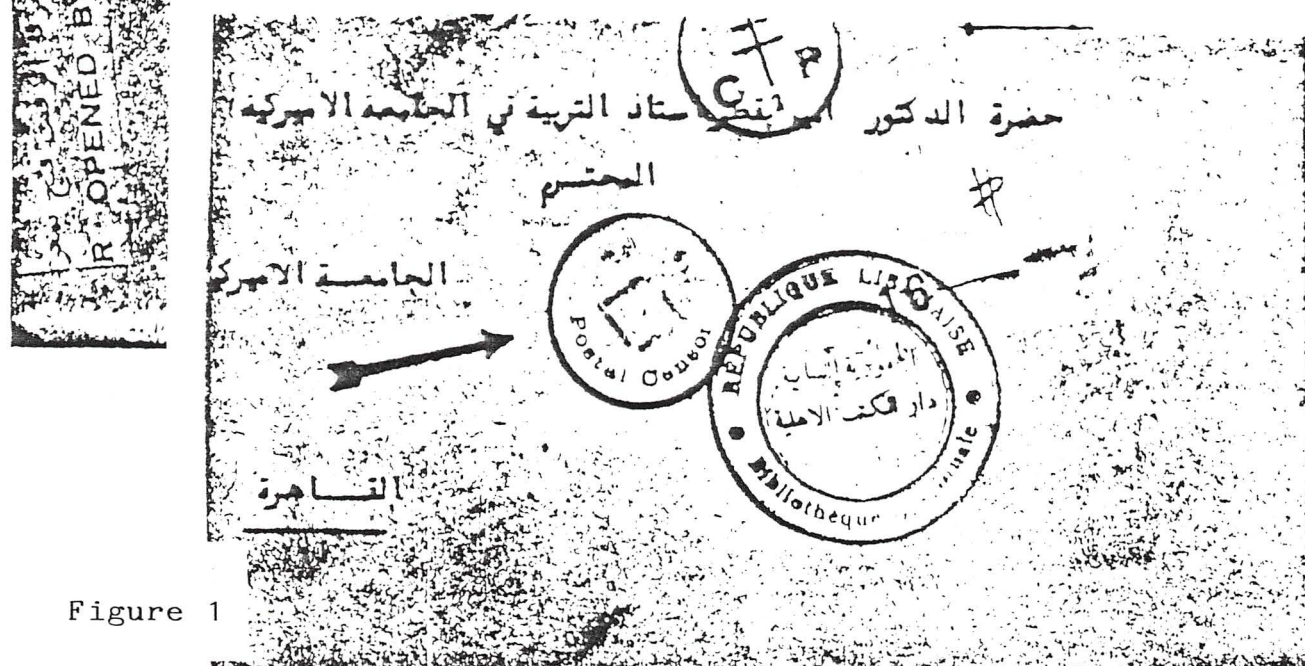
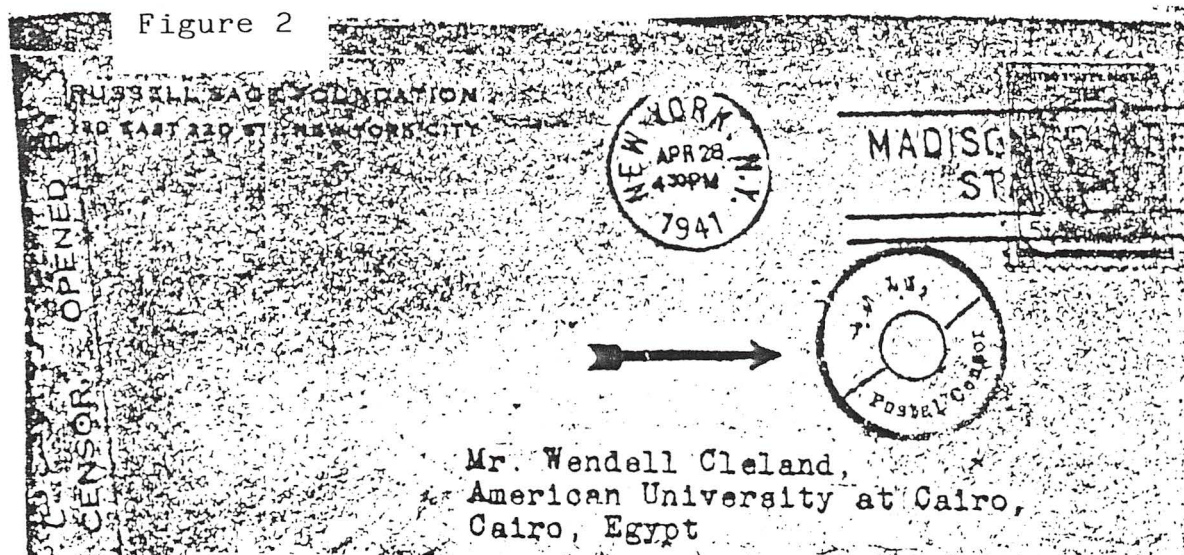
UPDATA Egyptian Civil Censors - J M Murphy (ESC 240)

Dr Antoine Winter (ESC 149) has responded in typically generous fashion to my notes on the names of Egyptian civil censors, as found in the Cairo Postal Museum [QC xiii,7 (Whole 147), pp 131-3, and QC xiii,8 (Whole 148), pp 149-158] by forwarding a number of photocopies of his censored covers, which emanate originally from Gabriel Boulad via Mehanny Eid.

Two of these (at least) deserve immediate notice: the first, figure 1, points out the danger of "improving" illustrations for publication! The circle-with-diamond marking (Museum No. 148, QC p.152) quite clearly has the English wording Postal Censor set in a curve rather than in the two straight lines following the legs of the diamond in my "improved" version. Mea culpa!

The other Winter cover, figure 2, (Museum No. 121, illustrated on QC page 151 and discussed briefly on page 158), is beautifully illustrated, in red, and on cover, used on an incoming envelope from New York to Cairo dated Apr 28 1941, i.e. three years and two months before the Museum list was drawn up!

Clearly there remains much work to be done in collating these markings, and myriad inferences yet to be drawn . . .



QUESTION TIME - New Questions

Q. TIME 96

"CAIRO/EGYPT" cancel on 1889 Postal Stationery Letter-Sheet (H&G 1)
- Question put by Mr Anatole Ott (ESC 261)

I hope that the following problem can be put in a coming QC, under "Question Time", and I am hoping to get some answers to it. The problem is shown on the copy of a letter-sheet which has been cancelled to order by a strange cancel with EGYPT in it and dated 11 I 14 T1 [= 11th January 1914, not 1st November - Editor]. Is it a genuine cancel or a fake ? What was the period of use, and purpose, of this cancel ? And is it scarce ? I know that Mr Edmund Hall (ESC 239) has a similar letter-sheet but cancelled with ALEXANDRIA / EGYPT. [Illustration on next page - Editor].

Q. TIME 97

Points arising on cover sent to Suez, Dec 1987
- Question put by Mr Peter Bottrill

Mr Peter Bottrill (not ESC ?) of Grange Farm, Church Street, Brierley, Near Barnsley, SF2 9HT, U.K., writes to ask if anybody can help with the cover illustrated, please. The Editor thinks this will be of interest to ESC members, hence its inclusion here.

It was franked with one GB 1883 twopence-halfpenny lilac and was posted from ABERGELE, on the North Wales coast, on 29 December 1887. It is addressed to Captain H M Sandback, Royal Artillery, H.M.S. "CROCODILE", Suez, Egypt, "To await arrival". It received a nearly perfect strike of the rubber stamp (having an oval border): RESIDENT TRANSPORT OFFICER * SUEZ * with RECEIVED in a centre oval over the date 6 JAN 88.

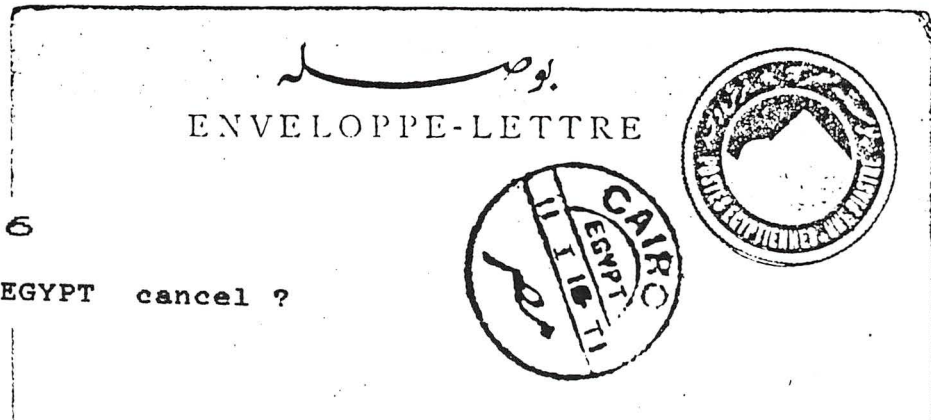
Mr Bottrill would like to know as much as possible about H.M.S. "Crocodyle", also about the Resident Transport Officer's function and about Captain Sandback (who is known to have been on service in Ireland in 1916). Is anybody currently engaged in a study of Suez Postal History ? [And what is the meaning of the characters in 2nd line of address, appearing like " E/4 " ? - Editor].

Q. TIME 98

Is the stamp illustrated (next page) a Revenue ?
- Question put by Mr Peter Goowdin

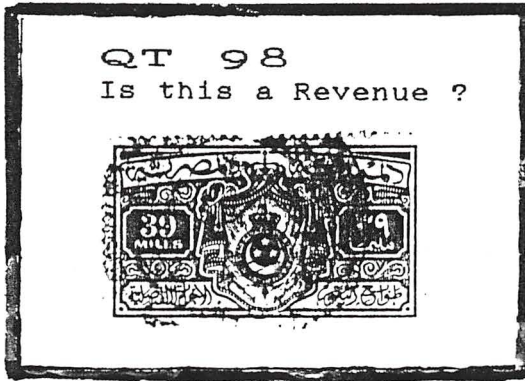
Response to Q. Time 98 by the Editor - Yes, it is a Revenue stamp, issued in 1927, called the Royal Crest issue. The reason why the face value is the peculiar amount of 39 mills is one I can't answer ! Most of us acquire Revenues accidentally, as part of collections of Egypt postage stamps, and are intrigued by them. A catalogue which has been available since 1982 lists the general issues and all the various special revenue function issues; it gives useful information about various activities which were taxed by these stamps, in addition to being a complete priced catalogue. It is well illustrated, has four pages in colour, and has a method of displaying scarcity.

The definitive "Catalogue of Egyptian Revenue Stamps" by Mr Peter R Feltus (ESC 114) was published in 1982. A recent notice from Peter shows that his book is still available: Mr P R Feltus, P.O. Box 5339, Berkeley, Ca. 94705, U.S.A., price \$ 30.



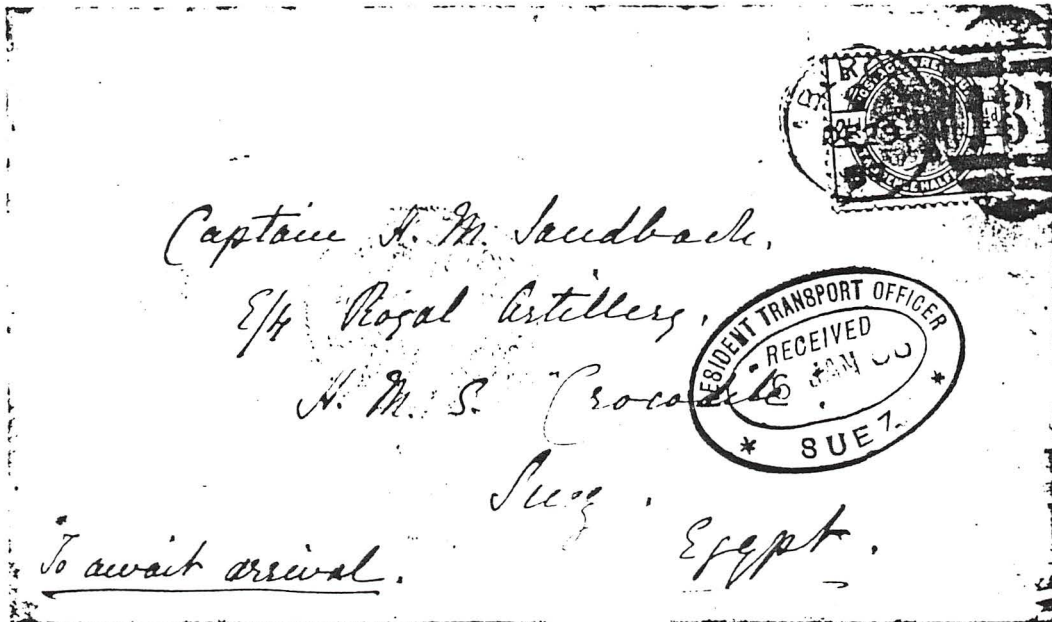
QT 96

CAIRO / EGYPT cancel ?



QT 98

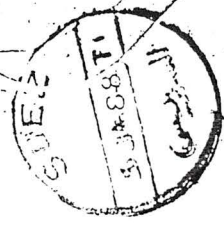
Is this a Revenue ?



QT 97

Mail to Suez.

1887/1888



JOURNAL OFFICIEL : 1927

Extracts by J M Murphy (ESC 240)

1927 - 1

1927

Quiet year, with Baghdad-Basra Air Mail arrangements; appeal to use stamped paper where required; rumours of Lloyd Triestino's giving up carriage of mails dispelled; mails carried again by Romanian steamers up to Costanza.

Jan 6 (2,11): Contract for 16 cast iron post-boxes for printed matter, samples and commercial papers awarded to Hassabo Bey Mohamed, for L.E.288.

Jan 10 (3,4): Aga PO admitted to Inland, Sudan and Foreign Telegraphic Money Order service from Jan 20.

Branch PO No 2 has been opened at Zein el Abedin, Cairo. Admitted to Savings Bank as well as Insured Letters and Parcels up to L.E.10.

Baghdad-Basra Air Mails will leave Wednesday January 12. Articles which are insufficiently prepaid will be despatched by sea from Port Said, unless the amount of the postage be equivalent to that due for their conveyance by motor-car. In this event, they will be carried by the motor-car Overland route, if the locality of destination is admitted to the reception of correspondence by this route.

Jan 20 (6,6): Notice of sale (January 29, Cairo Parcels Office), by public auction of 280 cane parcel baskets not required by Postal Administration. Fee of 5% added for auctioneer. Similar notice for 270 baskets at Port Said, sale on February 3.

Feb 14 (13,6): The exchange of Deferred Telegraphic Money Orders between Egypt and Germany, announced in the press on January 29 [not in JO] postponed until further notice.

Feb 17 (14,4): It has been noticed that the public generally employs ordinary postage stamps in certain circumstances for which stamped paper is legally necessary. Postage stamps are intended exclusively for the franking of correspondence, and the public is requested most firmly to use stamped paper in all those cases where such usage is required by regulation.

The public is also informed that there is in the Stamped Paper Office of the Central Administration of the Ministry of Finance a stack of stamped paper to the value of 60mills and 30mills for petitions, as well as those of 5, 10, 20 and 50mills, which should be used in accordance with regulation. The Office also possesses a stack of stamped papers value 200mills, intended for the renewal of passports or laissez-passers.

The public may also be assured of being able to procure whatever stamped paper and other stamps for which there may be need in the Mudiriehs, Governorates, or from the village Sarrafs.

Feb 24 (16,2): The Postmaster-General has the honour to announce that owing to fog, the arrival at Port Said of the SS Moulton, which was expected to be on the morning of Wednesday 23rd inst, has been delayed up to Friday noon, the 25th of the current month.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL OFFICIEL - continued

1927 - 11

- Feb 28 (17,5): Following the notice published in the press on the 22nd inst, the Postmaster-General has the honour to inform the public that the supplementary mails from Great Britain for Egypt which did not arrive by the SS Helouan have arrived yesterday via Port Said by the SS Pilsna of the Lloyd-Triestino line.
- Apr 18 (33,2): State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones announcement - from May 1, Suez Rue Colmar Station will be renamed Suez Town Station.
- Apr 26 (37 Special): New Cabinet headed by Abdel Khalek Saroit as Prime Minister. Ahmed Mohamed Khachaba Pacha Minister of Communications.
- May 30 (47,4): Post Office Class 3 admitted to ordinary and registered correspondence and ordinary parcels services has been opened at Abu Massoud, which lies on the Damanhur-Delingat Delta line.
- June 6 (49,9): Tender to supply Post Office winter tunics in blue serge for financial year 1927-28 (Postmaster-General, Alexandria, by June 27).
- June 14 (51,3): Post Office Class 3 will be opened at Mandara (Alexandria-Edfina line) on June 15. Services as May 30 above.
- June 27 (55,11): Tender for construction of Teh el Baroud Post Office (Inspector, Western Division, Ministry of Public Works, Alexandria, by July 10).
- July 4 (57,3): The Postmaster-General has the honour to inform the public that the Italian Postal Administration has informed the Post Offices in the International Postal Union that consequent upon an arrangement concluded between the said Administration and the Lloyd Triestino Navigation Co, sea transit dues relating to postal items conveyed by the Lloyd Triestino steamers will not be due to the Italian Postal Authority and that special arrangements may be made, on the basis of the Universal Postal Convention, between the said Company and the Postal Administrations in the Union, after agreement between the Italian Post Office and the Administrations concerned.
- A draft arrangement has in consequence been prepared after agreement between the Italian Postal Authority and the Lloyd Triestino Co and has been transmitted to the Egyptian Ministry of Communications for approval; the Lloyd Triestino Company will continue as heretofore to transport the Egyptian mails.
- The publication is made with a view to rectifying the unfounded information published on this subject in certain local papers.
- July 18 (61,2): The Postmaster General has the honour to inform the public that with effect from the 16th inst, the clearance of the street letter boxes in Cairo and Alexandria will be effected by means of motor-cycle instead of tricycles. Cardboard labels indicating the new hours of clearance have been provided, attached to the letter boxes until the production of the necessary brass plates.
- The public is required to collaborate as much as possible in the supervision of the said cardboard labels by reporting to the police agents any boys endeavouring to tear these labels. [The French version reads: ... endeavouring to amuse themselves by tearing these labels...]
- Aug 1 (65,5): Post Offices admitted to ordinary and registered correspondence and ordinary parcels opened in the following localities: Kafr el Guedid (Mansura-Matarieh line) July 25; Shobak Akrach (Abou Kebir-Diarb Negm line) Aug 1; El Kab (Cair-Port Said line) Aug 8.

1927 - 111

- Aug 8 (67,3): The exchange of Insured Letters and Boxes between Egypt and the Kingdom of Hedjaz, Nejd and Dependencies has been arranged. Egyptian POs of Class 1 have ... been authorised to accept insured letters and boxes and to despatch the same to Jeddah and Mecca exclusively. Maximum insured value 2000 francs (gold).
- Aug 15 (69,4): Persia complains that "items prepaid at the letter rate containing dutiable articles and originating abroad" do not carry the green label Customs declaration, occasioning inconvenience. Egypt earnestly requests the public to use the green label.
- Aug 25 (72,1): All Government offices were closed Aug 24 for official funeral of Saad Zaghloul Pacha, former Prime Minister.
- Aug 29 (73,4): Exchange of Insured Letters between Egypt and Greece to start on September 1, maximum value 665 gold francs.
- Oct 6 (84,6): As usual during the cotton season, the Post Offices of Kafr el Ghannemieh [in fact this opened only on May 7 1926] and Nikla el Enab admitted to the Specie and Insured Letters services from October 1.
- Nov 28 (101,4): The Postmaster-General has the honour to inform the public that the Cataract Hotel Post Office (Aswan) will be opened on December 1 1927, as in previous years.
- Dec 5 (103,2): The Postmaster-General has the honour to inform the public that, with effect from December 6, it has been decided to resume the conveyance of the mails by the Roumanian steamers of the Alexandria-Piraeus-Stamboul-Costanza line.
- Dec 8 (104,8): Post Office opened from Dec 8 at Awlad Sakr (Kafr Sakr-Sodaka railway line, Sharqia province), admitted to the following services: Savings Bank, ordinary and registered correspondence, ordinary and COD parcels, ordinary inland and international Money Orders, inland Postal Orders and payment of British Postal Orders.
- Dec 12 (105,4): The Postmaster-General has the honour to inform the public that the Postal Administration assumes no responsibility for the contents of registered items and that despite recent warnings served on the subject, large quantities of banknotes are still being inserted under registered covers instead of being forwarded by insured letter.
- As registered items are handed over closed to the postal service, which naturally ignores their contents and cannot accept responsibility therefore, the senders are requested, in their own interest, either to insure the items containing banknotes and which they used to despatch by the registered method, or to draw Postal Orders or Money Orders for the amount to be despatched.
- Dec 29 (110,18): Results of tenders for GPO clothing and other effects (50 tenders received) include: Moh. Aly Trades School, Alexandria - cast iron letter boxes, leather bags, assorted, and wooden labels for closing bags - L.E.198.650; H. Margosches, Alexandria, steel stamps for franking Official correspondence - L.E.60; J. Diamant, Cairo, revolving date stamps, indiarubber date stamps and numbering stamps - L.E.7.910.