



The Quarterly Circular

June Quarter 1991 Whole Series No. 158

Volume xiv, No. 6 - Pages 159 - 182



EGYPT STUDY



CIRCLE

Enclosed with this issue:-

SUPPLEMENT No. 2 to Volume 14: LIBRARY LIST No. 5, 15pp (J. Davis)

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

Oct 15th-20th
(Committee Room)

AUTUMN STAMPEX BPE
Led by: Edmund Hall

November
(date to be fixed)

The Second Issue
Led by B. Sedgley

*** *Egyptian Stamp Exhibition "CAIRO 1991" 7-12 October 1991* ***

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE : OFFICERS as at 30 June 1991

PRESIDENT Professor Peter A S Smith, FRPSL, 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 P R Bertram, 11 Bishop's Way,
Buckden, Huntingdon PE18 9TZ
EDITOR Mr John A Grimmer, FRPSL, 48 York Road, New Barnet, Barnet,
Herts EN5 1LJ England
LIBRARIAN Mr D John Davis, 3 Prospect Place, Beechen Cliff, Bath, Avon
USA AGENT Mr Charles F Hass, P.O. Box 27, Folcroft,
Pennsylvania 19032, USA
KEEPER of the RECORD Mr D H Clarke, Herts

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From the Editor . . .

The "John Firebrace Book" has appeared since the previous QC and I consider it to be, simply, the work of the decade. It will form a guide to the many collectors who are interested in the Middle East of the Great War of 1914-18, and its aftermath, taking things up to 1924. Any member who might feel put off by the price should follow the arithmetic in my article: for your money you get the equivalent of nearly three large books! You also get its fund of information, backed up by illustrations of marks of all kinds. Many people will use this as a means of planning their collections of one or more aspects of the very wide range of subjects covered; many people will find it their chief ally in planning their exhibition entries. A copy of this book will form part of the library of ESC's Editor, to be passed on to his successors. Library List No. 5 - a new listing by the Honorary Librarian, Mr D J Davis, of the many books now held in the Egypt Study Circle Library. This is issued as Supplement No. 2 to Volume 14 of The QC.

ALL GOOD WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITION to Mr Samir Fikry (ESC 305) and his colleagues who are organising the Philatelic Exhibition which opens in Cairo early in October.

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From: Mr Robin Bertram: Secretary / Treasurer, Egypt Study Circle

SECRETARY'S REPORTS

(1) Brief report on Meeting held: 18 May 1991

Present - Messrs P.Andrews, W.Andrews, A.Bates, R.Bertram, J.Chellingsworth, D.Clarke, J.Davis, C.Defriez, A.Jeyes, M.Murphy, A.J.Revell, J.Sears and P.E.Whetter; also Mr Peter Goodwin, a visitor from New Zealand (total: 14).

Apology for absence: Mr C.Hass (in England but unable to attend the meeting), Mr S. Horesh, Mr B. Sedgeley and (from New Zealand) Mrs S. MacIntosh.

This meeting was led by Mr Pip Whetter (ESC 133) and showed the mint stamps and re-constructed panes of the military issues. Mr Bill Andrews (ESC 132) followed with the various stamps on cover showing the range of E.P.P. numbers. Other members present also contributed.

(2) AWARDS. Mr J S Horesh reported to the meeting that Mr John Sears had gained two international awards for his book: "The Airmails of Egypt".

(3) CONTACTS WANTED Member P. Macrelli (ESC 401), would like members who collect "Italian Consular Post Offices in Egypt" to correspond with him, report early and late dates etc. with photocopies. (Address in previous QC).

(4) SECRETARY'S MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Change of address: ESC 124 Mr A.F.A.Letts: now: Honeysuckle Cottage,
Mill Lane, Tettenhall Wood, Wolverhampton WV6 8HE.

New Members joined since the previous report (QC 157, page 132) :-

- ESC 402 Mr Lawrence FISHER, P.O. Box 653, 43000 RAANANA, Israel
Interests: Egyptian Censor cancels and labels; Arab-Israeli conflict material.
- ESC 403 Mr P J BECKETT, The Post Office, 58 Main Street, Higham on the Hill,
Nuneaton, Nr Coventry CV13 6AH.
Interests: Suez Canal, The British Army in Egypt.
- ESC 404 Dr Gunter DREYER, Deutsche Botschaft Kairo - DAI, Postfach 1500,
53 BONN, Germany Interests: Pyramid-and-Sphinx issues.
- ESC 405 Dr Angela M. J. TOOLEY, 110 Fields New Road, Chadderton, Oldham,
Lancs., OL9 8NH Interests: General.
- ESC 406 Dr D W A McCreadie, 316 Glasgow Road, EAGLESHAM, Glasgow G76 OEW
Scotland. Interests: Gulf States, Egypt general, Palestine.
- ESC 407 Dr J W Wright, Jr. 7474 Holliday East Drive, INDIANAPOLIS,
IN 46260, U.S.A. Interests: general Egypt

(4) SECRETARY'S MEMBERSHIP REPORT (continued)

New Members (continued)

- ESC 408 Mr Walter Neville WATTERSON, FRPSL, 449 Abington Park Parade,
Wellingborough Road, Northampton, NN1 4EZ
Collects: Sarawak, Straits Settlements, Malta, Cyprus, Gibraltar;
Belongs to various societies including the "Royal".
- ESC 409 Mrs Betty WATTERSON, FRPSL, (wife of above; address as above)
Collects: Labuan, and Egypt up to 1970's. Belongs to various
societies including the "Royal".
- ESC 410 Abdel Abdel-Latif, 6 Rue Louis Curval, 1206 Geneva,
Switzerland
Collects: Postal History.

Resignation Mr David Cornelius ESC 292

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AWARDS GAINED, etc.

Heartiest congratulations to ESC Chairman, Mr John Sears (ESC 188), but not, on this occasion, for his tireless labours in acting as our General Manager. Instead, we are glad to report the Exhibition Honours awarded to John for his book: "The Airmails of Egypt", which gained a Vermeil medal in the class for Literature at the "ORAPEX" Exhibition in Ottawa, Canada. Also entered in the recent International Exhibition in New Zealand, it won a Silver medal. These achievements are all the more remarkable as they are the first occasions on which John has entered any exhibition.

This lends itself to the following short commercial !

Members who have not yet purchased their copy of John Sears' "THE AIRMAILS OF EGYPT" are still eligible for a price concession: the normal price is £21, but members may, at present, purchase their copy for £16.50, plus £2 postage/packing, for both UK buyers and overseas members. Carriage to overseas addresses will be by surface mail.

The book is in hardback, A4 format, 183 pages and profusely illustrated. It starts with the first known mark as early as 1910 and then covers Marc Pourpe and the other classic pioneering flights during which air communications were developed. It is an important publication in terms of the history of the opening up of postal routes, as it obviously should be, but that is not all. The philately of the special Air stamps which have been issued in Egypt has a complete coverage, taking 38 pages, with all the varieties noted and illustrated.

The physical appearance of the book is much enhanced by the choice of hardback and the splendid dust cover.

RED DATE-STAMPS and BLACK RETTAS on the FIRST ISSUE

by PETER A. S. SMITH (ESC 74)

Although much has been written about the cancellations of Egypt, especially in the classic period, almost nothing has appeared that is focussed specifically on the First Issue. Dr. Byam listed the date-stamps he had seen on the 20-para value, in an article in the Philatelic Journal of Great Britain (June, 1930). Later, in the catalogue of the sale of his collection by Robson Lowe, he made further remarks, mentioning that colored cancellations were seen only from Alexandria and Cairo. I know of no exception to that statement. (However, on later issues, especially on the De La Rue stamps, red cancellations appear from other offices, and blue cancellations appear from a number of offices in the period of the Third Issue).

The variety of cancellations found on the First Issue is much smaller than on the subsequent issues. The number of post offices in operation was small; the First Issue was in use for only 18 months, and no new offices were opened until the First Issue was about to be withdrawn. Nevertheless, there are some interesting features: widespread use of the retta as the standard obliterator in the early months, and the occasional use of red or blue ink.

The retta of 81 diamond-shaped dots forming a diamond overall is a fairly common cancellation. It is generally believed that the initial directive was to use it to cancel the stamps, and to apply the date-stamp alongside for information. When it was realized that this procedure involved unnecessary work, it has been suggested, the directive was rescinded, about April, 1866. Let us look at the evidence.

The earliest use of the date-stamp to cancel a stamp that I have seen is on a cover dated 24 GEN 66 (Cairo, locally addressed: Fig. I). That is far earlier than is consistent with the foregoing view. By April, both Cairo and Alexandria were regularly using the date-stamp, the retta having evidently been abandoned (Fig. II). However, other offices seem to have continued using the retta well into June (Fig. III). A reasonable explanation for this discrepancy could be that there was actually no general directive to abandon the retta, but that the two major offices, Alexandria and Cairo, changed practice simply to save work, and the other offices eventually followed suit as they became aware of what the major offices were doing.

As for colors, all offices began by using black ink. By August, 1866, however, Cairo began using blue ink, and continued to use it until the Second Issue had superseded the First Issue. Of the other offices, I have seen only Alexandria in blue*, and it is very rare (the only example with legible date that I have seen is dated 28 AGO 66). (See Fig. IV for Cairo).

Red ink is known only for Alexandria and Cairo, as Dr. Byam said. There have been statements, which should be regarded only as speculations, that red was used to distinguish official mail. That view cannot be reconciled with the evidence, and should be abandoned. The few known covers with red cancellations show no indication that they were sent to or from official agencies. A second point is that the dates of use fall into a very short period; I have seen Cairo only between the 1st of July and the 20th of August, fitting nicely between the black and blue periods, Alexandria in red, which is much rarer, is known to me only on one date: 30 GIU 66 (Figs V & VI).

/ continued . . .

RED DATE-STAMPS and BLACK RETTAS on the FIRST ISSUE

(P A S Smith) - continued

Furthermore, a cover exists on which the cancellation (Mansura) is in black, but the backstamp of arrival (Alexandria) is in red (Fig. VI). The ESC Data Sheets on Egyptian Postal Markings do not include the dates of use reported for particular colors, so the foregoing information is based only on what I personally possess or have seen. It would be interesting to read reports of other examples of red cancellations on the First Issue (or on the Second and Third Issues, for that matter). Red rettas are so far not known, and should not exist, since the retta had gone out of use in Cairo and Alexandria before the use of red ink at those offices. However, a cover with a black retta cancellation and a red Cairo c.d.s. (1 LUG. 66) is known.

The post offices from which I have seen actual examples on First Issue stamps or covers are as follows:

	ALESSANDRIA;	ATFE;	BENHA;
BIRKET EL SAB;	CAIRO;	COSTANTINOPOLI;	DAMANHOUR;
DESUK (Type PS-1 only);	GALIUB;	GEDDA;	KAFER ZAYAT;
MICHALLA;	MINET EL GAM;	SAMANUD;	SMYRNE;
TEH EL BAROUD;	TOOKH (Fig. VIII);	ZAGASIK;	ZIFTA & MITG.

In addition, I have seen two different but unidentified intaglio seal cancellations (which do not correspond to any of the known intaglio seals - Fig. VII - illustrations kindly produced by Mr Tony Schmidt). Some other offices have been recorded in official archives as having been opened during the life of the First Issue, but I have not seen examples of their cancellations on a First-Issue stamp: Bilbes; Kafer Dawwar; Mahallet Roh; Ramleh; Scibin el Anater. Can any reader report an example?

The principal previous literature on this subject is an extensive serialized study of the interpostal seals and the early post offices, by the late Ibrahim Chaftar. L'Orient Philatelique No. 115 (April-June, 1965) contains the most pertinent part; pages 448-9 list the offices reported to have existed during the period of the First Issue. Unfortunately, lists from different official documents were not entirely consistent with each other, and the distinction between full post offices and subsidiary postal agencies was not always clear. Chaftar did his best to sort it all out, however, and his study will probably remain the definitive treatment. On the other hand, he was not concerned with the actual cancellations found on the First Issue, but was writing about when post offices were opened and when interpostal seals were supplied.

I should mention that a recent auction catalogue of the firm FILATELICO described a 1-pt. stamp with a boxed cancellation, Turkish style, in Arabic only, reading "Shtoura". This is absurd, and I think that it is at best only a freak. Shtoura is in Lebanon, and was served only by the Ottoman Post. In 1866, letters from there to Egypt would have required Turkish franking to a port, such as Beirout, and Austrian, French or Russian franking to carry it to Alexandria (the Khedivial Mail Line served only Smyrna and Constantinople at that time).

* A strike of Alexandria in blue as a backstamp of arrival, dated 15 AGO 66 on a folded letter from Cairo (cancelled in red) has just been reported to me.

/ continued . . .

RED DATE-STAMPS and BLACK RETTAS on the FIRST ISSUE

Fig. I Early use of the datestamp: 24 January 1866

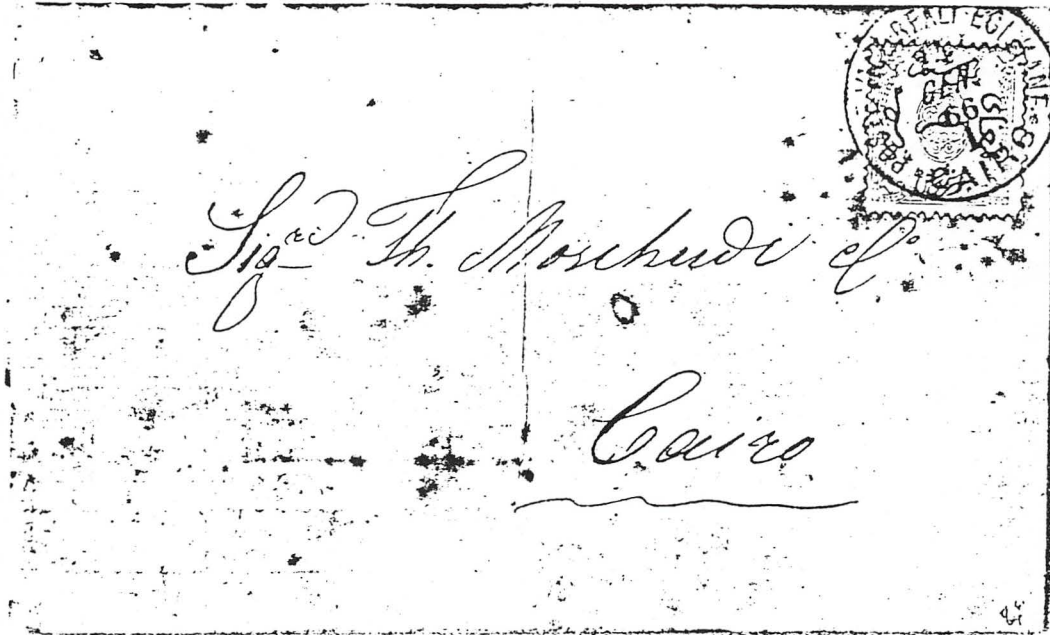


Fig. II CAIRO : 22 April; black



Fig. III Retta used at Zagasik on June 14th, 1866

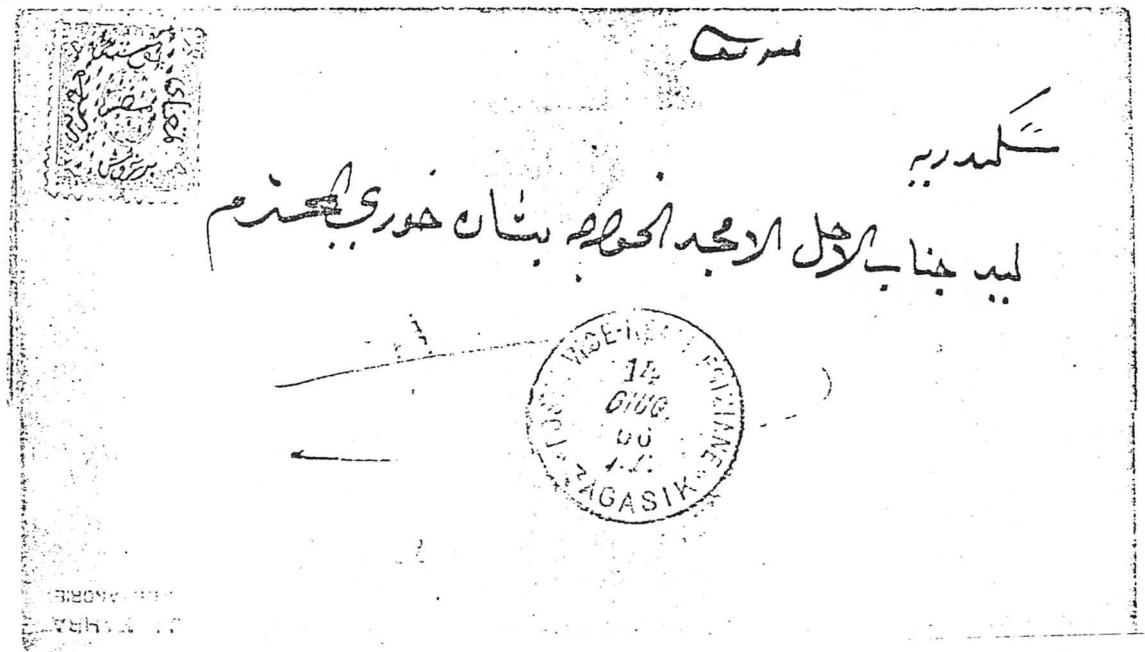


Fig. IV Both datestamps struck in blue, CAIRO 30 August 1866

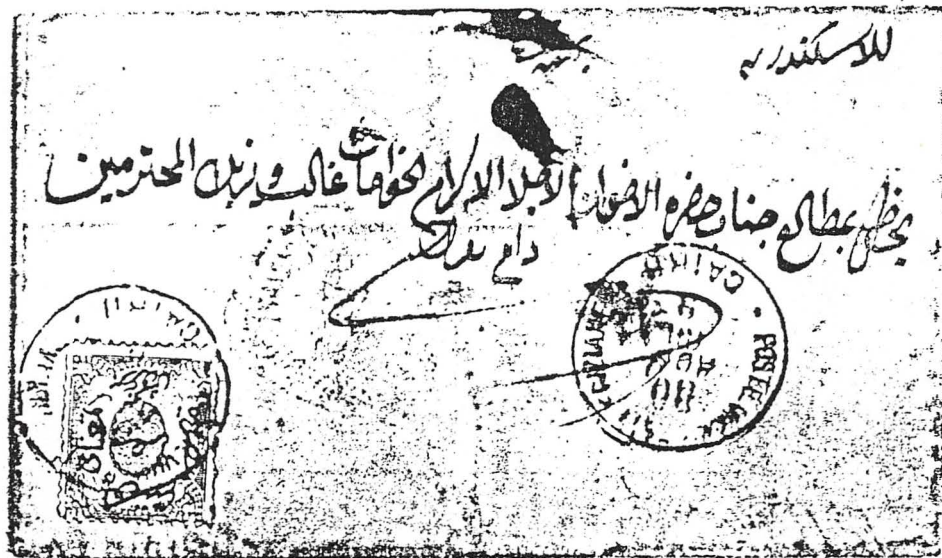


Fig. V CAIRO date-stamp in red, August 7th, 1866
(illustration is + 20% linear)

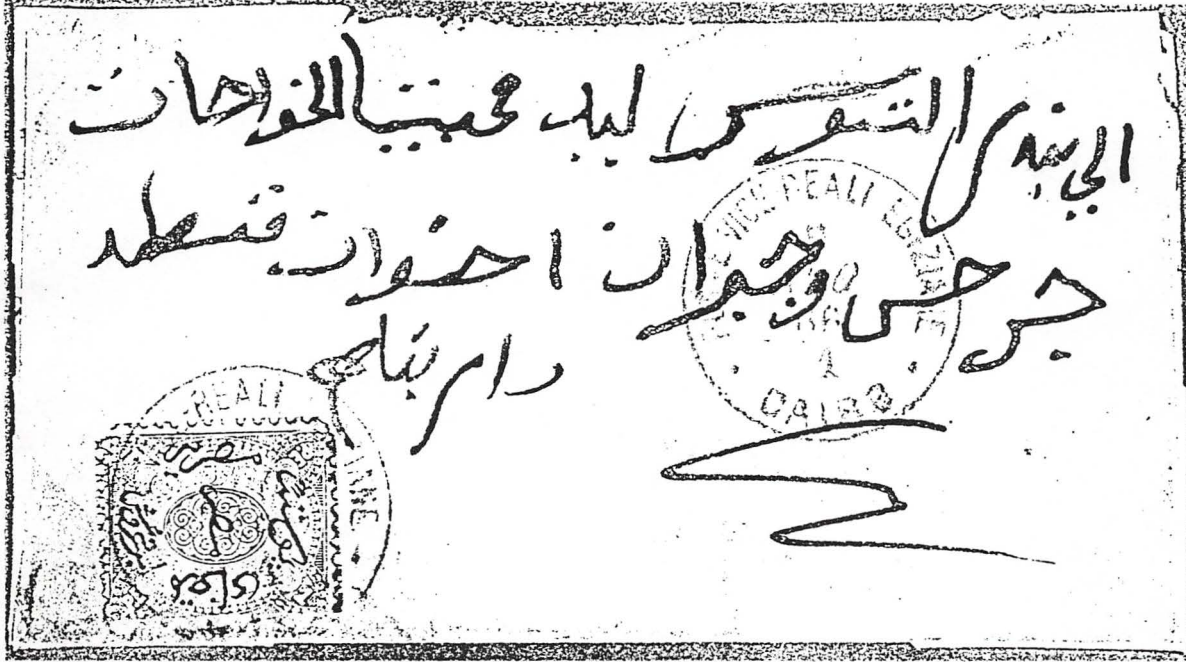


Fig. VI ALEXANDRIA backstamp in red

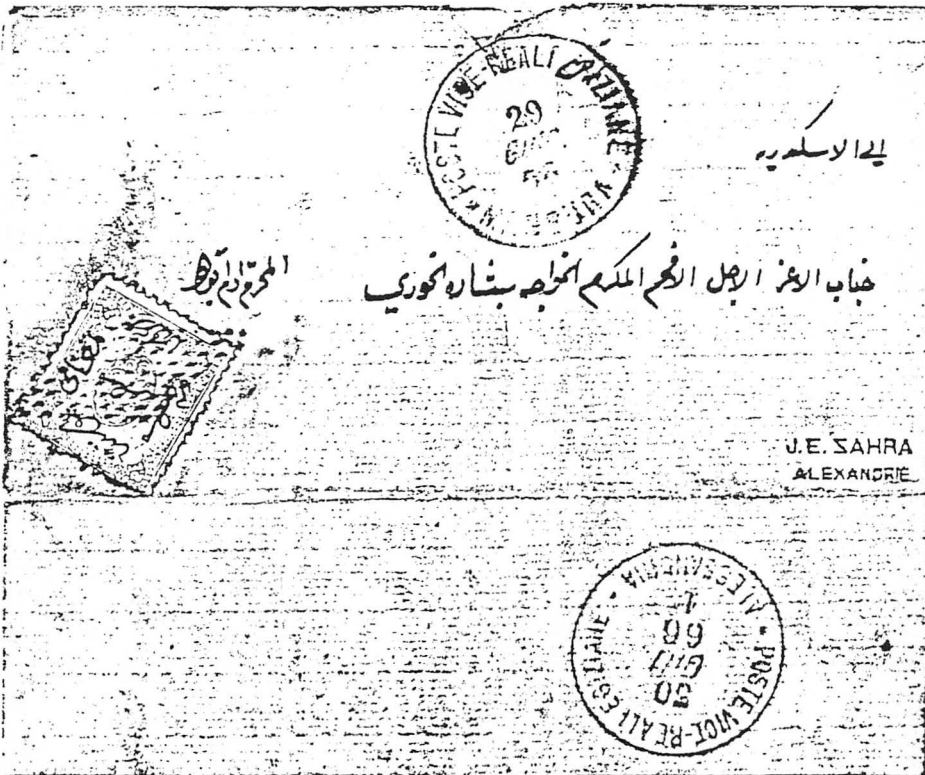


Fig. VII Intaglio Seal cancellations on 1st issue

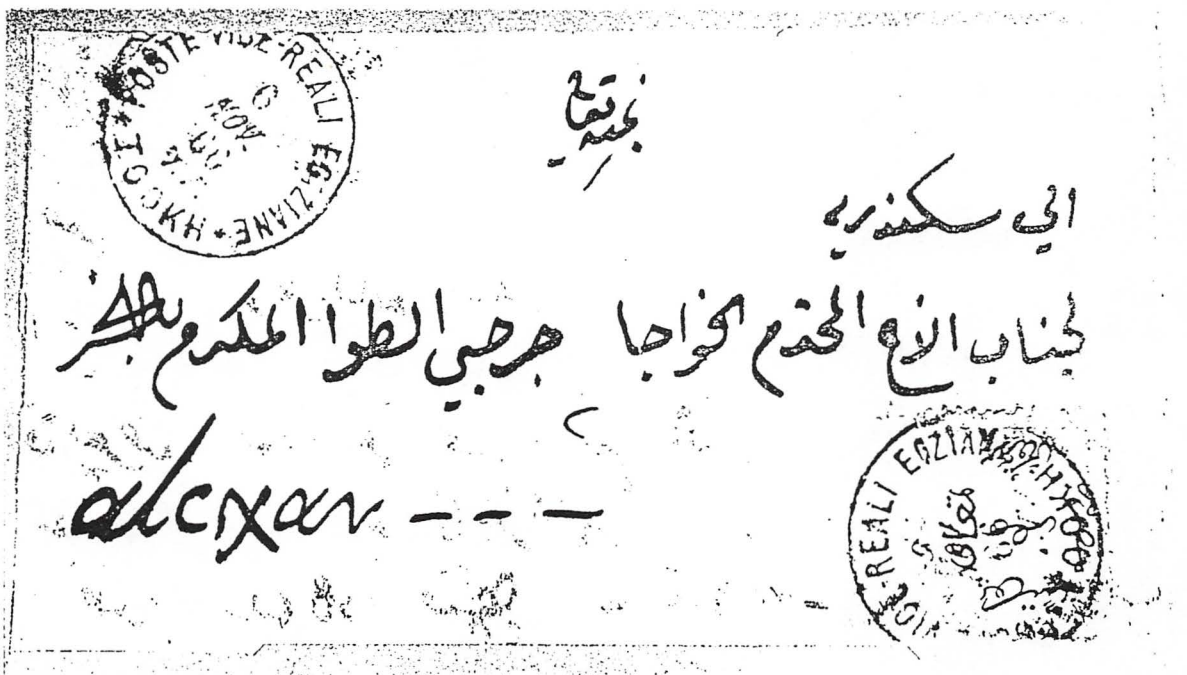
The two different but unidentified intaglio seal cancellations on first issue stamps.

(The illustrations of the two intaglio seals have been kindly and skilfully produced by Mr Tony Schmidt)



Fig. VIII TOOKH - on of the rarest cancellations of the First Issue.

Tookh is a small town on the railway from Cairo to Benha.



RED DATE-STAMPS and BLACK RETTAS on the FIRST ISSUE

(P A S Smith) - continued

" . . . a surprising discovery . . ."

Since the foregoing notes were written, I have found a copy of the 1866 1 Pt. in a bourse dealer's stock having a cancellation that I have not seen before. The stamp is shown in Fig. A opposite; Fig. B shows an enlargement on which the design of the stamp has been blanked out with opaque white (a small amount of unavoidable distortion results from the handiwork, but it is fairly true to the original). Fig. C is a heavily retouched version, to show what the device originally looked like when free of damage and ink crusts. The grid is roughly circular, with a diameter of ca. 2cm. The diamond-shaped dots are formed by two sets of 8 parallel cuts, the sets being at ca. 45 degrees to each other.

The most intriguing aspect of this cancellation is that it is an extremely good match for the cancellation used at Suez on the Suez Canal Co. stamps in 1869 (two years after the 1866 stamps were withdrawn). The drawing of this cancellation made by Jean Boulad d'Humieres is shown in Fig. D; the diameter, the angle, and the number of lines are the same. Is it indeed the same cancellation? If so, how can it be explained? I offer a speculation: if, during the currency of the First Issue, the Suez office lost its retta, it might have manufactured a makeshift; two years later, when it would have been lying about unneeded, it could have been given or lent to the Suez Canal Co. postmaster until the arrival in time to be used on the Suez Canal Co. stamps.

Can any reader offer a more plausible explanation, or report another example of this cancellation on a First Issue stamp?

Fig. A



retta cancel

Fig. B



stamp background
"whited out"

Enlargement of fig. B



Fig. C = fig. B, retouched to show it when free of damage and wear (natural size).

Enlargement of fig. C

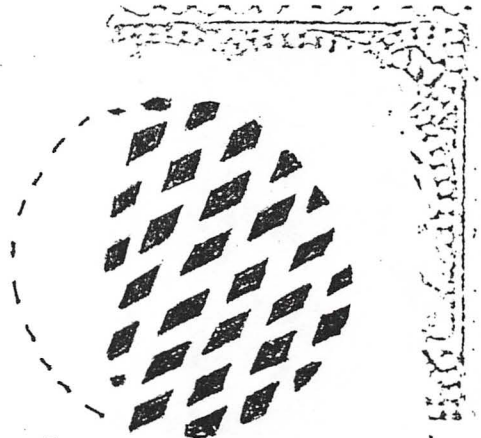


Fig. D - Drawing (by Jean Boulad d'Humieres) of the Suez Canal company's canceller (natural size) - with enlargement



Air Mail Jottings - "Airjot 4"
Contributed by John Sears (ESC 188)

This is an interesting cover from several points of view.

Cancelled	ALEXANDRIA	12 JL 43
Back stamp	CAIRO	13 JL 43
Arrival mark	NEW YORK REG'Y DIVISION	8.17.43

The notation "via West African Pan American Clipper" indicates that it was intended to travel via Lagos by the Pan Am service (started May 1942), and this is confirmed by the presence of a Miami Registered (16 August) transfer mark on the reverse. The journey times varied considerably on this route, this item took longer than most.

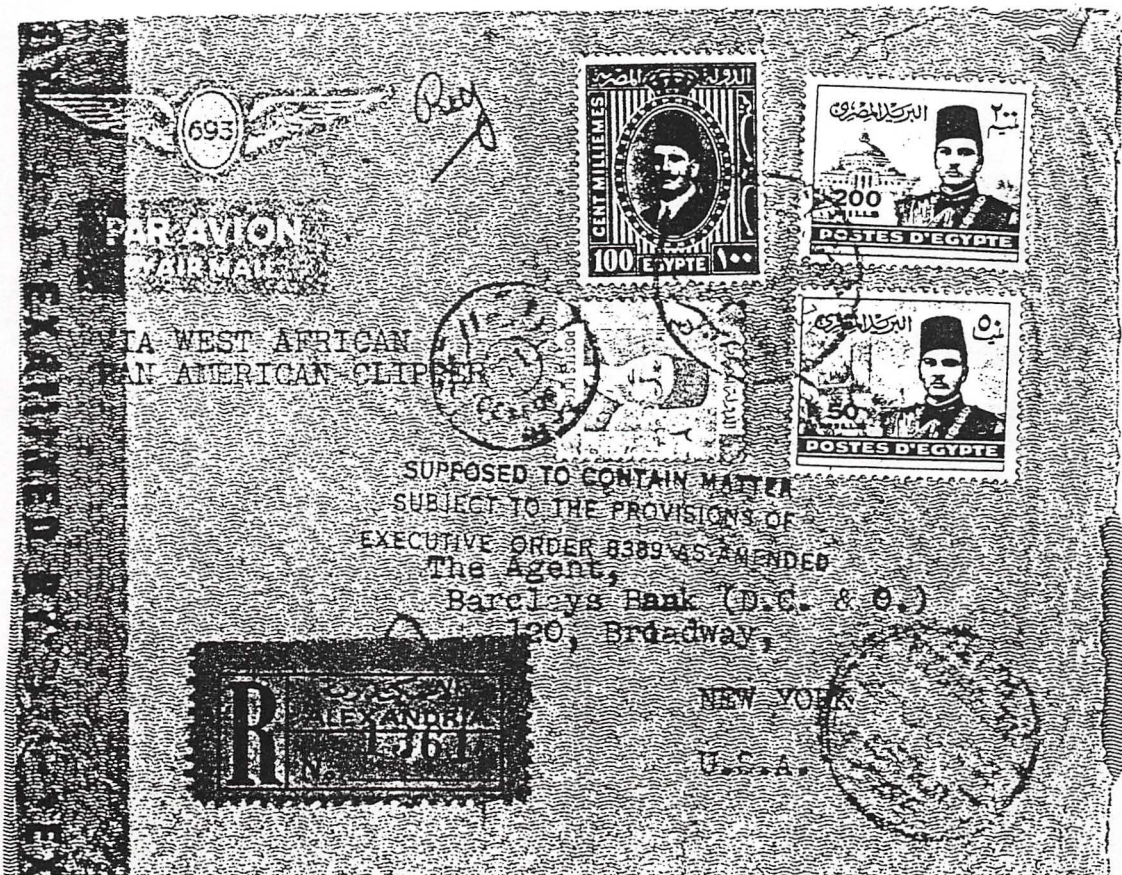
The cachet "SUPPOSED TO CONTAIN MATTER SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 8389 AS AMENDED" is struck in purple and was applied in the U.S.A. Executive Order 8389 referred to the regulation of transactions in foreign exchange, transfer of credit and export of currency, and came into force in 1934 when the U.S. economy was in depression. This letter was from Barclays Bank (DC & O), Alexandria (printed on reverse), and perhaps contained papers relating to a Documentary Credit, which would fall within the terms of the Order. What action was taken before or after the cachet was applied is not known, perhaps a member in the USA could research this for us.

The franking of 352 mills is made up as follows :-

Basic Surface Rate up to 20 gms	22 mills
Registration Fee	30 mills
Air Mail Surcharge (15/20 gms at 75 mills per 5 gms)	300 mills
	352 mills

The Registration Fee on overseas mail was increased to 32 mills as from July 13th, 1943, so this is a LAST DAY cover at the old rate. The cover bears an Egyptian Civil Censor mark, and the tape shows that it was also examined by U.S. censors.

John Sears (ESC 188)



An unlisted interpostal seal for Smyrne

The following seal has just surfaced and is illustrated as proof of existence.

Type VIII SMYRNE (not listed by Kehr)



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CIVIL CENSORSHIP - Mr P Glyn-Jones (ESC 231)

(Further to the report in QC 152 Whole Series Number, December 1989 Quarter)

I read with great interest the report on the Study Session held at the Circle Meeting on July 8th, 1989, as reported in Q.C. No. 152, Dec. 1989.

Noting the remarks made in amendment to the information detailed in the earlier article by Mr Peter Andrews (ESC 122), I began to examine the covers in my own collection that bore evidence of civil censorship. Very soon I realised that many of these covers evidenced further detail to amend the position as reported by the Study Session. I report below upon the detail taken from four covers to see whether it is of interest, and if so - should I complete the examination of my material? Also, is the manner of my report on the four covers suitable? Perhaps photocopies of the covers would be better - I'm afraid that I am no good at making tracings.

Cover No. 1. From Cairo to Birmingham, England, with Cairo c.d.s. of 25th April 1948. Re-sealed with label type B, tied by type 2 in black, plus type 6-01 i.e. 51 in black. Amends Andrews page 98 re first usage of re-sealing label type B.

Cover No. 2. From Alexandria to London with Alex. c.d.s. of the 11th June 1967. Re-sealed with label type C tied type 5 (? 5.2 - Arabic ر) in black plus type 8 (Arabic EV) in black. Amends Andrews page 98 re last usage of re-sealing label type C, and extends sub-division of type 5 - Bertram page 270. Also amends Andrews pages 100-101 re dates used for type 8.

Cover No. 3. From Alexandria to Athens with Alex. c.d.s of the 2nd July 1964. Re-sealed with label type C tied by sub-type 30 (Arabic in black ر ج) plus type 8 in black (Arabic 10, i.e. 15). Amends Andrews page 100 by adding 15 to the numbers used upon type 8, and adds to type 30 also extending its period of use.

Cover No. 4 From Alexandria to Athens with Alex. c.d.s. of the 20th August 1958. Re-sealed with label type C tied with type 4 in black, plus type 7 (double ring) in black with Arabic 10, i.e. 15. Amends Andrews page 100 re the integral numbers being extended to include 15.

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"BRITISH EMPIRE CAMPAIGNS & OCCUPATIONS IN THE NEAR EAST, 1914-1924"

A POSTAL HISTORY by John Firebrace

Published by Christie's Robson Lowe, 1991 (A4 format)

Publisher's claims made for the book (inside front dust cover)

This is the first detailed study of British, Indian, Australian and New Zealand participation in the Campaigns in Egypt, Gallipoli, Salonica and the Sudan, with the advance of the E.E.F. into and through Palestine and, following the Armistice in 1918, the military occupations of Palestine, Syria, the Lebanon, Turkey and the intervention in South Russia. The detail includes principal units of all fighting formations, their locations and Field Post Offices, and "diaries of events" with battles and engagements. Special mention is made of the small contingents from other parts of the British Empire, and of the Jewish Forces.

Early chapters are devoted to the datestamps of the Expeditionary Forces, Armies, and other major formations, followed by the Infantry and the Cavalry Divisions, Stationary and Base Offices, Travelling Post Offices, Military Missions, and the O.E.T.A. including the use of E.E.F. adhesives). Further sections of the book cover postage rates and concessions, instructional markings, registration, censorship (a detailed analysis), postal stationery (including the unofficial "patriotic" types), and cachets. The final chapters cover maritime mail, including the troopships of the Australian and New Zealand Expeditionary Forces, the Near East Hospital Ships, and disasters; and the Royal Air Force, including the pioneer and emergency air mails.

The study is completed with two appendices which provide cross-references, and a full bibliography. There are more than 1,250 illustrations of markings, and 15 maps.

Editor: this superb memento of the subject of this book appears on the dust jacket in full colour.



BOOK REVIEW:

BRITISH EMPIRE
CAMPAIGNS AND OCCUPATIONS
IN THE
NEAR EAST, 1914-1924
A POSTAL HISTORY

by JOHN FIREBRACE

(Published 1991 by Christie's Robson Lowe, London and Bournemouth)

The first impact any book imparts arises from its physical state. A big book makes a bigger impact than a small one, just as surely as if it is literally thrown at you. This one is large (A4 size) and heavy, with (460 + xii) = 472 pages of small, but beautifully clear, print.

The size of print is a big factor in this book and it is worth considering this point. There are about 20 or so characters to the inch, width variations being due to narrow and wide letters. The smaller-than-normal size of the print allows not only the lines of text to contain more words, but the vertical height of the letters is smaller in proportion, so that the rows can then be spaced more closely together than normal, at eight lines per inch instead of six or fewer. You are getting a lot of print for your money! If typed with normal heading and margin spaces, on a standard typewriter, instead of being printed, this book would run to about 1,300 pages! (And yes, I have allowed for the fact that the illustrations - equalling approximately 150 whole pages - would occupy an unchanged acreage of paper).

Just one last piece of arithmetic: dividing present number of pages (472), into the equivalent typewritten quantity (1,300) produces the factor 2.75. This means that if the book text were now printed the same size as the notional typewritten page, this single-volume book of 472 pages would need to be replaced by two and three-quarter volumes, containing over 1,300 pages of the present page size.

The book is therefore equivalent to two and three-quarter volumes of normal size print, occupying 1,300 normal pages. This quantity of printed matter, to say nothing of its quality for the moment, makes the publisher's price of £65 not in the least expensive.

Most serious collectors, in many of the wide areas of interest dealt with here, will obviously want their own copy, but small non-specialist societies will serve their members well by purchasing a Club copy.

The book has a strong laminated dust jacket featuring a very nice and relevant postal history item in colour, depicting an illustrated Post Card. It has a printed heading of the "Australian and New Zealand Expeditionary Forces", and it bears an Egypt 1914 5-mills red "Sphinx", addressed to London. The cancel is the interesting MILITARY CAMP / AERODROME HELIOPOLIS postmark showing the year to be 1915.

/ continued . . .

BRITISH EMPIRE CAMPAIGNS AND OCCUPATIONS IN THE NEAR EAST, 1914-1924

A POSTAL HISTORY by JOHN FIREBRACE (continued)

After absorbing all this you might notice that the word "Expeditionary" has an unwanted "N" and that the soldier depicted is holding his rifle left-handed. Possibly you might also notice the pencil marks used near the SE corner of the stamp, the blunt NW corner of the stamp and the small area of stamp design missing with the paper surface, near SE corner. These minor flaws would be important in a exhibition entry constituting a study of this particular stamp as a philatelic subject: here they add the element of ordinariness in the user who originated this exhibit, which underlines its genuine use in an abnormal situation. It is everybody's good fortune that it has survived entire and in very good condition to the present time.

There is so much to this book that the Index has a lot of work to do. There are 39 chapters, each presented with a relevant heading, which is then subdivided and listed with up to twelve or more sub-headings. There are separate entries in the index for: Appendices, Photographs; Covers and PostCards; Maps.

Having established that the book is large physically, and even larger in terms of content, it is time to consider the quality of the contents. Possibly, one might consider starting off with a willingness to make allowances because of the tremendous task which the author has undertaken. Possibly one is ready to expect less than a sustained very high quality of content, when it is so wide in its scope. So, one might think, some of these chapters might be a bit rough. Not a bit of it! This is the right place to report that, although the quantity of material dealt with in this book with is very large indeed, the quality is maintained and is excellent in all aspects throughout.

One cannot guess at the hugeness of the effort needed in the ascertainment of all the facts which are given perpetuity by being reported in this book. Finding and acquiring or borrowing items which are important, or "just" referring to them, can take a lot of effort with no certainty that the effort will be rewarded by success. The author gives some helpful hints in his Introduction: for instance, who would have thought of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Vol. 3" (RPS of NZ, 1955), as earning the accolade from our author for ". . . the best account of the military postal history of World War I" ?

Maps are a good starting point when venturing upon a new subject located in foreign parts, and the book provides us with 15. My preference is for those having shading in sea, etc., areas. The postcards used as illustrations are exceptionally fine; no scuffed corners or tatty ones or worse. (I should have thought that several of the items listed in "Photographs" are Post Cards). All have been well chosen and are excellent as illustrations.

/ continued . . .

BRITISH EMPIRE CAMPAIGNS AND OCCUPATIONS IN THE NEAR EAST, 1914-1924

A POSTAL HISTORY by JOHN FIREBRACE (continued)

If one aspect of this book is more important than any other, that aspect must be the datestamps shown. They form a kind of certification which as good as stamps "Approved" on the author's descriptive text. He may say: "The Unit canceller at XYZ was round, had these data, was used at ABC, and was in use from (date1) to (date2). The user of this book, however, will want to see a strike of it, to confirm these matters and to compare with his own strikes. Possibly the best feature of all in this book is the quality (and quantity) of reproductions of such datestamps, and of the various other markings, and the useful commentary on all points of interest. Among the wide range of markings which were introduced are: Indian, Australian and New Zealand army marks, T.P.O.'s, British Military Missions, Censors, Egyptian Expeditionary Force (including their adhesives used outside Palestine), Occupied Enemy Territory Administration, and very numerous other users, many scarce and all of considerable interest. The quality of illustrations of datestamps and all other of the numerous different types of markings, and the quality of the reproductions of photographs, postcards, covers, etc., is in almost all cases, excellent. Their usefulness is strengthened by their being related to the various Units, whose activities are reported.

In looking at the illustrations we are presumably looking at John Firebrace's own collection, very largely. It is clear that he shuns any material which is substandard: he must have been collecting this material for a very long time - when supplies were ample (?) - but when a number of collectors were mesmerized into thinking that the right thing to do with a stamp on cover is to tear it off and throw everything else, cover and contents, away. They used to believe that envelopes which did not have adhesive stamps on them either could not hold any legitimate philatelic meaning, or - worse - were taboo subjects to people who collected stamps. The reviewer must, even now, admit to feeling the happier about the book because its jacket illustration is sporting a stamp!

While the voluminous content of the book has been stressed, the quality, and the range of its content, make it a feast.

John Firebrace deserves all success with this book: it is the result of skill, knowledge accumulated over a long time, good judgment in so many things, and a prodigious quantity of work.

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Not least of the author's qualities is his listing of 188 people in his 'Acknowledgements': about thirty from Egypt Study Circle. This includes men who have helped in the past, but who are no longer here to see how their contributions have found their place in this important record.

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This is a splendid book, from every aspect. It is the philatelic work of the decade.

(John A Grimmer)

EGYPT: De La Rue 3-mill maroon of 1892 (Zeheri No. 38) 23/9/11

UPDATE AND NEW INFORMATION ON LATEST DATE OF USE

by Paul J. Calhoun (ESC 269)

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge my gratitude and appreciation for the kind response of ESC members to my query on this stamp in Q.C.154 (June 1990). Information, photocopies and donations of the stamps themselves, were generously provided.

As a result, I have been drawn to the following conclusion:-

The 3-mill maroon (Zeheri No. 38), after being resuscitated for use at the 1894 Alexandria Exposition, was apparently never again withdrawn. (Or, at least, post office stocks were allowed to deplete themselves). This stamp, simultaneously with the 3-mill orange (Zeheri No. 39), was used at least until replaced by the new pictorial issue of 1914.

Lars Alund has supplied a very late date of use: ALEXANDRIA F 20 VIII 13. He believes that philatelically-contrived covers exist with even later dates, but does not mention seeing one, however. (Of course, a used stamp off cover cannot with certainty be attributed to local, foreign or philatelic use).

The 3-mill maroon was also used for foreign postage (in combination with other values) to pay the fee to Europe or elsewhere. Photocopies of two covers kindly supplied by Alain Stragier (ESC 241) demonstrate this use. (Illustrated - Editor).

The 3-mill maroon was also used for Parcel Post. A block of 4, used to pay the parcel fee, has several strikes of "ALEXANDRIE - COLIS POSTAUX - 20 NO 97 TIII". The position of the CDS indicates that this block was part of a larger multiple, perhaps a pane or sheet used for postage. (Generously supplied by E. L. G. MacArthur, ESC 125).

It would be interesting to see: the earliest use of the 3-mill orange (Zeheri 39) used in combination with the 3-mill maroon (Zeheri 38) on the same cover!

The revised listing of the latest date of use for the 3-mill maroon and the earliest date of use for the 3-mill orange follow on the following pages.

Sincere thanks to: Lars Alund (ESC 105), Themis Dacos (ESC 220),
Peter Heim (ESC 394), E. L. G. MacArthur (ESC 125),
D. S. Peoples (ESC 387), Alain Stragier (ESC 241),
and Paul Glyn-Jones (ESC 231)

- Paul J. Calhoun (ESC 269).

Editor: congratulations to Paul Calhoun, of U.S.A., on finding an issue, "adopting" it as his own specialisation and reporting his findings in The QC promptly. It seems that there is more of interest in his adoptive issue than at first thought. Perhaps others of our active members will want to join in with some early and late dates, other uses, destinations, etc. ?

EGYPT: De La Rue 3-mill MAROON of 1892 (Zeheri No.38)
 UPDATE AND NEW INFORMATION ON LATEST DATE OF USE
 by Paul J. Calhoun (ESC 269)

Latest dates of use for the 3-mill MAROON (Zeheri 38) - Revised and Updated

<u>Town</u>	<u>Postmark date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Comment</u>
ALEXANDRIA	20 VIII 13	On single stamp	Donated by Lars Alund who believes that much later dates of use exist, philatelically inspired.

BENI MAZAR	28 DEC 92 (or 99?)	On single stamp	Peter Heim donation.

CAIRE D	-- V (or IV) 96 TXIII?	On single stamp	-

PORT SAID	21 VIII 93	On vertical pair	-

PORT SAID ?	-- VIII 97	On single stamp	Only Arabic part of C.D.S. partially

PORT TAWFIK	10 JU 97 T1	On vertical pair	On my last report I gave the date as either 1892 or 1902. I now know it could not be earlier than 1897, as the Port Tawfik post office was not opened until that year. (See L'Orient Philatelique No. 123, "Plein Mer & Paquebot", by Jean Boulad d'Humieres).

P A R C E L P O S T U S E			
ALEXANDRIE COLIS POSTAUX	20 NO 97 TIII	On block of 4	Used to pay the parcel fee. Probably part of a larger multiple (pane or sheet).

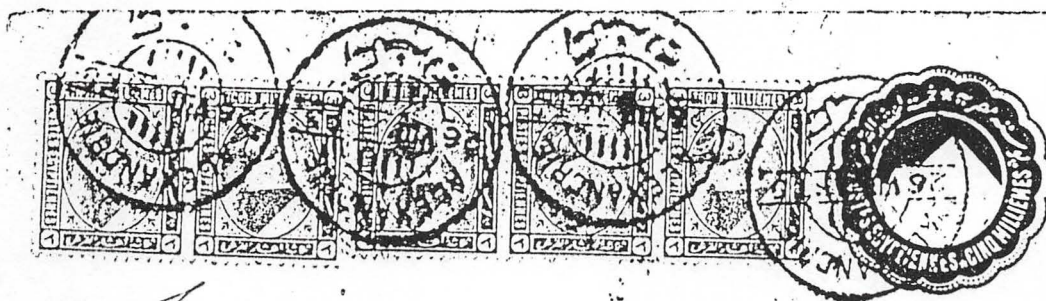
F O R E I G N U S E O N C O V E R			
ALEXANDRIE D	16 VIII 97 VI	On 5 milliemes stamped envelope with two mill stamp for a total of 10 milliemes postage to England	
ALEXANDRIE	23 IX 99	On 2 milliemes stamped envelope with 1 millieme and 5 milliemes for a total of 12 milliemes registered postage to <u>Germany</u>	

/ continued . . .

EGYPT: De La Rue 3-mill ORANGE of 1893 (Zeheri No.39)

Latest dates of use for the 3-mill ORANGE (Zeheri 39) - Revised and Updated - continued

<u>Town</u>	<u>Postmark date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Comment</u>
ALEXANDRIE	26 VIII 93 T5	Multiple of 5 x 3-mill orange (vertical strip of 3 and vertical pair) on 5 milliwes stamped envelope for total registered postage of 20 mills to Holland (Stragier colln).	
CAIRE D	18 XI 93	Single stamp (Lars Alund Donation)	
MANSOURA	-- 94 T111	Single Stamp (Dacos Collection)	
PORT SAID	-- -- 93	Single stamp	
PORT SAID	10 IV 94	Single stamp (earliest clear CDS)	
RAS EL TIN (Alexandrie)	-- II 95 IV1	single stamp	



1893
3-mill
Orange

5 stamps

used
26.8.1897
(month of
issue)

Monsieur
A. Palm
Oude Kerkplein 25
Amsterdam (Hollande)



(EARLY) Zeheri #39

EGYPT: De La Rue 3-mill maroon of 1892 (Zeheri No. 38)



EGYPT. TRES TRAITÉ

Miss M. E. Brooks

Oppr Your House

London Road

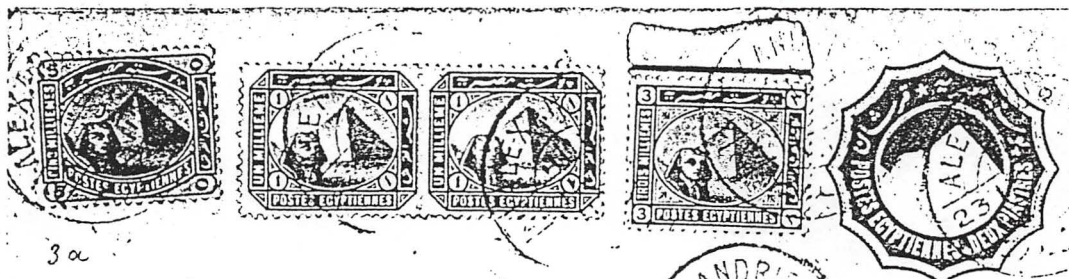
Northfleet
Kent

Angletens

Zeheri #38

3-mills maroon (Z.38)
+ 2-mills adhesive
& 5-mills embossed.
16 Aug. 1897
to England

(previous owner's
message:
'used very late')



3a

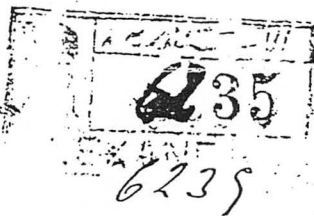
Monsieur

Julius Goldner



Hambourg

Allemagne



Zeheri #38

21

Registered to Germany with
3-mills maroon (Zeh. 38)
2-pi. and other adhesives
producing total of 3-pi.
Used 23 September 1899



NEW ISSUES by C. E. H. Defriez

(all stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R. Egypt, and are without watermark unless noted* otherwise)

Note: stamp numbers SG 1728 and SG 1729 have been left for possible additional issues to the 1989 Airmail issue, SG 1722 to 1727.

<u>Commemorative Stamps</u>	<u>SG 1730</u>	<u>SG 1731</u>	<u>SG 1732 (MS)</u>
Occasion	Festivals 1989	Formation of Arab Co-operation Council	
Date of Issue	4th May 1989	10th May, 1989	
Designer	I. el Tahtawi	N. A. Fattah	I. el Tahtawi
Design	Ramadan Lantern	Members' Flags bound by Olive Branch	Flags of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Yemen
Denomination	5 pi.	25 piastres(Air Mail)	50 piastres(Air Mail)
Sheet	50 (10 x 5)	50 (10 x 5) Litho	Min Sheet Litho
*Watermark:	Upright Mult. Eagle	(none)	(none)
Stamp dimensions	25 x 30 mm	30 x 50 mm	89 x 90 mm
Perforation	11	13	Imperpforate
Quantity printed	5,000,000	500,000	60,000
Supplementary	-	-	-

	<u>SG 1733</u>	<u>SG 1734</u>	<u>SG 1735 (MS)</u>
Occasion	First Arab Olympic Day	Centenary of International Parliamentary Union (I.P.U.)	
Date of Issue	24th May 1989	29th June, 1989	
Designer	S. el Badrawiy	I. el Tahtawi	
Design	Olympic Rings, Map and Sports	Egyptian Parliament Building & Pyramids	Parliament Building Pyramids and Globe
Denomination	5 piastres	25 piastres	25 piastres
Sheet	35 (5 x 7)	50 (5 x 10) Litho	Min Sheet Litho
Stamp dimensions	40 x 40 mm	50 x 30 mm	87 x 71 mm
Perforation	11.5	13	Imperpforate
Quantity printed	500,000	500,000	60,000
Supplementary	-	The I.P.U. was formed in 1889 with its Headquarters in Geneva. Egypt joined in 1924, and hosted the conference in 1947.	

	<u>SG 1736</u>	<u>SG 1737</u>
Occasion	Bicentenary of the French Revolution	25th Anniversary of the Arab Development Bank
Date of Issue	14 July 1989	1st October 1989
Designer	I el Tahtawi	A.A.Ali and H. Abdel Fattah
Design	Egyptian and French flags and symbols	Bank Emblem (map of Africa in the shape of a leaf within cog-wheel)
Denomination	25 piastres (Air Mail)	10 piastres
Sheet	50 (5 x 10)	50 (10 x 50)
Stamp dimensions	50 x 30 mm	30 x 50 mm
Perforation	11	11
Quantity printed	500,000	500,000
Supplementary	-	The Bank finances projects and Investment Programmes related to economic and social development.

NEW ISSUES and THEIR SPECIAL CANCELS

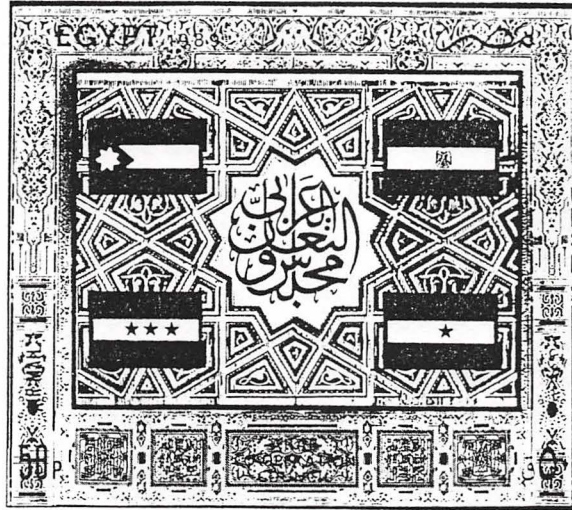
Please refer to the DATA SHEETS for dimensions as not all illustrations are actual size



SG 1730



SG 1732 (MS)



SG 1731



SG 1733

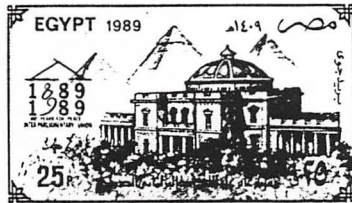


SG 1733



SG 1731/2

SG 1735 (MS)



SG 1734



SG 1734/35

SG 1736



SG 1736



SG 1737



C.O.S. (COLLECTION ORDER SERVICE)

(A) Mr A. Schmidt (ESC 198) was referred to by Mr E Fraser-Smith (ESC 238) with a query on a postmark. His response was this letter dated 18 June 1991, with photocopies of the superb drawings or tracings which form the ESC Record.



PP-6.05

(1) The drawing in the ESC Record

(2) Drawing of your strike

(3) Composite of (1) + (2)

(4) pp-605 in The Record

"I've done all I can with your "C.O.S." postmark - and I agree with you that it is that, so I enclose some drawings.

"The Arabic in your postmark reads: "Ras el Tin", and below it in brackets is التحصيل, that is "(The) Collection". I took a careful look through the ESC Record of postal markings and found a related postmark in the Parcel Post group - PP-6.05 - where the Arabic indicium is تحصيل, that is "Collection". - I've had chats and exchanged letters with various ESC members, but nobody knows anything for certain. Some comments / suggestions are :-

- "1. C.D. = Collection and Delivery
- "2. C.O.S. = Collection Order Service. Is it possible that we are dealing with Money Orders ?
- "3. C.O.S. may be a drawing mistake and the indicium might actually be C.D.S. = Collection and Delivery Service.

"Clearly further information would be very welcome. I felt that the best thing would be for you to place a note in The QC about this intriguing postmark, and to this end I have ensured that the relevant drawings/Arabic text herein are hinged so that John Grimmer can fit them as convenient for him." [Many thanks ! - Editor]

(B) Mr E Fraser-Smith was encouraged by this to do more research on his own, with real progress, and writes this letter to the Editor on 20 July 1991:-

(i) I have since noted that Mr A Schmidt was not the first to question the cancel: see QC March 1970, p14; also: March 1978, p28, A.S. question.

(ii) "Collection Order Service" is referred to in Mr J M Murphy's postal records from Journal Officiel (quoted below by QC dates) :-

- (a) June 1983, page 260; Dec. 1987, page 78. 99. 1329 Aug 8
Jul 28 (65,4)

(iii) "Collection Order" referred to, *ibid*:-

- (b) June 1986, page 219; July 1 and March 31 page 222;
(c) Dec 1986, page 273; Nov 12 and June 11 page 271.

(Some more recent entries not included)

- AND - How did the Collection Order Service function ? = Question Time item!