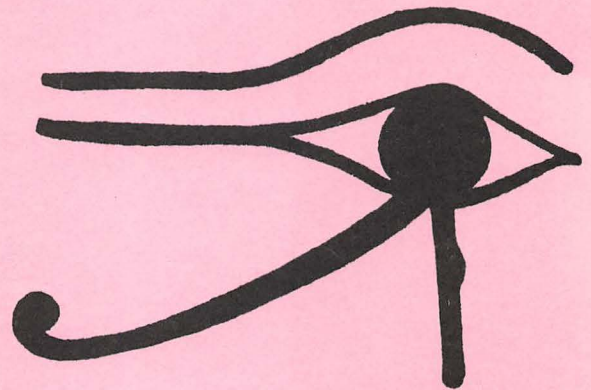


The
Quarterly Circular
of



The
EGYPT
STUDY CIRCLE

December Quarter 1996-Whole Series No. 179
Volume XVI No. 4 - pages 92 - 115

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

January 25th	10 Sheets	Members
March 8th	Gaza 1948-67 Stamps and Covers	
May 3rd	Officially Sealed, & Great Bitter Lakes Association	

Meetings are normally held at the Victory Club, Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London. Members usually congregate in the bar from 1.00pm onwards and meetings commence at 2.00pm.

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Inaugural message from our new Chairman

It is a great honour to be elected the 6th Chairman of the Egypt Study Circle, walking as I am in the shadow of Dr. BYAM our first Chairman. We have come a long way since then (1935) being guided along the way so ably during the last 20 years by John Sears, our immediate past Chairman. I and the whole of the ESC owe so much to John for his hard work and inspiration. I can only pray that he will keep his eye on me, advising and 'reining me in' where necessary.

I hope, with the assistance of you all, to guide the Egypt Study Circle through to the next millennium BUT I MUST HAVE YOUR HELP!

It is becoming increasingly difficult each year to decide on topics/subjects for future meetings. Our meetings like all living things need nourishment to continue. We need more of our members to attend the meetings in London (only six per year) bringing fresh material and ideas with them. On checking recent 'Q.C.'s our attendance (discounting the "Stampex" meetings) is on average about 11/12 members; out of a total of 60 living in England. Again I note from the records that some 15 members live in London and the home counties yet less than half of those attend. Some of our regular attenders travel great distances (Lancashire, Dorset, Hampshire, Birmingham) to be at the meetings and I am very grateful to them. So PLEASE, along with the regulars, CAN I SEE SOME NEW FACES AT THE MEETINGS.

With regard to the topics/subjects at the meetings - what would you, our members, like to see? Can you attend a meeting and assist with the study on some aspect of our hobby? Are we doing things right? - would you like to see something different? - if so what? - let me know.

On Saturday 28th June 1997 the ESC is having a stand at "MIDPEX" at Coventry. 6 of our members (including myself) will be giving short displays on areas of Egyptian philately, and will be manning the "ESC Stand". Hopefully those of you who can't make it to London will come along and visit our stand. If you do attend please make yourself known to me on the stand.

Another 'area' I am trying to get off the ground is a regular small report/contribution in the Q.C. from Egypt itself. I have asked our Agent Nabil in Egypt if he can assist us with this. I am thinking along the lines of a regular small article giving 'philatelic' news from Egypt covering updates on postal charges/items of interest/new discoveries/members queries /etc., etc. Hopefully Nabil or one of our members in Egypt can assist.

As you will see in the programme - on Saturday 20th September 1997 we will be holding a celebratory lunch for our immediate past Chairman, John Sears. This will be an official "thank you" to him. Please give your support by attending. Bring your partner along as well! - if not interested in philately he/she can enjoy a day shopping/sightseeing in London. As it will coincide with the "Autumn Stampex" you will be able to meet many of our overseas members who come over to England. Let's make it a day for John to remember and cherish.

In closing, may I say that I am very appreciative of the small team of Circle 'Officials' for their support and hard work in connection with the day-to-day running of the Circle. I am mindful that one or two still have full time and demanding jobs to hold down. I hope I can continue to call on all your support to maintain the high standards of the Egypt Study Circle.

Robin Bertram

Meeting of the E.S.C. at Pacific 97

A room has been reserved at the Convention Center on Sunday, June 1st at 4pm, for a meeting of the E.S.C. and members of the Sudan Study Group. The meeting is expected to last until 5.30 or 6pm, at which time interested members can adjourn to a good restaurant for dinner (no food will be served in the meeting room). I have listed these topics as a basis for presentations and discussion :

Postal stationery of 1922-32 (Harrison, De La Rue, and Survey Dept. printings)

Official stamps of the 1970's (paper, watermarks, gum, printings)

Sudan : the handstamped inflation provisionals of the 1990's

Other topics that may emerge are not only permissible, but welcome; these are only suggestions.

I hope to see a good attendance! Members abroad who would like information on accommodation that are more reasonable than the "official" ones, should write to me as soon as possible (rooms are available at \$55-\$80 per room). San Francisco is a compact city, so nothing is terribly far away.

Peter Smith

Regional Meeting in the North

It has been suggested that we hold a regional meeting of the Circle, on Saturday 22nd November, at the annual stamp fair of the Leeds Philatelic Society. As many already know, this is now a well established stamp fair attracting about 50 dealers and held in modern premises with full facilities ie. large free car park, well signposted, adjacent to New Pudsey railway station, with snacks and bar. This is a high profile event, well advertised and attended, with other specialist society meetings taking place.

To gauge the interest of members, would those willing to attend please contact the Editor, if there is a reasonable response, then a room will be booked and notice given in the Q.C.

Missing Library Book

Cairo in World War Two by **Artemis Duff-Cooper**

This is the approximate title of a book I lent to a member of the Circle some time ago and now I cannot remember to whom it was lent. Will the member concerned please return the book at the next or a subsequent meeting and, as I am anxious to know the whereabouts of the book - it was a gift from my wife, please advise me that you have it. Thank you in anticipation! .

Incidentally, since the book now appears to be out of print and we do not have a copy in the Egypt Study Circle Library, if anyone has a copy they do not want, and they would be willing to donate it to the Library, I should be extremely grateful. Thank you.

John Davis (Hon. Librarian)

Missing Believed Stolen

One of our members reports that, in September 1996 a working collection in a Hagner Loose Leaf album (black pages) of Official "no value" stamps, went missing believed stolen. It consisted of Zeheri Type 1 (S.G. 0 64), issued 1893 and through it's various periods of use. All single stamps in shades, watermarks and varieties, including a postmark study of Dawawin in its numerous forms. Also a large group on pieces in alphabetical order (of postmark) demonstrating the "No Value plus 5 mills" for internal Registered use.

A group of duplicated postmarks (again on pieces) all good to super strikes of Offices and Towns at which the stamps were used - all different dates.

Also an exactly similar group demonstrating the "Abroad or Foreign" rate, i.e.No Value Officials plus the 1 Piastre Registered mail rate, all superb strikes.

Many of the items are accompanied by slips of paper with explanatory notes. It is not possible to put a value to the collection, as a group it must be fairly rare if not unique.

Also missed (or stolen) at the same time, is the unique Retirement Medal struck for G. Muzzi, which was presented to him by the staff at the Alexandria Post Office.

Any information please, to John Sears or Robin Bertram.

Data Protection Act 1984 (D.P.A.)

Members will be aware that their name/address/telephone number (where provided) is currently held on computer to print address labels for the distribution of the Q.C. and other information. The Circle is allowed exemption from registration under the above Act, on the basis that this personal data is held solely for the purpose of circulating information to members.

The Circle membership list is not published, and is not made available to any party outside of the Circle, although sets of address labels may be provided to other societies/organisations to allow circulation of related information to our members, ie auction catalogues. Approval from the Circle is required for each such provision.

The current edition of the D.P.A. Guidelines include an exemption for Societies, which would allow us to hold additional information e.g. collecting interests, display subjects etc. The additional information may allow us to develop facilities within the Circle in the future.

To obtain exemption in the "Society" category, all members must be given the opportunity to object to their personal data being held on computer. Should any member object, then his/her data must be held as manual records. Would any member who wishes to object to their personal data being held on computer by the Circle, please make their objection known to the Circle Secretary in writing.

Recent Discoveries

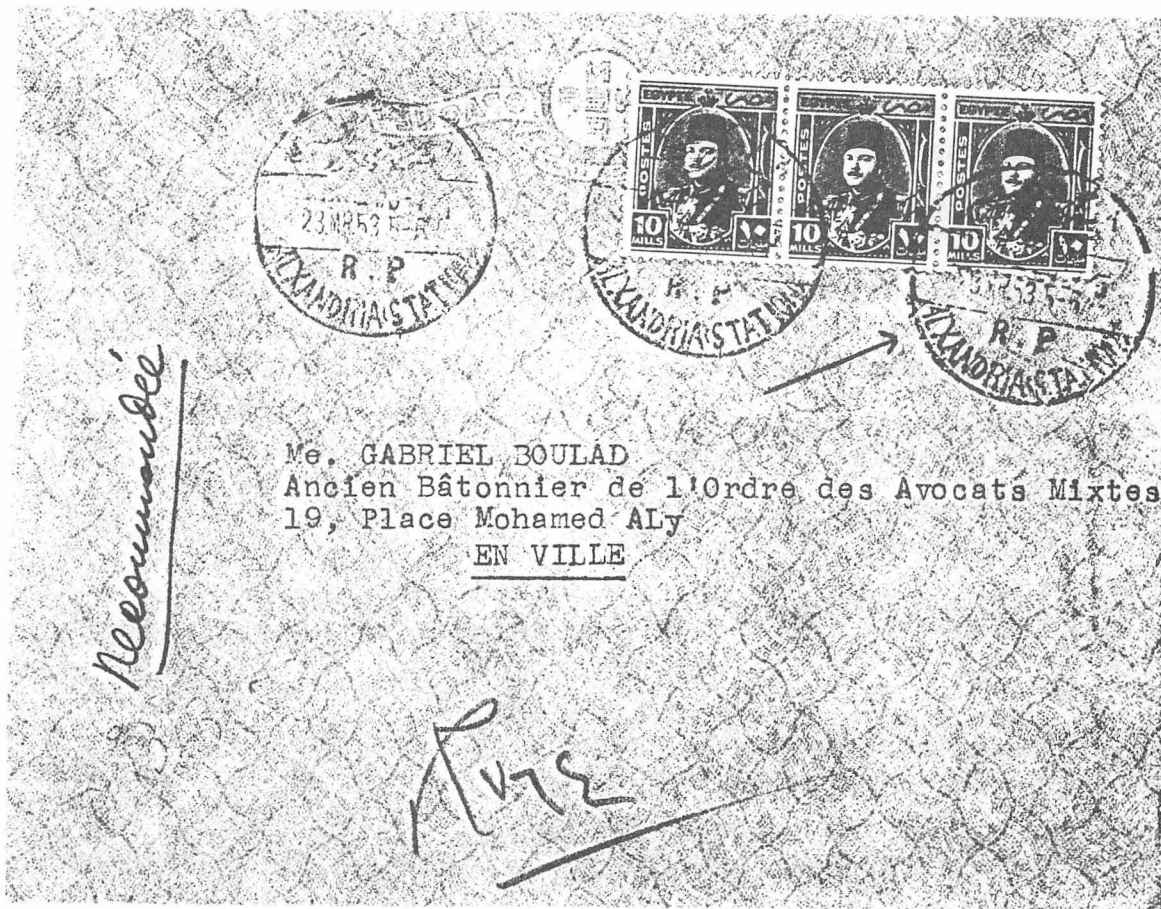
By : Robin Bertram

I acquired the other day at a local auction, a bundle of Egyptian covers with this item among them. The postmark, Alexandria Station, is of interest, for the E is missing from Alexandria!

The cover is registered, probably because it is between lawyers, and was posted locally in Alexandria on 23rd March 1953. The stamps (totalling 30mills = 3pi) are cancelled by a C.D.S. with the letters R.P., standing for Registration Postmark.

With so many members collecting railway and T.P.O. markings, I find it a little unusual for this error to remain for so long undetected. Has any member another example ?

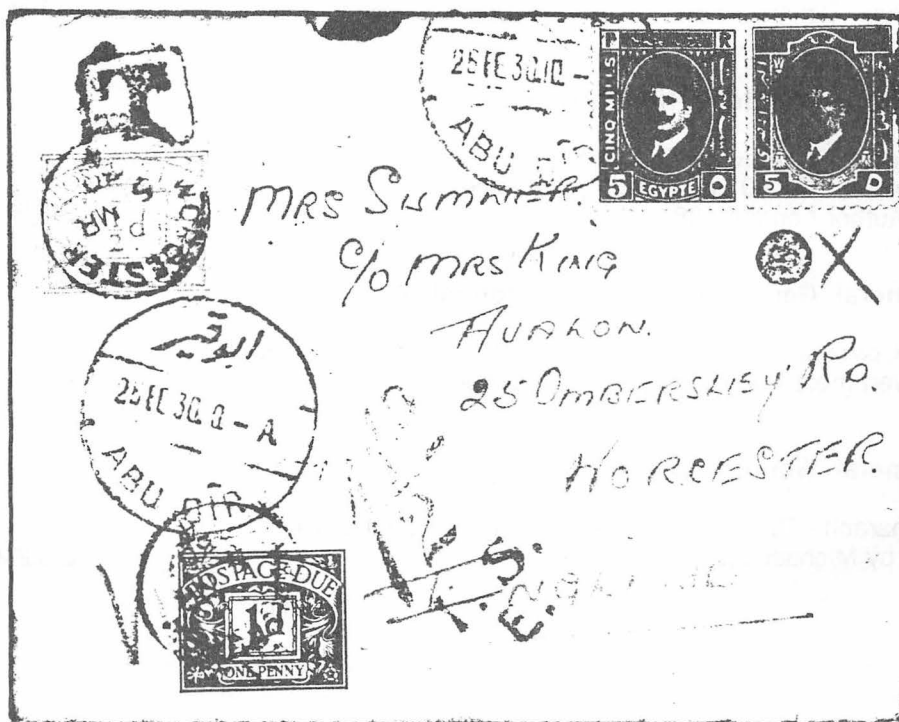
See next page for illustration.



Query Corner

Can any member explain the black encircled crown on this cover ? Alongside it there is a red crayon cross - any ideas why ? Peter Bottrill

The cover was posted at Abu Qir on 25th February 1930, being franked by two 5 mill stamps (S.G. 115 & 156) to pay the surface rate to the U.K. Unfortunately the S.G. 115 was not valid, so it has been cancelled by a black dot approx 10mm diameter. The added British postage dues make this into a most attractive item.



ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY LIST No. 6

1.1 Catalogues and Handbooks

Zeppelin Post Katalog by Sieger-Verlag Publ. 1981 by
Sieger-Verlag Württemberg. F11.1Sie51

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part 19 Middle East
5th Edition Publ. 1996 London F11.1Gib60

1.2 Philatelic Handbooks

Handbuch der Türkischen Philatelie Teil I
Die Zeitrechnung Osmanisches Reich by
Andreas Birken
(Handbook of Turkish Philately Part I
The Ottoman Empire - The Calendar F11.2Bir53

The Postal Markings of Mandate Palestine 1917-1948
by Michael Sacher FRPSL Pub. 1995 by The Royal Philatelic Society F11.2Sac1

La Poste Maritime Française Tome 1 Les Entrées Maritimes
et Les Bateaux a Vapeur by Raymond Salles
Reprint Publ. James Bendon 1992 Limassol, Cyprus. F11.2Sal29

The Paquebot Marks of Africa, the Mediterranean Countries,
and their Islands by Edwin Drechsel Publ. 1980 Robson Lowe Ltd, London. F11.2Dre50

1.3 Auction Catalogues

Egypt including the elegant collection formed by Charles Cotta of
Paris and a portion of the study formed by Ernest Kehr of New York
Publ. January 1965 by Robson Lowe Ltd. London. L41.3Cot10b

The Burrus Collection: Greece & Egypt
Publ. Nov. 1962 by Robson Lowe Ltd. London L41.3Bur10a

The G.L. Hearn Collection of Egypt, Sudan, GB used in
Constantinople, and Jordan Publ. April, 1953 by
Robson Lowe Ltd. London L41.3Hea13a

William C. Hinde Specialised Collections of Egypt
al Sudan. Publ. October, 1957 by Robson Lowe Ltd. London L41.3Hin13b

1.5 Military Philatelic Handbooks

British Forces in Egypt by J.E.O. Hobbs FRPSL
Postal Services 1932-40 2nd Edition (photo-copy)
Publ. The Author London 1984 L41.5Hob40

3.1 General Geographical and Historical Works

Diplomatic Correspondence Respecting the War Published by The
French Government Publ. 1914 H.M.S.O. London. F13.1HMS1

3.2 General Works - Commercial

The Last Pharaoh - The Ten Faces of Farouk by Hugh McLeave
Publ. 1969 by Michael Joseph, London L23.2McL19

3.2 General Works - Commercial

Anglo-Egyptian Relations 1800 - 1953
by John Marlowe
Publ. The Cresset Press London 1954

L13.2Mar12

The History of Egypt from Muhammad Ali to Mubarak
by P.J. Vatikiotis Third Edition
Publ. Weidenfeld & Nicolson London 1985

L23.2Vat8

Lloyd Triestino (Societa di Navigazione a Vapore Trieste)
1836 - 1920 Note e Ricordi.
Publ. (Officine dell' istituto Italiano d'arti grafiche) Bergamo 1920
(In Italian)

F13.2Llo1

6.1 Reference Collections

Richard Notman Collection
"The Classic Period"

L46.1Not53a

7.1 Periodicals

L'Orient Philatelique	Whole No. 106	January 1962
as above	107	July 1962
as above	109	January 1963
as above	111	October 1963
as above	112	January 1964
as above	126	January 1973
as above	127	October 1973

8.2 Tourist Literature

Souvenir of Cairo (A4 size pictures many issued as postcards)
Publ. c 1910 by The Cairo Postcard Trust

F18.2CPT1

9.0 Archives

Phoenix International (R. West) Unaccepted Essays of Farouk

R29.0Wes16

Handbook of Egyptian Philately (1798 to 1952 and beyond)
Chapters in draft for book by P.A.S. Smith

F19.1Smi2

Please ask for individual chapters by name:

Proposed chapter outline

Chap. I	The Napoleonic Post
Chap. II	The Courier Post of Mohammed Ali
Chap.00	Official Mail and Stamps
Chap.IV	The Greek Post Office
Chap.XIV	Commemorative Issues of the Monarchy
Chap.XVIII	The Second Portrait Issue
Chap.XX	The King Farouk Definitives
Chap.XXI	Issues of the Republic
Chap.XXVI	Postal Markings and Cancellations
Chap.XXXIII	Interpostal Seals

10.2 Exhibition Catalogues

Rare Stamps of the World
Exhibition at Claridges London 1995

L410.2Cla47

Present : P. Andrews, W. Andrews, M. Barket, R. Bertram,
M. Bramwell, J. Davis, M. Dorman, C. Defriez,
E.H. Frazer-Smith, E. Hall, S. Horesh, G.A. Jeyes,
J.M. Murphy, J. Sears, R. Wheatley.

Guest : M. Parker

Apologies: D Clarke, P. Grech, J. Revell, B. Watterson

The Chairman, John Sears, opened the meeting with a discussion of the format of the QC, advising that this was his final duty as Chairman. Robin Bertram was then elected as the new Chairman, Alan Jeyes taking his place as Secretary/Treasurer. Both Robin and Stanley Horesh then paid tribute to John for his 20 years in this position - the longest ever in the history of the ESC - during which time it had gone from strength to strength. Thanks were also expressed to Pat Sears whose support and hospitality to the members over the years had proved an immense help to John. Members were advised that at the meeting on September 20th 1997 (coinciding with Stampex) a lunch would be held in Pat & John's honour. Further details of this will be advised in the QC later.

The subject of the meeting was "Airmail Routes and Rates from Egypt 1935-1950. John Sears led the meeting with a map and display covering all the main routes including many elusive covers. Most members brought covers in support and most of these were identified with regard to rates. However, several covers proved mysterious and Edmund Hall took notes with a view to further investigation.

The meeting concluded with the new Chairman expressing Good Wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

ESC 413 J.E. Rudzik, PO Box 600, Duncan, BC V9L 3X9, Canada.

ESC 450 O.A. Sidhom, 804 N Stoneham Av. A Alhambra C.A. 91801
USA.

Resignations (due to non payment of subscriptions)

ESC 458 R. Balian	ESC 404 Dr. G. Dreyer
ESC 436 A. Matter	ESC 395 D. B. Pointing
ESC 424 R. A. Yaghmour	

Subscriptions

The subscription for 1997 is £12.50 and fell due on January 1st. Members living in the USA & Canada should remit to Mr. Charles Hass and those in Egypt to Professor N. El-Hadidi. Will other members living outside the United Kingdom please send cheques payable to the Egypt Study Circle drawn in Sterling on an English Bank. I regret cheques other than Sterling cannot be accepted due to high bank charges. If more convenient overseas members may pay £25 for a two year subscription.

Please send payments to the Treasurer or the appropriate overseas agents. Your prompt payment will be appreciated.

Great Bitter Lakes Association

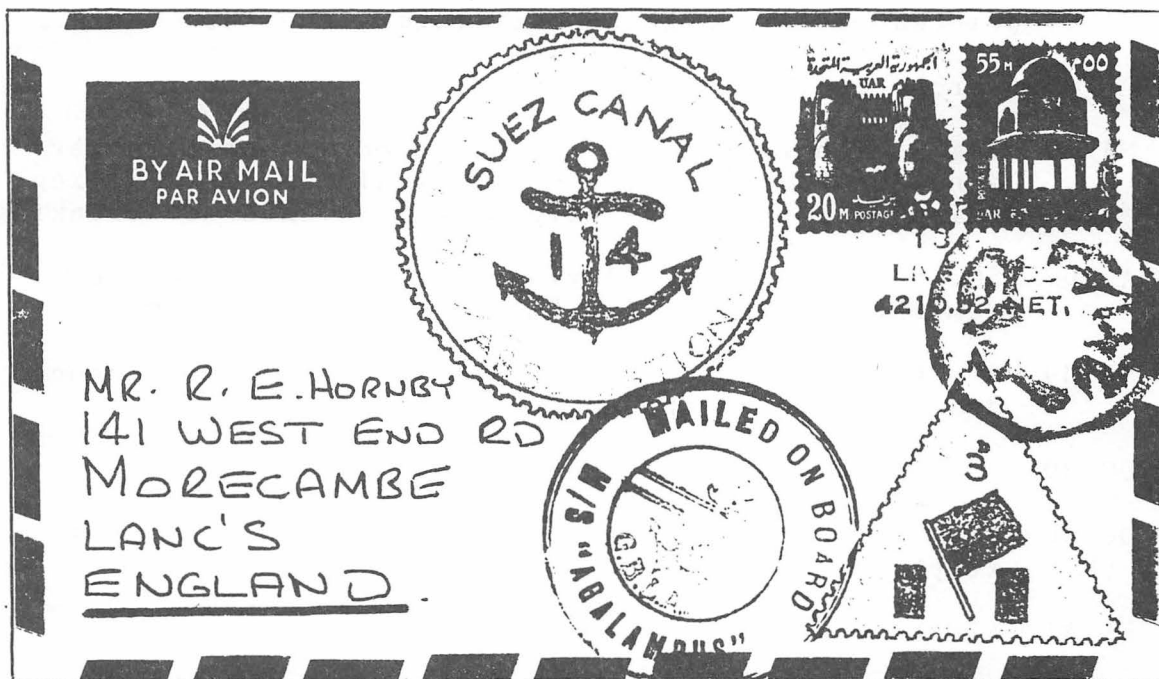
By : Paul Grige

As a result of the "Six Days War" in 1968, several ships were trapped in the Suez Canal, particularly in the Great Bitter Lakes. Efforts were made to keep vessels and cargoes in good order and what was expected to be a few weeks stranded in the Canal, turned out to be well over a year. During this time the ships became a sort of floating village and as a consequence, ships staff and crew became very enterprising, for with time on their hands, they were able to pursue various and often unusual pursuits,

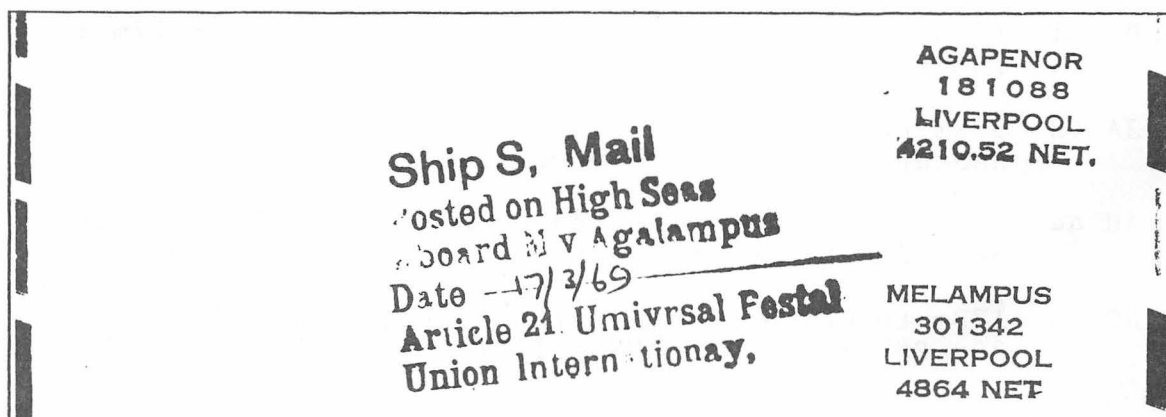
Mail had to be posted, and someone had the enterprising idea of organising a ships post office. They obviously produced their own "stamps". This cover has a 3/- circular "stamp" and a 3d triangular "stamp", these presumably covered the collection and delivery to an Egyptian land based post office. It has been franked for airmail to England by two U.A.R. stamps to the value of 75 mills, although the rate at that time was 60 mills !

I would love to know more about the Great Bitter Lakes Association and its postal system, and would be pleased to hear from any member who has knowledge of it.

(The meeting on 3rd May will deal with this subject, Ed.)



Cachets on reverse



Airmail Routes and Rates

From the meeting of 16th November 1996

After the display/demonstration of the Air Mail Routes & Rates many of the members present showed covers where they had been unable to reconcile the franking. In some cases it was possible to work out the rates, details were noted of the others and further investigation has produced the following solutions :-

- 15 NO 34 85m to Hong Kong; The air mail service to HK did not start 'til 6 AP 36 & the Air Mail Surcharge was 100m. At this time the AMS to Singapore was 85m & if it had gone surface from there the total franking would have been 100m. This remains unresolved.
- 3 MA 36 50m to Kano, this is correct, 15m Basic + 35m AMS.
(See end)
- 6 MA 36 105m to Hong Kong - still unresolved - see above.
- 19 MA 37 13m to New York (reg'd), this does not add up at all, perhaps the owner will confirm the details to us.
- 18 MA 38 14m to Switzerland, this must have been an item of printed matter weighing over 10gms, the rate would then be Basic - 4m, 2 x 5m for the AMS, 5m being the surcharge for 10gms only.
- 1 MA 39 25m to Teheran (Reg'd) if unsealed (printed matter) & not sent air mail, the rate would be 4m + 20m Reg. this could therefore have been 'convenience' franking.
- MA 39 50m to Teheran (Reg'd) via Baghdad 8 MA 39, correct, 20m BSR + 20 Reg + 2 x 5m AMS - for over 10gms.
- 27 SE 39 60m to UK - correct. The 'All up' rate was abandoned 3rd Sept '39, & the AMS was 45m.
- 11 OC 39 60m to UK - correct, see above.
- 30 OC 40 410m to New York - cannot get any where near - is it philatelic ?
- 27 FE 41 47m to Bombay - correct, 17m + 30m AMS.
- 8 OC 41 212m to Chicago 'via Pacific', correct, BSR 22m + 2 x 95m AMS (over 10gms)
- 10 DE 41 150m to Bombay, correct, BSR (20 / 40gms) = 17m + 13m plus 4 x 30m AMS (up to 40gms)
- 10 JA 43 322m to Chicago - correct, 22m BSR plus 4 x 75m for AMS up to 20gms, via West Africa.
- 29 AU 44 280m to New York (Reg'd), convenience fkg, should be 22m BSR + 32m Reg'n & 3 x 75m AMS = 279m.
- 30 NO 44 173m to Chicago, convenience fkg, should be 22m BSR + 2 x 75m AMS = 172m

4 JU 45 370m to UK, convenience fkg for letter up to 100gms,
 should be 17m + 4 x 13m = 69m BSR plus 10 x 30m AMS
 = 369m only.

There also remain the following covers which we have not been
 able to reconcile, has any one any ideas ?

10 DE 40 257m to Toronto; 8 JL 41, 62m to Chochin
 26 JL 41 62m to New York; 24 NO 41, 62m to Bombay.
 2 DE 44 102m to Santiago; 22 MA 45, 40m to Jo'burg.
 27 SE 46 63m to Finland; 26 OC 46 77m to Washington,
 (incl 22m Official stmps)
 21 JU 47 37m to Detroit marked "First Flight"

The fact that there was more than one cover shown addressed
 to Lagos &/or Kano franked 50m prompted a further investigation
 into Journal Officiel notes. In "The Air Mails of Egypt" there
 is a typographical error on Page 67, the note dated Feb 13th,
 1936 refers to the new Imperial Airways service from Khartoum
 to Kano and the Air Mail Surcharge for letters to Nigeria (air
 up to Maidugari or Kano) should read 35 mills (not 30m)

Abbreviations used - AMS = Air Mail Surcharge.
 BSR = Basic Surface Rate.
 fkg = franking.

We should like to thank the members who attended the Meeting
 for providing so much input at the time.

J Sears (ESC 188)

E Hall (ESC 239)

New Issues

By : Cyril Defries

Stanley Gibbons Part 19 Catalogue, 5th Edition March 1996

Herewith alterations to catalogue numbers of New Issues previously listed in the Q.C.

Previous S.G. No.	Revised S.G. No.	Previous S.G. No.	Revised S.G. No.	Previous S.G. No.	Revised S.G. No.
01292	01293	01813	01811	1913	1910
01293	01294	1830	1831	1914	1912
01294	01295	MS1831	MS1832	1916	1925
1584	1586	1832	1830	1917	1926
01594	01595	1864	1869	1918	1927
01595	01596	1866	1870	1919	1928
01596	01597	1867	1871	1920	1929
01597	01599	1869	1872	1921	1930
1775	1772	1870	1873	1922	1931
1777	1773	1871	1874	1923	1932
1806	1814	1910	1911	1924	1933
01808	01807	1911	1913	1925	1934
01811	01810	1912	1914		

The 3m on 2pi Provisional Postage Due of 1905

By : Peter A.S. Smith

The last time that a comprehensive discussion of this stamp appeared in print was 1945, when Douglas McNeille¹ wrote about his studies. McNeille's work was briefly recapitulated in an article² on postage due issues in general in 1994, but it is now opportune to look at the subject in greater depth.

No piece larger than a half-pane of 30 is known, and it is presumed that the panes were divided into two before distribution (a not unreasonable procedure for a stamp in low demand). No examples with sheet margin are known, and it is believed that the margins were removed before printing. The setting was apparently one of 60 subjects, for two kinds of half-pane are known, differing in the plate flaws present. The way in which the setting was made up was not discussed by McNeille, other than to note that the first two rows of surcharges differed from those in other rows in the relative positions of the Arabic and European letters. Having examples of the two half-panes available, I can now report further observations.

As with the 1898 issue of the 3m./2pi., six subjects were set in type, from which units of six were produced. The six resulting Types were not distributed randomly as in 1898, however, but are arranged in vertical columns (like the 1897 SOUDAN overprints). They differ from one another largely in the relative positions of the Arabic and European letters, but there are other small differences, especially in the elevation of the European letters with respect to the base line (they are not precisely level). The six Types are shown enlarged in the accompanying diagram, and the two half-panes of 30 are reproduced in normal size for reference.

It will be convenient in this discussion to be able to refer to the individual Arabic letters concisely, and for that purpose, they are identified on an enlarged illustration.

There are some prominent plate varieties. Position 27 on one of the two half-panes shows a prominent variety: a leaning or "drunken" 'l'; the first 'l' is bent to the right so that its top rests against the second 'l' (there is also other damage, see below). This half-pane I will arbitrarily call A. Other collectible varieties listed in Zeheri are a short first 'l' (position A-17), and part of the Arabic (that below 'ie') weak or nearly missing (position B-17 and A-17?). As McNeille noted, position B-12 is a minor but distinct variety, in which the length of "3 Milliemes" is 19.6mm. instead of 20 (my measurements are 19.6 for the variety, 19.8-19.9mm. for the normal Type 3).

The short 'l' of position A-17 is listed but not illustrated in Zeheri. The letter is not broken, but appears to be from a different type-face; the serifs at top and foot are both complete. There are other small differences from the normal Type 4 of this position, and it is therefore probably a substituted or repaired stereo: *hamza* is small; *alef-1* is short; *alef-3*, *ra'-2*, and the Arabic numeral are thick; *sheen-2* has a pinched 'waist', 'è' and 'm' almost touch; the tail of 'è' is cut off at an angle instead of nearly horizontally; the slope of *alef-2* is farther from the vertical than on other positions in row 4; the 'm' does not show the slight tilt seen on others in row 4, and 's' is damaged (no top serif, and dent at right bottom). The variety "missing part of Arabic" also appears on position A-17, according to McNeille, but he stated that the impressions "- - vary considerably, but in all cases they are more lightly printed than the remainder of the word." This variety is presumably a case of poor contact, either because the printing surface was not level, or because the make-ready was unsatisfactory; on strongly inked examples, all of the Arabic prints, and on both examples that I have been able to inspect, there is hardly any weakness.

On position B-17, besides the missing or weak Arabic letters, there are also other small plate flaws: the serifs at the top right and bottom left and right of M are damaged by pronounced indentations (visible on the illustration in the Zeheri catalog and on a complete half-pane B, on which it is definitely in position 17, not 20 as stated in Zeheri); the triple dots of *sheen-1* are almost missing, the Arabic numeral is thicker, and *alef-3* and *lam* are closer together (0.35mm. instead of 0.45mm.). None of these features is present on A-17.

Position B-12, shorter "3 Milliemes", is probably another case of substitution. The Arabic numeral is thinner than on normal Type 3, although it is aligned below 'e' as in Type 3, and the triple dots of *sheen-1* are reduced to two small specks.

The very prominent variety "drunken l" on position A-27 is illustrated in Zeheri, and the only point that needs to be added here is that this position has other damage: the upper left corner of the 3 is shaved, *sheen-2* has a flattened bottom, and the 's' is badly broken at its top. The two positions above it, A-17 and A-22, also have shaved numerals, a fact that suggests that the three positions may have suffered damage at the same time. Position A-22, in fact, has other distinct characteristics that

distinguish it from all other positions in row 5: *hamza* is small and filled in; *alef-1* is short; the stem of the Arabic numeral is thicker; *lam* is as thick as *alef-3* (on other positions of row 5, it is thinner); *ra'* is thick at bottom, and the serif of the second 'l' of Milliemes joins that of the second 'i'.

McNeille was concerned about whether half-panes A and B (which he called "sixth" and "fifth" settings, respectively) were right and left, or vice versa. The uncertainty remains.

References:

1. D. McNeille, L'Orient Philatelique No.49,187-191(Jan.1945) and No.50, 266-268(Apr.1945); reprinted from The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, Feb.1936, with amendments.
2. P.A.S. Smith, The Collectors Club Philatelist No.73, 267-281 (Sept / Oct 1994).
3. J. Grimmer, QC, Vol. X No.9, 238-251 (Whole No.113, March 1980).

Type 1. 3 to s: 20.0mm;
 ٣ below e;
 ١ below left leg
 of m.

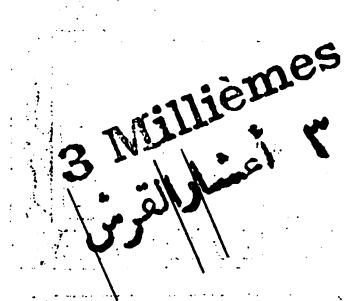
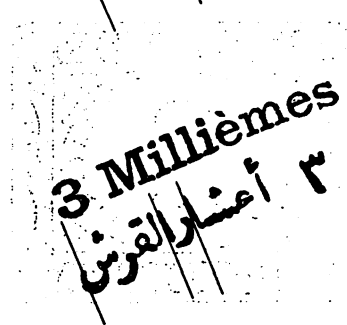
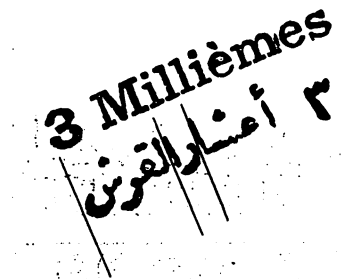
Type 2. 3 to s: 19.85mm.
 ٣ below e;
 ١ below left leg
 of m.

Type 3. 3 to s: 19.80mm.
 ٣ below e;
 ١ between è and m.

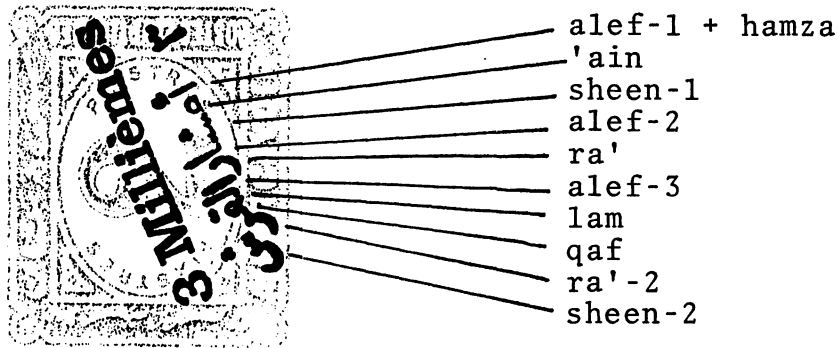
Type 4. 3 to s: 20.0mm.
 ٣ between m and e;
 ١ below è.

Type 5. 3 to s: 19.9mm.
 ٣ between m and e;
 ١ below è.

Type 6. 3 to s: 20.0mm.
 ٣ between m and e;
 ١ below right side
 of è.



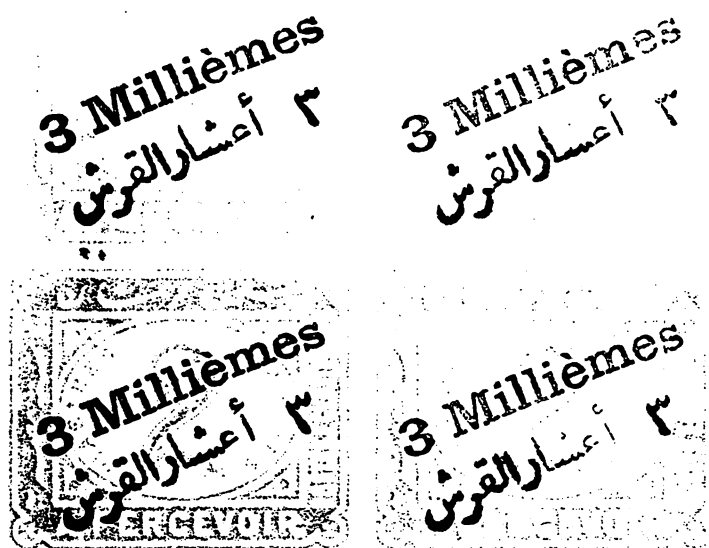
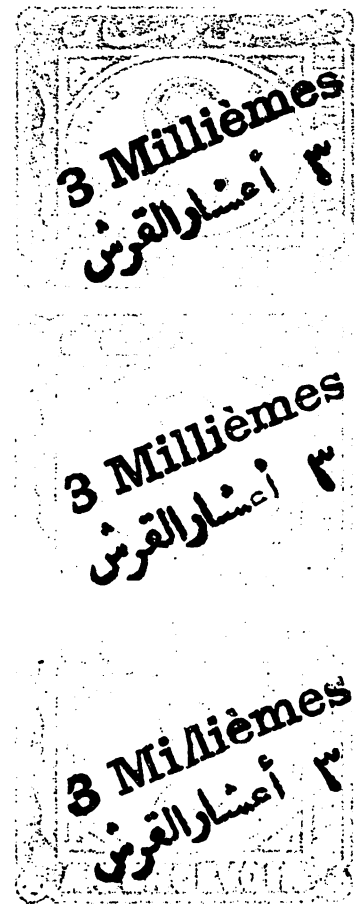
The
 six
 Types



Identification of the Arabic letters

TYPE 1	1	2	3	4	5
TYPE 2	6	7	8	9	10
TYPE 3	11	12	13	14	15
TYPE 4	16	17	18	19	20
TYPE 5	21	22	23	24	25
TYPE 6	26	27	28	29	30

Stamp positions in half pane 30,
with top row all Type 1 etc.



A
Pane
positions
17, 22 and 27

B Pane positions 11, 12, 16 and 17



Half
Pane
A



Half
Pane
B

THE MILITARY STAMP

By : Alan Jeyes

This article is based upon a 9 sheet display given to the E.S.C. in September 1996, the stamp concerned being S.G. 1097 : Zeheri 299.

In March / April 1971, the Egyptian Postal Organisation Philatelic Office issued a press release describing, among other issues, this stamp (Fig. 1). The press release reads as follows :

“ The State works for the prosperity of the military forces men, while assuring all necessary services to them. Among these services, the Ministry of War agreed with that of Communications, to exonerate all correspondences dispatched by these persons from all postal charges, and to reduce to 10 milliemes the charges of letters addressed to them. On this occasion, the Postal Organisation issued one postage stamp of 10 milliemes for military posts, as well as an envelope bearing the said postage stamp to be used to this effect.”

It should be noted that the normal postage rate for inland letters at this time was 20 mills, so that correspondence to the forces was at half rate.

The press release is not altogether clear in that the Egyptian Navy and Air Force are not specifically mentioned, although the term military forces would undoubtedly cover these. I assume that this reduced rate would not apply to officers. Finally, it is not clear if the stamp (or envelope) could be used (uprated) on normal mail, but the S.G. catalogue does state that it was not valid for any other purpose. I shall return to this point later.

The stamp design depicts a shield, within which there are two olive branches, an eagle, and the emblems of the four corps of the army. It is in a reddish violet colour, perforated 11 according to S.G., and 11½ according to Zeheri !

On 15 April 1971 the stamps were duly issued (Fig. 2) and immediately another query arises. All Egyptian stamp issues at this period were provided with official First Day Covers, usually supplemented by covers prepared by dealers. These types of cover are generally common, but I have never seen a F.D.C. for this issue. Thanks to Robin Bertram I have an illustration of the First Day Postmark, which appeared in Egyptian Topics May / June 1971 (Fig. 3), so presumably F.D.C.'s do exist. They could not have been produced in any great quantity. Why should this issue have been thus treated?

At this time, Egypt was in a state of tension with her neighbours and maintained a very large army - mainly conscripts - who lived under harsh conditions and were poorly paid. Covers are surprisingly scarce, for which I offer three explanations, but they are only my opinion. Firstly, that many of these young men were perhaps only semi-literate and that the people most likely to write to them - their parents - were even more likely to be so , being from a previous generation. Secondly,

well educated young men were no doubt chosen as officers. Thirdly, the recipients would probably destroy the envelopes. Whatever the reason, far fewer seem to have survived than might have been expected, but two are illustrated (Fig. 4) one dated 16. 6. 71. the other date is illegible.

After a couple of years the stamps start to appear on commercial mail (Fig. 5) and seem more common thus than on military mail, the dates in my collection range from December 1973 to 28. 8. 75. Was the concessionary rate abolished ? Were the stamps sold for general use to dispose of the stocks ?

Dealing now with the stationery envelopes which were issued on the same day as the stamps, these are scarcer than the stamps on cover. I have two unused examples in distinct shades of light and dark green, the former is folded to 106mm deep, the latter to 102mm deep (Fig. 6). This may imply two different printings, although the shades could arise due to a print run of 2 or 3 days, with the folding taking place at a later date. Was there sufficient demand for two printings ? Certainly they were produced in too great a quantity, as uncut and unfolded sheets were later overprinted for use as Post Office forms for Registered articles (Figs. 7 & 8). Usage has followed that of the stamps, with a properly used envelope (Fig. 9) being dated 30. 7. 71, and a commercially used uprated envelope (Fig. 10) dated 26. 12. 74.

This is a simple but intriguing issue. I hope that members will send photo-copies of covers in their collections to amplify the usage, and perhaps Egyptian members could identify to what branch of the armed service these illustrated covers are addressed to, and at the same time, confirm or correct the assumptions made in this article.



Fig. 1

(P. No. 18, C ١٨ رقم) تاريخ الورد
 وزارة المواصلات — هيئة البريد
 MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
 MINISTÈRE DES COMMUNICATIONS
 Egyptian Postal Organization
 Organisme des Postes d'Egypte
 Date of Arrival
 Date d'Arrivée
 بيان المراسلات المسجلة الواردة في تاريخ
 برسم
 List of registered Articles arrived on _____
 to the address of _____
 Bordereau des Objets recommandés arrivés de _____
 à l'adresse de _____
 مطابع البريد ٦٨ - ٦٩ / ٢٥٥٥ / ٢٠,٠٠٠ × ٢٠٠

	رقم Number Numéro	المكتب المرسل منه Origin - Origine
1	١	
2	٢	
3	٣	
4	٤	
5	٥	
6	٦	
7	٧	
8	٨	
9	٩	
10	١٠	
11	١١	
12	١٢	
13	١٣	
14	١٤	
15	١٥	

استلمت المراسلات المسجلة الموضحة اعلاه وعددها _____
 تاريخ التسليم
 الختم ذو التاريخ
 Date Stamp
 Tim bre a Date
 Received the _____
 registered articles detailed above
 Reçu les _____
 objets recommandés détaillés
 ci-haut
 the } _____
 le } _____
 في
 تحريراً في
 الإمتفاء
 Signature
 Date of Delivery
 Date de consignation



Fig. 2

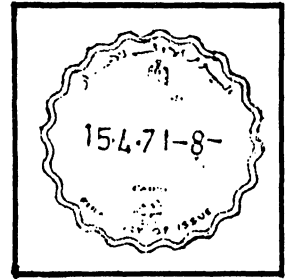


Fig. 3

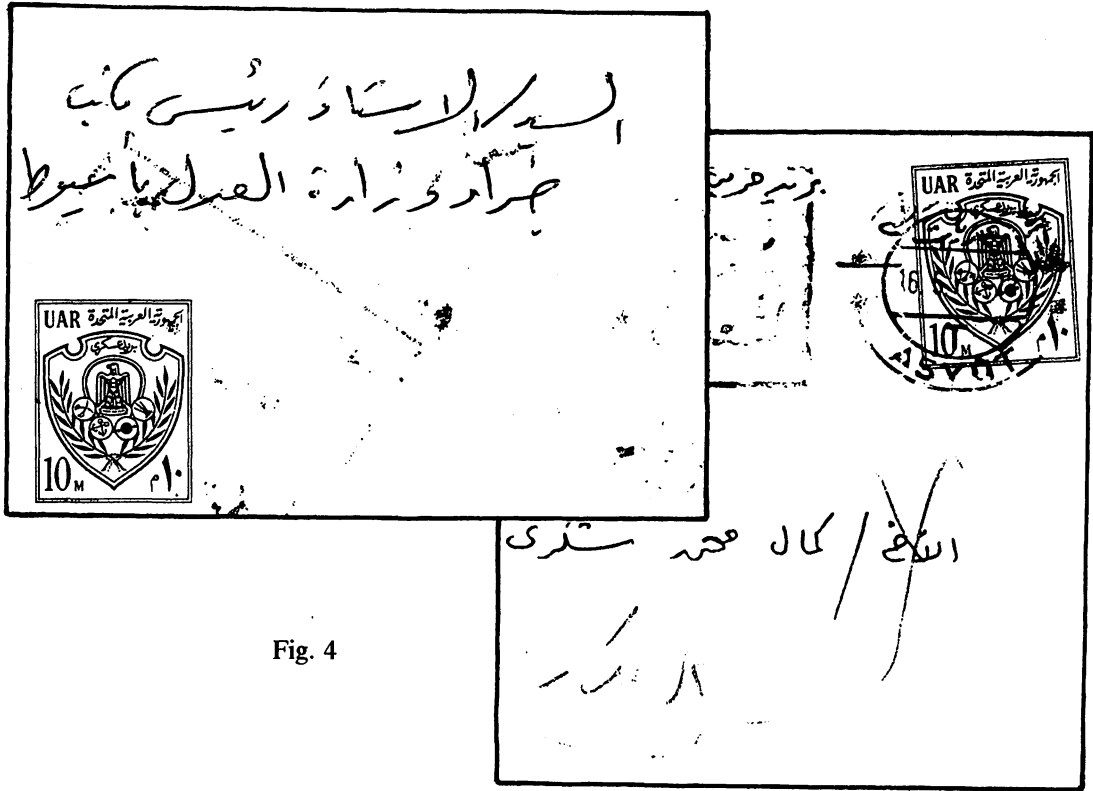


Fig. 4

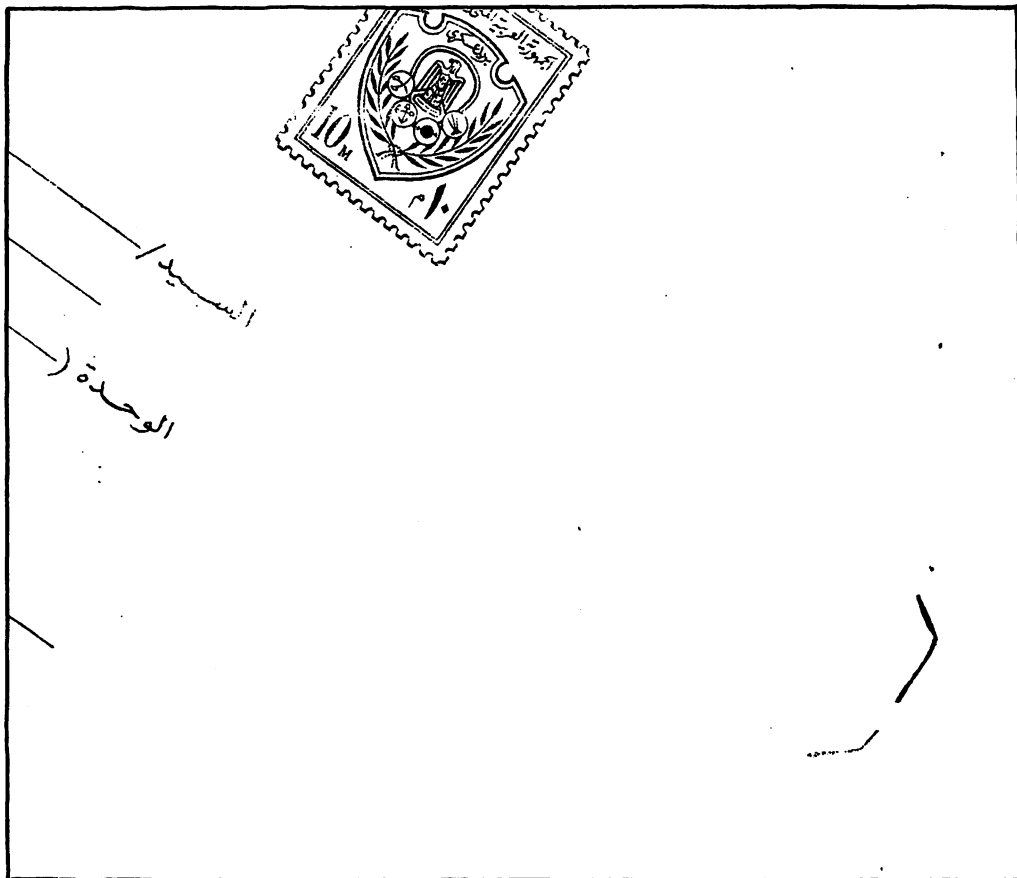


Fig. 7

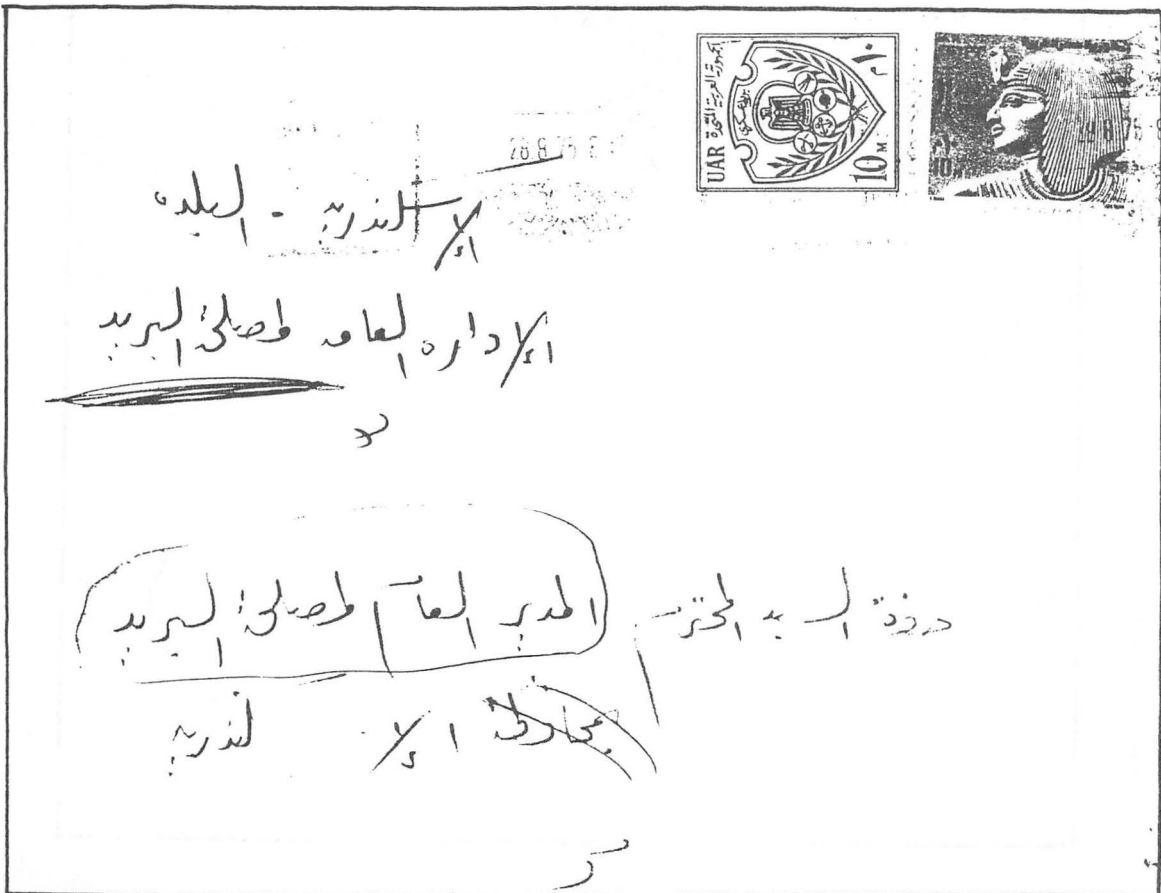
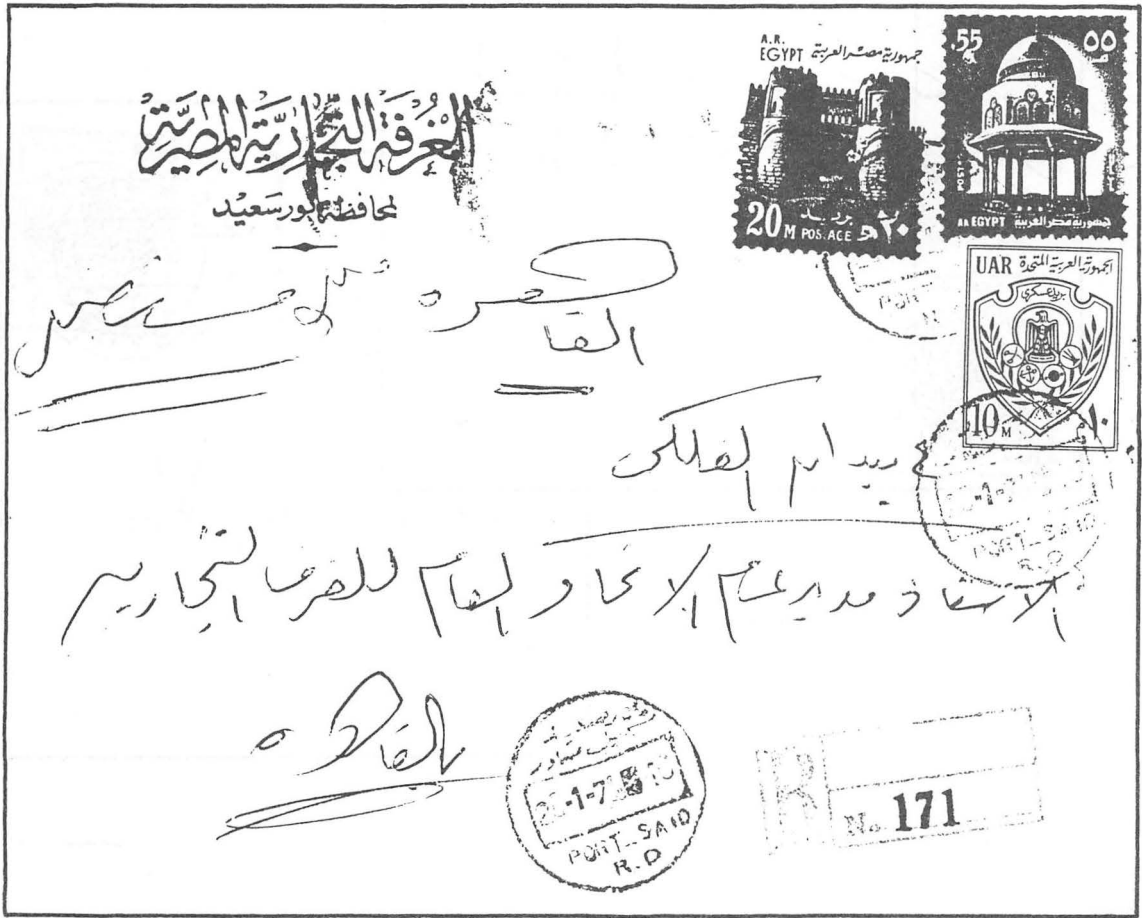




Fig. 5



السيد / _____

الوحدة (_____) ج (_____)



السيد / _____

الوحدة (_____) ج (_____)

Fig. 6

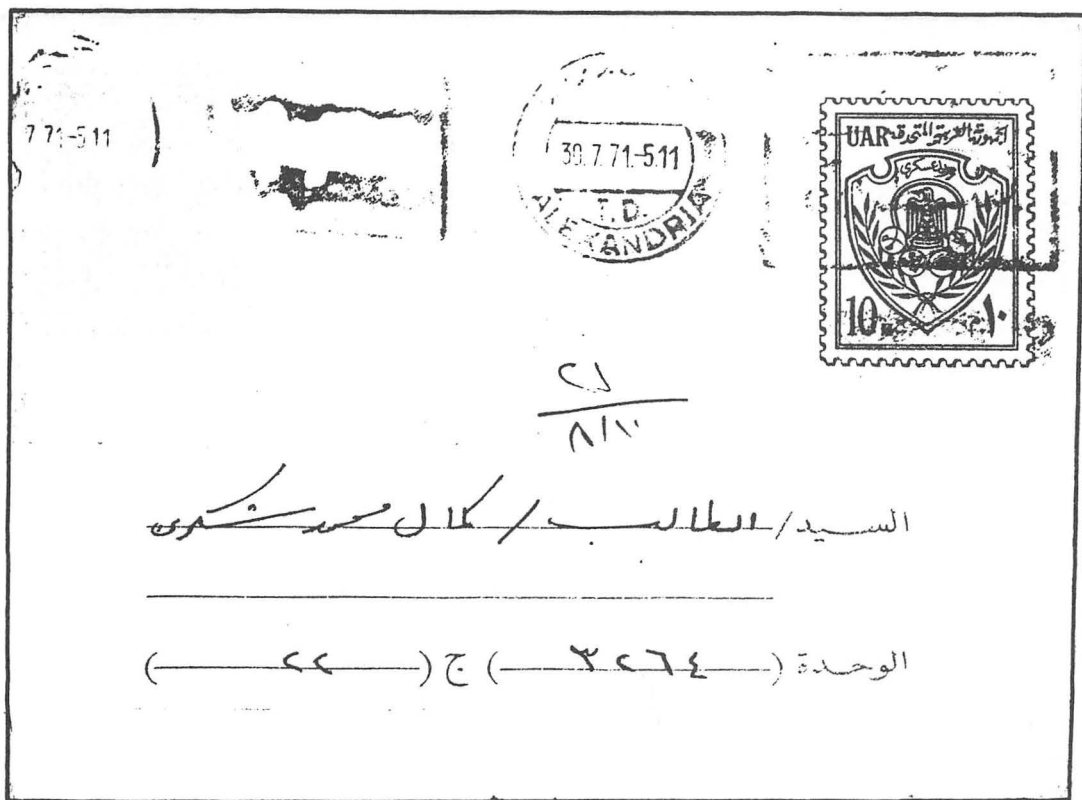


Fig. 9

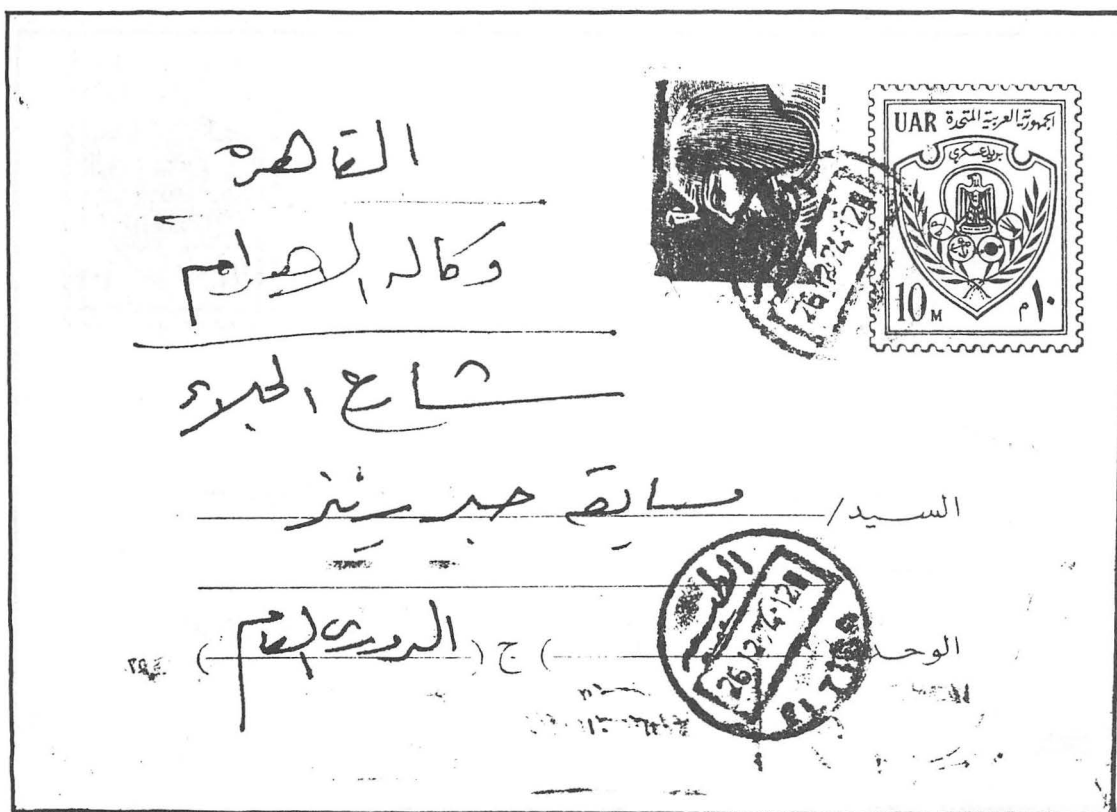


Fig. 10

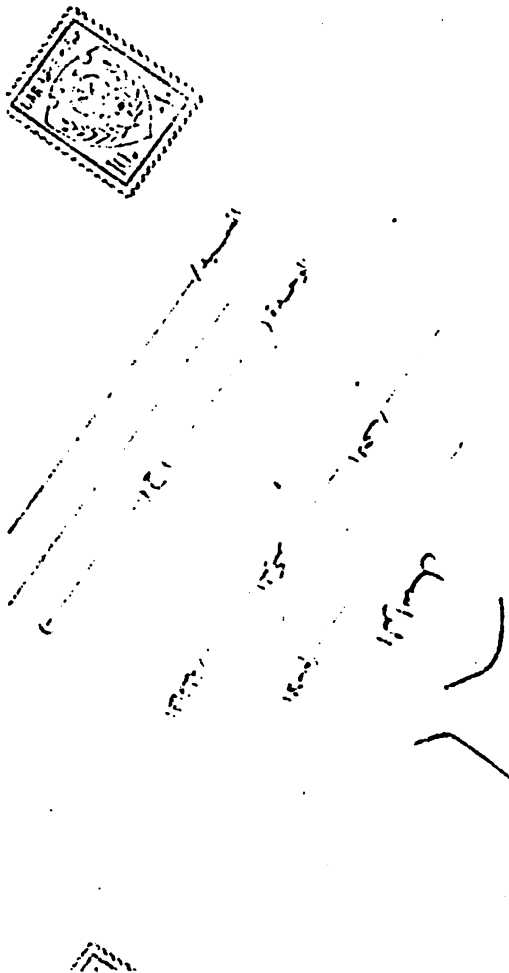
In one of the back issues of the Q.C., I came across the piece below written by "Mac" in 1974. I felt it appropriate to reproduce it here.

Hawk eyed members will have noticed in the January 1997 E.S.C. auction, two lots that featured the 10 mill Soldiers Envelope (773/4), plus two lots of the 10 mill Soldiers Stamp (775/6).

1974 Soldiers' Stamp

In 1974 a 10 milliemmes letter sheet, similar in texture and size to an Air-Letter, printed in light green, was issued for use by the Armed Forces. Two factors led to the item illustrated below (reduced size): i) the cessation of hostilities and ii) a great paper shortage. The letters were withdrawn from circulation and a) cut and reprinted on the reverse with the bordereaux as seen and b) made into small paper wallets for holding cash, etc.. I was given this by Ibrahim Chaftar on my visit to Alexandria. He had noticed them being used by the Postal Clerk when he visited the Post Office, and managed to retrieve a few.

E.L.G. MacArthur



(P. No. 18, C 18 رقم 18) تاريخ التورود

وزارة الاتصالات - هيئة البريد

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
MINISTÈRE DES COMMUNICATIONS

Egyptian Postal Organization
Organisation des Postes d'Égypte

بيان المراسلات المسند الواردة في تاريخ

رسم

List of registered Articles issued on _____
to the effect of _____
Bordereau des objets postaux adressés de _____
à l'adresse de _____

رقم Number N°	مصدر التورود Origin - Origine
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	

Received the _____
and the _____
Registered _____
objects, recommended details
of the _____
the _____
Signature - التوقيع

Date of Delivery
Date de livraison

Query Corner

Below is a transcript of a letter that I recently acquired. Can any member shed any light on Adly Ahmad El Gahlan ? Roy Summers.

Adly Ahmad El Gahlan
Survey & Mines
Giza

Dear Mr & Mrs Bottomley,

I received your Christmas card and I thank you very much for your kind thoughts and remembrances. Mr Zaki talked highly of your kind reception and hospitality when he met you at Leeds last summer.

I am enclosing herewith a stamp carries the picture of H.M. the King & Queen of Egypt produced on the celebration of their marriage which took place on 20th January, 1938. This stamp as well as all the normal issue stamps are etched on flat thin copper plates for L & M Intaglio Machine stalled at S & M Dept. in 1937. This stamp is an example of my work as well as a present.

Mr Zaki told me that you are willing to send me my thesis if I wrote and asked you about it; as it is very useful to me in work, will you please send me my thesis on Photogravure which I wrote in 1929, as I lost my books and notes while returning back from England to Egypt in 1929, and now I have no notes to go to when the work wants me to.

Please remember me to all your family and all the staff of the School of Printing.

I am Sir,

Yours truly,

Adly Ahmad El Gahlan.

25. 1. 1938.



Editors Note

As I live in Leeds, I thought it best to carry out a bit of local investigation. Samuel E. Bottomley was a F.R.P.S. and at that time lived in the Roundhay area of Leeds.

In the University of Leeds Register of Graduates 1904-60, El Gahlan is not listed ! In 1947 a degree course was run by the Leeds College of Technology Department of Printing and Photography in conjunction with the University of Leeds, in Lithography, Offset Litho and Photo Litho, leading after 3 or 4 years to a Batchelor of Commerce.

