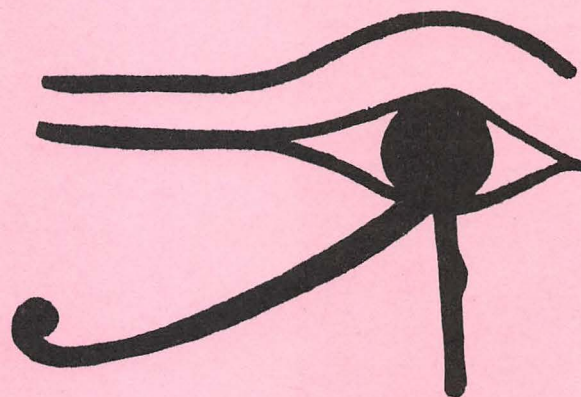


The
Quarterly Circular
of



The
EGYPT

STUDY CIRCLE

September Quarter 1997 Whole Series No. 182
Volume XVI No. 7 Pages 164 - 187

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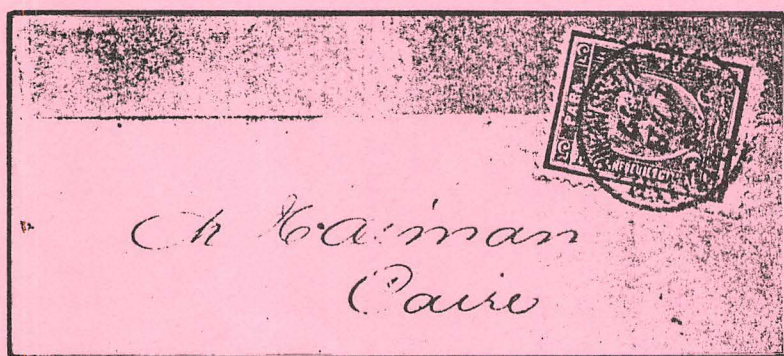
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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

November 15th	Revenues	P.R. Bertram
November 22nd	Regional Meeting - Leeds	

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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REPORT OF MEETING HELD 5.7.97.

Present : P.Andrews, W.C.Andrews, L.J.Butcher, M.C.Bramwell
 J.Davis, E.H.Frazer-Smith, P.Grech, S.Horesh,
 M.N.ElHadidi, G.A.Jeyes, J.M.Murphy, J.Sears,
 R.Wheatley.

Apologies: R.Bertram, C.Defriez, J.Revell, B.Watterson.

S.Horesh, acting as Chairman in the absence of R.Bertram, welcomed Mr.L.J.Butcher on his first visit and Mr.El Hadidi-our representative in Egypt. Before the meeting proper members new acquisitions were shown including an unrecorded postmark of the British P.O.in Egypt, and a Registered cover from the Seamen's Home - Alexandria. The meeting was "Airmails" and emphasis was on the uncommon or unusual. Most members participated and while it is impossible to list all the items shown most members saw something new to them.

Members News

Change of address	400	Dr.B.T.Farid 208 Queens Rd. Leicester LE2 3FT
Deceased	388	C.M.Cooper
Resigned	406	D.W.A. McCreadie

News from New Zealand

Tony Chisholm advises that a meeting of the New Zealand Chapter (3 members) will be held about the 3rd or 4th week of February 1998. Any members visiting New Zealand at that time are welcomed. Any members interested please write to Tony at 13 Arden Way, Wilton, Wellington 5, N.Z.

Exhibition in Egypt

We are advised of a forthcoming Exhibition/Conference to be held at the Mena House Hotel, Giza from the 6-10th November 1997. The publicity leaflet is professionally prepared and indicates that there will be displays and participation by the Trade. However, the Exhibition is apparently not sponsored by the Philatelic Society of Egypt and our members in Egypt know little about it. Members requiring more information should contact :

SAKKARA Group - 61 El Marghany St. Heliopolis
 Tel.(20-2) 4177970
 Fax.(20-2) 4187099
 E.Mail a44UN783@GNCOMTEXT.COM

New Members

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|--|
| 488 | M. McKabbaty
Elm Banknotes Egypt
15 Phillimore Walk
Kensington
London W8 7SA | 489 | M. Nofal
Elm Banknotes Egypt
15 Phillimore Walk
Kensington
London W8 7SA |
| 490 | Tony Pope
P.O. Box 33035
Juneau AK 99803
U.S.A. | 491 | Dr. T.J. Ammel Jr
P.O. Box 2237
Fremont
California 94536
U.S.A. |
| 492 | Yakup Nakri
P.O. Box 788
Sisli
80226 Istanbul
Turkey | | |

Change of Address

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 297 | P.F. Goodwin
14 Cashmere Place
Glenfield AK 10
New Zealand | 451 | Dr. A.A. Abdel Hafiz
P.O. Box 4560
Nasr City 6th District
Cairo 11717
Egypt |
|-----|---|-----|---|

EDITORIAL

We are expecting to see a good turnout at the regional meeting in Leeds on Saturday 22nd November, commencing at noon, see inside back cover for full details. It will be Members Displays, the choice being at your discretion, so please bring along up to 20 sheets to display.

An excellent suggestion has come from our librarian, who would like members to borrow a book, read it, and review it for the benefit of other members. I heartily endorse this initiative, and look forward to receiving reviews for publication. I will start the ball rolling.

BOOK REVIEW

Nineteenth Century Wars in Egypt and the Sudan By John Firebrace
E.S.C. Library Item L41.5FIR36
218 glossy A4 pages, bound soft cover

This is a most unusual book, in that after the introduction and 8 gorgeous pages of colour illustrations, the bulk of the remainder is the well written up pages from his collection. Each campaign/expedition starts with the history and postal historical background, followed by the relevant album pages. It works a treat ! The clear hand-drawn maps and his neat writing up, make each section a pleasure to read. This delightful book is completed with a bibliography and a comprehensive index.

A Report on Pacific 97

By : Kurt Wolfsbauer (ESC 197)

The World Philatelic Exhibition PACIFIC 97 took place from May 29th to June 8th 1997, in the Moscone Center right in the heart of San Francisco. It was the first big international stamp exhibition to be held on the West Coast of the USA.

As the US Post Office were celebrating the 150th year Jubilee of the first US postage stamps at this exhibition, they financed the largest part of the budget. This meant that there was ample space for the exhibits, dealers, postal administrations, plus free well equipped meeting rooms.

The exhibition was under the patronage of FIP, with 593 displays coming from 63 countries, plus 268 literature exhibits, the quality was on the average high.

Two large exhibition halls, each the size of two football pitches, swallowed up PACIFIC 97. In the first hall the US Postal Service was in the middle, at which its 30 counters had long lines of buyers from morning to evening. Arranged around that were the majority of dealer stands, then came the exhibits. In the connecting foyers and hallway, there were rest areas and a snack bar. The second hall contained the remainder of the dealers, the stands of postal administrations from 80 countries, the FIP Championship Class, plus more exhibits. Here also was the literature section, which was the largest that I have ever seen, with many tables and comfortable seating for studying the exhibits.

I can report with particular pleasure that the ESC had a meeting there, at which our President Prof. Peter Smith showed new discoveries in postal stationery. We also saw new overprints on Sudan stamps, and considered the complexities of the Egyptian Official stamps of the 1970's. Joseph Chalhoub showed us the draft of a new catalogue of Egyptian stamps. Among others present I can recall Peter Feltus, Samir Fikry, Charles Hass, Peter Newroth, Thomas Olson, Sherif Samra, William Scheetz and Lucian Toutounji; my apologies for those names that I have missed.

About 1000 people attended the opening ceremony, which was short and sweet, with only three 5 minute speeches. At the exit we were presented with the souvenir sheet "150 Years of US Postage Stamps", this was mounted in a decorative envelope with a first day cancellation. The Palmares took place in the Marriott Hotel and as with the opening ceremony, it was plain and simple without any artistic event.

Just like at other recent international exhibitions, this one included a group of "experts". The task of this group is to show up forgeries and repairs to stamps and covers. I personally welcome this, for it gives us collectors backing against unscrupulous sellers - whether they be private individuals, dealers or auction houses. There is here already something positive to report, for two exhibitors had shown "bad" items at recent international exhibitions, for which they got their money back from the vendor. As a result, the sellers of such items have almost no possibility of again selling these items, for they are photographically and digitally recorded.

AWARDS

Grand Prix d'Honneur : Jurajit Gongvatana : Siam, the 19th Century
 Grand Prix International : Pichai Buranasombati : Great Britain - Early Line-engraved issues
 Grand Prix National : George J. Kramer : Across the Continent
 53 Large Gold, 108 Gold, 153 Large Vermeil, 143 Vermeil,
 106 Large Silver 97 Silver, 51 Large Bronze, 33 Bronze, 5 Certificat Participation.

EGYPT AWARDS

Prof. Peter Smith : Egypt : The Classic Period (1798-1879) Gold with Special Prize
 Sherif Samra : Egypt : Classic Stamp Collection Gold
 Farid Mehjar : Official Stamps of Egypt 1875-1926 Gold
 Khetcho Hagopian : Egyptian Stationery Gold
 Kurt Wolfsbauer : The Austrian Post in Egypt Large Vermeil
 Lucian Toutounji : Egypt Air Mail Vermeil

For me this journey to the USA will remain always in my memory for three reasons.

Firstly, I was able to see many new collections at the exhibition.

Secondly, it was possible for me to see the probably unique collection of the Second Issue of our friend Peter Feltus, at his home in Berkeley. Here I was also entranced with the comprehensive library of Egyptian philately and Egyptian guide books that he has assembled over many years.

Thirdly, at the end of the exhibition we spent four days at the home of Peter Smith in Ann Arbor, where we were hosted philatelically by Peter, and culinarily by his wife Mary. I will never forget these four days. Our President has gathered together in the nearly seventy years of his collecting, a true treasury of Egyptian philately. No area of Egypt has been overlooked, for it begins in the 15th century - with the so-called Venetian Post - and ends in recent times.

I had the opportunity to see the proof copy of his study of Egyptian philately, "The Book" is now almost a reality, and I can understand that one can produce such a study only when one has collected the area for almost seventy years. We can be proud of our President, for he has produced not only a monument for us present day collectors, but for future generations too. Peter thank you.

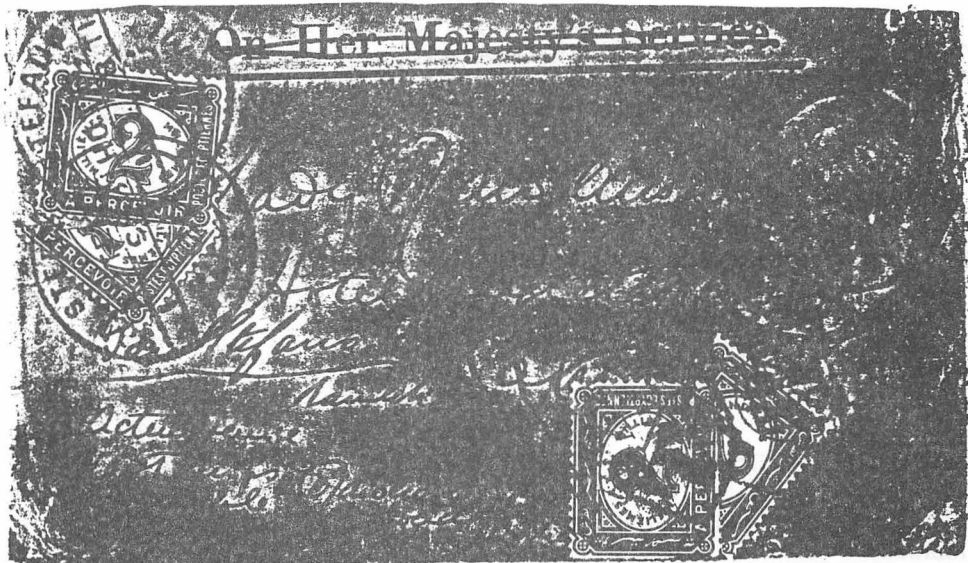
The departure from the Smith family was very hard for me, for unfortunately, the everyday business again called in beautiful Vienna.

Double - Bisect Postage Due Cover

By : Peter A.S. Smith (ESC 74)

This cover was sent from Halfa on 12th (or 17th?) April 1898, by a soldier, evidently Captain Rawlinson, to Lady Rawlinson, presumably his wife, at the Hotel Angleterre in Cairo, where it arrived on 18th April 1898. According to the regulations then in force (February to May 1898) the letter was charged 3m postage due (cancelled 19th April) since it was endorsed at the lower left "Active Service / No Stamps / available". The letter not having been called for, was forwarded to San Stefano, Ramleh on 30th April, to which Lady Rawlinson had apparently repaired. On leaving Cairo the first 2m + bisect due were voided with the boxed T, and upon arrival in San Stefano another 2m + bisect due were applied and postmarked on 1st May at the San Stefano Hotel (HSS 2).

The cover is remarkable for two reasons. The obvious one is the use of two sets of bisects on one cover, I know of only one other such use(on a cover in the collection of J.P. Gough). The other reason, is that the second bisect is cancelled at the San Stefano Hotel, the postmark of which is one of the scarcest of the hotel postmarks. This may make the cover unique.



An 1898 cover from Halfa bearing double use of the bisected 2m. postage due.

ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY LIST No. 6

1.2 Philatelic Handbooks

- The Stamp Booklets of Egypt
by A. John Revell
Publ. by the Author, Whitstable 1997 L41.2Rev35
- Egypt: the First Portrait Issue - A Compilation since 1928
by John Sears
Publ. by the Author, London 1997 L41.2Sea34
- La "Posta Europea" Nel Contesto della Storia Postale dell'Egitto
Nel sec. XIX (1820-1865) by Luca Daniele Biolato
Publ. the Author (Libreria Giovanni Carnevali - Foligno) F11.2Bio 1
- Postal History of Egypt to 1900
by Samir Amin Fikry
Publ. The Royal Philatelic Society, London 1996 L41.2Fik36

1.5 Military Philatelic Handbooks

- Nineteenth Century Wars in Egypt and the Sudan
by John Firebrace
Publ. The Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund & Cavendish
Philatelic Auctions Ltd. Bristol 1997 L41.5Fir36

2.3 History of the Late 19th Century Campaigns

- Founders of Modern Egypt
by Mary Rowlatt
Publ. Asia Publishing House, Bombay 1962 F12.3Row15

2.4 World War I

- Allenby in Egypt (Vol. II of Allenby; a Study in Greatness
by Field-Marshal Viscount Wavell
Publ. George G. Harrap & Co. Ltd. London, 1943 F12.4Wav16

General Geographical and Historical Works

3.1 - Issued by Governments and 'Official' Bodies

- Index to Place Names Appearing on the Normal 1: 100,000
Scale Map Series of Egypt by Survey of Egypt
Pub. by Ministry of Finance. Cairo 1932 F13.2Sur5

3.2 - Commercial Publications

- Aspects of Egypt - some travels in the United Arab Republic
by Ethel Mannin
Pub. Hutchinson of London, 1964 F13.2Man7

Building the Suez Canal
by the Editors of Horizon Magazine, Author S.C. Burchell
Publ. Cassell, London 1967 F1.3.2Bur12

Cairo in the War 1939-1945
by Artemis Cooper
Publ. Hamish Hamilton Ltd. London 1989 F13.2Coo6

Egypt: Politics and Society 1945-1984 (2nd Edition)
by Derek Hopwood
Publ. Allen & Unwin Ltd. London 1985 F13.2Hop 8

Frogs and Scorpions - Egypt, Sadat and the Media
by Doreen Kays
Publ. Frederick Muller Ltd. London 1984 F13.2Kay10

Napoleon to Nasser: the Story of Modern Egypt
by Raymond Flower
Publ. Tom Stacey Ltd. London 1972 F13.2Flo 13

The Phoenix in the Desert
by Dunstan Thompson
Publ. The Travel Book Club, London 1951 F13.2Tho14

Soviet Foreign Policy towards Egypt
by Karen Dawisha
Publ. The Macmillan Press Ltd. London 1979 F13.2Daw 9

Sun & Shadow at Aswan
by Herbert Addison
Publ. Chapman & Hall Ltd. London 1959 F13.2Add11

The White Nile
by Alan Moorehead
Publ. The Reprint Society, London 1962 F13.2Moo15

6.1 Reference Collections

The Airmails of Egypt (1910 to 1945)
Bound photo-stats of collection of John Sears
Won Large Silver Gilt and the British Aerophilatelic Award 1995 L46.1Sea 57

10.2 Exhibition Catalogues

Stamp World London 90 Souvenir Handbook
by John Sussex
Publ. Stamp World Exhibitions, London 1990 L410.2Sus48

JD August 1997

John would like to thank on our behalf those authors who so kindly donated their efforts, without their generosity, the Library would be much less complete and comprehensive than it is. In particular John Firebrace, Luca di Biolato, John Revell and John Sears, all of whom donated books that they had written. Martyn Parker donated *The White Nile* by Alan Moorehead, the companion volume to *The Blue Nile*, which we already had.

First Fuad 10mill. Stamp

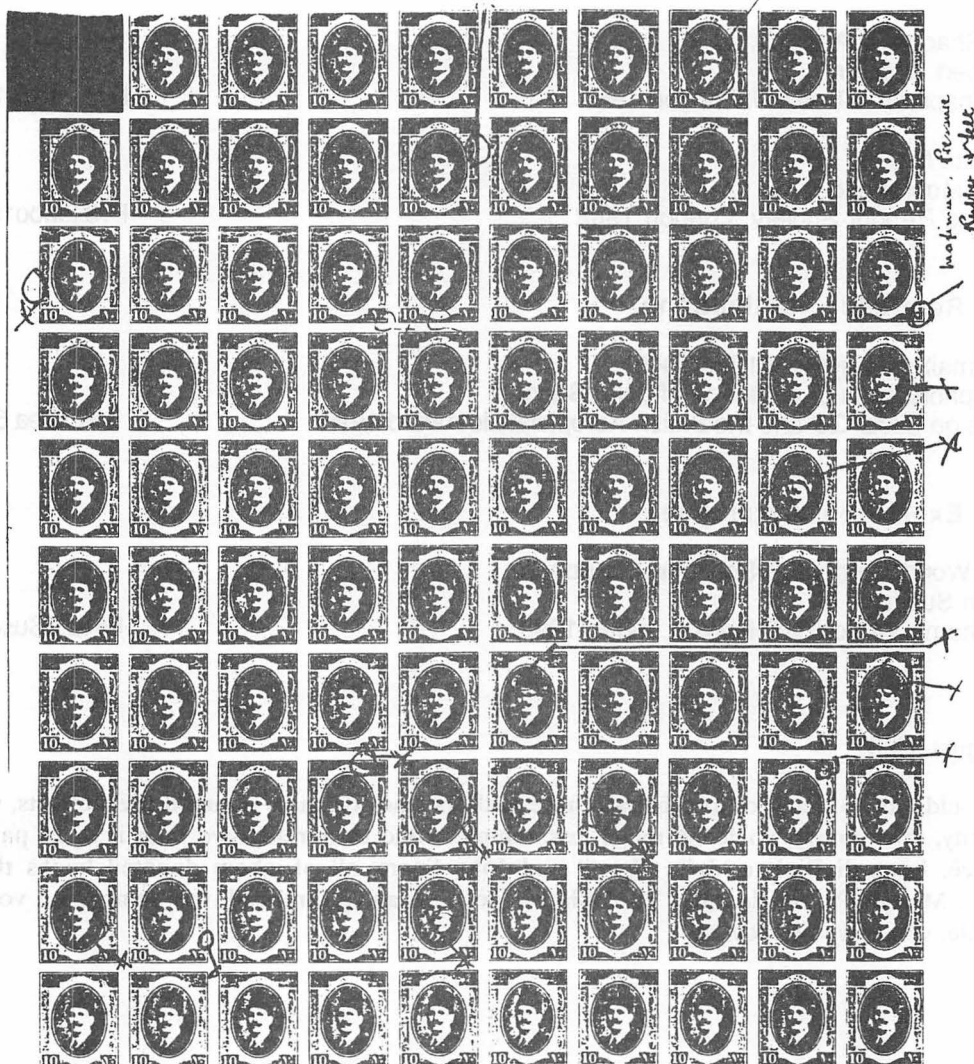
By : John Sears (ESC 188)

Thumbing through early copies of the Q.C. I came across the details of meetings held 14th October 1967 & 10th February 1968, the subject being this issue. Relevant notes from the reports are as follows :-

"....Much material was passed round including Essays and Proofs. Some of the latter in complete sheets; and one particularly interesting part sheet (presumably a "pull" rather than a proof) which had been marked apparently by the printer to show the flaws thereon. It will be interesting to ascertain how many of these flaws were subsequently retouched before printing of the issued sheets commenced." (14.10.67)

"....One imperforate sheet of the 10 milliemmes (thought to be a printer's "pull") has in manuscript "Maximum pressure rubber and felt". Comparison with one Post Office pane has only given negative results so far." (10.2.68)

The pane referred to came into Auction during 1993 and was bought by a member, it has since been broken up and various members (writer included) have parts of it.



Fortunately, before this happened, it was photographed (by C F Hass ESC 181) and a reduced copy is shown. I saw the original pane before break up and compared it with various complete panes issued to the Post Office.

All the flaws noted were present on the pane with Control No C 23, described as Pane "A" by McNeille. I append a complete list of the faults. It was noted that the quality of the paper used for the Imperf "pull" was not so good as that of the issued pane inasmuch as the depth of coating on the paper was poor.

Errors on the Imperf. Pane compared Pane with Control No. C23
(McNeille's Pane "A")

No.	Flaw.	Imp. Pane	Pane A C 23.
8	Colour spot on shirt collar	Yes	Yes
15	Red spot in perf area to right	"	"
21	Faint red spot in perf ares to left	"	"
24	Break in frame, SE corner	"	Slight repair
25	Red spot, centre of lower frame, below lotus bud.	"	Yes
30	Red spot, bottom right value tablet	"	"
40	"Smudge" to right of moustache	"	"
49	White area, bottom left lip	"	"
66	White spot in fez, repairs to bottom left of fez has caused corner to disappear from Pane C23	"	"
70	Pale area in fez above right eye	"	"
74	Colour spot in upper plain area right of uraeus	"	"
75	White spot right of neck	"	"
77	Colour spot left of chin	"	"
	Red spot on shirt collar right of tie	"	"
79	Colour spot in top right panel	"	" **
81	White spot above right shoulder	"	"
82	Outer white frame bottom right - red spot	"	"
85	Red spot in neck at right	"	"
97	Colour spot in fez top left	"	"

** 79 A very faint mark - may be transient.

The terms "right" & "left" - as we look at them.

It seems therefore that the although the quality controller noted various defects, they were not corrected, possibly because of the urgent demand from Egypt for the stamps. Full panes with later Control Numbers do not show them, indicating that new plates were used.

Notes from a Visit to Egypt

By : Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Probably the most abiding memory a frequent visitor to Egypt can carry away with him is the overwhelming hospitality of the members of our sister society in Cairo, the Philatelic Society of Egypt. In April I was fortunate to be able to spend some time there, and apart from attending two of the regular Saturday-night meetings in the club rooms at 16 Abdel Khalek Sarwat Street in the city centre, I was almost embarrassed by the hospitality offered! So eager are members for stamp news from Europe that there is a constant flow of invitations to lunch, dinner - even breakfast - and long faces when the diary is full...

The Saturday meetings are well attended, with some 40 members dividing into two groups, the senior and more experienced taking the opportunity to discuss collections and the next international exhibition opportunity in the library and committee rooms, the more junior crowding round the table in the main room for the weekly auction. Material of no great value changes hands, but the determination to secure a lot would do credit to the David Feldman saleroom!

Each month there is an address by one of the senior members, illustrated with gems from his own collection, and the fact that these are equally well attended and bring forth a sustained flurry of questions from the assembled members give hope that the Society, which admittedly has been going through a bad patch, might at last be on the threshold of regaining its former primacy as a research organisation.

One strikingly important matter of note happened to take place during my visit, and as a result congratulations are in order not only to Sherif Samra (ESC 311), but also to five other Egyptian members of our Circle. The event in question was the annual election of officers, in which Sherif has retained his position as President of the Egyptian society, backed as Vice President by Samir Fikry (ESC 305), while Hisham Bassiouny (ESC 434) is elected Hon. Secretary. Our Agent in Egypt, Nabil el-Hadidi (ESC 369), is joined on the committee by Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264) and Ibrahim Shoukry (ESC 423). In all, ESC members now comprise precisely half of the PSE committee.

Another strong indication of the direction the Society is taking comes in the self-appointment of Lucien Toutounji as, in effect, European correspondence secretary. Lucien guarantees to respond to postal requests for help or information written in English or French, and to do so as quickly as possible. He is well known as an immensely vigorous and knowledgeable collector, and this new role will both fill what has in the recent past been a yawning void, and also test his energy levels to the utmost! He can be reached either via the headquarters (address above) or at his company address, PO Box 103 Mohandessin, Giza, Egypt 12411.

* * * * *

Post rate increases: One area in which Lucien might not be able to help too much is that of increases in postal rates. . . and here's the reason: they are no longer, it seems, announced!

Nabil el-Hadidi gave me basic information about increases at the turn of the year, but it was Ahmed Abdel Salaam, the wise and indefatigable Curator of the Egyptian Postal Museum on the first floor of the GPO headquarters in Ataba Square, who gave me the official position.

To avoid any adverse reaction, increases are allowed to filter in over three months, during which period mail prepaid at the "old" rates will be accepted for onward transmission, but that passed across the Post Office counter for franking - as in the vast majority of cases - will be charged at the newer rate. After three months, it is taken for granted that everyone should somehow have gained knowledge of the "new" rates, and mail underfranked will (in theory) be charged Postage Due or allowed to languish in the Dead Letter office.

Adding that information to the figures supplied by Nabil el-Hadidi, I can announce that local (internal) letter rates were increased from 15pt to 20pt (registration fee 40pt to 55pt) on

October 1 last year, that is, effective from January 1). Overseas rates were increased on January 1 (ie, effective April 1) as follows: Air mail overseas, 80pt to 1 pound Egyptian; Air mail to Arab countries, 55pt to 75pt; registration for both classes, 55pt to 75pt. It was interesting to see commercial letter-sheets on sale in the Egyptian Museum franked both with 80pt plus 20pt stamps (ie, updated after the change) and one-pound stamps (prepared later).

Since there is no official notice of changes, local collectors try to keep track by taking note of the annual Post Day issue (January 2), when stamps printed at unusual values often indicate that a change in rates is in the offing ... And, try as I might, I am unable to report on recent issues, as the Sale of Stamps office in the main PO is closed for refurbishment. Fingers crossed for a speedy and efficient return!

* * * * *

Insured V-labels: At one of the Cairo meetings I was fortunate to be able to examine the collection of one of the Cairo members, Taha Bassiouny, from Nasr City, and saw there Insured mail carrying a large pale purple V-label which was new to me.

Taha has three covers, which, because they are novel, I shall detail:

1. 11 DE 51, a large cover emanating from the "Aide de Camp de SM le Roi", franked with stamps totalling 360 mills and insured for 300 Egyptian pounds. The V-label, which carries a printed number 24, also bears the Arabic *mo'aman* (Insured). Addressed to Cairo, cds CASH / QUBBA BRIDGE.
2. 11 DE 51, precisely as last but label V25, franked 540 mills including (most unusually) a 50pt Farouk in military uniform. Insured for 400 Egyptian pounds, apparently the maximum permissible, though I cannot find any regulation demanding use of the V-label.
3. 14.4.52, similar to the last two, but carrying V-label 28, franked with 1010 mills to cover insurance of 400 pounds again - an increase in rates? The cancellation here is a single-ring CAMP D'ALMAZA, a new one for me, though John Sears illustrates both ALMAZA / AEROPORT and ALMAZA / CAISSE / AEROPORT in his book *The Airmails of Egypt* (page 175).

* * * * *

Palestinian stamps: Available in Cairo were mint stamps from the newly-formed Palestinian Authority which are keenly sought-after as a potential new start to what has for half a century been considered a moribund country in collecting terms. They remain controversial however, and I have yet to see one on postal cover!

It seems that the first "official" issues, printed in Germany(?), were rejected as having the face value expressed in mills (currency of the former Palestine) instead of fils, the present Jordanian currency. On view in Cairo was a complete set, clearly based on the recent Egyptian Official sets and showing the Eagle of Saladin clutching a scroll bearing the word PALESTINE, in addition to the more accurate THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY beneath. The stamps are pastel-coloured, come, I was told, from sheetlets of 5x5, and are found in the following values: 50m yellow, 100m green, 125m blue, 200m pale orange, 250m lemon-green, 400m pale fuchsia.

A longer multicoloured set, issued in 1994 in sheetlets of 10 (horizontal stamps, 2x5 with an all-round border), is also expressed in mills and bears the inscription THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY. The low values, 5m, 10m, 20m, show a symbolic sculpture; the 30m, 40m, 50m, 75m picture Jerusalem and the al-Aqsa Mosque; the 125m, 150m, 250m, 300m carry the flag of Palestine; the 500m has the same design but in larger format; and the top value, 1000m, shows the al-Aqsa mosque in close-up.

First-day covers are available for some of these stamps (the 125, 150, 250, 300m on one cover the 500m on another), cancelled GAZA / JERICHO 15.08.1994.

There was also, it seems a commemorative issue for the peace agreement, with two sand-coloured stamps (250m and 750m) showing Bill Clinton, Yassir Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawn (in brown), set into a miniature sheet with a blue border. It is inscribed THE GAZA-JERICHO PEACE AGREEMENT above the stamps, and carries the Palestinian and Israeli flags below. I have seen an FDC dated 7.10.94 and cancelled THE GAZA-JERICHO PEACE AGREEMENT.

Postcodes advance: Ted Fraser-Smith (ESC 238) has recently been trying - against all the odds! - to interest us all in Egyptian postcodes, which were introduced something like ten years ago. It may be that he is on to a winner after all, as it is now clear that The Egyptian PO is determined to make postcodes a lasting part of the system.

Every street in the country is rapidly sprouting handsome new blue enamelled metal sheets, affixed to walls directly under the similarly-patterned street name, giving the "post number" for the area. If everyone used them, say postal officials, it would be an enormous help to postmen struggling to deal with mail addressed mainly in Arabic of course, but in myriad European languages as well. The Egyptian postcode is clearly here to stay.

Arish apology: Some of the time in Egypt was spent on the beautifully well-appointed beach at El-Arish, and because it was out of season, my wife, daughter and myself had the broad sands virtually to ourselves (apart from the coastguards who patrolled night and morning). But I end with apologies to all of my colleagues who collect "Sinai" . . . I did SEE the main Arish post office, but honestly didn't give it a thought: it was supposed to be a holiday, after all!

Feedback : Air Mail Vignette (Q.C. June 1997)

From : Mark Dorman (ESC 211)

I was most interested to read Mr. Mason's query about the Imperial Airways Vignette, for a stock of about 700 of these labels was donated to The Cinderella Stamp Club by Francis J. Field and distributed as an additional free gift with The Cinderella Philatelist for July 1981. There were three or four different designs and I enclose a photocopy of a misprint, the Sphinx being super-imposed and inverted on an Indian design.

At that time, I was responsible for the despatch of the C.P. and for mounting the free gift and I recollect that there were a number of these labels left over, as the distribution of the C.P. in those days was I think in the neighbourhood of 600. These must have been sold on behalf of the Club in one of its auctions, with other surplus free gifts.

I did not notice the flaw that Mr. Mason illustrates, but with 600 C.P.'s to despatch, I had little time to look for flaws !



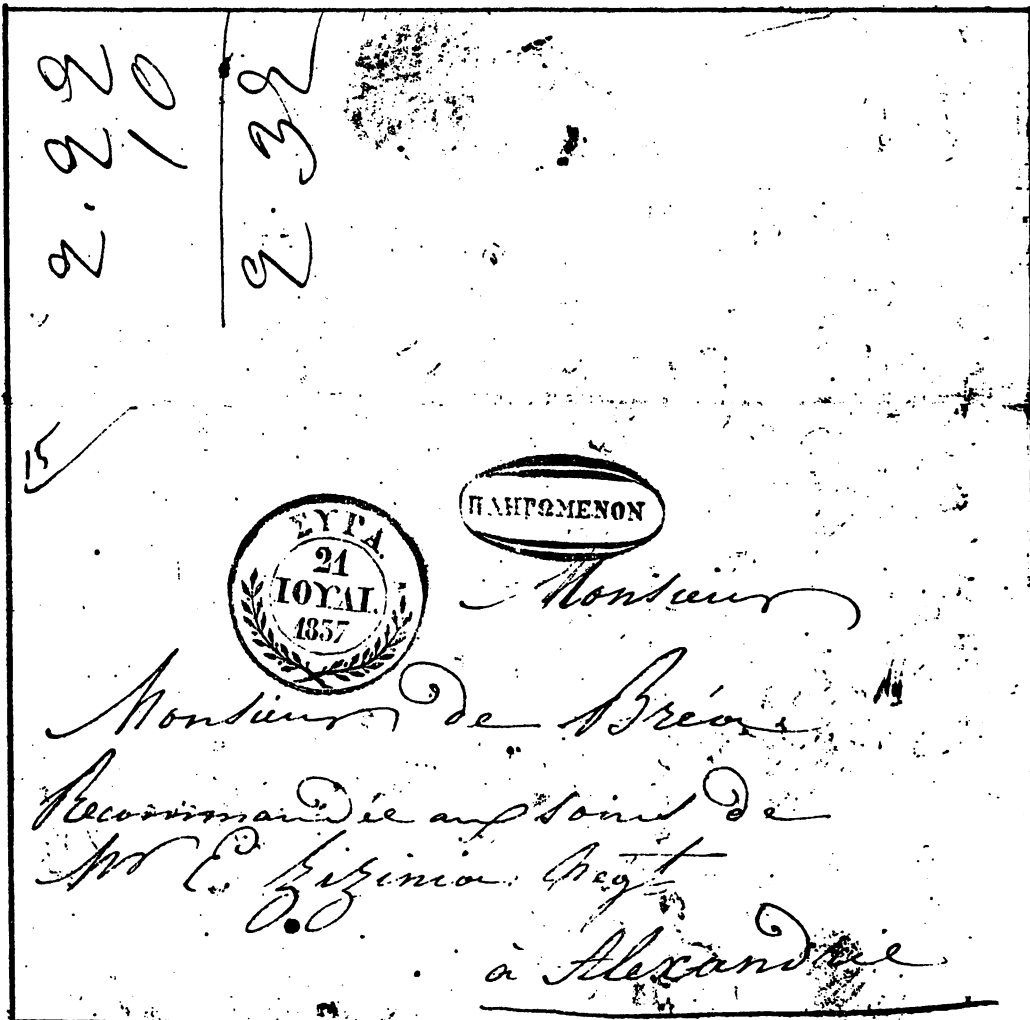
An Early Ingoing Greek Cover

By : Peter A.S. Smith (ESC 74)

The Greek Post Office in Alexandria was established in November, 1833, but no properly postal handstamps are known for it until 1858. Two large intaglio Consular seals are known on covers from 1834, but these were evidently the sender's seals, or perhaps franks, corresponding approximately to diplomatic pouch mail, and presumably served to identify the letters as official mail (and perhaps to exempt them from payment of part of the charges?). Insofar as I know, no covers going into the Greek post office at this early period have been reported.

The illustrated cover is dated in July, 1837, both internally and by the circular date stamp of Syra. The letter is in French, and concerns family matters; it is addressed in care of Mr. E. Zizinia, merchant (the Zizinia family were prominent residents of Ramleh). The cover carries the handstamp ΠΑΗΡΩΜΕΝΟΝ ("paid"), but no other handstamped marking. That it must have been directed to the Consular post office is clear, for apart from the fact that it was accepted by the Greek post office at Syra as paid, it bears no directive for delivery to the only other foreign post office possibly then in existence, the Austrian, which had only just begun service, and did not receive a contract until September of that year. Furthermore, there is no indication of it being handled as ship's mail or being entrusted to the care of a ship's captain. The absence of a handstamp of arrival is not surprising, for quite probably none had been supplied at that time.

In the illustration, the letter is partly unfolded to show the only markings on the back, a simple numerical addition; $2.20 + .10 = 2.32$. Customarily, stampless letters were inscribed with the weight (in grams) and the charge, and this seems to correspond to neither. The archives record that the rate was 30, 40, or 60 lepta per $7\frac{1}{2}$ grams from 1838, according to the shipping service used, and Themis Dacos has illustrated a cover from Alexandria to Syra in 1835 with a manuscript charge of 30 lepta. The "15" written on the front does not seem to be a rate mark, and may have been a docketing notation of some sort. However, since the cover was marked as paid, no rate indication may have been needed.



An Unrecorded Military Letter Sheet

By : Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

I am indebted to Nabil el-Hadidi (ESC 369), our Egyptian agent, for helping me to unravel what seems to be a very interesting find. The item in question is a Letter Sheet, unrecorded in the Higgins and Gage catalogue or anywhere else that I can find, in striking pale yellow with an even more striking red border.

The one example of which I am aware measures 145mm by 205mm (full sheet), and has gummed flaps at top and left; it is intended to fold in half and to form an outer cover of 145mm by 103mm. Either the cutout or the printing of the red border was misaligned, and the border width varies between 7mm and virtually nil.

Externally, printed in deep blue-black, it bears a circular no-value Government frank with the design of the Eagle of Saladin at top right, a phrase in brackets at lower left, and address panels on both obverse and reverse. The interior is blank.

The translation is as follows:

On the eagle frank: Official Seal of the High Command of the Armed Forces / Directory of Public Affairs and Information.

At lower left: *bareed harby*, ie, Military Post.

Address label on face: *el-sayyid*, ie Mr / a blank line / *muhafza*, ie district. The handwritten address is "Major Nabil Ahmed Fahim Farid, Unit No 7911, Group 7 Military Post, Cairo"

Return address label: Name of sender / Number of Unit / Number of Postal Group. The handwritten details are "Captain Hassan Farwiz, Unit 953, Group 43 Military Post".

At lower right on the face, Captain Farwiz has appended his signature ("seen by...") in self-censorship, after which a faint purple Military Censorship triangle handstamp was applied. It reads: Military Intelligence / Unit Censor / 953.

The letter appears then to have been placed into the military postal service. Though the two hexagonal military markings are faint, that on the face clearly indicates *bareed askary*, ie, Soldiers' Mail / 3, and the date 13 3 65. Of that on the reverse only the date - 18 3 65 - is legible. In between times, however, the letter apparently arrived in Cairo via the normal civilian post, for the double-ring machine marking reads D / CAIRO / 17 3 65.

So far, so enigmatic. We know it arrived in Cairo, but we don't know from where (apart from Unit 953)! But the letter, if not revealing all, certainly gives a very strong clue. It reads:

"In the name of Allah the Merciful, the Munificent

Dear brother Nabil,

From me, please accept my greetings, hoping from Allah that you are in full health, and so on.

I am sending this second letter since my arrival, and haven't seen any answer from you. I am writing to you repeating my sincere thanks for all you have done, and for sending Corporal Ibrahim to deliver the car. I ask Allah not to deprive me of your services, and please send my regards and thanks to Corporal Ibrahim.

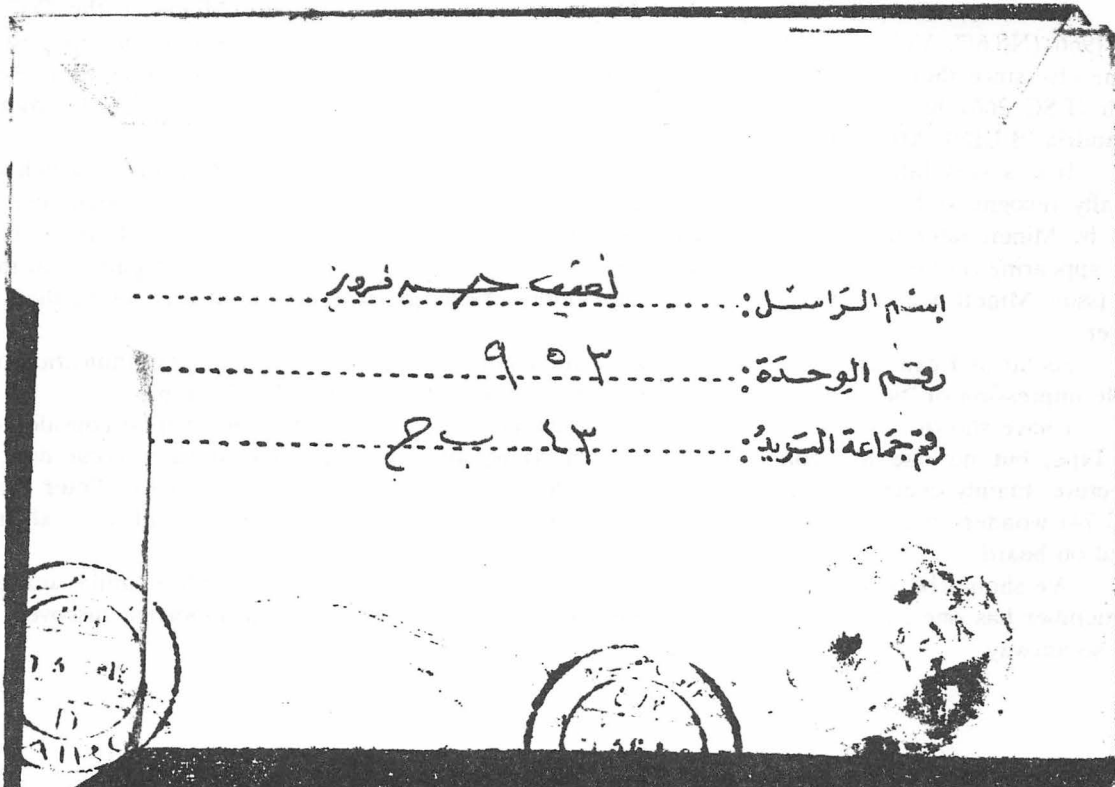
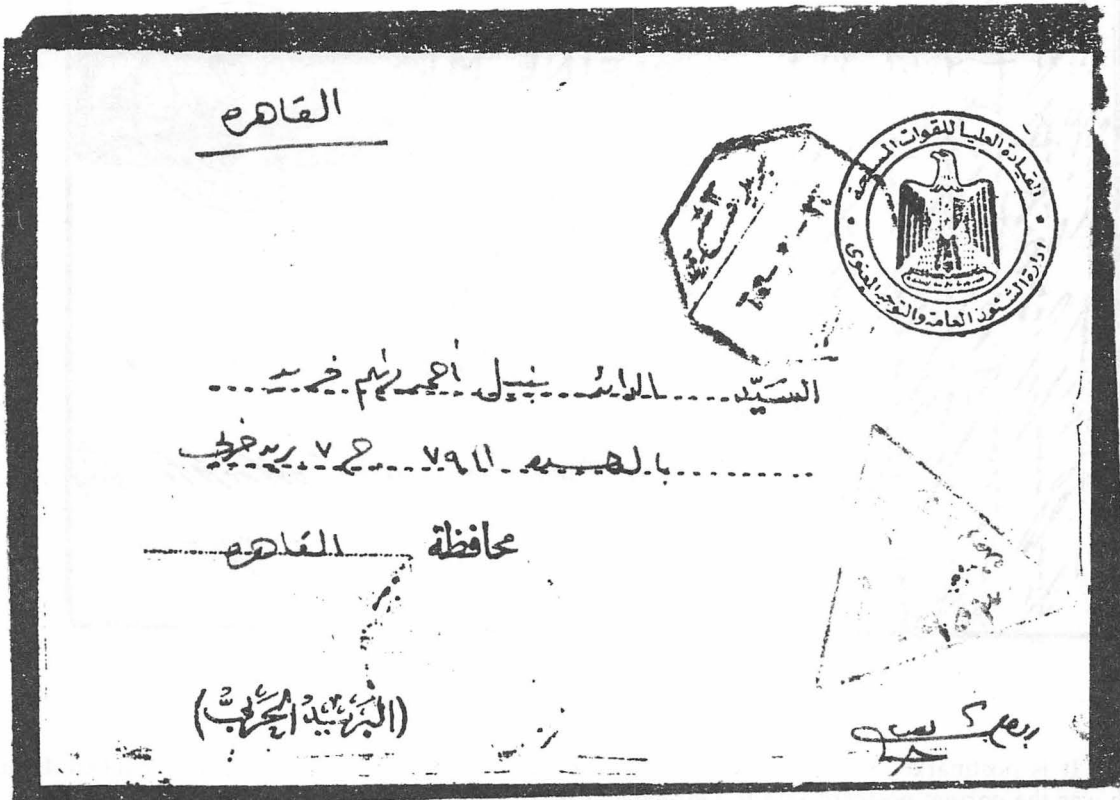
I would ask you, if you see Colonel Badr, please ask him about what happened to the topic of my returning from Yemen, and please explain that in your answer.

Finally, I offer you any service, ya Nabil. My greetings and regards to your sincere personality, and to the rest of my friends and colleagues, and wishing you all happiness and success.

*Goodbye,
Hassan Farwiz."*

In other words, reading between the self-censored lines(!), it appears that an Egyptian officer serving in Yemen at the time of the civil war there, had managed to have his car delivered by military means, but still wanted to know from his former colleagues at headquarters in Cairo how soon he would be on his way home!

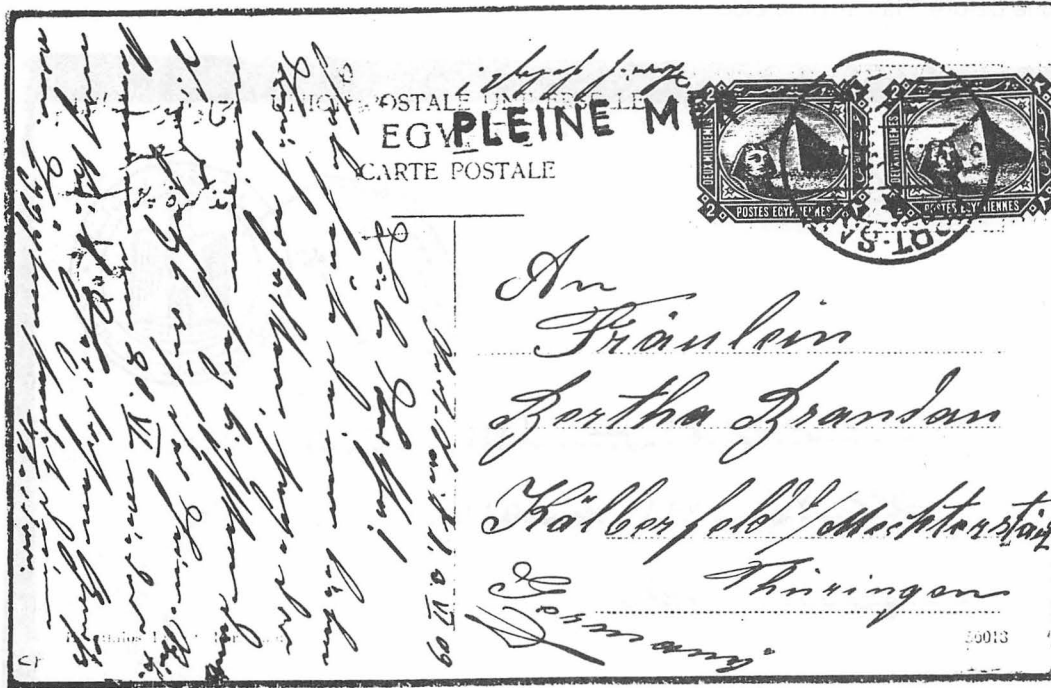
In 1965 Egyptian forces sent to aid the Yemeni coup leader Abdullah al-Sallal against Saudi forces backing the old kingdom had been increased from 8,000 in 1963 to 70,000. Even if we imagine that this form of letter sheet were confined to officers, literally hundreds must have been sent home. With its distinctive yellow and red livery, this forerunner of the well-known green-printed Soldiers' Mail envelope should stand out in every dealer's box. But I have never seen one before. Has anyone else?



A New Pleine Mer Marking

By : John Sears (ESC 188)

I bought this postcard a few weeks ago and now find that the PLEINE MER (High Seas) mark could be an unrecorded one.



It is postmarked PORT SAID 3 VI 09 (the message is the same date) and franked 4 mills, which was the correct postcard rate to Germany at that time.

The PLEINE MER markings were discussed in an article by Charles Minett in the Q.C. of May 1966 (No.6/7, Vol. VI), but this one is not recorded by him, neither has it been reported by anyone else since then. It is larger than those illustrated by him, the letters measure 37 x 4mm. Peter Grech (ESC 266) has pointed out that these dimensions are virtually the same as for the framed Alexandria PLEINE MER mark.

It is a very late usage, for this mark was superseded by the PAQUEBOT mark, which was officially recognised by the UPU Conference of 1897. PLEINE MER marks had not been seen on cover by Minett later than 1900, although there were reports in the article of different types of the mark appearing on piece, or pairs of stamps, the latest on Egyptian stamps being on a pair of 10 mills 1923 Issue. Minett would not pronounce on the validity of such markings, without first seeing them on a cover.

As far as I can judge, the inking of the mark seems to be right, there is a slight indication of a double impression or "bounce", which is quite common in the use of rubber handstamps.

I have shown this item to various ESC members to try to establish if this can be considered a new Type, but no one has come up with a firm view, although there has been a great deal of conjecture, mainly centred around a Post Office clerk using the wrong stamp in error. Peter Smith (ESC 74) wonders if the ship's Purser had a PLEINE MER handstamp which he applied to all mail posted on board.

We should be a lot nearer the answer if another cover could be found with a similar mark, if any member has one, or has any theory, please let us know. This may be an important discovery - I hope so anyway.

The Postal Markings of Egypt

IV. "Delivery"

By : Lars Alund (ESC 105)

When dealing with the Delivery postmarks I must confess that the following list is only a preliminary sketch. Due to lack of material I have only few dates to record. Nevertheless you will find some more, until now unrecorded types.

The original data sheet from the ESC includes ten various types of circular date stamps. From Edmund Hall I have later on received reproductions of not less than 22 more types, so far unnumbered. They are reproduced at the end of this list and I have temporarily given them letter notation in order to have them identified. This must of course be changed later on.

Most of the new types seem to emanate from the post monarchy period and they thus come outside my study. All the same I can add one more type also to this later area. There is evidently much more to be done in this section and the postmarks must be re-numbered. At the end of this section there is a suggestion of a new disposition.

Type	Office	Earliest	Latest	Note
------	--------	----------	--------	------



7 SE 31



2



3



4

I have none of these types.



5

Cairo

15 OC 37



6



8



9

I have none of these types

Type	Office	Earliest	Latest	Note
------	--------	----------	--------	------



7

	Sidi Gaber	.. AP 39	27 OC 39	
--	------------	----------	----------	--



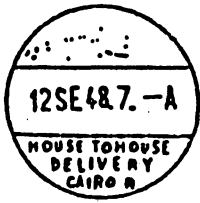
A

Cairo

1.1.1914

Year with three figures

I have none of the following types:



11



B



C



D



E



F



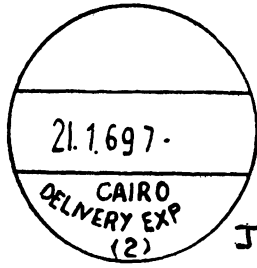
G



H



I



J



K



L



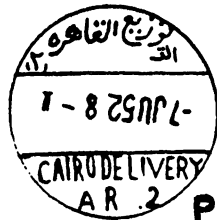
M



N



O



P



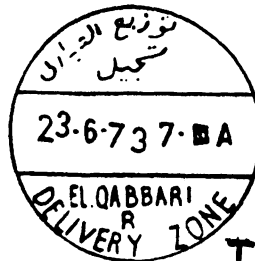
Q



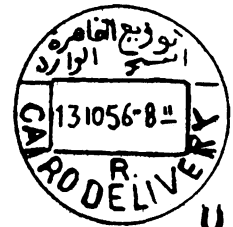
R



S







T



U



V

Type	Office	Earliest	Latest	Note
 Del - W	Cairo	20 SE 27		Unrecorded, see <u>Fig.1</u> . Similar to Del-B but with changed lines DELIVERY CAIRO
 Del - X	Alexandria Cairo	5 MR 53 21 SE 53		Unrecorded, see <u>Fig.2</u> . Similar to Del-G but with European text in two lines, ALEXANDRIA (or CAIRO) straight above EXPRESS, curved.
 Del - Y	Alexandria	No date visible		Unrecorded, see <u>Fig.3</u> . Similar to Del- X with with smaller letters. After ALEXANDRIA two mor letters ST can be seen. ("Station"?)
 Del - Z	Cairo	2-12-55		Unrecorded, see <u>Fig.4</u> . Date in Arabic numerals. Text at bottom: CAIRO DELIVERY 1

It is evident that all delivery postmarks must be rearranged and re-numbered, perhaps in the following way:

I. European text at top:

Actual numbers:	Del - 2	Suggested numbers:	Del - 2
	Del - A		Del - 3
	Del - 10		Del - 4

II. European text at bottom:

a). With "Delivery" and/or "Express":

Del - B	New: Del - 5
Del - 3	Del - 6
Del - W	Del - 7
Del - 4	Del - 8
Del - 7	Del - 9
Del - C	Del - 10
Del - 9	Del - 11
Del - D	Del - 12
Del - E	Del - 13
Del - F	Del - 14

Actual numbers:	Suggested numbers:
Del - X	Del - 15
Del - Y	Del - 16
Del - G	Del - 17
Del - H	Del - 18
Del - I	Del - 19
Del - J	Del - 20
Del - K	Del - 21
Del - N	Del - 22
Del - O	Del - 23
Del - Z	Del - 24
b). Ditto, registered mail:	
Del - 5	Del - 25
Del - 6	Del - 26
Del - 11	Del - 27
Del - M	Del - 28
Del - P	Del - 29
Del - Q	Del - 30
Del - R	Del - 31
Del - S	Del - 32
Del - T	Del - 33
Del - U	Del - 34
Del - V	Del - 35
c). Ditto, with "T.D.":	
Del - L	Del - 36

The Postal Markings of Egypt
Addendum to the "Customs Duty" postmarks

By : Paul Glyn-Jones (ESC 231)

18b	Alexandria	Later date	22 JL 57	30mm diameter
21	Alexandria	Later date	1 SE 40	
21b	Alexandria	New type	15 OC 53	32mm diameter



See the original article on "Customs Duty" postmarks by Lars Alund in the Q.C. March 1997

The Postal Markings of Egypt
Addendum to the "Arrival" Postmarks
 By : Peter Heim (ESC 384)

Arr 1

Alexandrie	..AV 81	seen numerals I,II,IV
Suez	22 JL 86	

Arr 1.2

Caire		seen numerals VI,VIII,IX
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Arr 1-3

Alexandrie	22 NO 84	III
------------	----------	-----

Arr 3

Alexandrie		16 VII 87
------------	--	-----------

new sub-type, A not as high, 8 bars below

Alexandrie	10 XI 85	
------------	----------	--

Arr 3.5A.

Alexandrie		5 XI 96	
Caire 90		

B.

Alexandrie	3 XII 90	9 I 96	numeral 3
Caire	.. I 90	7 II 95	seen numeral 6

C.

Alexandrie	5 VIII 01 03	seen numerals I, III, V
Caire	.. I 93	5 II 94	seen numerals VI, VII, XI, XII

D.

Caire	25 II 91	
-------	----------	--

sub-type

E.

Caire		2 XII 97
-------	--	----------

Arr 4

Cairo

A.

new numerals 3, 7

B.

.. VII 90

numeral 3

C.

.. VI 88

numeral X

Arr 4.5

Caire

9 VII 96

7 IX 97

seen 2, III, VIII

Arr 5

Alexandrie

A.

20 I 97

seen numerals VII

B.

.. XI 95

seen numerals V

Arr 6A.

Alexandria

.. XII 86

.. XII 88

letters seen E, H

Cairo

letter H

Tanta new

23 IX 88

letter A

B.

Cairo

3 II 13

letter H

Arr 7A.

Cairo

19 III 89

B.

Alexandria

11 JA 25

letter V

Boni Suef new

1 EG 19

2 DE 19

letter A

Cairo

letter S

Arr 7.1

Cairo

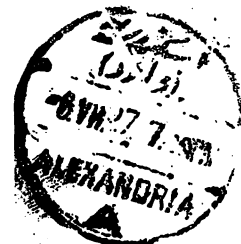
.. V 89

Arr 8A.

Alexandria	21 FE 29	30 MA 35	letter A
Cairo		18 SE 34	seen letters I, K, Z
Tanta	1 RO 33		letter A or K in brackets

new sub-type, with brackets, but roman numerals in date

Alexandrie	6 VII 27		letter A
------------	----------	--	----------

B.

Alexandria		20 ER 41	
Cairo	3 AU 33		

sub-type

Port Said		2 JU 35	
Bani Suef	<u>new</u>	6 NO 30	

Arr 19A.

Alexandria	4 AP 29		letters I, K
Cairo	.. AP 29		letters seen I, K

Arr 9.55

Sidi Gaber	8 AP 37		
------------	---------	--	--

Arr 10.5

Alexandria	11 JU 33	29 MA 39	
------------	----------	----------	--



new type, like type SEP 5.5, but A above and below arabic arrival straight above curved name of office

Alexandria	10 XII 05	.. II 06	numeral III
------------	-----------	----------	-------------

new type, date in a cartouche, brackets around arabic arrival

Alexandria	14 S 61		letter A 1
Alexandria	27 4 59	17 7 59	letter A 3



new type, arabic name and arrival above with an arabic numeral 2, Cairo straight below, letter not to read

Cairo	30 10 43	.. 10 44	
-------	----------	----------	--

Arr 7.5 (following the list of r. Schaidt)

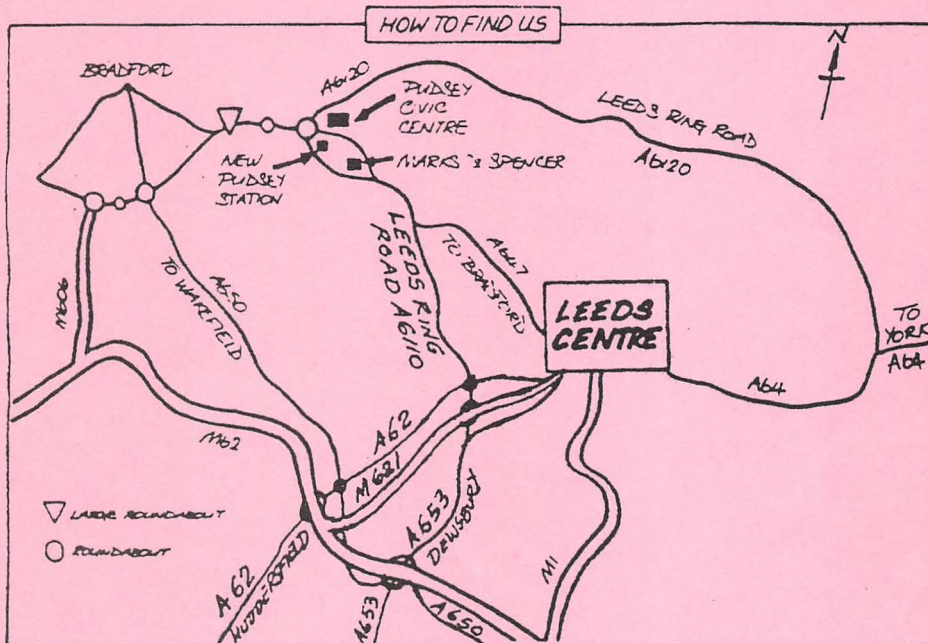
Port Said, Hai el Arbain	13 AB 16		
--------------------------	----------	--	--

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE REGIONAL MEETING
 NOON TO 2PM SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER 1997

AT LEEDS P.S. STAMP FAIR

PUDSEY CIVIC HALL 10 AM TO 5 PM

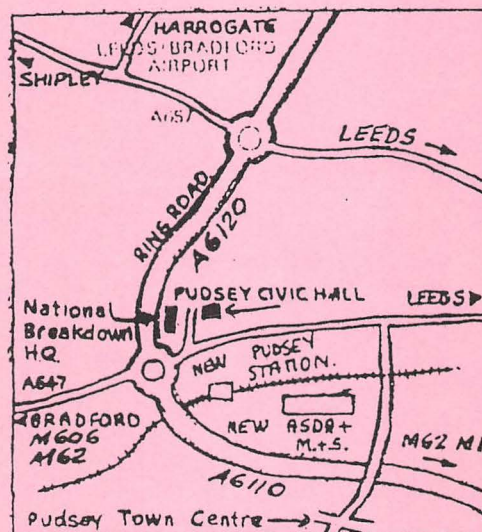
A modern building with full facilities including snacks and bar



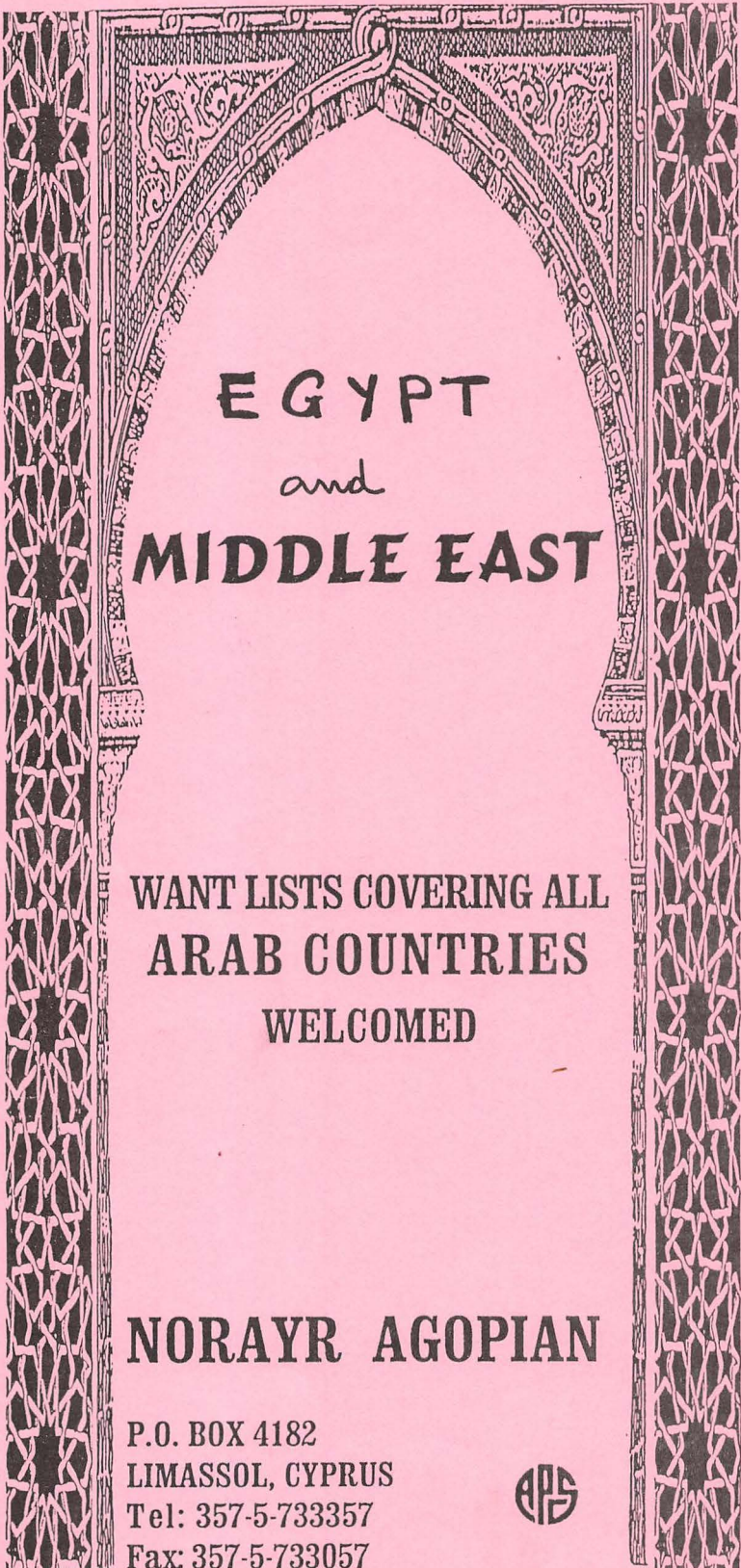
PUDSEY CIVIC HALL is situated on the western edge of the Leeds ring road, close to the roundabout where the A647 leaves the ring road for Bradford. The new Asda and M+S superstores and the National Breakdown H.Q. are well known landmarks close to us.

We are signposted on all approaches to the roundabout. Visitors approaching from the south should ignore signs for Pudsey and stay on the ring road, we are not in Pudsey Town centre. There is ample car parking at the hall.

New Pudsey railway station is 2 minutes walk away.



For any further information
 contact Richard Wheatley on
 0113 2601978 evenings



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