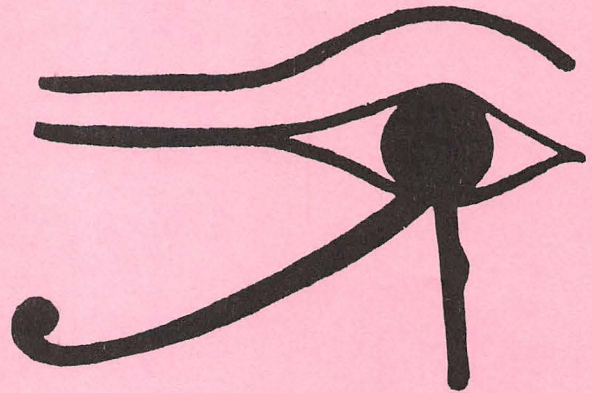


The
Quarterly Circular
of



The
EGYPT
STUDY CIRCLE

March Quarter 1998 Whole Series No. 184
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- KEEPER OF THE
RECORD:** Mr. D.H. Clarke, U.K.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

May 2 Committee Room	NAAFI seals and ARMY stamps	S. Horesh & D.J. Davis
July 11 Allenby Room	The French P.O. in Alexandria	P. Grech & M.H. Barker
September 19	The Express Service & Stamps	P. Whetter
October 1 to 4	Autumn Stampex	
November 14 Allenby Room	Revenues - excluding General Revenues Salt Tax & Cigarette Tax Stamps	P.R. Bertram

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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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

My first year "in the chair" has come to an end. The Circle has had another good year. Personally, I thoroughly enjoyed our September meeting, when members got together at a special Circle luncheon to say "thank you" to both Peter SMITH (standing down after 21 years as our President) and John SEARS (standing down after 20 years as Circle Chairman). They both have given AND CONTINUE TO GIVE a lot of their time and support to the Circle; and of course John is now our new President.

Members come and go, but total membership is as it was when I took over - just over 200; and we are in a secure financial position. A lot of this is due to our hard-working Secretary/Treasurer Alan JEYES in dealing with queries, new members, publishing some of our meetings and chasing up the annual subs. My thanks also to our Editor, Richard WHEATLEY for his production of our "corner stone" the Quarterly Circular. Richard tells me that it is still his intention to produce the two missing Q.C's (nos. 11 & 12 of Vol. XV) time and his private work permitting.

Our Circle auctions continue to be well supported, both by seller and buyer alike. Again, a lot of hard work goes into this; not only the preparation, but also the administration, distribution of lots and the finances involved - thanks to Mike MURPHY, Mike BRAMWELL, Alan JEYES and John SEARS.

Thank you to our two overseas Agents, Nabil EL-HADDIDI in Egypt and Charlie HASS in the USA for their work in connection with the ESC, also to Stephen BUNCE for the preparation of our accounts. Finally a special thanks to Stan HORESH for organising the above-mentioned Circle luncheon and for standing in for me as and when necessary; and to other Circle Officers and members who have given their support to the Circle.

In closing I would like to reiterate a point I made in my "Chairman's Letter" a year ago. Please can I see more members at our London meetings. Please come along and give your support - don't leave it to "the same old faces". You have everything to gain and nothing to lose!

Robin BERTRAM

1914 PICTORIAL ISSUE, A NEW DISCOVERY

By : Norayr Agopian (ESC 478)

I have found a new variety on the 100 mills value of this series, which features the Temple of Abu Simbel (SG 81, Z 52). It occurs on an imperforate proof sheet watermarked "Star & Crescent", on the bottom row of 10 stamps. The lower panel, with the words "ONE HUNDRED MILLIEMES" and the adjacent value tablets in English and Arabic, is superimposed in a pale grey colour and being inverted and reversed.

It is difficult to see how such a variety has occurred and hopefully one of our members with printing experience can explain this.

The sheet has now been split up, and any member interested can contact me at the address on the back cover of this Journal.



REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 15th NOVEMBER 1997

Attendance : P. Andrews, M.H. Barker, P.R. Bertram, M.C. Bramwell, L.J. Butcher, D.H. Clarke, J.A. Clarke, J. Davis, C.E.H. Defriez, M. Dorman, J. Sears, P. Grech, E. Hall, S. Horesh, J.M. Murphy, A. Schmidt, P.R. Feltus. (total 17)
 Apologies : W. Andrews, G.A. Jeyes, E. Frazer-Smith, J. Revell, B. Watterson. (total 6)

The Chairman welcomed new member John Clarke attending his first meeting, and Peter Feltus who was passing through England on his way back from Egypt to the USA. The Chairman remarked that many members in England had not seen Peter since "Cairo 91" in Egypt and it was fortuitous having him at this particular meeting on "Revenues", since it was he who wrote the only book on the subject.

Although he rarely misses a meeting, John Sears now attending in his capacity as our new President, was applauded and warmly welcomed.

Peter Feltus, at the request of the Chairman, briefly addressed members present regarding the recent Philatelic Exhibition in Egypt, which he had just come from. Apparently there were only 6 (six) dealers stands and the exhibition was not too well attended. There was little outstanding material to see both on the dealers' stands and on display at the Exhibition. All the exhibits were displayed WITHOUT THE NORMAL PROTECTIVE COVERING IN FRONT OF THEM !!! The Chairman thanked Peter for his comments.

Mention was made of a request for the ESC to purchase a special prize for presentation to an exhibitor at the "London 2000 " Exhibition. The prize would not necessarily have gone to a display of Egyptian related material. Members present declined to support such a purchase. The Chairman briefly talked about the forthcoming first Annual General Meeting of the ESC to be held on 28th February 1997 - details of the meeting with a suggested set of ESC rules will be circulated with the next Q.C.

With no further business to discuss the Chairman then lead a display and discussion on the Salt Tax and General revenue stamps. He showed mint stamps, blocks, whole sheets and documents demonstrating their use. Other members present also contributed their material to the display. A great deal of discussion took place regarding the different forms of taxation. The Chairman commented that in relation to the Salt Tax - as this covered the whole of Egypt, why do we never see any salt tax stamps cancelled in the Northern part of the Sudan. Member Denis Clarke mentioned that some time ago he had had in his possession one stamp with a cancellation of " Merowi "in the Sudan, but he had since passed/exchanged the item on. It would be interesting to know from members who did not attend, if they have any such salt tax stamps used in the Sudan.

At the conclusion of the display, the President John Sears then proposed the vote of thanks. The Chairman thanked John and wished everyone "A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year ". The meeting then closed officially, BUT, everyone remained to see what items Peter Feltus had brought over, both from Egypt and from the USA. Many members appeared quite pleased with themselves after looking through his material !

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 1997 AT THE LEEDS P.S. STAMP FAIR

Attendance : R. Bertram, P. Botterill, C. Defriez, A. Jeyes, J. Chellingsworth, R. Wheatley.
 Apologies : K. Pogson, T. Simpson, J. Sears.

We were a bit thin on the ground , with two members in particular having travelled considerable distances, but never-the-less it was an enjoyable meeting resulting in one of the visitors joining the Circle. The mini displays were as follows :

Robin Bertram	"No Value" and Salt Tax Stamps
Peter Botterill	Suez Canal Company Stamps
Cyril Defriez	The Towns of Egypt : A and B
Alan Jeyes	Cassette Envelopes

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 10th JANUARY 1998

Attendance : P. Andrews, R. Bertram, M.C. Bramwell, D.H. Clarke, C. Defriez, J. Davis,
E.H. Frazer-Smith, P. Grech, S. Horesh. E. Hall, J. Sears, L.J. Butcher.

Apologies : W. Andrews, P. Whetter, R. Wheatley.

Members enjoyed a magnificent display of the 1923-24 Fuad definitive issue given by John Sears, which provoked considerable discussion on the various aspects of this issue. John commenced with complete sheets of all values, commenting that the sheets without controls were considered the first printings and, therefore, the original colours.

Harrison, the printers, sub-contracted some values to a Dutch printer (details in J. Sears Monograph - still available). The Harrison printings were full of flaws enabling the sheets to be plated - examples being shown - whilst the Dutch printings were of much better quality.

The display continued with Essays and a wide range of colour proofs. Control Blocks which followed were stated by John to be probably the largest collection of this type. Official overprints, booklets and Consular stamps - both proofs and the overprints followed. Covers showing stamps used at the correct rates were interposed with the display. John wound up with the Fuad Birthday issue and its overprints including unique Specimen overprints.

The display was supported by sheets from R. Bertram and A. Jeyes.

New Members :

- | | |
|---------|--|
| ESC 498 | R. DAUWE
P.O. Box 1081
NL-4530 GB TERNEUZEN
NETHERLANDS
Perfins, railway cancellations |
| ESC 499 | F.J.R. ODDY
16 Rabling Road
SWANAGE
DORSET BH19 1EE
Egypt & Sudan, military cancels |
| ESC 500 | JOHN WILKINS
3 Mina Street
Kafr Abdou
Roushdy
ALEXANDRIA 21529
EGYPT |
| ESC 501 | GEORGE ANAGNOSTOULIS
7 Belle Vue Drive
Farsley
LEEDS LS28 5HG |
| ESC 502 | AYMON S. RIZK
10-1160 Walden Cir
MISSISSAUGA
ONT. CANADA L5J 4J9
Egypt to 1950's, covers to 1920's, Kuwait |

Change of Address :

- | | |
|---------|---|
| ESC 415 | G. TOPFER
Postfach 150473
28094 BREMEN
GERMANY |
|---------|---|

ESC 141 N. SCHAEFFER
Cornerstone Village South
Room 133
103, West Martial Avenue
LAFAYETTE
LOUISIANA 70503
USA

ESC 457 T.K. KERDONI
6746 Lakeview Boulevard
Apt. 17307
WESTLAND, MI 48185
USA

ESC 482 M. PARKER
10 Middle Croft
ABBEYMEAD
GLOUCESTER GL4 4RL

ESC 231 D.R.P. Glyn-Jones
21a Bas Amalis
Kifissia
ATHENS 145. 61
GREECE

Change of Post Code :

ESC158 J. SETTGAST
Wundtstrasse 38
D 14057 BERLIN 19
GERMANY

Resignations :

ESC 473 L. THOMPSON

ESC 344 T. TORRANCE

MOSCOW '97 - RESULTS WITH EGYPT INTEREST

By : Kurt Wolfsbauer (ESC 197)

CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS		
Samir Fikry	The Sphinx Collection	Large Gold
TRADITIONAL PHILATELY		
Farid Mehiar	Official Stamps of Egypt 1875-1926	Large Vermeil
Sherif Samra	Samra Egypt	Gold
POSTAL HISTORY		
Ibrahim	Hotel Cancellations of Egypt	Large Silver
AEROPHILATELY		
M. Adel Farid	Egypt Air Mail 1926-1947	Vermeil
THEMATIC PHILATELY		
Ulrich Eckstein	Ägypten, das Reich der beiden Länder	Large Vermeil
YOUTH PHILATELY		
Tamar Hagopian	Pharonic Art	? Award, not in Palmares
LITERATURE		
Samir Fikry	The Postal History of Egypt to 1900	Gold
Khetcho Hagopian	Egyptian Aerophilately	Bronze

REPORT OF THE NEW ZEALAND CHAPTER (ESC) MEETING 1998

This meeting duly took place at Matarangi Beach from Sunday 1st to Thursday 5th February, during which time we had to contend with the heat-wave (up to 30 C) and the many distractions and temptations that a holiday seaside resort presents.

Monday

Peter Goodwin displayed 16 pages of Airmails including four covers of Zeppelin Flights and a "table top" of un-mounted covers, mainly private and commercial c.1930-1950.

Sue McIntosh showed a series of First Flight covers of The International Air Transport Association whose conference was held in Cairo from 18 to 21 February 1948, plus other related material, one cover bearing a 1930 vignette listed by Sears as issued by Imperial Airways.

Tony Chisholm presented his collection of mint blocks of the 1st Issue Airmails and the 27mill violet and brown Issue, including the "BROWN ISLAND" flaw. This was followed by first flight covers and more blocks of four, this time showing positional varieties and flaws. Then came his latest purchase, 743 picture postcards, which we sorted from the "by subject" groupings to "Publisher" groupings ready for him to add to the catalogue he is producing, the N.Z. members hold over 7,000 different cards .

The group then checked through their holdings of the Overprinted Farouk Issues With Bars, both airs and definitives, against a list provided by Charlie Hass. Peter found that there were 7 that were possible forgeries in his holdings.

Tuesday

Sue began with a display of P.O.W.'s material, mainly from camps holding Italian prisoners in Egypt, this was from an entry of 5 frames at Chicago last November where it received a Vemeil award. The frames were arranged as follows:

1. Fore-runners, Camp Records, Fayid Camps, Incoming Mail.
2. Camp situations, Censor Markings.
3. Camp Cachets.
4. Postal Stationery.
5. Civilian Internees.

Among Peter's un-mounted material we found an unrecorded "Notification of Capture" card.

The next session was on Registration Labels, and this caused more questions than we had answers, even though we referred to the excellent article on the subject by John Sears (Q.C. June 1997). We found that there were more types of "R" than a Victorian Printers Catalogue, the variations seemed endless!

Wednesday

A collective study of the Fuad Issues, with Tony showing Essays, Proofs, blocks x 4, Imprint blocks of the 3 printings; Sue had an Imperf pair and a Sunken Die Proof on wove paper of the unaccepted 5 milliemes.

Peter brought forth Postage Dues, Officials, 3 different printings of the Salt Tax stamps, Consular Service and Cigarette Tax stamps, to be followed by Sue 's Egyptian Perfins .

Thursday

Herb Cowley (non member) had come along with 48 sheets of New Zealand Forces Christmas Cards from Egypt during WW II, which had received a Silver Bronze at the Aupex 97 Exhibition ,

There was a feeling that there is a need, within our group and possibly among other Overseas members who do not have access to the Circle's Library and the benefit of mixing with the more erudite members of the Circle, that there is a need for a published definitive listing of Postal Rates. Say for Post Cards on one sheet, Surface Rate for letters on another, Airmails on another etc etc.

The resumption of regular issues of the Q.C. are appreciated and our "thanks" to the Editor for his efforts are noted.

Peter F. Goodwin (ESC 297)

EDITORIAL

It was with much regret that I handed in my resignation last autumn from the position as your Editor. When taking on the task, it had been my intention to take early retirement, thus leaving me ample time to devote to editorial work. However, after looking more carefully into the consequences of such drastic action, it became abundantly clear that it would not be possible to retire and keep up my present lifestyle!

I have truly enjoyed editing the Q.C. over the past couple of years, for you are a great bunch of guys and gals, your contributions/responses have been marvelous, genuinely an envy of most editors, who as a rule struggle for copy.

The recent changes in the Q.C. have not been brought about by me alone, and I would like to put on record my thanks to the "support staff" - Robin, John, and Alan - for without their unselfish assistance these changes would not have been possible.

It is regretted that some of the reproduction in the last issue was not up to standard, due I believe to the printer being ill, hopefully all will be well with this issue.

Your next editor will be Edmund Hall, who most of you will know, no doubt you will keep him as busy as you did me!

MISSING BELIEVED STOLEN

In the December 1996 issue of the Q.C. an item appeared under the above heading. I am pleased to report that there is a happy ending, the material has been found safe and sound - within the members' own collections!

THE POSTAL CONCESSION - A PLEA FOR MATERIAL

Our librarian, John Davis, is preparing a 96 page Stampex exhibit and finds himself short of 5 stamps to complete the reconstruction of a pane of Postal Seals and a pane of Letter Seals. Can any member help him with the following stamps on a purchase or swap basis ?

Postal Seal	used copies of positions numbers 9 and 20.
Letter Seal	used copies of positions numbers 12, 14 and 19.

The individual characteristics of these stamps are as follows :

Postal Seal	Position 9	No dot after "Force" in the circle around NAAFI. Dot to right of second top triangle from N.W. corner. Dot under left corner of inner triangle left of crown.
	Position 20	Inner angle of ornament in bottom right corner broken. * Dot in the outer triangle above S.E. corner. *
Letter Seal	Position 12	Dot on inner side of outer circle of badge opposite second "T" in Institutes.
	Position 14	Dot over "S" in Seal. Right side of top ornament of badge very faint and broken. *
	Position 19	Projection from lower right of serif of first "I" in British.

* These flaws are marked by Hobbs as semi-constant, the others are constant.

QUERY CORNER

What were the Regulations and criteria in the usage of the double (reply) postal stationery cards ? Were they only used Inland, or was the reply card acceptable abroad for the reply ? The Higgins & Gage catalogue only gives the listing of what was issued, but where does one turn to find the correct rates of postage for these ?

Peter F. Goodwin (ESC 297)

NEW ISSUES

By : Cyril Defriez (ESC 172)

(All stamps are printed in lithography by Postal Printing House, A.R. Egypt, without watermark)

Commemorative Stamps

	SG 2011	SG 2012	SG 2013	SG 2014
Occasion		Artists		
Date of issue		28 December 1996		
Designer	Lotfy El Sawaf	A.K. El Badei	Said Abdel Aziz	Nadia Abdel Fattah
Design	George Abyad	Ali El Kassar	Mohamed Kareem	Fatma Roshdi
Denomination	20 Piastres	20 Piastres	20 Piastres	20 Piastres
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm	26 x 43 mm	26 x 43 mm	26 x 43 mm
Perforation	12½	12½	12½	12½
Quantity printed	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
	SG 2015	SG (MS) 2016	SG 2010	
Occasion	Post Day		National Day	
	75th Anniversary of Discovery of Tutankhamun's Tomb		El Gharbia	
Date of issue	2 January 1997		7 December 1996 *	
Designer	Said Abdel Aziz		Lotfy El Sawaf	
Design	Tutankhamun and Ankhesenamun on painted ivory plaque	on chair back	El Badawi Mosque, Tanta	
Denomination	20 Piastres	£E1	15 Piastres	
Stamp dimensions	31 x 50 mm	62 x 79 mm	26 x 43 mm	
Perforation	13	imperforate	13½ x 12½	
Quantity printed	250,000	50,000	250,000	
Supplementary		Inscribed Air Mail	*Publicity states issue date 16 Nov., but FDC's seen show 7 Dec. !	
	SG 2017	SG 2018	SG 2019	
Occasion	Police Day	Festivals 1997		
Date of issue	25 January 1997	1 February 1997		
Designer	Mahmoud Yousry	Lotfy El Sawaf		
Design	Police Emblem	Pink Asters	White Asters	
Denomination	20 Piastres	20 Piastres	20 Piastres	
Stamp dimensions	43 x 26 mm	25 x 31 mm	25 x 31 mm	
Perforation	12½ x 13½	12½ x 13	12½ x 13	
Quantity printed	250,000	250,000	250,000	
Supplementary		Issued in se-tenant pairs within the sheet		

Correction : The words " Incribed Air Mail " were omitted against two stamps as follows :

Q.C. No. 180 S.G. 1993

Q.C. No. 181 S.G. 2003

SG 2011



SG 2012



القاهرة ٢٨-١٢-١٩٩٦
مجموعة الفنانين
ARTISTS
CAIRO 28/12/1996

SG 2013



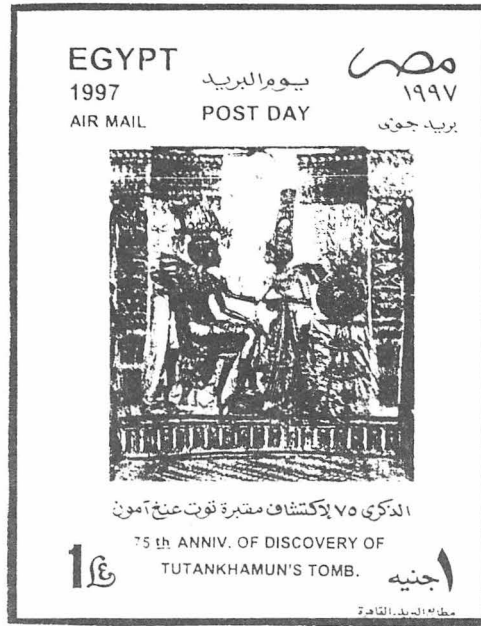
SG 2014



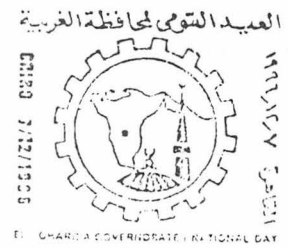
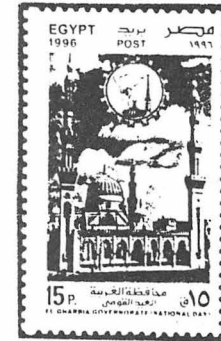
SG 2015



SG(MS)2016



SG 2010



SG 2017



SG 2018



SG 2019



Commemorative Stamps

	S.G. 2035		S.G. 2036
Occasion	World Civil Defence Day		30th Cairo International Fair
Date of issue	10 March 1997		19 March 1997
Designer	Mahmoud Yousry		A.K. El Badei
Design	Globe and Civil Defence Emblems		Fair Emblems
Denomination	20 Piastres		20 Piastres
Stamp dimensions	43 x 26 mm		26 x 43 mm
Perforation	12½ x 13½		13½ x 12½
Quantity printed	250,000		250,000
	SG 2037	SG 2038	SG (MS) 2039
Occasion	World Meteorological Day	Birth Centenary of Mahmoud Said (Artist)	
Date of issue	23 March 1997	12 April 1997	
Designer	A.K. El Badei	Lydia Farid	Said Abdel Aziz
Design	Meteorology Emblem and Wind Vane	Mahmoud Said	"The City"
Denomination	£E1	20 Piastres	£E1
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm	26 x 43 mm	80 x 60 mm
Perforation	12½	12½	imperforate
Quantity printed	100,000	250,000	50,000
Supplementary	Inscribed Air Mail		Inscribed Air Mail
	SG 2040	SG 2041	
Occasion	Death Centenary of Heinrich Von Stephan (Founder of U.P.U.)	50th Anniversary of Institute of African Research and Studies	
Date of issue	15 April 1997	27 May 1997	
Designer	Said Abdel Aziz	Said Abdel Aziz	
Design	Stephan and U.P.U. Monument, Berne	I.A.R.S. emblem	
Denomination	£E1	75 Piastres	
Stamp dimensions	50 x 30 mm	31 x 50 mm	
Perforation	13	13	
Quantity printed	150,000	150,000	
Supplementary	Inscribed Air Mail		

SG 2035



اليوم العالمي للدفاع المدني



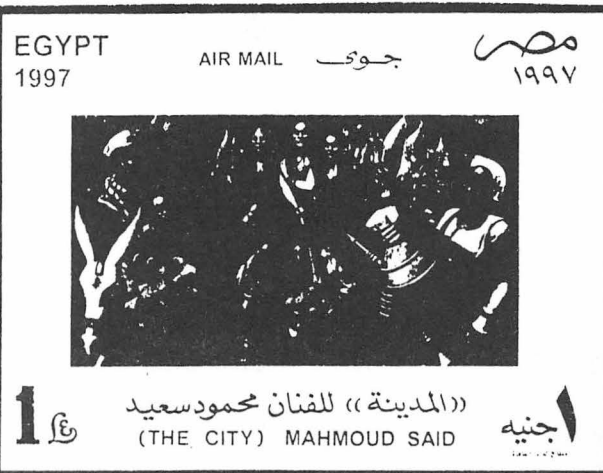
WORLD CIVIL DEFENCE DAY

SG 2036



SG(MS)2039

SG 2038



SG 2037



SG 2040



SG 2041



Definitive Stamps

(All stamps printed by rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R. Egypt, without watermark)

	S.G. 2020	SG 2022	SG 2024
Date of issue	21 May 1997	1 February 1997	25 March 1997
Designer	Lotfy El Sawaf	Lotfy El Sawaf	Lotfy El Sawaf
Design	Queen Tiye	Horemheb	Amenhotep III
Denomination	5 Piastres	20 Piastres	75 Piastres
Stamp dimensions	25 x 31 mm	25 x 31 mm	25 x 31 mm
Perforation	11	11	11

(Gaps in numbering have been left for additions to this series)



Air Mail Stamps

(All stamps printed by rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R. Egypt, without watermark)

	SG 2030
Date of issue	25 March 1997
Designer	Lotfy El Sawaf
Design	Thotmes III
Denomination	75 Piastres
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½

(Gaps in numbering have been left for additions to this series)



THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF EGYPT

Addendum to the "Delivery" Postmarks
(See Q.C. September 1997)

By : Paul Glyn-Jones

Type	Office	Earliest	Latest	Note
5	Cairo	30 JL 37	16 OC 37	30 mm diameter
6	Cairo	1 NO 35		27 mm diameter
6	Cairo		15 NO 41	30 mm diameter
8	Alexandria		15 NO 42	29 mm diameter
E	Le Caire	24 12 60		35 mm diameter Date in Arabic.
I	Alexandrie		20 5 64	28 mm diameter
X	Alexandria	18 7 63	21 12 63	35 mm diameter Alexandria, Express in straight line below date bar.
Y	Alexandria St	5 OC 50		R. Express in straight line below date bar. St = Station.

Feedback : Alexandria Epargne Scolaire postmark (Q.C. Dec. 1997)

From : Ulrich Eckstein (ESC 273)

The cancellation means in translation ALEXANDRIA SAVINGS BANK / SCHOOL. The stamp is from a childrens savings bank card like the one below.

(بوستة بمرءة ١٧ R No. 17 P.O.)

SAVINGS BANK. — CAISSE D'ÉPARGNE. — صندوق التوفير
SMALL SAVINGS FORM. — استمارة توفيرات صغيرة
BULLETIN DE PETITE ÉPARGNE.

Name of Depositor
Nom du Déposant } محمد السيد محمد
اسم المودع

Name of Locality or Address
Nom de la Localité ou adresse } جهاز تنمية
محل الإقامة أو العنوان

Name of School
Nom de l'École } البيضاية
اسم المدرسة

Deposit Book
Livre } No. ٥٥٥
رقم
Series ٥٥٥
مجموعة

Agency of issued
Agence d'émission } ٥٥٥
الجهة المسحوب منها

This form with either Ten, Twenty or Thirty postage stamps of Five Millimes each affixed is accepted by the Post Office Savings Bank as Cash.
Ce bulletin ouvert de Dix, Vingt ou Trente timbres-poste de Cinq Millimètres chaque est reçu, donné numéraire à la Caisse d'Épargne.

يقبل صندوق التوفير هذه الاستمارة كسندية متى كان عدد الطابع المصقة عنها عشرة أو عشرين أو ثلاثين من فئة الخمسة المليمات.

(*) To be filled if the depositor be a pupil.
A remplir dans le cas où le déposant est un élève.
تملأ هذه الخانة إذا كان المودع تلميذاً.

Postage stamps for 50 Millimes.
Timbres-poste pour 50 Millimètres.
طابع بوسته بقيمة خمسين مليما



[T.O.P. أنظر خلفه]

The Donkey, Sand and the Pyramids

An introduction to the collecting of Egyptian picture postcards

By : Roman Anthony Rimonis (ESC 486)

" I seemed alone in the midst of all that is most sacred in the world;
a forest of enormous columns, adorned all around with beautiful
figures and various ornaments from the top to the bottom. "

So said Giovanni Battista Belzoni the Egyptologist, describing his observations at Karnak. Today you can still stand there just like Giovanni did and experience this marvel of architectural wonderment. Egypt in the early 19th century was still a country of great mystery. When Jean Francois Champollion finally deciphered the hieroglyphics from the Rosetta Stone in 1822, it unlocked a vast wealth of information and the science of Egyptology was firmly established ; a whole new era of scholars and explorers were captivated and with it, an international audience of followers grew. Great interest was shown worldwide when the Suez Canal was opened in 1869 and the photographers Leon and Levy (noted LL trademark) the famous French postcard publishers, made a visit to record this auspicious event. They were to produce an enormous amount of postcards covering a vast area and many subjects on Egypt.

The history of the Egyptian postcard stems only from around 1897, which is comparatively young when compared with European countries. Encouraged and greatly influenced by Europeans seeking winter sun, tourism was being promoted and developed, with cruise holidays being advertised by Thomas Cooks to travel along the Nile visiting the important sights. Between 1896 and 1910 new hotels to accommodate this influx of tourist were being built in Cairo; The Savoy, Mena House (Figure 1), Intercontinental and The Heliopolis Palace, but we must not forget the already well established and renowned Shephard's Hotel.

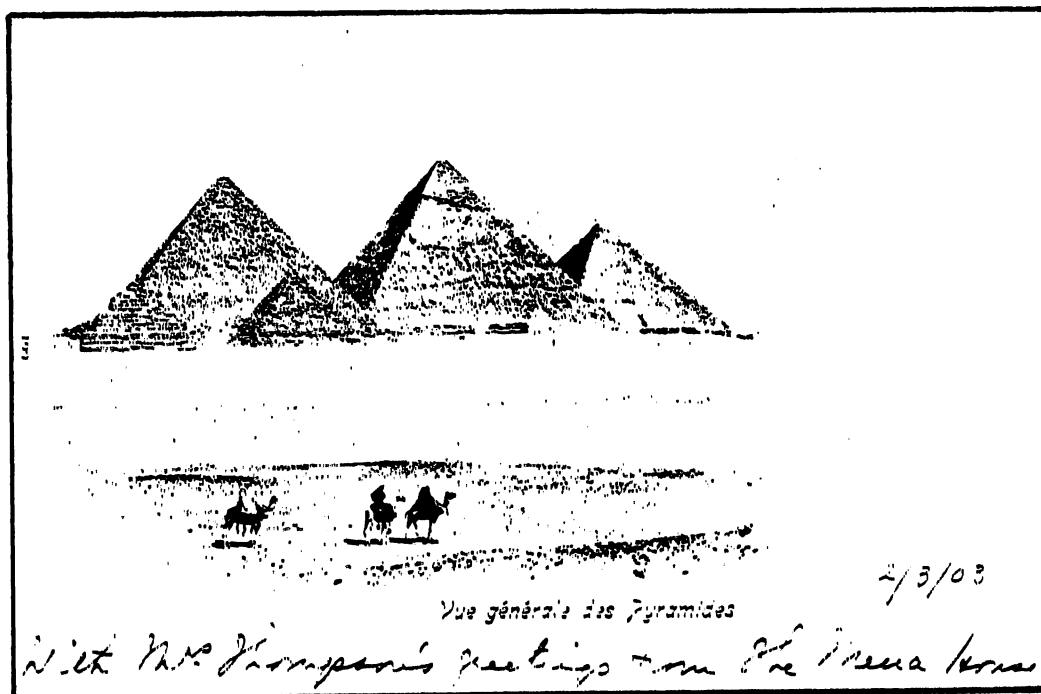


Figure 1 : P.P.C. written 2 Feb. 1903 with the message
" _____ greetings from The Mena House ".

Quite naturally the visitor required souvenirs, so the postcard soon became an important visual and relatively cheap item to purchase. The wonders of Egypt could now be shared with many relatives and friends at home. Imagine receiving a postcard in the early 1900's depicting the Pyramids or Abu Simbel. Initially, the availability of postcards was restricted to certain areas to which the tourist visited, notably Alexandria, Cairo, Heliopolis, Port Said, Suez, Giza and Luxor.

The early Egyptian postcards usually measured the standard 115x89mm and were decorated with a smart border in various colours and designs. The inscription UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE EGYPTE, CARTE POSTALE, with its Arabic equivalent was printed to the left on the card and below that, the three stars and crescent symbolising a province of Turkey. Further wording in French and Arabic was inserted inside the top border requesting the sender to write the address only on this side of the postcard (Figure 2). This conformed with the regulation that it was prohibited to write anything on the address side, however, as the size of the vignette on the other side of those early cards did not fully cover the card, there was a space for a written message (Figure 1). In 1902 Great Britain introduced the divider on the address side (Figure 3), this allowed a message to be written, but it had to be recognised internationally and this happened about 1906/7.

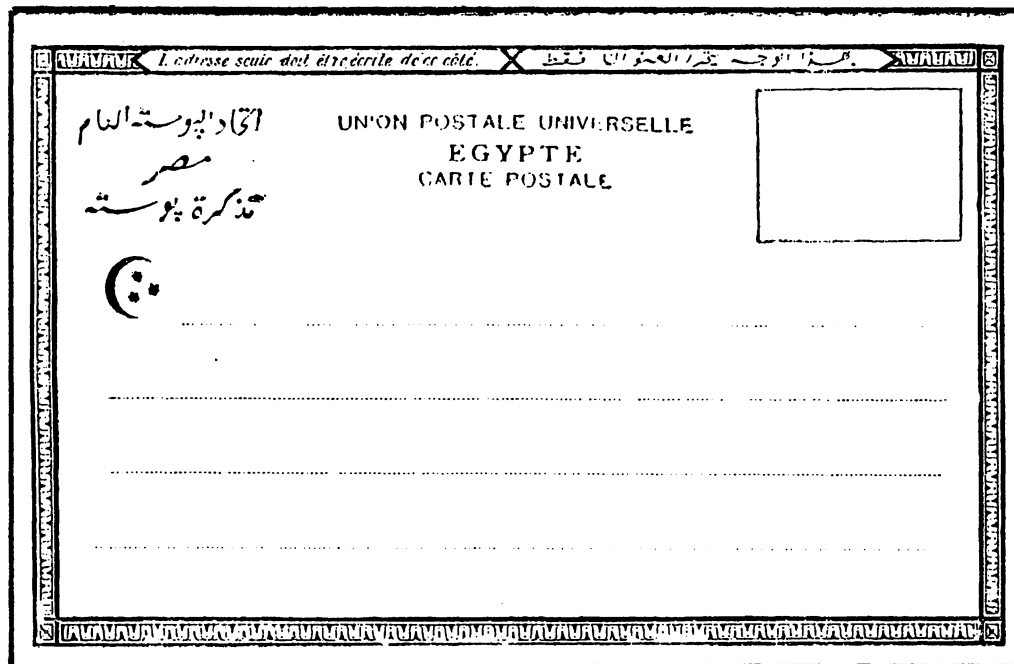


Figure 2 : Stars & Crescent emblem of Turkey on card with undivided address side.

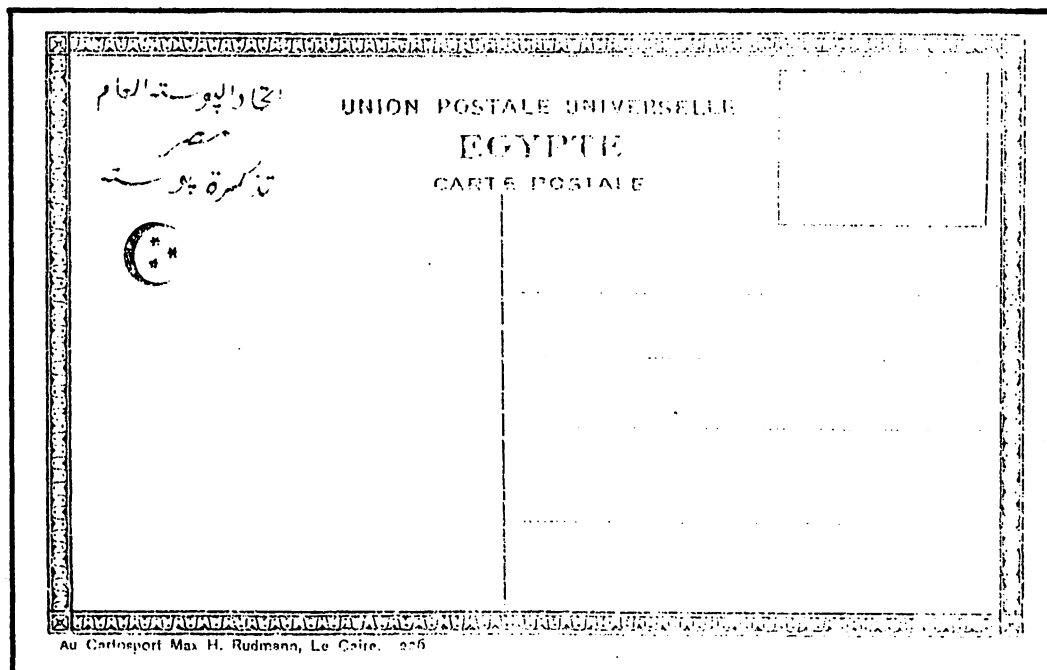


Figure 3 : Vertical dividing line, thus giving space for a message.

Very early postcards usually had the inscription " Souvenir d'Egypt ". The "Gruss Aus " (German for "Greetings from") cards had elaborate designs providing fascinating images of the country (Figure 4). Some of the early cards were of very finely monochrome or chromolithographed pictures.

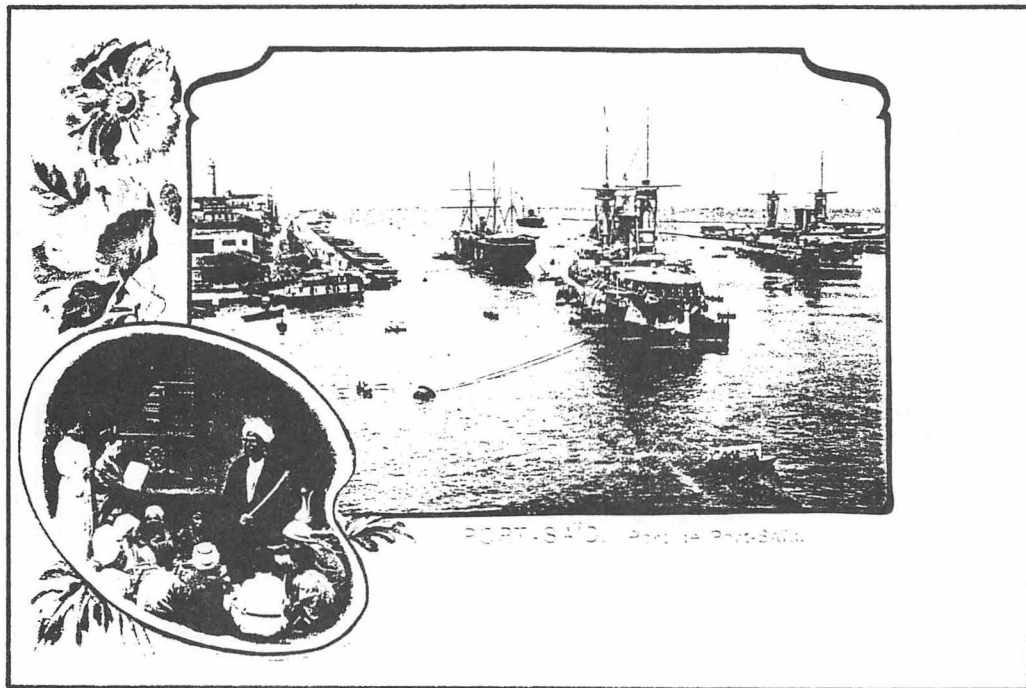


Figure 4 : Early " Gruss Aus " P.P.C. in colour with view of Port Said.

Booksellers , stationers, as well as photographers based in Egypt, soon began to exploit the market for postcards and they were produced in their thousands. From single cards, soon came concertines and booklet cards.

One of the most prolific publishers based in Egypt at the time was The Cairo Postcard Trust, whose output was enormous. Series upon series were released, many from black and white to colour and re-issues of previous cards, usually just by changing the positions of the captions. In terms of subjects it covered a huge range, for it seems as if the photographers were everywhere. The large proportion of the cards were sold singly, not so many in booklet form.

Out of all the monuments in Egypt, the symbol of the country must be the pyramids of Giza. From the Seven Wonders of the World, the sepulchral silence of the pyramids are the only one remaining. This was fully exploited by all postcard printers, as usually a camel and the pyramids in the background, was an obvious and popular choice. Besides the general view, there were many sunset or moonlight scenes, with the pyramids in the background. The second most famous monument must be the Sphinx, a most curious combination of half human and half beast. At one time you could go straight to it, but now it has been cordoned off and you must see it from a short distance. More often than not, the Sphinx and the Great Pyramid of Cheops share the same postcard. Pre 1925 cards show merely the head of the Sphinx protruding from the sand (Figure 5), however, later cards reveal the entire body after extensive excavation (Figure 6).

For the topographical theme, the postcard covers a huge area, for after all , Egypt is an open museum. The temple complex of Karnak, the Colossi of Memnon at Thebes, the "gentle " Temple of Philea , and of course the majestic Abu Simbel.

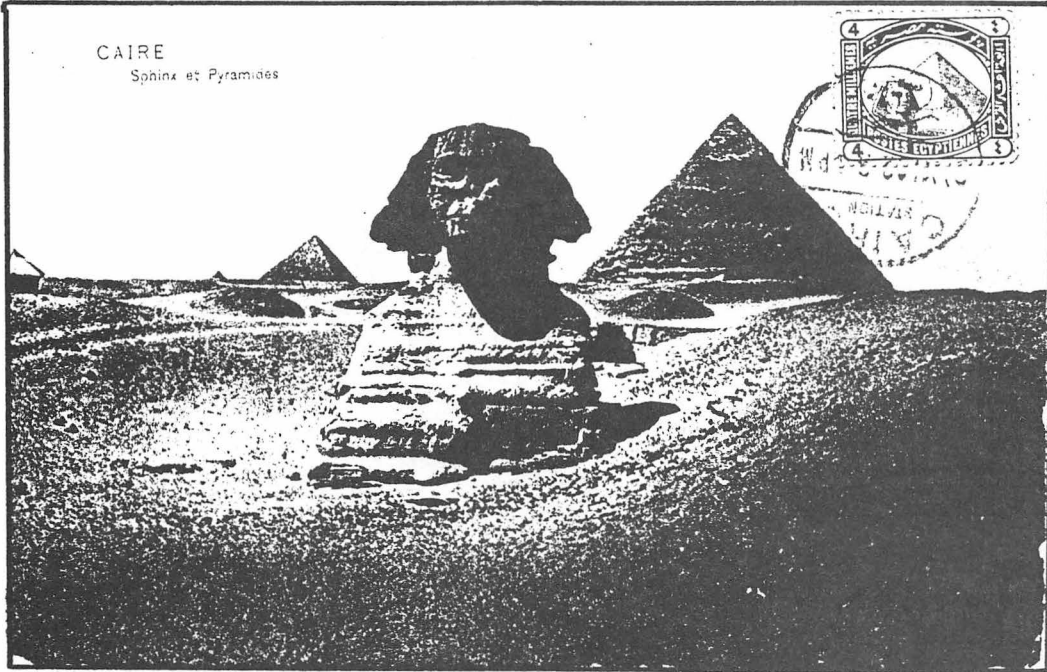


Figure 5 : Sphinx prior to excavation.
Postmark Cairo 22 Nov. 1912.

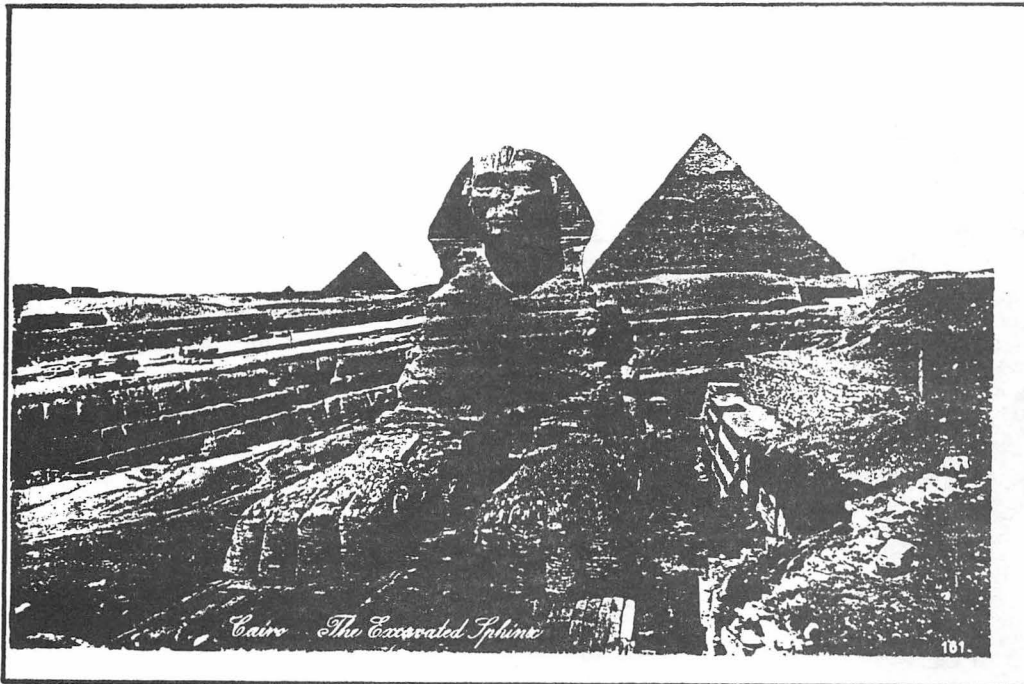


Figure 6 : The excavated Sphinx. B. & W. card
c.1929 by Lehnert & Landrock.

Egyptian postcards also depict the way of life; a village by the Nile with women collecting water and children playing, camels as carriers in the streets of Cairo, horse drawn carriages with barefooted runners in front, processions, barber (Figure 7), weddings and donkey stations once used for the tourist. What other items of ephemera can tell so much about a country ?

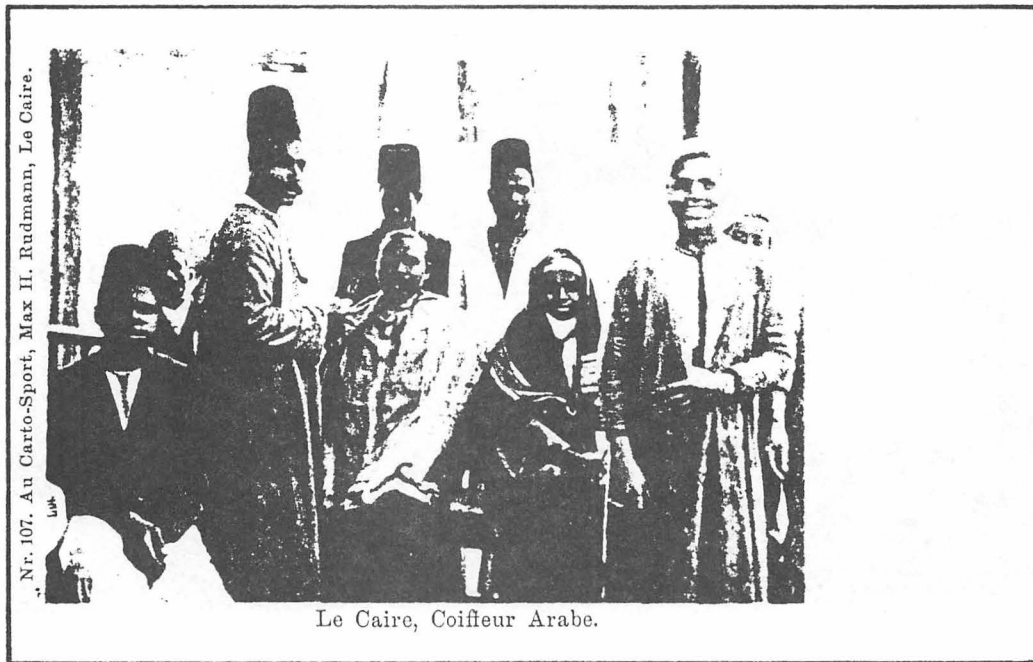
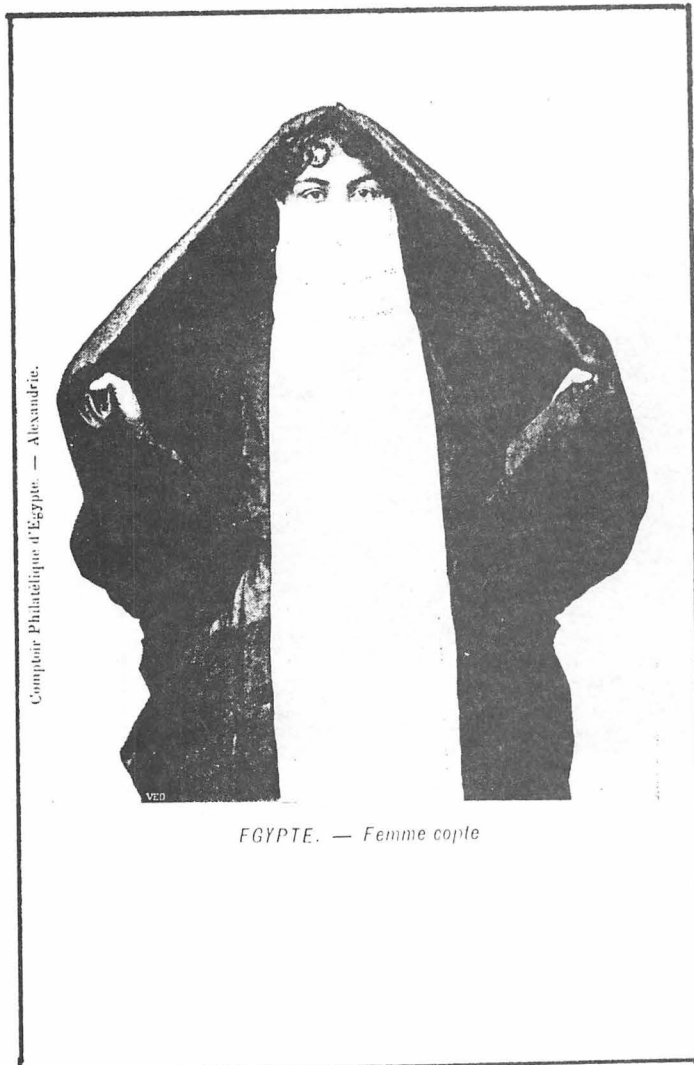


Figure 7 : Haircut Sir ? Card no. 107 from Max H. Rudmann, Cairo.



Another fascinating glimpse of Egypt comes from the cards depicting the various people; the desert Bedouin, Saidis, the dark skinned Berberians or Nubians from the far south, Rashidis, the nomads of Hamitic or Bisharin and Dumyatis. Most of these are studio portraits in which they are wearing their traditional garments. The women wore several kinds of veil or Burko (Figure 8), which were made from a type of crape the thickness of which seems to vary with their social status, if the lady came from the upper class it was light. The veil was discarded in the 1920's.

Figure 8 : A Coptic woman with veil.

Just as in European countries, the abundance of postcards were soon to enter a highly competitive world, where only those with the widest appeal would be mass produced. Some of the early publishers and photographers of Egyptian postcards are as follows :

Castro Brothers - Cairo
 Lehnert and Landrock - Cairo
 Emile Pinkay - Leipsig
 P. Coustoulid Es - Alexandria
 C. Andreopoulos - Port Said
 Marques and Florillo - Aswan
 Fritz Schnell and Ce - Nuremburg
 Plentl Mary Mill Graz - Cairo
 Richter and Co. - Naples *
 Isaac Behar - Port Said
 Muller and Trub - Aargau *
 Fix and David - Cairo *
 Boahme and Anderer - Cairo *
 M. Handras - Port Said
 A.K. Mayoorkino - Port Said
 J.S. Antippa and Co. - Cairo
 W. Hagelberg - Berlin
 Efthimios Freres - Port Said
 Louis Levy - Paris
 Lichtenstern and Harari - Cairo

* these are some of the firms that produced the Gruss Aus cards.

This list is by no means complete and it does not include those mentioned in the text, it does however, give a clear indication of the many small and large companies involved in the production of postcards.

Stereoscopic postcards were introduced in Egypt by L.L., within an envelope usually containing 24. They were of normal size , but had two almost identical images which when viewed through a special wooden stereoscope viewer made the picture three dimensional. By all accounts, such postcards were extremely popular up until the First World War, but they are not easily found these days. However, on a recent visit to Cairo I did come across a few of them in the L'Orientaliste bookshop on Kasr el Nil Street (Figure 9).

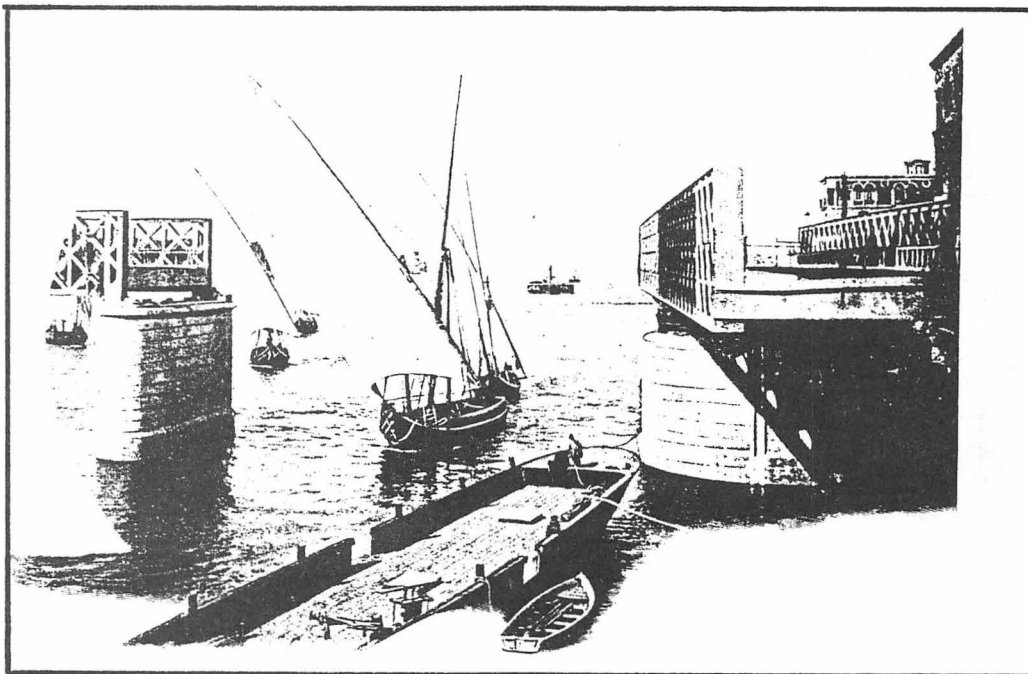


Figure 9 : B. & W. card of Kasr el Nil bridge,
 by Fritz Schneller & Cie, Nuremburg.

One of the wonders of modern technology at the time, was the Aswan Dam and this enormous structure provided postcards with a new subject, for a man stading on top looked totally insignificant. Even more dramatic pictures were caught when the giant sluice gates were opened and the water came gushing through.

With the outbreak of the First World War, Turkey joined forces with Germany and this caused Great Britain much concern, for it threatened the Suez Canal route to the east. Consequently, Egypt was declared a British Protectorate, thus ending 400 years of Turkish control. During the war tourism dried up and the main users of postcards were the British and Commonwealth armed forces. Many postcards were now focussed towards greetings from Egypt, sometimes in the form of a simple but reflective poem. The L.L. postcards adopted a theme of " Egyptian Types and Scenes ", with the quality suffering by the much cheaper production due to the war effort and the use of colour was dropped. Even the colour of the divided back was changed to a murky lime colour. With censorship being strictly imposed on all mail, some postcards are to be found with the captions obliterated!

During the war, The Cairo Postcard Trust had cards printed in England and after hostilities ceased they sourced them in Italy, where they were not of high quality. When the Germans developed the photo-mechanical processes of reproduction - half-tone printing consisting of light and dots - other countries followed suit for it was cheap. Some cards were based on original issues in monochrome, the details in colour became "clogged" up. By enhancing the somewhat boring plain blue skies, small fluffy clouds were added, however, the imagination did not go beyond that, for the same cloud formation was used for different views!

Besides half-tone printing, with L.L. the process was the collotype. This method involved a negative being exposed to light over a plate coated with gelatin sensitised by potassium or ammonium bichromate. It's surface wrinkled as the gelatin on the plate dried out leaving a network of curving cracks, these worm-like marks of various shapes and sizes interlocked to build up the picture. Again, the colour was no doubt added by hand, for it was of light subtle tones giving a overall artificial appearance. The photographer C. Zangaki produced a series of postcards showing scenes of Egyptian life, for example an Arab merchant or a small group of children in school, these were captured by the photographer in monochrome. An artist completed the image by adding colour to the entire picture and one notices at once how un-natural it looks.

Many British printers also provided Egyptian theme postcards for the home market, amongst them were Raphael Tuck and Sons Ltd who produced their "Wide Wide World" series XIV in "Oilette", and "Picturesque Egypt". Even the "Egyptian Gazette" series was specially produced to be used in Egypt. Adam and Charles Black Ltd, the book publishing firm, presented its "Banks of the Nile" and "People of Egypt " series.

After the First World War there was already a slow downward trend in the sales of postcards, for people now had cameras and the publication of souvenir books along with small packets of real photographs were an alternative. The postcard had finally reached its pinnacle of production and as a final attempt, some publishers issued a flurry of a rich array of postcards. Almost as if to catch the early years of postcard production, cards of quality were being produced again. The divider temporarily disappeared (Figure 10) thus allowing the address to dominate the space, thick art card was used and the edges were sculptured, many were embossed and even coloured by hand.

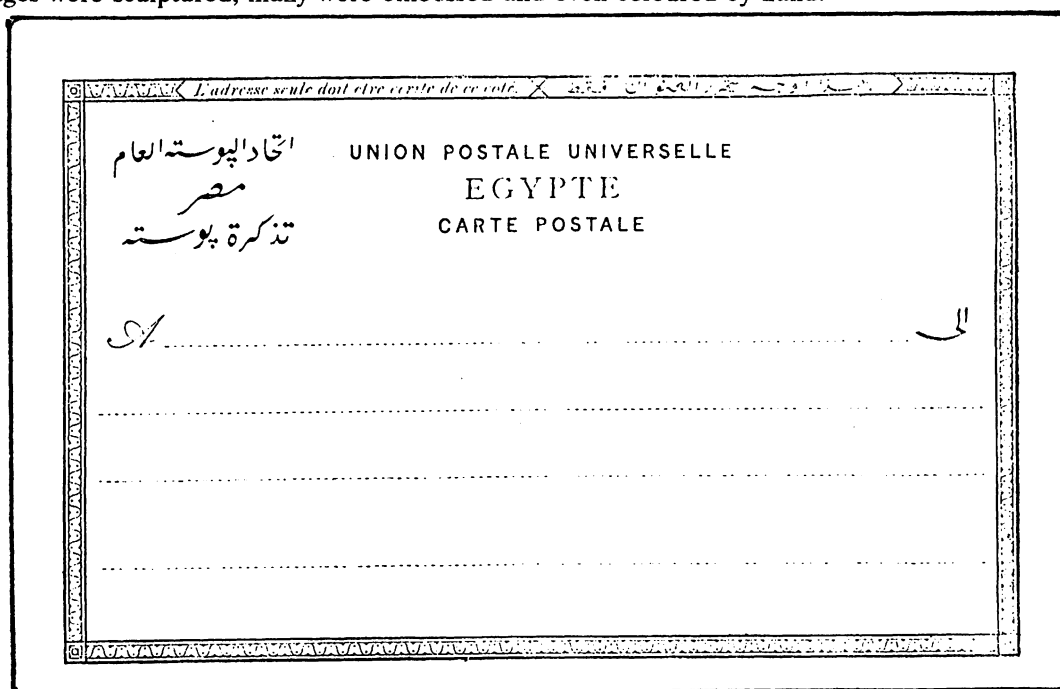


Figure 10 : Undivided card c.1923, now without the Stars & Crescent emblem of Turkey.

Postcards do occasionally have spelling mistakes in the captions, which were either in English, French or German, thus we find PLAN spelt PALN, RUNNING FOOLMEN instead of RUNNING FOOTMEN. Other examples are TEMPEL and SPHYNX. An anonymous publisher printed a view of the Citadel in Cairo, but the caption states Suez, Porte de la Citadelle. The Cairo Postcard Trust got their captions wrong several times (Figure 11); one scene was described as Sudan - Native Quarter and Coffee Shops, the same view appeared with the caption Pord-Said - Native Coffee House (Figure 12)! In 1919 L.L. and the rival firm of Neurdein Brothers (N.H. Photo trademark) finally merged, watch out for some cards with the inscription Levy et Neudein Reunis and the address spelt 44 Rue Letellier, Paris Imp, there are also some cards to be found with the T of Letellier inverted !

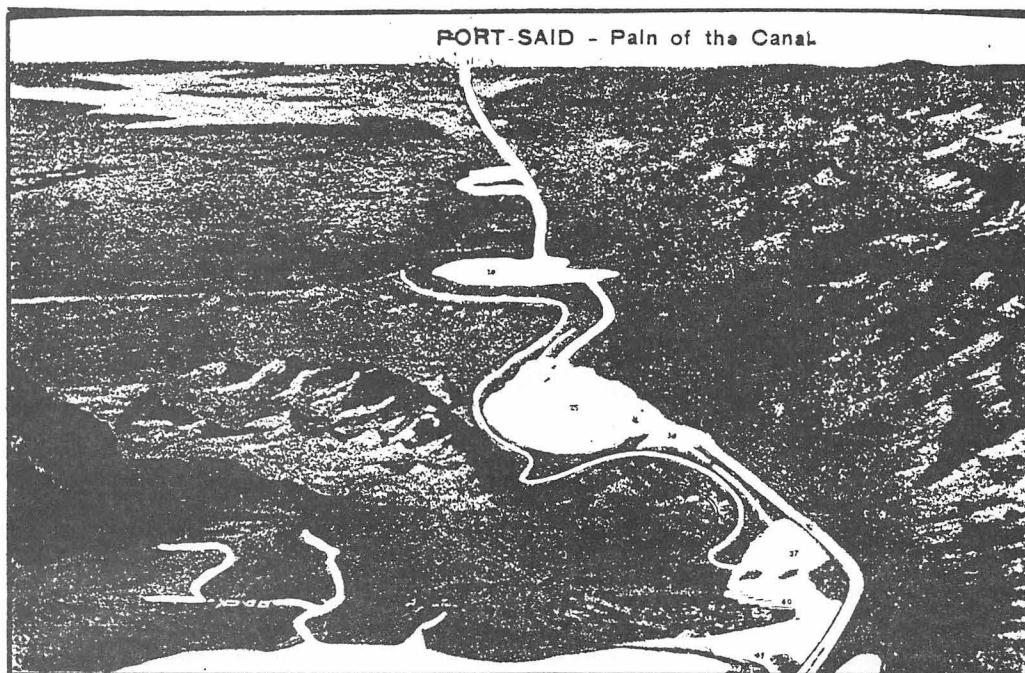


Figure 11 : Caption spelling error, PAIN instead of PLAN, on B. & W. card by The Cairo Postcard Trust.



Figure 12 : Caption spelling error, PORD instead of PORT, on B. & W. card by The Cairo Postcard Trust.

The gradual introduction around 1919 of the sepia real photograph postcards was gaining popularity, for these presented the scenes more vividly than ever before. At first, not many cards were issued in colour, but The Oriental Commercial Bureau issued a series of coloured postcards in which the colours tended to be of pastel shades.

Those postcards printed during the early part of this century will be extremely difficult to find. Many cards were not series numbered nor the name of the producer mentioned, this could mean, for instance, 400 different cards of Port Said without a name of the manufacturer.

A mention must be made of another added enjoyment of collecting Egyptian postcards, that of those depicting hotels, particularly those hotels which used a datestamp with the hotel name on it.

Today the streets of Cairo are not dominated by four legged transport, just the occasional donkey cart is to be seen competing against the motor traffic, time has changed even the Egyptian way of life. One of my recent finds was a delightful picture postcard of a group of children gathered near the pyramids, and in a way, this sums up the old and the new.

USED MARY POST CARD

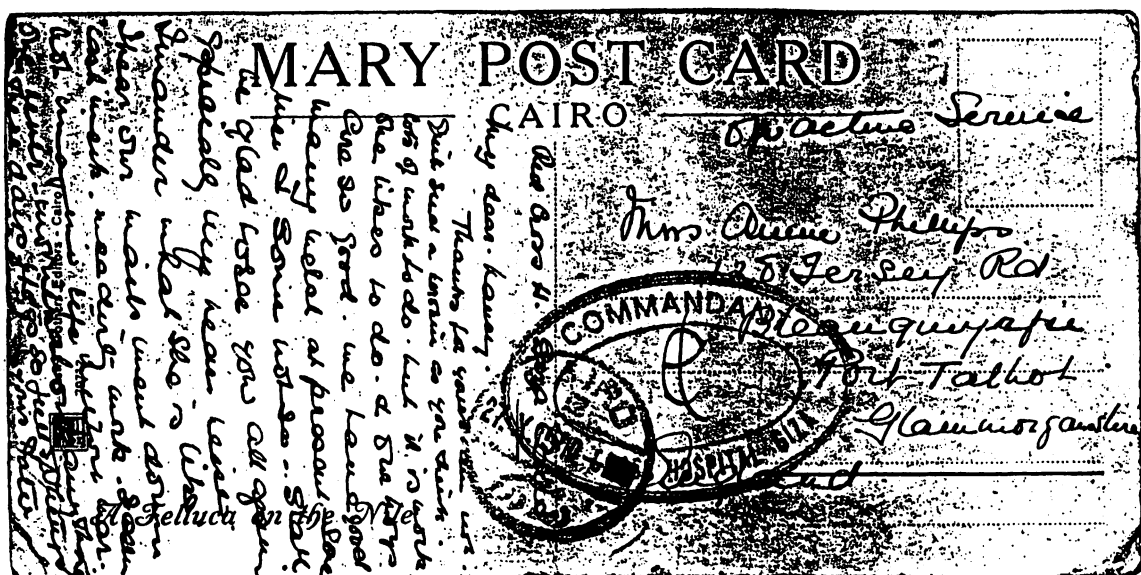
By : W.J. Johns (ESC287)

It is not often one sees a used Mary Post Card and the one illustrated below has some interesting marks.

Written at the Red Cross Hospital, Giza, Cairo, unfranked, it is marked "On Active Service" and has the large oval cachet COMMANDANT RED CROSS HOSPITAL GIZA inside which there seems to be an authorising initial. It passed through the Cairo civil post office on 27 October 1915 at 12 mid-day on its way to Port Talbot.

The earliest use of a Cairo military post office datestamp is 8 February 1916 and this had a similar oval cachet!

For more on Mary Post Cards, see Q.C. nos. 108 and 110.

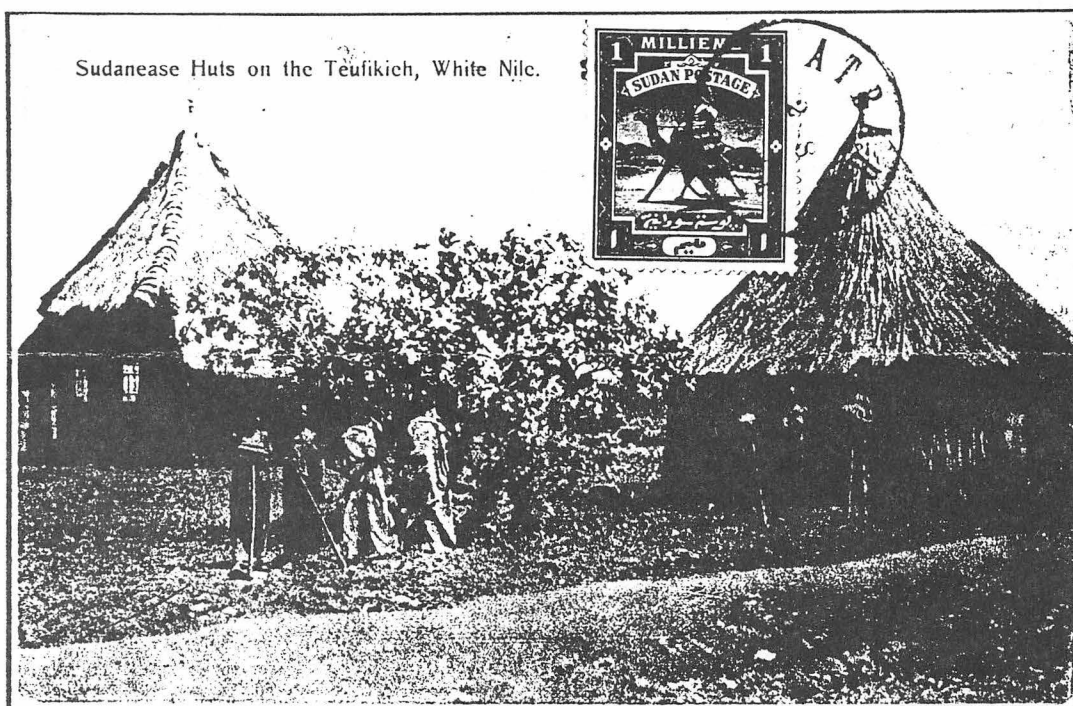


By : P.J. Mason (ESC 484)

I was very interested to read the article by Mike Murphy in the December 1997 Q.C. concerning the fake Alexandria postmark, for this reminded me of a similar Sudanese postcard that appeared in The Sudan Study Group's book "Postcards of the Sudan" (illustrated below).

The postcard is from a non-Sudan publisher F. Fiorillo, Assuan and is addressed to Italy. The 1 millieme stamp is genuine, but does not pay the appropriate postal rate and the ATBARA circular date stamp is quite unlike any known postmark used in the Sudan.

Taking these two postcards together, it seems to me that an enterprising Oriental type has produced some very attractive cards with stamps as souvenirs for the tourist trade. I also have a coloured postcard of the Pyramids with the caption "LUXOR MARKET", how's that for Oriental advertising licence?



QUERY CORNER

This illustrated 1866 1 Piastre stamp has a rather unusual mark/cancellation on it, which I am unable to decipher. The three characters within the double circle I am unable to reconcile with any alphabet, either as shown or inverted. I have sketched these characters to the best of my ability, with the hope that one member at least will be able to solve the mystery.

Ronnie Straus (ESC 428)



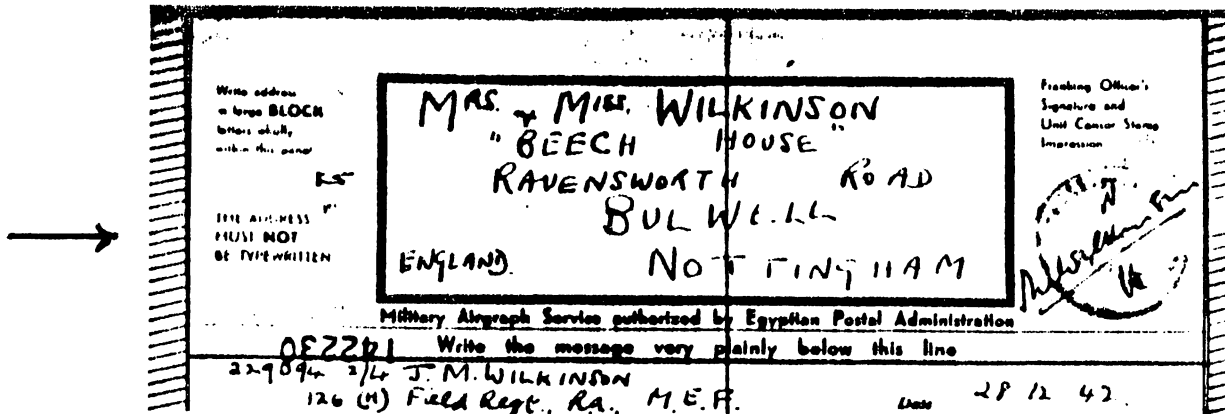
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A NEW AIRGRAPH VARIETY

By : John Chellingsworth (ESC 363)

This airgraph shows a difference in layout when compared to the illustration on page 149 of John Sears book "Airmails of Egypt". In this example the word "NOT" at the top left hand side, is printed in bold type and is not underlined.

I have had correspondence with John and he has decided to catalogue this previously un-recorded variety as Type B.2.

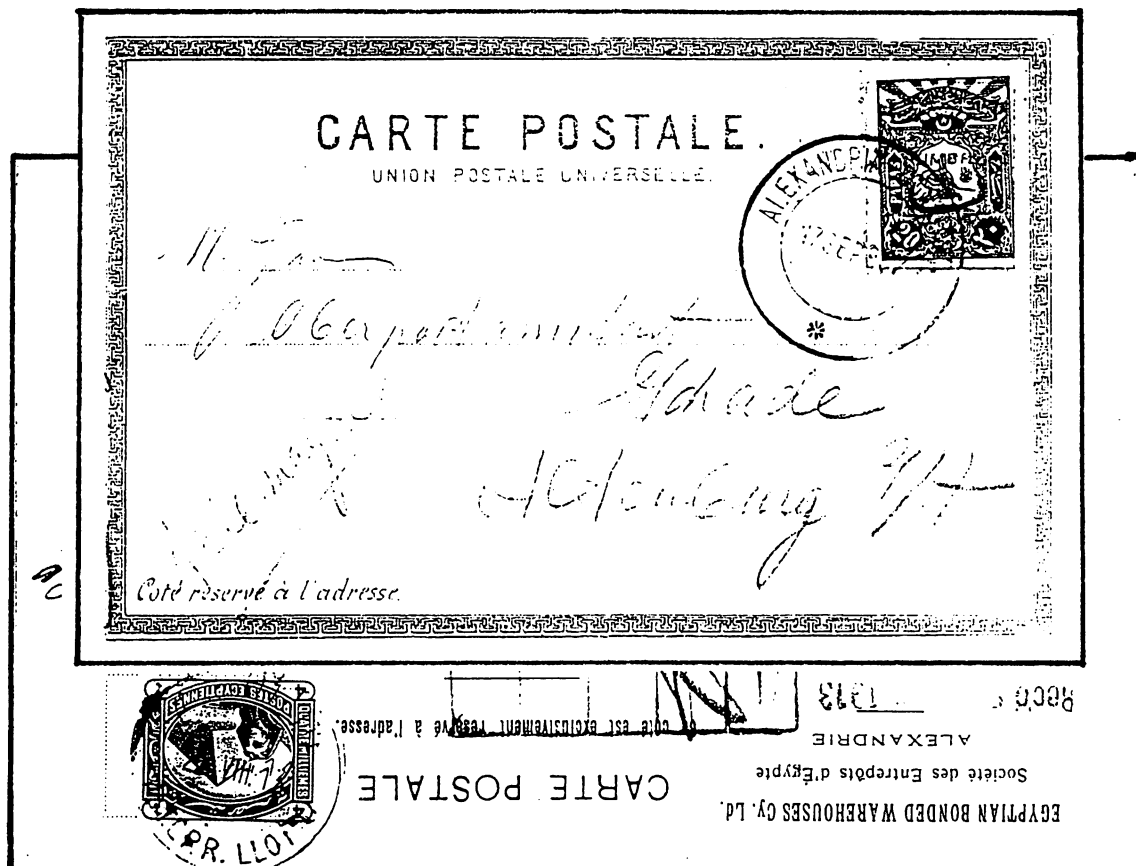


QUERY CORNER

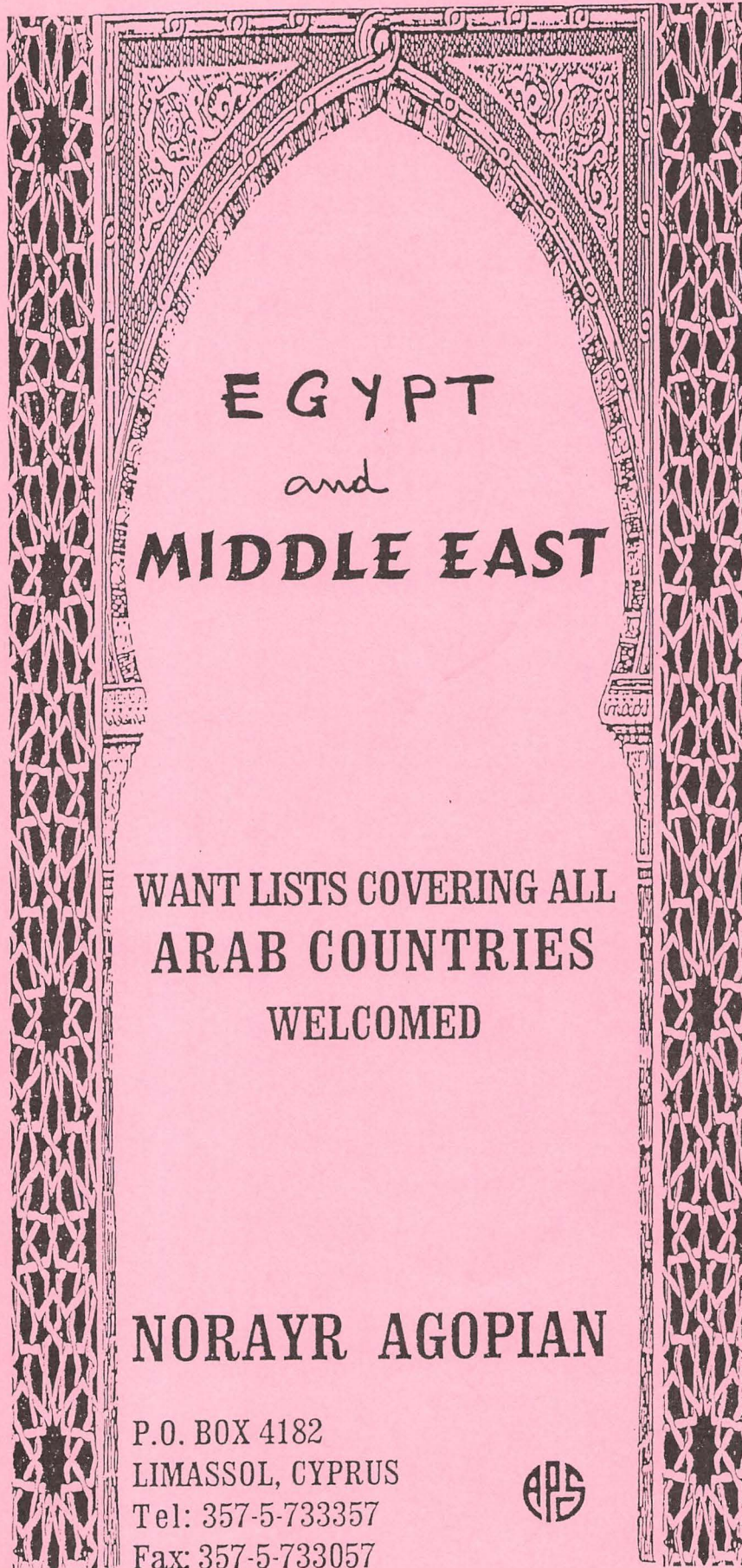
Recently a dealer asked me if I could provide any information regarding the postmarks on these two postcards. Unfortunately my searches through the back issues of the Q.C. have proven fruitless. Can any member identify them?

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)

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