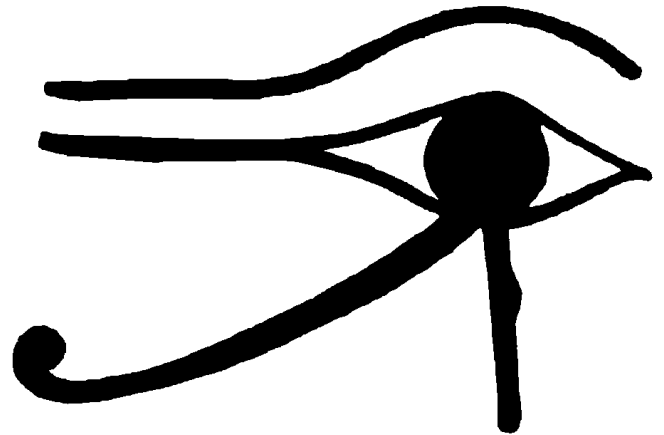


The
Quarterly Circular
of



THE
EGYPT

STUDY CIRCLE

June Quarter 1999
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Committee Mem.	Mr. J.M. Murphy.

Forthcoming Meetings.

July 17 th .	Second Look at Meter Marks.	D.H. Clarke
September 25 th .	The 'Service De L'Etat' no value stamp & 'Novelty Revenues'	P.R. Bertram
November 20 th .	Alexandria to Ramleh Tramway & 'Avis de Reception'	M.N.A. El-Hadidi
		P. Grech
		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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MEETING HELD AT STAMPEX ON 6th. MARCH 1999

- Subject 10 Sheets.
- Present R.Bertram, L.Balian, M.Bramwell, D.H.Clarke, J.A.Clarke, C.Defriez, J.Davis,
E.H.Frazer-Smith, M.Goodman, S.Horesh, K.Hagopian, E.Hall, A.Jeyes, A.Jansen,
C.Kelemenis, M.Kremener, J.M.Murphy, A.Ott, J.Sears, V.Varjabedian, R.Wilson,
B.Watterson.
- Visitors. M.Abouelenin, M.Freeman, M.Smith.
- Apologies: S.Bunce, M.Barker, P.Grech.

The Chairman welcomed all members and visitors and expressed his pleasure at seeing so many of our overseas members present.

Before the ever popular 10 sheets, Leon Balian gave a short resume of the current definitive stamps of Egypt pointing out that they were being seen with different papers, with and without watermark, and with different gums - all issued in a rather haphazardous fashion. He particularly asked that members should note these variations carefully with a view to recording and, eventually, cataloguing them.

- J. Sears Cancelled Airmail instructions including Jusqua markings and bars.
- R.Bertram The DLR 5m Red. Stamps, covers and a rare booklet.
- C.Defriez A review of the ESC Collection of the latest new issues.
- V. Varjabedian Perfins on cover and introducing his new booklet describing all Egyptian Perfins.
Available now at £8.
- B.Watterson A fortuitous assembly of correspondence all from "Lily Oldfield" to her brother,
Capt.H.Oldfield. Betty had accumulated these covers over several years without realising
they were all from and to the same person. Capt. Oldfield was then discovered to have
been, at one time, Secretary of The Royal Philatelic Society.
- S.Horesh Showed 'E prefixed numbers' of Military postmarks used by Commonwealth Forces.
- P.Andrews All the combinations and make up of panes of the Farouk Booklets.
- J.Davis 'T' Postage Due markings on cover.
- A. Ott Early Maritime covers via British, Italian, Austrian, French, German, Dutch, Romanian
& Russian Shipping Lines.
- M.Goodman Hotel Postmarks.
- E.Frazer-Smith Update on the Picture Postcard listing prepared by our member, Tony Chisholm, in New
Zealand.

- R.Wilson A review of Peter Smith's book on Stamps & Postal History.
- K.Hagopian An important new discovery shown for the very first time. Complete sheets of the 1925 Geographic Issue in the issued colours but all denominated 5 mills and probably colour proofs.

Report of Meeting Held on 8th. May 1999.

- Subject Egyptian Railway Stations (postcards and postmarks.)
- Present R.Bertram, P.Beckett, M.Bramwell, J.A.Clarke, D.H.Clarke, R.Dauwe, C.Defriez, J.Davis, E.Frazer- Smith, E.Hall, S.Horesh, A.Jeyes, M.Murphy, M.Nofol, J.Sears, B.Sedgely, A.Schmidt.
- Guest L.Said.
- Apologies P.Andrews, S.Bunce, M.Freeman, B.Watterson.

The Chairman opened the meeting by announcing the sudden death of one of our regular attendees - Michael Barker - and members stood in silence for a few moments as a token of respect.

Our member, Mr. R. Dauwe, from Holland was welcomed to the meeting.

Edmund Hall led the meeting. He had prepared data sheets showing types of postmarks for each station in alphabetical order. His object was to record all stations (and several were added at the meeting) and types. Postmarks and postcards were then displayed in order.

The response from the floor was overwhelming - so much so that recording them was impossible. Edmund requested that all members who had marks not shown on the data sheets should send him photocopies. He will then extend the sheets and publish them in the QC to attract wider comment.

The question of allocating references to the marks, and their dates of use, were left for a future occasion.

Special mention should be made of the postcards for in some instances they showed the gradual development of a station. Some cards were apparently rare.

A.G.M. of the Egypt Study Circle held on 8th. May 1998.

Before the May meeting the A.G.M. was held with 10 members present. A full report has been prepared by our secretary Alan Jeyes. This will not be published in full in the QC, the following covers a few of the matters discussed from the questions proposed by our members.

The ESC has accumulated a small surplus of funds mostly due to the good efforts of those running the auction. It was agreed that the ESC would be prepared to consider giving financial backing to books or monographs on Egyptian related philatelic nature. This does not cover articles being published in the QC.

A small trophy would be presented annually to the best article (chosen by popular vote) published in the QC.

The improvement in the printing quality of the QC to be investigated commensurate with costs

Two members, Pip Whetter and Lars Alund were elected to Life membership in appreciation of their long and valued contribution to the ESC, and their study of the philately of Egypt.

O.P.A.L. 50th. Anniversary Exhibition.

O.P.A.L. is 50 years old in November 1999 and to commemorate this O.P.A.L. is planning a Philatelic Exhibition in London, on the 5th to 7th. November at Baden Powell House, Queens Gate, London SW7 5JS.

This will be combined with the 4th International Symposium on Turkish & Ottoman Philately. The exhibition will be open to the public from 12.30-1700 on Saturday and 10.00-14.30 Sunday. The week end starts on Friday 5th. from 14.00 onwards with an informal gathering and philatelic material on view. On Saturday the 6th. the Symposium starts at 9.00 for a range of papers dealing with the results and problems relating to Middle East philately. There will be a Gala dinner on the Saturday evening. Possibly on the Sunday some dealers may be present.

O.P.A.L. has offered related specialist societies to participate in the displays. Egypt was of course up until 1914 nominally part of the Ottoman Empire so this kind offer has been extended to the E.S.C. O.P.A.L. covers all the countries once part of the Ottoman Empire, these days it is very much orientated to Turkish philately but I have no doubt there will be much for our members to enjoy and much they could contribute.

The display will probably consist of 60 to 70+ frames of 16 sheets each and members are invited to submit displays of 1, 2 or even 3 frames. The criteria, and a very refreshing one too, is for related material that is "interesting" with no bar to the inclusion of maps, postcards etc. which enhance the interest of the display. The first sheet should introduce the display with an explanatory background, how it is organised and any particular sheets of particular interest.

To help with the cost of such a venture a contribution of 10p/£? per frame will be levied, this I am sure will be no deterrent to our members. I have submitted two exhibits of 32 sheets, some of which will include Egyptian material. If you wish to join me in upholding the honour of the E.S.C. please contact me for a copy of an application form, which should be returned by the end of July.

Alternately contact Bill Robertson, 24 Buckstone Grove, Edinburgh EH10 6PF.
01 31 445 1405. bill@edit515.demon.co.uk

Definitely a weekend to note in our diaries.

OBITUARY. Henry Michael Barker ESC 290. 1923 - 1999

Charlie Hass (ESC 181)

With the sudden passing of Michael Barker (ESC 290) on 10th April, 1999 at the age of 76, Egyptian Philately lost a keen devotee, and the Egyptian People have been deprived of a true friend.

Most Circle members are probably not aware that Michael's philatelic interests were only a small aspect of his deep connection to Egypt and its people. His very roots were in Alexandria, the city of his birth, and Egypt was in his blood. In 1850, Michael's great grandfather, Henry Barker, had moved the family's Barker and Company shipping and transportation business from Smyrna, re-establishing it in Alexandria, where it flourished for over a century. Michael's grandfather, Sir Henry Barker, was Head of the British Community in Alexandria, and both of the Henrys Barker served as Consuls General of Norway and Sweden in Egypt.

As a boy, Michael was sent to England for his education, spending his holidays in Alexandria (he could recall making the trip via Imperial Airways flying boat!). Upon completion of his schooling, and following his World War II service in Europe, he returned permanently to Egypt, joining his father at Barker and Company. The Suez Crisis in 1956 resulted in the confiscation of the Barker family's business and all of their assets, and Michael was forced to leave Egypt for England. Although he was required to build a new life in London for himself and his family — and was highly successful in that endeavour — he never lost his enthusiasm for Egypt and all things Egyptian.

Despite the negative experiences of his expulsion from Egypt, Michael was not a bitter man, and he continued to be deeply involved in various charitable causes to benefit the Egyptian People. At the time of his death he was President of the Alexandria School Trust. Michael was a lifelong — from the age of six — collector of Egyptian stamps, but his very active life deterred him from joining the ESC until 1983, at which point his passion for some of the more esoteric aspects of Egyptian Philately began to increase by leaps and bounds. Generally speaking, he wasn't a "postal history kind of guy", but he had a great fondness for the *stamps*, especially for the numerous errors and varieties. Knowing full well the degree of fakery omnipresent among such things, he took great pains to ensure that every item in his collection was *absolutely* authentic.

I knew him for over twenty years, and none of my fairly frequent trips to London was complete without dinner at the home of Michael and Marianne. On each such occasion, in anticipation of my arrival, Michael would "organise for Charlie", and I would be presented with his various albums, each bristling with protruding slips of paper marking the location of the items from his latest round of acquisitions. He was always keen to learn more about his stamps, and highly appreciative of any advice he received.

Sadly, only recently had Michael begun to feel confident enough in his knowledge to begin to share it with his fellow ESC members. He made *important* contributions to the study of the audio cassette postal stationery envelopes (*Q.C. N° 186*) and, at the time of his death, was working on an article about one of his other "favourites", the "Royal Cancelled"-back proofs. In recent years, none of my weeks was ever considered complete without a transatlantic call from Michael, who would ring up to discuss this or that aspect of Egyptian philately. Ever convivial and eager to listen, he was a fine philatelist and a faithful friend who truly personified the term "*gentleman*" I shall miss him dearly.

New Members.

- ESC 520 D. Wessex
P.O. Box 1000
Alexandria
Egypt
- ESC 521 J.P. Wynns
P.O. Box 1995
Dayton NV. 89403-1995
USA
- ESC 522 P. Nicolas
8, Impasse Moulaille
06400 Cannes
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- ESC 523 J.M. Freeman
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- ESC 524 Wallace A. Graig
P.O. Box 3391
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- ESC 525 L. Said
199, Chislehurst Road
Petts Wood
Orpington
Kent BR5 1NP
- ESC 526 M.M. Mously
Arab League
Tahrir
Cairo
Egypt

Change of Address.

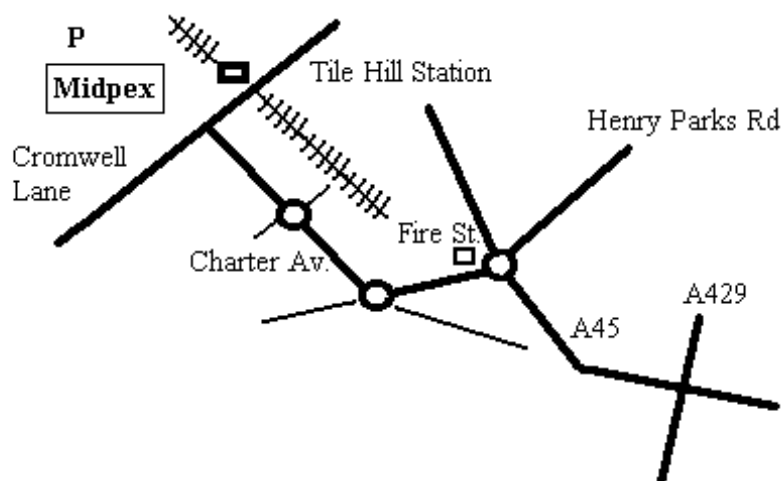
- ESC 264 L.S. Toutounji
P.O. Box.
Al-Orman
Giza 12612
Egypt
- ESC 206 Dr. J.C.H. Steele Jr.
15 Holly Circle
North Augusta
SC 29360
USA

<u>Change of Address.</u>	ESC 478	Norayr Agopian P.O. Box 54182 Limassol Cyprus
	ESC 480	D. Ogden 6, Herga Road Weldstone Harrow Middlesex HA3 5AS
<u>Rejoined</u>	ESC 342	R.R. Notman
<u>Resigned</u>	ESC 460	R. West
<u>Lapsed</u>	ESC 141	Mrs. N. Schaefer (thro' illness)
<u>Deceased</u>	ESC 202	J.F. Cousins
	ESC 290	H.M. Barker

Midpex Saturday 3rd. July.

Following last years successful display the ESC will again be present at the Midpex show. Several of our members will be displaying some of their material

Situated at Coventry Hill Hotel, Tile Hill, on the out skirts of Coventry. The venue is close to Tile Hill railway station and just off the A45. So for our members in the far flung north, beyond that northern outpost of Watford, where the trek down to London is a trip too far, this is the opportunity to met and greet.



EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (*GENERAL ACCOUNT*)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER 1998

Income	1997	1998	
Subscriptions	2.286.50	2.346.12	
Expertisation	16.00	26.10	
Library account		12.40	
Auction account		1.250.00	
Bank deposit interest received (net)	91.49	113.74	
Sales of ties 3 (1997 20)	129.30	20.50	
Donations		40.00	
Advertisements.	<u>115.00</u>	<u>175.00</u>	
		2,638.29	3,98.86
 Expenditure			
In memoriam J Revel		25.00	
Library account	105.59	283.00	
Meeting room hire	188.15	1.869.36	
Cost of quarterly circular	1.268.40		
Affiliation fee B.P.S.	40.20	42.00	
Printing of programmes	60.00	70.00	
New issues - album leaves	15.53		
Insurance	18.65	18.65	
Cost of ties sold 3 (1997 20)	75.72	11.40	
MIDPEX 1998	30.00	15.00	
Retiring officers' function	733.51		
Secretary's/Treasurer's stat. & tel.	126.90	106.46	
Chairman's postage etc	141.10	127.53	
Depreciation of photocopier (15%)	<u>45.00</u>	<u>45.00</u>	
		2.848.75	2.613.45
(Deficit)/Surplus of income over expenditure for the year		(310.46)	1,370.41
Surplus at 1 st . January 1998		7,924.79	7,714.33
Surplus at 31st. December 1998		£7,714.33	£9,0884.74

BALANCE SHEET (*GENERAL ACCOUNT*)
AS AT 31 ST DECEMBER 1998

Assets	1997	1998	
Photocopier at cost less depreciation	75.00	30.00	
Stamp collection at catalogue valuation	2,535.70	2,535.70	
Circle library and records			
MIDPEX 1998 (prepaid)		25.00	
Stock of ties 65 (1997 68) at cost	258.40	247.00	
Due from library account	60.00	60.00	
1999 Programmes (prepaid)	70.00	124.98	
Cash at bank: Current account	1,301.40	2,999.54	
Deposit account	3,985.12	4,098.86	
Cash in Hand	<u>7.30</u>	<u>12.34</u>	
		8,293.01	10,133.42
Liabilities			
Members subscriptions 1999/00	578.68	248.68	
Cost of remaining quarterly circulars		800.00	
		578.68	1,048.68
		£7,714.33	£9,084.74
Representing Accumulated surplus		£7,714.33	£9,084.74

I have prepared the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet on pages 1 and 2, from the records and explanations provided to me, and confirm that they are in accordance therewith.

S.W. Bunce ESC 272

Chartered Accountant
8th. February 1999

The Egyptian No Value Stamp.

Robin Bertram ESC 137

Early in 1889 the Egyptian Postal Administration in Alexandria decided that it needed some form of postage stamp for the prepayment of 'official letters'; never having had one before.

On 5th February 1889 Sir Y. SABA Pasha, the then Director General of Posts, wrote to De La Rue in England stating his department's intention (De La Rue had had the contract to print postage stamps for Egypt since 1878) to issue 'special stamps' for the prepayment of the postage of official letters. The letter went on - "These stamps would be of the same colour and would have the same border as the postage stamps of the same duties at present in use, but in the centre instead of the Sphinx and Pyramid they would bear the inscription 'Service de l'Etat', in French and in Arabic, according to the enclosed specimen. They would comprise the same duties as the stamps at present in use, except the 1 millieme, which is useless". Egypt having at that time postage stamps of the following values:- 1, 2 & 5 millieme; 1, 2, 5 & 10 piastres.

De La Rue replied to the above letter some 10 days later giving costing quotes together with designs for six duties (these appear not to have survived). They promised delivery in about five months.

On March 2nd the Egyptian Director of Posts wrote back saying "...that after receiving the designs they had considered the question, and my Office is disposed to adopt but one stamp without any duty and with the simple inscription 'Postes Egyptiennes' and 'Service de l'Etat' in French and Arabic. This stamp should be in a different colour from the stamps in use".

On 14th March De La Rue sent three proposed designs to Egypt. Two of them were upright in design Fig 1, the third, design being a mock-up made from the ordinary 5pi. stamp then in use, with the centre replaced by Arabic and French inscriptions and the side panels replaced by columns of eight small stars. This third design was accepted by Egypt. As an economical alternative De La Rue also suggested overprinting the ordinary stamps and submitted a sample, using the 2mills. stamp. A set of essays exist (one of each value) of the ordinary stamp with the centre removed and hand-painted in with SERVICE DE L'ETAT in French and Arabic. The Arabic word in the central vignette is actually an adjective of Turkish origin and allied to the word Amir meaning Prince. It is pronounced "Meer'y" Fig 2.



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3

Further correspondence took place and a stamp Fig 3 in chestnut brown colour was finally produced. The stamp was produced in an identical manner by De La Rue to the then current Egyptian postage stamps. Printed by typography on paper watermarked with the 'star over a crescent' watermark. Examples are known with the watermark inverted (scarce). The stamps were produced in sheets of 240 made up of 4 panes of 60 (6 vert. x 10 horiz.) and perforated 14 horiz. x approx 13.75 vert, (Stanley Gibbons quote the stamp as SG01 perf. 14 all round). A perforation variety, misalignment, exists whereby the row of horizontal perforations in the last vertical row of stamps on the right is 1mm. lower than the line of the rest of the horizontal perforations in the pane. Sheet plate control numbers 1, 2 & 3 are known. On 8th July

1892 a supply of 2,654,400 stamps was invoiced. The stamps were issued to the public on 1st January 1893. The usual die proofs in black on glazed card Fig 4 are known marked either BEFORE or AFTER HARDENING, and BEFORE or AFTER STRIKING, with the relevant date on which the die proof was made. Imperforate watermarked proofs of the issued stamp were also produced.



Fig 4

It had been decided by the Egyptian Authorities that from 1st January 1893 Government correspondence addressed to places in Egypt was to be franked with the new 'no value' stamp. One stamp would frank any single item of Government correspondence, irrespective of size or weight and whether registered (Fig 5) or otherwise (Fig 6). There were certain exceptions, e.g. - unregistered correspondence of Ministers, Councillors and Under- Secretaries of State needed no stamp provided the sender's signature or office stamp appeared in the lower left corner of the envelope. Official journals and Government printed matter required neither stamp or signature. Government correspondence addressed to places abroad required franking with ordinary postage stamps in exactly the same way as the correspondence dispatched by the general public; therefore the 'no value' could not be used on mail addressed to foreign countries. This stamp has been seen on a cover from The Sudan.

In 1906 (possibly for financial reasons?) the Egyptian Authorities requested De La Rue to overprint some of the current postage stamps (1 millieme, 2, 3, & 5milliemes and 1 & 5 piastres values) - O.H.H.S. - (On His Highness's Service) with the Arabic "Meer'y" beneath. These stamps were to be used on Government mail. An order was issued on 29th January 1907 to the effect that 'Administrations' must frank their correspondence with the new stamps under similar conditions to those in force for the public.

In consequence of the above, on 1st February 1907 the use of the 'no value' stamp ceased.

However on 1st January 1909 (approx. 2 years later), for no apparent reason, the 'no value' stamp was re-introduced by an order dated 17th. December 1908. The printing was now on chalk surfaced paper.

In 1914 new plates were prepared; the stamps being produced in sheets of 2 panes of 100 (10 x 10) with the star and crescent watermark SIDEWAYS; the star to the left of the crescent when viewed from the front. Control (plate) numbers 1 and 2 have been seen. The watermark can also be found reversed. The reason for the watermark appearing sideways is because the then current postage stamps (the 1914 issue - printed by De La Rue) were printed in vertical format whereas the 'no value' stamp is of horizontal format and the paper had to be inserted sideways. This also dictated the new size of the sheets. For the actual printing, plates of 200 were joined together so as to produce sheets of 600, the panes being



Fig 5.

Official registered letter from Minia 20/7/1895



Fig 6.

30/9/1902 Cairo local letter from the Rodah Audit Office.

arranged 3 x 2. As with the 1893 issue, dated die proofs on black glazed card exist, marked BEFORE or AFTER STRIKING (Fig 7). Imperforate watermarked proofs in the issued colour were also printed. These proofs can be found with the watermark as issued, or reversed (star on the right of the crescent when viewed from the front).



Fig 7

From 1st January 1909 the existing regulations were modified as follows:- one 'no value' stamp was required for each item of inland unregistered government correspondence Fig 8. Insured letters, and all parcels (previously paid for in cash) were to be franked with official (O.H.H.S.) stamps of the 1907 issue, to the amount of the charges. Inland registered letters each required one 'no value' stamp for the postage and official (O.H.H.S.) stamp/stamps in respect of the registration fee Fig 9/10. Ordinary and registered correspondence addressed to places abroad were to be wholly franked with the official (O.H.H.S.) stamps.



Fig 8



Fig 9

Alexandria 4/6/1910 Registered Letter to Cairo.

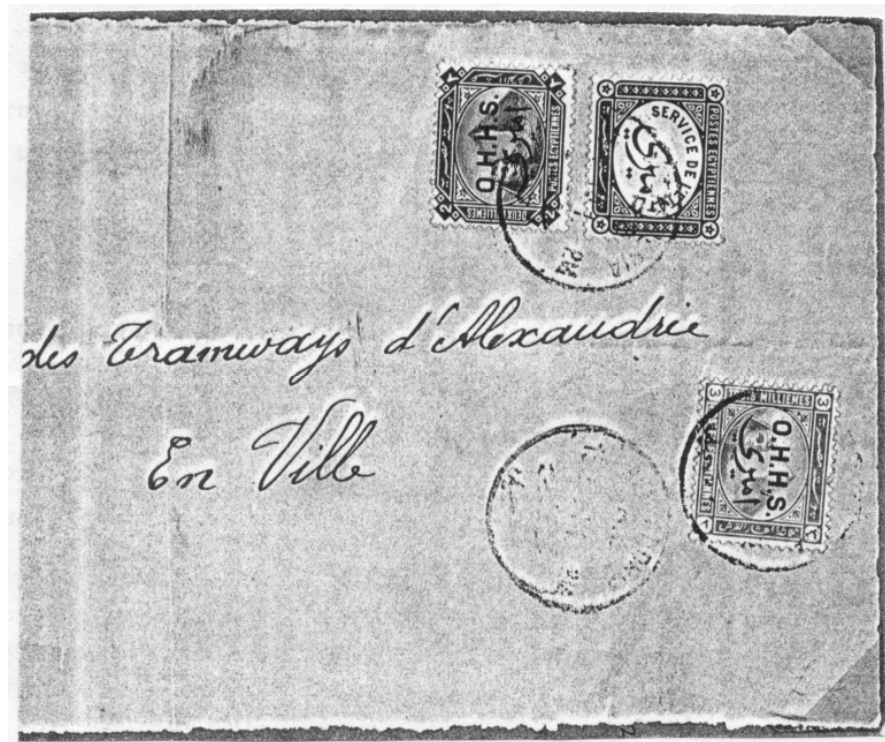


Fig 10.

Alexandria 15/1/1914. Part of a Large Official Registered Local Letter.

By a Post Office instruction dated 22nd February 1912 these stamps were made available to the public at Cairo and Alexandria Post Offices for 'collection purposes' at 1 piastre each. The same instruction provided for the cancellation of the stamps before their sale. On 10th August 1914 their sale was stopped and stocks returned to Postal Headquarters.

The use of the 'no value' stamp was finally withdrawn from service on 2nd September 1914 when its use was replaced by using a steel stamp, indicating the relevant Government department, to frank the mail (however it has been seen on an official letter dated as late as 7th June 1916).

The remaining stock of 'no value' stamps were overprinted in Egypt with four values (see Fig 11) and used for revenue purposes. The size of the overprint setting is unknown, as are blocks of more than four stamps.



Fig 11.

One error has been noted with this 'revenue' issue - the incorrect use of the of the Arabic letter 'wau' on the 3 piastres overprint. A final 'wau' rather than an independent 'wau' in the middle of the Arabic overprint. The error occurs in one of the stamps in the bottom row of the setting. Figs 11/12 show examples of these stamps, the normal Government tax at that time being 3 piastres, used on documents. Prof. Peter Smith has reported one of these fiscally surcharged stamps used on a letter to pay the letter rate, notwithstanding the expressed face value.



Initial Final wau.

Acknowledgements: -

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| John Easton | - <i>The De La Rue History of British & Foreign Postage Stamps</i> , 1958 |
| Peter R. Feltus | - <i>Catalogue of Egyptian Revenue Stamps</i> , 1982 |
| Douglas McNeille | - <i>L'Orient Philatelique</i> , May 1939 No.41 Vol. III, Pages 483 et sec. |
| P.R. Bertram | - <i>The London Philatelist</i> Vol. 107 Number 1259 |
| P.A.S. Smith | - <i>Egypt, Stamps & Postal History - A Philatelic Treatise</i> . |

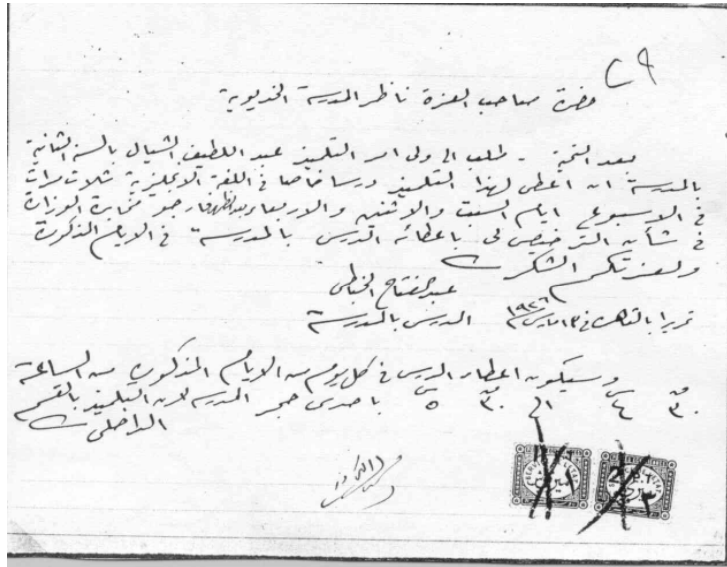


Fig 12

Cairo 1926. An application for permission to give English lessons to a pupil.

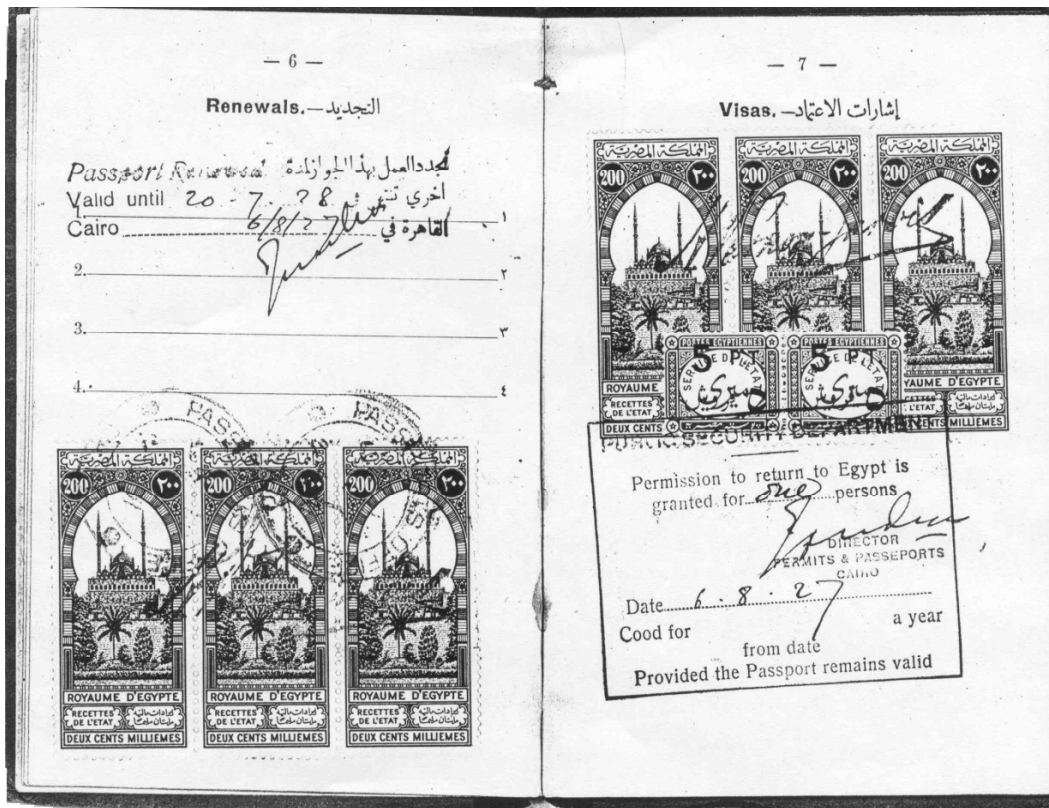


Fig 13.

A page from an Egyptian passport showing the use of official stamps overprinted 5 Piastres to pay the government tax on 6/8/1927

United States Naval Vessels in Egyptian Ports, see Q187/1.

Peter A. S. Smith ESC 74

Stanley Horesh's Query (187/1) has moved me to write a few notes on the subject. US Navy ships have visited Egypt on many occasions, the earliest of which that I know of was in 1882, at the time of the riots in Alexandria. At that date there were no special postal facilities on board, and I know of no postal markings associated with mail from Egypt. Mail was apparently handled through the local United States Consulate.

In 1908 the United States Congress authorised the establishment of post offices on board naval vessels, and they began functioning before the year was out. The postmarks consisted of a fixed duplex device, a circle having the name of the ship at the top, and four bars extending to the right, intended for the actual cancellation of the stamps. The bars are referred to as killer bars. Later types had U.S.S. at the top, and the name at the bottom.

Theodore Roosevelt sent the United States Fleet, popularly known as the Great White Fleet, on a cruise around the world, in the return from which it passed through the Suez Canal in 1909. Many sailors sent postcards, which can be recognised from the message or the picture. The early types had four narrowly spaced killer bars Fig. 1, and identification with Egypt can only be inferred from the message or the subject pictured. By 1915, if not before, the bars had wider spacing, and the Navy mail clerks commonly (but not always) made use of this space to insert the name of the port the ship was visiting. Thus we have 'ALEXANDRIA / EGYPT' among many others. The earliest of these I have seen for Egypt is dated December 1915; ships of the Navy were sent to Egypt in March, 1915, to look after the welfare of US citizens in Egypt, when Turkish forces were threatening to cross the Suez Canal. I also have many covers in the 1920's Fig. 2. The latter may have been associated with the operation known as US Naval Detachment in Turkish Waters, which patrolled all over the Eastern Mediterranean, even down to Palestine, and were engaged in keeping order, dealing with refugees, and national interests in general, including those of United States citizens, including many missionaries, in the tumultuous years following the armistice with Turkey [see P. A. S. Smith, *Collectors Club Philatelist*, 76 (2), 97-101 (1997)1.

The names of the ships identify the class of vessel. Battleships are named after States (e.g., Tennessee, Missouri), cruisers after large cities (e.g. Detroit, Memphis), and destroyers after prominent naval personages (e.g. Case, Bulmer).

The value of the covers varies roughly from about \$5 to \$10 up to \$50 or more, depending on the age (pre-World War I, especially from 1908 and 1909, are the most sought after, but even from those years many postcards can be had for \$15-\$25, covers a bit more) and condition of the strike.

Norman Clowes ESC 349 has also sent in information from the Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships Vol. VIII which is reproduced on the a following page headed USS Tennessee. See p42

David Brigden ESC 508 also responded to this query with help from Alan Randall Jones who is both a member of David's local society and the Universal Ship Cancellation Society. See p43.

Many thanks for the responses, Ed.

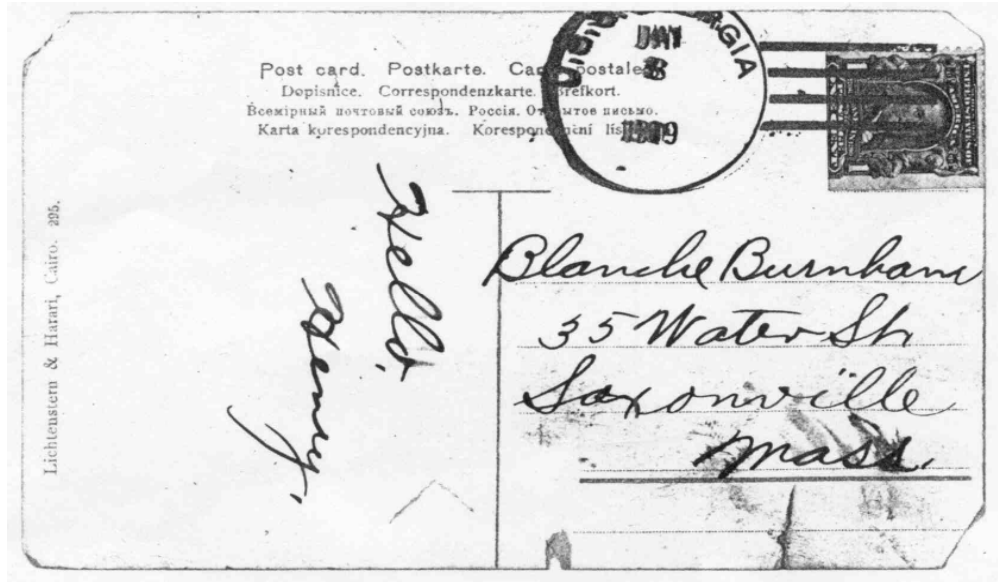


Fig.1. Two postcards showing the first type of naval cancellation. Note the message on one (I do not believe that Egyptian stamps were acceptable at the ship post office). Both postcards show Egyptian scenes; that on the U.S.S. Georgia card is of the wreck of the SS Chatham in the Suez Canal.

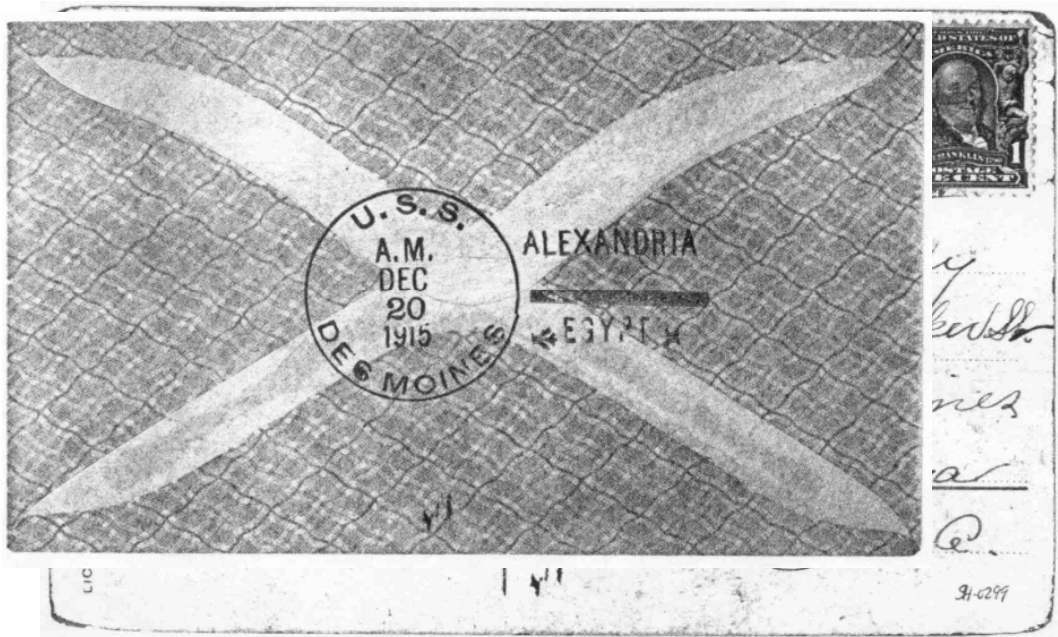


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Fig.2. A double-weight cover showing the second type, with wider spacing and port name between the bars (the postal rates were always the same as US internal rates); also a strike of a different type (single killer bar).

USS Tennessee.

The fourth Tennessee (Armoured Cruiser No.10) was laid down by the Cramp Shipbuilding Co., Philadelphia, Pa., on 20th. June 1903; launched on 3rd. December 1904; sponsored by Miss Annic K. Frazier, daughter of Governor James B. Frazier of Tennessee and subsequently the founders of the Society of Sponsors of the United States Navy; and commissioned at the Philadelphia Navy Yard on 17 July 1906, Capt. Albert O. Berry in command.

The new armoured cruiser departed Hampton Roads, Va., on 8th. November 1906 as escort for Louisiana (Battleship No.19) in which President Theodore Roosevelt had embarked for a cruise to Panama to check on the progress of work constructing the Panama Canal. After a brief visit to Puerto Rico on the return voyage, the warships arrived back at Hampton Roads on 26 November. Tennessee was present for the Jamestown Exposition held from 7th. to 11th. June 1907 to commemorate the tercentennial of the founding of the first English settlement in America.

On 14th. June, Tennessee sailed for Europe and reached Royan, France, on the 23rd for duty with the Special Service Squadron. She returned home in August but departed Hampton Roads on 12th. October for the Pacific.

Tennessee then patrolled off the California coast until 24th. August 1908 when she sailed for Samoa, arriving at Pago Pago on 23 September to resume service with the Pacific Fleet. On 15th. May 1910, she arrived at Bahia Blanca to represent the United States at the centenary celebration of the independence of Argentina. On 8th. November, the armoured cruiser departed Portsmouth, N.H., and proceeded to Charleston, S.C., to embark President William Howard Taft for a round- trip voyage to Panama to inspect progress on the transisthmus canal which was then being constructed. She returned to Hampton Roads on 22nd. November and then engaged in battle practice off the Virginia coast into February 1911. Following a Mardi Gras visit to New Orleans and a visit to New York early in March, the ship steamed to Cuban waters for two months of operations out of Guantanamo Bay.

Placed in reserve at the Portsmouth (N.H.) Navy Yard on 15th. June 1911, she remained on the east coast for a year and one-half before departing Philadelphia on 12th. November 1912 for the Mediterranean. Arriving off Smyrna (now Izmir), Turkey, on 1st. December, she remained there protecting American citizens and property during the First Balkan War until 3 May 1913 when she headed home. After reaching Hampton Roads on the 23rd, Tennessee operated on the cast coast until entering the Atlantic Reserve Fleet at Philadelphia on 23rd. October. On 2nd. May 1914, she became receiving ship at the New York Navy Yard.

On 6th. August, Tennessee sailed from New York for duty in Europe through the first half of 1915 supporting the American Relief Expedition. In August, she transported the 1st Regiment, Marine Expeditionary Force, and the Marine Artillery Battalion to Haiti. Prom 28th. January to 24th. February 1916, the cruiser served as flagship of a cruiser squadron off Port-au- Prince, Haiti. In March, she embarked a group of dignitaries at Hampton Roads for a two-month, round- trip cruise to Montevideo, Uruguay.

On 25th. May, Tennessee was renamed Memphis, honouring a city of Tennessee, so that the name Tennessee could be reassigned to a new warship, Battleship No. 43. In July, the ship got underway for Central America, arriving at San Domingo on 23rd. July for peace-keeping patrol off the rebellion-torn Dominican Republic. On the afternoon of 29th. August, while at anchor in the harbour of San Domingo, Memphis was driven ashore by an unexpected tidal wave and totally wrecked. The Casualties, including a boatload of Memphis sailors returning from shore leave, numbered some 40 men dead or missing and 204 badly injured.

Memphis was struck from the Navy list on 17th. December 1917 and sold to A. H. Radetsky Iron and Metal Co., Denver, Colo., on 17th. January 1922 for scrapping.

French Rates from Egypt, 1871-5

Peter Smith ESC 74

Recently I was shown two covers by Samir Fikry, one from Egypt to London, the other to Switzerland, both franked at the rate of 60c/10g. Such a rate is not mentioned in the table on page 113 of the recently published book on Egypt. A survey of auction catalogues of the past 50 years, and casual inquiries of other collectors, reveals without exception that such a rate applied to letters to Britain, Switzerland, Italy, and even Denmark; presumably other European destinations would be included, but I have no evidence for it. The earliest instance I have seen is dated 1871 (day and year not legible), and the latest up to the end of 1875. The franking is usually 2x30c. Ceres, but sometimes 4x15c. or 20c. + 40c. During this period, the rate to France itself by French packet was 80c., as recorded in the table. Double weight covers could be confusing, for the rate is then 1.20c, which is the same as the single-weight rate to France for conveyance by British Packet via Brindisi and Mont Cenis, of which I was informed by Peter Grech. However, such covers would be endorsed "Via Brindisi", and would have the date stamp that reads PAQ.ANG/ALEXANDRIE (Fig. 10 in the book) instead of the usual one that reads ALEXANDRIE/EGYPTE.

I must point out a typographical error in the table referred to above. The entry for 1 JA 71 should be 1.20fr, not 1.30fr as printed. I am abashed!

More on The USS Tennessee.

(A. L. Jones via D. Brigden ESC 508)

The postmark is a "Locy classification" type, T-3(AC), [the "Locy classification" was devised by Lt Cdr Frances Locy (Medical Corps) in the 1920's & enables any type of US Navy postmark to be identified by written description only].

The Type 3 postmark is a unique cancel, only used by the Navy & never issued to civilian post offices. It was made in hard rubber with 3 "Killerbars". The unique feature was that in addition to movable date & time slugs, they also had slots between the bars & these could be used to convey simple messages by means of loose type letters that were supplied with the canceller.

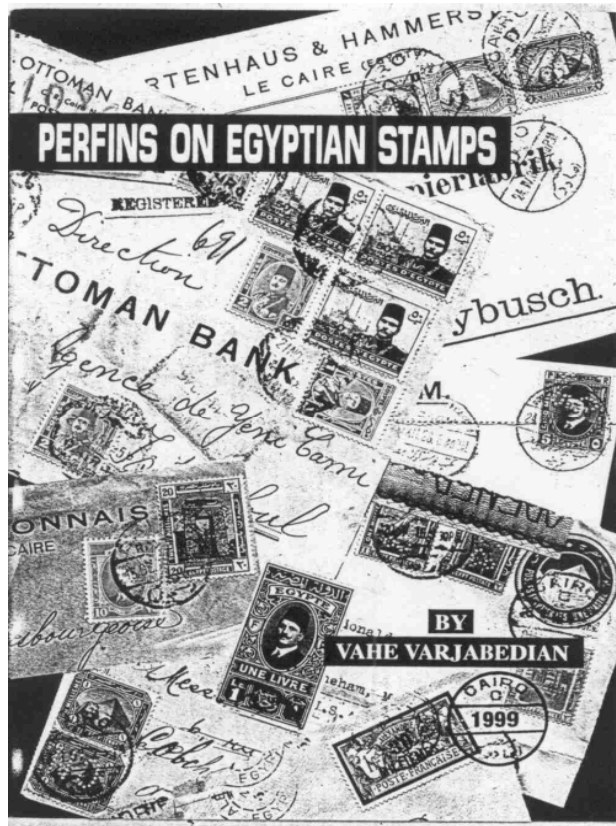
The cancellers were first issued to ships in December 1912 & continued in use until the early days of World War 2. For many years the wording between the bars was used to give an indication of the ship's location. Short patriotic & other slogans were also used.

In Stanley's example, the USS Tennessee had not yet joined the "Grand Fleet" but had apparently called into Alexandria for "Bunkers" (taking on supplies of coal, fresh water & possibly fresh fruit etc). This is indicated by the wording between the "Killer bars", "ALEXANDRIA EGYPT".

(Ed. The reason for being in Egypt differs slightly from Peter's. Alan also suggests the Tennessee is a battleship of the BX class, however very kindly supplied a print out from the web site www.usselem.org/navhist/ so I checked with this and it states the cruiser Tennessee did not change its name until 25th. May 1917 so I am plumbing for it being the cruiser. The site is well worth a visit)

Book Review - Perfins on Egyptian Stamps by Vahe Varjabedian ESC 390.

Robin Bertram ESC 137



It is some time since the area of 'PERFINS' has been seriously studied. This subject was first looked at by an earlier member, Dr. Winter (deceased) some 29years ago.

This booklet (17cm x 24cm) is printed on good quality paper and the front cover is in colour. Each perfin is allocated a whole page and where possible an example is shown used on cover/card. Details (where known) are given of the Company/Bank which the perfin represents; first/ last years of use; measurements of the perfin; known stamps (by S.G. number) perfined and finally a scarcity rating.

It is good to have a contribution from one of our Egyptian members and Vahe is to be congratulated on his effort.

Members In England wishing to acquire a copy can obtain a booklet from myself at a cost of £8 by attending one of our ESC meetings. Members in the USA/Canada can, I understand, obtain a copy from our Agent Charlie Hass. Other members can of course obtain a booklet direct from the Author

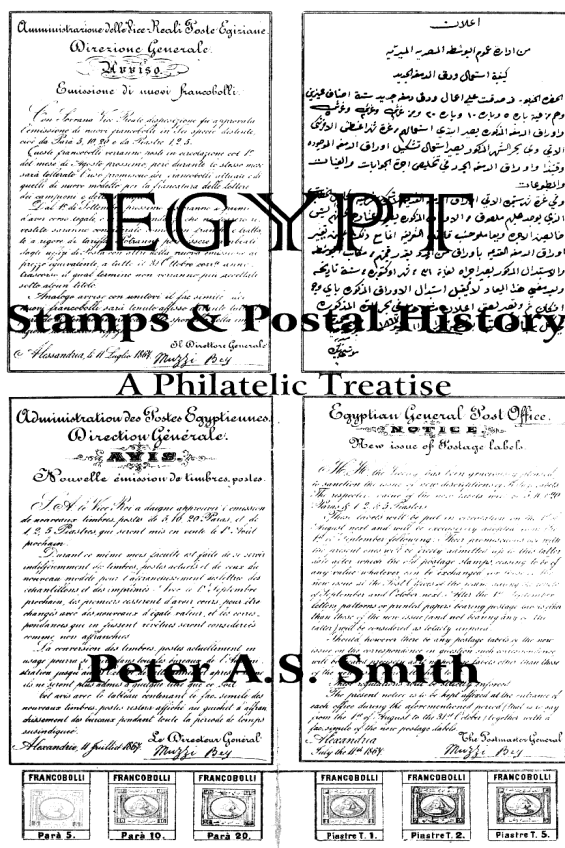
Vahe VARJABEDIAN at 6 Mohammed Galal Street, Heliopolis, Cairo, 11341, Egypt

The Book.

Ed. Hall ESC 239

I doubt if any of our members are unaware that Peter Smith's book is at last with us, and what a monumental tome it is, but just in case a few may be still in ignorance I have included this small editorial summery. Let me hasten to add this is not a review. I have of course as editor approached several of our members for such, but all have declined feeling it a bit beyond them. The obvious choice for such a work would have course been Peter himself, but I fear he would dwell a little too much on those little "mistakes" that inevitable will appear in such a large scale work and not enough on the good things to be found within. On my many delvings into it I did notice an error in one of the postmark drawings, but as its one I think I supplied Peter with, I shall pass quickly on.

When I joined the Circle some 20 plus years ago there was still much talk of "The Book", the book as proposed by Byam was one of the principle aims of the society, on the philately of Egypt. Even on the application form for membership one had to declare one's endeavour to carry put or assist in carrying out a study of some aspect of Egyptian Philately. This was all to be fodder for "The Book". The eventual appearance of this was stilled talked about, up to quite recently, long after its obvious non realisation as a circle project was evident.



Peter had come to the obvious conclusion some ten years ago and that it was to do something about it. After retirement in 1991 he took on the challenge and with help from many of our members past and present "The Book" is at last amongst us.

The hard backed book is 874 pages printed on quality paper and titled — **EGYPT, Stamps & Postal History, A Philatelic Treatise**. Peter has naturally drawn heavily on the LOP and QC and gathered and marshalled the various articles and random notes into coherent chapters. However there is much that is new and previously unpublished with chapters like the one on Postal Stationery now becoming the obvious place of reference for this subject.

Peter in his preface acknowledges that Egyptian philately to be among the richest of the world's countries and no book can cover every aspect in minute detail, so while some chapters are all and everything some are more an introductory to the subject covered. The section on military mail is typical of this more sparse approach but Peter has chosen wisely using it where there is much available published works. There are many references to these and other literature at the end of each chapter. The main chapters are as below:-

Some Past Collectors of Egypt	Official Stamps and Services
The Posts to 1798	Postage Due Stamps and Practices
The Napoleonic Post	Air Mail Stamps and Services
The State Courier Post of Mohammed Ali	Express Stamps and Services
The Posta Europea and the Pre-stamp	Postal Markings and Cancellations
Government Post	Hotel and Proprietary Post Offices Preface
Private Carriers and Forwarding Agents	Postal Rates
The Creek Post Office	Consular and Territorial Offices
The Austrian Post Offices	Military Mail
The British Post Offices	Maritime Mail
The Italian Post Office	Postal Stationery
The French Post Offices	Interpostal Seals
The Russian Post Offices	The Suez Canal Company Postal Service
The First Issue	Stamps for the British Forces
The Second Issue	Travelling Post Offices and Rural Service
The Third Issue	Meters and Mechanical Franking
The Fourth Issue	Postal Paper
The 1914 and 1920-22 Pictorials	Disinfecting and Censorship including P.O.W. and Internees' Mail
The 1922-23 Crown Overprints	Unissued Stamps: Phantoms and Fantasies
The First Portrait Issue	Diplomatic Franking and Pouch Mail
The Second Portrait Issue	Stamps with Perforated Initials
Commemorative Issues of the Monarchy	Sinai
The King Farouk Definitives	Palestine: Egyptian Administration
Issues after Abdication	

In addition there are some Appendices, 1 Arab Letters and Numerals, 2 Glossary of Arabic Words, 3 Arabic Spelling of Place Names 4, Currency Equivalentents, 5 Scarcity and Value of Covers, 6 Topics Not Covered Elsewhere in this Book. A Glossary of journal Titles and The Philatelic Literature of Egypt. There is also a small index.

The chapter on 'Some Past Collectors of Egypt' makes particularly interesting reading, bringing to life some of our past members who are mere names to most of the present members. I was again particularly pleased to see Jim Benians name amongst them as he gave me much encouraged and help. The chapter on 'Postal Rates' is another that will be of invaluable help in times to come.

Peter is to be highly congratulated on his effort and for the inestimable help he has given the rest of us.