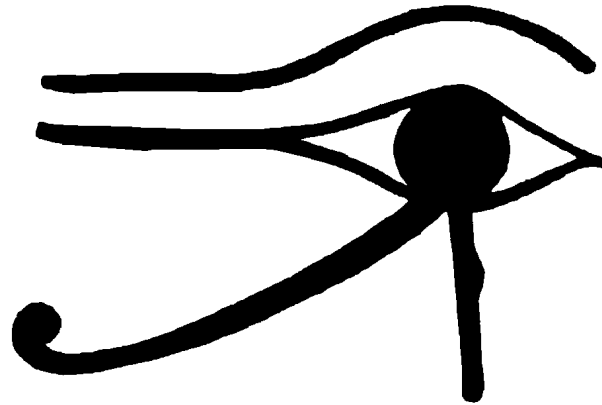


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of**



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EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE OFFICERS

- President: Mr. J. Sears. FRPSL
496 Uxbridge Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4SL.
- Chairman: Mr. P.R.Bertram. FRPSL
11 Bishop's Way, Buckden, St.Neots, Cambs PE19 5TZ.
- Deputy Chairman: Mr. J.S. Horesh, U.K.
- Secretary/Treasurer: Mr. G.A. Jeyes
4 Ravine Court, Meriden Close, Canford Cliffs, Poole,
Dorset BH13 7JU
- Editor: Mr. E.Hall
6 Bedford Ave., Little Chalfont, Amersham, Bucks HP6 6PT
edmund.hall@virgin.net
- Librarian: Mr. D.J. Davis
Church View Cottage, Church Road, Upton Snodsbury,
Worcestershire WR7 4NH
- U.S.A. Agent: Mr. C.F. Hass
P.O. Box 3435, Nashua, NH 03061-3435, U.S.A.
- Egypt Agent: Prof. N.El-Hadidi
The Herbarium, Faculty of Science, Cairo Univ., Giza, Cairo 12613, Egypt
- Committee: Mr. D.H. Clarke.
- Committee: Mr. J.M. Murphy.

Forthcoming Meetings.

November 18th. Hotels Updated

J.M.Murphy

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 THE 3rd.AGM HELD ON 15 JULY 2000 AT THE VICTORY CLUB.

Present R.Bertram, E.Hall, A.Jeyes, J.Sears.
Apologies D.Clarke, J. Davis, M.Freeman, S.Horesh, K.Pogson, B.Watterson.

Only four members attended the meeting as a result of which only formal business was transacted. The minutes of the 1999 AGM and the Accounts were adopted. All Officers and Committee members were re-elected as no new nominations had been received.

Members requiring a full copy of the Minutes should apply to the Secretary.

REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 JULY.

Present As above plus P.Andrews, M.Bramwell, J.Clarke, C.Defriez, M.Dorman, P.Grech.

Despite a low attendance those present enjoyed two unusual displays.

HELIOPOLIS: - P.L.Grech

A suburb of Cairo, between the city and the international airport. With documents, postcards and covers, Peter (a former Heliopolitan) presented the development of Heliopolis from its foundation by the Belgian Baron Edouard Empain in 1906, until the 1950's. This included the background to famed landmarks such as the Luna Park and Palace Hotel, Mouillard's statue ("the First Aviator"), the Baron's Hindu Palace and the Basilique. The Baron and his son Jean are buried in the crypt of that church, and Peter showed pictures of the interior of the vault, which is not accessible to the public.

The Air Meeting of 1910 was illustrated with photos of contestants, various commemorative postcards and the "HELIOPOLIS AERODROME" handstamp. Also a scarce sepia & brown card of the meeting (drawn by Geo.Dorival), one of six published by Ed. Laurens Cigarettes "Le Khedive".

The first known postmark "HELIOPOLIS / CAIRO" ("Oasis of Ain Shams" in Arabic) was shown for 15 November 1909. This was short-lived as it was replaced by "HELIOPOLIS" in January 1910. Also "HELIOPOLIS BAHARI" postmark of the second post office, near the Mosque. The evolution of postmarks to 1952 was traced. With entertaining asides, such as postcards of the Metro stuck deep in mud following a rainstorm (before flood control in 1934), this was a not-entirely philatelic, but informative study.

Robin Bertram then followed with Cigarette Tax Stamps.

A letter to De La Rue indicated that these were contemplated in 1887 but nothing was done until a Government Decree of December 1893 with the first stamps issued in January 1894. Printer unknown.

Robin showed virtually every stamp issued until 1977 including some complete sheets and many varieties.

Mark Dorman was able to fill in some of the missing items including one or two rare stamps.

Robin show three cigarette boxes showing how the stamps were used. Illustrated covers and seals issued by the cigarette companies were displayed, complemented by items from Cyril Defriez and Alan Jeyes.

Matches are need to light cigarettes so a few sheets of match tax stamps completed the display.

<u>New Members.</u>	ESC 539	P.Harwood 705-241 St. Georges St. North Vancouver BC V7L 4NZ Canada
<u>Change of Address.</u>	ESC 418	V.Bierna Place St. Lambert N. 68,1-3 4000 Liege Belgium
	ESC 501	G.Anagostoulis Mary Morris Residence Flat H 24, Shire Oak Road Hedingley Leeds LS6 2DE
<u>Resigned.</u>	ESC 281 ESC 494	S.A.H.Passenier Y.A.Amr
<u>Deceased.</u>	ESC 71	J.Firebrace
<u>Lapsed.</u>	ESC 197 ESC 399 ESC 471 ESC 492 ESC 516	K.Wolfsbauer M.Dahl A.Z.Habib Y.Nakri S.M.S.Bakry

Editorial

Sorry for the delay of the September QC but we have had printer problems and as I type this the position is still unresolved. I hope however that you receive this before the November meeting on hotels with enough time to search through your material and compare it with the articles. Bring what you can to support or add to what is written here to further the study.

I make no apology though for giving over this and some of the last QC to this one subject as with the wealth of material presented warrants it.

I hope the quality of printing can be maintained, to see what I mean compare the last new issue article to the previous one. To make the illustrations 'readable' I doctor the illustrations by altering the contrast and touch up here and there which has caused some concern, "its not then a true representation". Correct but the alternative, when using only a two colour printing process, would be to publish often a grey blob which would serve no purpose at all. For the last 60 years the postmark study has been based on drawings which follow the same philosophy. Some I might add where the Arabic is totally meaningless.

Book Review.

John Sears ESC 188

The Royal Air Force Cairo - Baghdad Air Mail Service 1921 - 1927. By William C Andrews

The story of the R.A.F. service between Cairo and Baghdad has always been regarded as one of the most romantic episodes in the history of the early Air Mails. Over the years various aspects have been described in philatelic literature and magazines, but now we are lucky enough to find the whole story in one volume.

Bill Andrews tells us why the Service was established, and the difficulties experienced in planning and marking the route. The descriptions of how the emergency landing grounds (some with fuel dumps) were laid out are fascinating. The proving flights are noted, together with tables comparing the times taken to deliver a letter from Baghdad to London by the existing ordinary routes with those travelling by air.

Although the Service was originally conceived as being for Official Mail only, it soon became available to the public. The official announcements are included with details of rates payable in each direction and times of postage, also fine illustrations of early covers. Further PO announcements are shown as the service was extended to carry mail to and from Egypt. The Canadian and U.S. authorities also reported the availability of the service.

A separate chapter deals with the competition offered by the Overland Mail Services (Nairn Brothers & others) which led to a reduction in Air Mail fees. Finally, the transfer of the service to Imperial Airways completes the narrative.

There are appendices devoted to cachets & labels, RAF Squadrons (and the aircraft) involved, postage rates, and reference sources.

To summarise, the 74 (A4 size) pages on good quality paper have more than 50 illustrations of covers, maps, tables and PO regulations. This hard backed volume is a very comprehensive study of the service, important to collectors of Egyptian postal history. It should also find a place in everybody's library of Air Mail reference books.

The price to the public is £30 plus £2.50 postage, but it is offered to Circle members at £24 plus £1.70 postage.

Applications to the Publishers,

British Philatelic Trust
107 Charterhouse Street
London
EC1M 6PT

Errata.

QC 193 June 2000	p140	SG 2084 for 150,00 read 150,000
	p141	SG(MS)2092 for £E1 read £E2

San Stefano Revisited: Remarkable Hotel Discoveries

Mike Murphy ESC 240

It's almost like waiting for one of London's famous double-decker buses: you stand shivering in the rain for 40 minutes without a sight of one - and then two swing round the corner together! Now, hot on the heels, so to speak, of the discovery of Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264, published in *QC XVI*, 5, March 1997, page 117) that a San Stefano Hotel registration cachet had been hiding from us for 85 years, another is reported.

The owner, Dr Hermann Kleinstuck (ESC 225), of Darmstadt, reports that the new example, dated 17 IX 01, some ten years earlier than the original discovery, shows the word RAMLE in a second line of text (the first discovered is struck at the edge, with the lower part of the cachet apparently off the cover), and appears to be larger.

He has kindly allowed me to take colour photographs of the cover, and I am able to confirm that indeed we have here not one but two previously unknown cachets, almost a century after they were used. The discoveries form a fascinating pair ... All the more sad that they should be found as the old hotel on the Alexandria seafront is finally torn down to be replaced by - what? Another concrete and glass office block?



Fig.1

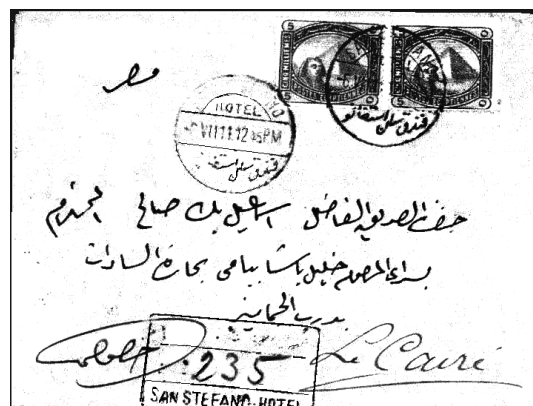


Fig.2

Used from San Stefano Hotel 17 IX 01 (Fig 1: ESC cds Type SS3, recorded 28 IX 99 to 28 V 08). The buff envelope, 140x118mm, is hotel postal stationery, with the two-line HOTEL CASINO SAN STEFANO / RAMLEH printed in small fine blue-black letters at top left. The wording is part-concealed by a selection of what was presumably all the De La Rue stamps available at the time - 10p, 5p, 2p, 1p, 5m, 3m, 2m and 1m for a total franking of 19p 1m, not an easy amount to associate with normal postal rates! The cover is strikingly addressed in purple ink and in French to Monsieur Gaston de Gobart, Engineer, in Blankenberghe, near Ostend, Belgium, and is endorsed *Recommandée* at top left. The addressing leaves just enough room for the registration cachet to be stamped, in black, obliquely at lower left. There are transit marks behind of Alexandria/A, Brussels, Bruges (Station) and finally Blankenberghe on September 26 ... nine days in transit.

The registration cachet, numbered by hand 361 - where are the 360 preceding it? - is clear in the top half, and the bottom half, though faint, allows a reading of SAN STEFANO HOTEL / RAM(LE). The Arabic in the upper half reads clearly *funduq san stefano* (ie, San Stefano Hotel), but before the R for registration is a vertical divider and another word in Arabic, *bi'raml* (ie, in Ramleh). I do not recall a similar vertical divider in another Registration cachet.

The cachet measures 41mm by 24mm, and the English-language lettering is square in form, each letter fractionally under 2mm tall. The R panel is 11.5mm by 17mm, and the triple vertical division is 7.5mm, 9.5mm, 7mm. The space containing the untranslated Arabic word is 6mm wide.

Used from San Stefano Hotel -6 VII 11 (Fig 2: ESC double-ring cds Type SS4, recorded in black, as here, 16 IV 08 to -1 IX 11). The buff envelope, 120x91mm, is not printed, and usage here appears to bear no trace of philatelic embellishment. It is franked with two 5m DLR stamps, one to defray postage from Alexandria-Cairo, the other for registration. The cover is addressed in Arabic with, as was often the case, the words Le Caire added at some stage in a different pen.

The postal clerk has done his best to find a clear space for the registration handstamp, and has almost succeeded, but the length of the address has forced him to the bottom of the envelope, and at first glance it appears that all of the lower edge of the cachet has fallen off the cover. The manuscript mark is 235.

But badly struck though it was, its lower left corner survives in the form of a short curve away to the right, and I am confident that there was no second line of English lettering. Given that assumption, and that the strike is not completely clear, the cachet reads SAN STEFANO HOTEL in a single line. The upper Arabic is not at all clear but there may be sufficient lettering from *funduq* to suggest that this form of the word was much longer than in the example above. Nor, as far as I can see, was there any vertical divider in the Arabic line.

The cachet measures 39mm by 22mm tall, with the English-language lettering notably taller than square, unlike the example above. The letters are 3mm high. The R panel appears to measure 11mm by 15mm, and the triple division is into 7mm, 8mm and 7mm.

After this close examination it is clear that the two cachets are not the same. I congratulate both Lucien Toutounji and Hermann Kleinstuck on their quite staggering discoveries.



Fig. 3

As a footnote to the above, Dr Kleinstuck is able to report another remarkable find in Hotels registration, with a cachet worded CATARACT HOTEL ASSOUAN (ms 41) in association with ESC cds Type HCA1a (in blue) of 1 XI 11. In light of recent research, perhaps this postmark should better be classified as HC1c, as it has a T before the duty whereas 1a does not: It is recorded from 15 XII 09 to -- XII 15.

But the Registration cachet (Fig 3), which is unfortunately not terribly clear, is undoubted. No other has been recorded to my knowledge. Struck in the same blue as the cds, it adorns a 1p Sudanese registered letter envelope (Ascher No 2 of 1908) franked with additional 1p, 4m, 3m, 2m and 1m (ie, total of 3p) to cover postage and registration to Berlin in Germany, where it was readdressed.

The cachet, partly struck over the address, is not entirely regular and appears to be worn, but measures 40mm by 23-24mm, the lower panel containing the wording CATARACT HOTEL ASSOUAN with the letters C of Cataract, H of Hotel and all of Assouan in larger size. The "capital" letters are 3mm high, the "normal" are fractionally under 2mm. The Arabic above is not clear, but the "*fun*" of *funduq* and all of *aswan* are patently there. The R-panel is 11mm by 16.5mm, and the triple division is 7mm, 9.5mm, 6.5mm.

I am also happy to record on behalf of Dr Kleinstuck the following:

1. Luxor Hotel registration cachet (single-line LUXOR HOTEL) of 4 I 05, in association with HW2 cds (postal stationery cover to Germany). Only two others recorded.

2. Luxor Winter Palace registration cachet (single-line LUQSOR in large letters, followed by (WINTER PALACE)). Three covers, dated 8 I 14 (associated with HW2a, and a remarkable printed registration number 284); 13 III 23 (HW4, ms number 839); and 1 MR 35 (HW5, ms number 678). All three show the same type of registration mark, which must thus have been in use for at least 20 years. The Study Circle record includes six Winter Palace registration cachets, ranging in date from March 1923 to March 1933, so Dr Kleinstuck's examples extend the known range in both directions.

FOOTNOTE: No sooner had I finished typing up the notes above than I was made aware of a German auction containing yet another previously unrecorded hotel marking: two hotel stationary covers bearing the Registration cachet of the Savoy Hotel, Aswan, in both cases sent to Germany. I was unable to secure either of these remarkable covers, and appeal to any ESC member who was lucky enough to win them to allow me a sight for proper publication. Here I must confine myself to the black and white illustrations as provided in the auction catalogue.

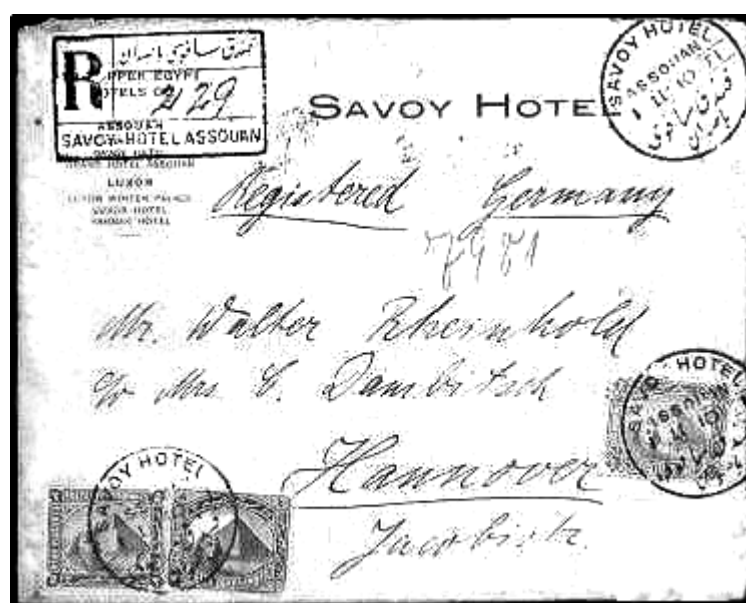


Fig 4

The first example Fig 4 is accompanied by the HSY1 postmark for 1 II 10, and the second (Fig 5), according to the catalogue, has the same cds (and presumably the cachet also) struck in blue. It is dated 15 III 13. The 1910 example is franked 2pi 6m, and the 1913 2pi only. Unfortunately the earlier strike is much the clearer, but is struck right over part of the printed envelope and is not easy to distinguish.

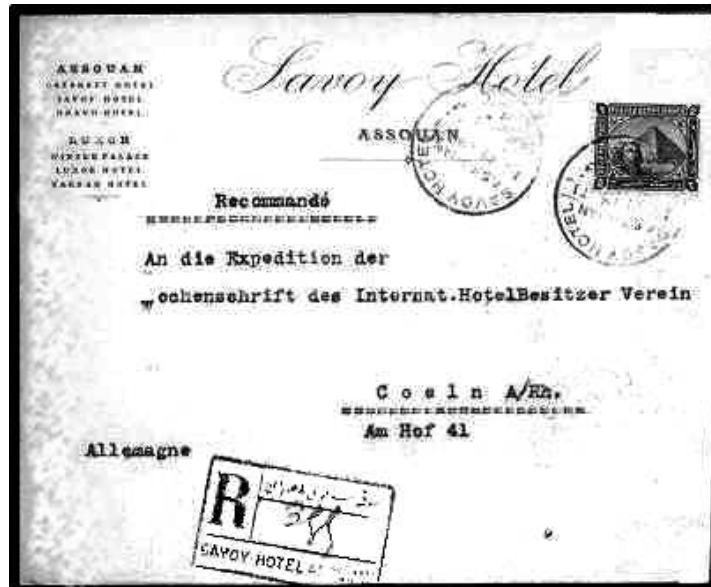
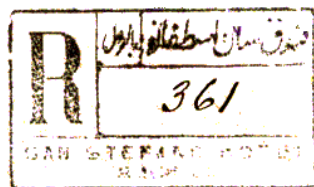


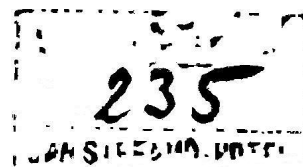
Fig 5

It appears clear, however, that the cachet reads SAVOY HOTEL ASSOUAN in a single line without punctuation, and that the Arabic above is clearly *funduq savoy bi'aswan* (Savoy Hotel in Aswan). The size of the cachet is approx 40mm x 23-24mm, with the R-panel 11mm x 16.8mm. Other measurements cannot be ascertained, but it seems clear, from nicks in the outer border of the cachet above the large R and above the *nd* of *funduq*, that the same cachet was used for both covers.

FURTHER FOOTNOTE. Another recent auction adds to the astonishing run of additions to Registration cachets with new dates for the Semiramis (1 V 08, only other date recorded 5 I 10); and for the Cataract discovered by Dr Kleinstuck above (both in black: 25 II 11 and 5 MR 21 to add to his 1 XI 11). The discoveries are coming thick and fast.



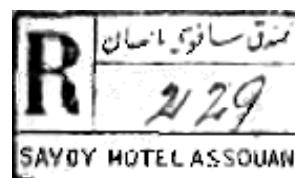
San Stefano 17 IX 01



San Stefano -6 VI 11



Cataract -1 XI 11



Savoy Aswan 15 III 13

The Hotels Study: Latest List of Markings and Dates

Mike Murphy, ESC 240

First, an apology: it has been far too long since the Circle had an updated list of this popular study. As its leader, I apologise deeply for the pressures at work which have not allowed me to devote enough time to it. I apologise too to those indefatigable fellow members – too numerous to mention – who have continued to feed me information, with all too little in return.

But all that is about to change. I hope that these data sheets, followed by the Circle meeting in London on November 18, will reinvigorate the Study and in the not too distant future lead to the publication of the book the late Jim Benians and I dreamed of 15 years ago. Please compare this list with your collection and let me know (preferably with photocopies; it really does make an enormous difference to be able to see the example in question) any advances in dates, or new types, or variations on old types.

And that leads to a second apology: it is proving enormously difficult to find skilled artists with the time and patience available to draw new postmark types. So some of the new markings you find here are the result of my efforts to manipulate scans on the faithful home PC. Sometimes successfully, sometimes less so.



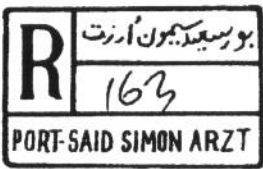
Advances on this listing will be discussed in November, and then republished in the *QC* with, it is to be hoped, some better drawings. All information received will be gratefully acknowledged: I am acutely aware that there are much better collections than my own out there!

To the nitty-gritty... I should say that for security reasons I have avoided illustrating the markings at the correct size. Instead, I have listed (in italic) diameter in millimetres and the distance between the dateslug bars; where known. That said, measuring a circle sometimes battered from use is definitely not a scientific discipline, and discrepancies of up to a millimetre in diameter may be found. I use a circular template rather than measuring the diameter at what I judge to be the widest point.


There are several important points on which I would very much welcome members' help. Here is a list:

1. HC1 has been reworked extensively (see listing). Please take a moment to review your marks.
2. Since we are trying to record ALL registration cachets, I should be grateful for photocopies of any not on the list.
3. If anyone really does have an HSY2 I would be grateful to see it. If not, it will have to be deleted.
4. Some new types and sub-types have come to light, specifically, HSA1a, HTC 11 and 12, perhaps a smaller version of HCA2, as well as HH3, HN8 and HAG1. Any more, or similar, sightings?
5. My dates for the Soldiers and Sailors Institute (HSSI) are meagre. Has anyone more dates?
6. A point of principle: should we include today's machine marks from successor hotels? We include Hilton and Semiramis, both of which stemmed from the original hotel, and also Shepherds, though it is a new hotel. The Aswan Oberoi is on the site of the former Savoy Aswan, and the Semiramis Inter-Continental on that of the former Semiramis, as is the Mena House Oberoi on the site of the old Mena House. Doubtless there are Marriott (ex-Ghesireh) and Sheraton machine marks, and probably a new San Stefano before long.
Should they be in or out?






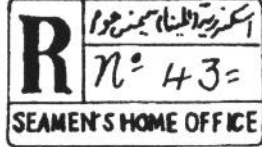

✓ **Simon Arzt store, Port Said (HSI)**

 <p>1</p>	 <p>2</p>		
--	--	--	--
















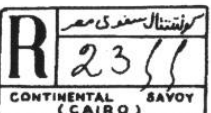
Cicurel store, Asyut branch (HCL)

 <p>1</p>			
---	--	--	--


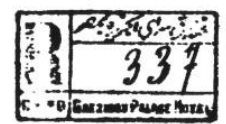
✓ **Seamen's Home, Alexandria (HSM)**

 <p>1</p>	 <p>2</p>	 <p>3</p>	 <p>4</p>
 <p>5</p>		<p>Perhaps allied to the Seamen's Home. A single postmark is recorded for the Soldiers and Sailors Institute in Alexandria</p>	 <p>1</p>

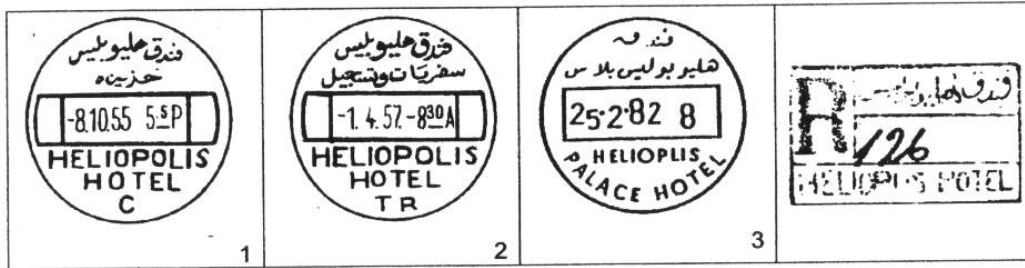
Continental Hotel, Cairo (HC)

 <p>1</p>	 <p>1a</p>	 <p>1c</p>	 <p>2</p>
 <p>3</p>	 <p>4</p>	 <p>5</p>	 <p>6</p>
 <p>7</p>	 <p>8</p>	 <p>9</p>	 <p>10</p>
 <p>11</p>	 <p>12</p>		

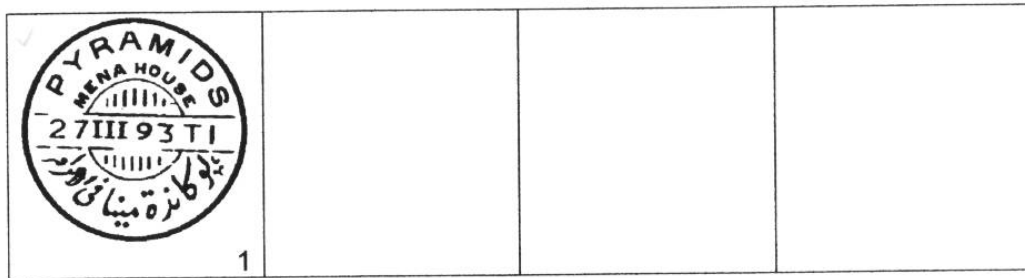
Ghesireh Palace Hotel, Cairo (HG)

 <p>1</p>			
--	---	--	--

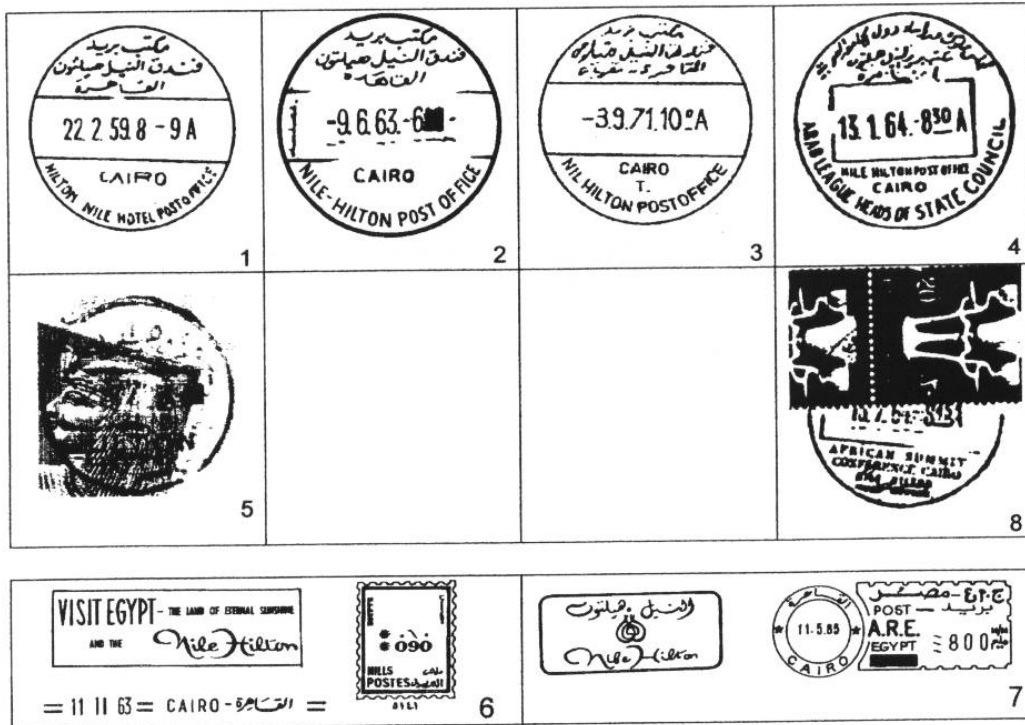
Heliopolis Palace Hotel, Cairo (HH)




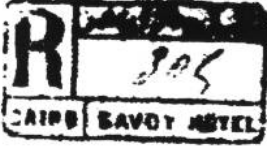
Mena House Hotel, Cairo (HM)










Nile Hilton Hotel, Cairo (HN)



Savoy Hotel, Cairo (HAS)

 <p align="center">1</p>	 <p align="center">2</p>	 <p align="center">3</p>	 <p align="center">4</p>
			



✓ **Semiramis Hotel, Cairo (HSE)**

 <p align="center">1</p>	 <p align="center">2</p>	 <p align="center">3</p>	
 	 <p align="center">4</p>		

Shepherd's Hotel, Cairo (HS)

 <p>1</p>	 <p>2</p>	 <p>3</p>	 <p>4</p>
 <p>5</p>	 <p>6</p>	 <p>7</p>	 <p>8</p>
 <p>9</p>	 <p>10</p>		
 <p>11</p>			

Sheraton Hotel, Cairo (HSH)

 <p>1</p>	 <p>2</p>		
--	--	--	--


San Stefano Hotel and Casino, Alexandria (HSS)

<p>The original San Stefano HSS1, diam 26mm, has been omitted. There are grave doubts that it ever existed</p>	 <p>2</p>	 <p>3</p>	 <p>4</p>
 <p>5</p>			 <p>Palestine Hotel HP1</p>

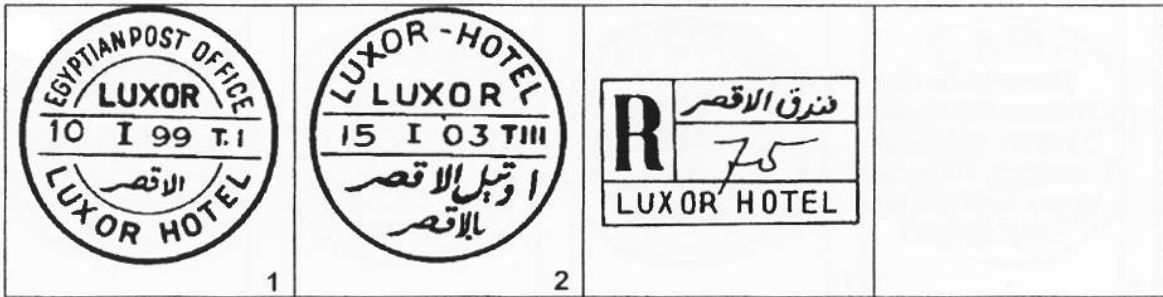
Cataract Hotel, Aswan (HCA)

 <p>1</p>	 <p>2</p>	 <p>3</p>	
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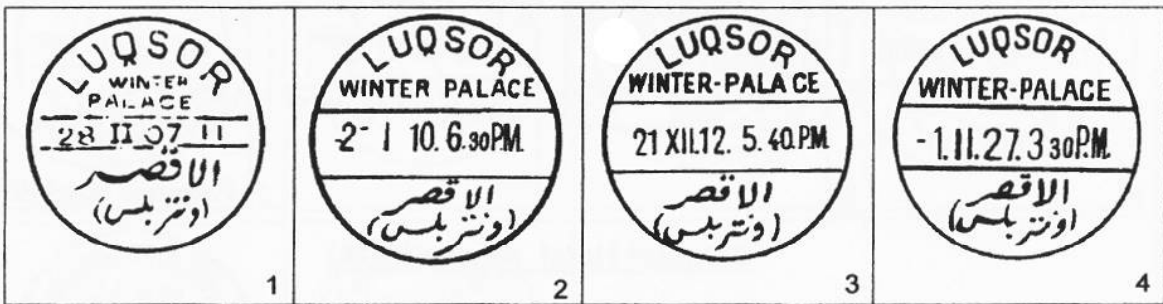
Savoy Hotel, Aswan (HSY)

 <p>1</p>	 <p>2</p>		
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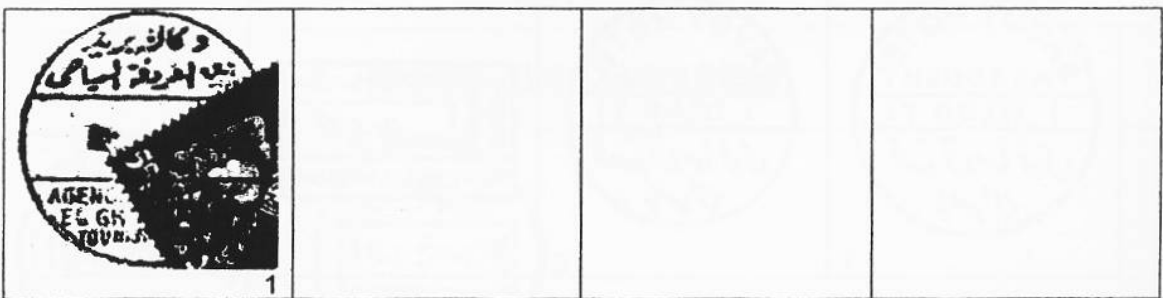
Luxor Hotel, Luxor (HL)












Winter Palace Hotel, Luxor (HW)



Hurghada Tourist Hotel postal agency, Red Sea coast (HGA)



Thomas Cook's Tourist Service, Cairo (HTC)

 <p>1</p>	 <p>2</p>	 <p>3</p>	 <p>4</p>
 <p>5</p>	 <p>6</p>	 <p>7</p>	 <p>8</p>
 <p>9</p>	 <p>10</p>	 <p>11</p>	 <p>12</p>
			

Continental Hotel, Cairo (HC)

<i>Cairo/Post Office/Continental Hotel - 30mm dm</i>		HC	bars	month	T / no T
1	[date bars 3.5mm, with T for duty] 12 DE 91 2 FE 02	1	3.5	FE	T
1a	[date bars 5mm, with T for duty] 1 NO 91 3 AV 94	1a	5	FE	T
1b	[date bars 5mm, month Roman, T for duty] 18 I 94 29 I 94	1b	5	II	T
1c	[date bars 3.5mm, no T] 11 FE 97 27 MR 00	1c	3.5	FE	No T
1d	[date bars 3.5mm, month Roman, T for duty] 29 I 94 30 I 00	1d	3.5	II	T
1e	[date bars 3.5mm, month in Roman, no T] 14 I 00 16 I 00	1e	3.5	II	No T

2	<i>Grand Continental Hotel/Cairo/Post Office 27/3.5</i>	21 III 00	13 IX 09
3	<i>Grand Continental Hotel/Cairo/Post Office 30/4.5</i>	- - 00 (9 JA 01)	14 AP 10
3a	(month in Roman)	- III 00	19 IV 09
3b	(month Roman, with T)	30 XII 06	9 II 09
4	<i>Continental/Cairo 29/8.5</i>	8 IV 09	11 I 22
4a	(blue)	21 II 16	28 VIII 16
5	<i>Continental-Savoy/Cairo 29/7.5</i>	28 II 22	3 VIII 32
6	<i>Continental/Savoy/Cairo 28/??</i>	VII 32	31 VIII 33
6a	(blue)		4 VI 35
7	<i>Continental Savoy/Cairo 29/8</i>	16 DE 33	21 NO 53
7a	(blue)	4 JU 35	
8	<i>Continental Cairo/Cash 30/9</i>	2 II 10	15 II 22
8a	(blue)	9 III 14	25 II 15
9	<i>Continental Savoy/Cairo/Cash 30/7</i>	18 III 22	30 IX 29
10	<i>Continental-Savoy/Cairo/Cash</i>	4 I 31	
11	<i>Cairo/(Cash)/Continental Savoy 28/8</i>	22 JA 32	27 AP 32
12	<i>(Cairo)/Cash/Continental-Savoy 30/9</i>	5 DE 32	3 JA 54
12a	(violet)	11 OC 33	

Continental and Continental-Savoy Registration cachets

1. Continental			2. Continental-Savoy		
100	16 I 08	HC2	1953	18 V 22	HC9
371	11 II 09	HC3	3268	30 XI 22	HC9
600	12 III 09	HC2	2068	8 VIII 23	HC9
812	14 IV 10	HC4	517	13 II 24	HC9
178	25 I 13	HC4	17	10 II 26	HC9
???	8 XII 13	HC8	22	12 I 27	HC9
97	8 I 14	HC8	53	12 I 27	HC9
98	8 I 14	HC8	135	12 I 27	HC9
99	8 I 14	HC8	141	12 I 27	HC9
1176	18 IV 14	HC8a	193	12 I 27	HC9
776	17 IX 15	HC8	197	14 I 28	HC9
609	25 VI 17	HC8	334	4 I 31	HC10
591	19 VII 17	HC8	731	13 II 31	HC10
1218	8 VII 19	HC8	1139	23 IV 31	HC10
411	9 II 20	HC8	181	22 JA 32	HC11
2617	23 XII 21	HC8	191	27 AP 32	HC11
			991	27 AP 32	HC11
			536	9 MR 33	HC12
			1454	11 OC 33	HC12
			156	22 AP 39	HC11
			5	15 MR 49	HC7
			19	15 MR 49	HC12
			197	4 JL 50	HC12

Ghesireh Palace Hotel, Cairo (HG)

1 *Cairo/Post Office/Ghesireh Palace Hotel 32/4* 26 XII 93 22 XII 08
 1a (no T or duty) 18 XII 93 12 II 02
 1b (dot between T and duty) 25 III 95 25 I 08
 [1* day slug inverted] 4 II 99
 [1* T and duty inverted] 3 III 99

Ghesireh Palace Registration cachet

337 9 V 03 Ghezireh/Cairo
 ?? 25 I 08 HG1b

Heliopolis Palace Hotel, Cairo (HH)

1 *Heliopolis/Hotel/C 35/8* 8 10 55
 2 *Heliopolis/Hotel/TR 35/8* 28 12 54 9 3 59
 3 *Helioplis Palace Hotel* 25 2 82

Heliopolis Palace Registration cachets

118 25 7 56 HH2
 126 28 7 56 HH2

Mena House Hotel, Cairo (HM)

1	<i>Pyramids/Mena House 30/4.5</i>	7 III 92	25 II 95
1a	<i>(no T)</i>	5 III 92	26 III 94

[1* - also reported with T inverted]

Nile Hilton Hotel, Cairo (HN)

1	<i>Cairo/Hilton Nile Hotel Post Office 34/10.5</i>	22 2 59	
2	<i>Cairo/Nile-Hilton Post Office 34/10</i>	10 3 59	6 2 65
3	<i>Cairo/T./Nil Hilton Postoffice 34/12</i>	22 2 61	21 7 73
4	<i>Nile Hilton Post Office/Cairo/Arab League Heads of State Council 34/12</i>	13 1 64	
5	<i>Hilton/Hotel 25/7</i>	2 5 74	2 1 76
6	<i>Nile Hilton/Postes length 116</i>	11 II 63	12 IX 65
7	<i>Nile Hilton/Cairo/Postes/A.R.E./Egypte length 121</i>	- 3 77	18 9 85
8	<i>African Summit/Conference Cairo/Nile Hilton/Post Office 34/11</i>	16 7 64	

Savoy Hotel, Cairo (HSA)

1	<i>Cairo/Post-Office/Savoy-Hotel 31/4</i>	24 XII 98	2 XII 99
1a	<i>(no T)</i>	23 XII 98	2 I 99
2	<i>Cairo/Post-Office/Savoy-Hotel 27/4</i>	I XII 99	5 VII 10
3	<i>Cairo/Post-Office/Savoy-Hotel 26/7</i>	6 I 09	- II 13
4	<i>Savoy Hotel/Cairo 26/8</i>	13 III 09	13 II 15

Savoy Hotel Registration cachet

305	15 XII 12	HSA4
357	14 III 13	HSA4

Semiramis Hotel, Cairo (HSE)

1	<i>Semiramis Hotel/Cairo</i> 29/4, Cairo 14mm	2 I 06	5 I 10
2	<i>Semiramis Hotel/Cairo</i> 28/??, Cairo 11mm	4 III 07	12 II 10
3	<i>Semiramis Hotel/Cairo</i> dm 26/8, Cairo 9.5mm	13 III 09	9 IV 10
4	<i>Semiramis Hotel/Cairo/Postes/R.A.U./Egypte</i> 103mm	26 IV 60	2 II 89
4a	(purple)	21 I 67	- IV 88

Semiramis Hotel Registration cachet

112 5 I 10 HSE1

Shepherd's Hotel, Cairo (HS)

1	<i>Cairo/Post Office/Shepherd's Hotel</i> 31/4 [month JA, FE etc]	10 NO 91	10 MA 98
1a	(European figures for duty)	13 MR 92	5 OC 98
1b	(no T)	27 MR 96	26 MR 00
[1*	month slug inverted]	24 DE 91	7 MR 93
2	<i>Cairo/Post Office/Shepherd's Hotel</i> 31/4 [month 1, 2 etc]	27 12 91	15 6 97
[2*	T inverted]	18 3 92	
3	<i>Cairo/Post Office/Shepherd's Hotel</i> 31/4 [month II, VII etc]	25 XII 91	13 VII 98
3a	(no T)	18 II 95	11 XII 98
3b	(T with Arabic figures)	22 I 97	23 II 00
4	<i>Cairo/Post Office/Shepherd's Hotel</i> 28/4	20 II 96	31 I 03
5	<i>Cairo/Post Office/Shepherd's Hotel</i> 30/3.5	12 XI 95	16 IV 09
5a	(no T)	16 II 00	5 III 07
[5*	day slug inverted]	30 IV 04 T1	
6	<i>Shepherd's/Hotel</i> 30/7	25 X 07	27 XI 09
7	<i>Shepherd's Hotel/Cairo</i> 26/8	3 XI 07	17 XII 30
8	<i>Shepherd's Hotel/(Cairo)</i> 27/8	7 DE 31	26 JA 52
9	<i>Shepherd's Hotel Cairo/Cash</i> 26/8.5	7 II 10	8 III 37
9a	(blue)	16 IV 14	
10	<i>Cash/Shepherd's Hotel Cairo</i> 28/8.5	9 III 38	18 III 51
11	<i>Shepherd's Hotel/Cairo/Postes/R.A.U./Egypte</i> length 102mm	28 IV 60	30 IX 85

Shepherd's Registration cachets

43	8 I 00	HS5	???	19 III 19	HS9
107	15 I 01	HS5	1773	13 IX 22	HS7
18	23 II 00	HS3	331	31 I 24	HS9
289	1 VII 03	HS5	561	24 II 27	HS9
712	30 III 07	HS5	122	22 JA 32	HS8
670	4 IV 09	HS7	300	20 JA 38	HS8
1488	5 XI 13	HS7	54	26 JA 38	HS8
1419	16 XI 13	HS7	55	26 JA 38	HS8
100	7 I 14	HS9	135	21 X 42	HS10
537	10 I 14	HS7	720	12 X 44	HS10
???	24 V 16	HS7	258	5 I 49	HS10

Sheraton Hotel, Cairo (HSH)

1	Post/Cairo Sheraton [dm 25/inner circle dm 15]	8 12 70	8 5 72
2	Sheraton Hotel 25/7.5	17 11 74	22 3 78

San Stefano Hotel and Casino, Alexandria (HSS)

1	(DELETED)		
2	San Stefano/Hotel 29/4	4 VI 95	8 V 99
3	San Stefano/Hotel 28/3.5	8 V 99	28 V 08
4	San Stefano/Hotel 28/7.5	16 IV 08	- IX 11
4a	(blue-black)	2 VI 08	6 VII 08
[4* OHHS use]		6 IX 08	27 IV 10
5	San Stefano/Hotel 28/8	6 VII 16	29 VIII 16

San Stefano Registration cachets**1. San Stefano Hotel/Ramle**

361 17 IX 01 HSS3

2. San Stefano Hotel

235 6 VII 11 HSS4

Palestine Hotel, Alexandria (HP)

1	Poste/Conference au Sommet/Hotel Palestine 34/13	5 9 64
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Cataract Hotel, Aswan (HCA)

1	Cataract Hotel, Assouan 28/4	4 I 01	5 III 14
1a	(blue)	6 III 07	20 III 14
1b	(with T)	11 II 01	15 I 12
1c	(blue with T)	15 XII 09	- XII 15
2	Cataract Hotel/Aswan 29/7	9 FE 20	26 FE 28
3	Cataract Hotel/Aswan 28/8	17 DE 24	21 MR 56
3a	(blue)	21 JA 33	17 FE 33

Cataract Registration cachets

210	19 II 03	HCA1
422	25 II 11	HCA1b
41	1 XI 11 (blue)	HCA1a
70	2 FE 21	HCA2
169	5 MR 21	HCA2

Savoy Hotel, Aswan (HSY)

1	Savoy Hotel/Assouan 28/4	8 II 01	16 II 14
1a	(blue)	14 II 14	15 III 14
1b	(no T)	15 II 05	3 III 09
2	Savoy Hotel/Assouan	27 I 05	27 II 13
2a	(blue)	1 I 12	18 II 14

Savoy Aswan Registration cachets

139	15 II 05	HSY1b
2129	1 II 10	HSY1
399	15 III 13 (blue)	HSY1b

Luxor Hotel, Luxor (HL)

1	Egyptian Post Office/Luxor/Luxor Hotel 30/4	- XII 93	3 II 01
1a	(blue)		
2	Luxor-Hotel/Luxor 28/4	10 II 01	2 III 10
2a	(blue)	4 I 08	19 III 10

Luxor Hotel Registration cachets

195	5 II 94	HL1
75	31 1 00	HL1
???	11 II 00	HL1
89	4 I 05	HL2

Winter Palace Hotel, Luxor (HW)

1	<i>Luqсор/Winter/Palace</i> 30/4	- II 06	12 III 10
1a	(blue)	4 I 05	4 I 08
2	<i>Luqсор/Winter Palace</i> 30/8	19 XII 06	IV 14
2a	(blue)	25 I 08	23 II 21
3	<i>Luqсор/Winter Palace</i> 30/7	6 III 09	8 II 31
3a	(blue)	6 III 08	3 II 23
4	<i>Luqсор/Winter Palace</i> 30/7	12 I 22	14 III 37
4a	(blue)	12 II 22	7 III 23
5	<i>Winter Palace/Luqсор</i> 30/8	- FE 26	14 MR 54
5a	(blue)	2 JA 30	31 JA 33
6	<i>Winter Palace/Luqсор</i> 26/8	1 FE 33	22 FE 54
6a	(blue)	9 JA 45	23 MR 49

Winter Palace Registration cachets

744	7 III 23	HW4a	453	2 JA 30	HW5a
839	14 III 23	HW4a	1192	27 FE 31	(nil)
673	26 JA 27	HW5	521	31 JA 33	HW5a
938	9 FE 27	HW5	760	7 III 33	HW4a
363	17 DE 28	HW5	678	1 MR 35	HW5
225	15 DE 30	HW3 & 5	???	9 FE 39	HW6

Hurghada Tourist Hotel postal agency (HAG)

1	<i>Agence Postale/ElGhardaqa/Tourist Hotel</i>	(20 5 67)
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Thomas Cook's Tourist Service, Cairo (HTC)

1	<i>Post Office/Cairo/Cook's Tourist Service</i> 30/4	20 XI 93	13 II 07
1a	(Duty in European figures)	XI 95	7 XI 07
2	<i>Post Office/Cairo/Cook's Tourist Service</i> 28/4	8 XI 02	23 III 09
3	<i>Cook's Post Office/Cairo</i> 26/8	5 IV 09	18 XI 31
4	<i>Cairo/Cook's Post Office</i> 28/7	28 VII 32	8 VII 33
5	<i>Cairo/T/Cook's Post Office</i> 32/9	2 III 38	26 V 51

6	<i>Cook's Post Office/Cash</i> 26/7	8 VI 23	29 XI 24
6a	(violet)	24 XII 28	20 I 30
7	<i>Cairo/Cash/Cook's Post Office</i> 29/7.5	15 VII 33	16 III 40
7a	(violet)	3 VII 33	
8	<i>Cook's Office/Cairo/R.P.</i> 30/7.5	23 II 10	- XI 19
8a	(violet)		7 VIII 15
9	<i>Cook's Office/Cairo/R.P.</i> 29/	3 III 16	15 X 32
9a	(violet)		11 IX 29
10	<i>Cook (Cairo)/R. & P.</i> 29/8.5	24 SE 31	8 NO 47
10a	(azure)	4 MA 33	31 OC 33
11	<i>Cairo/Cash/Cook's Post Office</i> 27/7	17 DE ??	20 JA 38
12	<i>Cook (Cairo)/ R. & P.</i> 28/8	21 JA 32	

Thomas Cook Registration cachets

195	7 XI 07	HTC1a
146	23 II 09	HTC2
941	9 XII 15	HTC8
89	21 JA 32	HTC12
912	15 X 32	HTC9
27	5 II 40	HTC5
1049	4 MR 44	HTC10
2071	26 SE 45	HTC10
227	8 NO 47	HTC10
492	-5 MA 48	HTC10

Simon Arzt store, Port Said (HSI)

1	<i>Port-Said/Simon Arzt</i> 28/7.5	22 NO 34	24 FE 60
1a	(violet)	24 SE 34	20 OC 34
2	<i>Port-Said/Simon Arzt/(Caisse)</i> 28/7.5	31 OC 34	4 MR 57
2a	(violet)	24 SE 34	31 OC 34

Simon Arzt Registration cachets

85	8 AP 37	HSI1	33	14 SE 38	HSI2
52	20 AP 37	HSI1	352	28 DE 39	HSI2
131	30 AP 37	HSI1	5	4 JA 40	HSI2
88	19 SE 37	HSI1	???	25 JA 40	HSI2
163	2 OC 37	HSI2	123	24 FE 40	HSI2
89	22 NO 37	HSI1	40	3 MA 40	HSI2
90	22 NO 37	HSI1	205	13 MA 47	HSI1
283	20 FE 38	HSI1	89	12 JU 54	HSI2
104	26 FE 38	HSI2			

Cicurel store, Asyut (HCL)

1	<i>Cicurel/Asyut Branch 27/9</i>	24 OC 36	-3 AP 44
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Seamen's Home, Alexandria (HSM)

1	<i>Alexandria/(Port)/Seamen's Home 28/4</i>	29 IV 06	20 IV 14
2	<i>Alexandria/Seamen's Home 26/6.5</i>	14 VII 09	16 III 20
3	<i>Alexandria/Seamen's Home 28/7.5</i>	24 XI 19	13 IV 30
4	<i>Alexandria/Seamen's Home 29/5.9</i>	22 II 31	27 IV 34
5	<i>Seamen's Home 27/8</i>	9 AP 32	19 JL 55

Seamen's Home Registration cachets

3	1 I 24	HSM3
186	1 XI 28	HSM3
33	12 II 29	HSM3
182	14 VII 29	HSM3
43	22 II 31	HSM4
43	22 II 31	HSM4

Soldiers and Sailors Institute, Alexandria (HSSI)

1	<i>Soldiers & Sailors Institute/Alexandria</i>	28 JL 16	27 JL 17
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WIPA 2000.

Peter A.S. Smith ESC 71

WIPA (Wiener Internationale Postwertzeichen-Ausstellung) took place in Vienna, May 30 to June 4, 2000. The site was the 'Austria Center', an exhibitor and meeting complex associated with the United Nations establishment, close to the Old Danube, and reachable in about ten minutes by U-Bahn from the centre of the city. The exhibition was on three floors, divided into several rooms, plus an adjacent building for the postal history exhibits. A gallery surrounded the entrance hall, and provided prominent accommodation for a large number of collector organisations.

The Austrian frames held only 12 pages, in three rows of 4. Exhibitors qualifying for eight frames of 16 pages were allotted eleven frames of 12 instead. Viewing was much easier with only three rows to look at instead of four; there was no need to stoop and crane to see the bottom and top rows. The lighting was excellent, noticeably better than that in London, and the use of a number of smaller rooms with wood panelling instead of an enormous open hall made one feel more comfortable, and contributed to leisurely viewing.

Social events included an opening reception held in the Town Hall in the centre of Vienna, a very large, venerable, building beautifully maintained, and a Paimares banquet held at the same location. The great hall, on the third floor, in which the affairs were held, had a ceiling three stories high, filled with chandeliers of intimidating weight (but none of them fell!), and the walls were decorated with heroic-sized statues of historic dignitaries (all Austrian, none Egyptian). It was truly a magnificent venue. The food and wine matched the quality of the atmosphere, which was augmented by musicians.

The exhibitors showing Egypt provided a feast of rich variety that I do not think has been equated outside of the rare exhibitions in Egypt itself. Let us begin with the postal history exhibits. Manfred Dreyer, from Germany, exhibited "Overland Mail: Transit Letters via Suez-Alexandria, 1840-1888" (Gold). In it were shown wonderful Wagorn covers, and covers from the French colonial outposts in India and Reunion, among other fascinating items. Bernard C. Berkinshaw-Smith had an exhibit titled "French Mediterranean Maritime Mail". in which good covers from Egypt were to be seen (Gold). Sainir Fikry entered an exhibit that had the title "The Treasures of the Nile Collection" in the catalogue, but in the Palmars list it was changed to "The Postal History of Egypt, 1419-1879". There were many magnificent covers in it, which somewhat occluded the continuity implied by the second title, but fitted the original title well (Gold). A rarely seen treat was Francisco Dal Negro's "Alessandria d'Egitto - - Ufficio Postale Italiano", which was composed of the finest array of the Italian post office in Egypt that I have ever seen (Large Vermeil). Another seldom-seen exhibit was that of Giorgio Khouzam, who showed "Posta Europea in Egitto" (Large Vermeil). These two last exhibits were excellently presented and contained wonderful material; they perhaps suffered in the awards from having to show a narrow subject in too many frames, which led to an impression of unnecessary redundancy.

In the traditional exhibits, Sherif Samra showed "Classical Stamp Collection Samra Egypt" (Gold). This exhibit was also shown in London, with small adjustments for the differing frame size. It contained some outstanding items, such as a Second-Issue cover from Mersina franked with 2x20 paras, and the unique fragment showing combined franking of Egypt and the Galata local post. Farid Mehiar showed "Egypt 1914-1922" (Gold). This included an elaborately detailed study of the plate varieties on the Harrison issues, with many blocks and even sheets. Among the major varieties were the 'crushed crowns', which were shown on the 1, 4, 5, and 10 mills (the rarer 3 mills and 15 mills were not shown). This exhibit included also imperforates of the 1914 issue on watermarked paper, with the statement "only one sheet exists"; it would be of interest to know the authority for this claim, for the De La Rue Records contain the original correspondence, in which Ten sheets of each value were ordered. There were also interesting covers to be seen in the exhibits of disinfected mail by Klaus Meyer, Denis

Vandervelde, William Sandrik, and Guy Dutau. My own exhibit, "Egypt; the Classic Period", finally reached a Large Gold.

The Court of Honour presented the collector of Egypt with a great treat, Kurt Wolfsbauer's "Osterreichische Post in Agypten". This was undoubtedly the finest display of the subject that has ever been shown, and included no less than three covers from the Austrian Post Office in Port Said, from which even loose stamps are rare, and the even rarer oval 'Lloyd Agenzie / Alessandria' postmark on cover.

It is unlikely that such a rich showing of Egyptian philately will be shown again (unless it occurs in Egypt). It is therefore a pity that the only members of the Circle who attended were the exhibitors.

It was nineteen years ago that the last WIPA was held. The incarnation of 2000 upheld the tradition of excellence; it was a joyful occasion among friendly people, and its success is a tribute to the efforts of Kurt Wolfsbauer, the General Commissioner, and the members of the Organising Committee.

E.S.C. MEMBERS AND THEIR AWARDS THE STAMP SHOW 2000 EARLS COURT.

Robin Bertram ESC 137

The under-mentioned members won medals at the above Philatelic Exhibition. P.A.S. Smith, FRPSL (FSC.74) a large gold in the Literature Class for his book - EGYPT Stamps & Postal History, A Philatelic Treatise. Peter (our past President) is to be applauded for obtaining the highest ever (95 out of 100) marks achieved in that class.

Peter is also a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London and was awarded, during the same month, their annual 'Crawford' medal. This is a much coveted award and is recognition indeed from his fellow peers on sterling work involved in writing and publishing his book.

The four following members (all from Egypt) were awarded .Large Vermeil medals as follows:-

S.A.R. Samra (ESC.311)	Classical Egypt 1840 - 1879
M.A.A. Farid (ESC.495)	Egypt Airmails 1919 - 1944
K.B. Hagopian (ESC.304)	Egyptian Stationary
S.N.Attia (ESC 503)	Egypt The De La Rue Issues 1879 - 1906

and another member -

A.K. Kasperian (ESC.518)	Sudan 1898-1940 for which he was awarded a Vermeil medal.
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Congratulations to all of you on your achievements.