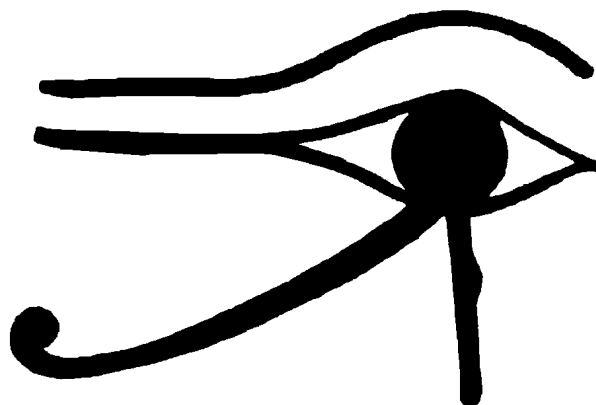


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STUDY CIRCLE

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Forthcoming Meetings.

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| January 12 th | E.E.F. outside Egypt - stamps & postal history | J.S.Horesh. |
| March 2 nd | De La Rue (Conference room at Stampex) | U. Eckstein. |
| May 11 th | A.G.M. - 2pm followed by - Post Monarchy issues between 1952/61 | All. C.E.H.Defriez. |
| July 20 th | 1) Dead Letter Office markings 2) 2nd W.W. - Italian Internee & Prisoner of War mail | P.R.Bertram. |
| September 21 st | 10 sheets per member | All. |
| November 16 th | "History of Egypt" - from Napoleon to Revolution | D.J.Davis. |

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 Meeting, November 10, 2001

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Robin Bertram (Chairman), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman); and Peter Andrews, Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, John Davis, Cyril Defriez, Ted Fraser-Smith, Peter Grech, Edmund Hall, Alan Jeyes, Bill Johns, Mike Murphy, Keith Pogson; and guests Kay Pogson, Felicity Pogson and Philip Wickens.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from John Chellingsworth and Dennis Clarke.

The Chairman opened the meeting by summarising briefly the trip to Egypt enjoyed in early October by 11 members and five partners, and paid tribute to the immense hospitality and friendly reception of our Egyptian colleagues (see page 273 for report).

He was pleased to see Bill Johns (ESC 287) attending his first meeting and hoped that he would continue to come up to London to see us; and also warmly welcomed our guests. He presented the long overdue "scribe" award to Peter Grech for his article on the Ramleh Tramways, judged by members the best in the *QC* for 2000, and reminded members that we would soon be voting again, for the best article for this year.

Secretary: Mike Murphy reported that recent publicity in the *ABPS News* and *Stamp* magazine - together with the visit to Egypt - had brought about active interest in the Circle, and four applications had recently been received from potential members (see below), together with three more expressions of interest. Two other members had been reinstated. To offset against that, Norman Clowes (ESC 349; change of interest) and Peter Owden (ESC 510; ill health) had resigned. Officers and members wished both well.

Reaction from the recent letter about changed Auction arrangements had been muted but positive, and the next Auction will be launched early in the spring time.

Treasurer: Alan Jeyes said he was ready to receive subscriptions for 2002 (now £15.00, remember!)

Editor: Edmund Hall announced potential costs for the "full colour" celebration edition No 200 of the *QC*, to be published in spring, and canvassed opinions about content. Members felt that all should be offered the opportunity to present a page of their own interest - in colour - even if the number of pages needed to be increased. So he appealed to all members (see sheet accompanying this edition) to send in a page, with accompanying colour illustration or illustrations, as soon as possible. The topic is really quite immaterial - the page needs only to be colourful, and to reflect an individual member's interest, whether that be stamps, postal history or any other area.

The meeting - Fuad Second Issue (1937-37): The Chairman introduced Keith Pogson, our member from York, who was accompanied by his wife Kay and daughter Felicity. The report that follows is his own:

After a brief history of the production of this first attempt at photogravure printing in Egypt there was a display which consisted of six elements: a general display of all values except the 5 mills; a detailed study of the 5 mills; an analysis of the positional differences of the control numbers; booklets; postal stationery; and postal rates.

The general display included a 2 mills essay (of which only two were produced), with numerous examples of proofs, multipositive flaws, irregular perforation and retouches.

The detailed study of the 5 mills, whose research owes much to the late Dr Gordon Ward and the late John Revell, illustrates the method of printing and the material used together with photographic help in distinguishing the five primary die negatives used for this value.

The analysis of positional differences of the control numbers on Panes 1 and 2 for sheets of 100 (1-200 mills) and Panes 1 and 3 of the booklet printing (5 mills) had provided a fascinating challenge. Among the items

exhibited were the unique block of 10 (4 mills A/26 horizontal screen) and seven different double booklet panes (i.e., Panes 1&2 or Panes 3&4) with different control numbers.

A smaller section on booklets was illustrated by three part proof sheets with different control numbers and different examples of the Pink and Blue complete booklets together with examples of separate panes, tête bêche gutter strips and normal and inverted watermarks.

The postal stationery showed used and unused examples of most of the printed stationery together with some of the slight blemishes found in the envelope printing,

Finally there was a section of the various postal rates used during this period. Some rates were confirmed, others were perceived, but those members attending readily agreed that there was much further research to be done to establish all the rates applicable at this time.

On behalf of the members, John Sears, our President, thanked Keith for his fascinating display, containing on the one hand material rarely seen, and on the other material comparatively easy to find but treated to such deep and intensive research as to make it an object lesson to all as to what could be done by applying a great deal of effort. Members showed their appreciation in the traditional manner.

At the end of the meeting the Chairman wished all those present a Happy Christmas and prosperous 2002.

New Members

- ESC 549 Dr Antonello **Fumu**, via Caboni 3, 01925 Cagliari, Italy
(Interests: Egypt and Sudan since 1960, Italy, Austria and Peru cancellations)
- ESC 550 Sherif Robert **Hesni**, 4A Ibn Zinki, Zamalek, Cairo 11211, Egypt
(Interests: Egypt hotels, essays, postal history, Royal misperfs and Cancelled-back)
- ESC 551 Karim **El-Abd**, 53B Abdul-Moneim Riad Street, Mohandiseen, Giza, Egypt
(Interests: Stamps and varieties of Egypt)
- ESC 552 Charles **Rogers**, PO Box 10207, Strubenvale Springs, 1570 South Africa
(Interests: Egypt, stamps and postal history)

Reinstated members

- ESC 494 Yasser **Amr**, 8 El Khateeb Street, Orman, Cairo 12311, Egypt
- ESC 530 Ole-Fredrik **Olsen**, Jotun Paints (LLC), PO Box 3671, Dubai, UAE

Change of Address

- ESC 110 Bill C.**Scheetz**, 104 W Myrtle Avenue, Newark, NY 14513-1840, United States
- ESC 165 Dennis **Clarke**, care of the secretary
- ESC 403 P J **Beckett**, 27 Ancaster Avenue, Chapel St Leonards, Skegness, Lincs PE24 5SL
- ESC 417 Luca D **Biolato**, Via della Fontanella 4, 00187 Roma, Italy

Resignations

- ESC 349 Norman **Clowes**
- ESC 510 Peter **Owden**

Deceased

- ESC 197 Kurt **Wolfsbauer**

Member Ship fees for 2002 are now due at £15.00, please pay Alan Jeyes promptly.

Visit to Egypt, October 2001

Only one word is needed to sum up the visit to Egypt by 16 members and partners between October 2 and 14 - magnificent! The hospitality of our Egyptian colleagues was overwhelming; there was plenty for philatelists and, shall we say, those rather less interested, to see and do; there was material available to suit all interests and pockets; and the Sheraton Towers Hotel at Giza proved an inspired choice.

Tribute must instantly be paid not only to those who organised the trip from England, but also to those Circle members and non-members on the ground in Cairo and Alexandria who worked so hard to make it both fascinating and easy to take. Most of the names will appear in the commentary below; to those omitted, please forgive the fading memory of a man completely staggered by what was arranged on our behalf.

Dividing the trip into two parts - a week of hectic stamp affairs followed by a week relaxing down the Nile or in Cairo itself, was also an inspired idea. The first seven days, our feet didn't touch the ground as we bustled from one appointment to the next, accompanied all the way by good fellowship and offers of hospitality that had to be seen to be believed. Despite the troubles of September 11, security was unobtrusive on the EgyptAir flights, and comprehensive on the ground, especially when it was realised by the local Tourist Police that our chairman is a retired detective chief inspector! If ever you need to cross the road in Cairo's traffic maelstrom, just call on the services of a security man - his walkie-talkie is recognised instantly, and vehicles of all sorts scream to a halt!

The truly major philatelic day of the visit came early, with a day in the Gezira Club hosted by **Samir** (ESC 305) and **Jeanne Fikry** to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Cairo 91, the occasion of our last visit, itself so ably organised by Samir. A first visit to the Gezira Club for all of us, it is now easy to understand why the British felt it to be at the heart of their rest-and-recreation: the gardens and tables under the shade of ancient trees were a true delight, and allowed an opportunity to examine copies of Samir's Large Gold-medal winning collections, now sadly broken up so that he can concentrate on postal history.

After a magnificent lunch came the piece de resistance, with Samir taking us through colour photocopies of the masterpieces of his new collection, winner of a Large Gold and Special Prize at the recent Belgica 2001 exhibition. To say that the exhibit was filled with treasures is a gross understatement: the display runs from 1419 to 1879, with unique and immensely desirable items in all sections. Among the highlights, Samir showed us:

- All the various and rare handstruck markings of the Napoleonic Campaign in Egypt.
- Waghorn covers galore, including an 1842 letter with his signature.
- A very rare Egyptian Transit Company cover (Sonnini correspondence, 1843) together with equally rare Briggs, Shepherd and Wheatley forwarding agent handstruck markings on covers.
- Rare mixed franking (Egyptian and foreign stamps) covers sent via the Austrian, British, French, Greek and Italian consular offices; with no fewer than four covers from the Russian Consular Post Office in Alexandria.
- Virtually unique used-abroad covers, including Galipoli (1 Jul 1875) to Alexandria, Mersina (15 Feb 1871) to Beirut and, astonishingly, Lagos (29 Apr 1871) to Constantinople.
- The Suez Canal was well represented with a range of covers bearing various values of the rare Canal issues, and a signature letter from Ferdinand de Lesseps was shown. Still in the Canal area, we saw a cover franked with Second Issue stamps cancelled with the unbelievably rare Chaluf el Tarabba cds of 26 Ago 68; and another from Ramses (27 Dic 1875) with Third Issue and a French 80c cancelled 5080 in lozenge.

These are just a few of the many, many rare and mouth-watering items on display. While we looked on in amazement, Jeanne hosted the ladies during our most memorable visit.

More was to come in the way of hospitality, however, and that night we were able to relax at the Heliopolis apartment of **Vahe** (ESC 390) and **Hermine Varjabedian**, who gave us an opportunity to meet many more of our Egyptian colleagues and to enjoy the fruits of Egyptian/Armenian cuisine.

But we had to be up early next morning for the bus trip to Alexandria, escorted, to our astonishment, not only by an armed security man and police-car escort but also by three presidents of the Philatelic Society of Egypt - **Hisham Bassyouny** (ESC 391), the present incumbent, and **Sherif Samra** (ESC 311) and **Adel Farid** (ESC 495), both of whom have filled the post with distinction in the past.

It was fascinating on the journey to see how the Desert Road no longer really lives up to its name, for more and more building is going on as Cairo attempts to find more accommodation for its burgeoning population. A full programme, including visits to the Greco-Roman Museum and Qait Bey fort, was arranged in the ancient city, with archaeologists and sightseers equally well catered for until early evening.

At that time the ladies went to the Montazah Palace for tea, while the collectors attended a specially convened and most lively meeting of the Philatelic Society of Alexandria, long an outlying branch of the PSE but now an entity in its own right. The society has its own clubrooms in Ramleh, where it was sad to see that the San Stefano Hotel has recently become a large hole in the ground!

That evening we were entertained to dinner by **Arto Kasperian** (ESC 518) and Alexandrian members in the Santa Lucia restaurant - highly recommended, especially the calimari! - and it was a late start on the journey "home", with Cairo reached after 2am...

Friday was a day of relaxation and more sightseeing, with the bus back in use to take many members to the Pyramids at Giza and the Saqqara necropolis - dusty piles, both of them, but fascinating in their history and potential for other pursuits: some of us were able to buy carpets at a local factory staffed by children apparently as young as six! And there was just time on the way back for a cup of tea in her new apartment overlooking the Pyramids with the recently married **Nesrine**, daughter of our Egyptian Agent, **Dr Nabil El-Hadidi** (ESC 369).

We were out again in the evening, again with our armed guard, this time as the guests of **Dr Ibrahim Shoukry** (ESC 423), who generously invited us to the Er-Rosha restaurant in Mohandessin, very much an up-and-coming fashionable area. The meal was a great success, highlighted by one of our group (who shall be nameless!) joining in as the singer went through her Umm Kulthoum repertoire.

That evening signalled the end of use of the bus and its most friendly and knowledgeable driver, which had been organised by Nabil el-Hadidi, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude. So from there on, we were under our own steam - and happily the Cairo Metro, not too far away from the hotel, proved a boon - remarkably clean, efficient and cheap. It was much used and much appreciated.

Saturday was a free day, so time for the pool for some - but by now contacts had been made, and new friends were turning up at all times of day and night with suitcases or mysteriously bulging folders and many a deal was done in the large reception area of the hotel.

That night, however, it was the invitation of the **Philatelic Society of Egypt**, and we all managed to crowd into their rooms at 16 Abdel Khalek Sarwat Street for a somewhat hectic couple of hours of meeting and greeting old friends and new, and, yes, a few more deals were done! The "away team", ourselves, presented a ten-sheets exhibition in their permanent wall-mounted frames, leading to much discussion, and after the meeting we were regaled with dinner at Nile level in the open-air premises of the Cairo Yacht Club, from which we were able (thankfully!) to stagger the few yards back to the hotel. Our grateful thanks to Hisham Bassyouny and all the members of the PSE involved in not only the dinner but the whole evening's entertainment.

A fascinating visit to the Cairo Postal Museum in Ataba Square took place next morning - by Metro and on foot - and proved a real eye-opener for first-time visitors. It is a true treasure-trove tucked away in a forgotten corner, and we were grateful indeed to the curator, **Ahmed Abdel Salaam**, for his hospitality - as much for his hint that genuine students of postal history will be welcomed back (given that suitable permission is sought) to carry out further research. Any volunteers? There is certainly enough material there to make a visit worthwhile.

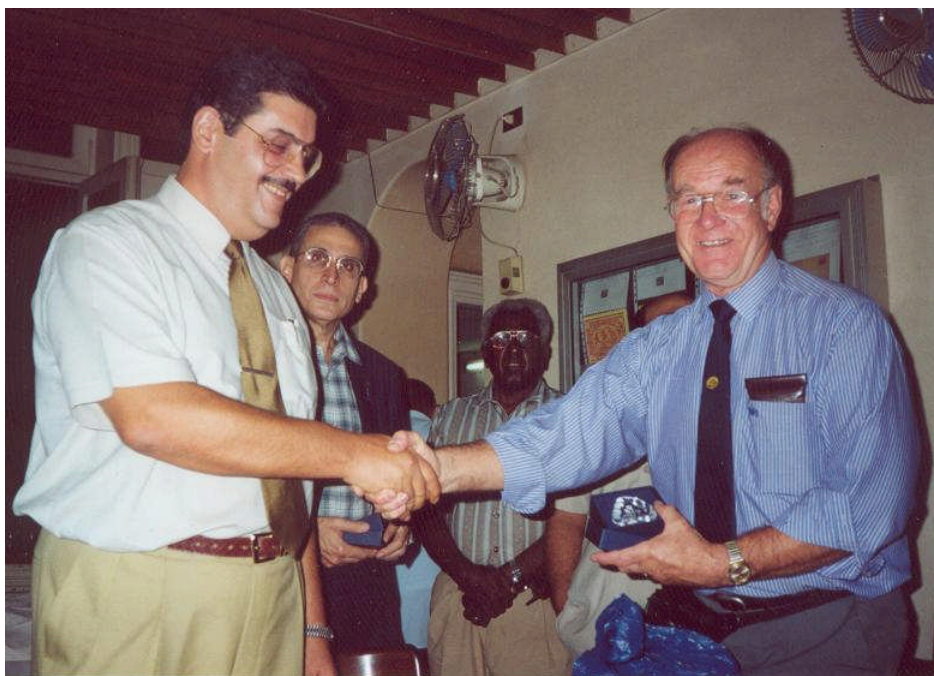
The formal portion of the visit concluded with a most welcome dinner invitation by **Lucien** (ESC 264) **and Jackie Toutounji** to their stunning Nile-side penthouse apartment - with views right across to the Citadel and beyond; and the Nile Fountain was in action! We were made to feel enormously welcome, and the array of food quite took our breath away. Again, happily, the hotel was in easy walking distance!

Throughout our various formal and informal meetings, new friendships were being made daily, and as the party now broke up - some to go Nile cruising, others to visit Aswan and Abu Simbel, yet others to stay to do more local exploring - more opportunities arose for individual visits, either for philately or simply good fellowship. Egyptian hospitality was never-ending, and very many new colleagues have been brought together by the visit.

Cairo was delightful, but some of the more adventurous souls wanted to wander further afield, so cars were hired for days out at Port Said and Ismailia (and the Bar Lev line), and the Fayoum - both of which proved fascinating in their different ways. Even within Cairo there was much to see, with the Railway, Military and Abdin museums proving popular, and there was much rivalry in tracking down the best stores for shopping in Cairo.

Joining up again in the plane back from Cairo after one more hectic visit to the PSE meeting rooms, we were able to exchange stories of delights and details of new discoveries until arriving back at Heathrow, tired but happy - and looking forward to next time!

The visitors were: Peter Andrews, Robin Bertram, Dennis Clarke and Peggy Bray, John and Rosemary Davis, Cyril Defriez, Ted and Judy Fraser-Smith, Peter Goodwin, Alan and Joan Jeyes, Bill and Gwlithyn Johns, Edmund Hall and Mike Murphy.



The two “big bosses”:

Robin Bertram presents Hisham Bassyouny with a small token of the visitors’ gratitude.

The European Philatelic Exhibition EURO-CUPRUM 2001

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)

The reason for the rather strange name for this exhibition was that the whole event was sponsored by a large copper mine KGUM Poiska Miedz SA, and was held right in the centre of the copper basin at Lubin, Poland, from September 1-9. It was run under FEPA patronage along with FIP recognition. There were some 1581 display frames containing Court of Honour, Traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Thematic and Youth exhibits. There were also 101 philatelic literature entries.

Being held in the centre of Europe, you would not have expected to see many Egyptians there, but two were in attendance: Hisham Bassyouny, Egypt's commissioner, and Adel Farid, both of whom had exhibits there from their children. Exhibits of interest to us were few, but they were well worth seeing.

Station Postal Markings of Egypt 1877 - 1938 Hazem Farid Large Vermeil

This exhibit was in the Youth section for 20 to 21-year-olds. The four frames were presented nicely; the first being devoted to Cairo, then came Alexandria followed by the remainder. A few picture post cards of the stations added general interest. This is an exhibitor to watch in the future.

Egypt Hotel Mail Lucien Toutounji Vermeil
(ESC 264)

A good range of these items, with some early Shepheard's Hotel covers and two delightful items from Mena House Hotel. I did like the International Reply Coupon cancelled at Luxor Winter Palace in 1908.

Fighting Greece Socrates Bosovitch Vermeil

I was lucky to see this exhibit, for it is not a country that I collect. However, I am very pleased that I looked at it, for its sub-title was The Greeks in Middle East and Africa 1940-46. It told the story of the Greek armed forces leaving Greece when their country was invaded. They then served mainly under British command, using British FPOs in the area. When Greece was liberated in October 1944, some of their forces returned, the rest remained to fight alongside the Allies. A great deal of research went into this and I was surprised that it did not receive a higher award.

Egypt King Farouk Definitive Issues 1937-53 Samra Omar Large Silver

This exhibit kicked off with a page of colour trials and then slid into a pattern of showing control blocks of four of each stamp, along with some choice covers, these displayed rare usage, especially of the higher values. Thankfully we were spared the crazy perforations and the cancelled stamps from the Royal collection.

History of Egypt through its rulers Karim Bassyouny Bronze

Another exhibit in the Youth class, this time in the up-to-15-year-olds section. With such a large time span there was bound to be a few gaps, and so there was. Nevertheless, it was a neat three-frame exhibit containing some outstanding material, obviously the result of generous pocket money and some exceptional birthday presents!

1946 Farouk postal stationery card used in 1958

Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)

Recently, while looking through a mixed lot of postal stationery, I found some strange combinations on the 1946 King Farouk 6 milliemes postal stationery card (Balian 42, H&G 40). A certain Thomas Demetriou, living in Bulkeley, Alexandria, was using the card for almost seven years (1951-1958).

The first card (Fig. 1) was sent from Alexandria to Vienna on November 10, 1951, uprated with Farouk 3 milliemes and 4 milliemes stamps, and received an Austrian censor marking on arrival.

The second (Fig. 2) also travelled from Alexandria to Vienna, on April 8, 1954, franked with six Farouk bar-overprint stamps (3x4 milliemes and 3x6 milliemes). Three of the six-milliemes stamps are placed over Farouk's portrait, which is quite normal.

The third (Fig. 3) is unusual and strange. It was sent from Sidi Gaber, Alexandria, to the same address in Vienna by airmail on June 19, 1958, but this time franked with republic-issue stamps, two of the 15 milliemes soldier (Balian 500) and a 1958 5 milliemes definitive (Balian 583), again placed over Farouk's portrait. The question is: how was it that this royal stationery passed the republican postal authorities? Or was it simply by accident?

And, by the way, has any other member seen Farouk postal stationery used as late as 1958?



Fig.1.



Fig.2.



Fig.3.

Italian Consular fiscal stamp used in Alexandria

Peter A. S. Smith (ESC 72)

Fiscal stamps are used by Consulates of many countries, including, of course, Egypt. However, little attention seems to have been paid to them. They are usually encountered in old passports, or on ship manifests.

This note is to show one used on a Certificate of Nationality, issued in Alexandria in January 1929. It is of interest that the denomination is expressed "LIRE 25 (ORO)". Exchange rates were somewhat uncertain owing to inflation, which varied from country to country, whereas gold was a more reliable measure of value.

The recipient of this Certificate is indicated to be the agent for the Khedivial Mail Line. His place of birth is given as "Alesandria", but it is uncertain whether the city in Italy or in Egypt is meant. At the end of the certificate is the statement that it must be renewed in the month of January of every year, according to the law of December 1885. The handstamp used to cancel the stamp reads CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA / ALESSANDRIA (EGITTO), and the consular seal by the signature reads R. CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA IN ALESSANDRIA.

One could make an interesting collection of fiscal stamps of various nations used in Egypt, but the search for them would be long and uncertain. Could such stamps be considered a branch of Foreign Offices Abroad in Egypt?

R^o CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA
IN ALESSANDRIA D'EGITTO

Certificato di Nazionalità

Noi, Console Generale di S.M. il Re d'Italia in Alessandria d'Egitto, attestiamo che

Dello *Strologo Giorgio* figlio di *fu Alessandro*
nato in *Alesandria* di anni *49* di professione *Agente Khedivial Mail*
domiciliato nel Regno nel Comune di *Pisa*, dimorante in *quale città*
è cittadino italiano ed iscritto in questo Registro dei Nazionali al No. *12702*

Il presente Certificato deve essere rinnovato entro il mese di Gennaio di ogni anno
(Art. 43 della Legge 6 Dicembre 1885, No. 3547).

Alessandria, li *11 Gennaio* 19*29* anno VII

Firma del Titolare

R. CONSOLE GENERALE

[Signature]

101

Air Mail jottings

John Sears (ESC 188)

Quite recently I had an enquiry concerning the cover shown below:



Cancelled ALEXANDRIA 20 AU 40 with a machine cancel of CAIRO 20 AUG 1940 on the reverse, and there is also the usual consecutive Censor mark - D 299 - in a rectangle. The bars cancelling Par Avion are in red, there is no arrival mark, it is to an address in Vichy France. I was asked how it had travelled between Egypt and France.

The short answer is "I do not know". It does raise questions I have not heard asked before, such as: Was there mail between Egypt and continental Europe during the War? One must bear in mind that although Egypt imposed censorship and Martial Law very early in September 1939, she did not actually declare War on Germany and Japan until February 1945. Diplomatic relations were broken off with Vichy France in January 1942.

Egypt was therefore a "neutral" country. Has anyone seen covers to Occupied Europe in this period? If so, how did they travel ?

Let us examine the rate applied, viz. 40m. On August 15, 1940, the basic surface rates were increased from 20m to 22m to foreign countries: however, this cover was posted only five days after, so there may have been some latitude on the part of the Post Office, and certainly there is no evidence of a "T" being added. It seems as if this cover had to have passed through London, because of the red bars, but Air Mail to the UK was via Durban and then surface route, and the rate should have been 20m (or 22m) plus 30m Air Mail surcharge - 50m or 52m.

There is another possibility. Starting on August 3, 1940, mail was carried by air up to Adana, Turkey, by Misr airline, the surcharge being 10m for 10gm. So if this cover had weighed between 10gm and 20gm the surcharge would have been 20m, thus confirming the rate of 40m. From Turkey it would have travelled overland

According to T Boyle's book *Wartime Airmails*, mail from personnel of the French naval ships interned at Alexandria was sent by land or sea to Beirut, and then by rail through Turkey and the Balkans to Austria or Germany, and onwards to France. Sometimes the mail was sent by air to Beirut carried by Misr.

If the letter travelled to London (as seems likely), were there any postal links between the UK and Vichy France at this time? The *Forces Postal History Newsletter* 248 (Summer 2001) states that between May 1940 and early 1942 it was possible to send letters of a personal nature to Occupied Europe through Thomas Cook & Sons via their office in Lisbon. I do have a cover from Croix Val Mer cancelled 10 AP 42 to Sidmouth with a transfer mark of Plymouth 17 JLY 42. The Par Avion on the envelope has been cancelled by the Marseilles boxed cross.

At a Circle Meeting, probably 20 years ago at which we studied Air Mail rates, everyone was asked to bring their Air Mail covers, and all were listed. But none was shown with a European destination after early 1940 and during the rest of the War.

Perhaps these notes should form a Question ... if any member has seen private or commercial covers of this period to mainland Europe, please let us know. Does anyone know of any further regulations concerning mail from the UK to neutral Europe at this time? Does any member in Egypt have knowledge of correspondence with Europe June 1940 - May 1945?

Book review: *World Phonecard Catalogue*

Peter A. S. Smith (ESC 72)

Specialised Edition 2001. Vol. 10: AFRICA 1 (A-E).

By Daniele Pitarresi. Published by MV Cards, Sirmione, Italy. 98 pp. (in English), softbound.

Available from Stanley Gibbons, £5.50, and presumably from other booksellers.

Although phone cards are not everyone's interest, it is at least valuable to be aware of them, and especially of the countries of one's speciality. This volume includes the countries of Africa, from Algeria to Ethiopia, and thus contains Egypt. I shall comment only on the Egyptian section.

Egypt is covered in 12 pages, 11 of which list the known cards. The earliest is by the firm AR-ENTO; test cards are listed from 1985, and the public cards, £E2, 5, 10, and 20, in 1986, followed by variants through 1991. These cards are notable for being written only in English and French, without Arabic. They are also non-pictorial. After these cards come a variety of pictorial cards from many telephone companies, most of which are inscribed only, or mostly, in Arabic (three cards by MCI are in English).

The dates of issue are not given for most of these cards, but all are priced (in US dollars), the cheapest being \$1, and ranging up to RR. Every card is shown in colour, including the backs where pertinent. The first 44 cards are given catalogue numbers, such as "EGY-32", but these are followed by a small group with N in the number ("EGY-N-2"), a group with R in the numbers, and groups with RM, RT, or D. The Introduction explains that trial cards have numbers prefixed by T, and demonstration cards by D, but the other letters are not obvious. Reprintings, distinguished by serial numbers, are listed in some instances.

The book is nicely produced on glossy paper, which shows up the coloured illustrations very well. Regardless of one's interest, the phone cards are most attractive in appearance, and the number of collectible varieties is not excessive (73, fewer than postage stamps for the same period); the prices for used cards for the most part would not strain one's budget.

Hotels: More discoveries and updates

Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264), Ulrich Eckstein (ESC 273) and Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Since publication of the latest Hotels list in *QC* 194 (September 2000, pp 153-170), new discoveries have come thick and fast, and it is all the study co-ordinator can do to keep up with the flood of correspondence! A complete update list, with notice of more new finds, will appear in *QC* 201 (June 2002), but our members in Egypt and Germany have provided much food for thought with the following:

1. Lucien Toutounji: Most important! A new major discovery - the Continental Hotel registration cachet with the final "L" of Continental missing from the top line of Arabic, so reading "Continenta". It appears on a 1913 10m postal stationery cover fig.1, registered to France on November 24 1918, showing cds HC8 (recorded 2 II 10 to 15 II 22) and bearing the correct rate (10m postage plus 2x5m 1914 issue for registration).

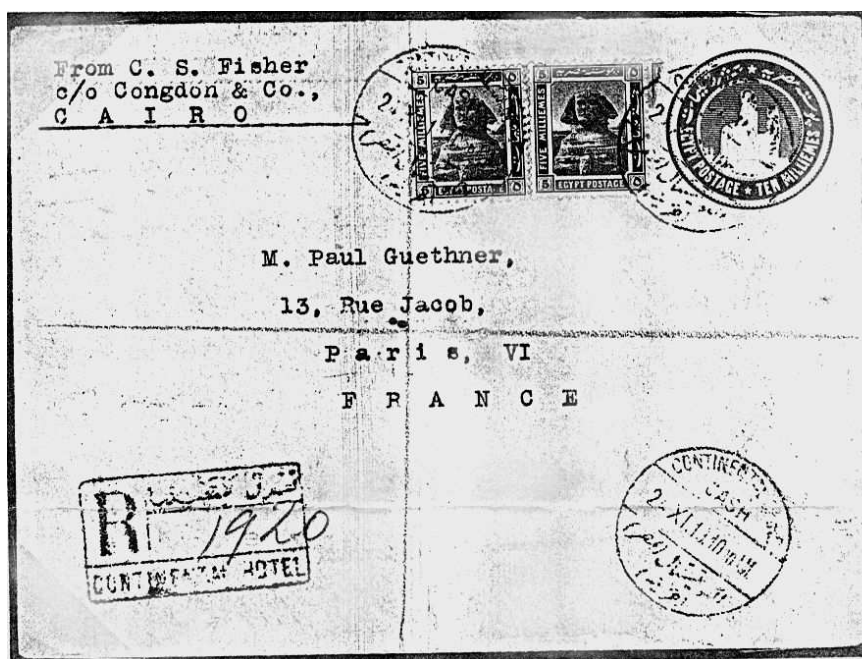


Fig.1 from toutanji

The registration cachet has been replaced and redrawn from the previous standard issue, so that the Arabic omits the final "L", leaving an upstroke "A" at the end, as shown in the two enlarged examples below, the "normal", (Fig.2), and the "missing L" (Fig.3). This is an astonishing discovery, and the only example known of this redrawn cachet.



Fig.2

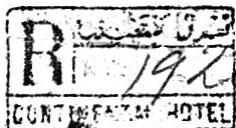


Fig.3



Fig.4

Mike Murphy: Lucien's discovery is fascinating indeed, if it is what he suggests it is. I have a similar example (Fig.5) - though not as striking - also in conjunction with HC8, but dated 9 II 20, two years later than Lucien's, in which it is clear that there is some damage to, or adhesion on, the area of the Arabic "T/L" conjunction (i.e., to the right of the "missing L") which has prevented its proper inking and appearance. I think I can see similar traces of the "T/L conjunction" in Lucien's example.



Fig.5 from Murphy

It seems to me a) inconceivable that a cachet with a mistake in the Arabic (Lucien's) could have been part-repaired to produce a less striking appearance two years later without at the same time setting right the Arabic mistake; and b) inherently unlikely that a locally-made (I don't think there is any doubt that they were locally made) cachet would have a mistake in the Arabic at all! What appears to be an "A" upstroke at the end seems to me to be the upstroke instead of the "L", with its down stroke (to the right) part-obliterated.

Certainly Lucien has drawn attention to the fact that the Circle's official standard illustration of this registration cachet is woefully inadequate. It will be replaced by a better drawing. But the jury is still out on the "missing Arabic L".

2. Lucien Toutounji: Another exciting discovery is an International Reply Coup (Fig.6) on cancelled at the Winter Palace Hotel with HW2 dated 17 II 08 (recorded 19 XII 06 to - IV 14). This is another indication of the close relationship between the Hotel Posts and the main Post Office, although the sale of International Reply Coupons is not mentioned in regulations for the Class 2 PO, the classification for all Hotel offices.



Fig.6

Mike Murphy: Lucien is absolutely right. Reply Coupons sold at Hotel POs are very rare indeed. Now that we have his example I know of only four: the others are Savoy Hotel, Aswan, 27 II 10 (HS1); Continental Cairo/Cash (HC8, dated 23 VI 15, Ibrahim Shoukry, ESC 423), and Nile Hilton, 12 5 70 (HN3). Knowledge of more examples would be welcomed!

3. Lucien Toutounji: I have found a remarkable Official cover (PO Form 30), issued in 1913 to be used for the return to sender of Avis de Reception cards. This example (Fig.7) was used from the Continental Hotel on January 4 1921 (HC 4, recorded 8 IV 09 to 11 I 22) to return an AR card to Hartford, Connecticut, and is possibly the only surviving such cover used from a Hotel post office.

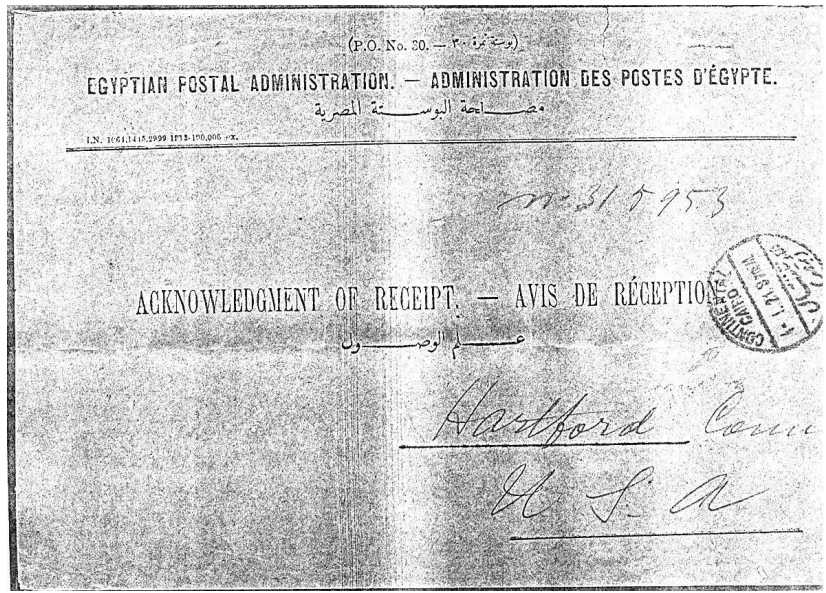


Fig.7

4. Lucien Toutounji: What is the earliest registered letter known from any Hotel post office? I certainly think I have a candidate in this remarkable Shepherd's stationery cover (Fig.8), sent to Germany on December 12 1893 (HS3 cds); it received an arrival mark a week later. The franking of 70m (some on the reverse) comprises 10m registration and 60m postage, indicating a weight of 76 to 90gm.

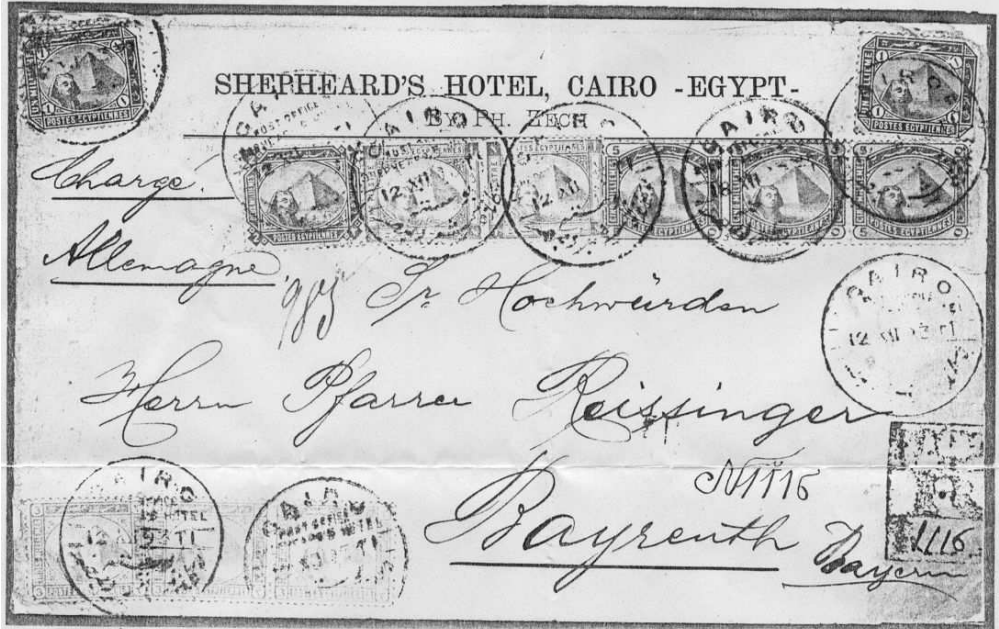


Fig.8

The registration cachet applied is not that of the hotel (first recorded January 8 1900) but the general upright-R mark with space for a manuscript addition below. Earliest recorded use of a hotel registration cachet is from the Luxor Hotel on February 5 1894, but it certainly appears that in December 1893 Shepherd's did not have its own cachet, and perhaps no registration facility at all. It may be that because of the importance of this heavy letter it was "mailed" at the Hotel PO and then taken by hand to the Cairo General Post Office 500m away to be registered!

5. Ulrich Eckstein: I wonder if fellow members have seen anything similar to this telegram form from the Egyptian State Telegraphs, which on arrival was given a clear oval handstamp (Fig 9 & 10) reading GHEZIREH / HOTEL / 16 MAR 05 / CAIRO? Perhaps remarkably, the message is addressed to a nobleman at "Ghezireh Palace Gardens" - was this an accepted form of address for the hotel, which certainly had extensive gardens? Or was the Telegraph Office apparently in the Hotel serving a wider area than just the Hotel? Either way, it is the only one I have seen, and I should welcome information if members have anything to add.

Fig.9



Fig.10

6. Ulrich Eckstein: I have found a new San Stefano Hotel marking which appears to be an interesting subtype of the rare HSS4 (recorded 16 IV 08 to - IX 11). The size and general shape are the same as HSS4, but it differs markedly in the configuration of the date indicia, bearing the date 26 JAN 14 7-8 instead of HSS4's typical 11 VII 10 3.50 P.M. The marking is used on a Hotel stationery envelope (Fig.11) franked only 5m (the inland rate) and addressed to Styria in Austria.

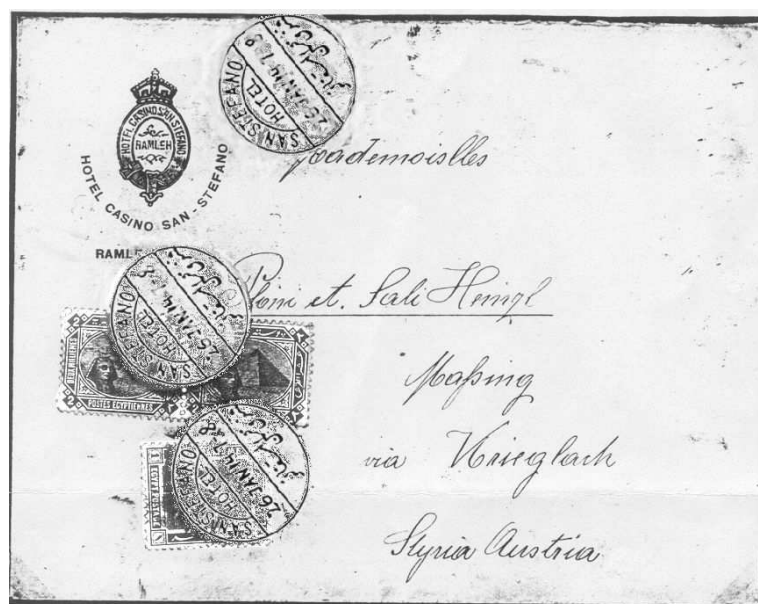


Fig.11

Mike Murphy: This is certainly most unusual. I shall enter it as Type HSS4b (HSS4a being HSS4 in blue-black) in the comprehensive listing to be published in QC 201.

7. Ulrich Eckstein: I have two registered items to the same address in Vienna, both from Thomas Cook's in Cairo, and in both cases adorned with mute registration labels in which the blank upper part above the number has had a "COOK" added in bold black square lettering, presumably a handstamp. One is a letter cancelled with HTC10, the other a piece of printed matter with an HTC7 cds (Fig.12). The point is: I have not seen these before. Does any member have knowledge of them? Or anything similar from Hotels?

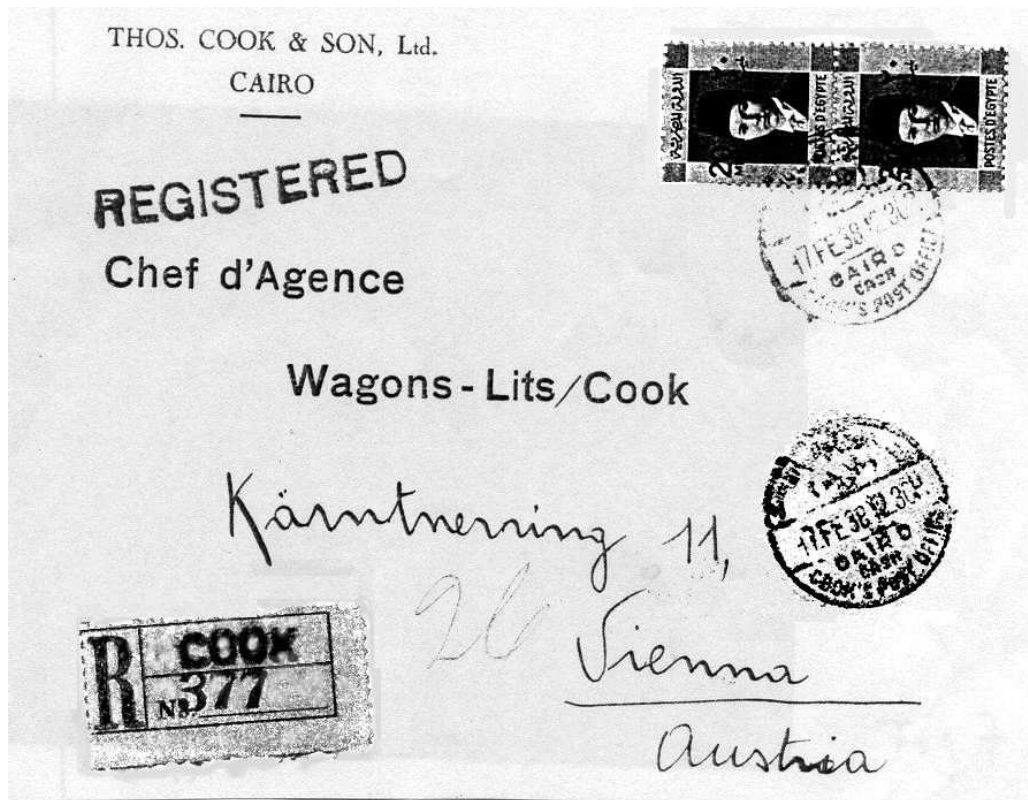


Fig.12

8. Hotel parcel card: We were all three of us interested to see Anton Jansen's report of a Cataract Hotel parcel card (QC 197, June 2001, page 232), because we can all illustrate similar pieces, though they are much more elusive than they should be.

My Cataract example, cancelled with HCA3 (ie, in black) of 27 MR 30, was for a 5kg parcel sent to Lucerne in Switzerland, and tax paid was 155m. The reverse bears the circular datestamps of Alexandria Foreign Parcels Exchange Office and Lucerne.

Lucien has a similar card (Fig.13), also to Switzerland, but used from the Continental Hotel with cds HC12 of 22 AU 33, and taxed at a total of 95 mills, astonishingly including the 50m/50pi Fuad Birthday surcharge (Bal 28, SG 187), exceedingly rare on cover.

Acquit (Timbre du bureau de douane)
de droits de douane - 7. IX. 33*01833
No 6 26058

| Brut | Droit | N° du tarif | Fr. | Ct. |
|------|-------|-------------|-----|-----|
| 0,6 | DR | 188 | 120 | |
| | ST | | | 20 |
| | | | 140 | 00 |

Contrôle or et argent . . .
*) **Droits postaux:**
Débours étrangers
Port suisse
Droit sur bulletin d'affranchissement pour droits de douane
Magasinage et autres taxes
Fr. Remboursement Total

* ST-Droit de statistique et *) droit postal de dédouanement. VS-Visite sanitaire, MO-Droit de monopole. DI-Divers. FR-En franchise.

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES
BULLETTIN D'EXPÉDITION
N° 158
Nature de l'emballage
paquet
GÈNEVE-Douane-Poste
Pia PLATTNER
Marseille
Landquart-Fabri
Acheminement
Voie via Port Saïd
by Berlin & Steamer
Bureau d'échange

(4) Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'entrée ou par le service de la douane du pays de destination.

Fig.134

And Ulrich has two more, from the Cataract dated 10 MA 33 (HCA3, again to Switzerland) with 3x100m; and from Shepheard's to Portland, Oregon, taxed at 26mills and dated 22 II 11. Remarkably, this example bears the cds both of Shepheard's and Shepheard's/Cash (that is, HS7 and HS9).

A further example is that of Herman Kleinstuck (ESC 225), again from the Cataract, again to Switzerland, cancelled HCA1b and taxed at nine piastres with three DLRs. Dated 11 XI 03, it is the earliest so far recorded.

Yet another Cataract example, again bearing the 50m/50pi Fuad Birthday surcharge and cancelled HCA3a (in blue), -3 MR 33, appeared as Lot 737 in the recent Lugdunum Philatelie auction. If the buyer is a member, I'd be grateful for a full photocopy.

Though they are rarely seen, parcel cards from hotels should occasion little surprise. From the earliest Postal Guide available to me which mentions the hotels (date not clear; probably 1904), and invariably subsequently, they were designated as Class 2 post offices within the general post office system, ie, providing services covering ordinary and registered correspondence, ordinary and COD parcels, internal and international money orders and issue and payment of British postal orders; and barred only from specie "groups", insured letters and insured parcels.

The regulations varied slightly over the years, but essentially a Class 2 post office was always able to send parcels. And Class 2 covered all the hotels - and also Cook's Office, the Seamen's Home and Simon Arzt! Just think of the number of parcels the latter alone must have despatched! So where are all the parcel cards?

Egyptian perfins price list**Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)**

It is now about two years since I published my booklet about Egyptian perfins. I have been asked many times to indicate the price of such perfins for the stamps both on and off cover. I have therefore compiled a guide both for loose stamps and those on cover or postcard. All the prices are in US dollars (\$) except where specified, and are for normally used stamps. Higher value stamps, 5-10 piastres pre 1915 and 50 piastres for later years will command an additional premium.

| Company | Page | Definitive | Commemorative | On cover |
|----------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| ABE | 5 | 50c | 1-2 | 20-40 |
| BCI | 6 | 10 | 20-40 | 60-100 |
| BCIE | 7 | 30-50c | 2-4 | 20-40 |
| BIE | 8 | 30-50c | 1-3 | 10-20 |
| BM | 9 | 20 | 30-50 | 100-200 |
| CLA | 10 | 30-50c | 1-2 | 10-20 |
| CLC | 11 | 20-40c | 1-2 | 10-20 |
| CN | 12 | 20-40 | 5-10 | 40-60 |
| CN | 13 | 1-3 | 4-8 | 15-30 |
| CN | 14 | 1-3 | 4-8 | 15-30 |
| CB&co | 15 | 8 | 20-12 | 50-80 |
| EOB | 16 | 10 | 20-30 | 50-100 |
| ESSCLTD | 17 | 20 | 40-50 | 100-200 |
| IOB | 18 | 2-4 | 8 | 30-60 |
| JRC | 19 | 3-6 | 10 | 40-60 |
| KHA | 20 | 4-8 | 15 | 50-100 |
| KHC | 21 | 4-8 | 10-15 | 50-100 |
| LS | 22 | 5-10 | 20 | 50-80 |
| OB | 23 | 20-40c | 50-80c | 15-25 |
| PO | 24 | 1-3 | 5 | 20-30 |
| ROL | 25 | 4-8 | 10-15 | 40-60 |
| RC&co | 26 | 2-4 | 5-10 | 40-60 |
| RC/co LTD | 27 | 5-10 | 15-20 | 50-70 |
| SB | 28 | 50-80c | 2-4 | 20-40 |
| TC&S | 29 | 50c | 2-4 | 20-50 |
| VO&co | 30 | 20-40c | 1-3 | 10-20 |
| A HS | 31 | 10 | 20 | 100 |
| FMC | 31 | 10 | 20 | 100 |
| PS&co | 31 | 10 | 20 | 100 |
| WEK | 31 | 10 | 20 | 100 |
| Arabic N | 31 | 10 | 20 | 100 |
| OBE | 32 | 10 | 20 | 100 |
| EA | 32 | Not valued | Not valued | Not valued |

Indian Postal Guide of January 1903 and Money Order Offices in Egypt

ESC member Andres Birken (ESC 416) found the list for Egypt, shown on the opposite page, on which Money orders can be drawn in the Indian Postal Guide of January 1903.

List of Places in Egypt on Which Money Orders can be Drawn

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>A</p> <p>Aba-el-Wakf Abou-el-Choukoug Abou-Hammad Abou-Hummos Abou-Hor Abou-Kebir Abou.Korkas Abou-Sembel. Abou-Tig. Achmant. Achmoun-Gres Akhmin. Alexandria (Central office) Alexandria Ras-el-Tin. Do. Minet-el-Bassal Do. Port. Armant. Assiout Assouan Atfe</p> | <p>Chandaouil. Cheblamgqa Chebine Cbibine-el-Kanater Chibin-el-Kem.</p> <p>D</p> <p>Dahria Dakka Dalangat Dalatoun Damanhour Damietta Darwa Daraw Dechana. Deirout. Dekernes Dessouk.</p> <p>E</p> <p>Ebehaway Ebrim. Edfena. Edfou Edkou Edwa Embaba Enchas Esna Ezbet-el-Zeitoun</p> <p>F</p> <p>Fachu Farkous Faraonia Faraskour Farchout Fayoum Foua.</p> <p>G</p> <p>Ghaba Guerga Guiza.</p> <p>H</p> <p>Hawamdia. Hehya. Helouan</p> <p>I</p> <p>Ismailia.</p> | <p>K</p> <p>Kafr-Ammar Kafr-Daoud Kafr-el-Cheikh Kafr-el-Dawar Kafr-el-Ghonaimia Kafr-el-Zayat Kafr-Sakr Kalioub Kalline Kantara E:arinein Ken& Khatatba Koddaba Kolosna Kom-Hamada Korachia Korosko Kotour Kouesna Kous</p> <p>L</p> <p>Luxor</p> <p>M</p> <p>Maghagha Mahalla Mahallet-Abou-Ali Mahallet-Diny. Mohallet Roh Mallauoi Manawahla Manchah Manfalout Manial-el-Guedi. Mansoura Manzala. Maragha. Matai. Matans. Mataria (Lake Manzala) Menouf Mex Minet-el-Kamh. Minia. Minet Guenag Mit-Bera. Mit-Ghamr. Mit-Salama. Mit-Yazid.</p> <p>N</p> <p>Naggar Naghi-Hamadi</p> | <p>Nakada. Nanaiya Nawa Nazali-Ganoub Neguila Nekla-el-Enab.</p> <p>P</p> <p>Port Said (Chief Office) Port Siad (Arab Quarter) Port-Tewfick (Suez).</p> <p>R</p> <p>Rahmania. Ramleh (Alexandria) Ras-el-Khalig. Roda. Rosette.</p> <p>S</p> <p>Saft-el-Melouk Salhagar Salhia Samalout Samanoud Sannoures Santa Sarawa Sedfa Setris Siala Simbellawein Sohag Soroumbay Soubk-el-Talat</p> <p>T</p> <p>Tahta. Tala. Tanta Teh-el-Barond Tel-el-Kebir Tema. Teria. Tocheka. Tor Toukh. Toura.</p> <p>W</p> <p>Wasta.</p> <p>Z</p> <p>Zagaidg. Zefta.</p> |
|--|--|--|---|

An extra coloured line in the 5 milliemes Second Portrait Issue

Sherif El Kerdani (ESC 456)

Sorting through about 2,000 5-millieme stamps of the Second Portrait Issue (Bal 290; SG 156/a), I have found this one with a thin horizontal line running just beneath the lower border of the frame. The line, in the same brown as the stamp, extends from the perforation on one side to the perforation on the other, which means it probably shows on adjacent stamps too.

The line slopes slightly down to the right and has not previously been recorded. It is unlikely to be a plate flaw but rather a guide line on the printing cylinder that had been coloured brown. The stamp is machine postmarked (no legible date) and conforms with John Revell's type IV B as follows:

1. Frame size 18 x 22.75mm
2. Heavy shading along the upper right border of the portrait medallion not merging into the King's coat (caused by a slight overlap of the portrait medallion into the frame).
3. Diagonal screen extending over all coloured and uncoloured parts of the stamp.
4. Should bear control number A/31.
5. Upright watermark.
6. Issued in post office sheets only, and not in booklets.

Reference:

1. A..J. Revell, "The King Fuad Portrait Issue of 1927-34: The 5 Milliemes Value", *QC* Vol VI No 6/7 (whole number 66/67, May 1966), pp. 64-71.



50 milliemes Second Portrait Issue with inverted watermark

Sherif El Kerdani (ESC 456)

All of the medium sized stamps of the King Fuad Second portrait Issue are unknown with inverted watermark¹. However, I have recently bought this used 50 milliemes stamp (Bal 302, SG 166a) with a very clear inverted watermark. I do not claim its discovery, for it was sold to me as such by my friend Basem Moussa - I am just reporting it - and I expect others to be in circulation. I have shown it to my brother Tarek El Kerdani (ESC 457) and Ibrahim Fishawy (ESC 412) and they both confirm the inverted watermark.

The stamp is deep turquoise blue (Stanley Gibbons stamp colour key), with pale background, which fits with the later printing from the second die negative. It is cancelled with a Cairo Arrival postmark (dated ?/?1933), and so must have come from a sheet with control number A/29, A/30, A/31 or A/32.

There should be another 99 copies, or rather 199 copies, because the stamps were printed in two panes of 100 each², then cut to two sheets of 100 each for sale. The question is: are where are they? Are there other values with inverted watermark? Please check through any material you can find.

References.

1. P.A.S. Smith, *Egypt. Stamps & Postal History: A Philatelic Treatise* (1999), pp. 302-316.
2. Ibrahim Chaftar, "1927 - King Fuad Issue; Notes on the high values", *QC* Vol. VI No 10 (whole number 70), March 1968, pp. 100-102.



Wrongly dated FDC postmark

Sherif El Kerdani (ESC 456)

Q199/1. This FDC bears the 10 millimes Mother's Day stamp of 1957 (Bal 179, SG 522; issued March 21) cancelled by an apparently special first day cancellation (Fig2) which is wrongly dated 1960 in both Arabic and English. I have not seen the original FDC cancellation and there was no Mothers' Day issue in 1960. Is this a genuine error or simply a bogus? The original FDC (Fig.1) courtesy Mike Murphy.

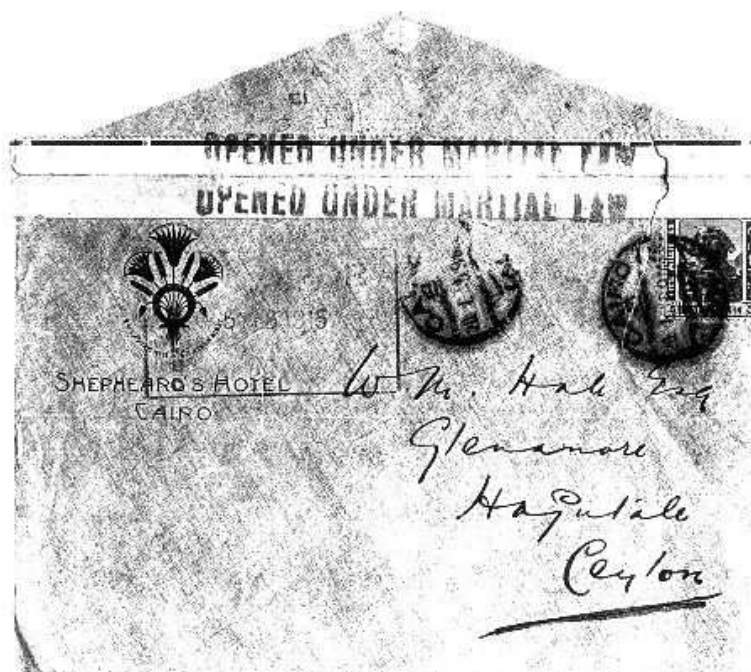


Fig.1

Fig.2



Q199/2 Bill Johns has recently acquired the cover illustrated below which has been censored and then resealed using a stamp selvedge instead of a resealing label! was this because of a shortage perhaps of labels? The watermark on the selvedge is a G.B. crown CA type WS which was in use from 1904 to 1921. There is also a date stamp on the reverse, illegible apart from the date Feb. 6 1915, partly tied to the OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW handstamp which measures 86mm x 5.5mm in purple. The square censor box measures 50mm x 26.5 mm and is too feint to read fully apart from the date, again 6 Feb. 1915 and the letter B in the top right hand corner. Can members give any information on the markings.



Encounters with Forgeries

Peter A. S. Smith (ESC 72)

At a recent London auction, the describer was tripped up by one of the quite dangerous “Salama” forgeries. These forgeries have been long known, and have been described in detail by Ibrahim Chaf-tar in *L'Orient Philatélique* 125 (1972). The 5 paras is illustrated in an enlargement there. A much briefer summary of these forgeries is also given in my recent book, *Egypt: Stamps and Postal His-tory*.

The item was a pair of the 5 paras of 1866, imperforate, with upright watermark (the two impressions of the background design have been laid down tête-bêche on the forgery stone). It appeared to be a howling rarity with that watermark, and I suppose I should have been suspicious. However, when it arrived, its true nature quickly became apparent (I do not know of a genuine imperforate pair with upright watermark).

There are numerous small discrepancies in the background design, such as in the number of bars in the small lozenges that make up the frame design; the eight-pointed star in the centre touches only three of the four circles containing the rosettes, and the dimensions of the forgery are very slightly shorter than the genuine. Comparison with a genuine 5 paras makes the character of the forgery obvi-ous as soon as one inspects the details, and such comparison should always be made when buying anything expensive of the 1866 issue. This lot was knocked down for £200; it has been returned.

This is far from the first time that a Salama has unwittingly been presented as a genuine item, and it is very probably not the last. ESC members, however, having been forewarned, should not be fooled.

Value Declared

Peter A. S. Smith (ESC 72)

The only "Declared Value" label listed in the *Egypt* book is in two lines: V 43 + Arabic, Alexandrie + Arabic. It is on rose paper, and V is 7 mm tall. Now, through the kindness of Jürgen Fricke, a second type can be described. It is also on rose paper, but the inscriptions occupy only two lines; the Arabic is above Alexandrie instead of beside it. Also, V is only 5 mm tall.

The new label is on a cover dated 31 MR 32. The face of the cover, showing the uncommon INSURED handstamp, and the back are shown. Like insured covers in general, it bears five red wax seals on the back, as well as the interesting rectangular descriptive cachet of Naples, where the cover was landed. It is marked in manuscript "g 20", so was presumably a single-weight item; the postage was divided into 20 mills for carriage plus 70 mills in fees.

The sender, Barker & Co., evokes memory of our late member, Michael Barker, who was associated with the firm.

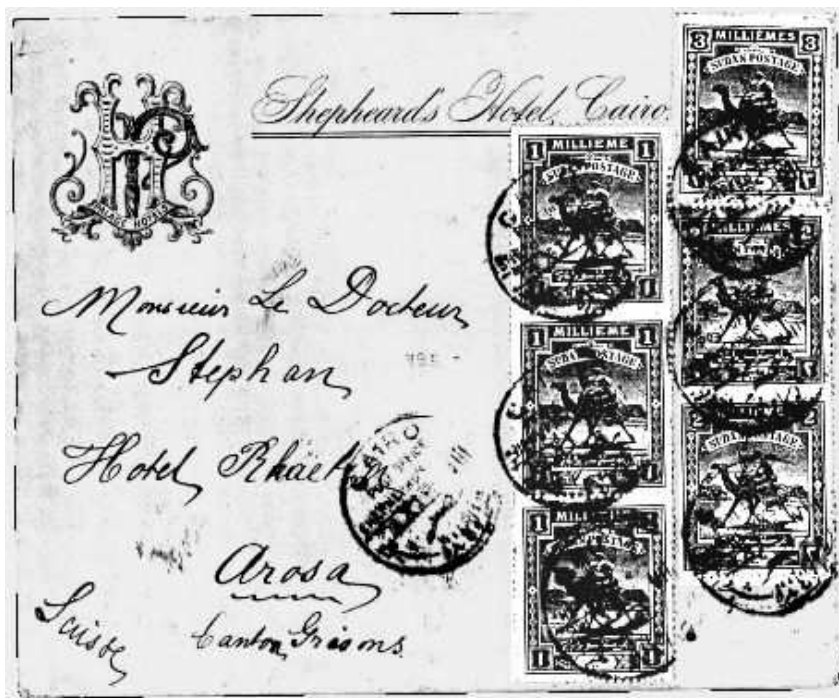


1898 Sudan stamps used in Egypt

Sven R. Eriksson (ESC 411)

Q199/3. In spring this year I purchased a Shepherd's Hotel stationery cover, franked with 3 x 1m, 2 x 2m and 3m Sudan first definitive "camel" stamps, issued on March 1, 1898. All are cancelled by Shepherd's Hotel postmark (type HS4) 24 XI 98 and the cover was despatched to Switzerland, receipt mark AROSA 1.XII.98. The rate for foreign letters is correct; 10m/15gm.

The question asked is: how could Sudanese stamps be accepted in the Egyptian postal system, when despatched abroad? We know that non-overprinted Egyptian stamps were used for a short period in the Sudan campaign of 1896-99, which were replaced by the issue overprinted in Arabic in early 1897. The Egyptian and Sudan tariffs were the same at that period, and these stamps were placed on sale at the Sudan Post Offices on March 1, 1898. The wholesale supplies were obtainable from the Financial Secretary's Office, Cairo, on the following day (March 2). Does any member in our Circle have any clue how Sudan stamps could pass through the Egyptian postal system without being taxed?



Q199/4. I have been shown a cover originating from Abu Zenima (Sinai) to England which has the censorship mark, illustrated below, on the back. It is resealed with a blank strip hand endorsed "Passed by Censor RBN(?) 1017". The cover is dated Abu Zenima 18 MA 42 and backstamped Port Taufiq 21 MR 42 and a date illegible Cairo Machine cancel back and front. The suggestion has been that the censorship mark was possibly applied in the UK. However as it's the same date as the Port Taufiq date stamp I would strongly believe this was done there. Can any members shed any light on the marking.

