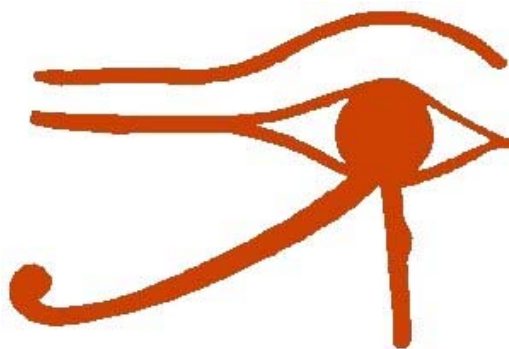


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The contents of this Special Colour Issue No. 200 have been provided by our members from around the world. Arranged roughly chronologically, the brief articles provide a flavour of the wide range of our interests.

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Forthcoming Meetings.

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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A landmark Issue - QC No 200!

I feel I must pen a few words regarding this our 200th edition of the *QC* - a special edition in full colour. We have come a long way since the first edition (ten sides, and of a smaller format) way back in 1938, when we had some 39 members paying an annual subscription of 7/6d (37.5p in new money); but our *raison d'être* remains the same. This is a marvellous way to mark our "milestone" of two hundred editions of our *Quarterly Circular*. We have "dipped our toe in the water" with colour before, with either a front cover or single page, but not the whole *QC*.

On looking through the wonderful array of articles submitted it is encouraging to see new members sending in material for the first time. We have a good balance of material covering a wide range of interests, from all over the world - no fewer than nine nations are represented, with a date range for the articles of close to 150 years, from 1863 right up to 2002: in the following pages they are treated in roughly chronological order. Many of the articles request information or answers and I urge readers to come back to the Editor answering, where possible, the points raised.

My thanks go especially to our Editor and our Secretary (both of whom hold full-time jobs) for their hard work in gathering the information and compiling this special *QC*. I personally feel that this is a wonderful achievement and deserving of the thanks of all members. I know that at present financial implications restrict us from having every *QC* in colour, but on this occasion I'm sure it is money well spent!

Well done everybody who contributed in making this venture a success.

Robin Bertram
Chairman

Meetings Reports

Two excellent meetings have been held since the last *QC* (No 199) was published - Stanley Horesh on the EEF and Ulrich Eckstein on the De La Rue issues - but for obvious reasons their reports have been held over; both will appear in *QC* 201. I feel it important, however, to publish membership information as quickly as possible, and especially where we have to say farewell to one of our longest-serving members in Mark Dorman (ESC 211), who attended meetings regularly until recently and was an assiduous correspondent with many interests in both stamps and postal history.

Mike Murphy, Secretary

New members:

- ESC 553 **Richard Smith**, 11 Avondale Close, Horley, Surrey RH6 8BN
(Interests: North Africa, Middle East, Cinderella items, Zeppelin mail, plus Pacific Islands)
- ESC 554 **Cyril Metliss**, 10 Cornwall Terrace, Regent's Park, London NW1 4QP
(Interests: British POs in the Mediterranean; Foreign POs in Egypt)
- ESC 555 **Molly May White**, 21 Mount Pleasant Road, Repton, Derbyshire DE65 6GQ
(Interests: Egypt and GB)
- ESC 556 **Mustafa Kadry el-Dars**, 10 East Avenue, Bournemouth, BH3 7B7
(Interests: Egypt, Sudan, GB, Poland)

Change of address:

- ESC 297 **Peter Goodwin**, 38/90 Lancaster Road, Beachhaven, Auckland, New Zealand
- ESC 416 **Dr Andreas Birken**, Kreienkoppel 3, 22399 Hamburg, Germany
- ESC 465 **Eric Greenberg**, PO Box 25, Wyncote, Pennsylvania 19095, United States
- ESC 493 **Ahmed Sobhi**, PO Box 58101, 3731 Limassol, Cyprus
- ESC 501 **George Anagnostoulis**, Mary Morris Residence, Flat K, 24 Shire Oak Road, Headingley, Leeds LS6 2DE

Resignations: ESC 302 **Hans Ebert**

ESC 480 **David Ogden**

Deceased: ESC 211 **Mark Dorman**

ESC 354 **George E Mason**

ESC 487 **Len Butcher**

Markings of the Italian Post Office in Alexandria

Antonello Fumu (ESC 549)

1. Cover from Alexandria to Leghorn franked with 60 cent stamp of Italy cancelled by single-ring Alessandria d'Egitto Poste Italiane / 18 Febb 1866. This is a scarce use of the CDS on a stamp for this period. In 1866 a stamp would usually be cancelled by 234 or boxed Piroscafi Postali Italiani.



2. Cover paid through to Italy franked by 1 piastre red (SG11) to cover rate from Port Said to Alexandria; to defray the postage from there to Italy an Italian 40 cent stamp was added at the Italian Post Office and cancelled 234 within dots - a scarce mixed Italy-Egypt combination from Port Said.



3. Two single 40 cent Sardinia on a piece cancelled with a blue PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI - to pay double tariff from the Italian Post Office right through to Italy. This very scarce cancellation was used only between March and June 1863 (Sassone R4).



4. 80 cent Sardinia stamp on small piece with a clear single-ring blue cancel ALESSANDRIA D'EGITTO POSTE ITALIANE / 10 Mar 1863 - first day of use of the 80 cent stamp (and the office was opened only nine days earlier on March 1). Very scarce (Sassone R2).

Interesting 1867 Greek Post Office Cover

Socratis Sigalas (ESC 483)



Entire letter from Alexandria posted on August 1 1867 from the Greek Post Office in Alexandria with the mis-spelled postmark ΑΛΞΕΑΝΔΡΕΙΑ. The letter was posted without any franking and (so?) received the dispatch postmark on the reverse instead of the front. It was franked on arrival (taxed) with an 80 Greek lepta stamp of the 2nd Athens print (Vlastos 34, Scott 22). The 80 lepta value stamp is rare as a single franking.

Unrecorded Labels

Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264)

Originally issued in July 1962 to raise funds for the preservation of Nubian monuments under threat from the building of the Aswan High Dam, this label (*right*) was reused four years later by overprinting "The Arab week to save the Nubian monuments March 1966". Face value 10 mills.



This label (*left*) is very scarce and previously unrecorded, issued by the French community's Red Cross group in Port Said and probably sold through the French PO there. Issued circa 1918.

Le Caire and Suez: Bureaux de Recette?

Pierre Louis Grech (ESC 266)

The French Post Offices at Le Caire (1866-1875) and Suez (1862-1888) were opened as *Bureaux de Distribution* and as such were issued with France's Type 22 datestamps, with an outer ring of dots.

It is supposed that these offices were later converted to the higher category *Bureaux de Recette*: Le Caire in 1871, Suez in 1875. But there is no documentary evidence for these conversions: it seems the only justification is that both offices began using Type 15 datestamps (without the ring of dots), normally reserved for "Recettes".

The *Bulletin Mensuel des Postes (BMP)*, which recorded all such changes, is silent about their alleged transformation. *BMP* No 72, March 1875, reports the closure of "Le Bureau français au Caire..", without any differentiation; but more importantly, *BMP* No 12, December 1888, states that the "*distribution* de poste française" at Suez was suppressed from 1 December 1888!

Fig.1: Earliest date recorded for Type 15 cds at Suez, 12 January 1874.



The dates for those post offices' changeover to Type 15 cds can now be given more accurately. Le Caire - latest date for Type 22, 4 March 1870; earliest date for Type 15, 20 May 1870. Research continues into whether Le Caire was upgraded, but the date should be around April 1870.

The case for Suez is simpler, I believe. The last recorded Suez date for the "cachet perlé" (Type 22) is 15 December 1873, whilst the earliest one for the "cachet non-perlé" (Type 15) is 12 January 1874, with a changeover within those four weeks.

Now, on 1 January 1874, in France, a great number of *Bureaux de Distribution* were converted to *Bureaux de Recette* of the fourth category (*4eme classe*). The postmasters were instructed that, after close of business on 31 December 1873, they were to "carefully use a file and scrape away the outer ring of dots" on their date stamps. That is probably what happened at Suez. If so, M Pourpe, the postmaster, misinterpreted the instruction, since Suez does not appear in the list of post offices converted on that date.

This would explain the date stamp without a ring of dots from January 1874 and the fact that Suez was still a "Distribution" when it closed in 1888.



Fig 2: Cover from Le Caire franked 60c cancelled with cds Type 22 "perlé". The date plug, 25 DEC 68, is upside down. It must have been a great Christmas party the night before!

Double Rate Letter Originating in Cairo for Bombay

Kostas Kelemenis (ESC 249)

According to the Anglo-Egyptian Postal Treaty of 1873, the rate for India was 6d per ounce, and this was allowed to be paid entirely in Egyptian stamps. A rounded rate of 3pi 10pa was applied to letters weighing up to 1 oz (15gr), that is, 1pi for inland postage plus the equivalent of 6d at that time (2pi 10pa).

Since the weight of this letter must have been approximately 2 oz, it was compulsory that a double rate of 6pi 20pa be applied. The rate was made up by using 1872 stamps of perf 12 1/2 x 13 1/3 (Third Issue) - one of 20pa, plus one single and a pair of 2pi. All stamps were affixed to the reverse of the cover, which was sealed by intaglio stamps, perhaps from a seal-ring, in Arabic.

The letter, destined for Bombay, was delivered to the Egyptian Post Office in Cairo where it was initially stamped with the circular cancel type V-2n dated 15 Oct 1874. On the same day it was forwarded to the Egyptian Post Office in Suez, where the circular cancel type III-2n was applied.

Next day the Egyptian Post Office in Suez handed the letter on to the British Post Office in the town, where the circular handstamp PD (Paid to Destination) and the British Post Office date-stamp A/SUEZ were added. The final marking on this remarkable cover, SEA POST OFFICE/A, was applied the same day on board the vessel that carried it to India.



Letter to Italy 1875

Anatole Ott (ESC 261)

This registered letter from Cairo to Bologna, Italy, was forwarded by paquebot from Alexandria to Brindisi, and thence by rail to Bologna. It was cancelled 15 March 1875 by the Egyptian Post Office in Cairo after franking of 7 1/2pi, that is, triple rate for the 30 1/2g weight, plus 1 1/2 pi for registration, in accordance with the Italo-Egyptian Postal treaty current from 1 January 1873, which allowed full Egyptian franking.

A boxed PD (Paid to Destination) handstamp was added, together with the boxed RACCOMANDATO handstamp, which is recorded in use from 1870 to 1875. The stamps are Bulaq 1874, perf 12 1/2, except the 1pi, which is 13 1/4 x 12 1/2.

On the reverse are five wax seals, together with a transit cds of the Egyptian Post Office in Alexandria of 15 March, together with a clear strike of the rare Italian Post Office keyhole datestamp Alessandria d'Egitto Poste Italiane / Consegna of March 16, a transit cds of Brindisi four days later, and arrival cancellations of Bologna on March 20 and 21.



Domestic Money Order Form from about 1880

Anatole Ott (ESC 261)

The size of this most unusual form, headed Administration des Postes Egyptiennes and Mandat de P.T. ... (value to be completed by hand), is 144 x 393 mm, and it is printed on blue-gray paper. It is Post Office Form No 4. On the reverse side, in the middle section, are a series of "Observations" printed bilingually in French and Arabic. Among the observations are:

- Useable for amounts up to 10,000 P.T. in gold only.
- The rate is 15 paras for every 100 P.T. or fraction thereof.
- Minimum rate is P.T. 1,20.
- The order is valid until the end of the second month after its issue. After this period the order may be replaced by a new one upon payment of a new fee.
- If the order is not claimed within a period of 5 years from its issue, then it is paid to the treasury of the State.

This form seems to have been designed as a quite close copy of similar ones issued a few years earlier and in the Italian language only. See Peter Feltus's publication of June 1992 titled *Egyptian Postal Paper of the Classic Era*.

The image shows a scan of a Domestic Money Order Form from about 1880, featuring both French and Arabic text. The form is headed "ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES EGYPTIENNES" and "Mandat de P.T.". It contains fields for the number of the order (N°), the amount in P.T., and the recipient's name. There are also circular stamps and a section for "Déclaration de versement". The form is printed on blue-gray paper.

The image shows the "Observations" section of the Domestic Money Order Form, with text in both French and Arabic. The French text discusses the validity of the order, the rate of exchange, and the minimum amount. The Arabic text is a translation of the French text.

Observations.

Tous les bureaux de Poste, excepté les Agences de simple distribution, sont autorisés à délivrer des Mandats payables à présentation dans un autre bureau de l'Etat.

Il n'est pas émis de Mandats pour une somme supérieure aux 10,000 P.T.

Les sommes à expédier au moyen de Mandats doivent être versées au bureau expéditeur en espèces d'or exclusivement.

Le service des Mandats est fait moyennant un droit de 15 Paras pour chaque cent Francs ou fraction de 100 P.T.

Le minimum de taxe de chaque Mandat est fixé à P.T. 1,20.

La propriété d'un Mandat peut se négocier et se transmettre par voie d'endossement.

Les Mandats sont valables jusqu'à la fin du second mois qui fait suite à celui de leur émission. Passé ce terme le mandat périmé est remplacé par un nouveau titre contre paiement d'une nouvelle taxe d'émission.

Le montant des Mandats non payés dans une période de cinq ans à partir de la date d'émission est acquis au Trésor public.

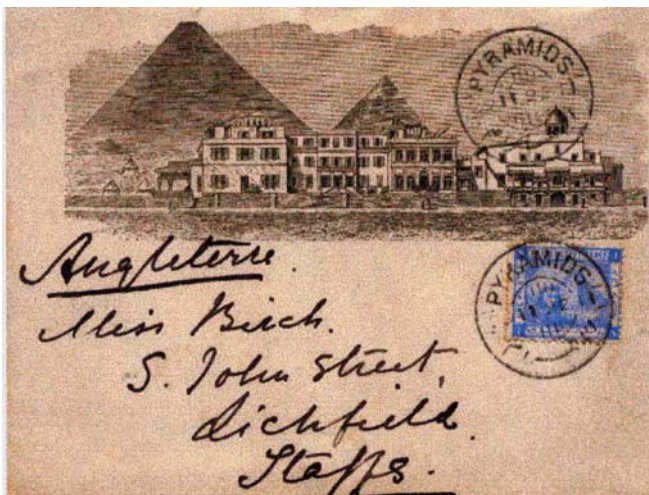
تنبيهات

تسار مكاتب البريد (ما خلا المكاتب المنوطه بنوذج المراسلات فقط) هم مأذونه بتسليم حوالات صرف في اعمال مكاتب الخزنة
الطوبى
ويستخرج حوالات يزيد مبلغها عن العشرة آلاف فرنك صافى
التي لا يرغوب ارسالها بواسطة حوالات كسب ودعيا للبريد من صنف الذهب دون غيره
هذه الحوالات هي بواقع مائة وخمسة عشر ياره في كل مائة فرنك ركتمو المائة فرنك تحسب بالكامل
ان لم تحصل على كل حواله هي مائة وخمسة عشر
ان مكاتب حوالات يمكن نقلها لغيرها من بطنها التجميعه
ان حوالات تعتمد لمانية شهرين خلدون الاشارة التي تكون مشهوره به ودمد انتهى المدة المذكوره فالحوالات التي تكون
استخدمت بصيرتجد بدوها حوالات خلافا ودعها في مالهة ذلكوه انتم المدركين حوالات
الحوالات التي لم تحجز اربابها لاستلامها في ظرف خمسة سنين من تاريخ تسليم القدي للبريد تصاف بجانب الديوان

Mena House and the Pyramids cancel

Jack Graham (ESC 541)

There has long been an association between the Mena House and a post office. Jean Boulad d'Humières and Peter Smith agree that the Hotel Post Office was opened on December 15, 1891. But the earliest example recorded by the Circle of a PYRAMIDS / MENA HOUSE cancel is 5 March 1892 - over two months after the reported opening. Does the Mena House cover I illustrate, with a PYRAMIDS cancel of 29 February 1892 - and another example on hotel stationery from the Circle record postmarked 15 January 1892 - raise a question concerning the post office's recognised opening date?



Luxury hotels of that period offered their wealthy guests all possible services. One such was a post office. It seems unlikely that for a facility utilised by the guests no example of a date-stamp for the initial two months the post office was open has turned up. By contrast, the town-centre Continental Hotel and Sheppard's Hotel, both of which opened their post offices on November 1, 1891, have examples recorded from 1 November and 10 November respectively.

The Pyramids Post Office was just outside the gates of the Hotel, and Peter Smith suggests that it was opened only after the demise of the Hotel post office itself, in

effect, taking the place of the Hotel PO. But the two PYRAMIDS cancels that predate the first known PYRAMIDS / MENA HOUSE cancel suggest either that both post offices were in operation together during this two-month period, or that the opening of the office inside the Hotel might have been delayed - for whatever reason is unknown - until March.

What is needed to resolve the question is more evidence. Hopefully, all members will look through their hotel stationery for examples from the Mena House from this two-month period.

Footnote. Jack raises an interesting question: I'd be grateful if all members with PYRAMIDS cancels on any envelope between December 15, 1891, and March 5, 1892, report them to him. And, in a similar area, after recent advances Mena House is now the only "classic" hotel PO without its own Registration cachet. Can anyone show one?

Mike Murphy.

Cook's overprinted Registration label

As a follow-up to *QC* 199 (December 2001, pp. 280-285 and particularly p.285), John Birkett Allan (ESC 320) has kindly provided another example. Remarkably, it has the same addressee (Wagon-Lits Company, Vienna), and the same Cooks cds (HTC10) as Ulrich Eckstein's example shown in *QC* 199, and, franked with a vertical 20m pair of the UPU set, is dated 22 MA 34. This example makes clear (as is clear also on a close examination of Ulrich's example) that the label overprinted with a bold black handstamp is not mute but a Cairo label,



the overprint obliterating both Arabic and English lines of type.

Mike Murphy.

French CHARGÉ letter from Port-Saïd

Pierre Louis Grech (ESC 266)

On 16 October 1909 the French Postal Administration withdrew the “Descriptif des Chargements” cachet which had been introduced in 1859 and used since 1873 for insured letters only (*Valeurs Déclarées*).

Of all the French Post Offices abroad, Port-Saïd was *unique* in having used since the 1890s a “Descriptif” bearing its *name in full*, rather than one with the usual post-office number, which it had itself used previously (GC 5129; *see Fig 1, top*).

That *previously unrecorded* postmark (*Fig 1, below*) is so far known on only one cover, dated 30 April 1898.

In France, withdrawal of the “Descriptif” coincided with the initial use of Registration labels for letters (previously reserved for printed matter and samples). The earliest date I have seen for a registration label used at a French PO in Egypt is 25 April 1910 (Port-Saïd).

For CHARGÉ insured letters these changes required new specific instructions to differentiate them from simple Registered letters. The R part of the registration label was to be cut off, with only the remaining portion, comprising the number, being fixed to the envelope and struck with the linear CHARGÉ stamp and the name of the post office. These instructions remained in force until the closure of the French POs in 1931. Such insured letters are very scarce and *Fig 2* shows a rare example from Port-Saïd.

5129	POIDS		CACHETS		
	GR.	C.	NOM	COUL	EMPR

PORT-SAÏD	POIDS		CACHETS		
	GR.	C.	NOM	COUL	EMPR

Fig 1: Descriptifs des Chargements for Port-Saïd



Fig 2: Port-Saïd, 7 Sept 1927. CHARGÉ letter to Austria, weighing 26g. Contents valued at 50 gold francs (manuscript annotation). 60 mill postage = 15 mill (first 20g) + 10 mill (next 20g) + 15 mill registration fee + 20 mill insurance. On the back, five red wax seals with the French PO’s imprint. Austrian marks in blue pencil. Transiting via Karlsruhe, it arrived at Vienna on 20 September.

A Remarkable Postage Due cover from England

André Navari (ESC 534)

I was delighted to be able to obtain recently the illustrated cover from the Internet auction house Ebay (www.ebay.com) after a fierce bidding duel. It has an extraordinary array of Postage Dues attached in Egypt, as I hope I can explain.

The cover was sent from UK (the square cancel appears to be BOW S-O) at 2.30pm on DE 29 99 (it appears as 79, but must be 99), and franked 1d for Miss Lucy Guinness, c/o The ...? African Mission in Alexandria.

Presumably carrying a New Year greeting card or the like, it must have overstepped the weight band, and received a hexagonal "tombstone" T-marking in UK (but with no amount due written in). At some stage, however, a pencilled 2 over 4 was added (faint, at top left).

On arrival in Alexandria three Dues were affixed, the 2m green, 1pi blue and 2pi orange (low centre front) for a total of 32 milliemes, that is, the original franking must have been 16m deficient. They were cancelled 4 I 00, but the cover did not find Miss Guinness and so their tax-raising potential was obliterated with a boxed-T (indicating that Tax was still due), and it was redirected to Poste Restante, Cairo.

In Cairo, on 6 I 00, three more Dues were added (low left and above the address). Again, however, she was not found and the cover was again redirected, this time to the Karnak Hotel in Luxor. Once more the set of Dues was cancelled with a boxed-T, and the cover left Cairo with a further 7 I 00 cds (on the face).

In Luxor, finally, Miss Guinness was found, after a third set of Dues had been applied on the reverse (cds Louxor 9 I 00), and this time presumably the tax was paid. This striking cover represents a true determination by the Egyptian Post Office a) to deliver the mail, and b) to collect the tax due. But can anyone help me with the franking deficiency? How was the 32 mills Due established?

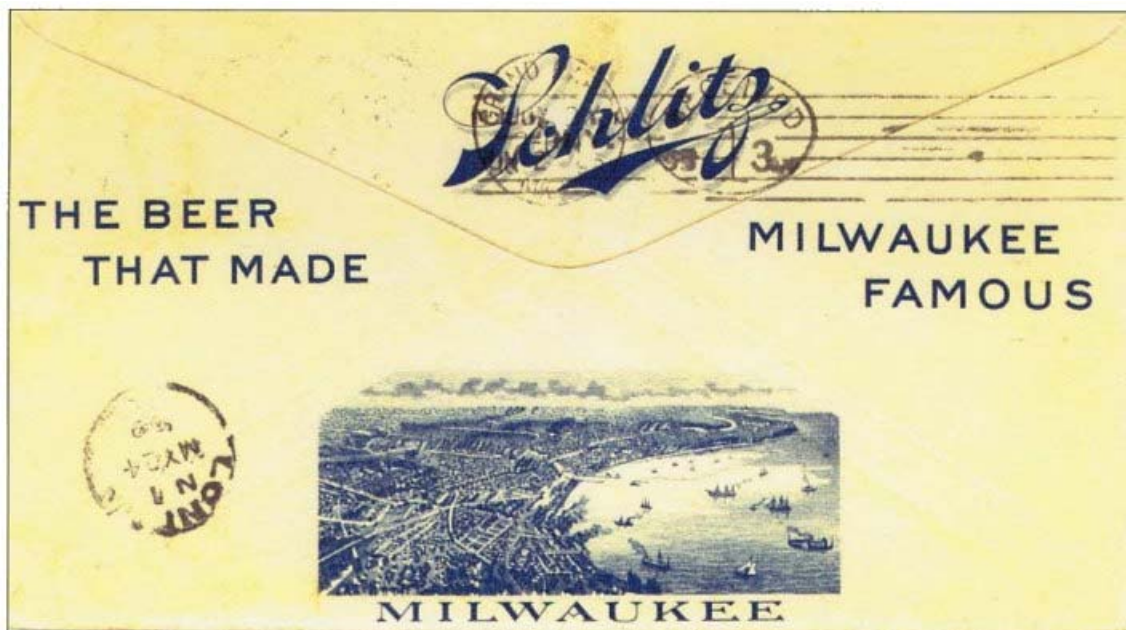
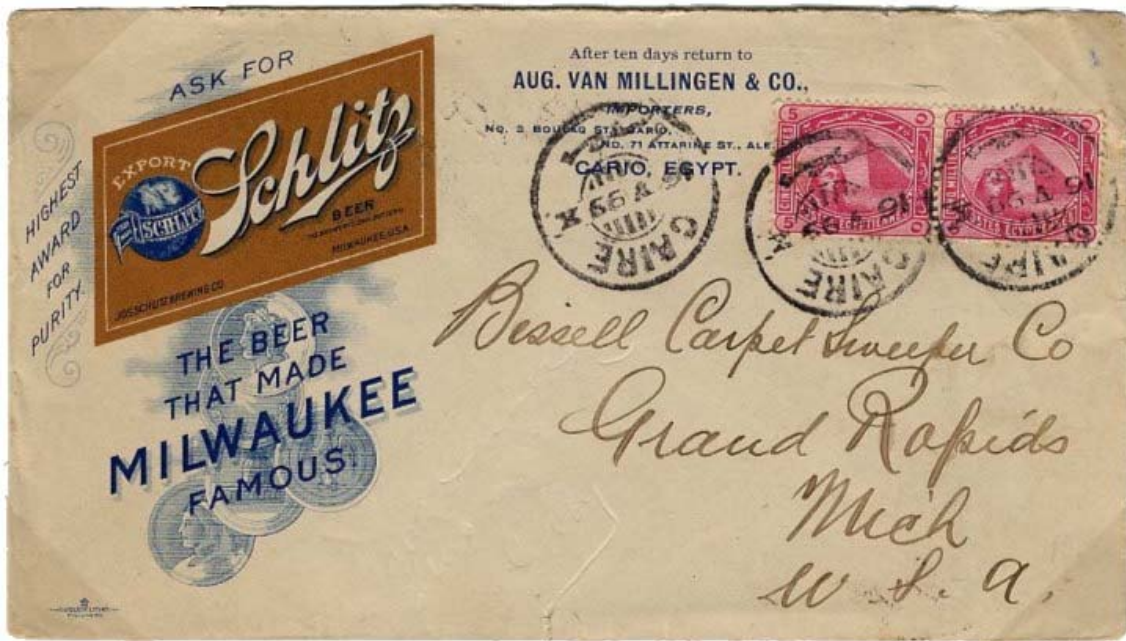


Advertising and Illustrated Covers

Richard S. Wilson (ESC 230)

I like advertising and illustrated covers and this is one of my favorites. Who would ever have thought that this American beer would have found its way to Egypt more than 100 years ago? But alas, Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co. is now history, having closed its Milwaukee brewery in 1981 and then sold the company to Stroh Brewing Co. for \$500 million in 1982.

For more history of Schlitz, see the internet site www.antiquibles.com/schlitz.history.htm/



Newly Discovered Postmarks

Robin Bertram (ESC 137)

I recently acquired this registered picture postcard, addressed to Macon in France with a pretty four-colour franking of 14 milliemes (4 mills postcard rate plus 10 mills registration).

What took my eye was the blue PORT SAID cancellations. In my years collecting Egypt I had not come across them before. The oval mark cancelling the stamps reads PORT SAID with EGYPTE below and 16 AVR 01 in the middle. The blue cds (lower middle) has the word PORT in the top segment and the date 16.4.01 is in manuscript. The PORT SAID boxed registration cachet is in the same blue and also has the word PORT in the bottom line. The Alexandria / A transit mark (18 IV 01) and the Macon mark of 24 AVR 01 are both in black.

Has any member similar PORT SAID PORT cancellations? Does anyone know where the Post Office was/is in Port Said - in the dock area? Why is the blue PORT-SAID PORT postmark completed in manuscript? Your assistance would be appreciated.



Postcard from Port Said Port to France

Anatole Ott (ESC 261)

This unusual Registered picture postcard to France, mailed on 18 April 1901 from Port Said / Port Post Office cancels the stamps with a large oval blue cancel. The blue cds has its date inserted in manuscript and the boxed registration handstamp is also in blue. The card also bears transit and arrival marks of Alexandria and Lyon respectively, and has the correct franking: 4 mills foreign rate plus 10 mills for registration. A unique port cancel so far unknown.



[Editor's Note: Well, this is truly astonishing! Not just one of our members noting a new find - but two of them reporting the same find at the same time - and posted only two days apart! Can anyone else show one of these previously unknown Port Said markings?]

Two unique Zeppelin covers

Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264)

I am pleased to be able to show fellow Egypt Study Circle members colour illustrations of two items from my Zeppelin collection, both of which have aspects I believe to be unique.

The first (*right*), a card from Cairo (Apr 11 1931), is addressed to Cali in Colombia and has the transit mark for Friedrichshafen of April 13. But the Egyptian franking of 50 milliemes paid for onward transmission to destination only by surface mail. The card was able to

be flown internally after prepayment was made by the addition of a horizontal pair of 5c SCADTA stamps: these were cancelled at Cali, SERVICIO DE TRANSPORTES AEROS, on May 20. The SCADTA issue of June 1 1929, priced in US dollars, was sold overseas to frank correspondence to be flown inside Colombia, and mail was pre-franked at departure.



The Egyptian franking is correct at 50m for a postcard, and, incidentally, the stamp shows the variety "wide space between 5 and 0" (Balian 33b). This card is believed to be the only Zeppelin item mailed from Egypt to Colombia; and also the only item bearing a mixed franking of Egyptian Zeppelin and SCADTA adhesives.



Egyptian Zeppelin mail was dealt with at the main centres - Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said and Suez - but in a few cases mail was sent from other post offices in the country and accepted on the flight.

My second cover (*left*) was mailed from ZAQAZIG/STATION on April 9 and carries both stamps for the Palestine flight to Jaffa. It bears the magenta Luftschrift Graf Zeppelin flight cachet as well as a JAFFA arrival cds of April 13. This is believed to be the only Zeppelin cover sent from Zagazig Station.

Hotel Registration: New discoveries

Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264)

You would have thought that by now, well over half a century since Egyptian Hotel Registration cachets were in regular use, there would be no more surprises and shocks in store ... that we had discovered all that was to be found. But not so, as two recent quite astonishing finds make clear:

First, I illustrate the use in a quite striking clear blue of the Continental-Savoy cachet, in conjunction with HC 12 (recorded December 1932 to January 1954) on a cover to Austria franked with 48mills of the UPU issue and dated -1 MR 34. Use in blue is otherwise unknown.

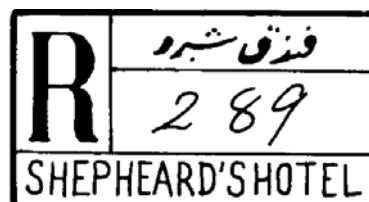


But as if that were not enough, close examination of the Arabic of the cachet reveals (*top line on cachet at left below*) that it says *continental-savoy b'il-qahira* and not, as the Study Circle record for this cachet (*right below*) has it, *continental-savoy masr*. The earlier Continental Hotel cachet (at least 21 recorded) has no town identifier. So is the Circle record correct too, and there are two Continental-Savoy cachets? If not, how can we have missed it over all these years?

Certainly it is nearly always badly struck, and Mike Murphy tells me that of the examples in the Circle record not one is clear enough to ascertain which Arabic word is used. But here there is no doubt .. the question is: has anyone really got a clear Continental-Savoy cachet (at least 33 are recorded) reading *masr* instead of *bi'l-qahira*?



Similarly, there are lots of Shepherd's Hotel cachets about. But only recently have I noticed that the very earliest ones are clearly not only sharp-edged and rectangular but also the outer edge is doubled, made of two close-connected parallel lines. At first the thought was that this fine example was quickly battered to the rounder-cornered thick-edged cachet we all know. But closer examination revealed other apparent discrepancies, first of all in the overall size - the "square" type (*left, below*) is 40x22mm, with the "R" panel (from outer edge) 11mm wide; the Circle record's "rounded" type (*right, below*) clearly seems to be smaller at 39x21mm, with the R-panel 10mm wide. "Square" markings are recorded for 8 I 00, 11 I 01, 15 I 00, and 1 II 03; the earliest "rounded" type clearly identified is from 1913. So will members please examine their cachets and report the findings: the differences are small; but they may well indicate a completely new handstamp.



Misir with a Cyprus Connection

Betty Watterson (ESC 409)



For a few months until October 1932 there was a stop at Limassol in Cyprus on Imperial Airways' service with India; but then it was cancelled because of a change in the route.

Misir Egyptian Airlines (Misr Airwork SAE), which was formed in 1932, started internal services in 1933, and by 1935 there were four flights a week to and from Haifa. This prompted the Cyprus Government to suggest a weekly service between Cairo and Nicosia during the summer months "for the benefit of tourists". A mail contract had to be signed by both governments.

The Egyptian Ministry of Communications Notice stated that from 23 August 1935 Misr would carry mail to Nicosia, leaving Cairo each Saturday at 8.30am, mail to be posted the previous Thursday. Covers are seen postmarked 23 AU 34, flown on the 24th.

However, this cover is postmarked 4 AUG 35, a Sunday, when the return flight to Cairo would have been made. The route was via Lydda, and covers are seen to addresses in Palestine.

A reason for the disparity of dates may be that Misr would have required a signed contract setting out the conditions and payment for the carriage of mail. Because the Cyprus Government was keen for the service to start, they may have signed their contract promptly, but for the Government of Egypt there was not the same urgency, leading to a delay in acceptance of Air Mail.

The Misr summer service continued until 1941.

Air Mail Jottings - Catapult Mail

John Sears (ESC 188)

An Air Mail service between Egypt and South America was available from 4 June 1935 via the German airline, Deutsche Luft Hansa.



A series of First Day Covers was originated by the Egyptian dealers Victor Anhoury and Ahmed Hamid el-Triby, who were probably responsible for the red oval cachet. The red circular cachet was applied officially in Germany.

This unsealed item is correctly franked 74 mills (4m surface rate, plus 20m Registration and 50m Air Mail surcharge for printed matter).

It would have been carried by Imperial Airways to Athens, then by train to Stuttgart, where all contract mail was collected for this flight by DLH. Leaving early June 9, arriving at Las Palmas late the same day. Left 06.04 the next day, calling at Bathurst, Gambia, for refuelling and then crossed the South Atlantic. In mid-ocean the seaplane (a Dornier Wal) would rendezvous with a moored depot ship (the *Westfalen*), where it would be winched on board for more fuel and then catapulted off, reaching Natal, Brazil, late the same day. This service was maintained until 1939.

This cover has an arrival mark of 12 June 1935, and received the cds of ALEXANDRIA 19 JL 35 on its return by sea.

I am indebted to the German and Colonies Philatelic Society for the flight details.

The Postal Concession - Christmas Seals of 1935

John Davis (ESC 213)

Whilst in Egypt on the recent ESC visit to Cairo I had the opportunity to examine the Postal Concession collection of the newly elected President of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, Mr Hisham Bassyouny - hi Hisham if you're reading this, and many thanks!

In what was, I must say, a superb collection, we came to the Christmas NAAFI seals; in particular the first of the three printings of 1935 - these are what Hobbs¹ describes on page 54 of his second edition, published 1984, as the Fourth Issue (SG² A6; H11). Of the three printings the third is of course the overprint and can be discarded from what follows: we are here concerned only with the first two printings, Gibbons A6 or Hobbs' H11, issued 23 November 1935 (Balian 6) and Gibbons A6a or Hobbs' H12, issued 19 December 1935 (Balian 7).

The first of these is obviously darker than the other and it is also fair to point out that, since the second printing was much smaller in quantity, and many of those actually printed were subsequently destroyed, A6a or H12 is much more scarce unused than A6 or H11. Unused it is also priced at more than four times the first printing, so one tends to examine these in dealers' stocks in case they have wrongly identified them and priced them accordingly! As a result I have found them reasonably easy to differentiate, in particular since A6 or H11 is on white paper whilst A6a or H12 is on slightly toned (creamy coloured) paper. This is obvious when you look at the selvedge of a pane.

Hobbs himself states of A6 or H11: "It is also known printed on toned paper and in a red-orange shade". I cannot say that I have ever come across these before myself, so just how scarce are they and how many sheets were printed?

However in Hisham's collection were a pair and two singles of what I can only describe as carmine. He very generously gave me one of the singles and I have now had a chance to study it. Comparing it with both A6 and A6a, which Gibbons describe, correctly in my view, as vermilion and pale vermilion respectively, this is carmine according to the Stanley Gibbons Colour Guide³. There is certainly no trace of orange in this colour, so is this the colour Hobbs referred to as being "in a red-orange shade" or is there yet another printing out there? I simply do not believe so, but I would suggest that collectors keep their eyes open for carmine rather than red-orange when looking for this unlisted shade.



Fig.1 A6



Fig. 2 A6 carmine



Fig. 3 A6a

Illustrated are the three shades, which I do hope will show up different from one another when printed.

References:

1. J.E.O. Hobbs, *British Forces in Egypt Postal Services 1932-1940*
2. Stanley Gibbons, *Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part 19* (5th edn, 1996)
3. Stanley Gibbons, *Gibbons Colour Guide for Stamp Collectors* (1973)

Returned for additional franking

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

It seems to be fairly common practice in the United States, and occasionally used in Britain, but until I was able recently to obtain the cover illustrated as *Figure 1* I had never before seen an Egyptian postal item returned to the sender for additional franking before it could go on its way.

The two-millieme Fuad embossed postal stationery business-card envelope (H&G 24, Bal 33 of 1929) received a Cairo machine mark of May 17 1936 for despatch to Geneva, but at that time 2m was insufficient for Europe even for printed matter, and the envelope was returned: there is no return address but because the envelope was unsealed it could be opened and the sender's name and address ascertained.

The red crayon indication reads (below Fuad vignette) "Mixed Tribunal" in Arabic, and (at the bottom) indistinct initials which appear to be DH, with the abbreviated date 18.5. These were accompanied with a rectangular boxed bilingual cachet of 27x20mm (*Fig 2, left*;



I have not been able to find a clear strike), reading in Arabic and French AFFRANCHISSEMENT OBLIGATOIRE (that is, in effect, "Correct postage must be paid"). A vertical pair of Fuad 1m (SG 148, Balian 284, Type II) was attached to complete the 4m unsealed rate, the red notification and the rectangular cachet were cancelled in indelible pencil, and the cover went on its way, two days late, with a CAIRO/S cds of 19 MA 36. No backstamps, but presumably it arrived safely.



Fig. 1: stationery envelope, 1936 - cachet and 2m adhesives added

Imagine my surprise when I came across another example at Spring Stampex - this time a considerably less-than-perfect luggage tag once attached to a "sample of no value" and originally franked 6m (1m+5m Boy King) for New York. This received a Cairo cds of 21 (or 27) SE 40 on the face, then no fewer than three "Obligatoire" cachets and Arabic instructions. One of the cachets was cancelled when a further vertical pair of 1m Boy Kings was applied on the reverse, cancelled C/CAIRO of 29 SE 40. Remarkably, this luggage label was also censored, receiving a geometrical 69 cachet. The large red oval cachet of the despatching company is largely illegible, but appears to read The Tradin(g Company), perhaps of 4 Midan Tow.... Presumably this item also arrived safely.



Fig. 3: luggage tag of September 1940 with three cachets and additional 2m adhesives

I have one further example of the Affranchisement Obligatoire cachet, on a newspaper wrapper sent from N/CAIRO to New York on 2 MR 42 and franked with a vertical strip of 3x2m Boy King. Apart from writing a pencil -6 by the stamps, the clerk took no action. Has anyone seen any more of these fascinating items?

Use of the King Farouk 3 Milliemes Army Post Stamp

Andy Gould (ESC 393)

The 3 milliemes Army Post stamps were produced to cater for a concessionary rate (usually 4 milliemes) for British Service personnel to send Christmas cards home to family and friends.

The 3 milliemes green King Farouk (small) Army Post stamp (SG A14, Balian 16) is fairly common in mint condition and numerous enough in "used" condition, but genuine examples used singly on cover within the "correct" dates are a real rarity. The available publications indicate that between 12 and 20 covers exist.

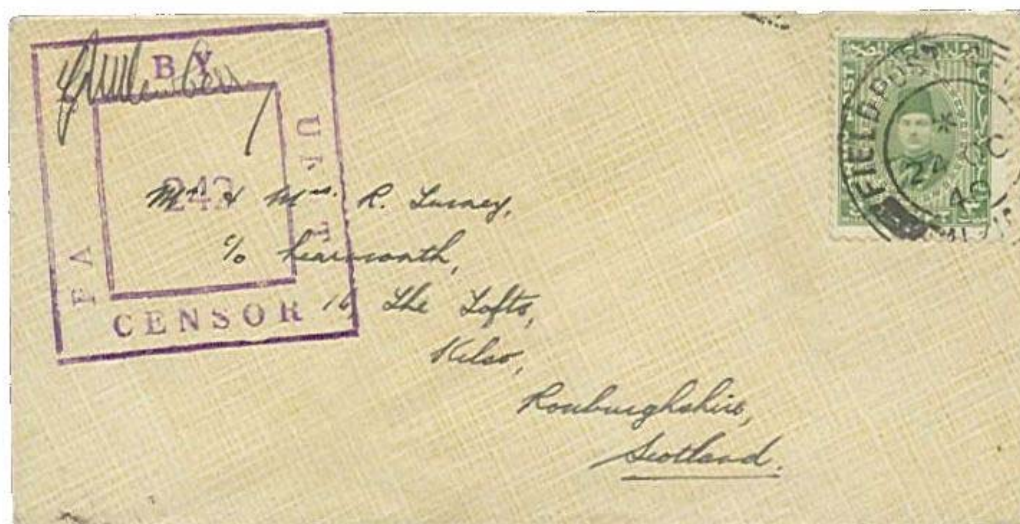
The King Farouk 3 milliemes stamp was issued on 16 December 1939, very late for Christmas mail that year. In any case, by this time, surface mail home to family (not friends, apparently) in the country of residence was free of postage.

The cover illustrated here is a small greetings card envelope used to Kelso in Scotland on 24 October 1940. The cancel on the 3 milliemes stamp is the Field Post Office 171 double circle and the squared censor cachet is number 242.

In late October 1940, the small 3 milliemes stamp began to be used to send Christmas greetings cards to friends. However, from 1 November 1940, *all* surface mail from Service personnel was carried free of charge.

Does that mean that the legitimate use of these stamps for the purpose for which they were issued was only one week?

Apparently genuine covers appear to be used throughout November and into December 1940, but perhaps any used on or after 1 November 1940 are philatelically inspired? Do fellow members have any further information or other ideas?



Acknowledgements:

John E O Hobbs, *British Forces in Egypt Postal Service 1932-1940* (2nd edn); Mehanny Eid, *Zeheri Catalogue* (1972); Leon Balian, *Stamps of Egypt* (1998); Peter A S Smith, *Egypt - Stamps & Postal History: A Philatelic Treatise* (Limassol 1999).

Heliopolis Hotel and another new “discovery”

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)



The HELIOPOLIS HOTEL/C marking (HH1) has justly been famous since it was first reported by Jean Boulad d'Humières in *L'OP* 114 (Oct 64/Jan 65). Why? Because only a single example of this Cash marking was known. Dated -8.10.55 on a large brown Hotel stationery envelope, unregistered, it changed hands in the Study Circle Auction a few years ago. But now, almost half a century after its use, there is another, sold unwittingly among half a dozen covers (including two more HH2 examples) on the Internet auction site Ebay for a little under \$300.

The long envelope, franked 208m in a combination of 1953 and 1954 Republican issues to cover Registration to the USA, was apparently sent by an engineer working for an aerial survey, and many other envelopes in the Ebay lot are from the same correspondence.

It is dated 24.10.55, giving the postmark a new range of 16 days(!), and its HELIOPOLIS HOTEL Registration cachet is numbered 51: only five other Registration cachets are known for the Heliopolis Hotel, ranging in date from 22.9.55 to 28.7.56. From its positioning, it may be assumed that the red AIRMAIL cachet is also a Hotel strike.

Discovery of this cover is quite astonishing after all this time, and among the mass of new material that has come to light after publication of the new Hotels list in *QC* 194 (a full update will appear in *QC* 201) is at least one that deserves colour illustration.



Peter Andrews (ESC 122) provided quite a surprise with a magenta version of a Shepheard's Hotel strike that is completely unrecorded. It has all the appearance, in what can be seen of the upper and lower segments, of an HS5 - but that mark was in use only from 12 XII 95 to 16 IV 09 (HS5) or 16 II 00 to 15 III 07 (HS5a, without the T for duty). And this part-strike is on the 5m of the 1933 Aviation Congress series - close examination of the dateslug bar reveals a style far from the archaic lettering of the genuine HS5, with a wide-spread date of ?? -11-33-? and the 11 looking remarkably like Arabic numerals, the 33 definitely set at an angle within the date-bars... and all the more odd since the stamp was issued in December 1933.

It is difficult to be dogmatic, but this looks very much like a piece cancelled by favour by the Hotel's post-office clerk using elements from an outdated datestamp.

Mixed Franking (Meter Mark with Regular Stamp)

Ibrahim El-Fichawy (ESC 472)

Studies of meter marks are not common and since the important research in 1985 of Dennis Clarke (ESC 165)¹, nothing has been published in this field to my knowledge.

The cover I illustrate, addressed to Beirut, carries the impression of a Universal multi-value machine, model "O", with the logo of L'Epargne Assurance S.A.E. The franking value is 40 mills, to which has been added a 5 mills stamp (Bal 484).

The 1959 rate to Lebanon was 15 mills + 25 mills for registration² So the question is: why the additional 5 mills? The envelope's travels are fairly unusual. It was sent to Lebanon on 24 May 1959 (the meter's date is very faint). A Registration / Cairo / Special cds (also May 24) cancels the stamp. On the back is an Aerodrome du Caire cds of May 26, earlier by about two years than that recorded by John Sears³. After a Beirut R.A. cds of May 27 the cover was readdressed and returned to Cairo. The Cairo Registration Delivery arrival mark (June 28) carries a Number 1 not previously recorded⁴.

The address is cancelled by pen and redirected to the Kuwait Air Line office in Kuwait; but there is no Kuwaiti postmark.

Incidentally, the censor mark (Type 35) is earlier than previously recorded⁵, as is the Airmail cachet⁶, and the Black-on-colour C5 Registration label is four days after the latest recorded date⁷.



References

1. D H Clarke, "Meter Marks and Franking Machines", *QC* XII,5 (whole number 133, March 1985), pp.77-90; continued in *QC* 134/135, pp. 115-139.
2. Peter A S Smith, *Egypt - Stamps & Postal History: A Philatelic Treatise* (Limassol 1999), p.560
3. John Sears, *The Airmails of Egypt* (London 1990), p. 172.
4. Lars Alund, "The Postal Markings of Egypt - IV 'Delivery'", *QC* XVI,7 (September 1997), p.182.
5. Peter Andrews, "Civil Censorship in Egypt 1948 to 1974", *QC* XVI,1 (March 1996), p.25.
6. Sears, *ibid*, page 166.
7. John Sears, *QC* XVI,5 (March 1997), p.146

Perforation Varieties on Egyptian Stamps

Osama Gaber (ESC 463)

Perforation varieties on Egyptian Stamps date back to the First Issue of 1866, on which some stunning varieties have been recorded, including this example of the 5pi rose (right) with a perf shift which makes it imperforate at left and showing a double vertical perforation, both struck through the design.



My interest in perforation varieties was part of my fascination with Egyptian imperforates. Early in my collecting experience, however, I decided to ignore the Royal perforations. Those stamps were intentionally misperforated and although stunning, were to my mind not true examples of perforation varieties. I consider them largely “artificial”. My interest now is primarily in perforation varieties which result in major changes in the stamps. I have found modern examples and used varieties particularly intriguing.



For example, in 1954 the 1 mill “Fellah” or Agriculture stamp is one of my favourites, as the perforation variety created three pairs of imperforate stamps (left).

A fascinating example of a used perforation variety is the 5 piastre Queen Ti, on a fragment (right). Other interesting misperforations include those resulting in



alteration of the stamp design. The 1959 Arab Petroleum Conference (left) has a very interesting misperforation that almost completely bisects the stamp.

The 30 piastre “Goddess Silkhat” stamp (right) has two nearly imperforate examples created by a perforation variety.



Other examples are the 1988 Anniversary of the Suez Crossing (below) and the 1999 Anwar Wegdi stamp (right).



The 1989 Nehru stamp (right) shows an interesting mix of frame shifts within the stamp, creating the illusion of a misperforation.



Perforation errors are a fascinating aspect of Egyptian philately, and I encourage all my Study Circle colleagues to examine them more closely and report new or undiscovered examples

Postage Due Stamps Used for Ordinary Postage

Bill Johns (ESC 287)

The date of issue of this set of Postage Due adhesives was August 1965. But shortly after the set was issued, the use of special stamps for collection of postage due was abolished in Egypt: ordinary stamps were prescribed instead, and have been used as postage due stamps since. The remaining stock of postage due stamps became acceptable for primary franking, as shown on the envelope illustrated, with ten 40 mill Dues paying postage and Registration to London.

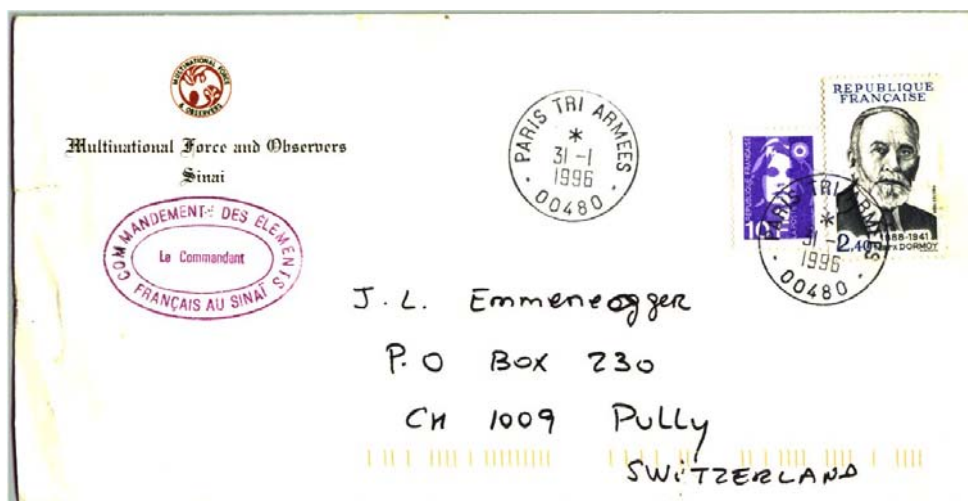


French Military Return to the Sinai

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

The French Army crossed the Sinai with Napoleon's campaign against the Turks in Syria and again during the First World War as part of the Egypt Expeditionary Force. French troops have now returned to the Sinai as part of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), which has been stationed in the Sinai since 1982 as a result of the Camp David peace talks.

The French contingent's mission is to provide on order, 24 hours a day, one fixed-wing aircraft and crew for missions including Civilian Observer Unit reconnaissance and verification flights, search and rescue, medical evacuation flights and VIP flights. Its complement is 14 members of the French Air Force - six officers and eight non-commissioned officers - and two French Army personnel officers.



The cover illustrated, with an oval cachet reading "Le Commandant / Commandements des Elements Français au Sinai", was cancelled with a Paris military cds on 31 January 1996.

Great Bitter Lakes Association

Andy Gould (ESC 393)

The Six Day War between Egypt and Israel, which started on 5 June 1967, created a curious situation that led to an unusual social and philatelic phenomenon that lasted for eight years. Although the war itself was over in six days, by this time the Suez Canal had been closed and Israel had occupied the Sinai Peninsula on the east side of the Canal and the connecting lakes.

The waterway which had provided European countries with a fast and effective sea route to the Near and Far East was shut and the ships of the major trading nations once more had to negotiate the Cape of Good Hope.

A number of Russian tankers carrying oil from Arab states and a number of passenger liners that were already in the system at the point of closure had been let through without hindrance - possibly to keep political pressure at a minimum - but trapped within the waterways were 14 cargo ships belonging to various countries, hostages perhaps to whatever may happen over the course of the months and years to follow.

Through the assistance of the shipping agents in Egypt, the ships' crews were provided with essential supplies and the crews themselves alternated every few months, but the ships had to remain where they were, gradually rotting away. To while away the time, the crews created a thriving community, a brotherhood, which became known as the Great Bitter Lakes Association (GBLA). Membership was restricted to any person who served on board one of the trapped ships.

In addition to maintaining the ships as best they could and providing suitable accommodation for themselves, the GBLA's prime purpose was to maintain a high level of morale and support for this community. Sailing regattas, "Olympic Games", football "World Cups" and Christmas festivities were just a few of the activities that were planned and executed for the benefit of all the crews. One idea that took off well was to issue "postage stamps" highlighting the activities of the GBLA. The prime purpose was to exploit philately to ensure that the plight of the men serving on the ships was not forgotten.

The very primitive printing capabilities on board cargo ships may have restricted the quality of these issues, but the stamps were a great success with philatelists at the time although the scarcity of the material makes study a little more difficult nowadays. Dozens of different designs and issues were produced, but most exist only in very limited numbers of a few hundred at most.

Mail from the GBLA was passed either through the Egyptian postal system, as shown by the cover illustrated from April 1969, or alternatively posted by a returning seaman in their home country. Occasionally additional "proper" stamps were added, but some mail did pass through without hindrance as shown below.



Acknowledgement: Captain Bryan Hill, *Postage Stamps of the Great Bitter Lakes Association* (1975).

Postmen Markings: New Discoveries.

Ibrahim El-Fichawy (ESC 472)

Postmen postmarks have been written about by, among others, Gabriel Boulad¹, Edmund Hall² and Peter Smith³, who have reported circular datestamps from Cairo, Alexandria and Port Said up to the mid-1950s. Here I show two new and interesting examples.

The first (*Fig 1*), on a 1968 Registered letter returned to sender, is not properly a “postmark” but is written in red ink in Arabic script, which may be translated as “The sender, Postmen Egypt”, indicating that the postman was responsible for the return of the letter. The entire is sent from Shareh Ramses / T (ie, Ramsis Street Post Office in Cairo) on 17.9.68 to Wanaelqis, with a Registration label of Type A-8.3. The reverse carries a Wanaelqis cds of the next day, with a Cairo registration cds of 17.10.68 and a Cairo machine registration cachet the same day, on its return.

Fig.1



The second item (*Fig 2*) is a totally new cds entirely in Arabic, dated 7.7.68 on the reverse of a Registered cover from Saudi Arabia to the Cairo suburb of Dokki. It reads in its upper part “Distribution Area El Dokki” and below “Registration Postmen”.

Fig.2



References

- 1) Gabriel Boulad, “Une oblitération égyptienne peu connue: ‘Postmen’ ou ‘Facteurs’”, *L’Orient Philatélique* VII,88 (October 1954), pp. 456-468.
- 2) Edmund Hall, “The Postmark Study - Postmen postmarks”, *QC* XII,8 (whole number 136; December 1985), pp. 157-160.
- 3) Peter A S Smith, *Egypt - Stamps and Postal History: A Philatelic Treatise* (Limassol, 1999), pp. 488-9.

New Issues: Definitives Since 1 February 1997

Cyril Defriez (ESC 172)

The following notes illustrate some of the new definitive stamps issued between 1 February 1997 and 1 June 2001. All are printed by the Postal Printing Authority, without watermark.

1997, From February 1 Postage. Pharaonic designs.

SG	Balian	Value	Depiction	Date of Issue; comments	Perforation
2020	849	5p	Queen Ti	21.5.97 glossy gum, photogravure	11¼
2022	850	20p	Horemheb	1.2.97	
2024	851	75p	Amenhoteb III	25.3.97	
2025	852	LE 1	Nefertari	25.10.97 matt gum, lithographed	13¼ x 12¾
2026	853	LE 2	Tutankhamun	29.4.98	
2027	854	LE 5	Thotmes IV	23.3.98	

AIR

2029*	855	25p	Akhenaten	1998 matt gum, lithographed	13¼ x 12¾
2031C	856	75P	Thotmes III	25.3.97 glossy gum, photogravure	11 x 11¼
2032	857	LE 1	Tutankhamun	23.8.97 opaque gum	
2031	858	125p	Tutankhamun	25.7.98	

*2029/855 is a similar design to SG 1571/Bal.775 of 1987 but with printer's name at bottom right. Not illustrated.

1999, From June 23. Postage - New Pharaonic designs with coloured background.

2020a	859	10p	Goddess Silakht	25.3.01 matt gum, lithographed	12¾ x 13¼
2021	860	20p	Nofret	11.6.01	11¼
2023	861	25p	Goddess Silakht	23.6.99	12¾ x 13¼
2023a	862	30p	Goddess Silakht	11.6.01 matt printing	

Please note that SG and Bal numbers may change as more issues come to light. Some stamps are known on watermarked paper or with different gum; these varieties are not included here.



L'Orient Philatélique No. 132: A warm welcome

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

It has been a long time coming, but let no one under-estimate the importance of its arrival, late though it might be! *L'OP* lives again! Its resurgence indicates a new vitality in the affairs of our colleague society in Cairo, the Philatelic Society of Egypt, that can only promise better days, closer co-operation and more easy access to information long hidden away than has been possible for over 20 years.

The last issue of *L'OP*, No 131, published to mark the Golden Jubilee of the PSE in 1979, was a brave effort by its President, Dr Abdel Hamid Loutfi, and his Editor, Dr Medhat El-Chichini, to produce a fitting tribute by a Society starved of funds and facing insurmountable difficulties. And, sad to say, the standard of publication reflected those difficulties. Since then, nothing. The Society that half a generation earlier had led the way in publication and discovery - and with information sources so close to hand - was faltering, perhaps fatally.

Now, however, there is a reincarnation. No 132 in the series, dated January 2002, shows just what can be done when the will is there, and it is given the full support of its members. The Editor of the new issue is one of our members, Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264); the President of the PSE under whose auspices the venture has been carried through, is another, Hisham Bassyouny (ESC 391). And two more members of the PSE board are also ESC members, Professor Nabil el-Hadidi (ESC 369, our Egypt agent), and Dr Mohamed Adel Farid (ESC 495).



The new issue, of 40 pages at A5 size, reflects its antecedents by retaining the cover's Arabesque design by Alfredo Dazzi first used in 1965. It frames two 30pi stamps from the 2001 Joint Issue with China. Inside, the journal maintains its old traditions with bilingual English and Arabic - a fascinating and useful article by Lucien Toutounji on 1948/49 Palestine war mail, illustrating many covers with such elusive postmarks as Majdal and Faluga and providing previously unknown detail about this elusive period in Egypt's philatelic history. The text reproduction is excellent, and the illustrations certainly adequate.

There is also room in the issue for a comprehensive bilingual and illustrated listing of the 1954 6-millieme "Touristic Issue" postcards with the Defense stamp vignette (H&G 42-45, Balian 44), and what looks to this untrained observer like a most comprehensive guide (in Arabic) to the watermarks on Egyptian stamps and another describing the issue dates of the 1972 Officials. Articles about recent Egyptian successes at international competition, messages of welcome and a valuable series of (free, for the time being!) advertisements complete the resurrection of a journal that we welcome with great delight.

The aim, says Hisham Bassyouny, is to publish four times a year. Donations will be welcomed, helping to allow an improvement in standards, and he has set a subscription rate (postage included) of \$US25 annually. He may be contacted at PO Box 142 Cairo; or by email at hisham@bassyouny.net.

Hisham, Lucien and their colleagues have taken a brave and important first step. It is for all of us to help them to realise their aim of improving standards so that Egyptian philately can again benefit from two centres of excellence rather than just one.

Biennial Meeting of the New Zealand Chapter

Peter F. Goodwin (ESC 297)

Another successful meeting of the New Zealand Chapter was held this February at Matarangi Beach. A full report will be given in a later *QC*, however the opportunity is taken here, in our special colour edition, to show a couple of the photographs taken. It may even encourage some to make the journey for a future meeting.

As on previous occasions, the hosts were Jenny and Tony Chisholm, generously making their holiday home at Matarangi the venue for this year's meeting. In attendance were Tony Cakebread (ESC 536), Sue McIntosh (ESC 356) and husband Bill, Peter F Goodwin (ESC 297), Anita and Herb Cowley, Elizabeth and Allan P Berry (ESC 535), all from NZ. The UK contingent was Peter Andrews (ESC 122), with Pamela and Robin Bertram (ESC 137).



Some members of the ESC enjoying a lighter moment in the meeting room at Matarangi. (Left to right at rear are Peter Goodwin, Peter Andrews, Robin Bertram, Herb Cowley and Allan Berry. Seated at front are Tony Chisholm and Sue McIntosh.



Peter Andrews (not quite suitably dressed for a formal London meeting of the ESC) giving one of his many displays

It is planned to hold the seventh Biennial Meeting in the last week of February 2004, and members, partners, spouses and camp followers are cordially invited to register their intention of attending by contacting Tony Chisholm, 13 Arden Way, Wilton, Wellington 6005, New Zealand, so that the necessary arrangements for accommodation and catering can be made. Please note, February is our summer here, and available houses for rent are booked up early, so do not be late and miss out.