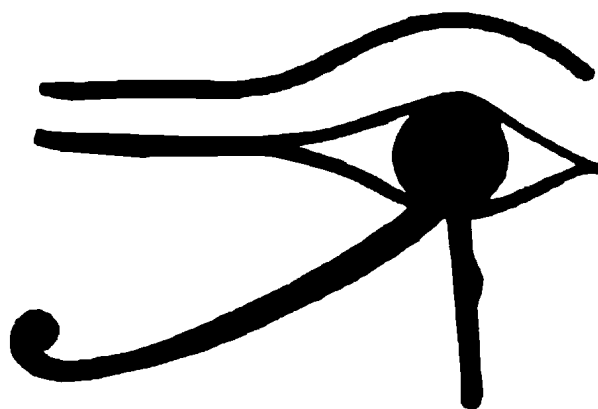


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THE
EGYPT



STUDY CIRCLE

**June Quarter 2002
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Cover of the Month: 1890 (June 17). Registered cover fully paid from Genoa to Alexandria. Arrived Alex (June 22) and delivered and signed for as registered. Opened in error and annotated in Italian manuscript to this effect. As a registered item it could not be dropped in a Postbox and was taken to Alexandria PO where the cover was re-sealed with Interpostals of 1884 (Kehr 731). These were cancelled by red wax seals 'Postes Egyptiennes-Alexandrie', one of which has been torn off on opening; received in Cairo on 10th July 1890.

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Forthcoming Meetings.

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, January 12, 2002

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Robin Bertram (Chairman), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman); and Peter Andrews, Mike Bramwell, John Davis, Cyril Defriez, Peter Grech, Edmund Hall, Alan Jeyes and Mike Murphy.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Dennis Clarke, John Chellingsworth, Peter Feltus, Brian Sedgley and Betty Watterson.

The Chairman opened the meeting by wishing members a happy and successful 2002, and announced that the Circle had been honoured by an invitation to display to the Royal Philatelic Society in London, probably in 2003: no date had yet been set. He suggested that ten members each contributing 60 frames might be the best and most efficient way to illustrate the Circle's wide range of material, and hoped to give more information in the very near future.

He also announced that material from the collection of our late colleague Kurt Wolfsbauer would come up for auction at Feldman's in Switzerland in February.

Secretary: Mike Murphy said he was sorry to have to report the resignation, on grounds of advancing years, of Hans Ebert (ESC 302) of Austria, but that there had been more expressions of interest from non-members in joining the Circle (see below).

As far as the Auction was concerned, he was able to say that the Circle was on course to start the programme again in February, and, thanks to the hard work of Peter Andrews (ESC 122) in preparing the list, a bumper Auction 33 should be posted out by mail or email by the end of the month.

He reported that Ted Fraser-Smith (ESC 238) had made great progress in translating from Arabic the 1998 Egyptian Post Office Guide to Postal Rates provided by Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264) and hoped that this would soon be published in the *QC*.

Treasurer: Alan Jeyes appealed for subscriptions for 2002 (now £15.00, remember!)

Editor: Edmund Hall announced that the delayed December *QC* should be available in the very near future, but that the "full colour" celebration edition No 200, to be published in spring, might also be delayed slightly because of pressure of work. There was already much material in hand for 201, however, and he hoped to be back on track by the middle of the year.

Edmund appealed to all members to think hard about what colour page they might be able to contribute to No 200 - and then to drop him a line first with their proposal for vetting (simply to avoid the whole journal being filled with Hotels covers!!). His aim is to display variety of subject - the page needs only to be colourful, and to reflect a member's interest, whether that be stamps, postal history or any other area.

Peter Grech (ESC 266): Made a brief speech to thank members for having voted for his article, *The Ramleh Electric Tramway*, as the best submitted to the *QC* for the year 2000.

The meeting - Egypt Expeditionary Force (outside Egypt): The Chairman introduced Stanley Horesh, Deputy Chairman, who opened his talk by noting that the description of Palestine SG 1-4 as "the first stamps of Palestine" was in fact a misnomer since they were produced not for Palestine but for use in Palestine by the Egypt Expeditionary Force, the name chosen for the combined Force in Egypt and the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force after they combined in March 1916 to oppose Turkey's military operations against Egypt.

He showed these first four stamps of the British Military Administration, produced by the Survey of Egypt in Cairo from February 10 to May 13, 1918, and based on a simple lithographic design, noting that the shades of blue were so similar as to be very difficult to distinguish; the only way to be sure that a used stamp is SG1 is if it is used with a cds before the issue of SG3 (March 5). Control blocks can be distinguished by the control numbers.

The first stamp (1 piastre) was quickly followed by a surcharge of 5 milliemes for internal use, and a very rare Specimen of the latter was shown - only 380 were supposed to have been produced. SG3 and 4 followed the same pattern, of 1pi and 5m surcharge. Forgeries of the surcharge (SG4) are known with 14 bars obliterating the original value instead of 16. All stamps were rouletted because no perforating machine was available at the Survey of Egypt at the time.

From July 16 a full regular issue of 11 typographed stamps was produced from Somerset House, London, with values ranging from 1m to 20p. This regular issue was also used by the local inhabitants of the areas occupied by the EEF. The stamps were also overprinted OPDA (Ottoman Public Debt Administration), OPDA Devair (Court Fees) and HJZ (Hejaz Railway) for fiscal use, and in Arabic for use in Jordan - remarkably, these latter were found with not only the basic 15x14 perf but also 14x14.

Turning to postal history, the working of the Army postal system at the time was summarised, pointing up the ease with which Base POs and APOs (mainly hospitals or other stationary units) could be traced. There then followed a brief excursion into the difficulties of attempting to track down precisely where each active fighting unit and its FPO was at any given moment. The various authorities do not always agree on such salient points, and tribute was paid to the authors of the official publication *A Brief Record of the Advance of the EEF, 1917-18*, together with a lament that it covered such a short period of time.

Using a good deal of detective work and clues garnered from internal evidence in the letters themselves, it was possible to show mail, including demonstrations of the use of stamps and free use for military personnel, and its distinctive markings from virtually all the detachments forming the EEF in its advance through southern Palestine to Jerusalem and even up to Damascus and Cilicia - not only from British units but also from their Italian, French, Australian, New Zealand and Indian allies. Covers illustrating the various rates were also shown.

The display was augmented by material supplied by Robin Bertram and Edmund Hall. On behalf of the members, the Chairman thanked Stanley for a fascinating display of material not normally shown yet full of interest and character, from the points of view of stamps, postal history, and casting light on a crucially important sector of the First World War. Members showed their appreciation in the traditional manner.

Mahallet Roh Railway Station cds: A Response

Mohammed Adel Farid (ESC 495)

I was interested to see Vahe Varjabedian's note on the September 1892 Mahallet Roh Station card (*QC* 196, March 2001, page 200), and especially his query about why, addressed to Montereau in France, it should have been routed via Mahallet Roh and Mansoura. I think I can supply an explanation.

1. There was clearly a clear mistake in the reading of the address after posting in Alexandria (Sept 17) - the Montereau (not Montreux, or Montreau) as handwritten is not clear, and may well have been read as Mansoura.
2. This mistake would have been supported by the postcard's internal franking rate - it is the 3m surcharge on 5m (HG 6 of 1891).
3. It will also have been supported by the apparent absence of any foreign country's appellation - the sender did not write "France" but "S et M" (for Seine-et-Marne district) in parantheses.
4. When, after the card had visited Mahallet Roh and Mansoura on Sept 18 and the mistake was discovered, it was returned to Alexandria (Sept 19) to set out again.
5. But now it was sent to France at the internal 3m rate - because, crucially, the date-slug of the original Alexandria obliteration of Sept 17 runs diagonally across the surcharge, almost completely obliterating it and indicating, at a quick glance, that it was a 5m card.
6. Whatever the circumstances, the card arrived safely in Montereau, "Sne et Mne", on Sept 26.

The 6th Biennial Meeting of The New Zealand Chapter of the Egypt Study Circle

Peter F. Goodwin (ESC 297)

Held: February 24 to March 1, 2002 at Matarangi Beach, Coromandel Peninsula, North Island, New Zealand.

As on previous occasions, our hosts Jenny and Tony Chisholm (ESC 288) arrived at their holiday home at Matarangi to prepare for this year's meeting several days beforehand, and were joined by Tony Cakebread (ESC 536) from Wellington on February 22, the main body of the party arriving at the weekend. This comprised Sue McIntosh (ESC 356) and her husband Bill, UK members Peter Andrews (ESC122) and Robin Bertram (ESC 137) and Robin's wife Pam, Peter F. Goodwin (ESC 297) from NZ, and Anita and Herb Cowley from Wellington.

Because of business commitments Tony Cakebread had to fly back to Wellington on the Monday afternoon, and we were joined on Wednesday by Elizabeth and Allan P. Berry (ESC 535) from Thames, NZ.

While the collectors showed and discussed stamps from Monday onwards Jenny Chisholm provided the non-collectors with a varied programme to keep them entertained. The stamp programme was as follows:

Monday Feb 25	9.00-9.50	Robin Bertram displayed 65 sheets of postage dues from the 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , and De La Rue issues.
	10.25-10.40	Robin then dealt with the Harrison Issues on a further 37 sheets: the display showed singles, blocks and examples on cover.
	11.25-12.00	Tony Cakebread gave an introduction to his involvement in collecting of Middle East issues and showed seven sheets of Egyptian postal stationery and WWII Military plus Censors.
	1.40-2.30	Peter Andrews gave a 32-sheet display and talk on postal stationery postcards; Peter Goodwin tendered a further six sheets as a supplement

As mentioned above, Tony Cakebread had to leave at 4pm, so we all went down to the Matarangi airport to see him off.

Tuesday Feb 26	9.30-10.00	Peter Andrews continued with postal stationery by showing his collection of cassette envelopes 1989? to his latest purchase when in Cairo last October.
	10.15-11.00	Sue McIntosh provided a 36-sheet display and talk on the Army Post stamps, showing the 40 mill rate to NZ and multiple usage of the 10 mill Farouk issue.

As Herb Cowley (Forces Postal History Society member) and Bill McIntosh were away for the day deep sea fishing, a halt was called and the rest of the party took off in two cars for a social outing to Hot Water Beach for bathing, sunshine and a picnic.

Wed Feb 27	10.00-10.45	Peter F. Goodwin started the day with a general display of interpostal seals showing main and sub-types based on Kehr's listing with a short reference to the Posta Europea frankings.
	11.00-12.15	Herb Cowley showed 31 sheets of EPP (Egyptian Postage Prepaid) Forces cancellations 1940-43 on item: 9d rate, overpaid and mixed frankings on cover posted by the New Zealand Forces.

	2.00-3.00	The afternoon session started off with Robin Bertram's large range of revenue material, including singles, full mint sheets and used on document - Tobacco Tax (large and narrow format), Basic Revenues, Salt Tax, Consular Stamps and the UAR. Long and Short Eagle Issues. Sue and Peter G also tendered sheets from their albums to add to the topic.
Thurs Feb 28	2.30-2.55	Sue McIntosh treated us to a 48-sheet display on TPOs by and on the lines of the Western and Delta railways: this material will be entered into the National Exhibition at Northpex 2002 to be held on the North Shore, Auckland, NZ, April 5-7.
	3.45-3.55	Sue continued with a further 32-sheet display of TPOs covering the Eastern Lines, Military and Canal areas: these will form the rest of the five-frame entry for Northpex 2002.
	4.00-4.20	Allan Berry showed 23 sheets from his large holding of the New Zealand 1940 Centennial Issues used by NZ troops in Egypt, including covers from Egypt to New Zealand and vice versa.
	4.30-4.45	Sue did a short display on nine sheets of WWI NZ Egyptian Military Hospitals, an "idea" to be worked on for a possible item for the <i>QC</i> later when developed.
Friday March 1	10.00-10.30	To add a little variety to the proceedings, Allan showed 75 sheets of his Exhibition Collection of NZ Govt. Life Department Issues.
	10.42-10.55	Allan continued, after a viewing break, with the Non-V.R. Issues of Govt. Life 1907-1913 on a further 21 sheets.
	11.30-12.30	Sue (in absentia) had 28 sheets of Egyptian Officials described by Robin and Peter A, with 21 further sheets from Peter G covering the 1893 'No Value' and subsequent issues.
	2.00-2.3	Peter Andrews spoke to his 12-sheet display of postal stationery envelopes and 15 sheets from Tony Chisholm's collection.
	3.20-3.45	Tony Chisholm finished off with an update on his postcard survey, having now recorded the details of 12,221 cards on Egyptian views and subjects.

As will be noted, there are gaps in the above timetable - these were filled by numerous coffee and tea breaks, and when the sun was over the yardarm beverages of a stronger nature. Tony our Host showed on Sunday some postcards he is researching, having to do with New Zealand Troops who died in action or of wounds.

The weather (without which no report is complete) was very kind to us the whole week, apart from Saturday March 2nd, when we had planned on holding an Open Day for local enthusiasts. Because of incomplete newspaper coverage and the downpour this did not eventuate, but the local press turned up for interviews and pictures.

Next day turned out hot and sunny, allowing the New Zealand visitors to pack and depart in good order; the UK visitors were to leave on Monday (Peter Andrews for London) and Tuesday, the Bertrams to continue their holiday motoring further south and over on to the South Island.

It is planned to hold the seventh Biennial Meeting on 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.

Report of the Meeting, March 2, 2002

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman); and Leon Balian (Egypt), Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Dennis Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Ulrich Eckstein (Germany), Mark Freeman, Peter Grech, Edmund Hall, Charlie Hass (United States), Bill Johns, Costas Kelemenis (Greece), Mordecai Kremener (Israel), Hany Makram (Egypt), Mike Murphy, Anatole Ott (Sweden), Keith Pogson and Vahe Varjabedian (Egypt). Visitor: Dr M K el-Dars.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Robin Bertram (Chairman), John Chellingsworth, John Davis, Ted Fraser-Smith and Alan Jeyes.

The Deputy Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming a good turnout of members, including several from overseas, including our guest speaker, Ulrich Eckstein from Oldenburg in Germany, and one visitor in Dr Mostafa el-Dars, a member of the Philatelic Society of Egypt until he came to England in 1966; his application for membership was accepted at the meeting.

Secretary: Mike Murphy said he was sorry to have to report the death of George Mason, of Liverpool; and the resignation of David Ogden, of Chatham, Kent.

He was delighted, however, to report the advent of the issue No 132 of *L'Orient Philatélique*, dated January 2002 and resurrected by our colleagues of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, the first issue since 1979. Members were delighted to welcome the magazine's return (see review, back page *QC* 200).

With three weeks to go to the closing date of our bumper Auction 33, 27 sets of bids had already been received, and funds had been saved on postage and printing by the despatch of 61 lists to members by email. He urged members to bid strongly to support the Auction.

In the temporary absence of the Editor, he asked members to consider submitting a single-page article for the forthcoming "all-colour" special issue No 200 of the *Quarterly Circular*. Several submissions had already been received; and the specific criterion was that the illustrated material should require colour for full efficacy. Subject matter was less important; the aim was to indicate the breadth and range of members' interests. A brief preliminary note should be sent first to Edmund Hall.

President: John Sears announced that he had heard from Richard West, of Phoenix International, of the unfortunate theft of many thousand pounds' worth of Egypt material from a stamp fair, and provided an extensive list of missing items. Anyone recognising any item from the list should contact an ESC official.

Appeal: Charlie Hass appealed for members to notify him of any De La Rue stamps on chalk-surfaced paper with inverted watermarks (preferably with legible datestamp!) for a catalogue in preparation

The meeting - The De La Rue Issues: The Deputy Chairman introduced Ulrich Eckstein, who showed an astonishing and extensive display of 150 sheets of beautifully mounted stamps and covers illustrating the whole range of the London printers' issues from 1879, when they first won the contract, to 1909 and the end of the Sphinx and Pyramid design after 42 years.

Ulrich was at pains not only to show all of the stamps and the various printings and varieties but also an absolutely fascinating array of postal items indicating use of the adhesives, whether singly or in combination, whether to cover a single or higher weight step, printed matter, internal or overseas, registration or Avis de Reception, including the little-known Austrian concession rate. On Post Office forms, on Registered, Rural or Hotel correspondence, his selection of postal material was supreme: in pristine condition and clearly indicating its specific use. The proper use on cover of only a single stamp eludes him during the period in question; and for economic reasons that stamp will not be revealed here - it is already expensive, and if it is known that it is required to complete a masterly collection, the dealer's price would sky-rocket!

The Deputy Chairman thanked Ulrich for having presented a fascinating and stimulating display, at once comprehensive and displayed with a control of the material that indicates a thorough knowledge of its production and use. Members showed their appreciation in the traditional manner.

Report of the Annual General Meeting, May 11 2002

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Robin Bertram (Chairman), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Alan Jeyes (Treasurer), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Dennis Clarke (Committee); George Anagnostoulis, Peter Andrews, Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Mostafa El-Dars, Ted Fraser-Smith, Mark Freeman, Peter Grech, Bill Johns and Brian Sedgley.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from John Davis, Edmund Hall and Lewis Said.

1. Chairman's Report: Robin Bertram described the past 12 months as an excellent year, but regretted that membership had dipped slightly to 188; he appealed to those present to bring forward potential recruits. He thanked Alan Jeyes for having organised the October trip to Egypt and said he would like to put on record the overwhelming hospitality of our Egyptian colleagues in Cairo and Alexandria. Other members had recently visited New Zealand, and he paid tribute to the hospitality of Tony Chisholm and NZ colleagues for another wonderful trip. He thanked Committee members for all their hard work and especially the President, John Sears, for his guidance and many helpful suggestions.

2. Minutes of the last AGM, previously circulated (*QC* 197), were approved (proposed: Mike Murphy; seconded Alan Jeyes).

Matters arising: Mike Murphy reported that the increase in subscriptions to £15 had taken place; and that plans for the website were still under close consideration.

3. Election of Officers. On the proposal of Robin Bertram (seconded Mike Murphy), Tony Chisholm (ESC 288) was elected unanimously to the new position of Antipodean Agent of the Circle. Tony can be found at 13 Arden Way, Wilton, Wellington 6005, NZ (phone 64 4 4729 866; fax 4729 865; email j_t_chis@clear.net.nz). John Sears proposed (and Peter Grech seconded) that he and his fellow agents, Nabil El-Hadidi (Egypt) and Charlie Hass (USA) be appointed ex officio Committee members. The proposal was passed unanimously.

4. Accounts 2001. Alan Jeyes reported a deficit of nearly £500 on the year, a result which had been anticipated and hence the increase in subscription rates this year. The full effect of this increase, however, would not be felt in 2002 because several members had paid in advance at the old rate of £12.50. The increased cost of the full-colour *QC* 200 (approx £1,600) would have to be met this year, but to offset that there would again be income from two Auctions, with slightly increased commission rates. Mike Murphy noted that about one third of printing and postage costs had been saved by use of email. He proposed (Brian Sedgley seconded) that the Accounts be approved. Carried unanimously.

5. Any Other Business.

a. The Chairman spoke of the history of the MacArthur Award, sponsored by the legacy of our late chairman, Major E L G MacArthur, and announced that members had voted for Edmund Hall's *Sinai and Gaza* in *QC* 198 as the best article of 2001. It was Edmund's second award of a trophy intended to encourage more original research in *QC* articles.

b. The meeting welcomed the resurrection of *L'Orient Philatélique* and agreed to explore practical ways in which the Circle might help to ensure its long-term survival.

6. Next Meeting. It was announced that the next Annual General Meeting will be held at the Victory Services Club on Saturday May 10, 2003, with a normal afternoon starting time.

Report of Meeting, May 11 2002

PRESENT AND APOLOGIES: as at the Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman opened the meeting by giving details of the new edition of *L'Orient Philatélique* and offering to channel subscription funds (\$25 p.a.) via our Egyptian Agent to the Philatelic Society of Egypt should members wish to subscribe.

QC 200: In the Editor's absence, Mike Murphy announced that the special all-colour *QC* edition 200 was virtually imminent. He praised Edmund's work in getting together a wonderfully representative selection of articles which necessitated up-paging to 32 pages. The cost would be approximately three times that of a normal issue, but for this special occasion it was considered money well spent. *QC* 201 will follow closely behind.

Egyptian Cultural Bureau: The Secretary reported on a meeting with Dr Mostafa El-Dars and his niece, Professor Wadouda Badran, Cultural Attaché at the Egyptian Embassy. Professor Wadouda is very interested in adding a talk by one of our members to her Thursday-evening lecture series, perhaps with an exhibition of Egyptian philately attached. It was agreed to explore the possibilities, and she raised the exciting prospect of perhaps bringing material from the Postal Museum in Cairo.

Postal Rates: Mike Murphy paid tribute to the work of Ted Fraser-Smith (ESC 238), whose work on translating the 1998 Postal Rates document obtained in Cairo in October has nearly come to fruition. To have such concrete information in the *QC* will be a great step forward.

Auction 33: The Auction had 60 bidders (25 of them by email), and approximately 60 per cent of the 827 lots had been sold. It was good to have the Auction back in operation, and many members had welcomed its return in notes with their bids.

Republican Issues 1952-1961: Cyril Defriez (ESC 272) then presented the day's topic, based on his own collection rather than the Circle's collection of Modern Issues, which Cyril keeps, but which started only in 1971-72.

In a display which concentrated mainly on stamps and their varieties but ended with a fascinating selection of covers, Cyril opened with the first republican issue (November 23, 1952, technically still during the "reign" of the infant King Ahmed Fuad II) and explained the rates of the time as 4m - cards/samples, 10m - internal letters; 17m - UK letters; 22m - rest of the world.

Stamps were still produced by the Survey of Egypt, and the Royal Crown/F watermark and inscriptions in French continued for many years. So much so that the 10m Soldier stamp of January 1953 was reprinted with "defence" changed to "defense" seven months later. After the Suez Crisis of 1956, however, "American" was chosen in preference to French and English!

The stamp issued to mark the opening of the new Shepherds Hotel (July 20, 1957) was the last to use the Crown/F watermark; two days later the National Assembly issue had the new Eagle watermark. Cyril described succinctly the short-lived United Arab Republic between Egypt and Syria, not forgetting Yemen, and noted the similarity between Egyptian and Syrian issues, all of which continued to be produced by the Survey in Giza with an Egyptian watermark. The UAR watermark appeared in 1959.

Also in 1959 the Postal Authority experimented with its new press by producing colourful no-value stamps based on the United Arab States design (SG 593), but it was not until July 26, 1961, with the Canal Nationalisation Anniversary issue, that the Survey was superseded in its stamp printing work.

Among his covers Cyril showed a full collection of 100 of the four colours of the so-called "touristic" postcard designs of 1954, raising the question of why the Soldier stamp vignette was set at the 6m internal rate if they were intended for tourist use? All those used examples recalled by the meeting have additional stamps.

The Chairman thanked Cyril for his fine display and his convincing proof that philatelically there was still “life after Farouk”. He raised the question of the many imperforate varieties of stamps of this period, and wondered how many and in what circumstances they had been printed and issued, and mentioned the difficulty of finding cards and covers with the correct lower rates. Members showed their appreciation in the traditional manner.

Change of Status:

ESC 493 **Ahmed Maher Sobhi** informs us that he is now in full-time business as a dealer

New Member:

ESC 557 **Jürgen Fricke**, In den Hollen 61, 27299 Langwedel, Germany
(Interests: Egypt, German Reunification, Danish West Indies, Machins)

Resignations

ESC 504 **Karim Darwaza**.

Editorial

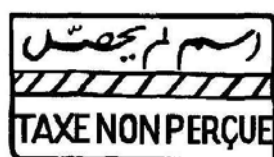
The all colour issue seems to have met with universal approval. Thanks to all those who made a contribution and particularly to our secretary whose help in proof reading and re-working was essential the edition's success. For some it was their first effort, so now you know how easy it was I have no doubt in having the pleasure to see further articles. I don't seem to have had many contributions of late but on preparing this editing I realised I have a healthy backlog to work through, so apologises to those I have had contributions for some time that have yet to be published. But don't let this deter you, now is the time to prepare that article for one of next year's QC.

Invalidation of Postage Due Stamps

Peter A. S. Smith (ESC 74)

On page 441 of *EGYPT: Stamps and Postal History*, Fig. 46 shows an example of one of the postmarks shown here. They were used from about 1926 to invalidate postage due stamps for which the charge was not collected (due to forwarding or return to sender). Acquisition of a cover with additional strikes of one of these postmarks (which are quite uncommon) enables me to make clearer drawings, and to include one that was not illustrated before.

The Arabic reads *rasm lam yahassal*, which is an exact translation of the French. Although I still cannot determine the duration of these markings with any precision, I have seen them as late as 1938, and they probably continued much later, perhaps even to the end of the use of postage due stamps. They succeeded the boxed T, which was used throughout the previous (before 1926) postage due issues to signify invalidation when struck on the stamps.



Note: Because strikes are usually somewhat smudged, and details may be obscured by the image of the stamp on which they are struck, there may be small discrepancies from the actual handstamp in the above images. The French wording is accurate [TAX and TAXE], but the number of slant lines, //, may not be precise.

P. & O.

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company: It's origins and its connections with Egypt.

John Davis (ESC 213)

W&A

It would seem that the P. & O. commenced operations as a shipping agent from offices in Lime Street in London, conveniently situated near the Lloyd's insurance offices - Lloyd's have always specialised in shipping insurance, although most other forms of insurance are transacted in addition. Brodie McGhie Willcox, born at Ostend in Belgium of English and Scottish parents, and who founded and ran the shipping agency from 1815, employed a Shetland Islander, Arthur Anderson, as a clerk following his discharge from the Navy. Introduced to Willcox in 1815 by his future father-in-law Mr Hill, Anderson became a partner on his marriage to Miss Mary Ann Hill in 1822 when they (W & A) ran small sailing ships to Spain and Portugal. Details of the background to the relationship between Willcox and Anderson can be found in Chapter XII of *The Overland Mail* by John Sidebottom.

W&A assisted the Queen of Portugal during a civil war in that country that ended in 1833 and followed this up by affording assistance to the Queen Regent of Spain during the Carlist rising. The Agent of the Spanish Government during that rising was Pedro Juan de Zulueta, who became a director of the company following his appointment as Agent of the Peninsular Steam Navigation Company at Cadiz. Entries in *Lloyd's List* indicate that from 1834 the new company ran regular steamships to the peninsula, but there is no evidence to show that any of these ships carried mail. Only Admiralty packets (paquebots) carried mail for the official mail service during 1834.

Ships chartered by W&A during 1834 included the *Royal Tar* and the *Royal William*: is this the same *S.S. Royal William* as depicted on SG 331 of Canada, which commemorates in 1933 the centenary of the first Transatlantic Steamboat Crossing? I suspect that it is. These ships were chartered from Captain Richard Bourne, who controlled the Dublin and London Steam Packet Company. In addition, the *City of Edinburgh*, the *Soho* and the *Menai* were chartered from the London & Edinburgh Steamship Company. The *Royal Tar* is recorded as arriving at San Sebastian Bay on 10 July 1835 with "troops recruited in Britain for the service of the Queen of Spain".

The P.S.N.C.

By October 1835 W&A were advertising in *The Times* their "Peninsular Line of Steam Packets" and the following month their "Peninsular Steam Navigation Company", but sailings had already taken place that year with the *William Fawcett*, the *Liverpool* and the *London Merchant* leaving Gravesend via Falmouth for Lisbon, Cadiz and Gibraltar and returning via Lisbon, Oporto, Vigo and Falmouth. Sidebottom states that "when the P.S.N.C. was formed in 1837 Willcox and Anderson were elected as managing directors". Clearly there is a discrepancy here between Kirk's advertising in November 1835 and Sidebottom's date for the formation of the Company in 1837. Gibraltar was the point of transfer for mails to HM packets of the Admiralty steam packet service for destinations at Malta, Greece and the Ionian Islands, Egypt and the East Indies, according to a General Post Office notice dated 14 August 1837. The new service commenced on 1 September 1837, starting from London every Friday, and from Falmouth very Monday. Kirk reports that covers have been recorded for all the ports mentioned, though the ships may also have called at Vigo and Oporto on the outward journeys as per the announcement dated 1 September. Admiralty packets ran every alternate week from Gibraltar to Malta and from Malta to Corfu, but the connection to Alexandria was only once a month to meet the India mails. Malta to Alexandria took four days.

Much of the recorded mail from India is addressed to Huth & Co. of London. By 1836 the “Manchester” had been acquired on charter as well as the “Glasgow”. The “Iberia” was acquired the same year as well as the “Peninsula”, for which latter only one sailing is recorded and that only from Falmouth to Lisbon. When the 1837 Postal Contract was acquired, having been approved by the British Government on 22nd August 1837, it was signed on behalf of the company by Captain Bourne as a ‘shipowner’; as neither Willcox nor Anderson actually owned any ships at that time. Bourne became a director of P. & O. from 1840 and remained so until his death in 1851.

The annual payment was to have been £29,600 for one sailing per week but, because ships arrived earlier than had been calculated and complaints were received, it was said that ‘the only fault being that it had been done too well’. Originally once a week, in 1844 the sailings were reduced to three times a month and £9,100 was deducted from the annual payment. Passengers being few and far between because of the unsettled situation prevailing in the peninsula, and with contracts and tariffs not allowing for sufficient cargo, the company found the mail contract increasingly unprofitable. Three years was the original length of the contract but it remained in force, although occasionally amended, until replaced on 9th January 1852.

Early westbound HM packets are recorded leaving Alexandria carrying mails from Calcutta as follows:

Calcutta departure	East India Co. packet	P.S.N.C. packet	Falmouth arrival	mails to London on:
7 Nov 1837	Atalanta	Iberia	2 Dec	4 Dec 1837
5 Dec 1837	Hugh Lindsay	Soho	7 Jan	8 Jan 1838
2 Jan 1838	Berenice	Londonderry	29 Jan	31 Jan
30 Feb	Atalanta	Liverpool	5 Mar	7 Mar
27 Feb	Hugh Lindsay	Iberia	27 Mar	29 Mar
28 Mar	Atalanta	Iberia	30 Apr	30 Apr
24 Apr	Berenice	Tagus	19 May	21 May
22 May	Atalanta	Tagus	16 Jun	18 Jun
17 Jun	Berenice	Liverpool	15 Jul	17 Jul
8 Oct	Atalanta	Iberia	9 Nov	12 Nov
9 Oct	Berenice	Iberia	9 Nov	12 Nov
6 Nov	Atalanta	Tagus	3 Dec	5 Dec
4 Dec	Hugh Lindsay	Iberia	5 Jan	7 Jan 1839
1 Jan 1839	Berenice	Braganza	2 Feb	4 Feb.

At this stage mails were being carried across Egypt from Suez to Alexandria, and of course vice versa by Waghorn and others. I have in my collection a large outer from Bibby of Bombay to Huth & Co. of London with boxed Waghorn cachet “To the care of Mr. Waghorn” (Sidebottom type 10) Fig. 1. Forwarded by McGregor Brownrigg of Bombay, it is dated “Bombay 1836” and the London arrival mark appears to be 1.3.1837 so, unfortunately, it predates the P.S.N.C. packets. Nevertheless a later example quoted from Kirk’s book gives details as follows:

“On 30th August 1840 the East India Company packet “Victoria” left Bombay and took the India mails to Suez on 18th September 1840. The new contract packet “Oriental” left Alexandria on 23rd September 1840 to Malta 27-28th September, Gibraltar 3rd October 1840 and Falmouth on 8th October 1840. As the P&O had thus taken over the Mediterranean route, the Peninsular steamers no longer handled the India mails”.

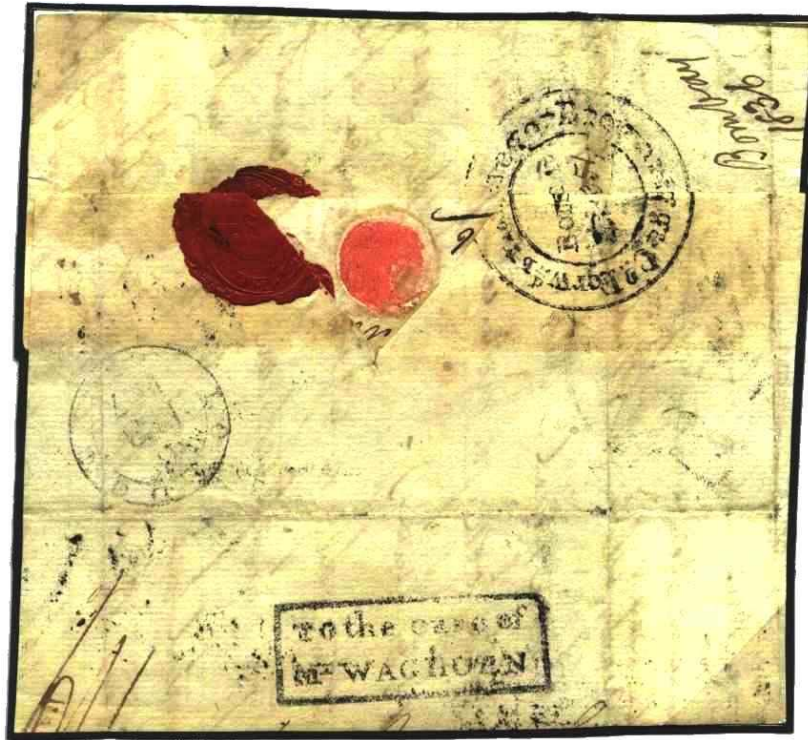


Fig 1. 1836 Alexandria to London with earliest Waghorn cachet.

P&O

Sidebottom: “The Company carried on the service as far as Gibraltar for two years and was then asked by the Government to extend its contract steam packet service from Gibraltar to Alexandria. This it did in 1839, thus completing the European link by steam. A Royal Charter, which was granted in December, 1840, enabled the word “Oriental” to be inserted in the Company’s title and stipulated the use of two powerful steamers on the sea route from Suez to Bombay; one of which, the *S.S. Hindostan*, is illustrated on page 145 leaving Southampton to open the new contract service. This placed the whole of the sea route to India in the hands of the P. and O. Company, and the dream of the early advocates of steam to India was thus realised in the same year as the protagonists of cheap postage saw their schemes materialise”.

The name of the company was thus changed at a board meeting in 1840 to “Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company”; on 1 June that year application was made for the above-mentioned Royal Charter which received the Royal Assent in November. A new member of the board, James Matheson, an erstwhile opium trader in China, became chairman in 1848; his company Jardine Matheson is still one of the largest on the Hong Kong stock market.

A new postal contract was agreed on 26 August 1840 for a service from Falmouth, via Gibraltar and Malta to Alexandria and return, but this time the contract allowed for both passengers and cargo in addition to the mails. Seemingly Falmouth ceased to be the main British mail port, losing out to Southampton because the first P&O steamship on this route, the 1,500 tons and 450 horse-power *Oriental*, was advertised in *The Times* of July 1840 as leaving Southampton on 1 September for Alexandria. She was to call only at Gibraltar for six hours, and Malta (on the 9th) for 26 hours to arrive at Alexandria on September 14. The turnaround at Alexandria was to be 120 hours and the *Oriental* was to carry “goods, passengers and parcels”.

Details of the Alexandria turnaround were partly coloured by the fact that, like Cadiz and Marseilles, ships could enter or leave the harbour only during daylight hours. In addition there was always the problem of quarantine that might cause a delay. Quoting from the contract itself, Kirk records:

“That such vessel shall arrive at Alexandria within 96 hours from the time of her departure from Malta, delivering her Majesty’s Mails at Alexandria immediately on her arrival there. That such vessel shall in ordinary cases, remain at Alexandria 120 hours unless Her Majesty’s Mails from India shall have previously arrived at Alexandria, in which case she shall leave Alexandria with Her Majesty’s Mails as soon as Coals can be got on board, and the requisite repairs to the vessel and her machinery can be effected. If however, Her Majesty’s Mails from India shall not have arrived at the expiration of such 120 hours, such vessel shall wait for the same at Alexandria, beyond that period for such time as shall be necessary, not however exceeding 2 days in the month of February, 4 days in each of the months of April, June, September and November and 5 days in each of the remaining months of the year, but if at the expiration of such last mentioned periods, a telegraphic communication shall have reached Alexandria to the effect that the said Mails have been despatched across the Desert, or if the affirmative flag shall have given notice that the Bombay steamer is in sight of Suez, such vessel at Alexandria is to remain there until Her Majesty’s Mails from India are on board.”

As to quarantine, the Lazzaretto at Alexandria was located see map Fig. 2 not near the Fort of Qait Bey, as has often been suggested, original location of the Pharos or lighthouse of Alexandria, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, but at the eastern end of the Eastern Harbour near the Port Silsileh promontory leading to the Pharillon. Alexander Kinglake in his book *Eothen* published in 1844 by John Murray, mentions plague in Cairo during his visit:

“It so happened that most of the people with whom I had anything to do, during my stay at Cairo, were seized with the Plague; and all these died.”

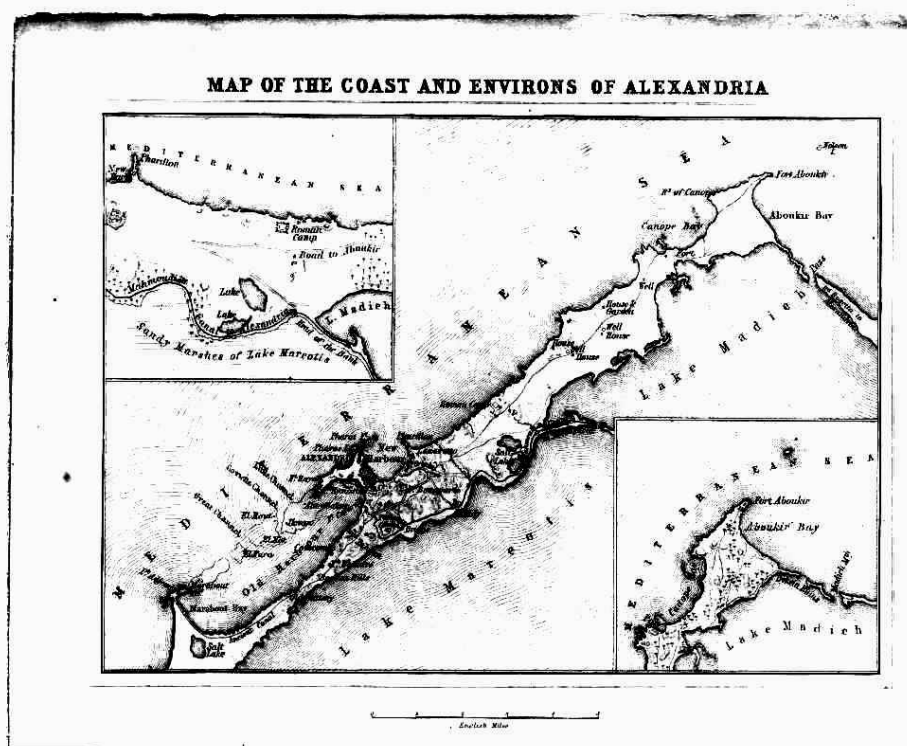


Fig 2 Map of c1810 showing location of the Alexandria Lazzaretto.

Meanwhile at the other end, there had been a cholera epidemic in Britain in 1832 which had killed 402 victims in Sheffield so the resultant quarantine restrictions could be irksome to some. For example the *Great Liverpool* was kept in quarantine at Motherbank, north of the Ryde Roads, “ever since Monday, by our absurd quarantine laws” before being allowed into Southampton. Such laws were all but abolished in 1847 when the then Commanding Officer of the Packet Station at Southampton announced the change subject to certain conditions.

With P&O now controlling the sea routes for mails to India from 1840, the area outside its control was the 225 miles from Alexandria to Suez for which Waghorn held the contract. Even before they had agreed the 1840 contract, the directors of P&O had bought “a small iron steamer” for the Nile part of the journey from Atfeh to Cairo for the sum of £2,000. This would have been the *Lotus*, no doubt. They had attempted to arrange a contract with Waghorn for him to convey, as their agent, passengers and luggage from Alexandria to Cairo, with Waghorn’s partner J.R. Hill & Co. to undertake the desert crossing from Cairo to Suez. Despite the fact that the contract was for the conveyance only of passengers, allowing Waghorn to charge additionally for food and accommodation, it would have restricted Waghorn’s freedom. It meant he would have to “rigidly abstain from forwarding any letter or despatches by private express”. As Sidebottom suggests, “it seems very unlikely that Waghorn would have bound himself to the acceptance of this restrictive clause on his express letter agency, and there is in fact no evidence that he seriously considered it.” After all, the express conveyance of mails was reputedly Waghorn’s prime purpose in setting up his agency.

Anderson, the “travelling” director of the P&O, was thus forced to find another solution to the problem of crossing Egypt. He next approached Samuel Briggs, a personal friend of Mohamed Ali, and head of his own firm Messrs. Briggs & Co., as well as having been the Consul General in Alexandria since as early as 1805. Briggs’s company operated in Alexandria as witnessed by an entire from my collection sent through the French post from Alexandria to Lyon in 1863. It bears the company logo in blue as well as PAQ. ANGL. AMB. MARSEILLE struck in red indicating transit by British packet. Fig 3. One of the functions of Briggs’s firm was forwarding agent, as illustrated by another item from my collection Fig. 4, a letter from Madras to Suez in 1845 on which the cachet Forwarded by Messrs. Briggs & Co. is struck in blue; this went through quarantine at Malta en route to Marseille. I have yet to establish which ships carried these items, though with the aid of Kirk and Salles it should not be a difficult task.

Thus Anderson obtained a meeting with the Pasha and secured an undertaking from him to improve the desert road from Cairo to Suez. Seemingly, passengers assuming P&O to be fully responsible for Hill & Co.’s desert stations, also used by a rival company formed by a group of French hotel owners from Cairo and Alexandria, complained, forcing P&O to form, probably some time in 1843, the Egyptian Transit Company “in collaboration with the Pasha”. The new company’s first move was to buy out Hill & Co.

Meanwhile, by 1843 the P&O was itself operating the transit of the Mahmoudieh Canal from Alexandria with two small packet boats and two luggage boats. P&O also operated the Nile route between Atfeh and Cairo using the above-mentioned *Lotus* and a larger boat named appropriately the *Cairo*. Thus was Waghorn “squeezed out”, though he did not give up without a fight. He himself negotiated a deal with the Egyptian Transit Co. to carry passengers and parcels forwarded by his agency through Hill & Co., now owned by P&O. In his 1844 Guide Waghorn pointed out that the “P. and O.” had at that time no control over the transit in Egypt. Sidebottom supposes the explanation for this to be that the Egyptian Transit Company had been established by the Pasha alone even though it would seem that P&O had a stake in the business. This situation prevailed until in 1846 the Pasha did in fact take complete control over the overland route, placing it under the control of the Egyptian Government. Railways replaced camel transport from Cairo to Suez on 25 May 1859 and in 1868, when Robert Stephenson’s rail link between Alexandria and Suez opened for business via Zagazig, the Cairo to Suez stretch was omitted.

A further contract was agreed on 6 December 1844 granting the company the service from Calcutta via Madras, Galle and Aden to Suez and return. A bi-monthly linking at Singapore between the Australia and China lines commenced on 1 January 1853 and on 3 January 1855 P&O won the Bombay to Aden contract: with all these routes now available, the Peninsula ceased to be all-important to the company.



Fig 3 Letter from Briggs & Co. Alexandria to Lyon in 1863 with company logo.



Fig 4 Letter from Madras to Bordeaux forwarded in 1845 by Messrs. Briggs & Co.

However, all was not plain sailing - sorry about the pun! P&O had to battle in a letter of July 1842 for arrears of their remuneration of an extra £2,000 per annum for continuing to call at Falmouth, and also for their right to stay at Alexandria for 12 hours after receiving the mails on board in order to afford time for embarking passengers. Royal Charters were often conditional and P&O were contracted to establish steam communication between India and the homeland by 31 December 1842: the *Hindustan* arrived in Calcutta with only six days remaining to the deadline.

Kirk provides a listing of stops at Gibraltar by Alexandria packets from 1840 to 1844, the ships being *Oriental*, *Great Liverpool*, *Montrose*, *Tagus* and *Lady Mary Wood*. A further listing from 1845 to 1847 includes the *Achilles*, the *Ariel*, the *Pottinger*, the *Indus*, the *Hindustan* and the *Ripon*. I have in my collection an outer from Alexandria to Malta franked 5d pre-paid at Alexandria evidenced by a British Consular “thimble” datestamp struck in red, and with manuscript 5 also in red: “Per Ripon” in manuscript completes the picture Fig. 5



Fig 5 Entire from Alexandria to Malta dated 1860 with manuscript “Per Ripon”.

A GPO Notice instructing postmasters, sub-postmasters and letter receivers dated September 1845 announced that, in co-operation with the East India Company (E.I.C.), who still retained the Aden to Bombay contract, letters would be sent twice a month instead of only once. The first two mails within this new service were carried as follows:

P&O “Great Liverpool” Southampton 20 Jul 45 to Alexandria 5 Aug 45	P&O “Hindustan” uez 11 Aug 45 to Aden 16 Aug 45 for Calcutta)	E.I.C. “Semiramis” Aden 16 Aug 45 to Bombay 24 Aug 45
P&O “Tagus” Southampton 3 Aug 45 to Malta 14 Aug 45	P&O ferry to Alexandria overland to Suez	E.I.C. “Queen” Suez 22 Aug 45 Aden 29 Aug 45 Bombay 6 Sep 45

Subsequent listings of stops at Gibraltar of Alexandria packets 1848 to 1854 include the *Ganges*, the *Bentinck*, the *Euxine*, the *Sultan*, the *Colombo*, the *Bengal* and the *Nubia*, as well as the *Haddington*, the *Himalaya*, the *Candia* and the *Simla* once only for each of the last four named. From 1 January 1853 a new postal contract stipulated mails twice per month beginning with a sailing of the *Indus*.

The 1852 Postal Contract, dated to 9 September, was between the Lords Commissioners and this time “The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company”, whose offices were by then at 51 St Mary Axe, London. It was signed by the directors, including Willcox, Anderson and Matheson.

Kirk’s 1855 to 1856 listings add the *Ava*, the *Alma*, and the *Pera* to the service while, additionally, the *Alhambra* is listed as calling at Alexandria on one occasion only, leaving on 15 September 1856 and arriving at Southampton one month later on October 14. A subsequent listing for 1857 to 1859 adds new ships including the *Behar*, the *Benares*, the *Ceylon*, the *Nemesis*, the *Northam*, the *Salsette*, the *Malabar*, the *Orissa*, the *Jeddo*, the *China* and the *Delta III*. It would therefore appear that P&O had previously owned or chartered two ships of the same name used presumably on other routes.

Continuing to 1862, Kirk’s listings give further new names of ships so that, as Salles did for the Messageries Maritimes, Kirk enables the reader to ascertain which ship carried his particular entire or cover. We are here introduced to the *Massilia*, the *Ellora*, and the *Mooltan* and, it must be said, many hours must have been spent at *Lloyd’s List*. In 1858 the service through the Mediterranean had increased to four times per month and from 1 March 1868, the service ran weekly. After the Suez Canal was opened in 1869, P&O mailships began to use the new waterway in the following year as well as cargo steamers.

Several of these later additions to the service were actually sailing the route of the P&O Levant Line rather than the line to Alexandria. The Levant Line was introduced following an advertisement in *The Times* on 17 April 1843 and was led by the *Tagus* on her second trip, the first having taken place earlier in the year. The route was by steam to Constantinople, calling at Gibraltar, Malta, Athens, Smyrna, Mytilene and the Dardanelles, also Samsoun, Sinope and Trebizond on the Black Sea. As we have seen earlier however, many of the ships must have called at Alexandria because the original listing of ships for the Levant Line 1844 to 1845 includes the *Tagus*, the *Iberia* and the *Achilles* as well as the *Braganza* and the *Duke of Cornwall*, neither of which is recorded as calling at Alexandria.

One further mystery does present itself in that Kirk mentions the P&O *Vectis* sailing from Alexandria on 7 October 1860 via Malta to Marseilles, arriving at 1140 hours on October 14. He does not include this particular ship in his listings taken presumably from *Lloyd’s Register*, nor does he mention that P&O had acquired the ship.

Further renewals of the contract to Alexandria and India had occurred in 1849 and 1853 so that it was expected to continue, as indeed it did, through many years until in 1915 during World War I once more the contract was renewed. Despite the fact that the Peninsular service ceased to operate in July 1862, P&O ships continued to call at Gibraltar. With the advent of airmails during the 1920s and their expansion during the 1930s, the threat to the carriage of mails by sea was postponed only by the coming of the Second World War in 1939 when some of the air routes became untenable for the duration of hostilities. Further airmail expansion following the resumption of peace has gradually reduced sea mail to an also-ran. Nonetheless I have no information as to whether carriage by sea from Alexandria, Port Said or Suez continues or indeed, if they have been discontinued, when that event took place. Any information, particularly from our Egyptian colleagues, on this subject would be very much welcome.

References:

- A. Kinglake, *Eothen* (John Murray, London, 1844);
 R. Kirk, *The Postal History of the P&O Service to the Peninsula* (Royal Philatelic Society, London, 1987); J. Sidebottom, *The Overland Mail* (George Allen and Unwin, London, 1948).

Perfins on Egyptian Stamps**Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)**

The following is the fourth list of perfin stamps not mentioned in my book.

NAME OF FIRM	PAGE	SEEN ON STAMPS (SG number)
ABE	5	4-85-90-93-119-148-149-154-157A
BCIE	7	112-119-157A-161-163A-166A-221
BIE	8	160A-163A-166-227-237-252-253-295-296-340-378-382-415-419-422-442-496-537-550-554-565-592-596-600-609-620-622
CLA	10	93-94-111-118-149-151-157-158-160A-163A-239
CLA (French Post Office)	10	27-28-32-53-58-60-61-63-65-71-77
CLC	11	62-97-99-105-114-155-176-239-255-257-292-378-384-387-394-439-458
CN (13-19)	13	54-55-58-62-63-77-96-102-104-115-118-156A-160A-165-166-166A-184-237-239-249-252-256-257
CN (13-20)	14	63-162
CN (French P.O.)	14	29
EOB	18	89-97-106-156A-157A
K&HA	20	54-61
LS	22	91
OB	23	116-137-149-156-157-160A-163A-174-207-225-251-261-281-342-378-419
OB FRENCH P.O.	23	29
R & CO.	26	115-116-151-155-157A-159-160A-161-163A-250-252-253-254-258-404-414-419-425-433-434-444-448-497
R & CO. LTD	27	79
SB	28	59-78-99-116-119-157-252-254-256-498-558-594-655
THOMAS COOK	29	89-105-111-227
V & O CO.	30	119-153-167A-221-226-414-430-441-444-535-565-580-638-653-713
FMC	31	157A-160A-166A

I should like to thank Mr Anton Jansen (ESC 383) for helping me to accomplish this list.

I am trying to make a reference list of Express rubber cancels, and should very much appreciate any help members may be able to offer on this subject

Some Notes about Perfins

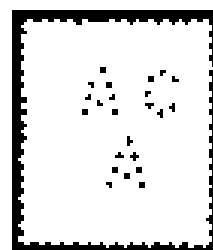
Anton J. Jansen (ESC 383)

Recently I had the opportunity to study a hoard of about 1,650 stamps of Egypt with perforated initials, at random collected over a long period of time. Some of the results might be of interest to Egypt collectors, providing them with a kind of annotation to Vahe Varjabedian's booklet which has served as a basis for my study. Of course, I found a great many stamps not recorded so far by Vahe, and have sent that information to him for his periodical update.

First of all I will give the distribution of different initials of firms, keeping the same order as Vahe and make some comments:

AB/E	126	C.N. 'Cairo'	1	K&H/A	6
B.C.I.	none	C.N. 'Port-Said'	122	K&H/C	11
BCIE	67	C.N. 'Alexandria'	7	ROL	4
B.I.E.	83	ESS/CL	1	R/CoLtd	1
CL/A	295	IOB	42	R/&Co	105
CL/C	254	OB	314	SB	55
C&/Co	1	PO	1	TC/&S	100
				VO/Co	63

Further I found three copies of perfin FMC (not seen by V) and one perfin AC/A (not mentioned by Vahe) on an unused 50 mills fiscal stamp (**Fig 1**). No other perfins mentioned by Vahe were found.



Comments

If this sample of perfins might be considered "representative" – but how could one establish representativeness? – the above distribution would allow some comments on Vahe's scarcity factors. In general, all his records "scarce" to "(very) rare" find confirmation with my data except R/&Co which he mentions as being "rare". V gives all three CN perfins the indication "less common", but from the above data it is clear that C.N. "Port Said" is far more common than the other two, which seem to be rather scarce.

It should be noted that nearly all stamps with a "Type Port Said" perfin are found with Cairo cancels, but I did find this type also on two stamps of the French post office in Port Said. Finally, perfin PO might be called at least "scarce" instead of "less common".

Perfin OB

Vahe distinguishes two types of this perfin: Type 1 one with "all letters 5.5 mm high", and a Type 2 with "all letters 6 mm high". I found measuring this perfin very difficult. First of all because it has been obviously carried out in a rather careless way: well "centred" and complete (i.e. not missing one or more pinholes) examples are quite scarce, especially of Type 2. Further, there seem to be quite a few slight variances in this perfin, eg. "smaller" and "larger" pinholes. Generally, the characters in Type 2 tend to

be slightly higher than in Type 1, while the O in type 2 is slightly wider. A more ready distinction between the two types, confirmed by the cancellations, seems to be that in Type 2 the two outer pinholes at right of the letter B are roughly in line with the first 5, while in Type 1 they are evidently not (**Fig 2**). This distinction also applies to the stamps with perfin IOB (**Fig 3**).



Fig.2 Type 1 and Type 2



Fig 3 Perfins IOB and OB: to the left Type 1, to the right Type 2 (the last typically with one pinhole missing and un-centred)



Type 1 is generally found on stamps with a Cairo cancellation (of course, as far this can be read), while Type 2 is found on stamps with Alexandria cancellations. However, I did find OB Type 1 with cancellation Ismailia (a single example) and Type 2 with cancellation Minya (two examples, and on a Minya bank cover). Overall I counted 18 stamps with IOB Type 1 and 17 with Type 2; 192 stamps with OB Type 1, and 78 with a Type 2 perfin.

Some finds on pairs and multiples

The collection also contained some pairs, strips, and blocks of four or even eight, 59 in total, all showing the more “common” perfins. In nearly all these multiples the perforated initials were in the same position in adjacent stamps, but with some exceptions. Three of 14 OB, and three of 16 CN multiples showed “tête-bêche” pairs (**Fig 4**).



Fig 4 Tête-bêche positions of perfins OB and C.N.

This seems to demonstrate that sheets were folded before perforation. Some of the CN multiples (as well as many loose stamps, also with other perfins) show that such perforation was at times done rather carelessly, which may well be why many stamps show only part perforations (**Fig 5**).

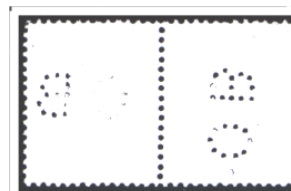
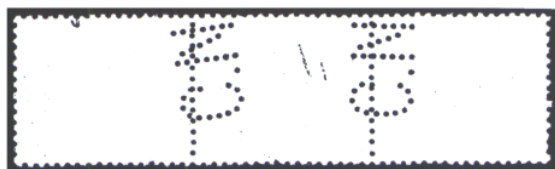


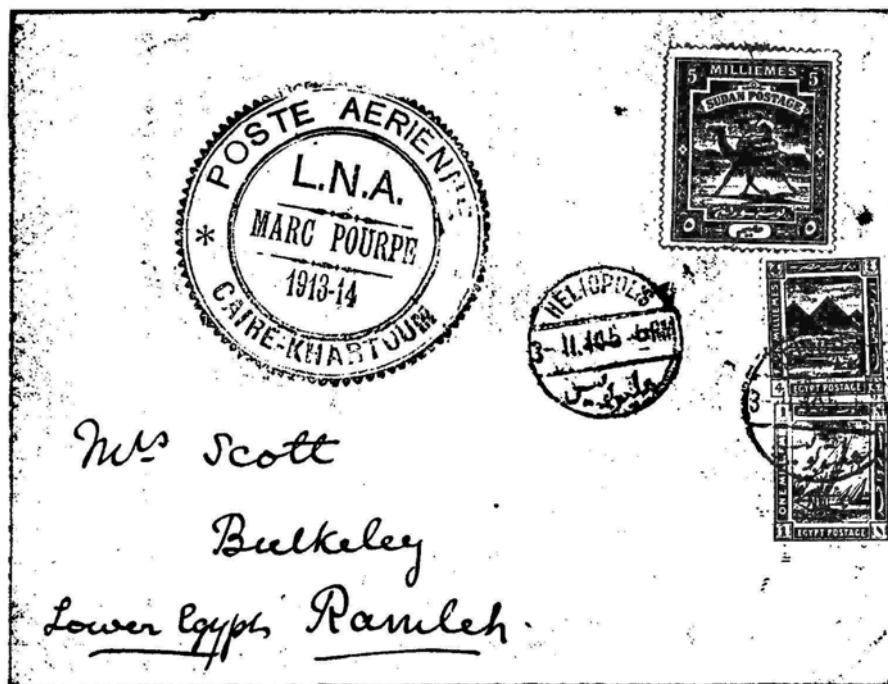
Fig 5 “Misperforation” C.N. and a pair with OB perfin in different positions (one O with ‘filled’ perforation holes)

Errata

Air Mail Jottings: The Marc Pourpe Flights of 1914

John Sears (ESC 188)

A short time ago Stuart Billington of Phillips the Auctioneers [now Bonham's, Ed] kindly sent me a coloured scan of a Marc Pourpe cover which is reproduced below. He said he had been to see a collection going into auction when the owner casually said he had one or two covers which he did not think were worth very much, and this was amongst them! The treasures are still out there.



This prompted me to re-examine the Circle Records to see if we had we seen it before; as far as I can judge, we have not, and if this is the case it is an exciting new find. I also discovered that no list of known Marc Pourpe covers has been published since one appeared in *L'Orient Philatélique* of September 1956, this being a copy of the article by John Gilbert in the *QC* No 45 (1955). Since then more examples have been reported and a continuation list appears below. The original listing showed 17 covers; so this extension starts at 18. The lines then follow this pattern:- a) Addressee; b) The flight carried, ie Southern or Northern; c) The presence (or not) of the L.N.A. cachet; d) Adhesives applied; e) Postal markings; f) Remarks.

18.

- a. M le Bouvier, Seine, France
- b. Northern
- c. Yes, a cachet each side of the postcard
- d. 4m, Sudan
- e. Abu Hamed 21.1.14, Shellal-Halfa TPO 23.1.14
- f. Flown between Abu Hamed and Wadi Halfa, then surface route.

19.

- a. H.E. The French Ambassador, Cairo
- b. ?? not flown ??
- c. Yes, Registered Letter, the only one known
- d. Philatelically franked, six Egypt stamps - 395m, and six Sudan stamps - 1pt 15m
- e. Luxor Winter Palace 29.1.14 and Hotel Registration cachet. Cairo RAI 31.1.14
- f. Addressed in MP's own hand, but he left Luxor on January 30 and did not arrive in Cairo until February 3. It is not thought that he would have been allowed to carry Registered mail; it is thought to have travelled surface mail throughout.

20.

- a. H.E. Lewa Crawford Pasha
- b. Southern. Flown Cairo-Khartoum
- c. Yes
- d. None
- e. None
- f. The letter enclosed read "... sent through Mr Marc Pourpe's Aerial Post in the first flight of an aeroplane, Cairo to Khartoum". Crawford was a Government official at Khartoum.

21.

- a. Mrs Harry Adeane, 20 Dean French St, Westminster, London, SW
- b. Northern
- c. Yes. "The Palace Khartoum" is printed on the flap of the envelope
- d. 5m Egypt
- e. Heliopolis 3.11.14; Cairo 3.11.14
- f. No Sudan stamps. Mr Adeane was a Government official in Khartoum. Thought to have flown Khartoum-Cairo.

22.

- a. Miss M Riley, Maison Papadopoulos, Chareh Anga Hanem, Choubra, Cairo
- b. Northern
- c. Yes
- d. 3m Egypt (faded), 5m Sudan stationery envelope
- e. Pen cancelled Sudan stamp; Heliopolis 3.11.14 Cairo 3.11.14
- f. It is not known if this was flown from Khartoum, or picked up en route.

23.

- a. Mrs Moore, Winchester(?) Towers, Windsor Castle, Windsor, England
- b. Northern
- c. Yes. The flap of the envelope is printed "The Palace Khartoum"
- d. 5m Sudan (pen cancelled), 5m Egypt, two stamps, 1m + 4m
- e. Heliopolis 3.11.14; Cairo 3.11.14
- f. In view of the inscription on the flap, believed flown Khartoum-Cairo, then surface route.

24.

- a. Field Marshal, The Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum, KP, GOC B, OM, British Agency, Cairo
- b. Northern
- c. Yes
- d. None
- e. None
- f. Sent by Sir Reginald Wingate, The Sirdar.

25.

- a. Mrs R Rees Mogg, 6 Sloane Gardens, London SW
- b. Northern
- c. Yes, but badly faded
- d. 5m Egypt, badly faded
- e. Heliopolis 3.11.14
- f. There was a Major Rees Mogg on the staff at Khartoum; this was probably flown from there.

26.

- a. Monsieur J Montaine, Redacteur - Excelsior, 90 Avenue des Champs Elysées, Paris, France
- b. Southern to Wadi Halfa, but see remarks (f)
- c. Yes
- d. 5m Sudan stationery envelope + 2m & 3m (Sudan)

- e. Shellall-Halfa TPO date illegible. Aswan 11.1.14, Paris 17.1.14
- f. Written by MP. On southwards flight he arrived Wadi Halfa January 9; he may have carried it with him from Cairo, but how did he obtain the Sudan stationery envelope, etc? They may have been bought and sent from Wadi Halfa surface route.

27.

- a. Mrs Scott, Bulkeley, Ramleh, Lower Egypt
- b. Northern
- c. Yes
- d. 5m Sudan, 5m (1m + 4m) Egypt
- e. Heliopolis 3.11.14
- f. Probably picked up somewhere on the route northwards, as was the case with the others having an uncancelled Sudan stamp.

Members will appreciate that the above details have been taken from photographs or photocopies of the covers concerned: please let us know if you have any amendments to make. Similarly, if you have details of other covers, please advise. Copies of the original listing of the first 17 covers may be obtained on application for the cost of postage.

Mr Hewitt of the Survey Department and his Archive

Peter A. S. Smith (ESC 74)

In 1979 Robson Lowe Ltd. offered a large array of Egyptian essay material, consisting of drawings ranging from crude pencil sketches to carefully and artistically drawn designs, photographic essays, and actual photographs of individual subjects used in making up the printing plates. These were delivered to the firm by Mr Hewitt, who had retired from a long service with the Survey of Egypt (I am not sure of the initials of his forenames, because his signature is hard to decipher). These essays are now widely dispersed, and I thought that collectors, especially the owners, would be interested in some background information.

I bought a number of these items at the auction, and obtained further examples later. In order to authenticate their origin, I made contact with Mr Hewitt through the kindness of Robson Lowe, and asked him if he would be good enough to sign them. He did so, and sent me a most informative letter about his position with the Survey. Now that more than 20 years have passed, it seems appropriate to put the letter on record. The transcribed text is given below.

Poole, Dorset 27th. January, 1980

Dear Mr. Smith:

I've had your letter of Jan. 8th just over a week. Sorry I've been a bit slow in replying - afraid I don't like the winter - about 40 years in the Middle East means I find cold weather most distasteful - I realize there is really little to grumble about. Your weather in Michigan must be much worse than ours.

Now shall I attempt to answer your questions?

First I should make it clear that I was an official of the Egyptian Government and my work was part of my duties as such - my name shouldn't really come into it - though as it is likely that most or all of my contemporaries are now dead nothing really matters - do what you consider appropriate, but don't splash my name about too much.

My function was Chief Cartographer in the Survey of Egypt, but I had charge also of a Special Drawing Office specifically for security work of all kinds. This was a development of my own design work in the early days and was necessitated by the enormous increase in our work - some for other governments - SSPO. Superintendent Special Drawing Office (sic! - meant to be "SSDO"? - PASS)

S.P.P.O. Superintendent Photo Process Office

The final design drawings were reproduced photographically in several stages for final etching on photogravure cylinders - there was no engraving for this work.

Dies were cut for other die stamping work. A special engraver was employed for this under strict security.

No, my Army work from 1943 to 1946 was totally separate from the Survey of Egypt - I had no connection with stamps - in fact I was in Palestine part of the time.

I seem to recall some of the stamps you mention from 1948 - perhaps you had better send me some photocopies - also one of the tracing rough out which I will try to have translated. The prints of the Farouk monograms and the Cotton Congress sketch I have signed and return with this.

*Very sincerely,
(x. x.) Hewitt*

A letter dated 7th November, 1979, from Robson Lowe Ltd., adds a bit more:

Dear Dr. Smith,

I enclose the Egypt proofs signed by Mr. Hewitt. I was present when he signed them and he insisted on showing me his contract of employment whilst in Egypt.

He joined the department in 1919 and was involved with the setting up of the stamp printing department and was active there until 1953. Although now 84 years old his memory is good and, having lost his wife and only son, has time on his hands. He may well be a gold mine of information. If I can be any further help please write.

*Yours sincerely,
Michael P. Brachi
ROBSON LOWE LTD.*



E.S.C. Income And Expenditure Account (General Account) For The Year Ended 31 December 2001

INCOME	2001		2000	
Subscriptions	2,358.81		2,400.27	
Auction account	-		16.70	
Bank deposit interest received (net)	113.98		97.84	
Sale of tie - nil (2000 1)	-		7.00	
Donation	15.00		15.00	
Advertisements	<u>395.00</u>		<u>446.26</u>	
		2,882.79		2,983.07
EXPENDITURE				
Cost of dinner (net)	-		180.03	
Library costs (net)	110.36		25.50	
Trophy	-		12.00	
Meeting room hire	565.25		462.44	
Cost of quarterly circulars	2,166.51		2,133.10	
Affiliation fee B.P.S.	37.80		46.20	
Printing of programmes	-		71.35	
New issues	-		16.55	
Insurance	18.80		18.80	
Cost of tie sold - nil (2001 1)	-		3.80	
2001 Show	25.00		40.00	
Egypt trip (net)	58.97		-	
Officers' stationery and telephone	185.26		133.27	
President/Chairman's postage etc	79.06		77.67	
Gifts	<u>130.00</u>		<u>-</u>	
		<u>3,377.01</u>		<u>3,220.71</u>
(Deficit) for the year		(494.22)		(237.64)
Surplus at 1 January 200		<u>9,303.68</u>		<u>9,541.32</u>
 SURPLUS AT 31 DECEMBER 2001		 <u>£ 8,809.46</u>		 <u>£ 9,303.68</u>

Balance Sheet (General Account) As At 31 December 2001

ASSETS	2001		2000	
Photocopier at cost less depreciation	1.00		1.00	
Stamp collection at catalogue valuation	2,535.70		2,535.70	
Circle library and records	-		-	
2001 Show prepaid	-		25.00	
Stock of ties 63 (2000 63) at cost	239.40		239.40	
Due from library account	120.00		65.00	
Cash at bank Current account	1,636.76		2,099.42	
Cash at bank Deposit account	5,367.29		5,253.31	
Cash in hand	<u>6.31</u>		<u>8.72</u>	
		9,906.46		10,227.55
LIABILITIES				
Members' subscriptions 2002	547.00		323.87	
Cost of remaining quarterly circular	<u>550.00</u>		<u>600.00</u>	
		<u>1,097.00</u>		<u>923.87</u>
		<u>£ 8,809.46</u>		<u>£ 9,303.68</u>
 Representing Accumulated surplus		 <u>£ 8,809.46</u>		 <u>£ 9,303.68</u>

I have prepared the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet from the records and explanations provided to me, and confirm that they are in accordance therewith. S W Bunce Chartered Accountant 6 February 2002

Let's Collect Egyptian Stamps

I am a specialist and a stockist of 1866 to date Egyptian stamps, varieties, covers, proofs, essays, FDCs, postal stationery, Egypt New Issue Service, the Royal Albums of Egypt, post cards, 222 Topicals for everyone, Egypt & Sudan specialized philatelic literature, documents & Egyptian Ephemera. Want lists in Balian, Zeheri, SG, SC, Yvert, Michel & Topical Names Most Welcome.

**I want to buy John Revell's book
"The Stamp Booklets of Egypt".**

Kamal Shalaby

3 Aly Basha Fahmy street- Gleem -
Alexandria- Egypt
Tel & Fax +203 - 5840254
Mobile: + 20105838213
Email negm @a Writemail. Com

Let's Collect Egyptian Stamps

Egypt Study Circle Auction

As members will know, after a slight hiatus the Auction is back in action with some slight but important rule changes intended to save on Circle costs.

A third of our spending on postage was saved in Auction 33 because many members chose to receive the listing by email.

We would like more of you to do the same. Please email escauction@hotmail.com with your preferences - you will save the odd Norwegian tree, and your Study Circle a few more pounds.

Thank you - and good luck with your bidding (also most acceptable by email!).

Auction 34 coming very soon!

ESC members wishing to join the Philatelic Society of Egypt and subscribe to

L'Orient Philatélique

The cost of receiving four copies of the newly restored *L'OP* (which may not necessarily all be published in the same year) is \$US25, including post and packaging. **This fee includes Philatelic Society of Egypt membership.**

United Kingdom ESC members wishing to subscribe may pay this amount to Robin Bertram who will act as the UK Agent. Robin will accept either \$25 in notes, or £17.25 in sterling or in the form of a sterling cheque drawn on a UK bank and payable to P.R. Bertram. This should be sent to his address at 11 Bishops Way, Buckden, St Neots, Cambs., PE19 5TZ; and a stamped addressed envelope included if an acknowledgement is required. Subscriptions so paid will be forwarded to Egypt via our Agent, Dr Nabil El-Hadidi. Names and addresses of subscribers will then be given to the PSE, who will mail the *L'OP* directly to them from Egypt.

ESC Antipodean members wishing to subscribe can contact their Agent, Tony Chisholm, and make similar arrangements. Again, on receipt of their names and addresses, the PSE will mail the *L'OP* direct.

All other ESC members wishing to subscribe to the *L'OP* should deal with the Philatelic Society of Egypt direct, **and only through its President** - Hisham Bassyouny - at PO Box 142, CAIRO, Egypt. Mobile phone +2012-2115528; fax +202-7480940; e-mail hisham@bassyouny.net