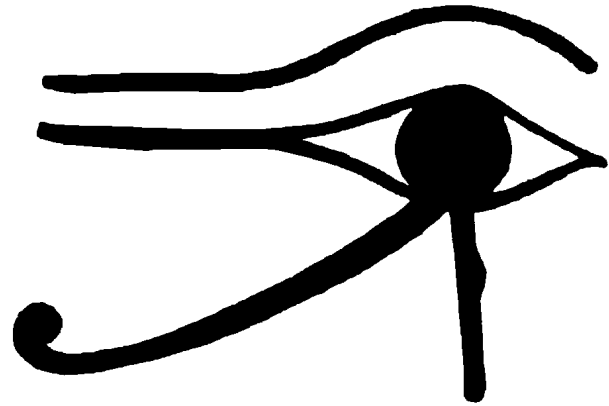


**The
Quarterly Circular
of**

ISSN 0269—252X

THE
EGYPT



STUDY CIRCLE

**September Quarter 2002
Volume XVIII No. 3**

**Whole Series No. 202
Pages 53 - 76**

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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.

November 16 th	“History of Egypt” - from Napoleon to Revolution	D.J.Davis.
Janury 11 th .	The G.B.L.A. 1967-75	Peter Botterill
March 1 st .	Interpostals	Tony Schmidt
May 10 th .	AGM plus 10 sheets per member	All
July 19 th .	Egyptian Post Office documents	Robin Bertram
September 20 th .	Perfins	Vahe Varjabedian
	Egyptian labels	Alan Jeyes
November 15 th .	Egypt Military pre-1916	Stanley Horesh

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, July 20, 2002

PRESENT: Robin Bertram (Chairman); Peter Andrews, Mike Bramwell, Dennis Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Mostafa El-Dars, Peter Grech, Edmund Hall, Alan Jeyes (Treasurer), Bill Johns, Mike Murphy (Secretary) and Lewis Said. Visitors: Dr Sami Sadek and Dr Z Bishara (Egypt).

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from John Sears (President), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), John Chellingsworth and John Davis.

Robin Bertram opened the meeting by welcoming members and Dr Sami Sadek, a prospective member (Dr Bishara arrived later, with Dr El-Dars). He then presented the MacArthur Trophy for the best *QC* article of 2001 to the Editor, Edmund Hall (ESC 239), for his article on Egypt and Sinai; and gave details of how subscriptions to the newly restored *L'Orient Philatélique* magazine may be channelled through him for UK members and through Tony Chisholm for Antipodeans; all others should subscribe direct to the Philatelic Society of Egypt president, Hisham Bassiouny, at PO Box 142 Cairo or email hisham@bassiouny.net

The Chairman remarked on the success of the full-colour Special Issue No 200 of the *QC*, and thanked Edmund Hall and Mike Murphy for their work, commenting that the response had been 100 per cent positive. The cost was three times that of a normal issue, however, and the Treasurer said that £800 had had to be taken from reserves to help with the payment. The Committee will explore the possibilities of maintaining some colour in each issue.

The Chairman announced that the Circle had been invited to provide a lecture and exhibition at the Egyptian Cultural Centre in Chesterfield Gardens for January 9, 2003, and appealed to members to help with displays (16 sheets) for the exhibition. Members wishing to be placed on the Cultural Bureau mailing list - which has an extensive programme of events of all sorts connected with Egypt - should contact the Secretary.

Secretary: Mike Murphy reported that Auction 33 had been a great success, with the new regulations and cost-saving providing a surplus of some £800. More savings will be made with Auction 34 in August. Applications for membership included Derek Beak, a former member from the 1970s, and Dr Sami Sadek, who was present: both were elected (see below).

Treasurer: Alan Jeyes reported that several members had not yet paid subscriptions for 2002 and in the light of rising costs all round, especially with the better-quality *QC*, despite the Auction success it was time to get tough with non-payers.

The meeting - a) the Dead Letter Office. As well as a mass of original material including archive proofs, the Chairman provided a sheet illustrating ten cachets from the office, but indicated that while the first official mention of the service was 1877 the first recorded date was ten years later. Members' material extended dates for the last two cachets by 11 and 32 years respectively, and Robin will provide a detailed *QC* report on these fascinating markings and the workings of the service.

b) Italian Internees' mail. When Mussolini declared war, on July 10, 1940, about 50,000 Italians were living in Egypt. Under British influence the Egyptian Government closed the Italian Embassy and 8,000 Italian men (and some women) aged 15-65 considered potential fifth columnists were speedily interned in the Fayed-Geneifa area north and west of the Great Bitter Lakes. The camps were ruled jointly by the Egyptian Home Office and British GHQ.

The Fayed camp was soon renowned for its severity and brusque treatment; other camps were opened later at Suez, Embabeh and Boulac (Cairo), Tanta (mainly for elderly and sick) and Mansura (for women). Some Italians spent their "internment" in easier style because of their useful profession or skill: these included doctors, priests, skilled workers and technicians.

Fayed camp was structured according to classic British rules with a 5km perimeter fence and the 5,500 internees in 21 sub-camps. A 22nd was for insubordinates. Relatives could send food and other human necessities and were allowed to visit - the display included many completed visitor application forms. Thirty-eight internees died in Fayed and 12 were injured in rioting.

The display was based essentially on material using the three well-known markings for Fayed, Tantah and Embabeh camps, with mention of the 22 Fayed sub-camps drawn only from manuscript markings on the covers. No evidence has been found for sub-camps 2, 8, 18 or 21, but the range of dates for the Fayed boxed cachet is 2.7.41 to 6.6.43; sub-camp dates are recorded from ?8.41 to 20.5.44. For Cairo camp dates recorded are 8.11.40 to 19.9.43, for Embabeh Camp 3 4.10 to 14.10.44 and Embabeh Camp 4 20.10.43 to 7.6.44. Robin also showed a recently discovered card from an Internee at the Religious Internee Camp Tersa at GIZA dated 6.1.42 - so far the only one known.

From the evidence available it is not clear in what circumstances postage was required, for many covers carry a manuscript F.P. (Free Postage) or diagonal lines apparently serving the same purpose, but mail both internal and international clearly passed into and from the camps. Material from Dennis Clarke (ESC 165) augmented the speaker's display.

c) Italian Prisoner of War mail: Between December 1940 and February 1941 British Forces moving from Sollum towards the Egyptian border attacked the Italians and occupied the entire coast of Cyrenaica. Later, towards the end of October 1942, the British Eighth Army broke through the Axis front at El Alamein, advanced into Cyrenaica and Tripolitania, and reached Tunisia in January 1943, taking large numbers of Prisoners of War in the process. Among them were the 300 survivors of the legendary *Folgore* ("Thunderbolt") paratroop division; 6,000 of them had died on the battlefield.

Mail from PoWs taken by the Eighth Army was forwarded by the Red Cross in accordance with the Geneva Convention. PoWs were permitted to send a limited number of letters/cards; they would be sent by post by the shortest route available. No later than one week after capture, each prisoner was allowed to send a postcard to his family informing them of his capture and his state of health. Correspondence was generally written in the prisoner's native language, and censoring of incoming and outgoing mail was accomplished as quickly as possible.

In April 1944 PoW camps in Egypt had some 32,000 inmates (including civilian internees), but more than 200,000 more had been taken to India, Australia and England. By the summer of 1944 all PoW camps in other countries were closed down and prisoners who had not been released were brought to Egypt. PoW camps closed in Egypt towards the end of 1946.

Robin showed an astonishing array of this rare and sought-after material accompanied by a checklist with illustrations of 11 cachets from the nine camps confirmed as having held Italian PoWs: Peter Andrews (ESC 122) provided a new cachet for Camp 305 (El Kassassin), and a new cachet for Camp 312 (where?), not previously recorded as having held Italians.

The full list of recorded dates is: Camp 222 (where?) 27.8.43; 304 (Helwan) 5.12.41 to 9.12.45; 305 (El Kassassin) 21.12.45 to 12.7.46; 306 (Geneifa) 8.12.42; 307 (Fayed) 31.8.45; 308 (Mustapha Barracks, Alexandria) 9.11.44; 309 (Ismailia) 22.1.44; 310 (Suez) 5.4.43 to 8.12.44; 313 (Tripoli, Libya, under British Forces in Egypt) 28.5.43.

Peter Grech thanked the Chairman for presenting a most interesting and fascinating triple display of material not often viewed, at the same time comprehensive and yet throwing up a series of questions which are still very much under consideration: it is hoped that members can help Robin Bertram with information and copies of their holdings in all three areas. Members showed their appreciation in the traditional manner.

Report of the Meeting, September 21, 2002

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Robin Bertram (Chairman); Peter Andrews, Mike Bramwell, John Davis, Cyril Defriez, Nabil el-Hadidi (Egypt), Peter Grech, Alan Jeyes (Treasurer), Costas Kelemenis (Greece), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Lewis Said and Vahe Varjebadian (Egypt).

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Leon Balian, John Chellingsworth, Dennis Clarke, Mustafa el-Dars, Mark Freeman, Sami Sadek, Ted Fraser-Smith, Edmund Hall, Bill Johns and Brian Sedgley

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming members and particularly those from overseas, including our Egyptian Agent, Dr Nabil El-Hadidi, and Vahe Varjebadian from Egypt and Costas Kelemenis from Greece. He lamented, however, the sparse turnout for a meeting coinciding with Stampex, and thoughts turned to how to rouse our members from their Saturday-afternoon slumbers.

He welcomed the suggestion from two Egyptian members that, in the wake of the enormous success of October 2001, further visits to Cairo might be arranged, perhaps on a biennial basis, and officers will explore the possibilities further.

The Chairman gave more details of the lecture and exhibition to be given at the Egyptian Cultural Centre in Chesterfield Gardens on January 9, 2003, and six members present volunteered to help with displays (based on 16 sheets) for the exhibition.

Members considered the programme of normal meetings for 2003, and after much discussion the following interesting and varied list was agreed. Let's hope it attracts good attendances:

Jan 11	Allenby Room Spring Stampex	The G.B.L.A. 1967-75 February 26 to March 2	Peter Botterill
Mar 1	at Stampex	Interpostals	Tony Schmidt
May 10	Allenby Room	AGM plus 10 sheets per member	
July 19	Allenby Room Autumn Stampex	Egyptian Post Office documents September 17-21	Robin Bertram
Sept 20	Allenby Room	Perfins Egyptian labels	Vahe Varjebadian Alan Jeyes
Nov 15	Allenby Room	Egypt Military pre-1916	Stanley Horesh

The meeting - Eight members had prepared ten-sheet topics, as follows:

John Sears - Misr Airlines, illustrating its formation and development during the 1930s, and the progression from Misr Airwork to Misrair, to United Arab Airlines and eventually Egyptair. Covers of the 1935 Summer Cyprus service were shown, along with its extension to Haifa (for Syria and later Iraq), and two important questions raised: when did Misr's HQ change from Almaza to Heliopolis; and how long did the SAIDE service continue?

Nabil el-Hadidi provided an amazing display of Egyptian Postal Orders, a topic never before shown or published, ranging from early De La Rue issues to an all-Arabic "governmental" issue used in 1963. He also showed archival proofs of the long-lived star and crescent watermark and a novel alternative for the three bars obliterating Farouk's portrait. A full checklist follows, showing some astonishingly late usages and a surprising proportion of postal orders uncashed:

All of the following are approximately 200x110mm (with counterfoil 255x110mm), with watermark as indicated. Printed prices range from 50mm to 950mm, then £E1 (no piastres), and extra amounts could be added in stamps.

De La Rue issue

Value	Tax	Colour	Usage	Vignette	Wmk	Issued	Uprated	Cashed	Revenues
350m	7m	green	Egypt only	Sphinx (left)	Egyptian Postal Order in waves	Farshut/ (Cash) 26 NO 2?			

Fuad issue (no example extant; photograph only)

50m	4m	?	Egypt, Sudan, Palestine (ESP)	Fuad (centre)	Egyptian Postal Order (Ar, Eng), upright star/ cres	Cairo/ RD 10 FE 36			
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Boy King

200m	8m	red	ESP	Boy King (centre)	As Fuad	Orman/C 7 OC 49	3x10m		2x1m green (reverse)
550m	8m	blue	"	"	"	Abu Tig 8 AP 46	10m, 40m	C/Cairo 10 AP 46	

Marshal

150m	5m	red	ESP	Marshal (centre)	"	Alex/(C.3) 1 FE 56	1m, 5m		2x1m green (reverse)
200m	8m	red	"	"	"	Hadra 2 SE 57		Indistinct oval mark	"
250m	8m	red	"	"	"	Asyut/Cash 2 JL 46		Shubra Gardens 4 JL 46	"
550m	8m	blue	"	"	"	Roda 4 AP 56		C7/Cairo 7 AP 46	No
650m	8m	blue	"	"	"	Roda 4 AP 56		C7/Cairo 7 AP 46	2x1m green (on face)
750m	8m	blue	"	"	"	Suhag/ Parcels 3 AP 46		C7/Cairo 4 AP 46	2x1m removed behind
950m	11m	brown	"	"	"	Mansura/ (Cash) 21 NO 46			2x1m green on face
£E1	11m	brown	"	"	"	Salah-ed-Din Alexandria 14 OC 51		Daher/ (Cairo) ?? 51	No

Revolution period - Farouk marshal vignette obliterated by 2x1m green Revenue stamps. The following three examples were all sent to a court and not cashed.

150m	5m	red	ESP	"	"	C-1 Mohamed Bey Farid 22 MR 57			
200m	8m	red	"	"	"	As last 22 DE 53			
£E1	11m	brown	"	"	"	As last 22 DE 53			

Republic issue

550m	8m	blue	Egypt and Palestine only	Ataba main Post Office	Postal Order (Arabic, English); Arabic/eagle/UAR on counterfoil	Mohamed Farid/C.(2) 6 3 60			2x1m on reverse of counterfoil (not cashed)
700m	8m	blue	"	"	"	Alexandria/ (C.3) 16 MA 57			2x1m over PO vignette
950m	11m	brown	"	"	"	Zagazig/C 15 JA 63		Moharrem Bey 20 JA 63; perfinned PAID	2x1m reverse

Palestine issue - all the following three are Republic issues (as above) with a large red diagonal boxed Palestine in Arabic; all are unused with counterfoils, never issued for use

100m	5m	red							
650m	8m	blue							
800m	11m	brown							

Governmental issue - all in Arabic, inscribed *izn barid hakoumy* (Governmental money order) with Arabic notification equivalent to "Not payable in cash")

£E1	11m	Purple	Egypt only	Republic eagle (centre)	Arabic over English: Egyptian Postal Order	Attarin/ (Cash) 16 MR 63			2x1m on reverse
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Robin Bertram showed the Italian Post Office in Egypt (Mar 1, 1863, to Feb 1, 1884), opening with two covers from Sardinia and Tuscany addressed to Egypt before Italy's unification in 1863. He illustrated that stamps were in use from the start (60 centesimi, or 80c if unfranked, the latter indicated by an 8 handstamp on a Sonnini cover to Florence), and showed mixed franking covers with Egyptian and Italian stamps - the Italian stamps being cancelled with the '234' in lozenge of dots - and finished with covers showing Italian stamps cancelled with the two later types of '234 between bars' postmarks".

Alan Jeyes showed covers and cards that had travelled a long way for very little outlay, including Cairo-Shanghai (three widespread post office markings in one day), Peking for 2 mills, Alexandria to the Ivory Coast franked 3 mills, and other covers to the Philippines, India, Brazil, Finland, Tonkin and Havana.

Vahe Varjabedian illustrated the Messageries Maritimes paquebot service with postcards and potted histories of each vessel, including some covers either written or posted on board. His display included the start and often sticky ends of SS Sphinx (1921-1944), Lotus (1898-1932), Pierre Loti (1913-1942), Commissare Ramel (1920-1940), Champollion (1925-1952) and Providence (1920-1951).

Mails which missed travellers on the Grand Tour was the display of **Cyril Defriez**, who beat Alan Jeyes at his own game by showing a cover posted, unfranked, on an Ismailia-Port Tewfiq TPO which travelled via Ismailia Station, Suez and Colombo to Sydney in a 1913 attempt to reach a passenger on the SS Orviato. No postage due apparently collected! He showed many interesting markings, and also a current definitives New Issue notice with stamps priced at 10, 25, 30, 50pi, £E1, 110, 125, 150, 225pi and £E5 - and asked what rates were intended.

John Davis showed ten sheets of the postage due issue of 1888, including imperforate colour trials of the whole issue (apart from the 5 piastre, which does not exist). He augmented his display with a series of

forgeries, and included a remarkable sheet bearing fakes of all of the first three issues, all cancelled with a Port Said cds of 3 Jan 1878. Since the first dues were issued in 1884, this is clearly a date to beware of! Helwan, south-east of Cairo, was the subject of **Peter Grech's** display. He indicated its growth to prominence under Ismail from 1868, fuelled by the Germans and then the British, until between 1890 and 1914 the desert springs had become world-renowned as a health spa, famed for the district's clean air and leading to a blossoming of hotels and pensions. During the war, however, the hotels were requisitioned as military hospitals; and after the war tourism had moved beyond Cairo to Luxor and Aswan. In the late 1960s a steel plant was the final nail in the coffin of Helwan-les-Bains, now a near-deserted shadow of its former self.

On behalf of the members, Mike Bramwell thanked our colleagues for the wide range of their displays, indicating again the enormous breadth of Egyptian philately, not to mention - as evidenced in a couple of displays - its enormous depth, particularly where paquebot vessels were concerned. Members showed their appreciation in the traditional manner.

New members:

- ESC 174 **Derek Beak**, 19 Salts Avenue, Loose, Maidstone, Kent ME15 0AZ
(restored member. Interests - Egypt in every possible facet)
- ESC 558 **Khaled Nagy Abdel-Aziz**, El Fardos Shop, 33 Abdel Khalek Sarwat St, Cairo 11111, Egypt
(Interests: Egypt - stamps, postal history and postal stationery)
- ESC 559 **Sami A Sadek**, The Oaks, 19 Sinah Lane, Hayling Island, Hants PO11 0EY
(Interests: Pre-1970 and especially pre-1952 stamps, FDCs, sheets)
- ESC 560 **Tony Adams**, 1943 Channel Highway, Barretta, Tasmania 7054, Australia
(Interests: Egypt and Sudan stamps and postmarks, Russian Civil War, Indian States)
- ESC 561 **Aala Massoud**, 11 El-deer Street, Cleopatra Hammamat, Alexandria, Egypt
(Interests: Palestine and Egypt stamps, Overseas classics and commemoratives)

Change of address:

- ESC 175 **George Bostwick**, 155 Moody's Island Road, Nobleboro, Maine 04555-9512, US
- ESC 179 **Trenton Ruebush**, Division of Parasitic Diseases (F-22), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 4770 Buford Highway, Atlanta, Georgia 30341, US
- ESC 257 **Michael Michaels**, 2300 North Atlantic Avenue, #1202, Daytona Beach, Florida 32118, USA
- ESC 297 **Peter Goodwin**, 38 Lancaster Court, 90 Lancaster Road, Beachhaven, Auckland 1310, New Zealand
- ESC 366 **Siegfried Prey**, Elisabethstrasse 50A, 18273 Güstrow, Germany
- ESC 482 **Martyn Parker**, 24 Tuffley Lane, Tuffley, Gloucester, GL4 0DT
- ESC 501 **George Anagnostoulis**, 72 Chrysanthemon Street, Agios Stefanos (Soros), 385.00 Volos, Greece
- ESC 530 **Ole-Fredrik Olsen**, Virikskogen 27, N-3212 Sandefjord, Norway
- ESC 535 **Alan Berry**, 238 Waikiekie Road, Thames, New Zealand
- ESC 540 **John Creamer**, 54 St Clements Court, Highfield Road, Kettering, Northants NN15 6HW

Lapsed:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ESC 342 Richard Notman | ESC 378 David Detrich | ESC 490 Tony Pope |
| ESC 493 Ahmed Sobhi | ESC 502 Ayman Rizk | ESC 539 Peter Harwood |

National New Zealand Stamp Exhibition - Northpex 2002 - Auckland, April 5-7, 2002

Peter F. Goodwin (ESC 297)

After months of planning by the organising committee of the North Shore Philatelic Society, Auckland, New Zealand, the National NZ Stamp Exhibition NORTHPEX 2002 was held to round off the 25th anniversary celebrations of the Society, the writer of this article being a Founder member and its first President in 1976.

The Exhibition had six Classes and attracted a total of 687 entries, and though Egypt was represented by only one of these, our congratulations go to our colleague Sue McIntosh (ESC 356) for her award of a Silver Medal for her entry, Railway Travelling Post Offices of Egypt, in five frames each of 16 sheets.

The Exhibition opened its doors to the public at 10am on Friday April 5, and good attendances continued throughout until the doors closed at 4pm on Sunday April 7. In addition to a wide range of material on display from Australia, Canada, China, Japan, USA, United Kingdom and New Zealand, there were 34 dealers and stallholders whose stock for sale catered for those wanting to fill gaps in their collections.

From impressions gained from collectors and dealers it would appear to have been a very successful event and the North Shore PS is to be congratulated on staging a most enjoyable exhibition

Book Review

P.A.S.S. (ESC 74)

**Admiralty Mediterranean Steam Packets 1830 to 1857,
by Colin Tabcart in collaboration with James Smart.**

Published by James Bendon, Limassol, Cyprus. £34.50 + £2 postage.

This is an indispensable source for the collector of the British post office in Alexandria, and to some extent the French post office, in the pre-stamp period. It is also highly relevant to the Waghorn forwarding service. Tabcart shows that the British Admiralty steam packets preceded both the P&O steamers and the French packets by five years. The Royal Navy began in 1830 to take the mails from Falmouth via Gibraltar to Malta and Corfu. It expanded the service to Greece and Alexandria in 1835. From 1837 to 1854 it carried the mails between Malta and Marseille on a frequent schedule, in order to speed up the mails by taking advantage of the overland route between Marseille and Calais. The P&O did not come into the picture until 1837, and even then it served primarily as a supplement to the Admiralty packets.

This book is the result of a meticulous search of the British Public Records, the Post Office Archives, and contemporary newspapers. The information thus gathered has been distilled into many tables, showing the dates of departure and arrival of both the Admiralty packets and the P&O, together with the names of the ships. From these tables one can easily determine on which ship a letter was carried, and the route it took.

The postal rates in the Mediterranean are set out in the last chapter, and the information is invaluable. The somewhat complicated rates are set out clearly, and greatly simplify interpretation of the rate markings found on covers. I recommend the book highly!

Cover Census of the Indian Forces in the 1882 Campaign in Egypt

Richard S. Wilson (ESC 230)

The December 1999 auction at Spink's in London of the Contractor Collection of Indian Postal History and the Egyptian lots gave me some food for thought. Two years later I have finally gotten around to doing something about it. I knew there hadn't been too many covers recorded of Indian Forces during the 1882 Arabi Rebellion, yet this sale had three covers up for grabs.

John Firebrace. It lists the known examples of Indian postal markings on covers and stamps used in the Arabi Campaign. He recorded four covers, one piece, and three stamps, a total of eight items. Since then there have been some additional sightings. Peter Smith in his book *EGYPT: Stamps & Postal History*, page 597, says that the cover population is small, consisting of "three covers . . . bearing Indian stamps, two Indian postal cards and *The Quarterly Circular*, No 86, June 1973, carried an article *Indian Forces in the 1882 Campaign in Egypt* by two covers backstamped with the Indian FPO of origin . . ." (one franked with a British stamp and the other with an Egyptian one piastre).¹ As indicated below, there are at least 12 covers extant with Indian postal markings or Indian postage.

Close to 7,000 troops made up the Indian contingent, including some 2,000 British officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men. The transports arrived at Suez from August 8 to September 13 with most of the men disembarking at Ismailia. According to Proud, the Indian Army Field Post Office unit consisting of Chief Superintendent J. Cornwell, one postmaster, five clerks and nine postmen left Bombay on August 22 and arrived on September 3 at Suez aboard the P&O steamship *Australia*.² However, while a minor point, according to Goodrich the only transports arriving at Suez on that date were the *Norfolk* carrying part of the 2nd Bengal Cavalry and the *India* with the 1st Battalion Manchester Regiment.³ No mention of the postal detachment until later. The postal unit returned to India on October 31.

Of the 12 covers in the table below, five are envelopes with Indian postage and two are Indian postcards. Three of the other five covers are envelopes with Egyptian postage, one cover with British postage, and one Egyptian postcard. Eleven of the covers went through the Indian Army postal system as indicated by the markings. One Indian postcard (cover 6) was posted in the British Army Post Office and doesn't have any Indian markings. Another cover (3) is incoming from India and the remainder are outgoing to India, England or Scotland.

The table lists the details of each of the covers. The information has been obtained from various sources believed to be reliable, including auction catalogues, stamp dealer offerings, personal examination, articles and books. I have attempted to place the location of the postmarks based on letters and locations of the forces, but it is only a stab in the dark. Proud gives Suez, Zagazig and Cairo as locations of the Indian Army post offices but Ismailia could be added as it was an advance base that probably had a postal detachment.

Four postal markings are known from the Indian postal unit although several other date stamps are thought to have been issued.⁴ *Figure 1* shows the duplex date stamp and killer taken from cover 1 dated September 9. It was probably applied at Ismailia, as suggested by Firebrace, as the Indian artillery landed there at the end of August. The sender of the cover was Lieutenant-Colonel Turner van Straubanzee, RA, commanding the Indian artillery. Both Proud and Smith believe this FIELD FORCE POST OFFICE N^o 1 was at Suez. This is also the possibility as the postal detachment supposedly arrived there on September 3 and perhaps left a sorting and dispatching facility there.



Figure 1



Figure 2

But note the word supposedly. Goodrich says that the “Postal Department” of ten native followers arrived at Suez on September 9 aboard the transport *Khandala*, having left Bombay August 25.⁵ Perhaps this group was an addition to the original detachment and they got right to work upon landing at Suez. It should be noted that a railway connected Ismailia with Suez. The cover doesn’t have any other military post markings. In any case, it looks as though this duplex moved to Cairo, for it was applied to cover 7 on October 5. The letter enclosed with this cover is dated at Cairo September 30 through October 4.

Figure 2, FIELD FORCE P.O. EGYPT N^o1 circular date stamp is noticeably different from the date stamp portion of the figure 1 duplex. Here N^o1 and the date are in the upper half of the stamp while it is in the bottom half in the duplex. It is not found on the front of any cover, only as a transit marking on the back of covers 3, 5, and 7. The earliest date is September 23 (cover 5) and the latest date is October 12 (cover 3).



Figure 3



Figure 4

The BOMBAY B in a grid of eight bars is shown in *Figure 3*. It is found only on the front of covers 4 and 5 going from Egypt to India. Cover 4 has postmark 4 as a transit mark and cover 5 has the backstamp of postmark 2. In both cases it is thought that the grid was applied at Suez (perhaps Ismailia).

Figure 4 shows FIELD FORCE P.O. EGYPT N^o2. Of the 11 covers with Indian post markings, it is found on eight — three (covers 2, 4 and 7) with Indian postage and five (covers 8, 9 10, 11, 12) with British or Egyptian postage. This field post office appears to have operated with the Indian forces under Major-General Sir Herbert T. Macpherson, It is believed to have been used at Zagazig (cover 2, September 16) and at Cairo (covers 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12). The earliest date is September 16 at Zagazig (4) and the latest October 5 (7).

I welcome any and all corrections and additions to the information in this article. I hope that this will lead to the revelation of new covers not heretofore reported. Scans or photocopies would be appreciated, as well as other details that might not be apparent. I’ll include such information in a revised version and will send each contributor or other interested collector a copy. You can reach me by postal mail or e-mail.

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1. Peter A. S. Smith, *EGYPT: Stamps and Postal History* (James Bendon, Limassol, Cyprus, 1999), p. 597.
2. Edward B Proud, *History of the Indian Army Postal Service, Volume 1, 1854-1913* (Proud-Bailey Co. Ltd., Heathfield, East Sussex, 1984?), p. 127.
3. Lieutenant-Commander Caspar F. Goodrich, USN, *British Naval and Military Operations in Egypt 1882* (Navy Department, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1885), p.300.
4. Smith, p. 596.
5. Goodrich, p. 302

Cover #	Date of Main Postmark (1882)	Main Postmark or Cancel	Where Postmarked	Other Markings	Destination	Stamps	Comments	Source-Page
<u>COVERS WITH INDIAN POSTAGE</u>								
1	SEP 9	#1--duplex - FFPO EGYPT No. 1 and Bombay B grid	Likely Ismailia, perhaps Suez	b/s: SEA POST OFFICE D SEP 14 FIRST DELY UMBALLA SEP 30	Umballa, India	East India pair 1/2 anna and 2 annas - SG 76 & 62.	From Lt.-Col. Turner van Straubanzee, RA. Firebrace lot # 1089.	F-xiii, F-74, FA-7 & 31, QC#86
2	SEP 16	#4--FFPO No. 2	Zagazig	Arrival marking on front, GRAMOND BRIDGE SP 27 82.	Midlothian, Scotland	India - 1 1/2 anna postcard	From Lt. Duncan Craigie Halkett, 1st Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders. Card written at Zazazig, September 16, 1882. Contractor lot # 358.	C-62
3	SEP 20	Eight-bar square framing the letter "I"	Mhow, India	b/s: MHOW SEP 18, OUTW BOMBAY SEP 20, TOO LATE, SEA POST OFFICE D SEP 29, (#2) FFPO EGYPT No. 1 OCT 12 (Suez)	A Troop, Royal Engineers, Egypt	India- 1 anna and 2 annas - SG 88 & 62.	Addressed to A. E. Sandbach, RE from his brother, Henry Martin Sandbach, stationed in India with the Royal Artillery. Feldman lot # 31687.	DF-222 & 225
4	SEP 21?	#3--Bombay B grid, stamp tied by two pen strokes	Suez	b/s: (#4) - FFPO EGYPT No. 2 SEP 21 (Cairo), SEA POST OFFICE F SEP 23 DELY UMBALLA OCT 7	Umballa, India	India 3 annas - SG 93	From Lt.-Col. Turner van Straubanzee, RA. Firebrace suggests Suez for FFPO No. 2, but Cairo is more likely. Firebrace lot # 1090.	FA-6, QC#86
5	SEP 23	#3--Bombay B grid	Suez	b/s: (#2) FFPO EGYPT No. 1 SEP 23 (Suez), SEA POST OFFICE F SEP 28, 2 DELY MHOW OCT 14	Mhow, India	India 3 annas - SG93	From: Lt. A. E. Sandbach to his brother Lt. H. Martin Sandbach, R.A. Letter enclosed written at Kassassin on September 20. Cover is endorsed "No stamps available Active Service in Egypt A.E. Sandbach." Contractor lot # 357..	C-61 & 62
6	SEP 27	BAPO Egypt SP 27 no code letter--not cancelling the stamp	Cairo	Arrival marking on front, GRAMOND OC 9 82.	Midlothian, Scotland	India - 1 1/2 anna postcard	From Lt. Duncan Craigie Halkett, 1st Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders. Contractor lot # 359.	C-62

Cover #	Date of Main Postmark (1882)	Main Postmark or Cancel	Where Postmarked	Other Markings	Destination	Stamps	Comments	Source-Page
7	OCT 5	#1--duplex - FFPO EGYPT No. 1 and Bombay B grid (the date part of the duplex is unclear), stamp tied with two pen strokes	Cairo	b/s: (#4)-FFPO EGYPT No. 2 OCT 5 (Cairo), (#2) FFPO EGYPT No. 1 OCT 6 (Suez), SEA POST OFFICE A 7 OCT, SEVENTH. DEL. SIMLA, PUNJAB OCT 21	Simla, India	India 3 annas - SG 93	From Surgeon Major Charles W. Owen to his wife in Simla, India. 16 page letter enclosed dated at Cairo September 30 through October 4.	PC

COVERS WITH BRITISH and EGYPTIAN POSTAGE

8	SEP 22	ISMAILIAH civil date stamp	Cairo	b/s: (#4) FFPO EGYPT No. 2 SEP 21 (Cairo), SUEZ 23 SE 82, SEA POST OFFICE E 23 SEP, SIMLA OCT 7.	Simla, India	SG# 47-1 piastre rose	From Surgeon Major Charles W. Owen to his wife. A letter written at Zagazig dated September 20, enclosed with the cover. Owen traveled to Cairo September 21, arriving there about 6:30 PM Other details not available.	SG deluxe spring 1999 offering circular.
9	SEP 25	BAPO Egypt SP 25 no code letter	Cairo?	b/s: (#4) FFPO EGYPT No.2 SEP 23 (Cairo), backstamp of origin.	Edinburgh, Scotland	GB, 2 1/2d. Blue, plate 23 - SG 157	Described in the Quarterly Circular # 86 but no other information is known.	QC#86
10	SEP 28	BAPO EGYPT code A SP 28	Cairo	Originating office mark on front. b/s: (#4) FFPO EGYPT No. 2 SEP 26 (Cairo)	England	20 paras Egyptian postcard	Addressed to General James S. Rawlins from his son, Lt. George William Rawlins of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment at Camp Abbassiah, Cairo	PC
11	SEP 28	ISMAILIAH 28 SE 82 T 1 civil date stamp	Cairo	b/s: (#4) FFPO EGYPT No. 2 SEP 27 (Cairo), SUEZ ARRIVEE 29 SE 92 T 1, SEVENTH.DEL. SIMLA, PUNJAB OCT 16	Simla, India	SG# 47-1 piastre rose	From Surgeon Major Charles W. Owen to his wife. 10 page letter enclosed dated September 25 and 26. This was lot # 1710 on page 61 of an unknown auction catalogue dated 15 December 1993.	Unk.

Cover #	Date of Main Postmark (1882)	Main Postmark or Cancel	Where Posted	Other Markings	Destination	Stamps	Comments	Source-Page
12	OC 2	BAPO Egypt OC 2 no code letter	Cairo	Front: CAIRO 2 OC 82 T1. b/s: (#4) FFPO EGYPT No.2 OCT.1, (Cairo) BLACKWATER A HANTS ? ? 82 (faint), FARNBOROUGH STATION A OCT 11 82	England	SG# 47-1 piastre rose	Cover is from Major Charles Richard Pennington of the Bengal Staff Corps. Danson lot # 376 and Firebrace lot # 1091.	D-46, F-75, FA-6 & 32, QC#86

b/s = backstamped

C *India Postal History The Dr. Soli F. Contractor Collection*, December 16, 1999, Spink & Son Ltd., London

D *The Col. J. R. Danson Collection of Egypt*, April 28, 1977, Robson Lowe International, Geneva

DF *Austria, Levant, Balkans & Middle East*, February 20-24, 2002, David Feldman SA, Geneva

F *Nineteenth Century Wars in Egypt and Sudan*, John Firebrace, The Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund, Bristol, England, 1997

FA *The John Firebrace Collections of Military Postal History*, May 16, 2001, Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, Ltd., Derby England

PC Private Collection

QC *The Quarterly Circular*

SG Stanley Gibbons Ltd.

Unk Unknown

The Army Post Office in 1882

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

A little while ago I was fortunate to be able to obtain a quite remarkable volume published in 1885 under the auspices of the House of Representatives of the 48th US Congress (Second session). Its main report, under the general heading "Miscellaneous Document No 29, Information from Abroad", is a *Report of the British Naval and Military Operations in Egypt 1882*, written - in unbelievably comprehensive detail - by Lieutenant-Commander Caspar F Goodrich of the United States Navy. Commander Goodrich it was who led ashore a party of Marines after the bombardment and rioting and made safe the American Embassy.

His report runs to 340 small-type pages and a total of 79 "Plates", under which he includes photographs of the battering received by Tell el-Kebir and Alexandria's military installations, as well as minutely detailed maps and drawings of everything from a series of vast fold-out plans of all the various decks of Her Majesty's Indian Troopship *Jumna* via plans of the defensive lines at Ras el-Tin, Fort Marabout, the Lighthouse, Mex and Ramleh to a detailed drawing of a "single horse stalls". And that's not to mention the myriad drawings interspersed within the report's pages. He was clearly very thorough!

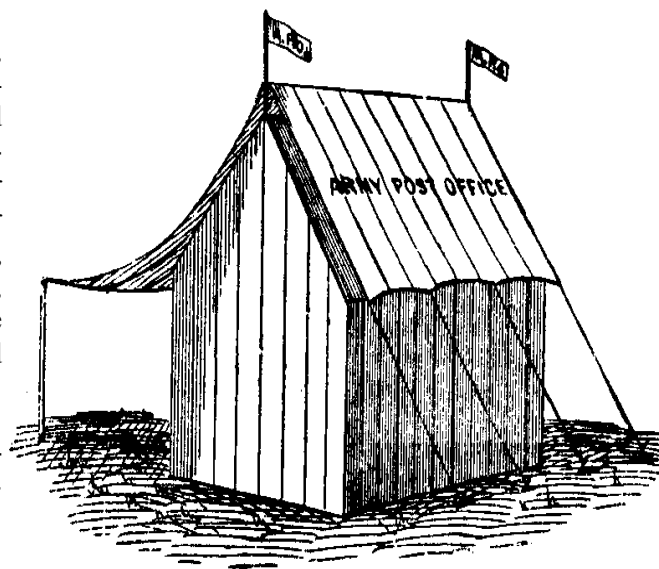
So thorough in fact that no aspect of the British military machine escaped his eagle eye. And that includes its postal service for the campaign ... It comes late in the report, and quite short, admittedly, starting on page 295, but Chapter XXIX, headed The Army Post-Office, gives a fascinating insight into conditions of the time. I reproduce it here with its original illustrations inset:

Chapter XXIX: The Army Post-Office

Mail facilities were provided for the army in the field by the only organization in Egypt which contained no regular troops, but was composed of volunteers exclusively. Its members were from the 24th Middlesex Regiment, of the Rifle Volunteer force, a regiment formed of employes and officials in the General Post-Office, in London.

The corps consisted of Major George R. Sturgeon, 1 captain, 1 staff sergeant, 4 sergeants, 4 corporals, and 33 men, all of whom had applied for this service. The sergeants had all been post-masters at various branch offices. During their absence they were granted a continuance of their salaries from the Post-Office, and in addition, received army pay: that is, sergeants 2s. 4d., corporals 1s. 8d., and privates 1s. per diem. The non-commissioned officers wore swords and revolvers, the privates swords only.

A complete and light field equipment was provided, some points of which are worthy of mention as being serviceable and convenient.



The tent is shown in Fig. 148 [*above, right*].

The frame is of round wooden poles, socket-jointed at the middle, about 2 1/2 inches in diameter. The up-rights set into square sill pieces, also in two parts, pinned together. The corner junctions are sketched roughly in Fig. 149 [*omitted - MM*]. The gable-ends are made by longer poles, which project beyond the roof and carry a second ridge pole, over which a second roof or fly may be drawn backwards or forwards as desired.

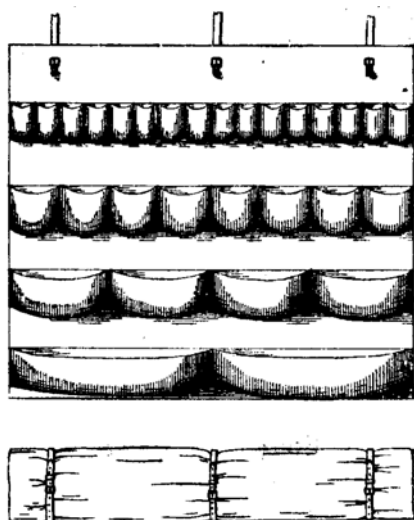
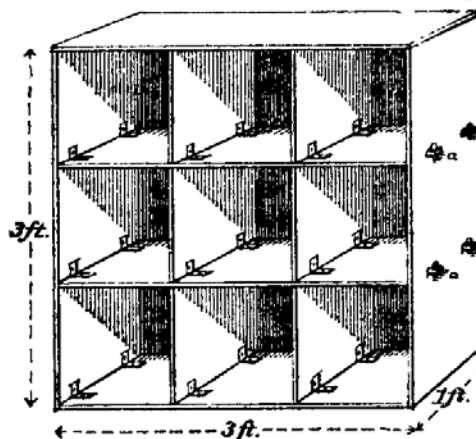
The rear may be raised to make a sort of booth and give increased space under cover. The ground dimensions are 10 feet square. The uprights are secured by rope guys, which run from the upper extremities and are made fast to the sill pieces. The total weight is 156 pounds.

The newspaper sorting box is shown in Fig. 150 [right]. The back is of canvas. By withdrawing the retaining keys *a a* the sides can be folded around upon the top and bottom, to which they are respectively hinged. The hinges at the corners of the pigeon-holes permit the shelves to fold together, and the whole affair makes a compact package, 4 feet 9 inches by 1 foot by 10 inches.

The sorting box for letters is similar in design, but smaller, being 3 feet long by 2 feet wide and 8 inches deep. It has forty pigeon-holes.

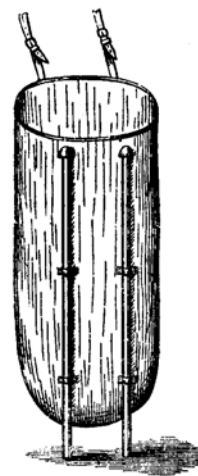
A very handy sorting pouch, made of canvas and used at temporary stations, is shown in Fig. 151 [below, left]. It can be strapped to the ridge pole or eaves pieces of the tent.

The portable table has a deal top, to which a stamping pad is fixed. The legs fold up underneath, or are spread out and hooked in place, as desired.



The sorting boxes are transported in a large canvas bag, together with the table.

Fig. 152 [right] represents a standing canvas pouch supported by sticks passing through canvas lugs on the outside, and entering canvas caps, as shed at Ramleh, and one sergeant and four men were left to operate a main distributing office at Port Said. The mail for each battalion or corps was put into a bag by itself and sent to the front. Field offices were maintained at Mahuta, Mahsameh, and Kassassin, and a daily service kept up after August 27. The home mails were three in number weekly, each way. These post-offices afforded the same facilities for transmitting small amounts of money as are offered by those of the United Kingdom.



The service was carried on to the satisfaction of those in the field, and no complaints were heard.

• As a footnote to the above, I might add that I have been unable to find any casualties from the 24th Middlesex Regiment in Michael Hargreave Mawson's magisterial *Casualty Roll: Egypt 1882* (self-published, Bedford 2000), a list drawn largely from contemporary casualty reports from *The Times* newspaper. Let us hope that the Army's volunteer postal recruits of the 1882 campaign had an injury-free war.

Postage Due Forgery: 5 Piastre 1884

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)

Recently I saw a block of four stamps of the 5 Piastre postage due 1884 (Fig. 1) in the London Strand Stamp Centre. This was just what I wanted, for the block would contain one of each of the four transfer Types.

On examination, I found the stamps to be perforation 11, whereas the genuine are 10 1/2. Closer inspection revealed that the consistent die characteristic was missing (Fig. 2). Furthermore, none of the stamps has any of the distinguishing features that enable them to be allotted to one of the four transfer Types. For details of these features see the Zeheri and Balian catalogues.

To my great disappointment, the block of four stamps are forgeries, albeit pretty good ones.

However, I did find that these forgeries do have their own "fingerprints"; these are as follows:

1. All four stamps have a tiny red dot within the Arabic numeral 5.
2. Stamp number 1 has a prominent red blob at the top of the Arabic numeral 5.
3. The lower Arabic inscriptions in the right-hand side panel appear joined together, like a matchstick man, again on all four stamps.
4. The leading vertical stroke of the numeral 5 on all four of these forgeries is in the same position in relation to the first R of PERCEVOIR, ie, it lines up just to the right of the upright stroke of the R. On the genuine stamps the vertical stroke of the 5 varies; on stamps 1 and 2 it is just to the left of the R, on stamp 3 it is just to the right and on stamp 4 it is midway between the E and R.

On consulting Peter Smith's excellent tome, it would appear that Barkhausen produced these particular forgeries. I can do no better than to quote from page 415 of his book:

"Lastly, there is a very deceptive forgery of the 1884 issue on apparently genuine watermarked paper (even to the marginal inscription). It is reported to have been made by Barkhausen, who designed the original stamps, in the 1890's The color is an excellent match. The perforation is of the correct gauge but it differs from the genuine in not showing omitted pins in the horizontal perforations at each junction. "

The block of four forgeries that I saw conform to the above description, apart from the perforation gauge. Indeed, you can see the watermark quite clearly in the illustration (Fig. 1).

References: *Byam's Egypt* (Catalogue, 1961); *Zeheri Catalogue* (1972); L. Balian, *Stamps of Egypt* (1998); Peter A. S. Smith, *Egypt: Stamps and Postal History* (1999).



Fig.1



Fig.2

2 piaster Egyptian Post
 9oz. Strasbourg brown Dry
 13 oz. S Midd. Varnish

Egyptian Service of State
Red brown
 9oz. Strasbourg Brown Dry color
 13oz. S Midd Varnish
 Same as 2 poastre Post

1 Piastre Egyptian Post
ultramarine
 Azurlin Blue (Ink?)
the surcharge in Same Ink(??)

5 Piastre Egⁿ Post
 Black Ink Grey
 Milori Blue "
 Zinc White "
 S Midd fug yarn

10 Piastre Egypt Post
 Azarin fed Ink Purple
 E Drop Ultra "
 to match the old Sofrian (?) Purple

Egyptian
 1 Millieme Post
D Brown
 Deep Brown Ink,

1 Millieme News Wrapper
 Same Ink

2 Milliemes Post
Light Green
 Zinc Green Ink
 Seiden " "

3 Milliemes Post
Orange
 Cadmium Fellow Ink
 tinted with Italian Brown

<i>Egyptian</i>			
		<p>2121 / 1 millimetre Post <i>Deep Brown Ink</i></p> <p>1 millimetre News wrapper <i>Same Ink</i></p>	<p><i>I Brown</i></p> <p>1387 ✓</p>
		<p>2122 2 millimetre Post</p> <p><i>Light Green Ink</i> <i>Light Green</i></p> <p><i>Light Green</i></p>	<p><i>Light Green</i></p> <p>1338 ✓</p>
		<p>2123 3 millimetre Post</p> <p><i>Cadmium Yellow Ink</i> <i>Orange</i></p> <p><i>Tinted with Italian Brown</i></p>	<p><i>Orange</i></p> <p>1339 ✓</p>

Q202/1 From **Betty Watterson** (ESC 409)

I have a mint, full-gum, copy of Zeheri No.76, Balian No.84, Princess Ferial, 5m + 5m, on which the red appearing to be sepia instead - not a strong shade, but a definite sepia. Being printed by photogravure the discolouration would appear uniformly over the whole of the design of the stamp, What happened ? Are there any other similar examples amongst our members ? Any help and ideas will be gratefully received and acknowledged

Suez Canal Company Sick Note

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)

This two-part form reveals an interesting story. It was completed by a doctor working on behalf of the Suez Canal Company in the French Hospital at Suez.

English translation

First page:

I certify that Mr Hans Schnitz shows clear evidence of overwork, with loss of weight, loss of appetite, insomnia and nervous trouble. It would be necessary to repatriate him as soon as possible.

Suez, 22 March 1956.

Second page (this is a prescription)

Phenergan ointment or Autergan ointment one ml

22 iii 1956

(Phenergan is an antihistamine and calming drug used for rashes etc)

Tax Stamps

The first page bears a pair of blue 10 mills tax stamps of the Union of Syndicates of the Medical Professions. Depicting the entrance to the Medical Building in Cairo, they were lithographed by the Survey Department of Egypt in sheets of 50 and rouletted. These particular stamps are from the second issue of 1950/1 and are tied by a 34mm diameter cachet HOSPITAL FRANCAIS / D.L. / SUEZ. Doctors charged 20 mills for a medical certificate, the proceeds going towards their retirement pension.

On the second page there is a yellow 4 mills tax stamp, the central design of which is a copy of a previously issued stamp. This is most appropriate, for the stamp was the 5 mills Imhotep commemorative stamp of 1928, which was issued for the International Medical Congress in Cairo (Balian 24). This tax stamp is tied to the prescription by ink cross in the same colours as the handwriting. The tax stamp was typographed by the Survey Department in 1940 in sheets of 100 and rouletted. Four mills was charged for each prescription issued to the patient.


If Mr Schnitz got his repatriation immediately, it could have been most timely, for Colonel Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal Company on July 26, 1956. In October 1956 Britain, France and Israel invaded the Suez Canal area. If Mr Schnitz had been present for those events, it would not have done much for his “insomnia or nervous trouble”!

Reference: Peter R. Feltus, *Catalogue of Egyptian Revenue Stamps* (1982)

DOCTEUR GAUTHIER		دكتور جوتييه	
PORT-THEWFIK		بور توفيق	
DOMICILE 2027 VILLE		مدينة ٢٠٢٧	
TEL. { 346 CIR. }		تليفون { سكن ٣٤٦ }	
CLINIQUE 356 "		عيادة ٣٥٦ "	

phenetgan ointment
ou auter gan ointment
un tube.

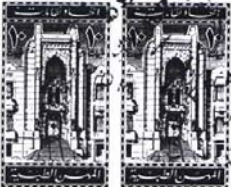
٢٩-١١-١٤٥٨



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SERVICE DE SANTÉ			
Imp. C. C. S.			
DOCTEUR GAUTHIER		دكتور جوتييه	
PORT-THEWFIK		بور توفيق	
DOMICILE 2027 VILLE		مدينة ٢٠٢٧	
TEL. { 346 CIR. }		تليفون { سكن ٣٤٦ }	
CLINIQUE 356 "		عيادة ٣٥٦ "	

Je certifie que Monsieur
Hans Schmitz présente un
marriage existant avec
un engorgement, fièvre de
l'appétit, insomnie et trouble
nerveux. Il serait nécessaire
de le rapatrier le plus tôt pos-
sible.

Suez le 29 Mars 1956



Gauthier

A Forgery of French Offices in Port Saïd

Peter A. S. Smith (ESC 74)

ROMPEX (Rocky Mountain Philatelic Exhibition) was held in May in Denver, as usual. It is a small national-level exhibition, and attracts several transatlantic dealers, as well as an assortment of local and distant American ones, and it also attracts very good exhibits. In another contribution I described items from the De La Rue proof ledger obtained there; now I report on a forgery discovered there (I say "discovered", although it was probably made long ago, and may well have been described by others before my time). At least this description of it will be new to the *QC*!

In 1899, while awaiting supplies of the new stamps overprinted "Port Saïd", there was a substantial demand for a 25c value, to meet the rate for letters to France and overseas. There were good supplies of the 10c with Port Saïd overprint (the only value received at the time), however. The Port Saïd postmaster had a rather limited quantity of this 10c value surcharged VINGT-CINQ to fill the perceived need, even though unoverprinted French stamps would have served equally well (the needed 25c stamps arrived from France a few days later). The demand for the stamps so surcharged was increased further by the philatelic community, and today the loose, used stamps have a catalogue value of \$17.50 (Scott), and on cover, \$150.00. They have naturally attracted the forger.

I have had an example on cover for a very long time, so long that I have forgotten where or when I obtained it. It had languished in an accumulation of French Offices for many years, until I finally took the bull by the horns and wrote up the Offices in Port Saïd for exhibition. I did so without being sufficiently critical, assuming that anything I had had for 40 or 50 years was genuine, losing sight of the fact that at that time I was a fairly unsophisticated collector. My negligence was caught at ROMPEX by Mr Charles A. Sandberg, who called my attention to the fact that a cover I was showing appeared to have a forged stamp tied by a forged cancellation.

The overprint, which is red, is in a much brighter shade than other, genuine, examples in my collection. This fact by itself is not necessarily alarming, because much red ink used for stamps in the early years was lead-based, and is susceptible to darkening as the lead is converted to black lead sulphide. The stamp on the cover might have been a well preserved example, whereas the others might have suffered exposure to contaminants over the century of their existence, but I am inclined to doubt the genuineness of the stamp on the cover. However, there is an explicit feature of the cover that condemns it: the two strikes of the Port Saïd date-stamp on it have the date indicia in quite different positions. The illustration shows this clearly. Apparently the forger inserted the date in a separate operation, to save extra work in manufacturing his handstamp. Once this was noticed, other characteristics appeared, notably the short left arm to the Y of EGYPTE.



The cover is backstamped with the French BEYROUTH date-stamp. This is presumably forged also, but the two strikes show only a small difference in position of the date. I conclude by recording my thanks to Mr. Sandberg for calling my attention to my oversight



An O.H.M.S. Registration Label used in 1973

Vahe Varjabledian (ESC 390)

I have recently acquired a 1973 express registered cover sent from Cairo to Alexandria with the correct rate of 85 mills (50 mills for express + 35 mills for registration) used on 2-1-73 and cancelled with a red machine cds. The unusual and strange thing about this cover is that an O.H.M.S. (green and white) registration label was affixed at the post office bureau. The question is: How is it that a monarchy registration label was used in an official post office 21 years after the abdication and the formation of the republic?



Registered Letter Posted on a Train

Anatole Ott (ESC 261)

I illustrate a Registered letter to Kom Hamada posted at a halted train at some station along the western Delta Light Railway route Dalangat-Tod on March 20, 1905, and given the TPO route's own registration cachet. There is a transit cds of Teh-el-Baroud on the reverse.

This Dalangat-Tod type of cds is so far unrecorded among TPOs; and registration cachets attached to TPO routes seem to be very rare indeed. Does anyone know of any others?



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