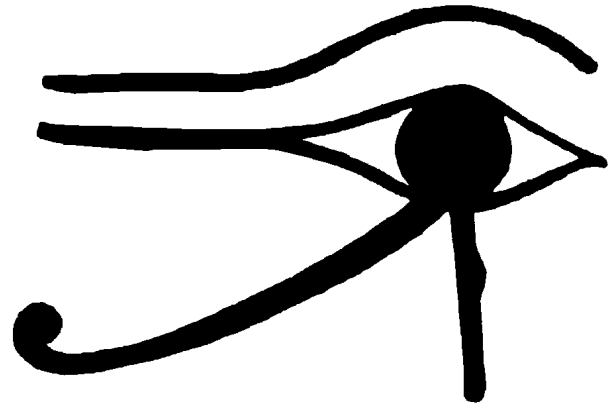


**The
Quarterly Circular
of**

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THE
EGYPT



STUDY CIRCLE

**June Quarter 2003
Volume XVIII No. 6**

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Cover of the Month: 1880 (December 7th). Returned Letter printed envelope, enclosing a letter for a Mr. Wirth of Alexandria, charge shown with handstamped '2' (piastres) Postage Due, with Alexandrie-Depart cds in black. Post Office Form 125a. Extremely rare. Ex the Kurt Wolfsbauer collection, further items from this collection which were not auctioned by David Feldman are available from Greg Todd at the address below.

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Committee:	Mr. D.H. Clarke.

Forthcoming Meetings.

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 Annual General Meeting, May 10 2003

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Robin Bertram (Chairman), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Alan Jeyes (Treasurer), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Edmund Hall (Editor), Dennis Clarke (Committee); Peter Andrews, Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, John Davis, Cyril Defriez, Mostafa El-Dars, Peter Grech and Paul Green.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Yasser Amr, George Anagnostoulis, Leon Balian, Hisham Bassyouny, Tony Chisholm, Sven Eriksson, Nabil El-Hadidi, Samir Fikry, Mark Freeman, Paul Glyn-Jones, Jack Graham, Keith Pogson, Mordecai Kremener, Fred Oddy, Brian Sedgley, Ibrahim Shoukry, Peter Smith, Betty Watterson and Richard Wheatley.

1. Chairman's Report: Robin Bertram described 2002 as an excellent year in many respects, one major highlight being the colour *QC* with which we celebrated our 200th issue. He paid tribute to the work of the Editor and contributors, said the response had been favourable all round, and wished we had the finances to produce more colour issues. He congratulated the Philatelic Society of Egypt on the launch of the "new" *L'OP*, and said that a third issue was coming soon; and thanked our Egypt Agent, Nabil El-Hadidi, and Egyptian colleagues for immense hospitality on a recent trip to Cairo, as well as our New Zealand friends for having made an early-year visit so welcoming. He thanked Committee members for all their hard work and especially our President, John Sears, for his hospitality to overseas visitors (with a special vote of thanks to Pat), his guidance and many helpful suggestions behind the scenes. He further mentioned the behind-the-scenes work done by Mike Murphy over and above his normal ESC Secretarial duties, which helped with the smooth running of the Circle. He thanked Mike for this, which was endorsed by all those present.

2. Minutes of the last AGM, previously circulated (*QC* 201), were approved (proposed: Mike Murphy; seconded Peter Grech). There were no matters arising.

3. Election of Officers. All Officers except Alan Jeyes (Treasurer) and Mike Murphy (Secretary) requiring to stand for re-election at the end of their three-year terms, they were elected unanimously en bloc (proposed Alan Jeyes, seconded Mostafa El-Dars).

4. Accounts 2002. Alan Jeyes reported a deficit of just over £400 on the year, due largely to the colour *QC*, which cost £1,345 more than a normal issue; this was offset by £1,000 from the Auction account and £800 from reserve. After much discussion it was considered that the full benefit of the increase in subscription rates had not yet been felt, and that there was no need for a further increase. It was felt essential that all members pay their subscriptions promptly (see below), and greater efforts would be made to attract advertising to the *QC*. The accounts were approved unanimously (proposed Edmund Hall, seconded John Davis).

The Librarian presented the Library Accounts and also an account of his difficulties in supplying back copies of the *QC* after the final demise of the Circle photocopier. Rather than purchase another, it was decided to boost funds by offering some back-copy originals in the Auction, and at the same time to explore the possibility of providing back-issues either by commercial photocopying or (where the member had computer technology available) by PDF. The Library Accounts were adopted unanimously (proposed Peter Grech, seconded Mike Murphy). In further discussion under Any Other Business it was agreed to increase the print run of the *QC* to ensure a reasonable supply of extra back copies.

The meeting expressed its immense gratitude to our member Stephen Bunce (ESC 272), who again audited the accounts without fear or favour. Or fee. Thank you, Stephen!

5. Changes to Rule.

Several proposed changes to Rule drew a large number of comments from members unable to attend, and the Secretary was grateful for the opportunity to hear such a wide range of views so forthrightly expressed. The proposed changes provoked vigorous debate and resulted in some variations in the way the Circle is to be run. They are detailed below, but essentially the changes cover the following:

1. **Membership is now open to all who may apply, subject to the view of the meeting hearing the application.**
2. **The role of the Overseas Agents is now clearly defined.**

3. **If annual subscriptions, due on January 1, are not paid by April 1 there will be a single warning before membership is terminated, restorable only on payment of an administration fee.**
4. **Subscriptions should be paid direct to the Agent in Agent areas. If payment is made in other form, the member must so inform the Agent for his area before April 1.**
5. **Information submitted to a Study co-ordinator must be accompanied by an illustration before being accepted. Information unsubstantiated in this way may be referred to in a footnote.**

The formal wording of the changes is as follows:

- **Present Rule 2, paragraph 4:** PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE PHILATELIC TRADE may be permitted to join The Circle providing they have a personal collection of Egyptian philatelic material other than their business stock and that this collection has been examined by a member of The Circle. When their nominations have been accepted they will be classed as ORDINARY MEMBERS.

Proposal: Delete this paragraph in its entirety (Mike Murphy; seconded Dennis Clarke).

Approved 11-2, with Stanley Horesh and Peter Grech dissenting.

- **Present Rule 3, paragraph 1:** THE HONORARY OFFICERS of The Circle shall be the President, the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Editor and the Librarian. The Circle COMMITTEE shall consist of the Honorary Officers and two other members.

• **Proposal:** Insert as a second paragraph: "Overseas Agents, appointed by the Committee as considered necessary from time to time, shall be classed as Ex Officio members of the Committee. The role of the Agent/s shall be to facilitate speedy communication between Circle Officers and his/her area, to co-ordinate local Circle activities in his/her area, to collect annual Circle subscriptions from local members and to forward them to the Treasurer." (Mike Murphy; seconded Peter Grech).

Approved 11-2, after an amendment (Stanley Horesh; seconded Edmund Hall) to remove their Ex Officio status was defeated 8-2. A further proposed amendment (Keith Pogson; seconded John Sears) to add the words "in pounds sterling" after "to the Treasurer" was defeated 5-3.

- **Present Rule 4:** ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION shall be due on January 1 each year, and shall be determined annually by the Committee. Members joining after August 1 will be required to pay a lesser amount of subscription for the year in which they joined The Circle.

• **Proposal:** Replace with two paragraphs: ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION shall be payable in advance on January 1 each year at a rate set at the previous year's Annual General Meeting. Members joining after August 1 will pay a lesser amount of subscription as decided by the Committee for the balance of the year in which they joined The Circle. If normal annual payment is not made by April 1, the Treasurer or (where there is a local Agent) the Agent will advise the member in writing that unless payment is received within 30 days membership will be terminated. No further notice will be given of termination, but membership may thereafter be restored, at the Committee's discretion, on payment in full of all outstanding subscriptions plus an administration fee of £5.00.

Where The Circle has appointed Agents (at present, North America, Egypt, the Antipodes), members should pay subscriptions to the Agent. To avoid confusion and duplication of effort, those members in Agent areas who prefer to subscribe direct to the Treasurer or by some other means (ie, via a third party) must so advise their local Agent, who will provide a receipt only on notice from the Treasurer that the subscription has been received. (Mike Murphy; seconded Peter Grech).

Approved unanimously, after amended the wording in the sentence dealing with late-joining members (Stanley Horesh; seconded Mike Murphy).

- **Present Rule 4, paragraph 3:** TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP. The Committee shall have the power to terminate membership for non-payment of subscription or for any act committed which the Committee consider to be against the best interests of The Circle.

Proposal: Delete the words "for non-payment of subscription or" (Mike Murphy; seconded Alan Jeyes).

Approved unanimously.

- **Proposed additional Rule** (to be incorporated as Rule 11, the present Rule 11 becoming Rule 12):

11. Study topics. Various areas of specific interest have been selected from time to time for in-depth research by The Circle, and study leaders/co-ordinators have been appointed to maintain lists of earliest and latest dates etc, and to report on the various studies. To guard against confusion in maintaining records and reconciling present entries with those of previous leaders/co-ordinators, and to ensure that a suitably accurate record of the study passes down to future generations, no date may henceforth be submitted for entry into the Study Circle Record without accompanying visual evidence, ie, a photocopy, photograph or computer scan. The relevant confirmed date will then be published in the *QC* accompanied where necessary by the study leader's comments. (Mike Murphy; seconded John Davis).

Approved unanimously, subject to the proviso that information submitted without illustrative support may be incorporated as a footnote at the study leader/co-ordinator's discretion.

6. Any Other Business.

The Secretary announced the result of voting for the MacArthur Award, sponsored by the legacy of our late chairman, Major E L G MacArthur, and said that members had voted for Dick Wilson's *Cover Census of the Indian Forces in the 1882 Campaign* in *QC* 202 as the best article of 2002. While disappointed with members' sparse voting returns, the Chairman described the award as very richly deserved and paid tribute to the article's original research.

7. Next Meeting. It was announced that the next Annual General Meeting will be held at the Victory Services Club on Saturday May 8, 2004, with a normal afternoon starting time.

Report of Meeting, May 10 2003

PRESENT AND APOLOGIES: as at the Annual General Meeting.

After an exhaustive Annual General Meeting there was little on the agenda, but the Secretary reported that *QC* 204 had just been published, and that Auction 35 just completed, with 52 bidders - some dozen fewer than usual, though 23 of them by email - and 16 vendors. Some 61 per cent of lots were sold, and commissions would produce a small profit for the Circle.

Resignations: The Treasurer, Alan Jeyes, reiterated his intention to resign, first announced at last year's annual meeting, and lamented the fact that no volunteer had come forward to replace him. The Secretary, Mike Murphy, then announced the necessity of his stepping down in 12 months' time, due simply to overwhelming pressure of work.

He produced figures detailing contributions to the *QC* and to the Auction indicating that the main duties of operating the Circle fell on increasingly few willing but now burdened shoulders, and appealed for more help from Auction vendors and bidders, and particularly *QC* contributors, in enhancing the life of the Circle.

The Chairman greatly regretted both resignations, and sought in vain volunteers to replace them from among those present. He emphasised the seriousness of the situation, and said that unless replacements could be found for two key positions the Circle was in some danger of shuddering to a halt.

Ten Sheets: Turning to the meeting proper, the displays were opened by our President, **John Sears**, who showed Thomas Cook & Son, moving into social philately by displaying menu cards, passenger lists, postcards of Cook's vessels and so on. But there was also room for postmark types: John showed a Type 7 alongside a Cairo Registration label overprinted COOKS; and there was brief discussion on Type 10 and the newly discovered Type 12 - the major difference (since size is almost the same at 29mm and 28mm diameter) being in the Arabic, where Type 10 has al-Qahirah, and Type 12 has Masr in brackets.

Cyril Defriez followed up with recent New Issues of Egypt, ranging from January 1, 2001, to January 2, 2002, a period which included issues commemorating the opening of the new Biblioteca Alexandrina (May 20, 2001) and the new high-level bridge over the Suez Canal near Ismailia (October 6 2001), the opening of which our members missed by just a day on our recent visit.

Mostafa El-Dars showed philatelic reminiscences of his time as a doctor to the Royal Family, including material acquired at the time of the 1948 Palestine War, including a cover with the postmark of Faluga, where President-to-be Gamal Abd el-Nasser distinguished himself with his troops, and several other remarkable Gaza-area covers including one sent him by a friend and franked entirely with half a dozen six-bar Farouk overprints.

Peter Grech showed what he termed a Hotels pot-pourri, displaying a striking and colourful display technique and also some quite remarkable cover and postmark material. Among his covers were excellent examples of the Winter Palace (HW 2a, in blue), the Savoy Hotel, Aswan, Ghesireh Palace, and the Mena House Hotel of 7 II 92 from the Boulad collection, for half a century the earliest known date. He also showed

cards illustrating the changes (not entirely for the better) as the Semiramis Hotel expanded to accommodate more guests.

The 10-para De La Rue stamp formed the display of **Robin Bertram**, who detailed how Postmaster-General Caillard had approached the London firm after taking over from Muzzi Bey. The claret version was the first printed, but the first issued, on April 1 1879, was the reddish-lilac, of which an imperforate coloured proof single was shown. The claret followed in January 1881, then the bluish-grey a year later; and finally, following the UPU colour scheme, the green in December 1884. Cover examples were shown of singles (unsealed rate, including one remarkable example to the USA), and blocks of four (1pi, normal letter rate).

John Davis showed the rates of usage of the Third Issue, including a pair of 10-para (internal), 1pi (internal) and 1 1/2 pi (overseas) of the First Printing, and a rare Scibin el Kom Stazione cds on the Second Printing. A 1pi cover was handstamped Col Vapore Rabbatino (an Italian shipping line), though the franking covered only the internal rate; and John showed 2 1/2pi to Livorno (Austrian Empire concession rate) as well as examples used abroad in Smyrne, Constantinople, Dardanelli, Metelino and Sawakin (3pi rate to the UK).

Stanley Horesh showed the fruits of 40 years of collecting mails connected with the disastrous Expeditionary Force invasion of Gallipoli in April 1915 which was withdrawn, after massive loss of life, some eight months later. The display, of 12 covers, was regarded as a triumph on account of the near impossibility of identifying the material, hinging on detailed examination of unit movements almost inextricable in the fog of war and their post-markings. Six Turkish divisions opposed landings by two British, two Australian/New Zealand (the Anzacs) and one French division. Stanley showed covers from all three invading forces, including examples from the Firebrace collection.

The ten sheets were completed by **Edmund Hall**, who showed some unusual recent material from the Gaza Strip under the Palestinian Authority. Control was handed over in 1994, and the first FDC of the authority was produced on January 1, 1995, with stamps intended for use only locally. Israel objected to the denomination in mils (the old Palestinian currency) and covers were shown with stamps rubber-stamp overprinted with fils values, and later with a more refined metal-stamp overprint. By November 1995 the stamps (now printed in fils) were available for worldwide use - yet the display included a cover sent to New Zealand (and returned) dated July 10, 1995!

The chairman spoke briefly of the astonishing variety and range of material covered by the various displays, apologised to members who had brought material but were unable to show it for lack of time, and thanked the speakers for a series of fascinating and challenging displays. Member showed their appreciation in the usual manner.

New members:

ESC 571 **Vincent Centonze**, 3611 SW 34th Street; Apt #99, Gainesville, Florida 32608-2590, US
(Egypt, Italy, United States)

Change of address:

ESC 458 **Rafik Balian**, 4010 des Sources Blvd #405, D.D.O. H9B 2C8, Quebec, Canada
ESC 466 **Pierre Meniaud**, 7 rue du Chariot d'Or, 69004 Lyon, France

Deceased:

ESC 174 **Derek Beak**

Resigned:

ESC 454 **Alan Cohen**, ESC 496 **Peter Day**

In the first of an occasional series, the back page in lieu of suitable advertisement, details the background to a recent stamp issue. We would very much welcome members' contributions along the same lines, be it the stamp design, personality or item portrayed, historical event etc.

Express Handstamp Cachets








Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)

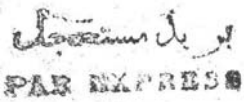



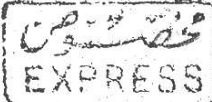


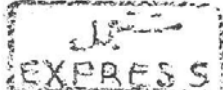

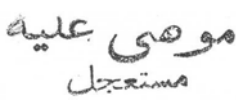
Egypt's first Express handstamp cachets were seen in 1923. The original cachets were made in hard rubber and were used manually by Post Office employees.

Examination of over 800 Express covers reveals that the vast majority of handstamps were used on letters sent from Cairo and Alexandria during the years 1923-1952. Types are recorded using English (Express) and French (Expres), as well as variations on the Arabic *masta'gil* (ie, *bi-masta'gil* and *al-barid al-masta'gil*).

After the proclamation of the republic many different types of rubber cachets were made and distributed to all the major cities in Egypt, and over time the edges and sizes of the handstamps became distorted through excessive use. The ink used for the Express cachets is normally black, blue, purple and, unusually, red.

The list below, supplied with temporary Type numbers, is based on my researches. It is possible that some of the markings are private, company-based, rather than "official" Post Office handstamps. I should be happy if members would report any findings that extend the types or dates.

Express cachet	Type number	Color	Earliest date	Latest date	Town	Remarks
	1	Black, red	25.11.26	24.9.27	Alexandria	
	2	Black, blue, red	10.2.23	20.9.58	Cairo, Alexandria Mallawi, Tanta	Most common
	3	Purple	21.10.32		Mallawi	
	4	Black	30.10.35	19.7.49	Cairo, Alexandria	
	5	Red	21.6.40	7.8.42	Cairo	
	6	Purple	9.10.42		Alexandria	
	7	Blue, black	6.8.40	26.3.58	Cairo, Alexandria	

Express cachet	Type number	Color	Earliest date	Latest date	Town	Remarks
	8	Black	19.2.43		Abu Qurqas	
	9	Purple	7.9.49		Port Said	
	10	Blue	20.7.50		Cairo	
	11	Purple	1.9.54		Alexandria	
	12	Black	27.12.50	14.8.56	Cairo	
	13	Black	15.1.56	29.8.88	Port Said, Cairo	
	14	Purple	24.7.59		Cairo	
	15	Black	20.12.60		Alexandria	
	16	Black	30.4.60	20.6.74	Alexandria	
	17	Red	12.11.62		Cairo	

Express cachet	Type number	Color	Earliest date	Latest date	Town	Remarks
	18	Violet	22.4.63		Cairo	
	19	Black	30.1.64	2.4.93	Cairo, Alexandria Abu el-Matamir	
	20	Violet	8.4.65		Cairo	
	21	Violet	8.4.65		Cairo	
	22	Black	28.10.66	8.4.71	Alexandria	
	23	Black	13.7.68		Cairo, Alexandria	
	24	Black	4.3.68		Tanta	
	25	Black	2.1.73		Cairo	
EXPRESS REGISTERED	26	Violet	27.5.73		Cairo	
EXPRESS	27	Violet	4.4.77		Cairo	

Book Review - The Cyprus Sea Post Office 1906-1932,
by Albert T. Madella

Peter Smith (ESC 74)

Although regular steamer service connecting Cyprus with Egypt had existed for quite some time, the creation of a maritime post office was first proposed in 1905, by the Postmaster, Ernest Harry Hore. In due time a mail contract was awarded to the Limassol Steamship Co., and the service began operation in November 1906. It lasted until 1912, when the contract was awarded to the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Co. This line carried the sea post office until its termination in 1932.

This book has much information for collectors of Egypt. The Cyprus Sea Post Office was one of the three maritime post offices operated by foreign postal services with an Egyptian terminus (the others were the Austrian and Romanian). The Italian Red Sea postal service does not appear to have been a full-fledged sea post office; the French maritime services, while extensive, might also qualify, but they consisted mostly of lines passing through Egypt, rather than terminating there.

It is important for collectors of Egypt that both Cypriot and Egyptian stamps were used on mail deposited with the Cyprus S.P.O. (both are scarce). Four different date-stamps were used to cancel mail; an enigmatic numeral-in-bars canceller, "098", also appears to have been used initially, but no example on cover has yet come to light.

Commercial covers are very scarce, but the ubiquitous "Hendrey" covers of the 1929-1930s are not difficult to find. They are known with the ship's cachets of S.S. Belkas, S.S. Bilbeis, and S.S. Roda, and usually bear in addition a circular cachet of the Khedivial Mail Steamship & Graving Dock Co. What is not so well known is that philatelic covers addressed to "Mr Elnecave" were also prepared.

Collectors interested in more than just the marcophily of the S.P.O. service will find rich detail in this book. Information on routes, rates, and sailings, and many maps, are included, as well as historical information. Those who are interested in maritime services to Egypt will want to have it, or at least to consult it, according to their depth of interest in the subject.

Published by James Bendon Ltd., PO Box 56484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus. books@jamesbendon.com
 164 pp., hardbound, 2002. £27.50 (+ £2.00 surface postage). ISBN 9963 579 87 6

Wanted: Bookworm Volunteers!

The Circle has many assets of which we can justifiably be proud - but one immeasurably useful asset that is missing is a comprehensive index to the Quarterly Circular. At the Annual Meeting the Editor, Edmund Hall, suggested that now might be the time to prepare one, with computing and email making collation and consistency of lists so much more straightforward.

What do members think? With 205 volumes and approximately 200 members, it could just be one each! Not, unfortunately, much chance of that - but are there enough volunteers out there willing to take on a few issues, create a listing to a pattern yet to be set, and send in the results to Edmund? It will not take long, it will be infinitely useful to all members - and Edmund will collate the results. Who's going to be first? Don't be backward in coming forward....

**The 1946 17m+17m Commemorative Semi-Postal/Charity Stamp -
Completely Imperforate, on Gummed, Watermarked Paper**

Is it cut from a Miniature Sheetlet?

or is it from one of the two imperforate 'Royal-Collection' panes?

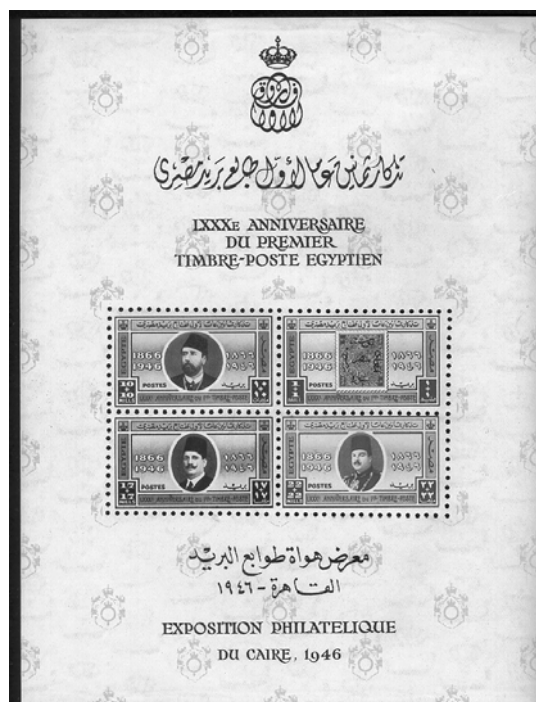
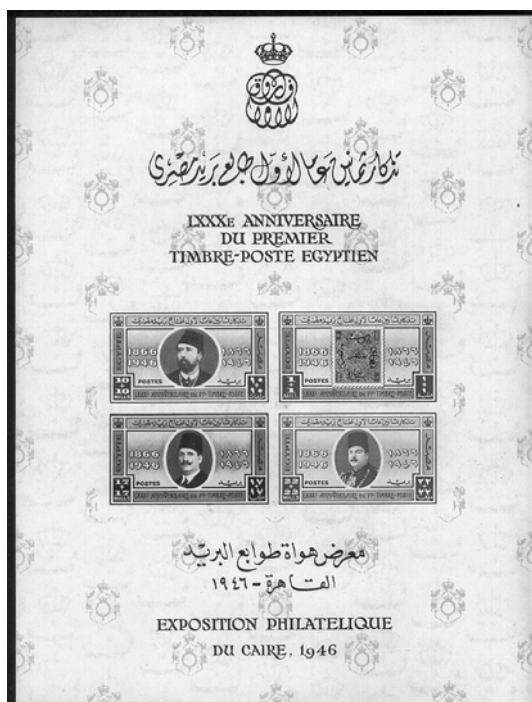
Charles F. Hass (ESC 181)



As an expertizer of Egyptian stamps and postal history, I am occasionally called upon to authenticate single, completely imperforate examples on gummed, watermarked paper, of the February, 1946 17m+17m brown semi-postal/charity stamp (Zeheri Commemorative No. 86b, Balian Commemorative No. 98b, SG No. 309 var., Scott No. B5 var.).

The 17m+17m stamp was issued on February 28th, 1946, as part of a four-stamp series (to include additional values of 1m+1m, 10m+10m and 22m+22m) to commemorate the “80th Anniversary of the First Egyptian Postage Stamp”. Each individual value of the adhesive-stamp series was produced in a press-sheet format of 100 stamps (composed of two panes, each of fifty stamps, five wide by ten deep, each with an “A/46” control number), on gummed paper, watermarked by closely repeated images as shown right. Prior to being perforated, the press sheets were separated into individual, fifty-stamp panes. Of this particular 17m+17m adhesive, only one hundred fully imperforate examples (two panes, each of fifty stamps) are known to have escaped perforation. Those two panes, once housed in the Egyptian Royal Collection, were publicly auctioned together as lot No. 691 in the ‘Koubbeh Palace Sale’ (H. R. Harmer Ltd., 12th-18th February, 1954). Since that time, they have been exploded into single stamps and smaller multiples. In the case of the other three values of this series, no examples of stamps issued in pane format are known to exist imperforate, on gummed, watermarked paper.

As the four values of this series were also issued in a miniature-sheetlet format (both perforated and imperforate), in a se-tenant arrangement of four stamps, (1m+1m, 10m+10m, 17m+17m and 22m+22m), single stamps of each of the four values, cut from the imperforate miniature sheetlets, are sometimes found in circulation. It is a sad fact of philatelic life that such examples of the 17m+17m stamp are sometimes offered to collectors as genuinely imperforate stamps from the ‘Royal’ panes.



The two miniature sheetlets, imperforate and perforated

In occasional cases, imperforate 17m+17m stamps are offered as pairs or larger multiples, or as singles (from the perimeter of the panes) with large margins at one or more of their edges, and these may be automatically

identified as having originated on the 'Royal' panes ... unless the latter exhibit portions, at their left-hand or bottom edges, of the 'royal crest', which is repeated overall in pale blue-gray on the background of the sheetlets. However, single imperforate stamps from the *internal* areas of the 'Royal' panes, with narrow margins on all sides, are difficult to distinguish from those trimmed from miniature sheetlets. In actual fact, given the southwest-corner position of the 17m+17m stamp on the miniature sheetlets is separated from the 10m+10m stamp above it and the 22m+22m stamp to its right by margins of about 2.5mm, any imperforate 17m+17m stamp with a margin exceeding 2.75mm at its top or right-hand edges may automatically be assumed to be a genuinely imperforate, marginal example from the 'Royal' panes. It must also be noted that

many (if not all) 'Royal'-pane imperforates have the Minkus guarantee backstamp (palm tree flanking pyramid, within which appears a triple star & crescent atop the inscription, "Guaranteed from the King Farouk Collection / Jacques Minkus"), struck in blue-green (as shown at right).



Given the absence of sufficiently wide top or right-hand margins, any single, imperforate 17m+17m stamp originating on a miniature sheetlet may be positively identified by specific characteristics, and may therefore be distinguished from any of the one hundred different stamps originating on the imperforate 'Royal' panes of that value (perforated stamps from the miniature sheetlets also show the same characteristics, but may be distinguished from the fifty-subject, pane-format stamps, perforated 13¼ by 13½, by their coarser perforation gauge of 8½ by 8½). As the miniature sheetlets were printed in pairs, and were separated into individual sheetlets prior to sale, the 17m+17m stamps from those miniature sheetlets show two different sets of characteristics (neither of which are to be found on any of the one hundred positions from the single-stamp printing):

SHEETLET 'A' — ① - There is a tiny spot of color in the shaded background to the right of the portrait, in line with the letter "ن" of "نين" in the top-panel inscription, ¾mm beneath the horizontal, colored frameline of the background. ② - In the southwest corner of the stamp, there is a tiny spot of color in the vertical, white channel to the left of, and just above the lower figure "17". ③ - In the vertical, imperforate margin at the southeast corner of the stamp, there is a tiny spot of color (may show as brown *and* green, depending upon the quality of color registration of the sheetlet from which the stamp was cut), about 1½mm to the right of the outer frameline, on a level with the horizontal, white channel. ④ - Just to the bottom-left of the white channel surrounding the portrait, ½mm outward from it, and on a level halfway between "1946" and "POSTES", there is a tiny spot of color.



SHEETLET 'B' ① - There is a tiny spot of color in the horizontal, white channel above the right-hand side of "1^{ER}" in the bottom-panel inscription, "LXXX^E ANNIVERSAIRE DU 1^{ER} TIMBRE-POSTE". This spot is quite faint, and is quite close to the horizontal, colored frameline above it.



Additionally, stamps from the miniature sheetlets normally show a noticeable degree of 'ink-fanning' on the upper edges of the darker elements of their design (this is usually most obvious above the outer framelines at top and bottom). Stamps from the one hundred-subject press sheets (fifty-stamp panes) ... and consequently those from the imperforate 'Royal' panes ... do not clearly exhibit this characteristic.

In summation, any stamp showing either of the above-illustrated Type 'A' or Type 'B' characteristics has been cut from a miniature sheetlet ... without question! Conversely, any stamp which does not show these characteristics, or any stamp which shows characteristics not comparable to those of Type 'A' or Type 'B', is from the one-hundred-subject press sheet. Collectors should, however, be wary of type 'A' or type 'B' imperforates on which an attempt has been made to remove the characteristic colored spots (especially in the case of Type 'B')! Any such attempt will result in the disturbance of the paper fibers on the surface of the stamp, and will be readily detectable with the aid of a reasonably powerful magnification device

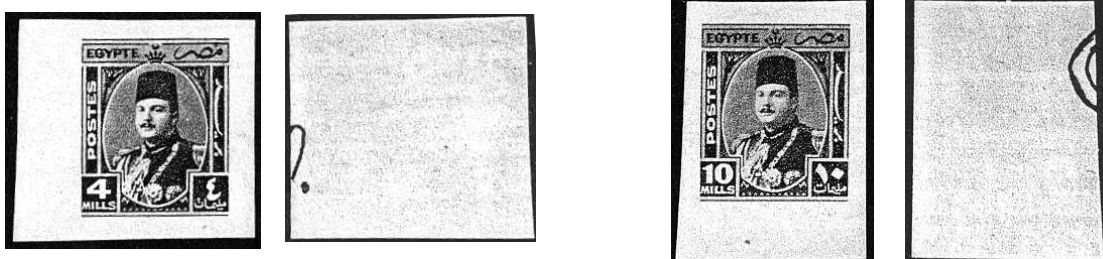
Fake Farouk 'Die Proofs'

Peter A. S. Smith (ESC 74)

A collector recently sent me photocopies of purported die proofs of the Farouk "Marshal" 4 mills and 10 mills stamps. Each was printed individually with extremely large margins, on apparently unwatermarked paper, although at the outermost edges there were fragments of a cursive watermark. See below.

These were actually cut-outs from the 4m and 10m postal stationery envelopes; the widely spaced Arabic watermark left the stamp images unwatermarked. Such items are likely to be offered again, so it is advisable to be sceptical.

Similar "proofs" have been offered made from cut-down De La Rue sphinx wrappers; and the Farouk "Boy King" envelopes, as well as the "heraldic eagle" envelope of the Republic, offer further opportunities for misrepresentation.



Wrapper to King Farouk

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)

I recently came across this brown wrapper and in view of its historical and philatelic connections, I thought that members might be interested to hear about it. The printed wrapper is from Harmers of London and would have contained one of their philatelic auction catalogues. It was posted on August 8, 1952, and is addressed to:

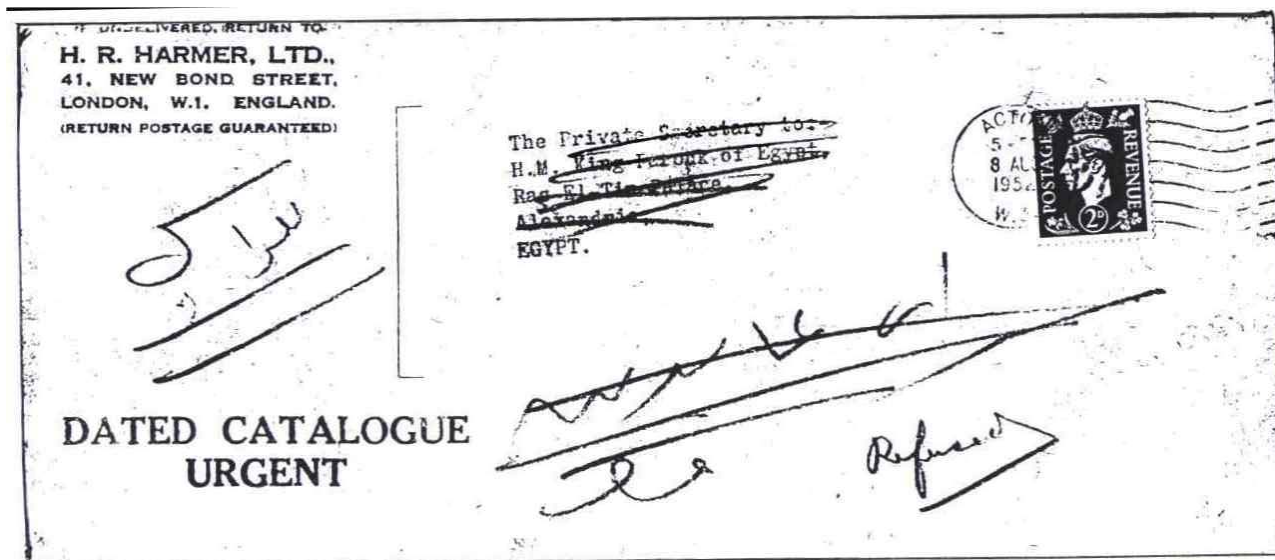
The Private Secretary to:-
H.M. King Farouk of Egypt
Ras-El-Tin Palace
Alexandria
Egypt

Someone has written on it "refused" and somehow it has found its way back to England.

The reason for the refusal of the wrapper is that King Farouk had abdicated the previous month and had gone into exile in Italy. Events in Egypt had moved quickly in 1952; there was much unrest and criticism of the King. This led to rioting in January, and mobs burned down parts of European Cairo. On July 23 a group of Egyptian Army officers under General Mahomed Neguib seized power, ousted King Farouk and set up a council of regency to rule for the infant King Ahmed Fuad II.

In February 1954 Harmers were to sell by auction the Palace Collections of Egypt at Koubbeh (Qubba) Palace, Cairo. The collection of Egypt sold for £E49,757 and the rest of the world collection for £E54,573.

The wrapper is now back where it started, and in Harmers archives.



The Nile Post Catalogue

Jo Chalhoub's book is now at the printers and should be with us by the end of September. Jo has kindly offered all ESC members a pre-published discount price of \$100 plus postage and packing.

This offer extends to September 15, 2003 for orders placed directly on Jo. His address is given on the enclosed brochure from which you can see it looks like a must for our philatelic library. Order today.



SG 2183 Bal.1585



SG 2195 Bal.1586



SG 2196 Bal.1587



SG 2197/8 Bal.1588/9



SG 2199 Bal.1590



SG 2200/1 Bal.1591/2



SG 2202 Bal.1593

Commemorative Stamps		
Catalogue Nos.	SG (MS) 2203 Bal.1594	SG 2204 Bal.1595
Occasion	Egyptian Victory in World Military Football Championship	150 th . Anniversary of Egyptian Railways
Date of Issue	6 th . July 2001	12 th . July 2001
Designer	Hossam Mustafa	Said El Badrawi
Design	Trophy and Emblem	Steam Locomotive
Denomination	125 Piastres	30 Piastres
Dimensions	80x61mm	50x30mm
Perforation	Imperf. Miniature Sheet	12 ³ / ₄ x 13 ¹ / ₄
Number Printed	40,000	250,000
Supplementary	Opaque Gum	Opaque Gum

Catalogue Nos.	SG 2205 Bal.1596	SG 2206 Bal.1597	SG 2207 Bal.1598
Occasion	Egyptian Personalities (Poets)		International Year of Volunteers
Date of Issue	28 th . July 2001		18 th . August 2001
Designer	Said El Badrawi		Said El Badrawi
Design	Aziz Abaza Pasha 1898-1973	Ahmed Remi 1892-1981	Organization Emblem
Denomination	30 Piastres	30 Piastres	125 Piastres
Dimensions	30x50mm	30x50mm	30x50mm
Perforation	13 ¹ / ₄ x 12 ³ / ₄	13 ¹ / ₄ x 12 ³ / ₄	13 ¹ / ₄ x 12 ³ / ₄
Number Printed	200,000	200,000	100,000
Supplementary	Opaque Gum, issued se-tenant horizontal pairs		Opaque Gum

Catalogue Nos.	SG 2208 Bal.1599	SG 2209 Bal. 1600
Occasion	Ismailia Folklore Festival	25 th . Anniversary of First Telecommunications Ground Station
Date of Issue	20 th . August 2001	8 th . September 2001
Designer	Said El Badrawi	Said El Badrawi
Design	Couple Dancing	Building and Satellite Dish
Denomination	30 Piastres	30 Piastres
Dimensions	30x50mm	50x30mm
Perforation	13 ¹ / ₄ x 12 ³ / ₄	12 ³ / ₄ x 13 ¹ / ₄
Number Printed	200,000	200,000
Supplementary	Opaque Gum	Opaque Gum



SG(MS) 2203 Bal.1594



SG 2204 Bal.1595



SG 2205/6 Bal.1596/7



SG 2207 Bal.1598



SG 2208 Bal.1599



SG 2209 Bal.1600

Commemorative Stamps			
Catalogue Nos.	SG 2210 Bal.1601	SG 2211 Bal.1602	SG (MS) 2212 Bal.1603
Occasion	Inauguration of Suez Road Bridge		
Date of Issue	6 th . October 2001	6 th . October 2001	10 th . October 2001
Designer	Said El Badrawi		
Design	Bridge spanning Suez Canal	Bridge spanning Road	Bridge spanning Suez Canal and Flags of Egypt and Japan
Denomination	30 Piastres	125 Piastres	125 Piastres
Dimensions	50x30mm	50x30mm	80x60mm
Perforation	12¾ x 13¼	12¾ x 13¼	Imperf. Min. Sheet
Number Printed	150,000	150,000	40,000
Supplementary	Glossy Gum	Glossy Gum	Glossy Gum
	Issued se-tenent pairs, each pair forming a composite pair		

Catalogue Nos.	SG 2213 Bal.1604	SG 2214 Bal.1605	SG 2215 Bal.1607	SG 2216 Bal.1606
Occasion	U.N. Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations		Egypt – China Joint Issue Ancient Gold Masks	
Date of Issue	9 th . October 2001		12 th . October 2001	
Designer	Said El Badrawi		Wang Hu Ming	Said El Badrawi
Design	Children Encircling Globe	Globe and Symbols of Egypt	Mask of San Xing Dui	Mask of Tutankhamun
Denomination	125 Piastres	125 Piastres	30 Piastres	30 Piastres
Dimensions	30x50mm	50x30mm	50x30mm	50x30mm
Perforation	13¼ x 12¾	12¾ x 13¼	12¾ x 13¼	12¾ x 13¼
Number Printed	100,000	100,000	300,000	300,000
Supplementary	Glossy Gum	Glossy Gum		

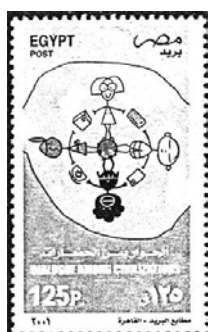
Catalogue Nos.	SG 2217 Bal.1608	SG 2218 Bal. 1609
Occasion	Inauguration of the Al Azhar Road Tunnel, Cairo	25 th . Anniversary of El Menoufia University
Date of Issue	28 th . October 2001	25 th . November 2001
Designer	Said El Badrawi	Said El Badrawi
Design	Cars Leaving Tunnel	University Emblem
Denomination	30 Piastres	30 Piastres
Dimensions	30x50mm	30x50mm
Perforation	13¼ x 12¾	13¼ x 12¾
Number Printed	150,000	200,000
Supplementary		Glossy Gum



SG 2210/1 Bal.11601/2



SG(MS) 2212 Bal.1603



SG 2213/4 Bal.1604/5



SG 2215/6 Bal.1606/7



SG 2217 Bal.1608

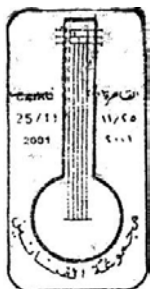


SG 2218 Bal.1609

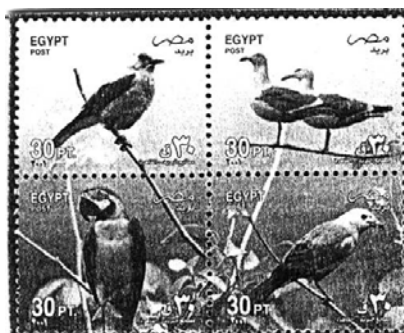
Commemorative Stamps				
Catalogue Nos.	SG 2219 Bal.1613	SG 2220 Bal.1612	SG 2221 Bal.1611	SG 2222 Bal.1610
Occasion	Egyptian Personalities (Composers)			
Date of Issue	25 th . November 2001			
Designer	Said El Badrawi			
Design	Zakareya Ahmed 1896-1961	Riyadh El Sonbati 1908-1981	Mehmoud El Sherif 1912-1990	Mohamed El Kasabgi 1898-1966
Denomination	30 Piastres	30 Piastres	30 Piastres	30 Piastres
Dimensions	30x50mm	30x50mm	30x50mm	30x50mm
Perforation	13¼ x 12¾	13¼ x 12¾	13¼ x 12¾	13¼ x 12¾
Number Printed	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Supplementary	Glossy Gum	Glossy Gum	Glossy Gum	Glossy Gum
	Issued together as se-tenant strips of four within sheet			

Catalogue Nos.	SG 2223 Bal.1614	SG 2224 Bal.1615	SG 2225 Bal.1616	SG 2226 Bal.1617
Occasion	Ramadan Festivals (Birds)			
Date of Issue	2 nd . December 2001			
Designer	Said El Badrawi			
Design	Bird	Gulls	Parrot	Blue Bird
Denomination	30 Piastres	30 Piastres	30 Piastres	30 Piastres
Dimensions	30x25mm	30x25mm	30x25mm	30x25mm
Perforation	13¼ x 12¾	13¼ x 12¾	13¼ x 12¾	13¼ x 12¾
Number Printed	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Supplementary	Glossy Gum	Glossy Gum	Glossy Gum	Glossy Gum
	Issued together as se-tenant blocks of four within sheet			

Catalogue Nos.	SG 2227 Bal.1618	SG (MS) 2228 Bal.1619	SG 2229 Bal. 1620
Occasion	Post Day 20 th . Dynasty Murals		International Nephrology Congress
Date of Issue	2 nd . January 2002		16 th . January 2002
Designer	Said El Badrawi		Said El Badrawi
Design	Tomb of Anhur Khawi	Tomb of Irenefer	Emblems and Kidneys
Denomination	30 Piastres	125 Piastres	30 Piastres
Dimensions	50x30mm	80x60mm	30x50mm
Perforation	12¾ x 13¼	Imperf. Min. Sheet	13¼ x 12¾
Number Printed	200,000	40,000	150,000
Supplementary	Glossy Gum	Glossy Gum	Glossy Gum



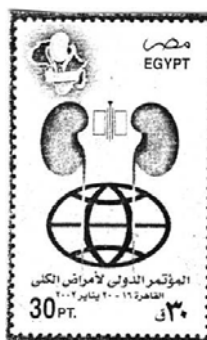
SG 2219/22 Bal.1610/3



SG 2223/6 Bal.1614/7



SG 2227 (MS) 228 Bal 1618/9



SG 2229 Bal.1620

Paquebot Marks of Port Said**Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)**

Recently I was writing up my Egypt Paquebot material and I found that some of the marks for Port Said did not conform to the information that I had. In an effort to resolve the problem I contacted John Davis, the ESC study leader on such matters. I was having difficulty with the postmark SP. 0-4 (*Fig. 1*). The outside diameter and the depth of the date bar seemed to vary; also the damage at 2 o'clock and 11 o'clock was not constant. To try to crack the mystery, I listed all my covers in date order on a spreadsheet and sent it off to John for comment. His reply was to send me a list of his marks on cover! These I merged on to the spreadsheet, which gave a listing of 27 covers. After sorting out the anomalies a pattern emerged, from which conclusions can now be drawn. But first here is the combined listing:

Diameter mm	date bar mm	date of use	time	2 o'clock flaw	11 o'clock flaw	Owner	Inverted V flaw
27.5	8.5	22 OC 32	11:30 AM	Y	Y	RW	
27.5	8.5	26 OC 37	11:15 AM	Y	Y	JD	
27.5	8.5	13 JL 38	06:00 AM	Y	Y	JD	
27.5	8.5	18 JL 49	04:00 PM	Y	Y	JD	
27.5	8.5	28 JU 49	04:00 PM	Y	Y	RW	
27.5	8.5	19 NO 0	04:00 PM	Y	Y	RW	
27.5	8.5	16 FE 1	04:00 PM	Y	Y	JD	
27.5	8.5	21 SE 1	04:00 PM	Y	Y	JD	
27.5	8.5	23 JA 2	12:15 PM	Y	Y	RW	
27.5	8.5	8 MA 3	05:00 PM	Y	Y	RW	
27.5	8.5	20 MA 3	05:00 PM	Y	?	RW	
27.5	8.5	26 JU 3	05:00 PM	Y	Y	RW	
27.5	8.5	27 NO 3	05:00 PM	N	Y	RW	
27.5	8.5	27 SE 54	05:00 PM	?	Y	JD	
27.5	8.5	1 NO 56	05:00 PM	N	?	JD	
27.5	8.5	3 MR 58	05:00 PM	N	Y	RW	
27.5	8.5	14 JU 58	05:00 PM	N	Y	RW	
27.5	8.5	5 DE 59	05:00 PM	N	Y	RW	
27.5	8.5	3 JA 60	05:00 PM	N	Y	JD	
27.5	8.5	13 JL 61	05:00 PM	N	Y	JD	
27.5	8.5	21 AP 62	05:00 PM	N	Y	JD	
27.5	8.5	6 JA 64	05:00 PM	N	Y	RW	Y
27.5	8.5	12 AP 64	05:00 PM	N	Y	RW	Y
27.5	8.5	25 SE 64	05:00 PM	N	Y	RW	Y
27.5	8.5	25 AP 67	05:00 PM	N	N	JD	Y
27.5	8.5	13 MA 67	05:00 PM	N	N	RW	Y

Part of my trouble was with the outside diameter and the depth of the date bar, for the measurements varied between 27 and 27.5mm for the diameter and 8.25 and 8.5mm for the date bar. These differences I have put down to over inking and "spread" caused by the excessive pressure used by the postal officials - at least it usually gave a clear impression!

Now turning to the list. When we examine this there are three things that stand out.

1. The 2 o'clock flaw ended sometime between 26 July and 27 November 1953, so the postmark had been repaired.
2. The 11 o'clock flaw also disappeared, this time between 25 September 1964 and 25 April 1967, so a second repair would appear to have been done. At this point I wondered if a repair had actually been done, or whether a new postmark had been put into use. It turns out that it is the former. The reason for this is that I found another flaw (not recorded previously), the occurrence of which starts before 25 September 1964 and which carries on after 25 April 1967 - see the dates in the table.
3. A new flaw. This is recorded first on 6 January 1964 and is constant up to our last recorded date of this postmark, 13 May 1967. This new flaw takes the form of an inverted V (or an Arabic numeral 8) in the top line of the date bar, just below the Q of PAQUEBOT (*Fig.2*).

There is one further strange thing about this postmark. During the 1950s, in all but five of the listed covers, the first of the two numbers to indicate the year is missing (see listing). For instance we find the date bar reading 19 NO 0, with the 5 missing (*Fig.3*).

There exists a similar postmark to SP.0-4. This is only 26mm diameter and it has a 8mm deep bar. I have this postmark on covers dated 1953 and 1971 (*Fig.4 and 5*)

John and I would be most interested to hear, via the Editor, from any member who can add any dates that will narrow down the times when the repairs took place. Further dates of use of the 26mm diameter would also be of great interest.

In closing I would like to record my grateful thanks to John Davis for his swift and positive response to my query.

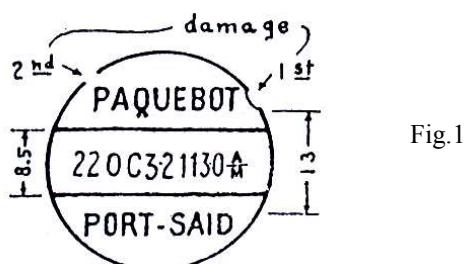


Fig.1

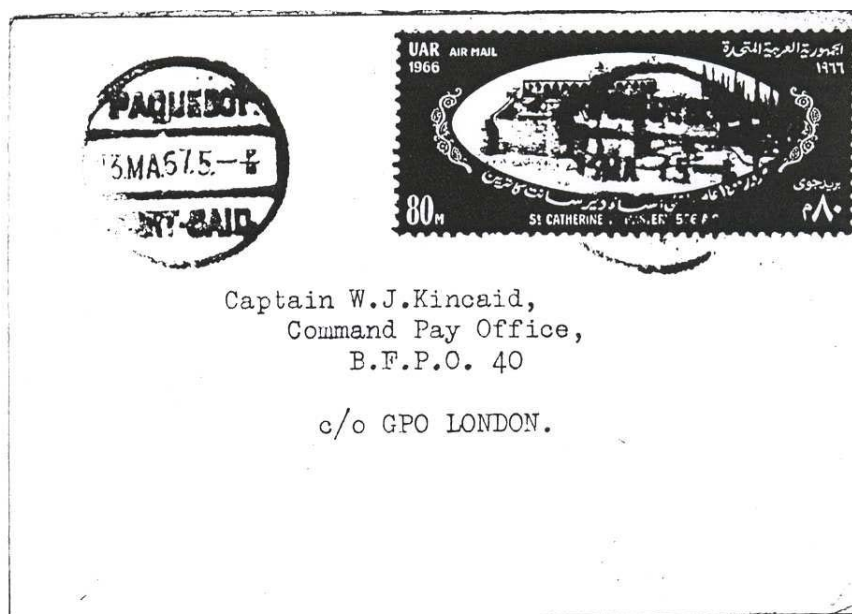


Fig. 2 The new flaw, inverted V in top line of date bar below Q.

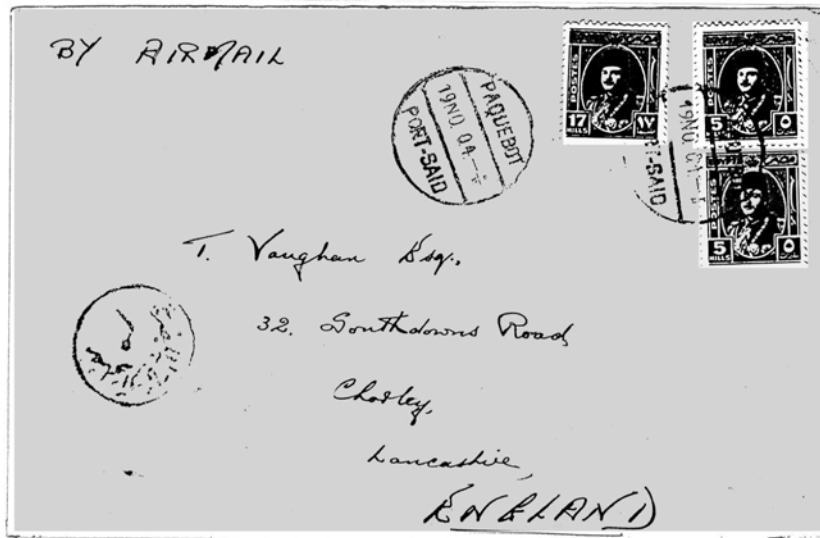


Fig. 3 A 1950 cover with the date 19 NO 0, the 5 missing.

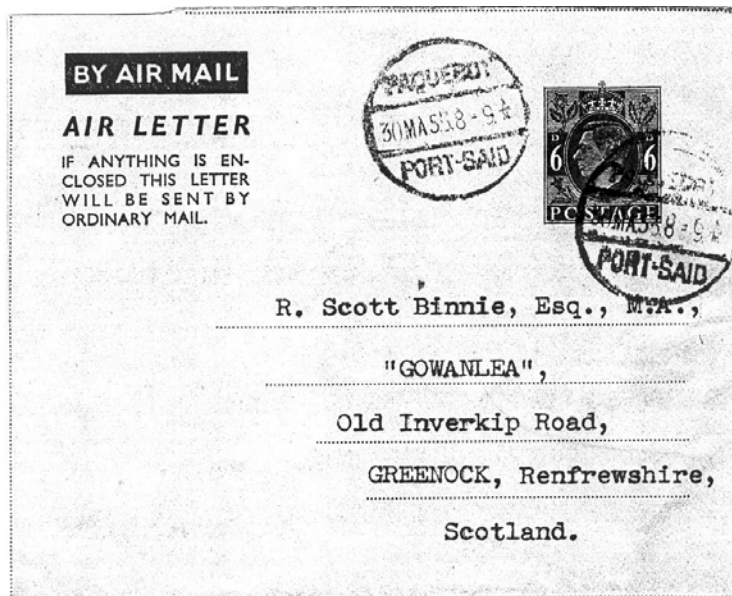


Fig. 4 Smaller postmark, 26mm diameter, dated 30 MA 53

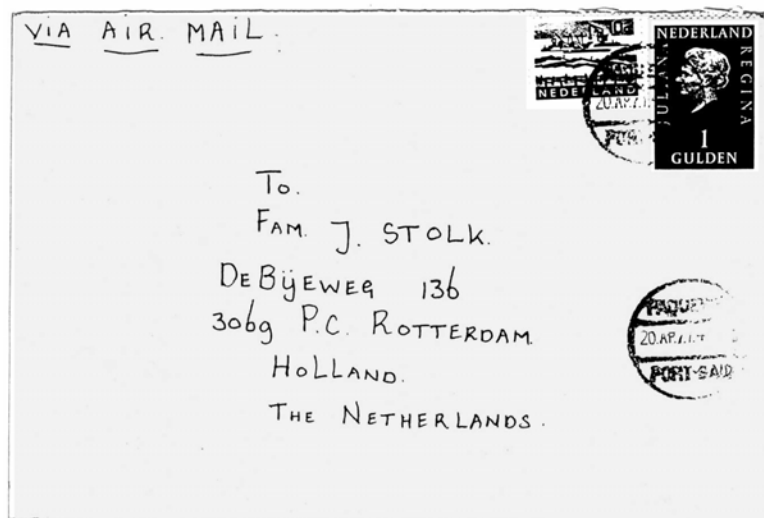


Fig. 5 Smaller postmark, 26mm diameter, dated 20 AP 71.

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (GENERAL ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2002

INCOME	2001	2002
Subscriptions	2,358.81	2,734.50
Auction account	-	1,000.00
Bank deposit interest received (net)	113.98	48.56
Sale of tie - 1 (2001 nil)	-	7.00
Donation	15.00	34.68
Advertisements	<u>395.00</u>	<u>285.00</u>
	2,882.79	4,109.74
EXPENDITURE		
Photocopier written off	-	1.00
Library costs (net)	110.36	119.33
Meeting room hire	565.25	626.25
Cost of quarterly circulars	2,166.51	3,511.48
Affiliation fee B.P.S.	37.80	35.40
New issues	-	8.24
Insurance	18.80	18.80
Cost of tie sold - 1 (2001 nil)	-	3.80
2001 Show	25.00	-
Egypt trip (net)	58.97	-
Officers' stationery and telephone	185.26	125.60
President/Chairman's postage etc	79.06	63.04
Gifts	<u>130.00</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>3,377.01</u>	<u>4,512.94</u>
(Deficit) for the year	(494.22)	(403.20)
Surplus at 1 January 2002	<u>9,303.68</u>	<u>8,809.46</u>
SURPLUS AT 31 DECEMBER 2002	<u>£ 8,809.46</u>	<u>£ 8,406.26</u>

BALANCE SHEET (GENERAL ACCOUNT) AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2002

Assets		
Photocopier written	1.00	
Stamp collection at catalogue valuation	2,535.70	2,535.70
Circle library and records	-	-
Stock of ties 62 (2001 63) at cost	239.40	235.60
Due from library account	120.00	60.00
Cash at bank		
Current account	1,636.76	1,666.12
Deposit account	5,367.29	4,615.85
Cash in hand	<u>6.31</u>	<u>22.99</u>
	9,906.46	9,136.26
LIABILITIES		
Members' subscriptions 2003	547.00	180.00
Cost of remaining quarterly circular	<u>550.00</u>	<u>550.00</u>
	<u>1,097.00</u>	<u>730.00</u>
	<u>8,809.46</u>	<u>8,406.26</u>
Representing Accumulated surplus	<u>8,809.46</u>	<u>8,406.26</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 10 February 2003

The Story Behind the Stamp: Balian 1255, 28 Aug 1991, Mohamed Abdel-Wahab



Composer, musician, singer, actor, Mohamed Abdel-Wahab was a giant in the world of Middle Eastern entertainment. This prolific artist composed some of the most classical Egyptian music. He wrote more than 1,800 songs, of which he sang hundreds, and was also a star of the silver screen. Born in the Bab El-Sha'riya district of Cairo in 1910, Abdel-Wahab made his first recording at the age of 13. He had a beautiful baritone singing voice and played the oud (see illustration). He trained formally in both Arabic music and Western music, and was the first composer to synthesise the two strains in his music. While he began his career with traditional melodies, Western influences became evident in his later music.

One of his early songs *Fil-Leil Lama Kheli* (The Lonely Night) became an instant success and was sung before King Farouk at the opening of the Arab Music Institute in Cairo in 1929. In 1926, Abdel-Wahab had helped to compose the musical score of *The Goose Consul Operetta*, based on a theme of Naguib El-Rehani. It was a great success.

In his later films, Abdel-Wahab introduced female singers such as Leila Murad. He also began to feature large orchestras with mixtures of Western instruments such as the guitar, bass, accordion and, later, the organ and synthesiser. He employed new rhythmic formulas, including the tango, mambo, samba and rumba, as well as the Arabic oriental rhythms *maqsoum* and *baladi*, in his compositions.

In the 1950s, Abdel-Wahab left film and concentrated on his singing. His songs were patriotic and included composing the musical scores for Egypt's national anthem and that of the United Arab Republic. In the 1960s he stopped singing, but continued to compose for other singers. It was during this decade that Abdel-Wahab composed for Om Koulthom. He released *Ente Omri*, a recording that became Egypt's all-time bestseller. Abdel-Wahab worked well into the 1970s. While he appeared less and less in public, the popularity of his music never faded. Then in 1988, at the age of 81, he surprised everyone when he returned to the studio with a new composition. In 1991, Mohamed Abdel-Wahab died of heart failure. His career spanned 74 years and created a legend in the world of modern Arabic music and melody.

Twelve years after his death a museum was opened to commemorate the life at the Arab Music Institute, where he had sung some of his most famous and memorable songs. With its early 20th-century Islamic architecture, it is located at 22 Ramses Street, just before Al-Tawfiqiya. Well worth a visit on the next ESC trip to Egypt.

Among his extensive discography are:

Les Archives de la Musique Arabe V.I, III, IV [Club du Disque Arabe]
 Magnoun Leila [Cairophon]
 Mohamed Abd el-Wahab V.1-X [Clube du Disque Arabe]
 Super Belly Dance [CD, Voice of Stars, 1989]
 Colours from Abdel Wahab Melodies [CD, Voice of Lebanon, 1994]
 Kollina Nehib Elqamar 1920-1935 [CD, Voix du Maghreb, 1996]
 Watanyat Vol 2 [CD, EMI Arabia, 1998]

For free download from the internet try:

<http://www.artistdirect.com/music/genre/sub/songs/0,,677-2,00.html>