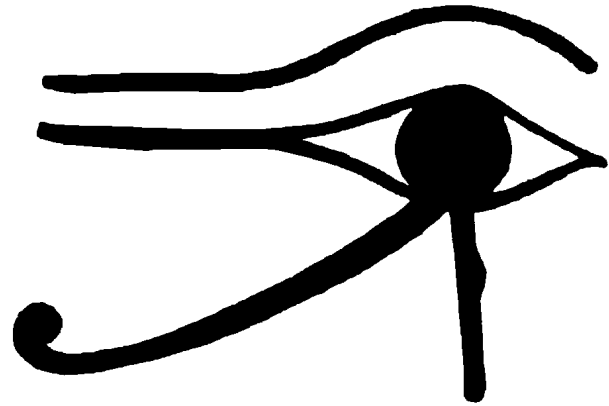


**The
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THE
EGYPT



STUDY CIRCLE

**December Quarter 2003
Volume XVIII No. 8**

**Whole Series No. 207
Pages 173 – 196**

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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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EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE OFFICERS

President:	Mr. J. Sears, FRPSL 496 Uxbridge Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4SL.
Chairman:	Mr. P.R. Bertram, FRPSL 11 Bishop's Way, Buckden, St Neots, Cambs PE19 5TZ.
Deputy Chairman:	Mr. J.S. Horesh, U.K.
Secretary:	Mr. J.M. Murphy. 109 Chadwick Road, Peckham, London SE15 4PY. egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Mr. G.A. Jeyes 4 Ravine Court, Meridan Close, Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset BH13 7JU
Editor:	Mr. E. Hall 6 Bedford Avenue, Little Chalfont, Amersham, Bucks HP6 6PT edmund.hall@virgin.net
Librarian:	Mr. D.J. Davis Church View Cottage, Church Road, Upton Snodsbury, Worcestershire WR7 4NH
U.S.A. Agent:	Mr. C.F. Hass P.O. Box 3435, Nashua, NH 03061-3435, U.S.A.
Egypt Agent:	To be appointed.
Antipodean Agent:	Mr A.J. Chisholm 13 Arden Way, Wilton, Wellington 6005, New Zealand.
Committee:	Mr. D.H. Clarke.

Forthcoming Meetings.

January 10	“Agency” postal markings	Ted Fraser-Smith
February 28 (at Stampex)	Ten Sheets	All
May 8	AGM & Postage Due Markings and Stamps	Robin Bertram
July 10	Egyptian Postcards and their Publishers	Mohamed Nofal
September 11	The French Connection, 1798-1956	Peter Grech
November 13	A Tour around Egypt in Postmarks	Cyril Defriez

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 Meeting September 20, 2003

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Robin Bertram (Chairman), Peter Andrews, Mike Bramwell, Joe Chalhoub, John Davis (Librarian), Cyril Defriez, Mostafa El-Dars, Peter Grech, Charlie Hass, Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Alan Jeyes (Treasurer), Bill Johns, Mike Murphy (Secretary), Mohamed Nofal, Sami Sadek, Lewis Said, Tony Schmidt, Vahe Varjabedian.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Chadwick, Dennis Clarke, Ted Fraser-Smith, Jürgen Fricke, Edmund Hall, Wolfgang Köhler and Betty Watterson.

The Chairman welcomed members, and in particular our visiting colleagues from overseas - Vahe Varjabedian (Egypt), Joe Chalhoub (Canada) and Charlie Hass (USA) - and applauded the return after successful surgery of Cyril Defriez.

But he then announced the sad demise after a short illness of Professor Nabil el-Hadidi, our Egypt Agent and a good friend to the Circle over very many years. Robin Bertram said he was proud to have called him a personal friend, and described him as quiet and unassuming, a fantastic man who would always offer help in any way, and spoke of his efforts on our behalf at Cairo 1991 and the October 2001 visit which followed. He read a brief message of condolence from Hisham Bassiouny, President of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, and announced that in respect of Nabil's memory no effort would be made to replace him as Egypt Agent until a decent interval had elapsed. Members stood for a minute's silence. An obituary appears on page 177.

The schedule of meetings for 2004 was then completed, together with a promise from Joe Chalhoub and Charlie Hass of a meeting at some time in the future on new discoveries in the First Issue, based on Joe's outstanding material. The 2004 programme is:

January 10	Ted Fraser-Smith: "Agency" Postal Markings
February 28	(at Stampex) - Ten sheets
May 8	AGM; and Robin Bertram: Postage Due Markings and Stamps
July 10	Mohamed Nofal: Egyptian Postcards and their Publishers
September 11	Peter Grech: The French Connection, 1798-1956
November 13	Cyril Defriez: A Tour around Egypt in Postmarks

The chairman announced that a volunteer had come forward for the post of Hon Secretary, and wondered if there might be any more nominations before the Annual Meeting in May; and since the meeting we also have a volunteer for Treasurer. Thank you, gentlemen both - but wouldn't it be nice to need a ballot to decide who should take up such important posts?

Our President announced that Auction No 36 was now in members' hands; and in the absence of the Editor the Secretary appealed for feedback on *QC* 206, recently dispatched, which for the first time includes a four-page colour section. Do members feel that this is a feature with which we should persevere - please let Edmund know. There was also an appeal for articles for the *QC* - the backlog has dwindled almost to nothing, and more articles - any length; any subject of interest - are urgently sought.

Alan Jeyes then presented his display on Egyptian labels - a topic not previously shown, and which proved full of fascination and delight in an area largely unknown. Alan was able to show an astonishing range of material, covering advertising and other labels affixed to envelopes throughout Egypt's postal history and produced by or for all sorts of establishments, from hotels via national and international exhibitions to shipping and cigarette companies, money-raising efforts for hospitals, and even Greek Freemasons! He showed "Royal imperfs" of the well-known Bepitec, Citex and Imada air exhibition labels, proving that they were produced by the Survey of Egypt, as well as labels manufactured overseas but showing Egyptian types or scenes, and examples of the rare 1914 Alexandria Youth Olympics labels. And they didn't come only rectangular or circular, but scalloped, oval and a plethora of shapes and sizes and colours, attached to back and front of covers, in singles, sheets ... an astonishing array of printed paper.

Joe Chalhoub (ESC 358) and Charlie Hass (ESC 181) took a few moments to introduce the new *Nile Post Handbook and Catalogue* which they hope to have back from the printer in a very short time. They showed some examples of the stunning colour section together with bound copies of final proofs of the mass of

pages, displaying a crisp, clear layout, and detailed some of the advances - especially in the First Issue, Gaza, Sudan, and the OHEMS issues. Joe announced, to grateful applause, that a copy of the book would be donated to the ESC Library. John Sears will be acting as agent for European members, who are offered a special price of £77 inclusive of postage.

Vahe Varjabedian then spoke on Egyptian perfins, in which he has made enormous advances since the publication of his booklet in early 1999, and showed examples of all the types recorded, including the recently discovered Misr Petroleum on stamps of the Engineering Syndicate. He mentioned that his fledgeling study now had 38 correspondents worldwide, and that recent advances had added four new firms and one new type - all this in a country with only 38 perfin types, compared with 23,000 in GB and 18,000 in Germany. He illustrated the earliest known perfin - the S.B. type (Societe Anonyme du Behera), on a 2m DLR cancelled 20 MR 1896 in Kafr el Sheikh and another howling rarity in a cover franked with both I.O.M. and O.M. perfins at the time of the changeover from the Imperial Ottoman Bank to the Ottoman Bank. More detail might be found in his article on pages p159 to 161*, and in response to many appeals Vahe has updated his book in a form that is a first for the Circle! *Perfins on Egyptian Stamps 2003* is a CD with full information and a colour cover illustration for each known perfin. Available from Vahe Varjabedian, 6 Mohamed Galal Street, Heliopolis 11341, Cairo, Egypt, at £15 or \$20 or €20.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for delightful exhibitions of material in fields that were new to most members, and paid tribute to Alan for the very varied aspects of his display and to Vahe for helping to prove the innate honesty of Egyptians - after all, only 38 companies thought it necessary to protect their stamps from pilfering in this way! Members showed their appreciation in the usual manner.

* Plus quite an extensive update I have which will appear in the next QC. Ed.

Report of Meeting November 15, 2003

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Robin Bertram (Chairman), Peter Andrews, Mike Bram-well, Dennis Clarke, Graham Coles, John Davis (Librarian), Cyril Defriez, Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Bill Johns, Mike Murphy (Secretary), Sami Sadek, Dick Wilson (United States).

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Chadwick, John Clarke and Alan Jeyes.

The Chairman welcomed members, and in particular Dick Wilson, our visiting colleague from the United States - and immediately had the pleasant task of presenting Dick with the Mac-Arthur Award for the best article published in the Quarterly Circular in 2002: members voted his *Cover Census of the Indian Forces in the 1882 Campaign (QC 202)* best of the year.

Members were reminded that subscriptions for 2004 are due on January 1, and that under new rules agreed at the 2003 AGM those failing to pay by April 1 face lapsing and a penalty charge to renew membership: it was agreed that a sheet with a tear-off strip to return to the Treasurer or Agent should accompany the December QC.

The Secretary reported on invitations from Midpex (June 25, 2005) and the ABPS National Exhibition (Basildon, November 21-22, 2004) but after poor attendance and failure to gain new members at recent events the meeting decided that the Circle would not attend either.

Our President said that Auction 36 was now being completed, despite the complications of the postal strike. Again commissions had provided a small revenue surplus over expenses, and at the Treasurer's request, £1,000 had been transferred from the Auction account to the General account.

Peter Andrews raised the question of verification of records of postal markings and the like held by study leaders, and how they should be stored for future generations to consult. After some discussion, it was agreed that half a meeting should be devoted to a wider-ranging consideration of the studies and how the Study Circle Record should best be kept

Stanley Horesh then presented his display on Egypt Military Pre-1916, a date chosen, he explained, to limit the amount of material to be covered; after 1916 the range would simply be too great to cover in a single meeting.

He opened with the Napoleonic era, 1798-1801, showing folded entire letters bearing Le Caire, one of the six town markings recorded, and invited members to display their own material. With only about 100 letters known internally, and perhaps 20 more travelling overseas, this was a rare chance to see Napoleonic material "in real life". Dennis Clarke showed an Order of the Day signed by General Kléber announcing the opening of the military postal service to Bilbeis, and the Deputy Chairman led and co-ordinated a fascinating display augmented by several other members, including Robin Bertram and John Davis.

Material from the British forces which defeated Napoleon is extremely rare, though Robin Bertram showed a ship letter from February 1801 rated 2s 6d for three pages at 10d each, and although Egyptian forces took part in the battle of Navarino in 1827 there appears to be no postal material extant, and indeed letters from Egyptian troops is in virtually nil supply even though they were certainly involved from about 1850 and served in the Labour Corps in the First World War. One of the highlights, however, was Dennis Clarke's remarkable printed Soldier's Letter, almost undoubtedly used by an Egyptian soldier.

It was with the British campaign in 1882 that comparatively more material came to light, with the advent of the first military postal service, performed by the "Post Office Rifles" regiment, and letters were shown bearing the 1d rate for other ranks and the 2 1/2d rate for officers, as well as an 1885 letter from HMS *Monarch* in Alexandria franked at the 1d privilege rate. Throughout the 1880s and 1890s there was a regular correspondence to and from troops in Egypt and many important and beautiful covers were shown. Great interest was shown in covers relating to French and German troops passing through Port Said and the Canal to and from various expeditions

The outbreak of the First World War provided another major boost to correspondence, and covers and cards with a plethora of marks from military depots, hospitals, convalescent depots and prisoner of war camps was shown. As well as British troops, allied contingents from Australia, India, New Zealand, France, and even from Russian soldiers attached to the French, all provided a colourful and significant correspondence. The difficulty of identifying possible material from invading Turkish troops, who reached into Sinai in 1915, was emphasised.

The chairman thanked Stanley Horesh and all who had assisted in a fascinating and instructive display, and paid particular tribute to Stanley's prowess as a raconteur. Members showed their appreciation in the time-honoured fashion.

New members:

- ESC 575 **Jean-Marie Delelis**, 28 Rue des Dames, 17138 Puilboreau, France
(Egypt/Sudan stamps and postcards, Hotel postmarks)
- ESC 576 **Mona el-Difrawi**, El-Difrawi Building, 10 Mohamed Basha Shoukry, El-Agouza, Cairo,
Egypt (Egypt, Palestine)
- ESC 577 **Rolando Marin**, Département Gestion et Environnement, Université Senghor, 1 Ahmed Orabi
Place, El-Mancheya, PO Box 415-2111 Alexandria, Egypt
(Egypt philately in general, Alexandria philately, France and colonies)

Change of address:

- ESC 357 **Eckhardt Redecke**, Fritz-Heller-Strasse 9, D-31582 Nienburg/Weser, Germany
- ESC 571 **Vincent Centonze**, 4918 Wessex Way, Land O'Lakes, Florida 34639, USA

Lapsed:

- ESC 465 **Eric Greenberg** ESC 542 **Oliver Migneco** ESC 546 **Frank Wagner**

Nabil el-Hadidi (ESC 369): an Appreciation

Dr Nabil El-Hadidi graduated from Cairo University in 1953, and for the next 50 years devoted pretty well all of his waking hours to the Botany Department in the Faculty of Science. He retired - as law demanded, at the age of 60 - in 1994, and immediately returned as Emeritus Professor, freed from the shackles of bureaucracy and able to spend all his time in doing what he loved, teaching the delights of botany to yet more generations of students.

Yet there was space, too, in his extensive laboratories in the University Herbarium which he headed since 1978 for his second love. And cupboards and drawers which might have held botanical specimens were packed with covers, documents, sheets of stamps, all grist to the mill of an active and inquiring mind which brought a scientific background - but none of the uniformity of scientific rigidity - to his philatelic researches.

Dr Nabil loved nothing more than to sift through a new box of his “rubbish” - searching for fascination, especially in the area of revenues and revenue documents, but bounded by nothing more than what took his interest - brought to him by a small but efficient network of collectors of all ages and abilities who saw him as an encyclopaedia of knowledge about Egypt and its philatelic history. His collection of revenue material was outstanding, and an extensive new volume, building greatly on the 1982 publication by Peter Feltus, was in course of preparation.



But Dr Nabil (*right*) was not a man who sought glory in his collecting. For years he played a typically quiet and unostentatious part in the life of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, as Secretary and Committee member - and for the past dozen years as the highly-regarded Agent of the Egypt Study Circle - always ready with quiet and timely advice when, as so often was the case, turmoil loomed. He was the neutral, calm eye at the centre of the storm, trusted by all as a member of none of the factions, a man who steered his own course.

Botanic recognition of that self-chosen role came in the shape of honours - the insignia are displayed on the walls of his book-lined family apartment in Almaza - from three Presidents of very different political hues. He was honoured not only by Gamal Abd el-Nasser, but also by Anwar Sadat and Hosni Mubarak for his work, part of which involved teaching archaeological conservation. Dr Nabil was delighted to be able to set his students to conserving an original copy of Napoleon's *Déscription de l'Égypte* which he found languishing in a side room at the University. It now takes pride of place in the Herbarium.

Dr Nabil was widely travelled, having studied in Vienna and Japan as well as in London in the 1960s and 1970s, and was often able to visit Europe to attend conferences and to supervise the postgraduate students he had been able to place at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew (and to attend Stampex!). One such visit was instrumental in bringing about the return to Egypt of wooden artefacts taken for examination at the time of the opening of the Tomb of Tutankhamun. He was the author of over 100 scientific works on plant taxonomy and the flora of Egypt and the Middle East and editor of innumerable botanic journals and volumes.

Yet it is as a family man that I shall best remember Dr Nabil. He stayed often with my family in London, and we stayed with his family in Cairo and in his holiday home at El Arish. Always generous with time and consideration, he and his wife Afaf, a professor in her own right, were the best possible hosts. Nothing troubled them: there was time and opportunity for everything and anything that we could possibly want to do.

Dr Nabil was the epitome of what has unfortunately become a tired old phrase - a scholar and a gentlemen. The combination is much more rare than people realise. But he lived it, without thinking about it, without seeking reward for his generosity of spirit. Our commiserations to Afaf, to Basman, Nesrin and to Yasser. We shall not see his like again.

Mike Murphy

Dr Nabil el-Hadidi was born on March 28 1934, and died on September 7 2003, aged 69.

Because of my personal friendship with Dr Nabil I must add a brief postscript to Mike's "Appreciation".

It was only some five months ago that I last stayed with Nabil and Afaf in Almaza, and as on previous occasions was made "one of the family". Nabil and I had similar philatelic (revenue stamps/documents) areas of interest, and in our many hours researching I felt very much the student in front of his professor. He was a very patient teacher, explaining (in English because of my pathetic knowledge of Arabic) every aspect of our mutual interest.

Nabil and Afaf were superb hosts. I will always keep many warm memories of this. On one occasion Nabil and I took a day out from philately and spent it looking round the Fayoum area. I shall always remember him suddenly stopping our taxi, having spotted some wild plant growing in the desert area, jumping out and taking a specimen home for his botanical students.

On the philatelic side I shall never forget the excitement on the occasions when he stayed at my house and handed to me his usual envelope of philatelic "goodies" marked simply "Robin". I know he had such envelopes for other ESC members as well.

I am honoured to have known the great man and will truly miss our friendship.

Robin Bertram

Taxe Non Percue: Alexandria

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

What a delight! A query in the *QC (Taxe Non Percue, QC 206, page 165)* brings an immediate response from three members - I am grateful to Jürgen Fricke (ESC 557), Sven Eriksson (ESC 411) and Peter Smith (ESC 74) for sorting out the problems with Alexandria on my illustrated postage due cover.

What I didn't know - and they did - was that among the vast numbers of Alexandrias in the world, there is also one in Romania. I knew of the one in South Africa - honest, I even have a cover that had been mis-sent there - and I knew of at least one of the eight in the USA. But I didn't know of the two in Canada, or the one in the Northern Territory of Australia. Or the one in Jamaica. Even the one in Scotland had passed me by... The one in Italy is where the cover, properly, ended up - but crucially, I didn't know of the one in Romania. And so I couldn't understand my cover. But Peter Smith could. As he explained:

"Alexandria" is a town of some size in Romania, and I have seen other instances of confusing it with eponymous cities in Egypt, Italy, and USA (Virginia). The Romanians spell it with X, and IUL is the abbreviation for July in Romanian. The letter originally was missent to Alexandria, Romania, which it reached on July 24th. From there it was sent to Egypt, and finally it bounced to Italy. Alessandria, Italy, is an industrial city between Genoa and Turin (the train passes through it). It was occupied by Napoleon, who gave it the French version, Alexandrie. The straight-line Napoleonic postmark is frequently mistaken for Alexandrie, Egypt, despite obvious discrepancies in the date of use.

Peter also suggested that for more information, and illustrations of some other Alexandria postmarks, I should look at Gabriel Boulad's article "Alexandrie en Egypte et hors de'Egypt" in *L'OP 110* (April-July 1963), pp. 129-134.

So all is revealed. Thank you all, colleagues, for your expertise and your generosity.



Book Review - The Nile Post. Handbook and Catalogue of Egyptian Stamps
by Joseph Chalhoub with contributions by Charles F. Hass.

Peter Smith (ESC 74)

Self-published, 101 Upper Bellevue, Westmount, P.Q., Canada MY 1137; 2003. xxix + 788 pp. + 32 pp. of color plates. ISBN 0-9733373-0-3 US\$115.00 (US\$107.00 for ESC members) (+ postage & handling \$8.00 in the US; US\$12.00 by surface mail to Europe; US\$17.00 to the rest of the world).

How lucky can a collector be? --- three specialized works on Egypt in five years! As each new philatelic work on a subject builds on what has gone before, it should be expected that the new ones be more complete and more in depth, not to mention more up to date. This catalogue fulfils the expectation outstandingly. It is nearly as big as a volume of Scott's or Gibbons' general catalogues that cover multiple countries, and bigger than Scott's United States Specialized catalogue.

This book is sharply focused on stamps, not postal markings, pre-stamp handstamps, or covers. Starting with the 1866 issue, essays, proofs, and a surprising number of plate and perforation varieties are listed in meticulous detail (selected essays, colour trials, and rarities of some issues are collected in a huge separate section, in colour). This thorough treatment is maintained throughout, even unto the issues of the twenty-first century. The abundance of illustrations, many enlarged, makes the catalogue especially valuable.

Mr. Chalhoub has bravely attempted to put prices on every item listed, and has succeeded remarkably well. Pricing is a particularly difficult task, and it is hard to avoid inconsistencies. For the rare items, recent auction realizations are used as the basis, or in their absence, the number known to exist or to have been printed. In general, the prices are reasonably close to current retail prices (for some of the varieties, however, pricing is understandably somewhat arbitrary).

The "Royal" proofs of the King Fuad and King Farouk era (with drastically skewed perforations, or imperforate on thin card with "Cancelled" on back) are found, curiously, listed as varieties of the issued stamps. The listing of them appears to be thorough, and some errors in the earlier catalogue-listing by George Lee have been corrected.

Booklets are described with each definitive issue, from the rare first booklets of 1903 to the lone booklet issued by the Republic. They are also gathered together for convenience in an Appendix. The coil stamps of 1910 and the abortive ones of 1924 are also discussed.

The increased interest in postal stationery in recent times is reflected in a separate section of the catalogue. Although there seems to be nothing startlingly new, the listing is quite thorough, and includes proofs and many informative footnotes (essays are gathered in a separate section at the beginning of the catalogue). The prices for many of the scarcer items will surprise many readers!

The stamps for the British Forces in Egypt in the 1930s and 1940s are properly included, with many well illustrated plate varieties and new information on the make-up of the overprinting forms for the 1935 Silver Jubilee commemorative.

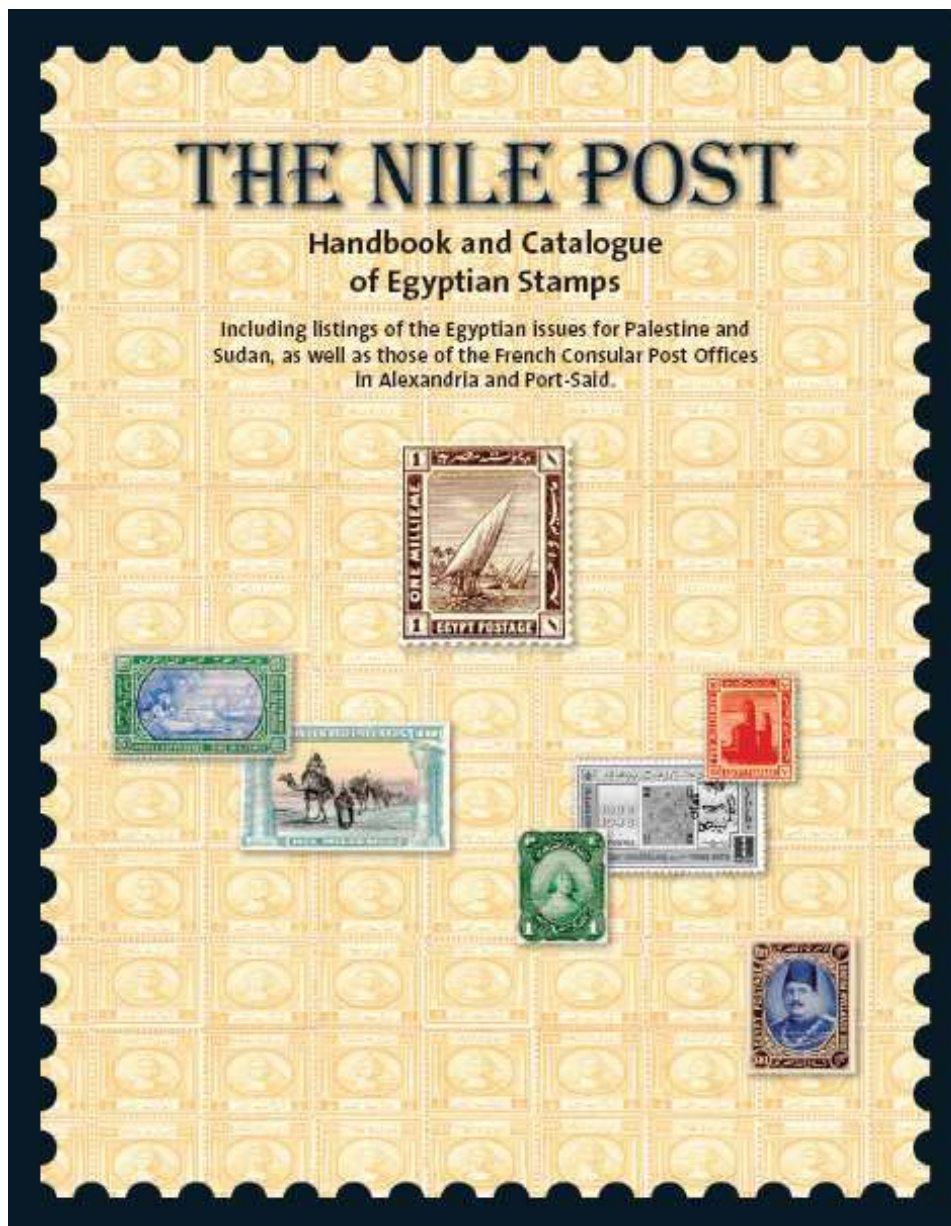
An important feature of a catalogue is completeness. The detailed coverage in this case is extraordinary, and I have been awakened to many varieties and essays of which I was hitherto ignorant. I noticed only two misses (one only partial). In the 1879 surcharges, the varieties with corner guides are mentioned in a footnote and not otherwise catalogued. More importantly, the 5-para value with four corner guides on each stamp, which must have come from a separate state of the stone, are ignored. The other omission is the existence of essays of the 2- and 5-mills. values of the 1888 postage dues with unaccepted Arabic inscriptions of value ("tenths of piaster" instead of "milliemes"). These omissions are small when one considers the enormity of the whole work.

Consistent with the focus on stamps, those of the French post offices in Alexandria and Port Said are covered only from 1899, when the first specially overprinted stamps were issued. The little-known 1899 local

provisional overprints of Port Said are thoroughly treated. These French issues are covered in great detail, with valuable information about forgeries, producing the most comprehensive treatment yet to appear.

The relation of Sudan with Egypt was once so close that it was in fact considered to be part of Egypt. Consequently, Chalhoub has included the stamps and postal stationery of Egypt overprinted for Sudan, in a listing rich with detail. The collaboration with Charles Hass shows up strongly in this section, as it also does in the sections on Official stamps and on the French post offices. His unmatched experience and expertise with overprints are clearly evident. Results of his unpublished research are a valuable part of the treatment of overprints.

Should one invest in this catalogue even if one already owns one of the excellent earlier catalogues? I would certainly recommend it, for so much has been added to what has previously been published. The abundance and clarity of the illustrations are enough to justify purchase, and the pleasure one gets on viewing the colour illustrations of the rare varieties and essays (many of which have not been shown before) is hard to put a price on.



European members may order directly from John Sears for £77 to include surface mail. Please make cheques payable to John

Perfins on Egyptian Tax Stamps

Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)

Our knowledge of Egyptian tax stamps comes from the stamps themselves, documents bearing them and about them, unpublished notes and correspondence, and occasionally from books and philatelic articles.

During the last couple of years, while studying Egyptian perfins, I have set aside all documents, invoices, receipts, insurance policies and so on franked with punctured tax stamps. Recently, during my summer vacation, I found the time to study and arrange them in order, trying to create a small reference collection. What I discovered is interesting.

Most of punctured tax stamps on invoices, receipts, documents, what have you, are on the first, second, and third Egyptian tax issues, ie, those of 1939-49, 1957-58 and 1959-61, inscribed in Arabic *damgha masriya* (Egyptian tax) in the centre of the low values and at the top of the higher values. The first issue was printed by the Survey of Egypt, with perforation 13 x 13 1/2; while the second and the third issues are similar but with different watermarks. Stamps used with perfins are the 5 mills violet, 10 mills brown, 30 mills deep green and 50 mills ultramarine, but I also discovered a couple of the 1938 “Ministère de Finances” issue (50 mills deep blue) with punctures.

The earliest user of punctured tax stamps on receipts and bank statements seems to be Credit Lyonnais Cairo branch (Fig. 1), with recorded dates of 1947 to 1958. Values used are 5 mills, 10 mills, 50 mills and the 1938 50 mills.

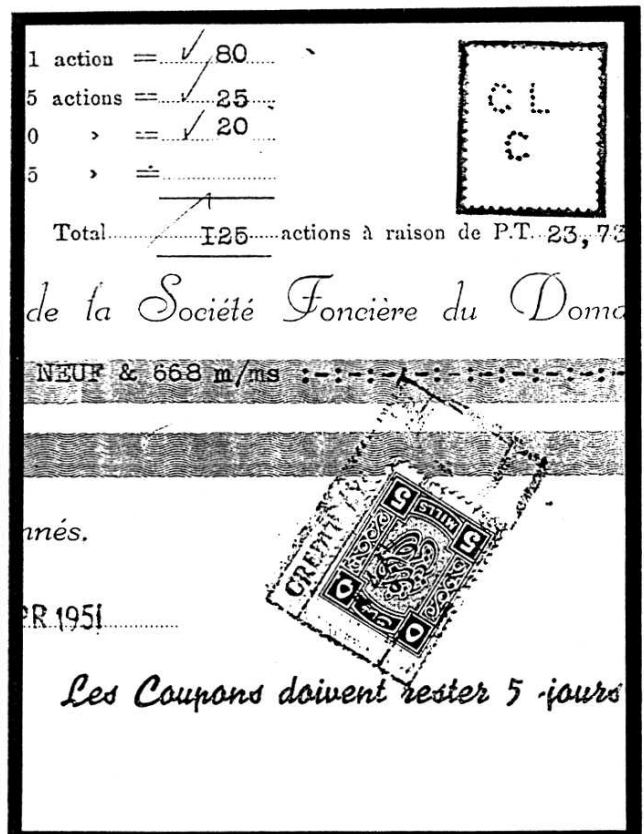
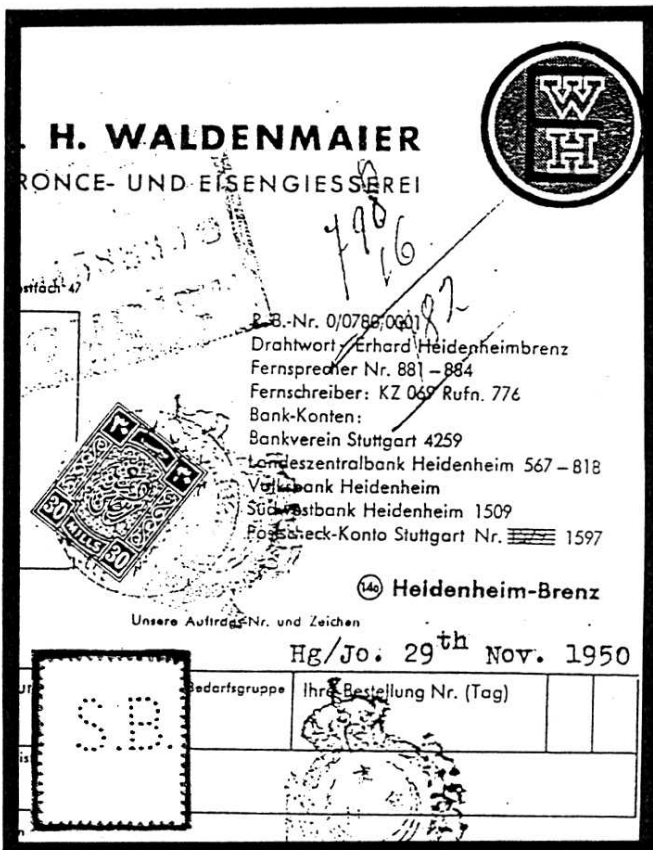
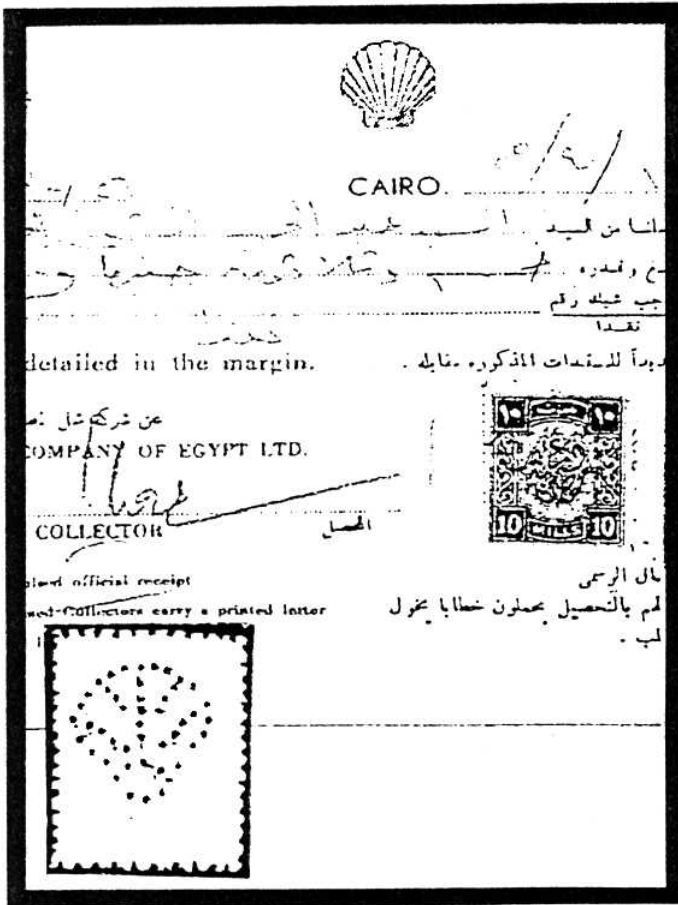


Fig 1.

Another company to use perfinned stamps on their invoices was the Societé Anonyme du Behera (Fig. 2). With six invoices as examples, I find all dates are around 1950-52, all on the 30 mills.

Fig 2.





The third company is the Shell Company of Egypt Ltd: most of the used stamps are 5 mills and 10 mills on receipts, used during a period of 14 years between 1947 and 1961 (Fig. 3).

Fig.3

The fourth is the recently discovered Al Chark Assurance, the well-known Egyptian insurance company (established in 1931). Most of the values used are 50 mills stamps, all of them during 1957 and only on insurance policies (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4

Extracts from the Postal Guide of Egypt and from the U.P.U. Congress

Sven Eriksson (ESC 411)

Over the years I have compiled a list of the Egypt domestic/foreign rates with extracts from the UPU meetings held at different locations and from the Journal Officiel. I hope members will find it of use and would ask if they can offer any armaments or additions to please send them to the Editor for inclusion in a future QC. NB, these notes should be read in conjunction with the tables starting on page 192.

Extracts from the U.P.U. Congress in Bern, 15 September 1874

On 15 September 1874 a Congress of *L'Union Général des Postes* opened in Bern, Switzerland, to meet international demand for a general association involving postal services around the world. Twenty-two countries took part, and Egypt was one among them.

Regulations agreed at this first convention in Bern came into force on 1 July 1875, and most of those countries which attended followed suit. At the convention the following was agreed: a postage rate for a Letter of 25 centimes (20-32) per 15 grams, Postal card 12½ centimes, Printed matter 7 centimes (5-11) per 50 grams. Registration and Advice of Reception (AR) fees were set at a maximum the same as for domestic rate.

The 'T' (Tax) mark was also introduced: and invalid stamps must be marked with an 'O' (meaning null-and-void). Unfranked or insufficiently franked letters should be handstamped with 'T' (*Taxe à payer*), by the despatching country, together with figures in black showing the total value of additional postage, in French francs and centimes; together with a note in figures at the upper left-hand side showing weight stages beyond the first weight-class. Postal cards and printed matter were not delivered if unfranked or partly franked.

At this first Congress regulations were also introduced for which colours should be used for different notes on international mail, as follows:

Blue - for notes about the surcharge, the amount to be paid by the receiver.

Red - to indicate any excess, over 25 centimes postage on mails despatched from a UGP country, allocated to that UGP country which was responsible for forwarding the mail to a non-UGP country (transit postage).

Black - for that part of postage paid by the sender, if the postal article was insufficiently franked.

Finally, at the 1874 Congress, it was decided that date-stamps should be placed on the address-side on mail.

Congress of Bern, 17-27 January 1876

British India and all the French Colonies had applied for admission to the UGP and were accepted as full members. The rate to these new designations to be twice that decided at the Congress of 1874. This treaty came into force on 1 July 1876.

Congress of Paris, May-June 1878

At this congress the initials UPU (*Union Postale Universelle*) were adopted for the first time. A new minimum postage rate was introduced for Printed matter, at 5 centimes per 50 grams, and another for samples (10 centimes per 250 grams). It was agreed that postal cards must be 140x90mm, with one side reserved for the address and messages on reverse. Privately produced printed cards became valid on domestic mail, but not internationally. Furthermore, the significance of red, blue and black notes was more clearly defined:

Red crayon - to be used by the despatching UPU country for fully franked articles sent to countries outside the UPU. It was used to write, at the lower left of the address side, in francs and centimes, by how much the foreign postage exceeded the UPU postage (=25c). Any excess of postage was allocated to the last country which forwarded the mail to final destination.

Blue crayon - used by the receiving country, on unfranked or partly franked articles from UPU-member countries. The figures should state the foreign postage exceeding the UPU postage of 25 centimes.

Black crayon – to be reserved for postage due notes on insufficiently franked letters leaving an UPU country. The missing amount, in francs and centimes, should be written beside the stamps. The receiving country then had to charge double the deficiency, converted into its own domestic currency. Regulations were agreed on how postage fees should be divided between the despatching and exchanging countries' Post Offices.

From UPU country to non-UPU country: The despatching country was allowed to keep the UPU postage (=25c). The rest went to the exchanging Post Office, which could also keep the total amount of postage if the letter was completely unfranked.

From non-UPU country to UPU country: The receiving Post Office was allowed to keep all the postage amount if the letter was despatched unfranked.

The 'T' (Tax) mark had to be applied by the UPU country on articles despatched unfranked or partly franked; by the receiving UPU-country's Post Office if mail was sent from a non-UPU country.

This 1878 Paris Convention came into force on 1 April 1879.

The practice of Postage Due on incoming international mail between 1879 and 1907 was as follows:

It was the despatching Post Office's responsibility to handstamp a 'T' tax mark in black on insufficiently franked articles, together with figures in black crayon showing the amount in francs and centimes, for that part of postage which was deficient by the sender.

Blue crayon was used by the receiving country (Egypt), applied on articles sent from an UPU country. This was for notes about the surcharge in francs and centimes, the amount to be paid by the addressee, ie, double the deficiency. This amount was converted into Egyptian currency, that is, between 1879 and 1887, 10 centimes = 16 paras, rounded down to 15 Paras; and from 1888 5 centimes = 2 milliemes. The blue was also used for 'O' (null-and-void) markings around invalid stamps. It is evident that these regulations were not followed absolutely closely at some of the arrival Post Offices, and the specific purposes behind the red, blue and black manuscript notes have sometimes been abandoned.

Congress of Paris, 9 October-3 November 1880

At this congress it was agreed to begin using the concept of parcel post '*colis postaux*', for non-insured parcels up to maximum weight of 3kg. The postage was settled at a rate of 50 centimes for each country the parcel had to pass in transit, including the sending and receiving countries. There was also an additional postage cost for transportation by sea, depending on the distance in nautical miles - 25 centimes for 500 nautical miles, 50c/500-1,000nm, 1Fr/1,000-3,000nm, 2Fr/3,000-6,000nm and 3Fr/6,000nm or more. Finally, an additional parcel surcharge of a minimum 25c, had to be paid by the despatching country, depending on the distance of transportation on land (surface mail). This convention came into force on 1 October 1881.

Congress of Lisbon, 4 February-21 March 1885

Fifty countries, together with five non-UPU observer countries, participated at this congress. An important reform was the settlement of the sender's right to a despatched article up to the point where it was delivered to the addressee. For this purpose, a special 'recovery form' was introduced, at a fee of the single registration rate. Another novelty was the wording 'Express' for international postal traffic, at the rate of 30 centimes. Many countries had to wait until 1913, before using this faster 'transportation'.

Reply-paid postal cards '*Avec Réponse*' could now be sent to all UPU countries for the first time. The rate was double the single postal card rate, and by regulation the card must be sent back to the country of origin. Private printed reply cards were valid if made in the regulation size of 140x90mm, if of the right paper quality, and with printed text '*Carte avec Réponse Payée*'.

New regulations were agreed for registered and insured articles: it was no longer allowed for the address to be written in pencil (lead), and registered letters must bear a special registration cachet or label.

The agreement for Money Orders was revised. From 1 April 1886, the sender of a Money Order could now receive a special acknowledgement of payment, *'Avis de payment'*, for notification of safe arrival. This form also allowed, for the first time, a handwritten message. The most important news must have been the introduction of despatch of Money Orders by telegraph!

The maximum weight for parcel post was increased from 3kg to 5kg, and a surcharge of 50 per cent was imposed on 'bulky' parcels, exceeding 150cm. The congress introduced insured parcels *'Valeur Déclarée'* and cash-on-delivery (COD) *'Remboursement'*, together with acknowledgement of receipt, *'Avis de Réception'* on parcels. A modification of the 'additional parcel surcharge' of a minimum 25 centimes from the previous Paris treaty became either 25c or 75c, applicable to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Venezuela, Persia and Sweden. Agreements signed at this convention came into force on 1 April 1886.

Congress of Vienna, 20 May-4 July 1891

A novelty was the agreement for subscription on Newspapers sent abroad. The price was the same as for a domestic subscriber, plus transit surcharge (as for Printed matter), together with an additional charge to the country of subscription.

This came into force on 1 January 1893, the same date as the treaty regulating the Collection Order Service (receipts, invoices, promissory notes and bills of exchange) up to a maximum of Fr1,000. These articles must be despatched by registered mail direct to the Post Office of destination. The Collection Order amount was then returned by Money Order to the sender, after subtraction of the Collection Order surcharge and Money Order postage. At the head of the Money Order form, the receiving Post Office had to write or stamp the word *'recouvrement'* (collection). If not collected within seven days, the order was returned free of charge to the Post Office of origin.

Unfranked postal cards became valid in international mail, subject to postage due taxes in the same manner as unfranked letters. Arrival datestamps became compulsory on the reverse on letters, and on the address side of postal cards. Cash on delivery (COD), to a maximum of Fr500, could be requested on registered letters, postal cards and printed matter (fee 10 centimes, paid by the recipient).

Registration labels were now available. Articles subject to the Advice of Reception (AR) service had to be issued by the receiving PO with a franking surcharge of a maximum 25 centimes, and marked A.R. or *'avis de reception'* in manuscript. The surcharge for insured letters was computed in steps of Fr300 instead of the previous Fr200. The minimum charge of 50 centimes for Money Orders was abolished and became 25 centimes per Fr25. The word 'Express' on international mail was introduced, but many countries did not follow suit until 1913. The indication 'Telegraphic' changed to 'Telegram Money Order' and the AR service was opened to any mail user. This treaty came into force on 1 July 1892.

Congress of Washington, 5 May-15 June 1897

More than sixty UPU countries, together with China and Korea, were represented at the Corcoran Palace in Washington, DC.

Two crucially important issues were decided, after long discussions. First, the forwarding charges for sea mail were reduced by one third (3per cent). Secondly, in discussing equivalent currencies between countries, it was noted that Great Britain, among other countries, had since 1875 translated the international 25-centime letter postage rate as 2½ pence, which in fact was the equivalent to 26½ centimes: there was a demand to reduce this equivalent charge to 2 pence (in fact equal to 21 centimes), but the proposal was rejected, and the 1874 treaty still applied for several future conventions.

One of the most important novelties was the agreement on official colours for UPU postage stamps, ie, blue for single letter-rate postage, red for postal cards and green for printed matter. These colours had already been introduced in Egypt in 1884 (para stamps) and continued in 1888 in millimetres.

Another regulation barred from international mail domestic 'Jubilee' stamps (commemorative stamps issued for a special occasion) or 'Jubilee' postal cards unless the card was franked at letter rate. These stamps and cards were often valid domestically for only a limited period, about which the receiving country had no information.

Insufficiently franked postal cards must be charged double the deficit and international postal cards must bear the printed text '*Carte Postale*'. Unfranked or partly franked letters which exceed the first weight step should be provided by the despatching Post Office with figures indicating the number of weight stages in the upper left-hand corner of the envelope.

Printed matter was allowed to a maximum weight of 350gr (previously 250gr), and an order-form for a bookseller's merchandise could now be sent as printed matter. A printed card was allowed five handwritten words in the message, and still be franked as '*Imprimé*'.

The maximum amount for cash-on-delivery (COD) on registered mail, became Fr1,000, with each country given the right to lower this maximum to Fr500 if it so chose. Regulations for 'Advice of Receipt' were modified once more: henceforth AR should be issued and franked by the despatching Post Office. AR could also, however, be requested after despatch from the PO, and inquiries could be made about registered (non-AR) articles after despatch. The charge for this service became a maximum 25 centimes.

New principles were introduced for calculating postage on Money Orders, by abolishing the 1879 50-centimes minimum surcharge. From 1 July 1892 the postage had been set at 25 centimes per Fr25, and for the 1897 treaty it was decided that for amounts over Fr1,000 the postage should be reduced to 25 centimes per Fr50. This convention came into force on 1 January 1899.

Redirected Foreign Underpaid Mail. Mail sent unpaid or underpaid from one country to another, and later returned to its country of origin without the postage due having been paid at all, became liable on return to a surcharge equivalent to that assessed at the foreign destination. If more than one postage due charge was assessed abroad (because of forwarding), the highest one was to be used. Such charges applied whether an item was being returned to the sender or delivered to any other address in the country of origin. Usually the postage due charge was simply double the original deficiency, with no currency conversion required.

Mail in this category could acquire Egyptian postage due stamps in one of two ways: First, where an item was sent abroad from Egypt and later returned, it would be given postage due stamps relating to the final charge. Depending on the original destination, there may also be foreign postage due stamps on the item, possibly with their local equivalent of the Egyptian mark. The second case is where mail was sent underpaid from abroad to Egypt, an Egyptian postage due charge was assessed but not collected, and the item was sent back to its originating country, possibly to acquire more postage due stamps there. Mail sent underpaid between two foreign countries, and later redirected to Egypt, was usually liable to postage due in Egypt.

Paquebot Mail. Stamps of the country operating the vessel must be used, and that country's foreign rates apply. When a ship is in port, it is considered part of the country in which the port is located, and that country's stamps and rates are required. Most of the Paquebot mail charged postage due in Egypt has its own country's stamps paying inland rates. Such mail was liable to foreign rates and was in most cases charged double the deficiency postage due. During 1921-1925 it was also subject to the 12 milliemes minimum surcharge rule. Egyptian regulations allowed for the possibility that stamps might not have been available on board. If a ship's officer provided a signed statement that this had been the case, then only single deficiency surcharges were applied. Examples of these are relatively scarce.

Congress of Rome, 7 April-26 May 1906

Again, more than sixty UPU countries, together with China and Ethiopia, took part. The major issue was the agreement to raise the limit of the lowest weight class for letters, from 15 grams to 20 grams, and lower the postage for second weight class (21-40 grams), from 25 centimes to 15 centimes (in Egypt 6 milliemes). The congress also introduced *International Reply Coupons* in the A7 size (105x74mm). And it was decided that 'prisoners of war' mail, including parcels and insured articles, should be sent postage free. Postage stamps used by the general public should preferably be placed at the upper right corner, and firma-perforated stamps (perfins) were now accepted in international mail. An insufficiently paid postal article should be marked with

a 'T' (Tax) mark by the despatching country, together with a blue manuscript note of the (double deficiency) postage due, in francs and centimes (earlier, only the single missing amount had to be specified).

A few changes were introduced concerning 'cash-on-delivery' (COD) articles; an orange label lettered REMBOURSEMENT should be affixed. It was allowed to reduce, or even to cancel, the amount of the COD, even if it had been despatched already!

For postal cards, now divided with a vertical line, it was permitted in all UPU countries for a message to be written on the left half of the address side in international mail. (*In fact, many countries had allowed this from about 1904, but before this congress such a message incurred the full letter rate. Egypt in 1905 and the US on 29 June 1906 permitted messages on the address side*). It was also agreed that the minimum size for Post Cards should be reduced to 100x70mm and that private printed cards need no longer bear the words CARTE POSTALE. Placing of stamps on the reverse (ie, the picture side) and affixing of vignettes or photographs (on very thin paper) was also allowed. Earlier, such transgressions incurred the full letter rate.

The Money Order agreement involved an additional paragraph, ie, the maximum amount became Fr1,000 instead of Fr500, and the surcharge for Money Orders was reduced to 25 centimes per Fr50, and they could be sent postage free to 'prisoners of war'. This Rome treaty came into force on 1 October 1907.

At this eighth congress in Rome, it was agreed that the next should be held in Madrid in October 1912, five years after the 1907 treaty. In Madrid two considerations made this impossible: the first was that the meeting be postponed until the important inauguration of the Post Office building; second, it was decided to hold a new conference on 10 September 1914. The outbreak of the World War I delay this next UPU meeting, which did not take place in Madrid until 1 October 1920.

Extracts from the Journal Officiel, Egypt 1920-1921

1 June 1920. The prepayment of correspondence from United Kingdom to Egypt and the Sudan was raised from 1½d to 2d for the first ounce (28 grams) and 1d for each additional ounce. As previously, all countries not using the metric system of weights were allowed to substitute 1oz for 20gr and 2oz for 50gr.

1 April 1921. Fr1 = 40 milliemes and 25 centimes = 10 milliemes. Part-franked mail will be taxed double the deficiency, unless the tax would be less than 12 milliemes (in which case presumably waived). A revised version occurred on **22 December 1921**. Letters and registered items from overseas will from 1 January 1922 be taxed double the rate of postage for similar articles originating from Egypt for despatch, ie, 30 milliemes for letters. If the postage is insufficiently franked, minimum amount collectable is 12 milliemes (= 30 centimes). *See Table 7.*

The practice of postage due on incoming international mail between 1907 and 1921 (January)

The overseas despatching Post Office had to handstamp, or to note in black manuscript, a 'T' (Tax) mark, on insufficiently franked articles. Alongside in blue crayon manuscript it should note the double deficient postage in francs and centimes. In Egypt this was converted into its contemporary local currency, ie, milliemes or piastres. Blue was also used for 'O' (null-and-void) markings around stamps having no value for whatever reason. It is evident that these regulations were waived at some of the arrival Post Offices, but the practice of using red, blue and black in manuscript notes has seldom been waived.

An exception to the 'double deficiency' rule arose when an item posted fully paid for its original destination was redirected to an address for which a higher rate applied, without full payment of the extra postage. Only the deficiency was to be charged as postage due in such cases. If a surcharged item was redirected to another country, then the surcharge, converted if necessary, became payable at the new address. If the surcharge had been paid at the first address, before redirection, then it was to be refunded.

Extracts from the UPU Congress, Madrid, 1 October-30 November 1920

At this Congress, representatives from 70 countries took part. In the aftermath of the First World War, the long-lived strength of several European currencies, including the French franc, became depreciated. There was very strong pressure, from countries with devalued currencies, for increases in rates. To resolve the

problem of the devalued French franc, it was decided to replace it with a notional currency called the 'Gold Franc', for use in standard postage rates, tax rates, etc. In April 1921 France increased its rates to the new standard 'Gold Franc' rates, which had been taken as the value of the French franc at that time.

The new standard rates were: Letters 50 centimes per 20 grams and 25 centimes for each further or part 20 grams. Postcards 30 centimes each. Printed papers 10 centimes per 50 grams or part. At that time 50 centimes were converted to 20 Egyptian milliemes. Delivery of Express articles, maximum 1 Franc. Largely to satisfy the United States, it was agreed that the new rates were regarded as maximal. Countries could, if they wished, raise their own foreign postal rates before this treaty came into force (Egypt did so, on 1 April 1921).

It was now allowed to affix commemorative stamps on items in international mail. For all collectors of postal history, a negative reform was introduced: no compulsory arrival mark on an item, except when redirected or returned. Machine cancellation (meter franking) became accepted internationally. Some classes of Printed matter increased their maximum weight steps: Samples from 350gr to 500gr and Printed Papers from 2kg to 3kg. It was also agreed that the charge for cash-on-delivery should be paid both on outgoing and on incoming articles. The charge had previously applied only to incoming items.

New rules for Insured Letters included: the address could not be corrected, nor written in pencil, nor in aniline dye. Writing the name of the addressee in initials only was not permitted. The use of window-envelopes was not allowed, and the whole amount of an insured article should be stated in the sender's currency and converted to 'Gold Franc'.

A Parcel Post novelty was the introduction of three weight-classes, ie, up to 1kg, 1kg-5kg and 5kg-10kg. The Express delivery of parcels (50 centimes) was now accepted in international mail. Charges in Egypt: Custom House formalities 20 milliemes per parcel, Insurance 20 milliemes per Fr300 on parcels, boxes and letters (additional charge for boxes of 8 milliemes per 50gr imposed by recipient countries, minimum charge 1Fr = 40 milliemes). Collection Orders, 30 centimes (= 12 milliemes) per order.

Postage Due. A new rule was introduced: double deficiency postage due charges were to be subject to a minimum charge of 30 centimes (= 12 milliemes). As this was also the new foreign standard Postcard rate, most countries set their minimum surcharges equal to their postcard rates. Before this rule there had been no general minimum. An exception to the 'double deficiency' rule arose when an item posted fully paid for its original destination was redirected to an address for which a higher rate applied, without full payment to the extra postage. Only the deficiency was to be charged as postage due in such cases.

The most common examples are of paid inland mail forwarded abroad. Examples can also be found of mail posted at 'concession' rates and later forwarded to an address for which the full UPU rates applied. If a surcharged item was redirected to another country, postage due became payable at the new address. If the surcharge had been paid at the first address before redirection, then it was to be refunded, i.e., voided with a tax mark. In later years the rules were changed so that, after a surcharge had been paid, the item was treated as fully paid to that destination, and redirection was free, unless to a destination for which a higher rate applied.

There was a short transitional period, mainly between January and November 1921, during which some incoming mail was taxed at the new rates in its country of origin, but at the old rates in Egypt, or on the other hand, was taxed in Egypt only for the single deficient postage without any indication of tax marks.

The option to use 15gr or ½oz weight steps for letters was discontinued, and it was no longer necessary to write the number of rates to which mail was liable, although most countries continued to do so for items above the minimum weight. Countries were permitted to introduce new rates before the treaty came into effect, provided that they gave one month's notice. This Madrid convention came into full effect on 1 January 1922.

Extracts from the Journal Officiel, Egypt, 1921-1926

The practice of postage due on incoming international mail between 1921-1925. Double deficiency postage due charges were to be subject to a minimum charge of 12 milliemes (=30 centimes). From 1926, the minimum postage due collectable was based on the French 10 centimes ie, 4 milliemes.

Extracts from the UPU Congress , Stockholm, 4 July-28 August 1924

This meeting was held only two and half years after the Madrid Conference, and about 80 countries participated. This was a 50th anniversary celebration, since the first Congress of *L'Union Général des Postes* was opened in Bern, Switzerland, in 1874.

By the time of the 1924 congress most currencies had stabilised, and the period from 1925 to the outbreak of war in 1939 was one of stability. This congress defined the 'Gold Franc' as the value of 9/31 grams of pure gold and agreed new standard rates in terms of it: Letters 25 centimes per 20 grams and 15 centimes for each additional part 20gr. Postcards 15 centimes. Printed papers 5 centimes per 50 grams or part. It proved impossible to agree on truly uniform rates, so member countries were permitted to vary their rates between 20 centimes and 40 centimes per 20gr and 12-24 centimes for each subsequent weight step. For Postcards a new maximum size of 150x105mm was introduced, and the rate could vary between 12 and 24 centimes. For Printed papers this became 4-8 centimes.

Other postal articles had their rates reduced; Braille material 5 centimes per 1,000gr, Registration fee between 40 and 50 centimes, Advice of Receipt maximum 40 centimes, Express maximum 80 centimes. From now UPU countries were allowed to use special printed Express stamps to affix to mail (Egypt in 1926), instead of ordinary labels. Registered mail must be marked 'recommandé' at the top of the item, in the sender's language. For letters liable to duty a 'Douane' label was introduced for the first time.

The charge for special Insured articles became the same amount per 300 Francs for all member countries, and the amount was to be underlined in crayon. One novelty about Insured Parcel Post was that, it now could be delivered as Express. Another was to allow insurance for only a part of its value.

For Money Orders, a special charge for 'poste restante' items was introduced, and the same 'Advice of Receipt' form could be used as for other postal articles. Apart from some minor adjustments in 1926, ie, the reduction of the Printed papers rate from 4 milliemes to 2 milliemes per 50gr, minimum 4 milliemes, Egypt did not change its overseas rates from December 1921 to November 1931.

Tax calculations. It was decided that, wherever a country chose to set its rates within the permitted range, for taxation purposes its letter rate would be taken as equivalent to 25 centimes (in Egypt 15 milliemes). The minimum postage due surcharge was reduced from 30 centimes (= 12 milliemes) to 10 centimes. For all mail taxed in the country of origin with a value in centimes, the Egyptian postage due was calculated by converting this value at 4 milliemes (= 10 centimes). Odd amounts of 1-2 centimes were disregarded, amounts between 3 centimes and 7 centimes were converted to 2 milliemes, and 8 to 9 centimes to 4 milliemes. For all mail taxed in the country of origin but without a value in centimes, Egypt charged double deficiency ie, double its foreign rate, or minimum postage due calculated, then converted into its own currency.

This new Convention was effective from 1 October 1925.

Congress in London, 28 June 1929

The next UPU Congress was held in London and new member countries were Afghanistan, Iraq and the Vatican State. No changes were made in the standard rates or the permitted deviations from them. Only the agreed letter rate of 25 centimes could now vary between 20 and 37½ centimes.

An optional new service was introduced, Small Packets: the standard rate was set at 15 centimes per 50gr or part, with a minimum charge of 50 centimes. The maximum weight was to be 1,000gr. For Parcel Post the maximum weight was raised from 10kg to 20kg. The only other point of note about the 1929 Convention was the inclusion for the first time of a section about Air Mails, and an additional surcharge of a maximum

25 centimes per 20gr was agreed for 1,000km of Air transport. This Convention was effective from 1 July 1930.

Congress in Cairo, 1 February 1934

No changes were made in the standard rates, but the postal surcharges by which countries could set their own rates above the standards were reduced from 60 per cent to 40 per cent of the maximum, ie, varying between 20 and 35 centimes per 20gr. In addition the minimum postage due was reduced to 5 'Gold Centimes' (2 milliemmes in Egypt), after which examples of the application of the minimum rule became something of a rarity.

An improvement was made for Express delivery of Parcel Post. The previous surcharge of three times normal parcel postage was meant for Sea transportation, and by Air was considered much faster, so the sea rate was reduced to be double normal postage instead.

Air Mail. The maximum surcharge was reduced from 25 centimes to 15 centimes between European countries, independent of distance. An exception from this rule were Postcards and Money Orders, on which the postage was calculated per item only. This treaty was effective from 1 January 1935.

Extracts from the Journal Officiel, Egypt 1931-1941 (See Table 9)

The practice of postage due on incoming international mail between 1931 and 1941.

Postage Due charges were subject to a minimum charge of 4 milliemmes from 1926, and after the 1934 Cairo meeting the minimum was reduced to 2 milliemmes, effective 1 January 1935.

Air Mail. To qualify for transmission by Air, the mail had to be prepaid by at least a certain amount, either a stated proportion of the inclusive rate or a fraction of the Air surtax. Items that qualified for Air transmission were sent by Air and taxed double deficiency on the full Air postage; those not qualifying had all references to Air Mail crossed out and were sent by ordinary surface mail, and taxed in the usual way if the prepayment was still not enough.

Some notes on Air Mail. The late 1920s and 1930s saw rapid expansion of the use of aircraft to carry mail. Early Air rates were usually given as surtaxes in addition to ordinary surface postage. Full prepayment was usually mandatory. Later, in the 1930s, there was a tendency to quote inclusive rates, but not all countries followed the trend. The UPU set guidelines for the handling of mail intended for Air transmission but not fully paid (see previous paragraph).

The Empire Air Mail Scheme from 1 March 1938 to 3 September 1939, carried by Imperial Airways and Ala Littoria, was intended to provide cheap Air Mails linking all parts of the British Empire, to which Egypt belonged. To Sudan the 'All Up' postage rate was fixed at 5 milliemmes for a 15gr Letter and 3 milliemmes for a Postcard. To other destinations the 'All Up' rate was 15 milliemmes for a 15gr Letter and 10 milliemmes for a Postcard. The Air Mail surcharge on letters other than those covered by the 'All Up' rate was calculated on basis of 10-gram weight steps rather than the mixture of 10gr and 20gr bands as before.

On 17 March it was announced that letters sent by the 'All Up' scheme no longer had to have Air Mail stamps, although they could still be used, or Air Mail cachets. The Egyptian postal authorities announced on 1 August 1938 that it was now in order for Air Mail stamps to be used on ordinary Surface Mail letters. This 'All Up' service was extended to include Australia and New Zealand, as well as other Islands in the Pacific Ocean, on 29 July 1938, and Hong Kong on 22 December 1938.

The 'All Up' scheme was cancelled on 3 September 1939. Letters and Postcards by Air to destinations which had originally been served by the 'All Up' scheme were carried provided they bore an Air Mail cachet and subject to an Air Mail surcharge of 45 milliemmes per 15gr. After the war, most mail to Europe was carried by air at no extra charge. For destinations further afield, three Air Mail zones were set up, with uniform rates within each zone.

Extracts from the UPU Congress, Buenos Aires, 1939

The last UPU Congress before the Second World War was held in Argentina. Standard rates in terms of the 'Gold Franc' were all reduced by 20 per cent. Countries were allowed to reduce their Printed Papers rates by up to 50 per cent for certain items of a non-commercial nature, in addition to the permitted deviations from standard rates, which remained at 1934 levels.

Another optional new service was introduced, Phonopost, for messages recorded on gramophone records. The new standard rates agreed in Buenos Aires were: Letters 20 centimes per 20gr and 12 centimes each subsequent or part 20gr. Postcards 12 centimes. Printed Papers 4 centimes for each 50gr or part. By the outbreak of war not many countries had adopted the new rates but Egypt amended its postal tariffs and followed suit. This convention was due for implementation on 1 July 1940.

Congress in Paris, 1947

The first UPU Congress after the 1939-45 war was held in France. It confirmed the rate reductions agreed at Buenos Aires, except that for Printed Papers the charge for the first weight band was to be 8 centimes instead of the usual 4 centimes. The same provisions were made as at Buenos Aires, allowing countries flexibility in the setting of their rates, including that permitting a reduced Printed Papers rate. The Paris Convention was effective from 1 July 1948.

Congress in Brussels, 1952

At this Convention it was agreed to increase the margin by which countries could raise their rates above the UPU standards to 60 per cent. This treaty came into force on 1 July 1953.

An 1872 Message from America

The Circle was most surprised recently to receive the following email from Bob Porter, one of our excellent group of members in North America. I quote him in extenso:

"A couple of years ago I purchased, from David Feldman Auctions, a lot which contained a master set of the 1872 20pa stamps attributed to Dr Byam and Major MacArthur. Included with the lot were four photos of the 1872 10pa full sheets (improperly described by Feldman as photos of the 20pa). The photos were contained back to back in Mylor sleeves, with each showing half a sheet. Two photos are of the 12 1/2 x 13 1/2 perf. sheet and two are of the 13 1/2 perf. sheet.

"The other evening I had occasion to remove the photos from their sleeves and noticed on the reverse of each a notation "E. S. C. Record". Do these photos belong to the Circle, and if so to whom should I return them? Please advise me of your findings at your convenience.

"Best regards,

"Bob Porter (ESC 340)"

When I picked myself up from the floor I wondered how such a course of events might have come about, and it quickly occurred that if Mac, our former Chairman, as the acknowledged expert in the area, had held these photographs for research or safekeeping they might easily have slipped into "his" material at the Feldman sale.

Since expertise in the area of the Third Issue remains limited in this country, and since there has been no clamour for the photographs in recent years, the Committee has decided to thank Bob Porter enormously for his generosity in offering to return them but feels that so long as we know where they are in case a member might need access for research purposes, it is a great comfort to know that they are in safe hands across the Pond in Westminster, Maryland.

We salute you, Bob, and thank you for your honesty. Long may the illustrations remain useful to you!

Hon. Secretary

Table 1 - Domestic Surface Mail, 1863-1879					
Date from	<i>1865, 31 May</i>	<i>1866, 1 January</i>	<i>1873, 1 October</i>	<i>1878, 1 April</i>	<i>1879, 1 May</i>
<i>Letters</i>	1 piastre/7.5gr	1 piastre/10gr ⁽¹⁾	1 piastre/10gr ⁽²⁾	1 piastre/15gr	1 piastre/15gr
<i>Local Rate</i>				20 paras	20 paras
⁽¹⁾ Double rate for Port-to-Port postage, to Middle Egypt 10-30 pa/3.12gr (= one dirhem); to Upper Egypt 1-3 pi/3.12gr; to Sudan 3 pi 25 pa-6 pi 5 pa/3.12gr					
⁽²⁾ Double rate to/from places south of Asyut					
<i>Postcards</i>					20 para
<i>Prints</i>	10 para/40gr	10 para/40gr	10 para/40gr	10 para/50gr	10 para/50gr
<i>Periodicals</i>	5 para/40gr	5 para/40gr (Double rate to Upper Egypt)	5 para/40gr (Double rate to/from places south of Asyut)	10 para/50gr	10 para/50gr
<i>Registration</i>	2 piastres	2 piastres	2 piastres	1 piastre	1 piastre
For unpaid letters the amount of postage due was computed by doubling the correct postage for the item.					

Table 2 - Domestic Surface Mail, 1888-1899						
Date from	<i>1888, 1 January</i>	<i>1890, 1 March</i>	<i>1891, 1 January</i>	<i>1892, 1 January</i>	<i>1898</i>	<i>1899, 1 January</i>
<i>Letters</i>	10 milliemes/15gr 5 milliemes/local	5 milliemes/15gr (including Sudan)	5 milliemes/15gr (including Sudan)	5 milliemes/15gr (including Sudan)	5 milliemes/30gr (including Sudan)	5 milliemes/30gr (including Sudan)
<i>Local</i>				3 milliemes	3 milliemes	3 milliemes
<i>Postcards</i>	5 milliemes	5 milliemes	3 milliemes	3 milliemes	3 milliemes	3 milliemes
<i>Prints</i>	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr	1 milliemes/30gr 2 milliemes/50gr (visiting cards)
<i>Local</i>	1 millieme (unsealed letters)	1 millieme (unsealed letters)	1 millieme (unsealed letters)	1 millieme (unsealed letters)	1 millieme (unsealed letters)	
<i>Periodicals</i>	1 millieme/150gr	1 millieme/150gr	1 millieme/150gr	1 millieme/150gr	1 millieme/150gr	1 millieme/150gr
<i>Local</i>	1 millieme/300gr	1 millieme/300gr	1 millieme/300gr	1 millieme/300gr	1 millieme/300gr	1 millieme/300gr
<i>Registration</i>	1 piastre	1 piastre	1 piastre	1 piastre	1 piastre	1 piastre
<i>AR</i>	1 piastre	1 piastre	1 piastre	1 piastre	1 piastre	1 piastre
For unpaid letters the amount of postage due was computed by doubling the correct postage for the item. Adoption of a new monetary system came into effect on 1 January 1888: stamps of 5 and 10 paras were replaced by new stamps of 1 and 2 milliemes. The 5 milliemes stamp was put into circulation on 1 April, replaced the 20 paras stamp, which was no longer sold after 1 May, but valid until 31 October.						

Table 3 - Domestic Surface Mail, 1902-1916						
Date from	<i>1902, 1 January</i>	<i>1906, 1 January</i>	<i>1907, 1 January</i>	<i>1914</i>	<i>1915, 1 March</i>	<i>1916, 1 January</i>
<i>Letters</i>	5 milliemes/30gr (including Sudan)	5 milliemes/30gr (including Sudan)	5 milliemes/30gr (including Sudan)	5 milliemes/30gr (including Sudan)	5 milliemes/30gr (including Sudan)	5 milliemes/30gr (including Sudan)
<i>Local</i>	3 milliemes	3 milliemes	3 milliemes	3 milliemes	Local rate abolished	Local rate abolished
<i>Postcards</i>	3 milliemes	3 milliemes	2 milliemes	2 milliemes	2 milliemes	3 milliemes
<i>Prints</i>	1 milliemes/30gr 2 milliemes/50gr (visiting cards)	1 milliemes/30gr 2 milliemes/50gr (visiting cards)	1 milliemes/30gr 2 milliemes/50gr (visiting cards)	1 milliemes/50gr (includes “commercial papers”) minimum 2 milliemes	2 milliemes/50gr (visiting cards) 1 millieme local rate abolished	2 milliemes/50gr (visiting cards) 1 millieme local rate abolish
<i>Periodicals</i>	1 millieme per item	1 millieme per item	1 millieme per item	1 millieme per item	1 millieme per item	1 millieme per item
<i>Registration</i>	1 piastre	5 milliemes	5 milliemes	5 milliemes	5 milliemes	5 milliemes
<i>AR</i>	1 piastre	1 piastre	1 piastre	1 piastre	1 piastre	1 piastre

For unpaid letters the amount of postage due was computed by doubling the correct postage for the item.

Table 4 - Domestic Surface Mail, 1920-1943							
Date from	<i>1920, 1 April</i>	<i>1921, 1 April</i>	<i>1925, 1 October</i>	<i>1926, 1 November</i>	<i>1940, 11 July</i>	<i>1941</i>	<i>1943, 12 August</i>
<i>Letters</i>	5 milliemes/30gr	5 milliemes/30gr	5 milliemes/30gr	5 milliemes/30gr	6 milliemes/30gr	6 milliemes/30gr	10 milliemes/30gr
<i>Postcards</i>	3 milliemes	3 milliemes	3 milliemes	3 milliemes	4 milliemes	4 milliemes	6 milliemes
<i>Prints</i>	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr	3 milliemes/50gr	4 milliemes/50gr	4 milliemes/50gr
<i>Periodicals</i>	1 millieme	1 millieme	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr	3 milliemes/50gr	3 milliemes/50gr
<i>Registration</i>	10 milliemes	10 milliemes	10 milliemes	10 milliemes	15 milliemes	15 milliemes	20 milliemes
<i>AR</i>	10 milliemes	10 milliemes	10 milliemes	10 milliemes	15 milliemes	15 milliemes	20 milliemes
<i>Express</i>		10 milliemes (return of Parcels)	25 milliemes	20 milliemes	20 milliemes	26 milliemes	40 milliemes

Unpaid or part-franked mail was taxed double the deficient postage.

Table 5 - Foreign Destinations Surface Mail, 1866-1878

Date from	<i>1866, 1 January</i>	<i>1868</i> Austrian Post	<i>1873, 1 January</i> Italian Post	<i>1873, 1 April</i> British Post	<i>1875, 1 July</i>	<i>1878, 1 April</i>
<i>Letters</i>	1 piastre/10gr ⁽¹⁾ .	2 piastres (=Levant) 2 piastres 20 para. (=Europe) ⁽²⁾	2 piastres 20 para/15gr	4 piastres 5 para. to UK via Brindisi ⁽³⁾	1 piastre 20 para/15gr	1 piastre/15gr
⁽¹⁾ To Egyptian offices abroad only, plus internal postage if any.						
⁽²⁾ Higher rates for destinations beyond Austria.						
⁽³⁾ 3 piastres 10 para to UK via the long sea route. 2 piastres 20 para to Malta and Gibraltar. 3 piastres 10 para to India and Australia. 4 piastres 35 para to USA (often rounded up to 5 piastres).						
<i>Prints</i>	10 para/40gr ⁽¹⁾	10 para/40gr	15 para/40gr	15 para/40gr	15 para/50gr	10 para/50gr
⁽¹⁾ To Egyptian offices abroad only, plus internal postage if any.						
<i>Registration</i>	2 piastres	1 piastre	1 piastre 20 para	1 piastre 20 para	1 piastre	1 piastre
Egypt became full member of the U.G.P. <i>L'Union Générale des Postes</i> on 1 July 1875. The name U.P.U. <i>Union Postale Universelle</i> was adopted when the Congress was held in Paris in June 1878.						

Table 6 - Foreign Destinations Surface Mail, 1879-1905

Date from	<i>1879, 1 May</i>	<i>1884</i>	<i>1888, 1 January</i>	<i>1899, 1 July</i>	<i>1905, 15 December</i>
<i>Letters</i>	1 piastre/15gr	20 para/15gr ⁽¹⁾	1 piastre/15gr	1 piastre/15gr	5 milliemes/15gr ⁽²⁾
⁽¹⁾ For letters from enlisted soldiers and non-commissioned officers on the frontier – invariably addressed to the British Isles (continued to 1915).					
⁽²⁾ Concessionary rate to UK & the British Empire and Italy including colonies					
<i>Postcards</i>	20 paras	-	5 milliemes	4 milliemes	4 milliemes
<i>Prints</i>	10 para/50gr	-	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr
<i>Periodicals</i>	10 para/50gr	-	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr
<i>Registration</i>	1 piastre	20 paras	1 piastre	1 piastre	1 piastre
<i>AR</i>	1 piastre	20 paras	1 piastre	1 piastre	1 piastre
For unpaid postage see UPU Paris, May-June 1878.					

Table 7 - Foreign Destinations Surface Mail, 1908-1921					
Date from	<i>1907, 1 October</i>	<i>1911</i>	<i>1920, 1 April</i>	<i>1920, 20 May</i>	<i>1921, 31 January</i>
<i>Letters</i>	1 piastre/20gr ⁽¹⁾	1 piastre/20gr ⁽¹⁾	10 milliemes/20gr ⁽²⁾	10 milliemes/20gr ⁽³⁾	10 milliemes/20gr ⁽⁴⁾
⁽¹⁾ + 6 milliemes for each additional 20gr; 5 milliemes for each extra 20gr to UK, Italy & Austria.					
⁽²⁾ + 6 milliemes for each additional 20gr.					
⁽³⁾ + 6 milliemes for each additional 20gr. The Austrian Concessionary rate rescinded.					
⁽⁴⁾ + 6 milliemes for each additional 20gr. The Italian Concessionary rate rescinded.					
<i>Postcards</i>	4 milliemes	4 milliemes	4 milliemes	4 milliemes	4 milliemes
<i>Prints</i>	1 millieme/30gr ?	2 milliemes/50gr (includes 'commercial papers') (minimum 10 milliemes)	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr
<i>Periodicals</i>	1 millieme/30gr ?	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr
<i>Registration</i>	1 piastre	1 piastre	10 milliemes	10 milliemes	10 milliemes
<i>AR</i>	1 piastre	1 piastre	10 milliemes	10 milliemes	10 milliemes
For unpaid postage see Extracts from the Journal Officiel Egypt 1920-1921					

Table 8 Foreign Destinations Surface Mail 1921 - 1926				
Date from	<i>1921, 1 April</i>	<i>1921, 1 November</i>	<i>1923 (23 April) to 1924 (31 January)</i>	<i>1926</i>
<i>Letters</i>	15 milliemes/20gr ⁽¹⁾	15 milliemes/20gr ⁽²⁾	Rate as before ⁽³⁾	15 milliemes/20gr ⁽⁴⁾
⁽¹⁾ + 10 milliemes for each 20gr or part.10 milliemes/20gr to UK & Empire				
⁽²⁾ + 10 milliemes for each 20gr or part.10 milliemes/20gr to UK & Empire				
⁽³⁾ but extra 5 milliemes/20gr postage 'By Special Service'. Ordinary and Registered correspondence for Beyrout only, by Motor Service from Cairo and Alexandria via Kantara-Haifa (=20 milliemes)				
⁽⁴⁾ + 10 milliemes for each 20gr or part.10 milliemes/20gr to UK & Empire				
<i>Postcards</i>	10 milliemes	10 milliemes, 8 milliemes to UK & Empire	10 milliemes, 8 milliemes to UK & Empire	10 milliemes, 8 milliemes to UK & Empire
<i>Prints</i>	4 milliemes/50gr ⁽⁵⁾	4 milliemes/50gr ⁽⁵⁾	4 milliemes/50gr ⁽⁵⁾	2 milliemes/50gr
⁽⁵⁾ Includes 'commercial papers' (minimum 15 milliemes)				
<i>Periodicals</i>	4 milliemes/50gr	4 milliemes/50gr	4 milliemes/50gr	2 milliemes/50gr
<i>Registration</i>	15 milliemes	15 milliemes	15 milliemes	15 milliemes
<i>AR</i>	15 milliemes at origin, 20 milliemes if subsequent.	15 milliemes at origin, 20 milliemes if subsequent.	15 milliemes at origin, 20 milliemes if subsequent.	15 milliemes at origin, 20 milliemes if subsequent.
<i>Express</i>	20 milliemes	20 milliemes	20 milliemes	20 milliemes
For unpaid postage see Extracts from the Journal Officiel Egypt 1921-1926				

Table 9 Foreign Destinations Surface Mail 1931 - 1941				
Date from	<i>1931, 1 November</i>	<i>1934</i>	<i>1940, 15 August</i>	<i>1941</i>
<i>Letters</i>	20 milliemes/20gr ⁽¹⁾	20 milliemes/20gr ⁽¹⁾	22 milliemes/20gr ⁽²⁾	22 milliemes/20gr ⁽²⁾
⁽¹⁾ + 13 milliemes for each 20gr or part. 15 milliemes/20gr + 15 milliemes for each 20gr or part to UK & Empire				
⁽²⁾ + 13 milliemes for each 20gr or part. 17 milliemes/20gr + 17 milliemes for each 20gr or part to UK & Empire				
<i>Postcards</i>	13 milliemes ⁽³⁾	13 milliemes ⁽³⁾	13 milliemes ⁽³⁾	13 milliemes ⁽³⁾
⁽³⁾ + 10 milliemes to UK & Empire				
<i>UK & Empire</i>	10 milliemes	10 milliemes	10 milliemes	10 milliemes
<i>Prints</i>	4 milliemes/50gr ⁽⁴⁾	4 milliemes/50gr ⁽⁴⁾	4 milliemes/50gr ⁽⁴⁾	4 milliemes/50gr ⁽⁴⁾
⁽⁴⁾ Includes 'commercial papers' (minimum 15 milliemes).				
<i>Periodicals</i>	4 milliemes/50gr	4 milliemes/50gr	4 milliemes/50gr	4 milliemes/50gr
<i>Registration</i>	20 milliemes	20 milliemes	30 milliemes	30 milliemes
<i>AR</i>	20 milliemes	20 milliemes	30 milliemes	30 milliemes
<i>Express</i>	20 milliemes	40 milliemes	50 milliemes	50 milliemes
For unpaid postage see Extracts from the Journal Officiel Egypt 1931-1941				

Table 10 - Foreign Destinations Surface Mail, 1943-1953					
Date from	<i>1943, 13 July</i>	<i>1950</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1953, September</i>	<i>1953, December</i>
<i>Letters</i>	22 milliemes/20gr ⁽¹⁾	22 milliemes/20gr ⁽¹⁾	32 milliemes/20gr ⁽²⁾	32M/20gr ⁽³⁾	37M/20gr ⁽⁴⁾
⁽¹⁾ + 13 milliemes for 20gr or part. 17 milliemes/20gr + 17 milliemes for 20gr or part to UK & Empire					
⁽²⁾ + 20 milliemes for 20gr or part. 20 milliemes/20gr + 17 milliemes for 20gr or part to UK & Empire					
⁽³⁾ + 20 milliemes for 20gr or part. The UK & Empire Concessionary rate cancelled					
⁽⁴⁾ + 22 milliemes for 20gr or part.					
<i>Postcards</i>	13 milliemes ⁽⁵⁾	13 milliemes ⁽⁵⁾	20 milliemes ⁽⁵⁾	20 milliemes	22Milliemes
⁽⁵⁾ + 10 milliemes to UK & Empire					
<i>UK & Empire</i>	10 milliemes	10 milliemes	10 milliemes		
<i>Prints</i>	4 milliemes/50gr	8 milliemes/50gr 4 milliemes each extra 50gr	12 milliemes/50gr 6 milliemes each extra 50gr	12 milliemes/50gr 6 milliemes each extra 50gr	15 milliemes/50gr 10 mills each extra 50gr
<i>Periodicals</i>	4 milliemes/50gr	8 milliemes/50gr 4 milliemes each extra 50gr	12 milliemes/50gr 6 milliemes each extra 50gr	12 milliemes/50gr 6 milliemes each extra 50gr	15 milliemes/50gr 10 mills each extra 50gr
<i>Registration</i>	32 milliemes	32 milliemes	45 milliemes	45 milliemes	45 milliemes
<i>AR</i>	32 milliemes	32 milliemes	45 milliemes	45 milliemes	45 milliemes
<i>Express</i>	50 milliemes	50 milliemes	60 milliemes?	60 milliemes?	60 milliemes?
For unpaid postage see Extracts from the Journal Officiel Egypt 1943-1953					

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The Story Behind the Stamp: Balian 1648-1649, 17 Dec. 2002, Aswan Bridge



On Tuesday December 17 2002, President Hosni Mubarak opened Egypt's first suspension bridge across the Nile. The structure near Aswan is the 44th bridge across the river that is Egypt's lifeblood. It opened a little later than planned as

finds of ancient relics in the area of the river delayed its construction by two years. It is a prestressed concrete cable-stayed bridge with a semi-fan arrangement engineered to look like a sun boat. It will appear to travellers approaching Aswan as a Pharaonic boat floating on the Nile.

A single plane of cables supports the concrete main span, which was built integrally with centrally placed cable towers. The bridge, which extends for 4.5km (2.8 miles), is under the ownership of the General Authority for Roads, Bridges & Transport, which will help establish a new nine kilometre-long Corniche in Aswan that is adjacent to the bridge.

The General Nile Company of Cairo, won the \$18-million design-build contract in 1996 and had the detailed design responsibility. The design was by Arab Consulting Engineers. The General Nile Co hired the Paris-based Freyssinet International to engineer the prestressed box girder deck, pylons and stay system and other parts of the superstructure were carried out by EEG Simecsol. The total cost of £E 180 million forms part of £E 250 million being spent on the construction of three overhead bridges, in Aswan, Sohag and Kafr El Zayat. Its technical details are:

Main span 250 m	Total length 977 m
Span lengths of main bridge 49 m - 250 m - 76 m	
Clearance 13 m	Deck depth 3.30 m
Deck width 24.5 m	Number of lanes 2 x 2
Deck slab thickness 220 mm	Thickness of bottom flange 200 mm

The location of the bridge took some time to arrange: originally it was intended to be in the middle of the city, but it was decided by the General Authority for Roads and Bridges to relocate the project 11km north of Aswan. President Mubarak finally chose the site 9 kilometres north of Aswan, where the bridge will serve a community extending 12km north and linking the present city of Aswan with New Aswan city that has been built on 1800 feddans of land west of the Nile to accommodate 100,000 people by 2007. The bridge is one of the giant projects executed in order to serve tourism and development in southern Upper Egypt.

The Governor of Aswan says that great efforts are to be made to maintain the environment of the city and prevent the building of slum housing round the bridge. The Prime Minister had earlier made a decision that no construction of any kind would be set up in the 3,000 meters surrounding the bridge's western and eastern sides, in order to maintain the panoramic view of the bridge.

It is hoped that the bridge will end the traffic congestion in Aswan and help the smooth flow of movement, since it links the eastern parts of Aswan with the newly-planned suburb of New Aswan. The bridge interlinks Toshka, Sharq al-Oweinat, Aswan and the Red Sea along the new Aswan-Berenice highway. Not only relieving traffic from across the Aswan Dam, the bridge has provided another crucial link between the west and east banks of the river. Previously, the nearest bridge was at Edfu, some 130km to the north. The bridge will be used to carry agricultural products from Toshka and east Oweinat in addition to the export of marble, granite and mineral products to the port of Berenice on the Red Sea. It is also an effective link between the Aswan-Cairo road and the road from Aswan to Aswan International Airport (AIA) and the Aswan-Abu Simbel road.

Initial surveys indicate that the new bridge will serve 5,000-10,000 vehicles daily, particularly trucks and lorries which will be prevented from driving inside the city. Moreover, tour buses will use the bridge to the airport and the touristic sites in the southern parts of Aswan.