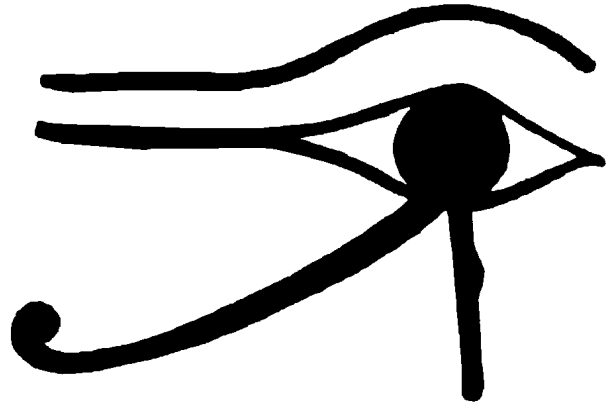


**The
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THE
EGYPT



STUDY CIRCLE

September Quarter 2005

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CONTENTS.

Officers 49, Meetings 50, Members 53, Errata 72, Accounts iii, Book review SG19 iv.

ARTICLES.

Postcard From Alexandria 25 July 1882	Richard S. Wilson	p54-56
A Gem of The Foreign Post Offices In Egypt	Jürgen Fricke	p56
Sheraton Hotel	Peter A. S. Smith	p57
El Shatt Yugoslav Refugees Camp	E. Hall	p58-61
Hotels Nile Hilton with Acknowledgement of Receipt	Lucien Toutounji	p62
Ghesirah Palace Hotel Registration Cachet	J. H. Birkett Allan	p62-63
A Modern Mystery	Peter Andrews	p63
The 1919 E.E.F. Emergency Flights 1919 : The Unframed Cachets of Alexandria	Lucien S. Toutounji	p64-65
Hotel Postmarks, Mena House	J. H. Birkett Allan	p66
New Issues	Cyril E. H. Defriez	p67-72

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Cover of the Month: EGYPT. 1878 (March 23rd). Registered cover to a village near Posen (now Poznan, Poland, then in Prussia) bearing 1874-75 2 1/2pi. violet tied by scarce short-lived 'Postes Egyptiennes/ Helouan' datestamp (Feltus #VI-2n) with framed unrecorded usage of Helouan standard type 'Raccomandato' registered handstamp alongside. Reverse with Cairo cds and further transts of Brindisi (March 28th) and Bologna. German Travelling Post Office label "Vom Ausland/uber/B-P 5 (Oderberg-Breslau)" with Jaotschin cds of receipt. Registration rate of 1 piastre + 1 1/2pi Postage-the last week of use of this rate prior to the overseas postage being reduced to 1pi. per 15 grams in April 1878.

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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 robin@rbertram.plus.com 11 Bishop's Way, Buckden, St Neots, Cambs PE19 5TZ.
Deputy Chairman:	Mr. J.S. Horesh, U.K.
Secretary:	Mr. M. Murphy egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com 109 Chadwick Road, Peckham, London SE15 4PY
Treasurer:	Mr B. Sedgley brian.sedgley@talktalk.net Greenpeckers, Seven Hills Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 1ER
Editor:	Mr. E. Hall edmundhall@chalfont.eclipse.co.uk 6 Bedford Avenue, Little Chalfont, Amersham, Bucks HP6 6PT
Librarian:	Mr. D.J. Davis davisatsnodsbury@tiscali.co.uk Church View Cottage, Church Road, Upton Snodsbury, Worcestershire WR7 4NH
U.S.A. Agent:	Mr R.S. Wilson dadul@verizon.net 53 Middle Patent Road, Bedford Village, NY. 10506, U.S.A
Egypt Agent:	Dr I. Shoukry ishoukry@link.net 10 Montaza St. Apt.A, Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt
Antipodean Agent:	Mr A. J. Chisholm j_t_chis@clear.net.nz 13 Arden Way, Wilton, Wellington 6005, New Zealand.
Committee:	Mr. D. H. Clarke.

Forthcoming Meetings

September 10	New Acquisitions & Queries	All members
November 12	'Meridian postmarks' and Zeppelins	D. Clarke J. Davis

Meetings are normally held at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London. Members usually congregate in the ground floor bar from 1pm onwards and meetings commence at 2pm.

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Report of the Meeting, July 9 2005

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Robin Bertram (Chairman), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Mike Bramwell, Dennis Clarke (Committee), John Clarke, Graham Coles, Cyril Defriez, Mostafa el Dars, Peter Grech, Edmund Hall (Editor), Bill Johns, Hany Makram (Egypt), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Sherif Samra (Egypt).

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: Margaret Chadwick, John Davis, Ted Fraser-Smith, Alan Jeyes, Peter Goodwin, Sue McIntosh, Keith Pogson, Sami Sadek, Brian Sedgley (Treasurer) and Betty Watterson.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present, and especially two of our members from Cairo, and noting with gratitude the sizeable attendance at such an important meeting despite the terrorist atrocities in London only two days previously. He mentioned that the Circle had received messages of support in the wake of the bombing from Luca Bialato (Italy), Lucien Toutounji and Vahe Varjabedian (Egypt) and Tony Chisholm (New Zealand), and thanked those members and all others for their concern.

He reported that Sami Sadek, beset by increasing pressures from the national health service, had with great reluctance had to relinquish the post of Secretary, and that Mike Murphy had agreed to take up the post once more. He thanked both for their efforts on behalf of the Circle.

The MacArthur Award for the best article in the *QC* in 2004, he reported, had been won by Anatole Ott (Sweden) for his work on collating and recording Foreign Parcel Cards, as recorded by a vote among members; and spoke with great enthusiasm about his experiences at the New Zealand Biennial conferences, for which Tony Chisholm has now issued invitations for 2006 (see *QC* 213).

He announced the launch of our website – egyptstudycircle.org.uk – and described it as “a small step in technology, but a giant leap forward for the Egypt Study Circle”. He paid tribute to the enormously painstaking and imaginative work of the Editor/Webmaster, Edmund Hall, and to the other two members of the “website sub-committee”, Mike Murphy and Peter Grech. All members should visit the site, he suggested, and let the Secretary have their comments on it. Great things were expected of this new-media venture.

The Chairman and the Secretary between them announced recent gifts to the Library. They included two copies of the *Collectors Club Philatelist* (USA, from who????) containing articles on the BA/E obliterator used by the British Army Postal Corps in 12882 (Dick Wilson) and the retta cancel as used in the Offices Abroad (Peter Smith); two copies of *The Old World Archaeologist* magazine including a reprint of the *QC* article on Egypt’s new booklet (donated by Caroline Scannell, our member in New York who edits the magazine and runs its website, www.owasu.org); and a bound photocopy of the collection of Karim Darwaza (Egypt) on Ottoman Empire postal history, with some staggeringly unusual covers. All three donors were thanked, and the publications will be available to borrow by UK members from John Davis.

The Secretary was saddened to announce the death in March of Gordon Anstee (ESC 578), a recent member, at the age of 85, and said that he had written to offer the Circle’s condolences to his widow. Three new members were accepted (see below), including Joshua Driscoll, of Connecticut, who stands as the first to apply via the new electronic interactive application form on the website. Joshua, we were delighted to learn, is 17 years old. Because of holidays, the closing date for lists for Auction 40 will be September 15, not August 15 as announced; but please let Mike Murphy have lists as early as possible. The fee for illustrations will be waived in this commemorative Auction 40.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Sherif Samra, former President of the Philatelic Society of Egypt and now a member of its board of directors, said a few words about conditions in Egypt, where, like ourselves, there are problems in attracting active younger collecting members, and Peter Grech took the opportunity to pass back to Cairo his congratulations on the design of the new stamp celebrating the centenary of Heliopolis.

The meeting proper began with the Chairman explaining the background to the necessity to call a meeting to discuss our future – a slowdown in the advent of younger members, static attendances at meetings and involvement in Auctions and *QC* contributions, and the increasing burden on the few Committee members willing to involve themselves in running the Circle. He thanked enormously those many members who had

contributed observations while being unable to attend – Magdi Abdel-Hadi (Egypt), Ahmed Abu Moussa (Abu Dhabi), Leon Balian (Egypt/Canada), Margaret Chadwick (UK), Mona el-Difrawi (Egypt), Peter Goodwin (NZ), Jack Graham (USA), Paul Grigg (UK), Anton Jansen (Netherlands), Ole Frederik Olsen (Norway), Keith Pogson (UK), Mahmoud Ramadan (Egypt), Trent Ruebush (USA), Caroline Scannell (USA), Adlene Simmers (Scotland/USA) and Dick Wilson (USA) – and added that including the number present represented about a sixth of the total membership. Members’ comments were gratefully received and considered carefully: the range of opinion was astounding, and broke down into two specific requirements, for wider use of modern technology, and more manpower!

Discussion raged fast and furious, taking full account of those comments, with all present concerned to widen the range of our appeal and activities, while at the same time striving to maintain balance between our original role as a study and research organisation and the necessity to attract new blood to our ranks. Here is a necessarily brief summary of the meeting’s decisions:

Meetings: We shall continue to hold at least six meetings a year, mainly at the Victory Services Club as at present, but also considering two meetings rather than one at Stampex, and others regionally, perhaps in members’ home, and full consideration should be given to meetings overseas in areas groups of members are domiciled.

Meeting content: A wide range of possibilities was considered, and every effort will be made to vary meeting content by restoring study days (ie, members bring along their material to research on a given topic), by breaking a meeting into perhaps three “mini-presentations”, by initiating a bourse as perhaps half a meeting, by inviting guest speakers, by planning joint meetings with societies of similar interest, by making an effort to plan for meetings on post-Republic topics.

The *QC*: Within allocated budget, we should move towards more colour (this depends largely on members submitting articles with appropriate colour scans or photographs), and important appeals were made for submission of more articles on any topics, and especially in the Queries and short-notice areas: this will help the Editor considerably in producing issues on time. Consideration will be made to re-working the New Issues to allow more regular appearance to overcome a backlog.

Advertising and publicity: The meeting considered this a vitally important area and the Circle is seeking a member willing to take on what appears to be a triple role: liaising with the philatelic media and the auction houses to make our presence known and attractive; seeking advertising to appear within the *QC*; and preparing advertisements for philatelic journals or auction houses which might be prepared to accept fliers informing their clients of our willingness to accept new members. Despite the importance of the subject, no volunteer could be found at the meeting: if any UK-based member is willing to take on this role and grow it in any way which will help the Circle, will he/she please make himself/herself known to the Secretary.

The Auction. Despite many useful comments, no changes to the basic system were envisaged: the original intention, after all, is for members to dispose of unwanted material to fellow members; and in its present form it provides a necessary financial boost without which subscriptions would have to be increased. It was agreed that the whole Auction list and its illustrations should be placed on the website. The Auction is open only to members, and non-members viewing attractive lots on the site may well be attracted to seek membership.

Website: This crucial advance has been well received and there was much praise for its creator, Edmund Hall. Members agreed that as advertisement, as disseminator of knowledge and attracter of potential new members, it would prove a boon to the Circle. But many of those present betrayed a lack of awareness of its potential, and so it was agreed to hurry slowly: we shall take advances on the site one at a time rather than over-reaching ourselves and our volunteer capacity. It was agreed that Questions (preferably with illustrations) could be submitted to the Webmaster by non-members or members alike, to be answered by anyone with the appropriate knowledge: clearly this area will be monitored. A series of articles intended to attract non-specialist Egypt collectors will be placed on the site, which will be updated as frequently as possible with news and views of the Circle and its doings, so as to create an air of business. Prospects for a members-only password-protected area of the site will be explored, with the full intention of going ahead on this basis. The importance of the website to our future expansion cannot be too highly emphasised, but the prospects of running a chatroom or an eBay-type auction are for the moment simply beyond our capacity.

Study leaders: The Secretary will circularise all members seeking permission to publish names and details, together with collecting interests and whether they are willing to be considered as “co-ordinator” of any particular research area. When responses have been collated they will be published in the *QC*: only members who respond positively may be listed, so please make sure that the list is as full as possible. If members wish to be contacted by email rather than have their address published, that is perfectly acceptable.

Expert committee: It was decided not to re-form an Expert Committee.

Co-operation with colleagues in Egypt: It was agreed that it would be mutually beneficial to all three societies explore closer ties with our colleagues in Cairo and Alexandria. The Officers will expand relations wherever possible.

This section of the meeting closed in good heart, with members confident that the plans approved would go some way to widening our appeal and making the Circle both more attractive and more efficient, while in no way harming our status as a senior research organisation.

Nine-day stamp: The Chairman then presented an intriguing recent mystery from Egypt, in the issue and apparent subsequent withdrawal of a stamp intended to mark the 150th anniversary of communications in Egypt. The 30PT (internal rate) stamp, with an FDC dated October 3 2004, is in black, red and buff and bears the legend Telecom Egypt in red, the black representing 150 in Arabic (see over page). This stamp – for whatever reason – is said to have been withdrawn on October 12, 2004 (i.e., to have had a life of only nine days), although one cover is known with the stamp commercially used on January 13, 2005.

The stamp was replaced on December 30 by two stamps – 30PT and 125PT (Air Mail up to 10gm for all but Arab countries) – in red, white (or grey) and black (colours of the Egyptian flag), with 150 in Arabic in white on a red circle. Alongside is the triangle and crescent logo and the name Telecom Egypt, as on the original stamp but less prominent.



Research by Leon Balian and other colleagues has revealed that the original stamp was indeed withdrawn from major offices, but that some 180 sheets of 50 were sold to the public. FDCs are now attracting a large premium – but the mystery is why the stamp was withdrawn. Possible reasons include: poor design, poor colour, the 150th anniversary demanded two stamps rather than one; the design had not been approved; simply, the Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Tarek Kamel, didn't like it!

More pertinent, perhaps, is that the group commemorated, Telecom Egypt, was formed only three years ago, not 150! So the original stamp was not appropriate. Despite that, its logo and name remain on the new issues.

A glance at the UPU website <http://www.wnsstamps.ch/en/> reveals that the original stamp was approved as authentic (Egypt 067.04, where it is described as marking the 150th Anniversary of the Egyptian Communications Company); on the next page, the new stamps are also authenticated, as Egypt 079 and 080.04, described now as marking the 150th Anniversary of the beginning of communications in Egypt. So perhaps that is the reason – the original stamp does not represent what it was intended to represent, so it was withdrawn. It will be intriguing to see whether major catalogues list the nine-day stamp, and what price they put on it!

New members:

ESC 585 **Gregory Todd**, PO Box 111, Lymington, SO41 6ZT
 ESC 586 **Werner Schlotfeldt**, Kolonnenweg 19, 24113 Kiel, Germany
 ESC 587 **Sandra Albers-Chalhoub**, 101 Upper Bellevue, Westmount, Quebec, Canada H3Y 1B7
 (Essays of Egypt)

- ESC 588 **Len Bourne**, 2 Littabourne, Pilton, Barnstaple, North Devon, EX31 1PX
(Stamp issues of Egypt)
- ESC 589 **David Sedgwick**, 9 Eastlands, High Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7YD
(British presence in Egypt 1850-1950; Hotel cancellations)
- ESC 590 **Joshua Driscoll**, 2 Latham Road, Willington, Connecticut 06279, United States
(Stamps, postal hist. and stationery, interpostals, Gaza, Suez Canal, essays, Dues, POs abroad)

Change of address:

- ESC 179 **Trent Ruebush**, 6704 Donegan Court, Alexandria, Virginia 22315, USA
- ESC 394 **Peter Newroth**, Suite 603, 5332 Sayward Hill Crescent, Victoria, BC, Canada V8Y 73HB
- ESC 579 **Adelene Simmers**, Duffshill Farm, Porthleven, Aberdeen AB12 4RX

Restored to membership:

- ESC 526 **Mamdouh Mously**

Deceased:

- ESC 409 **Betty Watterson** ESC 578 **Gordon Anstee**

Resigned:

- ESC 299 **Tony Lawrence** ESC 520 **David Wessely**

Lapsed:

- ESC 403 **Peter Beckett** ESC 513 **David Ringold** ESC 514 **Ahmed El-Kilany**
ESC 545 **Mahmoud Abd el-Mageed** ESC 570 **Bernard Fische**

Members Awards:

Congratulations to Anatole OTT (ESC 261) At 'Nordia 2005' in Gothenburg, Sweden, he was awarded a large vermeil for his T.P.O. exhibit. His exhibit was the only 'Egyptian' one there.

Editorial

Thanks to our many members who have in the pass two months sent in a bumper crop of articles, several contributors submitting several articles. It does leave a small reserve but please don't let that be reason to prevaricate. This *QC*, I think has a good mix and hopefully there should be something for everyone although there is little on stamps.

On the back page is Robin's review of the new SG Part 19 and it seems that it is still a main reference point for many of our members despite Balian and the Nile Post. I bought a copy as soon as I could and of course set about seeing how much my collection had increased in value over the nine years. Alas, or is it good news? many values had not moved in price and a few had even dropped.

Looking at the first two issues there is quite a mix SG1 5pa £30 up to £42 (4.3%¹), SG7 10pi 250 up to £275 (1.2%) and the error 10pi on 5pi stays at £900 (0%). SG11 5pa £18 up to £27.95 (2%) and SG 16 stays at £300 (0%). The third issue shows few or small changes and the pictorials SG 77/82 go up from £48 to £65 (3.9%). The crown overprint set goes down to £110 from £120 (-1.1%). And so it goes on in much about the same with slight upward movements normally in the 2-5% range. However the Geographical Congress set SG 123/125 shows up as bucking the trend moving from £19.25 to £34.75 (7.7%). Post monarchy issues fares about the same with small percentage rises, up or down, or with no change at all, one wonders if it wasn't worth the trouble to look at revaluing stamps catalogued in the pence. The definitives do a little better the 1969 set SG 1039/1047 up to £60 from £35 (7.0%), the 1985 set SG 1575/1588 from £8.50 to £16.00 (8.2%) as are the low values of the 1993 set SG 1864/1868 £0.85 up to £1.60 (8.2%). Still at these low prices just rounding to the nearest 10 pence makes a difference, as in the last stamp catalogued in the 1996SG19, which was SG 1972 the 75th. Anniv. of the Egyptian Engineers Society rising to the magnificent height of 20p from 10p (9.1%). The only real climb is in the high values of the 1993 definitive set SG 1870/1874 jumping from a catalogue value of £16.00 from £3.25 (22%). This has only been a peripheral look and I may have missed some more dramatic changes.

¹ I have calculated the gain on a compound basis annualise

Postcard From Alexandria 25 July 1882

Richard S. Wilson (ESC 230)

Is this the earliest known cover from British Forces sent through the Egyptian civil post office after sailors and marines landed in Alexandria on July 13, 1882, following the bombardment of the city on the 11th? That is the question I asked myself when I saw it in a recent auction catalogue. The 20 paras card mailed to Cheltenham, England is postmarked with the ALEXANDRIE/25 JL 82 TII/DEPART c.d.s. It was sent by Lieutenant Walter James Gaitskell, Royal Marine Artillery serving aboard HMS Agincourt, to his mother.

Firebrace states on page 50 of *Nineteenth Century Wars in Egypt and the Sudan* “As troops began to arrive they were able to use the facilities of the Egyptian civil post office, which was still working normally, and letters written during August are known from Alexandria, Port Said and Ismailia.” Suez should also be added to the list as the Cavendish auction catalogue of his material had a cover postmarked 5 August 1882 (lot 1097). Now, Firebrace’s collection had covers sent from Alexandria during July but they were from a naval officer (lots 1095 – July 17, and 1096 – July 20). He did not have an example of an Alexandria cover postmarked in July. Also, a search through the article “Bombardment of Alexandria, Egypt” doesn’t show any July covers except for the naval covers mentioned above.



Certainly letter writing was probably not at the top of the list of things to do for the sailors and marines patrolling the city during the first week or two of the occupation. Also, even if they wrote some letters they very probably would have been sent back to their own ships for processing. (I would be wary of mailing a letter in the post office of a city that I helped to severely damage just a few days ago). The first army troops did not arrive until July 17 and as the buildup continued it was more and more likely that the civilian mails would have to be used. The British Army Post Office Corps was not to arrive for another month so one had to make do with the Egyptian mails.

¹ The full title is: “**A BRITISH CAMPAIGN** *The Bombardment of Alexandria, Egypt, Events in Suez and Alexandria June to August 1882*” by Robert I. Johnson, published in the *POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL*, October 1980, February 1981, and June 1981.

The message side of the card bears very small writing in a fine hand.

The Khedive's Palace - Ras-el-Tin, 25th July - 1882.
 Have been landed a week to-day, and am quartered here in the Harem which was. Am employed on Outpost and Picket duty to guard the Khedive and his Palace; it is not easy work, for I never get a whole night in bed, and when I do lie down for a few hours, I am eaten up by fleas, bugs, mosquitoes &c. it is perfectly maddening: we get up in the morning covered with huge red blotches, then by day the flies are most annoying. The more you try to drive them away, the more they annoy you. I am my own commanding officer in charge of 60 picked men from our detachment, and that is a great thing. Major Farquharson and Oldfield have been landed since with the remainder of our detachment but where they are I do not know. Thanks for yours and Father's letters of July 6th which I only got a day or two since. My latest from E. is July 8th. The heat here is very bad, though twice a day we do get a cool breeze: the Climate does not seem to suit me a bit, everyday I grow weaker, and find it very difficult to move about much by day: and the water is getting very bad, Arabi has cut off our supply, and it is reported that he throws all his dead men and horses into the Canal, so we are in a bad way at present: however we shall soon have condensers at work. Hope you will enjoy your visit to Scarborough again this year: I suppose you will be asking E. to stay with you some time in October or November when I may be home again. Agincourt left here 2 days ago for Port Said, I believe, but do not know for certain. Hope you got my last letter, and had not to pay for postage. I was unable to get any stamps, we make ourselves as comfortable as possible here, and do our best in the feeding way though of course everything has to be done in true picnic style. I have twice walked into Alexandria, and the sight of the ruined houses is something terrible. The Forts are a wonderful sight: the destruction caused by our shot and shell is something too frightful to imagine, while the Egyptian guns did very little damage to our ships, which they had been given to understand would sink directly they were hit. Don't forget to keep this postcard for me & also all other foreign stamps. We had a great scare last night: 2 guns were fired at 1am & 3am & this morning firing has been distinctly heard. Arabi is supposed to be very strongly entrenched with mortars in front on both flanks. Yrs W. J. G.

The Khedive's Palace - Ras-el-Tin. 25th July 1882.

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Yrs W. J. G.

This post card may very well be the earliest surviving cover from the British forces landed in Egypt. Does any member know of an earlier one or, for that matter, any civilian covers postmarked Alexandria between July 11 and July 25, 1882? Do incoming covers to Alexandria (civilian or military) exist for that period? And, does anyone know of covers to or from members of the American naval force that entered Alexandria on July 14th? I don't know how long they were there but I quote from the official U. S. Navy report on the 1882 Egyptian War .

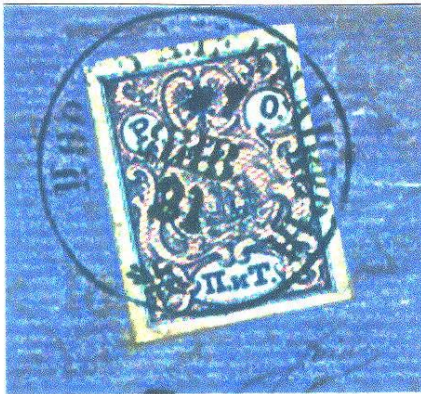
It was on this day that an armed force from the United States ships Lancaster, Nipsic, and Quinnebaug, composed of a Gatling gun and crew, a 3-inch B.L.R [breech-loading rifle] and crew, and a company of marines, the whole under the command of Lieutenant-Commander Goodrich, landed, occupied the United States consulate, and patrolled a large section of the European quarter of the town, extending to the Ramleh gate.

Walter James Gaitskell was born about 1860 in Liverpool, Lancashire, England, the second son of Emily T. and James G. Gaitskell (Lt. Colonel on the retired list of the Indian Army). He was commissioned a Lieutenant in the Royal Marine Artillery on 1 September 1876 and served in the Egyptian War of 1882, receiving the Egyptian Medal and the Khedive's Bronze Star. He was promoted to Captain on 23 March 1886. Other biographical details are not known.

A Gem Of The Foreign Post Offices In Egypt

Jürgen Fricke (ESC 557)

This neat little folded letter (12.5cm x 8.3cm) was sent from the Russian Post Office in Alexandria to Latakia, as stated clearly at top right.



The letter is franked with the Russian Levant issue 1865/66(ROPiT) 2 piasters stamp and cancelled with the light blue cancellation PORT ALEXANDRIA, 67 JAN 21. This is the second of the D-1 cancels, shown in Peter Smith's book on page 118.



As the stroke on the letter is so clear we are able to complete the drawing of the D-1(2) in Peter's book in respect of the ornament at the bottom as shown on the enlargement and my drawing. It might be of some interest that the letter once belonged to the famous collection ROTSCHILD and was sold by the Friedl Company in New York on October 7, 1942 and was sold for the price of \$21,50! That was 9 month before I was even born, so I could not possibly have been able to buy the letter at that auction !



Sheraton Hotel

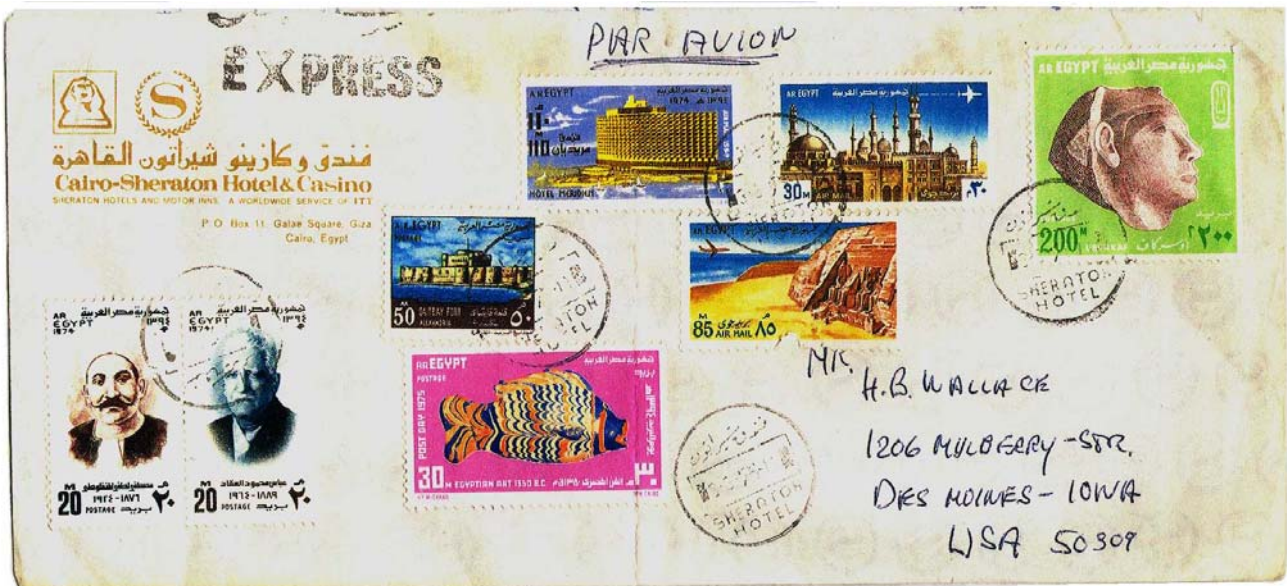
Peter A. S. Smith

When a hotel cancellation is as scarce as those of the Sheraton, any new cover is likely to bring us new information. A bit of luck at the recent American Philatelic Society Stamp Show in Sacramento turned up another example (fortunately not recognized by the seller for what it was), and I hurried home with it. It has two useful features. One is the date, February 3rd, 1975, slightly earlier than what I think is recorded, and the second is complete strike of H-Sr 2, which allows a better illustration to be made.

The accompanying illustration is not a drawing, but a photocopy of the actual strike, only slightly touched up to repair the odd skip. It shows some characteristics that had not been noted before, I believe, and that are not shown in the previously published illustrations. The letter A is rather curious, having curved sides and feet with a small outwards flourish. The two letters T do not have the customary straight horizontal, but instead have one that has a dimple in the middle and a very slight curvature; they somewhat resemble a stylized palm tree. The letter N shows a slant line that is not connected at the upper left and lower right of the uprights, but joins them at a short distance from the ends. Finally, the two letters H are of different widths, the lower one being distinctly wider. This aspect is probably simply a result of the need to fit the longer word SHERATON in the space available.

The Arabic can now be seen complete: **فندق شيراتون**

The cover itself is rather large (nearly 9 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches), and was sent Air Mail Express, total postage 545 mills. It may not be feasible to show it here because of the space it would take. It might be considered "philatelic", because of the variety of stamps on it, but I believe the sender was simply sending an exuberant souvenir.



El Shatt Yugoslav Refugees Camp

E. Hall (ESC 239)

On 24 April 2005 President Mesic, of Croatia, laid a wreath at the Croatian(Yugoslav) cemetery at the site of the former refugee camp El Shatt in the Sinai. The Croatian head of state placed the wreath at the monument called 'Mother Dalmatia' and paid tribute to the dead refugees buried at that cemetery.



“On behalf of the Republic of Croatia, the Motherland that does not forget, I pay tribute to all who are buried in this cemetery under the sand of Sinai,” Mesic said recalling that about 30,000 Croatian refugees found shelter at the camps. *“A few hundred of them remain here for ever,”* the president said. Mesic also recalled that in the last decades the cemetery had twice experienced *“ill-fated destiny of falling into oblivion and being neglected”*; first it happened during the Israeli-Arab conflict after which the then Socialist Yugoslavia reconstructed the graveyard, and the second time during the war when the

Socialist Federal Yugoslavia broke up. The Croatian El Shatt cemetery has been restored in line with a decision the Croatian government made in 2003, that the *“Motherland will not forget heroes of El Shatt”*. The governor of Suez, Seif El Din Galal placed a wreath on behalf of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Eleven memorial plaques in the cemetery bear the names of 825 people from Croatia who died during their exile in Egypt.

The camp was set up in beginning of 1944 and run for the first four months by the British MERRA, Middle East Relief and Refugee Administration, with help from voluntary society personnel. By the beginning of 1944, Marshal Tito’s Government of National Liberation had gained control of parts of the Dalmatian coast but could not feed the inhabitants. The refugees were mostly Croats from the Dalmatian islands and mainland, across the Adriatic who had fled to the Allied held island of Bari. After the capitulation of Italy, more than 33,000 refugees were evacuated via the island of Vis to Italy from where allied forces transferred 25,000 Yugoslavs to Egypt to save them from starvation.

El Shatt was located in the Sinai Desert just across the Suez Canal from the town of Suez, and the entire camp area covered some 100 square miles. For reasons of efficiency the El Shatt settlement was broken into five separate camps, each one maintaining some degree of self-sufficiency corresponding to a small village in Yugoslavia. On arrival the refugees were grouped by the village from which they came. They were issued stamped fibre identity (numbered) discs, registered, and assigned to tents, family units were always kept intact.

The entire population, which reached a peak of slightly less than 25,000, was housed in British Army tents. The housing unit consisted of two large tents placed end to end, and each unit could accommodate approximately 18 persons. Permanent structures were confined to administration offices, storehouses, recreation halls, mess halls, bath houses, and medical buildings. Some degree of permanency was given to the housing unit by the laying of a cement or tiled floor. The camp existed for some 18 months until just after wars end in 1946 refugees began returning to their homes.

There were numerous work projects at the camp and when the camp reached its peak of efficiency practically everyone who was physically able and who had the time was employed. Because of the high esprit de corps of the refugees, there was never any difficulty in finding people to do the work. Workshops were set up and

much ingenuity was used due to the lack of materials and the absence of mechanical equipment did not deter the Yugoslavs. The time honoured shoes from old car tires produced with old shoes, shoe tongues, and any useable portions of worn out soles were all reclaimed and used.

Almost half of El-Shatt camp's supply of soap is made by the refugees grease, collected from the kitchen scraps, cooked in large kettles, and then poured into forms made in the carpenter shop. The blocks of soap were cut by using handmade utensils. Young Yugoslav girls between the ages of 15 and 18 are trained as nurses aides by UNRRA's at the camp. Considering the condition in which the refugees arrived and considering that there was an undue proportion of the very old and the very young, the health record was excellent and the mortality rate low.

Each camp had its own school buildings, its administration headquarters both for the Yugoslavs and UNRRA staff, its recreation hall, staff quarters, community store, store houses, work shops, repair shops, infirmary, and laundry. UNRRA (UN organisation for refugees) had taken over the camp on 1 May 1944. Administration was divided between UNRRA representatives and the refugees themselves. UNRRA personnel handled supplies, maintenance, and generally supervised all camp activities. Most of the administration, though, was handled by the Yugoslavs since the operation of such a large community necessitated dealing with thousands of minor problems daily. The Yugoslavs were extremely independent and took a great personal interest in camp administration although much help was given by British private voluntary agencies.

Practically all of the children of school age attended school. There were nursery schools for children of working parents or orphans, kindergartens, elementary schools, secondary schools, nursing schools, trade schools, administrative training schools, as well as an apprentice system in all the workshops. There was a People's University for adults and high school graduates, where languages and other courses were offered. There were often eight classes going on at once in a single large room with three small blackboards being used by turns in the eight classes. The pupils learn to read from mimeographed copies of the camp newspaper Na list (Our paper) the organ of the refugees' central committee. Later papers were ena u zbjegu (Women together), Omladinska revija [(Youth review), and Omladinska rije (The word of youth).

In 1946, refugees began returning to their homes and the camp was closed soon after.

Of the postal arrangements I can find no information and needless to say philatelic evidence is hard to come by. From what little I have seen there does not appear to be any camp postmarks, either on out going or incoming mail. When one considers the proficiency of other facets of camp life, as outlined above, it seems likely that some arrangements were made for the delivery and sending of mail.

I have only seen two outgoing covers and one is franked with Egyptian stamps cancelled by a retta. Fig.1/2. Was the retta issued to the camp or was the cover handed into a central collecting point and then taken to Suez and treated as if coming from a ship? It is also backstamped with a machine Cairo postmarked so was obviously put into the normal Egyptian post at some time. The other has no stamps and was possible sent via the British Military Mail or even some form of a Yugoslav courier service. Fig.3/4.

For incoming mail I have seen two covers from South Africa, both addressed to a captain Perrott but unfortunately I do not a picture of the back of the covers Fig.5/6. They have been posted through normal mail channels would they have been given to the Egyptian post office or would they have gone through the British military system? Two other covers have come from Yugoslavia one from Komiza on the island of Vis which by then had been liberated by Tito's partsans. Fig.8. It has a Komiiza postmark and a green circular bilingual cancel GLAVNA PREKOJADRANSKA VOJNA POSTA?NOVJ / central over-Adriatic military post office. The other, Fig.7. again from Komiza with double line POSTA VIS/CENZURISANO with a black star a red boxed numbe,603, censor mark and a red censor mark ACS, Allied Censorship. I have no reason to believe any of these were applied in Egypt.

If any members have any further covers to and from El-Shatt or any other information about it I would be glad to hear of it.



Fig.1

Fig.2

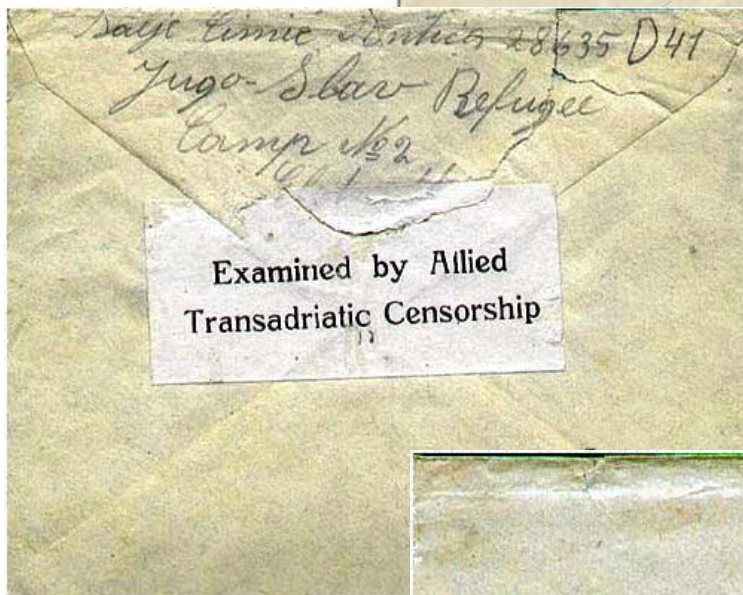


Fig.3

Fig.4





Fig.5

FIG.6

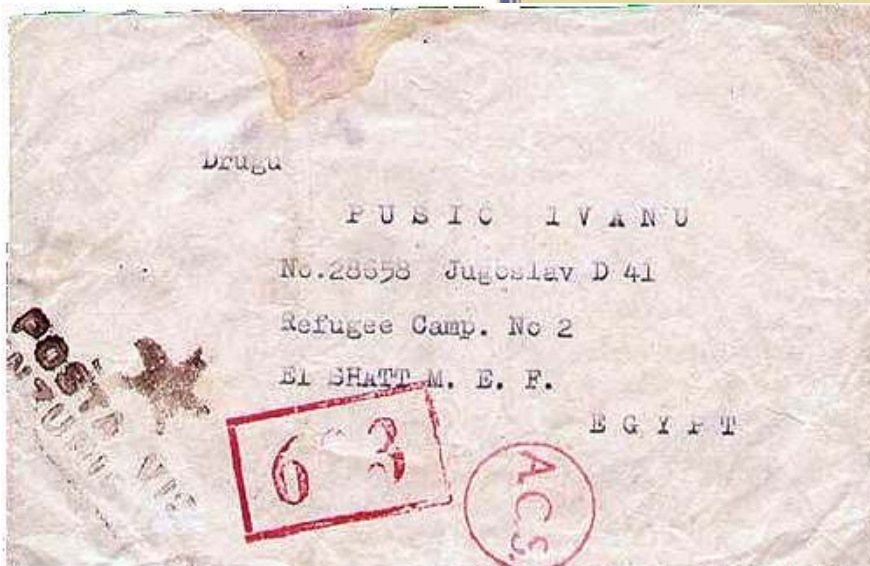


Fig.7

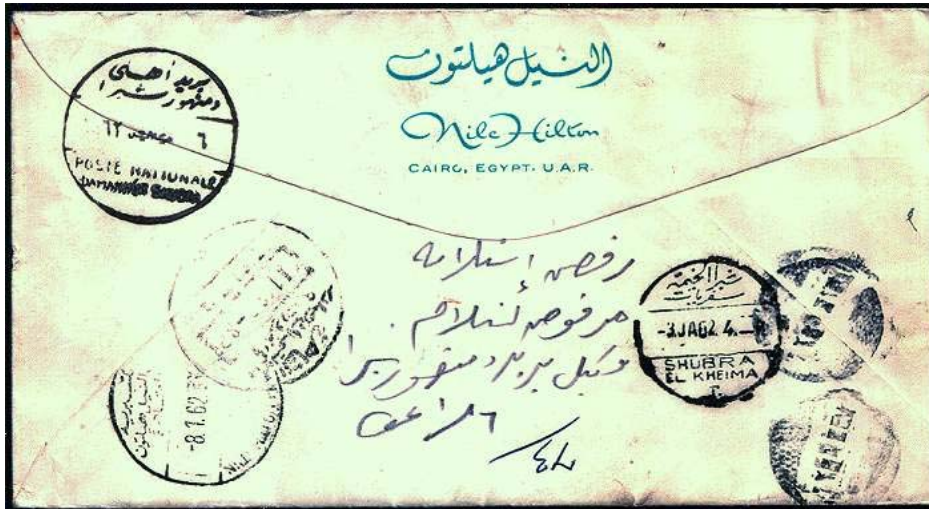
Fig.8



Hotels Nile Hilton with Acknowledgement of Receipt

Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264)

This Nile Hilton cover, sent with a Type HN2 Hotel CDS on 2.1.62 to Damanhour, was franked at a rate of 55 millièmes, covering postage and Registration (35 mills) plus 20 mills further for Avis de Reception/Acknowledgement of Receipt (see manuscript indication, arrowed). The item was refused by the addressee and returned (there are six handstamps on the reverse), arriving back at the Hilton on 8.1.62 (HN2 cancellation). AR from the Hilton Hotel must be most unusual. Does anyone know of another example?



Ghesirah Palace Hotel Registration Cachet

J. H. Birkett Allan (ESC320)

I have an 1895 registered cover from the Ghesirah Palace Hotel to Vienna. The cover is cancelled by three strikes of HG1a dated 25 1 95 and the registration cachet is the generic EGYPT R boxed type. Presumably the hotel had not been issued with its own name registration cachet at this date (although I notice that a Luxor Hotel cachet is recorded as early as 1894), but I am unclear as to whether it had its own registration facilities then, or whether the cover would have been taken by hotel staff for registration into Cairo, where the cover was backstamped on the same day.



A Modern Mystery

Peter Andrews (ESC 122)

In *L'O P* No. 133 December 2002 I noted on p29 illustrations of the definitive and air mail stamps issued 1997 - 2002, included in which were two copies of the PT20 Princess Nofret stamp (the subject of this note). Although reproduced in black and white, it seemed fairly obvious that there was a difference between the two and I made a mental note to check. However, as with all things, other matters occupied my mind and it was only recently when I saw two or three copies of this stamp in a dealers stockbook that the subject again came to mind.

On first sight I had rather irreverently dubbed the two stamps 'dark face' and 'light face' that being the obvious difference (which I shall continue to use) and on checking these new acquisitions with my existing two or three copies I found that I had indeed now obtained both varieties.

But this is no simple shade variation as examination soon shows. The stamps were printed by the photogravure process and the 'dark face' variety utilises a fine screen. The colour varies from deep brown to almost black and emphasises the eyebrows with white or very pale cheeks and dark patches running down the sides of the nose and down to the jaw line, producing a very severe countenance. The 'light face' variety on the other hand uses a much coarser screen in a light sandy brown printed evenly overall and giving a much softer effect.

In both varieties the background is solid grey (although each stamp seems to be a different shade) except that one copy of the 'light face' variety has a background of vertical stripes - but this may well be a 'one off' printing effect, and bearing in mind that these notes are from sight of only half a dozen copies no definitive judgement can be made.

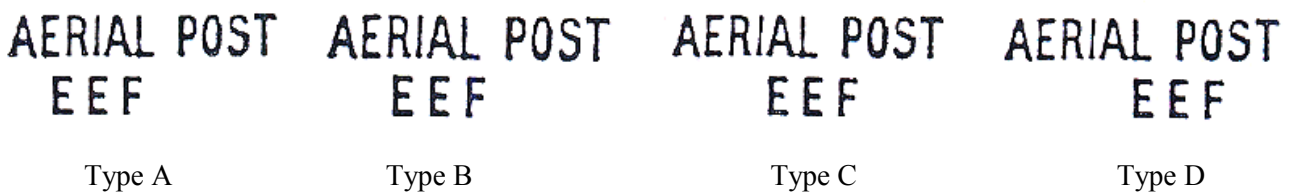
The question is of course, why were there two such different printings? As this is such a recent production perhaps someone can fill in the details?

The 1919 E.E.F. Emergency Flights 1919 : The Unframed Cachets of Alexandria

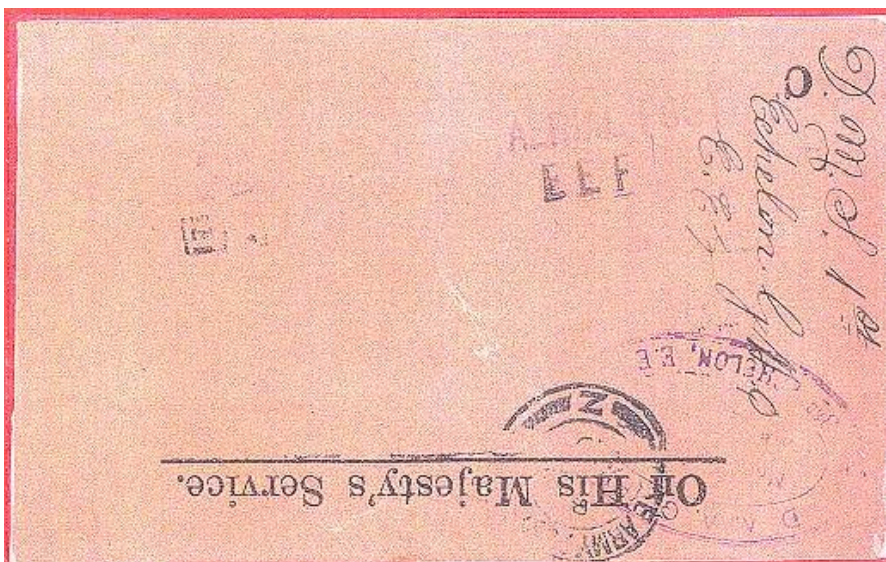
Lucien S. Toutounji (ESC 246)

Deportation of Egyptian nationalist leader Saad Zaghloul, led to a general strike and civil disturbances directed mainly at all means of communications. The R.A.F. established an emergency airmail service between Alexandria, Cairo, Suez Canal area and Palestine using De Havilland 9 and 10 and occasionally fighter planes. The service starting 17 March from Alexandria and 18 March from Cairo, ending 3 May 1919, when Saad Zaghloul was released and it is estimated that one third of the airmail was to Palestine.

Two different "Aerial Post" cachets were applied to airmail from each of Alexandria and Cairo one of which is unframed. In use at Alexandria from 17 March to 3 April 1919. About 45 covers are believed to exist. working with fellow philatelists we have identified the four sub-types used, different by the position of the letters EEF.



Unframed Sub-Type "A" Cachet Alexandria to Jerusalem.



From Alexandria to "1st Echelon G.H. Q", dated 22 March 1919. Receiver "F.P. O./GM1/26 March 1919", located at Bir Salem (Ramallah) near Jerusalem.

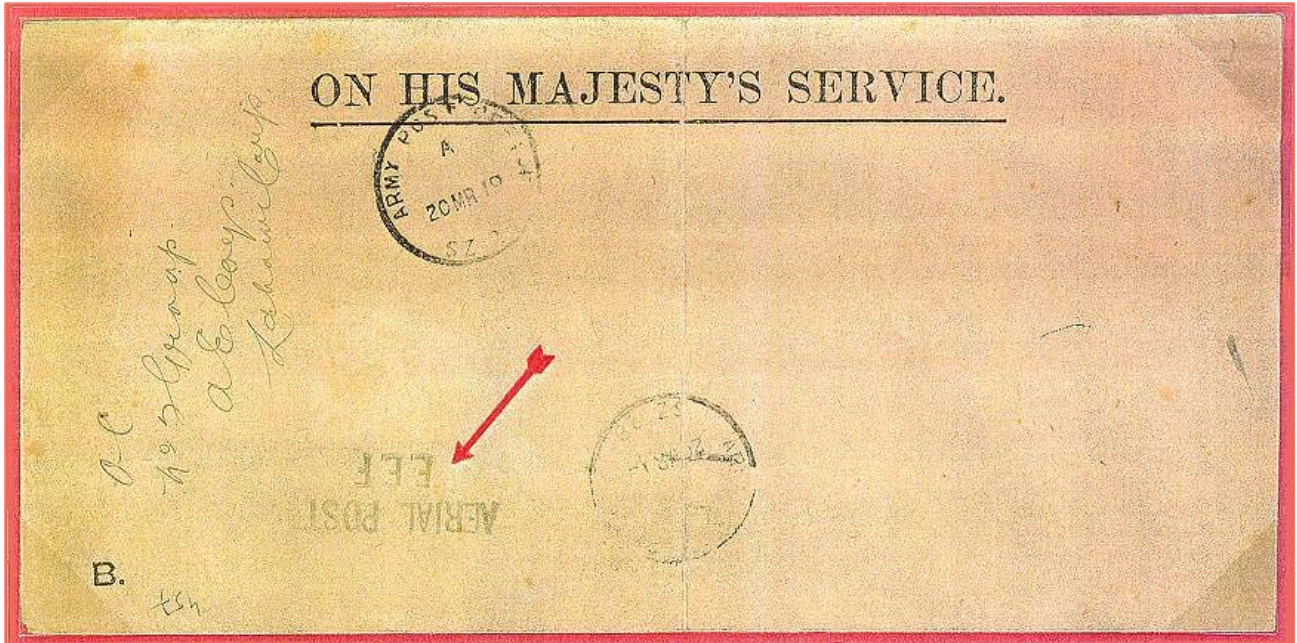
Approximately 15 covers believed flown Alexandria to Palestine bearing the unframed cachet divided over the four sub-types. Mail to Jerusalem generally went to Bir Salem where General Allenby's E.E.F. headquarters were located

Unframed Sub-Type "B" Alexandria to Suez

Sub-type "B" cachet. Handstamped "CERTIFIED OFFICIAL". From BPO/Z at Alexandria 21 March 1919, to Navy and Army Board at Suez.



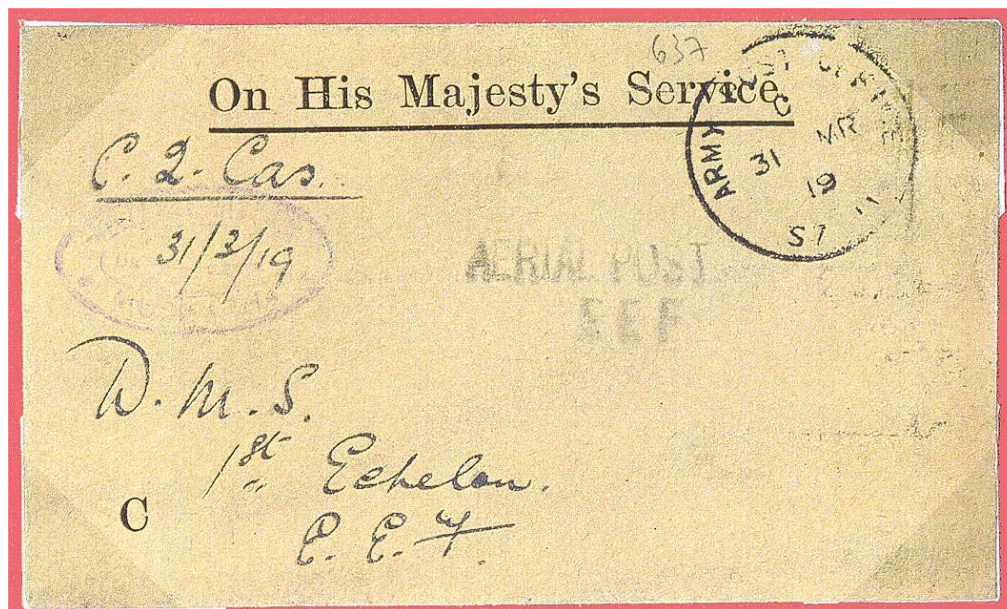
Unframed Sub-Type "C" Cachet Alexandria to Jerusalem



ALEXANDRIA - GAZA (PALESTINE) Emergency airmail bearing unframed black cachet in use at Alexandria from 17 March to 3 April 1919, sub-type "C". Mailed 20 March 1919 to Lahawi Camp. Same day arrival postmark of APO SZ28, located in the Gaza area.

A total of circa 15 covers believed to exist flown Alexandria to Palestine, bearing the Unframed cachet.

Unframed "D" Cachet Alexandria to Jerusalem



Sub-type "D" cachet. From APO SZ 11 at Alexandria 31 March 1919, to 15th Echelon at Jerusalem, arrival 2 April 1919.

Sub-type "D" is believed to be the most elusive as it was introduced a few days before withdrawal of the Unframed cachet.

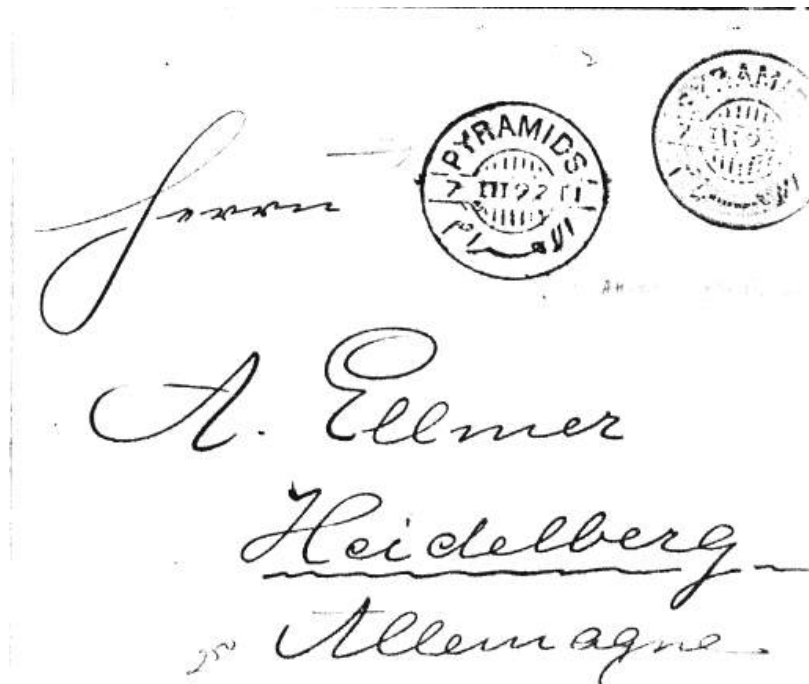
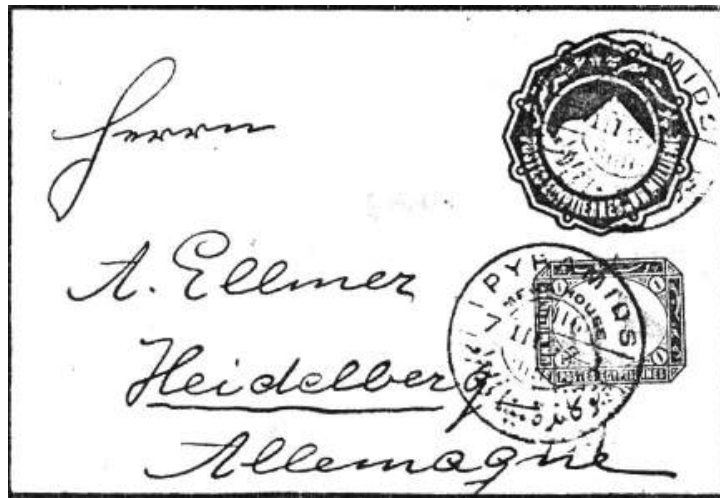
Hotel Postmarks

J. H. Birkett Allan (ESC320)

I have read with interest Anton Jansen's article "Hotels Revisited" on page 41 et seq of the June 2005 edition of the *Quarterly Circular*, and can add to the debate on the coincidence of the MENA HOUSE and PYRAMIDS datestamps.

I purchased most of Mr. Benians' collection of hotel postmarks, including the Mena House lot. Included therein is a photostat (a copy of which I enclose) showing four¹ covers addressed to Herr Ellmer in Heidelberg, all dated 7.III.92, with three cancelled by the MENA HOUSE datestamp and one by the PYRAMIDS datestamp. Benians' album page is annotated "photostats to show MENA HOUSE and PYRAMIDS datestamps were contemporary. Examples from Peter Smith's collection both dated 7.III.92". So Benians was not mistaken. On the back of the photostat is the date 1971 - presumably the date the information was supplied!

These covers are of course philatelic, and the only conclusion that can be drawn from them is that both datestamps were available on that date. The PYRAMIDS datestamp may have been applied by favour.



¹ Ed. I have only shown one of the Mena house covers.

New Issues

Cyril E. H. Defriez (ESC 172)

All stamps are printed in lithography by Postal Printing House, A.R.Egypt without watermark and with glossy gum. The catalogue numbers quoted are as shown in the Chalhoub and Balian supplements.

Date/Catalogue	Denomination	Size	Perforation	Number printed
Feb 24 2004	50th Anniversary of IBM Computer in Egypt			
Chal 1669/Bal 1698	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi	IBM logo in medal on flag background			
Mar 11 2004	75th Anniversary of Cairo Rotary Club			
Chal 1670/Bal 1699	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	150,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi	Rotary emblem over Cairo Citadel			
Mar 15 2004	Egypt, Winner of Regional Info. Technology Competition			
Chal 1671/Bal 1700	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi	Trophy, globe and computers			
Mar 16 2004	4th National Conference for Council for Women, Alexandria			
Chal 1672/Bal 1701	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Chal 1673/Bal 1702	125PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: M. Yousri	Council emblem on blue background (30PT) Council emblem on orange background (125PT)			
Mar 20 2004	75th Anniversary of Anti-Narcotic Administration			
Chal 1674/Bal 1703	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Chal (MS)88/Bal 1704	125PT	80 x 60mm	Imperf. min. sheet	40,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi	Poppy, skull and emblem			
Apr 2 2004	Orphans' Day			
Chal 1675/Bal 1705	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: R. el Zonkoli	Flower and boy			
Apr 20 2004	Commemorating the Establishment of The Bar Association in 1912			
	30PT each	30 x 50mm each	13.25 x 12.8 each	200,000 each
Chal 1644/Bal 1706	Morcos Hana (blue)			
Chal 1645/Bal 1707	Ahmed Loutfi			
Chal 1646/Bal 1708	Mahmoud Abu Nasr			
Chal 1647/Bal 1709	Abdel Aziz Fahmy			
Chal 1648/Bal 1710	Ibrahim el Halabawi			
Chal 1649/Bal 1711	Makram Ebeid (red)			
Chal 1650/Bal 1712	Mohamed Naguid el Gharably			
Chal 1651/Bal 1713	Mohamed Bassiouni			
Chal 1652/Bal 1714	Mohamed Hafez Ramadan			
Chal 1653/Bal 1715	Mohamed Abou Shadi			
Chal 1654/Bal 1716	Mohamed Fahmy Gendeya (orange)			
Chal 1655/Bal 1717	Kamel Youssef Saleh			
Chal 1656/Bal 1718	Abdel Hamed Abdel Hak			
Chal 1657/Bal 1719	Mohamed Ali Allouba			
Chal 1658/Bal 1720	Kamek Sedky Bey			
Chal 1659/Bal 1721	Association Logo (green)			
Chal 1660/Bal 1722	Abdel Rahman el Rifai			
Chal 1661/Bal 1723	Abdel Fattah Shalakani			

Chal 1662/Bal 1724	Mohamed Sabri Abou Alam
Chal 1663/Bal 1725	Omar Omar
Chal 1664/Bal 1726	Association Logo (blue-grey)
Chal 1665/Bal 1727	Sameh Ashour
Chal 1666/Bal 1728	Ahmed el Khawaga
Chal 1667/Bal 1729	Abdel Aziz el Shourbagui
Chal 1668/Bal 1730	Mustafa el Baradei
Designer: S. el Badrawi	Portraits of the 23 Presidents from 1912 plus 2 stamps with the Bar logo

The stamps were repeated twice in the sheet of 50. Each group of stamps were issued se-tenant, each row having a difference colour background. A letter dated 3rd July 2004, from the P.O. Director requested that the stamps depicting the present incumbent, (Sameh Ashour), should be withdrawn from sale.

May 4 2004	Telecom Africa, Fair and Conference, Cairo			
Chal 1676/Bal 1731	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi	Map of Africa, emblem and satellite			

May 20 2004	75th Anniversary of the Philatelic Society of Egypt			
Chal 1677/Bal 1732	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Chal (MS)89/Bal 1733	125PT	80 x 60mm	Imperf. min. sheet	40,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi	Society emblem over '75' (30PT) Emblem, stamp, tweezers, mag. glass (125PT)			

May 30 2004	50th Anniversary of State Information Service			
Catalogue	Denomination	Size	Perforation	Number printed
Chal 1678/Bal 1734	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: A. Amani and R. el Zonkoli	Information Service Building			

Jun 1 2004	10th Radio and Television Festival, Cairo			
Chal 1679/Bal 1735	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Chal 1680/Bal 1736	£E1	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Chal 1681/Bal 1737	125PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Chal (MS)90/Bal 1738	£E2	80 x 60mm	Imperf. min. sheet	40,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi and M. Abdallah	Festival emblems (30PT and £E1) Emblems and sphinx (125PT and £E2)			

Jun 1 2004	Regional Arab Conference (Education for All)			
Chal 1682/Bal 1739	30PT (a)	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Chal 1683/Bal 1740	125PT (b)	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Chal 1684/Bal 1741	125PT (c)	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Chal (MS)91/Bal 1742	£E2 (d)	80 x 60mm	Imperf. min. sheet	40,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi	President Mubarak and emblem (a), (b) and (d) Sunrise and stylised couple (c)			

Jun 24 2004	25th Anniversary of Housing and Construction Bank			
Chal 1685/Bal 1743	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi	Bank and Anniversary emblems			

Aug 13 2004	Olympic Games, Athens 2004			
Chal 1686/Bal 1744	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Chal 1687/Bal 1745	150PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi	Olympic emblem over grey background Olympic emblem over orange background			

Aug 15 2004	90th Anniversary of Scout Movement in Egypt			
Chal 1688/Bal 1746	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi	Scout emblem			

Aug 24 2004	14th International Ismailia Folklore Festival			
Chal 1689/Bal 1747	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi	Scout emblem			



NP 1669 Bal.1698

NP 91670 Bal.1699



NP 1671 Bal.1700

NP 1672/1673 Bal.1701/1702



NP 1674 & MS.88 Bal.1703/1704



NP 1675 Bal.1705



NP 1644/1668 Bal. 1706/1730





NP 1676 Bal.1731



NP 1678 Bal.1738

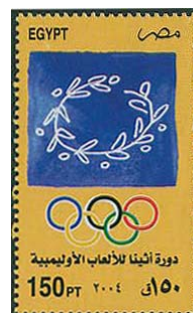
NP 1677 MS89 Bal.1732/1733



NP 1679/1681, MS90 Bal.1735/1738



NP 1682/1684, MS91 Bal.1739/1742



NP 1688 Bal.1743

NP 1686/1687 Bal.1744/1745



NP 1688 Bal.1746

NP 1689/Bal.1747

Errata for QC 212/213

The last two *QCs* have produced a good trawl of mistakes, but then in our pursuit we happily pay and treasure more the errors.

QC 213 Page 39 John Davies writes “Illustrated as Fig. 17, though not actually marked as such, is a 1d lilac cover sent from a seaman from HMS Monarch at Port Said in 1882. Thus the rate for non-commissioned ranks was one penny as illustrated by the cover shown as Fig. 17.

The rate for officers was one piastre or twopence halfpenny which was illustrated in my talk with another cover to his mother in Abergele North Wales from one of the Sandbach brothers and franked one piastre pink De La- Rue of 1879. I also have a one piastre blue DLR cover from Captain Sandbach to his brother, another Captain Sandbach, by then posted to Bengal East India dated Cairo 6th July 1885. So the rate for officers was one piastre both to the UK and to India. The then equivalent of twopence halfpenny was also the rate from the UK to Cairo and I have two further covers addressed to A. Sandbach, Royal Engineers, Cairo both bearing GB twopence halfpenny and dated 27th October, 188 and 9th February, 1885. Thus both arrived prior to the commencement of the Suakin Campaign.

I trust this answers the triple queries in the QC article!”

Thanks John for this correction and for the very interesting article. The pair three question marks were not meant to be part of the published article but put there so I could check this point with the author. Obviously I failed to do this.

QC 213 Pages 41-46 and now for the one I did check but then failed to make the correction in the final copy. The author Anton Jansen emailed me “There is a mistake in the footnote to the Ghesireh table: the date should be DECE 95 corresponding to the date in the table referred to in the footnote. This note had no relation whatsoever with Figure 2. A reference to this figure could have been inserted after “...GHEZIREH or GIZIRA postmark” in line 6 of the paragraph ‘Ghesired Palace Hotel: a contested postmark”.

Again thanks for a well thought out and reasoned argument which has brought forth an interesting reply. The reply does raise the question about record keeping and supports the idea that pictures should be part of the record and not just the words.

QC 212 For the New Issues. **Page 310** SG2292/Bal.1675 Quantity printed should read 100,000.

Page 313 SG 2287/2287 Bal. 1667/1669 should read SG2286/2287 Bal. 1667/1668

Page 314 Enter Bal. in front of 1676

Page 315 SG2303/2305 Bal 1684/1686, Should read SG2302/2305 Bal.1683/1686

**EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (GENERAL ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004**

		2003		2004
INCOME				
Subscriptions	2,651.44		2,820.00	
Auction account	1,000.00		1,000.00	
Bank deposit interest received (net)	26.14		34.03	
Sale of ties - 0 (2003 3)	15.00		-	
Donation	15.00		15.00	
Advertisement	-		<u>75.00</u>	
		3,707.58		3,944.03
EXPENDITURE				
Meeting room hire	605.25		617.25	
Cost of quarterly circulars	2,600.37		2,758.48	
Affiliation fee B.P.S.	36.00		36.60	
New issues	5.60		5.17	
Insurance	18.80		18.80	
Cost of ties sold - 0 (2003,3)	11.40		-	
Membership cards	65.38		52.50	
Flowers	20.00		-	
Officers' stationery and telephone	159.27		66.12	
President/Chairman's postage etc	104.15		76.81	
Bank charges	1.90		28.76	
		<u>3,628.12</u>		<u>3,660.49</u>
Surplus for the year		79.46		283.54
Surplus at 1 January 2004		<u>8,406.26</u>		<u>8,485.72</u>
SURPLUS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004		<u>£8,485.72</u>		<u>£8,769.26</u>

BALANCE SHEET (GENERAL ACCOUNT) AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004

		2003		2004
ASSETS				
Photocopier written off	-		-	
Stamp collection at catalogue valuation	2,535.70		2,535.70	
Circle library and records	-		-	
Stock of ties 50 (2003 50) at cost	224.20		224.20	
2005 room hire prepaid	570.00		590.00	
2005 dinner prepaid	-		173.55	
Due from library account	60.00		60.00	
Current account Cash at bank	710.42		762.90	
Deposit account Cash at bank	4,641.99		4,676.02	
Cash in hand	<u>13.41</u>		<u>16.89</u>	
		8,755.72		9,039.26
LIABILITIES				
Members' subscriptions 2005		<u>270.00</u>		<u>270.00</u>
		<u>£8,485.72</u>		<u>£8,769.26</u>
Representing				
Accumulated surplus		<u>£8,485.72</u>		<u>£8,769.26</u>

I have prepared the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet 2 from the records and explanations provided to me, and confirm that they are in accordance therewith.

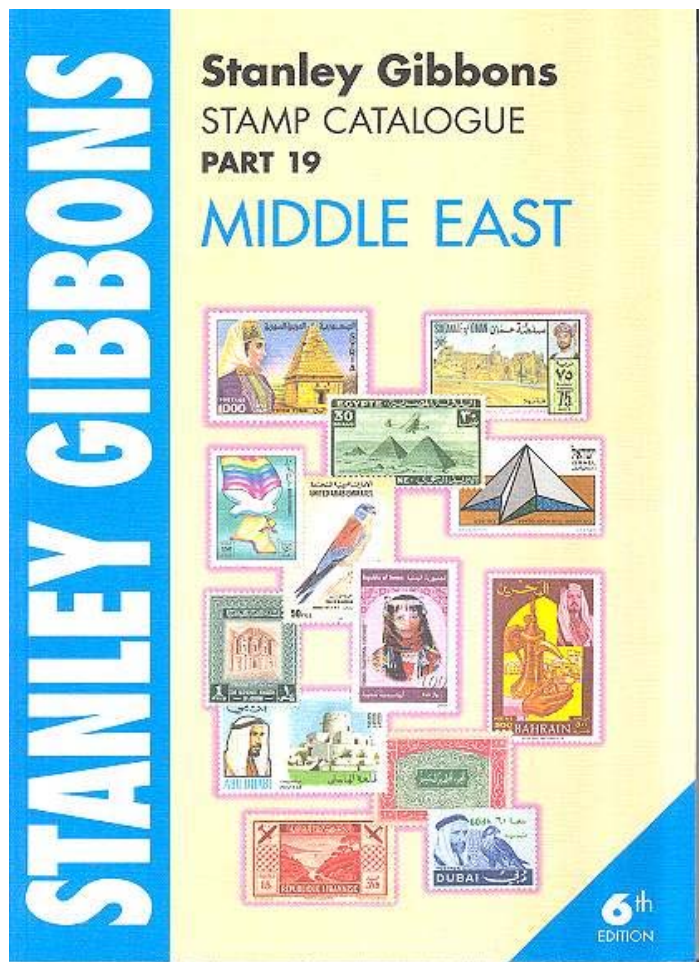
S W Bunce (ESC 272) Chartered Accountant

Have you got your part 19 ?

Book Review

Stanley Gibbons Part 19 (Middle East countries) Stamp Catalogue

The long awaited sixth edition SG Part 19' has finally arrived - some 9 years after the fifth edition in 1996. Two things that you immediately notice :- 1) most of the stamps portrayed are in colour, and 2) the catalogue has been produced in the English 'A4' size (295 mm x 205mm). I don't think our American members will be too pleased with the increased height as, I understand, it will not fit many of their bookcases'!



With so many new issues by the various countries in the Middle East' it was obvious a future catalogue would have to 'grow' either by the production of a thicker edition or, as in this case, a taller one, which I personally like. Despite the new size it is flexible, opens easily and stays 'laid open' on ones desk/table for checking/referring purposes.

Looking specifically at Egypt I was pleasantly surprised to see that valuations for 'inverted watermarks' have been introduced in the issues up to 1922. Although it is difficult to understand some of these 'inverted' versus 'upright' watermark valuations, for example, SG 46 - the 1879 20 paras blue. The more common inverted watermark as originally issued in 1879, is given a higher price than the more rare 'upright' type! Many of us have known for years that dealers always price the 'inverted watermark' on this stamp higher than the upright one! Throughout the Egypt section (including the Brit. Forces in Egypt/the British post offices/French post offices) prices overall have increased, although not as much as one might have expected. One or two of the 'classical items' show the following increases, e.g. the 'Port Fuad' mint set £1540 to £1800, King Farouk's 18th. Birthday mint stamp -

£100 to £130, The two 'scouts' miniature sheets together mint - £ 1100 to £2000. In the section on 'booklets' SG SB9 -the 1923 King Fuad booklet - £ 180 to £ 1000 shows a remarkable increase!

A personal criticism - as the BO 1' and BO 2' obliterations on loose G.B. Stamps under the British Post Offices section are included and given valuations then why not the other (French/Greek/Italian/Russian) numbered obliterations on their countries' loose stamps?

For those of you who collect the Gaza strip area and Palestine, the 'Palestinian Authority' issues have now been included.

Overall this is a pleasing new edition despite the criticism above, and well worth the £34.95 cost. Even though over the last few years other books/catalogues have been published on Egyptian postal history and stamps I know many of us will still want this catalogue on our book shelves.

Robin BERTRAM (ESC 137)