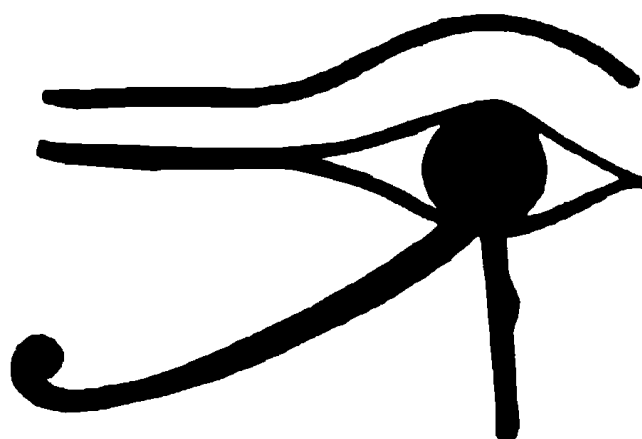


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EGYPT



STUDY CIRCLE

December Quarter 2005

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Washington 2006

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Bradford SSG

See page 85



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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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Report of the Meeting, September 10 2005

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Peter Andrews, Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, John Davis (Librarian), Cyril Defriez, Peter Grech, Edmund Hall (Editor), Bill Johns, Mike Murphy (Secretary), Mohamed Nofal, Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), .

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: Robin Bertram (Chairman), Dennis Clarke and Alan Jeyes.

In the absence of the Chairman in China, Stanley Horesh opened the meeting by welcoming those present; and had the sad duty of announcing the death after a short illness of Betty Watterson (ESC 409), for several years one of our best-loved members and a true character. A tribute appears on page 77.

He said that our Antipodean Agent, Tony Chisholm (ESC 288), had made a final appeal for members to join the biennial New Zealand meeting from February 19-26: unless there is a quick response to Tony at j-t-chis@clear.net.nz, there was a strong fear that the meeting might have to be called off. A potential visit to Italy next year was described as a “chicken and egg” situation, with Luca Biolato (ESC 417) unable to make further arrangements until he had an idea of how many members might attend; and members unable to give a firm decision until they knew what arrangements might be made! Members discussed the possibility of a visit to Washington to coincide with the international exhibition there between May 27 and June 3 next year. See p92.

Brian Sedgley (ESC 268) said that the costs of running the Circle were extending well beyond the subscription fee (costs per member amounted to about £19 against a fee of £15) and gave warning that he would be seeking an increase in subscription to £20 at the next Annual Meeting. Stanley Horesh emphasised the need for a “public relations officer” to raise awareness of the Circle and attract new members. See the leaflet accompanying this QC (UK members only).

Edmund Hall (ESC 239) announced that the September quarter *QC* was with the printer; and John Sears (ESC 188) that increased publicity had increased interest in the forthcoming Auction No 40.

Enthusiastic chivvying by the Deputy Chairman then led to a number of new faces appearing among the list of speakers for next year’s programme of meetings: we are grateful to the tyros for volunteering to display, and look forward to an interesting and unusual series of meetings in 2006. They include for the first time a Bourse (bring and buy) to accompany the AGM on May 6, and all members are urged to attend, accompanied by their unwanted treasures – or, alternatively, bulging wallets. Or better still, both. Guidelines will be offered nearer the day. The full programme for 2006 was agreed upon: See page 73 and the list is also posted on the website.

It was stressed that all meetings are embellished by members contributing their own material, whatever the topic; and there is hope that a provincial joint meeting with the Sudan Study Group might be arranged in August. See p85.

The meeting proper, a new departure, proved immensely popular and fascinating, with virtually all of those attending showing recent acquisitions or queries of a quite astonishing range and variety. There is not room here for full details of all, but some of the matters raised will form *QC* articles when developed. A brief listing gives an idea of the range of material shown:

Mike Murphy: new discoveries in the Registration cachets of the Continental Hotel, including a completely new (and earliest) type. To be reported to the *QC*.

Cyril Defriez: recent new issues, including the Circle’s copies of the controversial “nine-day stamp” and its successor featured in the last *QC*.

Bill Johns: a range of humorous and colourful postcards from the “Maalish” and Lance Thackeray series.

Mike Bramwell: a quite amazing range of philatelic material and supporting correspondence emanating from the Philatelic Crusade for Peace of around 1960. To be reported to the *QC*.

John Sears: maritime postal markings, including an apparently new boxed Paquebot mark of Port Tewfik, together with Pleine Mer and Deutsche Seepost material.

Brian Sedgley: a pot-pourri including outstanding Overseas offices postmarks including two Gallipoli and Latakia.

Peter Andrews: Reister essays; several cassette envelope varieties including a new £E2 ½ value with a squared flap; and illustrations of the two Princess Nofret stamps reported in the last *QC*.

Peter Grech: a pot-pourri including a Boy King stamp used as a Postage Due and cancelled with a boxed T on cover; and several new acquisitions from his French Post Offices collection.

John Davis: an 1803 folded letter from Alexandria to Rosetta and the query: how was it carried, since no postal service was operating; several forwarding agent covers; and a query about the British Services 1940 Christmas mail concession.

John Clarke: a pot-pourri including Gedda postmarks recently acquired on eBay; and a remarkable 1867 1pi block of four without watermark and imperf all round except at the bottom.

Stanley Horesh: maritime, including pre-Pleine Mer use of the retta to cancel mail coming from a vessel, with the port CDS alongside; and the same query as John Davies about regulations and dates for the Christmas 1940 concession. Both showed several covers apparently conflicting with the regulations as known. It is hoped that this topic might be developed for the *QC*.

Members departed in good heart, encouraged by the novelty of what they had just seen, and by the promise of a fascinating year of meetings to come.

Report of the Meeting, November 12 2005

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Peter Andrews, Denis Clarke, John Davis (Librarian), Cyril Defriez, Peter Grech, Edmund Hall (Editor), Alan Jeyes, Sue McIntosh, Mike Murphy (Secretary), Tony Schmidt, Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Richard Wheatley.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: Mike Bramwell.

The Deputy Chairman, Stanley Horesh, opened the meeting by regretting that he had to announce the sad loss of our Chairman, Robin Bertram (ESC 137), who died suddenly while on holiday in China on September 25. He mourned the loss to the Circle and to philately in general, describing Robin as “a good friend to me and to many of you”. He said he was sincere and honest and definitely a philatelist, both as regards stamps and postal stationery, always willing to share his knowledge – not a trait common to all collectors. He passed on the Circle’s commiserations to Robin’s family, and members stood for a minute’s silence in his memory. A brief obituary appears on page 78. The Circle is grateful to Stanley for standing in as Acting Chairman until the AGM in May, when we shall elect a successor.

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168) then spoke of arrangements for the projected joint meeting with the Sudan Study Group in Bradford on August 19 next year, at the premises where Stephen Holder runs the successor to Harry Hayes philatelic literature sales. The meeting welcomed the idea, appointing Richard as convenor with acclamation, and it is to be hoped that there will be a good turnout of ESC members.

Mike Murphy (ESC 240) paid tribute to the intensive work carried out by Edmund Hall (ESC 239) on the website, and announced that it had allowed the carrying of 93 colour illustrations of Auction lots, and had attracted a number of queries from non-members on Egyptian topics as well as inquiries about membership. Edmund offered a day at home to inculcate members into the mysteries of internet use.

The Secretary read a message from Tony Chisholm (ESC 288), our Antipodean Agent, regretting that the Biennial Conference planned for February had had to be cancelled for lack of support; he hoped to plan another in 2008, see below. The Secretary welcomed the gift for the Library of two more copies of *The Old World Archaeologist* magazine, edited by our member Caroline Scannell (ESC 419) in New York. The magazine and its website (www.owasu.org) are a mine of information for those interested in a thematic study of Ancient Egypt.

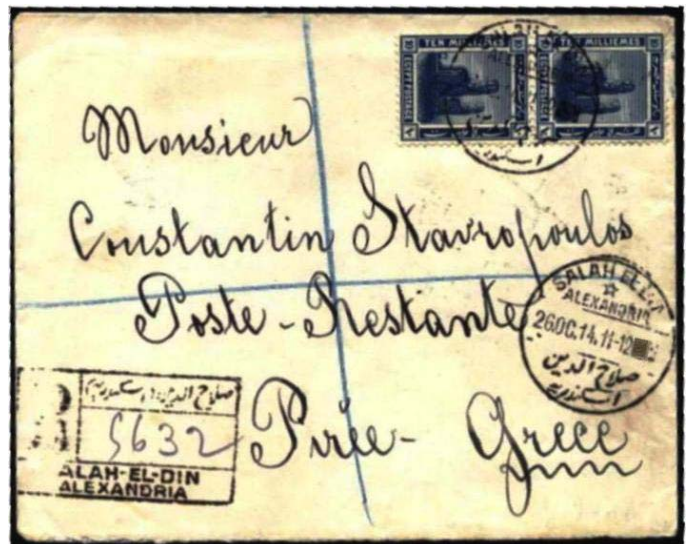
John Sears (ESC 188) announced that our attempts to widen the range and improve the quality of lots for Auction 40 appeared to have paid off, with a turnover of close to double the normal amount, even though only 40 per cent of the lots had sold. Mike Murphy reported that 37 of the 59 bidders did so by e-mail.

Edmund Hall announced that the December *QC* was nearing completion, and would be with members before Christmas. He also said that there had been some interest from overseas in a potential meeting in Washington to coincide with the international exhibition between May 27 and June 3, and asked members to contact him if interested.



The displays opened with a most unusual collection from Dennis Clarke (ESC 165), who showed what he termed “Meridian postmarks”, that is, circular date stamps in which the Egyptian Post Office resolved the problem of what to do with the AM/PM time slug when the time of collection was 12 noon, that is, neither AM nor PM. The solution was ingenious and easy to spot – the lead slug was simply inverted, so that its solid square base showed as a black square in the dateline (see illustrations). Dennis was able to show an astonishing range of stamps and covers,

from early De La Rues through to about 1986, and to demonstrate that its usage covered local and Official mail as well as parcel cards and other documents. In other words, inversion of the slug was not simply a local initiative but clearly one that had been ordered by the post office itself. There was some discussion about its use when the time displayed was 11-12, which can only have been AM, but members appreciated a new and fascinating area of interest. Dennis would be happy to hear from any member with other examples, and particularly those after 1986.



John Davis (ESC 213) then presented a comprehensive display of the Zeppelin airship and its links to Egypt, incorporating the two surcharged air mail stamps, viz 50m intended for postcards and 100m for letters, both on the 1929 27m brown. The Zeppelin’s first “Orient” flight, in March 1929, was denied the right to overfly Egypt (under the influence of the British, who wanted the British R101 to have the honour), even though the stamps and a special cachet were applied. The actual Egypt flight took place in April 1930, after the R101 had been destroyed by fire, and a landing was made at Cairo. Four Egyptian postmarks recorded the flight, from (in order of rarity) Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said and Suez. John and members were able to show all four, and John will detail both flights in forthcoming issues of the *QC*.

On behalf of members, Alan Jeyes (ESC 293) thanked both speakers for an entertaining and novel afternoon, and members made their gratitude known in time-honoured fashion.

New members:

ESC 591 Laurence Kimpton, 20 Greytrees Crescent, Dorridge, Solihull, West Midlands B93 8SL
(Cairo-Baghdad Air Mail, Overland Mail, Imperial Airways, Aust/NZ Air Mails)

ESC 592 Alan Holverson, 17 Oakley Avenue, Beddington, Surrey CR0 4QP
(Egypt, Europe, Australia)

Restored to membership

ESC 437 **Eric Parkes**

ESC 514 **Ahmed El-Kilany**

ESC 570 **Bernard Fischer**

Deceased:

ESC 137 **Robin Bertram**

Lapsed:

ESC 528 **Jay David**

Congratulations to **Andy Gould** (ESC 393), our member from West Sussex, who has been honoured by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) with one of the 2005 Awards of Merit for his work with the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies.

Betty Watterson, 1923-2005 - a Memoriam.

John Sears (ESC 188)

Betty was best known for her Gold Medal collection of Labuan, but it was a happy decision when she decided to devote more time to her Egypt. We were only too pleased to welcome her and her husband Neville to the Circle in 1990 and they accompanied us on our initial trip to Egypt in 1991.

Although it might be said that her collection of Egypt was perhaps more light weight than the Labuan, or indeed her "1936 – the 3 Kings", she contributed much to the meetings she attended, really because of her ever-enquiring mind – she was always anxious to establish the "story" behind the cover, and went to great lengths to research it. At the display we gave to the Royal she contributed two frames illustrating the importance of water in Egypt, with special reference to the Nile.

During her membership Betty made many friends; she was a character in every sense of the word. She had the happy knack of being able to quickly sort the wheat from the chaff in any argument or suggestion, making her points of view sometimes volubly, but always kindly. We shall miss her.

NZ conference cancelled

It is with great regret that we have decided to cancel arrangements for next February's proposed New Zealand Biennial ESC conference at Matarangi, as we have had no indication of anyone at all who wishes to attend, and as some of the New Zealand members are away or unable to join us on this occasion. In addition, it would not be possible at this late stage to arrange accommodation.

All being well, we will plan to organise a gathering in February 2008, and will be happy at any time to hear from anyone who would be interested in planning to join us then.

We would equally be delighted to meet ESC members travelling to New Zealand at any time. If they will contact us we will give them a warm welcome and an opportunity to meet with the local group.

Tony Chisholm (ESC 288).

Robin Bertram, Chairman of the Egypt Study Circle
1940-2005



In the sad death of Robin Bertram members of the Study Circle have lost a friend, a guide, a collector of note and unfailing generosity, and a leader with immense energy and drive for the progress of his chosen pursuits. He will be impossible to replace.

Several Officers and members attended his funeral service in Bedford on October 25 to pay tribute to his memory, but we were outnumbered by far by family, his former police colleagues and members of other organisations – philatelic, keep-fit and charity – to which he managed to find time to devote part of his life. After his sudden death on holiday in Shanghai, this was an occasion to celebrate a full life well spent rather than to mourn its untimely end.

Robin was born on June 12 1940 and joined the Circle in March 1968 as ESC 137 while still a serving police officer, duties which precluded attendance at most meetings. He came to the Circle's rescue in March 1990 when taking over in emergency as Secretary/Treasurer, and after seven years in that position succeeded John Sears as Chairman, a role he fulfilled with enthusiasm and infinite good ideas.

Retirement in 1991 freed up a little time, and his public role as philatelist proceeded apace: he was an active and industrious member of the Sudan Study Group and of the Royal Philatelic Society, proud to be elected a Fellow, and acted as local representative for several more local philatelic bodies, resulting in his being presented with an Award of Merit by the Association of British Philatelic Societies in 2004 for his work on behalf of the East Midland and East Anglian Philatelic Federation.

In January 2003 he led our meeting at the Egyptian Cultural Bureau in London; and this year was the prime mover behind our 70th Anniversary display to the Royal. That both were overwhelmingly successful was due entirely to his drive and enthusiasm.

For the Circle he was unstoppable, his popular displays commanding an enormous range and depth of knowledge in many collecting fields, from Cairo-Baghdad Air Mails to the British Consular Offices, to Egyptian revenues, the "No-Value" Official, Avis de Reception, Cigarette Tax, Instruction Markings, Dead Letter Office, Post Office documents, Postage Due markings, the De La Ruse issues, Official stamps and postal stationery ... and so on and so on. He was an excellent and evocative speaker.

His fascination for stamps led him to explore far overseas. He was a dynamic member of the 1991 and 2001 Circle visits to Cairo, as well as making other trips to Egypt, attending the New Zealand biennial conferences at Matarangi and, as a staunch family man, visiting as often as he could his daughter (and important stamp friends) in Italy.

Above all, he will be remembered by the Circle as a firm friend, a resolute and resourceful leader, and a man eager to move heaven and earth to share all information from his extensive store with any colleague who asked. – **Mike Murphy** (ESC 240)

The following is a message from Mrs Pamela Bertram, Robin's widow:

Dear Friends,

My daughters, Stephanie and Melanie, would like to join me in thanking you all, for your kind words, cards, letters and messages of sympathy. Also for your very generous donations to Papworth Hospital Trust, made in Robin's memory. At the last count the total was £898. Robin would have been very touched to know that so many people cared. Thank you again,

Pamela Bertram

French Post Offices

Jürgen Fricke (ESC 557)

This little letter (11.5cm x 7.5cm) was posted in Cairo to the not very common destination of Switzerland on 15.Sept.1873.

The postage for this second weight letter was correctly franked with 1f 20c (40c Siege of Paris, 80c Ceres). Both stamps were cancelled with Cairo's large-numeral obliterator 5119 (wide 9) and the Bureau de Recette circular datestamp: LE CAIRE, 15.SEPT. 73.



Furthermore a strike of the rectangular PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERRANEE is to be seen at left and partly on the stamps.

Peter Smith states in his book (page 97), that this postmark was used between 1837 and 1851, first in black, later in red; two types are known. As on this letter a strike of this postmark appears as late as 1873 I wonder if this is new to members, or other strikes on letters with stamps are already known. Beside the three abovementioned postmarks the

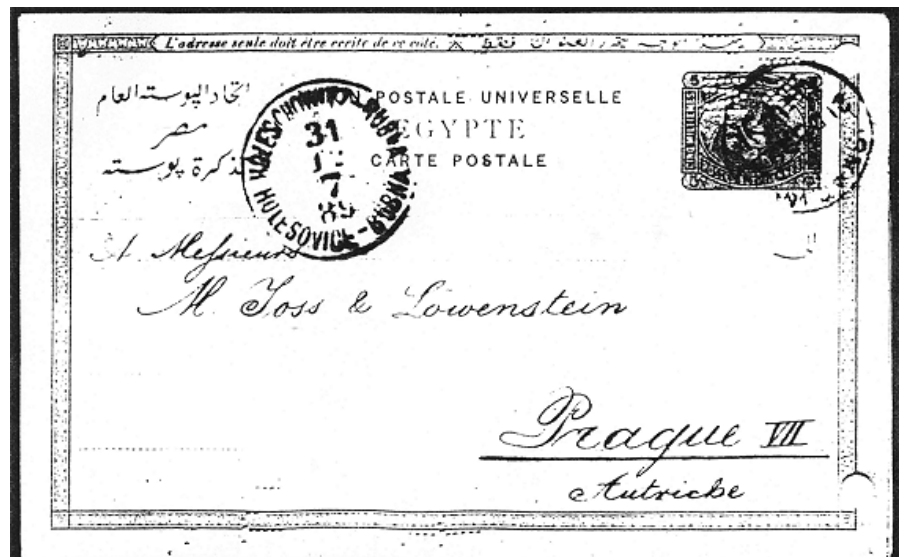
front of the letter shows also the boxed "PD" mark and on the reverse the arrival postmarks of Marseille, IX 22 1873, "AMBULANT", 23.IX.73 and St.Gallen, SE 23.73

Joss & Lowenstein Perfin on Stationery Card

Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)

It is most unusual – and perhaps this is the first time – to see a perfin on an Egyptian postal stationery card. This rare item, on the 5 millièmes postal stationery card, comes from the famous textile agent Joss & Lowenstein (formerly Prague-Bubna), who was at the time working in Ismailia to promote new business. He was active in several towns in Egypt, and it seems that continuing correspondence was forwarded to Prague (in Austria at that time).

With considerable forethought, the company must have bought some Egyptian postal stationery cards in advance and before giving them to their local agent they were perfined to prevent private use. The postal stationery card is sent from Ismailia on 21/12/1889 to Prague with an arrival CDS of 31/12/1889.



Air Mail Jottings - more Marc Pourpe covers.

John Sears (ESC 188)

This item (*Figure 1*) was referred to me by Jürgen Fricke (ESC 557), and we had a lengthy discussion about it. The following points should be noted:



Figure 1

1. It is franked in a picturesque manner to the value of 25 mills - far in excess of the 5m required for ordinary internal mail at the time.
2. It is cancelled CATARACT HOTEL ASWAN 25.I.14.
3. The arrival mark on the reverse is CAIRO 27.I.14.
4. The cover bears the authentic “L.N.A. Marc Pourpe” handstamp in violet.
5. The envelope is the “office stationery” of the Ligue Nationale Aerienne - the French Aeronautical Society which co-sponsored Marc Pourpe’s flights with the Egypt Post Office, and it is addressed to the President of the Ligue - Monsieur A Bianchi.
6. The envelope is addressed in Marc Pourpe’s own handwriting. The question is: can this be considered a “flown cover”?

First of all, because it started life in Aswan and arrived in Cairo two days later, it was certainly not carried by the aviator, who left Aswan on January 26th, arriving in Heliopolis on February 3rd. It must have travelled by ordinary surface route (ie, train).

However, there is also no doubt that Marc Pourpe took with him on his flights, the “LNA” handstamp, an ink pad, and some Ligue Nationale envelopes. This is borne out by the letters addressed to M. Bianchi from Khartoum and Abu Hamed - numbers 4 & 5 in the Circle’s records (*QC* Vol 4, No 9 - Sept 1955). These were in the same envelopes as described in 5 above, written by Pourpe, and they are described as being “reports”, which is highly likely. Incidentally, both of these were over franked.

This cover was certainly originated by Marc Pourpe, and can be considered as being posted in the course of his duties. It therefore becomes No 28 in the Circle’s Record of Marc Pourpe covers.

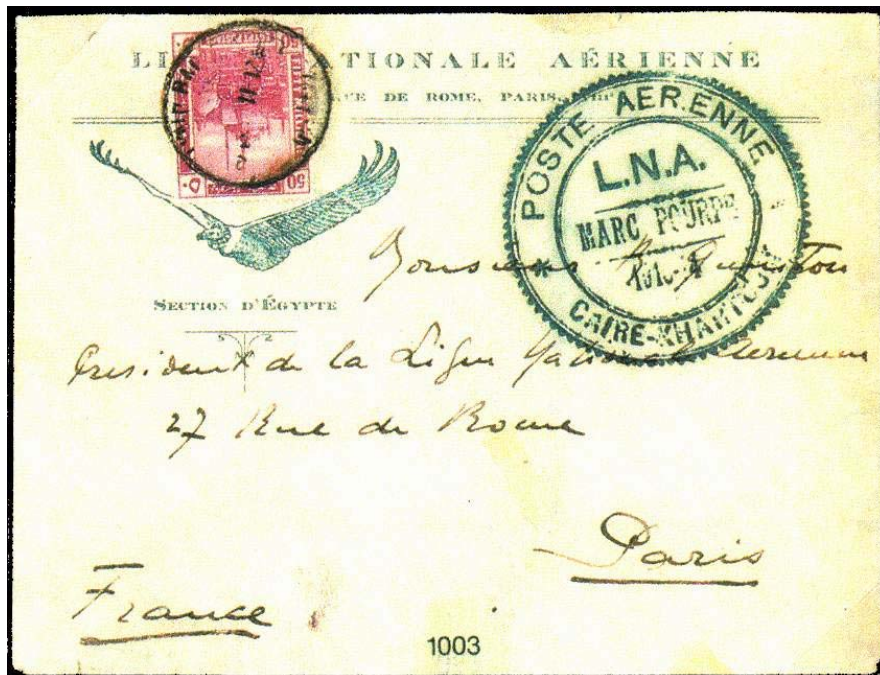


Figure 2

Jürgen also drew my attention to this cover, sold by Kohlers in 1999, which is a much more difficult problem. The illustration is reduced, but the following points emerge:

1. The stationery cover is exactly the same as *Figure 1*.
2. It is addressed to a Monsieur R. G..... tor, President of the Ligue in Paris, and written by Pourpe.
3. It is franked 50m, far in excess of the rate of 10m.
4. It is not possible to decipher the cancellation, and we are not aware of any arrival marking.

On February 12th, the aviator flew on to Suez, arriving the same day. He spent two days there, giving demonstrations, and finally arrived at Port Said on the 17th. He and his machine sailed on March 4th for Marseille. There is no way he could have flown across the Mediterranean at this time.

If by any chance this item was purchased by a member of the Circle, please let us know, and give us any other details you may have.

This may be considered a “Marc Pourpe” (related) item: he probably carried the unused stationery and stamp etc when he flew up to Port Said, and for the time being I shall enter it as No 29 in the Record.

As a footnote, there was a Sudan Postal Stationery card (2 mills) cancelled KHARTOUM 12 JAN 14 and addressed to Halfa, in the Harmers Auction of June 14th, 2005. It had the LNA Marc Pourpe cachet, with a reserve of £5,000, and rather naturally remained unsold; it is noted as No 17 in the Circle’s Record.

British Military Telegraphs in Egypt 1884-1890

Dr Andrew Higson FRPSL

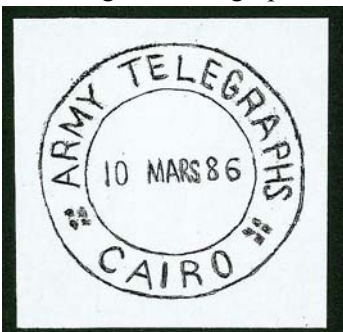
It is thought that “Military Telegraphs” stamps were first used in Egypt in 1884. These stamps were for the prepayment of non-official messages sent via the army telegraph system. They were used by army personnel for private communications, newspaper reporters for the submission of their bulletins, and the local population (where the army was in control of the telegraph system). It must be remembered that private telegraph communication was very expensive at this time and this is a factor that would limit its use.

“The immediate cause of the issue of these stamps... was the inconvenience caused to the officials in charge of the Army Telegraphs in Egypt, through having to keep account of small amounts paid in currency. With a view to obviate this inconvenience, Colonel Webber, C.B., of the Royal Engineers, personally applied, in the autumn of 1884, to the Controller of Stamps at Somerset House, for a series of stamps from the ‘unappropriated dies,’ overprinted ‘Military Telegraphs’... They were received about the middle of September, 1884, and presumably issued at once.”¹

The values utilised and the quantities printed (in September 1884) are as follows²: 1d (5,040), 3d (5,280), 6d (5,400), 1/- (5,376), 2/- (5,460), 5/- (5,292), 10/- (5,460) and £1 (5,100). There are minor differences between the numbers quoted in Creeke’s 1891 article and those in Langmead and Huggins’ recent book, and the above numbers have been extracted from the latter. Creeke³ reported that the original printing of these stamps (plus the ones sent to Bechuanaland and Suakin) utilised “ordinary printer’s type; but in early January, 1885, it was decided to make some permanent provision for overprinting these stamps... Accordingly, plates of the overprint were ordered, and completed in early in March... The first consignment, with the plate overprint, was sent to Cairo in March, 1885”. Langmead⁴ considered that “the permanent set... appear to be indistinguishable from the temporary set”.

Langmead and Huggins⁵ report: “An office was established in Cairo as the terminus for the army wire with intermediate stations at Assiut, Assuan, Korosco, [and] Wadi Halfa, in Upper Egypt. South of Halfa was the area of the Sudan telegraphs under the control of the army...”. On 1st May 1885 the operations of the telegraph system in Upper Egypt was transferred to military control⁶. This would seem to imply that there would have been an even greater need for these telegraph stamps. Indeed, “De La Rue record the overprinting of 499 sheets of the 1s in February 1886, which were presumably sent to Cairo.”⁷ However, the survival rate of used stamps is very low. With used telegraph stamps, the survival rate is often a function of the level of security surrounding the destruction of the used telegraph transmission forms. In Egypt it does seem that most used forms and stamps were conscientiously destroyed.

The Langmead telegraph collection contained a presentation sheet bearing a set of the “Military Telegraphs” stamps (cancelled with a metal “ARMY TELEGRAPHS/ CAIRO” datestamp set at “9 MAI 86”)⁸ Illustrated left *Fig.1*. This sheet also provided evidence that the 1d value could be bisected to be used as two ½d values. Apart from this sheet, the Langmead collection contained only one 1d stamp showing part of a datestamp reading “ARMY TEL”. As the location was not shown, this was described in the auction catalogue as bearing “the same 33.5mm. double ring c.d.s. (dated Mar. 25) employed on the presentation sheet, although no stamps definitely known telegraphically used in Egypt have so far been recorded.”⁹ Now, thanks to the wonders of the internet, it is possible to report the discovery of a 10/- stamp with more of the datestamp and crucially showing the word “[C]AIRO”, thus indicating that at least some of these stamps escaped destruction. These two stamps are shown in right. *Fig.2*



Very few datestamps have been recorded in relation to the “Military Telegraphs” in Egypt. One that related to the “Nile Expedition” as it travelled towards Khartoum¹⁰ is a rubber “circular double ring handstamp (31.5mm) having the words ‘FIELD TELEGRAPH’, ‘No.4’ and ‘H L 10 FEB 1885’ within the circle, the ‘H

many stamps were so treated. "This issue was in use from July, 1886, to the end of the following February. The unused remainders were subsequently brought back to England and destroyed."¹⁴



The significance of this "self-inking revolving [hand]stamp" does not seem to have been discussed in previous articles. The implications of this statement can be seen when blocks of these stamps are examined, but because individual stamps are very scarce, blocks are rarely encountered. The author is of the opinion that when blocks are examined, it seems there are variations in the surcharge from one stamp to another. This it would appear is because, as stated above, the handstamp revolved as it self-inked and that it seems it had more than one face and so slight variations in the surcharges can be identified on stamps of the same value (see *Figure 4 above*). The number of faces on the handstamp is not known.



At least three sets of the handstamped surcharged stamps exist bearing the word "Specimen" in manuscript (the original set in sterling and the later set overprinted in London also exist with a manuscript "Specimen" applied in Cairo.) *Fig 5 left*.

In September 1886, whilst on leave in England, Major Bagnold arranged for a replacement of the handstamped stamps. The correspondence relating to this and De La Rue's proof work on these stamps is fully covered in Langmead and Huggins' book.¹⁵ In addition to the original sterling values, two new values (2d and 8d) were utilised and they were overprinted in the following quantities¹⁶: "ONE DIME" on 1d (3,000), "TWO DIMES" on 2d (3,000), "FIVE DIMES" on 3d (3,000), "ONE PIASTRE" on 6d (3,000), "TWO PIASTRES" on 8d (3,000), "FIVE PIASTRES" on 1/- (33,600), "TEN PIASTRES" on 2/- (12,600), "TWENTY-FIVE PIASTRES" on 5/- (6,300), "FIFTY PIASTRES" on 10/- (2,100) and "ONE HUNDRED PIASTRES" on £1 (1,500). These stamps were received in Cairo in February 1887 and "the issue continued in use until the spring of 1890, though the employment was evidently very limited, as nearly all the stamps were returned to England and destroyed."¹⁷

Though it is 115 years since these stamps went out of use, and nearly as long since Mr Creeke Jr wrote his paper about them, it is clear that not much additional knowledge has come to light in the meantime. Perhaps one can do no better than end this article with the words of Mr Creeke Jr.¹⁸: "This completes all the information I have been able to obtain concerning these stamps. They are an interesting series, with one issue [the handstamped issue] which has the merit of being very rare; this must be my excuse for troubling you to [read] my paper."

References:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Creeke Jr., p.84 | 2 Langmead and Huggins, p.80 |
| 3 Creeke, Jr., pp.84-85 | 4 Langmead, p.91 |
| 5 Langmead and Huggins, p.80 | 6 Langmead and Huggins, p.84 |
| 7 Langmead and Huggins, p.86 | 8 Grosvenor (catalogue front cover) |
| 9 Grosvenor, lot 573 | 10 Langmead and Huggins, p.81 |
| 11 Langmead and Huggins, p.81 | 12 Langmead and Huggins, p.85 |
| 13 Creeke, Jr., p.85 | 14 Creeke, Jr., p.86 |
| 15 Langmead and Huggins, pp.86-93 | 16 Creeke, Jr., p.86 |
| 17 Creeke, Jr., p.87 | 18 Creeke, Jr., p.87 |

Creeke, Jr, A.B. (1891) "Military Telegraphs", *Philatelic Record*, Vol. XIII, No. 48, pp. 83-88.

Grosvenor (2001) *Auction of Great Britain & All World Postage Stamps & Postal History*, London, 31 October & 1 November.

Langmead, P. (1980) "Great Britain Telegraphs", *The London Philatelist*, May-June, pp86-95.

Langmead, P. and Huggins, A. (2003) *The Telegraph Stamps and Stationery of Great Britain 1851-1954*. GB Philatelic Publications Ltd: London.

Errata QC 214. New Issues

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Page 68 | Olympic Games Athens 2004 15pt in bottom line to right should read 150pt |
| Page 69 | 14 th International Ismailia Folklore Festival Dimension of stamp should read 30x50, perforation should read 13.25 x 12.8 |

Joint Meeting Saturday 19 August 2006 Egypt Study Circle and Sudan Study Group

Convenor: Richard Wheatley

At

The Barn, Six Days Only, Heaton Royds, Shay Lane, Bradford BD9 6SH

These are the business premises of HH Sales (philatelic literature etc) run by Stephen and Judith Holder, who live adjoining. There is ample parking on site. This inaugural joint meeting of the two Societies follows similar successful meetings of other Societies which have been held there over the past 15 years. Spouses are welcome, for there are many attractions in Bradford and nearby, plus you are on the edge of some wonderful Yorkshire countryside.



Timetable:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 10am | coffee (please avoid arriving before 10am) |
| 10.30am | displays |
| 1pm | buffet lunch |
| 2.15pm | displays |
| 4pm | tea |

The cost will be £7 per person including refreshments. Booking details will be given in the March *QC* but do take this opportunity to note the date in your diary.

There are 5 display frames each holding up to 16 pages and it is suggested that members bring one or two displays of 2 frames per display. This way ensures varied displays and gives everyone an opportunity to show. Full directions will be sent to those booking.

The 2m First Portrait Issue, Watermark Pointing Down

Sherif El Kerdani (ESC 456)

Recently, I acquired a used 2 millièmes stamp of the First Portrait issue (Bal 224) with the watermark of multiple stars and crescents pointing down instead of the normal orientation pointing to the right. I do not claim its discovery, as it was given to me as such by a fellow collector, Bassem Moussa: the watermark is very clear and was confirmed as pointing down by other collectors. The stamp is cancelled by one clear strike of Faggala / Misr cds Type XII dated 27 VIII 26.

In 1995, Lars Alund reported the discovery of a 2-millièmes stamp with the watermark pointing upwards¹ which appears to be the same stamp I purchased later at a Stanley Gibbons auction since the postmark fits the description given in the article by Lars Alund.

The proof for this stamp is not listed with “sideways” watermark.

The sheets used by Harrison & Sons for the printing of the lower values of this issue measured 19 inches by 22 inches, large enough to take four panes of 100 stamps², but it is something of a mystery to understand how such a rectangular sheet could have been misplaced at an angle of 90 degrees with the dandy roll so as to produce a sideways watermark. The stamps were received from the printers in sheets of 200^{2,3} so they were cut in half apparently before printing. Should this be the case, one can safely assume one of two results:

1. Either there had been two large sheets of 400 stamps each that each had undergone a sideways run of the dandy roll and then underwent printing in two opposite orientations, resulting in one large sheet of stamps with watermark pointing up and another with it pointing down.

2. Or, one large sheet of 400 stamps had had the watermark impressed at right angles and after being cut in two, each half underwent printing in an opposite direction in respect to one another, resulting in 200 stamps pointing up and another 200 stamps pointing down. Before delivery to the Post Office, each half sheet was cut into two and delivered in panes of 100 stamps each.

Now if this assumption is true, it would seem only logical that the end product of four Post Office sheets — two with watermarks pointing up and two pointing down — would be directly on top of one another, stacked as such and probably shipped to the same post office.

By comparing the postmarks on both stamps, I found that both are Type XII for Faggala, that with the watermark pointing up has a date of 2(?) VIII 26 (Alund stated 25 or 26, but the ball of the 6 is complete). The stamp with watermark pointing down has a clear date of 27 VIII 26.

The proximity of the dates makes me believe that the four sheets had been sequential and they were delivered to Faggala post office. The question now, after 80 years, shall we find other stamps?

References:

1. Alund, L., “Upward facing crescent and star watermark on 2 mills 1st Fuad”, *QC* XV, 1993-1995, p. 214.
2. Sears, J., *Egypt, The First Portrait Issue, A Compilation Since 1928*. Self printed monograph, 1997, pp.1-2, 12.
3. McNeille, D., “Egypt 1923-1924, Retouches and Flaws”, *L'OP* IV, 1940, pp. 8-16.

STOP PRESS!

Literally, I was just putting the *QC* on to disk, to send it to the printer, when a email arrived about a dangerous and expensive forgery. It has been seen on ebay, again! Genuine FDCs exist of the “nine-day stamp” (the October 2004 issue relating to the 150th Anniversary of Egyptian; see *QC* 214, page 52, for the withdrawn stamp and its December replacement) but now forgeries have been detected of FDCs. The genuine cover is 16x11cm, the forgery is 16x11.3cm. The printing of the forgery has a greyish tinge on the yellow of the logo of the cover. See the News section of the web site for further details, they shall also appear in the next *QC*.
Ed.

Pioneer Flights : Egypt - Iraq 1919 - CAIRO –BAGHDAD

Lucien S. Toutounji (ESC 264)

First recording of mail flown in 1919 by R.A.F. from Egypt to Iraq.

On 11 March 1919, Capts. Boyd and Nuttal, of the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force 31st WING R.A.F. left Baghdad for Cairo, via Ramadi and Damascus and returned on the 19 March

What came to light recently is the only known cover carried on the return flight making it the first recorded item of mail flown in 1919 by R.A.F. from Egypt to Iraq.

The cover mailed 12 March 1919 from A.P.O. SZ 22, near Cairo is addressed to Maj. Gen. H.T. Brooking, HQ. 15th. Division I.E.F., Mesopotamia. On the back is a manuscript mark "EEF AERIAL POST". It received a Baghdad arrival postmark "FP055/19 March 19" of the 31st wing R.A.F. base. The cover was then transferred to Baghdad Base Post Office on 20 March 1919 being re-addressed to Maj. Gen. Brooking at Poona where it received a date stamp of 4 April 1919

Discovered by us in 2004 some 85 years post-facto.



Inside I found this piece of paper initialled by General H.T. Brooking, to whom it is addressed. The rusted pin fits perfectly over its trace at the left side of the cover to which at some time it must have been pinned..

Sent by the first
airmail post from
Egypt
HTB

FRANCO

Peter A. S. Smith (ESC 74)

In the Feldman auction in May, 2005, two stampless covers bearing the somewhat mysterious handstamps reading “FRANCO” and the Arabic equivalent were offered. One of these handstamps is illustrated on p. 509 of *Egypt: Stamps and Postal History*; the second, of a different type, is new. It differs in several ways from the first type: the frame is double-lined; there are asterisks at each end of FRANCO; the Arabic appears to read only “khalass” (paid) rather than “khalass al ughra” (fee paid). The illustration accompanying the auction listing is shown here, along with a slightly cleaned-up reproduction of the handstamp. The strike is in blue, and the auction description gives the date as 1869, with the claim that it is unique (I know of no other).

The cover realized SFr2,400. A cover with the first (previously recorded) type realized SFr1,600.



There is another “Franco” handstamp (in Arabic only) that I inexcusably overlooked when composing the “Egypt” book. It was Lot 2 of the auction of Col. Danson's collection in 1977, at which it realized SFr900. The inscription is in an oval, and reads “khalass al ughra”. It is on a letter dated internally September, 1840.



The handstamp is illustrated on p.695 of Luca Biolato's wonderful book, *La Posta Europea*. The most interesting aspect of the cover is the handstamp of receipt (in blue), which includes the wording “a VAPORI EGIZIANI”. This is the only evidence to date of the existence of this Egyptian steamship line; one can speculate that the later FRANCO handstamps belonged to the same company, but unfortunately there is no evidence to confirm such a speculation. (Since this cover has not hitherto been illustrated in the *Quarterly Circular*, an illustration is shown here, together with tracings of the two handstamps on it.)



Slip-up in UN World Heritage issue

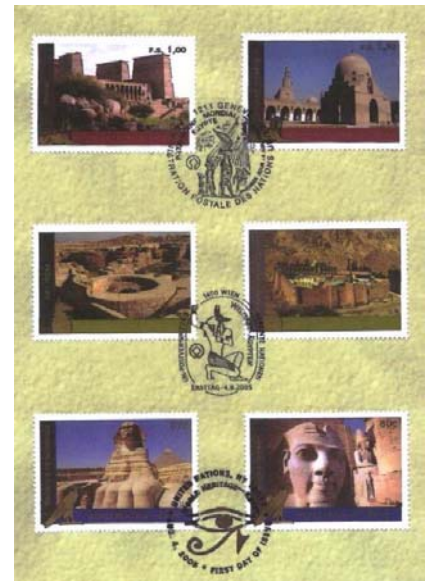
Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Thematic collectors may be interested to know that on August 4 the United Nations issued six commemorative stamps and three booklets on the theme “World Heritage - Egypt”, the eleventh in a series illustrating World Heritage sites.

The stamps, showing various aspects of Egypt Ancient to (almost) Modern, have face values of 37 and 80 cents, 1 and 1.30 Swiss francs and 0.55 and 0.75 euros; they measure 50mm horizontally by 35mm vertically. Perforation is 14 x 13 1/4.

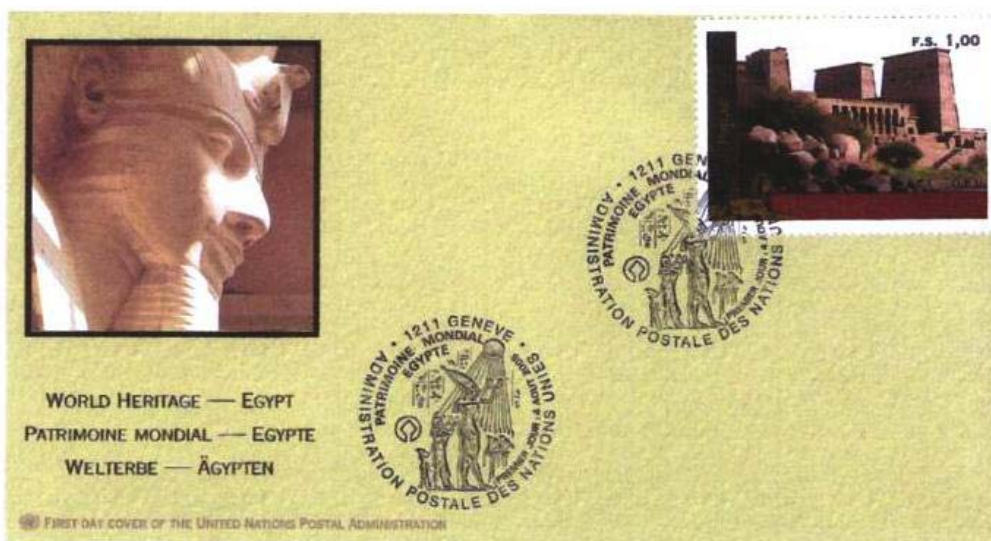
The sheets of 20 have four marginal inscriptions: the World Heritage emblem with “UNESCO” above and “World Heritage 2005” below. One copyright symbol appears in the lower left margin.

The designs were adapted by Rorie Katz and the stamps printed in offset by Enschedé of the Netherlands. More details may be found at <http://www.un.org/Depts/UNPA/additional/egypt/>



Value	Design	Number printed
7 cents	Memphis and its necropolis	275,000 (13,750 sheets)
80 cents	Theban necropolis	195,000 (9,750 sheets)
1.00 francs	Nubian monuments (Philae)	180,000 (9,000 sheets)
1.30 francs	Islamic Cairo	180,000 (9,000 sheets)
€ 0.55	Abu Mena	250,000 (12,500 sheets)
€ 0.75	Saint Catherine, Sinai	250,000 (12,500 sheets)

Special first day hand-cancellations were available at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Palais des Nations, Geneva, and at the Vienna International Centre. But as Caroline Scannell (ESC 419), our New York member who runs *The Old World Archaeologist* magazine (www.owasu.org), was quick to point out, it appears that the UN has made an error with its Vienna commemorative CDS.



The third-century BC temple on the one-franc stamp, on the island of Philae south of Aswan, is dedicated to the goddess Isis. But the CDS shows Akhenaten, the monotheist heretic pharaoh of the Amarna period, some thousand years earlier, whose main claim to fame was that he swept away all the ancient gods (including Isis!) and

(for a short while at least) replaced them with the Aten disc of the sun. So a most unsuitable postmark for that particular stamp: but perhaps an FDC all the more worth collecting because of that!

Ghesireh Palace Hotel Post Office

Lucien S. Toutounji (ESC 264)

I would like to add a few points to recent articles about the Ghesireh Palace and its post office (most recently, *QC* 214 (Sept 2005), pages 57-58).

1. In the nineteenth century, Ghesireh Island was agricultural land with virtually no residents. It started to be populated around WWI, when the bridge link to Bulaq was built. So there was no need for two post offices.
2. Contrary to all other Egyptian hotel postmarks, that for the Ghesireh Palace does not mention the word "hotel" in Arabic, perhaps suggesting that it was intended for use by everyone.
3. Below I illustrate the earliest recorded Ghesireh Palace Hotel cancellation, dated 25 XI 93. Mike Murphy saw this cover when he was in Cairo a couple of years ago and amended the earliest date known accordingly.
4. I had the opportunity to discuss the Ghesireh Palace with Princess Lodi Loutfallah (my wife's first cousin). When the Loutfallah family bought the hotel, it consisted of two main buildings: The "palace", on the Nile, with high luxury accommodation, salons, dining rooms, etc, intended for royalty and dignitaries attending the Suez Canal inauguration in 1869, as well as an annex building behind the Palace, consisting of about 300 regular guest rooms. As this second building needed much refurbishing and personnel and was of no use to the new owners, they had it torn down. I show two photographs.



the Nile, with high luxury accommodation, salons, dining rooms, etc, intended for royalty and dignitaries attending the Suez Canal inauguration in 1869, as well as an annex building behind the Palace, consisting of about 300 regular guest rooms. As this second building needed much refurbishing and personnel and was of no use to the new owners, they had it torn down. I show two photographs. The first, a postcard postmarked 12 V 09, illustrates some of the annex, to the left

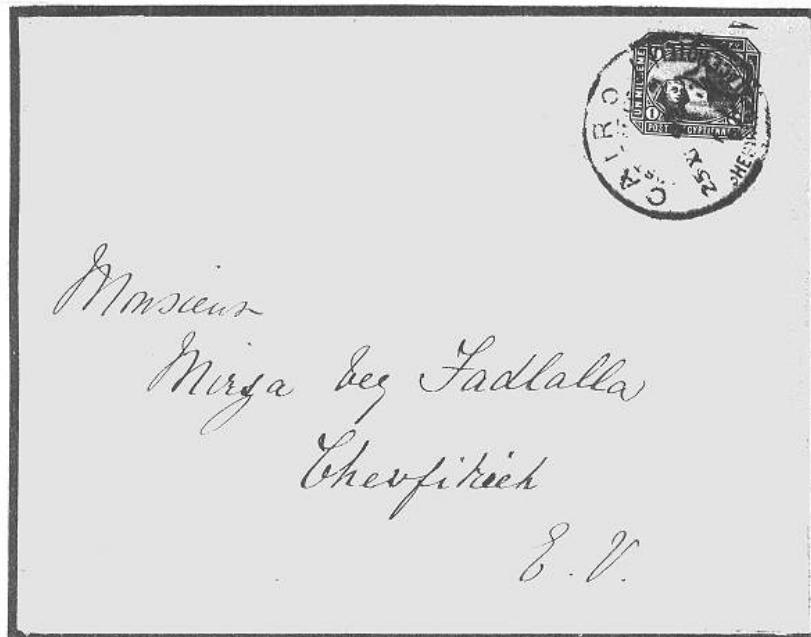
behind the double-fronted Palace. On the second one (Christmas card of the Loutfallah family in the 1930s), it is gone!

The Palace was built by the Khedive Ismail to receive dignitaries visiting Egypt on the occasion of the inauguration of the Canal. It was transformed into a hotel in November 1893 and closed in 1914. The hotel had its own post office, from at least November 25, 1893, until December 22, 1908, when it was moved outside the hotel to serve all the Ghesireh area.



The hotel only had the one postmark (illustrated at left), though some collectors recognise variants in relation to the presence or absence of the T and the duty numbers and whether or not there was a dot between T and duty. Its diameter is 32mm and the date-bars are 4mm apart.

Over the page is the cover mailed November 25, 1893, being the earliest date recorded for any mail sent from the hotel post office. Addressed to Cairo, it was sent unsealed, thus correctly franked at the local printed matter rate of 1 millième.



Newly Identified Continental Savoy Hotel Registration Cachet

Lucien S. Toutounji (ESC 264)

The registration cachets of the Continental Savoy Hotel are usually very poorly struck. This, we believe, is the reason why the cachet just discovered went unnoticed for some 70 years.

The Arabic wording on the registration cachet already recorded, shown here as Type I, reads Continental Savoy *bi-Misr*, the last words which may be translated both as “In Cairo” or “In Egypt”.

From 1932, in the Arabic wording of the Hotel’s circular datestamps starting with ESC Type HC6, the words *bi-Misr* were changed to *al-Kahira*, which translates precisely as “Cairo”. We believe that the change of wording in the registration cachet followed the same pattern. The new wording can be seen in Type II.



Type I



Type II

When Mike Murphy was in Cairo in October 2001 with the ESC group, we looked at length at a marvellous Continental Savoy registered cover with all postmarks struck in blue. Neither of us noticed the difference in the Arabic wording of the registration cachet. It is only when I was examining the cachet to redraw it more precisely than the reproduction then available that I noticed the difference.

The earliest date I have found with Registration Cachet Type II is March 1, 1934, the last date March 15, 1938, both used with cancel Type HC 11. By 16 July 1938, the registration cachet was no longer in use, replaced by white generic registration labels.

Hotel mail collectors, please look at your collections and advise Mike Murphy of your findings, so that he can update the data he is keeping on registered hotel mail.

Q215/1 From Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)

I wonder if anyone can help me to explain this astonishing cover? Addressed in Arabic to an insurance company in Cairo, it was “franked” with a total of eleven 1-millième stamps of the 1944-52 Farouk Marechal issue, and dated in manuscript 20 April 1949, though no CDS is apparent. To put it kindly, most of the adhesives are not in good health, and three of the bottom four singles, and the pair and single at top right have all been provided with blue-pencil “O” markings signifying “invalid” – clearly because they were reused specimens. The two at the right appear to have no manuscript marking, but the pair at top left – in excellent condition – have been blue-pencilled with a large “X”. At bottom left is a boxed “T” indicating tax to be raised, and alongside is a strike of the unusual boxed “O” marking signifying invalid (this has manuscript initials in Arabic?). On the reverse are manuscript indications that delivery was attempted on April 23 and 24, but clearly it was not successful. Eleven stamps is one too many for the 10m rate of the time anyway, and the central blue-pencil “16” marking in Arabic appears to indicate that the tax due was 16 millièmes, ie, double a deficiency of 8m, in other words, that the two X-ed-out stamps were accepted as valid. So why were they X-ed? And what does the pencil Arabic at centre left read?

**Dutch Seapost: a New Type and Early Date**

Peter A. S. Smith (ESC 74)



The loose stamp shown here bears a cancellation (POSTAGENT) AMSTERDAM-BATAVIA, dated 14 AUG 07. In my book on Egypt, this type is not illustrated. Furthermore, the statement “at least as early as 1910” can now be amended to “at least as early as 1907”. Since the steamship line between the Netherlands and the East Indies passed through the Suez Canal, this must be where the Egyptian stamp was obtained. It would be wonderful if a reader could show a cover or post card with this cancellation!

Port Said Paquebot – new Marking?

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

I have recently acquired this probably philatelic cover, which appears to have travelled between Djibouti and Marseille (red rubber stamp), on route to Toulon (purple rubber stamp), and been posted at sea aboard the C.G.M.(?) *Marion Dufresne* (blue rubber stamp), as attested by the blue rubber stamp “signature” of her Master, C. Loudes.

What interests me as an Egypt collector, however, is that the Fr2.30 French definitive has been cancelled on disembarkation at Port Said with a Paquebot mark I don't know.

The marking is dated 7.10.91, with diameter of 26mm and date box of 21 x 11mm. The cover then passed further through the postal service with a Cairo AP./ A.C.T.1 postmark of the next day. There are no backstamps, and the sealed envelope has no contents. Is this Paquebot mark a new one?



As it so happens, I also have the same Paquebot marking, but on an earlier cover, so we now have both the earliest and latest dates of 3.4.73 and 7.10.91. Unless of course members can show differently. **The Editor**

Web Watch

Edmund Hall (ESC 239), Editor

It is now several months since our website was launched on an unsuspecting world, though the world remains mostly still unsuspecting. Perhaps it is a bit early to make an announcement on its success or failure but in general it seems to have been well received by our members. The feedback on the auction online has been most encouraging and the ability to view lots in full glorious colour from the comfort of your own home particularly welcome. Certainly the pictured lots drew lively bidding: how much was due to the ability to view them in colour is hard to determine, but the success of Auction 40 does point the way to future auctions having even more illustrations to tempt you.



But why have a site at all? Certainly not merely because everybody else has one and it is the trendy thing to do – effort put in it must accrue positive benefits to the Circle, but what are these benefits we are trying to achieve? These are as yet somewhat ill defined, but the first objective was to give the Circle a presence on the internet in order to attract non-members who are fellow collectors. To this end, effort has been made to promote our site via search engines and organising links from other sites. Many thanks to those two members who, on the launch of our site, readily put links to us of their own volition as soon as we were launched. To date we have gained two members through the site, we have had several queries from others, and the article on Military Telegraph stamps in this *QC* came from a non-member who was a website contact. We are getting several visitors a day but can't differentiate whether these are members or not, although those several approaching us via a search engine such as MSN, Google or Yahoo! Are likely to be newcomers.

As yet there may seem little on the site for our own members, but it is how hoped that new areas may be developed, always bearing in mind that only about two thirds of our membership are “web connected” and that we are acutely conscious of the necessity of avoiding any sort of conflict that would detract from our present endeavours. For instance, members were given the choice of receiving the auction list by email or by the post and thankfully the majority elected for email, resulting in considerable cost savings to the Circle.

Mention has been made, and much debated, of distributing the *QC* in electronic form, and I am sure that when I say that this idea has been dismissed I suspect that some members will breathe a sigh of relief.

However, sections of the site already do offer something for members and when the Secretary asked at the November meeting of how many had visited the site we were a little disappointed with the response. But when told of what is available, some members present expressed surprised and said: “Oh, is it? That’s good.” True, it is not necessary to visit the site each day it see what’s new, but it is updated regularly and one of our two golden rules is “it will be updated to respond to any changes as and when they happen”.

For instance, the final day of the Auction announced “last day for bids”; and the very next day “Auction closed”, and the Prices Realised list was added only a couple of days later. Reports of the most recent meetings have been put online within a few days.

It is a pet hate of mine when visiting a website to be confronting by a flashing “new” to draw attention to the fact that it was last updated a few years ago. Another is to go hunting online for that elusive item – only to find it in “our latest auction list, bid now” but dated 2002! There is no excuse for this, and several members have made such comments, pointing out that many philatelic sites have appeared with great flourish only to wither on the vine and become a stagnant ossified piece of web-space along with their flashing “new” signs and “do come to our next meeting in Jan 2001”.

What members may not realise is that our site has actually been running for four years, and has been regularly updated, as an exercise to see how time-consuming and onerous a task this was. Only when it was found to be within the realms of our ability was the site launched under its own domain name. The necessity

of keeping it updated and fresh now lies in the hands – or should that be the mouse finger – of our members and the use they make of it.

The other of our two golden rules is that no member's name or email will be placed on the site without permission, though it has been noted that several members already have names and addresses on other sites.

Notes & Queries



Our Q&A page is here to help to resolve problems with Egyptian Philately. The facility is intended mainly for members of the Egypt Study Circle, but non-members may submit any related question, with or without a contact name/email address as they wish.

Anyone who can help with an answer is welcome to respond (ESC members will be identified only by their Membership number). Please submit your Query or Answer via the webmaster. ESC members please use your Membership Number as identification.

One novelty intended to attract attention from members and non-members alike is the section given to queries with answers. Putting Q&As online instead of in the QC alone does have its advantages: it puts all the queries together, where they can

easily be revisited at any time; and it places the answers directly with the queries to which they refer. Those in the QC have answers in a different edition, and if several replies are given over a period of time these can become spread over several QCs. We do urge members to visit this section occasionally and if possible to

7	Member ESC 390 November 2005		I wonder if anyone can help me to explain this astonishing cover? "Franked" with a total of eleven 1-millieme stamps with multiple strike of the unusual boxed "O"
6	Member ESC 240 November 2005		Is this Paquebot mark a new one? Port Said 17.10.91
5	Member ESC 541 August 2005		...In late 1909, "AHRAM" replaced "PYRAMIDS" on the Pyramids PO's datestamp. The change lasted a little over a year. Does anyone know the reason for original change, and why it reverted back?
4	Member ESC 246 July 2005		Nile Hilton cover 2.1.62 to Damanhour, registration and Avis de Reception. The item was refused by the addressee and returned. Does anyone know of another example?
3	Member ESC 240 QC June 2005		Israeli stamps on covers cancelled with square Egyptian Post Office Registration cachet like marking of Mazar (Sinai) dated 4-11-56. Does anyone have ANY philatelic material from Mazar? Replies 1
2	Member ESC 291 QC June 2005		Cover from Alexandria to the Chief Rabbi in Jerusalem dated 7 Feb 1922 bears no stamps and there is no marking of payment either regular or taxed. Can anyone explain why it was not charged?
1	Member ESC 383 QC Sept 1999		Unknown Perfin E.A. Hand made? Infomation please.



answers any query in which they might have an interest; and also to submit queries of your own.

The site has a News section updated as and when necessary (at least two or three times a month) and a page giving details of meetings and venues. Perhaps it would not surprise members to know that we get emails from colleagues asking when and where the meetings take place: one is tempted to reply, 'Look in your QC, member's card or just go to the website: it's all there, and alterations where necessary are made before they appear in the QC.'

There is a Library list detailing all our holdings, and very impressive it is too. There is also an 80 per cent complete list of all articles from QC 1 to QC 215. This is currently not available in print, perhaps indicating the potential conflict that could arise where non-web members might see themselves at a disadvantage. While this is an aspect of which we are

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acutely aware of and very guarded about, nor do we wish to miss any chances that the internet can give us to enhance our philatelic enjoyment.

Like or not, the internet is part of today's world: like the motor car, telephone and television, are they more blessing or curse. Only today I was listening to the news, where one item was on stopping junk mail and the expert blithely said: "To stop this, just go on to the preference website and", assuming that everyone was web-enabled, giving no alternative. It was only a couple of years ago that presenters looking puzzled at the autocue, slowly reading out some unintelligible hieroglyphic "dot, backslash, dot com" etc – but today those terms, once so alien, have become totally familiar. Already some services are offered only on the internet, usually on the pretext that is to the customer's advantage and no word about the retailer's cost savings. We may not like this, any more than I like that the village I have lived in for 30 years is dying – the banks have gone, the greengrocer's gone, one butcher struggles on ... all killed off by the megalithic supermarkets offering unripe fruit, tasteless vegetables, regurgitated water-filled meat and other chemical concoctions that I can only puzzle about. The small library is under threat, "to save cost and give the community a better service", while deprived villagers sign fruitless forms of protest. Sadly, these are the facts of life.

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of keeping it updated and fresh now lies in the hands – or should that be the mouse finger – of our members and the use they make of it.

The other of our two golden rules is that no member's name or email will be placed on the site without permission, though it has been noted that several members already have names and addresses on other sites.

Notes & Queries



Our Q&A page is here to help to resolve problems with Egyptian Philately. The facility is intended mainly for members of the Egypt Study Circle, but non-members may submit any related question, with or without a contact name/email address as they wish.

Anyone who can help with an answer is welcome to respond (ESC members will be identified only by their Membership number). Please submit your Query or Answer via the webmaster. ESC members please use your Membership Number as identification.

One novelty intended to attract attention from members and non-members alike is the section given to queries with answers. Putting Q&As online instead of in the QC alone does have its advantages: it puts all the queries together, where they can

easily be revisited at any time; and it places the answers directly with the queries to which they refer. Those in the QC have answers in a different edition, and if several replies are given over a period of time these can become spread over several QCs. We do urge members to visit this section occasionally and if possible to

7	Member ESC 390 November 2005		I wonder if anyone can help me to explain this astonishing cover? "Franked" with a total of eleven 1-millieme stamps with multiple strike of the unusual boxed "O"
6	Member ESC 240 November 2005		Is this Paquebot mark a new one? Port Said 17.10.91
5	Member ESC 541 August 2005		...In late 1909, "AHRAM" replaced "PYRAMIDS" on the Pyramids PO's datestamp. The change lasted a little over a year. Does anyone know the reason for original change, and why it reverted back?
4	Member ESC 246 July 2005		Nile Hilton cover 2.1.62 to Damanhour, registration and Avis de Reception. The item was refused by the addressee and returned. Does anyone know of another example?
3	Member ESC 240 QC June 2005		Israeli stamps on covers cancelled with square Egyptian Post Office Registration cachet like marking of Mazar (Sinai) dated 4-11-56. Does anyone have ANY philatelic material from Mazar? Replies 1
2	Member ESC 291 QC June 2005		Cover from Alexandria to the Chief Rabbi in Jerusalem dated 7 Feb 1922 bears no stamps and there is no marking of payment either regular or taxed. Can anyone explain why it was not charged?
1	Member ESC 383 QC Sept 1999		Unknown Perfin E.A. Hand made? Infomation please.



answers any query in which they might have an interest; and also to submit queries of your own.

The site has a News section updated as and when necessary (at least two or three times a month) and a page giving details of meetings and venues. Perhaps it would not surprise members to know that we get emails from colleagues asking when and where the meetings take place: one is tempted to reply, 'Look in your QC, member's card or just go to the website: it's all there, and alterations where necessary are made before they appear in the QC.'

There is a Library list detailing all our holdings, and very impressive it is too. There is also an 80 per cent complete list of all articles from QC 1 to QC 215. This is currently not available in print, perhaps indicating the potential conflict that could arise where non-web members might see themselves at a disadvantage. While this is an aspect of which we are

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