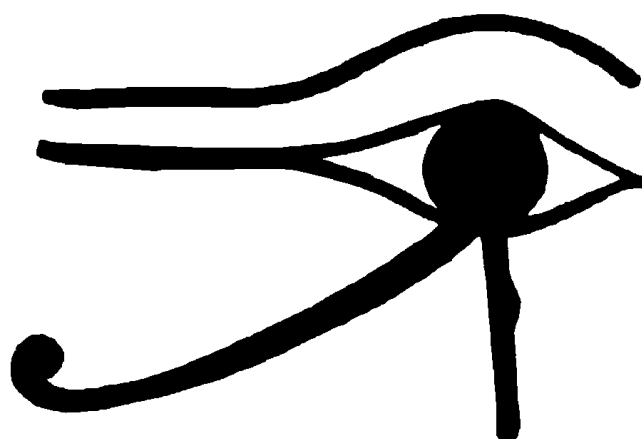


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EGYPT



STUDY CIRCLE

March Quarter 2006

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Washington 2006

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Bradford SSG

See page back page



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PTS
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Cover of the Month: 1877 (Feb 14th): Underpaid cover from Cairo to Constantinople fanked by 1874-75 20pa. and 1pi. Overweight and found to be double rate, the cover was taxed at double the postage = 6 piastres, less the amount paid = 1½ piastres, thus handstamped "4" and "½" piastres Postage Due. Remarkable and probably unique usage. Sg 37,38.

Rare and splendid cover.

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Forthcoming Meetings 2006

May 6	AGM and Bourse	All members
May 31	Washington 2006	All members
July 1	Port Said	Bill Johns and Peter Grech
August 19	Joint meeting with Sudan Study Group	(in Bradford)
September 23	Acquisitions and Queries	All members (at Stampex)
November 11	1867 1pi; 1874 Issue; Overseas offices Postmarks	Stanley Horesh; John Clarke; Brian Sedgley

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, January 7, 2006

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Stanley Horesh (Acting Chairman), Peter Andrews, Mike Bramwell, Dennis Clarke, John Clarke, John Davis (Librarian), Cyril Defriez, Mostafa el-Dars, Peter Grech, Edmund Hall (Editor), Sue McIntosh, Mike Murphy (Secretary), Sami Sadek, Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Lucien Toutounji.

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

The Acting Chairman, Stanley Horesh opened the meeting by wishing all members a Happy New Year and welcoming those present, and especially Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264), our Egyptian colleague now living in Paris, and hoped he might be able to attend many more meetings. He was pleased to announce that Sue McIntosh (ESC 356) from New Zealand, now living in England, had agreed to act in the crucially important role of Publicity Manager. Members greeted the appointment with acclaim and wished her well.

The Acting Chairman said, however, that there had been no progress in deciding on a replacement for our late Chairman, Robin Bertram, and noted that, having acted as Deputy Chairman for more than 30 years, he did not feel it possible to fill the senior role for longer than until the Annual Meeting in May. He appealed to members to volunteer their services, and said that the position was becoming increasingly serious.

The Secretary put to the meeting applications from three new members, two of whom had come to us via the new website; and said that the Data Survey publicised with the last *QC* had had a good initial response, with about 55 members' sheets returned so far. In an attempt to widen our appeal, he will liaise with our American Agent, Richard Wilson, in seeking affiliation to the American Philatelic Society.

The President reported that vendors' cheques from the last Auction would go out in the next day or two, and that Auction 40 had been a resounding success, with only four lots returned and a larger than usual commission to go to Circle funds.

The Editor was able to report the production and despatch of four *QCs* in a year, and appealed to members for more material so that the impetus might be maintained.



Before the research meeting got under way, Stanley Horesh reported having recently obtained at auction an 1880 Austrian Levant postal stationery card apparently used in Alexandria (small thimble "Alexandrien" cancel) in 1885. On receiving the card (*see above*) he realised that it was one of the reprints referred to in a footnote in Higgins and Gage (Page 66, item 11). How could it be that a reprint had been used in 1885, he wondered, and closer examination led him to believe that the postmark was forged. There may be more about, he warned members.

Turning to the main part of the meeting, Edmund Hall (ESC 239) introduced a research day on the Express, Delivery and Postmen markings which proved an undoubted success. This was in no small part due to the presence of three Arabic-reading members(!), but even more to Edmund's facility with his scanner in "lifting" postal markings from covers and to the clear and lucid way in which he approached the research, posting data sheets on the website in advance of the meeting so that members could collate earliest and latest dates of known markings and augment the listing with others previously unrecorded.

The numbers of the latter proved extensive, with 27 new markings reported, all of which were seen on the day. Because of the sheer mass of new material, the task of collation of all new dates was simply overwhelming.

So in a departure from normal practice, Edmund will post on the website illustrations of all known markings, protected by a password which members might receive via the website. He asked members to consult that listing, and then to report earliest/latest dates or new types of marking to him so that they may be added to the Circle's information.

For those members who do not have access to the internet, a phone call or note to Edmund will result in the data sheets being sent through the post. In this way Edmund hopes to be able to make a speedy collation of information for an area that has been looked at in only fairly desultory fashion in the past, and to publish the results as quickly as possible in the *QC* for all to see. It is to be hoped that this innovatory meeting might set the pattern for other research areas in the future.

On behalf of members, Brian Sedgley thanked Edmund and colleagues who had furnished new material for a remarkable and interesting afternoon, in which much new information had come to light. Members made their gratitude known in time-honoured fashion.

Report of the Meeting, February 25, 2005

PRESENT: Stanley Horesh (Acting Chairman), Peter Andrews, Leon Balian (Egypt), Luca Biolato (Italy), Mike Bramwell, Dennis Clarke, John Clarke, John Davis (Librarian), Cyril Defriez, Ulrich Eckstein (Germany), Mostafa el-Dars, Samir Fikry (Egypt), Peter Grech, Khetcho Hagopian (Egypt), Edmund Hall (Editor), Anton Jansen (Netherlands), Constantin Kelemenis (Greece), Lawrence Kimpton, Mordecai Kremener (Israel), Sue McIntosh, Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Hilary Shaw, Vahe Varjabedian (Egypt), Richard S. Wilson (US Agent). Visitor: Pamela Bertram.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: John Sears, Margaret Chadwick, Charles Hass and Ibrahim Shoukry.

The Acting Chairman, Stanley Horesh, opened the meeting by welcoming such a good turnout of members, and in particular Mrs Pamela Bertram, widow of our late Chairman: members had invited her to lunch before the meeting, and Pamela was pleased to meet so many of her husband's colleagues, and at last to learn what he got up to on his Saturday afternoons! There was also a warm welcome for our overseas members – seven non-British countries were represented – and for two new members attending for the first time.

The Acting Chairman mentioned that by rule any proposed changes to the Circle constitution must be in the Secretary's hands a month before the Annual Meeting, which will be on May 6; and that it had been decided that the Bourse to follow the AGM would be a purely informal affair with no bureaucracy or commissions.

He mentioned two forthcoming events – the Washington meeting on May 31 (contact Dick Wilson, US Agent, for details) and the joint meeting with the Sudan Study Group in Bradford on August 19 (contact Richard Wheatley, see back page), and mentioned that the Revenue Society had invited members with an interest in Middle East revenues to attend a Ten Sheets meeting in London on June 17 (contact Mike Murphy).

The Secretary put to the meeting one application from a new member, and appealed for all members to return the Data Survey sheets sent out with the last *QC*: about 80 had been completed by our 185 members. He reported that papers seeking affiliation with the American Philatelic Society had been filed with our American Agent, Richard Wilson, in an attempt to widen our appeal in North America; and that the Auction list was virtually completed and would be with members and on the website very shortly.

Luca Biolato (ESC 417) raised the question of the Circle Record held by the Librarian, John Davis, and queried whether its content might be more easily available. As a first step, members who hold any part of the Record are asked to contact John with details so that he can collate what facilities might be required to resurrect the full magnitude of what was the central core of the Circle at a time when its membership was not quite so far-flung.

The meeting proper provided a varied and quite astonishing range of Circle interests, with no fewer than 15 of the 25 members present showing Ten Sheets (or thereabouts). It was noted with a great deal of pleasure that both new members opted to display – thank you and congratulations to Hilary Shaw (ESC 594) and Laurence Kimpton (ESC 591). There is however space here only for the briefest résumé of each display.

The Secretary opened by showing printouts from the regularly updated Question and Answer section of the website, illustrating its wide range, and appealing to members to read the Queries and to provide Edmund Hall with Answers (or indeed further Queries) to maintain a continuing sense of activity and novelty on the site.

Stanley Horesh showed a wide range of Red Cross correspondence from the aftermath of the 1956 and 1967 wars, the Red Cross acting as a go-between for the warring nations and passing back and forth mail on the appropriate forms seeking information about missing or captured soldiers and civilians of both sides.

Egypt's conquest of Palestine and the Holy Land in the early part of the 1830s, which finally resulted in the founding of the Mohamed Aly dynasty of Egyptian rulers, was the topic of **Luca Biolato**, who showed a document in Italian from the scene of battle in 1836 and a remarkable news "bulletin" written in French in 1832, reporting on progress at the front.

Peter Grech was able to embellish his recent magisterial exposition of the life and times of the Ramleh Electric Tramway in Alexandria with a series of recent finds, including some outstanding historic postcards showing steam trains on the tracks before electricity made its mark. The topic provoked much discussion.

Samir Fikry is building a new collection based on the "Suez Canal Zone", which he defines as the postal history of the Canal area rather than the well-known Suez Canal Company material, and showed some gems which he will display in Washington, including two Waghorn Suez covers and one with the rare Madras/Waghorn/Suez mark as well as a Greek Post Office cover from Port Said.

There was a mixed bag of wonders from **Dick Wilson**, who showed stunning hand-drawn covers sent from the Continental Hotel to London at the end of the First World War; and also a series of Egyptology-related covers and autograph letters from the likes of Howard Carter and Lord and Lady Amherst who introduced Carter to the world of Ancient Egypt.

Ulrich Eckstein took us back to the world of classical Egyptian postal history with a wide-ranging display whose highlights included covers from the Greek Consular Post Office in Alexandria and another posted on the last day of the *Posta Europea* before its takeover by the Egyptian Government.

From a similar period, **Brian Sedgley** showed disinfected mails and a series of covers with the markings of private forwarding agents, as well as covers and markings from the Austrian, French, British and Italian consular offices operating in Egypt.

One of our new members, **Laurence Kimpton**, displayed how his interest in the Cairo-Baghdad Air Mail Service developed into researching material of the Overland Mail and the Nairn company service; while the other, **Hilary Shaw**, displayed some of her fledgeling collection of Egyptian instructional markings including an unusual "Found in Letter Box" cachet and an even more unusual letter mistakenly sent to Port Said instead of Portishead.

Khetcho Hagopian stunned members with a comprehensive display of the Egyptian Postal Organisation's "new" postal stationery, discussed as "forthcoming" some 12 months ago but not yet officially issued. Khetcho showed all six items, and told how he was able to test the validity of some of them but not all: an illustrated report appears on page 112.

Disposal of an insurance company archives in Cairo allowed **Vahe Varjabedian** to obtain a range of "ACA" perfins previously known only in two examples. He was able to illustrate their use – always on revenue stamps – on Al-Chark Assurance Company receipts and policies ranging from 1956 to 1960, after which they disappear. See page 102.

Mike Bramwell provided a most unusual display of labels from Egyptian perfume bottles and boxes, mainly apparently of the 1920s and 1930s, ranging from Art Deco designs to a series based on “fairly undressed” Sudanese ladies.

Cyril Defriez displayed Egypt’s New Issues of 2003-04, including the full sheet of 25 portraits of Presidents of the Egyptian Bar Association, explaining that the portrait of the then current President was ordered cut out of every sheet – and **Mostafa El-Dars** was able to provide just such a snipped sheet as the only one available in Cairo, as well as wondering at the immense variety of postage rates his family used from Egypt currently!

John Davis provided a comprehensive display of some of the wonders of the French Consular service, the longest serving of the Foreign Offices, with its services available in Alexandria Cairo, Port Said and Suez from 1837 to 1931.

Mike Murphy showed how the lawyer Gabriel Boulad used to have fun using cutout value vignettes from postal stationery to “frank” mail within Egypt and to France, Lebanon and Turkey, raising the question of the length of validity of postal stationery, and perhaps pointing to at least one unknown piece of barred-out Farouk stationery.

The Acting Chairman thanked all those members who had provided such a wide-ranging display and remarked on how enjoyable and fascinating the afternoon had been, embellished by large contingent of overseas visitors.

New members:

ESC 593 **Gordon Hale**, 27 Balmoral Road, Bristol BS7 9AX
(Named postmarks of Egypt)

ESC 594 **Mrs Hilary Shaw**, PO Box 343, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5WD
(Egypt instructional marks, WWI cachets [all countries], Waterlow and Son)

ESC 595 **Hani Sharestan**, 12421 Cardinal Drive, Tustin, California 92782, US
(Heliopolis postcards and postmarks; Hotels; Stamps of Egypt and Gaza)

ESC 596 **Trevor Buckell**, 27 Kitchener Road, Amesbury, Wilts SP4 7AA
(Stamps, postal stationery and postal history of Egypt to 1953)

Change of Address:

ESC 451 **Dr Adel Abdel-Hafiz**
112B Ammar bin Yasser Street, Apt 22, Heliopolis, Cairo 11351, Egypt

ESC 555 **Molly White**, East Balscalloch Farm, Kirkcolm, Stranraer,
Dumfries & Galloway, DG9 0PB

Re: Meeting notes for 7th January 2006 & Acting Chairman’s recent purchase of (forged?) Austrian Levant postal stationery, I would refer him and other collectors to the excellent little handbook series *Austrian Post Offices Abroad*, published in several parts and, in this case, to Keith Tranmer’s “Part 8” in particular, where there is included on pages 50-52 some useful information and illustrations of forged Alexandria postmarks (see below) including the type shown by the Acting Chairman. I also quote Keith Tranmer’s description of Forgery type ‘F.2’ as follows:- “F.2 is a 20mm postmark identical to the normal except that the letters are 3mm high instead of the 3.5mm in the normal postmark and the ‘A’ is lower than the ‘N’ ” There are more useful tips for spotting forgeries where Keith Tranmer has acknowledged contributions by Charles Minnett, Peter Smith & Dr Torrey, the most obvious but frequently overlooked of these being the absence of transit or arrival marks. **Hilary Shaw** (ESC 594)

Change of Leadership in Cairo

At its annual meeting in Cairo on March 7 the Philatelic Society of Egypt elected our member **Dr Sherif Samra** (ESC 311, *right*) to its presidency in succession to another of our members, **Hisham Bassyouny** (ESC 391), who had been President for a number of years and was instrumental in our visitors enjoying their trip to Egypt in October 2001 to such a great extent. The Egypt Study Circle thanks Hisham – who takes a place on the Board - for many services in the past, wishes both Sherif and Hisham all success and offers its help and co-operation wherever possible.



The PSE also has a new Secretary in **Hany Salam** (ESC 580), a fairly new member of ours but one who has already proved himself an active and indefatigable researcher. The new Vice President (**Dr Sherif El-Far** of Maadi) and Treasurer (**Mourad Mounir** of Dokki) are not ESC members, but the Board now includes three of our members including Hisham Bassyouny. The Board comprises: Hisham, **Mohamed Yehia** of Nasr City, **Dr Ibrahim Shoukry** (our Agent in Egypt, ESC 423), **Dr Mohamed Adel Farid** (ESC 495) and **Dr Magdy Soliman** of Moharrem Bey, Alexandria.

Our Egyptian colleagues are putting us to shame with their international exhibiting. No fewer than six Egyptian members of the Circle will be seeking medals in Washington, where the Egyptian Commissioner will be Dr Sherif Samra. They are:

- Dr Mohamed Adel Farid** – eight frames on Egypt Airmails 1910-1945
- Mr Samir Fikry** (ESC 311) – one frame on Postal History through the Canal Zone
- Mr Hany Salam** – five frames on Printing Development of the First Fuad Issue, 1922-23
- Dr Sherif Samra** – one frame on the 1879 Provisional Issue, 5 and 10 paras
- Dr Ibrahim Shoukry** – eight frames on the History of the Rural Service 1889-1939
- Mr Lucien Toutounji** (ESC 264) – eight frames on Egypt Airmail, 1910-1936

We wish them all success and hope one day to emulate them with half a dozen entries from UK!

Al Chark Assurance

Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)



Established in 1931, Al Chark is one of the most famous Egyptian insurance companies. Three years ago this company's perfin was unknown. But about two years ago a very small number of single stamps with a hitherto-unknown ACA perfin were found in collections.



At that time I was able to acquire a large lot of Egyptian revenue papers and noticed that tax on one of the insurance policies was paid with a perfined stamp. The five-year fire-insurance policy, specially printed for the company, was based on the 50 mills green revenue stamped paper, 1948 first roulette wheel issue, with watermark crescent and three stars and the year Christian/Islamic 1948/1367. The 100m rate was topped up by an ACA-perfined 50m stamp of the 1957-58 Second Egyptian tax issue (wmk small eagle and Egypt). This was a big perfin discovery.

Last year, however, Al Chark assurance company decided to dispose of all its old papers and policies in an archive clear-out, and a dealer brought me almost 150 documents, policies and receipts all franked with ACA perfins on tax stamps.



مركز التأمين الرئيسي
بشارع قصر النيل رقم ١٥ بالقاهرة
تليفون رقم ٢٨٥٦٥



شركة التأمين المصرية
بشارع قصر النيل رقم ١٥ بالقاهرة
تليفون رقم ٢٨٥٦٥

س.ت. القاهرة رقم ٢٥



الشرق للثقة

بوليصة تأمين من أكريتي

شركة التأمين المصرية
بشارع قصر النيل رقم ١٥ بالقاهرة
تليفون رقم ٢٨٥٦٥



تقرر هذه الوثيقة انه

تظير سداد المؤمن له المذكور اسمه بالجدول القسطن الوارد به الى شركة الشرق للتأمين (ش.م.م.)

قد تم الاتفاق بين الشركة والمؤمن له (ووفقا لشروط هذه الوثيقة وما يضاف اليها بمقتضى ملحق أو باى صورة اخرى) انه بعد تمام سداد القسطن تقوم الشركة بتعويض المؤمن له عن الاضرار المادية التي قد تلحق بالملكات أو أى جزء منها من جراء هلاكها أو تلفها نتيجة لحريق أو صاعقة ، وذلك في أى وقت خلال مدة التأمين المبينة بالجدول أو أية مدة لاحقة بشرط ان يكون المؤمن له قد سدد عنها ما يستحق من قسطن لتجديد هذه الوثيقة وان تكون الشركة قد قبلته .

على أنه لن يتعدى التزام الشركة بحال المبلغ الوارد بالجدول لكل أو أى بند مؤمن عليه وفي مجموعها مبلغ التأمين الاجمالي .

الجدول

مطلية مباشرة .

Assouan with an "I"

Jürgen Fricke (ESC 557)

Recently I bought a letter and it clearly shows the postmark for Assouan has the missing letter "U" for which a large "I" was substituted instead. Further, there is a dot to be seen inside letter "O" as well as between the final letters "A" and "N". Maybe these were the "holding dots" for the interim version. I wonder if this curious mark has been noted before and have any of our members seen or have a similar one.

Cyprus Sea Post Office: A Call for Help

Dr Anthony A. Madella, a non-member whose father, Albert T Madella, wrote the classic work *The Cyprus Sea Post Office 1906-1932* (see Peter Smith's review, *QC* June 2003, p.133), writes to ask if any member can help him with further research on the floating post office service that operated in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean. The research started out as family business, because Dr Madella's grandfather, Thomas I Madella, was not only in charge of the Sea Post Office but on July 20, 1918, survived the sinking of the Khedivial mailship *SS Kosseir*, which was torpedoed by a German submarine 40 miles off Alexandria.

He asks if members might be able to help him in these areas:

1. any postcard, photo, plan or drawing of any of three Limassol Steamship Co vessels, *SS Lefkosia* (previously *Prague*), *SS Salamis* (previously *City of Aberdeen*) and *SS Kypros* (no illustration of these vessels has been traced).
2. any illustration of any of the Khedivial Mail Steamship & Graving Dock Company Ltd vessels *SS Kosseir* (previously *Vassilefs Gheorghios*, *Victoria* and *Esteban de Autunamo*), *Keneh*, *Tantah*, *Chakdina*, *Bilbeis*, *Zamalek*. He has illustrations of the *Boulac*, *Belkas* and *Roda*.
3. any material regarding the Limassol Steamship Company and the Khedivial Mail Steamship & Graving Dock Company Ltd (eg, brochures, sailing notices/ timetables, advertisements, shares, etc.).
4. any Cyprus Sea Post Office datestamps on covers or loose stamps (earliest recorded December 30, 1908; latest November 26, 1932).
5. any Khedivial Mail Line cachets struck on covers on board the Khedivial vessels (exclusively 1929-1931).

Dr Madella can be contacted at Ethelonton Street no 2, Potamos Germasogeias, 4040 Limassol, Cyprus (tel + 357-25.31.61.02/+ 357-99.64.06.94) or email antmar@spidernet.com.cy

New Stamp Flaws

Ibrahim El Fichawy (ESC 472)

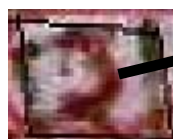
I recently ran through my stock of De La Rue stamps and made some truly really astonishing discoveries. Here are some hitherto-unrecorded flaws. I cannot be sure whether or not they are constant.



Spectacular flaw on (EN)



Tiny white spot between (S) & (T)



White spot on (5)



Double white flaw (you can know the position from the overprint variety)



Double white dot



Inverted Watermark Discovery

Samir Fikry (ESC 305)

At the meeting on February 22 Samir Fikry announced an exciting new find - a block of four Post Day stamps issued on January 2, 1960 (Bal 243, NP C233), with watermark inverted. Shown is a computer-generated montage, the watermark of course appearing whiter than the surrounding stamp when viewed against a background light.



One wonders how many other post-monarchy issues with inverted watermarks remain to be discovered.

Washington meeting May 31, 2.00 pm.



Hotel Mail - Heliopolis Palace Hotel

Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264)

Inaugurated in 1909, this 400-room hotel was for a long time the most luxurious and largest hotel in Egypt. It served as a military hospital during World War II, and was converted into Government offices in 1959.

From personal research, we could establish that in February/March 1938 a temporary post office was set up in the hotel to service an International Telecommunications Conference held there.



I have two covers related to the event. First, a Hotel stationery cover, mailed on February 1, 1938, to Sweden shows the Telecommunications Conference commemorative postmark used by the temporary post office set up in the hotel. The Sweden arrival postmark is February 18, 1938. Franking: Single 20 mills definitive stamp paying the international letter surface rate per 20 grams.

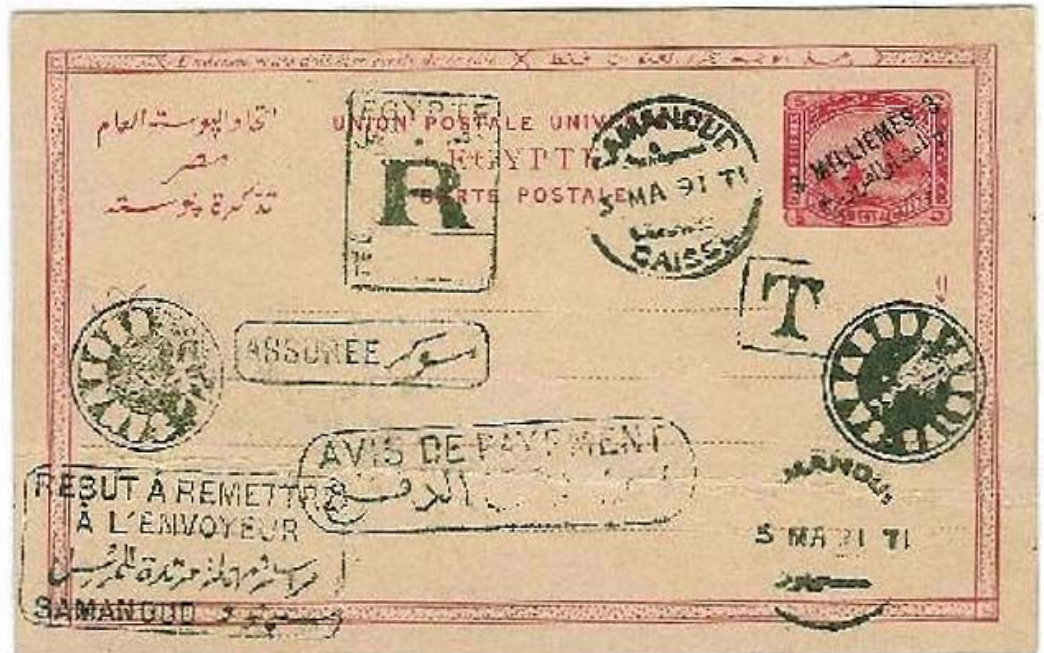
Second, a cover from Lebanon dated March 21, 1938, to a Heliopolis Palace Hotel guest during the Conference. The arrival backstamps are HELIOPOLIS March 24, 1938, and the Conference commemorative postmark, proving that the temporary post office was located at the Heliopolis Palace Hotel.



“Nonsense” Card

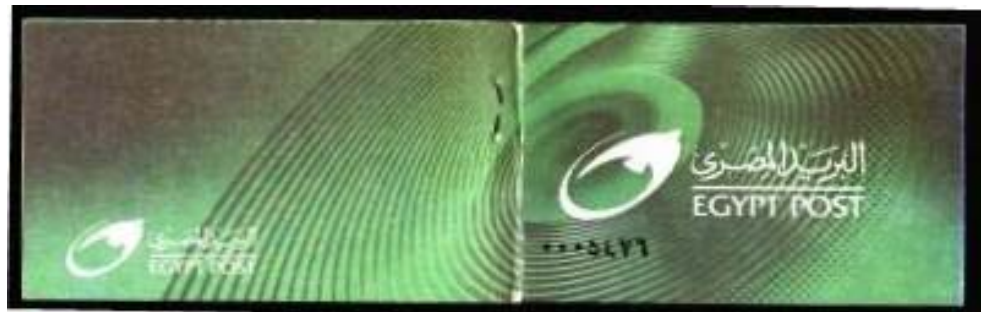
Hilary Shaw (ESC 594)

For the purpose of simply having post-marks recorded here is a “nonsense” card which I bought recently. Whether the marks were applied by favour or as a SAMANOUD Post Office record of handstamps in its possession on 5th March 1891 we shall never know but, for our purposes, the reason is almost irrelevant. I could have wished for better strikes but must be grateful for those I have. The card also has a horizontal crease.



Query 216/1 - Spotted

on eBay recently: This green folder, with the Egyptian Postal Organisation's new “bird of paradise”-like Egypt Post logo and containing a voucher, even though described as “Egypt Post ticket 100



pound for save” and priced at only £5 (sterling), failed to attract a bidder. Apart from the wording Egypt Post, all the cover is in Arabic: it has a serial number, 5476, so presumably more than 5000 of them have been sold; and the staple holds the voucher (singular?) inside, on the right, ie, the Western rather than the Arabic side. The voucher bears the wording “5 pounds” in English and Arabic, and centrally printed is the justification for the eBay seller's headline: L.E.100.000 and two words in Arabic. Is this a Post Office lottery ticket? Or by buying a Post Office Savings Bank voucher for £E5 is the account holder entered into a draw for £E100? Or might it be £E100,000? Can anyone help with an explanation?



Footnote: The unsold item was later re-listed on eBay, with a starting price of £stg1, and a little further information: that the folder contains 20 “papers” each of £E5 value. But that still doesn't answer my question:

what is it? Still, by the way, it remained unsold.

Port Said Paquebot: Response

Our Dutch member **Anton Jansen** (ESC 383) replies to the article on page 95 of *QC* 215.

I wonder why this is described as a “new marking”; I sold such a cover in the ESC auction about two years ago. I illustrate another one bearing Dutch stamps; on the back it reads “on board ms NEDLLOYD LINGE”. There is a curious detail: the datestamp at right reads **32.9.78**, which has been corrected by the postmark at left, which reads **23.9.78**.



Our member **André Navari** (ESC 534) also writes:

Concerning the blue handstamp “CGM MARION DUFRESNE”, CGM signifies Compagnie Générale Maritime, a French maritime company created in 1973-77 (by the fusion of the Messageries Maritimes company and Compagnie Générale Transatlantique). *Marion Dufresne*, the first vessel with that name, was a maritime research vessel usually working in the French and Austral Antarctic Territories (TAAF in philately). Her description and career (which ended in 2004) can be seen (in French) on http://www.frenchlines.com/ship_fr_1225.php

“Postagent” Marks used on Dutch Ships

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)



The Dutch had two shipping companies that carried mail and passengers out to the Netherlands East Indies (NEI); Stoomvaart Maatschappij Nederland (SMN) and Rotterdam Lloyd (RL). SMN started operating in 1871 from Amsterdam, to be followed by RL in 1883 from Rotterdam, with both companies using Batavia as the terminal harbour on Java.

These companies commenced using "Postagent" postmarks on 7 January 1904, when letter boxes were placed on board their ships. At first the Purser was the Post Agent and later it became the First Administration Officer. On the outbound voyage the stamps of the Netherlands were sold by the Post Agent, on the return it was the stamps of NEI.

The UPU Treaty of Vienna in 1891 authorised the use of stamps of the ship's nationality whilst in a foreign port — providing they paid the respective UPU postal rate.

I illustrate (*previous page*) an Egyptian picture postcard franked 2½ cent Netherlands numeral stamp tied POSTAGENT AMSTERDAM - BATAVIA 31 MRT 04 to Utrecht. Thus outbound SMN boat, 2½ cent UPU printed matter rate 1875-1921.



Also, stamps of the foreign port could be used and cancelled on board by the Post Agent.

Above, is a Simon Arzt picture postcard franked with a 13 mills Fuad 2nd issue tied POSTAGENT BATAVIA - AMSTERDAM 6 NOV 34. SMN boat homebound, UPU postcard rate to Silesia 1931 to 1940.

The Postagent postmarks for each company differed by using their home port, plus Batavia, in the postmark and alternating their order for the direction of that particular voyage. For instance, SMN outbound would be POSTAGENT AMSTERDAM - BATAVIA, whilst the RL homebound would be POSTAGENT BATAVIA - ROTTERDAM.

Over the years, as the format of the postmarks changed in the Netherlands, so the Postagent marks also changed, thus we find 18 types for SMN and eight for the younger and smaller RL. Both companies issued stationery for use on board and the picture postcards of their boats are particularly attractive. The name of Batavia also changed, to Djakarta, thus making for an interesting and challenging study spanning two World Wars and 50 years.

Ref: W. Bakker, *Catalogus van de postagentstempels gebruikt aan boord van Nederlandse schepen*, Po & Po 1995.

Egypt's Mystery New Postal Stationery Envelopes

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

On May 12 last year, the Egyptian National Postal Organisation announced on its website that new postal stationery was being designed to help with sorting. The English-language announcement read in full:

Ideal Post Envelope:

To make a time scheduled for post delivery, an Egypt Post team designed a new ideal envelope that contains all the required information and how it should be written on both sides of the envelope. This is to facilitate technical handling in the different stages of sorting.

Since May 12, nothing at all was heard in Egypt about this envelope (apart from the odd sighting on eBay; thank you, Bill Johns, for alerting us!!). But at the Stampex meeting on February 25 Khetcho Hagopian (ESC 304) astounded us all by showing some specimens of what appears to be a new issue of six different envelopes. These have come, says Khetcho, not from the Cairo main office, but from one of the smaller offices away from the centre. The envelopes do not seem to have been put into general use, but he has been able to use one internally to send to his own address, so at least the internal envelope is accepted by the postal authorities.

I shall make a brief description of the various types, and we should all watch out for their use, or for an announcement from the authorities that they have been officially issued. I am very grateful to Mostafa El-Dars (ESC 556) for help with translating the Arabic, but not all of what follows is necessarily “official”!

1. Internal use. 230x110mm, printed front and back in single colour, deep blue, with rectangle for stamp at top right 20x27mm; the flap is a shallow rounded V with cutaway corners. The address details on the face measure 110x45mm in four lines to be filled in (slightly off balance in my example!), with the top line (Name) separated from the other three by a line saying “Address of the Recipient”; followed by address details (from right): Street, Number, City, Province, District, and on the bottom line, Postcode. The reverse details are precisely the same except that the intervening line reads “Address of Sender” (rather than Recipient). The price of this envelope is 10pi, and the present internal rate is 30pi, meaning that 20pi has to be added in stamps.

2. Registration. Size as the last, with name and address details back and front printed bilingually English and Arabic in black in five lines covering 157x35mm, much as the last but with “Zip Code” in English, and “Phone No” added. The top half of the envelope, cut off by a green line, has at left the Egypt Post swooping bird of paradise logo in green, at right a 24x30mm space for the stamp with “Post Office” below; and in the centre a green box 39x14mm containing “Registration number” in Arabic only. Below that, in red, is the essence: Registered Letter, in Arabic only. The local registration rate was, Khetcho reports, 75pi to December 24, but £E1.75 since then.

3. Registration for Arab countries. This envelope is precisely as the last, except that across the top left corner it bears a green stripe. This envelope is sold at £E2.50, and a further £E3.75 must be added in stamps to defray postage to Arab countries.

4. Registration for Europe and Overseas. Again as the last, except that the corner stripe is in magenta. To the £E2.50 cost must be added £E4 for overseas registration.

5. Avis de Reception, local. Here is a real departure from the norm. The envelope comes in two sizes, one as above, the other smaller, 177x125mm, but their design is essentially the same though the smaller example I have is printed in much paler grey-green rather than the larger’s vibrant blue-green. In both cases the all-Arabic address details follow the pattern of 1 above, though the intervening “Address of the Recipient” line now has dots for manuscript addition. The address panel is hence in five lines, 93x37mm on the larger envelope and 110x42mm on the smaller.

What is novel, however, is what is above the separation line: at left is a dark blue box containing the Arabic equivalent of “Registered with proof of arrival” (ie, AR). At right is the Egypt Post logo; and between them

is a solid red line of Arabic reading “All Postal Fees Paid”. In other words, no stamps need to be added to cover AR within Egypt, and the envelope itself accounts for the full franking. These envelopes, says Khetcho, are on sale for £E2.50. Since the internal rate up to 20gm is 30pi, the Registration and AR charge internally must now be £E2.20.

Khetcho also showed modern reprints of some of the cassette envelopes at the meeting, reporting that the £E1 and £E2 ½ values had been reprinted on heavier paper than originally. In another change of policy, these new cassette envelopes are now sold at face value; previously, we learn, the envelope was subject to a 25pi surcharge.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2


Fig. 3


 رقم المسجل

خطاب مسجل
 مكتب بريد

اسم المرسل اليه
 العنوان
 المدينة STATE / PROVINCE:
 رقم البريد
 رقم التليفون

Fig. 4

AR
 مسجل يعلم الوصول
خالص الأجر البريدية


الاسم
 عنوان المرسل إليه
 الشارع
 المحافظة
 الرقم البريدي

Fig. 5

AR
 مسجل يعلم الوصول
خالص الأجر البريدية


الاسم
 عنوان المرسل إليه
 الشارع
 المحافظة
 الرقم البريدي

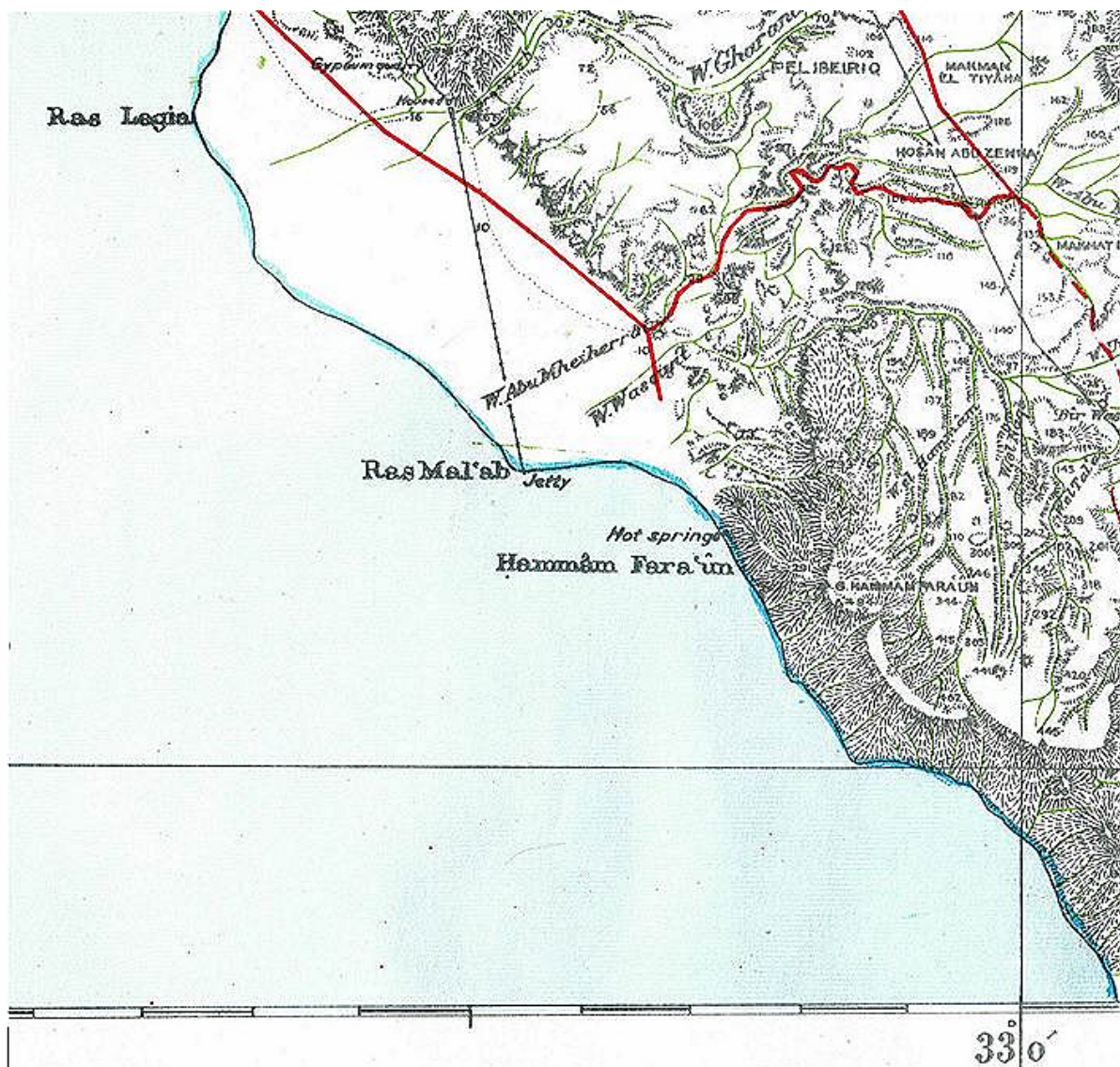
Fig. 6

Query 216/2 January 2 2006, from Peter Heim (ESC 384)

In *LOP 125* there is under many others a postmark of Ras Mallap. In no postal guide from 1889 and 1922 can I find this name. Where was it situated and what is the story of this post-office? Furthermore, I have postmarks of Safaja and Safaga. Is this the same name for one place? The Arabic letters are somehow different at the left side.

Reply January 26, 2005, from Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Question 8 is interesting because it illustrates well the problems of transliteration from Arabic to European languages. There is no letter P in Arabic, so Ras Mallap is a mistaken attempt to transliterate the Arabic Ras Mal'ab (ending in a B), which is a small settlement on the eastern coast of Sinai between Suez and Abu Zeneima (see map for precise indication: this Department of Survey and Mines map of 1938 is at 1:100,000). Ras Malab, described by the *Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Pilot* of 1944 as "low and sandy", was the site of a gypsum factory; the update of 2001 says "the old mine building has gone. A new building has replaced it surrounded with high fencing and floodlights." UNEF troops had a base there in 1994, and I imagine postmarks must be exceedingly rare. B = ب



Safaga and Safaja are the same place: it is a working port, and increasingly a holiday centre, on the western bank of the Red Sea south of Hurghada. The last letter is pronounced either hard (*geem*) or soft (*jeem*) in different parts of Egypt; hence the problem for the transliterator in making up the postmark handstamps.

Geem/jeem = ج

New Issues: September 16, 2004 to January 26, 2005

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 Nile Post and Balian supplements.

Date/Catalogue	Denomination	Size	Perforation	Number printed
Sep 16 2004				
Golden Jubilee of the Administrative Attorneys				
NP 1690/Bal 1748	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
NP (MS)92/Bal 1749	£E1	60 x 80mm	Imperf. min. sheet	20,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi		Pharaonic justice over logo		
Sep 20 2004				
Golden Jubilee of the National Archives				
NP 1691/Bal 1750	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: Ali Makhoulf		‘Tougra’ (Ottoman monogram)		
Sep 26 2004				
Golden Jubilee of Light and Hope Society				
NP 1692/Bal 1751	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: Ali Makhoulf		Emblem in left “lens” of pair of spectacles		
Oct 2 2004				
10th Conference of General Arab Journalists Union				
NP 1693/Bal 1752	125PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: Ali Makhoulf		Logo within pen nib		
Oct 3 2004				
150th Anniversary of Telecommunication in Egypt (withdrawn)				
NP 1694/Bal 1753	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	4,000
Designer: Ali Makhoulf		Emblem inside Arabic “5” of “150”		
This stamp was issued and then withdrawn by the Postal Organisation a few days after its issue. Apparently the design of the stamp was not acceptable. It is estimated that about 4,000 stamps were distributed before the remaining stock was withdrawn. Also, it is thought that about 60 First Day Covers were sold. This is a first in the history of the Egyptian Postal Organisation. Replacement stamps for the occasion were issued on December 30, 2004, the last stamps of the year. Two replacement stamps were issued for the commemoration: 30 piastres and 125 piastres. These are listed as NP 1706 and 1707 and Bal 1765 and 1766.				
Oct 6 2004				
Golden Jubilee of Military Production Day				
NP 1695/Bal 1754	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi		Pharaonic chariot		
Oct 9 2004				
World Post Day				
NP 1696/Bal 1755	150PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: Ali Makhoulf		UPU emblem and postman’s horn		
Oct 20 2004				
Golden Jubilee of Egyptian Youth Hostels Association				
NP 1697/Bal 1756	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: M. Youssri		Emblem with background of buildings		
Nov 10 2004				
Ramadan Festivals				
NP 1698/Bal 1757	30PT	30 x 25mm	13	100,000
NP 1699/Bal 1758	30PT	25 x 30mm	13	100,000
Designers: S. el Badrawi Ali Makhoulf		Songbird 1698 / 1757 Roses 1699 / 1758		

Nov 27 2004	24th Arab Scouting Congress			
NP 1700/Bal 1759	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: M. Youssri		Badge and Scout camp		
Dec 4 2004	Golden Jubilee of Arab Scouting Organization			
NP 1701/Bal 1760	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: R. El Zonkoli		Arab Scouting and Jubilee emblems		
Dec 15 2004	Centenary of International Football Association (FIFA)			
NP 1702/Bal 1761	150PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: Ali Makhoulouf		FIFA Centenary Emblem and "100"		
Dec 15 2004	Centenary of Museum of Islamic Art			
NP 1703/Bal 1762	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designers: M. Youssri & N.A. Al Fatah		Islamic Jar		
Dec 28 2004	Egyptian Personalities			
NP 1705/Bal 1763	Abdul Rahman el Sharkawi (Writer)			
	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
NP 1704/Bal 1764	Fikri Abaza (Journalist)			
	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designers: S. el Badrawi & M. Youssri				
Dec 30 2004	150th Anniversary of Telecommunication in Egypt			
NP 1706/Bal 1765	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
NP 1707/Bal 1766	125PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: M. Francis		Logo over white background (30PT) Logo over grey background (125PT)		
Jan 1 2005	Export of Natural Gas to Jordan			
NP 1708/Bal 1767	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi		Gas pipeline		
Jan 2 2005	Post Day			
NP 1709/Bal 1768	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi		First Post Office box (at museum)		
Jan 16 2005	Inauguration of Cairo Metro Line 2 – Phase 5			
NP 1710/Bal 1769	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
NP (MS)93/Bal 1770	150PT	80 x 60mm	Imperf. min. sheet	40,000
Designer: Sami Rafei		Metro network and train		
Jan 25 2005	Police Day			
NP 1711/Bal 1771	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
NP (MS)94/Bal 1772	£E1	80 x 60mm	Imperf. min. sheet	40,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi		President Mubarak and logo over flag		
Jan 26 2005	Silver Jubilee of El Mohandes Insurance Company			
NP 1712/Bal 1773	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi		Emblem of the Company		



NP. 1690 & MS. 92 Bal. 1748/1749



NP. 1691 Bal. 1750



NP. 1692 Bal. 1751



NP. 1693 Bal. 1752



NP. 1694 Bal. 1753



NP. 1695 Bal. 1754



NP. 1696 Bal. 1755



NP. 1697 Bal. 1756





NP. 1698/1699 Bal. 1757/1758



NP. 1700 Bal. 1759



NP. 1701 Bal. 1760



NP. 1702 Bal. 1761



NP. 1703 Bal. 1762



NP. 1705/1704 Bal. 1763/1764



NP. 1706/1707 Bal. 1765/1766



NP. 1708 Bal. 1767





NP.1709 Bal.1768



NP. 1710 & MS. 93 Bal. 1769/1770



NP. 1711 & MS94 Bal. 1771/1772



NP. 1712 Bal. 1773

Editorial

From near famine to near feast. I am in the enviable position of having accrued a nice backlog of articles for the *QC*, thanks to you! If your article is not in this *QC* hopefully it will appear soon. As I frequently point out, the choice is some what random depending how I can juggle articles to fit and in this case to match up the colour pages. It is current policy to put Queries both on the website and in the *QC*. Some of those on the website have yet to make into the *QC* so it's worth a visit. More information on the nine-day stamp can also be found on the website News page, which should make into the next *QC*.

I'm very happy that a great proportion of the articles in this issue are from overseas members with no fewer than four from our Egyptian members. As reported on page 102, they are making a strong showing at Washington: it is a true delight to watch the resurgence of Egyptian philately in its home country. We also have an article from one of our growing band of lady members, and a new member to boot. Please don't, however, stop the inflow of articles and I hope I will have the pleasure of meeting several more of our members in Washington on May 31.

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE - ACCOUNTS FOR AUCTIONS IN 2005

Profit & Loss Accounts	Auction 39	Auction 40
	£	£
Net Sales	<u>5843.00</u>	<u>10,902.20</u>
INCOME		
10% Commission on Sales (Purchasers)	584.30	1090.22
5% Commission on Sales (Sellers)	292.15	545. 11
Invoiced Postages	<u>58.66</u>	<u>161. 58</u>
	<u>935.11</u>	<u>1796.91</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Catalogues (Typing, printing, posting)	239.65	347.51
Postage of Lots	157.94	220.53
Sundry Expenses	52.43	34.87
Insurance for the Year	<u> .</u>	<u>105.00</u>
	450.02	707.91
Net Profit	<u>485.09</u>	<u>1089.00</u>
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST JANUARY, 2006		
NET ASSETS		
Balance at Bank	3200.71	
Less amounts due to members	<u>850.08</u>	
	<u>2350.63</u>	
AUCTION FUND		
Amount brought forward from January 2005	1776.54	
Net Profit Auction 39	485.09	
Net Profit Auction 40	<u>1089.00</u>	
	3350.63	
Less transfer to General Account	1000.00	
	<u>2350.63</u>	

Our efforts to make Auction 40 a great success to commemorate more than 20 years of Circle Auctions were very well worthwhile, and we are very grateful to both sellers and buyers for their excellent support. As usual, we must thank the "Auction Team" (viz. Peter Andrews, Mike Bramwell, & Mike Murphy) for their stalwart efforts - where would we be without them ?

John Sears (ESC 188.)

Joint Meeting with the Sudan Study Group: Bradford, August 19

The Circle has arranged one of its infrequent out-of-town forays for August 19 as a joint meeting with our neighbours the Sudan Study Group, and hope that as many Circle members as possible can be there. We are truly grateful to our member Richard Wheatley (ESC 168) for making the arrangements, which he describes as follows:

Over the past 15 years Stephen and Judith Holder have hosted philatelic meetings at their home/business premises at Heaton Royds on the outskirts of Bradford. The business is HH Sales, who hold regular auctions of philatelic literature. Groups that gather there include Germany and Colonies, India Study Circle, France and Colonies, and joint meetings between the Czech, Austria, Hungary and Poland societies.

The format of the meeting is as follows:

- 10am coffee and biscuits
- 10.30am displays
- 1pm buffet lunch
- 2.15pm displays
- 4pm tea and cakes

Generally we aim for 15 to 20 collectors, some of whom bring along their spouses. There are five display frames, each of which holds 16 sheets. The cost of the day would be £7 per person.

Richard has very kindly offered to act as convenor for the meeting, and can give immediate advice on directions and provide hotel details if needed. An application form can be found on our website at http://www.egyptstudycircle.org.uk/esc_news.html or obtained from the Editor.

Such a joint meeting will not only be a worthwhile exercise but also promises to be both instructive and fun, as well as proving that "Egypt" thrives beyond the confines of the M25. Please contact **Richard at Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Whitkirk, Leeds LS15 9BW (telephone 01132 601978; e-mail richyv2@supanet.com)**

The Egypt Study Circle Record

The Record, at one time the repository of all Study Circle wisdom, collated by study leaders from information contributed by members from their personal collections the world over, may, it is thought, be due for a re-vamp in the light of outstanding recent publications by Leon Balian, Peter Smith and Joe Chalhoub and Charlie Hass.

We know that much of the Record remains with the Librarian, John Davis. More of it is in the hands of study co-ordinators. Much of it may no longer be relevant. As an initial step, might we ask all those who may be holding a part of the Record to let John know what is in your possession. His address: Church View Cottage, Church Rd, Upton Snodsbury, Worcs WR7 4NH or on e-mail at davisatsnodsbury@tiscali.co.uk