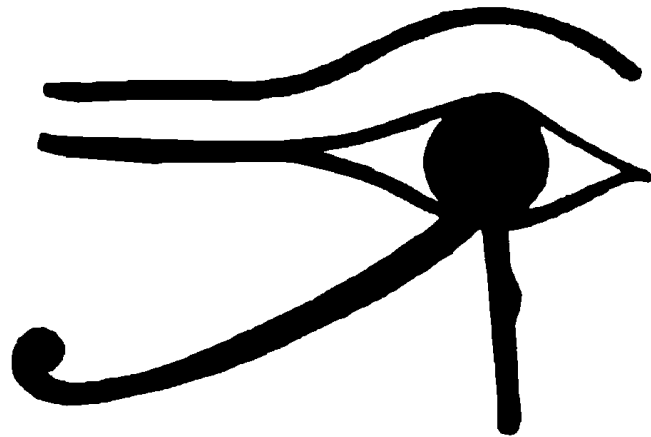


**The
Quarterly Circular
of**

ISSN 0269—252X

**THE
EGYPT**



STUDY CIRCLE



**June Quarter 2006
Volume XIX No. 6**

**Whole Series No. 217
Pages 121 – 144**



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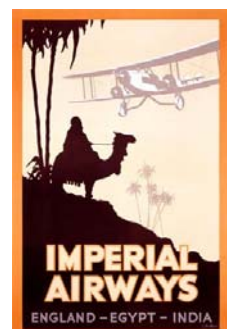
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Cover of the Month: 1877 (Feb 14th): Underpaid cover from Cairo to Constantinople fanked by 1874-75 20pa. and 1pi. Overweight and found to be double rate, the cover was taxed at double the postage = 6 piastres, less the amount paid = 1½ piastres, thus 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

July 1	EGM, followed by Port Said	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 Annual General Meeting, May 6 2006

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Stanley Horesh (Acting Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Edmund Hall (Editor/Webmaster), John Davis (Librarian), Dennis Clarke (Committee), Peter Andrews, Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Mostafa el Dars, Peter Grech, Alan Jeyes, Sue McIntosh, Lewis Said, Hilary Shaw, Hugh Shaw (guest).

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: Trevor Buckell, Stephen Bunce, Margaret Chadwick, Tony Chisholm, Peter Feltus, Peter Goodwin, Jack Graham, Paul Grigg, Alan Hall, Anton Jansen, André Navari, Mahmoud Ramadan, Sami Sadek, Caroline Scannell, Ibrahim Shoukry and Dick Wilson.

Before the opening of the Annual Meeting proper, the Acting Chairman introduced Sherif Samra (ESC 311), recently elected President of our sister society the Philatelic Society of Egypt, who spoke briefly on recent developments. He invited all members to take part in a mini-exhibition and informal get-together to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the PSE in the PSE clubrooms in downtown Cairo on November 3-5, and offered his members' help in arranging flights, accommodation and local social events as required. The proposal for what is likely to be a week's visit (bearing in mind that we have a meeting scheduled for November 11) was greeted with enthusiasm among those present, and in discussion later it was agreed that Alan Jeyes and Mike Murphy would co-ordinate the British end of what promises to be a most friendly and entertaining visit. Members interested should contact one of those two named, and information about costs will be provided as soon as we have it. The Cairo society now has an email address (egyptianphilatelicsociety@gmail.com), for contact and further information, and is also planning a website. Sherif also spoke of the production difficulties with the fourth of the new series of *L'Orient Philatélique* magazines (see further below); and the PSE's initiatives to help the Egyptian Postal Organisation prevent forgeries and fabricated "errors" appearing on the market.

The Annual Meeting opened with a list of apologies for absence, and continued as follows:

Minutes of the last meeting (2005): These had been published in the *QC* of June 2005, and were approved (proposed Stanley Horesh, seconded Mike Murphy).

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

Acting Chairman's report: Stanley Horesh reviewed the year, noting regular attendances of 12-15 at meetings apart from that held at Stampex, which attracted 26 members, mainly from overseas, and was pleased to see that there would be two Stampex meetings this year. He welcomed the wide variety of topics covered both at the meetings and in the *QC*, and noted the welcome return of Queries in the most recent issue.

Looking to the future, he appealed to more members to volunteer their services in leading meetings, noting the success of Edmund Hall's research afternoon, and said that it was absolutely imperative for the Circle's continued success that we did not depend on the same old faces for our regular displays. He welcomed the appointment of Sue McIntosh (ESC 356) as Publicity Officer (she will take up the active appointment shortly) and hoped that the biennial New Zealand meeting, disappointingly cancelled this year, would reappear in 2008.

He regretted the loss of a number of members this year, including especially those of our Chairman, Robin Bertram, and Mrs Betty Watterson.

Secretary's report: Mike Murphy reported that membership continued to hover just under the 200 mark, and thanked all those members who had completed the Data Protection/Survey report sent out with the December *QC*. He noted, however, that almost half the members had not yet returned their sheets, and explained that without this specific permission it would not be possible, under the provisions of the Data Protection Act, to complete a list of members for publication in the *QC* as so often requested by members themselves! Duplicate sheets will be sent to those who have not completed them. Response to the section seeking study co-ordinators, however, had been outstanding, and he hoped shortly to be able to publish a list which would resurrect several studies and initiate several new ones.

Treasurer's report and Adoption of Accounts for 2005: Brian Sedgley warned members that overall the Circle was still spending rather more than it received in subscriptions, and that without continuing Auction income we would perhaps need to start eating into our reserve account. He reported a loss on the year of £1,675.62, due almost totally to expenses related to the 70th anniversary dinner in February 2005. An apparent error was then noticed in the income and expenditure account, and after discussion the accounts were withdrawn by the Treasurer for reconsideration. They will be re-presented to an Extraordinary General Meeting before the July 1 meeting on Port Said.

Auction report: John Sears reported that the 2005 Auctions, Nos 39 and 40, had provided commission to the Circle of over £1500, and that No 41 looked on track to produce another useful total, thanks largely to the sale of two particularly expensive lots; there had been fewer bidders than normal and only 55 per cent of lots were sold – our commission depended largely on the larger items. Auction 40 also benefited from the sale of high-value lots, and he appealed to members to submit attractive material for inclusion in forthcoming lists.

Turning to the principles behind the auction, he said that 20 years ago it seemed to be understood that the income generated would go to a specific objective, ie, publication of *The Book* or perhaps another specialist publication. – but that had never happened in 20 years. More and more, he said, it was becoming clear that many societies ran auctions in support of their general funding, and in doing this we were making sensible use of our resources. But he warned members that not all auctions could be taken for granted to produce sizeable commissions and that the Circle could not afford to depend on the Auction as a constant source of funding. He noted the advent of payment of Auction invoices via PayPal, and said that the experiment had been a success.

At the instigation of Peter Grech, members gave a vote of thanks to the Auction team – John Sears, Peter Andrews, Mike Murphy, Edmund Hall and Mike Bramwell.

Editor/Webmaster report: Edmund Hall announced that he had managed to produce four *QCs* in the calendar year 2005, and that he had material in hand for another issue, but appealed again to members to provide the type of article they wanted to read in the *QC*! The meeting approved the principle of publishing limited numbers of colour pages in the *QC* where illustrations warranted, but there was a warning that even in black and white, production and postage costs meant that providing four *QCs* to overseas members (ie, those outside the UK and Europe; just over half the membership) now exceeded the £15 subscription. It was agreed to keep a close watch on costs.

Edmund produced statistics showing that the website was receiving approximately 175 visitor sessions each week, a figure that was gradually rising, and noted significant increases in interest at times just after colour illustrations for the Auction had been posted on the site. Colour illustrations of New Issues are also there; and the Q&A page is also attracting interest. He appealed for more members to post Answers (and Queries!). The meeting approved his suggestion that we purchase the domain name for a further ten years.

Librarian's report: John Davis reported that he had a reserve stock of back copies of the *QC* available to those members who might require them, and is willing to sell them at £2 each instead of the nominal (subscription-based) £3.75. He reported on book purchases for the Library, and received a new *L'OP* and Magdy Hanafy's *Encyclopaedia and catalogue of Egyptian Money: The Egyptian Currency Note*, both of them much-appreciated gifts from the PSE. He noted that the value inherent in the Library had never been assessed or added to Circle assets; members agreed to consider how best this might be achieved.

Election of Officers: Peter Andrews (ESC 122 – nominated by Stanley Horesh, seconded by Mike Murphy) was elected Chairman for a period of three years in succession to the late Robin Bertram. In typically modest fashion, Peter said it would be quite a task to follow such an active and popular Chairman, but that he would do his best. John Sears proposed a vote of thanks to Stanley Horesh, who stood in as Chairman, applauding him for having steered us on our way so successfully and efficiently for the past six to nine months. Members approved with acclamation.

Any other business: There was no other business.

Date of the next AGM: Details of a date approximating to this one in early May will follow.

Meeting of May 6

ATTENDANCE: as above for AGM. A membership application was received from Malcolm Lacey, which was accepted.

Mike Murphy presented a small number of administration items, viz:

1. *L'Orient Philatélique*. Production of the fourth issue of the new series completed subscriptions paid in 2004, and the PSE is promising more efficient production of issues in forthcoming years under its new management. Subscriptions (£15/\$25/€20) covering one year (or four issues) and email postage of the magazine may be paid direct (egyptianphilatelicsociety@gmail.com for details) or via Mike Murphy for forwarding. In addition, the Cairo society has a number of back copies of *L'OP* 50, 51, 52, 54, 57, 63 and 74 available at about £5 each. Please contact the PSE direct.

2. Details of the joint meeting with the Sudan Study Group in Bradford are found on the website or the back page of *QC* 216. Officers appealed to all members to support the meeting; the contact is Richard Wheatley, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds LS15 9BW (0113-260 1978; richyv2@supanet.com).

3. Macarthur Award. Votes are now being sought for the annual award for the best and most significant article produced for the *QC* in 2005. Please visit the website or contact the Secretary.

The meeting proper then got under way, comprising an absolutely informal and relaxed Bourse. As an initial experiment by the Circle it proved a great success, with at least three quarters of those present having brought something to sell; and probably nine tenths of those present going away with more than they brought! Prices of the material on offer – ranging the whole gamut from single stamps to sheets, postcards, covers, FDCs, photographs, books, ephemera and mini-collections – started as low as 10p and ranged to the high tens of pounds.

Without a doubt, a resounding triumph. The only minor drawback might have been a certain shortage of negotiating space – we shall arrange for more tables on the next occasion, and the reaction of members present was that there should most definitely be a next occasion.

New members:

ESC 597 **Malcolm Lacey**, PO Box 9, Winchester, Hants SO22 5RF
(Postal history and postal stationery)

Change of Address:

ESC 356 **Mrs Sue McIntosh**, Flat 23, Room C, Old Farm Close, Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH17 7GA

ESC 368 **Ken Doig**, 53838 Dogwood Creek Drive, Bass Lake, CA 93604, United States

ESC 423 **Dr Ibrahim Shoukry**, Apt 1, 10 Kamal El-Tawil Street (Ex-Montaza),
Zamalek, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

ESC 438 **Roger Thomas**, PO Box 9286, Glendale, California 91226, United States

ESC 561 **Alaa Massoud**, Tutankhamon St, Smouha Star Building Apartment 304, Front of Tower
No 4 (Sidi Gaber Towers), Smouha, Alexandria 21431, Egypt

Resignations:

ESC 469 Brian Pittman

ESC 529 David Hardwick

ESC 562 Ralf Dreyer

Lapsed:

ESC 516 Sameh Bakry

ESC 576 Bernard Fischer

SPECIAL MEETING OF ESC AT WASHINGTON 2006

On Wednesday, 31 May 2006, twenty-three members and guests got together for an informal special meeting at the Washington 2006 international stamp show. Canada, Egypt, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States were among the countries represented. The meeting opened with an announcement that the Circle had been approved as an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society. Hopefully, this will aid in the recruitment of new members. Information about ESC will be made available on the APS website and mention will be made in *The American Philatelist* from time to time.

We reviewed the report of the annual general meeting, followed by a request for articles for the *QC*, a notification about the proposed trip to Cairo this fall for the Philatelic Society of Egypt's 75th anniversary, and a brief discussion of costs of publication and postage of the *QC* for overseas members. In addition, Sherif Samra, the President of the PSE, said a few words about the trip and the PSE's philatelic journal. This was followed by each person introducing him or herself. A general review of the increase of fakes and fraudulent material over the last ten years ensued. The meeting ended in a photograph session and a general feeling that it was good to see familiar faces and to meet new philatelic friends.

The following presents the awards given to Egyptian exhibits. (number of frames and point score)

Joseph Chalhoub	The Nile Post Handbook & Catalogue of Egyptian Stamps (0 92)	GOLD
Peter A. S. Smith, USA	Egypt to 1879 (the Period of the Classic Issues) (8 – 93)	GOLD
Lucien S. Toutounji, Egypt	Egypt Airmail 1910-1936 (8 – 92)	GOLD
Mohamed Adel Farid, Egypt	Egypt Airmail 1910-1945 (8 – 91)	GOLD
Richard S. Wilson, USA	British Forces in Egypt and Sudan 1882-1886 (5 – 91)	GOLD
Ahmed-Hani Al-Kilani, UAE	Egyptian Postal Stationery (18179-1899) (5 – 83)	VERMEIL
Ibrahim Shoukry, Egypt	History of Rural Service of Egypt 1889-1939 (8 – 81)	VERMEIL
Hany Salam, Egypt	Printing Development: 1 st Fuad Issue 1922-23 (5 – 81)	VERMEIL

The following two exhibits were in the One-Frame Class

Samir Amin Fikry, Egypt	Egyptian Postal History through the Suez Canal Zone (87)	VERMEIL
Sherif Samra, Egypt	1879 Provisional Issue – 5 & 10 Paras (70)	SILVER

The following are some of the exhibits that had material of interest to members of the Circle:

Tarik Alireza, Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia: Development of the Postal Service (1801-1933)	Championship Class	8 frames special medal
Akihiko Koiwa, Japan	Indian Campaigns	(8 – 91)	GOLD
Manfred Dreyer, Germany	Indian Ocean Routes Connecting with the Overland Mail Suez-Alexandria 1838-1888 to European Destinations	(8 – 93)	GOLD
Jonathan Becker, USA	British Palestine 1917-1920: The Egyptian Expeditionary Force in Palestine and (Greater) Syria.	(5 – 88)	LARGE VERMEIL

Another member among the medals was Richard Wheatley, who took a Gold (91 points) for his Netherlands East Indies King Willem III Postcards and Envelopes.

Dick Wilson, U.S.A. Agent



Editorial

Well, the highlight of the year, so far, has to be my visit to Washington for the International stamp exhibition. My thanks to Dick Wilson for taking the trouble to organise the ESC meeting, which went well. It was an opportunity to meet friends old and new; I am only sorry I did not get time to speak to everyone.

The exhibition itself was quite spectacular with over 2500 frames of varied material all of the highest quality, quite breathtaking. Dick's report gives the exhibits and awards to our members and some other exhibits which are Egypt-related. As always I can never understand how exhibits are judged and what may have been given a Large Gold I could find quite uninspiring while a Silver kept me captivated, reading ever word. I always like to see how others approach the subject of the "write up" and was interested to see at Washington 2006 that most adopted what appeared to be a minimalist approach with most exhibits starting with a page of explanation of the kind normally found with topicals/thematics. I think nearly every one was typed up or mostly done on a computer: the art of calligraphy is now dead as far as the philatelic world is concerned.

However I did make some notes on the exhibits, reflecting what grabbed me but which may however miss the real gems on display. If any of our members would like to submit a page or an illustration of one of their items for the *QC* I will be happy to publish it. There again, if they want to send scans of the whole exhibit I'll happily put it on the website (members only). So, in no particular order:

Frames starting with 2141, Egypt to 1879 (the Period of the Classic Issues) from Peter Smith (ESC 74). What can I say? As I was engrossed in viewing, another of our members walked up and made the remark: "Just spectacular." I could not argue with that. Shown were a cover with a strip of four of the 10pa First Issue, 2pi First Issue bisect on cover, actually two of them, a cover from Cairo to Alexandria of two 2pi for double rate and registration with the *recomandata* strike, 10pa o/p on covers, one with a block of four cancelled with an excellent SCIO 26 GEN 1879, and lots more delectable items.

Frames starting with 2241, Printing Development: 1st Fuad Issue 1922-23 from Hany Salam (ESC 580), the first sixteen frames consisted of essays, followed by a sheet of 200 of the 5 mills and covers showing postage rates. A truly lovely and interesting display.

Frames starting with 2724, British Forces in Egypt and Sudan 1882-1886 from Richard S. Wilson (ESC 230), with displays of covers with the British Army Egypt postmarks, an original letter from an Egyptian officer to Arabi, covers from the Gordon relief expedition including the Canadian voyageurs, covers with star and crescent cancels of Korti and Dongola.

Frames starting with 3733, Egypt Early Airmail 1910-1936 from Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264), showing of course the Heliopolis Air Meeting in February 1910 and Aerial Mail Cairo-Delhi covers, no fewer than 17 covers relating to the EEF Emergency Post and all four of the Zeppelin flight cancels were represented.

Frames starting with 3741, Egypt Airmail 1910-1945 from Mohamed Adel Farid (ESC 495), starting, of course, with covers and ephemera of the Heliopolis Air Meeting followed by a Mark Pourpe cover, a cover with a neat strike of 'Carried by first flight Aerial Mail Cairo-Delhi', covers and cards of the Zeppelin flight with examples of all four cancels and further covers to December 1944.

Frames starting with 3427, History of Rural Service of Egypt 1889-1939 from Ibrahim Shoukry (ESC 423). This consisted of 128 sheets of rurals which would be hard enough to assemble, but here the quality and variety were quite astounding. Starting at the inception of the service in May 1888 it had a cover of June 14 1889, probably the earliest known. The opening sheet had an interesting picture of the village postman on his donkey blowing his posthorn. Several of the covers had Crown Overprint stamps used on rurals. I spent some time taking this exhibit in and suspect that if I could have taken one home with me I would choose this one.

Frame 5652, 1879 Provisional Issue – 5 & 10 Paras from Sherif Samra (ESC 311): this single frame did super justice to this issue, starting with red and black essays, a 5pa imperf on cover, a cover dated 2 GEN 79, the second day of issue, several blocks, up to 66 and a host of varieties.

Frame 5652, Egyptian Postal History through the Suez Canal Zone from Samir Fikry (ESC 305): an exquisite frame starting with a Waghorn cover from Calcutta to Bordeaux, then a multi-marked cover Dum

Dum to Heidelberg with a clear Egyptian Transit Co Suez mark, Paris to Saigon with two Posta Europa markings of Alexandria Type IV and Suez Type V, a unique Suez canal cover with 20c and 40c stamps, being triple rate form Kantara to Port Said, and 2nd Issue covers with clear cancels of Chantier VI 21 MAI 69. This was another frame I lingered over.

Frames starting with 4501, Egyptian Postal Stationery from Ahmed-Hani Al-Kilani (ESC 514): this covered the period 1879 to 1899 and included ten frames of essays and several with the SPECIMEN overprint.

Other exhibits not particularly Egypt but contained Egypt related material:

Frames starting with 3278, Polish Army WWII by a non-member, included several covers from Egypt.

Frames starting with 2241, British Palestine 1917-20 from Jonathan Becker (non-member), showed several military TPOs used in the Sinai, RKO, KAR etc, and covers with the EEF Emergency Aerial Post of 1919.

Frame 3435, Palestine by a non-member with Jaffa, the Gaza intaglio cancel and two covers cancelled with the Turkish Khan Younis.

Frames from 2853, Indian Campaigns by a non-member with 12 sheets of the 1882 Occupation and the Indian Army at Souakin.

Frames from 6013, Indian Ocean Routes, had five sheets of Suez-related covers including 5c cancelled with the French 5129.

Frame 3092, Seychelles by a non-member, had a few covers of the Seychelles Pioneer companies in Egypt.

Frames from 237, Saudi Arabia: Development of the Postal Service by a non-member, had nine sheets of Egypt-related material with a combination cover to Jedda of a British 6d mauve and a 1pi First issue, 1pi cancelled Gedda 30 LUGL 1867, 2nd and 3rd Issues on covers including 20pi 1st Issue bisect, covers from the Turkish FPO 28 and from the French Military Mission based at Suez.

In the court of honour Saudi Arabia there was a nice cover with the Egyptian Jaffa cancel. Egyptian stamps could be found among several of the topical entries for ceramics, bees, medicine, etc.

I would imagine Washington 2006 had gathered one of the best displays of Egypt seen for some time.

Among members and guests at the meeting were: Vincent Centonze, Joe Chalhoub, Peter Feltus, Samir Fikry, Edmund Hall, Charles Hass, Seppo Laaksonen, Hany Makram, Edward Murtha, Peter Newroth, Robert Porter, Trent Ruebush, Hany Salam, Sherif Samra, Caroline Scannell, Peter Smith, Bjorn Sohrne, Mohamed Soliman, Greg Todd, Lucien Toutounji, Klaus Wagner, Richard Wheatley, Richard S. Wilson.



Not seen: our editor, who was working the camera.

Now it's time start saving the pennies for our trip to Egypt in November.

Egypt's Postal Rates as at Mid-1998

Ted Fraser-Smith (ESC 238)

One of the benefits of the Circle's second recent visit to Egypt, in 2001, was the opportunity to take receipt, thanks to the good offices of Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264), of a near-current handbook of postal rates. Precision about rates has been an appalling recent bugbear for would-be researchers, and though the booklet was all in Arabic, I have been able to work my way through it to release many of its mysteries. There are a few lacunae, some of them indicated by [?], but what follows is an accurate translation maintaining as far as is practicable the layout of the booklet.

**Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Transport and Communications
National Postal Organisation**

Handbook of Postage and Revenue Service Charges

With effect from July 1 1998

Index of internal rates

A. Ordinary Internal Letters

Weight	Charge (fee)	Weight	Charge (fee)
Up to 20gm	20pi	20-50gm	35pi
50-100gm	55pi	100-250gm	£E1.00
250-500gm	£E1.80	500-1000gm	£E3.20
1000-2000gm	£E5.20	Registration	80pi

Ordinary Internal Postcard: 20pi

B. Other articles posted by internal mail (three categories)

1. Printed matter - non-circulars

Weight	Charge (fee)	Weight	Charge (fee)
Up to 20gm	10pi	20-100gm	10pi
100-250gm	15pi	250-500gm	25pi
500-1000gm	30pi	1000-2000gm	45pi
each further 1000gm	25pi		

2. Newspapers and printed circulars

Weight	Charge (fee)	Weight	Charge (fee)
One copy, to 100gm	5pi	100-250gm	5pi
250-500gm	15pi	500-1000gm	25pi
1000-2000gm	30pi	each further 1000gm	30pi

3. Small packets and samples

Weight	Charge (fee)	Weight	Charge (fee)
Upto100gm	15pi	100-250gm	25pi
250-500gm	30pi	500-1000gm	45pi

C. Insured Letters

This category covers:

- Insured letters that contain banknotes or legal documents of value
- The maximum allowed insured value for each letter is £E2,000

Service charge: 1. Ordinary letter rate, reckoned by weight
 2. Registration fee of 80pi
 3. An insurance rate of 1 per cent of the insured amount, with a minimum limit of £E1
 4. A money-order charge equivalent to ordinary letter rate of the basic weight, 20pi

D. Insured Cash on Delivery Letters

- The public is allowed to send insured letters “cash on delivery” with an amount to be collected from the recipient on receipt of those letters by the correct recipient.
- The maximum amount allowed to be collected for letters inside the Arab Republic of Egypt is £E1,000

Service charge: 1. Ordinary letter rate reckoned by weight
 2. Registration fee of 20pi
 3. An insurance rate of 1 per cent of the insured amount, with a minimum limit of £E1
 4. A fixed collection fee of 50pi
 5. A money-order charge equivalent to the ordinary letter rate basic weight, 20pi

Notes: You must provide ordinary letter rate for the basic weight of each example (Insurance (1)) and a money-order charge which includes also an insured envelope or insured cash on delivery. You must provide for each letter an ordinary letter rate for the basic weight.

E. Parcels Post

1. Ordinary Internal Parcels

The National Postal Organisation undertakes to deliver parcel post up to 20kg weight through post offices in all parts of the Republic.

The sender of the opened parcel brings it to the Parcels Assistant, who makes sure of the parcel’s contents and in case of any doubt about its contents does not accept the parcel but passes responsibility for it to the care of the Chief Assistant, who ensures the sender’s identity, according to the identity card or family card.

Service rates:

Weight	Charge (fee)	Weight	Charge (fee)
Up to 2kg	£E1.15	10kg-15kg	£E3.40
2kg-5kg	£E1.20	15kg-20kg	£E3.50
5kg-10kg	£E3.30		

Notes: Maximum weight 20kg. Special Delivery rate, £E3

Cost example 1: Parcels (Money Order parcels). The public must obtain the ordinary letter rate with basic weight.

You can specify more than one parcel on one money order up to a maximum limit of 10 parcels, on condition that it is from one sender to one recipient and in one direction, and that a money-order rate is obtained according to ordinary letter rate for each parcel (letter rate for basic weight).

Upon arrival of the parcel at the arrival office, the recipient sends notification via registered envelope to the sender.

The permitted period for the parcel to remain at the arrival office before collection is three days in addition to the day of arrival, after which a storage charge will be levied on each parcel of 5p for each day, with no limit, except for remote regions where the storage charge is calculated only after seven days in addition to the day of arrival.

2. Cash on Delivery parcels.

The rate for Cash on Delivery parcels is the same rate as for ordinary parcels with the addition of a fixed 50pi handling charge.

The maximum amount for Cash on Delivery parcels is an amount of £E1,000. When collecting the transferred amount at the arrival office an adjustment demand amount (commission?) is subtracted, of 1 per cent for each £E1 or fraction with a minimum limit of 50pi with regard to the nearest 5pi.

When paying out the transfer amount at the office, witnessing of a signature can be carried out for a fee of 40pi.

The parcel is kept for disposal to the recipient for a scheduled period. A storage charge is levied at the amount of 5pi for each day, with no maximum limit, after an exemption period of storage allowing three days besides the day of arrival.

3. Insured Parcels.

The rate for sending insured parcels is the same as for internal ordinary parcels with the addition of a collection fee of 1 per cent of the insured amount with a minimum limit of £E1.

The maximum value amount for each insured parcel is £E2,000.

To ensure safety the insured parcel must be well sealed with sealing wax of one type and colour or with a distinct special seal of the sender.

The parcel is kept for disposal to the recipient for a scheduled period. A storage charge is collected to the amount of 5pi for each £E100 or fraction of the insured value for each day, without a maximum limit.

4. Insured Cash on Delivery Parcels.

The public is allowed to send the parcel insured and Cash on Delivery at the same time and at the following collection rates.

Ordinary parcel rate, and in addition a 50pi fixed delivery charge. Also an insured rate of 1 per cent of the insured amount is collected, with a minimum limit of £E1.

The maximum limit for insurance is £E2,000 and the maximum amount for Cash on Delivery £E1,000.

F. Internal Monetary Services.

1. Ordinary and Government Bills of Exchange

Postal bills of exchange [NB, Bill of Exchange: A written order to pay a sum on a given date to a drawer or to a named payee] are legal instruments of the drawee, the National Postal Organisation, for sending amounts of money either ordinary, governmental, or by telegraph.

The collection rate is 1 per cent, with a minimum limit of 50pi according to the following table [NB, much abbreviation here, since table rates are all the same!]

Less than £E1, up to £E50 ... 50pi; thereafter, an additional charge of 5pi for each £E5 up to £E100 (then a charge of 100pi).

Furthermore, 1pi is collected for each £E1 or a mathematical fraction of the collection rate to the nearest 5pi.

The maximum limit for internal bills of exchange is £E1,000, and the minimum limit £E1; the maximum limit for governmental bills of exchange is £E1,000 and the minimum 10pi.

The valid period for disbursement of internal bills of exchange is two months in addition to the month of withdrawal, and the period may be renewed,

After a period of five years postal bills of exchange may no longer be disbursed, and the value reverts to the State.

Members of the public may refuse the amount of a government bill of exchange from the Postal Organisation if the recipient does not agree with who should pay the commission on the settlement of the appropriate rate.

The ordinary letter rate is obtained from its basic weight, internal value, government bills of exchange....

2. Postal Bills of Exchange by Telegraph.

Authorised post offices have been set up at which the public may find facility for a telegraph service to draw internal bills of exchange using the telegraph service.

The maximum limit for the bill of exchange amount is £E200, with a minimum of £E1.

The service charge is the same as for ordinary of government bills of exchange, with the telegraph rate to be paid in addition.

PROBLEMS WITH TERMINOLOGY HERE!!! Cost example 1: For internal bills of exchange
ETC ETC ETC

G. Postal and Official Money Bag (ie, Specie)

There are restrictions as to what may be carried by means of the money bag as far as metallic articles are concerned: they should be of gold or silver or suchlike material, or in the shape of money or jewellery or similar.

The public should consider using the post bag for anything requiring exchange between individuals and banks, business or similar.

The purpose of the Official bag is the safe and supervised exchange between the Ministry of Finance and Regional Government Offices (*mudiriet*).

The maximum weight for one bag is 20kg, and maximum value of its contents £E400 for each bag.

Weight	Charge (fee)	Weight	Charge (fee)
Up to 2kg	£E1.15	10kg-15kg	£E3.40
2kg-5kg	£E1.20	15kg-20kg	£E3.50
5kg-10kg	£E3.30		

Notes: The payment for a postal bag is completed with a postal seal but the indicator on an Official bag is the payment rate on it with a government seal. Insurance rate: 1 per cent of the insured amount is collected with a minimum limit of £E1 for each bag with the additional charge previously mentioned in the information table.

Storage rate: The bag is protected under supervision for the recipient for a statutory period, then a storage charge is levied at the rate of 5p per day for each £E100 or fraction of the insured value, with no maximum limit. Cost example (1gm) it is the ordinary letter rate at the basic weight.

The public may seek to have more than one bag stored, but each bag is charged at ordinary letter rate at the basic weight.

H. Revenue Notes.

[Difficulties with terminology here] The National Postal Organisation has established revenue token amounts in lieu of other creditors beside the post office, in case the creditors are found before the consideration of other postage rates.

The permitted notes collected in lieu of it for the creditors, receipts, bills of exchange (drafts), invoices, vouchers and similar trading notes pay the money.

Amount of authorised approval fee at any one time is £E1,000.

Service charges:

On sending the business note, the fee to be collected from the creditors must be at the proper appropriate rate as follows:

1. Ordinary letter rate at basic weight	20pi
2. Registration fee	80pi
3. Fixed charge	50pi
Total rate to service revenue notes	150pi

Add to this the cost of supervision (15 bag[?]) and its ordinary letter rate at the basic weight.

On collection, the value of the business note from the debtor is handed over to the creditor, subtracting from the amount the collection rate for its type of postage of 1 per cent to a minimum limit of 50pi, and above that to the nearest 5pi.

I. Subscription for special boxes and bags and locked travelling bags.

Delivery of postal items may be carried out using special boxes and bags on payment in advance of an annual subscription at those offices where the boxes operate, according to the following conditions:

1. The annual subscription to be paid at a post office for a special post box, bag or locked travelling bag for businesses and commercial non-retail individuals is a sum of £E30 annually, and for a single individual £12.
2. The subscription period begins on July 1 each year and ends on June 30 of the following year. Part of a year is regarded as a full year.
3. A penalty is collected of 50% of the subscription rate within one month of the settlement time limit, that is, August 1 [ie, if you don't pay up on time, we will charge you 50% extra!]
4. Payment of £E5 may be made as insurance after the commencement of a subscription for special boxes and bags and locked travelling bag.

J. Postal Cheque Service

Every individual not younger than 16, and similarly a legitimate corporate body, can open a current account for themselves at a post office without any postal charge.

After opening the account the account holder must hand in at least £E5 for an individual and at least £E[?] for a corporate body, and there is a maximum limit for the deposited amount.

Deposits may be made into current accounts at post offices throughout the Republic; similarly current accounts can be opened at offices designated for depositing, and deposits may be made at other offices so designated.

Depositing at other offices.

Commission is charged at 1/1000 of the deposited amount for any sum to other account offices, without a maximum limit.

Transfers

Commission is charged for transferring sums of available funds (balance) to other account offices of 1/1000 with a minimum limit of 50pi and rounded up to 5pi and a maximum limit of £E50.

Postal Cheques

Commission is collected at the rate of 1/1000 with a minimum limit of 50pi and a maximum limit of £E10. When the due cheque is sent off in advance to any office other than the office at which the current account was opened, the drawer must make clear the designated notification on the cheque and that the signature on the cheque is in accord with the signature deposited in the office, which then undertakes to deliver the cheque or to return it to the post office where the account was opened. In return the Postal Organisation charges a collection commission of 1 per cent for each £E1 or fraction thereof to a minimum limit of 50pi and without a maximum limit, to the nearest 5pi.

A cheque book is sent to the pass-book account owner containing 10, 25 or 50 cheques. Each cheque costs 10pi. The valid period for cashing a postal cheque is 30 days from the date when it was drawn.

Authorised Agent Cheques

Postal cheques can be used at offices authorised for such transactions for presentation to the government authorities or public organisations for authorisation other than that of the drawer. The valid period for cashing an authorised cheque is one year from the date on which it was drawn. Transfer from one account to another can take place at the office where the account was opened, without charge.

Certification

Post offices undertake, where current accounts are opened, to notify each customer of his statement of account on June 30 each year, by registered post. The equivalent cost of a registered letter is subtracted from the customer's current account. Upon notified request for an official certification, as copy for a legal document, a fee of £E2 is collected. A search fee of £E1 will be charged for a specific search of a year's incomplete account.

Service of New Registration Licence for Car Ownership Fees are collected for renewal of registration licences for car ownership at some offices which do postal cheque work, for a fee of 155pi. A service providing insurance renewal documents, compulsory for car owners, is provided for a fee of 140pi.

K. Post Office Savings Bank Services.

Deposits may be made at the Savings Bank through post offices widespread throughout the Republic. A Post Office Savings Bank account may be opened in the name of:

1. Any person who has reached the aged of 16
2. Any person under guardianship or parenthood or custody of a third person (trusteeship).
3. Any legal person?
4. Any authorised agency submitting an application bearing their name and indication of type of business, with example of signature.

To apply to open an account operating for one person or more, as in the case of a business, the application must bear the signatures of all the account-holders, who must also attend in person to prove the legality of the transaction. If any account holder cannot be present, he must be represented by another of the account-holders and his signature must be witnessed by two witnesses in the presence of a Post Office official or by a National Seal special to the Organisation, followed by two witnesses.

The maximum holding within any Post Office Savings Bank account is limited to £E500,000 excluding interest.

The account holder is entitled to interest on the deposited sum at a rate according to the exchange rate prevailing in the savings account market, with a bonus of 0.25% if no withdrawals are made.

When the balance in the passbook has reached £E10 withdrawals will be entered at monthly periods. Whenever deposits increase, the account holder's name will be entered into a prize draw totalling £E700,000. Deposited sums of money and the interest or prizes thereon are free of tax and may not be

confiscated. At large Post Office Savings Bank offices the public may immediately withdraw any amount up to the limit of the passbook balance. In central offices (where consultations take place) withdrawals of up to £E5,000 may be made over the counter immediately. If larger sums are required, a form must be completed in advance, though telephone or telegraph may be used in case of urgency. At small offices (those with a single agent) the account holder may withdraw immediately a sum of up to £E3,000; for larger amounts a licensing form must be completed in front of an employee, or telephone or telegraph may be used in case of urgency. Withdrawals may be made from an office other than that where the passbook is registered up to a limit of £E5,000 except that the total withdrawn from one passbook in one month in this way cannot exceed £E5,000. If the depositor loses the passbook or? he must notify the Savings Bank? After a loss period of 15 days notification must be made of the loss to the Egyptian Official Gazette. The loss may also be reported in a daily newspaper. The National Postal Organisation is responsible for any amount embezzled from a Savings Bank passbook..... ?

L. Postal Cassette Service.

Tape Cassettes may be sent through the post by taking them to the official public counter, where they are checked accurately to ensure that their weight is not more than 50gm.

A postal official makes sure especially that the writing is clear on the envelope intended for sending by post: name and address of the addressee and name and address of the sender and ticket number. He completes a record of the name and number on the front identity label of the tape, and on the back a copy of the receipt (registration) or in a special passbook (registration 1) for this service.

A postal official carries out the security sealing of the tape and seals the envelope himself since it is not permissible to put in any other contents beside the tape.

The charge for the service within the Arab Republic of Egypt is 125 piastres for one tape.

M. Distribution of Advertisements Service.

With effect from January 1, 1991, it is possible to carry out advertisement distribution using the postal system at postal rates equivalent to the following:

Rate for a single advertisement ... 1 piastre

Folded advertisement or booklet up to a limit of 50gm ... 2pi

Larger advertisement or booklet up to 100gm ... 3pi

Contracts may be made for the use of this service between advertisers and the National Postal Organisation.

Large benefits to the customer can be achieved in reduced rates through contracting.

N. Banking Letter Service inside the A.R.Egypt

With effect from June 1, 1998, a newly introduced service is set up through some National Postal Organization counters adjacent to bank premises for bank registered mail via a private network. It may be used for all types of procedure. The NPO sets out to deliver this mail within 24 hours in Cairo, 48 hours within Cairo district, and 72 hours within the provinces.

Service rates: Ordinary inland letter rate, calculated by weight, plus registration fee, plus a fixed fee of 50pi, i.e., letter rate plus 80pi plus 50pi.

O. Miscellaneous Inland Postal Business.		
1. Ordinary letter rate, up to 20gm	20pi	
2. Ordinary registered letter rate, up to 20gm	£E1.00	[20+80]
3. Express letter rate, up to 20gm	50pi	[20+30]
4. Express and registered letter rate, up to 20gm	£E1.30	[20+80+30]
5. Recorded delivery letter rate, up to 20gm	80pi	[20+60]
6. Recorded delivery letter rate after delivery	£E1.60	[20+1.20]
7. Enquiry rate	80pi	
8. Application to withdraw a postal item	80pi	
9. Replacing lost money order or voucher or police private parcel[?]	80pi	

10. Application for replacement invoice, copy of legal document or administrative certificate	£E2.00	
11. Search fee under Article 61 in case of faulty despatch	£E1.00	
12. Special delivery	£E3.00	
13. 20pi rate for{What?}		

P. Outward cassette postal service charge with effect from July 1, 1998

Group 1	Arab countries	£E3.00
Group 2	European countries and some African Union countries	£E4.00
Group 3	USA/Canada and other African Union countries	£E5.00
Group 4	Australia, South America, Japan, Oceania and other countries	£E6.00

NB. Refer to the Airmail table for each group knowing the name of the country

Q. Special Postal Service charges with effect from July 1, 1998

Service	Arab countries	Other countries
1. Registration	£E1.00	£E1.00
2. Enquiry	0.95	£E1.50
3. Ordinary Express	0.60	0.95
4. Advice of Receipt - before receipt - after receipt	£E1.20 £E1.70	£E1.60 £E2.30
5. Return of postal item or change of address or name of addressee	£E1.75	£E2.20
6. Delivery by hand (with service visit)	£E1.00	£E1.00
7. Waiting for payment	0.10	0.10
8. International Reply Coupon	£E4.00	£E4.00
9. Exchange national answer coupon[?]	£E1.25	£E1.25
10. Postal identity card	£E1.50	£E1.50
11. Insurance rates	1% of the insured rate, minimum £E1.00	

R. Overseas outward mail. [For rates, see page 137]

[Note: The Egyptian Post Office divides overseas nations into four groups as follows. The list has been amended to follow English alphabetical order; the numbers in brackets indicate the order in Arabic.]

Group 1 (*Arab and African Postal Union*): Algeria (1), Bahrain (3), *Burundi* (9), Djibouti (12), *Ghana* (11), Guinea (19), *Guinea Bissau* (10), Iraq (23), Jordan (25), Kuwait (4), Lebanon (24), *Liberia* (20), Libya (24), Mauritania (5), Morocco (16), Oman (15), Palestine (22), Qatar (6), Saudi Arabia (13), Somalia (8), Sudan (17), Syria (18), Tunisia (7), United Arab Emirates (2), Yemen (26), *Zaire* (21). 26 countries (including five - in italics - given different rates).

Group 2 (*overseas countries, ie, mainly Europe and Asia but also including America and Canada*): Albania (7), America (17), Argentina (33), Australia (19), Austria (4), Belgium (3), Brazil (34), Britain (22), Bulgaria (26), Canada (31), China (27), Cyprus (16), Czechoslovakia (27), Denmark (12), Ethiopia (2), Finland (29), France (8), Germany (1), Gibraltar (21), Greece (20), Holland (22), Hong Kong (35), Hungary (2), India (5), Indonesia (38), Iran (3), Ireland (32), Israel (6), Italy (26), Japan (11), Kenya (15), Liechtenstein (33), Luxembourg (32), Malaysia (39), Mali (35), Malta (34), Monaco (37), New Zealand (42), Nigeria (13), Norway (32), Pakistan (10), Poland (28), Portugal (4), Romania (25), Russia (23), 'White' Russia (23),

Singapore (26), South Africa (4), Spain (6), Sri Lanka (14), Sweden (29), Switzerland (9), Turkey (18), Vatican (27), Yugoslavia (24). 42 countries.

Group 3 (*USA, Canada and some African and Asian countries*): Afghanistan (2), Angola (9), Bangladesh (11), Benin (12), Bhutan (13), Botswana (14), Burkina Faso (15), Burma (41), Cameroon (33), Canada (34), Cape Verde (32), Central African Republic (1), Chad (17), Comoro Is (36), Congo (37), Croatia (7), Dar es-Salaam (10)[?], Equatorial Guinea (31), Gabon (20), Gambia (21), Hong Kong (45), Iceland (8), India (46), Indonesia (5), Ivory Coast (35), Lesotho (38), Madagascar (42), Malawi (39), Malaysia (4), Nepal (43), Niger (44), Pakistan (9), Rwanda (22), Senegal (2), Seychelles (28), Sierra Leone (29), Singapore (26), Sri Lanka (3), Swaziland (27), Tanzania (18), Thailand (16), Togo (19), Uganda (6), United States of America (3), Zambia (23), Zimbabwe (24).

Group 4 (*South America, Australasia, Japan, some African nations etc*): American Virgin Is (38), Angola (8), Antigua/Barbuda (6), Antilles (7), Argentina (1), Aruba (2), Ascension Island (4), Australia (3), Bahamas (13), Barbados (16), Bassas da India (12), Belize (23), Bermuda (17), Bolivia (20), Brazil (15), British Virgin Is (37), Caledonia (79), Cambodia (87), Caroline Is (74), Cayman Is (78), Chile (66), China (70), Christmas Is (77), Cocos Is (88), Colombia (86), Cos Is(?) (84), Costa Rica (83), Cuba (84), Dominica (50), Dominican Republic (46), Ecuador (5), El Salvador (67), Falkland Is (72), Faroe Is (69), Fiji (76), French Guinea (45), French Polynesia (21), Georgia (44), Glorieuses/Tramelin Is (40), Grenada (34), Grenadines (35), Greenland (36), Guadeloupe (41), Guam (42), Guatemala (39), Guernsey (33), Guyana (47), Haiti (107), Henderson Is (108), Honduras (110), Isle of Man (95), Jamaica (31), Japan (111), Jersey (32), Juan de Nova (43), Kalimantan (82), Kiribati (91), Korea (82), Korea (North) (85), Laos (89), Macao (93), Maldives (96), Mariana Is (92), Marshall Is (94), Martinique (91), Mauritius (99), Mayotte (97), Mexico (100), Mongolia (98), Montserrat (101), Mozambique (103), Namibia (102), Nauru (104), Near Is (109), Nicaragua (105), Norfolk Is (106), Panama (18), Papua (20), Paraguay (11), Peru (22), Philippines (73), Pitcairn Is (14), Puerto Rico (19), Reunion (53), Rhodes (49), St Barthelemy Is (55), St Helena (61), St Lucia (57), St Martin (59), St Pierre and Miquelon (58), St Vincent (63), Samoa (56), Sandwich Is (62), Sao Tome and Principe (64), Solomon Is (52), Suriname (61), Timor (30), Tokelau Is (28), Tonga (29), Trinidad and Tobago (25), Tristan (24), Turks and Caicos Is (26), Tuvalu (27), Uruguay (9), Venezuela (71), Vietnam (75), Wallis and Futuna Is (112), Western Samoa (54), Venda (?) (51). [Note: Some of the names in the list defied translation!]

EGYPT VISIT 2006



Those who took part in the hugely successful ESC visits to Egypt in 1991 and 2001 were overwhelmed by the hospitality of our Egyptian colleagues and returned full of praise for the opportunity to experience that good fellowship at first hand. Now we have the chance to go again as the Philatelic Society of Egypt is inviting us to share in the celebration of its 75th anniversary with a mini-exhibition in the PSE clubrooms in central Cairo on November 3-5, and other events still in the planning stage. It will be a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and/or augment old ones. For those interested in exhibiting, the PSE would be grateful to see some of our material

Preliminary negotiation for airfare (London-Cairo-London) and a centrally located hotel on the basis of seven nights in Cairo (say arriving November 1, leaving November 8), are in the range £590 to £640 (about \$1100-\$1180 or 860-930 euros) for bed and breakfast, with airport-hotel transfers included.

All negotiations continue, and payment details are not yet decided, but I'd be grateful if members would please let me know whether they might be interested in going from London in November. The

name of anyone who is DEFINITE would be very gratefully received! Of course members are free to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements if preferred.

Mike Murphy, Hon Secretary

Postal Rates for Overseas Countries

Group			1	2	1	1	2	3	4
No. of nations		Ethiopia [§]	26	42	20 [†]	5 [†]	39 [‡]	46 [‡]	112 [‡]
Page		27	28	29-30	31	32	33-34	35-36	37-41
Priority		No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Letters	to 10g				£1	£1	£1.25	£1.25	£1.25
	11-20	55pi	50pi	60pi	£1.50	£1.50	£1.60	£1.80	£2.20
	21-50				£2.85	£3.85	£3.30	£3.75	£5.30
	51-100	£1.50	£1.40	£1.65	£4.25	£7.45	£6.45	£6.90	£8.95
	101-250	£3.10	£2.85	£3.45	£10.5	£13.65	£11.75	£14.30	£19.70
	251-500	£5.95	£5.45	£6.75	£20.40	£26.65	£22.95	£27.95	£36.80
	501-1000	£10.80	£9.75	£12.25	£41.85	£53.85	£46.25	£52.50	£71.80
	1000-2000	£18.65	£16.60	£21.75	£82.90	£103.35	£88.75	£97.00	£139.30
Postcards		40	40	50	85	85	1.15	1.15	1.15
Printed matter	to 20g	35	40	40	40	40	1.00	1.00	1.05
	21-100	90	70	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.15	2.40	3.00
	101-250	1.75	1.45	2.20	2.20	4.35	4.35	5.50	7.70
	251-500	3.30	2.75	4.10	4.35	8.10	8.10	9.40	16.15
	501-1000	6.00	4.90	7.60	8.05	15.15	15.15	18.15	31.80
	1001-2000	10.35	8.10	13.45	14.25	27.55	27.55	32.80	61.95
	extra 1000g	5.15	4.00	6.75	8.80	15.55	15.55	21.30	40.70
Printed circulars	to 20g	20	15	25	25	25	80	80	90
	21-100	55	45	75	70	70	1.60	1.85	2.75
	101-250	1.30	95	1.70	1.75	3.35	3.35	4.50	7.20
	251-500	2.45	1.90	3.25	3.55	6.55	6.55	8.35	15.45
	501-1000	3.40	3.45	6.25	6.60	13.85	13.85	16.35	30.40
	1001-2000	8.40	6.00	11.55	12.25	25.15	25.15	31.00	60.15
	extra 1000g	4.20	3.00	5.80	7.85	14.30	14.30	20.35	39.80
Small packets	to 100g	90	70	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.15	2.40	3.00
	101-250	1.75	1.45	2.20	2.20	2.20	4.35	5.50	7.70
	251-500	3.30	2.75	4.10	4.35	8.10	8.10	9.40	16.15
	501-1000	6.00	4.90	7.60	8.05	15.15	15.15	18.15	31.80
	1001-2000	10.35	8.10	13.45	14.25	27.55	27.55	32.80	61.95
Mail bag*	per kg or fraction (maximum 30kg)	4.10	3.20	5.40	7.05	12.50	12.50	17.05	25.45
Reg fee					1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
AR fee					1.20	1.20	1.60	1.60	1.60

§ Ethiopia (Group 2) given special lower rate – why?

† Guinea not included in either table.

‡ South Africa and New Zealand not listed. * A service for printed matter over 2kg limit (usually books).

The Withdrawn TELECOM EGYPT Stamp

Information about this recent issue and hurried about-face has been steadily coming to light. Below, three members add to what is known

Dr Sherif El-Kerdani (ESC 456)

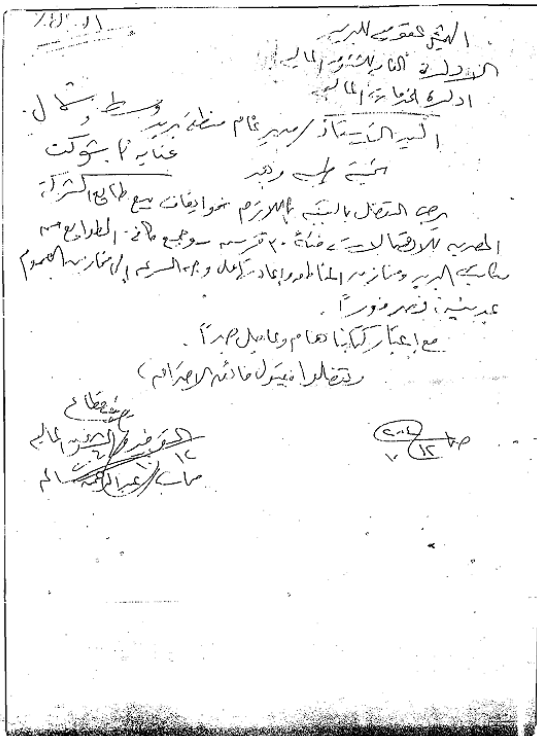
A note about the controversy raised in the meeting on July 9, 2005, about the “nine-day stamp” (see *QC* 214, September 2005, page 52). I had a personal meeting with Engineer Akil Beshir, chairman of Telecom Egypt, who kindly cleared up the confusion. He stated that the National Postal Organization submitted to his company several designs commemorating 150 years of telecommunications in Egypt, harking back to the 1854 Department of Telegraphs and ranging up to the present Telecom Egypt. A choice was made by Telecom Egypt from among the available designs, but when the stamp was submitted for approval not only was it a different design from those submitted, but also its inscription conveyed the meaning that the Telecom Egypt company had itself been around for 150 years!

The stamp was refused outright – Dr Tarek Kamel, Minister for Communications, had not been involved in the process – and a replacement approved design was then executed in two values bearing the Telecom Egypt logo as indication that the company, and its forerunners, had been serving Egypt for 150 years.

Telecom Egypt did not know at the time that some stamps had already reached the public.

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

I have been able to obtain a copy of a memo from the general administration for financial services section of the National Postal Organisation addressed to the director general of the central and north postal district. It reads as follows



Greetings

Kindly take all necessary steps to stop the sale of the stamps issued to commemorate the Egyptian company of telecommunications "Telecom Egypt" with the value of 30 piastres. Also collect all the stamps from all post offices and postal stores in your district and return all of them promptly and immediately to the general depots in Nasr City.

Consider this very urgent and important.

Signed M. Abdel Rahman 12-10-2004

My thanks to Dr Mostafa El-Dars for the translation.

In fact the Egypt Telecom company was formed only ten years ago, according to the website of Cairo ICT at www.cairoict.com/egypt.asp

..... in 1998 the government formally unbundled the regulatory and operational aspects in ARENTO and established Telecom Egypt (operator) and Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (regulator)....

However Telecom Egypt's own website repeatedly refers to its "150-year celebrations"? I quote from the Chairman's letter as published on the website:

Dear visitor,

I am delighted to welcome you to Telecom Egypt's new website. In our 150th anniversary year, Over the last 150 years Telecom Egypt has always been at the forefront of Egypt's development and so we have introduced a new link in "About Us" which details all the highlights of these achievements - Click on "150 Years of Service" to take a fascinating walk through history.

Akil Beshir, Chairman

This can be found at www.telecomegypt.com.eg/English/AboutUs_150years6.htm. On the same website is found the historical statement

1854 witnessed the birth of Egypt's telecommunications industry. The first telegraph line connecting Cairo and Alexandria was inaugurated early in 1854; forming the company that was later to become Telecom Egypt.

I also illustrate the Postal Organization Philatelic Office leaflet issued with the stamp which clearly shows in its title "Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Telecom Egypt"



célébration du 150 ^{ème} anniversaire des Télécommunications Egyptiennes.	
L'Organisme National de la Poste de l'Egypte émet un timbre - poste commémoratif à l'occasion de la célébration du 150 ^{ème} anniversaire des Télécommunications Egyptiennes.	
Date d'émission: 3 Octobre 2004 .	Peintre : Aly Makhlouf
Occasion : Célébration du 150 ^{ème} anniversaire des Télécommunications Egyptiennes.	Couleurs: Couleurs multiples
Dessin : A l'intérieur du chiffre 150 l'emblème de la société .	Dimensions du timbre : 13 x 51 cm
	Valeur : 30 Piastres
	Quantité imprimée : 100.000 timbres
Impression : Offset - imprimeries de l'Organisme National de la Poste de l'Egypte - R. A. d'Egypte.	

Celebrating the 150 th Anniversary of Telecom Egypt	
The National Post Organization of Egypt issues a commemorative postage stamp on the occasion of celebrating the 150 th anniversary of Telecom Egypt.	
Date of issue: 3 October 2004	Designer : Ali Makhlouf
Occasions: Celebrating the 150 th Anniversary of Telecom Egypt	Colours : Multi- colours
Design : Figure 150 and the company's emblem inside it	Denomination : 30 PT
	Dimensions of the stamp: (3 x 5) cm
	Quantity : 100.000 stamps
Printing : Offset - The Printing -House of the National Post Organization - A.R. of Egypt	

الاحتفال بمرور مائة وخمسين عاماً على المصرية للاتصالات	
تصدر الهيئة القومية للبريد طابع بريد تذكاري بمناسبة الاحتفال بمرور مائة وخمسين عاماً على المصرية للاتصالات .	
تاريخ الإصدار: ٣ أكتوبر ٢٠٠٤	المصمم: علي مخلوف
المناسبة: الاحتفال بمرور مائة وخمسين عاماً على المصرية للاتصالات	أبعاد الطابع: (٥ x ٣) سم
الرقم: ١٥٠	القيمة المطبوعة: ٣٠
الألوان: متعدد الألوان	الكمية المطبوعة: ١٠٠ ألف طابع - مائة ألف طابع
الطبع: أوفست - مطابع الهيئة القومية للبريد المصري - جمهورية مصر العربية	

Beware: Forged Telecom FDC

Leon Balian (ESC 251)

The following has been brought to my attention, and I feel that members should be made aware of a dangerous and expensive forgery. Genuine FDCs exist of the "nine-day stamp" (the October 2004 issue relating to the 150th Anniversary of Egyptian Telecommunications was withdrawn immediately it was realised that Telecom Egypt, the main focus of the stamp's design, did not reflect the anniversary but had been in operation only a few years; see QC 214, page 52, for the withdrawn stamp and its December replacement) but now forgeries of the FDC have been detected also.

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, and the text on the forgery is “cloudy or hazy” and speckled around the letters. The size of the lettering is larger (with the same font). The forged cancellation is 5.7cm wide, but the original is only 5.2cm. The forged cover I have has a circular “gazelle” logo within the flap.



All this denotes that the original FDC was scanned, and reprinted over a genuine stamped blank cover. But somehow the proportions did not come out quite right. I hope members will not to be fooled into purchasing these forgeries, as I have noticed that they are appearing in eBay at enormous prices. I illustrate a FDC.

More Varieties

Dr Ibrahim El Fichawy (ESC 274)

While I was looking through my old items I discovered some new and interesting varieties which may or may not be constant. I should be grateful if members would check their stamps and let me know if they find the same varieties.



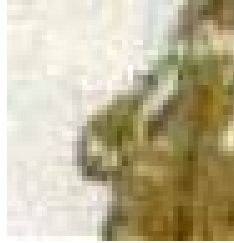
A white dot (*left*) after the (T) of POSTES on the 4 millièmes Farouk marshal (1944-1951).



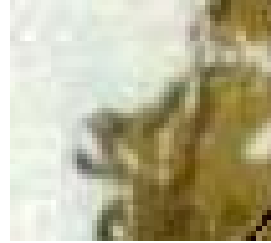
A distorted Arabic letter (yeh) in the right-hand panel (*right*) of the 10 millièmes Farouk marshal.

And (*below*) a distorted nose of King Tutankhamun on the 80-piastres Air Mail of 1993 (I called it saddle shape deformity). The stamp is already famous as the “two beards” variety with gold misplaced





Normal nose



Saddle nose

Book Review: The Egyptian Currency Note, by Magdy Hanafy (ESC 548)

In 2004 the magisterial first book by our Cairo member Magdy Hanafy, *Encyclopaedia and Catalogue of Egyptian Money: The Egyptian Banknote*, was deservedly awarded the International Bank Note Society book of the year award for its in-depth research and presentation. The volume detailed all Egyptian currency notes from 25 piastres to £E100.

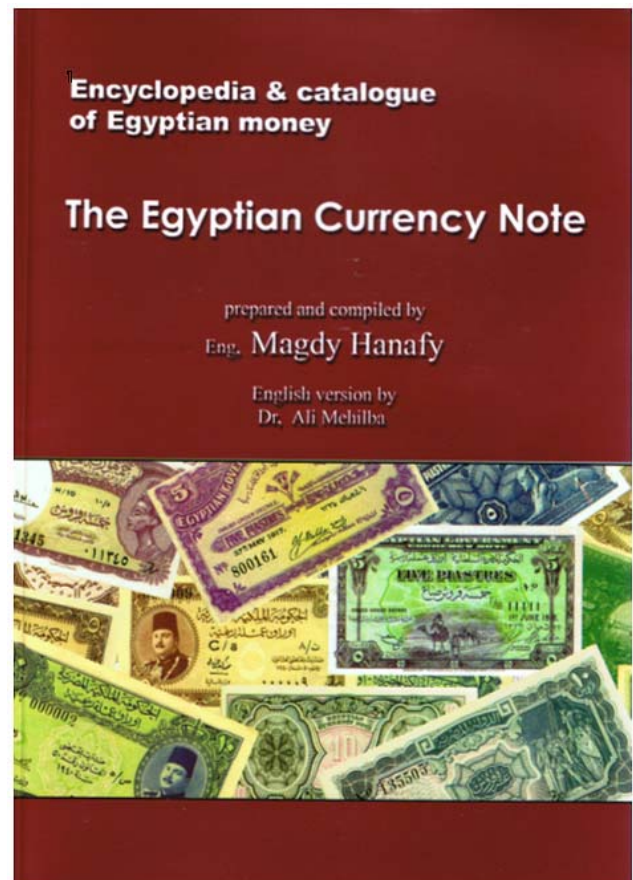
Now Magdy has followed up* by examining in detail the country's paper-money "loose change", the 5-piastre and 10-piastre notes. First printed in the 1914-18 war as an emergency measure to compensate for a shortage of the metal required to mint smaller-value coins, the notes were revived in 1940 and survived until 1989, when they were withdrawn as being of too small a value. But outcry followed, and they were reintroduced ten years later and continue in circulation today.

I don't collect paper money, but the painstaking research and effort involved in looking into the history of these unconsidered trifles is both patent and staggering: as in his first volume, Magdy has for the first time been able to produce a list detailing every issue, together with the subtle changes in design, colour, watermark, number issued, printers and printing methods, authorising signature and so on.

The book is beautifully printed in full colour, with every banknote illustrated, back and front, together with a detailed description of each and the history of the issue, giving enough information – bilingually, in excellent English (by Dr Ali Mehilba) and Arabic – even for the non-specialist to become enthralled by the advancing story.

Starting from a base of virtually no knowledge, the author's personal research has produced a sophisticated volume. That such a handsome and infinitely useful piece of reference work should come from a fascination with two currency notes commonly viewed as virtually worthless and with a circulation life of only 3-6 months is a measure of the amount of work required. It has paid off handsomely! **Mike Murphy (ESC 240)**

* *Encyclopaedia and catalogue of Egyptian Money: The Egyptian Currency Note*, by Magdy Hanafy, 160pp, available from the author at 26 Adly Street, Apartment 203, Niaza Building, Cairo, Egypt (friendsgrouph@hotmail.com, 00 202 393793). The price is €30 (hard-back) or €15 (paper-back), with 10% discount for ESC members.



A real FDC !!**Lucien S. Toutounji (ESC 264)**

The illustrations on this page represent a very important and unusual Gaza cover, that is, a real FDC!! Bearing the 1m, 4m and 5m of the overprinted PALESTINE issue, it was mailed from Gaza on June 1, 1948 with clear strikes of Gaza/T.



The reverse carries a faint but large and ornate Arabic octagonal handstamp of the Egyptian Army Field Post Office located at Gaza and dated June 2, together with a Qubba Bridge delivery CDS of June 5.

The cover is addressed to a senior officer of the Royal Frontier Corps located at the Qubbeh Barracks.

Postal stationery query: From André Navari (ESC 534):

I have recently found this 2-millièmes postal stationery envelope of 1889 (Smith E-6, Nile Post SEN5) with normal watermark. It is cancelled HILWAN 3 IV 05 TIII, but it is not addressed. It is clear that the green Sphinx and Pyramids value vignette stamp is also printed in mirror image inside the cover precisely on the reverse of the vignette outside. I think it is probably an accidental variety. I have not found any mention of this kind of variety in the Smith or *Nile Post* books. Is it known and reported elsewhere? Or on other envelopes? I imagine that the envelopes were printed in sheets, then cut out to make individual formes, then folded and pasted to produce the completed envelope. Can anyone tell me how many envelopes were made with one sheet?



Postal Rates from 1952 to 1990

Samir Fikry (ESC 311)

We are indebted to Samir Fikry for having been able to research from official sources the following list of rates, giving basic rates (in millièmes) spanning a period of almost 40 years from the end of the monarchy to early 1990:

Date	Internal (first step)	Registered fee	Internal plus Registration	Avis de Reception	Internal, Reg + AR
1952-1966	10	20	30	20	50
1967-1979	20	35	55	30	85
1979-1981	20	50	70	30	100
1981-30.4.85	30	50	80	30	110
1.5.85-4.9.85	50	100	150	30	180
5.9.85-1987	50	100	150	200	350
1988-30.9.1989	50	150	200	350	550
1.10.1989-early 1990	100	200	300	400	700

Rates for **Official mail**: as Internal above, except that between 1951 and 1980 validation required what we know as an “Official oval” handstamp; from 1981 Official stamps were required for Official mail.

The additional **Express mail** fee was as follows: 1952-1966, 40 millièmes; 1967-1978, 50m; 1979-30 Apr 1985, 60m; 1 May 1985-1987, 80m; 1988-30 Sept 1989, 200m; 1 Oct 1989 to early 1990, 450m.

Postage Due rates are double the deficiency, from 1952 until early 1990.

Air Mail rates (first weight step only) are as follows:

Date	Arab countries	Rest of the world
1952-1966	37	37
1967-1976	37	110
1977-1980	45	140
1981-30.4.1985	60	230
1.5.1985-1987	150	300
1988-30.9.89	250	500
1.10.1989-early 1990	350	600

Reply to the Mazar Query in OC 213 p 47-48 posed by Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Ed.Hall (ESC 239)

I know of no other such registration marking being used with a date in it. However, having collected Sinai for some years, I do know that the Israelis are keen philatelists and that a lot of spurious material is found relating to the 1956 war. I suspect that these covers may have been fabricated after the event, the Mazar marking probably being made in Israel and owes its design more to the imagination than any reality. I don't believe Mazar had a post office at all in 1956 but would be delighted if somebody could prove me wrong.

Mike's reply

I cast doubt on the two unaddressed envelopes furnished with Israeli stamps and Egyptian “Registration cachets” of Mazar in Sinai in 1956, Q3, but now I can illustrate evidence that the village did indeed have a



post office some years earlier. It takes the form of three pieces with Turkish stamps overprinted "Tor Sinai" and cancelled at Bir el-Mazar (i.e., Mazar Well or Spring), by which name the area was known during the Ottoman Empire. One of the stamps, all of them are dated 4 7 1333AH (ie, Wednesday, May 19, 1915, 18 months before the village was captured by British troops), is pictured left.

Ed's further reply

Sorry to be the wet blanket again but there are many such strikes for the Sinai supposedly for the Turkish Administration during its occupation in the First World War. There are some thirty such postmarks known for the Sinai of a similar pattern and some discussion has taken place amongst Holy Land philatelists about their validity. It seems that these may have been produced just before or some time just after the Turkish conquest in 1915, but it is very unlikely that these handstamps were ever issued. Considering that the Egyptian Post Office only had two post offices in the Sinai at that time, Tor and El Arish, why would the Turks set up these post offices for a Sinai population given as 7,407 in the 1907 census? What is known is that the handstamps appear to have been obtained by a philatelic German/Turk(?) soon after the war and a lot of these items were produced, often on cover with no address. Why were the original handstamps produced at all: were they all fictitious? Well, a few covers are known genuinely used from Qusseima, where there was a Turkish post, but I believe none of the others were ever issued. Almost for certain, the one for Bir Ul Mazar was never issued and there was no Turkish presence there of any duration, so no post office. Sorry.

Ref: *Israel Philatelist* (?)

BAPIP 110

OPAL 173

Postal Cancellations of the Ottoman Empire Part Three, The Ottoman Posta and Telegraph Offices in Palestine and Sinai, etc.

British Postal Order for use in Egypt

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

I recently noticed this intriguing item on eBay and wonder if anyone can cast light on its usage ... it is a regulation British Postal Order value 2s 6d, approximately 6 3/4in wide by 3 1/4in deep (17.15 x 8.25cm) according to the vendor, and bears the image of King George V with tax of One Penny due on purchase. But the One Penny line has been barred out and the image covered with a provisional surcharge comprising four lines of text in capitals: Poundage / Payable in / Egypt / 6 Millièmes. The Postal Order was purchased (see postmark), at Alexandria / C.4 on what seems to be 10 JL 33, but no payee was named and it appears never to have been cashed. Were British Postal Orders commonly in use in Egypt? For how long? Were all of them surcharged in this way? Why 6m when a closer approximation to 1d would have been 5m?



Macarthur Award 2005

It's that time of year again ... when members are asked to recognise the research and expertise that forms the basis of the Circle by selecting the most significant member's article published in the previous year's *QC*.

The award, appropriately enough a seated Scribe, is funded by a legacy from our late and great former Chairman, Major E L G "Mac" Macarthur, who did so much to further research into the Third Issue and explain its intricacies. The Circle is grateful to Mac, and grateful to members who will please take a moment to vote for the best *QC* article of 2005.

December Quarter 2005 Whole Series No. 215	
Air Mail Jottings - more Marc Pourpe covers	p80-81
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Slip-up in UN World Heritage issue	p89
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Newly Identified Continental Savoy Registration Cachet	p91
Newly Discovered United Arab Republic Medical Professions	p92-93
Port Said Paquebot – new Marking?	p95
September Quarter 2005 Whole Series No. 214	
Postcard From Alexandria 25 July 1882	p54-56
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The 1919 E.E.F. Emergency Flights	p63-64
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Hotel Postmarks: Mena House	p66
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June Quarter 2005 Whole Series No. 213	
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The History of Modern Egypt as seen through its Stamps and Postal History. Part 1: To 1914	p32-40
Hotels Revisited	p41-46
Mazar "Registration cachet" in North Sinai	p47-48
March Quarter 2005 Whole Series No. 212	
Egypt: The Russian post offices	p302-30
Third Study of Parcel Cards for Foreign Countries	p305-309
New Issues July 2003 - January 2004	p310-316

The list above forms no more than an aide-memoire. Selection may be made from any article extending over a page in *QCs* 212-215 inclusive.

Please use the e-form which can be found on the news page of our website,

Or send your vote to secretary@egyptstudycircle.org.uk

Or to The Secretary at 109 Chadwick Road, London SE15 4PY.

The name of the winner will be announced in the September *QC*.