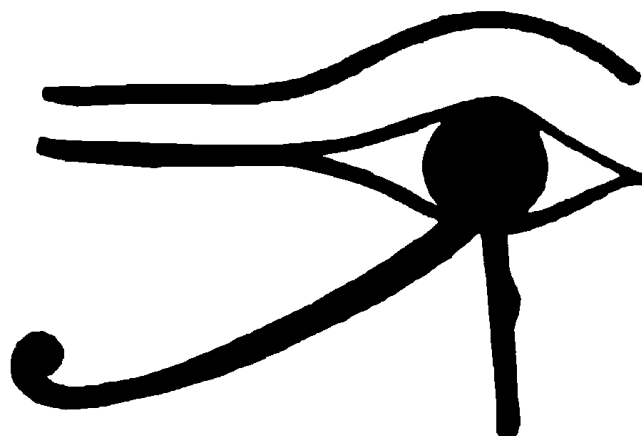


**The
Quarterly Circular
of**

ISSN 0269—252X

THE
EGYPT



STUDY CIRCLE

September Quarter 2006

Whole Series No. 218

Volume XIX No. 7

Pages 145 – 168

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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.

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Forthcoming Meetings 2006

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 Meetings, July 1 2006

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Stanley Horesh (Deputy), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Edmund Hall (Editor/Webmaster), John Davis (Librarian), Dennis Clarke (Committee), Mike Bramwell, Graham Coles, Cyril Defriez, Peter Grech, Alan Jeyes and Sue McIntosh. Guest: Helen Grech.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: Margaret Chadwick, Mostafa el-Dars, Ted Fraser-Smith, Peter Goodwin, Max Ryan, Hilary Shaw and Richard Wheatley.

Peter Andrews, our new Chairman, opened proceedings by welcoming a very respectable turnout of members in spite of alternative televisual attractions, and introduced the question of the possibility of restoring a New Issues service for members; it was agreed to investigate further. He then opened the Extraordinary General Meeting, called of necessity to deal with the discrepancy spotted in the Accounts at the Annual Meeting on May 8. The Treasurer explained that an entry reflecting a transfer from the Auction Account to the General Account had found its way on to the wrong line, but that the overall picture was precisely as shown at the AGM: on the proposal of Alan Jeyes, seconded by John Davis, the newly presented Accounts were approved. The Treasurer proposed a vote of thanks to our Accountant, Steven Bunce, who as usual performed his duties without charge: it was greeted with acclaim. The Extraordinary meeting was closed.

Opening the meeting of the day, the Chairman expressed his sincere regrets at the road accident in which Gwlithyn Johns was injured, causing her husband Bill to withdraw from joint presentation of the meeting; members wished Bill and Gwlithyn well, and thanked Peter Grech for continuing alone. Peter Andrews expressed sincere thanks to our American Agent, Dick Wilson, for his initiative in organising the ESC meeting at the well-attended Washington international exhibition, and for his work in achieving affiliation with the American Philatelic Society, which we hope might further international philatelic relations as well as aiding in recruiting a flow of new members (those present were shown the APS affiliation document, mounted in frame). Our six members who won Gold medals in Washington were offered members' sincere congratulations.

Members wishing to attend the joint meeting in Bradford on August 19 with the Sudan Study group were urged to let Richard Wheatley know as soon as possible. Details of the forthcoming visit to Egypt were discussed at length and it appears that we might have as many as 15 members attending: a deadline of July 31 was set for participation. Edmund Hall volunteered to deal with members' visas.

The Secretary put forward a remarkable eight membership applications, half of which stemmed from the internet, but also lamented the fact that almost 80 – about two fifths of the membership – had not deigned to completed the Data/Survey report, putting in jeopardy the publication of a full list of members' details. He urged those who had not done so to complete the forms quickly.

The President noted the success of Auction 41, thanks largely to the sale of two expensive items, and it was agreed to continue the successful experiment of allowing free illustrations of lots on paper and on the website. The deadline for lists of lots to be submitted is August 15. The Deputy Chairman showed examples of postal stationery with the vignette printed on the inside of the envelope similar to those queried in *QC* 217, and Dennis Clarke, a former printer, provided a considered explanation of how it had happened: this will appear in a forthcoming *QC*.

For the meeting proper, Peter Grech (ESC 266) gave a masterly exposition on the subject of Port Said, mixing and melding the historic and the philatelic in a unique range of material ranging from before the founding of the city with the turning of the first spade of earth for the Suez Canal by Ferdinand de Lesseps on April 25, 1859, to French refusal to accept an Egyptian stamp marking "victory" in the October battles of 1956, and even beyond. With display frames filled with covers, stamps, postcards, ephemera in the form of ancient newspapers and modern telegrams, and so on, it was a magisterial exposition of how philately can form – in the right hands – a crucial adjunct in telling the history of a region or a city, and how postal services played their part in the formation of that area.

Port Said and the Canal were one and the same, said Peter: without the Canal the city would not have existed; without the city the Canal would have had no grand entrée, for the area was marsh and swamp, the early metres dug out by hand by the pressed men of the *corvée*, living in thatched huts while the Europeans under their tents planned the foundations of what was to become one of the great ports of the world. Later prefabricated wooden houses would arrive from France.

The history of the Canal is inextricably intertwined with that of the Canal Company's postal services, and Peter showed a precursor cover from 1865 to Port-Said - after agreement with the Posta Europea for carriage of mails beyond the "state" post offices in Zagazig, Suez and Damietta - addressed to Borel & Lavalley, the company that supplied the heavy digging machinery.

In that year the Egyptian Government bought out the Posta Europea, decided that postal service in the Canal area would be uneconomic, and left it in the hands of the Canal Company. A French consular post office was opened at Port Said in 1867 and survived until 1931. A cover of 1868 shows five days in transit on camel and on small boat from Port Said to Suez along the embryonic canal, and then, via Government post, overland to Alexandria and Europe.

With the 20,000 native labourers of the early years being steadily replaced by machinery and a growing European work-force, however, the mail volume was becoming considerable in fact, and the Canal Company decided in 1868 to print its own stamps, which it ordered from France, to provide a local service. Almost immediately they were withdrawn again, victim of the necessity in effect to pay double rates, once for postage within the Canal area, and then again to the Government for onward postage throughout Egypt.

That short life led to myriad forgeries, and Peter showed an exceptional cover with forged printed heading, forged Canal stamp, and forged French PO 5129 lozenge postmark. He also displayed, however, a remarkable full sheet of 120 stamps from the original printing stone of the 40c value, which was sold at auction in 1906 to Satjan, a Paris dealer, who used it at the time for privately reproduced lithographic reprints. Not forgeries, but reprints from the genuine stone.

The Egyptian Post Offices on the Canal were finally opened in 1868, the year before the inauguration, with full panoply and the presence of Empress Eugenie, of the Canal itself. Peter noted the rarity of early covers (ie 1870s) franked with Egyptian stamps only; almost as scarce as mixed franking with French issues. The various types of datestamps used by the Egyptian post into the 1900s were next illustrated.

TPO postmarks came with the upgrading of the railway line from the Canal Company's Ismailia-Port Said narrow-gauge line to standard gauge in 1902, by which time the city had developed from second-class to one of the world's largest coaling deposits as maritime transport flocked through the Canal. We were shown a pair of postcards address to Ismailia from France, one of which arrived via Alexandria, the other via Port Said, reflecting the extension of services and merely on which ship it happened to be carried.

Before that, however, the Arabi Revolt brought British intervention in Egypt, and in 1899 the inauguration of the de Lesseps statue on the Port Said breakwater led to a plethora of souvenir covers, and to the necessity for locally produced Port Said overprints on French definitives. For long regarded as extremely rare, these Port Said overprints (sans-serif) lost much of their value when the market was flooded recently. In 1931, after the closure of the French office, André Navarre, the last postmaster, was allowed to keep all remaining stock – including many multiples of the "rare" overprints; these arrived in the hands of Paris dealers in 1996. Peter's cover with a vertical pair addressed to the Russian consul in Alexandria remains a favourite, however. *Fig.1*

Postal stationery was also overprinted, and eventually the city name Port Said was incorporated into the design of the stamps sold at the French PO. Another favourite is a cover from France with a RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR/ PORT-SAID (return to Sender) cachet. *Fig.2* Only four such covers have been recorded. This one also bears the cachets of four different French paquebots in its futile quest to locate the addressee. This led to a brief outline of the evolution of both Egyptian and French Port-Said Paquebot markings.

In 1921 there was further complication for the French PO with the necessity to surcharge stamps in millièmes because France's franc collapsed in value after the war; this led to more locally produced

overprints, which are uncommon on cover – Peter showed a Paris surcharge stamp on a cover in combination with centime-value stamps after the change to millièmes; and an insured (CHARGÉ) letter of 1927 with the high-value 60-millième surcharged stamp.

Postage due stamps followed the same pattern of overprints and surcharges, locally and Paris-produced, and Peter showed, on a 1921 cover, a remarkable provisional four-line purple local overprint on a 15mill/50c stamp (Taxe a Percevoir pour Insuffisance d’Affranchissement) indicating that it was to be considered a Postage Due because of a shortage of those stamps. He also displayed an unusual Due usage on a cover forwarded from Djibouti to Port Said: normally there would be nothing to pay for forwarding, but the Djibouti address was “Poste Restante”, qualifying the item for a surcharge.

The afternoon passed by in a whirl of Simon Arzt, the various Hotels, the founding of Port Fouad and its stamp notoriety, how the shoreline is moving north, and even a rare example on a cover to Ismailia of a Boy King 2m stamp with boxed-T, used as a Due at the time (July 1940) of the local-rate increase from 5m to 6m. *Fig.3*

The display provided an astonishingly wide-ranging presentation of an array of material clearly sought out to help to illustrate the history of Port Said the city as well as Port Said and its Post Offices – he pointed out the three versions and many different CDSs of the second Egyptian post office in the Arab Quarter; and the astonishing dearth of examples of Port Fouad (without the Cash) postmarks – at once fascinating and illuminating.

The Chairman thanked Peter for an extremely fascinating afternoon’s display, covering the whole gamut of Port Said life and postal affairs; his words were drowned out by the thunder of applause.

New members:

- ESC 598 Per-Olof Jönsson**, Gliavägen 71, SE-16858 Bromma, Sweden
(Egyptian stamps, post-Republic, Gaza, air mails, British Forces)
- ESC 599 Gordon Bailey** 97 Westmorland Avenue, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7HT
(Stamps of Egypt 1865-1970, British Forces 1932-40, Gaza etc)
- ESC 600 Ms Anabright Hay**, 5/168 Tinakori Road, Thorndon, Wellington 6011, New Zealand
(Historic Egyptian postcards, architecture of Cairo/Alexandria 1850-1950)
- ESC 601 Tawfik Deifalla** Grote Winkel Laan 24B, Strombeek Bever 1853, Belgium
(Mint and used stamps pre-Republic, postmarks, airmails, dues)
- ESC 602 Gordon Bonnett** 4 Wrentnall Cottages, Forest-in-Teesdale, Barnard Castle, DL12 0XS
(Middle East and Arabian countries, Turkish posts in Arabia)
- ESC 603 Michael Hesketh O’Flaherty** 157 Wennington Road, Southport, Merseyside PR9 7AH
(Pyramid stamps, seals, early airmails, covers)
- ESC 604 Khaled El-Gendy**, Vehkaniitynkuja 3 H, 02180 Espoo, Finland
(Mint stamps, essays, Postal Europea, Classics, postal history, postal stationery)
- ESC 605 Yasser Omar** 700 Anderson Hill Road, Mail Drop 733, Purchase, NY 10577, United States
(Fuad and Farouk portrait issues, 1923-1953; Airmail history of Egypt)

Change of Address:

- ESC 257 Dr Michael Michaels**, 3286 Northside Parkway NW, Apt 703, Atlanta, GA 30327-2243 USA
- ESC 340 Robert Porter**, 123 Lipinwood Drive, Beaver Falls, PA 15010, United States

Q21: L’Orient Philatélique: One of our Egyptian members writes to ask if any members have copies of the Philatelic Society of Egypt publication *L’OP* to complete a series of full runs he is trying to make up. The list of required items is Nos: 1, 2, 3 (2 copies), 6, 7, 11,18,19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 28, 29, 32, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 49, 51, 70, 84, 93, 100, 113, 114, 116, 121, 124, 125, 127 (2 copies) and 128. Any member with copies to offer should contact the Secretary.



Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3

Report on the joint meeting at Heaton Royds on August 19, 2006

Richard Wheatley (ESC 198)

This was a joint meeting between the Egypt Study Circle and the Sudan Study Group. It was held at the home and business premises of Stephen and Judith Holder at Heaton Royds, which is on the outskirts of Bradford. There were to have been 17 people in attendance, but in the event Mike Murphy's presence was unfortunately required at his place of work.

The displays were as varied as you could wish for and much discussion took place over their content. We saw the following:

Peter Andrews (Chairman). Stamp booklets with a selection of attractive scale drawings of the various sheet formats together with the booklets and complete sheets.

John Sears (President). Not airmails as you would expect, but splendid Maritime Mails from Egyptian, Italian and German shipping lines, showing Paquebot markings, the cachets of the ships and picture postcards of the boats matched with the covers.

David Sedgwick. A new face to most of us with some quite outstanding British Forces Seals in panes and on cover.

Sue McIntosh. She was not supposed to have any material over here in the U.K., however she provided a frame full of, appropriately in her case, Medical Revenues on wonderful documents.

Keith Pogson. He had brought along the Third Issue. A frame of mouth-watering stamps followed by a frame of jaw-dropping covers.

Ted Fraser-Smith. I always expect to see something challenging from Ted and on this occasion he did not disappoint. He told the story of Postal Code numbering, where the numbers of the despatching office appear in boxes on the reverse of envelopes from 1980 onwards. Cutting-edge stuff.

Brian Sedgley. Brian had sought help from Peter Smith in the form of photocopies of his Egypt used in the Sudan material, which he supplemented with suitable items from his own fine collection.

Dennis Clark. Two delightful selections. Firstly Interpostal Seals and postage stamps used abroad, and then some most unusual U.P.U. Postal Identity cards.

John Davis. Fakes, Forgeries and Fabrications, or as he put it, the "unreal". Starting with two stampless covers with added Posta Europea cachets, followed by unreal stamps. All very surreal.

Edmund Hall. Far-ranging material, with the six types of genuine Posta Europea cachets on entires; a pot-pourri of Sudan and then a remarkable showing of covers from Gaza including a few from recent conflicts there.

Richard Wheatley. A nice study of the No Value stamps along with the 1907 O.H.H.S. overprinted stamps. These were shown on cover and document - some of which still need deciphering.

Richard Stock. From him we had two superb displays of Sudan. To start with a selection of Airmails, including a Marc Pourpe cover. Then some unique material of the first Camel Postmen stamps.

Stephen Holder. Our host and non-member of either Society brought forth two boards of Egyptian picture post cards. One set was embossed view cards produced by B. Edelstein of Cairo in 1909, the other set was produced by "D.P.F." and were Artist Palette cards. They were truly exquisite pieces of art, a real joy to behold.

In addition to those mentioned above, we also had the pleasure of the company of Malcolm Lacey, Peter Goodwin (on a sojourn from New Zealand), Ann Sedgwick and Pat Sears. Upon arrival we were greeted with a welcoming mug of tea or coffee. Lunch was a memorable trip down the Nile Valley with food specially prepared for the occasion. Judith and Yvonne had treated us right royally to some sumptuous offerings. Before tea and cakes Peter Andrews voiced a hearty vote of thanks to Richard Wheatley for organising the event and to Stephen and Judith Holder for hosting this unforgettable day.

Postmark Update: Star and Crescent and Star and Bridge

Peter Heim (ESC 384)



Type X



Type XI

Type X – the last update of these postmarks was in *QC* 153 from 1990. Here are some new dates:

Place	Earliest	Latest
Abouxah	2 OC 85	
Birket el Sab	7 JA 07	
Camp	17 JU 9.	on Zeh 39
Chibin el Kom	.. AO 84	
Edfina	.. DE 85	.. SE 98
Homran	.. SE 96	
Kosseir	30 MR 88	
Zifta	2 FE 95	

Type X-1.1 – ie, with town and suburb place names:

Place	Earliest
Alexandrie/Ras el Tin	3 VII 99
Caire/Ghouria	2 AV 90

Type XI-1 – the last published updates were around about ten years ago in the *QC*.

Place	Earliest	Reported by	Latest	Reported by
Aswan	.. VI 07	(MM)	28 II 14	(PH)
Ismailia	10 IX 07	(PH)	15 IX 15	(LA)
Luxor	4 VI 07	(PH)	8 III 14	(LA)
Mansura	12 V 07	(TS+PH)	21 III 19	(CWM)
Port Said	15 V 07	(PH)	30 IV 18	(MM)
Port Taufiq	.. VIII 07	(LA)	3 IX 15	(MM)
Suez	.. V 07	(PH)	.0 III 19	(LA)
Tanta	24 VI 07	(MM)	6 1 16	(PH)
Zagazig	28 IX 07	(PH)	4 I 13	(TD)

LA – Lars Alund; TD – Themis Dacos; PH – Peter Heim; CWM – Charles Minett; MM – Mike Murphy; TS – Tony Schmidt

Furthermore I have a new earliest date for double-line bridge Alexandria ‘A’ from 14 FE 11. Members should please report any further updates (with illustrations) to the Editor.

Egyptian Postal Mechanisation 1960-1980.

John Notton

John Notton, of the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle, sought ESC help when researching the topic in Egypt, and our members provided material to help him. The result is this outstanding article, first published in the PMSC journal Ident. We are delighted to acknowledge their permission to reproduce it; members finding more of these unusual markings should contact the Secretary

The title of this article is somewhat arbitrary and recognises that I have been unable to find any information about the present state of mechanisation in Egypt. The article is the result of finding the cover illustrated in *Figure 10*, which appears to have a machine ident, in an 'odds & ends' box at a local stamp fair. Until then I had not considered the possibility that Egypt had mechanised mail sorting methods that left traces on mail.

Since the item is dated 6th December 1960 I thought it might be too close to the Suez crisis for mail to travel easily between Egypt and the UK. In that case, Belgium might be a convenient intermediate point and somehow it had passed through a Belgian Bell Telephone Machine Company (BTMC) machine. Enquiries from members brought no definite information, except a feeling that Egypt had had letter sorting machines, possibly BTMC types, but that idents were unlikely. PMSC literature was also sparse. In the Newsletter, (*Ref. 1.*), I found a list of countries which had been applying marks to mail as a result of mechanised processing and there was Egypt listed as "BTMC, red idents 1960-?"

After finding confirmation of a possible BTMC machine, I was encouraged to re-read Bob de Vekey's IDENT article on Belgian mechanisation (*Ref. 2.*). There I found a statement that a BTMC Mk 4 machine had been supplied to Egypt. The Library, with the assistance of Paul Reynolds, then produced a list of BTMC machines world-wide with their configurations and installation dates (*Ref. 3.*). To complete the information available, Paul also kindly provided some photographs which had been taken in 1978 and were later supplemented by others from Marjo Vrijaldenhoven-Oostra.

CAIRO

My original cover was postmarked Cairo, and the BTMC machine list in Reference 3 informed me that a Mark 4 machine was installed at Cairo in 1960. This ties in well with the postmark date on my cover which is 12th December 1960. The machine had five operator desks and sorted to 250 boxes. Three views of the installation at Cairo are printed here. The question of idents will be addressed more fully in the final section of this article.

Figure 2 is a rather posed picture of an operator at work on the Cairo BTMC machine without any mail and with the operator's start/stop lever still in the off position. It is interesting to note the dual keyboard arrangement with the extra thumb-operated keys for the left-hand. Possibly these include the Reject function.

Figure 3 shows the other side of the machinery visible at back left of *Figure 2*, where the sorted letters can be recovered.



Figure 1. Alexandria Mail Centre pictured in 1978.



Figure 2 A view of an operator's console on the BTMC machine at Cairo. The left background shows some machinery at the back of the sorting boxes.



Figure 3 – The sorting box receptacles for the BMTC MK 4 machine at Cairo

As these pictures were taken 18 years after the initial installation it is not known whether the machine was still in use at this time. Other pictures provided show considerable dust and untidiness which hint at neglect, if not actual disuse. However, the story does not end quite there.

The photographs also revealed the presence of a British, Thrissell-made Single-Position Letter-Sorting machine (SPLSM) as illustrated in *Figure 5*.

The SPLSM is obviously being used in the picture, as letters can just be seen in the two viewing windows. Whether these are real live mail, or items being processed as a courtesy to the photographer, is not known. No details about the installation of this machine are known, except that it is part of a consignment of 34 similar machines sold to overseas Postal Authorities which is mentioned briefly in (*Ref. 4*). However, it is probable that its installation would have been after the British requirements were complete, say 1962-3 at the earliest.



Figure 4 – A second view of the console area of the BTMC machine at Cairo from the opposite direction. This shows a rather clearer view of the sorting machinery.



Figure 5 – Thrissell SPLSM at Cairo in 1978

ALEXANDRIA

A BTMC Mark 4 machine was also installed at Alexandria in 1963. This was again a five operator console machine, but had 300 boxes. The decision to have five desks on these machines seems to be arbitrary, as the Belgian Mark 4's had six. It is possible that this is a simple compromise between cost and work-load.



Figure 6 – A operator desk on the BTMC MK 4 machine at Alexandria. This view is similar to that for the Cairo machine, but the machine is obviously in use. (The start/stop lever is in the “Start” position.)

In general appearance this machine is identical to the one at Cairo, with no visible sign of any improvements during the years between the two installations.

Even though the activity in *Figure 6* is more suggestive that the machine is in regular use, once again it cannot be told whether the items being processed are live mail or courtesy items

A new Mail Centre was built at Alexandria in 1971 and this was commemorated by a stamp, shown as *Figure 7*. This stamp clearly shows a BTMC machine and the five operator positions. The building sketched round it has features suggestive of the view in *Figure 1*.



Figure 7 – Stamp commemorating the opening of the new Mail Centre at Alexandria, 1971

One source considered that the Alexandria BTMC machine was acquired especially for the new facility, but it seems much more likely if that was the case that an up-rated machine would have been installed instead.

Figure 10 shows a view of the BTMC machine sorting box receptacles at the Alexandria Mail Centre which creates a better impression than the similar Cairo view.

The Alexandria Mail Centre was also equipped with a Thrissell SPLSM with only the same limited information available regarding its installation. This is shown in figure 9.

This SPLSM has a rather unused look about it, but closer inspection of the picture suggests that it, too, is in better condition, at least externally, than the Cairo machine.



Figure 8 – The sorting box receptacles for the BTMC MK 4 machine at Alexandria



Figure 9 – Thrissell SPSM at Alexandria in 1978.

IDENTS

The cover in *figure 10* shows an ident A (red in the original) at the lower right which is very similar to some BTMC machine idents seen elsewhere, both in font type and position on the envelope. This is what initially created the thought that the ident might actually be of Belgian origin. To clinch the fact of Egyptian idents it is obviously necessary to find an internal Egyptian mail item with a similar ident. Once again material for study seemed to be very sparse, and I am especially indebted to Mike Murphy of the Egypt Study Circle and to Jeremy Meal for illustrations of four more idents, including two on internal mail items. All of these examples are postmarked Cairo and all are dated from 1960 or 1961. The idents are all single, sans-serif, upper-case letters printed in red. They are about 3 mm high as far as can be judged from the photographs, which are not all to the same scale. The illustrations of these covers in Figures 9–13 are reproduced at approximately 80% linear. The present date range covered is 27 June 1960 – 3 May 1961. With the small sample available these limits must be speculative, although much earlier dates cannot be expected for obvious reasons.

These examples provide very positive support for the use of idents mentioned so much earlier in the Newsletter

No examples or reports showing idents used at Alexandria have so far come to my attention although I have a reference to the use of two-letter, sans-serif, upper-case letter combinations. The following are listed: BA-BF, BH, BJ-BM, BP, BS-BU, BX, BZ and CA-CD.

It is not known whether the SPSM's at either mail centre were capable of printing idents. In view of the British experience it seems unlikely that they would have been used.

I would welcome reports of any other examples of idents, particularly any from Alexandria.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As well as expressing my thanks to all those mentioned by name in this article I would especially like to thank Foto Frits Renirie for permission to reproduce Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9.

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2. IDENT; Volume 5; pages 50-66.
3. Bell and Postal Mechanisation, Some ITT installations for Postal Mechanisation; A BTMC technical publication – Undated, but post 1974.
4. Handbook of Postal Mechanisation, The First British Sorting Machines; Page F27; Douglas N. Muir

Figure 10 – 6 December 1960. An airmail letter from Cairo to Birmingham with ident ‘A’.



Figure 11 – 3 May 1961. An internal letter postmarked Cairo, with ident ‘C’.

Figure 12 – 27 June 1960. An internal letter postmarked Cairo, with ident ‘F’.



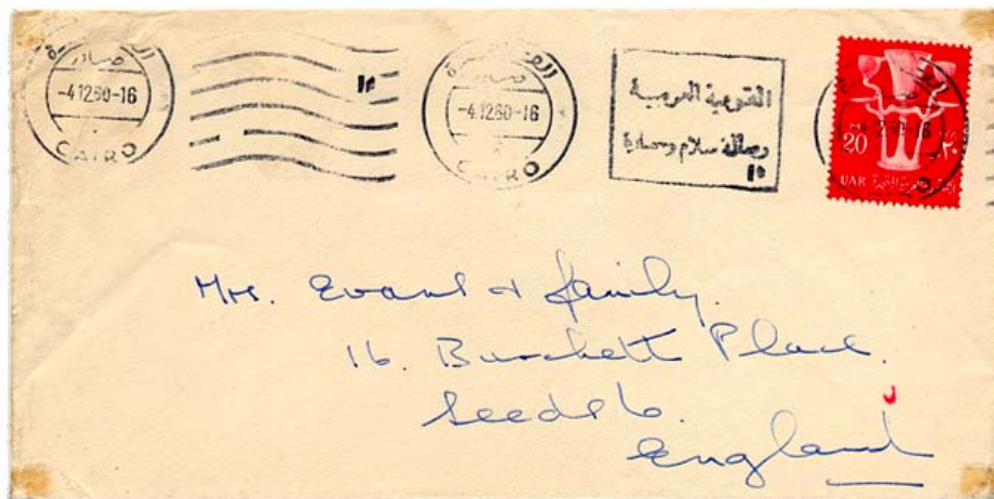


Figure 13 – 4 December 1960. A surface-mail item to London postmarked in Cairo, with ident 'J'.



Figure 14 – Date uncertain, but 1960. An air-mail item to London postmarked in Cairo, with ident 'K' (partially obscured by the Censor handstamp).

Q25 August 18, 2006 W.S. Bruncker. - flight Richard Wilson (ESC230)

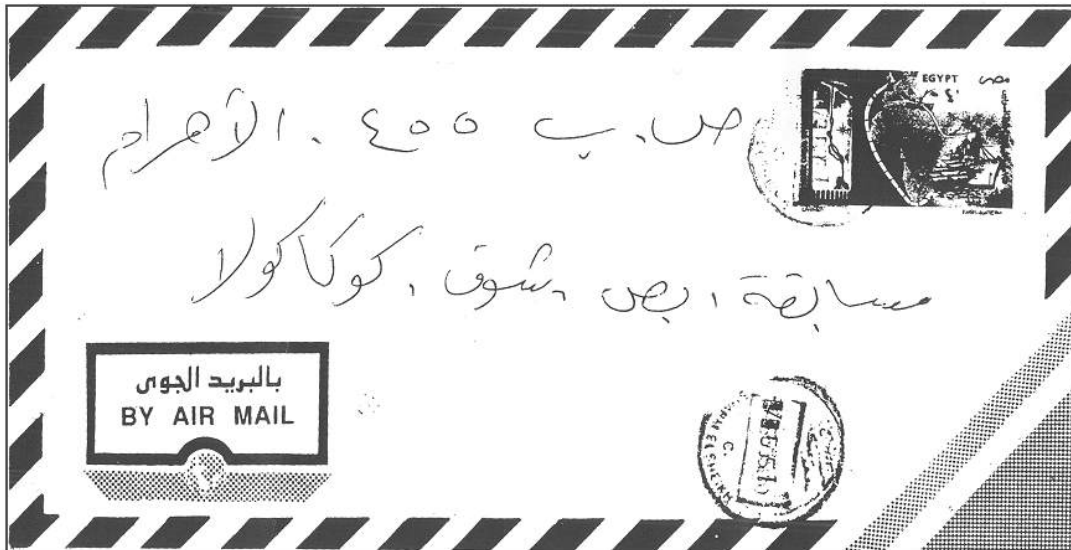
This cover is postmarked with Continental-Savoy Type HC5 on 25 XII 26. It is also backstamped the same day in Cairo. Can someone enlighten me about the flight from London to Cairo on Dec. 24, 1926? The cover is signed "W. S. Bruncker." To date I have not been able to find anything about Bruncker and the flight



Sharm el-Sheikh**Peter A. S. Smith (ESC 74)**

Although Sharm el-Sheikh, located in the Sinai in the far southern part of the Gulf of Aqaba, has become a prosperous resort location, it is essentially just that, without a supporting urban entity. Thus it has a large number of visitors, but produces relatively little mail (sending postcards lacks the popularity it once had). Consequently, the cancellation(s) of the place is rarely seen.

The accompanying illustration is of a commercial cover from Sharm el Sheikh; a version of the postmark with some of the extraneous ink cleared away is also shown. The date is not fully legible, but the stamp used was issued on December 27th, 1994, so it is almost certainly 1995. It would be interesting to read about any other postmarks of Sharm el Sheikh.

**Grand Continental-Savoy****Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264)**

During World War I the Savoy Hotel was requisitioned by the British Army and used as its Cairo headquarters. At the end of the war a decision was taken not to re-open the hotel because of disrepair: it was sold and torn down. Stationery and other useful items such as luggage labels no longer required for the Savoy Hotel were overprinted by the owners to reflect the change of name in their other establishment, the Grand Continental Hotel, which became known as the Continental-Savoy, as shown on these two items.

Savoy Hotel luggage label (*right*), overprinted diagonally "CONTINENTAL-SAVOY". Original size 4.25 x 6.25 inches.



Hotel letterhead (*below*) of the Savoy with the hotel name covered by a floral overprint that left the "crowned eagle" of the Savoy crest apparent, and "GRAND CONTINENTAL HOTEL" overprinted at the top of the envelope. This example was mailed on 21 December 1920 to an American missionary at Lolodorf, Cameroon. A rare destination for a rare cover!

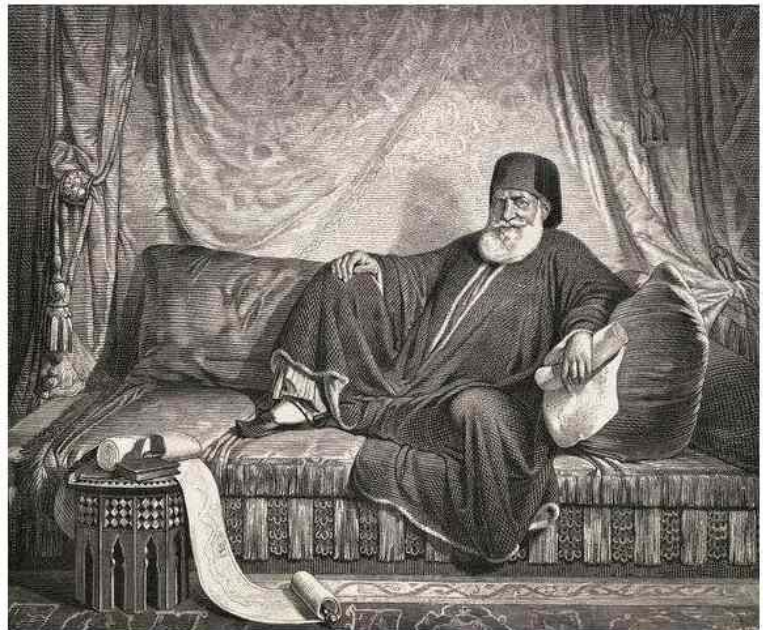


It happened 200 years ago, Muhammad 'Alî Pasha of Egypt

Andreas Birken (ESC 416)

On January 23, 1517, Sultan Selim's I campaign against the Mamluks of Egypt ended with the victory of ar-Raidâniya outside of Cairo. All of Syria and Egypt came under the sovereignty of the Ottoman Empire. Egypt was organised as an Ottoman Eyalet under a Pasha. He administered the province with the help of a diwan consisting of notables such as Mamluk Beys, Merchants and Ulema; but the Mamluk Beys remained the most powerful class on the Nile. This regime lasted till the end of the 18th century, when in 1798 Napoléon Buonaparte's expeditionary corps disembarked near Alexandria. The Ottoman-Mamluk army was defeated on July 21 in the Battle of the Pyramids. The French did not succeed in consolidating their rule in Egypt, and Buonaparte returned to France in 1799. In the Battle of Heliopolis (20 March, 1800) the French again defeated the Turkish and Mamluk forces, but in 1801 British landing forces intervened, and the French had to withdraw their troops.

During the French occupation a group of scientists founded the Institut d'Égypte and prepared the famous *Description de l'Égypte*, which was published after their return to France.



After 1801 Ottomans and Mamluks tried to reinstate their rule, but had to reckon now with the diwan of notables and Ulema, which had been strengthened by the French. In May 1805 the Ulema bestowed viceregal

powers on an officer of the newly arrived troops, whose name was Muhammad ‘Alî (Mehmed Ali in Turkish).

Mehmed Ali was born in the late 1760s at Kavala. His father was a soldier of Albanian origin, an Arnaut. In 1801 Mehmed Ali was made deputy-commander of the troops recruited at Kavala as a part of the Arnaut battalion for the Egyptian campaign. In 1803 he became commander of the battalion, which was the first step of his astonishing career. Mehmed Ali proved to be a master in playing the opposition factions in Cairo against each other. Since his rivals were split into factions and the Arnaut battalion was the most effective force in Egypt, the diwan took his side, and made him Wâlî of Egypt in May 1805. The Sublime Porte was slow to acknowledge the usurper, the official appointment reaching Cairo only in 1806.

In the following years Mehmed Ali fought the Mamluks. In 1807 the British tried without success to intervene in favour of them. In March 1811 the Wali murdered their leaders during a ceremony at the Citadel, and eliminated hundreds of them all through the country. From now on his rule was disputed by nobody. His next task was to reform the tax system and the economy of the country. In the period 1812 to 1827 he was busy in training a loyal local élite and strengthened the military forces. So he became the founder of modern Egypt. His sons he despatched on military campaigns in the name of the Sultan in the Hidjâz, Nedjd (to fight the Wahhabites), Sudan, Crete and the Morea (Peloponnese), making Egypt the predominant regional power.

In the last period of his reign (1828-41) Mehmed Ali tried to found an Empire of his own, against the Sultan and the Ottoman Empire. In 1831-32 an Egyptian army under the command of his son Ibrahim invaded Syria. In December 1832 he reached Konya, where he defeated the Ottoman forces and took the Grand Vezir prisoner. Now the Sultan sought the help of Russia; France and Britain were alarmed, because at that time they did not want the Ottoman Empire to collapse. A peace was mediated to the effect that Mehmed Ali should govern the provinces of Syria, Adana, and Crete in the name of the Sultan, as he did already the Hidjâz and Sudan.

In 1838 Mehmed Ali decided to proclaim his independence from the Ottoman Empire. He defeated an Ottoman army at Nizib near Aleppo and the Ottoman admiral defected to the Wali’s camp, surrendering the Ottoman fleet at Alexandria. The new Sultan, ‘Abd ül-Medjid, offered Mehmed Ali hereditary rule in Egypt, but this was not enough for the Wali. Now the European powers united to stop him. An ultimatum did not suffice, they had to take Beyrut by force, and British ships appeared before Alexandria. So the Wali was forced to conclude peace. In 1841 a ferman of the Sultan appointed him hereditary governor of Egypt together with the provinces of Nûba, Sinnar, Kurdufân und Dâr Fûr, although the latter was conquered only in 1874 by his successor.

In the last years of Mehmed Ali’s reign (1841-48) Egypt had a more peaceful time. The Wali drew nearer politically to Great Britain, a power that contributed more to his downfall than others. In 1841 he allowed the British to establish a line of communication to India, using the overland line from Alexandria to Suez. In his late years Mehmed Ali Pasha became mentally incapacitated, and in 1848 he had to give the reigns to his sons. He died on 2 August, 1849, in Alexandria and was buried in the Citadel mosque of Cairo. Mehmed Ali was all his life a Turkish gentleman, who spoke only Turkish and never learnt Arabic nor French nor English.



Reproductions and Forgeries of Some Common Stamps

Vincent Centonze (ESC 571)

I recently had the opportunity to examine some interesting items which can be deceptive to an unwary or beginning collector. These included two purported “large die proofs” of the 20m olive green and 100m black values of the 1914 Pictorial Issue, and forgeries of the 1921 10m deep blue postage due and 1941 6m gray green postage due stamps.

Each of the alleged “large die proofs” contains an image of the stamp in the issued color in the centre of an imperforate ungummed sheetlet measuring 156mm by 109mm. The 20m sheetlet is printed on paper watermarked “VELOGRAPHE ZRC” in large double-line letters; part of the watermark is over the stamp image. The 100m sheetlet appears unwatermarked except for a portion of the letter “Z” in the upper right corner, nowhere near the stamp image.

At first glance both items appear convincing; however, they are not large die proofs but are reproductions printed in 1950 by Helio-Vaugirard, a French securities and stamp printing firm. The items were printed as plates for illustrations in a book entitled *L’Egypte des Pharaons*, which showcased reproductions of Egyptian antiquities and monuments. Numerous other Egypt stamps were also printed for this book in the same small sheetlet format as well as in the corner of a large page containing an illustration of the respective monument. The small sheetlets are the most likely to deceive collectors and the 20m and 100m plates are especially similar in appearance to the genuine stamps.

The genuine stamps were printed by typography and watermarked with Crescent and Star. The reproductions I examined are also typographed and although the sheetlet is watermarked as mentioned earlier, the location of the watermark on the sheet varies, so that the sheet may be cropped in such a way as to show no watermark. The colors and dimensions closely approximate the genuine stamps, although the 20m reproduction is a lighter shade of olive green than most of the genuine stamps.

When they were printed, each sheetlet contained the printer’s name and year at the bottom of the sheet, but as with these two examples, the bottom of the sheet may simply be trimmed away. Fortunately there are some major differences which allow us to distinguish the items from genuine imperforate proofs or stamps. First of all, the original stamps were printed on paper which is approximately 0.11mm in thickness. Genuine, gummed, unwatermarked plate proofs that I have examined are generally slightly thinner but vary from about 0.09-0.11 mm in thickness. However, the reproductions are on much thinner paper, which is only approximately 0.06-0.07mm thick.

In addition, there are design differences. On the 20m, the horizontal shading lines on a genuine stamp or proof tend to be thicker and extend all the way to the inner frame lines of the side panels (*Fig. 1*); on the reproduction, the horizontal shading lines are thinner, often broken, and do not extend to the side panels (*Fig. 2*). On the 100m, the most obvious difference is in the vertical shading lines above the top inscription tablet. On a genuine stamp or proof, these vertical lines join the horizontal frame lines above and below them (*Fig. 3*); on the reproduction, the vertical lines are short, almost like dashes, and do not touch either of the horizontal lines above or below them (*Fig. 4*).

While these reproductions make for interesting adjunct items to a collection, be aware that they do occasionally appear on the market advertised as proofs or imperforate stamps. However, the next two items were manufactured purely as outright forgeries, probably for the packet trade, since neither is a particularly high-value item.

The first is a forgery of the 1921 10m deep blue postage due stamp. The genuine stamps are typographed, perforated 14 x 13.75, and watermarked Triple Crescent and Star. The forgeries, which are a deeper blue than most genuine stamps, are lithographed, perforated 11, unwatermarked, and the copies I have examined are ungummed. On the genuine stamps, the white circles in the centre of the star at the vignette corners is very distinct, as are circles in the other corner ornaments. Also, the letters in “POSTAGE DUE” are sharp and thick (*Fig. 5*).

In addition, the round ornaments at each end of the value tablet contain a comma-shaped mark (*Fig. 6*). On the forgeries, the white circles in the centre of the star and corner ornaments are much smaller or virtually absent and the letters in "POSTAGE DUE" are thinner and more blurred (*Fig. 7*). There is no comma-shaped mark in the circles at either end of the value tablet (*Fig. 8*). The genuine stamps are printed on paper which is 0.08-0.09mm thick, whereas the forgeries are printed on paper which is only 0.06-0.07mm thick. The forgeries I examined were printed in five vertical columns and an unknown number of horizontal rows. There are no marginal markings and the width of the sheet is 223mm.

The last item is a forgery of the 1941 6m gray green postage due stamp. I believe this was printed by the same forger as the previous postage due forgery because the length of the sheet is also 223mm, and the paper thickness, type, and perforations are identical. It is slightly more difficult to discern from the genuine because both the genuine and forgery were printed by lithography. However, the genuine stamps are perforated 13.5 x 13.75 and watermarked multiple Crown and Arabic F whereas the forgery is perforated 11, unwatermarked, and the copies I examined were ungummed. It is important to note, however, that the paper on which the forgeries were printed was crudely produced and varies in consistency; it may therefore have the appearance of indistinct watermarks.

Fortunately, design differences abound: on the genuine stamps, there is a distinct space between the left-most Arabic letter in the top inscription panel and the bottom of the panel, whereas in the forgery the left-most letter touches or almost touches the bottom of the panel. Also on the genuine stamps, the cross-hatching in the lotus petals and stems in the vignette corners is quite distinct (*Fig. 9*), whereas in the forgeries this cross-hatched shading is often weak and incomplete with a distinct break in the horizontal border line below the lower left petal (*Fig. 10*). As in the previous case, the genuine stamps are printed on paper which is 0.08-0.09mm thick whereas the forgeries are approximately 0.06-0.07 mm thick.

Forgeries of common stamps for the philatelic market have been produced for many years for stamps of many different countries; it is disconcerting to know that Egypt is no exception. Unfortunately, with improvements in printing technology, this problem is only likely to worsen.

Thanks to Peter Smith for his assistance with information on the Helio-Vaugirard reproductions.



Figure 1. Genuine 20m pictorial of 1914. Lines of shading extend to the inner frame lines of side panels.



Figure 2. Helio-Vaugirard 20m reproduction of 1950. Lines of shading do not extend to the inner frame line of side panels



Figure 5. Genuine 10m postage due stamp of 1921. The white circles in the centre of the star and in the corner ornaments are very distinct. Also, the letters are sharp and thick.



Figure 7. Forgery of 10m postage due stamp. The white circles in the centre of the star and corner ornament are much smaller or almost absent and the letters are thinner.



Figure 6. Genuine 10m postage due stamp of 1921. The circles at the ends of the value tablet contain a comma-shaped mark.



Figure 7. Forgery of 10m postage due stamp. The white circles in the centre of the star and corner ornament are much smaller or almost absent and the letters are thinner

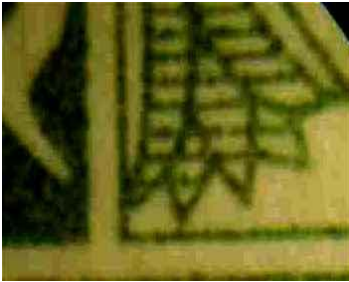


Figure 9. Genuine 6m postage due stamp of 1941. Cross-hatching in the lotus petals and stem is quite distinct and the horizontal border line below the blossom is complete.



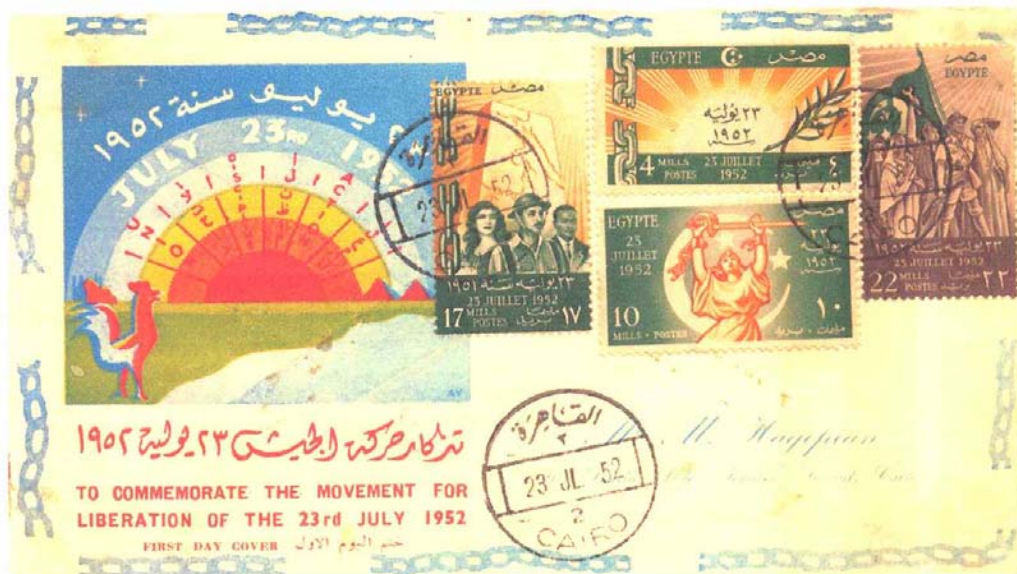
Figure 10. Forgery of 6m postage due stamp. Cross-hatching in the lotus petals and stem is not distinct, and the horizontal border line below the blossom is broken.

Different Cancellation Dates on First Day Covers

Mostafa El-Dars (ESC 556)

On July 23, 1952, the Egyptian Army staged a successful coup which ended the Monarchy and forced King Farouk to abdicate. To commemorate this event, the Egyptian Postal Authorities issued four stamps (Bal.150-153) on November 23, 1952. I have first-day covers of the four stamps cancelled with two different dates.

The first cover is addressed to Mr M. Hagopian (stamp dealer in Cairo) and cancelled 23 JU 52 / CAIRO 2. The second is an official first-day envelope issued from the Director-General of the Postal Authority and cancelled 23 NO 52 / CAIRO 2.





RAF from Egypt to Iraq in 1919

Lawrence Kimpton (ESC 591)

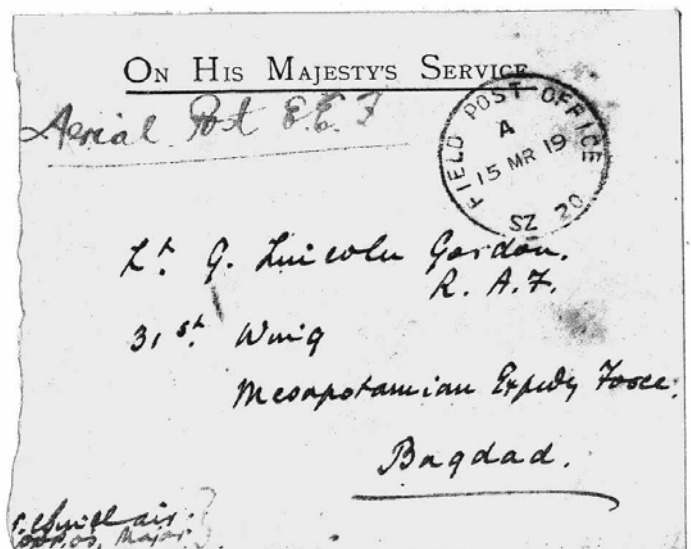
In the December 2005 *QC* I was interested to read about a cover flown by the RAF from Egypt to Iraq in March 1919 (article by Lucien Toutounji), described as the only known cover carried on this flight by Captain Nuttall and Major Boyd. I have a cover flown on the same flight, but from the EEF in Palestine; it has no backstamp, but the letter enclosed confirms its carriage on the flight. The cover is postmarked at Field Post Office SZ20 (Palestine) on 15 March 1919, this date fitting in with the cover from Egypt posted on 12 March and postmarked at Baghdad on 19 March. The enclosed letter reads as follows:

“My dear Gordon,

Just a line of greetings and good wishes to self by Aerial. Have already sent you a letter by land and sea. Sorry had no time to introduce a special aerial stamp as GHQ gave me no time. In fact it took them a long time and some coaxing to agree to the Aerial Post. Hope to have the stamp for the next mail. Cheerio and good luck.

Yours sincerely, S C Sinclair “

The corner of the cover shows that S C Sinclair had the rank of Major. I would imagine that the aerial stamp which Major Sinclair had hoped to have would have been a cachet similar to that provided in Iraq for the February 1919 flight by Captain Nuttall and Major Boyd in two DH4 aircraft, with Sir Arnold Wilson, Civil Commissioner for Mesopotamia, as passenger from Baghdad to Ramleh (Wilson and the mail continued onwards to Egypt in another aircraft). Wilson's book *Mesopotamia 1917-1920, a clash of Loyalties*, quoted in Proud's *Postal History of Iraq*, refers to Nuttall and Boyd returning to Iraq some weeks later in a DH9 aircraft, flying between Damascus and Baghdad on 19 March. Clearly this was the flight on which the Lucien Toutounji cover and my cover were flown.

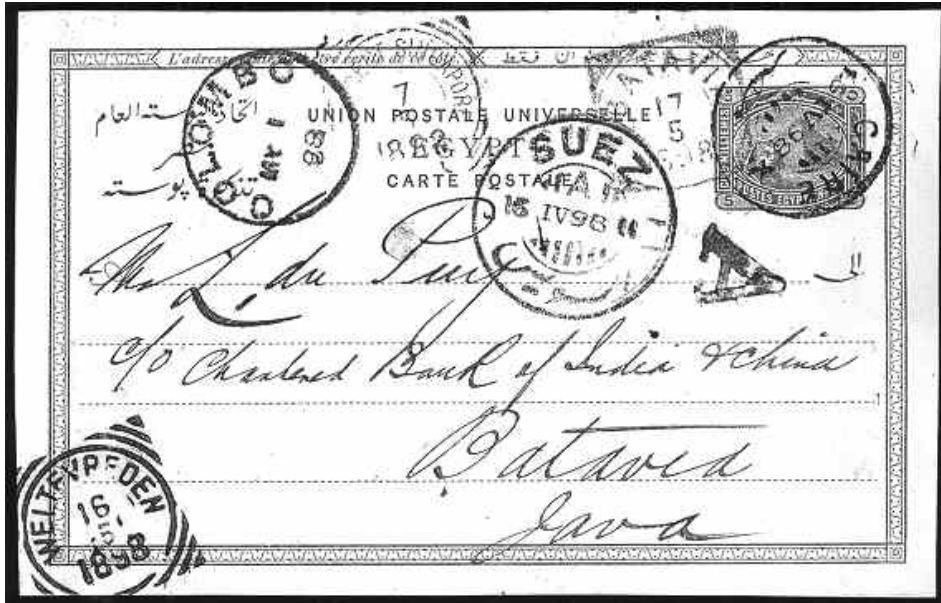


Query section

With this Query, we shall start to co-ordinate the numbering of Q&As with those on the website, for ease of reference. Members are urged to consider their colleagues' queries and to help all of us by providing an answer where possible...

Q15: June 21, 2006 - Unknown "A" marking on a postcard - Bernd-Dieter Buscke (ESC 533)

Can anybody tell me the significance of the large "A" marking on this postcard?



R1: August 8, 2006 - Peter Heim (ESC 384)

The "A" stands for "Avond", which means "evening". It was stamped by the postman and was very common at this time.

Q19: Fuad issues - A Call for Help - Ahmed Abu Mousa (ESC 584)

Our member from Abu Dhabi is researching Fuad postal history, and seeks members' help in completing that research.

Because he does not have enough material bearing the green 4-millième value of the Fuad Second Issue (1927-37) to provide a statistical breakdown, he asks all members to examine their collection's covers, cards or parcel cards – any postal material at all – bearing the stamp, whether as a single franking or mixed with other values or issues, and to provide information on the following:

1. How many postal items do you have bearing the stamp?
2. How many of them are the Type I (horizontal-vertical) screen?
3. How many of them are Type II (diagonal) screen?

Ahmed says that he is willing to purchase postal material bearing the 4-millièmes Type I or unsorted bulk covers bearing the stamp examine them himself.

Further, he has examined several hundred examples of the First Fuad issue (1923-24), including requests to non-ESC members, and would very much appreciate knowledge of the earliest and latest postmark dates members have on these stamps, and the values showing those marginal dates. If on cover, a description would be greatly valued.

Any input, he says, would be highly appreciated. Ahmed can be contacted by e-mail at ahmad_ccna@hotmail.com or by post at PO Box 35232, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Q20: Query from André Navari (ESC 534) in France: In one of the recent ESC auctions I bought a photocopy of the very useful book *List of Names of Mudirias, Principal Towns and Villages Forming Fiscal Units*, published by the Ministry of Finance of Egypt in 1920. For some months I have been engaged in scanning this book, with the intention of creating a database containing the names of all the Egyptian towns. But I have come across a problem: in my example of the book there is no page 99!! This page seems to contain the end of the list of cities of Markaz Benha and the beginning of Markaz Tuh. I wish to complete this work in this calendar year, and I should be delighted to receive a copy of the missing page 99 and then put the whole database at the disposition of the ESC. If you have the book and if your copy contains the page 99, please contact me at annavari@club-internet.fr and we can arrange how it might be sent. My grateful thanks in advance.

Q23: AHARAM postmark Richard Wilson
ESC(230)

Smith's book says that for a short period the Pyramids post office nearby used this postmark. I have one dated 24 XII 09. Does anyone have earlier or later dates?

R1: August 8, 2006 - Peter Heim (ESC 384)

My dates for Ahram are ..XII 09 and ..XII 10. No other cancellations are known to me like Cash, Parcels or Registration.

R2: August 14, 2006 - Jack Graham
(ESC 541)

I believe your 24 XII 09 AHARAM postmark is the earliest recorded usage. As to the latest date, I have a 16 XI 10 and Anton Jansen's *Hotels Revisited* article lists 23 XI 10 used as a backstamp (see [QC 213](#)).



Q24: Black box - Peter Heim (ESC 384)

I have a type V-2.2 postmark from Cairo, dated 2 OTT 75. There is a black rectangular box below the year. What does this mean? I know of a similar cancellation from Dutch India, where a black box was used by senders of newspapers. Is this the case in Egypt, too?

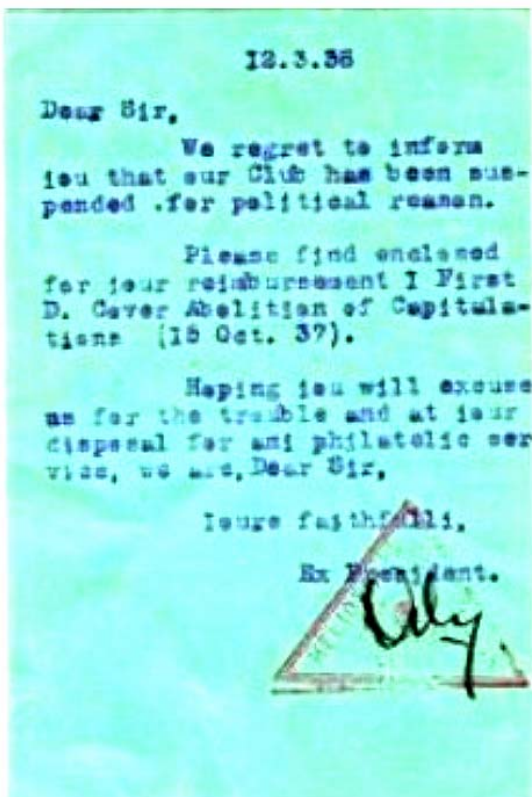
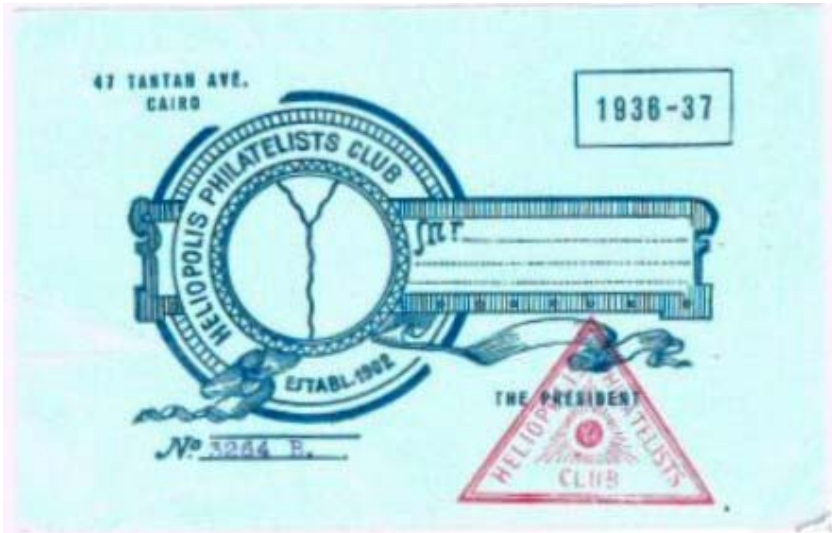
Heliopolis Philatelists Club: An Ancient Mystery

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

One of our recently elected members, Hani Sharestan (ESC 595), of Tustin, California, has a good collection of Heliopolis-related material. Among it is an intriguing printed and typewritten club membership card in blue-green about which he sought information. It comprises a message, dated 12.3.38, from the Heliopolis Philatelists Club to one of its members regretting the club's closure.

The printed card bears a circular Club logo, its address in Cairo, a box with the year, 1936-37, typed member number 3264 B, and a red triangle handstamp over "The President". The message on the reverse states in full:

"Dear Sir, We regret to inform you that our Club has been suspended, for political reasons. Please find enclosed for your reimbursement 1 First D. Cover Abolition of Capitulations (16 Oct. 1937). Hoping this will excuse us for the trouble and at your disposal for any philatelic services, we are, Dear Sir, Yours faithfully, Ex President" and the signature Aly with another red triangle.



My immediate reaction was that the card could not be "right". I replied to Hani that though the intriguing card says "founded 1902", Heliopolis did not exist in 1902 but was founded only in 1905-06. It also says that the membership number is 3264, an incredible number for a local society, and gives the address as Tanta Avenue - there are three streets called Tanta in Cairo - in Shoubra, Mohandessin, and Qubba Palace, none of them exactly in "Cairo" proper or in Heliopolis either.

What "political reasons" there could have been for suspending a stamp society in March 1938 I could not imagine. I said that I could not understand why a stamp society should have been closed. Nor could I imagine why anyone would forge such a document either...!

Peter Grech (ESC 266) kindly agreed to look at the card and was equally mystified, imagining that the "political events" might be the Abolition of Capitulations for Egypt in 1936 (they had been abolished for the Ottoman Empire in 1923) and the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty. "1902" on the Club's seal, he thought, could be a "marketing ploy" to entice members. He added that it could actually refer to Matarieh, the old Heliopolis (ancient "On"). Any old map of the "Environs" of Cairo shows that area as Heliopolis. Several

wealthy Europeans lived there at the start of the 20th century before the genesis of modern Heliopolis and could have formed the nucleus of that club.

Last week, however, while looking for something else entirely – as is so often the case – I came across a brief article in *L'Orient Philatélique* 33 (July 1937, page 108) simply headed Heliopolis Philatelists Club. It

seems to resolve the problem, so I reproduce it in full (in my own perhaps sketchy translation from the original French). It reads:

“As a result of numerous requests for information about the complaints received on the subject of this Society, we have undertaken a private investigation and followed our traces of information to sources of which we are sure and worthy of respect.

And here is the result!

This so-called Society, founded in 1902(!), which pretended to possess 2461 members worldwide and promised the earth to each new applicant who paid the subscription of 5 shillings (we reproduce here the very alluring offer, remarkable if really true, which accompanied the printed matter produced by the Society), was in fact no other than a product of the imagination of a young man acting alone, still at college we believe, who was “flying a kite”!, having decided, without thinking it through fully, to found, organise and put it into effect all by himself with a few leaflets and as much publicity as he could arrange.



Accordingly, for motives which we do not go into but which we can easily imagine, not a single collector in Cairo or even in Egypt received these circulars – despite his having declared a total of 338 members in Egypt – but they were all addressed to philatelists resident overseas: England, United States, Canada, Australia and so on.

As a result of many complaints having been received against this imaginary Society from overseas, and particularly from the United States and Canada, by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation of the Cairo Governorate, the US Ambassador and even the Egyptian Postal Administration, an inquiry was set up by the police authorities of the Cairo Governorate.

As a result of this judicial inquiry, the President of the Club having been made aware of the fragility of his enterprise, he dissolved it, and is now engaged in reimbursing all those persons who had sent him their subscriptions or other contributions.

Those persons harmed by this unhappy affair should address themselves directly to the Cairo Governorate and provide all necessary details. We counsel all our readers, in order to avoid possible disappointment, to seek our opinion when contacting any future correspondents in Egypt (providing, please, a reply coupon); we will be happy to reply impartially.”

Editorial

I am perhaps in an enviable position as an editor in that quite a backlog of material for the *QC* has gradually built up over the last year. So apologies if your article has yet to appear; hopefully it will do so in the next one or two *QCs*. Please, though, don't stop them coming ... I can manage with a feast, but not with a famine. Some of the excellent articles submitted extend to more than 20 pages. Allowing for meeting reports, which must take priority, and Queries and Answers does not allow room for all of such an article. I am not keen to make any *QC* a single-article edition, so what to do? One solution is to serialise lengthy articles, but this fragments them and ideally they should remain a single published work. Has any member any thoughts on this subject?

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND BALANCE SHEET (GENERAL
ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

	2004		2005
INCOME			
Subscriptions	2,820.00		2,609.50
Auction account	1,000.00		1,003.94
Bank deposit interest received (net)	34.03		45.15
Sale of ties – 0 (2004 0)	-		-
Donation	15.00		23.58
Advertisement	<u>75.00</u>		<u>-</u>
		3,944.03	3,682.17
EXPENDITURE			
Meeting room hire	617.25		625.25
Cost of quarterly circulars	2,758.48		2,339.36
Affiliation fee B.P.S.	36.60		33.60
New issues	5.17		37.90
Insurance	18.80		18.80
Donation	-		25.00
Cost of ties sold - 0 (2004 0)	-		-
Dinner	-		1,390.50
Membership cards	52.50		55.13
Website costs	-	110.20	
Officers' stationery and telephone	66.12		185.73
President/Chairman's postage etc	76.81		36.32
Bank charges	<u>28.76</u>		<u>-</u>
		<u>3,660.49</u>	<u>4,857.79</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		283.54	(1,175.62)
Surplus at 1 January 2005		8,485.72	8,769.26
SURPLUS AT 31 DECEMBER 2005		<u>£8,769.26</u>	<u>£7,593.64</u>
ASSETS			
Photocopier written off	-		-
Stamp collection at catalogue valuation	2,535.70		2,535.70
Circle library and records	-		-
Stock of ties 50 (2004 50) at cost	224.20		224.20
2006 room hire prepaid	590.00		587.00
2005 dinner prepaid	173.55		-
Due from library account	60.00		60.00
Current account	762.90		930.28
Deposit account	4,676.02		4,021.17
Cash in hand	<u>16.89</u>		<u>-</u>
		9,039.26	8,358.35
LIABILITIES			
Members' subscriptions 2006	270.00		763.00
Due to Treasurer	<u>-</u>	<u>270.00</u>	<u>1.71</u>
		<u>£8,769.26</u>	<u>£7,593.64</u>
Representing Accumulated surplus		£8,769.26	£7,593.64

I have prepared the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet on pages 1 and 2 from the records and explanations provided to me, and confirm that they are in accordance therewith.

S W Bunce Chartered Accountant 13 May 2006

Notes from the Hon. Librarian:

Some little while ago I mentioned at the AGM that the sale of back-numbers of the *QC* had fallen off in recent years, more particularly since the demise of our photocopier. However I believe it to be most important that members are aware of what *QC* back-numbers are held in stock. Accordingly, I have been scrambling in the attic of my garage and have come up with the first of two listings of what we have available for purchase. We agreed at the recent AGM that copies may be sold off at £2 per copy plus postage with a negotiable discount for volume purchasers who wish to acquire a complete run. All the following back-numbers have the sacred eye of Horus on the front cover: the next such listing will feature copies from Whole Number 66 - which is the earliest I have. Currently available:

<i>QC</i>	Stock	<i>QC</i>	Stock	<i>QC</i>	Stock	<i>QC</i>	Stock	<i>QC</i>	Stock	<i>QC</i>	Stock
174/5	23	176	17	177	-	178	-	179	1	180	13
181	2	182	10	183	-	184	15	185	22	186	42
187	5	188	22	189	-	190	29	191	15	192	8
193	29	194	13	195	18	196	12	197	10	198	27
199	8	*200	49	201	13	202	7	203	4	204	3
205	23	206	18	207	26	208	29	209	23	210	24

*colour

I should like to remind members that I would be happy to bring books to meetings if you would let me know beforehand which book or books you would like to borrow. The library should be used - we are a Study Circle, after all - and, if I say so myself, there cannot be many specialist philatelic libraries better than this one.

A full listing of library books may be found on our website except for the very latest acquisitions, which are:

The American Philatelic Society Inc.

American Philatelist Vol. 120 No. 7 Whole No. 1266
July 2006 Bellefonte PA

Hanafy, M.

The Egyptian Currency Note: Encyclopedia Catalogue of Egyptian Money (English version by Dr. Ali Mehilba) donated by the Philatelic Society of Egypt, 2006 §

Stanley Gibbons

Stamp Catalogue Part 19 Middle East 6th Edit.
Stanley Gibbons Ltd. Ringwood, 2005

Rowe, K.

The Forwarding Agents Publ. The Philatelic Specialists Society, Toronto, 1966.

§ see *QC* 217 p141 Ed.

John Davis

Editor's open house, Friday September 22.

The day before the next meeting, at Stampex on September 23, our editor is holding open house with supper and wine included. Although a little out of town, he lives next to a Tube and railway station, and so is easy to reach. Our visitors from overseas are particularly invited. Would any member intending to attend please let the editor know ... but a last-minute decision will also be welcomed. The only stipulations are that it is a non-smoking household ... and that on this occasion stamp talk is actually encouraged!