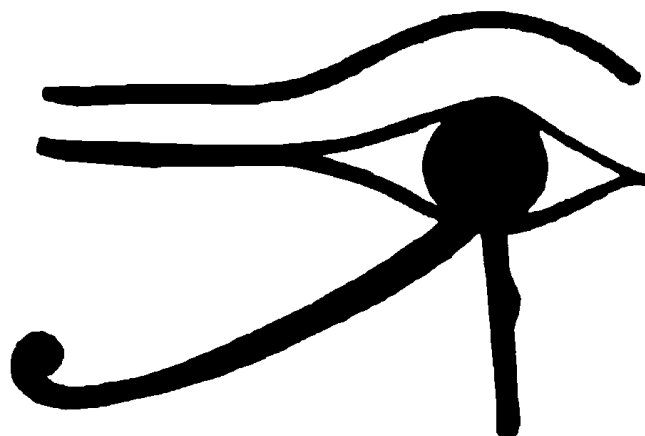


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THE
EGYPT



STUDY CIRCLE

**June Quarter 2007
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Report of the Annual General Meeting, May 5 2007

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chair-man), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Edmund Hall (Editor/Webmaster), John Davis (Librarian), Dennis Clarke (Committee), Mike Bramwell, Mostafa el Dars, Peter Grech, Lewis Said.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: Lisa Bartels, Hisham Bassyouny, Margaret Chadwick, Tony Chisholm, Sue Claridge, Cyril Defriez, Peter Feltus, Jack Graham, Paul Grigg, Dick Gunderson, Anabright Hay, Alan Holverson, Anton Jansen, Alan Jeyes, Oliver Migneco, André Navari, Peter Newroth, Keith Pogson, Trent Ruebush, Sherif Samra, Caroline Scannell, David Sedgwick, Ibrahim Shoukry, Jos Strengholt, Greg Todd, Vahe Varjabedian, Richard Wheatley and Dick Wilson.

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

Minutes of the last meeting (2006): These had been published in the *QC* of June 2006, and were approved (proposed Peter Andrews, seconded Mike Murphy).

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

Chairman's report: Peter Andrews reviewed a very good year, thanking members for having provided a series of interesting and worthwhile displays at the bi-monthly meetings, and noting regular attendances of 12-15 apart from those held at Stampex, which attracted almost double the normal attendance. He welcomed the organisation of the Bradford meeting, which gathered as many members as normal in London.

He spoke with great enthusiasm of the visit to Egypt in November when 20 members and families helped the Philatelic Society of Egypt to celebrate its 75th anniversary, and thanked our Cairo colleagues for their overwhelming hospitality; and the very enjoyable visit to the meeting in Wellington, New Zealand, paying grateful thanks to our Antipodean Agent, Tony Chisholm, and his wife Jenny for their convivial welcome and the ad hoc meeting, also to Herb and Anita Cowley for their hospitality and friendship during his stay with them.

He paid tribute to the invaluable assistance through the year of the members of the Committee and the overseas Agents, and especially to the members as a whole for contributing in such powerful fashion to both the Auction and the *QC*, which go from strength to strength in providing continuing interest to our colleagues all over the world.

Secretary's report: Mike Murphy reported briefly that membership continued to hover around the 200 mark, and thanked all those members who had completed the Data Protection/Survey report. Though about a quarter of members had failed to complete the form giving permission for their names and details to be published in a comprehensive list, he accepted the meeting's instruction that the list should be published as soon as possible – most probably with the September *QC*. Anyone who wishes to complete the list should contact the Secretary.

Treasurer's report and Adoption of Accounts for 2006: Brian Sedgley noted that though the Circle continued to spend more than it received in subscriptions, an overall surplus of £866.24 is shown in the Accounts – due entirely to a £1,500 contribution from the Auction account. He warned members that without continuing Auction income we might perhaps need to start eating into our reserve account. There was much discussion over the stated value of the Circle's New Issues stamp collection (£5,251) and that of the Library (marked at zero). Neither figure was considered realistic: on the proposal of Stanley Horesh, seconded by Edmund Hall, it was agreed that the figures for 2007 will be adjusted to £1000 and £3000, and the Librarian was instructed to investigate insurance costs for the Library and report to the Committee. The Treasurer proposed a vote of thanks (seconded Peter Grech) to our Accountant, Stephen Bunce (ESC 272), who as usual performed his duties without charge: it was greeted with acclaim. The Accounts were duly adopted (proposed Mike Bramwell, seconded Peter Andrews).

Auction report: John Sears reported that the 2006 Auctions, Nos 41 and 42, had again provided most useful commission to the Circle, and that No 43 now being completed looked on track to produce around £1,000.

He thanked the Auction team (John Sears, Peter Andrews, Mike Murphy, Edmund Hall and Mike Bramwell: a vote of thanks was proposed by Peter Grech, seconded Brian Sedgley), and particularly the vendors for providing top-class material that attracted high bidding. He warned members that not all auctions could be taken for granted and that the Circle could not afford to depend on the Auction as a constant source of funding.

Editor/Webmaster report: Edmund Hall announced that he had again produced four *QCs* in the calendar year, and aimed to maintain that pace, as regular appearances encouraged members to submit articles. He thanked overseas members, and particularly those from the Arab world, for having produced a number of fascinating pieces in recent months, and welcomed more – much more! – of the same. He appreciated the mix of deeply researched erudite articles and shorter, brighter pieces, and asked all members to consider submitting material for the Queries section which appeared both on the website and in the *QC*.

As last year the website statistics showed that it received significant increases in interest just after colour illustrations for the Auction had been posted on the site. The number of visitors was gradually increasing, and the Secretary appealed to all members to provide snippets of Egyptian philatelic information – of any sort – to provide a constant flow of updates to the News page.

Librarian's report: John Davis reported that sales of back copies of the *QC* had allowed him to buy labels to identify Library books as “Property of the Egypt Study Circle”, together with *The Cairo-Baghdad Air Mail*, by Wing Commander Roderic Hill, and *Travellers in Egypt* (ed Paul and Janet Starkey). The meeting accepted his suggestion to buy Peter Smith's *Egypt* with the available surplus.

Election of Officers: There was no need for any change in Officers, but the Secretary spoke for the pressing need for a volunteer to act as Publicity Officer after the return to New Zealand of Sue Claridge. He pointed out that the Revenue Society's four magazines annually cost only £690 against our £2900, the difference being offset in payments for advertisements in their magazine. If any British-based member is willing to give up a little time to take on the role [see “job description” alongside], please contact the Secretary.

Proposed Change to Rule: Members all received notices of a consideration of an increase in subscription rates, and the Secretary was both surprised and delighted to have received nearly two dozen responses from members all over the world, and especially from more recent additions to the Circle. The Treasurer, Brian Sedgley, and the Editor, Edmund Hall, both spoke in detail about how postage costs had increased to such a degree that the subscriptions of half our members now barely paid for *QC* unit cost and postage. Other costs were also rising at the same time, and without the non-guaranteed income from the Auctions we would be losing money every year.

There was much lengthy and fairly heated discussion, during which the views of absent members were also taken into full consideration, at the end of which it was decided that, with great reluctance, the subscription rate would have to be increased. On the proposal of Stanley Horesh, seconded by Brian Sedgley, an increase to £20 was accepted by ten votes to two.

The last rise in subscription rates came six years ago in 2001, and the meeting felt that the new increase would safeguard the Circle's survival for the foreseeable future, as well as allowing a slight increase in the amount of colour – costs have been coming down rapidly – we could afford to print. The meeting welcomed suggestions from some members that rather than printing and posting a paper copy of the *QC* it might be received in PDF form by email for home printing. As well as cost saving, an advantage would be that the

Publicity Officer

A volunteer is sought to fulfil the role of Publicity Officer. Duties comprise the following:

- 1. Liaise with the philatelic press (ie, write brief notices based on our meetings)**
- 2. Write, or encourage members to write, more extensive articles for the philatelic press, the aim being to encourage member applications.**
- 3. Liaise with auction houses or other potential advertisers (in conjunction with the Secretary) for the *QC*.**
- 4. Liaise with the Webmaster in encouraging links to and from similar websites.**

whole issue could be printed in colour. It was agreed to try this method as an experiment: would those willing to try (from the September issue) please contact the Secretary; and report back after receipt.

The Treasurer echoed the words of Dick Wilson, our US agent, and appealed for members to help the Circle by paying subscriptions on the due date – January 1. To this end, the meeting agreed to a Change of Rule (Rule 4, paragraph 1) to the effect that all members will be reminded in the December *QC* that dues are to be paid in advance on January 1: those who fail to pay by the date of the Annual Meeting will lose *QC* privileges immediately and will be warned that if full subscription plus an administration fee of £5 is not received within 30 days then membership will be terminated. There will be no further warning.

The meeting agreed that payment by PayPal to egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com will continue to be accepted (£21 / \$42 / €35, ie, to include PayPal charges and take account of fluctuations in exchange rates), and that members with accounts with British banks may set up a Direct Debit for the £20 subscription payable to Barclays Bank (sort code 20-98-21, account number 6033473 (please use your surname and ESC membership number as reference).

The Treasurer warned overseas members sending cash that it appears that Registration at home may not always be honoured in this country, and that several packets containing cash had been delivered without any signature required. He discouraged sending of cash through the post.

It was with heavy hearts that the meeting took the decision to increase subscriptions. But there really was no alternative – the Circle's survival is paramount, and while it is not threatened this year, or next, the alternative just does not bear thinking about.

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 5

ATTENDANCE: as above for AGM.

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

1. **Macarthur Award.** Votes are being sought for the annual award for the best and most significant article produced for the *QC* in 2006. Please visit the website or contact the Secretary. In future members will be reminded to vote in a leaflet in the December *QC*.
2. **Forthcoming meetings.** The July meeting on the Concessionary Period will be presented by David Sedgwick. Dennis Clarke has found that he has enough Airgraph material for a whole meeting rather than a half, and will present his collection at one of the 2008 meetings. Tony Schmidt has reluctantly had to withdraw from the November meeting on the Rural Post, which will be presented by Mike Murphy.
3. **PSE.** Members are reminded that membership of the Philatelic Society of Egypt remains open, on subscription of £15 / \$25 / €20) covering one year (or four issues of the *L'OP*) and airmail postage of the magazine may be paid direct (egyptianphilatelicociety@gmail.com for details) or via Mike Murphy for forwarding. In addition, the Cairo society has a number of back copies of *L'OP* available.

An informal and relaxed Bourse followed, only our second, and with fewer members attending than in 2006. But again it proved a great success, with most of those present having brought something to sell; and even more going away with more than they brought! The range of material on offer was outstanding covering the whole gamut from stamps to sheets, postcards, covers, FDCs, photographs, books, ephemera and mini-collections.

More New Postal Stationery Envelopes

Sherif El Kerdani (ESC 456)

In reference to the article by Mike Murphy in *QC* 216, I have recently found two other stationery envelopes as follows:

1. Internal use, exactly as figure 1 in Mike's article but with different dimensions, 177x125mm, same size as the smaller Avis de Reception envelope (*Fig. 1*).

2. Avis de Reception, local, exactly as figure 6 in Mike's article but this one is huge, 253x177mm - trying to mount it was a nightmare – (*Fig. 2*).

I also got hold of the **Avis de Reception** slip that the post office sends to the sender (*Fig. 3*), it is 170x115mm and the front is divided by two vertical lines; the left larger portion is in black and reads from top to bottom: Distribution Zone; then a horizontal line; then Name of Addressee / Address / Registration Number and a circle for Arrival Handstamp; this is followed by another line; then Delivered to / Status / Date / Signature of (employee) and on the left, a circle for the Zone Handstamp. The small right-hand portion is in green (except for the horizontal lines which are in black), Egyptian Post and the new logo, a line, then different choices with ticking boxes from top to bottom: Unknown, Notified and unclaimed, On travel, Refused delivery and Deceased, then a line and an oval with Administration Handstamp on top and Signature of (employee) to the lower right, then another line followed by the annotation: This Portion to be Filled in Case of Non Delivery. The green ranges from dark green to light grass green.

On the reverse, and in black (*Fig. 4*) there is an 85x35mm rectangle in which the Arabic script reads: Sender / Address / Number Date Zone (separated by spaces) / Governorate / Post Code.

Reference: *Egypt's Mystery New Postal Stationery Envelopes*, by Mike Murphy with contributions by Khetcho Hagopian, Bill Johns and Mostafa El Dars, *QC* XIX, whole number 216, March 2006, pp. 112-114.



Fig. 1



Fig. 4

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Membership Matters

Reinstated to membership

ESC 528 Jay David

Lapsed

ESC 474 Barton Ebermann

Resigned:

ESC 303 Tom Homa

ESC 400 Basem Farid

ESC 429 Dr Ronnie Straus

ESC 549 Antonello Fumu

ESC 567 Dr Raouf El-Gawly

ESC 586 Werner Schlotfeldt

ESC 596 Trevor Buckell

Change of address:

ESC 242 **Robert L Toth**, 80 High Point Drive, Unit 65, Medina, Ohio 44256-3844, United States

ESC 356 **Sue Claridge**, Flat 1, 13 Smartlea Street, Hoon Hay, Christchurch 8025, New Zealand

ESC 600 **Anabright Hay**, 34 Goring Street, Thorndon, Wellington, New Zealand

The Grey 5 Piastres DLR Pyramid & Sphinx with Narrow Watermark

Sherif El Kerdani (ESC 456)



De La Rue's Pyramid and Sphinx design still holds the record for the longest life in Egyptian postal history, 34 years from 1879 to 1913 during which it underwent several changes. Two major changes happened in 1884:

1. The adoption of the UPU colour scheme, which was optional at the time (it became obligatory in 1897): green for printed matter, red for postcards, and blue for letters.

2. The use of a new dandy roll in which the crescent and star elements of the watermark were wider and shorter than the previous one. The change of watermark had not been announced and was described by Revell¹ only almost 70 years later: he labelled the earlier narrow one as Type I (ca. 12mm wide by 14mm tall), and the later wider one Type II (ca. 14mm wide by 12mm). Revell tried to explain the change from one dandy roll to the other either by a change in the paper supplier - there is a difference in the paper texture coinciding with the change in watermark - or the use of a different dandy roll because the original one had been damaged during shipping back and forth between Egypt and Great Britain, which seems to be the logical explanation.

These abovementioned changes resulted in the issuing of new stamps:

1. The 10 paras in green instead of the previous grey (printed matter rate)
2. The 20 paras in pink instead of the previous blue (postcard rate)
3. The 1 piastre in blue instead of the previous pink (letter rate)
4. The 5 piastres in grey instead of the previous green, as the latter colour was given up to the 10 paras

The stamps were issued on December 15, 1884.

Theoretically speaking, and also out of frugality, these four new values should have been printed first on any of the narrow Type I watermarked paper remaining until the stocks were exhausted, and then on the wide Type II watermarked paper for the rest of their long lives, making the former scarcer than the latter. This fact is confirmed by Professor Smith², who says that the 1pi blue with the narrow watermark is scarce to rare, and that only two copies of the 10 paras green have been reported and none at all of either the 20 paras pink or the 5 piastres grey. Furthermore, Chaftar Bey³ reported that the earliest dates he had seen for the 5 paras brown with a wide Type II watermark were 3.2.1885 (which he had inspected) and 21.4.1885 (in his own collection). As the 5 paras stamp had been in continuous printing without a colour change alongside the abovementioned stamps, an idea can be gained of the short period of circulation of these stamps with the narrow watermark, about a month and a half or slightly longer.

Recently I had the opportunity to fish through several hundreds of the abovementioned four values. I was unlucky with the 10 paras green and the 20 paras pink, but was lucky enough to find two copies of the 1 piastre blue with the narrow Type I watermark, one used and the other mint. The big thrill came with a used 5 piastres grey stamp (Bal. 53, NP D44) with a very clear narrow Type I watermark, upright, and cancelled by part of a Type VIII (MIN)A EL BASAL / 3 cds but unfortunately the date is missing. I believe this is the only reported copy; there must be more to find. Happy hunting.

References:

1. A.J. Revell, *The Watermarks of the De La Rue Issues of Egypt 1879-1902*, QC IV, whole number 39, December 1953, pp. 71-72.
2. P.A.S. Smith, *The Fourth Issue in Egypt, Stamps and Postal History*, pp. 221-245, James Bendon Ltd., 1999.
3. I. Chaftar, *5 paras 1879*, L'OP No. 129, Feb. 1978, pp. 476-490.

Mrs Jean Flower, Daughter of our Founder

John A Davis (ESC 213)

Mr Charles Cadogan

It all started when Charles Cadogan, a friend of Mrs Jean Flower, “googled” the word Byam on the internet, Whether he got more than he had bargained for I am not sure, but it caused him to e-mail our Secretary, Mike Murphy, who duly mentioned it at our January meeting in 2007. Mike asked did any member present live anywhere near Barford in Warwickshire? I am something like 25 miles from Warwick itself, so I said I would contact Mr Cadogan.

On doing so by telephone I discovered that Mrs Flower is in her late eighties and lives in Cheltenham; she is none other than a daughter of Dr William Byam. I arranged to call to see Mr Cadogan and he expressed a wish that we might visit Mrs Flower in Cheltenham for tea sometime in April with a view to chatting about her father and what he had founded with his close friend Mackenzie-Low and others so many years ago.

Dr William Byam, OBE, FRPSL

In a wonderful afternoon of reminiscence, this is what Mrs Flower told me:

My father, Dr William Byam, was the son of a regular soldier, Colonel William Byam (later a General) in the York and Lancashire Regiment. He was born in the Himalayas, where his father was stationed (he always said he didn't exist, because there was nowhere for children to be registered).

When he was four years old he accompanied his father on the journey back to England by ship (his mother having preceded him with his baby sister Gwendolyn); unexpectedly, just as they had reached Egypt the regiment was ordered to take part in trying to rescue General Gordon, who was in difficulties in the Sudan. Young William had to be registered as a drummer boy in order that he could be provided with rations. He was also given a drum that he treasured for many years (sadly lost during World War II).

On his eventual return to England with his parents he was sent to a variety of schools, and eventually Wellington College, where he was expected to be a soldier like his father. But his housemaster, a brilliant man, sent for him one day and said: “My boy, you will never make a soldier . . . you rush about catching moths and butterflies; go away and make a list of all the things you could do or be.” He returned to his housemaster with “Doctor” written on his paper, and nothing else.

They did not teach science at Wellington, so the school borrowed a master from Marlborough to teach him, and a rather slow little boy became a brilliant student. His father was horrified and, said it was no career for a gentleman: “It is a nasty business being a doctor.”

But he was not deterred and passed top in all his exams; he had to coach some other students in St George's Hospital for the same exam to supplement his funds, as his father provided only the allowance he would have had in the Army.

Partly to please his father, he applied to join the Royal Army Medical Corps: again he passed the entrance exam brilliantly and came out top. William was able to choose where he would like to be posted. He chose Egypt and spent over ten years there, during which time he compiled and wrote a book on tropical diseases with another man in the regiment, Robert Archibald. They gathered together research and work by other doctors in the area (their specialities), and the book, *The Practice of Medicine in the Tropics*, was published and is still one of the great medical reference works today.

While he was in Cairo Byam shared a house with a brilliant surgeon named Harold Stiven, who was my uncle. My grandmother thought it would be nice for her daughter, in her early twenties, to visit her brother in Cairo. My father went down to the boat with my uncle to meet her, and said he had never seen anyone so beautiful in all his life. They took her back to breakfast and within a fortnight they were engaged and later married in Cairo at the start of the First World War. My mother had been in India before, visiting relations and had had many proposals, but luckily for my father had not accepted.

She was known in India as the “Belle of Calcutta”. My parents had their first child in Egypt, a beautiful baby girl, but she lived for only six days as the monthly nurse turned out to be a carrier of dysentery.

The war was on in Europe, so they decided to go home. My father was sent to a military hospital in Hampstead and given the task of trying to find out the cause of trench fever, which was killing more people in the trenches than the Germans were. He had the idea of asking for volunteers from the workhouse to be experimented on; the dear old boys volunteered so gallantly that he was able to find the cause and he was appointed OBE as a result: it was not being bitten by fleas that made the troops scratch but the faeces left behind, which they scratched in, resulting in the poison causing trench fever.

At this time he had many people asking to consult him as patients, and for his free afternoon he took a room in No 6 Harley Street, where he was overwhelmed by people who knew of him through the book *The Practice of Medicine in the Tropics*.

My mother urged him to leave the Army and go into private practice for tropical diseases in Harley Street: in those days of the British Empire so many British were living and working in the tropics and needed help when they returned home.

With courage, my father offered his resignation to the head of the RAMC, who threw the telephone at him in a rage, saying: “Don’t you realise, you would have become the head of the Corps?” My mother had such courage, and backed him up. By that time they had three children. First Anne, a strong and healthy little girl who was a strong personality, then me, a delicate baby whom my father, usually optimistic, said wouldn’t live and at six months weighed the same as when I was born. My mother fed me every two hours for another six months and I never looked back. Our brother Lawrence was born in September 1921.

My father at this time was working very long hours and so busy that he found it difficult to relax at the end of the day. My mother suggested to take up a hobby . . . something to do with his hands; he remembered enjoying his stamp collection as a boy, and he put a request in *The Times* personal column asking for someone to teach him how to collect in the best way.

It worked like magic for my father, and in no time he found relaxation and tremendous interest in his stamps. The stamps of Egypt were his speciality and he also enjoyed those people who worked on stamps with him. He went on to take part in all the international philatelic exhibitions, finally showing in the Hall of Honour, and he started the Egypt Study Circle.

Before the Second World War my father thought of leaving his valuable stamp collection in Guernsey for safety, but my mother urged him to keep it with him as it was such a relaxation and all-absorbing interest for him.

I had a lovely brother, Lawrence, who was the greatest joy to all of us, so kind and thoughtful and generous . . . brilliant in many ways . . . educated at Harrow and played both rugby and cricket. He played in the last Eton and Harrow match before the war, in which Harrow beat Eton for the first time in 30 years. Lawrence was a good bowler and did the hat-trick.

Our home in 92 Harley Street was beautiful; an 18th-century house with paintings on the ceilings and carved mantelpieces. My father had only a short lease of three years to start, and nobody as a rule set up on his own; the first year he reckoned to make a loss, during the second year break even, and the third year to make a profit. The very first year he made a profit and gave my mother a fur coat. The Howard de Walden Estate (landlord) allowed him a lease of 999 years, which they accepted.

At the beginning of the war my father continued seeing his patients in 92 Harley Street, but when the bombing became so intense that two houses opposite ours were completely flattened and everybody killed in them, and my parents were in our house at the time (they survived, but the house was badly blasted and the front door was blown off its hinges. My sister said every time my father told the people about being blasted, the front door gets further and further up the hall!), so my father decided he should not see his patients in London unless absolutely necessary.

He contacted Dr Clayton in Leamington Spa, who had offered him a consulting room. He started by spending two or three nights in Leamington, putting up in a comfortable boarding house, when one of his grateful patients, Mrs Barker, offered him a house. She lived at Barford, a delightful village with a blacksmith, a forge, a post office and bakery just as most villages used to be. The main transport was a bus once a day to Stratford and Warwick. Mrs Barker had three cottages which she had turned into a little house called The Old Mill House. Her tenants were about to leave and she offered it to my father for a £100 a year, which was very little even in those days. My father said that we must have somewhere safe for the children to come home to, and my mother agreed.

My father was to go on having patients in London when necessary, and our devoted Miss Tammage, his secretary, moved into the flat behind the house and looked after the patients, but my mother realised there was no-one in London to bring the furniture down to Barford; so she went to England (a place like Maples) in Leamington Spa and she asked them to go up to London and bring our things down. They were absolutely wonderful. They started off by saying "Yes madam" and they went up to London during the air raids, in their white coats, wearing gloves, and they never hurried . . . they brought out everything that we needed, so carefully, and when I saw my writing bureau with endless treasures in it including my dance programme and happy memories I said to my mother "How wonderful you; have brought everything", and she replied "I would not have dared to do anything else".

I think we were rather spoilt in many ways, but we adored our parents. We were so happy and comfortable in Barford. I was in the Oxford rep at the time, and only a relatively short journey away from Barford. My sister, who was in the Fannies (ATS), could come on leave, and my brother came on his way back from the West Indies where he was trained in the Fleet Air Arm. He came to see me acting at Oxford and said goodbye after the show. He seemed so serious and I said, "Oh, I'll see you on your next leave", and he replied very seriously "You won't, you know." A few days later he went missing while serving with the Fleet Air Arm in Scotland at Machrihanish.

The Egypt Study Circle

As most members of the Egypt Study Circle are no doubt aware, Dr Byam, whose ESC number was 3, was one of our founder members, and our first Chairman. Apparently he had a round dining table in his Harley Street home and consulting rooms, the venue for the earliest meetings, and the epithet "Circle" was used because they all sat round that table in a circle. Hitherto it seems that stamp clubs and philatelic societies had all been generalist and the group that would call itself the Egypt Study Circle was the very first specialist society. Large numbers of such societies now use the term "Circle".

Members were enrolled by invitation and, when something had to be decided, a matter of policy or even the genuineness of a stamp, everyone present was encouraged to vote. In fact I have heard from our Deputy Chairman, Stanley Horesh, that he attended such a meeting and, although he says he "hadn't a clue" whether or not a particular stamp was genuine, he had to vote and sign the certificate. Certificates issued by the Circle had to be unanimous in those days.

When I went to see Mrs Flower I took along with me the original leather-bound book that houses copies of the first certificates issued by the Circle during the 1950s. She was quite excited to see her father's handwriting and his signature on one certificate, and had no idea that the Circle, founded in 1935 by her father and a few friends, was still in existence let alone a worldwide society with around 200 members.

Apart from someone to control the meetings, a Chairman (Dr Byam), someone to write the minutes and enrol new members, a Secretary/Treasurer (Mr F. S. Mumford, ESC 22), and someone else to collate the work done by the members in their studies, a Keeper of the Record (Mr A. S. Mackenzie-Low, ESC 2), the Circle had no constitution as such. The only other "officer" - there was no committee - was the Exchange Packet Superintendent (Mr E. F. Hurt, ESC 9). As we all know, we no longer have an exchange packet - perhaps we should attempt to reintroduce one?

The Keeper of the Record recorded new information that came out of the studies; each member was made responsible for a particular study, and all were responsible for reporting to the members through a quarterly bulletin - that soon meant that they also needed an Editor. What we know today as the *Quarterly Circular* or "QC" was first issued in 1938 and lists 39 members and eleven studies, as well as reports on the twenty-first meeting of the Circle held on Saturday January 15, 1938, at Harley Street. The QC is still issued four times a

year, the only exceptions being during World War II. Members will also be aware that the Circle owns an extensive Library, now including the Record kept for so long by the late Charles Minett, FRPSL.

Full membership was 7/6d a year while a reduced membership fee of 5s applied to “Corresponding Members”, among whom was Mr G. Seymour Thompson, who was ESC No 1. I believe it was he who first produced a set of postmark illustrations which are of course well out of date in this day and age but still constitute an active study.

Philatelists of note in Great Britain and throughout the world are asked to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, which is a singular honour within our hobby. The last time I looked at the list the Egypt Study Circle had by far and away the largest number of signatories of any society, whether generalist or specialist, so Byam and his colleagues started something that is still well thought of internationally. He was a signatory himself, that almost goes without saying - Mrs Flower was able to show me his certificate. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London (F.R.P.S.L.).

A special edition of *L'Orient Philatélique*, No 102 (The “Byam” Number), is devoted to the life and collecting interests of Dr Byam and was published in 1960 by the Philatelic Society of Egypt. Mrs Flower remembers in particular that he was “always working on the blue stamps”. These can only be the 20 paras value of the Third Issue, and Byam was largely successful in plating them. Apart from a philatelic autobiography, *L'OP* 102 also includes a lengthy article by Byam entitled “Egypt Third Issue, 1872 and 1874-5”, reproduced by permission of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. An interim report on the study allocated to him, the Italian Post in Egypt, is also included. Much of the information on the Third Issue was later passed to a subsequent Chairman of the ESC, “Mac” MacArthur, who published it in the *QC*.

The Byam collection was sold by Robson Lowe, another family friend and possibly a patient of the good doctor, on October 24 and 25, 1961, when the Byams were living in Guernsey. The catalogue, which has a reproduction of a painting of Byam by John Teesdale, MBE, another family friend, is full of useful information and is probably as well used as the catalogue of the Palace sale conducted by Harmers in 1954.

Flower is not a common name and, living as I do not very far from Stratford-upon-Avon, I instantly made the connection. The Flower family owned and ran the famous Stratford brewing company that was eventually sold out to the Whitbread Group. The elder brother of Jack Flower, Jean’s husband, was the group managing director and Jack was on the board. I must say that, as a young man, I learned to appreciate warm English bitter by drinking Flower’s Bitter and Flower’s Original! They are both still obtainable in pubs near where I live in Worcestershire.



My meeting with Jean Flower left me with two thoughts: first, what a great shame that we did not know of her some years ago because our own Pip Whetter and his wife lived within a quarter of a mile. Secondly, my grateful thanks, and those of the Circle, to Charles Cadogan for arranging for me to meet such a lively and interesting lady and to share with her some wonderful reminiscences of her father and our founder.

The Postal History of King Fuad Portrait Issues (1923-1939) – Part II

Ahmed Abu Mousa (ESC 584)

[This article is a continuation of that appearing in *QC* 220, pp 205-216]

1. The First Portrait Issue (1923-1926)

The earliest use I have recorded for the 2 millième value on cover was November 13, 1923. This is 23 days before the date of issue given by the specialised catalogues! *Stamps of Egypt* (1998), *The Nile Post* (2003) and *Egypt Stamps & Postal History: A Philatelic Treatise* (1999) all give December 6, 1923, as the date of issue, whereas *The Production of Egyptian Postage Stamps 1866-1946* (1947) gives January 6, 1923.

My earliest date is recorded from this registered cover (philatelic?) sent to Copenhagen, franked 33m (overrated by 3m), and tied by Shepherd's Hotel 13.XI.23 (Type HS9) (*Fig.11*).



Fig.11. The earliest known use of 2m (Shepherd's Hotel 13.XI.23). Courtesy of an ESC member

The 1 millième value was intended for use on periodicals (newspapers and magazines) mailed locally by the publisher to the subscribers: such uses are quite scarce but not rare. However, most of the surviving periodicals bearing 1m are found in combination with 10m to pay Inland registered periodical rate: again such use is not especially scarce. Multiples of 1m to make up higher rates are much more unusual.

The 2m paid the printed matter rate for Foreign (July 1926-1931) and Inland prints or Inland postcards: such uses are scarce (except on window envelopes). But to find the 2m paying the correct rate of unsealed mail (mostly commercial papers) is uncommon, and creates some degree of scarcity. Multiples to make up higher rates are also scarce.

The 3 millième value paid the Inland postcard rate, and it is not uncommon. Multiples are quite scarce on cover.

The 4 millième value, which paid the Foreign printed matter rate (up to July 1926), is scarce. On a periodical or commercial paper sent abroad it is however by no means rare. Postcards sent abroad at printed matter rate are quite scarce, and multiples on covers are not unusual.

The 5 millième value, which paid the Inland letter rate, 10m (Foreign postcard rate until October 31, 1931), and 15m (Foreign letter rate to October 31, 1931), are quite common on covers.

The 20 millième paid the Inland double-weight letter combined with registration fee, and examples are not scarce. Colour franking covers of low denominations in conjunction with or without the 20m value are scarce and much sought-after.

The 50 millième stamp is quite scarce on cover but not rare. Most of the covers seen bearing such a denomination were either sent insured or paid a Foreign overweight charge (mostly large covers). The value was mainly used on parcel cards, and such examples are scarce. Many examples were overprinted “*Amiri*” and “*Consular Administration*” in Arabic.

The 100 millième is rare on cover; it could be used for insured or very heavy letters. Most of the five covers I have seen were philatelically contrived, either sent by one of the ardent philatelists or not correctly posted. The stamp was mainly used on parcel cards where, perhaps surprisingly, it is not uncommon and the 50m value is scarcer. Some stamps were overprinted “*Consular Administration*” in Arabic.

The 200 millième is a rarity on cover. I have seen only one cover correctly franked with a pair of 200m and other values sent to Brazil via Air Mail in 1936, and heard of two more. In addition, three covers were philatelically contrived. The 200m is quite scarce on parcel card, but not rare. Some were overprinted “*Consular Administration*” in Arabic.

The £E1 value deserves special mention. As we know, after the introduction of the Parcel Post service in 1880s the high denominations were used mainly on parcel cards. Before 1914, the highest value issued was 10 piastres (that is, 100m). Based on the Ministry of Communications statistics issued in Cairo in 1934 concerning the number of international parcels sent from Egypt published in *QC* (209, June 2004, page 229) by the late Anatole Ott, one can deduce the increasing use of parcel cards from 1885 up to 1913.

| Year | Ordinary parcels | Parcels with COD | Insured parcels |
|-----------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1885-1890 | 9,000 | -- | -- |
| 1890-1895 | 27,000 | 500 | 800 |
| 1895-1900 | 46,500 | 1,600 | 1,000 |
| 1900-1905 | 74,000 | 2,250 | 2,000 |
| 1905-1910 | 112,000 | 4,000 | 3,700 |
| 1910-1915 | 132,000 | 6,500 | 6,700 |

The rapid increase may well have provided the motivation for a request of another high value stamp. As a result, the 200 millième value was added in the DLR First Pictorial Issue of 1914, and it became the highest value issued. It was not repeated, however, by Harrison’s in the Second Pictorial Issue 1921-22, as the 1914 DLR 200m was still in use, soon to be overprinted as part of the Crown Issue of 1922.

In the First Portrait Issue (1923-1926), a new high denomination of £E1 (five times the previous highest value) was added. At the time the stamp was issued (1924), the exchange rate was equivalent to \$4.95 (about £stg1 and 6 pence)¹ — a considerable amount of money for anyone to pay for a current stamp. And, as noted above, the 200m of the outgoing issue (DLR 1914) was still less in demand.

This raises the question of why the £E1 (1924) value was issued, and how was it used?

The answer is in two parts: one can speculate that the first might be to do with honouring the new King Fuad with an impressive high value. The second was undoubtedly to provide an easier way to pay the postage on the large and very heavy parcels used by banks to settle accounts. I am told that in those years it was customary to settle large sums in the form of gold coins, especially in the Middle East, where there was a certain amount of distrust of paper money. Bank-to-bank shipments of money (so-called “specie”) and very heavy registered parcels required high amounts of postage, even up to £E25 (*Fig. 12, next page*): these are the source of most of the used large blocks appearing on the philatelic market from time to time. Sometimes, the stamps were placed on the parcel itself instead of on the parcel card. The size and condition of the wrappings were hardly suitable to being saved as covers, so they were either thrown away, or the stamps soaked off (the source of most of the used £E1 stamps).

1. *Egypt, Stamps & Postal History / A Philatelic Treatise* (1999) p856 [Peter A.S. Smith]

In spite of the low quantity produced (140,000), it is clear that the value was not being sold, as it was overprinted "Consular Administration" in Arabic (some time in 1924) for fiscal purpose, and later surcharged "100m" (March 6, 1932). Based on that information, together with the Ministry of Communication statistics for international parcels from Egypt published in *QC 212* (March 2005, page 305) by Anatole Ott, from 1925 to 1930 (some of which will definitely have carried the £E1 value), and the catalogue estimations for the stamp used, the £E1 should be rare on parcel card.

| 1925-1930 | |
|------------------|---------|
| Ordinary parcels | 110,000 |
| Parcels with COD | 1,200 |
| Insured parcel | 3,700 |

2. The Second Portrait Issue (1927-1937)¹

Although, as discussed, some denominations are scarce, covers of this issue are relatively easily found, as to be expected in view of its long life of more than ten years, which provided a greater opportunity for its use than the former Portrait issue of 1923-1926. Usage of the 1m, 2m, 3m, 5m, 10m (rose/orange-red or red)¹, and 15m (ultramarine or blue) values are the same as for the First Portrait Issue, and examples of the 1m and 2m are less scarce than for the former issue. Multiples on covers are not especially scarce.



The 4 millième (pale yellow-green or deep green) value, which paid the Foreign printed matter rate (from November 1931), is not uncommon, but its use on a periodical or commercial paper sent broad is scarce. Postcards sent abroad at printed matter rate (4m) are not particularly scarce, and multiples on cover are not unusual.

The 4 millième (pale yellow-green) requires special comment: as we know, it was printed using two types of screen (Type I and Type II). Production of Type I must have been small², and most were probably used on printed matter. As a result, such covers have a low survival rate. Also, there may be many covers in existence, but not recognised for what they are (most ordinary collectors do not consider the Types important). Based on the catalogue estimations, this is the most difficult stamp (of Type I screen) to find, unused or even used.

I have however managed to examine a bulk of covers and postcards bearing such an issue (as single franking or mixed with other issues), some residing in a dealer's (Middle East stamps and banknotes) stock. In addition, I asked some fellow philatelists (including non-members) to examine their collections and report the number of covers bearing the 4m Type I. I even asked some dealers to look up such covers. Here is what I found:

¹ All colour descriptions are derived from *The Nile Post* (2003) terminology.

² *Stamps of Egypt catalogue* (1998) [Leon Balian] records 317,000 as the actual quantity issued for 4m (Type I)

| | Total covers and postcards bearing 4m (green) | Covers and postcards found bearing 4m (Type I) |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Covers examined by me | 26 | None |
| Reported by others | 22 | 2 |

This is just a statistical breakdown to reflect the relative scarcity, however, and I should very much like to hear from our members with information about their collection's examples. The other values with Type I screen are not particularly scarce on cover, except for the 2m value, which is somewhat scarce on cover.

From November 1, 1931, the 13m value paid the Foreign postcard rate, the large and small sizes of 20m (pale blue, blue or ultramarine) paid the Foreign letter rate, and the 40m paid the Foreign letter rate combined with registration fee or for use on foreign air mail. All such examples are relatively common.

Examples of the superseded (from November 1, 1931) values – the 10m (violet or purple), which paid the Inland double weight letter rate or postcard rate to GB and Empire (which was reduced dramatically with the outbreak of World War II), and the 15m (purple or dark violet), which paid the Inland letter combined with registration fee - are somewhat scarce during 1934-37 for the former and not especially scarce for the latter.

The obsolete colours of the 4m (pale/deep brown) paid the rate for Foreign prints and postcards as printed matter, and large 20m (pale/deep olive-green) paid the Inland double weight letter combined with registration fee or Foreign letter rate (from November 1, 1931) for a limited time. Examples of the former are scarce on cover, and moderately quite scarce in multiples, whereas the latter are not scarce on cover.

When the Air Mail service became available to most destinations in the 1930s, the 50m value was used extensively on covers. Air Mail to South America and the Far East required high values of postage and the 100m and 200m were used. On the outbreak of World War II (September 1, 1939), followed by the establishment of the Horseshoe Route, Air Mail rates became more expensive, but use of the service became essential. As a result, the high values became more commonly used, and inflation greatly lowered their purchasing power. Consequently, they became more affordable (most of the covers seen bearing 100m or 200m were sent in the 1940s), and that probably explains why even the 50pi (single or pair) of the Farouk (Young King 1937-1946) Issue became more widely used on cover.

The 50 millième value is common on cover or parcel card. Multiples to make up higher rates (200m or higher) are scarce on cover. Although, colour franking covers are not really scarce, they are sought-after.

The 100 millième is scarce on cover during 1927-37, but comparatively common on parcel card.

The 200 millième is quite scarce on cover during 1927-37 and less scarce afterwards. Examples on parcel card are scarce, but multiples (Fig 13) are moderately quite scarce.



Fig.13. A parcel card from Egypt to Switzerland, 1934, rate 740m + fiscal

The 500 millième, a new high value added to the set, is quite rare on either cover (I have seen one example and another is reported) or parcel card (again, one seen and one reported).

The £E1 is rare on cover (three examples seen correctly posted via Air Mail, and another reported) or parcel card (I have heard of one example bearing a pair). However, it is less rare than the 500m value on any sort of cover (and is less scarce than the 500m in used condition as a loose stamp). Multiples of the £E1 value were used on parcel cards (I have seen a used block of 10 from a parcel card). The £E1 is scarce on fragment (piece).

3. The Third Portrait Issue (1936-1937)

The uses of the 1m, 2m, 4m, 5m, 10m, 15m, and 20m values are the same as for the Second Portrait Issue, and examples of the 1m, 2m, and 4m are slightly scarcer than for the 1927-37 issue. Multiples on covers are not really scarce. Colour franking covers are somewhat scarce.

4. Booklet Stamps (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Portrait Issues)

The 5 millième booklet stamp of all these issues is not scarce on cover, and the 5m booklet stamp of the Second Portrait Issue is the most common. Multiples of this value are not scarce, except for the First Portrait Issue, which is somewhat scarce. However, the full booklet pane of six is rare on any sort of cover.

The 10m or 15m booklet stamp of the Second Portrait Issue is rare on cover. A pair of either of them is quite rare (perhaps even unique).

5. King Fuad's 58th Birthday (April 2, 1926)

As we have seen, this stamp with such an impressive value (50pi) was issued to celebrate the 58th birthday of King Fuad (60th birthday in the lunar calendar).

The work was done by Harrison & Sons, who sub-contracted to Nederlandsche Rotogravure Maatschappij, and the issued stamp was produced by photogravure.

One can speculate that the suggestion for such a value (apart of course from the anniversary itself) was to bring about a completion of the First Portrait Issue (1923-1926), by adding a new high value, which was thought not to be necessary at first (ie, 500m in the Second Portrait Issue). The issued commemorative did not bear any inscription or date to indicate the occasion (unlike other commemorative issues), but merely portrayed King Fuad in military regalia (three-quarter length portrait), and nothing but the G.P.O notice announcing the issue to the public¹. The inscriptions of the country and the face value are in Arabic and French (conforming with the UPU Congress 1924 in Stockholm).

I have seen neither a *complete* cover nor a parcel card bearing this issue. I have referred to many auction catalogues (14 catalogues, 1954-2004), and even asked some prominent advanced collectors and dealers (members and non-members) if they own or have ever seen such a cover, and always the answer was negative. Very few had "heard of" one, and a philatelic cover seen long ago was reported.

I have seen only fragments (very few) and FDCs (seven covers seen or reported), including the imperforate-above variety (*Fig.14, right*), and have seen one fragment only at auction, in the Sphinx Auctions (Auction 1, Lot 313, 2003). I think it is the same one auctioned in William C. Hinde collection (Lot 320, 1957).

However, I think that any complete cover or parcel card bearing this issue genuinely and correctly posted may not exist, as all might have been thrown away or cropped before being sold to the public.



¹ *L'OP* (No. 128, October 1974) [Ibrahim Chaftar]

6. Inauguration of Port Fuad (December 21, 1926)

Across the Suez Canal from Port Said was the last Egyptian city to be named after a King. The origins of Port Fuad date back to 1907 when the Suez Canal Company decided to construct several buildings on the eastern bank of the canal because Port Said had become overcrowded, while on the other side of the canal there was sufficient space for housing and industry. Work came to a halt during World War I, but it was resumed in 1919. An eventual agreement reached between the government and the Suez Canal Company on October 8, 1925 covered who would administer the city, the sale of land, and the responsibility of purchasers. Port Fuad was inaugurated on Tuesday, December 21, 1926.

To celebrate this event, some of the unsold quantity of the King Fuad 58th birthday stamp, as well as the International Navigation Congress set (December 9, 1926) were overprinted "PORT FOUAD" by stone lithography at the Government Printing Works, Boulac, Cairo.



As we know, the full set was not intended for postal use. It was used either on unaddressed cover or on invitation card cancelled by the first day of issue (*Fig.15*): the latter is quite rare.

Fig.15. First day of issue CDS.

7. The "50m" surcharge on 50pi (March 4, 1932)

Only small numbers of the birthday stamp (1926) were sold, on account of its high face value. Thus, it was decided later to surcharge the remaining stock with a lower value, "50m". The work was carried out by the Survey Department of Egypt by offset-lithography.

This issue was used extensively on parcel cards, but can also be found on covers (mostly air mail). Of the 23 covers I have seen, however, only a couple were correctly rated. Most of the surviving covers are philatelic in nature (either sent by one of the keen philatelists or dealers, or not correctly posted). To find such cover with no philatelic inspiration and the correct rate is very scarce and worth the Balian catalogue estimation.

Because of its handsome appearance, covers bearing this issue are much sought after, and sometimes fetch considerable prices in spite of their philatelic influence.

The only example bearing multiples of this issue I have seen was illustrated in the *QC* (XVIII, 7, September 2003, whole no. 206, p157). It is a registered large O.H.E.M.S official envelope franked with *pair* of 50m/50pi and a 13m, sent to England in 1932. Presumably, the cover was sent by surface mail and overrated by 3m (philatelic?).

Comment on the Quantities

Based on correspondence concerning the King Fuad 58th birthday stamps between the Egyptian Postal Administration and Harrison & Sons and published by the late Ibrahim Chaftar in *L'OP* 128 (Oct 1974, pp. 403-408), it was known that the actual quantity received from Harrison was 200,000 stamps.

The quantity sold was 56,750 stamps, as recorded by Chaftar and the specialised catalogues. Then 1,525 stamps (25 stamps with inverted overprint – one sheet - were discovered and burned before being delivered to the post offices) were overprinted "PORT FOUAD", as recorded by Chaftar and Jean Boulad (Professor. Peter Smith recorded 1,520 stamps), inclusive of the 880 stamps sent to the UPU of both issues.

By subtracting the total number sold or overprinted Port Fouad from the number delivered [200,000 – (56,750 + 1,525)] we are left with 141,725 as the number of unsold stamps remaining.

According to all records, the remaining quantity to be surcharged "50m" in 1932 should be 141,750 stamps! However, that calculation would be correct if we neglected the 25 stamps with inverted overprint, thus, $200,000 - (56,750 + 1,500) = 141,750$ stamps. This means that there was no sheet (or less than a sheet) with inverted overprint! Until now, this may seem relatively unimportant.

Smith states in his book "The 50m/50PT was delivered in a quantity of 141,750 stamps on February 4th 1932 and put in sale on March 4th. *Some spoiled sheets were destroyed.*"

Chaftar stated in his article "The remaining of the unsold stamps: 149,510 units were handed over to the Survey Department, Cairo, to be surcharged 50m ... Partial and broken sheets were returned to the G.P.O. unsurcharged (160 stamps) and all sheets spoiled in printing were destroyed by fire under supervision. These amounted to 7,600 stamps."

So we know that there were some spoiled sheets destroyed and few were returned. If the quantity of 149,510 reported by Chaftar was correct, this means that the recorded number sold of either the 58th birthday or Port Fuad issues is not correct!

However, by subtracting the remaining 149,510 stamps from the returned stamps and spoiled sheets: $149,510 - (160 + 7,600)$ we arrive at 141,750 stamps (the actual quantity of the 50m/50pi stamp, inclusive of the 440 examples sent to the UPU).

I think that perhaps those partial and broken sheets which were returned to the GPO (160 stamps) might have been overprinted "*Consular Administration*" in Arabic.

8. The "100m" Surcharge on £E1 (March 6, 1932)

The remaining quantity (3,750 stamps) of the £E1 (First Portrait Issue) was surcharged with the lower value "100m" to use them up. The surcharge was produced by offset-lithography at the Survey Department of Egypt (as the 50m/50pi stamps).

The earliest recorded date I have seen on cover was auctioned in Cherrystone Auctions (Lot 948, 2003): the description reads: "1932, 100m on £E1, used on registered cover from Alexandria to Cairo, canc. 4.3.32, two days before the official FDC (6.3.32), v.f., rare" (*no illustration*).



The 100m/£E1 is rare on cover because it was known from the start that the quantity printed was small, and all, or nearly all, were immediately bought up by philatelists. So there was really no opportunity for commercial use. The majority (if not all) of such covers are philatelic in nature (*Fig. 16, previous page*), and yet, they are rare. Probably, owners were not willing to risk loss, by theft or accident, in the mails. I was told that the sale of the stamp was rationed to a block of 4 per person, and there was some grumbling about the unfairness of issuing such a small quantity. The 50m/50pi was not rationed, however, and so there are many used commercially.

There was, however, a cover bearing this issue (Antonini collection) auctioned in David Feldman Auctions (Lot 32589, April 1983) that might not have been philatelically contrived (if it was not sent by an ardent dealer). The description reads: “1932, Fuad 50m/50PT purple and 100m/£E1 violet and blue used on two registered envelopes to London, arrival mark on back” (no illustration for the latter).

If it was sent via Air Mail (presumably weighing over 20g and less than 40g), it would be correctly posted:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Air Mail surcharge to UK (per 20g) | 25m |
| 2nd weight level Air Mail surcharge | 25m |
| Basic Surface rate to UK (per 20g) | 15m |
| 2nd weight level for Surface rate | 15m |
| Registration fee | 20m |
| Total | 100m |

9. The Official Stamps (1924-1925)

As we know, such stamps were used to frank official correspondence. After Sultan Fuad became King, and a new series of definitive issues was produced to reflect that event, there was a necessity to reflect it also in the official stamps. Until supplies of the new definitive official series (SERVICE DE L'ETAT 1926-1935) were ready, some values of the First Portrait Issue (1923-1926) were overprinted **أميري** (Amiri), which means “governmental” or “fiscal”.

The overprint was produced by typography at the Survey Department of Egypt. The values were 1m, 2m, 3m, 4m, 5m, 10m, 15m, and 50m. From the bulk loose stamps examined by me, I have not seen a date after 1926. Only eight genuine official covers bearing stamps of this issue are thought to exist, and two of them are known bearing the 15m value¹.

10. The Army Post Stamps (1936)

The 3 millième (December 1st) and 10 millième (March 1st) values portraying King Fuad replaced the British Forces in Egypt stamps (Naafi) and seals. The overprint was produced by photogravure at the Survey Department of Egypt. As we know, the purpose of these stamps was to frank covers sent by British troops or their families (serving in Egypt) to Great Britain and Ireland only.

For such letters to qualify for a special reduced rate granted to the members of British Forces and their families in Egypt, the letter:

- A. Must bear one of these stamps (corresponding to the appropriate rate) on the face of the letter.
- B. Must be posted in the military letter boxes. It was not allowed to be sent through the Egyptian civilian post; otherwise it would be treated as an ordinary surface mail rate and charged the deficiency accordingly.
- C. Must not be sent to destinations other than Great Britain and Ireland. Otherwise, it was liable to postage due(s).

¹ Sphinx Auctions 2003 (Auction 1, Lots 698 and 699).

The abovementioned restrictions remained in force until the outbreak of the World War II (September 1, 1939). After then, it was permitted for these stamps to be used to pay for Air Mail (40m concession rate on October 28, 1939) alone or mixed with other issues and to be sent to any destination.

Surface Concession Rates for Soldiers. March 1936-October 1939

| Letters (per 20g) | Second Weight Level | Printed Matter |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 10m | 10m | 3m |

It should be noted that:

- A. Printed matter, including unsealed Christmas and New Year greeting cards.
- B. Postcard was to be sent at Letter rate.

The 3m is somewhat scarce on cover, but it is also scarce on greeting card, as it was withdrawn and then placed on sale again three times. The 10m is common on cover, even in multiples. However, it is scarce on postcard sent at letter rate between 1936 and 1939.

Mixed Franking Definitive Issues

a. The **First Portrait Issue (1923-1926)** can be found in mixed use with the following definitive issues:

1. *DLR Fourth Issue – New Currency (1888-1906)*: All the examples I have seen (13 covers) were philatelically contrived, but some carried arrival backstamps, which mean that they had been legitimately carried through the posts. Examples with no philatelic influence (if they exist at all) are rare.
2. *DLR First Pictorial Issue (1914)*: Examples are scarce.
3. *Harrison Second Pictorial Issue (1921-1922)*: Examples are slightly less scarce than the former issue.
4. *Crown Overprint Issue (1922)*: Examples are not scarce.
5. *Second Portrait Issue (1927-1937)*: This issue did not render the First Portrait Issue obsolete. Examples on covers are scarce, but not that scarce on parcel cards.
6. *Third Portrait Issue (1936-1937)*: The First Portrait Issue was not demonetised when this issue was released. However, the probability of such combination of franking actually being used is very low due to the big date gap between these two issues. I have however seen one example bearing pair of 200m (1st issue) and 4m (3rd issue) with other values sent in 1936. The latest date reported for the First Portrait Issue was 1940 (on parcel cards). Generally, such mixed franking is rare (probably, quite rare).

b. The **Second Portrait Issue (1927-1937)** can be found in mixed use with the following definitive issues:

1. *Harrison Second Pictorial Issue (1921-1922)*: I have a philatelic cover in my collection bearing mixed franking of the 1st and 2nd King Fuad Portrait with the Harrison Pictorial (4m green) stamps, sent by Jean A. Frangakis, and correctly posted to USA, on January 26, 1932, with arrival backstamp. However, covers with no philatelic influence (if they exist at all) are rare.
2. *First Portrait Issue (1923-1926)*: As stated above.
3. *Third Portrait Issue (1936-1937)*: Examples are not scarce.
4. *Young King Farouk Portrait (Civil) Issue (1937-1946)*: Examples are common.

I have not seen covers bearing King Fuad Portrait Issues with dates after 1943.

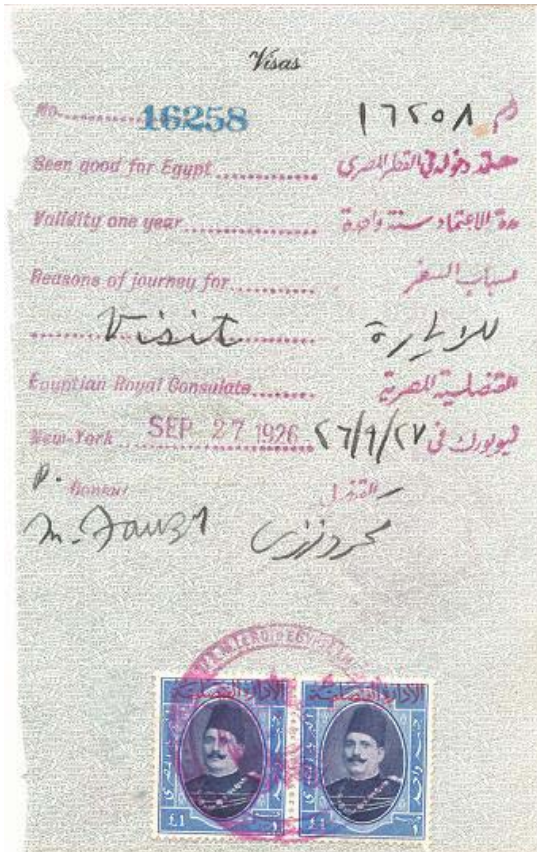
c. **King Fuad Portrait Issues** can be found in mixed franking with adhesive stamps of foreign countries (Fig.17). Normally, UPU regulations specify that a letter prepaid at the UPU rate can be forwarded without additional stamps, but only if forwarded immediately. If it is forwarded the next day, new postage is required. In another case, during World War II and after the retreat of the Axis forces, there was still no UPU reciprocal agreement for Air Mail rates from Egypt to some large countries (such as USA). For instance, the postage stamps of Egypt were not sufficient to pay for Air Mail to destinations within USA, so Air Mail stamps of the US were required to be affixed as well. Examples of either case are quite scarce.



Fig.17. Mixed franking redirected cover with postage stamps of Egypt and Uganda, 1933

11. Consular Service Stamps (1924, 1926, and 1928)

There was no special issue produced for fiscal purposes, probably on account of the high cost. Some values of the First Portrait Issue (1923-1926), as well as Fuad's 58th Birthday Issue (1926) were however overprinted (by typography) horizontally in red or black **الإدارة القنصلية** (Consular Administration); and the 10m was the only value with a vertical overprint. The 50m and £E1 were augmented by red surcharge **٣٩ مليما** and **٣٨٦ مليما** (39m and 386m) respectively.



The issued stamps were used on visas (in passports) or consular documents (sometimes, mixed with other foreign country revenues).

The issued values and scarcity (on visas or consular documents) are as follows:

- 10m quite rare (one example reported; I have seen one other).
- 20m (red) surprisingly scarce.
- 50m (red) not really scarce even in multiples.
- 100m (red) not really scarce as well even in multiples.
- 200m (red) quite scarce but not rare.
- £E1 (red) rare (Fig.18, left).
- 39m on 50m quite rare (I have seen one example).
- 386m on £E1 quite rare (I have seen one example).
- 50pi Fuad Birthday (red) (I have heard of three examples).

The other issued values, of which I have seen or heard of no examples on visas or consular documents, are:

- 20m (black) - 100m (blue) - 200m (black) - £E1 (black) - 400m on 20m (red), 1928

The earliest and latest dates I have seen were April 14, 1924, and June 25, 1939, respectively.

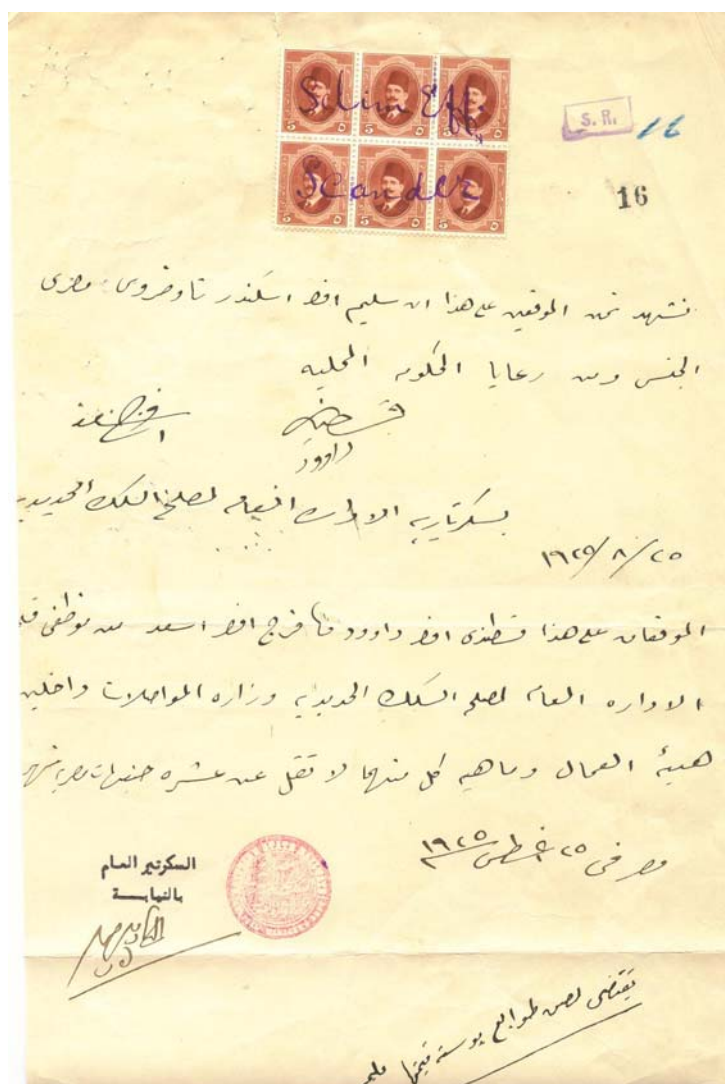
12. Revenues

Sometimes the definitive issues of King Fuad were used as revenues on applications, forms, certificates, documents, formal authorisations, postal orders, or even visas (instead of the Consular Service stamps).

Such examples were cancelled by special stamps relating to such services, pen or pencil-cancelled, signatures, or other manuscript cancellations. Several applications I have seen bearing complete booklet pane of 6 of the 5m value (1st or 2nd Portrait Issue, the former is scarce) (*Fig.19, right, A full booklet pane of the 5m of the First Portrait Issue, used as a revenue on a certificate of citizenship, 1925*). Values other than the 5m of the Second and Third Portrait Issues are less frequently encountered. They can be found mixed with other revenues. However, examples are not scarce, except on visas or postal orders.

Finally, any new facts, more details, and corrections would be greatly appreciated.

I should like to thank and express my deepest gratitude to Professor Peter A. S. Smith (ESC 74) for contributing materials relating to Overland Mail and Air Mail Rates to Iraq, Mr Ahmed Sobhi (ESC 493) for sharing information and knowledge (both of them) on other related topics (through e-mails) and Mr Yasser Omar (ESC 605) for contributing materials relating to 4m of King Fuad Second Portrait Issue and some other topics.



References:

1. *Egypt, stamps & Postal History / A Philatelic Treatise* (1999) [Peter A.S. Smith]
2. *Egypt Postal Guide 1922* (Arabic Version)
3. *The Production of Egyptian Postage Stamps 1866-1946* (1947) [courtesy of Peter R. Feltus]
4. *Egypt / The First Portrait Issue* (1997) [John Sears]
5. *QC XVII*, 10, June 2004, Whole No. 209, pp. 228-243; *QC XVIII*, 11, September 2004, Whole No. 210, pp. 250-254; and *QC XIX*, 1, March 2005, whole no. 212, pp. 305-309 [Anatole Ott]
6. *The 20th Century Stamps of Egypt* (1942) [Ernest A. Kehr]
7. *L'OP* (No. 128, October 1974, pp. 396-408) [Ibrahim Chaftar]
8. *Catalogue of Egyptian Revenue Stamps* (1982) [Peter R. Feltus]
9. *The Nile Post Catalogue* (2003) [Joseph H. Chalhoub]
10. *Stamps of Egypt Catalogue* (1998) [Leon Balian]
11. *The Air Mails of Egypt* (3rd edition 2000) [John Sears]
12. A print edition of *Saudi Aramco World* September/October (1966)

13. Useful websites:

- www.sphinxauctions.com (Auctions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)
- www.adhamonline.com/Sony%20Gallery/King%20Fuad/Essay.htm
- www.presidency.gov.eg/html/e_king_fuad_i.html
- www.weekly.ahram.org.eg/2001/533/chrncls.htm
- www.upu.int (Jérôme Deutschmann, External Communication Service)

Query Section

Q27: December 19, 2006 from non member

We are writing an article about a group of German PoW in Portuguese India during WWI. After the war they were repatriated through Port Said transit camp, in Egypt. Is it possible to have some information about this camp?

Q29: February 26, 2007 Lisa Bartels ESC 611

I have a De La Rue 5 paras with (part of) the special cancellation for the 1926 Exposition and Agricole Industrielle. I presume this would have been done on a whim, but even so it seems a bit of a mystery. Has anyone else come across this or similar?



Q30: February 26, 2007 Lisa Bartels ESC 611

Does anyone have any information on a cancellation I have on a pair of 10m Second Fuad which appears to read "GOUVERNEMENT ETRANGER – CAIRE"? I am aware that this translates to "Foreign Government" (although then I think it should correctly be "GOUVERNEMENT"). The example could be 1924 or 1934. By whom or where would this handstamp have been used? On re-examining my Fuad cancellations I found another pair, of the 5m value, and it becomes clear that the cancellation I thought read "GOUVERNEMENT



ETRANGER" should actually be "MOUVEMENT ETRANGER" (perhaps "FOREIGN TRAFFIC"). I attach a scan of the part cancellation, in which more of the wording is visible although the first character is unclear. Unfortunately the Arabic and date line are missing. I should still be grateful if anyone could tell me what this cancellation really is, the usage and who used it. ?

Q33: March 21, 2007 David Sedgwick ESC 589

At Newcastle Philatelic meeting this evening the talk was on Russian Postal history in the first 3 decades of the twentieth century. During the civil war 1919-23, some South Russian refugees were housed in Tel-el-Kebir. The speaker showed a cover addressed to Miss Louisa Hine, Sheffield, England, with Army PO SZ25 cancel and a postcard with an unreadable FPO cancel 1920 addressed to Mlle. Chirikoff in Cairo. These are Tel-el-Kebir cancels. Does anyone know what happened to these people? One of our Newcastle members was stationed there in 1953.

Q35: April 2007, Peter Heim, ESC 384.

Burullus Beach. I have a cancellation of this post office in 1918. Was this a temporary post office for soldiers or tourists and does it still exist?

Q36: April 2007, Peter Heim, ESC 384.

I have an incomplete cancellation like a commemorative mark. It reads in the lower part 'Mahalla' straight and curved 'Misr pour latissage'. I couldn't find it neither in any catalogue nor in Smith. I would be very interested, if a member of our Circle can give me an answer.

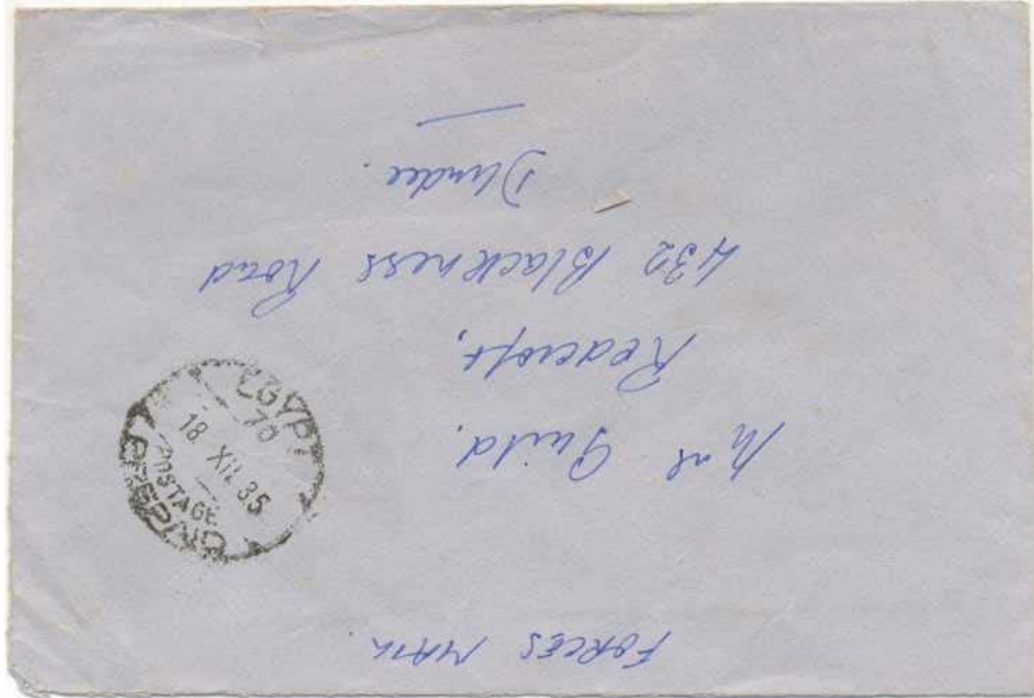
Q37: April 2007, Dick Wilson ESC 230

Peter Smith's book states that Austria was included in the concession rate scheme with Italy and the UK in 1908. The QC #207 December 2003 suggests the Austrian concession rate was effective 1 October 1907. Take your pick of either date but I have not come across a cover to Austria with the concession rate. All my covers to Austria have a 1 piastre letter rate for the first weight stage and 6 milliemes for the second weight stage (if required).

Has anyone seen a concession rate cover to Austria? If so, then a copy should be sent to the QC editor for publishing. Also, what is the authority for the concession rate included in the publications mentioned above?

Q38: May 2007, Bill Johns ESC 286

I recently picked this cover up and noticed that it was posted on 18 XII 35 which is six years earlier the first date of posting. I was wondering if any other member has a similar copy of EPP 70 with this anomaly.



Q39: May 2007, Edmund Hall ESC 239

The 'Military' stamp issued on April 15 1971 was for use to military personnel at a concessionary rate of half that current. When was this concession terminated?. The last date I have for the use of the single stamp on cover is 9.12.73. The one illustrated is 23.11.73 but has a clearer datestamp. I understand it was introduced to encourage mail to bolster moral. Am I being too cynical to suggest that once the 1973 war was over such moral boosting was not deemed necessary?



**EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (GENERAL ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006**

| | 2005 | | 2006 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Subscriptions | 2,609.50 | | 3,349.07 |
| Auction account | 1,003.94 | | 1,500.00 |
| Bank deposit interest received (net) | 45.15 | | 62.13 |
| Sale of ties - 0 (2005 0) | 0.00 | | 0.00 |
| Donation | 23.58 | | 10.00 |
| Advertisement | <u>0.00</u> | | <u>75.00</u> |
| | | 3,682.17 | 4,996.20 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Meeting room hire | 625.25 | | 622.25 |
| Cost of quarterly circulars | 2,339.36 | | 2,885.75 |
| Affiliation fee B.P.S. | 33.60 | | 36.00 |
| New issues | 37.90 | | 3.30 |
| Insurance | 18.80 | | 19.80 |
| Donation | 25.00 | | 0.00 |
| Cost of ties sold - 0 (2005 0) | 0.00 | | 0.00 |
| Dinner | 1,390.50 | | 0.00 |
| Membership cards | 55.13 | | 0.00 |
| Website costs | 110.20 | | 103.27 |
| Officers' stationery and telephone | 185.73 | | 339.86 |
| President/Chairman's postage etc | 36.32 | | 24.89 |
| Library | <u>0.00</u> | | <u>94.84</u> |
| | | <u>4,857.79</u> | <u>4,129.96</u> |
| Deficit)/surplus for the year | | (1175.62) | 866.24 |
| Surplus on valuation of collection | | 0 | 2,715.30 |
| Surplus at 1 January 2006 | | <u>8,769.26</u> | <u>7,593.64</u> |
| SURPLUS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006 | | <u><u>£7,593.64</u></u> | <u><u>£11,175.18</u></u> |

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE BALANCE SHEET (GENERAL ACCOUNT) AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006

| | 2005 | | 2006 |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Photocopier written off | 0.00 | | 0.00 |
| Stamp collection at catalogue valuation | 2,535.70 | | 5,251.00 |
| Circle library and records | 0.00 | | 0.00 |
| Stock of ties 50 (2005 50) at cost | 224.20 | | 224.20 |
| 2007 room hire prepaid | 587.00 | | 520.00 |
| Due from library account | 60.00 | | 0.00 |
| Cash at bank | | | |
| Current account | 930.28 | | 1,950.21 |
| Deposit account | <u>4,021.17</u> | | <u>4,083.30</u> |
| | | 8,358.35 | 12,028.7 |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| Members' subscriptions 2007 | 763.00 | | 165.00 |
| Due to Treasurer | 1.71 | | 0.00 |
| Printing of quarterly circular | <u>0.00</u> | | <u>688.53</u> |
| | | <u>764.71</u> | <u>853.53</u> |
| | | <u><u>£7,593.64</u></u> | <u><u>£11,175.18</u></u> |
| Representing | | | |
| Accumulated surplus | | <u><u>£7,593.64</u></u> | <u><u>£11,175.18</u></u> |

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

S W Bunce

Chartered Accountant 5 April 2007

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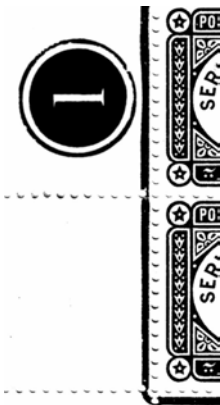
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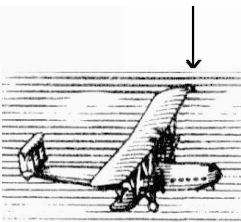


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