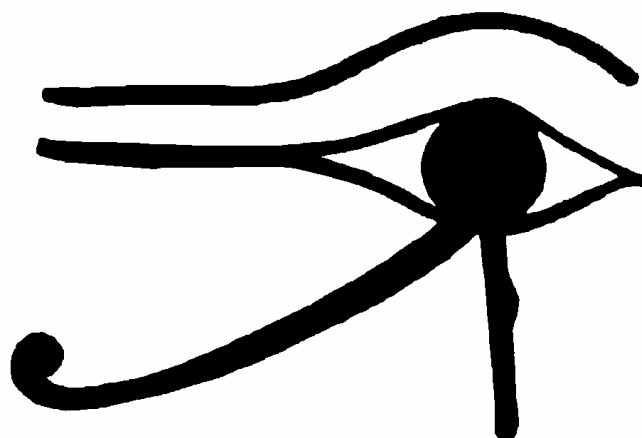


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STUDY CIRCLE



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[www.egyptstudycircle.org.uk](http://www.egyptstudycircle.org.uk)

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### **Forthcoming Meetings 2007-2008**

September 22 *	Acquisitions and Queries	All Members
November 17	Rural Postal Service	Mike Murphy
January 12	Topic TBA	
March 1*	(Stampex) Ten Sheets	All Members
May 10	AGM & Bourse	All Members
July 12	Topic TBA	
September 20*	(Stampex) Acquisitions/Queries	All Members
November 22	Topic TBA	

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.

\* These meetings will be at Stampex at the Design Centre, Islington, North London.

### Report of the Meeting, July 14, 2007

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), Dennis Clarke (Committee), Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Andy Gould, Bill Johns, Mohamed Nofal, Sami Sadek, Lewis Said, David Sedgwick. Ann Sedgwick (visitor).

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: John Davis (Librarian), Margaret Chadwick, Peter Grech, Alan Jeyes, Tony Schmidt, Greg Todd, Wolfgang Koehler.

As the Chairman was delayed on family business, the Deputy Chairman, Stanley Horesh, opened the meeting by welcoming those present, including several who have not been regular attenders. He mentioned that the Philatelic Society of Egypt is again holding a mini-exhibition in November, and asked anyone interested in visiting to contact the PSE at [egyptianphilatelicociety@gmail.com](mailto:egyptianphilatelicociety@gmail.com) or via the Secretary.

He then called on Mohamed Nofal to introduce his new publication, *Postcard Collectors Guide: Part 1 – Alexandria, Egypt 1890-1956*. Mohamed explained that the volume, the product of 14 years' work, was merely the first in a series covering all of Egypt's postcards, and represented a first attempt to set in order this fascinating collecting area. He described the classification of publishers, series and card numbers as very complex (his list comprises no fewer than 1,150 publishers of Egypt cards), and, offering members present a copy at a generous discount price of £30, added: "I need your encouragement and constructive criticism to enhance the project as time goes by". Mohamed kindly presented an inscribed copy to the Library; a review appears on page 247.

The Secretary, Mike Murphy, then announced another important Library acquisition in the form of 20 volumes of the weekly *Egyptian Postal Bulletin*, dating from between 1890 and 1925. These volumes, containing unique primary source material in the form of notices from the Egyptian Post Office HQ to branch offices, have been provided by Peter Feltus in California, to whom the Circle is indebted for setting a reasonable price. Our intention is that information contained therein will be published gradually in the *QC* and on the website and made available to all members as soon as possible: the sheer mass of new information will necessitate spending some time in its preparation.

The Secretary then presented draft lists of the long-awaited Full List of Members, which appears as a Supplement to this *QC*, together with a list of Members' Interests, for ease of mutual communication. He regretted that some members had resigned recently, and that others, having failed to communicate despite several notices, were in danger of having their memberships lapsed. He announced the following dates for 2008: January 12 (Services Club), topic TBA; March 1 (Stampex), Ten Sheets; May 10 (Services Club), AGM & Bourse; July 12 (Services Club), TBA; Sept 20 (Stampex), Acquisitions/Queries; Nov 22 (Services Club), TBA.

He spoke of a recent meeting in London with Sherif Samra, President of the PSE, who clarified the position of subscriptions and the L'OP: Sherif will write to all PSE members outside Egypt to apologise for having fallen behind with production of the L'OP, a promise to improve matters in the near future, and to explain that membership carries with it all the benefits of services carried out in Egypt such as liaison with the Philatelic Bureau, seeking out of information, publications, particular philatelic wants or New Issues.

The Treasurer, Brian Sedgley, announced that the recent *QC* had included an unfortunate typing error in the Circle's bank account details. Members wishing to pay subscription by direct debit (a boon for the Circle!) should kindly make arrangements to pay Barclays Bank (sort code 20-89-21, account 60334731) using your surname and ESC membership number as the reference. In the absence of John Davis, he also announced that the Circle Library was now insured, for the minimum £10,000.

John Sears announced that the recent Auction No 44 had produced more than the usual number of niggles, but that the final outcome was a profit of some £1,250, £750 of which had been transferred to the general account.

Turning to the topic of the day, David Sedgwick (ESC 589) said that his aim was to give a rough chronological overview of the presence of British Forces in Egypt, mostly between 1880 and 1950. The emphasis of the session was upon the 1930s concession period.

Covers were shown from the 1882 quelling of the Arabi Pasha uprising and of the conquest and re-conquest of Sudan (1884-98) and representative covers of the presence of British Forces in the periods before, throughout and after World War I. The talk covered the change in relationship between Great Britain and Turkey during this early period and mentioned Britain's necessity to protect the routes to further parts of the Empire, particularly India.

Mention was made of the presence of Empire (as it was at that time) forces in Egypt, and the concession period was illustrated with covers and stamps from two principal areas – the so-called seals and the Crown Cancel covers. The former were illustrated profusely with booklet panes of many of them, and each of the 11 types was shown on cover. The procedure required by the Egyptian postal authorities was emphasised and the varieties on each of the stamps was shown to be a study in itself. The possibilities in developing collections in the sub areas (eg, rettas, varieties, postage dues, etc.) were indicated.

The 25 different Crown Cancels had to be used in a precise form agreed with the Egyptian authorities. Most of the 25 were illustrated, including the rare No 7, and the occasional uses and attempts to use "wrong" procedures were also shown. The whole concession was legitimate only for items sent to Great Britain or Ireland, but a cover successfully sent to Canada was shown, and there were several illustrations of attempts to use other incorrect procedures, calling for postal dues to be required in Great Britain.



The change to Army Post stamps in 1936 was also illustrated and a variety of covers from World War II was shown with several different cancels. A selection of items illustrating some of the social activities and possibilities for troops in Egypt was also shown.

The Chairman thanked David for a splendid and well-thought-out display, and called for more of the same in the future. Members showed their appreciation in time-honoured fashion.

\* As a footnote to the meeting, John Davis (ESC 213) announces that he has completed 27 chapters of his book, which will probably be entitled *The History of the Postal Concession for British Forces in Egypt 1932 to 1952*, and that he would like to hear from any member who might be able to help with details of any unusual or significant material. All help would be very much appreciated.

---

### **Egypt Library For Sale**

I am anxious to dispose of my "Library" which consists of about 170 books, some 95% relate to life and travels in Egypt in the 19th and 20th Centuries. The others concern the Middle East, and a few, Ancient Egypt. Anyone who would like a priced list please apply to me. 5% of sales will go to Circle funds.

**John Sears**

**International Philatelic Exhibition in St Petersburg, 19 to 25 June.**Report: **Richard Wheatley** (ESC 168)

Egyptian Postal Stationery 1865 - 1920	Samir Attia		Large Vermeil
Print Development 1st Fuad Issue 1922-1925	Hany Salam		Vermeil
British Forces in Egypt Issues	Hisham Bassyouny		Large Silver
The Kingdom of Egypt	Panayotis Cangelaris	Greece	Large Silver
The Stations Postal Markings of Egypt	Abdulla MT Kloory	UAE	Large Silver

Congratulations to you all! And congratulations also to Richard for a Vermeil medal for his Netherlands East Indies pre-stamp material. And to two of our American stars:

Report: **Richard Wilson** (ESC 230)

On August 9-12 the American Philatelic Society held its annual Stampshow, where the Reserve Grand Award and gold medal went to Peter A. S. Smith for his eight-frame exhibit of *Postage Due in Egypt*, as well as a single-frame Gold for *Napoleon's Campaign in Egypt*. Our North American agent Dick Wilson received a gold medal for eight frames of *British Forces in Egypt and Sudan 1882-1898*, which also received the American Philatelic Society's Pre-1900 Medal. At Baltimore Philatelic Society's Balpex show over Labour Day weekend (August 31, September 1-2), Dick Wilson's *British Forces* won the Grand Award, making it eligible for the World Series next August to be held in Hartford, Connecticut. It also won the Postal History Society's Grand Award.

**Membership Changes****Lapsed:**

<b>ESC 231</b> D R P Glyn-Jones	<b>ESC 463</b> Osama Gaber	<b>ESC 490</b> Tony Pope
<b>ESC 506</b> Richard Cross	<b>ESC 523</b> Mark Freeman	<b>ESC 526</b> Mamdouh Mously
<b>ESC 565</b> Anne Burson-Tolpin	<b>ESC 581</b> Alan Hall	<b>ESC 601</b> Tewfik Deifalla
<b>ESC 604</b> Khaled El-Gendy		

**Change of address:**

**ESC 172** Cyril Defriez, 15 Holcroft Place, Lytham St Annes, Lancs FY8 4PW  
**ESC 393** Andy Gould, Brookfield, Enborne Row, Wash Water, Newbury, RG20 0LY  
**ESC 613** Bob Perkins, 489 Chessington Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT19 9JH

**Editorial, the Egypt Stamp Club?**

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

Yes, the Egypt Stamp Club is in rude health. When I was Secretary some twenty years ago our note to prospective members stated that we had over 100 members, I recently found a membership card from my successor which boldly claimed over 150 members, and today we triumphantly claim over 200. There are 204 on the *QC* mailing list as I write (whoops, it's now back to 193). Life as a member of the Egypt Stamp Club for nearly thirty years has led to many enjoyable moments: the meetings, visits to Egypt, dinners and above all friendships. Without the encounters of fellow members my stamp collecting would have been much the poorer by not having their expertise, knowledge and encouragement. Often casual remarks at meetings give a new insight or spark a thought on collecting without which I would still simply ticking off in Stanley Gibbons that I have a particular stamp.

Sorry, what's that? Do I mean the Egypt Study Circle, and not the Egypt Stamp Club? Well, a stamp club has meetings and publishes a newsletter which, if I think about it, sums up my recollection of the ESC over the last thirty years: yes, when I joined there was much talk of The Book and much talk of the studies. Over the last decade we have been lucky to have several books, all written by our members but each done as an

individual project rather than by the ESC as a whole. The Book, if it exists, is Peter Smith's wonderful and indispensable tome, in which he notes in his preface that, realising at the fiftieth anniversary of the ESC that The Book would never materialise from the ESC, he set himself the task. Thankfully he succeeded. The much-talked-about studies seemed to have an ethereal nature and as a new boy I was told they existed but nobody seemed to know where and what. I eventually did come across some of these studies: they comprised a few notes and magazine cuttings annotated by Charles Minett. Some others may be in better shape, but these I have never seen so do not know if I have anything new to contribute. Some study reports have been published in the last decade, for instance, hotels, but the majority of articles, excellent as they may be, do not refer to a study as such.

A common theme in the *QC* over the last year has been appeals for study leaders and meetings to determine the future of the ESC ... but as far as I can detect the Stamp Club continues as before. Now I for one have no problem with a stamp club; for my part, it needs be no more than it already is. However when pleas for study leaders and helpers are made the response from members is quite good, which indicates a desire for a collective storehouse of knowledge that would be available to all and to which all can contribute, however much or little. Certainly as a new boy the tantalising idea of study reports was a considerable draw and if we wish to encourage and retain our new members I believe such an accessible knowledge base would be the way forward.

I quote from *QC* 107, September 1978, page 67:

*Beginning with the very early days of ESC, there has been continual discussion about publishing 'The Book' (a virtual encyclopaedia of Egypt philately and postal history). Those wanting to publish parts of it as soon as a reasonable amount of information has been assembled have lost the argument to those who aim at perfection before anything is put into print. In your Editor's view, this is a tragic mistake, and much research has been lost, perhaps permanently. Jim Benians' experience is that an interim publication will attract new information which would not otherwise have been found - a strong point in favour of publishing incomplete information, rather than none. What do study leaders think? Can we hear from those who are willing to publish now - and from those who are not ?* - Editor. (John Grimmer at the time)

Now I draw your attention to the word *virtual*, which has taken on a new meaning - that of having a presence on the internet or world-wide web. This to me is an exciting prospect which has several virtues over the printed form. It is easily accessible to all members the world over, it comes in colour ... but above all it is never finally defined, as a book is. Any new knowledge is easily incorporated at any time so that the "*..tragic mistake that much research has been lost, perhaps permanently*" could become a thing of the past. The study could start with just the scans (pictures) of members' items before any definite conclusions are reached and added to as new items are found, no searching back through past *QCs* in the hope you can find similar articles ... all would be there, readily available.

When we asked for members' response to the web and the way forward just over a year ago there was a positive feeling that the internet could be used in a positive way. So I propose that the Study Circle website should become the new depository of the studies and so at the same time "becomes" The Book. There is no need to wait for that final piece of information before publishing, no need to complete the last chapter that possibly never quite makes it. As you find it, publish it on the website for all to see and comment on. No need to hold back, thinking that what you have may already be known – just look at the relevant page on the website and see if it is there!

Can any of our members really oppose the idea of a record of Egyptian philatelic knowledge that is easily accessible to all – worldwide? I appreciate that although more than two-thirds of our members now have email, in some cases their understanding of the web/internet is limited: but it does not take too much effort to negotiate a website, and we have organised ours to be "user-friendly". Children or grandchildren can be co-opted to help. In discussion of this idea one possible objection raised was that our non-connected members will object: well, I have little sympathy for this. It may well not be worth the expense of buying a computer and web services (I probably spend some £500 a year), but the web is easily accessible to all. My local library gives free net use and free training and others may well do the same or charge a small fee. The fact that a member chooses not to use the internet should not deny the rest of us the obvious benefits it can bring. I use the internet as my library and at times even thought I might have book(s) on a subject I often do an internet search for a topic as quicker than going upstairs to find the book and the relevant page.

Other objections to placing our “study” material on the internet may also be presented:

**Who should have access?** Only paid-up members, the information protected by password access only.

**Will the information leak out to non-members?** Yes, if it is passed on by a member; but no more than publishing the information in the *QC*, which we give away free to philatelic libraries.

**Will it detract for the *QC*?** Possibly, but hopefully not. My own feeling as organiser of both facets is that the two should work in conjunction, but precisely how remains to be considered. My original concept was that an article should appear first in the *QC*; if this presents a new topic, it becomes the start of a new web study. Amendments and additional pieces by other members could be printed in the *QC* or added to the web page as received and a mention of the update placed in the *QC*. For instance, several pages of postmarks of a particular type would not be republished in full in the *QC* for earliest/latest dates but a small note could be placed in the *QC* and the full list updated on the web page.

**Will non-internet-connected members lose out?** Well yes, but to take my postmark example, any changes made on the website will be noted in the next *QC*. If any member without internet access would like to have the updated data sheets he/she could apply to the Editor who would include them as a separate printout with the member’s copy of the next *QC*. This service should be free to members. Originally I thought it would be quite easy to turn a web page into printed text but one I have made as an experiment might present some small problems, simply because of the website’s potential for interactivity (ie, linking from page to page or postmark to postmark – much easier on computer than on a printable page).

I’m sure there might be more objections, and I am well aware some members are quite shy of publishing some of their findings because they may still be collecting in a particular area and letting on, for instance, rarity ratings, could well raise prices. That has to be an individual choice: are we about sharing our information – a study circle - or about secretly doing our own thing? I have several times been preparing what I considered “the” definitive article on a topic only to find someone else working on something similar but I have made the decision to hand over all my notes with a simple “use what you like from it and if you publish before me, good luck to you”. In some cases this has happened – and in others, alas, the Grim Reaper has done his work too soon and all the other person’s work has been lost.

To give some idea of what I have in mind I have knocked up some pages on the members-only section of our website. These pages are in different states, from fairly extensive to a few notes: the point is that placing material on the website is not about completing a subject but about presenting the available knowledge to date. Other sections I would like to see would be information on forgeries, postal rates (with cover examples), and many many more.

I have long been thinking about my own “philatelic book” and decided a while ago to publish on disk and not paper: now I would not bother with a disk, but would present it as a website. Where else can you have all the items in colour, where else can it be easily updated for all to see and the publishing costs are next to nothing? The idea that one would actually submit discoveries in book form to me now seems just as ridiculous as deciding to chisel it on stone.

The possibility exists. Do members want an updatable record/book of Egyptian philately? If so, please let me know; and if you are really opposed to the idea I should also very much welcome your opinions. I appreciate that any such venture will have its problems, but, unlike the unregulated Wikipedia online encyclopaedia, it will have some sort of editorial control – perhaps each section under a study leader/co-ordinator – and it will be a bit more than Exponet, the virtual international philatelic exhibition. This can be found at <http://www.japhila.cz/hof/>; there are Egypt displays at <http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0274/index0274a.htm> (where Hany Salam, our member 580 and Secretary of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, presents aspects of the printing development of the First Fuad issue) and <http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0129/index0129a.htm> (where a non-member, Josef Kotek, shows various Egypt 1866-1922), each in five frames.

If, however, the idea of pooling our individual knowledge for the good of all finds no resonance and all we want is the magazine, auction and the occasional enjoyable meeting I’m quite happy with that – long live the Egypt Stamp Club.



### Postcard Guide to Alexandria – Book Review

“I have always said that postal history, marks, stamps and postcards are one subject and complement each other, so why separate them?” – Mohamed Nofal (ESC 489) asks a very good question in the introduction to his voluminous guide to postcards published in and about Alexandria. Happily it is one that, at least in the Circle, is already being answered positively, with postcards always welcomed to illustrate almost any display.

I collect postcards, but have never fully got to grips with the sheer number involved. Egypt has long been a tourist trap, and publishers, helped by a blind eye to copyright, have served that trade for at least 120 years with an immense variety of styles and illustrations. Mohamed Nofal, Alexandria-born, has worked since 1993 to make sense of the various series, and has succeeded admirably. *Alexandria: Egypt 1890-1956* is the first of his guide-books: happily, there are more to come. He has managed to define no fewer than 1050 publishers, and in over 300 pages describes examples of all of their work in an array that leaves me for one very envious of some of his Hotel cards. Each publisher has a vertical half-page with illustrations of the back of the card, a couple of examples, and brief notes. A rarity standard from one star up to six (and “rare” above that) is provided, based on his personal opinion.

Frustratingly, in some cases only a single card from a series is illustrated – because he has only one! Requests are made throughout for correspondence and copies or scans of missing cards, and it is clear that he is keen to build a community of collectors. Perhaps crucially, he omits to publish any list of titles of known cards from a given series – but this list has been prepared and is available on application: it will be published when more complete.

The reproduction of the cards is exemplary (deleting the address on used cards while leaving the postmark, though understood, is disconcerting!), the information comprehensive, the notes perhaps a little on the sketchy side. And there are slips of English and expression that should be picked up for a second edition – for example, the captions on the Victoria College (147) and Kardiache (173) pages are swapped, and in the preview of his Raphael Tuck volume the word “Oilette” loses its final “e” in embarrassingly large type!

But these quibbles are not to dismiss a massive piece of work. The standard of publication is high, the work behind it even higher. For the first time Egyptian postcards are brought into order – though the abbreviations and listing styles take a little getting used to, though there is still much work to be done, this is an exciting and comprehensive start to a massive task.

**Mike Murphy (ESC 240)**

- *Postcard Collectors Guide: Part I – Alexandria, Egypt, 1890-1956*, by Mohamed Aly Nofal, A4 size, paperback, 324pp, lavishly illustrated in colour. Price £50 / €75 / \$100 – 10 per cent discount for ESC members, plus postage and packing, from 137 Gunnersbury Avenue, Acton, London W3 8LE, or visit [www.nflpostcardsegypt.com](http://www.nflpostcardsegypt.com) or email [man@nflpostcardsegypt.com](mailto:man@nflpostcardsegypt.com).



*Mohamed Nofal with the Postcard Traders Association Desmond Chamberlain Cup for postcard research for 2007, presented in London on September*

### Query Section

#### **Q13: British Postal Order: Reply** Mike Murphy, ESC 240

In February 2006 I asked about the usage of British Postal Orders within Egypt and specifically why the poundage commission was 6 mills, when 5m would have been closer to the British equivalent (1d). The Circle's purchase of Postal Bulletins has helped to resolve at least one of the queries:

Increase in Poundage Charged on British Postal Orders.					
The Commission on British Postal Orders has been increased follows, with effect from June 1, 1920 :—					
6 milliemes for Postal Orders ranging between 6d. and 2/6.					
9	,,	,,	,,	,,	3/0 and 15/0.
12	,,	,,	,,	,,	15/6 and 21/0.

No 23 of 1920 (June 7) reports that from June 1 the rate of poundage was increased to 6m (presumably from 5m?) for Postal Orders up to value of 2s 6d.

#### **Q39: The "Military" stamp 1971: Replies:**

Philip Mason, ESC 484

I have two covers with this stamp. One has the stamp on its own and dated 27.12.73. The other, dated 6.2.75, has the "military" stamp and next to it a space where another stamp previously existed.

Edmund Hall, ESC 239

No sooner had I received the above reply than I found one in a group of covers, bought on eBay. The date stamp is unreadable but it is backstamped 9.1.74 Qena T. It also has a part strike which appears to be a hexagonal military marking.

#### **Q40: (June 11): Hani Sharestan, ESC 595**

I have an airmail block from the Royal Collection. It is affixed to the 1954 Royal Sale souvenir sheets and has the blue Pyramid and Palm authentication on the back. As you can see the block is misperforated. I do not see this stamp being listed in either *Nile Post* or *Balian* as misperforated. I shared this block with an Egyptian stamp expert but I am looking for any additional input or thoughts anybody has.



**Q41:** (June 23 2007) **Hani Sharestan, ESC 595**

The 1968 50th Boy Scout Anniversary and Mexico Olympics stamps were issued on the same day, November 1. I have first-day covers of both with the correct cancellation, but I also have one of the Scout FDC using the cancellation of the Mexico Olympics. My question is: has this been seen or recorded anywhere before? Is it a common error, or have I stumbled on to something special?



*FDC of Scouts anniversary with Olympic Games cancel*

**Q42:** (Aug. 1): John Birkett Allan, ESC 320



I have a cover of 8<sup>th</sup> May 1875 from Malta to Cairo, franked by a Great Britain 4d, the single rate, cancelled by the Malta A25 duplex. There is an INSUFFICIENTLY-PAID handstamp of the type in use in Malta at that time. A due charge of 1.35 has been made in blue crayon, repeated in a black handstamp 1.35. It is unclear whether this is one or possibly two separate handstamps. I would assume that these have been applied in Egypt, as they are certainly not Maltese. On the reverse are POSTE EGIZIANE transit datestamps of Porto Said and Ismailia and a similar arrival datestamp of Cairo. I am interested to learn about the 1.35 due marking, and where it was applied. For comparison I am attaching two slightly earlier (1871 and 1872) covers from the same correspondence which were sent unpaid. The amounts due were raised in Malta, and the Alexandria and Cairo transit and arrival datestamps appear to be of the British Post Offices in Egypt.



**Postes Egyptiennes – New Find**

**Jürgen Fricke (ESC 557)**

I found an unusual post-mark on a cover I bought recently. The stamps are cancelled with the Postes Egyptiennes / Alexandria postmark in French which is recorded as an Egypt Study Circle Type VI datestamp (Smith page 495). If you compare Smith’s illustrations with the postmark on my new cover there is a distinction unknown until now: all three Type VI markings have a gap between POSTES and EGYPTIENNES, while this does NOT appear on the new cover (*see right*). Peter Smith writes to me: “It stretches the imagination to believe that a cancellation of such a large office could be nearly unique or undiscovered until now.” The big question is: why has this not been found earlier? Or was this postmark withdrawn very soon after it was brought into use?



Editor’s response: “Why has this not been found earlier” is a good question, for I thought it looked suspiciously like a Type VI of my own. Taking scans of the marks from the photocopy Jürgen had sent for this article and from my own cover I separated out the background colours and imposed one on top of the other. The fit is not perfect, but close enough to believe that these are the same postmark



Both marks have the S and E close together, the L and E of Alexandria have a slightly wider gap than the other letters, and the outer ring has a break above the letters E and G.

*From Jürgen’s cover*



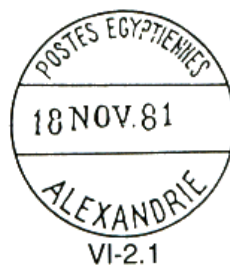
*From Editor’s cover*



VI-1



VI-2



VI-2.1



VI-2.2

Looking at the marks as shown in Peter Smith’s book, it is clear that these are identical to those in the Study VI – *Egyptian Postal markings of 1865-1879* by Peter Feltus (1982 edition). This gives more details with earliest and latest dates and the ring size. For my cover this is around 26mm, while in the study both VI-1 and VI-2 are given as 22.5mm, VI-2.1 as 25mm and VI-2.2 as 26.5mm. I have had my cover just over ten years and I have always assumed that it was either type VI-2.1 or VI-2.2. Thanks to Jürgen’s eagle eye I

appear to be wrong. Perhaps this may answer the question of why we don't look at our material with enough critical discrimination. Shame on me.

I do know that trying to match postmarks with those recorded is sometimes exceedingly difficult, as some drawings are far from perfect: it could be that this new mark could be the same as one recorded but which has not been drawn too accurately. The Type VI **POSTES EGYPTIENNES** are far from common and perhaps only a few reside with our members, but if they could send photocopies or scans (300 dpi preferred) to the Editor perhaps we could work up to a more precise view on these markings.



*Editor's cover*

### National Bar Association Anniversary

#### Mostafa El-Dars (ESC 556)

In February 2006 the Egyptian postal authorities released a special issue to commemorate the 92<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the National Bar Association. The issue was printed in sheets of 50 stamps divided into two mirror image panes of 25 stamps arranged in five rows of five different set-tenant stamps. Twenty-three of them have portraits of all the presidents of the association since 1912 and the remaining two show the emblem of the association. Stamp 22 in each pane carries the portrait of the current president, Mr Sameh Ashoor, who was elected in February 2001. Immediately on issue, the authorities withdrew all unsold sheets and physically cut out all the stamps with Mr Ashoor's portrait. No reason was given to explain such a peculiar and unprecedented action. (See *QC* 212 p70 in *New Issues* for the complete sheet.)



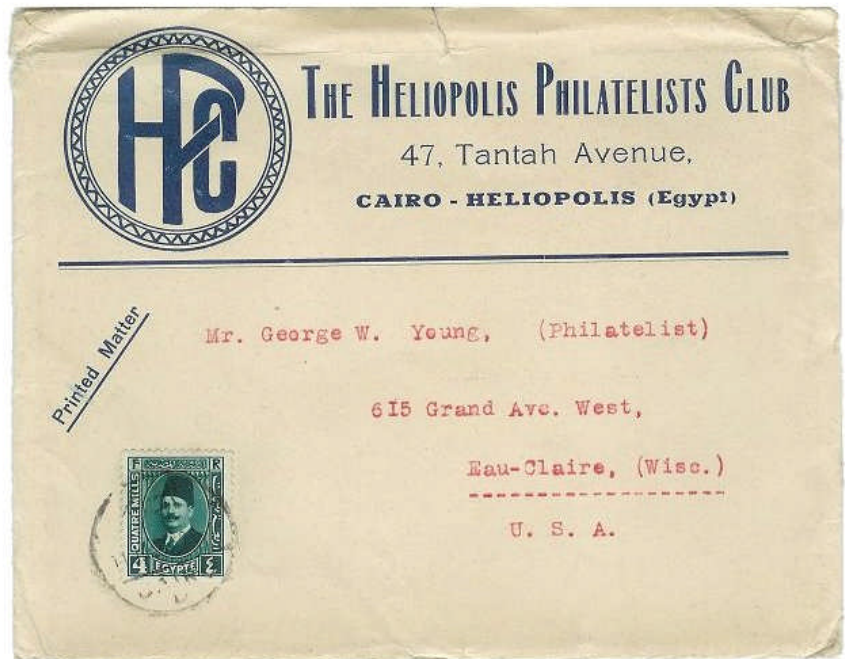
Another interesting observation is that the portrait on the 25<sup>th</sup> stamp is that of Mr Mostafa El-Baradei, who was the president on three occasion (1958-1959, 1964-1966, and 1971-1977) and who is the father of Dr Mohamed El-Baradei, Peace Nobel laureate for 2005 and Director-General of the UN Nuclear Agency whose portrait appeared on a special stamp issued in October 2005. (See *Story behind the Stamp* in *QC* 217)

## Heliopolis Philatelists Club: Reply to OC No 218

**Hani Sharestan (ESC 595)**

I am replying to the article written by Mike Murphy back in September 2006. I shared with him a "Heliopolis Philatelists Club" card dated 12.3.1938 which mentions that this club, supposedly established in 1902, has been suspended. As a collector of any Heliopolis-related philatelic material (place of my birth) this was the Holy Grail for me. I was glad to see that Mike Murphy found an article in *L'Orient Philatélique* 33 that described how this so-called club was basically a scam. Since his article I have purchased additional material relating to this club - on eBay, where else?

The first scan (*right*) shows an illustrated envelope tied by a Second Fuad 4 mills stamp and with a 1937 Cairo postmark. Also there is an official membership card, similar to the one shown in *QC218* with a unique number assigned to this member and an announcement (*below*) relating to a new year gift. These were all stuffed in that envelope, along with the membership information shown in the second page plus one other item.



The more interesting scan is the second one (*next page*) describing briefly the history of the club as being founded in 1902, even though the city of Heliopolis didn't exist until 1905. It discussed the advantages of the club. The admission fee was five British shillings or one US dollar. The bottom half shows the number of corresponding members from places such as Siam, Jamaica and Fidji, to name a few interesting ones. How he managed to get one member from Coree is beyond me. It shows a total of 2461 members, which would have been an amazing number given that this is a local club. It lists 338 members in Egypt, even though apparently nobody there knew of this club other than the founder.

### **NEW YEAR GIFT**

To every membership application dated :  
JANUARY & FEBRUARY 1937 & Back.

Club offers free with the first despatch :

20 Egyptian Complete Series, including all Commemorative from 1929 to 1936, used or mint.


1 set Anglo Egyptian Treaty, 1936, on cover, used.

35 African Jubilees with 12 Sudan Airmails all used.

In a separate reply to the original article, another member found it just as fascinating as me. Sherif El Kerdani (ESC 456) wrote in an email to Mike Murphy:

*"... being a third generation Heliopolitan myself I would like to clear up one point; Tanta Avenue exists in Heliopolis but its name had changed to Osman Ibn Affan Street. As far as I can remember from my childhood in the Sixties it has been bearing the latter name, however old timers still call it Tanta Street..."* Sherif goes on to mention that he believes *the address of this Club, which was 47 Tantah Avenue, is in a building that still exists and was built by the Heliopolis Company.* Thank you, Sherif, for your input and for sharing the same enthusiasm I have for Heliopolis.

I ask myself what motive the young man who created this club had. Was it simply to scam people out of money, or to try to advance the cause of Egyptian philately throughout the world, although in a criminal or irresponsible manner? He went to great length to produce various official-looking documents to try to create legitimacy for his imaginary creation. If this club still existed today, who knows what it could have accomplished? Could it truly have had 2461 legitimate members? No one will ever know. I find these documents fascinating and an important part of my Heliopolis collection.



# THE HELIOPOLIS PHILATELISTS CLUB

47, Tantah Avenue,  
**Cairo - Heliopolis**  
**EGYPT**

To Mr. *George W. Young*,  
*Eau Claire, Wis.*

Dear Sir,

Founded on the 1st September 1902, our Club has increased in importance from year to year involving now almost every State all over the World.

**JOIN OUR CLUB AND YOU WILL ENJOY THE FOLLOWING ADVANTAGES :**

- 1<sup>o</sup>) Every month you will receive from 150 to 200 stamps, especially Asiatic, African and Oceanian, including any New or Commemorative emissions used or unused. (Our Air Mail Section being free on request please state if YOU ARE SPECIALIZED IN ANY STAMP CATEGORY).
- 2<sup>o</sup>) Every month our H.P.C. magazine full of illustrated postage stamps subjects AND CONTAINING A CLASSIFIED LIST OF 2461 ADDRESSES OF AMATEURS DESIRING TO CORRESPOND ON STAMP EXCHANGE PURPOSE, will be posted to you.
- 3<sup>o</sup>) An enamelled Bronze Badge with Club initials will reach you by first mail as well as the complete regulation and a SIX languages translating Code.

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**YEARLY ADMISSION FEE**

Shillings 5/— (Five) in British unused stamps  
or U.S.A. Dollar 1.00 (One) in banknote.


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**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.**

Alaska ..... 18	Eritrea ..... 4	Liechtenstein ..... 7	Romania ..... 14
Azerbaijan ..... 2	Ethiopia ..... 3	Lietuva ..... 3	Russia ..... 22
Afghanistan ..... 4	Fidji ..... 5	Luxembourg ..... 13	Rio de Oro ..... 2
Angola ..... 4	Formose ..... 1	Lettonia ..... 5	Sierra Leon ..... 3
Acores ..... 6	France ..... 123	Libia ..... 4	South Africa ..... 84
Austria ..... 10	Falkland ..... 2	Madagascar ..... 3	Senegal ..... 8
Argentina ..... 16	Fire Land ..... 1	Maroc ..... 11	Syrie ..... 24
Algeria ..... 5	Germany ..... 95	Malta ..... 25	Sumatra ..... 1
Australia ..... 52	Gold Cost ..... 12	Mandchouria ..... 3	Sveridge ..... 19
Belgium ..... 55	Greece ..... 51	Mozambique ..... 7	Suom. .... 8
Brazil ..... 36	Guatemala ..... 2	Malaya ..... 24	Somalie I. .... 3
Bulgaria ..... 40	Guinea ..... 4	Mexico ..... 12	Siam ..... 7
British Isles ..... 199	Guyanne F. .... 2	New Zealand ..... 31	Somalie B. .... 16
Borneo ..... 12	Buyanne B. .... 3	New Found Land ..... 11	Strait Settlements ..... 17
Caledonia ..... 2	Hungaria ..... 5	Nederland ..... 15	Salvador ..... 12
Canada ..... 42	Haiti ..... 9	Nicaragua ..... 3	Fahiti ..... 3
Congo B. .... 20	Hedjaz ..... 2	Nigeria ..... 5	Tunisie ..... 9
Coree ..... 1	Helvetia ..... 26	Natal ..... 2	Tcheco-Slovakia ..... 22
China ..... 16	India ..... 48	Ouamotou ..... 1	Turkish ..... 21
Chile ..... 14	Iceland ..... 2	Ouganda ..... 3	Tasmania ..... 8
Cuba ..... 5	Indochina ..... 27	Polish ..... 27	Tanganyka ..... 15
Dahomey ..... 3	Italy ..... 36	Portugal ..... 58	U.S.A. .... 143
Danemark ..... 20	Iran ..... 29	Philippines ..... 14	Vatican ..... 3
Dominions ..... 135	Ivory Cost ..... 2	Palestine ..... 75	Venezuela ..... 2
Estonia ..... 1	Jamaica ..... 4	Peru ..... 6	Yemen ..... 1
Egypt ..... 338	Jersey ..... 15	Persia ..... 8	Zanzibar ..... 7
Ecuador ..... 5	Lebanon ..... 35	Reunion ..... 3	
			<b>TOTAL ..... 2461</b>

Join us, your collection will take a remarkable extension,

Yours faithfully,





## Reduced Rate Agreement - 1907

**Peter A. S. Smith (ESC 74)**

In the June 2007 number of the *QC*, a question was raised about the Austrian participation in the reduced-rate agreement of 1907. Examples of the rate to Italy are scarce, but can be found with a little persistence. I have covers dated December, 1912, and January, 1913 (*Fig. 1*). Austrian examples, however, are another matter. For many years I harboured doubts that the agreement with Austria had actually been activated, until I found several covers in 1998. Where did I find them? In Vienna, not surprisingly.



An ordinary cover and a registered cover are shown in *Fig. 2&3*, dated January, 1914, and December, 1913, respectively (the former was posted on the Port Said-Cairo TPO). While these two covers are franked with the sphinx-and-pyramid 5mill. stamps, two later covers are franked with the 5 mills. of the 1914 issue (*Fig. 3*). These should be especially scarce, for Austria entered World War I later in 1914, and correspondence would have been cut off.

Ingoing covers showing the reduced rate from Austria to Egypt should also exist, but I have not seen any. Such covers would probably be franked with the 10 heller rose (instead of the 25 heller blue). Examples may be lying unrecognised in dealers' stocks!



Dick Wilson states that he had encountered only covers with the UPU rate of 10 mills., all of which were dated before 1912. The number of such covers and the origins (many are from banks) strongly suggests that the reduced rate of 5 mills. was not in effect when these covers were sent. They cannot simply be cases of the sender being unaware that a special rate was available. Nevertheless, it has been stated that the reduced rate to Austria came into effect in 1908.



A hypothesis that could explain the inconsistency is that whereas negotiations between Egypt and Austria may have begun in 1908, the eventually effective date may have been as late as January, 1912 (all of my covers with the 5-mill. rate are dated between 1912 and 1914). The Postal Circular of June 7th, 1920, records that the letter rate to Austria and all other countries that were part of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire had become 10 mills. per 20 grams, the normal UPU rate.



As for documentation, I have notes made from the 1914 Postal Guide, in which it is recorded that the reduced rate was at that time in force, and applied to Great Britain and most of the British Empire, Italy and colonies (including Tripolitania, Eritrea, and Italian Somaliland (Benadir).

I have never seen a cover with the reduced rate to any Italian colony; they must be quite rare, as the quantity of mail from Egypt to them was small. Let the hunt begin!

**Express Stamp (Bal.263, NP EX2) Plate Flaw**

**Adel Abdel-Hafiz (ESC 451)**

Reference Sherif El Kerdani's report on the plate flaw on the 1929 red and black Express stamp (QC 220, March 2007, page 203), I have a control block of four (A/28) that shows the plate flaw is on the stamp in position 42. Another control, A/39, does not have this flaw.



**Unrecorded First Issue 5pa Variety**

**Jürgen Fricke (ESC 557)**

While looking at some of my stamps recently I noticed an unrecorded large additional dot on a copy of a First-Issue five-para greenish-grey (Bal 1, NP 1). The extra dot is at the right-hand end of the Turkish-language overprint under the bottom phrase, which is the value of the stamp, translating as "besh para". Although Zeheri, Balian and Nile Post all detail flaws of various sorts on this overprint, this is the first time this extra dot has been noted. I checked with Charlie Hass, who looked at the proof sheet and confirmed it as belonging to position 94.



Air Jottings

John Sears (ESC 188)



I bought this postcard in a recent Circle Auction, mainly because of the circular red handstamp in the bottom right corner. It is a LUFTPOSTAMT marking of Berlin which also appears on the covers of the Lufthansa service, Athens to Berlin inaugurated 31st May, 1931.

As to the card itself:-

- 1 Published by Lehnert & Landrock, Cairo, it shows a scene of "Cairo - Nightfall at the Pyramids".
2. It has the C.D.S. of Port Taufiq, 21.JL.31.
3. The card is marked "Printed Matter", somewhat obscured by the Air Mail label which I have removed & replaced to confirm.
4. The PER LUCHTPOST label has printed in the right corner "3730" which I believe shows the date of printing - 3rd July, 1930; this is borne out by inspection of other PL labels and their date of usage. I do not know what the "37AA" refers to; one sees different inscriptions on different labels. Any thoughts, anyone?
5. The franking for Printed Matter (under 50gms) by air to Germany was certainly 4m basic surface rate, plus possibly 25m Air Mail Surcharge. The latter being the AMS rate adopted for mail by KLM with effect from November 1st, 1931. This is speculation, and would indicate 3m overpayment.
6. Unfortunately, there is no Stockholm arrival date, but there are two transit marks - Munchen 4.8.31. 12.15. and Berlin 4.8.31. 19.20. These might indicate a journey time of 14 days - far slower than carriage by surface route. I finally realised that at that time KLM was providing only a fortnightly passenger, mail and freight service to and from Amsterdam and the Dutch East Indies via Egypt. Westwards, the KIM planes left Cairo on a Saturday. The first Saturday available after the 21st July was 1st August, which would tie up with arrival in Berlin on the 4th.
7. I enquired of the experts of the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society and was advised that the red LUFTPOSTAMT (BERLIN) handstamp was applied to all in coming airmail, from internal or external sources, at that time.

8. As regards the “PER AVION JUSQUEN ALLEMAGNE” handstamp, I referred to Ian McQueen’s 1995 supplement to his work of 1993 *Jusqu’ a Air Mail Markings*. This states that this mark has been seen on air mail “Test Letters” from Egypt for the Imperial Airways service to Cologne in 1931.

9. As from 30th October, 1931, the fortnightly KLM service Amsterdam-Batavia (& v.v.) became a weekly one. The Egyptian postal authorities announced that as from 9th November, 1931 mail could be carried by the first available service (i.e. Imperial Air., or KLM), but the Air Mail Surcharge on letters up to 20gms, or postcards to destinations in Europe, further than Greece or the Balkans would be 25m via KLM against 13m by Imperial.

To summarise, I think we have here a postcard with two unusual handstamps, possibly carried in a batch of “Test Mail” in anticipation of the involvement of KLM in the carriage of Air Mail from Egypt. The difference in the surcharge might also be justified because, at that time, KLM was quicker than Imperial. Finally, was the card worth what I paid for it? The answer must be “yes” in view of the satisfying period of research it has generated. If any of you have covers or cards posted during the same period (August-October, 1931) using KLM, please let us know.

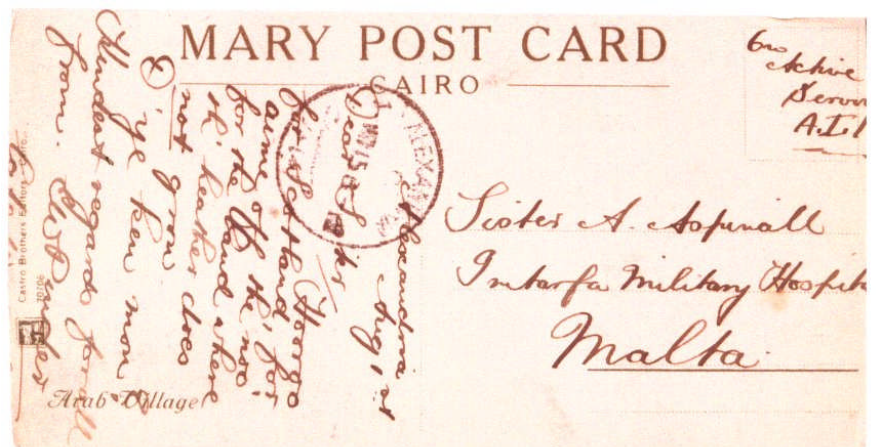
References - Mr John Jeffrey, Gateshead  
Messrs Michael Farrant FRPSL and Ian Nutley - Germany & Cols. P.S.  
Mr Ian McQueen - *Jusqu’ a Air Mail Markings* & Supplement.

### Mary Postcards – Mystery Solved

Dennis Clarke (ESC 165)

The MARY POST CARDS are fairly common and often seen sent by British Military personnel during WWI. It has often been assumed that the cards should be ARMY POST CARDS and the “mis-spelling” attributed to an error that was never corrected after the printers’ type was knocked over (pied). I have always regarded this as nonsense and recently came across a card where on the picture side it shows a clear imprint of the Editor/Publisher as ‘Mary Mill, Graz-Cairo – N.R.185.

I hope this clarifies “MARY” as being correct.



**New Issues: February 1, 2005 to December 26, 2005**

Cyril E. H. Defriez (ESC 172)

All stamps are printed in lithography by Postal Printing House, A.R.Egypt without watermark and with glossy gum, unless otherwise shown. The catalogue numbers are from the Stanley Gibbons and Balian supplements.

Date/Catalogue	Denomination	Size	Perforation	Number printed
<b>Feb 1 2005</b>	<b>International Communications &amp; Technology Fair, Cairo (2<sup>nd</sup> Series)</b>			
SG2392/Bal 1774	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi		Logo and Telecom. dishes		

<b>Feb 5 2005</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> University Youth Week</b>			
SG2393/Bal 1775	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi		Mansura University and Youth Week logos		

<b>Feb 23 2005</b>	<b>Centenary of Rotary International</b>			
SG2394/Bal 1776	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designers: A. Ahmed & R. Zonkoli		Rotary medal		

<b>Mar 15 2005</b>	<b>38<sup>th</sup> Cairo International Fair</b>			
SG2395/Bal 1777	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: S.A. Aziz		Globe within cogwheel and wreath		

<b>Mar 22 2005</b>	<b>60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Arab League</b>			
SG2396/Bal 1778	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: A. Makhlouf		Map of Arab world over league emblem		

<b>Apr 2 2005</b>	<b>Orphans Day</b>			
SG2397/Bal 1779	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designers: A. Ahmed & R. Zonkoli		Boy and flower		

<b>May 5 2005</b>	<b>Centenary of the City of Heliopolis</b>			
SG2398/Bal 1780	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi		Baron Empain Palace		

<b>May 22 2005</b>	<b>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Criminal &amp; Social Research Centre</b>			
SG2399/Bal 1781	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designers: A. Ahmed & R. Zonkoli		Anniversary emblem		

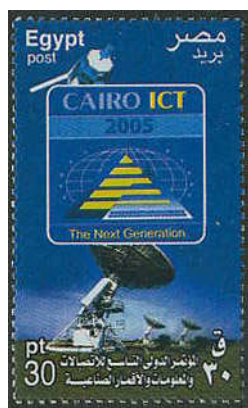
<b>Jun 1 2005</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Egyptian European Association Agreement</b>			
SG2400/Bal 1782	150PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi		Flag and EU emblem over map		

<b>Jun 5 2005</b>	<b>World Environment Day</b>			
SG2401/Bal 1783	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: A. Makhlouf		Buildings, water and emblem		

<b>Jul 31 2005</b>	<b>World Infirmation Summit, Tunis</b>			
SG2402/Bal 1784	150PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi		Summit emblem over Tunisian flag		

<b>Aug 13 2005</b>	<b>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ministry of Youth</b>			
SG2403/Bal 1785	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
SG2404/Bal 1786	125PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000

Designer: R. El Nabi		Youth within medal		
<b>Sep 7 2005</b>		<b>Presidential Election</b>		
SG2405/Bal 1787	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designers: N.A. Fattah		Ballot box with Egyptian flag and emblem		
<b>Sep 10 2005</b>		<b>13<sup>th</sup> World Psychiatry Conference</b>		
SG2406/Bal 1788	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
SG(MS)2407/Bal 1789	150PT	80 x 60mm	Imperf. min. sheet	40,000
Designers: A. Ahmed & R. Zonkoli Designer: S. el Badrawi		Logo of conference (30PT stamp) Logo of conference and gold mask (150PT min.sheet)		
<b>Sep 24 2005</b>		<b>World Illiteracy Eradication Day</b>		
SG2408/Bal 1790	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: L. Farid		Blackboard, reader and emblem		
<b>Sep 27 2005</b>		<b>President Mubarak's new presidential term</b>		
SG2409/Bal 1791	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi		President Mubarak's name over statue		
<b>Oct 8 2005</b>		<b>Mohamed El Baradei – 2005 Nobel Peace Prize Winner</b>		
SG2410/Bal 1792	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
SG2411/Bal 1793	150PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi		Mohamed El Baradei portrait		
<b>Oct 9 2005</b>		<b>World Post Day</b>		
SG2412/Bal 1794	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
SG2413/Bal 1795	150PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi		UPU emblem over postage stamp		
<b>Oct 24 2005</b>		<b>International Sports &amp; Physical Education Year</b>		
SG2414/Bal 1796	150PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi		Pharaonic sportsmen under two logos		
<b>Oct 24 2005</b>		<b>60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations</b>		
SG2415/Bal 1797	150PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000
Designer: H. Mohamed & A. Ahmed		Emblem over UN building		
<b>Nov 1 2005</b>		<b>Ramadan Festivals</b>		
SG2416/Bal 1798	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000
Designer: S. el Badrawi		Flower bouquet		
<b>Dec 1 2005</b>		<b>50<sup>th</sup> Fine Arts Biennale, Alexandria</b>		
SG2417/Bal 1799	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000 matt gum
Designer: M. Yousri & S. Aziz		Logo within palette		
<b>Dec 26 2005</b>		<b>Local Production of Training Aircraft K8</b>		
SG2418/Bal 1800	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 matt gum
SG2419/Bal 1801	150PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 matt gum
Designer: Helen K. Saad		Aircraft and sphinx		



SG 2392 Bal.1774



SG 2393 Bal.1775



SG 2394 Bal.1776



SG 2395 Bal.1777



SG 2396 Bal.1778



SG 2397 Bal.1779



SG 2398 Bal.1780



SG 2399 Bal.1781





SG 2400 Bal.1782



SG 2401 Bal.1783



SG 2402 Bal.1784



SG 2403/4 Bal.1785/6



SG 2405 Bal.1787



SG 2406 Bal.1788

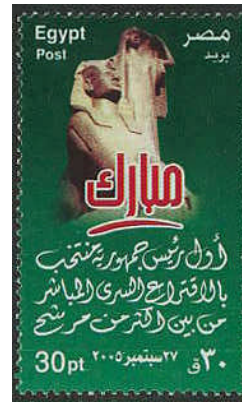


SG 2407 Bal.1789





SG 2408 Bal.1790



SG 2409 Bal.1791



SG 2410/1 Bal.1792/3



SG 2412/3 Bal.1794/5



SG 2414 Bal.1796



SG 2415 Bal.1797





SG 2416 Bal.1798



SG 2417 Bal.1799



SG 2418/9 Bal.1800/1

Dec 26 2005		Local Production of Training Aircraft K8		
SG2418/Bal 1800	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 matt gum
SG2419/Bal 1801	150PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 matt gum
Designer: Helen K. Saad		Aircraft and sphinx		



A K-8E in Egyptian markings with two proud new owners

### The Story Behind the Stamp: Balian 1800/1801, December 26, 2005



In December 1999, the China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation (CATIC) announced a \$345 million contract with the Egyptian Defence Department to export the K-S aircraft and its production line; the K-S had already been exported to several countries such as Pakistan, Myanmar and Zambia.

Since July 2000, when the contract to jointly produce a total of 80 K-SE jet trainers within five years was signed, more than 200 Chinese technicians and workers have been sent to Cairo, where they worked around the clock with their Egyptian counterparts. The first two Egyptian K-8Es rolled off the assembly line in late June 2001, carrying a 23mm gunpod under the fuselage and powered by an Allied Signal engine. The aircraft factory AOI/ACF (Arab Organisation for Industrialization/Air Craft Factory) at Helwan El Hammamat, Helwan, is in the southern suburbs of Cairo and had a target of completing two planes every month. Chinese and Egyptian senior officials hailed the production of the first K-SE jet training aircraft as a good start to their aircraft co-production project.

K-8E, an Egyptian version of the K-8 series, a tandem-seated, all-metallic, low-wing and fuselage-side air intake jet training aircraft, is a new generation of the K-8 jet trainer which was jointly developed by China and Pakistan in the 1990s and won acclaim for its excellent demonstration flights in many overseas aircraft shows, including the 1999 Paris Air Show; each aircraft costs approximately \$20 million. K-8, which stands for Karakoram-8, is a two-seat advanced training jet and light air-to-ground attack aircraft. It has an impressive specification - crew 2 (trainer and trainee); engine: Garrett TFE-731-2A-2A turbo fan; wing Span 9.36m; length 11.06m; maximum speed 702 mph - and is fitted with a Martin-Baker EP10LW ejection seat.

The co-production of the K-8E in Egypt consisted of three phases. In the first phase China supplied all the main parts of the aircraft for the assembly of a complete aircraft. By the end of the programme Egypt will have the capability to manufacture the major parts and to assemble the planes independently. This, in the words of Egyptian Air Force officers, will help to re-establish the nation's aviation industry, which was obstructed in the 1970s for a variety of reasons.

The K-8E co-production project will also help to consolidate "the strategic co-operative relationship" set up by the two nations when President Jiang Zemin visited Egypt in 1999, according to a high-ranking official of the China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation, which represents the Chinese side for the operation of the project. "The project is a fine example of Sino-Egyptian trade and economic cooperation based on friendship, equality, trust and mutual assistance," a Chinese official said.

On December 12, 2005, the initial batch of 80 aircraft was produced on target, successfully completing the first Sino-Egyptian contract on joint aircraft-manufacture, and it is this that the stamps celebrate. "As the 80th K-8E aircraft is being delivered to the Egyptian Air Forces, today we are celebrating a milestone in joint Sino-Egyptian co-operation in aircraft-manufacturing, and now it has been authorised to produce as much as 97.4 per cent of the components of the aircraft," said Ibrahim Yunis, chairman of the AOI/ACL aircraft-manufacturing company.

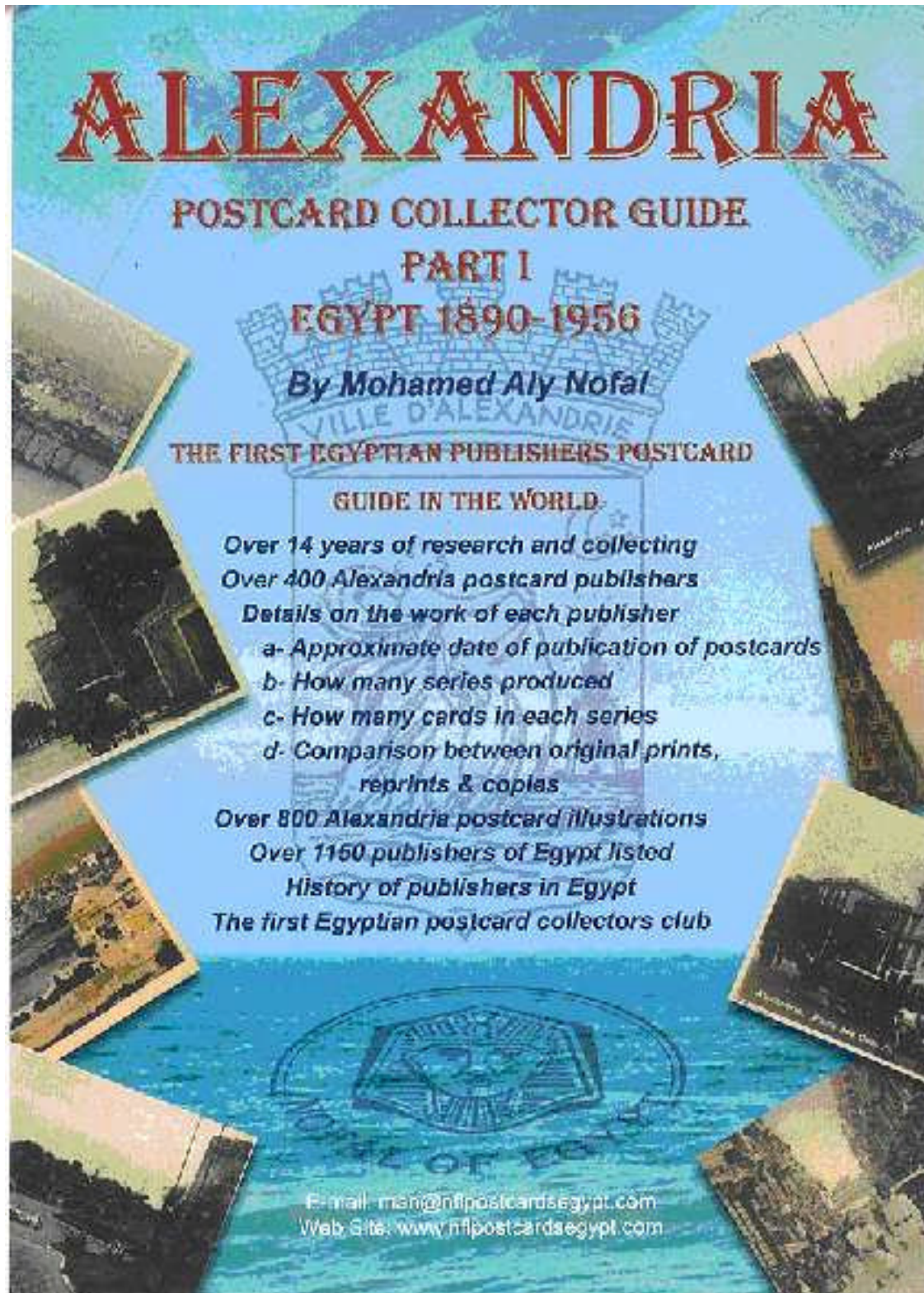
The factory is no stranger to the manufacture of foreign-designed planes. The Helwan Aircraft Factory was opened during 1950-51, to produce the British De Havilland Vampire jet fighter under licence (this programme was cancelled during 1952). It has also made parts and components of the Mirage 2000 as well as the Falcon 50 and the Brazilian Tucano. It also successfully produced the indigenous-designed Al-Gomhuria, a basic flight trainer, of which about 200 were made.

During the mid-1970s this facility became part of the Arab Organization for Industrialization (AOI), whose logo also appears on the stamps.



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