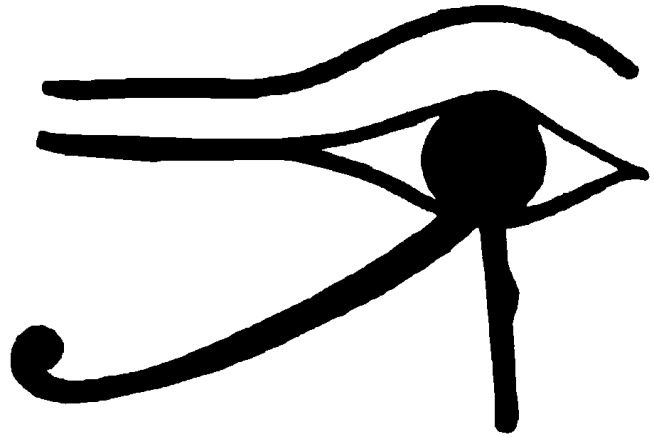


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THE
EGYPT

STUDY CIRCLE



March Quarter 2008

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1868: Entire letter from Epsom to Mansura franked by 6d. bright violet, plate 6 tied by '280' Epsom duplex. Reverse with fine strike of 'Poste Vice-Reali Egiziane/Alessandria' datestamp (Nov 29) and struck with '1' piastre due marking in black, in Alexandria for the internal rate to Mansura (Nov 30). A rare and fine cover that opens well for Exhibit display. SG 107. £750.

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Report of the Meeting, January 12 2008

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), John Davis (Librarian), John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Peter Grech.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: Peter Andrews (Chairman), Dennis Clarke (Committee), Mike Bramwell, Mostafa El-Dars, Ted Fraser-Smith, Charlie Hass, Alan Jeyes, David Sedgwick.

The Deputy Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present, and wishing all members, whether present or not, a happy and prosperous New Year.

He then turned to a letter addressed to the Chairman recently received from Egypt, signed by 17 Egyptian members, commenting on the £5 increase in annual subscription rates agreed at last May's AGM and questioning the necessity for such an increase. The Secretary read out the letter, which occasioned much discussion, and eventually the meeting instructed the Secretary to reply, advising the correspondents that their views had been noted, but that in light of recent postage increases (and another coming on April 7), and to safeguard the Circle's future in the long term the increase was not only justified but necessary to our survival as an international group publishing a top-class journal to members the world over. It was noted that more than two-thirds of our members are now outside UK, where the postal increases have been greatest; and that it is hoped that no further increase in subscriptions will be necessary in the near future as a result of the action taken at the AGM.

The Secretary then mentioned the possibility of a further supply of 31 more Postal Bulletins coming from Egypt, eight of them new in European languages, 14 of them printed only in Arabic, and nine of them duplicates of those already purchased. In light of the duplicates and the Arabic editions, the meeting accepted the offer of two individual members to negotiate to purchase them, in order to preserve Circle funds.

Notice was received from Tony Chisholm (Antipodean Agent) of an international meeting tentatively being planned for New Zealand in February 2009. Previous meetings in NZ have been resounding successes, and Tony is keen to hear from members who might be willing to resurrect that freewheeling conviviality. Those interested should contact the Secretary or Tony direct at j_t_chis@clear.net.nz.

The Secretary read out various correspondence, including a request from the Association of British Philatelic Societies to pay the increased capitation fee for 2008. Since our membership of the ABPS is already under review, it was decided that the question of withdrawing from the organisation be decided at the AGM. In the meantime, the Secretary would very much welcome members' views on the benefits (or otherwise) of membership. A request for financial support for the big international meeting London 2010 (from May 8-15), which is no longer backed by Royal Mail, will also be considered at the AGM.

An email from the fledgeling Indus Philatelic Society of Sujawal, Sindh, Pakistan, sought philatelic material of any sort – stamps, covers, literature, whatever. Members agreed to seek out surplus material to send: any such items should go to the Secretary for forwarding, please, and many thanks for your generosity.

Officers reported on ESC activities: Edmund Hall appealed for articles for the forthcoming *QC* 224; Brian Sedgley reported that 2008 subscriptions were rolling in well and that the experiment of attaching a Macarthur Award vote sheet to the subs reminder had been a success; John Sears expected a Circle profit of about £450 from Auction 44 and noted that lists of lots for Auction 45 should be with Mike Murphy by February 15; and John Davis reported on the purchase of literature including Peter Smith's *Egypt* from Robin Bertram's estate and said that the disposal of other books purchased with it should provide a boost for Circle funds.

Edmund Hall then embarked on the meeting proper, titled "Twentieth Century Postal Rates" – a straightforward title but a fascinating and varied afternoon, typically viewed from a different angle! His idea was to tell the story of changes in postal rates via the issue of definitive stamps which, after all, were designed to fulfil specific purposes within the postal system.... or were they?

Edmund showed an astonishing variety of covers, originally collected for all sorts of reasons including fine postmarks or the CDS of an out-of-the-way village or TPO, but now re-worked to illustrate specific rates each properly paid using (where possible) the single stamp designed for the role.

He was able to show that in many cases a change in postal rates was not catered for by a specific stamps – in other words, when the rate went up to, say, 13 millièmes, the 13 millième stamp to fulfil that rate was not issued until six or more months later. Because of this discrepancy, he proved that it is not always possible to define a postal rate by a single-stamp cover; and that it is not always safe to ascertain the rate for the day by examining only stamps on cover – they may be misleading.

Some of the lower-value definitives properly used to pay their appropriate rate, he said, were exceedingly rare, and a similar case applied to use of a single commemorative to fulfil a local small-value rate, bearing in mind that commemoratives often had a franking life of only seven days.

Much remains to be done, it is clear, in the area of defining specific dates for rate changes – Edmund was able to show how the internal rate and the Avis de Reception rate stayed the same when a Registration rate was increased; and how later the AR rate was lifted without any corresponding increase in Registration rate when clearly it would have been more logical to change both at the same time.

Particularly interesting was the Boy King issue, during which the local internal rate was increased twice, from the long-lived 5m rate to 6m in 1940 and then again to 10m in 1943, with consequent changes in all other rates, necessitating the printing of a long series of values and colour changes. There was, for instance, no 21m stamp to cover the foreign letter rate; and there was no 41m stamp, to cover local (6m) plus Registration (15m) plus AR (20m).

All that changed with the provision of the Marechal series, in which all issued stamps were related directly to specific postal rates, including even the 47-millieme value (17m foreign letter rate plus 30m for Air Mail). Air Mails, however, provided many tangled problems with different rates for each airline, and the meeting queried how the airlines were reimbursed for their specific duties.

One mystery – why the Nefertiti 100m stamp was surcharged with another odd value, 55 millièmes, was resolved when Edmund explained that 55m was the internal letter rate plus Registration plus AR. He was able to take us only a little further into the complex post-Revolution period before time ran out and the meeting had to close. It was agreed that he would show the remainder of his display at the Stampex meeting on March 1.

The Deputy Chairman described the meeting as “really amazing” and paid tribute to Edmund’s “absolutely enormous” dedication to research of a fascinating area, and wondered how he managed to find time to do it, among all his other interests. The meeting showed its delight in time-honoured fashion.

Report of the Meeting, March 1 2008

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), John Davis (Librarian), Dennis Clarke (Committee), Leon Balian (Egypt), Mike Bramwell, Graham Coles, Cyril Defriez, Mostafa El-Dars, Peter Grech, Charlie Hass (USA), Bill Johns, Costas Kelemenis (Greece), Trent Ruebush (USA), Sami Sadek, David Sedgwick, Tony Schmidt.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Luca Biolato, Joe Chalhoub, Paul Frank, Ted Fraser-Smith, Alan Jeyes, Vahe Varjabedian.

As the Chairman was delayed by horrendous traffic problems, John Sears assumed the mantle with enormous good grace and opened the meeting by welcoming those present, and especially the overseas members who attended – small in quantity but high in quality! He regretted to have to report on the recent demise of John Catchpole of Cornwall (ESC 537).

The Acting Chairman was then able to welcome – to a rousing storm of applause – David Sedgwick, who has volunteered to act as Publicity Officer, a role that has languished unfilled for some time. The position involves liaising with the philatelic press to ensure that our name stays before the public's eye in an attempt to gain more members; and also to seek advertising for the QC, cutting Circle costs and, we hope, enabling use of more colour illustrations. David, who will become a Committee member, was assured of the active help of the Secretary, Treasurer and Editor/Webmaster in his new role. In light of the appointment, it was decided to retain membership of the ABPS for a further year.

With an eye to gaining more members, the Secretary mentioned that he had recently written two articles based on the Circle, one for *The Israel Philatelist* to be distributed at the May 2008 Tel Aviv International, the other for *Stamp Magazine* in the UK.

The Secretary reported that a letter written to the 17 Egyptian members who had questioned the necessity for the increase in subscriptions made at last year's AGM had been acknowledged and circulated but that there had been no further reaction from Cairo.

He said he had been delighted to receive recently a disk from our US Agent, Dick Wilson (ESC 230), containing his medal-winning collection of material titled *Postal History of the British Forces in Egypt 1801-1914*, and much, much more in a comprehensive and detailed encyclopaedia of some 500 pages. A further copy had gone to the Library.

In similar vein, the Secretary reported that he had that day returned two borrowed copies of the Postal Bulletins to Tony Schmidt (ESC 198), who had lent three more (1885-1887); and he announced that two individual members had successfully purchased 31 more copies of the Bulletin (nine of them duplicates) from Egypt.

There was much discussion over how these crucial mines of information should be made available for study. The fragility of the books makes impossible their physical loan to members, so they are being photographed and made into disks in jpg format for members to own. As is usual for Library items, members should meet the cost of postage and packaging: the meeting agreed a charge of £5 per disk to members worldwide, with reductions for those ordering several volumes. It is hoped that two years' worth of information will fit on one disk (*British Forces* is one disk). See back page for a sample section and more information.

Members without computer facilities will need to go to a friend for help, or their local library, as the time and effort involved in our Officers printing out the 70 or so pages for each year would be prohibitive. For similar reasons we regret that it is not possible to carry out research on particular topics on behalf of members (but see pages 15-24 for extracts).

Details received from Tony Chisholm (Antipodean Agent) of a meeting planned for New Zealand in February 2009 have been posted on the website; Cairo is also pulling out all the stops by planning an exhibition meeting in the first week of November and invites any member interested to display before an international judge at what will be a top-level meeting. Those interested should contact the Secretary (for Egypt) or Tony direct at j_t_chis@clear.net.nz.

Edmund Hall then opened the meeting proper by completing his January display, "Twentieth Century Postal Rates", with material from the 1960s onwards. Though republican postal history is often looked at askance, he showed just how fascinating and varied such "modern" material can be with a well-researched collection of covers displaying changes in rates and how the issued stamps rarely kept pace. Members were enlightened and amused – and gained some clues as to what adhesives had a very limited use and should be sought out on cover!

The "Ten sheets" theme followed. Here is an abbreviated report on an entertaining and necessarily varied series of displays covering virtually all areas of Egyptian postal history:

Tony Schmidt showed the Michael Barker parcel cover addressed to the Barker company in Alexandria and furnished with no fewer than nine Alexandria Interpostals. The lesson was one of care: while the original

address written in Liverpool had survived 20 years of display in a frame in a sunny room, the Egyptian ink in which a receiving officer had made notes had faded almost to invisibility.

Leon Balian explained some of the details of his *Stamps of Egypt: Book Two* catalogue, and how the two volumes complemented each other and had been intended from the start to be used together; hence there was no duplication of material or illustrations. He gave details of the new areas covered, including comprehensive coverage of the French Post Offices issues, Egypt's control numbers, the 1933 Air Mails, and every flaw and plate variety on the commemoratives from 1940 to 1980.

John Sears showed maritime material, concentrating on the port facilities of Alexandria and Port Said, with covers and cards showing customs houses and the like. He showed a fine registered cover from the Seamen's Home in Alexandria and a remarkable rare Port Said (Port) CDS struck in blue as well as all three markings of the UAR Station Maritime.

A recent acquisition in a Rural Service marking of the Shatanuf-Shisha rural line was displayed by **Cyril Defriez**, who noted for the very first time that the phrase Rural Service on the CDS had been mis-spelled Rural SeEvice with a double-E. See Page 6. It is the first time such an error has been spotted on a rural postmark, and members are now on the lookout for any more!

Peter Grech showed the development of the Port Said local area known first as the Quartier Arab (1895), and then via Hai el Arab (1908) to Qism Sani (1930s) and finally to Qism Tani (1960s) – all of them shown in postmarks; and he was even able to trace the site of the post office itself. He also showed cards tracing the changes in the Simon Arzt store in Port Said.

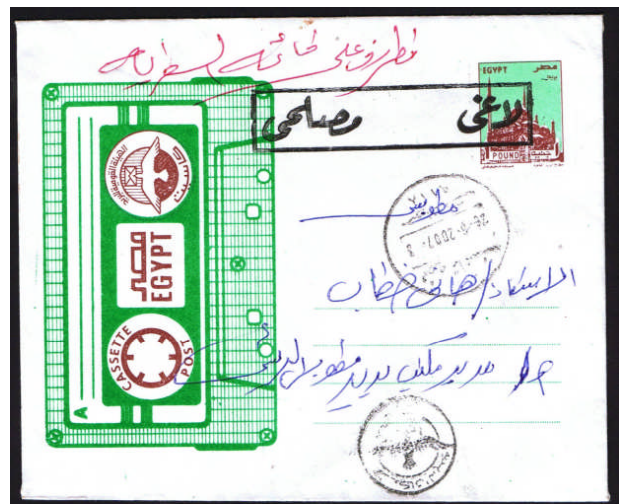
David Sedgwick showed what he described as “odds and ends”, which included some spectacular pre-stamp covers from Egypt to France and UK, and others slit and vinegar-splashed in an attempt to purify them against malignant disease en route.

A fascinating display of overseas postage due stamps on Egyptian covers was produced by **John Davis**, ranging widely from France, Greece and Italy through Switzerland, Yugoslavia and USA to Transvaal and ending with a cover with three different nations' dues – Egypt because unfranked, Singapore on arrival, and UK after readdressing.

Brian Sedgley showed a selection of the fascinating Italian-language postmarks of 1874-1884 from Upper Egypt and the Sudan, that is, Egypt south of Sohag, explaining the variations in the Poste Egiziane markings and how difficult it was to find those of Sudan in particular.

Confusion about the issue date of Egypt's recent prestige booklet, *Discover the Treasures of Egypt*, was illustrated by **Mostafa El-Dars**, who showed first-day cancels on the booklet's sheets, apparently from different arms of the Philatelic Bureau, dated 8 May 2004 and 22 January 2004 (like the UPU-based website). The mystery continues....

Mike Murphy showed how two examples of the cassette envelopes, valued at £E2 ½ and £1 (1999 issue), now superseded, had been overprinted in Arabic “Cancelled” with a large black box; and then reused by the Post Office itself for mail between offices.



Finally, **Charlie Hass** illustrated the origin and usage of the 1898 bilingual 3 millièmes on 2 piastre Postage Due surcharge, detailing the necessity for its use for mails from soldiers in the Sudan who had no access to stamps and displaying an astonishing variety of covers including a “forerunner” with a 2m Due bisect used with a full stamp to pay the 3m Due rate on a cover from Berber. He also showed an amazing use of the 10m Crown Overprint Due stamp, on a cover from Qus that happened to arrive in Alexandria on Oct 10, 1922, with a deficiency of 5m – hence a first-day cancel on the new postage due stamp.

Annual General Meeting May 10 2008

A quick reminder that the Annual Meeting this year is to be held on May 10 at the Victory Services Club (followed by our increasingly successful Bourse), and that any submission for changes to rule should be with the Secretary four weeks prior to that date (the Secretary writes).

A certain amount of disquiet has been expressed about the £5 increase in subscription rate decided at the 2007 AGM, so in an attempt to prevent any similar future difficulty I propose a change to Rule 4, paragraph 1, which states at present:

4. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION shall be payable in advance on January 1 each year at a rate set at the previous year's Annual General Meeting. Members joining after August 1 will pay a lesser amount of subscription as decided by the Committee for the balance of the year in which they joined. If normal annual payment is not made by the date of the AGM, delivery of the QC will be halted and the Officers will advise the member in writing that unless payment is received within 30 days membership will be terminated. No further notice will be given of termination, but membership may thereafter be restored, at the Committee's discretion, on payment in full of all outstanding subscriptions plus an administration fee of £5.00.

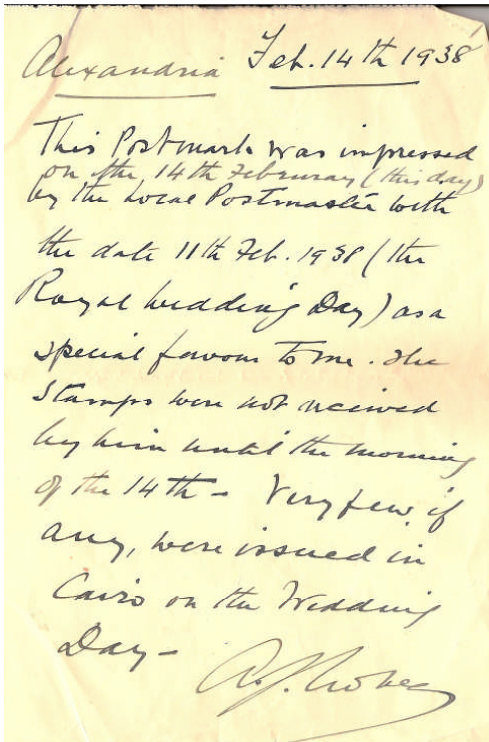
I propose that a further sentence be interpolated after the end of the first sentence (ending "... previous year's Annual General Meeting."), which states: "Any proposal to vary the annual subscription must be made in specific terms (ie, notification of a specific amount) to the Secretary at least ten weeks before the date of the AGM in order that all members may properly be notified, preferably in the next available QC."

Q46 Cyril Defriez (ESC 172)

I have a postcard with a Rural Service cancellation with Arabic date 20.07.39. Route Shatanuf-Shisha. The word service is clearly wrongly spelt 'SEEVICE'. Has any other member seen a similar rural postmark like it?



Q48 King Farouk's wedding from a non member.



I have an £E1 stamp 1938 of King Farouk's wedding, franked Alexandria 11 Feb 1938, the day of the wedding. There is a note with the envelope, written by my grandfather as follows: 'Alexandria Feb 14 1938: This postmark was impressed on the 14th Feb [this day] by the local postmaster with the date 11th Feb 1938 [the Royal Wedding Day] as a special favour to me. The stamps were not received by him until the morning of the 14th - Very few, if any, were issued in Cairo on the Wedding Day - Signed A J Lowe.' Because of the postmark, does this make for an interesting stamp? I am not a philatelist, but I would be interested to hear anything about this.

Comment: There is clearly some confusion here: the £E1 stamp was issued on February 11 1938 not to mark Farouk's wedding to Farida but his 18th birthday (ie, age of majority). The all-brown wedding stamp, which is of similar design but value only 5 milliemes at Farouk's request, had been issued on the actual wedding day, January 20 1938.

First-day covers of the £E1 stamp are not usual: Nile Post values one at \$300. On eBay recently an unaddressed cover imprinted with the royal insignia and with the £E1 stamp cancelled Qubba

Palace / Cash 20 I 38 (ie, three weeks before the stamp was issued!) went for well over \$100 even though it was patently 'odd'.



Membership changes

New Members:

- ESC 620 Stephen Speak**, 9 Lancelot Drive, Watnall, Nottingham NG16 1JS
(Egypt 1866 to 1958; Rotary on Stamps)
- ESC 621 Edward Guy**, Harold Lambert Ct, 12 Berndard Gardens, Hyde Park, Sheffield S2 5JG
(Egypt generally, postage methods and varieties, Nubian monuments on stamps)
- ESC 622 E A Blinko**, 135A Little Glen Road, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TW
(Scandinavia, Tristan, Pacific Islands)

- ESC 623 Alexandre Amoudi**, 2 Rue de l'Abbe Gillet, 75016 Paris, France
(Pre-Republic period, 1914-1953, mint stamps, FDCs and varieties)
- ESC 624 Victor, Lord Denovan**, Springfield Cottage, Carberry, Musselburgh, EH21 8PZ
(Egypt Sphinx and Pyramids issues; Thurn and Taxis; Confederate States of US)
- ESC 625 Mohab Akhnoukh**, 13 Khalifa el-Maamoun Street, Apt 78, Heliopolis 11341, Egypt

Change of address:

- ESC 563 Magdy Soliman**, 4924 Academy Drive, Metairie, LA 70003, USA
- ESC 612 Stephen Roche**, Latin American Philatelics, P.O.Box 56194, London E17 0GF

Additions to Register of Interests published with QC 222:

- ESC 591 Laurence Kimpton** (Air Mails, Nairn Overland Mail)

Deceased:

- ESC 537 John Catchpole**

Resigned:

- ESC 431 Dr Farid Mehiar**

Sphinx or Anne of Cleves

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)

Can any member shed any light on this oddity?

At first glance the stamp is a 2 piastre lithographed stamp issued in 1867 (SG 15). It is perforated 15 x 12½ and it has an impressed Star and Crescent watermark. The size of the design frame is correct and it appears to be Type II. There is an indistinct black postmark. But, look at the face of the Sphinx! In its place there is a face of a woman!

A couple of years ago in one of my displays to a society, this stamp was on show and one person in the audience commented that the face resembled Anne of Cleves – the fourth wife of Henry VIII. The same comment was made in another display, so I began to wonder if there was anything in it.

Earlier this month I bought a postcard of Anne of Cleves at the National Portrait Gallery in London. Do you think there is a likeness?

In searching for information I have looked through all my literature dealing with the Second issue, Penasson (the printers), forgeries, essays etc. and I have drawn a blank. The only essays of that period to feature a Queen's Head were done by Carlo Borani of Florence, but they were nothing like this stamp of mine.



My guess is that it was produced as a joke by someone in the Penasson print shop, for the stamp has all the characteristics of the genuine article – apart from the face.



A New Date-stamp for Rafah, Sinai.

Peter Smith (ESC 74)

The cover shown here (philatelic, unaddressed), Fig.1, was found in a “junk box” at a recent exhibition/bourse. The date-stamp is new to me, and it might be new to others; it is dated 25 AP 82. The stamps are Egyptian. Apart from that, it raises the interesting question of where the post office was officially located (Rafah sits on the border with Palestine). When stamps for the Egyptian administration of Gaza were in use, they were used at Rafah. and today, under Israeli occupation, Rafah is included in the Gaza Strip. However, there is also an adjacent settlement on the Egyptian side of the border. Were (or are) two post offices, one Egyptian, one Israeli, separated by the border, in operation?



Fig.1

Editor's reply.

I believe there could have been an Egyptian post office at Rafah, even when the Gaza Strip was under Egyptian control, as normal Egyptian stamps and cards are found with a Rafah cancel (*Figs. 2 and 3*). However I also have a piece with the Rafah / T cancel with two normal stamps and two overprinted Palestine. The marks shown are normally ascribed to the Gaza Strip in the philatelic literature¹. I have had my suspicions that these could be fantasies, but the airmail cover has the correct censor mark and is backstamped Cairo and Cincinnati Ohio.

The Egyptians also ran a post office at Rafah for both occupations of the Gaza Strip, 1948-1956 and 1957-1967 (*see Fig. 4 and 5*). The one used during the first occupation can be found either with a dent in the left side of the ring or in a mangled state, as illustrated.

The Israelis had handstamps for Rafah for both of their occupations of the Gaza Strip, in 1956-57 and 1967-1994. Of course during the 1967 occupation the whole of the Sinai was held and it is generally assumed that only one PO was being used. Illustrated is a cover to an undercover address from Rafah to Nicosia (*Fig. 6*).

After the peace agreement in the 1980s the Sinai was handed back to Egypt in stages, the last containing that portion of Rafah on the Egyptian side of the border. I have some unaddressed covers similar to Peter's for Abu Tawila and El Sheikh Zeweid which also have a mauve box cachet "ISRAEL COMPLETES WITHDRAWAL, FROM SINAI APRIL 25-26 1982, FIRST DAY OF EGYTIAN RULE" so I suspect that Peter's cover is a First Day of the new Egyptian PO.

These of course could be fantasies, but I acquired mine from an Israeli dealer who made a point of attending the post office openings and closings of the occupied territories so I think they would be genuine postmarks.

I have covers from the Egyptian post office operating in Egyptian Rafah (Fig. 7), Rafah Exchange and (Fig. 8) with straight Rafah. I don't know if these are the same physical location, but they do prove that the Egyptians do have a post office in Rafah on their side of the border.

The Israelis, to my knowledge, ran a post office only for Rafah in the Gaza Strip, for which there are four handstamps Rafah 1, 2, 3 and Rafah Terminal. These were closed on 17.5.94 so there would have been Israeli and Egyptian post offices operating either side of the boarder between 26-1-92 and 17-5-94.

On 1-1-95 the Palestinian Authority opened its post offices and I illustrate one with just Rafah (Fig. 9) and one with Rafah Terminal (Fig. 10). What this indicates is that the Israeli Rafah Terminal was located in the Gaza Strip and that they operated a post office only for Rafah within the strip itself.

1. QC 130 p26-29

Fig.2

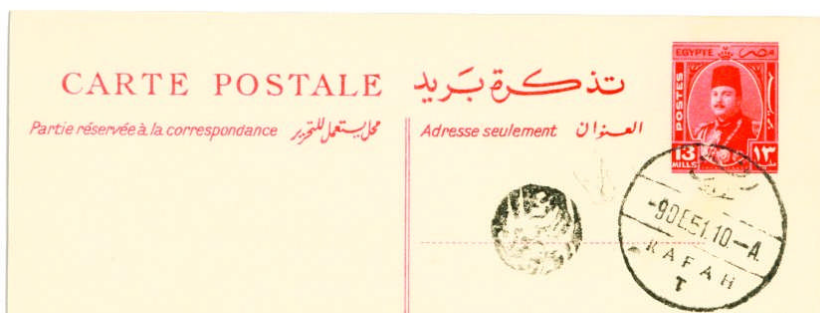


Fig.3

Fig.4



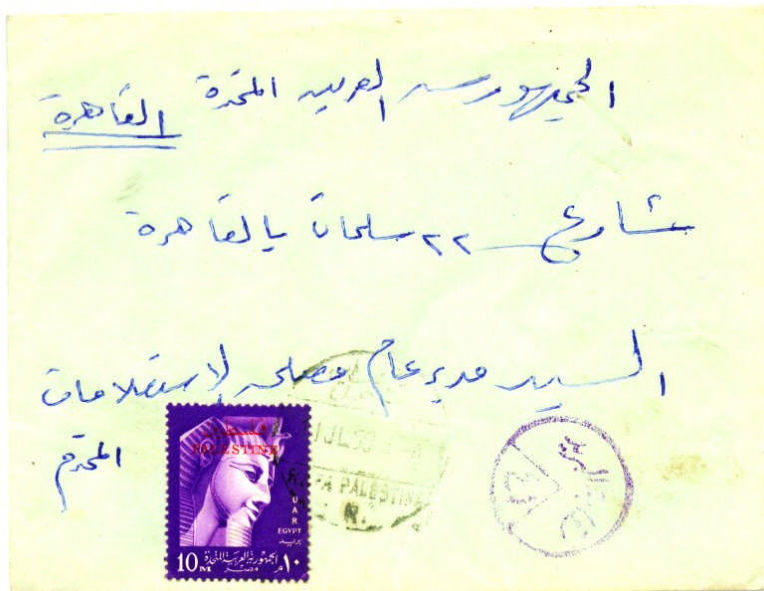


Fig.5

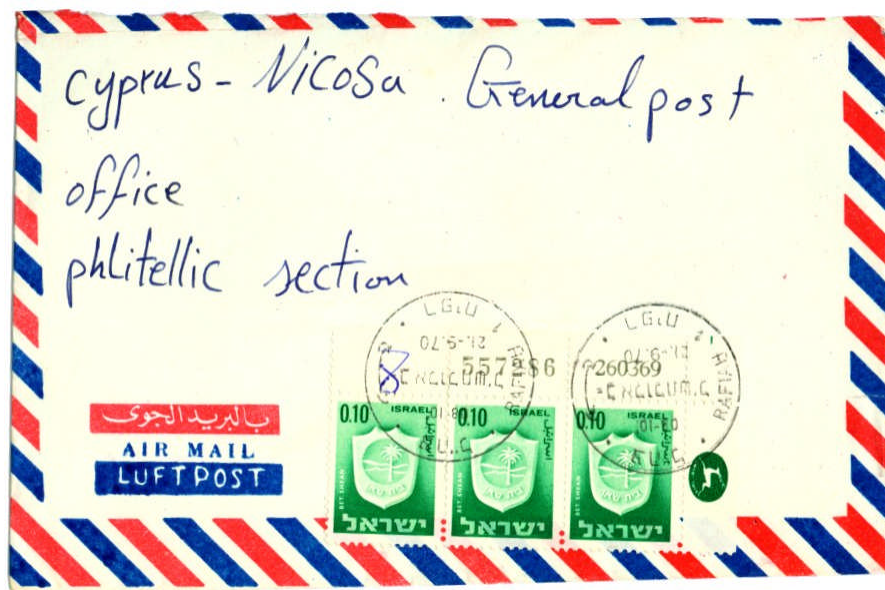


Fig.6



Fig.7



Fig.8

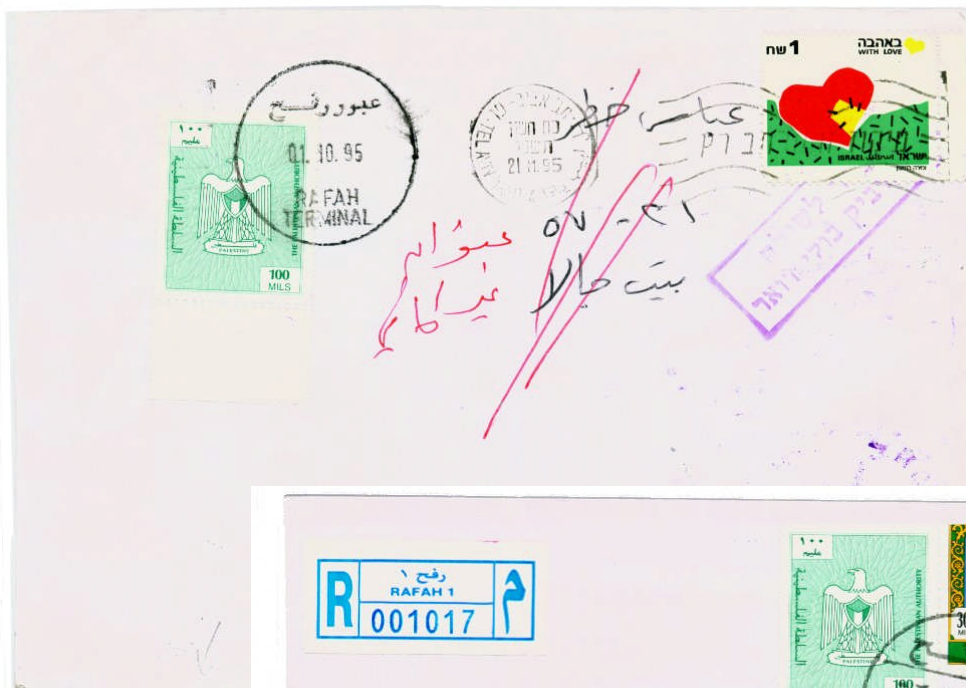


Fig.9



Fig.10

Q47 Bernd-Dieter Buscke (ESC 533)

I have several covers from Germany to Alexandria between 17.7.1961 and 26.10.1961 with Egyptian censor marks. Two of them were cut to have a look in and then closed by a resealing label. Have any of our members seen anything similar and why were these covers censored?



New Zealand February 2009

The New Zealand Chapter of the ESC is considering holding a conference in New Zealand in February 2009. We have previously had seven very successful conferences, the last being in February 2004.

Planning for the conference takes time and effort, and it is essential that we know as soon as possible what numbers would be attending. For this reason we would like to receive expressions of interest before the end of July.

Members considering attending the conference should contact the ESC Antipodean Agent, Tony Chisholm, by email at j_t_chis@clear.net.nz or by post at 13 Arden Way, Wilton, Wellington 6012, New Zealand.

1939 U.S.A to Egypt by Pan America Airways K.L.M.

Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264)



On May 20, 1939, Pan American Airways, under Foreign Air Mail contract FAM 18 and using a Boeing 314 flying boat named *Yankee Clipper* piloted by Captain Arthur E. LaPorte, made the inaugural flight of its North Transatlantic air service to Marseilles, via Horta in the Azores and Lisbon, the Portuguese capital.

This cover was flown by Pan Am from New York to Marseilles and carries the large rectangular First Flight cachet showing the plane over the Statue of Liberty. The Marseilles arrival was 22 Mai 1939. The cover was then carried by KLM from Marseilles to Cairo, where there is an arrival backstamp May 25; had it been flown by Imperial Airways, the arrival would have been at Alexandria. The cover is franked at the 30 cents transatlantic air rate to Europe, with the additional air fee to Egypt of 6 cents not paid. Fewer than five covers are believed to exist flown to Egypt; none is recorded from Egypt on the return first flight.

The 12 Clipper flying boats, known as “airborne palaces”, were converted to military use on the outbreak of war, and *Yankee Clipper*, which was built in February 1939 and made the initial transatlantic mail survey flight on March 26, was bought by the US Navy but continued to be operated by Pan Am. It crashed and sank in the Tagus river near Lisbon on February 22, 1943.



Opening and Closing of Offices listed in the Postal Bulletins, 1885-1901

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

The series of postal bulletins recently purchased by the Circle gives much new information on the opening and closing of Egypt's post offices. Here I have extracted and abbreviated all notices specific to that topic, apart from Rurals, which I am treating separately (the first bulletins, up to 1914, are in French and unnecessarily wordy; the free translation is my own; place names are as published). For the first five years, 1885-1889, we are enormously indebted to Tony Schmidt (ESC 198), who has loaned his personal copies.

There is much more detail available in the bulletins, particularly about itineraries of postal boats and couriers, temporary closures on account of the Nile flood, regulations both local and international, changes in rates, paquebot timings, etc etc etc. The illustrations shown here do not appear in the original bulletins.

1885

The very first notice in the first issue of the first Bulletin (after an introductory note explaining the purpose and intent of the weekly single-sheet publication), was about the opening of a new office:

Jan 1: An office admitted to all branches of the service opens at **Barrage** (*Kanater-el-Kherieh*) from January 1 1885. The office is connected to those of Kalioub and Manachi by two courier routes. The route between Barrage and Kalioub meets the first local Alexandria train and the third local Cairo train, while that between Barrage and Manachi links with the night trains. Cash (*numeraire*) must be carried exclusively by the Manachi route. Postal agents are instructed to regulate their deliveries to the Barrage according to the indications above.



The office at **Mechta** is closed from January 1, its ordinary and registered correspondence instead being dealt with by the Assiout-Assouan travelling service.

Jan 8: Franking of correspondence for **Harrar** will in future be obligatory, and only ordinary correspondence will be accepted for this destination.

Jan 22: Ordinary correspondence alone will be accepted for **Zeyla** and **Barbara**.

Jan 29: A daily postal service has been organised between **Wadi-Halfa** and **Sarkamato** serving the following stations: **Sarras, Semneh, Ambigol, Tanjour, Accache**.

Feb 5: From Feb 1 the **Sawakin** postal service was separated from the sanitary service and served exclusively by personnel of the Postal Administration.

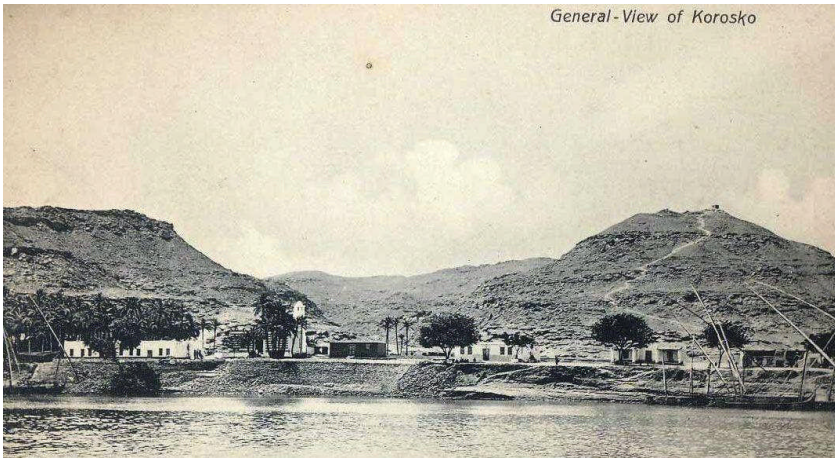
A camel courier service through the desert is being established between **Korosko** and **Abou-Hamed**. The itinerary is fixed in conjunction with the Brindisi mails: Leave Korosko, Thursday 6pm, arrive Abou-Hamed Monday 6pm; leave Abou-Hamed Wednesday 6pm, arrive Korosko Friday 6pm.

A post office has been opened at **Korti** serving exchange of registered items and internal and international money orders.

Feb 26: The **Bahr-el-Seghir** postal boat service has been suspended since the 21st inst on account of dredging work. Postal communication is being carried out by a chain of couriers until service resumes on about March 15.

Correspondence for **Safia** should no longer be directed via Chabas, but by Atfe or Kafr-Zayat, whence it will be carried by postal boat.

Mar 5: The **Kafr-Zayat-Atfe** postal boat requiring repair, the service will instead be served by couriers from 10th to 17th inst.



The **Korosko-Abou-Hamed** desert camel service announced above has been deferred until further notice. Packets of mail continue to be carried only via Dongola and Korti.

Mar 12: An office will open at **Achmoun** on April 1 dealing with correspondence, postal parcels and internal and international money orders. It will be served by a daily courier service from Minouf, which will act as the transit centre for Achmoun. Itinerary: leave Minouf

7am, arrive Achmoun 9.30; leave Achmoun 11.30, arrive Minouf 2pm. Local agents should regulate their deliveries according to this schedule.

Mar 19: The **Kafr-Zayat-Atfe** postal boat service resumed on March 17. The courier service has ended.

Mar 26: The dredging completed, the **Bahr-el-Seghir** postal-boat service will resume on April 1.

The **Kafr-Zayat-Atfe** postal boat service has been suspended since March 19th night, after a collision with a tugboat of the Society of Irrigation of Behera, and replaced by a courier service working to the normal pattern.

The postal-boat service between **Assouan and Wadi-Halfa**, which had been twice a week, is to become weekly, to meet the boat from Assiout and Assouan arriving on Wednesday and leaving for Assouan and Assiout on Thursday. This weekly service will also coincide with the arrival of the Brindisi mails from Europe.

Apr 2: **Kolosna** office, managed until now by the stationmaster, has been under the control of a special postal agent since April 1.

Korti office, created provisionally for the service of the expeditionary force, is to be closed.

Apr 9: **Tama** office, managed until now by the local telegraphist, is to be under the control of a special postal agent.



Apr 30: The **Upper Egypt** postal boat service will switch to summer times from May 1: Leave Assiout Wednesday and Saturday 4.30am; arrive as Assiout Wednesday and Saturday 4pm.

A special train will run twice a week between **Boulac Dacrou** and **Assiout** from May 1, coinciding with the arrivals and departures of the Upper Egypt postal boat. Leaves Boulac-Dacrou Tuesday and Friday 5.30pm, leaves Assiout Wednesday and Saturday 9pm; arrives Assiout Wednesday and Saturday 4am, Boulac-Dacrou Thursday and Sunday 6.50am.

A travelling service via steamer has been established between **Dongola and Merawi** serving **Handak, Abou-Gossi, Debbah, Tani and Korti**. Parcels may be accepted for these localities.

May 7: **Chabas and Kolosna**, formerly managed by the stationmaster, are now run by special postal agents.

Postal communication with **Kassala** being interrupted, it is not possible to accept, until further notice, registered letters for that locality.

May 21: **Badrechein** office, previously managed by the stationmaster, is under the control of a postal sub-agent from June 1.

May 28: From June 1, offices managed by sub-agents will be opened at: **Dalangat** and **Neghila** (Beheira), **Belcas** and **Batra** (Gharbia) and **Bagour** (Menoufia). Batra will be open to all services, the others open to all but "groups" and letters with valued-declared (Then gives details of trains serving these new offices)].

Because of the retreat of troops in Sudan, the [postal service for **Korti** and **Merawi** has ceased, and postal communications continue only to **Tani**, end of the line for the moment.

Jun 4: Postal service south of **Dongola** is suppressed.

Jun 11: Because of the low Nile, the **Bahr-el-Seghir** postal boat service has been suspended and replaced by couriers since the 4th inst.

Jun 18: The **Kafr-el-Zayat-Atfe** postal boat service will be restored on Tuesday, the 23rd.

A railway station having been established at **Hawamdia** on the Boulac-Dacrour-Assiout line, it is now possible to accept ordinary and registered mails for that locality. Ordinary mails will be dealt with by the "commissaire" on the train; registered items should be addressed to Bedrachein.

Jun 25: As a result of the evacuation of the province of Dongola, the postal service beyond **Wadi-Halfa** is suspended.



Beni-Korra office, managed by the stationmaster, will fall under a postal sub-agent from July 1.

July 23: The **Bahr-el-Seghir** postal boat service, interrupted on June 4 by the low Nile, resumed service on July 21.

Aug 6: A provisional office is about to be opened at the British military camp at **Mex**. It will be open to all services and connected to Alexandria office by the following: Leave Alex 10am and 5pm, arrive Mex 11am and 6pm; leave Mex 1pm and 7pm, arrive Alex 2pm and 8pm.

Aug 13: A provisional office is about to be opened at the quarantine station at **Gabbari** in Alexandria, admitted to all services except "groups".

Aug 20: During Aug 18-31, period of the Dessouk fair, the **Kafr-Zayat-Atfe** postal boat service will be daily. As a result, mails for stations on that line, except Atfe and Foua, should be directed exclusively via Kafr-Zayat.

Aug 27: The bi-weekly postal boat service between **Assouan and Wadi-Halfa**, which has been interrupted since March, will come into service again on the 24th inst: leave Assouan Sunday and Wednesday 12 noon, arrive Wadi-Halfa, Tuesday and Friday 8pm, leave Wadi-Halfa Tuesday and Saturday 5am, arrive Assouan Wednesday and Saturday 10am. Arrivals and departures at Assouan are intended to coincide with arrivals and departures to and from Assiout.

Sept 10: Because of the departure of the British troops, the provisional office at the military camp at **Mex** is to be closed.

Sept 17: A provisional office is to be opened at the quarantine camp at **Djebel-Tor**, admitted to ordinary and registered correspondence, via Suez.

Oct 15: As passengers coming from infected countries now go into quarantine on board and no longer at the Gabbari Lazaret, the provisional post office opened at the said **Lazaret** ceased to function on Oct 8.

Oct 29: Series of minor itinerary alterations on **Barrage, Kafr-Zayat-Atfe and Upper Egypt** services to take account of winter season.

Nov 12: **Nekla** and **Chebrehhit** are given a Sunday service, on the day the Kafr-Zayat-Atfe postal-boat does not run, by foot couriers from **Teh-el-Baroud**. To Nekla, leaves Teh 7am, Nekla 9.30am-1pm, arrives Teh 3.30pm. To Chebrehhit, leaves Teh 7am, Chebrehhit 10am-1pm, arrives Teh 4pm.

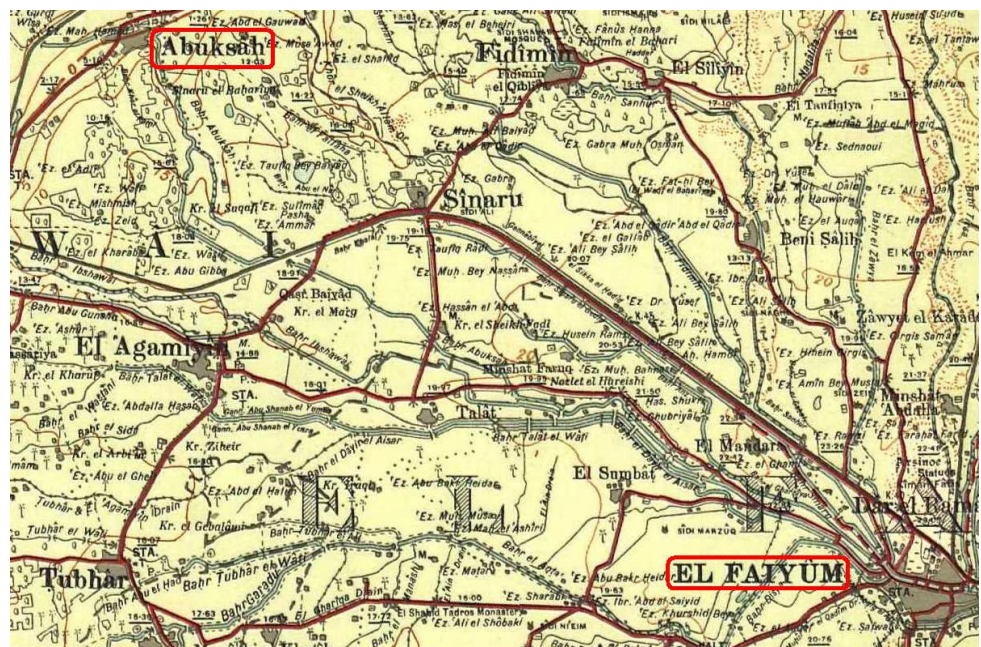
Dec 10: Henceforth and until further notice, the locality of **Djebal-el-Zet**, on the Red Sea coast, will be linked to Suez by a bi-monthly service, serving ordinary correspondence only, which must be carried in transit via Suez.

Dec 24: From Jan 1 **Kamoula**, on the Assiout-Assouan line, will be closed; the area will be served by the TPO. From the same date an office will open at **Daraou**, on the same line, open to all services except "numeraire".

1886

Jan 14: From Jan 10 the bi-weekly **Fayoum-Abouxah** train has become a daily service. As a result the courier service on no-train days has been suspended. The train leaves Fayoum at 12.23pm, arrives Abouxah 1.16; leaves Abouxah 1.30, arrives Fayoum 2.28pm.

Jan 28: Since Jan 25 the thrice-weekly **Benha-Mit Bera** train runs twice a day, with the consequent closure of the courier service. From Benha at 9.50am and 4.30pm, arriving at Mit Bera 10.12am and 4.52pm; from Mit Bera at 10.30am and 5.50pm, arriving at Benha 10.52am and 6.12pm.



March 11: A railway station will open at **Giza** on the Boulac Dakroul-Assiout line on March 15. Only day trains will stop there, and postal agents should make arrangements for exchange of mailbags and "numeraire" with that locality. Night trains do not stop: mail exchange with these trains will continue to be by way of Boulac Dakroul.

March 25: **Kafr Ammar** office, managed by the stationmaster, will from April 1 be admitted to all services under the management of a postal agent.

Apr 22: Because of the low Nile in the **Bahr-el-Seghir**, the postal-boat service was suspended on April 20. The service between Mansoura and Menzala and intermediate areas will be carried out by courier on foot.

Apr 29: From May 1 a new station **Kafr Soliman** will be opened on the Damiette Tantah line to serve mail packets and "groups" from Faraskour. Accordingly the transit via Damiette for Faraskour is suppressed.

From May 1 ordinary and registered correspondence and postal parcels may be accepted for **Salhia** (via Abou-Kebir) in Charkia, supervised by the rail postal commissioner, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

From May 1 the **Benha-Mit Bera** service is reduced to one journey a day: Benha 11.05am-Mit Bera 11.27am; Mit Bera 11.55am-Benha 12.17pm.

May 13: The courier service between **Mansoura and Manzala** will be cancelled on the return of the postal boat on May 16.

June 17: **Benha-Mit Bera** train hours amended to coincide with Alex-Cairo trains: Benha 4pm-Mit Bera 4.22pm; Mit Bera 5.20pm-Benha 5.42pm.

Bahr-el-Seghir postal boat service suspended again.

July 1: An office will be opened on July 1 at **Djemsa** on the western shore of the Red Sea, open to ordinary and registered mails and postal parcels.

From July 1 a fortnightly dromedary service will be established between Suez and El Wedge, on the eastern Red Sea shore, serving **Nehal, Akaba, Mowella, Deba and El Wedge** with ordinary and governmental correspondence only. The journey takes 11 days and will leave Suez every second Saturday from July 3 and return each second Monday from July 26.

In addition to the daily train, a courier service has been established between **Benha and Mit Bera**, leaving Benha at 6.30am, arriving Mit Bera 9am; leaving Mit Bera 6.30pm, arriving Benha 9pm.

Aug 5: **Bahr-el-Seghir** service restored from August 3.

Aug 19: A new office will be opened at **Gamalia** on the Bahr-el-Seghir (Dakahlia), opened to all branches of the service, on September 1.

Sept 23: As usual a provisional office, admitted to ordinary and registered mails only, will be set up at the quarantine camp at **Djebel-Tor** during the return from the pilgrimage.

Oct 21: A post office open to all services except "groups" is to be opened at the **Lazaret of Gabbari** in Alexandria during the period of quarantine measures against certain European countries.

Dec 2: Money order notice refers to **Djemsa** office, "which henceforth will carry the name **Gabal-el-Zet**".

Dec 9: **Bahr-el-Seghir** service suspended: low Nile.

1887

Jan 6: **Bahr-el-Seghir** service resumes today.

Feb 10: **Bahr-el-Seghir** service suspended from Feb 11, replaced by courier service Mansoura-Manzala.

Feb 17: **Abou-Choukouk, Aboutig, Baliana, Edfou and Kous** all provided with postal sub-agents instead of being managed by rail staff or telegraphers.

Feb 24: **Bahr-el-Seghir** service resumed from Feb 22.

An office open to all services opens on March 1 at **Bouche** (Benisouef), railway station on the Upper Egypt line.

March 31: From April 1 the rail service between Assouan and Challal and the stern-wheelers between Assouan and Wadi-Halfa will be used by the Postal Administration and placed under its control. Stations involved are **Oumbaracab, El Sebah, Korosko, El Derr, Ebrim, Masmass and Abousembel**. Service between Assouan and Challal is daily, and between Challal and Wadi-Halfa weekly, coinciding with the postal boat arriving from Assiout at Assouan on Wednesday and that leaving Assouan for Assiout on Friday.

May 12: As there are two places with the name of **Mehallet Abou-Aly**, one on the Kafr-Zayat-Atfe line with a post office, and the other near Mahalla-Kebira, where there is no post office, postal agents are requested to address registered correspondence, “numeraire” and parcels for the Mahalla-Kebira version – which is properly known as **Mehallat Abou-Aly el Kantara** – to Mahalla Kebira itself.

May 26: Offices open to all services will be opened on June 1 at **Hawamdia** (on the Boulac-Dacrour line between Giza and Badrachein) and **Salhia** (at the end of the Abou-Kebir-Facous line).

June 2: **Nachart-el-Guedida** elevated from stationmaster control to sub-office with postal agent from June 1.

June 23: Office open to all services except “groups” will be opened at **Port-Thewfik**, the Suez suburb, on July 1.

Sept 8: As usual a provisional office, admitted to ordinary and registered mails only, will be set up at the quarantine camp at **Djebel-Tor** during the return from the pilgrimage.

Oct 27: Four new railway stations will open on Nov 1: **Saft-el-Melouk** (between Teh-el-Baroud and Damanhour), **Cheblanga** (Benha and Minet-el-Gamh), **Dair-Moes** (Deirout and Malloui) and **Beni-Hussein** (Manfalout and Assiout). Ordinary correspondence only may be delivered to these stations, as if they were post offices, for onward consignment by the postal commissioners on the trains.

Nov 3: **Suez-El Wedge** dromedary service amended to 15 days between deliveries, allowing 12 days for the journey rather than the originally scheduled 11.

Nov 24: **Djebel-Tor** provisional office has been closed on the end of the pilgrimage return.

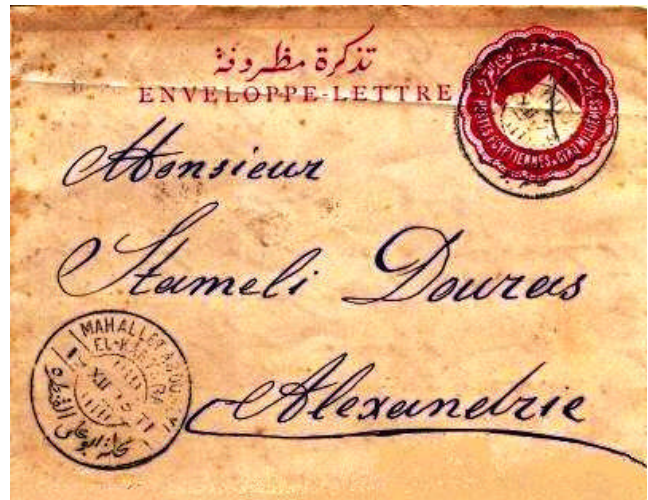
1888



Feb 2: **Saft-el-Melouk**, on the Alexandria-Cairo line between Damanhour and Teh-el-Baroud, was opened on Feb 1 for ordinary and registered correspondence. “This office will exchange closed despatches exclusively with offices on the main Alexandria-Cairo line and other offices are invited to adjust exchange of correspondence with Saft-el-Melouk as a result.”

Despatch of mails from **Zagazig to Benha** and areas in transit, until now served by the 4.30pm train, will henceforth be carried by the 7pm train to coincide at Benha with the Express to Cairo and the night train to Alexandria.

Feb 16: From Wednesday Feb 21, a new tri-weekly mailboat service on the Bahr Chibin between **Birket-el-Sab** and **Bir-Chams** (serving Melig, Kassed, Chibin-el-Kom, Dalatoun, Chanawan, Kom-el-Dabh, Manawahla, Ebkhas, Soubk, Bagour and Karinein), and Birket-el-Sab and Gafaria. On the same date a new office at **Soubk**, open to all postal services. The full Chibin-el-Kom-Bir-Chams courier service will continue on days when there is no boat departure; and otherwise only to coincide with the night trains.



Feb 23: Gives details of new times of **Chibin-el-Kom** and **Bir-Chams** couriers; and notification of new courier service daily between **Soubk** and **Bagour**.

Apr 5: Modifications to the new postal-boat service on account of its extension to **Barrage**.

Apr 26: From May 1 new offices created: **Beni-Hussein** and **Dair-Moes** (on the Boulac-Dakroul-Assiout line, served out of Minia); and **Abou-Sir** (Gharbia), which will be served by special courier from Samanoud. All three restricted to ordinary, registered and governmental correspondence.

May 31: From June 1, a "bureau ambulante" will be created on the postal boat between **Challal** and **Wadi Halfa** serving Ambarcab, Kalabsha, Abou-Khor, Marieh, Koshtamna, Allaki, Siala, Sobou, Derr, Ebrin, Toski, Farreg, Faras and Deberh. Open to correspondence, parcels, local and international money orders.

June 21: **Gabal-el-Zeit** office, created in June 1886, was closed on June 15. Ordinary correspondence should be taken to Suez, which will send it on at the earliest favourable opportunity.

Gabal el Zeit is one of the rarest of the Type 10 (star and crescent) markings, recorded only on a 1pi blue with no clear date

June 28: **Chablanga** (on the Benha-Zagazig-Mansoura line) will be opened on July 1 for ordinary and registered correspondence, served from Zagazig.

July 12: On July 16 an office will be opened on Lake Aboukir, **Station "Reclamation Works"**, open to ordinary and registered correspondence and parcels. It will be run by the station-master of the area and served from Alexandria.

Aug 8: As each year, a provisional office has been set up at the quarantine camp of **Djebel-Tor** during the pilgrimage season: ordinary and registered mail only; served from Suez. [see Nov 15]

Aug 16: From Aug 16, an office open to ordinary and registered correspondence and parcels will be opened at **Mandara** on the Alexandria-Rosette line. [see Nov 8]

Sept 20: As a result of the withdrawal of the British troops who had been stationed at **Moustapha Pacha**, on the Ramleh line, the post office which had been opened at that station closed on Sept 15.

Nov 8: The office at **Mandara** closed on Nov 1.



Nov 15: As the pilgrimage season is over, the provisional office at **Djebel-Tor** is to be closed.

As a railway station is to be opened at **Matanieh**, between Ayat and Kafr-Ammar, ordinary correspondence may be received for that locality, where it will be dealt with by the postal commissaire.

Dec 20: From Jan 1, new offices will be opened: **Mit-Ghamr** (Dakahlia), all services except specie; **Kaha** (Alexandria-Cairo line) and **Faied** (Suez line), all correspondence and parcels; **El-Tor** (Red Sea), correspondence only.

1889

Jan 3: As a result of the opening of an office at **El-Tor**, the itinerary of the camel service has been fixed as follows: Outward: Leave Suez 9am on the 1st and 15th of the month, arrive Tor on the 4th and 18th. Return: Leave Tor at 7am on the 7th and 21st of the month, arrive Suez on the 10th and 24th.

Feb 28: From now on, the Challal-Wadi-Halfa mailboat will stop at the new stations of **Dakka**, **Derr** and **Faras**, which can now receive correspondence, money orders and parcels. **Debera** is closed.

Apr 25: From May 1 new offices will be opened: **Kafr-Battikh** (Gharbia, served from Damiette), **Mit Ghamr** (Dakahlia, from Zefta) and **Dabroussa** (Challal-Wadi Halfa, from Wadi Halfa). All open to ordinary, registered and governmental correspondence, and the latter two, headed by postal sub-agents, to incoming and outgoing parcels. Kafr Battikh, run by the stationmaster, can only receive parcels.



Aug 15: As last year, a provisional post office is to be opened at **Mandara**, on the Alexandria-Rosette line, during the hunting season: ordinary and registered mails and parcels.

Aug 22: From Sept 1, offices opened at **Kouesna** (Gharbia, between Benha and Birket-el-Sab, served from Benha), and **Thewfikieh** (Behera, between Kafr-Zayat and Teh-el-Baroud, served from Kafr-Zayat). Both run by stationmasters, open to ordinary, registered and governmental mails and parcels in arrival.

During the pilgrimage season, **El-Tor** opened to local and international money order service.

Oct 17: As a railway station has been opened at **Barkoun**, between Sembellawin and Abou-Choukouk, ordinary correspondence only may from today be received for that locality.



Oct 31: Ditto for **Ghaba**, between Abou-Kebir and Facous, from Nov 1.

Nov 28: Ditto for **Bessendila** (on the new Cherbin-Belcas line), no date.

Dec 19: Ditto for **Kafr-Sakr**, on the Mansoura-Zagazig line, no date.

Dec 26: From Jan 1, the following offices will be opened to ordinary, registered and governmental mails and parcels in arrival: **Atsa** (Minia), **Baklia** (Dakahlie), **Bassandila** and **El-Chin** (Gharbia), **Ekiad** and **El-Ghaba** (Charkia), **Matania** (Guiza), **Zahria** (Ramle, Alexandria suburb). In addition, an office servicing ordinary, registered and governmental mails will open at **Broullos** (Gharbia), served from Rosette: the 12-hour postal journey will leave Rosette at 7am on Monday and Friday, Broullos at 7am on Wednesday and Sunday.

1890

Jan 23: On Feb 1 new offices at **Barkein** and **Kafr-Sagr** (Mansoura-Zagazig line), run by the stationmaster and open to ordinary, registered and government mails and parcels in arrival.

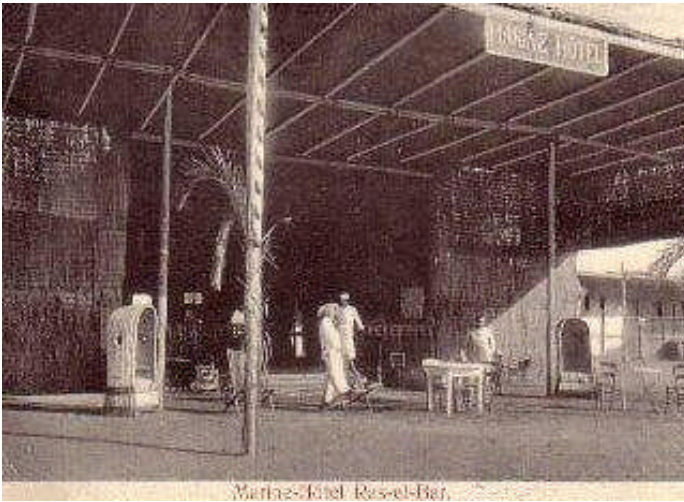
Mar 13: On the 15th of this month an office will open at **Vieux Caire** open to ordinary, registered and government mails and parcels.

Mar 27: **Batanoun** (Chibin-el-Kom-Tala line) will open on April 1 – ordinary, registered and government mails and parcels.

May 1: **Choubra** (“near Cairo”) will open today – ordinary, registered and government mails and parcels.

May 15: As a result of the creation of a **hotel at the Pyramids of Giza**, letters are now being addressed as follows: Monsieur X ... , Pyramides de Guiza. These letters should not in fact be delivered to the Giza office, as might appear to be the case, but they should be sent to Cairo from where they will be transported to the Pyramids by a special postman.

May 29: A new station, **Rekkah**, has been opened on the Boulac-Dakroul-Assiout railway line, between Wasta and Kafr-Ammar; it is the duty of the line’s postal commissaires to distribute its mail while the trains are standing at Rekkah.



July 3: Until further notice, ordinary and registered mails and parcels may be accepted for **Ras-el-Bar** [*the Marina Hotel, left*], a provisional service having been established between Damiette and this seaside resort.



As each year, a provisional office has been opened at **Mandara**, on the Alexandria-Rosette line, during the hunting season – ordinary and registered mails and parcels.

Aug 14: As services provided by the **Dabroussa** office have been fused with those of Wadi Halfa, there is need for only one office, so Dabroussa has been suppressed.

Sept 4: A provisional office is to be set up at the quarantine camp of **Ras Mallap**, on the Red Sea coast. Open to ordinary, registered and governmental correspondence, it will be served from Suez.

Sept 18: The Kafr-Zaiat-Edfina mailboat stopping since the 16th at a new station of **Miniet Salama** between Chebrekhit and Mahallat Abou Aly, it is now possible to accept registered mails, parcels and specie.

Nov 20: On Dec 1 the offices of **Mahsama**, **Mandara** and **Zahria**, served by railway staff, will be closed and mails distributed instead by postal commissaires during the train halts. As a result, only ordinary mails may be handled.

Dec 4: **Geneffe** (Ismailia-Suez line) was opened on Dec 1 to ordinary, registered and governmental mails and parcels in arrival, under the care of the stationmaster.

1891 volume not held

1892

Jan 28: On Feb 1 the following offices will open to correspondence and parcels: **Waked** and **Sanhour** (Behera); **Mehallet Menouf** and **Rahbein** (Gharbia); **Chanouan**, **Defra**, **Hamoul** (Menoufia); **Marg** (Kalioubia); **Ezbet-el-Zeitoun** and **Mataria** (suburbs of Cairo); **Biahmou** (Fayoum); **Etlidem** (Assiout).

Feb 4: New river station has been created at **Deyrout** (Behera) on the Kafr-Zayat-Edfina line between Atfe and Fazara.

May 5: Because of the end of the season the office which was provisionally opened at **Pyramids** (see Article 1 of Bulletin 51 of last December 17 – *we don't have it*) ceased to function on May 1.

May 12: As a result of the joining of the rail lines for Lower Egypt and Middle and Upper Egypt, a transit post office is to open on May 15 at Cairo station. It will be called **Cairo (Station)** and will serve to expedite mails and parcels between Lower and Middle and Upper Egypt and vice versa. Specie will continue to be transported via the main Cairo post office. As a result of the creation of this office, Boulac Dakroul will no longer, after May 15, serve as the transit station or service mail or postal parcels.

May 26: Contrary to what was stated in the [previous note], **Cairo (Station)** will serve only as a transit post office, so no mails or parcels should be addressed there.

June 2: **Sidi-Gaber**, on the Alexandria-Ramle line, opened on June 1 for ordinary and registered correspondence and parcels.

Bahnay, on the Bahr Chibin between Karinein and Kafr el Ghonaimia, is to be re-established for mails, specie and postal parcels, served by the Bahr Chibin mailboat.

June 16: Two new offices for mails and parcels opening July 1: **Abou-el-Akhdar** (Charkia, served from Zagazig) and **Konaissa** (Gharbia, served from Tantah).

Sept 1: The quarantine camp at Tor having been disassembled and the 1892 pilgrimage considered completed, **Tor** post office will no longer, from Sept 1, take part in the exchange of money orders or postal parcels, services to which it had been temporarily admitted during the pilgrimage season. It will thus be limited, as before, to ordinary, registered and governmental mails.

Oct 6: From Oct 1, a “service ambulant” was established on both day and night trains between **Alexandria and Cairo**, as well as on night trains between **Tanta and Damiette**. For the moment the service is limited to ordinary letters received before closure of the despatches, or carried by the public to the station at the last minute before the train departs.

The Challal-Wadi-Halfa mailboat will in future stop at the new station of **Gerf Hussein**, between Maria and Dakka.

Oct 20: A provisional office is to be opened, during the period of the quarantine imposed on the provinces of France [against cholera], at **Lazaret du Gabbari** in Alexandria. It will deal in ordinary and registered mails, money orders and parcels.

Nov 3: On account of the suppression of the quarantine for the French provinces, the provisional office opened at **Lazaret du Gabbari** has been closed.

Dec 8: Opening of the new rail line from Assiout to Sohag from Dec 15 will bring into service the following stations [already served by mailboat?] – **Motiah, Aboutig, Sedfa, Tema, Mechta, Tahta, Maragha and Chandaouil**.



Two new stations, **Daroua** and **Sarrouis**, are to be opened on the Bahr Chibin line.

Editorial

First, apologies for the lateness of this *QC*, but more pressing matters intervened. The June *QC* is nearly completed, so if your offerings are not here then that's where they will be, so hopefully we shall be back on course by then. June will, however, exhaust my stock of articles, so between now and August gives all members plenty of time to pen (word-process just doesn't quite have the same ring) some lovely articles or some titbits of Egyptian philately.

The above article has been lovingly culled from the new Postal Bulletins: see back page. I hope many of you will take this wonderful opportunity to increase your philatelic knowledge, and of course subsequently ours.

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE - ACCOUNTS FOR AUCTIONS IN 2007

Profit & Loss Accounts	Auction 43	Auction 44
	£	£
Net Sales	<u>10,848.00</u>	<u>7,253.00</u>
INCOME		
10% Commission on Sales (Purchasers)	1,084.80	725.30
5% Commission on Sales (Sellers)	542.40	362.65
	<u>1,627.20</u>	<u>1,087.95</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Catalogue (Printing, Typing, Postage)	294.35	329.48
Postage of Lots	99.56	61.43
Sundry Expenses	50.38	36.41
Insurance for the Year		105.00
	<u> .</u>	<u> .</u>
	444.29	532.32
Net Profit	<u>1,182.91</u>	<u>555.63</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 25TH FEBRUARY, 2008

NET ASSETS

Balance at Bank	3,365.08
Less Amounts due to Members	<u>382.98</u>
	<u>2,982.10</u>
AUCTION FUND	
Brought Forward from Auction 42	2,743.56
Net Profit Auction 43	1,182.91
Net Profit Auction 44	555.63
	<u> .</u>
	4,482.10
Less Transfers to General Account	1,500.00
	<u>2,982.10</u>

Auction 43 was a success, but the outcome of Auction 44 was a little disappointing. Although there was some very good material in it, we suffered a drop in the Sales figures. We can only remind members that “quality” always ensures good sales ! The Auction team of Peter Andrews, Mike Murphy & Mike Bramwell as always, contributed enormously to these very satisfactory results. Thank you!

John Sears (ESC 188)

Postal Bulletins: First Years Now Available to Members

The Circle has been extremely fortunate in recent months in being able to obtain original copies of several volumes of the Postal Bulletins produced by the Egyptian Postal Administration. They were provided to all post offices up and down the country to advise on changes of regulation of all sorts, and provide a supreme primary source of information for the stamp collector and the postal historian alike – information “from the horse’s mouth”, unfiltered by opinion or doubt.

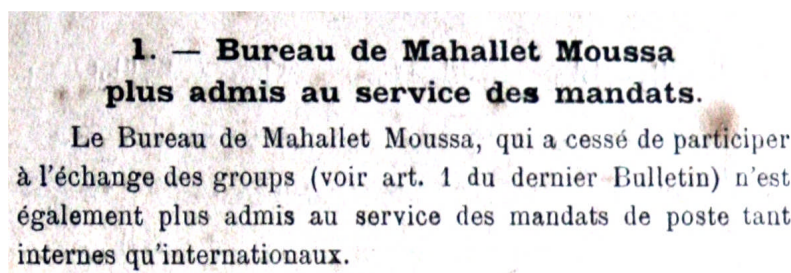
Listed are every regulation under the sun, from announcements of new issues of stamps and postal stationery, changes in rates for internal and overseas postage, changes in parcel rates, changes in commissions paid on money-orders, changes in paquebot mail-line schedules, details of how much winter uniforms should cost, increases in the fodder allowances for Rural postmen’s donkeys, opening and closing of offices, extension of the rail lines and the effect on postal services, temporary closure of river services when the Nile is low, promotions and transfers of individual postal officials, obituaries of postmasters-general ... the lot! But it is on a daily-diary basis (indexes are included), and research is necessary to seek out the holy grail of the nugget you may be seeking.



The earliest volumes are published bilingually, initially in single pages, in French and Arabic (titled *Bulletin Hebdomadaire*); from 1915 they are in English and Arabic, and from mid-1925 they become Arabic-only: these latter are beyond our ken for the moment.

The volumes are fragile and definitely unsuitable for personal loan. So a start has been made on photographing the European-language pages (approx 60-70 per year), which will be made available to members for viewing on their computer at £5 per disk (to cover photography, cost of disk and postage) worldwide, with a reduction for bulk orders. We can fit two years of Bulletin on to one disk in an easily readable image form. Those who have no computer access should rely on a friend or their local library: to provide printouts is at the moment a task too far.

Because the volumes arrived out of order the photography has taken the same course, but the gaps will quickly be filled until eventually all the following will be available on disk. Years in *italics* are those already completed, and the complete holding (with faint hopes of adding more eventually) is: 1890, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1899, 1900; 1901, 1902, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1925.



Enquiries or orders should be addressed to the Secretary, as should enquiries about disposal of the half-dozen duplicate volumes (1907, 1910, 1912, 1915, 1917, 1919, 1920, 1925).