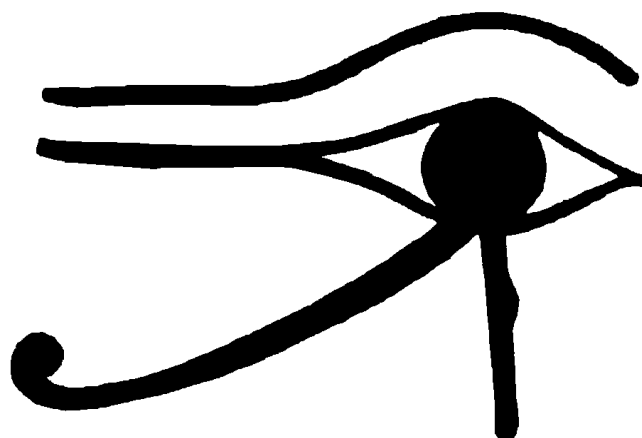


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Report of the Meeting, September 20 2008

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), John Davis (Librarian), David Sedgwick (Publicity), Dennis Clarke (Committee), Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Mostafa El-Dars, Paul Green, Alan Jeyes, Mohamed Nofal, Lewis Said, Tony Schmidt, Richard Wheatley.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Peter Grech, Ronny Van Pellecom.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present, and noted that Stampex had failed to attract any foreign visitors. He regretted to have to record the death on September 2 of David Glyn-Jones (ESC 213), a former meetings attender who maintained good contact with the Circle after he moved to Athens.

He was, however, able to congratulate several members on recent medals at exhibition, including the following:

Prague International (Sept 14-17): see report on page 81.

American Philatelic Society (August 14-17): World Series Prix d'Honneur, **Richard Wilson** (ESC 230), British Forces in Egypt and Sudan 1882-1898. Gold: **Stephen Kaplan** (ESC 352), Ring Stationery of Finland 1891-1911. Vermeil: **Lucien Toutounji** (ESC 264), Constanta-Alexandria-Constanta 1907-1939.

Much of the early part of the meeting was taken up by consideration of plans for the exhibition in Egypt which took place in Sharm el Sheikh on November 16-18.

Discussion moved on to next year's programme of meetings, which will take the form:

January 10 (Services Club) – Edmund Hall, A Military Overview (amended to Postal Stationery continued, see p.77)

February 28 (at Stampex) – Ten Sheets

May 2 (Services Club) – Annual Meeting and Bourse

July 18 (in York) – topic to be confirmed (see now p77)

September 19 (at Stampex) – Acquisitions and Queries

November 7 (Services Club) – Dennis Clarke, A Railway Journey down the Nile

The Secretary gave details of an innovation by the Association of British Philatelic Societies, which at Spring Stampex 2009 will invite a new class of single-frame competitive exhibition entries, intended in part to encourage non-exhibitors to take the first step. Richard Wheatley (ESC 168) explained that the 16-sheet frame was not merely intended to display a collection's highlights, but to illustrate a selected aspect, telling the whole story as completely as possible. Members were enthusiastic about the new concept, and details may be obtained from the Secretary.

Two new members were elected to membership – Derek Budge (ESC 631) of UK, and Omar Wassef (ESC 632) of Texas: welcome to both of you!

John Sears reported that Auction 46 was to close in ten days and appealed to members to send in their bids promptly, while John Davis announced that after a consolidation of collections the Library had a number of back copies of *L'Orient Philatélique* for sale, as well as a couple still missing from his Library holdings.

Edmund Hall gave exciting news of extensive updates in the members-only section of the website, which now contained Dick Wilson's outstanding British Forces in Egypt and Sudan collection and would be further augmented thanks to the generosity of Professor Peter Smith (ESC 74), who had given permission to place sections of his magisterial book on the site, together with his updates.

This simple and cheap alternative to publishing a second edition was, Edmund explained, how he hoped the website would be able to develop, with members submitting their own studies or part-studies to be augmented by other colleagues. Eventually, it is hoped, all our accumulated knowledge of the stamps and postal history of Egypt could be available to members on the site, to aid research and further study. Edmund has

Report of the Meeting, November 22 2008

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), John Davis (Librarian), Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Mostafa El-Dars, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Alan Jeyes, Yasser Omar (Dubai).

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: David Sedgwick (Publicity), Cyril Defriez, Bill Johns, Sami Sadek.

The Chairman welcomed members present, including especially Yasser Omar (ESC 605), attending his first meeting, and gave a brief report on last weekend's meeting and exhibition in Sharm el-Sheikh (see page 78). John Sears then gave a brief report on the previous day's sale of material submitted by himself and Dennis Clarke (ESC 165) for auction with Grosvenor in London (see Page 80).

The meeting discussed the York meeting organised by Keith Pogson (ESC 130) for July 2009 in conjunction with York Racecourse stamp fair, and decided that though the fair is over two days, July 17 and 18, our meeting would take place as normal on the Saturday afternoon. Frames will kindly be provided via Richard Wheatley (ESC 168). Those considering an overnight stay should contact the Secretary for accommodation details.

Mike Murphy then made a brief presentation on his work in attempting to classify the Rural postal markings and sought members' help in criticising his work. He was delighted that three volunteers came forward.

Two new members were elected to membership – Hany Haddad (ESC 633) of New Jersey, and Andre Slivitzky (ESC 634) of Quebec: welcome to both of you!

Brian Sedgley appealed to members to pay their 2009 subscription on time (the due date is January 1 – see leaflet enclosed), and pointed out that payment by bank standing order removed any problem with memory lapses, finding the chequebook or a stamp, and remembering to visit the postbox!

John Sears reported that Auction 46 had been successful, but that there had been difficulties with receipt of lots from one vendor who had not been well. The Circle apologise to buyers who received their lots very late, and will do our utmost to ensure that there is no repeat. Members gave a round of applause to Mike Bramwell (ESC 448), who has had to withdraw from the role of despatcher because of other philatelic duties, and John Sears appealed for a volunteer to take over. The role involves receiving lots from vendors, sorting them and sending to buyers – and a lot of email/telephone liaison.

Edmund Hall reported grave news from the *QC*, where, for lack of material, he might have to consider reducing pagination to 20 from 24, or combining two issues into one, and made a strong appeal to all members to write something for the magazine. Ideally he would like to see one major piece of research or information of about 12 pages, together with several single-page or even half-page items in each *QC*, to give a balance hopefully of interest to all. Please finish off that piece you started in 1988 and send it to Edmund.

Various suggestions were made for easing the burden, and then Yasser Omar addressed the meeting as a newcomer, making well-thought-out points about how the Circle can widen its appeal. Much of this fell on gratefully welcoming ears – particularly from Edmund – and the meeting raised several exciting possibilities, especially for the website.

Yasser suggested that senior members might make themselves available for “mentoring” comparative newcomers – so we will list on the website the Register of Members' Interests produced for the September 2007 *QC*, so that contact might easily be made. He also made the suggestion that less experienced members would gain from being able to see actual pages from successful exhibits from past masters – something Edmund is already starting to do on the website. But to extend this feature he will now liaise with John Davis, who has copies of many past exhibits in the Library, and place them on the website for all members to see. We also take this opportunity now to appeal to all who have been successful at competition to have their exhibits scanned and send them to John and/or Edmund.

Finally, Yasser suggested that the *QC*'s pages should be placed on the website, but safely behind the members-only password. This will have the advantage that every illustration is presented in colour, and that a back archive of copies can easily be consulted. Edmund promised to consider how best it might be done.

All in all, Yasser's ideas reflected quite closely the way in which Edmund and the Committee had been envisaging the growth and wider appeal of the website. His comments were very much welcomed – and members should keep a close eye on the site: it's going to be intriguing to watch it develop.

Peter Andrews then presented the meeting of the day – an overview of Egypt's postal stationery, but in view of the forgoing lengthy discussions, and of the fascinating and massive range of material in his collection, Peter was unable to complete his presentation. So he will continue at the January meeting, and the alterations to the programme for 2009 will be:

January 10 (Services Club) – Peter Andrews/John Davis, **Postal Stationery** (continued)

July 18 (in York) – David Sedgwick, **Port Said**; Richard Wheatley, **Simon Arzt**; Peter Grech, **Egyptian Hotels**

Aided by material from John Davis, Peter explained the development of postal stationery by category, with time to deal only with wrappers, registered envelopes, letter sheets and postcards – so there is still much to come. He showed mint and used examples virtually complete, explaining how changes in postal rates – down as well as up – led to regular changes of design and value.

Several questions were raised – why were 20m and 15m registered envelopes issued within a brief period in 1938-39? Has anyone seen a used version of the registered letter sheet with 1983 Air Mail boxed handstamp? Can anyone explain definitively why return halves of reply cards were sometimes given additional local franking when the vignette was supposed to defray postage to country of origin?



Stanley Horesh pointed out that all the catalogues detail a mistaken size for the 1929 Harrison's Fuad 15m blue registered envelope – which should be between 106 and 108mm deep, not 116mm as described.



And both Peter and John showed stunning used examples of the very rare 1908 reply cards with the "reply" information barred out by overprint in 1928-29 – one of them used in 1932 from Alexandria to Glasgow (*above*), the other in 1954 from Jean Boulad to Ahmed Mazloum (*left*). There will be more of these goodies to come in January.

Philatelic Society of Egypt Exhibition, Sharm el Sheikh, November 2008

John Davis (ESC 213)

My wife Rosemary and I flew in to Sharm el-Sheikh clutching our passports in which were two visas obtained by post from the Egyptian Embassy, as suggested by our package tour company. This was our first mistake! Virtually everyone going into Egypt on that particular aircraft queued for a visa on arrival, wishing to pay in sterling - but of course no change was available, so it took that much longer. As we were to discover, provided one does not wish to stray outside the immediate environs of Sharm el-Sheikh, no visa is required. After some two hours of sitting in a coach awaiting this lot, and with no air-conditioning, we set off to travel the 10km (6 1/2 miles) to our hotel resort. With the least possible leg-room in the aircraft – I am 5ft 8in (1.73m) and my knees touched the seat in front – the 5 1/2-hour journey to Sharm had been eminently forgettable but we were pleased to arrive at the hotel to meet Peter Andrews, Chairman of the Egypt Study Circle and, as we three all agreed, the hotel itself was truly superb.

En route from the airport we passed the Maritim International Congress Centre on Peace Road; it was dark and its blue sign MARITIM shone out against the dark sky, so we knew where to find the Exhibition. Below MARITIM is Jolie Ville in red neon and below again, in small green letters, the name of the hotel. So far, so good.

Unfortunately there are approximately eight such sign combinations on the road between the airport and our hotel, some of which are attached to hotels, such as the MARITIM Jolie Ville Golf hotel, or the MARITIM Jolie Ville Peninsula Hotel, one or two restaurants, one or two casinos and a Conference Centre. It transpired that none of the taxi-drivers knew about the PosTech Exhibition to which the PSE exhibition was linked, or indeed where it was located, and there is no public transport.

So we decided we should contact Dr Sherif Samra, President of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, to discover exactly when and where our exhibits were required, but neither Peter nor I had his e-mail address. Thankfully the hotel had an internet connection (at a price) and we contacted Mike Murphy who replied immediately with the address. A message was sent straight away to the effect that we would deliver the exhibits between 9 and 10 on the Monday morning, but we received no reply until Khetcho Hagopian telephoned Peter's room to say that Monday was not soon enough: they must be there by 10am on Sunday (but at least he did give Peter his telephone number).

My wife having booked a day's snorkelling on the Red Sea on the Sunday, we left Peter to deliver the two exhibits, but when we returned in late afternoon he was virtually tearing his hair! Taxi-drivers had taken him to almost all the MARITIM locations and none was the right one. He had already spent more than £50 sterling in taxi fares so I accompanied him as we set off, yet again, on the 7km to the Congress Centre. It is quite near the MARITIM Golf Hotel to which the taxi-driver insisted on taking us, but we got there in the end – it was at the MARITIM Peninsula Hotel – and we asked at reception for Khetcho. Fortunately we were now in the right place and left the briefcase and arrived to our hotel in time for dinner.

We had allotted Tuesday as our day to visit the Exhibition because, after the opening ceremony at noon on the Monday, we should have had only part of a day. Arriving by nine, we walked around the perimeter fence of the Congress Centre to find the entrance at the far end and defended by a very large dog, about 15 armed security police and an unbelieving chief of police who questioned why we were there. I could see his point of view when eventually we were allowed in, because everyone was in suits, collars and ties and we were in holiday gear! At last Khetcho Hagopian and Samir Fikry were contacted, and they came to vouch for us at reception. By the time we actually got to see anything it was gone 10am.

Having said all that, the exhibits themselves were exceedingly good, like Mr Kipling's cakes. There were entries from no fewer than 21 exhibitors very kindly listed for me by Samir Fikry as follows:

Court of Honour (non-competitive): **Samir Amin Fikry**, Egyptian Postal History, 3 frames

Competitive Class: **Samir Nabih Attia**, Fifth Issue, De La Rue, 8 frames; **Ibrahim Shoukry**, Crown Overprints (5); **Marcus Samir Attia**, Travelling Post Offices (5); **Hisham Bassyouny**, British Forces Postal Concession (5); **Milad Hanallah**, Postal Stationery (5); **Khaled Mostafa**, Postal Stationery (5); **John**

Davis, Graf Zeppelin (2); **Peter Andrews**, Postal Stationery Cards (3); **Sherif Samra**, Provisional Issue 1878 (1); **Sherif Hesny**, Perfins (1); **Peter Andrews**, Booklets (1); **Samir Nabih Attia**, Thomas Cook (1); **Khetcho Hagopian**, First Issue (1); **Khetcho Hagopian**, Second Issue (1); **Khetcho Hagopian**, Essays (1); **Marcus Samir Attia**, King Fuad Postes (1); **Lucien Toutounji**, Express Mail 1927 (1); **Magdy Soliman**, Express Mail (1); **Arto Kasperian**, Unicef Forces (1); **Karim Darwaza**, The Gaza Strip (1).

We were very cordially greeted by two Egypt Study Circle members in Khetcho and Samir, but were disappointed to note that they were the only Egyptian philatelists present. Nonetheless we were walked around the super collection of exhibits and advised about our own failings, as well as the good points, concerning our own entries. Peter quietly said to me that he had considered bringing Crown Overprints but, having seen Ibrahim Shoukry's offering, he was very glad he had brought something else!

Samir Nabih Attia (ESC 505) is, I understand, a first-time exhibitor and I have a small collection of Thomas Cook, I very much admired his one-frame showing. But his eight frames of De La Rue were simply outstanding. As a military collector I also admired a one piastre rose cover, the stamp cancelled with a beautiful strike of BRITISH ARMY POST OFFICE EGYPT, this item from the Tel el-Kebir campaign and not even addressed to Mr or Mrs Sandbach! Other items definitely in the wrong collection included at least two covers from the Souakin campaign and, at last, an 1881 cover from Arthur Sandbach.

A single frame devoted to the 1878-79 provisional overprinted issue by Dr. Sherif Samra (ESC 311) was also of the highest quality while another single-frame entry from Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264) on the Express Post certainly caught my eye. Dr Ibrahim Shoukry's Crown Overprints included trial overprints in red as well as virtually all values with the "crushed crown" variety.

The Court of Honour was of course superb; just a pity that Samir Fikry has disposed of much of it and we had to make do with colour copies. Hisham Bassyouny (ESC 391) had five frames of his Postal Concession material hot from his Vermeil medal at Prague. As always I examined it closely for things to include in my book and found a new addressee for my list of those seemingly living at 31 Poynders Road, Clapham Park, London. Again I found much that should (in my humble opinion) be in my own collection, in particular, the only known full strike of MPO el-Daba, dated two days before the start of World War II, as well as the other with "el-Daba" excised or blacked out. I did note that Hisham now has the single 3 millième green Farouk Army Post stamp on cover, as well as another making up the airmail rate to the southern hemisphere.

We enjoyed a splendid and leisurely lunch and, much to my great enjoyment, I was approached with a large smile of recognition and a handshake from Dr Sherif Ahmed Abdel Hamid Battisha, Vice chairman for External Operations and Relations of Egypt Post, whom I had last met when he was guest of honour at a dinner at the Automobile Club hosted by the Philatelic Society of Egypt (PSE) in Cairo some two years ago. To say the least, "I was impressed and delighted that he remembered me."

Sadly, although two commemorative stamps and first day covers were issued for the PosTech exhibition, we were unable to buy any, not even seven 150-piastre stamps for my postcards. In fairness, stamps were not for sale as it was a technology exhibition, but had been given out the day before, when we were absent, and the Egypt Post official did come up with something for Peter – a presentation pack of the new issue – for Syria!

PosTech closed at 5 pm on Tuesday and the stamp exhibition with it, but though we could have taken our exhibits then and there, it was felt necessary to cause us another expensive journey by taxi the following morning to collect them. The competition results will be announced later but Peter was awarded a Large Vermeil for his Booklets and a Vermeil for his Postal Stationery Cards; I shall be receiving a Vermeil for my Graf Zeppelin. Somehow we felt we were there to make up the numbers. There were no dealers present and no one from the committee of the PSE. It seems that despite all the considerable efforts to obtain sponsorship from Egypt Post, it was a non-event other than for their exhibitors, 11 of whom are also ESC members.

A day or two of leisure to enjoy the superb amenities of our hotel resort and we were back at the airport for the return journey to the UK. Peter was flying on a different airline and hopefully his flight was not delayed some two hours as ours was. Maybe someone is trying to tell me something? C'est la vie.

Grosvenor sale, November 21

There was fierce bidding, and some high prices raised, by the 30 or so buyers, who included ten ESC members, at the Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions sale of material by our members John Sears and Dennis Clarke on November 21.

Every one of John's 39 items connected to the First Fuad issue was sold, some of them way over the estimate, for a total hammer price approaching £35,000, while Dennis, presenting a wider range of material, sold 76 lots out of 82, for something over £16,000. Prices realised can be found on the Grosvenor website at www.grosvenorauctions.com/prices_realised_archive/Prices_realised_nov08.pdf



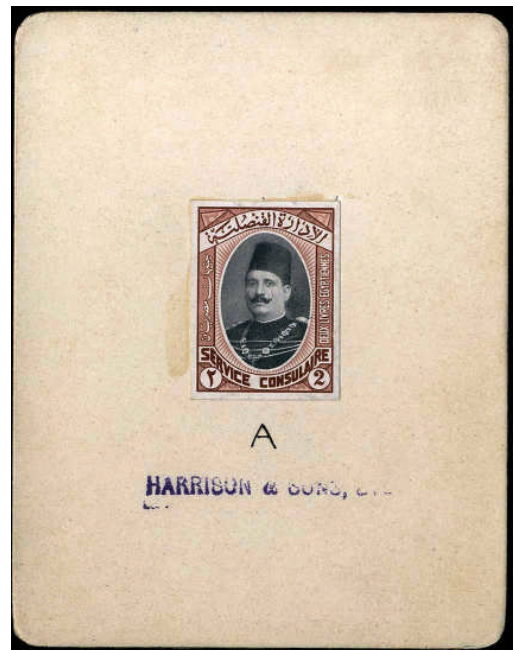
Though some mixed lots realised higher prices, two of the highlights of John's sale were Harrison imperforate £E1 photogravure essays, one in brown with two impressions, one of them handpainted and the other with the head cut out, presumably for use in another essay (*above*); and an exquisite composite essay with blue frame overlaid on red centre (*left*). Both realised £1,800.



A selection on leaves including used blocks of ten and 15 of the £E1 fetched £4,200 (20 times estimate!); another collection thought to have belonged to William Byam went for £1,200 (ten times estimate), and a group of control blocks for £2,500 (eight times estimate). Another very high price was for the 1923 120-millième booklet, which realised £1,900 against a top estimate of £400. A quite remarkable series of Harrison Consular Service essays on gilt-edged presentation cards (four items, *one of them below*) also went for ten times estimate at £4,200.

For Dennis, the top price was a realisation of £1,100 (estimate £500-£700) for an 1874 cover to Germany franked by two examples of the 1872 5pi for a quadruple rate, and with a double-oval Hotel du Nil handstamp. Early Riester and Prevost essays went for around £200, and a wonderful selection of De La Rue die proofs averaged about £180, ranging up to £350. A First Issue 2pi bisect on piece realised £160.

An 1871 wrapper from Suez to Cairo with Dalla Stazione (only 22 recorded) realised £360 and a beautiful 1884 cover from Beni Mazar franked with a pair of the 20-para on 5pi green surcharge went for £340. Two covers with Franca handstamps sold for £300 and £290.



A

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Praga 2008.

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)

This World Stamp Exhibition was held in the enchanting city of Prague, Czech Republic, from September 12 to 14. It started at the end of their summer heat wave and came to a close with cold winds from the east, which were heralding the onset of autumn.

There was a sprinkling of Egyptian exhibits, details as follows:

The Postal Concession - John Davis (ESC 213) Great Britain, 79 points – Silver. A handwritten exhibit, but none the worse for that. Its shortcomings were highlighted by comparison with an adjacent exhibit of similar material. It consisted of a plating study of the Postal Seals and Letter Seals, followed by the Letter Stamps, Xmas Seals and the Jubilee Stamp. The final 36 pages dealt with the Numeral Frank and the “Mary Lloyd” set of presentation envelopes.

1879 Provisional Stamps - Dr Sherif Samra (ESC 331), Egypt, 80 points – Vermeil. The only one-frame exhibit of Egyptian material. It started with unaccepted essays for the two surcharges and was followed by blocks, perforation varieties, inverted surcharges and printers’ waste. There were a few used stamps but none on cover.

Stamps of Egypt - Leon Balian (ESC251), Canada, 80 points – Vermeil. This was the only book on Egyptian stamps in the exhibition. The literature was on display on the Czech National Postal Museum. I presume that this was the long awaited Volume Two.

Egypt 1866-1922 - Josef Kotek, Czech Republic, 80 points – Vermeil. Written up in German, a mint and used collection of stamps with some useful covers. There was postal stationery, officials, TPOs and a selection from the French post offices at Port Said and Alexandria.

The 1923 Crown Overprints – Dr Ibrahim Shoukry (ESC 423), 80 points – Vermeil. A fine study of the four types of overprint, with many blocks, some proofs and unusual usage. I was particularly envious of the use on parcel cards. Dr Shoukry, our Egyptian Agent, was the Egyptian Commissioner for this exhibition.

Expeditionary Forces in Near East (1914-20), Egypt - Iqbal Naujee, Pakistan, 80 points – Vermeil. Mainly stampless covers with many censor markings and green “On Active Service” envelopes. It included in particular a study of the various Base Army Post Office circular date stamps.

British Forces in Egypt Stamps Issued 1932-3939 - Hisham Bassyouny (ESC391), Egypt, 81 points – Vermeil. A comprehensive exhibit of these stamps with delightful essays and proofs. Some unusual covers were incorporated.

In addition our member **Mordecai Kremener (ESC 291)** won a well deserved **Gold** for his **Postal Services of Beirut.**

John Davis (ESC 231) also won a **Vermeil** in Vienna.

Study on Retouches and Flaws of King Fouad Second Portrait Issue (1927-37)

Ahmed Abu Mousa (ESC 584)

Plate flaws and retouches are not so common on the Fouad Second Portrait Issue, and have not received the same attention as those on the First Issue.

A few retouches and several flaws do exist, however, but for most of them (unfortunately) their positions and constancy are not known.

In this article I shall discuss the retouches and flaws with reference to examples from my own collection (most of them are unrecorded by all catalogues and philatelic references). And at the end I shall illustrate the two known varieties on the 500m and £E1 values as listed in the catalogues, just as a reference.

Retouches

A *retouch* (briefly) is a correction made by hand-engraving on the printing plate or cylinder of a postage stamp to eliminate a *flaw* (a visible change in the design caused by damage to the printing surface).

It is known that the photogravure printing method used for the Fouad Issues proceeded (in brief) via the steps mentioned below:

1. The original design is drawn.
2. That design is photographed and the negative is used as a "master die".
3. From the negative; a series of 100 positive images is produced on a glass plate, which is known as the "multipositive".
4. The multipositive is transferred to a carbon tissue (a sheet of gelatine backed with paper).
5. The carbon tissue is wrapped around a copper cylinder and etched with a solution of ferric chloride. After further steps, in the end the printing surface is left with the design in recess and the gelatine is removed.

Unlike the First Portrait Issue, this issue was produced using two types of screening:

- Type I (with vertical/horizontal intersections upright at 90 degrees)
- Type II (with diagonal intersections)

The late Douglas McNeille, in his fascinating article *Egypt, 1923-24 Retouches and flaws*, ruled out steps 1, 2 and 4 as the main sources of the retouches, because any flaw found in steps 1 and 2 would be reproduced 100 times, and step 4 is too cheap to be worth retouching. So we are left with two possible sources:

1- Multipositive retouch: A retouch on the multipositive would then be printed through the photogravure screen and so have the appearance of tiny dots covering the uncoloured flaw(s).

2- Cylinder retouch: This retouch would never be printed through the screen, and would be used to conceal white or pale flaws. When these are found, the remedy consists of retouching the cylinder engraving either by repairing the plate or by hand (cutting the copper, using a burin, for instance). This type of retouch has the appearance of hard lines covering the flaw(s).

Examples of retouches on this issue are not plentiful enough to rely on to assign their position on the plate. From many hundreds of stamps in singles or blocks I have examined (mint or used), I have found only the following two retouches on the 10 millièmes denomination (Type II).

I would very much appreciate it if any member could allocate the positions of the retouches or provide similar examples in order to determine their repetition. And apart from that, I should be very interested to see other examples with retouches on this particular issue.



Fig. 1 - 10m red (Type II). Retouch to the left of the King's cheek (upper left stamp)



Fig 2. - 10m violet: Retouches to the left of the King's cheek and left of fez, upper and lower stamps

Flaws and Varieties

Flaws: Blemishes upon the design of a stamp which have arisen in the course of manufacture. Such flaws may be caused by ink crust or foreign matter on the printing plate, or by a fold in the paper, and are frequently transient. When a flaw is constant, that is, repeats throughout an issue of stamps or part of an issue, it may be termed a *variety*.

The major classes of flaws I discovered in my study of this issue are: inking flaws, colour flaws, white flaws and varnish flaws. Unfortunately, the positions and repetitions of ALL the flaws and varieties illustrated in this article are unknown. Again, I urge members to report any discoveries on this subject, and if possible to assign their positions.

Inking flaws: This kind of flaw occurs on account of the slow drying of the ink and poor colour fastness.

I illustrate here two examples, the only ones I found in examining 334 stamps of the 2-milliemmes denomination (Type I and II).



Fig. 3 – Examples of inking flaws on a pair and a single of the of 2m (Type II)

Colour flaws: These have been caused by over-deep etching, or by physical damage to the printing cylinder (remembering that any recess, including one resulting from a knock, will store ink and will therefore print). Among many hundreds of stamps of all denominations, I could find only these with such a flaw:



Fig. 4 - Colour flaw (brown dot) on the 4m, above eye (left stamp)

The colour flaw on the 5-millieme stamp is in position 91 of a sheet with control A/29. But I am not certain whether or not the flaw is constant, as I have another block with identical control number and two marginal blocks, but the flaw is not present. In addition, the same control-number block with Type B does not show the flaw: it could be a cylinder flaw. I have examined approximately 500 stamps of this denomination and never came across any similar variety or any other of any prominence.



Fig. 5 - 5m (Type II), colour flaw on the left of the face (lower left stamp)



Fig. 6 - 13m, colour flaw (dot) to the left of King's face (left stamp)

The colour flaw on the 20-millime stamp is (also!) in position 91 of a sheet with control A/31. Again, I'm uncertain whether such a flaw is constant, as I have another block with identical control but without the flaw. I have examined many hundreds of this denomination and never came across any other variety.



Fig. 7 - 20m (large format, olive green), colour flaw gash on the fez (lower right stamp)



Fig. 8 - 500m, colour flaw (dot) under the Arabic letter د in الدولة



Fig. 9 – £E1, missing dot, only one dot under ي

White flaws: These were caused by failure to etch the plate completely successfully, probably because the bitumen powder was too thickly applied in some areas, masking them from the etching solution. Only small flaws can now be spotted, as the larger ones were rectified by retouching.

The white flaw on the 50-millieme stamp is in position 81 on a sheet with control number A/30. Again, I'm uncertain about its constancy. I have a marginal block, but the flaw is not present. It could be a cylinder flaw. I have examined a few hundred examples of this stamp and never come across such a variety or any other prominent one.



Fig. 10 - 50m, white flaw on King's forehead (upper left stamp)

Varnish flaw: If the varnish was insufficiently applied, the stamp margin was not protected from the action of the etching fluid, resulting in an area of faint colour in which the screen lines can be seen.



Fig. 11 - 15m (Type II), two examples of varnish flaw on sheets with control numbers A/27 and A/30

Double impression: A stamp showing two impressions of the same design. The second impression may be a full impression, or show only part of the original design. It may be caused by any one of three occurrences:

By *Dragged print*: This results if the sheet is pulled out before the ink has dried completely, resulting in pale or thick lines appearing adjacent to the frame.

By *Cylinder rolling backwards*: If the printing machine stops for some reason, some interruption or defect, the operative may try to restore a part-printed sheet back to where it started, thus passing part of the plate through the press twice, but perhaps not in perfect register.

By *Doctor blade*: In some cases a worn or fault doctor blade could pull ink in the direction of travel.



Fig. 12 – In this example, 5m (Type II), there seems to be a partial double impression (or kiss print) due to an ink drag. The dragging is to the left

Another interesting example of the 15m denomination (Type I) illustrated below seems to have a double impression due to cylinder rolling backwards. A comparison between two examples of the same Type has been made and it was found out that the one on the *left side* shows the white space composing the Arabic words (الدولة المصرية, خمسة عشر مليماً) as well as, the French word (EGYPTE) being narrower comparing to the Arabic and French words of the stamp on the *right side*. Besides, the portrait is blurred in the *left* stamp, whereas it is normal in the *right* one.



Fig. 13 – 15m (Type I). The left-hand stamp has the flaw; the right is normal

Other examples exist for this issue. They have been thoroughly discussed by Peter Smith in his article in *L'Orient Philatélique* (No. 125).

Set-off printing (offset): This is an additional impression of the stamp design, on either face or reverse, caused by inadvertent contact between wet printing ink and the printing surface. In other words, it occurs from an inked plate having been closed on the bare platen immediately before a sheet was put through, leading to the platen carrying ink which is then transferred to the sheet by mistake.

I am able to illustrate two examples, both with set-off impressions on the reverse of the stamp. After examining almost 500 stamps of the 5-millieme value (Type II) I found only one with a partial set-off printing. The other example shows the £E1, also with partial set-off.



Fig. 14 – 5m (Type II and £E1 with partial set-off impressions on the reverse

The only acknowledged varieties for this issue listed or mentioned in the catalogues and philatelic references are found on the 500m and £E1 values. I illustrate them here for reference purpose.

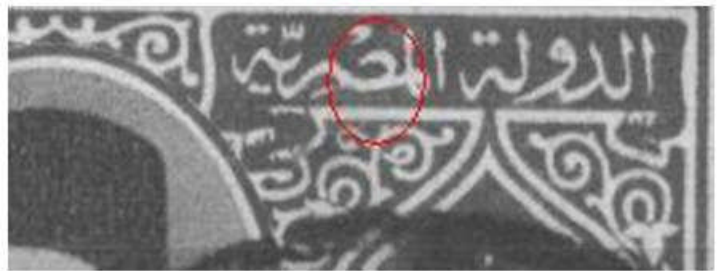


Fig. 15 - 500m (all photogravure, frame lithographed). Plate flaw of broken loop of Arabic letter ص in المصرية This is constant in positions 24 (A/29, A/30) and 2 (A/34, A/35)

For the £E1, Professor Smith states: “The only plate flaw that is well known occurs on the £E1 with All photogravure printing. It consists of a thick, colourless line closing the top of the U of UNE so as to convert it to ONE. It is found in position 17 of control A/27 (thus in the control block of four), but not on all sheets.”

“The same position has some small, coloured dots outside the frame, below the value tablet, and so it can be recognized, whether the ‘ONE’ flaw is present or not. It is thought that two cylinders were used, made from the same multipositive. Since the control numbers are identical, they were presumably inscribed on the multipositive, and the ‘ONE’ is a cylinder flaw, whereas the dots outside the frame are features of the multipositive.”



Fig. 16 - £E1 showing the closed “U” and dots below the value tablet.

References:

1. John A Grimmer, "The First Fuad Portrait Issue 1923", *QC* 108, December 1978, pp. 89-101
2. Ibrahim Chaftar, "Egypt's First Portrait Issue 1923-1926, Retouches and Flaws", *L'OP* 127, October 1973, pp. 307-335
3. Dr P.A.S. Smith, "Double Impressions", *L'OP* 125, April 1972, pp. 137-140
4. Hany Salam, Egypt - Printing Development 1st Fuad Issue 1922-25 (Exponet Virtual International Philatelic Exhibition, <http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0274/index0274a.htm>).
5. Peter A. S. Smith, *Egypt, Stamps & Postal History: A Philatelic Treatise* (1999)
6. Douglas McNeille, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* (from December 1937 to April 1938)
7. Joseph Chalhoub, *The Nile Post Catalogue* (2003)

New TPO Marking.

Eric Welvaerteric (Non-member)



Peter Smith's *The Travelling Post Offices in Egypt* says (p.14): "The Société (des Chemins de Fer de la Basse-Egypte) also ran ferries ... and at Gheit el Nassara, near Damietta, to Port Said, but there is no evidence that they carried a TPO." This TPO is not mentioned in his magisterial book *Egypt - Stamps and Postal History* either.

I have, however, just bought an 1887 1pi envelope with a fine datestamp which seems to prove that such a TPO did indeed exist. The cancel is of Type 8A7, with 11 vertical bars, diameter 21mm and the text: DAMIETTE PORT SAÏD, dated 19 VII 89. The verso carries a Port-Saïd transit mark dated 20 VII 89. As far as I can make out, it was sent to Jaffa.

Stamps and Rates: 2 mills Surcharge on 3 mills Pictorial, October 15, 1915

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

There is some mystery attached to this provisional. As Peter Smith notes, “*the reason for this provisional is not known with certainty, but most likely that the supply of 2m. stamps were running out.*”¹ Earlier he also notes of the number of stamps printed for the Pictorial set: “*The quantities were generally in the millions, except for the 3m and 50m.*”² So why did the 3m, of which fewer were originally printed, need to be turned into a 2m which one must assume was used in far greater quantities?



At the time of printing the 2m paid the rate for internal and external printed matter and the internal postcard rate, although I don't believe that any of these are easily found: such postal matter is easily discarded by the recipient. The 3m probably found little use, making the rate for local (en ville) letters, although of course low-value stamps are often useful in combining to make higher rates. Again, however, finding either the 2m or 3m used in this way is far from common.

On January 1, 1916, the internal postcard rate was raised to 3m so for this purpose the provisional had a short life of just over a year. The 2m internal printed matter rate was still in use by the time of the issue of the first Fuad stamps, while the external printed matter rate was not altered until April 1921 so for printed matter the provisional did have a genuine single use for the rest of the life of the Pictorials.

Use of this stamp on mail is rare. I have seen only a few examples in the last 20 or so years that I have been looking out for it.



Fig.1 - Block of five used to pay the overseas 15m letter rate, which was in use up to April 1921



Fig. 2 – Single paying the internal postcard rate. Its survival is because it was addressed to Jean Boulard!

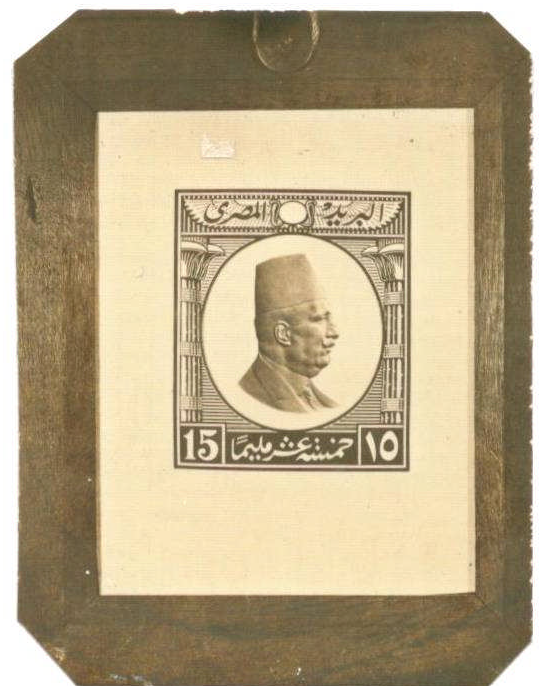
I have yet to see this stamp being used to pay any of the printed matter rates, so can any of our members provide an example? I would be interested to see other examples of this somewhat elusive stamp used. Another intriguing fact is that while Balian and the *Nile Post* price this stamp very nearly the same both mint and used, Stanley Gibbons gives the value of a used copy nearly four times that of a mint one. Perhaps it was just expediency on the part of the other two catalogues to prevent the temptation for newly made “used” copies.

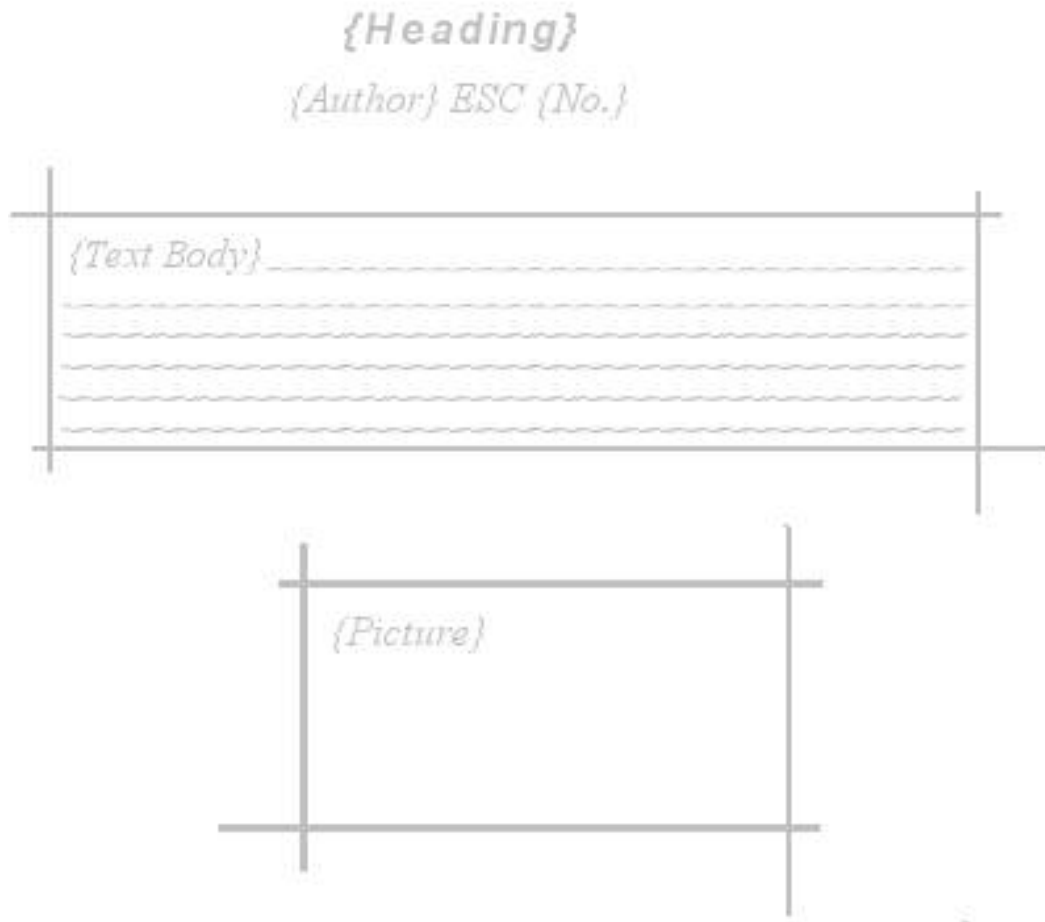
References:

1. Peter A. S. Smith, *Egypt, Stamps & Postal History: A Philatelic Treatise* (1999), p255
2. Smith, *op.cit.*, p251

Query 52. Bromide essay. Ahmed Abu Mousa (ESC 584)

I illustrate a bromide photographic essay for King Fuad claimed to come from the Lewis Archives. I should very much appreciate it if someone could shed some light on this essay. Is it genuine? Does it come from the Lewis archive? Who was Lewis? Was it made for the Fuad First or Second or “Postes” Issue?





{Page waiting for an article}

This could be a common sight in future *QCs* because of the dearth of articles coming from members. The *QC* is beginning to turn into the Edmund (Hall) and Mike (Murphy) magazine with great support from Lucien (Toutounji), with some of their articles being written simply to fill the gaps – though I do hope that you find them interesting nonetheless, as indeed I do!

I raised the issue at the November meeting and shall be asking the same question at next May's Annual General Meeting – should the number of pages be reduced or the number of *QCs* each year be reduced? Members should consider getting ready not for the *QC* (*Quarterly Circular*) but the *TC* (*Thirdly Circular*).

Now you could write to the committee deploring such a move. For example, “*Dear Sirs, As a fully paid-up member of many years’ standing I expect four ESC magazines a year and cannot believe the Committee could sink so low as to deny its members their due entitlement...*”

Then again, you could be putting pen to paper (finger to keyboard) for a different reason – to write an article. As I see it, the ideal *QC* comprises one main core article, as we have here in Ahmed Abu Mousa's splendid offering, and a number of one-page or two-page articles and then bits and pieces to provide colour and variety. (See the meeting report, page 76)

I am not asking for an immediate response, but as one member remarked at the meeting - he had one or two unfinished pieces, some of them started some years ago, and I suspect many of us are in the same position. So dust them off with the aim of getting something ready for the next year or two. I do not believe our members' collections are so boring that a one-page article could not be made from describing or asking a question about a cover or two.

– **Editor**

So you decide, by your actions – is it to be the *QC*, or the *TC*?

Military Matters: The Norwegian Navy in the Second World War

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

When considering the many foreign forces that have been in Egypt over the last 200 years one of the last that is likely to spring to mind would be that of Norway. I also imagine that if our members were asked to give examples I don't think the question would get much of a response – if any.

After the German occupation of Norway early in the war little was left of the Royal Norwegian Navy - (*Kongelige Norske Marine*)-KGL: much of it had been out of date already in September 1939, and 13 ships escaped to Britain. The King of Norway set up a government in exile to continue the fight from bases in UK until the war ended and these ships were subordinated to the Royal Navy. At the time Norway had one of the largest merchant fleets, which remained loyal to the crown.

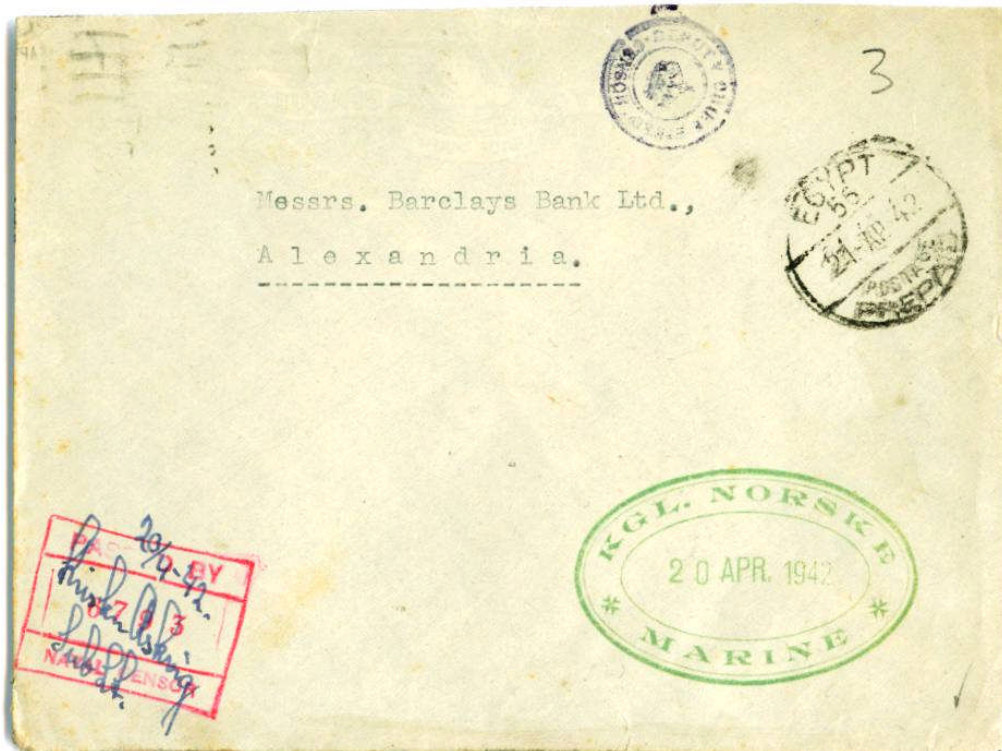
As there was a general shortage of minesweepers, patrol vessels and auxiliaries, the British naval authorities asked the Norwegian Navy to help to fill the various gaps. In the Antarctic at the time of the invasion of Norway was a large Norwegian whaling fleet, comprising numerous sturdy ships of 300-500 tons well suited for conversion to such jobs. They were requisitioned by the Norwegian Government.

In 1941 the Royal Norwegian Navy took over four whalers at Durban and after conversion they sailed for Alexandria via the Suez Canal: the first two, *Noble Nora* and *Transvalia*, reached Alexandria on November 8 to form the 168th Minesweeping Group. They were soon joined by the *Egeland* and *John Williamson*, both crewed entirely by Norwegians, as was the *Transvalia*. The *Noble Nora* was under the command of Lieutenant C L Carroll RNR.

Other whalers from South Africa and six from Trinidad were to come soon after, and the following units served in the Mediterranean: 156th Minesweeping Group, 166th Minesweeping Group, 167th Minesweeping Group, 168th Minesweeping Group and the 25th Anti-Submarine Group (anti-submarine whalers operating out of Alexandria, Port Said, Haifa and Tobruk). The *Egeland* was lost off the coast of Gaza on November

29, 1941 while the others were used in the Mediterranean until they were transferred, after strained relations between the British and Norwegians, to the Greek Navy in autumn 1943.

I can only assume that the Norwegians used the British postal systems and the only cover I have seen (*illustrated*) is franked with EPP 55, which is nominally subscribed to the South Africans. The back has machine cancels for Cairo 24



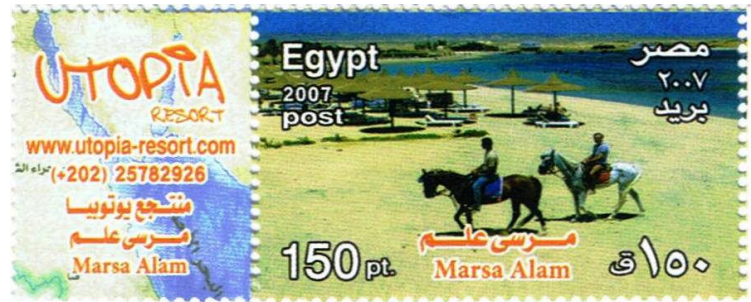
April 1942 12AM and Alexandria April 1942 4PM. Possibly then the letter had the green oval KGL. NORSKE MARINE cachet applied on ship at Port Said.

Marsa Alam Resort: Egypt's First "Commercial" Stamp

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Far be it from me to feed the frenzy for spurious modern "rarities" (see Edmund Hall, *QC* 226, p.64 ff.), but a recent new issue is wildly popular at the moment even though it is apparently not available either from the Cairo Philatelic Bureau or from post offices throughout the country.

The multicoloured 150-piastre stamp showing two leisurely horsemen on an idyllic beach was apparently printed offset by the Printing House of the National Postal Organisation and issued on December 24, 2007, as a purely commercial venture by the Utopia Resort in Marsa Alam, which is some 100 miles south of Hurghada on the Egyptian Red Sea coast.



According to my information, publication of the stamp was inspired by the British "Smilers" series, in which a small no-value label nominated by the sponsor is printed between authentic stamps, which are valid for postage and bear a Post Office value. Here however, the whole design was sponsored by the resort's owners, and all 100,000 printed copies were delivered to the resort itself for sale only to registered guests.



Though the stamp bears a value, and the word "Post" in English and Arabic, it will be interesting to see whether it is valid for postal purposes. The Post Office published its usual trilingual information sheet (*left*) with the stamp, describing it as a "commemorative" and naming its designers as Amani Ahmed Ali and Rasha el-Zonkoli, both regular designers for the PO – but I understand that the brochure was later withdrawn and destroyed. All stamps of Egypt are now submitted for authentication to the UPU-based World Association for the Development of Philately. Perhaps it is no surprise that its website (<http://www.wnsstamps.ch/en/>)

records no Egyptian issue between December 16 (anniversaries of Ahmed Shawky and Ibrahim Hafidh) and 30 (Handball Federation anniversary) in 2007. Yet despite the doubts, philatelists in Egypt are being told: "You must have a sheet of this; it's going to be a real rarity"; and blocks of four are being offered on a collectors' website for 10 euros and a block of nine for 25 euros. This latter, a top marginal block, carries information indicating a printing date of December 28.

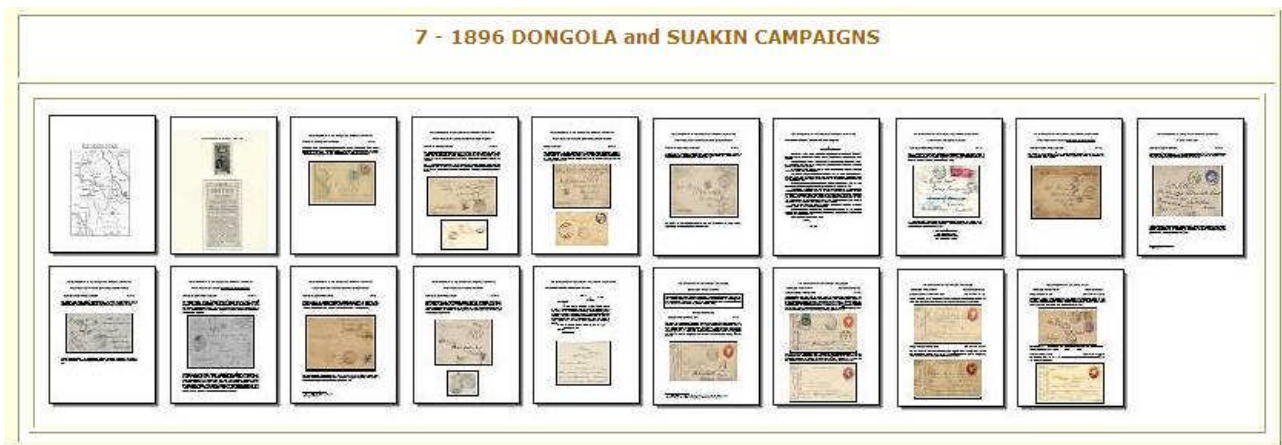
Footnote: Egypt Post accepts the stamp as valid for postal purposes: Dr Sherif Samra (ESC 311) has kindly sent me this cover, franked only with the stamp in question (the correct Air Mail rate for UK is 150pi). It is not the world's best handstamp CDS, but there it is, from the Mohandessin office in Cairo, and quite clearly dated 7.10.2008. Perhaps this will after all become a collector's item but only – because the date slug is inverted!



Members' Website News

After a certain amount of toil and trouble, we now have three members' exhibits on the website that are worth taking a lot more time (and no trouble, we hope!) to examine. In addition to Stephen Kaplan's Meter Marks we now have John Davis's Zeppelin exhibit, and the magnificent Gold Medal collection of Dick Wilson covering the postal history of the Arabi and Sudan campaigns ... a staggering total of just under 500 pages!

To find this display and view it at leisure, first of all enter the Members section ... then under Military, click on British Occupation 1882-1899 and Campaigns, and follow the directions to the collection. For convenience this is further sub-divided into the various mini-campaigns, and as an example we show here the index for the Dongola and Suakin campaigns. Illustrated is the website page showing thumbnail-sized versions of the pages in the section – a simple click on a thumbnail will bring up the page full size for you to view.



Could pages in your collection be displayed in a similar way? It doesn't have to be 500 pages (though when it is the effect is staggering) - it could be anything from a single display to dozens or scores – and fellow members get the benefit of your accumulated experience and wisdom, and you get a warm glow of satisfaction at sharing with your colleagues. And perhaps some critical praise to go with it!

Other areas of the Members' section have been added to in recent weeks, and there is MUCH more to come. We hope to be able to add new sections and updates each month. But it depends on YOU!

Interestingly, Yasser Omar (ESC 605) made the suggestion at the November meeting that the younger and less experienced members would benefit greatly from being able to see the great collections as displayed by the masters of yesterday and today and examine them in their own time– which is precisely what this area of the website is trying to achieve. But he had not yet looked at the area! It is this very reason that we are building the site's content – to make it the depository of all Egyptian philately. We will keep you posted with updates as new features are added. For the sake of our hobby please give it your support.

Star and Bridge: A New Date



Member Peter Heim (ESC 384) has reported a new early date for Type XI-I Zaqaqiq of 13 VI 07, beating his own earliest date for this mark by three and a half months, and bringing Zaqaqiy into line with the other towns' starting dates of May-June 1907.

Feedback on QC 226

The latest QC arrived yesterday and there were a number of interesting articles, as usual. I found in my box of covers to be worked on a cover to 31 Poynders Road. It is addressed to Mr. L. Hamilton with the 1 piastre letter stamp used on the last day at M.P.O. Alexandria 15 MR 36 with crowned circle EGYPT POSTAGE PREPAID 18. Please see the attachment.



I found the New Hotel article interesting. The marking is an early Hotel mark and the covers shown are wonderful. I don't have any New Hotel or Grand New Hotel illustrated covers in my collection. However, Samuel Shephard's British Hotel Cairo forwarding marking was used from 1848 to 1853, fully two decades prior to the New Hotel Cairo marking. Attached is a scan of a cover I have dated 18 December 1848 with the forwarding mark.

Dick Wilson (ESC 230)



Richard Wheatley (ESC 168) also reported a letter to Mr. L. Hamilton at Poynders Road with a first day usage of the 10 mils Army stamp cancelled 1.MR.36 M.P.O. Alexandria.

Editor.

Egypt Study Circle Library Accounts

2007-2008

Balance held from previous year (approved at AGM to purchase a copy of Peter Smith's book for the Library) 124.02

Income:

Account with R. Van Pellecom incl. sale of QCs and postage	53.00
Postage received, D. Sedgwick	6.00
Books sold in ESC Auction 45	<u>387.10*</u>

*Held by Auction account 446.10

Expenditure (and liabilities):

R. Van Pellecom postage received	37.93
Books purchased:	
J. Sears	5.00
Grosvenor Auctions (incl. VAT)	188.20
Jane's House Clearance (Pershore)	<u>1.00</u>
	232.13
Balance held for R. Van Pellecom	15.07

Books purchased:

Section One - Catalogues and Handbooks - Smith, P.A.S.S., *Egypt: Stamps & Postal History – A Philatelic Treatise*. James Bendon Ltd, Limassol, 1999

Section Three General Geographical and Historical Works - Hopwood, D., *Egypt: Politics & Society 1945- 1984*. Allen & Unwin, London 1985

Section Four - Novels:- Barber. N., *A Woman of Cairo*. Hodder & Stoughton, London, 1984

Manning, O., *Levant Trilogy*. Penguin Books, London 1982

Section Five Biographical and Memoirs - Ballard, Brig.-Gen.C.R., *Kitchener*. Faber & Faber. London, c1925

Members' (and others') Announcements

With apologies to the Revenue Society, who have a very similar column, this is the start of a new venture in which members (and others) can seek help from their colleagues simply by writing a couple of lines with their request. We will publish the advertisement for free; and hope that colleagues will respond, though the Circle can take no responsibility for the outcome. Trade announcements are frowned upon but may be grudgingly accepted. New announcements will be added at the top; older ones will drop off the bottom. Members should contact the Editor or Secretary with new announcements (unless there is a very good reason we will not normally publish a telephone number).

QC – After something of a flood, we are now in drought conditions and appeal to all members to send in submissions for publication – whether a simple half-page note or a fully worked-up study on some facet that has been itching at you. If you are planning an article, why not use these adds to seek input from other members, most of whom are more than happy to share their knowledge?

Rural map – To aid his research into Rural routes, Mike Murphy is seeking any detailed maps of Egypt, and particularly the Survey's 1930s 1:100,000 Asyut, to buy or copy. Any map showing towns/villages in more detail than 1:100,000 would be made very welcome indeed.

Postal Bulletins – More photography work has been carried out, and new volumes are now available on disk. In addition to 1890, 1894-97, 1899-1902 and 1906, the following may be ordered from the Secretary (£5 for a disk of any two volumes, or £21 including postage for all ten on five disks): 1907, 1909-10, 1912, 1915, 1917, 1919-21, 1925.

Poynders Road, Clapham Park – John Davis is on the lookout for covers addressed to 31 Poynders Road, London SW4, during the 1930s, for his work on the Military Concession period. Addressees so far recorded are L.A. MacIntosh, L.A. Hamilton and Adolf Adler!

1954 Tourist Cards – Jürgen Fricke has a complete mint set of the 1954 6m soldier-vignette coloured tourist-view cards, and is keen to fill gaps in his used collection. These cards are elusive used, and he will gladly supply a wants list to anyone who contacts him at D-27299 Langwedel, In den Hollen 61, Germany.

L'Orient Philatélique – Please check your duplicates... Sherif Samra, President of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, is seeking to make up a full set, and is still missing (good condition, please!) L'OPs 1-3, 6-7, 18-19, 21-23, 25, 28, 32, 35-40, 49, 51, 93, 100. For members seeking their own back copies, the PSE still has 5, 8-10, 12-14, 16-17, 20, 24, 26-27, 30-31, 41-44, 46, 48, 58-59, 61, 66, 87-88, 92, 96, 104, 106-108, 110-113, 128-140 for sale.

Postcard search – Mohamed Nofal has completed his second catalogue, on Raphael Tuck and Humour cards, and is now working on the Louis Levy cards of Egypt. To order the book or for his long list of LL "wants" see page iii in QC 226 or contact him at 137 Gunnersbury Avenue, London W3 8LE or lafons@aol.com.

British Army 1882-1889 – The collection of our North American Agent Dick Wilson features large in a new bibliography by Harold Raugh titled *British Military Operations in Egypt and the Sudan*. ESC members will gain a 15% discount on the \$80 price at <http://braugh.com/books.html>

Please Note: This section is very strictly not intended to be used by members for any sales they might have - that is the preserve of the Auction, and "sales" requests will be refused. However requests for "wants" to fill that elusive gap are most welcome.