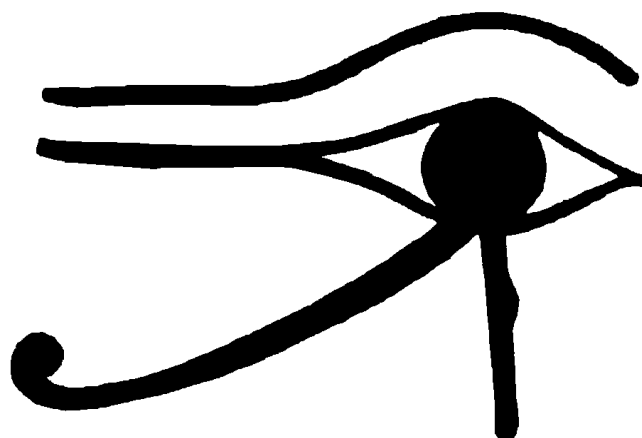


ISSN 0269—252X

The
Quarterly Circular
of

THE
EGYPT

STUDY CIRCLE



March Quarter 2009

Whole Series No. 228

Volume XX No. 5

Pages 97–120

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Report of the Meeting, January 10 2009

PRESENT: Peter Andrews (Chairman), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), John Davis (Librarian), Mostafa El-Dars, Ted Fraser-Smith, Peter Grech, Sami Sadek.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: John Sears (President), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), David Sedgwick (Publicity), Mike Bramwell, Margaret Chadwick, Cyril Defriez, Paul Green, Tony Schmidt.

The Chairman welcomed those in attendance, while regretting that the inclement weather had kept numbers down – “small but select” – and wished all members, whether present or not, a Happy New Year and good luck with their collecting in 2009. He was sad to have to announce that our New Zealand colleagues had been forced to cancel, for lack of interest, the international get-together planned for February, and appealed to members to join in the next time another of the always-delightful events was to be planned.

Ted Fraser-Smith (ESC 238) reported on recent co-operation with the Civil Censorship Study Group, which has requested a copy of Peter Andrews' monograph *Censorship of Civil Mail in Egypt 1939 to 1945* and has apparently been doing parallel work, of which the Library, it is hoped, will soon see the outcome.

The Secretary reported with sadness that Dr Sherif Samra (ESC 311), President of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, had decided to stand down in mid-term as of January 1, and regretted the loss of an excellent colleague who had helped the Circle enormously in recent years. For the time being the Vice-President, Dr Sherif el-Far, will be Acting President until the next Board elections in Cairo.

Members considering an overnight stay in York for the meeting on July 18 organised by Keith Pogson (ESC 130) at York Racecourse stamp fair can receive details of accommodation from the Secretary, who also gave details of an ABPS seminar on one-frame exhibitions on February 28. The meeting decided to advertise in the handbook of the Centenary Congress of GB, to be held on Manchester on July 16-19.

Mike Murphy then thanked those members who had criticised his attempt to classify the Rural postmarks and appealed to members to provide illustrations of their Rural covers so that a forthcoming handbook can be as comprehensive as possible.

As several officers were unavoidably absent, reports were limited to Edmund Hall's announcement that thanks to his recent appeal members had been generous in providing enough articles to complete the forthcoming Spring *QC*; but that the long-term outlook was still far from rosy. Please, all members, put pen to paper (or finger to keyboard, whichever suits) to entertain, educate - or question - your colleagues!

Peter Andrews then continued his meeting on postal stationery, which was not completed in November. He started with the Air Letters, showing the whole range from 1944 to the last, issued in about 1983, with an “Air Mail” boxed handstamp on the 1969 Registered Letter Sheet. He noted that he had never seen this latter used, nor the Arab League 30m issue of 1970 uprated and mint. It is possible that the PO never issued it uprated but that extra stamps were added as required for service to non-Arab countries.

There then followed an exhaustive display of envelopes, both mint and used, from the very first in 1887, with a 1-piastre rate, through an astonishing variety of variants. As an example, watermarks ranged from none to Postes Egyptiennes to Egyptian Postage to Bareed al-Masry in two forms, then the Royal Crown and F and finally the Large Eagles. Variants in wove or laid paper, the size and shape of the flap, of the size and configuration of surcharges, of the screen used on the value vignette, of the inner filigree design of the envelope – the range was staggering and apparently complete. And all of that is in addition to varieties of envelope size, of stamp design and alterations in stamp design. No wonder it was necessary to take two meetings to cover such an enormous range of collecting.

Despite all that, the questions came from all sides of the floor – and though most of them were swiftly answered, it is clear that there is more research to be done here: an ideal area for an enthusiast wondering what to do next? After all that it was a blessed relief to move on to the comparatively calm waters of the cassette envelopes.... until it became apparent that even these recent additions to the postal stationery catalogue present a number of varieties and problems clearly not yet comprehensively explored.

Members thanked Peter, in the traditional manner, for a fascinating display. And wished him well in trying to work his way through the myriad areas of new work brought to light by his exposition over two afternoons.

Report of the Meeting, February 28 2009

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), John Davis (Librarian), Mike Bramwell, Dennis Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Mostafa El-Dars, Samir Fikry (Egypt), Peter Grech, Paul Green, Costas Kelemenis (Greece), Lawrence Kimpton, Sami Sadek, Ronnie Van Pellecom (Belgium), Vahe Varjabedian (Egypt). Guest: Armen Varjabedian (Egypt).

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: David Sedgwick (Publicity), Margaret Chadwick, Alan Jeyes, Dick Wilson.

The Chairman welcomed those in attendance, and especially the five overseas visitors, and opened his remarks by regretting that the New Zealand meeting planned for February had been cancelled for lack of interest, and hoped for better support in the future.

Before the meeting proper got under way Vahe Varjabedian from Heliopolis presented medals to our two Sharm el-Sheikh exhibitors, Peter Andrews and John Davis, on behalf of Dr Alaa Fahmy, Chairman of the Egyptian Postal Organisation, who made similar presentations last month to members in Egypt.

Samir Fikry then announced, on behalf of the Philatelic Society in Cairo, the exciting prospect that it would hold another international exhibition, this time at the new Bibliotheca Alexandrina on May 22-24 this year; there are no more details yet, but it is hoped that the Circle might be able to organise a visit and exhibitors.

On behalf of Leon Balian, who is recovering from open-heart surgery, John Sears announced that Book II of the Balian Catalogue of Egypt had now been reduced in price after costs had been covered; it was now available for £20 including postage. Members should contact Leon direct or John Sears in UK.

Members then discussed prospects for London 2010, which will coincide with the Circle's 75th Anniversary, and it was decided to arrange a combined luncheon and exhibition reflecting the myriad philatelic interests offered by Egypt and reflected in our members' wide-ranging collecting areas. After much discussion and a great deal of thought, it was agreed that we would meet on at the Victory Services Club on Friday May 7, 2010, the free day between the two days of Philatex Extra and the opening of London 2010 at Islington on May 8. More details are supplied in the enclosed leaflet, and it is hoped that as many members and partners will be able to attend as possible. Because the date clashes with our normal Annual General Meeting, it was proposed that for 2010 only the AGM should be brought forward to February.

The Treasurer announced that expenditure and income balanced almost precisely last year, and that without commission from the Auction the Circle would be struggling financially. He urged all 80 members who have yet to subscribe for 2009 to do so and reminded members that subscriptions were due on January 1.

John Sears handed out copies of the Auction 47 list, just completed, and John Davies noted that Sudan-related books and pamphlets left by our late Chairman Robin Bertram would come up for sale via the Sudan Study Group in August: a list will appear in the QC.

Edmund Hall noted a good response to his appeal for articles for the QC, but regretted that they largely came from the usual contributors, and announced exciting new changes for the website, including the first appearances of updates to Peter Smith's book, and. announced that further members' collections were in course of preparation, including the Concessionary period.

The Secretary then mentioned that parts of several more members' collections would shortly come up for auction: Hany Salam, Secretary of the PSE, will be disposing of his First Fuad material at Feldman (<http://www.davidfeldman.com/>) on April 29 (much of the material is available to view on Exponet:

www.japhila.cz/hof/0274/index0274a.htm); Alan Jeyes will provide Commemoratives, Air Mails, Hotels and Hotel labels at Grosvenor (<http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/>) on May 7; and in the same sale Keith Pogson will be saying farewell to some of the best Second Fuad collection in the world.

We then moved on to the meeting proper – Ten Sheets, in which the first to display was **Laurence Kimpton**, who showed several pages from his Cairo-Baghdad air service collection, including covers from an RAF proving flight from Baghdad in February 1919, an RAF emergency flight in the same year, and several covers from the 1922 RAF services to Persia and Basra.

Stanley Horesh showed a number of examples of postmarks on cover of the Austrian consular PO in Alexandria, and in particular the early Type II (*right*), and drew attention to the fact that many had no line between the date and the month although all catalogues shows a line. In another discrepancy, he finds that he has two examples of the “thimble” Type II-4 (*left*), which is invariably described as an obliterator only, used as arrival marks. He appeals to all members to examine their Austrian postmarks and to make records of the differences.



Brian Sedgley showed early postmarks, including Type VI, with Alexandria and Helouan standard but Roda providing a unique design, Type VII, used only in Alexandria, and several examples of the fascinating star and crescent Type X.

Mostafa el Dars explained his adventures in dealing with the Cairo Philatelic Bureau in trying to buy Post Office display sheets of full tear selections of recent stamp issues, - which included the final version of the controversial Bar Association issue, with four vignettes instead of five across the bottom line of the sheet - and asked the meeting: Should we really be collecting these sheets?

Paul Green put up an outstanding display of essays of essays ranging from 1867 to 1922, which included a 20p 1874 litho produced by Carlo Borani of Florence and 5m and 10m values of the Bradbury Wilkinson recess-printed essays of 1906 (sphinx and camel-train respectively), both of them overprinted SPECIMEN.

The advent of the short-lived first machine-canceller, the New Zealand Moss type, was introduced by **Dennis Clarke**, who showed early proof impressions and one of the very few known 50m covers recorded; he went on to explain how the “toughra” identifier, which should have changed immediately Farouk replaced Fuad, in fact continued for at least two years after 1936.

Samir Fikry opened with a warning against “versions” of both Farouk wedding stamps in “miniature sheets” showing vertical pairs of stamps manufactured by an Egyptian now living overseas and offered at \$2000 each. He went on to show copies of highlights from his stunning new Suez Canal collection, which will be exhibited this year in China and Germany. The included a Posta Europea Suez of 1863 to Saigon, one of three covers known with the Canal Zone 5c fro Suez (with four stamps), one of four covers fro Ras el Ech, an incoming cover to Kilometro 34, an Ismailia cover with a bold Canal Transit and Navigation logo in blue, and an astonishing cover sent from Sweden to the Count representing Stockholm at the opening of the Canal. Astonishingly, it arrived on the appropriate date!



The maritime markings of Port Said was the subject of **John Sears**, who noted that Pleine Mer marks reported recently on mint postal stationery (and bought at Stampex that very day by another member!) were of the right size and probably genuine, giving a clue that the handstamp might have been made of rubber. He showed late usage of the mark on a 1909 card, and noted that the date of introduction of the CDS was unknown – his latest straight-line marking is 31 MR 14.

Membership changes

New Members:

- ESC 635 Panayotis Cangelaris**, 14 Vas. Pavlou Street, GR-15452 Psychico, Greece
(Kingdom of Egypt, 1922-1953; and Scouts on Egyptian stamps)
- ESC 636 Joan Soriano**, 7 Knight Bruce Road, off Bishop Gaul Avenue, Milton Park, Harare, Zimbabwe (Postmarks and postal history, Hotels and TPOs)
- ESC 637 John Lowe**, 783 SE Binns Swiger Loop Road, Shelton, WA 95854, United States
(Early Egypt, Hotels, Royal printings)
- ESC 638 Khaled Moustafa**, 18A Selim el-Awal Street, El Zeitoun, Cairo, Egypt
(Postal stationery, Rural service, TPOs)

Resignations:

- ESC 611 Lisa Bartels**

Changes of interest

- ESC 584 Ahmed Abu Mousa** (Fuad First Portrait Issue, 1923-26; and worldwide Cinderellas and privately produced Souvenir Sheets for Philatelic Exhibitions and Stamp Shows)

Crown Overprint New Discovery

Mahmoud Ramadan (ESC 358)

Here is another opportunity for treasure hunters among collectors and dealers. So go look up your stocks.

Below is an image of a 1922 Crown Overprint 5 millièmes (pink) Type III control block of four with control B.22. This is a new certified discovery. It has never been listed in Zeheri, Balian's *Stamps of Egypt*, or Chalhoub's *Nile Post*. Nor was it mentioned in Peter Smith's *The Stamps and Postal History of Egypt*. And I know of no previous mention of it in *L'OP*, *QC* or any other publication.



To date this is the only example I know of, and hence it is so far “unique”. It is worthy of listing in specialised catalogues.

Stamps and Rates.

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

What is this? How did this interloper come to be in magazine dedicated to Egyptian philately? Does our Editor know no shame? It is the current Queen Elizabeth II definitive one-pound value, which some overseas members may recognise from their *QC* envelope. These stamps are affectionately known as Machins after their designer, Arnold Machin, and have been produced for over 40 years with an estimated 175 billion reproductions.



To celebrate the 40th (ruby) anniversary of the Machin definitive the £1 violet was replaced with a £1 ruby red. From February 2009 all 1st and 2nd class Machin definitives and higher-priced “make-up” values of 50p and £1 will be produced as self-adhesive stamps with enhanced security features including semi-circular slits and an iridescent overprint. Machin specialists acknowledge over 4,000 varieties with different values, originally in good old pounds shillings and pence, colour changes, gums and phosphor bands. It all makes Egyptian philately seem somewhat sedate.

But what is their relevance to us? Well, it all stems from a couple of years ago when I took stock of my collecting, have been retired a short while, with one of those self-promises of “sorting out my collection”. Now it was time to try to define what it was I was actually trying to do and to write up, in true erudite style, all those covers and stamps strewn haphazardly among albums and boxes.

My Egypt collecting had become somewhat moribund over preceding years, with my all-world twentieth century military taking precedence. This was due in part to the fact that the military was easier to write up in smaller parts and I had given two displays to local stamp clubs. But more to the point was that my Egypt had reached that inevitable stage where I was finding little new, or what I could find was beyond my price range. Retiring only lowered my buying capacity, and without the oxygen of new finds interest does wane.

So, with certain determination, a couple of years ago I set about, once and for all, to decide what my Egypt collection is really all about, what am I actually collecting meaningfully that could be written up. Of course it also meant deciding what was surplus and so could be discarded: the ESC Auction and eBay beckoned.

Much to my surprise, very little of it was in a worthwhile written-up form, that is, in the pages which had been prepared for supporting ESC meetings over the years, small sheet displays for local club competitions or as roughs awaiting the day that was about to dawn. Alas, the styles were different, sheet sizes different and, because they had been designed for small displays, they did not seem fit for a larger collection.

When I started collecting some 31 years ago my concept was to get each stamp in Gibbons and tick it off and find fun in mounting them all in an album. I soon alighted on Egypt, however, and by extension Sudan, almost by accident, and I thought its De La Rues, Fouads and Farouks quite attractive. Soon after, I joined the Sudan Study Group and the Egypt Study Circle and, having a liking for strange people, soon found myself at home in this world of philately - and discovered it was much more than ticking off from a list.

I recollect some 30 years ago, at an SSG meeting in Birmingham, Peter Smith waxing lyrical about this new find - but all I could see was that he was holding a piece of paper which appeared to be an envelope with a black smudge on it. I believe the words “intaglio seal” - whatever that might mean - were bounced about and I tried to appear to know what he was on about. Before too long I had been seduced into black smudges and my interest in postmarks was born, among other things philatelic.

Most of the Sudan material was dispensed with other than the DLR overprints, for which I have a particular liking, and the Egyptian stamps took second place to old envelopes and black smudges. I have never taken to watermarks or stamp varieties, though I can well appreciate the appeal, and my stamps had spent many years languishing in stockbooks so were an obvious candidate for disposal. Yes, they were all to go along with some essays, two sets of the First Issue, one including the 5pi on 10pi, two sets of Port Fouads etc.

My postmark collection was the next candidate, so made its way on to the disposal list as little more than a bit of this and a bit of that and not a collection of any coherence without quite a few additions, which were now beyond my reach. The Gaza/Sinai was something beyond a starter collection, but had certainly been in

the doldrums as I either had it, had never seen it or can't afford it – how many Turkish WWI covers from Gaza do I need to illustrate the point. This, then, became another section that could be dispensed with.

What did that leave, then? Well, not much - only my Egyptian military, which of course consisted of material that some would not even consider Egyptian. I had recently purchased some interesting and elusive covers which had reawakened my interest in the subject and even without further additions made a worthwhile subject fairly coherent and comprehensive to write up. This was to have been the basis of my talk at the January meeting – but that has now been postponed till sometime later.

So I sat down to go through the stamps - only to have my heart strings plucked, and I decided to keep just the definitive issues; I simply could not part with these old friends. Then, as I gazed at a rather attractive cover, the thought struck me that some of these could be incorporated into the definitive stamp collection, illustrating the use of the stamps and the postage rates to which they applied. My interest had been aroused in stamps and their rates on our visit to Egypt a few years ago. In the PSE rooms we were wheeling and dealing when one of our members reached across me and picked up with glee a not-too-clean cover with an innocuous Boy King stamp and exclaimed: "Look! En ville!" I believe the culprit knows who he is.

Now I realised that some stamps on cover are hard to find, and in some cases very expensive, so the potential collection had to be refined somehow to exclude these. The idea was born to start from the twentieth century – an idea that has now extended back to the introduction of millièmes on stamps - and to stick to the basic rates which had defined stamps among the definitives for that specific purpose; and where none existed, stamp combinations that did. It did of course prompt the questions: what is a basic rate, and what were the stamps for that purpose? It did exclude the tangled web that is airmail rates until the 1960s, but does call into question which stamps are definitives. But more of that anon.

Peter Smith in his book (page 151) covers the uses of the First Issue, showing how the values were selected according to the postal rates in use at the time. On page 173 he does the same for the 1867 issue, on page 208 the Third Issue and the Fourth on pages 228, 241 and 242. The pictorials are well covered on pages 264-266. From then on only passing mention is made of intended use and post-monarchy issue are covered in a few pages. This is not meant to be a criticism, as this splendid work and covers so much that, it comes off my bookshelf nearly every day - other than when it lives on the dining room table for several days at a time.

My initial thought was that it would not take long to marry up the stamps and the postal rates and to determine the thinking behind the Egyptian Post Office in the value of the stamps it issued. Another attraction of this line of collecting was that it could finally provide that holy grail of collecting: fairly plentiful and affordable. Remember, this is only the basic rates.

Naturally, it soon became apparent that my thinking was somewhat in error. Postal rates are fairly well documented up to the Sixties and are not quite so certain thereafter but examining quite a few covers actually casts some doubt on dates and timings of postal change. There seems to be lack of logic in the value of the stamps issued: at one point a stamp is seemingly issued to fulfil a rate, but when the rate changes no further stamps are issued for the purpose. At other times rates are increased without a stamp to match, only for a stamp to be issued later, and then for the rate to be changed soon after. At some times, astonishingly, there is no definitive to pay the standard inland letter rate.

To say the least, to untangle the issue of stamps and their intended purpose has been more difficult than first envisaged, especially post-Revolution. As for the notion that the covers/cards should be plentiful, some stamps that are common used and catalogued at pence I simply cannot find on cover serving what I consider its intended use. This makes the whole business even more intriguing, so what started off as a simple exercise, an excuse to keep my definitive stamps, has turned into a fascinating study that seemed to be well received when I gave my findings at the January meeting last year.

The whole exercise prompts the question: was a stamp issued to fulfil a designated purpose, or could it be that a set of stamps is simply issued with some rational progression, so that by chance some will match a postal rate or that the postal rates are then chosen to match the stamps. One potentially logical series could be based on a binary (twos) system, although I have never seen one, so that the stamps would be valued 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 etc. Our numerical thinking, however, is wedded to the base ten as it matches the number of digits on two hands. So the instinct is to start counting in ones, then fives, tens and then using intervals based

on tens and multiples of tens. Most of the earlier definitives are of this nature, the 1914 Pictorials and the 1923 First Fouads are good examples. Later issues waver between trying to keep to this pattern and fulfilling a particular rate, but without any consistency from set to set. Of course a set should not have too many stamps: it could represent nearly every value, like the 1933 Air set.

So how is one to determine which is which? Which came first – the stamp or the rate? This is easy to decide in some cases, for instance the 13 millièmes Second Fuad of 1932, we can safely assume, was issued for foreign

destination postcards. The 6 millièmes Boy King (Oct 20 1940) was issued for the inland standard letter rate, some three months after the rate had been increased, this being the first time the rate did not have a current definitive. Neither of these stamps bears any relation to the tens system.

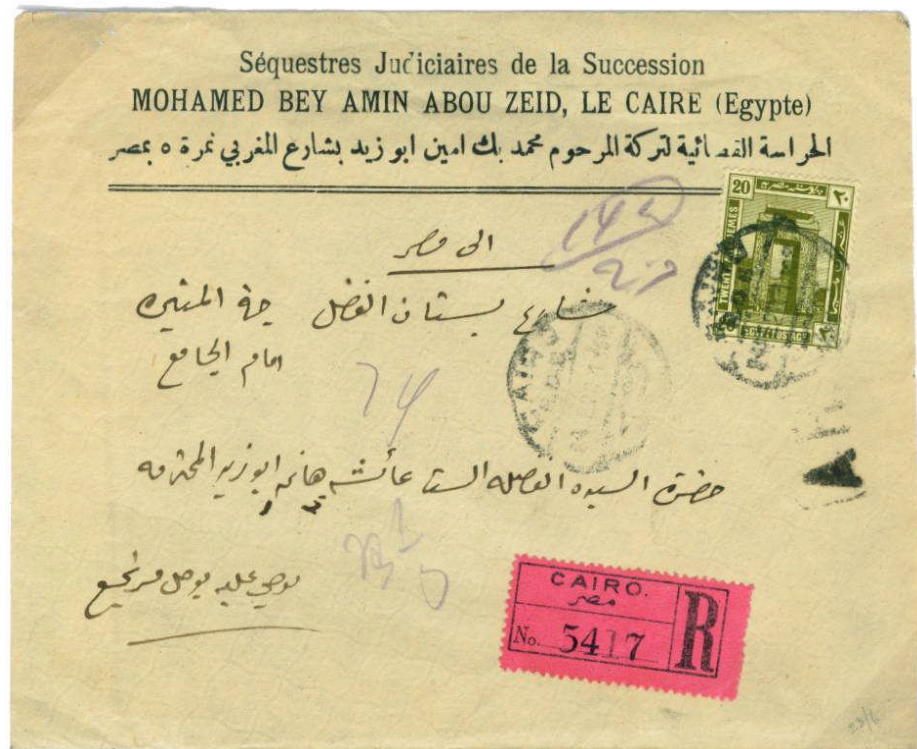
The 15 millièmes Pictorial (1922) does fit neatly into such a system, but we can assume that it was produced for the overseas letter rate to match the 1921 rate increase. But why was it not introduced for the inland registered letter rate in 1920? The 20 millièmes of the same issue - was this just a convenient value, or was it deliberate, paying either the avis reception rate or external registered letter rate (*see Figs. 1, above, and 2*). When the external registration rate went up to 30 millièmes, however, no stamp was issued to match (*Fig.3*). It does demonstrate that it is not always easy to see the reason behind a stamp issue.

So where do the Machins come in? Well, they are a fine example of how stamps are issued to satisfy particular postage rates. Currently the bright blue 27p is the 2nd Class UK basic letter rate, 48p rhododendron the worldwide surface postcard and 20g letter and the red/ultramarine £1.22 the worldwide airmail up to 40g, among others. The Royal Mail designates stamps of lower value than 27p as “make up value” and provides some specifically for this purpose, such as the orange 9p, to make up from basic letter rate second class to basic letter rate first class. The high value stamps, £1.50 to £5, are also classed as make-up value and clearly revert to fitting a “tens” progression.

The term “make up value” is interesting. I have defined a stamp issue as including makeweights (the lower values were often too small for the lowest rate) and heavyweights (values above my chosen basic rates). For example, in the Farouk “Marechal” stamps of 1944 those below 4 millièmes are makeweights, the 4 being used to pay printed matter rates. The 100 millièmes and above are heavyweights, being found only on overweight airmail or parcel cards, while the 50 millièmes paid inland with Avis de Reception. By this definition the high values, rarely seen on cover and often expensive, are not required to find a space in my collection.

In the last *QC* I had an article on one single stamp and its relation to rates, and my intension over time is to write more in a similar vein. They may not be an in-depth study, perhaps just amusing, possibly giving some insight into Egyptian philately or just an excuse to show off what I think is an attractive cover. I hope that some of you will likewise be entertained by this intriguing facet of our hobby.

As to the stamps and covers for disposal? Look, I just don't have time for that what with sorting out the stamps and rates, doing the *QC* and website and my other interests ... they can languish a little longer, and no doubt my widow or children my well curse the day that I chanced across this topic with the thought: “What



do we do with all this old junk? Do you think the charity shops might want them; or do we just take these boxes of old tatty envelopes down the tip?"



Fig.2 - 20 millièmes external registration rate up to April 1921.



Fig.3 - 25 millièmes concession to the UK and empire from April 1921, elsewhere the external registration rate increased to 30 millièmes.

Unlisted Constant Varieties of the Harrison 1921 Pictorials (1, 2, 4 & 10 Millièmes)

Mahmoud Ramadan (ESC 358)

During the course of conducting a plating study on the 1922 Crown Overprint I have come across several constant unlisted varieties of the underlying Harrison 1921 Pictorials. That is why the provided images are from overprinted stamps.

I know that several more exist, awaiting discovery and documentation. For the time being, I can confirm that the varieties described below are constant in the given sheet-position and control-numbers. Stamps are numbered from 1 [top left] to 100 for upper pane positions, and 101 to 200 for lower pane positions.

1)	2 mills, vermilion: The varieties below are constant for the given sheet-positions, but control numbers are not confirmed yet; they are expected to be constant for all control numbers.
a.	Position 74 – The outer frame is broken at the SE corner.
b.	Position 83 – A white dash appears at the SW corner of the design vignette.



a.



b.



2)	4 mills, green: The varieties illustrated are constant in sheets with Control B.23 and recur consistently on all my collection's other panes and positional blocks which are, unfortunately, without control numbers. So consistency for other control numbers is most probably true, but still needs to be confirmed.
a.	Position 51 – A green stroke connects the NW value-square with the top of the left tablet.
b.	Position 68 – The SE value-square thick and thin square frames are connected by a green stroke, at top-centre.
c.	Position 111 – A green dot connecting the inner design vignette frame with the top horizontal shading line more or less below “ <i>sin</i> ” of the right Arabic word “ <i>postah</i> ”.
d.	Position 148 – The left vertical of the outer frame is broken between LL of MILLIEMES. This break also affects the left tablet in the same location.
e.	Position 161 – There is a white dash in the upper tablet below the “ <i>teh</i> ” of the right Arabic word “ <i>postah</i> ”.



a.



b.



c.



d.



e.

An alert: The 1921 Harrison Pictorials are infested with printing flaws. But many are quite irregular (non-constant) and/or progressive, particularly those with white patches. When buying, beware of surface-scratching. All the above-listed are constant flaws that have been consistently found in the indicated sheet positions.

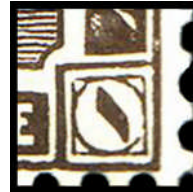
3)	1 mill, sepia: The varieties illustrated below are constant in sheets with all the known controls, A.20, A.22 and A.23.
a.	Position 70 – The NE value-square has a crack in the left vertical of the thick frame. [Position 70 is two stamps above position 90 with the well known broken frame, and the variety is in the same value-square].
b.	Position 110 – Both the NE and SE value-squares have the inner circle, surrounding the numerical value, deformed. [Again the NE is the same value-square with varieties in positions 70 and 90].
c.	Position 163 – The outer frame is broken at the SE corner. It appears as a triangle rather than a sharp corner.



a.



b.

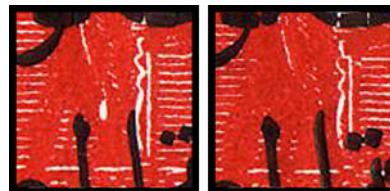


c.

4)	10 mills, red: The varieties illustrated are constant in sheets with the only known control, B.23. [varieties “c” and “d” still need further confirmation. Can you help???].
a.	Position 86 – White flaw in the upper tablet above “ <i>mim</i> ” of the Arabic left word “ <i>masriyah</i> ”.
b.	Position 91 – A white hole in the base of the larger statue.
c.	Position 96 – The SW value-square broken???
d.	Position 97 – The NE value-square has the 1 of the numerical value redrawn???
e.	Position 140 – The SW corner of the inner vignette frame is broken.
f.	Position 149 – The NW value-square has a red dot left of 1 of the 10.
g.	Position 162 – White dot in the upper tablet above “ <i>reh</i> ” of the Arabic left word “ <i>masriyah</i> ” [making it read “ <i>masaziyah</i> ”].



a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



f.



g.

The above information is published in the sincere hope that it can revive or trigger new interest in plating research. The listing of new varieties adds philatelic knowledge and value to our collections. I am very much interested in communicating with other “Pictorial” collectors. Please feel free to contact me at m.ramadan@medmarkcom.com.eg

Yankee Clipper's Return and TWA's First Flight

Pierre Louis Grech (ESC 266)

In *QC 224*, page 14 (*1939 U.S.A. to Egypt by Pan American Airways KLM*), Lucien Toutounji described a fascinating Pan Am first flight cover from New York to Marseilles by *Yankee Clipper*, which went on to Cairo via KLM.

He indicated that fewer than five covers are known flown to Egypt, and none on the return flight.

It was of particular interest to me because for some years I have had a cover from Marseilles to New York, flown on the return leg of *Yankee Clipper's* First Flight (shown below). This should fill-in part of the story since it is unlikely that a **commemorative** cover from Cairo to New York will be found.

As the flight did not originate from Egypt there would be no Egyptian cachet, and any letter from Egypt which travelled on that flight would do so "anonymously", since the mail bags would certainly not be opened at Marseilles simply to apply *Yankee Clipper's* return flight commemorative cachet.

Briefly: having left New York's Port Washington on 20 May 1939, and arrived at Marseilles on the 22nd, PAA *Yankee Clipper* NC 18603 took off for the return flight on 24 May, arriving New York May 27th. It was the same crew, led by Captain A.E. LaPorte.

This Boeing model 314 service to Marseilles was short-lived, however, being suspended in October 1939 because of the war in Europe. Thereafter the aircraft went only as far as Lisbon, where on 22 February 1943 *Yankee Clipper* sank in the River Tagus, as mentioned in Mr Toutounji's article.

In 1988 the U.S. Post Office issued an attractive airmail printed-stationery card (40c.) illustrating *Yankee Clipper*.



24 May 1939 – *First Flight France to USA, with commemorative boxed red cachet "1^{er} Service Postal Aérien, France-Etats Unis" showing a plane flying towards the Statue of Liberty. Cover addressed to New York, postmarked Marseilles Gare-Avion, franked 12.25 Francs: 2.25 F for letter up to 20 grams (UPU rate of 1 Dec. 1938), plus 10 F airmail surcharge per 10 grams (rate of 13 May 1939). New York arrival backstamp dated 27 May.*

Regarding flights between Egypt and the USA, John Sears, in his book *The Airmails of Egypt*, page 93, shows a 1942 Pan Am First Transatlantic Airmail cover from Cairo to Pennsylvania during World War II. Mr Sears indicates that no official documents are known confirming this service, which may have operated

until 1944. It seems the mail took from 21 days to six weeks, going through West Africa, then onwards to Miami, Florida. There is no mention of a reverse route.

It is only after the War, in 1946, that TWA (Trans World Airlines) began a direct service from the USA to Egypt, flying from Washington to Cairo. A First Flight cover to Ismailia, dated Washington 31 March 1946 and bearing the special commemorative oval cachet, is illustrated below. It was sent by Ernest A. Kehr to Jean Boulad (d'Humières), both famous collectors of Egypt.

This cover was accompanied by a newspaper cutting dated 4 April 1946, describing the arrival of that flight in Cairo and the resulting ceremonies held the following day. Having taken off from Washington at 5am local time on the 1st of April, the plane landed at 20.10 on Tuesday 2nd April at Payne Field Camp, near Heliopolis (that airfield would become Cairo's international airport). The plane stopped over in Paris, Rome and Athens, completing the trip in 39 hours. At an official ceremony before its departure from Washington the aircraft was baptised *Sphinx*.

More ceremonies were held in Cairo on the 3rd, in front of a large crowd. Attending consuls, ministers and officials visited the aircraft which was "equipped with all modern comforts". After an exceptional buffet, the dignitaries were "taken for a spin", the *Sphinx* flying them over Cairo and the Pyramids.



31 March 1946 – TWA First Flight cover from Washington to Cairo (left on 1st April) on the extension of Foreign Airmail Route 27 (F.A.M. 27).
Backstamps: Cairo Foreign Traffic, 3rd; Ismailia arrival on 4th April.

In addition to passengers and mail bags, the flight from Washington also carried a consignment of various seeds, offered to King Farouk by the US Department of Agriculture, for potential implantation in Egypt. The newspaper article concludes by reporting that TWA's bi-weekly service to the USA would begin with the return flight that very day, 4 April 1946 (which is one week earlier than the date of 11 April mentioned in *The Airmails of Egypt*, page 101, for that service).

I am unable to comment on the scarcity of the TWA first flight covers from the USA to Egypt, but as for the return journey, *The Airmails of Egypt* indicates that first flight covers towards the USA are common.

Although the top of the commemorative cachet shows an aeroplane with three tail-fins (like the Lockheed Constellation, which had inaugurated the Washington-Paris service in February 1946), the aircraft which flew to Cairo was actually an improved Douglas DC-4 (C-54) Skymaster, with a single tail fin (US military war surplus, refurbished by TWA). Note that the first prototype of the DC-4, the DC-4E, introduced in 1938, had triple tail-fins, later reduced to one. It was replaced by its military version, the C-54, in World War II.

Query 53. CAIRO P.O. GOVCOUNTER. Anton Jansen (ESC 383)

Can anyone give any information on this postmark? The cover illustrated is dated 12-6-70



Query 56. Heliopolis earliest date. Hani Sharestan (ESC 595)

I have a 4m postal stationary card with Heliopolis CDS type HEL 1 (according to Vahe Varjabedian's list in *QC* 197), with a date of 10 VIII 09, or August 10, 1909. Mr Varjabedian shows an earliest date of 15 9 09 (September 15 1909). I am curious to know if anybody has an earlier date? The article does not list a latest date for this postmark: I have 3 other postcards with similar CDS, the latest being December 2, 1909. Any feedback is appreciated.



Query 57. 10 mils 1926 Oxen overprint. Hani Sharestan (ESC 595)

I purchased this stamp recently at a local stamp show. I noticed that there was a faint double overprint of the "10" as shown in the scan, plus one other small black mark positioned where the tip of the "S" doubled overprint might be placed. This is not listed by either *Nile Post* or *Balian*. Has anybody seen this error before? Any feedback is appreciated.



Barcode Registration Labels

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Both as Secretary and personally I receive a fair number of pieces of mail from Egypt: they form a constant source of fascination. As the country's postal services move more and more towards mechanisation, I have noticed an intriguing development in the last two years – to allow tracking of Registered material, Egypt Post has phased out the old familiar red-on-white or black-on-white Registration labels and started using instead black on white sticky labels supplied with a barcode for computer reading as well as notifying the despatching office's postcode.



Fig. 1 - Cover from Cairo Main 11511 franked with stamps from the 1991 booklet. Note that XEG at the end of the barcode is amended to OEG

I have examples on cover of labels from 19 different offices, and half a dozen “mute” barcode labels without post office name, ranging from the early part of 2007 to date. All are horizontally rectangular, with rounded corners, 50mm wide and 25mm deep, printed in black on white in three lines – first the barcode, then what I presume is a “translation” of the barcode, starting with RR, then nine figures, and then EG, presumably the

code for Egypt. In many cases there are only eight figures, followed by XEG; and most of those have been pen-altered to “OEG”. The third line provides the name of the issuing office, a hyphen, and then the postcode. No part of the label is in Arabic lettering. In the case of the “mute” examples this third line of text is omitted. I would expect that the RR-line numbers follow in sequence, but the difficulties of reading other postmarks on the covers sometimes means that continuity is not clear

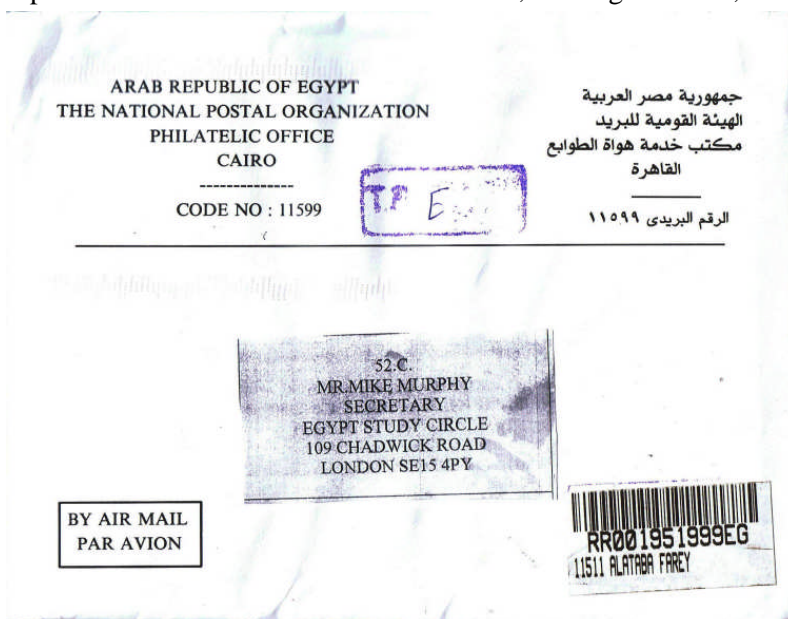


Fig. 2 - 11511 postcode again, on new-style Alataba Farey, from the Philatelic Bureau: not treated as Registered

There are two clear exceptions to this general rule – those of El Manshia, the Alexandria suburb, used on 18.8.2008, and Alataba Farey (Al Ataba Branch, Cairo, left) used in mid-2008. Both labels have square corners, the RR-line stands directly under the barcode, and, unlike all others sighted, the postcodes (21528 and

11511 respectively) come first on the third line. El Manshia office name is in capitals and lower-case instead of the usual capitals. In the case of Ataba Branch the figures are grouped as RR00 195 and 1999EG. In another variant, a cover from Cairo dated 6.2.08 bears a four-figure “postcode” – 1530 – instead of the usual five figures (Cairo Main office is 11511). What is this number?

Also interesting is the astonishing variety in use of English language on labels with the same postcode. “Heliopolis”, for instance, is variously rendered as Heleopoles, Heleopolis and Hilupolis; and Heliopolis Main office as Heliopolis Elraeisi and Helioples Elraeisy. For Mohandessin we find El Mohandeseen, Elmohandsien, El Mohandssen, Almohandsen and Al Mohandisin. The word “raisy” is often used to indicate “main”, but the three labels from Cairo main office are variously Cairo Main, Elcahera Elraesie and El Kahera El Raesy. So it appears that perhaps designations are not centrally controlled but locally applied. Sometimes the same lettering is used, but with a different typeface.

Many other questions remain to be answered. May, for instance, the

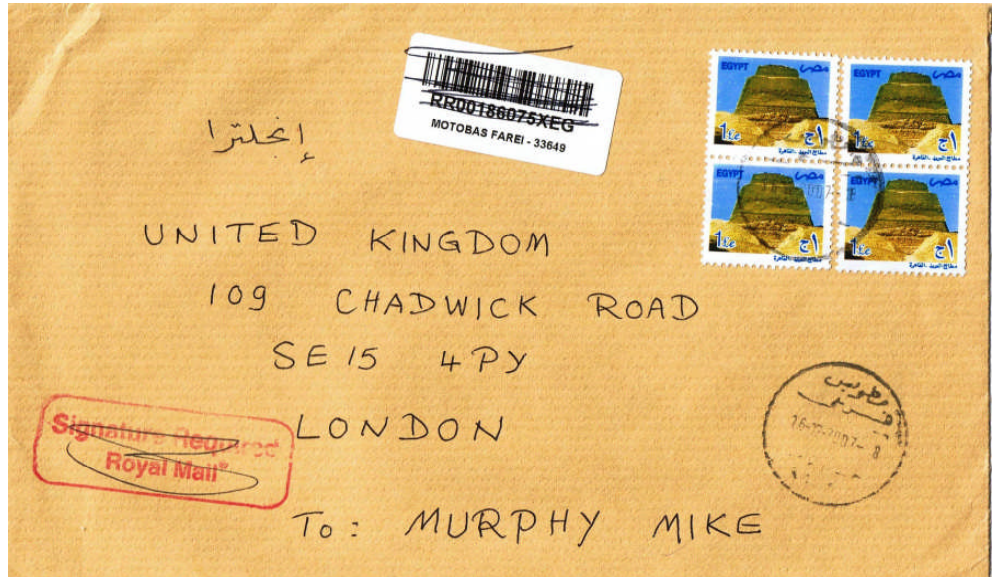


Fig. 3 – Cover from Mitubis Branch; Registration details obliterated by hand

“mute” labels have been early, intended to be superseded by the town-name series? Are Alataba Farey and El Manshia forerunners of a new series with new shape and configuration? Does the fact that so many RR-lines end in “XEG”, later amended by hand to “OEG”, indicate an error in printing? Or in understanding? Why were 20 of the 52 “XEG” lines NOT amended by hand? Where were the labels attached (in one example one of the stamps overlies the label)?

Perhaps as important, what is the message that these labels are intended to convey? Several of those arriving at my door have the barcode-label scribbled through, and in many cases the British “Signature Required” red label or handstamp is also obliterated by pen. In 11 cases out of 65 no red label or handstamp was attached at

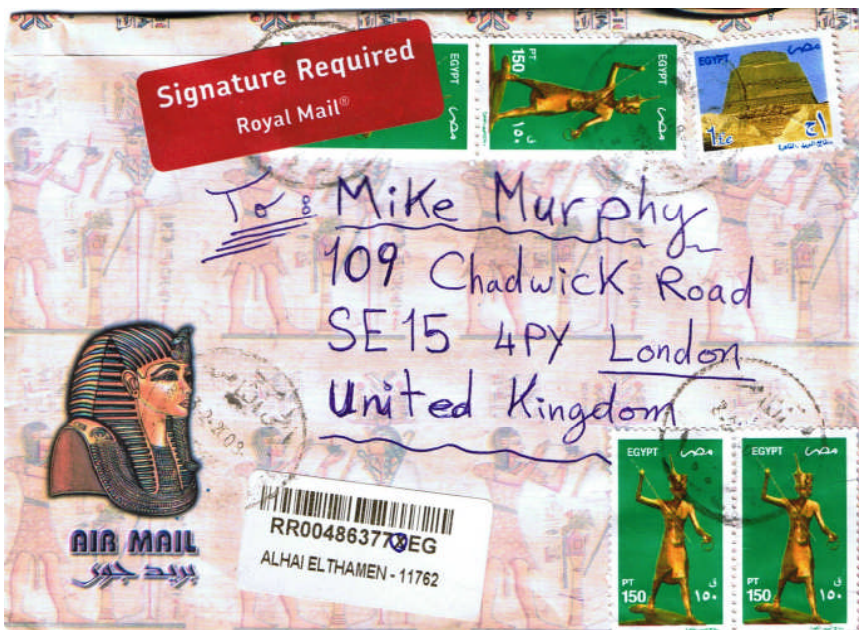


Fig. 4 – Cover from Al Hai al Thamen, a district of Medinet Nasr

all. Does this merely mean that my local postman cannot be bothered to seek a signature, or that someone more senior in the Post Office does not recognise these covers, on which local Egyptian registration has been paid, as Registered?

There is clearly much to consider here, and the list that follows is no more than a first toe in the water. I should be grateful if all members would be kind enough to send me (or better still, if a volunteer would come forward to take up this study!) scans or photocopies of similar covers so that we can make more sense out of what is so far only a serendipity classification.

Town/label/postcode	Date range	Barcode range (* indicates X amended)	Number altered by hand	Regist on arrival
Al Ataba Branch (Cairo) 11511 Alataba Farey	2008	RR00 195 1999EG		0/1
Alexandria Main Alx.-El Raesye – 21519	2007	RR0000343070EG		0/1
Cairo Main Cairo Main – 11511	22.6.2007?	RR00557316XEG*	1/1	1/1
Elcahera Elraesie – 11511	30.12.2007	RR00340531XEG	0/1	0/1
El Kahera El Raesy – 1530	6.2.08	RR00466456XEG	0/1	0/1
Damietta Demyat – 34511	2008	RR000061905EG		1/1
Ezbet el Lahm (Damietta) Ezbet Ellahm – 34734	9.3.08	RR00227299XEG*	1/1	1/1
Azbet Ellahm – 34734	26.7.08	RR00395695XEG*	1/1	1/1
Giza Main First Giza – 12511	2008	RR0063543XEG*	1/1	0/1
Heliopolis Heleopoles – 11777	23.6.08-11.9.08	RR00498940XEG* to RR00500646XEG*	6/6	5/6
Heliopolis Main Helioples Elraesye – 11757	24.5.07-11.9.07	RR000059622EG to RR000061131EG	0/6	3/6
Heliopolis Elraeisi – 11757	17.11.07-9.4.08	RR00214729XEG to RR00219325XEG*	6/10	9/10
Heliopolis West Heleopolis Garp – 11771	9.2.2008	RR00295066XEG*	1/1	1/1
Hilupolis Gharb – 11771	30.7.2008	RR00604466XEG	0/1	9/1
Manshia (Alexandria) 21528 El Manshia	18.6.2008	RR000668280EG		1/1
Medinet Nasr (Cairo) Elhay Elthamen – 11762	6.10.07-27.12.07	RR000016569EG to RR00370724XEG	0/2	0/2
Alhai Elthamen – 11762	23.2.08-23.6.08	RR00486377XEG* to RR00487963XEG*	2/2	1/2
Mitubis Mtoubs – 33625	16.2.08-30.3.08	RR00183789XEG* to RR00183828XEG*	2/2	2/2
Mitubis Branch Motobas Farei – 33649	16.12.07-5.3.08	RR00186075XEG* to RR00186105XEG*	3/3	2/3
Mohandessin (Cairo) Elmohandsien – 12655	16.1.07-15.12.07	RR00354628XEG to RR00354910XEG	0/2	1/2
El Mohandssen – 12655	31.5.07-31.5.07	RR000056149EG to RR000056150EG		2/2
El Mohandeseen – 12655	5.9.07-29.10.07	RR00143871XEG to RR00144433XEG	0/3	0/3
Almohandsen – 12655	6.3.07-25.3.08	RR00457890XEG* to RR00458195XEG*	2/2	2/2
Al Mohandisin – 12655	21.8.08	RR00601255XEG*	1/1	1/1
Ramleh Station Mahatit Al Raml – 21563	27.7.08	RR00626097XEG*	1/1	1/1
Sidi Gaber Sidy Gaber – 21523	23.6.07-27.10.07	RR000009183EG to RR000009409EG		2/3
Shubra (Cairo) Dwaran Shoupra – 11689	28.7.2008	RR00550534XEG*	1/1	1/1
Tenth of Ramadan City Elasher Men Ramadan Awal – 44629	21.6.08-13.8.08	RR00223928XEG* to RR00223981XEG*	2/2	1/2
Mute From Heliopolis	24.3.08	RR10800406XEG*	1/1	1/1
From Heliopolis West	23.1.07-6.8.07	RR007300027EG to RR007801236EG		2/2
From Cairo	26.12.07	RR003400427EG		1/1
From Manchiet Bakri	9.3.08-26.7.08	RR009000576EG to RR009000739EG		2/2

 RR001951999EG 11511 ALATABA FAREY	 RR000034070EG ALX-ELRAESYB-21519	 RR00557316XEG CAIRO MAIN - 11511
 RR00340531XEG ELCAHERA ELRAESIE - 11511	 RR00466456XEG EL KAHERA EL RAESY - 1530	 RR000061905EG DEMYAT-34511
 RR00227299XEG EZBET ELLAHM - 34734	 RR00395695XEG AZBET ELLAHM - 34734	 RR00635453XEG FIRST GIZA - 12511
 RR00498940XEG HELEOPOLES - 11777	 RR000059622EG HELIOPLES ELRAEESY- 11777	 RR00217387XEG HELIOPOLIS ELRAEISI - 11757
 RR00295066XEG HELEOPOLIS GARP - 11771	 RR00604466XEG HILUPOLIS GHARB - 11771	 RR000668280EG 21528 EL Manshia
 RR00370724XEG ELHAY ELTHAMEN - 11762	 RR00487963XEG AL HAI ALTHAMEN - 11762	 RR00183789XEG MTOUBS - 33625
 RR00186100XEG MOTOBAS FAREI - 33649	 RR00354910XEG ELMOHANDSIEN - 12655	 RR000056150EG EL MOHANDSSEN-12655
 RR00143871XEG EL MOHANDSEEN - 12655	 RR00458195XEG ALMOHANDSEN - 12655	 RR00601255XEG AL MOHANDISIN - 12655
 RR00626097XEG MAHATIT AL RAML - 21563	 RR000009388EG SIDY GABER- 21523	 RR00550534XEG DWARAN SHOUPRA - 11689
 RR00223981XEG ELASHER MEN RAMADAN AWAL - 44629	 RR003400427EG	 RR000012288EG BANORAMA OCTOBER-11811

Fig. 5 - Full list of recorded labels, with one of the "mute" types (centre, bottom row); and Banorama October, used 15.12.07 to France (no further details known)

Obituary: John EO Hobbs, FRPSL

Richard Wheatley (ESC168)

Another one of the fine old collectors of Egypt has passed away. John died in Worthing hospital on January 4 at the age of 84.

During the war John had served with the RAF in Burma, after which he went into banking until he took early retirement. Then with his Swiss-born wife Margaret they ran the Sea Lodge guest house in Worthing. It is from that time that I particularly remember them both, for my family and I stayed with them prior to my marriage. He used to infuriate his neighbouring sea-front hoteliers in the high season by putting up the "No Vacancies" sign and taking a few days off!



He wrote many articles for philatelic journals, culminating in 1970 with his first book, *Postal Services of the British Forces in Egypt 1931-1940*. After that he dabbled in exhibiting, gaining Vermeil awards at Stockholm and Munich. His second edition *British Forces in Egypt Postal Service 1932-1940*, followed in 1984, by which time he had disposed of his extensive collection of this material.

His remaining years were spent serving his local community. He was heavily involved in the Royal British Legion, the Burma Star Association and the Royal Air Force Association. The local stamp and postal history societies benefited from his membership and enthusiasm, to whom, along with "third age" groups, he gave many an entertaining talk.

John was an affable character and will be remembered, along with his wife Margaret who predeceased him, for enriching the lives of others with whom he came into contact.

Editor's note.

I last saw John about 18 months ago when, with two other members of the Forces Postal History Society, we gave a display to the French and Colonies Society in Worthing. While not at the meeting he appeared in full gusto at the pub where we were having lunch and only after a flirtatious encounter with the pretty young barmaid, who was obviously used to such exchanges, did he deign to sit with the "older" stamp people. He quickly entered into the stamp talk, giving us the benefit of his immense store of philatelic knowledge on a couple of points we were agonising over. Many among Circle members will have, and will have greatly benefited from, his book on the Army Seals and Letter Stamps which is his lasting legacy to us.

Editorial

Grateful thanks to those members who responded to my "blank" page in the last *QC*, and I felt obliged to say at the last meeting that this article drew the greatest response to anything published in the magazine for some considerable time. I further added that I felt that although it was highly popular I may not be in a position to repeat it for at least the next couple of *QCs* on account of the – almost – torrent of articles it produced. I thank those who responded. However, on some reflection I realised that they were from the usual culprits: sorry, I mean contributors, so for any of you who have not yet obtained culprit status now is a good time to start thinking about it. That's not to say that those who are already culprits should rest on their laurels! I now have a little surplus material, including one good meaty article and another very interestingly posed question on more classic material.

The June *QC* is therefore well over halfway full - but that other half still looks remarkably like the empty page in the December *QC*. And what about future *QCs*, for the rest of this year and onwards?

Well, that rests in your hands rather than mine....

Egypt Postal Stationery Cards Concordance

Richard Wheatley (ESC168)

Some time ago I realised that the numbering of postal stationery cards differed in the various catalogues. Not only that, but the method by which they conveyed the value was also different. So I have listed each of the four publications: Higgins & Gage (H&G), Balian, Smith and *The Nile Post*. The numbering really starts to drift with the Pictorial series. As one would expect with such a large gap between the original Higgins & Gage catalogue of 1966 and the three more recent publications, *Nile Post* being 2003, the valuations are all over the place!

		H&G (US\$)			Balian (£LE)			Smith (points)			Nile Post (US\$)		
		M	U		M	U		M	U		M	U	
		No.			No.			No.			No.		
Sphinx & Pyramid													
1879-84	20 para brown	1	0.25	1	1	10	15	1	4	7	1	15	10
	20pa+20pa	2	1	7.50	2	25	75	2	10	30	2	6	12
1888	5 mills carmine	3	0.25	0.50	3	9	18	3	3	6	3	3	1
	5m+5m	4	0.60	4.50	4	18	60	4	6	20	4	8	12
1891	3m on 5m surcharge	5	0.30	0.60	5	12	18	5	4	6	5	4	8
	surcharge inverted	5a	130	175	5d	150	300				5a	100	175
	2 nd 3 inverted	5b	75		5d	150	300				5c	125	
	3m on 5m+3m on 5m	6	0.50	5	6	24	75	6	8	25	6	7	12
	2 nd 3 inverted	6a	100								6b	175	
1894	3m violet	7	0.30	0.50	7	10	10	7	3	3	7	6	8
	3m+3m	8	0.50	4	8	18	60	8	6	20	8	10	15
1899	4m on 5m surcharge	9	0.75	0.75	9	20	20	9	6	6	9	6	8
	4m on 5m+4m on 5m	10	1	5	10	36	90	10	12	30	10	15	20
	4m carmine	11	0.50	0.75	11	510	150	11	25	15	11	25	10
1907	2m on 3m surcharge	12	2.50	1.50	12	45	45	12	15	15	12	10	10
	2m on 3m+2m on 3m	13	4	5	13	60	150	13	20	50	13	20	30
1907/1	2m green	14	2.50	1.25	14	45	30	14	15	10	14	15	10
	2m+2m	15	5	5	15	75	510	15	25	50	15	50	100
1908	4m red (+border)	16	5	3.50	16	500	80	16	200	15	16	200	25
	4m+4m	17	8	8	17	500	340	17	70	80	17	75	100
1909	4m red (±line)	18	2.50	1	18	60	30	18	18	8	18	10	8
	4m+4m	19	5	5	19	90	210	19	30	40	19	20	50
Pictorial													
1913	2m green Cleopatra	20	5	5	20	60	60	20	20	20	20	15	15
	4m red Pyramid	21	5	2	22	75	90	22	25	30	21	20	20
	2m+2m Cleopatra	22	10	10	21	115	450	21	35	40	22	30	200
	4m+4m Pyramid	23	10	10	23	120	620	23	40	60	23	35	200
1916	3m on 2m surcharge	24	50	35	24	350	100	24	150	100	24	125	80
1917	3m orange Ras el Tin	25	1.50	0.50	25	30	15	25	10	5	25	6	4
	3m+3m	26	4	4	27	100	675	26	30	40	26	20	250
1923	10m carmine Colossi	27	17.50	10	28	180	120	27	60	40	27	40	25
Sphinx													
1928	4m red +bars message	28	35	25	30a	675	875	28I	200	200	28	200	300
.	4m +bars response	28A	35	25	30b	675	875	28II	200	200	28a	200	300
.	4m +bars message	29	25	20	31a	675	875	29I	200	200	29	200	300
	4m +bars response	29B	25	20	31b	675	875	29II	200	200	29a	200	300
Pictorial													
1930	10m carmine Colossi	30	12.50	5	29	600	600	32	200	150	31	300	200
	3m orange Harrison				26	600	500	30	150	100	30	150	100
1931	3m dk gn Ras el Tin	31	10	5	32	75	30	31	25	10	32	25	40

	3m orange 2 bars message	32	25	10	33	1000	1000	33I	R	R	33	300	
	3m 2 bars response	32A	25	10	34	1000	1000	33II	R	R	33a	300	
Fuad													
1932/5	3m green	33	12.50	7.50	35	150	75	34	50	25	34	30	16
	13m red	34	10	5	37	150	60	35	50	25	35	25	12
	3m brown	35	12.50	7.50	36	120	60	36	40	20	36	30	16
Farouk (Boy King)													
1939	3m brown	36	12.50	10	38	180	90	37	60	30	37	30	20
	4m grey/green	37	10	7.50	39	60	45	39	30	15	38	25	8
	6m green	38	10	6	40	120	90	40	40	30	39	25	20
	13m carmine	39	10	5	41	125	125	38	40	40	40	25	15
Farouk (Marechal)													
1946	6m green	40	12.50	8	42	120	75	41	40	25	41	25	12
	13m carmine	41	7.50	5	43	120	105	42	40	25	42	35	16
Tourist (25 different views)													
1954	6m violet	42	3	3	44a	55	150	43	30	30	43	20	35
	6m brown	43	3	3	44b	55	150	43	30	30	44	25	50
	6m blue	44	3	3	44c	55	150	43	30	30	45	25	50
	6m olive green	45	3	3	44d	55	150	43	30	30	46	25	50

References:

Higgins & Gage Inc, *Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World*, Section 5, 1966Balian, L, *Catalogue Stamps of Egypt*, 1998Smith, P.A.S., *Egypt Stamps & Postal History*, 1999Joseph H. Chalhoub, *The Nile Post: Handbook and Catalogue of Egyptian Stamps*, 2003**Response to Stamps and Rates: QC 227 p90**

Alan Jeyes (ESC 293) sent in photocopies of no fewer than nine cards and covers with the provisional 2 millièmes surcharge on 3 millièmes. One or two were philatelically contrived, but nevertheless still desirable items, but the stamps were mainly used to pay or make up correct postal rates. Among them is an examples of the surcharged adhesive being used correctly to pay the overseas printed matter rate, truly a lovely item and possibly unique.



First Fuad Series: Day of Issue?

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

I have always been intrigued by the eleven-month gap between the appearance of the first of the 12-stamp First Fuad issue (5m, on April 16 1923) and the last (200m, on March 19 1924), but have accepted that the stamps, printed by Harrison and Sons in London, arrived in Egypt only in a trickle-feed rather than as a whole issue all at once.

The dates noted by the three main catalogues – Gibbons, Balian and Nile Post – are pretty well in accord, though with occasional discrepancies, apparently the result of typing slips, and appear to have been based on details provided in the unpublished *The Production of Egyptian Postage Stamps 1866-1946*, written by an anonymous Survey Department official in 1947. That list itself contains an error – the 2m cannot possibly have been issued on January 6 1923 as detailed.

	Survey	Gibbons	Balian	Nile Post	Circular
1m	6.10.23	6.10.23	6.10.23	6.10.23	22.9.23
2m	6.1.23	6.12.23	6.12.23	6.12.23	22.9.23
3m	21.11.23	21.11.23	21.11.23	21.11.23	21.11.23
4m	20.12.23	20.12.23	20.12.23	20.12.23	21.11.23
5m	16.4.23	16.4.23	16.4.23	16.4.23	12.4.23
10m	6.10.23	6.10.23	6.10.23	6.10.23	22.9.23
15m	15.10.23	15.10.23	15.10.23	15.10.23	15.10.23
20m	13.10.23	13.10.23	13.10.23	18.10.23	15.10.23
50m	15.12.23	15.12.23	18.10.23	15.12.23	21.11.23
100m	15.12.23	15.12.23	12.12.23	15.12.23	21.11.23
200m	19.3.24	19.3.24	19.3.24	19.3.24	27.3.24
£1	5.1.24	5.1.24	5.1.24	5.1.24	19.1.24

Now that information from the Egyptian *Postal Bulletins* (or *Postal Circulars*, as they were termed by that date) is available, it is possible to “go to the horse’s mouth” and check the notices appearing there for confirmation. Or, in fact, “near”-confirmation, since none of the notices specifies an actual date of issue, and probably some allowance must be made for delays between receipt of information and publication of the notices.

Arrival of the first stamps of the new issue was announced in *Circular* 10 of April 12 1923 (the previous issue had been March 30, the next April 18) in the following terms:

A new issue of postage stamps of all denominations bearing the portrait of H.M. King Fouad has been decided upon.

The quantity required has already been ordered from the printers and the first consignment of the 5 mills. stamps (brick-coloured) will arrive shortly; this first consignment being a small one, only the Local Directorates of Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said and Suez will, for the time being, be supplied with them; other offices will be supplied gradually on reception of a sufficient quantity.

Until complete exhaustion of the present issue of postage stamps, offices should put both the new and the old issues on sale.

The reception of other denominations of the new stamps will be advertised in the *Postal Circular* from time to time.

The accepted date of issue is April 16, four days after the notice. Was this time to supply all offices? Or only the main offices mentioned? Might main offices have been supplied before April 16? Does anyone have a 5m postmarked before April 16? It may be possible ...

There is then a five-month hiatus in *Circular* announcements, until No 30 of September 22, announcing the arrival of the 1m (yellow), 2m (black) and 10m (red) issues. It seems that there were enough of the 1m and 10m to supply all offices, but that “the first consignment of the 2-millième denomination being of small quantity, only Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said and Suez Local Directorates will, for the time being, be supplied therewith”. The accepted date for the 1m and 10m is October 6 – which seems rather a long time for stamps

to reach the main offices, though perhaps it reflects the date by which they had reached **all** offices? And why is the accepted date for the 2m, December 6, a whole two months later? The Survey's January 6 must be an error, and the most likely date for the 2m is October 6 as well.

On October 10, *Circular 33* announced the arrival of the 15m (blue) and the 20m (intense green), again specifying that the 15m would be supplied only to the large offices because supplies were short. Perhaps this explains the discrepancy in the accepted dates – October 13 for the 20m and October 15 for the 15m. But as both were announced on the same day you would imagine that both would be officially “issued” on the same day.

The notice on November 21 (*Circular 37*) is a little odd. There are four paragraphs as usual announcing the arrival of the 3m (brown), 50m (grey-green) and 100m (lilac and mauve) stamps; and then two more paragraphs added, as if an afterthought, in announcing the 4m (green).

It specifies that quantities received of the 50m, 100m and the 4m are “rather small” and that only principal offices will be supplied for the time being; but that “for the 3-millième denomination ... offices may indent therefore in their regular demands for postage stamps”.

Again, since all four were announced on the same day, perhaps all four might be seen as having been issued on the same day – but the accepted dates are November 21 for the 3m, December 15 for the 50m and 100m, and December 20 for the 4m. Given that the notice was made on November 21, and that stamps had to be indented for, it seems unlikely that any 3m would be in a post office on that same day. And how do we explain three weeks' delay before the other values were on sale?

With 1924 comes a change in wording – announcement of the L.E.1 stamp (in fact denominated as £1, ie the sterling rate) comes with *Circular 2* of January 19 and specifies that “large offices which are in need of the L.E.1 postage stamp **have already been supplied** therewith” – so there is no reason to argue with the accepted date of January 5. The notice states:

The colour is blue with a medallion in mauve and each sheet comprises 25 stamps only.
Stamps of this denomination should be used for the franking of the despatch notes of parcels, etc., instead of postage stamps of the 200 millièmes and 100 millièmes denominations.
Fractions of L.E.1 should be represented in postage stamps of other denominations.

Finally, on March 27 (*Circular 8*), comes notice of the 200-millièmes issue (violet), and again it announces that, “as a limited quantity of this denomination has been received, only the large offices have for the time being been supplied...” So it is reasonable to expect that an issue date of March 19 might be correct.

Interestingly, the notice specifies that old and new issues should be put on sale together, but that “the new issue should be sold only to those members of the public who ask for it”, and that the former 200m issue “should be used for the prepayment of postage on parcels etc, and, for the payment of other fees which are represented in stamps on the relative form by the staff themselves”.

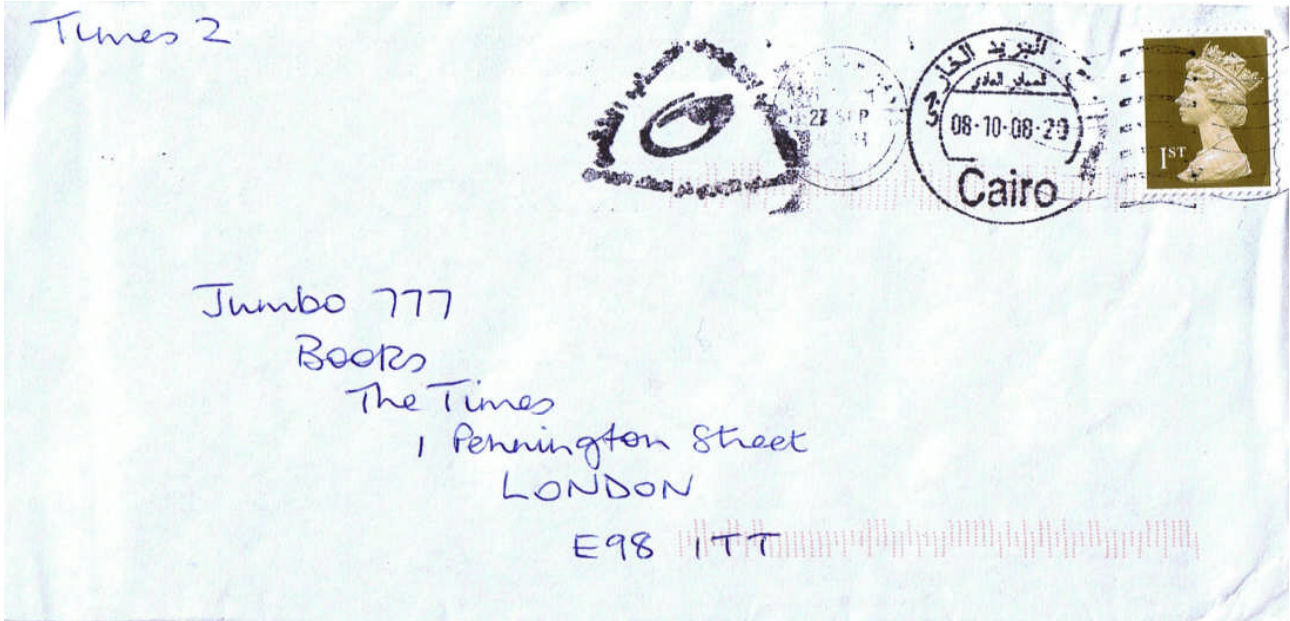
Comparison of Circular dates with accepted dates of issue indicates that the latter are largely likely to be right. But doubts are raised for some values – and oh how I wish the Post Office had been a little more specific in its announcements.

York Meeting July 18

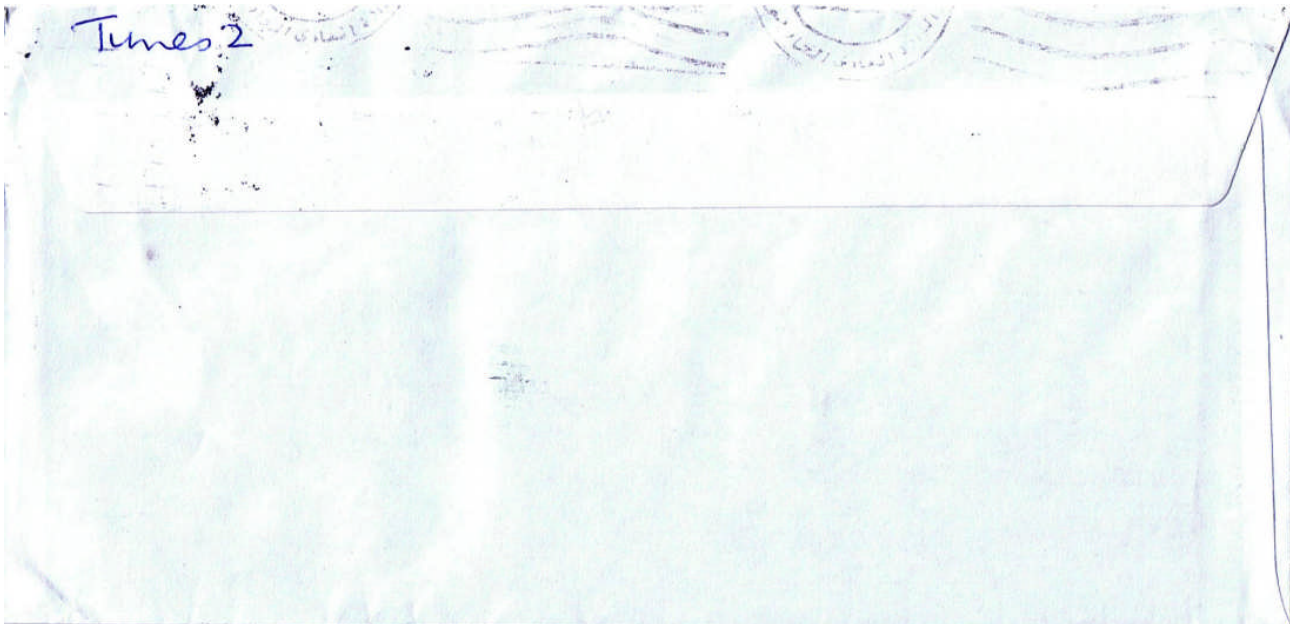
The York Stamp and coin fair takes place 17th and 18th July 2009 at the Grandstand at York racecourse. Opening hours: Friday (11 am to 6 pm) Saturday (10 am to 5 pm). Members considering an overnight stay in York for the meeting on July 18 organised by Keith Pogson (ESC 130) can receive details of accommodation from the Secretary. For the show see <http://www.stampshows.net/york.php> which states 95+ dealers.

Alexandrina on May 22-24

Philatelic Society of Egypt international exhibition at the new Bibliotheca Alexandrina on May 22-24 this year. See meeting report page 99.

Query 58: Missent to Cairo? from Mike Murphy (ESC 240).

Does Cairo have a “Missent” handstamp? And if so, why doesn’t it use it? That’s the only explanation I can find for the odd crossword entry illustrated, sent with a First-class stamp from somewhere in UK and clearly addressed to *The Times* at its postcode London E98 1TT, with the stamp machine-cancelled 27 SEP 2008. Next is a very faint Egyptian machine marking on the reverse with no clear date. And then it has a clear Cairo machine cancel dated 08.10.08 at 8pm. It was then sent back to *The Times*, where I retrieved it, unfortunately too late to be considered for its crossword prize. I can only imagine that the UK address-reader saw E98 1 TT as Egypt – and sent it merrily on its 4,258-mile round journey.



Website news.

Since the last *QC* several new sections have been added to the members-only section of the website. Two of them are updates of chapters from Peter Smith’s book, that is, on The Napoleonic Post and the Greece section of the Foreign Offices. There is also a new section on the stamps produced for the Inauguration of Port Fuad, and the site also has an update on the Stamp Index, with information, by subject, on postal history derived from many magazines up to 1980.

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE - ACCOUNTS FOR AUCTIONS 45 & 46

Profit & Loss Accounts	Auction 45	Auction 46
	£	£
Net Sales	<u>7,103.80</u>	<u>9,457.40</u>
INCOME		
10% Commission on Sales (Purchasers)	710.38	945.74
5% Commission on Sales (Buyers)	355.19	472.87
Invoiced Post	<u>140.46</u>	<u>25.22</u>
	1,206.03	1,443.83
EXPENDITURE		
Catalogues, Typing, printing, posting	305.45	317.87
Postage of Lots	219.12	113.51
Sundry Expenses	53.88	67.82
Insurance		105.00
Profit	<u>627.58</u>	<u>839.63</u>
	<u>1,206.03</u>	<u>1,443.83</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 ST JANUARY, 2009

NET ASSETS

Balance at Bank	3,616.86
Less Amounts due to Members	<u>667.55</u>
	<u>2,949.31</u>
Auction Fund	
Brought Forward from Auction 44	2,982.10
Net Profit Auction 45	627.58
Net Profit Auction 46	<u>839.63</u>
	4,449.31
Less Transfers to General Account	<u>1,500.00</u>
	<u>2,949.31</u>

Both Auctions held 2008 may be considered successful. Quality material sold well, especially if accompanied by concise & accurate Lot descriptions, the illustrations also prove popular & useful.

Once again, we must pay tribute to the untiring work of the "Auction team" - Mike Murphy & Mike Bramwell. Unfortunately, Mike Bramwell has said that pressure of other activities will make it impossible for him to carry on. On behalf of the Circle, I should like to thank him for his careful & efficient work over the past years, he will certainly be missed.

This means we are looking for a replacement, and would welcome volunteers.

John Sears (ESC 188)

Members' (and others') Announcements

This new venture has had a mixed start, with more members (and non-members) taking advantage of its notices, but responses being a little slow to take off. Remember that members can seek help from colleagues simply by writing a couple of lines with their request. We will publish the advertisement for free; 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).

Gibbons Part 19 – Stanley Gibbons are preparing for a new Middle East catalogue, and have asked the Circle whether we have any comments as to errors, discoveries or updates that they should be considering for inclusion. If members have any observations of this sort please contact the Secretary

Ship mail going south – Hany Salam, Secretary of the PSE in Cairo, is deeply involved in researching nineteenth-century ship mail, and is finding details of ships travelling south and east from Egypt difficult to come by. Any suggestions? - hany.salam@salamtex.com

Postal museum on the move – According to the February edition of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, the Cairo postal museum is to be moved to Qatar under the auspices of the League of Arab States. But fear not: it is not the Ataba Postal Museum we all know and love, but the Arab League's own museum, home in Cairo to 280,000 stamps. And no-one knew it was there....

Prisoner of the Mahdi – A German researcher has spotted the recent *QC* queries on Carl Neufeld, who after his release from the Khalifa ran a boarding house in Aswan, Pension Neufeld, with his sister Margarete, and is interested in researching his life. Anyone interested in helping should contact stephanrudloff@web.de

Auction help required – The Circle needs a volunteer, preferably living in or near London, to handle the receipt and despatch of lots bought and sold in our twice-yearly members-only Auctions. Just think of all that material passing through your hands....! Please contact the Secretary if you are willing to give up a few days to help.

Alfred Caillard Pasha – The chairman of the Sussex Postal History Society is investigating the postal history of his home town, Eastbourne, and is intrigued by a local gravestone for Caillard Pasha, "sometime Postmaster General of Egypt, who died at Ramleh on June 10 1900". Can any member clarify why he was buried in Eastbourne? – Lionel Jones, 2 Cherry Garden Road, Eastbourne, BN20 8EY.

Mailboat – A non-member in the UK is looking for photos or postcards that show the mailboat *Boulac*, which served the route between Cyprus and Egypt. Anyone who can help should contact the Secretary.

Exchange of FDCs – Akram Toubar, one of the keen young collectors of the Cairo society, is keen on British first-day covers and British Commonwealth stamps and offers to exchange two Egyptian FDCs for one British. Contact him at 254 Sudan Street, Mohandessin, Cairo 12411 (elnasser_kooki@hotmail.com).

Catalogue cut price - Book II of the *Balian Catalogue of Egypt* has been reduced in price after costs have been met and it is now available for £20 including postage. Members should contact Leon direct or John Sears in UK.

Auction news – David Feldman will handle part of the Hany Salam collection of First Fuad on April 29; and on May 7 Grosvenor will dispose of parts of the Alan Jeyes (Commemoratives, Air Mails, Hotels and Hotel labels) and Keith Pogson (Second Fuad) collections.

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.