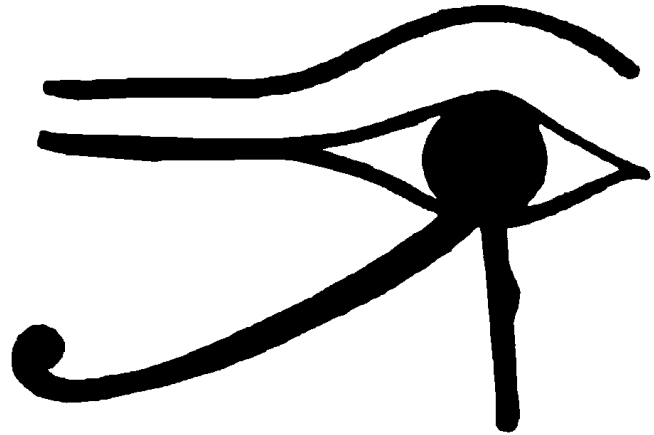


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EGYPT

STUDY CIRCLE



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Forthcoming Meetings 2009

July 18 (in York) **	Various	Three speakers
September 19*	Queries/Acquisitions	All Members
November 7	A Railway Journey down the Nile	Dennis Clarke

Midpex July, 11, 2009

Stampex September 16-19, 2009

Philatex November 5-7, 2009

Meetings are normally held at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London. Members usually congregate in the ground floor bar from 1pm onwards and meetings commence at 2pm.

* This meeting will be at Stampex at the Business Design Centre, Islington, North London.

** St Chad's on the Knavesmire, Campleshon Road, York - easy walking distance from Racecourse Fair.

Report of the Annual General Meeting, May 2 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), Dennis Clarke, John Clarke, Mostafa El-Dars, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Alan Jeyes, Sami Sadek, Lewis Said.
Guest: Atef Sarian

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: David Sedgwick (Publicity), Mike Bramwell, Cyril Defriez, Margaret Chadwick.

Before the meeting the Secretary drew attention to gifts to the Library of reprints of old Egypt postcards, together with bookmarks and a 2009 calendar similarly based, produced by Mohamed Nofal (ESC 489).

Consideration was then given to an application for membership from Atef Sarian, of North London, who attended the meeting as a guest: he was welcomed to membership without a dissenting voice.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman then welcomed those in attendance, and after apologies for absence and a negative on matters arising from the minutes of the last AGM, opened his annual report by saying that we had had a successful year, though with one or two disappointments. These included the resignation of Sherif Samra (ESC 311) as President of the Philatelic Society of Egypt – “a good friend to many in the Circle; we shall miss him very much” – cancellation at the last minute of the meeting planned for Alexandria, and cancellation for lack of support of the New Zealand meeting – “a great pity”. He noted that five days of completely philatelic events was rarely found, and hoped that a meeting might be reinstated for next year.

But not all was gloom and doom: he was happy to note a year of worthwhile displays – particularly from the Acquisitions and Queries meetings, and wondered whether more of these short-talk meetings should be scheduled. The greatest step forward, though, had been on the website, where the hard work of Edmund Hall (ESC 239) had produced something always fascinating and constantly updated with something new. He urged all members to log in and look at the members section, which he hoped would eventually become a wonderful reference library of Egyptian philately.

Looking forward, he welcomed the prospect of our July meeting being in York, and urged consideration of more regional meetings – “I implore you to try to ensure that we get at least one each year” – and offered to arrange a meeting in Birmingham if members wished. He hoped York would be a great draw, and the first of many. The Chairman thanked the Committee for its willing help and support over an interesting year.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary spoke of his grave disappointment at the cancellation of the Alexandria meeting. He advised that membership was increased slightly over the year, from 191 to 199 members, but feared that as several members had yet to pay subscriptions due on January 1, there may be some lapses to come. He noted that the advent of voting papers in the December QC form had quadrupled the numbers supporting the Macarthur Award, and handed over to the Chairman to announce the winner: for the second successive year it was Ahmed Abu Mousa (ESC 584), of Abu Dhabi, with his *Retouches and Flaws on the Fuad Second Issue*. The meeting congratulated Ahmed, and noted that clearly this is the sort of article we like to see in the QC!

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer presented Circle accounts to December 31 2008, noting a higher income from the increased subscription rate as well as an increase in donations and a small income from the sale of *Postal Bulletin* disks. Expenditure on the QC was slightly up, and Library expenditure very much reduced after the one-off purchase of the *Postal Bulletins* in 2007. The transfer from the Auction account remained constant at £1,500, leading to a surplus for the year of £1,961.18 as against a deficit of £586.10 in 2007. See details, p iii. Members voted to adopt the Accounts (proposed, John Davis; seconded, Peter Andrews). The Treasurer then proposed a vote of thanks to the Accountant, Stephen Bunce (ESC 272), which was seconded by Edmund Hall and warmly applauded.

Auction Report: John Sears reported that the recently completed Auction 47 had sold £8,800 worth of material with only two returns. There had been delays, however, with late delivery of material and late payments, which could potentially cut the Circle commission. He noted that Auctions depended on the same members to supply material each time, and urged all members to become involved for the good of the Circle.

Editor/Webmaster Report: Edmund Hall (ESC 239) reported that the June *QC* was virtually full, but after that there was a yawning gap – and appealed to members to supply any item of interest, whether a learned research piece of eight pages or a one-paragraph titbit: all was grist to the mill. He referred to another postage increase in April, and Sami Sadek (ESC 559) suggested that we might we consider online publishing as a cheaper alternative.

On the website front, he reported that much new material had gone up in the members-only area in recent weeks, and was determined to carry forward the mix of archive material from the *QC* or elsewhere with chapters and updates from Peter Smith's wonderful book, and augmented by pages from members' collections. He welcomed the Chairman's enthusiasm, and urged all members to contribute new illustrations.

Library Report: John Davis (ESC 213) said that he could not yet provide a complete accounting as he was still awaiting the results of the sale of the late Robin Bertram's Sudan books through the Sudan Study Group auction. He announced, however, that the net profit from having bought Robin's books at Grosvenor would be £199.50 plus the SSG figure, plus quite a long list of books added to the Library itself. He announced the Circle's gratitude for gifts of *Whatever Happened to the Egyptians?* (AUC Press 2000; Peter Grech) and *Postcard Collectors' Guide to Egypt II: Raphael* Tuck (Mohamed Nofal).

ESC 75th Anniversary and London 2010: The Committee expressed its great gratitude to Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman) for having arranged the celebration luncheon meeting for the Victory Services Club on May 7, 2010, and arrangements were discussed at length. Eventually, on the proposal of Edmund Hall seconded by Peter Andrews, the meeting voted to provide a cost-free lunch for all foreign members and spouses, subject to a refundable deposit. Since space may be limited, early acceptance by all members is advised when full details will be announced later in the year. The date and venue are confirmed: please come to help us celebrate!

The Circle will be sharing a table at London 2010 with the Sudan Study Group and the meeting discussed ways in which we might seek publicity and new members. Mike Murphy expressed the hope that the book he is writing with Dr Ibrahim Shoukry on the Rural Post might by then be available, and among many other suggestions it was decided to publish a full-colour *QC* with contributions from as many members as possible: we appeal to all to send in suitable articles, and to volunteer to "man" the stand at London 2010.

Because London 2010 clashes with our normal AGM date, it was decided to delay full consideration of next year's meeting dates until we can judge the success of the York regional meeting, though we shall, as ever, coincide as much as possible with Stampex and Philatex.

Affiliation to the ABPS: Full consideration was given to continuing our affiliation with the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS), and the Secretary drew attention to submissions by 12 members as well as reading out recent emails from three ABPS officials – Colin Searle, the Secretary, John Baron, vice-chair of the Executive Committee, and Willie King, chairman of the PR Committee, all of which were received in two days after clarification of what the ABPS did for its affiliates was sought. In essence, the ABPS officials all admitted that the organisation had largely lost its way, that it was in the throes of change, that a better world was coming, based largely on a much-improved website (sponsored by Grosvenor!), and appealed for us to remain affiliated and to stick with them as the ABPS set out on the right track again... Interestingly, they also raised the question of double-payment of affiliation fees (members might have already paid through membership of a local or other specialist society; something that had not occurred to us. A straw poll revealed that about half of those present were members of another society).

Discussion was long and intense, but it rapidly became clear that the feeling of the room was that our affiliation fees gained us virtually no benefit and that though we supported the idea of an organisation fostering philately in the UK and improving its standards, we did not feel that the ABPS was yet in a position where we could pledge it our support. A motion proposed by John Sears and seconded by Peter Andrews was accepted by 11 votes to two: we shall withdraw our affiliation and observe progress before deciding whether or not to renew.

Peter Grech then proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for its work over the year, and the Annual General Meeting was formally closed. We then moved on to the Bourse, where, as usual, much material was brought and mulled over, and both buyers and sellers went away happy...

How Rare are the IAFFA and DALLA STAZIONE Postmarks?

Peter R. Feltus (ESC 114)

In lot descriptions in auction catalogues we sometimes see indications of the rarity of the offered items, such as “only five such covers recorded”. Can we trust these figures? Usually not.

About four years ago a stamp bearing the IAFFA postmark was sold (in the David Feldman sale of November 2004 in Geneva). The description said “very few known”. Very recently another IAFFA was offered (in the House of Zion auction of February 2009 in California; the start price was \$1200 (plus 18% commission) and it didn’t sell). The description said “no more than two covers and fewer than 40 stamps known”. These IAFFA cancellations are wanted by Egypt collectors and by Holy Land collectors and thus the fetch higher prices than other postmarks of similar scarcity.



For some years I have been compiling lists of IAFFA and DALLA STAZIONE postmarks. There are now 29 IAFFA postmarks recorded. (Most are on Second Issue red stamps, while one is on the 2pt. blue stamp and a beauty is on a Third Issue 2pt. yellow stamp. Some forgeries are known; they are amusing, as the spelling there is JAFFA, with a J.)

The 30 known IAFFA postmarks on Egyptian stamps.

18	DEC	1870	(Hanna Bertz of Paris discovery 25 years ago, now in P.R. Feltus collection in California.)
31	DEC	1870	(Greg Todd discovery, issued C.F. Hass certificate of 1993. Where now?)
20	GEN	1871	(Ex-R. Jeidel, ex-L. Alund, now in J. Chalhoub collection in Canada.)
21	GEN	1871	(Ex-John Gilbert, ex-Holy Land collection of Dr. M. Garfinkel in Florida, sold by Tel Aviv Stamps auction in June 2005 as lot 217 with colour photo. Where now?)
26	GEN	1871	(This date is in a Jaffa pmk date list in the <i>Handbook of Holy Land Philately</i> , without further details.)
1	MAR	1871	(On 1867 2pt blue, P.R.F. discovery in 1970, in P.R. Feltus collection in California.)
3	MAR	1871	(Ex-N. Tombazis of Egypt, photo in <i>L'OP</i> 95. Where now?)
3	MAR	1871	(P.A.S. Smith discovery in 1983, now in P.A.S. Smith collection in Michigan.)
24	MAR	1871	(Now in Forerunners of Palestine collection of Dr. A. Friedberg in Ohio.)
15	APR	1871	(Shown at Ameripex in 1986 in “Bela Sandor” collection of Palestine. Offered recently; Where now?)
?	MAG	1871	(Equally possibly? LUG 1871, ex-Dr. J. Settgest collection in Berlin. Where now?)
?	GIU	1871	(Robert Porter discovery in the 1990s, now in Robert Porter collection in Pennsylvania.)
2	GIU	1871	(Ex-A. Mazloun, ex-J. Danson, ex-L. Gordon, photo in <i>L'OP</i> 95 and colour photo in David Feldman of Geneva auction catalogues of 9/1990 and 11/2004. Where now?)
7	LUG	1871	(Mentioned in <i>L'OP</i> 95, ex-M. Sacher, colour photo in Robson Lowe of Zurich auction catalogue of M. Sacher collection of 11/89. Where now?)
18	AGO	1871	(In David Feldman of Switzerland auctions of 11/85 and 4/86. Where now?)
8	SET	1871	(In David Feldman of Geneva auctions of 11/97 & 5/2001 with photo. Where now?)
29	SET	1871	(T. F. Olson discovery in 1984, now in T. F. Olson collection in California.)
30	SET	1871	(On a lovely Jerusalem to Cairo folded letter bearing a Turkish stamp tied by an Arabic boxed pmk., the Egyptian Jaffa CDS is beside a manuscript “4” and hand-stamped “4” indicating 4pt due, twice the lacking 2pt. Jaffa to Cairo rate, correctly figured. Ex-M. Sacher, colour photo in R.L. catalogue of 11/1989. Zvi Alexander (1922-2008) collection; donated to Eretz Israel Museum in Tel Aviv.)
7	OTT	1871	(J. McEwen discovery in 1970(?), now in P.R. Feltus collection in California.)
13	OTT	1871	(P.R. Feltus discovery, photo in <i>L'OP</i> 120, ex-G.B. Garrett collection. Where now?)
27	OTT	1871	(Sold in Kohler auction and in Zodiac auction in Tel Aviv in 1993. Where now?)
4	NOV	1871	(P.R.F. discovery in 1987, now in P.R. Feltus collection in California.)
14	NOV	1871	(Ex-Barry Hoffman of Boston collection of Palestine. Where now?)
29	NOV	1871	(Ex-Otto Reichert, photo in <i>L'OP</i> 112, now in P.A.S. Smith collection in Michigan.)
15	DEC	1871	(F.F. Fuleihan. discovery in 2000, now in Fuad F. Fuleihan collection in Iran)

- 29 DEC 1871 (This date is in a Jaffa pmk date list in the *Handbook of Holy Land Philately*, without further details.)
- 30 DEC ? (Ex-L. Alund of Sweden, now in J. Chalhoub collection in Canada.)
- ? ? ? (On 1pt second issue. What date? Ex-V Mavian collection in Cairo. Where now?)
- 17 FEB 1872 (On 1872 1pt red stamp. Colour photo shown in the Bale Holy Land Catalogue of 2008.)
- 17 FEB 1872 (On 1872 2pt yellow stamp. Ex-J. Gilbert, ex-E. Antonini, photo in *L'OP* 95, colour photo in the Antonini collection auction catalogue of David Feldman in Geneva, April 1983, recently ex-Dr. Jerome L. Byers' Palestine collection. Where now?)

In the *Handbook of Holy Land Philately*, revised edition by Norman J. Collins, there's a list of sixteen known dates of Jaffa postmarks. Two of them, 26 GEN 1871 and 29 DEC 1871, are listed above but are otherwise unknown; where are they now? The other fourteen dates are known and recorded above with some details.

DALLA STAZIONE postmarks

Less than two years ago two covers bearing the DALLA STAZIONE marking were offered (in the David Feldman sale of Samir Fikry's treasures in December 2007 in Geneva). The description of one says "Only five covers recorded with this railway marking." However I have recorded 23 DALLA STAZIONE markings, from Alexandria (eight) and Cairo (five) and Suez (ten). See the lists below.

The 23 known DALLA STAZIONE Classic Covers.

- 5 Dec 1871 Alexandria to Planta, in Mansura, on 1867-691 pt. red (ex-Robin Bertram; PRF collection.)
- 8 Dec 1871 Alexandria to ? (seen by PRF, recorded in 1982 data sheets. Where now?)
- ? Jan 1872 Alexandria to Cairo, on 1 pt red (ex-Mazloun, photo in *L'OP* 98. Where now?)
- 6 Feb 1873 Alexandria to Port Said, on 1pt red (Luca D. Biolato collection.)
- 19 Sep 1873 Alexandria to Cairo (ex-KW collection. Where now?)
- ? Nov 1873 Alexandria to Mahallet Roh, on 5 pa (4) + 20 pa. (= 1pt) (Leon Balian collection.)
- 25 Dec 1873 Alexandria to Port Said, on 1 pt (Leon Balian collection.)
- 29 Dec 1879 Alexandria to ? (listed in 1982 data sheets: Western-Auctions 10/6/68. Where now?)
- 25 Dec 1872 Cairo to Samanud (P.A.S. Smith collection.)
- 31 Jan 1873 Cairo to Alexandria, on 1pt (photo lot 2285 in Spink sale of 7/2005. Jürgen Fricke collection.)
- 11 Dec 1873 Cairo to Samanud, on 1pt red (ex-Fikry, photos in Feldman sales of 12/06 & 10/08. Where now?)
- 30 May 1874 Cairo to ? (ex-Danson, perhaps in lot 233, perhaps in SAF collection.)
- 28 May 1875 Cairo to Italy, on 1874 2 1/2 pt (2 stamps) (with E. Diena cert., Luca D. Biolato collection.)
- 25 By 1871 Suez to Cairo (ex-Dennis Clarke collection. Photo in Grosvenor sale of Nov. 2008. Where now?)
- 26 Sep 1871 Suez to Cairo, on 1869 20 para greens as if tête-bêche (photo lot 2279 in Spink catalogue of 7/2005)
- 12 Oct 1871 Suez to Cairo, on 1867 20pa green pair (photo ex-Chaftar. Where now?)
- 21 Dec 1871 Suez to Cairo, on 1867 20pa green pair (PASS collection.)
- 31 Jan 1872 Suez to Cairo, addressed in Arabic, on 1872 1 pt red (ex- Robin Bertram collection. Where now?)
- 25 Apr 1872 Suez to Cairo (photo lot 225 in SG sale of 22110181, ex-KW collection. Where now?)
- 30 Apr 1872 Suez to Cairo, unfranked with "80" due marking (Leon Balian collection.)
- 7 May 1872 Suez to Cairo, on 1867 1pt; taxed; stamp obsolete (ex-Mazloun, in *L'OP*; P.R. Feltus collection.)
- 16 Dec 1872 Suez to Cairo, on 2pt yellow (photo in C.F. Hass Postal Bid Sale catalogue of 8/96. Where now?)
- 14 Apr 1874 Suez to ? (recorded by CWM, listed in 1982 data sheets. Where now?)

Remarks: The 16 Dec 1872 cover was lot 502 in Charles Hass's first postal bid sale. In the lot description he says "Inland letter rate was 1pt. per 10 grams but this... weighs only 5g (no sign of there having been enclosures). Given the letter's light weight, and the two day gap between [enclosed] letter date and postmark date, the 2pts franking therefore suggests that there was a supplementary 1 pt. fee for expediting the already-late letter to the Railway Station after normal mails had closed - and that the "DALLA STAZIONE" marking

was the equivalent of “LATE FEE PAID”. To our knowledge, nothing is recorded about this, and little material exists for study, but this very rare letter would tend to confirm this premise.” Well, the other twenty-one covers listed above suggest otherwise.

Station postmarks are of two sorts. The straight line Dalla Stazione markings (meaning From the Station), were introduced in 1871. (These were classified with Instructional Markings in some early postmark studies. The later ones, mostly circular datestamps with Stazione outside the circles, below the town names, are classed among the General Cancellations.) The stamps on letters bearing these Dalla Stazione markings were normally cancelled by circular datestamps, apparently at the downtown post offices; it is not known whether the straight line markings were applied at the stations (where post offices probably didn't yet exist) or at the downtown post offices. Perhaps they were applied at the stations, and only to the topmost letters in tied bundles that were sent to the downtown post offices where the stamps were then cancelled, but these covers don't show damage from strings.



Editorial. Thanks to members' response to my “empty” page this *QC* has easily been filled. I have several articles that could not make it into this *QC*, so even the September one is already more than half complete. My normal priority is reports and members' details, followed by queries and replies - but because of the excellent article by Pierre Grech some of these have unfortunately had to be held over.

French Forces in Egypt during World War One

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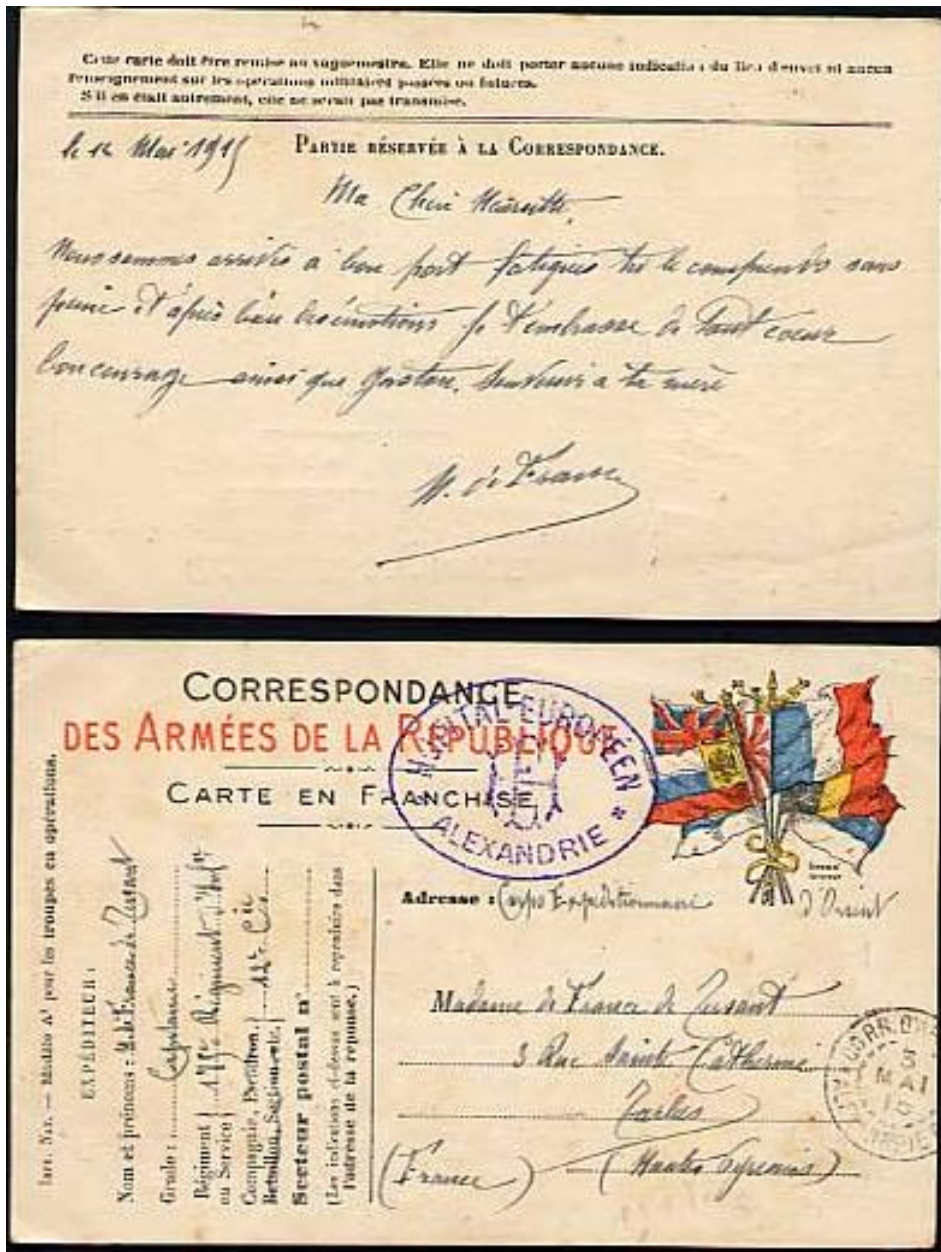
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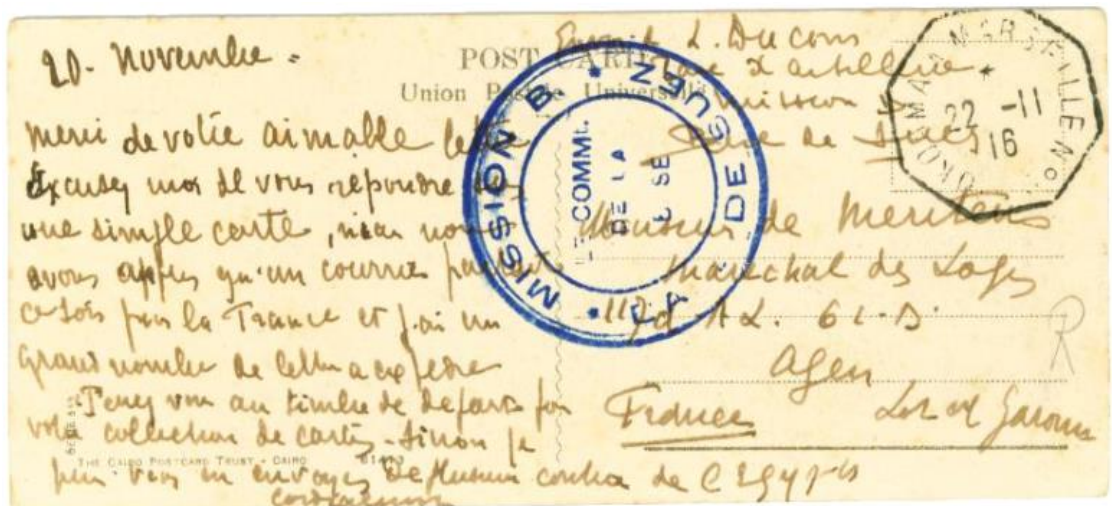
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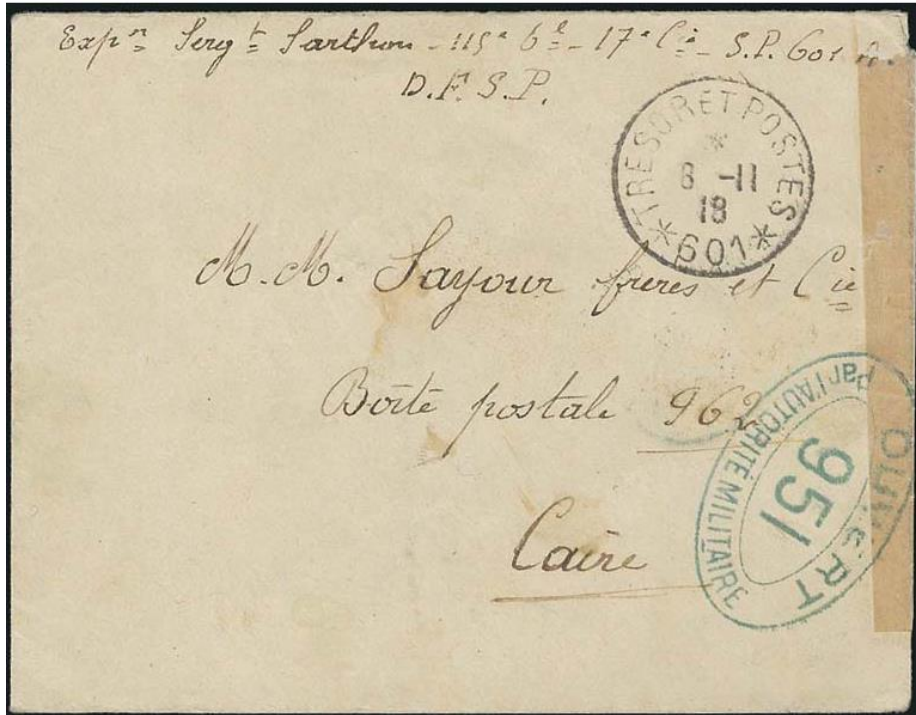
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Détachment Francais de Palestine et de Syrie

Answering the call: In the report of the February meeting (*QC* 228, p.100), Stanley Horesh (ESC 118) noted that the Type II-4 Austrian postmark of Alexandria was invariably described as an obliterator only, but that he had two used as transit marks; and asked members to check their collections. I have a 5 soldi postal card sent in September 1886 from Beirut, via Alexandria and Modane a Paris to Tournai in Belgium. The “thimble” is here used as transit mark. **Anton Jansen** (ESC 383)



Membership changes

New Members:

ESC 639 Atef Sarian, 20 Staverton Road, London NW2 5HL
(Royal misperforates, cancelled-back and Royal collection in general)

Restoration of membership:

ESC 446 Pierre Meniaud, 7 rue du Chariot d'Or, 69004 Lyon, France

Resigned:

ESC 457 Tarek El-Kerdani **ESC 542** Oliver Migneco **ESC 624** Lord Denovan

Exhibition success

Congratulations to **Samir Fikry** (ESC 305), who is back on the top medal trail with his new collection of *Postal Services in the Suez Canal Zone*, which won a Large Gold in the postal history section of the Essen international exhibition (May 6-10). There were Gold medals for **Samir Nabih Attia** (ESC 505, *De La Rues 1879-1906*) and **Mordecai Kremener** (ESC 291, *Postal Services of Beirut*), while **Ibrahim Shoukry** (ESC 423, *Rural Post, 1889-1939*), **Mahmoud Ramadan** (ESC 358, *Celebrating the Kingdom, 1922*) and **Ulrich Eckstein** (ESC 273, *French Post Office in Alexandria*) were awarded Large Vermeils. Well done, all of them!

At the AGM it was decided that for our 75th Anniversary and London 2010 we would again produce an all- colour *QC* along the lines of *QC* 200. I am very much in favour of the idea and so, as before, am looking for one-page articles colourfully illustrated by some facet of Egyptian philately and between them, hopefully, covering all periods up to today. Articles to me by the end of the year for publishing in next year's March *OC*.

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE ACCOUNTS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (GENERAL ACCOUNT) as at December 31 2008

	2007	2008	
INCOME			
Sale of disks	-	168.00	
Subscriptions	2,595.35	3,863.21	
Auction account	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Bank deposit interest received (net)	69.21	42.48	
Sale of ties	-	-	
Donations	90.40	512.39	
Advertisements	125.00	50.00	
	4,379.96		6,136.08
EXPENDITURE			
Meeting room hire	590.50	564.50	
Cost of Quarterly Circulars	2,744.44	2,978.65	
Affiliation fee ABPS	42.60	64.00	
Insurance	19.80	36.60	
Cost of ties sold	-	-	
Website costs	110.10	132.94	
Officers' stationery and telephone	182.64	382.32	
President/Chairman's postage etc	19.35	15.89	
Library	1,256.63	-	
	4,966.06		4,174.90
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(586.10)		1,961.18
Surplus at 1 January 2008	<u>11,175.18</u>		<u>10,589.08</u>
SURPLUS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008	<u>£10,589.08</u>		<u>£12,550.26</u>

BALANCE SHEET (GENERAL ACCOUNT) as at 31 December 2008

	2007	2008	
ASSETS			
Stamp collection at catalogue valuation	5,251.00	5,251.00	
Circle library and records	-	-	
Stock of ties 50 (2007 - 50) at cost	224.20	224.20	
2009 room hire prepaid	672.00	712.00	
Cash at bank			
Current account	2,396.72	5,373.88	
Deposit account	2,895.88	2,938.36	
	11,439.80		14,499.44
LIABILITIES			
Members' subscriptions 2009	115.00	1,120.98	
Due to Officers	78.87	31.76	
Printing of Quarterly Circular	656.85	796.44	
	850.72		1,949.18
	<u>£10,589.08</u>		<u>£12,550.26</u>
Representing			
Accumulating surplus	<u>£10,589.08</u>		<u>£12,550.26</u>

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

S W Bunce, Chartered Accountant, 4 March 2009

Members' (and others') Announcements

This page is intended a service to members. The idea is to offer colleagues the opportunity to seek help with their research as well as to make general ESC announcements. All new ventures take some little time to get off the ground, and we hope that more of you will seize the chance to let members know what you are doing and how they can help. We will publish the "advertisement" without fee - new announcements will be added at the top; older ones will drop off the bottom. Contact the Editor or Secretary with announcements (we will not normally publish a telephone number unless there is very good reason to do so).

Exchange offer – An Egyptian member offers to exchange stamps of Egypt, Sudan and other Arab countries, mint and used, against mint stamps of GB, Ireland, Australia, Canada and US. Exchange is by want list on catalogue basis. Members may contact Adel Abdel-Hafez at 112B Ammar Bin Yasser St, Heliopolis, Cairo 11351 (adhafez@internetegypt.com).

Rural request – One of the very rare early oval Rural Service markings – a double strike on a 3m postal stationery postcard with Damiette CDS of 14.7.91 and addressed to Dresden in Germany – was sold as Lot 414 at Lugdunum on September 22, 2003. If the buyer is a member the authors of a forthcoming book on Rurals would be delighted to hear from him/her. Please contact tawaaf@hotmail.co.uk or the Secretary.

Gibbons update – There has been no response (via the Circle official, at least) to Stanley Gibbons' offer to consider any errors, discoveries or updates they should be including in their forthcoming updated Middle East specialised catalogue. But now they are also offering the catalogues at (so far unspecified) cut-price to members. For any observation on either point please contact the Secretary

Mailboat search – A non-member in the UK has clarified his search for the mailboat *Boulac*, which served the route between Cyprus and Egypt. He would very much welcome news of any original photographs or postcards. Anyone who can help should contact the Secretary.

Map postcards – A UK member is keen to expand his research into the coloured map postcards produced in French by F. Pellegrin at around the turn of the century (Mohamed Nofal page 238). Of the set of 30 he has only 1,5,7,8,10,11,17,19,20,21,22 and 24. Any member who can supply the others can be assured they will go to a good home! Contact the Secretary.

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.

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 Balian direct or John Sears in UK.

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.

Web news.

A new military section has been added with two sections in depth and some others as a "stub" form. Please add any further information that you may have.