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

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Report of the Meeting, September 19 2009

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Edmund Hall (Editor/Webmaster), John Davis (Librarian), Mike Bramwell, Dennis Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Alan Jeyes, Tony Schmidt.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), David Sedgwick (Publicity), Margaret Chadwick, Mostafa El-Dars, Greg Todd, Vahe Varjabedian.

In the run-up to the celebrations of London 2010, coinciding with the Circle's 75th Anniversary, much of the meeting was taken up with discussion of the Circle's plans, details of which appear on other pages in this edition of the *Quarterly Circular*, and the knock-on effect these were likely to have on other meetings for the coming year. As a result, the specific programme was left incomplete.

It was decided, however, that despite the disappointing attendance at this year's provincial meeting, we would again try to hold a meeting outside London: the most popular option was York, to coincide with the July Stamp Fair, and so again we called on the generous services of Keith Pogson to make plans for a meeting on July 16. We implore all members to make every effort to attend; without a reasonable turn-out, it will not be easy to arrange any further meetings outside the capital.

As a result of London 2010 and our Luncheon on May 7 clashing with our normal AGM date, the AGM will be switched to the Stampex meeting on February 27, and members considered the possibility of holding a live auction of members' material at that meeting to boost attendances.

The Circle will hold a super-Auction – the only one of the year – to coincide with London 2010 in the week of May 8-15, and the organisers appealed to members to send in lists of material for sale, with as many illustrations as seems reasonable, to Mike Murphy by March 15 at the latest. We really hope that this Auction will catch members' attention and prove a boon for both buyers and sellers.

Similarly, to make the Anniversary issue an outstanding souvenir, the Editor is planning a larger than usual issue of the *Quarterly Circular* for March, crammed with short (maximum one page) articles illustrated completely in colour. He appealed to all members to write a single page, and the Committee hopes for as wide a range of articles as possible to reflect the enormous sweep of collecting/research opportunities that Egypt offers. We shall print many more than usual of this issue, and sell it at a nominal price at London 2010 to encourage non-members to take an interest.



Gedda marking (*see above*) dated 12 9 71, together with others from such unusual sources as Volo and Rodi.

The Librarian reported on the final sale of the late Robin Bertram's Sudan books via the Sudan Study Group Auction, and noted that Robin's books bought by the Circle at auction for £188 had produced, in addition to several important volumes for the Library, an income from sales of surplus material of some £431. Because the accounts had to wait for the SSG sale, the exceptional period of May 2008 to August 2009 produced an excess of income over expenditure of £250.85.

The Acquisitions and Queries section of the meeting was opened by **Brian Sedgley** (ESC 268) showing a selection of classical postmarks on the Second, Third and Fourth issues, including a very unusual all-numeral

Mike Bramwell (ESC 466) illustrated three covers recently acquired on which he had queries – and was able to resolve all of them thanks to the wit and erudition of those present!

John Davis (ESC 213) displayed a number of recent acquisitions, including a Cyprus-UK cover with a Cairo R. D. /Foreign (21) handstamp that he had not seen before; a 40m Marechal with KES overprint and bars (are the bars genuine?); and a delightful small cover (with Royal Philatelic Society certificate) posted unfranked from Cairo to Port Said in December 1905. On arrival it received a 4m Due plus a vertical pair of the 3m on 2pi surcharged Due with inverted overprint. A remarkably clean and neat cover, echoing almost precisely one illustrated by Peter Smith, and showing most unusual usage of this invert which is normally found used only from Naqada.



The Secretary showed some of the material from the forthcoming Auction 48 that he happened to have in hand. The display was appreciated by members present, who remarked on the advantage in seeing “live” lots as opposed to mere illustrations. He also

showed a number of blown-up illustrations of Fuad proofs and essays which had recently been bought in London and were now up for sale again. They received a good deal of comment within the room.

Report of the Meeting, November 6 2009

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Edmund Hall (Editor/Webmaster), John Davis (Librarian), Dennis Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Mostafa El-Dars, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Alan Jeyes, Atef Sarian.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: David Sedgwick (Publicity), Mike Bramwell, Stephen Bunce, Margaret Chadwick, Peter Goodwin, Michael Michaels, Greg Todd.

Again (too) much of the meeting was devoted to discussing arrangements for London 2010 and the Anniversary luncheon. To avoid boring members with the flow and counter-flow of occasionally heated discussion, let it suffice here to summarise the decisions made. More information will be found in the following pages (188-189) pages and on the letter (enclosed) from the Deputy Chairman.

The meeting was delighted to hear that Professor Peter Smith, our longest service member and long-term mentor, was planning to attend London 2010. Before discussion was opened, Peter Grech (ESC 266) was able to announce that Ronny Van Pellecom (ESC 618) was well advanced with a newly researched book on Ramleh, the Alexandria suburb, detailing its history, geography and postal details. He showed a draft version, which impressed members with its breadth, depth and comprehensive illustrations. It is hoped that this volume will join the Rural Post book by Mike Murphy and Ibrahim Shoukry on sale at London 2010.

Points from the meeting:

1. There will be a one-frame (11 sheets + introduction) display at the luncheon. Members – especially those from overseas - are invited to contact the Secretary if they wish to display. Genuine material only: the frames are not secure, but members will be on hand throughout and we hope to have unusual material on show.
2. UK members, partners and guests are asked to pay £55 per head for the luncheon, while foreign members and partners will not be required to pay but will have bookings accepted if accompanied by a refundable remittance of the same amount. Overseas members' guests should pay the £55. We regret that numbers will be limited, and that no bookings will be accepted after April 1. See the letter for further details.

3. Volunteers will be required to help to “man” the London 2010 table we shall share with the Sudan Study Group. We shall display the two books mentioned above, the colour *QC*, general information, and are planning small packets of stamps to give to interested young would-be collectors.

4. The Annual General Meeting will be held at Stampex on February 27: please remember that all 2010 subscriptions (in fact due on January 1) must be paid by the date of the AGM or privileges may be withdrawn. The idea of a live auction was not followed through.

5. In response to the Secretary’s “Why are you a member?” note in the last *QC*, several messages had been received – thank you very much! – with several new ideas put forward. It is clear that more, and perhaps more basic, information is required on the website. We shall move to provide this by giving access to more material in the members’ area, including *QC* back copies and pages from the *Postal Bulletins*.

6. The Circle apologises to those whose lots won in the last Auction were delayed by circumstances beyond our control, viz, the UK postal strike, and hope that by now everyone has received his material. There will be only one Auction next year, timed to coincide with London 2010; and we hope to make it massive. Will all members please submit lots for the sale by March 15.

We also apologise to Dennis Clarke (ESC 165), who had volunteered to talk at great personal cost in terms of both time and money, and then found his display caught up behind discussion of next year’s affairs. Despite the shortage of time, he battled manfully to give a professional printer’s insight into the intricacies of both lithography and typography, illustrated with a quite astonishingly comprehensive collection of interpostals of all types and hues. The sheets displayed bore witness both to his deep knowledge and to the care and attention lavished on each individual page, with detailed drawings and explanations accompanying staggeringly rare material which included proof sheets of Alexandria Interpostals, as well as examples from all the consular offices abroad.

All of this was used to consolidate explanations of the differences between lithography (which works because grease and water repel each other: the image is drawn in reverse with a greasy crayon on stone which is then covered with a thin film of water. The oily ink sticks to the greasy image but not to water-covered areas, and is then transferred to applied paper); and typography (where the final image is produced by taking an impression from inked upstanding lead characters arranged to form a phrase or saying, or with the addition of engraved illustrative features). In chromo-lithography, as in multicolour typography, the image may gradually be built up by passing the paper several times over the printing surface, each time in a different colour.

On behalf of the Circle Peter Grech (ESC 266) expressed the gratitude of members, paid tribute to Dennis’s painstaking knowledge and fortitude and thanked him for a fascinating display.

Membership changes

New Members:

- ESC 642** **Albert Briggs Jr**, 7021 Highfields Farm Drive, Roanoke, Virginia 24018, USA
(US stamps, 20th cent postal history, US revenues, Egypt stamps and postal history))
- ESC 643** **Tammie Aaron-Barrada**, 106 Valley Hi Lane, Ruffs Dale, Pennsylvania 15679, USA
(All aspects of Egyptian philately)
- ESC 644** **Patrick Moore**, Markusstrasse 30, 53129 Bonn, Germany
(Egypt stamps, postal history, postmarks, British Forces, World War II)
- ESC 645** **Mrs Angela Child**, Hawthorne Lodge, 43 Pigeonhouse Lane, Rustington,
Littlehampton, West Sussex BN16 2BG (Egypt to 1952)

Membership

- restored:** **ESC 493** **Ahmed Sobhi**, P.O. Box 58101, Limassol 3731, Cyprus.
ESC 502 **Ayman Rizk**, 10 Boyce Court, Belleville, Ontario, Canada K8P 5P1

Resigned: **ESC 484** **Philip Mason**

Deceased: **ESC 491** **Dr Theodore J Ammel** **ESC 495** **Dr Mohamed Adel Farid**

Postal Mechanisation Revisited

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

In *QC* 218 (September 2006, pp 152-157), John Notton of the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle shared his thoughts on use in Egypt of a Bell Telephone Machine Company (BTMC) letter sorting machine, identified by small capital-letter identifiers printed in red on the lower right corner of the cover. He illustrated a total of five such covers, all from Cairo, ranging in date from June 27 1960 to May 3 1961.

Now I have found another, which extends the dates to May 21 1961. Here is my letter to him, and his response:

“... at last I have come up with another cover - from Cairo, I'm afraid, at 21.3.61, and also sent overseas. But it has two (apparently sans serif, though smudged) Ks of appx 3mm tall! Which I think makes it unusual. I wonder if the fact that it emanates from the machine canceller Cairo / K is significant? So also are your Figs 11, 12, 13 and 14.

From our point of view it is also unusual in that the machine canceller (run twice) clearly shows an Arabic figure 3 (٣) close to the CDS and between the fourth and fifth “waves”. It shows on both machine impressions. We have recorded these Arabic figures sporadically, but never consistently, and I have no idea how common (NOT common, I do know) they were or what they mean...

But on looking back at your article I note that Figs 13 and 14 also have a numeral hidden among the waves - is it 11 on Fig 13(?), and certainly 12 on Fig 14, on the nose of the right-hand pharaoh's head. These are not BETWEEN the waves, I see, but breaking the second wave...”



John replied: “As well as being postmarked twice, the two ‘K’s on the letter represent two passes through the BTMC letter sorting machine, and is indeed an interesting find. It is not unknown for the better-known BTMC material from other countries to be given idents (sometimes different) indicating two or more passes,

but to find one with less than 10 or 12 examples recorded is exceptional. Denmark never had any BTMC machines, so it has to be Egypt.

As I said in the article, idents which consisted of a pair of letters are believed to have been used at Alexandria but no examples have been reported to me. In this new case it is unlikely to be a two letter ident because they are too widely spaced and as far as we know Cairo only had single letter idents.

I know nothing useful about the stamp cancelling machines used in Egypt. If it would help, I could ask around, but more in hope than expectation.

In general, before the use of “multi-function” letter coding and sorting machinery, most post offices had a suite of stand-alone cancelling machines and the die sets may well contain a number identifying which machine was used. Sometimes this is in the wavy lines and sometimes in the CDS. Unless you already know to the contrary the K in the CDS will most probably indicate the office where the cancelling took place. Alternatively it could stand for Klussendorf, a German firm which might have manufactured the machines. To me the cancellations have the look of Klussendorf types.”

As far as John’s last point is concerned, it seems that the operator passed the cover twice through the canceller because he feared that the first (horizontal) cancel did not sufficiently obliterate the lower stamp. I had always imagined that Cairo / K indicated no more than a specific position or individual “stamper” using the old-fashioned manually-operated handstamp CDS. Whether it had a different significance when machine-cancelling was introduced may well be worthy of investigation.

The full list of covers known (all from Cairo) is:

| | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| June 27 1960 | letter F | internal | Cairo / K machine with slogan | Arabic 9 in slogan |
| ?? 1960 | letter K | to London | Cairo / K machine with slogan | Arabic 12 in waves |
| Dec 4 1960 | letter J | to Leeds | Cairo / K machine with slogan | Arabic 11 in waves |
| Dec 6 1960 | letter A | to Germany | handstamp Le Caire / T.D. 1 | |
| May 3 1961 | letter C | internal | machine cancel (?) with slogan | Arabic 3 in slogan |
| Mar 21 1961 | letters K K | to Denmark | Cairo / K machine with slogan | Arabic 3 in waves |

Clearly there is much more to be learnt here: it would be useful if all members would make a search through their 1960s-era covers and report any more discoveries of this sort. The Secretary will be happy to co-ordinate any findings and send them on to the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle for comment.

Egyptian stalwart: We very much regret to have to announce that **Mohamed Adel Farid** (ESC 495), of Doqqi, Cairo, who suffered a massive brain haemorrhage while acting as Commissioner for Egypt at the Essen international exhibition in May, passed away in Cairo on October 12. Dr Adel Farid, a former President of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, was for several years FIP and FEPA representative and head of the PSE exhibitions committee, and remained on the Board of Directors and the committee producing the L’Orient Philatelique magazine. A medical doctor in his sixties, he was a keen collector and had exhibited early Egyptian Air Mails with gold-medal success at international level. He was very much the driving force behind the Egyptian society, always full of ideas and propositions, and did much to ensure the successful planning of the Circle’s last full-scale visit to Egypt. We offer our sincere condolences to his family and to members of the Egyptian society: Dr Adel Farid will be very much missed.



The “No Value Stamp” Revisited

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)

The piece on this subject in the last *QC* by Mahmoud Ramadan (ESC 358) was most interesting. I should like to widen the investigation into the whole issue.

This is a complicated issue of just one stamp with two printing plates, a change in paper and different watermarks and their orientation, so there is plenty here for the philatelist to study. One key element is the watermark, which is a crescent with a star between the horns. There are two sizes of this; the wide one measures 12mm and the narrow one is 10mm.

To enable me to get to grips with the issue, I tabulated the information presented in *The Nile Post*. This is easily the best source, but it is far from complete, as the table reveals:

| Issue | Paper | Wmk. | Sheet size | Sheet format | Marginal marking | Perf. | Control/plate number |
|-------|-------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1893 | Plain | Wide upright | 240 | 4 panes 60 (6 x 10) | Solid buffer bar | 14 x13¾ | 1 |
| 1903 | Chalk | Wide upright inverted | 240 | Ditto | Ditto | 14 x13¾ Imperf. | 1 2 2 1 |
| 1906 | Ditto | Wide upright | 240 | Ditto | Interrupted buffer bar & vertical ladder | 14 x13¾ | |
| 1914 | Ditto | Narrow sideways star to left | 600 | 6 panes 100 (10 x 10) | Interrupted buffer bar & vert. and horiz. ladder | 14 x13¾ Imperf. | 1 2 3 3 |
| 1915 | Ditto | Narrow sideways star to right | 600 | Ditto | Ditto | 14 x13¾ Imperf. | 3 3 |

There are gaps in the information given, for instance:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 1893 printing. | Peter Smith says that imperforate stamps are also known (<i>Egypt</i> , p.378). Does this exist with inverted watermark? |
| 1903 printing. | Only Plate 1 is recorded with inverted watermark, there should also be Plate 2. |
| 1906 printing. | There is no mention of Plate numbers. I have a vertical pair with Plate 2 in the margin (<i>Fig. 1</i>), so there must also have been a Plate 1. I also have a control block of 4 imperforate stamps with Plate 2 (<i>Fig. 2</i>). Does this printing exist with inverted watermark? |
| 1914 printing. | I have a complete pane 100 stamps from Plate 1, top pane (<i>Fig. 3</i>). Peter Smith says: 1914, watermark faces right or left (p.379). |
| 1915 printing. | I must admit that I have reservations about this being a separate printing from the 1914 one. After all, the only difference is the orientation of the watermark, which is achieved by feeding the paper into the printing press the other way round. Furthermore, Peter Smith does not mention a 1915 printing. I do have an interpanneaux block of 4 imperforate with the watermark star facing to the right (<i>Fig. 4</i>) and, a non margin horizontal imperforate pair. It would seem that there is evidence of a 1915 printing and I would like the opportunity of seeing it. As we read in the piece by Mr Ramadan, there is now recorded a Plate 1 and there should be a Plate 2. |

From the above notes, I think that the table should look like this:

| Issue | Paper | Wmk. | Sheet size | Sheet format | Marginal marking | Perf. | Control/plate number |
|-------|-------|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1893 | Plain | Wide upright | 240 | 4 panes 60 (6 x 10) | Solid buffer bar | 14 x13¾ Imperf. | 1 1 |
| 1903 | Chalk | Wide upright inverted | 240 | Ditto | Ditto | 14 x13¾ Imperf. | 1 2 2 1 2 |
| 1906 | Ditto | Wide upright | 240 | Ditto | Interrupted buffer bar & vertical ladder | 14 x13¾ Imperf. | 1 2 2 |
| 1914 | Ditto | Narrow sideways. Star to left | 600 | 6 panes 100 (10 x 10) | Interrupted buffer bar & vert. and horiz. ladder | 14 x13¾ Imperf. | 1 2 3 3 |
| 1915 | Ditto | Narrow sideways. Star to right | 600 | 6 panes 100 (10 x 10) | Ditto | 14 x13¾ Imperf. | 1 2 3 3 |

Imperforate Proofs

All writers agree that the imperforate stamps are proofs.

It would appear that the imperforate proofs were all printed from ONE plate only for the 1903 to 1915 printings. After this Plate had been checked, then it was coupled up to the other Plates for printing the relevant issue:

| | | |
|------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1893 | Imperforate Proof | printed from Plate 1 |
| 1903 | ditto | 1 |
| 1906 | ditto | 2 |
| 1914 | ditto | 3 |
| 1915 | ditto | 3 |

Printing Variety

De La Rue were such professional printers that there are no varieties to be found on the stamps themselves. However, on my complete pane of 100 stamps from the 1914 printing there is a printing variety in the lower right gutter ladder bar – southeast of stamp position 100. It is a 3mm diameter white circle with a chestnut coloured dot near the centre (*Fig. 5*). I have this variety on two other positional gutter blocks, so from my material it is constant or semi constant.

Now knowing what to look for, if we re-examine Mr Ramadan's panes we find that a pattern emerges. Unfortunately the three illustrations have either been cropped or the pane margins have been partly trimmed, nevertheless, there is just enough here for us to see the "white circle with dot" on his *Fig. 3* and *Fig. 4*. In *Fig. 3* just in the top two corners and in *Fig. 4* in the lower left, just where you would expect to find them. On this evidence I think we can say that the variety is constant. This variety would have been formed by the screw heads that held the ladders in place between the panes.

Marginal markings

Solid buffer bar. Used to protect the stamp image from the ink roller, but it trapped air during printing, causing the paper to wrinkle. Overcome by making the bar interrupted and the corners open.

Ladders. These were inserted between the panes to prevent the paper from sagging into the gutters which caused "drag".



Fig.1. 1906 printing. Plate 2.



Fig. 2. 1906 printing.
Imperforate control block Plate 2.

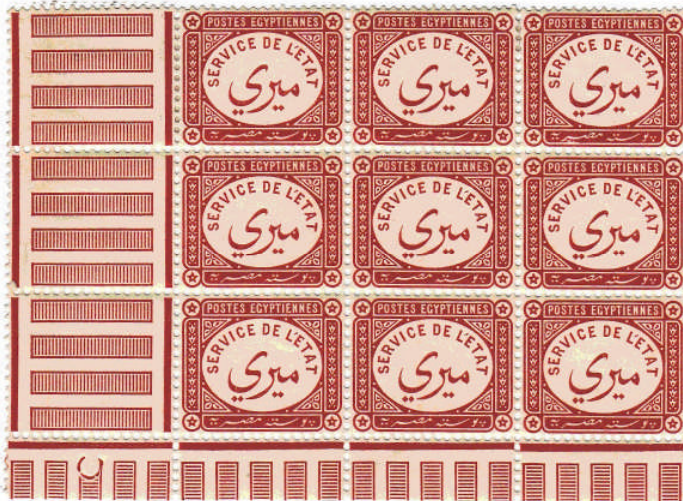


Fig. 3. 1914 printing. Top pane 100, Plate 1.



Fig. 4. 1915 printing.
Interpanneaux block 4 imperforate

Postscript

Since writing the above I have paid a visit to the British Postal Museum and Archive in London. There I inspected the Archives of De La Rue (DLR) for the years 1913 to 1918 and in particular, the reference to Service de l'Etat (SdIE) stamps: the following is what I found there:

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 1914 Mar. 18 | An inventory of Egypt printing items held by DLR, under SdIE it says: <i>1 working die, 3 plates 200 set. Watermark: 1 Bit die "Star & Crescent."</i> |
| 1914 Nov. 7 | Letter from PMG Borton at Alexandria to DLR: <i>I shall be much obliged if you would be good enough to supply this administration with 3,600,000 SdIE stamps. This order is required for next year and delivery should be effected in January next.</i> |
| 1915 Feb. 26 | Letter from DLR to PMG Borton: <i>The consignment, which should leave the docks tomorrow, consists of the following: SdIE 8272 sheets.</i> |
| 1915 Apr. 6 | Letter from DLR to PMG Borton: <i>In case no.90 will be found a parcel containing the following signed specimens for attachment to Contract, as per Article 2: One sheet each, 200 set 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10millieme and 1 piastre Surcharge and of SdIE. (It then continues to list postal stationery).</i> |
| 1915 Jul. 8 | Letter from PMG Borton in Alexandria: <i>Order for SdIE stamps 2,000,000 (two million). I regret that, in existing circumstances the order is smaller than usual.</i> |
| 1915 Aug. 19 | An inventory of Egypt printing items held by DLR. Under SdIE it is the same as listed 18 March 1914. |

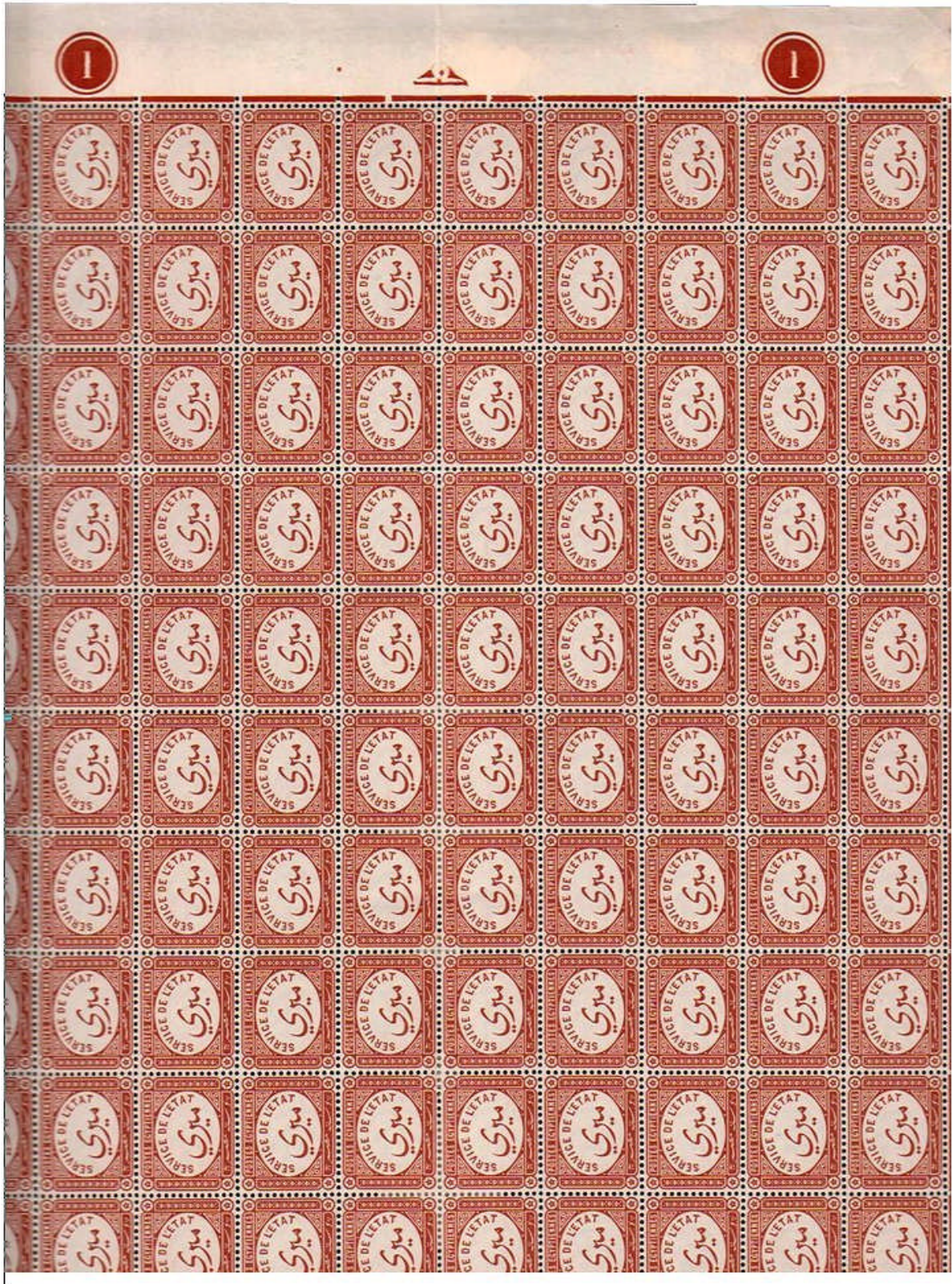


Fig.5. 1914 printing. Variety "White circle with dot"

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1980 Definitive Stamps Used as Postage Dues

Vahe Varjabledian (ESC 390)

While looking through a group of incoming covers from Germany recently I noticed an unusual series of markings.

This 1980 airmail cover from Bonn to Alexandria is franked with three German stamps and also provided with a German T 10/90 boxed cachet alongside. On arrival the cover was taxed and franked with two 1972-73 definitives, the 10mill (SG1133a) and 20 mill (SG1135), as postage dues. Both stamps are pen-cancelled with a large T, which is also written on the front of the cover with *mogharam* (taxed) in Arabic.

It is the first time I have seen such a franking cancelled with a large T on the stamp. Perhaps it was the case that some post offices were using definitive or revenue stamps to collect tax.



Senhit, A Second Cover

Sherif El Kerdani (ESC 456)

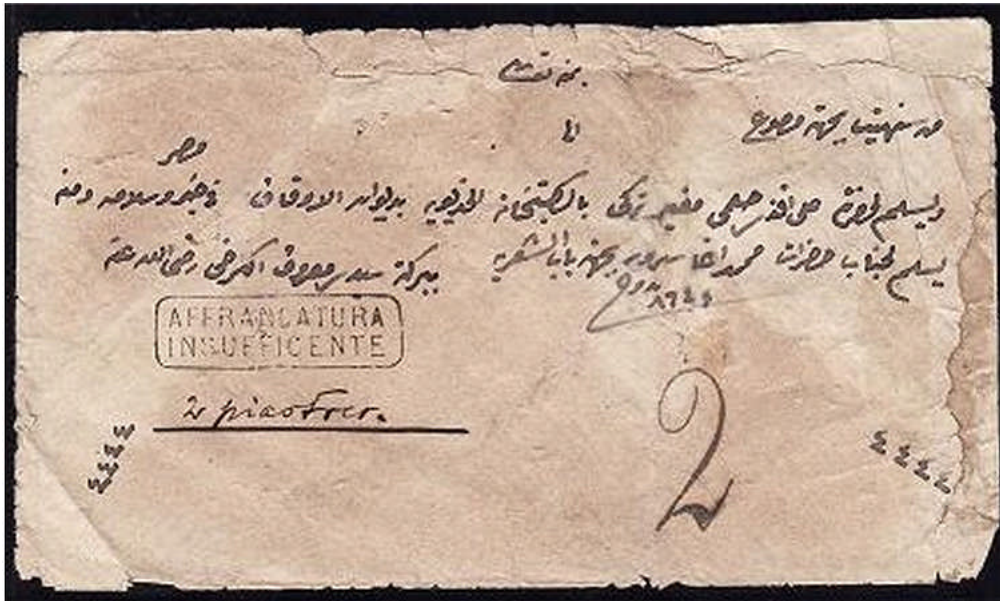


Fig.1 Front



Fig.2 Reverse

Historical Review

Senhit, in what is today Eritrea, lies within the African territories that had been handed over to the Egyptian administration by the Ottoman Sultan in 1868, and was managed by the Governor of Massawa. This fertile land was inhabited by the Bogos, who in the nineteenth century practised agriculture and raised cattle, but lived in tension between the Egyptians on one hand and the Abyssinians on the other. The countryside was constantly crossed by different European traders, explorers, reporters...etc; hence the only confirmed cover from Senhit and the one still in doubt were both directed to France. However, it seems that they preferred the main post office at Massawa. A Post Office circular dated 14.8.1878 stated that 15 simple distribution offices had been opened, one of them in Senhit (Senekhit), a subsidiary of the main post office at Massawa. The Senhit office apparently closed in 1883.

Apart from that, the Egyptian Khedival Government accomplished several reforms in the area, mainly in the fields of healthcare and education, but the Egyptian troops had to withdraw in 1885 to face the Mahdi's revolt

in the Sudan so the neighbouring Italians in Somaliland seized the opportunity and occupied Eritrea including Senhit.



Now, after the independence of Eritrea, Senhit is the southern province of the northern hills (*Fig.3*) with Keren its major town (the northern province being Sahel) and is populated by two of the nine language-based ethnic groups, the Belien and the Tigrè, both groups include Christians and Muslims.

Postal Material

Up till now, there exists only one letter that definitely originated from Senhit: it was franked by the 1875 1 piastre stamp and cancelled in manuscript “Mouderie Senhit” and the Arabic equivalent. As

Ibrahim Chaftar Bey stated, it was odd to use the word “Mouderie”, which implies “Province”. At the time Senhit was a small town administered by the Governor of Massawa, and the correct word should have been “Mamourie” “Delegation”. The letter was addressed to France and backstamped in transit at Massawa on 8.6.1879.

Another letter recorded from the same correspondence was franked by an 1879 1 piastre stamp cancelled by a smudged intaglio seal and backstamped at Massawa on 16.11.1879, but this could as well have originated at Keren or Kassala, so it is of doubtful status.

I recently acquired the letter displayed here. On the face it reads (from top right):

*“From Senhit in the vicinity of Massawa to Cairo (Misr)”
 “and to be delivered to His Presence Ali Effendi Sobhi Moufid Zaki? At the Khedival Library at the Awkaf Diwan in prosperity and safety and from him
 “to be delivered to His Excellency Mohamed Agha Sorour in the vicinity of Bab El Sharia
 “With the blessing of my master (Sidi) Marouf El Karkhi, God be content with him”*

I cannot decipher either the Arabic at the top or the European underlined manuscript at lower left, could it be “2 piastres” [Yes Ed.] The rectangular boxed cachet denotes underpayment, or in this case nonpayment, further explained by the cursive postage due handstamp “2”, 1 piastre postage plus 1 piastre tax.

On the reverse, there is a Massawa transit postmark dated 24.3.1881, and Suez and Cairo arrival postmarks dated on two consecutive days, 15 & 16.4.1881.

As I see it, this letter had been posted at Senhit, which four years after opening, still had not acquired all the necessary postal gear – at least not the CDS – and probably no stamps at the time. The only other point of origin that makes geographical sense is Massawa, but then the Massawa postmark should have been on the front not the back, which brings us back to Senhit. The letter was marked – at either Senhit or Massawa – as underpaid and that tax should be collected, passed through the port of Massawa and was then carried by the Khedival Mail Lines to Suez and from there to the addressee in Cairo to collect the two piastres. There were no postage due stamps at the time to indicate payment. I look forward to any comments on the matter.

References

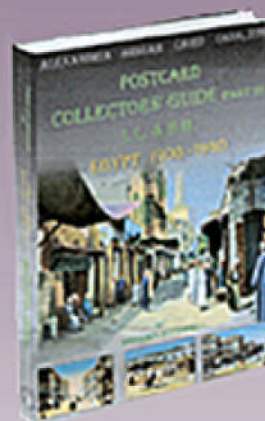
E.Antonini, P.A.S. Smith and I. Chaftar, *L'OP* No. 129, pp. 542-7 (Feb. 1978)

I. Chaftar, *L'OP* No. 83, pp. 134-7 (July 1953)

T.M. Woldemikael, *The Cultural Construction of Eritrean Nationalist Movements*, in C. Young, *The Rising Tide of Cultural Pluralism*, University of Wisconsin Press, 1993, pp. 179-199.

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An Experiment With FDCs from Cairo

Mostafa El-Dars (ESC 556)

During my last visit to Cairo, in August 2008, as usual I paid a visit to the Philatelic Office in Attaba Square to purchase new stamp issues and other items of interest. It was very hot, and as I was the only client, the manager invited me to his office to share a cold lemonade. While discussing philately in general, I asked whether first-day covers could be used for ordinary mailing to England since the stamps had been paid for but not used. After a protracted discussion and a couple of phone calls to senior managers, the verdict was “Yes, they can be used, providing the value of the stamps to the destination required is correct.” With this in mind, I bought two identical sets each comprising 15 different FDCs. I addressed one set to my UK address and kept the second set as a control. I mailed the experimental FDCs from different parts of Cairo on different dates, hoping that I would be rewarded with different varieties of cancellations.

The result of the experiment was very interesting.

Three FDCs did not arrive at all. Three did arrive, but showed no evidence of any Cairo cancellations. Three more did show Cairo cancellations, with readable dates but with the post office name illegible. Five FDCs arrived with very legible and clean cancellations (*Fig.1*).

The most interesting and intriguing was the last one, an FDC celebrating the liberation of Sinai (*Fig.2*). The stamps marking the occasion formed a se-tenant block of four each with a face value of 30p, thus providing a total value of £E1.20. But the correct overseas airmail rate was £E1.50, so I was expecting to be fined the missing 30pi on arrival. To my surprise, however, the original four se-tenant Sinai stamps had been neatly and carefully removed from the cover and replaced by one stamp of value £E1.50. This was cancelled in Cairo but not very clearly dated 25.08.08 (*Fig.3*).

I am still at a loss to know who and where this took place. Anyway, my thanks to whoever did it and gave me such a gift.



Fig.1.



Fig.2 The control cover.



Fig.3

Egypt's new Postal Rates – April 1, 2009

Vahe Varjabledian (ESC 311)

Following is a translation of the new list of postal rates issued by Egypt Post on April 1, 2009:

1. Internal (Registration extra £E1.50; Avis de Reception extra £E.1.00)

Rates for official, commercial, banks etc

| Weight | Normal letter | Registration fee | Registered letter | Reg plus AR |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 10-50gm | £E1.00 | 1.50 | 2.50 | 3.50 |
| 50-100gm | £E1.25 | 1.50 | 2.75 | 3.75 |
| 100-250gm | £E2.00 | 1.50 | 3.50 | 4.50 |
| 250-500gm | £E3.50 | 1.50 | 5.00 | 6.00 |
| 500g-1kg | £E6.00 | 1.50 | 7.50 | 8.50 |
| 1kg-2kg | £E9.00 | 1.50 | 10.50 | 11.50 |

Rates for the general public

| | | | | |
|------------------|--------|------|------|-------|
| To 20gm | £E0.30 | 1.50 | 1.80 | 2.80 |
| 20-50gm | £E0.50 | 1.50 | 2.00 | 3.00 |
| 50-100gm | £E0.80 | 1.50 | 2.30 | 3.30 |
| 100-250gm | £E1.50 | 1.50 | 3.00 | 4.00 |
| 250-500gm | £E2.70 | 1.50 | 4.20 | 5.20 |
| 500gm-1kg | £E4.80 | 1.50 | 6.30 | 7.30 |
| 1kg-2kg | £E7.80 | 1.50 | 9.30 | 10.30 |

2. Foreign destinations (Registration £E7 (instead of £E5) for letters, printed matter, postcards)

By Air

| Weight | Group 1 | Group 2 | Group 3 | Group 4 |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| To 10gm | £E2.00 | 2.50 | 2.50 | 2.50 |
| 10-20gm | £E2.50 | 3.00 | 3.50 | 4.00 |
| 20-50gm | £E4.00 | 4.50 | 5.00 | 6.00 |
| 50-100gm | £E6.00 | 8.00 | 9.00 | 11.00 |
| 100-200gm | £E12.00 | 15.00 | 17.00 | 20.00 |
| 200-300gm | £E16.00 | 21.00 | 23.00 | 29.00 |
| 300-400gm | £E21.00 | 27.00 | 30.00 | 38.00 |
| 400-500gm | £E25.00 | 34.00 | 38.00 | 48.00 |
| 500-600gm | £E30.00 | 41.00 | 46.00 | 57.00 |
| 600-700gm | £E35.00 | 47.00 | 53.00 | 67.00 |
| 700-800gm | £E40.00 | 50.00 | 60.00 | 76.00 |
| 800-900gm | £E45.00 | 58.00 | 68.00 | 86.00 |
| 900gm-1kg | £E50.00 | 68.00 | 75.00 | 95.00 |
| 1-1.5kg | £E70.00 | 85.00 | 94.00 | 119.00 |
| 1.5-2kg | £E90.00 | 102.00 | 113.00 | 143.00 |

Group 1: Arab countries (members of the Arab Postal Union - Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen).

Group 2: Mainly Europe, plus a few other countries

Group 3: North America (USA, Canada) and some African countries

Group 4: South America, Australia/New Zealand, Japan, Oceania

EMS (Express Mail Service)

| Weight | Old rate | New rate | Weight | Old rate | New rate |
|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| To 100gm | £E4.00 | £E5.00 | 100-200gm | £E6.00 | £E7.00 |
| 200-500gm | 8.00 | 10.00 | 500gm-1kg | 9.00 | 11.00 |
| 1-1.5kg | 10.00 | 12.00 | 1.5-2kg | 11.00 | 13.00 |
| 2-2.5kg | 12.00 | 14.00 | 2.5-3kg | 13.00 | 16.00 |
| 3-3.5kg | 14.00 | 17.00 | 3.5-4kg | 15.00 | 18.00 |
| 4-4.5kg | 16.00 | 19.00 | 4.5-5kg | 17.00 | 20.00 |
| 5-5.5kg | 18.00 | 22.00 | 5.5-6kg | 19.00 | 23.00 |
| 6-6.5kg | 20.00 | 24.00 | 6.5-7kg | 21.00 | 25.00 |
| 7-7.5kg | 22.00 | 26.00 | 7.5-8kg | 23.00 | 28.00 |
| 8-8.5kg | 24.00 | 29.00 | 8.5-9kg | 25.00 | 30.00 |
| 9-9.5kg | 26.00 | 31.00 | 9.5-10kg | 27.00 | 32.00 |

War Time Cover

Edmund Hall (ESC239)

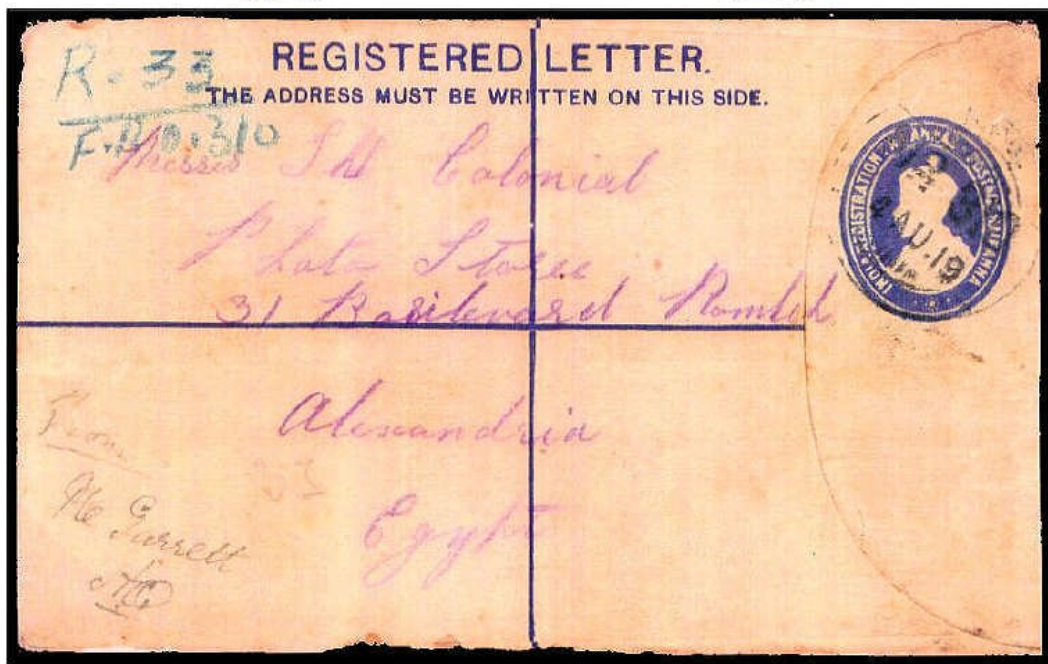
I recently acquired this cover, which I find interesting. Sent from what I think I can make out from the unclear postmark is Suez on 18 DE 41, it is backstamped Cairo 23 DE 41 and has an Egyptian censor label tied with a civilian censor mark. It also has another censor mark on the front. It was addressed to Beziers, Hérault, which at the time was in Vichy France and therefore in enemy territory. It is postmarked Lisbon (Lisboa) four months later and Hérault on 5 (May?), 2(42?) with a French censor label and censor mark. It shows the route through neutral territory, via Portugal, but how did it travel from Egypt to Portugal, and was four months typical for the time?



Lebanon – Airmail Pioneer Flights 1919 - Unrecorded British
R.A.F. Flight Baghdad - Rayak – Alexandria

Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264)

Registered cover from Indian Field Post Office (I.F.P.) 310 at Baghdad 4 August 1919, to Alexandria, Egypt. Transit backstamp 8 August 1919 of I.F.P. 333 at Deri Alba, near Baghdad. Flown by R.A.F. to its Rayak (Lebanon) air base. Same day arrival backstamp “Rayak 1” Ottoman period postmark. Continuing by air to R.A.F. Alexandria base. Civilian regular (not registered) mail delivery 11 August 1919.



It was impossible in 1919 to travel by road Baghdad to Rayak in one day. Had the cover gone through the postal system, this would have taken about one week and it would be received at Damascus. Also, it would have been handled as registered mail all the way. Three days total transit time from Baghdad to Alexandria in 1919, can only be by air.

PREVIOUSLY UNRECORDED EARLIEST AIR MAIL TO AND FROM LEBANON.
 DISCOVERED BY US 90 YEARS POST FACTO

THE NEXT QC, MARCH 2010

It is intended to produce an all-colour edition of the *QC* in celebration of our 75th anniversary and the London 2010 International Festival of Stamps. As with *QC 200*, the idea is to publish single-page contributions with the essential ingredient being at least one third of the page in colour. To the right, in glorious black and white, is a page from *QC 200*. If inspiration fails to strike, we would be happy to accept a scanned page from your collection.

Meanwhile, many thanks for your contributions. I have quite a few pages in hand which will now have to wait for the June edition.



London 2010 Festival of Stamps

**London 2010
International Stamp Exhibition**
Business Design Centre, Islington
8 to 15 May 2010
including a major presence by Royal Mail

**Displays at the Royal Philatelic Society
London**
Open to all – 6 May 2010 by ticket
Members only – 7 May 2010

Empire Mail: George V and the GPO
Exhibition at Guildhall Art Gallery
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and Marylebone Cricket Club Museum at Lords*

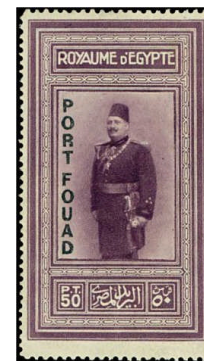
**Special displays and talks presented by the
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Hello Egypt collectors. Welcome to www.stampsofegypt.com. I am specialised in Egyptian stamps from 1866 to date, including varieties, essays, proofs, covers, FDCs, postal stationery, postcards, new issues, Egypt & Sudan specialised philatelic and numismatic literature in Arabic, English and French, 222 topical subjects for every topicalist, revenues, revenue documents, Egyptian ephemera, H Farahbaksh Deluxe Egypt stamp albums and philatelic accessories and supplies. Your Egypt wants lists, collecting interests, enquiries and offers from a single stamp to complete year issues in your preferred condition are most welcome and gladly answered. Egypt wants lists from 1866 to date, collecting interests and offers are always welcome by SG, Yvert, Michel, Zeheri, Balian, Peter Feltus and Nile Post numbers. I have a simple website but varied and wonderful Egypt items.



I am a member of the Philatelic Society of Alexandria (Egypt), The Philatelic Society of Egypt (Cairo), Egypt Study Circle (UK) and American Philatelic Society (USA). Please join me in these wonderful societies.



Let's Collect Egyptian Stamps and Egypt's 222 Topicals.

Please do pass by, phone, fax, email or write whenever you like. I am honoured to be commended by you to all your Egypt philatelic friends,



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Time to celebrate:

London 2010 and the Circle's 75th Anniversary

The Egypt Study Circle was founded, as one of the first specialist one-country philatelic groups, as long ago as 1935 – and it is a great delight to be able to share our celebrations with London 2010, the major exhibition that takes place in the British capital every ten years, bringing together the cream of the world's philatelists.

We hope as many as possible of our members will be able to attend in London next year, so here is everything you need to know:

London 2010 date and place: Opens on May 8 2010 at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, North London (www.businessdesigncentre.co.uk), and continues to May 15. For details see www.london2010.org.uk. Because space is somewhat limited, the organisers are in effect planning two exhibitions, with 1200 competition frames – Traditional, Revenues, Postal Stationery, Youth and George V- on show from May 8-11; and a further 1200 – Postal History, Aerophilately and Thematics – from May 12-15. So there's **no excuse not to visit at least twice!** Doors open at 10m each day, with admission £10 on the opening day, otherwise free.

Study Circle luncheon: On May 7 (12.45 for 1.30), at our normal meeting place, the Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, Marble Arch (www.vsc.co.uk; cut-price accommodation can be arranged). It is planned to fill the gap between the two days of Philatex Extra in Victoria and the opening of London 2010. If you wish to attend **please return the letter in this QC** as quickly as possible – the number of places is limited. We shall have displays throughout the luncheon (single frame, 11 sheets plus introduction): **please contact the Secretary if you are willing to display.**

Special edition of the QC: We shall prepare a special anniversary edition of the *Quarterly Circular*, crammed with one-page articles all illustrated in colour and designed to show the range of interests held by Circle members. **Please contact the Editor if you are willing to contribute** a brief article.

ESC at London 2010: We shall be sharing a table with the Sudan Study Group, and hope to have two newly published books on display as well as the all-colour *QC*, information for potential members and stamps to give away to young collectors of the future. We shall need help with manning the table throughout the week, so **all volunteers welcome.**

Other events: London 2010 is just part of the London Festival of Stamps, a year-long programme of exhibitions, activities and events to mark the centenary of the accession of George V – the philatelist king – and in celebration of stamps, stamp design and postal heritage. There will be major exhibitions at the Guildhall Art Gallery (produced by the Royal Philatelic Collection and the British Postal Museum), and others at the British Museum (focusing on Africa), the British Library Philatelic Collections and the Royal Philatelic Society.

Warm welcome! We very much look forward to being able to welcome our member Hisham Bassyouny as the Egypt Commissioner to London 2010 – and as many overseas and local ESC members as are able to come to help us to celebrate a rare and significant occasion. If more information is required, **please contact the Secretary** at 109 Chadwick Road, London SE15 4PY (020 7639 0853) or egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com

Hitler's 50th Birthday and Grossdeutschland Celebrated in Egypt

John Davis (ESC 213)

My brief article and plea for help in the last *QC*, p159, elicited no fewer than six e-mails to me personally and perhaps yet more to the website; I am most grateful to new member Patrick Moore (ESC 644), to Laurence Kimpton (ESC 591), Robin Blakely (ESC 295), Bill Johns (ESC 287), Jos Strengholt (ESC 606) and Axel Zuehlke (ESC 298) for their informed and interesting comments, which I now pass on to readers. Thank you, Mike, for sending on those directed to you.

Firstly, the “swastika type” censor mark on the 50th Birthday cover cancelled in Vienna (*Fig. 1* in the article) is in fact a circular Greek currency mark indicating that the contents of the letter did not contravene the currency restrictions and regulations then in operation in December 1939. This mark would have been struck on the front of the cover at Athens and, as mentioned in the original article, the reverse of the cover bears a Greek cancel incorporating Athinai Poste Aerienne dated 21 V 39. For this particular information, my thanks go to Bill Johns and Laurence Kimpton.

Robin Blakely advised that the church illustrated in the “standard 50th birthday cancel” used in Austria is that of St Stephen, presumably in Vienna; the inner ring of writing at the base of the cancel is “The Führer’s Birthday”, while the outer ring reads “German Austria” or “Austria is German”.

Robin then went on to send a scan of some special postmarks including both found on the cover illustrated as *Fig. 2* in the article. He suggests that the “square” slogan more or less central on the cover is shown top right in the scan and should not be read with the adjoining circular date stamp, which is a different item. This also applies to the slogan to its left on the cover and shown bottom right in the scan. Comments taken from above the special postmarks depicted on the scan indicate that the rectangular cachet with the swastika over Austria reads, “One leader/ 13 March 1938/ Greater Germany”.

The two e-mailers from Germany kindly translated and commented on these slogan postmarks, Axel Zuehlke also mentioning that the second cover is addressed to Mrs. (i.e. Frau) rather than to Mr. (i.e. Herr) Lehner in Vienna. He stated that “the correct style of the German text in the cancel is *Ehrlich* (not Herlich, that was in fact a typo in the original article) *wahrt am laengsten*” and that it translates as “Honesty is the best policy”. Jos Strengholt makes the same correction and translates it “Honesty lasts longest”, which agrees almost exactly with that in the scan. To those who may not be aware, we in England have a proverb or saying, “Honesty is the best policy”, so either translation is equally understandable.

The three German words *Wucher*, *Ramsch* and *Schacher* appearing below the shield and the above-mentioned proverb are much more controversial; Axel suggests that they have a very “National Socialistic” (or even anti-Semitic) background while Jos says that they describe three economic habits of which Jews were accused – namely usury (or profiteering), cheap junk (or jumble sale) business and petty peddling or haggling. He too recognises the anti-Semitic overtones in the postmark.

So, now we know! As I mentioned earlier, I am indeed most grateful to our alert membership for all this information concerning my two controversial covers, and it just goes to show: all you need to do is ask. To answer Mike Murphy’s question, also in the last *QC*, “Why are YOU a Circle member?” this excellent response is surely proof that it does pay to belong to a specialist society, especially one with an educated and erudite membership!



Slogan marking



Greek currency marking

Query 67 Richard Wilson (ESC 230)



What is the date of issue for the 1 piastre Letter Seal of the British Forces in Egypt stamp (SG A2, Nile Post BF3, Balian 2, etc.)? As far as I know all of the catalogues state August 1933 but no day of issue. All of the articles that I have seen (with one exception) say August 1933. The exception is from the *QC*, Vol. VII, No. 2, June 1970, page 32, British Forces Concession Seals by G. D. Turton. He gives the date of 25 August 1933. Also, I have a photostat of a checklist of these stamps that came with a collection I purchased a number of years ago that gives the 25 August 1933 date. Finally, I have a cover posted 25 AU 33 from Abu Qir with Crown

Cancel 13. Does anyone know of an earlier cover? Is there an article that shows an earlier date than the Turton article?

Query 68 Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Spotted at auction in Germany: this Egyptian first-issue 20-para postcard, in mint condition, has been very expertly overprinted in black to obliterate the paras value and express it in the new-currency terms of 5 millièmes, with lettering in Arabic (Turkish?) below. Alongside, the "Carte Postal" indication has been overprinted "Service Postal" in capital seriffed letters, and the Arabic equivalent of UPU/Egypt overprinted in black non-seriffed letters with a three-line inscription: LEMAK / SCHRAMA CHIM / KKEL. Despite protracted efforts to identify these terms, I have drawn a complete blank. Can any member help to identify?



Query 69 Alexandre Amoudi (ESC 623)

A few months ago I purchase the attached cover. Perhaps, you could shed some light on the cancellation postmark. The French inscription mentions “Mouvement Etranger” (ie, foreign movement). However, I am not able to make out the Arabic inscription. Would you know the meaning of the postmark “Mouvement Etranger” and why would it be used on a cover commemorating the Coronation of King Farouk?

Any help that you can provide is much appreciated.



Errata: to the article “Louis Mouillard – Pioneer Aviator”, *QC* 230, pages 164-166.

- Top line of page 165 (Trail-blazing...) should be a footnote to page 164.
- At the bottom of page 166, References 1. and 2. should read:

1. *Aviation - The Pioneer Years*, by B.Mackworth-Praed, Studio Editions Ltd, London, 1990. This uses much material extracted from previously published articles in the French magazine *L'Illustration*, including a photograph of Mouillard and of his aeroplane in Cairo (see reference 3 below for full story).

2. *Le Grand Tourisme*, Paris, No.195, Autumn 1935 – Special Issue on Egypt.

Among the medals: Our Egyptian colleagues have again done us proud in international competition in Italia 2009, held in Rome from October 21-25. A Large Gold medal with Special Prize was won by:

Samir Fikry (ESC 305) for his *Egyptian Postal Services in the Suez Canal Zone*;

Ibrahim Shoukry (ESC 423) won Large Vermeil with his *Egypt: Rural Service 1889-1939*;

Sherif Samra (ESC 311), with his *Provisional Issue 5 and 10 paras 1879*, which won Vermeils in the single-frame competition.

Samir Nabih Attia (ESC 505) for *Thomas Cook & Sons Tourist Agency*.

Panayotis Cangelaris (ESC 635) from Greece won Large Silver in the traditional class with *The Kingdom of Egypt (1922-1953)*.

Markos Messiah (non-member), took Vermeil in the single-frame class with the *Fouad “Postes” Issues 1936-1937*. We congratulate all of them!

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE LIBRARY ACCOUNTS FOR EXCEPTIONAL PERIOD FROM AGM 2008
(MAY) AND ENDING AUGUST 2009

You will recall that at the AGM in May 2008 the ESC Library held a balance of £124.02 as subsequently published in *QC*, and that it was agreed that the Library should use these funds to acquire a copy of Peter Smith's book. Unfortunately it transpired that the producers of the book had ceased trading and no other philatelic source could supply a copy. This was the position when a part of what turned out to be Robin Bertram's philatelic library was auctioned by Grosvenor Auctions, and one lot in particular included a copy of Peter's book. I bought it.

Having extracted a long list of books for inclusion in the Library, including Peter's book, 31 lots were submitted to the ESC Auction No. 45 and sold and, more recently, 9 further lots were submitted to the Sudan Study Group's auction and 8 were sold, the other book being donated to the SSG Library.

That is the background to these figures that I trust will be self-explanatory.

INCOME

| | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| Float held at AGM in May 2008 | | £124.02 |
| Sale of books etc. in ESC Auction 45 (net of charges) | *367.70 | |
| Sale of books etc. in SSG Auction (net of charges) | 63.06 | |
| Sale of back-numbers of <i>QC</i> (inclusive of P & P) | 38.35 | |
| Sale of spare copy of L'OP (inclusive of P & P) | 2.66 | |
| Total Income received | 471.82 | |
| *Held in main account | | |

EXPENDITURE

| | | |
|--|-------|--------|
| Total cost of lot in Grosvenor auction (inclusive) | | 188.20 |
| Purchase of books: | | |
| Blau & Deighton: The Orient Flight | 15.00 | |
| Matthews, G. La Posta Militare Italiana 1940-43 | 3.00 | 18.00 |
| Postage for sending borrowed books and <i>QCs</i> | 10.15 | |
| Postage for returning 2 x L'OP to Cairo for exchange | 3.16 | |
| Postage due <i>QC</i> received under-franked | 1.46 | 14.77 |
| Total Expenditure incurred | | 220.97 |

EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE

£250.85

THE NEXT *QC* MARCH 2010 (reminder)

It is intended to produce an all-colour edition of the *QC* in celebration of our 75th anniversary and the London 2010 International Festival of Stamps. As with *QC 200*, the idea is to publish single-page contributions with the essential ingredient being at least one third of the page in colour. To the right, in glorious black and white, is a page from *QC 200*. If inspiration fails to strike, we would be happy to accept a scanned page from your collection.

Stamps and Philatelic Centre
Richard S. W. Lane (1911-1982)

I like advertising and I should never and I'm in one of my articles. "The world will have thought that the American have would have been the way to fight over a few 100 years ago!" But also, the Philatelic Society is now looking for a new home in the 1910s and the old one was in the 1910s. The new home is in the 1910s. The new home is in the 1910s.

The new home is in the 1910s. The new home is in the 1910s. The new home is in the 1910s.



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. We hope that more members will seize the chance to let colleagues know what you are doing and how they can help. There is no "fee" for the advertisement - 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 a very good reason to do so).

London 2010 and our 75th Anniversary: The big celebrations take place in the second week of May next year ... see inside (and the enclosed letter from our Deputy Chairman) for more information. Please respond quickly if you intend to attend the luncheon, as the number of places is limited; and we would be delighted to hear from members willing to show a single-frame (11 sheets plus introduction) display at the luncheon. Please contact the Secretary for details. Oh, and by the way, don't forget that your annual subscription for 2010 is due on January 1!!

Thanks from Gibbons – The newly published Stanley Gibbons Part 19 Catalogue (Middle East) notes that "Egypt has been researched thoroughly, and with thanks to Dr Adel A. Abdel Hafez [who is our member ESC 451] over 30 new varieties have been listed for the first time." Congratulations to Dr Adel on this acknowledgement, and members are offered a 10 per cent discount (and free postage in the British Isles) on the £42.50 catalogue. Quote the code ESC09 to order via freephone 0800 611 622 or email orders@stanleygibbons.co.uk.

Stationery sought: A member is in desperate need of specific mint postal stationery. Please contact the Secretary with prices for: Nile Post SEN 9, 1892 2pi orange env with 5m surcharge, 24.5mm long with hamza; SEN 51, 1968 20m green UAR Mitwalli Gate, Arabic text on front and back; SRE 4, 1928, 10m carmine reg env, blue inscriptions, HARRISONS & SONS LTD under flap; SRE 11, 1940 20m Boy King reg env, blue on creamy white, no rule around stamp vignette.

Philatelic blog: We learn with delight of an enterprise by our Marseilles member André Navari (ESC 534), a postal historian keen to share his thoughts with those who feel the same. He has taken to writing a regular online blog at <http://histoire-postale.blogspot.com> (in French), which includes a quarterly review of philatelic journals. Well worth a look!

Retta research: A member is interested in acquiring covers with retta cancels as follows: First issue 1pi cancelled retta type B1; Fourth issue (1879-83) with retta type B1; Fourth issue (1888-1902) with retta B2, all as described in Peter Smith's *Egypt* page 513. Please contact Khaled Mostafa (ESC 638) at 18A Selim el Awal Street, El Zeitoun, Cairo, Egypt or via k_m_mostafa@yahoo.com

Rural Service – Work is proceeding on the Rural Service book and the authors wish to publish lists of early and late dates for each route as comprehensive as possible: they would be grateful if any member with Rural covers, whether few or many, would contact tawaaf@hotmail.co.uk or the Secretary. And that elusive Rural oval of 14.7.91 from Damiette to Dresden is still missing. Anyone who knows where it is would be greeted with great delight by the authors!

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).

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.