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Territorial P.O. in Massawa. 1875 (Nov 13): Cover from Massawa to Marseille franked by 1872-75 5pa. brown and 2pi. yellow (2) tied by "Poste Khedevie Egiziane-Massawa" datestamps in black; via Egyptian P.O. in Suez and thence via French P.O. in Alexandria (Nov 24). Charged 1 franc due on receipt in Marseille: whilst Egypt's membership of the UPU was active from 1 July 1875, France only activated the new reduced rates from 1 January 1876. Extremely rare cover.

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Coming attractions on the Meetings list

- May 7: Victory Services Club – 75th Anniversary Luncheon
Philatex Extra May 5-6; London 2010 May 8-15
- July 17: in York – David Sedgwick – Port Said and West Hartlepool;
John Davis – Postage Dues
York Fair July 16-17
- September 18: at Stampex – Acquisitions and Queries – All members
Stampex September 15-18
- Nov 6: Victory Services Club – Edmund Hall – Military in Egypt, 1882-1982
Philatex November 4-6

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

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Report of the (non-)Meeting, January 9 2009

England's icy weather beat us, I'm afraid, and the sheer impossibility of travelling – for speaker and members alike – made it necessary to call off the meeting.

A quick shuffle of dates, and the generosity of spirit of a couple of speakers, means however that all is not lost: our President, John Sears, will now give his display on *Ship Mail from 1930* at the Annual General Meeting at Stampex on February 27; and John Davis will present his *Postage Dues* at the York meeting on July 16.

For London 2010 and our 75th Anniversary luncheon on May 7, there are four appeals to be made:

1. Please return your luncheon forms (delivered with the December QC) to Stanley Horesh as soon as possible.
2. Please, if you are attending the luncheon, consider giving a 12-sheet display on a topic of your choice (details to the Secretary please).
3. Please help to make the anniversary issue QC really special by providing a single-page article with colour illustration to the Editor as soon as you can.
4. Please help to make the Anniversary Auction a bumper affair by providing lists of lots for sale to the Secretary by April 1

Report of the Annual General Meeting, February 27, 2010

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, John Clarke, Mostafa El-Dars, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Alan Jeyes, Hany Makram (USA), Ronny Van Pellecom (Belgium), Vahe Varjabedian (Egypt), Richard Wheatley. Guest: Armen Varjabedian (Egypt).

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: David Sedgwick (Publicity), Tony Chisholm, Ibrahim Shoukry, Dick Wilson, Margaret Chadwick, Angela Child, Cyril Defriez, Peter Goodwin, Charlie Hass, Bill Johns, André Navari, Keith Pogson, Sami Sadek.

Unusually, because the AGM had to be brought forward because the normal May date clashed with the big London 2010 exhibition and our own 75th Anniversary, and because the January meeting had to be cancelled on account of appalling weather, the meeting started with a display. John Sears, our President, entertained us with the display planned for January, and presented a fascinating and wide-ranging series of sheets on the topic "Ship Mail since 1890".

He offered no apologies for starting in 1890, but made the initial point that there remains much to be discovered in postal history terms about the first part of the twentieth century. His display provided a glimpse into another world, with a great deal of time and effort having been put in to tracking down illustrations (mainly colourful postcards) of the vessels on which his collection of covers and cards had been written or carried.

John showed the whole gamut of Egyptian mail markings, from Pleine Mer to the latest Alexandria Maritime Station, and everything in between, explaining the development from straight-line paquebot markings to circular datestamps for country's major sea ports – Alexandria, Port Said, Suez and Port Tawfiq – and explained how that development varied, with Port Said changing in 1914 but Suez never having a circular handstamp and Port Tawfiq enjoying two similar types at the same time.

He described a notable increase in ship mail during the 1950s and 1960s when the assisted passage scheme to New Zealand and Australia was at its height, and then moved on to related markings of the Khedivial Mail Line, the Royal (later State) Romanian Maritime Service., the Vapore d'Alessandria cachet, and reported on a cover acquired only that week bearing the CDS of the Société Misr de Navigation Maritime vessel El Nil. Most important of all, he handed out "homework sheets", and sought members' help in compiling comprehensive records of the Paquebot and Pleine Mer markings by recording all markings in their

collection and returning the sheets to John as soon as possible. The Chairman then thanked the speaker on behalf of members for having “introduced us to an enormous subject” which he thought had been done full justice.

Members then turned to the Annual Meeting, which opened with a minute’s silence to remember two of our recently deceased Egyptian colleagues, Samir Fikry (ESC 305); see page 197 and Adel Farid (ESC 495).

Chairman’s Report: The Chairman welcomed those in attendance, and especially our foreign visitors, 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 it had been a quiet year. He regretting that the January meeting had been lost to the weather, but noted a redesign of the QC front cover, and urged members to make it a point to visit the increasingly valuable material Edmund Hall (ESC 239) was posting on the website, creating a valuable research tool. He praised the Committee and gave sincere thanks to our three overseas Agents – Dick Wilson (North America), Tony Chisholm (Antipodes) and Ibrahim Shoukry (Egypt) for their efforts.

Secretary’s Report: The Secretary noted that overall membership had been reduced by two during the year as new applications virtually balanced the number leaving, and introduced a new applicant, Armen Varjabedian from Heliopolis, who was elected to membership by acclamation. He was pleased to see that the number of votes for the Macarthur Award had again increased, and handed over to the Chairman to announce the winner: after two years of close contests, in 2009 it was a runaway success for Pierre Grech (ESC 266), with his magisterial *French Forces in Egypt in World War One*.

In discussing arrangements for the 75th Anniversary luncheon on May 7 and for the London 2010 exhibition, he expressed disappointment that there had been so few volunteers, and spoke with sorrow about the dearth of support for the few active committee members from the membership in general. He appealed – again – for volunteers to man the table at London 2010 and for 16-page single-frame exhibits from the luncheon, with a certain amount of success. More help is still required to make these events a success.



Peter Andrews (right) presents the Macarthur Award scribe statuette for 2009 to Pierre Grech

In similar manner, the Deputy Chairman appealed for members to support the luncheon, and gave warning that as the number of places was limited at the Victory Services Club, applications should be received well before the closing date of April. 1

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer presented Circle accounts to December 31 2009, noting that expenditure had increased on room hire (for meetings) and on QC costs (mainly postage), and that a much higher than usual proportion of members’ subscriptions had not been paid before the AGM because, exceptionally, we had moved it forward. He said that some leeway would be given before action would be taken against non-payers, but appealed to members to make their subscriptions as soon as possible.

Subscriptions appeal

During the meeting the Treasurer appealed to all members who are able to do so to pay their annual subscriptions by standing order – once arranged it can safely be forgotten, with benefits all round! The Circle account is at Barclays Bank (Wood Green Group), sort code 20-98-21, account number 60334731: please use your surname and ESC

The transfer from the Auction account remained constant at £1,500, leading to a surplus for the 12 months of £1,374.36 as against £1,961.18 the year before. Members voted to adopt the Accounts (proposed, Brian

Sedgley; seconded, John Davis). The Treasurer then proposed a vote of thanks to the Accountant, Stephen Bunce (ESC 272), which was seconded by Mike Murphy and warmly applauded.

Auction Report: John Sears reported that the results of Auctions 47 and 48 had been slightly disappointing, with the proportion of lots sold reduced. The two sales produced a net profit of some £1,150, which would certainly be reduced this year because only one auction was planned. He made two serious appeals – for members to support the Auctions both by submitting material and bidding on the lots offered; and for all members to consider how they could help the auction team – which has been in place now for getting on for 20 years and feels that there must be other things in life (if only there was time!).

Editor/Webmaster Report: Edmund Hall (ESC 239) reported that he had only limited time to prepare the special 75th Anniversary *QC* and spoke of his great disappointment that members had not submitted single-page articles by the end of December as requested. He would make every effort to produce a fitting tribute to 75 years of the Circle, but was beginning to wonder how much members valued the *QC*.

On the website front, he reported that though he had been able to place much more material online in recent weeks, the response from members had been less than encouraging. Though acknowledging members' increasing average age, he urged all to visit the site to see what had been achieved in their name; and further urged every member to consider what material he could add to the general body of information on the site. Anyone fearing practical problems would be assured of a warm and friendly welcome! He very much welcomed the Chairman's warm enthusiasm.

Letter from the Philatelic Society of Egypt: The meeting considered at some length a letter received from the President of the Cairo Society, Dr Sherif Samra, warning of the prevalence in Egypt of the photocopying for illegal resale of books, magazines and pamphlets that were still in copyright. Dr Samra said he was determined to stamp out this practice, and sought ESC help in suggesting what action might be taken against two alleged perpetrators, both of them members of both the Egyptian group and the ESC.

After full discussion, the meeting agreed overwhelmingly to support Dr Samra's campaign by making this report public, by, in the first instance, quiet diplomacy with the two members concerned, by making clear that there were membership and even legal sanctions that could eventually be brought to bear, and by making a strong appeal to all members worldwide not to purchase such photocopied material. It was clear to all that such illegal photocopying can only line the pockets of the lazy who are piggybacking on the work of genuine researchers who themselves may be discouraged from publishing, thus robbing everyone of the fruits of their labour. The Circle feels strongly that firm action should be taken against those found to be continuing this practice.

Membership changes

New Member:

- ESC 646 Armen Varjabedian**, 6 Mohammed Galal Street, Apt 61, Heliopolis 11341, Cairo, Egypt (Postal history of Egypt, Armenian community correspondence)
- ESC 647 Dr Jonathan Becker**, 4540 Sand Point Way NE, Suite 200, Seattle, WA 98105, US (Allenby campaign material, Development of air mail, Cairo-Baghdad route etc).

Change of address

- ESC 130 Keith Pogson**, 1 Riseborough House, Rawcliffe Lane, Clifton Without, York YO30 6NQ

Resigned: ESC 124 **A F A Letts** ESC 557 **Jürgen Fricke** ESC 588 **Len Bourne**

Deceased: ESC 305 **Samir Fikry**

Other announcements see:

Caroline Scannell honoured	p207	New Cairo committee	p208
Toutounji strikes gold	p220	Alexandria goes it alone	p217

Obituary: Samir Fikry (ESC 305)

It is with the greatest regret that we have to report the death on February 5 of Samir Amin Fikry (ESC 305), for at least two decades the country's foremost collector, after a brain haemorrhage in Cairo from which he never recovered consciousness.

Samir, an architect and Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London who was 77, was a well-known international exhibitor over many years, specialising in the rare and the unique, and became one of only six collectors in the world to win three Grand Prix – in India 1989, New Zealand 1990 and Valencia 2004 – as well as a host of Large Gold medals and was 12 times shown in international Courts of Honour. His legacy follows in the great tradition of such world-class philatelists as William Byam, Ibrahim Chaftar Bey and Emile Antonini.

Samir started collecting stamps at the age of 18 and made 50-year collections (1930-1980) of the mint stamps of Great Britain, France, West Germany, Switzerland, Egypt and Sudan before embarking on his two early painstakingly brought together and magnificently successful collections – the Nile Collection of traditional philately and the Sphinx Collection of postal history – which eventually gave way to a recent new interest, the Postal Services in the Suez Canal area. This collection won for him yet another Large Gold in Germany last year, and his family tell me that though his exhibit is to be withdrawn from competition at London 2010 they will allow it to be shown as planned in the Court d'Honneur at Portugal 2010 in Lisbon between October 1 and 10 as a final public tribute to a great philatelist.



As well as a great collector, Samir was a great organiser, as proven by the success of the Cairo 1991 international exhibition – only the second in Egypt, after that organised in 1948 by Chaftar, a lifelong friend of Samir. This exhibition gave many ESC members their first taste of Egypt and was superbly arranged by Samir and his committee – even though the bus driver could not find the turn-off to the Saqqara pyramids (!) – to the extent of providing detailed analysis of each exhibit by internationally-renowned FIP judges. He was also well known for his publications, including *Postal History of Egypt to 1900* and *FIP Guide to Exhibiting and Judging Traditional and Postal History*.

In organisational terms, he was a staunch supporter of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, serving as a board member from 1988 to 1996, and on the management committee of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations, which recently honoured him with a long-service award, and was prominent as a committee member of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie and as a jury member at 15 international exhibitions from 1991 to 2008.

But perhaps just as importantly, he was a great friend and ally to all those he met, always ready to help with advice and guidance whether to full-fledged and established collector or comparative beginner feeling his/her way into the mysterious challenges of Egyptian philately. I well remember him, typically generously, driving me to Alexandria for the weekend to meet Chaftar Bey and share memories of philatelic times past. The Circle – and his very much wider circle of friends in philately – will miss him greatly. We wish his wife, Jeanne, his daughter Nadine and sons Amin and Karim, our sincere and heartfelt condolence at their great loss. — **Mike Murphy**

Philately in Egypt

Samir Amin Fikry



District 2450

Rotary Club of Geziret El Roda
Cairo, Egypt



- To illustrate pictorial evidence of Samir's collections, he had recently launched a website in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Roda in Cairo: <http://www.philatelyinegypt.com>

Interpostal Used as a Reseal**Peter Andrews (ESC 122)**

Prior to the introduction of Official Sealing Labels in 1906, Interpostal seals were very infrequently used for repair or resealing purposes. The cover below shows an example of this rare usage. It was sent from the Albion Iron Works in London (wax seal on reverse), franked with an 1873 Queen Victoria 2½d blue plate 20 cancelled London SE MR.11.81 and addressed to La Direction Generale de l'Administration des Paquebots-Poste Khedevie in Alexandria (Alexandrie Arrivee 17 MR 81 on reverse). Apparently opened in error, the cover was resealed with three copies of the Kehr type VIA Interpostal, not tied but endorsed in manuscript "Opened and resealed by me (initials) 19/3".

*Endorsement on reverse**Type VIA***Forgeries of Rural "Cartouche" Markings****Mike Murphy (ESC 240)**

On July 4, 1889 – only two months after the Rural Postal Service was opened – the Postal Administration bowed to pressure from postmen required to complete by hand both the original and later the replacement provisional postmarks with which they had been issued, and invented a new system. This provided for a village "cartouche" handstamp to be kept within the postbox and applied to the cover, off the stamp, to indicate the village of departure; it was allied with a circular datestamp to cancel the stamp(s) bearing the date and the termini of the postman's route.

These cartouches were invariably bilingual, in Arabic and either French or English, and no all-Arabic example is recorded until as late as July 1957. Which should make a recent series of spurious markings easy to discover and avoid – but collectors have been taken in by forgeries that are tempting because usually beautifully struck.



The perpetrator seems to have used a template with the wording “mahattet tawaaf” (that is, rural station, طواف محطة) in a frame of 38x8mm, added a couple of words which could be taken to indicate the name of a village or ezbet, and placed each of these “cartouches” at mid-lower-centre on a cover otherwise undistinguished apart from (usually) having a postmark that is smudged or otherwise not easy to read. But it is apparent that the supposed cartouche has no relation either to any genuine village or to the district from which the cover in fact comes. Crucially, most examples seen date from the 1930s and 1940s, twenty years before all-Arabic cartouches are recorded.

This first cover above, a reply-paid envelope for a Cairo bank, is unused and cannot have been anywhere near a village postbox; yet it has a cartouche of mahattet tawaaf al-loqanda (“hotel rural station”); the second, mahattet tawaaf mohamed saleh, purports to come from Damanhur in 1939.

Some examples of the fakes:



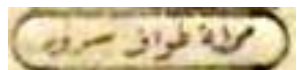
mahattet tawaaf al-tahawiya



mahattet tawaaf mohamed saleh



mahattet tawaaf el saadanieh



mahattet tawaaf el serour



mahattet tawaaf el ebeidy

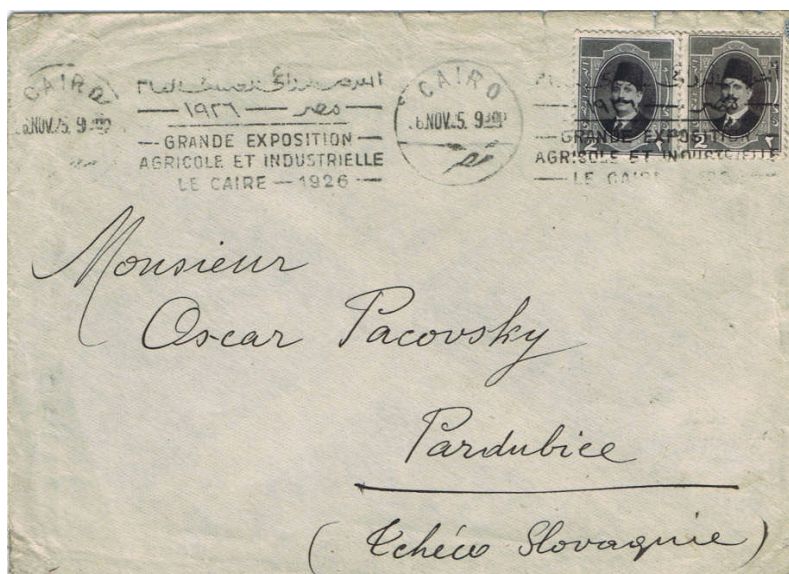


mahattet tawaaf al-loqanda

Slogans on Machine Cancels: Starting a New Study

Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)

Recently I acquired a large collection of used covers. I noticed a variety of different slogan messages attached to the machine cancellations and decided to try to classify the various types: not an easy task, because there seem to be hundreds, and maybe thousands, of examples. But the important thing is to make a start on an area of research that I believe has not been thoroughly carried through before, though there may have been mentions of these slogans in the *QC* and *L'OP*. First I divided the mass of covers into two sections – pre and post-Republic. The earliest recorded slogan appears to be that related to the 1925 International Geographical Congress in Cairo (April), followed by another advertising the 12th Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition (March 1-12 1926; see above on printed-matter cover).



Next chronologically followed a series of instructional slogans during the period 1926-1938, such as “Use the Telephone”, “Be Sure to Place the Stamp on the Upper Right Side of your Envelope”, and so on, together with Savings Bank slogans and advertisements for other exhibitions, the last of which appears to be that relating to the First Mediterranean Games in Alexandria (October 1951).



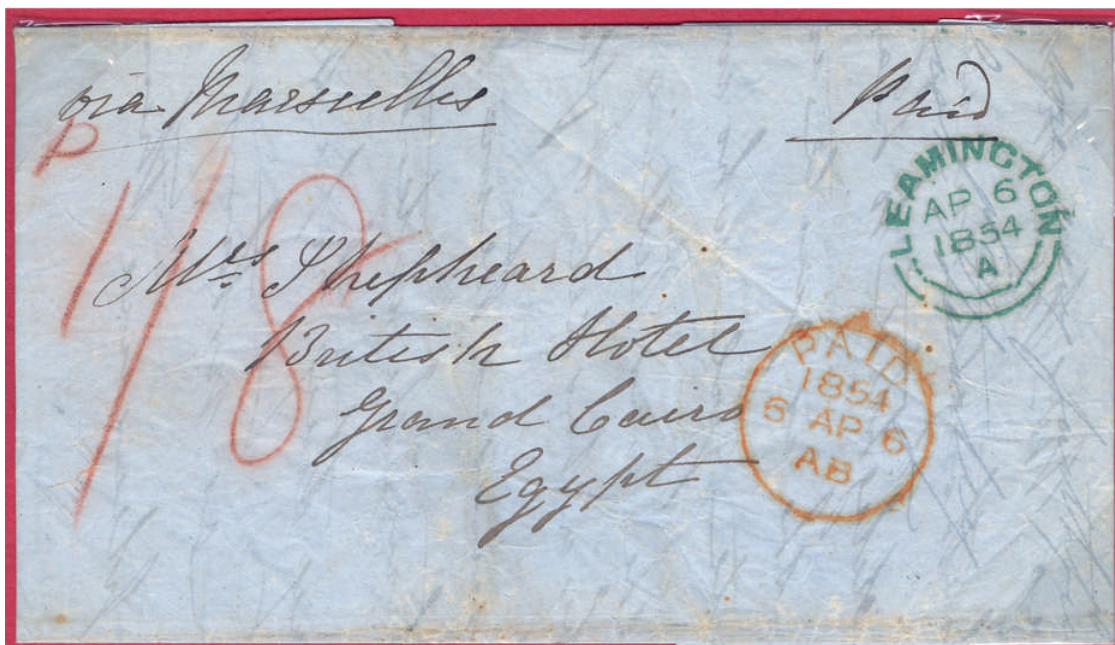
After the abdication and proclamation of the Republic, the tone changed and slogans were produced supporting the new regime's patriotic aims and propaganda, with exhortations on the Suez Canal, Egyptian products, tourism, wartime slogans and from 1960 to 1973 strongly in favour of the Palestinians' cause (*Victory for Palestine, November 1972, left*).

Work continues in sorting and classifying these slogans, and the new study is only at a preliminary research stage: more details will be published in future QCs. In the meantime, I should be very grateful if fellow Circle members would be kind enough to send me

photocopies or scans of any information in this area (including scans of actual covers, with dates of use noted, please) to enable me to expand this fledgling work. I can be contacted at 6 Mohamed Galal Street (Apt 61), Heliopolis, Cairo 11431, or by email at vahev@hotmail.com.

Early Incoming Letter to Shephard's

Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264)



I illustrate an early cover addressed to Mrs (Samuel) Shephard at the British Hotel, Grand Cairo, and believe it may be among the earliest recorded incoming material to what became later known as the world-renowned Shephard's Hotel.

The cover is endorsed "Via Marseilles" and "Paid" in the same manuscript hand as the address, and is further furnished with an excellent blue CDS of Leamington of AP 6 1854 and a red CDS announcing Paid / 1854 / 6 AP 6 / AB. In red crayon are the annotations "P" (presumably another "paid"), and 1/8, that is, 1s 8d, a large amount of money 150 years ago.

The letter is signed by Sarah Stanley, at first perhaps thought to be the wife of the African explorer but much more likely to be a member of his aunt Esther's family, based at the Crown Inn, Leamington, which took in Shepherd after his parents both died of consumption in 1917, when he was just four years old. For some of the following details I am indebted to Mike Murphy.

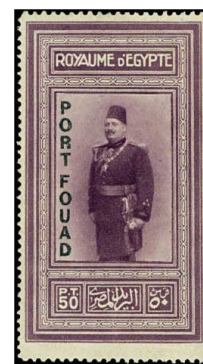
Shepherd, who was born on January 21, 1816, arrived in Egypt on January 30, 1842, and married Mary Rangelcroft in Alexandria the following year. He had been assistant manager at Hill's Hotel and took over its management in about 1844, by which time it was known as the British Hotel. Harriet Martineau, who visited Egypt in 1846, was first to use the term "Shepherd's Hotel" in her book *Eastern Life, Past and Present*.

In about 1848 Shepherd moved the hotel to its new site overlooking Ezbekieh Square, and it is in this year that we have his first letter that has come down to us, written to John Stanley, son of his aunt and uncle. Unfortunately mail delivered into Egypt seems not to have been archived.

Mary and Samuel Shepherd had eight children, five of whom (two sons and three daughters) died in infancy. But the sixth, Sarah, born in (January?) 1854, lived to old age. She was named "after her grandmother, Mrs Stanley", who we can safely presume was the writer of this letter.

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Unusual Postal Rates During 1888 – 1914

André Navari (ESC 534)

As a collector since 2000 of the philately and postal history of Egypt during the period 1888-1914 years, that is, the third and fourth period of the Fourth Issue “Sphinx and Pyramids” with the new currency in “millièmes”, I am constantly trying to seek out on internet auctions (Ebay, etc ...) some interesting items to add to my collection.

Generally I am looking for special services (rural, maritime, TPO, ...), scarce destinations, cancellations from small cities or villages, or spectacular frankings (large blocks, multicolour, etc ...).

During this time I have seen a huge number of modest items apparently without much interest. But it is here that the danger lies: in letting a very interesting item escape through contempt or lack of curiosity. These three items are presented here by chronological order of discovery in the last year. It is from the moment I started to query

the first item that I was enabled to see and obtain the others.

The piece at left was described as a “Large letter of Egypt to France 1898 without text – Entry mark in red ‘Modane à Paris’ – average condition, open on three sides.”

At first sight the item was not interesting, given the poor condition and the price. As I usually do, I nevertheless widened the scans of the site to check the obliterations. And it was then that I realized that there was something odd.

The “letter” had a franking of one stamp of 1 piastre and six stamps of 1 millième, for a total of 16 millièmes, all cancelled “CAIRO / R”, with a date which could be 1 X 98 (October 1, 1898) and sent as registered mail (confirmed by the faint upright-R mark almost hidden by the address) to Saint Etienne in France). The franking did not seem to be correct. Indeed the registration for a foreign country being one piastre, the extra postage should have also have been a



minimum of 1 piastre (to pay the next weight step), for a total of 2 piastres. So I imagined that stamps of 4 millièmes (four stamps of 1 millième, or two of 2 millièmes or one of 3 millièmes and one of 1 millième) had somehow gone missing. But by examining the website illustrations closely pictures of the web-site, I was able to

ascertain that there was no trace of any “lost” stamp which would have left a partial cancellation on the “letter”.

Intrigued, I sought out information from the “bible” of the postal history of Egypt, the book of Peter Smith. And in the chapter on postal rates (page 548), for the date concerned, I found one rate which progresses in multiples of 2 millièmes and can go up to 6. It has to do with the postal rate of “printed papers” or “periodicals” (which is just about the same, so I keep the name “printed papers” for the remainder of the text), which from January 1 1888 became 2 millièmes per step of 50 grams for overseas mailings. Thus it could be well that this “letter open on three sides” is in fact a wrapper of “printed papers”.

In that case the item becomes much more interesting, because a “printed paper” at the third weight step (between 101 and 150 grams) sent with registration is not easy to find. I thus bid double the reserve price to ensure success, and won the item, even though another bidder raised the price to a few euros under my offer.

I received the “letter” in question. And it is just what I thought. It is indeed a wrapper, and not an envelope open on three sides. It has suffered a little, especially in the area of the stamps, but was clearly intended to contain

printed papers. The fact that “printed paper” (or “imprimés”) does not appear on it does not disturb me. The nature of the sending produced no confusion, and because the printed material was sent in a wrapper any postal employee could easily assure himself of the position.

This registered printed paper sent from one of the offices of Cairo was probably conveyed to Brindisi by Italian or English ship. Then it was transported by the travelling post office “Modane in Paris” (red cancellation), where it was recorded on October 7, 1898. It was then forwarded from Lyon-Station (illegible date), and delivered at the main Saint-Etienne office on October 8, 1898.

It is in practically the same circumstances that I found this second item. Of course the printed top left corner of this cover “Shepherd's Hotel Cairo” was immediately attractive, but the condition is very poor. Roughly opened at the left, with indistinct cancellations, was not an



indication of quality. So again it was the franking that attracted my attention.

This cover was sent registered from the post office of Shepherd's Hotel in Cairo on January 13, 1910, to Baden-Baden in Germany, where it was received only six days later(!). The franking comprises one stamp of 2 piastres, one of 5 millièmes and one of 1 millième for a total of 26 millièmes. This is most unusual. Ten millièmes was for registration, so the other 16 millièmes was for the postal rate of the letter itself.

For international mail, the first step of the postal rate had been one piastre since 1875, increasing to 15 millièmes only in 1921. It was only when searching once more in Peter Smith's that I discovered a detail that had gone unnoticed until these days.

There was a small modification to the postal rates in 1908 that explains this envelope. Until this date the second weight step was paid by an additional piastre. After 1908 (the precise date seems not to be known), the second step was reduced to 6 millièmes. And so this registered cover represented the second weight step. It was the first time I have seen this postal rate.

This third item was easier for me to find. First because I have a similar item in my collection already. Second, it is more easy to recognise its interest. It is a picture postcard sent by registered mail from Beni-Mazar on August 30, 1900, in transit in Alexandria the same day and Genova (Italy) on September 6 (CDS on view face), to be delivered in Luxembourg-Ville on September 8.

Also of interest is the text, in French, handwritten under the picture. It is signed by L.(?) Klein, chemist engineer at Cheik-Fadl, Beni-Mazar, Upper Egypte, and he writes that the card is a "view of Cairo taken from the heights of the Citadel. The picture card is taken from my snapshot; there exist only three such cards".



Early Airmail, the Development Period: Egypt – Iraq

Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264)



On Wednesday 12 January 1927 Imperial Airways took over the Cairo-Baghdad R.A.F. air service and extended it to Basrah on a fortnightly basis, greatly accelerating delivery of Indian airmail, which could be flown from Cairo to Basrah by way of Gaza and Ruthba Wells. It was a short distance by sea to Karachi and vice-versa. The aircraft used was a De Havilland 66 named "Hercules"

The first flight reached Baghdad on 13 January and Basrah the next day. It was scheduled to continue experimentally to Karachi but Iranian overflight permission was not granted in time and mail was sent by sea from Basrah to Karachi, arriving on 20 January.

This Registered cover was carried on the first flight from Cairo as far as Baghdad, with a delayed arrival backstamp dated 15 January. The franking required was 15 mills for the Empire base rate, plus 12 mills for Air Mail and a further 15 mills for registration, total 42 mills. So the cover was overfranked by 15 mills. The vast majority of first flight mail was addressed to Basrah and India; covers to Baghdad are very seldom seen.

Paquebot Marks: East or West

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)

At the excellent meeting at Stampex on Saturday 27 February, a very significant suggestion was made by John Sears, one that I had not heard before. He suggested that for mail posted on board ships travelling through the Suez Canal, that they had the Paquebot mark applied at Port Said if the postal item was then going East to West, on the other hand, if the item of mail was going West to East then the Paquebot mark was struck at Suez or Port Taufiq.

In looking through my collection this statement does not hold water. For the mail going East to West there was about an equal division between the ports at either end of the Suez Canal.

However, what the exercise did bring to my attention was the paucity of items that I have that are addressed to go in the West to East direction from the ports at the top and bottom of the Suez Canal. I do have one such item which is interesting.



This cover is addressed to Karachi, thus going in the West to East direction. It was posted at Port Taufiq on 25 October 1930 at 8am and has the framed Paquebot mark of that port. On the reverse there is a Port Said circular datestamp of the same day, but at 3.30pm! So the cover was mis-sorted at Port Taufiq and sent north up the Suez Canal! The 1½d King George V stamp has correctly paid the Empire letter rate (1922 to 1940) to India.

The Star & Crescent Postmarks

Pierre Louis Grech (ESC 266)

In 1882 a new type of postmark appeared in Egypt, featuring the Turkish Star & Crescent in its upper half, below the place name (Egypt was part of the Ottoman Empire, and this postmark may have been a reaction to the Egyptian Army's rebellion under Col. Ahmed Arabi, and the subsequent British occupation that year). This date-stamp, designated by the Egypt Study Circle as Type X, was not widely distributed to post offices. In his book *Egypt: Stamps & Postal History*, Peter A.S. Smith lists only 26 offices using Type X-1 (such as BARRAGE on the cover below), plus 4 others using varieties Type X-2 and X-3 (DONGOLA office, in the Sudan, utilised both Types X-1 and X-3). In addition there were a further 3 offices where the name appeared over 2 lines (Type X-1.1). Two are shown below; the third was ALEXANDRIE/ MINET EL BASSAL.



27 February 1887 – 20 Paras postal stationery card, addressed to Tanta. Cancelled by two-line Star & Crescent postmark ALEXANDRIE/ RAS-EL-TIN.



5 Piastres stamp with two-line Star & Crescent postmark CAIRE/ GHOURIA, **12 May 1885**.

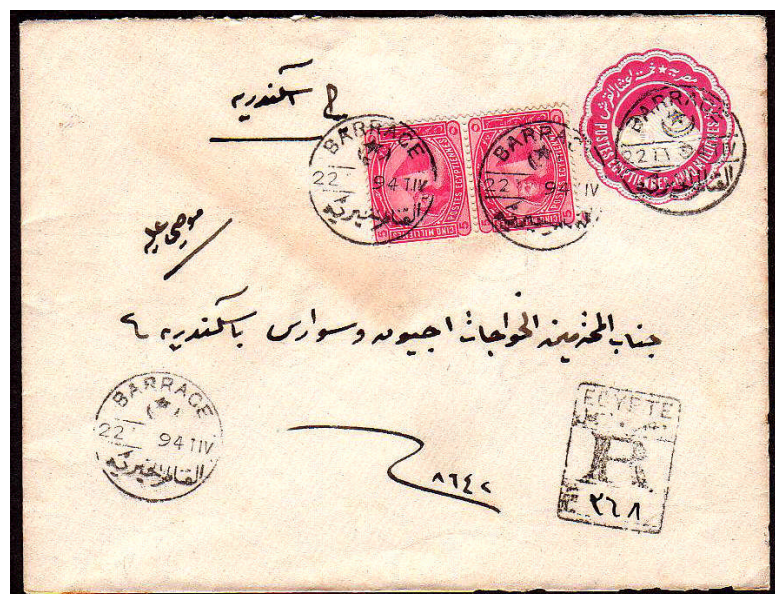
Most of these 32 offices were in the Delta, with a few in the deep South and Sudan. Several of these postmarks had a relatively short life, but the majority were used until the 1900s, and Professor Smith indicates that KOSSEIR was seen until 1919.

The Star & Crescent mark was also used from 1891 on six T.P.O.s (See *The Travelling Post Offices of Egypt*, also by Prof. P.A.S. Smith). Two are rare: SUEZ (TPO-2A2) and CAIRE-WASTA (TPO-2A3); while those between DAMIETTE-TANTA (and back) and CAIRE-ALEXANDRIE (and back) are more common (Types TPO-2A3.1).

8 June 1901 - CAIRE-ALEXANDRIE Ambulant (TPO) postmark with Star & Crescent. Applied on a postcard from Farchout (7-VI-01) to Paris, together with BENI SOUEF-CAIRE TPO postmark.



22 April 1894 – 5 Milliemes postal stationery envelope (internal rate) to Alexandria, with extra 2 x 5 Mills third issue stamps, paying the one piastre registration fee. All cancelled by the BARRAGE Star & Crescent postmark.



It is interesting to note that the Star & Crescent was also included in the design of the Type IX Interpostal seals issued in 1884, produced about the same time.

Shepherd's Hotel

Richard S. Wilson (ESC 230)

The forwarding agent's marking *FORWARDED BY/S. SHEPHEARD/BRITISH HOTEL/CAIRO* surely must be the first hotel marking of Egypt. The cover is dated 18 December 1848, and backstamped with part of the circular **ALEXANDRIA DE 21 1848** black date stamp, a very poor and unreadable black date stamp, and circular red marking, possibly a London receiving mark. All that can be made out is *NV/184*. The rate to London via Marseilles — 2/1 — is indicated in manuscript on the left of the front of the entire



The S. SHEPHEARD forwarding handstamp is known used from 1848 to 1853.

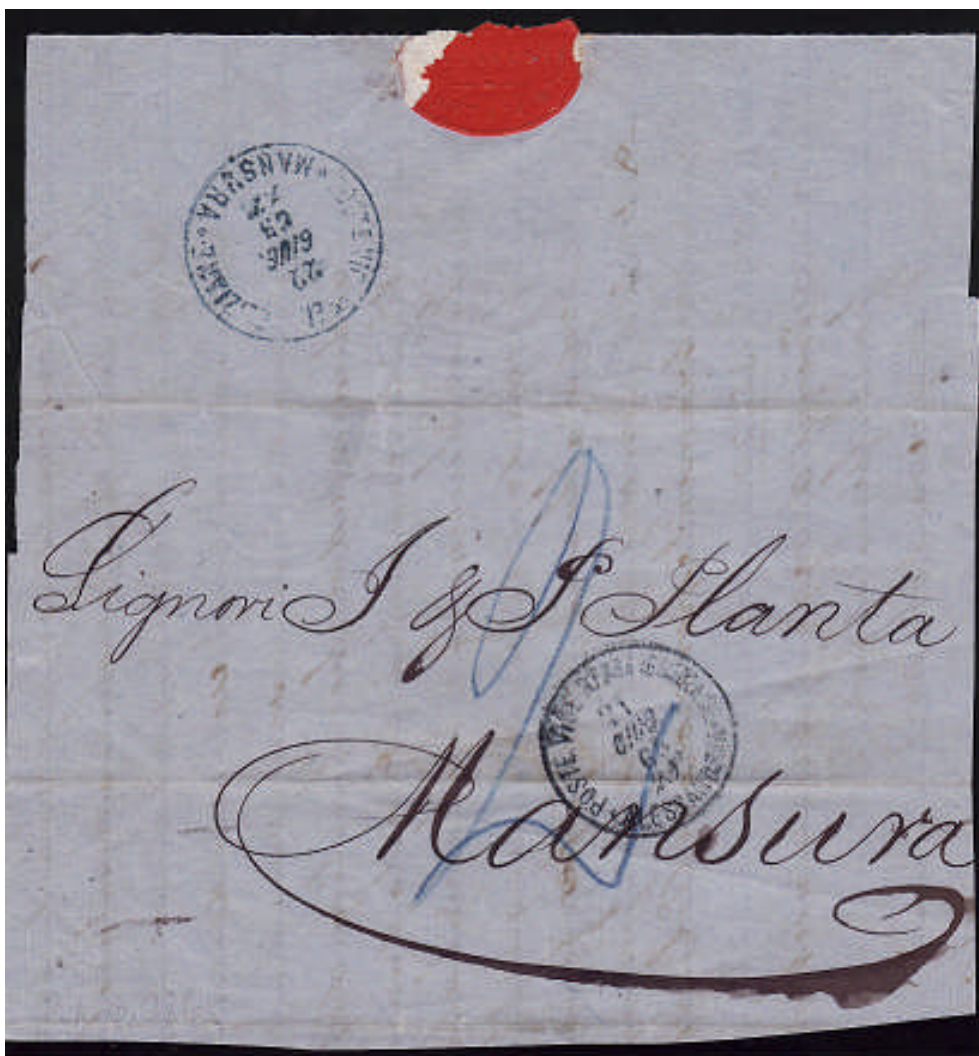
In addition to the above I also have two letters from Sam Shephard. The first, to his wife Mary, is dated August 5, 1850, and is postmarked at Alexandria on the same day. It is reprinted in part on page 168 in *Samuel Shephard of Cairo, A Portrait by Michael Bird*, Michael Joseph Ltd., London, 1957. The second letter to his cousin is dated July 3, 1851 and is postmarked at Alexandria on July 5. This is reprinted in part on page 188. These three covers make a nice introduction to my Egyptian hotel mail accumulation.

Caroline Scannell honoured

We are delighted to congratulate **Caroline Scannell** (ESC 419), of Smithtown, New York, who has been named the American Topical (that is, Thematic) Association's distinguished topical philatelist of 2010. The award will be presented at the awards banquet in Denver, Colorado on June 26. Caroline, who was recognised for her long and outstanding service in several positions with the ATA New York chapter, started thematic collecting with the "Monuments of Nubia" series, and is also editor of the *Old World Archaeologist*, journal of the ATA old world archaeology study unit (www.owasu.org).

Egyptian Viceregal Post Carried at Posta Europea Rates

Sherif El Kerdani (ESC 456)



The Egyptian Government acquired the Posta Europea company on January 2, 1865, but stamps were not issued until January 1 the following year, and in the interim period new postmarks were introduced on April 15 inscribed “POSTE VICE-REALI EGIZIANE” to reflect the new official status.

It is presumed that on May 31, 1865, a new uniform rate was introduced of 1 piastre per 7.5 grams, but this rate must have been applied at a later date, as this folded letter shows.

It was sent from Alexandria to Mansura cancelled by a single strike of Alexandria cds Type I – 2.5 dated 21.6.1865 with, on the reverse, Mansura cds Type I – 2.5 dated the next day, 22.6.1865. The letter has “2” written on the front in blue crayon, which conforms to 2 piastres on posting and receiving as per Posta Europea tariff rather than the Viceregal Post tariff.

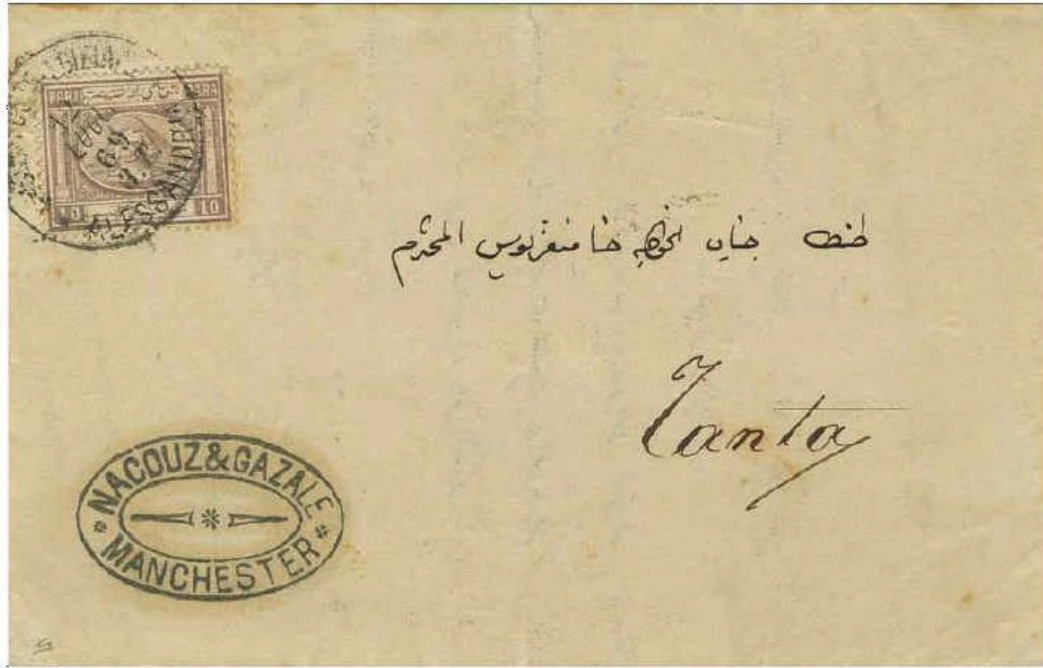
New Cairo committee

Dr Sherif Samra (ESC 311) has been re-elected to the post of President of the Board of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, with **Hisham Bassyouny** (ESC 391) as Vice-President and a new ESC member, **Khaled Moustapha** (ESC 639), as Secretary. Mourad Mounir will continue as Treasurer, and is joined on the board by Mohamed Yehia, Raouf Ramzy, **Dr Sherif el-Kerdani** (ESC 456), **Magdy Moukhtar Abdel-Hadi** (ESC 445) and Ahmed Youssef. The board will serve for six years, but three members will leave by rotation election every two years. The PSE address is 16 Abd El-Khalek Tharwat Street, PO Box 142, Cairo, Egypt, fax +202 33027630, email egyptianphilatelicsociety@gmail.com

Early Printed Matter Rate

Jürgen Fricke (ESC 557)

Printed matter, by its very nature, is not destined to be saved and certainly such rates on the first three issues are far from common. As Smith notes in his book the 10pa was intended for non-periodical prints with the most commonly seen type being the greeting card (*carte de visite*). The cover shown was from Alexandria to Tanta with a single 10 pa dull violet, being tied by a Poste Vice-Reali Egiziane/Alessandria and an arrival mark of Tanta of the same day July 12, 1869.



I have another cover this time with 20 para blue, typographed, of the third issue addressed to Thalweil, Switzerland, tied by a Cairo datestamp February 13, 1873 in black. On the reverse is an Alexandria Italian PO. cds of February 16 and Thalweil arrival of February 24. I have been in correspondence with Peter Smith who notes:

Your 20-para cover to Switzerland; I am not sure about the rate. I have a 15-para cover of the period, but the destination is not the same. It seems not unreasonable that onward transit from Italy to Switzerland

should cost slightly more, but I do not have information on the exact charges. Such covers are so scarce that there is not enough information available, and archival records may exist, but are unavailable to me. In any event, the cover is a rarity for two reasons; the 20 Paras used alone on any sort of cover is extremely rare, and a printed-matter item to Switzerland by the pre-UPU Italian Post is also rare.



Farouk and Egyptians “Abroad”

Ayman Rizk (ESC 502)

I was trying to take advantage of an allowance mentioned in the December QC to contribute by just scanning a page of my collection, as inspiration always fails to strike with me. But it was suggested (gently) that I include a few words, so here goes... *First* is a photo postcard sent registered from Hilwan El-Hamamat (Hilwan Les Bains) less than a month after King Farouk and Queen Farida were married. It was sent on February 16, 1938, to Naples in Italy with, among other stamps, the wedding stamp (Scott 223, Bal 73). Received in Italy on February 21.

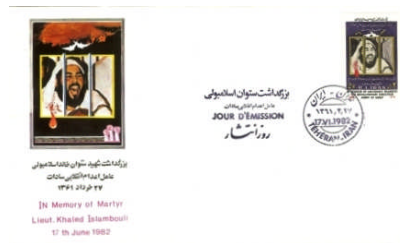


King Fuad had five children with Nazli (his second wife): Farouk and four daughters, Princesses Faiza, Faika, Fathiya and Fawzia (who became Queen Consort of Iran after marrying Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Shah of Iran (Crown Prince at the time)). This brings us to my other focus in collecting: searching for stamps of Egyptian personalities issued by other countries. *Item 2 (left)* is an FDC of the beautiful stamps issued in Iran for the wedding of the Shah and Fawzia.



To complete sharing my collection of Iran's contribution to my hobby, I include the FDCs for four other stamp issues with Egyptians as the main topic. After the Islamic Revolution, issues became a bit.. let's say controversial, and caused considerable political friction with Egypt. *Items 3 to 6* commemorate the gunman who shot Israeli tourists in Sinai, the assassin of President Sadat, a leader of the

Muslim Brotherhood, and a stamp that Egypt banned (letters from Iran with that stamp were not delivered) as it considered it Iran's way of politicising the death of an Egyptian pharmacist in Germany. I should be interested in exchanging knowledge with all who share my interest in Egyptian personalities on non-Egyptian stamps: whenever I think I know of all such stamps, I am surprised by other discoveries.



Mail Between France and Egypt, Posted at the Last Minute

Pierre Louis Grech (ESC 266)

Two letters illustrating how last minute mail was handled by French Post Offices in the 1860's and 1870's. If you missed the last postal collection before a ship departed, you could send a servant or employee running down to the harbour with the letter. At the foot of the ship's gangplank would be a small mailbox mounted on a post: the Boîte Mobile. This would be emptied by the ship's Postal Agent just before the ship sailed. Until 1872 French paquebots had postal agents on board, with Anchor lozenges to cancel the stamps, and date-stamps including *Cachets d'Escale* or *Provenance*, with the names of individual harbours on the route.



19 January 1869 - ALEXANDRIE PAQ. FR. V N° 2 - *Cachet de Provenance* in blue (scarcer than black). Letter from Alexandria by Paquebot *NIL*, to Munster (near Colmar). Anchor lozenge on 40c. stamp and **PD** in blue were also applied on board. Marseille entry mark "**PAQUEBOTS DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE**". **Backstamps:** Marseille, 25 Jan.; Marseille à Paris TPO, and Paris transit, 26 Jan.; Munster arrival, 27 January 1869. Ligne V – *Marseille à Alexandrie*. Operated from November 1866 to June 1871. Formerly *Ligne d'Egypte*.



3 June 1875 - MARSEILLE B.M. (Boîte Maritime).

Letter from Marseille to Alexandrie on the Paquebot *NIEMEN*, *Ligne d'Egypte/ Syrie* (formerly *Ligne X*), via Palermo and Messina. Arrived 9 June. Anchor lozenge cancelling 80c. stamp (rate from 1 July 1871). There was at Marseille a "supplementary box" at the Messageries Maritimes office in the harbour, where mail would be picked up 15 minutes before the ship sailed, and postmarked *Marseille B.M. on shore*. So this **Boîte Maritime** was quite different from Mobile Boxes at the gangplanks. From January 1874 the stamps were cancelled by the Anchor lozenge, retrieved from the redundant Postal Agents, and supplied to the post office employee despatched to empty the Boîte Maritime before the Messageries Maritimes ship departed.

Children's Savings Bank

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)

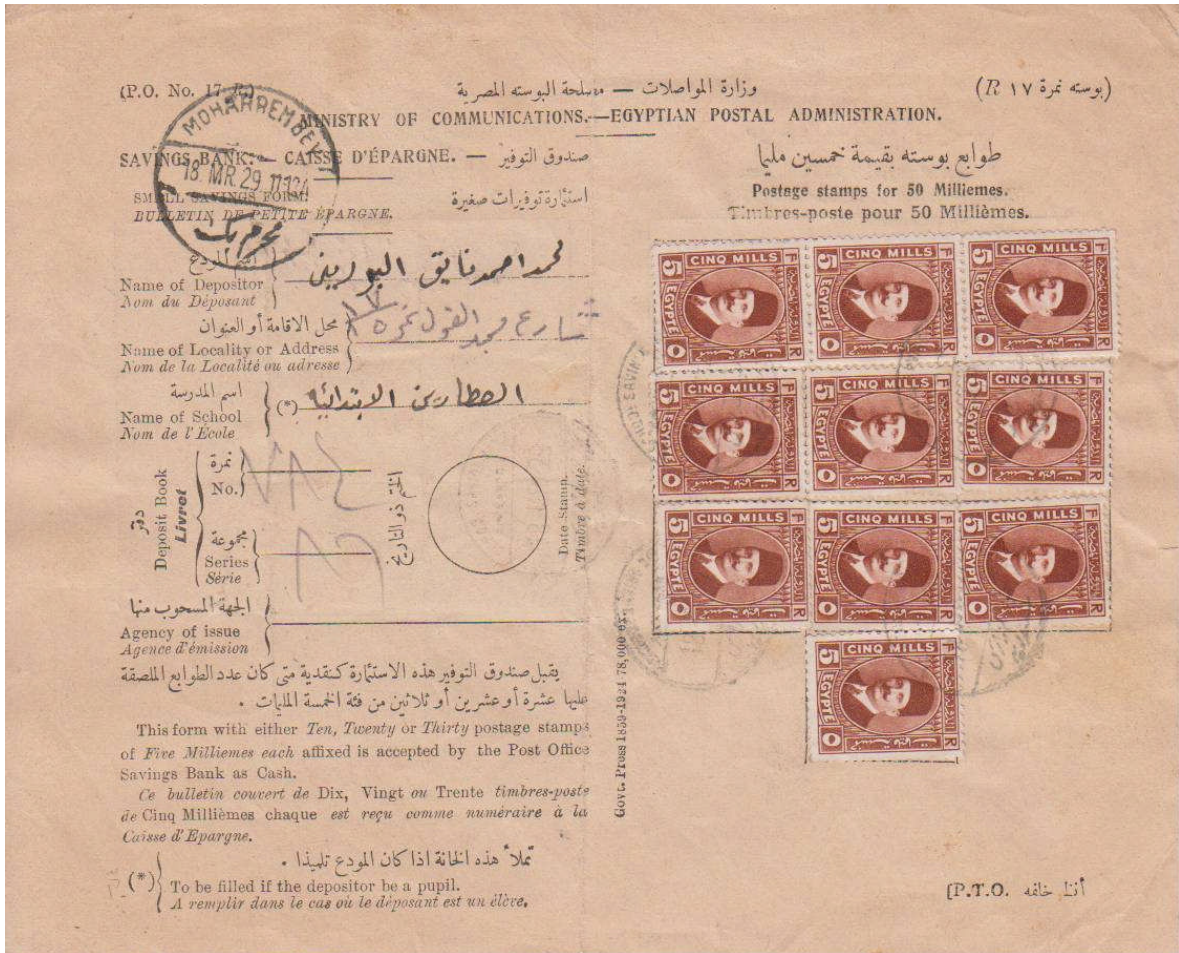
In the 1905 *Egyptian Postal Guide*, under the above heading, it says:

“In order to encourage thrift in children, and in order to help them augment their savings, it has been decided to allow the use of postage stamps for this purpose.

A special form will be issued by the P.O. Savings Bank, and on this form, the stamps may be affixed.

When the face value thereupon equals 50 mills, the minimum amount necessary for opening a Savings Account, this will be accepted by the P.O. as a first deposit, and a deposit book issued.”

Peter Smith, in his tome *Egypt: Stamps & Postal History*, illustrates on pages 518-9 ten school savings bank postmarks in various forms from the towns of: Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said, Faqus and Arish.



These 10 x 5 mills stamps, along with the 20 on the reverse of the form, are all cancelled by Smith's Type SB-2 postmark "School Savings Bank / Alexandria / 18 MR 29". It is interesting to note that there is no time code in the cancellation. The cancellation at the top left of the form reads "Moharrem Bey 18 MR 29 11-12A".

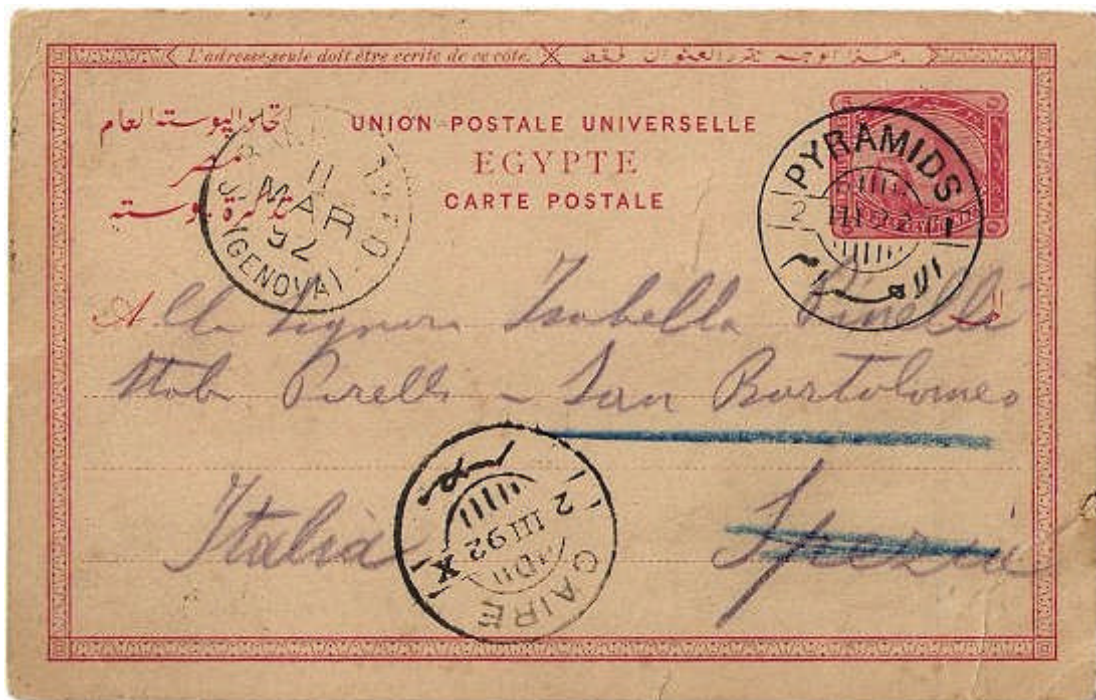
An indication of the scarcity of these marks is that the only other one that I have is on a single 5 mills pink Sphinx stamp (SG 90), no date but must be after November 1921 when the stamp was issued.

Mena House Hotel: A Precursor

Anton Jansen (ESC 383)

For a very short period (the only known dates are December 21 1891 to March 7 1892), mail from the Mena House Hotel at the base of the Pyramids was handled in a small wooden office outside the hotel, using the canceller PYRAMIDS.

Here, two examples are shown, both having been sent from the hotel. The first, a registered letter on uprated postal stationery, was sent 29 II 92 by "Eduard Becker, Mena House" to Germany. The total postage of 6 piastres suggests a letter in the fifth weight class (that is, over 75 grammes). The 5-milliemmes stationery postal card, sent on 2 III 92 to Italy, has a message saying: "Dear Mamma, I write to you from a big hotel at the feet of the Pyramids".



Treasures of Classical Egypt

J. Chalhoub (ESC 385)

Below are two covers from my collection showing the two 1898 provisionals in multiple use.



1879 5 pa. on 2½ pi. violet, 12½ x13¼ eight singles + 1874-75 Bulaq 1 pi. 12½ cancelled by “POSTE KHEDEVIE EGIZIANE /GEDDA” c.d.s. on 10 Mar., on reverse of envelope to Bombay, similar c.d.s. on front with boxed BOMBAY/SHIP LETTER/POSTAGE DUE 1AN

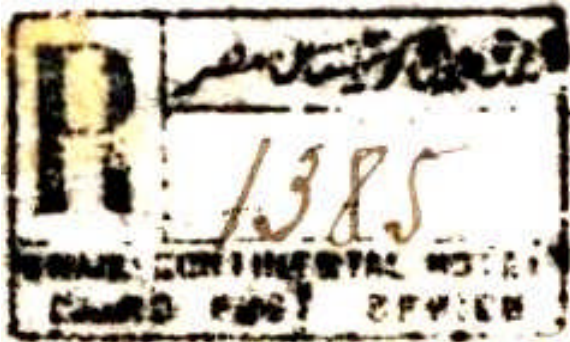


10 pa. on 2½ pi. violet, 12½ x13¼ block of four, with a tête-bêche stamp, cancelled by “POSTE EGIZIANE/KAFER-ZAYAT” c.d.s. on 1879 (27 Jan.) envelope addressed in Arabic to Alexandria. Formerly belonging to the collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

A New Continental Hotel Registration Cachet

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

The Continental Hotel overlooking Ezbekieh Square in Cairo has long been known to have two different Registration cachets, one reading “Continental Hotel” and recorded from 6 XII 07 to 15 XII 21; and the second, after the merger with the Savoy Hotel, reading “Continental Savoy / (Cairo)” and recorded from 18 V 22 to 4 JL 50. Now, however, there is a third, and it stems from the hotel’s earliest days, when it was known as the Grand Continental Hotel, wording which is echoed in the hand-stamp: Grand Continental Hotel / Cairo Post Office.

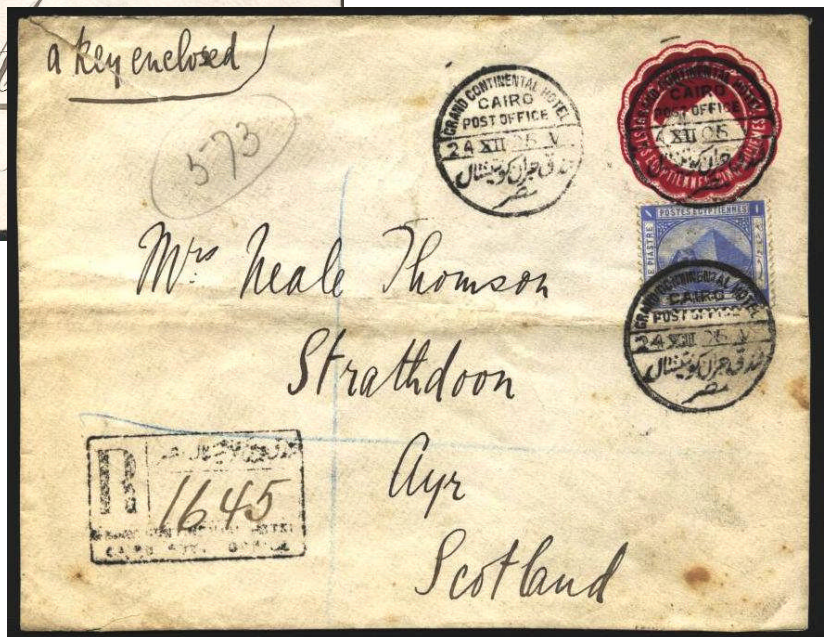


Unfortunately the two strikes I have on cover – one obtained from our favourite member-dealer Greg Todd, the other from the estate of our late member Derek Beak – are not absolutely clearly struck, but the English wording is clear even if the Arabic is not.

What is remarkable is that the earlier of the two, a Chargé cover to Switzerland dated 16 XII 04, already bears the registration number 1385, suggesting that there must have been 1,384 unnoted predecessors! The second cover, addressed to Scotland with the date 24 XII 05 and registration number 1645, is slightly battered, a condition explained by the manuscript notation at top left: “A key enclosed”. Both are uprated versions of government printed postal stationery, a 1pi blue envelope uprated 1pi for Switzerland, and a 5m magenta with 1pi to Scotland.

What is remarkable is that the earlier of the two, a Chargé cover to Switzerland dated 16 XII 04, already bears the registration number 1385, suggesting that there must have been 1,384 unnoted predecessors! The second cover, addressed to Scotland with the date 24 XII 05 and registration number 1645, is slightly battered, a condition explained by the manuscript notation at top left: “A key enclosed”. Both are uprated versions of government printed postal stationery, a 1pi blue envelope uprated 1pi for Switzerland, and a 5m magenta with 1pi to Scotland.

In both cases the postmark cancelling the stamps is Continental Type HC2, which is recorded from 21 III 00 to 13 IX 09. This, perhaps surprisingly, also covers the dates of two of the recorded incidences of the second (Continental Hotel) type of Registration cachet, on 16 I 08 and 26 IV 09.



Above, 16 XII 04 IV addressed to Switzerland; right, 24 XII 05 V with a Scotland destination

The State Courier Post Of Mohamed Ali, Qena To Minia

Sherif El Kerdani (ESC 456)



بوستة قنا

Qena intaglio seal enlarged reading "bosta Qena" in Arabic and an illegible Higri date

I am happy to illustrate an intriguing folded letter from Qena to Cairo dated 1285 A.H. which corresponds to 1868 C.E. Since the Qena Viceregal post office opened five years later in 1873, the letter must have been carried first by the State Courier Post from Qena to Minia, as evident by the Qena intaglio seal on the back and the Arabic manuscript (*arrow*) indicating the weight in dirhems and a 20 paras charge. I cannot make out the writing to the right and left of it.

In Minia, it was received by the Viceregal post office, which had opened a year earlier in 1867, and was postmarked on the back with a Minia cds Type II – 2 dated 16.9.1868.

The letter travelled from Minia to Cairo as a new dispatch, evident by the Minia cds of the same type as on the front but dated the next day; 17.9.1868, and the Cairo CDS (same type) on the back with an unreadable date. All Type II – 2 CDS have the word "REGIE", which was removed a year later

The franking of 20 paras is unorthodox for the State Courier Post; first the fee should have been for the full trip which would have been 3 pi. 25 pa and upwards, 20 paras would barely take the letter from Qena to Minia.

This brings us to the second point, where is the charge for carriage by the Viceroyal Post from Minia to Cairo, there are no stamps and no postage due markings?

Alexandria goes it alone

The Philatelic Society of Alexandria, offshoot of the Cairo society, has created a Facebook site and is to set up a website in the near future. All members are invited to join them whenever possible... weekly meetings are held every Thursday from 7 to 10.30pm at 27 Ezbet El Siuf Bahari Street, Siuf, Alexandria. For further enquiries and information, please contact one of the following team: Chairman: Dr Magdy Soliman (tel 03-5840254; 0121703890; magdysoliman2001@yahoo.com); Media, publicity & exhibition Officer: **Kamal Shalaby** (ESC 515; phone/fax 03-5840254; mobile 0105838213; alexstamplover@yahoo.com); Secretary: Mahmud Abdel Aziz (0125884848); Committee: Raafat El Khamrawy (0127952052).

Partly Prepaid Transit Letter (1865)

Ulrich Eckstein (ESC 273)

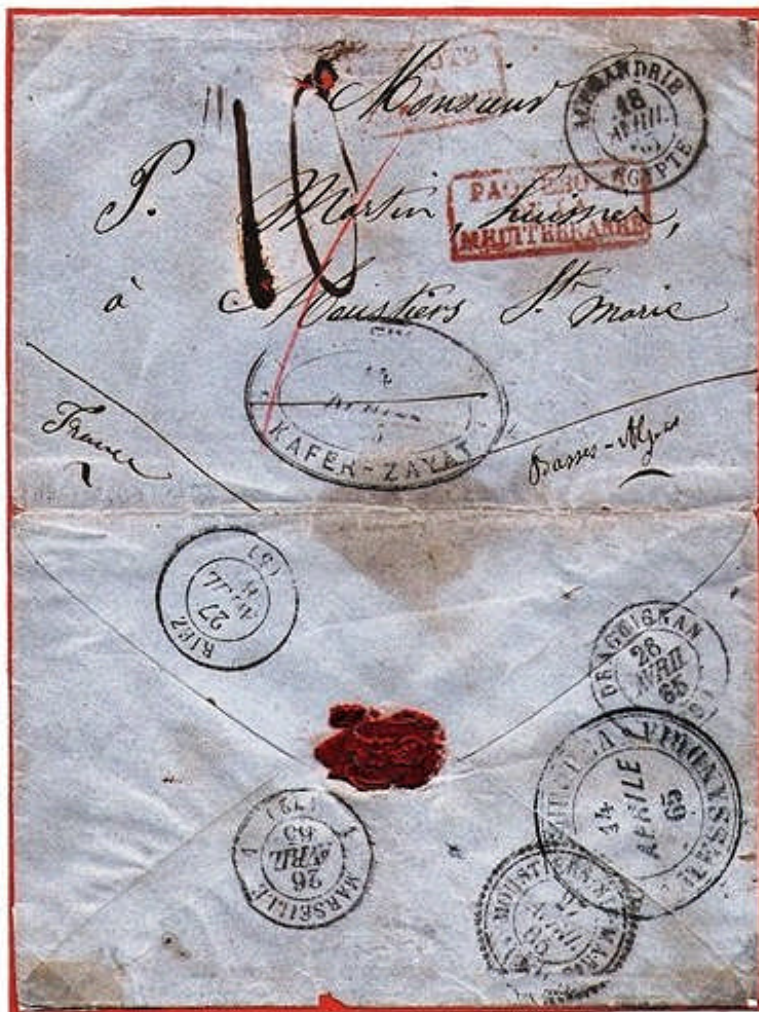
Here is a cover from my French Post Office collection., **Partly prepaid transit letter** (1865) Kafer-Zayat via Alexandria to Moustiers.

Postmarks: ALEXANDRIE EGYPTE Type D, POSTA EUROPEA KAFER-ZAYAT Type V.

Rates: 1 (piastre, in red), 10 (decimes, black). **Paid:** 1pi Egyptian Mail Kafer-Zayat to Alexandria. **Due:** 10 decimes = 1 Fr, double rate for unpaid letter mail to France up to 10gr.

Route marks: PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERRANEE. Route: Kafer-Zayat (14.4.1865) by rail to Alexandria (Egyptian office) (14.4.1865); Alexandria (French office) (18.4.1865) by paquebot NIL to Marseille (26.4.1865) and on to Moustiers St Marie (26.4.1865).

Remarks: Mixed postage Egypt-France, carried by the state mail. Posta Europea was taken over by the Egyptian state on 1.1.1865, but the old postmarks were used until mid-April. POSTA EUROPEA KAFER-ZAYAT here is the latest known date, as is the transit mark POSTA EUROPEA ALESSANDRIA, possible only from 1 January to 14 April 1865.

Railway Station Post Offices

John Sears (ESC 188)

Members may know that for some years I have been trying to establish the status of the postmarks of railway stations in Egypt, in fact, I posed a question on this subject in a recent Q.C. No replies have been received.

I was sent on this quest when I looked at the Postal Guides for 1932, and also one printed in the 20's, and found that no Railway Station Post Offices were listed. This, in spite of the fact that all the Hotel offices are, as well as those for Seamen's Homes and Thomas Cook. (Simon Arzt commenced in 1933). I originally came to the conclusion that, perhaps, mail was accepted at a special desk, or office at the station, cancelled with the Station CDS and put on to the appropriate train where there was a Travelling Post Office. The fact that the stamp on the item had already been cancelled would have meant that the TPO cancel was not needed. This was only my theory.

This theory has recently collapsed because I have found the Registered cover with cds Sidi Bishr Station (on the Alexandria - Abu Qir line). This means that the desk/office was more than just a collecting point. It is correctly franked 21m - 6m+ 15m for Registration, there is the arrival mark of Alexandria, 25 OC 41 on the reverse. Since then (inevitably) I have seen a second, this one cancelled Cairo Station 14 SE 33, the Red label is "dumb" - no office name.

Another, quite unconnected, matter concerns the large number of changes in the format of the Cairo Station marks compared with the changes seen in the normal Cairo CDS's in the same period.

Any suggestions will be gratefully received, please write to the Editor.



François Fournier's Album de Fac-Similes Suez Canal

Roman Rimonis (ESC 486)

On the death of the notorious Swiss forger François Fournier, on July 12 1917, his assistant Charles Hirschburger took over a business that at one stage had been doing quite well, but which stopped virtually completely in a matter of weeks after the outbreak of the First World War when censorship was imposed. It had been carried out solely through the post.

In 1922 Hirschburger left for Monnetier on the Salève mountain in France, where he also died, after an accident on the mountainside on June 1, 1927. News of his death reached L'Union Philatélique de Genève, which had been trying for many years to close down the business, but in vain because it had been legally registered in 1903. An opportunity arose when the business went up for sale: the organisation bought it lock, stock and barrel.

The material found on the premises was staggering. This had been no small venture. Instead of disposing of the material, L'Union Philatélique decided in 1928 to produce special albums containing examples of Fournier's work, the "Album de Fac-Similes". Only 480 such albums were made up. In the Suez Canal album there is a small selection on early Egyptian stamps, a postage due of 1888 as a proof, plus various overprints of 1872 and 1879, all mounted on specially printed pages together with stamps from the Suez Canal issue.

Many forgeries have been made of the Suez Canal stamps, possibly as many as 12 main types including Spiro Brothers (these were perforated!). Reprints were also issued between 1907 and 1920 using the genuine stone from the 40 cent value, which was mysteriously taken from the Canal Company. The 40c reprint has been classified as a private issue, with the rest of the values based on the 40c stone classed as forgeries.

The mounted stamps have always been considered Fournier's work, but now it is apparent that they should be attributed instead to Englehardt Fohl, of Dresden. When Fohl's effects were sold, Fournier acquired the plates and started producing a series of forgeries on thin off-white paper. Fohl's printings were done on cream, thin and porous paper and were quite clear in appearance whereas Fournier's tend to be less clear. One of the main distinguishing features on all these printings were guide lines.

An earlier version of the 1c value was also sold by Fournier. Its main characteristic is the first "S" of "POSTAGE", which is closed up at the foot. In his price list of 1914, the 1c Suez Canal was being sold as a first choice (ie, of good quality). The Fohl set was marked as second choice.

Many members will be aware of the main characteristics of the genuine stamps, the "POSTES" and "SUEZ CANAL" with their vertical and oblique lines and the placing of passengers on board: one in the bows, two between the fore and main masts, and one behind the main mast. These forgeries have passengers placed in various positions on board the ship.



Toutounji strikes gold

Congratulations to **Lucien Toutounji** (ESC 264), who took advantage of a stay in the United States to enter the Springpex Northern Virginia regional exhibition and wowed the judges to win not one but two gold medals, one for Lebanon Air Mail 1919-1944 (five frames, gold for the second time), the other for Constanta-Alexandria-Constanta (one frame, gold plus special Chairman's prize). Lucien will bring the Constanta exhibit to London in May.

Stamps and Rates: 55 millièmes Surcharge on 100 millièmes, January 20, 1959

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

In my recent article (*QC* 228, pages 102-5) I drew attention to the fact that some *stamps that are common used and catalogued at pence I simply cannot find on cover serving what I consider their intended use... especially post-Revolution*. One such stamp is the 55 millièmes surcharge on the 100 millièmes of the first republican pictorial set issued on January 23, 1953 (Balian 586). One can assume that six years after introduction there might be a reasonable surplus of unused stamps of the 100 millièmes. But why surcharge it 55 millièmes? It fits no particular pattern, and there had been no previous definitive that might have been in short supply and demand a replacement issue.

The most obvious reason for the issue would be to satisfy the inland Avis de Reception rate, which had been increased from 50 millièmes to 55 millièmes during 1955. Until the issue of the surcharged stamp the Avis de

Reception rate had never been served by a single stamp, unless it happened to coincide with one from a set that followed a *rational progression*. (see *QC 228*). I cannot question the Egyptian rationale of why, and why at that time. Was there a greater usage of AR postage, or was it just an idea to use up surplus stamps?

What is intriguing is that a new 55 millièmes stamp was added, on September 10, 1959, to the new definitive issue of August 30, 1959: in other words, the new definitive set came only 7 months after our surcharged stamp, and its replacement only 9 months. Why, if a new set was in the offing, bother with the surcharge and wait to issue a 55 millièmes stamp with the new set?

Whatever the reason, the stamp is an interesting one which was also overprinted PALESTINE at the same time (Balian 114). Both overprints have varieties, including double and inverted, and combinations from the two printings. I have several in my collection.

I have four covers with the surcharged stamp paying the correct rate for Avis de Reception and I have seen one or two more. I do not believe these to be common by any means. All the dates fall within the short period before the new 55 millièmes stamp was issued. I also have the new stamp on cover, which is quite common, but the dates are in the mid-Sixties.



The surcharged stamp can be found on covers long after new stamp was issued making up other rates, usually for overseas.



One slightly more common use of the surcharged stamp is for the overseas airmail rate with a 5 millièmes stamp to make the 60 millièmes.

A interesting point of coincidence is that the original 100 millièmes stamp can be found with the same 5 millièmes to make up the 105 millièmes air registered rate.



Editorial: to the pains in the backside

For this special 75th anniversary edition, which also coincides with London 2010, I suggested that we produce the *QC* similar to *QC 200*, being made up of single page colourful articles. I originally requested this in last June *QC* for articles by the end of the year, in September's *QC*, with numerous references to, remind you in December.

By February, when I started work on this *QC*, I had received only a few pages. Now I had other pressing matters in hand, so with so little response I abandoned the idea of the single-pager. As I had some colourful articles, I set out to produce the *QC* maintaining the idea it should all be nearly all in colour but making sure that I incorporated all the one-pagers I had in hand. Few were actually one-pagers, varying between half and just over three quarters of a page, which resulted in a major juggling act to fit it all together.

Then, just as I had finished drafting the *QC*, to its normal 24 pages, the emails started arriving: "Is it too late" etc., so I said no, you have two days left. Anyway that's why this *QC* is not a single-pager; but it is wonderfully colourful and a bumper issue. I am pleased that it is a good mix, from the early and exotic via modern issues, new finds, forgeries, new studies etc. I particularly like the Egyptians abroad. I am delighted that all you pains in the backside have helped to produce something better than I originally intended.

Query 70: 4m Crown Overprint bisected - David Sedgwick (ESC 589)



This postcard was sent from Alexandria to Naples on 18 NO 23 with three of the 4-milliemes Crown Overprint (SG 101) stamps, one of which is bisected to total 10 millièmes. It looks genuinely postally used: can anybody shed some light on the bisect?

Query 71: Printed label attached to overseas mail - Stephen Roche (ESC 612)



I recently acquired this cover and have not been able to locate any information on the attached label, printed in blue on white. Is it a censor label? Can anyone help?

Query 72: Incoming mail 1852 - Scott Van Horn (ESC 619)

I am looking for some help in deciphering the attached cover. The reverse has a French Office "ALEXANDRIE (EGYPTE) / 11 JANV 52" arrival marking. My questions are as follows:

- 1) The cover is addressed to Alessandria. Is this Alexandria, Egypt, or Alessandria, Italy?
- 2) The markings indicate that the cover went by steamer (Col Vapore Postale), and that the steamer might be the S.S. Fratolli (or Fratolli Mohalla). If this is the case, the addressee would be Mohalla at Alessandria Post Office, or just the Alessandria Post Office: which is correct?
- 3) I interpret the manuscript rate marking as a 4 or 9 (piastres?). Which is correct, and how did the marking apply in this case?

New Issues: December 27, 2006 to October 14 2007

Cyril E. H. Defriez ESC 172

All stamps are printed in lithography by Postal Printing House, A.R.Egypt without watermark, unless otherwise shown. The catalogue numbers are from the Stanley Gibbons and Balian supplements.

Date/Catalogue	Denomination	Size	Perforation	Number printed
Dec 27 2006				
Solidarity with Lebanon				
SG 2451/Bal 1834	150PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 matt gum
Designer: A. Abdul Ela		Logo 'Lebanon in our Hearts'		
Dec 30 2006				
Ramadan Festivals				
SG 2452/Bal 1835	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 matt gum
Designer: M.Abdallah		Musicians and village		
Jan 2 2007				
Post Day				
SG 2453/Bal 1836	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 matt gum
Designer: S. el Badrawi		Post Office logo over globe		
Jan 14 2007				
80th Anniversary of Automobile Club of Egypt				
SG 2454/Bal 1837	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 matt gum
SG(MS)2455/Bal 1838	150PT	80 x 60mm	Imperf. min. sheet	40,000 matt gum
Designer: Lydia Farid		Antique car, pyramid, obelisk and medals		
Jan 15 2007				
50th Death Anniversary of Ali Kassar (actor)				
SG 2456/Bal 1839	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000 matt gum
Designer: Nagui		Caricature of the actor		
Jan 25 2007				
Police Day				
SG 2457/Bal 1840	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 matt gum
SG(MS)2458/Bal1841	150PT	80 x 60mm	Imperf. min. sheet	40,000 matt gum
Designer: A. Abdel Kerim		President Mubarak, flag and emblem		
Feb 25 2007				
Re-dedication of the National Library				
SG 2458A/Bal 1842	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 glossy gum
		Old and new library buildings		
Mar 17 2007				
60th Anniversary of Academy of Arabic Language				
SG 2459/Bal 1843	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000 matt gum
		The Koran, inkwell and open window		
Apr 7 2007				
World Health Day				
SG 2460/Bal 1844	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 matt gum
Designer: Not known		W.H.O. logo and emblems		
Apr 25 2007				
Tourism				
SG 2461/Bal 1845	30PT St Catherine Monastery	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 glossy gum
SG 2462/Bal 1846	30PT Salah El Din Castle	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 glossy gum
SG 2463/Bal 1847	30PT Sharm El Sheikh	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 glossy gum
SG 2464/Bal 1848	30PT Oasis of Nabq	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 glossy gum
Designer: Not known		Stamps issued together in se-tenant blocks of four		

May 1 2007	50th Anniversary of Egyptian Trade Union Federation			
SG 2465/Bal 1849	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000 matt gum
Designer: Not known		Logo of the Federation		
May 7 2007	75th Anniversary of Egyptair Airline			
SG 2466/Bal 1850	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 glossy gum
SG 2467/Bal 1851	150PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 glossy gum
Designer: Not known		Vintage aircraft (De Haviland) and logo (30PT) Logo over De Haviland and Airbus aircrafts (150PT)		
May 8 2007	800th Birth Anniversary of M. J. A. Muhammed Rumi (Philosopher)			
SG 2468/Bal 1852	150PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000 glossy gum
		Portrait against background of whirling dervish		
June 5 2007	World Environment Day			
SG 2469/Bal 1853	30PT	30 x 50mm	13.25 x 12.8	100,000 glossy gum
SG 2470/Bal 1854	150PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 glossy gum
Designer: Not known		Butterfly (Sinai Baton Blue) (30PT) Logos with melting ice (150PT)		
June 6 2007	Centenary of Scouting			
SG 2471/Bal 1855	150PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 glossy gum
Designer: Not known		Scout emblem and globe		
July 9 2007	Euromed Conference, Marseille			
SG 2472/Bal 1856	150PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 glossy gum
Designer: Not known		Logo over Qait Bey Castle and Pompey's Pillar		
July 16 2007	50th Anniversary of Egypt-Nepal Diplomatic Relations			
SG 2473/Bal 1857	150PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 glossy gum
Designer: A. Makhlouf		Pharaonic and Nepalese statues		
Oct 14 2007	75th Anniversary of the Egyptian Air Force			
SG 2474/Bal 1858	30PT	50 x 30mm	12.8 x 13.25	100,000 glossy gum
Designer: Not known		Early and modern military aircraft		



SG 2471 BAL 1855



SG 2472 BAL 1856



SG 2473 BAL 1857



SG 2474 BAL 1858





SG 2451 BAL 1834



SG 2452 BAL 1835



SG 2453 BAL 1836



SG 2454 BAL 1837



SG 2456 BAL 1839



SG(MS) 2455 BAL 1838



SG 2457 BAL 1840



SG 2458A BAL 1842



SG(MS) 2458 BAL 1841



SG 2459 BAL 1843





SG 2460 BAL 1844



SG 2461/2464 BAL 1845/1848



SG 2465 BAL 1849



SG 2466/2467 BAL 1850/1851



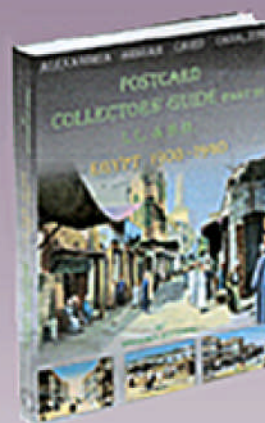
SG 2468 BAL 1852

SG 2469/2470 BAL 1853/1854



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