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STUDY CIRCLE



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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

- September 18: at Stampex Acquisitions and Queries All members
Stampex September 15 - 18
- Nov 6: Victory Services Club Military in Egypt, 1882 – 1982 Edmund Hall
Philatex November 4 - 6

The new programme for 2011 will include some novelties we hope will prove attractive, including a live auction at the AGM and two study meetings where members will be invited to bring material on a topic to display and compare. The following dates are provisional, and will be confirmed in the December QC:

January 8	Services Club	TPOs "bring and show"	All Members
February 26	Stampex	AGM and Live Auction	All Members
May 8	Services Club	"Named" PO markings	Mike Murphy
July 9	Services Club	Hotel Post Offices	John Davies
September 17	Stampex	Post Monarchy "bring and show"	All Members
November 5	Philatex?	Acquisitions and Queries	Not yet confirmed

For meetings at the Victory Services Club Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London. Members usually congregate in the ground floor bar from 1pm and meetings start at 2pm.

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Report of the Meeting in York, July 17 2010

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), John Davis (Librarian), David Sedgwick (Publicity Officer), Mike Bramwell, Ted Fraser-Smith, Keith Pogson; and Pam Copley, Bruce Gillham, Pat Sears, Alex Sedgwick, Ann Sedgwick – the latter visitors, but welcome indeed!

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), Margaret Chadwick, Angela Child, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Mostafa El-Dars, Andy Gould, Peter Grech, Paul Grigg, Alan Holverson, Alan Jeyes, Bill Johns, Wolfgang Koehler, Roman Rimonis, Sami Sadek, Steve Speak.

Before the meeting proper, Ted Fraser-Smith (ESC 238), who presented his research into censor labels at the previous York meeting, announced that good progress had been made, and appealed to members for more photocopies/photos of the labels to continue his researches.

The Chairman greeted those few members present, and offered special thanks to Keith Pogson (ESC 130), who had almost literally got up from his sick-bed to arrange the meeting, the hall and the frames, and his wife Kay, who very kindly provided tea and biscuits; and also to David Sedgwick (ESC 589), who bravely followed through with his commitment to present half the meeting despite serious illness in his family.

He very much regretted the poor turnout – only eight members could stir themselves to make the effort despite the attractions of two good speakers and the York Racecourse Fair not 400 yards away – and feared that the Circle might have to review the holding of regional meetings.

The Chairman noted with great regret the recent passing of Robin Blakely (ESC 295), a keen collector in Swansea, after a long illness, and was pleased that Bill Johns (ESC 287) had been able to represent the Circle at the well-attended funeral.

The Secretary echoed Peter Andrews' words on regional meetings, and noted that despite recent experiments – the bourse, for instance - attendance at meetings has in recent times been generally disappointing. He suggested that a review of meetings policy as a whole might be in order, and appealed to members to suggest how they might be made more attractive. Should we remain tied to Stampex dates? Should we continue to hold six meetings a year? Should we try new venues? Should we try all-day meetings with morning and afternoon speakers?

He noted that the big London 2010 exhibition attracted three new members immediately, and the meeting elected to membership a further four members, three of whom had been attracted at London 2010, the fourth applying via the website. Four members had also failed to pay their 2010 subscriptions, despite many opportunities, and their memberships were lapsed.

John Sears announced that Auction 49 was virtually completed and that all lots had been sent out in just over a month, and reminded members that there would be no autumn Auction this year. In the absence of Edmund Hall, the Secretary announced that the latest *QC* was just about to be despatched, and spoke of concerns that the hard work extended on producing and maintaining the website was not fully appreciated. He asked members to support Edmund's efforts by visiting the site regularly and providing feedback on its content.

The displays were opened by **David Sedgwick**, who provided a fascinating and most unusual exposition of the postal history of two great ports – Port Said in Egypt, and his home town, West Hartlepool, in the North East of England. Unlikely though it might seem, there were many parallels to be drawn, and David made sure that all were explained and illustrated.

Both, for instance, were originally essentially no more than sand dunes, both were effectively the brainchild of a single man – Ferdinand de Lesseps for Port Said and Ralph Ward Jackson for West Hartlepool, both were dependent on industry for their continued growth, both had strong connections with coal (mining for West Hartlepool, fuelling steamships for Port Said). Both were founded in the middle of the 19th century and grew apace in the great revolution in shipping of that period; and both have now settled into a rather more sedate lifestyle after having experienced the heat of battle in fairly recent times.

David's display comprised postal history from the earliest days, while noting that material from Port Said's founding around 1869 to 1900 was not easy to find. He showed several covers from the French consular office

there, including mixed frankings of Egyptian and French stamps, and several sheets displaying the French office's stamp issues. These included a 1912 cover (right) to Dresden with the registration label augmented by a handstamped "Port-Said". It is franked with a mixed use of the first two French office issues, two stamps from the overprinted 1899-1900 issue in conjunction with three others from the subsequent 1902-1920 set in which the name "Port-Said" has been incorporated into the stamp design. His display ranged far and wide, showing a block of four with the grave accent on "Millième" replaced by a circumflex; commercial covers from coaling companies with meter marks; British military Crown cancellations 9 and 10 which were based in Port Said; covers from Operation Musketeer, the 1956 "tripartite aggression" in which Port Said was badly damaged in 1956; and subsequent United Nations forces covers.



Turning to West Hartlepool, he explained how the town had grown up alongside "old" Hartlepool, which after a flourishing lifer as the port used by the Bishop of Durham had declined into a sleepy fishing village by the early nineteenth century. Ward Jackson saw the potential in trade in coal and steel with Northern Europe and the Baltic, and his energy led to the building of docks which saw West Hartlepool as the second-largest shipbuilder in the UK by the mid-19th-century.

His display provided a comprehensive history of postal material from the town, including even an Air Letter addressed to Port Said(!) and a 1918 cover cancelled with a slogan urging "Buy National War Bonds".



Since West Hartlepool had been the first British town to be attacked in the First World War – German vessels shelled it in December 1914 – local people did as they were urged, to such a degree that they won a national competition by saving £31.0.1d per head – and so won a tank! The tank, named "Egbert", was presented to the town and was on display well into the 1930s.

John Davis (ESC 213) opened his display on Postage Dues by showing two spectacular pre-dues covers from the British consular post, one incoming from Bridgenorth in July 1870 addressed to Poste Restante Alexandria but readdressed to the New Hotel in Cairo; it has a consular "thimble" cancel in blue and a two-line cachet INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID with a handstamped figure 2. The other, from Alexandria to St Andrews in December 864, shows two different cachets, one also reading INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID, the other MORE TO PAY in a circle.

Returning to the background, he explained that the concept of "postage due" was a UPU attempt to regulate the chaotic proliferation of bilateral agreements between countries that led to argument and confusion as mails were transmitted via different routes at different rates and at different weight steps. First, standard international rate were set, and then in the 1878 UPU Congress in Paris, came the regulation:

“In the case of insufficient prepayment, correspondence of every kind is liable to a charge equal to double the amount of the deficiency, to be paid by the addressees”.

Egypt produced its first Postage Due stamps in 1884, thirty years before Great Britain, but they were preceded by the use of handstamps indicating the amount due: these are exceedingly rare on cover, but John showed three examples – a figure 1 (one piastre) on an 1875 cover from Paris to Cairo, franked 1fr20 to cover the “port payé” fee to Alexandria but omitting the Egyptian fee for onward transmission to Cairo (single rate charged); an 1876 Alex-Cairo cover franked 1-piastre but handstamped AFFRANCATURA INSUFFICIENTE and figure 3, presumably overweight (double rate charged); and an unfranked 1869 En Ville cover from the Spanish Consulate in Alexandria handstamped 80 (ie, 80 paras, double the 1-piastre rate).

On December 29, 1883, an Egyptian Post Office notice announced that from January 1, 1884, stamps representing the amount due must be affixed to any offending mail; and no postage due should be sought or paid unless those stamps are affixed. Penasson of Alexandria produced the first three series of Egyptian Dues, in 1884, 1886 and 1888. All are rare on cover – but John was able to show all three sets on the same cover, all neatly cancelled by a Port Said CDS dated before January 1, 1884. Neat forgeries certainly, but whether intended to deceive seems unlikely given the flagrant use of an early CDS.

He then displayed all the various issues of Dues, via printings from De La Rue, Harrisons, and eventually in Egypt the 1927 set, including some rare usage on cover, and for the latter the cancelled-back and royal misperfs; though he noted not having seen the Crown Overprint Dues used on cover, he showed a used block of 12 of the 10 mills value. In 1952 the current Dues were overprinted “King of Egypt and the Sudan” – incredibly rare used, and impossible to find on cover.

New sets were issued in 1958, 1962 and 1965, becoming increasingly hard to find on cover, though John was able to show the final set on a cover addressed by the late Samir Fikry to his wife Jeanne – philatelic, but very very rare.

Moving on to the British military postal concession, he showed several covers with due amounts charged, for several reasons – addressed to Canada, which was outside the postal concession; overweight; posted in civilian boxes rather than military; but also showing some leeway in adherence to the rules – covers from a troopship without access to stamps, a one-off free Christmas air mail in 1940, mail from the Western Desert, all were allowed to pass through without Dues being raised.

Just as John was about to embark on his final section – “Indications of Postage Due” – it was noticed that our time limit was fast approaching, so he kindly agreed to delay this section to the next meeting at Stampex on September 18.

On behalf of the Circle, Peter Andrews thanked both speakers for the two very different displays we had seen, with, as he put it, “something for everyone” – and coupled his thanks to the speakers with great gratitude to Keith and Kay Pogson. Members and guests were generous in their applause.

Membership changes

New Members:

- ESC 651 Neil Hitchens**, 46 Rossllyn Park, Oatlands Village, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9QZ
(Egypt pre-Revolution, Turkey pre-1939, GB, Indian Feudatory states, Zululand)
- ESC 652 Alan Rothwell**, “Tristan”, The Tudors, Pantymwyn, Flintshire, North Wales CH7 5EB
(Egypt Hotels, TPOs; Tristant da Cunha, Liverpool postal history; World civil censorship)
- ESC 653 Denis M Doren**, RR 2, Coe Hill, Ontario, Canada K0L 1P0
(North Africa, Horn of Africa, Middle East, Red Sea postal history, Turkey, Bulgaria)
- ESC 654 Gerald Barron**, c/o Raytheon Company, Unit 64903, Box 1101, APO, AE 09868-4903,
United States (Egypt stamps of all types from all periods)

Deceased: ESC 165 **Dennis Clarke** ESC 265 **Robin Blakely** ESC 535 **Alan Berry**

Lapsed: ESC 494 **Yasser Amr** ESC 584 **Ahmed Abu Mousa** ESC 630 **Peter Gargett** ESC 639 **Atef Sarian**

Change of address: See back page:-

In Memoriam: Dennis H Clarke (ESC 165), 1930-2010

Announcement of Dennis Clarke's membership of the Study Circle was made on page 187 of Volume VII of the *Quarterly Circular* in September 1972. In the 38 years since then he served the Circle in myriad ways, but always with a genuine friendly approach that marked everything he did. Always generous with time and wisdom, he was eager to share his researches and his unparalleled knowledge of printing methods with all who asked. His enormously wide-ranging collection – encompassing every aspect of Egypt's multi-faceted potential – proved the basis time and again for typically modest displays at the Circle's meetings: modest, that is, in terms of presentation, but staggering in terms of range and depth.



From the start, at a time when the Circle was still dominated by many of the giants of its founding group, Dennis was immediately able to hold his own, presenting a two-part display on Interpostal Seals within a year of joining, and taking over the role of Secretary/Treasure in September 1975. His work as a printer with the *Daily Express* – he was delighted to have enjoyed more years with his pension than he had actually worked for the paper! - meant very antisocial hours, but the early hours of the morning provided an ideal time for researching and mounting his enormous range of material.

Over the ensuing years it became common practice, whenever we were short of a speaker, to “invite” Dennis to show some unsuspected treasure from his collection – and whatever the topic, he never let us down, always able to provide something out of the ordinary and something that fascinated those lucky enough to be present. His talks ranged from Officials through British Military via Napoleon and Postage Dues to Hotels and

Rurals, and always embellished with “the printer's view”. But the collection ventured much farther than that, encompassing as well as all stamp issues all aspects of postal history, with a particular fascination with all sorts of postmarks, as well as the minutiae of working out routes and rates.

Dennis's generosity of spirit was renowned, and many a member has stayed with him for a day or two, or three, while some thorny problem was examined via the range and extent of Dennis's collection, and finally resolved to everyone's satisfaction. In December 1979 he became Keeper of the Record of the Circle, allowing access to even more philatelic material, a duty he carried out conscientiously until the Record was finally combined with the Library a few years ago. Long before that he had been elected to the Committee, a post he held right until the end.

He gave his last talk to the Circle at the end of last year, and was rightly frustrated with the long discussion for planning this year's London 2010/75th Anniversary celebrations, which left him not enough time to expand on one of his favourite topics - printing methods and Interpostals. Those who were there were thus deprived of an excellent speaker, with an excellent knowledge of his subject. It is all the more sad that we shall not have the opportunity to hear him again. Both personally and on behalf of the Circle, I extend my deepest condolences. We have lost a great collector, a great enthusiast and a great friend.

Mike Murphy

Not only has the Circle lost a highly valued member but I have lost a close friend of thirty years. When I joined the Circle over thirty years ago a complete novice two of its members took me under their wings. One was Jim Benians, who sadly died over twenty years ago, the other being Dennis. I spent many a happy hour in their stamp rooms being educated. In those days, being out and about on business, I would often call on Dennis, on the spur of the moment, and was always warmly welcomed with a cup of tea and time in the stamp room. On occasions I might disturb him entertaining a lady friend but this never lessened the welcome. Being a young man, I thought it strange that stamping would take first place. Now with the wisdom, that only years can bring, I realise of course this is the natural order of things. I owe so much in education and friendship. Thanks Dennis.

Edmund Hall

Footnote: Ms Peggy Bray, Dennis's partner for many years, wishes it to be known that she was very appreciative of the support she had from members of the Circle at the funeral service, and of the letters of condolence she received.

The Romania Steamship Line S.M.R.

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)



S.M.R. company logo

Introduction

This company, Serviciul Maritim Roman (S.M.R.) was formed in 1895 by Cailor Ferate Romane (C.F.R.), the Romanian state-controlled railway company. This was to enable the completion of the final link in the Orient Express route, from the Black Sea port of Constanta in Romania to Constantinople (Istanbul) in Turkey. For this service nine ships were purchased between 1895 and 1907, by which time the S.M.R. routes had been extended to Piraeus (Greece), Smyrna (Turkey) and Alexandria (Egypt). This article mainly concerns mail to and from this last destination.

Orient Express

A Belgian, Georges Nagelmackers, formed Wagons-Lits in 1876. In 1883 he commenced the Express d'Orient railway service twice a week over the route:

Paris (Gare de L'Est) – Strasbourg – Munich – Vienna – Budapest – Bucharest – Giurgiu.

At this terminus there was no bridge over the meandering river Danube, so the passengers had to cross by ferry and then take a seven-hour rail journey to the port of Varna on the Black Sea, where an Austrian Lloyd steamer took them on the 14-hour sea crossing to Constantinople.

Some relevant dates:

- 1891 Service renamed Orient Express
- 1895 Railway line opened Bucharest to Constanta
- 1914 July. Orient Express suspended due to World War I
- 1919 February. Orient Express restarted twice a week
- 1928 Wagons-Lits takes over Thomas Cook & Sons

From a 1939 timetable we see that:

- Paris to Bucharest 39 hours 35 minutes
- Istanbul to Paris 61 hours 12 minutes with 36 intermediate stops
- Constanza: ships sail Thursday at 9pm, arrive Istanbul Friday 8 am
- Istanbul: ships sail Saturday at 10 pm, arrive Constanza Sunday 9 am

N.B. Some time in the 1920s the final T in Constanta was replaced by a Z.

The First World War brought the service to a halt until 1919.

S.M.R. ships

As mentioned previously, nine ships were bought prior to World War I, after which the *Transylvania* was added to the fleet in 1936.

Name	Where built	Date bought	Comments
<i>Medea</i>	Austria	1895 May 31	Caspian Sea area
<i>Meteor</i>	England	1895 June 3	
<i>Cobra</i>		1896	
<i>Ignatio Florio</i>		1896	
<i>Principese Maria</i>		1897	
<i>Regele Carol</i>	Glasgow	1898	King Carol I of Romania (1866-1914)
<i>Romania</i>	St. Nazaire	1906	
<i>Imparatul Trainan</i>	St. Nazaire	1906	Beached 1927, scrapped 1928
<i>Dacia</i>	St. Nazaire	1907	A Roman province

A weekly service was established for passengers and mail from Constanta to Constantinople on 6 February 1896. In the fullness of time S.M.R. extended their routes:

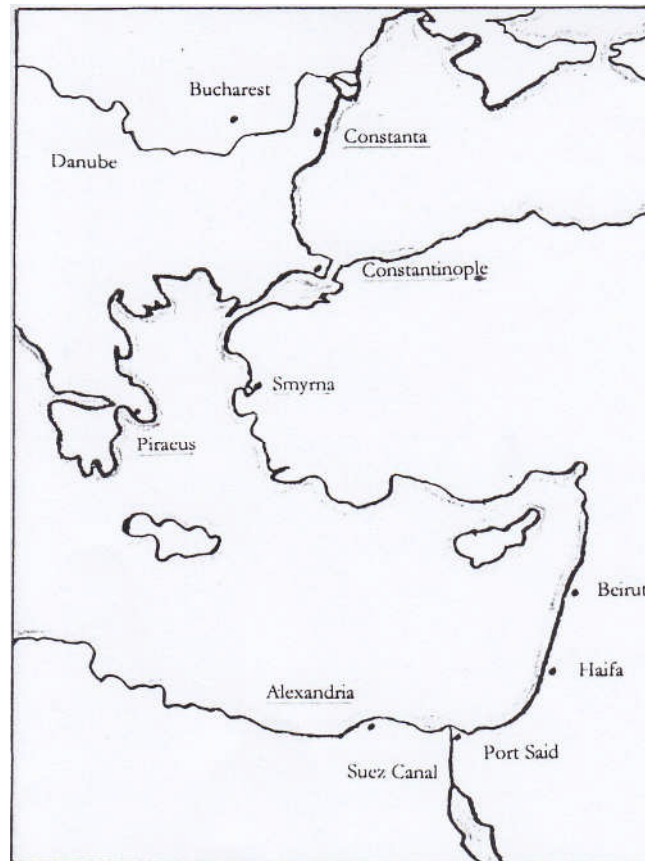
1905 April 20 to Piraeus (for Athens)

1905 April 23 to Smyrna, a Turkish port on the Aegean Sea

1906 October 18 to Alexandria

Egypt was the furthest that S.M.R. ventured, with the distances from Constanta being:

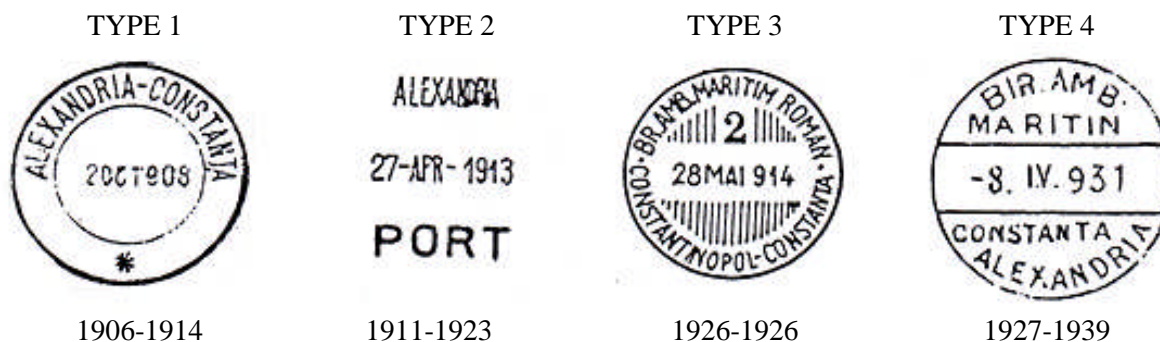
Constantinople 225 miles; Smyrna 525 miles; Piraeus 600 miles; and Alexandria (via Beirut, Haifa and Port Said) 1,050 miles. The voyage to Alexandria was a 14-day round trip.



Map showing the S.M.R. ports of call

S.M.R. postmarks

Travelling sea post offices were set up on board the ships and they cancelled mail in transit and that posted on board. For the route Constanta to Alexandria four types of postmark can be found, although they are far from common.



The Type 3 illustration should have Alexandria in place of Constantinople and the 2 in the upper segment should be replaced by a 3.

Types 1 and 4 (and probably 3) are known with the port names vice versa.

In Types 3 and 4, BIR AMB MARITIN is an abbreviation for Birourilor Ambulanta Maritin, which translates as Agency Travelling Maritime.

An undated 36mm circular cachet has also been reported reading *Serviciul Maritin Roman / Vaporul / Dacia* with the Romanian coat of arms in the centre. It has no date but must be 1927 or after, on account of the Egyptian definitive stamps that it cancels (SG 148 etc).

Relevant postage stamps

Over the years Romania has issued a number of stamps in connection with this service; here are some of them:

Bucharest Nord railway station: 1972, SG 3913

Constanza railway station: 1961, SG 2901

Constanza harbour: 1928, SG 1103

Orient Express centenary: 1983, SG MS 4829

Dacia liner: 1995, SG 5735

Imparatul Trainan Danube river steamer: 1995, SG 5736

Transylvania liner: 1936, SG 1345; 1947, SG 1901; 1948, SG 1994; 1967, SG 3527; 1974, SG 4046.

REFERENCES

The writings of P. Hirsch and G. Sassower in *The London Philatelist*, Journal of The Royal Philatelic Society London and *Postal History*, Journal of The Postal History Society.

Railway Philately, Journal of the Railway Philatelic Group, Vol. 6, p. 8; Vol. 31, p. 167; Vol. 33, pp.31 and 141.

The Stamp Atlas by Stuart Rossiter and John Fowler.

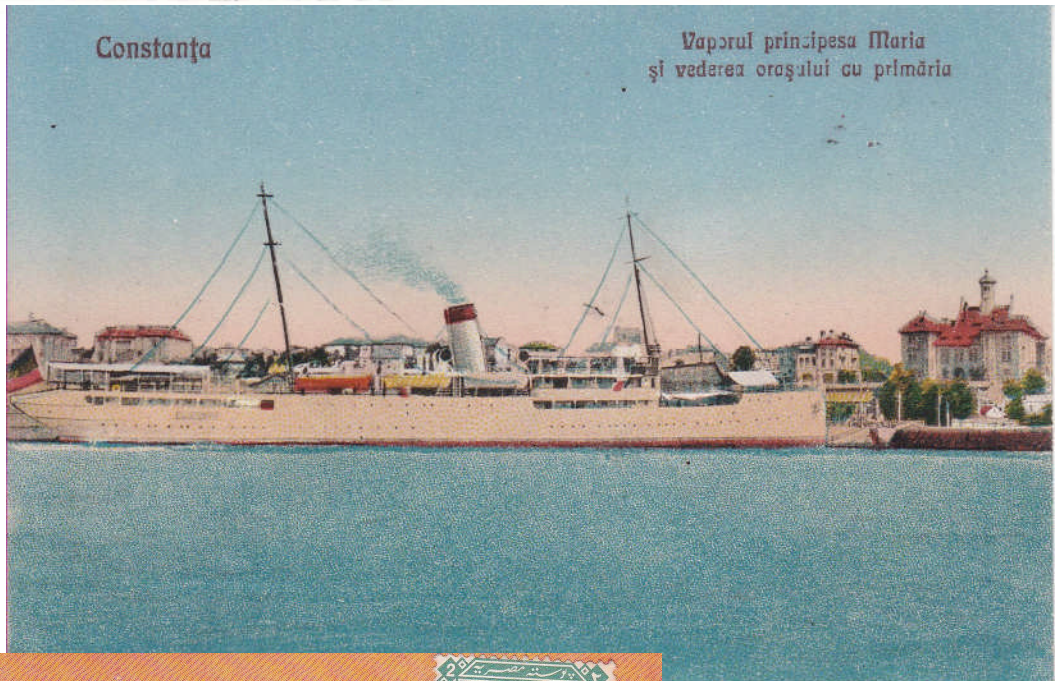
Stamps of the World Vol. 4 Countries N-R 2009 by Stanley Gibbons Ltd.

Egypt at Auction

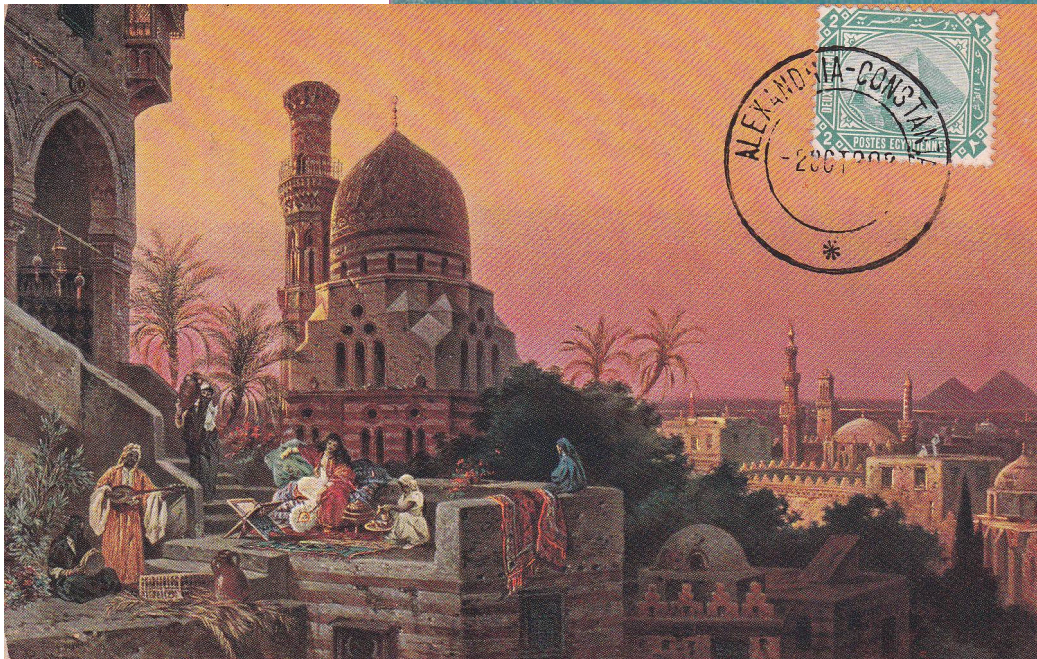
Members should be on the lookout to add top-class material to their collections towards the end of this year as the collections of former members who have passed on will come up for auction. Corinthila sales 165-168 in Zurich between November 30 and December 4 (www.corinthila.ch) will include three major Egypt collections: Luca Biolato's collection of Posta Europea, his Essays and Proofs from 1866, and Adel Farid's Airmails 1910-1944. At about the same time it is expected that much of Dennis Clarke's extensive collection will be auctioned by Grosvenor in London (www.grosvenorauctions.com).



S.M.R. Romania crossing the Bosphorus in front of Rumeli Hisar



S.M.R. Principesa Maria at Constanta



On reverse: written at Alexandria 30 September 1908. Addressed to Constanta, Romania.

Type 1 cancel dated 2 OCT 908. Overfranked for the 1 millièmes UPU printed matter rate



Type 4 cancellation applied on outward route to Formosa, 20 October 1933.
 Port Said transit 29th. Probably carried from there on the MM Andre Lebon.
 Note the 2 x 1 lei red disaster fund stamps



Type 4 cancel 1935 on reverse. Bucharest postman's Posthorn arrival mark with 45 in the loop.
 Addressed to Lady Hoare: her husband, Sir Samuel Hoare, was Secretary of State for India.
 20 millièmes UPU surface letter rate 1931 - 1940



Original photograph showing Sir Samuel Hoare, then British Secretary of State for Air, and Lady Hoare arriving at R.A.F. Aboukir, Egypt 31 December 1926 on the first British air service to India .Behind them Imperial Airways Hercules G-EBMX.

AIR MAIL JOTTINGS: “Cairo Airport” Cancellations.

John Sears (ESC 188)



Fig.1



Fig.2

I have recently seen two unusual Cairo Airport cancellations. *Figure 1* is new to me. It measures 29mm and is dated 14.3.81, and appears on a “long” company stationery Registered envelope of Saudi Arabian Airlines, franked 70m. Addressed to a government department at the airport, the 70m represents the internal rate of 20m, plus the Registration fee of 50m. Has anyone else seen this marking? If so, please report the date of the CDS.

Figure 2 is dated 18.7.86, and is all in Arabic, also 29mm, and again on a long company stationery envelope from Saudi Arabian Airlines. Addressed to a competition organised by Cairo TV, it is franked 5 piastres (50 millièmes), which was the correct rate for internal letters. The interesting point is the Arabic 1039 in the lower segment of the CDS, the same number as appears on previously reported covers (dated between July and November 1986: see page 174 of my *The Airmails of Egypt*). Is this a district code?

I am indebted to Dr Mostafa El Dars (ESC 556) for his assistance in translation.

Continental Hotel in Kasr el-Nil Street

Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)

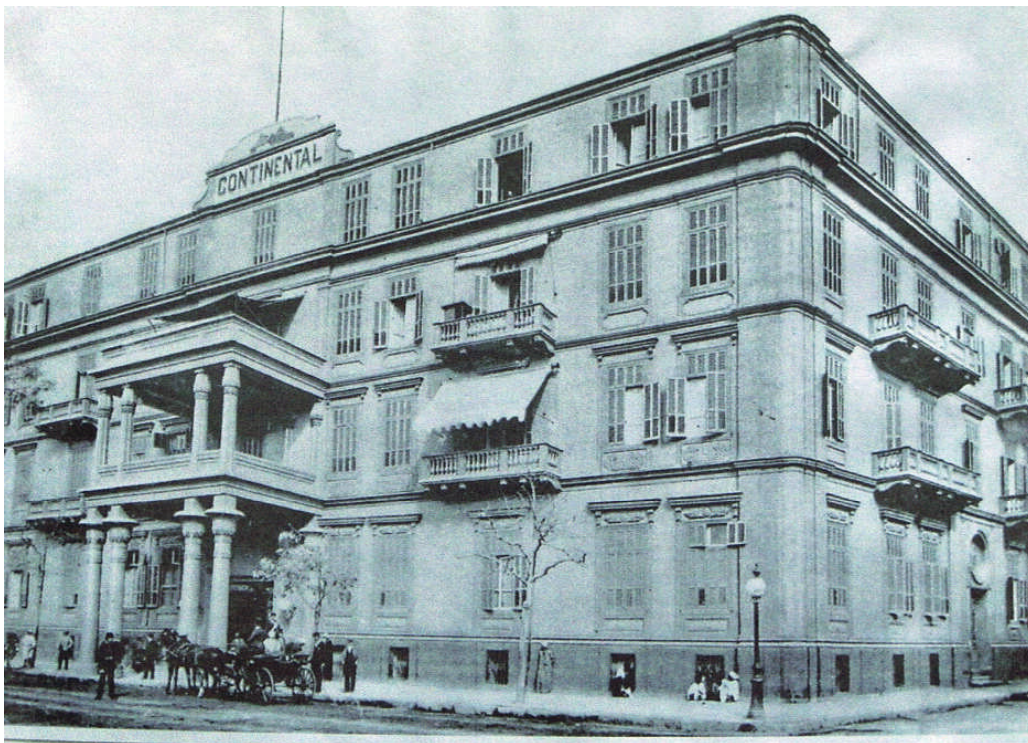
A couple of weeks ago, while looking at a newly issued illustrated book on old Cairo streets, I made a very important discovery which until today has long been a subject of discussion – about the original location of the old Continental Hotel.

With this new photographic evidence, I can confirm that the old Continental Hotel was in Kasr el-Nil Street. The hotel was built in approximately 1885, opened to the public in 1890 and the post office of the hotel, with its characteristic postmarks and registration cachets, seems to have started work in about November 1891 (see Fig.1, right).



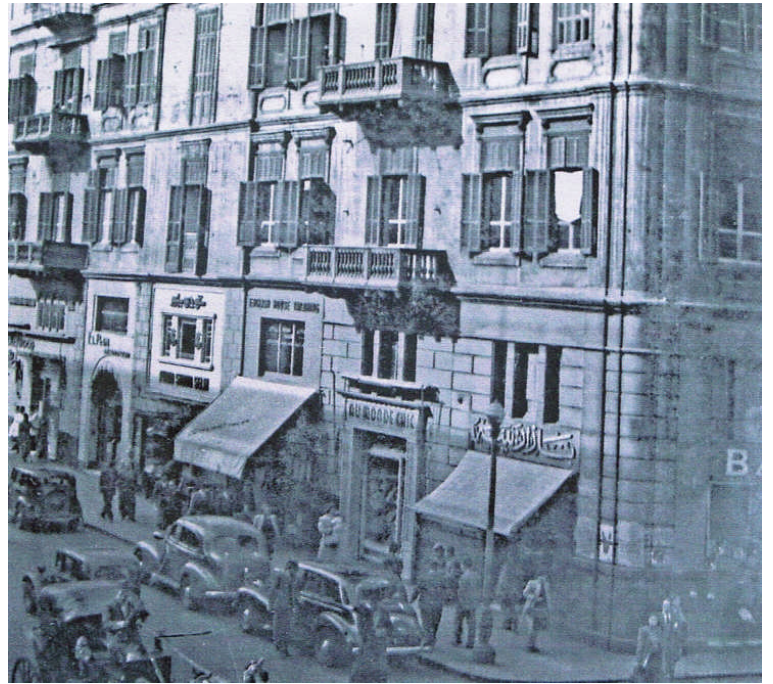
The original building still stands at Number 40 Kasr el-Nil Street in downtown Cairo, but in a very different condition from the early days ... as a matter of interest, my father's photographic studio was in the same building (Studio Garo), and I worked there for many years without realising its link with the ancient hotel.

The Continental Hotel building was remodelled during about 1910 to allow more space for a widening of the road for automobiles in central Cairo, the originals, of course, having been built only for horse carriages. In



the illustrations. Here, we can see the old hotel in 1896 (Fig 2, left), with "Continental" blazoned across the top of the façade, above a very imposing two storey columned entrance and with two sets of balconies on the rooms to both right and left, central to two sets of double windows.

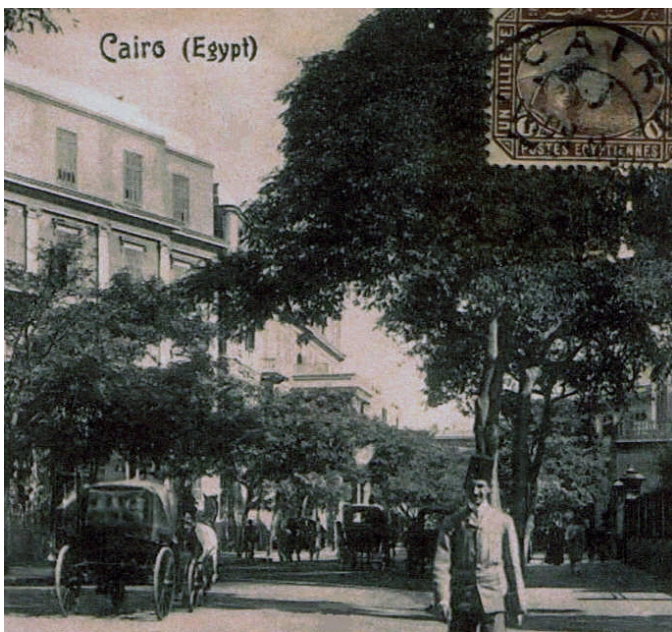
Fig. 3 (right) shows the same building in 1945 but looking very different: the double-storey columned entrance is gone, and a new doorway (to Au Monde Chic) has been fashioned under the two sets of balconies. They remain, however, along with their double windows on each side.

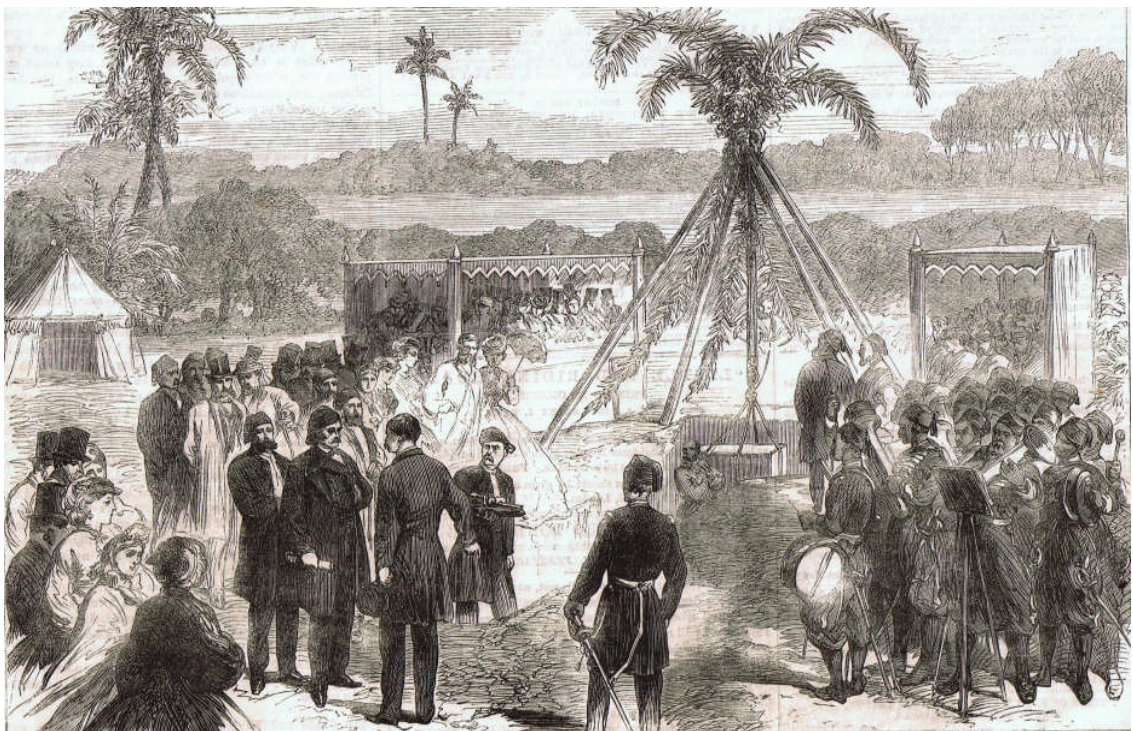


More proof of the hotel’s location comes in the shape of two hotel post-cards used in 1893. Each has a different vignette at left showing the double-storey columned entrance (Fig. 4, right below). And that characteristic façade can also be made out between the trees in another postcard used in 1909 (Fig 5, left below).

As for the “Grand Continental Hotel”, which we all know from its famous site overlooking the western end of the Ezbekiya Gardens and Opera Square, that building was a remodelled version of the former New Hotel, which was built in 1871 but changed completely when the Continental moved from Kasr el-Nil Street to its new quarters. It was this building which later, on the closure of the Savoy Hotel, became the Continental-Savoy, and it was here that the postal markings HC2-12 were used from, as far as we can tell, March 1900 to January 1954.

The final illustrations (Figs 6-8, over page) show the New Hotel and the Grand Continental in the same position just east of the small roundabout; and the laying of the New Hotel’s foundation stone by Nubar Pacha in 1871.

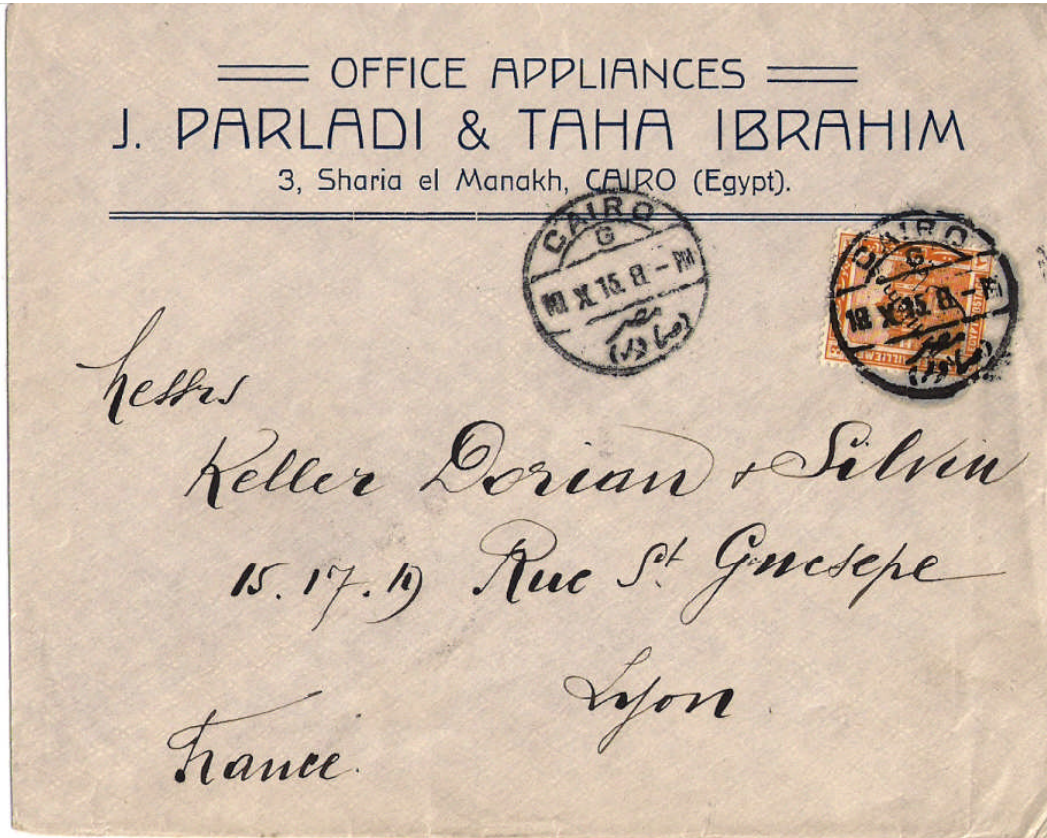




The 1915 2 mills Provisional; Another Example

Anton Jansen (ESC 383)

Referring to the note of Edmund Hall in *QC 227* and the Response in *QC 228* I can show another nice example of the proper use for printed matter to a foreign destination. Maybe because of its rather heavy postmark it has escaped the attention of other hunters at London's Festival of Stamps, but I was lucky to find it (and at the incredible price of €4). Anyhow, it is certain that one has to be careful in using terms as "possibly unique".....



Correction to Maritime Markings from 1890 (p234-237)

John Sears (ESC 188)



Somewhere along the line the following section was somehow dropped from the article:

“The 2nd “combined” CDS appeared in the late fifties, somewhat larger and quite a different format, but all in English. The first CDS was still in good condition, so why was it changed?”

Earliest date - 10.7.57 Latest date - 31.12.68

It will be noticed that use of the two types (*Figs 19 and 20*) overlap, so *Fig 19* was still available! Apart from the “rogue” 10 MR 63 of the first CDS, and there have been one or two others, the latest date of use (*Fig 19*) reported is 21.4.54.”

I also note that after *Fig.9* the numbers have disappeared. Counting on from 9, the first Port-Taufiq would be number 19. This dropped section is after the reference to Port Tewfiq and just before “Now for a few personal”.

[Note: I have corrected the text and will send the amended pdf copy to anyone who emails me for it. **Editor**]

Stamps and Rates: The Surcharged Agricultural Set on, August 24, 1926

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

Egypt's second set of commemoratives was issued to mark the Twelfth Agricultural and Industrial Exposition, held in Cairo during March 1926. Whether to heighten interest among collectors or unashamedly to fleece them, as well as the 5, 10 and 15 millièmes values, which could be used for normally expected postal rates, there were three higher denominations of 50, 100 and 200 millièmes. The 5m paid the inland postage, the 10m the overseas letter rate to the UK or internal registration, and the 15m paid the overseas rate or overseas registration. There would have been some difficulty in using the 50m genuinely and almost impossible to use the two higher denominations other than on perhaps a parcel card. Bear in mind, though, that the then definitive set, First Portrait Fouad issue, included these high-value stamps and an £EI value as well.

The original high values were printed in optimistic quantities identical to the three lower values, that is, 202,500 of each. For the 200m value this compares reasonably with the Fouad 200m stamp, of which 235,000 were printed. It would seem indicate that the Post Office was expecting collectors to buy the complete set of the commemorative issue. In fact only 52,500 stamps of the 50m stamps were sold and 35,000 each of the two higher values. This may have caused some embarrassment somewhere with only 18 per cent sold overall. The commemoratives were on sale between March 1 and April 30

To avoid wasting the unsold higher-value stamps, they were later surcharged, the 50m, 100m and 200m becoming 5m, 10m and 15m respectively. On cover, these surcharged stamps - if not rare - are far from common and genuinely used as opposed to philatelic covers are certainly not found easily. I have the 5m on cover but used with other stamps and obviously philatelic. Illustrated (*below*) is the 15m/200m surcharged stamp being used to pay the registration rate at the tune of 5m postage and 10m registration fee. While used, it is from a known stamp dealer to a well-known collector of the time, but has been opened so may in some senses been sent for a genuine purpose.



As occasionally happens, I find I have a spare moment, and use it to do the QC: the usual thought is, do I have enough material? When I gathered together all the bits and pieces this time, I found that I am in surplus. In fact, I have enough to fill almost a whole QC. Normally I hold back my own articles, some of them having been written as much as two years ago. So apologies if your article is not here: it will appear soon! But that is no reason not to keep them coming. Their range and depth never fails to surprise me. Thank you.

Editor

A second cover (*below*) shows a horizontal strip of three of the 10m/100m to pay the overseas registered rate of 30 millièmes to Greece – 15m postage plus 15m registration fee



The third cover illustrated (*below*) shows two 15m stamps of the original commemorative set covering the same rate. While my research is essentially to show definitives illustrating specific rates with a single stamp, I just felt that these two covers made a nice complementary pair, hence their inclusion in my collection. Early commemoratives properly used on cover, as these appear to be, are not at all common, I find.



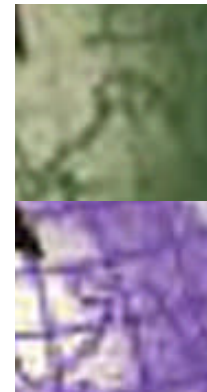
Egypt Errors of Design

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

While browsing the internet I came across these stamps on a site dealing with design errors in stamps. The comments are directly off the website, I have only changed the reference to Balian numbers.



Bal.174 On the stamp the Suez Canal goes up the west side of the western breakwater into the Mediterranean. In fact, it goes up the east side of the western breakwater, so that the canal passes between Port Said and Port Fuad



Bal.159-162. In 1955 and 1957 seven Arab countries celebrated the establishment of the Arab Postal Union in 1953 with an issue of stamps showing a map of the Mideast. On the stamps issued by Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Syria, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia the Persian Gulf is missing. Whenever I have seen this error mentioned, the stamps from Lebanon are also identified as having the same error. An examination of the Lebanese stamps shows that the Persian Gulf is shown on them.

Bal.218-219. The stamps were issued in 1958 to publicize the Economic Conference for Afro-Asian Countries. It is the same as SCN 455, overprinted in Arabic and English, "Industrial and Agricultural Production Fair."



The stamp shows two hemispheres with maps. The eastern hemisphere is badly drawn with all of Europe missing! The western hemisphere is very light and overprinted, so it is difficult to tell what is there.



Bal.479. To publicize Arab solidarity for the "defence of Palestine" against Israel, Egypt issued this stamp showing the territory of Israel in orange. In error, Gaza, which was not claimed by Israel, is coloured orange as well.

The site is at <http://www.danstopicals.com/errorsindex.htm>

I however think this stamp is not so much an error but done deliberately as a political statement.

A stamp not mentioned the site is the commemorative for 29 March 2006 solar eclipse Bal. 1814. This caused some amusement at a meeting a little while ago: while one sun is eclipsed by the moon another sun is about to dawn. The designer has promoted our solar system to a binary star one.



Are there any more stamps with similar errors?

Queries

Query 84. From Mrs Joan Soriano (ESC 636): 1914 stampless picture postcard from Alexandria to Auckland, NZ.

The reverse bears a purple oval “N.Z. MILITARY POST OFFICE /TROOPSHIP No 12 / EXPEDITIONARY FORCE” datestamp, which is that of the SS *Waimana*.

The NZEF accompanied the Australian contingent in the first convoy, arriving in Egypt on 3 December 1914. They carried with them rubber datestamps for use on the troopships, but when the need was seen to be immediate after disembarking, the same datestamps were used in Egypt after removal of the inscription “Troopship No.....”.

The cancel on this card would seem to indicate that some mail was processed on arrival in Egypt, prior to the “immediate” removal of the inscription. Can any member confirm that this was indeed the case?

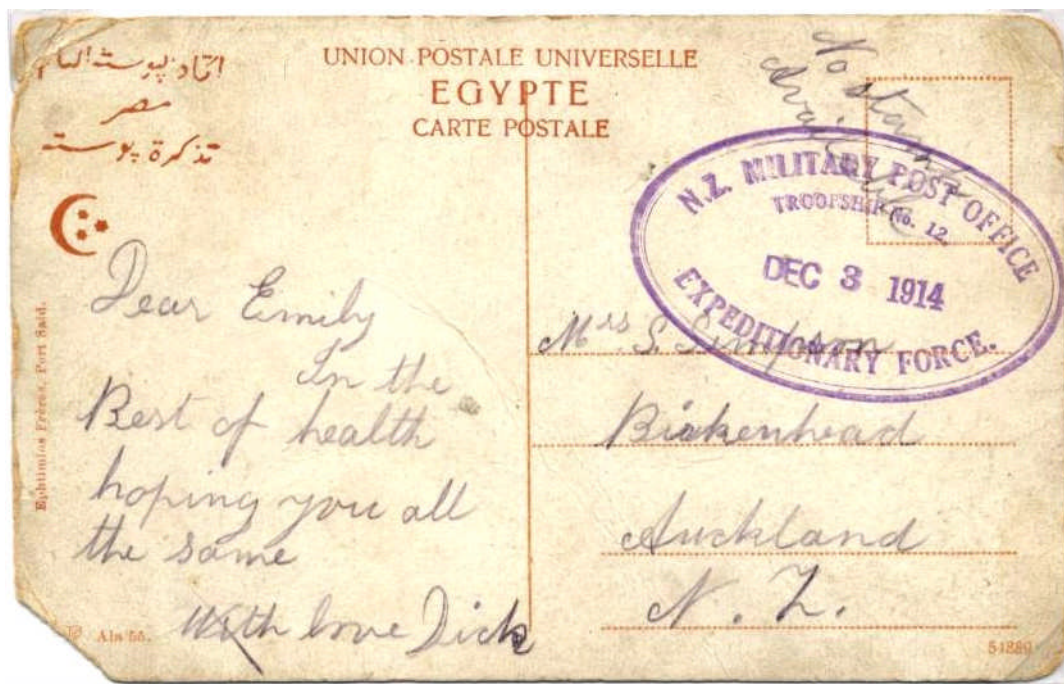
REFERENCES:

Peter A.S. Smith, *Egypt - Stamps and Postal History, A Philatelic Treatise*, 1999

The John Firebrace Collections of *Military Postal History*, Auction Catalogue, 16 May 2001

Major G.J. Clayton RNZAEC, *The New Zealand Army, A History from the 1840's to the 1990's*, 1990

A St. John Adcock, *Australasia Triumphant*, 1916



Query 85. From Jack Graham (ESC 541): Pyramids / Mena House Registered covers. Mena House is the only major Egyptian hotel without a known registration cachet, so I planned to submit an article on its registered covers, but there simply isn't enough information available. Here's hoping this Query might bring forth some new material.

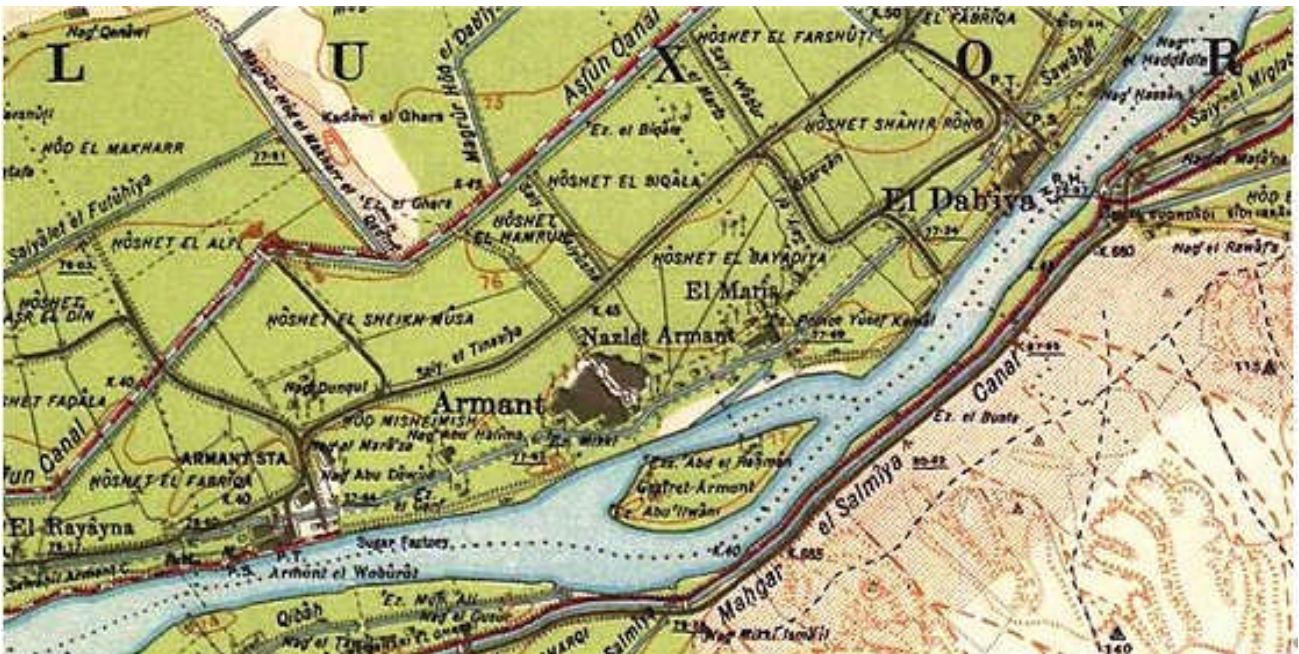
I believe that only three registered covers are known: Lucien Toutounji's missing 12 III 93 with a 134 registration number, mine (10 II 94, *illustrated*) is numbered 119, and Alain Stragier's (1 III 94) is 191. The eleven-month period between 134 and 119 really tells us nothing, reflecting only that one or more registration-number books were completed and another started up. Problem: we don't know how many labels/receipt slips comprised a book.

The gap between 119 and 191 almost tells us too much, for in that 20-day period 72 items were registered - an average of 3 1/2 per day. And yet, from the almost three years the PYRAMIDS / MENA HOUSE post office was in operation, we have recorded no more than three registered covers. Astonishing!



Q80. Reply Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Armant-Dabiya. I am fairly sure that Dabiya is a TPO connection of Armant. On the 100,000 map illustrated (1932) Armant itself has no direct rail connection with Dabiya, but Armant Station does (the grey lines are railways, roads are in red or red-and-white). Armant village has no Post and Telegraph Office (P.T.), but Armant Station does, and so does Dabiya. On the other hand, the Postal Guides for 1928, 1932 and 1935 all describe Dabiya as a Class 2 officer served "by runner from Luxor". I'm not exactly sure what that means ... so there is still mystery



Q 81. Reply Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Qissaria (Arabic قسارية) is probably best translated as “covered market” or “bazaar”, so although I do not know where the covered market is in Asyut, it seems to have its own post office. Similar postmarks are known from Alexandria Fruit and Vegetable Market (in French) and from Luxor Tourist Market.

Q76. Reply Alan Jeyes (ESC 293): This commemorative stationery was issued in both red and green. I have the small size (154x124mm) in red unused and CTO (the CDS is Cairo 1) 24 NO 38 and the green one similarly used to the same addressee on the same date. But I also have the green version commercially used on 2? MA 39 from ? to Ras el-Ein (backstamped 26 MA 36), with the address in Arabic; and the red one commercially used in Cairo. The date is unreadable and there is no backstamp, but part of the postmark does show. This is also addressed in Arabic. *Figs. 1-6*

I have two used copies of the large red envelope (175x135 mm), the first from Bulaq-Cairo on 4 DE 39 to Paris and redirected to Areueil. Its Official handstamp stamp is unreadable but the cover is franked with 50 mills and 1 mill official adhesives. All backstamped. The second is also cancelled Bulaq-Cairo 28 NO 39. It bears no stamps at all but the Official handstamp, though largely illegible, reads in part Government Press, as does that of Anton Jansen. *Figs. 7-8*

I do not have a green one used or mint, so perhaps they do not exist. There is still much to learn about these envelopes.



Fig.1

Fig.2





Fig.3



Fig.4



Fig.5



Fig.6

Query 86. From Alan Jeyes (ESC 293): Following on from the last answer, similar to the these are two undenominated postal stationery envelopes printed for the wedding of Farouk's sister Princess Fawzia to the Shah of Iran. Inscribed "Souvenir et félicitations de l'IPRIMERIE NATIONALE en l'honneur de l'heureux mariage – 15 MARS 1939", they com in two sizes: the smaller, 154x123mm, I have unused. The larger, 180x123mm, I have in green used again by the Government Press, date illegible but backstamped Cairo 21.MA.39. Addressed to Leipzig, it is franked with Officials, 2x3mill of the 1926 issue and 4-10mil of the 1938 for a total of 46mils. Figs 7-8. The same question: Why were they not available to the public?

Fig.7



Fig.8

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE LIBRARY

BOOK REVIEW: A HISTORY OF EGYPT by JASON THOMPSON

So, who needs yet another history of Egypt? So, why review this book from the point of view of the Egypt Study Circle Library? Some years ago and quite when it was even I am not able to remember, I attended a lecture by Jason Thompson and I was impressed, but I have not come across him since. However, looking him up on the internet reveals that he works in the History Department at the American University in Cairo and is, or was, a Visiting Associate Professor at Colby College, Maine, USA.

Accordingly, when a friend in the pub handed me a book he had borrowed from the local library suggesting I should read it, I did as I was told. Unusually, this is a book, published in Cairo in 2008 by the American University in Cairo, that deals with the whole of Egyptian history from the birth of Egyptian civilization at the recently discovered Nabta Playa dating from 6000 BC or earlier, to the Toshka Project begun in 1997 and not due for completion until 2020 AD. All this in one volume means of course that the in depth study required by a particular specialist is unlikely to be found within its covers. However, for the stamp collector, or more particularly for the postal historian, this is an ideal work of reference and perfect for giving an overall view. It is also ideal as an introduction to the history of Egypt as it provides a superb means of putting everything into context.

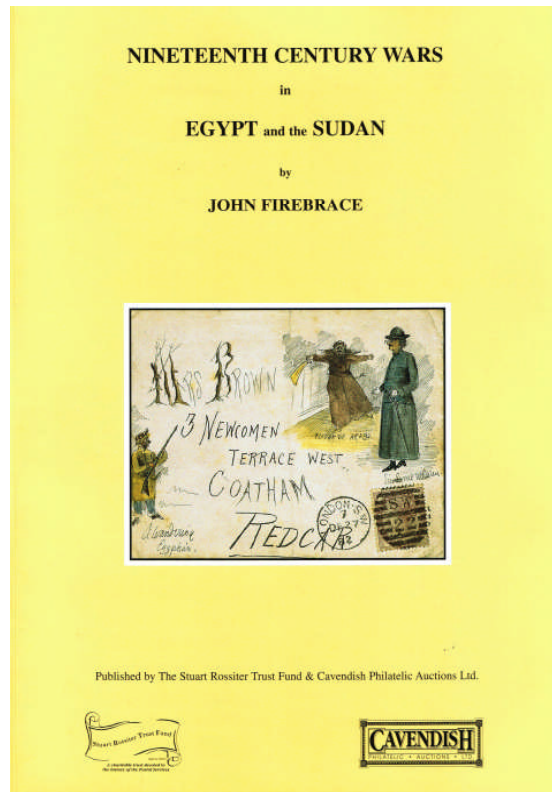
As to its usefulness to those of us who like to know the background to their collecting habits, let me give you a for instance - at the York meeting recently I showed several entire letters between Venice, Livorno and Alexandria, one of which, dating from 1420 AD, was ingoing rather than outgoing. Others ranged in date from 1675 to 1743. Obviously there were Venetian, and probably other Italian, merchants operating in the city of Alexandria, but why were they there and how did they become established? This book gave me the answer. Venetian ships carried much of the maritime merchandise, the city of Venice having created a near monopoly of shipping in the eastern Mediterranean. Even as early as the 4th Crusade in 1204 - they started in 1095 at the instigation of Pope Urban II - the Venetians were carrying the Crusaders whose intention was to attack Ayyubid Egypt as a means of creating a base from which to re-conquer Jerusalem. However the Venetians diverted the Crusaders to Byzantine (Christian) Constantinople in order for the Crusaders to attack the Venetians' commercial rivals. Constantinople was duly attacked amid much bloodshed of fellow Christians and the Byzantine Empire was greatly weakened. The Ayyubid rulers of Egypt were delighted however and the Venetians were thus granted commercial privileges in Alexandria. By the way the Ayyubids were the family whose most famous son was Salah al-Din, or Saladin as we know him; it was he who built the Cairo Citadel.

The twenty chapters, the first of which gives a brief but useful geography, each takes a look at the historical side of Pharaonic Egypt - it is virtually impossible to write an accurate history of much of ancient Egypt - through Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt to the Christian era of the Copts and the advent of Islam in the 7th century AD. Discussions of the Fatimid, Ayyubid and Mamluk periods follow giving much detail of the time when Europe was in what we know as the Dark Ages. Takeover by the Ottoman Empire followed by the Birth of Modern Egypt under Mohammad Ali and his successors is described and Thompson even mentions the acquisition of the post by Khedive Ismail. He was the ruler who managed to bankrupt the country with his lavish spending on attempting to Europeanise Egypt; he was of course educated in Paris. It is interesting to read what Thompson describes as "The British Occupation of Egypt", and indeed what we in Britain refer to as the Suez Crisis in 1956, from the point of view of an American. The Egyptians refer to this as the Tripartite War and we already have books in the ESC Library giving the British and Egyptian points of view on this Subject.

I am getting a little ahead of myself as I should not omit the political aspects of the reigns of Kings Fuad and Farouk that are nicely dealt with and mention is made of many personalities who have since featured on Egyptian commemorative stamps. Transfer from Royaume d'Egypte to Arab Republic of Egypt (as it says on the stamps, not the tin), is also covered in some detail, as indeed are the periods in office of the four Presidents. Altogether this is a very worthwhile book and I propose to get a copy for the Library; in the words of various Chancellors of the Exchequer, "I commend it to the House."

John Davis (Hon. Librarian)

Nineteenth Century Wars available again



The Stuart Rossiter Trust has asked us to notify members that copies of our late member John Firebrace's masterly *Nineteenth Century Wars in Egypt & the Sudan* have become available at a special price of £40. In card cover, with 217 pages, this series of detailed accounts from an award-winning collection is illustrated with maps, eight colour plates and numerous illustrations. There are over 40 pages from John's collection in his inimitable handwritten style telling the story of campaigns from the French invasion of 1798-1801, via the Arabi rebellion of 1882, the Mahdi 1881-1885, the Hicks disaster of 1883, Suakin 1884, the Nile Expedition of 1884-5, the Suakin Expedition of 1885-6, captives of the Khalifa, the Dongola Expedition of 1896, Suakin 1896, the Nile Expeditions of 1897-8 and 1898-1900, the Marchand Expedition of 1898 to the Army of Occupation 1882-1900.

ISBN 978 0 9527177 3 7, £40 + postage & packing: UK First class £4.50, Europe printed paper £7.50, world printed paper by air £12, surface £6.50, from Richard Wheatley, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds LS15 9BW (arewhyuu@talktalk.net). The trust website www.rossitertrust.com outlines titles available, and its services for authors.

Members' Announcements

Members may have noticed that this column does not appear in this issue. This is due entirely to lack of response from, yes, YOU! We are delighted to thank the two members who volunteered to work on the TPO research mentioned in the last *QC*, and even more to the member who bought the full run of *QCs* on behalf of Circle funds. Beyond that, silence! Are none of you doing any research? Do none of you need help? Are none of you prepared to offer help to others? We live and die by our communication with each other. Members' Announcements, it seems, has died.....

Change of address:

ESC 450 **Osama A Sidhom**, 1520 Calle Cristina, San Dimas, CA 91773, United States

ESC 534 **André Navari**, 1 bis Rue des Petites Boucheries, 79400 Saint Maixent l'Ecole, France

ESC 568 **Mrs Margaret Chadwick**, 81 Kilnhouse Lane, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire, FY8 3AB