

The
Quarterly Circular
of
THE
EGYPT



STUDY CIRCLE

CONTENTS.

September Quarter 2012

Whole Series No. 242

Volume XXI No. 7

Pages 145-168

Officers 145, Meetings 146, Members 166, Indonesia 2012 168.

ARTICLES.

Clinging on for Dear Life - ("Wish You Were Here?")	Roman Rimonis	p148-150
International Reply Coupon: An Introduction	Mike Murphy	p151-155
Sinai & Gaza - Part 3: World War I, British Empire and Allies	Edmund Hall	p156-165
Queries 106-108. Reply 104		p165-166
More on the 1898 Provisional Postage Due	Peter Smith	p167-169



Lars Alund, R.I.P.

As this issue of the QC went to press we heard of the sad demise on August 29 of Lars Alund (ESC 105), retired Lord Chief Justice of Sweden, a Circle Life Member, indefatigable postmark researcher and a good friend to us all. He was 94. Our great sympathies go to his wife Monika. A full appreciation will appear in the December QC.

2012 Meetings List

September 29	Stampex 2pm	Instructional marks bring and show	All members
November 3	Services Club	Third Issue	Keith Pogson

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

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Report of the Meeting, July 7, 2012

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Mike Murphy, (Secretary), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), John Davis (Librarian), Mike Bramwell, Angela Child, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Mostafa El-Dars, Ted Fraser-Smith, Pauline Gittoes, Peter Grech, Alan Jeyes, Sherif Samra (Egypt).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Jon Aitchison, Margaret Chadwick, Andy Gould, Paul Green, Richard Wheatley.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming an unexpectedly large attendance in light of countrywide floods and the alternative attraction of the Wimbledon ladies' final, and there was a special welcome for Dr Sherif Samra, President of the Philatelic Society of Egypt. He described the meeting as an important one with the aim of attracting more members to the possibilities of collecting material after the abdication of Farouk – a point at which many seem to feel that Egypt collecting came to an end. He looked forward to some stimulating displays.

The Chairman also announced the sad demise of Philatex, whose organisers had decided that it was no longer possible to continue in light of the sale of the Horticultural Halls in Victoria, home to the exhibition for many years, to a local school. Probably we shall have to switch our annual Philatex meeting back to the Victory Services Club.

The Secretary had the sad task of announcing the death at 92 of Jean Flower, last surviving daughter of William Byam, our founder, and noted that John Davis represented the Circle at her funeral. A floral tribute was sent on behalf of officers and members [see June *QC*].

He announced that the last packet of vendor's material had been received from Egypt on that day, via the good offices of Dr Sherif Samra, and paid tribute to Sherif for his continuing voluntary role as courier of moneys and material between Egypt and UK. It truly is very much appreciated in removing all risk of things "going astray" in the post.

Auction 51 is therefore about to be completed, and the Secretary made special mention of the great efforts put in by Keith Pogson (ESC 130), who has taken over the role of "Auction accountant" from John Sears. Although Keith has been surprised at some of the associated costs – and promises that changes are likely – it was announced that bidding on Peter Goodwin's material was strong, and that more than £5,000 had been raised for his grandchildren. It is hoped to run another Auction based on Peter's material in the autumn.

The Secretary announced recent successes at international exhibitions, including Gold medals for our members Greg Todd (Paris) and Hany Salam (Jakarta) See page 168.

Two applications for membership were reviewed and in each case approved, so we are happy to welcome Bart Belonje (Netherlands) and Yannis Lazarides (Qatar).

The meeting proper provided a quite remarkable range of "post-monarchy" collecting interests, ranging far and wide through not only stamps and varieties but also postal markings, international reply coupons, geographical areas, "clandestine" markings, miniature sheets, postal mechanisation, official "year" displays ... all in all, plenty of opportunity for those seeking out a new pursuit.

They will be dealt with briefly here since it is hoped that at least some of the short displays might be expanded into full meetings or *QC* articles.

Edmund Hall (ESC 239) showed a wide range of covers in attempting to match up the rate with a single stamp of the appropriate value, and explained that for much of the period the postal authorities made manifold efforts to print a stamp for every postal rate, leading to such "odd" values as 13, 32 and 37 mills. But there were times, because of a change of rate and the necessity for stamp printing to "catch up", when even the basic internal letter rate was without a suitable stamp. He pointed out several values that were rare on cover

because the period of usage was short; and how a stamp might be revalued but not redesigned when a change of rate occurred.

The display of **John Clarke** (ESC 497) covered a series of “odd” unaddressed plain covers, virtually all with Cairo Philatelic Bureau cancels and apparently intended to represent first-day covers, with stamps on which suspicion has rightly been cast. Dating from a time when it was unusual in the extreme for first-day covers to be produced for definitive stamps, these included mainly six-bar Farouk overprints, but also varieties on the Palestine overprints, and formed a fascinating range of material that we should all watch very closely!

Stanley Horesh (ESC 118) showed a series of covers illustrating conflicting fortunes in the Gaza Strip area as it was first occupied by Egypt, then by Israel, then Egypt again and Israel again with UN forces often keeping the sides apart. Included were Egyptian covers from Gaza, El Arish, Khan Younis and Deir el Balah, Israeli markings from Gaza and Khan Younis, and Danish, Canadian and Indian UN markings, as well as a UNEF free-mail cancel from Rafa of September 1957.

Not for the first time, **Ted Fraser-Smith** (ESC 238) went off at a tangent, describing his search for varieties on full sheets of post-monarchy definitives and recognising that, with stamps generally printed in two panes, varieties on one pane did not match those on the other: he was able to discover “new” varieties by examining the second pane. He noted also that there are probably many more printings than are listed, with the clue in slight variations in the way the control numbers were printed on a re-issue or reprint.

Cyril Defriez (ESC 172) showed some better known and listed varieties, but also some astonishing double-perforated issues in immediate post-monarchy definitives, and an imperforate pair of the Syrian version of the 1959 UAR Post Day issue in addition to the recognised distorted logo. His eagle also spotted that though the 1983 Cairo University stamps were perforated $11 \times 11 \frac{1}{2}$, the stamp on his FDC had a perforation of $13 \frac{1}{4} \times 12 \frac{3}{4}$. Why?

Mostafa El-Dars (ESC 556) was able to show three of the wonderfully ornate official year sheets, intended for display in embassies, at exhibitions etc, holding a full year’s actual stamps stuck on to large printed sheets, and including definitives, commemoratives, miniature sheets, even Officials. He showed 1963, and then 1972 and 1971, both Arab Republic of Egypt, but in the upper half of 1971 all Nasser-related stamps were still named for the United Arab Republic.

Alan Jeyes (ESC 293) returned to the three-bars theme to show varieties on the £E1 (split bars and bars inverted), and postcards with the Farouk stamps barred out by hand (one to Boulad had Fuad’s stamp barred by hand as well!). He also showed essays for the final series of Postage Dues, including a full set in unadopted colours, with instructions in Arabic to change them to the colours we recognise.

John Sears (ESC 188) enjoyed the designs of some of the more recent miniature sheets and showed some of the more outstanding designs, and especially the se-tenant pair and the miniature sheet commemorating the opening of the Aswan Suspension Bridge in 2002 (designer Said Abd el-Aziz El Badrawi).

Peter Andrews (ESC 122) showed souvenir material from the Cairo 1991 international stamp exhibition, which many of those present had attended, and described and displayed the 10pi postal stationery envelope and recounted how fortunate he was to have a full set of day-themed postmarks postally used.

At the end, **Mike Murphy** (ESC 240) showed a range of International Reply Coupons issued for Egypt, illustrating how inflation gobbled up their value during especially the 1980s and 1990s; and also a series of machine-cancelled covers with Arabic figures inserted into the “waves” and into the slogans where present. No one could come up with a convincing explanation of their use. But he also showed two covers with red-letter indicators of a Belgian sorting machine used briefly in Cairo in 1960-61, including a unique example with the letter K twice imposed. As examples for further study, he suggested *Bareed Ahly* and postal agent markings, the EMS service, the modern postal stationery, and postal re-use of cancelled cassette envelopes.

The Chairman summed up the meeting by observing that it was “quite obvious that there is more interest in the post-monarchy period than one would think”. He thanked members for displaying a lot of varied and unusual topics to think about.

Clinging on for Dear Life - ("Wish You Were Here?")

Roman Rimonis (ESC 486)

At one time the Great Pyramid of Cheops provided an extra attraction: besides exploring the interior, from Victorian times until fairly recently it was inevitable as part of any Egyptian tour for many to climb the huge blocks to the summit.

It is noted that as early as 1581 one Jean Palerme, a visitor to the site, wrote: "One gentleman eager to make the ascent did in fact reach the summit, but was astounded (overcome with giddiness), fell and was smashed to pieces. The crushed remains no longer looked like a human being."

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, sailed to Egypt from America on June 8, 1867, on the *SS Quaker City* on the first grand tour. In his book *The Innocents Abroad* of 1875 he gave a gruelling account of the ordeal he experienced as he was dragged, pushed and pulled up the pyramid.

Early guide books even gave information on the procedure. Baedeker's guide book said: "Assisted by two Bedouins, one holding each hand and, if desired, by a third (no extra payment) who pushes behind, the traveller begins the ascent of the steps."

The Giza Plateau has for long been one of the world's most photographed sites and has provided wonderful everlasting photographic records. In the mid 19th century, along with the gradual increase in tourist numbers, also came the keen photographers. They soon provided pictures of the marvels of the area and exploited them by producing and marketing these souvenir views.

Glass plate slides of the site were made for magic lantern shows, which must have caused a sensation among western audiences. Black and white photos soon became plentiful, and colour versions were added later with chromo-lithographic cards, though it has to be said that some of the early attempts did not actually enhance the picture greatly.

Emil Pinkau and Company of Leipzig even produced an 1897 coloured postcard capturing Kaiser Franz-Josef of Austria and Khedive Ismail climbing the Pyramid. This was one of the their earliest colour cards

Once at the top, the tourist was no doubt exhausted, suffering sunstroke, with limbs nearly pulled from their sockets and skinned knuckles. Despite all this discomfort, there was a grand panoramic view awaiting as just reward for their effort. A wide observation platform (during the Second World War it was a gun emplacement) took the place of the pyramidion.

Many tourists left their mark on the summit with names permanently engraved into its blocks. One visitor even made a last will before committing suicide.

After a gruelling day, many retreated to the nearby Mena House (now Oberoi) Hotel for refreshment, shaded from the sun and chatting of the day's events and their experiences of climbing the pyramid.

In 1928 the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) scaled the summit complete with a golf club and balls. From the summit he used the flat surface as a platform for whacking the balls on to the hotel golf course far below.

Experienced climbers even tried to set records for scaling the monument. But climbing the Great Pyramid was finally banned in the 1980s: hardly surprising in the wake of many deaths or serious injuries. Today there is only a small sign warning "Climbing is forbidden" in various languages. Yet still some have the urge to do it; more often than not during the cover of darkness.

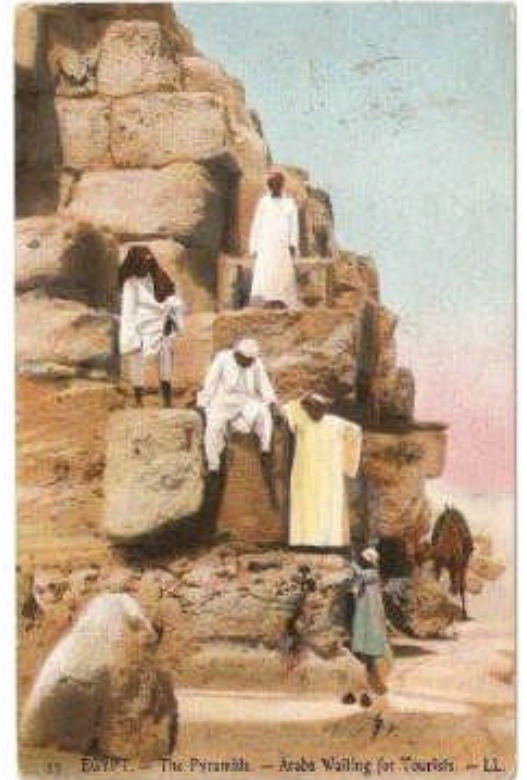
Postcards of the ascent provide an interesting collecting theme. Most are based on early photographs covering the Victorian and Edwardian eras, capturing the courageous and adventurous tourists of the day in defying the dangers.



A card from a booklet by L.C. (Livados and Coutsicos), series 128, *The entrance of the great Pyramid of Cheops*, shows the original entrance to the pyramid itself: the lower entry used by tourists today was made by the Caliph Maamun in AD 820. The card gives a good idea of the immense scale of the monument, with the locals simply dwarfed by its size.

“How would you like to climb up here after you have eaten your Xmas dinner...?” asks the sender of a card entitled *Le Caire - Ascension a la Grande Pyramide*. This is actually an original photograph taken by Felix Bonfils around 1880 to which colour has been added, and is in fact a later issue. An earlier version, produced in about 1903, gives some of the

gallabeya-wearing locals green and white headwear. It shows a good day with locals and visitors alike gathering for the ascent. At lower right even a very small girl is determined not to be left out – but presumably she climbed no higher than those few steps.



The Pyramids - Arabs Waiting for Tourists is a hand-tinted colour

card by Louis and Levy of Paris/Cairo (series 23), printed in early 1900, and was postally used in 1913 from Naples on a cruise. Local guides would spend all day waiting at the site: here a group look pretty bored as they wait, standing on blocks that measure between 65cm and 90cm tall. The average step is about 20cm.



Postally used in 1912, a real photograph by Easanie Grivas entitled *Cairo e Piramidi* was printed in about 1910. At first glance it seems just like any other picture. But if you look closely you will notice by the corner a long human trail gradually winding its way up. It's a long way up and a long way down!



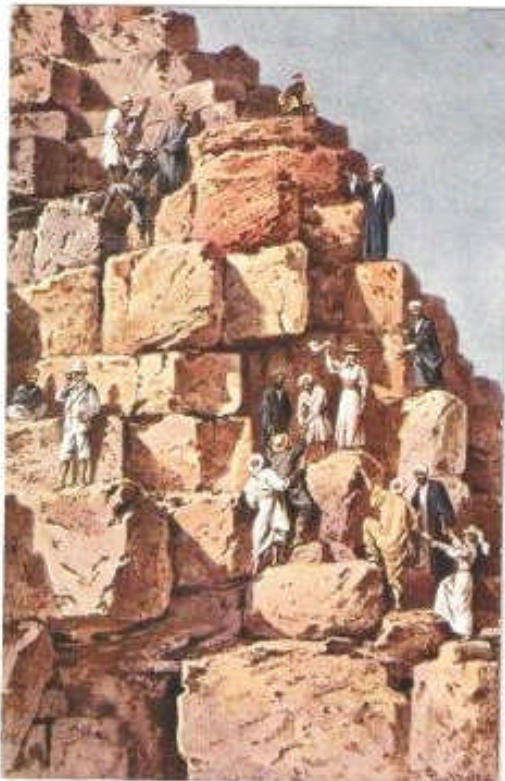
Climbing the Pyramid of Cheops, from a booklet by Lichtenstern and Harari of Cairo (series 125), is from an original photograph taken in 1870 from the other side. There were various versions: an attempt here was made to enhance the picture but only gave it a somewhat woolly appearance. Colour was added in about 1908 and even as late as the 1950s in a reprinted issue. Here three locals and their supervisor help a tourist in the famous scene in which one pulls on each hand while the other pushes from below.

In series 581 the Cairo Postcard Trust produced a card titled *Le Caire - Ascension de la Grande Pyramide*, which was originally a picture produced by L and B Isaac Behar of Port Said (series 33) with undivided back. In about 1905 even an artist's impression was made of

it based on the original (copyright infringement?) This is the hand-tinted scene showing a man in totally inappropriate western clothing being hauled up. How did they ever manage the trek with shoes?



Finally an artist's view signed by Frederick Perlberg, published by Roemmler and Jonas of Dresden (series 144). *Ascension de la grande Pyramide* " does appear to go little over the top: one lady to the right stands in a long dress and a bonnet waving with an handkerchief while holding a parasol. A man at the left in safari outfit peers through his binoculars. A charming romantic picture. But how realistic?



Editorial

I got into trouble from the Secretary at the last meeting, on post-monarchy collecting. I hasten to add that it was justified: I hadn't read the email saying that only ten sheets were needed. Thinking that not much material would be forthcoming and that the meeting would be over very quickly, I took a lot more than my allotted ten sheets. In fact I didn't get to show everything I took, and another member was in a similar position. When I joined the Circle I quickly came to realise that the very mention of post-monarchy was

taboo, beyond the pale for a "true philatelist". But what a delightful and varied array of material was shown at our meeting, plenty enough to lay to rest that collecting after 1952-53 lacks interest.

On starting to put together this *QC*, I suddenly realised that I was very short of material. Since then a few items have come in, and I have ended up with four articles to spare. But don't let that fool you ... get out your pens/laptops/keyboards/whatever. Articles are still urgently required.

International Reply Coupon: An Introduction

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Among topics displayed at the recent “post-monarchy” meeting was Reply Coupons, a wonderful idea whereby letter writers could pay for international return postage without having access to the stamps of the addressee’s country. Examples from Egypt show a remarkable inflation in the 1970s and 1980s

The International Reply Coupon – often known as “the universal stamp” – was introduced at the Rome UPU Congress of 1906, the idea being that a small coupon bought in one country could be sent overseas and exchanged for stamps in the country of the recipient to pay the rate of a surface-mail letter of up to 20gm in response.

Coupons for all nations were/are printed by the UPU, and all the early ones seem to have come from the Swiss printing house of Benziger & Co, Einsiedeln, printed, imperforate, in sheets of 5x10. Designed by ET Florian, the first type shows the messenger of the gods carrying a letter from the globe in which the selling CDS was to be placed to that in which the receiving post office would use its handstamp. Printing is in dull blue-grey, and the reverse specifies, in German, English, Spanish and Italian, the equivalent value of 25 centimes. In the case of Egypt, the face is printed in French and Arabic.



The original: Rome Type, sold at the Sale of Stamps / Cairo guichet on 17 NO 21 (pencil 1884 is wrong!)

Egypt, as a UPU member since 1975, was quick to take up the idea after the first coupons were released for sale over the post office counter in October 1907, and also to make an instant if small profit. The rate for a local letter was 10 millièmes, so the reply coupon was sold for 11 millièmes. Ever since, of course, the printed value has reflected current postal rates, with a little extra for the Post Office!

Design of the coupon changed gradually over the years, with many minor variants on this first type (eight are classified, including one with lines of text under the country’s name), though for nearly 70 years the size remained the same at 10.5x7.5cm. Each new design was named after the UPU convention at which it was selected. The various types are:

Type	In use	Brief description	Code	Size	Withdrawn
Rome	Oct 1907	Flying messenger between globes	(nil)	10.5x7.5cm	1930
London	1930	Ornate columns containing CDS space	C22	10.5x7.5	1965
Vienna	Dec1965	Bright blue square on yellow, national name in red	C22	10.5x7.5	Dec 1974
Lausanne	Jan 1 1975	UPU symbol at top left, no country name, value in red	C22 / CN 01	10.5x7.5	Dec 2001
Beijing I	Jan 1 2002	Mountain scene, country name and value in blue	CN 01	15x10.3	Dec 31 2006
Beijing II	Jul 1 2006	Fingers straining to touch across gold stamp - hologram	CN 01	15x10.3	Dec 31 2009
Beijing II Centenary	Sep 13 2007	As last, inscribed 1907-2007 - hologram	CN 01	15x10.3	Dec 31 2009
Nairobi	2009	Security printing, stamp and globe, no value – hologram	CN 01	15x10.3	Dec 31 2013

As will all too rapidly become clear, I do not have a large collection of Reply Coupons, nor indeed a deep understanding of their ins and outs – and for the purposes of this introduction I am ignoring virtually completely what happens on the reverse of the coupon, fascinating though it might be.

It is enough to wander through the types, and to see how the counter price of Egypt's coupons has acted as a record of the country's inflationary spiral, especially in the second half of the twentieth century. My second example, London type, has a face value of 25 mills and was sold at Bab el Luq / Parcels on 17 AU 34. Only three years later (the coupon now has the code "Formule C22" at top right) it had been lifted to 40 mills, sold at Le Cairo 3 / Vente de Timbres / Postes on 15 DE 37.



London types: 17 AU 34 – 25 millièmes; 15 DE 37, 40 millièmes

There then came a long hiatus – unless I am missing some changes, in which case I'd be happy to hear from members who can fill gaps – until 1958 and the advent of the United Arab Republic necessitated a name change. This is apparently not recorded in the major French classification, which does recognise 12 variants on the London type. Formule C22 becomes simply "C22", the Arabic wording is changed, and the value is now 65 millièmes (sold at El Hadera / Bahari on 16 4 64). The switch to the Vienna design brought no change in value on an example sold at Cairo / E six years later on 7 JA 70.



London type 16 4 64 – 65 millièmes; Vienna type 7 JA 70, 65 millièmes

By the time my next coupon was issued, at Mansura on 5 3 72, only a further two years later, the price had almost doubled, with a handstamp surcharge of 120 millièmes (*next page*). And three years after that – surely there must be some missing here – when we reach my first Lausanne type, sold at Cairo on 3 10 76, the red printed value on the new design is almost tripled, to no fewer than 310 millièmes. But within less than ten months that value had also been superseded with another handstamp surcharge, this time boxed and in violet, for 380 millièmes on a coupon sold at Alexandria on 7 AU 77.

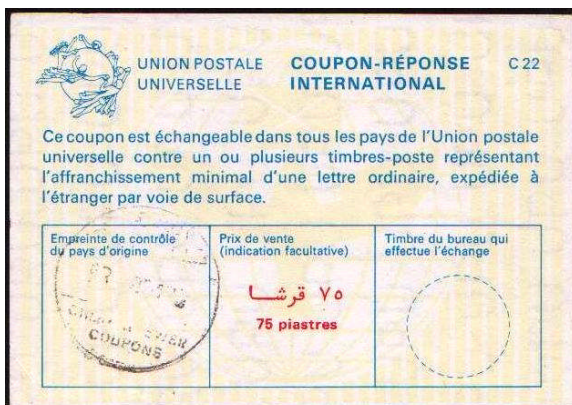
The 310mills rate did not last long – a coupon issued in Cairo in (probably) 1982 was surcharged 460 millièmes, so by December 1984 the UPU produced another coupon at the new 460-millièmes value. It did not last long either. The price itself was surcharged in June 1985 with a 750 millièmes value in violet, and the same surcharge is also recorded in black from Alexandria in April 1986 (not illustrated).



Vienna type 5 3 72 – 120 millièmes; Lausanne type 3 10 76 – 310 millièmes (CDS in wrong box); Lausanne type 7 AU 77 – 380 millièmes; Lausanne type (1982?) – 460 millièmes (CDS wrong box)



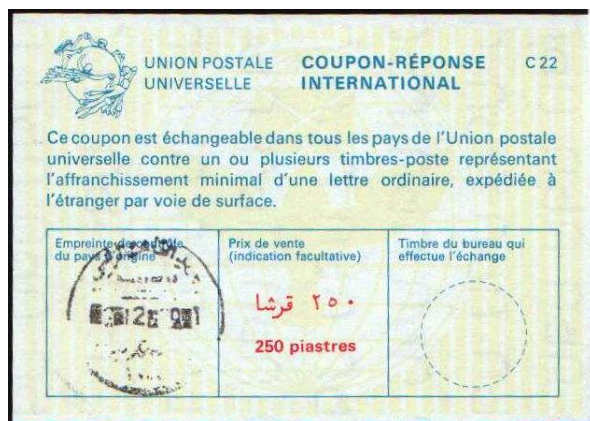
Lausanne types: 460 millièmes in December 1984, 750 millièmes surcharge on 460 millièmes in June 1985; 75 piastres in 1988; and £E2 surcharge on 75 piastres in May 1989



A 75-piastre coupon was in use in 1988, but even that had to be surcharged with a massive increase to £E2 by May 1989. For some reason there was a reversion to piastres (250) for the next one I record, issued in

December 1990, but by May 1991 that had also been surcharged with a large violet rectangle reading simply "300". And all of these coupons were to pay for a 20gm surface-rate letter.

From January 1, 1991, however, the UPU recognised at last the popularity of air mail and made coupons exchangeable for the value of air letters. In Egypt the effect was to increase the coupon price to 400 piastres, a level retained when the Seoul congress of 1994 changed the form number from C22 to CN 01.



Lausanne types: 250 piastres in December 1990; 300 on 250 in May 1991; 400 piastres with the change to air mail in 1991; and 400 piastres on the new form CN 01, replacing C22



The Beijing congress of 2001 made sweeping changes, altering the size, adding a UPU watermark to the face and a barcode to the reverse: the new type was issued in January 1, 2002, and for the first time had a published expiry date, in this case December 31, 2006.

The principle was followed by the Beijing II type, to which the UPU added a hologram (lower left centre, though it does not illustrate well) as a further security device, as noted by Peter Smith (ESC 74), and by the Beijing II Centenary type, both of which were valid until December 31, 2009.

For Egypt Beijing I and II had a value of £E4, and later issues are printed without face value. The Centenary type was of the same design as Beijing II, based on Michelangelo's connecting fingers across a golden stamp; and the Centenary version, marking 100 years since the issue of the first International Reply Coupon, bore the dates 1907-2007.

The most recent type, product of the Nairobi Congress, has the same size and security features as the Beijing types, with the added possibility of placing a small national flag alongside the hologram. Few countries took up the offer, and Egypt was among those that declined. It will be fascinating to see what comes next.

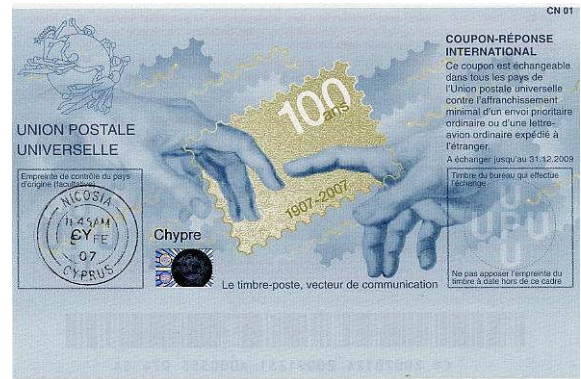
* For those wondering if Reply Coupons are collectable, the International Philatelic Federation (FIP) classifies them as postal stationery!



The Beijing I type, left, first to have a defined expiry date, was valued at £E4 in Egypt.

Beijing II and Beijing II Centenary types, below, were similar in design, were the first to use holograms, and were valid to the end of 2009.

I do not have Egypt examples.

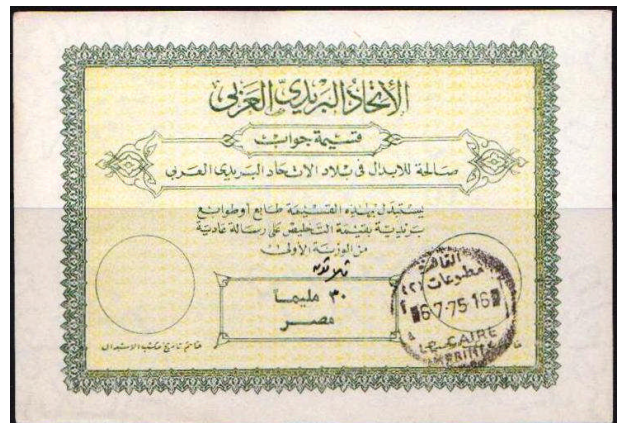


The Nairobi type, valid until the end of 2013, has the option of a national flag alongside the hologram. The offer has been taken up by Burkina Faso, Cyprus, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal and Ukraine



Two footnotes: 1. The Arab Postal Union published its own coupon for use between Arab nations, probably in March 1956. The date of its demise is unknown, but it also had inflation troubles: the 20-millième value of this example sold in Cairo in July 1975 has been hand-amended to 30 millièmes.

2. In its infinite wisdom, the Royal Mail withdrew sales of International Reply Coupons, “for lack of sales”, from December 31, 2011, according to official notice. In fact they last went on sale, without notice, on February 18, 2011, just a week before Stampex. How short-sighted can an organisation be?



Sinai & Gaza - Part 3: World War I, British Empire and Allies.

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

To do full justice to this part could well take up a *QC* in itself if I were to list all the postmarks used with dates and places of use. For a study of the area under review the date of use is important because all the postmarks used in Sinai and Gaza were also used at other times, in Egypt proper and Palestine, and a few also used at Gallipoli and in Europe. As well as British FPOs there are those of Australia, New Zealand and India from the Empire, and token contingents from Italy and France. All of these have been well covered previously in the literature, not least the French in Pierre Grech's *French Forces in Egypt during World War One* (*QC* 229, p127 ff). In the bibliography I give the main books on the subject from which a careful trawl can discover the postmarks used in Gaza and Sinai.

Although for my own interest I did just this some years back, I have not included them in this article but have picked just a few to illustrate the different nationalities taking part in what is known as the Palestine Campaign. This campaign has historically been more of interest to Holy Land collectors and a few articles have appeared from this point of view. The few Egypt collectors of World War I material also embraced this and none that I know ended their collection once the forces left Egypt. Interest in collecting military material seems to have declined recently among members of the Egypt Study Circle, sadly so with the passing of Jim Benians, John Firebrace, Robin Bertram and recently Dennis Clarke, all of whom made significant contributions to the subject.

This article needs to be read with the previous one in *QC* 240, which of course is the same campaign. Again there are many good books on the subject, so I give only a brief outline, enough I hope to make some of our readers want to pursue the subject further.

British plans for 1916 were to maintain an active defence in Egypt and to reduce the number of troops required for the security of the Suez Canal. The first step was to be the occupation of the Qatiya, area, where the railway and pipeline were to be developed for the maintenance of troops in the forward area. The Qatiya Oasis was to be held with one division and three mounted brigades. A reserve of three divisions was to be held on the Canal. The thirteen divisions in Egypt were to be sent to other theatres of operation as soon as possible.

In fact, six divisions had left Egypt before the end of March. By denying to the enemy the Qatiya-Romani area, a suitable assembly place for the Turks, it would be possible to organise a mobile column for offensive operations and would enable the Allies to abandon the long and elaborately fortified line east of the Suez Canal. It would also be possible to keep the Turks from bombarding the Canal with long range artillery. They would have the disadvantage of having to cross the 60 miles of sandy desert from El Arish if they were to attempt to assume the offensive in the area in which their chances of success were most probable, as the prospects of water were far greater and more suitable for a large force than in any other area near the Canal.

For the Turks advancing on the Canal the land between Kossaima and El Arish was important. These were the two nearest road centres for a force coming from the east. There should be no surprise attack on troops defending the Canal if these areas were adequately watched by mobile troops and the RAF. It was estimated that of the 250,000 Turkish troops in Syria, a force of approximately 40,000 could be maintained with water in the Wadi el Arish, and a similar number in the Qatiya-Romani area. Neither of the other two routes leading to the Canal possessed such favourable lines of advance or such abundant water.

To supply the British (by which I mean British Empire forces of Australian, New Zealand, Indian and others) troops in the Romani area a standard gauge railway and a pipeline delivering Nile water were brought out from Qantara. Steps were also taken to add to the force's mobility by organising camel companies, each of 2,000 camels, and donkey companies, with similar numbers. Finally, 35,000 camels and 8,000 donkeys were organised on a company basis. Six divisional trains, each of 72 limbered G.S. wagons, and two mixed horse and motor transport trains, each capable of carrying 72 tons of supplies, were added.

Because of this organisation and forward policy the initiative passed to the British, in spite of two advances made by the Turks during 1915. On March 10 General Sir John Maxwell handed over his command to General Sir Archibald Murray. The Force in Egypt now became the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

The Battle of Romani (August 3-5, 1916) was fought 23 miles (37 km) east of the Suez Canal, near the Egyptian town of Romani and the site of ancient Pelusium on the Sinai Peninsula. The British victory over a joint Ottoman and German force marked the end of the Defence of the Suez Canal campaign. The Defence of Egypt campaign, however, continued. This campaign, known by the Germans as the *Offensive zur Eroberung des Suezkanals* and by the Ottomans as the *İkinci Kanal Harekâtı*, had begun on January 26, 1915. The end of the Romani operations also marked the beginning of the Sinai and Palestine campaign.

From late April 1916, after a German-led Ottoman force attacked British Yeomanry at Katia, British Empire forces in the region at first doubled and then grew as rapidly as the developing infrastructure could support them; the railway and a water pipeline soon enabling an infantry division to join the light horse and mounted rifle brigades at Romani. During the heat of summer, regular mounted patrols and reconnaissance were carried out from Romani, while the infantry constructed an extensive series of defensive redoubts. On July 19 the advance of a large German, Austrian and Ottoman force across north Sinai was reported. From July 20 until the battle began, the Australian 1st and 2nd Light Horse Brigades took turns pushing forward and clashing with the advancing column.

The battle was over on August 12, when the German and Ottoman force abandoned their base at Bir el Abd and retreated to El Arish.

The Battle of Magdhaba (officially known by the British as the Affair of Magdhaba) took place on December 23, 1916, south and east of Bir Lahfan in the Sinai desert, some 18–25 miles (29–40 km) inland from the coast and El Arish. British victory over an isolated Ottoman Empire garrison secured El Arish and the right flank of the British advance across the peninsula during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign.

By December construction of the infrastructure and supply lines had been enough to enable the British advance to recommence, during the evening of December 20. By the following morning a mounted force had reached El Arish and found it abandoned

An Ottoman Army garrison was located, however, in a strong defensive position at Magdhaba, some 18–30 miles (29–48 km) inland to the southeast, on the Wadi el Arish

The Desert Column was formed and on December 7, 1916, Murray appointed the newly promoted Major General Sir Philip Chetwode commander of the column.

Major-General Harry Chauvel, commander of the Anzac Mounted Division, had for the attack on Magdhaba three brigades of the Anzac Mounted Division; 1st Light Horse Brigade (1st, 2nd and 3rd Light Horse Regiments), the 3rd Light Horse Brigade (8th, 9th and 10th Light Horse Regiments), the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade (Auckland, Canterbury and Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiments), together with three battalions from the Imperial Camel Corps Brigade in place of the 2nd Light Horse Brigade. These nine regiments and three battalions were supported by the Inverness and Somerset Artillery Batteries, Royal Horse Artillery, and the Hong Kong and Singapore Artillery Battery.

The Battle of Rafa (also known by the British as the Action of Rafah) took place on January 9, 1917, at El Magruntein, south of Rafa. At that time construction of the railway and water pipeline east from the Canal was continuing, the railway reaching El Arish on January 4.

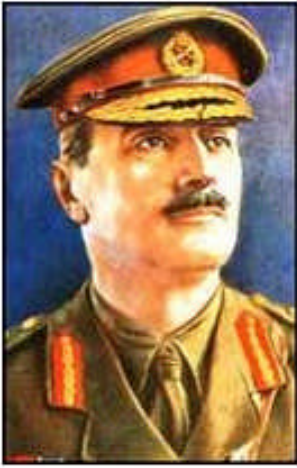
General Murray, commander of the EEF, was keen to complete the advance across north Sinai, believing that pressure on the southern Ottoman Empire would compel them to abandon their desert bases and outposts in the inland of the peninsula. He ordered the 27-mile (43km) advance from El Arish to Rafa to begin as soon as possible

The First Battle of Gaza was fought in and around the town of Gaza on the Mediterranean coast in the southern region of Ottoman Palestine on March 26-27, 1917.

The Second Battle of Gaza, fought on April 17-19, 1917, was another attempt by British Empire forces to break Ottoman defences along the Gaza-Beersheba line. The First Battle had been a fiasco for the Allies after the commander, General Charles Dobell, made the decision to withdraw when his troops were, it was later considered, in a position to seize victory.

The infantry component of Dobell's Eastern Force had expanded since the first battle to four infantry divisions; the 52nd (Lowland) Division, 53rd (Welsh) Division, the 54th (East Anglian) Division and the recently formed 74th (Yeomanry) Division, which comprised brigades of dismounted yeomanry serving as infantry. The mobile component remained the Desert Column which included the Anzac Mounted Division and the Imperial Mounted Division plus the Imperial Camel Corps Brigade.

The battle was a disastrous defeat for the British. They made no progress, inflicted little damage and suffered heavy casualties that they could not easily afford. The main losses were, once again, among the British infantry who were called on to attack the strongest position.



For failing to achieve the promised success even at the second attempt, both Murray, Commander-in-Chief of the Palestine campaign, and Dobell, army commander of Eastern Force, were quickly replaced. The British War Office, perhaps hoping to avoid a repeat of the Gallipoli disaster, resolved to supply the Palestine campaign with adequate resources and capable commanders to ensure success. Murray was replaced by the capable cavalry commander General Edmund Allenby, whose forces were expanded to contain three full army corps; two of infantry and one mounted. These forces, at the third attempt, would be able to break the Gaza-Beersheba line and start the drive on Jerusalem.

Not only were the forces at Allenby's (*left*) disposal expanded but the ad-hoc nature of Murray's army structure was replaced with the more conventional arrangement. In place of Dobell's corps-like structure were two infantry corps and one mounted.

XX Corps (commanded by Lieutenant General Philip Chetwode):

10th (Irish) Division
53rd (Welsh) Division
60th (2/2nd London) Division
74th (Yeomanry) Division

XXI Corps (commanded by Lieutenant General Edward Bulfin):

52nd (Lowland) Division
54th (East Anglian) Division
75th Division

Desert Mounted Corps (commanded by Lieutenant General Henry Chauvel):

Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division (ANZAC Mounted Division)
Australian Mounted Division
Yeomanry Mounted Division
7th Mounted Brigade
Imperial Camel Corps brigade.

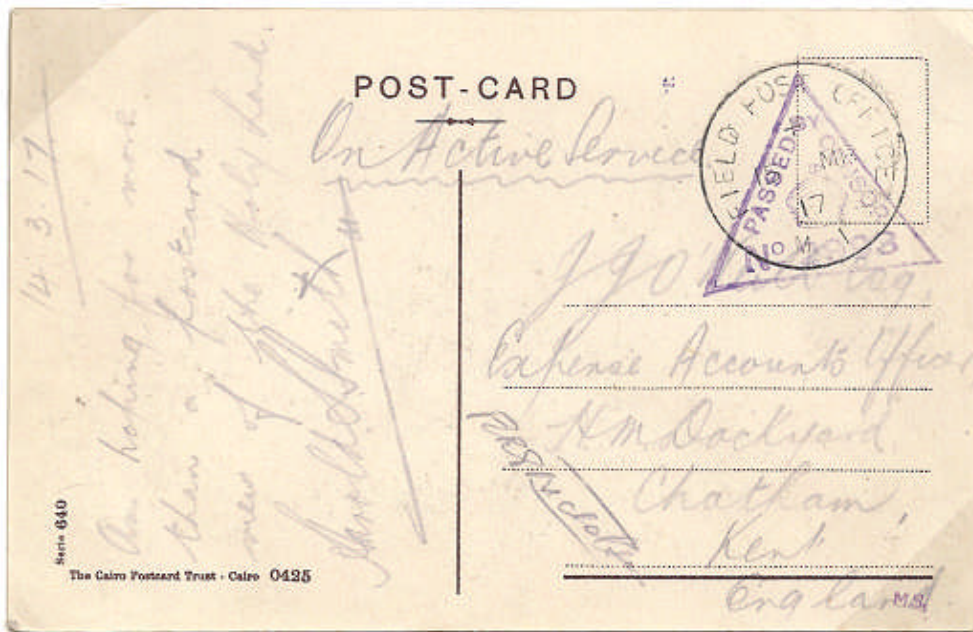
While some of the infantry divisions (such as the 60th, which was a second-line Territorial Force unit) were raw and inexperienced, the mounted divisions were battle-hardened and confident.

The Third Battle of Gaza was fought between October 31 and November 7, 1917. The British forces under Allenby's command successfully broke the Ottoman Gaza-Beersheba line. The critical moment was the capture of the town of Beersheba on the first day by units of the Australian Light Horse.

The Gaza-Beersheba line was completely overrun and 12,000 Ottoman soldiers were captured or surrendered. However, by sacrificing their rearguard the Ottomans delayed the British pursuit and saved the army from encirclement and destruction. The British advance that followed would eventually take them to the gates of Jerusalem, which they took on December 9.



Some ten of the S.Z. datestamps were used in both Sinai and Gaza areas. SZ 15 was at El Arish at the date shown to serve the military hospital there. It returned to Abassia in Cairo and became Base Army P.O. Abassia in April 1920.



F.P.O. M1 was introduced to serve the Imperial Camel Corps. At the date shown 17.MA.17. the corps was at Rafa, soon to be engaged in battle at Gaza.

The Imperial Camel Corps (ICC) was raised by the British Empire in January 1916 for service in the Middle East, initially with four battalions, one each from Great Britain and New Zealand and two from Australia. Support troops included a mountain artillery battery, a machinegun squadron, Royal Engineers, a field ambulance and an administrative train.

In the Sinai campaign it fought at Romani, Mazar, Maghara, El. Arish, Maghdaba, Rafa, Hassana, Gaza 1 and Gaza2 before moving into Palestine.

* See also QC 235 p238 for a cover of M.D.1. used by the Anzac Mounted Division Headquarters.



FPO D.54 was used by divisional HQ. It was stationed as part of the canal defences at the date shown.

Three FPOs served the three brigades using the same number as the brigade.

FPO 162 29.SP.15 of the 162nd (East Midland) Brigade



FPO 163 8.AU.16 of the 162nd (Norfolk & Suffolk) Brigade

The 54th (East Anglian) Division was a formation of the Territorial Force. The Division served in Gallipoli and on return occupied No 1 (Southern) Section of the Suez Canal defences on April 2, 1916. It served in the Sinai and Palestine campaigns, remaining in Palestine until the Armistice of October 31, 1918.

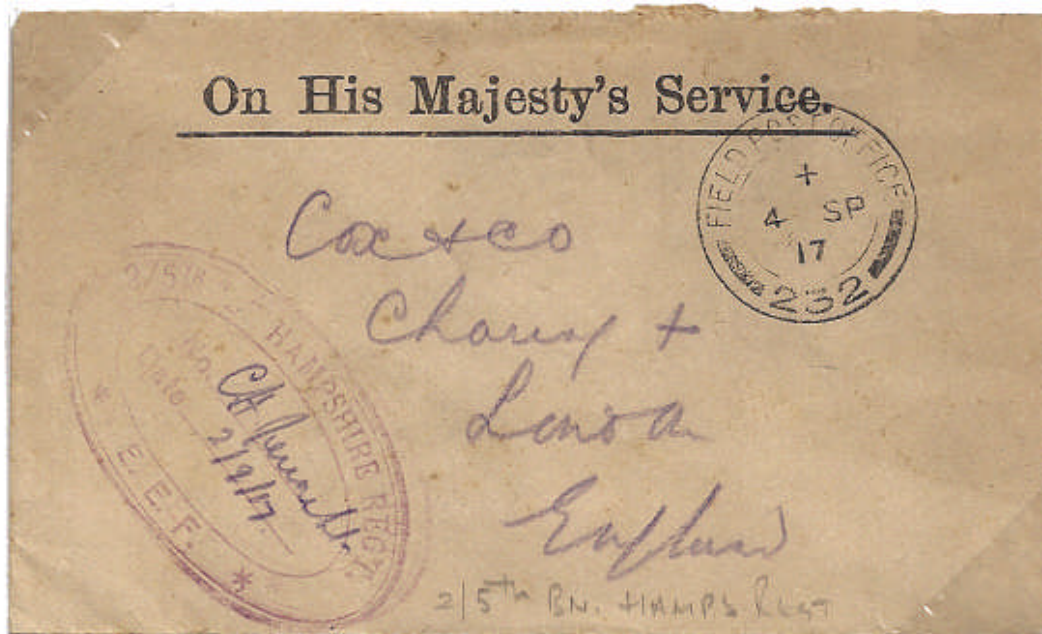
It consisted of the 161st (Essex) Brigade, 162nd (East Midland) Brigade and the 163rd (Norfolk & Suffolk) Brigade. It fought at the First Battle of Gaza (March 26-27), the second Battle of Gaza (April 17-19) and the third battle of Gaza (October 27 to November 7).



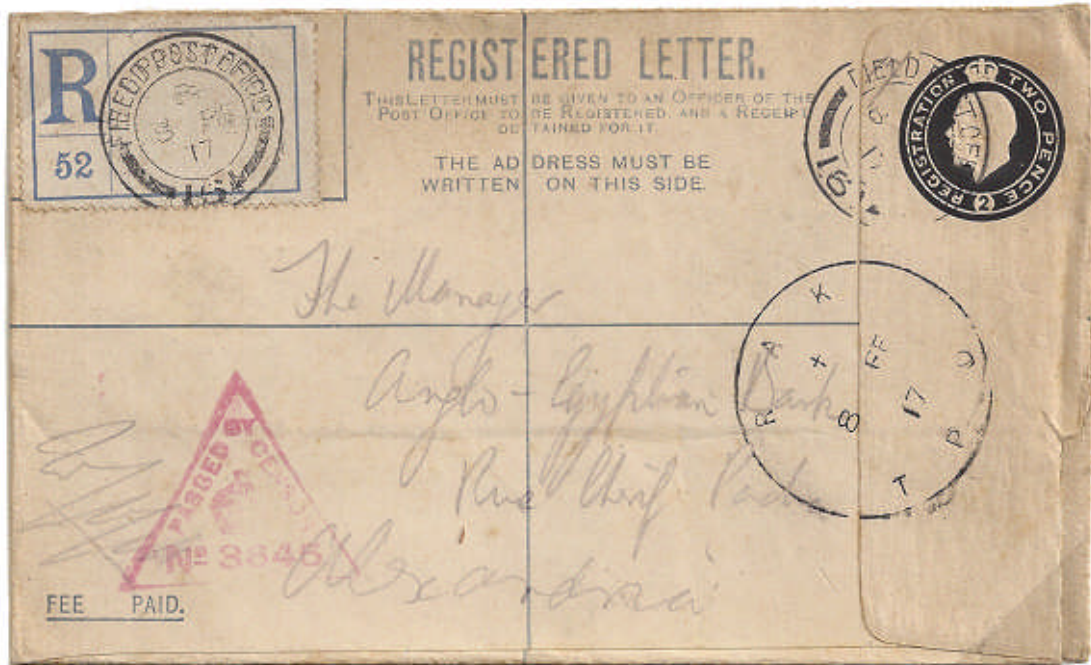
The East Lancashire Division arrived in Egypt on September 25, 1914, and served in the interior, around Cairo, with some yeomanry units, and the Australian and New Zealand contingents, before going to Gallipoli.

The division was sent to Egypt to defend the Canal against anticipated Turkish attacks. The 15-pounder gun batteries were deployed on the west bank in support of Indian Army and New Zealand troops manning guardposts. These paid an important part in repulsing the attempted crossing by the 74th Regiment, Turkish 25th Division at Tussum and Serapeum on the night and morning of February 3-4, 1915.

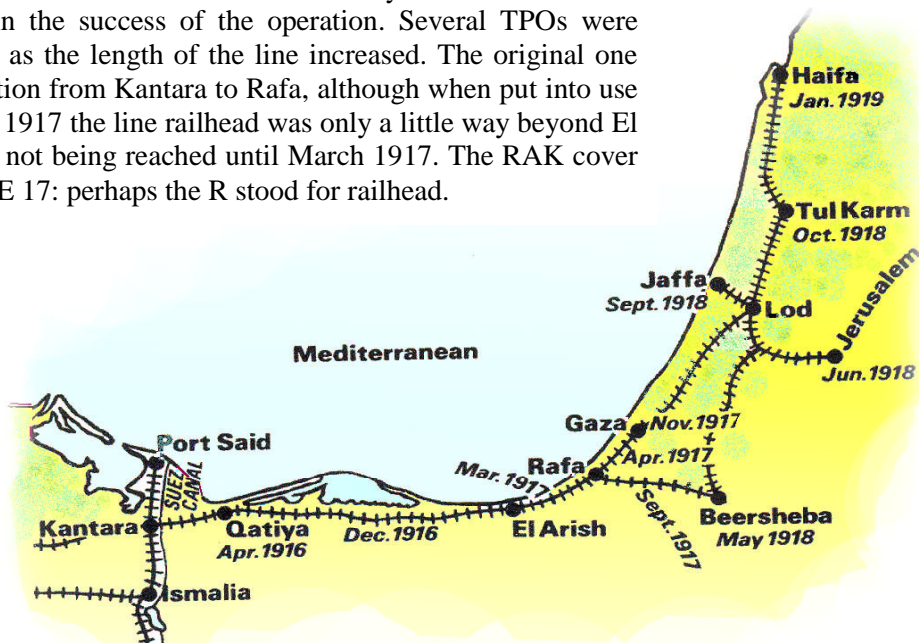
They took part in the Battle of Romani on August 5, 1916, and in the advance from Romani to Katia. On January 17, 1917, the 42nd Division was among the first of the Territorial Force to receive orders for the Western Front, so denying Murray one of his battle hardened divisions. The cover, sent while waiting to embark for the France, shows the cachet.



Cover with the cachet of the 2/5th Hampshire regiment, part of the 75th Division formed at El Arish on June 25, 1917, and made up of units of Territorial and Indian regiments who had recently arrived. FPO 232 was used by the 232nd Infantry brigade, made up from battalions of Wiltshires, Hampshires, Punjabis, Ghurkhas and Kashmiris. It saw action at the third battle of Gaza.



In the advance across Sinai the railway was an essential ingredient in the success of the operation. Several TPOs were inaugurated as the length of the line increased. The original one was the section from Kantara to Rafa, although when put into use in February 1917 the line railhead was only a little way beyond El Arish, Rafa not being reached until March 1917. The RAK cover is dated 8 FE 17: perhaps the R stood for railhead.



Station	km from Kantara	Date of opening
Romani	41	May 19 1916
Bir el Abd	78	October 1916
El Masr	103	November 1916
El Arish	155	January 4 1917
Rafa	200	March 1917
Deir el Balah	217	April 5 1917
Gaza	235	January 1918
Ludd	311	December 1917
Haifa	423	September 1918



Peter Grech's excellent article (QC 220 pp127-143) covers in depth the French contribution to the war in the Middle East. He mentions the aerial reconnaissance patrols off the coast of Sinai and Palestine (p136) which played a crucial role in monitoring the Turks' movements in Sinai in 1925. He describes the Détachement Français de Palestine (DFP), the French unit attached to the EEF for the conquest of Palestine. They were moved to Khan Younis in May 1917 with some at Kilometre 210. From June to November there was no activity. By November the detachment was concentrated around Gaza and employed for guard duty on the expanding depots. They were attached to the 54th (East Anglian) Division under Major-General S W Hare. Cover shown has the 601A cancel, possibly used at Khan Younis.



On July 1, 1917, the Italian Government decided to send a token force to Palestine called the Distaccamento Italiano di Palestina or Palestine Italian Detachment. It joined the British Forces on June 13, 1917, with 500 troops under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Francesco D'Agostino and was also attached to the 54th Division. They took part in the Third Battle of Gaza and acquitted themselves well in other exacting combat duties, roles well suited for the Bersaglieri. Their reward was to become part of the official party to enter Jerusalem and stand with General Allenby. Cover with SZ.8 dated 17.JY.17, just before the advance to Rafa.



The Indian Army comprised a large portion of Empire forces in the Middle East. Firebrace (p82) states that 113 battalions served in that theatre. In the advance across Sinai and the battles around Gaza the 53rd, 60th and 75th divisions all had Indian battalions attached to them. These were mostly Punjabis and Ghurkhas. Cover with FPO N° 28 serving the 20th Indian Brigade at El Arish at this date.



The British West Indian Regiment. Initially the men were primarily involved in ambulance and labouring work in Sinai but after the withdrawal of British units from Palestine in March 1918, due to the German offensive, the troops were placed in the front line, sharing duties with the other troops. Lance Corporal McCollin Leekam of Trinidad was awarded the Military Medal for bravery. The first deployment was in the Jordan Valley where the 1st Battalion relieved the 3rd Light Horse Brigade. Two battalions, 1st and 2nd, were deployed as part of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. Cover with SZ.7 29.JA.18 at Beersheba.

References: some of those in QC 240 p120 apply.

Allenby's war: The Palestine-Arabian campaigns, 1916-1918, David L Bullock, Blandford Press, 1988
An outline of the Egyptian and Palestine campaigns, 1914 to 1918. Major-General Michael Bowman-Manifold, 1926

A Brief Record of the Advance of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1919
The British West Indies Regiment in World War I, in the *Newsletter 148* of the *Forces Postal History Society*, George Crabb 1978
Il Distaccamento Italiano Di Palesina 1917-1921, Silvano Sorani (ed.), Milano 1976
Le Detachment Français de Palestine, in ? Bertrand Sinais 1914-1918. circa 1980.
Expeditionary Forces-Egyptian Front Markings in Use on the Palestine and Egyptian Front, *The Israel Philatelist*, Lucaniano Buzzetti, August-December 1974.
French Forces in Egypt during World War One, *QC 229*, Pierre Louis Grech, 2009.
History of British Army Postal Service Vol II 1903-1927 Edward (Ted) Proud, Proud-Bailey, Heathfield, 1980
History of the Indian Army Postal Service, Vol II 1914-193, Edward Proud, Proud-Bailey, Heathfield, 1984
La Mission Militaire Francaise B, in ? Bertrand Sinais 1914-1918. circa 1980.
The Postal History of The Australian Imperial Forces During World War I 1914-1918, 'Bob' Emery, Hobbs of Southampton, 1984
The Postal History of the British Army in WWI - before and after. (1903-1929). Alistair Kennedy, George Crabb, Privately published, 1977
The Operations in Egypt and Palestine August, 1914, to June, 1917, Lieut. Col. A. Kearsey, Gale and Polden, 1929
Strategy and Tactics of the Egyptian and Palestine Campaign 1917-1918. Lieut. Col. A. Kearsey, Gale and Polden, 1932.
Supplement to the 'The Postal History of The Australian Imperial Forces During World War I 1914-1918', 'Bob' Emery, Hobbs of Southampton, 1988

This is not a complete reference not mentioned many articles in the *BAPIP* magazine, *QC* and other magazines also books by Sacher and earlier as these have all been surpassed by Kennedy, George Crabb

Queries

Query 106* – Mystery card - from Scott Van Horn (ESC 619)

I won the card below in the recent ESC Auction, and I'm curious as to what it could be... The card itself measures 108x80mm, and is made of white card-stock with black/blue fibres embedded throughout; there also appears to be a guideline present at the upper right. The representation of the five-millième Fourth Issue stamp appears to be an exact copy of the original stamp, down to all engraving lines. Any ideas?



Query 107 – 'Football' variety – from Hani Sharestan (ESC 595)



New discovery - BIG dot "Football Variety" at the base of the Sphinx. Any comments are appreciated.

Query 108 – Due overprint – from Hani Sharestan (ESC595)

I bought this postage due recently at auction. It is showing a double overprint on the right hand side. Is this genuine? I don't see it in any catalogue. Any comments are appreciated.



Query 109 – Oversize stamp – from Anton Jansen (ESC 383)



I recently found this 'oversized' stamp. It looks perfectly genuine and has a reversed watermark. Does anyone have an idea about the how and where?

Reply – from Peter Smith (ESC 74)

The stamp is quite genuine, I am sure. These oversize stamps do turn up, although I suspect the number slowly decreases as they are cut down to look like imperfs. The perforating machines did one line at a time, with each step done manually (i.e., not automatically by machine). The operator occasionally made a line of perfs a bit more, or less, from the previous line, thus making larger or smaller stamps (or omitting a line altogether to make an imperf-between variety). The wide or tall stamps seem to have come mostly from the outer rows (or columns) on the sheet, where the operator had a bit more leeway because of the sheet margins.

Reply to Query 104* (QC 240) – Official stamp – from Peter Andrews (ESC 122)

The stamp is No 61 in the pane of 100 and the missing pin occurs on both the odd and even numbered sheets, leading one to think that a single perforating machine was used for the whole operation. The variety shows on sheets of the 1978 printing and I have sheets numbered 19455/6/7/8 and 19461/2/3/4/7/8 dated 24-VI-78 and 28388, 30239 and 31227 dated 25-VI-78 showing the variety. The missing pin is not on any of the sheets I have of the 1977 or 1979 printings, so I am unable to narrow the span further.

Membership changes

New members:

- ESC 674** **Bart Belonje**, Da Costakade 74, 2802 VS Gouda, Netherlands
(Every aspect of Egyptian philately, Sudan to 1954, Middle East in general))
- ESC 675** **Yannis Lazarides**, c/o Habtoor Leighton Specon, PO Box 32187, Doha, Qatar
(Classical philately of Egypt, Cape of Good Hope, Cyprus)

Change of Address:

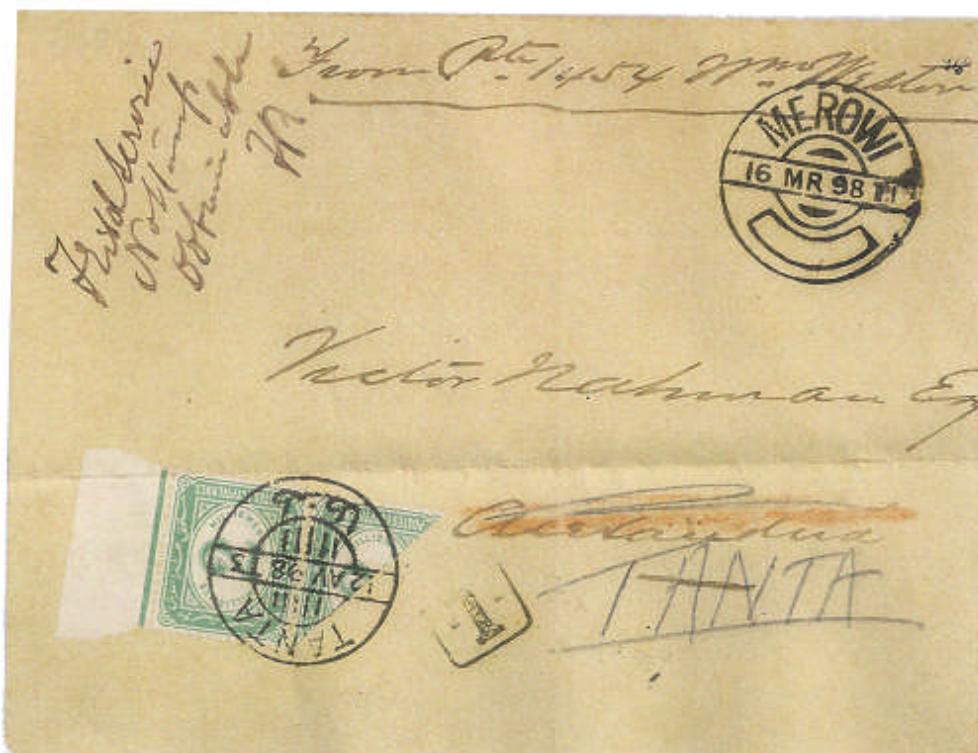
- ESC 282** **John G Patsalides**, 24 Stoddart Court, Bradford, Ontario, Canada L3Z 2X8
- ESC 605** **Jos Strengholt**, St Michael's Church, 8 Seti Street, Heliopolis, Egypt
-

*Note two queries are numbered 104. For the web site the last 104 will be 105. The reply here to 104 is the original one.

More on the 1898 Provisional Postage Due

Peter Smith (ESC 74)

I can add a little more to this interesting story with the illustration of three more covers.



Another Victor Nahmann with the bisected 2 millièmè stamp.



An extraordinary situation: the letter was at first charged as an ordinary unfranked letter, incurring 1 piastre due. This was a mistake, perhaps disputed by the addressee, or perhaps caught before delivery. In any event, the 1pi stamp was voided (boxed T), and a copy of the 3mill / 2pi was applied in its stead.



A horribly philatelic cover, nevertheless genuine (more or less). The addressee was a stamp dealer. The rate of 12 mills makes no sense. The cover was probably presented at the counter for cancellation and handed back (with baksheesh?).

Indonesia 2012 International Stamp Exhibition

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)

This was held in Jakarta from June 18-24. It was quite an achievement for this country to mount such a prestigious event and whilst not without its flaws, there was a lot to commend. There was a good showing of exhibits from Egyptian collectors: here are their results:

Hany Salam (ESC 580) "Egypt: Maritime Mail Routes, 19th Century" 92 marks, Gold and Special Prize

Khaled Mostafa (ESC 638) "The Postal Stationery of Egypt 1865-1930" 86 marks, Large Vermeil

Mahmoud Ramadan (ESC 358) "Egyptian Government Post 1805-1922" 85 marks, Large Vermeil

Dick Wilson (ESC 230) "British Forces 1932-1936, The Postal Concession" 85 marks, Large Vermeil

Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264) "Lebanon Airmail 1919-1939" 83 marks, Vermeil

Karim Darwaza (ESC 504) "Ottoman Post Syria" 82 marks, Vermeil

Mike Murphy (ESC 240) & **Ibrahim Shoukry** (ESC 423), "Egypt: The Rural Postal Service" book 85 marks, Large Vermeil

Magdi Abdel-Hadi (ESC 445) "Egypt Stamp Handbook" book 82 marks, Vermeil

To get a Large Vermeil award for a book takes some doing, so Mike Murphy and Ibrahim Shoukry should feel that all the hard work that they put into the project was worthwhile. **WELL DONE!**

Subscript: both our Secretary and Editor were somewhat surprised that the *Egypt Stamp Handbook* was scored down at 82 for this outstanding detailed catalogue of Egyptian philately.

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE ACCOUNTS – December 31 2011

Income and expenditure account (General Account) – year ended 31 December 2011

		2010		2011
INCOME				
Subscriptions	3,807.16		3,866.61	
Auction account	1,200.00		50.01	
Bank deposit interest received (net)	1.19		1.20	
Donations	285.92		104.80	
Advertisements	280.00		100.00	
Sale of QCs & ties	<u>30.00</u>		<u>. - -</u>	
		5,604.27		4,122.62
EXPENDITURE				
Anniversary lunch (net)	381.19	-	-	
Meeting room hire	619.31		642.00	
Cost of Quarterly Circular	4,290.95		3,611.73	
Book purchases	123.76		-	
Website costs	-		152.30	
Officers' stationery, telephone etc	100.58		133.04	
Advertisement	58.75		-	
Insurance	36.60		36.93	
Stock of ties written off	<u>224.20</u>		<u>-</u>	
		<u>5,835.34</u>	<u>4,575.99</u>	<u>4,575.99</u>
Deficit for the year		(231.07)		(453.37)
Surplus at 1 January 2011		<u>13,924.62</u>		<u>13,693.55</u>
Surplus at 31 December 2011				

Balance sheet (General Account) – as at 31 December 2011

ASSETS		2010		2011
Photocopier written off				
Stamp collection at catalogue valuation	5,251.00		5,251.00	
Circle library and records	-		-	
2012 room hire prepaid	570.00		-	
Cash at bank				
Current account	5,487.98		6,262.63	
Deposit account	<u>2,940.99</u>		<u>2,942.19</u>	
		14,249.97		15,055.82
LIABILITIES				
Treasurer's expenses	-		27.57	
Members' subscriptions 2012	556.42		1,033.22	
Printing of Quarterly Circular 55642	<u>-</u>		<u>754.85</u>	
		<u>556.42</u>		1,815.64
		<u>£13,693.55</u>		<u>£13,240.18</u>
Representing Accumulated surplus		<u>£13,693.55</u>		<u>£13,240.18</u>

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

S W Bunce Chartered Accountant 14 February 2012

The Story Behind the Stamp: Balian 1818, May 27, 2006



Abd al-Rahman Ibn Mohammad is generally known as Ibn Khaldun after a remote ancestor. His parents, originally Yemeni Arabs, settled in Spain, but after the fall of Seville they migrated to Tunisia. He was born in 1332 in Tunisia, where he received his early education and where, still in his teens, he entered the service of the Egyptian ruler Sultan Barquq. His thirst for advanced knowledge and a better academic setting soon made him leave this service and migrate to Fez. This was followed by a long period of unrest marked by contemporary political rivalries affecting his career. This turbulent period also included a three year refuge in the small village of Qalat Ibn Salama in Algeria, which provided him with the opportunity to write *Muqaddimah*, the first volume of his world history that won him an immortal place among historians, sociologists and philosophers. The uncertainty of his career still continued, with Egypt becoming his final abode: here he spent his last 24 years. He lived a life of fame and

respect, marked by his appointment as the Chief Malakite Judge and lecturing at the Al-Azhar University, but envy caused his removal from his high judicial office as many as five times.

Ibn Khaldun's chief contribution lies in the philosophy of history and sociology. He sought to write a world history prefaced by a first volume aimed at an analysis of historical events. This volume, commonly known as *Muqaddimah* or “Prolegomena”, was based on Ibn Khaldun's unique approach and original contribution and became a masterpiece in literature on the philosophy of history and sociology. The chief concern of this monumental work was to identify psychological, economic, environmental and social facts that contribute to the advancement of human civilisation and the currents of history. In this context, he analysed the dynamics of group relationships and showed how group-feelings, *al-'Asabiyya*, give rise to the ascent of a new civilisation and political power and how, later on, its diffusion into a more general civilisation invites the advent of a still new *'Asabiyya* in its pristine form. He identified an almost rhythmic repetition of rise and fall in human civilisation, and analysed factors contributing to it. His contribution to history is marked by the fact that, unlike most earlier writers interpreting history largely in a political context, he emphasised environmental, sociological, psychological and economic factors governing the apparent events. This revolutionised the science of history and also laid the foundation of *Umraniyat* (Sociology).

Apart from the *Muqaddimah* that became an important independent book even during the lifetime of the author, the other volumes of his world history *Kitab al-I'bar* deal with the history of Arabs, contemporary Muslim rulers, contemporary European rulers, ancient history of Arabs, Jews, Greeks, Romans, Persians, etc., Islamic History, Egyptian history and North African history, especially that of Berbers and tribes living in the adjoining areas. The last volume deals largely with the events of his own life and is known as *Al-Tasrif*. This was also written in a scientific manner and initiated a new analytical tradition in the art of writing autobiography. A book on mathematics written by him has not survived.

Not only was he the forerunner of European economists, such was his intellect that he is also considered the undisputed founder and father of the field of sociology. His *Muqaddimah*, the treatise on human civilisation in which he discusses at length the nature of the state and society, is essentially the first volume of a larger treatise dedicated to the history of the Arabs and those states and peoples that had played, in Ibn Khaldun's view, a historically significant role. The historian Arnold Toynbee said of the *Muqaddimah* that it is “undoubtedly the greatest work of its kind that has ever yet been created by any mind in any time or place”.

The twentieth-century economist and political scientist Joseph Schumpeter argues that Ibn Khaldun is without doubt the true father of economic science. In fact, it is worth comparing him with the man whom many economists might regard as the father of modern economic theory, Adam Smith. When one considers the sheer number of original ideas and contributions across so many areas of economic thought that Ibn Khaldun invented we can be left in absolutely no doubt that he is more worthy of the title.

Ibn Khaldun discovered a number of key economic notions several hundred years before their official births, such as the virtues and necessity of a division of labour (before Smith), the principle of labour value (before David Ricardo), a theory of population (before Thomas Malthus) and the role of the state in the economy (before John Maynard Keynes). He then used these concepts to build a coherent dynamic system of economic theory.