

The  
Quarterly Circular  
of  
THE  
EGYPT



STUDY CIRCLE

CONTENTS.

December Quarter 2012

Whole Series No. 243

Volume XXI No. 8

Pages 169-192

Officers 169, Meetings 170, Obituary 174, Members iii

ARTICLES.

High Value Perfin on Cover	Amgad Bassili	p175
Reply Coupons: Addendum	Greg Todd	p175
Service Des Rebutis Stationery Revisited	Mike Murphy	p176-177
Instructional Markings: Preliminary Report	Mike Murphy	p178-184
The 2 mills surcharge on 3 mills pictorial of 1915: a new find	Anton Jansen	p184
Hotel Air cover with 500mills stamp	Yasser Omar	p185
"Crescent & Star" - Molette d'Eperon	Peter Grech	p186-187
New Definitives and other Stamps	Edmund Hall	p187-188
Air Mail Jottings. The 1933 Airmail stamps	John Sears	p189-191
Queries 110, 111 and Answers to 106 and 107		p191-192



**Carmichael  
& Todd**  
**PHILATELISTS**  
PTS  
GREGORY C.G. TODD

**EGYPT.**

*In Peter Smith's "Egypt Stamps & Postal History", illustrated on page 759, is an Official "Service Des Rebuts" envelope with the printing code number at the top "No.125 B". I illustrate here another example with printed code number at top reading "No.125 I". This envelope however is for Insufficiently Stamped Sample Mail (Echantillon Insuffisamment Affranchi), returned to the care of Thomas Cook in Alexandria. Struck with large oval "E" in blue ink, framed "Bureau Des Rebuts" dated cachet in red, with Postage Due 4m. maroon (SG D72) tied by Alexandria cds (26.II.1892)*



**Quality Stamps, Proofs and Rare Postal History of the World always  
required for Stock or on a confidential Private Treaty basis.**

**P.O. BOX 111 LYMINGTON HAMPSHIRE ENGLAND S041 6ZJ**  
**Telephone 01 590 682 683 facsimile 01 590 681 999**  
**Toddytripzinc@aol.com**  
**VAT No. GB 561 9567 09**

### 2013 Meetings List

Exciting developments in our Meetings List for 2013, with two meetings at the Royal Philatelic Society premises in London so that we can judge the Meeting Room and the Council Room with a view to cutting the cost of future meetings. The other four meetings will be split between Stampex and the Victory Services Club. All meetings start at 2pm

January 5	Services Club	The Suez Canal	Peter Grech & Jon Aitchison
February 23	At Stampex	AGM & Live Auction	All members
May 4	Services Club	Queries & Acquisitions	All members
July 13	At the Royal	The Overland Route	Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye, FRPSL
September 21	At Stampex	Hotel Posts of Egypt	Richard Wheatley
November 9	At the Royal	De La Rue First Issue	John Davis

For meetings at the Services Club, Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London, members usually meet in the ground-floor bar from 1pm. Details of the Royal's accommodation will be provided nearer the meeting date

### EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE OFFICERS

<b>President:</b>	John. Sears, FRPSL, 496 Uxbridge Road, Pinner, Middlesex HAS 4SL. john.sears@btinternet.com
<b>Chairman:</b>	Peter Andrews, 10 Hatches Mews, Braintree, Essex CM7 9FZ. ancientone@btintemet.com
<b>Deputy Chairman:</b>	Stanley Horesh, U.K. horesh@hotmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mike Murphy, 109 Chadwick Road, Peckham, London SE15 4PY egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Brian Sedgley, 6 Mullberry Way, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2 FE brian.sedgley~talktalk.net
<b>Editor/Webmaster:</b>	Edmund Hall, 6 Bedford Avenue, Little Chalfont, Amersham, Bucks HP6 6PT edmundhall@chalfont.eclipse.co.uk
<b>Librarian:</b>	John Davis, Church View Cottage, Church Rd, Upton Snodsbury, Worcs WR7 4NH davisatsnodsbury@tiscali.co.uk
<b>Publicity Officer:</b>	David. Sedgwick, 9 Eastlands, High Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7YD -ann.david_@tiscali.co.uk
<b>North America Agent:</b>	Trent Ruebush, 6704 Donegan Court, Alexandria, Virginia 22315, USA truebush@usaid.gov
<b>Egypt Agent:</b>	Dr Ibrahim Shoukry, Apt 1, 10 Kamal El-Tawil St (Ex-Montaza), Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt ishoukry@link.net
<b>Antipodean Agent:</b>	Tony Chisholm, 13 Arden Way, Wilton, Wellington 6005, New Zealand j_tchis@clear.net.nz
<b>Committee:</b>	Dr Sami Sadek, The Oaks, 19 Sinah Lane, Hayling Island, Hants PO11 0EY sami.sadek@ntlworld.com Vahe Varjabedian, 6 Mohammed Galal St, Apt 61, Heliopolis 11341, Cairo, Egypt vahev@hotmail.com

All contents © copyright Egypt Study Circle, London, and the contributors.

**Website: [egyptstudycircle.org.uk](http://egyptstudycircle.org.uk)**

**Report of the Meeting, September 29, 2012**

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Mike Murphy, (Secretary), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), Vahe Varjabedian (Egypt, Committee), Bart Belonje (Netherlands), Mike Bramwell, Angela Child, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Pauline Gittoes, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Alan Jeyes, Ronnie Van Pellecom (Belgium), David Worrollo.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), John Davis (Librarian), David Sedgwick (Publicity), Jon Aitchison, Keith Pogson, Sami Sadek, Tony Schmidt, Richard Smith, Richard Wheatley.

After a lengthy treasure hunt for an appropriate meeting room (we had originally been placed in a large room, together with the Aden and Yemen Society, without dividing barriers or frames!!), the Secretary was eventually able to organise a swap with the Bird Society – to whom many thanks – and the meeting started virtually on time. The Chairman welcomed a cheerful attendance with some wry comments about accommodation at Stampex, and was happy to see three overseas members, including Bart Belonje from the Netherlands, making his first visit. He was accompanied by more regular visitors in Vahe Varjabedian and Ronnie Van Pellecom.

The Chairman paid tribute to the late Lars Alund (ESC 105), a Circle Life Member who had been associated with us for well over half a century, and called for a minute's silence in his memory. A former Chief Judge of Sweden, Lars was well known to many of us as a passionate researcher into postmark types, and astonished all who were present by scrambling through the internal corridors of the Great Pyramid when we visited for Cairo 91. At the time he will have been in his mid-seventies. A brief mention of his passing was included in the September *QC*, and a more detailed memorial will appear in the December edition. The meeting passed its condolences to Lars' widow Monika.



*Cover returned from Turin, with Italian marking and oval bilingual Egyptian Return to Sender handstamps in blue (3 AP 49) and purple (18 MA 49) – Peter Andrews collection*

The Chairman mentioned that a busy afternoon was in prospect, but found a moment to mention that our member Magdi Abdel-Hadi (ESC 445) had had his masterly *Catalogue of Egyptian Stamps* reprinted, and that it was now available for £40 including UK postage from Egypt. Please contact the Secretary for details.

The Secretary mentioned first his disappointment that we had run out of time to prepare an Autumn Auction, but added that there had been an overall profit of more than £650 on the Spring Auction No 50, thanks largely to donated material from Jack Graham (ESC 541) and good bidding on the late Peter Goodwin's material. As a result the new Auction Treasurer, Keith Pogson, has been able to hand over £1,000 from the Auction account to the General account. It was mentioned that costs of preparing and posting the printed version of the auction had risen to over £330: its continued publication is under review.

One new applicant was elected to membership – welcome to Robert Hothersall, of Norfolk – and then the meeting considered next year's programme in light of the excellent response received to the recent email seeking ideas. It was very quickly decided that we should take one of our meetings next year to the Royal Philatelic Society, and only after much discussion was it decided that we should decline an invitation from

Midpex to attend on July 6. We had a good response from members willing to lead a meeting, but some manoeuvring was still required, and it was left to the Secretary to finalise the listing. This will appear on Page 3 of the December *QC*.

Then it was on to another of our experimental study meetings, this time on Instructional Markings, which provided a quite astonishing range of material, ancient and modern, and led to animated discussion throughout the room. We benefited from a mass of photocopies provided by Greg Todd, and the following

members also displayed: Peter Andrews, Mike Murphy, Cyril Defriez, Paul Green, Mike Bramwell, Vahe Varjabedian and John Clarke.



The range of markings was impressive, from the bilingual *Affranchisement Obligatoire*, with postal material returned to the sender for additional stamps, to previously unrecorded city *Rebut à Remettre à l'Envoyeur* markings: dates for Mansura were extended, and new markings for Fayoum, Girgeh and Kafr el-Zayat were sighted or reported.

It has to be said that there was a certain lack of classical material on show – though Paul Green bravely tried to fill the gap with some stunning markings – and that the actual working of the system raised many a question. The Secretary spent the afternoon

*Registered cover marked Found in Letter Box – perhaps the office boy told to take it to the registration desk instead popped it into the nearest postbox – Mike Murphy collection*

at full gallop trying to record dates for all the marks shown, and this listing will be posted shortly on the website.

The Circle appeals to all members who have material of this sort to join in the study and report early/late dates to the Secretary, and indeed to provide illustrations of any markings not mentioned in the report he will provide.

The Instructional Markings on view provided a range right through from the late nineteenth century to the early twenty-first, proving just how crucial they have been throughout Egyptian postal history, and how worthy of study. As the Chairman summed up: “The meeting showed an astonishing range of markings and postal materials. It proves that even the least obviously fascinating of covers can produce something of true interest.”

### Report of the Meeting, November 3, 2012

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Mike Murphy, (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), John Davis (Librarian), Sami Sadek (Committee), Mike Bramwell, Angela Child, John Clarke, Pauline Gittoes, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Alan Jeyes, Keith Pogson. Visitor: Kay Pogson.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: David Sedgwick, Jon Aitchison, Cyril Defriez, Mostafa el-Dars.

Members were treated to a very special display by Keith Pogson (ESC 130), who magically turned the Third Issue of 1872-75, which is absolutely acknowledged as Egypt's worst-produced issue of stamps, into a glittering exhibition of research treasures. In something over 200 sheets, masterfully handled by his wife Kay, he managed to explain the intricacies of the printing, the reasons for such a poor performance by the printers, the infinite number of varieties and flaws that made the daunting task of plating the panes rather easier than it might otherwise have been – and topped it all off with a section of Third Issue postal history items that led to more delight and discussion than in many a long year at our meetings.

Keith opened his talk by apologising that he was dealing with only seven stamps – and Egypt's worst production, at that, described by Dr Byam as “a very inferior semi reproduction of the superseded Second Issue”. But he quickly explained that when the typography equipment at the National Press in Boulac proved inadequate to print sufficient quantities, the lithography process was pressed into service to supplement production of the 20-para and 1-piastre stamps initially. And with two systems running side by side, the pattern was set for something akin to chaos.

Not only that, but the printers soon found that certain pigments, and particularly the vermilion used for the 1pi, reacted with the copper printing face, damaging the design. This resulted in many of the

stereos having to be taken apart for cleaning – and not always put back the right way up, resulting in many examples of tête-bêche settings.



*Letter from Port Said to London, May 5 1877, with tête-bêche pair of the typograph 10 paras (12 ½ X 13 ⅓) of the 1874 issue and 1pi of the 1875 issue making the 1pi 20pa foreign letter rate from July 1 1875. Tête-bêche stamps are found only in setting B. Ex Fikry*

As well as printing flaws, there were several other faults: dampening the paper to ensure a secure impression resulted in distortions when it dried unevenly; the two single-line perforation machines required careful handling if double-perfs, or imperf columns, were to be avoided. They weren't. And sometimes the same perforator was used both horizontally and vertically, leading, for instance, to the first printing of the high-value 5-piastre being 13 1/3 all round. On top of that, broken teeth brought even more varieties.

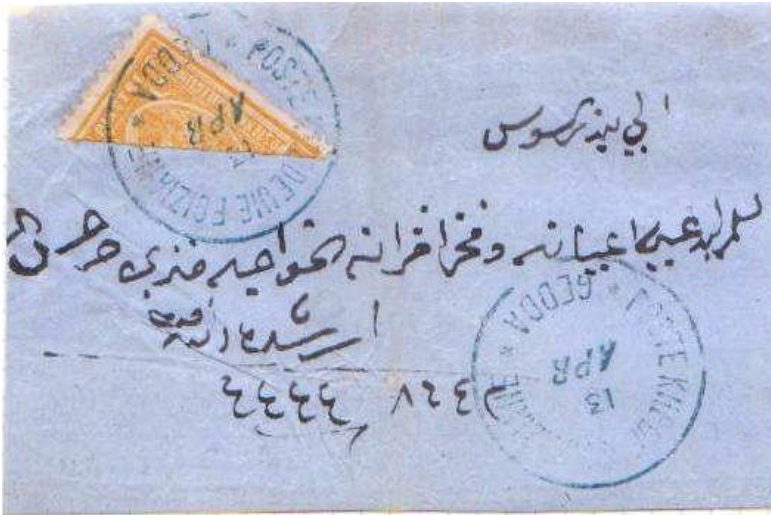
The meeting heard of major research carried out by our former chairman, Major E L G “Mac” Macarthur, in the wake of Byam, Boulad, Chaftar, Gougas and Smith among others, in plating the 20-para, and Keith paid full tribute to Mac's work and explained the honour he felt in being able to continue and expand it. But it was Mac who completed the plating, leading to the intriguing concept of “married couples”, that is, identical flaws on both typographed and lithographed stamps because the lithographic stones were copied from transfers taken from the typo formes before they were used to print the typo stamps.

Even more astonishingly, Mac ended up with 201 different images for his 200-stamp pane. It was six years before the explanation was realised – that the original stereo for position 117 had a badly blown frame and eventually had to be replaced. Hence, two stamps for position 117.

Keith showed several examples of the 5-para and 10-para provisional surcharges, brought about not by a lack of stamps at those values but because the new 1875 UPU regulations deprived the 2 ½ piastre value of its use. The surcharge was the last printing at Boulac: the Fourth Issue went to De La Rue in London, and stamp printing did not return to Egypt until 1925.

He also showed an imperforate block of four of the 1 piastre second printing from the unique sheet of 200, originally bought by George V and sold recently when the Queen sold items from the Royal Collection to fund the purchase of the unique first day cover with ten Penny Blacks. With 8.5 million of the 1pi stamps printed, there was plenty of opportunity for Dr Byam to research the flaws! But just before this stamp became available in 1875 there was a shortage, leading to permission to bisect the 2-piastre in April 1875.

The postal history section opened with a remarkable cover bearing no fewer than five of the seven values, and moved on to illustrate pre-UPU rates, including newspapers franked at 5pa and 10pa, and two covers to the US, one franked at 4pi 35pa (the correct rate), the next with a single 5pi stamp (5pa overpaid, but much easier to deal with!). Very soon after, the UPU agreement reduced the rate to 1pi 20pa.



*Bisected 2pi on cover from Gedda dated 13 Apr (1875 – the day the Suez mailboat sailed). All seven recorded covers have the same date. Gedda CDS in blue without year-indicator is known only in April 1875. Ex Danson*

Two highlights of the display are illustrated here: the 1877 cover to London with a tête-bêche pair of the 10para on the previous page, and the staggeringly rare example of the 2pi bisect used from Gedda on April 13, 1875. As an adjunct to the display, Brian Sedgley showed an astonishingly wide range of the postmarks borne on the stamps of the issue, including several not otherwise recognised.

This mini-report falls well short of describing the range and breadth of the display, which really opened members' eyes to the amount of research that has been carried out on this forlorn and short-lived issue of stamps. But it is hoped that all members will have the chance to view it for themselves, for Keith has generously offered to allow it

to be scanned and in the near future we hope to be able to place the scans on our website.

Members were delighted with Keith's presentation, and applause rang out loud and long, the Chairman summing up our pleasure in a few short words: "I don't need to say much, merely to stress the obvious: that this has been a most magnificent display!"

Earlier in the meeting the Chairman wished those present – and those not present – Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year, and Peter Grech announced the publication of the first volume (pre-1876) of his new book, *The French Post Offices in Egypt*. Those copies in the room were quickly snapped up. See page iii.

The Secretary announced the programme of meetings for 2013, including two exploratory dates in different rooms at the Royal Philatelic Society, and one new member was elected – welcome to Thomas Rehkop of Fenton, St Louis. The Treasurer, Brian Sedgley, reminded members that subscriptions for 2013 were due on January 1 [see the green sheet accompanying this issue] and that members who had not paid up by the date of the AGM on February 25 would face being lapsed from membership.

The Librarian, John Davis, apologised to members who have ordered back copies of the *QC* from him. Injuries sustained in a recent accident at home have prevented him – temporarily – from reaching the back issues, which are stored in the loft. We all hope he will be better soon.

---

### Editorial

Thanks for the many contributions which arrived in the last few weeks. I have five articles left over so if yours isn't here it will be used in a forth coming *QC*. This is no excuse to stop the flow – keep them coming.

### Lars Ålund, an Appreciation

We are very sad indeed to have to record the passing on August 29 of Lars Ålund, retired Lord Chief Justice of Sweden, a Circle Life Member, indefatigable postmark researcher and a good friend to us all. Our great sympathies go to his wife Monika.

Born on August 27, 1918, of an old Stockholm family, he spent most of his life as a judge in Stockholm and Gothenburg and died at dawn two days after his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday. As ESC member 105 he joined the Circle in the late 1950s, and only our former President, Professor Peter Smith (ESC 74), has been a member for longer.

Far from the London centre and busy with his important work, Lars was nevertheless able to keep in close touch with the Officers by correspondence (no email in those days!). It is typical that his first, brief, article for the *QC*, in June 1971, brought members' attention to half a dozen updated records for the Hotels postmark study recently published by Jean Boulad d'Humières and describing two new sub-types for the Shepherds Hotel No 1 marking.

Though his interest in Egypt and its philately was wide-ranging, his enormous attention to detail allowed him to spot varieties of both stamp and postmark missed by others, and many more updates were to follow. Noting that the classical-period postmarks had been thoroughly dealt with by Seymour Blomfield and later Peter Feltus, Lars chose to concentrate on the post-1879 markings

In October 1981, after being out of contact with three eye operations, he gave a talk on Egypt to the Royal Philatelic Society in London; and followed up with postmark details, based on his own observations of his own collection, covering at first Ship markings, Star & Bridge and Seamen's Home. I am happy to acknowledge the great help he gave me with my Rural Posts study.



*Monika and Lars Ålund at home in  
Linköping in the mid-Nineties*

Lars attended the international London 1990 with his wife Monika, also a judge, and 55 other members and guests – and Samir Fikry's invitation there led to our grand tour of Egypt in which many of us exhibited at Cairo 91 in an atmosphere of happy good fellowship throughout. The organisers put on many a sightseeing opportunity, and no one who was there will forget the cheerful determination with which Lars – then 71 – set off to clamber through the internal tunnels of the Great Pyramid. He emerged some fairly considerable time later, grimy and tired, but delighted to have conquered the burial place of Cheops.

After retirement, there followed a flood of detailed drawings from about 1993 updating our postal marking records, starting with A for Arrival, and continuing through Cash, Customs, Delivery, Information offices, Printed Matter and Departure. Anyone studying these areas must start with Lars's articles... A bound copy of his collection was donated to the Circle Library in 1993.

Lars and Monika were also active in the Commandery of St Sigfrid section of the Grand Priory of Sweden, and in October 2005 Lars was invested as Knight of Grace, a distinction now echoed by his wife as Dame Commander of the section.

Lars and Monika endeared themselves to all who were at Cairo 91, and beyond that Lars, as contributor to the *QC* and the Auction, played a full part in the life of the Circle over more than half a century. We are sad to have lost one of our Life Members, but proud to record that he was one of our most treasured colleagues.

**Mike Murphy**



### High Value Perfin on Cover

Amgad Bassili (ESC 564)



I was going through the September 2011 article ("Stamps and Rates", *QC* 239, pp 59-61) on this issue and thought to share with you this cover of mine. I have seen this stamp loose with the "OB", "VO/Co", and "BCIE" perfin patterns, but this is the first time I have seen it on cover and with the very scarce pattern of "R&Co" (Reinhart). The total rate is 120m, so if we subtract the 20m overseas rate and another 20m for registration that leaves us with 80m ... which does not explain the rate for 20gm overweight increments (were these linear multiples of 13m?).



Any thoughts are appreciated

### Reply Coupons: Addendum

Greg Todd (ESC 585)

Further to Mike Murphy's article on International Reply Coupons in the last *QC* (242, pages 151-155), I thought members might be interested to see a variation on those issued for Egypt. This IRC of the original Rome 1906 pattern, was issued for France and although valid for the equivalent of 25 centimes, was sold at the French Post Office in Alexandria on October 18 1913 for 30 centimes. In common with the vast majority of IRCs, the area for the receiving handstamp remains blank.



## Service Des Rebut Stationery Revisited

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)



*Richard Wheatley's cover, Code 125 G, for printed matter, and Greg Todd's, Code 125 I, for samples, both treated in precisely the same way on the same day in 1892, even to the recipient's details*

The article by Richard Wheatley (ESC 168), *Service Des Rebut Stationery*, in the *QC 241*(p127), has drawn several comments from members on the close similarity between his envelope and the cover advertised by the company of Greg Todd (ESC 585) on the inside front of the same issue.

The comments are neatly tied up by Hilary Shaw (ESC 594): "...it leaps off the page that these were handled 'by favour'. They're in the same hand to the same addressee, postmarked on the same date and, oh, so neatly prepared! In my experience this was unlikely to have been coincidence. The Carmichael Todd description cites another example (code 125 B) in Peter Smith's book, which leads one to suppose there would have been a series of envelopes for different circumstances, each with a different code letter. If I were a betting person, I'd put money on more covers surfacing."

Well, so far no more examples have surfaced, but the discussion took me back to a massive list the late Robin Bertram and I set out to compile years ago – of all the postal stationery issued by the Egyptian Post Office, its code letters and the purposes for which each item was intended.



*1894: Peter Smith's example. Code 125 B. for letters*

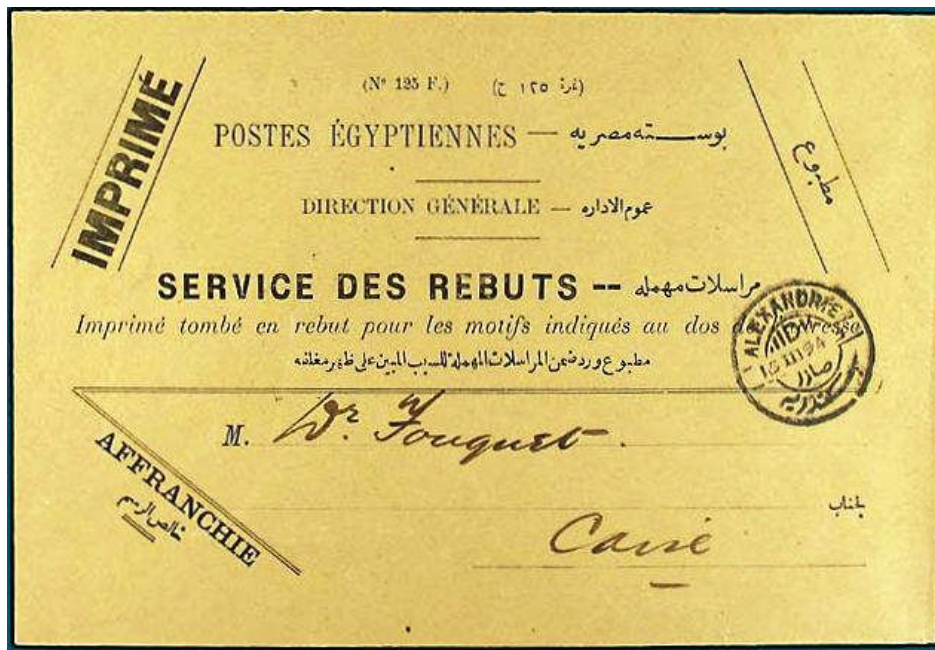
We managed to record a few more, and Hilary is right: the envelopes were clearly used for returning to the sender, as stated, underpaid postal material on which the tax charge could not be raised on arrival. And the code letter indicates more specifically the type of postal material returned.

Hilary Shaw mentions the example illustrated by Peter Smith (ESC 74), but that one is slightly different, though clearly serving the same purpose: the typography varies though the basic wording is the same, and the diagonal wording reads, in effect, "Postage Paid" rather than specifying the type of material. This is mentioned instead in the last full text line, which reads (in French) "Letter fallen into the dead-letter office for reasons indicated on the reverse of the address". There is no 4m stamp, no boxed "Bureau des Rebut" datestamp, no oval E in blue.

Another example (*at right*) is very similar to Peter Smith's (but also very ragged). Also 125 B, for letters, it also stems from 1884: again it is returned from Alexandria to Cairo. It appears that at this earlier stage the reasons for return were not specified as "insufficiently franked" but were detailed, presumably in handwriting, on the reverse.

It is most unfortunate that I can no longer find an example of the next type we recorded, which was given Code 125 D and was

notified as specifically for use with postcards: It would be wonderful if whoever bought it from Robin's collection could come up with an illustration.



Returning to the envelopes that started this new exploration, we also discovered (*left*) what seems to be an even later type, though of intermediate appearance. Designated 125 F and used in 1894, the latest we recorded, it is specific to printed matter (top left), but the reason for return is again not stated, and again the cover is "postage paid": so for how long, and for what reason (only because "insufficiently prepaid"?) were the 4-millième Dues applied?

Below is a quick reference to those recorded. If members could find one or two more we would be delighted to add them to the reference list.

125 B	Letters	Alex Depart 28 JU 84	G. Koch, Cairo	Affranchie
125 B	Letters	Alex Depart 28 NO 84	Club Khedivial, Cairo	Affranchie
125 D	Postcards	1889	no detail	no detail
125 F	Printed matter	Alex 15 III 94	Dr Fouquet, Cairo	Affranchie
125 G	Printed matter	Alex 25 II 92	V Fiteni, c/o Thos Cook, Alex	4m Due
125 I	Sample	Alex 25 II 92	V Fiteni, c/o Thos Cook, Alex	4m Due

**And meanwhile, a last word from the Editor:** The two originals are lovely items both, but should such neat pieces automatically offer themselves up to the cry of "philatelically contrived"? Could it not just be the product of a neat hand of a conscientious post office employee? I have not heard of any suggestion that the neat and beautifully centred strikes of Metelino on stamps of the Third Issue are "contrived".

## Instructional Markings: Preliminary Report

**Mike Murphy (ESC 240)**

Members may have noticed me scrambling throughout the September meeting on Instructional Markings, doing my best (but not quite succeeding!) to record early and late dates for all the markings shown. Having added information from a mass of photocopies kindly donated by Greg Todd, and taking into account dates recorded on the day and others from my own collection, we are in a position to make a preliminary report.

First, what isn't here...? We have not recorded boxed-T or boxed-AR marks, because in both cases we believe that each office had its own handstamp, and that there was a lot of local manufacturing going on: recording all the varieties would be fascinating, but not for today! Nor have we recorded Registration cachets (again each office had its own, and many offices had many markings) or Insured marks (some were shown, but we considered these, like Registration, service-specific rather than Instructional). And we did not record Express or Air Mail markings: like many Recommandée handstamps, it is impossible to tell whether they belong to the Post Office, to a company, or even to an individual. And we balked at trying to record the usually hideously mis-struck handstamp tick-boxes in which reasons for non-delivery were to be indicated. Another one for another day.

And although we should have liked to, we recorded very few classical period markings. Many of these were dealt with years ago by Blomfield and Feltus, but there is a whole new world of Franca, Per Consegna, Après Depart and so on yet to be updated.


What remains is a fascinating glimpse into the problems, mainly of non-delivery. All markings we record here are struck in black unless otherwise specified; and the code-names applied are absolutely temporary, based only on the first three letters apparent in a European language. At the end of the list are three all-Arabic markings (Ar-1/3), and I am sure there are many more to come.




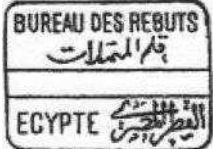

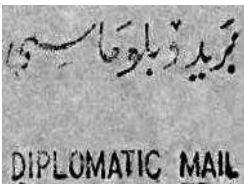




Some of the markings apparently have enormously long lives, and it may well be that in some cases (REF-4 to REF-6, for example) we have been over-precise and all three markings should be combined into one. In the case of UNC-1 and UNC-2 I think I can distinguish three slightly different sizes, and this definition needs help, please.


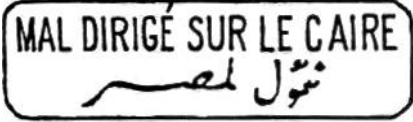

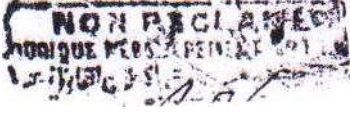
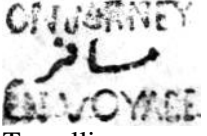

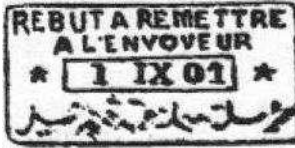
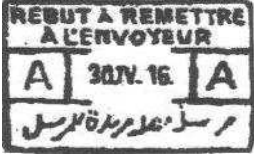
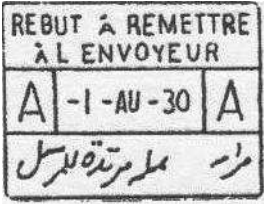
Nor is it always possible to ascertain precisely where many of them were struck: was a letter undeliverable in, say, Shabrakhit, stamped as "Unclaimed" on the spot, or did the handstamp wait until the cover was returned to one of the main centres? But it is fascinating to see the same marking (RET-7) in five colours and apparently at three centres (the unique blue and violet on the same cover!). REB-7 and REB-8 are also interesting local marks for returned letters, and illustrations of centres other than Mansura and Fayoum would be appreciated.

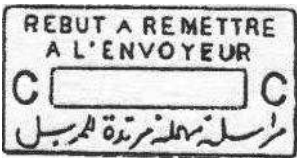

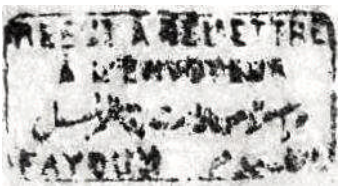
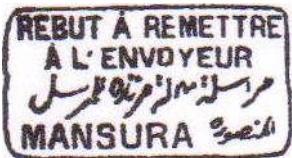
A word of warning: the magenta "arrow" marking designated as RET-3 is doubtful, and may not be Egyptian. We have two examples, one from a window envelope so the address is not known; the other is indeed returned, but from Kuwait.

Several intriguing markings were not seen on the day, and it would be wonderful to have examples of the use of FOU-2, MAL-1 and REF-7, among others. So now it is over to you, the members: please take a moment to go through your covers and record, preferably with a scan or photocopy, any new markings similar to those below, or early/late dates, and send them to the Secretary so that this list may be updated. Every addition will help us to clarify the picture of just how the Egyptian Post Office worked.

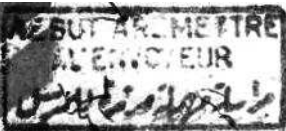
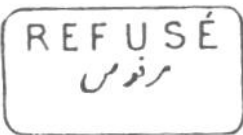



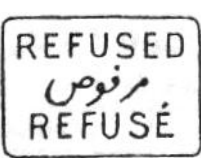
ADR-1	 <p>Inaccurate address</p>	28x13	Sep 1962 - Apr 1963	Cairo
-------	---	-------	---------------------	-------





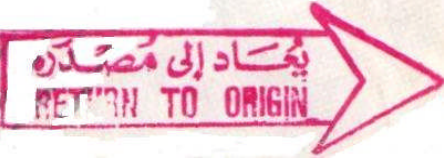
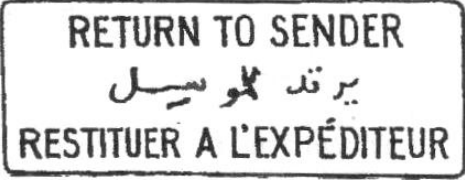



AFF-1	 Insufficient franking	size?	Feb 1877	
AFF-2	 (Correct) franking obligatory	27x20	17 MA 36 - 2 MR 42	Cairo
BUR-1	 Dead Letter Office	27.5x22	5 I 92 - 4 II 94  ESC: 10 XI 87 - 4 V 98	Alx,red
BUR-2	 Dead Letter Office	Not seen - size?	ESC: 26 JA 00 (proof)	
DIP-1		43x15	4 DE 45	Cai, violet
DIP-2		30x19	17 5 1987	Cai, red
FOU-1		60x15	7 IX 18 - 10 AP 38  Aug 24 - Mar 34	Cairo  Alex
FOU-2		Not seen - size?		
FRA-1	 Postage paid	45x10	10 SE 41	Cairo
FRA-2	 Postage paid	40x8	15 IV 1908	Cairo

INS-1	<b>INSUFFICIENT Postage For Air Mail</b>	Not seen - size?		
INS-2		42x10	Mar 1912 - Jul 1989	Cairo
MAL-1	 Missent to Cairo	Not seen - size?		
NON-1	 Unclaimed	35x17	5 I 92 - Mar 1928	Cairo, and Fayoum and Port Said (?)
NON-2	 Unclaimed though notified regularly	50x15	Aug 1892 Aug 08 - Nov 12	Alex Cairo
ONJ-1	 Travelling	26x17	Nov 62 - Dec 62	Alex
REB-1	 Undeliverable, return to sender	size?	July 1881	
REB-2	 مائل الى المرسل	Not seen - size?	ESC: 1 IX 01, also in red	
REB-3	 رسالة معلقة بالمرسل	Not seen - size?	ESC: 30 IV 16	Alex
REB-4	 رسالة معلقة بالمرسل	38x30	1 SE 28 - 1 AP 46	Alex  All dates on the first of the month - by regulation?


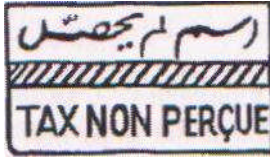
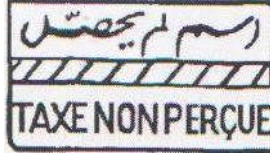
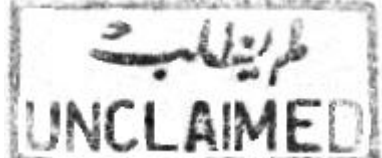
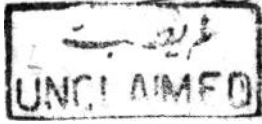
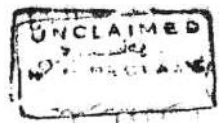
REB-5		44x21	1 VIII 08 - Sep 1957	Cairo
REB-6		41x20	Jan 1927 - Jan 1950 ESC: 11 DE 52	Cairo
REB-7		44x22	Apr 1927 - 2 AP 28	Fayoum
REB-8		43x23	5 JU 36 - 5 SE 43 ESC: 3 OC 35 - 3 OC 39	Mansura

NB, ESC reports similar handstamps for Benha (13 X 96 to 7 NO 32); Ismailia (7 AP 25); Minia 29 JA 32. Vahe Varjabedian reports in addition Minia 29 X 12 (early date), Girgeh 14 JU 18; and Kafr Zayat 15 OC 13.

REB-9		38x16.5	Sept 1981	Cairo
REF-1		Not seen - size?		
REF-2		18x16	Aug 1953 - Aug 1958	Cairo
REF-3		30x15	Aug 1958 - Jan 1973	Mansura? Cairo
REF-4		Not seen? - size?		
REF-5		29x20	Jan 1913 - Aug 1958	Mainly Cairo but also Qus? and Tanta?

REF-6		Not seen? - size?		
REF-7	 Refused by the addressee	Not seen - size?		
RET-1	 Return	50x15	4 AP 39	Pt Said
RET-2		size?		
RET-3		70x24	Sep 1986 - Aug 1988	Egypt?
RET-4		79x32	Jul 1904 - Mar 1963 Oct 1934	Cairo, magenta
RET-5		76x30	Aug 1927 - Jul 1961	Cairo
RET-6		38x21	8 XI 09 - 15 I 12 14 II 10 6 VII 14	Alx, red Cai, red PSaid, red
RET-7		40x25	5 AU 27 - 4 DE 41 13 AP 52 18 MA 49 3 JL 49 8 JU 54 6 P 39	Cai, red Cai, blk Cai, violet Cai, blue Alx, blk PSd, mag'ta



RET-8		33x16	10 IX 09 ESC: 31 XII 13 - 21 10 14	Alx, red red
RET-9	RETURNED TO SENDER معاد الى المرسل منه RENOVYE A L'EXPEDITEUR	55x16	April 1963 - 10 3 93 Sept 1961 - 1984	Cairo Alex
RET-10	RETURNED TO SENDER معاد الى المرسل RENOVYE A L'EXPEDITEUR	37x20	Aug 1963 - May 1979	Cairo
TAX-1	 Tax not collected	size? bars?	July 1934	
TAX-2	 Tax not collected	size? 11 bars	July 1937	
UNC-1		30x15	Aug 1960 - Apr 1968	Alx
UNC-2		31.5x15	1 7 37 Mar 1935 - Oct 1955 Oct 1932 - Nov 1960	Cai, blk Alx, red Alx, blk
UNC-3	UNCLAIMED لم يتطالب NON RECLAME	33x22	Mar 1931 - Sept 1962 Oct 1934 - Sept 1961	Cairo Alex
UNC-4		30x16	July 1961	Alex
UNC-5	UNCLAIMED THOUGH NOTIFIED REGULARLY لم يتطالب مع سبق الاطلاق القانوني NON RECLAME QUOIQUE REGULIEREMENT NOTIFIE	50x21.5	1 III 16 - Dec 1956	Cairo



**Hotel Air cover with 500mills stamp**

Yasser Omar (ESC 605)



I thought members might be interested to see this remarkable wartime combined air mail, bank and hotel mail cover from my collection. Sent from the American Express office in Cairo (probably a customer rather than a staff member) to J A Miller, at Wells Fargo Bank and Union Trust Co in San Francisco, it was franked with a massive 665 mills, including the 500 mills of the Fuad 1927-37 issue (SG 171), very rarely seen on cover, together with the 5m, 70m and 90m of the 1933-38 Airs set (SG 198, 209, 211).

I am grateful to John Sears (ESC 188) for the minutiae of the postal rate, which he details as: Basic surface rate for weight 25/30 gm = 22m + 13m for over 20 gm = 35 mills; Air Mail Surcharge - 6 x 100m = 600m; Registration - 30m; Total - 665m

The cover, with two Air Mail labels and a mute black on white Registration label, was posted on 19 OC 40 at the Continental Hotel on Ibrahim Pasha Square in Cairo (the American Express office was just near by), receiving the unusual (although recorded 1932-1954) HC12 hotel CDS.

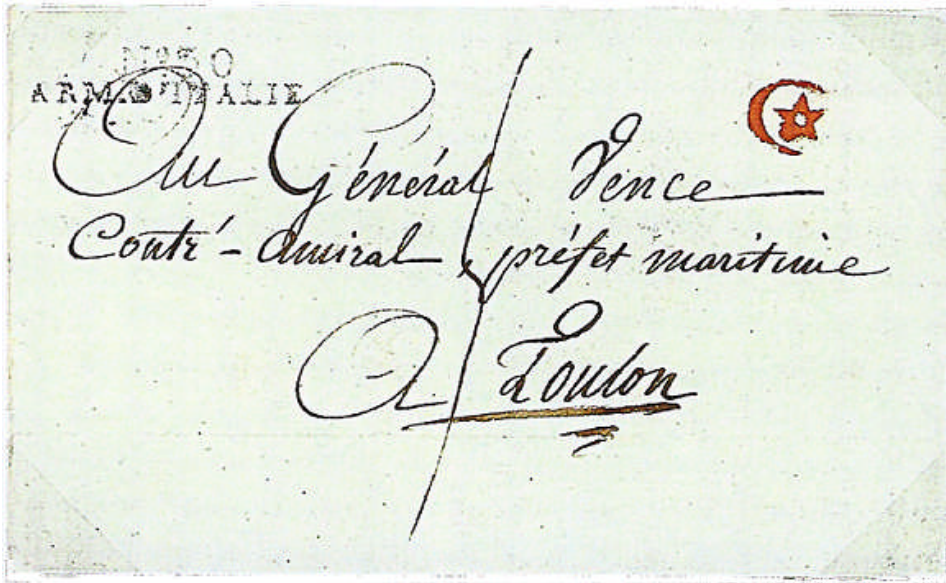


It was opened and resealed by the Egyptian postal censor, receiving handstamp 91 in violet (Andrews 6j1, recorded only April-July 1940) and a transit Cairo / R.D marking the same day – and then travelled across the South Pacific via Honolulu (Nov 10) to San Francisco (Nov 18), with two bank arrival handstamps on Nov 19, all in all a journey of exactly one month.

"Crescent & Star" - Molette d'Eperon

Peter Grech (ESC 266)

In "The John Firebrace collections of Military Postal History" at Cavendish, 16 May 2001 lot 1072 had an unexplained red handstamp merely described as *a red "\*" in circle Inspector's mark*.



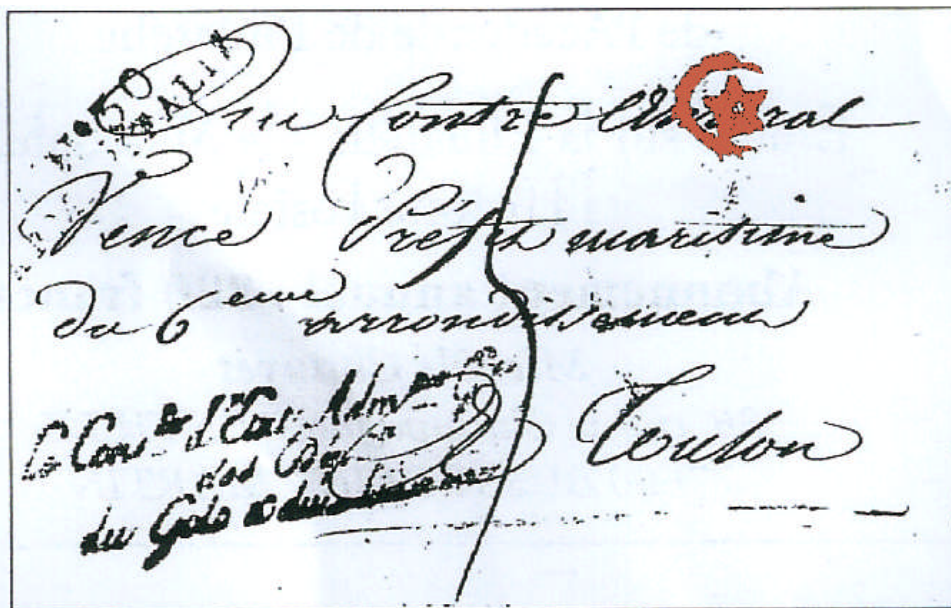
*PRISONER OF WAR. COVER FROM A FRENCH SHIP'S CAPTAIN HELD ON BOARD THE BRITISH SHIP H.M.S. "JANUS" IN ABOUKIR BAY; Remarkable and very fine 18th June 1801 EL headed 'A Bord du transport Anglais le Janus, No.26...en rade d'Aboukir ' from Captain Charrier of the French frigate "Good Union", recently captured by Lord Keith's fleet while attempting to sail from Alexandria to Marseilles, describing his capture and mentioning being accompanied by a further 5 or 6 transports containing "800 to 1000 French prisoners", etc. The letter was apparently sent along with General Damas, a Prisoner on H.M.S. Penelope, and is addressed to the French Admiral in charge of Toulon. The letter was carried by the captured Admiral as far as Livorno where the Admiral (on parole?) was presumably landed and so has a fine "No.30/ARM. WITALIE" mark on the front beside a red "\*" in circle Inspector's mark and a m/s "5" charge. Very rare example of mail from the crumbling French forces towards the end of the French Occupation of Egypt, written a week before the surrender of Cairo.*



*Roumet HP Sale 29, 18 Oct 2012. From Algiers (Murcia red Spanish entry mark).*

It has been assumed to be a Turkish or British censor mark. John Firebrace illustrates the cover in his book on p27 in which part of the description reads ...*cancelled by star within circle struck in red applied on entering the military post*. He also suggested that the mark could be a Turkish or British censor.

It is in fact the Toulon entry mark "Molette d'Eperon" (spur wheel). I illustrate two other examples I found recently, both dated 1801.



*Feuilles Marcophiles # 297, 1999. No.30 Armée d'Italie*

### New Definitives and other Stamps

#### **Edmund Hall (ESC 239)**

In *QC 239* (p.93, *The revolution and Egypt's stamps*) Mike Murphy mentioned a new £E2.5 upright Pharaonic-design stamp being offered as part of the last set of definitives. These were issued between May 25 and June 30, 2002 (*QC 203* p216, *New Issues*; *Nile Post* D377-85; *Egyptian Stamps Handbook* [ESH] p251 416-25).



Soon after the article appeared two more stamps were offered on the internet as "new" issues for the set, a £E2 and 50 piastres, both of which I duly purchased. When the £E2 arrived I realised that it is very similar to the 1997 Tutankhamun set without the buff background, ESH 402. The *Handbook* also lists this with a white background, 405a, which I assume to be this stamp, making it printed in 2010 at the latest. The 50 piastres stamp appears to be completely new.



The question is: why were these stamps issued? In *QC 231* (p.185, *Egypt's new Postal Rates – April 1*) Vahe Varjabedian gives rates of 30pi for an internal letter, £E1.50 for registration and £E1 for AR, making the total AR rate £E2.80.

My own wild guess is that the domestic rate of 30pt had risen to 50pt. Is the £E 2.5 a new local rate of 50pt plus £E2 for registration, also increased, from £E1.50. Or is it a basic overseas letter rate?

Needless to say, no sooner had I bought these three stamps than other purchases from Egypt arrived with the new stamps paying the postage, some used in blocks. These later buys, complete with the item inside, cost me less than the online price of the stamps!

There was a time when some commemoratives were issued in a set, with three being the usual number over the last few years. These sets gave some idea of rates. But the last of these I can recall was the Centenary of the Museum of Islamic Art, issued October 5, 2010, which represented 30pt local, £E2 postage with registration and £E2.5 basic overseas rate.



But no sooner had I drawn the conclusion that the new 50pt stamp was the new internal rate than on August 18, 2012, a set of three stamps was issued for Ramadan. The previous issues had been at 30pt, to pay the local rate, so why £E1?

At the September meeting Vahe kindly brought with him a photocopy of the Egypt Post published prices starting from July 2012. These however apply only to overseas postage with four price structures according to destination.

It would appear, in my interpretation, that the rate for letters up to 20gr for Arab countries and Africa is £E2, the rest of the world 50gr £E3. Rates above these weights differ according to four price zones.



The Arab Post Day stamp of August 3, 2012, would seem to indicate that it was issued for letters to the rest of the world. This would be an increase on the £E2.5 seen in the five-stamp London Games issue of July 27, which were probably issued after the price rise but no doubt prepared beforehand.



The other new issues I have come across by scouring websites are commemoratives for the Centennial Anniversary of Egyptian Bar Association, issued September 9 (value £E1) and Tourism and Sustainable Energy of September 29 (also £E1). These issues support the idea that the new local rate has increased to £E1.

On questioning Vahe at the September meeting he gave the impression that the postal counter staff seem to have little idea what was going on and showed little interest in the matter.

My surmise is that the local rate may have risen for a short time to 50pt and then in July increased again to £E1, that is a 230 per cent increase over the last year. Still, the 30pt rate had been in effect since March 1999 so maybe a sense of realism has set in with the new administration.



Another puzzle is the £E2 stamp issued with a £E4 miniature sheet to mark 60 years of Revolution, issued on July 27. Now I thought that the January 2011 revolution overthrew the heirs to the 1952 officers' rebellion, so why commemorate it? My first thought is that the issue had been in preparation before the fall of Mubarak - but the previous issue marking the Revolution of July 23 was in 1985, so this theory doesn't hold up. Were the new masters inferring that the new revolution of 2011 was really a regeneration of Nasser?

Dear friends in Egypt, or anywhere else, what is going on? Please put me out of my misery.

### Air Mail Jottings. The 1933 Airmail stamps

John Sears (ESC 188)



#### The Facts:

According to the control numbers in the bottom right corner of each pane, the first printing of this issue was in 1932, although the date of issue was 15th February, 1933.

The design of the stamp was taken from photographs of a Handley Page HP 42 aircraft and the Pyramids, from which a line drawing was made: the frame and value tablets were drawn separately. Printing was by the photogravure process, carried out by the Survey Department, Cairo. Watermark and perforations correspond to those of the 1927-1929 issue. Sheets of 100 stamps were produced, each being divided into panes of 50 for Post Office use. Each pane had a control number, so there were two for each printing, which can be distinguished from each other by minor differences in dimensions and position.

There were 20 values, and the colour of the 2m was changed in 1937 from grey / black, to red-orange / black.

Value	Number (000's)	Value	Number (000's)	Value	Number (000's)
1m	1,158	2m	440	2m (orange)	162.5
3m	1,017.5	4m	430	5m	2,105
6m	240	7m	285	8m	1,729
9m	242.5	10m	782.5	20m	2,715
30m	410	40m	545	50m	550
60m	225	70m	235	80m	230
90m	230	100m	335	200m	210

There were a number of minor printing errors and misplacements which are well covered in Leon Balian's book *Stamps of Egypt Part II*, and Magdi Abdel-hadi's *Egypt Stamps Handbook, Volume I*.

This issue was designed specifically for use on Air Mail post, and the stamps were not valid for use on surface mail, internally or externally. Finding a cover with the correct value franking on a surface route, but using the Air Mail stamps and attracting Postage Due, is extremely difficult, although the writer has seen one with the boxed "T", but no Postage Due charged. Definitive stamps could be used on Air Mail, and in conjunction with the Air Mail stamps. This was the rule until 1st August 1938.

The Air Mail rate was calculated by adding an Air Mail surcharge to the basic surface rate to the destination. In the 1930s the surcharge could vary according to destination and carrier.

The 1927-29 issue was designed solely to pay for a letter (up to 20 gm) from Cairo to Baghdad, namely 27 mills. **Was the 1933 issue ever intended to pay, in one stamp, the cost of a standard letter to a specific destination? It does not seem likely.**

Air Mail **surcharges** announced in 1932, when the issue was in preparation :-

- Nov. Belgian Congo - 90 mills
- Oct. K.L.M. "Winter Routes" to Europe - 9 mills, 20 mills, 25 mills according to destination.
- Oct. Madras via Karachi - 45 mills.

Sep.	K.L.M. to Dutch East Indies - 70 mills
Sep.	Mombasa via Nairobi - 35 mills.
Jun.	Cyprus - 5 mills
Jan.	Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika - 35 mills
	Northern Rhodesia - 50 mills
	Union of South Africa - 65 mills

Reference to the list of values above shows that only 5m, 9m, 20m, 50m, 70m values were available to pay the surcharges.

### The questions :

Why is there no 13 mills value? This would have covered the surcharges to Europe carried by Imperial Airways. A 13m value was included in the Commemorative issues of the Railway Congress of January 1933, and the Aviation Congress of December 1933.

Why no 15 mills value? Apart from the 9m surcharge to Greece set in 1931 (and the 13m to Europe) the other surcharges were always in multiples of "5".

Why, in 1932 when commercial flying was in its infancy, were there values such as 100 mills and 200 mills? There were no surcharges approaching these figures until mail to South America was flown via the Lufthansa service from Berlin in 1935.

Was there a parcel service by air? I do not know if and when it was introduced: please let us know if you any information about dates and rates. If it was available it might justify the issue of the high values. Has anyone seen a Parcel Card bearing stamps of this issue?



Fig. 1

Why such a multiplicity of the low values? They could only be used to make up rates to adjust for weight differences.

Fig. 1 shows the (philatelic?) use of the small values to pay the correct postage for a letter to Germany, a total of 33 mills. Unfortunately it is a postcard and the rate should have been only 26m (13m + 13m). The 1 mill stamp has the black cross applied at Brindisi, showing that it proceeded from there by surface route. Cancelled Continental Savoy, Cairo; 11 AP 35.



Look at the table of numbers printed of each value. The greatest printing was that of the 5 mills (which was the basic letter rate for internal items), followed by the 20 mills and 8 mills – both used to make up the 28m for letters to the UK. The 20 mills saw 2,715,000 stamps printed, understandable because 20m was the basic surface rate for “non Empire” letters.

An Air Mail label was also required in addition to the Air Mail stamp(s).

### Conclusions

First of all, there is no doubt that pictorially, this issue was one of the best of the early Air Mail designs: the stamps are readily recognisable as Egyptian without reference to the “Egypte” at the top.

But, what was the reason for its issue? The writer can only offer one solution.

The period of the early 1930s saw many disagreements between the Egyptian Parliament and the British. Although Egypt was declared an independent country in 1922, the British still had many controlling powers, but the UK has never had an Air Mail issue of stamps. Perhaps the Egyptian postal authorities saw it as one way of “getting back” at the British, and going one better! On the other hand, a British aircraft is part of the illustration. This is conjecture: if other members have theories, please let us know.

References: *The Production of Egyptian Postage Stamps 1866 – 1946* by an anonymous senior official of the Survey Department.

*Egypt, Stamps & Postal History* by Peter Smith, 1999

*Airmails of Egypt* by John Sears, 1990

### Queries and Answers

#### Answer to Query 106, from Peter Feltus (ESC 110)

Sorry to spoil a good mystery... the card with the 5mm De La Rue imprint is card stock for my business cards.

#### Answer to Query 106 from Jon Aitchison. (ESC 661)

Hani Sharestan's 'Football variety' shown on page 165 of the September 2012 Quarterly is in fact a non-constant 'ring flaw'. These are caused when a piece of foreign matter, often fluff, paper detritus or dried ink, adheres to a printing plate and becomes a printing surface itself. As it is raised from the surface of the plate it leaves an unprinted area around it. They normally dislodge or wear out after a few impressions but sheet numbers have shown that on occasions they can persist for hundreds of sheets and can migrate across the surface. When the plates are cleaned at the end of the print run any such stubbornly remaining items are always removed so will not be present on a reprint. They tend to only occur on typographic printing and are very unlikely to appear on lithographically printed stamps.

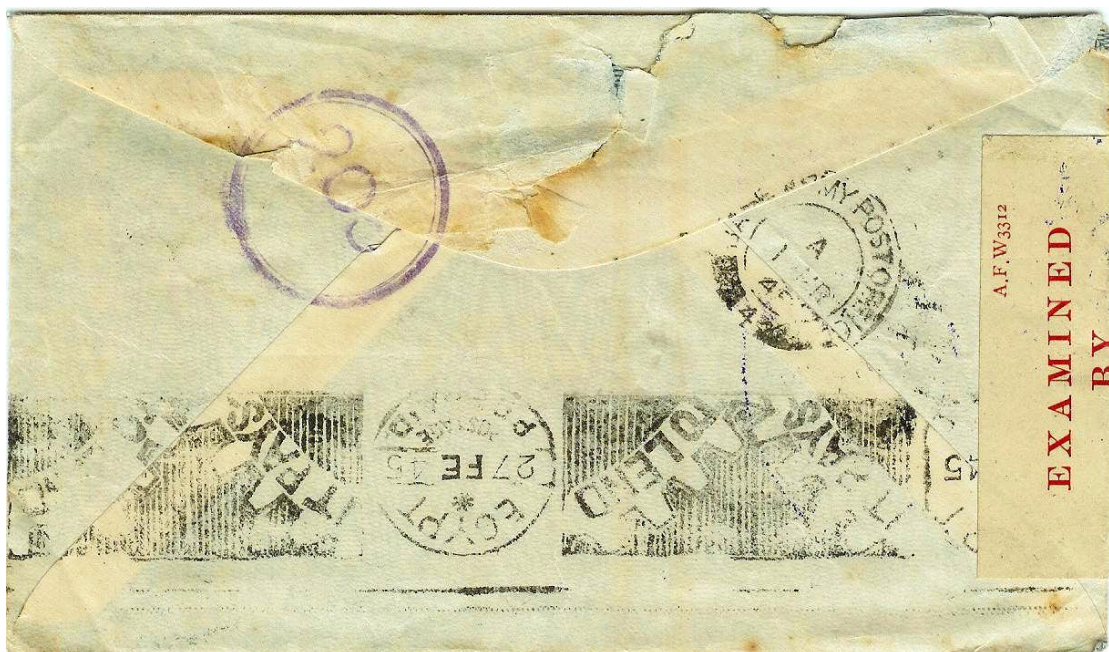
#### Query 110 from Scott Van Horn (ESC 619) - No watermark?

I have a 1m King Farouk (military type), 3-bar overprint (NP D213), with apparently no watermark. I have attempted to find even a partial mark using backlighting and watermark fluid, but to no avail. Has anyone ever heard of this issue unwatermarked? Or is it possibly some kind of printing fluke?

## Query 111 from Vincent Centonze (ESC 571) - OAS FPO cover



The cover was posted free from "FIELD POST OFFICE 235" on 26 Feb 45, and mailed to Jerusalem. According to *Collect British Postmarks* by J T Whitney, FPO 235 was in Italy or Sicily. The cover arrived in Egypt next day, and received an Egypt Postage Prepaid "IT PAYS TO LEND" cogwheel slogan machine cancel dated 27 Feb 45. The sender lined though the "BY AIR MAIL" corner card, so if it travelled by surface vessel, it must have been dispatched right away. Two days later, on 1 Mar 45, it received an "ARMY BASE POST OFFICE 4" postmark. According to Whitney, ABPO 4 was in Egypt. The front of the cover has two censor marks: the purple shield, which may have been applied at the base of departure (in Italy?), and the round handstamp DEPUTY CHIEF FIELD CENSOR. Both are struck as usual in purple. The cover was opened for inspection then resealed with the censor label, which is tied by the round censorship marking. Perhaps it was opened at ABPO 4, because the censor tape covers a portion of the Egypt prepaid machine cancel on the back. The cover was then sent on to Jerusalem and arrived on 6 Mar 45. The cover also has a purple numeral 205 in a double circle across the back flap consisting of a thick outer ring and thinner inner ring. I'd like to find out where this was applied and what it signifies. It may have been applied at the FPO of origin. The writer may have submitted it unsealed; it was examined, then the examiner sealed the flap and stamped it with the number 205 in double circle. Is there precedent for this?



**New members:**

- ESC 676 Robert Hothersall**, 101 Queens Road, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 8BU  
(Issues of Fuad/Farouk period, particularly definitives)
- ESC 677 Thomas G Rehkop**, PO Box 1013 Fenton, MO 63026, United States  
(Egypt used, Suez Canal Company, Postal History, Interpostals, Postmarks)

**Change of Address:**

- ESC 595 Hani Sharestan**, 33 Monrovia, Irvine, CA 92602, United States
- ESC 598 Per-Olof Jönsson**, Sörgårdsvägen 51b, SE 19144 Sollentuna, Sweden
- ESC 668 Andrew Titley**, 400 North Ervay, Apt. 320, Dallas, TX 75201, United States

**Deceased:**

- ESC 105 Lars Ålund**

---

### Live Auction: Material Wanted

We shall as usual be holding one of our popular Live Auctions at our Annual General Meeting at Stampex on February 23. Members wishing to enter material should supply by post or email a typed list of up to 25 lots, which must be accompanied by illustrations for advance publication on the website, to the Secretary by January 12.

Advance bids may be entered by post or email to the Auctioneer, Edmund Hall (details on page 3). The actual material must be present on the day for viewing and collection by the winning bidder; lots sold to non-room bidders will be invoiced and despatched as soon as practicable afterwards.

We are aiming for about 200 lots – all we have time to deal with – and once that total is passed, submitted material will be held over until the full Auction 52 in the autumn.

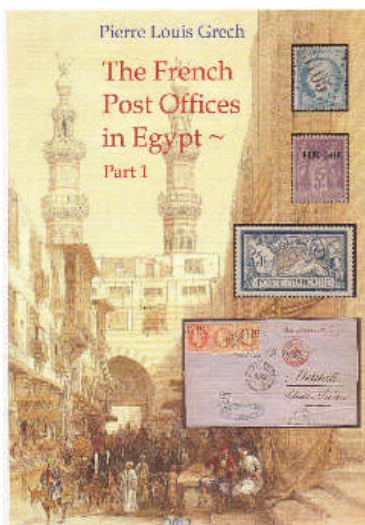
ESC commission: 10 per cent to buyers, 5 per cent to sellers.

---

### NEW BOOK

*The French Post Offices in Egypt, Part 1 (Before 1876)*, by **Pierre Louis Grech** (ESC 266)

(Part 2, 1876-1931, due in June 2013, will cover the period from the UPU to the P.O.s' closure in 1931).



The first in-depth study of the French Offices at Alexandria, Suez, Cairo and Port-Saïd, with their locations, personnel, all known postmark varieties and copy of official documents relating to their opening and closure. Their story is that of the French Maritime Post, the Overland Route, the Posta Europea, the Railway, the Egyptian Post, the Suez Canal and its stamps; all of these are sketched and have their relationship to the French P.O.s recounted in a historical and postal setting. The complex pre-philatelic postal rates of 1837-1849 are covered as are rates to 1876, together with a description of registered and insured letters and mixed frankings. French Entry Marks and Maritime Postmarks (octagonal cachets, BM) relating to the Egyptian ports are tabulated and detailed. The trading background between France and Egypt and Napoleon's Egyptian Campaign (postal organisation, rates, markings) serve as an introduction.

This A4 sized soft-cover book is illustrated throughout in full colour with rare letters, stamps, maps, paintings and documents. 172 pages.

**Price to ESC Members £ 45 (£ 55 to non-members) plus postage & packing:**

**UK £ 5 ; Europe £ 9 : USA/ROW £ 13 . Contact Peter Grech care of [egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com](mailto:egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com)**

**See web site for more details.**

## The Story Behind the Stamp: Signing of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty, Balian 64-66 Dec. 22, 1936



Since the British takeover of Egypt in 1882 nationalist movements had arisen to gain at least had some control over their own country. The Wafd [meaning “delegation”] party, which was founded in the aftermath of World War I, was not the first nationalist group, but had the longest lasting impact. Formed under Saad Zaghloul, they presented themselves to General Sir Reginald Wingate, the High Commissioner in Egypt, and told him that the party’s main goal was the immediate termination of the British occupation. British intransigence led to the revolution of 1919 and Zaghloul was exiled to Malta for a short period.

After the partial independence of 1922, the Wafd establishes itself as a political party and in the new kingdom of King Fouad it won 90 per cent of the seats in the First Chamber in 1927. That same year Zaghloul died and was succeeded as party leader by Mustafa Nahas Pasha. In 1928 the King sacked Nahas as Prime Minister and suspended the 1923 constitution. The April 1936 election returned the Wafd to power, and a Regency Council ruled on behalf of the new King Farouk.

A united front from the Wafd majority and other nationalist parties sent a delegation to England to negotiate the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty in 1936. Earlier attempts at treaties had failed for a variety of reasons, but by then Egyptian politicians were willing to make concessions they had turned down earlier because they now feared a world war. The outcome was a treaty that gave Egypt little more than the terms it had been offered a decade earlier. It ended the occupation, although British troops were still to be stationed in the Suez Canal Zone. It gave Egypt British support for its attempt to be admitted into the League of Nations as an independent country.

The Anglo-Egyptian Treaty, bringing a formal end to the British occupation, was signed in London on August 26, 1936, and ratified on December 22, when it came into effect. An official signing took place in Zaafarana Palace in Cairo by grandees including Anthony Eden, Ramsay Macdonald and Lord Halifax for the UK and Nahas Pasha, Ali Maher, Muhammad Mahmoud and Boutros Ghali for Egypt. The ratification was signed by Eden and Nahas only. From the photo, showing Nahas and Eden, it appears that this meeting was used in the stamp design. Stamped cards signed by the signatories have been reported, the example above bearing the signatures of Nahas Pasha and Miles Lampson.

