

The
Quarterly Circular
of
THE
EGYPT



STUDY CIRCLE

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March Quarter 2013

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

EGYPT.

De La Rue Ipi. ultramarine used on Advice of Receipt form #39, cancelled at Alexandria (June 8, 1886) with 'Tripoli/Syrie/Turquie' confirmation of arrival datestamp below (June 11, 1886). Reverse showing further Alexandria datestamp of distribution to sender (June 17, 1886). Rare.

(نمبر ٣٩ ٨٩)
ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES D'ÉGYPTE
مصلحة البوستة المصرية

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION علم التسليم

L'Expéditeur de l'objet suivant (1) *Lettre recommandée*
موسل لارسالية الاتي بيانها وهي (١)

portant le N^o *24489* et l'adresse de M. *Ch. Saporio*
à Tripoli
بوسم جناب روضو عليها نمرة

désire savoir s'il a été reçu. يرغب الاستعلام عما اذا كانت تسلمت ام كيف

L'Employé des Postes.
مستخدم البوستة
J. Saporio

L'envoi ci-dessus désigné m'a été remis contre reçu le *11 Juin 86*
لارسالية الوصحة اعلاه تسلمت بالاىصال اللازم بتاريخ
1886 سنة ١٨٨٠

Signature,
لاعضا
مروسي
مروسي

(1) Indiquer la nature de l'envoi, si c'est un objet recommandé, une lettre de valeur déclarée, ou un colis postal avec ou sans valeur déclarée.
Cet avis doit être renvoyé, sous recommandation d'office, au bureau d'origine, muni de la signature du destinataire; si ce dernier ne consent pas à le signer son refus et la remise de l'envoi doivent être attestés par l'employé du bureau de destination, lequel utilise à cet effet la formule ci-dessus en la modifiant. Le bureau d'origine se charge, ensuite, de le faire tenir à l'expéditeur, comme objet recommandé.
Au moment de l'expédition on doit attacher cette formule à l'envoi avec une épingle, excepté pour les colis postaux, pour lesquels elle doit être attachée au bulletin d'expédition.

(١) يتوضه نوع الارسالية اذا كانت مسجلة او خطاب ذا قيمة مقررة او طرد بوستة مؤمن او غير مؤمن عليه
يصبر رد هذا العلم مسجلا رسميا للمكتب المرسل الاصلى بعد امضائه من المرسل اليه فان لم يقبل امضاه يتوضه من مستخدم المكتب المرسل اليه عن ذلك وعن تسليم الارسالية على هذا المطبوع بعد اجرا تعديله به ثم على المكتب المرسل الاصلى ان يسلم هذا مسجلا للمرسل منه
يحال تصدير الارسالية يرفق بها هذا المطبوع مشموكا بدبوس انما تستثنى من ذلك طرود البوستة اذ يقتضي ارفاق المطبوع المذكور بحافظة ارسال

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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 are split between Stampex and the Victory Services Club. As usual, all meetings start at 2pm

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

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

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Website: egyptstudycircle.org.uk

Report of the Meeting, January 5, 2013

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Mike Murphy, (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), John Davis (Librarian), Sami Sadek (Committee), Jon Aitchison, Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Pauline Gittoes, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Atef Sarian, David Worrollo. Guest: Helen Grech.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Peter Andrews, Angela Child, Cyril Defriez, Mostafa El-Dars, Alan Jeyes, Tony Schmidt.

In the absence of the Chairman (just about to touch down at Heathrow) and the Deputy Chairman (not well; we all wish Stanley Horesh a speedy recovery), the meeting was opened by the President, who wished everyone a Happy New Year, but had to pass immediately to more tragic matters in reporting the death just before Christmas of Peter Feltus (ESC 114) at home in California. Members stood for a minute's silence in memory of a man who provided acres of information and months of pleasure to those who knew

him. *See page 199.*

The Secretary reported a speedy and wide-ranging reaction from

members to his note on the green sheet accompanying the December *QC* telling how Britain's rise in postal rates was affecting *QC* costs, with a potential effect on subscription rates. As the AGM is so close, however, it was decided that the matter should be discussed fully in the intervening period and a firm proposal on future economic plans be put to the 2014 AGM in time to take effect for 2015. Please do not hesitate to respond to the note: all views will be taken into account.

An appeal was made for lots to be sold at the Live Auction at the AGM on February 23: all lists and illustrations should be with the Secretary by January 20. Another appeal was made to find a Publicity Officer for next year; and one new member was elected to membership – welcome, Guy Dutau of France. The Secretary reported that two former members had rejoined; and four others had chosen to resign; and offered up special thanks to Marc Van Daele (ESC 648) and Andre Navari (ESC 534) for their help with postage.

After that members were regaled with an outstanding display by Peter Grech (ESC 266) on the philately of the Suez Canal area, ranging from the stamps and postal history of the Suez Canal Company – including a full “reprint” pane of the 40 centimes value printed from the original stone by the Paris dealer Saatjian; and a remarkable cover in which every element is forged – 40c stamp, 5129 canceller, French Port Said postmark of October 28, 1868 – right through to the inauguration of Port Fouad in 1926.

Bringing to bear his typical penchant for historical accuracy, Peter was careful to explain the background, both political and geographical, to his display, which was full of fascinating asides, including relations with the *Posta Europea* and tracing the development of the railways relating to postal services and even to the whereabouts of De Lesseps' statue blown off its pedestal at the entrance to the Canal in 1956.

This brief report cannot cover the full panoply of the display of philatelic material, augmented by postcards, official notices, newspaper cuttings and so on, but concentrating mainly on the postal history of the French



19 Avril 1895: From a Madagascar-bound soldier on the steamship *California*, leased for troops transport. Letter deposited at Port-Said (Corps Exp.) then taken to France by a ship of Ligne T (Corr.d'Arm).

offices of Port Said (1867-1931) and Suez (1862-88), opening with an 1868 cover that travelled Port Said-Suez-Alexandria and on to France.

Among the highlights of a wide-ranging display of stamps and postal history, Peter explained the ups and downs of surcharges on French office stamps, and how the official printing always seemed to arrive just too late from France, necessitating the production of local surcharges and similar devices.



Dirre-Daoua cover to Djibouti 15 II 07. French PO opened in 1906, depended from Port-Said French PO. Used Levant stamps and those of Port Said (here 5c and 1f) when those ran out

scarce covers with the Corps Exdpre de Madagascar / Port-Said double-ring CDS, one dated 19 Avril 95, the other mistakenly dated a year late, on 18 Avril 96.

Almost as far afield is usage of French Port-Said stamps at Dire-Dawa in Ethiopia. A French distribution office was opened there in 1906, and was made dependent on the Port-Said receiving office since distribution offices had to depend on a receiving office, and Port Said was the closest. Mail was routed via Djibouti and Port-Said. Dire-Dawa used Levant stamps until these ran out, and then those of French Port-Said until Ethiopia joined the UPU in 1908.

Similarly, Port Said was the “head office” for French usage on the Ile de Rouad, off Latakia, Syria, from March 1916, when a military post office was upgraded using overprinted stamps of the Levant. Mail was sent via Port Said, and Port-Said stamps were used on the tiny island when Levant stamps were in short supply. Peter showed Ile Rouad overprint stamps used at Port Said in 1921 during its own stamp shortage.

And in 1925 the French consulate at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia also used Port-Said stamps, the mail authorised by the consulate’s stamp but the adhesives on the registered letter only cancelled upon arrival in Port Said.

Peter’s display was augmented by that of Jon Aitchison (ESC 661), giving his first display. He provided a large number of Canal Company “reprint/forgery” blocks of all values, and wondered why these stamps - in use at the most for 40 days in 1868 - were probably the world’s most popular forgeries. He reckons there might be as many as 46 different types.

The second half of his display was to do with the stamps of the Great Bitter Lakes Association – those 14 vessels trapped in the Canal during the Six-Day War of 1967. Though ill viewed by many collectors, these home-made issues, fabricated by the stranded crews, were accepted by the world’s postal authorities, both incoming and outgoing.

Most of those present were unaware that the French had sent a military force to Suez during the First World War to counter Lawrence’s influence with the Arabs. Eventually they were told they were not required, but not before a rare postmark Mission B-Base de Suez had come into use.

Such military requirements provided much of the variety, and moving slightly off “Suez Canal” topic, one of the most fascinating areas was explanation of some of the rarest “used abroad” postmarks known on these issues, covering several areas around the turn of the century.

These included the French invasion of Madagascar in 1895 in a campaign lasting from March to September. Peter showed two very

He noted that no covers "escaped" via Israel, but those via Egypt neither required Egyptian stamps for forwarding nor attracted postage dues, and forecast that, though clearly in the "Cinderella" class, these covers would grow in interest over the years.

The President, closing the meeting, thanked Peter Grech for a display "as erudite and expert as usual"; and congratulated Jon Aitchison for his "great aptitude", suggesting that he might be called on again. Members showed their appreciation in the usual manner.



In April 1921 Port-Saïd stamps were surcharged in mills, but no dues had arrived from Paris. The UPU letter rate from France went up for the first time in over 40 years from 25c to 50c. This cover taxed at Port Saïd with a 15m definitive and provisional purple cachet "Taxe a percevoir pour insuffisance d'affranchissement". Genuine use: most covers are by "compliance"

Report of the Annual General Meeting, February 23, 2013

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), John Davis (Librarian), Sami Sadek (Committee), Jon Aitchison, Bart Belonje (Netherlands), Mike Bramwell, Angela Child, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Mostafa El-Dars, Pauline Gittoes, Paul Green, Costas Kelemenis (Greece), Sherif Samra (Egypt), Tony Schmidt, Vahe Varjabedian (Egypt), Ronny Van Pellecom (Belgium), David Worrollo.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: David Sedgwick (Publicity), Trent Ruebush, Tony Chisholm, Ibrahim Shoukry, Denis Doren, Peter Grech, Anton Jansen, Dennis Lynch, Peter Newroth, Vic Potter, Adelene Simmers, Peter Smith, Frank Van Geirt, Richard Wheatley.

For the third Stampex meeting in a row, there was enormous confusion on the part of the exhibition organisers about timing and meeting room designations. Several societies were severely discomfited, and only after much toing and froing were we able to start the meeting approximately on time. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all those present, particularly a gratifyingly large number from overseas.

A minute's silence was held for three long-serving and stalwart members who have passed away since the November meeting in Lars Alund (ESC 105), Peter Feltus (ESC 114) and Stanley Horesh (ESC 118). All will be sorely missed.

Apologies for absence: See above.

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising: Approved by acclamation; no matters arising.

Chairman's Report: Peter Andrews reported that the year in question had been very successful, with some fascinating displays, and that the Committee was working hard to continue the trend. He noted in particular that we had had successful "study" meetings recently, most recently on Directional Markings; he welcomed this return to older values, and recognised that without such research meetings the Circle would not be making progress.

Secretary's Report: Mike Murphy reported that membership had remained constant over the year in question, the number of resignations, deaths and lapsings being matched precisely by the advent of new members (12) and the return of three former members to membership. Membership is now 186, but it is expected that we shall lose more in the coming month as those who have failed to pay their subscriptions are shed.

He reported that after the runaway win by Peter Grech in 2011, the Macarthur Award for the most interesting *QC* article for 2012 had been won by the smallest of margins – half a point. The Chairman presented the award to Edmund Hall (ESC 239) for the first of his two articles on Gaza and Sinai.

In respect of the green sheet "Strangled by the Post Office" the Secretary reported that there had been a good response to the discussion document about how to deal with vastly increased postal charges in the UK. He urged all members to contribute to the discussion, which will lead to a specific motion for consideration at the 2014 AGM.

Treasurer's Report: Brian Sedgley also referred to the ill effects of the postal increases, and noted that although the accounts, *see page iv*, showed a surplus for the year of £2,361.87 (against a loss in 2011 of £453.37) this was due very largely to a transfer of £2,470.12 from the Auction account, without which we would again have run at a loss. He warned that the full effect of the postal charges had not yet hit, and urged the 31 members who had not yet paid their subscriptions to do so quickly or risk losing their membership.

Jon Aitchison (ESC 661) queried the valuation of the Circle's stamp collection "at catalogue value", suggesting that catalogue value was an unrealistic assessment. The Treasurer assured the meeting that the method of valuation would be rigorously examined before the next AGM.

The Accounts were adopted (proposed: Edmund Hall; seconded Sami Sadek) by acclamation, and the Treasurer proposed a vote of thanks to the accountant, Stephen Bunce (proposed Brian Sedgley, seconded Mike Murphy), again by acclamation.

Auction Report: Mike Murphy emphasised the importance of the Auctions to the Circle's general funding, and hoped that everyone would bid high this afternoon (see below). The "big" Auction would take place in the autumn, when he hoped that all members would do their best to provide interesting lots for sale – and then to bid as high as their wallets/purses would allow. Typed illustrated lists to Mike by August 15, please.

Editor/Webmaster Report: Edmund Hall reported that the full-colour *QC* was being well received, that costs were worrying, but that as long as members continued to supply fascinating articles the magazine would continue to flourish. He hoped to be able to make further additions to the website's members-only section in the near future, and reported that plans were going ahead for the digitisation of the *QC* back copies.

Librarian's Report: John Davis apologised to members who had ordered back-copy *QCs*: he had been hampered by both personal injuries and computer problems which meant that despatch had been delayed. For one reason or another some members had not received *QCs* this year, so John had provided them as a follow-up. As an example of rising postage costs, he noted that three *QCs* to South African in 2011 cost £1.98; last year three more to the USA were charged at £5.54.

Election of Officers: John Davis, nominated by Peter Andrews and seconded by Mike Murphy, kindly agreed to stand for the post of Deputy Chairman vacated by the sad death of Stanley Horesh, and was elected by acclamation.

Date of the next AGM: In light of the continual confusion by Stampex officers about where, when and how long our meetings should take place, the Secretary was instructed to write a firm note to the exhibition organisers. Partly because of this confusion, and partly because it was felt that meetings in November,

Obituary: Peter Feltus, FRPSL (ESC 114)

Peter Randolph Feltus, a Circle member for half a century (he joined in 1962) and second only to Peter Smith in membership longevity, died unexpectedly and peacefully at home in Berkeley, California, only a few days before celebrating his 71st birthday on New Year's Day. He was a truly remarkable researcher, publisher and dealer, interested and expert in all aspects of Egyptian and Sudanese philatelic information.

Above all, Peter was a character. In UK we have a vegetable spread for sandwiches and the like by name of Marmite. People either love it or dislike it intensely. Peter fitted into a similar category. In the Sixties he enjoyed the hippy life to the full, and in later life many of its characteristics remained with him, including a full and vehement confidence in his own opinion, an intense affiliation with the left-wing poets and writers of European literature, and the knowledge that his way was the right way. It was not invariably popular.

But by whichever Marmite standard you judge him, Peter, who spent some of his early life in Hong Kong and won a BA from the University of California at Berkeley, was a true exponent of the arts of philately, serving the Circle, the Sudan Study Group and the American Philatelic Association with a constant stream of information, virtually all of it based on his personal research.

For at least 30 years he was a full-time dealer in Egypt and Sudan material, together with books relating to the area. One of his for-sale lists went out just before his death: while his sale prices were invariably low, he was not easy to sell to, as he expected an equally good bargain when buying. On his last visit to the UK, for the Dennis Clarke sale, he was disappointed at obtaining so little at the auction.

He will best be remembered for his *Catalogue of Egyptian Revenue Stamps*, published in 1982. Revenues was one of his many passions and he found it difficult to understand why so few of us could share it. This classic work, which includes Cinderellas and Interpostal seals, was helped by half a dozen visits to Egypt and mainly by his local agent Hossain Abdel Gawad. It is badly in need of an update, and after the recent loss of Nabil-El Hadidi and Robin Bertram it is not easy to see whence it might come.

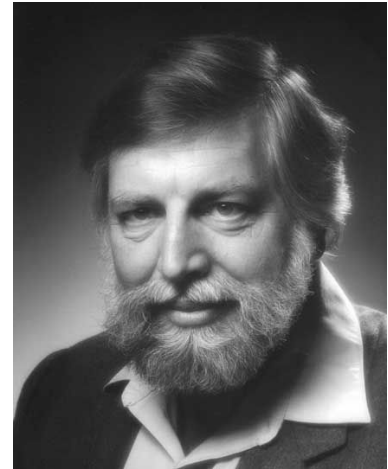
Another passion was the cancellations of the classic period, resulting in Peter's taking over the work originated by Seymour Blomfield after he died and producing *Egyptian Postal Markings of 1865 through 1879*, published in 1983 and reissued in the last 12 months. This was very much in the tradition of the "old days" of the Circle, when many members would report their findings to be shared; it contains a who's who of those who generously took part.

More recently Peter was instrumental as an intermediary in providing to the Circle the remarkable run of Egyptian Postal Bulletins that have provided first-hand information about changes to rule and regulation in the Egyptian Post Office. Truly a treasure, these books were unknown before his offer to make a deal.

His most recent *QC* article, in the June 2009 issue, formed the question: How rare are the Iaffa and Dalla Stazione postmarks? It was accompanied by a comprehensive listing, compiled by himself over many years from his own and others' collections and auction catalogues, of the 30 known Iaffa postmarks on Egyptian stamps, and the 23 Dalla Stazione markings on Classic covers.

He was not, like many of us, an exhibitor, but the Cairo 1991 exhibition was a special case. Peter was delighted to be invited to show eight frames of his outstanding Second Issue collection – without any doubt the best in the world – but typically, because part of his exhibit included the plating of the sheets of 200 stamps, he had to use over-sized display pages that incurred the displeasure of the international judges. Peter was, to say the least, less than happy at the award of merely a silver medal.

Born in New Orleans, he revolutionised Egyptian revenues and gave much to our Circle and our studies. He will be missed.



*Photo by Al Abrams in
Phoenix, Arizona, 1994*

Edmund Hall and Mike Murphy

Misr Petrol Company Pyramid Perfins

Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)

A couple of years ago I wrote an article in the *QC* about a newly discovered perfin (the three-pyramids perfin) on a revenue stamp. At that time it was the only one I had spotted during my 20 years of studying Egyptian perfins. But recently I have found several documents and receipts franked with Misr Petroleum Company perfins among a large accumulation of papers and documents.

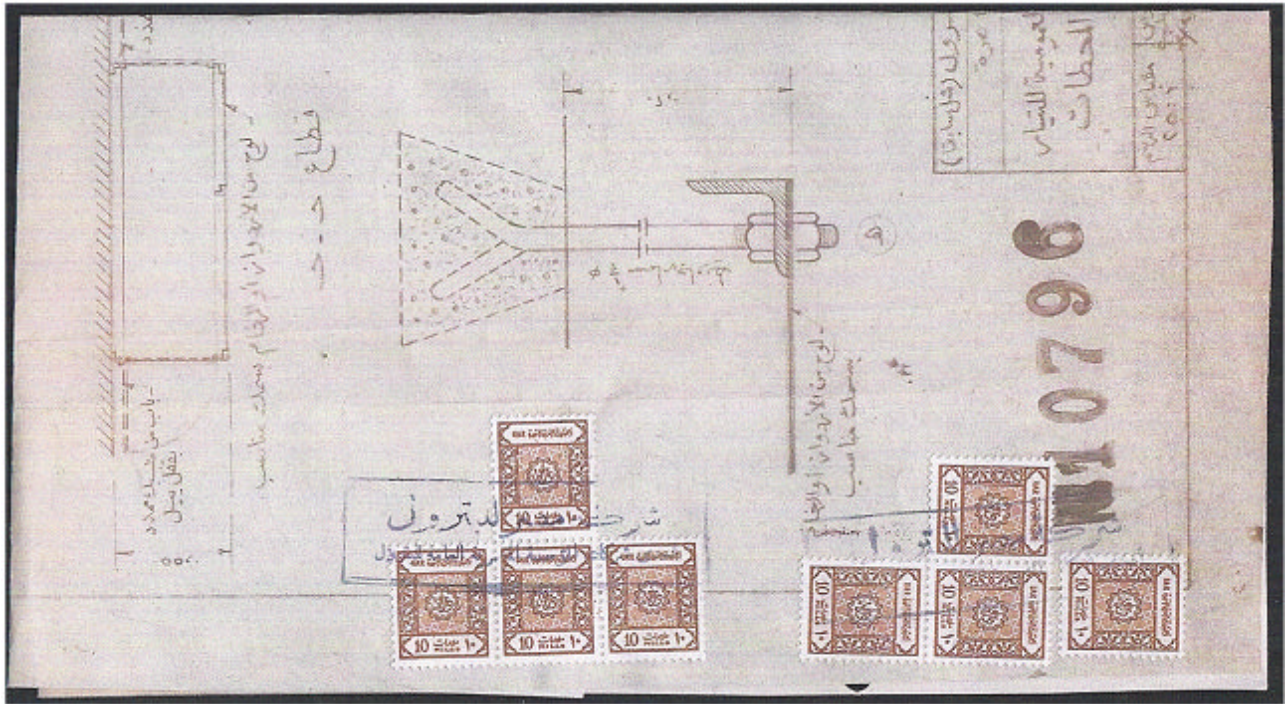
After checking, I found that all the Misr Petroleum Company documents and engineering project designs were provided with UAR issue tax revenue stamps, the 10 millièmes brown (Feltus p8 no 57) and 50 millièmes blue (Feltus p8 no 60) as illustrated here, and all were perfined with the three pyramids.

The puncturing was not made precisely, with most of the holes closed or damaged. I found small quantities with clear perfins which are usually the three pyramids comprising a total of 40 punctures. Tête-bêche examples were also found, reversed both horizontally and vertically.

Besides these two punctured revenue stamps I found a complete contract printed with the Misr Petroleum Company logo with a pair of the £E1 Engineering Syndicate Professions revenue unrecorded by Feltus on the 1958-59 republic issue (p83) and the 200 millièmes (third UAR issue) of 1959-63 (Feltus 767 used on September 7, 1966 (*next page*)).

It is quite astonishing that these documents have come to light after more than half a century. I hope to find dates or stamps with these company perfins in the near future.





نموذج رقم ١٠٥٩ (١/١٦)

شركة البترول
م.م. ع. إحدى شركات المؤسسة المصرية العامة للبترول ومركزها الرئيسى ٦ ميدان عرابى بالقاهرة

في يوم الأربعاء الموافق ١٩٦٦ / ٩ / ٧
بين كل من :

أولاً : شركة مصر للبترول ش.م.ع إحدى شركات المؤسسة المصرية العامة للبترول ومركزها الرئيسى ٦ ميدان عرابى بالقاهرة
ويتمثلها السيد / المهندس محمد الحميد أبو بكر ونهس محلها
ويؤوب في التوقيع على هذا العقد السيد / المهندس محمد عدل العرابى مدير إدارة المحطات
ويشار إليها في هذا العقد وملاحقه بكلمة " الشركة "

ثانياً : السيد / المحاور على شركة الاتحاد المحامى (شامى وشركاه)
المقيم ١٠ شارع على القاهره
ويشار إليه في هذا العقد وملاحقه بكلمة " المقاول " ،
تم الاتفاق والراضى على ما أتى :

تمهيد
طرحت الشركة في مناقصة عامة / محرومة محلية المحددة لها ظهر يوم السبت ١٩٦٦ / ٧ / ٣٠
مزمرة رقم ١٠٥٩
وتحدد لفتح مظاريفها يوم السبت ١٩٦٦ / ٧ / ٣٠
وقد قررت الشركة قبول العطاء المقدم من المقاول والمؤرخ في السبت ١٩٦٦ / ٧ / ٣٠ قبولاً إجمالياً وأخطر
المقاول بأسناد العملية اليه بتاريخ ١٩٦٦ / ٩ / ٥

البند الأول
يعتبر التمهيد المتقدم جزءاً لا يتجزأ من هذا العقد .

البند الثانى
يلتزم المقاول بالقيام بهذه الاعمال طبقاً لاحكام هذا العقد وملحقاته من شروط عامة ومواصفات ورسومات وغير ذلك مما
يلحق بالعقد ويعتبر جزءاً متما له ، والتي يقر المقاول بأنه بحثها بدقة ووافق على القيام بالاعمال الموضحة بها وأنه عين المواقع التي ستقصد
عليها الاعمال موضوع التعاقد .

Anglo-American Nile Company

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)

This company commenced operating tourist cruise steamers on the Nile in 1896 (Fig.1). It was a direct competitor to the old established business built up by Thomas Cook and Son.

The timing of this venture could not have been better. Cook's were just recovering from having their fleet of Nile steamers commandeered by the British army to ferry troops along the Nile to quell the uprising in the Sudan. Furthermore, there was an expansion in the number of tourists travelling to Egypt to see the ancient monuments and antiquities. In addition there were now comfortable hotels in Cairo, Luxor and Aswan - with some being extended and more in the process of construction.

Initially Anglo-American had three steamers: *Mayflower*, *Indiana* and *Niagara*, which travelled along the Nile between Cairo and Aswan. The *Mayflower* was a so-called express steamer. Anglo-American quickly realised that they too had to have their own hotels (just like Cook), so in 1900 it opened the Savoy Hotel on Elephantine Island in the Nile at Aswan. A post office was established there in 1901, but business was poor due to World War 1 and it was closed down in 1914.

In 1906 the Hamburg America Line took over Anglo-American to form Hamburg & Anglo-American Nile Company (Fig. 2). At about this time five more steamers were added to their fleet, these were named *Britannia*, *Puritan*, *Victoria*, *Germania* and *Nubia* (Fig. 3). The *Nubia* was used on the stretch of the Upper Nile between Shellal and Halfa, providing a seven-day return cruise.

Tourist trade was good, although there were temporary setbacks caused by two world wars and of course the great Depression in the 1930s. Then in the early 1950s King Farouk nationalised most of the foreign companies in Egypt, including the operators of the Nile steamers.

Nowadays there are about 300 steamers plying up and down the Nile. Some of these are the old ones that have been restored to their former glory. In the late 1940s the *Puritan* was converted into a floating hotel, but sadly the *Indiana* and *Nubia* are rusting away on the banks of the Nile.



Fig.1 Anglo-American headed envelope used from the Winter Palace Hotel Luxor, 17 February 1927.

References:

Baedeker's Egypt, 1908.

Alan Dumelow *The Nile Cruise Ships and its Origins*.



Fig. 2 A 2 mills visiting card envelope used from the Winter Palace Hotel Luxor, 8 February 1909. Addressed to the Hamburg America Line at Luxor.

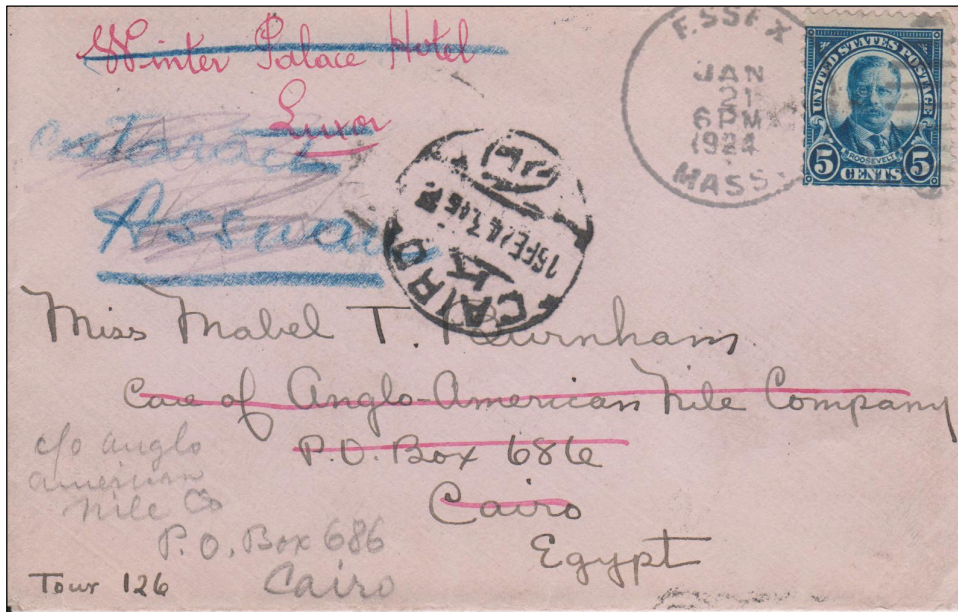


Fig. 3 An envelope from America in 1924 addressed to a passenger on **Tour 126, Care of Anglo-American Nile Company** at Cairo. Re-addressed to the Winter Palace Hotel, Luxor, the Cataract Hotel, Aswan, and then back to Anglo-American in Cairo!

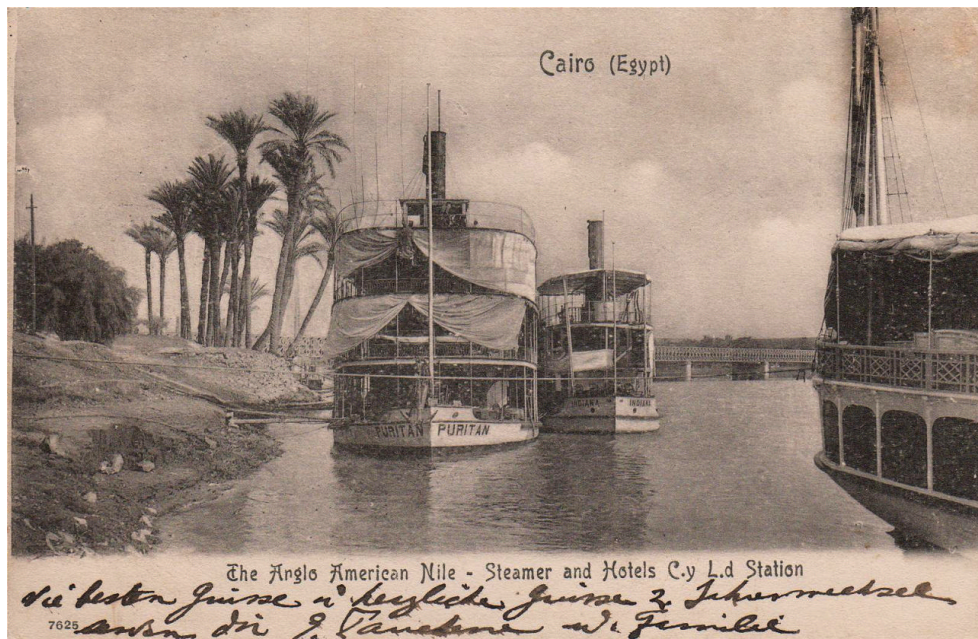


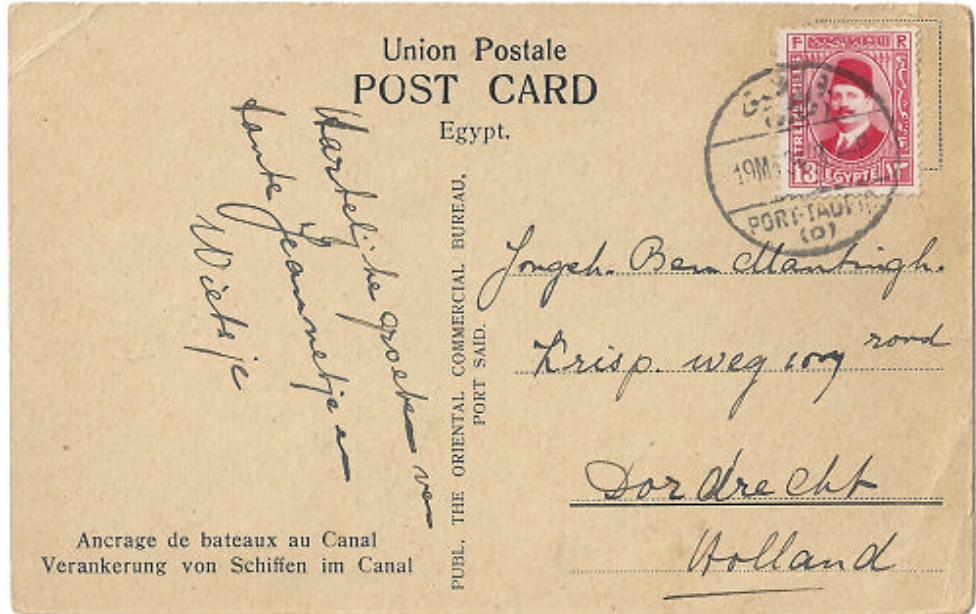
Fig. 4 Postcard featuring the A.A. steamers Puritan and Indiana tied up on the Nile. Posted Cairo 22 XII 05, with arrival CDS Luxor Hotel, Luxor (HL2) the following day

Stamps and Rates: 13 millième Postcard Rate November 1931 to October 30, 1951

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

The 13 millième rate for postcards abroad had been 10 millièmes for ten years when it was raised in November 1931, excluding the concessionary British Empire rate. It was obviously decided that a new 13 millième stamp should be added to the current definitive set, the Second Fuad, which duly appeared in January 1932. The common franking between these dates is 10 millième and 3 millième stamps.

Postcards franked with the new stamp are easily found.



Note the oval Chemins der Fer cachet and commemorative cancel.



Somewhat unusually, this rate was also used for four commemoratives which to a degree reflect various current post-rate charges. Illustrated are the 1933 Railway Congress and the 1935 UPU stamps; the others are the 1934 Aviation Congress and 1936 Exhibition sets. This was not repeated for the remaining 15 years of this postcard rate.

The 13 millième stamp was quite useful for completing other rates

Each additional weight stage above 20g was 13 millièmes. The overseas rate Nov 1931 to Aug 1940 was 20 millièmes with registration also 20 millièmes.

Two covers shown one with a registration 20 millième for postage and one with a 40 millième for postage and registration, both with the 13 millième stamp for the next weight band



Quite a common use was for paying airmail rates.

A 33 millième rate to Europe was made up of the 20 millième normal letter rate plus 13 millièmes air surcharge. This was dependent on carrier and varied over the 1930s according to country of destination.



To the UK the rate was 28 millièmes, comprising the 15 millième normal letter rate plus 13 millièmes air surcharge. This was also dependent on carrier.

Note that this was posted soon after the Third Fuad set was issued and uses the 15 millième value from that issue, which had only a short life due to the death of King Fuad.

I believe the intended use for this stamp to be quite rare, in fact the one illustrated (previous page) is the only one I have seen after many years of searching for it.

Not only did it have a short time for postcard use but by the 1950s tourists and others were preferring to send their postcards by air. The second postcard shown has an additional 10 millième stamp, the current air surcharge for France.



I believe, however, that for a postcard to be eligible for air transmission it had to be franked at the normal letter rate, which at the time was 22 millièmes so including the air surcharge would total 32 millièmes.

Interestingly the Maréchal 13 millième stamp has a higher catalogue value than the 50 millièmes value, indicating that it is not very common as a stamp. The catalogue value of "Kingdom of Egypt and Sudan" overprinted version is less than half, although the barred version has a slightly higher value.



This also points to the fact not many were sold or used in the "virgin" state.

A card sent registered at 26 millièmes, comprising the 6 millième internal postcard rate plus 20 millièmes for registration.

J. Stanley Horesh (ESC 118)

With great regret we report the death, on January 24, of our Deputy Chairman of the last 20 years or more.

A full obituary will appear in the next QC.

Armenian Refugee Camp at Port Said

Scott Van Horn (ESC 619)

Armenians have been an important part of Egyptian culture since the reign of Mohamed Ali. They have founded schools and colleges, acted as diplomats and agents, and served in the Egyptian heavy-armoured cavalry. But Armenians have not always been treated well in their homeland in the Ottoman Empire. Towards the end of the 19th century local officials began to support ethnic genocides, labelling the Armenians enemies of the state. Two of the largest massacres occurred in 1895-96 in Turkey, and in 1909 in Cilicia. It has been reported that of the two million Armenians originally living in the area at the time, only about one quarter survived.

In response to these massacres, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) was founded in April 1906 by an Armenian named Boghos Nubar of Cairo (he was the son of Nubar Pasha, who served as the first Prime Minister of Egypt). His main idea behind the founding of the AGBU was "to assist in the intellectual, moral, and economic progress of the Armenian people in the homeland, and to encourage projects or publications which strive toward that goal". And during the next ten years, the AGBU had more than fulfilled that goal by establishing more than 80 chapters with 5,000 members, and created at least 30 schools in and around Turkey. But this tremendous growth was soon halted as the massacres continued, and by 1915 the AGBU had lost most its membership and building infrastructure. This also had the affect of shifting the emphasis from long-term projects and growth to one of emergency relief such as shelters, hospitals and orphanages, and running the administrative area of camps, including the organising of schools, and for the providing of teachers.

The refugee camp at Port Said was formed and organised in September 1915 by William Hornblower, Minister of the Interior in Alexandria, to assist the several thousand Armenians escaping this latest period of unrest. The Armenians were rescued off the coast of Cilicia by French and English cruisers after the French noticed a large distress flag atop a mountain. The Armenians had spent five weeks embedded on the mountain top fighting the Turks and resisting deportation.



Armenian refugees at the Port Said Camp (courtesy of Grace H. Knapp).

Under the guidance and administration of the AGBU, the camp, despite the conditions, became fairly self-sustaining. It included almost everything a typical small town would have: an administration building, schools, churches, bakeries, stores, a hospital, and several industries, including weaving, comb and spoon making. Some of the industries were extremely successful: the bakery, for example, provided baked goods for the YMCA, Navy, Army, and Australian Canteens. Numerous outside societies also provided aid and assistance to the camp, most notably the Friends of Armenia, London, who organised a very successful embroidery and lace industry, in which the profits not only paid the workers but also offset the administration of the camp.

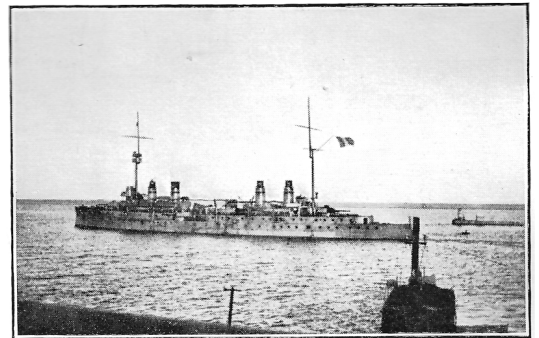
By the end of 1919 only about half of the original refugees still remained at the camp, but another 3,000 had been relocated. Many of the refugees found employment elsewhere, while some joined the Armenian battalion, and fought against the Turks in the Palestine campaigns. After 1919 there doesn't seem to be any information about the camp, and some literature mentions that it was disbanded by this time.



The letter illustrated was mailed from the Port Said camp administration office on 11-12 May 1917 (the Port Said departure CDS indicates 11 May, but the magenta refugee administration mark shows 12 May), and was received at the AGBU offices in Cairo on 13 May. The envelope is posted free of charge, and is sealed with a white on blue Egyptian Government label #132D.



Armenian children at the Port Said refugee camp



French cruiser that saved 4,000 Armenians near Antioch

Military Matters – ‘On the Town’ the American Fleet Visits Egypt.

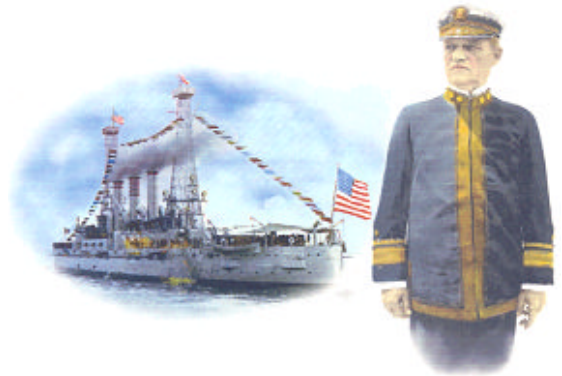
Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

I couldn't resist the title, taken of course from that splendid 1949 film in which three sailors – Gabey (Gene Kelly), Chip (Frank Sinatra) and Ozzie (Jules Munshin) – take shore leave in New York. It wasn't until a trip to New York some ten years ago that my wife and I understood the meaning of the song, with the line “the Bronx is up and the Battery down”. Now, far be it for me to make any comment on the propriety of American sailors on shore leave after having been cooped on ship sans female company, but over the years the American fleet has made calls on Egyptian ports.

Linking items philatelically is not very easy but for the fact that American Navel postmarks often include the port of call, and some covers have cachets linking a postal item to Egypt. Such items are not common and some are highly sought after by collectors of Naval mail.

At the turn of the nineteenth century the American President Theodore Roosevelt wanted to showcase America's naval power and to this end he ordered the American Fleet to undertake a lengthy cruise around the world. It was known as the “Great White Fleet” because all the warships' hulls and superstructures were painted white except for the gilded scrollwork with a red, white, and blue banner on their bows. After the Spanish-American war, where Roosevelt had distinguished himself in Cuba, America began to emerge as one of the great military powers.

The Great White Fleet sailed from Hampton Roads, Virginia, on December 16, 1907, returning to Hampton Roads on February 22, 1909. It consisted of 16 battleships divided into four squadrons, along with various escorts, under the command of Rear Admiral Charles S. Sperry



USS Houston with Rear Admiral Charles Sperry, who was in charge of the fleet

The fleet reached Suez on January 3, 1909. The transit through the Canal would be the largest in history, started on three successive days in groups of four, five and seven vessels and leaving the Canal closed to other traffic. A select group of sailors were put ashore at Suez, without officers; many of these went to Cairo and rejoined their ships at Port Said, where the fleet departed on January 4-6, 1909.

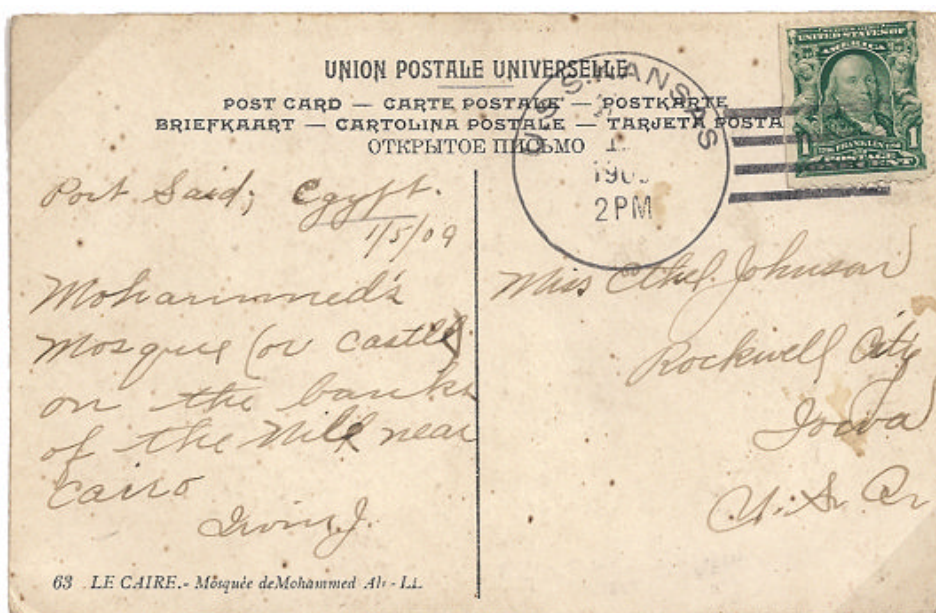


Fig.1

Under US Navy General Order No 74 of June 27, 1908, naval Ship Post Offices were established, with navy mail clerks. The ships of the Great White Fleet were the first to make use of these naval markings, which are eagerly sought after by collectors. The postcard *Fig.1* is dated January 5, 1909.

After defeat by Russia in a campaign in the winter of 1914-15, the Turkish Government made the Armenian community a scapegoat for the military losses that had occurred at the hands of the Russians. By the spring of 1915, leaders of the ruling party, the Committee of Union and Progress, seized the opportunity of a world preoccupied by war to erase the Armenian presence from almost all Ottoman lands.

Henry Morgenthau was the United States Ambassador to Ottoman Turkey from 1913 to 1916 and set out to help the Armenian refugees and alleviate the mass killings. Early in 1915 he was instrumental in alleviating the persecution of Jews in Palestine. He stopped wholesale deportations and negotiated acceptable terms for their stay there.



Morgenthau was also responsible for American naval ships — the *USS Des Moines* and *USS Tennessee* — which were active in the eastern Mediterranean. He used these ships to ferry refugees and supplies as necessary between Beirut, Jaffa, Alexandria and Constantinople, United States diplomats having secured safe passage of Jews and Armenians to Alexandria to save them from Ottoman persecution.

USS Des Moines (C-15/PG-29/CL-17) was one of six Denver-class protected cruisers. She was launched on September 20, 1902, and commissioned on March 5, 1904. On April 24, 1915, sailed from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for Alexandria, Egypt. She was finally decommissioned on April 9, 1921. *Fig.2*



Fig.2

USS Houston (CL-81) was a 10,000-ton Cleveland-class light cruiser and was the third ship to bear that name. *Houston* was built by the Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Company at Newport News, Virginia, and was commissioned on December 20, 1943.

After action in the Second World War she had a complete overhaul in New York harbour. She steamed on April 16, 1946, for an extended goodwill tour of European and African ports, visiting cities in Scandinavia, Portugal, Italy, and Egypt as part of the 12th Fleet.

Returning to Philadelphia on August 16, 1947, the *Houston* was decommissioned on December 15, 1947, placed in reserve for over a decade, and then finally stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on March 1, 1959, and scrapped. *Fig.3*

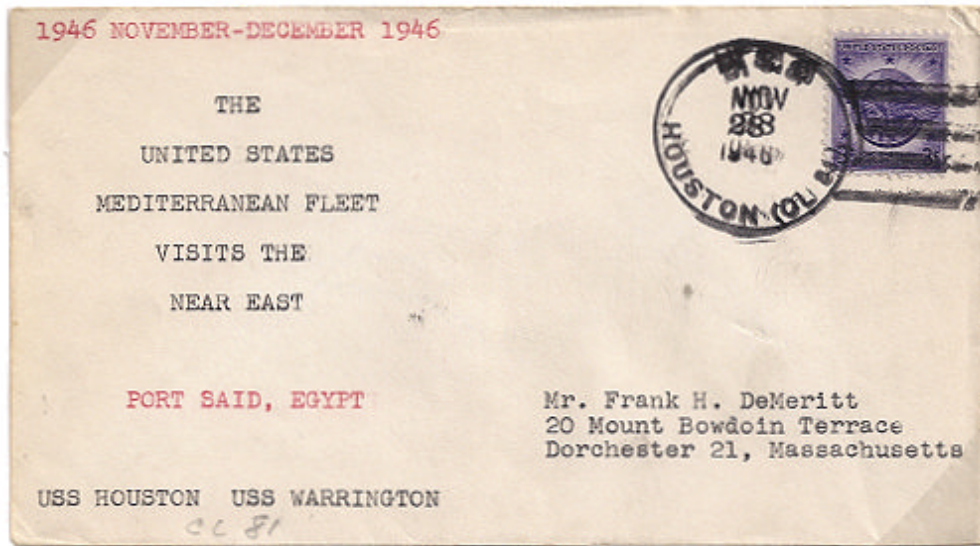


Fig.3



USS Samuel B. Roberts (DD-823), a Gearing-class destroyer, was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for Samuel B. Roberts, a Navy coxswain who was killed evacuating Marines during the battle of Guadalcanal in 1942. She was commissioned on 22 December 1946.

In August 1954 the ship headed for the western Pacific, via the Panama Canal, to begin an around-the-world cruise. The destroyer spent five months in the waters around Japan and the Philippines, then sailed across the Indian Ocean and through the Suez Canal, arriving home on 14 March 1955. Fig.4.

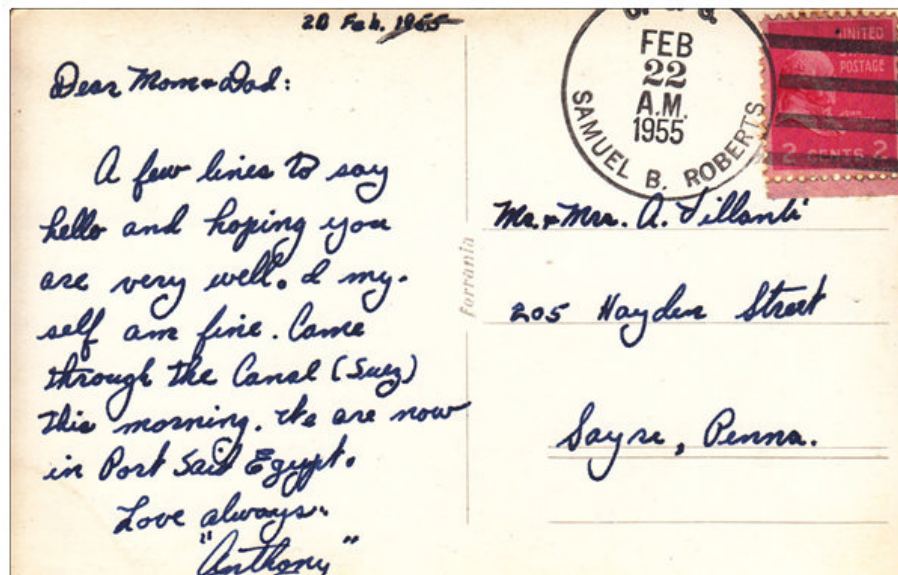


Fig.4

She joined the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean on 27 September and transited the Suez Canal on the night of 27/28 October, the last warship to transit the canal southbound before it was closed during the invasion of Egypt.

She was struck from the Navy List on 2 November 1970 and was sunk as a target 195 nautical miles off Puerto Rico on 14 November 1971.



USS Saratoga (CV-60) a Forrestal-class aircraft carrier and the sixth ship to use the name, was built at the New York Naval Shipyard and commissioned on April 14, 1956. The ship's name comes from the Revolutionary battle of Saratoga. She visited the Mediterranean annually from 1959 through 1967. In 1967, she was in the area at the start of the Six Day War. After action in the Vietnam War she joined the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

Saratoga was one of two aircraft carriers to challenge Libya in 1986. In the early 1990s the ship was actively engaged in Operation Desert Storm, with over 10,000 active missions. For the war she passed through the Suez Canal although I doubt there was time for shore leave. She was decommissioned in August 1994. *Fig.5*



Fig.5

A Forged Cover of the Egyptian Office in Tripoli

Peter A. S. Smith. (ESC 74)

A cover from the Egyptian post office in Tripoli, Lebanon, was offered on eBay in January, as I write. This was exciting, as hitherto no cover was known from this office. An image (somewhat fuzzy. I am afraid) is shown here.

The cover is a fake, but it is superficially convincing; I hope none of our members has been seduced by it! The evidence begins with the cancellation. It is a long-known, but very good, forgery characterized by the slightly mismatched O in TRIPOLI. It is slightly higher; that is, the O does not rest on a hypothetical arc that would touch the bottom of each of the other letters. Then there is the date, NOV XX. The year date is uncertain, but is clearly of two digits, whereas the genuine cds of Tripoli (and also of the other eastern Levant offices, from Mersina to Iaffa) always shows the year in four digits. Furthermore, the Tripoli post office was closed at the end of February 1872, and therefore there were only two months, January and February, when stamps of the 1872 issue were current. No month after then is possible for Tripoli on a Third Issue stamp, such as the 2pi. yellow on the cover in question. The postmarks on the front are of Tripoli, a required information strike, plus an adventitious, poorly struck, Cairo. The latter, if it were a transit marking, would have been applied to the back, not the front.



The cover itself is a genuine one that was sent from Cairo to Suez, and had nothing to do with Tripoli. A 1pi, or 2 pi, stamp was presumably affixed and cancelled at Cairo, but was removed by the forger, who replaced it with a 2pi. stamp, on which a forged Tripoli cancellation was applied (incidentally covering up any bits of the initial cancellation that fell on the cover itself). The information strike of Cairo could not be covered, so was left where it was.



Hotel Pension Antonio

Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264)

In reference to the extensive article by Pierre Grech on Helouan, recently published in the QC. I have a few items from the Hotel Pension Antonio in Helouan. This small family-run hotel was opened in the early 1900s and closed in the mid-1950s. The lady who was the last owner of the hotel lives in Cairo. I spoke to her. Unfortunately, she has kept nothing. No cancelling devices, stationery, nothing... Pity !



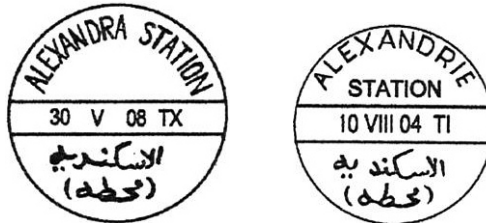
The front and back(next page) of a postcard showing the hotel with a circular hotel handstamp in light red, postmarked 1905.

Queries and Reponses**Query 110 from Ronny Van Pellecom (ESC 618) – Alexandria Station postmarks**

In the Seymour Blomfield classification of classical-period postmarks later published by Peter Feltus are illustrated the following five postmarks for Alexandria Stazione. Does any member have definitive information about dates of use? I should be grateful for any illustrations that members might have.



Similarly, these two markings for Alexandria Station are illustrated by Edmund Hall in his update to the study (*QC 191*, December 1999, pp 86-95). I have not been able to discover examples of these and hope that members might be able to provide me with them.

**Query 111 from Ronny Van Pellecom (ESC 618) – Mex First postmark**

This very rare postmark, of Mex / First with star and crescent and the date 31 A0 85, is illustrated in *L'Orient Philatélique* of January 1962, after which a drawing was also published by Peter Smith on page 499 of his *Egypt: Stamps and Postal Stationery*. I should be very grateful to know which of our members has this cover in his/her collection today, and to try to understand its usage.

**Query 112 from Denis Vandervelde (non-member) – Disinfected**

I have been sitting for 20 years on a cover which was in a collection I bought for other good items. I did not understand where and why it was disinfected, but hoped that another would turn up. I am still hoping

The cover is obviously genuine, and I do not think the cachet has been added by a collector or dealer - why apply a one-off to a scruffy envelope and across a tear? My best guess is that it came from an infectious diseases ward in a hospital.

I hope someone can give me a lead on it. What mail from British military hospitals in 1940 is recorded? The cancellation on the stamp looks like M.P.O. / E.601, but it is not clear, the backstamp is E.602.



Query 113 from Scott Van Horn (ESC 619) – Postal stationery cutouts

I wonder if any member has any knowledge of the postal regulations concerning using stationery cutouts as postage. I know some agencies allow the practice, and some do not. I illustrate a window envelope of 17 Dec 1951 that uses cutouts of the 1m wrapper (NP SWR1) and the 2m on 3m surcharged provisional postal card (NP SPC 13), from 1889 and 1907 respectively, alongside a current 4m Marechal and 3m Air Mail to make up the 10m internal rate from Alexandria to Mansura. All four are post-office cancelled.



EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (GENERAL ACCOUNT)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012**

	2011	2012
INCOME		
Subscriptions	3,866.61	4,097.67
Auction account	50.01	2,470.12
Bank deposit interest received (net)	1.20	1.19
Donations	104.80	46.01
Advertisements	<u>100.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>
	4,122.62	6,764.99
EXPENDITURE		
Meeting room hire	642.00	684.00
Cost of quarterly circulars	3,611.73	3,279.33
Website costs	152.30	118.44
Officers' stationery, telephone etc	133.04	284.43
Insurance	<u>36.92</u>	<u>36.92</u>
	<u>4,575.99</u>	<u>4,403.12</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(453.37)	2,361.87
Surplus at 1 January 2012	13,693.55	13,240.18
Surplus at 31 December 2012	<u>£13,240.18</u>	<u>£15,602.05</u>

BALANCE SHEET (GENERAL ACCOUNT)**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2012**

	2011	2012
ASSETS		
Photocopier written off	-	-
Stamp collection at catalogue valuation	5,251.00	5,251.00
Circle library and records	-	-
2013 room hire prepaid	600.00	420.00
Cash at bank		
Current account	6,262.63	7,968.28
Deposit account	<u>2,942.19</u>	<u>2,943.38</u>
	15,055.82	16,582.06
LIABILITIES		
Secretary's expenses		28.86
Treasurer's expenses	27.57	-
Members' subscriptions 2013	1,033.22	59.56
Printing of quarterly circular	<u>754.85</u>	<u>882.18</u>
	<u>1,815.64</u>	<u>980.61</u>
	<u>£13,240.18</u>	<u>£15,602.05</u>
Representing		
Accumulated surplus	<u>£13,240.18</u>	<u>£15,602.05</u>

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

S.W.Bunce Chartered Accountant
12 February 2013