

The
Quarterly Circular
of
**THE
EGYPT**



STUDY CIRCLE

June Quarter 2014

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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*
a Tripoli
بوسم جناب روضو عليها نمرة

désire savoir s'il a été reçu. يوجب 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) يتوض 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 يتوض 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

يجال 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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Meetings dates for 2014

Three meetings remain for this year, one each at the **Royal Philatelic Society**, 41 Devonshire Place, London; one at **Stampex**, in the Design Centre, Islington, North London; and one at the **Victory Services Club**, Seymour Street, Marble Arch.

July 19, 1pm	Royal Phil Soc	Egypt First Issue	Greg Todd
Sept 20, 2.30pm	Stampex	(1933 Railway Congress (Simon Arzt	Armen Varjabedian Richard Wheatley
Nov 1, 2pm	Victory Club	Cassette Envelopes	Peter Andrews

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

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Report of the Annual General Meeting, May 10, 2014

IMPORTANT: The Annual Meeting took a momentous decision in an attempt to counter the potentially disastrous effects of Royal Mail's postage increases on our worldwide despatch of the *Quarterly Circular*. As an experiment, all of this year's *QCs* will be placed on the website for members to download if they wish.

The printed version will also be sent out as normal – but at the end of the year members must let us know whether they wish to continue receiving the printed version. Those choosing to save the Circle money by viewing it only online will have their subscription cut by £5 to £15 for 2015. The subscription rate for those choosing the printed version will stay at £20 for 2015, but as we cannot forecast what the “online” uptake might be, we suggest strongly that there may have to be an increase for the printed version for 2016.

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Sami Sadek (Committee), Vahe Varjabedian (Egypt, Committee), Jon Aitchison, Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Pauline Gittoes, Peter Grech, Alan Jeyes, Tony Schmidt.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: John Davis (Librarian), David Sedgwick (Publicity), Trent Ruebush, Tony Chisholm, Ibrahim Shoukry, Angela Child, Ted Fraser-Smith, Paul Green, Stephen Roche, Richard Wilson.

Apologies for absence: See above. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising: Approved by acclamation; no matters arising.

Motion proposed by the Committee: The motion sent to all members with the AGM details, suggesting that the *QC* be presented online to save postage costs, was subject to an amendment proposed by Edmund Hall (ESC 239) and seconded by Sami Sadek (ESC 559). After much discussion, the amendment was passed by nine votes to two.

It reads: In light of recent massive increases in Royal Mail postal rates, it is proposed that the 2014 *Quarterly Circular* be placed within the members-only section of the website for viewing, download or printing by individual members as they wish. Printed *QCs* will also be sent to all members as normal for 2014. Members will be asked to express a definite preference for printed or online to the Secretary by the end of 2014: those choosing not to take the printed version will have a reduced subscription of £15 for 2015, while the subscription for those who choose the printed version will remain at £20. Those not expressing a preference will be considered to have chosen the printed version. Officers will take into account the size of the online take-up, but regret that ‘printed-version’ subscriptions will probably have to be increased for 2016.

During this debate the Secretary noted that members of the New Zealand Chapter have voluntarily increased their subscription to £25 to counter the postal increases. Members expressed the Circle's great gratitude.

Chairman's Report: Peter Andrews reported that 2013 had been a very successful year, with fascinating displays, but that it had been a fight. He appealed to all members, and particularly those newer on the scene, to volunteer to present their interests and research for the interest of their colleagues. He noted that displays did not always require a full three-hour presentation, and that half-meetings were perfectly acceptable.

Initial mini-auction a great success

Our first mini-auction, the brainchild of Jon Aitchison (ESC 661) and intended to provide an added attraction in our Meetings List, proved a real success, with six vendors offering an interesting and varied 47 lots, of which 23 (49 per cent) were sold to seven purchasers.

We are grateful to Jon and his colleagues, John Clarke (ESC 497) and the Treasurer, Brian Sedgley (ESC 268), for their hard work in organising the lots and the cash transactions involved, which resulted in over £70 for Circle funds. As a first step, we experienced the odd teething troubles, but nothing important, and we look forward to the next mini-auction at the July 19 meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society.

Secretary's Report: Mike Murphy reported that membership had remained fairly constant in 2013, with eight resignations, three deaths and three lapsings, offset by six new members and the return of three former members to membership, which now stands at 181, the lowest in several years. He did, however, present one more new applicant, who was confirmed by those present: welcome to Moe Rizkalla of Sydney.

He handed over to the Chairman who reported that the Macarthur Award for the most interesting *QC* article for 2013 had been won by a single point by Mike Murphy (ESC 240) for his article on the Boulad cut-outs, and presented him with a new Tutankhamun trophy provided by Sami Sadek, the former Scribe awards from the era of Nabil el Hadidi having come to their end.

Treasurer's Report: Brian Sedgley noted that the accounts showed a surplus for the year of £668.16 (against £4403.12 in 2012), due very largely to decrease in the amount transferred from the Auction account, on which, after the postage increases, we continue to depend. He reported that the Auction account and the general account had recently been merged to reduce potential confusion, and noted a slight increase in the accumulated surplus to £16,270.71.

Jon Aitchison pointed out, however, that this amount included £5,251 for our New Issues stamp collection "based on catalogue value", and queried whether this amount was realistic. Brian Sedgley made clear that the stated value covered both the stamp collection and the Library, but after much discussion it was agreed by the meeting that since Egypt had ceased sending us new issues it was unrealistic to try to continue. It was agreed that its keeper, Cyril Defriez (ESC 172), should show the collection at one of the 2015 meetings, and after that we investigate the sale of the stamps in aid of Circle funds.

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

Auction Report: Mike Murphy reported that Auction 52 (October 2013) had sold 48 per cent of 552 lots, providing the Circle with commission of £889.96, and that the Live Auction in February this year sold 58 per cent of 205 lots, producing commission (including donated material from Hilary Shaw and André Navari) of £558.40. He emphasised the importance of the Auctions and hoped that members would provide him with typed and illustrated lists of lots for sale in the autumn Auction 53 by August 10.

Editor/Webmaster Report: Edmund Hall reported 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, in addition to online presentation of the 2014 *QC*, plans were going ahead for the digitisation of all *QC*, *L'OP* and *Egyptian Topics* back copies.

Librarian's Report: In his absence his report was read out: John reported increased activity on the lending front in recent months and urged members to use the well-stocked Library in their researches. He reported with gratitude the gift of a beautifully bound copy of *Egypt Early Airmail 1910-1936* by Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264) and of books and archives from Peter Heim (ESC 384). The Library had also benefited from the purchase of Peter Grech's two favourably-reviewed books on the *French Post Offices in Egypt*. Income for the year was £17.50, and expenditure £117.82.

Election of Officers: The meeting heard with great regret that David Sedgwick, Publicity Officer, was not well and unable to continue. Members appealed to colleagues to contact the Secretary to volunteer.

Any Other Business: The Secretary announced that he had been able to augment an almost complete list of members back to 1935 found in a Peter Goodwin notebook and proposed to publish it on the website with an appeal to members to complete any gaps in the list.

He read out – anonymously – an email from a member in the USA accusing a member in Britain of maligning him over the abortive sale and return of philatelic material. The meeting instructed the Secretary to investigate further: he is happy to report that he now has assurances that the dispute is amicably resolved. Both members have been advised that any such matter should be settled between the members concerned rather than causing potential harm to the Circle's reputation by opening it to public attention.

The President, John Sears, proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for all their hard work during a year that had held rather more difficulties than most.

Date of the next AGM: Members are happy with the Services Club. A similar date will be chosen for 2015.

There then followed the Mini Auction (see panel) and an interesting Ten Sheets meeting: **Tony Schmidt** (ESC 198) followed up his article in QC 105 (March 1978) by showing postal paper ranging from 1893 to 1903 with cancellations of MPI, MI or MP (for Mandats Postaux Internationaux); and also intaglio seals of Roda / Fayoum and Abuxah / Fayoum on postal paper.

Mike Bramwell (ESC 448) showed a series of “doubly vandalised” covers from the Continental Hotel to UK, all having had their stamps stripped off. The other vandalism, however, took the form of beautiful hand-drawn illustrations covering the 1917 envelopes. Artwork accompanying his recent purchase suggested strongly that the drawings were the work of EBN, ie E.B. Norton, illustrator of many Egyptian postcards.



A ‘doubly vandalised’ beautiful hand-drawn envelope sent Registered from the Continental Hotel, Cairo, to St Johns Wood and dated 1 VI 17

Pauline Gittoes (ESC 662) asked a query about colour shades and variations in recently printed Egyptian stamps, and wondered about their collectability. The meeting felt that quality control at the printing house

was not up to standard, explaining many of these variations, but also that paper changes, subsequent issues of the same stamp, and even slightly altered designs for reissues all played a part in providing a wealth of minor varieties, many of which deserved their individual listings in the major catalogues.

Mike Murphy presented a couple of Rural covers with the Rural Service / Qantara-Rayyah CDS that simply looked “too good to be true”, with perfect strikes of the cartouches of Canal Garden and Ezbet Abu Subeih. Since this CDS, with recorded dates ranging only 1945-1950, is unusual, he appealed to members to come forward with other examples for investigation and authentication.

John Clarke surprised the meeting by showing a 17-millième Farouk Marechal royal imperforate with a double watermark, even providing a magnifying glass to prove his point. How could it be?

American Branch Meeting

TexPex 2014 was held Feb. 28-March 2 at the Hilton Dallas-Fort Worth Lakes Executive Conference Center, in Grapevine, Texas. The small ESC contingent consisted of Hany Makram, Trenton Ruebush, Andrew Titley, and Scott Van Horn. Saturday's ESC meeting went extremely well, and several discussions ensued ranging from U.S. membership, auctions, suggestions for journal articles, to collecting in general. For the exhibits, in the multi-frame division, Trenton Ruebush took home a Reserve Grand and Gold for his Egypt's Fourth Issue, 1879-1913 exhibit, and Richard Wilson took a Gold for his single-frame Egypt - The Three Millièmes Army Post Stamps, 1936-1941. A rare ice-storm stranded numerous attendees in Grapevine for several more days afterwards, but even though the show was small, most did find a few items of interest.

Barcode Registration Labels - Update

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

It is nearly three years since my two articles (*QC* 228, March 2009, pp. 111-115; *QC* 230, Sept 2009, p 163) introduced the wonderful world of Egypt's barcode registration labels, which had apparently previously gone completely unnoticed. Many more examples have been added in the intervening period – 84 different examples are now recorded, from all over Egypt, but since the study has attracted little enthusiasm, I now summarise the findings and illustrate the types recorded in the hope that at some stage another member might find time to follow up the research.



21514 Hadayq El Shlalat to Denmark 12-2-2014

The earliest recorded label I have is January 23, 2007 – but not too much should be read into that date: it is merely the earliest that happens to have come to my attention. I have no official evidence of when these labels were selected to take the place of the red and white printed versions. It does, however, seem that, in presenting a great leap forward by allowing tracking for numbering all registered items, it is here to stay. My latest recorded date is only last month.

Mute type A. Variation among the types can be followed through time. Originally (early 2007 to mid-2008) labels were provided merely with a barcode and its “translation” into a nine-figure code prefaced with RR and culminating in EG for Egypt. All are 50x25mm, with rounded corners. There may have been occasional problems with the final figure printing as an “X” – the vast majority have been altered by hand to a “0”.

Type B. Sometime in 2007, however, came a change, probably to make tracking more straightforward, with the introduction of post office names and postcodes. The dates appear to range from 2007 to March 2009. The size and shape, the barcode and its translation all remained the same, but beneath those lines of printing was added a single line with office name invariably in capital letters followed by a dash and the postcode. The style of lettering varies in size and weight, and the placing of the three lines of printing on the label itself also varies significantly.

What is perhaps even more significant is that the spelling of the office names varies widely between English and Arabic, with the Cairo district of Mohandessin rendered variously as ElMohandsien, El Mohandssen, El Mohandeseen, AlMohandsen and Al Mohandisin and Heliopolis as Heliopoles, Helioples, Heliopolis, Heleopolis and Hilupolis. For chief offices the word *raisy* is often used to signify “main”, but here again there is little consistency, with the word spelled Raesy, Raesie, Raesy, Raesy and Raesie.

Type C is represented by two examples of a single label from March and April 2008, a variant on the previous type with no postcode. It could simply be that the lettering of El Horya Hilupolis (ie, Horreya Street, Heliopolis) was too long to accommodate a postcode – but in other areas the typeface had been changed to make space.

Type D represents the label still in use. The size has remained the same, but the corners are now cut square, and the postcode is now placed before the office name, which is (almost) invariably in capitals and lower case, with a fair sprinkling of figures representing Arabic letters that have no English equivalents. Introduction of this type appears to have been in mid-2008. There is much greater uniformity in the printing, with the barcode and translation centrally placed, and the postcode and the office name set full left on the label. Typefaces are also uniform – but there are just three offices noted that maintain capital letters for the office name, Ataba Branch, Cairo Main and Zamalek Club. Why?

The last remaining **Type D**, is represented by two labels that have come to hand from parcels offices, using the code RS instead of the usual RR. One (Azbakia, Cairo) actually came on a parcel label, the other on a large envelope without any of the characteristics of a parcel beyond that it was posted via a machine canceller of Cairo Parcels. They are of two completely different types, but interestingly share a label size that is different from those of the postal labels.

Taking for granted, as we must, that each label is produced on the spot to fit a particular registered item, it certainly appears from the foregoing that all the RR (and RS) numbers attached to the barcodes form a successive trail, virtually confirming that all emanate from the same computer base, wherever in the country they are applied. Naturally, most of our examples are from the major cities, but we also have barcodes from as far afield as Hurghada (postcode 84511), Tenth of Ramadan City (44629) and Damietta (34734), indicating that the spread covers the whole country.



But where as the barcodes are uniform, the placement of the lines of text on the label, and the infinite varieties in the spelling of office names – and the variety of spellings for a single office - would suggest strongly that this element of the label is a local production, not ruled from afar by the computer but by the individual operator who happens to be sitting at the machine on the day. The occurrence of capital letters in a very few of the most up to date labels may be a result of this individuality, or may be a new diktat from on high. Further research may give an answer.

11511 AL KAHRA EL RAESE 'signed for' on arrival in UK

The remaining puzzle is the attitude of the British Post Office to these labels. Many, as mentioned earlier, are cancelled by hand on arrival. In many cases the Post Office handstamp requiring a signature on delivery is also cancelled by hand. The few examples I have from overseas rarely bear any local indication that the items in question are registered. Again, why?

Might this be because it is considered that the amount paid in Egypt for registration is so comparatively small that the item does not qualify for registration? Or is the local postman not conscientious enough to seek a signature on arrival, so simply cancels the requirement? I think not the latter: many of the letters I receive from Egypt are delivered when I am at work. And all bear a neat annotation: "Signed for on your behalf" from my local postie. Thank you, John!

Town/label/postcode	Date range	Barcode range (* indicates X amended)	Number altered by hand	Regist on arrival
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A. Mute				
Rounded rectangles 50x25mm with tall barcode and bold lettering.				
				
		RR003400427EG		
From Heliopolis West	23.1.07-6.8.07	RR007300027EG to RR007801236EG		2/2
From Cairo	26.12.07	RR003400427EG to RR007801236EG		2/2
From Manchiet Bakri	9.3.08-26.7.08	RR009000576EG to RR009000739EG		2/2
From Heliopolis	23.1.07-4.3.08	RR007300027EG to RR10800406XEG*	1/3	3/3

B. Name before Postcode

Rounded rectangles 50x25mm, letters invariably in capitals. Notable variation in height of barcode, spacing between lines, typeface weight and size.



RR000040779EG

ELGIZA AOWAL-12511



RR00219325XEG

HELIOPOLIS ELRAEIS - 11757

Alexandria Main

ALX.-EL RAESYE – 21519	2007	RR0000343070EG		0/1
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Alexandria Traffic Centre

ALIX TRAFIC CENTER - 21511	04.09-20.6.10	RR00484888XEG to RRR0048590XEG*	1/2	1/2
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Cairo Main

CAIRO MAIN – 11511	22.6.07?-2008	RR00557316XEG*-RR00559374XEG	1/2	1/2
ELCAHERA ELRAESIE – 11511	30.12.07-16.1.08	RR00340531XEG-RR00341122XEG		0/2
EL KAHERA EL RAESY – 1530	6.2.08-10.3.08	RR00466456XEG-RR00467592XEG		0/2

Damietta

DEMYAT – 34511	2008	RR000061905EG		1/1
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Ezbet el Lahm (Damietta)

EZBET ELLAHM – 34734	9.3.08	RR00227299XEG*	1/1	1/1
AZBET ELLAHM – 34734	26.7.08	RR00395695XEG*	1/1	1/1

Giza Main

ELGIZA AOWAL -12511	2007	RR000040779EG		1/1
FIRST GIZA – 12511	2008	RR0063543XEG*	1/1	0/1

Heliopolis

HELEOPOLES – 11777	23.6.08-11.9.08	RR00498940XEG* to RR00500646XEG*	6/6	1/6
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Heliopolis Main

HELIOPLES ELRAEESY – 11757	24.5.07-11.9.07	RR000059622EG to RR000061131EG	0/6	3/6
HELIOPOLIS ELRAEISI – 11757	17.11.07-9.4.08	RR00214729XEG to RR00219325XEG*	6/10	9/10

Heliopolis West

HELEOPOLIS GARP – 11771	9.2.08	RR00295066XEG*	1/1	1/1
HILUPOLIS GHARB – 11771	30.7.08	RR00604466XEG	0/1	0/1

Mazloun (Alexandria)

MAZLOWM - 21619	2007-2008	RR00533704XEG-RR00533884XEG		2/2
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Nasr City (Cairo)

MASAKEN MADENT NASR - 11759	9.5.07	RR000053789EG		0/1
ELHAY ELTHAMEN – 11762	6.10.07-27.12.07	RR000016569EG to RR00370724XEG	0/2	0/2
ALHAI ALTHAMEN – 11762	23.2.08-23.6.08	RR00486377XEG* to RR00487963XEG*	2/2	1/2
ALHAI EL THAMN - 11762	01.2009	RR00622435XEG*	1/1	1/1

Mitubis

MTOUBS – 33625	2.1.08-30.3.08	RR00183761XEG* to RR00183828XEG*	3/3	3/3
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Mitubis Branch

MOTOBAS FAREI – 33649	16.12.07-5.3.08	RR00186075XEG* to RR00186105XEG*	3/3	2/3
SUB MTUBAS - 33649	2.4.09	RR00583594XEG*	1/1	0/1

Mohandessin (Cairo)

ELMOHANDSIEN – 12655	16.1.07-15.12.07	RR00354628XEG to RR00354910XEG	0/2	1/2
EL MOHANDSSEN – 12655	31.5.07-31.5.07	RR000056149EG to RR000056150EG		2/2
EL MOHANDESEEN – 12655	5.9.07-29.10.07	RR00143871XEG to RR00144433XEG	0/3	0/3
ALMOHANDSEN – 12655	6.3.07-25.3.08	RR00457890XEG* to RR00458195XEG*	2/2	2/2
AL MOHANDISIN – 12655	21.8.08	RR00601255XEG*	1/1	1/1

October Panorama (Nasr City)

BANORAMA OCTOBER - 11811	15.12.07	RR000012288EG		
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Ramleh Station

MAHATIT AL RAML – 21563	27.7.11	RR00626097XEG*	1/1	1/1
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San Stefano (Alexandria)

SANSTEFANO – ALX – 21532	15.12.08	RR004198959XEG		1/1
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Sidi Gaber

SIDY GABER – 21523	23.6.07-27.10.07	RR000009183EG to RR000009409EG		2/3
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SEDE GABER – 21523 Shubra (Cairo)	30.11.08-12.3.09	RR00319699XEG*-RR00320110XEG*	3/3	3/3
DWARAN SHOUPRA – 11689 Tenth of Ramadan City	28.7.2008	RR00550534XEG*	1/1	1/1
ELASHER MEN RAMADAN AWAL – 44629 Zamalek Club (Cairo)	21.6.08-13.8.08	RR00223928XEG* to RR00223981XEG*	2/2	1/2
ELZAMALIK CLUP – 12649	12.2008-02.2009	RR00474211XEG-RR00474228XEG*	1/2	1/2

C. Name without Postcode

One only, 50x25mm, with rounded corners, narrow barcode, but no mention within the label of the office Postcode.

**Heliopolis Horreya Street**

ELHORYA HELUPOLIS Mar-Apr 2008 RR00438434XEG

D. Postcode before Name

Normal 50x25mm, but uniformly square corners. Barcode central, Postcode and office name uniformly set to left.

Variation seen only in a few offices using capital letters (three only recorded so far)

**Al Ataba Branch (Cairo)**

11511 ALATABA FAREY 2008 RR00 195 1999EG 0/1

Bab el Luq (Cairo)

11513 Bab el Louq 10.2011 RR01189857EG 0/1

Cairo Main

11511 El Qahera El Raisi 15.4.09 RR004784224EG 1/1

11511 AL KAHRA ELRAESY 14.2.12 RR012630936EG 1/1

11511 AL KAHRA EL RAESE 13.5.12 RR014858350EG 1/1

11511 ELQAHRA ELRAESY 12.11.12 RR016447365EG 0/1

Damanhur Main

22511 Damnhor El Ra2isi 10.5.09 RR001256912EG 0/1

22511 Damnhor El Raisi 16.9.09 RR005123810EG 0/1

Ezbet el Lahm (Damietta)

34734 3zba El La7m 02.2009 RR001813273EG 1/1

Gezira - Zamalek

11568 El Gazira /Zamalek 9.2.14-3.4.14 RR019245376EG-RR019246500EG 2/2

Haraka al Rais (Alex)

21511 Markaz El 7araka El Ra2is 05.2011-20.5.11 RR000646771EG-RR000647616EG

Heliopolis Main

11757 Heliopolis 12.2008-23.12.13 RR001848646-RR020288538EG 27/35

Heliopolis West

11771 Heliopolis Gharb 8.2.09-20.10.13 RR003004775EG-RR019276617EG 2/7

Hurghada

84511 Herghada 29.11.08-16.12.10 RR002332283EG-RR009965095EG 2/4

Maadi (Cairo)

11728 El Maadi 12.2009 RR005934441EG 0/1

11931 Maadi Saqr Cornish 4.9.10 RR002207141EG 0/1



Malek el Saleh (Cairo)

11559 El Malek El Saleh date? RR011786543EG 0/1

Manshia (Alexandria)

21528 El Manshia 18.6.08-15.3.14 RR000668280EG-RR019026129EG 7/9

21519 Alex BL Manshia 28.4.10-13.6.11 RR007013879EG-RR011633627EG 1/2

Manshiet el Bakry (Cairo)			
11774 Manshia el Bakry	26.3.09	RR004740515EG	0/1
Manteqa el Senaya St (Cairo)			
12677 El Manteqa El Senaia /Ab	date?	RR010073736EG-011641274EG	0/2
Mazloum (Alexandria)			
21619 Mazlom	late 2008	RR003623450EG	0/1
Mitubis			
33625 Mtobs	14.10.09-27.6.10	RR05806986EG-RR008181236EG	2/2
Mitubis Branch			
33649 Mtobs Far3y	12.4.2009	RR001735186EG	1/1
33649 Mtobs Farey	31.1.12-5.3.14	RR008105302EG-RR020920538EG	3/3
Nasr City (Cairo)			
11762 El Hay El 8	18.6.12	RR013104525EG	1/1
11727 El Hay El 7	6.7.13	RR013645954EG	0/1
New Nozha (Cairo)			
11843 El Nozha El Gidida	20011?	RR013177620EF	0/1
<i>Two of the Type D barcodes in capital letters</i>			
Omrانيا (Giza)			
12551 El Omrania El Sharkia	21.5.13	RR008053993EG	0/1
Qaria El Atfal (Cairo)			
11787 Qaria El Atfal	2010?	RR009776202EG	0/1
Rehab City (Cairo)			
11841 Madina El Rehab	2.7.12	RR013430635EG	1/1
Rushdy (Alex)			
21529 Roshdi	24.1.11	RR010675152EG	1/1
Shalalat Gardens (Alex)			
21514 Hadayq El Shlalat	early-mid 2014	RR012317572EG-RR016623706EG	0/4
Shibin el Kom			
32511 Shebin El Ra2isi	15.1.09-2010	RR001429930EG-RR008023121EG	1/2
32511 Shebin El Raisi	30.10.12-31.12.13	RR012766752EG-RR015611613EG	1/5
32514 El Br El Sharqy	22.11.12-22.5.13	RR012201835EG -RR014818885EG	0/3
Sidi Gaber (Alexandria)			
21523 Sidy Gaber	8.6.09-29.3.14	RR005097482EG-RR021226146EG	4/6
Sixth of October			
12568 El Hay El Motamiz	18.10.11-4.9.13	RR009612858EG-RR015720539EG	2/2
Zamalek (Cairo)			
11561 El Zamalek	20.1.09-3.1.12	RR003737259EG-RR013147353EG	2/2
Zamalek Club (Cairo)			
12649 NADI ELZAMALEK	8.9.11-15.9.11	RR012028567EG-RR01208641EG	1/2
Zeitoun Gardens (Cairo)			
11725 Hadayq El Ziton	03.2009	RR002100759EG	1/1

E. Parcels			
Large label, 90x15mm, square corners, code RS not RR. Cairo Parcels is mute; El Azbakia has barcode and Office name in one line, and Postcode alone at top right			
			
			
Cairo Parcels	18.5.08	RS00001964XEG	0/1
El Azbakia	11669 mid 2010	RS001806434EG	1/1

The Mariette Pacha - Scrapped But Not Forgotten

Anabright Hay (ESC 600)

Egyptian scenes and symbols have long graced the interior walls of many ships. I was reminded of this on a recent trans-Tasman voyage on the Princess Cruise Line ship *Diamond Princess*, on which Egyptian murals and columns decorate the Explorers Lounge.

Those with a knowledge of maritime history and Egyptian shipping postcards and postal history will know that Egyptian themed murals, furniture, architecture, china, sculpture and inlaid marquetry have long

been popular. This popularity is displayed not only in hotels, homes and commercial buildings but also on ships. The Art Deco movement was influenced by the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb and Egyptomania continues unabated.



Egyptianising decoration in the Explorers Lounge of the Diamond Princess cruise ship. January 2014

So where did this love of Egypt on the ocean wave begin? Who knows, but it was the postcards produced by the great French shipping company Messageries Maritimes that especially caught my admiring gaze. The company created in 1835 by the French Government, and its postal service as a state-owned steamship company to carry mail and passengers, is a fruitful field of study for any philatelist, postcard collector or postal history buff.



A modern postcard replica of the famous Daviel Messageries Maritimes poster of the 1920s

With many ships servicing routes across the globe, including its colonial positions in North Africa, Indo China, West Africa and the South Pacific, Messageries Maritimes literally took French ingenuity and artistry worldwide. Based in Marseilles, the company's ships were cosy floating mansions. Their interior wood panelling, glass and furnishings were finished to the highest level of craftsmanship.

The postcards issued by the company to display their ships and advertise their ports of call are works of collectable art. They were illustrated with beauty, humour and charm by top artists and photographers. Shipboard stationary, postmarks, posters and luggage labels are also impressive.

Egypt, Alexandria and Port Said in particular were not only regularly visited by their ships but early Messageries Maritimes ships also bore Egyptian names. In 1843 the *Osiris* was launched for Government services to Egypt and the Levant. Sister ships, *Egyptus*, *Louqsor*, *Alexandrie*, *Caire*, *Nil* and *Telemarquenet* were launched soon after and sometimes used on Italian routes.

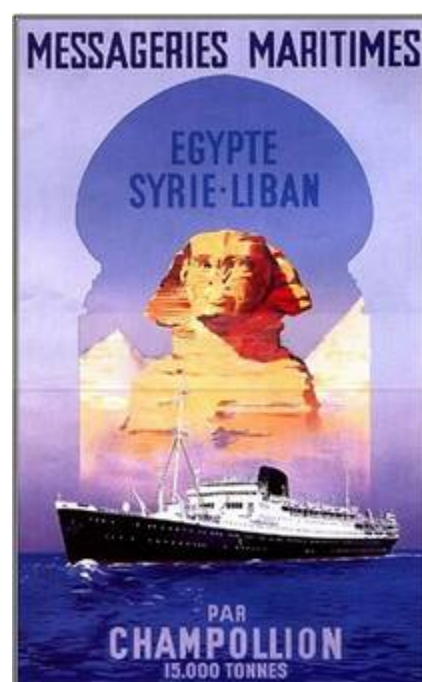
The *Mariette Pacha*, sister ship to the *Champollion*, was launched in 1925 as an express postal paquebot for the Marseilles-Alexandria service. Named after the French

archaeologist Auguste Mariette, the *Mariette Pacha* was 156m long and carried 188 passengers in first class, 135 in second class, and 128 in third. She must have been an exciting introduction to Egypt as she sailed into Alexandria Harbour. Her interior was decorated with beautiful inland woodwork and Egyptian themed painted scenes.

Like many ships in this company she had a varied history. In 1941 she made three voyages repatriating Levantine troops to Beirut. In July 1944, when ordered to take the ship to Marseilles, the crew refused. The Germans moved her themselves into the Wilson basin. In August, when ordered to evacuate the ship, the crew exploded two bombs that split her in two. In 1946 she was raised and broken up for scrap. A sad end for a majestic vessel.

The author of the book *Merchant Fleets*, Duncan Haws, says it is difficult to give an exact time with which to mark the end of Messageries Maritimes. Its demise started with the creation of the Compagnie Generale Maritime and the fusion that became fact in 1977. It nevertheless took a further three years of disposals and transfers before this magnificent French company disappeared, Haws says.

But Mariette Pacha the Egyptologist has not been forgotten in his home town of Boulogne sur Mer, where his statue adorns numerous postcards. No doubt his likeness is on a stamp somewhere. For the keen collector a wealth of material about the man, the ship and the great French shipping company that launched his name on the sea still wait to be further researched.



Collectibles of all sorts await the enthusiast: clockwise from right above: the *Mariette Pacha* in stormy seas, a poster of the *Champollion*, Mariette's monument in Boulogne-sur-Mer, a return address from a *Mariette Pacha* officer, and the vessel's grand dining salon.

Stationery Cutouts Revisited

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Reaction to my recent article *Stationery Cutouts Valid for Postage?* (QC 245, June 2013, pp 224-229) has been much greater than I expected, and members' responses to the late Gabriel Boulad's campaign to get the Egyptian Post Office to accept stationery cutouts as valid on postage has resulted in the "archive" of related items leaping from 44 to no fewer than 60 as new examples have come to light.

I am grateful to the following for their help and co-operation in providing illustrations of unrecorded covers: Peter Andrews, Hisham Bassyouny, Cyril Defriez, Andy Gould, Edmund Hall, Vahe Varjabedian. And Ted Fraser-Smith went a step further: he mailed me four covers, and said: "They're yours!" Thank you, Ted.



1890 stationery cover plus stamps and invalid cover cutout used to Holland in 1914 (left); and 4m Boy King card cutout used from Cairo to Alexandria in 1943

But first to a direct reaction to the article. Charlie Hass (ESC 188), who has been far from well recently, got on the phone with some bad news – the two "unrecorded" bar overprints that I spotted on cutouts of two of Boulad's covers were unrecorded for a good reason – they are fakes. Charlie, the acknowledge world expert in bar overprints, is adamant that they belong to the mass of forged material produced in the Middle East at the time. Excitement over.

The rush of new material has nevertheless produced more excitement of its own, and in particular in the shape of three covers that have nothing to do with the campaign, though they are franked with cutouts.

First, provided by Andy Gould (*left above*), is the only one in the series from Port Said. Dated 22 MY 14, it is an 1890 5m postal stationery envelope (NP6) provided with a current 2m DLR pictorial, an 1881 1m DLR definitive and a cutout from an 1889 2m envelope (NP 5) to cover the 10m rate to Holland. Perhaps significantly, it is addressed to a philatelist!

Edmund Hall produced an illustration of an odd cover (*right above*), dated 8 JU 43, and addressed to Alexandria from an Italian internee in Camp 17 (Fayed). It is franked with a cutout from the 4m Boy King postcard of 1939-44 (NP 38) and accepted for a Cairo machine cancellation. Four millièmes at the time paid for an internal postcard or overseas printed



3m card of 1931 used with 3m cutout from 1916-29 to reflect increased postage rate

matter – so perhaps this cover was originally unsealed? Cyril Defriez’s offering (*previous page*), of a 1931 3m green postal stationery card (NP 32) addressed from Alexandria to the Alex suburb of Camp de César on 26 NO 47, reflects a doubling of the postal rate with the addition of a cutout from the 1916-29 orange version of the same 3m card. No due raised, both cancelled.

Boulad’s occasional use of envelope cutouts with large margins around the stamp vignette leads to the odd doubt about whether or not the postal official intended to cancel the “stamp” – in most cases I have taken for granted that where the vignette itself is left unsullied by a CDS the intention was to signify that it was not valid for postage. But in all such cases – see 10 DE 51, ? AU 54, 14 OC 54 below – no postage due was apparently raised.

On some examples, however, the postal official was alert to the discrepancy. One cover of 22 FE 45, Sidi Gaber to the Continental Hotel in Cairo, is not for once a Boulad and Ackaouy envelope but has a boxed T alongside its 4m Boy King cutout (valid) and cutouts from an 1891 provisional and an 1984 3m card.

The official also spotted illegal use of a 4m 1928-29 reply card on a cover from Alexandria to Matay on 28 DE 52 and gave it two boxed Ts. But it seems he was overruled, and both Ts and the cutout were cancelled in pencil. Here, by the way, is another example of Boulad costing his heirs money: the reply card he cut up, with bars over the “Réponse” section, is today catalogued (NP SPC29a) at \$200.


There was a similar reaction when the postal official spotted that neither the 2m Marechal stamp nor the two 4m envelope cutouts on a cover from Sidi Gaber to Zamalek on 20 JU 53 was valid. He drew a T accompanied by an envelope, indicating that the whole thing was unpaid – but again had his work undone by a scribbled pencil.







A cover from Cairo Station to Ibrahimieh “franked” on 6 DE 54 only with a cutout from a 10m colossi stationery card of 1930 (NP 31) received short shrift with a boxed T on the edge of the cutout. But again it seems to have travelled successfully, with no postage due raised.







There was an even more odd occurrence on a cover to Zamalek from a CDS unfortunately illegible on 23 AP 56. Franked with current stamps plus a 1906 4m De La Rue to make up the 10m rate, it had all the valid stamps cancelled immediately – and the invalid 4m, presumably later, with a CDs of a different size. Again, unfortunately, illegible.



It is clear that, despite the fresh evidence, Boulad was officially and technically no nearer winning his campaign in 1956 than when he set out a dozen years before. There does seem to be an increasing reluctance to accept the invalid stationery as time goes on, with more boxed Ts and more cutouts left unmarked. But still the covers travelled on their way. Still we know of only one cover with a postage due affixed as per regulation.

Illustrated below are the 16 new Boulad covers and their details, 17 if you include Scott Van Horn’s original item (17 DE 51) that sparked the whole investigation and has led to some surprising results.

Date / CDS / Rate	Postage and cutouts used	
<p>17 MA 45 (TFS)</p> <p>T / Sidi Gaber to Gabriel Boulad c/o Georges Azam, Zamalek</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Rate: 30m</p>	<p>Boulad & Ackaouy envelope</p> <p>Current postage: 1941 10m Air</p> <p>Cutout: 1888-1902 2pi env NP3-3a</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Both cancelled</p>	

<p>25 FE 46 (MM)</p> <p>R&P/Sidi Gaber to Gabriel Boulad Hotel Continental Cairo</p> <p>Rate: 10m</p>	<p>Plain env, plain address label</p> <p>Current: 1941-43 4m Boy King env NP 35 (cutout)</p> <p>Cutouts: 1891 3m/5m card NP 6/7 1894 3m card NP 7/8</p> <p>Boxed T, only 4m cancelled</p>	
<p>1 AU 46 (AG)</p> <p>R&P/Sidi Gaber to Georges Azam, BP 444 Le Caire</p> <p>Rate: 10m</p>	<p>Boulad & Ackaouy envelope</p> <p>Current: 1941 5m Air</p> <p>Cutout: 1892 5m on 2pi env NP7-8</p> <p>Both cancelled</p>	
<p>31 JA 49 (TFS)</p> <p>Alexandria/(?)5) to M&Mme Azam, Zamalek</p> <p>Rate: 10m</p>	<p>Boulad & Ackaouy envelope</p> <p>Current: 1947 3m,5m Airs</p> <p>Cutout/not current: 1888 2m DLR</p> <p>Airs only cancelled</p>	
<p>10 DE 51 (HB)</p> <p>Sidi Gaber? to (window env)</p> <p>Rate: 10m</p>	<p>Boulad & Ackaouy envelope</p> <p>Current: pair 1947 3m Airs, 1m Marechal</p> <p>Cutout/not current: 1931 2m black wrapper NP 6 1932 1m Fuad wrapper NP 7</p> <p>All cancelled (2m?)</p>	
<p>17 DE 51 (SVH)</p> <p>Alexandria? to (window env), Mansura arrival</p> <p>Rate: 10m</p>	<p>Boulad & Ackaouy envelope</p> <p>Current: 3m Farouk Air, 4m Marechal</p> <p>Cutout/not current: 1889 1m brown wrapper NP 1 1907 2m on 3m card NP 12/13</p> <p>All cancelled</p>	
<p>23 DE 52 (HB)</p> <p>Alexandria/A to Mme Boulad, Ave de la Reine, Cairo</p> <p>Rate: 10m</p>	<p>Boulad & Ackaouy envelope</p> <p>Current: 3m Farouk Air, 1m Marechal</p> <p>Cutout/not current: 1888-1906 4m DLR definitive 1914 2m green wrapper NP4</p> <p>All cancelled</p>	

<p>28 DE 52 (AG)</p> <p>Alexandria/? Arabic addressed to Matay</p> <p>Rate: 10m</p>	<p>Boulad & Ackaouy envelope</p> <p>Current: 1m Boy King, 1m,4m Marechal KES</p> <p>Cutout/not current: 1928-9 4m reply card with bars NP 29a</p> <p>Stamps cancelled, 2xboxed T and cutout pencil-cancelled</p>	
<p>5 MA 53 (HB)</p> <p>Alexandria/? to Louis Boulad, Montpellier, France</p> <p>Rate: 47m</p>	<p>Boulad & Ackaouy envelope</p> <p>Current: Marechal 1+17m, Boy King KES 6m, Marechal barred 10m</p> <p>Cutout/not current: 1939-44 Boy King card NP40</p> <p>All cancelled</p>	
<p>10 JU 53 (AG)</p> <p>Alexandria/? to Georges Azam, Zamalek</p> <p>Rate: 10m</p>	<p>Boulad & Ackaouy envelope</p> <p>Current: nil</p> <p>Cutout/not current: 1937 1m+2m env NP 33a 1939 1m wrapper NP 10 1946-50 6m card NP 41</p> <p>All cancelled</p>	
<p>20 JU 53 (PA)</p> <p>Sidi Gaber to Georges Azam, Zamalek</p> <p>Rate: 10m</p>	<p>Boulad & Ackaouy envelope</p> <p>Current: nil</p> <p>Cutout/not current: 2m Marechal 2x 1946 4m Marechal env NP 38</p> <p>Hand-drawn T and env, both crossed through. All cancelled</p>	
<p>20 AP 54 (HB)</p> <p>T/Cairo Station to 6 rue Mataana</p> <p>Rate: 10m</p>	<p>Boulad & Ackaouy envelope</p> <p>Current: 5m barred Air NP 56</p> <p>Cutout/not current: 1888 5m env NP3/4</p> <p>Both cancelled</p>	
<p>? AU 54 (AG)</p> <p>Sidi Gaber to Christiane Boulad, Garden City</p> <p>Rate: 10m</p>	<p>Boulad & Ackaouy envelope</p> <p>Current: 6m barred Boy King</p> <p>Cutout/not current: 1937 4m wrapper NP 9</p> <p>Only 6m cancelled</p>	

<p>14 OC 54 (TFS)</p> <p>Alexandria to Beatrix Audebeau, Istanbul</p> <p>Rate: 40m</p>	<p>Boulad & Ackaouy envelope</p> <p>Current: 1954 30m Anniv of Revolution</p> <p>Cutout/not current: 1914 10m blue colossi env NP 17</p> <p>Only 30m cancelled</p>	
<p>6 DE 54 (HB)</p> <p>T/Cairo Station to 6 Rue el Mataana</p> <p>Rate: 10m</p>	<p>Boulad & Ackaouy envelope</p> <p>Current: nil</p> <p>Cutout/not current: 1930 10m Colossi card NP 31</p> <p>Boxed T, not cancelled</p>	
<p>23 AP 56 (TFS)</p> <p>?? to Georges Azzam, Zamalek</p> <p>Rate: 10m</p>	<p>Boulad & Ackaouy envelope</p> <p>Current: 2m barred Marechal 2x2m fellah</p> <p>Cutout/not current: 1906 4m DLR</p> <p>All cancelled, but 4m with smaller CDS</p>	

1879 5-Para Provisional Guidelines

John Clarke (ESC 496)

In response to Peter Smith's article on the 1879 5-para provisional surcharge in the December issue of the *QC* (No 247, pp. 273-4), I checked my copies, but found none with guidelines. However, on checking my 10-para provisionals, I discovered two mint copies which had the guidelines. *Fig. 1* is perforated 12½, with inverted surcharge, watermark misplaced and indistinct, but appears inverted (position 154?) with guidelines in three corners but not the upper left. *Fig. 2* is also perforated 12½, surcharge normal, watermark very indistinct, guidelines on lower right corner perms only.



Fig.1



Fig.2

Supply and Demand Analysis of Post Office Wrappers of Egypt

Dr John K. Courtis FRPSL

Two things especially impressed me when I visited the Pyramids: the size of the blocks of stone that went into their building, and how high from the ground it appeared while riding the camel with the unlikely name “Michael Jackson”. Other things impressed me too, like the artefacts housed in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, the soles of my trainers melting on the hot sand, and the changing scenery from the balcony of the boat while on the Nile cruise. So it is against these fond memories that the author is able to analyse 464 images of the wrappers of Egypt. These images appear in the author’s database of 32,000 worldwide used post office wrappers which have been hand collected daily since September 2003 from eBay listings.

Post Office Issues

The first issue of post office postal stationery wrappers of Egypt occurred on 1 January 1889, displaying the Pyramids and the Sphinx. There were two denominations: 1m brown and 2m green on both buff and yellowish papers (Higgins & Gage catalogue numbers E1 and E2; * Balian, *Nile Post* and Magdi Abdel-hadi use the same numbering system). This issue remained for 25 years until it was replaced in 1913 with a 1m brown sailboats and 2m green Cleopatra (E3 and E4). Another 18 years passed before this issue was changed in colour in 1931 to 1m orange and 2m black (E5 and E6). This colour-difference issue was short-lived however, as the King Fuad issue was released in 1932: 1m orange and 2m black (E7 and E8). An increase in postal rates in 1937 resulted in the issue of a new value, a 4m green King Fuad (E9).

At the start of the Second World War in 1939 a 1m orange brown King Farouk (Boy King design) was issued (E10) in a 25mm height indicium. This issue appeared also on glazed paper. In 1941 a 4m green King Farouk (Boy King) was issued, the indicium being slightly smaller at 24.25mm (E11). The last post office issue appeared in 1947, depicting King Farouk in a 2m red orange on both matt and glazed paper (E12).



E1 1889



E2 1889



E3 1913



E4 1913



E5 1931



E6 1931



E7 1932



E8 1932



E9 1937



E10 1939



E11 1941



E12 1947

Illustration 1: Indicia used on wrappers of Egypt

Extant Quantities

The author's database of 464 examples of used post office wrappers of Egypt is summarised in Table 1. The demographics show that 194 (42 per cent) wrappers were addressed to locations within Egypt and 270 (58 per cent) to 28 countries outside Egypt. The range of foreign destinations is dominated by Germany (129 wrappers), with the next closest being Switzerland (36). Others in descending order are USA (18), France (16), Belgium (14), UK (10), Italy (6), Palestine (Jerusalem) and Austria (5 each), Sweden and Syria (4 each), Russia and Holland (3 each), Australia and Sudan (2 each), and several countries with one: Uruguay, Borneo, Curacao, Cyprus, Vatican, Greece, Spain, Aden, Turkey, Argentina, Venezuela, Denmark and Japan. Postal history and postal stationery collectors interested in wrappers addressed to different country destinations would have had 28 postal entities from which to choose during the decade of listing on eBay.

The first two issues account for 424, or 91 per cent, of the total extant wrappers in the database. On the other hand, there are only 40 examples of wrappers of the other issues, with no examples of E9 and E12 appearing in the past decade. There are only single examples of E6, E8, E10 and E11. With the exception of the first four issues the wrappers of Egypt are some of the most elusive post office wrappers worldwide.

One hundred and seventy (25 per cent) of the wrappers were uprated, covering each of the issues E1-E8. A close inspection of the database showed a number of wrappers with special interest: merchant marks appear on 31 wrappers, private printing (7), tax markings (4) and two wrappers were registered. There were also wrappers bearing *Refusé* (3), *Retour* (2), *Inconnu* and *Parti* labels. Three wrappers have handstamped *Via Constantinople* directional markings. Taken overall, there are 28 destinations and 54 wrappers with postal history interest. A selection of private printing and markings on wrappers is shown in *Figure 2*.

An area of interest is wrappers addressed to hotels. Egypt has long been a traveller's paradise, especially before the Suez Canal came into operation. Mail sent from and to hotels was a common practice. Then, and even now, there would be permanent guests at hotels that would have had local or even overseas newspapers mailed to their home hotel address. Several wrappers were addressed to different hotels in Egypt, for example, Grand Hotel des Bains, Winter Palace Hotel, Hotel Windsor, Hotel Metropole, Hotel Victoria, Savoy Hotel, Shephard's Hotel and Luxor Hotel. One wrapper showed the handstamp Hotel Semiramis. Guests who chose to stay in hotels such as these would have access to daily local newspapers. A related area of interest is hotel cancels, and there is some evidence that premiums are paid for wrappers with these postmarks.

Table 1: Demographics of PO wrappers of Egypt listed for sale on eBay: 2003-2013

Higgins and Gage	Description of Indicum	Number	Local	Overseas	Uprated
1	1889 Pyramid & Sphinx 1m brown	216	129	87	71
2	1889 Pyramid & Sphinx 2m green	208	48	160	29
3	1913 Sailing Boats 1m brown	12	8	4	4
4	1913 Cleopatra 2m green	15	3	12	7
5	1931 Sailing Boats 1m orange	2	2	0	2
6	1931 Cleopatra 2m black	1	0	1	1
7	1932 King Fuad 1m orange	7	3	4	5
8	1932 King Fuad 2m black	1	0	1	1
9	1937 King Fuad 4m green	0	0	0	0
10	1939 Boy King 1m orange brown	1	1	0	0
11	1941 Boy King 4m green	1	0	1	0
12	1947 King Farouk 2m red orange	0	0	0	0
		464	194	270	120

Merchant marks, a quick and convenient way of adding sender's name and address details, are undocumented but represent a category of wrappers that might appeal to some collectors. Not all merchant and other marks are readable because the handstamp has not been applied clearly; moreover, some marks appear on the reverse of the wrapper and so do not show up in eBay images. Handstamps that were readable are shown in Table 2. Close inspection of the actual wrapper might reveal spelling differences not clear from the internet image. This list of 16 names can be added to and corrected by those with such knowledge.

Table 2: Handstamps found on the Wrappers of Egypt

American Express Tourist & Transport Agency, Cairo, Egypt	M. Houg, Livres et Journaux, Cairo
American Mission, Cairo, College for Girls (3)	Mohr & Fender, Alexandrie Egypte
Basler Nachrichten, Basel	North African Mission – Alexandrie, Egypt
Chamber of Commerce National, Le Caire, Egypt	N. Spathis, Caire & Alexandrie
Etienne Zenopoulo, Alexandrie (Egypte)	Pharmacia Schutz, Stefano Schutz Hamich
Expedition des Agyptischen Korrespondenz (3)	Perd Hoffmann
J. Hug & Co., Caire-Egypte (2)	Planta & Co.
Kortenhaus & Hammerstein, Cairo- (Egypten) (6)	Societe Suisse de Secors? Egypt

Eight examples of wrappers with postal history interest selected for illustration and discussion are shown in *Illustration 2*. Wrapper one bears a Swiss postage due adhesive and is unique in the sub-population of Egypt wrappers. Addressed to Switzerland, it shows a boxed T handstamp, a blue crayon 10 and a tied adhesive due YVENDON and dated 3 IX 10. While T marks can be frequently found, of the 32,000 wrappers in the database only 62 bear postage due adhesives.

The second example is sometimes referred to as Stamped-to-Order. This terminology implies that the STO service was available to customers; it is safer to use the innocuous expression “private printing added”. Appearing on three lines in red, the private printing reads ALFRED VON WESTER & Cie, BRIEFMARKENHANDLUNG, CAIRO-EGYPTEN. Wrappers bearing private printing are sought after by collectors for their scarcity and exhibit or display appeal.

The third and fourth examples show the usage of two wrappers joined with each other to pay a particular postage rate. This usage is unusual but is also known from other countries. (The identical postmarks suggest that they may have been philatelically contrived). The first wrapper comprises two examples of E1 joined with the address written across both wrapper fronts. The second is one example of E1 joined to one example of E2.

The fifth case is an example of a registered wrapper addressed to Illinois, USA. There is a manuscript *Registered Sample*, a boxed Registration handstamp from Guiza, arrival postmark in New York Reg’y Div. 6-5 1913 and an arrival purple postmark Chicago Illinois June 7 1913. The sixth example is a wrapper bearing an attractive red, green and white Cinderella label in the shape of a shield advertising Pagnon’s LUXOR HOTEL LUXOR (Upper Egypt).

The second last wrapper bears the private printing DIRECTION DE L’ALMANACH ORIENTAL E.P. 12, LE CAIRE. It is addressed to Cincinnati, USA, and there is an illustration of a man turning a large globe of the world, all within a shaded circle. The final wrapper, delivered to Switzerland, is another bearing private printing BULLETIN COMMERCIAL REVUE EGYPTIENNE and sender’s Alexandria address details.



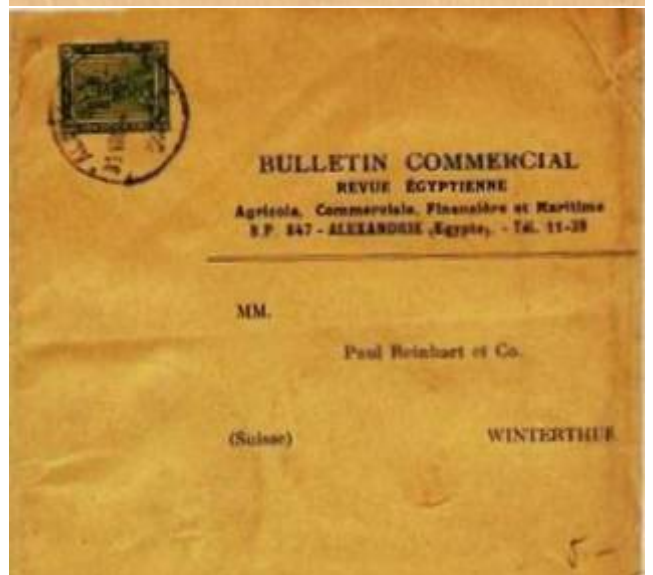


Illustration 2: wrappers of Egypt with postal history interest

Realised Sales

Since March 2006, the author has hand-collected daily sales data of used wrappers that have taken place on eBay. At the time of writing in March 2014 there have been 12,368 sales recorded in the database of which 165 refer to the post office wrappers of Egypt. These sales are summarised in Table 3 by E type from lowest to highest realised price. The number of bidders per transaction is shown in parentheses. Number of bidders is not the same as number of bids, which is usually higher.

An awareness of the number of bidders is helpful in determining the strength of the collector market. From previous country-studies the author developed a metric for ascertaining the strength of bidder interest. On average a score of 2.5 bidders per type of wrapper issue is the “norm”; a number above 2.5 indicates a stronger collector interest and a score below 2.5 indicates a weaker collector interest. The overall weighted average number of bidders calculated from the last column of Table 3 is 2.05.

The bidder profile shows that there was one transaction with seven bidders, four with six bidders, four with five bidders, 22 with four bidders, 31 with three bidders, 30 with two bidders and in 73 cases a sole bidder won the lot. The dominant level of sales occurred with E1 and E2, both of these showing bidder scores below 2.5. To some extent these low bidder scores are a reflection of the number available. On the other hand, E7, E8 and E10 all scored above 2.5. The number of sales is small because the supply of these wrappers is low – only seven listed for E7 and one each for E8 and E10. While there was reasonably strong bidder interest in these three wrapper issues, the sums realised were modest.

An examination of sales prices shows that 139 transactions realised less than \$20. Alternatively only 26 sales (16 per cent) sold for more than \$20. The average price for each of the first three issues is approximately \$10 although the range is from 1c to \$81.00. Higher average prices for other issues reflect their scarce listings.

While there was no attempt to track items listed to their resulting sale, the author made occasional explanatory annotations for the higher prices realised. For example, the two highest amounts bid for E1 – \$81 (six bidders) and \$78 (four bidders) – were for the wrapper bearing the Switzerland postage due adhesive (shown in *Illustration 2*) and for an uprated wrapper. Premiums are often paid for auxiliary markings, the appearance of private printing, high upratings, uncommon destinations, sought-after town and hotel postmarks, Cinderella and etiquette attachments and tied enclosures.

Table 3: eBay sales transactions of Egypt wrappers (2006-14)

Higgins and Gage	Sales Details (Ranked Low to High in USD) and Number of Bidders per Sale (in Parentheses)	Number of Sales	Mean Sale Price	Number of Bidders
1	0.05 (2); 0.49 (1); 0.99 (1); 0.99 (1); 0.99 (1); 0.99 (1); 74 10.57 2.24 0.99 (1); 1.06 (2); 1.25 (2); 1.29 (3); 1.30 (2); 1.45 (3); 1.61 (1); 1.61 (1); 1.84 (2); 1.86 (4); 1.86 (2); 2.25 (3); 2.45 (4); 2.76 (2); 2.95 (2); 2.99 (1); 2.99 (1); 3.00 (1); 3.25 (2); 3.25 (2); 3.28 (3); 4.00 (1); 4.20 (2); 4.24 (3); 4.85 (4); 5.02 (3); 5.60 (1); 5.60 (1); 5.75 (2); 6.30 (1); 6.50 (3); 6.50 (3); 7.00 (1); 7.50 (1); 7.99 (1); 8.50 (4); 8.50 (4); 8.80 (1); 8.88 (1); 9.00 (3); 9.00 (1); 9.95 (1); 9.99 (1); 9.99 (1); 9.99 (1); 10.00 (1); 10.50 (2); 12.50 (3); 12.62 (2); 13.44 (4); 13.44 (4); 13.50 (3); 14.08 (1); 14.38 (5); 14.59 (3); 16.00 (4); 16.18 (4); 19.20 (1); 19.25 (5); 21.50 (2); 21.50 (2); 26.00 (2); 29.00 (1); 32.50 (1); 33.11 (7); 37.00 (3); 78.00 (4); 81.00 (6)	74	10.57	2.24

2	0.01 (1); 0.64 (2); 0.99 (1); 0.99 (1); 0.99 (1); 0.99 (1); 0.99 (1); 0.99 (1); 1.65 (1); 1.69 (2); 1.75 (2); 1.85 (3); 1.91 (3); 1.99 (1); 2.00 (1); 2.02 (2); 2.14 (2); 2.25 (2); 2.81 (3); 3.00 (1); 3.00 (1); 3.13 (3); 3.23 (2); 3.24 (4); 3.25 (2); 3.25 (4); 3.50 (1); 3.50 (1); 3.57 (1); 3.57 (1); 3.81 (3); 5.00 (1); 5.50 (3); 5.50 (3); 5.50 (3); 5.70 (1); 5.70 (1); 5.80 (1); 6.99 (1); 7.19 (4); 8.00 (1); 8.50 (1); 8.90 (1); 9.10 (3); 9.50 (5); 9.80 (1); 9.95 (1); 9.95 (1); 9.95 (1); 9.95 (1); 9.95 (1); 9.99 (1); 11.61 (3); 13.16 (4); 14.50 (2); 18.50 (2); 19.00 (1); 19.50 (2); 19.90 (1); 19.90 (1); 19.99 (1); 19.99 (1); 22.50 (3); 26.80 (1); 36.00 (4); 40.00 (1); 40.00 (1); 66.77 (4); 80.00 (1)	70	10.37	1.8
3	2.36 (2); 3.00 (1); 5.05 (3); 6.80 (2); 7.50 (1); 19.50 (3); 26.00 (4)	7	10.03	2.28
4	4.13 (3); 5.60 (3); 5.78 (3); 11.50 (3); 21.50 (4); 27.66 (6); 46.00 (4); 51.00 (6)	8	21.64	1.50
5	No sales recorded			
6	No sales recorded			
7	29.90 (1); 31.00 (4); 31.00 (4)	3	30.63	3.00
8	11.59 (3)	1	11.59	3.00
9	No sales recorded			
10	33.33 (5)	1	33.33	5.00
11	No sales recorded			
12	No sales recorded			
1&2	Double wrapper 57.66 (2)	1	57.66	2.00
	Total Post Office wrapper sales	165		2.05

Conclusion

From the author's image database of 32,000 worldwide used post office postal stationery wrappers collected daily over more than a decade from eBay, there were 464 wrappers of Egypt. Of the 12 issues between 1889 and 1947, the first two wrappers illustrating the Pyramids and Sphinx account for approximately 90 per cent of the extant wrappers. The eight issues from 1931 onward are elusive, with only 13 examples offered. Two issues have never appeared, and four issues have appeared once only in a decade. Except for the first four wrapper types, those in used condition appear to be elusive.

There is a good deal of postal history interest in these wrappers. They were addressed to 28 countries, of which 13 are represented once only. Of special interest were those bearing 18 types of merchant and other addressee marks (31 wrappers), private printing appearing on seven wrappers, tax markings (4), registered usage (2), *Refusé* (3), *Retour* (2), and *Inconnu* and *Parti* labels. Handstamped *Via Constantinople* directional markings appeared on three wrappers. Taken overall, there are many country destination and postal marking mixes to interest the postal historian.

Bidder interest in the sales of Egypt wrappers produced a score of 2.05. This score is below the norm of 2.5, signalling either that the collector base is small or there is a lower level of interest in this area of postal stationery, or that supply is more than enough to meet demand. Realised prices were modest overall with 84 per cent not exceeding \$20. A few high prices were realised for wrappers bearing an adhesive postage due, high upratings or private printing.

Acknowledgement

I offer my sincere thanks to Allan Gory for reading and commenting on an earlier draft.

Editor's note: We are grateful indeed to Dr Curtis for the research involved in this fascinating article. Members who wish to contact him in Australia for any further details should email him on acapjajc@friends.cityu.edu.hk

Austro-Egyptian Postal Agreement

Peter A. S. Smith (ESC 74)

It is now seven years since an introductory article on the agreement with the Austrian Postal Administration was published here (*QC* 222, pp. 255-256). At that time documentation was lacking, and the date of inception of the reduced rate could only be surmised, on the basis of known covers. I am indebted to Mike Murphy for his kindness in searching the index of the Postal Bulletin of Egypt, a rare publication that came to light only later. The excerpt is in French, but I show a translation below:

June 9th, 1912

An agreement concluded with the administration of the Posts of Austria, from July 1st next the charge for correspondence destined for Austria (not including Hungary) will be reduced to 5 milliemes per 20 grams to Austria, as is practiced for Great Britain and Italy.

Correspondence from Austria for Egypt will be franked correspondingly at 10 kreuzers per 20 grams. In consequence, the following modifications should be made to the Postal Bulletin:

Annex I page 116 Second column, after Zanzibar, inscribe Austria.

Annex IV page 131 Section Austria, column 13. Replace 25 kreuzers up to 20 grams by 10 kreuzers up to 20 grams.

Column 14, replace 15 kreuzers per 20 grams by 10 kreuzers per 20 grams.

We now know the exact date, July 1st, when the reduced rate became effective. The Bulletin also shows that it applied only to letter correspondence, since other postal services are not mentioned. There is no mention of postal cards.

When war broke out in August, 1914, the maritime service of the Austrian Lloyd in the Mediterranean ended, and along with it the rate reduction, for Egypt. Turkey, to which Egypt had acknowledged nominal allegiance, was allied with Austria and Germany. The connection with Turkey was cut, and Egypt came under British protection. As a consequence, there was no longer postal connection between Egypt and Austria, and the postal agreement ended, never to be resumed. The reduced rate thus lasted only from 1912 for just over two years. Stamps of the Fourth Issue of Egypt paying this rate are scarce enough, but letters franked with the 1914 pictorials, which were not issued until 1914, are much more so.



Book Review by Peter A.S. Smith (ESC 74)

The French Post Offices in Egypt, Part 2, by **Pierre Louis Grech**. Self published, London, 2013. £55 (ESC members £45) + postage.

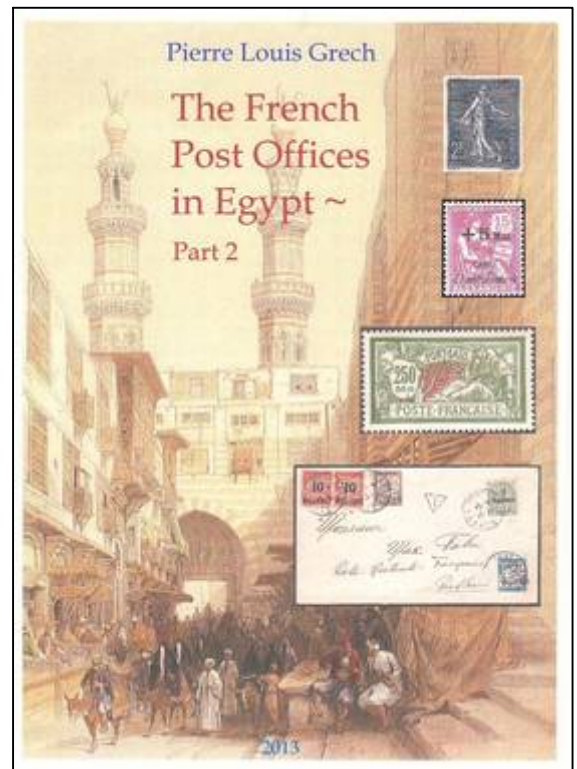
Part 1 went up to 1876; Part 2 carries the subject from there, when France adhered to the GPU (UPU), to 1931 when the last of the French Offices, Alexandria and Port Said, were closed. This Part continues the plan of describing the background, production and usage of the issues, together with unrecorded varieties and highlights. A detailed listing of all the stamps with pricing is available in the general catalogues, and being redundant, is not included.

Within these themes there are great riches to be found. The table of Contents lists no less than 17 chapters, which cover all aspects of postal history, including postal markings, postal stationery, military and naval posts, the use of the stamps elsewhere (Ethiopia, Rouad, Jeddah), registration labels, perfins, and forgeries, among other subjects. A nice feature is the inclusion of concise accounts of the historical political and economic events of the times, with their impact on the posts and the stamps and rates in use. The connections revealed pleausurably improve one's appreciation of the French offices in Egypt.

The many illustrations, all in colour, add much to the quality of the book. Most of them are of the stamps, with enlargements where needed to show varieties, but there are also many covers shown, and occasional interesting pictures of contemporary places and means of transport. Among these are photos of the statue of Ferdinand De Lesseps which once stood at the Port Said entrance to the Suez Canal, before and after its demolition by rioters.

There is so much information in this book that it would not be feasible to give further details. If you are already collecting the subject, it would enrich an appreciation of what you have. If you only have been thinking about embracing the French offices in your collecting, it should draw you in.

This book is an excellent example of philatelic scholarship, and I highly recommend it.



Membership changes

New Members:

ESC 686 Moheb Rizkalla, GPO Box 2461, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia
(Postal history, classic stamps, used abroad, stationery, interpostals... all of Egypt)

Change of Address:

ESC 605 Yasser Omar, Exeed Vivartia Investment, PO Box 214061, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
ESC 636 Joan Soriano, 37 Masonic Homes, 4 Burton Road, Belvedere, Harare, Zimbabwe
ESC 675 Yannis Lazarides, c/o HLS, PO Box 87134, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Resigned:

ESC 628 Thierry Beugnet

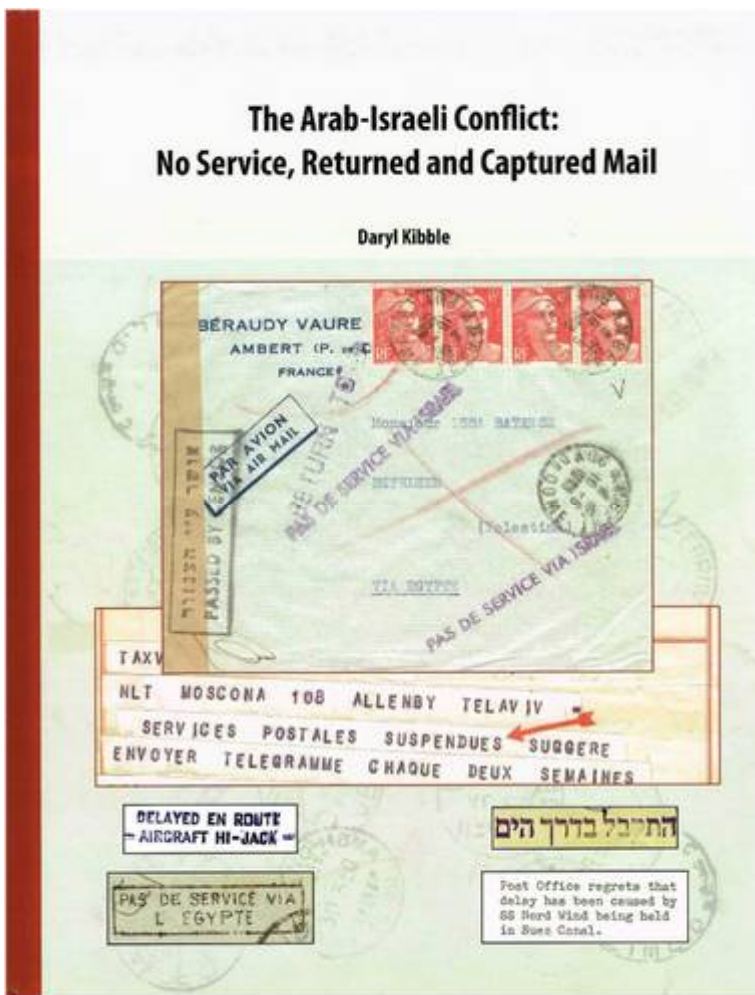
ESC 660 Volker Kleiner

Lapsed:

ESC 366 Siegried Prey **ESC 577** Rolando Marin **ESC 635** Panayotis Cangelaris **ESC 663** Ashraf Nasr

Book Review by Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

The Arab-Israeli Conflict: No Service, Returned and Captured Mail, by Daryl Kibble. Self-published, 2014. 370pp, A4, hardback. See below for pricing.



Daryl Kibble has had an active interest in Holy Land philately for over 30 years and has been a Life Member of the Society of Israel Philatelists since 1989. He is also a member of the British Association of Palestine-Israel Philatelists.

He has published numerous articles in philatelic journals around the world related to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

His personal collecting and exhibiting interest is in the broader area of Delayed and Interrupted mail resulting from the conflict, both Jewish and Arab.

Chapters:

1. Civil War in Palestine 1948-1949
2. Arab/Islamic Postal Boycott of Israel
3. Israeli Response
4. 1956 Suez Crisis
5. 1967 Six-Day War
6. Soviet Bloc Postkrieg
7. Terrorism
8. Palestinian Authority & Hamas
9. Other Conflicts & Incidents

To date Daryl has received a National Large Gold Medal with Felicitations when exhibiting the more important aspects of his collection. This hard-cover book of 384 pages is in full colour and contains much original research that adds to Daryl's published work on the subject in philatelic magazines.

Although the book covers many countries of the Middle East and beyond there are some interesting sections on Egyptian material. It makes the claim to publish for the first time a study of Egyptian censor sealing tapes and handstamps used since World War II. While this is patently not the case for the handstamps – by which I believe it means censor marks – the information on the sealing tapes is greatly welcomed. Having collected related material for nearly thirty years, I still found many new and interesting facets on Egyptian philately.

Daryl is to be congratulated on a splendid work which could only come about after many years of careful research. Sensibly he has taken the “print on demand” route with a printer who has operations in Australia, USA and Europe, so your copy of the book will be printed at the closest printer location.

The book can be ordered from <http://www.vividpublishing.com.au/darylkibble/>

At the time of this review the price was 112 Australian dollars, with postage and packaging: \$A24.50, total \$A136.50. This converts to €93.42, £76.34 and \$128.14, which will of course fluctuate with the exchange rates.

Egypt Study Circle – Accounts for year ended December 31 2013

Income and Expenditure Account (General Account)

	2012	2013
INCOME		
Subscriptions	4,097.67	4,615.19
Auction account	2,470.12	521.54
Bank deposit interest received (net)	1.19	0.60
Donations	46.01	20.00
Advertisements	<u>150.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>
	6,764.99	5,357.33
EXPENDITURE		
Meeting room hire	684.00	842.20
Cost of Quarterly Circulars	3,279.33	3,478.91
Website costs	118.44	127.62
Officers' stationery, telephone etc	284.43	97.32
Insurance	<u>36.92</u>	<u>142.92</u>
	4,403.12	4,689.17
Surplus for the year	2,361.87	668.16
Surplus at 1 January 2013	13,240.18	15,602.05
Surplus at 31 December 2013	<u>15,602.05</u>	<u>16,270.21</u>

Balance Sheet (General Account)

ASSETS		
Photocopier written off	-	-
Stamp collection at catalogue valuation	5,251.00	5,251.00
Circle Library and records	-	-
2014 room hire prepaid	420.00	420.00
Cash at bank		
Current account	7,968.28	8,575.98
Deposit account	<u>2,943.38</u>	<u>2,943.98</u>
	16,582.66	17,190.96
LIABILITIES		
Secretary's expenses	28.86	-
Members' subscriptions 2014	59.56	60.00
Printing of Quarterly Circular	<u>892.19</u>	<u>860.75</u>
	<u>980.61</u>	<u>920.75</u>
	<u>£ 15,602.05</u>	<u>£ 16,270.21</u>
Representing		
Accumulated surplus	£15,602.05	£16,270.21

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

(Signed)

S W Bunce, Chartered Accountant 3 April 2014

Editorial

When I start a new QC I see how many pages of material I have. I was pleasantly surprised to find I had enough for two QCs. So thanks for your contributions and hopefully those not used this time will appear in the next QC.