

The
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of
THE
EGYPT



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& Todd**
PHILATELISTS
PTS
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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. 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) 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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Meetings dates for 2015

Two meetings will be held at 2pm in the **Victory Services Club**, Marble Arch, London.
The September meeting is at 2.30pm at **Stampex** (Sept 16-19)

For meetings at the Services Club, members usually meet in the ground-floor bar from 1pm.

July 18 2-5pm	Services Club	Egypt Postage Rates Egypt Air Mail Rates	Edmund Hall John Sears
Sep 19 2.30-4.30pm	Stampex <i>Stampex Sept 16-19</i>	New Issues collection Revenues etc	Cyril Defriez Richard Wheatley
Nov 14 2-5pm	Services Club	Consular Posts	John Davis

Meeting date for 2016

May 29 11am	World Stamp Show New York <i>May 28-June 4</i>	All Members
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Website: egyptstudycircle.org.uk

Report of the Annual General Meeting, May 16

PRESENT: John Sears (President), John Davis (Deputy Chairman/Librarian), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Edmund Hall (Editor/Webmaster), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Bart Belonje (Netherlands), John Clarke, Mats Edström (Sweden), Pauline Gittoes, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Neil Hitchens, Costas Kelemenis (Greece), Sherif El-Kerdani (Egypt), Laurence Kimpton, Seppo Laaksonen (Finland), Tarek Mokhtar (Egypt), Sun Yu Ng (United States), Sherif Samra (Egypt), Andrew Titley (United States), Tony Schmidt, Vahe Varjabedian (Egypt), Ronny Van Pellecom (Belgium). **Guests:** Tauva Laaksonen (Finland), Hania Moheeb ((Egypt).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Peter Andrews (Chairman), Jon Aitchison, Hisham Bassiouny, Angela Child, Tony Chisholm, Cyril Defriez, Denis Doren, Anton Jansen, Alan Jeyes, Peter Newroth, Trent Ruebush, Hani Sharestan, Ibrahim Shoukry, Lucien Toutounji.

In brief opening remarks, the Secretary explained that the popularity of the Europhilex exhibition had denied us any possibility of our usual meeting room within the Business Design Centre, and gave grateful thanks to the Premier Inn nearby, which had offered members an unusual but welcoming alternative by rearranging the hotel's restaurant for the afternoon. The Circle very much appreciated that hospitality – and the fact that an open bar was available. Seppo Laaksonen then kindly invited members to attend the international exhibition Finlandia in Tampere from May 24-28, 2017, to mark the 100th anniversary of the republic.

The Deputy Chairman opened the meeting proper by welcoming a staggering number of overseas guests (eleven were present, from eight countries), several of them attending for the first time, and lamenting the absence of the Chairman. The meeting wished him all the best for a speedy recovery.

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were approved by acclamation, and as there were no matters arising the meeting went on to approve unanimously the Committee's proposed rewording of Paragraph 4 of the Circle Rules to take into account the two-tier subscription (for those taking the printed QC or reading it online) decided in 2014. The motion was proposed by Peter Grech, seconded by Edmund Hall. The Secretary stated that as no proposal for a change in subscriptions had been made, they would remain at £20 and £15.

For the record, the first paragraph of Rule 4 now states:

4. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION shall be payable in advance on January 1 at a rate set at the previous year's Annual General Meeting. Members advising the Secretary by the end of February that they do not wish to receive the printed QC shall pay £5 less than the standard subscription. If annual payment is not made by the end of February Officers will advise the member in writing that membership will be terminated after 30 days. No further notice will be given of termination, but membership may thereafter be restored, at the Committee's discretion, on payment of all outstanding subscriptions plus an administration fee of £5.

Chairman's Report: In the absence of the Chairman, John Davis noted an eventful year, overshadowed by the sad death of our mentor and former President, Peter Smith, which was marked by a very well received "tribute issue" of the QC. He noted that we had enjoyed a couple of successful auctions during the year, and thanked Jon Aitchison for the introduction of a novelty in the mini-auction now accompanying virtually every meeting, which continues to provide commission funds for the Circle.,



Edmund Hall, left, receives the MacArthur Award for 2014 from John Davis

The Circle needs YOU!

The Editor/Webmaster report is given extra prominence here because the shortage of articles is threatening our future. An urgent appeal came from Edmund Hall, prefaced by the alarming Agenda note: Is it time to abandon the QC? Of course not, came the response from members both present and by correspondence – but the Editor replied by pointing out that he cannot edit or publish blank pages. In recent years the same few names have appeared above virtually all the QC articles, and almost all of them had “early” membership numbers, he said, calling on all members, and especially the more recent, to put pen to paper.

Without an increase in the number of articles being submitted he might well be forced to change publication from quarterly to “whenever enough material is available”. His approach was good-humoured, but the essential message behind it is crucially important: the QC is at the centre of our activities. Without it, we might as well not exist.

So it is vitally important that every member, regardless of how “shy” or unwilling to step in the footsteps of our great predecessors they might be, provides SOMETHING for the magazine. As he pointed out, the QC is not Edmund’s magazine; it belongs to all the members. Publication is ALL our responsibility.

There were, however, two disquieting questions: first, a slight but significant fall in membership numbers despite last year’s introduction of cheaper subscriptions – how were we to face the challenge of attracting younger members? And second, the suggestion that the QC might be discontinued. He supported the Chairman’s view that this must not be allowed to happen, though all alternatives remained open.

He gave thanks to the Committee for their work behind the scenes on our behalf

Secretary’s Report: 1. Members. This report dealt mainly with membership numbers: since the last AGM no fewer than 17 had left us, either taken by the Grim Reaper or facing advancing years, or in some cases blaming the recession. Happily there was balance in four new members during the year, and three more at this meeting – welcome to Khalid Abu Bakr and Tarek Mokhtar from Egypt and Mats Edström from Sweden – but still the net balance was a loss of ten and the perennial problem of replacing those leaving with new “young blood”.

So the meeting very much welcomed the thoughts expressed by Hani Sharestan in an email suggesting that the Circle should open a Facebook page, which would have the immense advantage of being able to provide virtually immediate answers to queries from acolytes, as well as providing the colourful and swiftly changing display sought by today’s young people. The meeting took no offence at all at Mr Sharestan’s (tongue in cheek?) suggestion that perhaps the Circle’s methods might be seen as on the “archaic” side and unlikely to appeal to the “now” generation who perhaps lack some of their elders’ patience..

Sherif Samra provided wise words about the Cairo’s society’s unfortunate experiences with a Facebook page apparently “taken over” by outsiders who provided mis-information under the aegis of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, and the meeting decided that it would be sensible to hurry slowly: though there was some enthusiasm for the idea, we shall investigate and take more soundings about pros and cons before considering any definite move. The meeting did feel, however, that some action must be taken, and very much appreciated Mr Sharestan’s thoughtful proposal.

2. MacArthur Award. The Secretary noted that our award for the best and most important article in the previous year’s QC managed to attract only 22 votes – out of a membership of 180. This simply is not good enough. There will be more publicity for next year’s award, pointing up the importance of the QC to the Circle. Happily, however, more than third of the votes were cast in favour of a single article, and the Deputy Chairman was pleased to be able to hand over the “Seated Scribe” trophy to Edmund Hall for the fourth part of his “Sinai and Gaza” series of articles.

Presentation of Accounts: The Treasurer presented accounts showing an accumulated surplus of £17,727.95 (as against £16,270.21 in 2013), and a surplus for the year of £1,457.74 (against £668.16), but explained that without the auctions commissions we would be running at a small loss. It is expected that the saving on postal charges as a result of the subscription changes will make a slight difference in our favour in 2015; and all ideas towards money-saving will be welcomed. He gave generous thanks to the initiative by our New Zealand “chapter”, who have voluntarily decided to pay an extra £5 each on their subscription to help to defray postage costs. The offer was greeted with acclamation, and the accounts approved unanimously.

The Treasurer explained that the amount held in the current account (£13,249.70) appeared massive compared with 2013 (£8,575.98), but that this was the result of the consolidation of the auction and reserve accounts into a single account. See page iii for the details. On the proposal of John Davis, seconded by Edmund Hall, a vote of thanks and gratitude to our Auditor, Steven Bunce, was also passed by acclamation.

Auction report: The Secretary emphasised the importance of the two annual auctions, detailing that the 2014 main auction provided commission to the Circle of something of the order of £780, and the Live Auction in the spring a further £328 – useful amounts that help us to keep our head above water. But he noted a decline in the number of both sellers and bidders, and made a strong appeal for all members to support the Auctions. Illustrated lists of lots for Auction 54 in the autumn should reach him by August 15.

Librarian's report: John Davis reported a very quiet year, with not a single book borrowed from the Library. This is an almost criminal waste of valuable resources, and he appealed to members to make more use of what is available. He also announced two additions to the library, self-published by our members: Laurence Kimpton's *Airmails Across the Middle East 1918-1930*; and John's own *Egypt: from the Postal Concession until Suez, 1932 to 1956, Part I*.

Election of Officers: Apart from the long-running vacancy for Publicity Officer, there were no changes to be made, but the Secretary appealed for help in the shape of a Meetings Officer. Anyone willing to take on the task of arranging meetings, dates and speakers, would be given a very welcoming reception.

Any Other Business Ronny Van Pellecom announced that a second, hardback, edition of his book on *Ramleh* had been published, with an additional 50 or so pages thanks largely to new material from Richard Wheatley.

There was much enthusiasm for a visit to the Cairo exhibition to mark the 150th anniversary of the first Egyptian postage stamp, which will take place around Post Day, January 2, next year; and much talk of the World Stamp Show at the Jacob Javits Convention Centre in New York between May 28 and June 4. It is hoped that a small committee might be set up to co-ordinate arrangements for visitors to the American event.

On a much more sombre note, Tony Schmidt showed dangerous examples of forged postmarks, made by computer, on Interpostals, so perfect that he was not able to tell the difference. The operator is able, he says, to lift a postmark from a cover or stamp and reproduce it on another cover, IP or stamp so perfectly as to be indistinguishable. The same man has also provided fake versions of Type VIII-a IPs for Alexandrie Marine (very rare) and Minet el Bassal (less so, but still dangerous). How is it possible to guard against these fakes?

Date of the next meeting: A date similar to this year's will be selected among next year's Meetings List.

After the AGM, a brief "ten sheets" meeting was held, with **Peter Grech** showing covers of French POs in the Levant, highlighted by an 1867 Constantinople cover originating from Odessa, Russia, forwarded by French ship to Messina, and a semi-official French PO in Aleppo, (1845-1870), using a linear postmark "POSTE FRANÇAISE D'ALEP" (right) and communicated via Alexandretta. **John Davis** showed material from the Forwarding Agents, including Briggs, Waghorn, and an autograph letter to Bath "forwarded by S.Shepherd / British Hotel / Cairo" of January 6, 1856. To complete a successful day, new member **Mats Edström** showed some of his revenues collection including a bisect of the 500m 1892 Salt Tax stamp on a fragment of a sale document. And though only one seller provided mini-auction material on the day, his items provided £3 in commission for the Circle. Every little helps!



Radio Theatre Egyptian Style

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

It can't be often that the pages of this august publication have been graced by a review of a classical horror CD, but *Imprisoned with the Pharaohs*, a mythical tale of the escapist Harry Houdini's adventures in Egypt by H P Lovecraft, master of the weird and the occult, seems worth a mention.

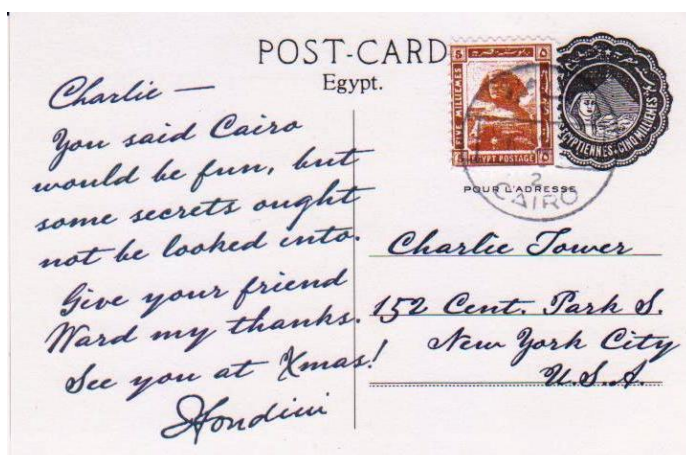
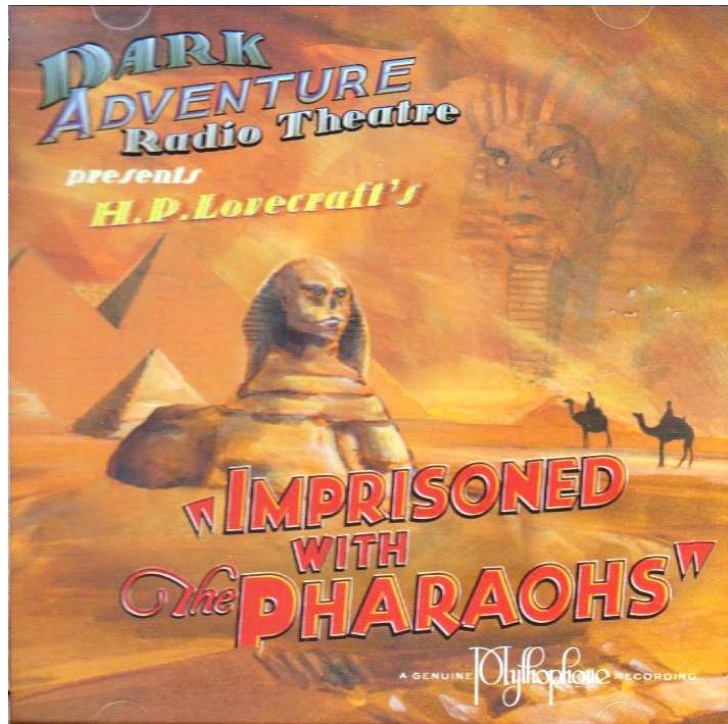
It all started with an email to the Study Circle from Andrew Leman, of the Howard Phillips Lovecraft Society ... he asked if I could provide an authentic letterhead or envelope from the Egyptian Museum, circa 1910, for a project he was planning.

Always willing to help out a fellow researcher, I did my best. And I called in the ever-willing John Davis to lend his not inconsiderable knowledge of archaeological correspondence. But we could not come up with just the right example – until I happened to spot an internet reference to a

letter about Tutankhamun signed by Pierre Lacau, the Museum Director, on sale at Nate Sanders auction of memorabilia and autographs. It wasn't headed "Museum", but Service des Antiquités, which made sense: the museum had been antiquities service HQ since it opened in 1902.

So off went the information, to Andrew Leman's delight. It would help his project enormously, he said. Then, silence.... Until at the beginning of the month a packet in the post – an audio cassette titled *Imprisoned with the Pharaohs* and promising a re-creation of a radio theatre adventure of Houdini getting himself into all sorts of trouble while searching out new magic tricks in the land of the Pyramids.

It's all hokum, of course. One of Lovecraft's best known short stories, it was published under Houdini's name in the American *Weird Tales* magazine and the true author was not known until 1939. The story tells of Houdini's fate, his kidnap and his adventures with half-men, half-animal mummies under the Pyramids.



Houdini's postcard with vignette error

Fascinating and bizarre, the audio cassette echoes the story as it might have been dramatised on the radio when it was written, full of invented advertisements, breaks for songs of the time – but above all, a tale of near-witchcraft and mystery. It's evocative and fun, well worth a listen.

It comes with a wonderful collection of memorabilia, including the aforementioned "letter" from the Egyptian Museum, a "cutting" from the *Egyptian Gazette*, the playbill to Houdini's show at the American Cosmograph – and a letter from Shepherds. And one rather large faux-pas. The "postcard" from Houdini to

his friend in New York has a 5m DLR Pictorial uprating a 5m card – but the card's vignette is the embossed type used only on 1889-1911 stationery and never on a card. Not that that detracts. The CD is enter-taining, offbeat, delightful and compel-ling, well researched and gripping, a true echo of a former time

The Story Behind the Cover

Peter Grech (ESC 266)

Two items displayed at the Europhilex ESC meeting at the Premier Inn near the Design Centre, May 2015.



French Maritime Post in the Levant :

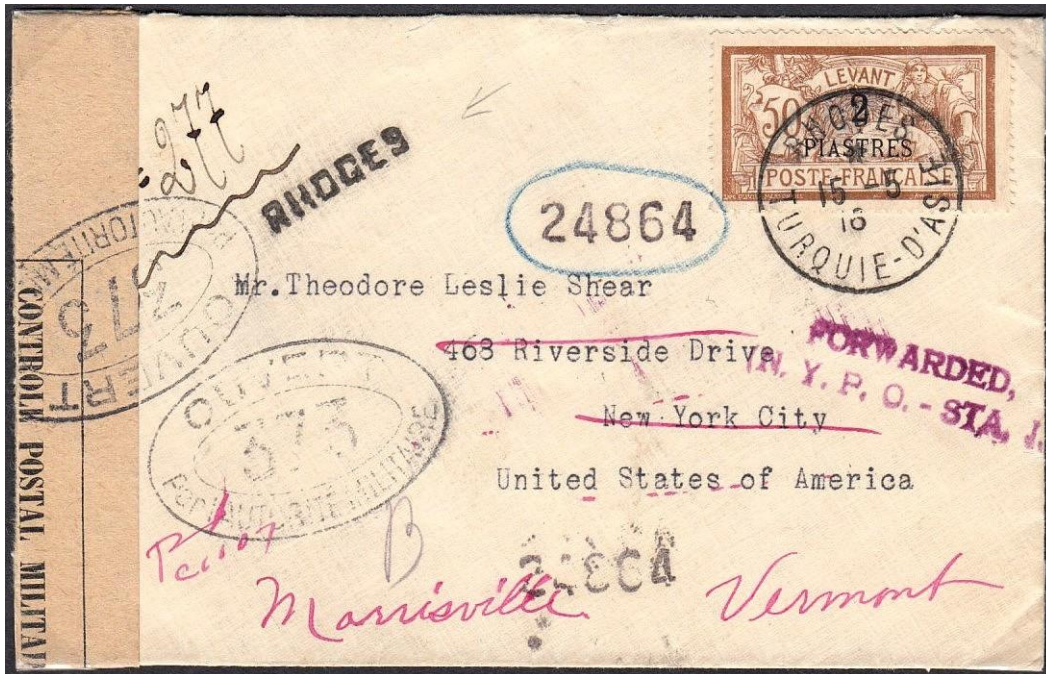
18 December 1867 – Octagonal *Cachet d'Escale* **CONSTANTINOPLE- P. FR. U No.4** of paquebot *Gange*, to Marseille (where it arrived 26 Dec.) calling at Messina, Italy, 23 December. Franked 1F20, double the 60c rate to Italy (manuscript “2” indicating two weight steps). Pair of 20c & 40c French Napoleon stamps cancelled by ship’s anchor. Letter originated from Fratelli Anatra, in **ODESSA**, Russia, (blue oval cachet) on 14 October, and was carried down to Constantinople on a ROPIT steamer. (Even though the Austrian Lloyd operated between Constantinople and Odessa via Kustendjé, the Russians insisted that all outgoing mail be carried by their ships). At Constantinople the letter was taken to the French paquebot by Schembri & Righina, maritime forwarding agents (blue-green oval cachet, top left). Black PD, paid to destination.



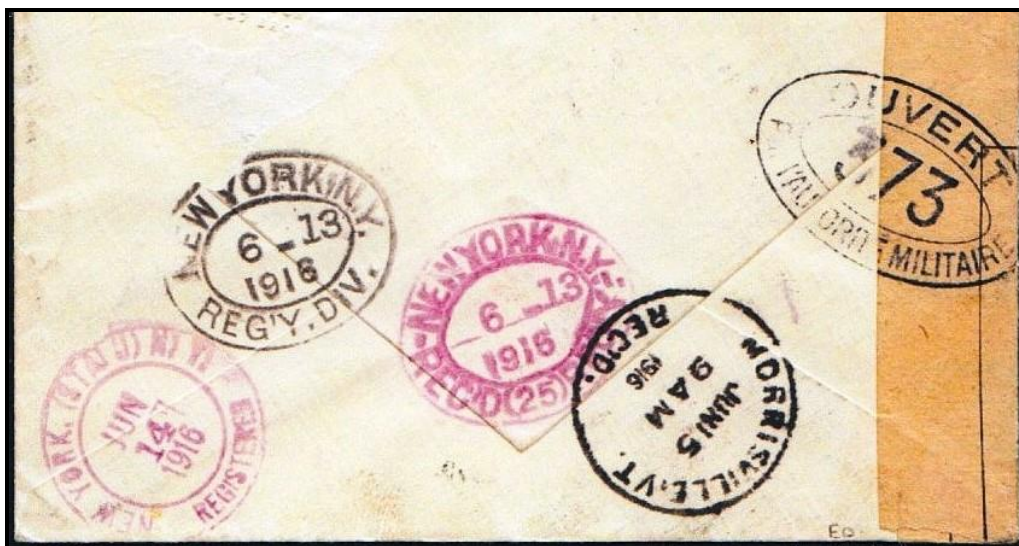
Except for Odessa in Russia, the red dots on this map indicate the location of French Post Offices abroad, on the western shore of the Black Sea and the Danube, all linked to French shipping lines.

Rhodes, Turquie d'Asie:

The Capital of the Aegean island of the same name. A French *Bureau de Distribution* opened in June 1852, (PC 3772, GC 5094), closed 1 September 1887. Re-established in January 1896, converted to *Recette* in 1911, demoted to a *Distribution* again in 1922. Rhodes was held by the *Knights of Saint John* from 1309, where they had a benevolent hospital. The island fell to the Turks in 1523, after a long siege. The Knights resettled in Malta, resisting invaders, until disbanded in 1798 when Napoleon captured Malta. They relocated to the Vatican, their legacy today being the *Saint John's Ambulance Service*. In 1912 Rhodes was taken over by Italy; so that when all the other French P.O.s in the Ottoman Empire closed on 1 October 1914, the Rhodes office did not, and remained alone in operation throughout the Great War until closed in July 1923.



16 May 1916 – Registered Cover from **Rhodes** to New York, franked 2 piastres/50c Merson Levant stamp. Due to a shortage of registration labels in the War, the **RHODES** linear cachet is simply applied next to the item's register number, 277. Opened and re-sealed by Marseille Censor, *Ouvert par l'Autorité Militaire*, 373. Assigned a new registration number in the USA (24864) it was redirected to Morrisville, Vermont, and Forwarded by New York P.O. Station J, as evidenced by the purple cachet on the front. Below is the back showing New York Received (25) purple oval, and similar Registration arrival (13 June) in black. Also circular redirecting Registration Station J in purple (14 June) and Morrisville arrival 15 June.



U.S. Army Post Offices in Egypt during World War II

Richard S. Wilson, ESC 230

INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 2014 I decided to look into U.S. Army post offices (APOs) in Egypt during World War II. I hadn't bothered with this interesting area before but covers were mostly modestly priced and were available from several Internet dealers and on eBay. In addition, a number of dealers at the stamp shows carried these covers while few had Egyptian material. The Carter publication *Numbered Army & Air Force Post Office Locations, 7th Edition* is essential for the locations of the APOs but it had very little about the postmarks. *Engel's A.P.O. Cover Catalogue*, issued in 1947, made a connection between some of the datestamps and the APOs but it was not a satisfactory, up-to-date source. However, it gave me a start as it illustrated a few of the cancels along with the APOs that used them.

I would appreciate receiving any corrections, additional data, and scans of covers confirming the use of the postmarks at particular locations and, in turn, I will provide you updated tables and any other new information I come across. Please send it to **dadu1@verizon.net**.

WW2 NOTES

As early as November 1940 the United States had a military presence in Egypt. Prior to Pearl Harbor the U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF) had advisers, representatives and observers attached to the U. S. legation in Cairo. In late 1941 a military mission headquarters was established in Cairo to coordinate lend-lease and other aid with Great Britain and the Soviet Union. On 13 June 1942 the U.S. North African Mission in Cairo and the Iranian Mission in Baghdad were absorbed by the newly created U.S. Army Forces in the Middle East (USAFIME), a stronger command and control organization. Late June saw the creation of USAMEAF (U.S. Army Middle East Air Force). On 12 November USAMEAF was redesignated the 9th Air Force in recognition of the fact that U.S. ground combat troops would not be taking part in operations in Egypt and Libya. By that time Operation Torch, the Anglo-American invasion of French North Africa, had commenced on 8 November. The 9th Air Force was transferred to England on 25 November 1943 to prepare for the coming invasion of France.

The first USAAF unit to arrive in Egypt and the Middle East was the Halverson Provisional Detachment (HALPRO) Bombardment Squadron. Consisting of twenty-four B-24 heavy bombers HALPRO arrived on 2 June 1942 at Fayid, Egypt. Its first bombing raid on Axis targets took off on June 12, 1942 against the oil refinery at Ploesti, Romania. On June 15 another mission was carried out against the Italian fleet 220 miles east of Malta. Following these raids and as additional air and its ground support arrived the USAAF cooperated closely with the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the British 8th Army in bombing and strafing missions against the Italo-German forces, supply lines, and ships in the Mediterranean Sea and the Western Desert in Egypt and Libya. However, the total contribution of the Americans accounted for only about ten percent of the assets and sorties flown by the combined Allied air forces. By year's end the 9th Air Force was attacking targets in Tunisia, Italy and Crete from bases in Egypt and Libya and by 12 February 1943 the Axis powers were cleared out of Libya thus ending Mussolini's dream of an Italian African empire. The Axis forces surrendered in Tunisia on 13 May 1943.

ARMY POST OFFICE (APO) LOCATIONS

Table 1, APO Locations of US Forces in Egypt WW II, lists details of the various post offices including the type of cancellation, location, and opening and closing dates of operations in Egypt. More details about these APOs may be found in Carter.

Seventeen U.S. Army Post Offices have been identified as having operated in Egypt as well as one Base Post Office (no cancels reported). They are APO 485, 486, 498, 616, 626, 678, 681, 683, 684, 685, 686, 696, 785, 786, 787, 788, and American Base Forces APO 814. I don't have information about the datestamps used at three of these APOs. They are listed as being in operation from two weeks to less than six months. Cancels are not known from the 8th Base Post Office but there is at least one informational handstamp (see figure 1). Eight APOs were reassigned to Cairo from Iran and Bahrain in the December 1945 to April 1946 period but are believed to have been inactive and held in reserve pending discontinuance.



Figure 1

They are APOs 523, 535, 680, 795, 797, 799, 816, and 824.

The first APO to arrive in Egypt was American Base Forces APO 814 on 25 June 1942 but it closed less than two months later on 12 August and was replaced by APO 616 that opened 27 July. Additional APOs were established over the ensuing year as more American aircraft and support troops arrived from the United States, Eritrea and Libya. In addition, a number of APOs ceased operations in Egypt as they were relocated to Libya, Palestine, and England making some of their stays in Egypt only a matter of months.

Four temporary or transit Army post offices have been identified with the forces in Egypt.. These numbers were assigned to individuals or units in transit from the United States to their permanent stations. Once the troops arrived they would use the APO number assigned. The TPOs used datestamps without an Army post office number or, in the case of a machine cancel, just the killer wave lines. Thus the only way to identify a cover from a TPO is through the return address.

DATESTAMPS

I have recorded and numbered twenty-five different variations of the handstamps used by the APOs in Egypt as shown in Table 2. APO numbers in boldface have been confirmed as being used in that specific APO. The unconfirmed APOs are believed to have used that particular datestamp but have yet to be verified. All are single circles except HS-1, which is a double circle or ring and no killer bars. This is found on the back of registered mail. The others measure between 30mm and 34mm in diameter with a four bar killer or obliterator. There are six groupings of these duplex cancels:

- 1) Double-ring, no killer bars (HS-1),
- 2) Single-ring with station and APO number (HS-5),
- 3) No APO number (HS-10 to 19),
- 4) APO number within the date and time slugs (HS-20-25),
- 5) APO number at ring bottom and within the date and time slugs (HS-27) and,
- 6) APO number at ring bottom with 3 or 4 line date and time (HS-30-39).

Some of the differences between the various postmarks are minor as illustrated in Group 2 where the spacing on the sides of the APO is different (HS-14 - HS-15). In other cases there may be different arrangements of the three- or four-line date slugs, perhaps caused by the failure of the postal clerk to insert the time of day slugs in the appropriate place (or leaving it out completely making a gap or blank space). While some of these may be the same physical CDS, in any case I consider each one to be a different cancel. Black ink was used for all of the cancels although HS-37 is also known in blue (HS-37A).

Group 2 datestamps do not include any APO number. The numbers were ordered removed by a directive from the War Department beginning July 1, 1942, supposedly as a security measure. However, this doesn't make a whole lot of sense, as the APO number is included in the sender's return address. On 15 March 1943 (I have also seen 9 and 10 March) the order was reversed with Postal Circular 16, Headquarters, Services of Supply, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army. Carter states that the first number to reappear was that of APO 887 on 17 March.

There were two hand-operated cancelling machines used by the APOs in Egypt that were issued to postal units serving at least 7,500 personnel. The first (PMC-1), Pitney-Bowes Universal Machine Model K, had a postmark die measuring 20mm. in diameter with seven wavy lines for the killer. This postmark is found from APOs 616, 678, and 788. The other machine is the International Postal Supply Company Model Hey Dolphin 2 (PMC-2) used at APO 616. The postmark die measures 22mm.

RATES

Military Personnel

Surface Mail: Postal cards and first class letter mail was *FREE* effective 1 April 1942. Prior to that date postage was at the domestic rate of 1¢ and 3¢ (per ounce), respectively.

Air Mail: 6¢ per half-ounce effective 25 December 1941 to and from members of the Armed Forces serving outside the continental United States.

Other services: Domestic rates applied.

Registered mail: minimum fee 15¢ to 25 March 1944, then 20¢, not eligible for free franking.

Insured mail: minimum fee 5¢ to 25 March 1944, then 10¢ to 31 October 1944, then 3¢, not eligible for free franking.

Special delivery: 10¢ to 1 November 1944, then 13¢, eligible for free franking for surface mail.

Civilians served by military post offices

Surface Mail: Domestic rates applied, 3¢ per ounce for first class mail and 1¢ for postal cards.

Air Mail: 6¢ per half-ounce effective 23 October 1942.

Other services: Domestic rates applied (see above).

Table 1





APO CDS	CDS TYPE (HS-) OR MACHINE CANCELLATION (bold face = confirmed)	APO LOCATION	BEGAN OPERATIONS IN EGYPT	CLOSED, SUSPENDED, INACTIVATED, DISCONTINUED	COMMENT
485	19, 30, 35	9th Air Service Group, Kabrit	12-Jan-43	1-Jun-43	TO: Castel Benito, Libya
486	5, 19, 35, 37, 37A (blue)	Deversoir Air Base	12-Jan-43	28-Feb-45	TO: Heliopolis
		Heliopolis	1-Mar-45	31-Oct-45	
498	17	Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis	14-Oct-43	30-Apr-44	FROM: Benghazi, Libya TO: Tripoli, Libya
616 See also: 814, (T) 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224	13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 30, 31 PMC-1, PMC- 2	Cairo	27-Jul-42	30-Sep-43	TO: Camp Huckstep
	18,21	Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis	1-Oct-43	1-Nov-46	TO: Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
626	None Reported	Heliopolis	19-Jan-43	1-May-43	FROM: Nairobi, Kenya TO: Benghazi, Libya
678	1, 11, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 23, 33 PMC-1	HQ, Middle East Service Command, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis	7-Nov-42	31-Oct-45	
681	14, 17, 23	376th Bomber Group, Abu Sueir	20-Nov-42	1-Apr-43	FROM: Lydda, Palestine TO: Soluck Main, Libya
683	14, 20, 27	USAAF Bomber	20-Nov-42	31-Jan-43	Moved to Gambut,

		Command, Fayid, Egypt			Cyrenaica, Libya
684	21	Mobile Unit, USAFIME, Egypt (Alexandria?)	17-May-43	2-Oct-43	FROM: Eritrea
		Camp Ataka (Near Ismailia)	3-Oct-43	15-Jan-44	
		Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis (mobile)	16-Jan-44	1-Apr-44	
		Alexandria	1-Apr-44	1-Jul-46	
685	None Reported	1081st Engineer Utility Detachment; Cairo	13-Mar-43	26-Mar-43	FROM: Eritrea TO: Palestine and back to Cairo.
		Cairo	16-Jan-44	31-Jul-44	TO: Benghazi, Libya
686	14	Headquarters, Suez Canal Ports, Suez	3-Oct-43	26-Oct-43	FROM: Eritrea
		Port Tewfik	27-Oct-43	15-Jan-44	
		Camp Ataka	16-Jan-44	1-Nov-44	
		Cairo, Mobile	1-Nov-44	6-Dec-44	
		Cairo	1-Mar-45	15-May-46	
696	12, 14, 20, 21, 23, 27	HQ, 9th Air Force HQ, 9th AF Defense Command, Cairo	23-Dec-42	24-Nov-43	TO: England
785	16	12th Bomber Group: Alexandria	30-Nov-42	3-Jan-43	TO: Gambut, Libya
786	None Reported	Alexandria	5-Dec-42	23-Jan-43	TO: Gambut, Libya
787	12, 20, 21, 23, 25	HQ, USArmy Forces in the Middle East, HQ, Africa-Middle East Theater, Cairo	21-Jan-43	1-Jul-46	
788	12A, 20, 21, 23, 25 PMC-1 (only known cover 4-11-46.)	HQ, North Africa Division Air Transport Command, Egypt Division, Heliopolis (John Payne Field)	1-Oct-43	1-Jul-46	
ABF 814	10, 39	Cairo	6/25/1942 HS-39	12-Aug-42	Established as an Army Base Forces (ABF) Post Office. Replaced by APO 616. Listed as never operational.
8th BPO	No cancels reported	Activated at Heliopolis, Egypt	1-May-43	19-Dec-43	Informational marking known

	(Carter)				
		Camp Huckstep, Cairo	20-Dec-43	15-Mar-46	
Temporary or Transit Post Offices (TPOS did not have numbered postmarks))					
(T) 1221		Egypt	12-Jun-42	24-Jul-42	assigned to 616
(T) 1222		Egypt	10-Nov-42	30-Jan-43	343rd Bomber Squadron; assigned to 616; 12 Jun-24 Jul 42 (?)
(T) 1223		Egypt	1-Feb-43	10-Feb-43	24th Station Hospital; Assigned to 616 9 Nov 45
(T) 1224		Camp Huckstep, Cairo	1-Nov-42	1-Nov-43	Assigned to APO 616 12 Jun - 24 JUL 42; assigned to APO 678 23 Oct 42; cancelled about Mar 45.
The Following APOS are Believed to Have Been Inactive While in Egypt and Held In Reserve Pending Discontinuance.					
523		Cairo	Jan 46	Apr-46	FROM: Iran
535		Cairo	Jan 46	Apr-46	FROM: Iran
680		Cairo	Jan 46	Apr-46	FROM: Iran
795		Cairo	Jan 46	Apr 46	FROM: Iran
797		Cairo	Jan 46	Apr 46	FROM: Iran
799		Cairo	Jan 46	Apr 46	FROM: Iran
816		Cairo	Jan 46	Mar 46	FROM: Bahrain MAO Mailing Address Only
824		Cairo	Dec 45	Mar 46	FROM: Iran

Table 2



A.P.O. Cancellations Used in Egypt during World War II

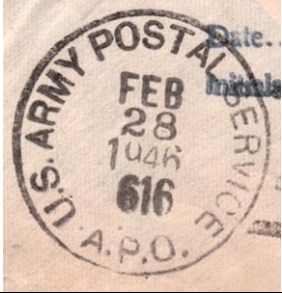

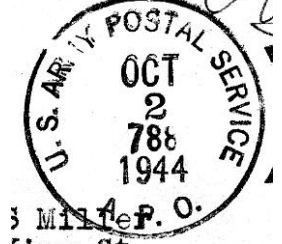
CANCELLATION NUMBER HS-	CANCELLATION (image may not be to scale)	COMMENTS	ASSIGNED TO APO*
Double Ring – No Killer			
<p>HS-1 Diameter: 29mm</p>		<p>Double ring used on registered mail</p>	<p>APO 678, 788</p>
Single Ring with Station and A.P.O. Number			
<p>HS-5</p>		<p>A.P.O. number on right rim and above date. STA. A at bottom m of rim.</p>	<p>APO 486</p>
No A.P.O. Number July 1942 – March 15, 1943			
<p>HS-10</p>		<p>AMERICAN BASE FORCES No A.P.O. number</p>	<p>APO 814, 816</p>
<p>HS-11 Diameter: 32mm</p>		<p>No A.P.O. number at bottom. Gap above month and no A.M./P.M.</p>	<p>APO 678</p>

<p>HS-12</p> <p>Diameter: 32mm</p>		<p>No A.P.O. number at bottom.</p> <p>Gap below year and no A.M./P.M.</p>	<p>APO 787, 12</p>
<p>HS-12A</p> <p>Diameter: 34mm</p>		<p>No A.P.O. number at bottom.</p> <p>Gap below year and no A.M./P.M</p> <p>Narrow spacing left & right of A.P.O.</p>	<p>APO 788</p>
<p>HS-13</p> <p>Diameter: 31mm</p>		<p>No A.P.O. number at bottom.</p> <p>Year on first line.</p>	<p>APO 616</p>
<p>HS-14</p> <p>Diameter: 31mm</p>		<p>No A.P.O. number at bottom.</p> <p>A.M./P.M. on third date line.</p> <p>Note spacing both sides of A.P.O.</p>	<p>APO 616, 678, 681, 683, 686, 696, 787</p>
<p>HS-15</p> <p>Diameter: 31mm</p>		<p>No A.P.O. number at bottom.</p> <p>A.M./P.M. on third date line.</p> <p>Wider spacing between the letters A.P.O.</p>	<p>APO 678</p>
<p>HS-16</p> <p>Diameter: 31mm</p>		<p>No A.P.O. number at bottom.</p> <p>A.M./P.M. on fourth date line.</p> <p>Note wide spacing both sides of A.P.O.</p>	<p>APO 616, 785, 787</p>


<p>HS-17 Diameter: 31mm</p>		<p>No A.P.O. number at bottom.</p> <p>A.M./P.M. on fourth date line.</p> <p>Close spacing both sides of A.P.O.</p>	<p>APO 498, 678, 681</p>
<p>HS-18 Diameter: 31mm</p>		<p>No A.P.O. number.</p> <p>A.P.O. left of center.</p> <p>A.M./P.M. on fourth date line.</p>	<p>APO 616</p>
<p>HS-19 Diameter: 32mm</p>		<p>No A.P.O. number.</p> <p>NO A.M./P.M.</p> <p>Gap between day and year.</p>	<p>APO 485, 486</p>

A.P.O. Number Within Date and Time Slugs – Not at Ring Bottom

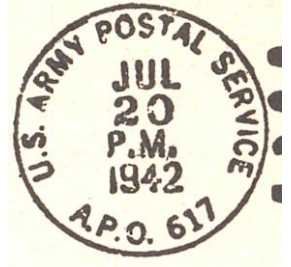
<p>HS-20</p>		<p>A.P.O. left of center A.P.O. number on fourth date line</p>	<p>APO 485, 616, 678, 683, 696, 787, 788</p>
<p>HS-21 Diameter: 31mm</p>		<p>A.P.O. centered at bottom. A.P.O. number on fourth date line.</p>	<p>APO 616, 678, 684, 696, 787, 788</p>

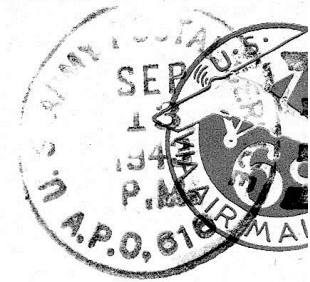


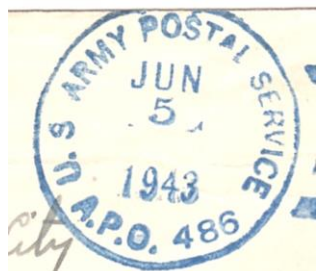


<p>HS-22 Diameter: 33 mm</p>		<p>A.P.O. centered at bottom. A.P.O. number on fourth date line. Larger letters than HS-21</p>	<p>APO 616</p>
<p>HS-23 Diameter: 32mm</p>		<p>A.P.O. number on first date line.</p>	<p>APO 678, 681, 696, 788</p>
<p>HS-25 Diameter: 31mm</p>		<p>A.P.O number between day and year.</p>	<p>APO 788</p>


A.P.O. Number at Ring Bottom and with Date and A.P.O. Number

<p>HS-27</p>		<p>Month, day, year, A.P.O. number. A.P.O. number at bottom of rim</p>	<p>APO 683, 696</p>
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A.P.O. Number at Ring Bottom

<p>HS-30</p>		<p>A.P.O. number centered at bottom. A.M./P.M. on third date line.</p>	<p>APO 485, 616, 678,</p>
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<p>HS-31 Diameter: 31mm</p>		<p>A.P.O. number centered at bottom.</p> <p>A.M./P.M. on fourth date line</p>	<p>APO 616</p>
<p>HS-33 Diameter: 31mm</p>		<p>A.P.O. number centered at bottom.</p> <p>GAP between year and APO number.</p>	<p>APO 678</p>
<p>HS-35 Diameter: 32mm</p>		<p>A.P.O. number centered at bottom.</p> <p>GAP between month and day.</p>	<p>APO 485, 486</p>
<p>HS-37 (black) HS-37A (blue) Diameter: 31mm</p>		<p>A.P.O. number centered at bottom.</p> <p>GAP between day and year.</p>	<p>HS-37: APO 485, 486</p> <p>HS-37A (blue): APO 485, 486</p>
<p>HS-39 Diameter: 31mm</p>		<p>AMERICAN BASE FORCES</p>	<p>814</p>
<p>Postal Machine Cancellations</p>			
<p>PMC-1 Pitney-Bowes Universal Machine Model K Diameter: 20mm</p>		<p>U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE</p> <p>Only one cover is known from APO 788.</p>	<p>APO 616, 678, 788</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">PMC-2 International Postal Supply Company Model Hey Dolphin 2</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">AMERICAN BASE FORCES A.P.O. No APO number.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">APO 616</p>
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* APO numbers in boldface have been confirmed as being used in that specific APO. The unconfirmed APOs are believed to have used that particular datestamp. Additional APOs will be added when reported.

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We had a meeting at the Washington show of 2006, see *QC* 237, and hope to repeat its success in New York next year. The free entry show runs over eight days, May 28-June 4, 2016, at the Jacob Javits Convention Center, 655 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001.

The show will take up 294,000 square feet with over 200 dealers, 4,000 exhibit frames and an expected 200,000+ visitors. So don't miss this once-a-decade event. See <http://www.ny2016.org/>

Room 1E10 is reserved for an Egypt Study Circle meeting for 2½ hours beginning at 11am, **Sunday, May 29, 2016.**

An expression of interest would be helpful.



The “Imprimés” Postmarks. Addendum and correction.

Roland Dauwe (ESC 498)

In *QC* 250 (September 2014, pp 52-55) we published an article on the “*imprimés*” postmarks and listed all those we had seen over the years. The last one, Type 6, is a censor mark used for printed matter. Recently we had the opportunity to find a cover sent by airmail from Alexandria (postmark Hadayek el Shallalat, 30.8.66) and addressed to Pope Paul VI (arrival postmark Citta’del Vaticano 2.9.66 on the reverse). On the front of the cover is a hexagonal printed matter censor mark, reading *matbu’at 31*. It is precisely the same size as the one we published earlier (vertical height 22mm), but it is now clear that what we thought to be a circle is in reality the Arabic cypher 5



Why this letter pass through the printed matter censorship is not clear, because the message to the Pope was sent in an open cover and there are no other indications at all that it was printed matter. Maybe the fact that it was addressed to the head of state of a foreign country is the reason.



It remains uncertain where the censor marking was applied, whether Alexandria or, as we imagine, Cairo, but this letter shows for certain that this kind of censor marking was already used in the mid-Sixties. It also proves that these censor marks were applied on mail sent abroad.

Mena House Hotel Oddity

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)

When I gave a display of my Egypt Hotel collection to the Rochdale P.S. recently, one of their keen eyed members spotted an odd sequence of dates on one of the covers.

It is a most attractive item, being a decorative Mena House envelope franked with the four Crown Prince Farouk 9th Birthday stamps, all neatly tied with a PYRAMIDS circular date stamp. In addition there is a CAIRO PYRAMIDS registration cachet. The envelope is addressed to an army Captain at nearby Abbassia.

Now the odd sequence of dates:

- PYRAMIDS date stamp 6 FE 29
- Stamps first day of issue 11 February 1929
- ABBASSIA arrival cds British Barracks / Abbassia 17 FE 29
- Stamps invalidated 29 February 1929

So we see that the stamps were issued five days after posting!



This poses a number of questions. Is this an instance of the postal clerk making an error in the date on his date stamp? Or were the stamps on hand at the post office five days before their release date and the postal clerk was persuaded to sell them and cancel them on the 6 February? If the latter, what became of this registered letter after posting, for it took an awful long time to cover the short distance to Abbassia?

Your comments would be most welcome.

Membership changes

New members:

- ESC 690 Capt Khalid Abu Bakr**, Post Office 96 El Saraya, Sidi Bishr, Alexandria 21411, Egypt (UNEF forces postal history, stations, hotels, postcards)
- ESC 691 Mats Edström**, Lidnarsgatan 10A, SE-11253 Stockholm, Sweden (Interpostals, Revenues and revenue stamped paper (to 1914), Posta Europea)
- ESC 692 Tarek Mokhtar**, Gamal Abdel Nasser St, Borg El-Taiseer 8th floor, Chibin El Kom 32111, Egypt (Egypt and Middle East stamps and covers)

Change of Address:

ESC605 Yasser Omar YouGov, PO Box 500592, Dubai, DXB 500592, United Arab Emirates

Resigned: ESC 357 Eckhardt Redecke

Deceased: ESC 335 Dr Hugh Johnston

Lapsed: ESC 522 Pierre Nicolas ESC 658 Robert Pinet ESC 675 Yannis Lazarides ESC 682 Darrel Flint

Air Mail Letter Sheet of August 1st. 1971

Ted Frasier-Smith (ESC 238)



I have five copies of the 1971 Airmail Letter Sheet (ESH A15). On examining them closely recently, I discovered that their vignette designs show some interesting marks in the printed “perforations” that I can only conclude are guide markings – perhaps by the original designer?

1.



Mint sharing indentator top right and bottom right corners, plus pale brown lines bottom left corner.

2.



8.12.73 used showing no imperfections.

3.



Used piece has also a vertical line bottom left. 29.6.73 Heliopolis Ghab odd lines at top right corner.

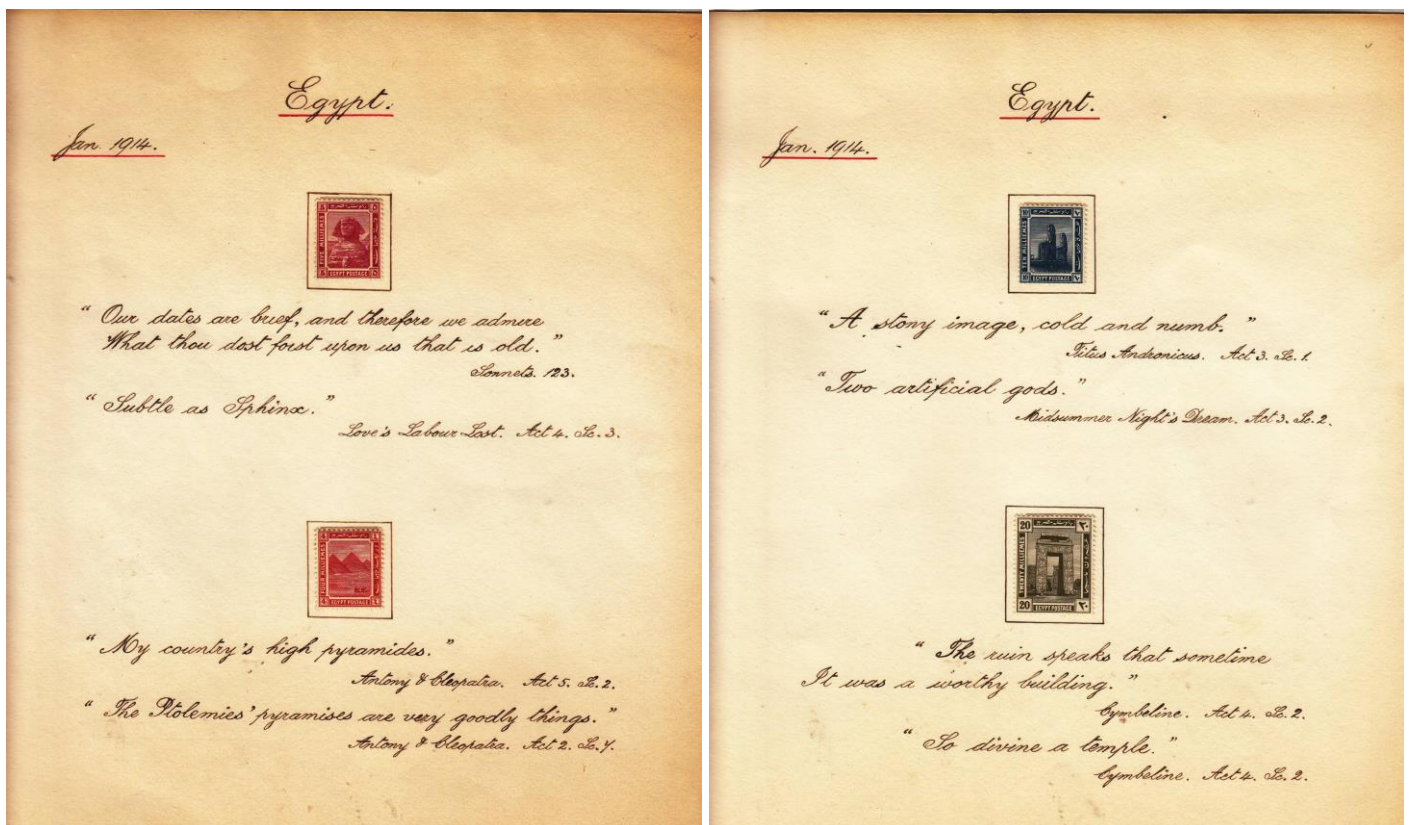
My other used copies, dated 4.2.77 and early 1977 are identical to 1.

George Higlett Original Egypt Pages

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)

During the 1920's George Higlett wrote the series of humorous "Higlett Booklets" on philately, which are still much prized. Besides the books he was a notable collector with a most distinctive method of writing up his album pages. Colin Searle has two of these pages for the 1914 Pictorial issue of Egypt and are reproduced here.

George Higlett (1860 - 1940) was a Chartered Secretary, philatelist and prolific writer. He won a Gold Medal at the London International Philatelic Exhibition in 1923 and in 1925 he became a signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.



Reference

Higlett Bijou Bibliography: Gavin Fryer, 1997

The Higlett Booklets: a Bijou Bibliography: Fred Melville, 1925

The Way of the Official: I. Pigeon Post

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

This is an abstract come from C S Jarvis's The Back Garden of Allah, Chapter II Section I, pages 37-55, first published July 1939. It's a continuation to Sinai & Gaza - Part 4: QC 251 p86

When our Department was formed in Egypt to administer the deserts on both sides of the Nile the first difficulty it had to contend with was the maintenance of communication. Steps could always be taken to see that letters containing cheques for travelling allowances, those very necessary adjuncts to life, were collected by car, whereas the ordinary correspondence, fatuous, unnecessary and redundant, could be allowed to trickle through in the normal way on the back of a camel.

Headquarters, however hit on the happy idea of a pigeon service. Pigeons had served with considerable distinction in the trenches in France with two being awarded the Military Medal, whilst the officer in charge had been promoted to the rank of Colonel and wore red tabs. Pigeons were to be taken seriously, and all unseemly levity on the subject when the proposal was first advanced was sternly discouraged.

The first thing to do, of course, was to form a pigeon department at Headquarters, and long before the birds themselves arrived special pigeon clerks had been appointed and a *liaison* officer put in charge. He had to be called a *liaison* officer owing to the fact that he knew nothing whatsoever about pigeons beyond the fact that they could be spatch-cocked and were exceedingly good to eat.

It then transpired that the amount of real abysmal ignorance on the subject of carrier pigeons that existed in the Provinces was beyond belief and there was not a man who knew anything whatsoever about this interesting and intelligent bird and his ways.

With the birds arrived the O.C. Pigeons, who came from a good old Manchester pigeon-owning family. The obvious thing to have done, of course, would have been to have entrusted the new O.C. with the selection and purchase of the pigeons he was to manage, but it must be remembered that we were a Government Department and of necessity anything that was obviously right was the last possible course to take. The O.C. took an instant dislike to the pigeons, the pigeons retaliated by having no use at all for him.

The first thing he had to do was to breed a stock of young birds for the various Provinces and stations, and the pigeons were so good at this that at the end of six months sufficient young birds were ready to go out into the world and plans of the lofts that were to be built were despatched to the outposts.

In the first place, it would appear that the old touching picture of an octogenarian pigeon, with feathers down his legs and the rheumy eyes of senile decay, flying back to the old home loft after seventy years in a strange land was based upon an entire misapprehension, as, according to the manual, birds could not be trusted to fly back to their headquarters after an absence of more than a month. That is to say, if El Arish, for instance, wished to maintain communication with Nekhl, 100 miles distant, a crate of fresh birds had to be sent there by car at least once a month.

A special Arab policeman with a pigeon complex was selected at all stations to take complete charge of the birds and it was his task to see that nothing disgraceful occurred during the morning and evening flights. These men, according to the custom of the country, were immediately christened Abu Hammam (Father of Pigeons), and for some unexplained reason this gave gross offence. Apparently in the Arab world nobody minds having a name like Father of Oil, Father of Frogs, or Son of a Black Man but to be called the Father of Pigeons, when one actually held the position, was in some mysterious fashion a studied insult.

Arab pigeon-keepers, however, were very much better at the work than one would have expected, and the job was eagerly sought after: it came with a rake-off by the sale of manure to melon cultivators.

The training of pigeons to fly distances is not so easy as is commonly imagined, and if the instructions had been carried out properly the complete staff of the Provinces would have been engaged on pigeon training and nothing else. Birds had to be gradually initiated, being flown one mile from their loft the first day, two miles the second, and so on till they could be relied upon to return to their home from any distance.

It was not merely a question of the birds failing to return altogether, but also there was definite proof that they lingered by the wayside and philandered not only with ordinary domestic pigeons but also with the wild blue rocks of the desert. The El Arish pigeons were notorious in this respect and the loft was filled with that particularly repellent type of backsliding husband who brings other women into his wife's house

Rest Houses had been set along the routes of the Sinai, each requiring a farrash. The correct translation of the word "farrash" is bed-maker; in other words he is the man in charge of a Rest House which the we built had along the telegraph line across the north. There had been a problem in recruiting the cream of humanity to serve as farrashes. Herbert, Jarvis's assistant, suggested the employment of trained Egyptian servants in the Rest Houses to which Jarvis pointed out to him that as a cat hates water so does town dweller loathe the desert, and that no Egyptian would remain in our Rest Houses for five minutes, even if the pay were equal to

that of a Cabinet Minister, with an assured entry into Paradise later on. Herbert, who is the sort of man who could become a virtuoso on a one-stringed fiddle if he had any ear for music, got his own way in the end and after a visit to Cairo returned with five dusky gentlemen wearing voluminous white emmas (turbans) and flowing robes. "But," said Herbert, "they will be marooned there. They can't possibly get away, and so there they will have to stop, and being there they will perforce keep the places clean."

The following morning early Herbert started out from El Arish with his five new farrashes for the five desert Rest Houses loaded up in the cars, together with their kit, and a basketful of carrier pigeons he was training with no marked success to fly in with messages from the outposts. In theory the scheme was eminently sound but in practice it seldom panned out satisfactorily as the pigeons when released immediately lost all sense of direction and that love of home life which is supposed to be the keynote of their character. The farrashes looked far from happy when they saw the desert stretching in front of them in meaningless waves of sandy gravel, but as Herbert explained they were up in the cars and could not get out and he had purposely embarked them inside a garage facing a wall with the view of withholding their future from them as long as possible. With a cheery wave of his hand and a happy smile on his face, Herbert slipped in the clutch and set forth on his farrash dumping expedition.

The first Rest House was forty miles away: and ten hours later the first farrash arrived back at El Arish headquarters. He was dusty, perspiring freely, and looked tired, but his vocal chords were in no way impaired and he held forth at great length. Half an hour later the pigeon that had been released at the same time as the farrash flew into the loft carrying on his leg a message from Herbert that ran: "Excelsior! first farrash installed amidst general rejoicing."

The second Rest House is seventy-five miles away its farrash had found a short cut and he arrived in seventeen hours, beating his pigeon by about two lengths. This pigeon also carried a paean of self-congratulation and triumph from Herbert which was slightly offset by what the farrash had to say about the writer and his general integrity and standard of honour.

After this I realised I was dealing with the world's best Marathon runners and, with the help of a stopwatch and clerk, worked out the timings of the remainder. Making due allowance for shortage of food and water and sandy going, Mohammed Abdul from Rest House No. 3 won with an average of three-and-a-half miles an hour over a ninety-mile course; and the fact that his pigeon never arrived gave him ten additional points. No. 4 I regretfully had to disqualify as he had hired an Arab camel, and, as the local R.S.P.C.A. were greatly concerned over its condition on arrival, his name was erased from the list. No. 5, who had been dumped some hundred and eighty miles away and should, on the timing of the others, have arrived in about two-and-a-half days, caused some concern till I heard that he had jumped a passing car and arrived in Suez five hours after taking over his post. As he apparently lacked the true sporting instinct, he also was disqualified.



Herbert arrived back when the intense excitement over the race had died down. He wore the expression of a man who had deserved well of his country.

"Well, thank God that's finished," he said. "I've got them all nicely settled down to their jobs and the Rest House difficulty is solved for all time."

"Well, not exactly," I replied, "but on the other hand we've cleared up the carrier pigeon trouble that has been worrying us for so long. They are superannuated and finished for we have definite proof that untrained Egyptian farrashes will come in from a desert outpost far quicker and with less desire to linger by the way than your pigeons. The thing we have to do now is to draw up a scheme for a flying farrash service to take the place of your very inefficient pigeon post."

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE ACCOUNTS 2014

Income and Expenditure Account (General Account) for the year ended December 31, 2014

	2013		2014
INCOME			
Subscriptions	4,615.19		3,634.07
Auction account	521.54		2,685.38
Bank deposit interest net)	0.60		0.00
Donations	20.00		20.00
Advertisements	<u>200.00</u>		<u>200.00</u>
		5,357.33	6,539.45
EXPENDITURE			
Meeting room hire	842.40		884.00
Cost of <i>Quarterly Circular</i>	3,478.91		3,680.02
Website costs	127.62		141.58
Officers' stationery, phone etc.	97.32		131.87
Insurance	142.92		143.92
Library	<u>0.00</u>		<u>100.32</u>
		<u>4,689.17</u>	<u>5,081.71</u>
Surplus for the year		686.16	1,457.74
Surplus at January 1 2014		15,602.05	16,270.21
Surplus as December 31 2014		<u>£16,270.21</u>	<u>£17,727.95</u>

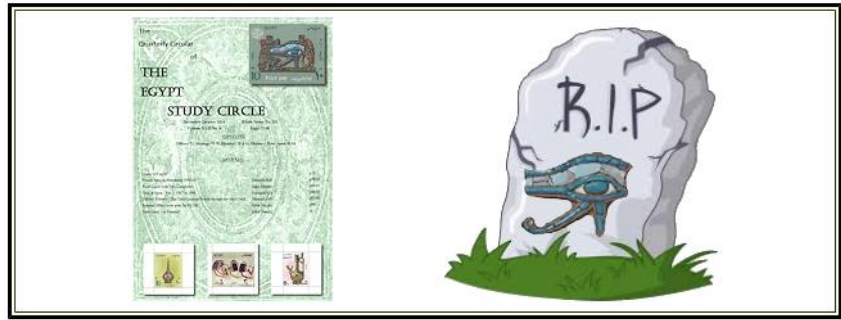
Balance Sheet (General account) as at December 31 2014

	2013		2014
ASSETS			
Stamp collection (catalogue)	5,251.00		5,251.00
Circle library & records			
2015 room hire prepaid	420.00		420.00
Cash at bank			
Current account	8,575.98		13,249.70
Deposit account	<u>2,943.98</u>		<u>0.00</u>
		17,190.96	18,920.70
LIABILITIES			
Secretary/Treasurer expenses	0.00		125.31
Members' subscriptions 2015	60.00		40.00
Printing of <i>Quarterly Circular</i>	<u>860.75</u>		<u>1,027.44</u>
		<u>920.75</u>	<u>1,192.75</u>
		<u>£16,270.21</u>	<u>£17,727.95</u>
Representing			
Accumulated surplus		<u>£16,270.21</u>	<u>£17,727.95</u>

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

S W Bunce, Chartered Accountant, March 18, 2015

For the Agenda for our recent AGM I insisted to the Secretary that he include the Editor's query... "Is it now time to abandon the *QC*?". This crucially serious question on the Study Circle's future drew a great response, from two members. Both were in disagreement with the idea. I can only assume that the other 165 (or so) members had no



interest in the matter. One of my two respondents had read into my query something I had not intended, imagining that my request was leading up to moving articles on to the website only. This I do see as a possibility in the long term, but something that I hope is still some way off.

At the AGM itself I made the point as forcibly as I could that it isn't me who wants to abandon our magazine but that our members have already effectively done so. I became Editor 18 years ago and inherited a magazine set-up of 24 pages plus four more for the cover. I don't know whether there was any reason for this particular number, but it has been suggested that 28 pages brought it just within the limit of postal rate increase. And with our latest printer, this seems indeed to be the case – so all is well. And in my first edition I pledged that my aim was to produce those 28 *QC* pages four times a year – it's in the title: *Quarterly*.

Members may have noticed that the March *QC* had no articles because we showed pages from Peter Smith's collection. December contained articles by only two members. As Editor I should have contributions from several members for June. But only in mid-May did I have enough to build a *QC*. So my AGM suggestion was that it had in effect been abandoned by its members and must change to the *WE* – **W**hen **E**ver I have enough articles that **WE** the members have written I'll publish the *WE*. It could be twice a year. Or even less.

Looking back over the past two years, I find that the articles are mainly written by our longest serving members: 73 per cent by those of 30 years' or more membership, 20 per cent by members of between 15 and 30 years, and just 7 per cent by those joining in the past 15 years. But these (under 15 years) represent just more than half our membership! Past contributors, like Peter Smith, are leaving us and sadly becoming fewer and fewer. This is not our problem alone. I have spoken to members of societies including OPAL, Holy Land (BAPIP) and the Sudan Study Group. All face the same difficulties, and the magazines for OPAL and Holy Land have effectively been abandoned – although attempts at resurrection are hopefully going ahead. After 15 years in the role, the SSG editor is hoping to pass on the twice-yearly publication - but finds no takers.

I accept fully that many of our members may have only a passing interest in Egypt philately but collect something in which Egyptian material may play only a part, such as hotels or airmails. Many of us do not collect First, Second and Third issue and so on, but do our own niche thing; so perhaps some may feel that they lack the depth of understanding to be able to write "the great article". Remember, the early *QC* was to report "study findings" and many may now believe that everything of importance has already been written.

But though I suspect that many think they have nothing to contribute, it is not "the great article" that I am seeking. I mentioned to the editor of the Cyprus Study Circle that new members were not writing: he replied: "New members only want to read articles, not write them." So it's a common stamp club phenomenon. As an aside, you may also note that of the five members leading meetings this year I am the junior, with only 37 years' service, and that this *QC* is made up of articles mainly from a cohort of the old guard.

At the AGM members were asked who would contribute an article. Half said that they would, to keep the *QC* alive. To date I've received one, from a long term contributor. I also suggested that I would make the June *QC* as normal, the September one without articles by the Secretary and myself, and I **will create the December issue only with articles from first-time contributors**. If we cannot manage 20 or so pages to go with meeting reports from the 140+ members who have not previously contributed - can their collections really be so boring? - then effectively the *QC* has been abandoned.

The Editor