

The  
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of  
**THE**  
**EGYPT**



**STUDY CIRCLE**

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### A step in to the unknown or a step into the future?



At the November meeting, page 172, the Secretary announced that a Circle Facebook page will be produced hopefully the first week of December. This has been brought by prompting from our member Hani Sharestan (ESC 595), who lives in California and will monitor and update the page and has already co-opted some of our members to help. I suspect there are many of our members may not heard of Facebook or it's something that youngsters do. But that's the point, by waving our flag on Facebook and that of Egyptian philately we may making contact with the next generation of members. Several of our members are already on Facebook, including myself and any self respective person or company has to have a page i.e. Barack Obama, BBC, Rolls-Royce etc.

The Facebook page will not be used to buy and sell stamps but rather to promote ESC, advertise forthcoming auctions, highlight prior ESC auction items that might bring forth new interest in joining, and then most importantly provide educational information about our beautiful hobby and encourage queries.

At the meeting concern was rightly given that no personal information will be placed on the page so please any of our members who will use the page for yourself put what you like but make no mention of any other of our members. For instance in replying a query don't say, "I don't know but our member John Doe has a great collection of it."

**Edmund Hall**

### Macarthur Award

Please take a moment to vote for the best and most important article by a member in the *QC* this year for QCs 252-255. Space does not allow a full list, the website has a full list. Some in contention include: The 1915 Provisional: A Centenary Celebration p173-185; Important Perfins Updates: K&H/A and BCIE p190-192; Khedivial Mail Line and the S.S. Taif p152-154; Army Post – King Farouk 3 mills green on cover: Census Update p154-155; In Search of Rifleman A Ferguson p160; Postcards and/or Pictures of Post Offices p161-166; Travels of an Early Airmail Cover to India p167-168; The Story Behind the Cover: French Maritime Post in the Levant p126-127; U.S. Army Post Offices in Egypt During World War II p128-138; The "Imprimés" Postmarks. Addendum and correction. p139; Air Mail Letter Sheet of August 1st, 1971 p141. This does not imply in any way that others are less worthy. Most encouraging is how many of these are from new, or nearly, new contributors. Let's hope they, and others, will keep up the high standard shown by these interesting article.

### Meetings dates for 2016

The September meeting will be held at 2.30pm at **Stampex**, at the Design Centre in Islington (where members normally congregate a little earlier in the hope of a quick start to a two-hour meeting); and in November we meet 2pm in the **Victory Services Club**, Marble Arch, London (where members usually meet in the ground-floor bar from 1pm).

<b>Feb 20, 2.30pm</b>	<b>Stampex</b> Stampex Feb 17-20	<b>AGM &amp; Live Auction</b>	<b>All members</b>
<b>May 7, 2pm</b>	<b>Services Club</b>	<b>Khedivial Mail Line</b>	<b>John Sears</b>
<b>May 29 11am</b>	<b>World Stamp Show</b> New York May 28-June 4	<b>Great Bitter Lake Assoc</b>	<b>Jon Aitchison</b>
<b>July 16, 2pm</b>	<b>Services Club</b>	<b>New Issues collection</b>	<b>Cyril Defriez</b>
<b>Sept 17, 2.30pm</b>	<b>Stampex</b> Stampex Sept 14-17	<b>Cancelled-Backs</b>	<b>John Clarke</b>
<b>Nov 5, 2pm</b>	<b>Services Club</b>	<b>Ten Sheets</b>	<b>All members</b>
		<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Richard Wheatley</b>
		<b>Interpostals</b>	<b>Jon Aitchison</b>

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**facebook**

## Report of the Meeting, September 19

John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Edmund Hall (Editor/Webmaster), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Jon Aitchison, Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Ted Fraser-Smith, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Neil Hitchens, Sherif Samra (Egypt), Ronny Van Pellecom (Belgium), Vahe Varjabedian (Egypt), Richard Wheatley.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** John Davis (Librarian/Deputy Chairman), Angela Child, Tony Chisholm, Cyril Defriez, Denis Doren, Mats Edström, Mostafa El-Dars, Pauline Gittoes, Alan Jeyes, Hany Makram.

The Chairman opened the meeting by regretting the inability of the Stampex organisers to arrange bookings for meetings rooms, thanked the Premier Inn next door for its usual warm hospitality in emergency, and welcomed members and especially the three overseas visitors.

But those present were shattered by an announcement from Edmund Hall, our long-serving Editor and Webmaster, that he has been found to be seriously ill with pancreatic cancer and that the long-term prognosis is far from good. In an astonishingly upbeat ten minutes typical of his normal style, he explained the situation fully and made clear that plans for the future of both the website and the magazine had to be made with a matter of some urgency.

Members expressed their wholehearted support and wished him well for the longer term, with Jon Aitchison, himself a former cancer sufferer, reporting that the positive attitude Edmund displayed often proved just as effective as the medics in prolonging life. Stunned by Edmund's announcement, members found it difficult to concentrate.

Looking to a future that we all hope is far away, however, some practical steps were also taken. Neil Hitchens, who has some practical website experience, is now learning the ins and outs of how our site runs, and is already willing to take some responsibility as Edmund's deputy. And Mike Murphy, a journalist once upon a time, volunteered to take over the editorship, having acted as assistant to Edmund for a year or two. That change, however, will be in addition to the Secretary duties: he appealed to any member living within easy reach of London who might care to take responsibility for arranging our five meetings each year.



**Exhibition in Egypt:** Dr Sherif Samra, President of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, addressed members on the exhibition marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Issue, which will be held in Cairo from December 31 to January 6, and urged as many members as possible to attend, and/or to exhibit. Either the Secretary or Dr Samra (egyptianophilatelicociety@gmail.com) will be happy to answer questions.

*Barker & Co cover to Hull in 1944. Can anyone explain the reason for the "Ship's Documents/ Naval Channels" reference?*

Jon Aitchison (01279 870488; britishlocals@aol.com), who is handling exhibits on our behalf, told the meeting that the deadline for entries has been extended to October 15. He can supply full details, but the essence is that application forms (available from Jon or on this website) must be returned to Jon with a copy of the exhibit's introduction sheet by that date. Please make every effort to exhibit; we are eager to support our Egyptian colleagues in their endeavours.

As far as visiting is concerned, we have now received firm offers from the PSE travel agents of \$799 (double room) and \$709 (single room) for bed and breakfast for the eight nights' stay from December 30 to January 7 in the four-star Pyramisa Hotel close to the exhibition centre. The best price we can find for a flight online is £340 with Alitalia, with a two-hour transfer in Rome each way. Non-stop flights with EgyptAir are about £550, and with BA about £530. Since the Circle is willing to book hotel rooms on members' behalf but is not in a position to make group bookings, we hope members who make their own flight arrangements will inform the Secretary of details so that he can ensure that our Egyptian colleagues meet them at Cairo airport. The Secretary is happy to answer queries (egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com).

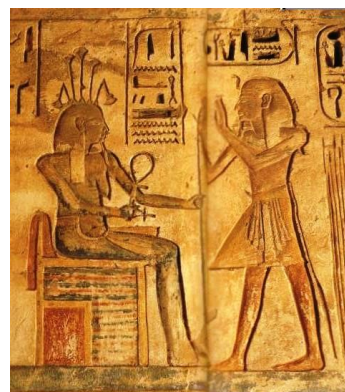
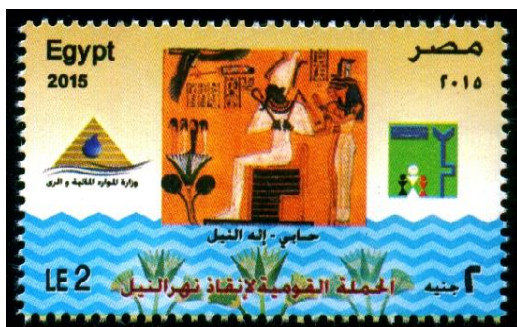
Ten sheets: John Sears was able to show half a dozen covers emanating from Barker & Co, the Alexandria company of our late member Michael Barker. Though sent from Egypt to Hull, each is franked at a 4 1/2d rate and provided with a three-line handstamp: OFFICIAL SHIP'S DOCUMENTS / FOR TRANSMISSION THROUGH / NAVAL CHANNELS and an oval datestamp, also in red, reading Naval Control Service / Alexandria of 23 MAR 44 (with "Uncensored" added in manuscript). The stamps are cancelled Post Office / Maritime Mail in London, and there is a Registration label for MM (Maritime Mail?) 993.

The covers led to a great deal of discussion about what documents might have been contained, whether bills of lading and the like requiring urgency of treatment, or perhaps personal documents of staff aboard a particular vessel. No one had any clear idea, and the Circle would be very pleased indeed to hear from anyone with definite knowledge of how these covers came about.

Mike Murphy showed a couple of recent Egyptian issues – the first a lavishly illustrated First Day A4 folder in two versions – English and Arabic - marking the opening of the newly built parallel Suez Canal, with the se-tenant strip of three stamps and the miniature sheet cancelled 6/8/2015.

The second was Egypt's most recent withdrawn stamp and its FDC – the issue of July 25 marking the gift of the Nile and intended to carry an illustration of Hapi, God of the river and symbol of fruitfulness. Instead the central vignette carries an image of Osiris from the Book of the Dead judgement of Hunefer (Dynasty XIX) from the British Museum .. not at all relevant. It seems that efforts were made to retrieve the stamps after the error was noted, and 500 of the 1500 first-day covers and 15,000 of the 75,000 stamps were recovered for disposal. There will be no substitute stamp issue, and it will be intriguing to see whether the erroneous stamp is listed in the catalogues.

After an appeal by the Secretary, the mini auction looked a much more attractive section at this meeting, and a commission of £14.30 was raised for Circle funds. Thank you to those who brought items for sale.



*The newly issued stamp showing Osiris in the central vignette, and, right, how the god Hapi normally looks receiving offerings and wearing the papyrus of Lower Egypt as a headdress*

As the QC went to press we were immensely saddened to hear of the death - at home in Wilton, Wellington, New Zealand, on November 20 - of Tony Chisholm, after a long series of medical problems. For many years he had been our Antipodean Agent and a wonderful friend to the ESC. We send the Circle's sincere condolences to his wife Jenny and son Murray

## Report of the Meeting, November 14

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), John Davis (Librarian/Deputy Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Edmund Hall (Editor/Webmaster), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Peter Grech, Neil Hitchens. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Jon Aitchison, Angela Child, Cyril Defriez, Mostafa El-Dars, Pauline Gittoes, Sami Sadek, Hani Sharestan, Richard Wheatley.

The Chairman welcomed members and especially Edmund Hall in light of his medical condition. He was sad to have to report the absence, however, of Cyril Defriez (ESC 172), whose wife Sheila passed away last week. Members sent their sincere condolences on Cyril's loss.

On a brighter note, the Chairman took 2015's final opportunity to wish all members worldwide a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Secretary reported an addition to Circle funds of £838.20 in commission on Auction 54, in which we sold precisely half of the 550 lots. He noted 35 buyers and 17 sellers, but pointed out that the vast majority of the successful sales came from just three sellers and urged members to provide more top-quality material.

It was not too late, he said, to join the visit to Cairo, and presented next year's Meetings list together with a plea to send in 2016 subscriptions early: the Treasurer appealed to UK members to pay quickly and trouble-free by direct debit. The Secretary announced that a Circle Facebook page is in course of preparation, and two applications from new members were accepted.



*24 Jan 1870: Port Said French Office to Bordeaux franked 40c with 5129, PD, pearled CDS and sender's cachet all in blue*

John Davis (ESC 213) opened his talk by specifying just what is meant by “Consular Mail” – that which is sent to or from the post offices contained within the consular offices, mainly in Cairo or Alexandria (but also Port Said and Suez), of Austria, Britain, France, Greece, Italy and Russia. These descended from Egypt's treaties with the Ottoman Empire, of which it was a member until 1914.

He showed an astonishing array of postal history and some especially delightful covers from the more rare of the offices, as well as a full range of the stamps produced specifically for these tiny alien outposts and the handstamps they used, with examples both incoming and outgoing. Among them, several “mixed frankings” of Egyptian native stamps to cover internal postage to the port of departure, plus “foreign” stamps for the onward journey. What was not resolved, however, was the age-old question of who paid for and placed the foreign stamps on a cover at the consular office when it had been sent from a faraway inland town?

One delight in a display far too wide to be covered in this brief note was a cover addressed to Cairo franked with three Russian Levant stamps given boxed-O (“obsolete”) and boxed-T (“Tax due”) handstamps on arrival in Port Said, and a 1-piastre Due in Cairo – double the local deficiency – on January 24, 1892. Why? Because the stamps had been de-monetised in 1875, 17 years before. Paquebot usage? Contrived? Either way, it raised a wide-ranging discussion.

The bulk of the display was based on the French Office, the longest lasting of them all – from 1837 to 1931 – with a comprehensive exhibition of stamps, markings and covers that staggered those lucky enough to be present – not forgetting some absolute treasures from the Greek, Russian, Italian and Austrian offices. As the Chairman said in thanking John for his afternoon's entertainment, “It was a true delight to have seen such outstanding material – and a great shame that more members were not present.”

**The 1915 Provisional: A Centenary Celebration**

**Dr Amr El-Etreby (ESC 688)**

On October 15 1915 Egypt issued a provisional surcharged stamp, 2 millièmes on 3 millièmes. The overprinting was done by the Government Printing Works, Boulaq, which was also responsible for an essay of the surcharge. The essay has the surcharge arranged almost vertically, tilted slightly to the left (*Fig.1*); it was apparently printed as a single strip of ten, set from loose type.

As Peter Smith<sup>(1)</sup> notes; the reason for the provisional is not known with certainty, but it is most likely that the supply of 2m stamps was running out, either as a result of delayed deliveries because of the outbreak of World War I, or underestimation of the demand for 2m stamps before the internal postcard rate was raised to 3m. (January 1916). Edmund Hall<sup>(2)</sup>, trying to find an answer to the question “Why did the 3m, of which fewer were originally printed, need to be turned into a 2m which one must assume was used in far greater quantities?”, stated that, at the time of printing the 2m paid the rate for internal and external printed matter and the internal postcard rate. Thus the 3m probably found little use, covering the rate for local (en ville) letters, although of course low value stamps are often useful in combining to make higher rates.

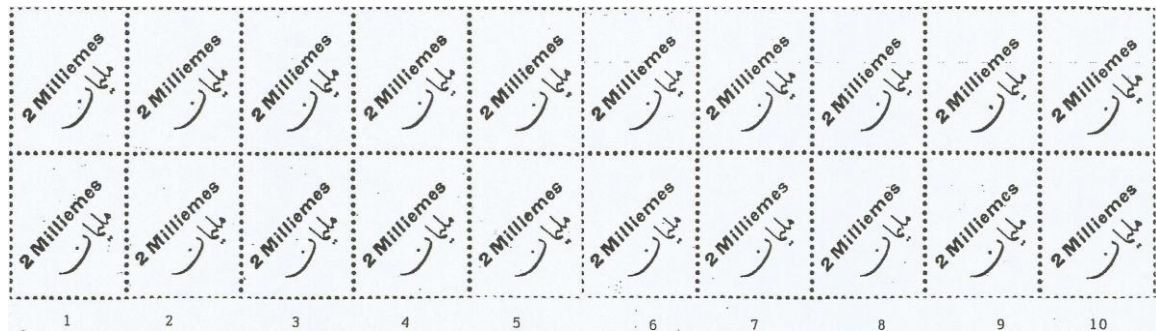


*Fig.1: The surcharge essay (only ten exist Ex Peter Smith Collection)*

**Types:** The original stamp was typographed on chalky paper by De La Rue and issued in sheets of 200, arranged in two vertical panes of 100 (10x10). It was surcharged “2 millièmes”, in French and Arabic, by typography. The surcharge was applied in complete sheets of 200 without removal of any margins and the stamps were so issued. The surcharge setting is 10 x 1, ie, loose type was arranged for ten stamps in a horizontal row. From this row a mould was made and reproductions obtained by casting. Twenty castings formed a printing plate of 200. Thus any horizontal row shows all ten types, and each vertical column contains only one type (*Fig.2 and 3*).<sup>(3)</sup>



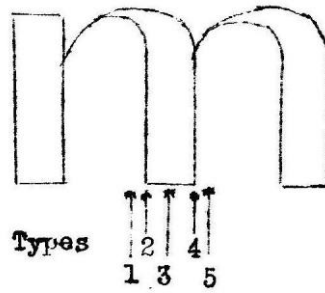
*Fig.2: Upper rows of a complete sheet showing the ten types. Fig.3, below, A diagram showing the ten types. (After P. Smith)<sup>(1)</sup>*



Details of the types according to the positioning of the French words in relation to the Arabic have been described and illustrated by Douglas McNeill<sup>(3)</sup> in the following table (Table 1) and diagram (*Fig.4*)

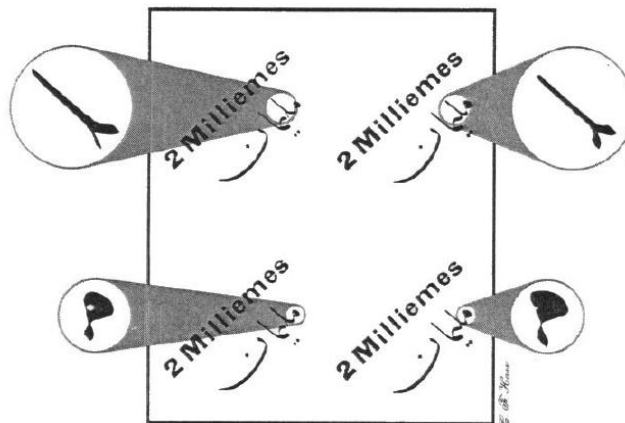
**Table 1. After McNeille<sup>(3)</sup>**

Type	Point at which prolonging the right edge of the right-hand vertical character ‘lam’ would meet ‘Milliemes’ above.	Columns where the types appear
I	Slightly to the left of middle leg of the second “m”	7 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>
II	The left corner of middle leg of the second “m”	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>
III	The centre of middle leg of the second “m”	5 <sup>th</sup>
IV	Right corner of the middle leg of the second “m”	1 <sup>st</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>
V	Slightly to the right of middle leg of the second “m”	8 <sup>th</sup>



*Fig.4: The five types according to McNeille<sup>(3)</sup>*

Details of the types according to size of the two Arabic letters *lam* (ل) and *meem* (م) have been described and illustrated by Charles Hass<sup>(4)</sup> (Fig.5).



*Fig.5: The two types of ‘meem’, and the two types of ‘lam’ (After C.Hass)<sup>(4)</sup>*

**Letter lam (ل)**

Large Lam (ل): The letter measures 3.3mm in height, left leg thinner than its right leg with a pronounced indentation between the two legs.

Small Lam (ل): The letter measures 3.0mm in height, the two legs are nearly equal in size, and the indentation between the two legs not as deep as in its corresponding letter. On all types except no. 6, the *lam* is taller. On type 6 it is only (3.0mm) tall i.e. short *lam* (Fig. 6).





Fig.6: Short letter lam <sup>(1)</sup>

### Letter meem (↗)

Hass states that there are two types of this letter, each from different font, or manufacturer, or type face. This occurrence was apparently the result of a mixing together of the letters of two styles of type, ie, the typographer selected them at random while setting up his original chase that was to be used in the production of the stereotyping matrix.

Large *meem* (↗): The body of the letter is larger than its counterpart, squared in appearance and its foot is usually thin at the point where it joins the body.

Small *meem* (↗): The body is smaller, with a rounded appearance, and its foot is thicker at the point where it joins the body.

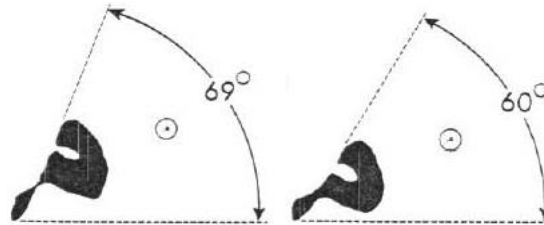


Fig.7: Large and small letter meem <sup>(4)</sup>

On types 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 10, the letter *meem* is slightly higher, tipped upwards from the base, causing the angle of its back to be  $69^\circ$ , whereas on types 4, 8, and 9, it is slightly lower, nearly level at the base with the base of the *lam*, the back is at an angle of  $60^\circ$ , and the stem joining the loop of the *meem* to the *lam* is slightly thicker (Fig.7).

Attention to these features gives the best protection against forgeries of the inverted surcharge error. It should be noted that the surcharge as a whole is inclined at an angle of  $45^\circ$ , rather than the angle of the diagonal of the stamp.

### Varieties

#### Broken letter 'e'

A minor variety of some interest occurs once in the sheet: position 49, upper pane. The second 'e' is broken so as to resemble a 'c' (Fig.8, 9 and 10); no trace of the cross bar remains.



Fig.8: Broken 'e' variety position 49

Curiously, a similar but well developed variety occurs also in position 149 (thus, the lower pane). Though this might suggest that the upper and lower panes were printed from the same plate of 100, other differences between the (spacing, minor flaws) show that this supposition is not so, and that a single plate of 200 was indeed used.



Fig.9: Block of four with broken 'e' variety in upper left stamp, Mansura Station cds

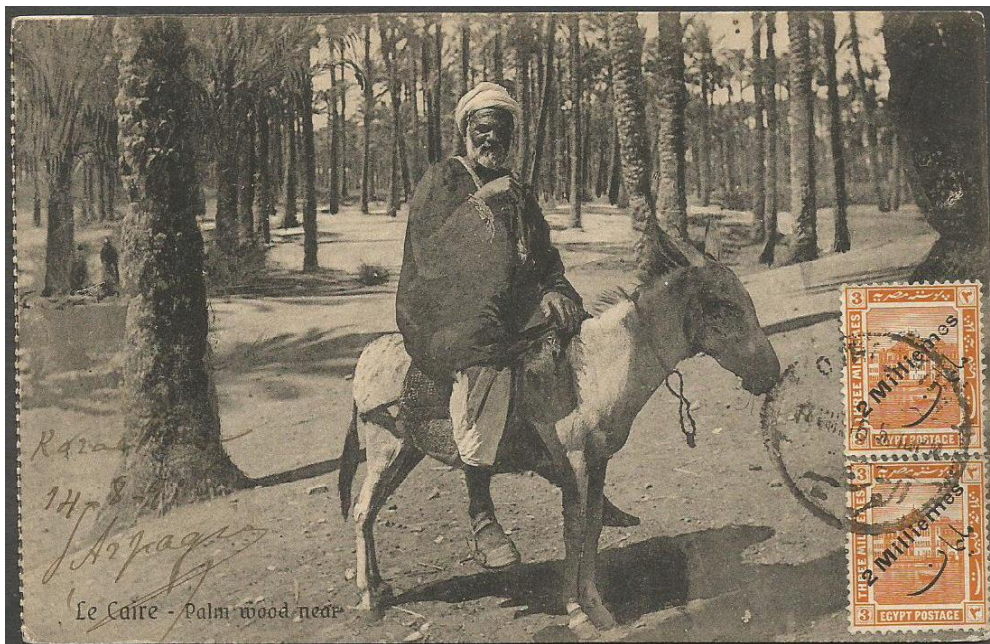


Fig.10: broken 'e' variety in upper stamp, Qurashia cds

**Broken Arabic letter noon (ن)**

Among the lesser flaws in the surcharge is a broken tip to the Arabic letter *noon* (ن), position 10 (at the left-hand end of the word 'milleman') (Fig.11).



Fig.11: broken 'noon', position 10



### Inverted surcharge

Two sheets were printed with the surcharge inverted. Both were evidently sold over the counter, and used examples exist off and on covers (as fronts). Examples from one of the sheets are known only from Hehya; those from the other are mostly unused (at least one block is known), but some have been found used at Beni Korrah (*Fig.12, right*).<sup>(5)</sup>

The inverted surcharge is scarce in singles and extremely scarce in blocks. The largest seen, according to McNeille<sup>(3)</sup>, is a block of four.



### Albino (double) surcharge

A double surcharge exists in which one impression is albino (but deeply impressed into the paper, and easily visible, especially from the back). The albino (blind) impressions are a little higher than those made by the inked impressions.<sup>(3)</sup>

This variety evidently resulted from a successful attempt to correct an error<sup>(6)</sup>. In the first stage, a sheet was improperly positioned in the press, so that the left-hand column of stamps remained unsurcharged (and the right-hand sheet margin received an impression of the surcharge). In the second stage, the sheet was put through the press again, this time correctly positioned, and all but the left-hand column was stopped out, so that only the unsurcharged column received an inked impression.



*Fig. 13: albino (double) surcharge*

It is thus possible to have horizontal pairs in which one stamp is normal, and the other has both an inked and an albino impression (characteristically, the original inked impression and the added one are positioned somewhat differently on the stamps (*Fig.13, above*). All known examples of this error are unused<sup>(1)</sup>.

### Surcharge offset

Another interesting variety is a strong offset of the surcharge on the back of the stamp, probably arising from an inked plate having been closed on the bare platen immediately before a sheet of stamps was put through. Since the offset was applied on the gum, only unused examples can be identified (*Fig.14, right*)).



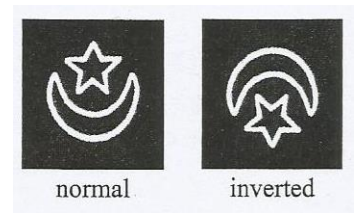
### Vertical and horizontal (à cheval)

A further variety is a strong horizontal shift of the surcharge, such that it straddles two stamps (*à cheval*). The vertical surcharge *à cheval*, known from one sheet of 200, on which the surcharge was printed diagonally, caused it to become misplaced downward, with increasing severity towards the right-hand edge of the sheet<sup>(5)</sup> (*Fig.15, right*)).







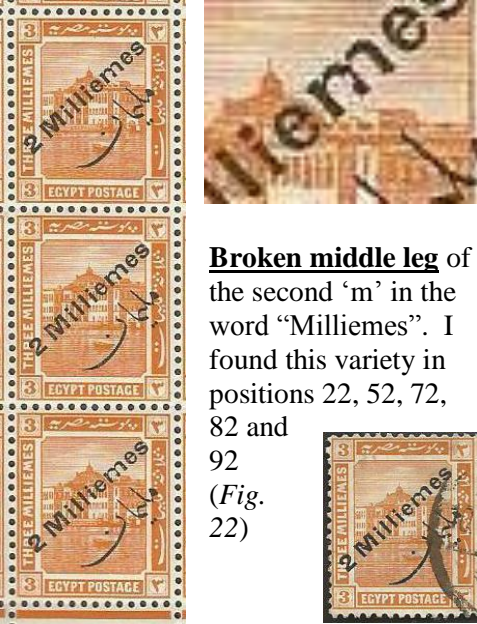



**Inverted Watermark**

The provisional surcharge occurs only on stamps with the narrow star and crescent watermark, which was in use only from 1914 to 1917<sup>(5)</sup>. The watermark is known inverted on this issue, and is rare thus; only used examples appear to exist (*Fig.16, right*).



**Unrecorded varieties**

 <p><b><u>Closed letter 's':</u></b> I found this variety in position 55, showing the upper tip of the letter 's' closed (<i>Fig. 17</i>)</p> 	 <p><b><u>Perfins:</u></b> The Agricultural Bank of Egypt is recorded as having perforated this issue with its company code A B / E (<i>Fig.18</i>)</p>	 <p><b><u>Broken frame:</u></b> of the panel around the upper right number '3' and a <b><u>White Cloud</u></b> above the letter 's' (<i>Fig.19</i>)</p>
 <p><b><u>Broken 'm':</u></b> the second 'm' in the word "Millimes", position as yet unknown (<i>Fig. 20</i>)</p> <p>.....</p>  <p><b><u>Broken figure '2';</u></b> position as yet unknown (<i>Fig. 21</i>)</p>	 <p><b><u>Broken middle leg</u></b> of the second 'm' in the word "Millimes". I found this variety in positions 22, 52, 72, 82 and 92 (<i>Fig. 22</i>)</p>	<p><b><u>Misperforation,</u></b> however slight, that leads to horizontal or vertical shifting of the stamp (<i>Fig.23</i>)</p> 

**Uses, Rates and Routes** <sup>(1,2,7-11)</sup>

The full lifetime of the 1915 provisional issue took place during World War I. The outbreak of war (August 1914) had three major impacts: establishment of military impacts: establishment of military postal services; the nearly complete suppression of the tourist industry, and introduction of rate increases at various times.(1)

This provisional is very scarce used alone on cover or card; its principal use, on postcards, had a life of only two and half months. Even examples of use in multiples or with other values are hard to find (*Fig.24*).<sup>(1, 11)</sup> It is somewhat scarce on any sort of cover except picture postcards sent at the printed matter rate (*Fig.25*).

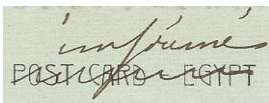


Fig.25: Picture postcard sent at the printed matter rate in Dec. 1915, Alexandria cds



Fig. 24: block of ten with Alexandria / R cds dated March 9 1916

The internal postcard rate of 2 millièmes up to December 31 1915 (Fig.26) was raised to 3m on January 1 1916 (Fig.27), while the UPU postcard rate remained at 4m up to April 1 1921 (Fig.28-29).

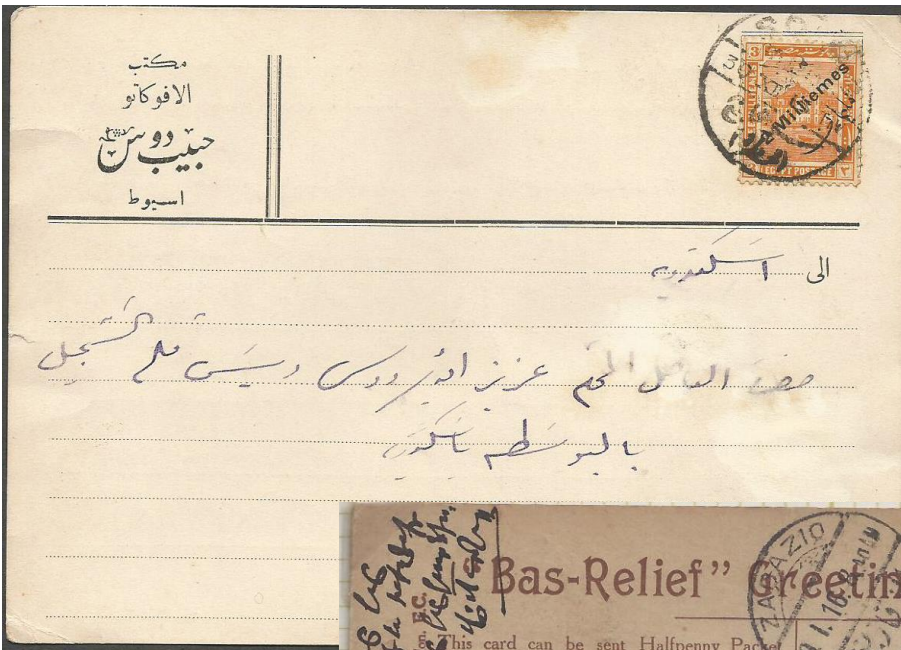


Fig.26: Postcard sent to Alexandria on December 30 1915, Sohag cds Internal postcard rate 2m.



Fig.27: Postcard sent to Zagazig on January 9 1916, Alexandria cds. Received same day, Zagazig cds. Internal postcard rate 3m.

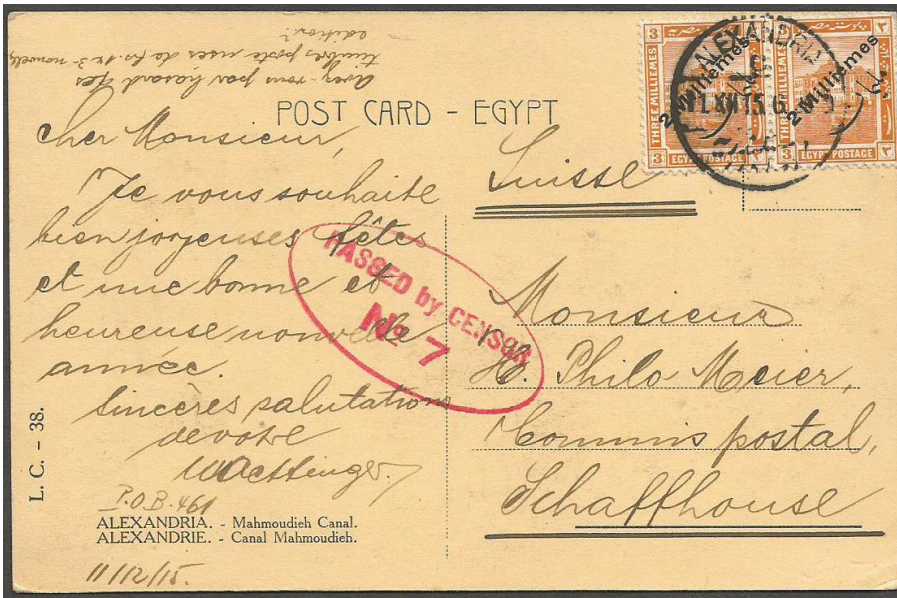


Fig.28: Postcard sent to Switzerland on December 11 1915. Alexandria cds alongside "Passed by Censor No 7" oval handstamp. UPU postcard rate 4m.

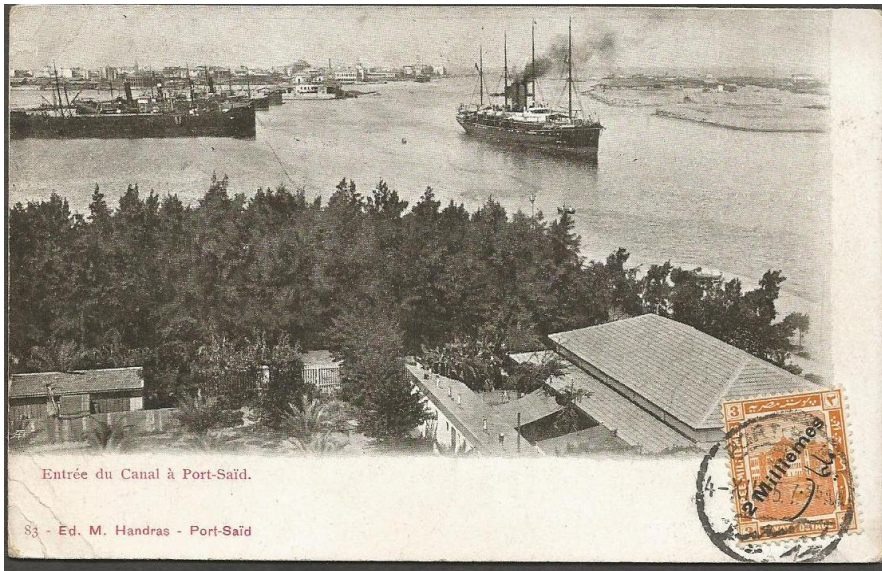


Fig.29: Postcard sent to France on December 4 1915, Port Said cds. Taxed "T 10" as it was franked only 2m (internal postcard rate) instead of 4m (UPU postcard rate).

The internal rate for printed matter was 2 millièmes (Fig.30), and the UPU rate was 2m (Fig.31).



Fig.30: Greetings cover sent to Zeitoun, Cairo, on January 1 1916, Cairo cds. Internal printed matter rate 2m.

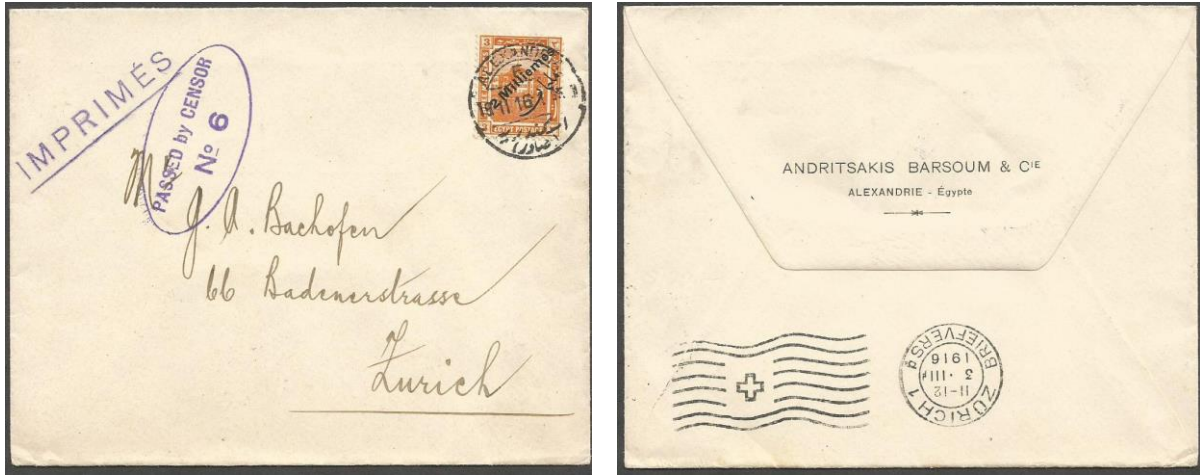


Fig.31: Cover sent open to Zurich, Switzerland, on February 19 1915, Alexandria cds, with "Passed by Censor No 6" and IMPRIMÉS handstamp. Received March 3 1915, Zurich cds. UPU printed matter rate 2m.

The foreign rate for newspaper and periodicals was 2m, and the internal rate for samples was 2m per 100g (Fig.32).



Fig.32: Wrapper addressed to Cairo with Alexandria cds February 1 1916. Internal rate for samples 2m/100g.

The local (*en ville*) rate for letters was 5m. (Fig.33), and the UPU letter rate was 10m. (Fig.34). Registered letters were charged 5m. locally and 10m. for UPU letters (Fig.35).

Fig.33: Cover addressed to Cairo December 29 1915 Tresor et Postes 507 cds (French army base post office at Alexandria for the Russian troops), Alexandria cds. Censored with "Passed Censor B" and Alexandria FR Corr d'armees" handstamp. Received same day, Cairo cds on reverse. Internal rate for letters 5m.





Fig.34: Cover addressed to France on February 14 1916, Cairo cds, received February 22, Loiret cds on reverse. UPU rate for letters 10m.



Fig.35: Cover addressed to Switzerland on July 5 1916, Alexandria cds, received July 21, Unterageri cds on reverse. UPU rate for letters 10m + 10m for registration, total 20m.



Uncommon uses include the special reduced rate of 5m. for letters to Italy, Austria and Great Britain and the Empire (Fig.36).



Fig.36: Cover addressed to England on December 30. 1915, Cairo cds, and received January 13 1916, London cds on reverse. UPU rate for letters 10m (reduced to 5m for GB) + 10m for registration, total 15m.

During the war, outgoing letters were generally censored (Fig.37-38) usually accompanied by censor handstamps and mute handstamps. Civilian letters were accepted at the military post office, and were sometimes treated as franked, and in other cases were provided with an Egyptian stamp.

Fig.37: Cover addressed to Holland bearing censor tape type CCL 4A and "Passed censor 8" handstamp with A461 base handstamp on reverse.





Fig.38: Postcard sent to Holland with censor No 10 and A273 base handstamp

Letters and postcards mailed at military post offices were liable for postage, to be paid by Egyptian stamps, at the outset of war. Examples are scarce and include British, Australian, New Zealand, Indian, and French military post offices (Fig.39-40).



Fig.39: 1915 2m/1m surcharge stationary cover uprated to pay the 5m UPU special rate for letters to GB instead of 10m (but the sender most probably failed to recognise the surcharge and used it as 1m value cover), sent to London on March 15 1916, Army Post office SZ10 cds (British Forces in Egypt). Overrated 1m (6m instead of 5m)



Fig.40: Block of four bearing New Zealand Advanced / Base Army Post Office cds of November 2 1915

The principal tourist hotels had branch post offices on their premises, using cancellations bearing the name of the hotel. Their use was much reduced in extent during the war and they are considered scarce during this time (Fig.41).

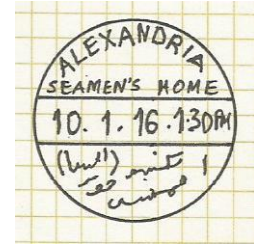


Fig.41: Cover addressed to England on January 10 1916, Alexandria Seamen’s Home cds, Alexandria cds on reverse same day. UPU special letter rate for GB 5m instead of 10m.

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7. Jeyes, Alan. “Response to stamps and rates: *QC* 227 p90”, *QC XX* (5) (Whole number 228), March 2009, p117.
8. Moukhtar, Magdi Abel-Hadi. *Egypt Stamps Handbook* (2010).
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10. Jansen, Anton. “The 2 mills surcharge on 3 mills pictorial of 1915: A new find”, *QC XXI* (8) (Whole number 243), December 2012, p.184.
11. Jansen, Anton, “The 2 mills on 3 mills Pictorial of 1915: A Spectacular Find”, *QC XXII* (7) (Whole number 254), September 2015, p. 151.



Sometime during April/May a new Egyptian definitive appeared for sale. Following the ancient Egypt theme, it portrays a statue of Amenhotep’s Son. This was reported in *QC* 254, p168, in September. Now this purported FDC has appeared but carries the date of October 4, 2015, quite some time after the stamp’s appearance. The accompanying 50pi stamp, added for good measure has been seen for at least a year. The question remains, what is going on with these new definitives?

## Military Matters – The Japanese Navy in WWI

**Edmund Hall** (ESC 239)

I think it would be fair to say, when thinking about Egyptian military matters, that Japan would not spring to the minds of most collectors. However during the First World War Japanese warships were sent to the Mediterranean on March 11, 1917, arriving on April 13 at Malta where they were based. This was the Second Special Squadron under Admiral Sato Kozo aboard the cruiser *Akashi* with eight of the Navy's newest destroyers (*Ume, Kusunoki, Kaede, Katsura, Kashiwa, Matsu, Sugi* and *Sakaki*). Later *Akashi* was replaced by *Izumo*, and four more destroyers were added (*Kashi, Hinoki, Momo* and *Yanagi*). The Japanese Second Special Squadron headed back home in May 1919. In the meantime Japanese sailors had visited Alexandria and on occasions Port Said.

Japanese sailors also temporarily manned two British gunboats, which they designated the *Tokyo* and *Saikyo*, and two British destroyers, renamed the *Kanran* and *Sendan*. At peak strength in 1917, the Japanese Mediterranean flotilla numbered 17 warships. One of their major tasks was to escort Allied shipping between Marseille, Taranto and ports in Egypt. Their other function was to hunt German and Austrian submarines threatening Allied vessels in the Mediterranean.

Although the Anglo-Japanese alliance of 1902 did not require it, Japan declared that it would support Britain in the war against Germany and sent an ultimatum to Berlin demanding withdrawal of German warships from Japanese and Chinese waters. Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, opposed any Japanese participation in the war, fearing that it would seek an opportunity to expand beyond reasonable bounds. Churchill, almost from the day he took the helm as First Sea Lord in October 1911, accelerated the withdrawal of battleships from the Mediterranean and China seas and their redeployment against Germany's growing naval power in the North Sea. By March 1914 British naval strength in the Far East had decreased from five battleships and an armoured cruiser in March 1904 to two battleships, a battle cruiser, and two cruisers. The Japanese Navy had been modelled on the Royal Navy, whom they admired, and proved themselves in the Russo-Japanese war of 1905, inflicting ignominious defeat on the Russian fleet. Mindful of the potential of the Japanese fleet, Churchill remonstrated with Grey's opposition to Japan's full participation in the war and helped Grey to accept Japan's support. Japan formally declared war on August 23, 1914.

Japan helped to establish control of the Pacific and Indian oceans early in the war by seizing the German fortress and East Asia naval base of Tsingtao on November 16, 1914. The British contingent was deliberately excluded from Japanese plans and learned of the assault only after the fact, confirming Grey's earlier concerns. The use of Japanese ships provoked a mixed response from Australia and New Zealand. They fully endorsed Japanese ships as escorts for troop convoys but sharply disapproved when in late 1914 the Japanese First Fleet seized the German colonies of the Marshall, Mariana, and Caroline islands.

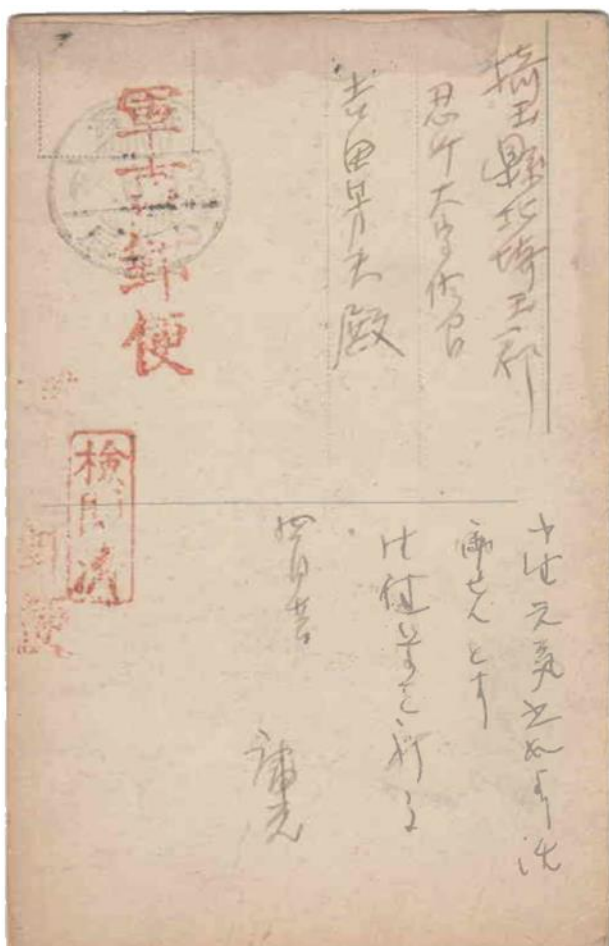
On October 16, 1914, it conducted the first of what would be many voyages wherein Japanese warships escorted Australian-New Zealand Army Corps (Anzac) troops to the Middle East and no doubt docked in Egyptian ports. By 1917 German and Austrian submarines operating in the Mediterranean were sinking Allied shipping at an alarming rate. During the entire war, the Allies would lose 12 million tons of shipping and a full quarter of that was sunk in the Mediterranean. Despite misgivings about the quality of Japanese seamanship (based on bigotry and ignorance), the Allies pressed Japan to help out. This resulted in the Japanese Second Special Squadron being based at Malta.

By the end of the war the Japanese had escorted 788 Allied transports. During their patrols Japanese destroyers engaged German and Austrian submarines 34 times. Two of their destroyers were damaged. The *Sakaki* lost 68 sailors killed when the Austrian U-boat U-27 attacked her in June 1917. Despite the damage, she remained afloat and was repaired.



Postcard from Naval Warship on Suez Canal dated 6-12-15 Port Said.  
 Date stamped Nagasaki (9.1.16) in transit to Sasebo. Addressed to  
 Sadao Hayashi, Crew of Warship Tone, c/o Sasebo Port, Dainippon.

The card reads: "It took six days to come from Colombo. I slept during boring simple situation of crossing Indian Ocean. I was cheerful seeing Africa and Arabia. Three days has passed since our passing of Red Sea. Today I reached Suez. I'm passing through the canal. On the right, I see Sinai Peninsula. On the left, I see African plain. Sun set under mountains. I feel sad. I wear winter clothes, nevertheless I wore summer clothes until yesterday. 1st December." The card is signed '庸' (Tsuné), only a part of the sender's name.



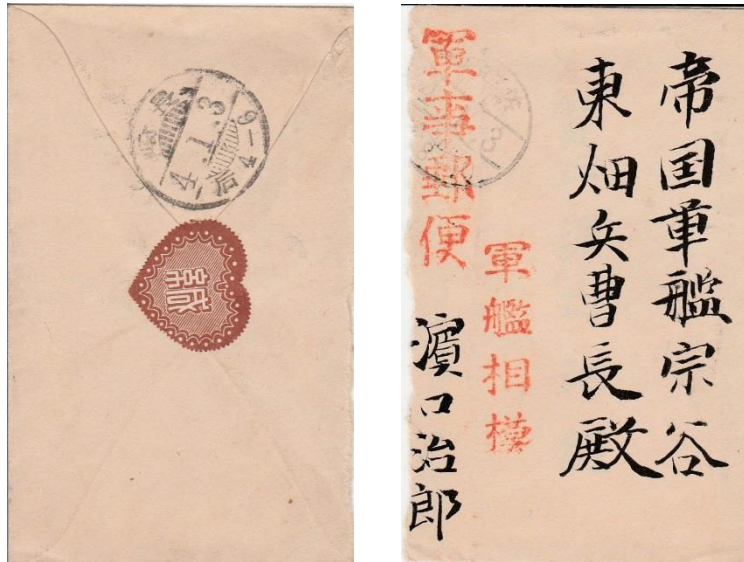
The card is dated before the arrival of the Second Special Squadron so could have been sent by a member of an escort ship or one passing through to Europe.

The ship to which it was sent, the *Tone*, was assigned to the Japanese Second Fleet, and fought at the Battle of Tsingtao. In 1917 she was re-assigned to the Japanese Third Fleet, and was based out of Singapore, from which she patrolled the sea lanes of the Indian Ocean and also occasionally in the Dutch East Indies against German commerce raiders and U-boats.

The card at left is from Tsunemitsu Yoshida (庸光), captain of the destroyer *Sakaki* during operations in the Mediterranean, postmarked Yokohama, PM3-5.1.3 (6.6.1917) in transit to Saitama prefecture. Addressed to Yoshio Yoshida, Sazo, Oshi-Village, Kitasaitama-Gun, Saitama-Prefecture, it reads: "I'm fine and I'm going to serve for operation from now. I wish you may be fine. 20<sup>th</sup> April. Tsunemitsu." 庸光 (Tsunemitsu). Handstamps in red are "Gunji Yubin" (military mail) and the boxed chop "Ken-etsuzumi" (Censored).

Eight of the Kaba-class destroyers including the *Sakaki*, arrived at Malta in mid-April 1917 for convoy protection duty as the 10th and 11th Flotillas. Less than a month after the Mediterranean operation began on April 9, 1917, the destroyers *Matsu* and *Sakaki* were

engaged in rescue work on May 3 for the British transport ship *Transylvania*, which had been attacked by a German U-boat. On June 11, 1917, she was torpedoed by the Austrian U.27 just off Crete while on escort duty. Her bows were blown off and with many of the crew forward in the mess hall, 68 were killed. She was salvaged and repaired. The 27 officers of the *Sakaki* were later decorated by George V.



*Small name-card sized envelope Jiro Hamaguchi, Warship Sagami (相模)  
To Petty Officer Higashihata, HIJMS Warship Soya (宗谷).  
Postmarks Sasebo, AM8-10.3. (1.4.1915) and Nagasaki, PM4-6.3. (1.4.1915)*

HIJMS battleship *Sagami* (相模) was formerly the *Peresvet* (Пересвет) a pre-dreadnought battleship built for the Imperial Russian Navy at the end of the nineteenth century. She was transferred to the Pacific Squadron on completion and based at Port Arthur in China from 1903. During the Russo-Japanese War of 1904–05, she took part in the Battle of Port Arthur and was seriously damaged during the Battle of the Yellow Sea and again in the Siege of Port Arthur. The ship was scuttled before the Russians surrendered, then salvaged by the Japanese and placed into service with the name *Sagami*. Partially rearmed, the *Sagami* was reclassified by the Imperial Japanese Navy as a coastal defence ship in 1912. In 1916 the Japanese sold her to the Russians, their allies since the beginning of World War I. On route to the White Sea in early 1917 she hit mines laid by a German submarine and sank off Port Said soon after traversing the Suez Canal.

After the war the United States began protecting and speaking for China and Britain began to side with the US at the Treaty of Versailles. This angered Japan because their only ally was siding with one of their largest rivals. This led to the termination of the Anglo-Japanese alliance in 1922 when Britain and the US rejected Japan's statement of racial equality and forced them to limit their navy to 3/5 the size of the US and British navies. Japan was extremely insulted and bitter about the result and remained angered until they took their revenge at Pearl Harbor.

British leaders had nothing but praise for the Japanese Mediterranean squadron before it sailed for home. Winston Churchill voiced the general high opinion when he said he "did not think that the Japanese squadron had ever done a foolish thing". The governor of Malta, Lord Methuen, who reviewed Japanese warships there in March 1919, also lauded the Japanese navy for "its splendid work in European waters" and expressed the hope: "God grant our alliance, cemented in blood, may long endure."

Japanese warships were actually under way 72 per cent of the time, the highest percentage recorded by any Allied warships. The British record was 60 per cent, the Greek and French only 45 per cent. British officers credited the Japanese warships with excellent performances, at least, they added, when all went according to plan. Postwar British criticisms that the Japanese "acted inferior to our men when unforeseen situations

cropped up” reflect British prejudices expressed during the war, and not supported by the actual record. That record clearly demonstrates instead how seriously Japanese naval officers took their duty. The Japanese Second Special Squadron headed home in May 1919; as part of their spoils of war, they took with them seven German submarines.

Prewar racial and diplomatic animosity between Japan and the United States, set aside in 1917 and 1918, quickly re-emerged despite wartime Japanese assistance to the United States in the Pacific. Japan’s valuable role as an ally rarely appeared in Western histories of the war. Many Japanese resented how at Versailles the “three Great Powers acted as judges” in a confrontation with Chinese delegates over the Japanese occupation of Shantung. The apparent hostility toward Japan after the war, despite its service, led an increasing number of Japanese military officers to believe in an American and British conspiracy against Japan, founded on racial animosity. The arrival of the seized German submarines began a new and long-term relationship between the Japanese and German navies after the termination of the Anglo-Japanese alliance. German influence and technology quickly supplanted those of the British. The two services began to exchange personnel. Numerous Japanese officers received training in Germany in the 1920s and 1930s, facilitating the Imperial Japanese Navy’s ultimate break with its British mentors.

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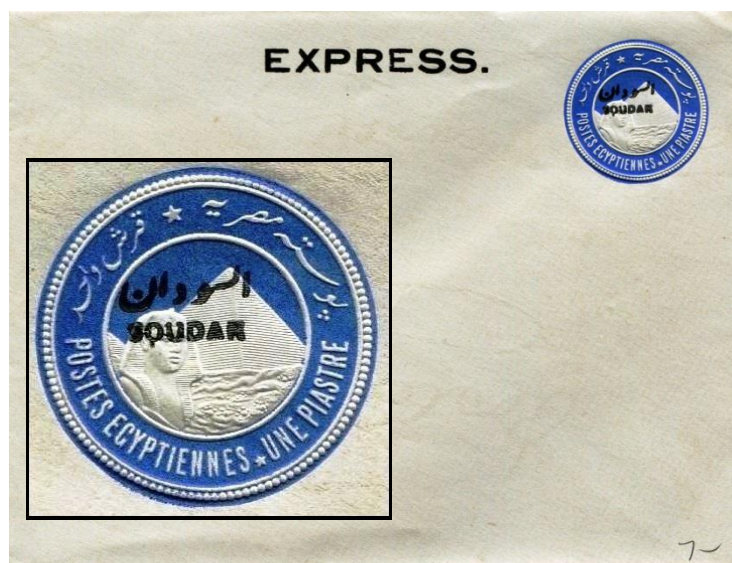
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### Spotted on Ebay – Sudan “Express” Stationery

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

I was very surprised to see this item for sale at \$1.99 on Ebay recently: a mint apparent 1-piastre Sudan-overprint postal stationery envelope with a prominent line EXPRESS. printed at the top of the face. Both *Nile Post* and Magdi Moukhtar’s *Egypt Stamps Handbook* record that the 1897 envelope was overprinted for use in Sudan, but whereas Magdi fails to list the “Express” cover, *Nile Post* details two versions, with Type II and Type D bilingual overprints, saying that the envelope was “apparently prepared for an Express service that was never initiated”.

What is intriguing, however, is that the vendor draws attention to the fact that the bilingual overprint does not match any of the known types, but has a prominent flaw on the “O” of “Soudan”, making it appear as a “Q”. This is apparently unrecorded. On the other hand, the top left arm of the “X” is cut short, as in the *Nile Post* illustration. So whether the envelope is genuine, or the product of a more recent computer printing experiment lies now in the hands of the auction winner. How much did he pay? Well, *Nile Post* lists the two varieties at \$85 and \$100. After not exactly fierce bidding (seven bids from five bidders), the winner paid just \$11. A bargain? Or money down the drain?



**Important Perfins Updates: K&H/A and BCIE**

**Amgad Bassili (ESC 564)**

Item 1. Perfins of the German Kortenhaus and Hammerstein company (“K&H/C” and “K&H/A”) are among the very scarce Egyptian patterns. They are known to exist exclusively on the fourth issue, as shown in the following table:

Issue (SG #)	K&H/A	K&H/C
54 (1 pi. blue)	√	√
55 (2 pi. orange-brown)	√	√
56 (5 pi. pale grey)	√	
58 (1 m. pale brown)	√	√
59 (2 m. blue-green)	√	√
61 (3 m. yellow)	√	√
62 (4 m. vermilion)	√ (new)	√
63 (5 m. rose-carmine)	√	√

As can be seen, the only issue I can add is the 4 m. value for the Alexandria type (“K&H/A”). Here is an example showing its usage on a postcard dated 1911



The company started using both types as early as 1903, but the eruption of the World War in 1914 seems to have caused its operation in Egypt to close, and no usage has been recorded so far on the 1914 DLR pictorial issue. Over the past few years, I have come across very few examples of the Cairo type, and only one example from the Alexandria type:

Issue (SG #)	K&H/A	K&H/C
76 (4 m. vermilion)		√ (new)
77 (5 m. lake)	√ (new)	√ (new)
78 (10 m. dull blue)		√ (new)

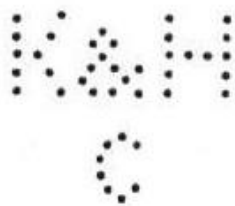




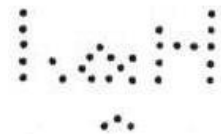
Also, this unique 1914 cover sent from Cairo to Duesseldorf franked with a 5 mills pair:



Examining the very few examples of the Cairo pattern, it becomes evident that the heavy usage of the perfin had resulted in progressive deterioration of the pattern (especially the 'K' and 'C' letters) as can be seen by comparing the following two images:



*A perfectly-punctured pattern  
vs. a typical 1914 example*



A welcome to new member Tobias Zywietz, some may be aware he has for some time produced a great web site part about which is about the philately of Palestine. There is an extensive bibliography, some relating to Egypt. For those Egyptian collectors who stray over the border, certainly a site to investigate. For those who do WWI, an invaluable section is a complete index to datestamps listed in John Firebrace's *British Empire Campaigns and Occupations in the Near East, 1914–1924*. As Tobias says, the datestamps total over 800 in the book but to locate a specific one can only be found by wading through the book. So 1ST L.H. BDE/DETAILS F. P. O. is found on pages 107, 142, 288 & 343; the SEAMEN'S HOME pages 5 & 73. Invaluable. There are good sections on the Indian Formations and Australian and New Zealand Formations. For Egyptian collectors there is a section on the stamps of the Gaza occupation and much, much more. Do visit [http://www.zobbel.de/stamp/pal\\_ine.htm](http://www.zobbel.de/stamp/pal_ine.htm)

**Edmund Hall**

Item 2. Large multiples of perfins are always valuable, because they serve as a good source of information about the perfin machine the firm was using. A few years ago, I was lucky enough to acquire a very large multiple used by the Italian bank Banca Commerciale Italiana per L'Egitto, known for its common "BCIE" pattern:



A closer look at the stamps in each row of the 5m large block quickly reveals a very interesting observation: the patterns on the stamp of the second and third columns share the same horizontal level. The same observation holds true for the fourth and fifth columns as well. Additionally, the spacing is always even at about 15 mm. This could hardly be a coincidence, and the fact that this holds true for all rows of the block suggests strongly a perfin machine with double-head rows.

As I continued to study the block, it was quite obvious that the vertical spacing between every pair of stamps in these columns is variable, which leads to the conclusion that the perfin machine has only one dual-die row.

Examining the smaller 50m block confirms the finding when you consider the second and third columns. The bank was indeed using a double-head perfin machine.



## EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE LIBRARY

At the last meeting I was handed two items for the Library; they came from the library of the National Philatelic Society as far as I am aware. In any event we should thank Mike Bramwell for donating them. They are:

**Islamic Coin Auction** – a catalogue (No. 27) of an auction by A.H. Baldwin & Sons Ltd dated 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

Mostly coins of Arabic origin, including Egypt, for the historian, there are coins of the periods when Egypt was ruled by Umayyads, Abbasids, Fatimids, and Ayyubids even before the Ottoman take-over in 1517. Ottoman coins and Egyptian medals are also included and illustrated. One for the specialist.

**Spink Insider** – an insider's view by magazine of the fields covered by this auction house.

Of particular interest are three articles, the first on, "The Australian Military Campaign at Gallipoli in 1915" on pages 31 to 40, and another (pages 48 – 51) entitled "The Khedive's Stars 1882 – 91". This describes the various medals awarded by Khedive Ismail. Lastly, on pages 53 to 58, is an article entitled, "A trip through the Mediterranean in the search of Egyptian antiquities". Sub-titled "The great potential of postal history relating to human studies" this, like the other two articles, is lavishly illustrated in full colour.

It cannot be stressed enough that we have an excellent Library, one of which many a specialist society would be proud, and I would repeat that I am always pleased when asked to bring books to meetings. I shall shortly be working on an updated Library List so there will be no excuses for not knowing what to borrow. Do please feel free to use your Library.

**John Davis** (Hon. Librarian).

### ESC Website.

It's now over eight years old. It has around 500 web pages, 1,677 pdfs comprising some 100 million bytes of data. It holds the collections of several members, thanks guys, 69 *QCs* from the latest back to No.185. A dozen more are undergoing digitisation with the hope that all past *QCs* will be available. A pilot has been done on copies of *L'OP* and *Egyptian Topics*, both successfully, and the possibility of providing all back copies exists. Peter Smith's TPO book is there and gradually chapters of his *Egypt: Stamps and Postal History* are being added. Etc etc....

Now I see one small problem. Does anybody use it? There are times when I get questions from members and am very tempted to email back - and on a few occasions have done - it's on the website. I mentioned some item I had and got the reply "Oh, I wish I had known about that" - to which I pointed out that I put that part of my collection on the site five years ago. I do have stats from the site which suggest quite a few visitors a day - about 100 - but it's hard to know if they are robots or a scammer looking for details (a surprising number of visitors are from Russia and China!). Its one success is the auctions, where the majority of items are illustrated.

I joke that the time I have spent on constructing the website is greater than the total time all members have spent looking at it. Due to site changes, I now have to enter passwords individually, which I have done for all those who elected to have the *QC* in electronic form (last year's green paper specified that it should be downloaded from the members' section) and any other as and when they make a request for a password. At the time of writing that totals 49 members. The site keeps a record of the last login for each member and of the 49 only 19 have ever logged on. Bewilderingly, less than half who choose for electronic have logged on to get their *QC*. I have just put search facility on the site, but as yet I'm have a bit of a problem for the members' section. I'm partly there.

Is it worth continuing? Don't members want to be able to access past *QCs*, the information in Peter Smith's books, Blomfield's postmark data sheets and other philatelic articles? Don't you want to search for, say, 'booklets' - and have every page with 'booklets' shown: click on the page and there it is, be it from *L'OP*, *QC*, *ET*, etc. That's got to be easier than going through all your back copies - assuming you have them in the first place!

**Edmund Hall** (bewildered webmaster)

## Last Post

### Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

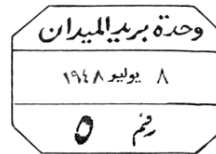
At the Second Continental Philatelic Exhibition in Cairo in June I was delighted to receive a Gold and Special Prize for my exhibit Egypt Military 1883-1983 (See *QC* 254, p.149).



I did not exhibit with any thought of prizes, I'm actually against the concept of stamp exhibitions that have "rules" about how your collection should be displayed. Then, to compound the indignity, by offering bits of paper and medals after you have shown you're prepared to jump through the meaningless hoops. That people indulge in such competitiveness has been a lifetime bemusement to me, whether it be an ugliest baby or largest turnip competition – I can confess I have failed to win any prizes for either. I give displays and show my material the way I want to, with the reward of seeing other people getting enjoyment from it. The great joy of philately is the competition to form a narrative made fun only because it takes time to gradually collate the information. The other great joy is the gregarious aspect of meeting other liked minded people who collect old bits of paper.

The true delight at my prize was that, I assume, Egypt military markings can have a worthy place in Egyptian philately. To say that this is a neglected area is not quite correct - it's been essentially ignored. Peter Smith's second article published in the December 1955 *QC* 46, *Some Markings on Soldier's Letters from the Egyptian Army in the Arab-Israeli war 1948-9*, opened the discussion. A few articles have appeared in Holy Land magazines, *The London Philatelist* and the *L'OP*.

So why last post? Well, to paraphrase Hirohito, the Japanese emperor at the end of the Second World War, my health has not necessarily turned out to my best advantage. With the limited time left to me, this could be my last *QC*, though of course I hope for more. What is certain is that the couple of folders of dozens of Egyptian military covers I have will not be sorted and researched by me. The question is: Is there anyone out there who would be willing and interested to take on the project? Undoubtedly they must be able to read and understand Egyptian Arabic, and I would like to hope that there is an aspiring young Egyptian philatelist willing to take on the challenge. It seems a bit ridiculous to me that I can look up philatelic information on the many foreign military groups that have occupied and traversed Egypt, but not of the Egyptian military itself.



### Membership changes

#### **New members:**

- ESC 695 Terence Covell**, 16 Field End Place, Boughton-under-Blean, Faversham, Kent ME13 9TB  
(Egypt stamps, mint and used, up to and including 1953)
- ESC 696 Tobias Zywietz**, Hauptstrasse 10, 75245 Neulingen, Germany  
(Palestine/Holy Land from Ottoman times to today, Egyptian Gaza, modern Palestinian markings)
- ESC 697 John Isles**, 10575 Darrel Drive, Hanover, Michigan 49241, United States  
(Classical stamps and postmarks, Egypt stamps pre-republic, postmarks)

#### **Membership restored:**

- ESC 463 Dr Osama Gaber**, 3515 Robinhood Street, Houston, Texas 77005, United States  
(Egypt stamps, mint and used, imperforates)

#### **Change of Address:**

- ESC 686 Moheb Rizkalla**, Teradata, Level 8, 60 Miller St, PO Box 2018 North Sydney, NSW 2060, Australia