

The  
Quarterly Circular  
of  
**THE**  
**EGYPT**



# STUDY CIRCLE

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

**EGYPT.**

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

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

**AVIS DE RÉCEPTION** علم التسليم

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

portant le N<sup>o</sup> *24489* et l'adresse de M. *Ch. Saporio*  
*a Tripoli*  
بوسم جناب روضو عليها نمرة

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

L'Employé des Postes.  
مستخدم البوستة

*[Signature]*

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  
*[Signature]*

(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 يقتضى ارفاق المطبوع المذكور بحافظة ارسال

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### Meetings dates for 2017

Three meetings will be held at 2pm in the Allenby Room at the **Victory Services Club**, Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London. Please note: the February meeting at **Stampex (Feb 15-18) is at 12.30pm**; the September meeting at **Stampex (Sept 12-15) is at 2.30pm**. **NOTE the earlier time for the February meeting**

Feb 18, 12.30pm	Stampex " <b>Ottoman Empire</b> "	AGM & Live Auction	All members
May 6, 2pm	Services Club	Lehnert & Landrock	Roman Rimonis
July 8, 2pm	Services Club	Metered Mail	Paul Green and members
Sept 16, 2.30pm	Stampex	Ten Sheets	All members
Nov 4, 2pm	Services Club	Boy King	John Davis

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**Facebook**

### Meeting Report: September 17 2016

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Edmund Hall (Webmaster/Editor), Neil Hitchens (Committee), Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Sami Fereig (Canada), Ted Fraser-Smith, Peter Grech, Laurence Kimpton. Visitor: Mordecai Kremener (Israel). APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: John Davis (Deputy Chairman), Sami Sadek (Committee), Jon Aitchison, Angela Child, Pauline Gittoes, Paul Green, Alan Jeyes, Costas Kelemenis, Tony Schmidt, Greg Todd, Vahe Varjabedian, Ronny Van Pellecom, Richard Wheatley.

The Chairman regretted to have to report the absence from our late-summer Stampex meeting of three regular foreign visitors – Vahe Varjabedian (EC 390, Egypt) with chronic knee problems that meant he was immobilised, Ronny Van Pellecom (ESC 618, Belgium) with broken ribs after a fall from a ladder, and Costas Kelemenis (ESC 249, Greece) recovering from heart bypass surgery. The meeting wished them all well and a full and speedy recovery.

We had, however, one important overseas visitor in Professor Sami Fereig (ESC 569, Canada), who was able to show us progress on his monumental new book provisionally titled *A Simplified Postal History of Egypt Under the Rule of the Muhammad Aly Dynasty*. In two volumes and also on CD, the book draws on his own collection first, and then on far wider sources including the co-operation of the late Peter Smith, to place and list all the post offices of Egypt during the period, to illustrate the development of their postmarks, and to analyse the advances made within the postal system during the time of Egypt's recent royal family.

Members were fascinated by the detail available, but the author is well aware that despite years of work there remains much to be done in fine-tuning, and will welcome comments on any aspect of the volumes. He is prepared to send email copies of sections to all who might be willing to make such observations: for details please contact the Secretary.

Turning to admin, the Secretary reminded members that there were only a few days before the closing date for bids in Auction 55; and was delighted to be able to announce that Mohamed Lotfy, of Cairo, one of the Facebook “temporary” members, had chosen to seek full membership. The meeting welcomed him with acclaim. We hope that more of our Facebook friends will join him.

Spring Stampex next year (February 15-18) will have an “Ottoman Empire” theme, and the Secretary will announce particulars as soon as they are available. The organisers are keen that displays of Egypt material form an integral part of the 500-frame exhibition, and members will be invited to take part as soon as we have the full details.



20m and double-bars Marechal 15m. Quite remarkable – and now gracing another member's collection.

On another topic, a provisional list of meetings for 2017 was drawn up; details as soon as it is in concrete form. A varied and fascinating list of “ten sheets” topics followed:

**Pierre Grech** (ESC 266) described the philatelic frenzy when it was discovered that Farouk Bar overprints could be obtained easily direct from the printers without going via the post office, leading to a plethora of “contrived” double bars covers in the 1950s – but then placed on view a lot from Auction 55 (left), a genuine small 1955 registered cover from Tala addressed to Jean Boulad d'Humières in Ismailia with a Defence

**John Sears** (ESC 188) showed a mini-collection of the sought-after Alexandria-Constanta Romanian Steamship Company covers identified by the Bir.Amb.Maritin / Alexandria/Constanta or vice-versa postmarks, together with, where possible, matching postcards illustrating the ships carrying the mails. The service, which started as the Serviciul Maritim Roman, ran from the 1910s until war stopped it in 1939.

**Brian Sedgley** (ESC 268) presented pages from the *Posta Europea* collection of the late Stanley Horesh, including five of their six postmark types (but not Type VI), together with a “mixed franking” *Posta Europea* entire of 22 JL 62 complete with French PO stamp and 3074 lozenge, authenticated by both Smith and Boulad d’Humières.

**Ted Fraser-Smith** (ESC 238) expanded on his recent QC article illustrating constant flaws on Egyptian miniature sheets with an attempt to discover the printing patterns for such sheets – and was mystified by the vast number of different sizes and shapes of the sheets. He was able to show, however, more constant varieties, especially on the sheet produced for Cairo 1991, and guidelines in the corners of many of the sheets, and hopes to be able to continue his researches using these clues.

**Laurence Kimpton** (ESC 591) showed several covers with Motor Mail labels produced by the Egyptian Post Office for use on the Haifa-Baghdad Nairn cars postal service, and one cover with insufficient postage for the service, which was instead sent by sea with enormous consequent delays. He also showed the lack of Baghdad postal markings for official mail carried from Iraq to Egypt by the RAF air mail service, and how mail destined for England received Egyptian stamps and cancellations for the onward part of the journey.

\* The meeting was able to congratulate Laurence on the award by the American Air Mail Society of its George D Kingdom Medal for his volume *Airmails across the Middle East 1918-1930*, described as “the best airmail book published in 2015”.

**Mike Murphy** volunteered to show an astonishing recent discovery by **Hisham Bassyouny** (ESC 391) concerning the 6m Boy King letter sheet see p274. All members should closely examine the Arabic lettering at the head of the stamp’s vignette.

**Peter Andrews** (ESC 122) rounded out the day with a display of the Postal Savings Bank, inaugurated in March 1901, followed four years later by the Children’s Savings Bank. He showed a block of 15 of the 5m Harrison pictorial with Epargne Scolaire CDS and a full savings form with 30x5m Fuad cancelled in Alexandria 18 MR 29. And although Feltus says of the 50m of the Second (1973-80) Savings Bank issue “apparently none were sold), Peter produced a full savings form sheet properly cancelled. All in all, an interesting and varied afternoon in good company.

### 1943 - Air Mail Cover From Turkey To Colombia, Via Egypt.

**Lucien Toutounji** (ESC 264)

After Italy became involved in World War II and the invasion of Greece by Axis forces and their defeat in the Levant, air mail addressed westward from Turkey was carried via Egypt.

This cover was flown by BOAC to Egypt from Ankara 11 August 1943. There is Egyptian censor tape at the left and an oval censor stamp. It was flown to England, and from there by Pan American Airways to New York, continuing by air to Barranquilla (air mail arrival handstamp 21 October 1943). It was then flown internally by AVIANCA, successor to the German SCADTA, to Bogota



### Meeting Report: November 5 2016

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), John Davis (Deputy Chairman/Librarian), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Edmund Hall (Webmaster/Editor), Jon Aitchison, Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Tony Schmidt, Richard Wheatley. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Sami Sadek (Committee), Angela Child, Amr El-Etreby (Egypt), Ted Fraser-Smith, Pauline Gittoes, Malcolm Lacey, Roman Rimonis, Greg Todd.

As it was the final meeting of the year the Chairman opened by wishing all members, whether present or not, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, filled with collecting success. One achievement he was able to announce immediately was the rescue of the Circle's New Issues collection (see next page). He mentioned the 2017 Spring Stampex (February 15-18) and its Ottoman-Empire theme, and encouraged all members to enter displays or competition entries.

The Secretary added some detail and emphasised that the closing date for entries was December 16 (see <http://preview.tinyurl.com/jlgmmcb> for details if there is still time). The meeting accepted with gratitude the offer of Jon Aitchison (01279 870488; britishlocals@aol.com) to act as unofficial Circle "commissioner" for the exhibition: he will act as central liaison and receive entries from the UK and our colleagues in Egypt. One knock-on effect was that because entries are taken down from 3.30 on the Saturday, clashing with our meeting, it was necessary to move our meeting to lunchtime: see the list on page 265.

Eighteen sellers and 44 buyers (out of 48) made Auction 55 a great success, with 294 lots (plus 95 L'OPs) sold and a sale total of £8,166.50, producing a commission surplus for the Circle, even after postage costs, of a record £1,037.61. There will be a Live Auction on February 18: please send lists of lots.

Three buyers in the Auction (totalling over £1,400 in purchases) were from the dozen or so "temporary" members stemming from our Facebook adventure (see next page), which we feel has been a great success. It will be interesting to see how many of the dozen take up full membership for 2017, and how many more might experiment with a renewed free offer. Two new members were elected: welcome to Christopher Smith of Minnesota and Andrea Giachino of Turin.

The Treasurer urged members to pay their subscriptions by the due date (January 1<sup>st</sup>) for 2017 rather than waste committee members' time with follow-up notices which this year ran through to August! Those with British banks should make out direct debits; and others must pay before the AGM or face immediate membership termination. There will be a series of follow-up emails between early December and February 18.

The Librarian reported the gift from Ted Fraser-Smith of an interesting book by Donald Gill, *From Catterick to Suez, 1950-52*, a National Serviceman who took part in the British action against Ismailia police station.



*Meanwhile in Cairo ... Amr El-Etreby (ESC 688, left) received the MacArthur Award for 2015 from our Egypt Agent, Dr Ibrahim Shoukry at the PSE HQ. Amr entered his article from QC 255 in Taipei and won a Large Silver medal with 75 points; the exhibit itself scored 83.*

The first display, by Richard Wheatley (ESC 168) and titled baldly "Revenues", spread its wings far wider, starting with an examination of the "miry" No-Value stamp and its various issues and uses, including many documents showing the 1915 surcharges, use of OHHS overprints from 1907 to pay for registration where the No-Value stamp was used ... and then took off into the world of the Salt Tax, showing wonderful displays of the stamps and postmarks, and a glorious series of fully complete Salt Tax forms in half a dozen variations. There was much discussion of why commission on a large amount of "rough" salt might be paid not in cash but in "table" salt.

There then followed displays of the wonderful colours and shapes of the Cigarette Tax stamps, with 125 companies named, each paying tiny fractions of a millième; and finally the Match Tax, including a 1954 match booklet with tax stamp adhering; and a wonderful tale about NOT buying a cigarette packet complete with stamp on a tour-group visit to Alexandria.

The second display of the day, from Jon Aitchison (ESC 661), was also greatly expanded from the original “Interpostals” to “Officially sealed mail”, ranging far and wide through the circular paper seals, whose purpose, though gradually becoming clarified, still remains not entirely clear. He showed the first and second issues from the collection of the late Peter Smith, explained that Type VIIIA was exceedingly scarce, and described Interpostals on cover as “rare as hens’ teeth”. But he also questioned how it was that only five IP-sealed covers are known from the sinking of the SS *Cairo* – and yet vast quantities of somewhat bedraggled mail were recovered; and for good measure added that only one Type IX was known on cover.

From IPs he turned to sealing labels in general, from the early black on white and white on black Egyptian Government and Post Office labels used to seal entire letters through the entire gamut of 15 (or is it 14?) printings of the “Found Open and Officially Sealed” labels that came into use in 1906, showing a quite astonishing range of usages. Jon says that he is now reworking the accepted series of different printings and may have some surprises in store.

The afternoon was completed by the Deputy Chairman, who congratulated both members on outstanding displays off the beaten track, and exclaimed: “Now I know why I keep coming come to these meetings”.

#### New Issues transfer completed

The Circle is enormously grateful to **Ted Fraser-Smith** (ESC 238) and **Cyril Defriez** (ESC 172) for ensuring the rescue of our New Issues collection for which Cyril was responsible for well over 40 years. When he felt he could no longer continue, it was debated whether – especially in light of difficulty with deliveries from the Cairo Philatelic Bureau after the revolution – the collection should be sold. But in typical fashion Ted not only volunteered to carry on the work but to drive to Lancashire to collect the material. It is now housed at 8 Grisedale Road, Great Longstone, Bakewell, Derbyshire, and Ted will be delighted to answer any queries on 01629 640478. Any gaps will gradually be filled – and the New Issues collection will live on. Very many thanks to both members.

#### Facebook page makes good progress

As of October the ESC Official Facebook page had 210 members (Hani Sharestan writes). More than half continue to share scans and posts on advanced topics such as new finds, postal history, varieties, early essays and much more. There was even a discussion about the whereabouts of the 1927 Statistical Congress cancelled-back issue that disappeared in 1954. The page has supplied ESC with ten temporary members plus 1 regular member. The goal is to try to convert most, or all, of the temporary members into regular members next year. Several took part in the latest ESC auction, contributing to the success of the group in general. If you're not yet a member of the Facebook page please go to:

[www.facebook.com/groups/EgyptStudyCircle/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/EgyptStudyCircle/)

#### Membership changes

##### **New member:**

- ESC 701 Mohamed Lotfy Mohamed** 3 El Zaytoun Street, El Zaytoun, Cairo, Egypt  
(Stamps and postal history of the King Fuad era, 1923-1936)
- ESC 702 Christopher C Smith** 13572 Birchwood Avenue, Rosemount, MN 55068, United States  
(19<sup>th</sup> century Egypt, Tuscany, Greece Hermes Heads)
- ESC 703 Andrea Giachino** Viale XXIV Maggio 21, Collegno 10093, Torino, Italy  
(World War 2 military postal history)

**Membership restored:** ESC 690 Khalid Abu Bakr      **Resigned:** ESC 636 Joan Soriano

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

- ESC 668 Andrew Titley**, 29-11 Queens Plaza North, Apt 20B, Long Island City, NY 11101, USA
- ESC 686 Moheb Rizkalla**, 56 Stansmore Avenue, Prestons, NSW 2170, Australia

**Official Airmail from Iraq to the United Kingdom,  
Posted in Egypt, 1922-1925**

**Laurence Kimpton (ESC 591)**

Official mail flown on the RAF Cairo-Baghdad Air Mail Service is relatively scarce, although large quantities were flown. Envelopes containing official mail were usually destroyed; those from Iraq addressed to Egypt (and vice-versa) would have had little interest for philatelists at the time as they bore no stamps and any cachets or datestamps were those of the military rather than the postal services. Among the official covers which have survived are a few addressed to England which originate in Baghdad, were flown to Cairo, yet bear Egyptian stamps cancelled in Cairo. This article aims to explain why these official airmail covers from Iraq to England were posted in Cairo.

Following the First World War the British occupation of Iraq was confirmed by the approval of the British mandate for the country by the Council of the League of Nations on 10 August 1920. In August 1921 Faisal was proclaimed King of Iraq, but the United Kingdom retained control of foreign, military and fiscal policy, confirmed by the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty of October 1922. Also, in October 1922 RAF Iraq Command was formed and placed in charge of all British forces in Iraq. The General Headquarters of the British Forces in Baghdad (in effect RAF GHQ) was the origin of most official mail dispatched from Iraq. Mail from Iraq to the United Kingdom was either sent on a long journey by sea, via India, or was dispatched on the RAF air mail service to Cairo for forwarding by ship from Port Said.

The RAF service between Baghdad and Cairo was opened to civilian mail on 11 November 1921. Between July and October 1921 seven proving flights had been operated from Baghdad carrying mail from military establishments and government departments, together with 'On Active Service' mail from military personnel in Iraq. Payment of postage was indicated by the circular M censor mark and no prepayment in stamps was needed for carriage by air. Mail from Iraq destined for the United Kingdom was usually transit cancelled at FPO 18, the Indian Field Post Office at Heliopolis (*Fig. 1*).

**Mail from General Headquarters, Baghdad**

Following the opening of the RAF Baghdad-Cairo air service to the public, official airmail from General Headquarters Iraq was bagged before delivery to the Baghdad Head Post Office. Such mail would not have gone through the usual post office sorting processes at Baghdad and would not have received postmarks or other markings of the post office. This procedure continued until the RAF service was taken over by Imperial Airways on 1 January 1927. *Fig. 2* shows an example of such mail, flown in April 1923. It bears the cachet 'Air Mail, General Head Quarters British Forces in Iraq, Air Mail' applied in black at Baghdad. (It has often been stated that this cachet, in purple or black, was only applied to official mail. However, most covers surviving are franked with stamps, are addressed to civilian addresses in Britain and are clearly not associated with the official business of General Headquarters. It seems that the personnel of GHQ simply posted their private mail at their place of work. The cachet's use probably ended in late 1923).

Until June 1922 (exact date uncertain) the use of the Indian Field Post Offices in Egypt by airmail arriving in Cairo from Baghdad on the RAF service, had meant that official letters from GHQ Iraq, because they were military correspondence, had been able to continue their journey to England without prepayment in stamps being necessary (as for example, the cover to England in *Fig. 1* dispatched on the Baghdad-Cairo air mail service when it was open only for official and On Active Service mail before November 1921).

A letter dated 24 June 1922 from Headquarters RAF Middle East at Cairo to GHQ Iraq, stated that as the Indian Field Post Offices in Egypt had closed down, official letters from Iraq to the United Kingdom, other than those addressed to the Air Ministry, were on arrival at Cairo, to be treated as ordinary letters and their postage was to be paid with Egyptian stamps. *Figs. 3, 4 and 5* show examples of such letters from General Headquarters, Baghdad, stamped and postmarked at Cairo in 1923 for their journey by ship and train (across France) to England. All the examples which I have seen are either fronts or pieces of covers which date from 1923. An exception to the procedure was made for mail from GHQ Iraq addressed to the Air Ministry in London; it was sent in a special bag via General Headquarters, Cairo.



## Complaints from the Iraq Post Office

The handling of official mail from GHQ Iraq was the subject of much correspondence between the GPO London, the Air Ministry, the Iraq Post Office, GHQ Iraq and Headquarters RAF Middle East at Cairo between 1922 and 1926. The arrangements were not to the liking of Douglas Gumbley, the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs in Iraq. On 13 March 1923, he wrote to General Headquarters Iraq requesting that payment be made to the Iraq Post Office for mail dispatched in closed bags by General Headquarters on which prepayment of postage had not been made, because payment of the air mail charges due on these mails had been made to the British Post Office. He continued: *"I would also add that it does not appear quite equitable that official correspondence originating in Iraq be posted in Egypt, thereby enabling the Egyptian Post Office to acquire revenue that would legitimately accrue to the Iraq Post Office, especially as the Iraq Post Office maintains postal facilities for the distribution and delivery throughout Iraq of the incoming air mails for the forces for which no remuneration whatever is received."*

The payment demanded by Gumbley was not paid by General Headquarters, but its Chief Staff Officer, in a letter dated 26 June 1923, agreed to a further proposal by Gumbley that the amount already paid by the Iraq Post Office to the GPO London for the carriage of official mail from General Headquarters should be deducted from the next payment to the GPO. As far as the matter of posting official mail in Egypt was concerned, the Chief Staff Officer wrote to Gumbley: *"I am directed to state that all questions of policy in connection with the Service Air Mail are decided between the Air Council and the Postmaster General; will you be good enough therefore to represent your case to the Postmaster General?"* On 3 July 1923 Gumbley did just that in a letter to the Secretary of the GPO, repeating the points he had made to General Headquarters Iraq on 13 March, and requesting that the Secretary approach the Air Ministry with a view to modifying instructions. (At the Air Ministry, policy decisions were made by the committee known as the Air Council).

On 23 July 1923, General F H Williamson, Secretary of the GPO, wrote to the Air Ministry on the issue of prepayment of postage on official correspondence from Iraq to the United Kingdom: *"it seems that some misunderstanding has arisen on the matter."* He asked the Air Ministry to instruct General Headquarters Iraq to use 'State Service' stamps on official correspondence to the United Kingdom and drew the Air Ministry's attention to Gumbley's complaint that the practice of forwarding official correspondence in a special bag for posting in Cairo results in a loss of revenue to the Iraq Post Office.

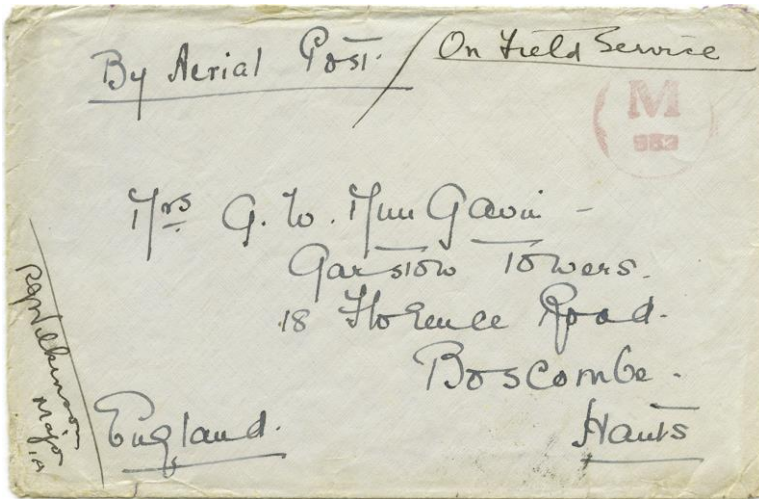
It appears that the Air Ministry moved very slowly in response to the letter of 23 July 1923 from the Secretary of the GPO. It took until mid-1925 for General Headquarters Iraq and the Iraq Post Office to reach agreement. Much of the delay appears to have been due to the lengthy bureaucratic line of communication, via the GPO London and the Air Ministry. Finally, on 9 July 1925 a letter from Gumbley to General Headquarters Iraq, confirmed what the correct procedure was to be for the handling of official mails from General Headquarters Iraq:

1. All private mails to be prepaid at full rates, both postage and air fee.
2. Official mails carried throughout their entire transit by the RAF (mails for Jerusalem, Amman and Cairo) to be exempted from prepayment of both postage and air fee.
3. Official mails for England to be prepaid, at Baghdad, with ordinary postage only (in order to pay for carriage by surface means from Cairo to England).
4. The weight of all mails closed at GHQ to be recorded jointly by the RAF and a Post Office representative on 'air mail days' at GHQ. The weight of official mails, whether for Cairo or England, was not to be included in air mail accounts sent by the Iraq Post Office to London.
5. The arrangements to continue so long as the air mail service is maintained by the RAF at its own expense.

Despite procedures for the handling of official mail from General Headquarters being clarified at last, things did not always go smoothly. In February 1926 the Royal Army Medical Corps at Woking complained that official letters received from General Headquarters Iraq were being surcharged by the Post Office in respect of unpaid air postage. The GPO's reply pointed out that the letters had not been forwarded in the official bag from General Headquarters, but had been posted at the Head Post Office in Baghdad and therefore were correctly surcharged.

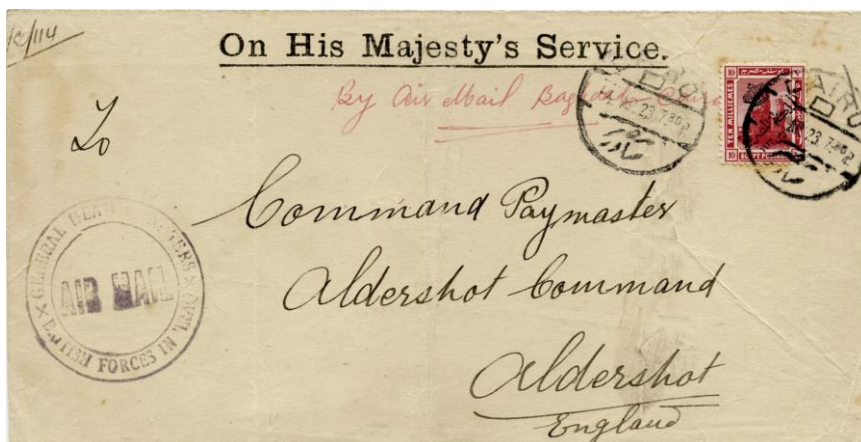
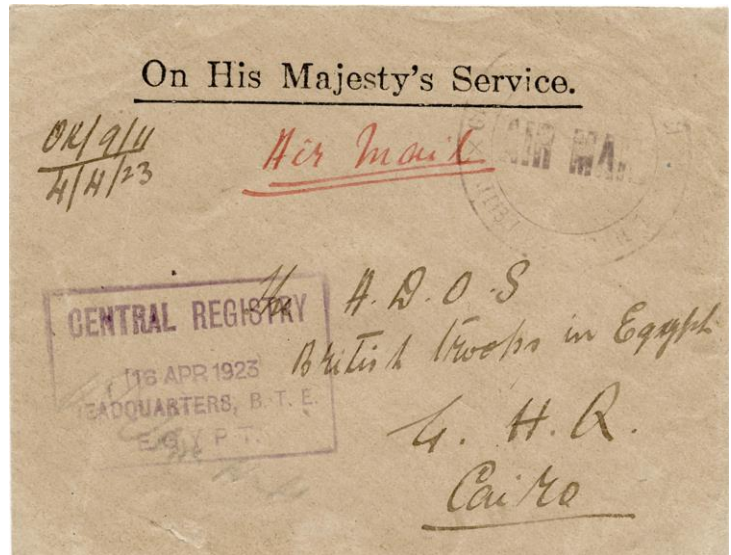
**Other Official Mail**

Mail from various military establishments in Iraq, from the Secretariat of the High Commissioner and from some government departments appears to have passed through the usual postal channels. Fig. 6 shows an OHMS cover from a Colonel in the Army Medical Service, posted in March 1922 to the depot of the Royal Army Medical Corps at Aldershot, franked with 'On State Service' stamps.



**Fig. 1** 15 September 1921. 'On Field Service' cover to England flown on fourth RAF proving flight from Baghdad. Circular M852 censor mark applied at Baghdad. Cancelled at Indian Army FPO No. 18 (Heliopolis) on 16 September.

**Fig. 2** April 1923. OHMS cover, dated 4 April 1923 at GHQ Baghdad flown to GHQ Cairo on service departing Baghdad on 14 April. Cachet 'Air Mail, General Head Quarters British Forces in Iraq, Air Mail' applied in black at Baghdad. Cachet 'Central Registry Headquarters B.T.E. Egypt' applied after arrival at Cairo on 16 April.

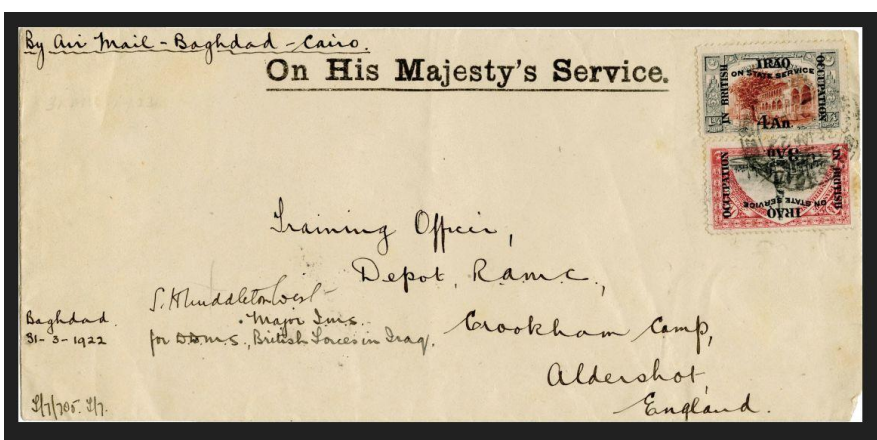


**Fig. 3** April 1923. OHMS cover (front only) from GHQ Baghdad to Aldershot. Cachet 'Air Mail, General Head Quarters British Forces in Iraq, Air Mail' applied in black. It would have been dispatched from GHQ in a closed bag and so passed through the Iraq Post Office without receiving postal markings. At Cairo a 10 milliemes stamp was affixed to pay postage to England and cancelled on 4 April.



**Fig. 4** August 1923. Piece of an OHMS cover from GHQ Baghdad to Aldershot. Cachet 'Air Mail, General Head Quarters British Forces in Iraq, Air Mail' applied in purple. It would have been dispatched from GHQ in a closed bag and so passed through the Iraq Post Office without receiving postal markings. At Cairo 10 milliemes and 5 milliemes stamps were affixed to pay postage to England and cancelled on 11 August.

**Fig. 5** 27 September 1923. OHMS cover (front only) from Baghdad to Aldershot, bearing the cachet of the Pay Office of the Iraq Levies. It would have been dispatched in a closed bag and so passed through the Iraq Post Office without receiving postal markings. At Cairo a 10 milliemes stamp was affixed to pay postage to England and cancelled on 8 October.



**Fig. 6** 31 March 1922. OHMS cover from the Army Medical Service in Baghdad to Aldershot. Flown by RAF to Cairo. No transit postmarks were applied at Cairo. Franked with official 'State Service' stamps (rate: 3 annas postage, 6 annas air fee).

## References

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Royal Mail Archive, POST 33/2006.

Kimpton, L J, *Airmails across the Middle East*, published by the author, 2015.

Pearson, P C and Proud E B, *The Postal History of Iraq*, Proud Bailey, Heathfield, Sussex, 1996.

**QC articles:** as mentioned in the last two QCs (257, p234 & 258 p254), my plea for articles met a fantastic response, and I am still working through them. I start by choosing those longest in stock, and those from first-time authors. Juggling them to fit, I find I have two pages to fill – but the two-page piece turns out to be three and won't do. So take out another two pager – but then I don't have a four page piece or two single-pagers, only one! So the two pager comes out, and the three and one page pieces go in. OK, it fits. I hope this explains why your article is not yet published. Please be patient: it will appear. Just don't ask when. I don't know what will be used until I make-up the next issue. But do please keep the articles coming: the backlog is diminishing and soon we will have blank pages to fill.

**Editor**

## Not one but Two 1941 Farouk 6 Millièmes Letter Sheets

**Hisham Bassyouny (ESC 391)**

We all know the "Boy King" green on white six-millièmes letter sheet, produced in 1941 as a result of the internal postage rate increase from 5 millièmes to 6 millièmes that took place on July 11, 1940: the 6 mills stamp was added, on October 20, 1940, to the low-value series issued on July 29, 1937. All the authorities agree that the letter sheet was issued sometime in 1941.

They also agree (Higgins & Gage, 1982, 11, Fig G-8; Balian, 12, Fig 11-12; Smith p.683, L-14; *Nile Post* SLS 12, Fig SLS 12; and Magdy Moukhtar, L12 and Fig L12) that there appear to have been two printings, both with the same watermark, whether diagonally left or right: both on laid paper, one in offset-lithography and another version printed by photogravure. *Nile Post* and Magdy also distinguish a third version, lithographed on wove paper.



*The Dawla al-Masriya version (left) follows the pattern of all Boy King issues; the Mamlaka al-Masriya is something of a mystery. The slight shade variations here are a result of modern scanning and printing*

But in yet another completely astonishing Egyptian mystery that has gone unmarked for at least 70 years, what none of them mentions (though Magdy illustrates it, perhaps without realising) is that there are two different versions of the stamp vignette: one with the Arabic at the head reading *الدولة المصرية* *al-Dawla al-Masriya* (State of Egypt), like all the Boy King stamps; and another where the Arabic reads *المملكة المصرية* *al-Mamlaka al-Masriya* (Kingdom of Egypt).

There are other differences in the vignette – the size of the French lettering at the base also varies, larger in the Mamlaka version, and there are slight differences in the value indicators. All the catalogues apart from Magdy illustrate *Dawla al-Masriya*.

In my examples the *Dawla* version is printed offset-litho, that is, the accepted first version; the *Mamlaka* version is by photogravure, for which Smith gives a 194? date; and the others hazard not even that guess. What seems clear is that the original version followed the normal pattern for the stamps – but the photogravure version published at some later date went off at a tangent with a Kingdom version.



Kingdom:  
Biala to  
Alexandria  
28 ?E 42

Kingdom:  
Isna to  
Giza  
registered  
12 MA 43.  
Note  
uprating  
with Dawla  
15m stamp

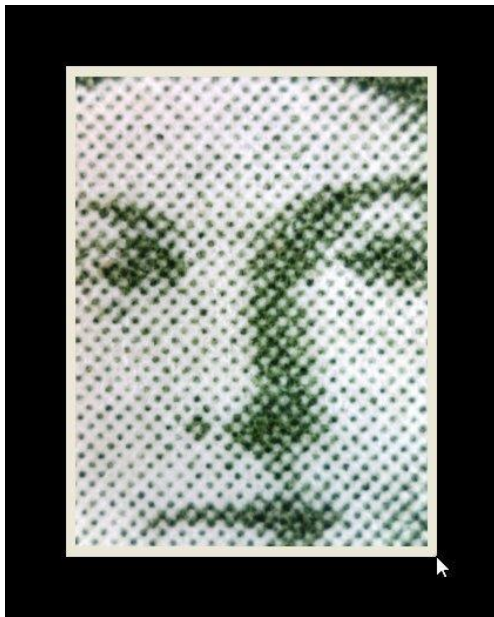
When was the second letter sheet issued? I can guess no better than Peter Smith – but I have found two used examples – which were posted from Biala to Alexandria on 28 ?E 42; and from Isna to Giza on 12 MA 43, The earliest date I have for a Dawla used example is 2 OC 41 (Mit Ghamr to Zifta), indicating that most probably the Dawla version was printed first. All of these, I should add, together with my mint examples of both Dawla and Mamlaka, are printed on laid paper, as the catalogues suggest. I have yet to see an example on wove paper.

I should also add here that as far as can be ascertained all Boy King stamps and all other postal stationery – envelopes, postcards, registered letter envelopes, wrappers – follow the Dawla style.

At this time, even though Egypt had nominally been a “kingdom” since 1923, the normal pattern for signifying that stamps were issued in this country was to use simply Egypt, Barid Masr (Egyptian Post) or the Dawla wording. Perhaps remarkably, the Capitulations set of October 15, 1937, used the Kingdom wording. Such clearly royal occasions as Farouk’s wedding (January 20, 1938) and his 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday issue (February 11, 1938) used Dawla, although a series of four successive commemoratives from April 28, 1944, through to July 29, 1945, used the Mamlaka formula, but no definitives.

Why the replacement 6 millièmes letter sheet alone should have ventured into a completely different – and perhaps politically sensitive? - form of wording when all the rest of the Boy King philatelic issues over seven

years used Dawla remains a mystery. What is sure is that it will send collectors searching for more examples of this far more rare printing in the hope that we can get at least a little closer to the date of issue.



The Dawla version, left, quite clearly shows the telltale “points” of lithographic printing; the Mamlaka version at right is photogravure



Dawla: Mit Ghamr registered to Zifta 2 OC 41



Dawla: Tanta en ville registered and AR 8 JU 42

## A Study of Perforation Varieties and Their Definitions

Gamal ElKhabbaz (ESC temporary member)

### 1. Introduction

Perforation varieties represent one of the most attractive areas of research for collectors of variations in stamps. A quick review of the various catalogues reveals that current definitions used to identify different kinds of perforation varieties have remained virtually identical during several decades.

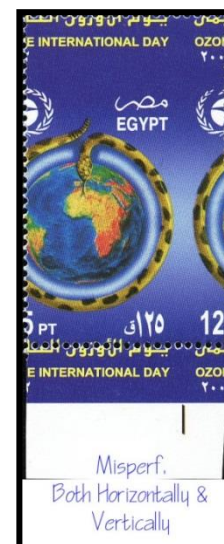
During recent further studies, however, several types of perforation varieties not covered by the above terminology have come to light, resulting in the need to add new and/or supplementary terms to specify and define the new varieties to simplify communications between collectors.

The following brief discussion is no more than a preliminary approach making an effort to cover what is becoming a wide range of perforation varieties, and of course is subject to further revisions or modifications.

### 2. Current Definitions

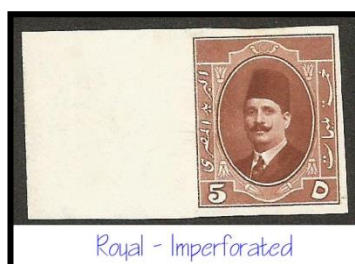
#### Misperforated

In addition to the well-known Royal Misperforates, many other examples of misplaced perforations have been recorded by the various catalogues, including some found on modern issues. See the following examples:



#### Imperforate

The following examples illustrate some of the many reported imperforate stamps from both the royal and republican periods. Other examples of individual stamps imperforate on only one or two sides are also recorded: it is unfortunate that images are not available to display here:



#### Incomplete or Blind perforation

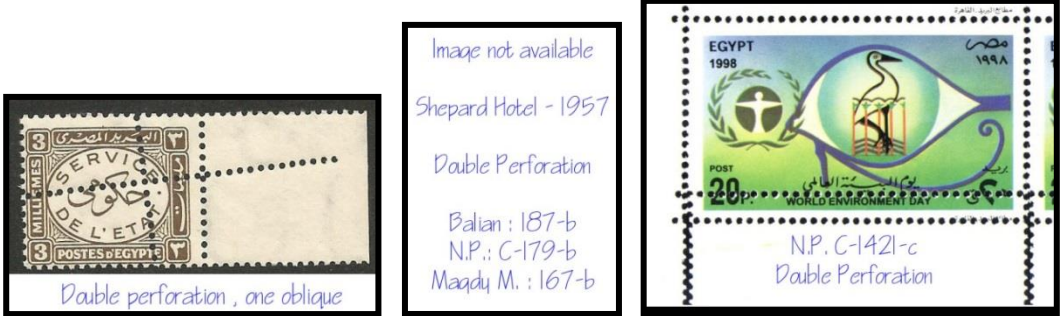
The term "incomplete perforation" is normally used to indicate one or more missing perforation holes. In "blind" perforation a trace of the outer perimeter of the perforation comb can be seen, but it has failed to punch through the printed paper, as in the illustrated examples.



NB. In both cases the overall dimensions of the stamp remain standard (that is, the perforation variety does not affect the standard size of the stamp).

**Double perforation**

This definition has been used in a relatively wide range of different varieties, as shown below:



**3. New discoveries and a proposed new terminology**

New discoveries in perforation varieties have revealed that new definitions able to describe the new varieties simply and clearly have become a crucial necessity. The term “Irregular Perforation (later referred to as IP)” is proposed to fill this gap, and sub-types are also illustrated in the following.

**I.P. type A**

In this type, perforation holes are not aligned perfectly straight, probably because of damage to a single comb or more. This may occur within a full row or column (see 293 & 272 here) or in a few misaligned holes separated by normal ones (440).



**I.P. type B**

Normally, whatever the size of the perforation, both holes and teeth dimensions are divided equally. In this type of variety, however, differences have been discovered between holes and teeth dimensions which may be constant (139) or variable (1787).

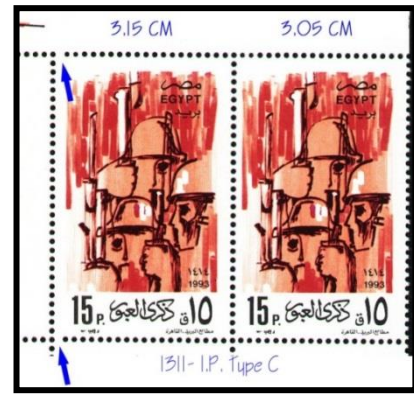
It should be noted that this variety has no effect on the overall perforation size.





**I.P. type C**

This type of variety affects the standard size of the stamp involved, either positively (increased, as in 1311 right) or negatively (reduced, as seen in 318 below).



as

**I.P. type D**

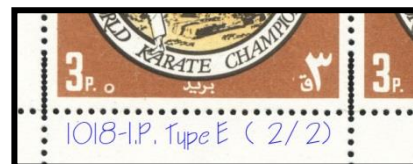
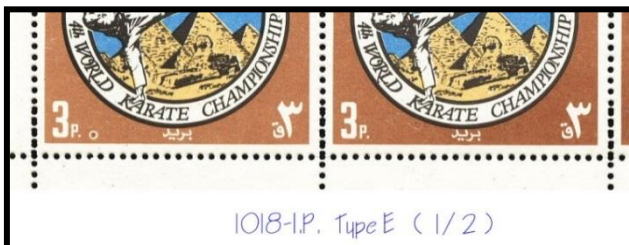
This type of variation causes staggered rows (1369 & 1405) or columns (1347 & 1356), as illustrated by the images.



**I.P. type E**

In a few cases a sheet has been re-entered into the machinery and re-perforated, either partially or fully, most probably to repair defects found by quality control inspection of the first perforation application.

It is to be hoped that new and/or/ further contribution by members of the Circle will help to improve and supplement this preliminary study.



## The Slave Trade, from the Nile Sources to Cairo. Part 1 the Slave Markets

Hany Salam (ESC 580)

[This article was originally published as pages 277-291 of Opus XIV, the 2014 Africa-themed magazine of the Académie Européenne de Philatélie. We are grateful for permission to republish]



Every important Arab town in the nineteenth century had a slave market, the largest of which was located in Cairo. This market known as Wekalet el-Jellabah, “the trading place for the travelling merchants”, was situated in the heart of Cairo, near Khan el-Khalili. The Wekala also served as the main distribution point for all Sudanese goods brought to or transiting Cairo, such as ivory, feathers, tamarind, ebony, gum Arabic and rhinoceros horn.

Until 1843 Muhammad Ali maintained a state monopoly on the slave trade in Egypt. Thereafter, authorities sold licenses to private traders, Jellabahs, who competed with the government-conducted slave raids.

In 1843 the Egyptian government forced merchants to transfer the sale of slaves to el-Sanadekeya, the northern outskirts of Cairo. The slave trade was prohibited in 1855, forbidding the importation of slaves from the Sudan. Though this new decree had little effect on the trade, from that time the slave trade was conducted in the privacy of slave merchants’ homes. Records of the trade were no longer entered in official registers, leaving very little documentation for us to examine, except for residuary remains from the Jellabahs’ private archives and their correspondences.

In 1877 more effective anti-slavery measures were taken, leading to a decline in the slave trade. A small-scale illegal trade went on until the end of the nineteenth century. As for the Wekala, it continued to trade in Sudanese goods.

This article describes different aspects of the black-slave trade in 19th century Egypt: sources of slaves, Jellabahs and their slave markets, prices, and customs taxations. The article will also explore the process of abolition of slavery as well as showing the connection between slavery and Islamic Shari’a laws.

Central African 19th century history was written mainly by the pens of travellers, missionaries and colonial powers. In this article I shall try to integrate information from these sources with facts recorded by the locals – the Jellabahs themselves!

Living in Egypt allowed me to acquire the personal archive of Wadidi Soliman, the Sheikh of Wekalet el-Jellabah from 1844 until the end of the slave trade, from the time it flourished to its complete decline. Letters, contracts, official papers, and even medicine-making recipes and amulets show from a different perspective the way of life, culture, beliefs and superstitions of Jellabahs.

**Sources of slaves**

In the course of my research I managed to come up with the following list of the territories that served as sources of slaves and the routes that were used at that time to carry slaves to markets in Egypt.

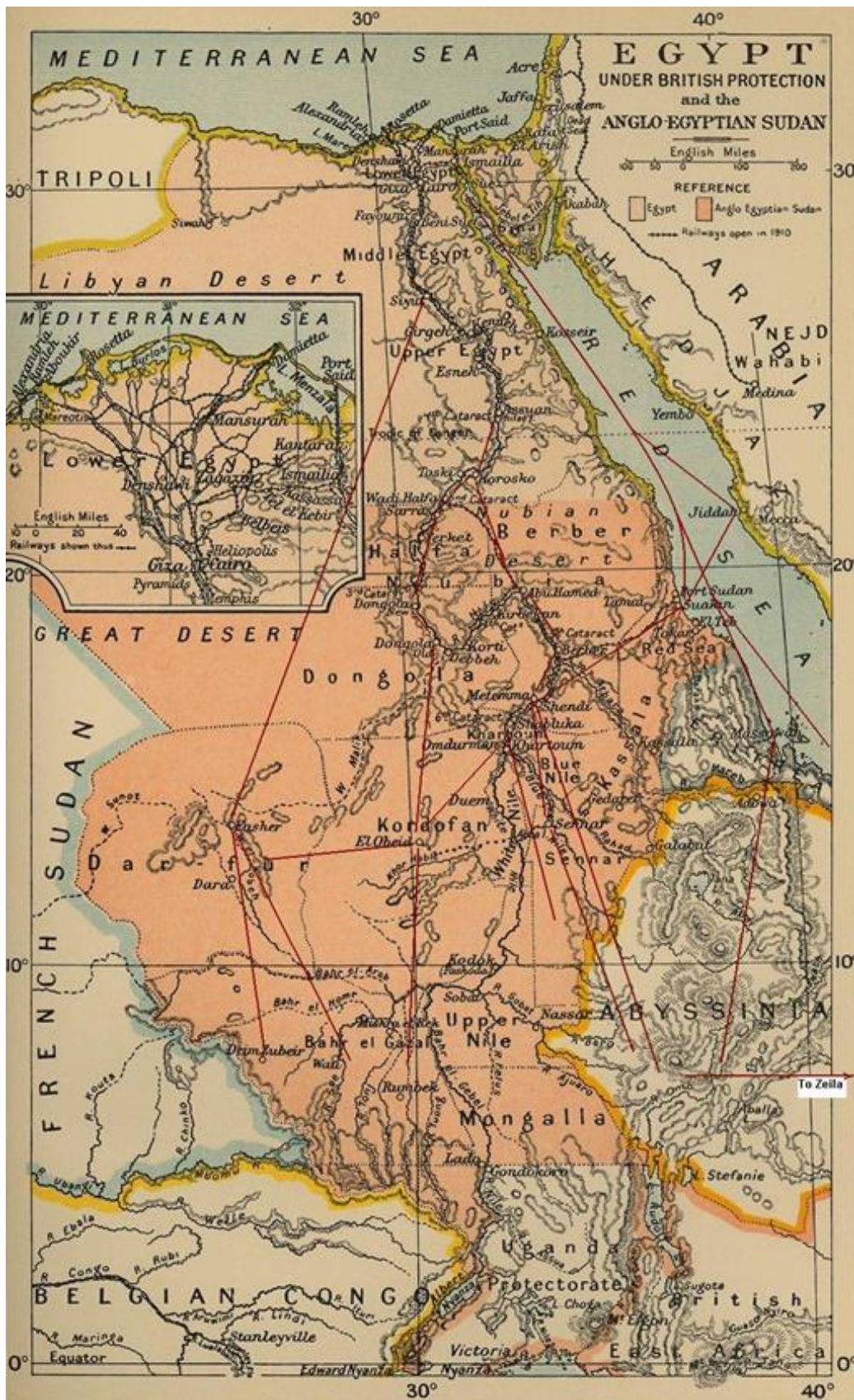


Fig. 1: Sources of slaves

1. The Gala countries to the south of Abyssinia, between latitude 3° N and 8° N. The Gala, the Mowaleddin, and the real Abyssinians were the main slave races from that region; they were highly valued by Egyptians. Outlets for the slave trade from this area were:

- Via Shoa to Zeyla; then through the Red Sea to Suez.
- Via Godyam through Abyssinia to Matamma and Suakin, or to Massawa; then through the Red Sea to Suez.
- Via Fazogl to Sennaar, where the largest market was above Khartoum, in a place called Mussalemia. Slaves were then carried by many small caravans through Berber and Abu Hammed, then the Eastern Desert, which was protected by the Sheikh of the Ababda; then via Korosco and Ibrim to Aswan.

2. Among the Berta people above Fazogl, and among the Dinka above Sennaar, between the White and Blue Nile. Slaves were carried via Mussalemia to Aswan.

3. The Agow, in the heart of Abyssinia, between Tigre and Amhara, together with the people on the north-west frontier of the Abyssinian Highland. The channel for their dispersion was across the Red Sea to Jidda.

4. The upper district of the White Nile, inclusive of the Albert and Victoria lakes. (This source was stopped by Samuel Baker.)

5. Bahr El-Ghazal district: the Bongo, the Mitto and the Babuckur tribes. Slaves were sent to Darfur, and then by a massive caravan with the aid of the Arab Rezaigat tribe to Assyut by way of Darb El Arbein, through the Western Desert by way of the oasis of Baris and Kharga oasis.

6. Countries to the south of Darfur, called Dar Ferteet. Slaves were carried by the following routes:

- From Abou Harras to Khartoum via El-Obeid;
- From Aboo Harras eastward to Mussalemia through Sennaar;
- From Aboo Harras across the Begudah steppes to Dongola via El-Safy;
- From Aboo Harras to Berber along the Nile, for the purpose either of crossing the Great Nubian Desert or of keeping farther to the east across the Red Sea.

7. The mountain lands south of Kordofan

- Slaves were carried from Obayad to Assyut via Dongola.

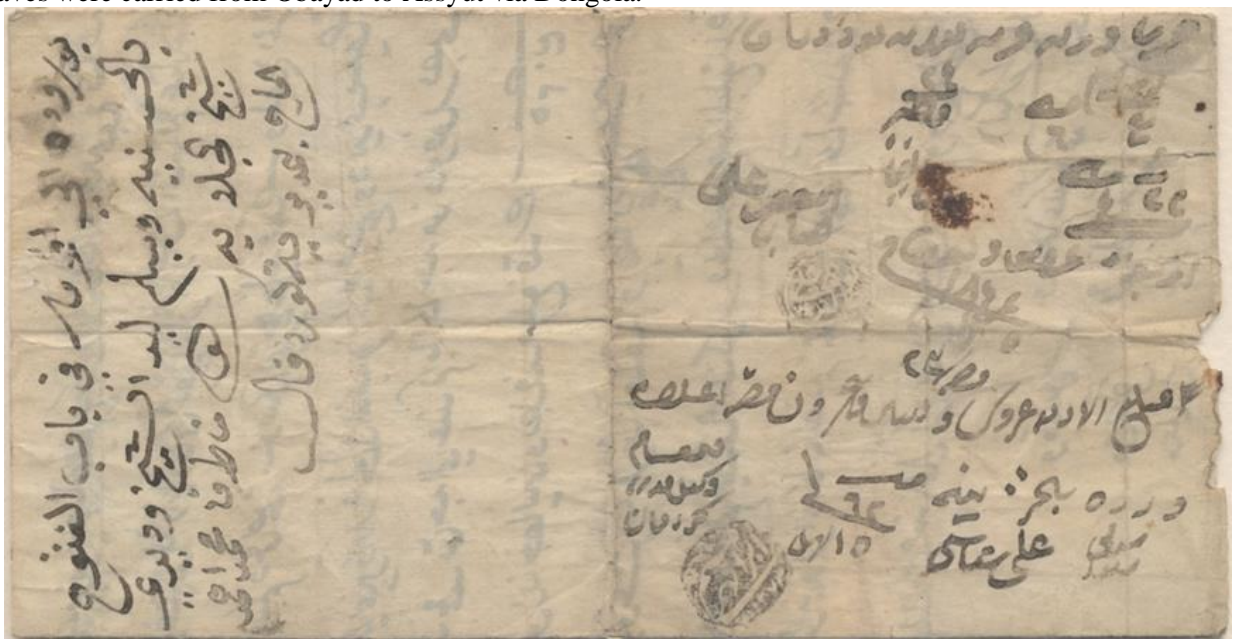
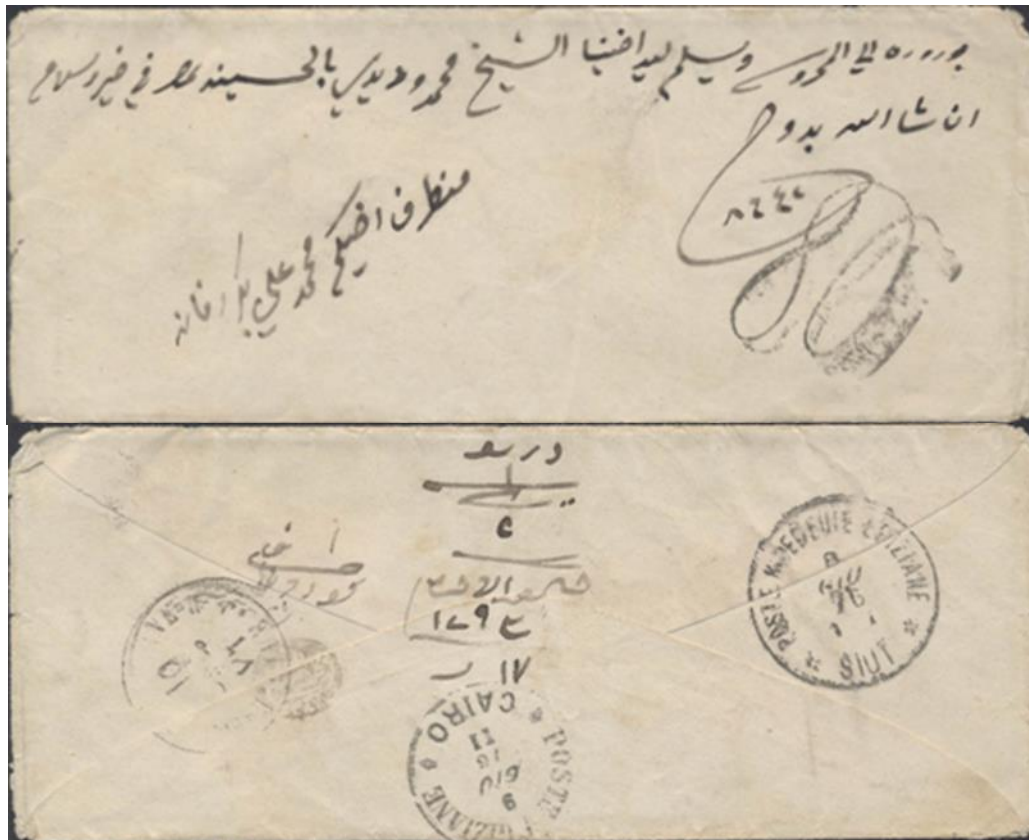


Fig. 2: 1862, commercial letter from Kordofan, Sudan, to the Sheikh of the Jellabahs in Cairo, delivered to the Moudirieh (governorate), carried by Mohamed Ali post, paying 4pi. 22pa. cashed at the Moudirieh



بإفانة

From Kordofan

درهم

One Dirham weight

٢

2 piastres

مكتمل

Franked

Fig. 3: 1876, letter to Wadidi Soliman sent from Kordofan , transiting Khartoum May 15th, Assiut June 8th, arriving Cairo June 9th. Paying 2 pi. to the teller (cashier) of Kordofan and taxed 80 pa. in Egypt.



Fig. 4: October 17th, 1859, earliest known Egyptian revenue paper used in Kordofan, value 8 pi, stating that a certain trader owes 3595 piastres for the goods he received 20 days earlier. The document is stamped by the judge in Kordofan.



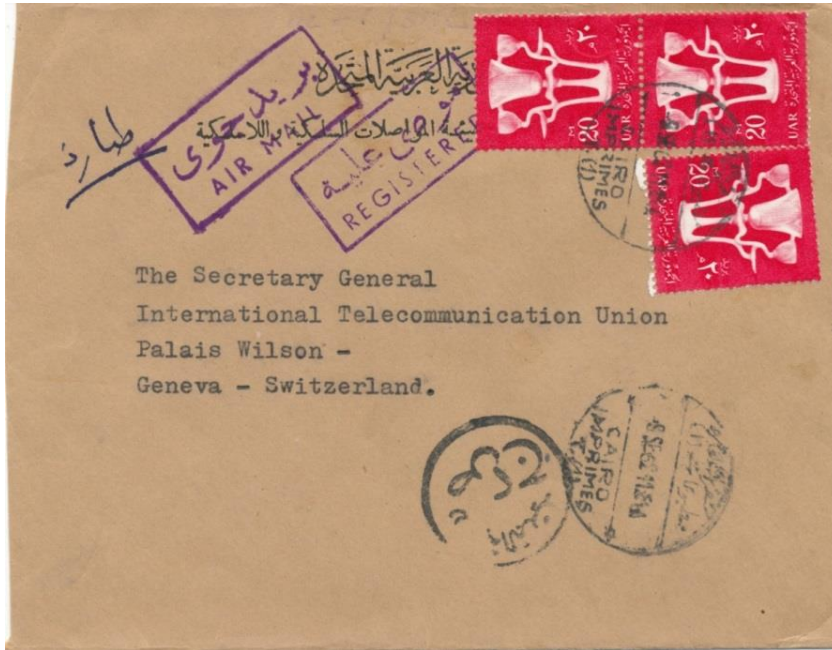
Fig. 5: A personal guarantee letter, written on guarantee revenue paper with the value of 6 piastres, for people of Kassala from the governorate of Takka, southern Kordofan, to come to Cairo to the Sheikh of the Jellabahs by way of Suez (the Red Sea route)



## The “Imprimés” Postmarks. New data.

Roland Dauwe (ESC 498)

Since the publication of my article in *QC 250*, I had the chance to find new material. On one cover is an unrecorded postmark (*Fig 1*) with CAIRO written in English. That discovery made me change my point of view concerning Alund's type PM-4 (see *QC 186*, p. 278). I first thought that this was a misreading of my type 2.2, but the discovery of a later mark with Arabic-English-French legends makes its existence very plausible. Unfortunately Alund's drawing is not very clear and contains several mistakes, but it seems that it



was used during the same period as my type 2, and for that reason I shall call it type 2E.2. But I need clear copies of that postmark in order to measure the diameter, height of the date bridge and the type of time indication. And, of course, to be informed of the existence of the mark with the number 1.

*Fig. 1*

### Type 3E.

This is the unrecorded type, used the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 1962 on an official letter sent from the Egyptian Ministry of Communications to Geneva. The Arabic legends are similar to those of types 2 and 3, but the lower section

reads CAIRO / IMPRIMES / T (1). The month is in 2 letters and the time is the exact hour, followed by A or P. It has the same diameter as types 2-3: 31 mm. This seems to be the replacement postmark for type 2E

Interesting is the fact that the person from whom I bought that cover had 12 similar covers, all sent in 1962 by the same Ministry from Cairo to Geneva. On 2 of them the stamps were obliterated by Imprimés postmarks, all the others by normal Cairo postmarks. On the second cover Type 4.2 was used on the second cover, dated 15.2.62. Once again it remains unclear why they were used as there is no mention of containing printed matters. But it proves that type 3E was used in the same period as type 4.

I also found a very late use of type 4 in 1975, more than 10 years after the latest date I had yet recorded and a few months after the known date of type 5! Type 4.1 was used on two different special covers, made for the first Air France postal flight by Airbus on the lines Cairo-Nice-Paris, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, and Cairo-Lyon-Paris one day later (see *Fig. 2* right). It is rather astonishing that at least one of the type 4 stamps was kept that long at the post office. Strictly speaking, the postmark was this time correctly used, as the message was printed on the cover.



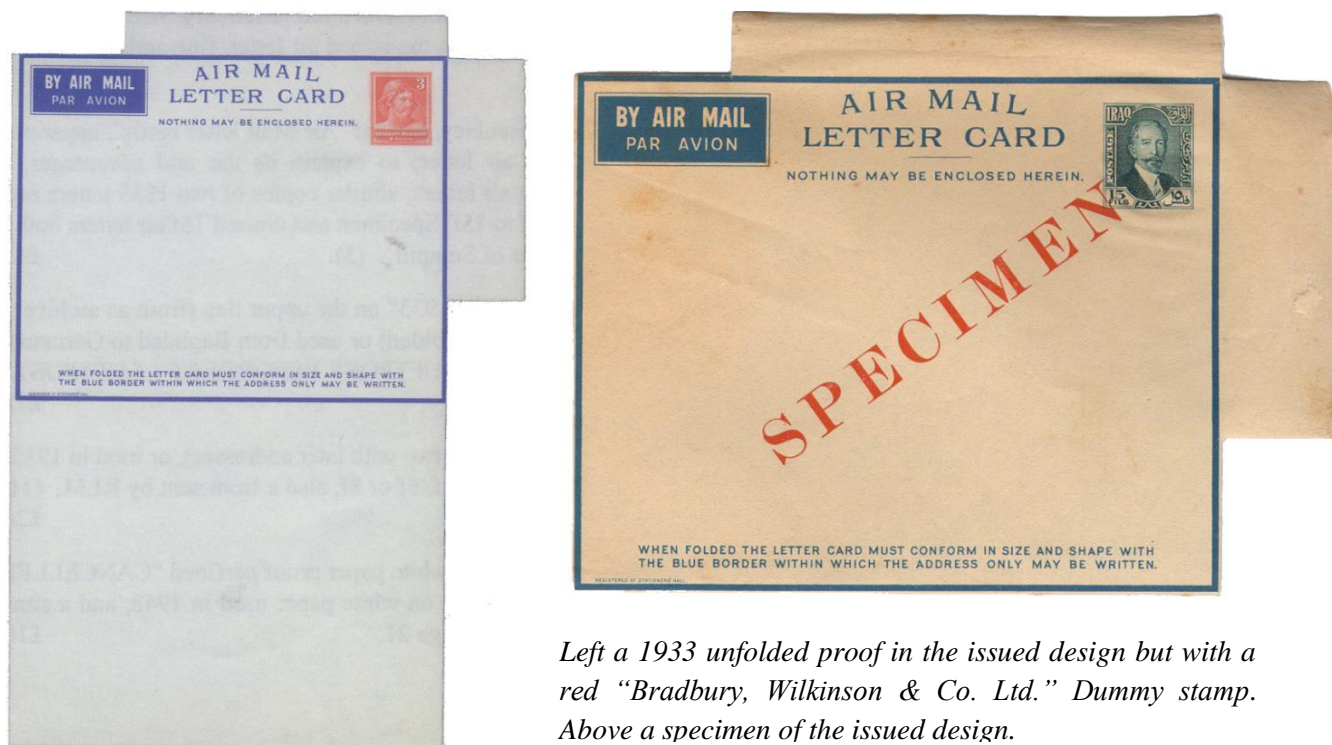
Finally I can report the use of the censor mark type 6, with the number 39, on a large cover sent by registered airmail from Alexandria to Ann Arbor, USA, in March 1974. Interesting too is the fact that it was sent by Ibrahim Chaftar to Peter Smith.

## Air Mail Letter Card

**Edmund Hall (ESC239)**

The Air Mail Letter Card (AMLC) was a thin lightweight piece of gummed foldable paper used for writing a letter for transit via airmail, in which the letter and envelope are one and the same. Most postal administrations forbid enclosures in these light letters, which were usually sent abroad at a preferential rate. Printed warnings existed to say that an enclosure would cause the mail to go at the higher letter rate. The aerogramme was largely popularised by its use during the Second World War (1939–45).

It had been introduced into the Iraqi postal service in 1933 by Major DW Gumbley of the Royal Engineers, who was Inspector General of Posts and Telegraphs for the Iraq Government between 1913 and 1934. The original form, on thin paper was 124mm x 99mm in size, greyish in colour, with blue lined framing and with the designation legend on the front. It had a beautifully impressed effigy of Faisal I of Iraq and was printed by Bradbury Wilkinson



*Left a 1933 unfolded proof in the issued design but with a red "Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd." Dummy stamp. Above a specimen of the issued design.*

During the early years of the war the Australian Government contacted Douglas Gumbley in Palestine and asked if he could help to provide a cheap and rapid means of communication between Australian troops in the Middle East and their families back home as an aid to maintaining morale.

Gumbley suggested the adaptation and use of his Iraq Air Mail Letter Card. This was readily accepted and implemented by the Australian Command and an 'AUSTRALIA' Air Mail Letter card was produced, but without an impressed stamp: a 3d adhesive postage stamp had to be added. The introduction of the Air Mail Letter Card to Australian forces in the Middle East - one form per man, per week - proved a great success.

The Postal Directorate, Middle East, consisting of four officers and eighteen other ranks, left Home Depot on June 24, 1940, under the command of Lt Col R.E. Evans, Royal Engineers, Assistant Director Army Postal Service Middle East Force (MEF). The success of the Australian version led Colonel Evans to propose that a lightweight self-sealing letter card weighing only a tenth of an ounce (2.58g) be adopted by the British Army for air mail purposes. On August 31 he reported to London that there was strong pressure from Middle East



HQ and Palestine for cheaper air mail rates and the letter cards he had suggested in his earlier report of August 7. He recommended its use to Sir Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for War, during his visit to the Middle East in late 1940.

In London, a memo dated 20th. November 1940 said-Attached is a report brought home by the Secretary of State for War, Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden on the subject of the mail service to and from the Middle East. The Deputy Quartermaster General M. E. wished the possibility to be explored of the Air Mail Letter Card proposal. Extract from the Report. The letter cards weigh 3.4gm. and can be produced locally at a cost of £E1 per thousand. Three cards weighing 10 grams could be sent for 1/- which would include the cost of the card.

By January the following year, General Archibald Wavell, 1st Earl Wavell, the Commander-in-Chief, MEF was told by Eden that "Your Assistant Director Army Postal Services may forthwith introduce an Air Mail Letter Card Service for the Middle East. Use British stamps from all countries, including Egypt". A reply cable from Cairo dated February 11, 1941 said Letter Card probably first March but will confirm.

Further cables to and fro:

Memo. from G. P. O. Overseas Mail Branch to Divisional Controllers London, E.C.F.S, and I. S. 2nd. April 1941.

It is understood that the service was put into operation on 1st. March except in Egypt. Egypt will be included when the difficulty regarding the use of British stamps in that country has been resolved. The Letter Cards are being prepared in the Middle East and specimens are not available here. The service has been extended to Naval Units beyond the Middle East which despatch closed air mails for U. K. via the Empire Air Service.

In cases where Naval personnel have difficulty in obtaining supplies of the letter cards, the use of light letters which may not exceed 4gm. in order to pass the 3d. rate, has been authorised.

Cable from Cairo 1st. March 1941. Air Mail Letter Card service M.E.F. to U.K. introduced from Palestine, Cyprus, Cyrenaica, Greece and Crete.

Cable from Cairo 10th. March 1941. Air Mail Letter Card service from Sudan to U.K. with British stamps on.

Report from Cairo dated 1st. April 1941. The C. in C. hoped to get a decision from the Egyptian Prime Minister re free postage in Egypt but nothing has transpired.

In the circumstances, he asked me to fix up an Air Mail Letter Card for the personnel in Egypt by means of a modified Air Mail Letter Card sold as Stationery sold in bulk to the O.C. Units at 3d. per time. This will be sent forward franked Official Paid. This is a poor subterfuge but....Arranged for new Air Mail Letter Card with Director of Printing and Stationery.

Report from Cairo 28th. April 1941. 220, 000 cards valued £2750 taken on charge 26th. April and issued to F.P.Os for sale.

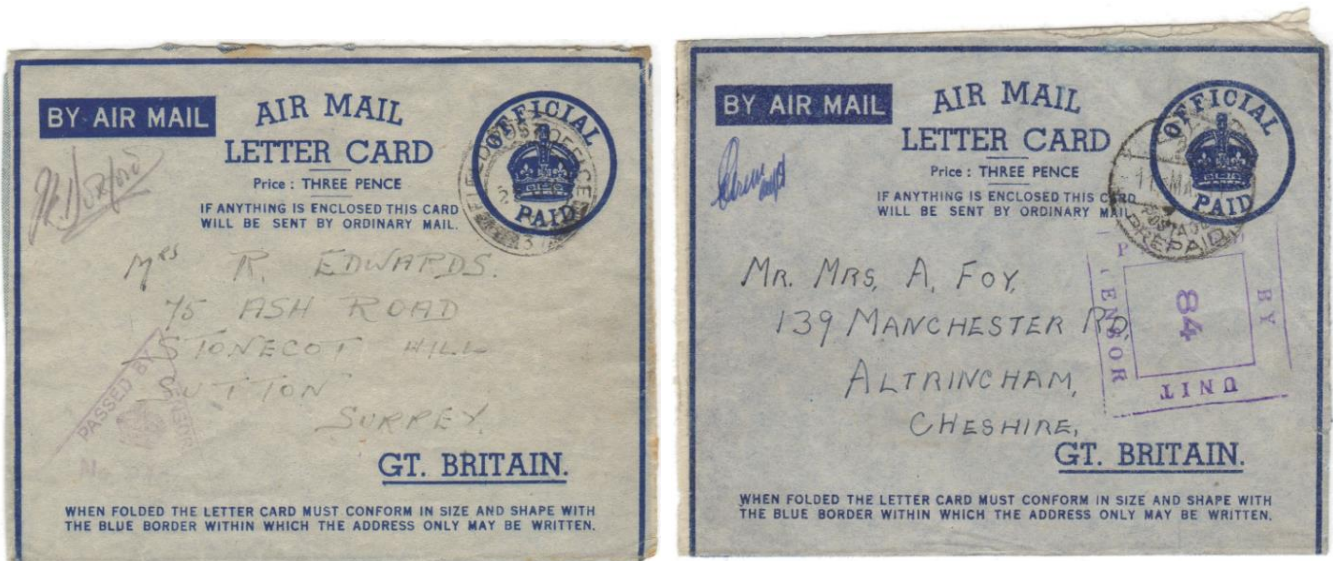
Cairo 2nd. May 1941. Egypt has agreed to grant free postage on surface mail letters sent by our troops. British stamps will be used on all Air Mail including letter cards.

From 5 July 1941, they became available for mail between the Middle East and New Zealand. The postage rate was 3d and was payable in New Zealand stamps

Official correspondence seen gives two further important dates, 16th June, Air Mail Letter Card service inaugurated from East Africa to U. K. via Khartoum and Freetown, then by sea. Postage 25 cents. 27th. July. Air Mail Letter Card usage extended to South Africa.

On 1 March 1941, the air mail service between the Middle East and the UK was started, using a combination of Imperial Airways seaplanes and military transport. 1 March 1941 - with an initial ration of one per man per month. They were first produced without stamp imprints - with a postage rate of 3d. The private nature of the air letter ensured its popularity among its users and that popularity, with its lightness, brought about its continued use as today's civilian air letter (aerograms) and the British military "bluey".

Of interest to us is the usual machinations of the Egyptian postal authorities either to show their independence of the British or concern of losing revenue. The subterfuge of AMLC being issued with a printed Official Paid was put into use but only for a month(?) in March 41. Not surprisingly then that few are seen.



*Two AMLC from my collection, the left one is dated 11.MA.41 the right the date stamp is difficult to read but appears to be 23.JY.41*

A cover was illustrated in a Charles Entwistle list early 2015 with a date Jun 41. Entwistle states about the 'Official Paid' that the situation with Egypt was resolved and the Egyptian service for normal AMLC commenced 2 months later. This would be then not April but May. Of the three covers two are later still are later then this could be due to using up old stock before issuing the standard AMLC or simply the squaddies themselves were still using up the Official Paid verity they had. It would be interesting to find the earliest date of a normal AMLC from Egypt. But my cover dated in March shows that the subterfuge AMLC were used before the Egyptians accepted the idea.

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*The Great Britain Air Letter, 1941–2011 A Miscellany to Celebrate 70 Years*, Peter Jennings GSM August 2011

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*Air Mail Letter Cards and Air Letters*, O.R.J.Lee. 1988. The Forces Postal History Society.

Cavandish: [http://www.cavandish-auctions.com/oldsite/auctions\\_historic/historic\\_single\\_auction\\_lots\\_show.php?Auctionnumber=693&ShowAll=yes&page=14](http://www.cavandish-auctions.com/oldsite/auctions_historic/historic_single_auction_lots_show.php?Auctionnumber=693&ShowAll=yes&page=14)

## A Letter to Miss Monroe

**Greg Todd (ESC 585)**

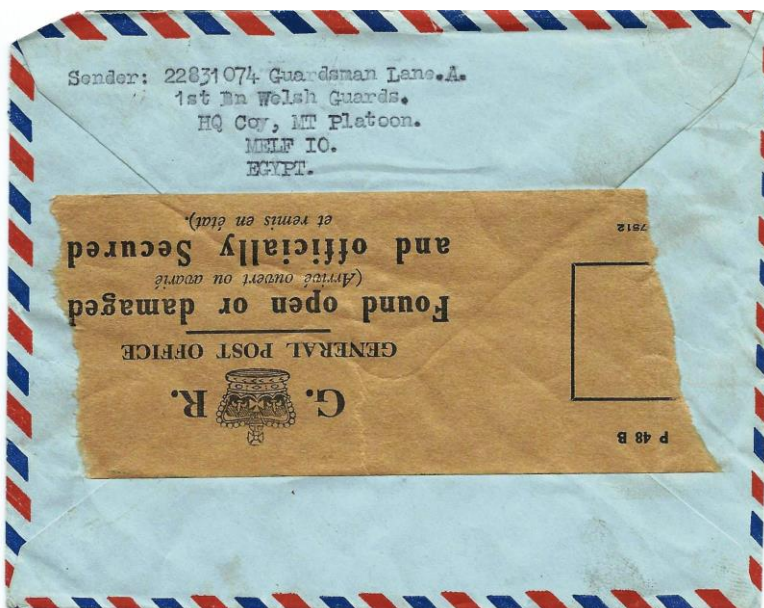
We shall never know why Guardsman A Lane, of the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, serving with a motor transport platoon at company headquarters, MELF 10, during the Suez crisis, wrote to Marilyn Monroe at the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox Studios in Los Angeles. Perhaps he wanted the blonde bombshell Hollywood star to send him an autograph, perhaps to sign a photograph. Perhaps he was just lonely halfway up the Canal.



Whatever the reason, he has provided us with an interesting Air Mail cover, franked by a Great Britain Wilding 2 1/2d carmine and tied by Field Post Office 299 dated 26 JA 56 applied in Moascar. The

cover is clipped at the upper right corner for Printed Matter and also bears a GPO "Found Open or Damaged and Officially Sealed" black on brown label. There is no other postal marking, and no indication that the cover ever reached its intended destination.

But if Guardsman Lane was offering his heart and his undying love, he was certainly out of luck: Marilyn Monroe, just approaching her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday in the year of two hit films, *Bus Stop* and *The Prince and the Showgirl*, was only months away from marrying her third husband, Arthur Miller, the renowned playwright.



*Marilyn Monroe, born June 1  
1926 in Los Angeles; died  
August 15 1962 in Los Angeles*

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## MacArthur Award

It is time for colleagues to honour those who make the QC so fascinating by voting for the best and most important article by a member in the previous year. The list below – sorted alphabetically - is no more than a reminder: you can choose any article from QCs 256-259. Email your choice to [egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com](mailto:egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com). The winner will be announced at the AGM and in the QC.

A Continuing Enigma: the Argonaut of London  
 A Mystery Envelope - "Found In Mail Bag...."  
 Air Mail Jottings  
 Air Mail Letter Card  
 Arab Legion In Egypt A Real Puzzle  
 Benians' Four Hand-stamps – Is This a Fifth?  
 Censor Labels on Civil Mail in Egypt 1939-45  
 Classical Rarities on Cover  
 Cover franked with 1949 Commem. Stamp  
 Egyptian–Ottoman War  
 Ibrahim Chافتar A Philatelic Biography  
 Military Matters - Force Publique  
 New Date of Cook's Tourist Service PO. Cairo  
 Official Airmail from Iraq to the United Kingdom

Perforation Varieties and Their Definitions  
 Poste Restante, Port-Saïd  
 Reconstructing a Most Interesting Cover  
 Stamped Covers from Massawa  
 Stamps and Rates: What, no Stamp?  
 Suhag Station Postmarks  
 The "Imprimés" Postmarks. New data  
 The 4m Moss Meter Mark on Cover at Last  
 The PORT-SAID Local Overprints, 1899  
 The Slave Trade, Nile Sources to Cairo: I  
 Two 1941 Farouk 6 Millièmes Letter Sheets  
 U.S. Army Post Offices in Egypt  
 Varieties on a Miniature Sheet  
 WWII British Army Letter Sorting Dockets