

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.

(الرقم ٣٩ - ٥٥٠)

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES D'ÉGYPTÉ
مصلحة البريديّة المصريّة


AVIS DE RÉCEPTION شلم التسليم

L'Expéditeur de l'objet suivant (1) *lettre recommandée*
مرسل لأرسالية الاتى بيانها وحي (١)

portant le N° *24489* et l'adresse de M. *L. Lofranco*
à Tripoli
بروسم جناب مرفوضو طريبيا مصر

désira savoir s'il a été reçu. يرغب الاطلاع عما اذا كانت تسلمت ام كيف

Appliquer ici un timbre-poste de 50 cts.



L'avis ci-dessus désigné m'a été remis contre reçu le *11 Juin 86*
لأرسالية الموصحة اعلان تسلمت والا يصال اللارم بتاريخ

Provis à être du bureau de destination

ختم المكتب
المرسل اليه اليومي

L'Employé des Postes.
مستخدم البريد

J. Tripodi

Signature.
الاتصا

J. Tripodi

(1) Indiquer le 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, avec la signature du destinataire; et 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.

(2) يتوضو نوع الأرسالية اذا كانت موصحة او خطاب ذا قيمة مقررة او طرد بريدي مؤمن او غير مؤمن عليه

يصدر رد هذا العلم موصلا رسميا للمكتب المرسل الاصلى بعد امضائه من المرسل اليه فان لم يقبل أعضاء يتوضو من مستخدم المكتب المرسل اليه عن ذلك وعن تسليم الأرسالية على هذا المطلبوم يقدر اجرا تعديل به ثم على المكتب المرسل الاصلى ان يسلم هذا موصلا للمرسل منه

تحال تصديرو الأرسالية يرفق بها هذا المطلبوم مشمورا بتدوير انها تستلم من ذلك طرود المؤممة الا يقضى ارفاق المطلبوم المذكور بحفظ الأرسال

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Meetings dates for 2018 – Change of plan

We hope to hold two Live Auctions based on Peter Andrews' material at the two Stampex meetings in 2018. The February meeting is timed for 2-4pm, but there will be viewing from 1pm: see notice outside Room F for details. Bidding will start at 2.30pm prompt. The September meeting will also be held at Stampex; and other meetings at the Victory Services Club in Marble Arch, London, where we shall hold a 20-lot mini-auction at each meeting (viewing in the bar beforehand!)

Feb 17, 2pm	Stampex	Live Auction	All members
May 5, 2pm	Victory Services Club	AGM/ Ten Sheets/ Egypt Today	All members
July 7, 2pm	Victory Services Club	Baghdad-Cairo Air Mails	Lawrence Kimpton
Sept 15, 2pm	Stampex	Live Auction	All Members
Nov 10, 2pm	Victory Services Club	TPOs & Egyptian Railways	Sami Sadek

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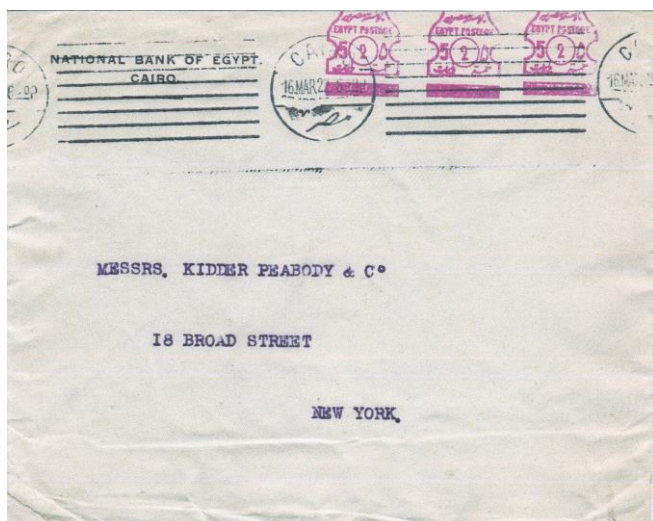
Report of the Meeting, July 9 – Egypt's Metered Mail (Paul Green, ESC 128)

PRESENT: John Sears (President), John Davis (Chairman/Librarian), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Sami Fereig (Canada).

APOLOGIES: Jon Aitchison (Deputy Chairman), Edmund Hall (Editor/Webmaster), Neil Hitchens (Committee), Andreas Birken, Ted Fraser-Smith, Pauline Gittoes, Anton Jansen, Steve Kaplan, Mahmoud Ramadan.

It was a small but select group of members who attended a fascinating meeting on an unusual topic far from the alternative attractions of Wimbledon and Midpex. Before the meeting opened Sami Fereig (ESC 569) made a brief presentation on his forthcoming three-volume *A Postal History of Egypt under the Muhammad Ali Dynasty*. He announced that the Arabic version would be published in the coming week and the English books in October: and appealed for feedback for a website and new editions.

John Davis then opened the meeting with a minute's silence in memory of our late Chairman, Peter Andrews, regretting his short tenure as Life Member. The Secretary reported on the sad state of health of Edmund Hall, our Editor/Webmaster, and very much regretted that his illness had forced him to step down completely from both posts with immediate effect. The meeting regretted this sad development, thanked Edmund for his assiduous work over many years in both roles, and sent him all good wishes. The Secretary will become *QC* Editor, and Neil Hitchens (ESC 651) will take over the role of Webmaster..



A cover franked by the Moss machine with 3 five-millieme impressions for New York; and right, another with three ten-millieme impressions for Registration. All in magenta, all accepted by US authorities.

There then followed a riveting meeting, presented by Paul Green (ESC 128), who denied that he was in any way an expert (though his display indicated the contrary!) on Egypt's Metered Mail, a topic inspired by the recent discovery of a 4-millieme marking much sought after but unknown since 1922. Paul was the collector perspicacious enough to spot the treasure and snap it up at auction, integrating it, together with other items from his own collection, into another collector's group of 150 covers – bought on the spur of the moment – that had languished for some years. Together, the combination provided a feast of unfamiliar material.

Not since 1985 had the Circle been regaled with such an extensive display of meter mail – a study report by the late Dennis Clarke in the wake of his original display in April 1979 – and the years between established the development of meter mark collecting, indicated also by the outstanding display of more than 100 pages on our website by Stephen Kaplan (ESC 352).

The initial use of meter marking was authorised by the Madrid UPU convention of 1920, setting January 1, 1922, as a starting date. Paul explained that finding meter material up to the 1950s was not easy, but in fact New Zealand had jumped the gun on the UPU by using a locally-produced meter machine from as early as 1904. And it was material from this fixed-value Moss machine, experimentally leased to the National Bank of Egypt in Cairo from February 27, 1922 that opened the display. Paul showed all of the five values,

including the prize 4m cover, together with one of three known bearing the 50m value – and settled once and for all a potential controversy.

New Zealand had used an ink ribbon variously described as magenta, purple or violet – and Madrid ruled that for international use red ink had to be used on meter marks. The Circle has recorded some “magenta” covers refused and returned, but Paul was able to show covers franked 5+10m and 3x5m for New York, and another with 3x10m for Registration, all accepted by the US authorities without postage due being raised. So “magenta” was clearly in regular use, and other covers must have been returned for another reason.

The Moss machine lasted only 145 days before being withdrawn as “unreliable”, having franked covers to the value of £E162. It was replaced only 12 years later by something much more local, a multi-value machine invented by an Egyptian, Chowkah Nessim, which was immediately popular – at least with the philatelic fraternity. But again that machine failed to last, withdrawn after only five months.



17 Oct 1939: A “Consignee Mail” cover from New York (5c paid), given an additional 5 mills meter franking (Universal Postal Frankers) on arrival in Port Said. To defray local postage to Cairo?

By then the international commercial suppliers of franking machines were aware of Egypt as a potential source of income, and Neopost (Roneo Vickers, British) was first on the scene (slightly before Nessim, in fact), with eight values, followed by Frankotyp (Germany). Universal Postal Frankers (Britain), Hasler (Switzerland), Satas (France), Pitney Bowes (UK), and so on, through a remarkable listing of, according to the International Postage Meter Catalogue (see link on our website), no fewer than 99 different types of marking. Shepherds and the Semiramis both used Pitney Bowes frankers.

The designs followed political changes in Egypt, with the early types bearing the crown and the tughra of Kings Fuad in error up to 1938) and Farouk. After the revolution the royal symbols were removed, and between 1958 and 1971 Egypt became UAR or RAU in recognition of the link with Syria. And from 1971 to date the representation is RAE with occasional reversions to Egypt or Egypte. The latest recorded (March 2015) reads Egypt Post. The meter designs, the shape and placing of the town names, the licence numbering, the advertising slogans... this study has only just begun. In variety and range, its comparative low cost and its availability mean that there may be literally millions of covers to examine and research.

John Sears, in thanking Paul Green for his “fascinating meeting”, even suggested that it was time for a new catalogue, fully illustrated in colour, to be produced from his collection. He said it was a great pity that so few members were able to enjoy a wonderful display of material “of which we were all aware but had never taken much notice”. Members showed their appreciation in the usual manner.

Report of the Meeting, September 16 – Ten Sheets: PRESENT: John Sears (President), John Davis (Chairman/Librarian), Mike Murphy (Secretary/Editor), Neil Hitchens (Webmaster), Vahe Varjabedian (Egypt), Jon Aitchison, Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Adel Hanna (Canada), Nael Hamdy (Egypt), Ahmad Nabil (Egypt), Atef Sarian, Tony Schmidt, Ronny Van Pellecom (Belgium), Richard Wheatley, APOLOGIES: Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Sami Sadek (Committee).

The meeting was off to a sombre start as the Chairman had to report the passing in August of Edmund Hall (ESC 239), for many years the backbone of the Circle as *QC* Editor, Webmaster, Auctioneer and for many years general guide and respected friend, eventually honoured as a Life Member. His funeral was well attended by members, and also of the Forces Postal History Society, and the Chairman asked for a minute's silence in his memory, coupled with our sincere condolences to Edmund's wife Ann and daughters Katharine and Judy. A full appreciation was prepared for the September *QC*. Edmund will be sorely missed.

Admin was quickly dealt with – mention was made of the current auction, including several items from the collection of our late Chairman Peter Andrews and the full Egypt collection of our late Danish member Erik Menne Larsen. The new Editor spoke of his mixed feelings at needing to produce a tribute issue to his great friend as his first solo *QC*, and made the usual – but no less important for that – appeal for more material so that future issues can continue to be as entertaining and thought-provoking.

Members were very much heartened to welcome three Egyptian visitors – Ahmad Nabil and Nael Hamdy from Cairo and Adel Hanna from Canada – all of whom were delighted to sign up as full members after having been introduced to the Circle via our Facebook page. All three are established collectors, and all of them young men ... a promise for the future.

The “ten sheets” aspect of the meeting was highlighted by some of the wonderful lots from the Auction kindly made available by the family of Peter Andrews. There was much discussion and much competition in looking at the lots: and the bids started to flow.

Individual members then displayed as follows: **Peter Grech**, French maritime mail and an explant ion of the various lines used; **Paul Green**, a miscellany of recent acquisitions; **Richard Wheatley**, Avis de Reception usage down the years, and an appeal for Simon Arzt material for the book he is writing; **Jon Aitchison**, the Suez Canal and the panoply of different Paquebot markings used; **John Sears**, Thomas Cook & Co, and the company's stationery and postal markings; **Tony Schmidt**, a staggering display of Interpostal essays and archival material highlighted by IPs with the Franca cancel; **John Clarke**, an Edmund Hall-inspired display of commemoratives used as definitives on cover or card; and **Vahe Varjabedian** on how Farouk's face disappeared only slowly from postal stationery after his overthrow.

Report of the Meeting, November 4 – John Davis, the Boy King: PRESENT: John Sears (President), John Davis (Chairman/Librarian), Mike Murphy (Secretary/Editor), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Jon Aitchison (Meetings Secretary), Sami Sadek, Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Peter Grech, Paul Green. APOLOGIES: Neil Hitchens (Webmaster), Cyril Defriez, Pauline Gittoes.

The Chairman welcomed members to the final meeting of what he described as a momentous year in many ways, lamenting the loss of senior members in Peter Andrews, Erik Menne Larsen and Edmund Hall, all of whom had been deeply interested in the study aspect. He urged that members continue in the tradition for 2018 and onwards. He briefly described the circumstances of our receiving permission from the family of Peter Andrews to submit his material for auction as he had wished, and noted that over £5,000 had been raised from just 17 lots in the September Auction, with a few more lots to be sold in the room today.

The Secretary, wearing his Auctioneer hat, was able to expand on that figure, noting that not only had the auction sold £6745worth of material for the Andrews family but had resulted in £1806.23 in Circle commission after all costs had been paid. And the room auction added a further £558 to the family's total – an excellent result. We all hope that the family will continue to allow us to dispose of Pete's material in this way, to the benefit of both family and Circle.

Another important way in which the Circle gained from such top-class material was in an instant surge in member applications. As soon as the list was published several of our Facebook members decided that they wanted to become full members, allowing bidding rights, and the final outcome was nine new members. Two more were voted into membership at the meeting – so welcome to Evangelos Patris of Athens, and welcome back to ESC 368 Ken Doig of California. The Secretary showed some essays bought recently at auction and said to have been produced in 1865 by Charles Skipper and East for Egypt, but after much discussion members could find no direct link with Egypt, and the buyer will be so informed,

The Treasurer welcomed the boost in commission from the recent Auction, and urged members with UK accounts to pay their subscriptions by standing order, so that the amount would simply flow into our account without any need for cheques having to be paid into the bank. Jon Aitchison has kindly taken over from the Secretary as Meetings supremo, and we hope to have an exciting and noteworthy list of displays for 2018, perhaps involving two live Auctions at the Stampex meetings. In his absence, Neil Hitchens reported that work on the website continued, and that the intricacies of Edmund Hall's brilliant work were being unravelled and made available. The Librarian reported that the last list of books in the Circle Library had been published in hard copy in 1995, and hoped to have a new and fully detailed list on the website soon.

The display of the day, by John Davis our Chairman, was a staggering tour de force of those adhesives associated with the young Farouk, who came to the throne on the death of his father, Fuad, on April 29 1936 and reigned until his overthrow in a bloodless military coup d'état in July 1952.

All of the stamps were shown, in full panoply, from illustrations of essays for the first issue through the "royal imperforates and misperfs", booklets and booklet panes, FDCs, and then control blocks by the dozen – incomplete, as John admitted, but not by much. He then moved on to usages, right through from 1 millième local newspaper rate to the higher values on parcel cards and bank correspondence. And the immense confusion over air mail rates by different carriers was cogently and clearly laid out.

Postal stationery was covered extensively, both mint and used, with additional adhesives where necessary to reflect extra services or changes in the postal rate – and John was astonished to find that all of his three 6 mills letter sheets were printed with the newly discovered "mamlaka" heading (see *QC* 259): does anyone have the older "dawla" type? Frankly, the display was too much to cover in the space allowed: but there is a possibility that perhaps it might one day find itself – in its illustrated entirety – on the website. As Jon Aitchison said, "I have really learned a lot from this fascinating display of more than 120 sheets. Quite remarkable." Members thanked the Chairman in the traditional manner.

Membership changes

New Members:

- ESC 712** **Michael Carter**, 79 Walton Road, Frinton on Sea, Essex CO13 0AB
(British Occupation of former Italian Colonies and British Forces in Egypt 1932-1951)
- ESC 713** **Ahmad Nabil**, Villa 163 Group 7, Madinaty, Cairo 19511, Egypt
(Egypt philately 1866-1961)
- ESC 714** **Nael Hamdy**, 15A Street 6, Maadi, Cairo 11431, Egypt
(Egypt postal history, air mails, early issues)
- ESC 715** **Adel Hanna**, 167 Milos Road, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada L4E 0M8
(Egypt stamps and postal history)
- ESC 716** **Dr David Jones**, 15 The Square, Brill, Buckinghamshire HP18 9RP
(Egypt 1866-1958, varieties and plate flaws, Revenues 1887 to date)
- ESC 717** **Rune Nygaard**, Andoyfaret 28, 4623 Kristiansand, Norway
(Palestine including Egyptian Palestine; Nordic countries)
- ESC 718** **Aiman Sadek**, 7127 Crystal Lake Drive, West Palm Beach, Florida 33411, US
(Egypt stamps and Interpostal seals)
- ESC 719** **Mohamed El-Kanany**, Abd el-Latef El-Hofy St, Beside Gandofly, Soubra,
Damanhur, Egypt 22111 (FDCs and maxicards)
- ESC 720** **Evangelos Raptis**, 63 Sirinon Street, 175 62 Paleo Faliro, Athens, Greece
(Stamps of Egypt, early Greece, historical events thematic)

Restored to membership:

- ESC 368** **Ken Doig**, 53838 Dogwood Creek Drive, Bass Lake California 93604, United States
(Egypt postal history and stamps)

Change of Address:

- ESC 598** **Per-Olof Jönsson**, Antunavägen 8, 192 78 Sollentuna, Sweden
- ESC 711** **Mohammed Seif**, PO Box 38882, Al Khan Post Office, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

- Deceased** **ESC 239** **Edmund Hall**

Air Mail Jottings: A new Marc Pourpe cover

John Sears (ESC 188)

There was an advertisement by Argyll Etkin Ltd in the September issue of *The London Philatelist* relating to their (then) forthcoming auction of September 29. It showed a photograph of a Marc Pourpe cover which appeared to be an addition to our records, so I wrote to the auctioneers.

They confirmed that the true size of the envelope was 5 1/4 inches by 4 1/4 inches, that as well as the Heliopolis CDS of 3.II.14 5-6PM cancelling (both?) adhesives there is a Cairo transit mark of 3.II.14 on the reverse, and that it is a printed envelope of The Palace, Khartoum (on the flap). It is addressed to The Lady Stamfordham, who was the wife of Lord Stamfordham, Equerry to King George V, at St James Palace in London.



The new Pourpe cover, pictured at slightly over its actual size

The envelope is correctly franked 5m (Sudanese) to cover the cost to Egypt and a further 5m (Egyptian) for onward transmission to England. There is a letter in the envelope which includes the following:-

"Just a line to take the opportunity of writing to you by Aerial Post. The airman, Pourpe, returns from Khartoum today and is taking letters which he will post at Cairo or somewhere North. I suppose he will put his own postmark on them, he has brought a special stamp with him."

The lot was estimated at £2,800 - £3,100 and fetched £3,100. The cover, new to our records, is number 30.

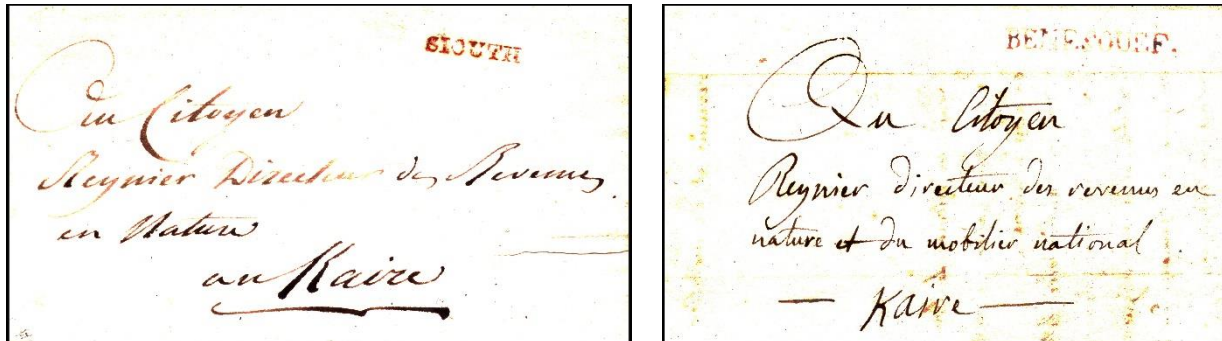
Eastern success: The Circle is happy to congratulate Jon Aitchison (ESC 661) on winning a Large Vermeil (87 points) for his 'Egyptian Interpostal Seals' at the World Stamp Exhibition, Bandung, Indonesia, in August. We would be happy to hear from more members of their exhibiting successes.

The Asyut Find: A Preliminary Note

Mahmoud Ramadan (ESC 358)

This initial report stems from a presentation by Mahmoud Ramadan of material from the Asyut Find and his own collection, given at Finlandia in March 2017.

The first systemised postal service in Egypt was established by the French expedition of 1798-1801. Mail carried through the Napoleonic service used straight-line town-name handstamps to indicate the source of the correspondence. Military markings and handstamps were also used, particularly in the early period.



Napoleonic mail from Siouth (Asyut, Upper Egypt) to Cairo, January 10 1801, and, right, from Benesouef (Upper Egypt), to Cairo, August 24 1800.

Mohamed Aly Pasha the Great, founder of modern Egypt, ruled from 1805 to 1848. His descendants controlled the country until the revolution of 1952 which put Nasser in power. Rulers from the dynasty chronologically carried the titles “Pasha”, “Khedive”, “Sultan”, and finally “King”.

Viceroy to the Ottoman Sultan from 1805, Mohamed Aly ruled through a centralised government in Cairo, requiring regular reporting and directives despatched between the capital and the various towns of the country. A postal service was established, some time before 1820, referred to as the Mohamed Aly Post. Various other names were used, such as the Pasha’s Post, the Government Post, the Arabic Post...etc.

The oldest confirmed official letter carried by this service is dated September 10 1814, a report on royal estates in the area of Saqqara, Giza Governorate. The front (*right*) shows the personal name cachet of the sender, Mohamed Katekh dai, representative of the Wali (ruler) of Egypt, below his signature, name and title.

In about 1831 Italian entrepreneurs established a commercial postal service, the Posta Europea, in Alexandria, then extended its services to Cairo, and then throughout the whole of the Delta region. The service proved very successful. In 1865 Khedive Ismail acquired the Posta Europea and employed its management, staff and offices to set up the Khedival Post, forerunner of today’s Egypt Post.

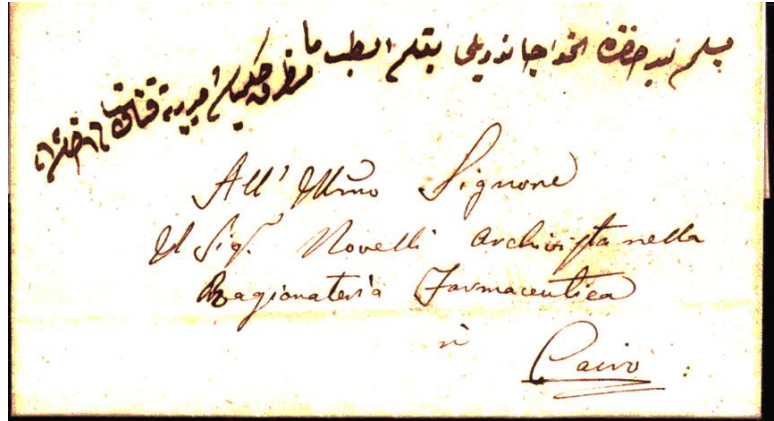
The first Egyptian stamps were issued on January 1, 1866. The Khedival Post initially served the same area as the Posta Europea, gradually extending its services south of Cairo following the expansion of the Egyptian Railways.



The oldest known Official letter carried by the Mohamed Aly Post

The opening of Khedival Post offices south of Cairo was completely linked to the extension of the Khedival Railways southwards. Close to Cairo, offices along the Nile were opened from 1867, then Asyut in 1872, and offices south of Asyut, up to Korosko, were opened by 1873. During this interim period (1867-73), until the railway reached Aswan, the Khedival Post carried letters southbound to the railhead, then handed the mails over to the Mohamed Aly Post for delivery further south. Thus the post was carried within Egypt by a dual postal system.

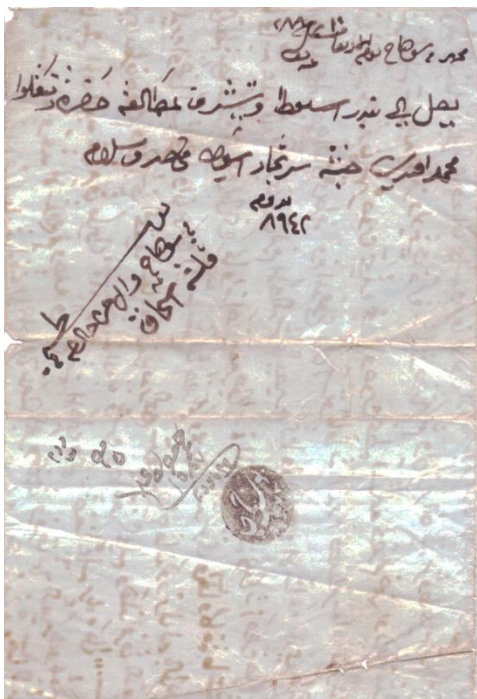
November 25 1846: Official letter sent from the medical division in Qena and Esna (Upper Egypt) to Sig. Novelli, Medical Registrar in Cairo. Carried by the Mohamed Aly Post.



The Asyut Find: An old merchant's mansion from the nineteenth century was being demolished in 2016. The demolition contractor's fee included all the rubble, debris and leftovers, among which were large jute sacks stuffed with unwanted old papers, books, manuscripts etc. Among them were discovered folded and enveloped letters dated between the 1850s and the 1880s, the philatelic core of the find. After their bad treatment, most were in poor to very poor condition. But some items were found to be in better condition. All the letters are addressed to the "chief of merchants/traders" of Asyut, the Honourable Mohamed Aly Khashaba. The Khashaba family continues to be well known in Egypt until today.

Some among these letters showed postal markings of the Mohamed Aly Post that were totally unknown, as well as a few recorded Khedival Post cancellations that had never before been seen on cover or entire, and several unrecorded combinations of First Issue stamps on cover. This discovery has produced new and important information on the Mohamed Aly Post, mainly regarding postal markings and postal rates. It is hoped that it will also provide a better understanding of how the service was run.

Before the Asyut Find, almost all references make their discussion of the service in fewer than five pages, because the first and only source of information is a publication by the Egyptian Post Office in 1934 to commemorate the UPU conference, also fewer than five pages. Everything else that has been said is deduction and speculation based on the tiny number of letters extant.



Mohamed Aly established his postal service to manage government correspondence. Consular mail also enjoyed this free service. By the 1850s it had also started handling public and commercial mail, for a fee. Letters found from such private correspondence (*left*) show several characteristic features:

On the face: Destination town, sometimes source town (from-to), name of addressee; talismanic signs or characters; Arabic manuscript: "Post from [sender's name and town]. Post Prepaid or Upon Delivery", or occasionally simply "Prepaid".

On reverse: A small circular Arabic negative/intaglio seal expressing town name, the word "Post", and year of the seal's manufacture; weight of the letter, expressed in dirham (= 3.12 grams); amount paid (piastre and para/fadda), written in numerals and words. 1 piastre = 40 para/fadda; date, and sometimes signature.

Until the Asyut Find only five of these small circular negative/intaglio seals were known, from the towns of Aswan, Asyut, Esna, Girga and Qena. Fewer than five examples were known of any of these towns, with a total number of covers of fewer than twenty. The earliest known was dated 1856, and the latest 1873. Information about postal rates is scanty and far from comprehensive, making this the most scarce of all Egyptian postal history material.



Name	Year	Earliest	Latest
Aswan	87 (1870)		27 AP 72
Asyut	79 (1862)	- - 62	1 MR 72
Esna	?	- - 60	
Girga	67 (1856)	- - 56	10 AP 73
Qena	71 (1854)	- FE 58	3 AP 73



*The five original seals and their recorded dates,
according to Peter Smith*

The Asyut Find is still unfolding. Only very recently did I discover another two unrecorded negative/intaglio seals, and much new postal history information will now find its way into references on the Mohamed Aly Post. For the present time, the most significant areas of this new information are:

- The discovery of southbound correspondence before the Khedival railway reached these southern locations, such as Cairo to Asyut. Only two covers were previously known.
- The discovery of correspondence between the towns of Upper Egypt before the railway service became available.
- The discovery of negative/intaglio seals used from Cairo. Absolutely no mention of any Cairo seals had been recorded anywhere before this discovery. Now five different seals have been discovered. The writer recently found a sixth and a seventh.
- These Cairo seals are more complex than the previously known three-line seals (Town / Post / Year). Although practically of a similar size, they carry more words in a more elaborate script. (See table over page).
- Two additional seals for Asyut have been discovered, one of them showing a manufacture year of 1855 (a year earlier than any previously known seal).
- The use of postmen's personal name cachets in Aswan before the issue of an Aswan negative/intaglio seal. A sequence of three cachets is noted.
- The discovery of covers carried from various towns in Sudan by the Mohamed Aly Post to Asyut via the Khedival Post office in Khartoum. No such private or commercial covers had previously been seen. Apparently the service continued in Sudan up to at least 1877, four years later than the previously accepted 1873, when the railway reached Aswan. Town cashiers used their personal name cachets on these covers.

Recently Discovered Mohamed Aly Post Seals

Town	Arabic Text	The New Seal	Transliteration to English	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Cairo 1	تجارية بوسنة من محافظة مصر 127؟		Commercial Post From Governorate Misr 127?	13.07.1856	09.03.1857
Cairo 2	تجارى بوسنة ديوان داخلية		Commerce Post at Diwan Interior	06.07.1857	06.10.1857 15.01.1858
Cairo 3	تجارى بوسنة مصر محافظة 1275		Commerce Post Misr Governorate 1275	15.05.1859	16.04.1864
Cairo 4	بوسنة عموم المرور و السكة 127؟		Post Genral Traffic & Route 127?	11.11.1863	23.01.1865 13.03.1865
Cairo 5	بوسنة مصر بالمرور		Post Misr on Traffic	03.06.1865	-----

Town	Arabic Text	The New Seal	Transliteration to English	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Asyut 1	تجارى بوسنة من مديرية اسبوط		Commercial Post from Moderiet Assyut	16.04.1855	-----
Asyut 2	من اسبوط بوسنة 1273		From Asyut Post 1273	21.02.1861	
Asyut 3	بوسنة اسبوط 1279		Post Assyut 1279 This is not a new seal. It is the same shown in references.	15.10.1863	03.03.1872
Assouan Cashier	محمد فهمى 1269 (كتابة: صراف اصوان)		Mohamed Fahmy 1269 (Script: Assouan Cashier)	25.01.1857	02.02.1857
Assouan Post Master	خليل ابن ولى 79 (كتابة: ناظر بوسنة اصوان)		Khalil Ibn Wallei 79 (Script: Assouan Postmaster)	11.06.64	20.12.1865
Assouan	بوسنة اصوان 283 هذا ليس ختم جديد و لكن طبع لتصحيح تاريخ التصنيع		Post Assouan 283 This is not a new seal, but included for correction of the date of its manufacture.	13.06.1870	18.04.1872

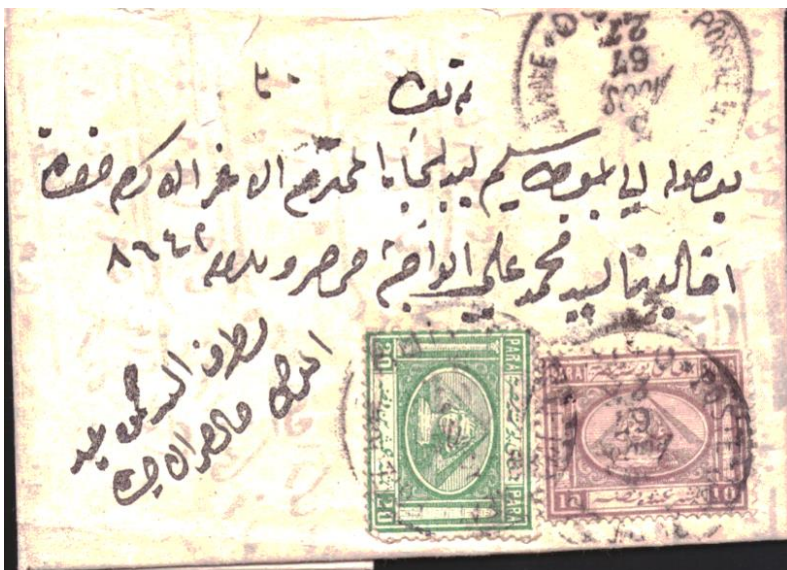
I do not observe any changes or discoveries among the original seals from Girga, Esna or Qena. All those found in Asyut were similar to those already recorded. **Script in red indicates an update to the previously distributed table of discoveries.** A sixth and seventh new Cairo seals are not included here.

Gems among stamped covers from the Asyut Find



A unique combination of First Issue stamps. Two pairs and a single 10 para. Dual postal system.

Unique combination of First Issue stamps. Pairs of 5 para and 10 para, making the common 30 para rate to Asyut. Dual postal system.



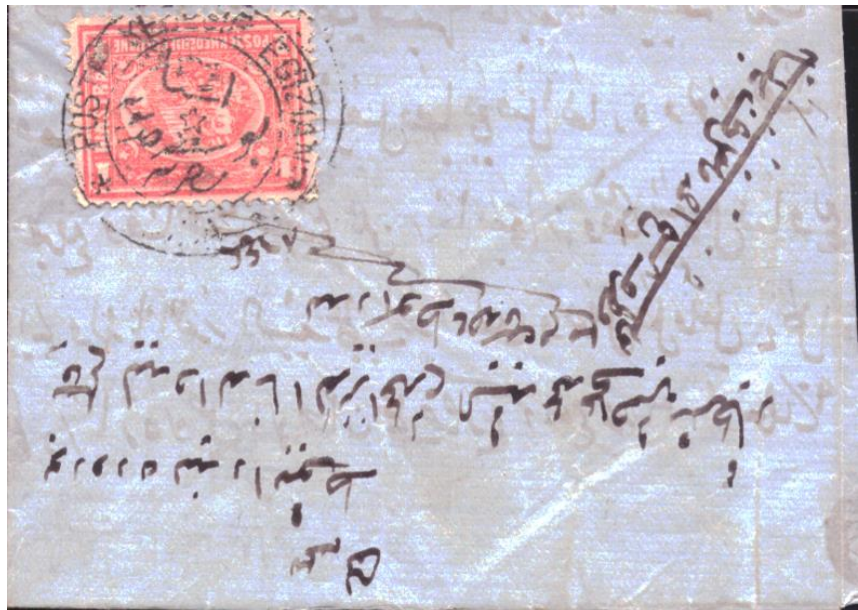
Very early usage of Second Issue, August 3 1867, two days after issue. Interesting combination 10 para and 20 para, for the 30 para single rate. Dual postal system.

Unique MINIE straight line cancellation on entire cover, previously known only on fragment. Dual postal, system, carriage via Minya.



Third Issue, 5 para "tête-bêche" pair, paying the rare non-periodical printed matter rate (commercial papers). One stamp slightly damaged during opening. Unique.

After closure of the Muhammad Ali Post service in Upper Egypt in 1873 it was replaced by the Khedival Post. The first markings used in the southernmost parts were double-ring bilingual (Arabic/Italian) undated circular cancels. None had previously been seen on an entire cover. Unique.



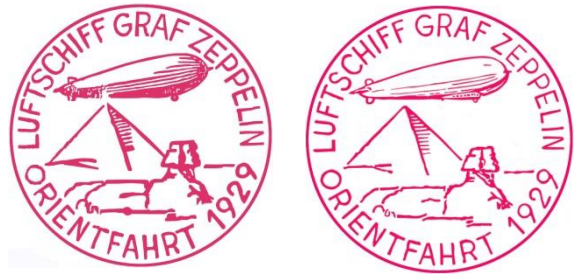
Zeppelin Ägyptenfahrt 1931: Posted on Board.

Ronny Van Pellecom (ESC 618)

The “Ägyptenfahrt” of 1931 is certainly the best known Zeppelin flight heading in Egypt’s direction. But in fact the first had come as early as the First World War, on March 20, 1917, when the German intention was to bomb Port Said. Luckily for those on the ground, the Zeppelin took too long to make the journey and could not reach the harbour city during night-time. It returned home without dropping any bombs.

A second flight over Egypt followed on November 21, 1917. The L 59, commanded by Captain Ludwig Bockhold, flew from Jambuli in Bulgaria via Crete and Siwa to Wadi-Halfa and Dongola to supply the troops of General Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck in German East Africa. The airship turned round and flew home in the mistaken assumption that Lettow-Vorbeck had surrendered in the meantime. In fact he and his troops carried on their guerrilla campaign against the British until November 14, 1918.

In 1929 it was intended to make a flight actually to land in Egypt, the “Orientfahrt”, but no permission was forthcoming for a landing or even to fly over the country. The two cancels at right, illustrated with the Pyramids and Sphinx, were used on that flight.



The ill-fated R 101 started out from Cardington in Bedfordshire on October 10, 1930, heading for India with a planned stop in Ismailia. Unfortunately the airship crashed in Beauvais, France. Only eight survived the crash.

Finally, the “Ägyptenfahrt” took place between April 9 and 13, 1931. The following pages tell more about the “Bordpost” – Posted on Board. This is part of a larger article, too big for the *QC* (42 pages), which we publish complete on the website. This part has been revised by Mike Murphy, but the website article is written in “European-English” – you can understand what I say, but please don’t expect “Oxford-English”.

POSTED ON BOARD

The German postmaster-general (“Reichspostministerium”) gave special permission to establish a post office aboard the Zeppelin, manned by members of the crew. As a result, it was possible to prepare letters with the double-ring “on-board post” cancellation



“on-board post” cancellation LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN. Most of the “Bordpost” cancels are dated 10.4.1931. Other dates are more difficult to find, certainly those from 09.04 and 13.04.

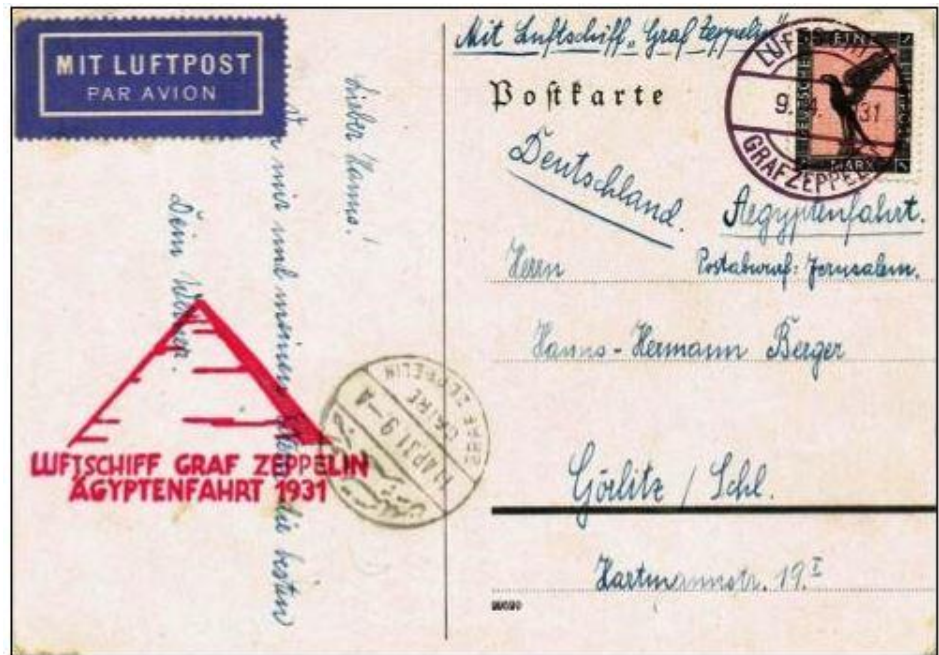
I missed out on this letter on eBay with the date 9.4.1931, but just as importantly with the oval cancel:

Zur Erinnerung an die
Besichtigung
Des Luftschiffes
Graf Zeppelin



Translated: To commemorate the sightseeing of the airship Graf Zeppelin.

As there was a possibility of visiting the Zeppelin on the day of departure, visitors could also have given postcards to the post office crew, perhaps explaining why there are so many items cancelled 10.04. We can see from the passenger list (website) that many cards with the on-board postmark are not from passengers.



Two cards with the “posted on board” cancel of 9.4.1931, one (at right) to Görlitz, Germany, the other (below) to Cairo





A card with the on-board postmark for 10.4.1931 sent by Schönherr, one of the three helmsmen among the crew

This card, addressed "An denn keinen Rolf Sammt" (to little Rolf Sammt) was apparently sent by Sammt senior, one of the crew's four navigators



When the stock of stamps was exhausted, the on-board post office received permission from Berlin to accept prepaid, unstamped mail. This mail received the on-board postmark together with a handwritten note:

affranchissement perçu 1 RM
affranchissement perçu 2 RM

Affranchissement perçu 1 RM (postage for cards)

Affranchissement perçu 2 RM (postage for letters)

A card with the on-board CDS for 10.4.1931 with handwritten "Affranchissement perçu 1 RM" alongside



On board the Zeppelin was a reporter from the Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram. Here is a card he sent to himself, on-board postmarked 10.4.1931 with "Affranchissement perçu 1 RM". At right, the reporter Mahmud Abul Fath with Captain Hans von Schiller at Almaza



Card with "Affranchissement perçu 1 RM" sent by Dr and Mrs Welti (passengers) and signed

by Hans von Schiller, left, one of the captains of the airship



Card from Max Pruss, navigator (right), to Hermann E. Sieger (1902-1954), editor of the Zeppelin Handbook, the so-called Sieger Katalog

Statement by Max Pruss to the writers Blau and Deighton about the use of the “taxe perçu” on board the Zeppelin:

“After a telegraphic request, the post office of Friedrichshafen ordered the remaining mail to be provided with the handwritten note: Affranchissement perçu...RM To my knowledge only postcards to 1 RM have been treated in this way, I do not remember letters to 2 RM”

Die Orientfahrt – die Ägyptenfahrt des LZ 127 – Zeppelin (Fred F. Blau and Cyril Deighton)

Luftschiffkapitän a.D. Neu-Iseburg, 27. Januar 1956
Max Pruss.

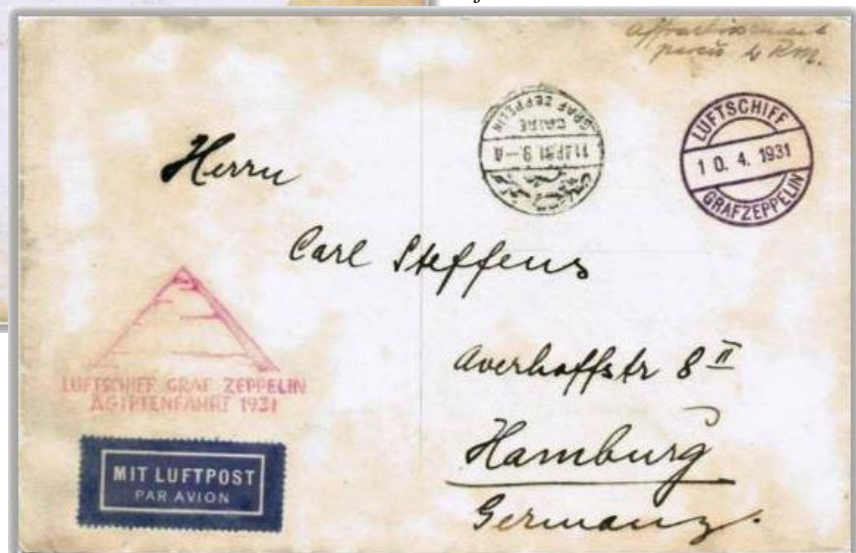
Ich gehörte früher in leitender Stellung der Besatzung des Luftschiffs LZ 127 "Graf Zeppelin" an. Auf der Ägyptenfahrt des LZ 127 vom 9. bis 13. April 1931 waren der Bordpoststelle die Briefmarken ausgegangen. Auf telegr. Anfrage ordnete das Postamt Friedrichshafen tel. an, daß die noch aufkommenden Sendungen in Ermangelung von Postwertzeichen mit dem handschriftlichen Vermerk "Affranchissement perçuRM" nebst Angabe des Gebührenbetrages -- 1,- RM für Postkarten, 2,- RM für Briefe -- unter Beidrückung des Bordpoststempels zu versehen seien. Zu vergleichen die Postkarte, die ich a. Zt mit dieser Barfreimachung Herrn H. E. Sieger in Lorch sandte.

Meines Wissens sind nur Postkarten zu 1,- RM in dieser Weise behandelt worden, an Briefe zu 2,- RM erinnere ich mich nicht.

Max Pruss



Letter with on-board 10.4.1931, handwritten "Affranchissement perçu 2 RM" and Cairo arrival Cairo 11 AP 31. Three letters are known with handwritten statement of 2RM received.





On-board post 11.4.1931 - probably also written by Schönherr (helmsman)

Although there were no stamps available during the outward journey and the famous "taxe perçu" cards were created, there are again re-stamped postcards on board during the return trip.



On-board post addressed to Friedrichshafen itself



On-board post from 13.4 to Sussex, England. The senders, Heidi and Erich Welti, thank the addressee: Thanks for your telegram with which we were very happy. We have just received it and answered. Our journey is indescribably beautiful.

On arrival, such cards were given the lesser known arrival stamp of Friedrichshafen



Stamped Covers from Massawa – an addendum

Trenton K. Ruebush II (ESC 179)

In the September 2016 issue of the *Quarterly Circular* (Whole Series 258; Vol XXII No 11, pp252-256), Greg Todd reported on an inventory of covers sent from the Egyptian Post Office in Massawa franked with Third Issue stamps struck with the “Poste Khedevie Egiziane” Type IV datestamp. Based on a review of auction listings, he identified a total of eight covers, seven of which came from the correspondence of the firm of Assouad frères.

In going through some old catalogues, I found one additional Massawa cover (#9 - following Todd’s original numbering) and still another (#10) came to auction earlier this year. Peter A. S. Smith in his *Egypt: Stamps and Postal History* stated that “4+” covers were known with the “Poste Khedevie Egiziane” datestamp, based on a census he had conducted of major collections of Egypt used abroad, but it is unclear how many of those covers were stamped.

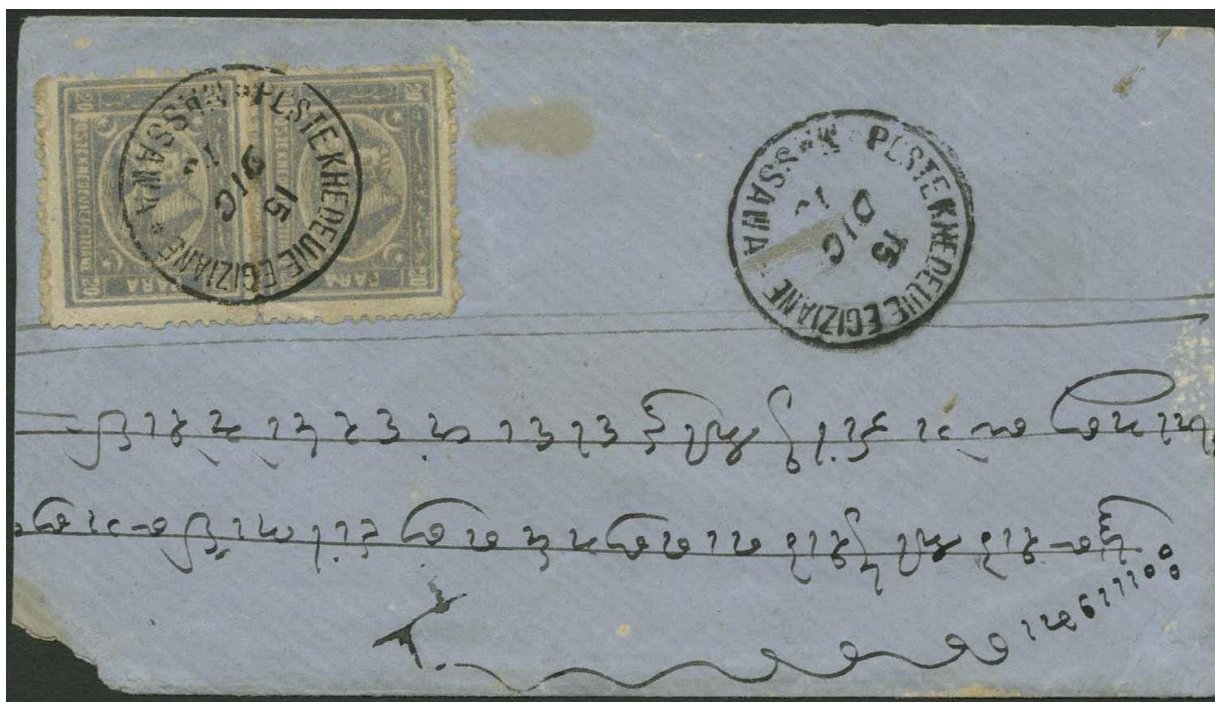
These two additional covers brings the total to ten stamped covers from Massawa, and I know of at least one unfranked official cover sent on 12 June, 1877, from the French Consulate in Massawa to the Italian Consul in Cairo with the same datestamp.

If other ESC members know of additional Massawa “Poste Khedevie Egiziane” covers, I hope they will come forward.



9. *Massawa, 25 June, 1875: Cover sent via the French Post Office in Alexandria to Marseille franked 1872 1pi. x 3 (one stamp missing), taxed "10" (decimes) (Lugdunum Philatelie, 2 October 1995, lot 395).*

It seems likely that the missing stamp was a 20pa, for a total franking of 3pi 20pa, similar to the franking on two of the eight covers that Greg Todd reported as having been mailed about the same time. It is possible that the cover below comes from the same correspondence as cover #8 in Todd's listing, which was also sent locally and has the same 1pi franking.



10. *Massawa, 15 December, 1875: Cover addressed locally and franked with a pair of 1874-75 20pa paying the 1pi domestic rate (Ulrich Felzmann, 9 March, 2017, lot 4007)*

Military Matters - Canadian Air Support in North Africa WWII

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

Canada became a self-governing dominion of the British Empire in 1867. With the Balfour Declaration of 1926 the British government agreed that Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa were completely independent countries, “freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations”. With the exception of some sections of South Africa, however, they still felt very much attached to the mother country and saw any attack on Britain as an attack on them. This idea largely died at the end of the Second World War, though cultural ties remain strong among those “colonials” of British immigrants and descent.

While playing a part in Britain’s wars, the Boer War, First World War, occupation of Siberia in 1919 and Second World War, for reasons of geography few Canadians have featured in the wars in Egypt. The Canadian “voyageurs” were civilian contractors during the period of the Nile Expedition in 1884¹. Canadian Air Support in North Africa WWII

Military and civilian participation in the First World War helped to foster a sense of British-Canadian nationhood. The highpoints of Canadian military achievement at that time came during the Somme-Vimy-Passchendaele battles and what later became known as “Canada’s Hundred Days”. A few civilian chaplains served in Egypt and had their own censor mark for injured soldiers that was accepted by the British.

Canada’s involvement in the Second World War began when it declared war on Nazi Germany on September 10, 1939, delaying by one week after Britain’s action to demonstrate a symbolic independence. Within two months the first contingents of Canadian troops had arrived in the United Kingdom to supplement the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). Forestalled by the evacuation of the British Army from Dunkirk and the Channel ports, Canada’s role became one of defence of the British Isles.

They were eager to become involved in the fighting, and took part in the Dieppe raid of August 19, 1942, with 5,000 men, but 3,000 of them - 1,000 killed and 2,000 taken prisoner – were lost.



Mark VC Spitfires of No 417 Squadron RCAF at Goubrine airfield, Tunisia, May 1943

A small section of the Royal Canadian Air Force was however involved in Egypt and North Africa. RCAF Squadron 417 “City of Windsor” (motto: Supporting Liberty and Justice) was formed in England on November 27, 1941. It arrived in Egypt (Kasfareet) in June 1942 after a trip around the Cape, the pilots initially attached to

the Aircraft Delivery Unit while ground personnel serviced US bombers in the area. The squadron re-assembled on September 6, 1942, equipped with Hawker Hurricanes and immediately began defensive duties in the Canal Zone. After receiving some Hurricane Mk IIs the squadron claimed its first victory, a Junkers Ju 88. Gradually re-equipped with Spitfire Mk VBs and Mk VCs, it took part at the battle of El Alamein in October 1942.

In February 1943 the squadron moved to the Western Desert and offensive action, joining the victorious advance through to Tripoli, with many moves from one desert landing ground to another. It transferred to Tripoli with 244 Wing, and then to Ben Gardane, Tunisia, in March 1943. In July the squadron moved to Malta (Luqa), from where it began patrols over Sicily in preparation for the invasion.

I have seen little philatelic evidence of the Canadians' stay in Egypt and North Africa. The two covers I have both have the British FIELD POST OFFICE 600, dated 6 AU 43 and 20 SP 43. Both are hand-endorsed C.A., one with (A.F.) alongside and (B.N.A.F) on the reverse, the other C.A. (B.N.A.F.), the initials no doubt standing for British North Africa Force. Both covers are dated after the July 10 invasion of Sicily, code-named Operation Husky, but the senders are still using B.N.A.F.

Proud² lists use of FPO 600 as 10 L of C.P.U 15.4.42-19.4.43 and then Canadian A.P.S. 1943-1944, marked as unseen. Unfortunately C.P.U. is not in his list of abbreviations. Entwistle³ gives FPO 600 as 1942-43 UK, Canadian Forces Algeria, Jul 1942-Aug 43, and Aug 43-1945 Canadian Forces Italy.

Bailey & Toop⁴ give it as North Africa – Italy May 43-Mar 46 but also used by the 15 Canadian General Hospital. For Squadron 417 they list Canadian FPO MC87 as the postmark used, without dates. They do not specify the meaning of MC in a long list of abbreviations, but it would normally be associated with machine cancel.

The staff of No 15 General Hospital disembarked at Philippeville, Algeria, on 11 July, 1943. On the 13th, an advance party proceeded to the site selected for the hospital near El Arrouch, approximately 21 miles inland from Philippeville. We can safely say they were never in Egypt.

Was FPO 600 actually used by the Canadians in Egypt? Both Proud and Entwistle give earliest dates coinciding with Squadron 417 being in Egypt, but Proud suggests that the datestamp was not given to the squadron. So the possibilities are that the squadron was issued with FPO 600 at the time or soon after, or they picked it up later in North Africa.

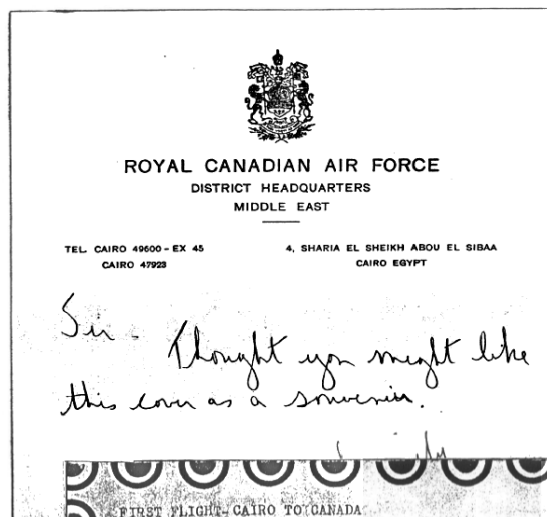
If so, they used it only on the air bases serving themselves and any British or South African air force personnel. Is the suggested use by 15 Canadian General Hospital a red herring - or are my two covers from wounded Canadian personnel at the hospital and the FPO was never attached to the squadron's postal unit?

Some Canadians were involved with Operation Torch, the British-American invasion of French North Africa from November 1942, and the 1st Canadian Infantry Division and the 1st Canadian Army Tank Brigade took part in the invasion of Sicily, but either via Algeria or directly from the UK, so again there is no direct connection with Egypt.

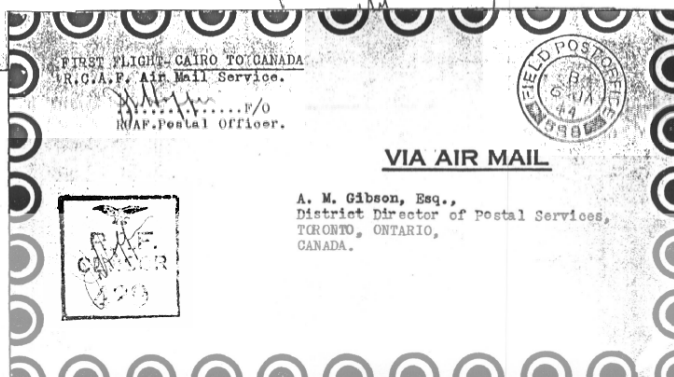
References:

1. John Firebrace, *Nineteenth Century Wars in Egypt and the Sudan* (Cavendish 1997), pp. 125-6.
2. Edward Proud, *History of the British Postal Service Vol.II 1927-1963* (self-published 1982).
3. Charles Entwistle, *A Priced Checklist of British Army & Field Post Offices 1939-1946* (Chavril Press 1998).
4. W.J.Bailey and E.R.Toop, *Canadian Military Post Offices to 1986* (Unitrade Press 1987).

The Canadian Military Mail Study Group NEWSLETTER No 166 of August 2001 (page 753) carries an article by C.D. Sayles, who shows a fascinating cover.

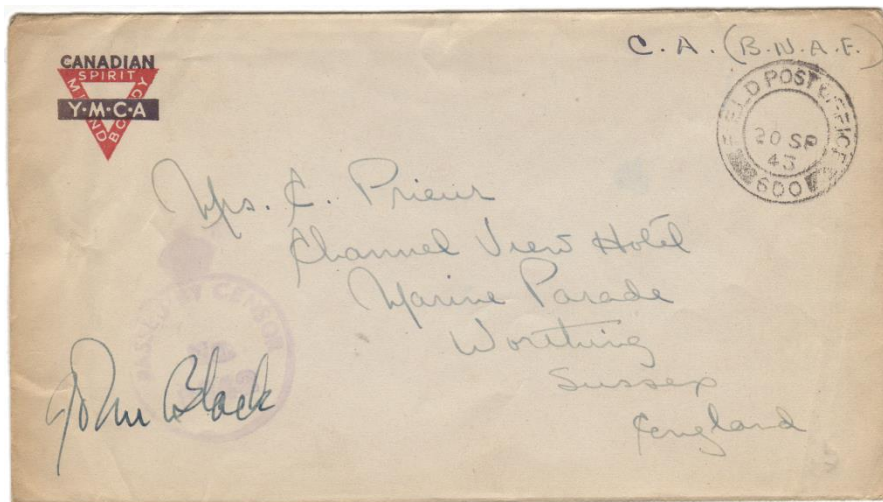


A cover mailed from the RCAF Section of the No 4 BAPO (Base Army Post Office) in Cairo and received that unit's FPO 588 datestamp 6 JA 44. It is curious that this letter does not pay the 3d postage required for airmail. I suppose that it is possible it was considered official post office business, or could it be an indication that mail from Cairo was put on an "all up" basis i.e. all mail moved by air? I imagine that F/O J.W. Hopper was a pre-war employee of the post office and was keeping his name in view to facilitate his return there after the war. I also find it curious that the RCAF retained a District Headquarters in Cairo when the four squadrons



had participated in the North African campaign had long since moved on to Italy. What purpose was it serving?

FPO 588 is given by Proud² as held at the date shown by the Canadian A.P.S and Entwistle³ gives R.C.A.F Egypt. Which tends to confirm that a Canadian presence remained in Cairo up until 1946.



Two covers with FPO 600 endorsed B.N.A.F. The upper cover has been endorsed Canadian Army despite the obvious endorsement by the sender on the back (B.N.A.F.)



El Tor Quarantine Station

Theo van der Veen (*non-member*)



On my yearly visit to the Briefmarkenmesse Essen in Germany I found this cover in a “€1 box”. It was sent on 28 March 1908 from Alexandria to a Dr Felix Gotschlich at Campement Quarantenaire / El Tor, where it arrived via Suez on June 31. At first sight it seemed to be a very simple cover hardly worth even the one euro, but after a closer look I changed my opinion.

El Tor, situated on the west coast of southern Sinai, had been home since 1871 to a quarantine station intended to receive pilgrims who returned ill with cholera from the *hadj* pilgrimage to Mecca. The settlement had a post office since 1893. In his treatise *Egypt Stamps & Postal History*, Peter Smith devotes a page (832-833) to its postmarks. Over a relatively short period, 1893-1914, he shows 11 different postmarks, of which the one on this cover, CAMPEMENT TOR, has been recorded from 1905 to 1908.

Most interesting is the addressee of this letter, Dr Felix Gotschlich, who, according to internet sources, played an important role in the interpretation of the symptoms of the disease by performing post-mortem examinations on the corpses of pilgrims who had died. In 1905 he discovered an unusual variation of the cholera bacterium which causes a very virulent form of the disease. In medical science this variant became known as the “El Tor bacterium”.

Vote for the MacArthur Award

It's time to vote again for the MacArthur Award, the prize commissioned in the legacy of our former great Chairman, Major E L G “Mac” MacArthur. It is intended to recognise the writer of the best and most interesting article in the previous four QCs, not only allowing the winner to join the prestigious list of colleagues who have been successful in recent years, but also spurring on members to provide material to keep the Circle and its major publication lively and up to date.

To record your choice from QCs 260 to 263 (the current issue) simply email the Secretary with your vote before February 15. The winner will be announced in the QC and at our Stampex meeting two days later.

Please don't forget to make a selection. Your vote will help to enhance the magazine not only in the immediater future but for years to come.

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NOTE: We hate to be tough, but too much time is wasted chasing late payments. If your subscription is not received by February 28 your QC will be stopped immediately, followed by a note asking for payment in 30 days. If still not received, your membership will be terminated.