

The
 Quarterly Circular
 of
THE
EGYPT
STUDY CIRCLE



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

Massawa, November 11, 1879: Cover, written in the hand of General Charles 'Chinese' Gordon, docketed at top 'No. 323, C.G.' in manuscript addressed to Colonel Harvey of the Royal Engineers, Gibraltar. Massawa 'Maktab Bosta Khedewiya Masriya' negative seal handstamp in black (Egyptian Khedevial Post Office) and 'Poste Khedevie Egiziane / Massawa' datestamps at left. Suez transit (Nov 25) and cover awaited forwarding and mailed with 1879 2pi. orange cancelled at Port Said (Dec 8). Rare.



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Meetings dates for 2018

We had hoped to hold two Live Auctions based on Peter Andrews' material at the two Stampex meetings in 2018, but circumstances beyond our control led to the cancellation of the first. Our next meeting will contain the AGM, Ten sheets (not necessarily ten!) from members, and/or recent news of Egypt and its philately. The September meeting will we hope be an Auction at Stampex; and at each of the other meetings, at the Victory Services Club in Marble Arch, London, we shall hold a 20-lot mini-auction (viewing in the bar beforehand!)

May 5, 2.pm	Victory Services Club	AGM/ Ten Sheets/ Egypt Today	All members
July 7, 2pm	Victory Services Club	Baghdad-Cairo Air Mails	Laurence 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, February 17 – Auction and John Davis, WW1 Allies

PRESENT: John Sears (President), John Davis (Chairman/Librarian), Mike Murphy (Secretary/Editor), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Jon Aitchison (Deputy Chairman/Meetings Secretary), Neil Hitchens (Webmaster), Sami Sadek (Committee), Vahe Varjabedian (Egypt, Committee), Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Sami Fereig (United States), Peter Grech, Peter Newroth (Canada), Sherif Samra (Egypt), Steve Schumann (United States), Ronny Van Pellecom (Belgium), Richard Wheatley. APOLOGIES: Tony Cakebread, Alan Jeyes, Costas Kelemenis, Ahmed Nabil, Tony Schmidt.

The Chairman was happy to welcome several overseas members to the year's first meeting, but regretted that the major auction we had been hoping to hold had been derailed by technical difficulties. In its place, members had brought along material to offer in compensation.

The Secretary offered apologies for having been out of touch for a couple of months, largely caused by major problems in moving house. Happily, it seems that all will be resolved within the next week (see below). He confirmed that we are still trying for a major Auction later in the year, and, with the Treasurer, lamented that so many members had failed to pay their subscriptions – about 25 are still outstanding - by the due date. Because so much time is wasted, non-payers will receive little sympathy.

He put before the Committee one new member application, and the meeting welcomed Malcolm Coe of Nursling, near Southampton. Sami Fereig then addressed the meeting on the publication of his new three-volume book, *A Postal History of Egypt under the Muhammad Ali Dynasty*, and announced a discounted price for Circle members. The Auction that followed provided a wide array of material – but it was not what members had been hoping for, and 38 of the 60 lots remained unsold. Nonetheless commission raised for the Circle totalled £82.70.

Given that there was so little time remaining, the display by John Davis on foreign armies in World War I was little short of a masterpiece, with a brief but comprehensive exhibition of Anzac, South African, Indian and other forces that fought in Egypt, with myriad examples of postmarks, postal stationery and military postal material passing both into and out of the country. Members showed their appreciation in the traditional manner.

Membership changes

New member

ESC 721 **Malcolm Coe**, Weston Corner, Mill Lane, Nursling, SO16 0YE
(British Forces in Egypt and Sudan to 1954)

Change of Address:

ESC 240 **Mike Murphy**, 11 Waterbank Road, Bellingham, London SE6 3DJ

ESC 668 **Andrew Titley**, 906 Stewart Drive, Dallas, Texas 75208, United States

ESC 700 **Kevin J Everett Jr**, 8875 Costa Verde Blvd, Apt. 509, San Diego, CA 92122, United States

Resigned: **ESC 593** Gordon Hale **ESC 695** Terence Covell **Deceased:** **ESC 426** Derek Whitmarsh

Your Circle needs



YOU!

You have read these sentiments many times before, expressed with a touch of humour by the late Edmund Hall.

But now the situation is seriously worrying – the QC has run out of articles; the June issue is in doubt. Unless **YOU** come to the rescue: we need every member's input.

Please make an effort to send in a piece on a recent purchase, something that puzzles you, the research that you prepared but perhaps never completed ...**anything** on Egypt and its wonderful philately to ensure that our award-winning magazine continues to flourish.

Egypt – railway stations during the De La Rue period 1879-1914

Ronny Van Pellecom (ESC 618) and **Alain Stragier** (non-member)

This is a new study about Egyptian Station postmarks between 1879 and 1914. The study is concerned with those postmarks that are clearly recognisable by the word “STATION” or “S” in their cancellation. Postmarks of Ramleh (Alexandria) are not included because they have already been published in our 2015 book¹. Alexandria and Cairo are also omitted because they will be the subject of a later publication.

In preparing this work we have been able to use articles published in the *QC* from Edmund Hall (*QC* 191, December 1999: *Station Postmarks*) and Peter Feltus (*QC* 229, June 2009: *How rare are the Iaffa and Dalla Stazione postmarks?*). We have also referred to *Egyptian Postal Markings of 1865-1879* (Study VI of the Egypt Study Circle by Peter Feltus) and *L’Egypte et ses Chemins de Fer* (1932) by Lionel Wiener.

Preface: The “Italian” postal markings

The rights of the private postal company the *Posta Europea* passed by purchase to the Egyptian Government on January 2 1865 and formed the basis of the country’s postal system. Giacomo Muzzi became Director-General of the postal administration and most of his former Italian employees transferred to the Egyptian post². All postal markings were worded in Italian but were, starting in 1877, gradually replaced by the French language.



Entire from MANSURA 10 OTT 66 to ALEXANDRIA 10 OTT 66 with the instruction mark *Dalla Stazione* in red

Dalla Stazione

The station of Mansura was in use from 1865³ and this cover shows that it was possible to hand over mail in stations at the beginning of the new Egyptian postal service. It may be that the facility to hand over mail in a station was a remnant of the *Posta Europea*.

The first instructional handstamps, listed by Peter Feltus, came into use on July 25 1871. There is a gap of five years between the handwritten instruction mark and the handstamps. His list contains four different DALLA STAZIONE markings: see next page.

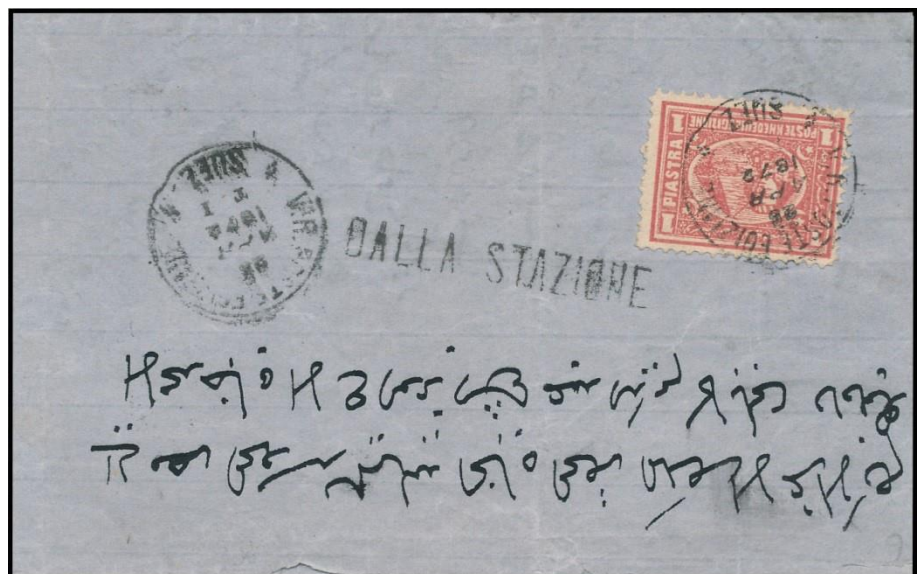
				Earliest	Latest
				25.07.1871	29.12.1879*
Sta-1n	DALLA STAZIONE	5.5 x 48	Used only in Alexandria and Cairo	08.12.1871	29.12.1879*
Sta-1n	DALLA STAZIONE	6 x 41	Used only in Suez	25.07.1871	14.04.1874
Sta-1n	DALLA STAZIONE	Size?	Unknown origin	01.72 (?)	10.72 (?)
Sta-2n	DALLA STAZIONE	10.5 x 51	Unknown where used	Seen on Penasson 1872	



*This latest date is doubtful because unusually late. The previous date is 28.05.1875 of Cairo



V.R.POSTE EGIZIANE
SUEZ 25 LUG 1871 to
CAIRO 25 LUG 1871.
Earliest date recorded
for the DALLA STAZIONE
Suez handstamp

DALLA STAZIONE:
V.R.POSTE EGIZIANE SUEZ
25 APR 1872
to CAIRO
25 APR 1872

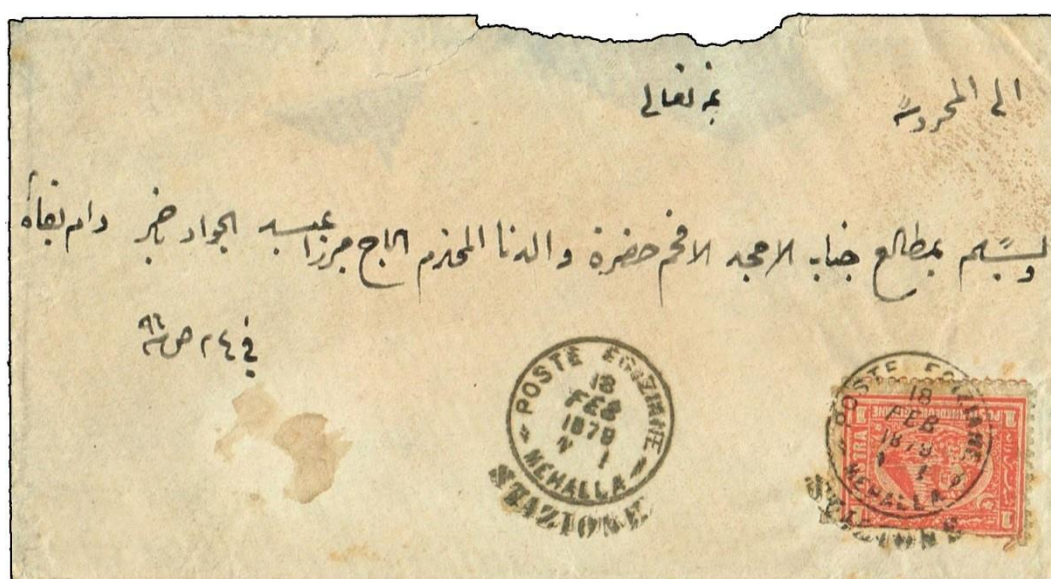


				
	Sta-6 - 22mm		Sta-5n - 22mm	
	Year in four digits		Year in two digits	
	Earliest	Latest	Earliest	Latest
	02.01.1874	13.03.1881	04.03.1875	01.05.1880
Benha		1874*		
Damanhour	15.01.1876	02.1876		
Damiata	1874	28.10.1875		
Faium	01.1880	13.03.1881		
Fesene	30.07.1875	06.10.1875		
Ismailia			13.09.1876	1878
Magaga	On 1 pia Bulaq	04.1880		
Mansura	23.12.1874	22.09.1878**	04.03.1875	04.1880
Mehalla	05.01.1875	12.1879	05.01.1880	30.03.1880**
Minia	02.01.1874	14.12.1879		
Samanud	11.10.1874	21.08.1878		
Scebin el Kom	25.07.1875	27.09.1879		
Siut	14.02.1876**	21.02.1880**		
Suez	21.07.1874	12.09.1879	06.07.1876	01.05.1880
Tanta	07.02.1875	25.04.1880		
Zagazig	05.08.1875	28.10.1876**		

Study IV – Egyptian Postal Markings of 1865-1879 (omitting Alexandria, Cairo and Ramleh)

* Peter A.S. Smith: *Egypt – Stamps & Postal History* ** Our own dates

According to Edmund Hall in *QC* 191 the cancellation type IV-2 (similar to ST.Bacos, ST.Bulkeley, ST. Fleming and ST.Schutz) should also exist for Minuf, Siut and Zagazig. They are indeed listed by Feltus, but these are city office cancels rather than stations.



POSTE EGIZIANE
MEHALLA
STAZIONE
18 FEB 1878
(Sta-6) to CAIRO
18 FEB 78

Type Sta-6



DAMANHOUR
25 MAG 1876⁴



E. Hall



FAIUM
2 APR 1881



E. Hall



FESENE
5 SET 1875



MINIA



E. Hall



E. Hall

Type Sta-5n



E. Hall



MEHALLA
30 MAR 80



SIUT
1 GIU 76



POSTE EGIZIANE
SCEBIN EL KOM STAZIONE
25 FEB 1876 (Sta-6)
to CAIRO (Gamalea)
25 FEB 76
via TANTA 25 FEB 76



POSTE EGIZIANE
MANSURA
STAZIONE 22
SET 1878
(Sta-6) to
CAIRO
22 SET 78

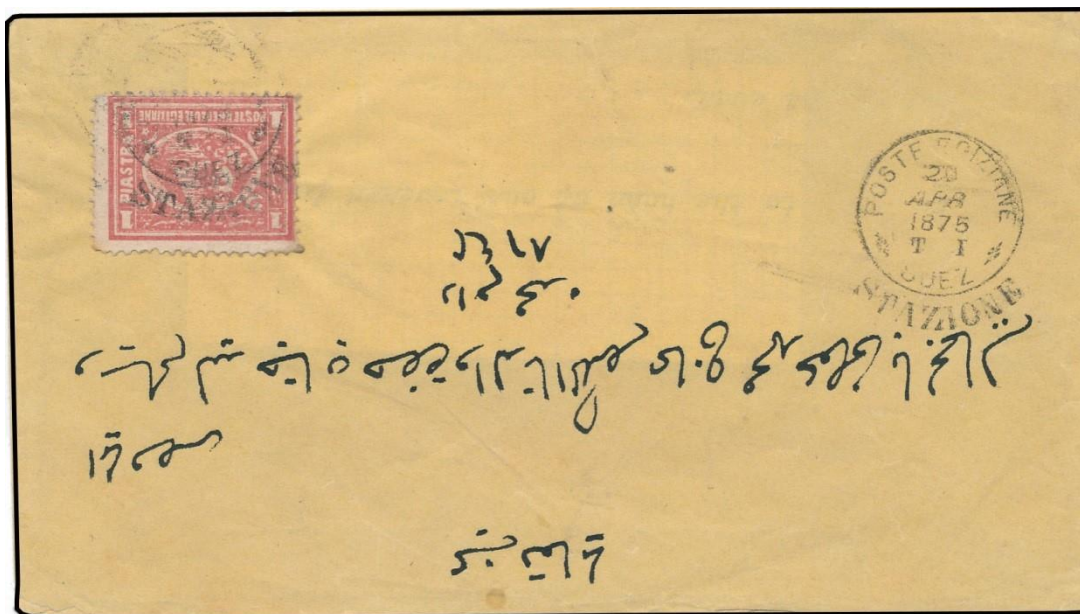


POSTE EGIZIANE
MEHALLA STAZIONE
31-?- 1877 (Sta-6)
to CAIRO 31-?- 77
(month illegible)



POSTE EGIZIANE
SIUT STAZIONE
14 FEB 1876
(Sta-6) via
ALESSANDRIA 15
FEB 76 to London
FE 23 76.
UPU surface
rate: 1 piastre 20
paras

POSTE EGIZIANE
 SIUT STAZIONE
 21 FEB 1880 (Sta-6)
 via ALESSANDRIA
 22 FEB 80
 to Brighton
 MR 2 80



POSTE
 EGIZIANE SUEZ
 STAZIONE
 20 APR 1875
 (Sta-6) to
 CAIRO
 20 APR 1875

Introduction

Our chairman, John Sears, once posed the question of why the openings and closures of station post offices were not mentioned in the official postal guides: *These are commonly found on mail posted, for example, at "Cairo Station", "Mansura Station", and many others. Unlike the other so-called Proprietary Post Offices (eg all Hotels, Seamen's Home, Simon Arzt) they are unlisted in the official Post Office Guides..... Why are these Station Post Offices not listed?* (Query 63/QC No 230)

In the Postal Guides there are indeed no references to openings or closures of station post offices.

We are indebted to Mike Murphy for having brought to our attention the *Bulletin Hebdomadaire* (Postal Bulletins) with his articles in *QCs* 224 and 225 for the period 1885 till 1901, and have examined the other Bulletins available, from 1902 to 1914.

In all these years not a single mention of opening or closing a station post office was found, with one exception only⁵. Because we have no information about opening and closing of station offices, we are dependent on our own collections to determine their actual lifetimes.

But why is there a general absence from the Postal Guides and Postal Bulletins? Probably this can be explained by the fact that the stations were operated by railway staff. The Egyptian post provided them with the necessary material (stamps) and paid an annual compensation to the Railways. This expenditure can be found in the *Budget du Gouvernement Egyptien* of the Ministry of Finance.

<i>Budget de l'exercice</i> Budget of the year	1882	1883	1884
<i>Bureaux confiés aux agents des chemins de fer et des télégraphes</i> Offices entrusted to railway and telegraph agents	L.E. 846	L.E. 821	L.E. 750

As a comparison, Benha post office had an annual budget of L.E. 750 in the same period (for a staff of 12 people in total). Obviously, the amount mentioned in the postal budget is only a limited contribution to the costs of the station post offices, and included probably the TPOs, for which there is no specific budget line.

We must distinguish three types of station post offices located in railway stations and operated by railway personnel (stationmasters)

Normal post offices for one area. These are mainly new openings of small offices. There are many such examples in the Murphy articles on *QC* 224 and 225, for instance:

February 17, 1887: *Abou-Choukoug, Aboutig, Baliana, Edfou and Kous all provided with postal sub-agents instead of being managed by rail staff or telegraphers (QC 224).*

June 28, 1888: *From 1 July next will be opened in Chablanga (on the line Benha-Zagazig-Mansoura) a post office that will be admitted to the service of ordinary correspondence and registered exclusively. This office, which will be served by the station manager of the locality, will report to Zagazig's office (QC 224).*

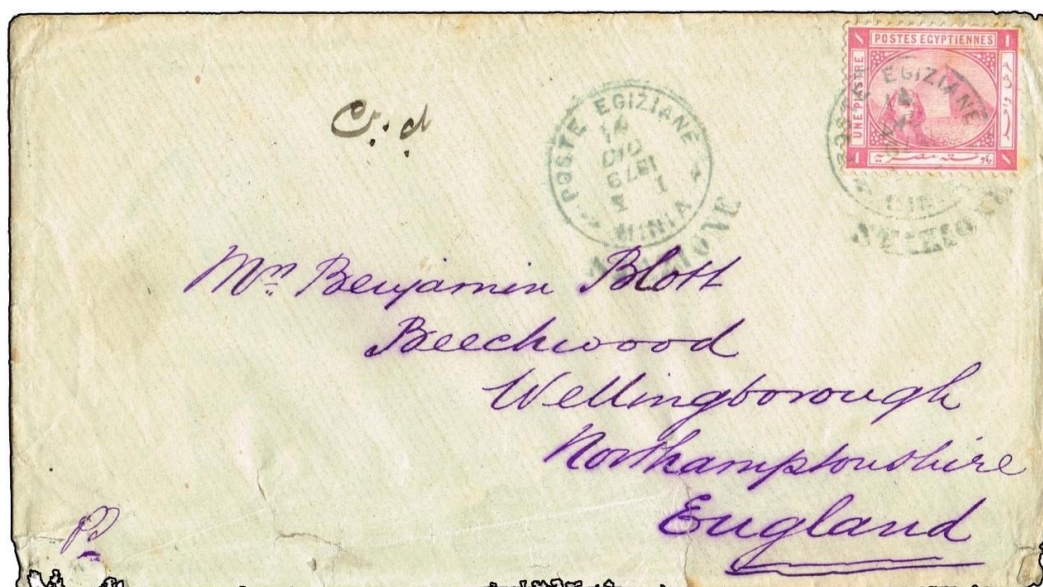
Post offices category 8. Operated by stationmasters, these served only ambulant (TPOs) and only ordinary mail. Their openings and closures are mentioned in the Postal Guides and Bulletins. But, crucially, they have no cancellations

Station offices concerned with this study. These are always a second office in an area where a city post office already exists. They have specific cancels, with the mention "STATION" or "S". But they do not appear in the Postal Guides.

They seem thus to have had the status of sub-office in close interaction with the primary city post office.

This status had already existed since the first years of the Egyptian postal service with the DALLA STAZIONE linear cancels. This dependency is also illustrated *at right*, with an Interpostal of Mehalla cancelled MAHALLA STAZIONE 1? *DIC* 1879.





A late discovery: MINIA STAZIONE 14 DIC 1879 (year reversed) to Wellingborough via ALESSANDRIA 15 DIC 1879. The latest date recorded for Minia Stazione

What kind of operations did we observe in our study?

- DEPARTURE
All stations accepted ordinary mail and stamped the letters. No registered mail seen, with one exception only. Registered mail was common in Alexandria and Cairo, but is no part of this study.
- TRANSIT
Many stations, but not all, played a role in exchanging mail between different railway lines, crossing at the station.
- ARRIVAL
Stations sometimes applied their cancel on arrival, before transferring the mail to the city office. We know a few cases in which the city office did not mark the cover with an arrival cancellation. No taxed covers or postage due stamps seen, again with a single exception recently for sale on eBay (real or forgery?)

In a further contribution, we will handle the description of Egyptian stations (views, cancels, covers), dividing the country into three geographical areas:

- The Delta
- The Canal
- The South

Comments are welcome and we look forward to them.

Footnotes

¹ *Alexandria – Ramleh* (2015, Van Pellecom, Grech, Stragier)

² “The influence of Italians on the Post in Egypt” (Dr. W. Byam, *London Philatelist* 559, July 1938)

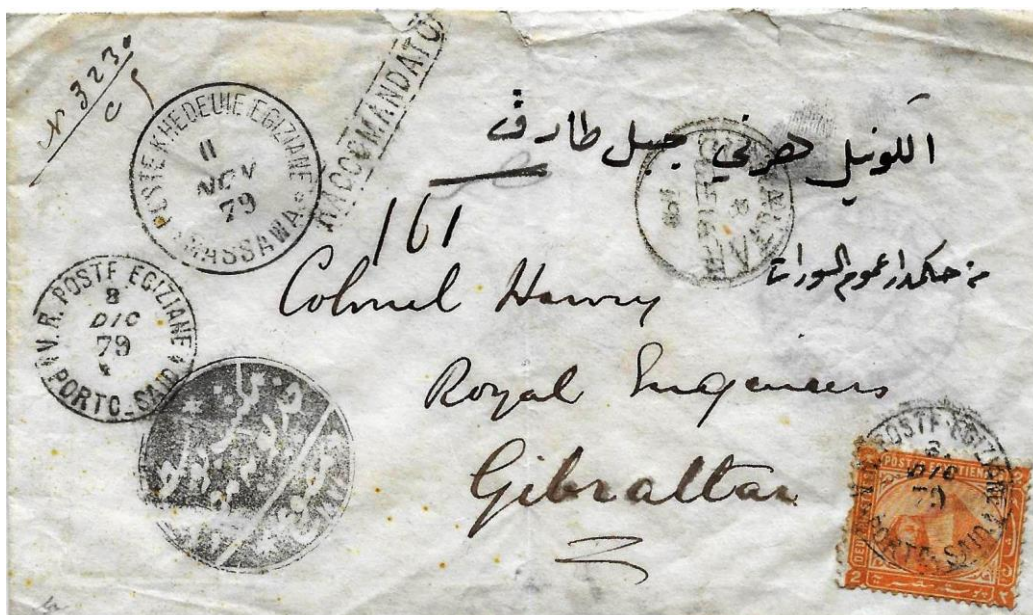
³ In 1865 a 12km railway was built from Kalioub to the Old Dam (the Delta Barrage), and in the same year it was extended 89km to the important city of Mansoura (L. Wiener, *L’Egypte et ses Chemins de fer*, p91)

⁴ Corinthila 196 stamp auction (May 26-29 2015)

⁵ The office of Louxor (Station) is removed and replaced by a new travelling office from Louxor to Challal (*Postal Bulletin* September 14 1901). Strangely enough, we have dates of Louxor Station cancels both before and after this announcement, so this closure seems not to have been applied, or only for a very brief period.

General Gordon in Massawa

Gregory Todd (ESC 585)



11 NOV 79: General Gordon's handwritten cover to Gibraltar, with Massawa CDS and Mohamed Aly Post negative seal in black

It is astonishing how much an article in our beloved *Quarterly Circular* can dig out! Our North American agent Trenton Ruebush (ESC 179) gazumped my article "Stamped Covers from Massawa" (*QC* 258, pp 252-256) with a scholarly addendum in *QC* 263 in which he pointed out two more covers to be added to the very short list – but now an even more amazing example has come to light. I hasten to describe it while at the same time catching up with a nigh unforgiveable oversight ... I somehow managed to miss another important cover from the original list, which now comprises eleven examples in all.

As well as the Felzmann cover reported by Trenton Ruebush, a truly remarkable registered envelope of November 11 1879, written in the hand of General Charles "Chinese" Gordon, has become known. Given the number 323 CG on the face, and addressed to Colonel Harvey of the Royal Engineers in Gibraltar, as well as the November 11 Post Khedivie Egiziane / Massawa cds it has a remarkable negative seal in black reading Massawa Maktab Bosta Khedewiya Masriya.



The cover omitted from my original list, sent from Massawa February 20, 1878 (*left*), is addressed to Cairo and franked 1pi, the internal rate, ex Bill Frazer Collection. And there is more too on Trenton's cover 9 – translation of the most unusual devangari script in which it is written reveals that it is addressed to the Bandar (Sea Port) for Hodeida in Yemen. So to formalise the listing, here are the new entries in full:

Covers not addressed to Lower Egypt

6A. Massawa, February 20, 1878: Cover to Cairo franked by 1874/75 1pi. red paying the internal rate. Ex collection William Frazer (Spink, May 2004, lot 24)

Mail to Hodeida, Yemen

8. Already listed (Feb 24, 1879)

9. Massawa, December 15, 1878: Cover with pair of 1874/75 20pa. grey = 40 pa. Ex collection 'Waizero', (Felzmann, March 2017, lot 4007). 1 piastre 'Port-to-Port' rate. Cert. Todd. It is probable, due to the docketing, that cover #8 is also to the same addressee as this cover, however no illustration of the obverse of that cover is known. The cover is addressed in devangari script to 'Bandar' (Sea Port) for Hodeida (Yemen).

Mail to Gibraltar

10. Massawa, November 11, 1879: Cover, written in the hand of General Charles 'Chinese' Gordon, docketed at top 'No. 323, C.G.' in manuscript addressed to Colonel Harvey of the Royal Engineers, Gibraltar. Massawa 'Maktab Bosta Khedewiya Masriya' negative seal handstamp in black (Egyptian Khedevial Post Office) and 'Poste Khedevie Egiziane / Massawa' datestamp at left. Suez transit (Nov 25) and the cover awaited forwarding and was mailed with an 1879 2pi. orange cancelled at Port Said (Dec 8). The famous stampless cover from Gordon to the same addressee also bears the Massawa 'Maktab Bosta Khedewiya Masriya' negative seal handstamp. This was in the Bill Frazer collection.

Private revenue-related stamps from Egypt

Michael Florer (ESC 706)

I found two interesting stamps on eBay from a seller in Egypt and was successful in acquiring them. They have attractive, ornate borders, are perforated, and are inscribed in blue entirely in Arabic. Thanks to the American Philatelic Society translation service, I now know what they say.

The stamp with three lines of text (*top*), which is 39x23mm, reads "Company for the Sale of Egyptian Manufactures / Cotton Textile Coupon for Tax Valuation / Value 50 Standard Piastres". It has an unreadable red cancel and is unfortunately damaged along the bottom edge. The other stamp (*below*), slightly larger at 39x29mm, has four lines of text set on a pale green ground and reads "Daoud Arsh and Sons Establishments / Cotton Textile Coupon for Tax Valuation / According to Existing Samples / Value 50 Standard Piastres". It is in used condition but does not have a cancel.



The eBay seller described these stamps as "cotton textile exchange coupons" and stated that they are very rare. I am still uncertain as to what they are and how and when they were used. Being private issues, they most likely do not qualify as revenue stamps. However, they refer to an apparent tax on cotton textiles. I could find no further information on the internet (in English). I should like to hear from any Egypt Study Circle member who can provide further information on these stamps. You can reach me via the Secretary or at Michael Florer, 1805 Biglerville Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-8030, United States, or by email at mrflorer@comcast.net.

Egypt's AR service

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)



Fig. 1. Caire 21 IV 98. AR cachet cancels the 1 piastre stamp that pays the Avis de Reception fee

Advice of **R**eceipt, or in French **A**vis de **R**eception, is a postal service to confirm to the sender the delivery of a registered letter. This service is of particular value to the police, lawyers, courts, and indeed anyone who needs proof that a registered letter has actually been delivered.

Background

An AR service had been in use in Europe before the Universal Postal Union (UPU) came into being. In France it commenced on 4 June 1859¹ and in Italy from 1861². In Britain, from at least the early 1870s, it was possible to write and request proof and the Post Office would then find out and write back to you³, a lengthy and laborious process.

The turning point, however, was the “universalisation of the AR service”⁴ by the UPU at the 1878 Congress in Paris, which came into effect on 1 April 1879. From that date the sender of a registered letter to any British colony or any country in the Postal Union (UPU) “was enabled to obtain of its delivery on payment of an additional 2½ pence”³.

In those days 2½ pence was the British letter rate to UPU countries and was equivalent in value to 1 Egyptian piastre (10 millièmes), which was the Egyptian UPU letter rate, registration fee and AR fee!



Fig. 2. Caire 1 IX 02. AR letter with stamp edging at top by which AR form was attached on its journey. Returned via scarce bilingual Zagazig ‘Return to Sender’ at left

Initially the AR service worked like this. An AR form was completed by the sender with his address and the name of the addressee. The post office added the registration number, affixed stamps paying the AR fee to the form and cancelled them with a datestamp. The form accompanied the letter and the recipient signed the form which in turn was postmarked at the delivery office and returned to the sender folded in an envelope, at first by registered post, the AR fee effectively paying for the return postage. To date I have been unable to identify any of these covering envelopes, although they could have been returned in small plain OHEMS or Egypt Postal Service window envelopes.

(N. 39)

AMMINISTRAZIONE
DELLE VICE REALI POSTE EGIZIANE

Ricevuta di ritorno di lettera (a) *Navy 5554*

Il destinatario sottoscritto (b) *M. J. J. J.*
dichiara che una lettera (a) *Assisi* al suo indirizzo proveniente da
(c) *Assisi* gli è stata oggi consegnata da questo ufficio postale
il *14 26 April* 1875

(d) _____

IL DESTINATARIO
M. J. J. J.

(a) Raccomandata ed assicurata
(b) Nome Cognome, e domicilio del destinatario
(c) Luogo d'origine della lettera
(d) Bolla dell'ufficio che consegna la lettera

Fig. 3. The first recorded Egyptian AR form, used in Cairo 20 April 1875

Vienna UPU Congress 1891

At this congress, which came into effect on 1 July 1892, the delegates changed the system. From now on the registered letter had to be clearly marked “Avis de Reception” or struck by an “AR” cachet and the stamps paying the AR fee were attached to the envelope (*Fig. 1*). Furthermore, the AR form was initiated at the delivery office. These changes were not liked by the post offices and the public.

Washington UPU Congress 1897

This new system lasted only until the next UPU Congress in Washington, when the delegates overturned the Vienna decision, this reversion coming into effect on 1 January 1899 (*Fig. 2*).

So after the Washington Congress the AR forms no longer required a box into which the stamp paying the AR fee was placed, although they did retain the requirement for the AR cachet to be applied. Another modification was the terminology used for the signature of receipt, for from now the form stated “If for any cause the addressee’s signature cannot be had, the signature of the Chief Clerk of distributing office is sufficient”. In view of these significant changes a new form was issued and designated 13Q: this appeared in the early 1900s, the earliest I have seen used is dated 2 May 1906.

From now on the UPU’s changes to the AR system were mainly to do with the amount of the fee, updating terminology and, after World War I, the replacement of the paper AR form by a robust AR card.

From the tables of Egyptian postal rates⁵ this service seems to have first been offered in Egypt on 1 April 1878. When we consult the rates tables for the foreign post offices in Egypt, however, we find that the French¹ post office was offering the service for 20 centimes in 1862. Also, the Italians² opened an office in

Alexandria in 1863 under the charge of Giacomo Muzzi, who was Director General of the Posta Europea. In their table of rates for that year Avis de Reception is listed as 20 centesimi.

Egypt AR stationery

There are two types; at first paper forms were used, replaced by cards after World War I. Both are few and far between, indeed after ploughing through all my books on Egypt and auction catalogues I have only found seven used forms and only four used cards! I expect that this article may well bring forth a flurry of additional examples, especially of the more recent cards.

The forms



Fig. 4. Complete AR form used in 1886. Despatch Alexandria 8 June, arrival Tripoli de Syrie Turquie (nowadays in Lebanon) 11 June. On reverse return to Alexandria 17 June.

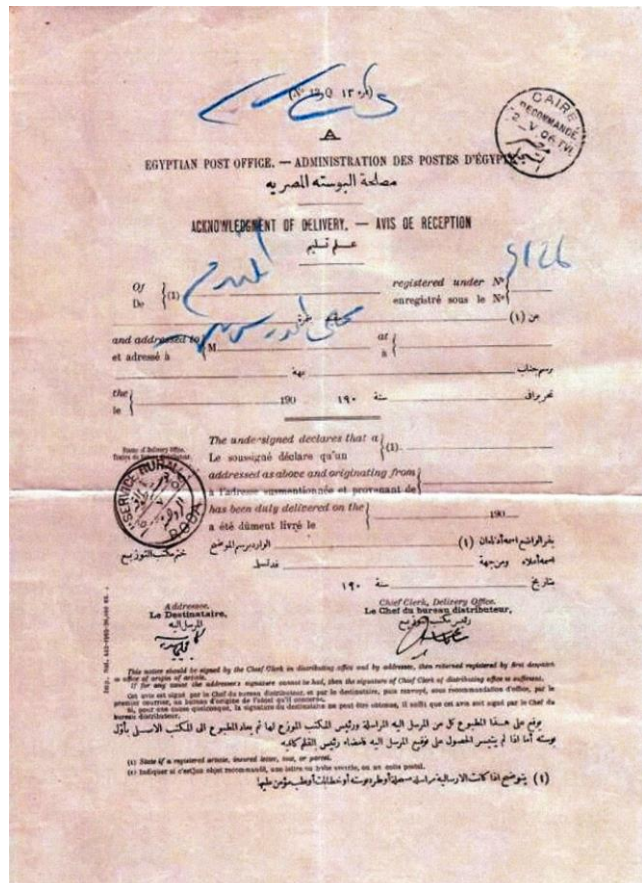


Fig. 5. A trilingual AR form headed "Acknowledgment of Delivery", used in Cairo 2 May 1906. Signed and returned from Roda Service Rural office 6 May.

These forms were initially designated No. 39 by the post office (Fig.3). After the Washington UPU changes, they were re-numbered as 13Q, an indicator that continued to be used when the AR cards took their place.

The 1875-76 forms measure about 110 x 150mm wide and the 1886-1892 forms when unfolded measure approximately 243 x 323mm wide (Fig. 4). Sometime in 1892 a new pink form was issued in a slightly smaller size and the size of the 1906-07 forms is also uncertain.

By searching through the past ESC auction lists, Mike Murphy has established that the buff French and Arabic forms were still being used on 14 July 1888 and that the pink forms were used on 7 July 1888 – a neat overlap. Also, the 1893 usage did not bear a stamp to pay the AR fee!

Date of use	No.	Colour	Language	Source
1875 Apr. 20	39	Buff	Italian (<i>Fig. 3</i>)	Corinphila Smith auction, May 2015, lot 5217
1876 Oct. 4	39	Buff	Italian	Köhler Fricke auction, March 2010, lot 2847
1886 Jun. 8	39	Buff	French & Arabic (<i>Fig. 4</i>)	Author's collection
1890 Jan. 25	39	Pink	French & Arabic	Corinphila auction November 2017, lot 4067
1890 Jan. 25	39	Pink	French & Arabic	Corinphila auction November 2017, lot 4068
1890 Jan. 27	39	Pink	French & Arabic	Illustrated on page 763 of Peter Smith's ⁵ book Corinphila Smith auction May 2015, lot 5312
1892 Apr. 18	39	Pink	French & Arabic	Feldman auction May 2013, lot 20205
1892 Jun. 23	39	Pink	?	ESC auction 38, lot 419
1893 Jan. 19	39	Pink	?	ESC auction 38, lot 420
1906 May 2	13Q	Buff	English, French, Arabic	Spotted on eBay (<i>Fig. 5</i>)
1907 Oct. 30	13Q	Buff	English, French, Arabic	Spotted on eBay

By year of use these forms break down into four groups, the first of which clearly reflects the influence of the first Director General of Posts. Muzzi Bey successfully ran the Egypt postal service for 11 years up to 1876.

It is interesting to note that the 1890-92 pink forms have a large watermark reading:

GOUVERNEMENT / star over crescent / EGYPTIEN / inverted crescent over star

In looking closely at the 1906-07 forms there is a subtle change in terminology, for now in place of “Advice of Receipt” we find “Acknowledgement of Delivery”, reflecting the fact that a postal clerk was authorised to state that an item had been safely delivered.

The cards

After World War I, in about 1921, the paper AR forms were phased out and in their place came the AR cards. They continued using the designation 13Q. Both sides were used – one side with the details of the sender, the other side with the signature confirming receipt.

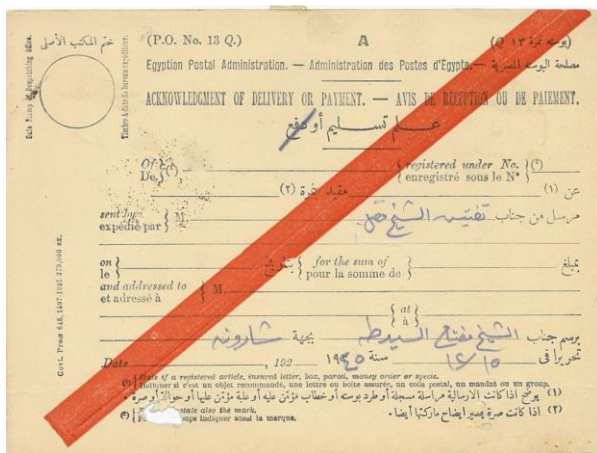


Fig. 6. 1921 AR card used inland 1945

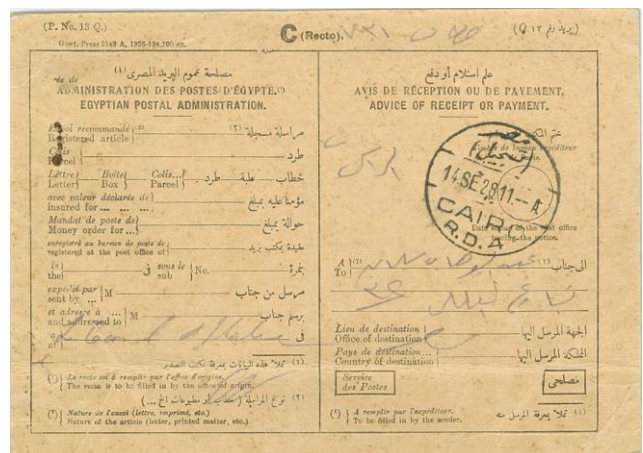


Fig. 7. 1926 AR card used inland 1928

Printing date	Date of use	Colour	Language	Destination
1921	1945 December 10	Buff	Arabic, French, English	Sharma
1926	1928 September 14	Buff	Arabic, French, English	Cairo en ville
1932	1935 March 31	Rose	Arabic & French	Cairo en ville
?	1992 March 22	Rose-red	Arabic	Giza

These four cards are in my collection (Figs. 6,7,8 and 9). There is an illustration of another card in the book by Peter Smith⁵ on page 763 which is probably dated in the 1970s. The cards in Figs. 6,7 and 8 could also be used to acknowledge the payment of money orders. As these cards travelled with the registered letter, they were attached to the letter with stamp edging, pins or staples, thus causing the card to become torn and so less collectable. This is probably the reason why they have not been saved and are comparatively scarce.

AR cachets

These boxed cachets were invariably struck in black to the front of the envelope. Their size varies from 18 x 13mm and 19 x 12mm, to 22 x 16 and 22 x 15mm. The most popular sizes

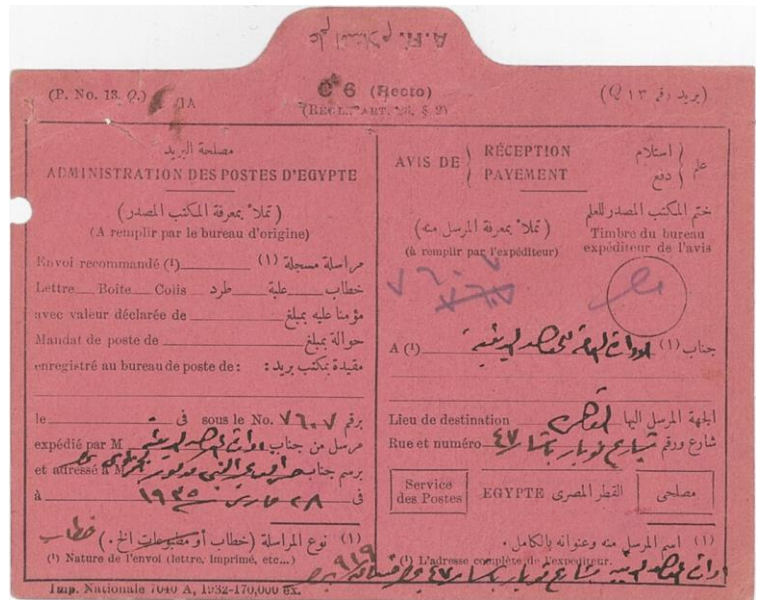


Fig. 8. 1932 AR card used inland 1935 with adhesive tab for sticking to the letter; signed by addressee on 29 March, with POSTMEN CAIRO cds two days later



are 21 x 15mm and 20 x 14mm, these two making up half of my holding. All these cachets have the capital letters “AR” in a sans serif font. Peter Smith in his book⁵ also illustrates a very small cachet and a very large cachet, plus a straight line “Avis De Reception” in capital letters. I have not seen any of these on items from Egypt.

From all my research it would appear that the boxed AR cachet was introduced as a direct result of the 1891 Vienna UPU Congress which came into effect on 1 July 1892. It was agreed at this Congress that the AR registered letters should be clearly marked with either “Avis de Reception” in manuscript, or an AR cachet. Peter Kelly⁶ illustrates both of these methods employed in the French post office, in manuscript 29 July 1892 and the AR cachet on 12 November 1892.

Fig. 9. AR card printed only in Arabic attached with stamp edging and used inland in 1992

The earliest AR cachet that I have seen for Egypt comes from an illustration by Peter Smith⁵, who on page 512 shows a cover with cachet dated 22 XII 94. It is at this time, in the early 1890s, that the Egyptian postal authority adopted the practice of cancelling the stamp(s) that paid the AR fee with the AR cachet itself (*Figs. 1 and 2*). In many cases the sender obligingly affixed these stamps away from those paying the other postal charges. This procedure carried on for another 20 years or so, ceasing somewhere between 1910 and 1913.

AR fees

The earliest mention I have seen of an AR fee in Egypt comes from the rates tables in Peter Smith's⁵ book and appear on page 545 for internal mail, and page 548 for UPU mail. At the Bern UPU Congress, effective 1 July 1875, it states that the UPU AR fee should be set at a maximum the same as for the domestic AR rate. At the Vienna UPU Congress, effective 1 July 1892, the fee was recommended to be 25 centimes maximum.

In 1874 the currency conversion was Egyptian 1 piastre (40 paras) = 25 centimes. Egypt changed from paras to millièmes in 1888, when 10 millièmes = 1 piastre. For comparison the British penny = 10 centimes. It might be worth mentioning here that the UPU worked in French centimes, to which each member country converted their own money. That was up to the First World War, after which postwar inflation played havoc with currencies and the UPU switched to using the gold centime. (An early form of Bitcoin!)

The AR fee was in addition to other postal charges. In the table, details come from two sources: All inland fees (and UPU fees to 1940), Peter Smith⁵; UPU fees from 1941 onwards, Sven Eriksson⁷.

	Internal	UPU
1878 April 1	1 piastre (<i>Fig. 1</i>)	1 piastre
1920	10 millièmes	
1921 April 1		15 millièmes
1931 November 1		20 millièmes (<i>Fig. 10</i>)
1940 August 15		25 millièmes
1941		30 millièmes
1943 July 13	20 millièmes	32 millièmes
1951		45 millièmes
1953		45 millièmes
1967	30 millièmes	
1985 September 5	20 piastres *	
1988	40 piastres	

* In 1982 Egypt had a currency reform, dropping the millième in favour of the piastre.



Fig. 10. Port Said 13 FE 32. Envelope franked 3 x 20 millièmes stamps, each paying one aspect of postage: UPU letter rate, registration and AR fee

Conclusion

It is surprising, to me at any rate, that the AR system was used by the Rural Postal Service and items so handled must be considered of great interest. Two such items are illustrated in the book⁸ on this subject, see pages 21 and colour plate XVIII.

In 2010 I received some auction lots from the Netherlands which were sent via the Dutch TNT Post AR Service. On the reverse of the envelope there was firmly attached an orange AR card, one half of which was to be signed by me and returned to the sender. I still have the complete card!

References

My thanks to members of the Circle who helped me identify those town names which were written in Arabic

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2. Harris, Andy, "Italy - Italian AR cards", *Postscript*, 65/219
3. Mackay, James A, *Registered Mail of the British Isles*, 1999
4. Handelman, David, *AR exhibit at Melbourne*, 2013
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8. Murphy, Mike & Shoukry, Ibrahim, *The Rural Postal Service*, 2010

Acknowledgements

I am deeply indebted to Mike Murphy for digging out nuggets of information and producing illustrations from his extensive archive.

A further "thank you" to Greg Todd for the loan of the pink AR form (Lot 4067 ex Corinthia)

MacArthur Award – have you voted yet?

There is still time to add your appreciation for the best and most significant article in the 2017 series of QCs before voting closes at the AGM on May 5. This award is important in encouraging members to write for the magazine and rewarding those who have done so with organisation and purpose.

Just send an email to the Secretary with your nomination.

As a reminder, here are some of the major articles from last year:

The Slave Trade Part 2	Sinai & Gaza – the 1948 War
Watch Out – Crocodiles About	German Army in North Africa
French Disinfected Mail	Italian Internees in WW II
1957 – Rejected Egyptian Mail	Asyut Find – A Preliminary Note
Under-Cover Addresses in WW II	Zeppelin Posted on Board

But you don't need to choose from those... you might have your own special favourite.

Please vote, and encourage your colleagues to maintain the high standard in our magazine.

Heliopolis

Jos Strengholt (ESC 606)

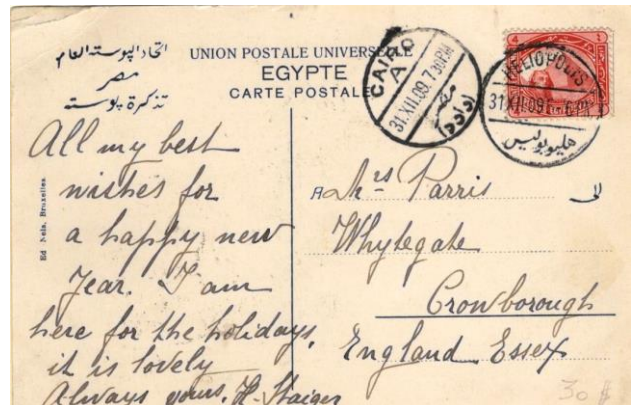
The post office of Heliopolis, a pleasant suburb northeast of Cairo, was opened in 1909. The oldest cancellations that I know of date from August in that year. Hany Sharestan (ESC 595, California) owns the first recorded cancellation of outgoing mail, a postcard with a circular date stamp (CDS) of 10 August 1909 at 9.05AM. I own the first cancellation known on incoming mail, cancelled the same day but at 5.30PM. Hany beats me by 8 hours and 25 minutes!



The first cancellation reads in English HELIOPOLIS CAIRO and in Arabic, strangely, AIN SHAMS OASIS IN CAIRO. The Arabic text was incorrect, so the CDS was withdrawn in December 1909. We have not been able to find later usage of that CDS than 9 December, while the first replacement CDS we have found was used on 31 December.



Left above, the earliest recorded Heliopolis postmark (with larger version below), followed by the first arrival mark on the same day, August 10 1909. Both carried the Arabic Ain Shams name, but not for long: the replacement, below, dating from December 1909, was given an Arabic version of Heliopolis instead

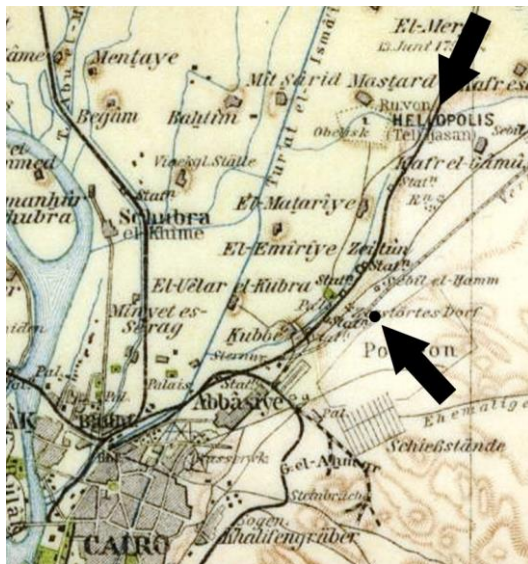


What was wrong with the first CDS? I think we have a nice example here of a mixture of mistakes, commercial needs, and Egypt's postal authorities. In 1905 the company of the Belgian Baron Empain (right next page), and the Armenian-Egyptian Nubar Boghos (left, with a business card envelope addressed to him

En Ville), had bought 24 sq km of empty desert, 10 km northeast of Cairo. Two years later their company, the Cairo Electric Railways and Heliopolis Oasis Company, began to build the luxury city of Heliopolis and the tram connection between Cairo central station and their new city.



Maybe the word “Oasis” in the company name made the postal authorities use it in the CDS? The company probably did not mind much. Use of the name Ain Shams was, however, a mistake. It had to be Heliopolis. That name had to be hammered into the minds of all people. And the link with Cairo was not desired by the owners of Heliopolis: they wanted to market something new, unrelated to Cairo.



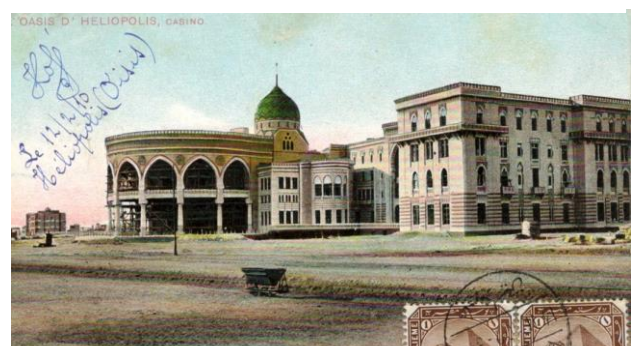
Even the use of the name Heliopolis for the new city was strange enough, because the ancient city of that name was 10 km away. The map (left) is from the 1906 Baedeker German travel guide, when the name Heliopolis was used only for the old city. The lower arrow shows where the new city arose in 1907.

But to be fair to the postal authorities who used Ain Shams in the name, the original Heliopolis stretched as far south as Ain Shams. That name refers to the old city because it means “Source of the Sun”. But Ain Shams was still 1.5 km west of the new Heliopolis that was being built on the desert sand.

The owners of the new city wanted to use the name because it sounded pharaonic and appealing enough to attract foreigners to move from Cairo and buy a new villa in the new desert city. In addition, tourists from outside Egypt had to be attracted to the grandiose new Heliopolis Palace Hotel, and for them the name Heliopolis sounded much more attractive than the Arabic Ain Shams.

The marketing for the new city and its hotel worked well; with unbelievable numbers of postcards of the city under construction sent all over the world. Visitors to Heliopolis, its massive luxury hotel, and the many other attractions like Luna Park, mailed their cards to friends and family. Photo cards of the hotel, even when still under construction, were mailed worldwide, creating admiration and attracting new visitors.

But there was no room for mistakes if the company’s investors were to make a good return on their outlay. The postal authorities were convinced to create a new CDS. And now it carried the name Heliopolis only, both in Arabic and English.



The postcard of the Heliopolis Palace Hotel shows that work was still continuing in February 1910, when it was posted, bearing the printed caption “Oasis d’Heliopolis” and a handwritten endorsement. But the CDS is strictly Heliopolis

Zeppelin on-board mail revisited

Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264)

I read with great interest the article by Ronny Van Pellecom ("Zeppelin Agyptenfahrt 1931: Posted on Board", *QC* 263, pp 85-91) on the "on-board" mail of the incoming Egypt Flight of the Graf Zeppelin. Notably absent is such mail addressed to Palestine, of which I have seen only one card and one cover.



Cover posted from Germany with 4M+2M franking, clearly addressed to Jerusalem, received the April 11 marking on arrival in Cairo

Collectors are generally not aware that Zeppelin mail from Europe addressed to Palestine is scarce, with only about ten items known from each of the Contract States: Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Hungary, Netherland, Saar and Danzig.

Mail from Europe and "on-board" mail bags were offloaded on arrival in Cairo, receiving the Cairo 11 April 1931 Graf Zeppelin arrival postmark, and mail intended for the Palestine flight was taken on board. Upon return to Cairo, mail from Europe and "on-board" mail bags addressed to Palestine were offloaded and sent by rail, arriving at destination the next day. Bags containing postcards originating from Egypt sent on the Palestine flight were however overlooked and remained on board, continuing to Germany. They were returned to Cairo and finally reached Palestine about a month after the flight, on May 7 1931.

Another unique item in my Large Gold Egypt Airmail collection is a cover mailed "on-board" during the return flight to Germany on 13 April 1931, with a mixed franking of Egypt and Germany. It was most probably prepared by Herr Kurt Schonherr, postmaster on board the Zeppelin. I have a Zeppelin Mail expert certificate which states that the cover, addressed to Germany, was franked with both Egypt overprints and cancelled in Cairo on April 10, and that the 2 Mark stamp, paying the letter fee, was added and cancelled "On Board 13.4.1931", the last day of the flight.

The cover was then placed in a mail bag and added to the regular return flight mail, receiving the same-day Friedrichshafen arrival backstamp, and eventually delivered to the addressee. This is believed to be the only item cancelled on board the return flight, with a mixed franking of Egyptian and German stamps.



Cairo Zeppelin postmark of April 10 with German stamp added and cancelled on board for a unique return-journey mixed franking

World Meteorological Day

Scott Van Horn (ESC 619)



Egypt produced two stamps, for UAR and Palestine, and a spectacular first-day cancel, to mark World Meteorological Day in 1965. NP C389 and PC40 (Sc C106 and NC37) were issued on March 23

As a former meteorologist, the topic of weather naturally interests me. Egypt has issued several commemorative stamps dealing with the subject, and in particular with the annual observance of the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) World Meteorological Day. This happens annually on March 23 to mark the WMO's establishment in 1950. Egypt was a charter member, having joined on January 10 as part of region I (Africa). The mission of the WMO is described as follows:

WMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) with 191 Member States and Territories. It is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the land and oceans, the weather and climate it produces and the resulting distribution of water resources. WMO provides world leadership and expertise in international co-operation in the delivery and use of high-quality, authoritative weather, climate, hydrological and related environmental services for the improvement of the wellbeing of societies of all nations.

In Egypt, responsibility for weather and climatic information and data belongs to the Egyptian Meteorological Authority (EMA). Egypt's meteorological services began in 1839 when the first consecutive observations began to be taken at a handful of locations, mainly in Alexandria and Cairo. Other sporadic observations were recorded during the second half of the 1800s, but usually only when scientific expeditions travelled south of Cairo. Because of the sparse and limited data, this information is of little value today. It was not until 1900 that the first Meteorological Service was organised under the auspices of the Survey Department, which handled all work of a physical nature. In 1903, the services were reported as follows:

New stations were equipped during the year at Mongalla and Ghaba Shambe on the Bahr-el-Gebel, at Wau on the Bahr-el-Ghazal, at Doleib Hilla and Nasser on the Sobat and at Abbassia Hospital to preserve the continuity of the observations there when the Observatory is moved to Helwan. Rainfall stations were established at nine places in Behera Province.

It may be useful to mention here the present position of the meteorological services in Egypt at the end of 1903. 1st Order Station - Fully equipped with self-recording instruments for registering continuously all meteorological phenomena: Abbassia Observatory, Cairo. 2nd Order Stations - Recording atmospheric pressure, temperature, humidity, rainfall, wind by means of observations taken twice or thrice daily: Alexandria, Abbassia Military Hospital, Port-Said, Giza, Assiut, and Aswan. Climatological Stations - Recording temperatures, humidity, rainfall, and wind: Beni-Suef. Rainfall Stations - Recording rainfall and wind: Mersa Matruh, Mex, Teh-el-Barud, Damanhur, Abu Hommos, Kafr Dawar, Hosh Issa, Atfih, Shubrakhit, Kafr Bulin, and Khatatba.

In 1915 the Survey Department and the Irrigation Department combined to form the Ministry of Public Works. As the importance of meteorological information to flying began to be understood, the service was expanded in 1934 to better handle civil aviation safety. Several years later, in 1947, King Farouk issued a royal order to establish an independent organisation called the Egyptian Meteorological Authority, which is still the official agency today.

Currently, there are 116 reporting stations in Egypt, which between them take surface, upper air, pollution, solar radiation, and ozone observations all day, every day. There are also forecasting centres at Cairo International, Luxor, Hurghada, and El-Nozha airports, and Almaza and Ras el-Teen military centres, producing weather forecasts for both civilian and military use.

Egypt's first stamp issued to commemorate the WMO was issued in 1962. It shows at left an anemometer, which is used to measure wind speed and direction, together with the WMO emblem, which incorporates the emblem of the United Nations with a compass (OMM is Organisation Météorologique Mondiale).

1962 – NP C283 (Sc C96) and first-day cancel, issued March 23, 1962



In 1973 Egypt issued another weather-related stamp, ostensibly to commemorate the centenary of the WMO. In fact, this date marks the centenary of the first meeting in Vienna of the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was superseded by the WMO in 1950.

NP C694 (Sc C157) was issued on October 24, 1973

A large and colourful stamp was chosen to mark the 75th anniversary of the observatory at Helwan in 1978. Although this issue does not relate directly to the WMO, the observatory was, and still is, an important meteorological contributor. Established in 1868 at Abbassia, in northern Cairo, it was moved to Helwan, south of the city, in 1903.

NP C841 (Sc 1096), issued on December 31, 1978



One of a set of four stamps commemorating United Nations Day in 1985 shows a weather pattern over Egypt, displaying isobars (lines of constant pressure), wind flow (arrows), colour shading for temperature ranges, and cloud cover.

NP C1044 (Sc 1299) was issued on October 24, 1985

The Air Mail stamp and its first-day cancel marking World Meteorological Day in 1997 returned to the ananometer theme – but now with a stylized compass taken from the WMO emblem containing another anemometer along with the sun, rainfall and an aircrafts.

NP 1381 (Sc C220) and FDC cancel, issued March 23, 1997



News from our members

• Circle members did well in Spring Stampex, with Gold medals for **Atef Sarian** (ESC 639, Third Issue, 5 frames), **David Jones** (ESC 716, Egyptian Syndicates, 1 frame – good to see revenues), **Brian Callan** (ESC 694, Postcards of the River Lee, Cork, 5), and **Jon Aitchison** (ESC 661, Book Tokens, Ephemera class, 2). Displaying for the first time, **Sami Sadek** (ESC 559) won Large Silver with 3 frames of Fayum TPOs and learnt a lot. Brian Callan and Jon Aitchison each had Large Vermeils (Atef Sarian was bemused by four LVs for fine traditional Egypt), and Aitchison took a Vermeil and had four Channel Islands exhibits on display.

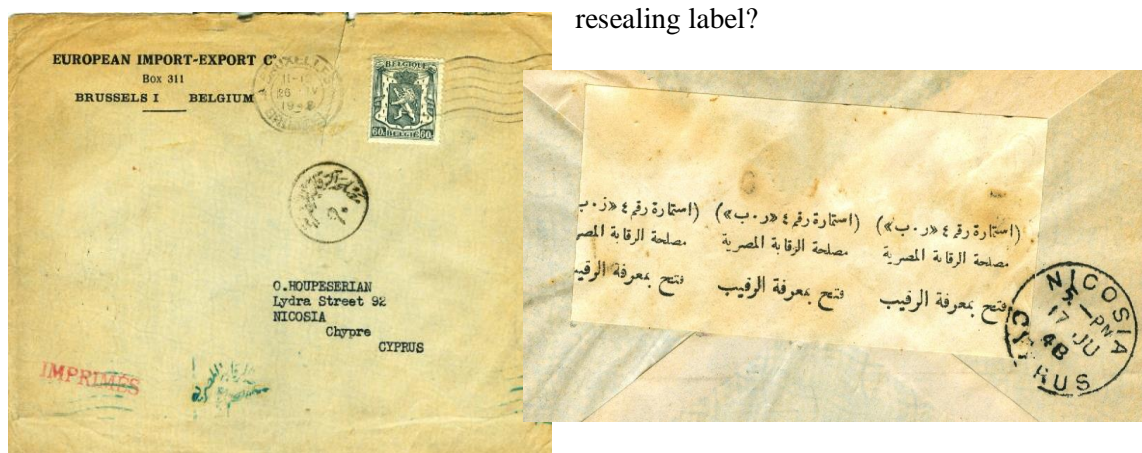
• **Peter Newroth** (ESC 385, in British Columbia) has sent a copy of the journal of the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada, which he joined in 2017, lifting his total of philatelic societies to nine. In it he illustrates his interest in Egypt with a beautiful clean first-day cover of the Fuad 100m on £E1 surcharge. Sent En Ville at the Express rate (special boxes were cleared six times a day) of 15m in addition to the local 5m rate, it is virtually undoubtedly philatelic, he says, as most rare FDCs of the day tended to be. He adds that the addressee



(and probable sender) was one Christopher Toutonghi (1899-2000), a scholar and poet who moved in 1946 to America, where he taught languages in Seattle and California. Peter collects mainly the De La Rue and Harrison Pictorials from 1914 to the 1930s.

• **Tony Cakebread** (ESC 536), our Antipodean Agent, tells us that the massive collection of 20,000 Egypt postcards collected by his predecessor, Tony Chisholm, has finally found a new home thanks to the good offices of Gaertner & Co. We are still hoping that the electronic version of the collection will one day be able to find a new home too – on the pages of the Circle website.

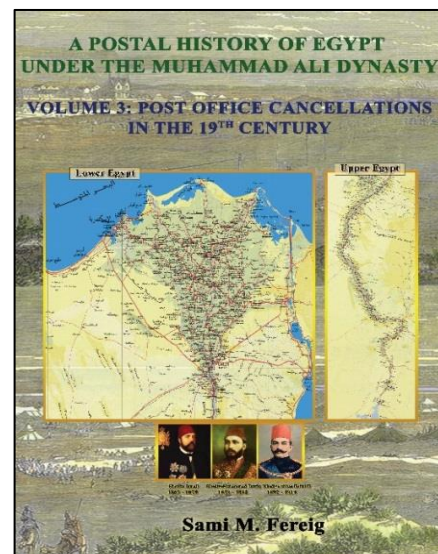
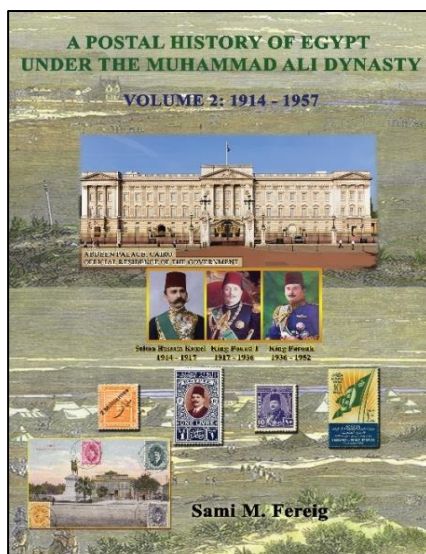
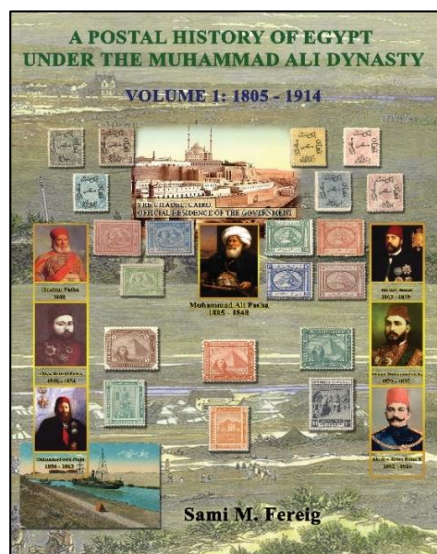
• **Scott Van Horn** (ESC 619, of Arizona), seeks members' help with a routing query. How, he asks, does this 1948 printed matter cover mailed from Brussels to Nicosia in Cyprus end up with an Egyptian censor resealing label?



• The Large Vermeil medal presented to the late **Edmund Hall** as Editor of the *QC* at Spring Stampex 2017 has been donated by the Circle and Edmund's family to the Philatelic Museum of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

A Postal History of Egypt under the Muhammad Ali Dynasty

Full colour three-volume series by Sami M. Fereig



Volume 1: 1805 - 1914 covers the period from when Muhammad Ali Pasha was first appointed Governor of Egypt, until the start of the First World War. During his rule he established the Governmental Postal Service, and Foreign Offices were opened for France, Britain, Greece and Austria. All stamp issues, from the First Issue in 1866, to 1914 are presented, together with Postage Due and Official stamps. The postal history of Sudan is also included along with an entire chapter on Egyptian Postal Papers.

Volume 2: 1914 - 1957 describes all the postal events from the time the First World War began, up to the end of the monarchy in 1952 and the conclusion of the Suez Canal War. It includes the Pictorials, issued during the Sultanate period, followed by the Kingdom period and the portrait issues of King Fouad and King Farouk, the Commemorative issues, Airmail and Express Service, and Military Post in Egypt and Palestine.

Volume 3: Post Office Cancellations in the 19th Century documents the spread of Egypt's post offices at home and abroad and their cancellations. It covers the period from 1866, when the first Egyptian postage stamps were issued, up to 1914. Examples are given of their use, with reproductions of their cancellations. Also included are the Travelling and Rural Post Offices, Egypt's Post Offices Abroad and on the Red Sea.

"Professor Sami Fereig ... has succeeded admirably in presenting a unique glimpse into two apparently unconnected worlds – those of philately and daily events – and brought them together with a linking that proves beyond doubt that the two can be seen as halves of the whole." **Mike Murphy**, Secretary and Editor, Egypt Study Circle, U.K.

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