

The Quarterly Circular of THE EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE



June Quarter 2018 + Volume XXIII No 6 – Whole Series No 265 – Pages 123-146

CONTENTS

Officers 123, Annual Meeting report 124-5, Book review 125, Members' changes 140

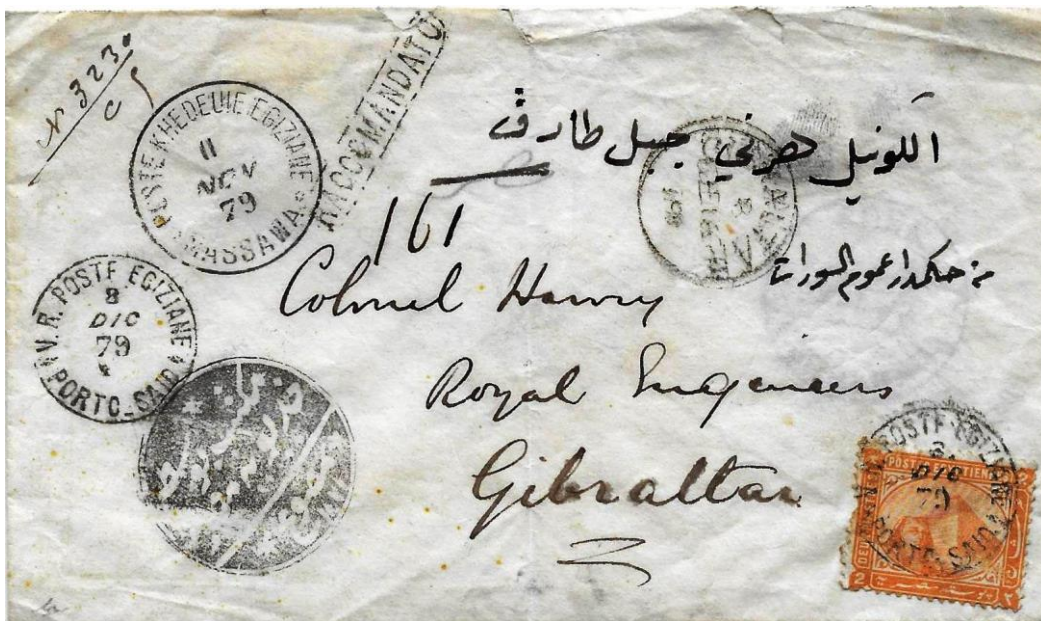
ARTICLES

A Facebook variety confirmation	Hani Sharestan	p. 126
'O' under 'sad' discovery	Yasser Omar	p. 126
Railway stations during 1879-1914: Part 2 – The Delta	Ronny Van Pellecom/ Alain Stragier	pp. 127-38
A postal tax not easy to explain	André Navari	pp. 139-40
Egyptian ration stamps	Michael Florer	p. 141
Resealing labels – can you help?	Andy Gould	pp. 142-44
New postal rates 2018	Tarek Mokhtar	pp. 145-46
Strangers on a Train in Sudan	Anabright Hay	p. iii



**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 this year in 2018, but circumstances beyond our control led to the cancellation of the first and the situation with Peter's material remains in doubt for the moment. So there is a change of direction for the September meeting, when we shall display the topic "Pyramids" – please bring along your material.

July 7, 2pm	Victory Services Club	Baghdad-Cairo Air Mails	Laurence Kimpton
Sept 15, 2pm	Stampex	Pyramids	All Members
Nov 10, 2pm	Victory Services Club	TPOs & Egyptian Railways	Sami Sadek

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Website: egyptstudycircle.org.uk



Facebook

Report of the Annual General Meeting, May 5

An exciting, fascinating and comprehensive list of Circle meetings for the immediate future was unveiled by our new Meetings Secretary, Jon Aitchison, at the Annual General Meeting on May 5. It was a great shame that so few members – only eight – were present to hear the details (*see below*) of what promises to be an impressive and intriguing time for members over the next couple of years. But perhaps the attendance had something to do with the opposing attractions of a bank holiday weekend and blazing sunshine in London.

Those PRESENT were John Davis (Chairman), Jon Aitchison (Deputy Chairman/Meetings Secretary), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Neil Hitchens (Webmaster), Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Peter Grech, Paul Green. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: John Sears, Brian Sedgley, Sami Sadek, Hani Sharestan, Andreas Birken, Stephen Bunce, Tony Cakebread, Angela Child, Cyril Defriez, Denis Doren, Ted Fraser-Smith, Pauline Gittoes, Anton Jansen, Peter Newroth, Roman Rimonis, Trent Ruebush, Ibrahim Shoukry, Greg Todd, Richard Wheatley.

Minutes of the 2017 AGM were approved; no matters were arising.

Chairman: The Chairman hoped for a year with fewer sad losses than in 2017, and that negotiations to continue with the sale of our former Chairman Peter Andrews' collection would bear fruit.

Secretary: The Secretary reported a net loss of four members over the year, due largely to non-payment of subscriptions. 17 new members had been welcomed, but he warned of more lapsings to come. UK and EU members were urged to sign the Europe-wide data protection regulation, and the meeting voted to accept one new member – welcome to Michael Ryan of Cheyenne, Wyoming. Votes for the MacArthur Award, intended to encourage members to share their interests in the *QC*, had been few, and there was discussion about how to make voting more popular. The 2017 award, richly deserved for a fine piece of research, went to Peter Grech (ESC 266), for his *1957: Rejected Egyptian Mail*.

Accounts: The Treasurer's report, delivered in his absence, noted a year on year increase in the accumulated surplus of £2339. Income increased by £1537, due mainly to increased auction commission, which of course requires material of top quality to attract high bids; but also to a slight increase in advertising. Expenditure was roughly in line with 2016, but £400 was saved on website costs. At the end of the year we had £16,583.58 in the bank. The accounts were approved and a Vote of Thanks to our auditor, Stephen Bunce, was approved with acclamation.

Auctions: The Secretary reported on the success of postal Auctions 55 (September 2016, commission £1037) and 56 (September 2017, commission £1806), the latter boosted by material from the families of Peter Andrews and Erik Menne Larsen. Live Auctions at Stampex (February 2017) and in November last year were only moderately successful, largely because viewing was limited and illustrations unavailable.

Looking Ahead: Dates for your Diary

Sat July 7 (Victory Services Club 2-5pm), Baghdad-Cairo Airmails. Main presenter Laurence Kimpton.

Sat Sept 15 (Stampex 2-4pm), 'Pyramids'. Please bring something to show.

Sat Nov 10 (Victory Services Club 2-5pm), TPOs and Egyptian Railways. Main presenter Sami Sadek.

Sat Feb 16 2019 (Stampex, 2-4pm), Revenues and Fiscals. Please bring something to show.

Fri 26-Sun 28 April 2019 Joint weekend meeting with Sudan Study Circle at the Morley Hayes Hotel, Derby. All welcome including spouses and day visitors. Appx cost £100 pppn d,b&b single room or £70 double. More detail soon.

Sat May 11 2019 (date TBC), Regional meeting at Worpex, Worcester, organised by John Davis. Theme to be announced.

May 29-June 2 2019 Egypt Study Circle meeting at Stockholmia exhibition, Sweden. Precise date and more detail soon.

Sat July 6 2019, 2pm AGM and Annual Competition (details to follow). Date and venue to be confirmed.

Sat Sept 14 2019 (Stampex 2-4pm), Military & Civil Censorship. Civil Censorship Study Group and Forces Postal History Society to be invited as our guests.

Thurs Nov 7 2019 (Royal Philatelic Society London), Egyptian Hotels by Richard Wheatley. Display opens 1pm, PowerPoint presentation 5pm. Opportunity to look around the new premises of the RPSL Detail to follow.

Sat Nov 9 2019 (venue TBC, all day), Massive room auction: viewing from 11am, sale starts 2pm.

Wed 4-Sat 7 Dec 2019 Monacophil 2019 at Monte Carlo, where the Egypt Study Circle led by Hany Salam will present the major display, 'The World of Egyptian Philately & Postal History during the Mohamed Ali Dynasty, 1798-1952'. Entry form on the website. A special Study Circle luncheon will also be held.

Sat in Feb 2020 (Stampex 2-4pm), Date and subject to be confirmed.

Sat 2-Sat 9 May 2020 London 2020 International Exhibition. ESC will have a meeting at the event. Details in due course.

After discussion, it was agreed to plan for a postal/live all-day Auction, with material on display in the morning and the sale in the afternoon. Material bought in the room may then be paid for and carried away.

Editor: The Editor reported with a sigh of relief that the Edmund Hall tribute *QC* had been well received, and the December and March issues had followed on smoothly, thanks to the efforts of a very few senior contributors. The June issue is ready for the printer, but as ever he appealed to members to produce material to keep the magazine up to date and lively. He apologised to those whose material had not yet been published, and warned that the small backlog of articles would not last for ever.

Webmaster: The Webmaster noted that it had taken some little time to come to terms with how the website had been put together, but assured the meeting that the uncharted territory was now understood and looked forward to changes in both appearance, with larger and clearer fonts than were originally available, and ease of use. He and the Editor appealed to members to contribute any information about Egypt and its philately to maintain newsy and current material on the site.

Librarian: The Librarian announced that sales of back copies of the *QC* had realised a net income of £72.60 over the past two years, and urged members to borrow material from the extensive Library.

Election of Officers: No elections were necessary. Next year's AGM: Saturday July 6 (to be confirmed)

There then followed the regular "ten sheets" meeting, with the following displays: **John Davis**, Greek Post Office in Alexandria, with several covers; **Mike Bramwell**, a British Museum article suggesting that the Sphinx and Pyramids illustrations became popular only in the nineteenth century; **Peter Grech**, illustrations of how Egypt's major hotels developed over the years; **Mike Murphy**, with recent correspondence hinting that new Egyptian regulation no longer requires stamps for registered material; **Jon Aitchison**, a miscellany of envelopes and first-day covers largely dealing with the Canal area.

Book Review: **Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue**
EAST AFRICA with EGYPT and SUDAN (Fourth edition 2018)

Apparently there have been three previous editions of this catalogue, though I have not seen any of them. As far as I was concerned Egypt was to be found in Part 19, though I can only assume that this smaller size (17x24cm) is the new format for Gibbons' catalogues.

As far as collectors of Egypt are concerned, we start – all in colour - with the British stamps and/or covers cancelled at Alexandria, Cairo or Suez, so there is no change there except to say that prices have gone up and many more varieties are included. As an example of the increases, the six stamps of the Second Issue are now set at £742 mint rather than the £626 of 2005, though the five-piastre has been static at £300 since 1996.

Both varieties and increases prevail through the Egypt section, which covers only the first six issues up to "independence", closing with the Harrison printings of 1921-22, and the first four issues of postage due stamps plus the various overprints. The official stamps are mentioned, again with the early overprints, as are the Egyptian post offices abroad - in greater detail than Part 19 with as full a listing of the offices as I have yet seen. No mention is made, however, of the actual Egyptian stamps used in these offices.

Stamps of the Suez Canal Company are included, with prices and a warning about forgeries. Even the Military Telegraph stamps used in the Sudan campaign are listed with prices and cancels, as well as the 1887 overprints. British Forces in Egypt now include a listing of British stamps cancelled during the Tel el-Kebir and Suakin campaigns and there follows the usual listing of NAAFI seals and Army Post stamps, though it is interesting to see the crazy price for the Fouad 3 millièmes green on cover has been eliminated.

As I do not collect Sudan I am not really qualified to comment at length on its listings. My overall impression at first sight is that this is a welcome addition to the Gibbons repertoire and a worthwhile updating of our collecting country. But at £25.95, it is not cheap!

John Davis (ESC 213)

A Facebook variety confirmation

Hani Sharestan (ESC 595)

While many are sceptical or leery of using Facebook, it can offer many wonderful opportunities to explore and expand our horizons and specifically as it relates to our favorite hobby. Many of you might already be aware that the Circle has an official Facebook page, which was launched in December 2015: since then the page has attracted many members and non-members both experts and beginners: 384 at the last count!

Every week there are numerous posts with members sharing scans of new acquisitions, queries, informative articles, and of course errors and varieties. Here I share one variety that has been confirmed by two different members.

It started with my visit to a local stamp show in early 2017. I spotted the stamp illustrated at right (*above*), which is Scott #3 (var.) / NP D3c (var). Immediately I noticed the coloured blob on the 20 value indicator at bottom left, so naturally I bought it. When I got home I noticed the large black dot above the Arabic "m" of "Masr". At first I thought it was part of the cancellation, but it seemed too dark so I decided to share it on the ESC Facebook page and ask if anyone had a similar stamp. To my surprise almost exactly 24 hours later another member - let's call her "Crystal" for now - shared a scan of a stamp with an identical variety (*below*). Much discussion followed among members both joyous at this new discovery but also surprised that the major catalogues seemed to have missed it. The Facebook post received numerous "Likes" and comments from members in Kuwait, San Francisco, London, Egypt, and of course Irvine (me).



The Nile Post lists the "blob on the value" variety as position 198 and as it very much resembles the blob on these two stamps we have to think that these are also position 198, but perhaps from different printing. I defer to First Issue experts on this one but have a feeling that this variety won't be missed by the next Egyptian stamp catalogue.

If you wish to explore and take part in the ESC Facebook page please search for "Egypt Study Circle" or simply point your browser to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EgyptStudyCircle/>

'O' under 'sad' discovery

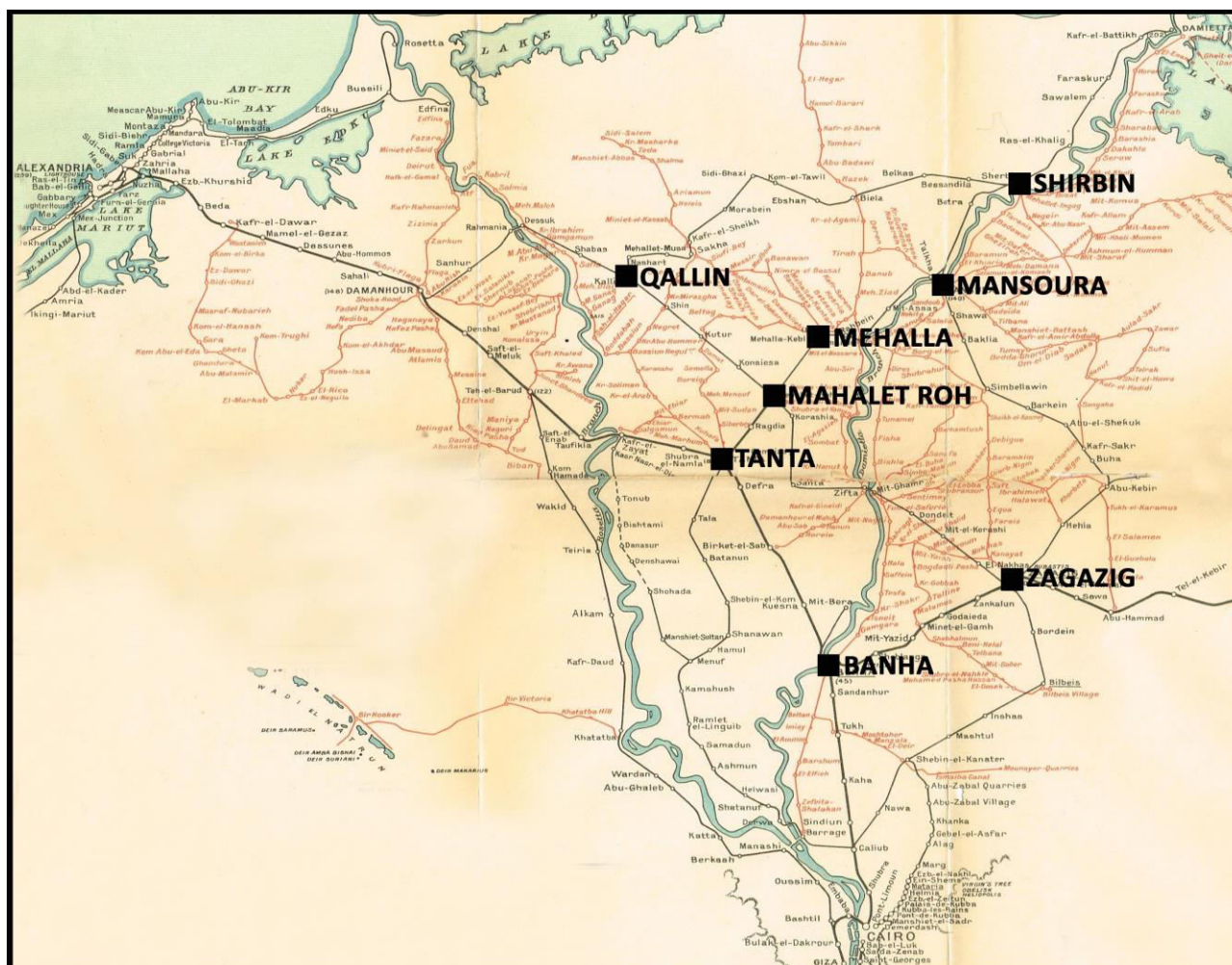
Here is a new discovery by Yasser Omar (ESC 605) on the 1955 5m Airmail stamp (NP A8): a black dotted circle under the "sad" of "al-masriyah". He made the announcement on our Facebook page because although he had seen it more than once and believed it was a constant variety, he hoped for confirmation from any colleague on the site who had full sheets to be able to identify the position and whether it occurred on different sheets. Almost immediately his Egyptian colleague Gamal Elkhazzab confirmed it as stamp 18 on the B/39 sheet, and Atef Sarian (ESC 639) in London was able to produce photographs of both B/39 sheets showing that the discovery was constant on both.



Railway stations during 1879-1914, Part 2

Ronny Van Pellecom (ESC 618) and Alain Stragier

Continuing their review of Egypt's railway stations and their postal markings during the De La Rue period (see QC 264, pp.101-108), the writers examine the major stations of the Nile Delta area



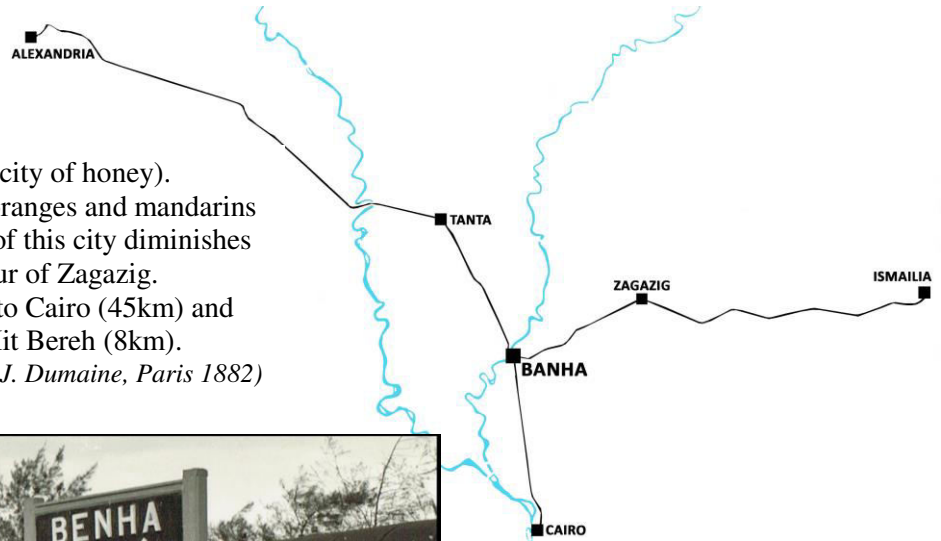
The Delta rail network (L. Wiener: L'Égypte et ses chemins de fer)

The first railway projects were aimed at establishing a transit route in Lower Egypt, from Alexandria to a Red Sea port, shortening the journey from England to India.

To connect the Red Sea with the Mediterranean, Muhammad Ali wanted to use the canals to Cairo and cross the desert by rail. He studied the route by R. H. Galloway, but Galloway's death (July 3 1836 in Alexandria), the dissatisfaction of the Turkish rulers and the rivalry between France and Britain delayed the preparatory works until July 12 1851, when Abbas Pasha instructed Robert Stephenson to build the Alexandria railway to Cairo and Suez. It advanced rapidly: the Nile, at Kilometre 104, was reached in 1854; Tanta in 1855 and Cairo via Banha in 1856 quickly followed. The railway to Suez, via Zagazig and Ismailia, was completed in 1868.

1. BANHA: Station on the Alexandria-Cairo (1854-56) and Banha-Zagazig (1860)-Ismailia (1868) lines,

Benha el Assal (the city of honey).
 Important station. Honey, oranges and mandarins
 exported. The importance of this city diminishes
 day by day in favour of Zagazig.
 Double track connection to Cairo (45km) and
 single track line to Mit Bereh (8km).
 (*Égypte – Notes et Itinéraires, J. Dumaine, Paris 1882*)

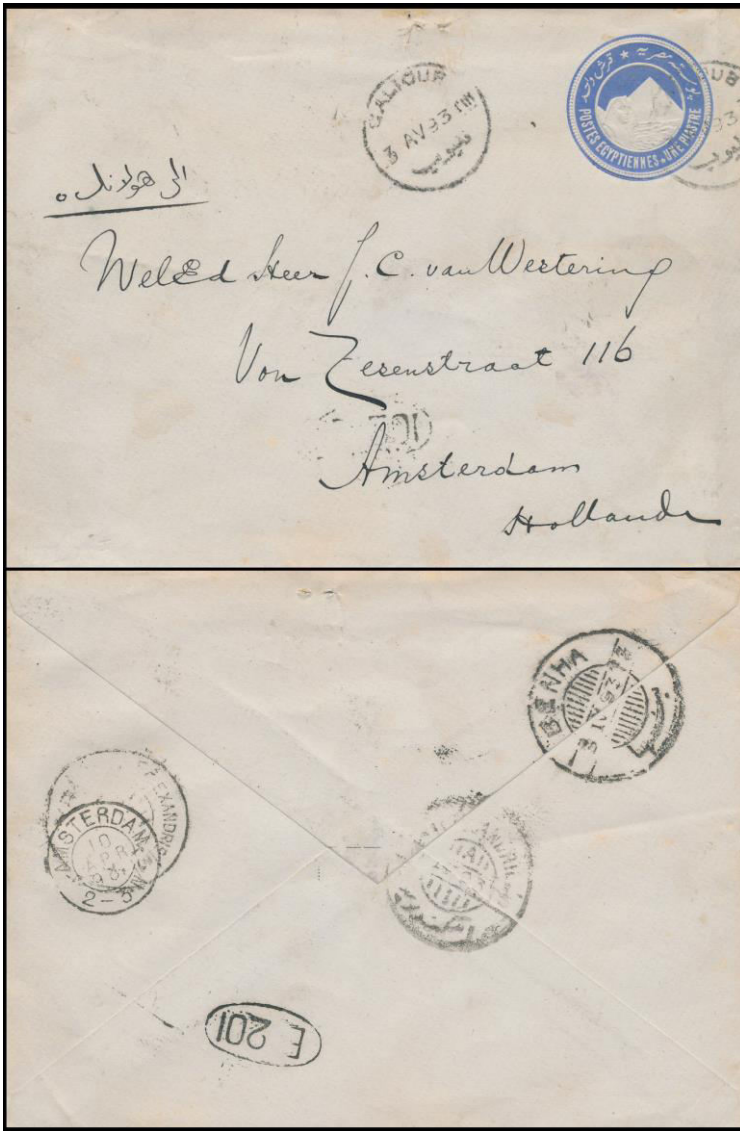


Benha station in about 1950

The railway station was opened in 1856, the post office (in town) in 1865. This post office was responsible for distribution of the mails until the station post office came into use.



Five-millièmes postcard from CAIRE 12 IV 90, travelled on the Cairo-Alexandria line to BENHA (regular post office in town), where it was sorted (13 IV 90) to the Benha-Zagazig line and arrival in ZAGAZIG 13 IV 90



This cover from GALIOUB
3 AV 93 travelled to
AMSTERDAM 10 APR 93.

By train Galioub-Benha (arrival mark
3 IV 93), and then sorted
to
ALEXANDRIA 3 IV 93 via the
Caire-Alexandrie line

Five-millième postcard
with TPO SUEZ-CAIRE
16 06 03 to ROE (Italy)
22 06 03

The mail left the railway in
Banha and was
transported to BENHA
town post office 16 VI 03
to be sorted to the Cairo-
Alexandria line with arrival
in ALEXANDRIE 17 VI 03



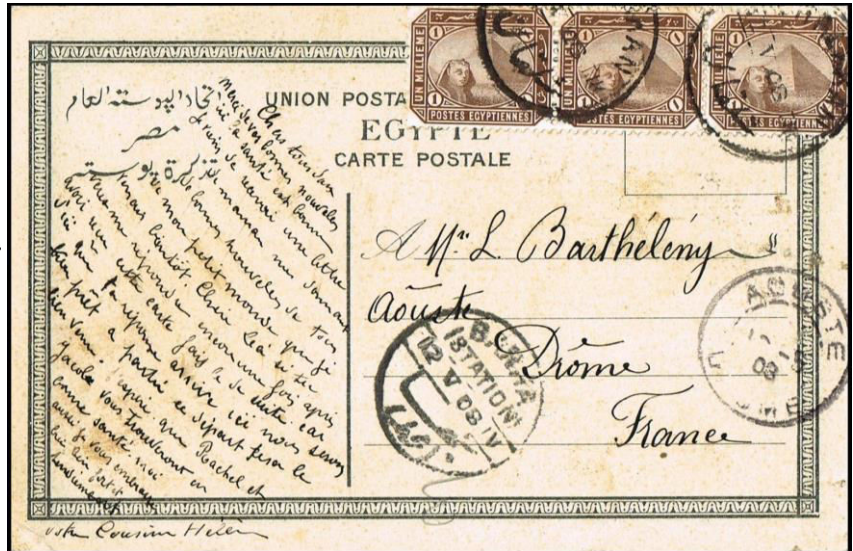
ST_BA_01			
	BANHA (STATION)	1 st Date 30 AO 05	
	BANHA (MAHATTA)	Last Date 16 IX 08	
STATION Large characters 3 mm			
ST_BA_02			
	BANHA (STATION)	1 st Date 29 SE 05	
	BANHA (MAHATTA)	Last Date 19 MR 09	
STATION Small characters 2,5 mm			
ST_BA_03			
	BANHA STATION	1 st Date 4 IV 09	
	13 I 10 6.30 P.M. BANHA (MAHATTA)	Last Date 4 III 12	
STATION Large characters 3 mm			
ST_BA_04			
	BANHA STATION	1 st Date 6 XII 09	
	3 - VII 09 4.30 P.M. BANHA (MAHATTA)	Last Date 10 I 14	
STATION Small characters 2,5 mm			

All single ring dm 27mm

Seen as		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	TRANSIT
X		X



Postcard with TPO
 PORT-SAID-CAIRO 28 X 06
 to MANCHESTER NO 6 06.
 Carried on Port-Said-Cairo line to
 Banha. Transit via
 BANHA STATION 28 X 90
 (year reversed – ST_BA_01)
 to Cairo-Alexandria line.
 Arrival ALEXANDRIA A 29 X 06



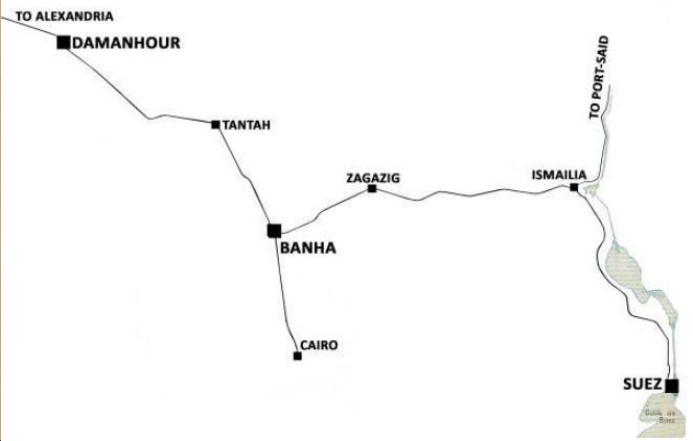
CHALAKAN 12 V 08 via the Barrage-Banha light railway line to BANHA (STATION) (ST_BA_01) and changed there to the Cairo-Alexandria line for onward routing to France



Cover from Mekke to DAMANHOUR 29 XI 07

Arrival by ship at SUEZ 28 XI 07 and then by train via the Suez-Ismailia-Zagazig line up to BANHA STATION (ST_BA_02).

Changed there to the Cairo-Alexandria line and eventual arrival in Damanhour



Departure from
 BANHA STATION 19 III 08
 (ST_BA_02)
 to SAINT ETIENNE 24 3 08
 via
 ALEXANDRIA E 19 III 08



Cover from BANHA D 4 MR 12
 via BANHA STATION 4 III 12
 (ST_BA_03)
 to the post office of
 Boulak/Cairo.

Transported by the
 ALEXANDRIA-CAIRO T.P.O.
 4- III 12 T.12
 and arrival CAIRO 4 III 12



Card from BIELLA (Italy) 3.9.10 to Ramleh or Cairo (handwritten in Arabic: 'please seek out the recipient').
 Arrival in CAIRO 5 IX 10 – not found – and sent to Ramleh: BACOS 7 IX 10
 Not found in Ramleh: handwritten 'try Banha'. BANHA STATION 8 IX 10 (ST_BA_04) to BANHA 8 IX 10
 Not found in Banha and returned to CAIRO A 8 IX 10

Mod. N° 232 اورتيك لمره ٣٣٣
 N° d'ordre 33 نمره متسلسله

ADMINISTRATION DES CHEMINS DE FER ÉGYPTIENS
 مصلحة السكه الحديد المصريه

Station de _____ محطة
 Le _____ تاريخ ومكان

Je soussigné déclare que :— انا الواضع اسمي فيه ادناه اشهد بان
 M _____ حضره
 Employé à l'Administration de _____ الاستخدم بمصلحة السكه
 a obtenu les billets suivants :— اخذ التذاكر اليبينه ادناه
 _____ billets _____ classe pour lui عدد _____ تذاكر درجه _____ لخصرته
 N° _____ نمره _____
 _____ billets _____ classe pour domestique عدد _____ تذاكر درجه _____ للتوايح
 N° _____ نمره _____

Bagages Kilogrammes _____ Bulletin N° _____
 واخذ بوكيتيه نمره _____ من _____ كيلوغرام عفش
 Le tout en destination de _____ الوجه الي محطة

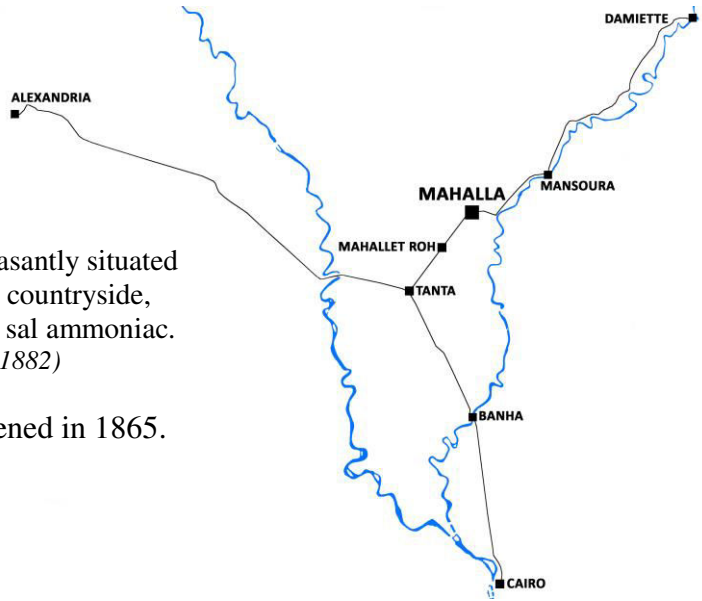
Le Chef de gare, ناظر محطة

Train ticket from Banha 05.09.1900 to Ramleh/Alexandria

2. MAHALLA: On the Tanta-Mansoura (1863)-Damiette (1869) line

20,000 inhabitants, chief town of district, pleasantly situated on the edge of a canal, in the middle of green countryside, with manufactures of cotton and factories for sal ammoniac. (Égypte – Notes et Itinéraires, J. Dumaine, Paris 1882)

The regular post office (in town) was opened in 1865.



ST_MA_01			
	MAHALLA (STATION)	1 st Date 17 VI 88	Double ring 28/14mm 7 Bars
	12 VIII 88 I	Last Date 10 XI 94	
	MAHALLA (MAHATTA)		

Seen as		
DEPART	ARRIVAL	TRANSIT
X		

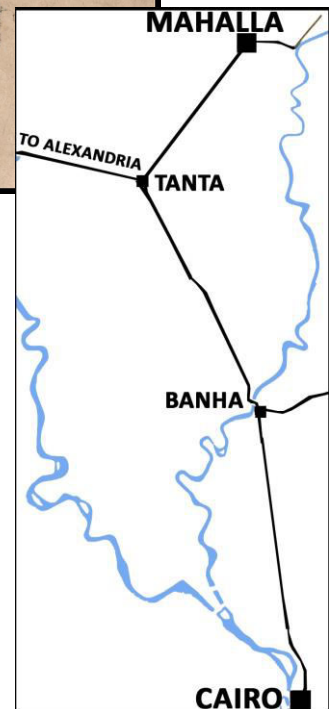


Provisional 3m on 5m card MAHALLA (STATION) via TANTA 10 XI 94 to ALEXANDRIE II XI 94



This cover presents two station cancellations, MAHALLA (STATION) in departure and TANTA-S in transit, on the same day.

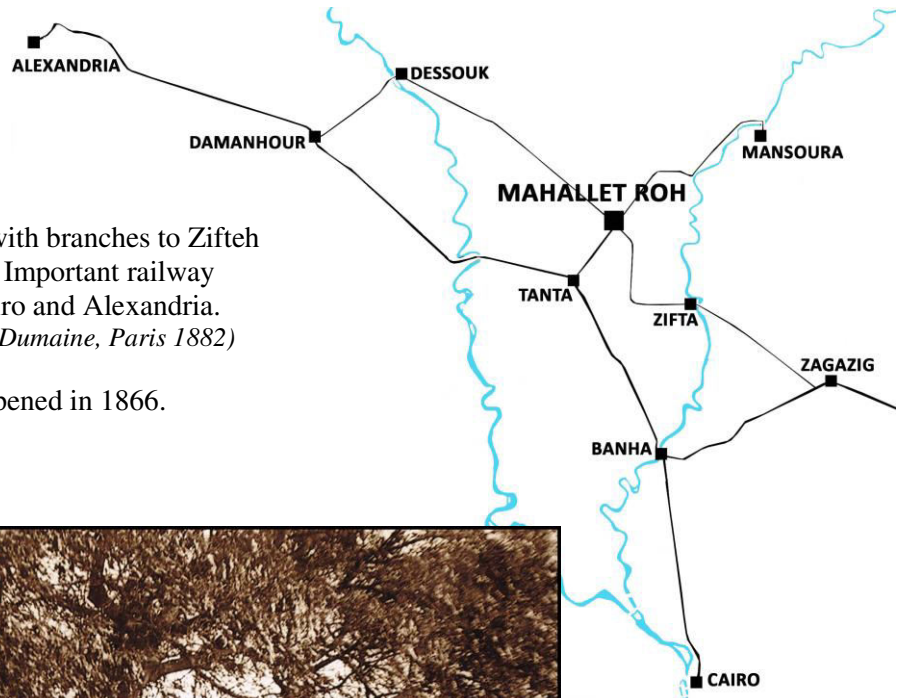
Departure from MAHALLA (STATION) 12 VIII 88 via TANTA-S (ie, STATION) 12 VIII 88 TI, and then on to the Alexandria-Cairo line for eventual arrival at CAIRE A 12 VIII 88



3. MAHALLET-ROH: On the Tanta-Mahalla-Mansoura (1863) and Dessouk-Zifta lines

Village of little significance, with branches to Zifteh (38km) and Dessouk (59km). Important railway giving access to Damiette, Cairo and Alexandria. (*Égypte – Notes et Itinéraires, J. Dumaine, Paris 1882*)

The post office in town was opened in 1866.



Glass lantern slide of Mahallet Roh Station (ca. 1910)

ST_MR_01			
	MAHALLET-ROH (STAT.)	1 st Date 18 IX 92*	Double ring 28/14mm 7 Bars
	21 X 99 T2	Last Date 5 VIII 05*	
	MAHALLET-ROK (MAHATTA)		

* V.Varjabedian (QC 196, March 2001).

Seen as		
DEPART	ARRIVAL	TRANSIT
X	X	X



SANTAH 22 II 98 to Mahalla el Koubra via MAHALLET-ROH (STAT) 22 II 98

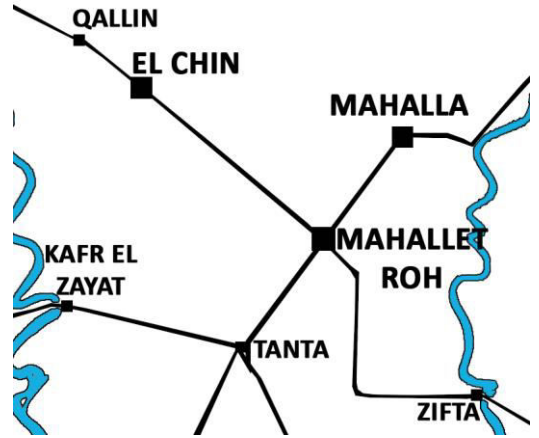


Registered postcard, locally used from MAHALLET-ROH (STAT) to Mahallet-Roh 21 X 99 T2





Registered letter from Mahalla 29 II 04 to Mahallet Roh



Sent from Mahalla with the railway on top, written in Arabic: Mahalla-El Chin

MAHALLA-CHIN I III 04 TI
Arrival in EL-CHIN I III T2

There the error was spotted, and resent to Mahallet Roh

Arrival
MAHALLET-ROH (STAT.) I III 04 T4

Railway bill from Mahallet-Roh 22 11 83

Form titled "ADMINISTRASION DES CHEMINS DE FER EGYPTIENS" (Administration of Egyptian Railways). It is a "Certificat" (Certificate) for a passenger. The station is "محطة زرع" (Zira'ah Station). The bill is for a 2nd class ticket. The amount is "٩ ٢٠" (9.20). The date is "22 11 83". There is a stamp from "محطة زرع" (Zira'ah Station).

A postal tax not easy to explain

André Navari (ESC 534)

Retracing the journey of this letter is not the most difficult of tasks. But to understand and explain the postal tax demanded a little more of my time, and the co-operation – for which I am truly grateful - of other researchers on my favourite forum¹.

Here is what we discovered: from December 15 1905 Great Britain benefited in Egypt from a "favoured postal rate" equal to the domestic rate, for letters only. This reciprocal agreement followed that granted to the British military in Egypt. Austria had a similar benefit from July 1 1912 to August 1914, on account of war.

So the postage is correct. But Mrs Bowman, the recipient, had left on holiday at the Hotel Schweitzerhof (now a de luxe five-star hotel) in Lucerne. Someone, a relative or servant, changed the destination address and the letter was handed to the postman or dropped in a postbox. It was processed by the Kensington post office on March 31 and reached Lucerne next day! But on arrival it was taxed the full amount equivalent to the first step of the letter rate for Swiss mail overseas, that is, 0.25 Swiss francs for 20 grams (indicated by a 25 in blue²). The question is: why? The British postal agent understood the letter to be normally franked and placed it back into the postal system without modification beyond the transit stamp of March 31. But the Swiss postal agent understood it to be insufficiently paid because the first-step rate for foreign mails from Egypt was 1 piastre (= 10 millièmes since 1888), and so there was a deficiency of 5 millièmes. Then he calculated the tax as follows:

Swiss rate = 25

Tax = ----- x 5 (= insufficiency) x 2 as a penalty = 25 centimes in Swiss francs

Egyptian rate = 10

However, the Universal Postal Convention of Washington, which came into force on January 1 1899, provided that³:

Article XXV – Redirected Correspondence.

1. - In execution of Article XIV of the Convention, and subject to the exceptions specified in paragraph 2 following, correspondence of every kind circulating in the Union, addressed to persons who have changed their residence, is treated by the delivering office as if it had been addressed directly from the place of origin to the place of the new destination.



Letter franked by 5 millièmes DLR from Cairo 24 III 06 to London. Arrived March 30 (reverse), readdressed to Switzerland next day and taxed in Lucerne on April 1 with two postage dues (Zumstein 17+19) for 0.25 Swiss francs

2. – With regard to inland letters or packets of one country of the Union, which enter, in consequence of redirection, into the service of another country of the Union, or to letters or packets exchanged between two countries of the Union which have adopted in their reciprocal relations a lower rate than the ordinary Union postage, but entering, in consequence of redirection, into the service of a third country of the Union as regards which the rate is the ordinary Union postage, or, lastly, to letters or packets exchanged, so far as their first transmission is concerned, between places in two neighbouring countries of the Union within a radius for which there exists a reduced rate, but redirected to other places in these countries or to another country of the Union, the following rules are observed :

1 ° Articles unpaid or insufficiently paid for their first transmission are subjected by the delivering office to the charge applicable to articles of the same nature addressed directly from the place of origin to the new destination.

2 ° Articles regularly prepaid for their first transmission, on which the complementary postage pertaining to the further transmission has not been paid before their second despatch, are subjected, according to their nature, by the delivering office, to a charge equal to the difference between the amount of postage already prepaid and that which would have been chargeable if the articles had been originally despatched to the new destination. **The amount of the difference must be expressed in francs and centimes, by the side of the stamps, by the redirecting office.**

In both cases the charges above referred are leviable from the addressee, even if, owing to successive redirections, the items should return to the country of origin.

Thus, by omitting to indicate that tax was due by a T mark, the amount of 0.125 Francs Or ⁴ and a written mention indicating a redirection, the British postal agent unwittingly penalised the recipient of this letter. If Mrs Bowman had been better informed about the subtleties of UPU regulations and the different postal rates of the countries concerned in this mailing, she could have filed a complaint ...

I should be very pleased to hear if members can report on any similar redirected letters properly taxed by the retransmitting office.

• A slightly different version of this text was published in French on the author's blog on May 17 2017. See <https://histoire-postale.blogspot.fr/2017/05/lettre-affranchie-par-un-tp-5milliemes.html>.

FOOTNOTES :

. See <http://collections.conceptbb.com/t16179-vous-qui-savez-tout-tarifs-postaux-suisse> (in French).

². Source: http://cphh.ch/resources/postal_regulations.htm and particularly http://cphh.ch/resources/tarif_abroad/25_Tarif_gen_Etranger_1899.pdf , page 3 (in French). The 230 in blue is probably Mrs Bowman's room number.

³. In the text below Union refers to the Universal Postal Union (UPU). This text was translated by the author from French on the French National Library site at <http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k58130145/f1.image> , page 10 - and only later was an official bilingual version found at <http://www.gbpa.org.uk/information/downloads/files/official-documents-misc/UPU%20Convention%20of%20Washington%20with%20Detailed%20Regulations%20%281897%29.pdf>

⁴. Probably rounded to 0.13 or 0.15 according to the rule of the time.

Members' changes

New Member:

ESC 722 Michael Ryan, 2660 Kelley Drive, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001, United States
(Egypt, Yemen, Polar, former countries, engineering)

Lapsed: ESC 625 Mohab Akhnoukh **ESC 699** Samer El-Zalabany **ESC 719** Mohammed El-Kanany

Egyptian ration stamps

Michael Florer (ESC 706)

I first learned about Egyptian ration stamps via pages 203-204 of Peter Feltus' *Catalogue of Egyptian Revenue Stamps* (1982). That brief write-up of 36 years ago remains the only published information I have been able to find on the subject.

Mr Feltus discusses a mounted and annotated collection of 568 petrol ration stamps in the Palace Collections that spanned the decade of the 1940s. He explains that all the stamps are inscribed with the Arabic word for kerosene but that their use was meant for motor fuel, not cooking fuel. Some issues are denominated in gallons, but the vast majority are in litres. He concludes by stating that the stamps continued well after the 1940s but that only three from 1957 are known to him.



Fig. 1 Various petrol ration stamps, 1940s to 1960s

I have been collecting these stamps for about ten years. Nearly all seem to be scarce. I have been able to acquire 135 different stamps plus a few varieties and two proofs spanning the period 1940 to 1975 with an undated stamp that is supposed to be from ca 1980-90. So I can certainly expand upon those recorded to include numerous issues beyond those in the Palace Collections. I have also found a single diesel ration stamp. It is very similar to my last petrol stamp and it, too, is supposed to date from 1980-90. Along the way, I learned that Egypt also issued stamps for the rationing of sugar during World War II, so I started collecting them as well. I now have 29 stamps and five proofs, dating from 1942 to 1944 and denominated in dirhams or okas.

The illustrations show petrol, diesel, and sugar ration stamps and proofs. I joined the Circle in the hope of learning more about these obscure but fascinating stamps. I was disappointed to find that no one had written any articles in the *QC* on this topic. That is not surprising, though, considering that these stamps are well off the beaten path, being used neither for postage nor revenue. So I present this introductory article that may start a discussion. I am very interested in the whereabouts of the mounted and annotated collection of petrol stamps studied by Peter Feltus. I would love to own this collection and if that is not possible, a set of colour scans would be the next best thing. I also want to learn more about the issues of the 1950s and later, as well as the diesel and sugar issues. Were ration stamps issued for other commodities?

My ultimate goal is to publish a catalogue of Egyptian ration stamps. All feedback is welcome. You can reach me at Michael Florer, 1805 Biglerville Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-8030 USA or mrflorer@comcast.net.



Fig. 2 Sugar ration stamps from World War II. Fig. 3 Diesel ration stamp. Fig. 4 Ration stamp proofs for petrol (left) and sugar (right)

Resealing labels – can you help?

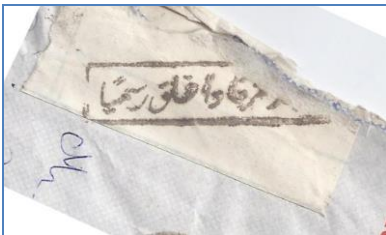
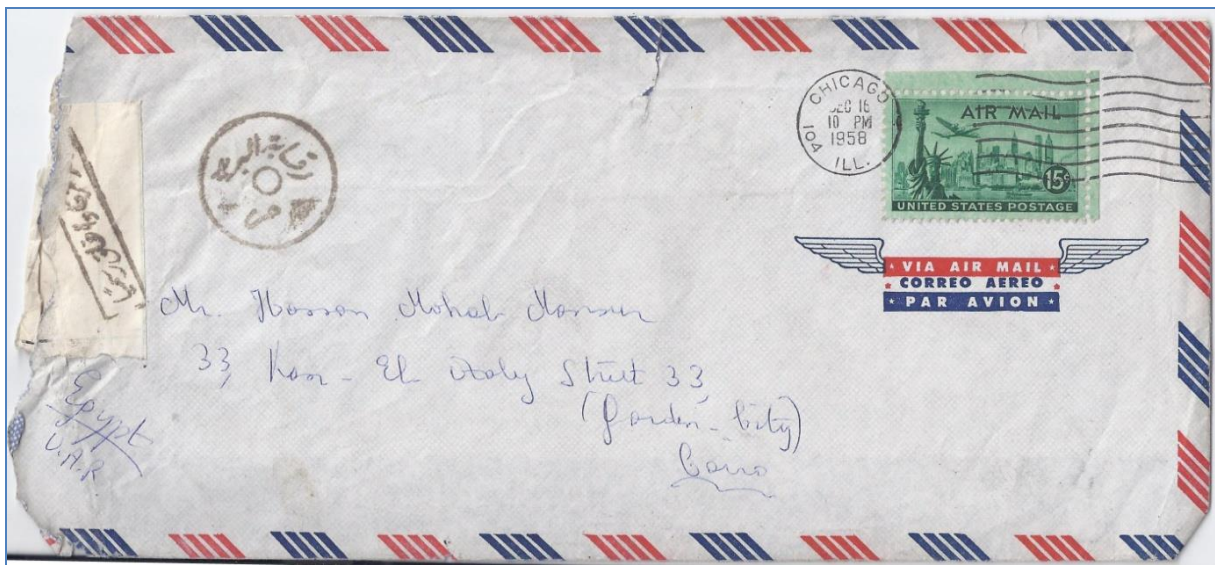
Andy Gould (ESC 393)

I was sorting through my collection of re-sealing labels and re-sealed postal history recently, and took a good look at a group of covers bearing “non standard” labels.

While covers, documents, airgraphs etc. sealed with “Egypt Government” labels are met with quite regularly, other labels were also used from time to time, possibly out of simple expediency.

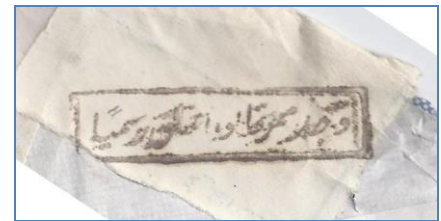
My first question is to ask whether any of our members fluent in Arabic would be kind enough to offer a translation of the text of the labels pictured?

My second question is to ask whether members have any further examples of these particular labels being used on other occasions? If so, I would be very interested in hearing from you.



1958 cover Chicago to Cairo
[above].

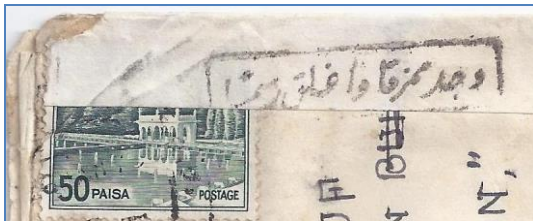
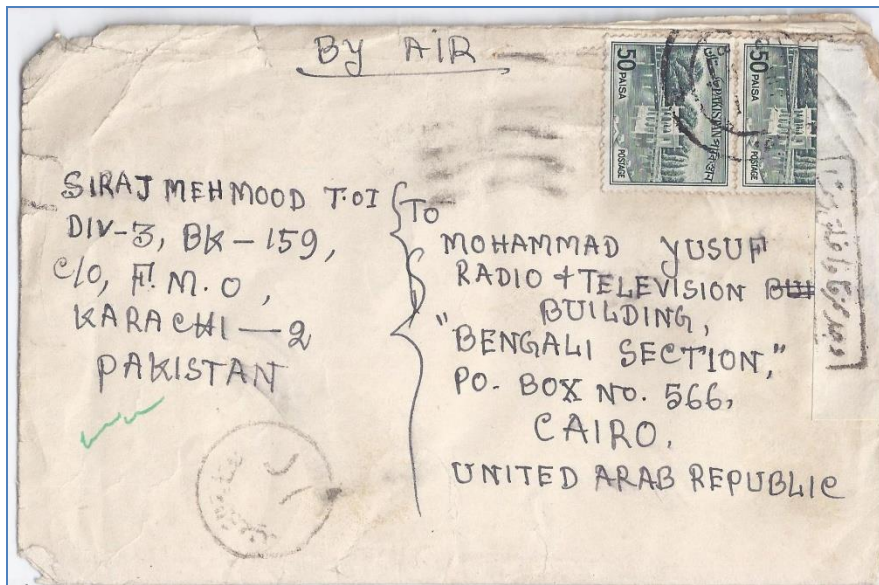
White label with cachets front
(left) and back (right)



My first two covers each have a white blank label used to re-seal the envelope and have similar black handstamps front and back. The covers were sent to Egypt 15 years apart.

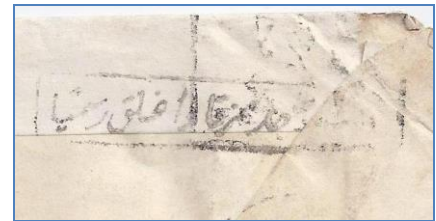
The first (*above*) is a 1958 cover from Chicago to Cairo and the second (*next page*) is a 1973 cover from Karachi to Cairo. I understand, from a note that came with one of the covers, that the text may read: “*Found Damaged and Closed Officially*”. Confirmation would be appreciated.

I believe these handstamps may have been utilised when a supply of re-sealing labels was not to hand, but there may well have been another more specific reason for their use. Can you help?

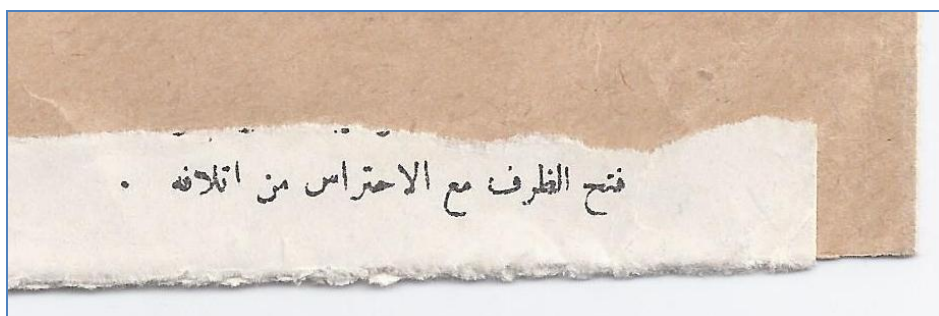
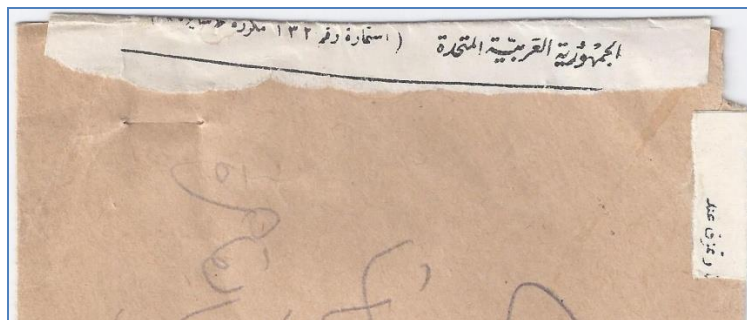


1973 cover Karachi to Cairo [above].

White label with cachets front (left) and back (right).



The next item is a part cover (*below*), sent and addressed locally and re-sealed with white labels bearing black text. Again, any help with a translation of the text and the use of these labels would be very welcome.

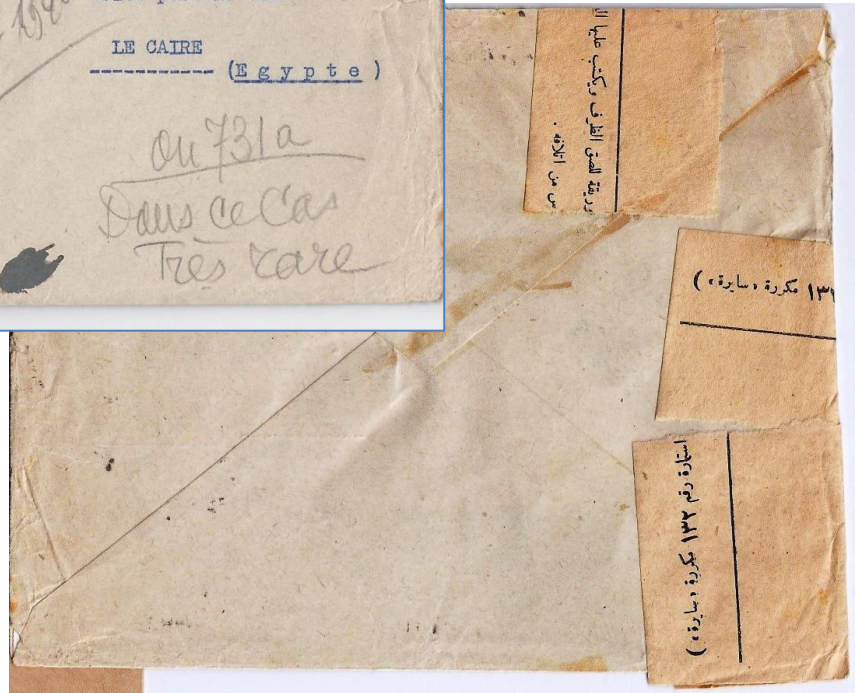


The last item is a cover from Cognac to Messrs. Matouk Frères & Co, an advertising company in Cairo, and is dated August 21 1948. There are several pencil annotations on the cover regarding the stamps in what I believe to be the hand of Gabriel Boulad.



The cover is re-sealed with buff labels bearing text in black. Any help with a translation of the text and the use of these particular labels would be welcome.

Thank you for your help.



**Not quite unique
... here's another**

We have received a brief note from our member Bernd-Dieter Buscke (ESC 533), of Mainz in Germany, pointing out that in *QC* 263 (page 84) it is said that a tête-bêche 5 para pair of the Third Issue, from the Asyut hoard, is unique. Sorry, but it is not, he says, illustrating a quite delightful example dated January 1 1877 from his own collection.

New postal rates 2018

Tarek Mokhtar (ESC 692)

[The Circle is enormously grateful to our good friend Tarek Mokhtar, of Chibin el Kom, who has gone to considerable trouble to make available these new rates, which are so difficult to discover]

New postal rates have been introduced for Egyptian correspondence starting on January 1 2018. The most important points are presented in the following article:

First, internal correspondence according to Regulation No 857 of 2017: weights for internal mail have been divided into five categories up to 500 grams. Correspondence over 500g is treated as a mail parcel. The registration fee for internal letters is now set at a fixed amount of LE 4.50, and judging from the table below, Avis de Reception (AR) costs a flat LE5.00.

Weight	Normal letter	Registered	AR letters
Up to 20 gr	LE2.50	LE7.00	LE12.00
21 to 50 gr	3.50	8.00	13.00
51 to 100 gr	4.50	9.00	14.00
101 to 250 gr	7.00	11.50	16.50
251 to 500 gr	9.00	13.50	18.50

Second: foreign correspondence, according to Regulation No 855 dated December 28 2017. The multiple weights in foreign missions were reduced to only six categories: 1 to 20 grams; 21 to 100g; 101 to 250g; 251 to 500g; 501 to 1000g; 1001 to 2000 grams.

The registration fee for foreign letters is set at LE30, and a bar code must be placed on all registered external letters. The new regulation also made clear that postal services to the following countries remain “on hold” (ie, not in operation) until further notice: USA, Australia, Kyrgyzstan, Uganda, Burma, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Libya, Qatar, Brunei Sultanate. The world has been divided into several areas for rating purposes, viz:

The **Arab group**, comprising Morocco, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, Jordan, Palestine, Algeria, and the rest of the Arab countries.

Weight	To 20 gr	To 100 gr	To 250 gr	To 500 gr	To 1000 gr	To 2000 gr
Air Mail	LE6	LE21	LE48	LE92	LE185	LE368
Surface Mail	5	19	44	84	168	326

Europe 1 (Netherlands, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Russia, Austria, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Italy and Denmark).

Air Mail	6	25	56	110	218	436
Surface Mail	5	22	51	100	200	400

Europe 2 (Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Latvia, Gibraltar, Croatia, Serbia, Malta, Norway, Sweden, Portugal).

Air Mail	7	28	67	130	260	
Surface Mail	6	26	61	120	238	

Central Asia group (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, India, Afghanistan, Israel, Pakistan and Iran).

Air Mail	7	28	67	130	260	520
Surface Mail	6	26	61	118	238	474

South & East Asia (Japan, Taiwan, North/South Korea, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia and Hong Kong).

Air Mail	10	40	95	185	368	737
Surface Mail	8	36	86	168		673

North Africa (Cameroon, Angola, Congo, Malawi, Comoros, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia and Eritrea).

Air Mail	7	28	66	130	258	
Surface Mail	6	26	60	118	235	

South Africa (Zambia, Benin, Sierra Leone, Togo, Mozambique, Niger, Gambia, Senegal, S Africa, Swaziland).

Air Mail	8	33	80	155	307	615
Surface Mail	7	30	72	140	280	560

North America group (Canada and the United States of America).

Air Mail	9	36	86	168	337	675
Surface Mail	8	33	79	154	308	

South America (Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Bahamas, Suriname, Bermuda, Trinidad & Tobago).

Air Mail	11	46	115	221	445	885
Surface Mail	10	42	105	202	405	808

Caribbean and South America (Brazil, Mexico, El Salvador, Panama, Costa Rica, Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic).

Air Mail	10	40	97	190		
Surface Mail	9	37	88	173		

Pacific group (Australia, New Zealand and Fiji).

Air Mail	11	52	125	242		
Surface Mail	10	47	112	221		

New Issues update: The Study Circle owes a debt of gratitude to Paul Green (ESC 128) for pointing out that recent editions of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* have carried extensive update listings of Egypt's elusive New Issues, viz specifically March (a vast listing) and October 2017, April 2018 (extending the catalogue listing to October 2017, SG 2702-11, including two a-number additions to the 2-012-15 Pharaohs definitives issue), and June 2018 (bringing the listing up to December 2017). Several numbers are left for stamps not yet issued or not yet received. The UPU numbering system (<http://www.wnsstamps.post>) so far lists just one stamp (££2.5 Post Day) for 2018.

Strangers on a Train in Sudan

Anabright Hay (ESC 600)



The registered cover from Khartoum to Hollywood made its journey in only four days

Only a fan of obscure movies would have picked up the name Farley Granger on an envelope that was sent by registered mail from Khartoum in Sudan on November 20 1952 and arrived promptly in North Hollywood, California, only four days later. I am obviously such a fan. The Air Mail envelope was among some Sudanese postal history items I purchased recently at a German auction.

Farley Granger was an American actor best known for his two collaborations with the English director Alfred Hitchcock, *Rope* in 1948 and *Strangers on a Train* in 1951. This is where I had encountered his name and it obviously stuck in my memory. In *Strangers on a Train* he plays a tennis star drawn into committing a crime after meeting a particularly strange and wealthy man on a railway journey. Granger continued to appear on stage, film and television well into his seventies and died at 85 in New York in 2011.

Why exactly a young woman named Lucie Kaprielian - her name and post office box address were on the back of the envelope - was writing to Granger (*right*, with Robert Walker in *Strangers*) is a mystery. The envelope was opened and empty. Its contents were no doubt happily received by Granger or his staff at Studio City, California. The envelope carries a blue on white printed Khartoum 1 registration label and is franked with a total of 9 piastres and 5 millièmes of the long 1951 definitive issue. One of the stamps is upside down ... perhaps she was in a hurry to post it.

Whatever the story behind it, the envelope conjures up wonderful visions of a crowded movie theatre in the exotic Anglo Egyptian Sudan of the 1950s. Somewhere in the audience a star-struck young girl felt compelled to write a fan letter and send it to an actor in sunny California.



Egypt

in London



Egypt items and collections feature regularly in our London auctions. Our **British Empire & Foreign Countries** auction on **September 19–20** will feature fine material from the exceptional collection formed by Alan Jeyes. Each sale is available to view, with additional illustrations, on our website, www.grosvenorauctions.com, and our exceptional printed catalogues are generously distributed, complimentary copies being available on request.

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