

The
Quarterly Circular
of
**THE
EGYPT**

STUDY CIRCLE

December Quarter 2018 – Vol XXIII No 8 – Whole Series No 267 – Pages 171-195



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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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**The Egypt Study Circle wishes members and their families
Season's Greetings and a Happy and Successful 2019**

2019 Meetings

Our first meeting will be ...

Feb 16, 2pm	Stampex	Revenues and Fiscals	All members
<p>For further information about our exciting future calendar, please see the next two pages</p>			

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Website: egyptstudycircle.org.uk



Facebook

Exciting programme of ESC events

Our Meetings Secretary, **Jon Aitchison** (ESC 661), has been working hard to prepare an exciting programme of events for members and guests in the coming year leading to the London International in May 2020.

- Sat Feb 16 2019, 2-4pm** **Spring Stampex meeting** at the Business Design Centre.
Topic: Revenues and Fiscals. Please bring something to show.
- Spring 2019** **Club postal auction.** More details soon.
- Fri Apr 26 to Sun Apr 28 2019** **Joint weekend meeting** with the Sudan Study Circle at the Morley Hayes Hotel, Derby. Everyone welcome including spouses and day visitors. Approximate cost £105 pppn, d,b&b in a single room or £75 in a double. See opposite for more details.
- May 29 to June 2 2019** **Egypt Study Circle luncheon** and meeting at the Stockholmia exhibition, Sweden. Precise date and more details soon.
- Sat Jul 6 2019, 2pm** **AGM, new Annual Competition plus TPOs Part 2**
The Delta, EEF military TPOs, steamer TPOs and the Western Desert, presented by Sami Sadek. Date/venue to be confirmed
See below for details of the new club competition.
- Mon Sept 9 to Mon Sept 16 2019** **Continental Stamp Exhibition - PSE 90**
A major international exhibition in Cairo to mark the 90th anniversary of the Philatelic Society of Egypt. See details opposite. The Stampex meeting has been cancelled as it fell during the Egyptian exhibition.
- Thurs Nov 7, 2019, 1pm** **Egyptian Hotels**, presented by Richard Wheatley at the Royal Philatelic Society London. Display opens 1pm, PowerPoint presentation at 5pm. Held at the RPSL's new premises, so a great opportunity to look around. More details to follow.
- Sat Nov 9 2019, all day** **Massive room auction.** Viewing from 11am, sale starts at 2pm
Venue to be confirmed.
- Wed Dec 4 to Sat Dec 7 2019** **Monacophil 2019 at Monte Carlo**, Monaco, where the ESC, led by Hany Salam, will present the major display, 'The World of Egyptian Philately & Postal History during the Mohamed Ali Dynasty, 1798-1952'. A special ESC luncheon will be held.
- A Saturday in Feb 2020 2-4pm** **Meeting, subject Postcards.** Date and venue to be confirmed.
- Sat May 2 to Sat May 9 2020** **London 2020 International Exhibition.** The Egypt Study Circle will have a meeting at the event. Details in due course.

THE NEW E.S.C. ANNUAL CLUB COMPETITION

On Saturday July 6 2019 we will hold the first Egypt Study Circle annual competition. It will be for 16 sheets, which is a single frame entry, on any Egyptian subject. The competition will be judged using national judging rules so that the entrants can see what they would achieve in a national or international exhibition. The winner will receive a certificate and, if he or she wishes, the Egypt Study Circle will pay to have the exhibit entered in a national exhibition. Entries will be judged under the most appropriate national class, which are Traditional, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Revenues, Cinderella, Postcards, Thematic, Open, Maximaphily, Astrophilately, Modern and Ephemera. Details each of these classes can be found at www.abps.org.uk, then click on "International Philately", followed by clicking on the class where a full explanation will be shown.

The competition is open to all club members. We hope that several will turn up in person with their exhibits but if you cannot attend it is acceptable to send photocopies or scans to Jon Aitchison, Old Tithe Hall, Start Hill, Bishop's Stortford CM22 7TF, Great Britain, or by email to britishlocals@aol.com. Please try to enter: competition helps to develop a collection and is a good way to promote Egyptian philately.

ESC WEEKEND MEETING – FRI 26th-SUN 28th APRIL 2019

In April the Egypt Study Circle is holding a weekend meeting at the Morley Hayes Hotel in Derby, U.K., which will be a joint meeting with the Sudan Study Circle. Weekend philatelic events feature in most stamp society calendars and are always great fun. The ESC is now trying the format, from the afternoon of Friday April 26 until lunchtime on Sunday April 28, and hopes it will become a regular annual feature.

The Morley Hayes Hotel has been used many times by the Sudan Study Group, who recommend it highly. We are currently waiting for confirmation of prices but believe it will be about £105 per night, dinner, bed and breakfast, for single occupancy, or £75 per head for a double room. Most attendees will book for Friday and Saturday nights but your stay can be extended if you wish. Dinner only on Friday or Saturday for those attending but not staying at the hotel is £35 and the day visitor rate if you are not staying at the hotel is £13.

People attending the meeting will be encouraged to display, but it is not a requirement. There will be three main themes, TPOs, airmails and airgraphs, and incoming and transit mail via Egypt and Sudan. You are not however restricted to these topics and displays on any Egypt or Sudan subject will be welcomed, with anything with a Sudan connection particularly appropriate. The ESC has been invited to take part in the Sudan Study Group's annual competition for the Norton Collier Trophy, a nine sheet informal competition on Friday evening on any Egypt or Sudan subject. There will also be a bourse on Sunday where anyone can have a table for a small fee.

Booking forms will be available shortly. If you are interested in attending please email Jon Aitchison at britishlocals@aol.com to let him know and tell him if you will be staying or day-visiting. He will then send booking forms to everyone who expresses an interest. This will be a great social event for members of both societies and their spouses. Please come along and have a fun weekend.

CONTINENTAL STAMP EXHIBITION – PSE 90

The Philatelic Society of Egypt will celebrate its 90th anniversary with a major international exhibition in Cairo from Monday September 9 to September 16 2019. The event will actually open at 9.09am on 9/9/19! The Egypt Study Circle is fully supporting the event and hopes to have a large number of members attending. Because of the clash of dates we will not hold a Circle meeting at Stampex in September 2019.

The exhibition will have a large number of competitive frames and ESC members will be eligible and encouraged to enter. Fees should not exceed US\$50 per frame and we will be able to transport entries to and from Egypt if you cannot attend in person. Dealers will be present and there will be a range of social activities for members and their spouses throughout.

The societies will be able to organise hotels, advise on flights and make attending as easy as possible. Trips will be laid on, there is likely to be a PSE auction and the hospitality of many of the Cairo members is legendary. Previous ESC trips to Egypt have been well supported by members and have always been wonderful social gatherings. If you have attended in the past you will probably not take much persuading but for those who have not, please consider joining us. We guarantee you will have a great time.

At this stage we are gathering interest from members. If you are considering attending please send an email to Jon Aitchison to let him know. You can contact him at britishlocals@aol.com, or phone U.K. 01279 870488. Jon will keep everyone informed of developments and handle bookings and competition entries. This will definitely be the most memorable Egyptian philatelic event of the decade!

Cinderellas honour: Jon Aitchison has been invited to sign the Maurice Williams Roll of Notable Cinderella Philatelists, for services to Cinderella philately including developing notable collections, exhibiting, publishing and working to promote this branch of our hobby. The signing takes place during the Second World Cinderella Congress on May 31 at the Stockholmia exhibition in Sweden. The Editor welcomes news of similar citations and exhibition awards in general – don't be shy!

Report of the November 10 meeting – Sami Sadek, TPOs and Railways

The Chairman welcomed those present, and especially our overseas visitors, Dr Sherif Samra (ESC 311) and Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390), and looked forward to the meeting, for which Dr Sadek (ESC 559) has made enormous research to update the classic book of the late Peter Smith, now – astonishingly - 25 years old!

Those in attendance: John Davis (Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley, (Treasurer), Neil Hitchens (Webmaster), Sami Sadek (Committee), Vahe Varjabedian (Committee), Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Sherif Samra (Egypt). Apologies were received from Jon Aitchison, Andy Gould, Pauline Gittoes, Ibrahim Shoukry, Trent Ruebush, Tony Cakebread, Greg Todd, Angela Child, Anton Jansen, Mostafa El-Dars.

The Secretary noted that the Treasurer felt it time to step down after 13 fruitful years in charge of our monies, and the meeting decided that it would be appropriate to make a change just after the holiday season – so please continue sending your subscriptions to Brian Sedgley. Wearing his Auctioneer’s hat, he also reported the November Auction a success, with 42 of 46 bidders winning lots, an £11,500 turnover, and a commission for the ESC of well over £1000, after postage charges driven high by sales of books. Just over 50 per cent of the material was sold, realising almost £8,000 for Peter Andrews’ family. There will be a further auction based on the Andrews collection in the springtime.



Just three of the newly discovered Alexandria-Cairo TPO types. From left, with the Arabic for train – qitar – together with number 24; with T.P.O. 5 above town names; and with date slug in a rectangular box

Dr Sadek paid tribute to Peter Smith, and explained that it had been possible to move beyond his book because several new research areas had come to light, including particularly train timetables revealing not only the infinite efficiency of the Egyptian Railways of the period but also the infinite intricacy of the network of mail trans, national and local, throughout the country. He explained that though many new types of postmark had been discovered, we shall abide by Professor Smith’s wishes and not change the basic numbering of types, which has become well established.

He started by explaining that railway mail coaches were of two types – one for sorting, one acting as a general post office, accepting mails from stations without regular offices. This explained how some covers carried TPOs as the initial CDS. With the benefit of the rail timetables, he was able to unravel many of the secrets of the system including that express trains carrying Cairo TPO 24 actually ran from Alex to Cairo, and that Alex TPO 19 ran from Cairo to Alex.

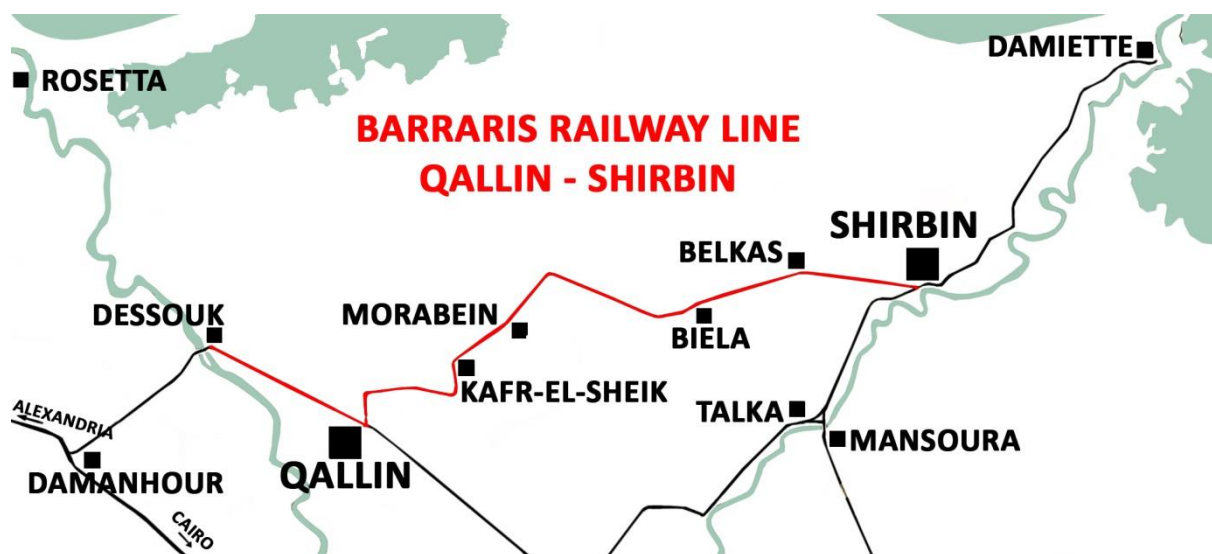
His investigation of the Port Said TPOs was able to resolve the long-standing mystery of the Port-Said-Alexandria TPO, with no single journey possible across mouth of the Delta. This was just one of several TPO markings actually covering two journeys – from Port Said south to Benha, and then dropped off and transferred to the Benha-Alexandria service. Cairo-Suez (drop-off at Ismailia) is a similar case.

Having covered at breakneck speed and in almost 200 sheets the Cairo-Alexandria, Port Said, single town TPOs and the Fayoum – with its complication of State railways and agricultural light railways of a different gauge, he promised more to come in future meetings. Those lucky members present were dazzled by his knowledge and his presentation, and we are very much looking forward to more – and the eventual book!

Railway stations during 1879-1914, Part 4

Ronny Van Pellecom (ESC 618) and Alain Stragier

5. THE BARRARIS RAILWAY LINE AND QALLIN AND SHIRBIN STATIONS



The railway line, called Barraris, was built to connect the Rosetta branch of the Nile (railway station Qallin) and the Damietta branch (railway station Shirbin). (L'Égypte et ses chemins de fer, Lionel Wiener – page 94)

The first 18 kilometres between Qallin and Kafr-el-Sheik were inaugurated in 1875. Shirbin-Belkas (16.5km) in 1888. The connection between Kafr-el-Sheik and Morabein, as well as those between Belkas and Biela, were made in 1896.

Two years later, in 1898, the last rails were laid between Morabein and Biela and thus the two arms of the Nile were connected by rail through Qallin and Shirbin.

TPOs are seen from 1900 (Travelling Post Offices – Peter A.S. Smith)



TPO KALLIN – CHERBIN AMBT 9 | 03 to Alexandria



Cover from
KAFR EL SHEIKH 6 – XII 12
to Volo (Greece)

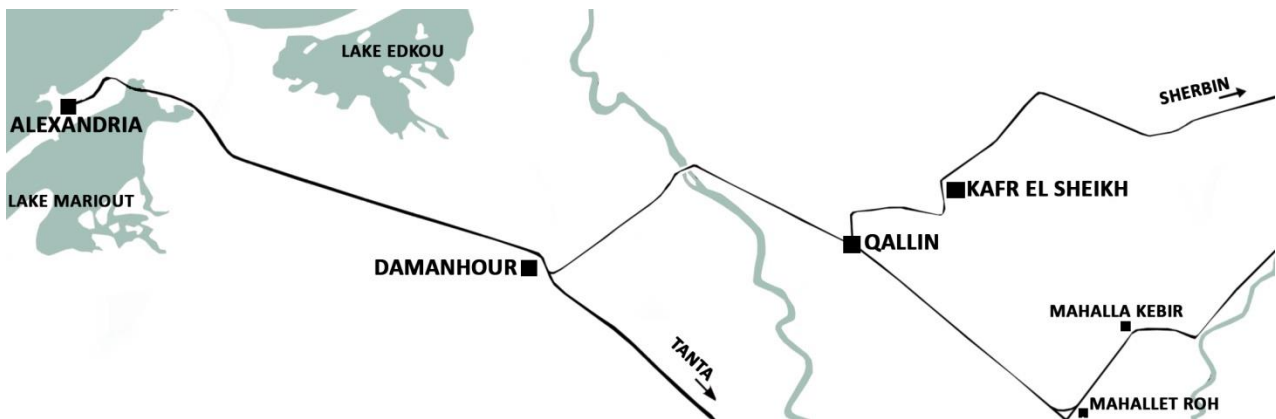


QALLIN 6 XII 12 transfer is
made by the city post office,
so no station cancel

SHIRBIN-QALLIN V.V.
6 XII 12

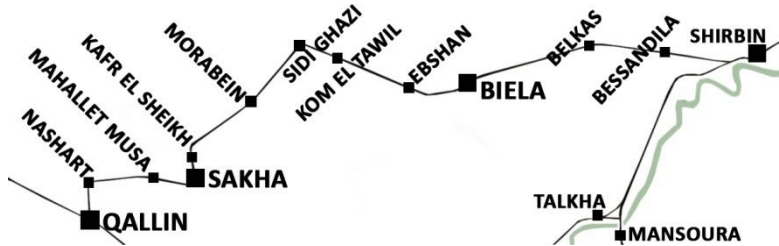
DAMANHUR-TANTA
T.P.O. 6 XII 12

ALEXANDRIA 6 XII 12





France to Sakha with BIALA-QALLIN T.P.O. 29 V 12

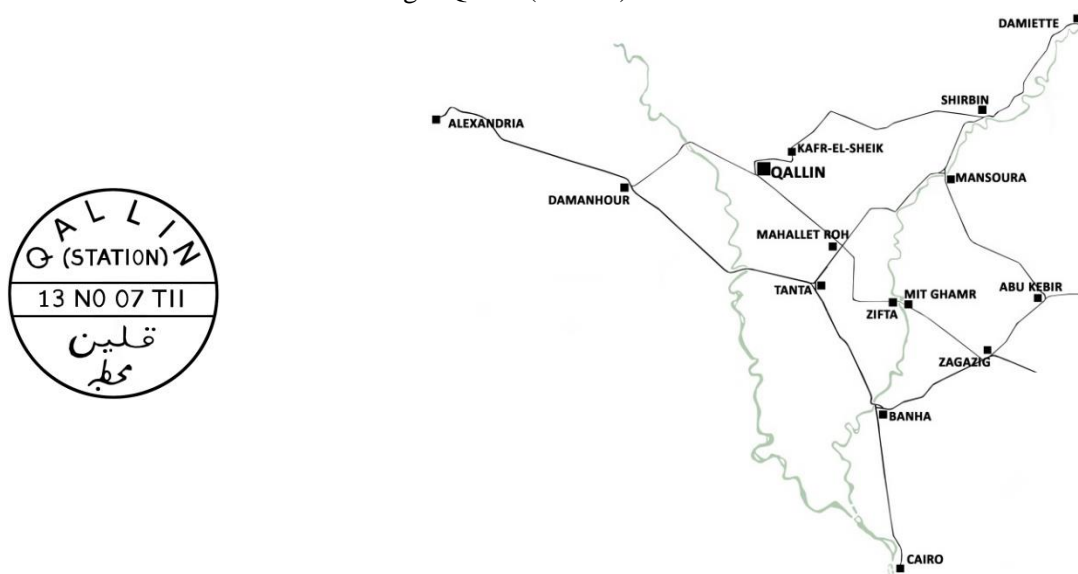


Postcard QALLIN-SHIRBIN & V.V. 2 I 08 via SHIRBIN 25 JA 09 to LIERNEUX (Belgium) 2 FEVR 1909
Transfer is made in the city post office, there is no station cancel

5.1 QALLIN

The town post-office was opened in 1880 (Chaftar).

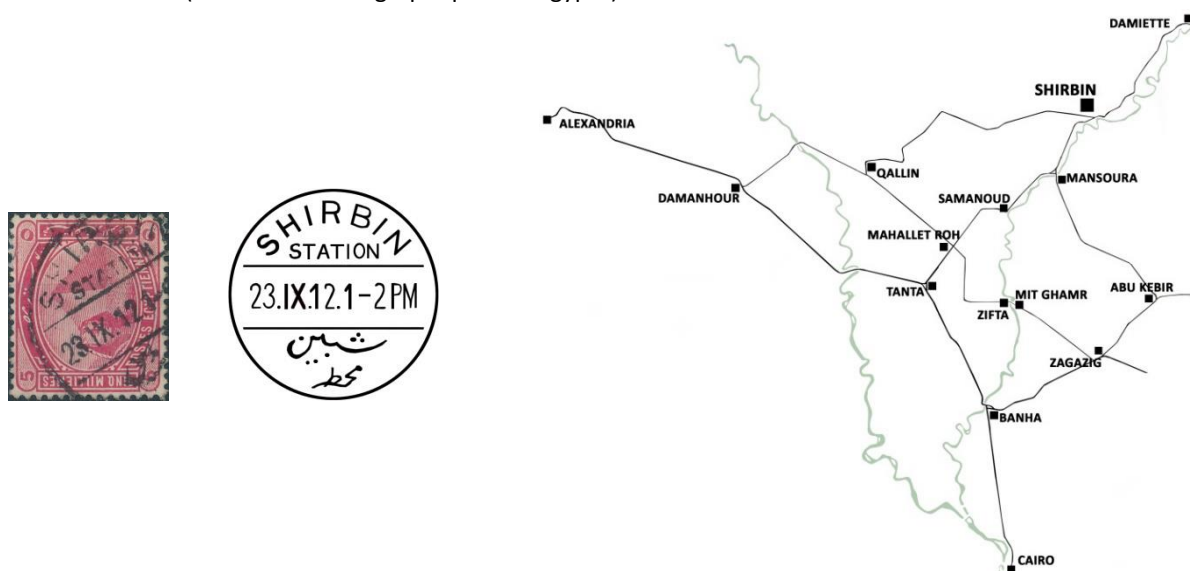
According to the *Dictionnaire Géographique de l'Égypte*, there were 4.147 inhabitants in 1899 and the station was situated in a hamlet outside the village. Qallin (Station) was an “Ezbet¹” with 191 inhabitants.



An example of this cancel is mentioned only in the article of Edmund Hall (Station Postmarks – QC 191). The authors have never seen another example. Who owns this cancellation? An illustration of the document would be very nice to complete the study.

5.2. SHIRBIN

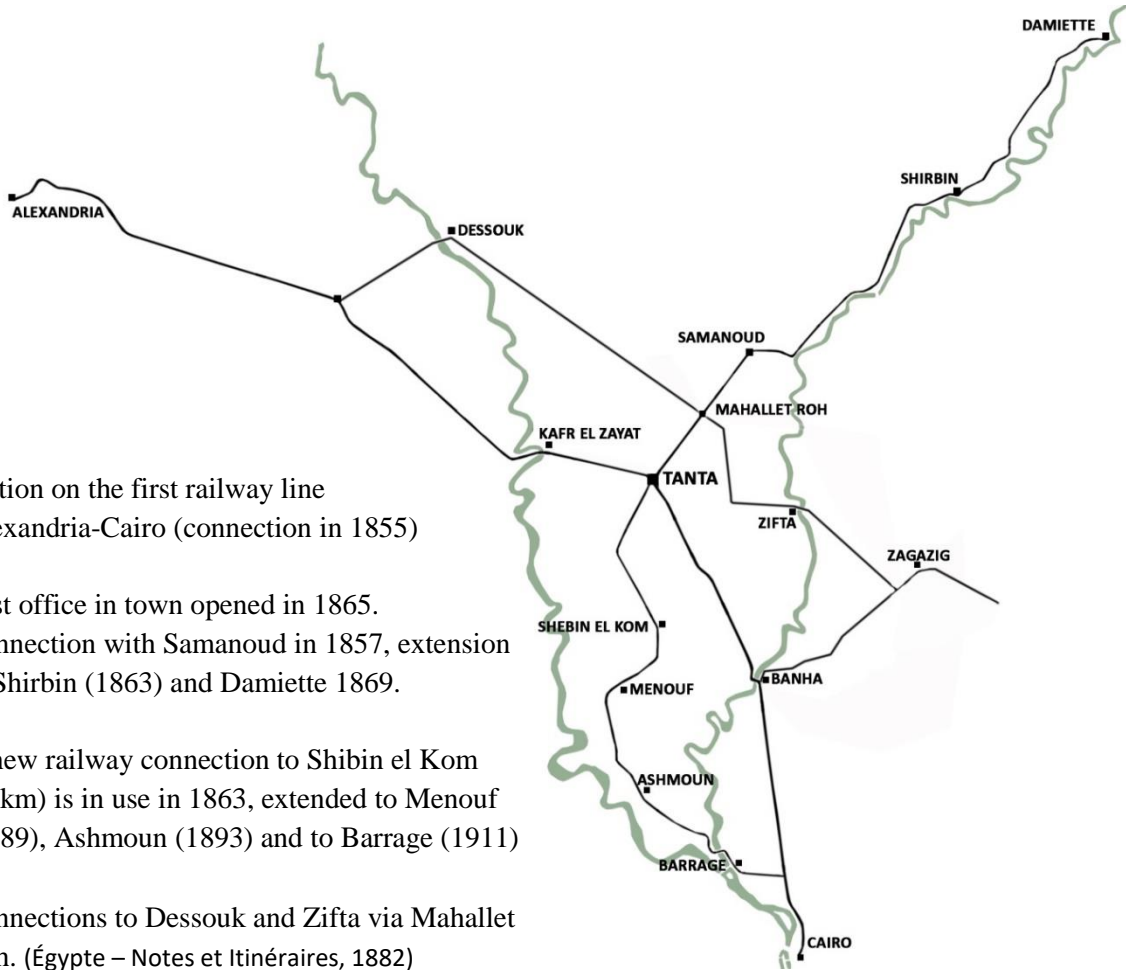
The post office (in town) was opened in 1872 (Chaftar) – the first date seen is MAR 1873. Shirbin had 6.310 inhabitants in 1899 (*Dictionnaire Géographique de l'Égypte*)



Only one cancellation is known by the authors before 1914, on a single stamp. Hall gives in his article an example of 2 V 18. Does anyone have other examples?

¹ An Ezbet is an agricultural estate or hamlet with several houses, usually owned by a single person

6. TANTAH – TANTA



Station on the first railway line
Alexandria-Cairo (connection in 1855)

Post office in town opened in 1865.
Connection with Samanoud in 1857, extension
to Shirbin (1863) and Damiette 1869.

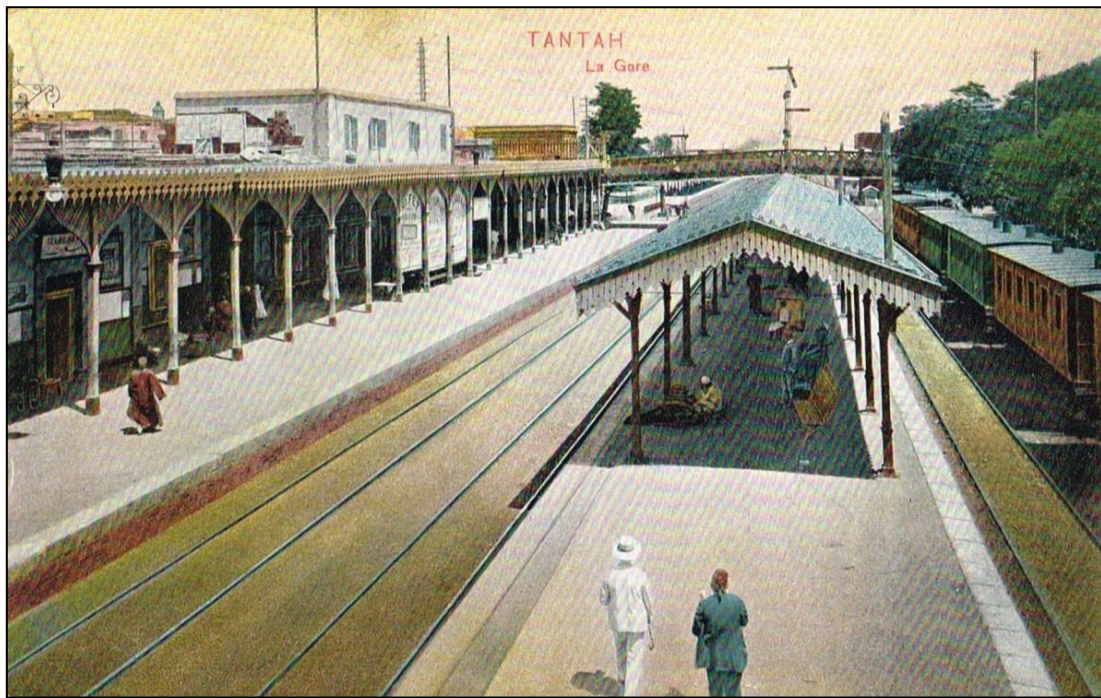
A new railway connection to Shibin el Kom
(28km) is in use in 1863, extended to Menouf
(1889), Ashmoun (1893) and to Barrage (1911)

Connections to Dessouk and Zifta via Mahallet
Roh. (Égypte – Notes et Itinéraires, 1882)

TPOs Dessouk-Tanta from 1883 and
Zefta-Tanta from 1887 (Peter A.S. Smith)



Cover with TPO ZEFTA-TANTA 17 V 95 to ALEXANDRIA 17 V 96 TIII via TANTA 17 V 96 T2
(city) and TANTA S 17 V 96 (station)

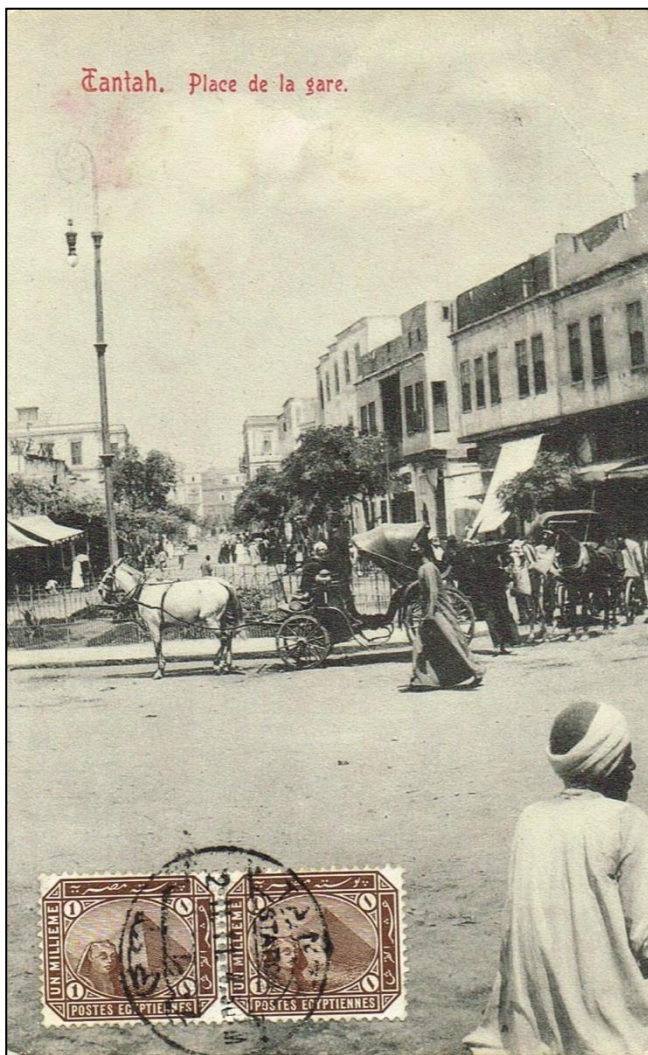


Tantah – the station (Ephthimios Frères, Port Said)

A decision was made in 1899 to "enlarge the present station in Tantah and to ask the Government to expropriate the land adjoining that station". (Le Bosphore Egyptien 05.09.1899)



Tantah - View of the station (Papeterie Universelle – Philipp & Taufik Codsí, Tantah)



Tantah – Station Square

TANTAH STATION IMPROVEMENTS. — Great alterations and improvements are about to be made at Tantah station, which will make this station one of the largest and most convenient in Egypt. About 8 feddans of land on the town side of the present station are to be utilised for this purpose. Nearly all passenger trains will run on the east of the present station and the station will be utilised for goods trains.

Egyptian Gazette 21.04.1901

TANTAH STATION-







Our Tantah Correspondent states that he has every reason to believe that early next year the work of enlarging the railway station at Tantah, or the making of a new one, will be taken in hand. The traffic passing through Tantah at present is enormous, and is increasing every day. The town being the centre of Lower Egypt, all connections are made there, and in the space of an hour or so there are two trains that arrive and leave for Oairo, the same number for Alexandria, and others on the Mansourah and branch lines. At such times the station almost resembles a fair, the traffic and crush being enormous. When the new station is erected it is to be hoped the Railway Administration will see that the platforms are long enough for the trains. The Railway Administration has already bought the ground round the present station so as not to have any difficulty later on. We understand that the work at Tantah will not be commenced until Benha station is quite finished.




It is rumoured that next winter a through service from Oairo to Alexandria will be instituted, the journey to occupy 2 1/4 hours, no stoppages being made at any station. If this is true Tantah hopes it will be possible to arrange for a few minutes' stop there, the town being important enough to warrant this little delay.

Egyptian Gazette 05.07.1904



Tanta station
in 1920

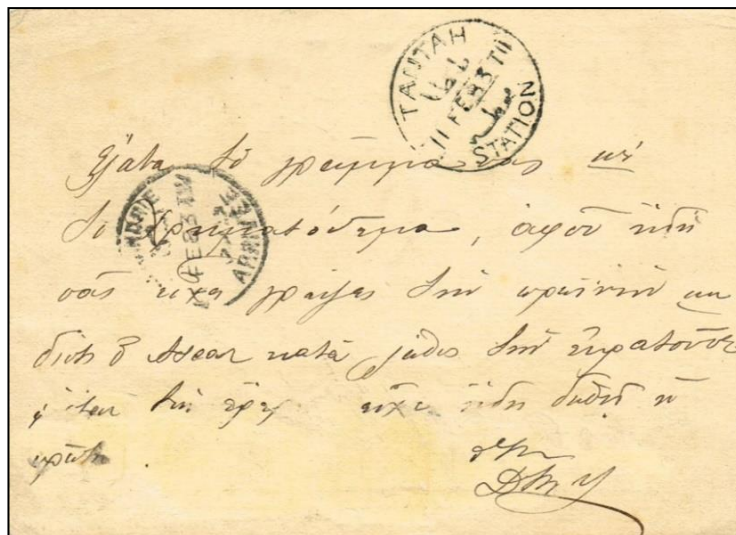
ST_TA_01			
	TANTAH	First Date 3 FE 83	Single ring 25 mm
	17 OC 85 TIII		
	TANTA STATION	Last Date 17 OC 85	
ST_TA_02			
	TANTA – S	First Date 15 IV 87	Double ring 29,5/16 mm 11 Bars
	1 II 89 TI		
	TANTA (MAHATTA)	Last Date 6 II 90	
ST_TA_03			
	TANTA S	First Date 25 V 90	Double ring 27/15 mm 4 and 5 Bars
	16 VII 91 TI		
	TANTA	Last Date 22 VIII 02	
Last date seen on 22 VIII 02. No other station cancellations seen between this date and 1906. In that period the transit of the mail was through the city office because of renovation works at the station.			
ST_TA_04			
	TANTA (STATION)	First Date 3 V 06	Single ring 28,5mm STATION Large oval “O”
	TANTAH (MAHATTA)	Last Date 5 IV 07	
ST_TA_05			
	TANTA (STATION)	First Date 16 V 06	Single ring 27,5mm STATION Large round “O”
	7 VI 06 TI		
	TANTAH (MAHATTA)	Last Date .. II 07	
ST_TA_06			
	TANTA (STATION)	First Date 18 X 06	Single ring 26,5mm STATION Small oval “O”
	10 V 07 TV		
	TANTAH (MAHATTA)	Last Date 30 V 07	

ST_TA_07			
	TANTA STATION	First Date 11 VII 07	Bridge 27,5 mm
	3 - III. 08. 10.-AM		
	TANTAH MAHATTA	Last Date 20 X 13	
ST_TA_08			
	TANTA S		
	22 IX 10		

Seen as		
DEPART	ARRIVAL	TRANSIT
X	X	X



TPO DAMIETTE-TANTA 11 FE
83
to
ALEXANDRIE ARRIVÉE 11 FE
83
transit
TANTAH STATION
11 FE 83





CHIBIN-EL-KOM 14 MR 89
via
TANTA - S 14 III 89
to
ALEXANDRIE 14 III 89



TANTA - S 15 IV 87
to
El Mahroussa (Cairo)
CAIRE ARRIVÉE
15 AV 87



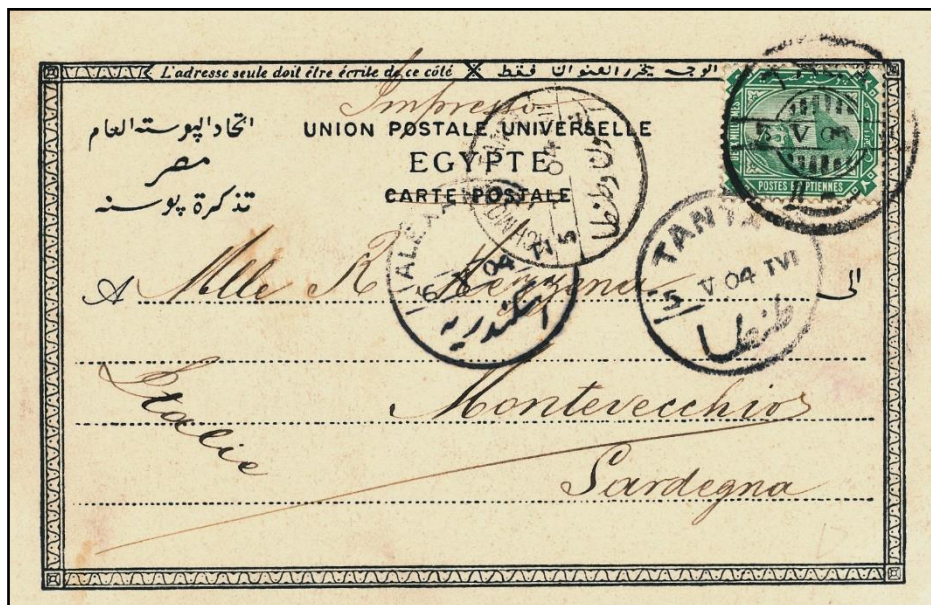
TANTA S 6 VII 91
to
MAHALLA 6 VII 91



Cover from MALLAOUI
24 JA 92

via the railway
CAIRE 25 I 92
to
MINET EL QAMH 25 JA 92

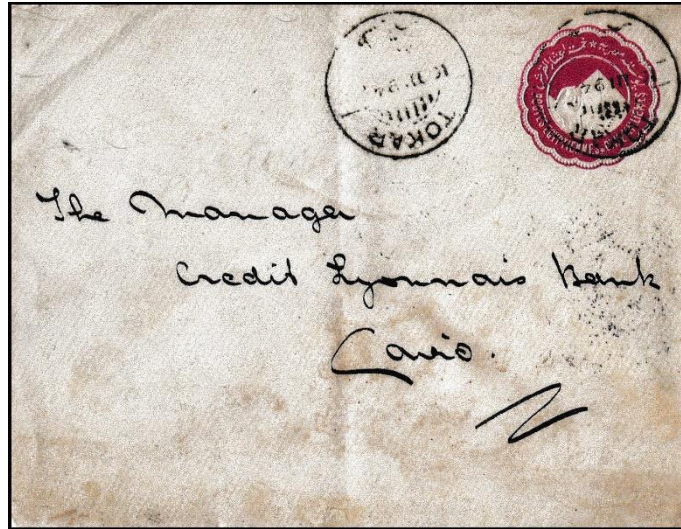
Resent to MIT GHAMR 15 II 92
via
BENHA 15 II 92
TANTA S 15 II 92
ZEFTA 15 FE 92
From Mit Ghamr via
BENHA 16 II 92
back to Minet el Qamh and finally
to
REBUTS 5 IV 92



TALA 5 V 04 to Italy via ACHMOUN-TANTA 5 V 04 and transit TANTA 5 V 04 to the train direction Alexandria:
ALEXANDRIE 6 V 04 No transit trough Tanta railway station between 22 VIII 02 and 3 V 06

A new cover from Tokar

Brian Sedgley (ESC 268)



A post office was opened at Tokar, south of Sawakin near the Red Sea coast, according to Peter Smith (*Egypt: Stamps and Postal History*, page 582) sometime in 1891, at about the same time as other Egyptian territorial offices at Ishkeit, Dabroussa and Saras, on the Nile just north of Wadi Halfa. Only from Tokar and Dabroussa, he says, are date-stamps known: he describes them as very rare.

His magnum opus illustrates (in colour on Plate 15, *below left*) one of these rarities from his own collection: dated 25 VI 96, it is franked with a pair of DLR 5-millième stamps to pay overseas postage to London. It has backstamps of Sawakin, Suez and London – but can anyone explain why the literature describes the journey as having happened in April-May? This cover sold for 4,000 Swiss francs in the Smith auction.

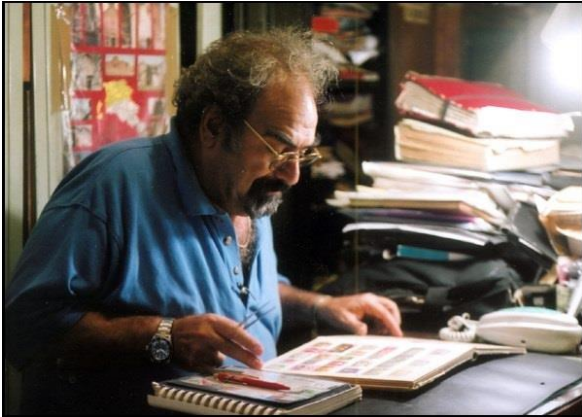
Another Tokar cover is held in photograph form in the ESC Record (*below right*): Arabic-addressed, it has a single 5-millième stamp cancelled by a CDS of 6 VII 95. There is a transit back-stamp of Sawakin. This cover was photographed from a Proud Bailey sale catalogue of November 1971, when it was valued at £250.

Now there is a third (*above*) – and the earliest. All three covers carry the standard Egyptian post office handstamp type IX-1 (with seven bars) as used throughout Egypt at the time. Discovered on the internet at what can only be described as a bargain price, it differs from the two already described by being a postal stationery envelope. Dated 10 III 94, the 5 millièmes rate would have taken it all the way to the Credit Lyonnais Bank in Cairo via backstamps of Sawakin (Mar 12) and Suez (Mar 16) as well as Cairo (Mar 17)..



Continental goes – with Khetcho’s stamps

Spare a thought today for more of the glorious history of Masr el Mahroussah as it falls victim to the “developers” – those who see only profit in what once was the blessed city’s wonderful architecture and cosmopolitan way of life (*Mike Murphy writes*). The demolition men are hacking away at the Continental Hotel – last survivor of Cairo’s “big five” world-renowned hostelryes – and with it the maze of alleys and covered markets that included the tiny shop, the Oriental Philatelic House, of Egypt’s best known stamp dealer, Khetcho Hagopian, 70. He is fighting to defend his establishment, but knows in his heart that his shop will go. With it will go a whole way of life. Today’s dealers are different – they do not have a cluttered back room stuffed to the ceiling with folders, stockbooks, envelopes, papers, treasures of Egypt’s philatelic history. Maybe they are better organised; certainly they have none of the charisma of a man who lived for



stamps, who welcomed every visitor with open arms and a glorious smile under that fearsome moustache. Perhaps it is not surprising that the Continental, built in 1899 to replace the old New Hotel overlooking Ezbekiyeh Square and the Opera House, had to go – the land on which it stands must have been worth many millions, and it has been virtually derelict for a half century. But to take with it the last traditional stamp shop in a city once famous for philatelic delights seems a travesty. The trade will continue. But destruction of Khetcho’s shop is yet another sign that times change, and not always for the better.

Circuit of the Oases: a flown souvenir

This remarkable cover represents a wonderful souvenir of a historic air race linked to the Third International Egyptian Aviation Meeting, held at the end of February 1937. Self-addressed by a British competitor, Mabel Glass, and hand-painted in watercolours, it shows a map of the route of the Circuit of the Oases – a 690-mile race in which 41 aircraft took part (*Lucien Toutounji and Mike Murphy write*). The race, over three days from February 24 with sightseeing in Aswan and Luxor, took fliers from 11 nations from Almaza airport in Cairo down the Red Sea to Hurgkada, then Luxor, and then inland into the Western Desert and the oases of Kharga, Dakhla, Farafra and Bahariyah before returning to Cairo – all faithfully reproduced by Mabel Glass. With her sister Sheila, also a nurse, she flew a tiny De Havilland Moth biplane. The sisters had won headlines by flying it from Heston in west London to Egypt to take part in the aviation meeting, but a report saying they finished third cannot be confirmed. Nor can the position of Lotfia el-Nadi, Egypt’s first female pilot, who won a Cairo-Alexandria race in 1933 but was disqualified for missing a contact point. Winner of the Circuit of the Oases was a giant twin-engined Junkers Ju86 flown by the German war minister’s son. This delightful cover, properly franked 13 mills plus 15 mills for air carriage to London, was mailed at Heliopolis on March 2 and has a London arrival mark for March 10.



Airmail Overprints for Gaza – some oddities

Neil Hitchens (ESC 651)

It is with some trepidation that I pen this, my first philatelic contribution. However, I am merely following in the footsteps of our founder, Dr Byam, who expected all ESC members to make at least the occasional contribution – even if the article itself might not be published. A hundred members need make only one contribution a year... you get the idea...

I have been spending a considerable amount of time recently re-cataloguing my entire Egyptian stamp collection and via the desktop publishing application Publisher[®] have been slowly building a definitive set of albums using not only the SG and Scott catalogues but have relied heavily on Magdi Abdel-hadi's *Egyptian Stamps* as well as dipping into other sources such as the ever-reliable Peter Smith and others.

From the results so far (after “only” three years and 17 albums so far searched) I have tracked down a few oddities among the “Palestine overprints” in the decade from 1947 which simply, slightly, defy cataloguing. I write this also with the acknowledged proviso about the chaos concerning postal issues in 1952-53; the Obliteration issues and the myriad “accidental” non-standard [and outright fake] printings at the beginning of the Republic.

That said, there are still three Airmail examples which I wish to highlight to our members, not only to ask for guidance, but also to confirm that these issues are legitimate errors and not the result of some backroom shenanigans.



As we all know, the first Palestine overprints appeared in 1948. But I wish to highlight first the eponymous overprint on the 1947 Airmail set showing King Farouk and the Barrage. The basic overprint is illustrated by this example (*above*) of the 2 millièmes vermillion. So far... so normal ...

But while aware of the two existing varieties - G1 (position 4) which has a dot at the left of the word فاسطين and G2 (position 35), where there is a bent left letter ن - there appears to be a (perhaps unrecorded) additional overprint error seen in two of the magenta overprinted denominations, the 10 millièmes violet and 22 millièmes blue.



Each stamp (as can be seen even in the initial scans above) has the same break in the overprint on the right of the final letter ن. This can be seen in greater detail in the enlarged scans below;



Each stamp appears to have the same, consistent error, but from the few examples I have in my collection it apparently appears only on the magenta overprints. While such a small initial study cannot be deemed comprehensive, there is certainly plenty of room for further study. While this is a slightly overlooked area, there remains plenty of potential in this fascinating philatelic oddity!

The next questionable issue is a stamp that, quite possibly, shouldn't exist – or if it is a true error it is a one-off. Again my eye was drawn to the 1947-48 Airmail issue. The question to ask here is:

Does this ...



... divided by this ...



EQUAL ????



We know that a small selection of the 1952 Kingdom of Egypt and Sudan overprint issue had an error involving a double overprint – *that* I do not have a problem with. The catalogues also report, however, that only a few of these issues were used in conjunction with not only the PALESTINE overprint but also (and allegedly **ONLY**) with the post-revolution Farouk-obiterated issues – examples are well known here with three as well as a few six-bar obliterations.

What we have here is a genuine oddity, in which the double Kingdom overprint does appear to be genuine. I do, however, have some grave misgivings about the **PALESTINE** overprint element.



The more normal / regular overprint has a shortened prong on the **P** and **A**.



On the stamp in my possession, however, the **P** and **A** are shown with prongs that could be slightly longer than expected. And the overprint as a whole does have a slightly “thinner” appearance.



So? Genuine, or a very clever fake? On a personal rating I would give it 2/5 at best...but then again: if you know better, please let us have the benefit of your wisdom!

The final stamp is one that defies the catalogue. Here we have a Palestine “obliteration”, and once more the 2 millièmes vermillion. BUT... it has only FOUR bars.



Oddly enough, this could quite possibly be a genuine error. If you measure the bars there is certainly the distinct possibility that on a second pass through the obliterator the stamp was rotated within the printing process at such an angle to give a six-bar overprint the appearance of a four-bar.

Close inspection of the overprint reveals that the way the bars match up does appear to indicate a substantial shift within the process - not only up and right or down and left, but that the second impression has remarkably managed to hit the stamp “just so”, two of its three bars precisely overlying the original three.



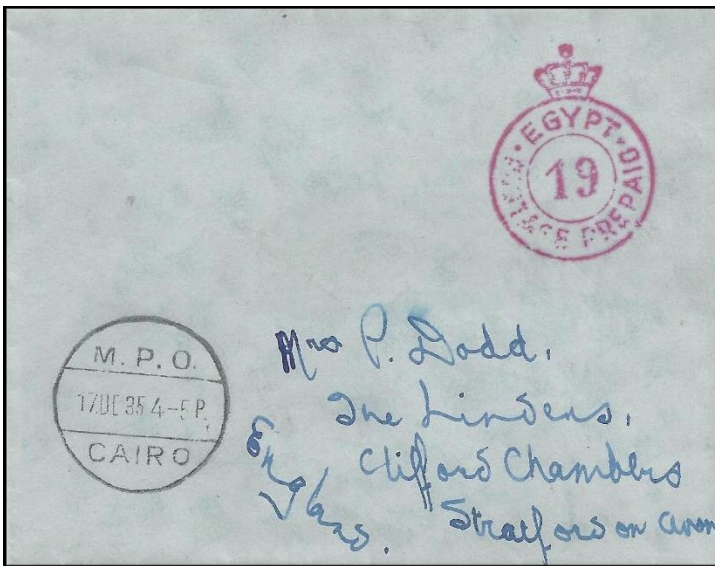
Certainly, the measurements between the black/black and green/green pairs are constant at 10.5mm



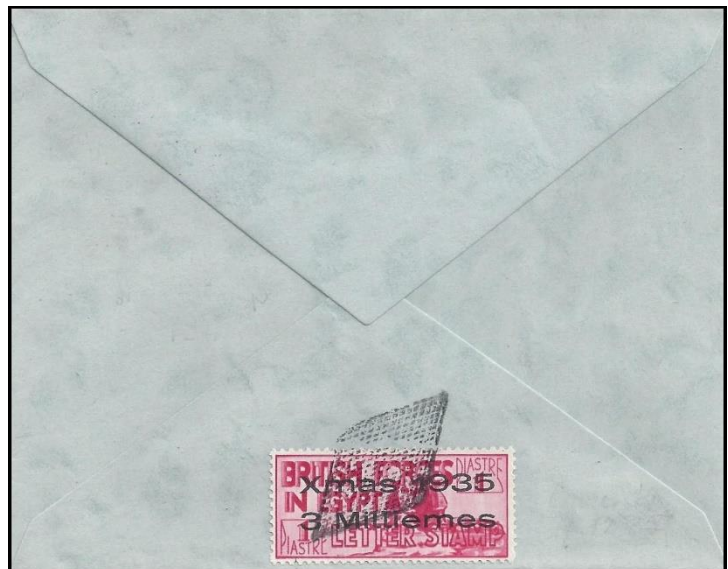
Also, there is a distinct element of the end of the bars to be seen both left and right of the overprint. Examination of the left-hand side of the printing indicates where the second impression ends on the upper two lines of the three to the left of the stamp. And a similar bulge can be seen to the right of the ear of the King. Real or forgery? I am inclined to give this one the benefit of the doubt.

The 1935 Xmas Provisional (SG A11) on cover

Andy Gould (ESC 393)



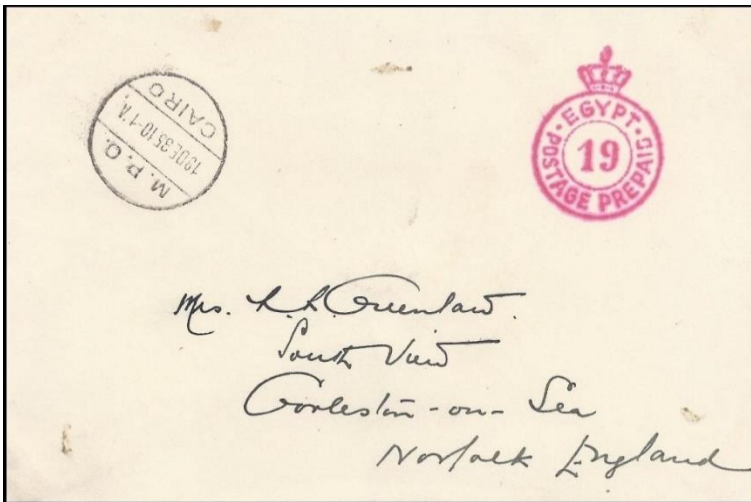
MPO Cairo to Stratford
December 17,
the day after the provisional
stamp was issued



The Xmas Provisional issue of 1935 was issued on December 16 when supplies of the vermilion (4th) issue of the Christmas Seal ran out. Even though 101,100 were printed, the quantity proved insufficient to satisfy the demand, due to the large increase in troop numbers from the UK and its Dominions brought to Egypt to counteract the threat from Italian troops in North East Africa.

A further printing of the 4th issue of the Christmas Seal was ordered, but did not arrive until December 19. The last day for posting Christmas mail to the UK was the day before, December 18.

In his book, *EGYPT: From the Postal Concession until Suez 1932 to 1956*, our colleague John Davis (ESC 213) mentions that “Covers bearing this stamp seem to be scarcer than even those bearing the Jubilee Seal...” This is a view I share, particularly when we consider that not only are mint copies relatively plentiful but complete panes of 20 and occasionally complete booklets of 100 are available, and used copies are particularly difficult to find.



MPO Cairo to Norfolk
Dec 19, the last day
for posting Christmas mail



To test this theory, I would like to ask everyone who has examples of this stamp on cover for their help please. I intend to create a census of the recorded usages of the 1935 Xmas Provisional on cover between the issue date of December 16 and December 31, when their use as a concessionary stamp ceased. I am well aware that a good number of these usages are philatelic in nature; however, they remain of interest for this census. The results will be published in a future issue of the *QC*.

To help with this research, please send me the following details of any such covers in your possession:

- Date of the MPO postmark
- The addressee
- The destination town, city etc.
- The postmark (to date I have come across only MPO postmarks)
- The red EPP cancel number
- Any other pertinent details

A scan (or photocopy) of the cover, both front and back, would also be very welcome. I can be contacted at gouldphilatelic@aol.com or by post at 56 James Street, Selsey, Chichester, PO20 0JG

As a start, I have compiled the following details from the covers in my collection and those others I am aware of, for example from the books by John Davis and John Hobbs.

Date	Addressee	Destination	Postmark	EPP Cancel	Notes
Dec. 16	Mrs R A Painter	Peterborough	MPO Alexandria	3	
Dec. 16	Mrs A Adler	Clapham Park, London SW4	Military Post Office Alexandria (Barred)	22	J Davis
Dec. 16	Mr L Hamilton	Clapham Park, London SW4	MPO Alexandria	6	J Hobbs block of 4
Dec. 17	Mrs P Dodd	Stratford-on-Avon	MPO Cairo	19	
Dec. 18	Col. G R Crouch MC	Aylesbury, Bucks	MPO Cairo	19	
Dec. 19	Mrs L R Greenlaw	Gorleston-on-Sea, Norfolk	MPO Cairo	19	
Dec. 20	Flt Lt R R Greenlaw MBE	Heston, Middlesex	MPO Cairo	19	RS Wilson block of 4
Dec. 21	E Ryder Richardson Esq.	St John's Wood, London NW8	MPO Cairo	19	
Dec. 24	Flt Lt R R Greenlaw MBE	Heston, Middlesex	MPO Cairo	19	See Note 1

Note 1: I have two copies of this cover with exactly the same details; please let me know if you have others



MPO Cairo to Heston
December 24, one of two
precisely similar covers



No easy life on the Paquebot wave

Bill Johns (ESC 287) and Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Life cannot have been easy for crew on the Khedivial Postal Paquebots at the end of the nineteenth century – at least not if this recently discovered document is any evidence. The all-Arabic certificate is an application for ten days’ leave by a man described first as a “khawaga” (foreigner), and then as Second Marine Engineer J. Hague – no first name, only an initial. Perhaps one of those renowned Scots engineers who kept the world’s vessels afloat during the 1800s and 1900s, he sought leave to deal with “exceptional circumstances” which he did not explain.

He made his application on a sheet of Government revenue stamped paper, value 3 piastres, as was invariable in those days, on May 16 1890, signing it himself at the bottom of the Arabic appeal. The Paquebots company acted quite swiftly, having drawn up Mr Hague’s complete service record with the company on the back of his application by the end of the month.

What it shows is astonishing. At the time of the application he seems to have served eight years and two days (right hand column). On the left is the leave awarded in those eight years – one month and 16 days, including half - 23 days – on sick leave. That averages three days a year, in three tranches of ten, eight and five days.



It is perhaps not surprising that Mikhaïl Gabreel, head of the Paquebots staff department, was able on May 31 to approve the application and affix his intaglio seal (left) alongside his signature. The application was passed

تاريخ	مدة	ملاحظات
١٨٨٨	١٠	...
١٨٨٩	١٠	...
١٨٩٠	١٠	...
١٨٩١	١٠	...
١٨٩٢	١٠	...
١٨٩٣	١٠	...
١٨٩٤	١٠	...
١٨٩٥	١٠	...
١٨٩٦	١٠	...
١٨٩٧	١٠	...
١٨٩٨	١٠	...
١٨٩٩	١٠	...
١٩٠٠	١٠	...

back to HQ in Alexandria on June 2 for review, received a stamp (illegible) next day, and on June 4 was marked “ten days’ normal holiday approved” together with a large and unusual handstamp of the Direction-Generale des Paquebots Poste Khedivie / Alexandria (left). Has any member seen another copy? The official government paper is



listed in the catalogue of Peter Feltus (The Sphinx Issue of “1890?” on page 16) — but Feltus’ only knowledge of this second type came from a square cutout. He describes his Pyramid Issues, of “1890-1916?”, as a quarter of a large sheet (16 1/2in by 11 1/2in) with a watermark of a large crescent and star, “Egypt” and the year date, recorded 1890-1910. He had of course no knowledge of the watermark from the cutout. Mr Hague’s application has an 1887 watermark.



Feltus describes the Pyramid Issues as embossed in colour with a value in the top left corner, and with a no-value albino embossed circle with the Pyramids an inch below. But he had no idea that on the later application paper the no-value albino impression was that of Cleopatra as on the 2m DLR and Harrison Pictorials. The albino impression has proved difficult to illustrate: a version with reversed colour is at right. No doubt more information has come to light since the Feltus publication in 1982, but it is interesting that this stamped paper completes his entry for the “1890?” (now should be 1887) Issue, but also paints a picture of how a hard-working marine engineer was eventually given sufficient time off to deal with his “exceptional circumstances”.

- The authors are indebted to Dr Sherif Samra and Dr Sami Sadek for their inestimable help with the Arabic.

Study Circle subscriptions for 2019

A small number of Committee members (Treasurer Brian Sedgley, North America Agent Trenton Ruebush and Secretary Mike Murphy) spend an inordinate amount of time and effort each year in chasing members who have overlooked paying their subscription by the due date. Please remember that the due date for 2019 is

January 1 2019

and prepare in advance so that the chasing doesn't have to take so much time and effort. Remember also please, that if your subscription is not received by the end of February you are in grave danger of losing your membership and your access to the QC. Quick reminder:

If you pay in	GBP	EUR	USD
For a printed QC please pay	20	23	27
To read it online please pay	15	17	20

If paying by PayPal (to egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com) please add £1 / €1 / \$2 to cover their charges. You can also pay to Trent Ruebush, Dr Ibrahim Shoukry in Egypt or Tony Cakebread in Australasia – or by cheque drawn on a British bank to Brian Sedgley. All addresses are in the QC. You will note from the November Meeting Report (page 174) that Brian is shortly to stand down after 13 years of service ... BUT NOT YET! Until his successor takes over, please make your payment as normal

Please do your best to keep up to date. It is a miserable task having to write people off for failure to pay. Much better that we all pay up on time.

MacArthur Award

Yes, we haven't yet had time to study all of our 2018 magazines, but it is time to start thinking about who might deserve the prestigious MacArthur Award for the best and most significant article published in the year's full series. To make it even easier, no need for stamps or a letter, simply email the Secretary at egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com with your nomination.

This is the final QC for the year, so you have all the information you need to make an informed choice. The number of votes has been dropping in recent years, and it would be a great shame for members not to encourage their colleagues to write articles that maintain the magazine's high standard. The winner will be announced in the QC and at the AGM.