

The Quarterly Circular of THE EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE



December Quarter 2019 – Vol XXIII No 12 – Whole Series No 271 – Pages 267-290

CONTENTS

Officers/Meetings schedule 267, Cairo visit meeting report 268-271

ARTICLES

Revenue Stamped Paper: Pyramid and Sphinx	David Jones	pp. 272-277
B.O.A.C. test letters	Scott Van Horn	p. 278
Posts from the ESC Facebook page	Hani Sharestan	pp. 279-281
ESC grant to a member-author		p.281
Railway stations during 1879-1914 Part 5	Ronny Van Pellecom/ Alain Stragier	pp. 282-289
Update: Hotels and steam yachts	Alain Stragier	p.290



**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 Programme for 2019-20

December 4-7	Monte Carlo, Monaco	Monacophil celebrates Egypt	Hany Salam plus
Feb 8, 2pm	King's Head, Marylebone	AGM and Postcards	Mike Murphy plus
Date TBA	Postal/email auction	ESC Auction 60	All members
April 3-5	Morley Hayes Hotel, Derby	Joint weekend with Sudan Group	All members
May 5	London 2020 International	Society Promotion Day table	Volunteers sought
May 9, 12-2pm	London 2020 International	ESC meeting	All members
July 18,11-4	Royal's new premises	Cinderella Club joint meeting	All members
October 3, 2-4	Stampex	Sinai	All members

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Report of the Visit to Cairo, September 8-15



The ESC delegation to Cairo with their guardian angels: from left, Vince and Lisa Centonze, Menna and Haidy, Mike Murphy, Sarah and Brian Sedgley, Shameera and Jon Aitchison

As some members may know, the venue for the 90th Anniversary Exhibition of the Philatelic Society of Cairo had to be changed at the very last minute – because catering was no longer available at the Cairo Exhibition Grounds – to the Gezira Sporting Club just up the road. Dr Sherif Samra, President of the PSE, and his willing team worked literally through the night to prepare an outstanding exhibition, and the ESC visiting group was greeted with an immaculate layout of 200 frames. As it transpires, the change of venue seems to have suited everyone, with tranquil and shady grounds, an adequate exhibition area, plenty of food and drink facilities, a beautiful terrace at the back overlooking the sporting grounds – and plenty of space to meet old friends and make new ones. Let's hope more of us make it to the next one!

The ESC group – comprising Jon and Shameera Aitchison, Brian and Sarah Sedgley, Vince and Lisa Centonze (on their first visit to Cairo; *see letter following*), and Mike Murphy, with flying visits from Neil Hitchens and Ronny van Pellecom - was treated royally, just as were a host of participants and visitors from overseas including Spain, Cyprus, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Iraq, Bahrain and Morocco, with excellent material on display and a wide range of off-site visits available for those new (and not so new) to Cairo.

The exhibition itself was marked by a surprise entry selected by the international judges as winner of the top medal. Peter Chadwick, of Stockton-on-Tees, a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of London but not of the ESC, chose to help to celebrate the Royal's 150th Anniversary by entering eight delightful frames of *Rates, Routes and Charge Marks of British Mail before 1940*. To no-one's surprise, he took a Large Gold with Grand Prix and a mark of 97. A great shame that he could not be there to collect his awards.

A full list of all the ESC members' exhibits is set alongside, but particular mention should be made of Khaled Mostafa, Secretary of the PSE, for his Large Gold on eight frames of outstanding *Egypt Postal Stationery* with comprehensive illustration of proofs and essays.

John Davis took Gold for eight frames of *Early and Classic Egypt*, including a seal that had Mahmoud Ramadan, king of the intaglios, astonished – the first time he had seen an example – while Jon Aitchison, who won Gold for eight frames of *Egyptian Officially Sealed Mail*, stunned with five Interpostals on cover (three of them from the wreck of the *Cairo*). There was also a deserved Gold for Samir Nabih, who chose as his topic *Helwan, Haven for Healing*, and surprised the judges with his knowledge of the short-live healing spa. Mention should also be made of the excellent displays by Mamdouh Mosley, a former member, who showed four Russian Office covers in his Large Gold, which took the ESC's Special Prize – a beautiful Wedgwood vase.



Nicos Rangos of Cyprus and Hatim al-Attar of Oman were among the international jurors

The early part of the exhibition was highlighted by the launch of the official PSE 90th Anniversary stamp and its FDC, the stamp design competition deservedly won by Miss Basant Yassin Abd El Basset, a student of the Faculty of Applied Arts at Helwan University. She celebrated with fellow students at the exhibition opening, and on receiving their prizes at the Palmares dinner.

The exhibition was served by two local dealers, who proved very popular, together with stalls manned by Egypt Post, a major supporter on the financial side, and the PSE itself. All seemed to do good business.



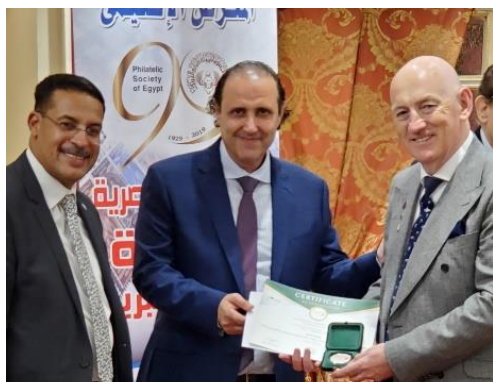
Basant Abd el Bassett with her winning anniversary stamp design, Dr Samra and Mohammed Omar; the three new issues of the L'OP; and Mike Murphy and Amr el-Etreby, proving that editors come in all shapes and sizes

Another highlight of the event was the resurrection, thanks to the financial support of Egypt Post and the hard work of two ESC members, Dr Sherif el-Kerdani and Dr Amr el-Etreby, of the *L'Orient Philatélique* magazine. Because of Egypt Post's printing schedule, we were lucky enough to be provided with three issues – Nos. 143-5 of Volume X. Each is of 40 pages, bilingual in English and Arabic, and packed with fascinating material, including a very useful series explaining the rules and regulations for international competition entries. We have been here before, of course, and it is fervently to be hoped that economic support can be found to continue publication. The production teams is confident that there is material aplenty to be published.

Besides the official philately-related events – which included goodwill messages from the Royal Philatelic Society and the Federation of European Philatelic Associations to Dr Samra and the PSE at the closing-night dinner, when about a million photographs were taken(!) – the week was highlighted by an excellent series of off-site visits intended specifically for “the visiting ladies” but in fact enjoyed thoroughly by many of the visiting philatelists as well.

Despite the distance, one major delight was an all-day visit to Rosetta (Rashid), where we saw the spot in which the Rosetta Stone was discovered and walked through the streets to admire the distinctive Mameluke architecture of the town still wonderfully preserved. The Museum was a true delight, and so was the fish lunch

at the estuary where the Nile flows into the Mediterranean. Another museum visit was in Ismailia, where we were impressed by the passion and knowledge displayed by the curator. Another fish luncheon followed: we could get used to this!



Jon Aitchison receiving his Gold medal from Khaled Mostafa, left, and Hany Salam of the PSE

Other days were devoted to visits to the Coptic Museum and Old Cairo, with its outstandingly preserved ancient churches, to the Citadel and Khan el-Khalili bazaar, to the Pyramids (even venturing inside!) and Solar Boat, to the Mosque of Amr ibn al-As, and to the vast site of Egypt's new capital, gradually taking place in the desert 30 miles east of Cairo. At the moment it is a desolate desert of roads and occasional blocks of flats, but clearly much much more is to come, including more mosques like the fabulously beautiful al-Fattah al-Aleem, which we visited, and the Cathedral of the Nativity.

During these visits it would be remiss not to pay enormous tribute to two students from Mansura who attend the British University in Egypt, Haidy and Menna, who were selected by Dr Samra to mentor his visitors and give all help where needed. These two young ladies were outstanding. Always on time, always willing to translate, never fazed by anything that might go amiss, always smiling and eager to explain, they could not have been more friendly or helpful, even to the extent of a late-night shopping trip. We are beholden to them for all their hard work.

Enormously grateful thanks too, to those senior members of the PSE whose hospitality we enjoyed so thoroughly. Dr Ibrahim Shoukry, Hany and Lada Salam, Vahe and Ermine Varjabedian all deserve our special thanks for opening their homes to us, and for providing food, drink and delightful entertainment well beyond our imaginations but truly typical of our Egyptian friends. Thank you so much, all of you!

The one regret of we visitors? That we were so few. There will be other visits to Cairo. We ALWAYS enjoy them thoroughly. Please make it more next time.

Medals won by ESC members

Name	Country	Title	Frames	Mark	Medal	Special Prize
Khaled Mostafa (ESC 638)	Egypt	Egypt Postal Stationery 1865-1930	8	95	Large Gold	Knowledge
John Davis (ESC 213)	UK	Early and Classic Egypt	8	93	Gold	
Jon Aitchison (ESC 661)	UK	Egypt Officially Sealed Mail	8	92	Gold	Treatment
Sami Sadek (ESC 559)	UK	TPOs of Egypt Part One	8	88	Large Vermeil	
Samir Nabih (ESC 505)	Egypt	Helwan, Haven for Healing	5	90	Gold	Knowledge
Adel Hanna (ESC 715)	Canada	Fouad Second Portrait Issue 1925-35	5	90	Gold	
Ahmed Nabil (ESC 713)	Egypt	Farouk KES Definitive Issues	5	90	Gold	Presentation
Aly Gabr (ESC 726)	Egypt	1933 Airmail Issue	5	86	Large Vermeil	
Ahmed Nabil (ESC 713)	Egypt	1926 Provisional Issue	1	90		
Ahmed Nabil (ESC 713)	Egypt	International Geographical Congress	1	90		
Adel Hanna (ESC 715)	Canada	Provisional Issue, 1898 and 1905	1	88		
Ahmed Nabil (ESC 713)	Egypt	S.A.I.D.E. flights	1	85		
Alaa Massoud (ESC 561)	Egypt	Simon Arzt, Port Said 1890-1954	1	83		
Alaa Massoud (ESC 561)	Egypt	Seamen's Home Alexandria 1906-55	1	78		
Brian Sedgley (ESC 268)	UK	Egyptian Overseas Territories / TPOs	1	77		
Essam Saleh (ESC 667)	Egypt	Use of Official Slogans 1922-52	1	73		

Letter to the Editor – from Vince Centonze (ESC 571)

To the Egypt Study Circle:

I have been a member of the Egypt Study Circle for over 15 years... I still have my welcome letter from Mike Murphy. I even know my ESC membership number by heart, which certainly makes me a philatelic nerd. Yet, after all those years I wouldn't exactly refer to myself as an active member; I have attended only two meetings of the Circle, both of which were held at major stamp shows in the U.S., and contributed perhaps one or two articles to the Circle's fine publication, the *Quarterly Circular*. However, after having attended the Philatelic Society of Egypt's 90th Anniversary Celebrations in Cairo in September as part of the ESC delegation, I regret not having been a more active participant in the past and accompanied the Circle on previous trips. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ESC for organizing this trip and providing for an unforgettable experience.



From a philatelic standpoint, even though I have been collecting Egypt for many years, albeit as a generalist, I learned a tremendous amount through interactions with members of the UK delegation, as well as from our friends in Cairo. After all these years, it was nice to finally be able to put faces to all the names I've encountered in the *QC*. The exhibits were also top notch, and it was sometimes difficult for my wife to pull me away for sightseeing – for the sake of marital bliss, I kept my priorities in line. After having engaged with other members throughout the week, I feel much more motivated to take an active role in the Circle and contribute material to the journal. With retirement looming around the corner, I also look forward to periodically attending some meetings in the UK.

On a personal level, my wife Lisa and I have not previously travelled with a more amiable group of people. Even though we knew no one, Circle members were extremely warm and welcoming. Our friends in the PSE also treated us like VIPs literally from the moment we arrived at the airport until our departure. Again, I'd like to thank the Circle for arranging the trip, providing the opportunity to make wonderful new friends, and for motivating me to take a more active role in the Circle. And you can surely count me in on future trips.

Sincerely, Vince Centonze



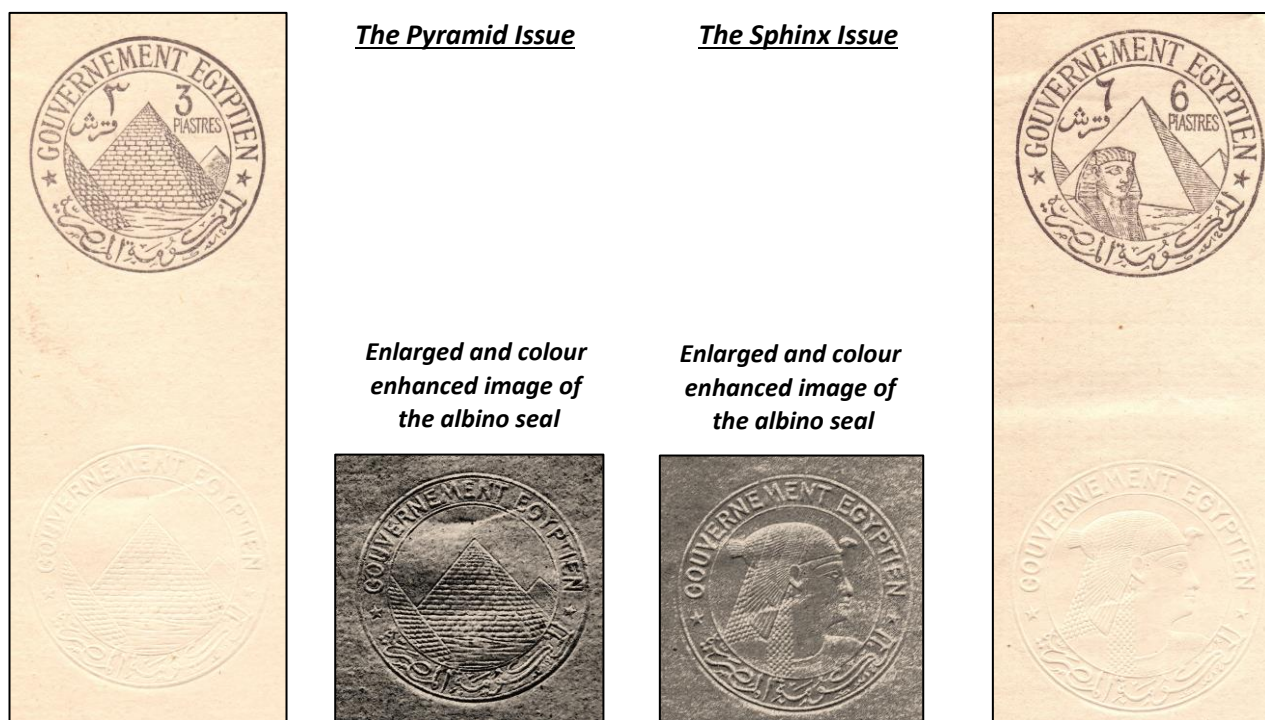
Vince engrossed by one of the exhibits (above), but then enjoying a little down time at the Coptic Museum with Lisa, Menna and Haidy; and there's more time to relax on the Gezira Sporting Club terrace – Lisa, Mike Murphy, Sarah and Brian Sedgley and Neil Hitchens

Revenue Stamped Paper – The Pyramid and The Sphinx

Dr David Jones (ESC 716)

Contributions to the *Quarterly Circular* (QC 267 & 270) have shed some much-needed light on what I view as a somewhat understudied aspect of Egyptian philately: Revenue Stamped Paper. In particular on the issue that bears the image of the Sphinx in front of a Pyramid. *The Egyptian Catalogue of Revenue Stamps with Sudanese Revenues & Egyptian Cinderellas* by Peter R. Feltus (1982) devotes a small paragraph about what he unsurprisingly refers to as The Sphinx Issue within a single page dominated by information concerning the aptly named Pyramid Issue. I want to offer a perhaps more balanced view and in order to do so venture pre-Feltus. That journey results in The Sphinx Issue becoming somewhat the centre of attention as the existence of a *variety* of it raises questions, and not necessarily much more clarity, regarding what Peter Feltus notes in his Introduction as Egypt's earliest issues of Revenue Stamped Paper: The Pyramid and The Sphinx.

Apologies for stating the obvious, but it is important to fully appreciate the design elements of these issues of Revenue Stamped Paper. The reason for this will become clear.



The Pyramid Issue (*above left*) consists of two seals. In the upper left of the sheet is an embossed coloured seal (known in black, blue or rosine) with bilingual text surrounding the image of three pyramids with a bilingual revenue value in piastres. Below the coloured seal an embossed albino seal replicates the Pyramid and text but omits the bilingual revenue value.

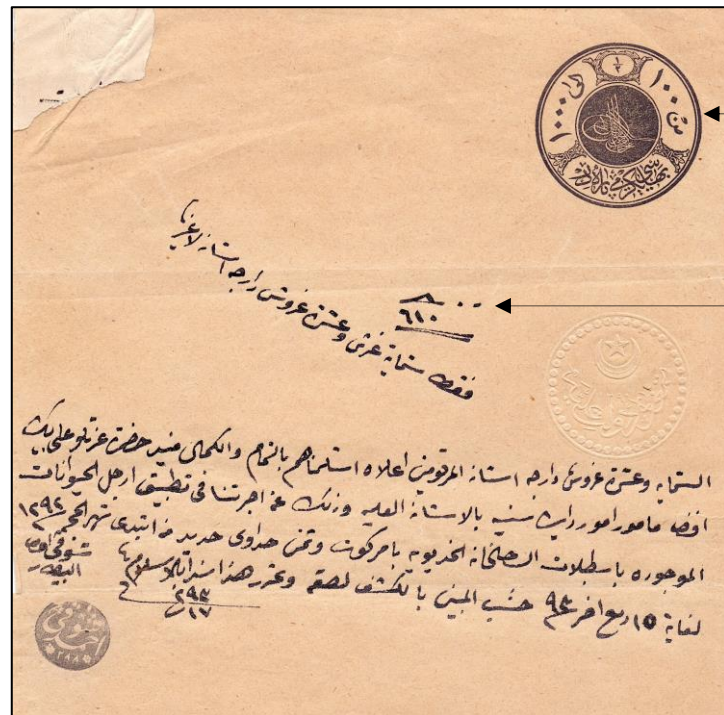
The Sphinx Issue (*above right*) is similar to that of The Pyramid, comprising two embossed seals, one coloured the other albino. The upper coloured seal contains the same bilingual text as the Pyramid Issue but this time surrounding an image of the Sphinx in front of a Pyramid with a bilingual revenue value in piastres. Below, the embossed albino seal, rather than being a replication, consists of the image of Cleopatra dressed as the Goddess Isis.

Bill Johns/Mike Murphy and Alain Stragier's articles (QC 267 & 270) established an earlier date for the manufacture of The Sphinx Issue, showing a document with an unrecorded revenue value of 6 piastres dated 1887 rather than the 1890 suggested by Feltus. The date for the Pyramid Issue is also one that needs to be revised, given the evidence presented later. I greatly admire the work of Peter Feltus but for me he does seem to draw a figurative line in the sand. Are these two issues of Revenue Stamped Paper really Egypt's earliest examples, because there are others, and interestingly, they provide a sort of template for The Pyramid and The Sphinx Issues.

Revenue Stamped Paper
Khedivate Court Legitimate:
1876



Enlarged and colour enhanced image of the albino seal



The document illustrated (*above right*) dates from the last year of the reign of the Ottoman Sultan Abdülaziz (1830-1876). Used ten years after the official recognition of the Khedivate as an autonomous tributary state of the Ottoman Empire, the design of this Revenue Stamped Paper consists of two embossed seals; one coloured (black) above an albino seal below. The albino seal shows the Crescent and Star state symbol of the Ottoman Empire above the Arabic text “Revenues of Ottoman Empire”. This all looks, broadly, very familiar but what is of real interest is what is in the coloured seal.

Five Design Elements: (Ottoman) Khedivate Seal

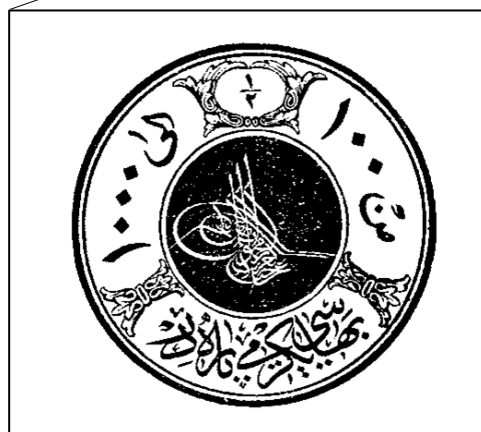
1. Centre: The Tughra of Sultan Abdülaziz

2. Right: Lowest court cost: 100 piastres

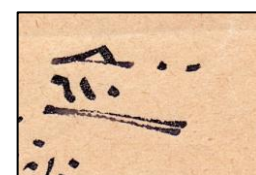
3. Left: Highest court cost: 1000 piastres

4. Top centre: Value of Revenue due: 20 paras

5. Bottom centre: Value of Revenue due: Turkish text



Written left of the albino seal is the actual cost of the adjudication: 610 piastres, which is within the Court cost range as indicated within the coloured seal. Because of this the Court Clerk has used this value of Revenue Stamped Paper. Given that the cost of adjudications would vary meant that the Court Clerk would need other values of paper.



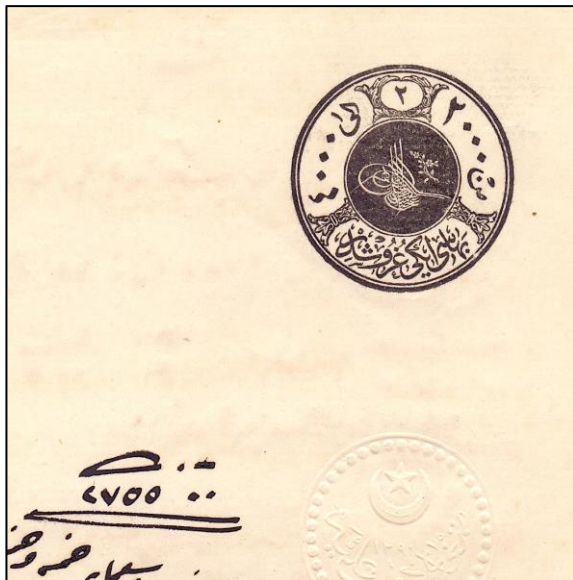


Khedivate Court document - 1878

Coloured seal:

Tughra of Sultan Abdul Hamid II
 Court cost range: 1000 to 2000 piastres
 Revenue due: 1 piastre

Actual cost of adjudication: 1085 piastres

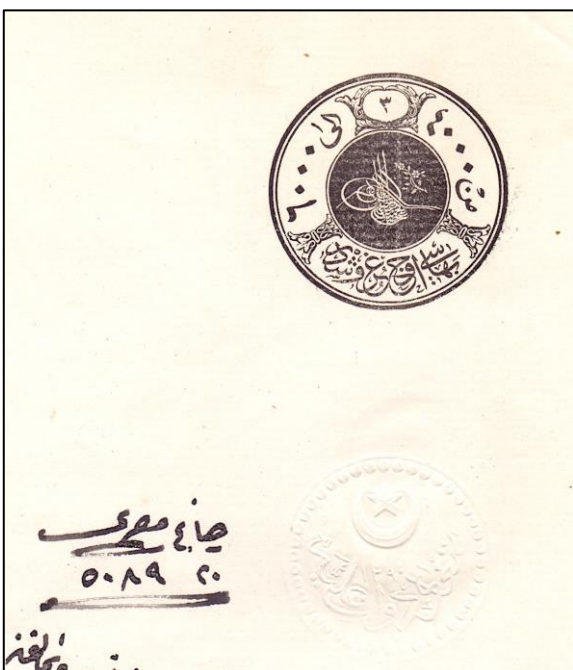


Khedivate Court document - 1878

Coloured seal:

Tughra of Sultan Abdul Hamid II
 Court cost range: 2000 to 4000 piastres
 Revenue due: 2 piastres

Actual cost of adjudication: 2755 piastres

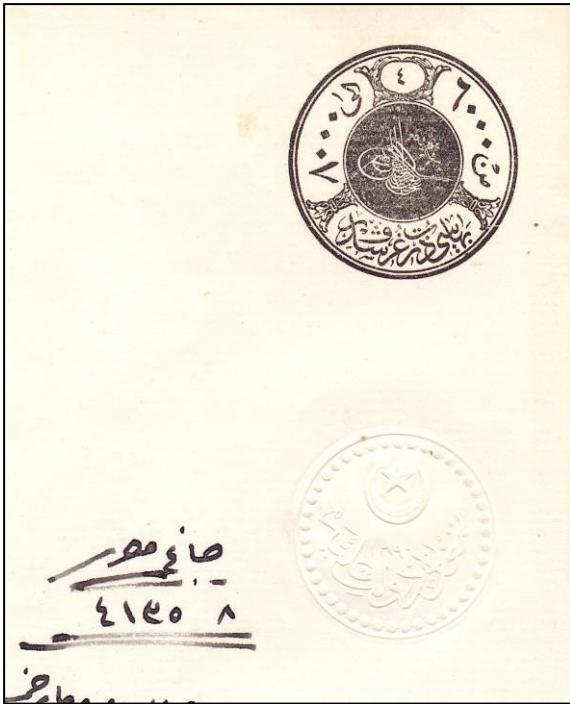


Khedivate Court document - 1879

Coloured seal:

Tughra of Sultan Abdul Hamid II
 Court cost range: 4000 to 6000 piastres
 Revenue due: 3 piastres

Actual cost of adjudication:
 5089 piastres & 20 paras

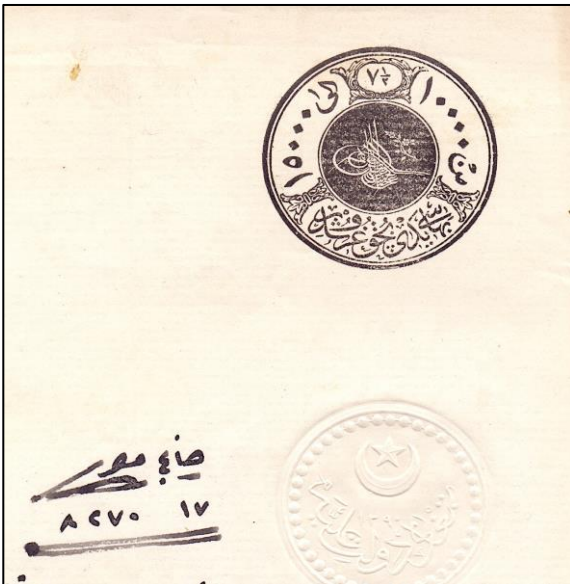


Khedivate Court document - 1879

Coloured seal:

Tughra of Sultan Abdul Hamid II
 Court cost range 6000 to 8000 piastres
 Revenue due: 4 piastres

Actual cost of adjudication:
 4135 piastres & 8 paras



Khedivate Court document - 1879

Coloured seal:

Tughra of Sultan Abdul Hamid II
 Court cost range: 10000 to 15000 piastres
 Revenue due: 7 piastres & 20 paras

Actual cost of adjudication:
 8270 piastres & 17 paras

Spot the mistake; the Court Clerk has used the wrong value of Revenue Stamped Paper as the cost of the adjudication falls below the lower cost range. Maybe they just ran out of 7000 to 9000 piastres revenue paper!

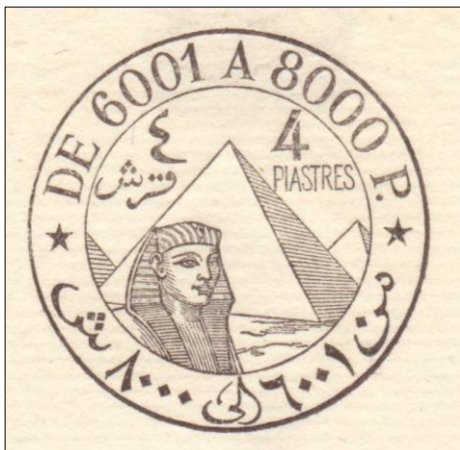
I can only assume that other values may well have been manufactured and used with earlier and later dates. Nevertheless, this format of two embossed seals, one of which is coloured and containing monetary/revenue values, provides an obvious fundamental connection between the Khedivate Revenue Stamped paper and The Pyramid and The Sphinx Issues later manufactured by Thomas de la Rue & Co., London. This of course could be sheer coincidence, but there is a further and more interesting correlation that might not be so coincidental.

There is the intriguing existence of what I call a *variety* of The Sphinx Issue, one clearly not known to Peter Feltus. I view it as a variety because for obvious reasons it closely resembles The Sphinx Issue and so I have made the assumption, rightly or wrongly, that Thomas de la Rue & Co. most likely produced it. Whether this variety pre or post dates that of The Sphinx Issue, or indeed was contemporaneous, was for me impossible to know. This is because I have examples of it as cut fragments, presumably from at one time complete sheets. What is interesting is that this variety contains significant elements of what is found in the coloured seal of the Khedivate Revenue Stamped Paper.

Variety of the Thomas del la Rue & Co. Sphinx Issue – cut rectangles



Once more we have two embossed seals. The upper coloured (black) seal has a central design that replicates The Sphinx Issue. The outer ring contains bilingually a range of piastre values reminiscent of that within the Khedivate seal except rather than monetary values being in whole numbers these are ‘DE’ (from) 1000s plus 1 piastre and ‘A’ (to) 1000s piastres. Below the coloured seal is an embossed albino seal; there is no surprise here, as in The Sphinx Issue it is of Cleopatra dressed as the Goddess Isis.



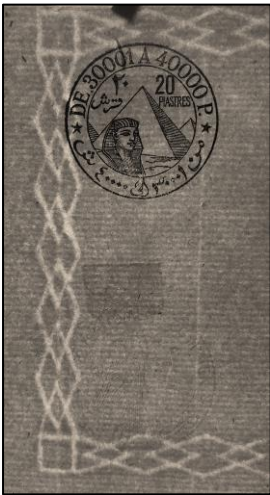
Sphinx Seal Comparison

The similarities and differences are clear to see.

Right: The Sphinx Issue

Left: the unrecorded variety





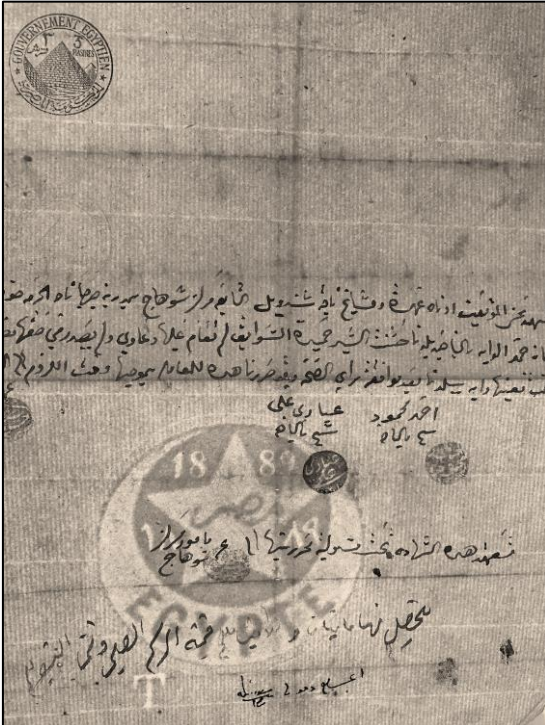
Enhanced image of the watermark border

Complete sheets of The Sphinx Issue have a large central watermark that contains a year date. This information is missing for the cut rectangles but there is, as can be seen (*left*), a watermark border consisting of an interlocking diamond shape that encompasses the two embossed seals and would seem to have extended the width of the sheet. Is this watermark of any significance? It would be sheer speculation for me to offer a reason; still, it would be useful to know if there are examples of its use on other paper and if so, how that may provide further information.

There is no way of knowing for what purpose this Revenue Stamped Paper bearing a variety of The Sphinx Issue might have been used; if indeed it was ever issued. The value ranges within the outer ring of the coloured seal suggest to me that they could well have been designed for use within the legal system, much like the usage of the Khedivate Revenue Stamped Paper. If so, could it perhaps have been produced *after* The Sphinx Issue as a specialisation of usage for that issue? Again, speculation on my part and probably misguided: why?

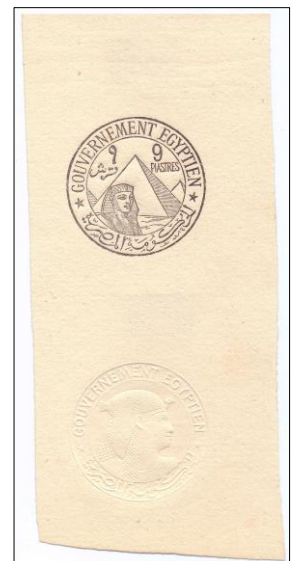
The problem with my suggestion is that the paper used is pale, light and delicate in contrast to the fine heavy paper used for both The Pyramid and Sphinx Issues. This would probably compromise the durability of any document using this Revenue Stamped Paper. I'm now led to thinking that perhaps these cut rectangles are really just the remnants of an essay of an unissued variety of The Sphinx Issue: again pure speculation. Without doubt finding a complete sheet would provide more information, but I fear not necessarily all the answers. For that a primary source of information is really needed, or indeed the expertise of others.

The Pyramid Issue
Enhanced image showing an 1889 date watermark



Alain Stragier's Udata article (*QC 270*) under the section entitled Fiscal papers comments that "*Surely there is more to come in this area of research*" and of course he is right, there is. Concerning The Pyramid Issue, Peter Feltus dates it as 1890-1916 and as can be seen (*left*) this now should at least be 1889-1916. Revenue values for The Sphinx Issue are now known to be 3 piastres and 6 piastres. The cut rectangle (*below*) tantalisingly suggests that a further value of The Sphinx Issue may well have been produced. Finally, the existence of a *variety* of The Sphinx Issue, with little knowledge about whether it was issued or not and what it was used for, means that there is indeed, still more to come from this area of research.

The Sphinx Issue
Unrecorded 9 piastres Revenue value

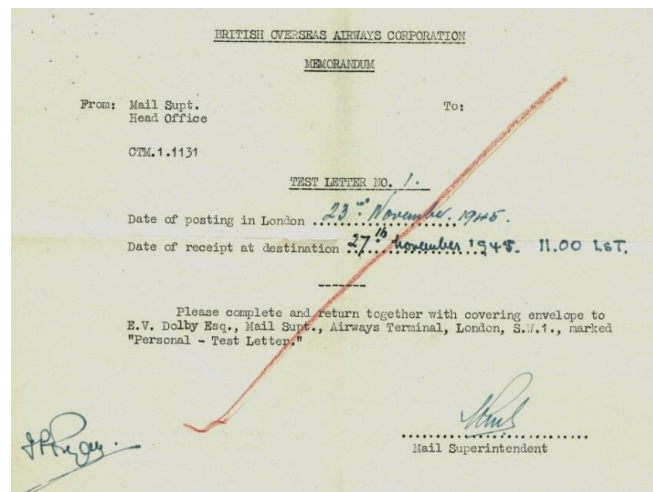


B.O.A.C. test letters

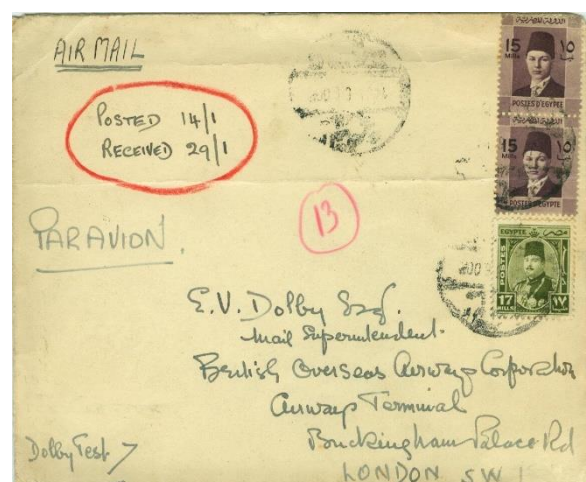
Scott Van Horn (ESC 619)

As part of the resumption of airmail service after World War II, the British Overseas Aircraft Corporation, B.O.A.C. (as well as other airlines) initiated a program to measure the efficiency of their service by sending test letters to multiple locations. These were sent in small batches of about 30 mailings, and may include multiple letters to the same location to further test consistency. In general, the letters were used for quality assurance purposes to indicate how much time elapsed for an envelope to arrive at a particular location. The ones from B.O.A.C. I have seen are all identified by the wording "Test Letter No." followed by a number, and all were from E. V. Dolby, Esq., who was the B.O.A.C. mail superintendent at the time. Of the two letters presented here, only one retained its contents, which provided instructions asking the local mail office manager to annotate when the letter arrived, and then to mail the receiving envelope and contents back to Dolby.

The first letter and contents presented here, "Test Letter No. 1", was posted 23 Nov 1945 at 1245PM, and addressed to the Cairo B.O.A.C. Office. This cover received a Cairo machine cancellation on 26 Nov. at 7PM, followed by a "British Airways Received Post Section" violet oval receiving mark on 27 Nov 1945. On the front, presumably from the Cairo office, someone annotated in blue pencil "2nd mail / 11-00 am" and "attn. Mr. Ryan": this was J. P. Ryan, the local manager. Scott #240 and #248 were used to pay the required 1/3d per one-half ounce airmail rate.



The second cover (without contents) shown at right is "Dolby Test 7", which was mailed on 14 Jan 1946 from Cairo to the London B.O.A.C office, and received on 29 Jan 1946, as confirmed by the violet RECEIVED backstamp. The letter was mailed by J. P. Ryan, the Cairo office manager, to Dolby. Two young King Farouk 15m and a single military King Farouk 17m were used for the 17m/20g surface rate, plus 30m/10g air surcharge.



A Collection of Posts (pun intended) from the ESC Facebook Page

Hani Sharestan (ESC 595)

With the advent and proliferation of social media the Egypt Study Circle took a cautious approach to making its presence known through its official Facebook page. The idea was hatched back in 2013 and completed in October 2015 via a face to face meeting in London between Mike Murphy, the late Edmund Hall and yours truly. A month later the page was launched with a simple announcement that still remains at the top of the page and a welcome message.

Today the page boasts nearly 460 members with at least 100-plus active members contributing with posts, likes, and commentary. Several members of the “original” Egypt Study Circle are also active and contribute often. Posts include announcements of forthcoming events, basic questions from new collectors, and advanced queries from those more experienced. As it is a perfect platform for such outlets, videos are shared there, including an interview from the APS page with Warren Buffet, the financial wizard and one of the world’s wealthiest persons, when he visited an Omaha stamp show this summer. Another video, shared by Atef Sarian, shows Hany Salam honoured as a Distinguished Philatelist at Stockholmia 2019.

The page also presents many posts by delighted collectors sharing “new arrivals” with group members, whether it be error stamps, royal collection material, new variety discoveries, unusual covers or rare postmarks ... just some of the possibilities.

The rest of this brief article demonstrates a small sample of posts and images from the page, albeit truncated to provide the essentials.

I’ll start with a post by Jos Strengholt, who shares a picture of a new addition (*right*) and asks if members know of an earlier date for the first Heliopolis postmark from 1909.

- **Jos Strengholt:** *I have been searching for a few years now for the first cancellation of the Heliopolis Post Office. This one is of 1 August 1909, 2.30pm. Please [share with] me your earlier one 😊 Or at least, show me your earlier one, for the catalogue of Heliopolis Cancellations that I maintain - with first and last dates used.*



Then there’s a similar post by Amro Kandeel, asking about Egypt’s first commemorative postmark (*left*).

- **Amro Kandeel:** *Egypt 1894 postcard from Alexandria to Cairo, stationary 5 mill. (correct rate being 3 mill., overpaid by 2 mill.) bearing most probably either the first day or second day Exposition Alexandria cancellation 23 IV 94. It is not clear if the 1st day was 22nd or 23rd April. If any of the respectable members can show examples earlier than the 23rd please share. Thank you.*

Bill Barclay, a member of the ESC and our sister group the Sudan Study Group, asks about Sudan/Egypt related perfins (right).

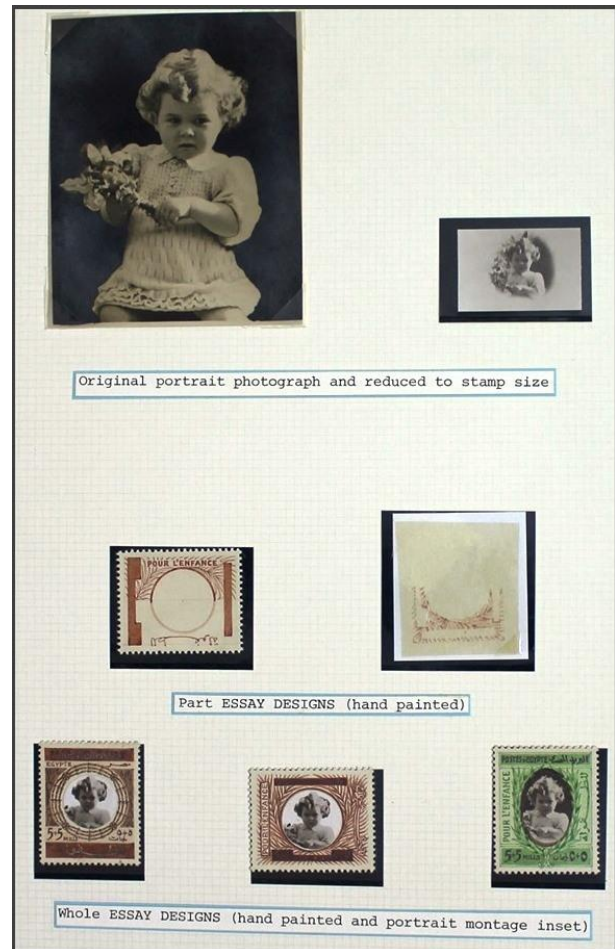
• **Bill Barclay:** *We are presently discussing these stamps on the 'Sudan Stamp Collecting Group' (Facebook) and wish to seek expert advice from our brothers/sisters of the ESC. FYI, these were sold today on eBay, and were advertised as 'Sudan Government' PERFINS. Be advised that I superimposed them over genuine SG stamps of Sudan and found they did not line up. They are not listed among the many PERFINS of Egypt. Comments are hereby solicited.*



• **Amgad Bassili** posted an image (left) of a cover sent to Konrad Bileski, leading to at least 15 comments with interesting discussions about rarity, relevance, and authenticity. For details of the discussion feel free to access the Facebook page and read what the fuss was all about.

This next image (right), of astonishing Princess Ferial essays, was shared by a **newly approved ESC Facebook member**, who asked the group for more information and possible value, provoking a lengthy discussion of more than 20 comments.

He mentioned that the page came from a family that had it in their possession for at least 30 years and that it may have come from a gold medal thematic collection on children from the 1980s.



Next up is a frequent contributor, Ragui Michael, asking about a postmark on a Third Issue stamp he recently acquired (*right*). This one garnered ten comments including from Socratis, Jos, and others.



- **Ragui Michael:** *For the great experts of this group, what is this postmark?*
- **Socratis Sigalas:** *BULAH DACRUV opened 1874*
- **Jos Strengholt:** *Socratis Sigalas seems spelling mistake? in French beau lac de caire*
- **Socratis:** *Jos Strengholt yes it happens a lot with Egyptian cds's. You often find the same town with more than one spelling. This one Smith gives a rarity factor 100 compared to factor 1 for Alexandria.*
- **Socratis:** *Jos Strengholt the place exists today as BULAQ DACRUR or بولاق دكرو*
- **Ragui H. Michael:** *Socratis Sigalas, Thanks for the info*

The final example is by **the writer**, sharing an uncatalogued new variety of Egypt's 1926 first airmail stamp (*right*). It shows a small dash next to the Arabic "waw" in the word "Al Dawla", as was confirmed by another frequent contributor, Constandi Soussou. Hardly any varieties are known for this issue, so it was a pleasant surprise when I snatched it up at a local stamp show in Anaheim, California.



It is worth noting that all posts and members seeking to join the Facebook group must be approved before inclusion. Over the years the page has generated interest in formally joining the ESC and resulted in no fewer than five or six new members. If you are not already a member of the ESC Facebook page, please point your browser to:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EgyptStudyCircle/>

To conclude, I am happy to claim that the Facebook page started in November 2015 continues to accomplish its mission, which is to promote more speedy interaction and communication between Egypt collectors, specialist or comparative beginner, wherever in the world they are. The world is evolving, and so are we!

- Hani Sharestan is Co-ordinator of the Egypt Study Circle Facebook page

ESC grant to a member-author

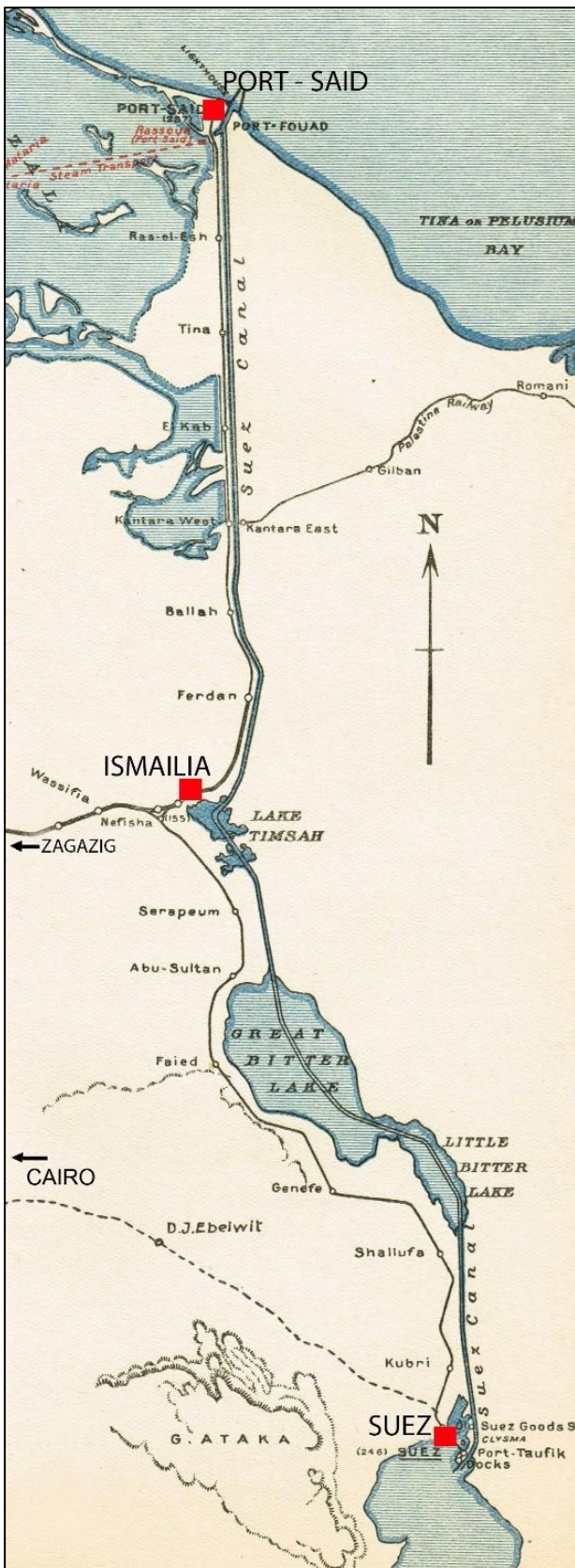
The Circle Committee is delighted to announce that, in accordance with the principle agreed at the AGMs in 2017 and 2018, it has made an ex-gratia payment to Ronny Van Pellecom (ESC 618) to help with his expenses in producing a significant new book, *Alexandria: The Postal History, Volume I*, which will be available soon. The one-off grant is worth €650. The Committee is keen to honour its commitment to encourage our

authors and is happy to see applications from other budding writers. Please give as much notice as possible, so that both research and presentation can be evaluated, and so that guidance may be given as to whether it might be more suitable to point the writer in the direction of the Stuart Rossiter Trust, which is experienced in helping with research, printing, publishing and marketing postal history philatelic material.

Railway stations during 1879-1914, Part 5

Ronny Van Pellecom (ESC 618) and Alain Stragier (ESC 241)

THE CANAL



Lionel Wiener, *L'Égypte et ses chemins de fer*

In order to optimize the connection to India, a railroad was laid between Suez and Cairo in 1858. It was known as the desert railway.

After the inauguration of the Suez Canal in 1869, this railway lost its economic value and was abandoned. Meanwhile the line between Cairo and Zagazig was extended in 1868 to Ismailia, with a connection to Suez via the junction at Nefisha.

The *Compagnie Universelle du Canal Maritime de Suez* (Suez Canal Company) constructed the Suez Canal between 1859 and 1869. A government steamer service was in operation every day, together with a two-day boat service run by the Canal Company.

TRAMWAY FROM PORT SAID TO ISMAILIA.
 LONDON, Dec. 7.
 The Suez Canal Company has decided to construct a steam tramway from Port Said to Ismailia, on the Suez Canal, for the conveyance of passengers and mails.

The Sydney Morning Herald, 8 December 1891

On 3 December 1891 the Council of Ministers authorized the building of a narrow-gauge tramway between Port-Said and Ismailia; it was opened the same year. Besides its own equipment and agents, the Company could transport travellers and mailbags. The former steamer service (of the Company) closed on 03 December 1893, due to the opening of the new steam tramway service.

The first mail was convoyed over the new line from Port Said to Ismailia on Sunday by the train leaving the former place at 9 am, at present the only train from Port Said during the day. This arrangement will, we understand, save L.E. 2,000 a year to the Government. As a consequence of the carriage of mails and passengers by the Suez Canal Company's line, the three postal boats that used to run between Port Said and Ismailia are now in the market. They originally cost L.E. 4,000 each, but as no purchaser has been found, they are to be handed over to the Khedivieh Steamship Administration.

Egyptian Gazette 5 December 1893



The narrow gauge railway alongside the Suez Canal

Baedeker's Egypt 1902:

*This narrow-gauge line belongs to the Suez Canal Co. 0 Ismailia It passes the following stations: 9 ½ M. **El-Ferdan**, 15 ½ M. **Kilomètre 54**, 21 ½ M. **El-Kantara**, then **Kilomètre 34** and **24**, 40 ½ M. **Râs el-Esh** and at 50 M. **Port Said***

Negotiations are starting in 1901 between the Government and the Suez Canal Company

Port Said – Ismailia Railway.

The negotiations between the State Railway Administration and the Suez Canal Company now practically only await the latter's assent to the financial proposals made by the railway Board. The broad principle is that the Canal Company shall be responsible for the construction and upkeep of the necessary line, the Government authorities to lease the road upon terms, as we have said, not yet precisely agreed upon. We have reason to believe that the alternative scheme of constructing the route across Lake Manzaleh is not one involving great expense or engineering difficulty, and it may be found that this proposal is one that will ultimately prove not unprofitable, in the absence of any acceptable proposals from the Canal Company. It will be remembered too that, according to the authorization given by Said Pasha, the Canal Administration have power to prevent the construction of a railway, or other enterprise, within 100 to, in other places, 250 metres from the canal banks

Egyptian Gazette 30 October 1901



Office of the Suez Canal Company (Carlo Mieli)

Further negotiations culminated in the Convention of 1 February 1902, which concerned the replacement of the narrow-gauge steam tramway by a normal-gauge railway

The Government bought the railway back in 1902.

PORT – SAID



Port Said in 1869

(Carte de l'Isthme de Suez et plans des villes Port-Said, Ismailia & Suez 1869)

Population on 31 December 1877 was 7,949 (3,854 natives and 4,095 foreigners), increasing to a total of 10,000 inhabitants in 1882. (Égypte, Notes et itinéraires 1882)

Bulletin Hebdomadaire 11.02.1886

Schedule and tariff of the boats between Port-Said and Ismailia

In order to enable the holders to respond to requests for information that may be addressed to them by the public concerning the mail boats circulating between Port-Saïd and Ismailia, the Directorate-General believes it should inform them that the schedule and the tariff of these boats are fixed as follows:

SCHEDULE

Departs	Arrivals
Port-Said midnight	Ismailia 6.30 a.m.
Ismailia 5 p.m.	Port-Said 11 p.m.

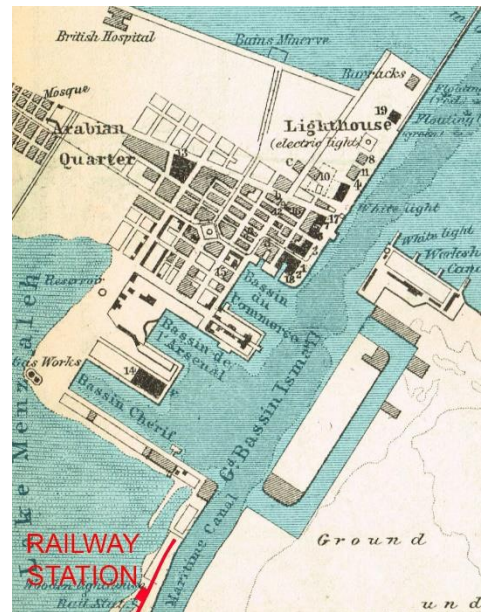
The departure of Ismailia is subordinated to the arrival of the Cairo-Suez train, and every Thursday the boat must leave Ismailia after the passage of the train bringing the Brindisi mail.

TARIFF

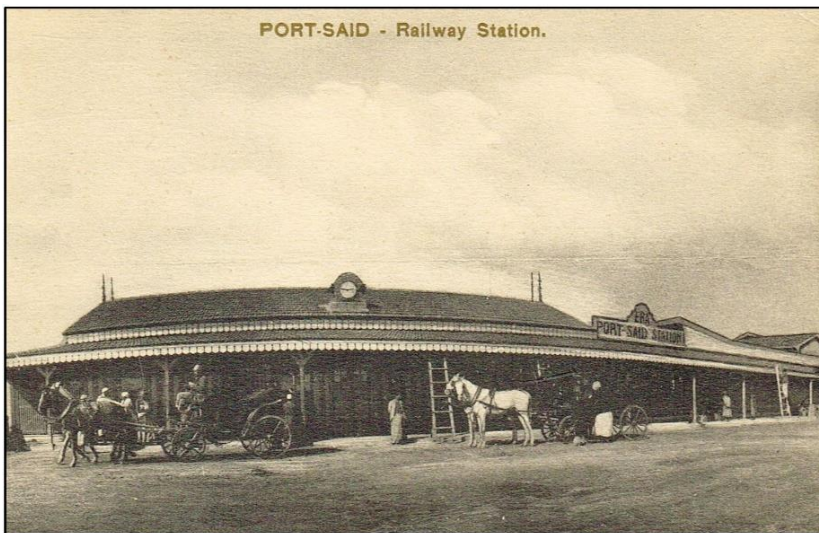
From Port Said to Ismailia or vice versa
 First class P.T. 90
 Second class P.T. 50

Schedule of the Governmental steamer service

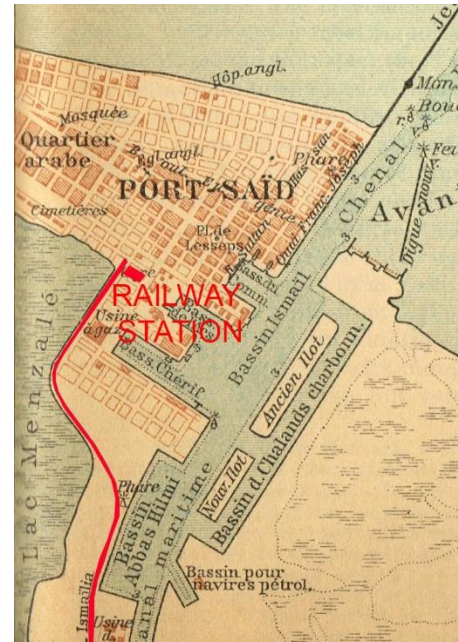
The Suez Canal Company's railway was inaugurated in 1893, and with the further evolution of this railroad, the station also changed.



Baedeker 1898



Port-Said – Railway Station (The Cairo Postcard trust)



Baedeker 1902:

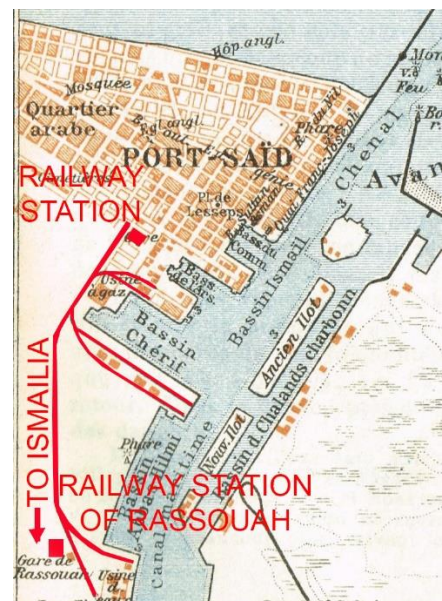
The railway station has moved to the centre of the city

The narrow-gauge railway of the Suez Canal Company was replaced by a normal-gauge railway in 1902 and was bought back to the Government in the same year. A decision was made in 1908 to build a new station :

PORT SAID STATION

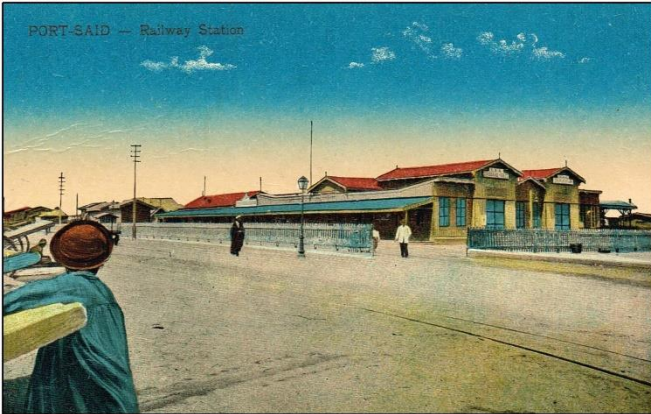
The new railway terminus at Port Said is expected to cost about LE 132,000. The work will be taken in the course of next year.

The Egyptian Gazette 10 October 1908

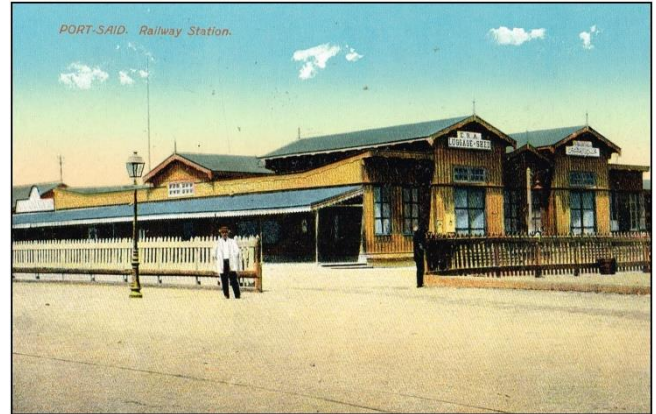


Baedeker 1914

The new railway station



Port-Said – Railway Station
(C. Adreopulos, Port-Said)



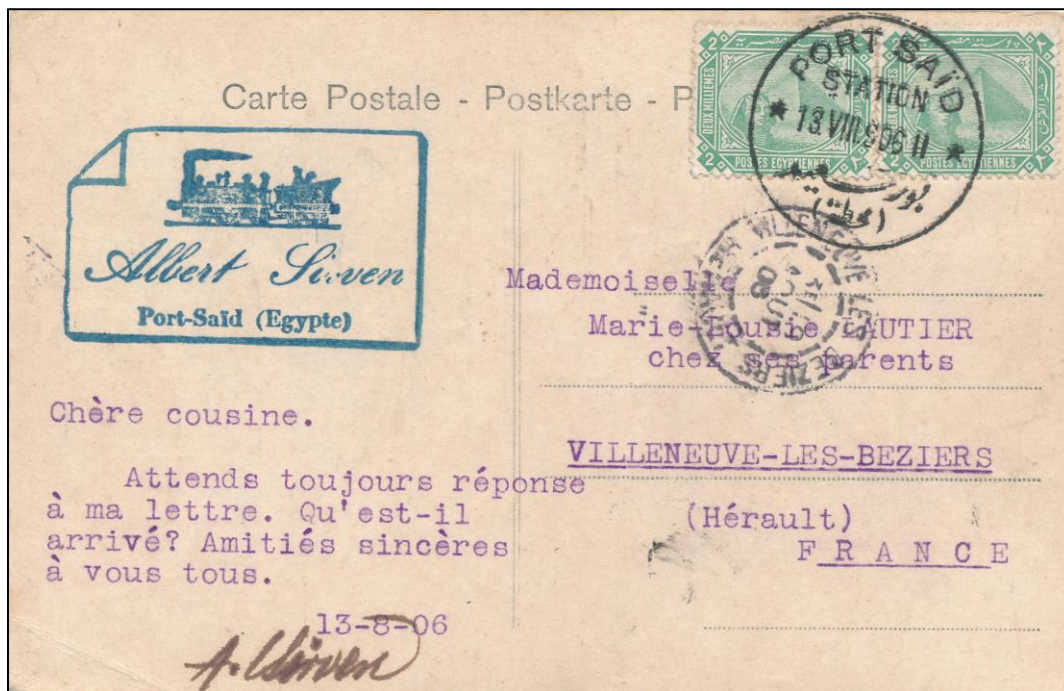
Port-Said – Railway Station
(The Cairo Postcard Trust)



Port Said – Railway Station (P.O.B.N. 81)

ST_PS_01			
	PORT SAID STATION	22 VII 905 Beyond 1914	Single ring 31 mm
	* 23. VII. 908 II *		
	BUR SAID MAHATTA		

Seen as		
DEPART	ARRIVAL	TRANSIT
X		

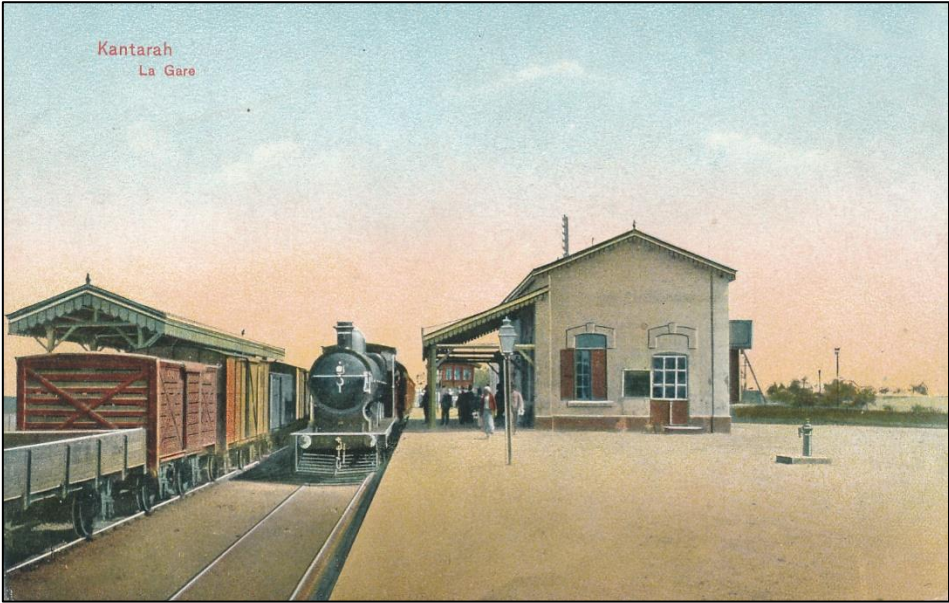


Postcard from PORT SAID STATION * 13 VIII 906 *
to VILLENEUVE-LES-BEZIERS 31 AOUT 06

The sender of the card above, Albert Pierre Julien Sirven (Port Taufiq 13 November 1887-30 June 1917) died on board the *SS Calédonien*, sunk by a mine from the German submarine UC-34, 30 miles north of Port Said.



Postcard from PORT SAID STATION * 23 VII 908 * to Cairo
via PORT SAID-CAIRO T.P.O. 23 VII 08 T218



Kantara – The station (Ephtimios Frères, Port Said)
 Transfer point for caravans between Egypt and Syria



Gare el Ferdan
 Stopping place of the steamer service

EGYPTIAN STATE RAILWAYS AND TELEGRAPHS
SICK REPORT - تقرير مرض

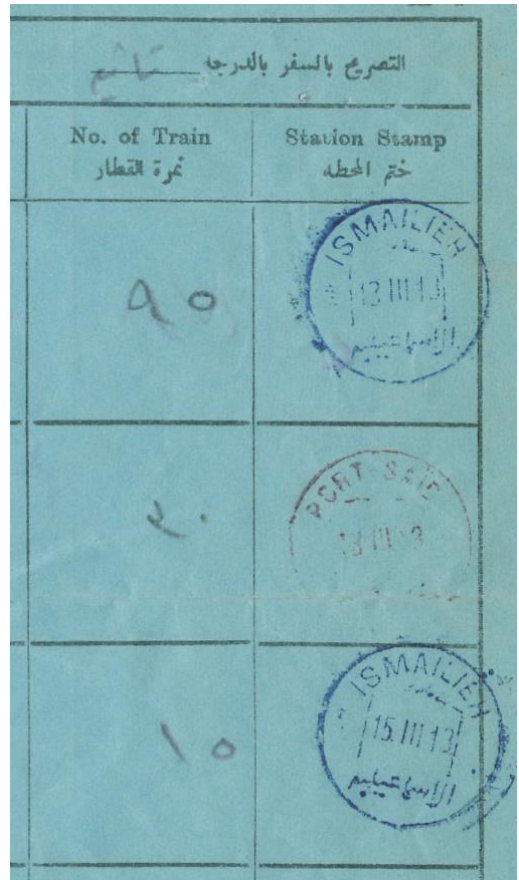
Form No. 100.
No. 8540 E

Station: من قلم العريش
 To the Medical Officer of Dist. عريشة
 Name: عوفيق نصر الدين
 Employment: موظف
 Absent from duty on account of illness since: 12/3/13
 Date: 12/3/13
 Remarks of Chief of Dept. or Issuing Officer: منقطع عن العمل بامسبغ المرض منذ 12/3/13
 Authorized to proceed on Sick Leave to: تصرح اليه بالسفر بالاجازة المرضيه الى
 Date: 12/3/13
 Forwarded to Audit Dept. (T.A.B.): مرسل الى المراقبه (قلم مراجعته)
 Date: 12/3/13

MEDICAL SERVICE
ISMAILIA DIST.

Authority to Travel in		class.	No. of Train	Station Stamp
Date	From	To	نمرة القطار	ختم المحطة
12/3/13	العريش	بورسعيد	٩٥	ISMAILIEH 13.III.13
12/3/13	بورسعيد	الاسماعيليه	٢٠	PORT SAID 13.III.13
12/3/13	الاسماعيليه	بورسعيد	١٥	ISMAILIEH 15.III.13
12/3/13	بورسعيد	الاسماعيليه	٩٤	PORT SAID 13.III.13
12/3/13	الاسماعيليه	بورسعيد	٨٥	ISMAILIEH 13.III.13

Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs Sick Report on an employee dated 12 March 1913, sent from the Port-Said office to its headquarters in Ismailia, with administrative cancellations of Port-Said and Ismailia railway stations



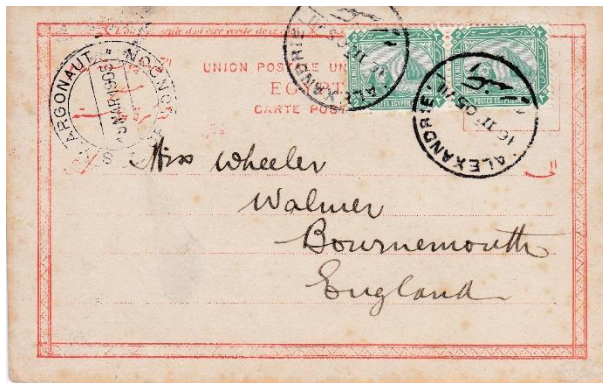
Update – Hotels and steam yachts

Alain Stragier (ESC 241)

Savoy Hotel, Cairo (QC 250, page 55): John Davis (ESC 213) illustrated a hotel cover with an ornate cachet in red dated 20 JAN 1905 on the reverse, cancelling a 1 millième De La Rue. We know the cachet is an administrative cancel of the hotel, tying the stamp on the reverse only to act as a closing device, because the full franking for Switzerland was paid by the 1-piastre postal stationery envelope. John's question was: "Has anyone seen another one?" The answer is Yes, in violet, dated 19 DEC 1905, at top left of a view card (right) posted from the Savoy Hotel post office to Milan the same day.



The S.Y. Argonaut of London (QC 258, pages 250-51): The viewcard of Alexandria published by John Davis carried a double-ring ship's handstamp in black of the S.Y. ARGONAUT / OF LONDON dated 11 II 05 and led to a query for more information. As I collect Egypt and Greece ship-related mail, I can show (below) another card with the handstamp from Alexandria, dated 15 March 1905 and posted on 16 III 05. Please note the interesting view on the reverse, a photograph of a wrecked ship and almost undoubtedly the S.S. Cairo, which was sunk on March 6, ten days earlier!



I also have two Greek cards (below) with the steam yacht's handstamp, both posted in Piraeus to England with a franking of 10 leptas, on 27 February and 18 April 1905: please notice the difference of 13 days between the ship's cancel using the Gregorian calendar and the Greek post office cancel using the Julian calendar. I have never seen other items of this kind, which perhaps indicates that the year 1905 - or even part of it (all examples known fall within about three months - was the only time in which Greece and Egypt cruises took place. In addition, all cards I have seen are addressed to the UK, probably confirming that the cruise organisers saw priority or even exclusivity in a British clientele.



Membership – your final notice

It may seem far afield, but the date for paying your Egypt Study Circle subscription for 2020 is only just more than a month away – January 1 2020. And those who have not paid up by the date of the Annual General Meeting – next year Saturday February 8 – will lose their membership. Every year a small team of Committee members (Treasurer Sami Sadek, North America Agent Trenton Ruebush and Secretary Mike Murphy) have to spend a great deal of time and effort in chasing members who have overlooked paying by the due date. Please remember ... the due date for 2020 is

January 1 2020

Please ensure that subscriptions are paid. Members are given a little leeway, but if your payment is not received on time there will be one more attempt to contact you – and then no more QCs, no website access. If you live in the UK or have an English bank account **PLEASE create a standing order** so that the bank does the work for you. That saves us much time and effort. And avoids memberships being lost by accident. And if you download the magazine from the internet net (nearly 20 % of us do!) you don't even have to pay £20.

For those who choose to pay in **US dollars or euros**, here is a quick reminder of the amounts::

If you pay in ...	GBP	EUR	USD
For a printed QC please pay	20	22	25
To read it online please pay	15	16	18

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 Sami Sadek. All addresses are on the first page of every QC.

MacArthur Award – time to vote

The number of members voting for the annual MacArthur Award is declining year on year. The award is intended to encourage members to write for the QC, to share their discoveries and knowledge, and to help us to produce a bright and useful magazine. So this year we thought we would lend a hand – by suggesting the best three articles of 2019 in our opinion. You do not have to choose one of the three – but please **DO** choose, and send in a note with your PayPal subscription payment.

In no particular order, as they say, we feel that the following best represent our aims of researching and distributing knowledge about Egyptian philately:

- Sami Sadek, *TPOs and timetables : Secrets revealed* (QC 270, pp 248-255)
- David Jones, *Revenue Stamped Paper: Pyramid and Sphinx*, QC 271, pp 272-277)
- Pierre Louis Grech, *Hai-el-Arab, Port-Said* (QC 269, pp 226-239)

Egyptian Specialised Auction

including part 2 of the Joseph Chalhoub Collection

December 9, 2019 in Geneva



On December 9, 2019, we will offer the final part of the Commemorative issues of the Monarchy period from the Chalhoub Collection. The auction offers a unique opportunity to acquire some of the greatest rarities of these popular commemorative issues with over 300 lots showing essays, proofs, imperforates, royal imperforated and cancelled on reverse control blocks of four, varieties and a wonderful array of commercial mail.

In addition we will present more than 100 lots in our All World catalogue, which includes a nice selection of King Farouk.

David Feldman SA 59 Route de Chancy, 1213 Petit Lancy 1, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel. +41 (0)22 727 0777 Fax +41 (0)22 727 0778 Email info@davidfeldman.com



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