

The  
Quarterly Circular  
of  
**THE  
EGYPT**



**STUDY CIRCLE**

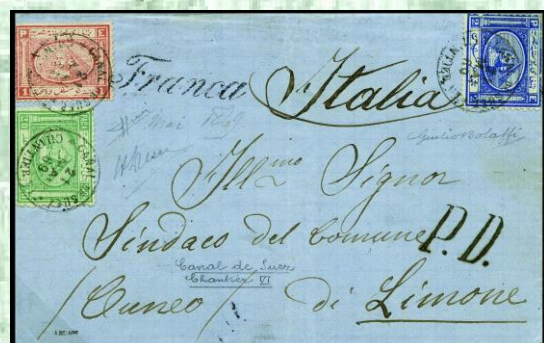
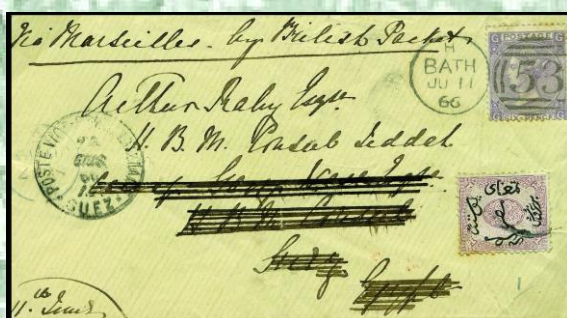
September Quarter 2021 – Vol XXIV No 7 – Whole Series No 278 – Pages 147-170

CONTENTS

Officers / Meetings schedule 147, AGM 148, Members' News 150

ARTICLES

Looking forward to getting back in action ...	Editorial, Jon Aitchison	p.148
Members' News: Jack Graham, Ragui Michael, Tobias Zywiets, Bill Johns		p.150
Cairo hotel maxicard analytics	Sun Yu Ng et al	pp.151-158
More on "1957 - Rejected Egyptian Mail"	Pierre Louis Grech	pp.159-161
First recorded "BCI" perfin cover	Amgad Bassili	p.162
Parcel cards procedure: A query	John Davis	pp.162-163
Update: Miri governmental marking	Mahmoud Ramadan	p.163
Update: GBLA Catalogue	Miroslav Št'otka	p.163
Update: Stamp with a hole		p.163
1 piastre – 1874: settings, substitutions and varieties	Ramez Atiya	pp.164-170



**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.*



**Quality Stamps, Proofs and Rare Postal History of the World always required for Stock or on a confidential Private Treaty basis.**

**CLONFADDA, MACROOM, P12 RV08, Co. Cork, IRELAND**

**Telephone +44 7771 731733 [toddytripzinc@gmail.com](mailto:toddytripzinc@gmail.com)**

**VAT No. GB 561 9567 09**

## Meetings Programme 2021-22

*Please bear in mind that this programme is now in a "likely" draft form. As we move out of pandemic conditions, we believe that every element below will take place as planned.*

Oct 2 2021, 2-4	Autumn Stampex	Room and postal Auction No 63	All members
Nov 13 2021, 2-5	Victory Services Club	Conflict: wars and invasions etc	John Davis
Feb 22-26 2022, 11-5	London 2200 Exhibition	Egypt Study Circle table	All welcome
Feb 26 2022, 12-2	London 2200 Exhibition	AGM and "Postcards"	All members

### EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE OFFICERS

<b>President/Librarian</b>	<b>John Davis</b> , Church View Cottage, Church Rd, Upton Snodsbury, Worcs WR7 4NH <b>john.davis2@btinternet.com</b>
<b>Chairman/ Programme Secretary</b>	<b>Jon Aitchison</b> , Old Tithe Hall, Start Hill, Nr Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM22 7TF <b>britishlocals@aol.com</b>
<b>Vice Chairman/ Webmaster</b>	<b>Neil Hitchens</b> , 46 Rosslyn Park, Oatlands Village, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9QZ <b>n.hitchens@btopenworld.com</b>
<b>Secretary/Editor</b>	<b>Mike Murphy</b> , 11 Waterbank Road, Bellingham, London SE6 3DJ <b>egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com</b>
<b>Treasurer/Auctioneer</b>	<b>Dr Sami Sadek</b> , The Oaks, 19 Sinah Lane, Hayling Island, Hants PO11 0EY <b>sami.sadek@ntlworld.com</b>
<b>Facebook co-ordinator</b>	<b>Hani Sharestan</b> , 33 Monrovia, Irvine, CA 92602, USA <b>me3alem@aol.com</b>
<b>North America Agent</b>	<b>Trenton Ruebush</b> , 324 Sunset Creek Circle, Chapel Hill, N Carolina 27516, USA <b>tkruebush@gmail.com</b>
<b>Egypt Agent</b>	<b>Dr Ibrahim Shoukry</b> , Apt 1, 10 Kamal El-Tawil St, Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt <b>ishoukry@link.net</b>
<b>Antipodean Agent</b>	<b>Tony Cakebread</b> , 82A Messines Road, Karori, Wellington 6012, New Zealand <b>cakebread@xtra.co.nz</b>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Brian Sedgley</b> , 6 Mulberry Way, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2FE <b>witchboy19@gmail.com</b>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Vahe Varjabedian</b> , 6 Mohammed Galal St, Apt 61, Heliopolis 11341, Cairo, Egypt <b>vahev@hotmail.com</b>
<b>Honorary Life Members</b>	<b>John Sears, Cyril Defriez, Brian Sedgley, Stephen Bunce</b>

All contents © copyright Egypt Study Circle, London, and the contributors.

**Website: [egyptstudycircle.org.uk](http://egyptstudycircle.org.uk)**



**Facebook**

## Looking forward to getting back into action...

The virus won the last round, forcing the July 10 meeting to be abandoned, but even that date showed the first signs of regrowth – Auction 23 had to become fully internet/postal, with no physical meeting and no room bidding, but raised £1700 from commission and donated material. The AGM (*see below*) quickly followed with only Officers present.

So we look forward to the next step back to “normal” life with our scheduled meeting on **Saturday 2 October** from 2-4pm in Room F at Stampex, the British national exhibition, which is held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, close to Angel Underground station. The meeting’s main theme is our Auction 63, which will be held in the room. Fully illustrated catalogues will be distributed soon and postal/email bids will be welcomed. Please bring any new acquisitions or interesting items to display if time permits. During Stampex, from Wednesday to Saturday, Sept 29-Oct 2, the Circle will have a stand to promote membership and sell books. Please come to say hello, or, better still, volunteer to man it for an hour or two.

On **Saturday 13 November** we meet at our regular venue, the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, near Marble Arch, London, where the subject is “Conflicts, wars and invasions”. Our President, John Davis, will be the main presenter but everyone is welcome to

bring something on that subject or anything else. We will be holding our annual club competition and members are encouraged to bring an entry of up to 16 sheets on any Egypt topic. The meeting starts at 2pm but we gather in the bar from 1pm to socialise and have a meal or drink if you wish.

For the Circle, 2022 starts on **26 February** (12 noon to 2pm) with a meeting at the major London 2022 International Philatelic Exhibition, which is also at the Business Design Centre. Subjects will be postcards and displays from visiting members, plus a brief AGM. More details in the next *QC*.

Please remember that from **18-22 March 2022** we have a joint weekend meeting with the Sudan Study Group at the Morley Hayes Hotel near Derby. The previous joint event was well attended and great fun, so please try to join us. Everyone is welcome, including spouses and day visitors (£16.50). Approximate cost is £135 pppn d,b&b in a single room or £82 pppn in a double. More details will follow but please book now or as early as possible.

If you have questions about meetings, want to make a reservation for Morley Hayes or to help on the stand at Stampex, please contact the ESC Chairman, Jon Aitchison, at [britishlocals@aol.com](mailto:britishlocals@aol.com) or phone him on UK number 01279 870488.

## Report of the Annual General Meeting, Bishop’s Stortford, July 10 2021

PRESENT: John Davis (President/Librarian), Jon Aitchison (Chairman/Programme Secretary), Neil Hitchens (Vice-Chairman/Webmaster), Mike Murphy (Secretary/Editor), Sami Sadek (Treasurer/Auctioneer). APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE; John Sears, Tony Cakebread, Trent Ruebush, Ibrahim Shoukry, Hani Sharestan, Vahe Varjabedian, Andy Gould, Brian Sedgley, Ted Fraser-Smith, Richard Wheatley, Paul Green.

The meeting opened with an informal bourse of members’ unwanted material. This proved a great success and it is hoped that members will bring along material for similar exchanges to future meetings.

The 2020 AGM Minutes were approved. Matters arising: it was noted that the Circle’s grant of 650 euros to help with publication of Ronny Van Pellecom’s *Alexandria Postal History* remained outstanding because there had been no opportunity to meet. Sami Sadek was appointed Auctioneer in succession to Mike Murphy.

Election of Officers: This item was moved up the agenda because John Sears’ much-regretted standing down as President had made it necessary for the Committee to fill some roles provisionally. By acclamation, the new roles - John Davis (President), Jon Aitchison (Chairman), Neil Hitchens (Vice-Chairman) – were ratified.

Chairman: The outgoing Chairman welcomed those present, reported briefly on a remarkably quiet year in 2020 as a result of the pandemic, noting that no meetings had been held since the last AGM in February 2020. He expressed himself flattered to be elected President, a position of honour that he accepted with delight.

Auction: Sami Sadek reported on the recently closed Auction 62, noting that sales of more than £6,000 and participation of more than 45 members in purchasing 60 per cent of the lots available meant commission due to the Circle of more than £900. He thanked John Sears for donating his Library in aid of Circle funds, and reported that virtually all of the books sold, providing a donation of more than £800. It was also noted that the new regulations – PayPal payments attracting a 5% levy to cover costs and all postage to be paid by the buyers – were accepted by the buyers and caused few headaches. Auction 63 will be held at Stampex in October.

Secretary: Mike Murphy reported that in the 17 months since the last AGM we had lost a total of 17 members through demise, resignation or lapsing, and gained ten new members with another restored to membership. This net loss of six meant that we stand at present at 160 members, and the gradual decline continues, as with so many other philatelic organisations similar to ours.

In referring to the MacArthur Award, the Secretary was delighted to announce that the award for 2020 had gone to Peter Grech (ESC 266), for his immensely detailed article on “Ismailia – Timsah” in *QC* 274. He was disappointed, however, on two points – we had run out of scribe statuettes for the winner’s trophy so no physical award can yet be made – and the number of entries this year was frustratingly small. We shall make strenuous efforts to give the competition – intended to encourage members to write for the *QC* – more attention.

Treasurer: Sami Sadek presented reports for both 2019 and 2020 because at the time of the last AGM the 2019 detail had not been available. He acknowledged difficulties in the wake of the resignation of our Auditor, Stephen Bunce (ESC 272), who had filled that role since 1993, and was grateful indeed to Andy Gould (ESC 393) for offering to take on the task and produce two years of reports in quick succession. Because Andy is not technically an Auditor, a quick change was made to our Circle Rules, which now refer instead (Section 8.d) to annual election of an “independent accounts examiner”.

On the proposal of Mike Murphy, seconded by Sami Sadek, Stephen Bunce was appointed an Honorary Life Member of the Circle. The decision was unanimous, together with the meeting’s wishes that he may go on to enjoy a long and fruitful collecting career without the troubles of looking after our accounts.

The two years of reports are skewed by the effect of the sales at Auction of Peter Andrews’ material and the fact that monies raised were necessarily held over from one year to another to reach completion. They show however that after the Andrews payments were complete we had an accumulated surplus of £23,315.45 at December 21 2020, including £13,000 in the bank and £8,000 in the PayPal account. The Circle New Issues collection and Library were revalued at £500 and £2,000 respectively, as decided at the 2019 AGM.

Meetings: The Programme Secretary regretted a complete washout of all planned meetings after the AGM during the year and set out a fascinating programme for 2022; we hope members will be sufficiently reassured by virus precautions to attend the remaining meetings for 2021, the room and live Auction 63 at Stampex on October 2, and our meeting on “Conflict, war and invasions” with the annual competition (up to 16 sheets on any subject) at the Services Club on November 13.

Editor: The Editor thanked regular contributors for their patience and continuing supply of material, while suggesting that all articles would be gratefully received, but his main theme was postal rates post-Brexit, which had ballooned out of all recognition, to just short of £2,000 for *QC* postage. The good news however was that 25 members choose to pay a reduced subscription and read the *QC* online (net saving £218.80). Beyond that, we are immensely grateful for the offer by Michael Ryan (ESC 722), our member in Wyoming, to act as distributor for North American members – receiving magazines by courier and posting them on at local rates, tried experimentally and successfully in June – which will save us a net £648.80 in a full year; and a similar operation run by Dr Sherif Samra (ESC 311) in Cairo (though off to a bad start when the courier could not find his office) will save a further £413.60. We are enormously grateful to Mr Ryan and Dr Sherif, two heroes.

In an attempt to further save costs, it was suggested that the *QC* might be produced in A5 format (210 x 148mm) against the present A4 (297 x 210mm), taking it into the first step of postal rates. There was much discussion of how much material could be shown on a small page, and more investigation will be carried out.

Website: The Webmaster reported that digitising old copies of the *QC* and *L'OP* had been successful, and cost-free, and proved his point by presenting those attending with beautifully restored copies of *QC* No 1 (February 1938) as seen online, a far cry from the bedraggled and rust-marked copies handed to him for preservation. A whole panoply of improvements in clarity and ease of use is planned for the site, together with a planned roll-out of more articles and illustrations of members' medal-winning collections. The Webmaster volunteered to investigate and eventually lead the way in introducing "virtual" online meetings via Zoom and the like.

Library: The Librarian lamented that no books had been borrowed in the year under review, and that a world of useful information was being wasted. The meeting decided that the Library List on the website should be renewed and updated, and that members should be encouraged to borrow books for up to three months with detailed instructions in the *QC* and on the site, and free postage for those in the UK. Books will be handled face to face where possible, but we will work out special conditions for overseas members.

Any other Business: At the suggestion of the Chairman, the question of closer affiliation with the Sudan Study Group was discussed. Both societies are suffering from a slowly decreasing and ageing membership, those willing to volunteer to fill officers' positions are fewer, and several colleagues are already members of both groups: overall the advantages of closer ties seem clear. But there are important decisions to be made – for instance, how will the magazine(s) work? Could we have all-day meetings with one group in the morning, the other in the afternoon – members could choose which (both?) to attend. The discussion occupied some fascinating minutes, and it was agreed that the joint weekend meeting with the SSG near Derby on March 18-20 next year would be the ideal place to take the possibilities and the arguments to another stage.

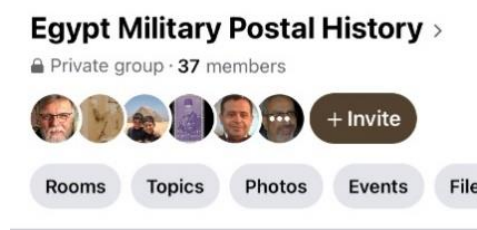
2022 AGM: It was decided to hold the next AGM at our London 2022 meeting (replacing Stampex), at the Design Centre in Islington, from noon to 2pm on Saturday February 26.

**Members' news 1: Jack Graham** (ESC 541), of Oregon, for long an enthusiast and enthusiastic correspondent on Pyramids/Mena House, Thomas Cooks, Richter and other fascinating postcards, sadly passed away on July 23. He had made several donations of material to be sold for Circle fund in recent years, and left us more in his will. A worthy colleague lost. RIP.

**Members' news 2: Ragui Michael** (ESC 736), of Massachusetts, who joined via our Facebook page, tells us that, with other ESC members, he is fascinated by a new area of collecting and has branched out by creating a Facebook group for Egypt Military Postal History (*see right*) Members of the group, which is so far rather small and functions like a stamp collector club, would love to connect with ESC colleagues who are interested in this subject.



**Members' news 3: Tobias Zyvietz** (ESC 696) of Germany, has recently published the eighteenth online issue of his subscription-free *Middle East Philatelic Bulletin* ([tinyurl.com/sbfb9smr](http://tinyurl.com/sbfb9smr)), including in its 250 pages the usual wonderful panoply of articles, notes and news of philately throughout the area, but including especially almost 50 pages of postal and communications information he has extracted from the 1872 edition of the *Guide-Annuaire d'Égypte*. This magnificent primary source includes detailed information on local offices and foreign offices in Egypt, sailing schedules for the paquebots, and very much more. All in French, but the myriad facsimile pages illustrated all come with a brief English translation. Magnifique!



**Members' news 4: Bill Johns** (ESC 287), our good friend in Swansea, and a respected, active and communicative member since the early 1980s, has been going through a hard time with illness recently and has reluctantly decided to give up his Egypt collecting interests. His material will be presented in a dozen intriguing lots in Grosvenor's British Empire and Foreign Countries ([grosvenorauctions.com](http://grosvenorauctions.com)) on October 5.

## Cairo hotel maxicard analytics

Sun-Yu Ng (ESC 689) et al

A maxicard (also known as a maximum card or *carte maximum* in French) is the result of postage stamp(s) being franked on the picture side of a postcard displaying similar, if not identical, images (excluding country name, face value, perforations) so as to attain maximal concordance between them. Preferably the cancel would also reflect close proximity to the object of concordance. Maximaphily is the philatelic hobby of creating and collecting maxicards.

Enthusiasts of maximaphily have often been offered a mystical narrative that its early stages were no more than spontaneous creations, made by chance according to the imagination and taste of their creators. I beg to propose an alternative data-driven hypothesis - based largely on illustrated postal cards sent from Egyptian hotels - on how other factors are involved.

In our earlier essay "*Maximaphily Ancestry: a retrospective study of three first parental generation maximum card precursor families*"\* we presented the first generation of maxicard precursors as a multifamily generation: the first family is based on coats of arms, another comprises royal personages, and then, most under the radar and not receiving enough attention, is the hotels family. Few of us are born royal or have our own coat of arms but most, if not all, of us have spent holidays in hotels, large or small, close or far from home, and recall the experience vividly. This is why we feel more closely connected to the third family, whether we see examples in a philatelic exhibition or are directly involved in collecting such memorabilia.

In the essay mentioned above we focused on Swiss and Italian hotel maxicard precursors, approaching 120 in number. Now we add Egyptian hotels to this family, and allow the analytics to tell the story.

When we examined the Swiss hotel maxicard precursors (some 110 members if the five Italians are excluded and placed in a small subfamily), we identified six conserved elements [the term "conserved element" is used to convey the message that people today, including me, who continue to create maxicards look at earlier generation maxicards as examples, good or bad, to repeat the good choices and avoid the mistakes], some shared between families but others unique among members of this family.

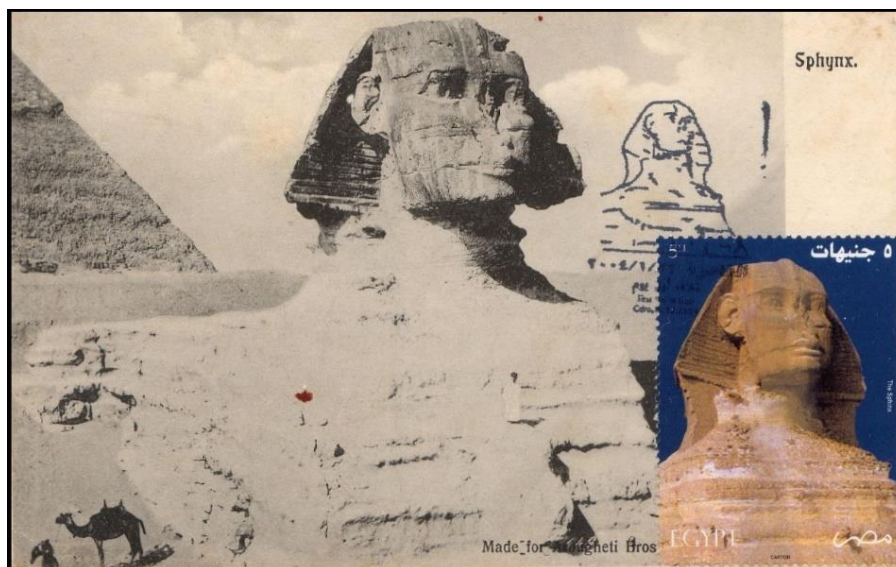


Fig. 1. Triple concordant Sphinx maxicard was created with the Cairo first day pictorial cancellation dated January 22 2004 on an early vintage postcard. The 5 LE stamp was issued as part of the *Discover the Treasures of Egypt in Stamps* booklet with Queen Nefertiti (also 5 LE) and Tutankhamun in gold (10 LE).

The six elements for this family are: (1) limited stamp issues; (2) very specific postmark location concordance; (3) importance of the sender's nationality in the choice between TCV (*timbre côté vue* in French, meaning that the stamp is on the picture side) and TCA (*timbre côté adresse*, meaning that the stamp is on the address side), ie, TCV examples are not created by chance but mainly by French guests; (4) the creation of precursors is perhaps more chance-based than of TCV because many TCV do not qualify as precursor; (5) the transition (or evolution) from first generation to second (F1) appears seamless as hotel-issued illustrated postcards (mostly lithographic, monochrome or colour) were replaced by commercial-edition cards (mainly photographic, again monochrome or colour); (6) the first examples of triple concordance, in which the pictorial cancel with concordant image confers concordance on all three levels of stamp + postcard + cancel, as we often prefer in maximaphily today (this feature limited only to fewer than twenty Swiss first generation precursors). One example of a modern triple concordant Sphinx maxicard which we have created is shown in *Figure 1*.

Within conserved element number one of the hotel family, the Egyptian family of hotel-issued precursors is largely limited to between 1888 and 1914 for two reasons: first, the seven Sphinx and Great Pyramid stamps issued by the Egyptian Post Office in 1888-1906, known as the third period of the Fourth Issue (De La Rue); second, the first set of ten pictorial stamps, including one each of the Sphinx and the three Giza pyramids, issued on January 8 1914, replacing the Fourth Issue.

The relevance of this first element to modern maximaphily is clear - today we select postcards for image concordance to each new stamp issue, and not vice versa or by any random process.

As for the hotel family's second conserved element, the Egyptian family of hotel-issued postcard precursors is compliant because Cairo, where most of the hotels mentioned in this essay are located, is only 15km from the Sphinx and Pyramids. Putative maxicard precursors with 1890 or later cancels from Alexandria, about 200km away, are excluded.

In the 1880s hotels discovered that postal cards, illustrated with attractive images of each establishment and nearby tourist sites, could become advertising tools for guests to send to families and friends. Illustrated cards were printed mainly by monochrome lithography, or, in the late 1890s, by polychrome lithography. Such cards were issued by many hotels in Switzerland; they are covered in detail in our essay "*Maximaphily Ancestry: a retrospective study of three first parental generation maximum card precursor families*".

Illustrated cards sent by guests at five Cairo hotels will be presented in the following order: Hôtel du Nil (1836 ~ 1906), Shepherd's Hôtel (1851~1952), Hotel August Gorff (1870s ~ 1900s), Grand Continental Hôtel (1890s ~ 1924), and Hôtel Bristol (1894 ~ 1940s). The first two were established before the opening of the Suez Canal (November 17, 1869) and all are within walking distance of the Ezbekiyeh gardens.

Cairo was already a large city in the 1890s, and so it was fitting to have post offices serving its large luxury hotels, with 300-plus rooms, as early as November 1891. This was the case for Shepherd's and the Continental, both inside Cairo, as well as the Mena House Hotel, west of Cairo, close to the Pyramids in Giza.

The relevance of this second element to modern maximaphily is now also obvious: we select postmarks for location concordance to each new stamp issue and not by any random process.

For the third conserved element of the hotel family, Egypt's hotel-issued postcard precursors offer examples of TVA (*timbre côté vue et adresse*, meaning that the stamp is on the same side as both picture and address), TCV (stamp on the picture side), and TCA (stamp on the address side).

Before the birth of illustrated hotel postal cards, one side of Egyptian Post Office postal stationery was left blank for writing a message, with the other side reserved for address and an imprinted stamp. We have seen one example (P-3 of 1888) sent from the Hôtel du Nil in Cairo to Germany on March 3 1891. Illustrated Hôtel du Nil postal cards may not have become available until 1892.



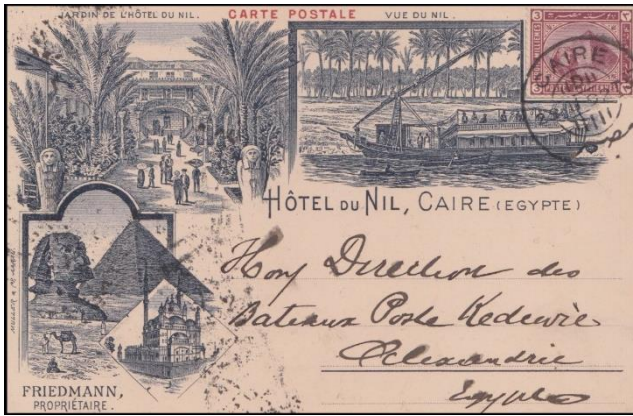


Fig. 2. Hotel du Nil illustrated postal card sent by the director of the Hotel du Nil on February 27 1892 to Directoire des Bateaux, Poste Khédivié, Alexandrie. Second Hotel du Nil illustrated postal card was sent by Hotel du Nil Directeur on February 3 1893 to Directiore des Paquebots, Poste Khédivié, Alexandrie. A second example of a first edition Hôtel du Nil postal card being converted into a TVA first generation maxicard precursor occurred on February 3 1893, again sent to Alexandria. The third example was sent to Lucerne, Switzerland on February 5, 1893. The fourth example was sent to Rome on December 28 1893.



Fig. 3. L. Fiorillo & Figli (F. & F.) edition illustrated postal card was sent from the Shepherd's Hotel Post Office in Cairo on December 21, 1891 to Leipzig, Germany, and arrived after Christmas on December 28. This scan and cancellation date reading were provided courtesy of Amir Elmallah. The latter date was the same as the date of the written message. There are three versions of L. Fiorillo & Figli (F. & F.) edition illustrated postal cards with image of the Sphinx and Pyramid(s), two with the Great Pyramid, one with Mena House Hotel and Pyramids, and five with none of the above. On unused F. & F. cards, all empty stamp boxes at the lower right show "Pour Le Timbre Poste" imprinted. This example, with 1891 Cairo cancellation, currently is the earliest maxicard precursor whereas another version became TCA with the stamp box removed.

**The Hôtel du Nil** was established in 1836 by the German-Italian Signor Friedmann but the hotel management was probably French. In *Figure 2*, a Hôtel du Nil card was sent by the hotel director to the head of the Viceregal Postal Boats service (*Paquebots-Poste Khédivié* in French) in Alexandria on February 27 1892.

There are three editions of illustrated Hôtel du Nil postal cards. The first has four examples, all are TVA (stamp on the picture and address side). The illustrated sides have lithographic images of the garden entrance, a Nile dahabiya, the Sphinx and Great Pyramid, and the Alabaster Mosque (Mohamed Ali Mosque in the Citadel), with a blank space for address and an imprinted box in the top right corner designated for one stamp. Franking with any Fourth Issue stamp on the same side as lithographic images of Sphinx and Pyramid would create a very early TVA first generation maxicard precursor (*Figure 2*).

About three years later a postal card of the Hôtel du Nil second edition (now in the Amir Elmallah collection) was sent on January 19 1895. This version enlarged the hotel image and removed the Sphinx and part of the Great Pyramid, thus making it less attractive as a Sphinx and Great Pyramid TVA first generation maxicard precursor.

Lastly, a card of what is presumed to be a third Hôtel du Nil edition was sent to Vienna on January 31 1898. This Souvenir du Caire version shows five small photo images, including the hotel but no Sphinx or Great Pyramid, relocated the address to the back, and so is no longer eligible as a Sphinx and Great Pyramid first generation maxicard precursor even as TCV franked with any Fourth Issue stamp. Apparently, the third edition was designed by someone who did not want to follow his/her illustrious predecessor.

A month after Shepherd's Hôtel post office cancel became available in November 1891, a German guest obtained this postmark on the first TVA maxicard precursor (*Figure 3*, now in the Amir Elmallah collection). We are fortunate that this guest chose to use a card published by L. Fiorillo & Figli (F. & F.) with stamp box on the picture side instead of the hotel's own postcard because the latter carries images only of the hotel interior whereas the Sphinx is shown in this particular F. & F. card.

As well as the Shepherd's postcard, there are two Souvenir du Shepherd's Hôtel editions, both without stamp box on the picture side and showing the hotel exterior only, and both sent as TCA. The only recorded TCV exception occurred in 1903, again sent to France, but this time from Port Said instead of Cairo.

On the other hand, another Shepherd's TVA precursor was created by another guest in 1894 using a Böhme & Anderer card (now in the Amir Elmallah collection). A similar card will be discussed in the hotel family conserved element fifth section of the hotel family conserved elements below.



*Fig. 4. Restaurant and Brasserie BAVARIA illustrated postal card was sent from the Shepherd's Hotel Post Office in Cairo on August 10 1894 with HS1 cancel (QC 194 p158) to Chemnitz, Germany with arrival cancel nine days later. There is no stamp box on the picture side. That design flaw plus the fact that the sender wrote in German, unfortunately resulted in TCA. A second TCA with an identical illustrated postal card was sent from Cairo on April 17 1896 to Trieste which was an Imperial Free City of the Austrian Empire. Both this and a similar illustrated postal card shown in Figure 5 are designed by F. Diemer of the Librairie Internationale, Cairo.*



*Fig. 5. Hotel August Gorff illustrated postal card was sent from Cairo in November 1896 to Leipzig, Germany. There is no stamp box on the picture side. That design flaw plus the fact that the sender wrote in German, resulted in TCA. Another four TCA with identical illustrated postal cards were sent from Cairo in 1895 to Bavaria, in 1896 to Vienna, in 1899 to unknown destination (no address side scan), and in 1904 to Alexandria. This and a similar illustrated postal card shown in Figure 4 share the same designer.*

Five minutes' walk north of Shepheard's Hôtel stood a couple of pubs (*Bierhalle* in German) which the hotel recommended to its guests for German and Austrian imported beer on tap. One was the Restaurant and Brasserie Bavaria, the other was the *Bayerische Bierhalle* (Bavarian Pub) of the **Hôtel August Gorff**. Both issued excellent illustrated postal cards (designed by the same artist), without stamp box on the picture side, which become good examples of TCA (*Figures 4 & 5*) as missed opportunities to create TCV maxicard precursors. The former edition TCA (*Figure 4*), dated August 1894, cancelled with Shepheard's Hôtel Post Office, was sent to Chemnitz, Germany.

At least five TCA, but no TCV, were derived from the same Hôtel August Gorff illustrated card between 1896 and 1904. Two were sent to Germany in 1896 including *Figure 5*, and one to Vienna, probably representative of his beer-loving clientele. On the illustrated side of this beautiful edition are lithographic images of the Giza Pyramids as backdrops for his beer kegs inscribed "August Gorff Cairo", the Citadel, the Mosque-Madrassa of Sultan Hassan (completed in 1363), the Obelisk of Sesostris I (1942 B.C.), and a blank space for messages but no stamp box on either side. Without French guests using this card, we have yet to discover a TCV.

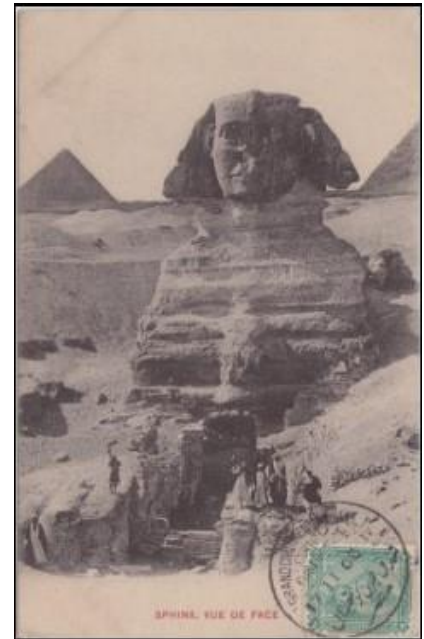
In January 1865 The New Hotel of Cairo began construction, only to be demolished in the 1890s and replaced by the Grand Hotel, soon to be renamed the **Grand Continental Hotel** (until 1924, then changed again to Continental-Savoy).

There are two illustrated Grand Continental Hotel postal card editions. The first has one example as TVA. On the illustrated side are lithographic images of the hotel exterior and interior, the Sphinx and Giza Pyramids, and the Citadel (in French inscribed as *cytadelles*), with a blank space for the address and a printed box next to the Sphinx for one stamp. Franking with any Fourth Issue stamp on the same side as lithographic images of Sphinx and Giza Pyramids allows for the creation of the only Continental Hotel (before being renamed Grand Continental Hotel) TVA maxicard precursor, sent to England on December 30 1892 (in the Alain Stragier collection).

On February 22 1902 a second Grand Continental Hotel postal card was sent from the hotel Post Office to Karlsbad, Austria. On the illustrated side are coloured lithographic images of the hotel exterior, leaving hardly any room for messages or stamp franking, so the address was written and two stamps affixed on the address side as a TCA. Many commercial photographic postcards have been found with the Grand Continental Hotel Post Office postmark for February 1908 and two of them will be shown in the fourth section of the hotel family conserved elements below.

**Hôtel Bristol** on Esbekieh Place, which opened in 1894, later marketed itself as the Hôtel Bristol et du Nil – it was common practice in Cairo at this time for a new hotel to absorb the name of a recently defunct rival to inherit its clientele with similar budgetary constraints, as well as those guests to whom the rigid observance of formalities is irksome (for example, formal attire is optional for dinner at Hôtel Bristol).

There are two illustrated Hôtel Bristol postal cards, one of which has three TVA examples. The lithographic images show the hotel entrance and façade, the Giza Pyramids, and the Alabaster Mosque (Mohamed Ali Mosque), with a blank space for the address and a printed box at top right for one stamp. Franking with Fourth Issue stamps on the same side as the images of the pyramids produces three very early TVA first generation maxicard precursors, two of them sent to the United States in 1895 (one is in the Amir Elmallah collection), the other to England the following year (in the Alain Stragier collection).



*Fig. 6. One of the seven maxicard precursors found among the 39 TCV sent by Mr Garnier to his daughter on February 17 1908 from the Grand Continental Hotel Post Office in Cairo to Herblay, France with HC2 cancel (QC 194 p155). This postcard showing the Sphinx in front of the Great Pyramid is concordant with the two millimetre Fourth Issue stamp found on all 39 TCV.*

In 1900 a second Hôtel Bristol card was posted on February 22. This design added the Sphinx to the Pyramids, making it potentially much more attractive as a TVA or TCV precursor if any Fourth Issue stamp were added on the picture side, but the new design removed the stamp box from the picture side, resulting in a TCA instead of a TVA.

Between 1891 and 1914 we record 26 lithographic illustrated and four multiview photographic Cairo hotel cards. Eight have hotel cancels, 21 have hotel images, 19 depict the Sphinx and/or Pyramid(s). The Hôtel du Nil (1836~1906) has five TVA (all are maxicard precursors) and one TCA. Shepheard's Hôtel (1851~1952) has three TVA (two are maxicard precursors) and four TCA (two issued by the off-site Bavaria Pub). Hotel August Gorff (1870s~1900s) has five TCA. Grand Continental Hôtel (1890s~1924) has one TVA (also a maxicard precursor), one TCV, and five TCA. Hôtel Bristol (1894~1940s) has three TVA (all maxicard precursors), one TCV, and one TCA. In total, there are 12 TVA (11 are maxicard precursors), two non-concordant TCV, and 16 TCA.

The lesson from these five Cairo hotels is that we cannot treat TVA from Hôtel du Nil (first and second editions), Shepheard's Hôtel (F & F and Bøhme & Anderer editions), Continental Hôtel (first edition), and Hôtel Bristol (first edition) as user-dependent TCV because all have designated stamp boxes on the picture side.

Those cards without such stamp boxes, for example Hotel August Gorff, Restaurant Bavaria, Grand Continental Hôtel second edition, Hôtel Bristol second edition, and Hôtel du Nil third edition, produced 16 TCA and only one TVC. Nonetheless, we are grateful for these stamp boxes, as the designers of those cards are more responsible for the existence today of TVA maxicard precursors than the guests who sent the cards home to families and friends.



Fig. 7. One of the ten TCV sent by Mr Garnier to his daughter on February 17 1908 from the Grand Continental Hotel Post Office in Cairo to Herblay, France with HC2 cancel (QC 194 p155). This postcard (edition Lichtenstern & Harari Nr 53) showing the hotel is not concordant with the two milliemes Fourth Issue stamp found on all 39 TCV. On the same day, he sent one TCV showing Shepheard's Hotel (edition Max H. Rudmann Nr 166) and another showing Mena House Hotel (edition Max H. Rudmann Nr 191) without an image of the Pyramid(s). All three hotel TCV are not maxicard precursors.

On the other hand, we have reported in our essay "*Maximaphily Ancestry: a retrospective study of three first parental generation maximum card precursor families*" the unexpected correlation between Swiss hotel TCV and French guests. Among the 238 Hotel Rigi-Kulm postcards sent from high in the Swiss Alps are only 2 TVA, 26 TCV, and 22 of those were sent to France, two more to a French city ceded temporarily to the German Empire (now returned to France), and three with unknown addresses. Among the 53 Hotel Chateau Gütsch postcards from Lucerne are 12 TCV, 11 of which were sent to France, and one with unknown address. The other Swiss hotels have far fewer postcards than the two cited above.

The relevance to modern maximaphily of this third element is now more than obvious: stamps must be franked on the picture side and in an area to avoid obscuring the subject of concordance on the postcard.

In hotel family conserved element four, the Egyptian family of hotel-issued postcard precursors offers a few examples. The one we will cite is from 1907~1908 with Grand Continental Hotel cancel on at least 39 TCV. These were sent in six batches to Miss Germaine Garnier, of 7 avenue Friedland (about 700m east of the Arc de Triomphe), Paris, by her father. There was an address change before the third batch to Herblay, the Paris suburb, about 18km northwest of the old address; and there was another address change, back to the original Paris address, before the last batch.

The first batch of three TCV and one TCA was sent on November 26 1907, including one Sphinx and Pyramids TCV. The second group (ten TCV, January 17 1908) included one Sphinx and Pyramid TCV and two Pyramid TCV. Ten TCV were sent again in the third batch on February 17 1908, including one Sphinx and Pyramids TCV maxicard precursor (*Figure 6*) and one Continental Hotel TCV (*Figure 7*). Five TCV were sent on February 24 1908, including one Mena House Hotel with Pyramids TCV and one Pyramids TCV. The fifth group (eight TCV) was sent on February 27 1908, without any Pyramids TCV. The final batch of three TCV was sent on March 21 1908; all are views of Alexandria. Of course Mr Garnier's purpose was to show his dear daughter exotic views of Egypt, not to create TCV maxicard precursors for future collectors.

Miss Garnier's collection confirms our previous observations based on various Swiss hotel TVA, TCV, TCV maxicard precursors, Spanish king Alfonso XIII TCV and TCV maxicard precursors, coat of arms decorated palace walls or gates TCV and TCV precursors. Her father is French and did not need the stamp box on the picture side to have stamps franked on that side. Among these 39 TCV he created seven TCV maxicard precursors with concordance between stamp and postcard images of the Sphinx and/or the Pyramid(s). The other 32 lack such concordance and none is a maxicard precursor. His creation of TCV maxicard precursor versus TCV non-precursor does appear to have been more dependent on chance than inspiration.

The relevance of this fourth element to modern maximaphily is the same as for the first element: we select postcards for image concordance to each new stamp issue and not vice versa or by some random process.

For hotel family conserved element five, the Egyptian family of hotel-issued postcard precursors offers an excellent illustration of a multi-step transitional pathway or multi-generation lineage. Starting with any of the Cairo TVA maxicard precursors, for example, the 1892 Hotel du Nil or the 1892 Continental Hotel, we have been able to identify each sequential step, illustrated with examples, along this maximaphily pathway from the first parental generation in the precursor phase, to the second generation (or F1, the first filial generation) of the classic period, then to the third generation (or F2, the second filial generation) of the modern era.



*Fig. 8. Böhme & Anderer (B. & A.) third edition illustrated postal card was sent from Cairo on December 11 1895 to Hyères, France, by someone who wrote in English but whose Cairo address was not disclosed. There are at least three B. & A. editions of illustrated postal cards showing different images, each with one example. The common theme is that on the address side there are two boxes, the stamp box on the right and the Sphinx imprinted in the left box. The first edition shows the Sphinx and Pyramids on the picture side without a stamp box, and the Sphinx imprinted in black faces left on the address side. That example is in the Alain Stragier collection, sent from Cairo on December 31 1892 to Görlitz, Germany. The second edition shows the Step Pyramid of Djoser at Saqqara on the picture side without a stamp box, and the Sphinx, now in red, faces left. That example is in the Amir Elmallah collection, sent from Sheppard's Hotel Post Office in Cairo on February 28 1894 to Leutersdorf, Germany. The third edition shows many Cairo sights on the picture side without a stamp box, and the Sphinx, again in red but now facing right, (same direction as the Sphinx on the five millimetres Fourth Issue stamp), on the address side. The imprinted Sphinx, in black or red, on the same side as the stamp box with any Fourth Issue stamp is the key to creating this Böhme & Anderer edition TVA maxicard precursor.*

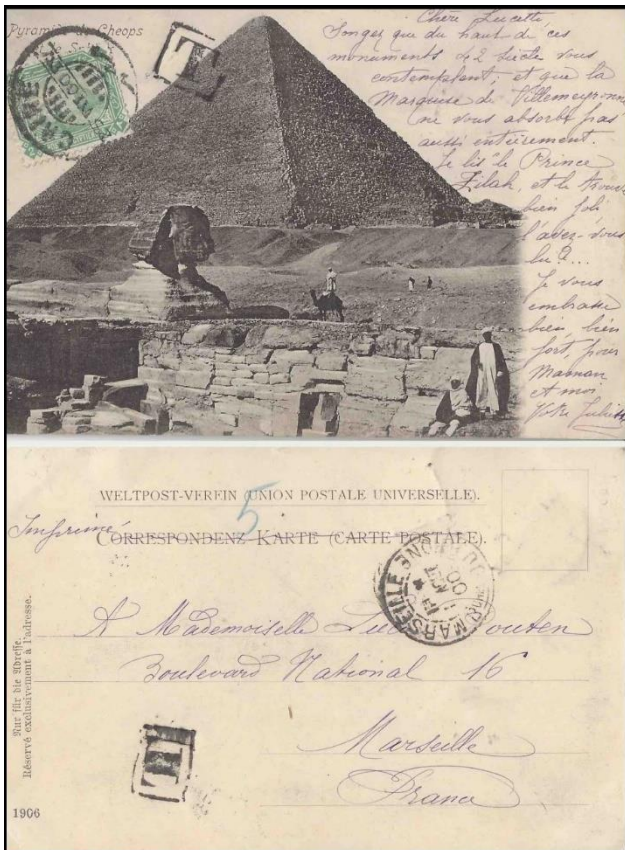


Fig. 9. The earliest commercial photographic edition Sphinx and Pyramids maxicard precursor. It was sent from Cairo on July 25 1900 to Marseilles, France and arrived six days later. This postcard edition clearly designated the reverse side for address and stamp with imprinted stamp box and "Nur für die Übreffe" in German and "Réservé exclusivement à l'adresse" in French. Fortunately the sender, being French, was able to do the right thing and placed the two milliemes Fourth Issue stamp on the picture side to achieve perhaps the first stamp box independent TCV maxicard precursor, thus becoming another important milestone in maximaphily. This scan was provided courtesy of George Constantourakis. whose "History of Maximaphily 1872~1940" collection is only the third maximaphily exhibit to achieve gold at FIP level.

Now we propose the 1892 Hotel du Nil maxicard precursor (Figure 2) and the 1895 Bøhme & Anderer maxicard precursor (Figure 8) as an example of the intra-generation transition process in the first generation hotel family. An alternative example would be between the 1892 Continental Hotel maxicard precursor and the 1892 Bøhme & Anderer maxicard precursor (both are in the Alain Stragier collection), with possibly the shortest transition period (Caire cancels are December 30 and December 31 respectively). We could not cite similar example(s) for Swiss hotel first generation precursors because the designer of the Hotel Chateau Gütsch illustrated postcard did not add a stamp box to the picture side as the two Cairo hotel card designers did.

Next we propose the 1895 Bøhme & Anderer maxicard precursor (Figure 8) and the 1900 Sphinx and Great Pyramid maxicard precursor (Figure 9, from the "History of Maximaphily 1872~1940" exhibit by George Constantourakis) as an example of the inter-generation transition process between the first and second (or F1) generation hotel family. The latter Sphinx and Great Pyramid maxicard precursor is the first stamp box independent TCV maxicard precursor, as well as the earliest example of the photographic edition maxicard precursors, with an excellent appreciation of image concordance. This step represents the critical transition from picture side stamp box dependent TVA towards stamp box independent TCV, mostly executed by the French.

The relevance of this fifth element to modern maximaphily is in helping us to appreciate the historical perspective. For example, when I created Le Mont-Saint-Michel maxicards in 2018 (French stamps from the Trésors de la philatélie series), I used postcards with the Côté Nord-Est view, specifically with ND edition postcards, identical to the iconic Yvert 260 Le Mont-Saint-Michel maxicard from the Jacques Thénard collection, created in 1937.

The Egyptian family of hotel-issued postcard precursors is noncompliant with the hotel family conserved element six, because there is no Sphinx pictorial cancellation until 2004 (Figure 1). Although this triple concordant Sphinx maxicard looks pretty to casual observers, the true Sphinx and Pyramids maxicard connoisseurs would much prefer the greater location concordance of the Pyramids cancels, which will be presented in detail in our follow-up essay "Pyramids Maxicard Analytics".

**Acknowledgments:** I thank Ho-Lin Chen, Chih-Ping Chu, George Constantourakis, Bento Dias, Amir Elmallah, Anton Jansen, Mike Murphy, Heike Schmidt, Hani Sharestan, Alain Stragier, Lucien S. Toutounji, Vahe Varjabedian, Terry Watson, Richard Wheatley, and others for critical inputs and helpful peer reviews. Their contributions justify the use of "we" throughout this article.

\* "Maximaphily Ancestry: a retrospective study of three first parental generation maximum card precursor families", is being published in *The Quarterly Journal of the Maximum Card Study Unit* Volume 39.

## More on "1957 - Rejected Egyptian Mail"

Pierre Louis Grech (ESC 266)

In QC No. 261 of June 2017 (pages 29-31), I wrote an article about mail from Egypt refused by the French authorities, further to the 1956 Suez crisis. Two examples were given: a cover belonging to ESC President John Sears (ESC 188) and one from my collection, both reproduced in *Figure 1* below as an *aide mémoire*.

The excuse for non-delivery was a Universal Postal Union (UPU) regulation! According to Article 59, paragraph 1.d of the 1952 UPU Convention (Brussels Congress) it was forbidden to send in the post *obscene or immoral items*. Each Postal Administration was (deliberately) free to interpret the meaning of those words and to reject any mail containing offensive material. Such mail could be sent back, with the refusal notice: "Inadmis - Convention Postale Universelle, Art. 59 § 1° d".

The cause of the rejection by France was that the covers bore the stamps "Port-Saïd Nov 1956" (SG 519, Balian 176, issued 20 Dec.1956) and/or the same stamp with the red overprint "Evacuation 22-12-56" in English and Arabic, (SG 520, Balian 177, issued 14 January 1957, after the departure of the foreign troops). These two stamps were considered offensive by France, still smarting following the disastrous Suez campaign, and because they showed dead allied paratroopers and the sinking (not true) of the French battleship *Jean Bart*. These two letters are dated respectively: 23 May (*left*) and 31 March 1957.



**Figure 1: The two covers from the original article, "Returned" due to stamps mentioning Port-Saïd and Evacuation.**

In the same article I mentioned another later stamp which produced the same outraged French reaction: the "Port-Saïd 1956" stamp from the "Egypt, Tomb of Aggressors" series (SG 532-536, Balian 189-193, issued on 26 July 1957). For this stamp (*Fig. 2*) the QC article also carried the illustration of the Official Bulletin from the French PTT, dated 17 September 1957, instructing postmasters to reject the letters from Egypt bearing that stamp. In this case a special label was also provided (*Fig. 3*) to be attached to the returned mail.

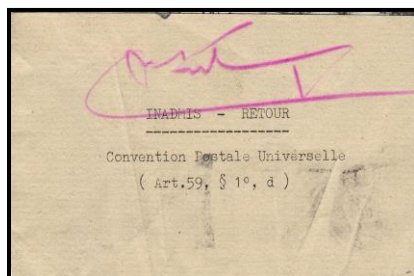


**Figure 2: Above: The other Egyptian stamp which caused offence. It shows Anglo-French troops leaving Port-Saïd. Right: the official French Post Office notice instructing the rejection of the stamp.**

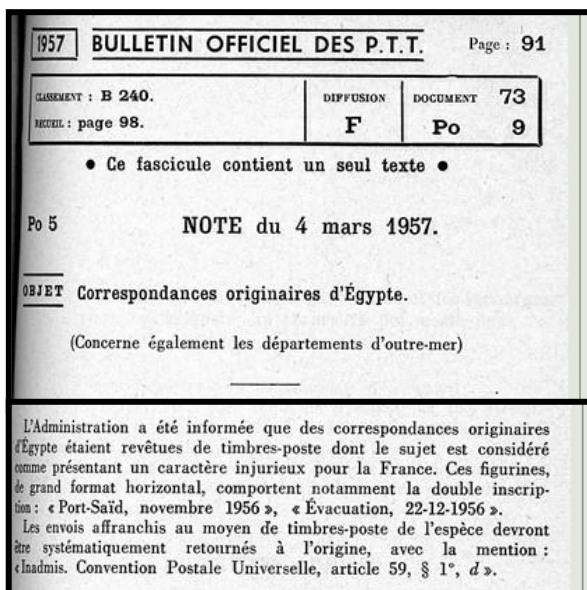
1957	BULLETIN OFFICIEL DES P.T.T.	Page : 217
CLASSIFICATION : B 240.	DIFFUSION : F	DOCUMENT : 268
RECORD : p. 98.		Po 43
● Ce fascicule contient un seul texte ●		
Po 5	NOTE du 17 septembre 1957.	
OBJET Correspondances originaires d'Égypte.		
(Concerne également les départements d'outre-mer)		
L'Administration a été informée que des correspondances originaires d'Égypte étaient revêtues de timbres-poste dont le sujet est considéré comme présentant un caractère injurieux pour la France. Ces figurines, d'une valeur de 10 millimes, de grand format horizontal et de couleur bistre, comportent notamment la double inscription : « Egypt Tomb of aggressors 1957 », « Port-Saïd 1956 ».		
Les envois affranchis au moyen de timbres-poste de l'espèce devront être systématiquement retournés à l'origine, avec la mention : « Inadmis. Convention Postale Universelle, article 59, § 1 <sup>er</sup> , d. »		

In November 2018 a French collector, Mr Pascal Liévin (not an ESC member) contacted me. The gentleman was a member of several prestigious international philatelic organisations and specialised in the philately of the Suez Canal Crisis, having a vast collection on that subject. He had seen my "1957 - Rejected Egyptian Mail" article on the internet and he disagreed, considering the two covers as philatelic fabrications! There was no postal document in support of that rejection procedure, said he! However he did acknowledge the later rejection of the "Egypt Tomb of Aggressors" stamp as being genuine, since there was an official French postal circular to support it, in September 1957 (Fig. 2). For that matter he actually had two such rejected covers in his collection and he kindly sent me photocopies of these (See Figure 5 a, b, c and d). Although he considered our two QC covers fake, he was interested in buying them, "to put them up as curiosities when displaying his collection." Sorry, no sale. He was entitled to his opinion, and there the matter rested.

**Fig.3 - The September 1957 "Retour" label, and to the right, a cover in Mr Liévin's collection with the Evacuation stamp boxed in blue pencil and simply marked "Inadmis", with no further annotations. Acquired as part of a bulk collection, this letter further added to his scepticism about "Rejected Mail".**



A few weeks ago the ESC Secretary, Mike Murphy, abruptly received a request from Mr Liévin for a copy of the June 2017 QC article about the Suez crisis "1957 Returned Mail". In the more than two years period since last contacting us he had mislaid access to that article, so we decided to graciously send this to him as an email attachment. What transpired in the associated correspondence is that in the meantime he had unearthed a copy of an official French Postal Administration circular referring to the earlier returned mail, the very mail which was published in our original QC article (Fig. 1). He apologised for his incredulity and for casting doubt on our 2017 QC dissertation and sent me a copy of the said document, illustrated in Figure 4. This model is identical to that in Figure 2 which it preceded by six months.



**Fig. 4 - The "Rejection" notification for "Evacuation" stamps:**

The notice translates as: "1957 - Official Bulletin of the PTT - Page 91./ Classification B 240, Volume p.98. Document 73, Po 9./ This leaflet contains a single text./ Po 5- **Notice of 4 March 1957.** Subject : Mail originating from Egypt. (Concerns also the Overseas Departments). *The Administration has been informed that items of correspondence originating from Egypt have been franked with postage stamps the subject of which is considered to be insulting to France. These figurines, of a large horizontal format, notably bear the double inscription: "Port Saïd, November 1956" and "Evacuation, 22-12-1956".* Mail franked with that type of postage stamp must be systematically returned to its origin, with the inscription "Unacceptable - Universal Postal Convention, Article 59 § 1<sup>er</sup>, d."



This has provided the official justification confirming the validity and genuineness of the covers described in our 2017 *QC* article (covers dated 31 March and 23 May 1957) and now any similar covers in the possession of fortunate ESC collectors. All Rejected letters with either of these types of stamps are very scarce. For the record, while I still have my own "Retour" cover; John Sears sold his philatelic collection at auction through Grosvenor, London, in 2020. His cover (Figure 1 of the original article) is now owned by a Belgian collector.

Figure 5 a.



Figure 5 b.



**Two Returned letters resulting from the 17 September 1957 French directive, showing them with the Rejection label (in the left column) and with the Rejection label peeled back on the right column. The dates are illegible in both cases, but the top cover is from Alexandria and the lower one from Mit (Ghamr). Both are in the Pascal Liévin collection (France). Together with a similar letter in an Australian collection these are the only three known covers with the September 1957 Rejection Notice...Unless you know otherwise!**



Figure 5 c.



Figure 5 d.

Mr Liévin also reported having acquired two covers with the "Evacuation 22-12-56" stamps, addressed to France but which were not rejected, both getting under the wire before the "Retour" notice (4 March 1957) was enforced. One is dated February 1957, preceding the notice. The other left Egypt on 4 March, arriving in France on 9 March 1957; evidently too soon for the "Retour" notice to have been fully distributed and implemented by all post offices. Again these are very scarce items.

We are indebted to Mr Liévin for these details and illustrations from his highly specialised collection. He says it consists of more than 150 covers about the 1956 Suez crisis and its aftermath, including British FPO and BFPO, French BPM, Egyptian and Israeli military mail, some Red Cross covers and one of the few rare messages from an Israeli soldier captured by the Egyptians, plus the "Rejected" letters discussed here.

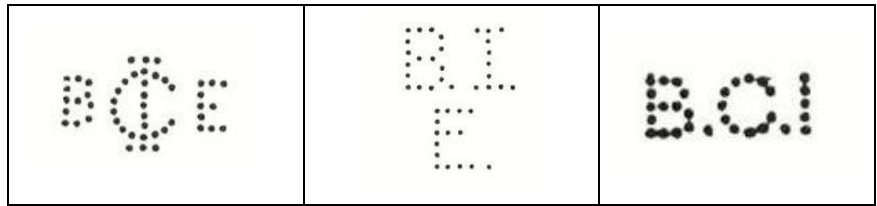
## The first recorded “BCI” perfin cover

### Amgad Bassili (ESC 564)

Collectors of Egyptian perfins readily recognise three patterns used by Italian banks in Egypt: “B.C.I”, “BCIE”, and “BI/E”.

The “BCIE” pattern was used by the Banca Commerciale Italiana

per L’Egitto. This bank was established in 1923 in Alexandria with branches later in both Cairo and Port Said. The pattern is quite common and was used between 1923 and 1938. “BI/E” was used by the Banco Italo-Egiziano in Cairo and Alexandria. Also quite common, this can easily be found on a very wide range of definitive and commemorative issues between 1930 and 1960. The “B.C.I” pattern is by far the rarest of all three patterns. In fact, it is among the most rare of all patterns recorded on Egyptian perfins.



Several years ago, I was fortunate enough to acquire a unique commercial cover showing a usage of this pattern [left]. It remains the only known cover so far recorded. The registered cover was sent in 1937 from Cairo to Boulogne (France) and franked by a single usage of the 1927-37 French Fuad 40 mills. Interestingly, the cover is printed with the Banca Commerciale Italiana per L’Egitto logo; the very same bank that is known for its much more common “BCIE” pattern.

with the Italian version. This is probably the most plausible explanation, but we do not yet know for certain.

The pattern itself was used sporadically between 1923 and 1937; almost in parallel with “BCIE”. The reason behind that dual usage by the same bank is not yet known. Perhaps some of the Cairo branches opted to use this pattern to be consistent

## Parcel cards procedure: A query by John Davis (ESC 213)

Many years ago, when I was working in London, I used to go to the Strand Stamp Fair, which was held monthly on a Wednesday in a hotel in the Strand. I worked in Fleet Street near by so I became a regular visitor and known to many of the dealers, one of whom produced a heap of parcel cards, as illustrated at right [100 mills Farouk barred plus 3 mills in revenues cancelled at Faggala 27 August 1953, i.e. post revolution], and



during the various periods of lockdown I have finally got round to writing them up. I bought several of these cards, largely for the different postmarks, and put them in my Farouk boxes “until I could get round to it”.

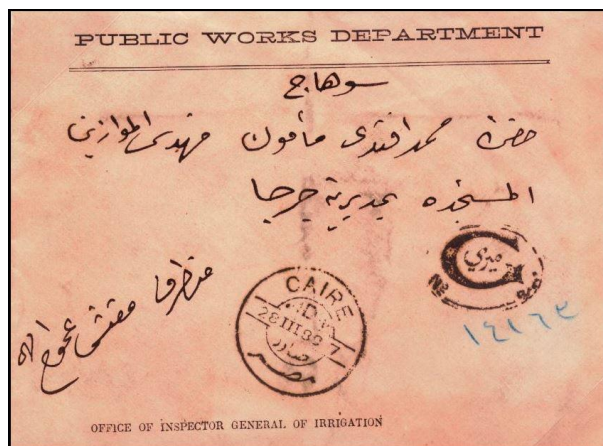
Hitherto the latest parcel cards in my collection stemmed from the era of the Fuad “Postes” issue during 1936 and 1937. Previously, as with the example at left, the cards were left intact and no tax seems to have been charged.

This card, cancelled at Cairo on 3 August 1937, has a franking of no less than 380 millièmes and arrived at Kosice in Czechoslovakia on 17 VIII 37 before being readdressed.

The card itself, which is intact but for a small piece missing from the bottom right, has a number of different Czech postmarks before a sticker was applied cancelled Mlada Boleslave I. The sticker mentions the franking and what seems to be a statistical tax.

So what are my questions? First, when did the change occur in Egypt's parcel card procedure whereby the card was cut through horizontally and tax was applied? Second, what was the reason for the change? Is the calculation on the Czech sticker some form of statistical tax, as it appears to have been paid in Cairo?

**Update 1: Miri governmental marking** – Mahmoud Ramadan (ESC 358) has responded swiftly to the query about a new governmental marking by Mike Murphy (*QC* 276, p.121) by doubling the number of recorded examples. He details having displayed an official cover bearing the new marking at exhibition in Finland as long ago as 2017, observing at the time that he was also aware of a fourth fragmentary example.



His display page described “a special cachet never recorded before”, comprising an oval enclosing a large elongated G encompassing the Arabic *Miri* and space for registration number, and surmised that “it appears to be a special registration cachet for official government registered correspondence”. The Public Works Department cover was sent, unfranked but with a registration number in blue pencil, from the Office of the Inspector General of Irrigation from Cairo on 28 III 89 to an engineer working for the Girga governorate in Sohag (arrival CDS behind 30 MR 89). The two examples in *QC* 276 are dated January and February 1889; now here is March. Do members have any to add?

**Update 2: GBLA Catalogue** - Miroslav Štotka (ESC 725) has been able to provide news of a much updated second edition following the review by Jon Aitchison (ESC 611) in *QC* 277 page iii. The book has been thoroughly revised and amplified by its author, Peter Valdner, and in effect forms two books in one, containing more colour illustrations with higher resolution. The catalogue itself, with pictures and values of more than 2000 GBLA stamps, sheets, covers and ephemera, adds the names of many GBLA stamp producers; and the "Collectors Encyclopaedia" supplies greatly extended details on the vessels, GBLA events and the names of most of the ships' captains not available elsewhere. The softback book of 334 pages is available from [www.valdpete.blogspot.com/p/great-bitter-lake-association-catalogue.html](http://www.valdpete.blogspot.com/p/great-bitter-lake-association-catalogue.html) at 112 euros.

**Update 3: Stamp with a hole** - After the discovery of a new definitive £E3 stamp pierced with a star-shaped hole as a security measure (see *QC* 275, pp76-68), a companion stamp is now being offered on internet auction sites (no official announcement of date of issue). The 50pi replaces the current similar design, featuring Tuthmosis III instead of Amenhotep son of Hapu on the £E3, and includes the four ovals outside the vignette spelling the word POST. The remarkable security lettering across the body of the figure remains as in the earlier example.



**1 PIASTRE – 1874**  
**Settings, Substitutions, Varieties and Perforations**

**Ramez Atiya (ESC 246)**

*[This article presents the continuation of the examination in QC 277 (pp 139-145)  
of the settings for the 1874 1-piastre stamp - Editor]*

**II. SETTINGS A, D AND B – FLAWS, VARIETIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

We now turn to the study of plate flaws and substitutions that are specific to each setting, beginning with a list of prominent flaws shared in common in settings A, D and B. These flaws should be listed in any specialized catalogue since they are as prominent as many of those listed.

**Table 1 – Flaws common to settings A, D, and B**

<i>Position</i>	<i>Nile Post</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Setting</i>
54	Unlisted	Air hole in wig	A, D, B
112	26 m (missing D)	Hackle in wig	A, D, B
114		Inverted stereo	A, D, B
116	26 n	“break in frameline at upper left”	A, D, B
160	Unlisted	Blunt northwest corner	A, D, B
191	Unlisted	Deformed bottom frameline with progressive break	A, D, B
194	Unlisted	Air hole at base of wig	A, D, B

**Setting A:** The first setting, A, has clear lines and the fewest flaws. When it became necessary to clean and readjust the plate, it was disassembled. Its reassembly as setting D led to a number of highly collectible varieties.

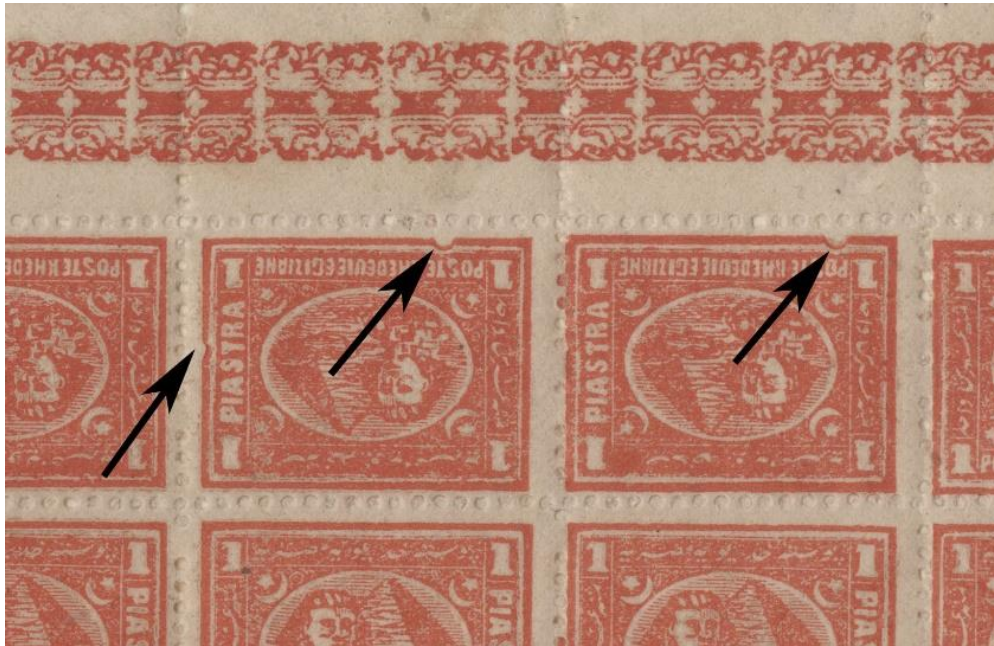
**Setting D:** The most striking new feature of setting D is the inverted stereos in positions 1 through 8. The top row was most probably the last to be set in place and the printer may have reset those stereos upside down because they fit into place more easily. *The Nile Post* mistakenly describes D as having “ten inverts (probably 191-200)”. In fact, setting D does have ten inverts, but in positions 1-9 and position 114. Listing the inverts as 1-9 and not as 191-199 is important since these stereos are the same as 1-9 on setting A. Consistency demands that the orientation of the sheet be maintained for all settings.



**Positions 1-20 – Setting D - Inverted stereos in positions 1-9**

There are many prominent flaws on setting D. Among these are the indented frame flaw seen in the upper frame of position 8 (NP D26 f) and the double indentation on position 9 (NP D26 g). Such indentations typically happen when adjusting galleys. Galleys are strips of wood or metal used to separate stereos from those adjacent. They are set between the stereos below the printing surface so that they appear as the white lines separating the stamps. The galleys must fit tightly between the stereos if the plate is to remain rigid during printing. Because they are a tight fit, galleys must sometimes be forced into place with a tool such as screwdriver into the narrow space between two stereos. A tight fitting galley may have made it necessary to work the tool back and forth to drive a recalcitrant galley into place. This is the probable source of the indented frames on positions 8 and 9.

When the reglets do not fit tightly, they can work their way up during printing, rising up to printing level. The reglet will then print as a bar of color between the stamps. These are fairly common on third issue stamps, though I have not seen them on the 1 piastre value.



***Positions 8 and 9 – indented frameline flaws***

Another type of flaw found throughout the 1874 issue is an uncoloured area where the design should be. The probable cause is some external force crushing the raised printing lines of stereo so that they are driven below the printing surface and print as an uncoloured area. The flaw could result from pushing a stereo into place with too much force against the delicate lines of the design or it might be caused by accidentally dropping a tool on to the surface.



***Position 72 – Setting D – Crushed lines***

Two prominent crushed stereo flaws appear in setting D. One is found on position 72, shown above. A second spectacular such flaw is found on position 141, below. Neither is listed in the *Nile Post*.



**Position 141 – Setting D – Crushed lines**

Finally, we mention once more the progressive flaws on stereos 116 and 171, covered earlier, and note that these are more pronounced on setting D than on A.

**Table 2 - Summary of new flaws first appearing on D**

<i>Position</i>	<i>Nile Post</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Setting</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1 - 8		Inverted stereos	D	
8	26 f	Indented frameline, inverted stereo	D	Substituted in B
9	26 g	Indented frameline at top and left	D	Substituted in B
72	Unlisted	Crushed lines, white area in top tablet	D	Substituted in B
116	26	Broken frame at left	A, D, B	Progressive break
141	Unlisted	Crushed lines, white area at lower left		
171	Unlisted	Major break in left frameline	A, D, B	Progressive break

**Setting B:** The final setting exhibits many flaws not present on A or D in addition to several substitutions. In assembling setting B, the printers removed flawed stereos while damaging others.



**Positions 1-20 – Setting B**

The most obvious change to the top row is the new inverted subject in position 10. Additionally, two substitutions in position 8 and 9 replaced the indented stereos of setting D with intact stereos. The gaps in the framelines of position 8 seen above require special treatment and will be addressed later.

In the process of reassembling the top row of the sheet, the printers created two new flaws. The first is the indented frame flaw found on position 2 and shown below (NP 26c). This was most probably caused when forcing a reglet into place. Position 2 also shows a white line, possibly collateral damage when the tool slipped when forcing the reglet into place.



**Position 2 – Setting B – Indented frameline**

The second is another damaged frame, in position 13, shown below. The twisted frame is another flaw caused by lack of care when forcing a reglet in place. The flaw is unlisted. Incidentally, the damaged stereo is the same one as that in position 13 in setting D. This stereo has an identifying minor flaw, a sliced S in POSTE which can be seen in the lower tablet. Position 3 also shows several flaws. The most pronounced are the rounded NE and SE corners (NP 26d). Additionally, the left hand frameline is severely damaged.



**Positions 3 (rounded corner and damaged frameline) and 13 (twisted frameline) – Setting B**

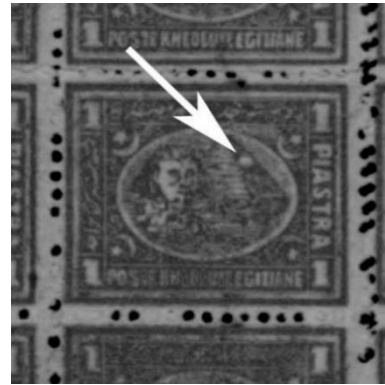
Setting D shows two impact flaws, one on position 72 and a larger one on position 141. Neither is listed. The impact flaw on position 141 is one of the major flaws of the 1874 1 piastre. While not listed, both were spotted by the keen eye of the printer and substitutions were made. Positions 72 and 141 on setting B are substitutions. Position 141 was substituted upside down, creating an additional inverted stereo and giving rise to a scarce horizontal tête-bêche pair.



**Pos. 131-132/141 (damaged surface) 142 – D**

**Pos. 131-132/141 (inverted stereo) 142 – B (jc)**

A new flaw on position 167 makes its appearance in setting B in the form of a round hole in the face of the pyramid. It is not found on setting D on position 167. It is most likely impact damage since the printers would have no reason to substitute a sound stereo with a damaged one. The flaw is constant and we show it (*below*) on position 167 from two sheets of setting B. The flaw is unlisted.



**Position 167 – “Entrance into the pyramid” – Setting B**

Finally, there is the series of broken framelines in the bottom row discussed earlier when establishing the chronological order of the settings. Virtually all subjects on row 20 show damage to the lower frame caused by the pressure of the roller as well as metal fatigue from extended use. None is listed. All are certainly collectible.



**Position 191 – Setting B**



**Position 192 – Setting B**





**Position 193 – Setting B**



**Position 194 – Setting B**

For completeness we mention the progressive breaks on positions 116 and 171, which become slightly more pronounced on setting B.

We come now to some puzzling flaws. The first on position 8, setting B, is shown below from two different sheets (NP 26e). The flaw appears on one sheet but not the other! It is almost certainly a “running flaw”, damage sustained after the plate had been in use for some time and caused either by internal stresses during printing or by the printer in adjusting the plate.



**Position 8. Setting B – Intact frame**



**Position 8. Setting B – Broken frame (jc)**

**Table 3 – Summary of substitutions and new flaws first appearing on B**

<i>Position</i>	<i>Nile Post</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Setting</i>	<i>Comment</i>
3	Unlisted	Multiply damaged stereo	B	
8 and 9		Substituted stereos		Indented frame in setting D
8	Unlisted	“Broken frame”	B	Spurious flaw?
10		Stereo inverted		
13	Unlisted	Twisted frameline	B	
116	26 n	Broken frame	A, D, B	Progressive flaw
141		Inverted stereo	B	Substituted for crushed stereo setting D
167	Unlisted	“Entrance to pyramid”	B	

### **IS THERE ONE MORE SETTING?**

The indented frameline below is *not* on the list. It does not appear on setting A, B or D. A full sheet of setting C was not available for study. However, *The Nile Post* provides a list of inverts and flaws and their positions. If it is from C, it is astonishing that such a major flaw would have escaped notice since most indented frame lines on all values are listed and are considered major varieties.

Three tête-bêche pairs are listed, at positions 38, 58 and 152. It could be positions 9-10 from the purported setting X in the Royal Collection with inverted stereos in positions 1 to 9 and 191 to 200. An imperforate sheet described as setting C came on to the market at the 2001 Spink sale of items from the Royal Collection. The sheet was broken up without (to my knowledge) being photographed. Collectors in possession of the tête-bêche pairs from the sheet should examine to see if indeed it is from setting other. The resolution is an open question.



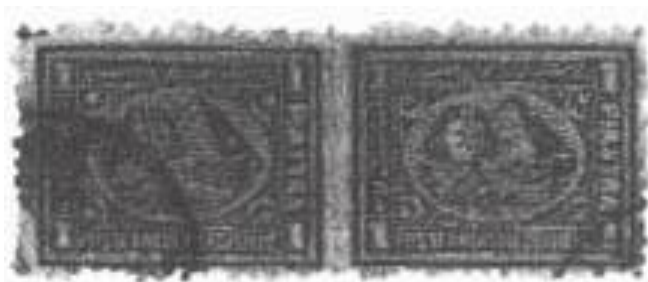
***Inverted pair with indented frame line***

The existence of still more varieties raises the question of a possible additional setting. Abdel-hadi's *Egypt Stamps* shows photographs of two flaws (catalogue no 26f and 27f). They are not listed in *The Nile Post* nor do they appear on the seven sheets which were examined, keeping open the possibility that they may be from an unknown setting. They might be running flaws, in which case what sheet did they come from and do other such flaws exist?

## **PERFORATIONS**

**Setting A** – perforated 12 ½ - Following Byam (*L'OP* 102), Smith states that setting A was perforated only 13 ⅓ x 12 ½ whereas settings B, C and D were all perforated 12 ½. This appears not to be the case. The block of nine with position 114 shown above is identified as from setting A. It is perforated 12 ½. More significantly, a sheet of setting A stated to be perforated 12 ½ was offered in the 2001 Royal Philatelic Collection.

*The Nile Post* lists the imperforate-between variety, 26 u, and states that two mint copies and one used copy are known to exist. There are in fact at least two (shown below). The one in colour is particularly interesting since it has the ALEXANDRIA remainders postmark. This has interesting implications since the postal clerk must have noted the variety. There must have been at least one full column. Both are shown here since the variety is rare and the number of examples should be determined. The images establish that more than one used copy exists.



***Imperforate-between***

More work remains to be done. Are there varieties not listed in the study and do they support the existence of a setting X? Is there a way to determine which setting an individual stamp came from by examining the ink, or watermark, or from some distinguishing feature? Did C precede or follow the other settings? A study of dated postmarks should provide the answer if it becomes possible to identify the setting of origin of individual stamps. From the stamps examined, it appears that C was the last to be printed. The current study represents progress over the work of Byam and MacArthur, but I suspect that the last word on this most interesting and complicated issue has yet to be written.

**EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (GENERAL ACCOUNT)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	2019	2018
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions	£2,964.58	£2,752.30
Auction account <sup>1</sup>	£17,138.81	£6,564.00
Donations	£39.88	£92.60
Advertisements	£47.25	£247.60
	<b>£20,190.52</b>	<b>£9,656.50</b>
<b>EXPEDITURE</b>		
Meeting room hire	£599.00	£996.00
Cost of Quarterly Circular	£2,640.21	£2,698.95
Website costs	£144.46	£143.86
Officers' stationery, phone etc	£158.31	£81.74
Insurance	£40.84	£152.84
ABPS subscription	£55.00	£0.00
Donation to Cairo Stamp Exhibition	£5,000.00	£0.00
Adjustment to Fixed Assets <sup>2</sup>	£2,751.00	£0.00
	<b>£11,388.82</b>	<b>£4,073.39</b>
Surplus for the year	<b>£8,801.70</b>	<b>£5,583.11</b>
Surplus as at 1 January	<b>£27,352.85</b>	<b>£21,769.74</b>
Surplus at 31 December <sup>1</sup>	<b>£36,154.55</b>	<b>£27,352.85</b>

**BALANCE SHEET (GENERAL ACCOUNT) AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	2019	2018
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Stamp collection <sup>2</sup>	£500.00	£5,251.00
Circle Library & records <sup>2</sup>	£2,000.00	£0.00
Cash in PayPal main account <sup>1</sup>	£8,057.06	£0.00
Cash at bank on current account <sup>1</sup>	£26,918.62	£22,866.86
	<b>£37,475.68</b>	<b>£28,117.86</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Members subscriptions in advance	£1,321.13	£765.01
	<b>£1,321.13</b>	<b>£765.01</b>
<b>Representing</b>		
Accumulated surplus <sup>1</sup>	<b>£36,154.55</b>	<b>£27,352.85</b>

Note 1 - The Auction Account, Cash and EoY Surplus figures include Auction monies due to vendors but declared as Income. This is particularly obvious for 2019 and 2020 due to the disposal of the Peter Andrews estate through the Circle.

Note 2 - The fixed assets of the Stamp Collection and Library have been revalued as agreed at the 2019 AGM

I have prepared the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet from the records and explanations provided to me and confirm that they are in accordance therewith.

(signed) A W Gould FRPSL, 25 June 2021  
Accounts Examiner

**EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (GENERAL ACCOUNT)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	2020	2019
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions	£2,773.07	£2,964.58
Auction account	-£11,410.41	£17,138.81
Donations	£21.21	£39.88
Advertisements	£227.25	£47.25
	<b>-£8,388.88</b>	<b>£20,190.52</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Meeting room hire	£900.00	£599.00
Cost of Quarterly Circular	£2,668.46	£2,640.21
Website costs	£144.46	£144.46
Officers' stationery, phone etc	£192.80	£158.31
Insurance	£224.00	£40.84
ABPS subscription	£70.50	£55.00
Grant for Richard Wheatley book	£250.00	£0.00
Donation to Cairo Stamp Exhibition	£0.00	£5,000.00
Adjustment to Fixed Assets	£0.00	£2,751.00
	<b>£4,450.22</b>	<b>£11,388.82</b>
Surplus for the year	<b>-£12,839.10</b>	<b>£8,801.70</b>
Surplus as at 1 January	<b>£36,154.55</b>	<b>£27,352.85</b>
Surplus at 31 December	<b>£23,315.45</b>	<b>£36,154.55</b>

**BALANCE SHEET (GENERAL ACCOUNT) AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	2020	2019
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Stamp collection	£500.00	£500.00
Circle Library & records	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
Cash in PayPal main account	£8,795.98	£8,057.06
Cash at bank on current account	£13,024.21	£26,918.62
	<b>£24,320.19</b>	<b>£37,475.68</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Members subscriptions in advance	£1,004.74	£1,321.13
	<b>£1,004.74</b>	<b>£1,321.13</b>
Representing		
Accumulated surplus	<b>£23,315.45</b>	<b>£36,154.55</b>

I have prepared the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet from the records and explanations provided to me and confirm that they are in accordance therewith.

(signed) A W Gould FRPSL, 25 June 2021  
Accounts Examiner