

The Quarterly Circular of THE EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE



March Quarter 2022 – Vol XXIV No 9 – Whole Series No 280 – Pages 195-218

CONTENTS

Officers / Meetings 195-6, Annual Meeting 197-9, Members' Changes 215, Book review iii

ARTICLES

MacArthur Award Roll of Honour		p.200
Plating the Second Issue of Egypt	Ramez Atiya	pp.201-206
Revenues at Upper Egypt universities	Vahe Varjabedian	pp.207-208
Expert on Zeppelin surcharge forgeries	Mike Murphy	pp.209-210
Liebig's a collectable spread	Anabright Hay	pp.210-212
TPO datestamp marking Katt خط	Antoine Winter	p.212
Aerial Post / EEF cachet of Alexandria	Lucien Toutounji	p.213
Winter Palace covers with double postmarks	Mike Murphy	pp.214-215
Historians and Philately	Mahmoud Ramadan	pp.216-217



**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

VAT No. GB 561 9567 09

Meetings Programme 2022 (please see details p.196)

Mar 18-21 2022	Morley Hayes Hotel, Derby	Joint weekend meeting with Sudan Study Group	All welcome
Sat April 30		Postal / online Auction 64 closes	All members
Sat May 7 10am-4pm	RPSL, London EC4N	Joint meeting with Cinderella Stamp Club: Egypt and Maritime	All members
Sat July 2 2pm	Victory Services Club	Club Competition plus 'More TPOs'	Sami Sadek
Wed Sept 28 to Sat Oct 1	Autumn Stampex	ESC exhibits around general theme 'Africa'	All members

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE OFFICERS

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

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

Website: egyptstudycircle.org.uk



Facebook

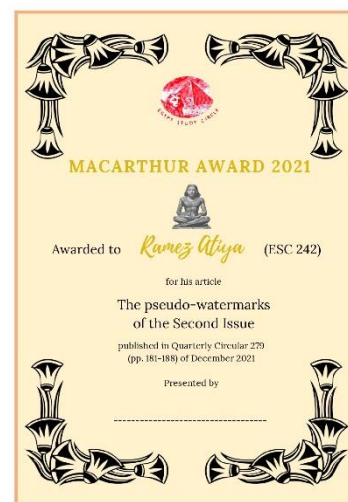
EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE – 2022 MEETINGS PROGRAMME

- Fri 18th – Sun 20th March 2022 Joint weekend meeting with the Sudan Study Group at the Morley Hayes Hotel, Derby. Everyone welcome including spouses and day visitors. Day visitor charge is £16.50 per person including coffee etc.
- Sat 30th April ESC spring postal/online Auction 64 closes. Details by email soon.
- Sat 7th May 2022 10am-4pm Joint meeting with the Cinderella Stamp Club at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW (close to Bank and Cannon Street underground).
- The subjects are ‘Maritime and Egypt’ but with an emphasis on back of the book material, Cinderellas, revenues, permits, ephemera, advertising labels, poster stamps, event labels, unofficial issues, Suez Canal Company, GBLA, petrol and other rationing, telegrams, airgraphs, forgeries, other strange oddities. (Coffee 10am, meeting starts 11am, break for lunch)
- Sat 2nd July 2022 2pm Annual competition plus ‘More T.P.O.s and some rare routes’, presented by Sami Sadek. At the Victory Services Club, Marble Arch. Displays on transport welcome.
- Wed 28 Sept – Sat 1 Oct 2022 ESC exhibiting at Autumn Stampex. The exhibition subject is ‘Africa’ and we hope to have a strong turn-out of exhibits from the Circle. You can book your space at £25 per frame on the Stampex website or contact Jon Aitchison for more details at britishlocals@aol.com.
- Sat 1st October 2022 2pm-4pm Autumn Stampex meeting at the Business Design Centre. Room and postal auction.
- Thurs 17th Nov 2022 1pm-5pm
(Please note date change) A major presentation by the Egypt Study Circle at the Royal Philatelic Society London to mark the centenary of the discovery of Tutankhamun’s tomb. We hope that as many members as possible will display on any subject but we want only one display on each subject.
- Please contact our Chairman, Jon Aitchison, at britishlocals@aol.com to reserve your display space. The display will be followed by an ESC dinner at a nearby restaurant. We hope to welcome several of our overseas members to this event.

Report of the Annual General Meeting of February 26, 2022

PRESENT: John Davis (President/Librarian), Jon Aitchison (Chairman/Programme Secretary), Neil Hitchens (Vice-Chairman/Webmaster), Mike Murphy (Secretary/Editor), Sami Sadek (Treasurer/Auctioneer), John Clarke, Paul Green, Adel Hanna (Egypt), Hany Salam (Egypt), Sherif Samra (Egypt), Atef Sarian, David Sutton, Richard Wheatley. **Guests:** Aktheem Al-Manaseer (USA), Stephen King. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** John Sears, Tony Cakebread, Trent Ruebush, Ibrahim Shoukry, Hani Sharestan, Vahe Varjabedian, Andy Gould, Brian Sedgley, Ronny Van Pellecom, Pierre Grech, Cyril Defriez.

Chairman: The Chairman gave a warm welcome to those present, and especially visitors from Egypt and guests, and hoped that at last the removal of covid restrictions might mean a return to well-attended meetings after 2½ very strained years. He spoke of the importance of the forthcoming joint meeting with the Sudan Study Group near Derby, and of how it could provide a forum for discussions on the long-considered merger between the two groups. Both, he said, were suffering falling attendances and ageing memberships, both had difficulty in finding volunteers to fill necessary officers' roles...there were advantages in getting together in that officer roles could be combined, all-day meeting-room hire could be arranged for about the price of half-day, allowing both Egypt and Sudan to meet in the same day, and there would be advantages in producing only one magazine (and website?) instead of two. He hoped that Derby might result in a series of concrete proposals to consider going forward. If that is accomplished, these would be put to a ballot of all members. Every member of both societies would have a voice in this crucially important suggestion.



As programme secretary, he hoped many members would be able to attend the joint meeting with the Cinderella Stamp Club at the premises of the Royal Philatelic Society of London on May 7. The theme is "Maritime and Egypt" but as he pointed out, "cinderella" covers a very wide range of material indeed. All welcome.

Auction: Sami Sadek reported on Auctions 62 (online only) and 63 (online/room), noting sales of more than £6,000 and £800 commission from the former, and £3,000 and £465 for 62, which was smaller generally because of covid restrictions. In both cases more than half the material available was sold, and the commission totals were welcome additions to Circle funds. It was decided that the online Auction 64 would be arranged to close on April 30, so that lots won might avoid postage costs by being handed over at the Cinderella meeting. A small room Auction at the AGM raised a good deal of interest and sold £500 worth of material, meaning £62 in commission.

Secretary: Mike Murphy reported that in the eight months since the last AGM we had lost a total of only four members through demise or resignation, and had gained seven new members with another restored to membership. The net gain of four lifted total membership to 165; and one guest at the meeting decided he wanted to join on the spot – so we have one more to add to the total.

In referring to the MacArthur Award, the Secretary was saddened to have to announce that the supply of brass and wood "Seated Scribe" trophies had unfortunately reached its end despite efforts to find replacements. A suitable souvenir document [above] has been designed in its place, one of which was presented at the meeting to Sami Sadek for 2020. He announced that the award for 2021 was won by Ramez Atiya (ESC 246) of Salt Lake City for his remarkable series of articles on old-style stamp detail, and especially for his painstaking work on identifying the pseudo-watermarks of the Second Issue. In an effort to build more support for the award, please see the "roll of honour" on page 200 listing all winners since 2001: this will be updated on the website and form a permanent record of successful authors.

Treasurer: Sami Sadek was effusive in his gratitude to Andy Gould (ESC 393) for his hard work in presenting the accounts based on Sami's spreadsheet notes, and the meeting voted in appreciation of his efforts. The Treasurer mentioned several members who had given enormous help during the year, including the late Jack Graham and Alan Jeyes for auction material donations, Sherif Samra and Mike Ryan for *QC* distribution and several other members for donating amounts surplus to subscription payments. It was noted that officers' stationery was listed at almost zero – largely because the vast majority of correspondence is now carried out by email rather than by letter. Accumulated surplus for the year was £24,215.45 compared with £23,315.45 previously. (See accounts, page iii).

Editor: The Editor thanked regular contributors and noted that we were going through a purple patch of excellent writers and a fascinating range of topics. There was, however, no reason for would-be authors to stand on their laurels.. there are always spaces to fill, and he would welcome – as ever – articles of any length or complexity. As long as they link Egypt and philately, they stand an excellent chance of being considered for publication. At the moment, the barrel is close to empty. There is plenty of opportunity for you all to pen something or other.

Website: The Webmaster reported that the overall appearance of the website was being improved, with more modern layout and type faces. But, more importantly, he was eager to give more prominence to some of the “hidden” treasures that the site contains. and so is planning a page headed “Members’ collections”, from which links would go directly to material at the moment tucked away under a more specific but less obvious heading. Meanwhile the digitising of old copies of the *QC* and *L'OP* continues apace and soon every page will be available to all members on the site.

Library: The Librarian reported that despite the virus restrictions members were still borrowing books from the Circle's excellent Library, and noted four additions – his own *Egypt: Postal Concession to Suez Part III*; a Lugdunum Philatelie sale catalogue with excellent Egypt, Sami Fereig's four volumes of *Postal History of the Muhammad Ali Dynasty*, and the same author's *Classic Egyptian Catalogue 1866-1966*. Our former Chairman and President John Sears had also handed over a large portfolios of “The Record”, which will need to be sorted.



Members chatted informally before the meeting opened

Any Other Business: As we had five Egyptians in the room there was much discussion of the recent discovery of imperforate proof sheets from the 1930s and 1940s that had seemingly suddenly appeared on the market in recent months (see *QC* 279, pp 172-173). Rumours and assertions abound, but still no-one can be absolutely sure of the source of the material or its more immediate provenance. Both Egypt Post and the Survey of Egypt have conducted extensive searches and found nothing missing. It seems clear that the sheets were printed by the Survey, but from which government archive did the material become public? The Survey itself, the Post Office? Or another department, where they had been intended for auction with the Palace Collection of 1954? Were they printer's waste? Or among piles of unwanted paper set for disposal? The source cannot be confirmed, so no motive can be ascertained.

Nor is there any concrete information about **when** the sheets were put on the market. What seems fairly sure, however, is that it may have been as long as 20 years ago, when one prominent collector reported 11 imperforate singles of the Second Fuad portrait issue, which Charlie Hass authenticated in 2003. They caused no excitement at the time but may perhaps have come from this group of material. Given all the doubts - about where, when and who - the well-known international auction houses have been advised that it would be unwise to handle the sheets, many of which, it is thought, have now been broken up into less recognisable blocks.

What does seem clear is that the sheets (still it is not certain how many sheets came to light) have not in recent years been kept in ideal conditions by a collector or dealer who cared deeply for them. There is some staining, it appears, and some yellowing of the paper. The issue remains very sensitive in Egypt, and top-level investigations continue. But unless concrete evidence comes to light, a question-mark continues to hang over this material.

In other “other business” Mike Murphy showed members’ photographs of suspected forgeries of the surcharges on the Graf Zeppelin issue of 1931, with the surcharge apparently overlying the CDS. For more details please see page 209.

Fascinating postcard displays were shown of the Suez Canal, the development of Tahrir Square, Sugar factories near Asyut and the Sphinx. Clearly there is much room for expansion here...

2023 AGM: It was decided not to make any decision at this stage about the date and site of the next Annual Meeting in light of continuing covid fears and uncertainty about whether Spring Stampex 2023 will take place.

Egypt scores well in Festival awards

Egypt-related entries scored high with the judges at the London 2022 International Stamp Exhibition, with three Golds heading the list:

Mamdouh Mosley, a former member, was given 92 points for his eight-frame Delta Collection of postal history 1700-1879; one more point than **Khaled Moustafa** (ESC 638 and secretary of the Philatelic Society of Egypt), whose eight frames displayed postal stationery 1865-1930. A new five-frame collection, of the Second Issue, scored 90 and Gold for **Atef Sarian** (ESC 638).

There were Large Vermeils for **Adel Hanna** (ESC 715) for five frames of British Forces 1932-1941 (87 points), **Sami Sadek** (ESC 559), who showed eight frames of TPOs and scored 86, and **Jon Aitchison** (ESC 6661), 85 with eight frames of Cassette Post. **Nael Hamdy** (ESC 714) also scored 85 for five frames of postal history 1875-1913, as did **Alaa Massoud** (ESC 561) with his single-frame exhibit on Simon Arzt, and **Sami Fereig** (ESC 569) in the literature section for his four volumes of Postal History under the Muhammad Ali dynasty.

David Jones (ESC 716) took Large Silver for his one-frame “Egyptian Revenues and Royalty”, and back in the literature section there were Large Silvers at 77 points for **Mahmoud Ramadan** (ESC 358) for his book on the Mohamed Aly Post and **Amr el-Etreby** (ESC 688), who entered his *QC* article on the 1915 Provisional.

Alaa Massoud added a Vermeil and a Silver-bronze for single-frame entries on the Seamen’s Home and foreign post offices in the Ottoman period (1870-1914), and to round off the “Egypt” display, non-members **John Paston**, of New Zealand, scored 83 and a Vermeil for his eight frames of open philately on the Suez Canal and **Dawud Messiha** won Large Silver with 77 points for his single-frame exhibit on the Nefertiti surcharged issue.

The Circle is delighted with the results, and congratulates all its members on their successes.

MacArthur Award: Roll of Honour

Major E.L.G. MacArthur MC, CdeG. (ESC 125), 1916-1998, was an acknowledged expert on the Third Issue, one of the most approachable of men, and always available for help and advice. His knowledge of Egypt, both its stamps and the country itself, was remarkable. He was always keen to encourage members to write for the QC. In his will he left a sum to cover the costs of an annual MacArthur Award voted by members as the best and most useful article in the previous year. It is the award's winners we honour below.

- 2021 – Ramez Atiya (USA, ESC 242), *The pseudo-watermarks of the Second Issue* (QC 279, pp 281-288)
- 2020 – Pierre Louis Grech (UK, ESC 266), *Ismailia – Timsah* (QC 274, pp 61-72)
- 2019 – Sami Sadek (UK, ESC 559), *TPOs and timetables: Secrets revealed* (QC 270, pp 248-255)
- 2018 – Ronny Van Pellecom (Belgium, ESC 618) and Alain Stragier (Belgium, ESC 241), *Egypt's Railway Stations 1879-1914* (QCs 264-267)
- 2017 – Pierre Louis Grech (UK, ESC 266), *1957: Rejected Egyptian Mail* (QC 261, pp 29-31)
- 2016 – Greg Todd (Ireland, ESC 585), *Stamped covers from Massawa* (QC 258, pp 252-256)
- 2015 – Dr Amr El-Etreby (Egypt, ESC 688), *The 1915 Provisional: A Centenary Celebration* (QC 255, pp.173-185)
- 2014 – Edmund Hall (UK, ESC 239), *Sinai and Gaza Part 4: 1917-1948* (QC 251, pp 86-92)
- 2013 – Mike Murphy (UK, ESC 240), *Stationery Cutouts: Valid for Postage?* (QC 245, pp 224-229)
- 2012 – Edmund Hall (UK, ESC 239), *Sinai-Gaza Part 2* (QC 240, pp 110-120)
- 2011 – Pierre Louis Grech (UK, ESC 266), *Helouan* (QC 239, pp 78-90)
- 2010 – Hany Salam (Egypt, ESC 580), *Official Mail service from 1866 to 1883* (QC 235, pp 284-288)
- 2009 – Pierre Grech (UK, ESC 266), *French Forces in Egypt during World War One* (QC229, pp 127-143)
- 2008 – Ahmed Abu Mousa (Abu Dhabi, ESC 584), *Fuad Second Issue: Retouches and Flaws* (QC 227, pp 82-89)
- 2007 – Ahmed Abu Mousa (Abu Dhabi, ESC 584), *Postal History of the Fuad Portrait Issues* (QC 220, pp 205-216)
- 2006 – Edmund Hall (UK, ESC 239), *Operations Kadesh and Musketeer: the Tripartite Aggression* (QC 219, pp 176-177,183-192)
- 2005 – Anatole Ott (Sweden, ESC 261), *Third Study of Parcel Cards for Foreign Countries* (QC 212, pp 305-309)
- 2004 – Anatole Ott (Sweden, ESC 261), *Second Study of Parcel Cards for Foreign Countries* (QC 210), pp 250-254
- 2003 – Sven Eriksson (Sweden, ESC 411), *Extracts from the Postal Guide of Egypt and from the U.P.U. Congress* (QC 207, pp 183-196)
- 2002 – Richard Wilson (USA, ESC 230) *Cover Census of the Indian Forces in the 1882 Campaign* (QC 202, pp 61-65)
- 2001 – Edmund Hall (UK, ESC 239), *Egypt and Sinai Part 1: pre World War 1* (QC 198, pp 256-269)

Plating the Second Issue of Egypt

Ramez Atiya (ESC 242)

In Memory of Peter R. Feltus (ESC 114)

The plating of any issue of any country is a major philatelic event. The plating of Egypt's Second Issue is one of the great unfinished projects of Egyptian philately. The plating of the 5 para, 1 piastre (setting D), and the 2 piastre are complete but remain unpublished. Plating of the 10 and 20 para (1867 and 1869) and 5 piastre values remains to be carried out, the reason being the scarcity of multiples. In a previous paper [QC 279, pp. 181-188], we showed that Second Issue stamps bear ten types of pseudo-watermarks. The objective of this paper is to show that the identification of the combined pseudo-watermark and lithographic types reduces the number of required blocks to a manageable number, finally making the plating of the 10 and 20 para values a realistic goal. Only the plating of the 5 piastre will almost certainly remain beyond reach. The only complete study is Jean Boulad d'Humières' (ESC 16) plating of the Suez Canal issue published in the classic *Private Ship Letter Stamps of the World: the Suez Canal Company* (1976).

PLATING LITHOGRAPHICALLY PRINTED STAMPS

Some brief aspects of lithography: Every lithographic stone has small natural defects. These can either accept or repel ink, producing either a colour where none is intended or its absence in an area where the design should have been inked. These "flaws" are found throughout a lithographic stone so that every stamp shows flaws characteristic of its position and found on no other. Plating associates a unique set of flaws in the stone with every position on the sheet. Once plated, the position of any stamp can be determined.

Some of these flaws have found their way into the catalogues. Others have not. For example, one of the two major flaws of the 5pi, the chain variety shown below, is unlisted. This is by no means the only example. A systematic list of such flaws remains to be compiled and is yet to be listed in the catalogues.



Figure 1 – The 5-piastre chain variety

THE PSEUDO-WATERMARKS TYPES

In the previous paper mentioned above, it was shown that a) the pseudo-watermarks of the Second Issue are of ten types, b) that the ten types are each arranged in a block of 5 (horizontal) x 2 (vertical) as shown in the figure below, and c) that these in turn are organised in 2 horizontal blocks x 10 vertical blocks for the full 200 pseudo-watermarks distribution across the sheet.



Figure 2 – The ten pseudo-watermark types

THE LITHOGRAPHIC TYPES

The process for preparing the printing stones is most probably as follows. The designs for the Second Issue were first engraved on metal, four times for each value, forming four die varieties, types I to IV. These four were probably engraved on a single metal die. The design was then transferred from the die on to a primary stone. Thus, the primary stone would display a block of four showing all four types. One primary stone showing all four types was prepared for each of the six values. These were printed in sheetlets in black. The image below shows pairs for the 5 and 10 para values cut from two of these sheetlets. One set of the die proofs is in the Egyptian Postal Museum in Cairo. Two other sets were cut up, almost all into singles. It is these singles that are listed in *The Nile Post*. Each block of four was transferred 50 times from the primary stone on to the printing stone from which the sheets of 200 were printed. Alternatively, it is possible that the stone was prepared directly by the application of the inked metal dies, although the existence of the sheetlet blocks of four strongly suggests an intermediate primary stone.

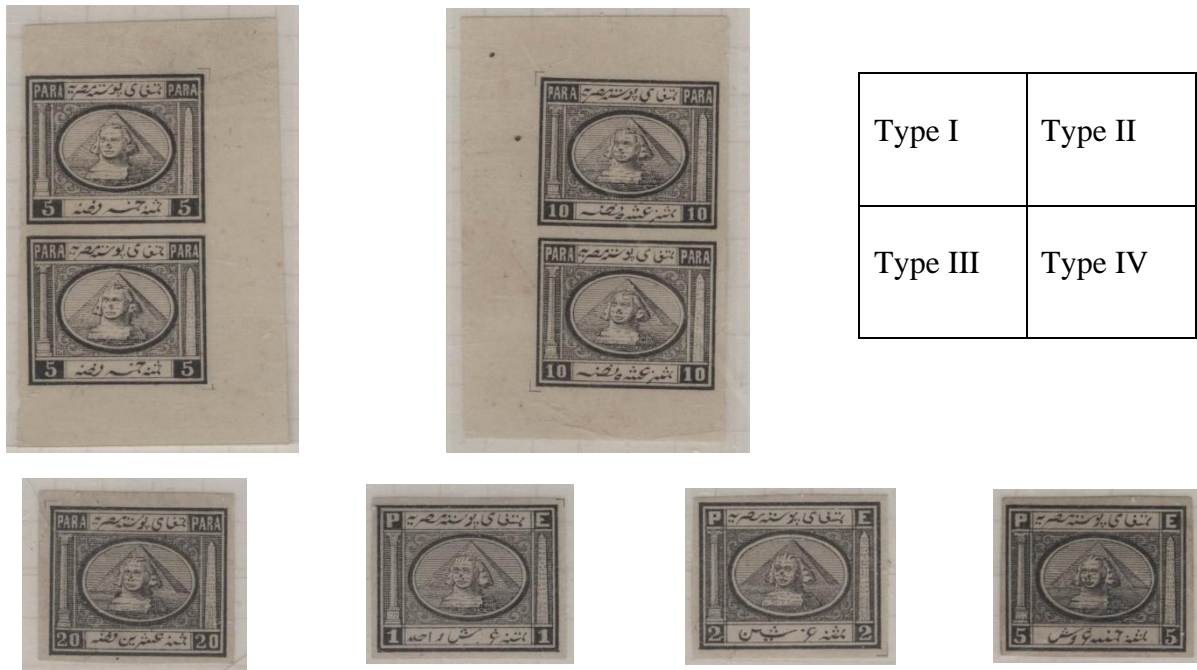


Figure 3 – The Second Issue die proofs
5 para and 10 para showing layout of the primary stone

THE COMBINED ARRANGEMENT OF PSEUDO-WATERMARK AND LITHO TYPES

Combining the arrangement of pseudo-watermarks types with that of lithos, we arrive at the overall arrangement. The table below shows the positional relationship between the lithographic and pseudo-watermarks types. Two representative rows (for example rows 1 and 2 of the sheet) are shown, with each position marked by its lithographic and pseudo-watermark type. For convenience, the corresponding columns are listed below the table. This is the arrangement as viewed from the face side of the sheet so that the order of watermarks is reversed from that shown in the illustration above. An examination shows that each combination of litho and watermark types corresponds to a unique column. For example, IV/6 occurs only on column 6, III/6 only on column 1 and IV/7 only on 2. Thus, the combined pseudo-watermark and litho type of a stamp immediately identifies the column of origin of any stamp. Why does this matter?

Table – The lithographic types are shown above each watermark type along a pair of representative rows. The sheet column is given below the table.

I/1	II/2	I/3	II/4	I/5	II/1	I/2	II/3	I/4	II/5
III/6	IV/7	III/8	IV/9	III/10	IV/6	III/7	IV/8	III/9	IV/10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

PLATING THE SECOND ISSUE

Plating determines the position of each stamp on a lithographed sheet. Since each position bears unique flaws, plating determines the position of every stamp through those flaws. Every Second Issue lithographed sheet consists of 200 distinct varieties! While most are minor, some are quite prominent. The plating of a sheet of lithographed stamps of any country is a philatelic event. It represents the ultimate study of a lithographed issue. Plating and sheet reconstruction are inverses of each other. Once plated, the sheet can be reconstructed from individual stamps.

To plate a sheet of lithographically printed stamps, the standard procedure is to overlap blocks sharing common flaws and therefore sharing common positions until the full sheet is reconstructed (see the 1-piastre sheet at the end of the article). The difficulty is in finding a sufficient number of multiples, a major challenge for all values other than the 1 piastre, setting D. Identifying both the lithographic and the pseudo-watermarks type greatly reduces the number of required blocks, making it possible to reconstruct a sheet with far fewer multiples. Here is why.

To plate the sheet requires matching common flaws on horizontal *and* vertical multiples. Knowing the pseudo-watermark and litho type immediately identifies its column. Any stamp of any one of the four lithographic types comes from one of 50 possible positions, 5 horizontal x 10 vertical. Knowing its column of origin reduces that number from 50 to 10. The reduction in the number of required multiples renders the plating the 10 and 20 para (1867 and 1869) a very real possibility.

TWO EXAMPLES

We illustrate the process through two examples. First, we show that the process is valid by examining a block of four of the 2 piastre. Second, we determine the column of origin of the 10 para horned obelisk variety (Nile Post D 9a). Its column is unlisted and presumably unknown. The determination is of intrinsic philatelic interest since the column of origin is listed in *The Nile Post* for some varieties whose full position is unknown.

We begin with the 2 piastre block shown below. Each stamp is labelled by both its lithographic and watermark type. The block shows the combination Lithographic/Watermark types III/7, I/2, and IV/8, II/3. Consulting the table, we see that combinations III/7 and I/2 are found only on column 7 while IV/8 and shows II/3 are from column 8. We examine the NE stamp, type IV/8, and look for matching flaws on a stamps from column 8. Searching down column 8 of the photographed sheet, we find that the stamp in question turns out to be from position 78 of the sheet, and therefore from column 8 just as expected. Both show two identical lithographic flaws: a small bar of color in the upper left-hand corner above the “P” and a break in the thin frame line at the base. These flaws confirm that the stamp in question is indeed from column 8 as predicted from the litho/wmk type. Incidentally, the block is the one photographed for *The Nile Post*. The method is completely reliable.

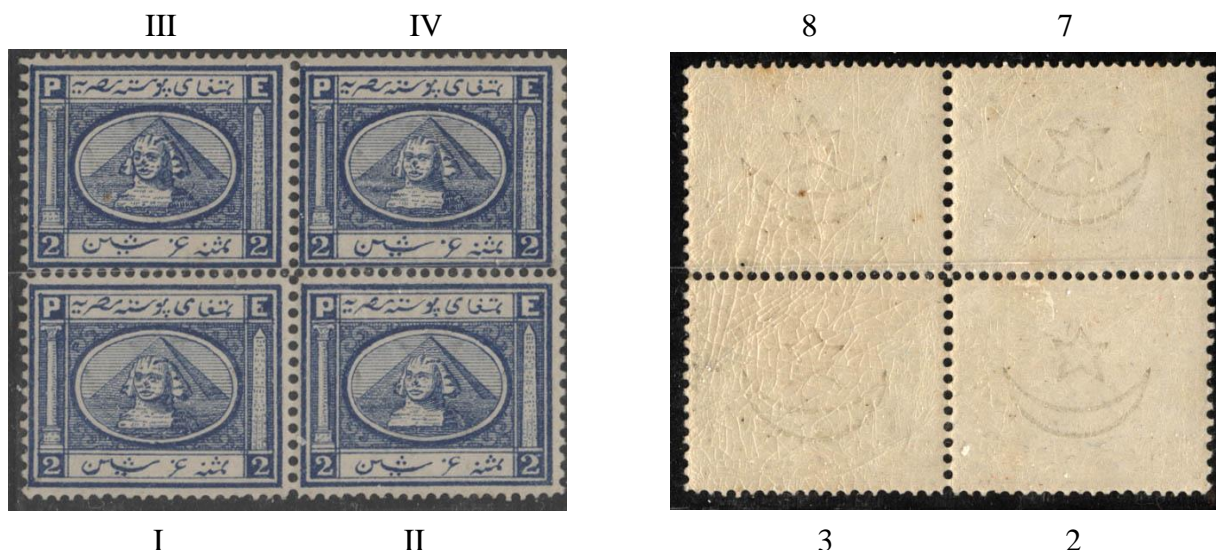


Figure 4

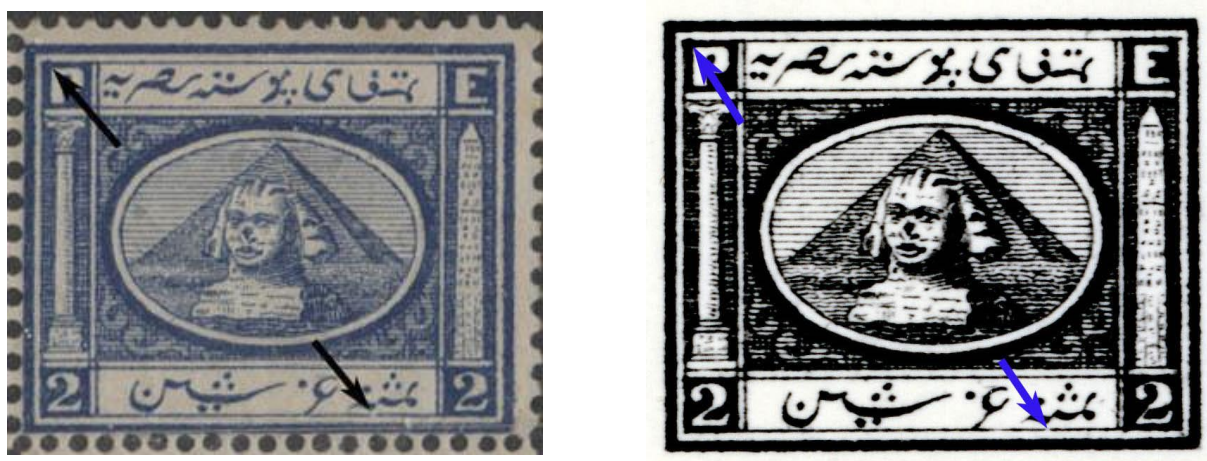


Figure 5. Position 78 – Matching Pair – Type IV/3 – from block and black and white photo

As a second example, we determine the column on which the 10 para horned obelisk variety (NP D9h) occurs. The colour informs us that it is from the 1869 printing. We first determine and label the lithographic types (Figure 6). Examining the pseudo-watermark types, we see (Figure 7) that they are arranged exactly as in Figure 1. The combined lithographic and pseudo-watermark type provides the column of origin immediately. The horned obelisk is combined type III/7. Consulting the table, we see that the combination III/7 occurs only on column 7. The Horned Obelisk variety is therefore from column 7, a new data point for future catalogues. The next step is the full plating of the 10 para.

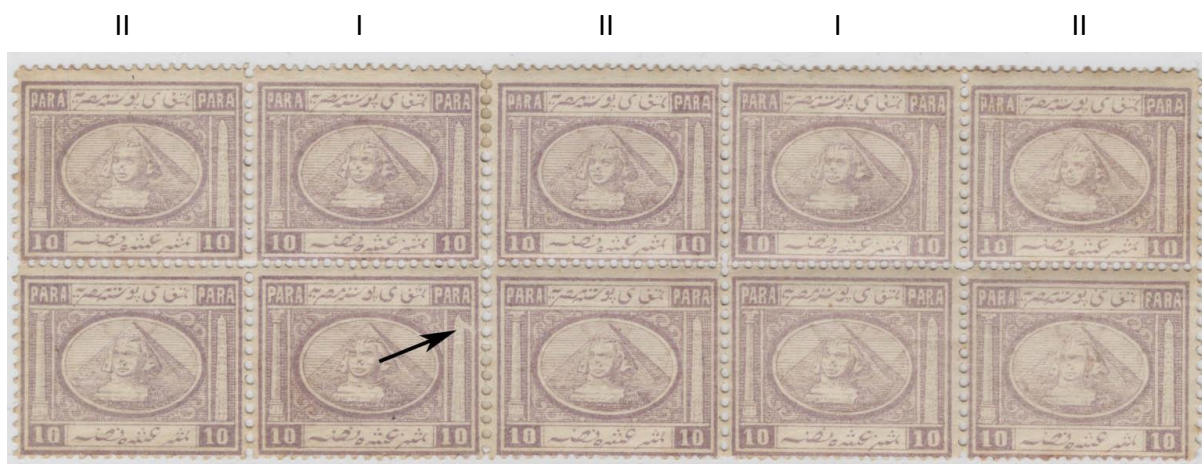


Figure 6 – The Horned Obelisk variety in a block of ten

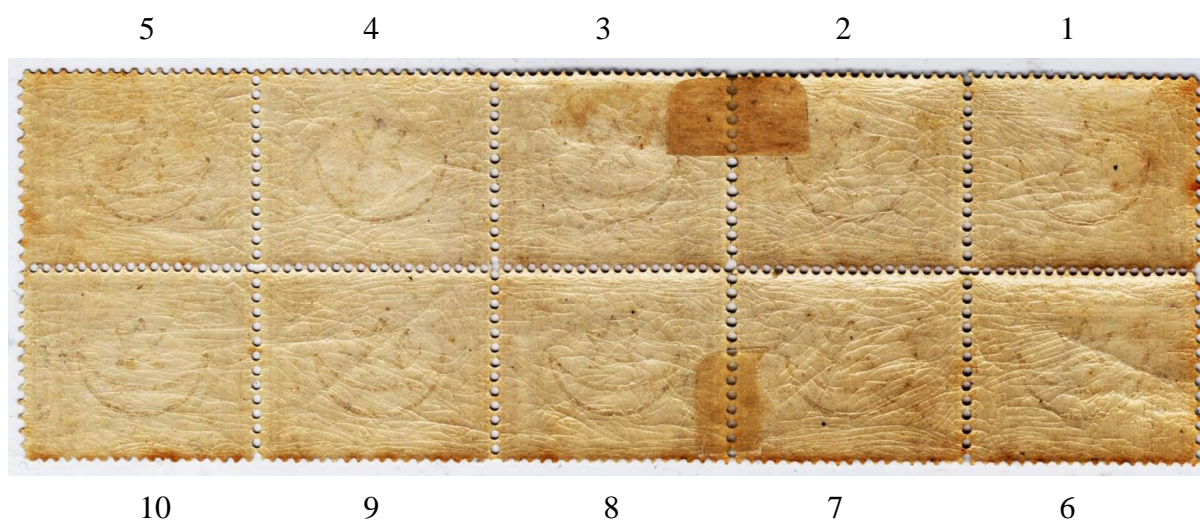


Figure 7

Postscript and future prospect: The plating of the 5 para, 1 piastre (setting D) and the 2 piastre are complete. Peter Feltus and I had begun a collaboration to plate the 10 and 20 para issues. We were making progress when Peter passed away and his Second Issue collection was dispersed. We lost a colourful figure and a dealer of high integrity who helped to create important collections, more often than not without due recognition. Peter and I expected to be able to plate the 10 and 20 para issues (1867 and 1869). Our intention was to publish a book similar to Jean Boulad d’Humières’ (ESC 16) *The Suez Canal Company* which contains the plating of the Canal Company issue and is the indispensable reference for authentication.

It is my view that by employing the combined litho/pseudo-watermark method to determine the column, the plating of the 10 and 20 para is achievable. There are a significant number of multiples of both the 1867 and 1869 stamps, including two blocks of 35 of the 10 para 1867. I hope that a member of the Egypt Study Circle will take up and complete the task. I am prepared to provide any assistance both technical and by making the multiples in my collection available.

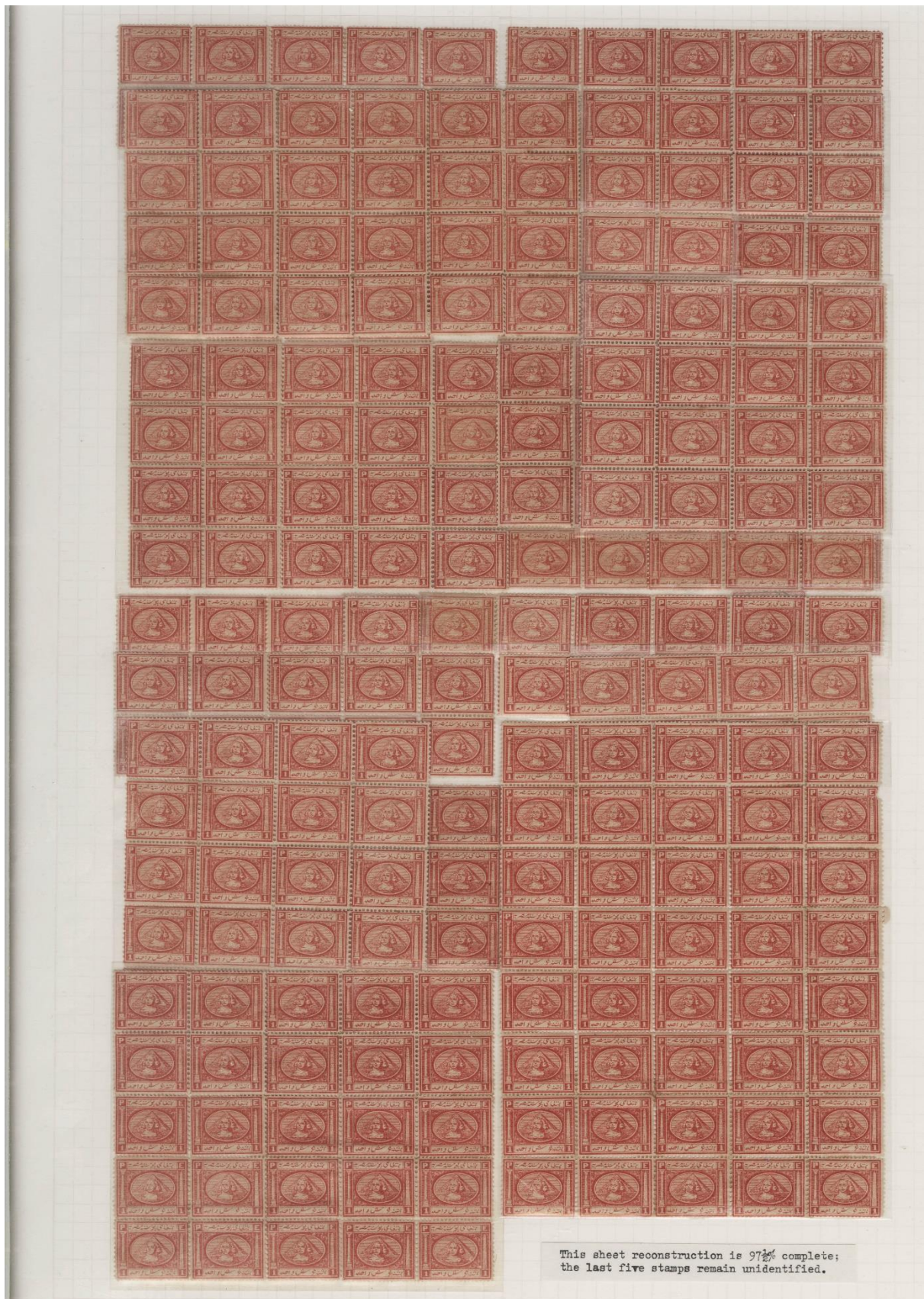


Figure 8 – The 1-piastre sheet reconstruction – Stone D (Reconstructed by Peter R Feltus)

Revenues at Upper Egypt universities

Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)

It is almost ten years since I started collecting Egyptian revenues of all sorts – and living in Cairo is clearly the ideal place to make this detailed research. My highly regarded main reference – as is the case with ALL Egypt revenue enthusiasts - was the magnificent listing of the late Peter R Feltus (ESC 114), *Catalogue of Egyptian Revenues* (1982), which truly laid the groundwork for future studies.

But the Feltus catalogue's listing ends in 1982, and he published no more before he died in December 2012. Another revenues enthusiast, our former Egypt Agent, Dr Nabil el-Hadidi (ESC 369) carried out a comprehensive study extending the Feltus book, listing unrecorded and newly issued examples up to 2003, but unfortunately he passed away in 2005.

Between 2000 and today hundreds of revenues have been issued, sadly without any official notice or explanation, as a result of which it is very difficult indeed to discover the exact dates of issue of these later examples, the vast majority of which have been simply pen-cancelled rather than by use of a datestamp.



From left, Types M1 to M4, with £E10 or £E20 values

I am doing my best to seek out early and late dates, searching hundreds of documents and certificates – happily they come to hand fairly easily in today's Egypt – on which a tax fee has been paid via use of these revenue stamps. But the dates of use can only be those found on the documents; issue of the stamps concerned may have been several years earlier. I am happy to share my discoveries, and here start a series of articles on my research by discussing various revenues from different universities of Upper Egypt.

1. University of Minya. Established in 1976, this university has as its emblem the spectacular world-renowned bust of Nefertiti found in Amarna and now in Berlin.

Between 1976 and 2000 Minya University used the general revenue tax stamps listed by Feltus for the issue of students' graduation certificates, pleas to the authorities claiming complaints, requests for exam re-marking and so on.

The first Minya University Nefertiti revenue specific to the campus (Type M1) was recorded on a graduation certificate dated October 2001. This is an upright stamp of £E10, the basic document-tax fee, printed by the Postal Authority Press, Cairo (indicated at lower right margin), on glossy paper without watermark. Monocolour in brown, it features Nefertiti facing left within a clear rectangle. Bilingual "Egypt" at the top of the stamp, with "Minya University" (in a brown rectangle) and three lines of text below reading "Education Services Bureau" in Arabic.

From 2001 to 2006 the stamp design and value remained the same. What was apparently a later version, (M2), printed on matt paper but otherwise the same, has been recorded from 2007 to 2009. It seems likely that the revenue rate was doubled in 2009, because between 2009 and 2011 stamps are found with a £E20 value (M3-4). These are printed on glossy or matt paper without watermark, M4 without the Postal Authority Press "signature" in the bottom margin. M3 has a boxed yellow border around the Nefertiti bust; on M4 the yellow border is not contained but extends to the perforation.



From left, Types M5-M8, with £E10 and £E50 values

Oddly, however, another £E10 stamp (M5), this time with a green border replacing the M3 yellow, is recorded from 2015-16, printed on glossy paper with no watermark. If the tax was raised in 2009, why the need for another £E10 value six years later?

Examples of £E50 revenue stamps (Types M6-7) are recorded from 2016-18, apparently reflecting another tax increase. In shades of blue, these follow the pattern of M4-5, with colour extending to the perforations and slight changes in the typeface, and are printed on glossy paper with no watermark.

Yet another £50 example (M8) is recorded during 2016-18, again following the same basic pattern, but this time with the Nefertiti head in bronze and set in a blue rectangle, “Minya University” in a blue rectangle, and the rest of the stamp clear of colour. Like M1-3, it has the Postal Authority Press “signature”.

Given that the design of M1-8 is virtually the same, is it possible that £E10, £E20 and £E50 stamps were issued together and were in use serving different tax rates at the same time?



The newer Type M9-M10, known in values of £E10 and £E50

It is clear, however, that the two remaining vertical stamps, values £E10 and £E50, the former (M9) recorded 2015-16, the latter (M10) 2016-18, are of a very different, though similar, design. The bilingual “Egypt” at the head of the stamp is now in lower case, the colour (green for £E10, blue for £E50) bleeds to the edge of the stamp all round, and the bust is depicted in full colour, in threequarter view, on a clear ground. “Minia University” in Arabic now depends in is a new issue.

Also new is the final example (*right*), wide green border, and Nefertiti in central circle, supported by what looks disk. The portrait it surrounded by English, and in a green oval panel services” in Arabic. The printing is on two dates are so far recorded:



which is valued ar £E20, square with a colour facing right rather than left in a remarkably like the hands of the Aten “Minia University” in Arabic and below are the words “for electronic glossy paper with no watermark. Only September 2018 and April 2019.

It is obvious that recording dates from known used examples is both time-consuming and difficult. I hope that members who have dates outside those noted here might share them with the Circle.

Expert on Zeppelin surcharge forgeries

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)



The two 50 mills surcharges: at left, belonging to Ragui Michael, at right, Amr Laithy's

It was the eagle eye of Ragui Michael (ESC 736) that spotted that there was something not quite right about the Zeppelin cover he bought on eBay: the value surcharge on both stamps appeared to be stamped OVER the circular date stamp for Cairo 9 AP 31. Clearly this could not happen unless the surcharge was applied after the cover had been cancelled. He asked colleagues whether any other examples of this oddity were known, and whether the cover could have been forged.

The Circle passed on his query in the form of an all-round email to all members. And a response came from Cairo, where Amr Laithy (ESC 681) reported that he had examined all his Zeppelin covers and found one, with Cairo April 10 postmark, in which the 100 mills appeared as normal, but the surcharge on the 50 mills seemed to lie over the CDS.

With evidence of two such occurrences, I then asked several Circle airmail enthusiasts for their opinion, and Paul Green (ESC128) immediately suggested that "assuming the date stamps to be genuine, the only explanation surely is that the surcharges are forged, the sender using unsurcharged stamps with a view to upgrading them with forged surcharges. The alternative is that the whole cover is fake with forged cds but this seems to be the more unlikely scenario. One wonders why anyone would go to the trouble of forging the surcharges when genuine ones on the return flight are relatively common."



Both of Ragui Michael's stamps have forged surcharges, plus the 1951 error on the 50 mills

He went on to ask whether the covers in question had backstamps. The respective owners replied Yes. The first cover has the small Friedrichshafen circle of April 13, and the second, addressed to Alexandria via the Palestine trip, a backstamp of Alexandria with the same date.

When much enlarged photographs of these covers were shown at the Annual Meeting on February 26 they raised a great deal of interest and close examination. But it quickly became clear that the original hypothesis – that the surcharges overlaid the CDS - was very much in doubt. Adel Hanna (ESC 715) was to the forefront in suggesting that by looking closely he could be absolutely sure that the eye was being misled, and in fact the date stamp was properly stamped over the surcharge. His view carried weight, and, once the fact that both covers were forged was established members were convinced.

If any confirmation was required, our new member Akthem Al-Amanaseer (a guest at the meeting who chose immediately to become a member), introduced another visitor to the London 2022 Festival, Cheryl Ganz, a world-renowned Zeppelin expert and former chief curator of philately at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington.



Only the 50 mills on Amr Laithy's cover appears to have the fake surcharge over the datestamp

It took only a minute for Ms Ganz to confirm that not only were the datestamps and surcharges in the correct order, but that the surcharges on both covers were far from convincing, pointing out letters not quite upright, ink spread, and other errors that made clear that we were dealing with covers “enhanced” to improve their value. Of course if the surcharges are fake, it is beside the point whether they are above the datestamps or not. The surcharges must have

been added after the letter was mailed to bump the price on eBay.

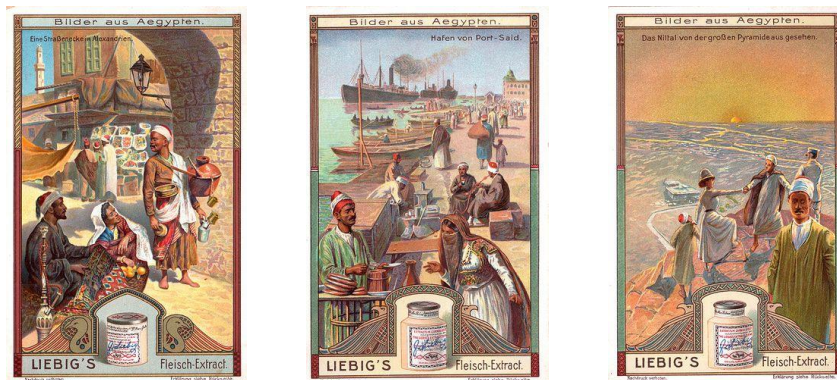
Now that these not entirely convincing forgeries have been brought to light by Ragui Michael, it will be interesting to know how many of these might have been produced and whether members have more of them. Please don't hesitate to let the Secretary know if you spot one... a good starting point might be to check whether the cds/surcharge conjunction looks convincing.

Liebig's a collectable spread

Anabright Hay (ESC 600)

Liebig's meat extract may be an acquired taste but the company's trading cards are miniature works of art and well worth acquiring.

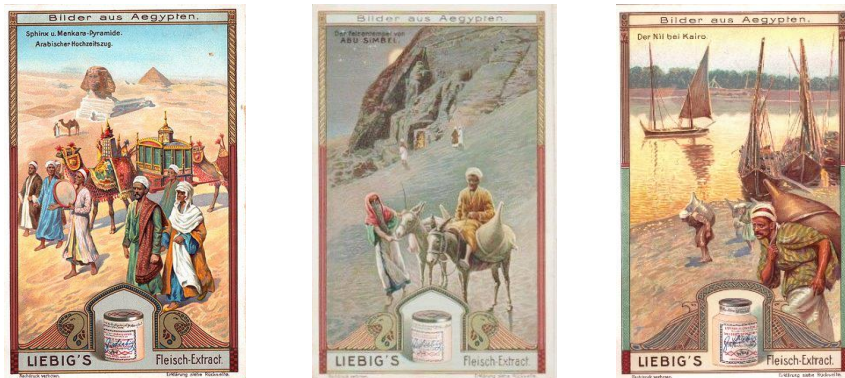
The set of six Egyptian scenes pictured form just one example of the thousands of exquisitely produced cards aimed at promoting this product. Their beauty is hardly surprising given that many artists designed these cards, which from about 1872 featured scenes of customs, history and geography.



From the Pictures of Egypt series (in German): Street scene in Alexandria, the port of Port-Said, the Nile Valley as seen from the Great Pyramid

Chromolithography and later offset printing were some of the methods used to produce these colourful and charming international treasures. They remain popular with collectors today and are available on a number of websites. Printed until the mid-1970s in a wide range of European languages, the close to 2,000 sets usually comprised six postcard-sized cards on a particular theme, each with a meat extract recipe and a brief explanation of the illustration on its reverse.

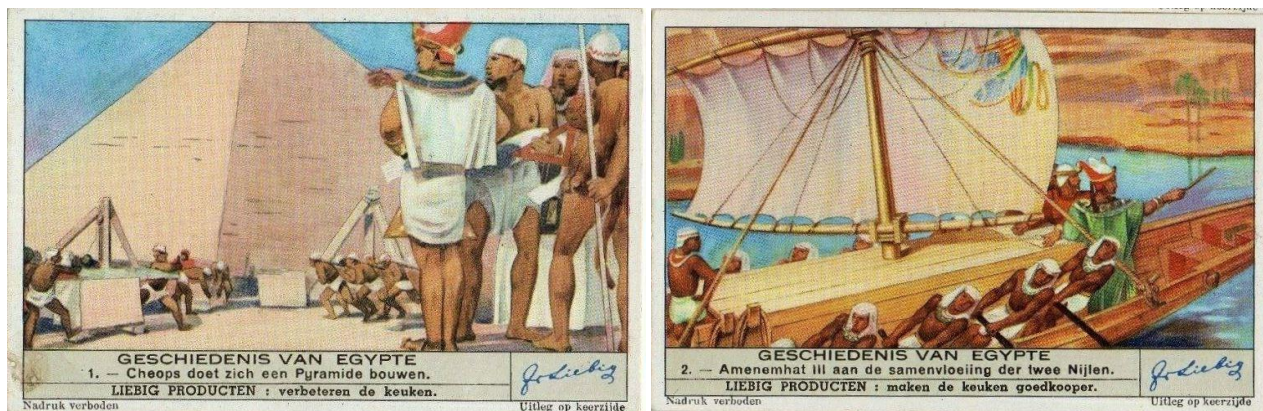
Topics covered an astonishing range far and wide, both in time and geography. Egypt provided several opportunities, including these, from “Pictures of Egypt” printed in 1912. Among many others with Egyptian interest are series titled Alexander the Great, Remains of Vanished Civilisations, Aida, The Burial of Tutankhamun, Ancient Egyptian Monuments, and more. One set even dealt with the life cycle of Bilharzia, the water-carried disease that is the scourge of many Egyptian farm workers.



Others in the series: Sphinx and Menkaure Pyramid with Arabian Wedding Procession; the rock-cut temple of Abu Simbel; the Nile at Cairo

Liebig’s Extract of Meat Company was founded in 1865, named after Justus von Liebig, the 19th century German chemist who developed a method for the industrial production of beef extract. It aimed to provide a cheap and nutritious meat substitute for those unable to afford the real thing.

A variety of other companies manufactured similar products based on Liebig’s ideas. One of the largest and most interesting was the establishment of a huge industrial complex in Uruguay called Fray Bentos. Here vast amounts of the extract, with Liebig’s agreement, were produced and exported. The former works and yards now house a museum displaying some of the original machinery and social and cultural artifacts of the technological revolution in Fray Bentos.



Ancient Egypt as seen through Liebig eyes: from the 1947 History of Egypt series (in Dutch): “Cheops building his Pyramid” and “Amenemhat III at the convergence of the two Niles”

In the United Kingdom, Liebig’s was the producer of the Lemco brand. After Liebig’s death the company helped another manufacturer to develop Oxo meat extracts and Oxo beef stock cubes. In the 1920s the Liebig Extract of Meat Company acquired Oxo Tower Wharf on the South Bank of the Thames in London.

According to Wikipedia the company was acquired by the Vestey Group in 1924. Liebig merged in 1968 with Brooke Bond, which was in turn acquired by Unilever in 1984, followed by Campbells Soup, who sold the UK operation to Premier Foods in 2006.

The company seems to have travelled almost as widely as the geographical locations depicted on its trading cards. But while the taste and nutritional value of this sticky spread has been widely debated, the beauty and collectability of its trading cards has always been obvious.

* A comprehensive listing of Liebig cards is available online at cartolino.com/liebig/

TPO datestamp marking Katt خط

Antoine Winter (ESC 149)



From left, Smith Type 8A5A, Luxor-Sohag of 1902; Cairo-Asyut of 1928

The Egyptian Post Office has used various words or phrases over the years to indicate the services provided by the travelling post offices ... from AMBULANT/E (also AMBT or AMB) via & V.V. (and vice-versa), to T.P.O., and combinations of these indicators, or sometimes merely the terminal names with no travelling indicator at all. And of course each of these had its Arabic equivalent set into the CDS at manufacture:

Ambulant and T.P.O. designated as *saayra* (ie, travelling) سائرة
& V.V. ... *wa bil'aks* (ie, and in return) وبالعكس

But there is one indicator that is very rarely spotted, and that is “katt”, خط, a word generally translated as “route” or “line”, including throughout a 1906 all-Arabic book of postal regulations.

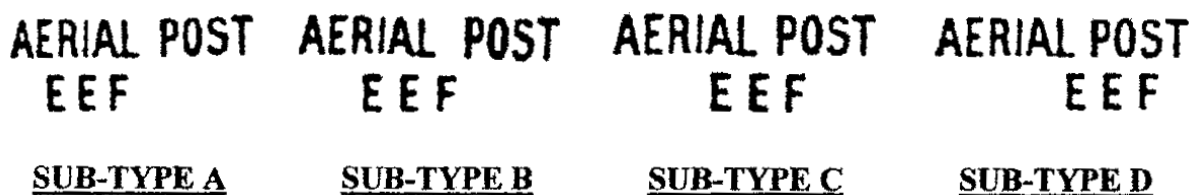
All TPO collectors know the early Smith type 8A5A CDS with the word in Arabic placed prominently in the centre of the lower half. I have now found three more examples of TPO types showing the word "katt" at the start of the Arabic text. One is Luxor-Sohag (type 8A1, 1902); another is a Cairo-Asyut type 7A3.4 (1928): here the text is curved with a hyphen after "katt" and there is no "wa bil'aks". My third is another 8A1 type, of 1903, which is in a private collection. As neither Peter Smith in his book about TPOs nor the updated list put together by Circle members in March 2018 show these types, they must be rather uncommon.

My extreme dates are 1902-1928, so I can only suppose that there might have been several other examples and I should very much appreciate hearing of any other such marking found by our members so that we might begin to list this unusual “type”.

Air Mail notice: Imperial Airways - Peter Wingent writes to say that past copies of the *Imperial Airways Gazette*, biannual journal of the Imperial Airways Study Group, have been added to the British Airmail Society website with open access to all. Each contains articles on the airline's operations in the 1920s and 1930s, many of them in the area we cover. Readership is small, so to share the knowledge back issues of the journal from 2003 to date may now be found under the heading "IA Gazette" at britishairmailsociety.co.uk

'Aerial Post / E E F' cachet of Alexandria

Lucien Toutounji (ESC 149)

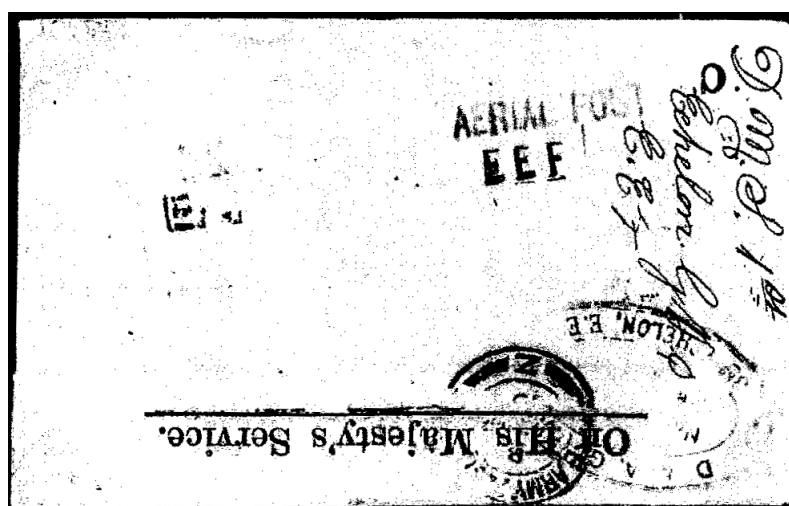


Deportation to Malta in 1919 of the nationalist leader Saad Zaghloul led to a general strike throughout Egypt and country-wide civil disturbances directed mainly at communications. As a result, the RAF established an airmail service between Alexandria, Cairo, the Suez Canal area and Palestine; using RAF De Havilland 9s and 10s and occasionally fighter planes. This service was launched from Alexandria on 17 March 1919 and ended on 3 May, when Zaghloul was released from exile.

Four unframed Aerial Post cachets were applied to mail flown from Alexandria (March 20 to April 3) and Cairo; the earliest recorded use is March 18 from Cairo. It is estimated that one third of all mail flown was sent to Palestine. Others went to centres within Egypt, and to India - and not too many years ago the writer showed an ESC meeting an astonishing cover addressed to Mombasa, which was misdirected to Palestine, readdressed, and finally returned from Dar es-Salaam.

Virtually a century after the event, the writer is the first to distinguish the four sub-types – differing mainly in the placing of the “E E F” in the second line – and enable them to take their place among Egypt’s pioneer flights. It forms part of his international Large Gold medal air mail exhibit.

The O.H.M.S. official printed cover illustrated below carried no adhesives but is cancelled by the BAPO / Z cds together with an oval handstamp of the 3rd Echelon EEF, and is addressed to “D.M.S. / 1st Echelon GHQ, EEF”. DMS may refer to Director of Medical Services or perhaps Deputy Military Secretary. The receiving mark behind is “F.P.O. / GMO / 26 March 1919”, which was located in Jerusalem, where General Allenby’s headquarters were based.



*Cachet sub-type A flown from Alexandria to Jerusalem.
Only 15 covers bearing the unframed cachets are thought
to have been flown between Alexandria and Palestine.*

Winter Palace covers with double postmarks

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Two covers from the Winter Palace Hotel in Luxor have recently caught my attention. Though they are dated almost precisely 23 years apart – 1931 and 1954 – they share a rather odd connection: both of them carry two different types of the Hotel’s circular datestamps. I can only imagine that philatelic contrivance had something to do with it.

Certainly in the first case this seems impossible to overlook. The Winter Palace Hotel printed envelope is furnished with the full set of the

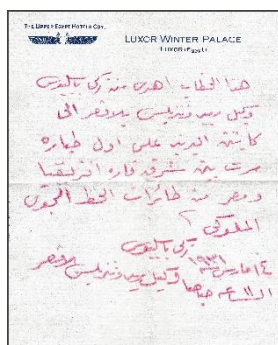
current commemoratives for the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition (issued February 15, NP C33-35). All three are given spot-on central cancels of 14 III 31 11-AM (Type HW4, with Luxor curved over Winter-Palace in the upper segment). At top right, however, is another cancel, reading Winter Palace / Luqсор in the lower segment (that is, HW5), dated 14 MR 31 10-11A.



Zaki Basalous’ first flight cover with two different Hotel cancels for March 14 1931

Typing of the cover’s address seems to wend its way carefully around the three stamps already placed, reading (above the stamps): Imperial Airways / 1.st flight / East Africa-Cairo, and (below the stamps): from Zaki Basalous / Postmaster, Winter Palace, Luxor. The flap is unsealed, and it is clear that the cover has never passed through the post.

But there is an explanation inside the cover – a piece of hotel-headed notepaper written in red pencil in Arabic, the translation for which I am indebted to Sami Sadek (ESC 559):



This letter is a gift from Zaki Basalous, Postmaster in the Winter Palace, Luxor, to the Captain of mail on the first plane passing on the Imperial Airways route between the East African continent and Egypt.

(Signed) Zaki Basalous, 14 March 1931 11 am, Postmaster of the Winter Palace, Luxor.

John Sears (*The Airmails of Egypt*, page 49) tells us that the first UK-bound mail on the East Africa route travelled from Alexandria on March 15 1931. So it appears that the Hotel postmaster was trying to produce a first flight cover on this new route, presumably hoping to be able to hand it to the pilot for carriage.

But John Sears also illustrates an Imperial Airways timetable which indicates that the flight due to arrive from Aswan and leave Luxor on Saturday March 14 was categorised as “calling by arrangement”. From the evidence, it appears that Zaki Basalous’ efforts were in vain – certainly the cover was not carried by air, and perhaps the plane failed altogether to call at Luxor on that first day.

His use of two different postmarks may have simply been to add authenticity to his cover, or might perhaps be explained by a second example, from almost exactly 23 years later. This plain cover seems to have been initiated by Otto Wenger, of Bern, Switzerland, well known as a producer of “interesting” covers, whose details appear on the reverse.

Addressed to Bern, this cover is franked with a 100 mills Nefertiti Republican definitive (1953, NP D207) to cover registration and postage more than adequately, and bears a mini bilingual Par Avion label and pencil registration number. The adhesive is cancelled with HW5 (as the last, but looking slightly more battered 23 years later), dated 12 MR 54 6-7A. At left, however, is a strike of HW6 (with WINTER PALACE / LUQSOR as two straight lines in the lower segment) dated 12 MR 54 8-A.

As a registered letter, this will have had to be noted in the hotel's "registration" record, which perhaps explains the one-hour delay, and the necessity for two different CDS strikes. It is tempting to consider that HW6 might have been reserved for registered material; but there many non-registered covers with this CDS.

That the cover was flown is undoubted, though it retains a pristine appearance. The reverse has a poorly struck Cairo RD CDS of 13 MR, AERODROME DU CAIRE transit the same day and a neat MURI 3 BERN of the 15th; and on the face an Egyptian civil censor oval.

An intriguing pair, more than likely both of them fabricated for the collector, but at least contemporaneity of the markings is proved, and there is a certain sense of sympathy with the Hotel postmaster whose elaborate plans were thwarted. I wonder how many of these covers he made?



Two different Hotel postmarks for March 14 1954 – was one of them linked with the registration record?

Members' Changes

We are sad to report that our Third Issue stalwart Keith Pogson (ESC 130), of York, has had to retire from collecting because of ill health and resign from the Circle. We are truly sorry to see him go and wish him well for the future.

New Members:

- ESC 743** **Ayman Shoman**, 3064 Al Amir Nasser St, Dar As-Salama Hospital Radiology Department, Al Khobar, Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia (Farouk civil stamps and postal history)
- ESC 744** **Ambassador Nicholas Garilidis**, 25 Christou Voumazou Street, Athens 115 21, Greece (British Forces in Egypt, Large Hermes heads of Greece)
- ESC 745** **Michael Knaubert**, Jauch 12, 6343 Erl, Austria (Egypt postal history, especially hotel posts, cassette post)
- ESC 746** **Dr Ali Almegeid**, 1 Appian Way, Unit #711-5, North San Francisco, CA 94080, USA (Stamps and revenues of Egypt, Palestine and Yemen)
- ESC 747** **Adam Hafez**, 20 Falaki St, Greek Campus Office 232, Greek Building, Abdin, Cairo, Egypt (Egyptian royalty stamps and postal history)

Membership Restored:



- ESC 303** **Tom Homa**, 24000 Hedgewood Avenue, Westlake, Ohio 44145, USA
- ESC 643** **Hany Haddad**, 1 Brasch Blvd, Middletown, NJ 07748-3158, USA

Resigned: **Keith Pogson** (ESC 130) **Stephen Schumann** (ESC 679)

Historians and Philately

Mahmoud Ramadan (ESC 358)

In my book *The Mohamed Aly Post, MAP* (page 65) is a description of the Negative Seals Cairo 5 and 6 (*below*). I was never satisfied with the translation of the Arabic “*Morour*” as “Traffic”. Another literary possibility was “Passage”. Searching the internet, I found that this department is the nucleus from which Egypt’s current Ministry of Transportation evolved, but could not find a proper translation for the old name.

<p>The Cairo 5 MAP seal reads: بوسطة عموم المرور و السكة 1280 Phonetic: Bosttah Omoum al-Morour wa al-Sekkah 1280 Translation: General Post Traffic and Rail[way] 1280. Rarity: D. Earliest: 3 May 1864. Latest: 14 May 1865. Another transfer, to Ministry of Transport and Railway. Note different spelling of Arabic “<i>Bostah</i>”, hence different “<i>Bosttah</i>” phonetic spelling. The Arabic name for railways comes from the French “<i>Chemin de Fer</i>”, <i>The Iron Way</i> السكة الحديد. Note departure from the word “Commercial”.</p>	
<p>The Cairo 6 MAP seal reads: بوسطة مصر بالمرور 81 Phonetic: Bosttah Masr Bi al-Morour 81 Translation: Misr Post at the Traffic (Transportation) Rarity: B. Earliest: 24 May 1865 Latest: 19 July 1865 A modification in the wording, perhaps due to a reorganization of the department. A confirmation of ending the differentiation between Official and Commercial communications, and that MAP is now reporting to a relevant Government department in charge of communication and transportation.</p>	

Thanks to the Greek Ambassador to Egypt, Ambassador Nicholas Garilidis, I was able to meet the Egyptian historian Dr Mohamed Afify. I simply asked him what the words actually stood for. He asked for a few days to provide me with a researched answer. Dr Afify came back to me with an Arabic message that fascinated me. Here is the summary translation:

Mohamed Aly initiated the “Morour” Department in 1844 AD [1261 H] to manage the transportation of travellers and cargo in Egypt. He purchased all the stations on the Suez road from the East India Company, who also had three offices in Alexandria, Cairo, and Suez. Mohamed Aly had previously awarded a concession to the company to open several stations along the Cairo-Suez desert road. Thus the British management was transferred to Egypt under Capy Pasha [the name is a phonetic translation] but some British and Italian staff remained. The handover took place in 1844.

Mohamed Aly also purchased the commercial ships from the Peninsular & Orient Company [P&O], while retaining some foreigners to ensure a smooth operation, under the management of Signor Robert Lee Green until 1845, and annexed the whole purchase to the “Morour” Department, which managed public marine, river, and land transport.

Mohamed Aly entrusted Signors “Tourin” and “Talbandy” [phonetic translation] to manage the department of Morour until all correspondence and accounts were converted to Arabic and Egyptian management took over.

During my research on the Waghorn services, I learned that Thomas F. Waghorn had made several petitions to the British Parliament and Government Officials to finance his “over-land” project, but failed. Until he was advised to seek finance from the East India Company. Who apparently agreed, but I did not know to what extent.

The late Peter A. S. Smith states in his book, the final paragraph on page 28: “On June 3rd 1837, the London to India charge was reduced to 2/6, and shortly afterwards Waghorn was appointed Deputy Agent for the East India Company in Egypt”.

Also according to Smith, on page 29, the paragraph starting with “The brief success of Waghorn & Co. began to wane in 1843...” and continued to show how the P&O company, in collaboration with Mohamed Aly, formed the Egyptian Transit Company. The paragraph ends with: “Waghorn gave up competition with the Egyptian Transit Company and returned to London to continue business as a forwarding agent. In 1846 Mohamed Aly bought out P&O’s interest in the Egyptian Transit Company”.

With this information now available, what do my fellow philatelists believe the translation of the word “Morour” should be [Transport, Travel, Transit...]?

* Thanks to the generosity of the author, please be aware that the book mentioned above is available free of charge to all Egypt Study Circle members. If you are interested please contact the Secretary.

Correction

It has come to my attention that MAP postal rates published in my book are erroneous for two of the towns listed when compared with those of Ambassador Luca Biolato in his *La “Posta Europea”* (page 192). The comprehensive table on MAP page 78, based largely on the listing by Jean Boulad (see p.20) from *L’Orient Philatelique* 53 of January 1946 details the rate for Korosko as 3 Piastres 15 Para, which seems illogical when the more distant town of Wadi Halfa is only 3 Piastres. The listing for Berber (Barbar) also needs to be corrected. Biolato publishes:

- Cairo to Korosko – correct rate 2 Piastres 15 Para per Dirhem.
- Cairo to Berber – correct rate 3 Piastres 25 Para per Dirhem (not 3 Pi 15 Pa).

These rates are far more comprehensive and fall within reason. The erroneous listings were published with the support of several other references, while the book of Biolato was referred to mainly in relation to the *Posta Europea*. Please accept my apology for any inconvenience.



Query: Sudan overprint - Youssef Aboul-Enein, a US Navy commander and an avid collector of Egypt since childhood, was intrigued by a recent find and wrote to ask what the Circle thought of this block of four 5 mill Farouk Investiture definitives with “Sudan” overprints, one of them including a spelling error, Suban. The answer was clear – a forgery, and a bad one: 1, the overprints are truly crude; 2, they are clearly printed over the postmark; 3, the postmark is Alexandria. That is, the block was used in Egypt before being overprinted. Commander Aboul-Enein was grateful to receive our response.

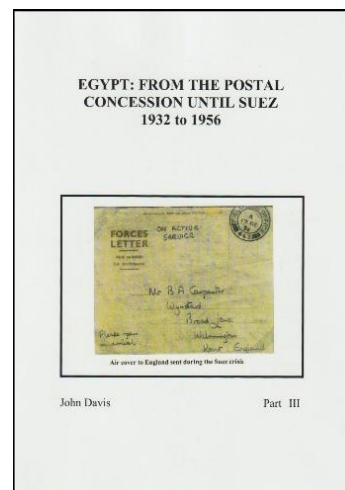
Book Review: *Egypt: From the Postal Concession until Suez 1932 to 1956, Part III*, by John Davis

The third of a series of three books, this volume covers the period from the end of the Second World War to the Suez Crisis and Operation Musketeer.

Over the past few decades there has been increased interest in Egypt in the 1950s as collectors and postal historians realised that they have material of this period but also a gap in knowledge of the period before 1956.

Written in an engaging style, the book starts at Chapter 27 (the first 26 appearing in the first two volumes), covering Airgraphs and the Horseshoe route: John discusses how 350 million airgraphs were used, weighing some 50 tons, in comparison with 4,500 tons of letters.

Airmail Letter Cards and Field Service Post Cards, introduced in mid 1941, were the forerunners of Airletters or Aerogrammes. Air letters came into use in Egypt in December 1944, and Field Service Cards were used from 1914 to 1954.



On Active Service “Honour” envelopes and other postal stationery with military connections from the Second War were reintroduced with revised text, displaying various shades and more than one printer name. Also discussed are the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Indian forces’ “Honour” envelopes, leading into examination of registered NAAFI, Red Cross and YMCA envelopes, the Duke of Edinburgh Rifles and Telegrams (including Marconi). The Lady Provost’s comforts fund introduces mention of postcards with pre-printed messages, humorous postcards and greeting cards.

The end of the Concession follows the end of the War and introduction in about 1952 of a new system of Middle East Land Forces and Air Forces postal addresses (with a list on page 488). The withdrawal of British Forces from Egypt from 1946 is detailed, with the Egyptian stamp issues marking the change. The British National Service Act of 1948, however, required service in the Armed Forces including in Egypt, so the troops were moved to defend the Suez Canal Zone, where a large number of bases provided Egyptians with employment. In November 1950 King Farouk called for withdrawal of British troops; this was agreed in 1951.

In October 1951 stamps with Farouk’s image were overprinted “King of Egypt and the Sudan”. Despite this royal claim, Farouk was forced to abdicate in 1952. Talks continued with the revolutionary government of President Nasser for withdrawal of British forces and by June 1956 the last of the 83,000 troops had departed.

Nasser soon after nationalised the Suez Canal, an international action regarded as a threat by Britain, France and also Israel. The author comments in detail on the background to Operation Musketeer and the tripartite invasion of the Canal area. He gives full coverage to the Egyptian stamps issued to reflect the military “aggression” as well as slogan postmarks and the British Forces postal makings that were produced at the time. Interestingly, East Germany issued a stamp to “help Egypt” in 1956 (page 521). International pressure brought about the evacuation and forced withdrawal of Britain, France and Israel in December 1956, and the UN Emergency Force kept a wary peace, leading to the production of covers used in Egypt by a dozen contingents of overseas forces.

The book then contains appendices listing Suez Canal bases and installations and 1950s Field Post Offices (in addition to the appendices at the beginning of the book), and the volume is well supplied with maps and photographs. Well written and a pleasure to read, it will be essential for collectors of Egypt from and including the Second War up to the 1956 Suez Crisis.

On a personal level, I certainly found information of which I was not previously aware, especially and including events – such as the rioting in Egypt in 1952 - leading up to the Suez Crisis. Finally, it has been a pleasure and a privilege to review Part III for John.

Herb Cowley

Egypt: From the Postal Concession until Suez 1932 to 1956, Part III (2019, 117 pages with 116 illustrations (almost all in colour), £40.00 plus postage, through the Egypt Study Circle and Forces Postal History Society.

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (GENERAL ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
INCOME		
Subscriptions	£2,687.69	£2,773.07
Auction account	£1,155.19	-£11,410.41
Donations	£110.00	£21.21
Advertisements	£23.47	£227.25
	£3,976.35	-£8,388.88
EXPENDITURE		
Meeting room hire	£444.00	£900.00
Cost of Quarterly Circular	£2,362.02	£2,668.46
Website costs	£182.63	£144.46
Officers' stationery, phone etc	£1.70	£192.80
Insurance	£0.00	£224.00
ABPS subscription	£60.00	£70.50
Grant for Richard Wheatley book	£0.00	£250.00
	£3,050.35	£4,450.22
Surplus for the year	£926.00	-£12,839.10
Surplus as at 1 January	£23,315.45	£36,154.55
Surplus at 31 December	£24,241.45	£23,315.45

BALANCE SHEET (GENERAL ACCOUNT) AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Stamp collection	£500.00	£500.00
Circle Library & records	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
Cash in PayPal	£6,731.02	£8,795.98
Cash at bank on current account	£15,890.57	£13,024.21
	£25,121.59	£24,320.19
LIABILITIES		
Members subscriptions in advance	£880.14	£1,004.74
	£880.14	£1,004.74
Representing		
Accumulated surplus	£24,241.45	£23,315.45

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, 28 January 2022
Accounts Examiner

ADVERTISEMENT

FINALLY,

*after eight years of hard work backed by 37 years
of experience, the long-awaited, the first of
its kind to be issued:*

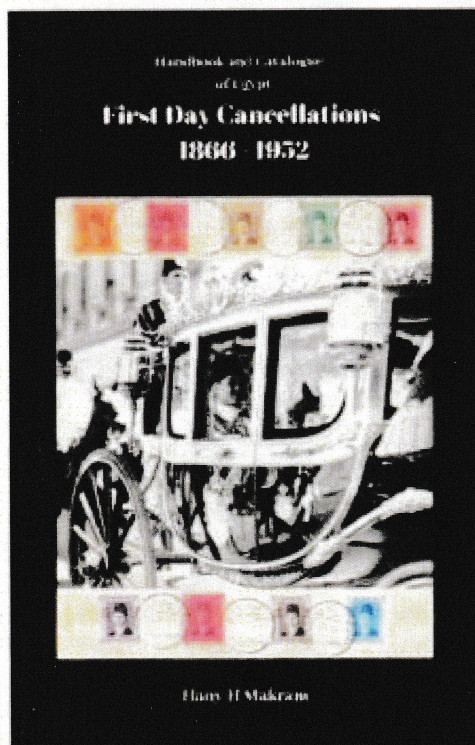
THE HANDBOOK AND CATALOGUE OF EGYPT

FIRST DAY CANCELLATIONS

1866-1952

by

Hany H. Makram



500-plus pages
Hard-bound
3,500+ covers
1,500+ pictures
Eight categories:

1. Definitive issues
2. Commemorative issues and events
3. Miniature sheets
4. Air Mail definitive stamps
5. Express Mail issues
6. Army Post issues
7. British Forces in Egypt issues
8. Issues for Palestine



To order contact: Hany Makram, Tel +1 (817)-209-8374; email makramhany@hotmail.com
Special offer to ESC members – 10 per cent off cover price