

The  
Quarterly Circular  
of  
**THE  
EGYPT  
STUDY CIRCLE**



December Quarter 2022 – Vol XXIV No 12 – Whole Series No 283 – Pages 267-290

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**Season's Greetings and happy  
collecting to all members in 2023**





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## Meetings Programme early 2023

Sat 18 Feb 2-4.30	King's Head pub, Marylebone W1G 8PJ	AGM plus ESC members' exhibits starting with letter A,B,C,D,F,G,H,I	All members
Weekend Fri 14- Sun 16 April	Morley Hayes Hotel, Derby DE7 6DG	Joint meeting with Sudan Study Group	All members. Details from Sec
Sat 1 July 10-4	Midpex, Leamington Spa CV31 1FE	ESC will have a stand at major regional meeting	All members. Details from Sec

## EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE OFFICERS

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

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



**Facebook**

## Report of the meeting, October 1, at Autumn Stampex, London

Perhaps encouraged by the added attraction of the big Autumn Stampex exhibition going on alongside, there was an encouraging attendance of 12, with the Chairman able to welcome four overseas visitors. Those present: Jon Aitchison (Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Neil Hitchens (Webmaster), Sami Sadek (Treasurer), Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Herb Cowley (New Zealand), Hany Makram (USA), Christopher Smith (USA), Ronny Van Pellecom (Netherlands), Richard Wheatley. Prospective member: Keith Nickol. Rail strikes ruled out some members, and apologies were received from John Sears, Pierre Grech, Paul Green, Hani Sharestan, Tony Cakebread, Anabright Hay, Vahe Varjabedian, Trent Ruebush, Ibrahim Shoukry, Brian Sedgley, Denis Doren and Peter Newroth.

In a relaxed and informal “ten sheets” meeting, the majority of the discussion revolved around a potential project introduced by the Secretary (*see next page*) for a comprehensive online catalogue recording all known flaws and varieties of the early classical issues of Egypt. While recognising that the amount of work necessary would be enormous, the meeting agreed that the benefits of bringing together – and advancing – the listings published by the three main catalogues *Nile Post*, Balian and Abdel-Hady, all of them at least a dozen years old, would far outweigh the effort.

The success of such a venture – which for the moment is considered “approved in principle, but still under consideration” – will depend on the goodwill and expertise of those already fully immersed in the field as well as the gathering of evidence from the Study Circle Record and senior collectors willing to provide photographs of full sheets or large blocks for research purposes, hopefully to allow the opportunity to be taken up by those not so burdened by many years!

The Webmaster announced that website storage capacity had recently been almost doubled, to take into account the digitising of all *QCs* back to 1935 – now happily complete and all available on site – and the extra space required by publication of members’ outstanding collections as well as the online catalogue material.

Various questions of detail were raised, including whether the listing should be priced – the meeting favoured considering a system of “scarcity ratings” rather than actual prices, which would need to be updated every few years. The appearance of the catalogue will be a task for the webmaster and editor, and will be designed to be as clear and easy of understanding as possible.

More consideration needs to be given, and will take some time, but the meeting agreed that the project was well worth considering, and we hope it will bear fruit in the near future.

Various members then showed their “ten sheet” contributions including:

**Herb Cowley** (ESC 709): A series of copies of covers bearing New Zealand Health stamps and 1940s Officials sent home by the 32,000 Kiwi troops stationed in Egypt – mainly 3d and 9d – using EPP30 and 42 handstamps. These were not on sale in Egypt and must have been sent over for the use of loved ones.

**Richard Wheatley** (ESC 168): Correspondence from the Giza Pyramids excavations of the American group led by the archaeologist George Reisner between 1902 and 1908, including a letter signed by Gaston Maspero.

**Sami Sadek** (ESC559): TPO covers afloat, showing the markings used on the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, various inland canals (Mansura-Manzala, Bahr Chibin and Kafr Zayat-Atfeh), and the Nile (Asyut-Aswan, Challal-Wadi Halfa).

**Mike Murphy** (ESC 240): Postage-Paid covers from Alexandria (two types of cancel) and Cairo (ten types) from the mid-twenties to the mid-fifties. Remarkably, no word on this service is found in official documents.

**Jon Aitchison** (ESC 661): a treasure-trove of artists’ paintings and drawings intended as the basis for stamps to be issued since the 1930s. Several signed, many approved for publication, definitives and commemoratives.

## **Editorial – One more catalogue?**

Varieties and flaws are part of the life blood of every collection. They abound in the classic period of the first three issues of Egypt. A large number are listed and command a premium. Surprisingly however, these listings are a small fraction of equally prominent flaws found throughout the first three issues! Some of these have been long recognized by specialists while others were thought to be spurious when in fact they were major constant flaws.

To bring order to this wonderful chaos, the Study Circle proposes a specialized Egypt Classics Catalogue. These major flaws are too many to include in existing catalogues without converting them into ponderous volumes. The Catalogue does not replace existing ones, but extends them. It will inform the collector of wonderful items that lay dormant and unrecognized in an album. It will also give scope, allowing Egypt enthusiasts to extend their collections in a systematic way.

The aim of the Egypt Classics Catalogue is to list all known major *constant* flaws and varieties. Additionally it would provide information on the production of the first three issues and display high resolution images.

A first edition of the Catalogue is intended for posting on the ESC website. Because it is “editable”, members are invited to contribute new discoveries in what is thus a participatory project open to all members. Through the collective efforts of the ESC membership, the online Catalogue will become ever more complete. In the best tradition of the ESC, members are invited collectors to engage collectively in the evolving effort that has kept Egypt philately alive and growing. Watch out for more details.

**The Committee**

## **Meeting report November 17: Circle’s Tutankhamun centenary display**

A dozen members displayed collections in 50 frames when the Study Circle was invited by the Royal Philatelic Society, London, to celebrate the centenary of the discovery by Howard Carter of the Tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings, Luxor. The display, held at the new premises of the Royal at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW, was accompanied by a luncheon for all attending members and their guests.

Displays were shown by the following (in alphabetical order):

**Jon Aitchison (ESC 661)**, GB 1974 Tutankhamun stamp issue; Embossed postal stationery envelopes and essays; Officially resealed mail including Interpostals on cover; Illustrated printed, trade advertising envelopes.

**John Davis (ESC 213)**, Pre-stamp mail 1492-1743, Napoleonic post, Waghorn, forwarding agents; Consular posts; Posta Europea; First Issue inc proofs and essays; Second Issue inc Post Offices in the Ottoman Empire.

**Denis Doren (ESC 653)**. The Eye of Horus.

**Andy Gould (ESC 393)**. The Great Bitter Lakes Shipping Association.

**Paul Green (ESC 128)**, Posta Europea; Essays; Zeppelin flights; Franking meter marks.

**Lawrence Kimpton (ESC 591)**, Egypt Pioneer Airmails.

**Mike Murphy (ESC 240)**, Post Offices of Egypt's dams; Farouk and the Palace Post.

**Atef Sarian (639)**, Third Issue.

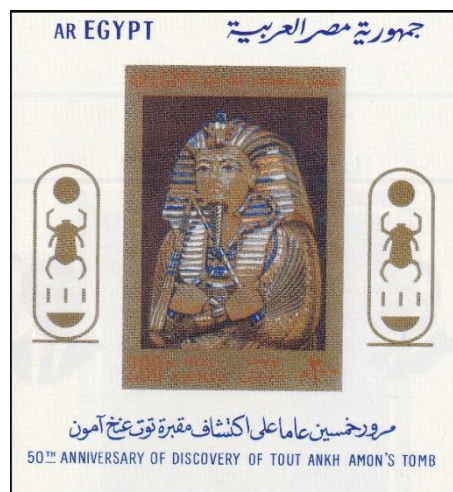
**Richard Wheatley (168)**, Harvard-Boston Expedition to Giza 1905-47; Consular posts; The Simon Arzt story; The No-Value stamp; Salt Tax and its uses; Avis de Reception up to 1948.

## Tutankhamun on Egypt's stamps

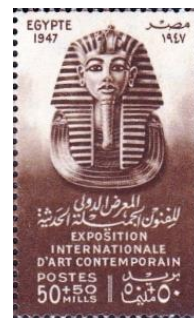
**Mike Murphy (ESC 240)**

Ask anyone what is famous in Egypt, and the answer will be instant: “The Pyramids”. Or, equally instant: “Tutankhamun”. Those two ancient artefacts have rightly been viewed for years as the country’s major attractions, one for all to see, the other tucked away in the sandy defile of the Valley of the Kings. A hundred years after the discovery, it is time to review how the Egyptian Post Office has viewed the original “Boy King” on the country’s stamps.

Ever conscious of the benefits of advertising the glorious past, Egypt Post was not slow off the mark to use the Sphinx and Pyramids. After untangling the shackles of the Sublime Porte with the overprinted First Issue of 1866, the familiar vignette proclaimed itself in various guises on Egypt’s postage for all of the next 47 years.



Concentration on the Giza Plateau has slowed as printing quality improved and more glittering scenes came to light. The magnificence of Howard Carter’s staggering discovery in 1922 amazed the world, and it is something of a surprise to realise that no Egyptian stamp depicted Tutankhamun or his treasures until a quarter-century after the discovery.



***The gold funerary mask made its philatelic debut on 9 March 1947 – in good company, but without fanfare***

Fittingly, that honour eventually fell to the series marking the International Exhibition of Fine Arts in March 1947, which showed Tutankhamun’s golden funerary mask (NP C114) as the top value in a hauntingly beautiful semi-postal set of four printed in photogravure by the Survey of Egypt.

He was in good company with the Triad of Mycerinus, the Temple of Ramses, and his step-mother Nefertiti, but printed in sepia – perhaps as close as they could get to real gold. But he was merely one of a group, and there was apparently no thought of a miniature sheet.



Egypt found itself exceptionally busy in the next few years, what with expelling a king, forming a republic, building a massive dam, making friends with the eastern bloc and becoming involved in yet more wars.

So perhaps it is not so surprising that Tutankhamun was overlooked for a while. Not that that happened to Nefertiti, whose Amarna bust (*left*) decorated the top four values of the first Republic definitive issue in 1953 (NP D207-10). Grave goods from Tutankhamun’s tomb started to appear on stamps as late as January 1964, with the spectacular mummy case (*right*) the 500m top value in the long UAR definitive set (NP D289).





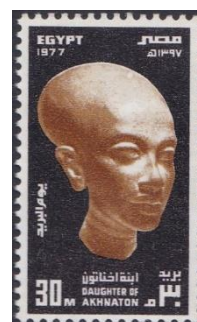
More of his funerary objects (NP C444-47) - Anubis, a Canopic jar stopper, a shabti figure and one of the lifesize wooden tomb guards – made their public appearance in 1967, when the pharaoh was shown for the first time in a Post Day issue.

In October that year United Nations Day was marked with the multicoloured back of his glorious golden throne (*right*) showing Tutankhamun and his Queen in a tender moment (NP C463). The scene was to be recreated 30 years later with the miniature sheet (NP MS61) issued for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary (*far right*).



It is worth noting that both used the name-suffix “aten” as well as “amun”, hinting at an object made early in his reign, before Amun had returned to prominence in place of the Aten disk of Akhenaten. The famous heretic, probably Tutankhamun’s father, has since had a good run on Egyptian stamps, probably on account of his unusual physical appearance.

Astonishingly, however, collectors had to wait until the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1972 for the next Tutankhamun portrait – a multicoloured set of four (C651-54) with the pharaoh’s wooden bust on the 20m value, and the 55m showing his name and symbols of long life from the back of a carved cedar chair (*pictured below*).



**The 1976 Post Day series illustrated spectacular animal figures discovered in the tomb of Tutankhamun**

Accompanying this set was the first Tutankhamun miniature sheet (MS30, *see previous page*), which showed the golden mummy case accompanied on each side with the cartouches of his throne name Neb-kheperu-re.

**Post Day 1977 celebrated the family later labelled as heretic: Akhenaten (2+110m), his daughter, and his wife Nefertiti**



Egypt’s annual Post Day (January 2) proved a suitable vehicle for selecting a series of more spectacular funerary offerings with animal heads in 1976 (*above*), 1977 and 1981, and in 1985 a carved head of a young pharaoh from the tomb was used as an 11pt definitive (D340), followed in 1993 by two high values of the air mail set showing the mask (A117-18). It was selected in October 1991 to mark close ties with China in a joint “golden masks” issue.





From left: Chinese masks, Postal conference, Luxor governorate announcement, World Cup football

In 1995 Post Day illustrated the Akhenaten-Nefertiti-Tutankhamun family (C1309-11, right), and later the same year the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United Nations Day was the vehicle for a spectacular 80p air mail stamp (C1331) showing a close-up of the right half of the golden mask designed by Khalil el Badei (see below).

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tomb's discovery was marked on Post Day 1997 by the decorated throne from the tomb in miniature sheet form (MS61, the same design as C463), followed by the mummy case on the £E2 top value (D370, below) which was added in April 1998 to the new definitive series of February-October.



Post Day 1995. Recent DNA testing suggests that Akhenaten may have been Tutankhamun's father but that Nefertiti was his step-mother

1997: the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary

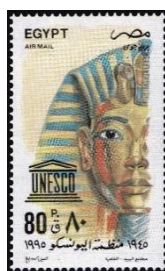
The actual date of discovery, November 22, saw the issue of a miniature sheet for air mail showing a pectoral decorated with a scarab and two



baboons (MS 65), as well as the goddess Selkhet, one of the guardians of the canopic sarcophagus, in a 20pi multicolour definitive issue (C1397). She was to return in 1999-2001 in a series of definitives in various colours (D372-4).

This tender scene on a 110 mills multicoloured air mail pair between Tutankhamun and Ankhesenamun (NP C653-54) echoes that on the back of his golden throne, as used on commemorative stamp issued in 1967 and 1997

1998 continued the return to Post Day issues, with commemoratives showing Tutankhamun and Ramesses II (C1409-11), and in June 2001 a miniature sheet gave ghostly support for Egypt in military soccer (MS 78), a design echoed for the World Cup charity issue in October 2003. Between those disembodied figures reality returned with a golden model of Tutankhamun with a spear (D383) in a new definitive series in May 2002.



From ancient to (a little more) modern ... the changing face of Tutankhamun that has dazzled the world



The spectacular *Discover the Treasures of Egypt* booklet of June 2004 gave the authorities carte blanche to show all aspects of Egypt in three pages of pages of nine multicoloured stamps illustrating ancient, mediaeval and modern aspects.

Three of the nine “ancient” are from the tomb – the ankh, serene canopic guardians, and a scarab with the pharaoh’s cartouche and uraeus - but these are over-

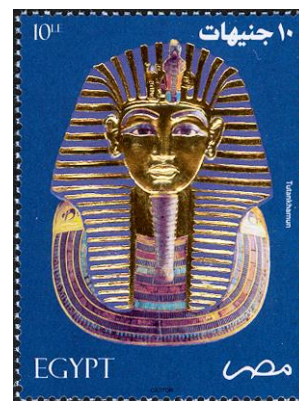
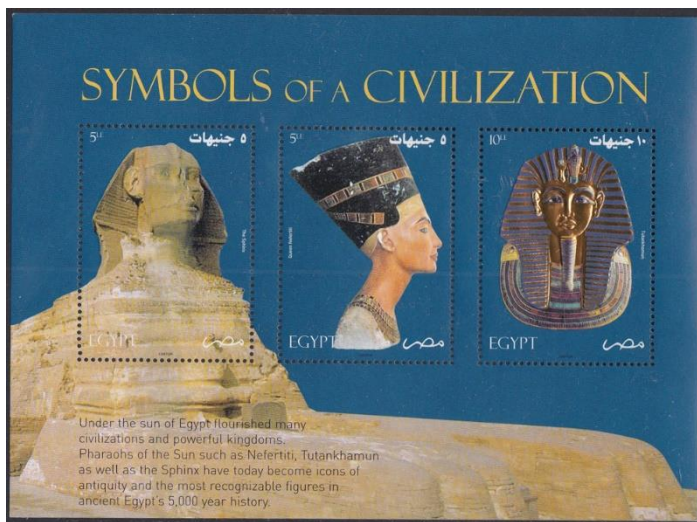


shadowed by the first pane, which has the funerary mask as the £E10 high value item of the booklet, in 22ct gold.



Since that dazzling booklet, however, Egypt Post has not done a great deal to publicise the country’s greatest asset, with references only to a couple of conferences.

Over the years, I count 26 depictions of the pharaoh himself, 25 of his grave goods, and at least a dozen of his close family. I may have missed some as this magazine goes to press before the actual centenary, but I have no doubt that Egypt Post will have planned a spectacular philatelic display to match the most spectacular of archaeological splendour.



*Faces from the tomb...Tutankhamun as a young boy and as seen by his mourning priests; and a serene canopic goddess who watches over his royal remains*



*Pectorals above, master metal work below... the world looks on in wonder*





## Champollion: 200 years of hieroglyphs

Denis Doren (ESC 653)



***Egypt and France both recognised Champollion's role in the decipherment with 1972 issues***

Two hundred years ago, Jean-François Champollion, the brilliant French linguist and scholar, deciphered successfully the section of the Rosetta Stone inscribed in Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs and triggered modern Egyptology!!

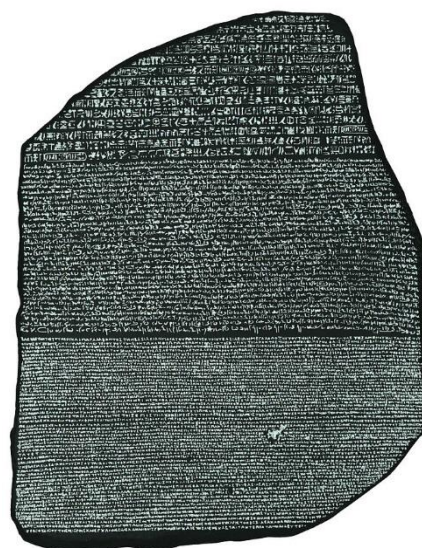
The Rosetta Stone was discovered near the Mediterranean port of Rosetta (Rashid) during the 1798 French Expedition to Egypt. The great basalt block, inscribed in 196 BC by priests of Memphis, is badly damaged but contains a copy of a decree written in three languages - Greek as well as Demotic and hieroglyphic writing - summarizing the benefactions conferred by the 13-year-old ruler, Ptolemy V Epiphanes, upon the priesthood.

In 1799, after the defeat of the French Mediterranean Fleet by Lord Nelson, the Rosetta Stone passed into the hands of the British and consequently ended up at the British Museum where it is still on display. The Greek part of the script could be translated but knowledge of the Ancient Egyptian language had been lost around the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. In addition, the hieroglyphic script - the word comes from the Greek *hieroglyphoi*, meaning carved sacred symbols - had changed and evolved over the millennia of Egyptian history.

From the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> Dynasty (circa 3000 BC), pictorial hieroglyphs developed to represent men, animals, plants and objects. But most symbols also possessed a phonetic value, which was used to reinforce the meaning of the pictograph. In many languages a word can have several meanings and as Egyptian evolved symbols could have taken on several varied senses.

In the later period hieroglyphs became used on papyrus as a script for everyday use in a written form with the help of a brush made from a reed frayed at the tip. Texts were written initially in vertical columns but eventually changed to horizontal lines. These developed into a cursive form known as Hieratic script, and as society and bureaucracy evolved by the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC another new form came into use mainly for official documents. This was the Demotic script, which comprised almost entirely horizontal lines.

Up until the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD all three varieties of script were used alongside each other depending on the official form required. Later still, in the Coptic Christian era, the Egyptian language was finally written in Greek letters including vowels for the first time. This version is known as the Coptic script.



***The Rosetta Stone inscription survives in three sections – 14 lines of hieroglyphs, 32 of Demotic and 54 of Greek***





**The 1922 2m vermilion shows Cleopatra with her cartouche**

When the Rosetta Stone reached the British Museum it was submitted to various scholars for translation and in particular the Jesuit scholar Athanasius Kirchner, who had studied the Egyptian obelisks in Rome. But none could find the way past the Greek text because they interpreted the hieroglyphic script as purely symbolic or pictorial. There was a hint of a breakthrough by the English physicist Thomas Young, who was first to show that some of the hieroglyphs wrote the sounds of a royal name, that of Ptolemy.

It was then that Jean-François Champollion realised that the proper names of Ptolemy and Cleopatra, which were clear in the Greek text, must also be reproduced in the Egyptian version. He went on to study all the symbols inside the oval stylized cartouches, which were considered to contain royal names in Egyptian style.

He concentrated on the possible consonants “p”, “t” and “l”, all of which the names Cleopatra and Ptolemy shared, and after comparing these possible consonants with names on other Egyptian monuments he came to the conclusion that Egyptian script also had alphabetical phonetic signs.

It took ten years of persistent work, aided by his elder brother Jacques-Joseph Champollion-Figeac (also a scholar) to succeed in deciphering hieroglyphic writing. After presenting his findings in scholarly publications, he was joined by other scholars who continued his work after his death in 1832. It took a good part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to reach a complete understanding of the hieratic and demotic versions on the massive stone. Modern Egyptology owes a lot of its discoveries to the work of Champollion.

• **The Editor writes:** Those fortunate ESC members who visited Egypt for the celebration of the Philatelic Society’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September 2019 will never forget the day out to Rosetta, where we visited Fort St Julien, site of the discovery of the Stone by the French, enjoyed a charming and informative local museum as well as the city’s characteristic architecture – and an open-air fish lunch at the confluence of the Nile and the Mediterranean. Philatelic visits don’t get much better than that!

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### Members’ Matters

#### **New Members:**

- ESC 752 Yiannis Dimitriadis**, 80 Chronopoulou Street, 17563 Paleo Faliro, Athens, Greece  
(Greek, Ottoman and Egyptian philately and postal history)
- ESC 753 Keith Nickol**, 58 Sandringham Flats, Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0BL  
(Early illustrated postcards and envelopes)
- ESC 754 Dimitris Petinakis**, 23 Framont Avenue, Holland Park, Brisbane, Qld 4121, Australia  
(Egypt mint stamps to 2000; Egypt postal markings)
- ESC 755 Michael B Lamothe**, 3700 Freeman Court, Montgomery, Alabama 36109, United States  
(Egypt, Spain, Italian PoWs in Egypt, 16<sup>th</sup> cent Italian Papal States)

**Restored member: ESC 480 David Ogden**, 6 Golding Close, Rochester, Kent ME1 2QY (Egypt, GB)

**Change of email:** ESC 273 Ulrich Eckstein - ecksteinulrich8@gmail.com  
ESC 661 Jon Aitchison - jonaitchison.uk@outlook.com

**Resigned:** ESC 598 Per-Olof Jönsson                      **Deceased: ESC 645 Angela Child**

**Lapsed:** ESC 524 Wallace Craig,    ESC 741 Ahmed Selim

## Ismailia: postal history and cancels – Part 1

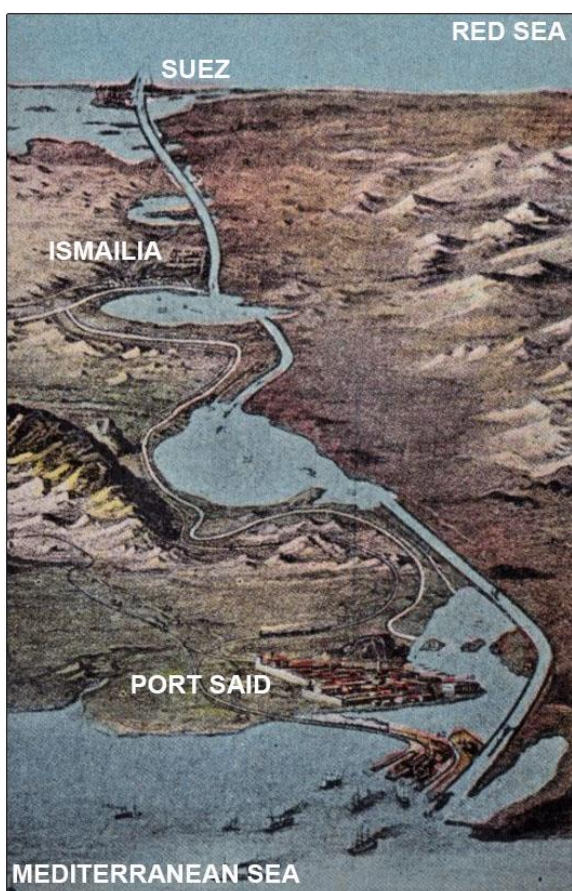
**Alain Stragier (ESC 241 ) & Ronny Van Pellecom (ESC 618)**

In 2020 Pierre Grech (ESC 266) published an interesting article<sup>1</sup> in which the historical background of Ismailia was treated very vividly. Here however we attempt to extend its scope on a philatelic level.

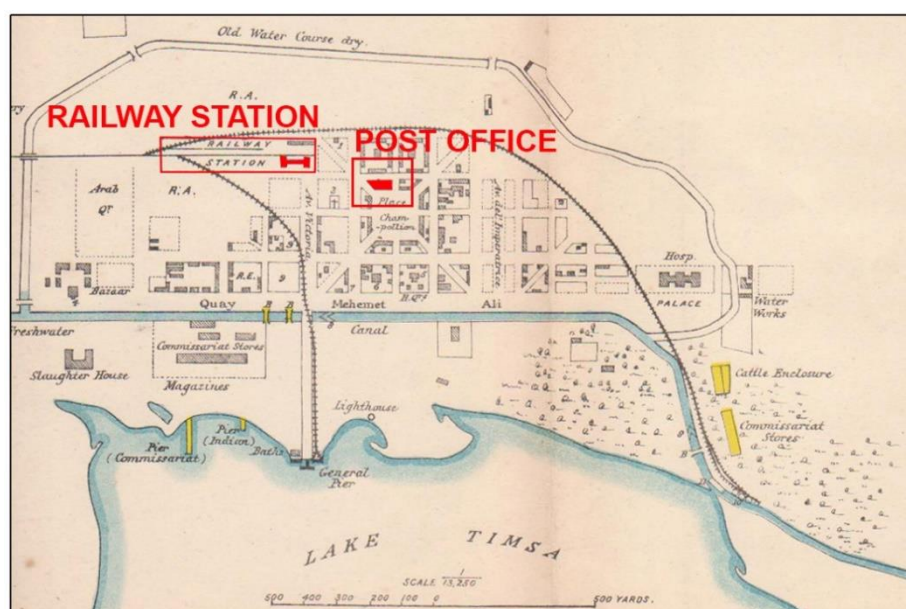
Note that this article is only about the postmarks used by Ismailia post office itself, not the station cancellations, which have already been published<sup>2</sup>.

“Ismailia, a city created since the construction of the maritime canal. 3,000 inhabitants approximately; this population, which has tended to decrease in recent years, is made up mainly of employees of the canal administration, a few representatives of the powers and European and native merchants. Ismailia could take on some importance by the cultivation of the land located to the west of the maritime canal, by means of new canals which would feed into the freshwater canal.

Lake Timsah serves as a port for Ismailia.”  
(*Egypte, Notes et Itinéraires, 1882*  
Librairie Militaire de J. Dumaine)



*Bird's-eye view of the Suez Canal*

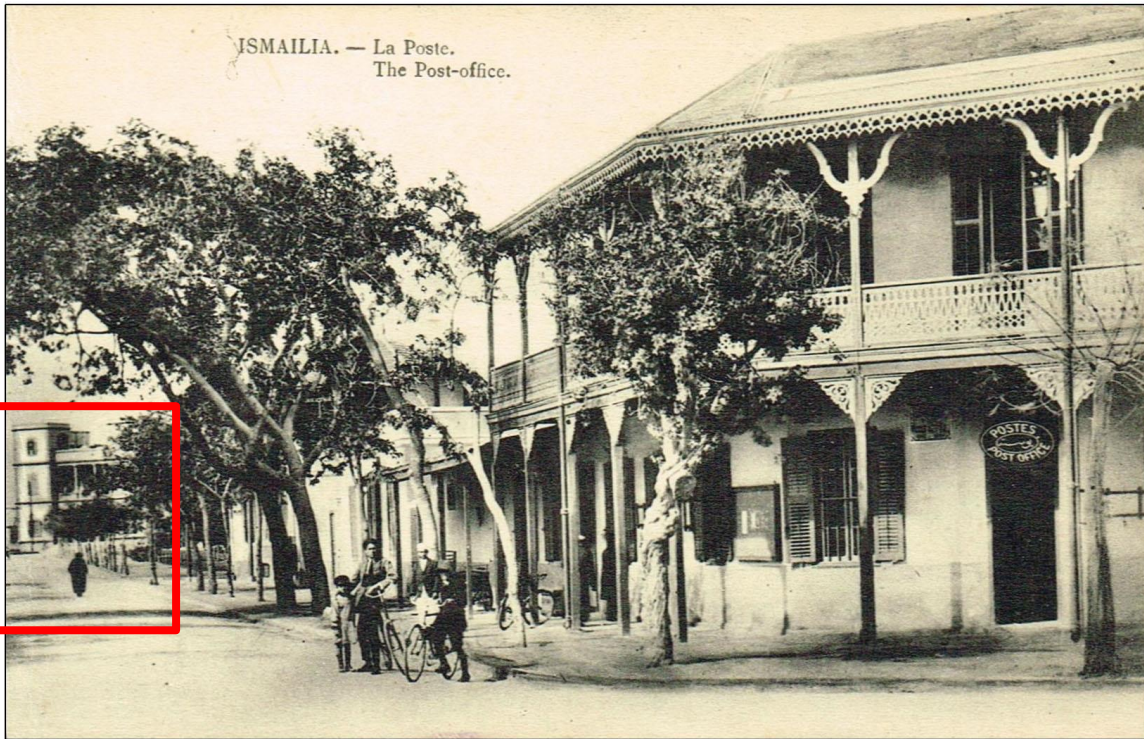


**Map of Ismailia, showing improvements in facilities for landing, storage & movement carried out subsequent to the disembarkation of the British Army in July '82**  
(Collection Mike Murphy)

<sup>1</sup> *Quarterly Circular of the Egypt Study Circle No 274, September 2020: Ismailia - Timsah*

<sup>2</sup> *Quarterly Circular of the Egypt Study Circle No 272, March 2020: Railway stations during 1879-1914 – Ismailia*  
(Van Pellecom-Stragier)

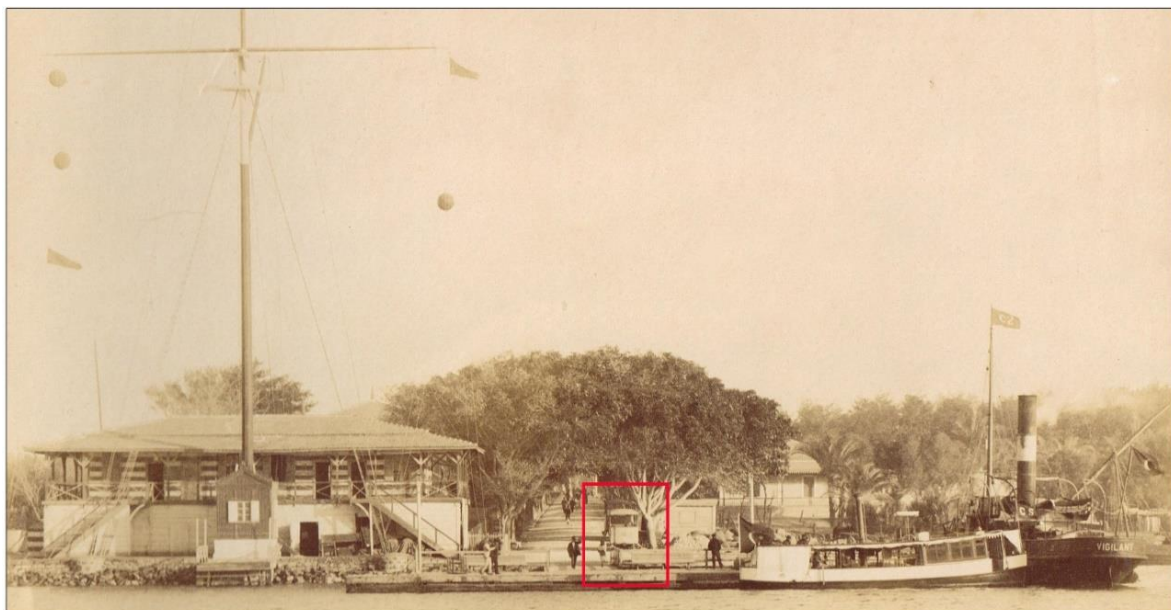




**The Post Office in Place Champollion, corner of Negrelli street (now El Gaish street) with the railway station in the background**



A mail coach is used to transport the mail between the post office and the railway station, which is only a few hundred meters away.




**Agence du transit et avenue Victoria** (Photo: H. Arnoux, Port Said)


On the left is an optical telegraph system, used by ships on the Canal, and in the centre is the tramway, running between the railway station and the quay.

Ismailia Post Office was opened in 1868 (Ibrahim Chaftar, *L'Orient Philatélique*, Apr/Jul 1964)


The numbering system below follows Peter Feltus, *Egyptian Postal Markings of 1865-1879*, a study carried out in co-operation with members of the Egypt Study Circle, preceded by the letters "IS" for ISMAILIA. Dates followed by an asterisk are those of Peter Feltus.

### DATESTAMPS IN ITALIAN LANGUAGE 1868 – 1880

IS_I-1		POSTE VICE-REALI EGIZIANE	Single ring 27mm
		18 FEB. 69	Earliest date 20 July 68*
		ISMAILIA	Latest date 23 December 69*

IS_II-2n		REGIE POSTE EGIZIANE	Single ring 27mm
		10 GIUG. 69 1.T.	Earliest date 6 July 68*
		ISMAILIA	Latest date 22 June 69*

IS_II-4n	Datestamp as last, "REGIE" removed.	Single ring 27mm
		Earliest date On 1 pia 67*

IS_III-2.5n		V.R. POSTE EGIZIANE	Single ring 22mm
		11 OTT 1870 T I	Earliest date 14 December 69*
		ISMAILIA	Latest date 8 May 80*

Also recorded in blue between June 1878 and October 1879

IS_III-1.5n	Year in four digits, without "T"	Single ring 22mm
		Earliest date
		Latest date 18 November 78*

IS_III-2n	Year in two digits, with "T"	Single ring 22mm
		Earliest date 7 April 74*
		Latest date 22 August 77*



IS_V-2.2n		POSTE EGIZIANE	Single ring 23mm
		5 MAR 77 T I	Earliest date 1 January 1876*
		ISMAILIA	Latest date 30 October 78*

IS_V-2.3n		POSTE EGIZIANE	Single ring 23mm
		1 MAR 1875 T I	Earliest date 4 June 74*
		ISMAILIA	Latest date 1 May 80*
Year in four digits, with "T"			

IS_V-5n		POSTE EGIZIANE	Single ring 23mm
		24 APR. 75	Earliest date 24 April 75*
		ISMAILIA	Latest date
Year in two digits, without "T"			

### CASSA

IS_Cas-2		POSTE EGIZIANE	Single ring
		6 MARZ 70	Earliest date 14 October 68
		ISMAILIA CASSA	Latest date 10 December 78

### GOVERNMENTAL SERVICE

IS_PS-1		POSTE VICE-REALI EGIZIANE	Double ring
			Earliest date 12 October 1874
		ISMAILIA	Latest date

Feltus: seen on Interpostals Kehr Type III to Type X

POSTE VICE-REALI  
EGIZIANE 17 FEB. 69  
ALESSANDRIA

to

POSTE VICE-REALI  
EGIZIANE 18 FEB. 69  
ISMAILIA  
(IS\_I-1)





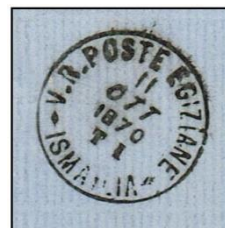
Mixed franking

Ismailia to Alexandria :  
1 piastre

Alexandria to Marseille :  
40 centimes

S.S. NIEMEN  
from Alexandria 18 June  
to Marseille 6 July

Letter REGIE POSTE EGIZIANE 10 GIUG. 69 I.T. ISMAILIA (IS\_II-2n) to Marseille via  
REGIE POSTE EGIZIANE 10 GIUG. 69 ALESSANDRIA  
to the French Post Office ALEXANDRIE 11 JUIN EGYPTE



V.R. POSTE EGIZIANE II OTT 1870 TI ALESSANDRIA to  
V.R. POSTE EGIZIANE II OTT 1870 TI ISMAILIA (IS\_III-2.5n)



POSTE EGIZIANE  
5 MAR 77 TI  
ISMAILIA  
(IS\_V-2.2n)

to Paris

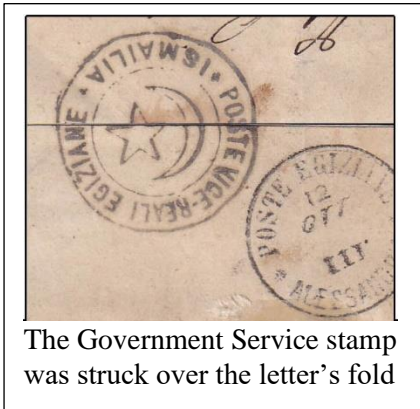
via the French Post Office

**ALEXANDRIE**  
**6 MARS 77**  
**EGYPTE**

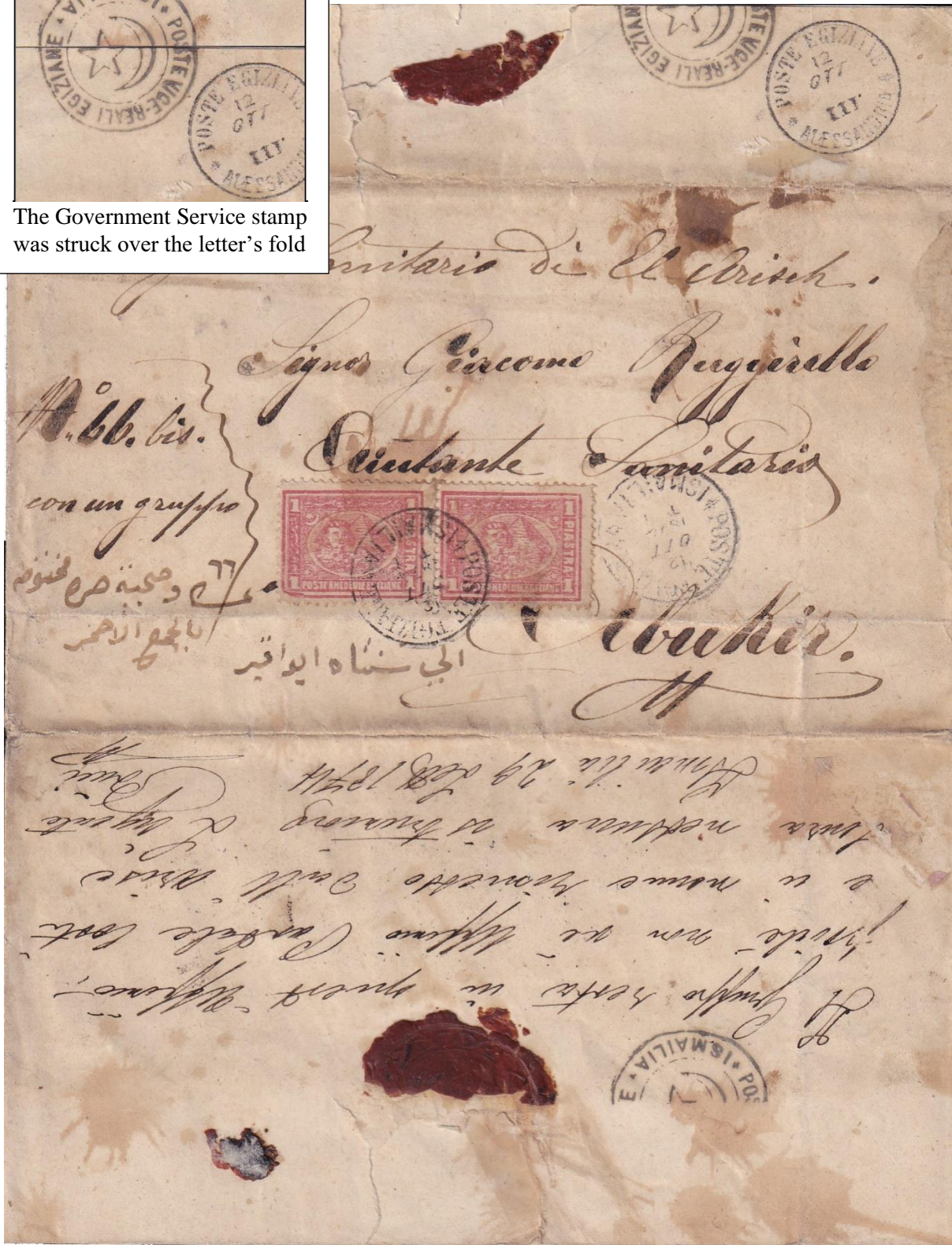
French postmark used in red  
as an entry mark on  
domestic (Egyptian) mail to  
a UPU member

Postage 1.20 piastres:  
1 piastre inland postage  
20 para Alexandria - Paris





The Government Service stamp was struck over the letter's fold



Letter concerning the remitting of the sum of 956 piastres and 3 paras within this letter and a request to send a receipt as soon as the recipient has received the said sum. From the Servizio Sanitario de el Arish 22 September 1874, to Aboukir.

By ship to ISMAILIA 12 OTT 1874 (IS\_V-2.3n) and from there via ALESSANDRIA 12 OTT (1874) to the Sanitary Office in ABOUKIR

*To be continued....*

## Suez Canal stamp forgeries by Saatjian

Paul Grigg (ESC 476)

Back in the late 1980s I was fortunate in securing an auction lot of Suez Canal Company forgeries. These included full sheets (admittedly split in half) of the original Saatjian reprints and his forgeries. Much has been written about both, and I am indebted to our late colleague Jean Boulad d'Humières, who did amazing work in studying both original stamps and forgeries. His access to various archive material was unsurpassed and his book is probably the best and most reliable I have seen on the subject. I am of course referring to *The Private Ship Letter Stamps of the World, Part 3, The Suez Canal Company*. This book has enabled me to sort out the weeds from a small but good crop of the genuine articles.



**Fig. 1 - Set of Saatjian stamps, all type 1**

This short article looks at the facts and rumour surrounding the Saatjian reprints and forgeries, with a bit of technical input from my studies and collection. First, it is important to remember that the original 20c stamp had its impressions laid down individually and that each subject of the printed stamps is therefore unique because of the characteristics of the printing method. The printing plate is in fact a large lump of very high-density limestone, and it might be useful here to give a brief indication of the printing method.

Lithograph: A print from a drawing on stone. The process was invented in Germany by Aloys Senefelder between 1793-96, originally on printing stones of a compact granular limestone. The best is found in Bavaria. Large slabs with a flat highly polished surface are used. The design is made on the stone with a greasy ink or crayon, which produces a mirror image of the final print. The surface is etched by a solution of weak acid and gum Arabic, so that the ink is “set” while un-inked portions are etched away. The stone is washed in water, to which the un-inked portions are receptive.

The stone is then inked using a roller with grease-based ink, which adheres to the design lines but is repelled by water retained in the etched portions. To print from the stone a sheet of damp paper is pressed on the stone so that the ink on the design lines is passed to the paper. The lithograph is complete when the paper is dry, and the stone may now be washed and re-inked for the next sheet.

For the Suez Canal stamps a copper die was engraved with an individual design. This die was then used to produce “proofs”. It is not clear if the die itself was used to transfer the ink to the stone directly or if “transfers” were made from proofs. We know that the original die (whether by transfer or directly) was used individually for each of the 120 subjects on the 20c stone. It seems that it incorporated the value, 20<sup>c</sup>.

Stones for the other values were made in blocks of four by transfers from the 20c stone; perhaps a 20c sub-stone was made for the purpose. The value tablets would be altered before the final transfers and completion of the stones, resulting in four transfer types for each of the 1c, 5c and 40c values.

Many factors affect the repeating designs on lithographic stones so they are seldom identical, particularly in the early days of postage stamp production. The die itself is made of a soft metal liable to damage and wear, the limestone is easily damaged and usually has small imperfections on its surface, not to mention the etching / setting / inking / washing processes all of which are somewhat imprecise.



Often there are paper variations, especially when it is damp. It is no surprise that each subject on the printed sheet varies from one another. Variations on the stone result in constant features that enable “plating” of the stamps.

All four lithographic printing stones were stored in the Suez Canal Company offices in Paris. Later it was found that the 40c stone was missing. It turned up in 1906 among the effects of Erard Leroy d’Etiolles, a Parisian stamp dealer with offices close to those of the Canal Company. How he came by the stone is unknown. Saatjian, a dealer of Armenian origin, later bought it at auction for 80 francs. Not a lot is known about Saatjian except that he was a dealer in novelties living in Paris in the early 1900s.

Besides d’Humières book and a wealth of information in the ESC archives and publications by members, there are two good and useful websites, namely Classic Stamp Forgeries ([stampforgeries.blogspot.com](http://stampforgeries.blogspot.com)) and The Stamps of the Suez Canal Company 1868 - Eighth Forgery ([philatoforge.co.uk](http://philatoforge.co.uk)). These sources seem to agree that in making the stones for the 1c and 5c values Saatjian chose good examples from the 40c stone and used one for the 1c value transfer and another for the 5c value.

He, or the craftsman or craftsmen working for him, then used these selections to make blocks each four subjects wide by two subjects tall. The original transfer seems to have been used for all eight subjects, so each block shows eight types. This arrangement is repeated three time across the sheet and five times vertically.



**Fig. 2 - Saatjian 5c block of eight types**

This arrangement is described in *The Private Ship Letter Stamps*, where Saatjian’s work is noted as “Forgery 18” by the co-authors S. Ringström and H.E. Tester, joint writers of the forgeries section. Interestingly, the original 40c subjects selected for these transfers are not mentioned and many hours can be spent trying to identify them.

The 1c value seems to have been taken from subject 53 on the 40c stone. (Counting on the printed sheet from 1 at top left to 120 bottom right). Number 53 is the only subject on the sheet to have a white nick into the shading from the inner top frame line just above and slightly to the right of the “L”. This is present on all Saatjian 1c values.

The 5c is not so straightforward, however, and it is perhaps not possible to locate the original subject, both of which are of type 1. This makes Saatjian forgeries of these two values easy to spot – just look for the line across the left-hand appendage in C1 and work from there. (C1 is the top left hand value tablet).



*1c Saatjian (actually transfer type 4) showing three features common to all his 1c values*



*Saatjian 40c subject 53, with the three features shown*

As for the 20c layout, this is very unusual and there seem at least two settings. Four identified transfer types seem to have been laid down in an odd order. Were they ordered in blocks of four or maybe blocks of two? Several blocks must have been made. This haphazard layout suggests that a different craftsman set out the 20c stone. Changing of the value from 40 to 20 seems not to have been very carefully carried out, and in selecting the subjects for transfer the best were not chosen. Which were in fact selected is difficult to determine except perhaps forgery type 4, which appears to be subject 92 on the 40c sheet (which is also the original type 4). There is some doubt that other forgery types correspond to the original types. This needs very careful research!



*Saatjian 20c type 4 showing features of the transferred type*



*Saatjian 40c subject 92, original type 4, with similar features*

The lithographic stone is a large chunk of limestone rock. Those used for the original stamp must have been in the order of 14.3in by 10.3in (36.3cm x 26.2cm, there is a photo of the 1c stone in d'Humières book). Its thickness was probably close to 2.5 to 3 inches, meaning that the stone would have weighed some 45lb (20kg). When the stone is prepared for printing the ink can penetrate the surface and apparently this can be surprisingly deep. D'Humières states that eight subjects were replaced, making a new arrangement over the sheet. While it is possible to re-enter a subject on the stone, this is fraught with complications. Assuming that the inked portions could be suitably cleaned, the new subject would have to be placed precisely to accord with the areas that had been etched. Maybe the idea that the first stone was used to generate a second stone was the preferred choice.

By 1906 the lithographic process had moved on and zinc or aluminium was now fairly commonly used instead of limestone. That is not to say that limestone became obsolete, indeed far from it. It is still used today for special and particular work using traditional methods. Is there any evidence to be found in the Saatjian stones? Perhaps he used one of the new materials for his forgeries, or maybe just for the 20c value?



## Siwa's Italian 'occupation' stamps

Michael Ryan (ESC 722)

From a military perspective, the Western Desert Campaign (June 1940-February 1943) of World War II had all of the classic elements of warfare. There were constantly-changing front lines, fierce battles (two in particular at El Alamein), uncountable acts of heroism, major tank battles, the notable siege of Tobruk by Rommel-led German and Italian troops (immortalizing the defending "Rats of Tobruk") and logistical supply nightmares for both the Allies and Axis.

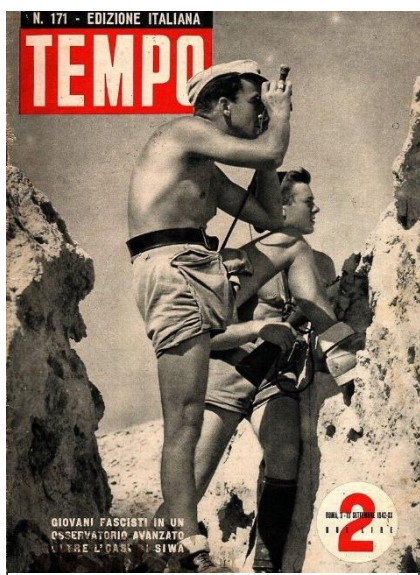
Oh, and you can add to the mix the discovery at the Siwa Oasis<sup>1</sup> of a cache of ten Egyptian stamps featuring the portrait of the young King Farouk bin Fuad [Farouk I] which would delight any serious philatelist. First, though, let's set the background of Siwa at that time.



**All low-value stamps of the Boy King issue were overprinted**



Throughout the campaign, occupancy of the oasis bounced back and forth between the Allies and Axis, with arguably its most notable role being to serve as the home base for the British Army's Long Range Desert Group (LRDG),<sup>2</sup> with its scorpion insignia (*below*), while Rommel's Afrika Corps/Italian forces had possession three times, mainly to deny the Allies a key strategic location for such operations.



**Italian media lauded the occupation of Siwa**

The last Axis possession came in the summer of 1942 with the departure of the LRDG after the Allies' disastrous defeat in the Battle of Gazala and subsequent fall of Tobruk<sup>4</sup>. While Rommel himself was a presence at one point in September (he had tea in the lush oasis gardens with several local sheikhs and left them with gifts of tea and sugar which were scarce commodities at the time), the daily operational command was in the hands of the Italians in the form of the 136<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division "Giovani Fascisti"<sup>5,6</sup>.



The Italians set an ineffective token Egyptian government-in-exile, complete with the flying of the Egyptian flag alongside Italy's tricolor and going so far as to establish an equally token postal system<sup>7</sup>. Enter the presence of the stamps.

Farouk-themed stamps, while relatively new at the time, became commonplace in Egypt after the war, but these had a special distinction – they bore a handstamped overprint OASI DI SIWA / OCCUPAZIONE / MILITARE / ITALIANA; thus indicating the controlling presence of Italian army forces of the "Giovani Fascisti"<sup>8</sup>.

The establishment of the Italians' "postal system" focused on the everyday operations of incoming and outgoing mail rather than the production of actual stamps, with the occupying forces simply using existing Egyptian stamps and apparently adding the "military" overprint. No used examples have been reported.

The stamps, discovered in midsummer 1942 by an Italian lieutenant from Bologna<sup>9</sup> who happened to be an avid philatelist, were saved for posterity as well as a *souvenir de guerre* and a unique addition to his personal collection. Almost a century ago, however, the late Ahmed Mazloum cast doubt on their status, concluding, after a long examination, that "the official character of these stamps is lacking" (*L'OP* 81, July 1953).

The find was, in fact, a complete set of the first ten values of the so-called Boy King issue, sometimes referred to as the "Investiture of King Farouk" or "Egyptian Royalty". The first six were in one millieme increments, followed by 10, 13, 15 and 20 millieme values, all apart from the 6m issued on July 29 1937; the 6 milliemes followed in October 1940 to reflect a local increase in Egyptian postal rates. The 20m is notable for the fact that it was produced in two colours, blue in July 1937 and grayish purple in March 1944.

Stamps in the cache were perforated 13x13 1/2, but in later years booklet panes of the 5, 15 and 20 millieme imperforates (*see below*) were printed in limited quantities, quite possibly at the direction of Farouk who had a penchant for ordering postal authorities to produce imperforated stamps for his own personal collection.

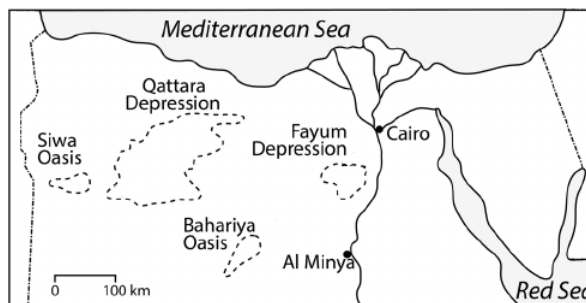
Periodically the overprinted set has come up for auction, selling several years ago for €2,800, but going unsold this past December in Zurich after opening with an estimate of €6,500-€7,500.



**The novelty of a new long set featuring the young "Boy King", in whom so much promise was seen, led to a veritable avalanche of souvenir and first-day covers. At left is a registered pre-printed cover from Cairo to London cancelled on the actual first day, July 29 1937, and featuring all nine low-value stamps issued on the day. At right above is a cover from Siwa to Pietermaritzburg in South Africa, August 12 1941, bearing all the lowest values, including the recently issued 6 milliemes.**

Notes:

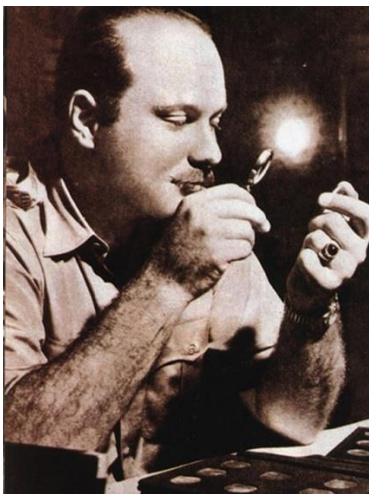
1. The Siwa Oasis is remotely located in the Western Desert of Egypt only 30 miles east of the Libyan border, but almost 350 miles from Cairo. It sits west of the Qattara Depression and within the overall confines of the Great Sand Sea. The oasis is some six miles by four-to-five miles and officially includes the main settlement of Siwa and a series of smaller oases. The population today is some 25,000 in Siwa proper and 33,000 overall, more than double the size of the 1940s.



2. The Long Range Desert Group was founded from volunteers in June 1940 as the Long Range Patrol (LRP) [sometimes erroneously referred to as the Long Range Patrol Group or Long Range Patrol Unit] and never grew to more than 350 members.



3. As the operational base for the LRDG the oasis was the ideal staging point for reconnaissance and raiding missions in the Western Desert even though many missions involved driving hundreds of miles. Axis periods of occupation denied it a strategically located base, but young Italian officers felt Siwa could be an ideal location to amass forces and dash across the desert to the potentially vulnerable southern Nile valley. Fuel supply problems and the need to concentrate forces across Mediterranean Libya and western Egypt precluded any serious consideration.
4. Axis forces secured the oasis for the final time on July 23 1942 when 30 Junkers JU52s (and fighter escorts) landed in the largest Axis air assault of the campaign. There was no fighting, however, as Allied forces had already left.
5. The Italians moved out of Siwa in the first week of November and legend has it that when the Allies returned on November 14 their warm welcome included consumption of some of Rommel's tea and sugar.
6. There is a little nomenclature oddity about the 136<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in that it was originally to have been a tank/infantry division (tank forces were under infantry placement at the time), but the 1<sup>st</sup> Tank Infantry Division assigned to it never joined up so it never had armoured vehicles and remained strictly an infantry division. The 136<sup>th</sup> was the last Axis military unit to surrender to the Allies in North Africa on May 13, 1943.
7. Arab rule over the oasis was never popular and the Italians saw this move as an attempt at a friendly relationship. Siwa had been annexed by Muhammad Ali of Egypt in 1820 and Cairo's control was contentious at best. Greater and more firm authority from King Fuad I (Farouk's father) after a visit in 1928 made Italy's ploy popular within the oasis.
8. The "Giovani Fascisti" (Young Fascists) division was formed from volunteers from the Young Fascists University and nicknamed by the Allies "Mussolini's Boys".
9. There is sometimes slight confusion about the lieutenant's military assignment with the 136<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Notation can be found that he was in the Ariete division, which is a direct reference to the Italians' main battle tank, the C1 Ariete. Since the 136<sup>th</sup> never actually became a mechanized division, he was never technically in armoured duty.



**Farouk the royal philatelist:** King Farouk was noted for (read notorious for) ordering his postal officials to print imperforated stamps for inclusion in his own personal collection, and reportedly among those ordered were booklet panes of 12 stamps in denominations of 5, 15 and 20 milliemmes of the



Boy King design. All were printed on light card without gum but with "Cancelled" printed in English and Arabic diagonally on the back of each stamp. They came to light at the Koubbeh Palace sale of 1954, were sold on at auction in 2011 – the 5m (60 panes known to have existed) fetched \$375, the 15m (20 panes) \$1,100 and the 20m (10 panes) \$2,900 – and appear not to have resurfaced since then.

Farouk was overthrown in the Egyptian Revolution of 1952, abdicating in favour of his six-month-old son, Ahmed Fuad, who succeeded him as Fuad II on July 26. Farouk had ruled from April 28 1936 to July 26 1952 while Fuad II didn't quite reign for one year as he bowed out after just 11 months, being deposed on June 18 1953. As the eleventh and last king of Egypt. Farouk had become so unpopular and outright despised that, until stamps without some likeness of Farouk were produced, any stamp featuring the ousted monarch had his face obliterated by three to six horizontal bars, the famous and much-forged "Bar Overprints".

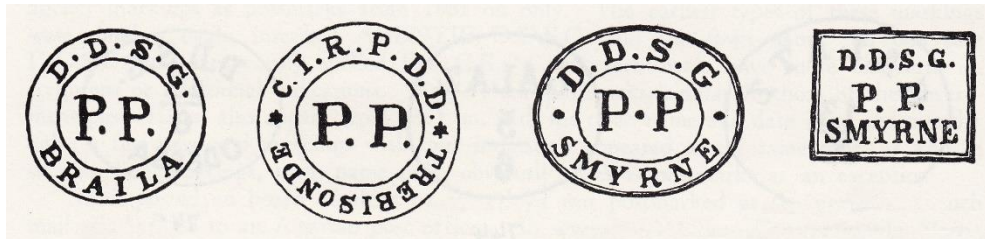
## Austrian Steam Navigation 1834-1845

Christopher C. Smith (ESC 702)

### **Research in Progress: The Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea *Contributions to the Study of the Austrian Post Offices Abroad***

At the meeting of the Egypt Study Circle at Stampex in September, the Circle Secretary Mike Murphy was kind enough to suggest that I submit a note to the *QC* about a research project I have undertaken in the area of the Austrian Post Offices Abroad. The title above is the current way I describe the project. It will include six studies, and it relates to Egyptian philately insofar as the first three studies are concerned with Austrian Postal Agencies and Offices at Alexandria.

The first two studies relate to the Austrian Lloyd handstamp in use at Alexandria and the voyages of Austrian Lloyd steamships between Trieste and Egypt. The first study analyses four of the five extant covers on which the Austrian Lloyd handstamp of Alexandria was applied. A review of information from postal evidence and early primary sources leads to the conclusion that the handstamp was used to indicate prepayment of postage on two of the covers – both are “Port to Port” letters - and to serve as a forwarding handstamp on the other two. The first use is well known, the second has not previously been reported.



***Examples of the four main types of Danube Steam Navigation Company postmarks applied at maritime ports in the Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean from 1834 to 1845***

(Edwin Mueller, *Handbook of the Pre-Stamp Postmarks of Austria*, New York, Collectors Club, 1960)

The second study analyses the fifth of the five covers bearing the handstamp in question; its date falls outside the reported date-range of use of the handstamp. My research has included a variety of primary sources and archival information derived from the Austrian Postal Administration. The result is a fresh understanding of when the Austrian Lloyd office and the Austrian Consular Post Office at Alexandria were in operation as well as when Austrian Lloyd vessels made regular voyages to Alexandria.

The third study is an outgrowth of the second. Based on archival evidence, postal historians have long affirmed that the Austrian Lloyd ran steamships between Trieste and Alexandria. But there has been speculation for many decades on whether the Danube Steam Navigation Company (D. D. S. G.) ever operated between Turkish ports and Alexandria.

This study reviews primary sources from the archives of the Austrian Lloyd as well as early documents of the D. D. S. G. We conclude that the D. D. S. G. did in fact open a line to Egypt, and we provide details of dates of operation and why the line eventually closed.



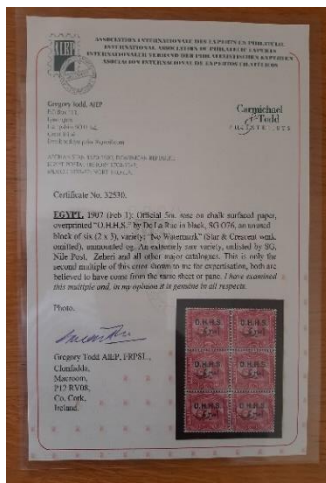
The fourth, fifth and sixth studies relate only tangentially to the study of Egyptian philately. The fourth is a revision of the history of D. D. S. G. maritime lines in the Black Sea and eastern Mediterranean. The fifth offers a record of maritime voyage of the D. D. S. G., while the sixth study will be an analysis of postal materials based on studies three, four, and five. These studies will be of interest primarily to students of earlier Austrian postal history.

I have completed working drafts of the first five studies. In support of the sixth study, I am searching for good quality (300 dpi or higher) images of postal history materials bearing handstamps of the D. D. S. G. maritime ports from 1834 to 1845. The Stuart Rossiter Trust has kindly provided a grant for travel to several sites in Europe to support further research in archival materials in order to verify current conclusions and to investigate corroborating avenues of research.

If Circle members are able to send suitable images of postal history materials bearing the handstamps of the D. D. S. G. maritime ports (1834-1845), I would be most grateful. Please send to my email address: watermarkstamp@gmail.com. I wish all Circle members good collecting!

### 1907 5m Official overprint without watermark

Socratis Sigalas (ESC 483)



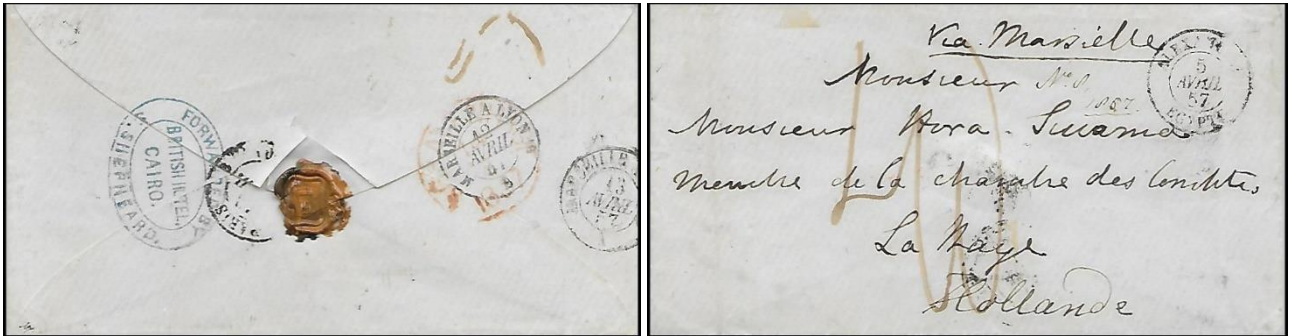
In *QC 270* (September 2019, p.259) I was able to announce the discovery of the 5m De La Rue definitive with bilingual overprint O.H.H.S. and Arabic equivalent (NP O5, SG O76), without watermark. Now I am pleased to share some interesting information to complete the story.

I have managed to make contact with the previous owner and luckily have been able to acquire all of his stock from the same sheet or pane. I can now announce that I have in my possession the following, to my knowledge the only surviving stamps with the variety “no watermark”: Items 1, 2 and 3, blocks of 15, Item 4 block of 8, 5 block of 9, 6 block of 6, 7, block of 9 (top right stamp defective), 8 strip of 5, 9 block of 10 (Todd certificate), 10 block of 6 (Todd certificate), 11 strip of 5, 12 vertical pair, 13 single stamp.

Greg Todd (ESC 585) describes the variety as extremely rare, unlisted by all the major catalogues, and mentions that there are “one or two elements of watermark ‘bits’ in the paper (not thins) seen by the eye and in benzine”. The normal un-overprinted stamp, he says, is also recorded without watermark.

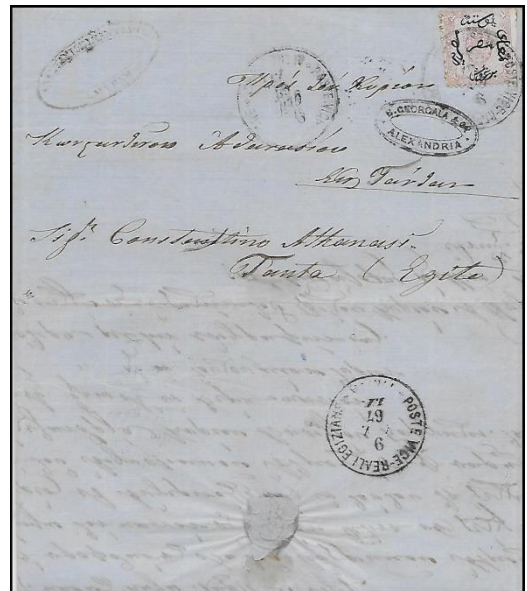
## Egyptian Forwarding Agents revisited

Greg Todd (ESC 585)



The last *Quarterly Circular* (September 2022, No 282) contained two excellent articles on areas of Egyptian postal history I particularly enjoy and thus, I thought I'd add a further illustration (*above*) to Richard Wheatley's article on Samuel Shephard as a Forwarding Agent by providing an illustration of both sides of the latest cover (15) of Richard's listing by way of thanks. The 1857 cover was forwarded from Shephard's in Cairo with the cachet struck in blue, thence to Alexandria where it travelled via the French P.O. (April 5) via Marseille to The Hague (April 14).

My friend Mahmoud Ramadan's article and table on Forwarding Agents can be added to as well and I attach an illustration of a January 1867 entire letter from Smirne to Tanta, carried privately (and thus saving the 1 piastre "Port to Port" fee) to Alexandria (Jan 9) to the care of the Forwarding Agents "E. GEORGALA & Co. / ALEXANDRIA", who applied their oval cachet in black and mailed the letter with an 1866 1 piastre for the single rate to Tanta (*right*).



A further cover from my collection, and originally illustrated in *Posta Europea* by Luca Biolato, shows a different and very clear strike of the "KREBSER & CIE / BENNA-ABUSIR" cachet with date OCT 16 inserted (*left below*) struck in blue. In this instance Krebsler prepaid the 1863 letter to travel outside the mails to the Posta Europea office at Samanud and thence via the Italian Post Office in Alexandria to Zurich via Ancona.

Mahmoud's question mark in his listing against the possibility of the "TURIN FRERES / ALEXANDRIE" cachet is possibly correct as the entire (*right below*), shows the cachet only in the form of sender (confirmed by contents) on a September 1854 letter struck with the oval "Direzione Della Posta Europea / Alessandria D'Egitto" type II oval. Note the addition of manuscript "Preme" ("push / press" in Italian) at lower left.

I personally would welcome seeing other examples of covers to add to the two Forwarding Agents tables created by Richard Wheatley and Mahmoud Ramadan.





## **MacArthur Award 2023** **- it's time to vote**

We have been delighted in the past couple of years to see members' interest in and interaction with the QC increasing, as seen by the number of members voting for the annual MacArthur Award for the most interesting article of the past year.

The award, left as a legacy by our former Chairman Major E L G MacArthur, is intended to encourage members to write for the magazine, to share their discoveries and knowledge, and to help us to produce a bright and useful publication.

To support the writers (and editor!), please add a vote for the best article of 2023 to your PayPal or postal subscription note. Or drop in a nomination by email to [egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com](mailto:egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com). Whatever method you use, please vote to encourage continuing excellence in the QC.

Here is a list of major articles from 2022 you might like to consider:

### **Issue 280, March**

Plating the Second Issue of Egypt – Ramez Atiya – pages 201-206  
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## **It's December ... time to think of paying subscriptions for 2023**

As we move from summer to the chills of winter, it is our duty to remind you that the subscription season is not far away. The Circle could not long survive without your annual £20 subscriptions – as well as your magazine articles, comments and queries, your attendance at meetings, your taking part as seller or buyer in our popular members-only auctions... so here's the reminder.

Payment should be made to the regular team – Sami Sadek in UK, Trent Ruebush in North America, Tony Cakebread for Australasia, Ibrahim Shoukry / Sherif Samra in Egypt, and PayPal for the vast majority. The team stays the same, and so does payment day. Far the most convenient method for all of us would be for those with a British bank account to set up a standing order – and forget all about it. The bank looks after a payment every year, and you can go back to concentrating on stamps and postal history instead of payments.

We would rather join you instead of spending time chasing late payers (or non-payers in some cases). If you would rather resign your membership, please let us know.. but if you are happy to stay among a group of friendly and like-minded individuals, don't forget that the due date is:

**January 1 2023**

Members are given a little leeway, but if your payment is not made by the date of the AGM (February 18) your membership will be terminated: no more QCs, no auctions, no website. And a penalty to pay if you want to restore membership. We now take into account PayPal's fees, so please choose from the amounts below when sending in your subscription:

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There is no longer any need to add small amounts to cover PayPal fees; they are included. Payment via PayPal should be made to our account at Egypt Study Circle, while cash, cheque or bank draft payments may be made to Treasurer Sami Sadek or Trent Ruebush. All addresses are on the first page of every QC.

Please do your best to keep up to date. It is a painful and unnecessary task having to write people off; much better that we all pay up on time.