

The
Quarterly Circular
of
**THE
EGYPT**



STUDY CIRCLE

March Quarter 2023 – Vol XXV No 1 – Whole Series No 284 – Pages 1-24

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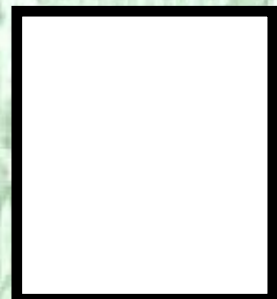
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SUBSCRIPTIONS - IMPORTANT

Study Circle subscriptions for 2023 were due on January 1. If there is a cross in the box at right our records indicate that we have not yet received your payment. Please contact the Treasurer and/or Secretary urgently or your membership may be withdrawn.





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Meetings Programme 2023

Weekend Fri 14- Sun 16 April	Morley Hayes Hotel, Derby DE7 6DG	Joint meeting with Sudan Study Group	All members. Details from Sec
Sat 10 June	George Inn, 75-77 Borough High St, London SE1 1NH	Postcards of the Suez Canal area	David Ogden and all members
Sat 1 July 10-4	Midpex, Leamington Spa CV31 1FE	ESC will have a stand at this major regional meeting	All members. Details from Sec

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Website: egyptstudycircle.org.uk



Facebook

Report of the Annual General Meeting, February 18, at the King's Head, London W1G 8PJ

There was an encouraging attendance of 12 at the Annual Meeting, a record since covid-19 disrupted our meetings over recent years. Those present were greeted by our Chairman, Jon Aitchison, who welcomed especially Hany Salam from Cairo, and Oren Gazenfeld of London, our latest member, on his first attendance. Those present: John Davis (President), Jon Aitchison (Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Neil Hitchens (Vice-Chairman/Webmaster), John Clarke, Oren Gazenfeld, Keith Nickol. David Ogden, Hany Salam (Egypt), Atef Sarian, Richard Wheatley. Guest: Mrs Letty Nickol. Travel difficulties ruled out several members, and apologies were received from John Sears, Tony Cakebread, Aly Gabr, Andy Gould, Pierre Grech, Paul Green, Paul Grigg, Mahmoud Ramadan, Trent Ruebush, Sami Sadek, Brian Sedgley, .Hani Sharestan, Ibrahim Shoukry, Vahe Varjabedian.

Jon Aitchison said it was with proud but mixed feelings that he addressed members on account of the fact that he was to stand down after six years of progress as Vice-Chairman and Chairman. He mentioned highlights including the visit to Cairo to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Philatelic Society of Egypt in 2019, and more recently the special exhibition at the Royal Philatelic Society London to mark the centenary of the discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun, and emphasised the help and co-operation from the Circle's hard-working Officers while appealing for members to help in their work: volunteers would be welcomed, he said, in any and every capacity. He called on those present to stand for a moment's silence to mark the passing during the year of three prominent members, Keith Pogson, Angela Child and Cyril Defriez.

Chairman: On the proposal of the Committee and with the support of the President, David Ogden (ESC 480), of Rochester, Kent, who spent two years working in Egypt as a university librarian and was recently restored to membership after some time away from collecting, was unanimously elected Chairman. He declared himself honoured to be appointed, and described the magazine, the website and the Facebook page as astonishing developments since his previous membership.



David Ogden, our new Chairman... 'Zoom is an essential aid to reaching out to collectors'.

He was eager to expand our membership, and envisaged Zoom meetings as an essential aid to reaching out to collectors the world over. Because membership is spread world-wide and because we have had a recent influx of new members, he suggested that a list of members' interests might be published in the *QC* to provide sources of help and advice. Please see, complete and return the sheet attached to this issue. Closer to home, he echoed his predecessor's call for volunteers to help the present-day officers to carry out crucial tasks.

Auction/Accounts: In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary gave details of his reports, kindly provided by our accounts examiner, Andy Gould (ESC 393). Two very successful auctions in the year had resulted in 50 per cent of 840 lots sold, with commission income to the Circle of £1,765. Two auctions will be planned for 2023, so sales lists (with scans) are now requested.

New Meetings venue: Richard Wheatley was elected by acclaim as Meetings Secretary in succession to Jon Aitchison (who becomes a member of the Committee), and was able to report instantly on research for an alternative meeting room carried out that very morning. On June 10, as a tentative move away from the high costs of the Victory Services Club, we shall try out the facilities at the George Inn, a historic galleried coaching house close to London Bridge (75-77 Borough High Street, London SE1 1NH). David Ogden will lead a meeting on Postcards of the Suez Canal area. Please bring examples from your collection.

The general accounts showed an advance of about £1,000 on the year so that the accumulated surplus at December 31 was £25,292.28 as opposed to £24,242.45 the year before. Increased expense on *QC* costs and Officers' expenses were both accounted for largely by postage and entertainment at the Tutankhamun anniversary meeting at the Royal [See *Accounts, p.iii*]. Income was boosted by a generous donation from the Pogson family of half the proceeds from Auction sales, and the Treasurer also gave grateful thanks to Michael Ryan, Sherif Samra and the late Cyril Defriez for their own donations.

MacArthur Award 2022 goes to Ramez Atiya

For the second successive year, the Study Circle is delighted to congratulate Ramez Atiya (ESC 246, *pictured*), of Salt Lake City, Utah, on his success in topping the vote for the MacArthur Award for his succession of articles on researching the minutiae of the flaws and varieties on Egypt's Classical early issues. The winning article, "1872 1-piastre, classification of flaws", featured in QC 281 and finished just a couple of votes ahead of Mahmoud Ramadan's "Egypt's postal expansion into Africa" from the same issue. Remarkably, with Second Issue plating in QC 280, Ramez also finished third as members voted for no fewer than 13 articles. Thank you to all who took part.



Membership: The Secretary reported that membership had increased by a net eight members during the year from 161 to 169, with ten new members, gathered largely from the website, more than balancing two resignations and three others lapsed for non-payment of subscriptions. He warned that several subscriptions remained outstanding for 2023 and suggested that there may be more lapsings to come.

Editor: The *QC* had appeared regularly on schedule, and the Editor was grateful to several "regular" contributors for their hard work in keeping the magazine fascinating and informative. He is always pleased to receive submissions from members, and is delighted to be able to acknowledge articles from three first-time authors in this March issue. It is hoped that a new feature on the back page – Why I collect Egypt – might help to introduce newer members and increase interest.

Website: All pages of the *QC*, from issue No 1 in 1938 to date, have been digitised, cleaned and improved and are now available on the website, the Webmaster reported, and capacity of the site had been expanded to allow for display of members' collections. The Webmaster, who a few days later posted on the site a "welcome" video featuring himself explaining some of its advances and potential future advances, reported that he is watching Zoom prospects closely and hopes to have good news on that front shortly. Meanwhile, Trent Ruebush and our North American colleagues will hold an experimental meeting on March 18.

Librarian: John Davis reported that, despite our astonishing holdings of books, magazines and pamphlets, the amount of material available on the website and online generally meant that there had been no Library business whatever in the past 12 months, He reluctantly suggested that the space in his cottage might find a better use, and appealed to members to take on the role and the collection, preferably someone more central to London.

Members then showed some pages from their collections as follows:



John Davis: A wide-ranging display of Hotels covers, ranging from hotels without post offices via hotel post before they had post offices to the Continental in detail. He appealed to members who might provide him with the only cds he is missing on cover, Continental HC11 (*illustrated*).

Keith Nickol: showed some vintage postcards, including photograph types, and especially of hotels, which he explained he used to enhance display pages of postmarks. Also on display were early Egypt-themed magazines from the nineteenth century.

Jon Aitchison showed some outstanding postal stationery, including several printed covers with the embossed vignette offset on the interior of the envelope – not rare, but not often seen or discussed. He also showed the 5 mills surcharge on the 2pi cover and suggested that though the two surcharges of different sizes should be classed as different types, that without a hamza on the alif should be a "normal" flaw rather than a type.

Mike Murphy showed recent FDCs as received from the Philatelic Bureau in Cairo, including the Tutankhamun and Rosetta Stone issues, and queried for whom Egypt Post produced such – admittedly beautiful – over-size folders to hold them. They could not fit on a display page, so why so large?

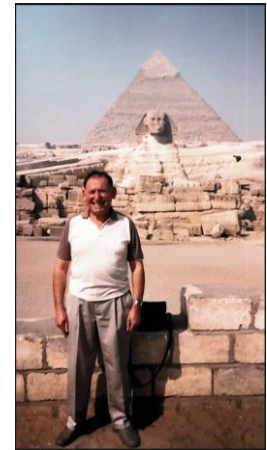
Cyril Defriez (ESC 172): An Appreciation

For well over 30 years Cyril Defriez supplied the *Quarterly Circular* of the Egypt Study Circle with a constant and never ending supply of information about Egypt's New Issues – date of issue, topic, perforation, designer's details, number issued... all that could be required for a comprehensive coverage of the post-Farouk stamps that are gradually coming back within the overview of today's collectors.

His contributions to the *QC* ran from No 103-04 (Sept-Dec 1977, SG 1233) right through to No 236 (March 2011, SG 2503), covering 106 issues and 1270 individual stamps. Coinciding with the transfer to A4 and the Editorship of the late John Grimmer, they followed on from *L'OP* 129 (October 1974), and formed the only regular publication of the totality of New Issues.

But New Issues was not all that Cyril was. He joined the Study Circle in March 1973, and his invariable smile rarely missed a London meeting, despite the long distance from his home in Lytham St Annes, Lancashire. Lifetime service in British Rail, with its reduced-rate staff travel, helped more than a little.

He was a keen collector and exhibitor, well beyond research into the latest issues, though in 2002 he very much enjoyed giving a meeting entitled "Life after Farouk" to encourage collection of the more modern stamps. Delighting in small-town postmarks, he gave two talks on the topic, covering both the Delta and Upper Egypt, and took great pleasure in tracing the geographic details of TPO and Rural routes. He was an invariable contributor to whatever aspect of philatelic history might happen to be on the table, ranging from vintage proofs and khedivial mail to instructional markings.



Cyril Defriez pointing out a detail in an artist's original stamp drawing; and on the 1991 ESC tour at the foot of the Sphinx

With Peter Andrews and Alan Jeyes he researched in enormous detail the Official issue of 1972-86 with its myriad range of paper, colour shades, gum and perforation varieties, producing a wonderful catalogue listing for *QC* 171 in 1994. On retirement from the post in 2016 he revealed for our astonishment what none had seen before by displaying 100 sample pages of New Issues, then numbering 550 sides.

He was deservedly appointed a Life Member of the Circle and thoroughly enjoyed travelling to Egypt twice on Circle tours, sharing many photos with family and friends. He was also a member of the Sudan Study Group and had been looking forward to the joint meeting in Derby in April. He was a valued Life Member of Lytham St Annes Philatelic Society with membership over 48 years and acting as Secretary for 20 years. His interest in local history led to a wonderful collection of postcards of Lytham.

Born in Hornsey, in East London, in 1928, he was evacuated to Cambridgeshire during the War, and moved to Lancashire when his father's employer, the Ministry for Agriculture, was moved north from London. He lived in Lytham for the rest of his life, 82 years, retiring as chief clerk of Blackpool North station.

Cyril and Sheila married in 1952 and had two children, Philip and Carole. He passed away on December 15, a few days before his 95th birthday. The Circle, which made a donation to Cancer Research, has lost not only an excellent collector and valued contributor but a wonderful friend and companion.

Mike Murphy

Golden salute to the boy Pharaoh

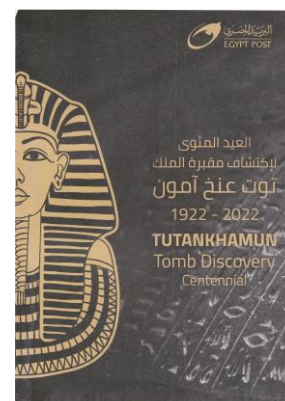
Mike Murphy (ESC 240)



Egypt Post and the Royal Mail did not let the collectors down as both produced spectacular stamp issues to mark the November centenary of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings. With the vast quantity of wonderful grave goods to choose from, it is perhaps a little surprising that no fewer than ten objects featured on the 12 published stamps.

Egypt chose to issue first, on November 4, the day that the first of the steps leading down to the pharaoh's rock-cut tomb was revealed. There are only four stamps (*above*), but the design is truly striking. They are printed in gold on a dark ground, forming a four-square sheetlet of 14.5x16.5cm with the golden figures looming from a dark ground embellished with hieroglyphs as if they were at last coming to light.

Truth to tell, the tiny gold lettering on the gloomy background of this issue does not reproduce well when scanned, and I hope the sheet above is clear.



The illustrations, in another novel feature, are accompanied by postcards in the same design with a pentagonal first-day handstamp in green. Displaying the 110kg Inner Golden Coffin, the Royal Throne, Tutankhamun's Gilded Fan, and finally the world-famous Gold Mask, together they make a truly eye-catching display. The stamps, each 6x5cm, come presented in another of Egypt Post's massive (24x33cm) embossed first-day presentation folders (*above*) illustrated with the Mask.



Interestingly, though I imagine few will find their way on to regular postage, the face value of the stamps is £E20, at a time when the normal inland postal rate is £E10 ... perhaps ready for a price increase? Inflation means that sending a postcard already costs £E60. No more stamps yet have a £E20 value, but it is fascinating that Egypt Post produced three new and delightful archaeological definitive (*left*) on October 10, at £E20, 30 and 40.

Royal Mail left its celebration to November 24, when it published a brightly colourful series of eight stamps (right), 37x35mm, again, however, with a dark black ground. The first-class stamps showed the Gold Mask and a Horus pectoral; and second class depicted the Royal fan and the painted wooden model of the young head of Tutankhamun emerging from a lotus flower.



The £1.85 (Europe postage) value has a golden lion couch post and the Pharaoh's close-up portrait taken from the Royal Throne, and the £2.55 (world postage) values illustrate the head of one of the tomb's wooden guardians and a calcite boat model decorated in gold and faience.



Accompanying these spectacular stamps is a miniature sheet (left) showing early aspects of the discovery by Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon, based on photographs by Harry Burton, the official photographer. Britain also issued a “prestige stamp book” with original photographs, sketches, notes and artefact illustrations, plus four stamp panes containing all 12 Tutankhamun stamps as well as a pane of QEII Machin definitive stamps unique to the issue.

But Egypt and Britain were not alone in celebrating the world's most staggering archaeological discovery. France also issued a €1.65 Gold Mask stamp and coffin mini-sheet, and there were other issues for thematic collectors from Ajman, the Central African Republic, Djibouti, Hungary, Liberia, the Netherlands and Sierra Leone. In Australia a bright entrepreneur printed a “Tutankhamun” first day cover with a photograph of Howard Carter for November 4 – but, remarkably, celebrating China's “New Year of the Rabbit”.

Following on from the last QC, on August 23 Egypt issued a stamp and a very small (8x6cm) miniature sheet celebrating “200 years of deciphering the Rosetta Stone and the genesis of Egyptology”. Again, surprisingly, both examples have very dark backgrounds. The square £E10 stamp shows a dark grey stone set on black between two dark columns of hieroglyphs, and the sheet, also face value £E10, is a hint more colourful with the large “200” set on a coloured feathered pectoral.

In other Egypt news, it seems that the Tutankhamun celebrations have inspired a certain amount of nostalgia among Egypt Post's stamp designers. Recent issues on the same day – July 6 – have included a whole series of “restoration” stamps, including two post offices.








The National Postal Museum in Ataba Square, Cairo, is given a rather smaller presentation folder for its massive and complex perforated sheet of five £E10 stamps (above) to mark its re-opening after refurbishment; and restoration of the historic Aswan Post Office is recognised with a £E10 stamp nicely evocative of its old entranceway. The above are joined by another £E10 stamp and another project, the 1908 Sultan Hussein Kamel Palace in Heliopolis, which is being restored as a centre for digital innovation.

Ismailia, postal history and cancels: Part 2


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


(Continued from Part 1, QC 283, pp.276-281)

DATE STAMPS IN FRENCH/ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1881–1915




IS_6		ISMAILIAH	Single ring 24.5mm Date band 4mm
		17 SE 89 TI	Earliest date 26 AO 80
		EL ISMAILIA	Latest date 7 AV 93
IS_7		ISMAILIA	Single ring 25mm Date band 5mm 10 bars
		26 NO 89 TII	Earliest date 15 JU 87
		EL ISMAILIA	Latest date 14 DE 90
IS_8		ISMAILIA	Bridge 25mm Date band 5mm 6 bars
		10 MR 91 TI	Earliest date 21 OC 88
		ISMAILIA	Latest date 10 MR 91
IS_9		ISMAILIA	Double ring 31mm Date band 5mm 7 bars
		6 VIII 96 I	Earliest date 30 IV 92
		EL ISMAILIA	Latest date 30 IX 00
IS_10		ISMAILIA	Double ring 28mm Date band 4mm 5 bars
		16 II 98 TI	Earliest date 13 V 97
		EL ISMAILIA	Latest date 12 II 07*
IS_11		ISMAILIA	Single ring 27mm Date band 4mm
		16 VIII 01 TIV	Earliest date 27 VI 00
		EL ISMAILIA	Latest date 5 VIII 04


*Lars Alund (ESC 105), QC 203, December 2002

IS_12		ISMAILIA	Single ring 27mm Date band 4mm
		2 VIII 05 TI	Earliest date 24 XI 03
		ISMAILIA	Latest date .. V 06


IS_13		ISMAILIA	Single ring 27mm Date band 4mm
		25 XII 06 TIII	Earliest date 22 X 06
		EL ISMAILIA	Latest date 2 III 07


Differences between types IS_11, IS_12 and IS_13

IS_11		Large letters Arabic dots all horizontal
IS_12		Small letters Dots both horizontal and vertical
IS_13		Large letters Dots both horizontal and vertical

IS_14		ISMAILIA ★	Bridge 27mm Date band 7.5mm
		2 – IX.08. 7.35PM	Earliest date 19 VII 07
		EL ISMAILIA	Latest date 15 IX 15*

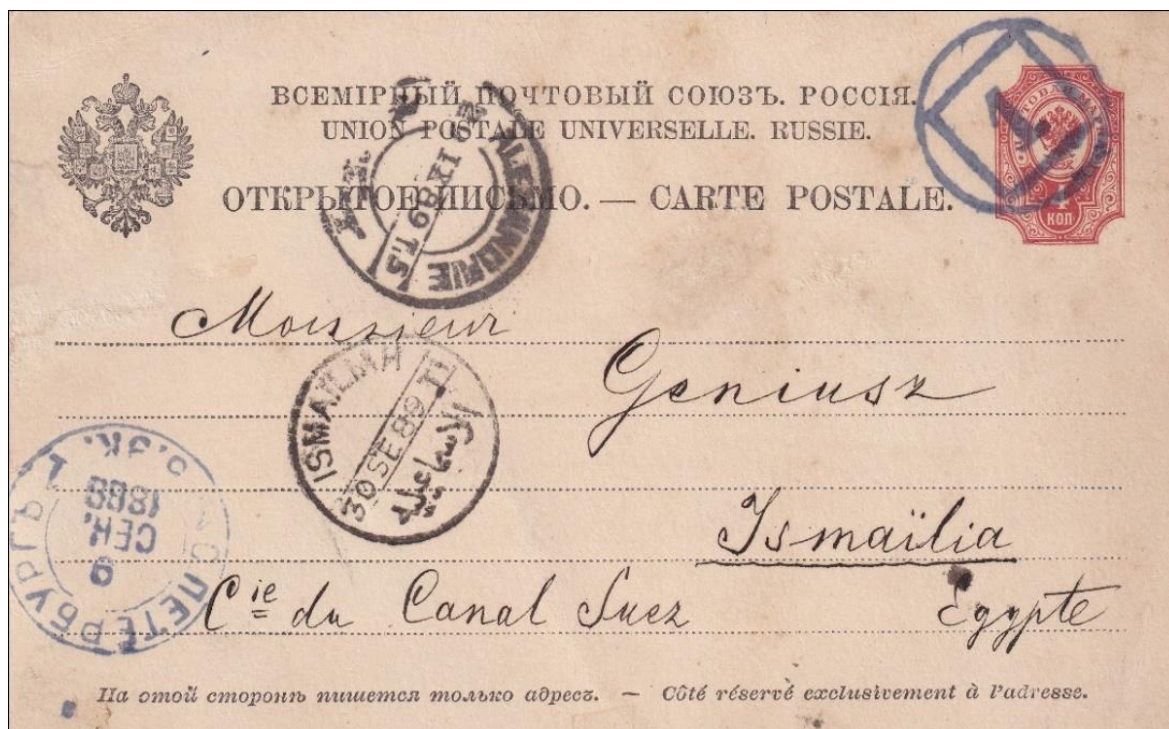
*Peter Heim (ESC 384), QC 218, September 2006
Recorded in blue in 1914 and 1915

IS_15		ISMAILIA	Bridge 26mm Date band 7mm
		17.XII.15. 7 35P.M.	Earliest date 7 I 15
		EL ISMAILIA	Latest date 17 XII 15

IS_16		ISMAILIA	Single ring 27mm Date band 8mm
		7- II.16. 7.-PM	Earliest date 7 II 16
		EL ISMAILIA	Latest date 29 MR 19



ISMAILIAH 31 AO 82 (IS_6), sent after the British occupation of Ismailia on 20 August 1882 to RYDE SP 14 82, postage of 4 x10 paras (equal to 1 piastre)



Postcard from ST PETERSBURG 9 September 1889
(9 September – Julian Calendar / 21 September Gregorian Calendar)
via ALEXANDRIE 29 IX 89 to ISMAILIA 30 SE 89 (IS_6)

EGYPTIAN POST OFFICE -- POSTES D'EGYPTE
 Foreign Parcel Post Service -- Service des colis postaux pour l'étranger

DESPATCH NOTE -- BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION

Herewith (Ci-joint) 1 parcel addressed as follows: (colis, portant l'adresse suivante:)

Name and address of declarant (Nom et adresse du déclarant) M^r Marco Serina

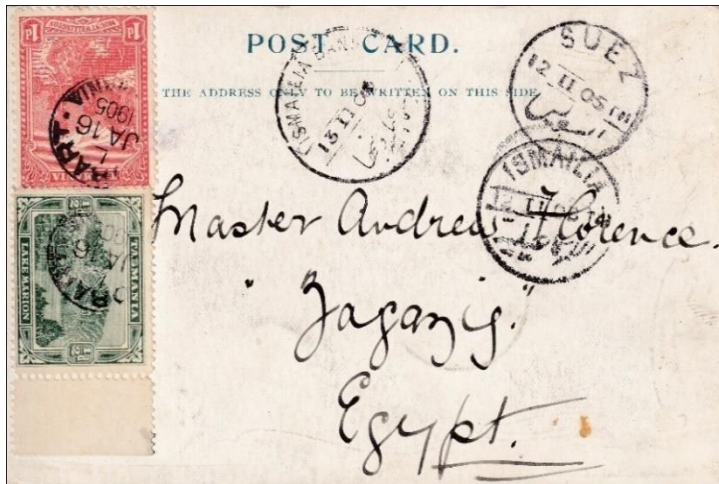
Destination (Lieu de destination) Palmasa
 Country (Pays) (Palmasia) Austria

INSURED VALUE (VALEUR ASSURÉE) FR. _____
 AMOUNT OF VALUE PAYABLE ON DELIVERY (MONTANT DU REMBOURSEMENT) FR. _____

Number of Customs declarations (Nombre des déclarations en douane) 20 Weight (Poids) Kgr. 4 gr. 850

Custom dues at destination (Droits de douane à destination) Zollgut zu stellen dem Directe
Magasin Supérieur

Despatch note for a parcel from ISMAILIA 24 I 02 (IS_10) via TRIEST 29/1/02 to DUBROVNIK 4/2/02 (Austria). Postage of 6 piastres



Post card from
 Tasmania, Australia
 HOBART JA 16 1905
 with arrival in
 SUEZ 12 II 05
 to
 ISMAILIA 12 II 05
 (IS_11)

From there by the train TPO
 ISMAILIA BANHA 13 II 05
 to Zagazig



Postal Card (H&G 3)

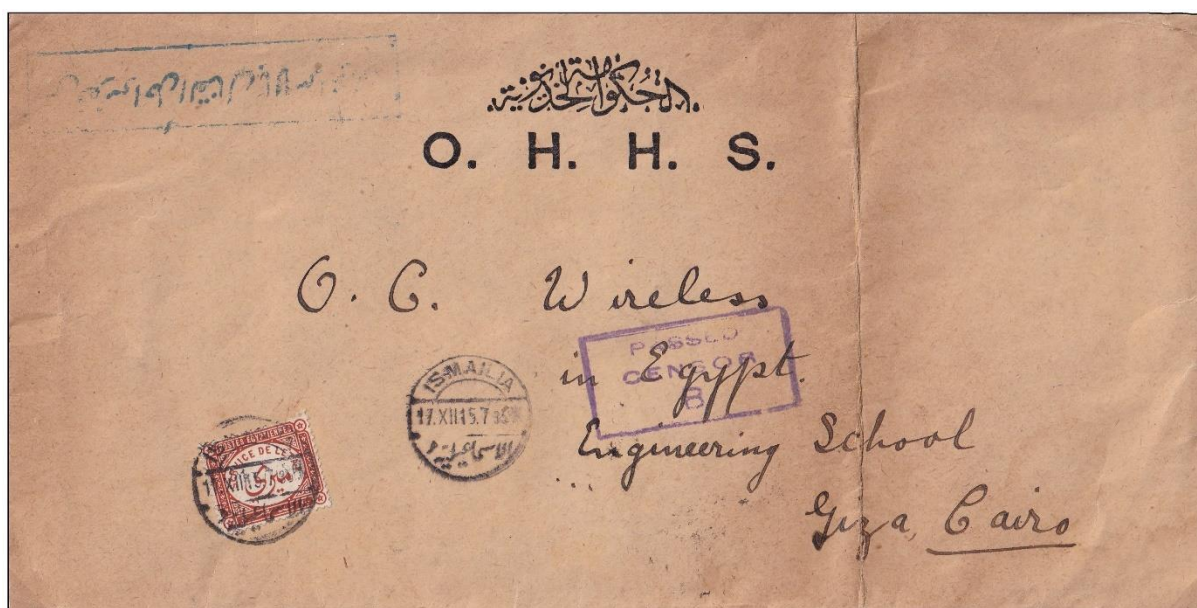
ISMAILIA 25 XII 06
 (IS_13)

via
 ALEXANDRIA
 26 XII 06
 to
 SLIEDRECHT 2 JAN 07
 (The Netherlands)

ISMAILIA ★ 15 III 15
 (IS_14)
 to Dijon (France)



Blue cancellation
 ISMAILIA ★ 28 XII 14
 (IS_14)
 to Port-Said

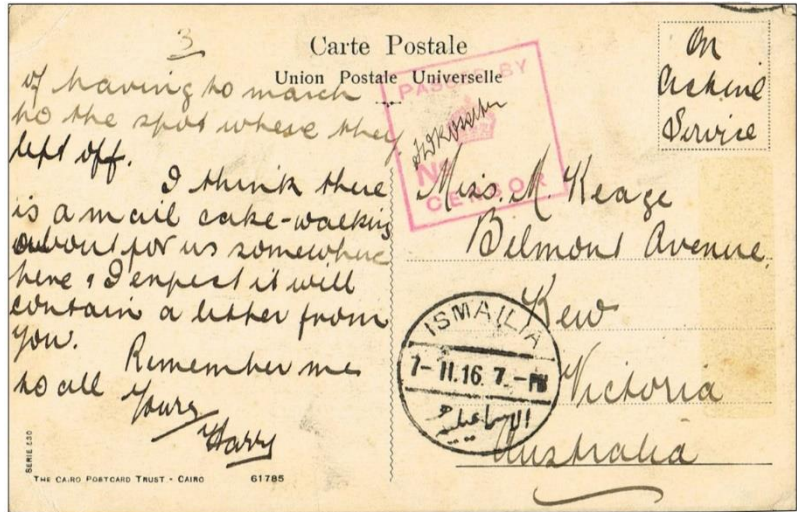


Official letter O.H.H.S. from ISMAILIA 17 XII 15 (IS_15) to Giza
 Civil censorship handstamp **PASSED CENSOR B**, used in Cairo

Postage free postal card
'On Active Service'

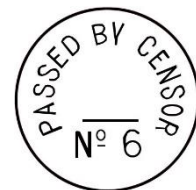
ISMAILIA 7 II 16
(IS_16)
to
Victoria, Australia

Unnumbered censorship handstamp
PASSED BY
N°
CENSOR



Letter from ALEXANDRIA 27 VI 17 via the MILITARY POST OFFICE
28 VI 17 and SUEZ 30 VI 17 to FAIYID I VII 17
Arrival ISMAILIA 30 VI 17 (IS_16) and sent the next day
ISMAILIA 1 VII 17 to FAYID

Civil censor handstamp CCP6 b
Probably used at Suez 30 JU 17 – 28 JU 18 (John Firebrace)
Blue Military censor label OPENED BY CENSOR



(To be continued...)

The perils of Pauline

Ramez Atiya (ESC 246)

Many years ago, I acquired a curious document from the Napoleonic Campaign in Egypt (1798–1801). It contained an order dated 17 January 1800 by General Kléber to General Dugua to stop the USS *America* from leaving the port of Alexandria. I assumed that the order had a military objective. This hasty conclusion is almost certainly incorrect. Rather, its objectives were connected with romantic escapades on the Nile.



The object of these escapades, Pauline Bellisle (*right*), was born on 15 March 1778. She married Jean-Noël Fourès, a cavalryman on sick leave from the fighting in the Pyrenees. Their honeymoon was abruptly terminated when Fourès was called to serve in the Egyptian campaign. Since women were not allowed on military transport, the desperate couple dressed Pauline in a chasseur's uniform and sneaked her on to the transport *La Lucette*. Apparently she was not the only one, as once in Cairo a whole squadron was miraculously

transformed into the fair sex. On the march, however, Pauline acted in a military capacity and fought in the Battle of the Pyramids! Only in Cairo did she reveal her identity. Apparently the petite temptress with the perfect set teeth caught the keen eye of the *Général en Chef*, Napoleon Bonaparte himself.



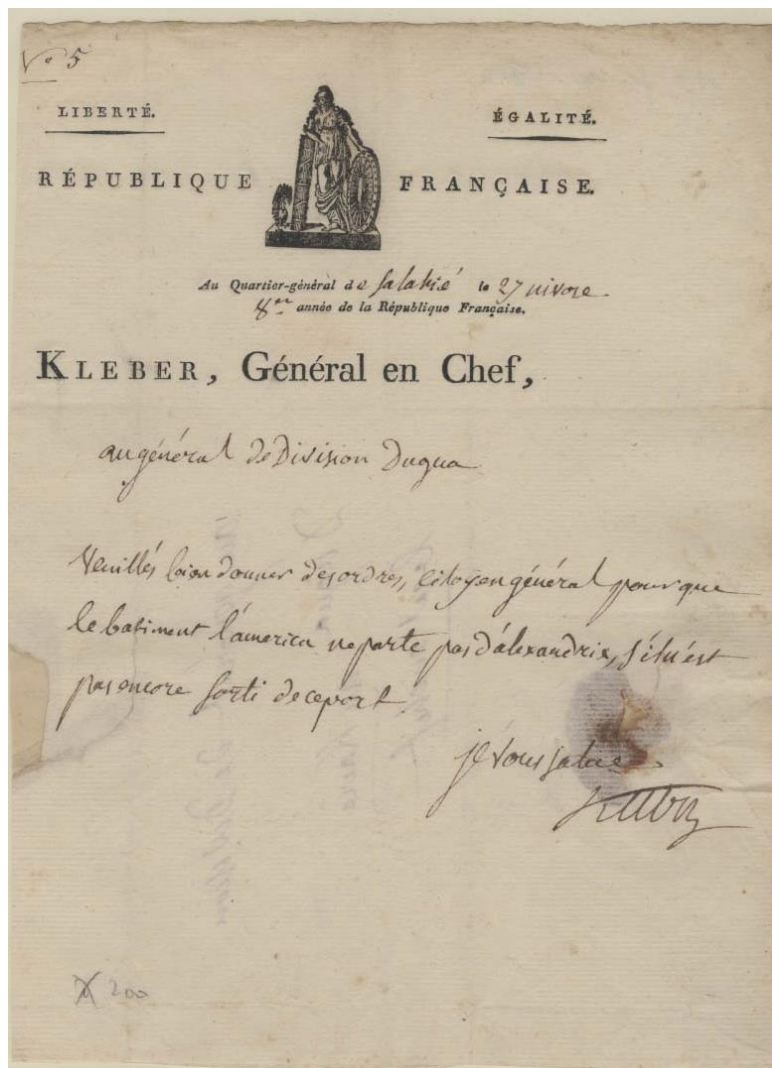
**Napoleon in oriental costume
speaking with the Pacha of Cairo**

Not a man to waste time, Bonaparte began to woo Pauline. His efforts were apparently unsuccessful, an outcome that might perhaps be ascribed either to her affection for her husband or to fear of his irascible temper. Bonaparte, the strategic thinker, was however not put off. The failure of skirmishes with the Mamelukes to dispose of the inconvenient husband required another approach. Jean-Noël was sent to France carrying a diplomatic pouch. Of course his request to allow his wife to accompany him was denied on the grounds that women were not allowed on military transports. The plan was derailed however when the ever-vigilant English intercepted his ship. On examination of the papers, the English were puzzled to find that they contained nothing of significance and it was concluded that he must be carrying a verbal message. After vigorous interrogation, he was sent packing back to Cairo.

While the husband was engaged on his diplomatic mission, Bonaparte was engaged on a mission of his own to weaken the defences of the lovely Pauline, showering her with expensive gifts. Not to waste time, Bonaparte invited Pauline to a dinner party for his officers and their ladies. During the meal a carafe of water was inadvertently overturned, drenching Pauline's dress. The ever chivalrous Bonaparte volunteered to assist her into dry clothes in his personal bedroom. The operation is reported to have taken the attentive Bonaparte just under an hour to complete. Next day, Pauline was installed in a villa in Ezbekiya Square.

Like the proverbial bad penny, Fourès returned to spoil things. Informed of his wife's infidelities, the enraged husband became physically violent. He was restrained by the guard assigned to Pauline, who in return sued for divorce which was granted shortly thereafter. She resumed her maiden name and became the official mistress of the *Général en Chef*, dressing in a general's uniform and sometimes referred to as *La Générale*. Napoleon took the ornamental Pauline everywhere and provided her with a luxurious living.

Their relationship seemed to be one of genuine affection. Nevertheless, when word came in August 1799 that the British fleet had left Alexandria, Napoleon quickly left Egypt without informing the unsuspecting Pauline, leaving her and the reins of power to his most able lieutenant, Jean-Baptiste Kléber.



Addressed to Division General Dugua. Please give the order, citizen general, that the ship America not leave the port of Alexandria, if it has not already left the port, Signed Kleber

For a brief time the irresistible Pauline became Kléber's mistress. The following year, 1800, she attempted to sail to France aboard the USS *America*. Thus we return to our mysterious letter, dated 27 Nivose year VIII [17 January 1800]. The clear interpretation of the letter is that Kléber (*right*) wished to ensure that the ship would not leave without Pauline Fourès. In fact she did sail on the *America*, but the ship was intercepted by HMS *Theseus* and returned to Egypt. Months later she was able to find passage to France on another ship.

Now First Consul, de facto head of the French republican government, Bonaparte refused to see Pauline. Nevertheless he secured a mansion for her near Paris and provided her with adequate funds. She married Pierre-Henri de Ranchoup, a retired military officer who was promoted to a consular position in Spain courtesy of the First Consul. When Ranchoup was assigned to Sweden, Pauline decided to remain in Paris, living as an accomplished eccentric. She became a harpist, a painter of some talent, wrote several novels, and scandalised the community by taking her little dog to church and smoking in public.



During the Restoration she made several trips with the retired Imperial guard Jean-Auguste Bellard to South America, where the enterprising lady sold French furniture and purchased rare woods. Her successful business dealings restored her fortunes and she moved permanently back to France where Ranchoup had died in 1826. Pauline died at 91 in 1869, very probably the last surviving veteran of the French Campaign in Egypt.

The Eye of Horus in Egyptian philately

Denis Doren (ESC 653)



Fig. 1 - The 1937 Ophthalmology Congress issue paid tribute to the Eye of Horus

In the late part of my medical career I became an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Ottawa. This allowed me to receive undergraduate medical students for a rural medicine elective. Part of the obligations for the teaching privileges were to attend yearly seminars, usually at a resort, to hone our teaching skills. In one such seminar we would interpret certain images at a quick glance and then reflect on their significance. After seeing something that I didn't really identify, one colleague said that it reminded her of an Egyptian eye, which she had seen on an object. This reminded me of something vaguely familiar. After a short reflection, I went back to her and said: "What you were talking about is The Eye of Horus". This event led to a fascination for this subject that I have pursued with interest ever since.

In the late 19th century, as the Aswan Dam was being built with financial help largely from the philanthropist Sir Ernest Cassel (1852-1921), Egyptian tombs dating back to the Predynastic era were being discovered and looted in the Upper Nile area, and the antiquities shops of Cairo were selling their artifacts. Soon two young archaeologists¹ made their way up the Nile to Kom al-Ahmar (Red Mound in Arabic), also previously called Hierakonpolis (City of the Hawk in Greek) as well as Nekhen (City of the Falcon-headed Horus in old Egyptian language). They concentrated on a relatively well preserved structure which they identified as a temple to the God Horus, legendary founder of Egyptian Pharaohs and their patron god, Horus of Nekhen.

The temple had many layers of later construction but they eventually reached storerooms in which fabulous treasures had been secured: a golden hawk representing Horus (the Egyptian Sky God in the form of a falcon whose eyes were the Sun and the Moon) as well as near life-size copper statues of King Pepi I and his son Merenre, the world's first known examples of large scale metal sculptures².

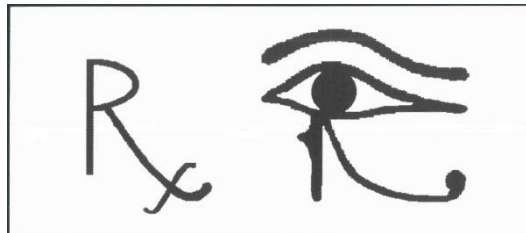


Fig. 2 - Medicine's Rx symbol owes its design to the eye of the falcon god

In Egyptian mythology and religion, Horus was the son of Osiris (originally a fertility god and creator of civilisation and later, with Re, the Supreme God of Egypt and Ruler of the Dead) and his wife Isis (a Queen of the Gods, protector of the child Horus) and great rival of Seth, a brother of Osiris. Horus was originally the God of Lower Egypt, later identified with the reigning King of all Egypt, every one of whom had Horus as part of his name. As a loyal servant to Horus, a King/Queen earned the highest praise of his/her nation.

In fact Horus and Seth, originally representing Lower and Upper Egypt respectively, lived in peace until about 2425 BC when the cult of Osiris spread to cover much of Egypt and Horus was introduced into the cycle as son of Osiris. Seth murdered Osiris and contested Horus's right to the royal throne. According to the myth, Horus defeated Seth but his left eye (i.e. the Moon) was damaged and later healed by the God Thoth. The image of the restored left eye became a powerful amulet.

Meanwhile, during the Aswan Dam's construction, Cassel became aware that there was a great deal of eye disease, trachoma, among the 15,000 workforce³ and established a trust fund of £E40,000 to train Egyptian surgeons in treating this debilitating illness which led to inevitable blindness. In England a young and devoted eye surgeon took the project to heart and implemented not only therapeutic services in Egypt but also education in sanitary measures. He was Arthur Ferguson MacCallan CBE, MD, FRCS (1872-1955).



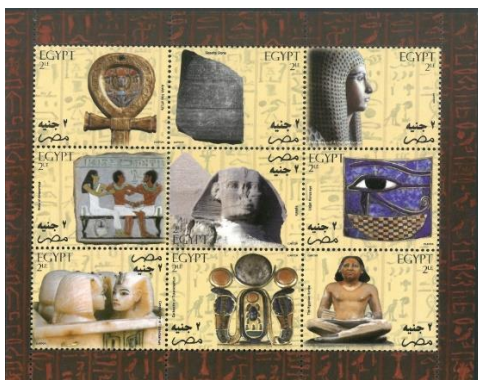
Initially Dr MacCallan concentrated in the Nile Delta and, funded by Cassel, established a travelling ophthalmic hospital (TOH) in Menouf in 1903. By January 1904 he was treating patients free of charge in a hospital of tents floored with concrete, providing examinations, outpatient care, dispensary and surgery: in the first three months he treated 6,157 patients and performed 615 operations. Surgery could help, as trachoma affected the eyelids, but only crude anaesthesia with opium, cocaine or chloroform was available. At the end of 1904 Cassel funded a second TOH in Fayoum.

It was obvious to MacCallan, however, that more help was needed. During the next 20 years he continued to expand but also to build the system necessary to educate surgeons in treatment of eye diseases and to progress ophthalmic hygiene. More funding became available from private donations of money and land, and ophthalmic hospitals opened widely, in buildings instead of tents, making year-round treatment possible.

The Egyptian Government took over the Cassel Fund in 1905 and provided more financial resources. When MacCallan left Egypt in 1923 there were 23 ophthalmic hospital units, including five TOHs, and the Memorial Ophthalmic Laboratory in Giza was being built. By 1937 there were 63 permanent ophthalmic hospitals, 15 TOHs and treatment centres in 38 government schools.

These monumental events resonated widely in the medical world and in 1937 Cairo was chosen to host the 15th International Ophthalmology Congress. Much recognition for this event is due to Sir Ernest Cassel as well as to Dr MacCallan.

The importance of the archaeological discoveries near the Aswan Dam and the epic story of the treatment of trachoma in the same period clearly contributed to the introduction of the Eye of Horus symbol in the set of three stamps set marking the Ophthalmology Congress (*Figure 1*). The symbol represents healing and health as well as the power of vision. It was well appreciated by those who attended the Congress, whose schedule included the International Organization Against Trachoma and of the International Association for the Prevention of Blindness⁴.



Left, Fig.8 with a Horus Eye and other ancient artefacts. Right a parcel card with the Psychiatry Congress issue (Fig. 9); and above a yet to be classified 'incomer' from Ajman (Fig.10)



In medical practice, and especially on prescriptions, the Rx symbol is based on the Eye of Horus (*Figure 2*). It is no wonder that its image was used in that teaching seminar so many years ago; it continues to appear frequently in Egyptian stamp issues:

- The 1972 “The Seeing Eye” stamp for Social Work Day shows various workers inside the loop of the Eye of Horus (*Fig.3*).
- The 1976 “Foresight Prevents Blindness” stamp for World Health Day depicts the Eye of Horus with the emblem of the World Health Organization (*Fig.4*).
- Next is a 1980 stamp depicting the Eye of Horus with a statuette of Bastet, goddess of protection against contagious diseases and evil spirits, for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Week (*Fig.5*).
- In 1986 a 5pi multicoloured stamp marked the 50th Anniversary of the National Theatre in Cairo, a splendid venue with rich magenta curtains and seats and two levels of loges (*Fig.6*).
- Egypt Post issued a 5pi stamp in 1988 for the Return of Taba to Egypt. The long dispute was resolved by a special Commission’s ruling that Taba was in Egyptian territory. The stamp shows the centre of the Eye of Horus precisely over Taba (*Fig.7*).
- In the 2004 booklet of 30 stamps “Discover the Treasures of Egypt in Stamps” is a page of nine stamps, one of which is the Eye of Horus on a piece of jewellery (*Fig.8*).
- Lastly, a large parcel card with six 150pi stamps issued in 2005 for the Cairo World Congress of Psychiatry. They show an upper body effigy of Tutankhamun, “5000 Years of Science and Care” on two sides of a red triangle and on the third side is a green and white Eye of Horus (*Fig.9*).
- Furthermore, not an Egypt Post stamp, but one of Ajman State, shows an All-Seeing Eye Pendant. It is a “not-yet classified” item in my collection, in excellent condition and cancelled-to-order (*Fig.10*).

Overall, I found the study of this symbol very enriching. Many aspects of history, medicine, mythology and archeology are intertwined here.

Notes:

1. James Edward Quibell and F.W. Green, both field students of Sir W.M. Flinders Petrie, senior archaeologist.
2. *Egypt Before The Pharaohs*, by Michael A. Hoffman, page 128.
3. *Journal of Medical Biography: Arthur Ferguson MacCallan (1872-1955)* at: ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5788072/
4. *JAMA Ophthalmology* at: jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaophthalmology/article-abstract/613719

Feedback from members

We are grateful to our eagle-eyed members for writing to provide feedback on some of our recent articles. Such notes are always welcome, partly to improve our general style and content, partly to nip in the bud any errors before they proliferate. Please keep them coming. Here is a recent selection:

John Clarke (ESC 497) on “Siwa’s Italian ‘occupation’ stamps” (*QC* 283): The 5m, 15m and 20m cancelled-backs were printed with 'Cancelled' only in English; the Arabic 'Cancelled' was not introduced until March 1947, so the only Boy King values with Arabic version were the 30m and 50m (both control A46 A/47) and the 200m, which is a mystery because all catalogues give the last printing as A/46. I made this discovery when Peter Smith's collection was sold and wrote about in *QC* 158. Peter Andrews also had a copy and I found another on eBay.

Bob Brier (ESC 324) on “Champollion: 200 years of hieroglyphs” (*QC* 283): Three points – no copy of the Rosetta Stone could have been given to Athanasius Kircher, who died in 1680, well before the Stone was discovered; Cleopatra’s name was not on the Stone. Only Ptolemy's name is figured; and the Stone was not “written in three languages” but in Greek and hieroglyphs and demotic, variants of the Egyptian language.

Mike Murphy (ESC 240) on “Gabriel Boulad’s Cairo FDCs” (*QC* 282): A note on the reverse of a cover with the cds Guichets Arabes was mis-translated to connect it somehow with the Express service. In fact Boulad published a similar mark in *L’OP* 81 (January 1953) inscribed GUICHETS EUROPÉENS: he is amused that the date and time are in Arabic characters on a “European” marking,



describing it as “Comme par un fair exprès” (as if on purpose). Apologies for the original translation – but can any member explain the use of these separate ticket-windows?

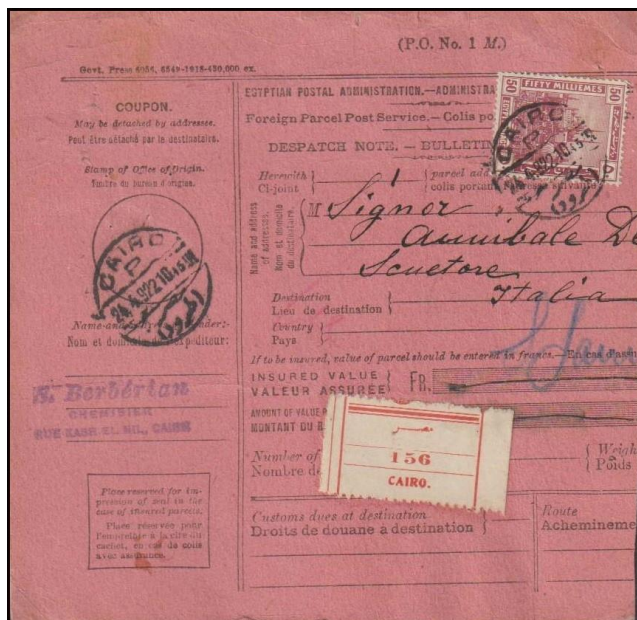
Parcel cards: Yet more queries

John Davis (ESC 213)

Minded as I am to get my collection properly “mounted and written up” before I turn up my toes, I recently came across yet another parcel card which more than drew my attention to the fact that I know very little about the use of these pieces, or how they have changed over the years.

The earliest in my collection would appear to be that illustrated at *Figure 1 right*, where a parcel was sent to Italy on 24 April 1922; the dark pink card has a 50 millèmes pictorial De La Rue cancelled with the cds of Cairo / P.

The card has a printed coding at top right which reads (P.O. No. 1 M) while at top left there is a Govt. Press number 6056, 6549, 1918-430,000 ex, from which I imagine that the final figure will have represented a potential print run. It is noticeable that the card is cut vertically at the right, so what other information it might have borne, including the value of the packet sent by the shirtmaker S. Berbérian of Kasr el Nil Street, I cannot say. Does anyone have an earlier one, and does P.O. No. 1 indicate this as one of the first batch produced?



A year or so ago (*QC 278*, Sept 2021, pp 162-63, *Parcel cards procedure: A query*) I asked two questions about parcel cards: when did the practice of cutting parcel cards horizontally become standard, as the earlier ones (apart from *Figure 1*), seem to have remained intact; and when did the colour of the cards themselves change from blue-grey to pale brown. But as yet I have received no reply. My reason for bringing up this subject again is that when I recently wrote up the card illustrated below as *Figures 2-3*, I discovered to my surprise that it showed a return to a blue-grey colour for the card itself. It also reminded me of how little I know on the subject.



Despatched in April 1983, its shows on its face five copies of the delightful “flying duck” £E1 definitive, with on the reverse a further six £E1 stamps, two of 200 millèmes, and a 20 millèmes general tax fiscal stamp. So when did the tax fee change from the seemingly universal 3 millèmes to this new amount?

In between times, I also have a number of 1950s parcel cards, each with the 500 mills Nefertiti definitive (*right*) and all taxed at 3 millièmes. So that I don't appear a complete ignoramus (I am, of course, on this issue) when displaying such items, I should be grateful for any feedback on any of the questions posed in this and my previous article. Thank you in anticipation.



The Editor adds: One of the (admittedly very few!) “perks” of sitting in the Editor’s chair is that of seeing copy early, and occasionally being able to add a note or two to the subject at hand...

John is perfectly correct in adjudging the “1918 - 430,000 ex” marking to refer to year of printing and number of cards produced, as proved many years ago when the late Robin Bertram and I spent some little time putting together a long list of the code numbers on Egyptian Post Office official stationery items. Perhaps not surprisingly, P.O. No 1 was top of the list, dating from 1891 with the letter M indicating parcel cards to be sent overseas. Local cards were No 1 L. Overall, the letter-suffix for form PO 1 ranged from C (Receipt of registered letter form) to R (Post Office Savings Book). The full list was presented at our meeting on July 19 2003 and reported in *QC* 206 pp.151-158 of September 2003 (available on our website).

As far as colours of parcel cards are concerned, I have to admit that I do not “collect” these as such – but over the years have managed to accumulate a wide variety of sizes and colours, from white to yellow, to buff, pink, bright green and blue. All I can imagine is that printers simply picked up whatever semi-stiff card was available to hand as required and that colour seems to have been of no concern. We await a comprehensive examination of the material.

Also available on the website is the sterling work by the late Anatole Ott, who followed up his initial research in *QC* 209 (pp 221-244) by winning the MacArthur Award in two successive years, 2004-05, for his studies of parcel cards for foreign countries (*QC* 210, pp 250-54 and 212, pp 305-09). These examined in minute detail the circumstance for parcels sent outside Egypt and found that the cost depended on three elements - Country of destination, Route or means of conveyance, and Weight of parcel. The next article examined more than 70 cards of more than 40 different types sent to 20 countries, some of them with COD, and a few insured, allowing Anatole to compare details on the cards themselves with dates published in the annual Postal Guides, resulting in a much more clear impression of how the system worked.

A further contribution came from another MacArthur winner, Ahmed Abu Mousa, in 2007 (see *QC* 220, pp. 205-16 for his detailed research into the postal history of the Fuad portrait issues). Ahmed was able to examine even more cards, sent both to Europe (mainly) but also internally, and to compare “normal” parcels with COD, insured and air mail. The question of government general tax, when the tax was introduced at 3pt and when it was increased, together with when cards were cut and the stamps sold to collectors, remains unclear.

- There is, however, an important message here. While it would be extremely useful for a member to write a clear and precise summing-up of the way the system worked down the years, there remains much invaluable research work to be rediscovered in the pages of our own magazine on our own website. And for this we are largely thankful to the good offices and hard work of our Webmaster, Neil Hitchens (ESC 651). Thank you, Neil!

News from our Cairo colleagues

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

We are grateful for news of our colleagues of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, kindly provided by Dr Aly Gabr (ESC 726). He reports that senior members of the board of the PSE have been busy with some long-term organisation, and have created committees to encourage research and participation in several classical and more modern collecting areas.

Among these are groups under headings including traditional philately, open philately, postal history, thematic collecting and postal literature. It is hoped that discussion on these topics will at once draw on the experience of the senior members and widen the knowledge of those who have entered the world of collecting more recently.

A regular programme of talks on exhibiting is under way each Saturday and Tuesday in the society's HQ - a large meeting room, two offices and a kitchen on the second floor at 16 Abdel Khalek Sarwat Street, which runs between Ramses Street and Ezbekieh in the city centre. Among recent displays Dr Aly discussed the 1879 provisionals on January 10, followed a week later by Hany Salam (ESC 580) on open philately, and Adam Hafez (ESC 747) on thematic exhibits on February 4. On February 7 Hany Salam explained the categories of postal history collecting and how to organise a good sequence to tell a postal history story.

On February 28 Mahmoud Ramadan (ESC 358) will talk on postal literature, followed by a second postal history talk by Hany Salam on March 7, and on March 14 Dr Aly continues his talk on the provisional surcharges, this time on the De la Rue 20 paras on 5pi.

All of these advances are possible only because the PSE has something that the Circle doesn't – a permanent meeting room in the centre of town. It appears, however, that there may be a dark cloud gathering over the premises due to a potential government change in the country's leasing laws. For many years in recent times, once rents for premises were agreed under protected rents legislation, in many cases there is no termination date, so that people living in city apartments may today still be paying the rent set half a century or more ago.

The PSE started out life in 1929 with various meeting places in its first two years – 18 rue Nemr, 4 rue Sidky Pasha, 5 Wabour el Fransawi (now Talaat Harb) and after ten years settled in the Beinisch Building at 7 rue Mouillard (later Fouad 1 Street, now 26 July Street) and during wartime seems to have had no premises but depended on a postbox address. It was early 1947 before the Society moved to 16 Abdel Khalek Sarwat Street (then Malika Farida but renamed a year later). So these clubrooms have been used for at least 74 years.

Now it is rumoured that though the government does not apparently seek to alter the law for individuals' rents, it is believed that vintage rentals to societies and organisations might be regulated into an enforced termination after five years. The law is still under consideration, but it is possible that by 2028 the second-floor rooms may sadly require either a vastly higher rent payment, or to be abandoned.

Members' Matters

New Members:

- ESC 756** **Oren Gazenfeld**, 2 Mansfield Street, London W1G 9NW
(Palestine 1917-1948)
- ESC 757** **Richard St Clair**, 19 Rice Avenue Unit 1, Medford, MA02155, United States
(Mint stamps and/or covers representing at least one country per continent)
- ESC 758** **G Jan van Zelle**m, Muzieklaan 27, Oud-Beijerland, Netherlands
(TPOs, Farouk-era issues)

Deceased: **Cyril Defriez (ESC 172)**

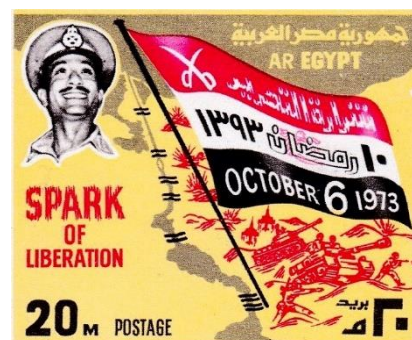


**Abdel Khalek Sarwat Street 1953
– Peter Smith's receipt for US
colleagues' subscription fees**

Story behind the stamp: Spark of Liberation, the October War

On 23 December 1973 a striking 20 millièmes stamp was issued to celebrate the operation that sparked the October War with Israel. Designed by Nabil El-Hindawy, SG 1218 is multicoloured in black, vermillion and yellow-ochre with perforation of 11 x 11 1/2. One million copies were produced in photogravure by the Postal Press Authority, Cairo, so no need to check the catalogue value!

The stamp shows President Anwar Sadat's portrait and Egyptian forces advancing into Sinai across temporary bridges across the Suez Canal in an invasion that involved rapid deployment on the east bank to capture Israeli positions. A similar stamp, SG 1233, was issued on the first anniversary, 6 October 1974.



The October War or Ramadan War, also known as the Yom Kippur War, was fought from 6 to 25 October 1973 between Israel and a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria. Egypt's initial objective was to gain a foothold on the eastern bank and seize the Bar Lev Line of Israeli fortifications built in 1968-69 and subsequently to reclaim the rest of Israeli-occupied Sinai.



A statue of Egyptian soldiers on the Canal stands in the garden of the October 6 War Memorial in Cairo; and right, the actual scene as military trucks cross the Canal on a pontoon bridge and pass through Israeli sand barriers

Operation Badr (عملية بدر) was the Egyptian codename for the daring military operation to cross the Canal. To take advantage of the water obstacle, the Israeli troops installed an underwater pipe system to pump flammable crude oil into the Canal, thereby creating a sheet of flame. On 5 October, teams of Egyptian frogmen blocked the underwater openings with concrete.

The war began at 14.00 hours next day, the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur, which happened to coincide with the tenth day of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. The stamp identifies the Hijri date as 10 Ramadan 1393 and also gives the Arabic equivalent of "spark of liberation". Israeli counter-attacks suffered heavy losses to anti-tank guided weapons two days later. By the end of the day the Israeli Defence Force had lost 180 of its 290 tanks in Sinai.

The war has been commemorated in Arab cinema, musical, and literary works. In Egypt and Syria the state has imposed the war's memory in school textbooks, in the naming of various sites, in promoting 6 October as a national holiday. The 6th of October War Panorama, a museum and memorial to the 1973 October War located in Heliopolis, Cairo, was opened in October 1989 by President Hosni Mubarak.



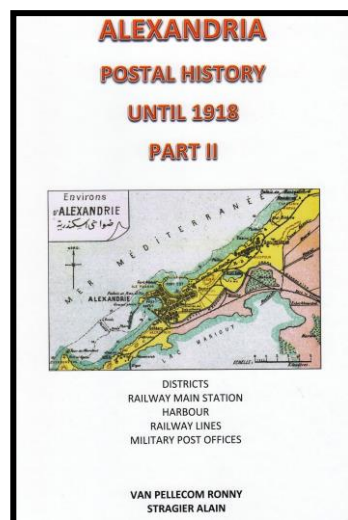
Seven kilometres south of Ismailia on the Suez Canal is a ferry crossing point where an imposing sculpture of an AK47 Bayonet in steel and concrete towers over the east bank. A memorial to the Egyptian forces who died in the conflict, it is the gift of North Korea.

David Ogden (ESC 480)

Book Review: ALEXANDRIA - Postal History until 1918 - Part 2
by Ronny Van Pellecom (ESC 618) and Alain Stragier (ESC 241)

It's here! The long awaited second volume of Ronny Van Pellecom's magisterial *ALEXANDRIA Postal History until 1918* has arrived. Alain Stragier has co-authored this volume, which retains the style of earlier Van Pellecom books: pages completely packed with illustrations, maps, photographs, documents and letters, in full colour and beautifully printed on glossy paper in Germany by Wir Machen Druck. Much longer than the first, this second part comprises 485 A4 pages, between sturdy illustrated hard covers, and weighs in at 2kg.

The volume continues with the description of all remaining aspects of postal history to 1918 of Alexandria and its surroundings, both east and west. It begins with the districts and their development within the city: Ras-el-Tin, Attarine, Muharram Bey, Salah-el-Din, etc., with diagrams, postcards and tabulated drawings of all their postmarks. Throughout there is at least one picture of a cover illustrating each individual postmark, including some very scarce. It then addresses the main railway stations (Qabbari and Bab-el-Guedid), again with all postmarks from DALLA STAZIONE to the circular datestamps. Fascinating are colour photographs of the ruined shell of Qabbari before it was destroyed.



Next comes the harbour, with Customs (including covers with boxed registration marks), the Seamen's Home and a very detailed section on the Lazaret and disinfection, with numerous documents, regulations, cachets. The Telegraph is described before addressing the railway line to Aboukir and Rosetta, and all the stations in between with their postmarks, covers and rare pictures. Mandara, Montazah, Edkou, etc., all the way to Edfina, including the travelling post offices. Of interest: the drying out of Lake Aboukir was a revelation.

We now head west with the railway line Alexandria-Mex. Its TPOs, stations and post offices, among which Hadra, Nouzha, Mex and Dekhela. Then the Mariout railway line, with its history, construction, opening to the public and its later connection to the main station in Alexandria. Listed are no fewer than 26 railway stations on that line, many almost unheard of. The western expansion follows, past Alamein to the charming location of Mersa Matrouh and then on to the Siwa Oasis, as an example, with a population of 3,884 in 1913. Siwa had a postmark and boxed registration from 1907 to 1914, with mail and parcels via Foka. All wonderfully detailed information with quotes from newspapers, postal bulletins and guide books.

Along came World War I and in 1915 the Senussi campaign by about 5,000 bedouins against the Allies in Italian Libya and in Western Egypt. British troops were eventually involved and defeated the rebellion. The Army cancellations of that campaign lead to British Military postmarks covering the period 1882 to 1914. As stated here, Alexandria in the War was at first a garrison town, but then transformed to a city of hospitals. The Army P.O.s of the British, Australian, New Zealand and French are covered and then the refugee and internment camps. A large final section is devoted to the military hospitals of the various nations, with a strong emphasis on the numerous French hospitals, with cachets and illustrations of postcards overprinted with a Red Cross in support of the charitable volunteers. The World War I chapter concludes with censorship and its markings. Exchange of picture postcards with neutral countries was forbidden!

The book contains so much information that it makes you dizzy. Ronny must be admired for the many hundreds of hours he has spent researching this material, in Europe and in Egypt. Among many other items which I did not know and found fascinating are the details of the Cotton Exchange at Minet-el-Bassal and the abandoned palace of Saïd Pacha at Mex. Whether you are interested in Alexandria or not this very attractive book will grace any philatelic library. Highly recommended.

Pierre Louis Grech (ESC 266)

Thanks to various grants and the use of digital printing technology the price of this book to ESC members is set at £50 plus postage to destination. Orders directly to the author: ronny.van.pellecom@telenet.be

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (GENERAL

ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
INCOME		
Subscriptions	£2,986.37	£2,687.69
Auction account	£1,430.32	£1,155.19
Donations	£777.27	£110.00
Advertisements	£60.00	£23.47
	£5,253.96	£3,976.35
EXPEDITURE		
Meeting room hire	£195.95	£444.00
Cost of Quarterly Circular	£3,158.24	£2,362.02
Website costs	£0.00	£182.63
Officers' expenses	£662.14	£1.70
Insurance	£125.30	£0.00
ABPS subscription	£61.50	£60.00
	£4,203.13	£3,050.35
Surplus for the year	£1,050.83	£926.00
Surplus as at 1 January	£24,241.45	£23,315.45
Surplus at 31 December	£25,292.28	£24,241.45

BALANCE SHEET (GENERAL ACCOUNT) AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Stamp collection	£500.00	£500.00
Circle Library & records	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
Cash in PayPal	£4,616.30	£6,731.02
Cash at bank on current account	£18,940.25	£15,890.57
Cash in hand (Room Auction)	£139.00	
	£26,195.55	£25,121.59
LIABILITIES		
Members subscriptions in advance	£903.27	£880.14
	£903.27	£880.14
Representing Accumulated surplus	£25,292.28	£24,241.45

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, 2 February 2023
Accounts Examiner

The Circle hopes that members – especially those who have joined more recently – might take the opportunity to introduce themselves and explain what brought them to Egypt collecting.
Thank you Zubin for being the first.

Why I collect Egypt – Zubin Kabraji, Pune, India



Possibly one of the most beautifully designed stamps from Egypt – an outstanding yellowish green background with the picture of the royal couple, King Farouk and Nour-Eldin Fawzi, in reddish brown within a corn-stalk laurel wreath. Issued to celebrate the marriage on 6 May 1951, face value 10 millièmes. The marriage lasted less than three years, then Nour-Eldin left her husband in exile and returned to Egypt.

I was a general collector and collected the stamps of Egypt like any others. Then at some stage in the early 1970s I realised that collecting the whole world would be a Herculean task. So I started doing some specialisation and offloaded countries and items that would not continue to be a part of my collecting interest. My Egypt collection (in about the year 2000) was going in exchange to a collector from France. But then I came across this stamp, and decided to extract it and keep it by.



My reason was that my first overseas visit was to Cairo in 1984, and in the Egyptian museums and tours I heard and saw all that I had once read only in history books, and that included the country's royalty. Tales of kings and queens down the ages have always fascinated me, and Egypt proved no exception. As a student of military history, I also read about the battles of the two world wars, some of them crucial to Allied victories, resulting in lasting changes in power politics in the Middle East and North Africa – Egypt being a focal point in the latter – especially in the early 1950s.

Farouk was the penultimate King of Egypt and in July 1952, after a military coup, he abdicated in favour of his infant son Ahmed Fouad. The royal couple left Egypt, the Queen to return alone a few years later, disillusioned and heartbroken at a marriage gone wrong. Farouk's first wife, Safinaz Zulficar, had become Queen Farida in 1938. Ten years and three daughters later, the couple separated.

The interim period was one of personal debauchery for Farouk, spent in womanising and an ostentatious life style. The marriage to young Nour-Eldin Fawzi came as a welcome break and the people of Egypt scurried for candies dropped from a helicopter as Cairo celebrated the marriage to this beautiful woman.

But all too soon it was over: coup – abdication – exile. Farouk was lucky to escape with his life to live it out in Italy. He died in 1965, just 45 years old. Nour-Eldin outlived him by 40 years, her last years in seclusion with her third husband. The stamp and miniature sheet, however, remain frozen for posterity.



Note: www.photorientalist.org/exhibitions/farouk-and-nour-egypts-last-royal-romance/article/

- The stamp is part of my collection, the miniature-sheet is a stock image in the public domain.