

The
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of
**THE
EGYPT**



STUDY CIRCLE

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Essays from the Joe Chalhoub collection went under the hammer at Feldmans on June 3



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Meetings Programme 2023

Saturday 10 June 11-4	George Inn, 75-77 Borough High St, London SE1 1NH	Postcards of the Suez Canal area	David Ogden and all members
Saturday 1 July 10-4	Midpex, Leamington Spa CV31 1FE	ESC will have a stand at this major regional meeting	All members. Details from Sec
Sat Aug 26, 8pm	Zoom meeting	Sami Sadek - TPOs	Hosted London
Saturday Sept 30 10-noon (10.30am start)	Design Centre, Upper St, Islington, N1 0QH	Stampex International 2023, the UK's largest national stamp show	Informal – Ten Sheets and Acquisitions

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Facebook

**Report of the joint meeting with the Sudan Study Group, April 14-16,
at the Morley Hayes Hotel near Derby**

Previous commitments including granddaughters' birthdays limited the Study Circle's attendance, but about 25 colleagues from the UK, US, Canada, Sweden and even as far afield as China attended the joint meeting. ESC members included John Davis with his wife Rosemary, Brian Sedgley and his wife Sarah, Ted Fraser-Smith, Laurence Kimpton and Jon Aitchison.

On the Friday afternoon, our Committee member Jon Aitchison opened the proceedings with a display of Egypt embossed postal stationery envelopes, which was followed by several displays of Sudan.

The Saturday morning display was 125 years of the Camel Postman design, by Richard Stock. Laurence Kimpton showed Cairo-Baghdad airmails and Brian Sedgley displayed Egyptian post offices abroad. They were followed by Sudan displays and the SSG Norman Collier Competition, which had only Sudan entries. The afternoon session was convened by Andy Neal, comprising members' displays under the title of "Forgeries and Fakes of Egyptian & Sudanese stamps and covers". As Society of Postal Historians, committee member, Jon Aitchison had left to attend their meeting, and with only Brian Sedgley and John Davis to represent the ESC, fakes and forgeries of Sudan were the only ones on display.

The auction viewing followed, then dinner and displays of ephemera including many early documents and letters between officers of the British Army backing up much of the military history as we know it.

Particularly interesting was an item on General "Chinese" Gordon: A Scandinavian wished to visit the Gordon School in Surrey to photograph his statue in the grounds. Having previously written for permission, he was received kindly and after discussion was told by the headteacher: "You know more about General Gordon than I do." He was then invited to give a talk on Gordon, a project carried out some little time later.

Sunday morning was launched by the convenor, Martin Kuriger, who had come with his wife from China. The subject was "Egyptian and Sudanese Second World War censored mail". Martin presented a well-researched display following the numbers and identities of Stagg's book. After auction viewing and the bourse, we had to leave this interesting and rewarding weekend. ESC members will find much to fascinate them in future meetings.

Jon Aitchison & John Davis

London-based zoom: Members the world over – from Brisbane and Finland, as well as the UK and USA/Canada – attended a zoom meeting chaired by David Ogden at 8pm UK time on May 13. Richard Wheatley showed a fascinating display of Hotel Posts, including a unique Savoy Hotel registered item, leading to a good deal of discussion. Familiarity with the technical aspects of zooming is improving, and the 16 attendees heard some novel ideas from Hani Sharestan about how we might progress, especially in co-operation with the successful Facebook page. Those present felt clear that more such display/discussion meetings – perhaps quarterly – will attract good attendances and offer the opportunity for easy and familiar deliberation.

Gold for Egypt in Germany: Egyptian entries were well to the fore at Ibra (Internationale Briefmarken Ausstellung Essen), the 33rd International *Stamp* Fair under FIP auspices, held in Essen), in the Ruhr district of Germany, between May 25 and 28. Among the 809 entries at the first world exhibition in Germany since 2009, the judges awarded 64 large gold and 196 gold medals.



There was another Large Gold for Hany Salam (ESC 580), whose *Egypt, Maritime Mail Routes, 19th Century* scored 95 points. Close on his heels was a non-member, Mamdouh Mosely, who won 93 points and a Gold for his *Delta Collection (Egyptian Postal History 1798-1879)*. The study by Aly Gabr (ESC 726) on *Egypt: The Third Issue 1872-74*, was awarded 87 points and a Large Vermeil, and in the one-frame exhibit class Alaa Massoud (ESC 561) scored 82 points for *Simon Arzt – Port Said*, and Brian Callan (ESC 694, Ireland) 90 for his *Electric Telegraph Company 1846-1970*.

John Sears: An Appreciation

John Sears agreed to be elected as Chairman of the Egypt Study Circle (with Peter Smith acting as long-distance President) in December 1976, in succession to “Mac” MacArthur and at a time of disruption in the society, with a generation of stalwart and respected collectors having recently passed away or retired.

Thanks to his innate good sense, easy co-operation and far-thinking in extracting full value from each volunteer (while careful to avoid any overload), he was able to steer the Circle through the storm and into the calmer waters that have since allowed it to flourish. In 1997, after 20 years’ service, he took over from Professor Smith as President: again his guiding hand was available to mentor the Officers who provided the driving power at his command. His passing, on May 8 at the age of 96, deprived us of a respected leader for 45 years as well as an excellent and knowledgeable colleague and a devoted friend.



John and Pat, welcoming as ever at their front door

A former bank manager and Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, John joined the Circle as “member 188” in 1974 and was created an Honorary Life Member on his philatelic retirement. In his long career his collecting covered all important areas of Egypt, initially by building a comprehensive collection of the 1923-24 issue of Fouad definitives, Egypt’s first venture into photogravure, and the first to feature the face of the reigning monarch. The research was self-published in 2001 as *Egypt: The First Portrait Issue - A compilation since 1928*.



John with Hani Salam in Cairo; and giving a 2013 display

His main loves, however, were the meticulous study of maritime mail carried to, from and through Egypt’s waters, together with deep research into air mails that led in 1990 to the publication of *The Airmails of Egypt*. This detailed for the first time a listing of all the test and experimental flights, together with the myriad rates that depended not only on distance and destination but also on which airline was carrying the mails. So much new material came to light as a result of that publication that a second edition quickly followed, and then a

third in 2001. John’s “Airmails Jottings” column in the *QC* has been a constant source of information about new discoveries in his favourite field. He wrote more than 30 articles for the *QC*, which have been used as a constant reference by collectors the world over. He was a gifted speaker and his regular displays on both topics – maritime and airborne – attracted larger than usual attendances and inspired new collections.

John and his wife Pat enjoyed visiting Egypt with the Circle, and John was deeply involved in the ESC display to the Royal in February 2005, showing both Fouads and air mails; and in the Circle’s 75th Anniversary luncheon at the Services Club in May 2010, when his display was “Alexandria”. A kindly, friendly and generous man, always ready to help other philatelists with his wonderful knowledge and good advice, he will be missed by a wide circle of friends who benefited from his gentle patronage.

But the role played by John and Pat over the years extended well beyond the philatelic and into the social... regular get-togethers over a glass of wine and a tasty meal on their billiard table in the dining room of their lovely home in northwest London will long be remembered not only by local members but also by legions of visiting overseas colleagues who arrived as collectors and quickly developed into long-term friends.

Although we shall miss him, we are thankful that he was spared to live such a long and interesting life and grateful for all he did for the world of philately. There was a good turnout of members to pay final respect at his funeral in Ruislip on June 7.

Mike Murphy

Italian maritime service between Egypt and Libya

Antoine Winter (ESC 149)



The cover that survived the start of a war – dated 14 October 1911

Italian maritime cancellations on Egyptian stamps have always interested me, and the *QC* has over the years published many articles on this wide-ranging topic (see the late John Revell in *QC* 153 and following). In his Chapter IX Peter Smith wrote that Italian seaport cancels before the First World War are very scarce, so I have tried to search out at least one of them.

The small cover I discovered is franked by a horizontal strip of three of the DLR 1 mill brown pyramids issue, and is addressed to a gentleman in Tripoli (*tarablus*) West (a manuscript “Misurata” seems to have been added later). The stamps are cancelled by two strikes of a large violet cds (dm 34mm) with double circle inscribed: LINEA DI NAVIG. TRIPOLI CIRENAICA ALESSANDRIA. At the head of the circle is BANCO DI ROMA, and in the centre PIROSCAFO / ROMA / 26.SET 1911 (see sketch, right). On the reverse we find the same large datestamp of the steamer (*piroscafo*) and an arrival marking of “Tripoli di Barberia” 14 / 10-11 / 4S, with a further unintelligible circular marking. It is, as far as I know, the first postal evidence of a maritime line between Egypt and Libya. The cover is signed by the expert Sorani (with certificate).



Now for the story behind this item. Libya at that time was part of the Ottoman Empire and Italy’s claims over Libya dated back to the Ottomans’ defeat by Russia during the war of 1877-78. Italy sought to build a colonial empire in Africa like its European neighbours, so its intentions were well known.



The main bank of Italy, the Banco di Roma, had anticipated an official Italian presence in Libya. It opened and operated mills for producing olive oil near Tripoli, and invested in maritime activities.

The bank owned several lines between Italy, Libya and Egypt, using four steamers, including our *Roma*, which carried both passengers and goods from Genoa via Naples, Catania, Tripoli and Cyrenaica to and from Alexandria every 15 days, as can be seen on the advertising poster (*left*). A monthly route, hugging the coast, was Tripoli to Tobruk calling at Malta. The *Roma* was a large and modern steamer of 1,081 tonnes known as *Swallow* when she was launched in Hull in 1893 and delivered same year.

But Italy wanted more than its main bank could provide, and when our cover arrived in Tripoli on October 14 it was to find that the nation had declared war on Turkey on September 29. (*next page*)

5 piastre 1874: The Kelemenis Amendment

Ramez Atiya (ESC 246)

An analysis of the 5 piastre 1874 (*QC 276*, March 2021, pp.102-109) showed that there were two settings chronologically, listed as A and B. Setting A contains the damaged value tablet variety (*NP 29b*) found on position 157 and substituted with an intact stereo in setting B.

The flaw was thought to have been constant, resulting from damage to the stereo at the outset when it was inserted into the printing plate. The flaw would then have exactly the same appearance on all stamps showing the flaw.



**Position 157 a – Early stage deterioration
(the Kelemenis state)**



Position 157 a – Early stage deterioration



This turns out not to be the case. Costas Kelemenis (ESC 249) kindly provided me with images from his collection. Among these was a 5 piastre with an unidentified flaw. A careful examination of the flaw showed it to be an early state of the damaged SE corner tablet. Position 157, setting A.

As the deterioration progressed during printing, the spurs in the early state frame broke off and the damage became more extensive on the later state. It would be interesting to determine the stage in the printing when the flaw first appears, and its development as the printing progressed. Reports from members would be appreciated.

(from previous page) Bombardment of Tripoli started on October 3, and the first Italian troops landed on African shores on October 10.

Thus the cover “survived”, travelling through the beginning of this Italo-Turkish war, which was not destined to end until 18 October 1912 when Tripoli fell to the invading forces and eventually Libya became an Italian colony.

Events proved very much less than favourable to the Banco di Roma. The years 1910-11 showed encouraging traffic, with 13,973 tonnes of goods and 6,845 passengers carried, but the following years, 1911-12, spelled the end: the amount of goods carried slipped to 9,233 tonnes and the number of passengers halved to 3,479.

Such a rapid decline in profitability forced the bank to abandon its maritime business in 1912. The Egypt-Libya shipping line lasted no more than a few years, and that is one of the reasons for the rarity of postal evidence.

Tutankhamun maxicards (1937~2022)

Sun-Yu Ng (ESC 689)

Although the origins of western culture can be traced back to Greco-Roman sources¹, the follow-up question about the birth of Greek civilization during the Archaic period following the Greek Dark Ages remains largely unanswered. One clue would be the adoption of the Greek alphabet from the Phoenician. Other clues point to additional links within reasonable proximity of Athens including Cycladic, Minoan and Mycenaean cultures², as well as the New Kingdom Egyptians². It is the latter which has attracted the most interest with the establishment of the field of Egyptology.

One key discovery happened about 100 years ago when the British Egyptologist Howard Carter located the tomb, designated as KV 62, in which the 18th Dynasty pharaoh Tutankhamun (1341~1323 BC) was buried in the Valley of the Kings. This discovery has been celebrated many times with stamp issues since 1937 and the resulting maxicards provide a pictorial gallery of the many treasures recovered from his tomb.

In this article we will show select objects from the complete list by following the Carter inventory number, as he recorded them starting with the entrance corridor, into the antechamber, then the burial chamber with the sarcophagus, three coffins and golden mask, followed by the treasury and lastly the annexe.

Among the earliest objects discovered by the Carter team is Carter N° 8 (*Figure 1*), from the entrance corridor, described as Head of Nefertem by Zahi Hawass³ or Head of king rising from a lotus according to Nicholas Reeves⁴. As the team entered the antechamber (26~28 November 1922), they saw piled up along the west wall, lion (N° 35), cow (N° 73) and hippo or Ammut (N° 137) ritual couches, chairs, beds, boxes and canisters of meat (*Figure 2a*). Carter 73 (*Figure 2b*), from the antechamber, is described as ritual couch supported by the goddess Mehetweret, 'the great flood' - a cow-headed deity with a solar disc between her horns⁴.

One of the most stunning object from the antechamber is the king's golden throne, listed as Carter 91 (*Figure 3*). The 2022 GB stamp shows only the face of the king but with maxicard we can show either the complete back panel of the throne with Lehnert & Landrock N° 4 postcard (*Figure 3a*) or the whole of the throne using



Figure 1. Carter N° 8, found in the entrance corridor, is Head of Nefertem³ or Head of king rising from a lotus⁴. Royal Mail stamp issued 24 Nov 2022 for Dorchester-sponsored first day cancel to mark its Tutankhamun exhibition. This postcard is Tutankhamun's Treasures 224 (Eastern Publishing Company) showing Carter 8 as Cairo museum 755.

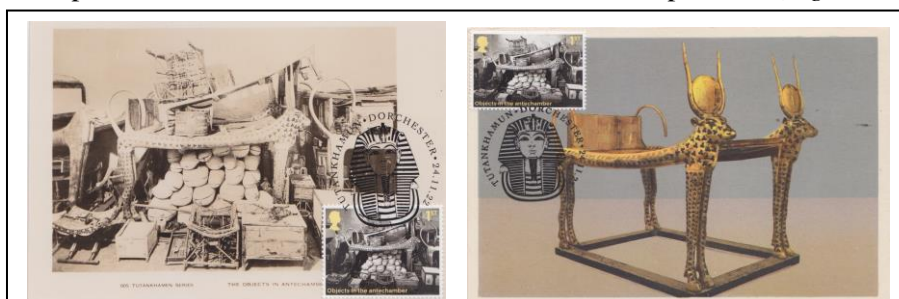


Figure 2a (left). Photograph by Harry Burton (N° 0009) of the antechamber before inventory (December 1922). Royal Mail stamp 24 Nov 2022 for the same Dorchester first-day cancel as Figure 1. This postcard by Bruce Company of London shows the same historical photograph as in the middle figure on page 157⁴.

Figure 2b (right). Carter 73, from the antechamber, is the ritual couch supported by the goddess Mehetweret. Stamp and first day cancel are the same as Figure 2a. This postcard edition is Tut Ank Amen's Treasures 69 by Lehnert & Landrock.

Lehnert & Landrock N° 3 (*Figure 3b*). In this case the maxicard image would appear superior to the detail-only stamp image. The back panel of the throne also appeared in the 1967 UAR UNESCO Egyptian art air mail stamp⁵, 1997 Egypt Post Day sheet⁵, and most recently the complete throne appeared in the 2022 Egypt Post sheet as one of the four stamps celebrating the centenary of the discovery⁶.

As Carter's team cleared the antechamber, they found two life-size statues of the king standing at the north end as if guarding the entrance to his sealed burial chamber. On the left or west side is Carter 29, depicted on Lehnert & Landrock N° 17 postcard (also on Eastern Publishing Company and UAR Ministry of Culture postcards) without any 2022 GB stamp (but it was issued as one of the 1967 UAR Post Day stamps⁵ and one of the 1998 Egypt Post Day stamps⁵). On the east side is Carter 22 depicted on the 2022 GB stamp without any postcard. The main difference between the statues 22 and 29 lies in their headdresses, with 22 wearing the *nemes* (the king as the son of sun god Re) and 29 the *khat* (the king as Horus, son of Osiris, king of the dead).

After the opening of the sealed doorway in 1923 (February 16 was the official opening ceremony), all four walls of the burial chamber were found to be covered with painted decoration (*Figure 4*). The scenes can be interpreted in sequence, from right to left, starting from the eastern wall (above the treasury doorway) to represent a successful transition of the king to his eternal afterlife.

Although the 1972 Tutankhamun exhibition did not visit Belfast, we chose the Belfast first day cancellation for image concordance with a Carter 320-like coffin pictorial postmark. Since the tomb will remain in the Valley of the Kings, location concordance requirement for postal cancellation is not possible. These and related items may need a name other than maxicard or maximum card: we have advocated the term SCPPPC for Stamp Concordant Picture in Picture Post Card⁷.

As shown in *Figure 4*, the lid of the quartzite sarcophagus (Carter 240) was removed and the outermost coffin (Carter 253) was found inside. In 1923 and 1924, to reach the sarcophagus, the team had carefully to dismantle four layers of sepulchral shrines (Carter 207, 237, 238 and 239) and an in-between linen pall (Carter 209).



Figure 3a (left). Carter 91, from the antechamber, is the golden throne. Back panel shows the king anointed by his wife and half-sister, Ankhesenamun while the sun disk - the Aten - offers them *ankh* (life) signs³. Royal Mail stamp issued 24 Nov 2022 with Dorchester first day cancel as Figure 1. This card is Tut Ank Amen's Treasures 4 (Lehnert & Landrock).

Figure 3b (right). Carter 91, golden throne. Same stamp and cancel as Figure 3a, here combined with Tut Ank Amen's Treasures 3 postcard (Lehnert & Landrock).

Figure 4 (right). Decorated burial chamber with sarcophagus (N° 240) and outer coffin (N° 253). The North wall comprises three scenes, but the first is not on this postcard. Middle: Nut, the sky goddess, offers pure water libations (the *ny-ny*) to the king, reborn to join the gods³. In the last scene, the king, with his *ka* or spiritual double, embraces Osiris, lord of the underworld³. West wall shows part of the Book of Amduat describing the underworld³ including twelve baboon-deities representing twelve hours of the night³. Royal Mail stamp issued on 24 Nov 2022 for Belfast first day cancellation. This postcard is Tut Ank Amen's Treasures 8 (Lehnert & Landrock).

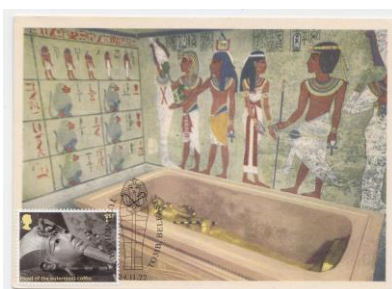
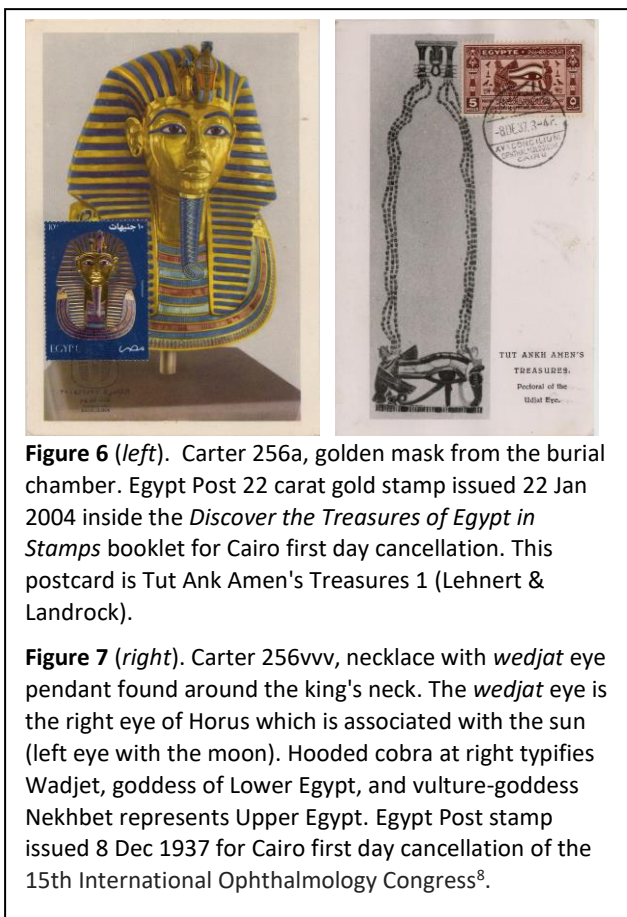


Figure 5 (far right). Photograph by Harry Burton (N° 0770) of Carter and *reis* Hussein cleaning the inner coffin (29/30 October 1925). This photo appears on page 218⁴. Royal Mail stamp issued 24 Nov 2022 for Belfast first day cancellation. This postcard was printed for the 1976~79 *The Treasures of Tutankhamun* exhibition tour of seven US museums.

Inside the outermost coffin (Carter 253) lies the second or middle coffin (Carter 254). The latter in turn holds the innermost solid gold coffin (Carter 255). Previous UAR and/or Egypt Post stamps of these coffins often are matched incorrectly with its respective postcard. For example, the 1964 D289 stamp⁵ has been found on Lehnert & Landrock N° 6 postcard showing the innermost coffin instead of N° 5 showing the middle coffin.

The most iconic photo by Harry Burton, the official photographer, of the KV 62 discovery is shown in *Figure 5*. The photo shoot placed Howard Carter in the process of carefully brushing away the carbonized remains of its linen covering from the surface of the solid gold coffin⁴. Assisting him was *reis* (foreman) Hussein Abu Omar.



Finally, on 28 October 1925, the most iconic object inside the tomb, the golden mask of Tutankhamun (Carter 256a) was discovered (*Figure 6*). Although three more golden mask stamps were issued in 2022, by Egypt Post, France La Poste and Royal Mail, and maxicards from them (except Egypt) were made, we concur that the gold standard for the Tutankhamun mask maxicard will remain the 2004 Egypt Post 22 carat gold stamp with the concordant pictorial cancellation (*Figure 6*), even if a 2022 Egypt Post golden mask maxicard appears in the future (due to green cancellation over darkish stamp background⁶).

Among the seven jewellery items wrapped with the king's mummy, one necklace (Carter 256vvv) has appeared on three 1937 Egyptian stamps and one maxicard (*Figure 7*).

The third chamber of the tomb is the treasury, from which we plan to show four maxicards: the Anubis shrine or palanquin (Carter 261), human-headed stoppers of the canopic chest (Carter 266c, 266d, 266e and 266f), pectoral in the form of a solar-falcon (Carter 267ml) and king as a harpooner (Carter 275c or 275e) in a future video on the YouTube channel *Travel via Art & Architecture Maximum Cards*².

The last chamber of KV 62 is the annexe, from which we also plan to show one maxicard: Boat centrepiece (Carter 578) in a future video on the same YouTube channel².

Limited by postage stamp issues^{5,6} and postcard editions, we cannot accomplish much more than a brief glimpse into the vast Tutankhamun collection which took Carter almost ten years to organize and research. Now that the objects have found a new home in the Grand Egyptian Museum, every Study Circle member will look forward to a visit during their next trip to Cairo.

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Egypt trans-Atlantic registered airmail covers

Vincent Centonze (ESC 571)

Airmail rates from Egypt at the end of the Second World War and in the immediate postwar period can be difficult to sort out. Records are sparse and rates were confusing and often not strictly followed. I have despaired over more than a few covers in my collection which don't seem to follow any rules. With patience and an ardent literature search, however, we can usually match the franking to the rates – as long as they were properly applied. This article presents two such examples and illustrates trans-Atlantic airmail from Egypt to the U.S. via West Africa during the latter part of the war.

Beginning on 6 December 1941, on the eve of U.S. involvement in the war and perhaps in anticipation of it, the U.S. Post Office established Foreign Airmail Route (FAM) 22 to fly from Miami through the Caribbean, with stops along the northeast coast of South America, and then across the Atlantic to Liberia, Nigeria, and other points in West Africa. Later, a trans-African extension to Sudan and Egypt was developed, spurred on especially by military necessity. Operated in conjunction with Pan American Airways (PAA), this Miami-Caribbean-South America-West Africa route varied only slightly between 1942 and 1945, subject to wartime needs, as well as repair, readiness, and availability of resources and facilities along the way.



Fig. 1 - Front of cover from Attarin to Virginia in 1944 with directional handstamp.



Fig. 2 – Reverse showing registry handstamps and examiner number.

The war transformed this route into a practical flight path to and from Africa and points further east, especially since the trans-European and Mediterranean routes were scuttled in 1940. Mail from Egypt to the U.S. travelled the route in reverse, most probably via British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) from Cairo through Khartoum to Lagos, Nigeria. Sabena also serviced a route to Leopoldville, Belgian Congo. The mail was then transferred to the PAA to cross the Atlantic – first by Clipper, then by other aircraft after 8 January 1945 when the China Clipper crashed in Trinidad.

The first ostensibly “regular” flights via FAM 22 began from Egypt on 25 May 1942. The airmail rate for this new route was a surcharge of 75 millièmes per 5 grams. This was added to the surface letter rate of 22 mills for the first 20g and 13 mills for each subsequent 20g or part thereof. Other ancillary charges, such as registration fee, were added. Officially, the airmail surcharge of 75 mills/5g remained in effect until the end of the war. The rate decreased sometime in 1945-46, but records are mostly unavailable. Part of the difficulty discerning early airmail rates stems from the fact that the weight units often varied between airlines and differed from concurrent surface rate units.

The cover shown in *Figure 1* was postmarked in the Attarin district of Alexandria on 21 March 1944. It was sent by the American Tobacco Company of the Orient, Izmir Branch, to Fred P. Gaskell Co., the international freight forwarding and export firm, in Norfolk, Virginia. As well as the straight-line registration handstamp and label, the cover bears a violet directional handstamp endorsement reading: “VIA AIR MAIL PER BRITISH OVERSEAS AIRWAYS TO LAGOS (NIGERIA) – Per Trans-Atlantic Service Lagos – Miami via Bresil, Trinided and Porto Rico and thence BY AIR MAIL to _____” with manuscript “Norfolk” written in the blank space.

It is franked with 592 millièmes paid with “young Farouk definitive issues”, *Nile Post* D136, D149, D150 and D153. The cover weighed between 30g and 35g for the franking to be correct. This included 22 mills for the first 20g weight unit, 13 mills for the next, 32 mills registration, and 525 mills airmail surcharge (75 mills each for seven additional weight steps); total 592 millièmes. The back of the cover (*Figure 2*) has Cairo markings and violet Miami (21 April and 24 April 1944) and Norfolk (25 April 1944) registry markings. As well as an Egypt censorship marking, the cover was examined on arrival in the U.S. In Miami it was opened by examiner number 30824, then resealed with US censor tape. Censor numbers from 30010 to 31372 are among those that identify Miami examiners.



Fig. 3 - Front of trans-Atlantic cover from Cairo to Ohio in February 1945.



Fig. 4. – Reverse showing registry handstamps and examiner number.

The cover shown as *Figure 3* was postmarked in Cairo on 17 February 1945 and sent from a Firestone Tire & Rubber Export Co. representative to the Firestone headquarters in Akron, Ohio. It is docketed with manuscript “Registered” and “Airmail Transatl. Route”, and bears an airmail handstamp. Though there are neither directional markings as in *Figure 1* nor transit markings, we know from the Miami registry backstamps and examiner number that this cover also traversed the usual westbound FAM 22 trans-Atlantic route: Natal – Belem, Brazil – Port of Spain, Trinidad – San Juan, Puerto Rico – Miami, Florida. From Miami, the cover continued to Akron by internal airmail.

This cover shows that the airmail surcharge of 75 mills/5g to the U.S. was still in effect in February 1945. The franking comprises 1381 millièmes paid with *Nile Post* D136, D150 (x 3), D152, and A27. *Nile Post* D154, the £E1 young Farouk full portrait stamp, is less common on cover, and this item illustrates a proper commercial usage. The cover must have weighed between 80g and 85g to justify the franking. This included 22 mills for the first weight step, 52 mills for four further weight units (13 mills each for three full and one part unit), 32 mills registration, and 1275 mills airmail surcharge (75 mills each for 17 further weight units), for a total of 1381 millièmes.

Similar to the first cover, on arrival in Miami this cover was also opened for examination, then resealed with censor tape and stamped with the number 31029 on the back (see *Figure 4*). The cover is backstamped with violet registry handstamps including Miami (14 March and 15 March 1945), Akron (17 March 1945), and the Akron, OH, Firestone Park branch office (19 March 1945). It is interesting to note that the March 1944 cover took exactly one month to reach Miami, whereas the second cover took a few days less to make the trip a year later. This probably reflects the increasing frequency of flights across the Atlantic by that time.

Deciphering the rates of Egypt airmail covers from this era can be a challenging endeavour and is frustrating when they do not seem to follow the rules. It is also rewarding, however, when covers such as these are consistent with the rates laid out in the references.

References

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2. Lawrence, Ken: ‘Via Miami 1941-1945 – FAM 22 Trans-Atlantic Air Mail. Part I: To and From Africa’, *The American Philatelist*, The American Philatelic Society, Inc., Jan 2014.
3. Lawrence, Ken: ‘Via Miami 1941-1945 – FAM 22 Trans-Atlantic Air Mail. Part II: To and From the Near East and the Far East’, *The American Philatelist*, The American Philatelic Society, Inc., Feb 2014.
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Treasures of the French connection

Ulrich Eckstein (ESC 273)

We are happy to publish a number of outstanding postal history pages from the collection concerning French mails with Egypt put together over many years by Ulrich Eckstein, one of our long-serving members who joined the Circle in 1982. Ulrich, who lives in the historic city of Oldenburg in northwest Germany, is more comfortable in his own language. So apologies for any errors in the translation of these pages, based on online translators, my long-forgotten school German (Mike Murphy) and the willing and patient help of the inestimable Pierre Grech, who resolved many of the mysteries. Pierre is the author of the definitive work *The French Post Offices in Egypt* in two volumes, 2012-13.

The quick summary of the pages sent by Ulrich – just a small portion of a much larger exhibition collection – sent to the *QC* alongside copies of his pages reads as follows:

Brief description of the exhibit

The exhibit is intended to shed light on the development of the French post in Alexandria, Egypt. It begins with the French occupation by Napoleon from 1798 to 1801, and progresses through the postal agency of 1830-1837, followed by the postal administration which ran from 1837 until its final closure in 1931. The selection here covers the period 1837-75.

Structure

The classification is based on a chronological sequence. All routes and their various alterations and amendments over the years are covered in detail in the exhibition collection, and all postal services, such as registered mail, international communication by sea and military mail, find their place in these pages. Development of the Egyptian postal system, in so far as they were relevant to the French Office, are fully taken into account and displayed.

Particularly noteworthy pieces

Among the staggering covers in his collection (though not all of them necessarily in this brief exposition) are: letters from the French occupation period, including the earliest known date; a letter to Syria with notes of the postal regulations; a Waghorn letter; use of *Posta Europea* postmarks on the last day recorded; a pair of 5Fr napoleon on a registered letter; another cover charged at no fewer than nine weight steps; unfranked and under-franked letters; international mixed franking; self-franked registered letters; a rare Ballon Monté to Alexandria during the Siege of Paris, 1870-71.

Ulrich rightly warns that a basic knowledge of early Egyptian philately is desirable for appreciating and enjoying these very desirable pages, and adds his own acknowledgement to the following sources of knowledge:

Pothion: *Bureaux français à l'étranger*

Reinhardt: *Napoleons Ägypten-Feldzug 1798 - 1801*

Boner: *Frankreich 1849 - 1900*

Desert: *Les Bureaux de l'empire Ottoman (web)*

Fikry: *Postal history of Egypt to 1900*

Smith: *Egypt - Stamps & Postal History*

Working documents: *Egypt Study Circle, L'Orient Philatélique and France (Postillion)*

Reinhardt: *Französische Armeepost 1792 - 1848*

Salles: *La Poste Maritime française, Vol. II, V, VI*

Joany: *Les Tarifs Postaux français*

Feltus: *Egyptian postal markings of 1865 - 1879*

Sidebottom: *The Overland Mail*

Wolfsbauer: *Französischer Feldzug in Ägypten*

Period before franking was compulsory

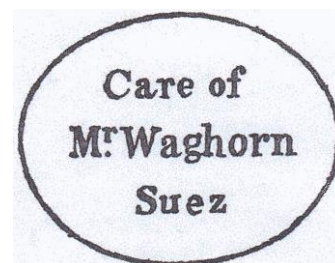
(1837-1849, 10 decimes sea postage + French domestic rate / 7.5gr)

Thomas F Waghorn opened a postal route in 1836 via Egypt for the transport of passengers and mails to and from India. From Suez the journey was by carriage to Cairo, by boat along the Nile and the Mahmoudieh canal to Alexandria, then across the Mediterranean sea to Marseille and on to Calais, thus replacing the long voyage around the Cape of Good Hope.



Postage Paid Transit Letter (1838), Calcutta (British India) via Alexandria to London.

Cancellation: ALEXANDRIE (EGYPTE). **Period of use:** 1837-1848. **Tax notice:** CALCUTTA / STEAMLETTER / 1838 / Novem. 20 / Paid 15 as; 3/8 1/2. **Fee:** 15 as (annas) Indian tax. **Postage:** 1 rupee charge for Waghorn, British / foreign / 1.10 and 1.10 1/2 handwritten partial invoice = 3 (Sh.) 8 1/2 (P.) for the route from India to London. **Handwritten endorsement:** pr. overland via Bombay, Egypt and Marseille; INDIA rectangular stamp in red; black INDES ORIEN / PAR / ALEXANDRIE; **Care of / Mr Waghorn / Suez** oval stamp, type 3, black, fine and rare.



Route: From Calcutta 20 11 1838 by ship to Suez; overland to Alexandria 27 12 1838, from here via Syra, Malta - disinfected there - to Marseille 18 1 1839 and further to London 20 1 1839. **Further notes:** Alexandria (Egypt) transit stamp and London arrival stamp.

Period before compulsory franking

(1837-1849, 10 decimes sea postage + French domestic rate / 7.5gr)



Prepaid Registered Letter (1848), Beyrout (Ott. Emp.) to Constantinople (Ott. Emp.) transiting via Alexandria and British Malta.



Cancellation: ALEXANDRIE (EGYPTE). **Period of use:** 1839-1859. **Postage:** 16 (decimes), 8 decimes for sea postage to Constantinople and double rate for chargé letter (chargé – registered letter - had to be prepaid).

Route: From Beirut (20 2 48) by mail ship *Luxor* to Alexandria (28 2 48), from Alexandria (29 2 48) to Malta and there **disinfected** PURIFIE AU LAZARET MALTE; from Malta (7 3 48) by mail ship *Ramses* to Constantinople (15 3 48) on the route from Marseille to Constantinople. **Further Note:** Chargé handstamp. **Remark:** unusual route with the French post office from Malta to Constantinople.

Period of compulsory franking
(1857-1862, 50 centimes / 7.5gr)



Letter (1857), Cairo via Alexandria to Livorno (Tuscany)

Cancellation: ALEXANDRIA EGYPTE. **Postage:** 19 Crazie for postage letters up to 7.5g. **Manuscript note:** Par le Bateau Anglais, PAQ. ANGL. A MARSEILLE. **Route:** From Alexandria via Marseille to Livorno. **Remark:** The letter was transported from Cairo by the forwarder Briggs & Co to the French post office - rare forwarder stamp.



Letter (1859), Alexandria to Paris.

Cancellation: ALEXANDRIE EGYPTE. **Postage:** 10 decimes for unfranked letters up to 7.5g. **Transit:** PAQ. ANGL. A MARSEILLE. **Note:** Compulsory postage was introduced on January 1st, 1857 and the fee was now 5 decimes for postage paid letters and 10 decimes for unpaid letters. The **Briggs agency** is a successor agency to the forwarder agencies **Waghorn** and **Egyptian Transit Company**. **Briggs agency** stamps are rare.

Period of compulsory franking
(1862-1865, 50 centimes / 10gr)



Part-Paid-Foreign Letter (1868), Alexandria to Barcelona (Spain)

Cancellation: ALEXANDRIE EGYPTE; 5080. **Postage:** 50 centimes for letters up to 7.5gr to the Spanish border, Spanish inland rate 4 reales. **Route:** PAQ.ANGL.AMB.MARSEILLE to Marseille, by train TARASCON A CETTE 2, then Perpignan to Barcelona.



Postage Paid Letter (1861), Alexandria to Florence (Italy)

Cancellation: ALEXANDRIE EGYPTE; Petits Chiffres 3704 cancellation, used Feb 1857 to July 1862. **Carriage paid:** 80 centimes per 7.5gr for letters to Italy via Marseille, with land transport via Lyon, here six weight steps. **Manuscript:** Par Bateau Anglais Voie de Marseille. PAQ.ANG. 1 MARSEILLE A LYON, LYON, FLORENCE. **Comment:** unusual route.

**Period of compulsory franking
(1862-1865, 50 centimes / 10gr)**



Postage Paid Transit Letter (1863), Cairo via Alexandria to Ghent (Belgium).

Cancellation: ALEXANDRIE EGYPTE; 5080 – large-digit diamond of dots; POSTA EUROPEA CAIRO - Type IV. **Postage:** no indication from the Posta Europea because letters from Cairo to Alexandria always had to be franked, here 3 piastres. From 1 4 1858 letters to Belgium cost 60 centimes per 7.5gr, here 180 centimes for **third weight level**, 15-22.5gr. **Transit mark:** PAQ. AN. V. SUEZ AMB. March 2. **Route:** from Cairo 25 6 1863 by train to Alexandria, from Alexandria 26 6 1863 with British mail ship to Marseille then via Paris 7 7 1863 to Gand / Belgium.



Notes: Mixed franking Egypt-France. The letter was carried by POSTA EUROPEA from Cairo to Alexandria. The French franking is also a **mixed franking**: Napoleon imperforate and perforated.

Image above: Cairo, Midan Rumela (Salah-el-Din) and Sultan Hassan Mosque, in front of the entrance to the Citadel.

**Period of compulsory franking
(1865-1871, 40 centimes / 10gr)**



Type I –
Ornament closed

Type II –
Ornament open

One-piastre stamps - the different types were created when the cliché was used upside down

Mixed franking letter (1866), Zagazig to France

Cancellation: ALEXANDRIE EGYPTE, 5080 - Large digits in diamond of dots; POSTE VICE REALI EGIZIANE ZAGAZIG Type 1-2.5. **Postage:** 1 piastre for Egyptian domestic letter up to 10gr, here two weight steps so 10-20gr; 40 centimes for French letters from Egypt to France up to 10 gr, here two weight steps, 10-20 gr. **Route:** From Zagazig 12 7 1866 by rail to Alexandria and from there on 19 7 1866 by **mail ship** *Said* to Marseille 7 8 1866.

Remarks: from 1 1 1866 the charge for letters from the Levant was reduced to 40 centimes. **Mixed franking Egypt-France:** French stamps could be bought in Egyptian currency from **major Egyptian post offices** until the end of 1875. A very rare **reversed pair of tête-bêche** of the 1 piastre stamp has been used for the Egyptian franking. Any document with a pair of this stamp is rare, but here we have a tête-bêche in both mixed franking and foreign service.

Period of compulsory franking
(1871-1875, 80 centimes / 10gr)



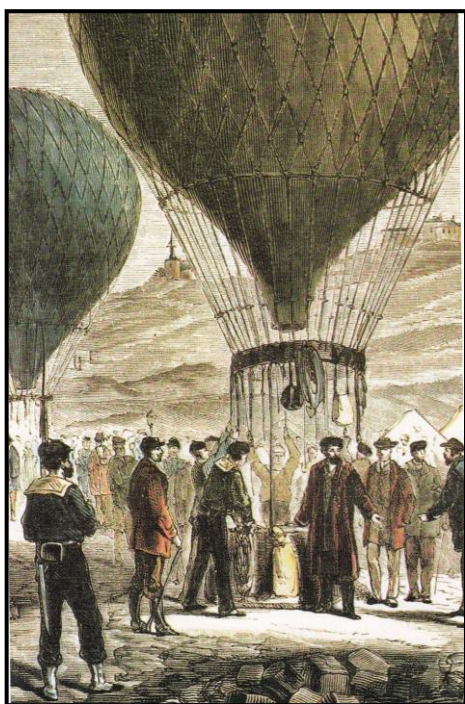
Registered Foreign Letter (1873), Paris to Alexandria

Cancellations: ALEXANDRIE EGYPTE as arrival cancellation, Paris R Taibout, 22 Star cancellation. **Postage paid:** 14.40 Fr. Red PD, CHARGÉ and boxed Cachet de Chargement postmarks. **Postage rate:** 80 centimes for letters from France up to 10gr, here 14.40 Fr for nine weight levels from 80 to 90gr (in fact 87gr) plus registration: 9x80 centimes + 7.20 Fr double rate for registered mail = total of 14.40 Fr. made up of a pair of scarce 5F Napoleon stamps, 5 x 80c and 40c Ceres.

Ballon Monté to Egypt - 1870



From 19 September 1870 to 28 January 1871 Paris was under siege by German forces during the Franco-Prussian war. The city was totally surrounded. The Ballon Monté of Armand Barbès took off at 11 am on October 7 from Place Saint-Pierre. He landed near Épineuse in the Oise department of northern France. The letter was then sent to Alexandria via Marseille. The tiny and very fine letter is sealed with a 1 centime stamp and arrived in Alexandria on October 22 for delivery to Madame Eugenie Hess.



Editor's Comment: This Ballon Monté is the first known addressed to Egypt from the Siege of Paris in 1870-71. (It is recorded as BM-A.1 in Grech *French P.O.s in Egypt*, Part 2, p. 342). It is historically important as it carried the minister Léon Gambetta, escaping from Paris surrounded by the Prussians, to establish a French provisional government at Tours. The image above shows the take-off of the *Armand Barbès*. Note above the crew the white mail bag "Postes Françaises" which contained Ulrich's letter.

This letter is the first of a lengthy correspondence with Mme Hess by the firm of H. Leroy. They sealed all their letters with a 1c Napoleon stamp and their cachet. As such these are usually torn when the letters are opened. However the fine example here has survived quite intact.

Letter to Huguette Empain

Pierre Louis Grech (ESC 266)

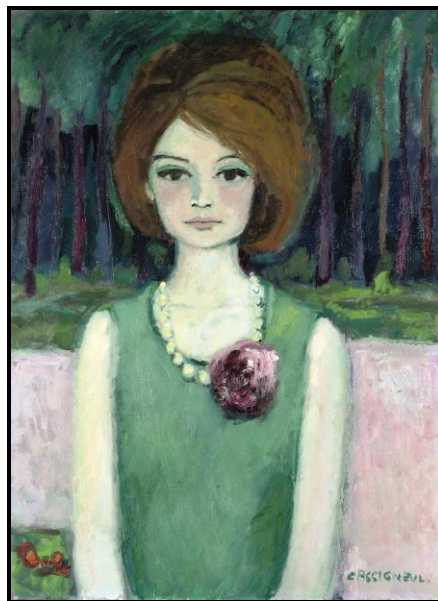
As a former Heliopolitan I have a keen interest in all matters relating to the Golden Age of that city. So it was that some years ago, at auction, I acquired a cover addressed to Mademoiselle Huguette Empain, at Heliopolis. She was none other than the grand-daughter of Baron Edouard Empain (founder of Heliopolis), the daughter of his eldest son, Jean (1902-1946), who rests next to his father in the sarcophagus beneath the altar of the Basilique d'Heliopolis. See Fig. 22, page 85, of *QC 275*, December 2020: "Edouard Empain and the Genesis of Heliopolis", by P.L. Grech.

The baron had another son, Louis, who was quiet and dutiful; he vowed to live as a godly person and gave away his fortune to good works. In 1943 he even relinquished most of his inheritance to his elder brother Jean. The latter, on the other hand, was unruly and uncontrollable. He was a prolific womaniser and an addicted gambler and he would squander a good part of the family fortune. He held sumptuous parties at the baron's Hindou Palace after his father's death (1929) and wild cruises on their yacht *Heliopolis* (formerly belonging to Kaiser Wilhelm). Jean died from cancer in 1946. He married twice, from his first union with Christiane de la Rochette (1923) there were two daughters, the younger of whom they named Huguette (1925-1965). Unfortunately she would inherit much of her father's wayward nature.

When she visited Heliopolis she preferred staying with acquaintances in Rue Sesostris (today Sizustris), a small and short street off Rue Ramses and running south and parallel to Rue Baghdad. It was closer to the town centre, the Palace Hotel, Sporting Club, etc., as opposed to the Hindou Palace, which was some distance away on the edge of the desert.



*The Hindou Palace in its heyday,
before World War II*



*"Portrait de Madame Huguette Empain, 1964"
by Jean-Pierre Cassigneul (French, born 1935).*

This foolish, petulant young woman (she was 22) caused a scandal in April 1947. Little aware, it would seem, of the evolution of feelings, mentalities and national pride, she did not hesitate to insult an Egyptian officer in public at a bar of the Heliopolis Palace Hotel. She mocked his uniform and asked that he be thrown out by the managing director of "her hotel"! In a loud and ironic outburst she expressed how she despised self-important natives. "The evacuation of Egypt by the English would be the ruin of this poor country," she concluded. "For the Egyptians without the participation of the English are nothing!"

That same evening the Egyptian Government expelled Mlle Empain from Egypt for these highly offensive and insulting statements against the country and its people. She would never return to Egypt.

Huguette had a tumultuous sentimental life, dating among others the notorious playboy Porfirio Rubirosa. She made a couple of short and unsuccessful marriages (foolishly without prenuptial agreements). This further reduced her share of the Empain inheritance by costly divorce settlements. She never had any children, but one day in a street of Saint-Tropez she came across a miserable little girl who broke her heart.

The child was five years old, named Marie-France, and her father worked in a torpedo factory. She pleaded at length with Marie-France's father to be allowed to adopt her, until he relented. Some years later, when Huguette died aged 40 from breast cancer (she had refused to have a breast removed) the little girl became the sole beneficiary of what was left of her adoptive mother's share of the Baron Empain's fortune and famous family jewels. In the troubled life of Huguette the story of this child is quite moving.

However Marie-France would eventually lose it all herself by making a bad marriage to a lawyer. In 1996 she was last reported working in a beauty salon for pet dogs, somewhere near Marbella, Spain!



3 January 1947 - Airmail cover from Paris, Rue Clery (with 22F Marianne de Gandon stamps) addressed to Mlle Huguette Empain in Sharia Sesostris, Heliopolis. Backstamps: Cairo transit 5 January, Heliopolis arrival 6th. Three months after this letter, in April 1947, the Government expelled her from Egypt for having insulted an Egyptian military officer during a reception at the Heliopolis Palace Hotel. She never returned to the country.

Members' Matters

New Members:

ESC 759 Samuel Khela, 11 Mohamed Hafez Street, Safir Square, Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt
(Pre-1953 stamps and postal history, Interpostals)

ESC 760 Essam Adel, 7d Tiba Buildings, Zahraa el-Maadi, Cairo, Egypt
(Egypt stamps and postal history)

Change of address:

ESC 502 Ayman S Rizk, 10 Boyce Court, Belleville, Ontario, Canada, K8P 5P1

ESC 619 Scott Van Horn, 547 Hudson Circle, South Lyon, MI 48178, United States

Resigned: ESC 515 Kamal Shalaby

Deceased: ESC 188 John Sears

Lapsed: ESC 547 Jonathan Becker ESC 737 Jay Daschadhuri ESC 609 Marianne Khouzam
ESC 681 Amr Laithy ESC 639 Atef Sarian

Thank you! The Librarian is grateful to Brian Sedgley (ESC 268), for the gift of two books to the Library, These are *The Making of Modern Egypt*, by Sir Auckland Colvin, and *The Testimony of the Spade*, by Geoffrey Bibby. The Circle sends its thanks also to Anabright Hay (ESC 600), of New Zealand, for her gift of some 600 Egypt postcards – part of the massive collection of our late Antipodean Agent, Tony Chisholm, who passed away in November 2015 – to be sold in the Auction for Circle funds.

ISMAILIA, postal history and cancels Part 3

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

(Continued from Part 2, QC 284, pp.7-14)

REGISTRATION

IS_PR-1		ISMAILIA P.&R.	Bridge 27.5mm Date band 8mm
		3 – IV.09. 1.30PM	Earliest date 22 I 08
		EL ISMAILIA EL TURUD WA TASGEEL*	Latest Date 3 IV 09

*Arrival and registered

IS_PR-1a		ISMAILIA P.&R.	Single ring 27.5mm Date band 8mm
		10.VIII.10. 5.-PM	Earliest date 10 VIII 10
		EL ISMAILIA EL TURUD WA TASGEEL	Latest Date 4 III 14

We have noted IS_PR-1 cancels in which the arch has partially disappeared.

The dimensions and inscription of IS_PR-1 and IS_PR-1a are the same, so in our opinion it is the same canceller, but in which the arch cannot be seen from 1910 onwards.

IS_R-1		ISMAILIA R	Single ring 24mm Date band 7mm
		15.12.915. 5.00 PM	Earliest date .. 4 914
		EL ISMAILIA EL TURUD WA TASGEEL	Latest Date 9 3 917



Seen in blue and black

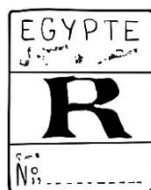
IS_P-1		ISMAILIA P	Single ring 25mm Date band 7mm
		24. 5. 916. 4.00 PM	Earliest date 24 5 916
		EL ISMAILIA TURUD*	Latest Date 16 10 920



*Arrival

Seen in blue

REGISTRATION MARKS



Recorded
1882, 1890, 1898



Recorded
1904, 1905, 1909



Recorded
1915 – 1917



Registered letter with the small boxed "R", ISMAILIA II FE 90 (IS_7) to CAIRE II FE 90



Registered letter

ISMAILIA 25 XII 05
(IS_10)

via

CAIRE 25 XII 05

to

ASWÂN 26 XII 05

Triple port of
2 piastres and 5 mills
(1 piastre for registration and
3 x 5 mills for the weight)



ISMAILIA P. & R.

10 VIII 10

(IS_PR-1a)


to Patmos, Greece

Handwritten
registered number
R 813

(N° 1 M.)

COUPON
Can be detached by addressee.
(Peut être détaché par le destinataire).

Stamp of Office of Origin.
Timbre du bureau d'origine.



Name and address of Sender.
Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur.

*E. Baron.
Ismailia
Egypte.*

Place reserved for impression of seal of insured parcels.
Place réservée pour l'empreinte à la cire du cachet, en cas de colis avec assurance.

EGYPTIAN POST OFFICE - POSTE

Foreign Parcel Post Service - Colis postaux

DESPATCH NOTE - BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION

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

des timbres-poste cas échéant, être collés au verso.

Name and address of addressee:
Nom et domicile du destinataire

*M^r Maximilien Fath.
Négociant.
aux Citrus villa.*

Destination
Lieu de destination

Canton de Vaud. Vevay

Country
Pays

Suisse.

INSURED VALUE
VALEUR ASSURÉE

FR. *1750*

AMOUNT OF VALUE PAYABLE ON DELIVERY
MONTANT DU REMBOURSEMENT

FR. *1750*

Number of Customs declarations
Nombre des déclarations en Douane

3

Weight
Poids

Kgr. *2* gr. *080*

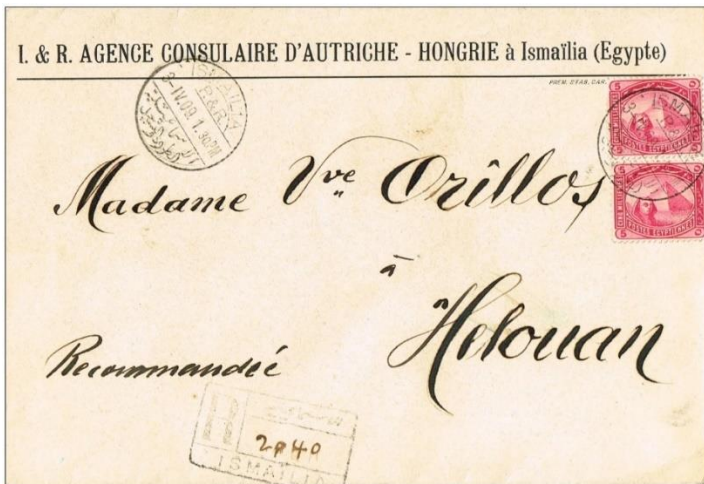
Custom dues at destination
Droits de douane à destination

0

Route
Acheminement

Autriche

Despatch note ISMAILIA P.& R. 22 I 08 (IS_PR-1) via Austria to Vivey, Switzerland



Registered letter from the
Austro-Hungarian Consulate with the
large boxed R

ISMAILIA P.& R. 3 IV 09
(IS_PR-1)

to
HILWÂN 3 IV 09

Postage paid in full with 2 x 5 mills



Registered letter

ISMAILIA

R

18 10 915

(IS_R-1)

via

PORT-SAID 19 X 15

to

MARSEILLE 25 10 15

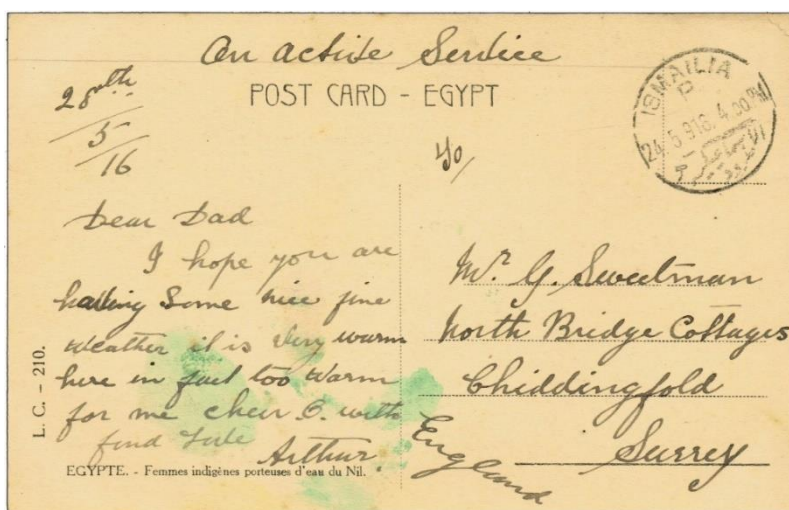


Large registered letter with military censorship label OPENED BY CENSOR from ISMAILIA R 13 11 915 (IS_R-1) to DORDRECHT 26 XI 15



Large registered letter ISMAILIA R 16 12 915 (IS_R-1) to the UK
Red Indian censor handstamp

PASSED BY CENSOR / INDIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE / 69 (Headquarters 31 Indian Brigade)



Postage-free
post card
On Active Service
from
ISMAILIA P
24 5 916
(IS_P-1)
to Surrey

(To be continued....)

In its March issue this magazine presented a new column “Why I collect Egypt” in the hope that it might help newer members to introduce themselves and their collecting interests, and more established collectors to connect with the newcomers. Here our new Chairman explains why he chose Egypt ...



Why I collect Egypt – David Ogden (ESC 480) – Rochester, Kent, UK

As a child collecting stamps in the 1960s I was thrilled to acquire some of the Sphinx and Pyramid definitive stamps of Egypt. First issued in 1867, they were designed by F. Hoff of Hirschberg, Silesia, and lithographed by Victor Penasson in Alexandria. Similar designs were in use for nearly 50 years – the historic designs are instantly identifiable as being from Egypt.



A stunning 1pi example of the 1867 Sphinx and Pyramids, with ‘broken obelisk’ flaw (NP D11c)

These, however, are only a few of the wonderful and imaginative works of art on Egyptian stamps and postal stationary. Subjects such as the Suez Canal, Nasser and Islamic architecture make for a colourful and diverse stamp collection.

In the 1980s I worked in Egypt for two years, mainly in Sohag. My letters home usually featured stamps with a pyramid or other Ancient Egypt design. I cycled over the Nile bridge to the Sohag post office to collect my incoming letters from a post office box.



I’m fascinated by the crucial events of the 1882 war when a British force invaded Egypt and fought the decisive battle at Tel el Kebir, which changed out of all recognition the next 70 years of Egyptian history. An entrenched Egyptian force under the command of the nationalist leader Ahmed Arabi (*left*, NP C914) was defeated by a British army led by Garnet Wolseley in a sudden assault preceded by a march under cover of darkness. Arabi is featured on a 20 mills stamp in 1981, the centenary of his revolution. An earlier war I knew nothing about until I saw the 1957 10 mills commemorative stamp (*right*, NP C172) was the 1807 Egyptian victory over the British at Rosetta in the



Delta. The Governor of Rosetta, Ali Bey Al-Selaniki, cleverly ambushed the British force led by Brigadier-General Robert Meade.

Egyptian postcards are another aspect of collecting that I enjoy, and especially those featuring the people of Egypt. The card illustrated below features Nubian boys hunting crocodiles on the Nile, probably close to



Aswan. Posted from Port Said to Cardiff, the card has two 2-mills green 1888 Sphinx and Pyramid stamps. The message says, “shall be here for another week I expect”.

I started collecting Egyptian stamps while living in Sohag and bought all those available at the local post office. There is no limit to the specialisations available within Egyptian philately. I am currently working my way through Peter Feltus’s *Catalogue of Egyptian Revenue Stamps* (1982), astonished by the country’s multiple different usage of stamps.

- We hope to make this column a regular feature of the QC, and will welcome all members’ stories.