

The Quarterly Circular of THE EGYPT



STUDY CIRCLE

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Unique Suez Canal cover goes for €64,000

Unique piece of Egyptian postal history - 5 August 1868 cover from Ismailia to France with mixed franking of Suez Canal Company 20c (paying company postage to Suez) and French 1862 40c (rate to France), sold at Feldman in June for €64,000 (estimate 20,000 to 30,000). Addressed to Avignon, but undelivered there, and in Marseille, and reforwarded to Reunion. Mourning cover ex Emile Antonini (ESC 166), one of only 21 Canal Company covers known, and the only use of a company stamp on a whole cover sent abroad





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Meetings Programme 2023

Sat Aug 26, 8pm	Zoom meeting	Sami Sadek - TPOs	Hosted London
End of September	Auction 67	Closing date for receiving bids	To be confirmed
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
Sat November 25	Circle meeting	Date, venue and topic to be confirmed	

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Facebook

Report of the meeting held at the George Inn, London SE1, on June 10

There was a good turnout to match the excellent sunshine at what the dozen members present agreed would prove a most suitable new venue for our London meetings. Thanks were due to Richard Wheatley for making the arrangement. The historic coaching station has a cool and airy room upstairs, and a large courtyard where we enjoyed a pint and a pub lunch before the meeting. Those present were David Ogden (Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Sami Sadek (Treasurer), Neil Hitchens (Webmaster), Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Paul Green, Keith Nickol, Atef Sarian, David Sutton. Guest: Mrs Letty Nickol. Apologies were received from too many to mention.

Mike Murphy reported on a good Circle attendance at the funeral of John Sears, for so long our mentor, after which Sami Sadek detailed the recently closed Auction 66, which realised £6,000 in sales (so £900 commission for the Circle) and 35 per cent of the 360 lots sold, many of them small. This raised a comment from one member not present, to the effect that it seemed that material entered was simply surplus to requirements rather than desirable. But that is precisely why the auction was started - to allow members to dispose of their unwanted items to other members who would appreciate them.

To attract full members from our Facebook group, Hani Sharestan suggested that those Facebook members joining the full Circle after June should have their subscription extended to the following year. The idea was accepted unanimously.

The meeting proper was led by David Ogden, who showed a wide variety in age and topic of postcards of the Suez Canal area on the unusual home-made frames in 5x2 format. We were most grateful for the loan to their owners and inventors, the Czech Society. David was backed by short displays of cards from Paul Green and Mike Murphy.

Report of the meeting held at Midpex on July 1

John Davis (President) overcame recent surgery to attend the annual Midpex regional meeting at Leamington Spa, and David Ogden, Richard Wheatley, Neil Hitchens and Andy Gould were among other members who attended. Our table was manned for most of the day – though with few members present obviously not enough – and attracted various collecting colleagues, although it was clear that by comparison with other groups it was sadly lacking in material to display. If we are to attend other regional meetings, we must prepare an ESC banner and a box of books/magazines/material to attract the eye and potential new members. The stamps and covers prepared by the Secretary proved attractive if minimal and produced a contribution to Circle funds of £40. Sadly, though they were intended for younger visitors, these were also in short supply.

The meeting was friendly and interesting, with special attractions including a postcard stall and another selling auction leftovers – both at very attractive prices.

We have not been fortunate with regional meetings in the past. Perhaps it is time to explore more intensively the possibilities for presenting the Circle to regional members.

OPAL is no more

Your correspondent was the only attendee (of three in total, including two Committee members) at the OPAL (Oriental Philatelic Association of London) AGM held on June 10 at Stanley Gibbons in The Strand (*Neil Hitchens writes*).

This lack of attendance was sadly expected given the nature of the main agenda item – the proposal to wind up OPAL. The proposal was passed with the help of proxy votes, and it is now the intention to wind up the association; its few assets will be gifted to the Royal Philatelic Society.

OPAL was formed on 8 November 1949 at a meeting at Harmers in London with 35 collectors mainly of Egypt and Sudan, but membership soon expanded to focus on the Ottoman Empire and surrounding areas.



Because of the wide geographic spread of its members OPAL was always fairly rootless. Early meetings were held in Caxton Hall, Westminster, but for the past few years there was usually only one regular meeting every year for the AGM. With its rich history and esteemed reputation, OPAL played a pivotal role in advancing the understanding and appreciation of philately within the United Kingdom and beyond.

Over recent years OPAL stopped having regular auctions and a stamp packet, reduced the number of issues of its in-house journal and finally sold off all of its physical assets including the library.

Ultimately a combination of a rapidly ageing membership, no meetings, no packet, and no auctions proved fatal, and the society will close its doors towards the end of 2023, unless there are major glitches in the winding-up process.

OPAL used to have some of the brightest and best Ottoman collectors, such as Coles & Walker, Tranmer, Andreas Birken, Bayidner, Phipps, Otto Hornung, Christopher Cruttwell, Mehmet Başaran, Kemal Giray, Rainer Fuchs and the late Jeff Ertughrul.

Their contributions will continue, but only in the form of a digital archive; 74 years of collective knowledge and expertise will wither and disappear borne on the winds of history.

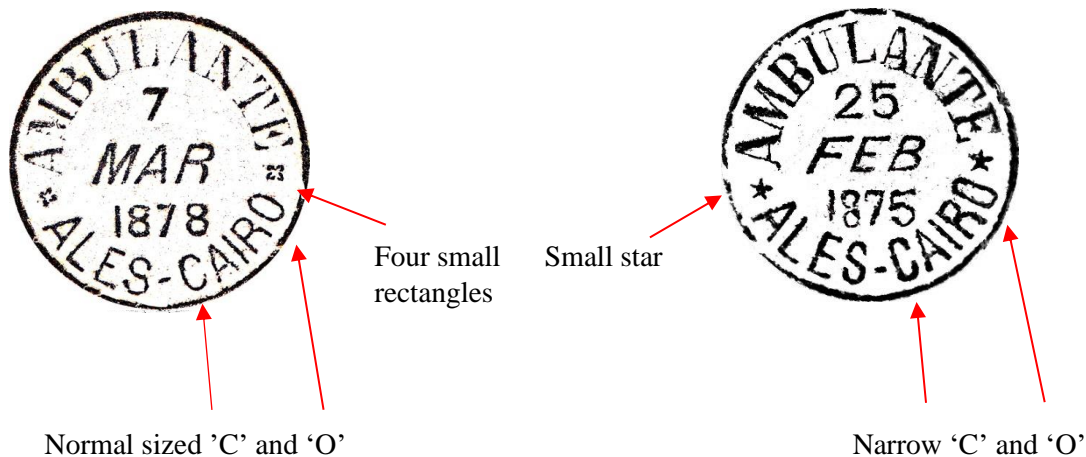
- The Circle has extended an invitation to any former member of our sister society to join us.

TPO Type 1 AMBULANTE / ALES-CAIRO revisited

Sami Sadek (ESC 559)

The late Peter Smith describes two subtypes of the ALES-CAIRO Type 1 TPO postal marking*. Here I report an additional element to that variety which aids easy verification of the subtype.

In addition to the narrow letters described by Smith, the cancellation has a small star separating the “AMBULANTE” from the named termini.



A close look at Peter Smith's *QC* examples confirms that the small stars are associated with the variety with narrow letters, while the wide-letters variety has an open star made of four small rectangles. Both of the CAIRO-ALES TPO cancellations that I have seen belong to the wider variety.



1875 letter from Alexandria to Cairo with the narrow letters and stars



1878 letter from Alexandria to Cairo with wider letters and four rectangles

* *QC* 220 (March 2007), pp. 202-203

Mohamed Aly Post: The next phase

Mahmoud Ramadan (ESC 358)

This article is a continuation of my book, *The Mohamed Aly Post (MAP)*, self-published in 2020. Initially I had planned to write a second book titled *The Philatelic Nation of Upper Egypt, Nubia and Sudan*. However, taking into account my inability to identify official postal records about the various topics to be studied, I have decided to go ahead and express my immediate conclusions, based on what has been discovered to date, and using the same references as the MAP book. This editorial development will take the form of articles to be provided to the PSE, ESC and SSG for publication should they deem them worthy. As for the MAP book, a few copies remain if anyone wishes to have one. You may communicate with me on m.ramadan@medmark.eg.

The Mohamed Aly Post and/or its services will usually be referred to as MAP. The official Government Post Office is referred to as the Egyptian Vice Royal Post. Unless otherwise stated, all images and references to earliest/latest or known/recorded are referring to this author's collection.

The plan is to develop this study in three sections: 1, MAP services in Sudan; 2, The MAP-PVRE integration; 3, The Philatelic Nation of Upper Egypt, Nubia & Sudan.

1. MAP services in Sudan

Most references, if not all, state that the Mohamed Aly Post was able to deliver letters to Sudan. The late Peter Smith writes "... the courier service was extended to Khartoum; a letter from Cairo to Khartoum is said to have required 50 days." He makes, however, no mention of how letters were dispatched within Sudan. The four references he lists do not provide dates or period or source for this single piece of information! For this reason he cautiously states "... is said to ...". Until the discovery of the Asyut find of 2016, this statement summarizes the extent of our knowledge. Examination so far of the number of letters found in the Asyut cache still reveals only an incomplete picture of the postal services available at the time for the transport of letters between different towns within Sudan.

Jean Boulad illustrated a document in *L'Orient Philatélique* 53 (January 1946) detailing MAP rates to the 18 destinations served by the organisation. These included Wadi-Halfa, Berber, Dongola, Khartoum, Sennar, El-Taka, Kordofan and Fazoglou, so there must have been a service within Sudan. The list is published in the *MAP* book, page 20.

Service within Sudan is far more complex than that of Middle and Upper Egypt, which is basically a single route along the Nile. Sudan is more like the Nile Delta, with many river branches and canals. Towns and villages are everywhere, requiring a network of routes. Carriage of letters could have been by rivers and branches, or on land by foot or camel, or most probably combinations of these. Many authors state "on camel", without supporting evidence.



**Letter from Dongola [Sudan] 3 June 1845.
Received 12 August.**

Sent to the Italian banker Sonnino at Alexandria [Egypt]. Written by Georges Thibaut, French trader, explorer and Vice-Consul 1829-1869, based in Khartoum. As Consular material, MAP carried the cover with no charge or postal markings. [Reduced Image]. Provenance: Peter Smith. Corinthia May 2015. Lot 2165.

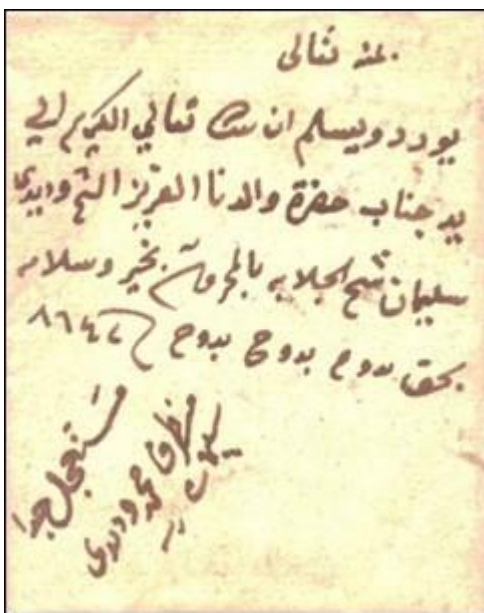


Official cover sent to Sig. Novelli, Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Department in Cairo. Dated Khartoum 19 Shawwal 1261 = 20 October 1845. Address written in Italian, then translated to Arabic for MAP couriers to read, a typical indicator for MAP-carried covers. Also, naturally no charge and no postmarks. Featured in the Luca Biolato book, page 930.

Richard Stock, former president of the Royal Philatelic Society of London and of the Sudan Study Group, has two further early letters [14 June 1844 and 6 October 1845] from Khartoum to Cairo. As both are “official” covers, they would normally be carried by MAP with no charge or postal markings.

Before the advent of the use of negative seals or the notification of the fee charged in writing on non-official or consular letters, it is impossible to prove transport by MAP unless clearly stated as such or with the address translated to Arabic as above.

Below is an example of such public letters, written on thick laid paper, by Mohamed Wadidy Suliman to his father, Wadidy Suliman, the renowned Sudanese slave-trader based in Cairo. The text makes no mention of slaves, but apparently the son was on a mission in Sudan. Almost entirely comprising greetings and salutations, the letter’s content states only that they have arrived safely at el-Ordeh (New Dongola), and are planning to move to Kordofan. There is no information about the mission itself.



Letter from el-Ordeh (New Dongola) to Cairo, dated 20 Shawwal 1275 = 24 March 1859.

In lower left corner, three slanted lines read: Very Urgent / From Mohamed Wadidy / Suliman. The top line “Very Urgent” indicates that the letter was sent via a regular postal service rather than a private messenger. Notably, the text does not state any urgent topics, except announcing arrival at New Dongola and intent to move to Kordofan.

For reasons unknown, those negative/intaglio seals used in Sudan were not made specifically for postal service with town names, as was the case within Egypt [except in the early years at Aswan]. Instead, personal-name-cachets were used, accompanied by signature and fee received. Usually the signatory's title/position is stated above the signature.

Below are the earliest known public covers bearing all characteristics typical of carriage by the MAP service. The earlier is from Kordofan to Cairo [1862], and the other from el-Ordeh (Dongola) to Asyut [1863], both of them before the establishment of the Egyptian Vice Royal Post. The earliest known usage of MAP postal markings in Egypt is in 1853.



Folded letter [opened] from Kordofan [Sudan] to Cairo [Egypt]. Dated 2 Shawwal 1278 = 2 April 1862.

Front [left side] bears the address to Wadidy Suliman [slave trader] in Cairo, and name of sender, Mohamed Ahmed El-Hajj, Mudirieh Kordofan.

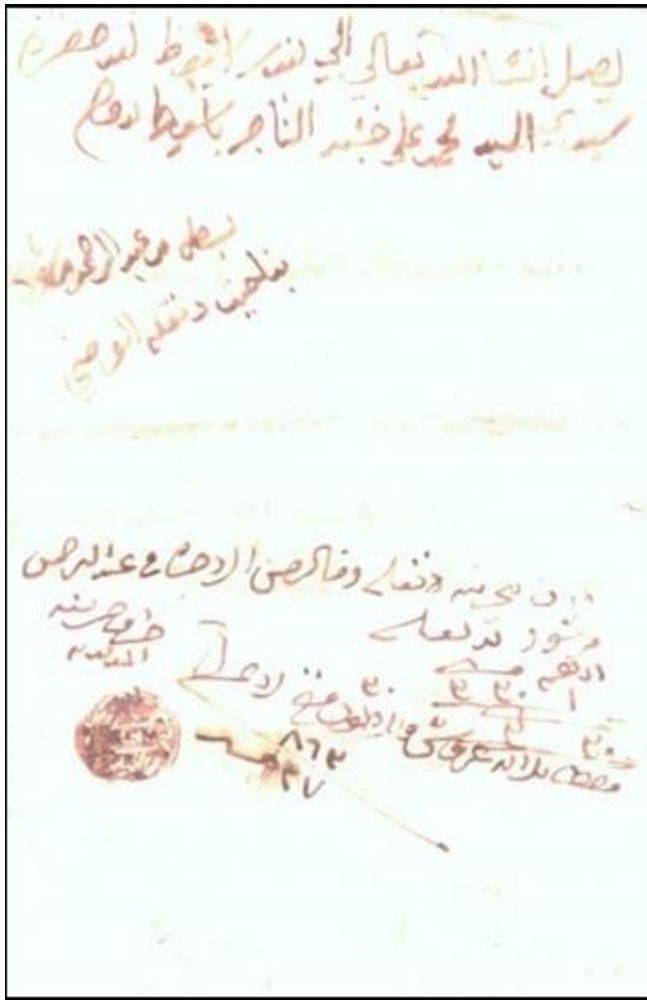
Back [right side], at top shows weight and rate calculations: $\frac{3}{4}$ dirham and 6 piastres, being the rate per dirham $\times \frac{3}{4} = 4 \frac{1}{2}$ piastres = 4 pi 20 para. Sender actually paid 4 pi 23 pa!

At left is postman's signature and personal cachet. Below is confirmation by Governorate Cashier [with signature and name cachet] for deposit of 4 pi 23 para in the Governorate Safe. Both declarations dated 5 April 1862.

For “Deciphering a MAP letter” please refer to Chapter VIII of the *MAP* book [pages 71-75]. For “Weights, Rates & Fees” please refer to Chapter IX [pages 76-78]. The MAP rates for Sudan included eight towns [capitals of governorates or mudiriehs]. It is this author's view that these eight offices should be regarded as the earliest Egyptian Territorial Post Offices. Even though the precise dates of opening are not yet known, all eight offices continued to serve while developing into Egyptian Vice Royal post offices.

Egypt's Vice Royal post offices opened in Middle Egypt following the progress of railway extensions as far as Asyut. Further south, there were postal steamers on the Nile to Aswan until 1873, at which time the Vice Royal Post offices opened all the way to Aswan, Korosko and Wadi Halfa. Within Sudan the offices were opened sporadically over several years.

It is not clear, however, what was the basis for the sequence of the provision of MAP or Vice Royal services in Sudan. Was it based on military or commercial need? Or simply the establishment of more regular and safe transportation? Nor is it clear when the MAP service was initiated. At present research can rely only on the chance survival of recorded early letters.



Folded letter [opened] from el-Ordeh [Dongola] to Asyut [Egypt]. Dated 14 Ramadan 1279 = 4 March 1863. Text discusses feather trade, mentions war at Kordofan.

Front [upper half] showing address to Mohamed Aly Khashaba, Chief Merchant at Asyut / Post from Abdel Rahman Marsoul at Dongola el-Ordeh.

Back [lower half] reading right to left and top to bottom:

Received at Dongola Cashier and fully paid by Abdel Rahman Marsoul of Dongola.

Dirham Pi Pa

1 3 30 [then repeated below].

Only three piastres & thirty faddah [faddah = para]

27 Amshir [Coptic] 863 = 6 March 1863.

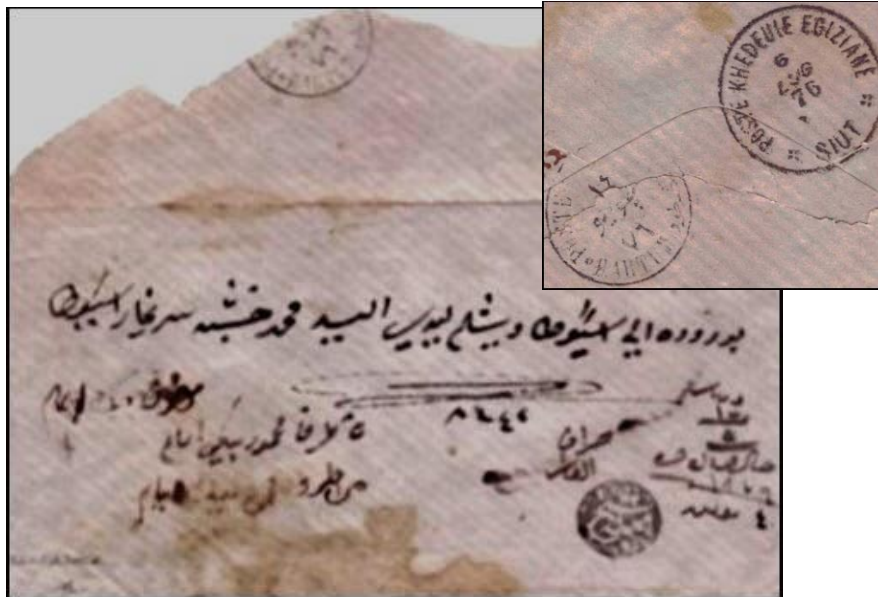
Mudirieh Cashier personal cachet [six-pointed star]

The earliest Egyptian Vice Royal post offices opened in Africa were at the Red Sea ports of Suakin and Massawa. Both opened in November 1867. All correspondence from either port to Egypt traversed the Red Sea to Suez. Our concern here is how letters were transported to either port from the surrounding towns? This author was able to show a couple of examples in *Quarterly Circular* 281 (June 2022): *Egypt's Postal Expansion into Africa* [pages 221-230].

Letters sent from destinations far from the two ports travelled to Egypt either on the Nile, from Wadi Halfa, or on land following a Caravan Trail. Two such trails have been identified. One of them, east of the Nile, starts from Khartoum to Berber, then to Abu Hamed [probably on the Nile] then by the Camel Caravan Trail to Korosko, passing halfway by the Murat Wells. The absence of a Wadi Halfa transit handstamps leads us to conclude that MAP continued to use camels, at least to Aswan. Use of railways to Wadi Halfa, and river-steamers to Aswan, came at a later stage.

A second Caravan Trail is known west of the Nile, passing through Egypt's arid Western Desert travelling first north, and then east to reach Edfu. One letter is recorded in which the writer asks the recipient to respond through the "Edfu Route" and to so advise the postman. It is presumed that this Caravan Trail was not commonly used by MAP.

When the Vice Royal Post opened further offices in Sudan in 1873 and later, almost all mail passed through Khartoum, even letters from Fasher [capital of the Darfur region], rather than travel north to nearby Dongola then Wadi Halfa, then down the Nile. These letters were carried by MAP to Khartoum, then on camel to Aswan via the Caravan Trail through Murat Wells and Korosko. Travel north from Aswan depends on the period: initially by camel, later on the Nile, and later still by train.



Outer envelope [stained] of letter sent from el-Fasher [Sudan] to Asyut [Egypt] showing all the MAP characteristics on front [lower right]: Weight 1 1/2 dirhem / 3 piastres / Fee Paid / 4 June 1876. The Fasher Cashier / Personal Cachet

Reverse [see inset] carries both the HARTUM transit postmark and SIUT arrival, clearly establishing transit via Khartoum rather than Wadi Halfa.

Similar covers sent from Sudan to Egypt via Khartoum, as of 1873, are also recorded from Kobeh [west of Fasher] and Kordofan. Interestingly, the latter are all marked as being 1 dirhem, and charged 1 piastre by MAP couriers, then, as of September 1876, also received postage due notations of 1 or 2 piastres. Those from Dongola, before 1873, show rates to Cairo, even if sent to Asyut!

Recorded examples with full MAP characteristics are limited because only two significant archives with letters sent from Sudan have so far been identified; these are sent to Khashaba [chief merchant] in Asyut, or Waddy Suliman [slave trader] in Cairo. To the best of my knowledge no other archive of the same period containing correspondence from Sudan has yet been discovered. As a result, much space remains for further study of MAP services in Sudan, specially about rate calculations and the integration period with Egypt's Vice Royal Post.

More About Forwarding Agents

Following Greg Todd's wish (QC 283, Dec.2022) for more examples of Forwarding Agents, I am happy to add a late date and what appears to be a first agent for Suez to the list shown by Mahmoud Ramadan in QC 282 of Sept. 2022 (Antoine Winter writes). My late date is for D.S. Coronel of Cairo: 1854 on a cover sent from



Alexandria to Marseilles. The new Agent's handstamp appears on a cover sent from Dorking, south of London, on 22 February 1887 to J.H. Bryant Esq / British India Agent / S.S. Reura(?) / Suez. On arrival it was readdressed in red ink to Shepherds Hotel / Cairo and forwarded by C. BEYTS & Co, / SUEZ using the company's oval violet cachet (36x22 mm) with a red manuscript date 3.3.87. The reverse has a transit cds of Mickleham (GB), with Suez arrival 2MR87 and Cairo 3 III 87.

Jakob Müller, Father of Maximaphily

Sun-Yu Ng (ESC 689)

The history of scientific discoveries features several milestones erected by genius-level figures who have become household names, including Hippocrates “Father of Medicine” and Gregor Mendel “Father of Genetics”. On the other hand, there is no clear-cut single founder of most art movements because the works of artists rarely undergo abrupt transitions independent of influences by peers and buyer preferences. An exception would be Abbot Sugar, who deserved the title “Father of Gothic Architecture” because he was responsible for the rare occasion in which the new Gothic style was born.

For budget collectors, whether philatelic collectibles are seen as historical artifacts or art objects similar to Matisse paper-cuts, we should try to identify the philatelic pioneers responsible for their creation. Here I present the rationale for naming Jakob Müller as “Father of Maximaphily” based on his designs for Egyptian hotel stationery.

In our previous articles^{1,4}, we investigated the conversion of hotel stationery by Egyptian hotel guests (and staff) into TVA maxicard precursors. We reported that a few Cairo hotels had Sphinx and Pyramid images imprinted on their stationery, but without a stamp box on the same side they would be TCA instead of TVA. See for instance local F. Diemer, of the Librairie Internationale, who designed stationery for Hotel August Gorff¹.

Two hotels with stamp box and Sphinx and Pyramid on the same side of their stationery, Hotel du Nil and Continental Hotel (before its rebranding as Grand Continental Hotel at a different location), account for about 47 per cent of hotel stationery TVA (*Figure 1, with an example from each hotel*). The unexpected link between these two hotel TVA and Swiss hotel TVA detailed in our related articles^{2,3,4} is that the former stationery is published by Müller & Cie of Aarau, Switzerland (29 per cent of Egyptian hotel stationery TVA is by their Italian competitor).

Müller & Cie was a small family printer being expanded into one of the best lithographic postcard workshops and publishers by Jakob Müller, who was later joined by his brother-in-law August Trüb as Müller & Trüb. Their workshop included many talented artists but only Hans Hool, who designed stationery for the Hotels Schweizerhof and Luzernerhof⁴ of Luzern, is known to us by name.



Figure 1a (above). Egyptian hotel stationery printed by Müller & Cie of Aarau converted to a first generation TVA. Views of the garden entrance to the Hotel du Nil, a dahabiya, the Mohamed Ali Mosque in the Citadel, the Sphinx and Pyramids are on the address side with stamp box (top right). The 5m Sphinx and Pyramid stamp is cancelled 28 XII 93 in Cairo for postage to Rome. Two earlier Hotel du Nil stationery TVA to Alexandria were shown in our 2021 articles [1,2].

Figure 1b (below): Another example by Müller & Cie converted into first generation TVA. Views of the Continental Hotel on Kasr el-Nil street, the hotel’s Egyptian Hall, the Citadel, the Sphinx and Pyramids on the address side with stamp box (next to the Sphinx). The 5m Sphinx and Pyramid stamp was posted from the Continental Hotel in Cairo to England with hotel cancellation type 1. The date is illegible but the “T” rules out types 1c and 1e, leaving December 1891 to February 1894 (type 1a and 1b) or January 28~30, 1900 (type 1d). The earliest dated Continental TVA (Alain Stragier collection), was posted in December 1892 to England. After 1892, Jakob Müller added the stamp box to much of his hotel stationery (see Fig, 2).

We found that from 1884 to 1903 some 53 per cent of hotel stationery TVA, including the acknowledged beauties Grand Hotel Villa d'Este of Italy, Hotel & Pension Mooser of Vevey and at least 25 other Swiss hotels, were printed by Müller & Cie or Müller & Trüb. Between 1901 and 1903 all lithographic postcard TCV, including Hotel Rigi-Kulm (*Figure 5* from ref²), were printed by Müller & Trüb. In 1905 another lithographic Hotel Rigi-Kulm TCV⁵ was printed by A. Trüb & Cie after Jakob Müller's 1903 move to Zürich to join the publishing giant Künzli Frères.



Figure 2a (left). An example of Swiss hotel stationery, printed by Müller & Cie, being converted into first generation TVA maxicard precursor with Swiss Cross concordance. With the damage suffered in a brutal act of stamp sabotage, however, its lofty status as precursor was lost because no intact example of this card exists to our knowledge. Thus an appropriate analogy might be the Artemision of Ephesus, whose loss in 356 BC was attributed to arson by Herostratus. In fact, the only other example suffered an even worse fate, both provided courtesy of Ulrich Kämpfen. This Hotels Seiler stationery advertises three hotels located at Zermatt: Hotel du Mont Cervin, Hotel du Mont-Rose, and Hotel Ryffelalp, with the former two flying the Swiss flag to provide Swiss Cross concordance with the 10c stamp issued in 1882 (based on a best guess with stamp remnant and postage rate). It was posted on September 2, 1895 from Zermatt to Liège, Belgium. The second damaged TVA was sent to the same address on August 31, 1895 (thus the identity of the perpetrator may not be much in doubt). Notable differences between this stationery are the top right corner stamp box, missing from the lower example, in the same position as Hotel du Nil stationery, and the addition of Buffet de la Gare.

Figure 2b (below). The only example of Hotels Seiler stationery printed by Müller & Cie converted into first generation TVA maxicard precursor with Swiss Cross concordance has been provided by Ulrich Kämpfen. Notable differences between this older stationery are the missing top right stamp box and the intact 5c 1882 "Kreuz und Wertziffer" stamp with concordance to the Swiss flag of both Hotel du Mont Cervin and Hotel du Mont-Rose. It was sent on July 28, 1892 from Zermatt to Lausanne.

More hotel stationery that was not designed and printed by Müller & Cie came from the Mena House Hotel at the foot of the Giza Pyramids⁶. It is most unfortunate that none of the stationery cancelled with the HM1 PYRAMIDS Mena House postmark is TVA. It seems that the hotel preference for photo images was in conflict with Müller's preference for lithographic illustrations. I am in agreement with the latter: not only is Hotel du Nil stationery more concordant with the fourth-issue De La Rue Sphinx and Pyramid stamp issued by Egypt in 1888~1893 (*Figure 1a*), but the overall design is superior to that of the Continental Hotel (*Figure 1b*), Hotel Bristol⁵ and Mena House Hotel^{5,6}.

Equally unfortunate are the stationery designs for the Ghézireh Palace Hotel and Shepherd's Hotel because they include no photo image of the Sphinx or the Great Pyramid. Assuming that Jakob Müller was responsible for the outstanding concordant imagery of the 1892 Hotel du Nil stationery, matching the stamp design in almost perfect harmony, as if in anticipation of future maxicard aesthetics, we are happy to nominate him posthumously as the "Father of Maximaphily".

How do we justify this nomination? First, Müller & Cie is the only publisher to design hotel stationery for five countries in two continents: Egypt, France (Grand Hotel Royal & de Saussure, Chamonix), Kingdom of Italy (Grand Hotel Villa d'Este, Lake Como, and Eden Hotel, Nervi, Genova), German Empire (Jagdschloss Niederwald 1902), and Switzerland. Second, the company dominated designs from 1892, the first year of Hotel du Nil and Continental Hotel stationery, with 59 per cent of market share (29 hotels of 49 total). Third, Müller & Cie adopted the TVA stamp box in about 1892. Previously, the company's Swiss hotel stationery had no stamp box but after that year its products account for 69 per cent of Swiss hotel stationery TVA with stamp box. An example is shown in *Figure 2*. Müller & Cie stationery used in 1892 for Hotels Seiler at Zermatt has no stamp box but one was added before 1895.

Finally, from whom did Müller & Cie copy the use of the TVA stamp box? We point to three pre-1892 hotel stationery designs: 1887 Hotel du Glacier du Rhône (*Figure 3a*), the earliest TVA with stamp box, 1889 Hotel des Balances⁴ and 1891 Hotel & Pension Bürgenstock, both by Synnberg & Rüttger⁴ of Luzern, or all of the above?

We lean towards Hotel du Glacier du Rhône because Müller & Cie designed new stationery including a stamp box for the hotel after 1893 (*Figure 3b*). The three items cited have no significant direct impact on maximaphily but the adoption of a stamp box by Müller & Cie for the Hotel du Nil and Continental Hotel would form the first important moment in maximaphily postal history. Thus Jakob Müller is deservedly the “Father of Maximaphily”.

Acknowledgements: We thank Amir Elmallah for sharing information on his collection of the Ghézireh Palace Hotel and Shepherd's Hotel stationery. We thank Alain Stragier for sharing information on his Hotel Bristol and Continental Hotel stationery. We thank Ulrich Kämpfen for sharing the scans of three Hotel Seiler Zermatt stationery from his collection.

Footnote: TVA or *timbre côté vue et adresse* includes formular stationery, postal stationery, hotel stationery and private postcards etc with one or more stamp(s) affixed on the same side as picture and address. The non-pictorial side has messages only. Most TVA are pre-1900.

TCV or *timbre côté vue* includes private postcards and commercial picture postcards etc with one or more stamp(s) affixed on the pictorial side. Address is written on the address side, with or without additional stamp(s). The earliest TCV was posted in 1900. Only the TCV subset with concordance between stamp and postcard images is deemed collectible by maximaphilists.

TCA or *timbre côté adresse* includes private postcards and commercial picture postcards etc with one or more stamp(s) on the address side without any picture except on the other side (the pictorial side). TCA is not a collectible for maximaphilists.

REFERENCES:

1. Sun-Yu Ng, “Cairo hotel maxicard analytics”, *Egypt Study Circle QC 278* (2021), pp. 151-158.
2. Sun-Yu Ng, “Maximaphily Ancestry: a retrospective study of three first parental generation maximum card precursor families”, *North American Maximaphily* 39-3 (2021), pp. 9-18.
3. Sun-Yu Ng, “Maximaphily Ancestry: a retrospective study of three first parental generation maximum card precursor families”, *North American Maximaphily* 39-4 (2021), pp. 12-23.
4. Sun-Yu Ng, “On the Origins of Maximum card Precursor Families by Means of Concordance Selection: first generation Swiss pioneers and second generation French pioneers”, *The Congress Book 2023* (2023), pp. 223-245.
5. Sun-Yu Ng, “On the Origins of Maximum Card Precursor Families by Means of Concordance Selection” YouTube channel SCPPPC Postal History (youtube.com/@scpppcpostalhistory3728).
6. Sun-Yu Ng. “Pyramids maxicard analytics”, *Egypt Study Circle QC 279* (2021), pp. 189-194.

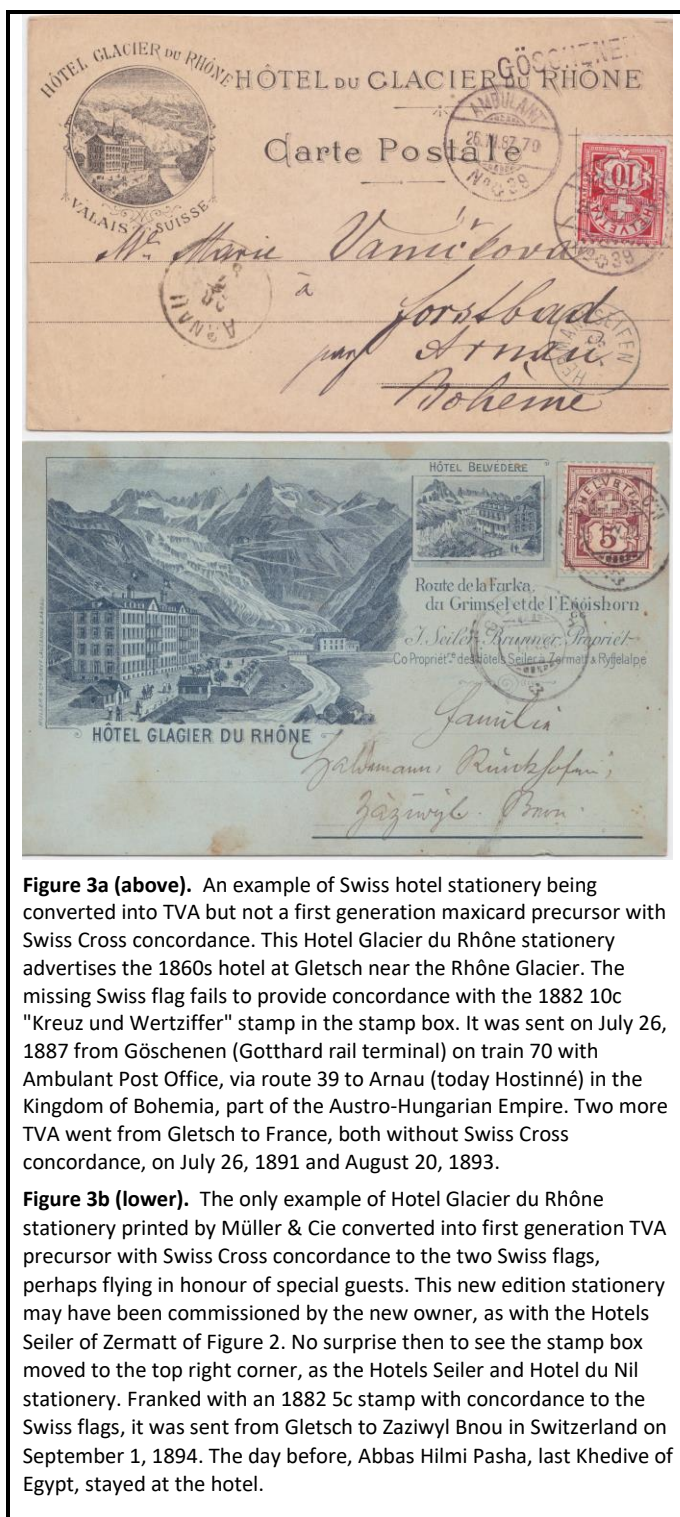


Figure 3a (above). An example of Swiss hotel stationery being converted into TVA but not a first generation maxicard precursor with Swiss Cross concordance. This Hotel Glacier du Rhône stationery advertises the 1860s hotel at Gletsch near the Rhône Glacier. The missing Swiss flag fails to provide concordance with the 1882 10c "Kreuz und Wertziffer" stamp in the stamp box. It was sent on July 26, 1887 from Göschenen (Gotthard rail terminal) on train 70 with Ambulant Post Office, via route 39 to Arnau (today Hostinné) in the Kingdom of Bohemia, part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Two more TVA went from Gletsch to France, both without Swiss Cross concordance, on July 26, 1891 and August 20, 1893.

Figure 3b (lower). The only example of Hotel Glacier du Rhône stationery printed by Müller & Cie converted into first generation TVA precursor with Swiss Cross concordance to the two Swiss flags, perhaps flying in honour of special guests. This new edition stationery may have been commissioned by the new owner, as with the Hotels Seiler of Zermatt of Figure 2. No surprise then to see the stamp box moved to the top right corner, as the Hotels Seiler and Hotel du Nil stationery. Franked with an 1882 5c stamp with concordance to the Swiss flags, it was sent from Gletsch to Zaziwyl Bnou in Switzerland on September 1, 1894. The day before, Abbas Hilmi Pasha, last Khedive of Egypt, stayed at the hotel.

PORT-SAÏD surcharges 1921 - the 'Joffre' issue

Pierre Louis Grech (ESC 266)

When the UPU was founded in 1874, the French franc was chosen as reference for postal exchanges because of its stability as an international currency. At the time 1 piastre (40 para / 10 millièmes) was equivalent to 25c. With the passage of time, and especially following the upheaval of World War I, a vast disparity had grown between its value in France and that with other world currencies.

The first UPU Congress after the War was held in Madrid from 1 October to 20 November 1920. The effect of varying degrees of inflation between nations was recognised and it was decided to switch the reference on to **the gold franc**, to make it independent of national currencies. After acrimonious discussion it was also agreed that the basic UPU letter rate, unchanged since 1878, could rise **from 25c to 50 gold centimes**, dependent on individual nations' exchange with gold. This rise was to become effective from 1 January 1922. Egypt and France applied the increase earlier, however, from 1 April 1921.

During the War the French franc had depreciated and in 1920 it suffered an effective devaluation of 63 per cent. In Egypt, the French Post Offices found their level of business rising considerably since they provided an involuntary but very cheap alternative to the Egyptian Post. Well-informed business communities and banks took advantage of this situation, using the French Post to the detriment of Egypt's treasury.

The Madrid Congress allowed the taxes to increase by 100 per cent, but Egypt availed itself of the discretion left to individual administrations not to reach that maximum and limited the increase to 50 per cent for ordinary and registered foreign correspondence. i.e., instead of 1 piastre for the basic UPU letter rate it was increased to 1½ piastres, 15 millièmes, equivalent to 39 gold cents. For its part, the French Post announced an increase of 100 per cent, and from 1 April 1921 the tax for a simple letter overseas became 50c instead of the previous 25c. Despite this increase, as the French exchange was 170 piastres for 100 francs, the 50c represented only 8½ millièmes, some 40 per cent below the Egyptian UPU letter rate of 15 millièmes.

To resolve this situation the Egyptian Government summoned French officials to formal discussions after which the French Post decided to surcharge its stamps in Egyptian currency and conform to the local tax to avoid any further disagreements. This decision was taken suddenly, and while the postal administration in Paris hurried to supply an issue surcharged in millièmes properly printed in France, the two Post Offices in Egypt proceeded with provisionally surcharging what stamps they had available. These were the first Locally Surcharged issues of Alexandrie and Port-Saïd of April 1921.

The catalogues state that a second set of local surcharges was issued at Port-Saïd in November 1921 "on the occasion of the passage of the ship taking Maréchal Joffre to the Far East". As such, it is the **only commemorative set** issued by any of the French Post Offices in Egypt.

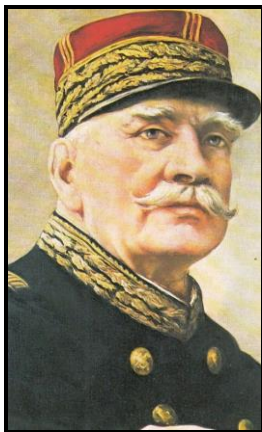


Fig. 1: Général Joffre, 1915 (Maréchal from 1916)

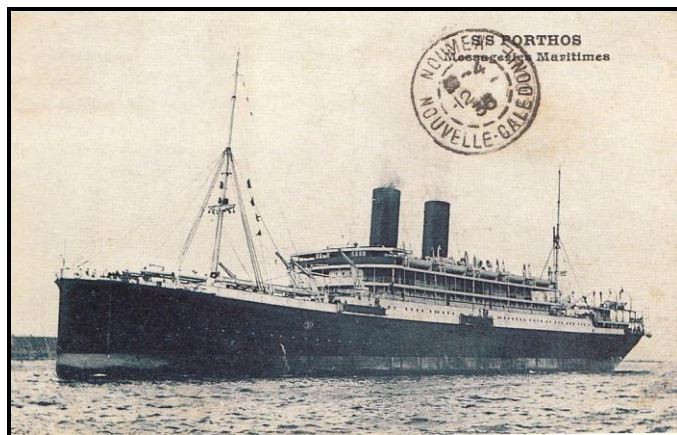


Fig. 2: The S/S Porthos

The Ship: The Messageries Maritimes paquebot *S/S Porthos*. launched on 25 January 1915 at Bordeaux, served on the Far-East routes, as exemplified by the voyage here. In 1939, at the War's outbreak, it was taken over by the French State for transport services along the African coast. On 23 September 1940 it was hit by a shell (nine dead) during the British naval attack on Dakar. On 8 November 1942, at Casablanca, it was sunk at its moorings by an American air attack (26 dead). It was scrapped at that spot after the war.

The Maréchal: Joseph Jacques Césaire Joffre was born on 12 January 1852. Having joined the army, he made his reputation in several colonial expeditions, serving in Indochina, Africa and Madagascar. He was put in command of French forces in 1911, leading them in the first part of World War I until his controversial replacement in 1916. He was then promoted to Maréchal de France, and his role became mostly ceremonial, representing the country in numerous delegations abroad. On 11 November 1921 he boarded the *Porthos* at Marseille, travelling on to Port-Saïd, crossing the Suez Canal, and reaching Saïgon at the beginning of December. On 1 January 1922 he arrived in Annam, where he had served in 1887. A few days later he was at Hanoi, then Yokohama, Tokyo (where he met emperor Hirohito), and finally Peking and Shanghai in China. Everywhere he was triumphantly received. He returned to France in February 1922, after which he retired. He passed away on 3 January 1931. It was therefore no ordinary officer whose transit was celebrated by Port-Saïd's Second Local Stamp Issue, on 17 November 1921, at the instigation of the local Postmaster (at a time when Paris surcharged stamps had arrived and were now readily available).

The Postmaster: André Navarre is listed in 1896 as a *commis* (assistant clerk) on the Port-Saïd French P.O. payroll. By 1909 he had risen to *commis principal* and after the War to Postmaster (*Receveur*). In the small community of Port-Saïd he would meet regularly at a café with local stamp dealers and collectors, which led to his propensity to create stamp issues and varieties. Example: whereas the Alexandrie French P.O. never issued any local Postage Due stamps during this transition period, Mr Navarre had already surcharged a set of three Postage Dues in June 1921, shortly after the regular Port-Saïd stamps were surcharged in millièmes.



**Fig. 3: The Joffre second issue of Port-Saïd Local Surcharges, issued on 17 November 1921.
Yvert Nos. 61-68 / SG Nos. 166-173**

Having unearthed more stock of Redrawn issues of 1902-03, Mr Navarre enlisted Imprimerie Barsotti (which had manufactured the April 1921 Port-Saïd surcharges) to produce a set of eight stamps, surcharged in black. The same typographical process of a few months earlier was used: i.e., surcharging plates with the word "Millièmes" repeated 25 times, and different values inserted in turn. Carried out on separated stamp panes of 25, with only *unilateral* millésimes. For the larger Merson stamps (all on the basic 50c brown and lavender) the surcharge included a horizontal bar underlining the value. The 5 and 10 Millièmes on the purple 2c Blanc are on GC paper. The quantities of stamps surcharged are unknown but there must not have been many. In addition, Mr Navarre engaged a printer in Cairo to surcharge in colour a set of four Postage Due stamps.

Port-Saïd 1921 Local Surcharges - Second Series (Joffre) and Millésimes (all unilateral).

5 Millièmes / 1c	5 Millièmes / 2c	10 Millième / 2c	15 Millième / 15c	15 Millième / 20c	30 MILLIEMES / 50c	60 MILLIEMES / 50c	150 MILLIEMES / 50c
1920	1918 GC	1918 GC	1902	1914	-	-	-

Yvert Nos. 61 to 68. / SG Nos. 166 to 173. *Millésimes* are the last digit of the year of printing and appear in three positions in the vertical central gutter of the sheet of 150 (inter-panneaux) comprising six blocks of 25.

This time surcharging on the low values ran amuck! There were inverted surcharges, double surcharges, errors of value, inverted wrong values, surcharges on LEVANT stamps, etc (listed in various catalogues), many evidently deliberate rather than accidental, and on full panes of 25. Except for one Postage Due stamp issued in February 1922, this was the end of local surcharging at Port-Saïd. A higher French postal authority intervened to call Mr Navarre to order. Thereafter he frequently corresponded with his mother in France, and with a relative, Antoine Navarre, in Algeria, decorating his envelopes with many of these surcharges.



Fig. 4: Some "errors" of the second set of Port-Saïd 1921 local surcharges. Stanley Gibbons Catalogue numbers

Postage Dues: The four-stamp second set of Port-Saïd local Postage Due surcharges was supposedly issued simultaneously with the set of eight postage stamps locally surcharged in Millièmes released on **17 November 1921**. However, there is a cover with the 15 milliemes postage-due stamp, cancelled Port-Saïd, **11 November 1921**, bringing the issue date forward. These surcharges on French Duval *Chiffre Taxe* are distinctive, being in blue and carmine large digits and *bâton* letters, while Port-Saïd local overprints were in Roman font.



Fig. 5: Issued 11 November 1921, Postage Due Local Surcharges for Port-Saïd, produced in Cairo by Paul Barbey. Yvert Port-Saïd Timbres-Taxe Nos. 5-8 / SG Port-Saïd Nos. D174-D177

Surcharges typographed *in Cairo* by Paul Barbey, in passes of 50 stamps. With better facilities the full sheet width *galvano-type* format of two blocks of 25 with central gutter & millésime could be surcharged at once.



Fig. 6: Millésime 1919 for the 10 Mills (GC paper).; 1920 for the 2, 4 and 15 Mills Postage Dues

This set provided a plethora of varieties, the printers in Cairo being more careless or accommodating. There are missing accents, missing “S”, missing letters, inverted surcharges, missing surcharges. The catalogues vie with each other to see which can list the greatest number of these, at hefty prices.



Fig. 7: Two particularly notable varieties are the 2 Mills surcharge in blue on the 5c instead of in carmine, and the error 15 Mills instead of 4 Mills, on the 10c brown (for this stamp there is a reported quantity of 50)

At the time in 1921 there was an outcry in the French and Egyptian philatelic press about the very short notice of release of this "Joffre" local issue and the fact that it was sold out before collectors had been made aware of it. Consequently, it has remained the most expensive Port-Saïd set of stamps. As for the Postage-Due issues, these have been forged by surcharging the French *Taxe* stamps which are in plentiful supply. Note that on these local surcharges, nowhere did the name “Port-Saïd” appear on the stamps. Finally in January 1922 the supplies of Postage Due stamps surcharged in France arrived. This new Metropolitan issue did not bear the name of any specific P.O. and was used both at the Alexandrie and Port-Saïd French P.O.s.



Fig. 8: ERRORS - A fine corner block of ten French 30c Chiffre Taxe: five with the correct 10 Millièmes surcharge se-tenant vertically with five others with the surcharge missing. The top right-hand stamp is the variety with no accent on the first E of MILLIÈMES. Shown on the right is a single stamp from bottom of the sheet, left marginal to the central gutter (position 125) with 1Q Millièmes surcharge instead of 10 Mills. Note the GC marking in the bottom sheet margin for "Grande Consommation" paper used in the War.

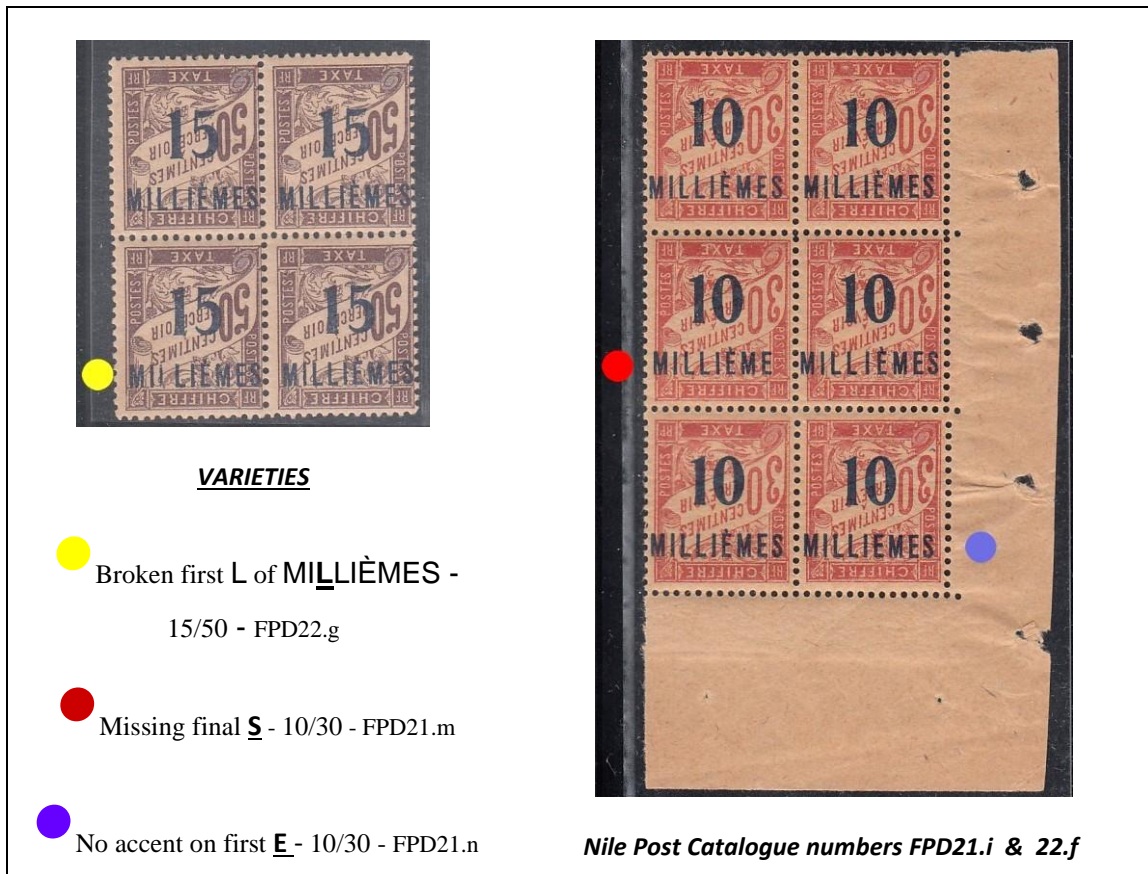


Fig. 9: ERROR - INVERTED SURCHARGES: 15 MILLIÈMES on 50c, block of four and 10 MILLIÈMES on 30c, block of six from top left corner of the sheet. The holes in the margin are from the claws of the perforating machine.



Fig. 10: 21 November 1921 - Cover franked 2 Mills, addressed to the French P.O.'s Poste Restante. On 27 December, it was taxed 26 Mills from the Nov. 1921 Joffre Postage Due set. It should have been franked 15 Mills UPU rate (no local rate or Poste Restante fee) but was 13 Mills short; x 2 = 26 Mills tax.

References: *The French Post Offices in Egypt - Part 2*, P.L.Grech, 2013; *The Nile Post*, J. Chalhouh/C. Hass, 2003.

New Discovery - Heliopolis 1910 Air Meeting

Pierre Louis Grech (ESC 266)

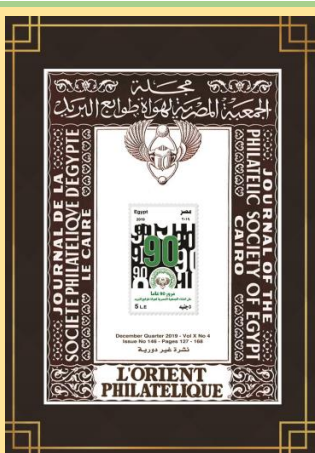
Hani Sharestan (ESC 595), one of our California members, is a major collector of the Heliopolis 1910 air meeting. This Grande Semaine d'Aviation, the first air meeting held in Africa/Middle East, ran from 6-13 February 1910. The Egyptian Post produced a postmark, HELIOPOLIS AERODRÔME (*Midan el Tayarane*) which was used only during the event and only at the airfield itself. That marking is quite scarce and sought by worldwide aviation collectors.

The most common dates are the first and last days, 6 and 13 February. The marking is usually found on postcards and is almost unknown on letters. The cards may be views of Egypt or one of the special cards overprinted with aircraft images produced for the event. See P.L. Grech, *1910 Heliopolis Grande Semaine d'Aviation* (2010), which lists these special cards. This was updated in QC 272 (March 2020), pages 9-16, with new information kindly submitted by many collectors over the years since the book's publication.

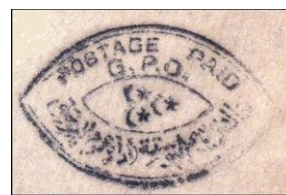


After years of research, Hani has acquired strikes for 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 February, a fantastic achievement. The 9 February date has not been seen, but he is seeking the 8th to complete the known dates. Meanwhile he has just announced a new discovery (see above) for the 7th. Three cards with that date are known, and he is proud to own them all. This new card is to an address in Belgium he already had. The third is addressed to Alexandria. See QC 246, Sept 2013, p.247 for his article on the discovery of his first 7th Feb.

L'OP lives again: Elf mabruk to our friends of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, and mainly to their Editor, Professor Amr el-Etreby, for having produced - against all the odds - a new edition of *L'Orient Philatélique*. Issue 146 of 40 pages for December 2019, is bilingual and in full colour, covering largely the events coinciding with our last visit. Now we must wish Amr the best – he has only another 15 issues to go to bring the magazine right up to date!



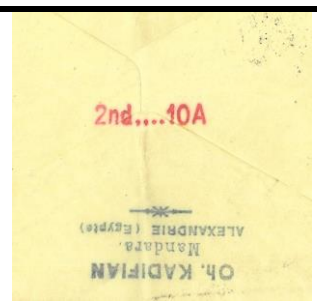
Postage-Paid takes a step back: Further to my article on post-paid service markings (QC 282, Sept 2022), I have recently been able to acquire two Official covers that extend the early date of the service. Alexandria Type A1 (1927-45) now has a date of 4 DE 24; and more importantly a wholly new oval mark (35x20 mm) has appeared, struck in black for Alex of 29 NOV 22 – embellished with the Ottoman triple star-and-crescents – and reading POSTAGE PAID / G.P.O. No need for the slogan canceller's advice on stamps – none were needed.



Rue Colmar is a historic street in the centre of Suez. Its CDS for 18 NOV 1922 clearly shows RUE COLMAR. But why does the Arabic text read *Suq al-Nimsa* (Austrian Market)?



A cover from Mandara (Alex) 6 JA 41: 8mills is correct unsealed rate for London. But Richard Wheatley wonders why the red 2nd 10A on the reverse?




Ismailia, postal history and cancels Part 4


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

(Continued from QC 285, June 2023, page iii)

CASH

IS_C-2		ISMAÏLIAH El Ismailia	Single ring 24mm
		23 NO 99 TII	Earliest date 6 DE 83
		El sunduq CAISSE	Latest Date 23 NO 99

الصندوق (el sunduq) literally means "box"

IS_C-3		ISMAILIA C.	Incomplete cancel
		14.XI.07.4.30.	Earliest date 14 XI 07
			Latest Date .. VII 14*



*Lars Alund (ESC 105), "The Postal Markings of Egypt after 1879", QC 170 of September 1994
ISMAILIA C .. VII 14 in blue

(نمرة ٥ - ٥) (N° 5 - 5)

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES مصلحة البوستة

N° 75 نمرة

إبصال عن صرتم لم البوستة

pour group de la valeur déclarée de :
عدد بالقيمة المقرره

L.E. 100 M. وقدرها
جيه ميلم

à destination de *Cauy* برسم مكتبه

(*) Avis de livraison.
علم التسليم

Le Titulaire الوكيل
[Signature]

(*) Avec ou sans. مع أو بدون

N. B. La taxe est fixée à Mill. 10 par chaque L. E. 8 ou fraction de L. E. 8 avec un minimum de taxe de Mill. 100 par group.
الرسوم المقرره خصصه له هو 10 ميلم عن كل ثمانية جنيهات أو كسورها وأقل رسم 100 ميلم عن كل صر

Deposit declaration of 100 Egyptian Pounds
ISMAILIA CAISSE 24 SE TI (IS_C-2)

(نمرة ٤ ج - ٥) (N° 4 G. - 5)

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES مصلحة البوستة

N° 14 نمرة

إبصال عن صرتم لم البوستة

pour group de la valeur déclarée de :
عدد بالقيمة المقرره

L.E. 100 M. وقدرها
جيه ميلم

à destination de *Cauy* برسم مكتبه

(*) Avis de livraison.
علم التسليم

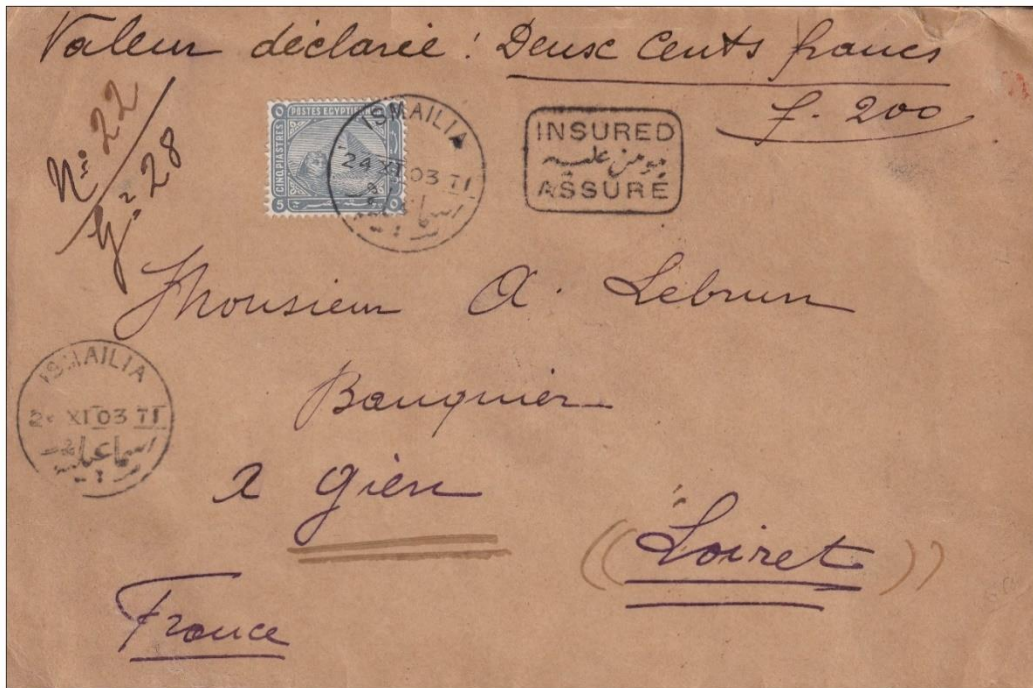
Le Titulaire الوكيل
[Signature]

(*) Avec ou sans. مع أو بدون

N. B. La taxe est fixée à Mill. 10 par chaque L. E. 8 ou fraction de L. E. 8 avec un minimum de taxe de Mill. 100 par group.
الرسوم المقرره خصصه له هو 10 ميلم عن كل ثمانية جنيهات أو كسورها وأقل رسم 100 ميلم عن كل صر

Deposit declaration of 100 Egyptian Pounds
ISMAILIA CAISSE 23 NO 99 TI I (IS_C-2)

INSURED



INSURED
مؤمن عليه
ASSURÉ

Insured letter of 200fr/28 grammes from ISMAILIA 24 XI 03 (IS_12) to Loiret, France.

Boxed INSURED / MU'AMMEN ALEE / ASSURÉ

Postage 5 piastres: registration 1 piastre, 1 piastre for abroad, weight (28g) is also 1 piastre. Insurance 2 piastres for 200 francs (Postal Guide 1904 tariff)

UNCLAIMED

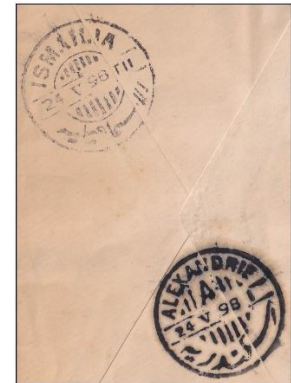
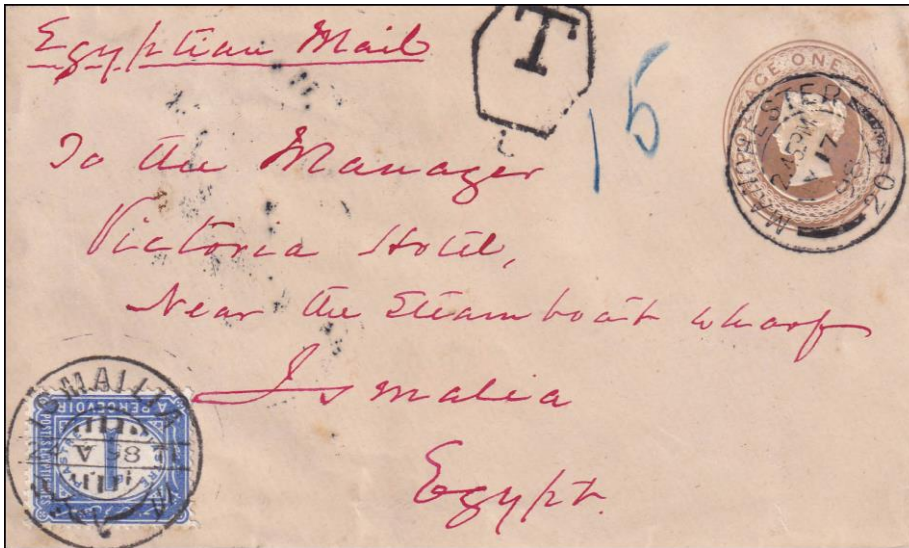


NON RECLAME
م يطلب

Envelope (H&G 6) from DEIROUT 7 JL 93 to ISMAILIA 9 VII 93 (IS_9)

Unclaimed and sent to CAIRO 9 VII 93 and finally to the BUREAU DES REBUTS (Dead Letter Office) 2 IX 93 of Cairo.

TAXATION
INCOMING MAIL



Cover from MANCHESTER MY 17 98 via ALEXANDRIE 24 V 98 to the manager of Victoria Hotel, Ismailia, with postage of only one penny.
 Taxed at 1 piastre for the missing postage, obliterated with ISMAILIA 24 V 98 TI (IS_10).
 On the reverse of the cover is ISMAILIA 24 V 98 TII (IS_9)

The British tariff was 2 ½ pence, so the cover was underpaid 1 ½d (15 in blue). The amount due was doubled to 3d, the equivalent of 1.20 piastres. The postal clerk has miscalculated the taxation.

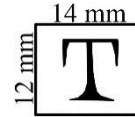


Unpaid post card from MARSEILLE ETRANGER 26 7 06 via PORT-SAID 31 VII 06 to Ismailia
 Tax charged at 4 millièmes, obliterated with ISMAILIA 31 VII 06 TI (IS_10) with distribution arrival mark of ISMAILIA 31 VII 06 TV (IS_13)

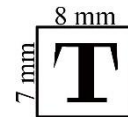
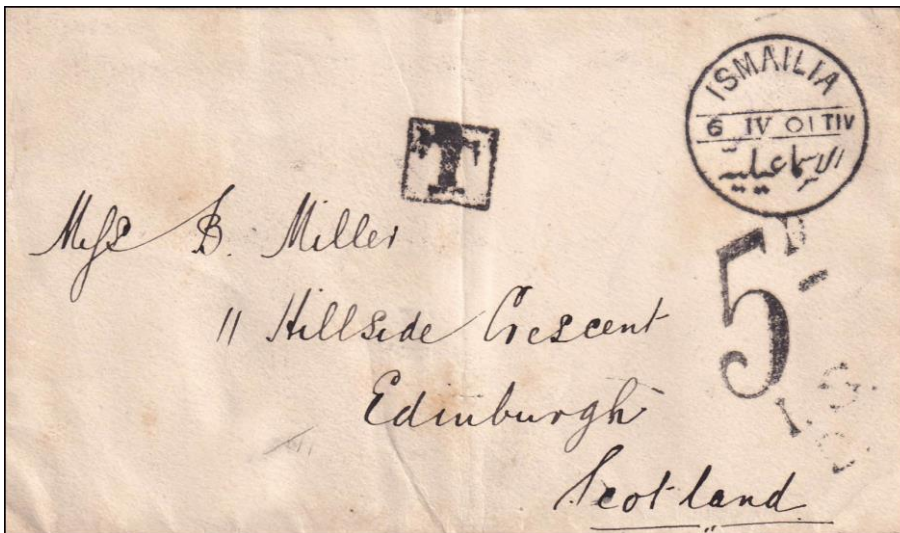
Although a short message was written on the face of the card and “CARTE POSTALE” was not crossed out the postal clerk has accepted the card as “printed matter”.

Tariff for printed matter = 5 (gold) centimes, doubled for the taxation = 10 (gold) centimes.
 10 centimes = 40 per cent of 25 centimes (equal to 1 piastre)
 40 per cent of 1 piastre = 4 mills

OUTGOING MAIL



Underpaid cover from ISMAILIA 21 OC 88 (IS_7) to LAUZUN 28 OCT LOT ET GARONNE.
A boxed T was added for the missing postage of 5 mills but the tax was not claimed.



I.S. stamp
on the cover is
International
Service

Unpaid letter from ISMAILIA 6 IV 01 (IS_11)
to Edinburgh with a boxed T for the missing postage of 1 piastre
Taxation: doubling of 1 piastre
2 x 25 (gold) centimes = 50 (gold) centimes, equivalent of 5 pence



Underpaid postcard
ISMAILIA 4 IX 15 (IS_14)
to Rome.

Taxed on arrival at
10 centesimi because 2
mills underpaid.
2 mills is 20% of 1 piastre,
which is 25 (gold)
centimes.
20% of 25 cents = 5 cents,
doubled to 10 cents.
10 (gold) centimes are
equal to 10 centesimi



Envelope of 5 mills (H&G 6) ISMAILIA 18 XII 12?? (IS_14)
to Yorkshire.

The letter was too heavy for a single *postal weight step* and a boxed T 25.C. was placed in Ismailia to indicate the underpayment and as help for a foreign country to calculate the taxation.

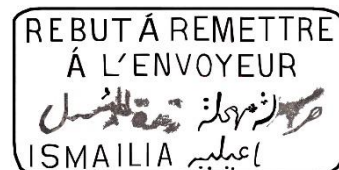


T 25.C. = Taxation
of 25 gold centimes

REBUT















Local registered letter ISMAILIA 15 OC 90 (IS_6)
Unclaimed by recipient
Boxed *REBUT Á REMETTRE Á L'ENVOYEUR ISMAILIA*
(to be returned to sender)
Returned after 1 ½ months
ISMAILIA 1 DE 90 (IS_6)



(Incomplete cancel)

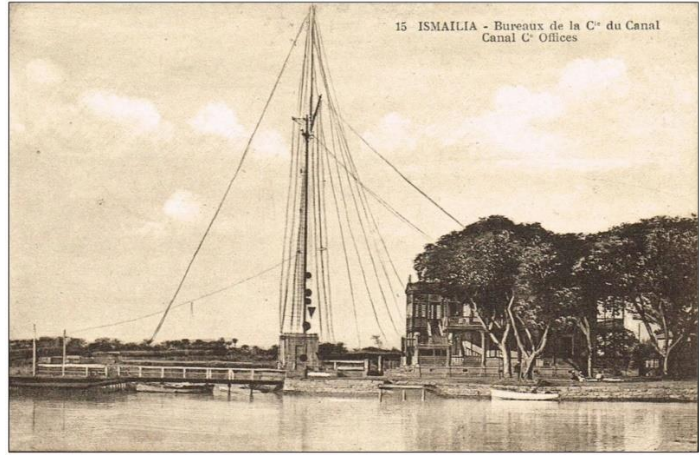
INTERPOSTALS (Kehr numbering system)

<p>Type III, yellow-green POSTE VICE REALI EGIZIANE JSMAILIA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Kehr n° 52</p>	
<p>Type III, yellow-green POSTE VICE REALI EGIZIANE JSMAILIA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Kehr n° 52a</p>	
<p>Type IIIB, printed on rose instead of white paper. Until the Fouad I collection was sold, none of these interpostals was known.</p>	
<p>Type IVA, on blue paper POSTE VICE REALI EGIZIANE ISMAILIA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Kehr n° 125</p>	
<p>Type V, on blue paper POSTE KHEDEVIE EGIZIANE ISMAILIA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Kehr n° 163</p>	
<p>Type Va, on blue paper POSTE KHEDEVIE EGIZIANE ISMAILIA Inscriptions as Type V, but with differences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "S" of POSTE is well shaped - "D" of KHEDIVIE is quite thick - Lowest dot well below level of "re" - Arabic "he" has a sharp, triangular head <p style="text-align: right;">Kehr n° 196</p>	
<p>Type 5b, scarlet-vermilion on white POSTE KHEDEVIE EGIZIANE ISMAILIA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Kehr n° 264</p>	

<p><u>Type Vc</u>, on blue paper POSTE KHEDEVIE EGIZIANE ISMAILIA Same inscriptions as Type V, with following differences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “S” of POSTE is slender and fairly well shaped - Arabic “KH” is large and forms an almost complete loop <p style="text-align: right;">Kehr n° 294</p>	
<p><u>Type Vd</u>, on blue paper POSTE KHEDEVIE EGIZIANE ISMAILIA Same inscriptions as Type V, with following differences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arabic “EH” is almost round - Dot is at tip of Arabic “re” - The Arabic “re” has a knee where it joins the “saad” <p style="text-align: right;">Kehr n° 346</p>	
<p><u>Type VII</u>, on white paper against a background of crosshatched lines. Below, in a white panel, is the name of the town POSTES EGYPTIENNES ISMAÏLIA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Kehr n° 425</p>	
<p><u>Type VIII</u>, on white paper against a background of crosshatched lines. Below, in a white panel, is the name of the town POSTES EGYPTIENNES ISMAÏLIA As Type VII, except that the third, last line of Arabic spells out the town’s name</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Kehr n° 551</p>	
<p><u>Type VIIIA</u>, as Type VIII but Roman name letters only 3mm tall. Arabic town name on the bottom line in the centre redrawn ISMAÏLIEH instead of ISMAILIA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Kehr n° 665</p>	
<p><u>Type X</u> POSTES EGYPTIENNES, in white letters, printed in blue on white paper</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Kehr n° 765</p>	

TELEGRAPH

Form No. 488 ISMAILIA
 مصلحة التلغرافات
 أوزنك نمره ٥٥٥
 نمره ٤٩
 عدد الكلمات ١٤
 (ملاحظات) بارر
 الناهي سواحل
 باورستيا
 نظير رجاوه
 المزارع تحت
 والبرر خالص
 اجود الصريح
 ١٢-٢
 Approved
 اعطى الى اسم القو بنجى
 اسم القو بنجى
 أسباب التأخير
 أسباب التأخير



Optical telegraph in Ismailia on the Suez Canal

Telegram from Suez to ISMAILIA 2 FEB 02
 Seeking permission for leave for 48 hours



EGYPTIAN STATE TELEGRAPHS
 No. C. 14
 No. 8173 Original No. 296 Wdi 49
 From 2d
 To Macdonald Sapper
 Remarks 47 - Reg. 684/12
 Office of Origin Public Works
 Date 9-2-16
 Messrs macdonald state prince fuad asked one thousand five hundred pounds but accepts one thousand and three hundred for two thirty horse power locomotives twenty seven wagons three ditto with brake four thousand new steel sleepers one metre for eight kilo line stop locomotives will want slight repairs & alterations wagons & sleepers ready by sent to bordein station for despatch to canal messrs macdonald are asking crawley if they are to pay or will he (signed Hayward)



Telegram from Public Works to ISMAILIA 7 FEB 1916 with a faint ARMY A -7.II.16. C TELEGRAPHS

Messrs macdonald state prince fuad asked one thousand five hundred pounds but accepts one thousand and three hundred for two thirty horse power locomotives twenty seven wagons three ditto with brake four thousand new steel sleepers one metre for eight kilo line stop locomotives will want slight repairs & alterations wagons & sleepers ready by sent to bordein station for despatch to canal messrs macdonald are asking crawley if they are to pay or will he (signed Hayward)

Note: Not all cancellations are illustrated, and some only partially. This article is also a challenge to ESC members to examine their own collection and complete the missing cancels and/or improve the dates of use.

(Concluded)

In the latest issue of our “Why I collect Egypt” column, Anabright Hay tells how a chance meeting led to a lifetime fascination with Egypt and a treasure hunt to track down many more of its colourful postcards....

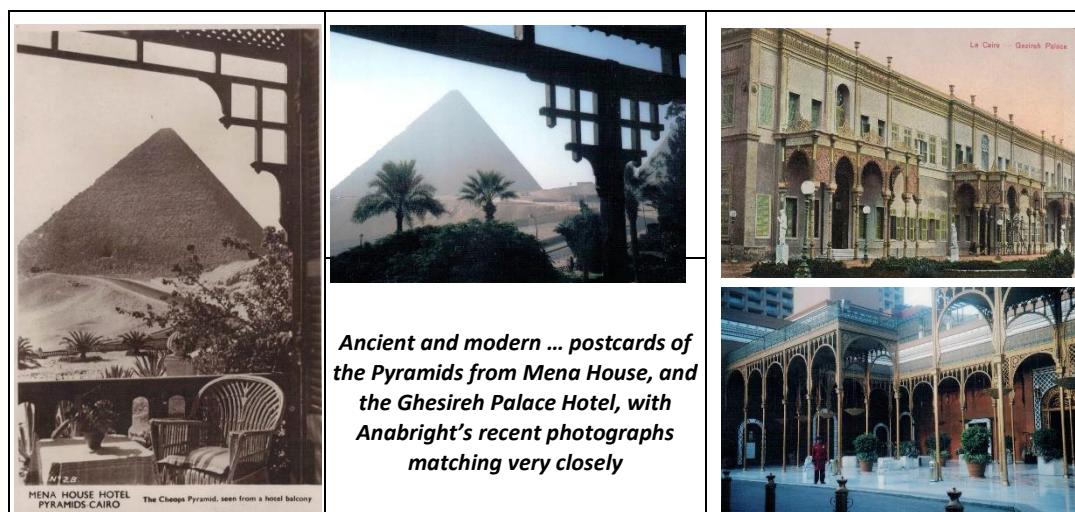


Why I collect Egypt – Anabright Hay (ESC 600) – Wellington, New Zealand

I first visited Egypt about 23 years ago and, like many, was intrigued and fascinated by much of what I saw there. I have since been back several times as well as visiting other former Ottoman Empire countries.

But it was not until a chance encounter with two ESC members, Tony Cakebread and the late Tony Chisholm, at a Wellington auction house that Egyptomania really became contagious. I was bidding on an album containing Egyptian postcards. Tony Chisholm introduced himself after the auction and asked about my interest in Egyptian cards. This was the beginning of an interesting friendship and an international treasure hunt.

I learnt that Tony Chisholm, who was born in Egypt, was trying to compile, by scanning or acquisition, a list of every Egyptian postcard ever published. What an inspiring challenge!



From then on, at every postcard fair or overseas trip, I attempted to find cards that Tony had not catalogued by putting his tiny pencil AC mark in the top corner. Such cards were reasonably plentiful here because so many New Zealand soldiers had visited Egypt during the Second World War and sent cards home.

By the time of his death several years ago Tony Chisholm had catalogued about 17,000 cards from a wide variety of publishers. His collection was later sold by a German auction house. Since then I have been down many Egyptian collecting highways and byways, spurred on by my love of old hotels (some of which I've stayed in), interesting buildings, early chromo litho cards, luggage labels, hotel menus, hotel stationery and postmarks. It is always great to be able to match a card to a current building or view.

Our small group of New Zealand ESC members and friends meet regularly to discuss recent acquisitions found at fairs, auctions or on websites. Some of us also collect postal items from other countries including New Zealand, England, Hong Kong, North Africa and the Gulf states. These collectibles include stamps, covers, postcards, postmarks, revenue stamps, share and railway certificates and travel guidebooks.

The possibilities are endless, as collectors know. And the quest is almost unquenchable.

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