



The Quarterly Circular of the Egypt Study Circle

Sept 2026
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Ship-letters from the blaze of battle. On 20 October 1827 an allied fleet led by Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Codrington routed more than 70 Ottoman and Egyptian warships off the Peloponnese and opened the way to Greek independence.

Ahmed Abouesh presents two astonishing letters written by Royal Navy officers who took part in the conflict, the eye-witness reports in their letters home via Portsmouth and Plymouth making fascinating reading as well as confirming the workings of the Royal Mail combined ship-letter and inland tariff. See page 102



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EGYPT

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EGYPT, 1874/5: Bulaq 20pa grey-blue and 1pi red used on 1876 entire letter to Nîmes, France, tied by good strikes of scarce POSTE EGIZIANE / CAIRO / STAZIONE datestamps in black (June 26). 'Alexandria / Egypte' transit cds of French P.O. in red and thence via Brindisi. Nîmes arrival cds on reverse of a fine and rare cover. SG 37, 38. **£675.**

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Secrets of the star-and-bridge handstamp

Why was the solid-star and bridge datestamp (Type XI-1) issued to just nine Egyptian post offices in 1907, and no others?

For seventy years, the philatelic literature on this datestamp, from Minett (1955) through Dacos (1976) to Heim (2006-08), has focused almost entirely on recording earliest and latest dates. This new research paper, by **Adam Hafez** (ESC 747, *pictured*) asks a different question: what was this mark actually for?



The answer lies in the railways. Drawing on device measurements, strike-time analysis and rate evidence across Port Said, Ismailia, Suez, Port Taufiq, Zagazig, Tanta, Mansura, Luxor and Aswan, the study argues that this datestamp was a timed operational instrument, the fixed-office counterpart to Egypt's travelling post office network. And it was issued at the precise moment that the Egyptian State Railways and TPO system underwent their most rapid year of expansion.

The paper also extends the published chronological record at two offices, documents a previously unrecorded printed-matter rate concession, and revisits some long-standing gaps in the literature, including a rediscovered 1968 source absent from all subsequent scholarship.



See the full paper [on the ESC website](#). Feedback and corrections from fellow collectors and postal historians are always welcome - that's how this field has always advanced.

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For up to date Meetings Schedule, please see the website

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DE LA RUE (DLR) DIARIES: IBRIM (Qasr Ibrim) قصر إبريما

Alain Stragier (ESC 241)

Ronny Van Pellecom (ESC 618)

- With the introduction of the “De La Rue (DLR) Diaries”, we aim to publish regular short articles (up to eight pages) to serve as responses to queries published in the QC or presenting new information. The period covered is limited to the Pyramid/Sphinx stamps issued by De La Rue (1879–1913).

Following a report by Antoine Winter (ESC 149) in QC 277 about a registered OHEMS cover from 1933, Mike Murphy (ESC 240) has already provided a comprehensive review in QC 279 of the postal evolution of Ibrim, which grew in 1911 from a river station Class 6 [Note 1] to a Class 2 post office, providing all services except groups, value-declared letters and insured parcels.

Qasr Ibrim is located in the extreme south of Egypt, in the lower part of the province of Nubia, about 235 kilometres south of Aswan and 50 kilometres north of the Sudan border

In ancient times it was an important city on a cliff above the Nile, but the flooding of Lake Nasser after the construction of the Aswan Dam (1960-1970) turned it into an island and flooded its outskirts. It was and remains an important archaeological site in Lower Nubia.



‘A little above Anibeh a flat-topped hill of some size rises steeply from the Nile on the east. Upon this stands the partly ruined fort of Kasr Ibrim, dating from Roman times.’ (Baedeker’s Egypt, 1898)

Dictionnaire Géographique de l’Égypte 1899: Guéziret Ebrim, 66 habitants, Halfa district Nubia.

	IBRÎM	Single ring 28mm Date band 5mm
	.. IV 07 I	First date .. IV 07
	EBRIM	Last date 14 II 14



As Mike Murphy mentioned in his article *Qasr Ibrim post office revisited* (QC 279, page 180), Ibrim is recorded in the *Postal Guide* of 1904 as Class 5 [Note 2]. The next postal guide we have available is for 1911 but we have in addition the *Bulletins Hebdomadaire* of the Egyptian Government which also reflects and records the evolution of post offices.

Ibrim is not mentioned in the 1906 Bulletin. However, given that the earliest date recorded by the authors is from April 1907, we must conclude with certainty that the office was opened in 1905.



***Stationary envelope cancelled IBRIM 14 II 14 to Professor Georg Steindorff
in Cairo, where he was staying at the Shepherd's Hotel***

***Professor Georg Steindorff,
Egyptologist,
12 November 1861, Dessau,
to 28 August 1951, North Hollywood.
Photograph ca. 1910***



Of particular importance are Steindorff's excavations in Giza, Qau, Abusir and Aniba between 1903 and 1931. The Egyptian Museum In Cairo possesses many objects that were discovered on these expeditions. After his retirement in 1934, Steindorff lived another four years in Leipzig before emigrating to the United States in 1939, to avoid persecution as a Jew in Nazi Germany.

His archive is located in the Egyptian Museum of the University of Leipzig and houses a number of other bequests of contemporary historical relevance. These comprise photographs, travel journals, diaries and other correspondence. It is planned to make these archive holdings accessible to the public in this form through future cataloguing work.

Notes:

1. *Postal Guide* 1892: Class 6: a place on the banks of a river served by a postal boat. It does not have its own date stamp.
2. *Postal Guide* January 1904: Class 5: River stations served by mobile offices for all types of mail except for groups, insured parcels, and letters with declared value.

Sources:

Postal Guides of 1889, 1890, 1891, 1893, 1898, 1904, 1911, 1914.
Bulletins Hebdomadaire: 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1906, 1907, 1909.
QC 277: *Updata 1: TPO on Lake Nasser* by Antoine Winter (ESC 149).
QC 279: *Qasr Ibrim post office revisited* by Mike Murphy (ESC 240).

Story of a Stamp: 7. Kicking Off with Egypt's Football Stamps!

David Ogden (ESC 480)

Egyptian stamps have celebrated everything from pharaohs to space exploration, and football has scored a number of appearances. Football-themed stamps are special fun because they combine sport, history, art and national pride. Sing along: *Misr! Misr! Tahya Misr!* (Egypt! Egypt! Long live Egypt!).



Egypt's first football stamp - issued for the 1960 Rome Olympics

The earliest football stamp I can find is from the sports campaign and Rome Olympic Games set, issued in 1960. A 5 millimes football stamp (SG 642) featured among other sports.



Despite mascot Tut's help, Egypt lost to Spain in the Under-17 world championship in 1997

The 1985 Egyptian Football Victories is one of the classic modern football issues. These are commemorated on a strip of five 5 piastre stamps (100 p = 1LE), with Cairo Stadium featured across two stamps and players in the colours of Al Zamalek, Al Ahly and Arab Contractors adorn other 5p stamps. SG

1598/1602. A similar set was issued in 1987.

Success in the 1986 African Nations Cup merited another set celebrating Egypt's winning its third championship, by 5-4 on penalties after a goalless draw with Cameroon. The star player was attacking midfielder Magdi Abdelghan but the se-tenant pair may be hard to distinguish, the African Nations logo (CAF) in English on one stamp and Arabic on the other (SG 1633-34).

Egypt qualified for the 1990 World Cup for the first time since 1934, and issued a stamp (SG 1761) featuring the World Cup and a miniature sheet (SG 1762) celebrating Italia '90. Under coach Mahmoud El-Gohary, Egypt topped their CAF qualifying group and beat Algeria in a two-leg playoff for a place in the finals.



Se-tenant stamps marked a 5-4 penalties success in the 1986 African Nations Cup



Success in Africa for three Egyptian clubs was marked by a 1987 miniature sheet and FDC

The decisive goal in the return leg was scored by Hossam Hassan in front of 100,000 fans in Cairo. In the tournament itself, Egypt shared a 1-1 draw with the Netherlands, a goalless draw with Ireland, and an unlucky 1-0 loss to England. Two points meant exit at the group stage.

As hosts of the 1997 FIFA Under-17 world championship Egypt produced 20p and 75p (SG 2043/2044) stamps plus a miniature sheet (SG 2045). The bright modern design features the tournament emblem, introduces the cartoon pharaonic mascot "Tut" and features the trophy. Group games in Cairo attracted 70,000-plus attendances. Egypt bowed out in a quarter final shoot-out to Spain.



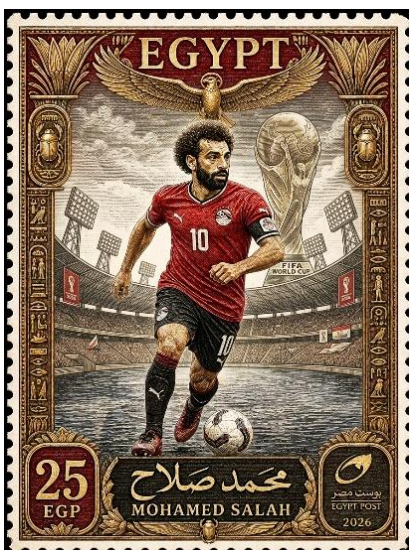
A striking miniature sheet celebrated a seventh African Cup win

Stamps of 30p and 125p were issued for the 2001 39th World Military championship, held in Egypt, and the home nation's win was celebrated with a stunning miniature sheet (SG 2203).

A 2004 FIFA Centenary issue 150p stamp marked the world body's centenary (SG 2380). The Egyptian Football Association was founded in 1921 and became a member of FIFA in 1923.



Egypt hosted the 2019 African Nations Cup, but the winners were Algeria

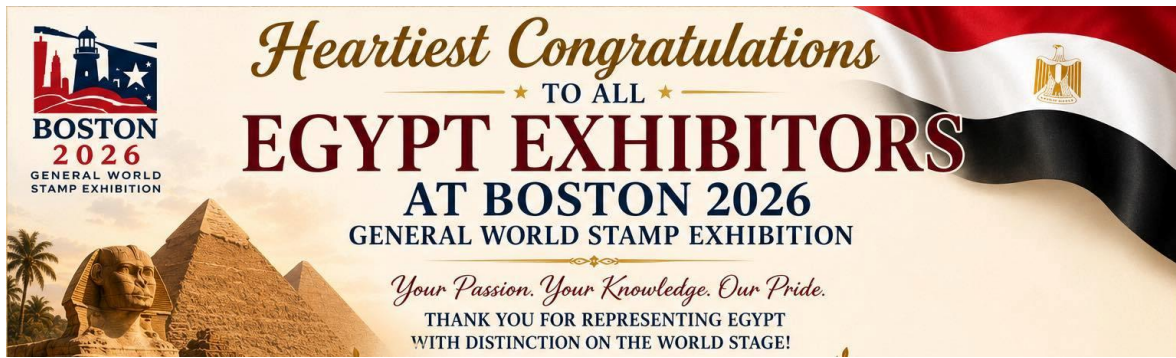


national or world-wide supporters to enhance their collections.

Final whistle: Egypt Post recently announced a stamp honouring the team's achievements at the 2026 World Cup. The Pharaohs came through Group G, then beat Australia in their first World Cup knockout game. Sadly, they exited at the last 16 stage, losing - unjustly, many believe - by 3-2 to Lionel Messi's Argentina. At the time of writing, I have not seen the new stamps but here is a fantasy image of what one might look like, featuring the "Egyptian King", Mohamed Salah*.

Footnote

*Image created using Microsoft Bing Image Creator (AI-generated).



The Egypt Study Circle at Boston 2026

Achievements, awards, and ideas for the Circle. By Ahmed Abouesh (ESC 761)

The Boston 2026 World Stamp Show brought the international philatelic community together from 23 to 30 May 2026 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. Held once a decade and recognised by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie, it was the twelfth international philatelic exhibition hosted in the United States, and this year it coincided with the 250th anniversary of American independence. Across some 4,000 competitive frames, a Court of Honour and a literature competition, it was among the largest world exhibitions in years — and a notable occasion for Egyptian philately and for our members.

Egyptian philately at the show

Egypt was strongly represented across the competitive classes at Boston 2026, with exhibits in traditional philately, postal history, postal stationery, the one-frame classes and the literature competition. The breadth was striking: from the country's earliest issues of the 1860s and 1870s through to twentieth-century airmail, military and private-airline postal history, and major reference works on Egyptian philately. Egyptian exhibitors collected a clutch of high awards, including two golds and a special prize, and the results were celebrated within the Circle and on social media under the banner "Well done, Team Egypt!"



The Egyptian contingent on the ground was smaller than at the New York 2016 international, where a larger group of members had gathered. Even so, it was a genuine pleasure to meet fellow members in person and to spend time together over the course of the show — the kind of face-to-face fellowship that no amount of correspondence or online contact can quite replace, and a reminder of why being present at these events matters.

Awards and achievements

The Egypt-related results at Boston 2026 are set out below by class. Medal abbreviations: G = Gold, LV = Large Vermeil, V = Vermeil, SP = Special Prize; the figure is the points score awarded by the jury.

Class 2D — Traditional Philately (Asia, Oceania and Africa)

Exhibitor	Exhibit	Award
Atef Sarian	The First Issue, Egypt 1866–1867	93 — Gold + SP
Ahmed Abouesh	Postage Due in Egypt from Pre-Philatelic Practice to the First Four Adhesive Issues (1884–1889)	87 — Large Vermeil
Aly Hatem Gabr	Egypt: The Third Issue 1872 & 1874–75	87 — Large Vermeil
Yasser Omar	King Fouad of Egypt — The First Portrait Issue	85 — Large Vermeil
Nael Hamdy	Egypt Airmail Issues 1926–1946	Withdrawn

Class 3D — Postal History (Asia, Oceania and Africa)

Exhibitor	Exhibit	Award
Mamdouh Mosly	Delta Collection (Egypt Postal History) 1798–1879	91 — Gold

Class 4B — Postal Stationery (Americas except USA)

Exhibitor	Exhibit	Award
Amr El-Etreby	Egypt Stationery Postal Cards 1879–1931	83 — Vermeil

One-Frame Exhibits

Exhibitor	Exhibit	Score
Ahmed Abouesh	Egypt's First Commemorative Issue, 1925 — A Philatelic Centennial Tribute to the International Geographical Congress in Cairo (13A Traditional)	83
Alaa Massoud	Simon Arzt-Port Said (13B Postal History)	86
Alaa Massoud	Seamen's Home Post Office (Alexandria-Egypt) (13B Postal History)	85
Alaa Massoud	British Army Postal Services in Palestine during World War II (13B Postal History)	65
Samuel Ashraf Gamil Khela	The Forgotten Story of Egypt's First Private Airline (13G Open Philately)	82

Literature Exhibits (Egypt)

Author	Work	Award
Joseph Chalhoub	<i>The Nile Post</i> — Handbook and Catalogue of Egyptian Stamps, 2nd Edition	90 — Gold

Author	Work	Award
Sami M. Fereig	<i>A Postal History of Egypt Under the Muhammad Ali Dynasty, Volumes 1–7</i>	86 — Large Vermeil

Particular congratulations are due to Atef Sarian, whose study of Egypt’s First Issue earned a gold and a special prize with a score of 93 — the highest among the Egyptian exhibits — and to Mamdouh Mosly, whose Delta Collection took a gold at 91. In the literature class, Joseph Chalhoub’s second edition of *The Nile Post* was rewarded with a gold, a fine recognition of a major reference work for Egyptian collectors. The strength in depth across large vermeils and the one-frame classes is just as encouraging, reflecting a healthy spread of exhibitors at every level.



Among successful Study Circle members at the event were, from left: Ali Abdelmegeid, Sami Fereig, Joe Chalhoub, Vahe Varjabedian, Ahmed Abouesh, Jon Aitchison, Vincent Centonze, and Mamdouh Mosly

Stepping in to fill the frames

A footnote from my own experience at the show speaks to the Circle’s readiness to support an exhibition. With some frames still to be filled, I was asked whether I had any material I could bring, and was glad to contribute a further twenty frames at short notice. These were shown non-competitively — displayed to fill the empty frames rather than entered for judging — and comprised:

- Bridging Continents — The Legacy of the French Post Office in Egypt (8 frames)
- Wings Over The Nile — Airmails of Egypt 1910–1939 (8 frames)
- 1933 Aviation Congress — Egypt 1933 (single frame)
- 1937 Ophthalmology Congress — Egypt 1937 (single frame)
- 10th UPU Congress, Egypt (single frame)
- Philatelic Tribute to the Heir of Egypt’s Throne — Farouk’s 10th Birthday (single frame).

Twenty frames in all, across two major eight-frame exhibits and four single-frame studies. The episode is a small illustration of a larger point: a depth of material among our members that can be called upon to support guest-society appearances and exhibitions, and a reminder of the value of knowing in advance who holds exhibitable collections. More broadly, participation in international and regional exhibitions brings the Circle valuable exposure — whether through attending in person or through competitive entry — and both routes put Egyptian philately, and the Circle’s name, in front of a wider audience.



One display wall at the Expo was filled with a colourful range of historic Egyptian stamps

Ideas and lessons for the Circle

Beyond the awards, Boston offered a working lesson in what a vibrant philatelic society looks like in 2026, and several ideas stood out as directly relevant to the Circle's future. They reinforce themes the Committee is already considering.

- **Presence is what drives recruitment.** A show like Boston reveals how much a society gains from simply being present and visible. Consistent presence, especially in North America, is the single most effective recruitment tool we have; one-off appearances achieve far less than a regular, expected one. The depth of Egyptian exhibiting on display is a strong foundation on which to build that presence.
- **Plan social gatherings earlier.** Promoting an event is not the same as filling it. An ESC dinner gathering was floated around the show to let members connect informally, but drew limited interest on this occasion. That is a useful, honest lesson rather than a failure: social events need earlier notice, a firm date and venue rather than "details to be finalised", and a clear sense that enough people will attend. It is worth trying again, planned further ahead and tied to a fixture members are already attending.
- **Practise before we perform.** The societies that impressed most were those whose displays were polished and whose public sessions ran smoothly. This reinforces the principle that we should present to the public — in person or on screen — only once we can do so professionally, practising internally first rather than learning in front of an audience.
- **The guest-society model works.** Boston confirmed how valuable a guest-society appearance at a major regional show could be. Filling 25–30 frames of strong Egyptian material at a respected exhibition is exactly the kind of visible, repeatable presence that builds membership — and the calibre of exhibits at Boston shows we have the material and the exhibitors to do it well. We should aim for at least one such appearance a year, in North America and, in time, Europe.
- **Engage younger collectors.** The energy at the show came partly from younger collectors and from societies that had made room for them. It underlined the need to recruit younger, technically capable members and to give them defined, attractive roles — running displays, broadcasts and social media — rather than waiting for them to find us.

- **Display standards matter.** Seeing how the strongest exhibits were mounted and judged is useful intelligence for our members planning to exhibit at future shows. The spread of Egyptian results across one-frame, multi-frame and literature classes shows there is an accessible route in at every level, which is worth encouraging among newer members.
- **Build links with kindred societies.** A number of kindred societies were present and active at Boston — many US clubs, together with the Oriental and Near East societies whose interests overlap closely with our own. These are natural partners for the reciprocal links proposed in our wider planning: shared or back-to-back meetings, exchange notices in each other's journals, and guest articles. The geographically and thematically closest of them are an obvious place to begin building a regular North American presence.

In closing

Boston 2026 was both a celebration of Egyptian philately's achievements and a glimpse of how an active society sustains itself. The awards — two golds, a special prize and a strong showing across every class — remind us of the depth of scholarship among Egypt collectors; the wider show reminds us that visibility, professionalism, and a welcome for the next generation are what keep that scholarship alive. Both are within the Circle's reach.

Expo Medal recalls midnight dash to warn of approaching peril

Sponsored by the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History, of Weston, Massachusetts, the Expo Medal has an unusual stamp shape. The three-inch square medal, with indented "perforations" that gave the manufacturer a headache, weighs 4.5 ounces, features the show's logo on one side and a powerful image of Paul Revere, one of Boston's most famous sons and a rebel leader at the Boston Tea Party, on the other. He is shown on horseback during his famous midnight ride in April 1775 from Boston to Lexington to warn colonial leaders that British troops were on their way to arrest them.



David Ball, Boston 2026 awards chair and security manager, said that after considering several designs to represent Boston and its environs, and taking into account the show's overall theme celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, Revere was most emblematic of that period. The design by Aija Pince, a British expatriate living in Riga, Latvia, was an easy selection. And use of the show logo created by the US stamp designer Richard Sheaff on the reverse was, he added, a "no-brainer".

A few questions for the membership

Dr Ahmed Abouesh, Membership Secretary

Members will recently have received an email from the Circle asking a set of questions. This page is partly to explain why, and partly to ask those who have not yet replied to do so.

The reason is straightforward. The Committee is giving thought to how the Circle should develop over the next few years — the *Quarterly Circular*, the Zoom talks, the auctions, and how we keep in touch with a membership scattered across some thirty countries. Before deciding anything, it seemed better to ask the membership than to guess at it. What serves a collector in Cairo well may serve one in Sweden or California less well, and we would rather understand those differences than assume them.

The survey is short: around twenty questions, most of them a single tick, and about five minutes' work. It can be found at:

<https://airtable.com/app9kl5OcVoDdw38/shr0Edm8YOIVU2cqy>

We would be grateful for replies by Friday 18 September. Members who would rather answer by post, or simply write to me with their thoughts, are just as welcome to do so — my address is with the Circle's officers, and a letter carries exactly the same weight as a form.

What members have said so far

The early returns have been encouraging enough to be worth reporting, though they are early and I would not want to draw conclusions from them yet.

Members have asked for articles on identifying forgeries, for more on twentieth-century material and rather less on exhibition reports, and for auction lots to be listed chronologically. One member suggested a way of connecting those with narrow shared interests — he collects only the Egyptian post office at Jeddah, and wonders who else does. Several of our Egyptian members have pointed out that WhatsApp, rather than Facebook, is where Egyptian philatelists actually are.

The most striking finding so far concerns the Zoom talks. Of those who have replied, a good number said simply that they were unaware the talks existed. Not that they could not attend, or did not care for them — that they did not know. If that holds across the membership, then the problem is one of telling people rather than of interest, which is a considerably easier problem to have.

The question at the end

There is a final question asking whether members would be willing to help the Circle occasionally — writing for the *QC*, giving a talk, lending a hand with the auctions or the website, recruiting, or serving on the Committee.

I would encourage everyone to consider it seriously. A society of this size runs on a small number of people doing a great deal, and it has done for many years. Several members have already offered, and their offers were the most welcome part of the exercise. Ticking a box commits nobody to anything; it simply tells us who might say yes if asked, which at present we have no way of knowing.

The results will be summarised for the Committee in the autumn, and reported in these pages in due course. Whatever emerges, it will be the membership's view rather than a guess at it — and that alone will be worth the five minutes.



Meet in Cairo September 17-19

Collectors from around the world are meeting in Cairo for the spectacular "Egyphila" 2026 exhibition, which will put on display more than 300 frames of top-class Egypt stamps and postal history.

The multinational exhibition, set in the dramatic surroundings of the Digital Egypt Innovation Centre 'Creativa', Giza, close to Cairo University, the Zoo and the Nile River, is organised by our colleagues the Philatelic Society of Egypt under the auspices of the European Union for Stamp Collecting (FEPA) together with the Ministry of Communications, Information Technology and the Egyptian Postal Service.

It will feature a select group of international commissioners and jurors who will represent the participating countries, with stunning displays from Algeria, Croatia, Greece, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, the UK, and, of course, Egypt.

EGY-PHIL CAIRO 2026 - HOTEL MAIL

CAIRO - NILE HILTON HOTEL



Lucien Toutounji, ESC
264 and a Life
Member, allowed us a
sneak preview of his
Nile Hilton Hotel
single-frame entry in
the Cairo Egy-Phila
exhibition (with his full
gold-medal Hotel
Mails on displayed in
the Court of Honour).

The Nile Hilton Hotel was Egypt's first modern luxury hotel meeting international standards, built after World War II.

Located on the eastern bank of the Nile on a site previously occupied by a Khedivial palace, it was inaugurated on 22 February 1959. It had 400 rooms and was the first in Egypt to be equipped with central air conditioning; hence able to receive guests year round, in comfortable luxurious accommodation.

Its post office started operating on the day of the hotel's inauguration and closed during 1976. Mail sent by surface, air, registered, A.R., express, returned to sender, is known sent from the Nile Hilton Hotel post office and is shown on the following pages.

In December 2008 the 50 year Management Agreement with Hilton Hotels came to an end. The hotel was to shut down in 2009 and to re-open under a new name in 2011 after major modernization and upgrading, under a new Management Agreement with the Ritz Carlton hotel chain.

References: Les cachets à date des bureaux de poste des hotels d'Egypte by Jean Boulad d'Humières as well as articles by Mr Mike Murphy published in the *Quarterly Circular* of the Egypt Study Circle; complemented by the exhibitor's personal research.

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EGYPT - HOTEL MAIL

CAIRO - NILE HILTON HOTEL

Inaugurated 22 February 1959, located on the eastern bank of the Nile. This was the first modern luxury hotel in Egypt. Post office opened on the day of inauguration and closed in September 1985. Egypt issued a ten mills stamp depicting the hotel of which an imperforate pair is shown hereunder. The English text was : "Nile Hilton Hotel" while the Arabic : "Nile Hotel International" with no mention of the word Hilton.



Though the hotel name was "Nile Hilton", Type I cancel was inscribed "Hilton Nile". It was rapidly replaced by a corrected postmark.



Type I Cancellation
22.2.59 to 9.3.59
Diameter 34 mm / Date 10.5 mm



Mailed locally on day of hotel and post office inauguration. Type I cancel. Franked : At 10 mills, paying the local letter rate.

EGYPT - HOTEL MAIL

CAIRO - NILE HILTON HOTEL

This cancellation was introduced about 3 weeks after Type I and showed the name of the hotel corrected to "Nile Hilton"



Type II Cancel
10.3.1959 to
21.7.1965
Diameter 34 mm
Date 10

Hotel postcard to U.S.A. 12 July 1965. Type II cancel. Egyptian censor mark. Franked : Foreign card 30 mills, air 40 mills. Total 70 mills.



Cover to Switzerland 24 July 1962. Type II cancel. Egyptian censor circular mark. Franked : Base 60 mills, air 20 mills, total 80 mills.

EGYPT - HOTEL MAIL

CAIRO - NILE HILTON HOTEL

Type II Cancellation



United Arab Republic L.E.1.0 block of four and block six stamps, showing Queen Nefertiti, postmarked by Type II hotel cancellation.

The Egyptian Pound was, at the time worth 2.80 U.S. Dollars, hence these blocks represented a very high franking, used most likely to mail parcels.

EGYPT - HOTEL MAIL

CAIRO - NILE HILTON HOTEL

Type II Cancellation

HOTEL ADVERTISING LETTER CARD


النيل هيلتون
القاهرة - الجمهورية العربية المتحدة
على ضفاف النيل الخالد يبعث الحياة منذ الأزل
يقوم فندق النيل هيلتون .
بحوى فندق النيل هيلتون ٥٠٠ غرفة
مكيفة الهواء بديعة التسيق .
وبارات ، ومطعم جوهرة النيل ، وملهى البليديز
وقهوة الأيبس .
إنه آخر ما تقدمه حضارة الغرب من متعة وراحة
في جوار شرف .

THE NILE HILTON
CAIRO. EGYPT. U.A.R.

Situated on the bank of the eternal lifegiving Nile,
its 400 beautifully appointed, delightfully air condi-
tioned rooms, 2 bars, Jewel of the Nile speciality res-
taurant, Belvedere Roof, Supper Club, Ibis Coffee Shop,
The Nile Hilton offers the latest western comfort in an
oriental setting.

ADDRESS
Message en

90 M AIR-MAIL
٩٠ م بريد جوي
NILE HILTON

Mrs David Newburg
157 Summit Court
Westfield, New Jersey
United States of Amer

PRINTED IN U.A.R.

In 1963, the Nile Hilton briefly issued the above advertising letter card, showing the hotel as well as a brief description of its main facilities. Mailed 17 March 1963. Type II hotel cancellation.

Franked at the all inclusive airmail rate of 90 mills to the U.S.A.

EGYPT - HOTEL MAIL

CAIRO - NILE HILTON HOTEL

Type II Cancel

REGISTERED MAIL

No registration postmark is recorded for this hotel.



Native cover sent registered from hotel post office 16 August 1961, from Cairo to Kena (Upper Egypt). Generic registration label. Type II cancel. Cairo registration transit postmark. Franked : All inclusive rate 35 mills.

ONLY 4 REGISTERED COVERS RECORDED BEARING TYPE II CANCEL

EGYPT - HOTEL MAIL

CAIRO - NILE HILTON HOTEL

Type II Cancellation

REGISTERED WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT (A.R.)



Hotel stationery cover, sent registered with acknowledgement of receipt to Damanhour 2 January 1962. Manuscript registration and A.R. (arrow) instructions. Type II cancel. Refused by addressee. Returned to hotel post office. Type II cancel 8 January 1962 on back of cover. Franked : Registration inclusive rate 35 mills, A.R. 20 mills, total 55 mills.

ONLY 2 REGISTERED A.R. COVERS KNOWN FROM THE NILE HILTON HOTEL

EGYPT - HOTEL MAIL

CAIRO - NILE HILTON HOTEL

Type II Cancellation

EXPRESS MAIL



Hotel letterhead cover, by EXPRESS mail to Alexandria, on 4 October 1963. Hotel Type II cancel. Indistinct "Alexandria 3" arrival. Franked : Correct at the 40 mills internal express rate.

MAIL SENT EXPRESS FROM HOTEL POST OFFICES IS VERY SELDOM SEEN

EGYPT - HOTEL MAIL

CAIRO - NILE HILTON HOTEL

In this cancellation the spelling of the word "Nile"
has been changed to "Nil".



Type III Cancellation
22.2.1961 to 21.7.1973
Diameter 34 mm
Date 12 mm

International Reply Coupon bought at the hotel post office 12 May 1970.
Type III hotel cancellation. Less than 5 believed to exist.



Card to U.S.A. Type III cancel. Franked : At 85 mills all inclusive
airmail post card rate, in force from 1971 to 1977.

EGYPT - HOTEL MAIL

CAIRO - NILE HILTON HOTEL

Type III Cancellation
Incoming Registered Official Mail



Registered official service letter to guest at the hotel 2 August 1967.
Hotel Type III cancel as receiver backstamp dated 3 March 1965.
Franked : Base 20 mills, registration 35 mills. Total correct 55 mills.

VERY SELDOM SEEN

EGYPT - HOTEL MAIL

CAIRO - NILE HILTON HOTEL

From 5 October 1964 a three day "Non Aligned States" conference was held at the Nile Hilton Hotel. To mark the occasion a commemorative stamp and a special cancellation bearing the name of the hotel, were made available by the Egyptian post office.



Type IV Cancellation
Diameter 34 mm
Date 10 mm



First day cover of the stamp issued 5 October 1964 to commemorate the "Non Aligned States" Conference held at the hotel, also same day Type IV cancel.

THE ONLY ITEM RECORDED BEARING TYPE IV CANCELLATION

EGYPT - HOTEL MAIL

CAIRO - NILE HILTON HOTEL

This cancellation was short lived and came into use soon after the October 1973 Arab-Israeli war, when tourism in Egypt had dried up. It is consequently seldom seen and generally poorly struck.



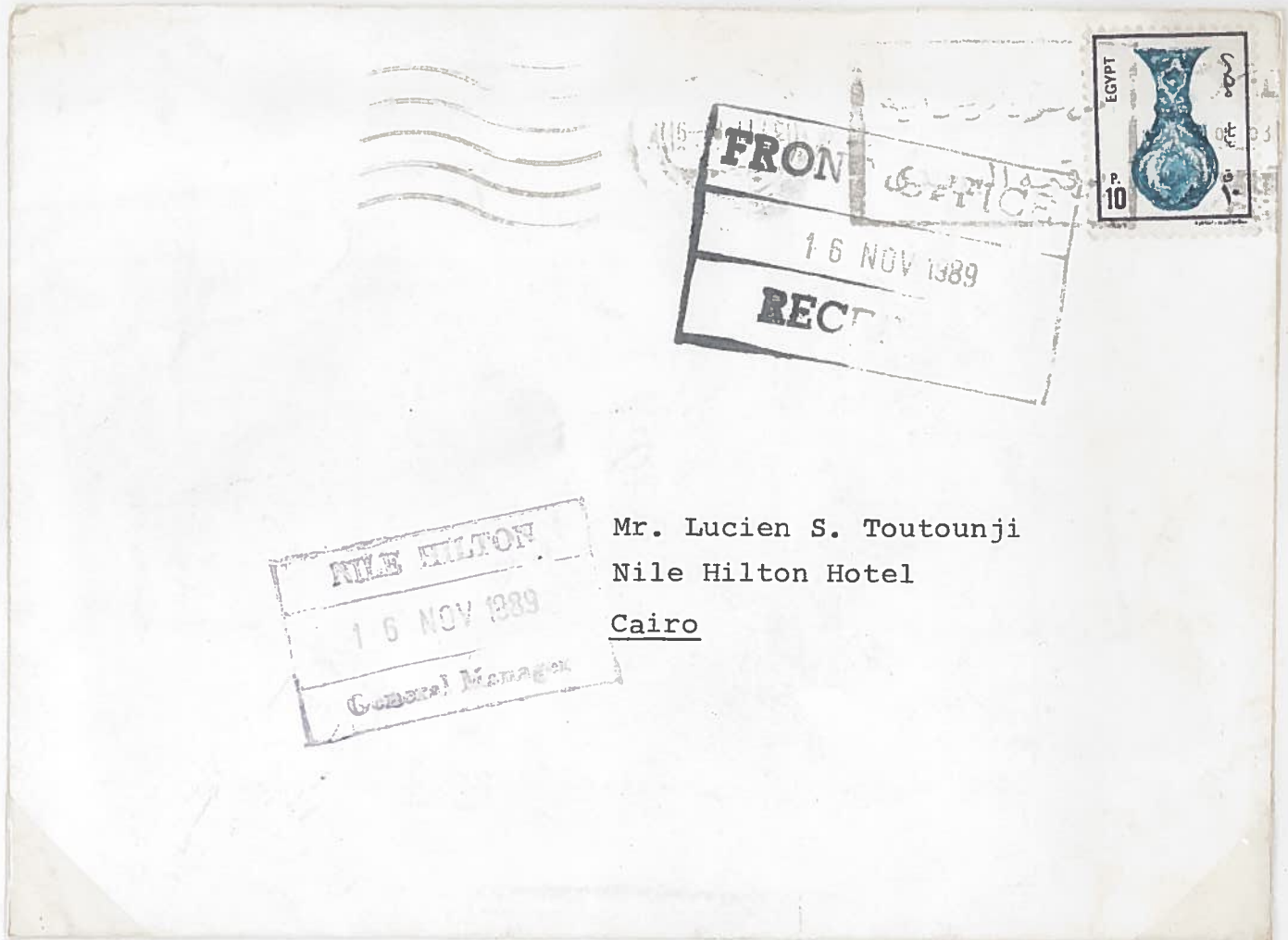
Type V Cancel
In use 2 May 1974
To 2 January 1976
Diameter 25 mm
Date 7 mm

Airmail cover to the U.S.A.
2 March 1975. Type V hotel
cancel. Egyptian censor
mark. Franked : At 315
mills. All inclusive air
rate to U.S.A. was 110 mills
per 15/grs.

EGYPT - HOTEL MAIL

CAIRO - NILE HILTON HOTEL

INCOMING MAIL



Mr. Lucien S. Toutounji
Nile Hilton Hotel
Cairo

Letter from Cairo 11 November 1989 to hotel guest. On delivery to hotel, received "NILE HILTON / General Manager" handstamp dated 16 November 1989 and also "FRONT / OFFICE / RECEIVED" of same date.

Franked : At the 10 piasters local letter rate.

EGYPT - HOTEL MAIL

CAIRO - NILE HILTON HOTEL

"RETURN TO SENDER" MAIL

4.3.93.

Baros Holiday Resort
North Male' Atoll
Republic of Maldives

Hiya,
At last we are here
- very little changes,
only the room number
Trish sends her
motherhood suits her
dude after yourself
will write on return.

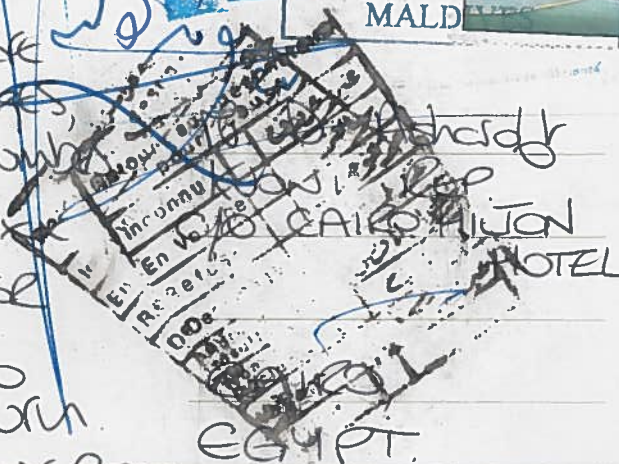
POST CARD

BACK TO SENDER

AIRPORT POST

22 MAR 1993

MALD



Universal Enterprises Limited
P. O. Box 2015, 38, Orchid Magu, Male
Tel: (960) 323080, 322971, 323512, Fax:
Telex: 66024 UNIENT MF, Cable: Unive

تمنى رؤيتكم قريباً
مع تمنياتنا بإقامة سعيدة
معنا.



أحمد رزق

R.T.S. : Unknown At The Given Address

السعودية
جدة
باصلة
1993
أحمد رزق

For Reservation Please Call
Direct Tel.: 578-0684 Fax: 578-0500
Operator: 578-0444 / 666 Fax: 578-0475

TOP : Card sent on 5 March 1993 from the Maldivian Islands to hotel guest who had left. On arrival, handstamp applied "NILE HILTON / General Manager" dated 22 March 1993 and hotel's "BACK TO SENDER". Egyptian post office "UNKNOWN", handstamp. **BOTTOM** : Hotel postcard (Return address handstamp in Arabic at bottom left : "Nile Hilton / Ahmad Rizk"), undated (stamp issued in 1997), to Djedda. Saudi post office "R.T.S. : Unknown At The Given Address" handstamp.

EGYPT - HOTEL MAIL

CAIRO - NILE HILTON HOTEL



This meter franking remained in use until the hotel closed in December 2008.

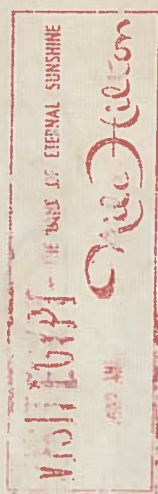
Hotel letterhead cover, mailed 12 June 1994. On front, Cairo distribution postmark dated 14 June 1994.

Franked : At the 15 piasters local letter rate, using hotel meter franking machine.

EGYPT - HOTEL MAIL

CAIRO - NILE HILTON HOTEL

For convenience and better control, in 1963, the Hotel, started using the following meter franking in red, for its own mail, including an advertising message.



13 11 63 = CAIRO - القاهرة =

Mr. Ernest Kehr
C/O the New York Herald Tribune
230 West 41st Street
New York 18, N.Y.
U.S.A.



BY AIR MAIL



= 11 11 63 = CAIRO - القاهرة =

Length 116 mm
In use 11 February 1963
to 12 September 1965

Official hotel mail letter, on hotel stationery, to the U.S.A. 13 February 1963. Circular censor mark. Franked : Base 60 mills, air 30 mills, total 90 mills.

Two Letters from Navarino

Ahmed Abouesh (ESC 761)

A Paired Postal History of the Last Great Battle Fought Under Sail

September 1827 (HMS Dartmouth, before the battle) October 1827 (HMS Asia / Gannet, the day after)

Introduction

The Battle of Navarino, fought on 20 October 1827 in the natural amphitheatre of Navarino Bay on the south-west coast of the Peloponnese, was the engagement that effectively secured Greek independence and the last major fleet action in history fought entirely under sail. An allied squadron under Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Codrington — twelve British, eight Russian, and seven French ships of war — destroyed in four hours a combined Ottoman-Egyptian fleet of more than seventy vessels, at no allied loss in ships and at the cost of fewer than two hundred allied dead.

The two covers presented here together preserve, in the words of two young Royal Navy officers serving in Codrington's squadron, the human experience of the campaign on either side of its decisive moment. The first letter — from HMS *Dartmouth*, dated 29 September 1827, written from the blockade itself — is the voice of the campaign's tense overture.

The second — from the Hon. William Edwardes, RN, written aboard or shortly after leaving HMS *Asia*, Codrington's flagship, in late October 1827 — is the voice of its astonished aftermath. Both letters travelled home by private merchant ship and entered the British inland post, the first at Portsmouth and the second at Plymouth, each rated under the same combined ship-letter and inland tariff. Together they constitute a documentary pairing of considerable rarity for any exhibit of the postal history of the Greek War of Independence.

Historical Context

By the summer of 1827 the Greek revolt against Ottoman rule, which had begun in 1821, had reached a critical pass. The arrival in 1825 of an Egyptian expeditionary force under Ibrahim Pasha — son of Muhammad Ali, the Ottoman viceroy of Egypt — had reversed earlier Greek successes, and by 1826 Ibrahim's troops had reduced much of the Peloponnese to a wasteland. Western public opinion, inflamed by reports of mass killings and the romantic figure of Lord Byron (who had died at Missolonghi in April 1824), pressed reluctant European governments toward intervention.

Under the Treaty of London of 6 July 1827, Britain, France and Russia jointly committed to imposing an armistice on the belligerents. Codrington, flying his flag in HMS *Asia*, was charged with enforcing the treaty against the combined Ottoman-Egyptian fleet then concentrating in Navarino Bay.

Through August and September 1827 Codrington blockaded the bay and intercepted Ibrahim's attempts to break out — twice in early October Ibrahim was forced back into the anchorage. On 13 October the

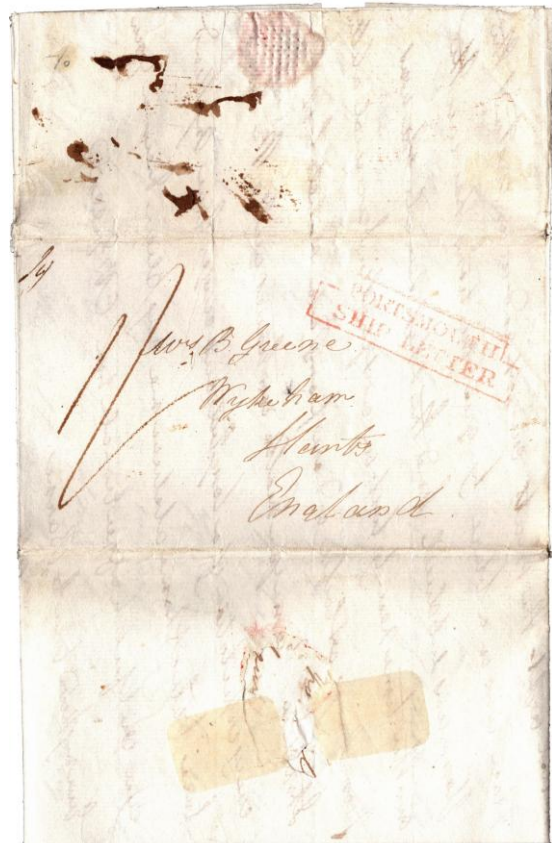
Russian squadron under Rear-Admiral Heiden joined Codrington, followed the same day by the French under Rear-Admiral de Rigny.

The *Dartmouth* letter — our first cover — was written during this fraught blockade phase, three weeks before the battle. The *Asia* letter — our second cover — was written in its immediate aftermath.

Cover One — HMS Dartmouth, off Navarino, 29 September 1827

The Cover

Folded letter sheet addressed to **Mrs B. Greene, Wykeham, Hants, England**, in a confident young hand. The cover bears a fine **step-framed “PORTSMOUTH / SHIP LETTER”** handstamp struck in red at upper right, and is rated **“1/-”** in manuscript at upper left — comprising the 8d ship-letter rate plus 4d inland from Portsmouth to a Hampshire address (within the inland band “not exceeding 30 miles”). A red wax seal at the foot has been broken on opening; a tape repair across the central tear was applied at some later date. The letter is dated from the body of the manuscript: *HMS Dartmouth off Navarino, Sept. 29th 1827*.



The Writer and Recipient

The writer is a young officer of HMS *Dartmouth* — most probably a midshipman or master's mate — writing home to his mother (“My dear Mama”). The signature on the inner sheet appears to read C. B. Greene, matching the addressee. Without access to the *Dartmouth* muster rolls (TNA, ADM 37 series) it is not yet possible to identify the writer with certainty; he is presumably a son of the Greene family of Wykeham, a small parish near Fareham in south Hampshire convenient to Portsmouth and a typical home district for naval families of the period.

Dartmouth herself was a 36-gun fifth-rate frigate launched in 1813, commanded at Navarino by Captain Sir Thomas Fellowes — a veteran officer who would, three weeks after this letter was written, command the very ship whose longboat (sent to halt an Ottoman fireship) drew the first musket-shot of the engagement. Throughout September and early October *Dartmouth* served as Codrington's principal

Figure 1. Cover One. Folded letter sheet from HMS *Dartmouth* off Navarino, 29 September 1827, addressed to Mrs B. Greene, Wykeham, Hants, England. The red step-framed PORTSMOUTH / SHIP LETTER handstamp lies at right and the manuscript “1/-” rate at upper left; the broken wax seal at the foot carries an old tape repair.

inshore frigate, repeatedly tasked with watching the Ottoman fleet within Navarino Bay and reporting Ibrahim's movements.

The Letter

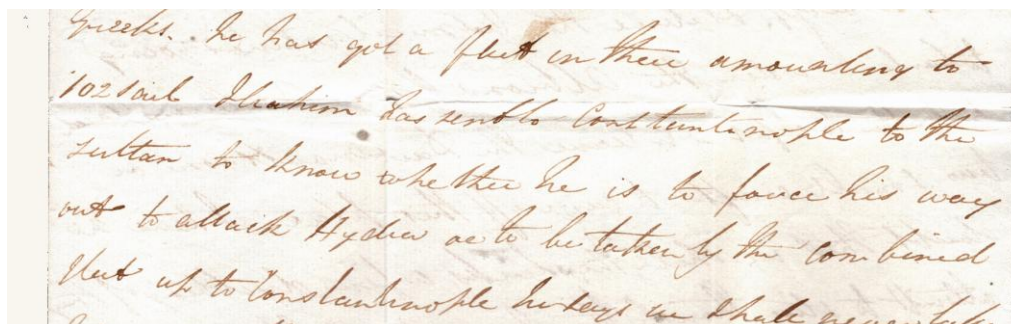
The surviving text, transcribed from the manuscript:

HMS *Dartmouth* off Navarino

Sept. 29th 1827

My dear Mama,

As the *Seringapatam* is about to sail for England I shall take the opportunity of sending you a few lines. On hearing that the Admiral was blockading Navarino the *Ariadne* [we] immediately proceeded to him; when we found the *Asia*, 2 sail of the line, six frigates, 3 brigs, 2 cutters & a schooner. The English & French Admirals were at anchor in Navarino, treating with Ibrahim Pacha about the Greeks. He has got a fleet in there amounting to 102 sail. Ibrahim has sent to Constantinople to the Sultan to know whether he is to force his way out to attack Hydra or to be taken by the combined fleet. Up to Constantinople he says we shall never take him alive — that he will sink first. We all suddenly weighed and stood out, the Admiral [Codrington] having...



The continuation, on the inner sheet, is partly obscured by fading and a small loss; the substance describes the squadron's movements and an encounter at sea, and concludes with affectionate greetings to a sibling ("Barrow") and the writer's signature.

Significance and Postal Routing

Several elements give this cover its distinctive importance. First, it is a **genuine campaign letter** written from the blockade itself, three weeks before the

battle, capturing the operational uncertainty of the moment with no knowledge of what was to come. Second, it preserves contemporaneous **naval intelligence in the writer's own hand** — the precise composition of the allied force on station, the strength of the Ottoman fleet in the bay (102 sail), and



Ibrahim's despatch to Constantinople for instructions. The intelligence is crisp, matter-of-fact, and consistent with the order-of-battle preserved in the contemporary fleet returns of 14 October 1827.

The *Seringapatam* — named in the opening sentence as the homeward-bound vessel that will carry the letter to England — was a returning East Indiaman, the standard means by which Royal Navy correspondence from the Mediterranean station reached Britain in the absence of a direct packet service. The cover entered the British inland post at **Portsmouth**, where the Custom House struck the step-framed “SHIP LETTER / PORTSMOUTH” mark and applied the “1/-” rate (8d ship-letter fee + 4d short-distance inland to a Hampshire delivery address). This is the standard rate combination for a private ship letter landed at Portsmouth and addressed locally, as distinct from the 1/7 charged for the longer onward inland journey to London.

Cover Two — HMS Asia / HMS Gannet, late October 1827

The Cover

Folded letter sheet addressed to **George Rodney Mundy, Esqre., 28 Upper George Street, Portman Square, London**. Sealed at the foot with the writer's red wax armorial bearing the initials “W.E.”. Postal markings: an inverted **step-framed “SHIP LETTER / PLYMOUTH”** handstamp struck at upper left; a small Plymouth circular datestamp; manuscript rate “1/7” — comprising the 8d ship-letter rate plus the 11d Plymouth-to-London inland charge for the 170-to-230 mile band; and a London arrival c.d.s. of **9 January 1828** on what survives of the flap. Only a fragment of the inner sheet survives, the remainder having been cut away by a previous owner.

The Writer and Recipient

The “W.E.” seal identifies the writer as the **Hon. William Edwardes** (3 February 1801 – 1872), eldest surviving son of the 2nd Baron Kensington, Lieutenant RN. Edwardes had been appointed to HMS *Asia* — Codrington's flagship — on 6 October 1826, and was therefore present aboard her at Navarino on 20 October 1827, stationed on the lower gun deck during the four-hour engagement. For his conduct he was rewarded by Codrington the following day, **21 October 1827**, with



Figure 3. Cover Two. Folded letter sheet addressed to George Rodney Mundy, Esqre., 28 Upper George Street, Portman Square, London. The inverted step-framed SHIP LETTER / PLYMOUTH handstamp and the London arrival datestamp (A / 9 JA 1828) appear at top; the Hon. William Edwardes's red wax “W.E.” armorial seal is at the foot, and the manuscript “1/7” rate crosses the address panel.

the acting command of HMS *Gannet* (18-gun brig-sloop), the appointment confirmed by Admiralty commission dated 22 October. He returned to England in 1828, never served afloat again, and in 1852 succeeded as 3rd Baron Kensington of the Irish Peerage.



Figure 4. Detail of the red wax armorial seal bearing the initials "W.E." of the Hon. William Edwardes, RN.

The recipient, **George Rodney Mundy** (19 April 1805 – 23 December 1884), was a fellow young naval officer and grandson of Admiral Lord Rodney. At the time of Navarino he was serving on the South American Station, having been recalled from the Mediterranean fleet shortly before the battle. He thus learned of the engagement second-hand from his friend's letter. Mundy himself rose to Admiral of the Fleet in 1877 and earned lasting fame for his anti-piracy operations in Borneo with Sir James Brooke (1846–47) and his diplomatic role at Palermo during Garibaldi's expedition of 1860.

The Letter

The surviving fragment, transcribed from the manuscript (with conjectural readings in square brackets):

...[fight] shy of the subject. [...] I don't like running on, much less writing, about a person I have no great opinion of, as by making him conspicuous it brings him into disrepute and my friend has not much to boast of. But however — after coming out of Navarin with a whole skin (another proof of the inconsiderableness — my conscience, what a coin[age] — I glory in a parenthesis) of the person — I find myself Acting Commander of H.M. Sloop *Gannet*. Lord Ingestre was sent to England with the dispatches]. I was first on the Admiralty list so presume the Lord High Admiral will confirm the appointment]. I cannot give any very clear account of the Action: **first of all I was so frightened, and secondly I was stationed on the lower deck**, where, thanks to teak ships, I was quite safe — but it was rather hot work for three or four hours and then... **they all blew up**. Recoil[ed]...



The fragment ends here, the inner sheet torn away.

Significance and Postal Routing

The candid admission of fear (“first of all I was so frightened”), the wry acknowledgment of survival owed to *Asia*'s Bombay-built teak construction (“thanks to teak ships I was quite safe”), and the dry cadence of the closing line (“rather hot work for three or four hours and

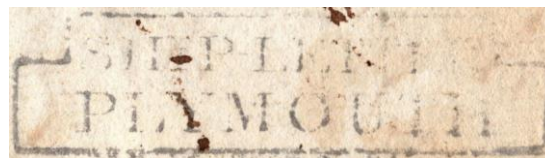


Figure 5. Detail of the inverted step-framed SHIP LETTER / PLYMOUTH handstamp — the Plymouth receiving-port strike at the 8d ship-letter fee.

then... they all blew up”) are remarkable for their honesty. They are the kind of admissions that almost never survive in official Gazette accounts of the engagement, and they preserve a register of feeling — fear, relief, irony — that the public record deliberately suppresses.

The cover entered the British inland post at **Plymouth** — almost certainly on a westbound Mediterranean trader whose arrival was reported in the *Lloyd's List* of 7 January 1828 (the *Cordana* ex Oporto, or the *Norden* ex Trieste, are the strongest candidates) — and travelled by inland post to its London delivery on 9 January 1828. Codrington's official despatches, by contrast, had reached the Admiralty Office by Lord Ingestre's hand on 10 November 1827, and were published in the *London Gazette* the same day — almost two months ahead of this private letter. The differential between the two routes is itself a useful illustration of the speed gap between official and private mail in the pre-steam Mediterranean.

The Two Covers Together

Considered as a pair, the two covers offer a complete documentary arc of the Navarino campaign in the words of those who fought it. The *Dartmouth* letter of 29 September gives us the campaign as it appeared from the deck of an inshore frigate, three weeks before any shot was fired in anger: a careful tally of allied strength, a clear-eyed estimate of the Ottoman force, and Ibrahim's last reported message to Constantinople. The *Asia* letter of late October gives us the same campaign as it appeared from the lower deck of the Allied flagship the day after the engagement — disorientated, frightened, alive, suddenly promoted, and unable to believe his luck.

Each cover is also a fine and intact example of the British Ship Letter system at the close of the pre-stamp era, with crisp strikes of the step-framed handstamps of two of the principal British receiving ports — **Portsmouth** (rated 1/- for short-distance inland delivery) and **Plymouth** (rated 1/7 for the long inland journey to London) — both struck at the standard 8d ship-letter fee under 55 Geo. III c.153 (1815). Side by side they document not only the human experience of the last great fleet action under sail, but also the working of the British inland post in the final decade before uniform penny postage.

Open Questions for Further Research

Two outstanding identifications would, if confirmed, sharpen the documentary record:

Identity of the Dartmouth writer. The TNA *Dartmouth* muster (ADM 37 series) and pay book (ADM 35) for September 1827 should reveal a young officer named Greene aboard ship, almost certainly a

midshipman or master's mate, with a Hampshire connection. The Greene family of Wykeham can probably be cross-referenced through the parish registers of Wykeham, Hants, and through O'Byrne's *Naval Biographical Dictionary* (1849) under the surname Green or Greene.

Reading of the “Ariadne” / “Asia” query. The album page accompanying the cover queries whether the writer's ship-name is *Ariadne* or *Asia*. On the manuscript, the formation reads more naturally as a reference to the *Ariadne* — a 28-gun sixth-rate frigate also on the Mediterranean station — proceeding to join the *Asia* off Navarino. This is consistent with *Ariadne* being listed in the *Asia*'s campaign correspondence (MSS 246, NMRN Admiralty Library Collections). High-resolution examination of the manuscript at this point would settle the question.

The exact Robertson type number for both the **PORTSMOUTH** and **PLYMOUTH** Ship Letter handstamps should be confirmed against Robertson's *A History of the Ship Letters of the British Isles* (1955–65) as updated in Tabcart's *Robertson Revisited* (1997). Both references are held at the Royal Philatelic Society London (Sacher Library) and the American Philatelic Research Library; APRL members can request scans of the relevant pages.

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Tabcart, Colin. *Robertson Revisited*. Limassol: James Bendon, 1997. The standard modern update to Robertson, incorporating additions, variations, and revised periods of use.

Tabcart, Colin. *United Kingdom Letter Rates, Inland and Overseas, 1657–1900*. London: HH Sales Ltd, 1st ed. 1989; 2nd ed. 1990; supplementary information, Bradford, 1992; revised expanded edition, 2003.

Sanford, O. R., and Denis Salt. *British Postal Rates 1635–1839*. London: Postal History Society, 1990. Useful parallel rate authority, often cited alongside Tabcart.

Robinson, David. *For the Port and Carriage of Letters: A Practical Guide to the Inland and Foreign Postage Rates of the British Isles 1570 to 1840*. Privately published (Scotland), 1990.

Willcocks, R. M., and B. Jay. *British County Catalogues of Postal History*. 5 volumes. Various publishers, ongoing series. County-level handstamp listings (the “BCC type” numbering) used alongside Robertson.

Hendy, John G. *The History of the Early Postmarks of the British Isles and Ship Letters*. Various editions, Postal History Society / Royal Philatelic Society London.

Clark, Rex. *Rates to Reform: A Guide to the High Postage Rates in Great Britain and their Reform 1812–1840*. Morpeth: Rex Clark, 2009. Specifically covers the rate regime in force when both covers were carried.

Statutory Sources

55 Geo. III c.153 — *Post Office (Ship Letters) Act 1815*, in force 11 July 1815 to 10 January 1840.
Established the 8d ship-letter fee with 2d master's gratuity. Applied to both covers.

52 Geo. III c.88 — *Post Office (Inland Rates) Act 1812*, in force 9 July 1812 to 5 December 1839.
Established the inland mileage rate schedule, including 4d for distances not exceeding 30 miles (Cover One) and 11d for the 170–230 mile band (Cover Two).

2 & 3 Vict. c.52 — *Postage Act 1839*, abolishing the foregoing rates from 5 December 1839 in preparation for uniform penny postage.

Texts of the principal Acts available via the Great Britain Philatelic Society at
<https://www.gbbs.org.uk/information/rates>.

Battle of Navarino — Primary Sources

The London Gazette, 10 November 1827. Codrington's official despatches dated *Asia*, "in the Port of Navarin," 21 October 1827, with enclosures and casualty returns. Searchable at
<https://www.thegazette.co.uk>.

The National Archives, Kew (TNA): ADM series. Particularly ADM 51 (Captain's logs), ADM 53 (ships' logs of *Asia*, *Albion*, *Genoa*, *Dartmouth*, *Talbot*, *Gannet*); ADM 35 (pay books); ADM 37 (musters). The *Dartmouth* musters for September 1827 should resolve the identity of the Cover One writer.

Royal Naval Museum / National Museum of the Royal Navy, Portsmouth: MSS 246, *Papers of Edward Codrington*, 2 boxes covering his command in the Mediterranean 1827–1828, including received correspondence and ships' logs of *Alacrity*, *Ariadne*, *Asia*, *Albion*, *Aetna*, and *Gannet*.

[McPherson, Charles] ("A British Seaman"). *Life on Board a Man-of-War, including A Full Account of the Battle of Navarino*. Glasgow: Blackie & Fullerton, 1829. First-hand lower-deck account by a seaman of HMS *Genoa*. Available free at the Internet Archive.

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Woodhouse, C. M. *The Battle of Navarino*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1965. The standard modern English-language monograph.

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Stephen, Leslie, and Sidney Lee, eds. *Dictionary of National Biography*. 63 vols. London: Smith, Elder, 1885–1900. Includes Laughton's entry on Mundy (Sir George Rodney, 1805–1884) and an entry on Codrington. Free at Wikisource.

Matthew, H. C. G., and Brian Harrison, eds. *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004; online edition ongoing. Revised entries for Codrington, Edwardes, and Mundy.

Cokayne, G. E. *The Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain and the United Kingdom*. New ed., 13 vols., 1910–1959. Entries on Baron Kensington (Edwardes) and Baron Rodney (Mundy).

Pine, L. G. *The New Extinct Peerage 1884–1971*. London: Heraldry Today, 1972. Entry for Mundy p.272.

National Portrait Gallery, London. NPG photographic collections — 1860 studio portrait of William Edwardes, 3rd Baron Kensington. <https://www.npg.org.uk>.

Contemporary Newspapers and Shipping Lists

Lloyd's List, 7 January 1828 (and surrounding issues). Records arrivals “off Plymouth” of westbound Mediterranean traders, including the *Cordana* ex Oporto and *Norden* ex Trieste — the most plausible carriers of Cover Two.

The Times, November 1827 onward. Initial press accounts of Navarino, including extracts of private letters from officers present. Times Digital Archive (Gale) — available free at most public and academic libraries.

Online Reference Resources

Great Britain Philatelic Society — <https://www.gbps.org.uk>. Rate tables, statutory text, and bibliographical guidance.

The Postal Museum, London — <https://www.postalmuseum.org>. Curatorial pages on Ship Letter handstamps and pre-stamp postal history.

TPO & Seapost Society — <http://www.tpo-seapost.org.uk>. Online gallery of comparable Ship Letter covers, including a parallel 1817 New York → London via Liverpool entire rated 1/7 (the same rate as Cover Two).

The Dreadnought Project — <http://www.dreadnoughtproject.org>. Royal Navy officer biographies and ship details.

ThreeDecks.org — <https://threedecks.org>. Battle returns, ships' complements, and casualty data for the Navarino fleet.

Royal Philatelic Society London (Sacher Library) — <https://www.rpsl.org.uk/Catalogue>.

American Philatelic Research Library — <https://stamps.org/services/library>.



The Eye of Horus - Beginners' Corner 9 - with David Ogden. If a single stamp can shed proud light on a nation's successes, why not a selection or group of stamps to enhance the glory? Egypt has issued spectacular and colourful miniature sheets for 80 years, celebrating events of all sorts from royalty to Boy Scouts

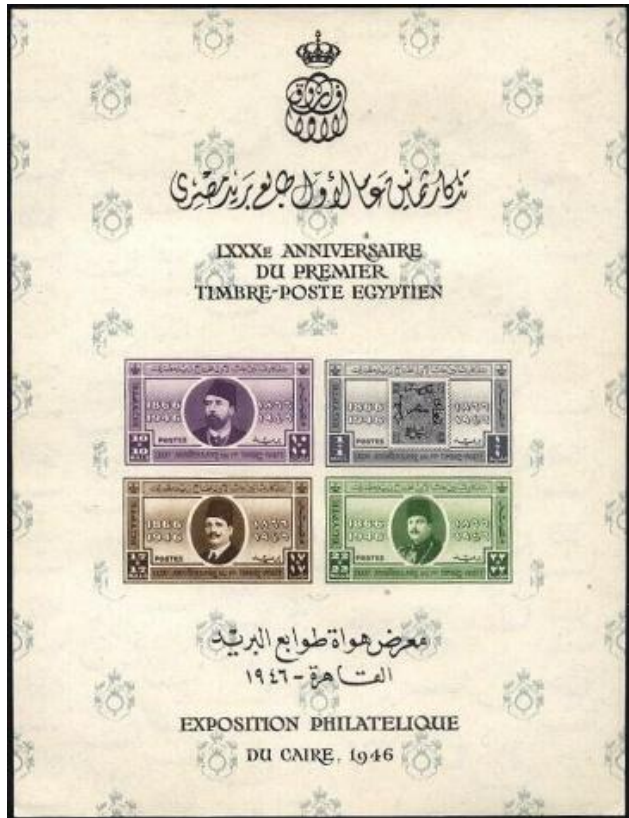
Egypt's Postal Miniature Sheets: beauty and controversy

Have you seen the wonderful range of Egypt's miniature sheets, listed as MS in SG catalogues? They combine impressive artwork, royal history, political symbolism - and occasionally controversy. For many collectors, miniature sheets represent Egypt's finest stamp designs, while a handful rank among the great rarities of world philately.

A miniature sheet (British usage) or souvenir sheet (American usage) is a small sheet of stamps issued as a single unit by a postal administration. It may contain:

- A single stamp surrounded by a wide decorative margin.
- A small group of stamps (typically 1–10).
- Extra artwork, inscriptions, portraits, maps or commemorative marginal text. Unlike a normal sheet from the stamp printing press, the full sheet is intended to be collected as one item.

It is generally accepted that the first sheet was issued by Luxembourg in 1923. With a single 10-franc stamp set into a larger sheet, it marked the birth of Princess Elisabeth of Luxembourg.



1946: the first miniature sheet illustrated the country's first stamp and three early rulers



1951: a truly royal all-Arabic sheet celebrating the marriage of Farouk and Nariman

Miniature sheets were originally created for royal events (births, weddings, coronations), philatelic exhibitions, national anniversaries and special commemorations. The earliest were prestige items intended to mark important occasions rather than for everyday postal needs. Egypt was early in adopting the format. While commemorative stamps had been issued since the 1920s, its first true miniature sheets appeared during the royal period under King Farouk.

The 1946 "80th Anniversary of the First Egyptian Postage Stamp" sheet, SG 311 perforated or SG 312 unperforated, was the first. It marked the introduction in 1866 of the country's first national postage stamps and established a format used extensively in later decades.

Special philatelic souvenirs were associated with many earlier events, including the 1934 Universal Postal Union Congress in Cairo, but these are generally treated separately from the regular MS programme.

From the 1950s miniature sheets became a recurring feature, celebrating royal events, the Revolution, archaeology, international organizations and major national anniversaries. The 1951 Royal Wedding MS marking the marriage of Farouk and Narriman Sadek is a key one to collect. . The imperforate error (where the stamp lacks the normal perforations) is considered extremely rare: just 27 sheets were printed (*Nile Post* MS5h). Official Post Office presentation folders containing the sheet are also scarce.



1964: part of the world-wide campaign to save Nubia's antiquities from inundation



1969: a thousand years of Cairo's art captured on one sheet

See the wedding video at [Selected Originals - Egypt Fetes Royal Wedding \(1951\)](#), but within a year Farouk would be overthrown in the 1952 Revolution.

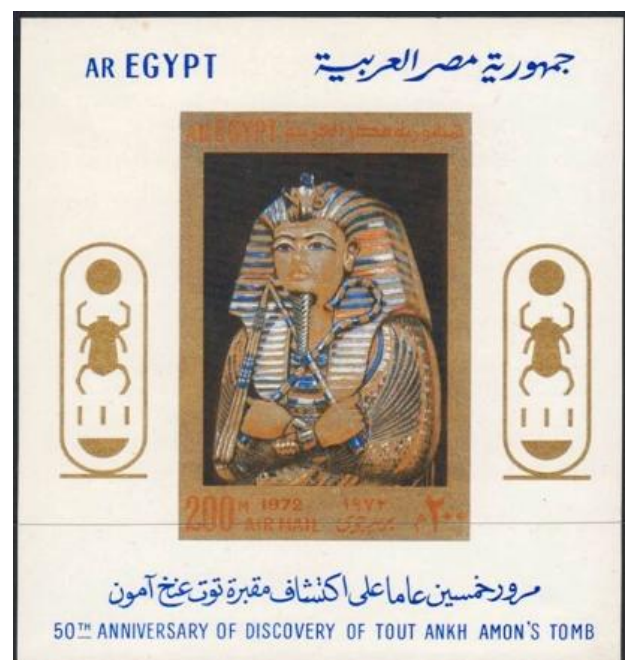
The 1952 Birth of Crown Prince Ahmed Fouad miniature sheet is popular because it was issued in May 1952, shortly before Farouk's abdication. The stamp and MS are inscribed "birth of the heir apparent" in French. The prince became King Ahmed Fuad II in July 1952, reigning only until June 1953 when Egypt became a Republic.

Another rare MS to look out for is the 1956 2nd Arab Scout Jamboree issue. They were issued perforate (SG 513) and imperforate (SG 514).

Some of the most beautiful miniature sheets were issued during the international campaign to save the temples threatened by the building of the Aswan High Dam in the mid 1960s.

Nubian Monuments MSs feature Abu Simbel and other ancient temples. The combination of archaeology, architecture and elegant design makes them among Egypt's finest modern issues.

Hundreds of MSs have been issued by Egypt Post. One of my favourites is the striking Millennium of Cairo in 1969 MS (SG 1027) that celebrates Cairo's thousand-year history and showcases Islamic art. Reasonably priced, miniature sheets can build into an attractive collection.



1972: a glorious funerary mask celebrated 50 years of Tutankhamun's discovery

Waghorn and the Overland Route: an appeal to the Circle

Andrew Titley (ESC 688) and Gowtham BJ

Thomas Fletcher Waghorn's overland route — Alexandria to Suez, and on by steamer to Bombay — reduced timing for the India mail from some three months around the Cape of Good Hope to five or six weeks. The covers that survive from those years, endorsed “Care of Mr. Waghorn, Suez” and struck with his agency's markings, are among the most evocative objects in nineteenth-century postal history.

At handstruckstampsindia.com we keep a free, open census of the pre-1854 postal markings of India and the covers that bear them. The Waghorn page now records 21 forwarding-agent marks and 137 covers spanning 1836 to 1853 — each with images, dates, rarity and provenance, catalogued by Sidebottom number and cross-referenced to Smith. Several marks recorded here are unlisted in either catalogue.

What the census cannot yet reach is the Egyptian leg itself. Members of the Egypt Study Circle hold covers, transit marks and documentary detail on the Alexandria–Suez crossing that fall outside the Indian and British auction records we have been able to draw on. We would warmly welcome members’ help in three areas: corrections to anything on the page that is not quite right; covers or marks not yet recorded; and any expertise on the Egyptian leg of the route that would round out the historical account.

Every submission is reviewed before it is published, and contributors are credited by name. There is a submission form on the page itself, or material may be sent to us directly and we will add it.

A section of the Waghorn page at handstruckstampsindia.com — 21 marks recorded, 1836–1853, including the “Care of Mr Waghorn, Suez” oval strikes.



To visit the full census and add your entry directly from the page, scan the QR code or go to:

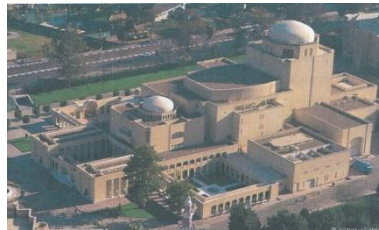
handstruckstampsindia.com/forwarding-agents/waghorn/

Recent publications: **Buildings on stamps**

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

For almost half a century - 1867 to 1914 - Egypt's sole stamp design comprised a view of the Sphinx and Pyramids. The significant change came with the outbreak of war and an issue of 11 definitives featuring almost entirely domestic architectural features. Since then Egyptian stamp design has blossomed into a veritable rainbow of colours and themes, from birds to bridges, mosques to military ... enough topics to gladden the heart of the most ardent thematic collector.

But if you are of a mind to return to the original theme of Egypt's history in buildings on stamps, the bar has just been set impossibly high by Architect Abdelrahman Rashad, a stamp collector for 25 years, a senior member of the Philatelic Society of Egypt and an adviser to the Government, with a fascinating new book, titled *Architectural Landmarks through Egyptian Stamps*.



The Post Office in Ataba Square, the new Exhibition Centre on Gezira, and the Parliament building downtown, with (below) their counterparts in stamps issued in 1985, 1985 and 1947



In 360 pages (18x40cm) and 27 chapters, he moves steadily through the country's built environment, choosing to detail and explain the significance of the most prominent surviving architectural landmarks and architecture in general through the recent years - and then to illustrate how the Post Office has adapted those building designs to make them suitably attractive for the nation to stick on its letters - an astonishing change of change of direction and output. As he says in his introduction: "Every stamp is a window - a window opening on to an era, an idea, the genius of an architect and the memory of a nation carved in stone."

The story starts with Ancient Egypt, naturally enough, but continues through the ages and provinces of Egypt, with examples from Ottoman, European, Middle Eastern and Royal Egyptian periods - explaining the characteristics of each - right up to the modern day, with the Biblioteca Alexandrina, Smart Village, GEM and elements of the New Administrative Capital. Many of the glorious villas and palaces of the eighteenth century are sadly gone, but it is pleasing to note that others, repaired and painstakingly restored by the Government, are able to be included in these pages.

All illustrations are in colour, the stamps echoing and in many cases expanding on the actual building alongside. The few chosen at random here are intended to give a flavour of how, as the author says, "Egyptian designers have succeeded in creating a visual record of our timeless architectural heritage by preserving it on small pieces of paper vast in meaning and documentary value."

- The paper-back book is available from Egypt for £E500 (about \$10, to cover printing costs), payable via Western Union but overseas postage may be more expensive. Please make initial contact via email (arashad@siliconwaha.com or aerya5@yahoo.com).



"The Postman" comes

knocking... An elegant new online philatelic publication, *El Boustagy* (The Postman), has suddenly appeared from Cairo. The first edition, dated to July 2026, is a handsome volume, colourfully and elegantly produced, virtually all in Arabic. Its 40 pages are crammed with interesting articles about various aspects of Egypt stamps and postal history, as you might well expect.

But they all come with a difference - the writers are all named and photographed,

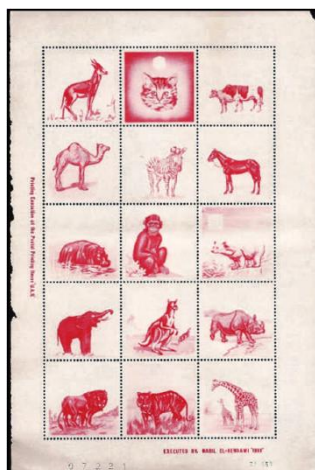
inviting the reader to comment and communicate directly. To encourage direct writer-reader engagement, the invitation is then extended to the reader to write his or her own article.



The magazine is the brainchild of two senior members of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, Osama El-Khayyat and Dr Mohamed Shalaby, and it is understood that it is in no way intended to replace the *L'OP* but is a genuine attempt to test the reaction in the hope that collectors might choose to read a well-designed, colourful and stylish publication filled with thought-provoking material. We applaud their efforts.
thepostman2026@yahoo.com

Fantasies of Egypt: What appears to be a virtually comprehensive listing of Egypt's "dummy" or "fantasy" stamps, that is, produced for machine-testing and without values, appears in the magisterial online publication *The Handbook of Stamp Production*, by Glenn H Morgan, which is offered free of charge.

The multi-volume publication, which at the Boston Expo added 95 points and a Large Gold to several previous golds, veers off the story of stamp production to attempt listings of all the world's dummy stamps (Egypt 21 pages from AFR-43 in the FGN Africa section) and all the world's printers (Egypt pages AFR-16-18).



All the usual favourites are listed, including the Kima Factory, the mosaic face, the bouquets, schoolboy at desk, TV building, Mubarak and so on... but also some unusual sheets apparently from 1969. Set up in panes of 3x5, multicoloured, perforated with no face value, the sheets - butterflies, birds, African animals (including a kangaroo) and tourist attractions - have "Executed by Nabil El-Hendawi" printed in the margin. These Hendawi listings carry no price, but a warning for the reader to decide on their status.

The publication is huge, but the minor hiccup of downloading is well worth the material available. Queries: glennmorgan1840@gmail.com; 1: British Stamp Printers <https://tinyurl.com/5n6hvkwe> (1,508pp, 965MB); 2: Foreign Stamp Printers <https://tinyurl.com/3tuw5e85> (2,392pp, 1.37GB); 3: A Stamp is Made <https://tinyurl.com/bddtzcd2> (1,132pp, 513MB); 4: Dummy Stamps Newsletter <https://tinyurl.com/yc3f7b7e> (760pp, 84MB).

Technical News: Farewell to Microsoft Publisher

Neil Hitchens (ESC 651)

Members who use Microsoft Publisher for newsletters, exhibit labels, cards or other layout work should note an important deadline. Microsoft has confirmed that Publisher will officially reach end of support on **13 October 2026**. This is not a routine update cut-off — Publisher itself is being retired and removed from Microsoft 365 subscriptions on that date. Existing Publisher files (.pub) will no longer open in any supported Microsoft application once the removal takes effect, and no further security patches or bug fixes will be issued.

For those running Microsoft 365 subscription versions of Office, Publisher will simply disappear from the suite after the cut-off date. Anyone with a standalone, perpetually-licensed copy (such as Publisher 2021) may find the software continues to run for a while afterwards, but it will receive no further support, and its long-term reliability cannot be guaranteed. Either way, the sensible course is to plan ahead rather than be caught out.

What to do now

Before the October deadline, it is you still rely on and converting format — a PDF for anything that shared, or a Word/PowerPoint needed later. Once Publisher is unconverted may become very



worth locating any .pub files them to a more durable only needs to be printed or file if further editing will be gone, .pub files left difficult to open at all.

Which alternative?

Microsoft itself points users as the natural replacements, and the Microsoft 365 subscriptions no new software or expense required.

toward Word or PowerPoint both are already included in that most members have —

Word is the obvious first thought, since it is the everyday word-processing tool most of us already know. In practice, though, several members — this writer included — find Word surprisingly fiddly for anything with a proper page layout. Text boxes drift when the document is edited, images resist staying anchored where you put them, and getting a clean, symmetrical design (the kind needed for a newsletter page or an exhibit card) can take far longer than it should.

PowerPoint is the better recommendation for this kind of work. Because each slide is a fixed-size canvas rather than a flowing page of text, objects stay exactly where they are placed. Text boxes, images and shapes can be positioned with precision, layered, aligned and grouped — all the things Publisher was good at — and a finished slide can simply be exported as a high-resolution PDF or image for printing. For single-page items such as newsletter covers, exhibit labels, certificates or flyers, PowerPoint is, in this writer's experience, the closest like-for-like replacement for Publisher, and considerably less frustrating than trying to coax Word into doing a designer's job.

For anyone with more substantial design needs, Canva (free, browser-based) and Affinity Publisher (a paid, professional desktop application from Serif) are both worth a look, and are frequently mentioned as close Publisher substitutes.

In short: don't wait until October. Track down your .pub files now, convert what you need to keep, and consider giving PowerPoint a try for future layout work — it may prove a more natural home for design tasks than Word ever was.

From collecting stamps to postal history via Peter Feltus, and finally to the social background story of the travelled cover. It has been a fascinating and enjoyable journey of discovery through Egypt's myriad philatelic avenues



Why I collect Egypt – Scott Van Horn (ESC 619) – Michigan, USA

My journey collecting Egypt started when I was perhaps seven or eight years old. My father and grandfather both collected stamps, and they passed this interest on to me. My first exposure was the 1946 Arab League Congress set found in cheap approval packets in the 1960s. I was not thinking about Egypt specifically at the time, I just wanted to collect everything, at least what I could afford on an 8-year old's allowance. Gasoline, girls, and school took over my life a few years later, and the collection was relegated to the closet.

During this interlude I developed a strong passion for Egyptology and even considered a career in that field for a very short time. But once logic and the slim chance of financial stability took over, I just accepted the fact that I could keep that interest as a study hobby and still be completely satisfied.



The Nefertiti stamps - the four top values at 100m, 200m, 500 milliemes, and the £E1 (NP D207-D210), are arguably my favourite postwar issues.

A few years after starting my professional career, and after a couple of trips to Egypt, my father suggested that I take up collecting again. Of course, by this time, the natural focus would be Egypt. I had my parents mail out my old collection and started attending stamp shows in the mid-west United States to fill album spaces. At first I collected nothing but stamps, with a smattering of covers, to the point of completing the entire Scott catalogue.

It was at this time that I befriended Peter Feltus, who sent me in a different direction with postmarks and markings, i.e., postal history. My father was making the same journey, but with the postal history of Indiana and 19th-century Britain, so we were able to share a common interest for many years.

Peter had been suggesting that I join the ESC for a while, and offered to sponsor me. I was hesitant, thinking that I would not be able to contribute much, and that the members were a little too intellectual for my knowledge at the time. I finally joined in 2007 and have always regretted that I didn't do so earlier.

My collection of Egypt is wide and varied, and I really don't have a specialty, but I tend to keep my focus on postal history, or more precisely, a social postal history. In other words, what does a cover or envelope tell us about the writer/recipient/place, as well as the postal markings and stamps. I do enjoy writing articles, though I sometimes find it intimidating trying to "compete" with authors doing book-worthy research, but our Editor has been very kind in allowing minor aspects of Egyptian philately to be published in these pages.

I do split my philatelic time, as I also specialize in the postal history of Floyd County, Indiana, and have written an extensive 180-page history of that county for the Indiana Postal History Society.

• We welcome all members' stories in making this column a regular feature of the QC