

SPECIAL MEETING OF ESC AT WASHINGTON 2006

On Wednesday, 31 May 2006, twenty-three members and guests got together for an informal special meeting at the Washington 2006 international stamp show. Canada, Egypt, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States were among the countries represented. The meeting opened with an announcement that the Circle had been approved as an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society. Hopefully, this will aid in the recruitment of new members. Information about ESC will be made available on the APS website and mention will be made in *The American Philatelist* from time to time.

We reviewed the report of the annual general meeting, followed by a request for articles for the *QC*, a notification about the proposed trip to Cairo this fall for the Philatelic Society of Egypt's 75th anniversary, and a brief discussion of costs of publication and postage of the *QC* for overseas members. In addition, Sherif Samra, the President of the PSE, said a few words about the trip and the PSE's philatelic journal. This was followed by each person introducing him or herself. A general review of the increase of fakes and fraudulent material over the last ten years ensued. The meeting ended in a photograph session and a general feeling that it was good to see familiar faces and to meet new philatelic friends.

The following presents the awards given to Egyptian exhibits. (number of frames and point score)

Joseph Chalhoub	The Nile Post Handbook & Catalogue of Egyptian Stamps (0 92)	GOLD
Peter A. S. Smith, USA	Egypt to 1879 (the Period of the Classic Issues) (8 – 93)	GOLD
Lucien S. Toutounji, Egypt	Egypt Airmail 1910-1936 (8 – 92)	GOLD
Mohamed Adel Farid, Egypt	Egypt Airmail 1910-1945 (8 – 91)	GOLD
Richard S. Wilson, USA	British Forces in Egypt and Sudan 1882-1886 (5 – 91)	GOLD
Ahmed-Hani Al-Kilani, UAE	Egyptian Postal Stationery (18179-1899) (5 – 83)	VERMEIL
Ibrahim Shoukry, Egypt	History of Rural Service of Egypt 1889-1939 (8 – 81)	VERMEIL
Hany Salam, Egypt	Printing Development: 1 st Fuad Issue 1922-23 (5 – 81)	VERMEIL

The following two exhibits were in the One-Frame Class

Samir Amin Fikry, Egypt	Egyptian Postal History through the Suez Canal Zone (87)	VERMEIL
Sherif Samra, Egypt	1879 Provisional Issue – 5 & 10 Paras (70)	SILVER

The following are some of the exhibits that had material of interest to members of the Circle:

Tarik Alireza, Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia: Development of the Postal Service (1801-1933)	Championship Class	8 frames special medal
Akihiko Koiwa, Japan	Indian Campaigns	(8 – 91)	GOLD
Manfred Dreyer, Germany	Indian Ocean Routes Connecting with the Overland Mail Suez-Alexandria 1838-1888 to European Destinations	(8 – 93)	GOLD
Jonathan Becker, USA	British Palestine 1917-1920: The Egyptian Expeditionary Force in Palestine and (Greater) Syria.	(5 – 88)	LARGE VERMEIL

Another member among the medals was Richard Wheatley, who took a Gold (91 points) for his Netherlands East Indies King Willem III Postcards and Envelopes.

Dick Wilson, U.S.A. Agent



Editorial

Well, the highlight of the year, so far, has to be my visit to Washington for the International stamp exhibition. My thanks to Dick Wilson for taking the trouble to organise the ESC meeting, which went well. It was an opportunity to meet friends old and new; I am only sorry I did not get time to speak to everyone.

The exhibition itself was quite spectacular with over 2500 frames of varied material all of the highest quality, quite breathtaking. Dick's report gives the exhibits and awards to our members and some other exhibits which are Egypt-related. As always I can never understand how exhibits are judged and what may have been given a Large Gold I could find quite uninspiring while a Silver kept me captivated, reading ever word. I always like to see how others approach the subject of the "write up" and was interested to see at Washington 2006 that most adopted what appeared to be a minimalist approach with most exhibits starting with a page of explanation of the kind normally found with topicals/thematics. I think nearly every one was typed up or mostly done on a computer: the art of calligraphy is now dead as far as the philatelic world is concerned.

However I did make some notes on the exhibits, reflecting what grabbed me but which may however miss the real gems on display. If any of our members would like to submit a page or an illustration of one of their items for the *QC* I will be happy to publish it. There again, if they want to send scans of the whole exhibit I'll happily put it on the website (members only). So, in no particular order:

Frames starting with 2141, Egypt to 1879 (the Period of the Classic Issues) from Peter Smith (ESC 74). What can I say? As I was engrossed in viewing, another of our members walked up and made the remark: "Just spectacular." I could not argue with that. Shown were a cover with a strip of four of the 10pa First Issue, 2pi First Issue bisect on cover, actually two of them, a cover from Cairo to Alexandria of two 2pi for double rate and registration with the *recomandata* strike, 10pa o/p on covers, one with a block of four cancelled with an excellent SCIO 26 GEN 1879, and lots more delectable items.

Frames starting with 2241, Printing Development: 1st Fuad Issue 1922-23 from Hany Salam (ESC 580), the first sixteen frames consisted of essays, followed by a sheet of 200 of the 5 mills and covers showing postage rates. A truly lovely and interesting display.

Frames starting with 2724, British Forces in Egypt and Sudan 1882-1886 from Richard S. Wilson (ESC 230), with displays of covers with the British Army Egypt postmarks, an original letter from an Egyptian officer to Arabi, covers from the Gordon relief expedition including the Canadian voyageurs, covers with star and crescent cancels of Korti and Dongola.

Frames starting with 3733, Egypt Early Airmail 1910-1936 from Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264), showing of course the Heliopolis Air Meeting in February 1910 and Aerial Mail Cairo-Delhi covers, no fewer than 17 covers relating to the EEF Emergency Post and all four of the Zeppelin flight cancels were represented.

Frames starting with 3741, Egypt Airmail 1910-1945 from Mohamed Adel Farid (ESC 495), starting, of course, with covers and ephemera of the Heliopolis Air Meeting followed by a Mark Pourpe cover, a cover with a neat strike of 'Carried by first flight Aerial Mail Cairo-Delhi', covers and cards of the Zeppelin flight with examples of all four cancels and further covers to December 1944.

Frames starting with 3427, History of Rural Service of Egypt 1889-1939 from Ibrahim Shoukry (ESC 423). This consisted of 128 sheets of rurals which would be hard enough to assemble, but here the quality and variety were quite astounding. Starting at the inception of the service in May 1888 it had a cover of June 14 1889, probably the earliest known. The opening sheet had an interesting picture of the village postman on his donkey blowing his posthorn. Several of the covers had Crown Overprint stamps used on rurals. I spent some time taking this exhibit in and suspect that if I could have taken one home with me I would choose this one.

Frame 5652, 1879 Provisional Issue – 5 & 10 Paras from Sherif Samra (ESC 311): this single frame did super justice to this issue, starting with red and black essays, a 5pa imperf on cover, a cover dated 2 GEN 79, the second day of issue, several blocks, up to 66 and a host of varieties.

Frame 5652, Egyptian Postal History through the Suez Canal Zone from Samir Fikry (ESC 305): an exquisite frame starting with a Waghorn cover from Calcutta to Bordeaux, then a multi-marked cover Dum

Dum to Heidelberg with a clear Egyptian Transit Co Suez mark, Paris to Saigon with two Posta Europa markings of Alexandria Type IV and Suez Type V, a unique Suez canal cover with 20c and 40c stamps, being triple rate form Kantara to Port Said, and 2nd Issue covers with clear cancels of Chantier VI 21 MAI 69. This was another frame I lingered over.

Frames starting with 4501, Egyptian Postal Stationery from Ahmed-Hani Al-Kilani (ESC 514): this covered the period 1879 to 1899 and included ten frames of essays and several with the SPECIMEN overprint.

Other exhibits not particularly Egypt but contained Egypt related material:

Frames starting with 3278, Polish Army WWII by a non-member, included several covers from Egypt.

Frames starting with 2241, British Palestine 1917-20 from Jonathan Becker (non-member), showed several military TPOs used in the Sinai, RKO, KAR etc, and covers with the EEF Emergency Aerial Post of 1919.

Frame 3435, Palestine by a non-member with Jaffa, the Gaza intaglio cancel and two covers cancelled with the Turkish Khan Younis.

Frames from 2853, Indian Campaigns by a non-member with 12 sheets of the 1882 Occupation and the Indian Army at Souakin.

Frames from 6013, Indian Ocean Routes, had five sheets of Suez-related covers including 5c cancelled with the French 5129.

Frame 3092, Seychelles by a non-member, had a few covers of the Seychelles Pioneer companies in Egypt.

Frames from 237, Saudi Arabia: Development of the Postal Service by a non-member, had nine sheets of Egypt-related material with a combination cover to Jedda of a British 6d mauve and a 1pi First issue, 1pi cancelled Gedda 30 LUGL 1867, 2nd and 3rd Issues on covers including 20pi 1st Issue bisect, covers from the Turkish FPO 28 and from the French Military Mission based at Suez.

In the court of honour Saudi Arabia there was a nice cover with the Egyptian Jaffa cancel. Egyptian stamps could be found among several of the topical entries for ceramics, bees, medicine, etc.

I would imagine Washington 2006 had gathered one of the best displays of Egypt seen for some time.

Among members and guests at the meeting were: Vincent Centonze, Joe Chalhoub, Peter Feltus, Samir Fikry, Edmund Hall, Charles Hass, Seppo Laaksonen, Hany Makram, Edward Murtha, Peter Newroth, Robert Porter, Trent Ruebush, Hany Salam, Sherif Samra, Caroline Scannell, Peter Smith, Bjorn Sohrne, Mohamed Soliman, Greg Todd, Lucien Toutounji, Klaus Wagner, Richard Wheatley, Richard S. Wilson.



Not seen: our editor, who was working the camera.

Now it's time start saving the pennies for our trip to Egypt in November.