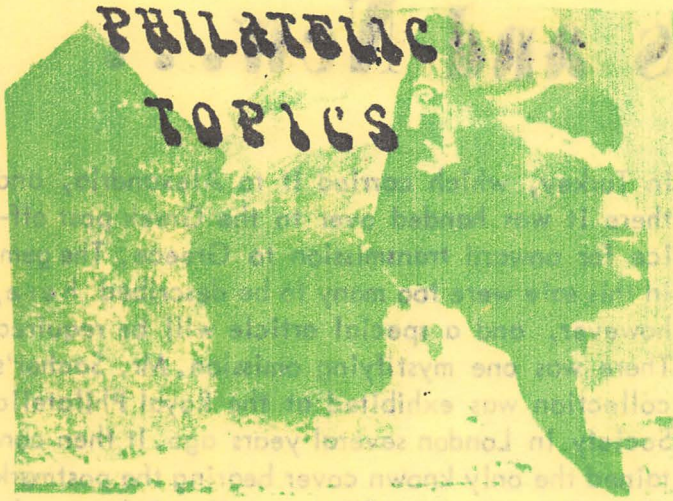


**EGYPTIAN
PHILATELIC
TOPICS**



Vol. 8 No. 2
Whole No. 45
Mar - Apr. 1976

EGYPTIAN

PHILATELIC
TOPICSEDITOR AND PUBLISHER

GORDON B. GARRETT

P. O. Box #3875

Torrance, California, 90503

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
EGYPT PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

PRESIDENT DR. PETER A. S. SMITH
 VICE PRESIDENT PETER R. FELTUS
 SEC'Y-TREASURER GORDON B. GARRETT

Please send all news items and subscriptions,
 articles, wants and offers, to the publisher.

Matters pertaining to the Philatelic Society of
 Egypt — which is not to be confused with this
 Society — should be sent directly to Dr. Smith
 who is also the American Agent for Egypt. His
 address will be supplied by the editor . . .

Egyptian Philatelic Topics is published six times
 yearly at Torrance, California, U.S.A. and all
 dues (\$4.00 per year, U.S. and CANADA, are
 payable in advance to the Sec'y-Treasurer. All
 overseas dues are \$5.00 yearly for extra post.

TELL YOUR EGYPT COLLECTOR FRIENDS —
 HELP YOUR SOCIETY GROW !

With the Editor. . .

We must begin this editorial with an apology — we apologize sincerely for the delay in getting this issue of TOPICS to you. Circumstances beyond our control have contributed and, without going into detail we would like to assure each of you that we will catch up as quickly as possible, without doing a double issue as some editors do when they get behind. We will finish the year with the usual number of pages for the volume.

A word of thanks too, for your patience. We have received some letters from anxious members, with the thought that their copy may have gone astray in the mail, as indeed they do on occasion. Only one member wrote to say that no excuse of any kind would satisfy him.

The next issue is in progress and we hope to have some interesting and unusual items for you. Robert Breigh recently acquired some very interesting Prisoner of War covers and we have written to Dr. Smith for additional information.

INTERPHIL too, comes in for its share with particular emphasis on our meeting there. It will be illustrated with some fine photos by V. Andonian

Our By-laws and Constitution as presented, have been checked and corrected by our "counsel" Tom Olson with copies to the officers, however, Dr. Smith has penned some interesting thought on this matter on the following page pointing out some interesting facets to be taken into consideration — and we urge you to read it with care and comment directly to Dr. Smith, c/o Dept. of Chemistry at the University of Michigan, 48104. This is your organization and we want it to endure. We can accomplish this only if we rule "by the majority".

We also have an abiding need for material for our WANTS and OFFERS column. With the Fall Season coming on more time will be spent with our collections and this would be the perfect time to dispose of those items that you would like to convert into something you really need.

We always have a need for more material in the way of articles, long or short for TOPICS. Often we must scrape the barrel and some of the regulars we have come to rely on for so long are simply running out of material. Write to us if "you" can help.

THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

Of Old Things and New...

In the last few months, the matter of our organization has been the subject of discussion among some of our members. There are special difficulties in handling the operation of an organization monthly when its members widely scattered and cannot come together in person. Elections are cumbersome, and worst of all, usually involve a slate of nominees whom most of the members know little about. Continuity is sometimes a problem, too.

Some organizations similar to ours have solved these problems by having an elected Board of Governors, with staggered terms. The Governors their own officers from among themselves, each year. I have found to work very well in other organizations to which I belong. I would like to propose if for our serious consideration. If there appears to be enough interest, perhaps a simple constitution, borrowed from one of these organizations and adapted to fit our special needs, might be included as a supplement to a future issue of *Topics* to start discussion. Your officers would like to hear from you regarding this, and about any other matters of mutual concern.

The most recent event in the philatelic market of interest to collectors of Egypt was the sale of the second part of the Secher collection, by Robson Lowe International, in Geneva, Switzerland. Mr. Sacher's collection spanned all of the Middle East in the classic period and included an astonishing number of covers with mixed franking between the first three issues of Egypt and the stamps of the various European countries that operated mail services in the eastern Mediterranean. I do not remember having seen so many mixed-franking covers of Egypt in one sale before.

Among the exotic combinations was a cover from Port Said, franked with Austrian Offices

in Turkey, which carried it to Alexandria, and there it was handed over to the Greek post office for onward transmission to Greece. The gems in this sale were too many to be described here, however, and a special article will be required. There was one mystifying omission. Mr. Sacher's collection was exhibited at the Royal Philatelic Society in London several years ago. It then contained the only known cover bearing the postmark of the Egyptian post office at Jaffa, Palestine (it was actually only half a cover, it was still unique). This great rarity was nowhere to be seen in the auction catalog of this April sale — there must be many who are wondering - what happened to it!

PETER A. S. SMITH

Our Cover

An original photograph of the world-famous Citadel showing a portion of the fortifications, by the renowned artist-photographer Karel Chaloupka — reproduced through the courtesy of the Spring Publishing House of London.

Built by Mohammed Ali, founder of the late dynasty that ended with the death of King Farouk, it was designed as his tomb and he lies buried in one corner of this magnificent structure. It was here too, that Ali planned and caused the extermination of the Mamelukes, thus ending forever any aspiration of their return to power in the Land of the Pharaohs.



PANPACIFIC 77

CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

5 - 12 MARCH 1977

PAN
PACIFIC
PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

NEW L'OP ISSUE

Members of the Philatelic Society of Egypt were overjoyed recently on receipt of the latest issue L'ORIENT PHILATELIQUE from Cairo. Number "128" is dated October 1974, however, no complaint as we are happy to receive it at long last.

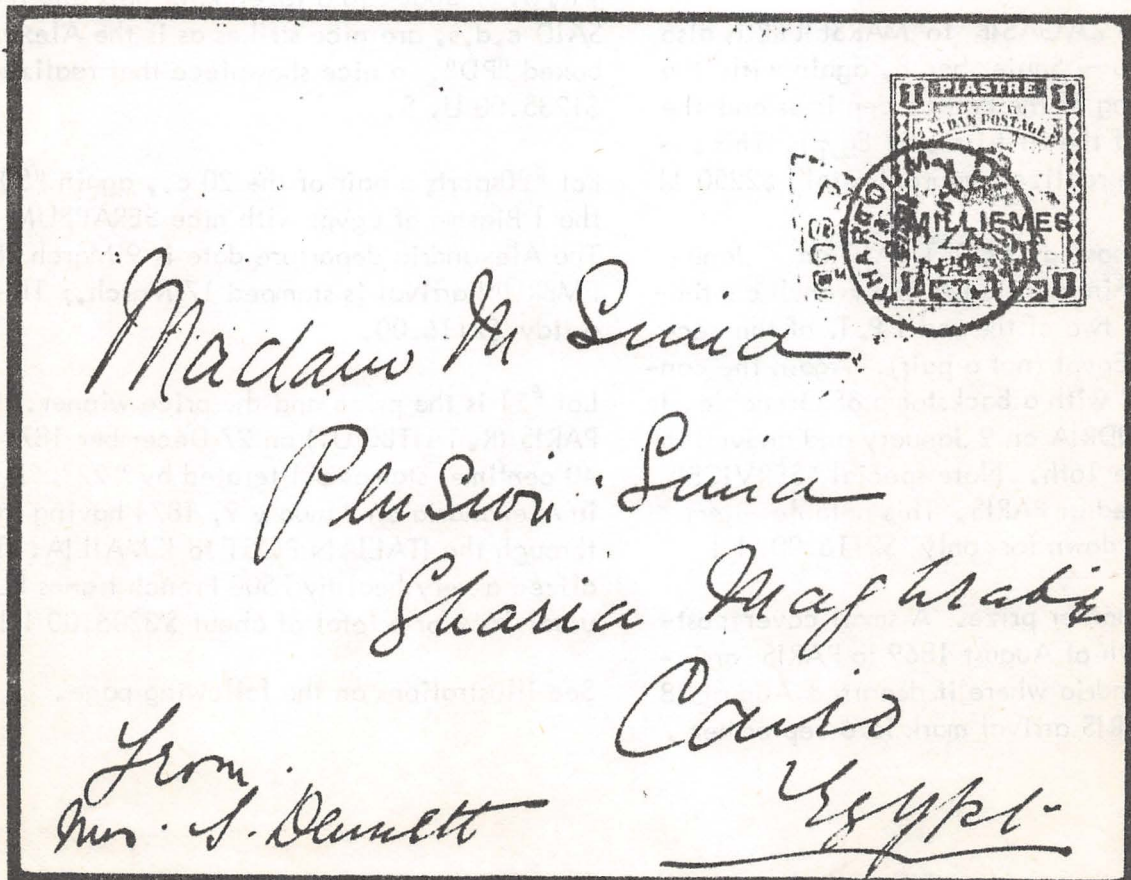
Production of any kind of journal is extremely difficult in Egypt at the present time and we can sympathize with Editor Mehanny Eid and his problems when it comes to getting type set in English.

Our people have always supported the Cairo club and we will as long as it exists — now nearly fifty years old. If you are not a member, write to Dr. Smith for information. Cost is nominal.

This issue contains some very fine material, as it always does, among them a lengthy article with NEW additional data on the Boxed Registered Markings of Egypt by Dr. Sava Michel Vestarkis (in English of course) and, it is well illustrated with some spectacular items. Additionally, Dr. Smith does a thorough job of reviewing the Sale of the fine material of George Gougas — and Ibrahim Chafter has a factual article on the 58th Birthday Anniversary of King Fuad depicting some very unusual essays and photos of the blocks of four of the large stamp issued AND, a block of the same overprinted "PORT FUAD" ! Included also are items by Dr. Winter on Champollion and the Rosetta Stone and some interesting varieties on some of the DeLa Rue's.

RARE SUDAN Postal Stationery

We illustrate below what we believe to be one of the modern rarities of postal stationery from Sudan. H & G list it as No. 7 valued at \$20 used. While some others catalog higher, we have only seen 1 or 2 of these over the past several years. Described as env. #7 ultramarine 1 Pt. with 5/Millimes, in black overprint. Cover carries clear KHARTOUM/17 MAY 1917 CDS addressed to CAIRO. Enroute it received CDS on reverse as HALFA-KHARTOUM/T. P. O. /28 MAY 17/ No. 1 and another fainter impression of T. P. O. No. 2 with town illegible. It also carries the CAIRO ARRIVAL CDS as CAIRO/S/2 AU 17 3:30 A. (From the editor's collection).



Dr. A. Winter

APRIL 14, 1976, an extremely interesting sale of EGYPT and EGYPT related material took place in Paris, France.

Of particular interest were the items from the French post office in Egypt.

Dr. Winter has taken time out from a very busy schedule to provide this information. All prices are in French francs which we will convert to U. S. dollars at the rate of .38 per fr. To this must be added 16% as it was a public sale and tax applied.

Although the text is in French, all five of the key lots provide excellent photographs and we are sure there will be no difficulty involved.

Lot #16 is a beautiful combination cover dated 12 April 1866. The French 10 and 40 centime stamps are cancelled with "5080". The 1 P. T. stamp of Egypt has the ZAGASIK c.d.s. A special boxed cachet of AFFRANCHISSEMENT INSUFFISANT appears plus SUEZ AMB. and the LONDON receiving mark. This item realized 2000 Fr. francs PLUS 16% or ab out \$905.00.

Lot #17 from ZAGASIK to MARSEILLE is also dated in 1866 - September 8, again with the mixed franking of the French centimes and the Arabesques of the first issue of Egypt. This superb example realized approximately \$2250 !!

Lot #18 was posted at PORT SAID on 7 January 1869 and in addition to the French centimes, it carries two of the red 1 P. T. of the second issue of Egypt (not a pair). Again the cancel is "5080" with a backstamp of Grenoble. It left ALEXANDRIA on 9 January and arrived in France on the 16th. Note special "SERVICE" cachet applied at PARIS. This notable item was knocked down for only \$2116.00 !!

Lot #19 is another prize. A small cover posted on the 26th of August 1869 to PARIS arriving in Alexandria where it departed August 28 while the PARIS arrival mark is 6 September .

Sale of

The

SCHATZKE

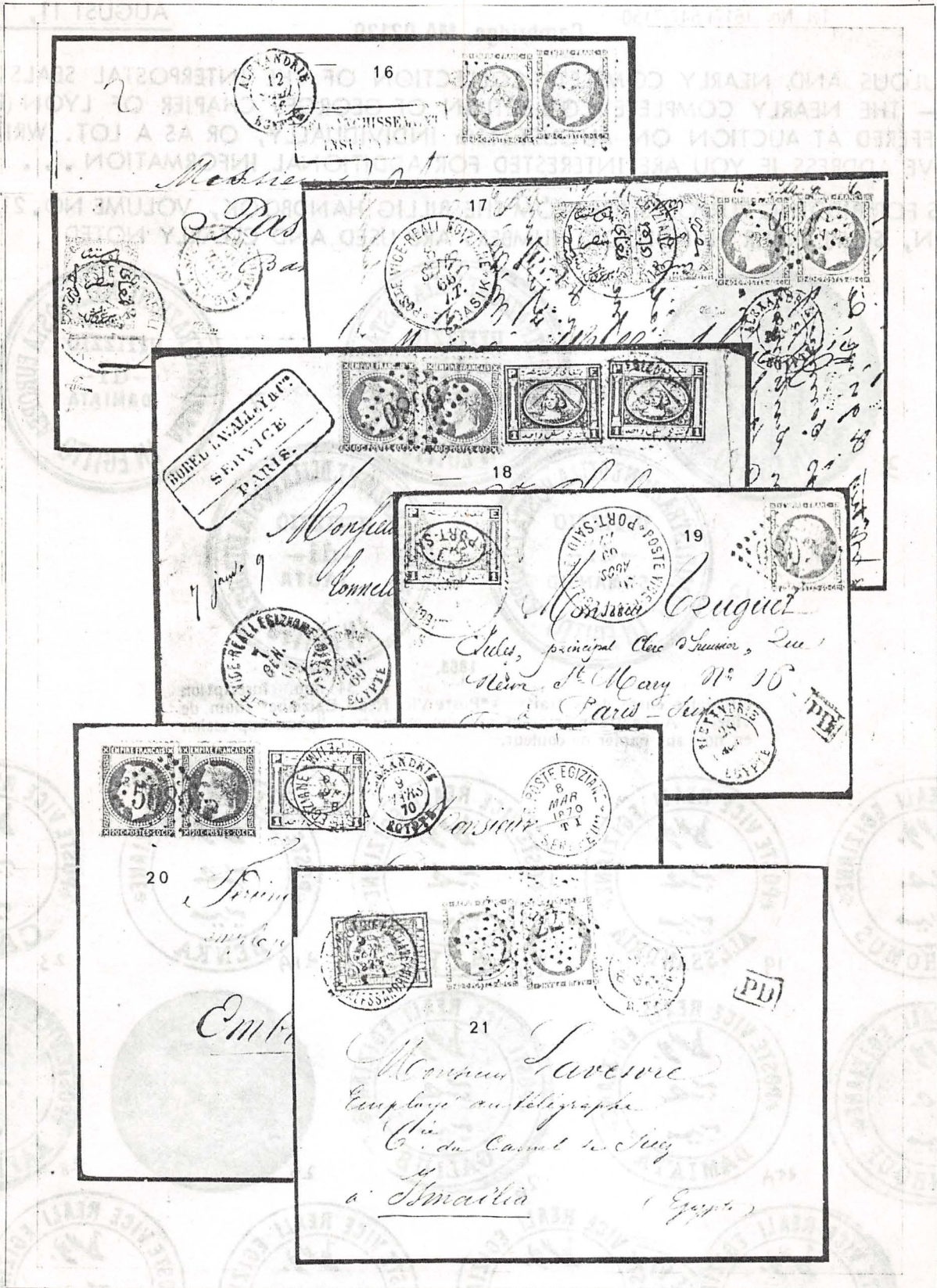
Collection

Franking is the laureated French 20 c. and Egyptian 1 P. T. "5080" in a lozenge of dots and the PORT SAID c.d.s. are nice strikes as is the Alexandrie & boxed "PD". a nice showpiece that realized about \$1235.00 U. S.

Lot #20 sports a pair of the 20 c., again "5080" and the 1 Piastre of Egypt with nice SERAPEUM c.d.s. The Alexandria departure date is 9 March 1870 and EMBRUN arrival is stamped 17 March.; This brought a tidy \$2116.00.

Lot #21 is the prize and the price winner. FROM PARIS (R. TAITBOUT) on 27 December 1874 with 40 centimes stamps obliterated by "22". It arrived in Alexandria on January 9, 1874 having travelled through the ITALIAN POST to ISMAILIA. This realized a very healthy 7500 French francs PLUS the usual 16% or a total of about \$3306.00 ! ! ! !

See illustrations on the following page.





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CLOSING DATE

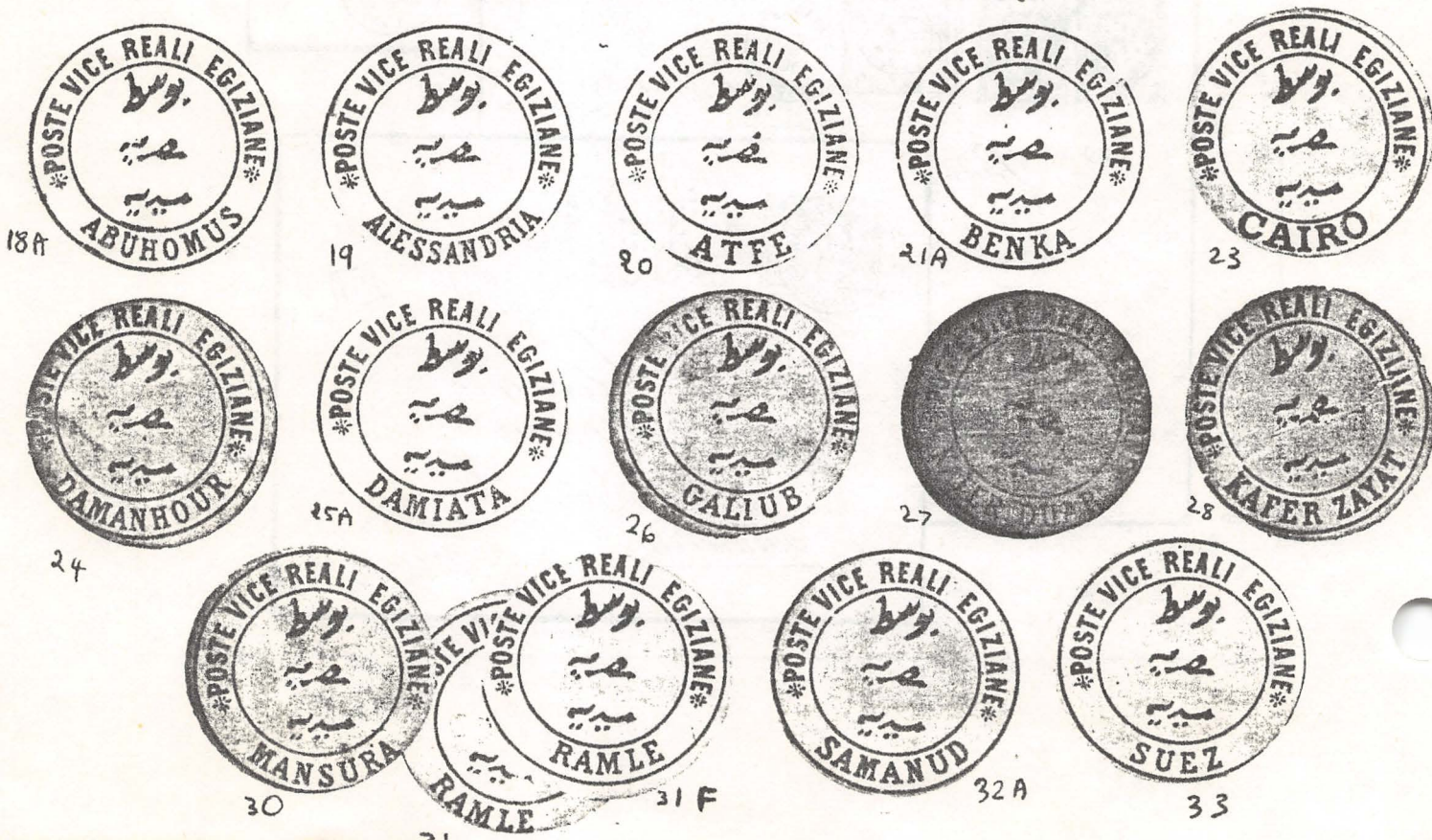
AUGUST 11, '76

THE FABULOUS AND NEARLY COMPLETE COLLECTION OF THE INTERPOSTAL SEALS OF EGYPT — THE NEARLY COMPLETE COLLECTION OF GEORGES CHAPIER OF LYON (France) TO BE OFFERED AT AUCTION ON AUGUST 11th INDIVIDUALLY, OR AS A LOT. WRITE TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS IF YOU ARE INTERESTED FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION . . .

NUMBERS FOR BIDDING PURPOSES ARE FROM THE BILLIG HANDBOOK, VOLUME NO. 21. IN ADDITION, SOME KEHR HANDBOOK NUMBERS ARE USED AND CLEARLY NOTED.



1865. 34 mm. Inscription circulaire entre deux traits: «*Poste Vice Reali Egiziane* (nom de ville)». Au centre inscription musulmane sur trois lignes. Impression en noir sur papier de couleur.



George T. Houston FRPSL

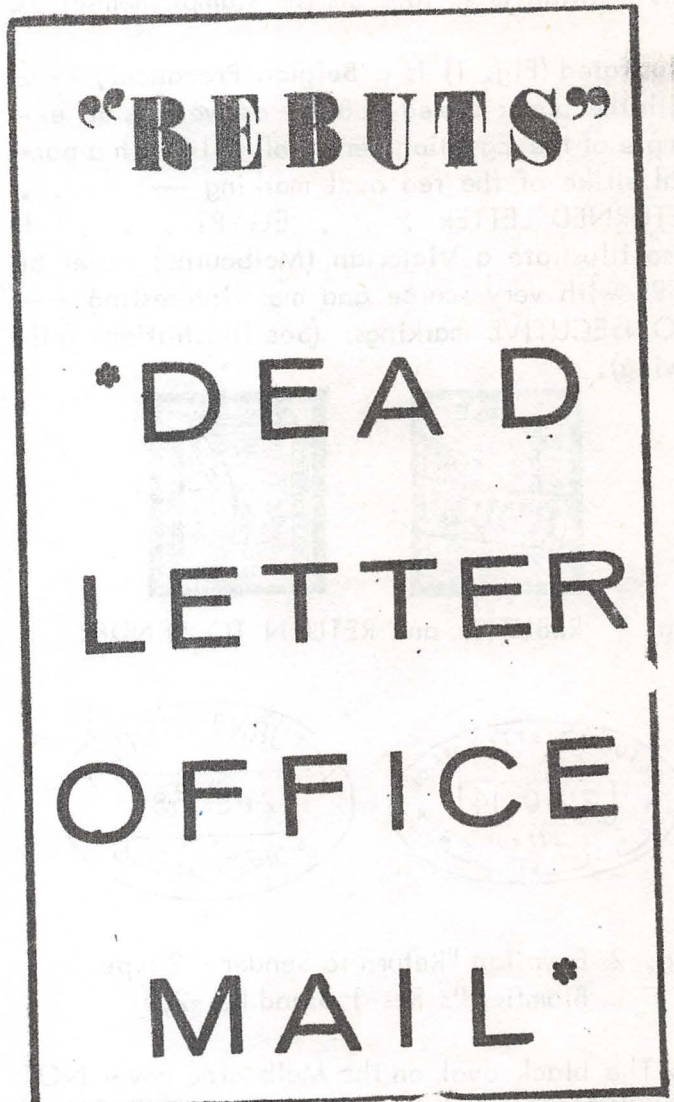
The author, GEORGE HOUSTON, of Melbourne, Australia, is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, a serious collector of Egyptian material and, an indefatigable researcher. A recent query in another journal produced by your editor referring to the exact meaning of the word "REBUTS" as it is used postally, set George to thinking — and we are grateful for this article as a result. Ed.

REBUT in French means REJECT or RUBBISH, and in connection with postal matter an UNDELIVERABLE ARTICLE. Furthermore, BUREAU DES REBUTS means, in connection with postal matter: THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

Any postal article that for some reason cannot be delivered to the addressee by the P. O. of destination, is returned to the DEAD LETTER OFFICE (hereafter referred to as the DLO). This office in turn:

- a) returns the letter to the sender if a current return address is given on the outside of the envelope.
- b) if no address is given on the outside — opens the letter to find the sender's address from the contents of the envelope — and returns the letter.
- c) if no clue at all can be found outside, or inside the postal article, generally — after six months — or any other regulation time, it is:
 - 1) destroyed, if the contents are of little or no commercial value, OR
 - 2) sold by public GPO Auction held periodically of UNCLAIMED ARTICLES, if found to be of any commercial value.

NOW, I refer you to the CLASSIFICATION OF EGYPTIAN POSTAL MARKINGS 1865 — 1879, the excellent work of the Egypt Study Circle — Study VI, entrusted to Mr. R. S. Blomfield of Knoxville, Tennessee, U.S.A.



where the following is illustrated and listed under TYPE Res. - 1; RETURN TO SENDER.

REBUT A REMETTRE A L'ENVOYEUR

literally translated: "A REMETTRE" — "TO DELIVER", as above (illustration from the study of Mr. Blomfield) which reads "REBUT A REMETTRE A L'ENVOYEUR" — UNDELIVERABLE LETTER TO BE RETURNED TO SENDER. This marking was applied ONLY at the Chief post offices in CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.

The instructional marking REBUT(S), is usually struck on the envelope and NOT on the stamp for better visibility; this being the reason that

this marking is so rare on the stamps themselves.

Illustrated (Fig. 1) is a Belgian Precancel, 1902 with the black boxed REBUT, as well as an example of the Egyptian series of 1914 with a partial strike of the red oval marking — ". . . RETURNED LETTER . . . EGYPT . . ." I also illustrate a Victorian (Melbourne) cover of 1899 with very scarce and most interesting — CONSECUTIVE markings: (See illustrations following).



Fig. 1 REBUT(S) and RETURN TO SENDER

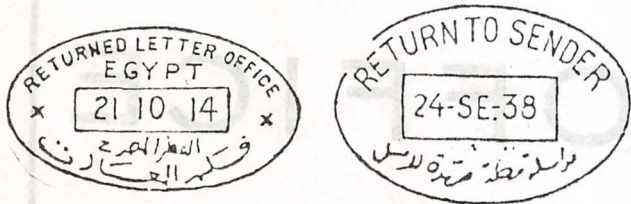


Fig. 2 Egyptian "Return to Sender - 2 types Blomfield's Res-1.5 and Res-2.5

- 1). The black oval on the Melbourne cover NOT KNOWN / LETTER CARRIERS / MELBOURNE and
- 2) The black boxed UNCLAIMED AT MELBOURNE; 3) The black oval LIST ROOM NO. 1, and the date.

All of the above (1 - 3) are struck on the obverse side of the cover while on the reverse is the red c. d. s. DEAD LETTER OFFICE / date/ MELBOURNE.

Also illustrated are two envelopes of the WW 2 period from the Egyptian DLO. These letters were sent from Cairo to Belgium and to France just about the end of the "phony war" period in May/June 1940, i.e., war had been declared earlier in 1939 but, there being no interruption of communications between Egypt and Western Europe, the postal service did continue normally up to the end of the "phony war" period.

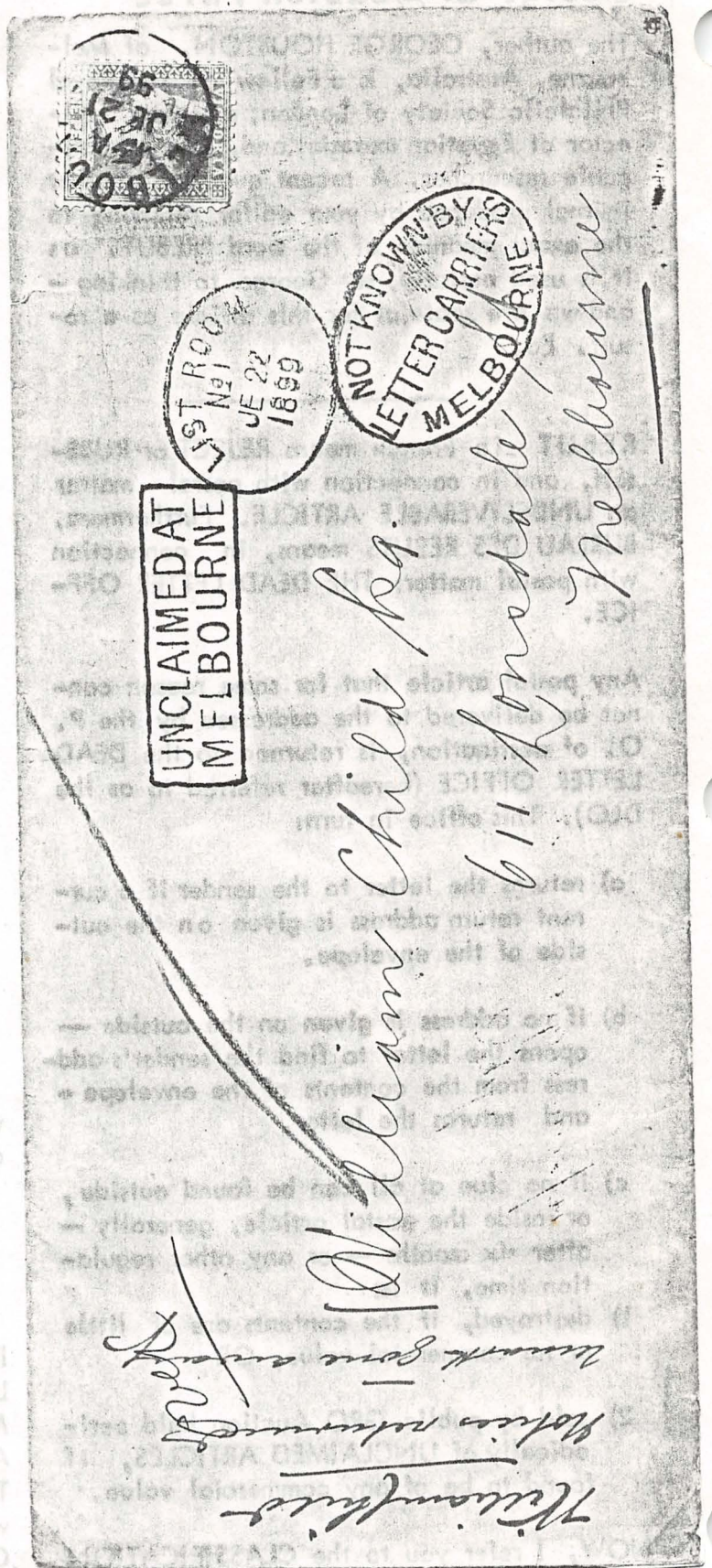


Fig. 3 Melbourne cover described above

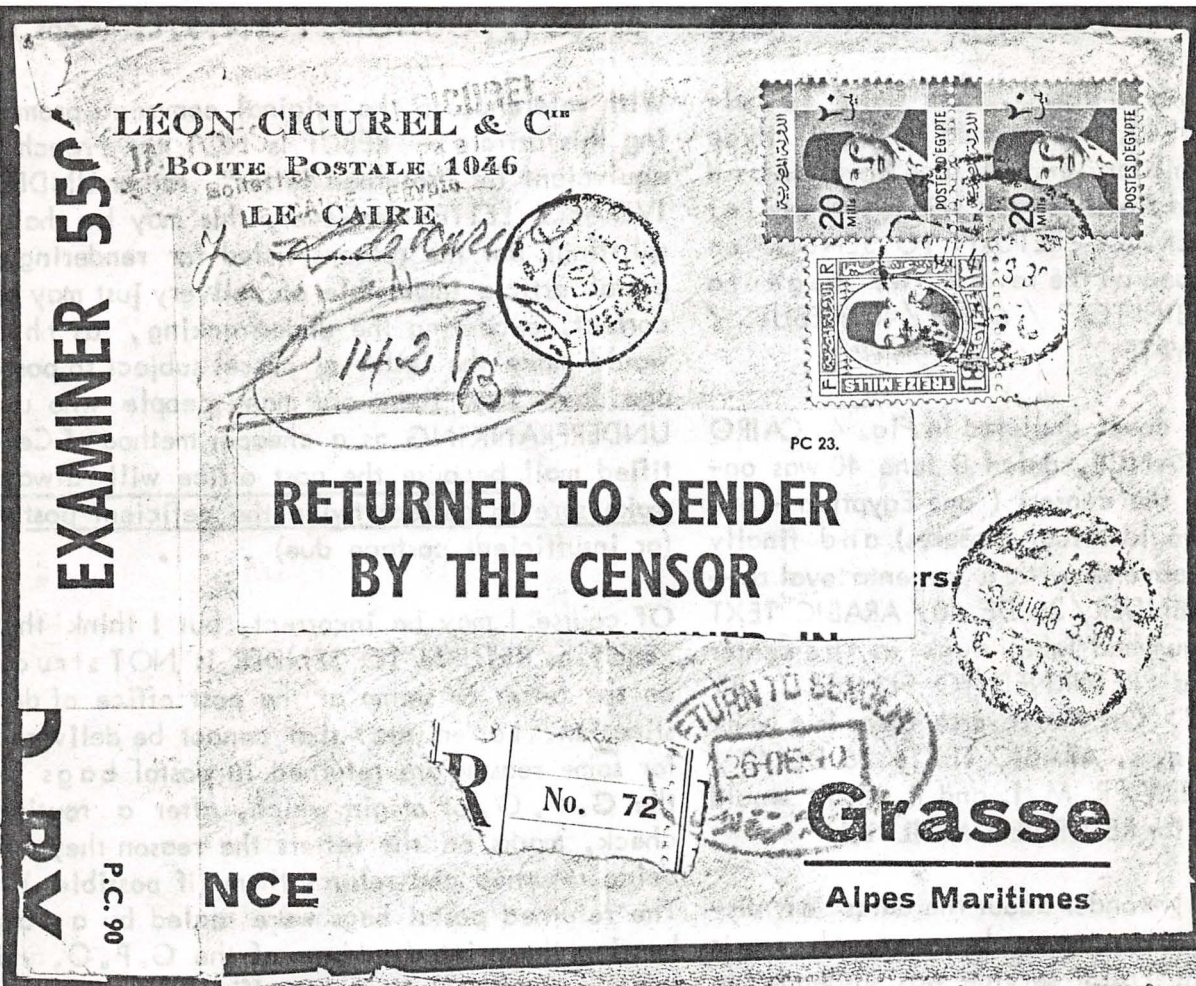
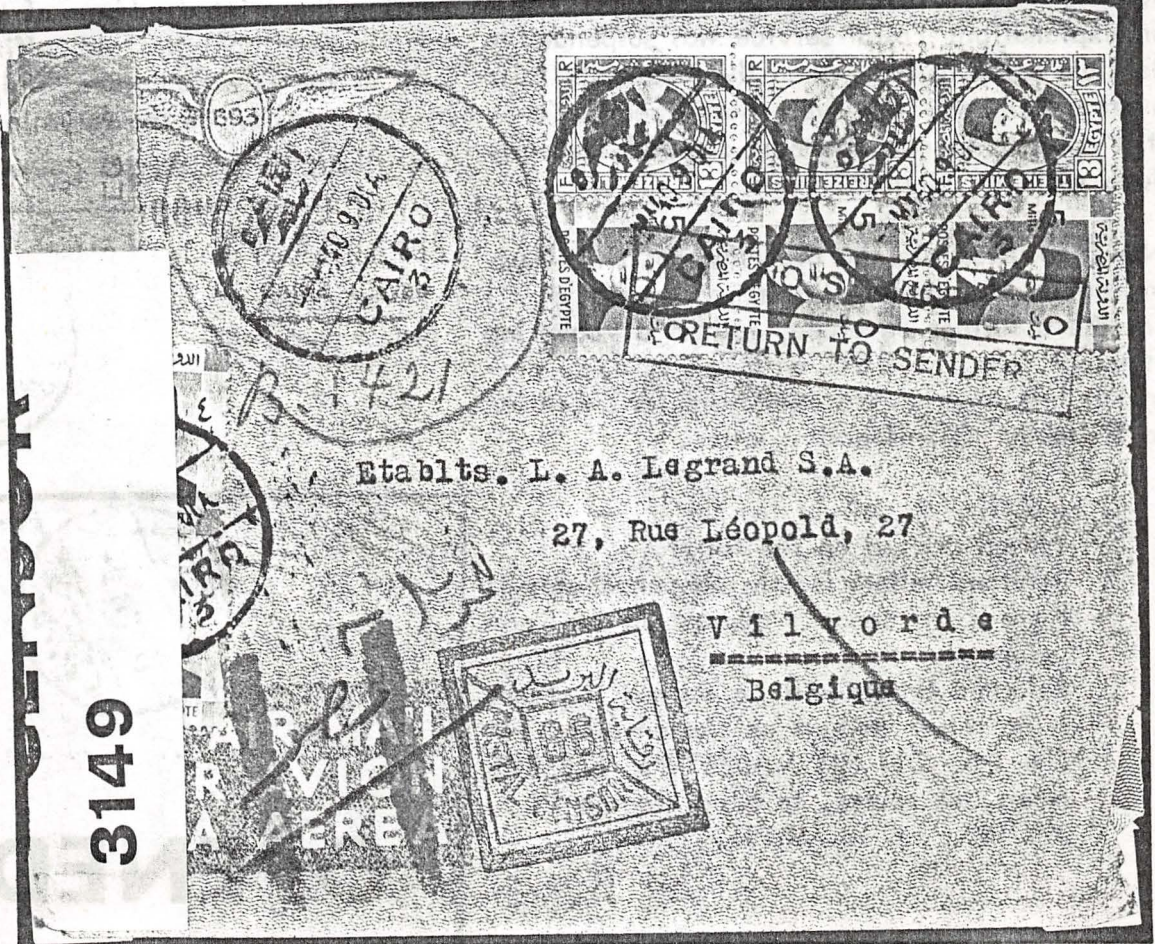


fig. 4-5



"REBUTS" — DEAD LETTER OFFICE MAIL — By G. T. HOUSTON, F.R.P.S.L. (Cont.).

The cover shown in Fig. 5, from Cairo to Belgium, 9 May 1940, was opened in Egypt three times by the military censors (one Egyptian and two British) and finally struck with the violet boxed "NO SERVICE/RETURN TO SENDER" on the obverse, and on the reverse the magenta c. d. s. ARABIC TEXT / 6OCT/40/REBUTS / POSTES D'EGYPTE.

The Registered cover depicted in Fig. 4, CAIRO to GRASSE, FRANCE, dated 8 June 40 was opened twice by the censors (one Egyptian — one British with two identical closures) and finally struck on the obverse with a magenta oval as — RETURN TO SENDER/26 DE 40/ARABIC TEXT as well as a gummed label stuck in the center of the cover as "RETURNED TO SENDER / BY THE CENSOR". On the reverse there is a weak strike of a c. d. s. ARABIC TEXT / 26 DE 40 / CAIRO DELIVERY / R.M.I. and R.M.I. would probably stand for RETURNED MAIL 1.

Perhaps you may wonder about the dates of dispatch of these two covers, however, there is an explanation: Postal service was suspended to Belgium early in May when the German's Blitz overran Belgium. However, postal service was still open to France and only stopped in early June with the German invasion . . .

Now, to illustrate the procedure of the Australian DLO returning letters in these days, I enclose a further envelope, rather a covering envelope from the DLO with red c. d. s. giving at left in print the conditions for the return to sender of the respective letter.

- 1) Inability to deliver the letter — reason marked on the letter.
- 2) Returned letters remain unopened only if there is the sender's address on the envelope.
- 3) Returned letters will be opened if there is no return address on the envelope — The title ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE refers, of course, to King George VI, still alive on 18 MA 51.

With reference to the original comments prompting this article — REBUT is NOT the French — equivalent for "returned letter", rather UNDELIVERABLE LETTER (however, this may be hair-splitting) but the reasons listed for rendering a postal article impossible of delivery just may be correct, excepting the underfranking, as this would make the letter or parcel subject to postage due. Too, there are many people who use UNDERFRANKING as a cheaper method of Certified mail because the post office will always make sure to collect twice the deficient post — (or insufficient postage due) . . .

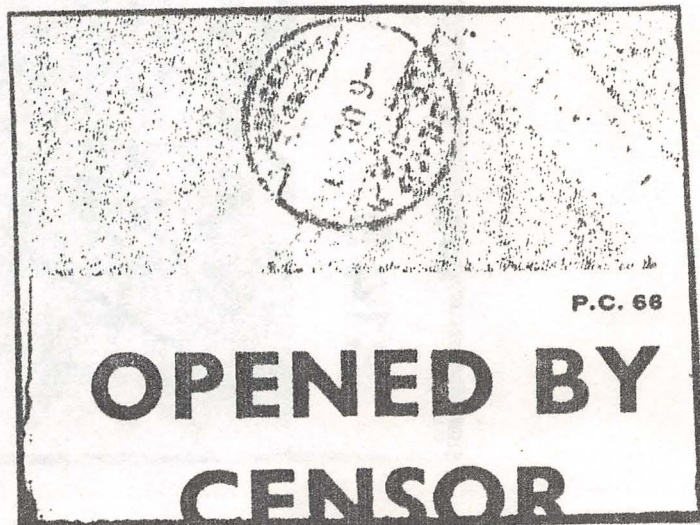
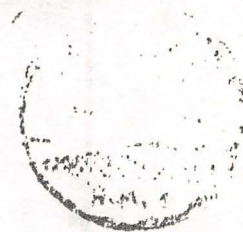
Of course I may be incorrect, but I think that REBUT or RETURN TO SENDER is NOT struck on the letter or stamp at the post office of destination. Letters etc. that cannot be delivered for some reason are returned in postal bags to the G. P. O. of origin which, after a routine check, marks on the letters the reason they are being returned and returns them (if possible.) The returned postal bags were sealed by a tag bearing the printed address of the G. P. O. and sometimes a label was also affixed on the tag, such as the Egyptian Interpostal Seal, cancelled by the c. d. s. of the returning post office.

See illustration of OHMS cover on next page.

Figs. 4a & 5a

Reverse markings

Fig. 6 next page



ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

RETURNED LETTER

THE ENCLOSED LETTER NOT HAVING BEEN DELIVERED FOR THE REASON ASSIGNED THEREON, IS NOW RETURNED TO THE SENDER.

UNDELIVERED LETTERS WILL BE RETURNED TO THE SENDER UNOPENED IF THE COVERS THEREOF ARE INDORSED "IF NOT CLAIMED IN (7 OR MORE) DAYS RETURN TO (NAME AND ADDRESS OF SENDER)."

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT,
DEAD LETTER OFFICE, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA.



Mr J J Davis
100
St Lucia
St Lucia

PRICES REALIZED FROM OUR MAIL SALE OF MARCH 31ST.

Lot. No.

- 1 - \$ 20.00 2 - \$ 20.00
- 3 - 15.00
- 4 - 15.00
- 5 - 15.00
- 6 - 15.00
- 7 - 15.00
- 8 - \$ no bid 9 - 9.00
- 10 - 2.00
- 11 - 20.00
- 12 - 10.00
- 13 - 25.00
- 14 - 13.00
- 15 - \$ 28.00 16 - no bid
- 17 - 26.00
- 18 - 40.00
- 19 - no bid
- 20 - 32.00
- 21 - no bid
- 22 - \$ 71.00 23 - 62.50
- 24 - 122.50
- 25 - 70.00
- 26 - 12.00
- 27 - 3.00
- 28 - no bid
- 29 - \$ no bid 30 - no bid
- 31 - 15.00
- 32 - 6.00
- 33 - 40.00
- 34 - no bid
- 35 - 5.00
- 36 - \$ 7.00 37 - 5.25
- 38 - no bid
- 39 - 3.00
- 40 - 8.50
- 41 - 8.00
- 42 - 10.00
- 43 - \$ 9.00 44 - 6.00
- 45 - 8.00
- 46 - 4.00
- 47 - 2.50
- 48 - 4.50
- 49 - 3.00
- 50 - \$ 6.00 51 - 16.00
- 52 - 12.00
- 53 - 12.00
- 54 - 8.00
- 55 - 8.00

OVER THE YEARS we have had a number of enquiries concerning the country of Egypt, its people, its economy, its geography and other pertinent data. The following information taken from a pamphlet published by the Department of State in September 1975 answers the majority of these questions . . .

background NOTES

Egypt

GEOGRAPHY

Egypt is located in the northeastern corner of the African Continent and is bounded on the north by the Mediterranean Sea; on the west by Libya; on the south by the Sudan; and on the east by the Red Sea, the Gulf of Suez, and the State of Israel. Only about 10,000 square miles of the area—consisting of the ribbon-like Nile Valley, the Nile delta north of Cairo, and a few oases—are cultivated. Water from the Aswan High Dam is expected to

increase the cultivable area eventually to about 12,500 square miles.

Egypt is an almost rainless block of desert consisting mainly of high plains and some rugged hills and mountains in the east along the Red Sea coast and along the valley of the Nile River. The country's existence depends almost exclusively on the Nile River, which rises in Ethiopia and Uganda and flows northward through Sudan into Egypt, where it stretches almost 550 miles from Aswan to Cairo.

Extending south from the 32d

parallel to below the Tropic of Cancer, Egypt has a warm, arid climate. Winter temperatures at Cairo normally range between 40° and 65°F; summer temperatures between 70° and 100°F. Rainfall is almost entirely limited to the northern coastal area, where it averages 8 inches a year. South of Cairo (where annual rainfall averages 1 inch), precipitation drops to nearly negligible amounts. The highest point is Mt. Catherine in the southern Sinai—8,600 feet above sea level. The lowest is the Qattara Depression, a basin in the western desert of about 10,000 square miles, the floor of which is some 400 feet below sea level.

PROFILE

Geography

AREA: 386,000 sq. mi. (slightly larger than Calif., Nev., and Ariz. combined). Includes the approx. 22,500-sq. mi. Israeli-occupied area of the Sinai peninsula. CAPITAL: Cairo (pop. 8.4 million). OTHER CITIES: Alexandria (pop. 2.5 million), Port Said, Suez, Ismailia.

People

POPULATION: 38 million (1974 est.). ANNUAL GROWTH RATE: 2.1%. DENSITY: 95 per sq. mi. ETHNIC GROUPS: Egyptians, Copts, Bedouins, Nubians. RELIGIONS: Sunni Muslim (90%), Christian. LANGUAGES: Arabic, English, French. LITERACY: 38%. LIFE EXPECTANCY: 54 years.

Government

TYPE: Republic. DATE OF CONSTITUTION: 1971. INDEPENDENCE: 1922.

BRANCHES: *Executive*—President (Chief of State); Prime Minister (Head of Government). *Legislative*—unicameral People's Assembly (350 elected members and 10 appointed by the President). *Judicial*—

Court of Cassation, State Council.

FLAG: Three horizontal stripes—red, white, and black from top to bottom—with a golden hawk in the center stripe.

Economy

GDP: \$9.2 billion (FY 1973). ANNUAL GROWTH RATE: NA. PER CAPITA INCOME: \$240.

AGRICULTURE: *Land* 3%. *Labor* 50%. *Acres per capita* 0.2%. *Products*—cotton, wheat, rice, corn.

INDUSTRY: *Labor* 11%. *Products*—textiles, processed foods, tobacco manufactures, chemicals, fertilizer, and petroleum and petroleum products.

TRADE (1973): *Exports*—\$1.3 billion: cotton, rice, petroleum, manufactured goods. *Partners*—U.S.S.R., East European countries, Italy, Federal Republic of Germany, India. *Imports*—\$1.8 billion: foodstuffs, capital goods. *Partners*—U.S.S.R., Federal Republic of Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, U.S.

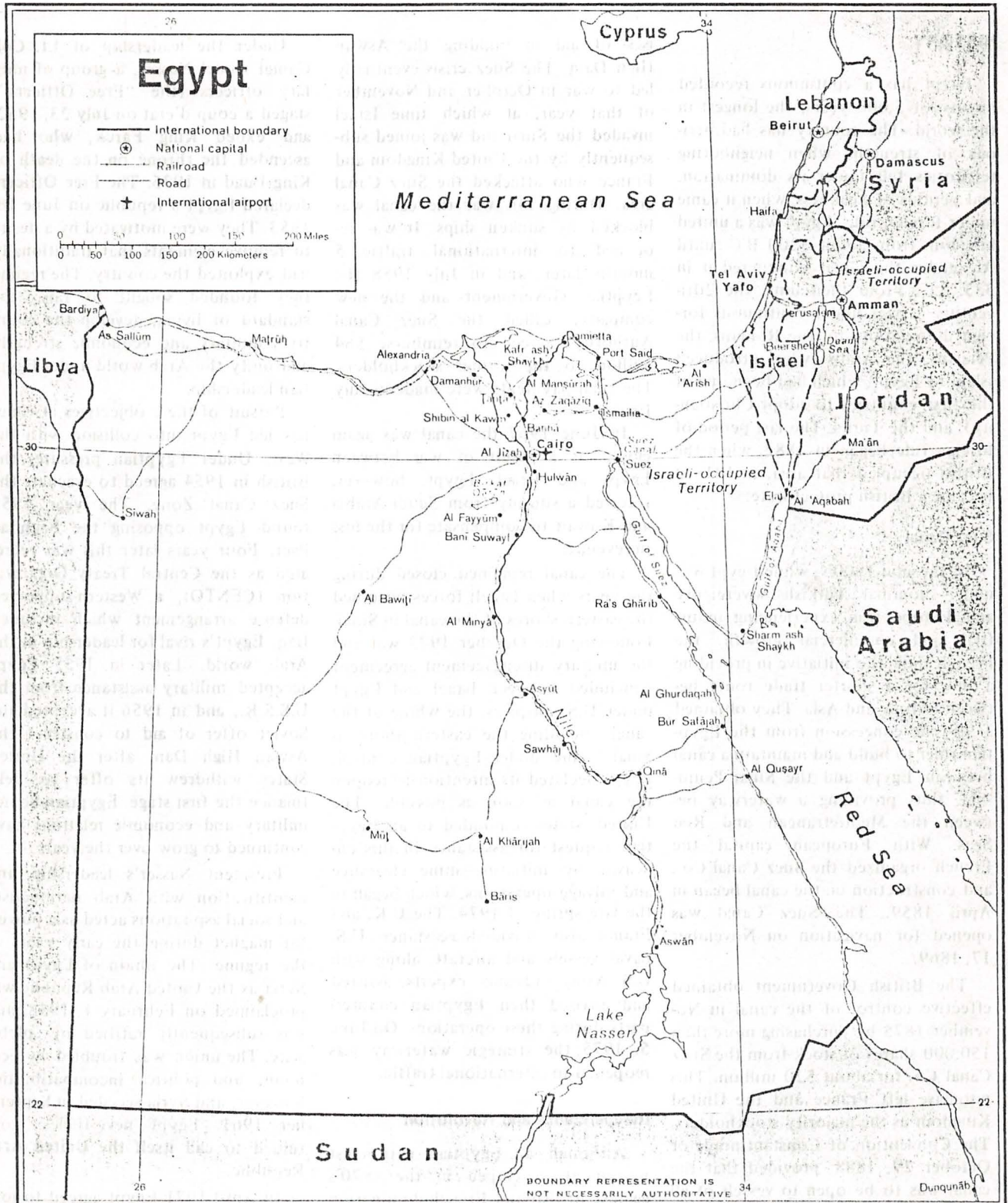
OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE: 1 Egyptian pound=US\$2.56.

MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: U.N., Arab League, Organization of African Unity (OAU), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

PEOPLE

Egypt is the most populous country in the Arab world and the second most populous on the African Continent (after Nigeria). Ninety-nine percent of the people are compressed into 3.5 percent of the country's area of the Nile Valley and its delta, making a population density there of more than 2,700 persons per square mile—one of the highest in the world. The proportion of people living in rural areas is decreasing as job opportunities in the urban centers are drawing more to the cities. The cities of Port Said, Suez, and Ismailia, which lie along the Suez Canal and had a combined population of 700,000 before the 1967 war with Israel, were largely evacuated as a result of the war. Many have now returned.

Lying at the crossroads of Asia, Africa, and the Mediterranean basin,



517825 9-75

Egypt has developed a fairly homogeneous population. Basically, Egyptians are of Hamitic origin, with some admixture in the north with people from the Mediterranean and Arab areas and in the south with the Nubian

groups from black Africa. However, the vast majority of Egyptians remain as they were when the pyramids were built—essentially a single people sharing a common ancestry and culture. Indigenous minorities include more

than 3 million Copts, who have retained their historic Christian affiliation; 50,000 Bedouins, who are basically nomadic; and Nubians, in the south, who originally came to the Nile Valley from Sudan.

HISTORY

Egypt has a continuous recorded history of 5,000 years, the longest in the world. The country has had periods of strength, when neighboring territories fell under its domination, and periods of weakness, when it came under foreign rule. Egypt was a united kingdom from about 3200 B.C. until Alexander the Great conquered it in 333 B.C. From then until the 20th century it was under continuous foreign domination—by the Romans, the Persians, the Arabs (who introduced Islam to Egypt, which had been one of the first countries to adopt Christianity), and the Turks. The last period of foreign rule began in 1882, when the British occupied that area; in 1914 it became a British protectorate.

Suez Canal

In the mid-1800's, while Egypt was under nominal Turkish sovereignty and Europe was experiencing industrial and commercial growth, the French took the initiative in providing a link for a shorter trade route between Europe and Asia. They obtained a 99-year concession from the Egyptian ruler to build and maintain a canal between Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula, thus providing a waterway between the Mediterranean and Red Seas. With European capital the French organized the Suez Canal Co., and construction on the canal began in April 1859. The Suez Canal was opened for navigation on November 17, 1869.

The British Government obtained effective control of the canal in November 1875 by purchasing more than 150,000 shares of stock from the Suez Canal Co. for about \$20 million. This purchase left France and the United Kingdom as the majority stockholders. The Convention of Constantinople of October 29, 1888, provided that the canal was to be open to vessels of all nations, although the Egyptians closed the canal to Israeli shipping after 1948 by invoking article X (which authorized closure if necessary for the maintenance of public order).

In 1956 the new Egyptian regime, headed by President Gamal Abdel Nasser, nationalized the canal in reaction to withdrawal of Western prom-

ises of aid in building the Aswan High Dam. The Suez crisis eventually led to war in October and November of that year, at which time Israel invaded the Sinai and was joined subsequently by the United Kingdom and France who attacked the Suez Canal area. During this war the canal was blocked by sunken ships. It was reopened to international traffic 5 months later, and in July 1958 the Egyptian Government and the new company, called the Suez Canal Authority, agreed to reimburse \$64 million to the former stockholders. The final payments were made in July 1963.

In June 1967 the canal was again closed as a result of war between Egypt and Israel. Egypt, however, received a subsidy from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to compensate for the loss in revenue.

The canal remained closed during the years when Israeli forces occupied the eastern shores of the canal in Sinai. Following the October 1973 war and the military disengagement agreement concluded between Israel and Egypt under U.S. auspices, the whole of the canal, including the eastern shore in Sinai, came under Egyptian control. Egypt declared its intention to reopen the canal as soon as possible. The United States responded to an Egyptian request for assistance in this endeavor by initiating mine clearance and salvage operations, which began in the late spring of 1974. The U.K. and France also provided assistance. U.S. naval vessels and aircraft, along with U.S. Army ordnance experts, assisted and advised their Egyptian counterparts during these operations. On June 5, 1975, the strategic waterway was reopened to international traffic.

Independence and Revolution

Although an Egyptian nationalist movement developed in the 1870's against British and French domination of the government, the country did not gain its independence until post-World War I. In 1922, Egypt became a monarchy under King Fuad I. The British, however, retained extensive powers as well as a major military presence in the Suez Canal Zone, which was used as a major Allied base of operation during World War II.

Under the leadership of Lt. Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser, a group of military officers (the "Free Officers") staged a coup d'état on July 23, 1952, and exiled King Faruk, who had ascended the throne on the death of King Fuad in 1936. The Free Officers declared Egypt a republic on June 18, 1953. They were motivated by a desire to remove elements that traditionally had exploited the country. The regime they founded sought to raise the standard of living, develop the country's military and economic strength, and unify the Arab world under Egyptian leadership.

Pursuit of these objectives at times has led Egypt into collision with the West. Under Egyptian pressure, the British in 1954 agreed to evacuate the Suez Canal Zone. The year 1955 found Egypt opposing the Baghdad Pact. Four years later this was recreated as the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO), a Western-supported defense arrangement which included Iraq, Egypt's rival for leadership in the Arab world. Later in 1955 Egypt accepted military assistance from the U.S.S.R., and in 1956 it accepted the Soviet offer of aid to construct the Aswan High Dam after the United States withdrew its offer to help finance the first stage. Egyptian-Soviet military and economic relations have continued to grow over the years.

President Nasser's leadership and identification with Arab nationalism and social aspirations acted as a powerful magnet during the early years of the regime. The union of Egypt and Syria as the United Arab Republic was proclaimed on February 1, 1958, and was subsequently ratified by plebiscite. The union was troubled by economic and political incompatibilities, however, and Syria seceded in September 1961. Egypt nevertheless continued to call itself the United Arab Republic.

In April 1971 Egypt agreed to join Libya and Syria in a supranational federation to be called the Confederation of Arab Republics. Arrangements were made to draft a constitution and submit the federation plan to plebiscite in the three countries on September 1, 1971. On September 2, 1971, announced results showed that the formation of the Federation of Arab

TRAVEL NOTES

Climate and Clothing—Clothing should be suitable for hot summers or cool winters.

Customs—Visas are required and should be obtained before arrival. International health cards bearing valid smallpox certificates are required. Immunizations for typhoid, poliomyelitis, cholera, paratyphoid, and gamma globulin should be kept current.

Egypt, along with most Arab countries, forbids entry to anyone whose passport bears any indications of travel to or from Israel.

Health—Cairo has several well-equipped hospitals, and the practice of medicine and surgery is excellent.

Telecommunications—Telephone service on the whole is good, although delays may be encountered even on calls to towns near Cairo; service and reception vary with demand and atmospheric conditions. Telegrams can be sent from the main post office or from hotels (for an additional charge).

Transportation—Both regional and worldwide airlines serve Cairo's International Airport. Internal air service is available from Cairo to Luxor and Aswan. Rail service is available south to Aswan and north to Alexandria from Cairo. The capital has an abundance of taxis.

Republics was approved in Egypt, Libya, and Syria by some 10 million voters—98.1 percent of those eligible for the ballot. On the same day the United Arab Republic became the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Wars With Israel

In 1948-49 Egypt played a major role in a war between the Arab states and the newly established State of Israel. A truce was brought about under U.N. auspices, and in 1949 four armistice agreements were negotiated and signed at Rhodes, Greece, between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. Egypt assumed the administration of the Gaza Strip, a small area of the original Palestine mandate bordering on the Sinai to which many of the Arab refugees had fled.

By 1955, however, the armistice had deteriorated seriously, and the

Egyptian-Israel armistice line became the scene of armed hostilities launched from both sides. In July 1956 the withdrawal of U.S. aid for the Aswan High Dam project, followed by President Nasser's nationalization of the Suez Canal for the stated purpose of using its revenues to finance the dam, climaxed in the 1956 Suez war. Israel's invasion of the Sinai Peninsula at the end of October was followed by British and French landings at Suez in November, which were made with the stated purpose of separating the combatants and preserving the international character of the Suez Canal. The canal was closed to all shipping as a result of the hostilities.

A cease-fire was quickly arranged, and British and French forces were replaced by the end of December with forces of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF). The Suez Canal was cleared and reopened in March 1957, following withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Although the Egypt-Israel line remained relatively quiet following the 1957 settlement, in 1966 and 1967 incidents of terrorism and retaliation across the other armistice lines with Israel became progressively more serious. With the rise of tension in the area, the arrangements with regard to navigation in the Gulf of Aqaba and for the stationing of U.N. troops between Israel and Egypt came apart in May 1967. Egypt moved armaments and about 80,000 troops into the Sinai Peninsula and asked the U.N. Secretary General to withdraw the U.N. force from Sinai and the Gaza Strip. On May 22 President Nasser declared the Straits of Tiran closed, thereby blockading the Israeli port of Eilat.

Hostilities broke out on June 5 between Israel and Egypt. Jordan and Syria soon joined Egypt. After 6 days of fighting, all parties had accepted the cease-fire called for by U.N. Security Council resolutions. Israel was left in control of the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and the West Bank. The Suez Canal was once again closed to shipping.

Efforts to arrange a negotiated settlement based on Security Council Resolution 242 (November 1967) were unsuccessful and led to growing frustration and bitterness on the part

of Egypt and other Arab countries. After more than 6 years of what was called a "no peace, no war situation," Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel on October 6, 1973. Israeli forces eventually were able to throw back the Syrian advance and to establish a foothold on the western shore of the Suez Canal. But Egyptian military forces were able to hold on to a thin perimeter along the eastern shore of the canal gained when Egyptian forces successfully crossed the canal and overran the Israeli-held Bar Lev Line.

U.S. diplomatic efforts during October and November in the capitals of the belligerents and at the United Nations brought an end to hostilities on all fronts. An intense diplomatic initiative led by the United States resulted in the introduction of U.N. forces and observers to the cease-fire zones. The parties directly concerned agreed to meet in Geneva in December 1973 for a peace conference under the cosponsorship of the United States and the U.S.S.R. to seek a negotiated settlement of the longstanding dispute. But it was U.S. diplomacy during this critical period that led to a military disengagement agreement, signed in January 1974 by Israel and Egypt. Israeli forces withdrew from the enclave gained on the western shore of the canal, and both sides agreed to the establishment of a U.N. buffer zone separating the Egyptian forces along the eastern shore of the Suez Canal from the Israeli forces concentrated further east. A similar military disengagement agreement was later reached between Israel and Syria. The way was thereby opened for further intensive U.S. diplomatic efforts toward progress on a negotiated settlement using the step-by-step approach.

In August 1975 U.S. diplomacy stimulated another attempt to achieve a second interim agreement between Egypt and Israel. This effort was successful, and on September 1 an agreement was initialed; on September 4 it was signed. The agreement notes that Egypt and Israel agree to resolve the conflict between them by peaceful means, to observe the cease-fire, and to abjure the threat or use of force or military blockade against each other. Egypt agreed to permit nonmilitary

cargoes destined for, or coming from, Israel to transit the Suez Canal. Israel agreed to withdraw its forces from the Giddi and Mitla Passes in the Sinai, to enlarge the buffer zone between Egyptian and Israeli forces and to return to Egypt the Abu Radeis oil fields. The U.S. offered to man an early warning system in the Sinai. This proposal, which will result in the posting of up to 200 American civilian technicians in the Sinai, requires congressional approval. Implementation of the agreement is currently underway. The agreement specifically calls for continued efforts to negotiate a final peace agreement within the framework of the Geneva peace conference in accordance with Security Council Resolution 338.

GOVERNMENT

Egypt has a strong, presidential-type government. Under the Permanent Constitution proclaimed on September 11, 1971, executive authority is vested in the President. He is popularly elected to a 6-year term and must receive an absolute majority of the votes cast. The President appoints the Vice President, the Prime Minister, and the Council of Ministers (Cabinet). When the People's Assembly is not in session he rules by decree, but any legislation so promulgated must be submitted to the Assembly for approval when it reconvenes. Nonsubmission of decrees to, or their rejection by, the Assembly deprives them of force of law. In normal circumstances the President may veto a bill or draft law and return it to the Assembly within 30 days of its enactment. If the specified time limitation is exceeded or the Assembly again passes it by a two-thirds majority, it becomes law. Should a temporary event prevent the President from exercising his functions, the Vice President may act for him. If the President resigns, he addresses his resignation to the People's Assembly. In case of a mid-term permanent vacancy in the position of the President by death or disability, the Presidency is assumed by the Speaker of the People's Assembly. If the Assembly is dissolved at that time, power is then assumed by the Presi-

dent of the Higher Constitutional Court, provided that neither he nor the Speaker are running for President at the same time.

The unicameral People's Assembly has 360 members - 350 elected from the 175 parliamentary constituencies and 10 appointed by the President. An Assembly term is 5 years. At least half of the members must be workers or peasants (*Jellahin*). Under the Constitution the People's Assembly has the sole authority to enact legislation while it is in session.

Egypt's judicial system is based on European (principally French) legal concepts and methods. The highest court is the Court of Cassation, whose judges are appointed by the President.

Principal Government Officials

President - Anwar Al Sadat
 Vice President - Muhammad Husni Mubarak
 Prime Minister - Mauduh Salim
 Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs - Ismail Fahmy
 Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of War - Gen. Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Gamasy
 Ambassador to the U.S. - Ashraf Ghorbal
 Ambassador to the U.N. - Ahmad Esmat Abdel Meguid

Egypt maintains an Embassy in the U.S. at 2310 Decatur Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. There are also Consulates General in New York and San Francisco.

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Political parties in Egypt were outlawed in 1953. The regime has sought to replace them with a single mass organization which would support the regime and its policies. The first two efforts, the National Liberation Rally and the National Union, were not successful. The present organization, the Arab Socialist Union (ASU), was established in 1962 and was subsequently reorganized in 1966 and in 1971.

President Gamal Abdel Nasser dominated virtually every aspect of life in Egypt from 1952 until his death in September 1970. He was looked

READING LIST

These titles are provided as a general indication of the material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse the specific views in unofficial publications as representing the position of the U.S. Government.

- American University. *Area Handbook for the United Arab Republic (Egypt)*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1970.
- Douglas-Home, Charles. *The Arabs and Israel*. Chester Springs, Pa.: Dufour, 1968.
- Kerr, Malcolm H. *Egypt under Nasser*. New York: Foreign Policy Association, 1963.
- Nutting, Anthony. *Nasser*. New York: Dutton, 1972.
- Shibl, Yusuf. *The Aswan High Dam*. Beirut, 1971.
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- Tignor, Robert L. *Modernization and British Colonial Rule in Egypt, 1882-1914*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1966.

upon as a leader among the Arab states as well. Following Nasser's death, Anwar Sadat, one of the 1952 revolutionary group, was nominated President by the governmental and ASU organs and elected by national plebiscite. His term began in October 1970 for a full 6 years. The last People's Assembly elections were held in October 1971.

On September 11, 1971, Egypt's Permanent Constitution, based on studies by the ASU and the People's Assembly, was passed by general referendum. It embodies the goals and principles of the revolution and henceforth serves as the basis of government.

The declared long-range objectives of the Egyptian Government are to bring the benefits of education, representative government, and modernism to all the people of Egypt. One of its major actions has been a restructuring of the socioeconomic system. Through a program of nationalization of major industrial and commercial companies, sequestration of foreign-owned proper-

ties, breaking up of large estates, and exclusion of traditional leaders from influential positions, the government has largely displaced the old landowning aristocracy. In its place there has emerged a new elite of technicians and army officers.

ECONOMY

Egypt's economic growth in recent years has been slow due in large part to the 1967 war. As a consequence of that war, canal earnings stopped, tourist receipts declined, and the Sinai oil fields were lost, seriously limiting imports of needed commodities and impairing repayment of foreign indebtedness. With the reopening of the canal, the return of the oil fields, and increased foreign contributions to promote economic development, it is expected Egypt's economic growth will now accelerate.

Egypt's economic problems cover a broad front. Severe import restrictions and deflationary policies have had to be imposed, creating a serious constraint on economic production and growth. Due to shortages of raw materials and spare parts, Egypt's industries have been operating at considerably less than full capacity. The lack of fertilizer imports has limited agricultural productivity (about 80 percent of Egypt's exports, mainly cotton, are processed agricultural products).

Investment expenditures have been low, and job opportunities have grown more slowly than the labor force, increasing underemployment. This has been intensified by the rapid population growth and a need to expand social services at the expense of investment in productive enterprises. Migration to the cities has increased the urgent need for social and welfare services.

The Egyptian economy is dominated by the public sector. However, Egypt has recently taken a number of significant steps to implement a new development strategy that envisages expansion of the private sector and the encouragement of foreign private investment.

Agriculture and Industry

The Egyptian economy is basically agricultural, as it has been for centuries. Half of the total labor force of 10 million is engaged directly in this sector, and many others are engaged in processing or trading agricultural prod-

ucts. Thus, the majority of the population depends on some 6 million acres of high fertility soil in the Nile Valley and delta areas for their means of support.

The climate and availability of water permit multiple cropping (several crops a year on the same piece of land) and almost doubles the actual crop area in any one year, but farming is generally inefficient by modern standards. Production is for the market with very little subsistence agriculture. Cotton, wheat, rice, and corn are the principal commodities; cotton provides almost one-half of all export earnings.

To limit development of a one-crop economy, the government restricts the planting of cotton to one-third of each owner's land. Although wheat is less profitable than several other crops, the law requires most landowners to plant at least one-third of their land in wheat. Nevertheless, the annual shortfall between cereal production and consumption averages 2.5 million tons.

In 1947 half of the cultivable land was held by less than 2 percent of the landowning population. Maximum holdings have now been reduced to 100 acres per family, and some 300,000 families (8 percent of the rural population) have received land under agrarian reform distribution.

Since the per capita resources of water and cultivable land are limited, Egypt has concentrated on industrialization as a means of raising productivity. As the government has assumed larger and larger managerial responsibilities, the role of the small entrepreneur class has dwindled. Since the nationalization of the early 1960's, all major industries and public utilities have been run by organs of the central government. Nevertheless, the principle of private enterprise continues to be recognized, and most agricultural land, as well as a large proportion of trade, remains privately owned.

The industrial sector currently accounts for slightly over 20 percent of GNP, 35 percent of total exports, and about 13 percent of total employment. As a result of the Egyptian Government's recent steps to encourage participation by foreign capital in the development effort, a number of projects—involving at least partial

foreign equity totaling more than \$3 billion—are being discussed. These projects range in size from immense petrochemical complexes, refineries, and sponge iron plants to a variety of small manufacturing ventures in the \$2-\$10 million range.

Natural Resources

Egypt has few natural resources other than the agricultural capacity of the Nile Valley. The major minerals found are phosphates, petroleum, and iron ore. Petroleum production is moderate from offshore fields in the Gulf of Suez and some recent strikes in the Western Desert. Egypt has become an exporter of small quantities of petroleum despite the loss, at least for the present, of its Sinai oil fields and has hopes that further petroleum discoveries will be made in the future.

In the past year, 22 petroleum companies, including about 15 American firms, have signed petroleum exploration and development agreements with the Egyptian General Petroleum Co. Obligations have been made to spend several hundred million dollars on exploration in the next 2 years.

Trade and Balance of Payments

In recent years Egypt has had regular and substantial deficits in its foreign trade—imports have exceeded exports. With growing domestic demand for its export crops and the forced shift of its earnings away from convertible foreign exchange, Egypt has been required to set import limits that severely hamper not only economic development but the efficient use of existing agricultural and industrial capacity. Lack of import capacity for pesticides and fertilizer has delayed the spread of the "Green Revolution" to Egypt, and much industrial plant lies idle or underutilized through lack of replacement machinery, spare parts, and raw materials. In short, Egypt's ability to earn foreign exchange for needed imports is circumscribed by its financial inability to import the necessary inputs for export production. In 1973 exports totaled about \$1.015 billion, while imports were about \$1.600 billion. Cotton is the most important export from Egypt, accounting for more than 50 percent of

total earnings. Rice, petroleum, and manufactured goods, however, are assuming increasing importance. Foodstuffs (especially wheat - almost 3 million tons a year) and capital goods have accounted for a substantial share of Egypt's imports. In recent years Communist countries have taken about 50 percent of Egypt's exports and supplied about 35 percent of its imports.

The recent balance-of-payments difficulties have forced Egypt to maintain a substantial level of short-term borrowing. Added to its long- and medium-term debts, this burdens the economy with a very substantial debt service ratio.

Until the June 1967 war, earnings received from Suez Canal revenues and tourism covered a substantial proportion of Egypt's trade deficit. In 1966 Suez Canal earnings amounted to about \$220 million. Despite the special subsidy payments from some other Arab states, Egypt is still dependent on substantial additional inflows of foreign capital to finance its economic growth.

Transportation and Communication

Transportation facilities in Egypt follow the pattern of settlement along the Nile. The major line of the nation's 4,000-mile railway network runs from Alexandria to Aswan. Other important lines run along the north coast to the Libyan border and eastward to the Suez Canal. More than 14,000 miles of motor roads (5,000 miles of which are hard surfaced) cover the Nile Valley delta and Red Sea coast. The Nile River system of approximately 1,000 miles, plus another 1,000 miles of navigable canals, are also extremely important for inland transport. The major ports are Alexandria and Port Said. All major cities, except Alexandria, have airports, of which Cairo International is the most important.

Radio Cairo, a government monopoly, is the most important communications facility in the Arab world and beams its broadcasts to all Middle East countries. Television was introduced in 1960 and can be viewed in 95 percent of the Republic. The Cairo and Alexandria press are very active, and Cairo newspapers and books are read throughout the Arab world. The Egyptian

film industry, once the Arab world's leading one, has become less active but is still important.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Egypt is acknowledged as the leading state in the Arab world. Its population, industry, and armed forces are the largest of the Arab countries. The Egyptians are also Arab leaders in, among other spheres, the arts, literature, publishing, and movie production.

Egypt is influential in various other international contexts. From the 19th and early 20th centuries, when France and the United Kingdom competed for predominance and guided the building of and managed the Suez Canal, Egypt has retained a special importance for those two nations. Following the 1967 war, Egypt's relations with the U.S.S.R. grew increasingly close. Egypt also plays an important role as a Mediterranean state. It has been very active as a third world nation and, through a special relationship which evolved in the 1950's and 1960's with Yugoslavia and India, is looked upon by many in Africa and Asia as a leader of the nonaligned group of states. It has developed its cultural ties as well with the substantial Muslim population of sub-Saharan Africa and has extensive influence in that area.

The main themes of Egypt's foreign policy are Arab nationalism, Arab socialism, and the championship of the Arab cause vis-a-vis Israel. President Nasser caught the imagination of many Arabs as the first important Arab leader in the post-World War II era to espouse anticolonialism, sharply reduce foreign influences in Egypt, and vitalize dreams of unification of the Arab world as a single nation. Through dynamic leadership, the new Egyptian regime in the 1950's and early 1960's became the personification for many Arabs of a movement for (a) Arab unity, (b) reduction of foreign influence, and (c) modernization. For the Egyptians, however, insistence on pan-Arab nationalism has gone hand-in-hand with a strong sense of pride in their own Egyptian nationality, a stronger feeling of identity than is found in the other Arab countries.

Arab socialism, as espoused by President Nasser and adhered to by his

successor, was developed gradually by the Nasser regime in response to the economic and social needs of the population. The Arab socialism of Egypt is not rigidly Marxist, rejects the doctrine of class struggle, and does not oppose private ownership of property. It is centered on state capitalism, raising living standards through industrialization, and bringing about a broader distribution of wealth. Nasser's propagation of Arab socialism brought him into sharp ideological conflict with the governments of more conservative Arab countries in the period before the 1967 war.

The importance of the Arab-Israel dispute in Egyptian foreign policy has varied over the years, depending on the extent of tensions with Israel and the vicissitudes of Egypt's disagreements with other Arab countries. Since the 1967 war it has been Egypt's all-encompassing external concern. Egypt accepted U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 of November 22, 1967, calling for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict, but it never abandoned the option of attempting to regain its territories occupied by Israel in 1967 through recourse to war.

Relations with the U.S.S.R. deteriorated following the expulsion of Soviet military advisers from Egypt in July 1972. Relations between Moscow and Cairo are troubled, however, by Egyptian complaints that the U.S.S.R., following a massive Soviet military supply effort during the October 1973 war, has dragged its feet on military supplies since the war and has turned a deaf ear to Cairo's requests for a rescheduling of Egypt's heavy debt burden.

U.S.-EGYPT RELATIONS

Before 1967, U.S. relations with Egypt went through several cycles. The United States attempted to cooperate with the new Egyptian regime when it came to power in 1952. Relations were soon soured, however, by differences over such matters as U.S. friendship with Israel, U.S. refusal to finance the Aswan High Dam, the Baghdad Pact, and U.S. arms supplies to other Middle East countries. Relations between the two countries began to improve late in 1958, and the

REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS ISSUED ON THE OCCASION OF:

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR 1975

Date of Issue 10 May 1976

Denominations: 2 1/2 — 4 — 10 1/2 PT

Design: Depicts the flag of the Republic of the Sudan The Nile, Figuration of Sudanese Woman - "BINT ELNEEL" and the emblem of the International Women's Year

Dimensions: 40 x 29 1/2 mms.

Designer: SAYED AHMED SHIBRIEN
Principal of the College of Fine and Applied Arts - at Khartoum.

Sheets: 50 stamps (5 x 10)

Perforations: 14 x 13-1/2

Colors: 2-1/2 Mauve, red, green, black and white background

4 As above but green and the mauve are reversed

10-1/2 Deep blue, red, green and black with white backgrnd.

Watermark: Unwatermarked

Printing: Thomas De La Rue of London

Quantity: Not listed.



These colors are intended to convey the peaceful notion, growth and the character of the river NILE respectively.

No First Day Covers will be issued. All stamps will be valued from the date of issue until they are demonetized by act of law, or six months.

United States provided technical assistance, development loans, and large quantities of agricultural commodities to Egypt. In 1964 relations began to deteriorate again, primarily over questions relating to third countries rather than to strictly bilateral problems. When the "6-day war" broke out in 1967, Egypt accused the United States of being actively involved in the hostilities on the side of Israel and broke relations on June 6, 1967. (President Nasser subsequently admitted that this charge was based on misinformation.)

Formal diplomatic relations were

reestablished on February 18, 1974. A close cooperative effort aimed at working out a negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute has been bolstered by efforts in the economic field. The United States launched a \$250 million AID program during FY 1975. An intense effort is underway to further deepen and broaden U.S.-Egyptian relations in the economic, cultural, and scientific fields under the auspices of the Joint U.S.-Egyptian Commission, established in June 1974 during former President Nixon's visit to Egypt.

Principal U.S. Officials

Ambassador—Hermann F. Eilts

Deputy Chief of Mission—Frank E. Maestrono

Counselor for Political Affairs—Arthur Lowrie

Counselor for Economic/Commercial Affairs—Edward L. Peck

Counselor for Public Affairs—Howard H. Russell, Jr.

Counselor for Economic Development—Wilbert R. Templeton

The U.S. Embassy in Egypt is located at 5 Sharia America Al Latiniyah, Garden City, Cairo.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE PUBLICATION 8152, Revised September 1975

Office of Media Services, Bureau of Public Affairs

☆ U.S. Government Printing Office: 1975 O-210-847 (1627)

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402
Price 30 cents (single copy). Subscription price: \$23.10 per year; \$5.80 additional for foreign mailing

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

CAIRO INTERNATIONAL FAIR

Date of Issue: 15 March 1976
 Denomination: 20 mills
 Designer: SABER SAIEDA
 Design: The emblem of Cairo International Fair.
 Dimensions: 30 x 50 mm.
 Sheets: 50 Stamps (10 x 5)
 Perforation: 11-1/2
 Colors: Pale orange, deep orange and purple
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: Rotogravure by the Postal Printing House in the A.R. Republic of Eg.
 Quantity: 1,000,000 stamps

To consolidate the artistic ties between peoples of the Mediterranean and Alexandria, this exhibition which includes painting, engraving and sculpture, provided the opportunity for these artists to meet to enlarge and exchange ideas.



The special Commemorative cancel is the same as the one illustrated for the Cairo Fair

The 9th session of the fair was held in March on the Exhibition grounds at Guezira. More than 35 African, Asian, European and Arab countries with more than 150 international and over 100 national companies participating.



THE XITH BIENNALE OF ALEXANDRIA

Date of Issue: 15 March 1976
 Denomination: 20 mills
 Designer: WAHEB FAREG
 Design: Commemorative medal of the XI periodical exhibition presented for the Mediterranean countries, for the year 1976.
 Dimensions: 30 x 50 mm.
 Sheets: 50 stamps (10 x 5)
 Perforations: 11-1/2
 Colors: Deep moss green and golden with white lettering.
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: As above
 Quantity: 1,000,000 stamps

REPRINT OF THE 10 MILL OFFICIAL

Date of Issue: 7 April 1976
 Denomination: 10 mills

All details are the same as for the previous issue except for the color. The stamp is now carmine on a white background with black lettering. Numerals in English and Arabic are in carmine.



WHO UNIVERSAL HEALTH DAY

Celebrated on the day that WHO was established, the theme for 1976 was "Foresight prevents blindness" marking a world-wide effort in the great campaign to prevent blindness.



Date of Issue: 7 April 1976
 Denomination: 20 mills
 Designer: SABER SAIDA
 Design: A pharaonic eye on shadows of light and darkness and the motto of W. H. O.
 Dimensions: (including perfs) 26 x 43 mm.
 Sheets: 50 Stamps (5 x 10)
 Perforations: 11-1/2
 Colors: Deep brown, yellow and green
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: Postal Printing House in the Arab Republic of Egypt
 Quantity: 1,000,000 stamps

Same cancellation for all 3 issue of 7 April.

FAITHFULNESS AND HOPE SOCIETY

Date of Issue: 7 April 1976
 Denomination: 20 Mills
 Designer: WAHEEB FARAG
 Design: Two hands holding a disabled on a chair, the motto of the Society and rays lighting the way . . .
 Dimensions: 40 x 40 mm.
 Sheets: 35 stamps (7 x 5)
 Perforations: 11-1/2
 Colors: Blue green, green, pale green yellow and white . . .
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: As Above
 Quantity: 1,000,000 stamps

In appreciation and gratitude to all of those in the Arab nations and African countries injured in accidents or civil disasters, or in military or redemption operations, and those who sacrificed life and blood during battle.



All stamps and FDC's are available at nominal cost through our NEW ISSUE SERVICE FOR OUR MEMBERS. Write to THOMAS F. OLSON 4 Woodmont Court, Berkeley, California 94708 for details. All members are welcome to participate.

COLLECTOR NEEDS HELP !!

MR. ALF MONGE, 801 Tupper Street, #505, Santa Rosa, Calif., writes to enquire if anyone of our members knows of a perpetual MOSLEM CALENDAR describing the official Moslem dates, feasts, histories and annual activities associated with the celebrations of Islamic feasts, and other festivals accompanying the issuance of commemorative postage stamps.

If you can help, write to him directly at the above address . . .

MATERIAL
NEEDED

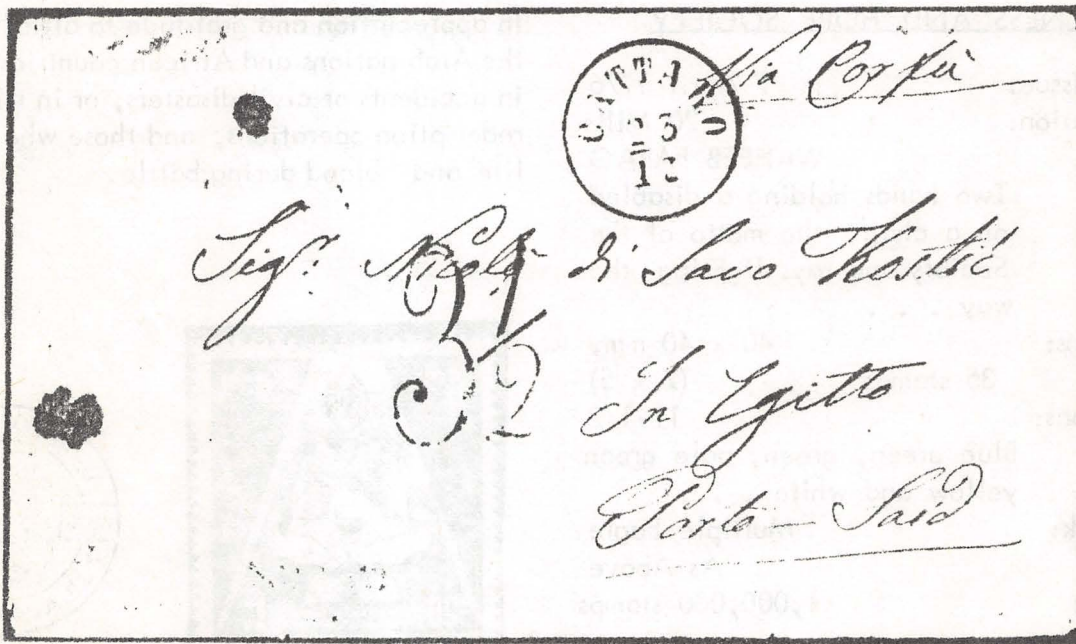
Colonel Danson is gone. . .

Dr. Smith has advised us of the passing of COLONEL J. R. DANSON of England. Very few become philatelic legends during their lifetimes yet, here is a man who in every sense of the word measures up — a man who spent a lifetime in serious study, passing on his information for the greatest good; a man who contributed to many charities with great modesty and who, on his demise, bequeathed the finest collections of Egypt and the Sudan, as well as numerous other collecting interests to charitable organizations for the greatest good among his fellow man.

The name of Danson is familiar to many of us who belong to the Egypt Study Circle and while he was not personally known to all of us, his influence has left a lasting impression.

Our sympathies are extended to his bereaved family and to his many friends and fellow members of the philatelic fraternity. He will be missed . . .

MANUSCRIPT TAX MARKING



The cover illustrated is an excellent example of the "3-1/2" manuscript TAX (Postage due) marking reported by Seymour Blomfield in his excellent ESC Study, noted as TAX-5, HOWEVER, this marking IS NOT identical to his illustration. The "3" appears to be the same but the "1/2" is very close to the 3 and both the figures 1/2, including the bar are different.

The cover is unique in that it was mailed in Cattaro in Italy (manuscript Via Corfu) 23/12 (73) traveling through the Italian postal system, receiving the in transit marking ALEXANDRIEN — undated in Egypt; also the Egypt cds backstamp ALEXANDRIA / 1 GEN 1874 plus arrival marking as V. R. EGIZIANE / 3 GEN / PORTO SAID. Could this be an unlisted variety of this mark ?

AUCTION MATERIAL NEEDED

PETER FELTUS is striving continually to give you good auctions of unusual Egyptian and Sudanese material, at least twice a year. He has advised us that very very sellers are participating. If he is to continue we must rely on you to supply surplus material. Members range from beginners to advanced specialists and almost all material is acceptable and will find a home. Please give this your support and put your duplicates to work for you. Send all auction material to Peter at 4970 Desmond St., Oakland, Calif., 94618. . .