

# The Quarterly Circular.

September Quarter 1993 - Whole Series No. 166

Volume XV, No. 3 - Pages 55 - 79



# EGYPT STUDY



# CIRCLE

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## EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Professor Peter A.S. SMITH FRPSL, USA

CHAIRMAN: Mr. John Sears  
496 Uxbridge Road, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 4SL,  
UK

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. J.S. Horesh, UK

SECRETARY/  
TREASURER: Mr. P.R. Bertram  
11 Bishop's Way, Buckden, Huntingdon, PE18 9TZ,  
UK

EDITOR: Dr. Michael G.C. Dahl  
3 Adeline Gardens, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne,  
NE3 4JQ, UK  
Tel: 091 285 3909 Fax: 091 222 7094

LIBRARIAN: Mr. D. John Davis  
Church View Cottage, Church Road, Upton,  
Snodsbury, Worcestershire WR7 4NH, UK

USA AGENT: Mr. Charles F. Hass, PO Box 27, Folcroft,  
Pennsylvania 19032, USA

EGYPT AGENT: Professor N. el-Hadidi, Cairo University, Giza,  
Egypt

KEEPER OF THE  
RECORD: Mr. D.H. Clarke, UK

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

December 15th French Maritime Mail to and from the Levant -  
B. Berkinshaw-Smith.  
Invitation by OPAL to a display at the National  
Philatelic Society, 107 Charterhouse Street,  
London, 5.30 for 6 p.m.

January 8th Interpostal Seals (an update). A. Schmidt  
Canal Paquebots. P. Grech and J. Chellingsworth.

March 5th 10 Sheets per Member (Spring Stampex Meeting).

May 14th Cancellations of Minor Towns and Villages up to  
1939. J. Sears.

Meetings are normally held at the Victory Club, Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London. Members usually congregate in the Bar from 1.00 p.m. onwards and meetings start at 2.30 p.m.

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## EDITORS NOTES

A number of members have written enquiring about the non-appearance of the December 1992 issue of the QC. This would have been whole series number 164. Some have assumed that it has been lost in the mail and have requested a replacement. Unfortunately the reality is that this number has not been produced. When I took over the editorship in May of this year it was hoped that my predecessor would be able to complete the December issue - the final number in Volume XIV. Sadly, ill health has prevented that outcome being realized. Volume XIV will therefore comprise 11 numbers, the last of which will be September 1992 issue/whole series number 163.

In anticipation that the December 1992 issue would appear and would be whole series number 164, the first March issue of Volume XV was numbered 165. However I subsequently made an error and also numbered the June issue 165 by mistake! In view of the new situation it is only necessary to renumber the March 1993 issue as 164 to restore the continuity. I apologize to members for the confusion which has been caused. The last three issues should be numbered as follows.

September Quarter 1992	Vol XIV, No 11,	Whole Series No 163
	End of Vol XIV	
March Quarter 1993	Vol XV No 1	Whole Series No <u>164*</u>
June Quarter 1993	Vol XV No 2	Whole Series No 165

\* PLEASE ALTER THIS NUMBER ON YOUR COPY NOW IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFUSION WITH REFERENCES LATER

IN THIS ISSUE.....

Few of us will have had the opportunity to study many covers franked with the Crowned Circles of the British Post Offices at Alexandria, Cairo and Suez. Peter Smith provides a painstaking catalogue of such covers. Much of the information has been gathered from auction catalogues. As he acknowledges, it will inevitably be incomplete. Can you add any unlisted examples from whatever source?

John Sears continues his stalwart support of the QC with two articles. In the first he has unmasked Hendrey and revealed his true identity as a philatelic dealer. The second deals with the boxed '0' mark used to designate stamps which were invalid. This appears to be remarkably uncommon and further reports would be very welcome.

Lars Alund continues to be busy with his magnifying glass. His example of the Boy Farouk 30 mills poses a challenge of illustration - particularly after my remarks in the last issue. I will be interested to see whether the challenge has been met!

And so to something entirely different! An article on Naafi tokens marks a brief departure for the QC from matters philatelic. Readers should not take this as a sign of a radical change of policy. However the new editor could hardly have turned down an article from the Secretary!

In my last Editorial Notes I mentioned an article on the Arrival of the Overland Mail at Alexandria from 1853 and expressed the hope that the member who had originally submitted it would contact me. Happily, Peter Goodwin from New Zealand has written to claim responsibility, for which many thanks. The article, which was published in the London Illustrated News in 1853, is reproduced in this issue. I am grateful to our Librarian for agreeing to write a brief commentary which I hope will place the observations made in the context of the developing postal services at that time.

Cyril Defriez has sent in a short article which first appeared in the Cinderella Philatelist in 1977. If anyone has a copy of the bogus cover referred to therein please may we have a good quality photostat?

Finally, the Letters section again contains interesting observations and requests for information. Do please check your own material and respond by way of the QC if you are able.

Michael Dahl, Editor

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the death of Themis DACOS (ESC 220). John Sears writes on page 63.

#### NEW MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

ESC 435            MR RANDAL BLOOMER  
210 Stanmore Lane, Winchester, Hampshire,  
SO22 4BL, UK - Postal Stationery, Postal  
History, Postmarks of Egypt and Sudan.

ESC 436            MONS. ANDRE MATTER  
7 Rue des Maraichers, St. Louis 68300,  
France - All aspects of Egypt.  
Correspondence should be addressed c/o  
Mr. John Arpel, 28 Cinnamon Street, Wapping,  
London, E1 9NJ, UK.

#### MEMBERS CHANGES OF ADDRESS

ESC 303            MR T.J. HOMA  
New address:    24000 Hedgewood Avenue,  
Westlake, Ohio 44145, USA.

ESC 415            HERR G. TOPFER  
New address:    Borgfeldstre 70,  
28215 Bremen, Germany.



## CORRECTION OF NAME AND ADDRESS

ESC 433                    MRS NONIE GREEN  
                               241 Colorado Avenue,  
                               San Angelo, Texas, USA.

My apologies for the previous errors! Ed.

## Meeting on 4th September 1993

Present:	P. Andrews	W.C. Andrews	P.J. Beckett
	P.R. Bertram	D.H. Clarke	D.J. Davis
	C.E.H. Defriez	E.H. Frazer-Smith	P.L. Grech
	E. Hall	G.A. Jeyes	J.M. Murphy
	J. Sears	B. Sedgeley	

(14 members)

There were apologies from:

J. Chellingsworth	M.G.C. Dahl	S. Horesh
J.A. Revell	B. Watterson	P. Whetter

The Chairman opened the meeting by informing those present of the untimely death of Themis Dacos from Greece. All present stood in silence as a mark of respect.

A discussion took place on changing the annual Autumn meeting in September to October in future years to coincide with Autumn Stampex. This had been mentioned by various members (especially from Europe) who come to Stampex. The Chairman stated he would pursue this and could not foresee any problems in changing the date to coincide with Stampex. All present were unanimous in their approval. The Chairman raised the idea of having a 'provincial meeting' at the home of one of our members in Northampton next year. A brief discussion took place and the Chairman said he would further investigate this possibility. Members from further north who don't normally attend the London meetings would perhaps be able to come to Northampton.

The Chairman then asked members to give some attention to what topics could be discussed at next years meetings.

The Secretary briefly mentioned correspondence he had received in respect of the new 'Association of British Philatelic Societies' which will be replacing the old B.P.F. (British Philatelic Federation).

Two new members -ESC435 Mr. Randal Bloomer and ESC436 - Mons Andre Matter were proposed and accepted at the meeting.

The Secretary went on to mention that the ties were selling well, but some were still available. Members in the United Kingdom and Europe can obtain one from the Secretary for £6.50; Members in the U.S.A. and Canada can obtain one from our Agent in the U.S.A. - C.F. Hass at 10 dollars; Members in Egypt can obtain one from Dr. N. El-Hadidi at 32 LE and members elsewhere can obtain one from the Secretary at £7 sterling. Prices include post and packaging. The addresses of the Agents and the Secretary can be found on page 55.

The subject of the meeting was 'Delivery' and 'Station' postmarks led by Mike Murphy and Edmund Hall. The subject got off to a good start with a lively discussion on what does or does not constitute a different Type of postmark and it was felt by members present and reiterated by Edmund Hall (who is leading the overall study on postmarks) that members must adhere to approved ESC Type marking. The first part of the talk/display concentrated on the 'Delivery' marks and various types were shown. Very little is known about the origin and reason for 'Delivery' marks. Can any member, especially those living in Egypt, come up with any background on 'Delivery' markings which first appear about 1906/07 and how the actual delivery of the mail differed from mail without these markings?

The second part of the topic was again a further discussion and display on the 'Station' markings covering the many different types. Although the topic was led by Mike and Edmund many members attending brought material along to assist. It was clear that there were many Station marks that had not been noted before ranging from Abu Homus to Zagazig. Hopefully an article by Edmund will be appearing in the Q.C. in the near future where he will be asking members to supply him with items not seen by him and the usual early/late dates.

The Chairman thanked Edmund and Mike for an excellent presentation well researched and put over. The meeting then closed.

Robin Bertram, Secretary

Since it is Christmas members might consider buying for themselves a stocking filler such as a Study Circle tie. The Secretary still has ties available. Why not treat yourself to one (or two) for Christmas!



## SECTION 2.6 Regimental Histories WW1

The New Zealanders in Sinai and Palestine publ. by Whitcome & Tombs Ltd, 1922	Lt.Col.C.Guy Powles CGM,DSO
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## SECTION 3 General Geographical &amp; Historical Works

Lifting the Veil. British Society in Egypt 1768 - 1956 publ. J.M. Dent, London, 1988	Anthony Sattin
--	----------------

The Blue Nile publ. Hamish Hamilton, 1962	Alan Moorhead
--	---------------

## SECTION 5

Too Rich - The High Life & Tragic Death of King Farouk publ. Carroll & Graft, New York, 1991	William Stadien
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## SECTION 6 Reference Collections &amp; Miscellaneous

The Classic Stamps of Egypt Photostats of 1991 Collection	Peter A.S. Smith
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Egypt - The First Three Issues Pages from a comprehensive collection of the philately of the classic period 1866 to 1879	Peter A.S. Smith
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## SECTION 7 Periodicals

Der Philatelist 1st February 1890	Postwertzeichen-
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## BOOK REVIEW

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS - Egyptology at University College London 1892-1992 by Rosalind M. Janssen. 0-902137-33-6 (limp), 120 pp, £8 + £2 deposit obtainable from the author, Department of Egyptology, University College, Gower Street, London WC1 6BT.

This book should be placed at the top of any reading list for those interested in Egyptology. Many devotees of the subject know something about the great men and women who spent their lives putting it on the map. This book brings to life the birth of the world's first department of Egyptian Archaeology. Here, at the inspiration and with the generosity of Amelia Edwards, foundress of the Egypt Exploration Fund, was founded an unique and invaluable centre of excellence. Under the guiding hand of some of the finest Egyptologists of their time, students studied not only language and history but also the practical archaeological skills, born of the genius of one man. It was this man, W.M.F. Petrie, whose work was internationally known and respected, that Miss Edwards chose as the firm foundation stone on which to build her revolutionary department. Not only was it to be a place of books and words, but with the emphasis on archaeology, she determined that the department should also possess its own collection of antiquities for use in study. Thus she laid the foundations for what is now probably the world's finest teaching collection; namely the Petrie Museum.

With such auspicious beginnings and with such a distinguished history, it is only fitting that the Centenary of the Department of Egyptology should be celebrated in a book that traces the life of the department with such enthusiasm, that anyone who reads it will be inspired to wish the department many more centenaries to come.

The story is followed in such a lively way that one regrets finishing the book and is left feeling eager for the adventure of discovery to continue. Truly Rosalind Janssen has the gift for changing the history held in dusty files, on crumbling pages, into a living, breathing history, so that through her book you can reach out and be part of it. I hope that this time next century someone of equal skill will record 'The Next Hundred Years' of Egyptology at UCL.

Not only a brilliant text, but also a wonderful selection of historic photographs (many published here for the first time) go towards making this a truly marvellous publication and a perfect tribute to the first Centenary.

Nicole Freeman

Nicole Freeman graduated in Ancient History and Egyptology with First Class Honours from University College, London in 1993. The review copy is in the Egypt Study Circle Library. I commend it to members. John Davis, Hon. Lib.



## THEMIS DACOS (ESC 220) IN MEMORIAM

Members will be saddened by the news of the death of Themis Dacos which occurred during the last week of August.

All who knew him liked him. Many of us met him on his visits to this country, the last of which was the occasion of "London" 1990. He was a very affable man who was born into the Greek community in Mansura about 70 years ago. He spent all his life in Egypt until 1956 when, like many others of Greek extraction, he was forced to flee the country. With his wife Rita, he returned to her home town of Athens taking only their possessions which could be carried in two suitcases. He told me that he had a few books with him in which he was able to secrete part of his collection.

Rita's family resided in Athens and the couple lived with them while they re-made their lives, eventually starting a school to teach English which became successful although ultimately Greek Government regulations so reduced the number of pupils that they retired some six or seven years ago.

Philatelically he built up his collection again although he sold the classic material through Feldmans some years ago. Latterly, his main interest lay in the De la Rue issues (Sphinx & Pyramid) and members will recall his frequent contributions to the QC on the various varieties and errors he discovered. He was also keen on Air Mail stamps and Postal History, and his collection of this area won him a medal at the Athens Exhibition of 1985.

In recent months he was busy writing a book on the Greek Consulate Service in Egypt and the various handstamps and postal markings which appeared on the Official Mail.

Themis will be sorely missed and our sincere condolences go to Rita and their daughter Lito and family.

John Sears, Chairman

THE CROWNED CIRCLE FRANKS OF THE BRITISH POST OFFICE IN EGYPT:  
HOW SCARCE ARE THEY?

P.A.S. Smith (ESC 74)

The Crowned circle handstamped franks for Alexandria, Cairo, and Suez are listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue at high prices. When examples appear at auction, the estimates are correspondingly high, and the description frequently guilds the lily further with such statements as "only four known". Such figures are presumably derived from a preliminary study published in the Q.C. many years ago by Brigadier Rawson\*. They were not presented as the result of any sort of comprehensive survey, but were simply the data used in the study. As a spin-off from a chapter on the British Offices in Egypt that I was recently writing (and which is scheduled to appear in instalments in *The Philatelist & Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* early in 1994), I had the resources and motivation to make a reasonably comprehensive survey, and I present the results here.

Because of their rarity and value, crowned circle covers are always lotted separately in auctions, and are generally illustrated. These facts make it feasible to determine what has come on the market in the last 50 years. Unfortunately, the illustrations are not always of the full cover, and the descriptions do not always specify the colours of the markings, the exact date, or even the destination. However, many of the examples have come up more than once, and with differing treatment in the catalogues, so that it has been possible to flesh out some of the details. This in turn makes it possible to weed out duplicates. I think I have examined the catalogue of every major collection of Egypt since 1945, and in addition, I have had the help of several members of the Circle who are lucky enough to have examples in their collections. The results are shown in the accompanying table.

It will be noted that some of the descriptions are incomplete; that is unavoidable. The number of covers that has been tabulated is far higher than was known to Brigadier Rawson, but it remains true that the crowned circles of Egypt are extremely scarce. Alexandria is only slightly less scarce than Cairo; Suez is clearly scarcer than either. It would be surprising, however, if this table lists all the covers in the hands of collectors and dealers and I would be pleased to hear of any that I have missed. It can also happen that a new archive comes on the market, a long hidden correspondence, and such an event could greatly affect the scarcity (and even the relative scarcity) of these postmarks.

\* Brig. C.D. Rawson, *Quart. Circ.*, IV, 1-7 (Dec., 1951); 99 - 102., 9 Jan., 1955).

THE BRITISH POST OFFICES IN EGYPT:  
A Census of the Crowned Circle Franks

	DATE	DESTINATION	DIRECTIVE	RATE	COLOUR
ALEXANDRIA					
1	OC 22 45	London	via Mars.	1/8	R
2	AP 22 50	Liverpool		1/8	R
3	MY 23 50	Scotland	via Mars.	1/8	R
4	JA 5 51	London	via So'ton	1/6?	
5	SP 22 54	Aberdeen	via So'ton	1/6	R
6	OC 6 54	Aberdeen			R
7	JA 19 55	Worcester	via Mars.	1/8	R
8	MR 23 55	London	(via So'ton deleted)	1/-	R
9	AP 21 55	London	--	1/2	R
10	SP 10 55	Leamington	via Mars.	1/8	R
11	DE 5 55	Dover	via Mars.		Brown
12	JA 5 56	Stoke	"prepaid"	1/-	R
13	MR 21 56	Cork	via Mars.	1/-?	R
14	OC 21 56	Stoke	via So'ton	6	
15	SP 4 57	Chatham		6?	
16	DE 23 57	London	via Mars.	9	R
17	JA 7? 58?			1/8	
18	NO 8 60	Edinburgh	via So'ton	1/6	R?
19	JA 5 56	Stoke	prepaid	1/-	R
20	JA 7? 58 (53?)	Stoke		1/8	R
CAIRO					
1		England			R
2	MR 9 60	Swinton			R
(2)	"	England		9	R
3	AP 25 60	Ohio	via Mars.	1/5	R
4	JU 11 60	London	via Mars.	1/5	R
5	DE 60	Brooklyn, USA		1/5	R
6	JA 11 61	Malta		5	R
7	JA 25 61	England	via Mars.	9	R
8	AP 3 61	Hampton Ct.P.	via Mars.	9	
9	AP 5? 61	London			R
10	AP 9 61	Pigeon Cove USA		1/8	R
11	DE 10 63	Sheffield		6	R
12	Undated fragment also bearing stamps cancelled B02				
13	FE 7 61	Pigeon Cove		1/8	Black
14	AP 3 61	Pigeon Cove		1/8	R
SUEZ					
1	OC 20 54	Batavia		1/4	Blue
2	MR 25 59	Eton	via Mars.	9	BK
3	AP 27 59	London	via So'ton		BK
4	MR 23 60	Woking	via Mars.	9	BK
5	MR 27 60	Surrey	via Mars.	9	BK
6	JY 19 65	Girvan	via Mars.	6	Bluish
7	JY 31 82	fragment			

Another Crowned Circle "Paid at Alexandria" cover was offered by Harmers in the "Samra" Egypt Sale of 6 March 1991 (Lot 787 illustrated). Ed.

AP 2? 51	Edinburgh	via So'ton	1/6	R
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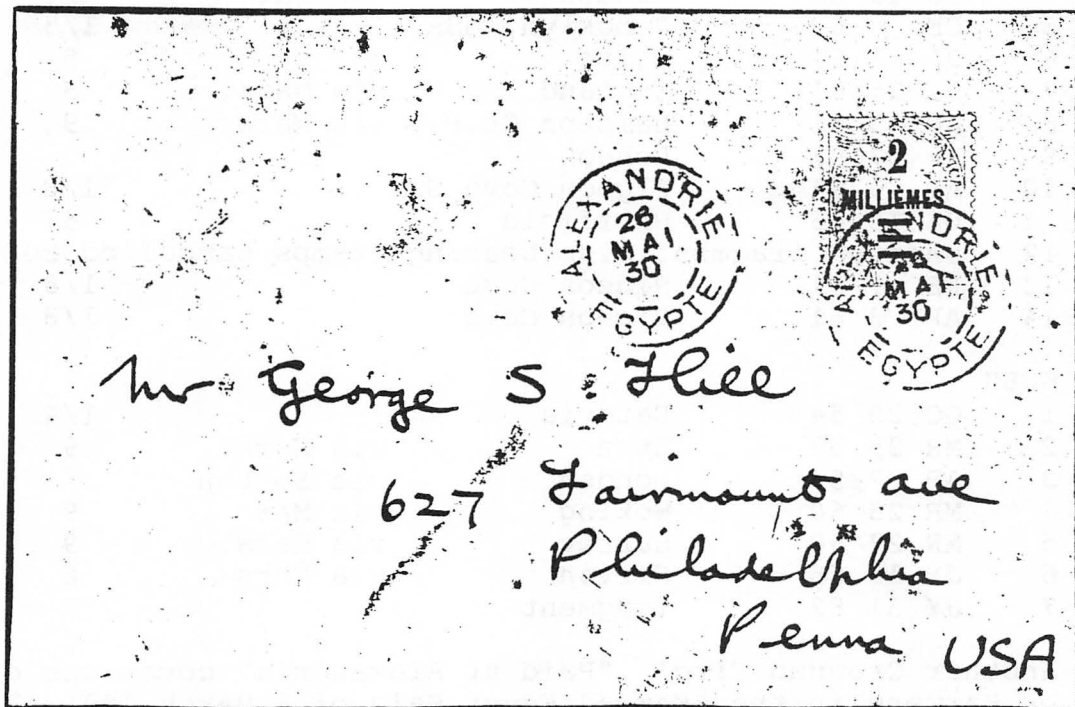
F. HENDREY, THE MAN & HIS WORK: THE MYSTERY SOLVED

John Sears (ESC 188)

In a previous article (QC No. 160, Dec 1991, 218-221) I gave details of the philatelic work of F. HENDREY and some of his creations. It generated quite a lot of interest and I should like to thank the following members who provided information from their own collections - Lars Alund ESC 105, Norman Clowes ESC 349, Themis Dacos ESC 220, Cyril Defriez ESC 172, Angus Parker ESC 117, John Revell ESC 178. In that article I also described some unsuccessful attempts to establish the identity of Hendrey.

Collectors of Air Mail Postal History may recall the name P.J. Dorssos which appeared on many First Flight covers of the 20's and 30's. He was a Greek dealer who is still alive at the age of 92 and living in Athens where I wrote to him. Although frail he has a good memory, but was unable to recall Hendrey's name although they were active at the same time.

The solution has proved to be quite mundane. Thanks to Charles Hass (ESC 181), a postcard has come into the writer's possession, photocopies of which appear below. The front is interesting because it shows a good example of Hendrey's distinctive handwriting. Moreover, the card was posted from Alexandria 26 MAY 30 which is during the time we know he was active. It is the reverse side of the card which is the most illuminating, it lists various stamps and covers for sale, and is obviously a trade announcement from F. HENDREY, PO BOX 578, Alexandria, which is the same address which often appeared on the covers written in the same hand.



So there we are. It seems that Hendrey was a dealer with customers in the USA. I say customers because recently Charles Hass found a second example at a stamp fair in America also addressed to someone in the States. It is probable that Hendrey was American because he quotes his APS (American Philatelic Society) number. I suppose 'Hendrey' covers must therefore be described as purely philatelic inasmuch as they were created for sale and profit, but how else would we be able to study Khedivial Mail Line usage? Purely 'commercial' covers are very hard to find.

### FIRST FLIGHTS.

Alexandria—Salonica 5.30 a.m. April 19th 1930. Covers cancelled April 18th p.m. and backstamped arrival April 21st (mail arrived on Easter Sunday, April 20th when Post Offices were closed). Only 940 grammes carried \$ 2.00  
 Alexandria—Vienna same flight. Only 1190 grammes carried \$ 2.00

### EGYPTIAN BARGAINS

1922 Crown Surch. 1 m. to 200 m. Set of 12 used \$ 0.95  
 100 m. (Scott #90) used \$ 1.50  
 1925 Geographical Congress, Set of 3 mint. or used \$ 1.85  
 Agricultural Exhibition, Set of 6 mint or used \$ 3.75  
 1926 50 pt. Birthday stamp used \$ 1.50  
 1927 Navigation Congress set of 3 mint. \$ 0.40  
 Port Fouad, 5 10 and 15 m. set of 3 mint. or used. Signed and guaranteed genuine 16.00  
 Port Fouad, 50 pt. signed and guaranteed genuine \$ 65.00  
 Cotton Congress, set of 3 mint \$ 0.30  
 1927/8 King Fouad 1 m. to 100 m. set of 10 used \$ 0.30  
 Statistic Congress, set of 3 mint. \$ 0.25  
 1929 Prince Farouk, set of 4 mint. \$ 0.30  
 " " " used (scarce) \$ 0.45

### RARE ERRORS.

1914 1 m. to 200 m. set of 10 mint Imperf. and Unwatermarked \$ 9.00  
 1926 15 m. on 200 m. (Scott #117) Double Surcharge \$ 17.00  
 Terms strictly cash with order. Dollar bills, or bankers check on New York or London will be accepted.  
 Discount of 10% allowed on all orders over \$ 5.  
 Paquebots ? ? From \$ 0.25  
 Flown covers ? ? From \$ 0.40

F. HENDREY, P.O. Box 578,  
 ALEXANDRIA. EGYPT.  
 (Member A.P.S. No. 9487 S.P.A. No. 5465)

Details of other Khedivial Mail Line covers which have been reported are as follows:-

Ship	Addressee	Canc'd	Arrival	Franking
Roda	F. Hendrey Alexandria	--	2 FE 30	Greek
Roda	W.A. Peters Haifa	11 AU 29	12 AU 29	15 mills
Talodi	? Mashrab Alexandria	--	14 SE 31 (Pt Taufiq)	2½ GB (Ed VII)
Taif	F.G. Hendrey Alexandria	illeg	23 JU 32	5c Kenya
	Re-add to c/o Barclays Bk, Port Sudan	none	4 JUL 32	
Taif	F Hendrey Alexandria	Pt Sudan 27 AU 32	illegible	5 mills

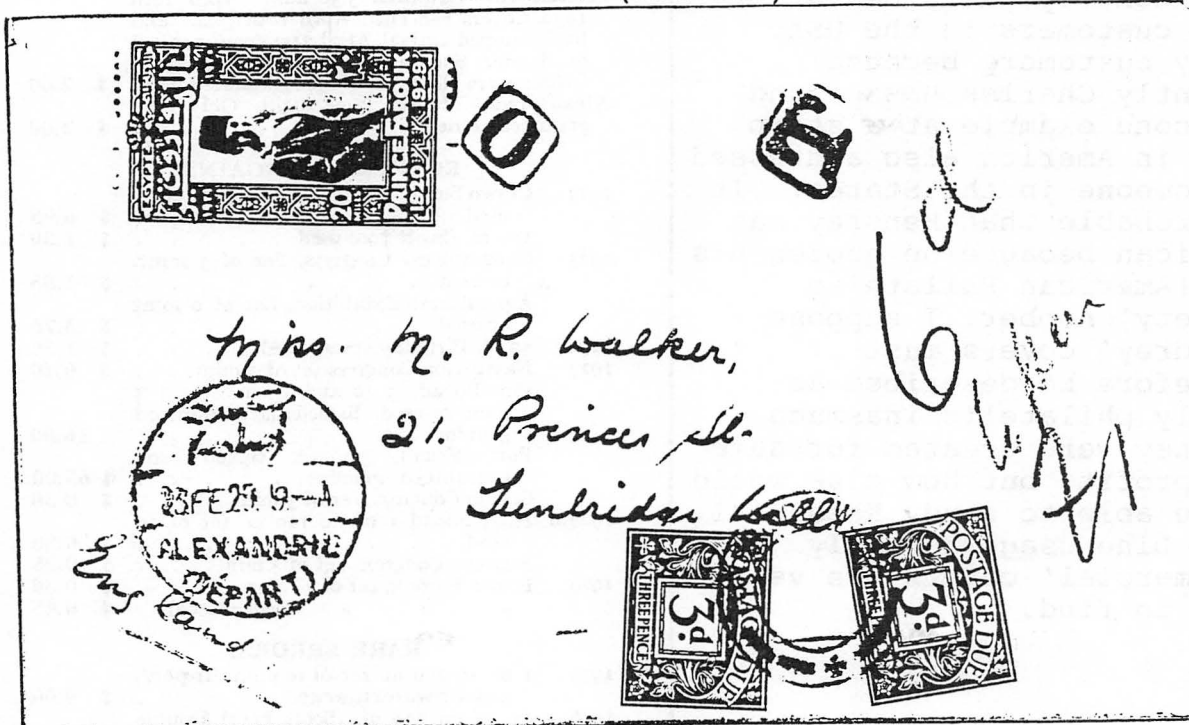
\*\*\* The handwriting on this cover is nothing like Hendrey's and it may be a genuine article. Unfortunately the use of the King Edward VII stamp is rather suspicious.

I would still welcome reportings of Hendrey and any Khedivial Mail Line covers to add to our records.



## THE BOXED 'O' MARKING

John Sears (ESC 188)



This cover was shown to me by Peter Bottrill (ESC 432) who was interested in the significance of the 'Boxed O' mark. There are no markings on the reverse of the cover, and there is no date on the Tunbridge Wells cancellation of the Postage Due stamps.

The surface rate to the UK at this time was 10 Mills; 1m approximated to  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. so 6d was 'about right' for the double rate.

Now to the 'O' - I talked to Pip Whetter (ESC 135) who was able to turn up the UPU Regulations of 1875. Regulation 5, section 2 reads as follows:-

"In case Postage stamps may be used which are not of any value in the country of origin, no account shall be taken of them. This fact should be indicated by the figure 'O' placed by the side of the postage stamp(s)".

He was able to produce another example, more of which later.

The 20m stamp was one of a set of 4 issued to commemorate the 9th birthday of Prince Farouk and was written up in some detail in the L'Orient Philatelique, Issue No. 2 of January 1930. This states that the set was only on sale for 7 days between 11th and 17th February 1929, and after the latter date the stamps were not valid for postage. This cover was marked 23 FE 1929 in Alexandria.

This poses a couple of questions -

1. What date does the 'O' stand for?, perhaps OBSOLETE or OUT OF DATE. The language of the UPU was French ('T' = TAXE) but I cannot find a French word to fit.
2. Commemoratives are normally on sale for a fixed period, were they only postally valid for the same period?

On page 153 of Zeheri 1972 there is a footnote which reads "All commemorative stamps issued after 31.12.56 have unlimited franking facility". This seems to indicate that the answer to 2) is 'yes'.

The Table below lists the commemoratives issued between 1925 and 1939. these dates have been chosen because Postal Regulations were more strictly observed before the outbreak of war.

1925	1-30 AP	Geographical	Ze 1 - 3	SG 123 - 125
1926	1 MR-30 AP	Agricultural	Ze 4 - 9	SG 126 - 13
1926	2 AP	58th Birthday	Ze 10	SG 132
1926/7	9 DE-18 MR	Navigation	Ze 11 - 13	SG 138 - 140
1926	21 DE	Port Fouad o/p	Ze 14 - 17	SG 141 - 144
1927	25 JA-24 AP	Cotton	Ze 16 - 20	SG 145 - 147
1927/8	29 DE-16 MR	Statistical	Ze 21 - 23	SG 173 - 175
1928/9	15 DE-16 MR	Medical	Ze 21 - 25	SG 176 - 177
1929	11-17 FE	Farouk's Birthday	Ze 26 - 29	SG 178 - 181
1931	15 FE-15 MY	Agricultural	Ze 30 - 32	SG 182 - 184
1933	19 JA-18 AP	Railway	Ze 33 - 34	SG 189 - 192
1933/4	20 DE-19 JA	Aviation	Ze 26 - 30*	SG 214 - 218
1934/5	1 FE-30 JU	UPU Congress	Ze 37 - 50	SG 219 - 232
1936	15 FE-15 MY	Agric & Indust	Ze 51 - 55	SG 240 - 244
1936/7	22 DE-22 MR	Treaty	Ze 56 - 58	SG 245 - 247
1937/8	15 OC-14 JA	Capitulations	Ze 59 - 61	SG 259 - 261
1937/8	8 DE-20 JA	Ophthalmology	Ze 62 - 64	SG 262 - 264
1938	20 JA	Wedding	Ze 65	SG 265
1938	26 JA-25 MR	Int Cotton	Ze 66 - 68	SG 266 - 268
1938	1 FE-15 MY	Telecommunications	Ze 69 - 71	SG 269 - 271
1938	11 FE	18th Birthday	Ze 72	SG 272
1938	21 MR-20 MY	Leprosy	Ze 73 - 75	SG 273 - 275

\* The Ze numbers refer to the Air Mail section where this set was wrongly included.

Please look at your covers with commemoratives to see if they were used outside the sale dates and advise the details to me. Also let us have notes regarding any covers with the Boxed 'O' mark. All responses will appear in a future QC.

Reverting to Mr. Whetter's other example. This is an internal cover franked 10 mills with the 1957 Ramses stamp (Ze 241), postmarked Heliopolis 11 8 58 with 3 Boxed 'O's round the stamp. On the reverse there is a 20m Postage Due with an Alexandria CDS of 14 AUG 58. The stamp had been previously cancelled and was therefore invalid - hence the application of the boxed 'O's.

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A major article on this subject was written in the QC in 1979 by R.A.G. Potter- "Egypt - The Framed 'O' Marking" QC. Vol X, No. 8 pages 196-202 (additional illustrations page 192). He described 12 items bearing the boxed 'O'. The mark was applied for a variety of reasons and in only two was this because of the use of out of date commemorative stamps. A further example applied for this reason was reported by Pip Whetter (QC Vol XII, No. 9/10, pages 215-216). Both this and the used Rameses example referred to above are illustrated there. Perhaps the 'O' referred to "zero" indicating that the stamps in question had no franking power. Ed.

## SOME UNRECORDED DOUBLE IMPRESSIONS

Lars Alund (ESC 105)

It is known that double impressions occur on Egyptian stamps printed by means of photogravure. Professor Peter Smith has written about them in LOP No. 125, pages 137-140. Their origin was explained in the following way. It sometimes occurred that the roller printing had to be stopped for some reason, for instance some defect of the machine. When the machine was then restarted, the paper might run backwards for a short distance and due to this a portion of the already printed paper might run through a second time. If the registration was not absolutely perfect, traces of this second impression became visible on such stamps.

When sorting some modern Egyptian stamps I came across a 30 mills stamp, grey, of the first Farouk issue (Boy King) with a very pronounced double impression. The doubled lines might be difficult to see on a photostat, but I hope they will be visible in the Arabic inscription at top and in "POSTES" at bottom. Also the figures "30" are thicker than on normal stamps due to the doubling and the word "MILLS" is almost unreadable because of the smudged impression.



Normal



Double Impression



Enhanced

Peter Smith in his article lists the following stamps with double impression:-

- Second Fuad - 15 mills blue, 20 mills blue (large format),  
50 mills and 100 mills (type II).  
Boy King - 3 mills.

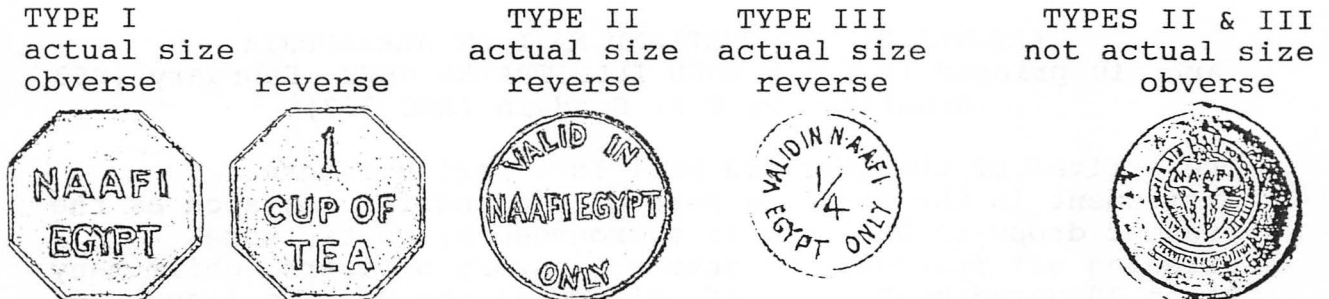
I would like to add to this list the following examples in my collection:-

- Second Fuad - 2 mills, 4 mills dark green, 5 mills, 10 mills red, 13 mills and 20 mills blue (small format).  
Third Fuad - 1 mill.  
Boy King - 5 mills, 20 mills blue, 30 mills and 40 mills.  
Second Farouk - 5 mills and 10 mills.

I presume that several more values exist with double impressions. Good hunting!

## NAAFI NUMISMATICS

P.R. Bertram (ESC 137)



A Mr John Yarwood (not an Egypt Study Circle Member) of Horsham, Australia has written to me regarding the above NAAFI tokens. He specializes in the collection of all NAAFI tokens. I appreciate this is not of a philatelic nature but I feel it may be of interest to our members who served in the Armed Forces in Egypt, or who collect and study the NAAFI seals. Although NAAFI tokens are known for various countries Mr Yarwood is especially interested in the three NAAFI tokens above. As far as he is aware they are the only ones used in Egypt. He has the details of Nos. II and III but cannot find any information regarding No. I.

It is thought that No. I was the first NAAFI token ever issued. It is made of brass and measures approximately 25 mm x 25 mm and is octagonal in shape. The obverse reads NAAFI EGYPT and the reverse reads 1 CUP OF TEA. Mr Yarwood has been unable to find any reference to this token anywhere. He feels it may have been introduced in Egypt in the 1930's.

Can any member assist with the date of issue, where and who produced them, the quantity produced or issued or any other information?

I do not possess Type I but I do have examples of Types II and III. The circumstances and details of production of Types II and III are as follows. In March 1951, to satisfy Egyptian Customs regulations relating to goods imported by the NAAFI, a requirement for a  $\frac{1}{4}$  piastra token was established. Such a coin did not exist in Egyptian currency and there was apparently a scarcity of millieme coins. The companies of De la Rue and Woolen in England were approached but due to lack of suitable material the NAAFI turned to British Artid Plastics Ltd who submitted plastic mouldings in several colours.

The green colour was decided upon without a value expressed on it (by the time of its issue in December 1951 its value was  $\frac{1}{2}$  piastra). 750,000 were initially printed in 1951 followed by further printings of 130,000 and 100,000 in 1964 giving a total production of 980,000. The diameter of this token was approximately 26 mm.



A token similar to Type III was produced for the Sudan (with the word SUDAN in place of EGYPT). Apparently only 20,000 were issued in 1953 and consequently they are quite rare. If any member can assist with further information please let me know and I will pass the information on to Mr Yarwood.

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ARRIVAL OF THE OVERLAND MAIL AT ALEXANDRIA

Article printed in THE LONDON ILLUSTRATED NEWS February 1853

Submitted by P.F. Goodwin (ESC 297)

The arrival of the Overland Mail is a period of great excitement in the thriving port of Alexandria. As soon as the steamer drops anchor, she is surrounded by boats, some bringing off friends, and others sanitary officers, while many 24 or 30-oared boats full of sailers of the Pasha's fleet, all dressed in white, are continually passing and re-passing, with all the animation of a regatta. The Pasha's fleet - "huge black hulks of mouldering men of war, from the stems of which trail the dirty red flag" - occupy the harbour, which usually contains, besides the Egyptian men of war and steamers, a very large number of European merchantmen, and a French and Austrian gun-brig.

The landing-quay at Alexandria is said to be like the dockyard-quay, Portsmouth, with a few score of brown faces scattered among the population. When the passengers are landed they find flies and cabs plying for hire, and a yelling chorus of boys, with donkeys, who scream out, in excellent English, "Ride, sir - donkey, sir - I say, sir!" The donkeys of Egypt are a different race from those of England; for, as soon as the passenger is mounted, they dart off at the rate of six or seven miles an hour. The Egyptian donkey is always pulling away at his bit, and is anxious to be off as fast as possible. Instead of a saddle, his equipment is a cushion of carpets, strapped over his sleek and well kept hide, and affording a comfortable seat.

In five or six minutes the traveller arrives at the Frank quarters, and the handsome broad street where the principal hotels and merchants' houses are to be found. The Consuls have their houses here and hoist their flags. The house of the French Consul is a large building of considerable pretensions, on the east side of the Grand Square as is shown in the Engraving. Here, also, is the unfinished English church, also shown in our sketch which is advancing towards completion. Some £2000 are still wanting to pay off the amount advanced by the trustees, and to finish details; a sum of which, considering the wealth and respectability of the English travellers who pass through Alexandria, it may be confidently expected will soon be raised. Since the church was commenced a large Roman Catholic church has been completed; and within the last few months a very fine Greek church has been well advanced towards completion. The site of the English church was granted by Mehemet Ali; it is by far the best in Alexandria.

Our letters from Alexandria state that the town is daily assuming a European aspect. Steamers and sailing vessels - from many nations are to be seen in the spacious harbour;



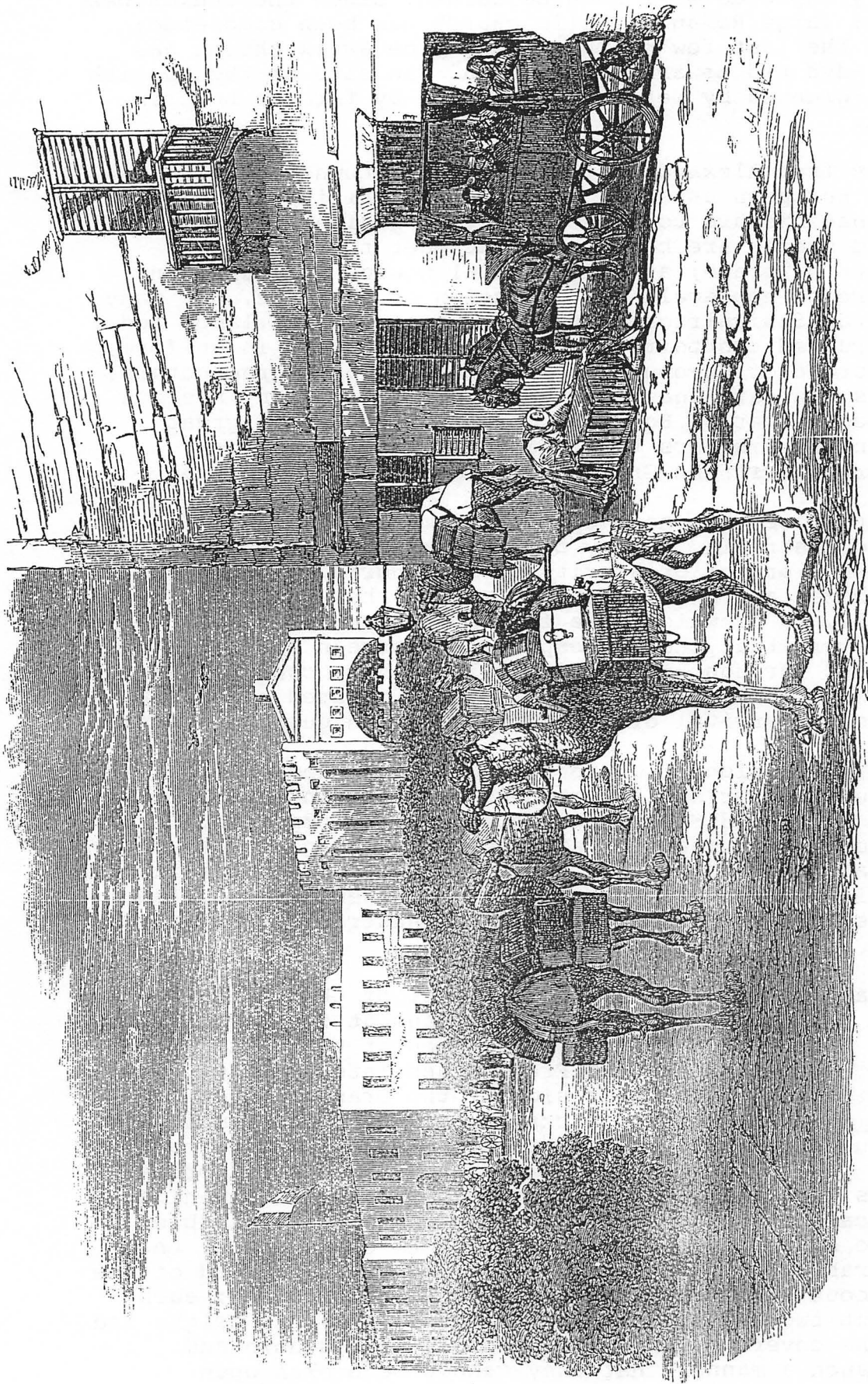
advanced by the trustees, and to finish details; a sum of which, considering the wealth and respectability of the English travellers who pass through Alexandria, it may be confidently expected will soon be raised. Since the church was commenced a large Roman Catholic church has been completed; and within the last few months a very fine Greek church has been well advanced towards completion. The site of the English church was granted by Mehemet Ali; it is by far the best in Alexandria.

Our letters from Alexandria state that the town is daily assuming a European aspect. Steamers and sailing vessels - from many nations are to be seen in the spacious harbour; wharves and stores are being built to meet the increasing requirements of trade; and substantial houses and European-looking streets now swell the dimension of what was, not many years ago, an insignificant sea port town. Street lamps and well constructed trottoirs, as well as shoeblacks in uniform, show the spread of European civilization. Four large hotels, post-horses and carriages constantly in requisition, besides an increased number of Egyptian donkeys, indicate a great increase in the visitors to Alexandria. A public clock recently erected in the Grand Square also demands notice.

The completion of the chain of steam communication between England and Australia, by way of India and the Overland route, promises a new era of prosperity to Alexandria. The aggregate number of boxes and bags which arrived on the 4th December last was 250, 29 of which were from Australia. There can be no doubt, however, that the correspondence between Australia and England, sent through Alexandria, will be very considerably increased when the arrangements have been matured and delays through the non-arrival of steamers have been guarded against.

The cordial reception given to the commanders and officers of the Peninsula and Oriental Company's steamers in the several Australian ports and Singapore, indicates the importance attached to the new means of steam communication between Australia and England, by the inhabitants of our Australian and a portion of our Eastern possessions. New Zealand also contributes letters and journals to the Australian letter bags.

The accompanying sketch shows the arrival of the camels with the Indian mail and Australian letter bags at the Post-office. An omnibus with Indian passengers is seen at the Post-office door. The British Church and French Consulate are also shown, as we have stated on the East side of the Grand Square. The boxes seen upon the camels' backs contain the Indian mail. Boxes are used because of the convenience and safety with which they can be transported on the backs of camels across the deserts of Suez. Letter bags could not be so conveniently packed on camels' backs as boxes, and they would be liable besides, to be cut open and their contents extracted by the Copt and Arab camel guides across the Desert. The wood of the boxes is about three-quarters of an inch in thickness; each box is about two feet long and a foot and a half in height and breadth. The covers of them are securely nailed down and sealed in such a manner that they cannot be broken open without the seal being destroyed.



ARRIVAL OF THE INDIAN AND AUSTRALIAN MAILS AT ALEXANDRIA.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

Commentary by John Davis (ESC 213)

This article is of interest to students not only of Egyptian postal history, but also of British social history of the times. The writer displays an obvious enthusiasm for the "spread of European civilization". The gleeful comments on the siting and merits of the English Church and the dismissive comment concerning the £2000 debt thereon are worthy of note. There is also a jibe at the "pretentious" building of the French Consulate. On the latter subject, I believe that the Consulate moved more than once during the time that it controlled the French posts at Alexandria.

The article relates to the period following the demise of Waghorn's service which had started in 1835. Samuel Briggs, Consul General in Alexandria from 1805, had secured a contract from Mohamed Ali to act as forwarding agent to enable the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Navigation Company to compete with Waghorn. My Briggs cover has the oval cachet "Forwarded by Messrs. Briggs & Co." struck in blue and is dated March 1845.

Steamships brought much greater reliability than sail. However steam was still in its infancy. Clearly the P & O service had not yet become fully reliable at the time of writing.

The details given are interesting. The writer describes the hazards to which the mail was subject during the desert crossing from Suez and the superior security offered by the boxes. However it is not clear why the Australian mail was nevertheless carried in bags while the majority from India was packed in boxes.

In our library we have, among others, three books which between them give very full information about this period. They are:-

The Overland Mail by John K. Sidebottom OBE

Overseas Letter Postage from India 1854-1876 by Martin and Blair

The Route of the Overland Mail to India from Southampton to Calcutta by Gallery of Illustration (photocopy)

For the latter I am indebted to Senor C.Th.J. Hooghuis who presented the photocopy to the library and there are many drawings in it including several in Egypt by David Roberts RA. The book itself dates from 1851.

For those who are more interested in rates rather than routes, there is a series of articles in early QCs giving details and a great deal of information concerning the six foreign consulates in Alexandria that controlled the posts. In particular articles from volumes III and IV on the British Consular Posts by the late Brigadier C.D. Rawson are especially recommended.



## BOGUS "ISSUE" 1977

(Reprinted with permission from The Cinderella Philatelist  
vol 7 page 63 October 1977)

Submitted by C.E. Defriez (ESC 172)

The Egyptian Postal Organisation's philatelic office has circulated an "Important Notice" with an illustration of a commemorative cover inscribed at the left: "The International Congress of Oral Implantologists" and "World Congress IV/Cairo, Egypt/April 6,7,8, 1977" and several designs. The cover appears to bear a stamp at top right, cancelled with a "first day of issue" postmark dated "7.4.77" beneath which appears "Official World Congress IV/Commemorative First Day Cover".

Regrettably the screen used for the half-tone block illustrating the cover is so coarse that the details of the stamp design are well nigh imperceptible. The format is vertical and the main part of the design seems to resemble a winged caduceus with wreathed laurel leaves at left and right. A similar representation appears as one of four devices beneath the inscription at the left of the cover; it is probably the symbol of one of the bodies concerned with the congress.

The English text of the "Important Notice" reads:

"The Egyptian Postal Organisation strictly announces that the cover which is illustrated in this Bulletin was not issued by her. The Organisation also assures that she did not issue any commemorative or ordinary postal stamp on the occasion of the 4th congress for teeth plantation; and that the illustration of this stamp has been done in imitation of a model which was not issued by her. The seal indicated on the said cover is completely false.

Accordingly, the organisation announces that this cover issued by the office of the congress has no legal or postal quality and she keeps for herself all legal rights against whom (so) ever carried out this illegal action.

President of the Egyptian Postal  
Organisation

Presumably the word "seal" is intended to mean the cancellation.

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If any member can provide a clear photograph or photocopy of this bogus cover it would be much appreciated for publication in The Cinderella Philatelist and in the QC. Ed.

## LETTERS

## Postage Dues - some further questions

Sir, The De La Rue postage due stamps of 2m., 4m., and 1pt. are listed in the Gibbons catalogue with sideways watermark as being issued in 1918. However, the inventory of equipment sent by De La Rue to the Egyptian Government in 1914 lists plates for these stamps (and the 2pt. as well) as "200 set". These were the plates that succeeded the 240 set plates used since the firm held the contract, and were the cause of the sideways watermarks; the paper prepared for the 1914 pictorials, which were printed from plates of 200 subjects, had the watermark upright for the vertically oriented pictorials, but the postage dues had a horizontal orientation. Question: What early dates (shown in postmarks) do Circle members have for this issue? (I have a cover dated 1917, and a single dated 1916). These stamps must surely have been issued before 1918. Please report day and month and denomination; we may be able to amend the catalogue considerably!

The 2pt. was printed by De La Rue only in sheets of 240, yet the archives reveal that a plate for sheets of 200 was ready in 1914.

Question: Has anyone any evidence that the 2pt. was ever printed from the plates of 200? If they were, it would probably have been in the form of proof sheets, many of which came on the market when the archival stocks of the De La Rue firm came on the market. If you obtained any postage due stamps from that source, please check to see if the 2pt. may have come from sheets of 200 (a pane of 100, or even a vertical strip of more than six stamps, would settle the matter).

The Harrison postage due stamps are listed as being issued in October 1921. However, the earliest control numbers for these stamps are "20", and furthermore, a letter in the Harrison records states that the plates were finished in July 1920 and printing was planned for the next week.

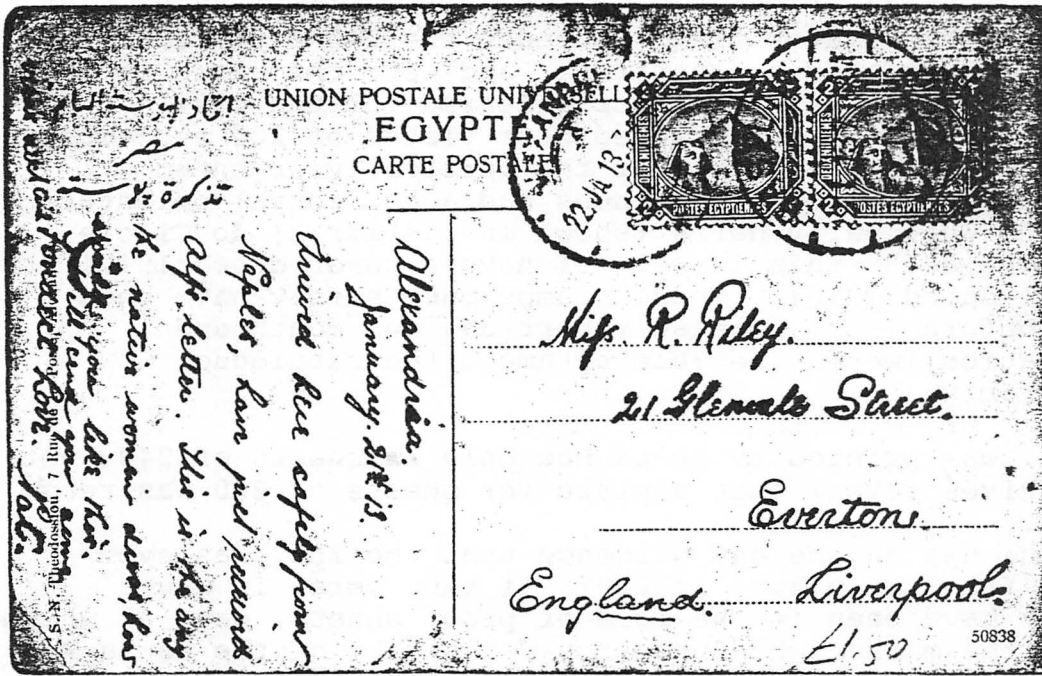
Question: Did the 1920 printing sit unused, in either Harrison's hands or the Egyptian Postal Administration, or were they perhaps actually issued in 1920? Please report your earliest postmark dates!

P.A.S. Smith  
ESC 74  
811 Mount Pleasant Avenue  
Ann Arbor  
Michigan 48103, USA



## Alexandria Double Line Bridge and 'A'

Sir, I refer to Question Time No. 104 (QC No. 151, Sep 1989, 233) and to subsequent replies (QC No. 152, Dec 1989, 266) There has been speculation that the cancellation was a transit strike and that the 'A' stood for arrival. I have been able to examine another example of the use of this cancellation.



The card was written and mailed on 21 January 1913.

C D S	Ras el Tin	21	1	13	7.15	PM
C D S	Alexandria Double Bridge	22	JA	13	7 ?	AM

Yet again, the Arabic is indistinct and untranslatable. However the two marks support the contention that it was a transit strike. Incidentally this example extends considerably the latest date of use.

P. Glyn-Jones  
ESC  
19 Leoforos 25 Martlou  
Brilisia  
Athens 152.35 Greece

**Cairo-Baghdad Air Mail Service 1921/1927**  
**Assistance Requested**

Sir, The above air mail service was opened to the general public in England on 15th October 1921 and the rate for postage was 1s.3d. per oz. This was made up of 3d. Imperial postage and an additional air fee of 1/- per oz.

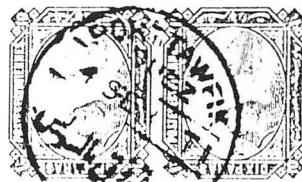
For some considerable time I have been researching this service and am nearing publication but, in spite of many enquiries, I have been unable to obtain a cover from the U.K. to Baghdad for this early period.

If any member of the E.S.C. has such a cover I will be most grateful if I can see it or, at least, have a photocopy of it. I will, of course, refund any expense you may incur in complying with my request.

W.C. Andrews (ESC 132)  
 12 Browning Drive,  
 Winchester, Hants,  
 SO23 5AR, UK.

**Port Taufiq: Clarification of its Location**

Sir, In a number of recent publications, including non-philatelic books, maps have been included that show Port Taufiq wrongly on the east side of the Suez Canal, in the Sinai. In fact, Port Taufiq is a harbour suburb of Suez. Suez itself is not on the Suez Canal, but is on a shallow bay to the west. The building of Port Taufiq became a necessity when the Canal was dug, as a port to handle the commerce of large ships. It is located at the end of a low spit, carrying the railway and pipeline, and its harbour facilities form the west bank of the Canal near its southern entrance. It is pertinent that the earliest postmark of Port Taufiq is inscribed PORT TAWFIK/SUEZ. Port Ibrahim is the western harbour area, contiguous with Port Taufiq, and insofar as I am aware, never had a separate postal existence.



P.A.S. Smith  
 ESC 75  
 811 Mount Pleasant Avenue  
 Ann Arbor  
 Michigan 48103, USA