

The
Quarterly Circular
of
THE
EGYPT



STUDY CIRCLE

CONTENTS.

June Quarter 2013
Volume XXI No. 10

Whole Series No. 245
Pages 217-240

Officers 217 Meetings 218 Obituary 221 Members 221

ARTICLES.

The First Issue of Egypt, 1866 1 piastre

After 92 years, a new Mena House CDS

Stationery Cutouts Valid for Postage?

Simon Arzt Interpostal Seal

U.S. Navy at Alexandria 1885

Military Matters - Polish Forces in Egypt during WWII

Queries 116-117

Air Mail Jottings - Another Marc Pourpe cover

Maxicard \$1,713 shock on eBay!

Australia 2013 World Stamp Exhibition

Book reviews

Greg Todd p222

Vahe Varjabedian p223

Mike Murphy p224-229

Richard Wheatley p230

Peter Smith p230-231

Edmund Hall p232-237

p238-239

John Sears p239

Mike Murphy p240

Richard Wheatley piii

John Davis piii-iv

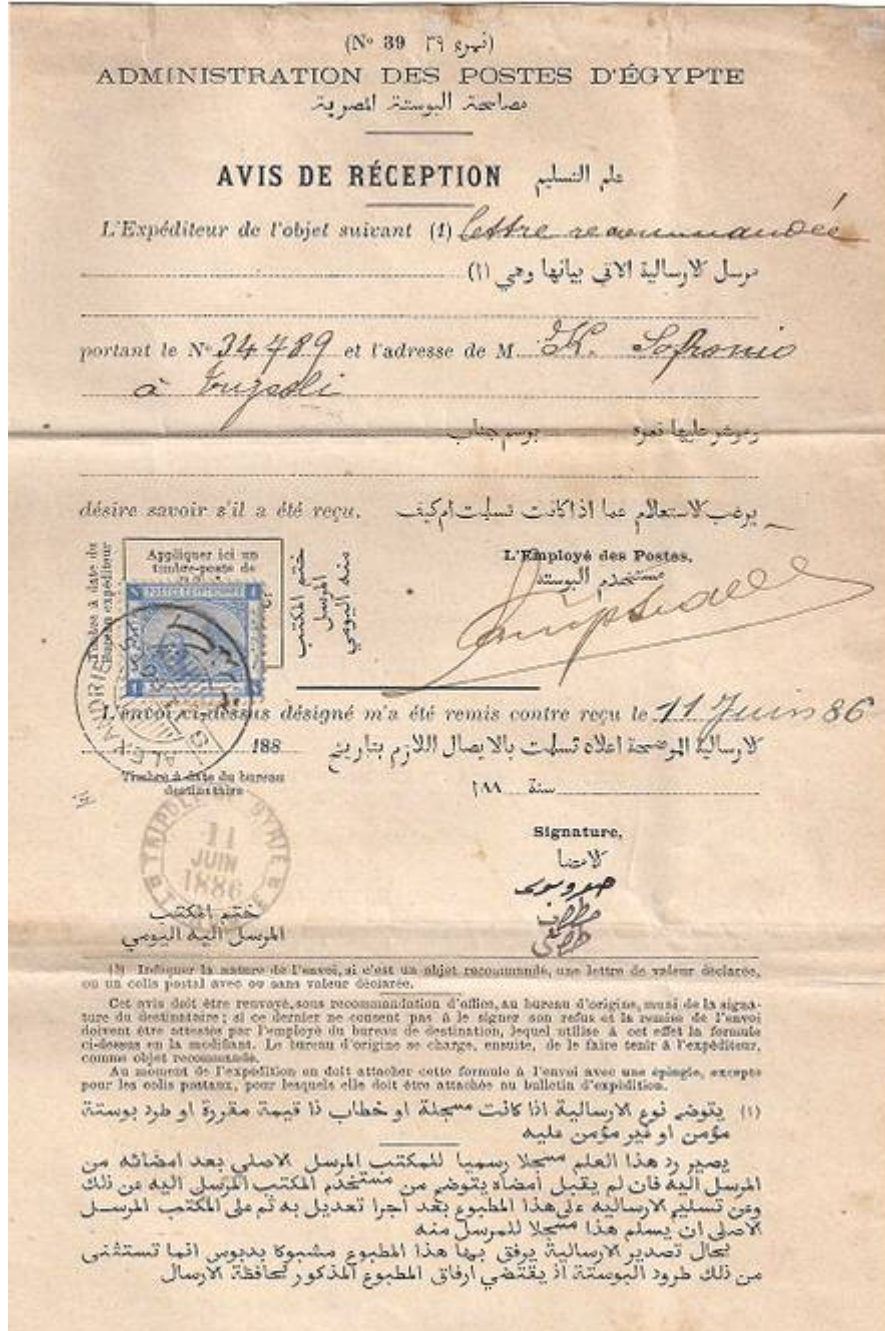


Carmichael & Todd PHILATELISTS

PTS
GREGORY C.G. TODD

EGYPT.

De La Rue Ipi. ultramarine used on Advice of Receipt form #39, cancelled at Alexandria (June 8, 1886) with 'Tripoli/Syrie/Turquie' confirmation of arrival datestamp below (June 11, 1886). Reverse showing further Alexandria datestamp of distribution to sender (June 17, 1886). Rare.



Quality Stamps, Proofs and Rare Postal History of the World always required for Stock or on a confidential Private Treaty basis.

P.O. BOX 111 LYMINGTON HAMPSHIRE ENGLAND S041 6ZJ
 Telephone 01 590 682 683 toddytripzinc@gmail.com
 VAT No. GB 561 9567 09

2013 Meetings List

Exciting developments in our Meetings List for 2013, with two meetings at the Royal Philatelic Society premises in London so that we can judge the Meeting Room and the Council Room with a view to cutting the cost of future meetings. The other four meetings are split between Stampex and the Victory Services Club. As usual, all meetings start at 2pm

July 13	At the Royal	The Overland Route	Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye, FRPSL
September 21	At Stampex	Hotel Posts of Egypt	Richard Wheatley
November 9	At the Royal	De La Rue First Issue	John Davis

For meetings at the Services Club, Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London, members usually meet in the ground-floor bar from 1pm. Details of the Royal's accommodation will be provided nearer the meeting date

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE OFFICERS

President:	John. Sears, FRPSL, 496 Uxbridge Road, Pinner, Middlesex HAS 4SL. john.sears@btinternet.com
Chairman:	Peter Andrews, 10 Hatches Mews, Braintree, Essex CM7 9FZ. ancientone@btintemet.com
Deputy Chairman/:	John Davis, Church View Cottage, Church Rd, Upton Snodsbury, Worcs WR7 4NH
Librarian:	davisatsnodsbury@tiscali.co.uk
Secretary:	Mike Murphy, 109 Chadwick Road, Peckham, London SE15 4PY egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Brian Sedgley, 6 Mullberry Way, Ashtead, Surrey KT21 2 FE brian.sedgley@talktalk.net
Editor/Webmaster:	Edmund Hall, 6 Bedford Avenue, Little Chalfont, Amersham, Bucks HP6 6PT edmundhall@chalfont.eclipse.co.uk
Publicity Officer:	David. Sedgwick, 9 Eastlands, High Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7YD -ann.david_@tiscali.co.uk
North America Agent:	Trent Ruebush, 6704 Donegan Court, Alexandria, Virginia 22315, USA truebush@usaid.gov
Egypt Agent:	Dr Ibrahim Shoukry, Apt 1, 10 Kamal El-Tawil St (Ex-Montaza), Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt ishoukry@link.net
Antipodean Agent:	Tony Chisholm, 13 Arden Way, Wilton, Wellington 6005, New Zealand j_t_chis@clear.net.nz
Committee:	Dr Sami Sadek, The Oaks, 19 Sinah Lane, Hayling Island, Hants PO11 0EY sami.sadek@ntlworld.com
	Vahe Varjabedian, 6 Mohammed Galal St, Apt 61, Heliopolis 11341, Cairo, Egypt vahev@hotmail.com

All contents © copyright Egypt Study Circle, London, and the contributors.

Website: egyptstudycircle.org.uk

Report of the Meeting, May 4, 2013: Queries and Acquisitions

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), Jon Aitchison, John Clarke, Pauline Gittoes, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Alan Jeyes, David Worrollo.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: John Davis (Librarian), Sami Sadek (Committee), Mike Bramwell, Angela Child, Cyril Defriez, Robert den Hollander, Atef Sarian.

The Chairman welcomed members present at what he hoped would be a pleasant informal meeting but regretted having to start on a sombre note with the announcement that our recent volunteer as Auction Treasurer, Keith Pogson (ESC 120), had recently suffered a minor stroke, and did not feel that he could continue as he had wished. The meeting wished him a speedy recovery and at the same time sought another volunteer for the important role. Unfortunately none was forthcoming.



John Sears ... querying the role of railway station markings

On a happier note, the Chairman mentioned a letter from Peter Heim (ESC 384), our member in Nürnberg, who is gradually divesting himself of his astonishing collection of Egyptian postmarks, put together

under the most painstaking of conditions – with magnifying glass and Arabic dictionary to hand – before today's comparative mass of cover material became available in Egypt. He wishes members to have first opportunity to purchase this material as a valuable addition to their collections.

The Secretary added some detail, offering to act as a go-between in putting interested members in contact with Peter, who lists the collections as follows:

1. Postmarks from ca 1872 to the Fifties from Aba el Waqf to Zizinia, 648 post offices on ca 4,500 stamps and pieces.
2. Postmarks type IX from Abshawai to Zifta, 226 post offices with 1,020 items, the basis of Peter's publication in *QC* 203 (December 2002, pp 84-93)
3. Arrival postmarks – 44 types on 385 stamps
4. Cash postmarks - 73 types with 1040 items.
5. Customs Duty - 21 types (plus four unrecorded) on 68 stamps
6. Delivery - 12 types (plus six unrecorded) on 28 stamps
7. Departure - 65 types (plus 11 unrecorded) on 1,050 stamps
8. Information/Imprimés – six types on 14 stamps
9. Parcels – 53 types (plus 23 unrecorded) on 504 stamps
10. Registered - 53 types (plus 46 unrecorded) on 1,040 stamps
11. Station - 24 post offices with 430 stamps
12. Traffic - 15 types (plus 29 unrecorded) on 360 stamps
13. Picture postcard from Alexandria, with Muharrem Bey 4 CDS to Belgium, and Arrival postmark of Alexandria, Type 6.55, with earliest date of 14 FE 11.

Collections 3-12 are based on the *QC* studies of the late Lars Alund, and are accompanied by detailed tabulated lists of every stamp. Any interested member should contact the Secretary, who also mentioned that

our next meeting will be the first Circle meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society, where Dr Geoff Eible-Kay, FRPSL, will present “The Overland Route”. He urged as many members as possible to attend, and assured them that details of where, when and how to reach the Royal will be communicated well in advance.

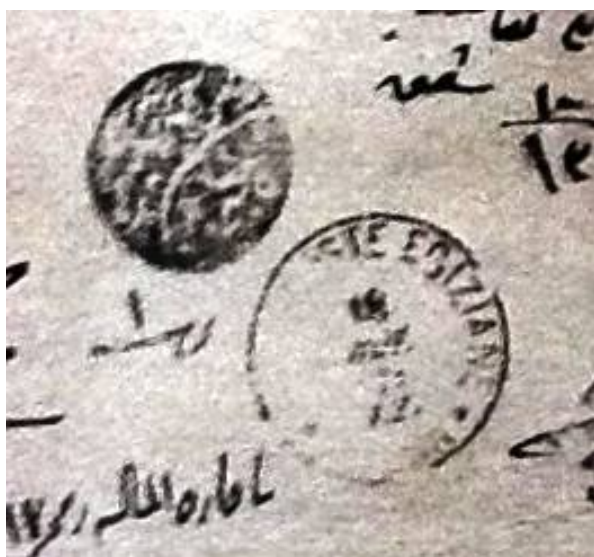
The Secretary appealed for material – typed lists, please, and as many illustrations as possible – for our next major Auction in the autumn. Closing date for lists is August 15, but the earlier received the better!

One new member was elected by the meeting – welcome, Stephen D Schumann, of California – but the Secretary noted a number of resignations and lapsings on account of non-payment of subscriptions that meant our membership numbers have dipped below 180 for the first time in several years. He urged members to seek some new blood!

The Treasurer reported a modest profit of some £281 from the February Live Auction, and the Editor/Webmaster urged members to provide articles for the *QC*, apologising in advance if the next issue appeared to have been the product of a very small number of overworked colleagues.

And so on to the meeting, which was intended as an informal display of recent interests. And so it proved. Both **Peter Andrews** and **Mike Murphy** chose to offer up a number of advances on the recent Instructional Markings listing in the *QC* (December 2012, pp 178-184). Both added previously unrecorded markings and extended the range of dates known: it is clear that this fledgling study is worthy of further work... please send in your recordings. Updates to the listing will be provided in the *QC* as often as warranted.

John Sears presented a selection of Station postmarks, and noted that although they were not all uncommon, and had been collected for many years, there still seemed an almost complete lack of understanding about just how the Station post offices worked within the Post Office as a whole. He was surprised, he said, to note that Station post offices were not listed in the Postal Guides, and wondered if this indicated a status somehow outside the Post Office proper. Again, members’ contributions would be welcome.



Intaglio seal and Type II-4n CDS of Giza/Ghisa ... both unrecorded

Peter Grech presented material relating to the French Dardanelles force delayed in Alexandria on its way to Mudros, and particularly the Escadrille MFT98 (named for Maurice Farman – Turkey) air squadron that was intended for Tenedos. He found that on the island pilots made their homes in the crates carrying their aircraft – and astonishingly had found a postcard showing the crates themselves being unloaded in Alexandria.

Brian Sedgley’s offering was a recent acquisition, a wrapper originally containing a dozen papers concerning the Department of Religious Endowments and displaying both a clear negative intaglio seal of the Giza post office and the Type II-4n postmark (Regie Poste Egiziane with the “Regie” cut out at Turkey’s demand) dated 18 NOV (probably 1869). Remarkably, neither has previously been recorded. More work is required on the Arabic handwriting that embellishes this remarkable item.

Alan Jeyes showed two pieces of postal stationery – one with Egyptian lettering, the other without – bearing vignettes not of any Egyptian scene but of Imperial India. He imagined that these must have come from the de La Rue archives, and discussion ranged far and wide. And so it did after he showed an official cover from Cairo to Vienna dated 15 AU 14 which made reference to Martial Law. Members pointed out that it had been strongly suggested to Sultan Hussein Kamel, in Constantinople at the time, that he should not return. Britain’s protectorate resulted in Fuad replacing him.

John Clarke showed several queries concerning the Second Issue of 1867, including a strip of four of the 1pi with guidelines at the top, and raised much more discussion by showing a series of Farouk Cancelled-

back royal proofs on card with the “Cancelled” upright, inverted, upright reversed, and inverted reversed. Members could not work out how these varieties might have happened. Discussion was long, with some wondering if the Cancelled backs had perhaps been printed earlier in preparation for the stamp vignettes to follow on the other side.

Pauline Gittoes showed an unusual cover from New Zealand to Alexandria in 1941 with the colourful black and red 1929 Alexandria Pan African Games label tied by a censor marking on the reverse; and an FDC of the Farouk wedding of January 1938 with a Qubba Palace CDS.

David Worrollo offered up a plethora of recent acquisitions, bought as a single lot, ranging through mint stamps of the 1950s-1970s, with miniature sheets, via the 5x5 sheet of the 1958 Egyptian Industries issue to full panes of several stamps, some of which turned out to be from the Syrian branch of the UAR.



Edmund Hall's mini-display comprised a number of his characteristically illustrated pages covering material from German forces during the Second World War. It included a “liberated” British honour envelope dated 9 SE 42 used philatelically from a sergeant major in the HQ of the 102 (Luftwaffe) anti-aircraft regiment. It bears a Feldpost Kenn number 538, normally applied only to registered material, and alongside is a violet bilingual stamp of Abu Hagag, a small town between Mersa Matruh and Sidi Abdul Rahman, that raised much interest. It has no date-bar. So what is it? What was its use before the Germans captured it?



“Liberated” honour envelope with Luftwaffe and unwarranted registration markings and a mystery violet circle from a tiny Egyptian town

Jon Aitchison had several queries on the stamps of the French offices, including doubts about millième surcharges with an underline issued in April and November 1921. Peter Grech was able to explain that though the underlined issue was acknowledge to be from November, it was later discovered that some of the April stamps had also been underlined. Jon was also able to display some forgeries – on the Merson 1f, 2f and 5f of the 1902-03 issue – that were discovered only in 1912 and found to be even better than the originals. The stamp dealer and forger Forbin had hired engravers who “touched up” printing flaws in the originals, believing them to be errors. The “perfect” stamps were an immediate sign of a forgery.

The Chairman closed the meeting by describing a very enjoyable afternoon. He hoped that members would continue to contribute in such an informal and fascinating style.

Joshua Stanley Horesh (ESC 118) – An Appreciation

Sadly, we have to record the death of a longstanding servant of the Circle. Stanley, who died at the end of January, joined us in 1965, and was the oldest surviving member after our Past President, Peter Smith, serving as Vice Chairman for more than 25 years. Because his profession involved travelling abroad for lengthy periods during the year, he could not be persuaded to graduate to the Chair,



His particular interests centred on Military Mail in the Middle East in the First World War, including British, French and Commonwealth Forces, but he was also interested in TPOs, Sea Post, and French Post Offices.

He often led meetings when the subject was in one of his specialist areas, as well as contributing items from his own collection when appropriate.

Stanley also gained a deserved reputation for arranging venues, obtaining prices and arranging menus when the Circle had a special function coinciding with international exhibitions at Stampex or a Circle anniversary. He was always first to volunteer, and we were all very appreciative of his highly efficient help in these matters.

Essentially, Stanley was a quiet man who occasionally held strong views about philately and matters pertaining to Circle procedure. It must be said that he had an extensive knowledge of the postal history of Egypt, and his wise counsel will be greatly missed.

John Sears

I owe a personal debt of gratitude to ‘Stan’; while at a Robbie Lowe auction in the late Seventies I bid for some essays and other items. Stanley, as he preferred to be known, who had been sitting in front of me, turned and asked if I was a member of the Circle. On saying I wasn’t he almost berated me, insisting that any serious collector of Egypt should be a member. He pointed out that the following Saturday a meeting was being held at the Peacock pub and I should be there. I went and 35 years later and many phone calls with ‘Stan’ over some minutiae of Egyptian philately I am still extremely grateful for the insistence that any ‘any serious collector of Egypt should be a member’.

Edmund Hall

Membership changes

New member

ESC 679 Stephen D Schumann, 2417 Cabrillo Drive, Hayward, California 94545, US
(Postal stationery)

Restored to membership:

ESC 335 Dr Hugh W Johnston, 30 East Humbolt Avenue, Spokane, Washington 99218-1527, US
ESC 541 Jack Graham, 80850 North Hill Road, Cottage Grove, Oregon 97424, US
ESC 601 Tawfik Deifalla, Procter & Gamble, 4th Industrial Zone, 6th of October City, Giza, Egypt.

Change of Address:

ESC 623 Alexandre Amoudi, 544 Overlook Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15216 USA

Resigned:

ESC 304 Khetcho Hagopian **ESC 504 Karim Darwaza** **ESC 671 Iosif Nassati** **ESC 673 Robert T Burney**

Lapsed

ESC 603 Michael O’Flaherty **ESC 634 Andre Slivitzky** **ESC 675 Yannis Lazarides**

Deceased:

ESC 242 Bob Toth **ESC 327 Dr Reda Gowaily** **ESC 381 Philip Nichols** **ESC 656 Dr Elaine Evans**

The First Issue of Egypt, 1866 1 piastre

Greg Todd (ESC 585)

Whilst *The Nile Post* (D4) lists many sub-numbers (D4-D4s) on the 1 piastre claret (SG 4, Scott 7), most concern perforation varieties. The 1 piastre value was printed in two panes of 100 stamps (10x10) with a dividing interpanneau gutter between (Fig. 1) and can be plated from the imperforate Pellas proof sheets.

The balance of this small group illustrated here all concentrate on position 23 from the left pane. Fig.2 shows a mint vertical pair, Type I/I from positions 13/23, horizontally imperforate between, the lower stamp showing the "winged 4" variety on position 23 (*Nile Post* D4c). Another vertical strip is illustrated (Fig. 3) taken from a close-up of the ex-Byam mint block of 53 in my collection, again showing Types I/II/II, positions 23/33/43 with the upper stamp showing the "winged 4" variety.

Another reconstituted multiple is also shown (Fig. 4) with a used single example of position 23: this shows the variety and blind perforation flaw at lower left (but not at top), allied with a recently purchased matching pair from positions 33/43 below, also showing the same blind perforation flaw in the same position (the single is cancelled August 10 1866 in black, the pair is cancelled in blue with no help from date).

I would be interested to know whether other ESC members have examples of the blind perforation fault and I would very much welcome scans. Finally, the last illustration (Fig. 5) shows position 23 used on an entire letter from Tanta to Cairo in March 1866, a cover formerly in the Pip Whetter collection.

Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3



Fig.4



Fig.5



After 92 years, a new Mena House CDS

Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)

Last month, while looking at some postal stationery items in the collection of a friend, I noticed an unusual – indeed unrecorded – Mena House circular date-stamp with the date 31 MAR 1921 on a 1914 4-millièmes postal stationery card (NP SPC21, Magdi C22).

The card, bearing the 1,2,3,4,5 and 10-millième stamps of the 1914 De La Rue pictorials issue, unaddressed and with the date-stamp neatly placed to cancel all of them including the postcard vignette, is clearly philatelically contrived – but what is important is that it bears a completely unknown bilingual CDS of the Mena House, diameter 30 mm. The Arabic is a direct transliteration of the English (or vice versa) – Mena House.



For the past 20 years I have tried to study the cancellations of the Pyramids post office and its relationship with the famous Mena House Hotel at the foot of the Pyramids, and contributed a *QC* article detailing the Pyramids cancels a couple of years ago (*QC* 223, December 2007, pp 273-74). But I never expected that a completely new type would come to light almost a century after it was in use.



Mike Murphy adds: Vahe’s discovery is certainly exciting, even astonishing. But perhaps it should be approached with a certain amount of caution. The stationery card is clearly philatelic, as he says (though that does not disbar the fact that such a CDS might have been to hand for use in cancelling the stamps to order).

The date-bar appears to be made from two different fonts – the “3” very much wider than the other figures – and there are gaps between “3” and “1” and “2” and “1”. The letters of “Mena” are neatly spaced; those of “house” are squeezed: not unique, but something no skilled operator of the time would have been proud of.

And to the left of the date-bar, outside the circle, are one and perhaps two short protruding black bars. These may be the unintentional impression of part of the framework of the handstamp. But they are something I have never seen in association with an Egyptian CDS: the striking face of the handstamp is normally set into a wider circle of framework rather than something leaving horizontal impressions.

Though it may not be significant, the first Pyramids CDS with Arabic in the upper half is not recorded until 1937. For me, the jury remains out. Until we find another example!

Stationery Cutouts Valid for Postage?

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)



The only one among 44 covers from Boulad's campaign 'franked' with postal stationery cutouts that was taxed with a Postage Due stamp. 'Unpaid', so 10 millièmes due

The short answer to Scott Van Horn's Query 113 (See *QC* 244, March 2013, p.217) is simple and straightforward: every *Egyptian Postal Guide* that I have seen (admittedly, not many!) between 1911 and 1935 carries a short paragraph immediately following the description of what postal stationery is currently available. It says:

The stamps cut from these envelopes or envelope-letters, post cards, and wrappers, cannot be used as a means for prepayment of postage, and any article bearing one of these stamps will be charged as unpaid or insufficiently paid.

Nothing could be clearer. So why was it that our late member Maître Gabriel Boulad (ESC 66, 1881-1970, *pictured right*), a well-known Alexandria lawyer born in Mahalla el Kobra, carried out such an extensive campaign for their use?

The cover illustrated by Scott is a window envelope (so we don't know the address) printed for the Boulad and Ackaouy legal firm, carries two cutouts, and is dated in Boulad's inimitable handwriting 17.12.51, the departure date. So how did he get it back?

The answer seems to be that he was sending out many of these covers, to family and friends, to test the Post Office reaction, to see whether they were in fact "charged as unpaid or insufficiently paid".



Over the years I have been able to make a mini-collection of Boulad's cutout covers, totalling now 43, ranging in date from November 15 1945 to November 23 1956. The vast majority are sent from Alexandria or Sidi Gaber, but also from Heliopolis and Cairo; and the destinations range from within Alexandria (the vast majority), to Zamalek, Mansura, Lebanon, France and even Istanbul.

You might be astonished to hear that, of the 43 covers recorded, although in many cases the cutout/s are not cancelled, only two carry a boxed T marking and one a pencilled T, indicating that postage due is to be raised. And only a single one of those covers has been completely treated according to regulation.



11.2.52, 1m wrapper cutout accepted, but 2m green with permanent validity crossed through.
11 12 53, 5m envelope and 1m wrapper cutouts not accepted, and crude pencilled T marking.

Sent probably from Alexandria (postmark unclear) on December 25 1953 to a family address in Rue Mataana in the city, it is another Boulad & Ackaouy envelope carrying a 3-millieme Marechal and a 5m Air (control A/32) together with a cutout of the 1914 2m green Cleopatra newspaper wrapper (*previous page*). The stamps are cancelled, the cutout ignored, a boxed-T stamped alongside – and a 10-millieme postage due applied on arrival in Sidi Gaber on December 27. Why a 10m Due rather than 4m, double the 2m deficiency? It seems the clerk might have been harsh in treating the cover as “unpaid” rather than “insufficiently paid”.

Among my other examples (*see list*), Boulad was careful in most cases to provide at least one genuine current adhesive alongside his cutouts, which date back to 1887-88. But I have five examples in which only cutouts were used: two received a datestamp alongside the single cutout; one with a single cutout received a normal cancel, and so did another with cutouts of the 4m Fellaḥ visiting card envelope (NP43, 1953) and a 6m Defense card (NP 43-336, 1954). And on July 6 1955 he sent another company envelope “franked” only



26 1 56, cutouts from current postcard and envelope both accepted.
6 7 55, solo 10m Colossi cutout marked with a boxed-T. “Erreur”, says Boulad

with a cutout from the 1914 10m Colossi blue stationery envelope (NP17): it was delivered in Zamalek, but received a boxed-T, alongside which he has written “Erreur”.

It seems that his taking up the cudgels against the Post Office’s ban on cutouts (though clearly the prohibition was not very successful, given that all 43 covers seem to have been delivered!) was reinforced by an article, in *L’Orient Philatélique* of April 1950 (pp. 385-86), in which Mehanny Eid, later to become President of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, illustrated a cover with 12 imperforate proofs of the 1914 De La Rue pictorial issue and explained that because the Post Office considered them not valid for franking, the owner was told he had to add a normal 5-millième stamp to get the proofs cancelled on cover.

It took five years, but in 1955 Boulad responded with a self-addressed registered cover of his own, with four proofs of the 1914 issue cancelled and passed normally through the post after he asked Mohamed Saleh, Postal Agent at Ibrahimieh at the time, if imperforate proofs were valid: “What difference does that make?” was the reported response. “They aren’t fakes.”

In a fascinating commentary, Mehanny Eid followed up by giving several examples of invalid frankings being accepted and valid stamps being mistakenly taxed: see *L’OP* 89 of January 1955, pp.9-14. The argument boiled down to the fact that the Post Office had not been paid for imperf proofs, so they were not valid for postage. From imperforate proofs to postal stationery cutouts is only a small step, but Boulad evidently thought that as a price HAD been paid for the stationery, the cutouts should be treated like definitives and retain a timeless franking validity.

According to his testing, and despite the firmly stated regulation, the Post Office was clearly caught in two minds. The vast majority of cutouts (but not all) were not treated as valid stamps and were not cancelled – but they were apparently accepted insofar as the envelope was almost always delivered without postage due charge.



18 5 54, cutout of unknown barred registered envelope not accepted, but Turkish arrival mark.

18 5 55, cutout of unknown barred postcard not accepted, but received in France

In carrying out his apparent campaign, Boulad unknowingly cost himself (or his heirs and successors) a fair amount of money by cutting up postal stationery items that have today become rather more rare and valuable, with modern catalogue prices ranging up to \$45 and more in a couple of cases.

Astonishingly, he also appears to have destroyed two pieces of postal stationery with Farouk barred out that have not otherwise been recorded! I say “appears” because I am not expert in the bar overprints, and maybe these should be classified among the many fakes created at that time.

His plain Air Mail cover of 18 May 54, addressed to Istanbul and with a Sisli (Istanbul suburb) backstamp of May 30, is “franked” at 17 millièmes (surface rate) with a 2m Air with Farouk barred out, and a cutout from the 15m Boy King registered letter stationery (NP 8, with boxed frame), again with the King’s face

obliterated with three bars. The 2m was cancelled at Alexandria / D. (1); the cutout ignored. This overprint is not recorded by any of the catalogues.



The two unrecorded stationery bar overprints, enlarged four times

The same situation applies to another cover of precisely a year later to Montpellier in France. Again the envelope's Air Mail notification is crossed through, and the surface rate franking is paid by a 2m Air with Farouk barred out, and a cutout from the Marechal 13m postcard (NP 42). Again Alexandria / D. (1) cancelled the 2m, and ignored the cutout. Again the bars on this item are not recorded.

Both of these cutouts are real finds if genuine. But are they? I illustrate close-ups of both bar overprints, and hope that someone with more knowledge can help.

Table of 'Boulad' covers in date order, 1945-1956

Date	CDS / Rate	Cover / 'current'	Cutouts	Address	Result
15 NO 45	Heliopolis 7m	1909 4m ps card	1894 3m ps card NP 7/8	18 rue Mataana, Alex	Both cancelled
21 OC 48	Alexandria/? 10m	B/A env 4m Marechal	1889 1m env NP4 1889 5m env NP6	Mme Azam, Zamalek	4m cancelled
1 AP 49	Cairo machine 10m	B/A env 8m Air A/46	1889 2m env NP5	18 rue Mataana, Alex	Both cancelled
8 FE 51	Alexandria/? 10m?	B/A env 5m Air A/40 stamp lost	1946 4m Marechal env NP37/38	Georges Azam, Zamalek	5m cancelled
21 FE 51	Alexandria/? 10m	B/A env vertical pair 3m Farouk Airs	1946 4m Marechal env NP38a	Georges Azam, Zamalek	All cancelled
29 NO 51	Alexandria/?? Air Mail label censor 48m	B/A env 25m Air 13m Boy King	1922 10m Colossi red env NP23	Louis Boulad, Montpellier	25+13m cancelled
8 FE 52	Alexandria/D.4 10m	B/A window env 7m Farouk Air 1m Marechal	1931 2m Cleopatra black wrapper NP6	(window env)	All cancelled

11 FE 52	Alexandria/D 10m	B/A window env 7m Farouk Air	1939 1m Boy King wrapper NP10 1914 normal 2m green DLR stamp	(window env) Mansura arrival	7m, wrapper cancelled; 2m pencil-cancel
15 FE 52	Alexandria/? 10m	B/A window env 4m Marechal	1914 4m card NP21/23 1937 2m Boy King env NP29	(window env) Cairo arrival	4m stamp, 2m cancelled
23 MR 52	Alexandria/D.4 10m	B/A window env 5m KES Air	1946 4m Marechal env NP37/38 1932 1m Fuad wrapper NP7	(window env) Mansura arrival	All cancelled
21 AP 52	Alexandria/?? 10m	B/A env 5m KES Air	1946 4m Marechal env NP37/38 1914 1m felucca wrapper NP3	Georges Azam, Zamalek	5m+4m cancelled
-3 JU 52	Alexandria /?? 12m	B/A env 5m KES Air 2m Marechal KES 1m Boy King	1899 4m on 5m card NP9/10	Louis Boulad Montpellier	All cancelled
? SE 52	Alexandria? 10m	B/A env vert pair 3m Farouk KES Air	1946 4m Marechal env HG35 NP38a	Georges Azam Zamalek	All cancelled
23 MA 53	Alexandria /? 32m	B/A env 13m Farouk KES 6m Boy King KES	1939 13m Boy King card NP 40	R�n� Dupuy France	All cancelled
-1 VI 53	C4/ Alexandria 10m?	B/A env stamp lost	1923 10m Colossi card NP27	Louis Boulad Montpellier	Cancelled
24 JU 53	T/Cairo Station 10m	B/A env 1m,3m Boy King 2x1m Marechal	1899 4m card NP11	18 rue Mataana	Stamps cancelled
21 SE 53	Sidi Gaber 10m	B/A env 5m barred KES Air	1889 1m DLR wrapper NP1 1937 4m Fuad wrapper NP9	Maud Boulad Cairo	Stamp cancelled
20 NO 53	T/Cairo Station 5m?	B/A env	1921-25 5m pink env NP22/25 or 1922 letter sheet NP9	6 rue Mataana	Cancel alongside
22 NO 53	A/ Alexandria 10m	B/A env 4m Air A/32 2m Marechal bars	1889 1m DLR wrapper NP1 1931 3m green Ras el Tin card NP32	Marie Yared Heliopolis	All cancelled
28 NO 53	Cairo/T.D 10m	B/A env 6m Boy King bars 1m First Fellah	1931 2m Cleopatra black wrapper NP6 1932 1m Fuad wrapper NP7	6 rue Mataana	Stamps cancelled
28 NO 53	Cairo/T.D 10m	B/A env 6m Boy King bars 1m First Fellah	1931 2m Cleopatra black wrapper NP6 1932 1m Fuad wrapper NP7	6 rue Mataana	Stamps cancelled
29 NO 53	Alexandria /D.(1) 10m	B/A env 2m Marechal bars 5m KES Farouk barred Air	1889 1m DLR wrapper NP1 1931 2m Cleopatra black wrapper NP6	Marie Yared Heliopolis	Stamps cancelled
11 DE 53	Cairo/? 10m	B/A env 4m barred Marechal	1889 1m DLR wrapper NP1 1888 5m carmine env NP6 or 1914 letter-sheet NP6	6 rue Mataana	Stamp cancelled; pencil T
24 DE 53	Cairo machine 10m	B/A env 6m Boy King bars	1914 2m Cleopatra green wrapper NP4 1931 2m Cleopatra black wrapper NP6	6 rue Mataana	Stamp cancelled

25 DE 53	Alexandria? 10m	B/A env 3m Marechal 5m Air A/32	1914 2m Cleopatra green wrapper NP4	6 rue Mataana	Stamps cancelled, boxed T, 10m Due Sidi Gaber 27 DE
13 AP 54	D/Alexandra 10m	B/A env 4m First Fellah	1891 2x 3m on 5m card NP5/6	M/Mme Georges Azam Zamalek	Stamp cancelled
19 AP 54	T/Cairo 10m	B/A env 5m Air	1889 1m DLR wrapper NP1 1937 4m Fuad green wrapper NP9	6 rue Mataana	5m, Fuad cancelled
18 MA 54	Alexandria/D.(1) 17m	Air Mail env 2m Farouk Air barred	15m Boy King barred Reg (as 1938 NP8)	Beatrix Audebeau Istanbul	Stamp cancelled
27 JU 54	Sidi Gaber / (Delivery) 10m	B/A env 5m Air	1921 5m pink env NP22-5 or 1922 letter sheet NP9	M/Mme Georges Azam Zamalek	Stamp cancelled
28 SE 54	?? 1pi	B/A env	1887-8 1pi blue env NP1/2 or 1912 letter sheet NP5	6 rue Mataana	Cancel alongside
? NO 54	Alexandria /? 10m	B/A env	1921 10m red Colossi env NP23	Georges Azam Zamalek	Cancelled
26 JA 56	T/Sidi Gaber 10m	B/A env	1955 4m Fellah env NP43 1954 6m Defense card NP 43-46	Mme Azam Zamalek	Both cancelled
23 AP 55	T/Cairo 10m	B/A env 1m Boy King bars 6m Boy King bars	1931 2m Cleopatra black wrapper NP6 1932 1m Fuad wrapper NP7	6 rue Mataana	Stamps cancelled
27 AP 55	Alexandria /?? 15m	B/A env 5m Air	1923 10m Colossi red postcard NP27	Louis Boulad Montpellier	Stamp cancelled
15 MA 55	Alexandria/D.(1) 15m	Air Mail env 2m Farouk Air barred	13m Marechal card barred (as 1946 NP42)	Louis Boulad Montpellier	Stamp cancelled
6 JL 55	T 4/Alexandria 10m	B/A env	1914 10m Colossi blue env NP17	Mme Azzam Zamalek	Boxed T alongside – "Erreur"
20 FE 56	? 4m	B/A env 3m Second Fellah	1889 1m DLR wrapper NP1	Beatrix Audebeau Beirut	No cancels, boxed T; arrived
26 MR 56	T/Sidi Gaber 10m	B/A env 3m Second Fellah 3m barred KES Farouk Air	1955 4m Fellah env NP43	Georges Azzam Zamalek	All cancelled
5 AP 56	Alexandria /? 10m	B/A env pair 4m First Fellah	1914 2m Cleopatra green wrapper NP4	Mme Azzam Zamalek	Stamps cancelled
7 AP 56	Alexandria/D.2 15m	B/A env 5m Second Fellah 8m Farouk Air bar	1914 2m Cleopatra green wrapper NP4	Louis Boulad Montpellier	All cancelled
11 AU 56	Alexandria /D.4 15m	B/A env 3m Second Fellah 10m Defense	1914 2m Cleopatra green wrapper NP4	Lynda Warde Beirut	All cancelled
23 NO 56	T2/ Alexandria 15m	B/A env pair 3m Second Fellah 5m 2nd Fellah	1955 4m Fellah env NP43	Louis Boulad Montpellier	All cancelled

If any member has further examples of this fascinating half-century-old campaign, the writer would be delighted to hear about them.

Simon Arzt Interpostal Seal

Richard Wheatley (ESC 169)

I have seen this distinctive “seal” only once - and I bought it!

At 36mm diameter it is the same size as the Interpostal Seal that was issued to Port Said in 1884. The colour is about the same, but the paper is whiter. The lettering on the “seal” and the Khedive's coat of arms are contemporary with advertising cards printed and used by Simon Arzt in the 1890s.

The “seal” has been affixed to a 1894 3-millième postal stationery card which has been uprated by a 2-millième green Sphinx and Pyramid stamp to the UPU postcard rate of 5 millièmes: this rate was in force from 1888 to 1899. Despatch cds Port Said 16 III 96, arrival cds Kiel 23 3 96.



U.S. Navy at Alexandria 1885

Peter Smith (ESC 74)

Before the creation of Naval Post Offices aboard ships of the US Navy, which did not occur until the cruise of the Great White Fleet in 1909, there still had to be a means of exchanging mail with ships anywhere in the world. Edmund Hall has given us a splendid account (*QC 244*, March 2013, pp 210-213) of the naval post offices in Egyptian waters, and there is little that I could add to it. However, the two covers shown here are from a much earlier period, and show one means of handling letters to naval vessels.

The 1885 disturbances in Alexandria are well known. Not so well known is that there were United States Navy ships involved. They were not actually involved in any activity other than standby. That is, they were present to observe, and to be ready to evacuate American citizens should it become necessary. The forwarding agent B. F. Stevens, present in London, acted as the agent for mail to US ships. As can be seen when mail arrived in London, B. F. Stevens undertook the task of determining where the ship would be at the time forwarded mail would be likely to reach it, via the US Consulate. Letters to such ships can be identified easily by the address, but, obviously, survival of such letters is of low probability. Letters from the ships are difficult to identify, for it was not the custom to write the return address on the envelope. The letters would have to go through the civil post office at a port of call. Thus it is that I know of only covers to, rather than from, the early period of naval vessels (and even these are rare).



The U.S.S. Quinnebaug, forwarded by B.F. Stevens Despatch (faint at top) from London to Alexandria (next page). The reverse showing New York (Dec.19) and London (Dec.23) transit marks and Alexandria arrival (Dec.27) only four days from London.



U.S.S. Quinnebaug at Alexandria May 1885, via B.F. Stevens London



U.S.S. Juniata at Alexandria November 1888, via B.F. Stevens London

Additional ships for which I have covers with "ALEXANDRIA / EGYPT" in the killer bars are *USS Tennessee*, *USS Toucey* (6 Mar. 1927), *USS Memphis* (2 Feb. 1927). *USS Case* (2 Mar. 1927)

Military Matters - Polish Forces in Egypt during WWII.

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

On September 1, 1939, German forces crossed the Polish frontier, beginning the Second World War. On September 17, with the Polish armies fully engaged against the German onslaught, the USSR invaded from the East. The Polish President, Government and Supreme GHQ were forced to cross the border into allied Romania, with the aim of reaching France and from there continuing the war against the two invaders. The Polish Campaign lasted six weeks. Many Polish soldiers and civilians made their way to Syria and France via Romania and Hungary, flocking to join the Polish Armed Forces in the West. By May 1940 there were 84,500 men under arms in France and Syria which had the Army of the Levant, known as the T.O.M.O. (Theatre d'Operation de Mediterranee Orientale), commanded by General Weygand.



The Polish Government in Exile decided to form an independent brigade within that Army. The first orders were given to establish the "Carpathian Brigade" (Brygada Strzelcow Karpaccich - B.S.K.) on April 2, 1940, and under the command of Colonel S. Kopanski (*left*) based in Beirut. It was easier for escapees from internment camps in Hungary, Romania or Poland to get to Beirut than to France.

Polish troops took part in the French campaign of 1940 and after refusing to accept France's capitulation those in French Syria crossed over into British-ruled Palestine. Based in Latrun, the brigade was equipped with British weapons, reinforced and trained. In October 1940 it was moved to Egypt, where it undertook garrison duties.

When the Brigade left Palestine it consisted of 4,568 soldiers including 311 officers. Among other tasks it guarded prisoner-of-war camps and prepared the fortification of Alexandria. However, as Poland was still formally at peace with Italy, it could not have been sent to the front.

With Italy's invasion on June 10, 1940, the situation changed and the Polish Brigade moved to Alexandria during October 1-7, forming a camp at Dekheila. Alexandria harbour was a target for bombing raids but the inhabitants were reassured by local newspapers that "Alexandria is protected by the Polish - there is no reason to panic". Operation Compass during December pushed the Italians back to the border of Tripolitania and Polish soldiers guarded the prisoner-of-war camps, supply depots and airports on the way from Alexandria to Tobruk.

On January 12, 1941, the British approved the formation of a motorised unit along British lines and the B.S.K. became an Independent Brigade Group (Samodzielna Brygada Strzelców Karpaccich - S.B.S.K.) consisting of 4,573 soldiers and 359 officers.

With Rommel's lightning advance in March 1941 the British were pushed back to Egyptian border and the Polish forces brought back to Dikheila. On May 25 they were moved by rail to Mersa Matruh to rebuild the south-eastern part of the defensive line. They were placed under the command of the 1st South-African division commanded by General G.E.Brink. The last Polish cavaliers finally left their horses in Mersa Matruh, converting to lorries and carriers.

At the end of June the whole Carpathian Brigade, excluding the artillery, was moved to Sidi Baggush, where the British Headquarters of Western Desert Forces was situated. During a seven-week stay the fortifications were rebuilt and an intensive training in desert warfare took place. On August 17-18 the brigade was moved back to the camp at El Amiriya to resupply. Soon after, it left for besieged Tobruk. Transported in seven convoys, between August 21 and 28 it took over the westernmost perimeter of the Allied defences. Overnight on December 9, during the Eighth Army's Operation Crusader to raise the siege, the Polish brigade seized the strategically important Maduar Hill, town of Acroma, and broke through to the British 8th Army, thus ending the siege. Because of their impact on the battle, the Polish soldiers were awarded the prestigious title of the Tobruk Rats by their Australian comrades in arms.

On December 13 the Carpathian Uhlan Regiment was detached while the remainder of the brigade was attached to the XIII Corps of the Eighth Army and took part in the attack on the Axis Gazala defensive line on December 15. During Rommel's counter-attack on January 21, 1942, the Brigade played an active part in the battle at Gazala, breaking through the enemy positions and enabling the 8th Army to renew its offensive against Rommel. The brigade, seriously under strength, was withdrawn on March 17 to the El Amiriya camp and then back to Palestine. It lost 156 killed in action (including 127 in the Siege of Tobruk), 15 missing in action and 467 wounded.

In Palestine it was joined by the Polish forces of General Wladyslaw Anders, evacuated from the USSR. After the German attack on Russia a Polish Army in Russia was formed, the personnel drawn from Polish deportees in slave camps and prisons taken by the Russians in 1940. Why Stalin allowed the Poles to pass from Russian to British control is something of a mystery. One theory is that Churchill suggested that they were needed to open up a new western front to give some relief to the hard pressed Russian forces. Anders (*right*) brought with him 159,000 people of whom some 75,000 joined the Polish forces.



Once in the Middle East, the Poles went through a period of reorganisation and training under the designation of Polish Army in the East. The Independent Carpathian Rifle Brigade, with units from the Soviet Union, became the 3rd Carpathian Rifle Division. The other formations created at that time were the 5th "Kresowa" Infantry Division, the 2nd Armoured Brigade and the 2nd Artillery Group. In June 1943 this force was redesignated the 2nd Polish Corps. Army Corps headquarters was based in Gaza, with the troops undergoing training in Palestine until late 1943.

Anders' Army was first transferred to the transit camp at Qassasin, Egypt. Then, by way of Port Said or Alexandria during December 1943 and January 1944, the Poles were shipped to Italy as part of the British 8th Army.

The Corps fought its way up Italy, taking part in the fourth battle of Monte Cassino and ending up at Bologna on April 21, 1944. It was then withdrawn for recuperation, thus ending its war. It must be remembered that a greater number of Poles were stationed in Britain as the 1st Polish Armoured Division which landed in France in August 1944, becoming part of the 1st Canadian Army. It was these men who ended up in Germany at the end of the war. Also based in Britain was the 1st Parachute Brigade, which took part in action in the region of Grave-Nijmegen-Arnhem with the British Parachute Division.

With the departure of the 2nd Army Corps the remaining Polish forces were renamed Jednostki Wojskowe na Środkowym Wschodzie (J.W.S.W) on May 7, 1944. Based mainly in Palestine, they were used to train new recruits, often Poles taken prisoner while serving in the German Army, with an administrative centre and hospitals and convalescent area. The J.W.S.W. was disbanded on August 6, 1947, but Poles continued operating at Qassasin camp and the Polish Hospital at East Kantara. Although the war in Europe had ended they remained in Egypt and Palestine as many of the forces and large number of Polish refugees in the Middle East did not want to return to Soviet-occupied Poland. Qassasin camp was closed on April 12, 1948.



PP=Field Post office

Fig. 1



GPP=Base Army Post office

Fig. 2



Fig. 3

The Polish forces postal agency first used the French military postal system before crossing into Palestine and then used the British Field Post office. After moving to Egypt the force introduced its own handstamps. The first Polish datestamp was ordered from the firm of A.I. Margosches in Alexandria, whose owner was a Jew from Poland which would have avoided language problems. The first P.P.-111 cancellation was dated Nov. 1, 1940 and issued at Dekheila (*Fig.1*). Subsequent cancellers followed, with numbers ranging up to 124 over the next year but only a few saw usage in Egypt.

A second post office was opened May 24, 1941, in Dekheila, its datestamp inscribed GLOWNA POCZTA POLOWA 101 (*Fig.2*). It served as the main P.O. (Base F.P.O.) for the H.Q. of the Polish Army in the Middle East (W.P.S.W.- Wojsko Polskie Srodk.Wsch.). Three different handstamps were used with minor differences in the ornamentation.

With the bulk of the Polish troops moving back to Palestine on April 30, 1942, the Polish lines of communication opened post office 102 at Rue Zamalek, Cairo, for the Polish Town Major. Initially it used EPP 32 until March 13, 1943, when the 102 datestamp was issued (*Fig.3*). This was of a more simple design, and numbers 130, 131, 132 and 141 of a similar design were issued at the same time.

While the troops were in Egypt the return address was Alexandria P.O.B. 2155 for troops based near by, or Cairo P.O.B. 900 for those stationed in the Nile Delta. Letters are also found with "Cairo, Egypt-Polish Forces" as the return address, mainly around the time the Poles were at Tobruk.

		Opened	Closed
GPP 101	Sidi Bishr	20.9.41	to Palestine 30.4.42
	Qassasin	13.3.48	6.4.48
PP 102	Cairo	13.3.43	30.11.46
PP 103	Qassasin	9.3.44	27.8.47
PP 104	Qassasin	10.1.44	
	Port Said	3.2.44	to Italy 5.2.44
PP 106	Qassasin	15.3.44	to Italy 20.4.44
PP 109	Qassasin	28.1.45	
	El Amirya	16.5.45	
	Alexandria	14.10.45	to Italy 14.10.45
PP 111	El Dekheila	5.10.40	
Postal Agency	Mersa Matruh	24.5.41	
	Sidi Hanesh	3.7.41	
	Tobruk	24.8.41	
	El Amirya	22.3.42	to Palestine 28.4.42
	Qassasin	27.11.43	
	Port Said	13.12.44	to Italy 19.12.43
PP 112	Sidi Bishr	22.12.41	to Palestine 31.3.42
PP 113	Cairo	20.4.42	to Iraq 31.10.42
	Qassasin	2.1.44	
	Port Said	15.3.44	to Italy
PP 114	Kantara	4.12.44	10.1.48
PP 116	Qassasin	27.1.44	
	Port Said	15.3.44	to Italy 15.3.44

PP 117	Qassasin	8.12.43	
	Port Said	18.1.44	to Italy 18.1.44
PP 118	Qassasin	12.12.43	
	Alexandria	23.1.44	to Italy 23.1.44
PP 121	Qassasin	25.11.43	
	Alexandria	19.12.43	to Italy 19.12.43
PP 122	Qassasin	26.11.43	
	Alexandria	19.12.43	to Italy 19.12.43
PP 123	Qassasin	17.11.43	
	El Amirya	17.12.43	
	Alexandria	9.4.44	to Italy 9.4.44
PP 124	Qassasin	30.1.44	
	Port Said	15.2.44	to Italy 17.2.44
PP 127	Qassasin	16.12.43	
	Alexandria	21.2.43	to Italy 21.2.43
PP 131	Qassasin	1.1.44	
	Alexandria	28.4.44	to Italy 28.4.44
PP 132	Qassasin	25.11.43	
	Alexandria	19.12.43	to Italy
PP 135	Qassasin	10.12.43	
	El Amirya	16.1.44	to Italy 17.2.44
PP 141	Qassasin	13.1.45	to Palestine 24.2.45

The table attempts to portray the use of the datestamps, not the dates of the postal stations while in Egypt or the Western Desert. Only a few of the datestamps were used in Egypt for any length of time: GPP 101 and PP 111 while the Poles were assigned to the Western Desert and Tobruk; GPP 101 for a short while in 1948 as the last Poles were repatriated; PP 102 and PP 103 from the end of 1943 when most of the Poles had moved to Italy.

PP 114 was based at Polish Military Hospital 5 at El Kantara on the eastern bank of the Suez Canal. After the departure of the 7th Infantry Division, this PP was closed on January 26, 1944. It remained inactive until December 4, 1944, when it reopened at the Polish Military Hospital, again serving Hospital 5, which changed its name to 8 Polish General Hospital during December 1946. It finally closed on January 10, 1948, when the last of the Poles left Egypt for Britain.

A lot of the data used in this article is drawn from the books by Jerzy Kucharski and Ryszard Wagner. Kucharski's book is written almost exclusively from the point of view of the Holy Land collector and skirts over the Egyptian episodes. It does however contain a lot of useful background information. Wagner was a member of the Polish military postal services from the time of their conception and ended up in London in 1946. His book contains much more detail and covers Iraq, Iran, Palestine Egypt and Italy.

Both mention the use of British FPOs and the EPP datestamps loaned to the Poles. Ignoring the FPOs, some of which were issued for use on postal orders only, Egyptian Pre Paid datestamps numbers 21, 32, 51, 64, 82 and 98 are mentioned. Cross-referencing these with Benians and Startup, there could be some doubt about their use. Startup references an official list dated August 12, 1941, which states that Nos. 32, 64, 82 and 98 were issued to the Poles. Benians' book was compiled from extensive recording of covers seen, and he notes that EPP 32 had "long associated use with the Polish contingent". He references eight covers dated 16 OC 41

to 5 NO 47 all with Polish connections. Of the other EPPs, no known covers are associated with Poles in Benians' book. In some cases the earliest recorded use is after the datestamp was supposedly handed back. So either these datestamps were not used by the Poles or possibly their use was slight and no covers have found their way into collectors' hands. Perhaps they could be one of the great rarities for Holy Land or Egyptian philatelist.



GPP 101 15.V.42 soon after moving back to Palestine



EPP 32 14.MR.42 used by the postal agency, at this on the Bir Hachiem-Gazala line

References:

- The Postal History of the Polish Field Post Offices in the Holy Land 1940-1947.* Jerzy Kucharski. The Society of Israel Philatelists 1981.
- History of the Polish Army Postal Service Middle East and Italy 1940-1940.* Ryszard Wagner. Caldra House Ltd. 1992.
- Egypt Postage Prepaid Military Datestamps 1941-1947.* F.W. (Jim) Benians. National Philatelic Society. 1978.
- Egypt Postage Prepaid Military Datestamps 1941-47.* R.M.Startup in F.P.H.S. newsletter No.186, winter 1985.
- The Polish Army 1939-45.* Steven Zaloga. Osprey Publishing, London 1982
- The Phoenix Army – the Polish Army in World War II.* Maciej Jonasz in Command Issue 51, 1999.
- Foreign Volunteers of the Allied Forces 1939-45.* Nigel Thomas. Osprey Publishing, London, 1991



PP 102 XI.44 based at Cairo.
Used by the lines of communication
up until 3.1.47

PP 113 27.5.43 just before moving
from Iraq to Nuseirat near Gaza.
British postal rates were used



PP 114 15.X.47 served the 8
Polish General Hospital at El
Kantara, closing 10.1.1948

Query 116 from a non-member – Instructional marking

Someone has suggested that the return hand stamp on this cover, reading Communications Suspendues / Retour a l'Origine, all in French, might have been applied in Alexandria or another Egyptian port. Could this be the case?

**Response to Query 116 from Mike Murphy (ESC 240)**

That there is no Arabic makes me wonder whether it can be Egyptian – though our recent listing (see *QC* 243, pp 178-184) does include one all-French Egyptian marking from July 1881. The cover left New York on Aug 5, and the Egyptian backstamps are Alex 2 Oct, and Port Taufiq ?? Oct. So the marking might have been struck at the end of its outward journey, to be followed by Egyptian transit on the way back to USA. Since French was the international diplomatic language, Greece (which lost Smyrna to the Turks in battle on Aug 27 1922) or Turkey will have been using it for their international markings. The jury is out.

Query 117 from Richard Wilson (ESC 230) – Curved ABU QIR.

Has anyone seen the use of the curved ABU QIR civil datestamp on postal concession covers of the 1932-36 (pre Army Post) period? In searching through the literature and my covers I found only one with the curved c.d.s. All the other covers have a straight-line datestamp. If you have the curved c.d.s a scan would be appreciated.



Air Mail Jottings - Another Marc Pourpe cover.

John Sears (ESC 188)

Stuart Billington of Grosvenor Auctions recently drew my attention to an item in the latter's sale of March 6, 2013: the illustration is from the Catalogue.

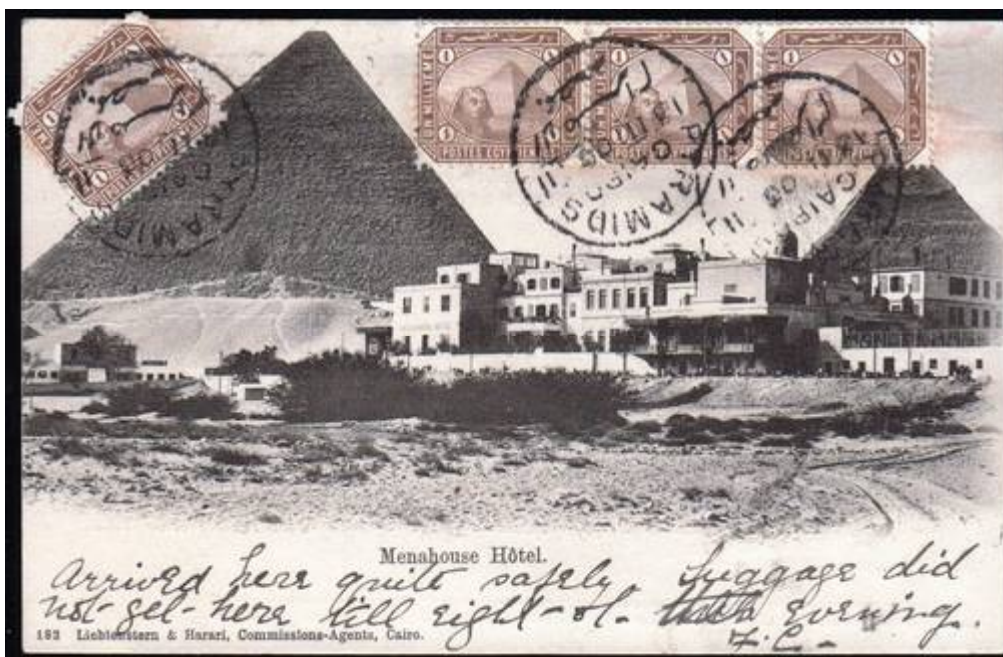
This is an example not previously known, and it becomes Number 29 in the Circle Records. It appears to have been carried on the Northern flight from Khartoum, or was perhaps picked up on the way. The 5m Egypt stamp was the correct postage to the UK, cancelled Heliopolis 3 II 14, which corresponds to other covers recorded. On the reverse is a transit mark of Cairo, and the arrival mark of Bristol.

The addressee is a boy, who probably had it in his collection where it possibly remained undiscovered until now. Such covers seem to come to light every five years or so. I wonder if there are any more.



Maxicard \$1,713 shock on eBay!

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)



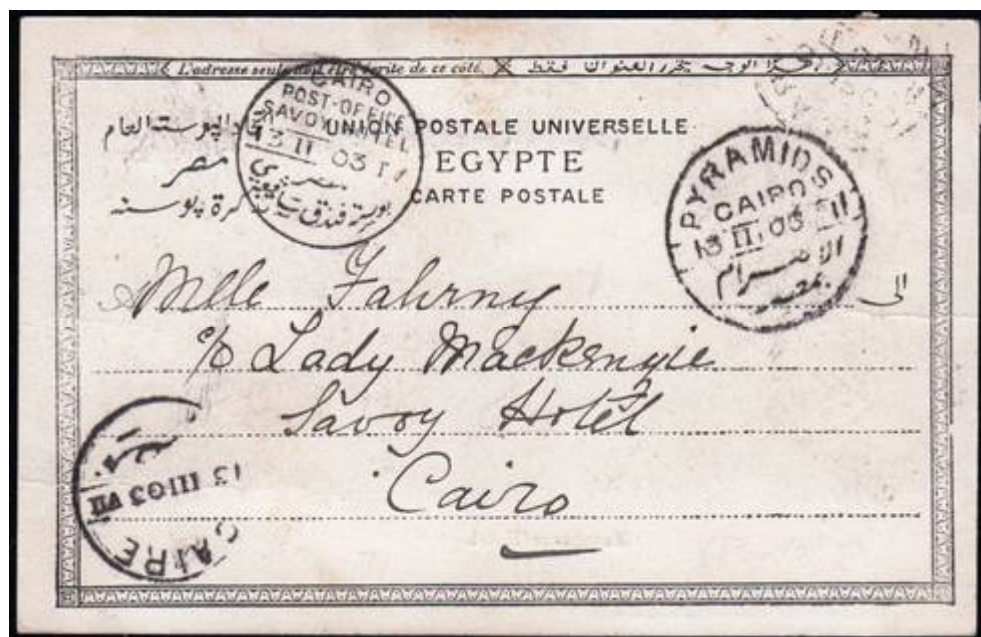
One of our senior members received quite a shock – probably better termed a “very pleasant surprise” – on the internet auction site eBay recently when he put up for sale a familiar black-and-white Lichtenstern & Harari UPU single-back postcard showing the Mena House (captioned as Menahouse) Hotel with the Pyramids looming above.

Franked with four examples of the DLR 1-millime stamp to cover the printed matter rate and addressed to Mlle Fahmy, c/o Lady Mackenzie, at the Savoy Hotel, Cairo, it bore the simple message: “Arrived here quite safely. Luggage did not get here till eight o/c this evening.” I presume the message was written on March 12, 1903, for all the datestamps, including the Cairo / Post-Office / Savoy Hotel arrival, are dated 13 III 03.

But it is likely to be the “maxicard” aspect of a “Pyramids” postcard with a “Pyramids” postmark that led to such astonishing bidding. Entered at a modest starting price of \$9.99, the card attracted steady and strong bidding until it stood at a remarkable \$799 with just eight seconds to go...after 17 bids from ten bidders.

But those last eight seconds proved telling evidence of the efficacy of eSnipe or the like, the online bidding

system that can place a bid literally in the last seconds without giving any hint of earlier interest.



Four bids arrived – and the card eventually went for an astonishing \$1,713, the equivalent of £1,132.94, to a bidder with a previous eBay transaction history of 152 items.

It was his first and only bid on the item. He must have really wanted it.

Australia 2013 World Stamp Exhibition

Richard Wheatley (ESC 168)

This exhibition was held in Melbourne from 10 to 15 May and it turned out to be a feast of philately.

There were 50 Large Gold medals awarded and 121 Gold medals, so as you can see the standard was exceptionally high. The Grand Prix National went to Arthur Woo (U.K.) for his exhibit *Western Australia – The Classic Stamps Printed from Perkins Bacon Plates*. The Grand Prix International went to Emil Buhmann (South Africa) for *Cape of Good Hope – The Hope Rectangular Design during the Victorian Period*.

It was no surprise to see the Grand Prix D'Honneur being won by an Australian exhibit, albeit owned by Koichi Sato (Japan) *Tasmania: Imperforate Stamps from “Courier” to “Chalon Head”*.

Exhibits with an Egyptian flavour were as follows:

Pietro Bajocchi (ESC 374):	<i>The Fourth Issue of Egypt 1879 – 1914. Vermeil</i>
Mahmoud Ramadan (ESC 358):	<i>Egypt Government Post 1893 – 1923. Vermeil</i>
Hisham Bassyouny (ESC 391):	<i>Egypt Postage Prepaid (EPP) Military Datestamps 1941 – 1947. Large Silver.</i>
Nael Hamdy:	<i>The Development of Egypt Postal Services 1879 – 1913. Vermeil.</i>
Hany Salam (ESC 580):	<i>Egypt: Maritime Mail Routes, 19th Century. Gold.</i>
Ado Trautmann:	<i>Postal History of Egypt until 1889. Large Vermeil.</i>
Hany Ahmed Al-Kilani:	<i>Egyptian Postal Stationery. Vermeil.</i>

There were two exhibits in the One Frame class where the exhibits are given marks only:

Richard Wilson (ESC 230):	<i>The Three Milliemes Army Post Stamps for use by the British Forces in Egypt 1936 – 41. 82 marks.</i>
Khaled Mostafa (ESC 638):	<i>Egypt's Retta Cancellations 1866 – 1952. 71 marks.</i>

To their credit the Philatelic Society of Egypt provided one of the Special Prizes.

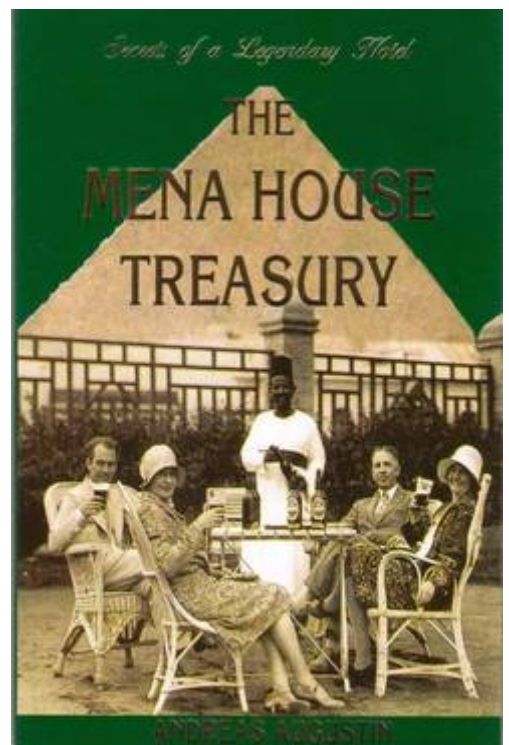
BOOK REVIEW: The Mena House Treasury, by Andreas Augustin

Firstly, a little about the author: he runs a history project concerning the most elegant and famous hotels around the world and has been responsible for some twenty books thus far. He is backed by a team of researchers and his series on the most famous hotels in the world includes the Savoy in London and the Oriental in Bangkok.

The Mena House Treasury includes a brief history of one of Egypt's most prestigious hotels, now a part of the Indian Oberoi Group, and details some of the many world famous individuals who have spent time there. The first biography of the Hotel, by Nina Nelson, provides a fuller picture of its history, but this little gem of a book brings one up to date - there has been a 200 bed extension since Nina Nelson's day.

These well known visitors include Chiang Kai Shek of China, President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the United States, Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and Sir Miles Lampson (later Lord Kinneard) of Great Britain at the Cairo Conference of November 22-26, 1943. The conference discussed the terms of Japanese surrender, although this would not happen for almost two years, during World War II

There is a permanent suite named after General Bernard Montgomery, who defeated Rommel in the Western Desert, the first victory over Axis



forces during the war. As we know now, el-Alamein was one of the turning points in the war. Other major suites are named after the King of Sweden and the aforementioned Winston S. Churchill. During President Sadat's peace initiative towards Israel, American President Jimmy Carter occupied the Churchill Suite while Anwar Sadat resided in the Montgomery Suite.

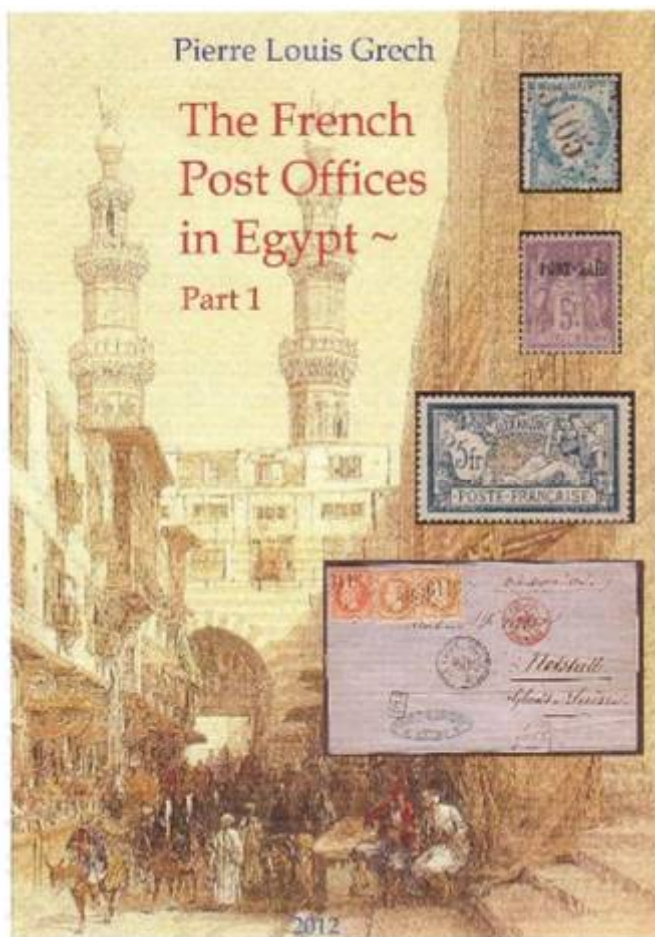
Other famous visitors American President Richard Nixon, Prince Takamado of Japan, HRH the King of Sweden, HH The Aga Khan, HRH Sofia and King Juan Carlos of Spain in the 'royalty' section, Gloria Gaynor, Charlton Heston, Eleanor Parker, Frank Sinatra, Charlie Chaplin, Omar Sharif and Roger Moore among many celebrities.

Beautifully presented and filled with colour and black and white photographs in its 88 pages, this little book is highly recommended; it is now in the ESC Library and is available for loan

John Davis

BOOK REVIEW: The French Post Offices in Egypt Part I by Pierre Louis Grech. 2012

As I have been a half-hearted collector of French stamps for many years but knew very little about them, I started a collection of French Post Offices in Egypt some twenty plus years ago, about the same time as I started a collection of maritime postmarks of Egypt. Now I have the answers to almost all my questions, and when I say almost, I mean that I cannot wait for Part II to answer the remainder.



Knowing Pierre/Peter, I knew that this book would not disappoint and it doesn't; beautifully presented, and with superb illustrations throughout, it is chock full of information much of which cannot be found in English elsewhere.

The subject matter is dealt with in typical Peter fashion giving background where required but with a minimum of fuss and getting straight to the point. If you collect this material it will be so much easier to write up your pages, particularly the postal history in this volume, because stamps issued by France are covered here as they were used at French Consulates, and on French paquebots, until the stamps produced specifically for use at Port Said and Alexandria in 1899 - this volume covers until 1876 with Part II covering the various issues of stamps from 1876 until the offices closed in 1931.

The 21 chapters of Part I include information concerning Napoleon's Egyptian Campaign, Mohamed Ali and his dynasty including the origins of the Capitulations, the Overland Route across Egypt prior to the Suez Canal, the Foreign Consular Posts, the Posta Europea, including the correction from Carlo Meratti (once it's wrongly printed, it gets wrongly quoted until someone puts it right!) to Pietro Santo Michele Merrati, the founder. Later chapters include the building of the Suez Canal and

its 'stamps', the French maritime postmarks, Ligne V, Ligne M, Ligne X, Ligne N and Ligne T, all with sailings and the octagonal postmarks used on the various routes, Recommandée and Chargé, did you know the difference?

Chapters 22 to 38 are listed for convenience so what comes in Part II is eagerly anticipated. I cannot recommend this book more highly and wish the author much success in its sales.

John Davis