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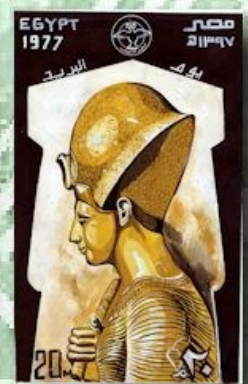
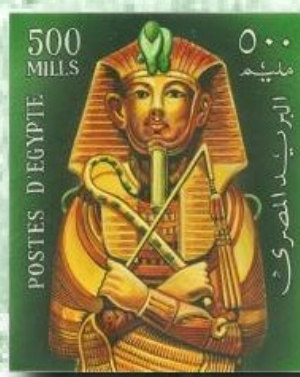
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EGYPT.

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.

(نمبر ٣٩ ٨٩)
ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES D'ÉGYPTE
مصلحة البوستة المصرية

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION علم التسليم

L'Expéditeur de l'objet suivant (1) *Lettre recommandée*
موسل لارسالية الاتي بيانها وهي (١)

portant le N^o *24489* et l'adresse de M. *Ch. Saporio*
à Tripoli
بوسم جناب روضو عليها نمرة

désire savoir s'il a été reçu. يوجب الاستعلام عما اذا كانت تسلمت ام كيف

L'Employé des Postes.
مستخدم البوستة

[Signature]

L'envoi ci-dessus désigné m'a été remis contre reçu le *11 Juin 86*
لارسالية الوصحة اعلاه تسلمت بالاىصال اللازم بتاريخ
1886 سنة ١٨٨٠

Signature,
لاعضا
[Signature]

(1) Indiquer la nature de l'envoi, si c'est un objet recommandé, une lettre de valeur déclarée, ou un colis postal avec ou sans valeur déclarée.
Cet avis doit être renvoyé, sous recommandation d'office, au bureau d'origine, muni de la signature du destinataire; si ce dernier ne consent pas à le signer son refus et la remise de l'envoi doivent être attestés par l'employé du bureau de destination, lequel utilise à cet effet la formule ci-dessus en la modifiant. Le bureau d'origine se charge, ensuite, de le faire tenir à l'expéditeur, comme objet recommandé.
Au moment de l'expédition on doit attacher cette formule à l'envoi avec une épingle, excepté pour les colis postaux, pour lesquels elle doit être attachée au bulletin d'expédition.

(١) يتوضه نوع الارسالية اذا كانت مسجلة او خطاب ذا قيمة مقررة او طرد بوستة مؤمن او غير مؤمن عليه
يصبر رد هذا العلم مسجلا رسميا للمكتب المرسل الاصلى بعد امضائه من المرسل اليه فان لم يقبل امضاه يتوضه من مستخدم المكتب المرسل اليه عن ذلك وعن تسليم الارسالية على هذا المطبوع بعد اجرا تعديله به ثم على المكتب المرسل الاصلى ان يسلم هذا مسجلا للمرسل منه
يحال تصدير الارسالية يرفق بها هذا المطبوع مشموكا بدبوس انما تستثنى من ذلك طرود البوستة اذ يقتضى ارفاق المطبوع المذكور بحافظة ارسال

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Meetings dates for 2017

Two meetings will be held at 2pm in the Allenby Room at the **Victory Services Club**, Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London. The September meeting at **Stampex (Sept 12-15) is at 2.30pm.**

July 8, 2pm	Services Club	Metered Mail	Paul Green and members
Sept 16, 2.30pm	Stampex	Ten Sheets	All members
Nov 4, 2pm	Services Club	Boy King	John Davis

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Facebook

Report of the Meeting, May 6 – Lehnert & Landrock (Roman Rimonis, ESC 486)

PRESENT: John Sears (President), John Davis (Chairman), Jon Aitchison (Deputy Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Sami Sadek (Committee), Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Neil Hitchens, Roman Rimonis. Apologies: Cyril Defriez, Pauline Gittoes, Edmund Hall, Brian Sedgley, Sherif Samra.

Opening his first meeting as Chairman, John Davis welcomed all those present, and especially Roman Rimonis (ESC 486), our speaker for the day, attending his first meeting in a membership of 20 years. The Chairman also noted with great regret the recent passing of Joan Jeyes, the wife of our long-standing member Alan Jeyes (ESC 293).

The Chairman mentioned that after many years in office our Treasurer, Brian Sedgley, had expressed a wish to stand down at the next AGM. Any member willing to take over should contact the Chairman or Secretary.

The Secretary then announced the result of a recent attempt to tidy up the long chase after members' subscriptions, noting that large amounts of time and expense had been expended in trying to elicit responses from non-payers. The result is several resignations, more lapsings, and sadly, a net loss of 13 members. He announced that subscription dates and rates would be advertised strongly in the September and December QCs, and that non-payers would get short shrift. To set against the loss, he announced two new member applications, and the meeting welcomed Roy Burnett from Aberdeen and Mohammed Seif of Sharjah.

He also announced that our Egyptian colleagues would be holding another ambitious continental exhibition in March 2019, to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, and invited members to plan for what is likely to be a spectacular occasion. In other news from Egypt, he welcomed Madame Ghada Fouad as the new head of the Postal Museum in Ataba and the Philatelic Bureau: there are high hopes of great progress under her energetic and resourceful tenure

Turning to 2018 meetings, he apologised for the limited time available at Stampex for the AGM and Live Auction – which raised a net total of £290 commission for the Circle despite a notable reduction in the number of postal bids – and it was decided that the whole of the Stampex meeting next spring should be devoted to the Auction, with the AGM to follow at the May meeting.

In the absence of Edmund Hall (Webmaster/Editor), Neil Hitchens (ESC 651) reported on progress in the gradual (and let's hope long-term) handover of the website's intricacies. He announced that he had been in close contact with Edmund and was confident that, though there was much to learn, continuity of site access and development would be assured should the need arise. The learning curve continues.

Wearing his Librarian cap, the Chairman noted that members may not be fully aware of what the Library contained, and suggested that awareness might be increased if members borrowed books and wrote a few review paragraphs for publication in the *QC*.

Sami Sadek (ESC 559), who is engaged with Ibrahim Shoukry and Mike Murphy in a new examination of the TPO service, extending and expanding the late Peter Smith's *The Travelling Post Offices of Egypt*, made a request to all members to seek out examples of TPO markings and forward the details, with scans or photocopies. The more markings that can be viewed, the more comprehensive the final volume.

Our speaker, Roman Rimonis, who hails from Yorkshire, has been a constant visitor to Egypt over the past 19 years, and after discovering the delights of the Lehnert and Landrock bookshop in central Cairo, has formed a firm friendship with Edouard Lambelet, the son of Kurt Lambelet, stepson of the bookkeeper Ernst Heinrich Landrock, who founded the business with Rudolf Franz Lehnert, the photographer.

The original aim was to sell Lehnert's photographs of North Africa, and the business opened up in Tunis in 1904, at the height of the postcard-publishing craze. The move to Cairo was made in 1924, and it was in about 1950 that Kurt Lambelet took over, enlarging the business from postcard publishing to a very well-stocked bookshop catering for tourists and employing as many as 35 people at its height.



Time has unfortunately moved on, and the original L&L façade has been left behind – until the tourists return to Cairo

French authorities in 1914 and lost for decades but only fairly recently rediscovered and restored – a true treasure-house of history.

Prints from these plates helped to support a flourishing business, popular with Cairenes and tourists alike, until the recent political turmoil reduced the number of visitors to Cairo to little more than a trickle. The main shop on Sherif Street has been closed and a much smaller establishment set up on Abdel Khalek Sarwat Street close to the PSE headquarters. Happily, there is now a Facebook site (<http://tinyurl.com/mvt5faf>) full of photographs and memories. Just like our meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting by congratulating Roman on a “completely eye-opening impression of the history of Lehnert and Landrock”. Members expressed their great appreciation.

A New Military Cachet?

John Davis (ESC 213)

I am indebted, yet again, to Bill Johns who very kindly sent me a cover from World War I and on the reverse is a military cachet MILITARY WIRELESS in a double oval with stars and EGYPT at the foot. Struck in cerise, the outer oval is a thick line with a thinner line immediately inside it and a similar line inside the legend. Dated 7th February 1915, I cannot find reference to it even in John Firebrace’s epic work, so I can only assume it has not been recorded previously.



The cover itself is franked 5 millièmes De La Rue pictorial issue of 1914, cancelled at Ismailia (bridge and star) and dated 9th November 1915. It is addressed to Stockport, England and is otherwise unremarkable but although there is no evidence of its arrival, one must assume it did. Equally one must assume that Military Wireless was based at Ismailia or nearby on the Suez Canal, and that the letter was posted in the civilian post office in that city. Has anyone any further information?

Peter Andrews (ESC 122, 1925-2017): An Appreciation

Peter Andrews came to the rescue of the Study Circle at the Annual General Meeting of early 2007, after the tragic sudden death in Shanghai of Robin Bertram. He took over as Chairman in typically self-deprecatory manner, willing to shoulder the necessary burden and aware that we needed a firm hand to steady the ship. Unexpectedly, he continued to steer us into calmer waters for a full ten years before stepping down at 92 in February.

He was known as a quiet man, but the several members who attended the celebration of his life in Braintree in June 18 saw a different side to Peter, with one after another of his extended family providing moving tributes to an active and adventurous life. With grandchildren in Saudi Arabia and Australia, he was virtually always on the move, his inquiring mind searching as far as Hong Kong, China and New Zealand for yet more fascinating facts and scenes – and causing him to miss the odd meeting when it clashed with an overseas visit.

Egypt was his supreme philatelic love, and also a place he loved to visit, from Cairo 91 through to the rather odd Sharm el-Sheikh exhibition in late 2008. And he was a regular visitor to Tony and Jenny Chisholm's Coromandel Coast stamp weeks (see below). He joined the Circle in late 1965, and quickly illustrated his attention to detail by indexing Volume V (1957-62) of the *QC* only a couple of years later. In January 1969 he became Secretary/Treasurer, and over the years fulfilled pretty well every Circle role – meeting leader, study leader, organiser and host of regional meetings, regular *QC* and Question Time contributor, chairman of the expert committee, an invaluable member of the Auction team, even editing a couple of *QCs* in emergency.

His philatelic interests were wide, but one overriding love was the censorship system, which culminated in his publishing, in 2003, the highly regarded *Censorship of Civil Mail in Egypt, 1939-1945*, which Peter Smith described as providing a definitive listing of these markings.

Peter led meetings on a wide range of interests - the First Issue, Crown overprints, the first Farouk issue, hotels, postal stationery, the postal concession period, Officials, postcards, cassette envelopes, “damaged in transit”, and was very keen to support three recent initiatives: Edmund Hall's ESC website, the continuing TPOs study, and the fledgling study of Instructional Markings... always able to provide welcome and supplementary evidence for a meeting or in its immediate wake. A private man and always soft spoken, his gentle voice concealed a generous spirit and wide-ranging knowledge that he was invariably willing to share.

An electrical engineer, Peter was born in Warsop in Nottingham, starting as an apprentice, and was always busy, brought up in an era when “hands should never be idle”. In retirement, when he said he wondered how he'd ever found time to go to work, he devoted himself to travelling, his far-flung family and ... Egypt stamps.

Although we shall miss him, we are thankful that he was spared to live such a long, useful and interesting life and grateful for all he did for the Circle and for the wider world of philately.

– **Mike Murphy**

Tribute from New Zealand: I know I speak for all the local members here - Sue Claridge, Anabright Hay, Herb Cowley and Claude Paulsen, together with Jenny Chisholm - all of whom had the pleasure of meeting Peter (some on multiple occasions as he visited several times after staying with family in Australia) when conveying how pleased we all have been to benefit from his extensive knowledge of Egyptian philately. Always humble and the perfect guest both here in Wellington and up at Matarangi Beach, Peter endeared himself to us all and we can only imagine the same, but amplified sentiments, for those who had shared meetings and travel experiences with him up in the northern hemisphere. I would be most grateful if you would please convey our condolences to Peter's family, a true gentleman and one whose contribution and leadership of our Circle will be sadly missed by all his friends here.

– **Tony Cakebread (ESC 536)**



1957 - Rejected Egyptian Mail

Pierre Louis Grech (ESC 266)

At the ESC meeting held in the Victory Services Club on 18 July 2015, John Sears displayed Air Mail Rates. One cover which attracted much attention was a registered letter from Port-Saïd, addressed to Monte Carlo, dated 23 May 1957. Franked philatelically with a dozen stamps, the letter transited through Cairo Airport on 24 May. However it was never delivered, being Returned to Sender by the French Postal Authorities. On the back is a Port-Saïd return arrival postmark of 3 July 1957. (Figs. 1 and 2).



Fig.1- John Sears' rejected cover. Note the *INADMIS Convention Postale Universelle, Article 59 § 1º, d.*



Fig.2 - Reverse of the cover above. "In case of non-delivery return to sender".

What was the reason for this non-delivery? It was due to a Universal Postal Union (UPU) regulation! According to Article 59, paragraph 1.d of the 1952 UPU Convention (Brussels Congress) it was forbidden to send in the post *obscene or immoral items*. Each Postal Administration was (deliberately) free to interpret the meaning of those words and to reject any mail containing offensive material. Such mail could be sent back, with the refusal notice: "Inadmis - Convention Postale Universelle, Art. 59 § 1º d".

Still smarting from the humiliation of the disastrous 1956 Suez Crisis campaign, and the subsequent withdrawal of the invading British, French and Israeli troops, France applied this UPU rejection clause to any mail with stamps depicting events relating to that war.

This particular letter bears both the “Port-Said Nov 1956” stamp (SG 519, Balian 176, issued 20 Dec.1956) and below it the same stamp with the red overprint “Evacuation 22-12-56” in English and Arabic, (SG 520, Balian 177, issued 14 January 1957) which was issued after the departure of the foreign troops. These stamps depict the gallant resistance of Port-Said, with dead Allied parachutists on the beach. But they also display something else in the background ...

During the fighting in November 1956, it was rumoured in Egypt that frogmen with a torpedo had hit and sank the French cruiser *Jean Bart* (Fig. 3)). It was obviously not so, but served as the backdrop in the “Port-Said, Nov. 1956” stamp, where the ship is seen sinking on the horizon (Fig. 4). This irritating item of propaganda further resolved the French Post to reject these stamps.

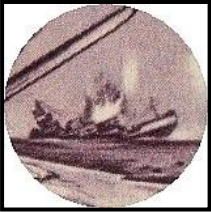


Fig.4 - The sinking !

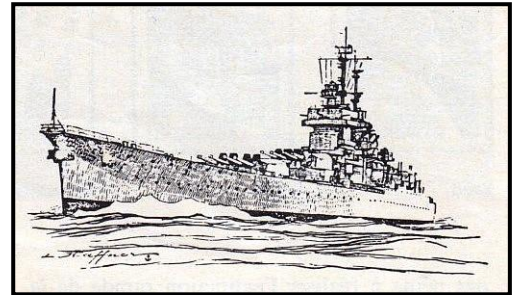


Fig.3 - The French cruiser Jean Bart.

There is another letter, in Peter Grech's collection, which suffered the same fate (Fig. 5 and 6). Sent from Heliopolis on 31 March 1957 to Paris, it bears the Port-Said 1956 overprint, and was rejected on that basis. On the front is the word RETOUR, and the annotation on the back reads: Inadmis.

Convention Postale Universelle Art.59 § 1° d.

The letter was returned to Cairo (15 April) then misdirected to Al Ismailia (16 April), probably because the original Heliopolis postmark was almost illegible.

Fig.5- Another rejected cover. Marked Retour.



Fig.6- Reverse of the cover and Inadmis inscription.



Fig.7 - The two Port-Said stamps.

The Allies began parachute drops on 5 November, about 7am. The stamp probably illustrates the French descent onto the Port-Said beach (from low level, with casualties). At the same time the British descended onto the Gamil airport to the west.

Such returned items of mail are very scarce. This second cover formerly belonged to Jean Boulad d'Humières who published articles about it in the *Swiss Philatelic Journal*, No. 9, 1973, and in *Les Feuilles Marcophiles - Information* No. 14, April 1977. It was also illustrated in an article about the Port-Saïd November 1956 stamp in QC No. 219, December 2006 (back page); 50th anniversary of the stamp's issue.



Note the dates of the two letters above: 31 March and 23 May 1957.

Later that year, a new set of stamps labelled "Egypt Tomb of Aggressors" (SG 532-536, Balian 189-193) was issued on 26 July 1957. The last value of the set (SG 536) shows the re-embarkation of Franco-British troops onto ships leaving Port-Saïd in December 1956, (Fig. 8) under the watchful eye of an Egyptian soldier. This was another red rag to the French bull!

Fig.8 - Evacuation stamp.

This time the French Post Office issued a formal notice (Fig. 9) advising the rejection of items of mail bearing that particular stamp (whereas no official document has been located for the earlier 1957 rejections, as evidenced by the two letters above). It was published in the *Bulletin Officiel*, organ of the French PTT.

The notice translates as: "1957 - Official Bulletin of the PTT - Page 217./ Classification B 240, Volume p.98, Distribution F, Document 268, Po 43./ This leaflet contains a single text./ Po 5- Notice of 17 September 1957. Subject : Mail originating from Egypt. (Concerns also the Overseas Departments).

The Administration has been informed that items of correspondence originating from Egypt have been franked with postage stamps the subject of which is considered to be insulting to France. These figurines, with a face value of 10 millièmes, of large horizontal format and bistre colour, notably bear the double inscription: "Egypt Tomb of Aggressors 1957" and "Port-Saïd 1956".

Mail franked with that type of postage stamp must be systematically returned to its origin, with the inscription "Unacceptable - Universal Postal Convention, Article 59 § 1^{er}, d."

1957		BULLETIN OFFICIEL DES P.T.T.		Page : 217
CLASSEMENT : B 240.	DIFFUSION	DOCUMENT 268		
RECUEIL : p. 98.	F	Po 43		
● Ce fascicule contient un seul texte ●				
Po 5	NOTE du 17 septembre 1957.			
OBJET	Correspondances originaires d'Égypte.			
(Concerne également les départements d'outre-mer)				
<p>L'Administration a été informée que des correspondances originaires d'Égypte étaient revêtues de timbres-poste dont le sujet est considéré comme présentant un caractère injurieux pour la France. Ces figurines, d'une valeur de 10 millièmes, de grand format horizontal et de couleur bistre, comportent notamment la double inscription : « Egypt Tomb of aggressors 1957 », « Port-Saïd 1956 ».</p> <p>Les envois affranchis au moyen de timbres-poste de l'espèce devront être systématiquement retournés à l'origine, avec la mention : « Inadmis. Convention Postale Universelle, article 59, § 1^{er}, d. »</p>				

Fig.9 - The official rejection notice.

That SG 536 stamp and the French Post Office notice were the subject of Query 97 by André Navari (ESC 534) in QC No. 239, p. 95, December 2011, further to an article in *Les Feuilles Marcophiles*, issue 346, p. 7.

It remained unanswered simply because no cover is so far known addressed to France with that SG 536 stamp and the rejection notice.

Apparently the British Post Office was more pragmatic, with no such mail-rejection procedure being reported. Was there ever one? And has any one got a cover from Egypt to the UK, sent in 1957, bearing one of the three stamps in question? If so, please inform the QC Editor to have that interesting item published.

Consular Revenues and the Campaign for Nubia

Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)

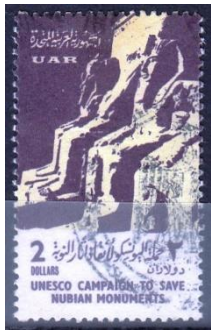


Fig 1

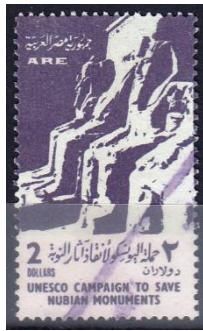


Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6

In March 1960, just two months after work on the Aswan High Dam was started, the Director-General of Unesco, the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation, launched a worldwide appeal to save the 3,000-year-old monuments of Nubia from being flooded up to 50 metres deep by the dammed waters of the Nile. Over the next 20 years money and aid of all sorts were gratefully received in a defining example of international solidarity, and dozens of temples and monuments, including the two temples of Abu Simbel and the temple complex on the island of Philae, were rescued for posterity.

As part of its economic contribution, the Egyptian Government required all of its visitors to pay a nominal \$2 fee, in the shape of a consular revenue stamp to be placed in each and every arriving passport: remarkably, the only Egyptian stamp with face value in a foreign currency. Peter Feltus, in his *Catalogue of Egyptian Revenue Stamps* (1982) listed three issues, but more recent discoveries have added greatly to our knowledge. Here is a full listing as far as is known:

Fig. 1, 1962 (Feltus p.51), or perhaps 1964, dull purple and pale green, inscribed UAR and equivalent at top left, watermarked UAR, face value \$2.

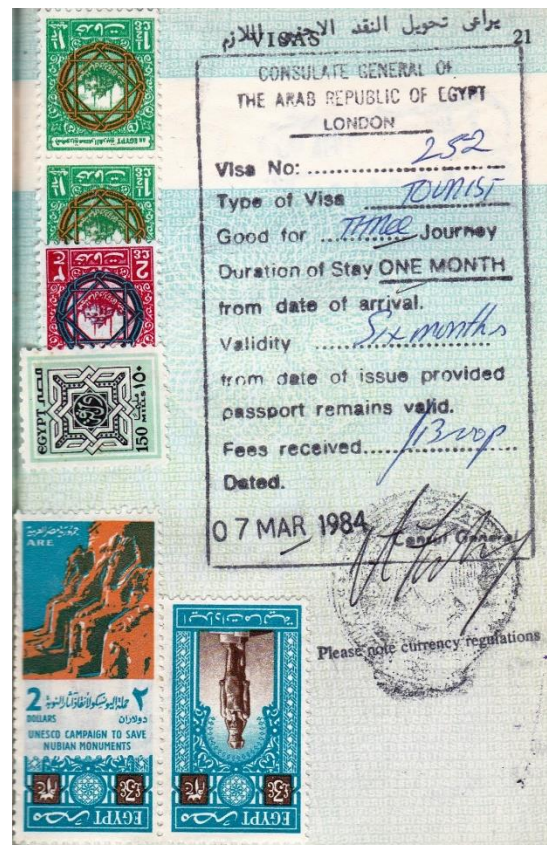
Fig. 2, 1971 (Feltus p.53), as last, but inscribed ARE and equivalent at top left instead of UAR.

Fig. 3. 1981 (Feltus p.54), colour changed to greenish blue and dull orange, design redrawn but essentially same, perforation changed from $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ to 11, watermark large eagles sideways.

Fig. 4, 1983 (so unrecorded by Feltus), as last, but with inscriptions redrawn, most obviously in shape and curvature of the figure 2 in both European and Arabic languages.

Fig. 5, 1985, colour changed to blue-green and yellow, and face value increased from \$2 to \$10. But this may have been a step too far – was it visitor pressure or a government realisation that a mistake had been made that led to the \$10 value indicator being surcharged with bars and lettering indicating a return to the original \$2 value? This stamp has not yet been recorded on passport pages or other documents. Was the unsurcharged stamp ever used?

Fig. 6, 1988-89, colour changed to brown and buff, but like the last, with original face value of \$20 surcharged back to original \$2. This issue has been seen on a 1988 passport page.



1981 ARE type on a 1984 visa with other revenues in a UK passport

Sinai & Gaza - Part 5: The 1948 War

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

The 1948 Palestine War was one of the most momentous events in the history of the contemporary Middle East. Israelis call the 1948 War “The War of Independence”, while the Arabs call it al-Nakba, “The Disaster”. It was the last and most dramatic phase in the struggle for Palestine and it ended in triumph and tragedy: triumph for the Israelis and tragedy for the Arabs. The subsequent history of the Middle East has been punctuated by six Arab-Israeli wars, although none of them had such far-reaching consequences and none generated so much controversy.

To try to untangle the history behind the event is at best speculative. The conventional Israeli version portrays 1948 as an unequal struggle between a Jewish David and an Arab Goliath, as a desperate, heroic and ultimately successful battle for survival against overwhelming odds. In this version, all the surrounding Arab states sent their armies into Palestine to strangle the Jewish state at birth, and the Palestinians left the country on orders from their own leaders and in the expectation of a triumphant return. Since the late 1980s, however, a group of “new historians”, or revisionist Israeli historians, have challenged many of the claims surrounding the birth of the state of Israel and the first Arab-Israeli war. Notably David Morris and Avi Shlaim.

The Israeli “new historians” have utilised newly discovered evidence from the Zionist and Israeli state archives, and other documents, to confirm in particular earlier refutations of what turn out to have been entirely baseless claims that Arab leaders told the Palestinians to flee.

Even before the state of Israel had been proclaimed, on 15 May 1948, most of the Arab inhabitants of Jaffa and Haifa had been dispersed and the bulk of their property had been seized. The same thing happened then or very soon afterwards, to the Arab residents of the cities and towns of Lydda, Ramla, Acre, Safad, Tiberias, Baysan and Bir Sabi. Together with Haifa and Jaffa, these centres held about half of the Palestinian urban population of the country, to which must be added the 30,000 Arabs who lived in the western part of Jerusalem and were driven from their homes at the same time. These new refugees from the urban areas generally tended to be those Palestinians with the highest levels of literacy, skills, wealth and education.

An even worse fate befell the majority of Palestinians who lived in the countryside, where the decades-old struggle for control of land and strategic locations was being decided massively in favour of the Israelis. More than 400 of the 500 or so Arab villages in Palestine had been taken over by the Israeli victors by the time the fighting ended with the 1949 armistices between Israel and the Arab states. The inhabitants of these villages were driven out or fled in terror, their land was confiscated, and they were forbidden to return. These were sweeping changes: in the 77 per cent of the land area of Palestine that came under Israeli domination

From the Arab side an objective view is almost impossible to find, with criticisms made by one country more often directed against the actions of *other* Arab states. Arab intellectuals have, since the immediate aftermath of the war, sought to explain their defeat as due to the shortcomings of Arab society generally. Constantine Zurayq, Sati‘ al-Husri, Musa al-‘Alami and George Hanna were among the most influential of these intellectuals, and their works gained wide circulation in the Arab world. “Yet these books,” Walid al-Khalidi argues, “were not able to eradicate and bury forever our myths of what took place in the 1948 War, in spite of their wide circulation.”

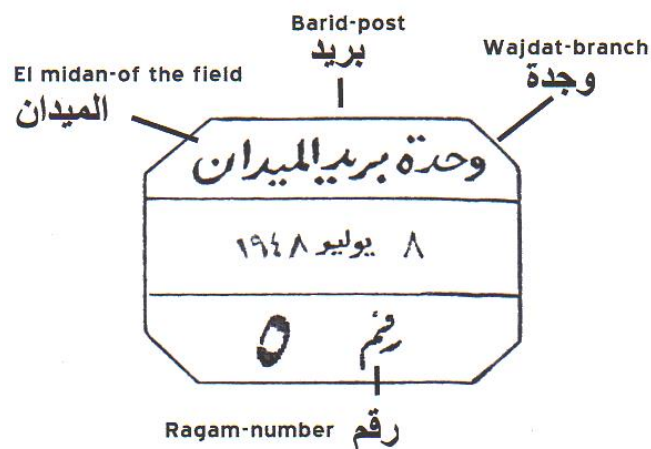
The most prominent Arab myths of the 1948 War, most of which continue to be circulated to the present day, portray the Zionist forces as mere terrorist gangs which had been surrounded in all directions by the Arab armies in the first phase of the war (15 May-11 June). The Egyptian vanguard had reached the southern

suburbs of Tel Aviv, the Iraqi advance forces had come very close to the Mediterranean coast to the west of Qalqiliya and Tulkarm, and the Jordanian Arab Legion had reached the eastern suburbs of Tel Aviv. All that was needed was a few more days to deal the enemy the mortal blow that would decide the matter, when international pressure intensified into threats and menaces and imposed the first truce on the Arabs. Thus the Israeli entity snatched victory from the jaws of inevitable defeat. The blame lies with the failure of the “other Arab state”.

Arab Palestine was destroyed and the new state of Israel established. Egypt, Syria and Lebanon suffered outright defeat, Iraq held its lines, and Transjordan won at best a pyrrhic victory. Arab public opinion, unprepared for defeat, let alone a defeat of this magnitude, lost faith in its politicians. Within three years of the end of the Palestine War the prime ministers of Egypt and Lebanon and the king of Jordan had been assassinated, and the president of Syria and the king of Egypt overthrown by military coups.

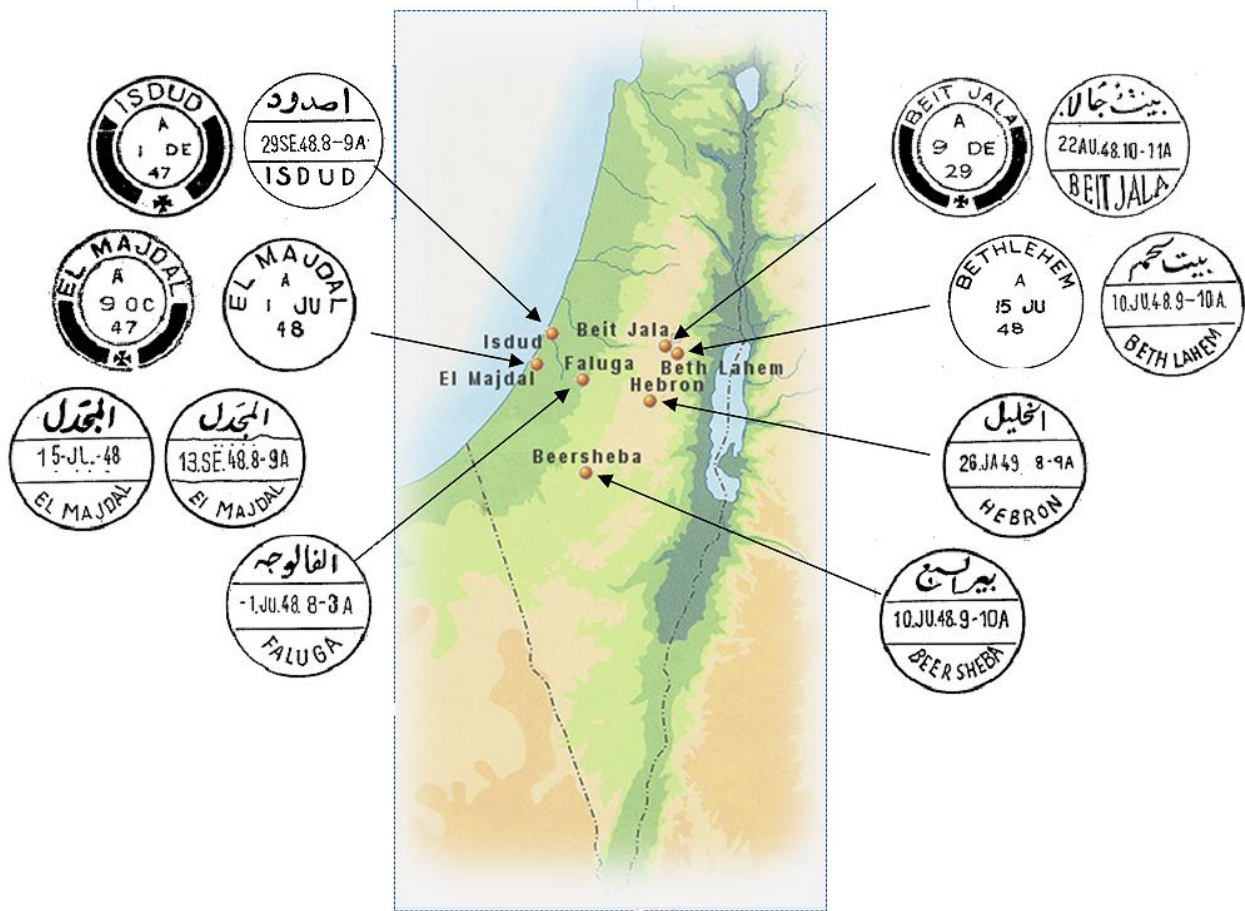
It is against this background that I have tried to clarify the history and the bearing it has on the postal history of the war from the Egyptian perspective. It touches upon, but does not include, the subsequent Egyptian control of the Gaza Strip as the war lasted through into 1949. Few of the Egyptian postal markings are common, the majority are philatelically derived, and some are on the rare side with perhaps only five or fewer recorded items. I believe that my exhibit in Cairo in January 2016 was the first time all the known postmarks had been shown together.

Field post offices. The Egyptian Army field post office cancels consisted of an eight sided lozenge, all in Arabic. The top line *wajdat barid el midan*, translates as “field post unit”. The centre block contains the date, and the lower section has in Arabic *raqam* (“number”) and the number of the FPO. Other than registered letters or philatelic items, postage is free to Egypt or to the front. Numbers seen are 1, 4, 5, 8 & 9.



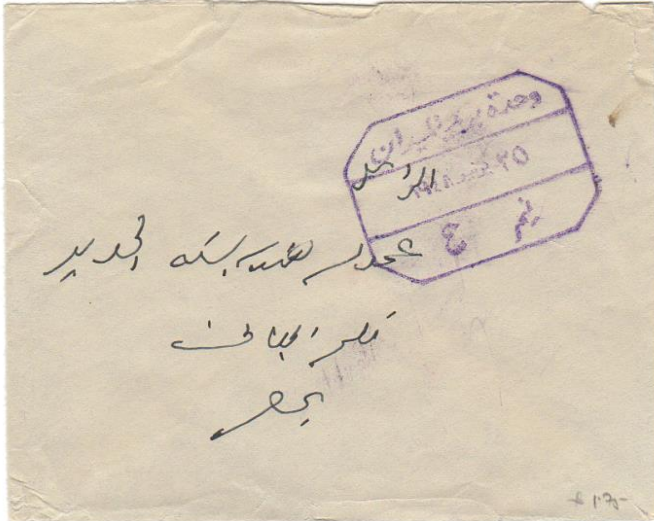
Number	Earliest	Latest	Possible Location
1	31 June 1948	22 July 1948	Gaza
4	10 June 1948	13 July 1948	Sinai
5	8 July 1948	30 July 1948	
8		24 December 1949	
9	4 July 1948	7 October 1948	El Magdal

Toutounji also reports two covers bearing the return address of FPO 6 at Faluga. Smith reports a handwritten script on some covers reading *ruja'a*, which he interprets as an officer's endorsement. He also reports seeing some with a double triangle censor mark. I obtained Peter's Gaza collection at auction and it includes one cover with an illegible lozenge FPO, a triangular censor mark and a fairly clear Rural marking on the back dated 15 JL (space) 9. If I assume this to be 1949, it suggests that a more formal censorship was not introduced until after the war.



Recorded postmarks by the Egyptians in Palestine, June 1948 to early 1949

Place	Type	ED	LD	Occupied (from/to)	
Isdud	Mandate	1.JU.48	17.SE.48	28.May.48	27.Oct.48
	Arabic	3.SE.48	16.OC.48		
El Majdal	Mandate	1.JU.48	2.JU.48	24.May.48	5.Nov.48
	Arabic	1.JU.48	28.OC.48		
Faluga	Arabic	1.JU.48	1.DE.48	17.May.48	28.Feb.49
BeerSheba	Arabic	10.JU.48	18.OC.48	17.May.48	21.Oct.48
Bethlehem	Mandate	15.JU.48	16.JU.48	Used by the Jordanians after taking over	
	Arabic	10.JU.48	24.JA.49	22.May.48	April 49 to Jordan
Beit Jala	Mandate	18.JU.48	24.SP.49	21.May.48	April 49 to Jordan
	Arabic	22.AU.48	29.SE.49		
Hebron	Arabic	20.DE.48	28.FE.49	20.May.48	April 49 to Jordan



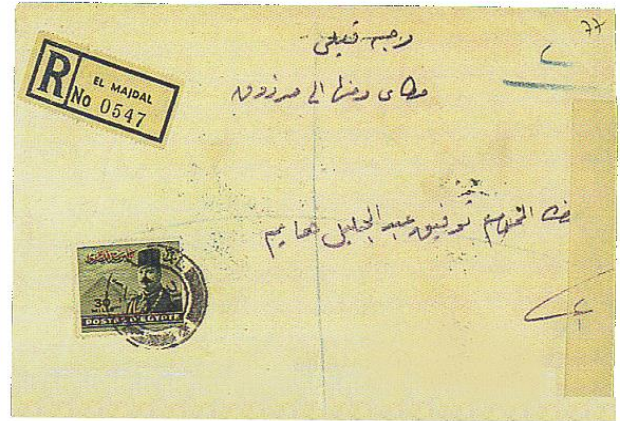
Two covers with FPO.4 but with the two figure 4s shaped differently. Does his indicate that there were two handstamps, or is one of the covers a fabrication?



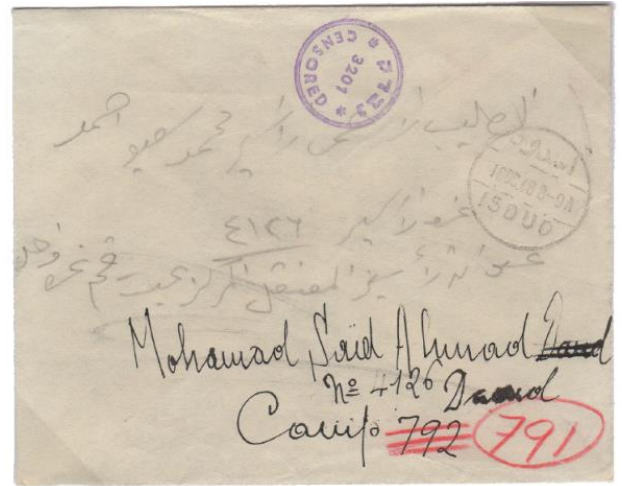
Cover with the red crown crest of the Royal Ground Forces Division sent by Captain Kamal Shoib dated December 24, 1949 and giving his address as Military Post Office number 26 Arish. The FPO is number 7. It is sent to an address in Matai, Upper Egypt, where it received an arrival datestamp on December 28. The cover has a mauve triangular military censor number 134.



A registered letter sent to Alexandria. FPO and date not clear. I have seen only two registered covers with the lozenge type. Both covers are franked 35 millièmes, which was the current Egyptian rate for a registered letter. It indicates that there was no free concession for registered mail.



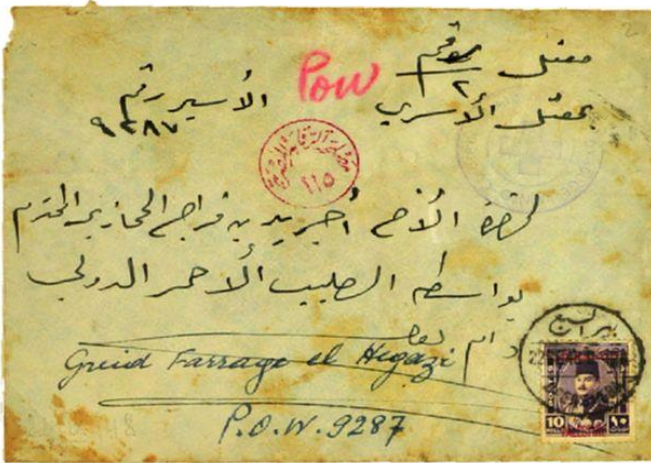
Two registered covers of the period. That from El Majdal at right, with mandate handstamp, is franked 30 millièmes and dated 2.JU.48, the current registration rate within Egypt. The left cover, dated JL.48 from Faluja, is franked 35 millièmes, as were all registered letters from then on. Toutounji puts the date of increase at about June 15. It could have been a tax to help the war effort.



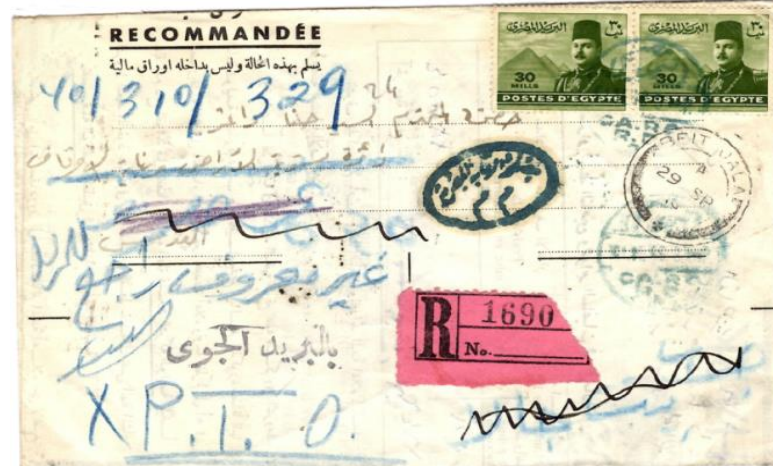
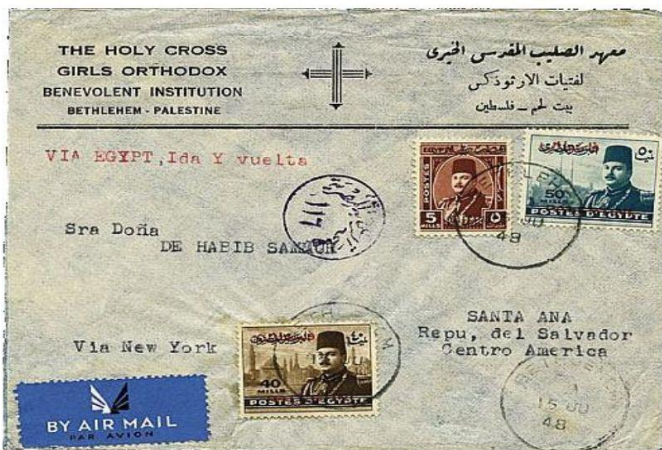
Left, cover of Beit Jala using the Arab cancel. I have seen only two or three covers, all of them philatelic. The cover at right uses the Arabic Isdud and is sent to a PoW in Israel. I have seen only a few covers bearing this handstamp



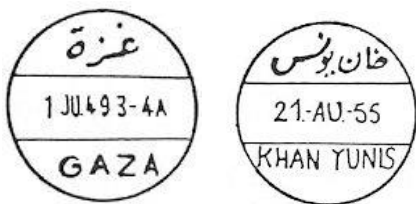
Left, cover with the mandate Isdud cancel dated 1.JU.48., the first day of issue of the overprinted stamps. There are many such philatelic items with various handstamps of this date. It could be that these were manufactured at a later time. Right hand cover has the early El Majdal cancel.



Left, cover from Beer Sheba. Right, cover from Hebron. Both are addressed to PoWs held by Israel. The majority of covers seen using the Arabic cancel are of this nature.



Left, cover using the Mandate Bethlehem cancel, possibly one of the most rare. The right-hand cover shows the use of the mandate Beit Jala cancel, also very rare.



The Egyptians also took over the post offices at Gaza and Khan Yunis and introduced their postmarks from the day of occupation. As these remained under Egyptian control until 1956 the markings are better included in Egyptian occupation of the Gaza Strip during that period.

I published a study in QC 129/130 (March/June 1984) of Egyptian postmarks used in the Gaza Strip 1948-56 and 1957-1967. I note however that the headings for the two periods have been reversed.

References:

- Peter Smith, "Some Markings on Soldiers Letters from the Egyptian Army in the Arab-Israeli War 1948-49", *QC Vol. IV* 46, p131.
- Dan Barak (Tel Aviv), "Egyptian Field Post Letters of 1948/49", *Israel Philatelist* (?) circa 1950/60s (?)
- Lucien S Toutounji, "Egypt - 1948/1949 Palestine War Mail", *L'Orient Philatelique* 132, January 2002

General Herbert C.C. Uniacke

Scott Van Horn, ESC619

I was attracted to the picture-side of the following UPU post card when I bid and won this lot at a recent ESC auction, but after receipt, I began to be curious as who might be the recipient. As luck might have it, Captain H. Uniacke was a fairly well-known military figure during World War I and afterwards. The post card itself is rather ordinary, franked with two 2m De La Rue 4th issues to make up the 4m rate from Port Said to Campbellpore. They are canceled with a 9 May 99 Port-Said type IX, along with an Indian Sea Post Office handstamp of 14 May 99. The post card was received at Campbellpore on 22 May.



As it turns out, the May 1899 date was important, as it was just after Capt Uniacke was transferred with the 3rd Field Batt. of the Royal Field Artillery to Campbellpore. In looking at the Monthly Army List for May 1899, it shows that Capt Uniacke was stationed at Meean Meer (which was a cantonment in current Lahore, Pakistan), and in June 1899, it shows him in Campbellpore.

<i>Batt., Campbellpore.</i>
Guisse, H.
Uniacke, H. C. C.
Newman, C. R.
Jones, E. H.
Fawcus, H.

<i>3rd Batt., Meean-Meer.</i>
Maj. Guisse, H.
Capt. Uniacke, H. C. C.
Lt. Newman, C. R.
Lt. Jones, E. H.
2nd Lt. Fawcus, H.

Herbert Crofton Cambell Uniacke was born in 1866, and commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1885. During WWI, he developed a new tactic whereby he would direct heavy and prolonged artillery fire on all approach routes except one. Once he received information that the Germans were using the un-shelled route, he would re-

direct the fire on that route, causing heavy casualties. After the war he returned to India to command the 1st Division, and was promoted to Lt General. He retired in 1932, and died in 1934 from complications caused by gas poisoning in France. He is buried at All Saints Church in Buckinghamshire. He received both the Knight Commander of the Bath (KCB), and Order of St. Michael and St. George (KCMG).

Report from Hon. Librarian, February 17 2017

John Davis (ESC 213)

This is a first attempt at listing items recently received from the Peter Smith archive: I am looking forward to reading some of them myself! They have so far been separated by year and enclosed in plastic covers. I hope the list will be included in the next QC for the information of members.

In addition to the Peter Smith archive the Library has received donations of two books via Mike Bramwell to whom many thanks. These are:-

God Dies by the Nile, by Nawal el-Saadawi. Published in Arabic in Beirut in 1974 and in the UK by Zed Books of London in 1985, this is a novel concerning the oppression of women in Egyptian villages by someone who should know! Brought up in an upper Egyptian rural situation, she qualified as a doctor and was eventually

Egypt's Director of Public Health. She was dismissed for writing *Woman and Sex* in 1972 and her books were banned. She continues to write in much the same vein.

Wilfrid Blunt's Egyptian Garden: Fox Hunting in Cairo. First published in 1901, this is an abridged edition by the Stationery Office in 1999. The book contains a series of historic official papers and is one of a series of so-called "Uncovered Editions".

The Smith Archive:

Manuale Postale Egiziano. This appears to be (from Peter's description) an Egyptian postal manual in Italian for 1876 with a glossary of Italian words translated into English. Papers with it indicate that it was found by John Sears when he took over as President from Peter.

Egypt as It Is, by J.C. McCoan (Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, 1882). There is a list of contents of various chapters, but though few pages are extant they concern the Post Office.

Ministere des Finances (Imprimerie Nationale de Boulaq, Le Caire): *Budget de Gouvernement Egyptien, l'Exercice 1883; Budget Provisoire de Gouvernement Egyptien pour l'Exercice 1884*.

Journal Officiel du Gouvernement Egyptien, Janvier 1885. A review of 1884 from the point of view of various government departments; some statistics.

Bulletin Hebdomadaire (Administration des Postes Egyptiennes): editions of Tuesday 22 January 1885; 8 March 1887; 22 March 1888; 25 April 1889; 23 January 1890; 23 February 1892; 4 January 1894; 31 January 1895

Guide Postale Egyptien, November 1889 (Administration des Postes, Imprimerie Nationale. Le Caire 1889).

Bulletin Postal Egyptien: Tuesdays 18 January 1896 No 2; 7 January 1897 No 1; 8 March 1899 No 3; also 16 June 1900 No 20; 20 February 1901 No 4.

An Egyptian Post Office List in the Egyptian Language (Cairo 1316-1898).

All About Postal Matters in Egypt - an Egyptian Post Office List in the Egyptian Language (1898). This appears to be associated with the above item and has pictures of post offices.

Dictionnaire Geographique de L'Egypte (Imprimerie Nationale, Le Caire. 1899)

Comparative Statistics of the Postal Traffic in Egypt for the years 1880 to 1906 (Statistical Department. National Printing Department, Cairo 1907).

Annual Report of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for 1912.

Guide Postal Egyptien 1911 (Direction Generale des Postes, Alexandrie). As we already had part of this document. I shall try to piece together just what we have. I think our present holding is in Arabic whereas this is in French.

Postal Circular, front pages only: 26 February 1917; July 1917; 31 August 1917; 5 November 1917; 7 April 1919 No 11; 20 June 1919 No 19; 9 December 1919; 26 December 1919.

Recueil de Firmans Imperiaux Ottomans adresses Aux Valis et Aux Khedives d'Egypte 1006H-1322H (1597J-C-1904J-C) Reunis sur l'Ordre de Sa Majeste Fouad Ier, Roi d'Egypte (Administration des Biens prives et des Palais Royaux; printed by l'Imprimerie de l'Institut Francais d'Archeologie Orientale du Caire, 1934).

Ismail d'après les documents officiels avec avant-propos et Introduction Historique (Ouvrage publié à l'occasion du cinquantenaire de la mort du Khedive Ismail 1895-1945, Le Caire 1916).

Port-Fouad Postmarks

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

We are all aware of the four stamps overprinted 'Port Fouad' to celebrate the inauguration of a new town built to relieve congestion in Port Said: King Fouad ordered a limited edition of the 'King's Birthday Stamp' to be overprinted. Shortly afterwards he also said that the three commemorative stamps celebrating the International Navigation Congress should similarly be overprinted. This issue was in limited quantity, with 2,500 stamps for each of the three lower values and 1,500 stamps for the 50 piastres stamp. The late Peter Smith¹ however quotes 1,520 and says that the UPU was sent 440 sets. As the original stamp was printed in sheets of 25, 1500 is more logical. The stamps were available only at Port-Fouad.

Officials within the postal service recognised the investment potential and bought up most of the issue before they officially went on sale. As a result, stocks were virtually non-existent and what had initially been the expectation of a profitable investment turned to disappointment and anger. The authorities had considerable difficulty in controlling the crowds who believed they had been duped and ran riot around the area of the main post office. There are reports that several members of the crowd actually died in the skirmish².

First day covers of 21.DE.26 were produced at Port-Fouad, most of them prepared by the buyer. He simply handed them to the postal clerk, who stamped them and handed them back to the owner. I think the few such covers I have seen have a normal Port-Fouad postmark, with the Port-Fouad / Cash cancel used on an invitation card with the four stamps and on an unaddressed first day cover. I assume that no special first day cancel was produced.



Now what I find odd is that I have seen few "normal use" covers with Port-Fouad postmarks. It might just be me, but in the decade or so that this has puzzled me I have seen only four. Was it simply that not much post was sent from Port-Fouad, the population being small, or that most post was sent via Port Said?

I illustrate (previous page) two of my covers showing two postmarks on “normal” mail dated 29.AU.30.and 24.MR.46. The first appears identical to that of 1926 while the Cash one is a new handstamp: note the absence of the brackets on the lower Cash.

The only other cover I have seen (right) is one dated May 13, 1988, on an AR cover franked at 35 piastres, the correct rate for such mail from September 1985 until sometime in 1988.

References:

1. Peter A S Smith, *Egypt: Stamps and Postal History* (1999)
 2. *The New York Times* reported that five people died in their quest for the stamps.
- Also: *L'Orient Philatelique* 106 (1962) and 113 (1964)



Perfin Varieties: 2. Shell Company

Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)

A couple of years ago, when I discovered the Shell Company perfin – in the shape of a clamshell, the company logo – I had very limited information about this pattern and its perfin usage. But in recent months a large number of Shell Company invoices and receipts have come to light, and I have been able to examine literally hundreds of documents bearing 5-millième and 10- millième Tax Stamps of the issues between 1939 and 1961 (Feltus pp.5-7, see *Fig. 1*) punctured as Shell perfins.



Fig 2

Fig 3

Fig 1

Fig 4

Fig 5

Different sizes and shapes abounded. In the early period of use, from 1946, the puncturing is made with large and heavy pins both horizontally and vertically. In the Fifties the pins used were very much thinner and more delicate; and in the Sixties it is possible to find many holes omitted, deformed or not punctured on account of excessive use. Type 1 (*Fig 2*) had 38 holes, Type 2 (*Fig 3*) had 45 much finer holes, and later types (*Figs 4,5*) commonly had numbers of unpunctured or omitted holes

To date, the earliest recorded perfin date for this company is May 1 1946, cancelled with Cairo / D, and the latest recorded is from the Metro (downtown Cairo) service station on April 28 1964.

During their 18 years of use these punctured stamps were used to pay the tax on receipts given to customers for fuelling their vehicle or having it serviced in any of the Shell service stations in Cairo or its suburbs (recorded stations are Zamalek, Tayaran [Heliopolis], Metro and Giza). The perfins were also used on invoices sent through the post to inform customers of annual expenses.

Under-Cover Addresses in World War II

John Davis (ESC 213)

Wishing to add to my now quite presentable accumulation of Boy King material, I was busily checking out a dealer's stock when I came across a cover that, to all intents and purposes, appeared to fit more neatly into my Sea Post collection. Franked no less than 322 millièmes of the Boy King issue, and addressed to New York on American Export Lines Inc. postal stationery, it seemed to be an outstanding cover, so I bought it. However, when I got it home I spotted that the dealer, or someone else, had written in very small pencil on the back, "under-cover address". (See *Fig.1*).

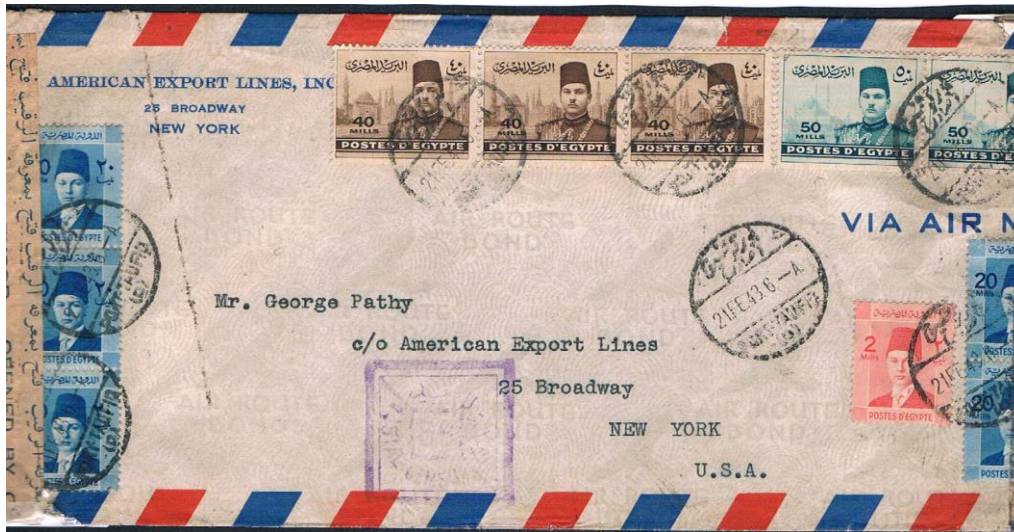


Fig.1. American Export Lines 25 Broadway, N. Y. under-cover address for the British Merchant Navy in February 1943.

Having googled "under-cover addresses", I came across an article, written in Polish, which also had illustrations of some Polish items associated with under-cover addresses. As this had got me precisely nowhere, I got hold of the only booklet on the subject of which I was aware – Amazon had either sold out or never had a copy – by writing to Charles Entwistle, the author and publisher.

I received a copy by return even though he had moved some six years earlier! Sure enough, there was my under-cover address at American Export Lines Inc. at 25 Broadway, New York City, U.S.A. No such maritime company existed at the time of the cover, although a company with that name began operating during the 1950s from a different address.

So I looked up Mr George Pathy, and found his obituary from *The New York Times*, from which I discovered that he was indeed an interesting character. Born in Budapest, Hungary, where he was educated and later in Alexandria - yes that one, at St. Catherine's College, a Franciscan institution - and there began his career in a shipping and chartering company.

Pathy died, aged 82, while on a business trip to Switzerland on 6th September 1981, having lived at Greenwich, Connecticut, for many years. He joined the board of Federal Commerce, a family-owned company and rose to become its chairman in 1972. By then it was known as Federal Commerce and Navigation Ltd., a leading Canadian shipping concern.

For many decades he had been a leading figure in international shipping. As early as World War I he had helped to rescue merchant seamen after their ship had been sunk by a German submarine. Also during World

War I he helped to supervise the transport of millions of tons of cargo in trans-Atlantic convoys. Is it any wonder then that he should be the name on an undercover address?

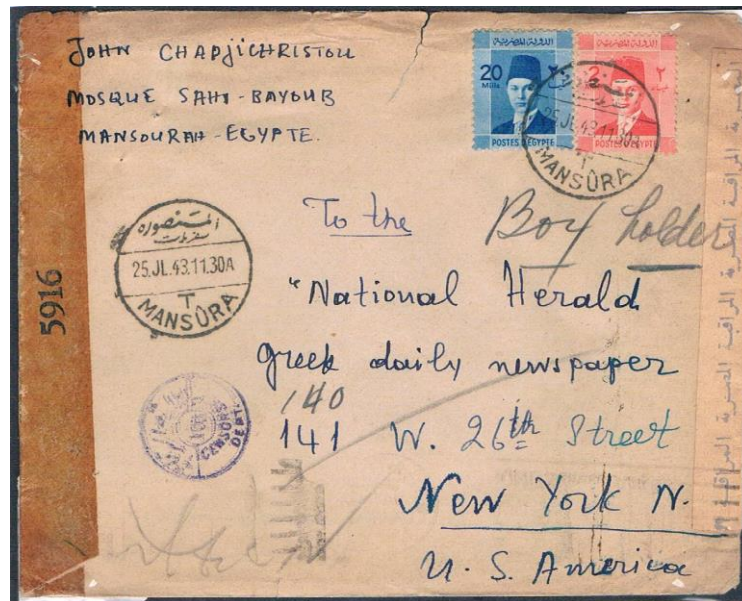


Fig.2. Cover from a Greek citizen to the under-cover address of the Greek Government in exile during World War II.

Another cover purchased at the same time is addressed to the *National Herald*, a Greek daily newspaper also in New York City; this time the address is 140 West 26th Street, although the correspondent wrote the incorrect number and it was amended in pencil on arrival. Posted from Mansura in the Egyptian Delta, this item was sent by one John Chapjichristou, albeit his address appears to be a mosque. Entwistle tells us that this was the under-cover address for the Greek Government in exile during World War II following the invasion by the Italians and later by the Germans. Both items are dated to 1943 so both bear Boy King definitives.

Charles Entwistle defines an under-cover address as “one which fails to show the true destination of the correspondence.” We all can surmise the actual reasons for such deception, particularly in wartime.

Incidentally, he lists three under-cover addresses in Egypt, all during World War II, the first he states was for Forces mail to enemy and enemy occupied territory and certain neutral countries to be routed by the address G.S.I. (c) G.H.Q., M.E.F. The second, in Cairo, was P.O. Box ? – although this is the third edition of Entwistle’s booklet, it still leaves a lot of blanks. Concerning this second address, he says: “Members of the armed forces writing to neutral countries were instructed to show a return address of P.O. Box -, Cairo – such mail was sent to G.S.I. (c) who would add the relevant Box number.” A third such address is P.O. Box 1006, which Entwistle believes to have been for the Greek Navy in exile.

As far as I recall I have never come across any similar mail and I have a large collection of material from this period. Does anyone have any further information?

References:

C.R. Entwistle, *Undercover Addresses of World War II* (Third Edition, pub. Chavril Press, Perth, Scotland, 2006.)
 Entwistle Obituary, *International New York Times* (1981).

Perfin Varieties: Agricultural Bank of Egypt

Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)

Exploring the perfinned stamps of Egypt has given me years of fun, with always new varieties to discover – some of them normal, but many unusual – so I thought it might be interesting to write a short series of articles on the various varieties created unintentionally by the companies using this form of security.

The Agricultural Bank of Egypt started using perfins on August 4 1910, and their use is recorded for a generation, until September 10 1935. It is clear that the Agricultural Bank was a major user of postal correspondence because its AB / E perfinned stamps and covers are often found in the philatelic market. It is perhaps strange that even in its early years of usage the bank's stamps were punctured by machines using broken pins (or perhaps there are even earlier dates to be found, before the pins were broken). For instance (see *Fig. 1*), the letter A has eight pinholes instead of what should have been ten.



Fig 1

Fig 2

Fig 3

Fig 4

Fig 5

It seems, however, that the broken pins were quickly repaired: the variety is known for only about three months before the adjusted perfin style was able to continue the correspondence.



Fig 6

Fig 7

Fig 8

During the period between 1912 and 1918, largely covered by the war, I have been unable to find anything in the way of varieties apart from occasional double punctures, as shown in *Figs. 2,3 and 4*, or incomplete perforations (closed holes) as shown in *Fig. 5*. The vast majority of the bank's punctured stamps show a vertical impression of the perforator, although there are a few exceptions – the ones I have found are from 1916 and 1918 - in which the perforating has been made horizontally (see *Figs. 6,7*)

One surprising variety first spotted in 1918 and continuing right through until 1935 is the use of a letter A with only nine holes instead of the usual ten (*Fig 8*). It is strange that the puncture employee did not notice the missing pin for 17 years – or perhaps the company thought that for a single pin the cost of repair would not be worthwhile when the letter is perfectly clear as an A despite the flaw.

Query 121 – Second Issue, colour of 10-para – Terence Covell (ESC 695)

Amongst an old collection, mixed up with a group of 20-para stamps, I have discovered a 10-para stamp in a different colour to the published one of the Second Issue, not dull or deep lilac.

I have looked in the Chalhoub catalogue *The Nile Post*, but cannot find any reference to a trial of the 10 paras in green. It has the crescent and star watermark and the normal perforations. Does anyone have any information on this item, which seems to be unused with the barest hint of gum on the reverse?



A Perfinned Postal Stationery Card

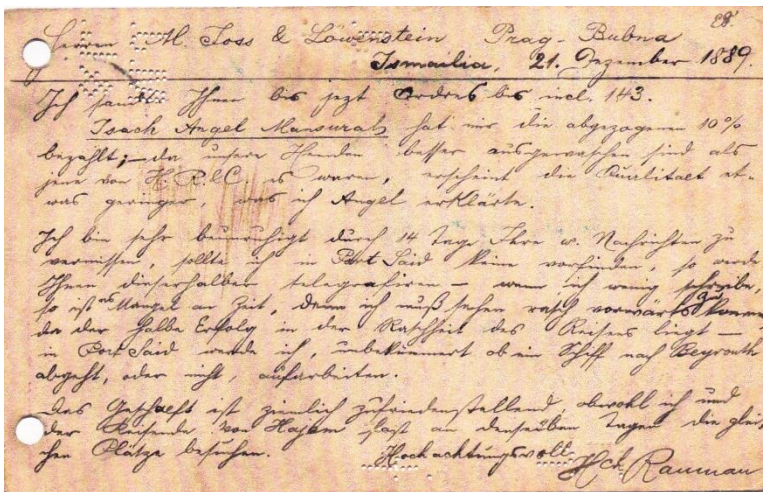
Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390)

It is most unusual – maybe unique – to record a perfin on an Egyptian postal stationery card. This most rare item, the common 5- millième card of 1888 (NP SPC3), belonged to the well-known textile agent M. Joss and Löwenstein, which during the 1880s was expanding, developing a new factory in Prague-Bubna and seeking new opportunities in Scandinavia, France, Italy, Germany, England, the Netherlands and Russia.



The company became active in several town in Egypt, and was eager to explore new business in Ismailia, with correspondence continually passing back and forth to Prague (at that time in Austria). It seems that the company had bought a number of Egyptian postal stationery cards in advance and had them perfinned with the company initials, M. J. / & L. before they were given to their agent, to prevent private use.

The postal stationery card illustrated was sent from Ismailia on 21 DE 89 and has an arrival handstamp of Prague on December 31. It is intriguing to see that the perfin initials neatly puncture the card’s five-millième vignette – but also leave other traces of incomplete puncturing elsewhere on the card, at top and bottom centre and left. It is clear that the operator had some trouble in aligning the perforating machine in such a way as to obliterate the vignette and yet leave the rest of the card undamaged.



Helft Ägypten: GDR Solidarity with Egypt during 1956 Suez Crisis

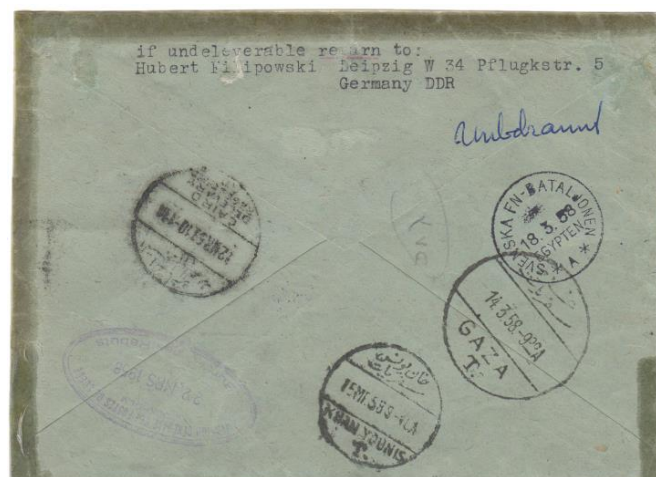
Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

The invasion of Egypt by Israel, France and Britain was a godsend for the Soviet bloc: the Israeli invasion on October 29 helped take the world's attention away from the Russian invasion of Hungary. The Russians crossed the border on November 4, a day before the British and French landings on November 5. It also gave political capital to the communist commitment to help countries throw off the yoke of imperialism and capitalist tyranny.

Three million of the 20-pfennig stamps showing Old City Hall in Berlin from the series "Historical buildings of the GDR" (issued November 14 1955) were put on sale on December 20 1956. The original red stamp, with perforation 13½ x 13, was surcharged in black offset printing with Helft Ägypten, Helft dem sozialistischen Ungarn and + 10 (pfennigs). The extra money was to go to a "good causes fund to support the 'socialistic' influence after the so-called 'Suez Crisis' in Egypt 1956 and the suppression of the Hungarian uprising in 1956."



First day cover and a card which shows the Old Town Hall



Inevitably, some letters were sent to Egypt with the Helft Ägypten stamp but few have been seen and even those possibly philatelic in nature. The cover above was addressed to a member of the Swedish UNEF Forces at Khan Younes. Sent from Leipzig 27.2.58, it has CDS of Cairo Delivery 12.MR.56, Gaza T 14.3.58 and Khan Younis 15.3.58. It has a Swedish military postmark 18.3.58 probably when it was returned. On the front are an Egyptian civil censor stamp and a mauve military censor with the number 42, which was most probably in the Gaza Strip.

Membership changes

New Members:

- ESC 709** **Herb Cowley**, 16 Taylor Terrace, Tawa, Wellington 5028, New Zealand
(Egypt used, military mail, United Nations J Force [NZ])
- ESC 710** **Roy Burnett**, 29 Valentine Drive, Danestone, Aberdeen, Scotland
(Egypt postal history, French post offices in Egypt)
- ESC 711** **Mohammed Seif**, PO Box 29354 Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
(Egypt 1866-1953, British Arabia/Gulf – stamp issues mainly)

Change of Address:

- ESC 206** John Steele Jr, 115 River Wind Drive, North Augusta, SC 29841, United States
- ESC 386** Joe Chalhoub, 627 Belmont Avenue, Westmount, Quebec H3Y 2W3, Canada

Deceased:

- ESC 122** Peter Andrews

Resigned:

- ESC 216** Max Ryan **ESC 589** David Sedgwick **ESC 633** Hany Haddad **ESC 676** Bob Hothersall

Membership lapsed:

- ESC 445** Magdy Abdel-Hadi **ESC 505** Samir Nabih Attia **ESC 525** Lewis Said **ESC 558** K Nagy
ESC 601 Tawfik Deifalla **ESC 607** Mohamed Soliman **ESC 623** Alexandre Amoudi **ESC 665** Alan Smith
ESC 685 Yasser Elshamy **ESC 687** Neil Prior

Editorial.

In *QC* 185 of June 1998, my first issue, I reported that I had not given much thought to the matter of becoming an editor, because technology in the form of word-processors, character recognition and a good scanner would make it an easy job. I also said then that wrestling with said technology was more the order of the day. Nineteen years and 76 *QCs* later, wrestling with the technology remains the order of the day as new versions of the software used have introduced unwanted “improvements” and in so doing have dropped some of those nice useful features I had come to treasure.

Still, the joys of overcoming those puzzling challenges have if anything added to the great delight I have had in editing the *QC* over the years. Now deteriorating health has made it impossible to carry on, with the ability to carry out the simplest of tasks on some days limited to an hour at most. I believe that in this my last *QC* there is a good mix to illustrate the breadth of our shared hobby. Also represented here are many of our stalwart authors without whom my efforts would have been in vain.

My original editorial all those years ago did say that I would attempt to get the *QC* out regularly four times a year. This I have managed to achieve, after my early quite late editions. This could not have happened without the help of other members, notably John Sears and Robin Bertram in the early days, and for the last ten years Mike Murphy, whom I describe as my co-editor.

Mike has undertaken to take on the role of editor, so in the future anything relating to the *QC* should be sent to him (egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com). I have left him rather a bare cupboard, so any article – large or small – would no doubt be welcome.

So many thanks to all those contributors, and especially to those who over the years have responded to my calls for articles. Several of them have articles in this *QC*, a response to my plea of a little while ago. I think my efforts have been worthwhile, and I don't regret a single day of those 19 years since I first opened my mouth without giving the matter too much thought.

Signing off, Edmund Hall

**EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (GENERAL ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	2015		2016
INCOME			
Subscriptions	3,448.51		3,400.85
Auction account	1,201.42		1,586.24
Donations	20.00		20.00
Advertisements	<u>250.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>
	4,919.93		5,007.00
EXPEDITURE			
Meeting room hire	420.00		776.00
Cost of Quarterly Circular	2,794.26		2,717.93
Website costs	171.58		623.38
Officers' stationery, phone etc	187.50		196.98
Insurance	148.54		149.04
Library	<u>40.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>
	<u>3,761.88</u>		<u>4,463.33</u>
Surplus for the year	1,158.05		543.76
Surplus as at 1 January 2016	17,727.95		18,886.00
Surplus at 31 December 2016	<u>18,886.00</u>		<u>19,429.77</u>

BALANCE SHEET (GENERAL ACCOUNT) AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

	2015		2016
ASSETS			
New issue stamp collection plus library	5,251.00		5,251.00
2017 room hire prepaid	660.00		660.00
Cash at bank			
Current account	14,179.61		14,818.26
	20,090.61		20,729.26
LIABILITIES			
Secretary/Treasurer			
Expenses	187.50		172.80
Members subs 2017	192.00		463.38
Printing of QC	<u>825.11</u>		<u>663.32</u>
	<u>1,204.61</u>		<u>1,299.50</u>
	<u>£18,886.00</u>		<u>£19,429.76</u>
Representing			
Accumulated surplus	<u>£18,886.00</u>		<u>£19,429.76</u>

I have prepared the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet from the records and explanations provided to me and confirm that they are in accordance therewith.

S W Bunce, Chartered Accountant, 12 February 2017



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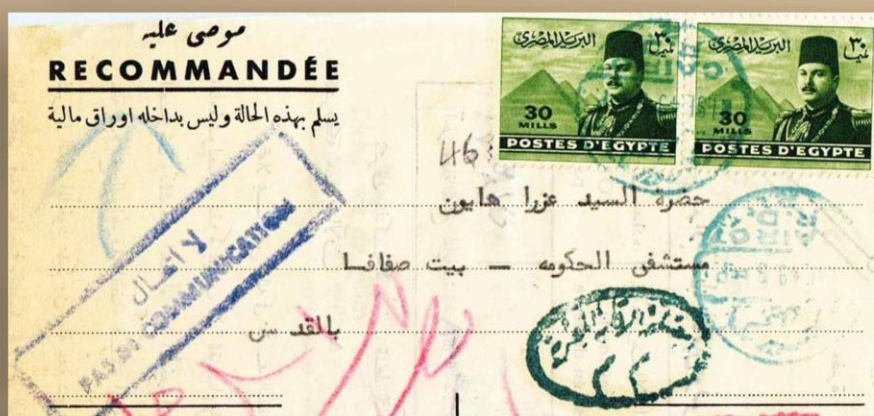
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