

The Quarterly Circular of THE EGYPT



STUDY CIRCLE

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CONTENTS.

Officers 193, Annual Meeting 194, Members 216

ARTICLES.

This the last QC: rest in peace old friend	Edmund Hall	ii
First Issue Anniversary Exhibition in Cairo	Mike Murphy	p195-197
Air Mail Jottings	John Sears	p198
Egyptian Military part 1: Egyptian–Ottoman War (1839–41)	Edmund Hall	p199-204
Ibrahim Khalil Chaftar Bey: A Philatelic Biography	Peter R. Feltus (the late)	p205-207
Stamps and Rates: What, no Stamp?	Edmund Hall	p208-213
A Mystery Envelope - "Found In Mail Bag..."	Peter Newroth	p214
New Date of Cook's Tourist Service Post Office Cairo Marking	Peter Newroth	p215
U.S. Army Post Offices in Egypt	Peter Andrews	p216
Censor Label/Markings	Peter Andrews	iii
First Issue Anniversary Exhibition in Cairo Member's Exhibits		iv



Spotted on eBay: a modern “Mixed Franking”. This cover originated in Egypt, sent at the correct 35 millièmes rate for a registered letter to the U.K. It has then been redirected to ? (can someone read the address?). Payment has been made with a GB 1d stamp. The British cancel also ties one of the Egyptian stamps. Here is a cover, non philatelic in nature, in which both Egyptian and British stamps are genuinely used side by side.

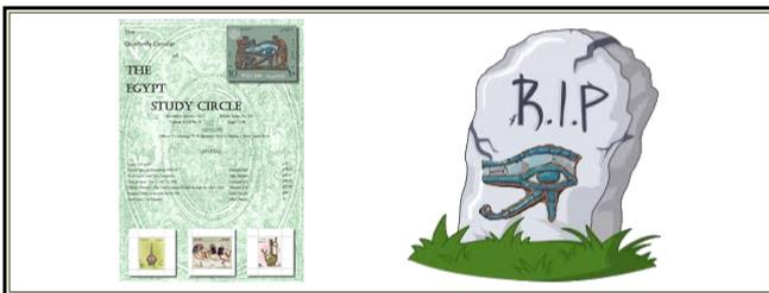


Do you have an interesting cover, or have you seen one in auction on the net? Then let us know about it. Such brief articles are sorely sought for the *QC*. Email me what you collect in Egypt: even a scan of a single pieces might help.

As you see below, articles are now desperately needed. There are reasons people don't write articles: time, Egypt a minority interest, too busy – all are legitimate. But if it's I don't know how, what can I offer that hasn't been done before etc, then let me know and I'll help you to craft one. And perhaps that one could become several and the future of the *QC* thus secured. It rests in your hands, not mine.

Edmund Hall

Goodbye old friend, we have loved you and cherished you for 58 years - but your time has come.



This picture was in *QC* 253 (June 2015), warning of the possible demise our old Friend. Sadly the time has arrived, the grave dug, the tombstone engraved ‘DIED OF NEGLECT’. At the 2105 AGM I said that the sad day was nigh, due to the lack of articles. Hands were raised: those who would produce articles for our friend. But the outcome? Virtually zilch – a little from the old timers, but from newer members (ie, last 20 years) who raised their hands – nothing. This *QC* is 65% the Mike/Edmund *QC*, as has become the norm, and with my own imminent demise that source will cease. It doesn't take a PhD in math(s) to work out that if the inflow of articles is the same as the past years then it will be 1-1½ *QCs* per year. Rest in peace old friend.

See the meeting report (p.194), where I have proposed that the *QC* moves online with articles published as and when they arrive. Members can download and print if they wish. In addition, perhaps a Christmas annual could be printed of all the articles from that year.

The result? A committee was formed! I have therefore taken the executive decision to implement my idea as from this *QC*. If you don't like this unfortunate and most reluctant step you know the solution....

On to another matter: my series on stamps/rates, Gaza/Sinai, and Military matters, plus a new one started here, Egyptian Military, at a quick glance might have generated some 20-30 articles, some of them having nothing before published on the subject. My non Egypt Military material could easily exceed 100 articles, again mostly never written about philatelically. I can't believe that all your collections are so mundane, so lacking in interest ... nothing than doing what's been published before. Looking at the exhibits in Cairo, I see several more potential articles. Email what's in your collection, what interests you ... and I'll give you some tips on how these can become articles to resurrect our dear old friend before the last sod is shovelled into the grave and our friend has gone.

Rest in peace, old friend.

Meetings dates for 2016

The September meeting will be held at 2.30pm at **Stampex**, at the Design Centre in Islington (where members normally congregate a little earlier in the hope of a quick start to a two-hour meeting); and in November we meet at 2pm in the **Victory Services Club**, Marble Arch, London (where members usually meet in the ground-floor bar from 1pm).

May 7, 2pm	Services Club	Khedivial Mail Line	John Sears
		Great Bitter Lake Assoc	Jon Aitchison
May 29 11am	World Stamp Show		All Members
	New York May 28-June 4		
July 16, 2pm	Services Club	New Issues collection	Cyril Defriez
		Cancelled-Backs	John Clarke
Sept 17, 2.30pm	Stampex	Ten Sheets	All members
	Stampex Sept 14-17		
Nov 5, 2pm	Services Club	Revenues	Richard Wheatley
		Interpostals	Jon Aitchison

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Facebook

Report of the Annual General Meeting, February 20

PRESENT: John Sears (President), John Davis (Librarian/Deputy Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Sami Sadek (Committee), Jon Aitchison, Mike Bramwell, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Pauline Gittoes, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Neil Hitchens, Sherif Samra (Egypt), Atef Sarian, Tony Schmidt, Ronny Van Pellecom (Belgium), Armen Varjabedian (Egypt), Vahe Varjabedian (Egypt), Richard Wheatley. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Peter Andrews (Chairman), Edmund Hall (Editor), Angela Child, Alan Jeyes, Mostafa El-Dars, Roman Rimonis, Trent Ruebush, Hani Sharestan, Ibrahim Shoukry.

Chairman: The Deputy Chairman welcomed members and was especially pleased to see the return of Cyril Defriez (ESC 172), and Pauline Gittoes (ESC 662). Minutes of the last AGM were considered; no matters arising. He reported an interesting year, with two members visiting the Canal Zone in springtime; followed by the attendance of double-figure number of members at the Cairo exhibition marking the 150th anniversary of the First Issue (see details on page 195).

Secretary: The Secretary reported on the great success of the Cairo visit, and the advent of our Facebook page, with grateful thanks to Hani Sharestan (ESC 595), which it is hoped will boost interest in the Circle and its membership. Members present were asked whether they had viewed the page: the response was lamentably few. An online poll revealed however that eight members of the page wished to join the Circle: we hope to be able to welcome them soon. Over the year (and before 2016 subscription payments had been taken into account), we had a net gain of four member and now stood at 176 members.

The Circle apologised for the lack of publicity for the MacArthur Award, but congratulated nevertheless the award's deservedly going to Dr Amr El-Etreby (ESC 688) for his deeply researched article (*QC* 255, pp.173-85) on the 2m/3m 1915 Provisional Surcharge. We hope to see more articles from him in the future.

Accounts: The accounts were presented by the Treasurer, showing a reduction from £6,539.45 to £4,919.3 in income for the year, largely as a result of less flow of funds from the Auctions, but balanced by a reduction in the costs of printing and posting the four issues of the *QC*, from £3,680 to £2,794. Overall, the Circle started the year with a surplus of £18,866 against £17,727 in 2015. Future accounts will present a more considered valuation of the New Issues collection and Library. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Richard Wheatley and seconded by Sami Sadek; a vote of thanks to Stephen Bunce for preparing the accounts was proposed by Brian Sedgley and seconded by Paul Green.

Editor/Webmaster: In his absence, the Editor's report was read by the Secretary: it revealed understandable frustration that preparation of the *QC* was hampered by an almost complete dearth of offers of articles by members. The Editor described the cupboard as bare and proposed that publication might have to be reduced to occasional articles on the website alone, and that membership should no longer include publication of a printed magazine, simply because so little material was offered by members. Officers appealed to members at home and abroad to help the Editor by providing articles, and that they be supplied by email rather than as photocopies: translating illustrations from printouts of a computer-article not only diminished the illustration's quality but also wasted the Editor's valuable time on converting: printout articles are unlikely to be considered for publication. A small sub-committee of Mike Murphy, Neil Hitchens and Sami Sadek will consult with Edmund and seek his advice on planning the way ahead in light of his serious illness.

Librarian: the Librarian urged members to use the very extensive range of books and other material available and reported that a new Library List was being planned.

Officers: Hani Sharestan was elected Facebook co-ordinator and Neil Hitchens to the Committee. The question of Antipodean Agent after the death of Tony Chisholm will be considered further.

Other business: The Secretary reported that good relations had been restored with the Cairo Philatelic Bureau and that the future of the New Issues service will be further considered in July. The next AGM will be on February 18, 2017, coinciding with Stampex

The Live Auction that followed resulted in 119 of the 201 lots being sold (59 %), with preliminary results showing 50 lots (£1626) sold in the room and 69 lots (£2072.50) to email bids. This should produce a commission of £505 for Circle funds.

First Issue Anniversary Exhibition in Cairo

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

It rained in Cairo. Quite a lot, actually. But the downpour and the chilly weather did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the organisers of the Third Continental Philatelic Exhibition marking the 150th anniversary of Egypt's First Issue, nor of the band of travellers from the UK who so thoroughly enjoyed both the exhibition and Egypt's traditional hospitality. It was truly warming.



Greg Todd, right, with Khaled Mustapha, left, and Sherif Samra, receiving his magnificent Special Prize, gift of the Philatelic Association of Oman

The week between December 31 and January 6 passed all too quickly, mainly because of the large number of events planned

by Dr Sherif Samra (ESC 350), president of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, and his able and efficient organising committee with the support of the Federation of European Philatelic Federations (Fepa). To gather together 16 nations, 200 frames and 58 exhibitors in such a time of turmoil was a magnificent effort: all those who attended, in whatever capacity, send their grateful thanks, and look forward to the next exhibition.

It was fitting that the top prize – a mark of 97, with a Large Gold, International Grand Prix and Special Prize - should go to the eight frames displayed by Greg Todd (ESC 585): there surely cannot be any First Issue display of higher standard anywhere in the world, a collection 40 years in the making that includes outstanding material formerly owned by the Queen and King Farouk as well as such respected collectors as Dr Byam, Gilbert, Danson, MacArthur, Kuyas, Antonini, Fikry, Whetter, Wolfsbauer, Bertram, Clarke, Biolato, and the lamented Peter Smith.



ESC and other visitors had an unexpected tour of the Mena House

But while that was the undoubted highlight of the exhibition, there was plenty more to see: after good publicity in the Egyptian media, opening day started with something of a surprise, with a mass of children waiting for the doors to open. We were amazed to see such juvenile enthusiasm, but soon realised that part of the exhibition involved a show of children's designs for stamps – their teachers brought them along to see, and happily many of them moved on to examine the philatelic exhibits too.

An amazing range of material was shown on sturdy metal frames in two

buildings within the Opera House Exhibition Centre on Zamalek in central

Cairo, with a beautifully appointed lecture hall to one side, and a well-patronised cafeteria next door where a small number of dealers did a roaring trade in souvenirs published for the exhibition as well as more traditional stamps and covers. If there should be a criticism, it is that the lighting in one room was a little less than perfect – but the organisers are well aware and will improve it.

We were delighted to see that the Special Prize donated by the Study Circle – a Wedgwood blue heart box – should have gone to a female collector from Saudi Arabia, Mrs Fatma Abdullah Sebeye, with eight frames on the Fiscal Stamps of Indore & Jaora Indian states, all collected from eBay over the past 30 years. There were also Special Prizes for our members Amr El Etreby (ESC 688, the 1915 Provisional; see *QC* 255), Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264, Constanta-Alexandria Sea Mail), Khaled Mustapha (ESC 638, Postal Stationery 1865-1930), and Samir Nabih Attiah (ESC 505) for a most astonishing and delightful display of “the most captivating datestamps”, that is, Blomfield Types IX-XI, novel and fascinating.

But the range of exhibits went way beyond classical collecting, with special attention paid to some of the displays by junior exhibitors showing great promise for the future. Thematic displays on the Arab-Israeli conflict, Medicine in Egypt and the Apollo Project caught the eye, and it was interesting to see exhibits harking back to the transport of the Mahmal (Holy Carpet) and the days of Nasser.



Setting up the frames; dealers hard at work; a point explained to a young star of the future

Besides the exhibits, the lecture room was well used, with (almost) simultaneous translation expertly carried out in the daily talks: Jon Aitchison (ESC 661) on the Royal Philatelic Society’s Richard Wheatley (ESC 168) on Simon Arzt; Sherif el-Kerdani (ESC 456) presenting some unknown varieties, and Nicos Rangos, the Cypriot juror, on how sharing information is the best way to protect our collections from fakes and forgeries.

The Palmares evening in the Automobile Club in downtown Cairo, once the preserve of Farouk and his inner circle, was perhaps the major highlight of the week, with medals for all involved, beautifully designed in the shape of an ankh, ancient Egyptian symbol of life. The presentations went on for hours, each one photographed in triplicate at least(!) matched by the presentation of a delicious meal, and we were delighted that Jeanne Fikry was able to attend and take part in the life of the organisation her late husband graced for so many years.

But it was not all best suits and frocks: there was a social side as well, as invariably when we visit Cairo. On the opening day we were taken for a late lunch in the rain to *Le Pacha* floating restaurant by Ibrahim Shoukry (ESC 423), who was leaving to see his son in the Gulf next day: we all got there in the end, thanks to his driver, and enjoyed a wonderful meal.

That evening was New Year’s Eve, which we spent celebrating (after a long drive through the night) at the beautiful new house of Hany Salam (ESC 580) and his lovely wife Lada in the new far northeastern suburbs of Cairo – late to bed that night!

We are grateful to Essam El Saghir, president of the board of Egypt Post, for his invitation to dine next night on the *Pharaoh* floating restaurant, which took us down the Nile to Maadi and back ... a dry night, but very much enlivened by the whirling dervish, who embarrassed all present by insisting that we wear his illuminated headgear for photographs. Not your normal night out.



It was a day off from stamps next day, when a glorious day out was organised to Saqqara, where we saw the Step Pyramid and entered the beautifully decorated mastaba tombs of Princess Idut and Ptah-Hotep. And that was followed, to our great surprise, by a guided tour of Mena House Hotel, thanks to the good offices of Amr Laithy (ESC 681), who worked there for many years. We even managed to photograph the much-sought-after Pyramids Post Office (from a distance!).

Next day we were delighted to visit Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390) and his radiant wife Hermine in Heliopolis for the Armenian lunch that only they can put on – magnificent all the way – but we had to hurry back for an Auction in the PSE premises downtown. Sadly, it seems that expectations of foreign intervention had swelled the reserve prices beyond reasonable levels – although one member managed to find a couple of bargains. The week was rounded off wonderfully well with a drinks party in the garden of Hany and Lada Salam – and their exuberant boxer dog – where visitors and local members, and their better halves, were able to take it easy in the winter sunshine and chat over the week just gone and their collecting activities.



Members of the London ESC party were Jon and Shameera Aitchison, Brian and Sarah Sedgley, Richard and Yvonne Wheatley, Greg Todd, Alan Jeyes and Mike Murphy, augmented on the ground by Dr and Mrs Sami Sadek. We are sad for our new member Brian Callan (ESC 694) from Ireland, whose exhibit mysteriously disappeared in the post on the way to London, but grateful to Jon Aitchison for acting as our commissioner, dealing with the (few, as it turned out) frustrations of Customs in and out, as well as acting as ESC

spokesman on Egyptian radio and TV.

But mainly our thanks go to our Egyptian colleagues. Without their warm hearts and hospitality, the experience would not have been the same. We enjoyed it very much. Because we were among friends.



Opening day; serious conversation; serious consideration; animated explanation. The rain, the jury, Nicos Rangos, Sherif Samra, Mahmoud Ramadan, Hany Salam, Sherif el-Kerdani; in the garden at Hany and Lada's house



Air Mail Jottings

John Sears (ESC 188)

This cover appeared in a German dealer's stock at Europhilex 2015. It is the usual attractive Cicurel cover addressed to Torit which is about 100 miles South West of Juba. Posted in Cairo and cancelled 27 AU 34, having the transit mark of Juba 2 IX 34, and arriving Torit 3 SEP 34. Why did a letter from Cairo take so long to get to Torit? At that time there was a weekly air mail service London (via Cairo) to Cape Town, leaving London on the Wednesday and Cairo on the Saturday.

In 1934, the 27th August was a Monday, so the Cape Town service would leave 1st September, and arrive Juba on the 2nd September. So, there was a delay here.

This cover is clearly franked 15 millièmes, whereas it should have attracted 20 millièmes, i.e. Basic Surface rate to Sudan - 5 millièmes, plus Air Mail Surcharge of 15 millièmes. This is where it becomes more interesting; between 1st May, 1934 and the 31st August a concession "All Up" rate of 15 millièmes for letters to the U.K. and 20 mils to the rest of Europe was introduced, provided the mail was flown by Imperial Airways. There were no concessions for mail flying Southwards or Eastwards.



The reasons for the introduction vary between encouragement of Air Mail usage, and advertising the services of Imperial Airways, but why the latter should greatly concern the Egypt Postal Authorities is not clear.

In view of the close connections between Egypt & Sudan at that time, one wonders why the concession rate was not applied, although there was probably very little mail by air "locally" then, the time saving would not have been very great. Coincidentally, the Express fee was also 20 millièmes plus internal surface rate of 5 millièmes.

This cover is something of a mystery. Cicurel was a business of high repute, one would think they would have frequent dealings with Sudan applying the correct franking, after all they themselves had a Post Office in their Assiut branch.

Has anyone any ideas ? Please look at your Air Mail covers for 1934. Do you have any addressed to Sudan ? If so please let us know.

References:

Movements of Aircraft on Imperial Airways, African Routes, 1931 - 1939 by Peter Wingent.
Journal Officiel

Egyptian Military part 1: Egyptian–Ottoman War (1839–41)

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

Egypt had the status of only an Ottoman province after its conquest by Selim I in 1517, yet it remained a region in which the Mamelukes continue to exercise great power. Indeed the first governor appointed by Selim was a Mameluke, and others were left in charge of regional districts. For the next two centuries they developed into something like feudal barons, maintaining their own armies (in this case comprised of slaves) and using them supposedly in the interest of the Ottoman sultan.

During the 16th century, with strong sultans in Istanbul, the system worked well, with Cairo keeping effective control of the fertile Nile region as far as Aswan, and of the Red Sea and the pilgrimage places of Arabia. During the 17th century, however, weaker sultans allowed the Mamelukes to become increasingly unruly. And 100 years later the Ottoman governor in Cairo is permanently at loggerheads with the local beys controlling their own regions of the province. Napoleon declares that he has come as a friend of the Ottoman Turks and that he will recover their province from Mameluke tyranny.

The Ottoman governor of Egypt and his unruly Mameluke forces are ill-prepared to cope with such an invasion. Victory in the Battle of the Pyramids on July 21, 1798 delivered Cairo to Napoleon; its occupation was finally terminated by an Anglo-Ottoman invasion force when French troops in Cairo surrendered on June 18, 1801.

The French withdrawal left a power vacuum, with the Ottomans sending an army to regain control from the Mamelukes who tried to assert their power. Among the army was a commander, Muhammad Ali, in charge of the Albanian contingent. He used his loyal troops to work with both sides, gaining power and prestige for himself. Finally in 1805 he sided with the Egyptians becoming Wāli (governor) of Egypt, as the Ottoman Sultan Selim III reluctantly agreed.

As the Mamelukes continued to pose the greatest threat to Muhammad Ali, he invited the Mameluke leaders to a celebration at the Cairo Citadel in honour of his son, Tusun, on March 1, 1811. It became known as the Massacre of the Mamelukes when all but one were murdered. Muhammad Ali then sent his army throughout Egypt to rout the remainder of the Mameluke forces. While nominally still showing allegiance to the Sultan, he was then effectively the ruler of Egypt.

The long reign of Muhammad Ali brought transformation to the country. He reformed the structure of the army and established a navy, for which he needed a deep-water harbour. The only candidate was Alexandria, which as a result recovered an international existence after many centuries of somnolence. The ancient city became once again the first port of call for any visitor to Egypt. Trade developed, prosperity returned. By 1820 more than thirty foreign enterprises were based in the city. In the same year the Mahmudiya canal was opened, linking Alexandria with the Nile.

At first, ably assisted by his eldest son Ibrahim Pasha, Muhammad Ali served the sultan well. An expedition by Ibrahim in 1816-18 restored Ottoman authority over Arabia, where the Wahhabi sect had recently held sway. In 1821 another of Muhammad Ali's sons subdued the Sudan.



100th Anniversary of the death of Muhammad Ali. August 2, 1949 depicting the conquered lands.

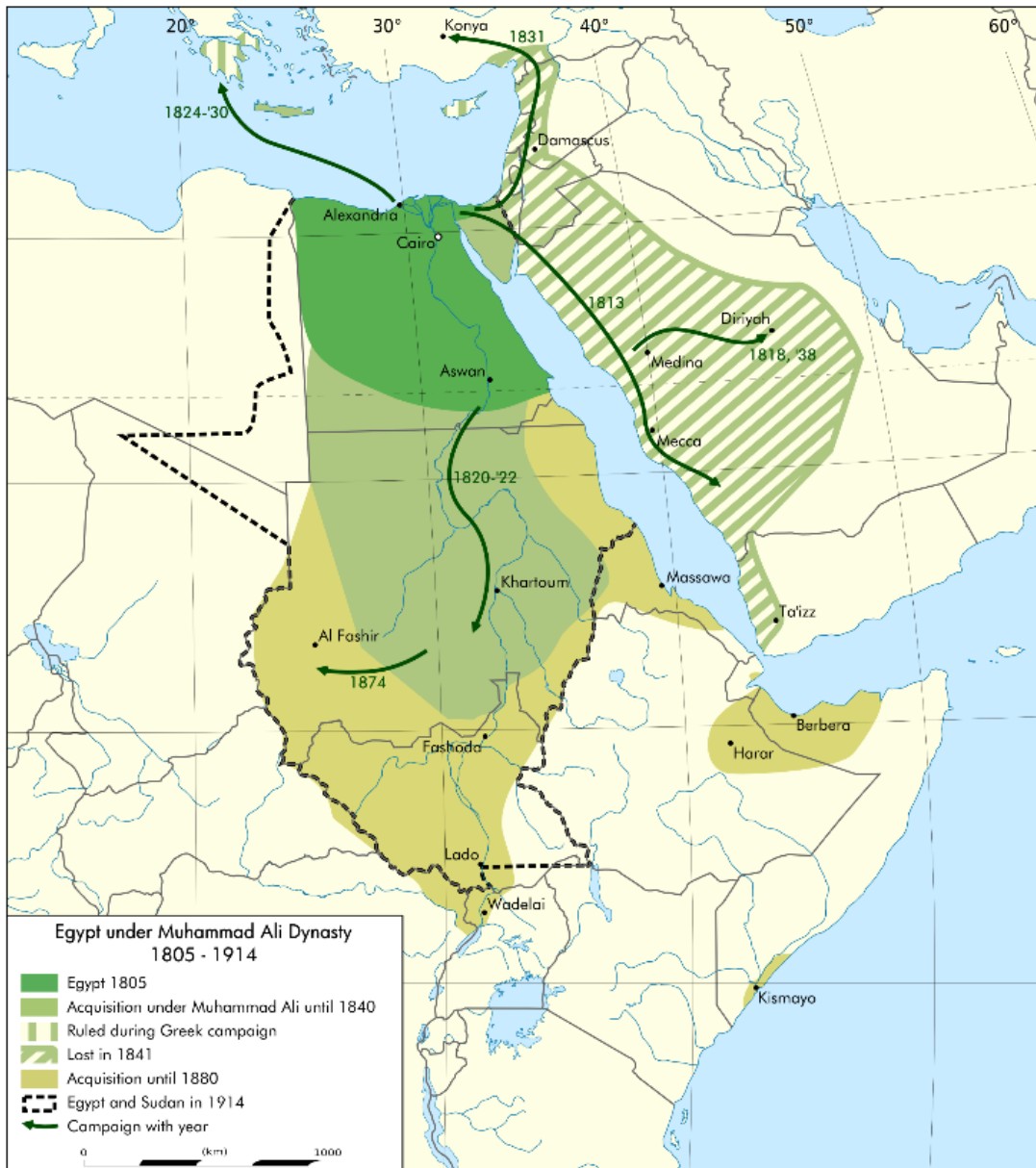


Centenary of the death of Ibrahim Pasha November 10, 1948 depicting the naval battle of Navarino

In 1824 Ibrahim was sent with a fleet to Greece, to help the sultan suppress the movement for Greek independence.

But a disagreement between Muhammad Ali and the sultan gave Ibrahim a more subversive role. In 1832 he marched north from Egypt to invade the Ottoman province of Syria in what became known as the Egyptian–Ottoman War. Ali gave command of his invasion army to Ibrahim Pasha, who had a whirlwind series of successes against Ottoman armies during 1832.

He captured Acre and won a battle at Homs during May. By July he was through the Taurus Mountains and in December won another victory at Konya. By the spring of 1833 he appeared to be in a position to march on Istanbul. In an agreement signed at Kutahya, western Turkey, in May, the sultan secured the retreat of the Egyptian army by ceding to Muhammad Ali the hereditary governorships of Adana (in southeast Anatolia) and Syria. Ibrahim Pasha became governor general of the conquered provinces, his father becoming ruler of a vast swathe of land from Sudan to the Euphrates.



Instigated by Russia but discouraged by Britain, in 1839 the Turkish sultan attempted to recover Syria by military means in what proved a disastrous failure. Ibrahim Pasha (*right*) routed General von Moltke's army of Turks and captured all their guns and baggage at the Battle of Nazib in Syria in June 1839. The defeat convinced the commanders of the Ottoman fleet to change sides and join the Egyptians. The Ottoman Empire appeared on the verge of collapse. Britain, Austria and other European nations rushed to intervene. From September to November 1840, a combined naval fleet made up of British and Austrian vessels cut off Ibrahim's sea communications with Egypt. This was followed by the occupation of Beirut and Acre by the British, whose dominant force was commanded by Commodore Sir Charles Napier, second-in-command to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, commander of the Mediterranean fleet.



There followed a period of prolonged and anxious diplomacy between the capitals of Europe. As a result, Russia was constrained to accept co-operation with Britain as an alternative to war, and in July 1840 Muhammad Ali was presented with a combined ultimatum, demanding the return of the Turkish fleet and the withdrawal of his troops to the frontier of southern Syria.



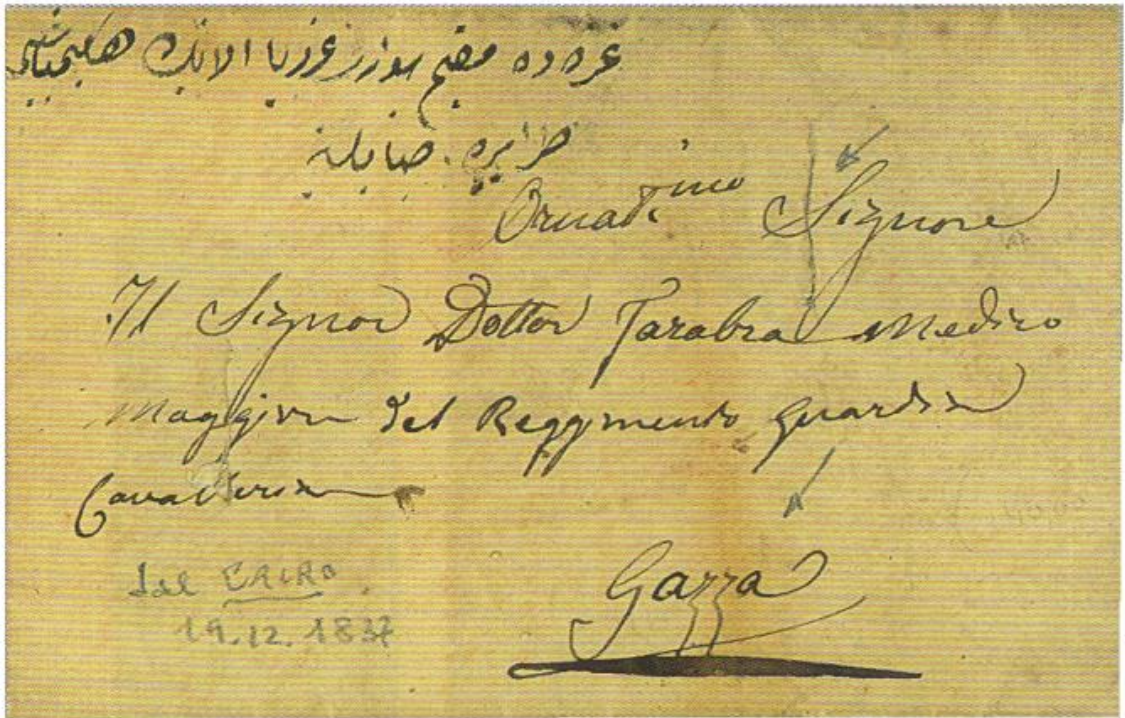
Without orders, the British part of the combined fleet then slipped away from its Russian, Austrian and Turkish allies and made for Alexandria. Muhammad Ali gave the wily Napier (*left*) entry into the harbour and on November 27 signed a convention with him. Under the terms finally agreed Muhammad Ali was left with Egypt, by payment of annual tribute, and with the Sudan by right of occupation. He was to reduce his army to eighteen thousand men and build no more ships for his navy; in exchange he secured his dynasty for his family under the Turkish rules of succession by the oldest member.

The Porte, the British Ambassador at Constantinople, Sir Robert Stopford, and Sir Charles Smith, all disapproved strongly of Napier's action, and denied his right to take such a course; but the four Powers had already, on November 14, decided that, if he should prove tractable, Muhammad Ali should be dealt with much as Napier had dealt with him; and ultimately the Convention, with slight modifications, was ratified.

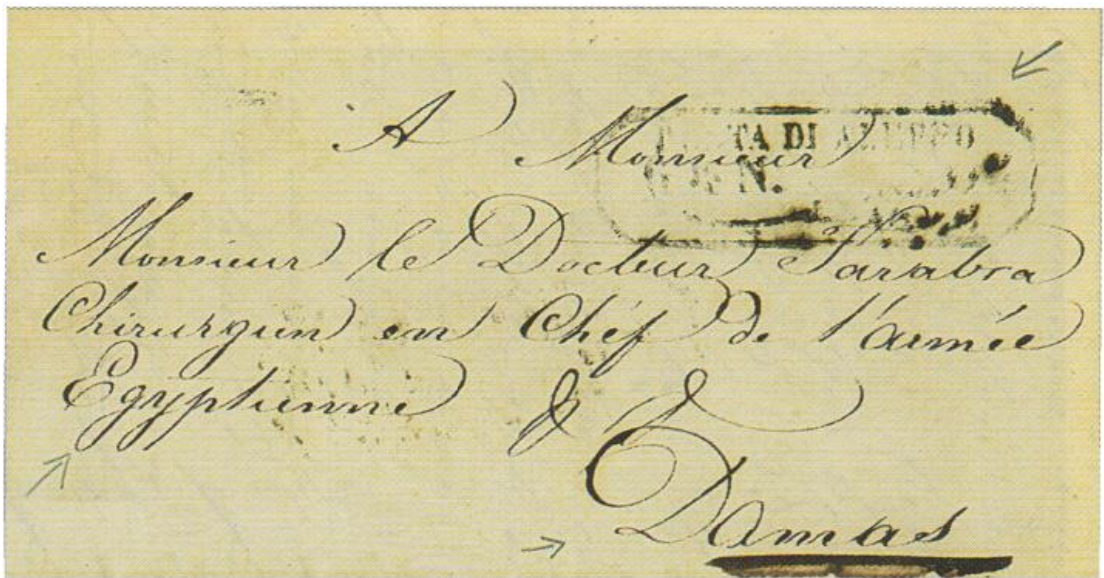


Egyptian guns in action in Syria

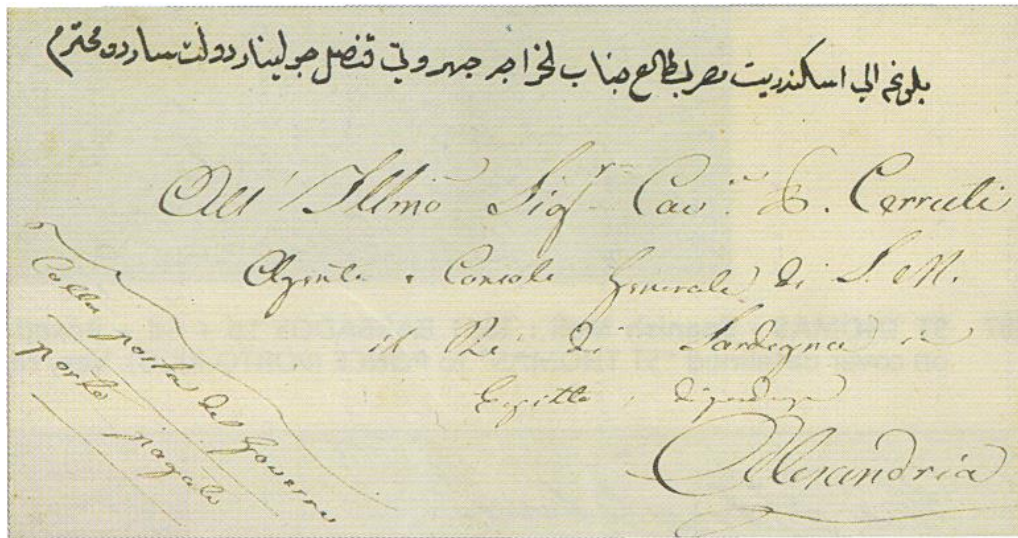
Philatelic material for this period is scarce and to my knowledge amounts to only six pieces, the three illustrated and three more related to the British at Acre.



Disinfected cover to Egyptian Forces in 1837 from Cairo to Doctor Tarabra, Egyptian Regiment at Gaza.

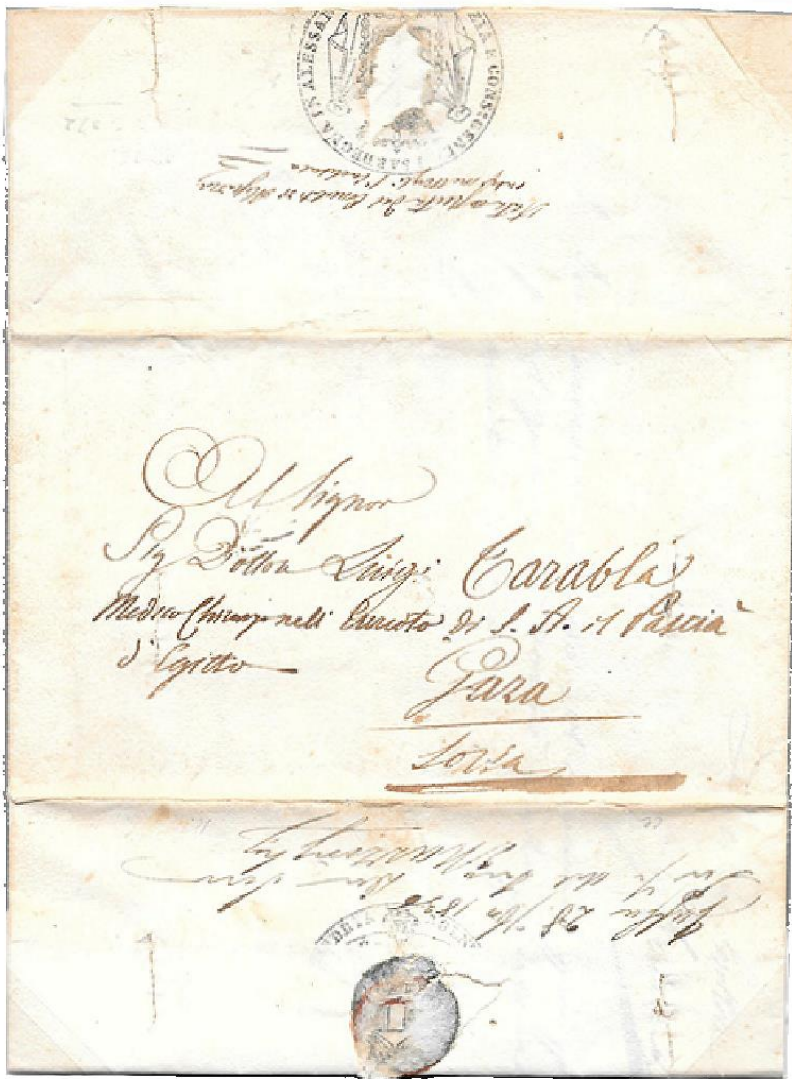


Egyptian Forces in Syria: 1840 boxed bilingual (Italian & Arabic) cachet POSTA DI ALEPPO on cover datelined "Aleppo" to "Docteur Sarabra, Chirurgien of Egyptian Army" at Damascus



1840 cover with full contents datelined Aleppo to Alexandria in manuscript
 "With the Post of the Government Post Paid"

With great thanks to Dennis Vandervelde, the next three items relate to the British involvement at Acre.



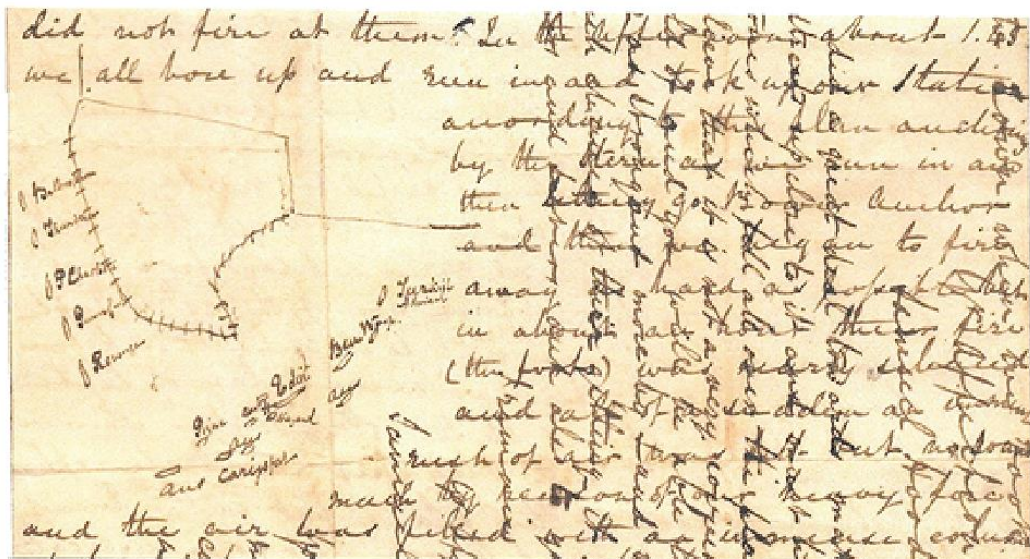
24.8.1836. From the Sardinian Consulate in Alexandria to a surgeon in the Pasha's army in Gaza. Cachetted and endorsed as checked at the Sardinian Consulate, Alexandria. As Gaza was a port with few ship arrivals, it was put on a ship for Jaffa. At the lazaretto there, mail from countries suffering from plague, like Egypt. 1834-36. was slashed, with two 18 mm. knife slits to aid fumigation.

Endorsed as forwarded in Jaffa '28 7bre' (five weeks later) by I. Mazzingly



H.M.S. Edinburgh Nov. 5 1840. The red SHIP LETTER/ DEVONPORT shows that this letter was sent by H.M.S. Phoenix. It is endorsed as received at Bruton, Somerset, on November 30 1840.

Samuel Hood Henderson also enclosed a battle plan of Acre (below) for his father, a Captain R.N. He identifies H.M.S. ships Bellerophon, Thunderer, Princess Charlotte (flagship of Admiral Sir Robert Stopford), Powerful, Revenge, Pique, Castor, Hazard, Edinburgh, Ben(bow), Wasp and Carysfort. Also the 'Turkish Admiral'; and three Austrian warships, represented by 'Aus'



References:

- Gregory Blaxland, *Objective: Egypt* (Fredrick Muller, Gt Britain 1966).
 Andrew McGregor, *A Military History of Modern Egypt* (Prager Security International 2006).
 Lugdunum Philatelie auction circa 2012
 Dennis Vandervelde, *Monograph*

Ibrahim Khalil Chaftar Bey: A Philatelic Biography

(the late **Peter R. Feltus**, ESC 114)

[On the occasion of a Cairo-organised exhibition to mark the anniversary of the First Issue, we thought it fitting to offer our members a biography of the man who organised the first Egyptian international – a recent discovery by Moheb Rizkallah, ESC 686]

Ibrahim Chaftar (ESC 42 and PSE 552) died at home on September 28, 1988, at the age of 86. We will miss him very much; he was for decades the most active and capable philatelist in Egypt, and he was a delightful gentleman. I visited him for several days each year since 1977, at his home in Smouha, a few miles east of downtown Alexandria. His mind and memory remained acute to the end, and he enchanted me for countless hours with stories of philatelists and philately in Egypt. He was wise, charming, funny, generous and utterly straightforward, and one of my favourite people.



In November 1985 I interviewed him for details of his life, and since then I've searched out articles and notes in *L'Orient Philatélique* and *Quarterly Circular*. I regret I didn't finish in time for Ibrahim to read these pages.

Ibrahim Chaftar was born on July 9, 1902, in Cairo, though the family lived in Alexandria (actually, Ras elTin). His father was descended from a Turkish ship captain who sailed to Egypt for Muhammad Ali; his mother's people were Alexandrians. Ibrahim attended French schools in Alexandria and Cairo. He was ready to enter university, his father forbade it. So in 1920 he went to Armant in Upper Egypt to begin his 40-year career with the Société Générale des Sucreries et de la Raffinerie d'Égypte (hereafter referred to as the Sugar Company). He began by studying technical aspects of sugar refining, he became an engineer; by mid-career he was surely the Sugar Company's best troubleshooting manager,

Ibrahim's father had given the boy a stamp collection, but as he was not yet interested in stamps, he sold them to a friend for £20. This made his father very angry, so six months later Ibrahim bought replacement stamps and gave them to his father. Soon thereafter, when he was perhaps 20, he began to collect Egyptian stamps for himself. From 1920 to 1938 Ibrahim worked for the Sugar Company in Armant, visiting Cairo when he could. In 1927 he married his first wife, Bahiya Shukri of the Sidki Pasha family. They had a daughter, born in 1928 and a son in 1934.



Chaftar to Farouk's right at the 1946 Cairo exhibition

In the late 1930s Ibrahim learned of and joined the PSE (announced in *L'OP* 38, October 1938) and the ESC (*QC* 3, November 1938). A.S. Mackenzie Low promptly wrote asking him to search for philately-related documents in government archives. As the Sugar Company moved Ibrahim and his family to Cairo for 1939, he then began his long and fruitful researches; his first find relates to Egypt's Post office in Constantinople.

Ahmad Aboud Pasha, the Sugar Company owner, wanted Ibrahim at his side in Cairo. Albert Ceysens, the general manager (and a philatelist too, with a big budget, and winner of the Grand Prize at the Cairo Philatelic Exhibition of 1946 with his classic Egypt) wanted Ibrahim solving problems in the provinces. When Ibrahim was in Upper Egypt, it was Ceysens' doing.

In late 1939 the Sugar Company sent him to Nag Hamadi, and in 1940 back to Armant, where he was chief of personnel. But by late 1941 he was returned to Cairo where he lived until 1950. These were to be busy years.

In 1942 he was elected president of the PSE, taking over from Jean Boulad d'Humières, who had to move to Ismailia and Suez. As president, Ibrahim felt obliged to build an important Egypt collection, and he bought as much as his small income permitted. He liked the classics best, including covers and postmarks, but he collected all the later material too. And he reported his discoveries and his studies of the classics, overprinted postage dues and officials, booklets and panes, the 1943 Ferial overprint remainders, and the PSE.

By the mid-1940s Mackenzie Low, Besley, Byam and Mumford were all urging their Man in Cairo to find more archives. There was continuous correspondence on several topics, and it was about then realised that Egypt's 1872 stamps were printed by lithography as well as typography; the Circle wanted documents! Ibrahim got permission to examine Post Office archives, though he learned that most had been destroyed in the 1920s when the GPO was moved from Alexandria. Selected files were saved at Azhar, in Cairo; Ibrahim spent many Sundays reading and hand-copying and translating them.

Very happily, he found the Muzzi-Pellas correspondence about the first issue, many PO directives, part of the 1872 file of Boulac-Penasson correspondence and documents about the 1884 and 1888 postage dues. And in 1944 Ibrahim became the editor of *L'Orient Philatélique*.

In 1945 he organised a small philatelic exhibition in Alexandria, where he was an exhibitor and a judge. King Farouk attended and was very pleased, so he offered the PSE his support. Thus, with the King's blessing, Ibrahim organised the very successful 1946 Cairo Philatelic Exhibition (for which the semi-postal stamps and souvenir sheets were issued).

Ibrahim was a judge again, and so showed his stamps in the court of honour (see the good reviews of the show in *QC* 25, March 1946, and in *L'OPs* 54, 57 and 58, April-October 1946). Farouk, being very pleased again, rewarded Ibrahim with the title "Bey".

Later that year Ibrahim married again, to Alma Lauricella; decades later he frequently and fondly recalled that while many were drinking, smoking and partying, he spent years studying stamps and postal history while Alma played the piano, ever so well, at his elbow.

1947 was also very important to Ibrahim. He was Egypt's commissioner and a judge at CIPEX, the international show in New York City. He sailed to New York with his new wife and the exhibits of philatelists in Egypt (he, Gabriel Boulad, Jean Boulad d'Humières, Albert Ceysens, Captain Douglas McNeille and Gracie Wissa all showed Egypt). He met many American and European philatelists including William Byam and Ernie Kehr, and thoroughly enjoyed it all. And he bought a wristwatch that worked continuously for him into the 1980s. He treasured his memories of his voyage to America (see several reports in *L'OP* 60, October 1947).

Soon after the trip Ibrahim's daughter Minouche was born in Cairo. For the next several years Ibrahim was busy with family, editing *L'OP*, and more; he wrote about classics, and was editor of the 1950 *Zeheri Catalogue*. And he went to Europe twice; in 1948 to IMABA in Basle (see E.A. Kehr's report in *L'OP* 64, October 1948) and in 1950 to London, where he signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of the Philatelic Congress of Britain.

In 1950 Ibrahim was obliged to return to Upper Egypt. He left the PSE in the hands of Ahmed Mazloum Pasha as president and Mehanny Eid as editor of *L'OP* (see Mazloum's tribute to Ibrahim in *L'OP* 72, October 1950). Mr Ceysens sent Ibrahim to save the refinery at Nag Hamadi from ruinous mismanagement. Life was spare; Ibrahim recalled that for the first of the years there he and his family had only one room to live in, with piano and stamps. At the Company, among his reforms, Ibrahim instituted same-day harvesting and processing, improving the quality and the quantity of the yield; sugar production rose from 6,000 to 8,000 tons daily.

After six years at Nag Hamadi, Ibrahim went to Abou Korkas for some months and then, in late 1956, to Kom Ombo for four years. Though he went occasionally to Cairo in the 1950s, Ibrahim missed the issuing of the bar overprints on Farouk stamps and the auction sale of the Palace Collections.

He continued to research and write; he published more about classic postmarks, foreign post offices in Egypt, the third issue, and the De la Rue issues. In 1955 he exhibited his Egypt in Stockholm and in Oslo, again in the courts of honour (see reports by Jean Boulad d'Humières in *L'OP* 92, October 1955 and William Byam in *L'OP* 99, April 1958).

Over the years, visiting E.L. Angeloglou, B. Hagopian and the other Cairo stamp dealers and always in touch with events, Ibrahim built a lovely and important Egypt collection. This is remarkable in that he was always underfunded. As he recalled it in 1985, his monthly salaries from the Sugar Company were: £E18 when he began in 1920, £E40 in 1940, £E75 in 1945, £E100 in 1950, £E160 in 1954 and £E200 in 1958. These were augmented at each year's end by a production bonus, usually equal to 3 to 4 months' wages.

In 1958, expecting imminent mandatory retirement and consequent homelessness, Ibrahim resolved to sell stamps to buy a house in Alexandria for his family. He offered his collections to the Cairo dealers and well-off collectors, but it was a poor time to sell and only Jacques Kassab was willing to buy. Ibrahim sold his best stamps to Kassab for E£8,500 (along with much from the Palace Collections and others, they were resold to many collectors and dealers in the 1960s and 1970s).



A portrait given to Mike Murphy when he visited Chaftar in his Smouha home in 1987 with Samir Fikry

Several months later Ibrahim was surprised with a promotion and a rise in salary; with the financial worry gone he regretted having sold his stamps, but in 1960 he bought his house in Smouha and the following year he retired on a small pension and moved in with his wife and daughter.

Upon resettling in Alexandria Ibrahim resumed collecting. He hadn't sold his interpostal seals, postal stationery and booklets, so he continued those and began anew with cancellations generally and detailed studies of definitives. His dealer friends were happy to let him search through thousands of their stamps for postmarks, flaws and retouches. By the mid-1960s he was again writing for the *QC* and *L'OP*; between 1965 and 1978 he published more about early postal history, first issue forgeries, the 5 para De la Rue, Harrison Issue retouches, and Fuad issues retouches.

In 1973 Ibrahim's wife Alma died. He missed her terribly ever since, but he was not left alone; his daughter Minouche, with her husband Nabil Abbassi and their daughter lived upstairs (as they still do, now with two daughters [Dina and Jasmine]). In 1974 the ESC made Ibrahim an honorary life member (see *QC* 92, December 1974). And in 1975 E.L.G. MacArthur (ESC 125) visited Ibrahim (see Chairman's Page in *QC* 96, December 1975).

After 1978, with his research energy spent, Ibrahim wrote few letters and nothing for publication. But he still received many visitors; friends, collectors and dealers who appreciated his charm and expertise (he continued to sign genuine first issue stamps), and some who wanted to buy his stamps.

One of his frequent visitors was Samir Fikry (ESC 305), who has reinvigorated the PSE in Cairo and won several golds at recent international stamp shows with his 19th century Egypt. By 1985 Ibrahim sold his collections, in part to settle medical bills; among them were the interpostal seals (sold to Tony Schmidt), postal stationery (to me), booklets & panes (to Charlie Hass), cancellations, domestic and offices abroad (to Peter Feltus), hotel postmarks & covers (to a Cairo collector), flaws on De la Rue issues (to Peter Feltus), flaws and retouches on Harrisons (to an Alexandria collector) and on Fuads (to another Cairene).

In his last years Ibrahim seemed to live a comfortable if spartan life (eg, arising at about six, eating no meat) centred on reading; he always read newspapers and newsmagazines, and he had a fine library of history, archaeology and literature, in French, English and Arabic. He usually supped upstairs with Minouche and her family; she wrote that "Death took him by surprise on the morning of the 28th although, for the whole week before, he felt great!" Damned, damned shame, that surprise.

[Editor's Note: Minouche Abbassi-Chaftar died in Alexandria on June 3 2011 at 64; Samir Fikry died in Cairo on February 3 2010 at 77.]

Stamps and Rates: What, no Stamp?

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

It seems obvious that the purpose of a definitive issue, the most obvious and most used stamp, must be to pay the normal letter rate within the issuing country. But on several occasions since Egypt's first issue of 1866 the contemporary definitive stamps did not include a denomination to match the basic internal letter rate. One can only guess at the reason: a sudden rate rise to keep up with inflation perhaps, or simply a lack of communication between the designers and the rate setting office. Principally this article is about the internal letter rate but sometimes when this basic rate was not covered so also were others, such as a single stamp to pay for a registered letter or for postage overseas.

The first occurrence was July 11, 1940, when the effects of the war had triggered inflation. How quickly the decision to change the basic internal letter rate from 5 millièmes to 6 millièmes was made and then implemented I don't know, but the current Boy King definitive set did not have a 6 millièmes denomination. That stamp was issued only three months later, on October 20



Various combinations can be found to make up the correct rate but an additional 1 millième stamp is possibly the most common. The postmark is 19.SE.40., which is within the period between the rate rise and the issue of the 6 millièmes stamp. The cover below is an example of the correctly franked letter rate. It also has a British Community War Fund label

The increase also meant that a registered letter was 21 millièmes, and on August 15, 1940, the standard overseas rate was raised from 20 millièmes to 22 millièmes. Neither a 21 nor a 22 millièmes stamp was issued for the Boy King definitive issue. The registration rate was

settled when on August 12, 1943, the next rate change, the letter rate increased to 10 millièmes and registration 20 millièmes, which was covered by the Boy King 30 millièmes stamp. The overseas rate had to be made up with a combination of two or more stamps until December 30, 1944, with the issue of the 22 millièmes stamp of the Farouk Maréchal issue.

The letter rate was increased to 10 millièmes August 12, 1943, 20 millièmes in 1967, 15 millièmes in 1975 and 20 millièmes in 1975, there being a current definitive each time to match the rate.

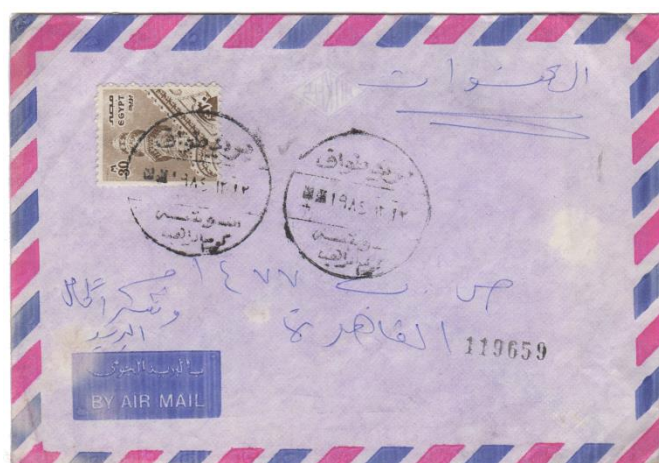
It was increased again in November 1981, to 30 millièmes, again without a definitive to match the rate in the new series. This was despite having ten stamps in the issue, the second pictorials with the 1 millième blue waterwheel.

After a gap of some two months a 30 millième stamp was issued on January 23, 1982. An 80 millièmes stamp was issued on February 10, on account of an increase in the registered letter rate from 70 millièmes to 80 millièmes.





A cover with a 20 millièmes stamp
from El Arish dated 2.8.81



A cover with a 30 millièmes stamp and
a rural handstamp dated 22.12.84



A cover with a 70 millièmes stamp to pay postage
and registration from Ard El Mule, El Minia,
12.8.81



A cover with an 80 millièmes stamp to pay the new
rate from El Shin dated 19.11.89

In my collecting I have concentrated of stamps of the same series showing a correct rate. I had not previously thought of trying to collect covers showing what happened when there was no definitive stamp for the inland letter rate. The fact that I could do so for the Boy King is merely fortuitous and I suspect that had I searched for the others I would have no more than I have, or haven't, as the case may be. Finding post-monarchy covers with acceptable postmarks in the right time range is difficult enough. This cover (right) has the 70 millièmes made up to 80 millièmes with the 29.7.1981 festival stamp. However the datestamps are only partially readable. It is 1982, possible February, but covers showing an 80 millièmes rate made up of various stamps, including the 70 millièmes, are found long after the price increase.



The rate changed from 10 piastres to 15 piastres during January 1993 with the then-current Arabesque issue of October 1, 1989, having no matching 15pt stamp. A new definitive set, the first pharaonic heads, was issued on February 1, 1993 – and included a 15pt stamp.



Cover with Arabesque 10pt postmarked Cairo 28.8.92 well within the 10pt rate period



A cover with a 10 millièmes stamp and 5pt to make up the 15pt before the pharaonic head set issued a 15pt stamp

While writing this article I was a bit surprised to find that I did not possess an example of the 15 piastres pharaonic on cover to pay for the letter rate. It does show just how difficult it is to find such covers: are they really rare, or just the sort of material dealers don't want to stock?



Above date stamped 24.2.99

The next rate change took place on January 1, 1997, the letter rate going from 15pt to 20pt again without a matching stamp. A new definitive set, the second pharaonic heads, was issued on February 1, 1997 - with a 20pt stamp.

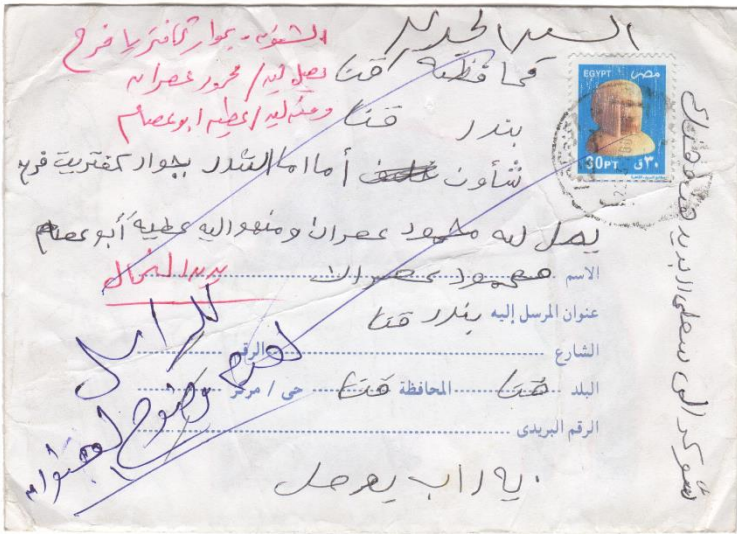
The February stamp had a picture of King Horemheb but this was replaced by a new 20pt on June 23, 1999, of Queen Nofret. This was reprinted in August 2000 with a more amenable picture of the Queen. On March 21, 2001, there was another rate rise, so this stamp had only six months of use for the internal letter rate.



Two covers the upper with the original Nofret dated 21.2.01.

The lower cover with the nice stamp dated 11.1.01

The change from 20pt to 30pt on March 21, 2001, was again without a matching stamp. No 30pt stamp was issued until August 2001 with the image of the Goddess Silakht. A new set of stamps was issued on May 25, 2002; this had a 30pt stamp with the head of Princess Merit Atoun.



30pt Princess Merit Atoun paying the internal letter rate.

This is one of only two I have seen. But this is probably because covers of normal letters are nearly always thrown away.

It's not that the Goddess Silakht stamps are not found used on cover: I have a few paying the registered letter rate of 110pt, either a 10pt value used with a £E1 Queen Nefertari (issued October 1997) or 3x30pt Silakht and a 20pt Queen Nofret stamp. This illustrate, I think, that most modern covers of internal letters are saved or sold on to British dealers who rightly see no market for them. Nearly all my post-monarchy material has come from the internet directly from sellers in Egypt.

Right, a parcel card with two values of the Silakht stamps and both printings of the Nofret stamps. Dated 4.9.12.

That is ten years after the set had been replaced by the 2002 pictorials!



I have no information of internal postage rates up to January 1, 2015, when Sherif el-Kerdani reported in QC 252 a post office circular announcing an increase from £E1.25 to £E1.50. The last 30pt stamp issued was the joint issue with Singapore, October 17, 2011, so it's reasonable to assume that a change in rates took place at about that time. But to what? Since the 30pt stamp, up to the present day most new stamps have been issued at "high" denominations of £E2, £E3 or £E4.

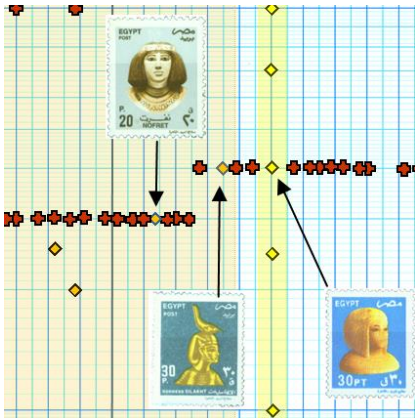
There are however the two 50pt stamps (orange and green), issued on October, 7, 2013, and in December 2014: the first of these is two years after the last 30pt stamp. I might guess that the new rate might have been £E1, for which there was a £E1 definitive. The next £E1 is the festival set of August 18, 2012, and festival stamps tend to be issued at the standard internal rate.

If the rate then went up to £E1.25 the first stamp to appear is the Egyptian Scout centenary of October 15, 2014, followed by the set of six Birds of Egypt on December 10, 2014. The next stamp issued, for the National Theatre on December 20, 2014, was £E1.50, followed by another £E1.50 for the 150th Anniversary

of the Egyptian Post, January 2, 2015. These two stamps fit well with Sherif el-Kerdani’s report. There has however been no £E1.50 stamp since then. From January 25, 2015, there have been seven stamps issued at £E2.00. Was the £E1.50 a short-lived rate, or has the Egyptian Post Office given up on issuing stamps for normal postage?

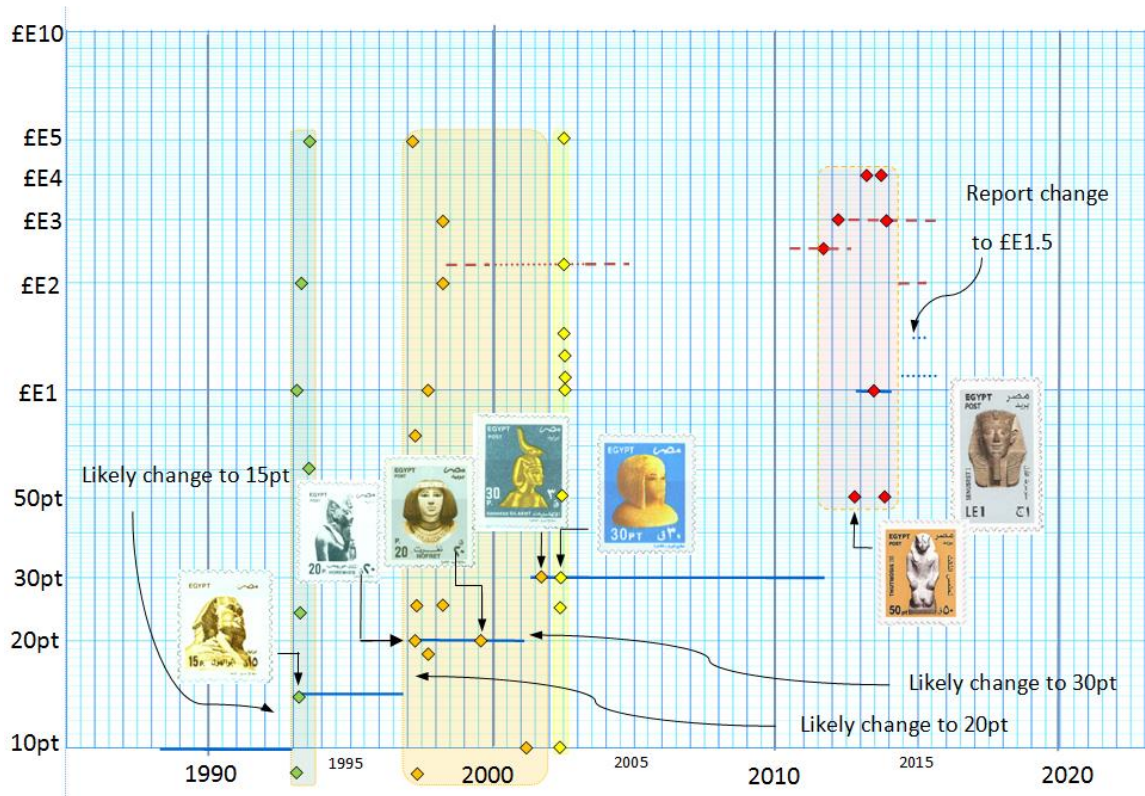
If the internal basic letter rates were in fact £E1.25, £E1.50 and £E2.00, then there are no such denominations in the definitive issue of these values. So again it’s a case of “What, no stamp?”

Trying to see rate changes.



I showed at the January 2008 Study Circle meeting some of my graphs matching stamps to various rates, making the assumption that stamps reflect to some degree postal rates [See my article “Stamps and Rates”, *QC* 228 p102]. This is borne out by plotting rates against time. See (below) the one for the internal letter rate, and note that the stamp value is plotted on a log axis while time is on the linear axis. As can be seen, a discontinuity occurs when the values of the stamp reflect the new rate. Now it could be that the stamp value is changed in preparation for a postal rate change, or more likely soon after. There are occasions when a set is issued on the day of the change.

Above is part of a graph I did for all the stamps issued from 1990 to November 2015. The diamonds indicate definitives, the crosses other stamps. In the final graph the individual points are replaced by a line. Below is the completed graph. It clearly shows the changes 15⇒20⇒30 and that the 30 millièmes value lasted until the third quarter of 2011. After that it becomes a little problematic but it seems that the letter rate went to £E1 somewhere between November 2011 and August 2012, then to £1.25 before December 2014, and on to £1.50 at the beginning of 2015.



A Mystery Envelope - "Found In Mail Bag...."

Peter Newroth (ESC 394)

The Figure illustrates an envelope bearing three postage stamps, two tied by cancellations. The 2d Australian stamp is not cancelled, and overlays part of the Swansea slogan/information duplex, dated 26 June, 1938, which ties the 1/2d GB stamp.

The back of the envelope has no writing or postal markings, and examination of the flap shows intact gum and thus the envelope was unsealed.

The envelope is addressed to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, but there is no mark indicating that it arrived. It did arrive in Alexandria, Egypt where two postmarks were applied, both dated 11 September, 1936. One of these ties a 5 mil King Fuad stamp, which may have been present before, or more likely was applied at time of cancellation.



The mysterious path of this envelope is made much more exciting due to the boxed postal instruction, "FOUND IN MAIL BAG/ WITHOUT CONTENTS". This Auxiliary Marking is illustrated by Smith, p. 519, and as he said, it is self explanatory!

But how did this envelope get to my hand, and where has it been?

I probably got this item about 15 to 20 years ago from a stamp dealer in Canada. The UK postage of 1/2d would only pay postage for Printed Papers in June 1938, but not Overseas letter mail. Somehow it must have arrived in Alexandria, Egypt where the Fuad stamp and cancel was applied by Egyptian postal officials in September along with the Postal Instruction.

Probably it was then forwarded to Winnipeg, but was the 5 mil sufficient to pay? The unused Australian stamp (of the 1937-38 period) may have been applied by a stamp collector, for reasons unknown.

References:

GB Philatelic Society, Postal Rate information.

Smith, P. A. S., Egypt, Stamps and Postal History, A Philatelic Treatise. James Bendon, 1999.

New Date of Cook's Tourist Service Post Office Cairo Marking?

Peter Newroth (ESC 394)

The tinted postcard from Japan (see Figure 1) eventually arrived in Cairo, Egypt, and we hope found the addressee. The famous gardens illustrated are below the feudal castle at Hikone and may be referenced on the internet.

Figure 2 shows the back of the card, franked by a 4 sen "chrysanthemum" stamp postmarked at Yokohama, 4 January, 1906.



Addressed to Miss G. Aldis, c/o Messrs. Thos Cook & Sons, Columbo, Ceylon, the card passed through Victoria, Hong Kong on 17 January (partial marking at left). It was postmarked on arrival in Colombo at 6:30 AM on 3 February, 1906, and forwarded to the Cook Tourist office where a purple rectangular marking was applied (dated that day). Apparently Cook's knew that Miss Aldis was in Egypt, returned the card to the post and

another Columbo postmark was applied, timed 6:30 PM.

Suez and Cairo postmarks of 19 February, followed by the Cook's Tourist Service marking (also dated 19 February) illustrate the remarkably fast and efficient service available at the time.

Peter Smith's book (p. 340) illustrates Cook's P.O. markings, and provided dates recorded for 10 types of Tourist Agency marks. The mark on my 1906 card appears to be Type 1 - for which he indicated dates ranging from 1894 to 1903. Type 2 usage dates were given for 1903 to 1909.



Do others have similar makings from the period, to study and possibly revise the information available?

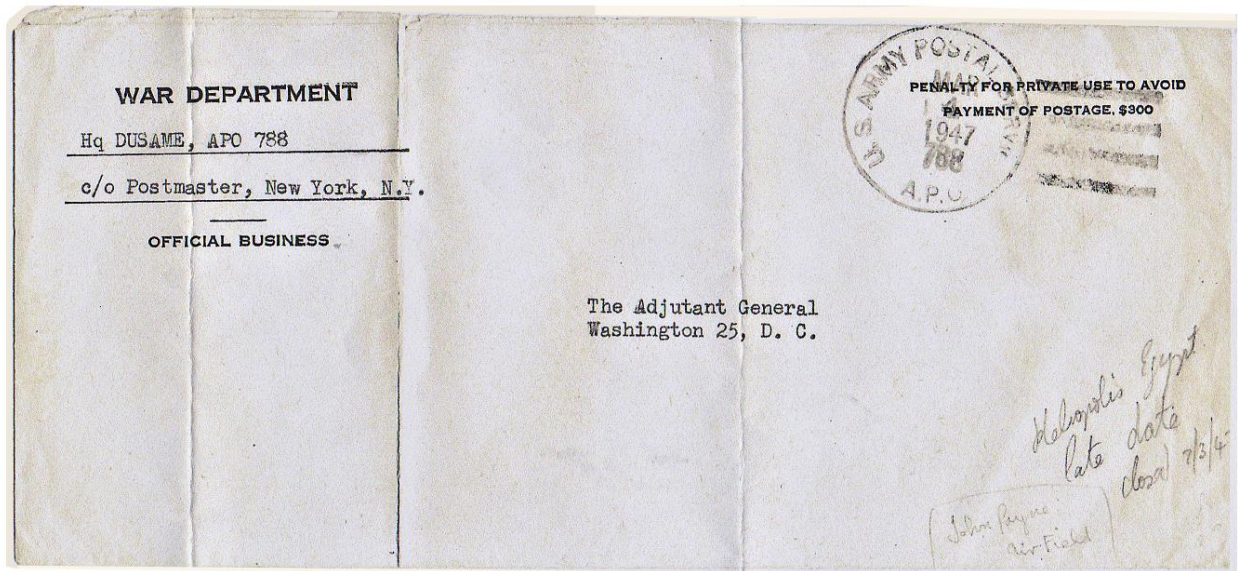
Reference:

Smith, P. A. S., Egypt, Stamps and Postal History, A Philatelic Treatise. James Bendon, 1999.

U.S. Army Post Offices in Egypt

Peter Andrews (ESC 122)

I read with interest Richard Wilson's article "U.S. Army Post Offices in Egypt during World War II" (QC 253, June 2015, pp. 128-38) and find that I can extend the date of usage of APO 788 (type HS21) from 1-Jul-46 to 4-MAR-47 (cover Ho. 1). There are no markings on the reverse of this cover.



Whilst looking through the small amount of these covers in my collection I came across cover No.2 and noticed the double circle American Post Office type datestamp. The cover does not appear to have travelled via the U.S. (unless by diplomatic bag - although there is no mention of this) so was it usual to have these CDS's in Egypt and if so, should this type be added to the listing?



Membership changes

New members:

ESC 698 Dr John L Hayes, 3824 Broadway # 3, Oakland, California 94611, United States
Egypt, Middle East, India, Mexico

Change of Address:

ESC 662 Pauline Gittoes, 25 Sarisbury Gate, Dove Gardens, Park Gate, Southampton SO31 7FP
ESC 686 Scott Van Horn, 1964 East Crescent Way, Chandler, Arizona 85249, United States

Censor Label/Markings

Peter Andrews (ESC 122)

Looking through back issues for some information, I came across an article which I do not remember seeing or this note would have been written sooner. The article is in *QC* 240, March 2012, pp. 104-5 and concerns a WWII censor label with the overprint "OPENED BUT UNCENSORED". A lot of background information is given which certainly adds to our existing knowledge and I am grateful that the article extends the date of usage.

But the statement that this label had never been reported is incorrect since I recorded it in my monograph *Censorship of Mail in Egypt 1939 to 1945* as type c (without at that time having the background now given). My thanks to the authors.

On another matter, I believe that I can help Roland Dauwe regarding the censor markings (type 39 in my articles on Censorship 1948-1974 published in *QC* 169, June 1994. This censor type is found on printed matter both entering and leaving Egypt and items have been recorded between 1963 and 1973 but none of my covers has an imprimé datestamp.

A Stationery Cutout

Edmund Hall (ESC 239)

In *QC* 245 (June 2013, pp 224-229) and 249 (June 2014) Mike Murphy wrote about Gabriel Boulad's campaign to use stationery cutouts for postage. However he was not the first to do this for Egypt, although the example illustrated is a cover sent into Egypt. Capt. W.R.Gatt was a well-known philatelist attached to a Malta artillery regiment based in Egypt during WWI. I suspect that many of us have might Captain Gatt covers, mostly all contrived as no doubt this one was.



Two new members didn't receive the June 2015 *QC* when I sent them the others for that year. I have now found them so email me who you were and I'll send them

Editor

First Issue Anniversary Exhibition in Cairo – Members' Exhibits

Congratulations on the effort made by some of our members who helped to make the exhibition the true success it was. While many entries have been highlighted, here is a full (hopefully!) list of our members' efforts.

Member	No.	Exhibits	Frames	Result
Jon Aitchison	ESC 661	Egyptian Interpostals	1	83
		Egypt – Suez Canal Company	1	71
		Guernsey Emergency Wartime Sales Tax	1	80
Samir Attiah	ESC 505	The Most Captivating Egyptian Date Stamps	8	93 G SP
Nabih John	ESC 213	Airgraph Service 1941-1945	1	86
Davis		Farouk Army Post Stamps	1	85
Amr El-Etreby	ESC 688	The Express Service	1	70
		The 1915 Provisional – A Centenary Celebration	1	90 SP
Edmund Hall	ESC 239	Postal Stationery - Letter Sheet	1	83
		Egypt Postal Seals Use and Misuse	1	85
Amr Lalthy	ESC 561	Egypt POs in Palestine 1948	1	83
		Graf Zeppelin Flight 9-13 April 1931	1	90
Alaa Massoud	ESC 561	British Army Postal Service in Palestine WWII	1	73
		Seaman's Home Post Office Alexandria 1906-1955	1	78
Tarek Mokhtar	ESC 692	Shibin el-Kom postmarks 1870-1922	1	90
Khaled Moustafa	ESC 638	The Postal Stationery of Egypt 1865-1930	8	92 G SP
Mike Murphy	ESC 240	Egyptian Government Offices 1920-1984	1	78
		Farouk & the Palace Post	1	68
Sami Sadek	ESC 559	Medicine in Ancient Egypt	1	60
Essam Saleh	ESC 667	The Usage of Official Slogans 1922-1973	5	75
Sherif Samra	ESC 311	Egypt 1979 Provisional Issue	1	Jury class
Brian Sedgley	ESC 268	Egyptian Offices in the Levant & Early TPOs	1	65
Gregg Todd	ESC 585	1866 First Issue of Egypt	8	97 LG GP
Lucien Toutounji	ESC 264	Egypt Hotels 1890-1939	8	92 G
		Constanta-Alexandria Maritime Mail 1907-1939	1	91 G SP
Richard Wheatley	ESC 168	Egypt - Consular Service	1	77

Tony Chisholm (ESC 288), 1939-2015, R.I.P

The Circle is sad to have to report the death on November 20 (as recorded briefly in the last *QC*) of Tony Chisholm of Wellington, New Zealand, for 15 years our Antipodean Agent, a genial host with his wife Jenny of many a stamp week, an ardent collector, and a generous sharer of his passion for postcards. He will be sorely missed by members.



Tony was born Apostolis Martakis in Alexandria to Greek parents, and his name was changed when his mother - widowed when he was 18 months old – married Albert (Jimmy) Chisholm, who later worked in Egypt and Libya for the Imperial War Graves Commission. Tony worked for years for a NZ shipping company while seeking out other NZ-based collectors with an interest in Egyptian stamps and initiated the NZ-Egypt Stamp Club before discovering and joining the ESC in 1983. As Antipodean Agent from June 2002, he enjoyed promoting local collecting and hosted several week-long conferences at their holiday home at Matarangi Beach on the Coromandel Peninsula, which were warmly appreciated by members and guests.

Somewhere along the way his postcard passion was aroused and on family excursions Tony would stop off in small towns and look for treasures, complemented by frequent mailings from his worldwide contacts for cards to register on his database. He was determined to bequeath his catalogue of 20,000-plus cards to the Circle as a research archive, if we can get them off his outdated Apple software! His warm hospitality and devotion to his hobby is a sad loss to all who knew him, especially to his friends in the UK and those within the NZ Chapter with whom he met regularly.