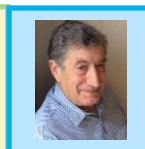


**Swapping Germany for Egypt with a school friend and falling in love with the 1867 20 para led to a fascination with the myriad alternatives offered by Egypt collecting – and he still has 3,500 pages to enjoy**



### **Why I collect Egypt – John Davis (ESC 213) – Worcestershire, UK**

Years ago, when I was ten or eleven and away at boarding school, I discussed a problem with a fellow stamp collector – we all had pre-printed albums for the whole world. He was German and his father ran what was then British Nylon Spinners at Pontypool. He could not get German stamps after the war, but every stamp shop (remember them?) had packets of them for sale, so my German pages were quite full.

He offered to swap any country from his collection for my pages of Germany, so I looked through his collection and came across an Egyptian Second Issue stamp among the Fouads and Farouks, and decided that I liked it very much. We did the swap, - I had never seen that stamp favourite colour, green. I now of this stamp, together with a although my German friend deal financially, I benefited and I have never regretted it before and it was in my own one of the largest blocks Charlie Hass certificate, so probably did better in the from a lifetime's interest.

That's how I got started, but countries in favour of stamp and particularly postal everything. For instance, countries' stamps through the Britain, France, Greece, before Italy was unified, Italy itself. Alternatively, passes through the Suez his nation's stamps from the them cancelled with Ismailia or Port Said or the boat drops off mail.



***One of the highlights of John's collection: a part cover with an ESC Type 3 cancel (V.R. Poste Egiziane / Roda 26 GEN 1872) alongside an otherwise unrecorded Mohamed Aly Post intaglio seal for the town. And all topped off by being addressed to Emil Brugsch, the German archaeologist, at the time deputy director of the Egyptian Museum in Boulaq.***

eventually I sold all my other collecting just Egypt. For history collectors, Egypt has you can collect other consular post offices of Austria, Russia, and even Sicily and Sardinia as well as when a non-Egyptian ship Canal a passenger can buy purser on board and have Egyptian postmarks at Suez, anywhere in between where

As my collection is mainly about giving displays to other societies, I find that many listening to me are also interested in ancient Egypt, and that eventually encouraged me to take a degree in Ancient History and Egyptology during my fifties. This enables me to make my talks interesting even when nobody in the audience collects Egypt.

I have visited the country more than once, and even won a first class Nile boat trip from Cairo to Aswan in which we continued by coach to Abu Simbel. Several years ago I went with our Hon. Sec. Mike Murphy, to Fayid on the Suez Canal with a group of military veterans who had been there at the time of the Suez crisis. It is forbidden territory nowadays unless you have special permission from Egypt's Second Army.

Finally, although our conventional meetings are held in London, our New Zealand members are rather too far away to attend unless they are visiting Stampex, so they formed a "chapter" at Matarangi, a place opposite Auckland on the Coromandel Coast of the North Island, where the hot springs come up through the beach facing the Pacific. These conferences - there were seven in all - were so popular that some UK members made the long trip, and my wife and I enjoyed a six-week holiday in New Zealand, meeting several members, and even non-members, with whom we are still in touch. *See page 243.*

I am now in my eighties and, having sold my British Forces in Egypt collection, I still have something like 3,500 pages of Egypt to keep me busy. So that's why!

● **We welcome all members' stories to make this column a regular feature of the QC**