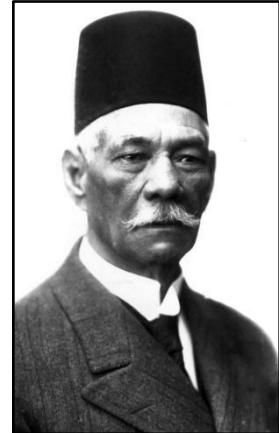


Stamps that tell a story 2: Sa'ad Zaghloul Pasha

David Ogden (ESC 480)

Sa'ad Zaghloul Pasha, the renowned Egyptian nationalist leader, appears on the 1977 20 milliemes stamp SG 1321. It features his portrait in a dark blue green and violet brown design. I was keen to learn more about him after last year seeing a film, set during the 1919 revolution, being made in Al-Mu'izz Street, Old Cairo.

Other nationalists, such as Mustafa Kamil, Muhammed Farid and Hafni Nasif, have also been honoured on Egypt stamps (issued in 1958 and 1969), even though they died before the age of Arabism and socialism. A centenary £E4 stamp featuring Zaghloul was issued in 2019 on the 100th anniversary of the revolution



Sa'ad Zaghloul Pasha ibn Ibrahim (lived 1857-1927) was an Egyptian revolutionary and statesman born in the village of Ibyana on the west bank of the Nile (in today's governorate of Kafr al-Sheikh), north of Cairo. His father Ibrahim was a local notable who owned vast areas of agricultural land.

Zaghloul, a leading lawyer, was furious that Egypt's representatives were refused a voice at the Versailles peace talks at the end of the First War and so founded the Wafd (ie, "Delegation")

Party. He led a civil disobedience campaign aimed at freeing Egypt (and Sudan) from British rule and played a key role in the 1919 Egyptian revolution which brought striking workers to the streets of Cairo and closed the country's crucial railway network.

He was exiled by the British, first to Malta, then to the Seychelles. On his return he was deeply involved in prompting the British Unilateral Declaration of Egyptian Independence in 1922, which freed Egypt from the British protectorate and created a kingdom. He served briefly as Prime Minister in 1924.

When the Wafd won a vast majority in parliamentary elections (See, right, a 2019 first day cover, featuring the Parliament building), King Fuad I dismissed the assembly and delayed calling new voting to conceal evidence of Zaghloul's popular appeal.



Popular lore says that on his deathbed in 1927 Zaghloul Pasha took a long hard look at the sad state of affairs in the Arab world before turning to his wife and saying: "It's just no use Safiyya. Cover me!" The Wafd party

was banned, with all other Egyptian political parties, in 1953 by Gamal Abdel Nasser after the Free Officers Revolution of 1952. The party newspaper, *Al Misri*, was closed down in 1954.



You can visit Beit El-Umma (House of the People, left), Zaghloul's biographical mausoleum in Mounira, Cairo, which features the furniture and lifestyle of the Egyptian political elite of his time. It has an Art Nouveau dining room, Louis XV style reception rooms, an Arab style living room, Turkish baths and a library with more than 5,000 books.