

E G Y P T S T U D Y C I R C L E

T H E Q U A R T E R L Y C I R C U L A R

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FUTURE MEETINGS

<u>1978</u> February 11	General, but with T.P.O. as main topic
April 8	Dues, J.A.Grimmer
June 10	Interpostal Seals, A. Schmidt

STOP PRESS

Our President Prof. Peter Smith is in London now and will attend the meeting on February 11.

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

Officers -- 1978

President	Prof. P.A.S. Smith Department of Chemistry, University of Michigan, ANN ARBOR, Michigan, U.S.A.
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Deputy Chairman	J. S. Horesh, 55 Latymer Court, LONDON, W6
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Mehanny Eid Bey, C. Fox, E.A. Kehr, R.D.P., Ahmed Mazloun Pasha.

Representatives of ' Societe Philatelique d'Egypte '

United Kingdom	J. Sears
U.S.A.	P.A.S. Smith

An appreciation of the contribution of my predecessor, Ron Potter, to the Q.C. (which he edited from 1962 to 1977) appears on page 71.

There will be a few changes in Q.C. After this issue, we will change to the modern A4 format, which will provide about 15% more acreage for the same paper cost.

As a measure to improve the quality and definition of the illustrations, future issues will have illustrations grouped on pages produced by Xerox-copying instead of duplication. However, poor originating artwork will not yield good reproductions, whatever the printing method used.

What will future Egypt collectors be able to collect? If present trends continue, the classic material will be beyond the reach of people of ordinary means. This is one reason why it has been decided that New Issues shall be dealt with in the Q.C. from now on. The present stamp issues, and the postal history of the present time, must be recorded so that future researchers of Egypt can readily find information in these pages. This is a big area of interest and, catering for specialists in all fields of Egypt, as we do, we must provide the raw material at least.

It is a sad fact that the Q.C. is now the only published periodical which specialises in Egypt philately and postal history. It is therefore even more important the Q.C. should be vigorous and should flourish. I can play a part, as Editor, but the real work will need to be done by individual members in carrying on researches and recording their findings.

I am very concerned that philately should not lose the benefit of research which is being done, and which has been done in the past. Regrettably, it is fairly certain that there has been considerable loss already. As Dennis Clarke says in his page (72), the Circle Records are in bad state. Work done in the past is being lost, and those who did it are no longer here to explain their work. What is worse, the important collections on which much study was based have now been dispersed, and it may never again be possible to assemble the material again. It is vitally important that philatelic information should be published in permanent form, whether as articles in the Q.C., or as special Supplements, or in separate book form.

The Egypt Study Circle was, I believe, the very first of the specialist study groups, and had the commendable purpose of facilitating study by making scarce or unique material available to small groups of knowledgeable people. We must be on the alert for possible new members from among the new owners of significant material.

I have one final aim: it is to make this magazine a quarterly circular - not an unreasonable aim, in view of the name! However, the Q.C. can appear four times a year only if there is sufficient material to justify. Regular pleas for material for publication will therefore continue and will be pursued by arm-twisting of persons suspected of carrying unwritten material in their heads!

John A. Grimmer (ESC 164)

F R O M t h e C H A I R M A N . . .

This short note is really in the nature of a report on my first year as Chairman of the Circle. Thanks to the support of a few of the older members who led the studies and discussions at our bi-monthly meetings, as well as to the officials of the Circle, I feel it is true to say that we continue to grow.

At this stage I must make a special point of recording all our thanks to Ron Potter for the very hard work he has put in over the years in editing the Quarterly Circular. He feels that because of his poor health (which thankfully is improving) he can no longer cope with this arduous task. It is because of Ron's unfailing standards of excellence that the Q.C. enjoys its present high rating in philatelic journalism.

We are fortunate in that John Grimmer has agreed to take over editorship, assisted by a small team to deal with despatch, etc. and we wish him every success. The Q.C. is now (to the best of our knowledge) the only periodical in the world devoted to Egyptian philatelic matters and it is our prime objective to see that it continues on a regular basis.

I trust we shall have the pleasure of seeing more members at our London meetings next year; and finally I should like to take the opportunity of wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous 1978.

JOHN SEARS

"Notes from Members"

This feature in the June Q.C. on pages 60 to 62 raised technical questions as to the meanings of printer's terms appearing on De La Rue archive material. The questions were raised by V. Andonian.

A number of replies have been received from ESC members and our next issue will contain a report on this intriguing subject

R E M I N D E R . . . if you have not yet paid your subscription to the E.S.C. for 1977, will you please do so NOW. The amount is £4. Thank you.

Many Members have still not yet paid the subscription for 1977 and it will be appreciated if a prompt payment is made. Without them the Circle will be unable to continue as we will be unable to meet the rising expenses of the numerous operations involved in producing this Q.C. - not to mention the postal costs.

It is intended to produce four Q.C.'s during 1978, as was the custom prior to the series of sad setbacks of recent years.

John Grimmer has agreed to take on the task of Editor and it now rests with you, the membership, to ensure that he has material to use for our future issues. So please write in, even if only to set down a philatelic query that has been puzzling you.

It is essential that the Q.C. continues to be published, as there now appears to be no other regular form of medium available to publicise informative facts on Egypt philately.

As Secretary, I should like to thank Ron Potter for his dedicated service to the Egypt Study Circle and for the extremely high standards of exactitude that he set for the Quarterly Circular and which he maintained during his long term as Editor. My thanks are also due to the many willing hands who gave Ron Potter their co-operation and assistance.

During the past year I have had the pleasure to meet a number of our overseas members. These included M. Ryan (Australia), T. Dacos (Greece), R. Jeidel (South Africa) and P.R. Feltus and V. Andonian (U.S.A.). If any overseas members are contemplating a visit to England and will be staying in or near London, will they please write to me in advance so that a meeting can be arranged.

Recent Circle Meetings have been lively and interesting, as will be seen from the Chairman's Reports, but it would be encouraging to see a few more U.K. Members in attendance. It is appreciated that the cost of travel is high, but an occasional visit would surely not incur bankruptcy?

In closing, a further reminder: will Members please quote their E.S.C. Membership Number on all correspondence - this simplifies filing.

D.H. Clarke (ESC 165)

MEMBERSHIP matters . . .

Changes of Address

F. A. Ford (ESC 157)	23 Oakwood Road, Hayling Island PO11 9AY
J. E. E. Harraway (ESC 214)	42 Mizzymead Rise, Nailsea, Avon BS19 2JN

Period from 6 August to 31 December, 1975

	In	Out	Balance
In hand at Bank on take-over from previous Treasurer, 6 August, 1975			£ 106.79
Sept Subscriptions received	£ 15.00		121.79
Nov " " "	6.00		127.79
Expended on Q.C.'s		£ 67.67	
Dec 31 balance in hand at year-end			60.12

Year to 31 December 1976

	In	Out	Balance
Jan 1 In hand at bank, brought forward			£ 60.12
Subscriptions received	£ 40.39		100.51
Feb " " "	71.48		171.99
Feb 7 Expended on Q.C.'s (re 1975)		£ 59.03	
" " Room Hire		14.00	
" " Postage etc.		7.00	91.96
March Subscriptions received	38.45		130.41
April " " "	24.66		155.07
May " " "	32.66		187.83
June " " "	43.35		231.08
July " " "	14.67		245.75
Aug Expended on postage etc (including newsletter circulated to members)		12.00	233.75
Sept Subscriptions received	10.14		243.89
Expended on Affiliation Fee to Philatelic Congress of G.B.		2.50	241.39
Dec Subscriptions received	20.00		
Dec 31 balance in hand at year-end			261.39

Note 1. Odd pence on subscriptions received are due to bank charges being deducted from encashment of overseas remittances.

Note 2. Expenditure of £101.40 on Q.C.'s, postage, etc., incurred during 1976 was paid in the next financial year.

171st Meeting held 13 August 1977

The meeting was attended by the Chairman, John Sears, and: P.Andrews, D.H.Clarke, F.W.Benians, J.A.Grimmer, S.Horesh, A.Schmidt.

The Chairman raised the subject of publishing. There had been little progress and the meeting decided that publication of at least one work should go forward. It was agreed that the format should be A4. Finance was offered by P.Andrews and by NPS but this was left open.

After discussion as to readiness, it was decided that the work by Jim Benians on Hotel Postmarks should be published as a pilot scheme. The work on Posta Europea would be sent to the President, Prof. P.A.S.Smith, for vetting, and was expected to be ready for publishing as a second venture. The target publishing date for Hotel Postmarks was to be by the end of 1977.

The quality of reproduction of illustrations in QC was felt to be unsatisfactory. S. Horesh showed B.A.P.I.P. magazines containing high-quality reproductions and it was agreed that this standard should be adopted; details and quotations should be sought.

The question of whether publishing should be as part of QC or as a separate work was discussed. D.H.Clarke pointed out that QC was received only by ESC members and that a wider readership of the publication should be aimed at. It was agreed that this principle be followed.

The question of whether there should be a separate charge to ESC members was discussed. S.Horesh suggested that a publication could be issued free as an alternative to an issue of QC. It was decided however that the publishing venture should stand on its own feet and that an appropriate price, depending on costs, would be charged, and the quality printing would be decided in the same context.

Three new applications for membership were considered. It was noted that these had not been properly seconded. The meeting was reminded that the purpose of calling* formal proposing and seconding was that new members *for could be in a position of sharing important material for study purposes, and there was a responsibility to the owners to be borne in mind. The applications were approved.

The need to report ESC activities to "Stamp Collecting" was mentioned, so as to ensure publicity for the Circle's activities.

There was a suggestion that Study Leaders should hold the Circle Records but, after discussion, it was agreed that they should use Xerox copies.

It was agreed that QC should publicise future meetings, especially in view of the change of subjects. There should also be a request to members to bring material in support of the speaker. The remaining meetings for 1977 are :-

October 8 - First Issue (P.Andrews)
December 10 - Hotel Postmarks (F.W.Benians)

REPORTS of MEETINGS, continued.

171st Meeting, 13 August 1977 - continued

A display of Civil Censor Marks 1914-18 and 1939-45 was given by P. Andrews and F.W. Benians. Although the meeting had been advertised as a Sale/Exchange meeting, little material for this was brought.

172nd Meeting, held 8 October 1977

There was an attendance of 11: J. Sears (Chairman) and Messrs Abou-Alam, F.W. Benians, D.H. Clarke, C. Defriez, G.P. Green, J.A. Grimmer, S. Horesh, E.L.G. MacArthur, A. Schmidt.

The Chairman gave a special welcome to Mr. Abou-Alam, who had recently taken up a post in London for 2 years.

The Chairman announced with regret that Mr. Peter Andrews was having trouble with his good eye, and had been ordered to rest. He was therefore unable to give the display on Civil Censor Marks, as programmed. In place of this, Maj. E.L.G. MacArthur had kindly come prepared, at short notice, to give a display on the First Issue.

Maj. E.L.G. MacArthur prefaced his talk by mentioning that a very deep study, e.g. of transferred stereotypes, would not be justified. He started with Proofs and Essays, in response to details issued on 20 April 1865. Paper for the issue was supplied by Bondi of Turin, and was hand-made with watermark, except for that used for the 1-piastre value. The latter was calendered to give a glossy surface and was without watermark, probably identical to that used for Italian stamp issues of the time. The reason for the change of paper for the 1-piastre, where the largest quantity printing was needed, was that the wet process of lithography caused the hand-made paper to shrink, giving difficulties with perforation.

The scarcity of stamps perforated 13 all round was explained: this stamp could come only from the corners of the sheet where there had been two rows, both horizontally and vertically, perforated at 13. It was believed that the small number of 2-piastre stamps found perforated 15 had been perforated by Pernasson. "Perforation Proofs" were shown: these had been done with perforators having a pitch from 11 to 15.

L.O.P. numbers 118, 125 and 126 were referred to and recommended as a source of information as to forgeries of the First Issue. Examples of forged and genuine were shown and the distinguishing features pointed out. Members were able to examine the examples against large photographs of excellent quality. It was noted that the overprints on the genuine stamps were well-centred: the forgeries were often not and this was a useful distinction.

The scarcity of certain watermarks was dealt with. The speaker considered that the 5-para with upright watermark was extremely rare, possibly all examples had come from a single sheet. The 2-piastre with upright watermark was very scarce; the 20-para with inverted watermark was scarce.

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REPORTS of MEETINGS, continued

173rd Meeting held 10 December 1977

The meeting was attended by John Sears, Chairman, and Messrs Abou-Alam, F.W.Beniens, B.Blow, D.H.Clarke, G.M.Dorman, C.E.H.Defriez, J.A.Grimmer and A.Schmidt.

The Chairman reported that Mr R.A.G.Potter had resigned as Editor of the Q.C. because of ill-health, and appreciations of Mr Potter's services to the ESC were expressed. The Chairman further reported that Mr J.A.Grimmer had undertaken the task as Editor. In further discussion, it was agreed that New Issues should be brought into the Q.C., this being a big and important area which was actively studied by a number of members; Egypt was otherwise a "dead" country. It was also agreed that, after the next issue, future issues should be in A4 format instead of quarto, and that Xerox-copy should be used, instead of duplication, for illustrations, so as to improve the quality.

The Programme for 1978 was discussed and the following agreed upon :-

1978	February meeting:	General, but with T.P.O. as main topic
	April meeting:	Dues, J.A.Grimmer
	June meeting:	Interpostal Seals, A. Schmidt
	August meeting:	General
	October meeting:	"Beginners, Please"
	December meeting:	World War I, Forces' Mail, F.W.Beniens

It was hoped that the President, Prof. Peter Smith, would be in the U.K. for some months in 1978; meetings would be arranged, or re-arranged, in the light of news as to his movements.

The subject "Beginners, Please" for the October meeting was hoped and intended to encourage new members who may be unhappy at the prospect of preparing a major talk. They need produce only a few sheets at this meeting and their remarks could take the form of enquiries aimed at helping them with their problems, rather than a formal leading of a discussion. The meeting agreed the importance of encouraging new members to come forward so that, in due time, the Circle would be strengthened.

The Secretary, Mr D.H.Clarke, reported on the state of the Circle's records. Much of this material was in very bad state, was badly filed and there was much duplication. There was also a considerable bulk, which hindered sorting and filing into usable condition. It was agreed that the Secretary should be authorised to use his discretion in disposing of unwanted papers, and the question of saleability of certain correspondence was suggested. It was further agreed that the Secretary be authorised to purchase filing stationery which was reasonably necessary.

The Secretary reported that a large number of subscriptions were in arrear and drew attention to the necessity for adequate support in order to enable the Circle to continue to afford the cost of producing and distributing the Q.C.'s. It was agreed that a polite reminder should be sent to those members in arrear.

After the formal business, the Meeting turned to the study of Hotel Postmarks, which was led by Mr F.W.Beniens.

NEW ISSUES

I have been asked to provide a regular feature in the Q.C. on the subject of New Issues.

As there seems to be little possibility of a new Zeheri catalogue or L'Orient Philatelique being published in the near future, I intend to give details of New Issues to follow on from those shown in the last edition of L.O.P. (Number 128 of October 1974).

I propose to use the same format, combining some details supplied by the Egyptian Postal Authority Philatelic Office, together with any other information that I may have.

In this connection I would be grateful to receive from members any interesting information, details of varieties, etc., which could be noted in the Circle record and possibly appear in a future Q.C.

C.E.H. defriez (E.S.C. No. 172)

The following announcement was made by the Postal Authority Philatelic Office regarding the exchange of stamps inscribed 'U.A.R.' :-

" EXCHANGING THE STAMPS OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC "

" Starting from the 1st October to the 31st December 1974, it is decided to accept the exchange of postage stamps, ordinary, airmail, commemorative and souvenir sheets which bear the name of the United Arab Republic U.A.R., for available postage stamps of the Arab Republic of Egypt (A.R.E.), on the condition that those wanted to be exchanged may not be less than a complete sheet, or 50 stamps undivided, or 10 souvenir sheets and must be in a good condition. Those who want to exchange the said stamps and souvenir sheets are requested to come personally to the Commemorative Stamps Sales Office in Cairo to exchange them. Stamps sent by mail will not be accepted. "

Editor's Note. Cyril Defriez deserves our thanks for providing the details and information above, and in the following pages. It is hoped that ESC Members will show good support by acting on his request for information of interest in regard to New Issues, also for details of varieties. Members are reminded that information as to New Issues is being published only in the Q.C.

(all stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R.Egypt)

<u>Commemorative stamps</u>	<u>SG 1233</u>	<u>SG 1234</u>
Occasion	1st anniversary of the crossing of the Suez Canal	Teacher's Day
Date of issue	6 October 1974	6 October 1974
Designer	N. el Hendawi	N. el Hendawi
Design	President Sadat and 'October 6th' Flag	Teacher's badge
Denomination	20 mills	20 mills
Sheet	50 stamps (5 x 10)	50 stamps (10 x 5)
Stamp dimensions	50 x 42 mm	24 x 42 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½	11 x 11½
Watermark	Multiple Eagle	Multiple Eagle
Quantity printed	1,500,000	1,500,000
Supplementary		The teachers are honoured because of their important educational role in the Republic.

<u>Commemorative stamps</u>	<u>SG 1235</u>	<u>SG 1236</u>
Occasion	6th Plastic Arts Exhibition	Inauguration of Meridian Hotel
Date of issue	6 October 1974	6 October 1974
Designer	E. Hussein	Lofty el Sawaf
Design	Artist's Palette	Meridian Hotel, Cairo
Denomination	30 mills	110 mills
Sheet	35 stamps (5 x 7)	50 stamps (10 x 5)
Stamp dimensions	40 x 40 mm	24 x 42 mm
Perforation	11½	11½ x 11
Watermark	Multiple Eagle	Multiple Eagle
Quantity printed	1,000,000	250,000
Supplementary	Plastic artists will participate in this exhibition which will contain carving, porcelain and tableaux	This hotel is distinguished by its delightful situation amid the river Nile on Roda Island. It has 300 rooms and several entertaining centres

(all stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R.Egypt)

Souvenir Sheet

Occasion	The Centenary of the Universal Postal Union
Date of Issue	6 October 1974
Designer	E. Calivis
Design	U.P.U. Monument, Berne
Denomination	110 mills
Sheet	-
Stamp dimensions	74 x 100 mm
Perforation	Imperforate
Watermark	-
Quantity printed	100,000
Supplementary	The delegates of 22 countries, Egypt included, signed the first treaty to establish the U.P.U. in October 1874.

Commemorative stamps SG 1238

Occasion	Family, Childhood and Social Work Day
Date of issue	24 October 1974
Designer	Lofty el Sawaf
Design	Child and Emblems of UNICEF and Social Work
Denomination	30 mills
Sheet	35 stamps (5 x 7)
Stamp dimensions	40 x 40 mm
Perforation	11½
Watermark	Multiple Eagle
Quantity printed	400,000
Supplementary	Family and child welfare represents one of the major concerns in Egypt. Social Work Day is an expression of gratitude presented by the Ministry of Social Affairs to those who work in this field

SG 1239

Occasion	World Regular Standards Day
Date of issue	24 October 1974
Designer	Lofty el Sawaf
Design	Emblems of Standardisation
Denomination	10 mills
Sheet	50 stamps (5 x 10)
Stamp dimensions	50 x 30 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½
Watermark	Multiple Eagle
Quantity printed	1,000,000
Supplementary	No doubt that the present proportion of industrial promotion and the great development in international trade necessitates that planning should tend to promote and apply regular standardisation on national and international levels.



SG 1233



SG 1234



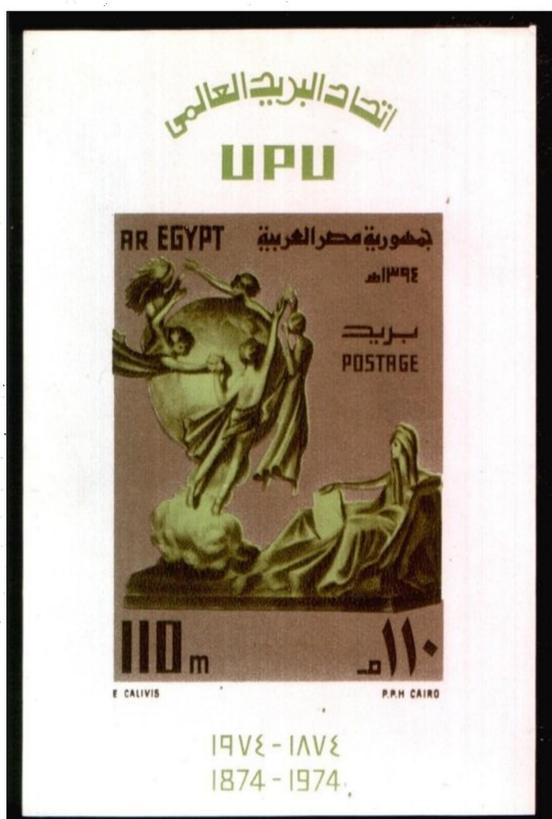
SG 1235



SG 1236



SG 1238



Souvenir Sheet



SG 1239

The 'Star and Bridge' Cancellations

Reprinted with permission from "Philatelic Record" Feb. 1976

by Th. Dacos

For a period of about 7 years, from early 1907 till late 1913, there appeared in some towns of Egypt a circular datestamp bearing a star in the upper part of it in the space formed between the Latin inscription of the town and the date.

The presence of the star seems to be the development of an earlier type of datestamp which appeared about 1884 and was used in certain towns in Egypt and which showed a combination of a Crescent and Star in the same space where later the solid star has appeared.

Studying the history of Egypt we may conclude that the origin of the Crescent and Star is due to Turkish influence. An influence which began in the 16th century and continued even stronger since 1805 when Mohammed Ali, an able Ottoman officer, who was born in the Greek town of Kavala, Macedonia, a man of no education but of vast ambition, became the undisputed ruler of Egypt. This influence spread in the life of the Egyptians and naturally in the field of philately where the Turkish emblem of the Crescent and Star appears not only in the aforesaid datestamp but also in the watermark of the stamps issued in 1867-1914, and as part of the design of the stamps of the 1872-1875 issues, and on the overprint of the 1922 issue. We may also mention that this emblem passed on the early Egyptian flag in full imitation of the Turkish one.

Regarding the solid star datestamp to which the present note refers, there were earlier notes published in the magazine "L'Orient Philatelique" of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, issue No. 91 of July 1955 by Mr. Charles W. Minett, and issue No. 119 of Jan-April 1968 by Dr Sava M. Vestarkis, two distinguished philatelists of Egypt stamps. Both, among other notes, have given information about the earliest and latest dates known, up to that time, of the use of the solid star datestamp.

New discoveries in my collection serve to alter the earliest and latest dates as shown in the Table below. It would be unwise to believe that the new dates will remain unchanged. The time will come, however, when a more accurate table is completed to show the exact period of use of this particular datestamp which appeared in some towns only and lasted for about 7 years.

Town	Dates known up to April 1968		New altered dates, Sept 1975	
	Earliest	Latest	Earliest	Latest
LUQSOR	27.III.09	10.VII.09	-	24.XII.10
PORT SAID	11. VI.07	1913	-	17. VI.13
PORT TAUFIK	5. VI.10	-	4. I.10	-
ZAGAZIG	4. X.07	8. II.12	-	23.XII.12
MANSURA	11.III.08	21.III.10	-	-
ISMAILIA	-	1914	26. X.08	-
SUEZ	1908	1916	5.III.08	-
TANTA	19. I.09	15. V.09	-	-

(Illustrated on page 91) - - - - -

Study entrusted to F.W.Benians, ESC No. 123

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, winter tourism had become one of the more important resources of Egypt's economy. Luxurious and well-appointed hotels, from Cairo to Aswan in the Upper Nile, welcomed fortunate tourists from all over the world. These were eager to visit the remains of one of the most ancient of civilisations, in a delightfully mild and even climate.

The proprietors of the larger hotels made every effort to add to the facilities available to their rich and influential guests. In co-operation with the postal administration, it was decided to open special post offices within certain hotels, thus adding to the convenience of the visitors.

The idea of having Hotel Post Offices was originally introduced by the Swiss as early as 1840. Their special post offices had been operating chiefly in the larger hotels in the mountain Ski Resorts, far away from the townships. Other countries had adopted the practice: the U.S.A. since 1890, Austria-Hungary from 1895 and, later, British India, France and many other countries.

It is possible to form an attractive collection of "The Hotel Postmarks of Egypt". Postmarks on loose used stamps may still be found in mixed lots, etc., but postcards, letters and, particularly, registered items bearing these marks have become increasingly difficult to find.

It was on 1st November, 1891 that the first two of these special post offices were opened. One was in the world-famous Sheppard's Hotel, and the other in the Continental Hotel, both in Cairo. It appears that, up to May 1933, most of these offices were open only during the winter season, from October 1st until the end of May in the following year. However, from detailed listings it may be possible to prove the opening dates year by year. After the 1903-1904 season some of the Cairo Hotel Post Offices remained open throughout the whole of the year to cater for the increasing tourism in Egypt.

In Upper Egypt, the date of annual closure was approximately April 15th. This date marks the beginning of the "Hot Season" which was unsuitable for the tourists.

However, in Alexandria, the Hotel San Stefano was open during the summer months, coinciding with the annual movement of the Court and the Government from Cairo to the cooler city of Alexandria. This hotel housed many of the more important officials of the period and also catered for many of the official functions held during the season. The special post office generally was open from April 20th to October 20th.

This study includes post offices which operated in the business premises of two firms having chiefly, foreign visitors as their clientele. These were Thomas Cook & Son in Cairo, the famous travel agency, and the Grand Store "Simon Arzt" in Port Said. The latter served the passengers of the large ships which passed through the Suez Canal on their passage to and from India and the Far East. It is not known what happened to the office on the closure of the Canal in June 1967.

After the end of the Second World War, the rich tourist trade previously enjoyed did not return; compared with the earlier period, tourism was on a considerably reduced scale.

As a measure of economy, many of the special post offices in the hotels were closed, although a new office was opened in the Heliopolis Hotel near Cairo in 1953 and, in 1959, another was opened in the new Nile Hilton Hotel in Cairo. Examples of cancellation of this latter office have been recorded as late as 1975, but details of this office are still obscure. The new hotel 'Cairo Sheraton' opened in 1970 with a special post office.

Scrutiny of the datestamps shows that they generally followed the pattern of the regular types used in Egypt, having both English and Arabic inscriptions. At first, English was the prominent language but, by 1935, Arabic was used exclusively in the upper segment of the canceller. This arrangement, it is noted, had previously been adopted by the authorities nine years earlier in 1926.

In this Study Report, the known datestamps of each office are detailed in chronological order under each of the hotels. The data has been drawn from specialist collections in Egypt, South Africa, U.S.A., Sweden and Gt Britain. The quantities recorded give some idea of their relative scarcity.

THIS RECORD WILL BE MUCH ENHANCED IF MEMBERS WILL KINDLY COMPLETE THE APPENDED TABLE TO SHOW THEIR OWN MATERIAL.

The drawings of the cancellers were originally done by Sig. Alfredo Dazzi, others were added later by Charles Minett and there have been newer additions by A. Schmidt. In some instances, the reproductions show part only of the cancellations, where only incomplete examples have so far been recorded.

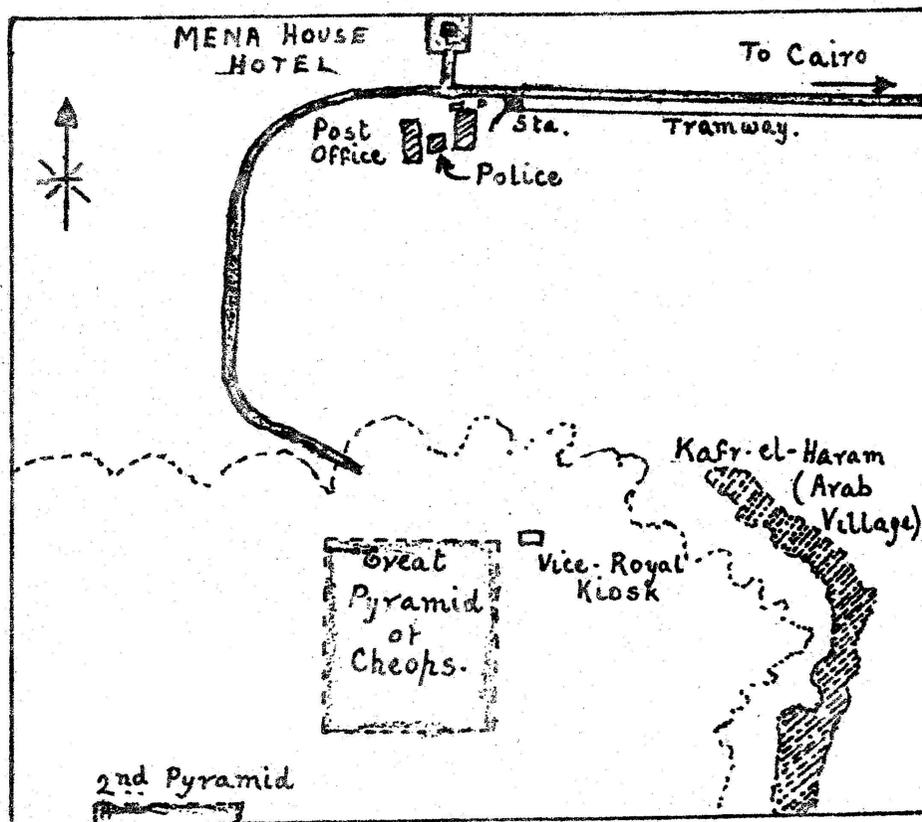
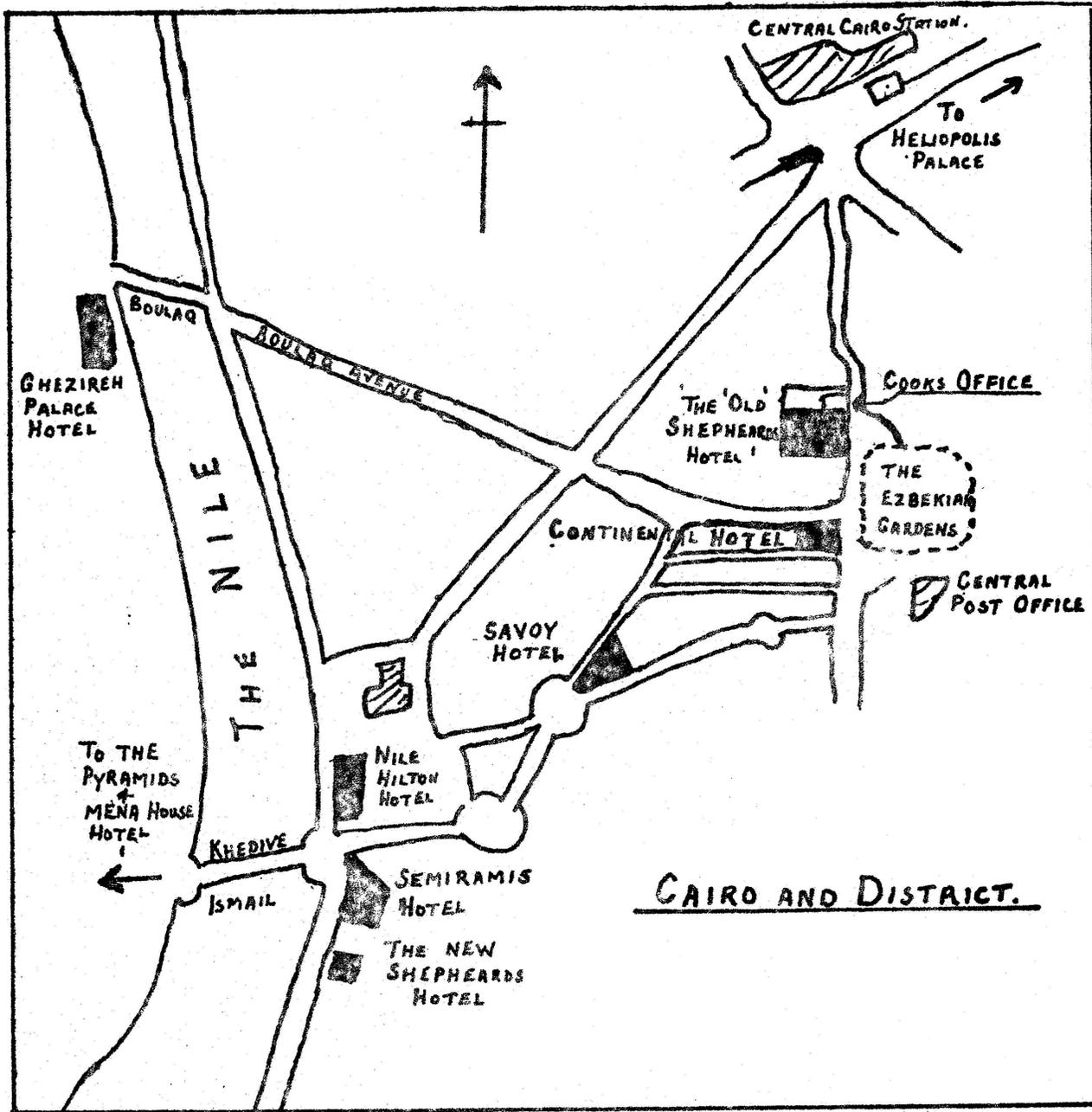
The evolution of the Arabic transcription of the word "hotel" in the postmark is of interest. Initially this was "LOKANDAT" (used at Shepheard's, Continental and Mena House), this word being derived from the Italian. Afterwards, there was "HOTEL" (used at Luxor and Cataract) and finally "FONDOUQ" which is the Arabic equivalent of "hotel".

The hotels referred to can be found on the maps provided, and there is a brief summary of the history of each hotel. The earliest and latest dates of each of the datestamps is based on the listings to be found in an article by Jean Boulad d'Humieres, 'Gli Uffici Postali degli Alberghi Egiziani' which was published in 'Il Collezionista Italia Filatelica', numbers 17 and 19, 1968. Amendments to this have been made from the reportings in L'Orient Philatelique' published by Le Societe Philatelique d'Egypte, and in the 'Quarterly Circular' of the Egypt Study Circle. Other amendments have been made, based on material in the collections of the late Charles Minett and the compiler.

An attempt has been made to list the various Registration cachets with the accompanying datestamp type, to establish life and usage and to measure the volume of outgoing registered mail.

The special stationery issued by the hotels has had little previous recorded research. This can form an interesting sideline collection and some items from the compiler's collection are illustrated.

This article is based on the earlier works of Jean Boulad d'Humieres and grateful thanks are extended to him for his permission to make full use of such. The compiler's thanks are also due to Mrs Margaret Hobbs who painstakingly translated the work mentioned from Italian, and to Ron Potter who has encouraged the compiler to put pen to paper and who has read through the manuscript.



CAIRO and DISTRICTShepherd's Hotel, Cairo

This, the oldest and most famous of all the Egyptian Hotels, was founded by Samuel Shepherd in 1843 under the name 'Nouvel Hotel Britannique', (New British Hotel) and was later re-named 'Hotel Britannique Shepherd' (Shepherd's British Hotel). By sheer hard work he created an establishment with a reputation and fame throughout the world that has not been equalled. He set a standard of excellence that was to become the hallmark of the larger Egyptian Hotels, catering for the rich and important tourists who were making "The Grand Tour" to visit the wonderful sights of the country, or who were resting awhile as they made the journey to and from India and the Far East.

The hotel continued under Shepherd's control until 1861 when it passed into other hands. In 1891, the building was demolished by its new owners and rebuilt in five months. Since then it has been enlarged four times (in 1899, 1904, 1905 and 1927) and was due for a fifth at the time it was destroyed by fire on July 26th, 1952, during the riots when many of the major buildings in Cairo were burned. It was rebuilt in a very modern style on a new site next to the Hotel Semiramis and opened on July 20th, 1957.

A special post office was opened at the hotel on November 1st, 1891 and this disappeared at the time of the fire on July 26th, 1952.

There is no special post office in the 1957 building, but hotel correspondence is franked by a machine with the hotel name. A commemorative stamp was issued to mark the opening of the new building in 1957, but there was no accompanying special datestamp.

Table of Recorded Use -- Shepherd's Hotel -- 'H.S.'

serial	diameter in mm	earliest	latest	number recorded	remarks
H.S. 1	31	14 DE 91	10 MA 98	(20)	Arabic figures (1,2,3 etc.) in place of Roman (II,III) after 'T'
1a		MA92			
1b		3 MR 98	25 MR 98		
2	32	27 12 91	15 6 97	(95)	
2a		18 3 92		(1)	'T' inverted
3	31	- II 93	13 VII 98	(25)	
3a		23 II 96	5 II 98		without 'T' in dateline
4	28	31 XII 98	14 I 99	(2)	
5	30	28 XII 95	28 II 09	(75)	
6	30	12 XI 07	27 XI 09	(19)	
7	26	3 XI 07	- XI 30	(55)	
8	28	7 DE 31	26 JY 52	(45)	Last day - date of the burning of the hotel
9	26	7 II 10	8 III 37	(36)	Cash (cashier or counter)
10	28	9 III 38	9 XI 46	(14)	Cash
11		11 II 63	5 IX 71		Machine-franking, printed in red, three-part design.

Continental Hotel, Cairo - 'H.C.'

This is the second oldest hotel in Cairo and dates from 1885, when it was named 'New Hotel'. It was successively called 'Continental Hotel', 'Grand Continental Hotel' and, finally, 'Continental Savoy'. The building was considerably damaged on July 26th, 1952 during the riots, but was quickly restored by the autumn of that year.

The special post office was opened on November 1st, 1891 and was provisionally closed from July 26th, 1952 until October of that year. It appears to have been temporarily re-opened, but was finally closed soon afterwards.

serial	diameter in mm	earliest	latest	number recorded	remarks
H.C. 1	31-32	21 DE 91	3 FE 02	(12)	
1a	30	14 DE 91	27 MR 00		without 'T' in dateline
1b	31	6 I 94			month in Roman figures
2	26-27	21 III 00	5 II 09	(96)	
3	30	-- -- 00	14 AP 10	(16)	
4	30	8 V 09	11 I 22	(35)	
5	29	2 III 22	8 V 32	(42)	after 1924-25 the 'Y' of 'SAVOY' is weak
6	29	-- -- 29	31 VIII 33	(3)	
7	28	20 DE 33	21 NO 53	(98)	
8	30	7 II 10	15 II 22	(21)	Cash
8a					blue
9	30-32	18 III 22	11 II 29	(27)	Cash
10	32-33	4 1 31		(2)	Cash
11	30-31	27 AP 37		(1)	'Cash' horizontal
12	30-31	9 MR 33	3 JA 54	(18)	Cash

Mena House Hotel, Cairo - 'H.M.'

This is situated in the desert near the great Pyramids of Giza and is one of the most famous pension or rest hotels in Egypt.

The special post office opened on December 15th, 1891 and was closed by the end of the century, when a regular post office was opened a few yards from the hotel grounds, to serve the tourists visiting the pyramids.

serial	diameter in mm	earliest	latest	number recorded	remarks
H.M. 1	30	7 III 92	30 IV 94	(11)	

Continental Hotel, Cairo - 'H.C.'

This is the second oldest hotel in Cairo and dates from 1885, when it was named 'New Hotel'. It was successively called 'Continental Hotel', 'Grand Continental Hotel' and, finally, 'Continental Savoy'. The building was considerably damaged on July 26th, 1952 during the riots, but was quickly restored by the autumn of that year.

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3	30	-- -- 00	14 AP 10	(16)	
4	30	8 V 09	11 I 22	(35)	
5	29	2 III 22	8 V 32	(42)	after 1924-25 the 'Y' of 'SAVOY' is weak
6	29	-- -- 29	31 VIII 33	(3)	
7	28	20 DE 33	21 NO 53	(98)	
8	30	7 II 10	15 II 22	(21)	Cash
8a					blue
9	30-32	18 III 22	11 II 29	(27)	Cash
10	32-33	4 I 31		(2)	Cash
11	30-31	27 AP 37		(1)	'Cash' horizontal
12	30-31	9 MR 33	3 JA 54	(18)	Cash

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serial	diameter in mm	earliest	latest	number recorded	remarks
H.M. 1	30	7 III 92	30 IV 94	(11)	

Heliopolis Palace Hotel, Heliopolis - 'H.H.'

Opened in 1909-10, this was for a long time the largest and most magnificent hotel in the world. It closed its doors abruptly on October 25th, 1958, as the Egyptian authorities had decided to set up the seat of central government of the United Arab Republic in its buildings.

A special post office was opened, possibly in 1955, and was closed on October 25th, 1958.

serial	diameter in mm	earliest	latest	number recorded	remarks
H.H. 1	35	8.10.55	--	(1)	Cash
2	35	1.10.55	26.2.58	(4)	Traffic and Registration

Nile Hilton Hotel, Cairo - 'H.N.'

This hotel is built on the banks of the Nile, not far from the Egyptian Museum, and its opening on February 22nd, 1959 co-incident with the first anniversary of the United Arab Republic.

A special post office was opened on the same day with an issue of a special commemorative stamp showing the new twelve-storey hotel.

serial	diameter in mm	earliest	latest	number recorded	remarks
H.N. 1	34	22. 2.59		(1)	First day
2	34	- 12.62	9. 6.63	(4)	
3	34	24. ? 66	3. 9.71	(7)	T = traffic
4	34	13. 1.64		(1)	Special handstamp for meeting of The Arab League
5	25-26	11.11.63	1. 9.65		Machine franking

Cairo Sheraton Hotel - 'H.SH.'

Situated on the banks of the Nile at Old Cairo, and having 352 rooms, the hotel with its special post office was opened on March 23rd, 1970.

serial	diameter in mm	earliest	latest	number recorded	remarks
H.SH. 1			19.4.72	(1)	

Editor's Note: Jim Benians will conclude his Study Report of the Proprietary Post Offices in Egypt in our next issue. This will deal with the hotels in Upper Egypt and Alexandria, also the proprietary post offices at Thomas Cook & Son and at Simon Arzt. E.S.C. Members are requested to record details of their own material, both Hotel Cancellations and Hotel Cachets, using the last page of this issue.

Shepherd's Hotel 'HS'



HS 1



HS 2



HS 3



HS 4



HS 5



HS 6



HS 7



HS 8



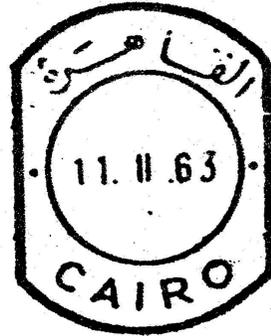
HS 9



HS 10



HS 11



Continental Hotel 'HC'



HC 1



HC 2



HC 3



HC 4



HC 5



HC 5



HC 6



HC 7



HC 8



HC 9



HC 10



HC 11



HC 12



HM 1



HG 1



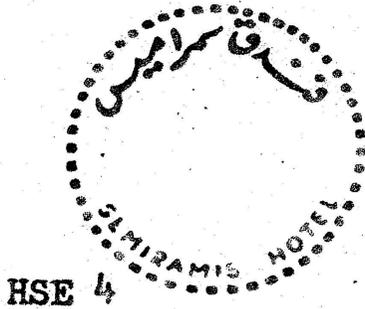
HSE 1



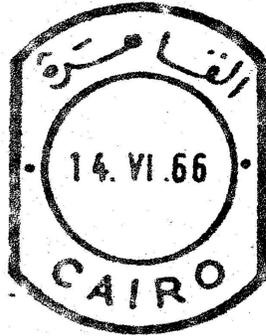
HSE 2



HSE 3



HSE 4



HSA 1



HSA 2



HSA 3



HSA 4



HH 1



HH 2

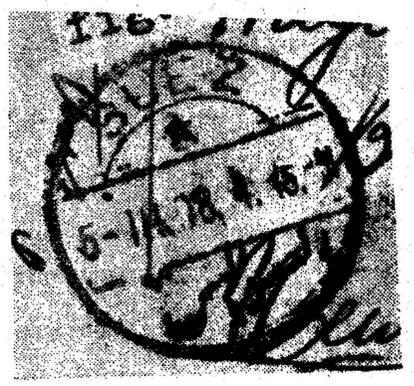
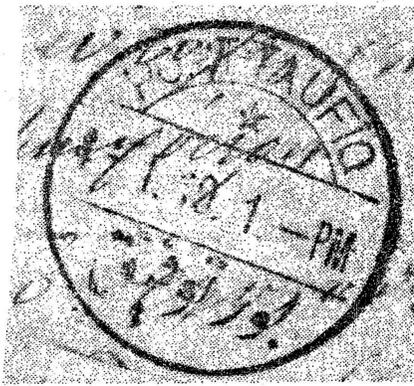
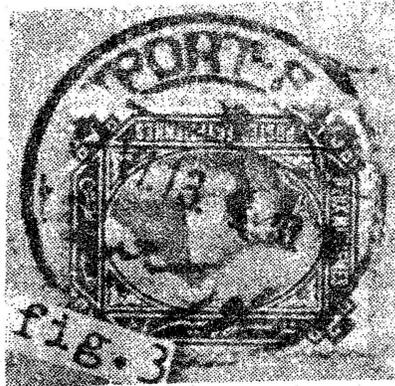
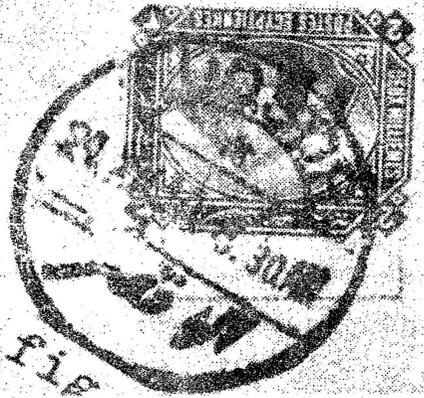


HSH 1

Earlier Crescent and Star cancel



New Earliest and Latest dates on Star and Bridge cancels



Nile Hilton Hotel, Cairo - Datestamp Types - 'H.N.'



1.



2.



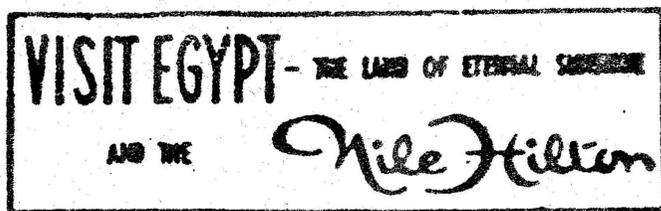
3.



4.



5.



6.

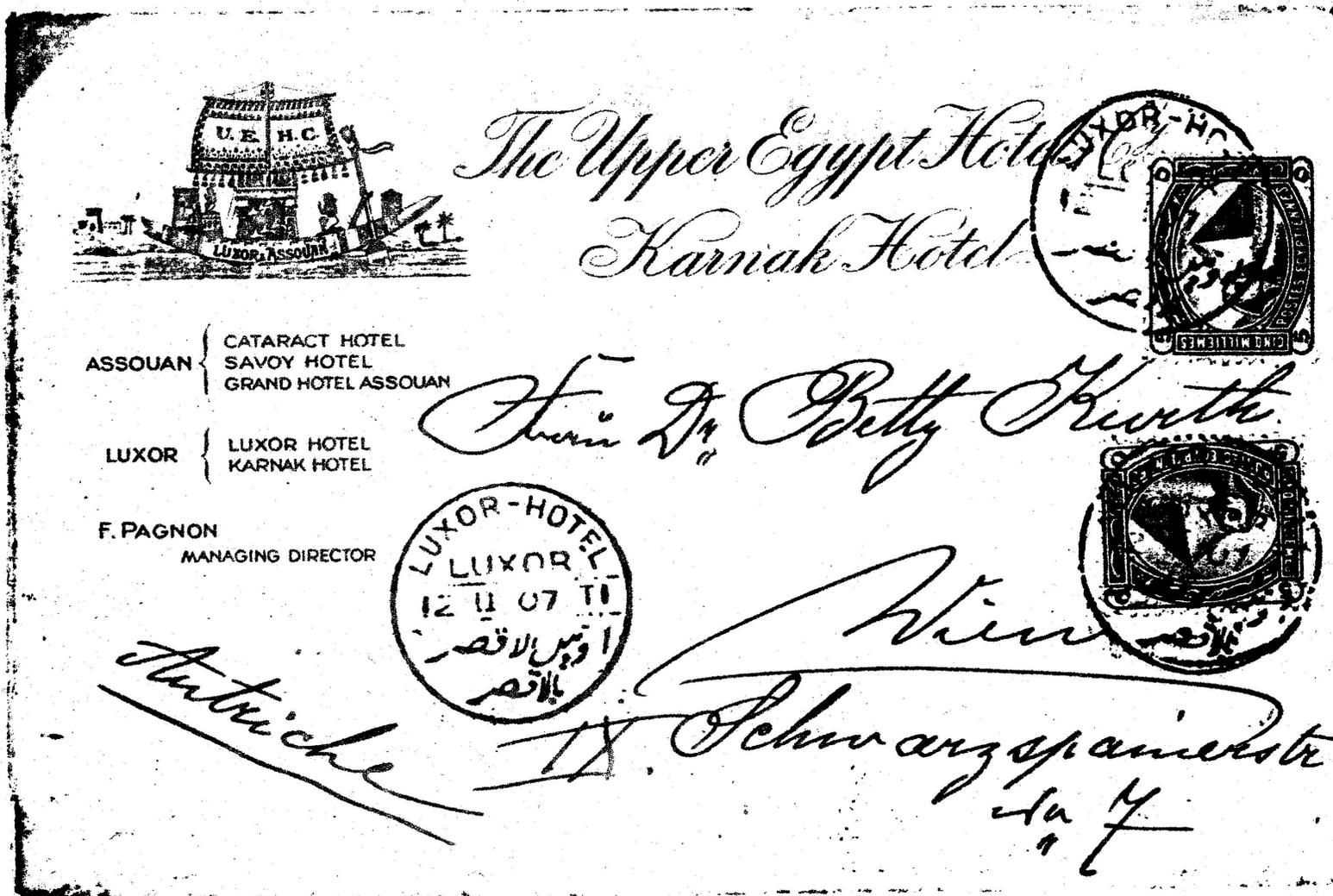
= 11 11 63 = CAIRO - القاهرة =



0111

Illustrated Post Card - 'Continental Hotel'

used 1893



Illustrated Envelope - 'The Upper Egypt Hotels Co'

used Luxor 1907

Will ESC Members please complete from their own material and return this page
to: F.W.Benians (ESC 123) 27 The Lawns, Tylers Green, High Wycombe, Bucks
HP10 8BH

Recordings of Hotel Cancellations

Hotel Name	Datestamp	Type	Date	C = on cover or card L.S. = on Loose stamp (identify)	Remarks
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Recordings of Hotel Cachets

Hotel Name (as in the cachet)	Datestamp	Type	Date	Remarks
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