

Volume XI Number 10 June 1983 Whole Series Number 126

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EDITORIAL

Major E.L.G.MacArthur took over the chairmanship of ESC Expert Committee - a most prestigious post - only a few years ago. He first produced an article about the Expert Committee, with very modest changes in the tariff, for the Q.C. of March 1979. Shortly after taking office he produced lists of Certificates issued. The first list concluded the publishing of certificates issued by his predecessor, Col H. Danson, with serial number 187. Lists of certificates which he himself has issued have appeared regularly in The Q.C., and his final list, in this issue, reaches serial number 575. Mac has therefore issued 388 certificates, more than twice the total by all his predecessors, a remarkable achievement in the short time involved.

It would be quite wrong to give the impression that ESC certificates under Mac have meant quantity at the expense of quality: on the contrary Mac has always been most painstaking, particularly with 'difficult' submissions, which so many are. He often used to introduce expertisation matters as a discussion point at meetings, and would speak to people he knew to be knowledgeable in whatever field was involved. I am glad to have a number of 'MacCerts', in one of which he exposed a fake masquerading as 1874 1 piastre pair imperf between. It is a great pity that health and eyesight particularly have prevented Mac from attending meetings for some time, and now have caused him to give up this post. We all hope that his fund of expert knowledge will be available for a long time.

		 -	
Secretary of ESC	Edmund ^H all 6, Bedford Avenue Little Chalfont Bucks	 Editor of the Q.C.	John A. Grimmer 48 York Road New Barnet Herts EN5 1LJ

<u>The Library</u>. I am pleased to advise you that following my appeal in the last issue of the Q.C., Mr John Davis (ESC 213) has very kindly agreed to take over the office of Librarian. He is looking forward to expanding our collection of books, and providing the members with a lending service. He will also be looking after the back numbers of the Q.C., any enquiries therefore should be addressed to him at - New Hall, Painswick, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Expertisation Committee. You will have seen the very short note in the March Q.C. stating that Major E.L.G.MacArthur (ESC No. 125) has decided to retire from the chairmanship of the Expertisation Committee. Mac has carried out this very onerous and responsible task for the past few years with his usual application and attention to detail, and we are all very much indebted to him. However, he now feels that as he is not in the very best of health, someone else should take over. We are very fortunate in as much as Peter Andrews (ESC 122) has accepted this important office, and P.E.Whetter (ESC 133) has agreed to act as a 'Committee Member'. Other members of the Circle will be co-opted as necessary, and Certificates will in future be countersigned. Enquiries should therefore be addressed to Peter Andrews, 51 Elizabeth Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8QH.

<u>Birmingham Meeting</u>. As you know one 'Provincial Meeting' has been arranged during each of the past four years, and a date has been provisionally booked for 1984 - on June 9th, at the Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham. However, the attendance at the last two of these Meetings has been disappointing, the majority of those present being the same members who normally attend the London Meetings. This is not really the intention at all, the object being to provide members in the Midlands and North of England with the opportunity of meeting other members, asking questions, hopefully solving problems, and contributing to the knowledge of the Circle. Perhaps the meetings as arranged so far can be improved, in which case I should be very pleased to have your suggestions. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THIS DATE FOR 1984 AND COME TO BIRMINGHAM !

John Sears, Chairman

REPORT OF ESC MEETING

Meeting held on 9 April 1983 at 'The Peacock', Maiden Lane, London WC2

Attendance: Mr J. Sears (Chairman) and Messrs P. Andrews, W.C.Andrews, M. Barker, D.H.Clarke, J.Davis P. Grech, C.E.Grey, J.S.Horesh and P.E.Whetter.

All those present participated in a Meeting devoted to a display, and explanation, of 10 sheets from each member. The afternoon was therefore a varied one as can be seen from the subjects covered, as set out below.

C.E.Grey	French Post Offices
J.Sears	Cairo, and other Railway Station postmarks
W.C.Andrews	The Cairo to Baghdad Air Post Service 1921/27.
P.E.Whetter	Control Blocks of the 1933 Air Mail issue
J.Davis	Sea Post
P.Grech	The French Post Offices in Alexandria
M.Barker	A Presentation Book from De La Rue to Postmaster Borton showing the Essays and Proofs of the 1879 issue.
P.Andrews	Covers marked "Delivery Refused", "Unclaimed" with attendant Postage Dues.
D.H.Clarke	Postal Stationery - the complete range of Registered Envelopes.
J.S.Horesh	Soldiers' Mail - the British Forces in Egypt.

In many cases, more than the minimum of 10 sheets were shown to add to the completeness of the subjects concerned.

Members were reminded that the Meeting of June 11th would be held at the Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham.

(Notes kindly provided by Mr John Sears).

PROVINCIAL MEETING REPORT

Meeting held on 11 June 1983 at Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham

Attendance: Mr J.Sears (Chairman) and Messrs P.Andrews, E.Blackburn, D.H.Clarke, J.Davis, C.E.H.Defriez, E.H.Fraser-Smith, J.A.Grimmer and F.Rowland Hill.

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting but regretted the small attendance. He enquired whether the annual Provincial Meetings were wanted by the 'local' members and the response was positive. Mr Sears commented that the first provincial meeting had been very well managed by local members and that there needed to be a better attendance next year, if these provincial meetings were to continue. He would do a note for The Q.C. about this but, meanwhile, the Provincial Meeting in Birmingham in 1984 would definitely be held at the same venue, date 9th June 1984.

The Chairman reported that Mr Peter R. Feltus (ESC 114) had been offered finance by a wealthy Egyptian for the purpose of producing a new edition of the Zeheri catalogue, in colour.

Mr C.E.H.Defriez reported that members were anxious to obtain New Issues, but that sources were not reliable.

The first display was given by Mr E. Fraser-Smith which was a 'mixed bag', starting with U.A.R. and Civil Censorship. He reported that a definitive showing a gate was misdescribed in S.G. catalogue as El Mitwalli; Higgins & Gage gave the correct identification as Bab el Futuh. He showed some of the varieties which occur on the 1960 King Tutankhamen Lamp (20 mills). He reported that the Philatelic Society of Egypt does have a regular canceller, and this was confirmed by another member. Also shown was a red registration label on a cover earlier than the one referred to in the article on registration labels by Professor Peter Smith.

The second display was given by Mr F. Rowland Hill (ESC 212) who reported having made no progress on his Waghorn studies and instead showed ESC archive material in the form of a well-planned book. He also showed books of his own collection.

Mr E. Blackburn (ESC 244) showed covers featuring 'Ligne T', which afterwards became the Australia and New Caledonia line. He also showed postal stationery including 3 mill and 4 mill surcharges on Reply-Paid Covers.

Mr C.E.H.Defriez (ESC 172) showed Artists' essays on recent New Issues. One was of considerable interest, in that a Postal Official had called for alterations in the design (to provide a spine to the book illustrated, etc.) and had also called for the value to be shown in plastres instead of milliemes. (Mr Defriez has kindly supplied an article with illustrations on this particular stamp which appears in this issue - Editor).

The Chairman, Mr J. Sears(ESC 188), shewed part of the Circle's Forgery Collection. Mr Sears reported that Major MacArthur had recently resigned his post as Chairman of the Expert Committee and that Mr Peter Andrews (ESC 122) had kindly agreed to accept this post.

EXHIBITION SUCCESS

Mr J.F.Cousins (ESC 202) entered Stampex 1983, which was held in London in February, with "CILICIA - 1919 (March 4th to April 1st). This exhibit won the P.T.S. Trophy and a Silver Medal. The P.T.S. Trophy is awarded annually to the best exhibit of foreign material issued after 1900.

As Mr Cousins says, this is not Egypt material, but some of the covers were addressed to, and did arrive in, Egypt.

Congratulations to Mr Cousins on this fine achievement.

EXPERT COMMITTEE CERTIFICATES issued by Major E.L.G.MacArthur

CERTIFICATES FINAL LIST of (For previous list, see The Q.C., Volume XI, Number 9, (Whole 125), Page 231) Opinion Year of Issue and Description No. 537 1926 Port Fuad 5m, 10m, 15m used Genuine 538 1926 " " 10m used Forgery 539 Forgery 1866 10 pi used single 540 Genuine 1866 5 pi used single, perf 123 541 1866 10 pi used single, perf 123 542 India 3 pies SG 120, part c.d.s. of Souakin Genuine, but 1902 adventitiously applied on arrival 543 1886 Sudan OAS unstamped cover from Sarras to London, with letter Genuine 544 Sudan cover with Egypt 5m, SG 59, cds BARBAR via Halfa 1898 11 to London 545 Egypt PPC with 1m and 3m SG 64,66 cancelled French Paquebot 1902 22 28 Feb 02 to Paris 546 ? Egypt PPC with 4m SG67 + Austria 10 heller, indistinct cds, 11 cancelled on board 11 -547 Palestine SG 100a, 55m on 100m double surcharge, block of 4 1959 548 1946 Air SG314b, 30m mint single with double overprint Not a true double overprint but bounce or kiss 549 1948 Palestine SG6a mint single with double overprint Genuine 550 1874 2 pi SG39a, perf 13 x 12 mint block 5 x 2 with centre top tete beche 551 1889 Egypt ... P. Staty envelope 1 pi used in Sudan with cds WADI 11 HALFA CAMP 26 JU 96 Cover Egypt 5m block of 4 cds WADI HALFA 28 MR 96 552 1888 22 to France 1889 Egypt P. Staty envelope 5m used Sudan cds WADI HALFA 553 11 . 9 JA 93 to Cairo 554 1895 Egypt cover with 1 pi SG54 used TPO CHALLAL-WADI HALFA 11 to England 555 1896 Egypt P.S. envelope 1m + 1m stamp SG64 cds SAWAKIN 20 1 96 Forgery 556 1883 Block of 4 used 1881-84 10 para cds KHARTOUM 11 DE 83 Genuine 557 1880 " " 1879 10 para SG45 cds BARBAR V-4n 24 DEC 80 11 11 558 1879 " " 1879 5 para SG44 cds BARBAR V-4n 9 OCT 80 11 559 11 1880 On piece used 1879 1 pi x 2 SG47 cds KASSALA V-4n 30 JUL 80 560 1872 2 pi single used cds KARTUM Type IV-4 26 2 74 19 1 pi used single on piece cds HARTUM V-4n 16 FEB 80 1 pi used single on piece cds BARBAR V-4n 2 AUG 79 1 pi SG 38 single on piece cds BARBAR V-4n 29 MAR 79 561 1879 11 562 1879 563 1875 11 564 1874 10 para SG 36 used single with very unclear BARBAR V-4n 11 565 1875 1 pi SG38 used on piece cds HARTUM V-4n 13 MAR 79 11 566 1874 11 2 pi SG39 used on piece cds HARTUM V-4n 11 AUG 80 567 1879 1 pi used on piece cds KASSAIA V-4n 8 OCT 80 99 1 pi used on piece SG38 cds KASSALA V-4n 27 NQV 75 568 1875 11 569 1889 4m P. Due SG D72 used single cds WADI HALFA 11 570 1867 20 para used cds SMIRNE Type III-2.5n 1870 ? 11 571 Palestine SG 33 2m mint single with 6 bars 1953 Forgery 572 1953 Genuine 573 1866 10 pi mint single perf $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times ?$ Forgery 574 1866 10 pi mint imperf single 575 1879 1 pi SG47 used on piece cds KASSALA V-4n 23 APR 81 Genuine NOTE ** CORRECTION: Certificate 410: 1953 Palestine Air 5m mint with double overprint, Certificate issued 16 May 80, has now been adjudged to be a forgery and the certificate has been so endorsed.

Stanley Gibbons Part 19 (Middle East) Catalogue, 2nd Edition, January 1983

It is very gratifying to see that the Circle findings on watermark details shown in the first edition and supplements, which were reported in the Q.C. Volume XI, Number 7 (Sept 1982) have been wholly accepted by Stanley Gibbons and that the necessary amendments have been made in the new edition of the Part 19 Catalogue.

There is some change in the numbering of recent commemoratives, this is due to the issue of a second 'Afghan Solidarity' stamp in a smaller size which was not previously listed. This now becomes a new No. SG 1446.

Some of the changes affect data already shown in the Q.C.'s as in the following list :-

Previous S.G. No.	Revised S.G. No	Previous S.G. No.	Revised S.G. No.
1446 1447 1448 1449 1450 1451 1452 1455 1455 1456	1446 (new) 1447 1448 1449 1450 1451 1452 1453 1454 1455 1456 1457	1457 1458 1459 1460 1461 * 1462 * 1463 * 1464 * 1465 * 1466 * 1467	1458 1459 1460 1461 1462 1463 1464 1465 1466 1467 1468

* Already revised in The Q.C.

NEW ISSUES

by C. E. H. Defriez

December 1981 to January 1982

All stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R.Egypt, and with Upright Watermark (Multiple Eagle) unless noted otherwise

1.
AYS

Commemorative Stamps	SG 1465	<u>SG 1466</u>	
Occasion	Egyptian (Celebrities .	• •
Date of issue	31st Decer	mber 1981	• •
Designer	N. A. el Fatah	Lotfy el Sawaf	
Design	Ali el Gayati (journalist: 1885-1956)	Omar Ebn el Fared (poet, 1181-1234)	
Denomination	30 mills	60 mills	
Sheet	50 (10 x 5) in se-tenant	pairs throughout the sheet	
Stamp dimensions	• • each 26	x 43 mm	• •
Perforation	each 11	x 11 ¹ / ₂	• •
Quantity printed	1,000,000	pairs	• •
Supplementary	WATERMARK	SIDEWAYS	

SG '1467

Occasion 20th Anniversary of African Postal Union Date of issue 31st December 1981 Designer Ibrahim el Tahtawi Pigeon and Globe, forming figure "20" Denomination 60 mills $50 (5 \times 10)$ Stamp dimensions 43 x 26 mm Perforation 11] x 11 Quantity printed 1,000,000 Supplementary The African Postal Union has grown from 6 member countries in 1961 to 12 at the present time Occasion

Design

Sheet

Sheet

Perforation

SG 1468

14th Cairo International Book Fair

28th January 1982

Mahmoud Roushdy

Fair Emblem and Writing Implements on Book

3 piastres

50 (10 x 5) WATERMARK SIDEWAYS

26 x 43 mm

11 x 113

1,500,000

(See also Mr Defriez' article with illustrations and official corrections dealing with this stamp)

SG (New Number) 1446

Solidarity for the Afghan people Date of issue 20th January 1982 Designer and Design Lotfy el Sawaf / As no. 1445 but in smaller size * Denomination 20 + 10 mills WATERMARK SIDEWAYS Stamp dimensions 31 x 25 mm 11 Quantity printed ? Supplementary Believed to have had no special first day cancel See The Q.C.Volume XI, No 7 (September 1982)

page 189

NEW ISSUES

Jan/March 1982

(All stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R.Egypt, and with Upright Watermark (Multiple Eagle) unless noted otherwise)

by

Commemorative Stan	<u>SG 1469</u>
Occasion	25th Anniversary of Egyptian Trade Unions Federation
Date of issue	30th January 1982
Designer	Lydia Farid
Design	E.T.U.F. Emblem
Denomination	3 piastres
Sheet	50 (10 x 5) WATERMARK SIDEWAYS
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm
Perforation	$11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$
Quantity printed	1,500,000
Supplementary	The Federation consists of 21 Unions from all branches of Agriculture, Industry and Services
	SG 1470 SG 1471
Occasion	25th Anniversary of Cairo 15th Cairo International Fair University (Khartoum Branch)
Date of issue	4th March 1982 13th March 1982
Designer	
	Mahmoud Roushdy Lotfy el Sawaf
Design	Map of Egypt and Sudan,Industry 'cog-wheel', 3 leavesArabic '25' and Cairorepresenting Agriculture andUniversity Domethe Fair emblem
Denomination	6 piastres 3 piastres
Sheet	50 (5 x 10) 50 (10 x 5) WATERMARK SIDEWAYS
Stamp dimensions	43 x 26 mm 26 x 43 mm
Perforation	$11\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$
Quantity printed	1,000,000 1,000,000
Supplementary	The Khartoum Branch at the More than 30 countries University was established to extend university education to Sudanese youth More than 30 countries participated and exhibited the latest products of knowledge and technology
	<u>\$G. 1472</u>
Occasion	Inauguration of Hilton Ramses Hotel
Date of issue	15th March 1982
Designer	Lotfy el Sawaf
Design	Hilton Ramses Hotel
Denomination	182 piastres
Sheet	50 (10 x 5) WATERMARK SIDEWAYS
Stamp dimensions	$26 \times 43 \text{ mm}$
Perforation	$11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$
Quantity printed	1,000,000
Supplementary	~

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Please refer to the Data Sheets for dimensions, as not all illustrations are actual size.

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198





SG 1466 SG 146.5







146.5/6













Not issued



SG 1470









8

SG 1472



DESIGN ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION



Hand-painted essay in full colour by Mahmoud Roushdy of the Postsl Printing House, Cairo, the designer of the issued stamp.

Deep brown and yellow as issued.

See next page for official endorsements on reverse of this essay, calling for alterations.

See also page 253 of this issue for the issued stamp, in this design with amendments incorporated.

Mr Defriez' data as to this stamp, which becomes SG 1468, will be found on page 251.

ESSAY FOR 14th CAIRO INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR - 28th January 1982 REVERSE OF ESSAY (on previous page) BY MAHMOUD ROUSHDY

OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT CALLING FOR ALTERATIONS

نعم مع السريات الرئيم : ١- العاد مى الرئيس ، تسقيدل فعم رزيق تجم عاميا ٢٥ جنعتى الكتاب ر اصافہ کھ ست 3 Gel Cet, del int E d'are - " يدلام أشلم ر العرف العرف MA Co الندر N/1c/w Mahmond Roushdy This text has been retouched for printing - Editor

The endorsements request the following modifications :-

- " (1) Cancel tip of pen and substitute complete pen and in an appropriate size on both pages
- " (2) Add spine to book
- "(3) Reduce size of denomination to $\frac{3}{4}$ and show in piastres instead of mills
- " Design to be re-submitted. "

*** Check the instructions above, and the original essay illustrated on the previous page, with the issued design depicted on page 253



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UNACCEPTED DESIGNS FOR 14th CAIRO INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR, 1982 above: by Lydia Farid in blue, sage-green and red below: by Waheeb Farag in emerald green, red-brown, brown-ochre and lilac





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1888 DEFINITIVE ISSUE - THE 'P' FLAW VARIETY ON 5-mills VALUE

By Themis Dacos (ESC 220)

In 1967, in "L'Orient Philatelique" No. 117, there appeared an article by Professor Peter Smith dealing with "Plate Flaws and Retouches of Egypt".

Among the remarks there was one referring to the 5-mill stamp, 1888 issue. The red colour was obliterating the loop of the 'P' of 'POSTES'.

Three years ago I came across a similar flaw and thought I should advise Professor Smith of my find and even send the stamp to him for scrutiny and comparison.

With his permission I quote his answer.

- "... I had been uncertain about the status of the variety, being afraid that it was merely the result of a bit of dirt on the paper, but your find establishes it as a constant flaw which must derive from the plate itself..."
- "... It is apparently the same as mine, but the white area of the 'P' is not so solidly filled in as on mine ... "

It should be noted that Professor Smith's example is overprinted "O.H.H.S" My example is not overprinted. It was mailed from MIT-GAMR.

It remains now to find out the plate position of this variety. Photographs actual size, and enlarged, enclosed (reproduced on next page).

Editor's Note: let us be clear about the status of this variety. From the enlarged photograph one can see the outline of the loop of the letter 'P' quite The colour of the infilling of that part of the loop appears, to easily. judge from the very good monochrome enlargement supplied by Mr Dacos, to be in a paler shade of the colour. This is exactly what happens when the recessed areas of the printing plate, which normally account for the white areas on the printed stamp, become filled, or partly filled, with caked ink, dirt, etc. This variety is obviously the result of clogging of the loop of the 'P' as mentioned - it is not the result of damage to the printing metal, and that is what causes philatelists to become excited ! This variety is therefore in the same class as the 'No stop in P E' variety on the 1866 1-piastre. None the less, it is of interest, and can be plated if other examples can be found. It is likely to prove to be only semi-constant, i.e. there should be examples of prints from the same cliche which will not show the flaw, either because the infilling had not happened, or because it had been cleaned out. It is noteworthy that the two examples dealt with by Mr Dacos' article show different amounts of colour in the white area, so that the flaw is progressive.

POSTAL HISTORY DISPLAYS by F.W. Benians (ESC 123)

Jim Benians will give displays of his FIRST WORLD WAR (EGYPT) Postal History Collection as follows. Circle Members would be welcome.

On Friday, September 2nd, at 8.00 p.m., to Luton & District Philatelic Society.

On Wednesday, October 5th, at 8.00 p.m., to Leighton Buzzard Philatelic Society, at the "Van Dyke" Halls.

STUDY PROJECT : Official and non-Official Stationery used by the various Forces in Egypt and related areas.

Jim Benians, who is embarking on this Study, and who has records of over 350 items so far, would be interested to hear of relevant material. What have you got tucked away !!

POST CARD ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE. DDRES QUARTER ANNA

Question Time 50 is put by Lars Alund (ESC 105)

" In an unsorted lot of covers and postcards, bought from Germany, I have found a most interesting postcard.

" It is a quarter-anna post card from "East India", addressed to a person in Vienna, Austria. From the test on the reverse of the card can be seen the sender's note: 'Zeila, Indian Ocean'. It was written at the end of March 1882. The second figure of the date '2 . .' is too weak to be made out.

" On the address side the sender has put a 20-para blue stamp of the De La Rue issue of 1879 (SG 46) and the stamp has been cancelled, and well tied to the post card by a seal marking of a type unknown to me. As I cannot read Arabic I have not been able to make out the meaning of the text of this seal.

"The post card has on its reverse an Egyptian postmark "SUEZ, ARRIVÉE" of "11 AV 82" and on its front a corresponding postmark from Alexandria, "12 AV 82" and an arrival mark at Vienna "23/4 82".

"This item looks genuine to me and, if genuine, I think it must be quite scarce and of great interest. If the seal emanates from the Zeila post office I have not seen it recorded previously. In an case I believe that seal markings are rare on stamps of the De La Rue issue. Could any member with knowledge of Arabic help ? "





1888 Issue, 5-mills value

"P" flaw variety

See Mr T. Dacos' article on page 257.

J.M.Murphy (ESC 240)

This series of extracts from the official Egyptian Government organ, the <u>Journal Officiel</u> - which was published from Cairo as and when required, and certainly at least twice a week - is not intended to present a comprehensive picture of the postal service, or any one feature of it, at a particular time. Rather it is presented as a multiplicity of tiny pieces, each fitting several different jigsaws which may be carried on at the same time by those interested in various facets of the service. I am happy to extract items bearing, sometimes quite remotely, on the postal service: it is for the enthusiast to further refine the mass of material to those portions directly related to his own interests.

The holdings of the <u>Journal Officiel</u> to which I have access run from 1912 until the coming of the Republic, and perhaps further; it is unfortunate that no earlier copies are shelved, but I shall try to hunt them down. On another point of practicality, it seems that the practice of giving specific dates of announcements in brackets following the entry died out at or about the time of the First War: hence active dates for the entries, unless specified within the text, must be taken only as approximate. Announcements were carried in the <u>JO</u> in both French and English: I have retained the spelling of the original in transliteration of Arabic place names, with the result that some well-known places may well appear under unfamiliar guises.

1913

BRIEF COMMENTARY C	DM 19	913
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- Little to report (JMM)

1,1 Jan 1 Khedivial Decree raising maximum recoverable by "post fixé"
from 4,000 to 10,000 P.T. and reducing prepayment fee to
4 mills. (Dec 30, 1912)

12,236 Jan 29 Exchange of money orders, parcels, letters and declared-value boxes with offices of Samos, Chios, Mytilene, Tenedos, Lemnos and Thasos suspended until further notice. (Jan 27)

98, 1970 Aug 23 Exchange of ordinary and registered mail with Andrinople, Kirk Kilisse and Rodosto has been re-established. (Aug 20)

113, 2231 Oct 6 Exchange of insured letters, money orders and parcels with Adrianople resumed. (Oct 4)

1914-i

BRIEF COMMENTARY

- 1914 War clouds looming, and most of Egyptian Postal Service efforts devoted to keeping track of international areas of disruption; services with Red Sea and el-Arish in trouble; new post offices opened or expanded. (JMM)
- 40, 717 Apr 1 From April 1, insured boxes for Britain will be accepted under the "duty paid" system, by which the approximate duty leviable by British Customs is levied by the Egyptian Post Office, and the article is delivered free of further duty.
- 82, 1589 Jul 6 Parcels for Mexico via France accepted only at sender's risk because of events in Mexico. (Jul 3)
- 94, 1774 Aug 1 l.offices newly admitted to the money orders service Sanabu (Asyut), Manchiet Sultan (Minufia).
 2. admitted to all services Mit el-Kholi (Daqalia), 'Assirat (Girge).
 3. admitted to money order exchange Dessures, Sanbur, Hosh 'Issa, Nigila, Taufiqia (Beheira); Mitubis, Bashbish, Shin (Gharbia); Kom en-Nur, Aulia, Mit Sammanud, Sineta, Mahallet Domana (Daqalia); Aqiad, Gidaida, Qassassin (Sharqia); Samadun (Menufia); Qaha (Qalioubia); Manashi, Matania, Riqqa (Giza); Tamiya (Fayoum); Abu Shusha, Abu Tisht (Qena); Siba'iya (Aswan).
 4. Savings Bank services extended to Kamal Nur (sic), Samadun, Nigila, Matania, Riqqa, Hosh 'Issa, Sanbur, Shin, Mahallet Domana.
- 99, 1829 Aug 8 Suspended until further notice 1, exchange of insured parcels with overseas; 2, collection order service with overseas; 3, foreign parcels service, except for Great Britain and transit (exclusively via Gibraltar), and Italy.
- 113, 1949 Sep 2 Registered correspondence to Austria and Germany suspended "in view of the present situation in Europe." Registered correspondence for other countries accepted at sender's risk, with no responsibility for loss "arising from the present international situation." (Aug 31)
- 127, 2080 Sep 26 Parcels service restored with Denmark, Sweden, Norway on the P&O "All Sea Route" exclusively. Other parcels restored - by French paquebot service, to British East Africa, Cochin China, Comores, French Somali Coast, Ethiopia, French Indo-China and French East Indies. By Dutch paquebot - Dutch East Indies. By Japanese and French paquebots - Japan. By French paquebot, Laos and Madagascar. French or Japanese paquebot, Manchuria (Japanese offices). French paquebot, Maurice, Reunion, Mahe, Siam. Parcels for Australia and transit via Australia must go by the Orient Line.
- 138, 2205 Oct 19 Exchange of money orders, both ordinary and telegraphic, between Egypt, Sudan and Britain, its colonies and possessions, has been resumed. (Oct 16)
- 150, 2320 Nov 7 The contract for harbour transport, by steam, motor launch and <u>mohane</u>, of mails at Port Said, has been awarded to Hagg Mustapha Ghandar, of Port Said.

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1914-ii

151, 2322 Nov 9 Parcel service with Turkey, Syria and Ottoman post offices of the Red Sea littoral suspended. (Nov 6)

Correspondence addressed to initials, numbers or other anonymous indications will no longer be accepted by France.

Postal communications with Austria and Germany suspended.

Exchange of ordinary (not insured, COD or duty free) parcels restored with (see 127, 2080 above).

154, 2354 Nov 14 Registered correspondence with el-Arish suspended.

160, 2433 Nov 28 Fee payable on internal money orders or those directed to Sudan reduced to 15 mills. (Nov 26)

167, 2504 Dec 12 Postal communication with Turkey, Syria and Turkish Red Sea offices suspended, so mails already en route will be returned to senders or, in default, fall into the dead-letter office.

1915-i

BRIEF COMMENTARY

1915 - War problems still predominate, with Egyptian Postal Service refusing responsibility for articles lost due to force majeure; books for the troops may be sent free of charge; postal rates raised for "within city" mails, papers, visiting cards, etc, and also post cards within Egypt; censorship regulations prohibit any unauthorised person from carrying messages to or from the UK; postal order system established. (JMM)

15, 175 Feb 1 From Feb 1, insured letters and boxes service resumed to all countries except Germany, Austria, Bosnia-Herzogovina, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Norway, Turkey (including Syria and Turkish Red Sea offices), Roumania, Servia, Montenegro, Sweden, Luxembourg. (Jan 27)

> Insured parcels service will resume with Britain (and all countries in transit thereby), British India (and all countries in transit by way of Aden and Bombay, such as Portuguese East Indies, Br. Somaliland, Zanzibar etc), Cyprus, Tripolotania, Malta, Gibraltar, Straits Settlements, Br. North Borneo, Fed. Malay States, Labuan, Sarawak, the Italian colonies of Benadir and Erithrea, Aden, China (Br. offices only), Ceylon, Switzerland (via Italy), Dutch East Indies, Japan. (Jan 27)

The public is hereby notified that with effect from February 1, 1915, the Eggytian Postal Administration assumes no responsibility for the loss of postal articles through force majeure. It is, however, always open to senders to insure with insurance companies against such risks. (Jan 27)

17, 200 Feb 6 Sultan's Decree dated Feb 2 raising "within city" franking fee to 5 mills for each 30gm or part thereof, double if unfranked. Also lifting postage on non-periodical papers, visiting cards, legal papers and samples within Egypt to 2 mills for each 50gm or part, double if unfranked, to take effect Mar 1.

Continued

1915*-*ii

37, 585 Mar 29 From April 1, issue of money orders on France, Italy (and its colonies and possessions), Greece and Switzerland resumed.

Commission on money orders for Britain, colonies and possessions, which had been raised provisionally, will be reduced to the normal rate from April 1.

An Indian post office has opened at Busrah on the Persian Gulf. Rates from Egypt as for India proper, 5 mills/20gm.

38, 601 Apr 1 5 mills/20gm rate now applies to the following (as Britain): Samoa, New Guinea (except Dutch), Bismarck Archipelago (New Britain, New Ireland, New Hanover, Admiralty Island etc), Nauru, Bougainville, Boka, Districts of Lomeland, Mishabe, Kette-Kraibi, the part of the district of Mangu-Yedi forming the country of Dagomba in Togoland, and Koweit.

39, 625 Apr 6 Issue of money orders upon the US resumed. (Apr 2)

Anyone wishing to give books in English or French to the troops camped in Alexandria "with the aim of occupying their free time" can have them delivered free of charge if addressed to His Excellency N.T. Borton Pacha, Director-General of Posts, Alexandria, and labelled "Books for the Troops." (Apr 2)

57 1028 Jun 7 Foreign money order exchanges and all other cash services will be resumed from June 15 with Bulgaria, Chili, Corea, Denmark, Danish West Indies, Dutch East Indies, Finland, Honduras Republic, Japan, Karafuto (Saghalien), Luxembourg, Manchuria, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Salvador, Servia, Sweden, Uruguay.

63, 1151 Jun 28 NOTICE. The attention of the public is drawn to the following Regulations made under the Defence of the Realm Acts in regard to the carriage of letters to and from the United Kingdom, as set forth by Order in Council of March 23.

"No person shall without lawful authority transmit (otherwise than through the post) or convey, to or from the United Kingdom, or receive or have in his possession for such transmission or conveyance, any letter or written message for any other person, and if any person contravenes this provision he shall be guilty of an offence against the Regulations. This Regulation shall not apply to "shipowners' letters" as defined by section thirty of the Post Office Act, 1908, nor to any class of letters or written messages that may be for the time being exempted by order of the Secretary of State."

- 67, 1209-10 Jul 12 Sultan's Decree establishing postal orders, (Jul 6) in a range of 20 values from 20 mills to £1E in 50 mills steps, to which smaller amounts may be added in stamps. Charges, 50-150 mills, 4 mills; 300-750 mills, 7 mills; 800 mills-£1E, 10 mills.
- 68, 1225 Jul 15 Erratum in above, read 200-750 mills as second fee step.

70, 1245 Jul 19 Egyptian Inland Postal Orders may now be purchased at all post offices admitted to the money order service.

Parcels containing cigars or cigarettes addressed to troops in France are subject to the same formalities and customs charges as those to civilians, and may be refused by the French postal authorities if duty is unpaid.

1915-iii

72, 1273 Jul 26 The French post authorities say that parcels containing cigars or cigarettes addressed individually to French soldiers are no longer admitted to France. An exception is the case of gifts of residents abroad to armies, hospitals or military ambulances, in which case they must be addressed to the Ministry of War for distribution. Individual parcels from abroad addressed to soldiers in the British and Belgian Expeditionary forces operating in France are admitted free of charge.

> The Swiss post office has agreed to act as intermediary for correspondence only, addressed to British and French POWs in Turkey. Correspondence is invited.

- 80, 1372 Aug 23 The French now say tobacco may be sent to individual French soldiers, but to a limit of 1kg of tobacco or 500 cigarettes, and sent duty paid.
- 87, 1432 Sep 13 Despatch from Egypt of collection orders and COD parcels to France suspended.
- 91, 1488 Sep 27 France forbids liquids or perishable foods in parcels to French soldiers; other parcels should be packed in canvas or strong paper, not wood, metal or cardboard.
- 100, 1571 Oct 25 Money orders drawn for presentation in Holland, United States suspended.
- 102, 1593 Nov 1 Insured parcels service with France restored; insured parcels and money order service with Bulgaria suspended.
- 106, 1637 Nov 15 Sultan's Decree (Nov 8) Parcels readdressed for reason of change of address of recipient, return to sender or any other cause (except postal service error) will render that parcel to a second charge, to be paid by the sender or recipient.
- 108, 1661 Nov 22 At the request of Greece, money orders for Greece suspended owing to exchange rate fluctuations.
- 110, 1682 Nov 29 As above, for Switzerland, Norway, Sweden.
- 114, 1715 Dec 6 Sultan's Decree (Nov 30) Post card rates within Egypt
 raised to 3 mills for a simple card, and 6 mills reply-paid.
 Double if unfranked, to take effect from Jan 1 1916.
- 114, 1717 Dec 6 Italian post office requests: no food should be sent to troops in Italy.
- 119, 1804 Dec 23 Money orders exchange between Egypt and Servia and Montenegro temporarily suspended.

BRIEF COMMENTARY

1916-i

1916 - War closes on Egypt - Kantara and western oases services suspended; sending picture post cards to neutral countries prohibited; arrangements for sending mail and money orders to POWs in Europe; free postage applies only to troops in the field.

From Jan 1 1916, the \underline{JO} is paginated per issue rather than through the whole annual publication, as heretofore. (JMM)

1916 Continued . . .

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EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL OFFICIEL

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Continued

1916-ii

- 12,3 Feb 3 Mail import of unmanufactured cotton into the US prohibited, except when ordered by or intended for the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction, Washington - parcels otherwise addressed will be refused.
- 13,9 Feb 7 The public is hereby notified that the Kantara post office will be closed on and after the 7th of this month.
- 14, 1 Feb 10 Parcel service with Russia temprarily suspended from Feb 8.
- 17, 3 Feb 21 The public is hereby informed that by order of the military authorities the exchange of picture postcards with neutral countries is prohibited until further notice.
- 22,3 Mar 9 The public is hereby notified that the postal service on the western Oasis line (ie, Dakhla/Kharga) is temporarily suspended.

Oasis

- 23,5 Mar 13 The post office at Wahat, Baharia has been temporarily closed.
- 37,1 Apr 27 From May 1, Inland Postal Orders' validity is reduced to three months excluding the month of issue. Duplicates will then be issued after three months, not six months as previously.
- 38,4 May 1 The public is warned that the despatch by post of explosibles in general and of shells, portions of shells, fuses or projectiles of any kind is strictly prohibited. Such articles thus despatched constitute a danger to the postal staff and to the postal matter enclosed in the mail bags; consequently, strict orders have been issued for their immediate destruction.
- 45,8 May 22 Italy notifies Egypt that Avis de Reception cannot be furnished for registered and insured articles addressed to Italian troops on active service.
- 46,5 May 25 Parcels for Sudan addressed to Bara, Delgo, Gallabat, Gedaref, Kassala, Korkof, Singa, Kosha, Nahud, Roseires, Talodi (Kordofan), Tokar and Wau, as well as for the Western Frontier Force, Sudan, which on the final stage of their journey are sent by camel or mule, should be packed so as to adequately protect their contents against risk of injury.
- 53,4 Jun 15 Arrangements have been made for the transfer of Savings Bank deposit accounts between Egypt and Sudan.
- 58,4 Jul 3 The public is reminded that cinematographic films cannot be forwarded to Greece except by means of a special permit from the British legation in Athens.
- 59,4 Jul 6 Samples of cotton may be sent to Switzerland, but only on production of a special Customs export permit.
- 60,5 Jul 10 Owing to the considerable number of articles prohibited from import into Italy, it has been decided to suspend the parcel post with that country until further notice.
- 65,3 Jul 24 At the request of the Italian post office, insured articles addressed to Italian troops will no longer be accepted for transmission.

Continued

1916-iii

- 68,7 Aug 7 Ordinary correspondence only, for the towns of Djeddah and Mecca, is accepted for transmission.
- 75,4 Aug 28 Advice for mails to Russia during the war: Poste Restante material must bear the name and surname of the addressee; all mail addressed to "c/o", "To be handed to....", "For..." when the intermediary is not fully named, together with mail to fictitious names and those addressed to initials, figures, etc, will be destroyed.
- 76,4 Aug 31 By order of the Military Authorities, the despatch of postal parcels by any particular mail cannot be assured unless they are deposited at the post office at least 48 hours before the date fixed for the departure of the mail.
- 82,5 Sep 13 Virtual repitition of 12,3 above, warning that cotton addressed to individuals within the Office of Foreign Seed etc in Washington unacceptable.
- 83,4 Sep 25 The specie service with Bir Shams p.o. will be resumed from Sep 25, during the cotton season.

Parcels for Switzerland suspended.

- 86,2 Oct 5 Money orders upon Denmark suspended because of exchange rate fluctuations.
- 88, 5 Oct 12 Mail to Gambele (Sudan) will in future go via Suez and Djibouti and responsibility for registered letters will be held only as far as Addis Ababa.
- 89,3 Oct 16 Owing to the representations of the Egyptian post office, the Italian postal authorities have cancelled the large list of articles banned from import into Italy. Consequently the parcels post service with Italy is resumed.
- 93,6 Oct 30 Sultan's Decree (Oct 24, to take effect one month after its appearance in the JO) Internal money orders will not be issued for sums lower than £1E. The charges remain the same, 3 mills per £1E, with a minimum of 15 mills.
- 95,3 Nov 6 The public is informed that postal money orders may be despatched to POWs interned in Germany, Austro-Hungary etc, free of the usual comission. Send to Controle-Generale des Postes à Berne, with the payee's name on the back of the address coupon.
- 99,3 Nov 20 From Jan 1 the annual subscription for a post office box is ElE under a new system, with the previous ElE deposit to be abolished and refunded.
- 103,4 Dec 11 The public is reminded that the privilege of free postage is applicable only in the case of correspondence despatched by troops in the field; it does not apply to crrespondence posted by civilians and addressed to such troops; such correspondence must be stamped at the usual rates.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Members are reminded of the suggestion by the compiler of these extracts, Mr J.M.Murphy, to note such changes minuted in Journal Officiel as relate to their particular collecting interest. It is hoped to publish further axtracts regularly. And can anybody help with 1912 and earlier volumes ?

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RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Lars Alund (ESC 105) reports a lucky 'find' in his recent purchase of a lot of modern Egypt stamps. He found inverted watermarks on the 1953 (Nefertiti) 100-mills value, on a pair and a single. He has not seen this variety recorded so far.

Lars Alund has also written: "Life is full of surprises. When I received a German auction catalogue I noticed an Egyptian collection, valued at about \pounds 15. Just for fun I entered a bid and I got this lot. It contained a 1-piastre stamp of 1867 with a very clear postmark "CANAL DE SUEZ // KIL 83" and the date is "18 // OCT // 68". I enclose a photocopy (reproduced) but unfortunately the postmark does not show up very well. As far as I can see, this is the earliest date recorded from "KIL. 83" - compare L'OP No. 81, page 27."

*** Congratulations to Lars Alund on his two acquisitions. This feature in the Q.C., which I hope will become regular, was started in response to a suggestion by Mr Pip Whetter (ESC 133). What we are hoping to have reported by Circle are purchases of modest amount which are found to contain significant material which had not been noticed - exactly like the two items reported above. ("Serendipity" is the word) - Editor.

QUESTION TIME - NEW QUESTIONS

Q. Time 51 - Repair of Damaged Mail Question put by Mr E. Blackburn (ESC 244)

I first came across a reference to Egypt's "Found Open and Officially Sealed" labels in a French-language stamp album published by A. P. Riffis and printed in Cairo, circa 1940.

This describes eight types issued between 1906 and 1931 and these are illustrated on page 161 of Chirchini with the same dates ascribed to them. I have a 6th issue (1926) label (illustrated) which arouses my suspicions as the postmark purports to read: " -1 III 8 6-A ". On the other hand the issue dates quoted by my two sources are corroborated by a 2nd issue (1908) label, in the top margin of which is printed: " McC. & Co. Ltd., Printers, Ldn. - 200 Bks. 1908."

This leads me to the 1962 edition of Mr Kehr's "The Interpostals of Egypt, 1864 - 1892" in which he illustrates with a 7th issue (1927) label that part of his text where he says that the Postal Administration has long had such labels for the repair of damaged mail. The use of Interpostals for the same purpose might merely be the result of Interpostals being nearer to hand than the regular seals at the time the repair was effected. As some 14 years elapsed between the replacement of Interpostals by the "Meery" Official and the introduction of "Found Open" labels, I am prompted to ask whether post offices continued to hold stocks of Interpostals long after 1892.

My contribution to 'UPDATA' in the December 1982 Q.C. (Whole Number 124; pages 220, 221) included a 1908 "Found Open" label cancelled by Thomas Cook's type H. TC. 6 with early date 8- VI 23. I am now thinking it is perhaps as remarkable as an instance of late use of the label itself, 2nd issue.

Q. Time 52 - Political Prisoners' Mail, 1916 Question put by Mr P.R.Bertram (ESC 137)

My query relates to front and back of a 1916 postal stationery card surcharged 3 mills on 2 mills. Is it strictly a prisoner of war item? Can anybody help with deciphering the postmark cancelling the stamp - it is dated 11. X. 16 11-AM and the town reads "?AHIG " - see tracing. What is the significance of GIZA on the front and GIZA BRANCH on the back? And what of the two strikes of the intaglio seal ?

*** Front and back of Card illustrated on page 268, together with Robin Bertram's tracing of the canceller. Can an Arabic scholar among our members kindly let us know what political secret of the Sphinx is hidden in the message ? - Editor



Q. Time 53 - Unstamped Canadian Postcard Question put by Lars Alund (ESC 105)

In a recently-purchased lot of Egyptian items I have found a picture post card which puzzles me. It was mailed from Toronto, Canada, to a Miss A.V.Smith, c/o Thomas Cook & Son, "near Shepheard's Hotel", Cairo, from where it had been forwarded to Naples. The postcard was postmarked in Toronto MAR 11, 1903, and has an arrival postmark from Cook's Tourist Office in Cairo on 29.III.03. Before that a T.P.O. postmark "Amb. Alexandrie - Caire, 29. III, 03" was applied. Evidently Miss Smith had moved to Naples and therefore the postcard received a despatch postmark from the Cook's Service on March 31, and additional postmark of the Egyptian Post Office in Cairo of the same date an eventually a (very weak) Italian arrival postmark of Naples. The date into Naples is illegible.

Everything seems quite normal, but how could this postcard be forwarded from Canada to Egypt and from there to Italy without postage being paid? There is no sign of a stamp being affixed to the postcard, or removed from it, and there are no markings to indicate that postage due was claimed. Can anyone explain?

*** On the following day, Lord Justice Lars Alund wrote as follows :-

Since I wrote to you yesterday I have had a closer look at my collection of proprietary pst offices. To my surprise I found that the picture post card from Toronto, described in my letter, is still more interesting that I thought. The c.d.s. from the Cook's Tourist Service is Type 2. According to my notes this postmark has not been seen with an earlier date than 5 April 1903. My postcard, hoever, is dated 29.III.03, earlier than previously known. Eureka !

*** Which prompts the Editor to pontificate that a good philatelic (or postal history) item is one which does not reveal all its worth to the initial enquiry. See illustration on page 270.

Q. Time 54 - Turkey Adhesive used from Egypt, 1911 Question put by Mr P.R.Bertram (ESC 137)

This cover (Mena House Hotel impressed on rear) is dated 8.XII.11 from GIZA. It has a contemporary Turkey adhesive on the front, which has not been cancelled. From its condition I gain the impression that it was put on at the same time. From Gibbons I note that this stamp, overprinted with the Turkish equivalent of 'discount', can be found on foreign mail. Is this rare or not on 'Egyptian mail ? (Illustrated on page 270 - Editor).

Q. Time 55 - Motto impressed on envelope Question put by Mr P.R.Bertram (ESC 137)

Not strictly philatelic, but nevertheless of interest, is the motif on the back of a registered cover from Giza to London dated 15th March 1911. It consists of an heraldic shield surmounted by a cat. The motto reads: "TOUCH NOT THE CAT BUT A GLOVE". Can somebody explain please ?

Q. Time 56.1 and 56.2 - Incomplete cancellations Questions put by Mr P.R.Bertram (ESC 137)

The first incomplete cancellation is dated 19.JU.41 and round the base reads MIDAN CASH (2).

The second incomplete cancellation is a star & crescent cancellation which reads GAFARIA.

Can anybody help with these two items, please ?

*** The material referred to in Q. Time 55, 56.1 and 56.2 is illustrated on page 270 - Editor.

