

The Quarterly Circular

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EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

January 14th	The Circle - present and future.	J. Sears.
March 4th	60th Anniversary Meeting at Stampex. Invited Displays.	
May 6th	Postage Dues.	P. Andrews
July 8th	Perfins. Rettas.	M.G.C. Dahl J.S. Horesh
September 16th	Registration Labels and Markings.	J. Sears
November 25th	World War I non-British Military Markings.	E. Hall

Meetings are normally held at the Victory Club, Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London. Members usually congregate in the Bar from 1.00 p.m. onwards and meetings start at 2.30 p.m.

EDITORS NOTES

By the time members receive this issue Christmas will be well past. However it will not be too late to wish everyone a Happy New Year and in particular, a philatelically interesting one.

It is not yet clear what changes and innovations may stem from the January Circle meeting. However it must surely be a sign of health and vigour that we should question what we are presently doing and how better we may do it in the future. The combination of this meeting and the 60th Anniversary Celebrations in March should ensure a contrasting and stimulating beginning to the year.

The relatively small numbers attending the Circle meetings remains a disappointment, if an understandable one. It is surely a challenge to find ways of involving more members in the studies. Those who attend bring relevant material of their own and contribute to the discussion and to new findings. However there must be much relevant material in the collections of other members who cannot attend which would contribute greatly. Peter Smith tells me that the response to his request in the QC earlier this year for earliest cancellations on postage dues was "very disappointing". Was it that nobody had any postage dues with dated cancellations or was it sloth? I confess that in my own case it was the latter.

To try to meet the challenge of involving more members I hope that leaders of forthcoming studies will consider circulating members with details of information which they are particularly seeking for their study. Topics for the coming year include postage dues, perfins, rettas, registration marks and non-British military marks of the First World War. If study leaders will send one or two paragraphs on the information which they particularly require I will consider publication either within the body of the QC or, alternatively, a separate questionnaire which can be returned to them may be more appropriate. I am sure that such requests will need to be quite brief and sharply focussed on specific questions. Ideally such requests should be published 4 - 6 months before the appropriate meeting so that there is sufficient time for feedback to the study leaders.

IN THIS ISSUE

I am pleased that from time to time I hear criticism of the contents of the QC. Inevitably there are comments that it contains too much of this and not enough of that to suit an individual's interests. Perhaps you are one of those who feel that there is too much on postal history or too much emphasis on the classical period and not enough on 20th century material. If you hold one of those views, and particularly if both apply, then this issue is definitely for you!

Those who doubt that there is anything worth studying in modern issues of the last 30 years may find the article on the Official Stamps of 1972-1985 a considerable surprise. Messrs.

Andrews, Defriez and Jeyes have put together a painstaking study of many varieties which exist. Time will tell how complete are their studies but they are presented as "preliminary" and I suspect that there is still plenty left in this interesting topic.

Cyril Defriez has already presented interesting observations on modern issues this year, both in the QC and at a Circle meeting. In this issue he presents a further list of recent issues.

Lars Alund reports an extraordinary watermark variety on a 1st Fuad definitive. His observation should serve as a reminder that anyone can make an important discovery if they are willing to study and to observe their material.

Peter Smith contributes a further report on a spectacular forged cover offered earlier this year in a London auction - the only concession to the classical period in this issue!

Betty Watterson's letter on an unrecorded Continental Hotel mark has prompted an enigmatic response from Mike Murphy. Readers will have to wait until the next issue for the full denouement! Other topics include postcard postal rates in 1921 and flaws on the 1926 Officials. Alan Jeyes brings us back again to modern issues and finally Pierre Grech supplies a fascinating explanation for an unidentified handstamp on a postcard from Cairo.

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MEMBERS NEWS

THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY - INVITATION TO SWEDEN

Anatole Ott (ESC 261) has suggested that the Circle should hold a meeting in Sweden and has offered to make a lot of the arrangements. A stay of about a week is envisaged and this would include visits to Stockholm and other places of interest. The early part of June has been suggested, but, at this stage, it is not possible to give an estimate of cost. However, those members who might be interested in principle (including their partners) are asked to write initially to John Sears so that we may have some idea of the numbers involved.

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A number of members from abroad and the UK visited the London Autumn Stampex and enjoyed a convivial lunch together. Two members mounted displays and gained awards as follows:-

Leon Balian (ESC 251)	Egypt 1871 - 1881 Large Silver Gilt.
John Sears (ESC 188)	Egypt - The First Fuad Portrait Issue Small Silver Gilt.

John's display also won the Ebby Gerrish Trophy for the best exhibition of Foreign 20th Century material.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

NEW MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

ESC 454 DR. ALAN COHEN
42 Meadows Road, Pinner,
Middlesex, HA5 1ED, U.K.
Palestine, E.E.F., Postal history of
Suez Canal area.

ESC 455 MR. FRANCIS G. PARSONS
14 Brookend Road, Sidcup,
Kent, DA15 8BE, U.K.
Egypt Flight Covers and TPO's.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Please note the important change of address of our Agent in
the U.S.A:-

ESC 181 MR. CHARLES F. HASS
PO Box 3435, Nashua,
New Hampshire 03061-3435, U.S.A.

This was given incorrectly on p.164 of the previous issue.

ESC 269 MR. P.J. CALHOUN
PO Box 20008, London Terrace Station,
New York, N.Y. 10011, U.S.A.

ESC 274 MR. N.D.W. THOMAS
42, Church Road, Bebington,
Wirral, L63 3EY, U.K.

ESC 357 HERR E.O.W. REDECKE
Gr. Ziegelriede 4, Nienburg/Weser,
D-31582, Germany.

ESC 451 DR. A.A. ABDEL-HAFIZ
PO Box 317, Iuka, Mississippi 38851-0317,
U.S.A.

Apologies! - this one was my mistake - Editor.

Meeting on 12th November 1994

Present:	P. Andrews	W.C. Andrews	P.J. Beckett
	P.R. Bertram	M.C. Bramwell	M.G.C. Dahl
	D.J. Davis	C.E.H. Defriez	P.L. Grech
	E. Hall	J.S. Horesh	A. Schmidt
	B. Watterson	Guest:- A. Tyler	

There were apologies from:

G.A. Jeyes	W.N. Watterson	J.M. Murphy
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The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming our guest,
Mr. Alan Tyler and expressing the hope that he might join the
Study Circle.

The importance was stressed of the forthcoming meeting on January 14th, 1995 to discuss the future of the Study Circle. It was hoped that members would make every effort to attend. Arrangements are in place to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Study Circle on March 4th at the Spring Stampex meeting. Topics for next years meetings were discussed and decided upon. They will appear in the 1995 programme to be issued shortly.

The Vice-Chairman, Stan Horesh, offered the congratulations of those present to our Chairman John Sears and also to Leon Balian on their awards at Stampex.

The Secretary announced two applications for membership of the circle which were unanimously accepted. He requested Officers to submit to him as soon as possible any outstanding items of expenditure for this year. He confirmed that he had received many written submissions for the meeting on January 14th on "The future of the ESC" which would be collated for that meeting.

The subject for the afternoon was the British Consular Post Offices in Alexandria and Cairo. Robin Bertram and John Davis gave an interesting talk and display. An up to date list of the markings and their datespans had been produced and Robin Bertram acknowledged the previous work of Circle members and most recently the contribution of our President, Peter Smith. The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking Robin and John for an excellent display.

Robin Bertram, Secretary

BOOK REVIEW

GB USED ABROAD: CANCELLATIONS AND POSTAL MARKINGS By John Parmenter (based on an original work by C.S. Morton). XXVIII + 344pp.; hardbound. The Postal History Society, 1993; £35 (\$70 postpaid by surface mail). Obtainable from George Henderson, c/o CBD Research Ltd., 15 Whickham Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 2J5.

Within the broader subject of the use of British stamps in post offices in colonies or in foreign countries, the British post offices in Alexandria, Cairo, and Suez in the nineteenth century have an especially important place, because of their strategic position on the route India and their consequent heavy use. In this book, the British Offices in Egypt occupy 13 pages (pp. 40-53), and provide the justification for reviewing the book here.

The book is based on a classic series of articles by the Rev. C.S. Morton in "Stamp Collector's Fortnightly" in the 1930s. The text of those articles, which embodies a highly impressive amount of historical and archival research, has been reprinted, with some additions, and has been augmented by catalogue-style sections by Mr. Parmenter. He has also extracted from the GPO Proof Books a practically exhaustive selection of illustrations of the postmarks. Although the emphasis is on the period when stamps were used, the pre-stamp period is given some attention.

The text contains lengthy extracts from official correspondence, etc., beginning with a long section of Anthony Trollope's autobiography about his appointment as postmaster at Alexandria in 1858. There is much enjoyable and informative historical detail to be found here. The catalogue sections illustrate all the handstamps shown in the Proof Books, and gives details about the periods of use and of the value of covers bearing them. For example, the horizontal oval BO1 obliterator is given a rating of £40-£80-£170. These are respectively for unexceptional covers in good condition; average auction price for covers in "excellent condition", and the maximum auction price for "a very special cover". The ten-bar vertical oval obliterator is shown in duplex with the datestamp, but the controversial duplex of the eight-bar obliterator is not shown thus in the Proof Book, and the duplex format may be an erroneous philatelic interpretation. The six-bar obliterator is shown, but Parmenter gives no information about recorded dates of use or valuation.

The crowned circle postmarks are included. That of Alexandria is rated "scarce", with a value of £400-600, and that for Suez is rated "very rare", with a value of £1200. Even the handstamps for the British Army in Egypt in the 1882 and 1885 campaigns are listed, although without detail on the use and value of the datestamps.

It is appropriate to compare the content of this book with the treatment of the British P.O.'s in Egypt now (1994) appearing in "The Philatelist and PJGB". The former is based predominantly on Post Office records, whereas the latter is based more on what can be learned from philatelic material. Certain handstamps are shown by Parmenter because they are listed in the Proof Books, although they have not (yet?) been seen on covers. Conversely, some handstamps that are known to exist in two or more variants are shown in but one form by Parmenter, whereas the variants are shown or described in the currently appearing article. Parmenter gives much specific information on values, but postage rates are not considered. The two treatments thus complement each other, and the specialist will want to be familiar with both.

The first part of the title may give a false impression of what to expect in the content, for nothing is stated about which specific stamps were used at each office in Egypt (or elsewhere). This is not a serious drawback, however, since the stamps known used at each office are listed and priced in the Stanley Gibbons Part I catalogue.

This is a well produced and highly informative book, and its quality and potential usefulness more than compensate for its not inconsiderable price.

Peter A.S. Smith

THE OFFICAL STAMPS 1972 - 1985

P. Andrews (ESC 122), C.E.H. Defriez (ESC 172)
and G.A. Jeyes (ESC 293)

When, on the 2nd of September 1971, Egypt adopted the title Arab Republic of Egypt, this title was immediately indicated on all stamps commencing with the next issue of commemoratives on 28th of September 1971, and on the next definitive issue 1st of January 1972.

A new issue of official stamps was also proposed for issue on 1st of July 1972. Pre-issue Post Office information proposed values of 1,5,10,20,50,55,100,200 and 500 milliemes.

In the event only five values appeared:-

1 Millieme	blue and grey
10 Milliemes	carmine and black
20 Milliemes	olive green and black
50 Milliemes	orange and black
55 Milliemes	red violet and black



the first colour being that of the Eagle design and figures of value, the second that of the country name and the words official and postage.

Although similar to the previous issue, the format was larger being 25 x 30 mm instead of 20.5 x 25 mm and all values were printed in photogravure on wove paper without watermark in panes of 100 (10 x 10) and perforated 11.25.

Thereafter, additional values were printed, comprising:-

30 Milliemes	brown and lilac
60 Milliemes	orange and black
70 Milliemes	green and black
80 Milliemes	green and black

together with further printings of the original values.

Some of these later printings were in different colours from the originals, a fact which did not escape the notice of a Cairo dealer, who offered for sale sets of stamps containing some of these items including (although he had not realized the fact) stamps on differing types of paper, a fine laid in addition to various grades of wove, and some values with and without watermark.

Being, for once, in the right place at the right time, these were purchased by some members of the Circle as a specialized set of the issue, but on checking through the stamps in the hotel later that evening (in rather poor light) the fact that there appeared to be different papers as well as differing colours and watermarked stamps gave cause for thought and the commencement of this study.

Dates of issue and usage have not yet been identified, since almost all postmarks on used stamps are incomplete or blurred to such a degree that dates are illegible and very few pieces with printing date have been seen and further study will be

necessary. These introductory notes will therefore be confined to describing the various categories into which each value may be sub-divided.

The following table lists the various values and colours in order of their date of issue together with the Stanley Gibbons (SG) catalogue number if listed. Information on the dates of issue has been obtained from the SG catalogue and from First Day Covers issued by the Egyptian Philatelic Bureau in the collections of the ESC and of the authors.

SG No.	Date of issue	Value	Colour
0 1161	30.6.72	1 m	blue and grey
0 1162	"	10 m	carmine and black
0 1163	"	20 m	olive green and black
0 1167	"	50 m	orange and black
0 1168	"	55 m	reddish violet and black
0 1164	15.4.73	20 m	dark brown and reddish violet
0 1161a	13.3.75	1 m	light blue and black
0 1162a	7.4.76	10 m	rose red and black
0 1292	25.6.76	20 m	light brown and reddish violet (wmk)
0 1170	8.5.79	70 m	emerald and black
0 1165	1979	20 m	light brown and slate lilac
0 1294	"	55 m	slate lilac and black (wmk)
0 1293	15.1.82(?)	50 m	orange and black (wmk)
0 1166	12.2.82	30 m	light brown and slate lilac
0 1171	18.2.82	80 m	emerald and black
0 1169	24.2.82	60 m	orange and black

There is no evidence on the date of issue of the following:-

1 m	light blue and black (wmk)
10 m	rose red and black (wmk)
55 m	slate lilac and black
70 m	emerald and black (wmk)

The following tables show for each value the different types which have been identified with respect to the different colours and types of paper and the printing ink colours.

ONE MILLIEME

	<u>Paper type</u>	<u>Design colour</u>	<u>Script colour</u>	<u>U/V Lamp Reaction</u>
Type 1 (1972?)	Off-white fine laid	deep dull blue with violet tinge	fine light grey	dark
Type 2 (1972)	Off-white wove	dull ultramarine	dark grey	dark

ONE MILLIEME - continued

	<u>Paper type</u>	<u>Design colour</u>	<u>Script colour</u>	<u>U/V Lamp Reaction</u>
Type 3	Off-white wove	dull ultramarine	black	dark
Type 4 (1975)	Off-white fine laid	dull blue	black	dark
Type 5	White wove	blue	black	light
Type 6	Off-white mottled wove (denser paper?)	blue	fine black	light
Type 7	White plain wove	blue	fine black	light
Type 8	Thinner white wove	deep bright blue	fine black	slight
Type 9	White wove	deep dull blue	black	light

First Day Covers seen dated 13-3-75 stamp type 4.
 Variety - break in shield. Position not known but in second
 column of pane (ie positions 2-92). Seen on types 4 and 8 -
 probably 1975.
 Variety - break in colour left side of Eagle's neck. Sheet
 position number 18 (type 4) also seen on type 9.
 Some stamps of types 4 & 5 shew black streaks, dots and
 smudges, some of which are constant - two matching pairs seen.

TEN MILLIEMES

Type 1	Mottled wove	carmine red	fine light grey	light
Type 2	fine laid	carmine red	fine light grey	light
Type 3	fine wove	carmine red	fine light grey	light
Type 4	fine laid	carmine red	black	light
Type 5	Mottled wove	carmine red	black	light
Type 6	fine wove	carmine red	black	light
Type 7	white mottled wove	pale rose	fine grey	
Type 8	off-white wove	medium rose	fine pale grey	
Type 9	off-white wove	medium rose	black	

TEN MILLIEMES - continued

	<u>Paper</u> <u>type</u>	<u>Design</u> <u>colour</u>	<u>Script colour</u>
Type 10	white wove	medium rose	fine pale grey
Type 11	white wove	medium rose	thick black
Type 12	laid paper	medium rose	fine grey
Type 13	laid paper	medium rose	black
Type 14	white wove pinkish tinge ? matt gum - only	medium rose one example seen	black 25.2.82
Type 15	wove	deep rose	fine black
Type 16	laid paper	deep rose	fine black
Type 17	wove watermarked	medium rose	black
Type 18	laid paper watermarked	medium rose	black

Variety - break in outer line of shield. Seen on carmine & rose red, position unknown.
Possible variety - break in top of right hand wing of Eagle, position unknown.
First Day covers seen dated 7-4-76 medium rose. ? Type

TWENTY MILLIEMES

Type 1	white to off-white wove	olive green	black
Type 2	fine laid	olive green	black
Possible variety - white spot on right hand side of 0 in 20. Possible variety - green vertical line down left side of stamp from below AR to top of 2 in 20.			
Type 3	wove	brown	fine slate violet
Type 4	wove	brown	thick slate violet
Type 5	wove	light brown	fine red purple
Type 6	wove	bistre brown	fine red-purple
Type 7	wove	bistre brown	thick red-purple
Type 8	laid	brown	very fine slate-violet
Type 9	laid	brown	fine slate-violet
Type 10	laid	brown	thick slate-violet
Type 11	laid	bistre brown	very fine red-purple

TWENTY MILLIEMES - continued

	<u>Paper type</u>	<u>Design colour</u>	<u>Script colour</u>
Type 12	laid	bistre brown	fine red-purple
Type 13	laid	bistre brown	thick red-purple
Type 14	wove watermarked	dark brown	red-purple
Type 15	wove watermarked	light brown	red-purple
Type 16	laid watermarked	dark brown	red-purple
Type 17	laid watermarked	light brown	red-purple

Types 14, 15, 16 and 17 appear with matt and semi-matt gum.
 First Day Cover seen 15-4-73 bistre brown no watermark ? Type.
 First Day Cover seen 25-6-76 Type 5.
 Letter from Egyptian Philatelic Bureau reprint of 20 mill
 official stamp 15-4-73 (brown).

THIRTY MILLIEMES

Type 1	white wove	brown	thin lilac
Type 2	white wove	brown	thick lilac
Type 3	off white wove	brown	thin lilac
Type 4	off white wove	brown	thick lilac

FDC seen 12-2-82 Type 3.

FIFTY MILLIEMES

Type 1	white wove	bright orange	black
Type 2	off white wove	bright orange	black
Type 3	off white wove	dull orange	grey
Type 4	off white wove	dull orange	black
Type 5	white wove watermarked	dull orange	black
Type 6	off white	dull orange	black

FIFY FIVE MILLIEMES

	<u>Paper</u> <u>type</u>	<u>Design</u> <u>colour</u>	<u>Script colour</u>
Type 1	wove watermarked off white fine laid	red-violet (shades)	thin grey
Type 2	off white fine laid	red-violet (shades)	thin black
Type 3	off white fine laid	red-violet (shades)	thick black
Type 4	white wove	red-violet (shades)	thin black
Type 5	white wove	red-violet (shades)	thick black
Type 6	off white wove	red-violet (shades)	thin grey
Type 7	off white wove	red-violet (shades)	thick grey
Type 8	off white wove	red-violet (shades)	thin black
Type 9	off white wove	red-violet (shades)	thick black
Type 10	white wove	slate lilac	black
Type 11	off white	slate lilac	black
Type 12	white wove watermarked	slate lilac	black
Type 13	white wove watermarked	slate lilac	thick black
Type 14	off white wove watermarked	slate lilac	black
Type 15	off white wove watermarked	slate lilac	thick black

SIXTY MILLIEMES

Type 1	off white wove	orange	black
Type 2	off white wove	orange-brown	black

First Day Cover seen dated 24-2-82 ? Type.

SEVENTY MILLIEMES

	<u>Paper type</u>	<u>Design colour</u>	<u>Script colour</u>
Type 1	laid	green	thin black
Type 2	laid	green	thick black
Type 3	white wove	green	black
Type 4	off white wove	green	thin black
Type 5	off white	green	thick black
Type 6	laid watermarked	green	black

First Day Cover seen dated 8-5-79 ? Type.

EIGHTY MILLIEMES

Type 1	wove	dark green	thin black
Type 2	wove	dark green	thick black
Type 3	wove	green	thin black
Type 4	wove	green	thick black

First Day Covers seen dated 18-2-82 and 24-2-82 have stamps types 3 or 4.

Illustrated on the right are examples showing "thin" or "fine" script (left) and "thick" script (right) referred to in the foregoing Tables.



"Thin"



"Thick"

NEW ISSUES

C.E.H. Defriez (ESC 172)

All stamps are printed in lithography by Postal Printing House, A.R. Egypt, and without watermark unless noted otherwise.

<u>Commemorative Stamps</u>	<u>SG 1902</u>
Occasion	Egyptian Sedimentary Geology Society Congress
Date of issue	4th January 1994
Designer	Michel Abdallah
Design	Three Pyramids within 'Cartouche' (Society emblem)
Denomination	15 Piastres
Sheet	50 (5 x 10)
Dimensions	50 x 30 mm
Perforation	13
Quantity	300,000
Supplementary	The Society was established on 9th January 1992 with 61 founding members

	<u>SG1903</u>	<u>SG1904</u>	<u>SG1905</u>	<u>SG1906</u>
Occasion	- - - - -	- - - - - Festivals 1994	- - - - -	- - - - -
Date of issue	- - - - -	- - - - - 3rd March 1994	- - - - -	- - - - -
Designers	- - -	- - - Lotfy El Sawaf and Nadia Abdel Fattah	- - -	- - -
Design	'Fire'crested birds on branch	Two swallows, one perching, one flying	Rose-ringed parrots	Goldfinches on blossoming branch
Denomination	15 Piastres	15 Piastres	15 Piastres	15 Piastres
Sheet	- - - - -	- - - - - 10 x 10	- - - - -	- - - - -
Dimensions	- - - - -	- - - - - Each 25 x 30 mm	- - - - -	- - - - -
Perforation	- - - - -	- - - - - Each 13	- - - - -	- - - - -
Quantity	- - - - -	- - - - - 250,000 stamps	- - - - -	- - - - -
Supplementary	The stamps were issued together in se-tenant blocks of four stamps within the sheet, each block forming a composite design.			

	<u>SG 1907</u>	<u>SG1908</u>
Occasion	40th anniversary of Arab Scout Movement	27th Cairo International Fair
Date of issue	25th March 1994	9th April 1994
Designer	Lydia Farid	Michel Abdallah
Design	Scout Salute and emblem	Cog-wheel, ear of wheat and Fair emblem
Denomination	15 Piastres	15 Piastres
Sheet	50 (10 x 5)	50 (10 x 5)
Dimensions	30 x 50 mm	30 x 50 mm
Perforation	13	13
Quantity	300,000	300,000

SG 1902



SG 1903



SG 1904



SG 1905

SG 1906

SG 1907



SG 1908



Commemorative Stamps

	<u>SG1909</u>	<u>SG1910</u>
Occasion	"Africa Telecom 94" Exhibition, Cairo	Fifth Arab Energy Conference, Cairo
Date of issue	25th April 1994	7th May 1994
Designer	Ali Makhlouf	Ali Makhlouf
Design	Radio waves over map of Africa	Conference emblem and oil well
Denomination	15 Piastres	15 Piastres
Sheet	50 (10 x 5)	50 (10 x 5)
Dimensions	30 x 50 mm	30 x 50 mm
Perforation	13	13
Quantity	300,000	300,000

	<u>SG1911</u>	<u>SG1912</u>
Occasion	Africa Day (Organisation of African Unity)	National campaign for tree planting
Date of issue	25th May 1994	* 5th June 1994
Designer	Lotfy El Sawaf	Nadia Abdel Fattah
Design	Dove over map of Africa and O.A.U. emblem	Campaign emblem magnified
Denomination	15 Piastres	15 Piastres
Sheet	50 (10 x 5)	50 (10 x 5)
Dimensions	30 x 50 mm	30 x 50 mm
Perforation	13	13
Quantity	500,000	300,000
Supplementary		* Publicity gives date as 30/4/94. F.D.C. is 5/6/94.

	<u>SG1913</u>	<u>SG1914</u>
Occasion	Signing in Cairo of Israel-Palestine agreement on self- rule for Gaza and Jericho	18th Mediterranean countries biennial art exhibition, Alexandria
Date of issue	4th May 1994	25th May 1994
Designer	Ibrahim El Tahtawi	Lydia Farid
Design	Map, Palestine flag and olive branch	Emblems of Alexandria and the exhibition
Denomination	15 Piastres	15 Piastres
Sheet	50 (5 x 10)	50 (5 x 10)
Dimensions	50 x 30 mm	50 x 30 mm
Perforation	13	13
Quantity	300,000	300,000
Supplementary	The agreement was signed by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin	-

SG 1909



SG 1910



SG 1911



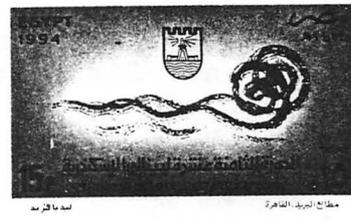
SG 1912



SG 1913



SG 1914



LETTERS

Postcard rates in 1921

Eriksson has illustrated an interesting card franked 8 mills sent from Port Said to Sweden on June 1st 1921 (QC XV, No. 170, Sep 1994, p.194).

The Journal Officiel of March 31st 1921 (32.1-3) gives the following information - "International (UPU Regulations) Postcards - 10 Mills to take effect from April 1st, 1921". The Journal Officiel of October 3rd 1921 (87.2) states "..... from November 1st the Postcard Rate from Egypt to Britain, Colonies and Dependencies will be reduced to 8 Mills". This information was previously cited by Murphy¹ in the QC in his summaries of the Journal Officiel.

In view of this evidence I think that Eriksson's card simply "got away" with underfranking. It would be interesting to see a postcard addressed to the UK or Empire between April 1st and October 31st 1921 with a 10 mill franking. They seem to be hard to find.

496 Uxbridge Road,
Pinner, Middlesex,
HA5 4SL, UK.

John Sears (ESC 188)

Reference

1. Murphy, J.M. Extracts from 'Journal Officiel' 1921 Quart.Circ. XII, No.137/138 Mar/Jun 1986, p.221.

A couple of years ago I obtained from Argyll Etkin Ltd a book issued by The Printer's Stone, Box 30, Fishkill, NY 12524 entitled 'UPU Mail. Annual Tables of Exchange Rates to the US. 1881 - 1953'. It is spiral bound with about 206 pages and priced in the £40/50 range. The book deals only with mail addressed to the USA but, in practice, rates of postage (surface only for most of the period) were largely the same to most other countries, from all UPU members whose rates are quoted. There are limitations to this use of the book but obvious exceptions would normally be apparent to the user.

In July 1920 the postcard rate from Egypt to the USA (and therefore almost certainly to Sweden) was 4 mills. The rate in July 1921 and February 1922 was 10 mills. This suggests that the card illustrated on page 194 is 2 mills short and that it was the British Empire rate that altered later in 1921 - unless it had already been reduced from an earlier unknown date. Why, if my theory is correct, was a postage due charge not raised? Perhaps it was that the sorters at the Port Said post office were not readily aware of the destination, given that 'Svezia' is the Italian word for Sweden!

20 Ogwen Drive,
Lakeside, Cardiff,
CF2 6LL, UK.

Norman Clowes (ESC 349)

Upward facing crescent and star watermark on 2 mills 1st Fuad

Most Egyptian stamps between 1867 and 1920 were printed on paper having a single upward facing crescent and star watermark. After World War I it was decided that this should be changed as it was considered to be a symbol of the then defeated Ottoman empire. The sideways facing multiple crescent and star watermark appeared first on the pictorial issue of 1922 and was subsequently used on the 1st Fuad definitive issue. In the normal configuration as seen from the front of the stamp the crescents are open to the right, denoted by Zeheri as Type VII. Most of the stamps are also found with the watermark reversed (Type VIII). A few issues, for example the stamps for the 1925 International Geography Congress have the watermark normally with the crescents facing upwards (Type IX) and occasionally (on the 5 mills) facing downwards (Type X).

I have recently acquired a lot of several thousand used Egyptian stamps. While starting to sort through these I have been astonished to come across a copy of the 2 mills 1st Fuad issue with a watermark of upward facing crescents and stars (Type IX). The postmark is Faggala (Cairo) and the date 23 (?28) VIII 25 (?26). The watermark is very clear and has been confirmed by several other people to whom I have shown it.

Some of the essays of this issue were printed with watermark type IX or X. There were also some proofs printed with type IX or X watermarks¹ However Zeheri does not list the 2 mills value among them and it seems highly improbable that a proof sheet could have been sent to some post office by mistake. It must be concluded that during the printing process of the 2 mills value at least one sheet of watermarked paper was put sideways into the printing process.

In his paper on the 1923/24 issue,² McNeille implied that the 2 mills value was printed in sheets consisting of two panes each of 100 stamps. If this is correct, and I think it is, it means that at least 200 stamps with watermark type IX were printed. Unfortunately it is likely that most of them have gone straight into the wastepaper basket, but some of them might still sleep in some schoolboy collection. As this variety has not been discovered during the 70 years after its appearance I doubt whether more than one sheet existed.

S:t Larsgatan 38c,
S-582 24 Linköping,
Sweden.

Lars Alund (ESC 105)

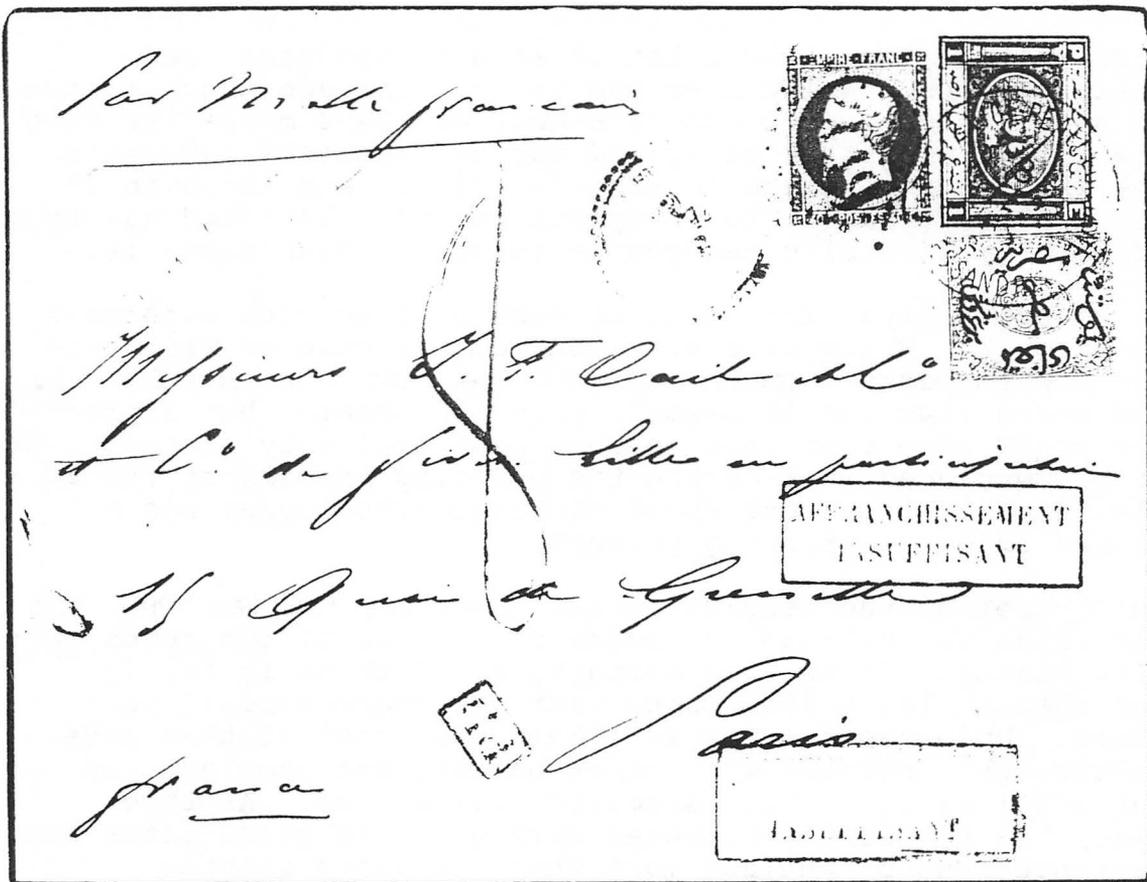
References

1. Sears, J. 1st Fuad Issue - 5 mill imperforate. Quart. Circ. XV, No. 168, Mar 1994, p.130.
2. McNeille, D. Egypt, 1923-24 Retouches and Flaws. L'Orient Philat. IV, No. 45 Jan/Mar 1940, p.8.

Forgery: Faked 1868 Combination Cover

In 1990 I reported a fake cover with French and Egyptian franking (QC XIV, No. 3/4, Sep/Dec 1990, p.82) offered in a German auction. This item has reappeared recently for auction at Harmers of London and a full colour illustration appeared in the sale catalogue for May 31st 1994 (Lot 2039). The original illustration available to me in 1990 showed only part of the cover. At the time I detailed several reasons for regarding the item as a forgery. The availability of a complete illustration has revealed further suspect features.

The French 40c Napoleon is cancelled with the 5119 lozange of Cairo and a poor strike of the French "Le Caire" datestamp is alongside. The Egypt 1pt first issue and 1pt second issue are cancelled with an Alexandria c.d.s. of 8 February 1868.



The improbable features relating to this item are as follows :-

1. The cover apparently originated at the French post office in Cairo and there was therefore no need whatsoever for Egyptian stamps.
2. The 1pt first issue stamp had been demonetized at the end of August 1867.
3. The Egyptian stamps were cancelled at Alexandria. Surely the letter would not have been posted there for carriage to Cairo to be put in the French post there only to be carried back to Alexandria.

4. The 'PD' handstamp is contrary to the "affranchissement insuffissant".
5. There is no second strike of the Egyptian datestamp on the cover, contrary to regulations.
6. Close examination of the ALESSANDRIA datestamp shows the following features.
 - a. The 8 is not properly aligned and is tilted to the left.
 - b. The letter E of ALESSANDRIA has a cross-bar above the midpoint instead of at the midpoint as in all the genuine examples with which I have been able to compare it.
 - c. The letters A of ALESSANDRIA all have cross-bars noticeably higher than in the genuine examples in which they are abnormally low.

There were several slightly differing datestamps of Type I - 2.5 but the points about the letters E and A apply to all of them.

I believe that this cover was an originally genuine one posted at the French post office in Cairo, and that the Egyptian stamps were later added and fraudulently cancelled.

The rate for a letter up to 10g. to France at the time was 40c. The cover is large and might well have weighed over 10g. The placement of the single French stamp suggests that a second stamp was originally to the right of it, presumably another 40c. stamp. A reasonable scenario is that the letter was posted fully franked with 80c., and therefore marked PD. One stamp may have been lost after the letter was posted, and the shortage noted on arrival at Alexandria or in France. At that time, the "affranchissement insuffisant" would have been added, and the ms. 8 to indicate 8 decimes (80c) to be paid by the recipient. The postage-due system at that period was to charge 1.5 times the correct postage, less the value of any stamps applied. In this case, that would be $80c \times 1.5 = 120c$ less $40c = 80c$.

In its presumed original state, the cover would be interesting but not exceptional, and worth perhaps £100. Adding the Egyptian stamps converted it to an item considered "very rare and desirable", with an estimated value of £8,500. I would be interested to read counter arguments to explain the questionable features of this cover.

811 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Ann Arbor,
Michigan 48103, USA.

P.A.S. Smith (ESC 74)

Professor Smith's original article was drawn to the attention of the auctioneers and the item was subsequently withdrawn from the Sale. Editor.

While re-examining some Egypt material I have found a cover bearing three strikes of the Cairo Post Office Continental Hotel with c.d.s. dates 27 DE 91 T 111 (fig. 1). The strikes are indistinct and at first glance similar to type HC 1.

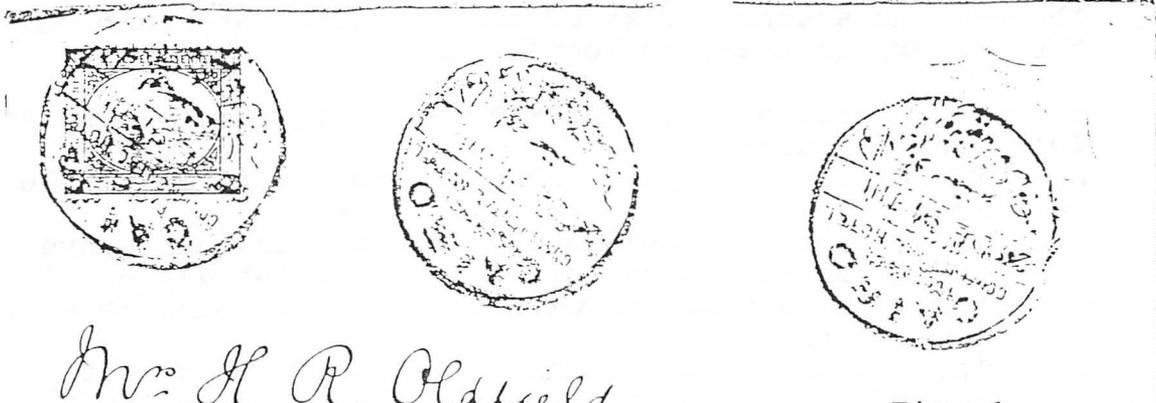


Fig. 1

Benians¹ listed three types of HC1 as follows:-

Serial	Diametre in mm	Earliest	Latest	Number recorded	Remarks
HC 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 1 94			month in Roman figures

The diametre of the strike on my cover is 31.5 mm and the T 111 in the dateline suggests type HC1. However closer examination reveals distinct differences compared to Benians illustration of type HC1 (which is in fact type HC1a -Editor) and other examples in my own collection. The date bridge is 5 mm wide compared with 3.5 mm in the recorded examples. The letters of CAIRO are 3 mm in height (or just over) compared with 2.5 mm to just under 3 mm and there is a different vertical relationship between the letters of POST OFFICE and the AIR of CAIRO. These differences are illustrated in fig. 2.



Fig. 2

a. Benians type HC 1a
b. unrecorded type

449 Wellingborough Road,
Northampton, NN1 4EZ, UK.

Betty Watterson (ESC 409)

References

- Benians, F.W. The Proprietary Post Offices in Egypt. Quart. Circ. IX, No. 103/104, Sep/Dec 1977, p.82.

Fig. 2b is necessarily approximate in its reconstruction, particularly of the Arabic. Can anyone provide a clear strike?

Editor

This letter was shown to Mike Murphy, leader of the Hotels study section who replies:-

I am enormously grateful to Betty Watterson for this observation. She has indeed brought about the discovery of something new in Continental Hotel markings: not merely one new type but three, and none of them the one she imagined! Space will not allow me to go into detail here but further study, stimulated by her observation, shows that there are at least six types of HC1. I have promised the editor a detailed report for the next QC.

109 Chadwick Road, Peckham,
London, SE15 4PY, UK.

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Sheraton Hotel - a new postmark?

I have a postcard bearing a postmark of the Sheraton Hotel dated 27-1-78. The Arabic is at the top and English below the date bridge.



Has this modern hotel postmark been previously recorded? Does it emanate from the Cairo Sheraton Hotel at Midam Kubri el-Gala (Dokki) or from the el-Gezira Sheraton across the Nile?

Selmedalsvagen 4,
S-129 36 Hagersten,
Sweden.

Sven Eriksson (ESC 411)

Mike Murphy replies:-

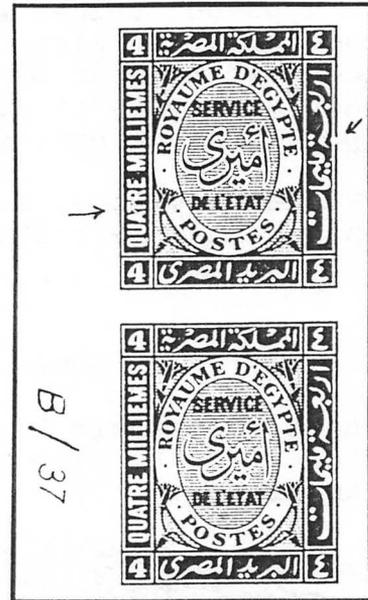
Eriksson's query falls into the update category. The marking was not recorded by Jim Benians, but has since been added to the study files. It is known from 15 IV 75 to 22 III 78 and was used at the original Sheraton on Midan el-Gala, Doqqi. When I visited the hotel seeking information about the marking in 1979, I was told that the post office had recently been discontinued and replaced by an American Express office. To my knowledge the new Gezira Sheraton at the foot of Gezira island has never had a post office and nor has the Montazah Sheraton in Alexandria.

109 Chadwick Road, Peckham,
London, SE14 4PY, UK.

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Constant Flaw on the 4 mills 1926 Official

Little attention seems to have been paid to the first Official stamps. However they were among the earliest efforts of the Survey Department with offset lithography and might be liable to printing variations. This note is to report a fairly prominent and definitely constant flaw on stamp 81 of every other pane. It thus appears on control number blocks. One part of the flawed stamp is in the word QUATRE, in which there is a white line curving upwards from the A through the T to the R. The centre of the A is removed by it, giving the letter a blotted appearance. The second site of damage is the right frame-line, level with TE of EGYPTE. A white spot completely severs the outer frame-line, and impinges on the inscription panel.



I have examples of this flawed stamp with control numbers ranging from A/26 to B/37. It is obvious that the same plate was used throughout the life of this stamp.

811 Mount Pleasant Avenue,
Ann Arbor,
Michigan 48103, USA.

P.A.S. Smith (ESC 74)

Imperforate Stamps after Farouk's Abdication

I have some questions relating to imperforate stamps since the abdication of King Farouk.

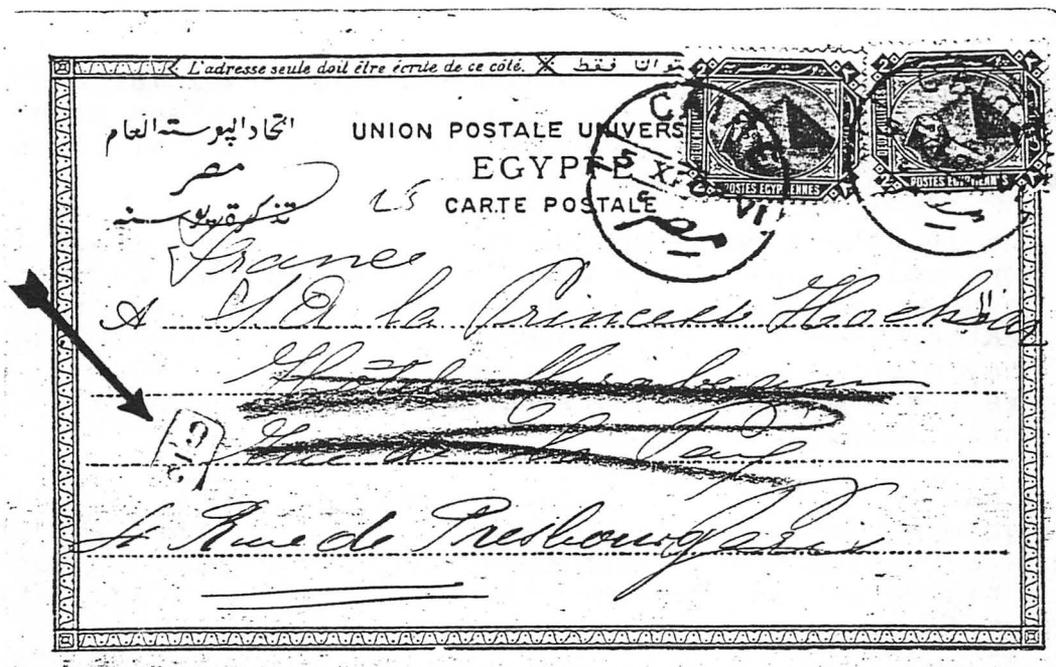
- a) Does there exist a full list? A correspondent in Egypt has advised me that SG421 and 424 are available together with all other stamps between SG492 and 695 with the exception of overprints. In addition I already have SG699 so that others may exist. I have seen imperforate Officials. Do imperforate Postage Dues also exist?
- b) My informant states that one sheet of each item is on the market. However the definitives seem to me more common so was there a sheet of each plate of these?
- c) Why were they printed? Were they for official use or were they available to the public? How did they come on the market?
- d) Were they valid for postage? I have never seen one postally or philatelically used.
- e) Zeheri lists other imperforate items, eg Z189a (Commem). Were these found in Post Offices or were they also produced as single sheets as mentioned in c) above?

Flat 4, Ravine Court,
Meriden Close, Canford Cliffs,
Poole, Dorset, UK.

Alan Jeyes (ESC 293)

Unidentified mark on postcard to Paris

Can anyone help me to identify the mark on this postcard? It was sent from Cairo (5 XI 93) to Paris and redirected.



I have looked through my back numbers of the QC to no avail. Has it anything to do with part of the address being crossed out?

195 Swansea Road,
Warnarlwydd,
Swansea, SA5 4SR, UK.

W.P. Johns (ESC 287)

This letter was sent to Pierre Grech who replies:-

French Postman's Handstamp

The boxed cachet 2/6 is a French postman's handstamp. Colleagues in the ESC may be interested in its background.

The "Cachets de Facteurs de Distribution"

From 1850, Paris was divided into nine "Rayons de Distribution" for the delivery of mail (increased to eleven by 1863). Each Rayon was subdivided into "quartiers", large enough to enable a single postman to deliver the contents of his mail-bag in the time allotted between deliveries. Each quartier bore a number, which was also that of its dedicated postman.

All distribution of mail emanated from the Bureau Central. There were six deliveries every day (except Sundays and holidays, when there were only five!). Before 1857 these deliveries were carried out by two "Brigades", each comprising as many postmen as there were quartiers. At all times one Brigade was delivering mail while the other one was preparing its next round.

Each postman ("facteur") had a small circular cachet bearing two numbers: the upper one denoted the Rayon, the lower one indicated the quartier (and therefore the postman's individual number). To differentiate between the two Brigades, one had a horizontal line between the two numbers on its cachets, while the other did not.

In 1857 a third Brigade was created and then, in 1876, a fourth. To differentiate between them, their postmen were given oval cachets, again with and without horizontal lines separating the two numbers.

Additionally, there were supplementary postmen, who stood-in for absent colleagues. They were given rectangular cachets with the Rayon number above, but with their "own" number below, rather than a quartier number. (This is understandable since they might be called upon to deliver in different quartiers every day). This arrangement remained generally in force until 1900.

Postmen had to apply their cachet on any mail which they had been unable to deliver, for whatever reason. In the case of this postcard from Egypt, Supplementary Postman 6, in Rayon 2, applied his cachet and returned the card to the Bureau Central sorting office.

This information is to be found in "Catalogues des Marques Postales et Obliterations de Paris, 1700-1876", by Andre Rochette & Jean Pothion, published by the authors, Paris 1958 (pages 65 to 72). Now long out of print, it should be in most French philatelic society libraries.

United Kingdom

Pierre Grech (ESC 266)

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Subscriptions for 1995

The subscription for 1995 is £12.50 and falls due on January 1st. Members living in the USA and Canada should remit to Mr. Charles Hass (please note his new address) and those in Egypt to Professor N. El-Hadidi. Will other members living outside the United Kingdom please send cheques payable to the Egypt Study Circle and drawn on an English Bank. Please make payments to the Treasurer or to appropriate overseas Agents at the earliest opportunity.

Robert Bertram, Treasurer