

The  
Quarterly Circular  
of  
THE  
EGYPT  
STUDY CIRCLE



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December Quarter 2011

Whole Series No. 239

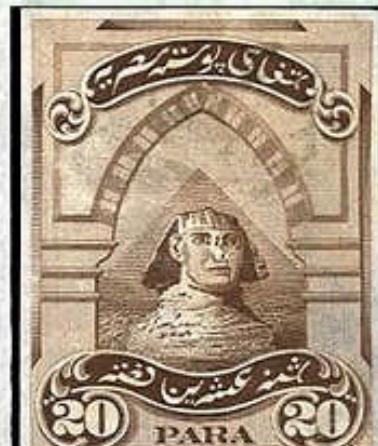
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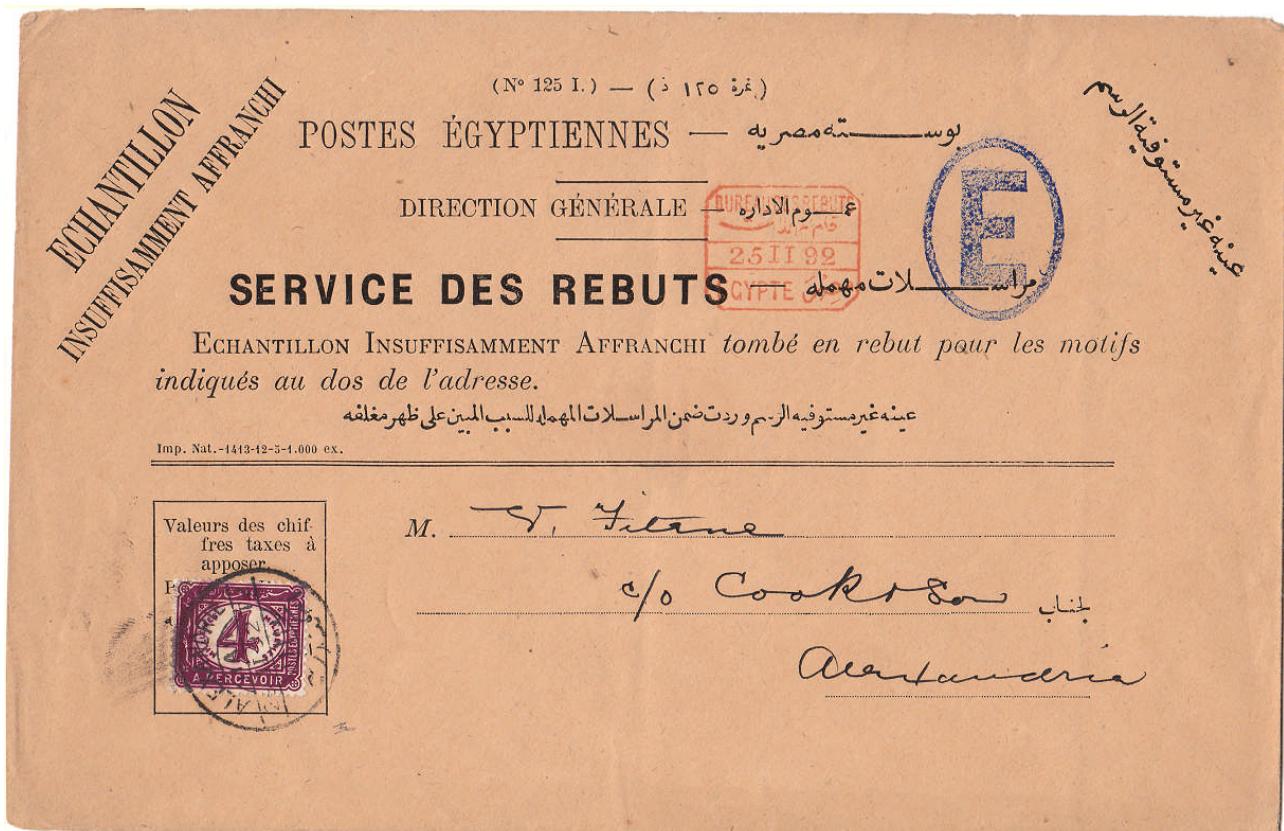
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EGYPT.

In Peter Smith's "Egypt Stamps & Postal History", illustrated on page 759, is an Official "Service Des Rebuts" envelope with the printing code number at the top "No.125 B". I illustrate here another example with printed code number at top reading "No.125 I". This envelope however is for Insufficiently Stamped Sample Mail (Echantillon Insuffisamment Affranchi), returned to the care of Thomas Cook in Alexandria. Struck with large oval "E" in blue ink, framed "Bureau Des Rebuts" dated cachet in red, with Postage Due 4m. maroon (SG D72) tied by Alexandria cds (26.II.1892)



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## Early reminder....

Subscriptions for 2012 are due on January 1. Please help the Circle by ensuring that your payment of £20.00 is made by the due date. Thank you!

## 2012 Meetings List

|              |                         |                                       |              |
|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| January 7    | Services Club           | Gaza and Sinai                        | Edmund Hall  |
| February 25  | Stampex                 | AGM & Live auction                    | All members  |
| April 21     | Philatex <b>12.45pm</b> | Ten sheets                            | All members  |
| July 7       | Services Club           | Post-monarchy<br>bring and show       | All members  |
| September 29 | Stampex                 | Instructional marks<br>bring and show | All members  |
| November 3   | Services Club           | Third Issue                           | Keith Pogson |

For meetings at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London, members usually congregate in the ground-floor bar from 1pm and the meeting starts at 2pm.

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**Website: [egyptstudycircle.org.uk](http://egyptstudycircle.org.uk)**

**Report of the Meeting, September 17, 2011**

PRESENT: Peter Andrews (Chairman), Stanley Horesh (Deputy Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), Mike Bramwell, Angela Child, John Clarke, Cyril Defriez, Pauline Gittoes, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Alan Jeyes, Vahe Varjabedian (Egypt), David Worollo.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: John Sears (President), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), Sami Sadek (Committee), Ted Fraser-Smith, Peter Heim, Peter Smith.

The Chairman welcomed members present, and especially Vahe Varjabedian, our one foreign visitor to Stampex, and mentioned that perhaps the comparatively small attendance reflected on the gradual decline of Britain's major annual stamp exhibition. He referred to the sad demise of our ebullient New Zealand member Peter Goodwin, and members stood for a minute's silence in his memory. As time was running short, he urged members to make their bids for Auction 50 [as it transpired, 41 bidders – just one fifth of our membership – acquired a fraction of under 50 per cent of the 725 lots available].

The Secretary then mentioned the necessity of arranging next year's meetings list, and sought advice on how to deal with the complete separation of dates for spring and autumn Stampex and Philatex in 2012. After discussion it was decided that the meetings list will comprise: January 7 (Services Club), February 25 (AGM and Live Auction at Stampex), May 5 (Services Club), July 7 (Services Club), September 29 (Stampex). All speakers and November meeting to be announced.

Before the meeting proper, Peter Grech announced his new publication, *1910 Heliopolis, Grande Semaine d'Aviation*. Despite the title, this full-colour A4 volume of 47 pages, plus 34 pages of appendices, is in English (see review, page iii], telling the story of the 1910 air meeting, its aircraft and its flyers, as well as listing and illustrating all recorded postcards associated with it. This is a major piece of research not only for air mail enthusiasts but also for all those who care about Egypt and its recent history. It retails at £18 plus postage, with a special price for Circle members: please contact the Secretary in the first instance.

A membership application was then considered, and Mr Chris Henstock, of Buxton, Derbyshire, was duly elected. We are sad to have to report that within a few days we had an email from his family to announce that Mr Henstock had passed away that very weekend. The Secretary has sent the Circle's condolences.

And so it was on to the TPOs meeting, one of the first actual study meetings that the Circle has held in many years. The tables were remodelled into an open square so that all could see what was happening, and we then considered in order each type from Peter Smith's 1983 volume *The Travelling Post Offices of Egypt* in the search of dates outside those recorded, new routes using recorded handstamps, or new CDSs altogether.



*Two of the new markings discovered at the meeting:  
Left, Type 6A1.2, Cairo-Mansura  
of 3 AP 36 (MM);  
and right, 6A1.4, Shabrakhit-  
Damanhur of 25 MR 35 (PA)*



Some members who could not be present had sent in examples of markings or dates that did not appear in the book, and we are grateful indeed to Vahe Varjabedian (ESC 390), Ted Fraser-Smith (ESC 238) and Peter Smith himself (ESC 74), though our former President reported that his major TPO collection remained boxed up and unavailable after a relocation.

Many others had brought examples to the meeting, and we also had at hand the extensive collection of Peter Heim (ESC 384), who had sent it from Germany for the meeting. Members were astonished at its diversity, organisation and abundance... but unfortunately there simply was not time to take it into consideration.

The meeting worked hard for 2 1/2 hours, examining, verifying and recording updated markings, passing each round for all to see. The exercise created an enormous amount of interest – even from those who profess "not to have any TPOs" – and we reached as far as Type 6A2.1 before it was time to draw a close. A problem arose

in discussion of variant types, not quite as recorded in the book, and for shortage of time we had to defer these to another occasion.

Clearly there remains very much more work to be done. Clearly also, a round-table meeting of 14 members is, though fascinating, not the most efficient way to achieve speedy recording and classifying. So it was decided that the continuing research will be carried out by a much smaller group over much more time. The results will be extensive: for sheer practicability, they will be posted on the website – with full credit given to the owners of the markings - rather than published as a book or in the QC ... it has no limit to its extent.

The meeting ended with all those present exhausted but in good spirit – and there is much more to come.

### **Report of the Meeting, November 5, 2011**

PRESENT: John Sears (President), Peter Andrews (Chairman), Mike Murphy (Secretary), Brian Sedgley (Treasurer), John Davis (Librarian), Edmund Hall (Editor/webmaster), Jon Aitchison, Mike Bramwell, Angela Child, John Clarke, Pauline Gittoes, Peter Grech, Paul Green, Alan Jeyes, Atef Sarian. Visitor: Isaac Armanious.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: Stanley Horesh (Vice-chairman), Sami Sadek (Committee) and Ted Fraser-Smith.

The Chairman welcomed members to an experimental morning meeting at Philatex stamp show in Central London – and despite the early start was surprised at a good turnout. “The meeting was well worth getting up at 6,” said one member, Angela Child (ESC 645) – and she was right. The Chairman reported on the TPO study meeting in September and said how much that had been enjoyed and how much more work remained to be done. He was happy and confident that there was enough enthusiasm to make the project of updating Peter Smith’s 1983 book a success.

The Secretary reported on progress in arranging next year’s meetings list, and it was suggested that some meetings might be held at the Royal Philatelic Society – and perhaps even on a Sunday! After a good deal of discussion, an interesting list was agreed: see Page 3. The idea of a Post-Monarchy meeting, like last year’s TPOs initial get-together, is to gauge members’ interest and to attempt to publicise the possibilities open in collecting the post-Farouk period.

The Secretary announced that Keith Pogson of York (ESC 130) had kindly agreed to take over the Circle Auction’s “financial” role played for many years by our President, John Sears, and paid tribute to his enormous hard work and efficiency – and great success in spotting the myriad errors made by the Secretary himself. Members thanked him with a sustained and sincere round of applause.

For next year we hope to expand the Auction list to a Live offering in February – lessons have been learnt from last year’s initial event, and will be strictly augmented – plus two full Auctions in spring and autumn, the material perhaps extended by the possibility of two members submitting their collections for sale through our efforts rather than commercially. More of that later, when plans come to fruition.

The Treasurer reminded members that subscriptions for 2012 become due on January 1, a statement reinforced by the green sheet included in this *QC* – and asks again for all UK members at least to do it the easy way, with a standing order. No work for you, no work for the Treasurer. What could be better?

The Librarian announced that the recent Spink catalogue *Pearls of Arabia – Egypt* (October 18), containing some stunning lots, had been added to the Library, complete with Prices Realised.

The Editor/webmaster brought good news that the last *QC* (No 238), with a new printer and in full colour, had been extremely well received, a sentiment echoed around the room. Even better, he said, was that the invoice was smaller than before. The meeting greeted the new format and the new printer with delight.

He also announced that another collection had been put up on the website for colleagues to enjoy and study – that of our Egypt Agent, Ibrahim Shoukry (ESC 423) on the Fourth Issue – and appealed to more members to offer the same: all that is needed is a set of scans or photocopies; he does the rest, for the benefit of all of us.



Five stamps with *Dopo la Partenza* handstamp (Brian Sedgley)

The Webmaster also suggested that it might now be possible to digitize all back copies of the QC for placing on the website and available to all members. The cost of this great boon came in for discussion, and more estimates will be sought before any decision is made.

Nine of the members present had brought material to show under the Queries and Acquisitions heading, and many of the range of very high-quality queries will be published both on the website and in the QC. A brief summary:

**Edmund Hall (ESC 238):** Showed several covers with Army stamps and a variety of tax rates, seeking elucidation for the tax rates. One cover addressed to Denmark was endorsed "via England" in an effort to overcome the "UK and Ireland" range covered by the stamps – but it was taxed by the alert authorities.

**Brian Sedgley (ESC 268):** Was able to show a recently acquired card with five Third Issue stamps of various values with the very rare *Dopo la Partenza* (After Departure) handstamp applied in black, red and blue, and an 1874 1 piastre with a perfect central strike of the intaglio negative seal (*right*) of Cairo (Masr). This is certainly one of only two recorded, and may in fact be the only one. Ex Kurt Wolfsbauer.



**John Davis (ESC 213):** Displayed a series of acquisitions, including an Egyptian Transit Company marking ex Samir Fikry; a French soldier's letter to Marseilles in 1826 apparently from Khargah Oasis; and a handwritten letter from Waghorn to David Roberts! **Mike Bramwell (ESC 449):** Provided a fascinating mini-history of a Briton working in the Egyptian Ministry of Finance before and after the First War, including a massive single-sheet passport with GB consular adhesive and handstamp. He was bemused by the terminology Agency and Consulate.

**Peter Grech (ESC 266):** Wowed members with a series of French "Return to Sender" handstamps (used in France 1863-1982) as deployed in the French offices in Egypt, where examples from only Port Said and Alexandria are known; and then with a brief discursion on the use of Port-Said French Office stamps used abroad, remarkably on the Ile de Rouad off Latakia, and even more astonishingly in Ethiopia.

**Peter Andrews (ESC 122):** Showed several covers from his Civil Censorship collection with censor marks and asked members to contact him if they have covers with an N 76 marking; a figure 2 on stationery; or a four-figure censor mark followed by a space and 2/3.

**John Sears (ESC 188):** Showed cards and covers connected to the Alexandria-Constanta Romanian Shipping Line, as in recent *QC* articles, and asked whether members had any knowledge of use on any cover of the three-line Alexandria handstamp mentioned by Richard Wheatley in his article (*QC* 234) as being in use from 1911 to 1923 [see *Queries*, page 95]. **Alan Jeyes (ESC 293):** Was able to display a recent acquisition in the form of a rectangular card with Arabic notation and four small hand-painted "stamps" apparently proposed as essays for a new issue of Postage Dues. They are undated but carry the name UAR with rates in millièmes, so presumably some time around 1958. The Survey of Egypt handwritten note suggests that they are unsuitable because Postage Dues require the value figure to be much more prominent.



*Essays for UAR Postage Dues (Alan Jeyes)*

**Atef Sarian (ESC 639):** Showed a full mint pane of 25 (5x5) of the Farouk 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday stamp of 11 February 1938, control number A/38, as another recent acquisition.

The Chairman closed the meeting by wishing all members, present or not, best wishes for the holiday period and a Happy New Year of collecting in 2012.

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**Obituary: William C Scheetz, ESC 110**

Members will be saddened to hear of the passing on August 15 of William ("Bill") Calvin Scheetz, at the age of 96. Bill, who lived in Newark, New Jersey, was one of our longest-standing members, having joined the Circle as long ago as 1960; membership of the American Philatelic Society was even longer at 55 years. He retired in 1980 after 48 years in management, and became a master gardener. During war service in an infantry division he won two Bronze Stars. Always interested in travel, he visited Japan, Ireland, Finland, Germany, Russia and Egypt, and was a member of antique societies as well as of the Circle. An occasional visitor to UK as well as contributor to the *QC*, he had an intense interest in Egyptian philately, acquiring several items from the Byam sale, and was well known on both sides of the Atlantic as generous with his time and his material, always willing to exchange ideas and research.



## HELOUÂN

**Pierre Louis Grech (ESC 266)**

Helouân-les-Bains (HELWÂN) is an artificial oasis 25 km south of Cairo and 5 km east of the Nile. Altitude 58 m., with an idyllic climate. It was famous since antiquity for the therapeutic value of its natural sulphur springs. The Arabs built a town there, by the Nile; the Crusaders destroyed it in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1868 Khedive Ismaïl commissioned a study of Helouân's waters and springs. The Baths, inaugurated in 1871, resurrected it as a health spa. The town of Helouân-les-Bains was founded in 1874, and Ismaïl built a palace there and another at "old" Helouân, near the Nile. In 1875 a new railway extension linked the town to the military line Tourah-Bassettine. The Baths were at first run by a German syndicate, which explains the significant proportion of postal correspondence with Germany in the early years.

Helouân-les-Bains was Khedive Mohamed-Tewfik's favourite residence, and it was there that he died.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 1877 the military line was opened to the public, after it was extended north to Midan station in front of the Cairo Citadel. The fall of Ismaïl in 1879 caused a lull in Helouân's development. When stability was restored the Government leased the railway's operation and Helouân's expansion to a private concern (Metropolitan Cairo and Helouan Railway Co) by Ministerial decision dated 30 April 1888. A new line from Tourah to Cairo was built, with a station at Bab-el-Louk, inaugurated 1<sup>st</sup> November 1889. British personnel arrived, and on 21 May 1896 the Company also gained the concession to operate the Baths.

Helouân expanded to become a world-renowned health resort (1907 population 8,000). There were numerous hotels, a horse track and new Baths, built by the Egyptian Government "in the Moorish style", opened in December 1899 and modernised in 1911. During the First World War most of the hotels were converted to auxiliary hospitals and nursing homes. After the war, many patients and tourists stayed away, and Helouân never fully regained its former glory.

There was a revival in the 1950s and the Baths establishment was entirely renewed in 1955, with modern equipment. King Farouk had built himself a Rest House at Helouân, on the Nile, and an exotic Japanese Garden, a new feature of the town, was laid close to the Al-Hayat Hotel, which was now converted to a Government Hospital.



**Helouan 28 February 1902.** Lithographed postcard, printed in Germany by Ed. H. Freytag, Stuttgart.

## The Helouân Post Office

Ibrahim Chaftar (ESC 42), in L'OP #113, April-July 1964, p.341, indicates the Helouân Post Office as being opened in 1880. This was based on a list of P.O.s opened between 1865 and 1889, derived from an old Egyptian P.O. circular. Later, in his "Egypt- Stamps and Postal History", Professor P.A.S. Smith (ESC 74) pushed the date further back, indicating Helouân as opening in 1879 with the scarce postmark ESC type VI-2 (type **HLWN-1** here), used briefly until December 1881 (p. 521).

However these dates are superseded by the cover below, dated 23 March 1878, with a clearly legible **HLWN-1** postmark, which is the current earliest date.

Consequently, for the time being, the opening of the P.O. must be placed at the beginning of 1878.



**23 March 1878** - Registered cover to a Chateau near Posen (Posnan in Poland), in Prussia at the time, franked with a violet 2 1/2 piastres, cancelled by Helouân CDS type **HLWN-1**. With standard-type boxed "RACCOMANDATO" cachet. Reverse: Cairo, Brindisi, Bologna and other transits, and Jarotschin arrival. Courtesy of Gregory Todd, ESC 585. *Ex-Carmichael & Todd.*

The postmarks initially had the French spelling HELOUÂN, then from 1904 the English spelling HILWAN. In the 1920's a combination of both produced "HILWAN LES BAINS" and finally "HELWAN LES BAINS". It is amazing that such a small office would have so many postmark variants in a short time. Which is why actual postmark scans are used in the following tables, since tracings would have lost many of the details.

For a long time Helouân's main link to Cairo remained the railway, which carried all the mail to/from the town. Therefore there were several cancellations used on the Travelling Post Offices (TPO), which also picked up more mail *en route*. These postmarks are tabulated separately further on. In addition to the railway, Helouân was finally connected to Cairo by a good motor road, inaugurated in May 1912.

The Post Office was situated at the corner of Rue Nubar Pacha and Rue Sid Ahmed Pacha, in the gardens of the Grand Hotel's Casino, and close to the railway station. See the colour postcard illustrations later.

Mail from Helouân is not so easy to find. The range of dates shown here is based on those few items found in many collections & catalogues seen. Hopefully this article will invite the contribution of new extreme dates.

## HELOUAN POSTMARKS

Ø : Diameter of outer circumference.

Not to Scale

date ≠ : height of the central date-band.

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>HLWN-1</b>  | <b>HLWN-2</b>  | <b>HLWN-3</b>   | <b>HLWN-4</b>  |
|   |                   |                         |                           |
| POSTES EGYPTIENNES<br>HELOUAN -Type VI.2<br>23 MARS 78<br>Ø 22½ mm, date ≠ 8mm<br>Seen: 23 MARS 78 -<br>8 AVR 78 (FEB 79 ?)  | HELOUAN<br>18 FE 92 TII<br>Ø 25mm, date ≠ 5mm<br>Seen:<br>22 MA 91-18 FE 92                        | HELOUAN Type IX/ 8bars<br>18. XII. 95 TII<br>Ø 30mm, date ≠ 4mm<br>Seen: 11. IV. 95 - 16. II. 03          | HELOUAN<br>30. XI. 03 T4 (?)<br>Larger than <b>HLWN-2</b> ,<br>& larger Arabic script.<br>Ø 26mm, date ≠ 4mm |
| <b>HLWN-5</b>  | <b>HLWN-6</b>  | <b>HLWN-7</b>   | <b>HLWN-8</b>  |
|    |                  |                        |                          |
| HILWÂN,<br>27. VIII. 06 TIII<br>Ø 26mm, date ≠ 4mm<br>Contemporary with<br><b>HLWN-6</b> .   | HILWÂN, 9. I. 06 TVI<br>accent touches circle.<br>Ø 28mm, date ≠ 4mm<br>Seen: 18. X. 04 - 9. I. 06 | HILWÂN, 13. I. 07 TI<br>accent does not touch circle<br>Ø 28mm, date ≠ 4mm<br>Seen: 13. I. 07 - 11. I. 10 | HILWÂN<br>23. IV. 10. 9.30 AM<br>Ø 26mm, date ≠ 8mm<br>Seen: 9.VIII.09 - 1. I. 14                            |
| <b>HLWN-9</b>  | <b>HLWN-10</b>   | <b>HLWN-11</b>  | <b>HLWN-12</b>   |
|   |                 |                       |                         |
| HILWÂN<br>29. VIII. 18. 800AM<br>Ø 25mm, date ≠ 8mm.   | HILWAN LES BAINS<br>21 DE 30. 11-12A.<br>Ø 27mm, date ≠ 8mm.<br>21 DE 30 -28 FE 35                 | HILWAN LES BAINS<br>20.11. 35. 3 PM<br>Ø 28mm, date ≠ 8mm.<br>Month in numerals (11)                      | HELWAN LES BAINS<br>25 MR 42. 6-7P.<br>Ø 29mm, date ≠ 11mm.<br>6 DE 41 - 25 MR 42                            |
| <i>On the right:</i><br>Close-up showing the differences in the Arabic name between <b>HLWN-8</b> and <b>HLWN-9</b> , and the wider gap between the English name and the outer circle in <b>HLWN-8</b> . Also the accent on the left CDS is like a dot, on <b>HLWN-9</b> it is like a hat. |                |                      |  |

18 February 1892- HLWN-2

5 mills postal stationery card to Bavaria. Cairo "D" transit and Bayreuth arrival 26 Feb.



CARTE POSTALE

A. J. F. Alden Esq.  
Carndish Place  
Newcastle-on-Tyne  
England



11 February 1899 - HLWN-3

3 mills postal stationery card, with additional 2 mills, for 5 mills rate to England. Cairo transit the same day.

The UPU postcard rate was reduced to 4 mills in July 1899.

9 January 1906 - HLWN-6

Postcard to Germany, franked 4 mills (3 + 1), Berlin arrival 16 January.



## The Helouân Railway

The Turra - El Basâtîn railway line was begun by the Egyptian Government in 1872 to link munitions factories and storage sites. For that reason the line remained under Military control until 1879, even after it was extended to Helouan and opened to the public in 1877.

As previously mentioned, Helouân town was founded in 1874 and the railway line was extended from Turra to Helouan in 1875, but only for State use. Meanwhile the line was being extended north from El Basâtîn to Cairo's Citadel, and from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1877 the military line was opened to the public on the whole run.

The terminus station at the foot of the Citadel was inaugurated by Khedive Ismaïl on 21 January 1877. That station was called **Midan**, and was in Place Mehemet Ali, formerly the Square of the Rumeyleh, in front of the Sultan Hassan mosque.

After Ismail was deposed in 1879, the line was managed by the Ministère des Travaux Publics until 1888.

Baedeker 1885 indicates: Cairo - Helwan railway, 14 miles, journey time : ¾ to 1 hour. Fares : 11pt 10, 7pt 20, 4pt 20 paras. Four trains daily from new station in Place Mehemet Ali. Another train leaves the Central station goes past Abbassieh rejoining the first line at Basatin, reaching Helwan in 1 h 20' (*See Map*).

Murray Guide 1888 reports there were now 6 trains daily each way. "At Helwan station, an omnibus from the hotel (Hotel des Bains), which is only 10 minutes distance, meets the train."

In 1888, following the British occupation of Egypt, the Government handed over to a private company the operation of the Helouân railway. By Ministerial decision dated 30 April 1888, it was transferred to the Metropolitan Cairo and Helouan Railway Co. (the Company), confirmed by Khedivial Decree, 7 April 1890.

Subsequently the Company obtained a Concession, extending from 12 June 1889 until 9 December 1938, for the development of the town of Helouân, including a Casino, buildings and gardens to be established on the Government's estate. This Concession was merged with that of the Cairo-Helouan railway on 4 June 1891. A new line from Turra to Cairo was built, with a station at **Bab-el-Louk**, inaugurated 1<sup>st</sup> November 1889. On 17 March 1890 the Company was permitted to extend its line from the Helouân-les-Bains plateau down to the Nile, at "old" Helouân. A 6 km stretch, inaugurated by the Khedive, which was mainly for his use.

### **The first recorded TPO date, Cairo-Helouan, is March 1890.**

Along the line: **1 May 1893**- A new office open to ordinary and registered correspondence and parcels was opened at **MEADI** on the Helouân line. Also since **6 October 1900** an office at **MASSARAH**, serving ordinary, registered and governmental mails and parcels, was opened on the Helouân line.

The Company then obtained a further Concession, running from 21 May 1896 until 31 October 1939, to exploit all the waters of Helouân, as well as the Grand Hotel des Bains and the thermal establishments. The Company transferred this in turn, on 17 April 1899, to George Nungovich Egyptian Hotels Co.

Murray Guide 1900 indicates that the railway journey from Bab-el-Louk was down to 30 minutes.

On 10 June 1904, the Company was merged into the Egyptian Delta Light Railways Co., a move approved by the Council of Ministers on 26 November 1904. On 5 March 1916 the State bought back the Cairo-Helouân Line, having already taken over the operation since 14 December 1915.

"Cairo of Today": By 1916 there were hourly trains; the First Class fare was 5 pt, and 8 pt return. With inflation after the War, in 1926 fares were 12 pt First Class return, and 7 ½ pt Second Class.

In summary: - 1873 - 1879 : Building of the railway, and use as military line.

- 1879 - 1888 : Managed by Ministère des Travaux Publics.
- 1888 - 1904 : Line transferred to Metropolitan Cairo and Helouan Railway Co.
- 1904 - 1915 : Takeover by Egyptian Delta Light Railways Co.
- 1915 : Purchased back by the State.

The railway line from Cairo Bab-el-Louk to Helouân was electrified in 1956.

# HELOUAN TRAVELLING POST OFFICES, TPO. NOT TO SCALE.

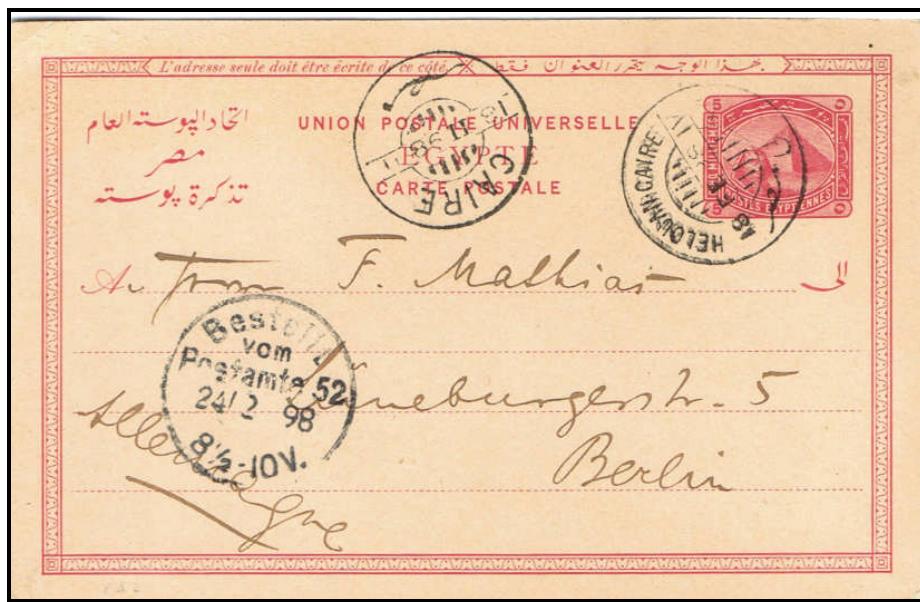
|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>HLWN-TPO1</b>  | <b>HLWN-TPO2</b>  | <b>HLWN-TPO3</b>  | <b>HLWN-TPO4</b><br><b>NEW TPO</b> (Lugdunum sale 41 / 2001)   |
|                              |                                |   |                   |
| <b>CAIRE-HELOUAN</b><br>TPO-8A7 (Type IX -<br>11 bars, Smith p.61)<br>III 1890 – 17.XII.91 TII                | <b>HELOUAN-CAIRE</b><br>TPO-8A7 (Type IX -<br>6 bars- Smith p.61)<br>VI. 1891 - 7. II. 1907                     | <b>CAIRE-HELOUAN</b><br>TPO-8A8 (Smith p.62)<br>Type IX - 5 bars, joined to<br>arc.<br>20 DE 93. TII- ? FE 96 TII                             | <b>CAIRE-HELOUAN</b><br>TPO-8A5A (Smith p.60)<br>Arabic “khat = line”.<br>7 bars. - 23. I. 1895. TI  |
| <b>HLWN-TPO5</b>  | <b>HLWN-TPO6</b>  | <b>HLWN-TPO7</b>  |  |
|                              |                                |   |                   |
| <b>CAIRO-HILWAN &amp; V.V.</b><br>TPO-7A3 (Smith p.49)<br>“& v.v.”<br>May 1914<br><b>Similar to above CDS</b> | <b>CAIRO-HILWAN V.V.</b><br>TPO-7A3a<br>(Smith p.50) No “&” or<br>arabic “wa bil’aks”<br>24 JA 1918- April 1926 | <b>CAIRO-HILWAN &amp; V.V.</b><br>TPO-7A3.4 (Smith p.52)<br>Arabic above – “& v.v.”<br>19 April 1929- May 1936<br><b>Similar to above CDS</b> | HLWN-TPO1 supplied<br>by Peter Smith :<br>III. 1890 TI<br><b>EARLIEST HELOUAN</b><br><b>TPO DATE</b> |

“Smith” respectfully refers to Professor Peter A.S. Smith’s “The Travelling Post Offices of Egypt”, 1983.  
Note the different styles (11 and 6 bars) for contemporary outbound and inbound from Cairo, HLWN-1 & 2.

Helouan TPO marks are quite scarce, consequently good illustrations were not available for some types at the time of writing this article. If you have any of these, please send them to the QC editor or to Peter Grech at [egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com](mailto:egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com), for publication in a future QC.



**SENTINEL** articulated steam railcar used on the Cairo to Helouan line, c.1943.



**18 February 1898** – 5 mill postal stationery card to Germany, cancelled by HELOUAN-CAIRE TPO postmark, type HLWN-TPO2 ( ESC TPO-8A7, 6 vertical bars). Cairo transit and Berlin arrival on 24 Feb. Helouân TPO markings on cover are very scarce. *Peter Heim collection.*

### Helouân Service Rural

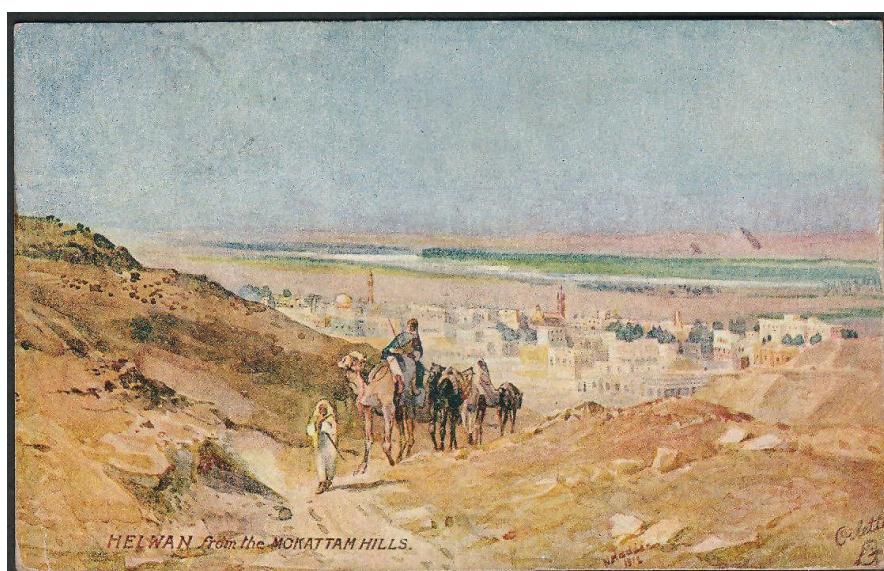
Egypt's Rural Service was created on 1 May 1889 to provide a daily postal service to inhabitants of villages or farming hamlets devoid of postal facilities. From a "parent" post office a postman on a donkey would do the rounds of a set number of locations collecting and distributing mail. He carried a Rural Service circular datestamp, which he applied to correspondence. Although there were literally hundreds of routes in Egypt, Helouân's desertic location meant that it was "parent" to only one such circuit. By the time this came into being, the datestamp bore the names of the two termini of the route. Refer to "Egypt: The Rural Postal Service" by Mike Murphy and Ibrahim Shoukry, Cairo 2010, which is the definitive work on this subject.

The only known Helouân Rural Service route:

### HLWN-RS1

HILWAN LES BAINS – EZBET KAMEL BEY SIDKY. Ø 29mm.

It is recorded from 21 FE 34 to 27 SE 44. Rural reference: Y500.201



"Helwan from the Mokattam Hills", and the pyramids of Dahshour over in the distance, across the Nile.

*With many thanks to Peter Smith and Mike Murphy for their assistance in the TPO & Rural Service sections.*

## Helouân Interpostal Seals

These paper seals, first introduced by the Posta Europea in 1864, were generally used by the Postal Service for closing letters or administrative parcels sent from the Main Postal Administration to the various post offices or between individual post offices themselves. Helouân came to utilise three different Interpostal Seal types. All three of these were inscribed POSTES EGYPTIENNES in French and Arabic.

(Numerous articles and publications by eminent authors have already described the several seal types).

1) Since the Helouân post office only opened in 1878, the first type it received was Kehr Type VIIA (Shaftar VII .1), which was actually issued in 1878 (though Ibrahim Shaftar suggests 1880, since he believed the office only opened in that year, as mentioned previously). The name is in French and Arabic, on the lower half of the outer crown. Diameter 39/39.5mm. The colour is red on a white background.

This seal has the particularity of Helouân being spelled with 2 "L" : HELLOUAN.

2) In 1884 a new type printed in blue on white paper was introduced. The name is in the centre, both in Arabic and French, and has been corrected to HELOUAN. Diameter 38mm. This is Kehr Type IX.

3) Finally, in 1890, a new universal version of Interpostal Seal appeared. Diameter 40mm. Kehr Type XI. In the outer ring the words POSTES EGYPTIENNES in French and Arabic characters appear in white, on a blue background. No longer with office names, instead the white centre was left blank to enable individual post offices to apply their own date stamp.

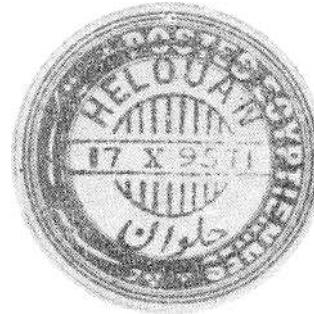
The Interpostal Seals remained generally in use until 1905, but some offices are known until 1907. Used Seals are much scarcer than unused Seals, which occasionally has led to forged postmarks.



1) Type VIIA (VII .1)



2) Type IX



3) Type XI with HLWN-3 postmark.



Not to scale.



Seal Type XI with HLWN-TPO3 postmark. Seal Type VIIA with possibly forged HLWN-2 postmark.

### NOTES about Helouân's Hotels:

- **AL HAYAT HOTEL:** Built c.1902. During World War I converted to a Military Hospital (#1 Australian on 5/5/1915, then #71 British on 23/8/1917, expanded to 1,000 beds). Afterwards did not re-open as hotel.

- **GRAND HOTEL HELOUÂN.** Built in 1891, this splendid hotel was converted to a Military Hospital during World War I (#1 Australian on 8/7/1915). Not to be confused with **Grand Hotel des Bains**.

- **TEWFIK PALACE HOTEL.** Built c.1874 by Khedive Ismaïl. Converted into a hotel after Mohamed-Tewfik died in 1892. Operated in 1900 by Desert Hotels Co. then by Al Hayat Hotel Co. who refitted it 1911.

## The Town of Helouân

**From Baedeker 1885:** The Helwan artificial oasis belongs to the Egyptian Govt. under superintendence of M. Grand-Bey, represented at the place itself by M. Onsy. Medical Inspector is Dr. Engel, a German. Helwan has prospered since coming in the hands of the Govt. in 1880. In 1871 the springs were used for sanitary purpose under Dr. Reil, by order of Khedive Ismaïl. (*gives a description of the baths*). Grand Hotel, belongs to Govt., court planted with trees, veranda & airy rooms. Pension 15 Fr. (*This is the Hotel des Bains - author*). Hotel Olivier, unpretending. Pension 10 Fr. "Private lodgings at various prices".

After the Company obtained the concession for the Baths in 1896, as previously mentioned, the Hotel des Bains was reconstructed, as well as the baths, and placed under the charge of Dr. Overton Hobson, a resident English doctor. In 1926 the Baths were under the guidance of an English medical man, Dr. S.F.Moore.

**From Baedeker 1908:** 8,000 inhabitants in 1907-8. Prosperous existence due to its thermal springs and climate ... The **Bath Establishment**, in the Moorish style, built by the Egyptian Government and opened December 1899. It contains fresh and sulphur water baths, electric baths, hot-air baths, vapour baths, etc. There are two open-air swimming baths with sulphuro-saline water: ladies (90ft long) & gents (120ft long). The interior of the Khedive's private bath-house may be inspected."

[These Baths, built in 1899, were modernised in 1911 "by George Nungovitch Co. the present lessees", who had taken over the Helouân Concession in 1899, as mentioned earlier under "Railways".]

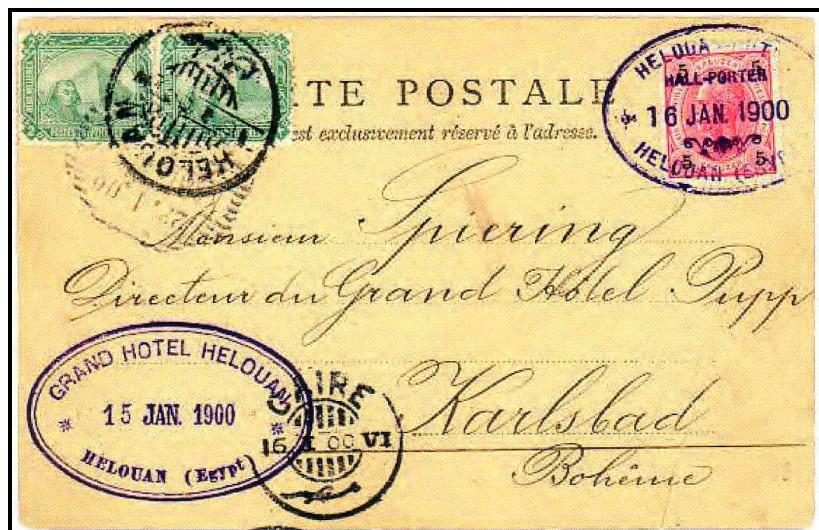
**Accommodation in Helouân**, from the 1908 Baedeker: Hotels: **Grand-Hotel Helouan**, property of George Nungovich Co., opposite the station, "sumptuous"; pension 15Fr or 60 pt. **Hotel des Bains**, near the Bath House (south), with veranda. Pension from 40 pt. **Tewfik Palace Hotel** (north) in a former vice-regal mansion, equipped in English style; pension from 10s. **Heltzel's Hotel** (formerly Pension Deutsches Haus), opposite the post office, well equipped, open all year round; pension 45 pt.

Pensions: **English Winter Hotel**, formerly Dahshur House, pension from 12s; **Antonio**, pens. 40pt; **Sphinx**, German, pens. 40 pt; **Villa Wanda** ("Datsha Vanda", Russian), pens. 10-15 Fr; **Pension Loir**, pens. 7 - 9Fr.

The Casino in the grounds of the Grand Hotel, held dances, concerts and had a "delightful little theatre overlooking the gardens where the best theatrical companies performed". There was a bandstand in the Parc. "where British and Egyptian military bands play 2-3 times a week". (Nina Nelson's "Your Guide to Egypt").

In 1904, the Swiss Charles Baehler acquired control of Egyptian Hotels Limited, founded in 1897.

In 1925 he agreed to manage the Grands Hotels d'Egypte (ex-Nungovich Group), including Helouân's Grand Hotel and Hotel des Bains.



**16 January 1900**-Card to Bohemia franked 4 mills, cancelled HLWN-3, with Cairo transit. Purchased in the Grand Hotel, it also bears an Austrian 5 Kreuzer stamp (un-necessary) cancelled by the hall-porter's cachet.



HELOUAN - Etablissement Thermal



Villa Antonio, Helouan



HELOUAN – Grand Hôtel Hélouan



HELOUAN – Casino Parc

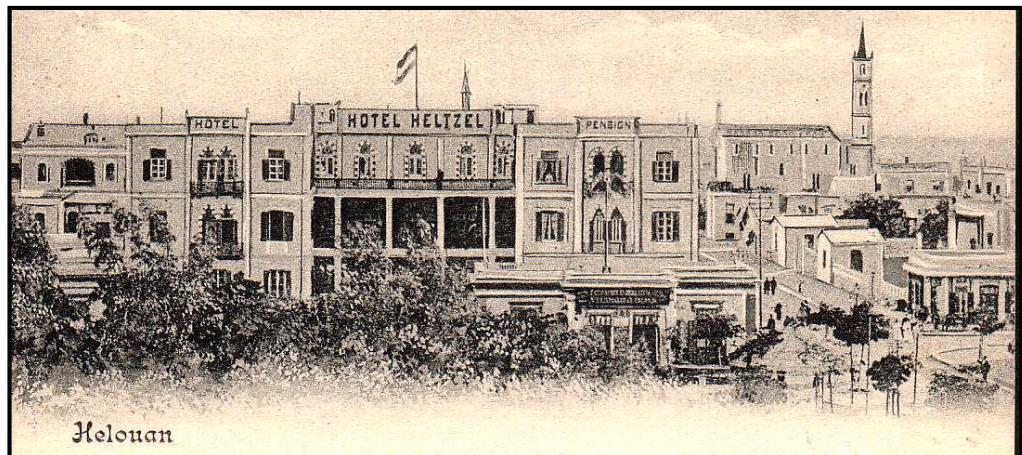


HELOUAN - Tewfik Palace Hôtel

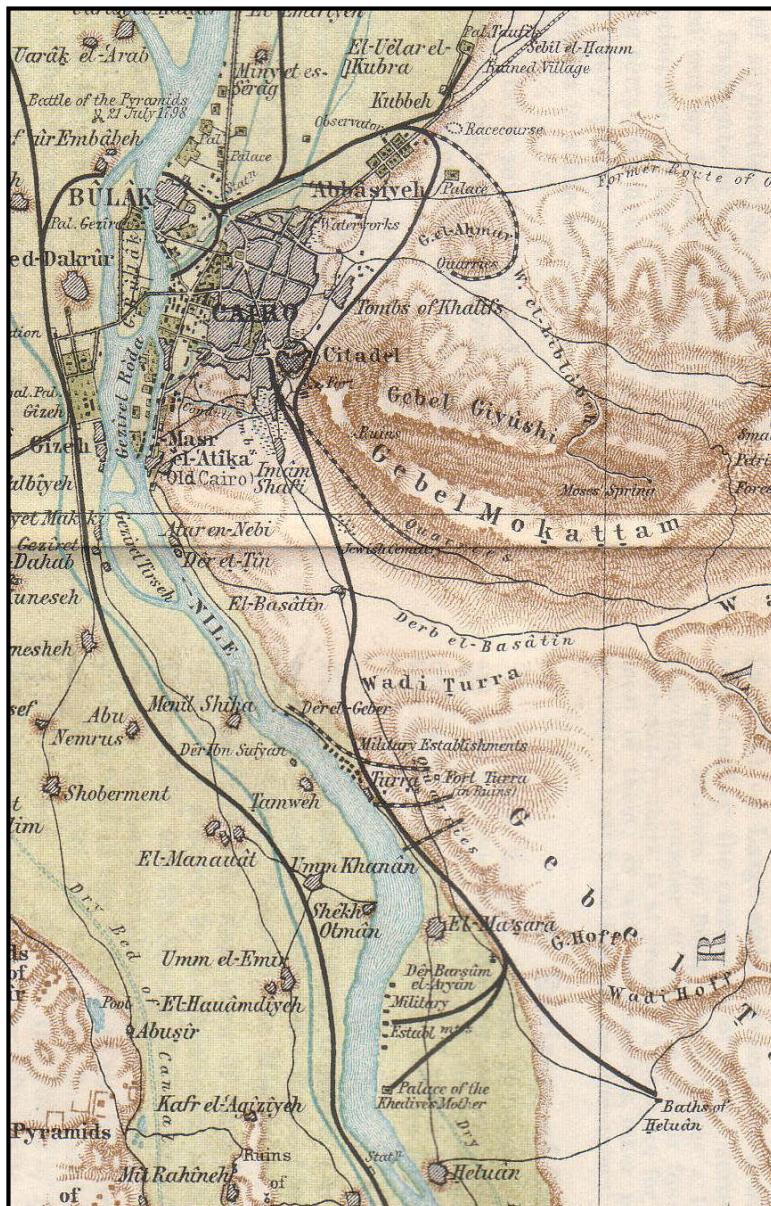


HELOUAN – Deutsches Haus, Pension

The roof of the Helouâن Post Office is visible in the right foreground of the **Casino Parc** postcard. That is the view from the roof of Deutsches Haus, which became Hotel Heltzel later (right).



In this postcard, the Post Office is in the foreground, right of the trees, across the street from Hotel Heltzel.



This 1885 map of the Cairo to “Baths of Heluân” Railway Line, shows its starting point at Midan (Place Mehemet Ali), in front of the Citadel. In 1889 a new line from Turra would extend into Cairo, to the Bab-el-Louk Station, still in use.

The eastern loop around Cairo, from the main railway station in the north (later Bab-el-Hadid) down to the Citadel and the Helouân Line, was to be short lived. At the top, the future Matarieh/ Marg Line only went north-east as far as “Taufik’s Kubbeh Palace”.

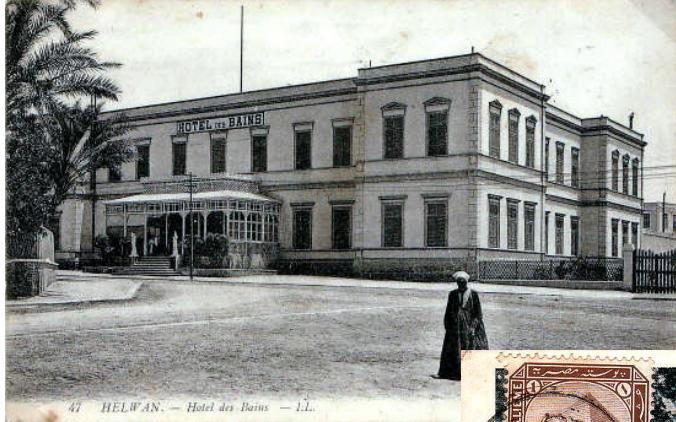
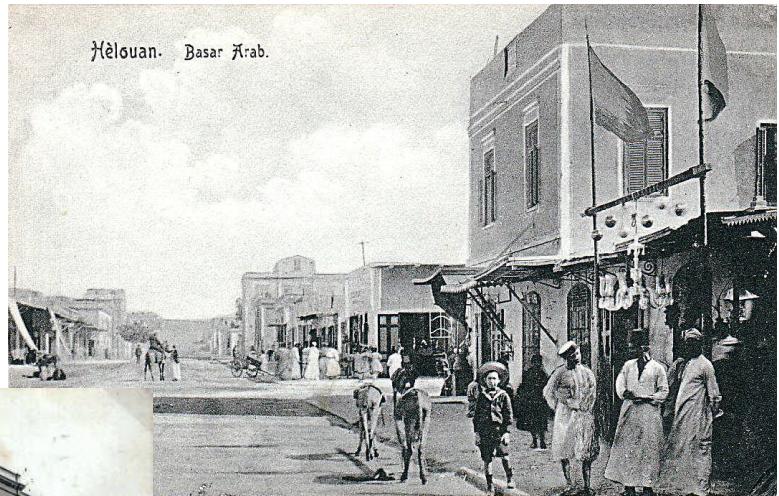
In the south, from the railway line leading to the Baths of Helouân, there were two westbound spurs to the Military installations and to the Palace of the Khedive’s mother.

A similar railway link would be built in 1890 from “the Baths” to the village of Helouân on the banks of the Nile.

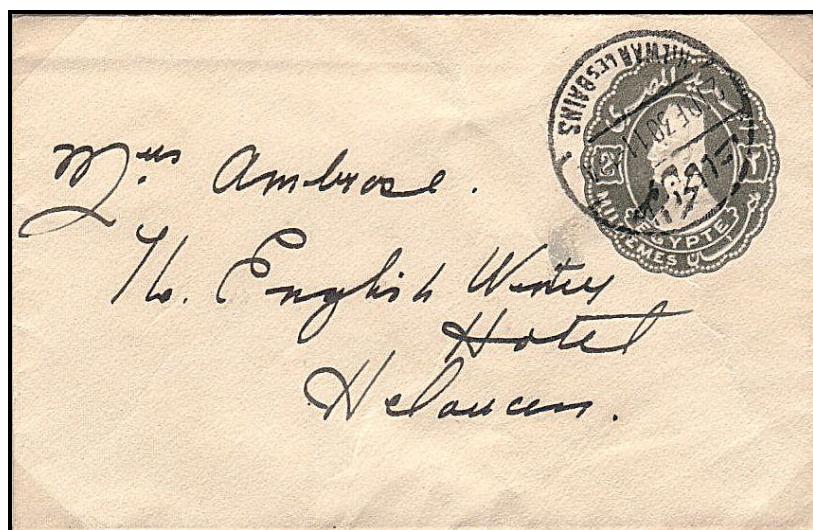
**HILWÂN – 29 August 1918.** Letter franked 5 mills, insufficiently paid to Paris (boxed T), where it was taxed 25c. On the back, Cairo transit the same day. Postmark type **HLWN-9.**



An unusually busy scene in Helouân's Arab Bazar, c.1900. Postcards usually depict wide quiet streets, devoid of vegetation, with little traffic other than an occasional pedestrian, and low, square-roofed houses, typical of a new town.



The **Hotel des Bains** (left) was Helouan's first hotel. Later renamed the **Grand Hotel des Bains** (below), administered by Emanuel Heltzel (postcard dated 9.V.1907).



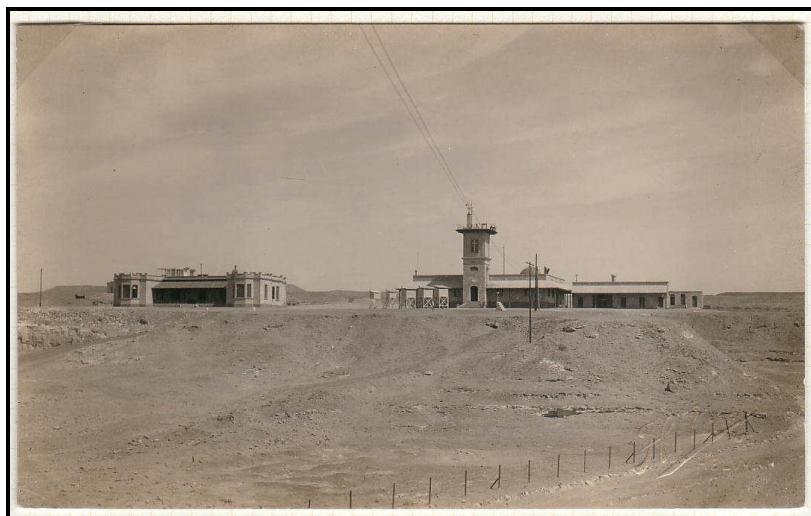
21 December 1930- Local letter (2 mills) to the English Winter Hotel from Hilwan les Bains, HLWN-10

## Helouân Incoming Mail



**21 August 1908** - Postcard from Paris 93 to Helouân, transiting through Alexandria, arriving Hilwân 27 August – **HLWN-5**.

**23 November 1903** - Cover from Rampton, UK, to the Grand Hotel, Helouân, franked Edward VII one penny, insufficiently paid. Taxed 12 mills on arrival (one piastre blue and 2 mills green), cancelled HELOUAN **HLWN-4**. British hexagonal T mark.



**Helouân Observatory.** Built c.1900, for astronomical and meteorological research. Situated at an altitude of 118 metres, 3 miles north-east of the town, it is still standing. It provided the standard time for Egypt, and benefited from the clear atmosphere for celestial observation. Today, a large cement factory and a giant steelworks built nearby in 1958, are causing significant pollution to the air of Helouân, which was once renowned for its purity.

## Military Matters - Egyptian War Office

**Edmund Hall (ESC 239)**

On page 4 of John Firebrace's book *British Empire Campaign and Occupation in the Near East, 1914-1924, A Postal History* he illustrates a postmark containing the wording "WAR OFFICE RECEIVED" (C9). He gives only one recorded date and states: "The status of this datestamp is unknown, used as an arrival marking"<sup>1</sup>. In QC 120 he again states that only one example had been recorded<sup>2</sup>.

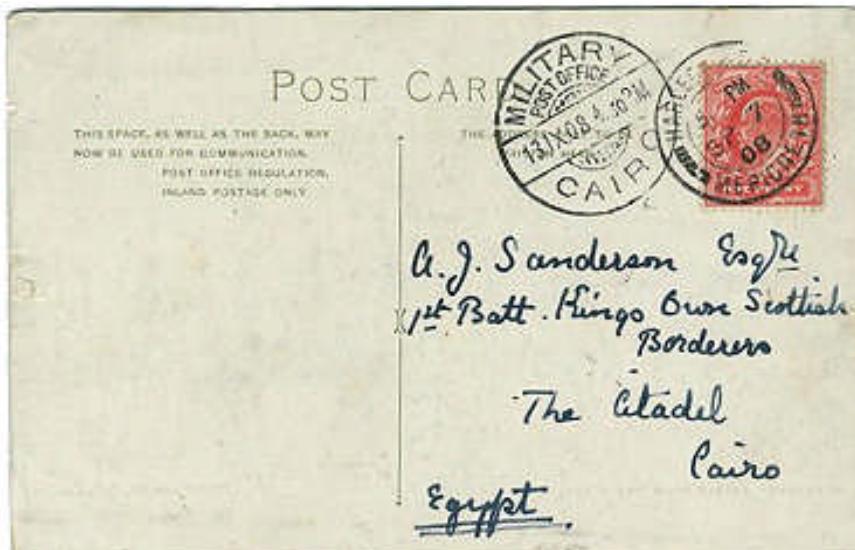


After quelling the 1882 Arabi "rebellion" British officers were merely lent to the Egyptian War Office for service in the Khedival Army, ostensibly to uphold the authority of the Khedive. Egypt remained nominally a dependency of Turkey<sup>3</sup>. The British took over the Egyptian War Office at the Citadel for its "advisors" to run the Egyptian Army. It is this office to which I believe the postmark belongs. After the occupation civilian Egyptian Post Offices were set up to handle mail to and from the British troops and around 1897 a barrel type was introduced with the wording MILITARY POST OFFICE CAIRO. These are found predominantly as receiving marks.

I believe that the Egyptian War Office introduced its own receiving datestamp - the earliest I have seen being 15 JUL 07 - consisting of a double oval with the wording POST ROOM, RECEIVED, WAR OFFICE. I believe this eventually was transformed into the postmark illustrated in John's book and then later became simply CAIRO W.O. This last type I have seen with the W.O. in two sizes. Interestingly, the Arabic in this type reads "cash" but it is clearly a receiving mark on apparently normal mail.

All the covers I have seen originated in Britain or from within Egypt and these are addressed all in Arabic. Many are addressed to Mahmoud Abbassi Bey between 1913 and 1924.

|               | <b>MILITARY POST<br/>OFFICE CAIRO</b> | <b>POST ROOM<br/>WAR OFFICE</b> | <b>WAR OFFICE<br/>CAIRO RECEIVED</b> | <b>CAIRO<br/>W.O.</b> |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Earliest date | 27 VI 87                              | 15 JUL 07                       | 26 FE 12                             | 5 II 23 (L)           |
| Latest date   | 15 FE 16                              | 31 JAN 11                       | 13 AP 22                             | 30 DE 24 (S)          |



*Barrel type used by the Egyptian civil post for incoming mail destined for British troops*



The POST ROOM mark with the barrel marking of the 30<sup>th</sup>. PM, one day earlier. The postcard was received by the civil Egyptian post office and passed to the War Office the next day. Some other covers seen have an AM time indicator and were passed on the same day.



Cover dated 22 DE 24 in the U.K, received in Cairo 30 DE 24 6.<sup>30</sup> A and then to the War Office the same day, showing that the mark was a receiving one.

#### References:

1. John Firebrace. *British Empire Campaign and Occupation in the Near East, 1914-1924, A Postal History*. 1991
2. John Firebrace. *QC 120* December 1981
3. *The New York Times* May 2, 1915.

## The revolution and Egypt's stamps

Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Recently, a member in the United States asked me whether I knew of any philatelic outcome of the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak – any overprints? Any new issues? I told him that the country did not seem in a mood for such matters.

But at last, after all the turbulence, Egypt Post does seem to be getting back to an even keel – but it has not been easy. Issues of stamps, not only to subscribers to the Philatelic Bureau's new issue service but even to the ordinary man on the street, has been haphazard and very much delayed, and for two weeks after the January 25 revolution mail collection and delivery throughout the country was halted almost entirely.

Since then it has been far from plain sailing. Stamps planned for early in the year were delayed by up to as much as six months, and the situation has not been helped by the nation's postal workers going on strike against the pay and bonus conditions – and high pay rates awarded to "consultants" seen as ineffective – set by the new chairman of the Postal Authority, Tareq el-Saadani.

Even before the recent troubles the Philatelic Bureau was struggling to cope with an extensive rebuilding programme which meant that the office was swathed in scaffolding and temporary dust-sheets, barely able to carry out its normal work.

Subscribers to the new issue service have seen their packets of stamps very much delayed, and no programme of issues for 2011 has been published to my knowledge. Perhaps the best guide to what is happening is one of the well-known European-based auction websites, where Egyptian dealers are selling new issues as quickly as they become available.



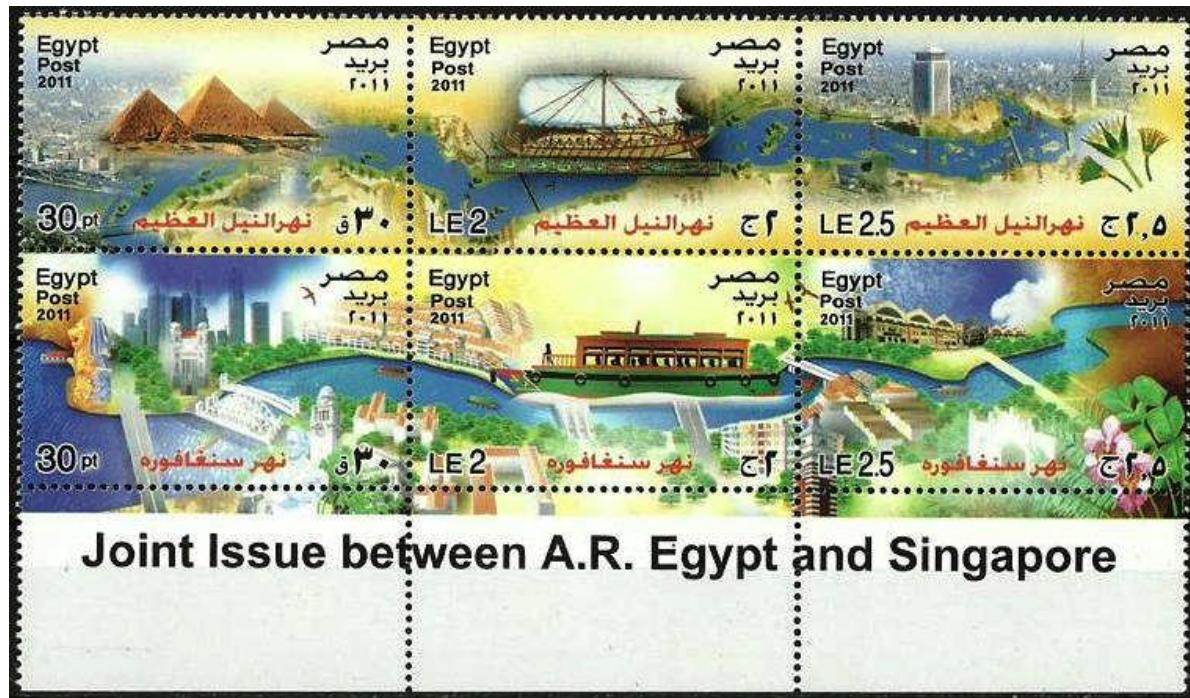
dated – 2.1.2011! This issue must clearly have been designed and approved, even printed, well before the "troubles" – but took an age to appear.



The Post Day issue, for instance, a handsome sheet of 40 "stamps on stamps" (5x8, ten designs, 60 valued at 30p, local rate, four at £E2 – air mail to Arab countries? – and four at £E2.50, overseas air mail) marked the diamond jubilee of the truly staggering Postal Museum in Ataba Square. Intriguingly, the stamps depicted range from the First Issue, naturally, only to the 5-milliemes of the issue marking the anniversary of Nasser's death – why? More importantly, perhaps, the issue should have been made on January 2, but first came to light on the auction site in late May. In August first-day covers (previous page) appeared on the website,

New issue subscribers did receive a welcome packet at the end of May – but it contained only 2010 issues, and nothing at all from this year. At the beginning of November the first 2011 issues were received – together with a packet containing all the information sheets for the 2010 issues, which are no longer sent with the relative stamp issues.

After the Post Day issue, two stamps (30p and £E2.5) were issued on April 11 to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cairo Tower (*previous page*) – but they were not available until the end of June. And ditto the issue for World Environment Day (£E2.5), supposedly issued on June 5. In mid-September first-day covers for all the abovementioned stamps started to appear – all dated with “correct” issue dates.



More recent issues – 200 years of the Military Academy (30p) and the truly striking joint issue with Singapore commemorating “significant rivers of the world” – the Nile and the Singapore River – marked by Egypt with se-tenant blocks of six (*above*) with 30p, £E2 and £E2.50 stamps in a pane of 36 (3x12) are said to have been issued on July 20 and October 17 respectively. First-day covers are on sale with these dates.



Perhaps more intriguing is the offer on the auction site of a collection of the “full issues for 2011”, including all those mentioned above, together with a mystery £E2.5 upright Pharaonic-design stamp (*left*) without date which has the appearance of a new definitive. Issue date? Unknown.

As is so much about Egypt’s recent issues. Let’s hope the situation settles down before we all become frustrated with new issues and stop buying them.

### Membership changes

#### **Deceased:**

**ESC 110** William C Scheetz.

#### **Change of address:**

**ESC 639** Atef Sarian, 1e Oxford & Cambridge Mansions, Old Marylebone Rd, London NW1 5EA

## Query 97 from André Navari (ESC534) – Egyptian stamp banned

I have a query that was originally published by a member of the French Union Marcophile society (unionmarcophile.unblog.fr) in its magazine *Les Feuilles Marcophiles*.

One year after Operation Musketeer, Egypt issued a set of five stamps with the title “Egypt - Tomb of Aggressors 1957” (Yvert & Tellier 399-403, SG 532-536, Magdi 169-173, E.S.Handbook V.II. 169-173), date of issue July 26, 1957.

The stamp in question is the yellow-brown, showing the evacuation of French and English troops and titled “Port Said 1956”. In reaction to this stamp a note dated September 17, 1957, was published (page 217) in the French Postal Bulletin, organ of the Post, Telephone and Telegraphs government office:

*The Administration has been informed that correspondence originating from Egypt has been franked with postage stamps the subject of which is considered as being of an insulting nature to France. The stamp, of value 10 millièmes, in large horizontal format and bistre in colour, importantly carries the double inscription “Egypt Tomb of Aggressors 1957” and “Port-Said 1956”.*

*Mail franked by means of postage-stamps as described must be systematically returned to origin, with the notification: “Unacceptable. Universal Postal Convention, article 59, § 1st,d.”*

Ce timbre est considéré comme INJURIEUX POUR LA FRANCE, qui émet le 17 Septembre un avis d'interdiction (B.O. 268 Po 43, fig.3).

|  |                |                       |
|--|----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>1957 BULLETIN OFFICIEL DES P.T.T.</b>   |                | Page : 217            |
| CLASSEMENT : B 240.<br>REGUET : p. 98.   | DIFFUSION<br>F | DOCUMENT 268<br>Po 43 |
| • Ce fascicule contient un seul texte •  |                |                       |
| <b>Po 5 NOTE du 17 septembre 1957.</b>   |                |                       |
| <b>OBJET Correspondances originaire d'Egypte.</b>  |                |                       |
| (Concerne également les départements d'outre-mer)  |                |                       |
| <p>L'Administration a été informée que des correspondances originaire d'Egypte étaient revêtues de timbres-poste dont le sujet est considéré comme présentant un caractère injurieux pour la France. Ces figurines, d'une valeur de 10 millièmes, de grand format horizontal et de couleur bistre, comportent notamment la double inscription : « Egypt Tomb of aggressors 1957 », « Port-Saïd 1956 ».</p> <p>Les envois affranchis au moyen de timbres-poste de l'espèce devront être systématiquement retournés à l'origine, avec la mention : « Inadmis. Convention Postale Universelle, article 59, § I<sup>er</sup>, d. »</p> |                |                       |



(See also *The Story Behind the Stamp*: December 2006 QC. 219 back page)

My questions are: is it possible to find:

- A legal letter to France with this stamp before September 17 1957
- A letter refused and returned to Egypt with marks as described
- A letter to France accepted after September 17 1957; also
- What was the position of the British Post Office?
- Is it possible to find letters with this stamp sent to UK?

**Query 98 from Dick Wilson (ESC 230) - Small Army Post stamps.**

The date of issue is December 16, 1939. Has anyone seen a legitimate first day cover? The one illustrated in Hobbs (page 73) has both stamps on a cover posted in the Cairo civil post office, not a military post office. The address is incomplete as it reads only Victoria which could be in Australia or Canada among other places. Other covers to the same person at the street address were addressed to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. He viewed this item with suspicion.

Also, what is the earliest known cover with the 10 millièmes? I have not seen any with a December 1939 postmark. The earliest I have is postmarked at M.P.O. E.605 8 JA 40.



**Query 99 from Rolf Rohlfs (non-member) – Internal rate in 1866**

I bought Lot 501 of the “Pearls of Arabia” auction held by Spink’s. The June 1867 letter from Cairo via Alexandria and Trieste to Wiener Neustadt is franked by 2pi of the First Issue (double rate) for the trip from Cairo to Alexandria, and 25 soldi (single rate) for the journey from Alexandria to Wiener Neustadt. The weight of a single letter in Austria was 1 lod. But what was the weight step for a single letter in the Egyptian post? Was it different? I’d like to say: yes. For example: for the British it was 1/2 oz, for the French 7 1/2 g.

**Response, from Peter Smith (ESC 74):** The Austrian rates were for 15g units, whereas in 1865-66 the Egyptian rates were for 10g units. Thus the letter in question must have weighed between 10 and 15g, being a double-rate letter in Egypt, but a single in the Austrian PO.

**Query 100 from John Sears (ESC188) - Romanian Steamship Line Marking.**

This marking was mentioned and illustrated by Richard Wheatley (ESC 168) in his article on the Romanian Steamship Line which appeared in *QC* 234 of September, 2010, and shown on postcard in his following article in *QC* 237 of June 2011. The postcard was from Alexandria addressed to Bucarest. It is obviously a very scarce mark, and I wonder if any other member has seen it, I asked the same question at the Circle Meeting of 5th November, but no response.

Please let us know if you have any knowledge of it.

ALEXANDRIA  
27-APR-1913  
PORT

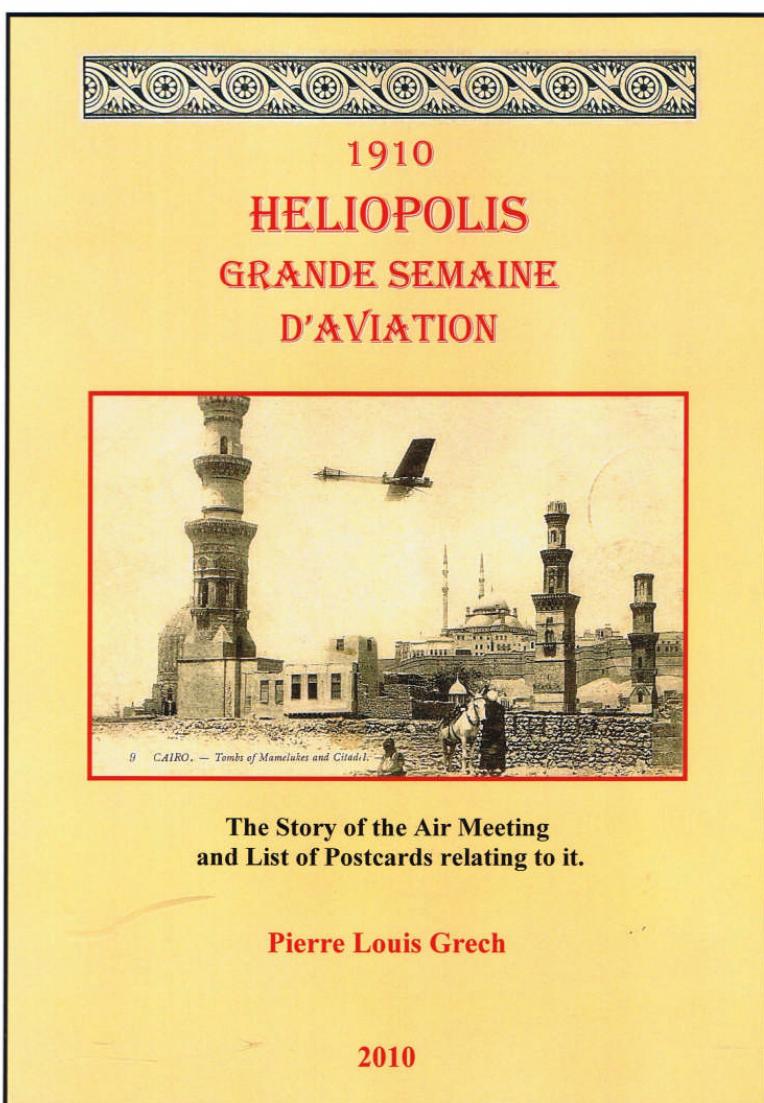
## Book Review

### **1910 - HELIOPOLIS GRAND SE MAINE D'AVIATION: By Pierre Louis Grech (ESC 266)**

The writer has treated us to a microscopic review of the historic air meeting of 1910, the first one in Africa, let alone Egypt. It commences with the part played by Baron Empain (a Belgian who organised the construction of Cairo's first electric tramway), he was responsible for the development of the "Oasis of Heliopolis" into a very fashionable suburb of Cairo. After visiting an air meeting in France, he determined to organise one in Cairo to be run in accordance with the regulations of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale.

The prospectus of the Meeting listing the events and prize money is illustrated, with a plan of the air field and its location. Biographical notes of each of the pilots with photographs of them and their planes are shown. There is a diary of the events which took place for each day between February 6th to the 13th. Full details of the prize winners, what they won, and the planes they flew also appear.

The famous CDS of Heliopolis Aerodrome is then covered in detail, with valuable hints on how to identify the forgeries which exist.



Then we have a list of the Postcards, with the aircraft, relating to the Meeting, also listing the publishers. About 70 are illustrated (12 in colour), all very well reproduced.

Finally there is an appendix of 9 pages with a facsimile of the Official Programme.

This is a tastefully soft bound volume, and in conclusions I think it safe to say that any reader knowing little about this event, will end up by knowing all about it. Those of us who have a passing knowledge of Heliopolis 1910 will find it very useful in dotting the Is and crossing the t's.

**John Sears (ESC 188).**

**Peter Smith (ESC 74), former ESC President, in an email to Peter writes:**

"The Heliopolis book arrived in yesterday's mail, and I quickly set out to devour it. What a wonderful array of photos you included! I had no idea there were so many around. The text is also good reading, and even my wife (who is not a philatelist) began reading it when I had finished. Thank you for writing such an enjoyable book!"

**47 pages, plus 34 pages of postcard illustrations and appendices.**

**The book retails at £18 plus postage, with a special price of £14 plus p + p to individual Circle members: please contact the ESC Secretary in the first instance.**

# The Outstanding Delta Collection of Egypt— an oldtime, important lifetime holding (formed from 1935 & thereafter) of this great country.

The major Kelleher public auction  
scheduled for 10:00 am, December 14, 2011.



An extraordinary 3 color Pyramid issue cover to the U.S. Consulate, Hong Kong, with marine sorter marking on reverse

1960 Olympic issue imperforate, se-tenant strip of 5, only 10 examples printed



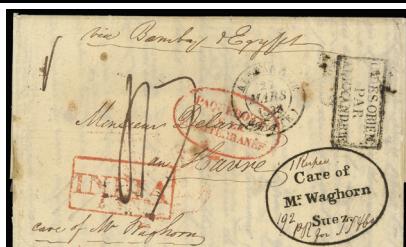
A splendid example of the Waghorn Carrier Service cover



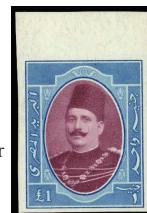
The rare, unissued Al-Azhar University issue, in immaculate quality.



An imperf set of the 1956 Arab Scout Jamboree Issue



A splendid example of the Waghorn Carrier Service cover



The Royal printing sheet lets of 9, fantastically rare with only 3 sets produced



2pi, imperforate pair



10m Tete-beche pair from the Royal Collections



The Port Fouad high value



1pi pair, imperforate between

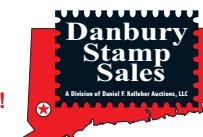


An example of the scarce first issue essays



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