The Quarterly Circular of



The EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

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EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	Professor Peter A.S. Smith FRPSL, U.S.A.
CHAIRMAN:	Mr. Robin Bertram FRPSL, 11, Bishop's Way, Buckden, Huntingdon, PE18 9TZ, U.K.
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:	Mr. J.S. Horesh, U.K.
SECRETARY/ TREASURER:	Mr. Alan Jeyes, Flat 4, Ravine Court, Meridan Close, Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset, BH13 7JU, U.K.
EDITOR:	Mr. Richard Wheatley FRPSL, 7, Manor Croft, Whitkirk, Leeds, LS15 9BW, U.K.
LIBRARIAN:	Mr. D. John Davis, Church View Cottage, Church Road, Upton Snodsbury, Worcestershire, WR7 4NH, U.K.
U.S.A. AGENT:	Mr. Charles F. Hass, P.O. Box 3435, Nashua, New Hampshire, 03061-3435, U.S.A.
EGYPT AGENT:	Professor N. El-Hadidi, Cairo University, Giza, Egypt
KEEPER OF THE RECORD:	Mr. D.H. Clarke, U.K.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

July 5th	Airmails - 15/20 sheets	Members
September 17th - 21st	Autumn Stampex	
September 20th	John Sears Luncheon	
November 15th	Revenues	P.R. Bertram
November 22nd	Regional Meeting - Leeds	

Meetings are normally held at the Victory Club, Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London. Members usually congregate in the bar from 1.00pm onwards and meetings commence at 2.00pm.

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REPORT OF MEETING HELD 3.5.97

Present : P.Andrews, M.Barker, R.Bertram, P.Bottrill, C.Defriez, J.Davis, P.Grech, P.Goodwin, P.Grigg, E.Hall, S.Horesh,G.A.Jeyes, J.M.Murphy,M.Parker, J.Sears, R.Wheatley.

Visitors : M.Nofal, M.Ekabbaty

Apologies : B.Watterson, W.Andrews, S.McIntosh, T.Chisholm, J.Chellingsworth.

The Chairman welcomed our guests and P.Grigg attending his first meeting. Also, a welcome to P.Goodwin attending from New Zealand.

The meeting was in two sections. Led by R.Bertram the first half discussed the "Officially Sealed Labels.' Examples were shown by most members present and thus mint and used examples of every type were shown. However covers, particularly of the older types were in short supply. Early and late dates of use were recorded and it was particularly noticable that some types had a very long period of use - up to 38 years.

Am extremely rare forerunner was shown of a damaged cover sent from Liverpool on 21.5.98 to Alexandria being repaired with 9 copies of the Blue Alexandria Postal Seal.

The second half, led by P.Bottrill, supported by R.Wheatley, displayed the covers produced by the crews of the 14 ships trapped in the Great Bitter Lakes during the Suez crisis together with interesting ephemera. The ships were trapped from June 1967 for 5 years. Letters from the combatants on both sides and the United Nations forces were also displayed.

One vessel 'Nordwind' was carrying surface mail and parcels from Pakistan to the U.K. This was delivered in the U.K. in 1975. A rare item was the first telegram sent from the vessels on 17.6.67 - the war having ended on the 11th June.

New Member

487 L.J. Butcher 121b Toms Lane Kings Langley Herts. WD4 ONB

(Egypt, Sudan, Palestine)

<u>Deceased</u>

192 V.Andonian

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE AUCTION ACCOUNTS

Profit & Loss A/c`s	Auction 22 £	<u>Auction 23</u> £
Net Sales	7540.80	7924.80
INCOME		
10% on Sales Invoiced Postages Postages owing	754.08 175.39 31.21 960.68	792.48 246.05 21.70 1060.23
EXPENSES		
Typing, copying, post of Catalogues Postage & Packaging of Lots Sundry Postages & Exs. Insurance (for the year)	495.59 209.88 41.00 746.47	476.97 280.38 49.79 38.44 845.58
NET PROFIT	214.21	214.65
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH APRIL 1997		
NET ASSETS Balance at Bank Less amounts due to members Surplus of Current Assets AUCTION FUND		1726.69 607.60 1119.09
Amount brought forward from February '96 Less transfer to General Account Add net profit from Auction 22 """""Auction 23		1690.23 1000.00 690.23 214.21 214,65 1119.09

The net sales of the last 2 Auctions have been roughly the same, the deduction of the Annual Insurance Premium from the profits of Auction 23 have brought the net profits almost exactly in line.

The "Amounts due to Members" (£607.60) may cause some comment, but this is because some people living abroad prefer to keep their sales proceeds with us instead of being faced with Bank charges when converting to their own currencies.

John Sears (ESC 188)

New Issues

By : Cyril E.H. Defriez (ESC 172) (All stamps are printed in lithography by Postal Printing House, A.R. Egypt, without watermark)

Commemorative Stamps

	<u>SG 2001</u>	<u>SG 2002</u>	<u>SG 2003</u>
Occasion Date of Issue Designer Denomination Sheet Stamp dimensions Perforation Quantity Printed Supplementary	Inauguration of Second Cairo Metro Line 1 October 1996 Lotfy El Sawaf Route Map & Train 15 Piastres 50 (5 x 10) 43 x 26mm 12 ¹ / ₂ 250,000	World Post Day 9 October 1996 Lotfy El Sawaf U.P.U. Emblem 80 Piastres 50 (10 x 5) 26 x 43mm 12½ 150,000 Inscribed Air Mail	Cairo, Cultural Capitol of the Arab Region 24 October 1996 Ali Makhlouf Map of Arab Countries 55 Piastres 50 (10 x 5) 26 x 43mm 12 ¹ / ₂ 150,000
	<u>SG 2004</u>	<u>SG 2005</u>	<u>SG 2006</u>
Occasion Date of Issue Designer Denomination Sheet Stamp Dimensions Perforation Quantity Printed Supplementary	50th Anniv. of U.N. Childrens Fund 24 October 1996 ? Mother & Child 80 Piastres 50 (10 x 5) 26 x 43mm 12½ ? Inscribed Air Mail	50th Anniv. of Council of State 2 November 1996 Waheeb Farag Courts Building 15 Piastres 50 (5 x 10) 43 x 26mm 12½ 250,000	25th Int. Fed. Training & Development Organisation 4 November 1996 Ali Makhlouf Conference Emblem 15 Piastres 50 (10 x 5) 26 x 43mm 12 ¹ / ₂ 250,000 1st Time Held in the Middle East
	<u>SG 2007</u>	<u>SG (M.S.)2008</u>	<u>SG 2009</u>
Occasion	Cairo Economic Summ	it (Mena)	Int. Nutrition Conference Rome
Date of Issue Designer Design Denomination Sheet Stamp Dimensions Perforation Quantity Printed	12 November 1996 Nadia Abdel Fattah Conference Emblem 15 Piastres 50 (10 x 5) 26 x 43mm 12½ 250,000	Lotfy El Sawaf Globe & Symbols £1 (Air Mail) Miniature sheet 80 x 60mm Imperforate 50,000	13 November 1996 Mammoud Yousry Emblem & Ear of Wheat 15 Piastres 50 (10 x 5) 26 x 43mm 12 ¹ / ₂ 250,000

SG 2003



144

A New Heliopolis Hotel Marking

By : Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Markings of the post office once situated in the Heliopolis Palace Hotel are among the most sought-after in the Hotels area, and the one known example of HELIOPOLIS / HOTEL / C (type HH1, -8.10.55) recently changed hands in the Circle auction for an outstanding premium. The other established marking, HELIOPOLIS / HOTEL / TR (type HH2), is much better known and now has a date range of 28.12.54 to 26.2.58

However, Lucien Toutounji (ESC 264), that insatiable and indefatigable seeker-out of the unknown and the attractive, has now come up with something entirely new - a marking previously unrecorded, and from a period of the hotel's life which he has been able to establish in conversation with the then clerk of the post office. As Lucien reports :

The hotel was closed in the late 1950's, when it was used to house the joint ministries of Egypt and Syria during the United Arab Republic period. Shortly before his assassination, however, President Sadat decided to reopen the hotel as a conference centre, and it was at this time that the post office was also reopened .Sadat was killed in October 1981, and a few months later the hotel was converted again, this time into the offices of the Presidency of the Republic, and the post office was closed after having functioned for only a few months.

Three pieces of mail bearing this new cancellation are recorded; one of them is in the possession of the postal clerk who was in charge of the hotel post office and who mailed the items, one Lucien has, and the third is in a private collection in Cairo.



The new marking, which will be known as HH3, is on an envelope printed for the El Borg Hotel (no fresh supply of Heliopolis Hotel stationery had been printed). Lucien's drawing shows it to be 27mm diameter, to have a boxed date (25.2.82) as was the contemporary style, and to read in English HELIOPOLIS / PALACE HOTEL, with the direct equivalent - funduq heliopolis balas - above the box.

This is truly a remarkable discovery, and the Circle will thank Lucien Toutounji for having brought it to our attention.

Registration Labels

By : John Sears (ESC 188)

The object of the Circle Meeting of 16th September 1995, was to bring together the greatest possible number of Registration Labels that were used by the Post Office in Egypt. Most of those present participated by bringing examples from their collections, and subsequent contributions by post added to the data.

I am especially grateful to Peter Andrews (ESC 122) who was able to add significantly to the varieties shown as a basis for study. Acknowledgement is given to Peter Smith (ESC 74) who first published a note on the subject in the Q.C. of June 1974 (No. 94), also to Mike Murphy (ESC 240) whose illustrated list helped the writer to prepare the basic list for discussion.

The intention was to prepare an illustrated list of NUMBERED TYPES of the labels to aid future reference. One must remember that Registration Labels were never accountable pieces of paper - like postage stamps. Standards of printing were not closely monitored, quality is variable, perforation is haphazard, and coloured printing inks were not "fast". Climatic conditions also play their part, consequently, many shades of colour occur. I have decided to ignore perforation measurments in defining types, as well as differing type faces as far as the continuous numbers are concerned.

Abbrevations

- D Dumb.No indication of office of origin
- B/W Black (printing) on white ground
- R/W Red on white
- BL/W Blue on white
- B/Col Black on coloured ground
- c/n Continuous number
- C Cairo/Caire
- A Alexandria/Alexandrie
- PS Port Said
- G Ghuria
- EED Emad El Din
- Q Qena
- AR Arabic printing of office name
- MBF Moh. Bey Farid
- RF Rue Fouad
- M Misr
- OFF Official



ERD Earliest recorded date. LRD Latest recorded date. N.B. The ERD's and LRD's are shown as, for example, 12/7/34 ie 12th July 1934, although in the actual postmark they may be, 12 JL 34 or 12. VII. 34. They are all from the 20th century.















B/W D 1	"R" to left, printed c/n		
	ERD 18/10/20	LRD	13/ 7/27
B/W D 2	Angular "R" to left, printe	d c/n	· .
	ERD 14/ 4/25	LRD	18/ 3/44
B/W D 3	Angular "R" to left, handst	tamp c/	'n
	ERD 2/ 5/45	LRD	12/11/59
B/W D 4	Angular "R" to left, handst	tamp c/	n in Arabic
	ERD 13/ 2/60	LRD	/ 1/61
B/W D 5	Angular "R" to left, manus	cript c/	'n in Arabic
	ERD 3/1/45	LRD	/11/52
B/W D 6	"R" to left, handsta "R" tablet 9mm wide	amp c/r	1
	ERD 2/ 3/49	LRD	/ 6/49
B/W D 7	Broad "R" to left, handstar "R" tablet 9 ¹ / ₂ mm wide	np c/n	
	ERD 16/ 6/60	LRD	23/ 1/63
B/W D 8	Angular "R" to left, handst No frame	amp c/	n
	ERD 11/ 6/60	LRD	/11/61
B/W D 9	Angular "R" to left, printed As D8 but heavy type. No) after No
	ERD 2/12/61	LRD	/ 4/62

Registration Labels

Black on White - Dumb





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	long		
	ERD 15/ 3/26	LRD 22/ 9/39	
V C 9	Angular "R" to left, CAII below printed c/n. In top long		
	ERD 30/12/35	LRD	
V C 10	Angular "R" to left, CAII below printed c/n. In top long	-	
	ERD 26/ 3/42	LRD	
W C 11	Angular "R" to left, CAI below printed c/n. Arabic "Al Qahira"		
	ERD 7/12/40	LRD	
W C 12	Broad "R" to left, CAIRO 16mm long be elongated Arabic script, both above		
	handstamp c/n ERD 15/ 8/48	LRD 24/ 3/49	
	Black on W	/hite - Alexandrie	
W A 1	Narrow "R" to left, Alexa printed c/n	ndrie above	
	ERD 20/4/12	LRD / 9/12	
W A 2	Narrow "R" to left, ALE2 long with tall 1st "A", pr raised "o" in "No"		
	ERD 29/10/12	LRD	
W A 3	"R" to left, ALEX	ANDRIE,	

LRD / 1/27

"R" to left, ALEXANDRIE,

LRD 10/11/23

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Registration Labels

Registration Labels	B/W A 5	Black on White - Alexandrie Broad "R" to left, ALEXANDRIE, printed c/n. Arabic reads "ISKANDRIA" only!	
		ERD 22/6/18	LRD
		Black on W	<u> /hite - Alexandria</u>
No 362	B/W A 6	Broad "R" to left, ALEXANDRIA 19mm long, printed c/n	
		ERD 11/12/22	LRD 3/11/25
R ALEXANDRIA No. 166	B/W A 7	Angular "R" to left, ALE. printed c/n	XANDRIA,
الاسكندرية		ERD 19/12/33	LRD
R ALEXANDRIA No.190	B/W A 8	Angular "R" to left, ALE. handstamp c/n	XANDRIA,
الاسكندرية		ERD	LRD
الاسكندرية No. 907	B/W A 9	Angular "R" to left, ALE printed c/n	XANDRIA below
ALEXANDRIA		ERD 5/ 5/26	LRD 15/ 2/46
۲۰ No. 404	B/W A 10	Angular "R" to left, ALEXANDRIA 22mm long printed c/n	
ALEXANDRIA		ERD 19/12/33	LRD
R ALEXANDRIA	B/W A 11	Broad "R" to left, ALEXANDRIA now central, handstamp c/n	
		ERD 21/ 7/49	LRD 10/10/49
		Black on Wh	ite - Sundry Offices
R Mosso2	B/W G 1	Angular "R" to left, GHURIYA at top, central printed c/n	
	ERD 20/ 7/20 LRI		LRD
الغورية No. 228	B/W G 2	Angular "R" to left, GHU central printed c/n	RIYA at bottom,
GHURIYA		ERD 11/ 9/29	LRD 10/ 7/36

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Black on White - Sundry Offices

Broad "R" to left, GHURIA at top, B/W G 3 central printed c/n has raised "o" of "No" ERD 6/8/17 LRD B/W EED 1 Angular "R" to left, EMAD EL DIN at bottom below printed c/n ERD 24/12/37 LRD 14/11/44 B/W EED 2 Angular "R" to left, Emad El Din at bottom below printed c/n ERD 4/7/33 LRD **B/W Q** 1 Angular "R" to left, QENA at bottom below printed c/n ERD 4/3/38 LRD Blue on White - Dumb BL/WD1 Small broad "R" to left followed by printed c/n in top panel. Blank lower panel. Frame 37 x 23 mm ERD / /83 LRD / /86 **BL/W/ D 2** Small angular "R" to left followed by printed c/n in top panel. Lower panel blank ERD / /89(?) LRD **BL/W/D3** Small serif "R" to left followed by printed c/n in top panel. Lower panel blank ERD / /85 LRD / /88 Red on White - Dumb **R/W D 1** Angular "R" to left. Frame 37 x 17 mm, top panel blank, lower panel with handstamp c/n ERD 14/12/71 LRD **R/W D 2** Small broad "R" to left followed by printed c/n. Blank lower panel ERD 9/ 7/85 LRD 13/12/92















Red on White - Named Offices

R/W A 3 Broad "R" to right, ALEXANDRIA over Arabic. In lower panel handstamp c/n

ERD 31/ 8/11 LRD

R/W A 4 "R" to left, Arabic over ALEXANDRIA. In lower panel handstamp c/n

ERD 8/ 1/70 LRD / 5/70

- R/W A 5 Thin "R" to left, Arabic over ALEXANDRIE. In lower panel printed c/n ERD / 1/71 LRD 16/ 9/73
- R/W A 6 Thin "R" to left, Arabic over ALEXANDRIE, short legs of "R", frame corners open. In lower panel printed c/n ERD 6/ 9/73 LRD
- R/W PS 1 Thin "R" to left, Arabic over PORT SAID. In lower panel printed c/n

ERD 7/ 1/73 LRD 30/ 9/85

R/W AR 1 Small "R" followed by printed c/n. In lower panel printed office name in Arabic

ERD 18/ 2/85 LRD / 8/86

R/W AR 2 Small smudged "R" followed by printed c/n. In lower panel printed office name in Arabic

ERD 15/ 1/88 LRD

R/W AR 3 Small serif "R" followed by printed c/n. In lower panel printed office name in Arabic

ERD 10/11/85 LRD 19/ 2/77

R/W AR 4 Thin "R" to left. Office name in Arabic. In lower panel printed c/n

ERD 20/ 7/73 LRD 19/ 2/77

Black & Red on White - Arabic

B & R/W 1 Black medium "R" over printed c/n. Printed Arabic office name in Red over black printed Arabic c/n ` ERD 31/ 1/74 LRD 12/ 5/86 This section is devoted to those Registration Labels printed in black on coloured, usually Red, ground, and would be most difficult to classify on the basis of colour alone, because the shades of Red vary between flesh and mauve. The following colour descriptions are based upon the S.G. Colour Guide.

These designs are very similar to those printed on white, with the tablet measuring 36/37 x 15mm being divided into three, with the "R" appearing on the right, or on the left in the case of the later printings. The classifications are made solely on design differences, with notes of colours seen. The ERD's and LRD's of each type include all shades of colour of that particular design.

R	B/COL D 1	"R" to right, handstamp c/n in lower panel. Rose	
No. BOZ		ERD 11/ 1/29	LRD 20/ 4/48
B 6186	B/COL D 2	Broad "R" to left, handstar in lower panel. Red	np c/n should be
No.		ERD 2/ 3/63	LRD / 9/68
R _{Z316}	B/COL D 3	"R" to left, handstamp c/n Red, Rose, and Orange at	-
		ERD 23/ 1/29	LRD 10/ 5/65
R 2432 FETT	B/COL D 4	"R" to left, handstamp c/n in Arabic in lower panel. Red	
		ERD 30/ 4/44	LRD 4/ 2/47
CAIRO.	B/COL C 1	"R" to right, CAIRO with full stop, over Arabic 8.5mm long. In lower panel hanstamp c/n. Rose	
N. 7091 10		ERD 20/ 4/20	LRD / 4/22
CAIRO	B/COL C 2	"R" to right, CAIRO over panel printed c/n. Raised "	
<u>Nº 15/1</u>		ERD 18/ 9/18	LRD
2774 R	B/COL C 3	"R" to right, CAIRO, over Arabic 12mm long. In lower panel handstamp ERD 15/10/26	
CAIRO R No. 4838 R	B/COL C 4	"R" to right, Arabic 11mm CAIRO.In lower panel has Orange, Rose, Mauve ERD 2/11/28	

D	GAIRO
K	GAIRO 0603

D	قريفالي LECALRO	ŀ
I	N. 2182	. .









	<u></u>	
2.4.5	الاسك	





GHURIA الغورية	D
No. 5846	Π
	• .



B/COL C 5 "R" to left, Arabic 15.5mm over CAIRO. In lower panel handstamp c/n. Rose, Red

ERD 14/10/33 LRD 20/ 5/59

- B/COL C 6 "R" to left, Al Qahira over LE CAIRO (LE looks like an after thought). Handstamp c/n. Orange ERD 25/ 7/54 LRD / 1/63
- B/COL C 7 Broad "R" to left, Arabic above neatly printed LE CAIRE. Handstamp c/n. Red

ERD / 4/55 LRD 8/ 4/70

B/COL A 1 "R" to right, ALEXANDRIA above Arabic. In lower panel handstamp c/n. Rose

ERD 2/3/12 LRD / 1/29

- B/COL A 2 "R" to right, ALEXANDRIA over Arabic. In lower panel raised "o" of "No", handstamp c/n. Flesh ERD 6/ 7/16 LRD
- B/COL A 3 "R" to right, Arabic over ALEXANDRIA. In lower panel handstamp c/n. Rose
 - ERD 4/ 2/27 LRD 10/ 7/43
- B/COL A 4 "R" to left, Arabic over ALEXANDRIA. In lower panel handstamp c/n. Rose

ERD 6/ 8/30 LRD / 8/61

- B/COL A 5 Broad "R" to left, Arabic over ALEXANDRIA. In lower panel handstamp c/n. Rose ERD / 1/64 LRD /11/64
- B/COL G 1 "R" to right, GHURIA over Arabic In lower panel handstamp c/n. Mauve

ERD 23/12/66 LRD /10/37

B/COL "R" to left, Arabic over MBF 1 MOH. BEY FARID. In lower panel handstamp c/n. Red ERD /12/55 LRD / 1/57

Registration Labels

Black on Coloured Ground

"R" to left, Arabic over P. SAID. In lower panel handstamp c/n. Red

ERD 22/11/54 LRD / 4/56

"R" to left, Arabic over RUE FOUAD. In lower panel handstamp c/n. Red / 2/56 ERD LRD

"R" to left, Arabic over QENA. In lower tablet handstamp c/n. Red

LRD ERD / 2/56

Officials

All of these labels have the "R" to the left. All have the printed c/n in lower panel Labels 1 to 9 measure 42 x 18mm

Black on Red, O.H.E.M.S. OFF 1

ERD 13/10/34

LRD / 1/39

Black on Red, O.H.E.M.S No line under printed c/n

ERD

LRD

Blue (shades) on Green, O.H.E.M.S. "No" appears under "H"

ERD / 8/39

LRD /10/40

Blue on Green, O.H.E.M.S. "No" appears under "O"

LRD ERD

OFF 3

OFF 4

B/COL PS 1

B/COL RF 1

B/COL Q 1

OFF 2

19:19 7:1:







Where no date appears, the illustration has been taken from a label off cover.

A Philatelist Let Loose in Cairo

By : R.A Rimonis (ESC 486)

My recent holiday in Egypt gave me the opportunity to visit some stamp dealers in Cairo. Knowing the limitation of material sometimes available from dealers in England, I thought that this should prove a worthwhile field to explore.

It all started early one afternoon whilst wandering around the centre of Cairo. I was trying not to be another sightseer, after all this was my fifth visit to Egypt, when outside an office building a black and white notice board caught my eye, " Stamps of Collections ". My original plan was to visit the dealers later in my holiday, no further prompting was required and I entered the building into a dark and gloomy corridor and proceeded up some well worn steps.

Alfi Zaklama's office was a cool dusty room, where the tables were slightly piled with dusty worn catalogues, tattered philatelic magazines and old stockbooks. I mentioned that I was interested in the early issues and anything on King Farouk. From there on, with his English being good, we commenced to exchange ideas, share our knowledge and recount our odd finds. A stockbook was handed to me in which I found quarter sheets of some of the 1938 Official stamps and some postage dues of 1952, all showing the mis-perforation which came from the Royal Collection of King Farouk. The sheets were priced at £E10 each.

Amongst other items of note, were a marginal vertical pair of the 1mil. (native boats on the Nile) of the 1921 definative issue with the two dots missing from one stamp (\pounds E40); a selection of various types of label used between 1907 and 1929 for the sole purpose of indicating that the envelope had been found open and officially sealed (Timbres De Detour). These look pretty dull and uninteresting, but scarce to find in England.

There was an intriguing puzzle: a pair of 5pa. of 1866 on piece with one of them bisected diagonally, this value bisected is certainly unknown, as the only value recorded was in 1867 when in Alexandria the stock of 1pi. had run out and permission was given to allow the 2pi. to be bisected. Could this stamp have been used much later ?

The Zeheri catalogue that he used was a photocopy of the last edition in 1972, since when it has not been updated as there is no money to reprint it. No philatelic magazines are published in Egypt, so I was informed, and no stamp auctions are held. There is a Philatelic Society of Egypt and he mentioned that he was once chairperson, but then became disgruntled as the meetings were solely taken up by "bring and buy". The promotion and encouragement of the hobby seems totally neglected in Egypt.

On my return visit to Mr Zaklama I saw further stockbooks and interpostal seals in packets of 50, for which he was asking a very reasonable price of £E50, or £10. This worked out at only 20p. each, not bad if you collect them, they were of the VII or VIII types. I saw a selection of used postal stationery, from 1887 envelopes,1889 wrappers, some with hotel cancellations. There was some large blocks of the De La Rue pyramid stamps, and a block of four with interpanneau gutter margin at top of the 1923 2 mil. (Ras-el-Tin Palace) with the 3 mils. surcharge overprint showing off-set on the gummed side. This was the first stamp issued under the British Protectorate, issued on 9 October 1915, because of the increased expenditure involved

by war-time conditions, the original "town letter" late of 3 mil. was abolished and the remaining stock of stamps were locally surcharged.

I bought two blocks of four of the Royal Motor Mail labels, one block showing marginal guide lines; two pairs of old Express labels with Arabic inscription as well as the English used in the 1920's, and to conclude this effusion of "off beat" material, a pair of old Airmail labels with the inscription " BY ALA LITTORIA ". I have yet to see this label used on cover

Having now started the quest, the urge was to continue to explore for other dealers, so I called in at the Main Post Office to see if addresses of other dealers were available. In there I came across a separate room with over it's door "Commemorative Stamps", this was a sort of philatelic bureau. The walls in this little room had glass frames of past issues of stamps, all of which seemed to be stuck down on leaves. The assistant was not able to help me with the names of dealers, but a customer directed me to a nearby stamp shop, The Oriental Philatelic House on City Continental. Here I examined a bulging stockbook of run-of-the-mill Egyptian stamps. On my second visit I met the owner of the shop, Mr. Hagopian, who is a most pleasant and enthusiastic collector, who by all accounts was an international exhibitor and was shortly due to go to Canada.

Next I went to F. Cifariello and Company on Rue Cherif, where I found this little shop stocked mainly cards for various occasions, unfortunately stamps were only a sideline now, although they did have a permanent stock of albums and catalogues.

I visited the Postal Museum, where the gallery is devoted to the early development of the Egyptian postal system. Early evidence of Egyptian post have come from the large accumulation of clay tablets found at such sights as Tel-el-Amara some 5000 years ago, but there were non on show here. A pigeon post service was in operation during the times of Ramesses (about 1300 B.C.), however the real development of the postal system came during the Napolionic war, when in 1798 Naloleon defeated the Egyptian forces at the Battle of the Pyramids. Gradually the British Consular Post Office started to operate, in Alexandria from 1839, Suez in 1847 and in Cairo 1859.

With its' quaint creaking wooden floorboards, the first item that you meet looking straight at you, is a scribe sat cross-legged. The gallery exhibited mainly odds and ends, with in the centre of the floor an old wooden glass fronted show-case containing miniature postmen, carriages and trains. Another case contained a collection in disarray First Day Covers, not of exhibition quality. There is along a wall a section of original post boxes and a glass cabinet devoted to memorabilia of the UPU Congress of 1949, and in a far corner, a small library of books.

Feeling disappointed, I was about to leave, when a member of the staff invited me to inspect another room - the stamp room. Upon entering the small but tall room, which was hung with huge portraits of King Farouk and King Fuad, I felt as if I was in a special place. The cases holding the stamps were old wooden drum-like displays on circular movable frames, which contained not only Egyptian stamps, but stamps from other countries. Within the frames there were complete sheets of 100 stamps of the 1914 definative issue by De La Rue and various postal stationeries, with a large proportion of them being during King Fuad's reign. A few early issues were in open frames; there was a complete sheet of 200 of the 1874 1pi. showing an inverted stamp within the sheet, plus odd quarter sheets from the 1866 issue showing varieties.

Seriously lacking was material from the collection of King Farouk, there was not one sheet or part, or even a block of four. The Egyptians at the time of declaring itself a Republic, sought to rid completely any traces of their disgraced king.

The curator of the museum came in to see me. This gave me a golden opportunity of asking questions about various stamps. Keenly, I started about the Royal Collections of King Farouk and King Fuad. Clearly this was a non-starter, for this line of conversation never developed, for he was unable to assist or did not want to get involved. Instead he explained that he was a collector and a dealer, and that due to a lack of space, only a small part of the collection were put on display.

There had been a recent downpour that caused water to run down a wall, damaging some of the stamps on display. I was left with a strong impression about the museum being totally neglected and inadequately catered for. It certainly does not ensure the future of the stamps, nor will it preserve them in peak condition, for with a climate like Egypt's, the museum needs to be air-conditioned or temperature controlled.

I spent many delightful hours exploring the philatelic world of Egypt, with Mr. Zaklama being my guide, no doubt the next time that I am in Cairo I will pay him a visit. Incidentally, anyone wanting the address of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, I can supply it, in Arabic!



Black letters on dark red paper, gummed



White on blue paper



Red background on white paper



50 Mills green







3 Mills brown



Type 3 Labels Black printing on off white paper, brown gum

By : Kurt Wolfsbauer (ESC 197)The Austrian Commissioner

This international philatelic exhibition was held from 16-21st April 1997 in the exhibition centre at Sjolyst, which is on the outskirts of Oslo. The ground floor had the display frames and was also used by the 12 regions of Norway Post to market their regions. The whole of the first froor was taken over by dealers stands

Norwex '97 celebrated the 350th anniversary of the Norwegian postal service and the 125th anniversary of the Posthorn stamp - a world record, for no other design has lasted for so long.

The exhibition was officially opened by his majesty King Harald V, who personally applied the first cover with the special exhibition handstamp. After that he toured the exhibition and it was obvious that he was very interested. Norway Post laid on the opening ceremony for the 250 invited guests, and this was the most beautiful and exciting event that I have seen.

Naturally the displays by the Norwegian Postal Museum and the competitive entries mainly featured Nordic countries, but it had full F.I.P. and F.E.P.A. patronage with 229 entries, all 5 continents being represented. The exhibits were of a high quality, which is reflected in the awards :

14 Large Gold

47 Gold

- 59 Large Vermeil
- 62 Vermeil
- 31 Large Silver
- 13 Silver
- 3 Silver Bronze

Exhibits of Egyptian material were as follows :

Mohamed Adel Farid	Egyptian Airmail 1926-1946	Vermeil
Jeanne Stephan Fikry	Egyptian Airmail 1910-1938	Large Vermeil
Kurt Wolfsbauer	The Austrian Post in Egypt	Gold

Query Corner

Has any member seen, or can shed any light upon, this c.1930 Imperial Airways coloured vignette, which has a "sun" behind the pyramid ? Philip Mason (ESC 484



Normal





With "sun"

Auction Action

The Gernot Roidl auction of 17 May 1997 offered this rather unusual / attractive item. There are 20 one millieme stamps forming the pyramid, postmarked Cairo 22 12 1906. Are there any other "odd" items lurking in members' collections?



Make a Note

The ESC is to hold a Regional Meeting at the Leeds P.S. Stamp Fair on Saturday 22 November. More details nearer the event.



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