

Airmail of Egypt 1927 to 1937

Purpose of Exhibit: This frame display aims to provide a detailed overview of Egypt's Airmail from 1927-1937, with comprehensive coverage of the period's historical context, postage rates, and postal markings.

Background:

This exhibit explores the postal history of airmail in Egypt, covering postage covers, cards, and the inaugural Egypt flights with airmail issues. Included are the 1926 first airmail set, 1931 Graf Zeppelin overprint values, and the 1933 air mail set of 21 values. The study analyzes postmarks, destinations, postal fees, and first and latest dates of use, including some unusual ones. The presentation is in chronological order, with flight postage rates shown. Illustrations, route maps, and narratives provide historical context.

Following pioneer flights from 1910 to 1925, Egypt began a flight route to Iraq in 1926, with the British Royal Air Force carrying the post. The first airmail stamp, a 27mills violet stamp, was issued on March 10, 1926, and used on airmail post carried by the RAF between Cairo and Baghdad. The Imperial Airways took over RAF on January 12, 1927, and extended the airmail service to connect Cairo-Baghdad-Basra and deliver post to Karachi, India.

The early 1930s saw the development of the airmail service in Egypt, as it was a central hub for passengers traveling to India, Asia, southern, and central Africa. This was crucial for Great Britain and its colonies. Pioneer carriers such as Imperial Airways, KLM, and Ala Littoria, as well as Misr Airwork, which provided more services for local routes than international ones, offered services at that time. With increased commercial flights came changes in the tariff of postal services, both up and down.

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What is Presented: Items of interest are highlighted with  **Red Circle.**

Exhibit Plan: This exhibit is arranged in chronological order to years.

- Beginning of Airmail in Egypt
- Graf Zeppelin
- First Flights
- Dutch Airmail
- Misr Airwork
- The Civil Routes

EGYPT AIRMAIL TO BASRA

Imperial Airways acquired the R.A.F. Cairo-Baghdad air service on January 12th, 1927, and expanded it to Basra, with flights departing every two weeks. On January 13th, 1927, the inaugural flight arrived at Baghdad, followed by Basra the following day. The registered mail takes 3 days to arrive to Basra.



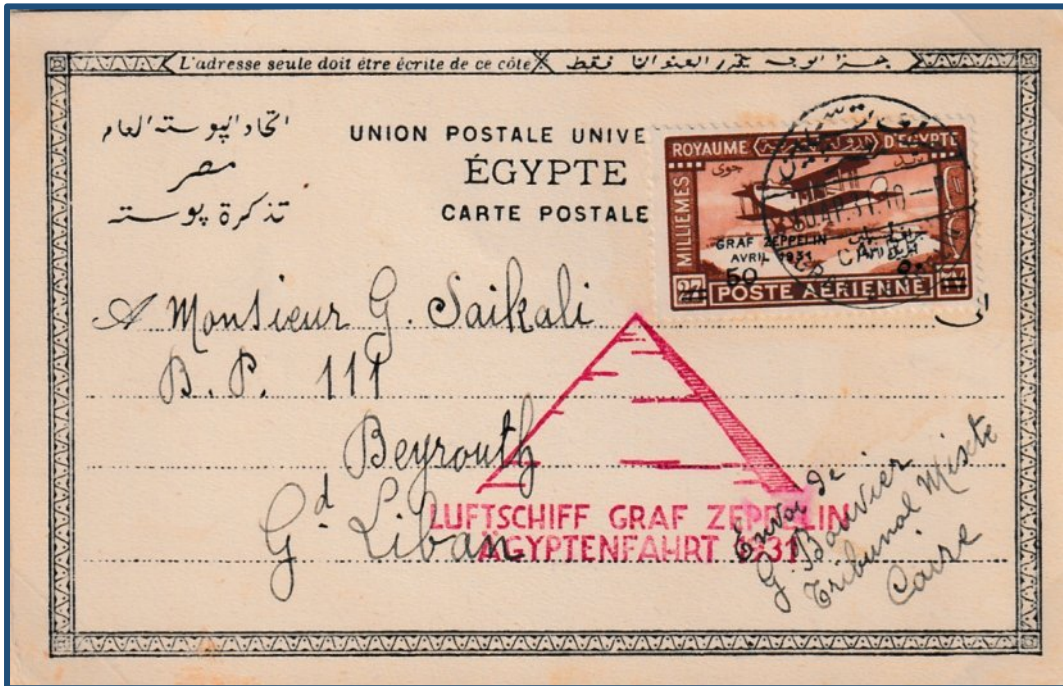
From Egypt Cook's Post Office (CAIRO) CDS, Jan 6th, 1927, mailed to Basra, Iraq, arrived by first flight Cairo-Baghdad-Basrah on Jan 15th, 1927.
 Franked: Base 25 mills, short 2 mills. Overfranked by 3 mills.



Cairo-Basrah by Imperial Airways, started fortnightly on Jan 14th, 1927, and became weekly on 12 April 1927. Registered cover carried on first weekly flight. Franked: Base 15 mills, air 12 mills, registration 15 mills, total 42 mills. Overfranked 15 mills.

THE 1931 "GRAF ZEPPELIN" EGYPT FLIGHT

CAIRO, April 10th, 1931, at about 3 o'clock morning, just twenty-six hours after leaving Friedrichshafen, the roar of the Graf Zeppelin was heard over Egypt on its first visit to Cairo.



Postcard sent by 'Graf Zeppelin' from Cairo to Bayreuth, April 10th, 1931. With red 'Agypten Fahrt' cachet. CDS Graf Zeppelin Cairo. Franked: 50 mills.



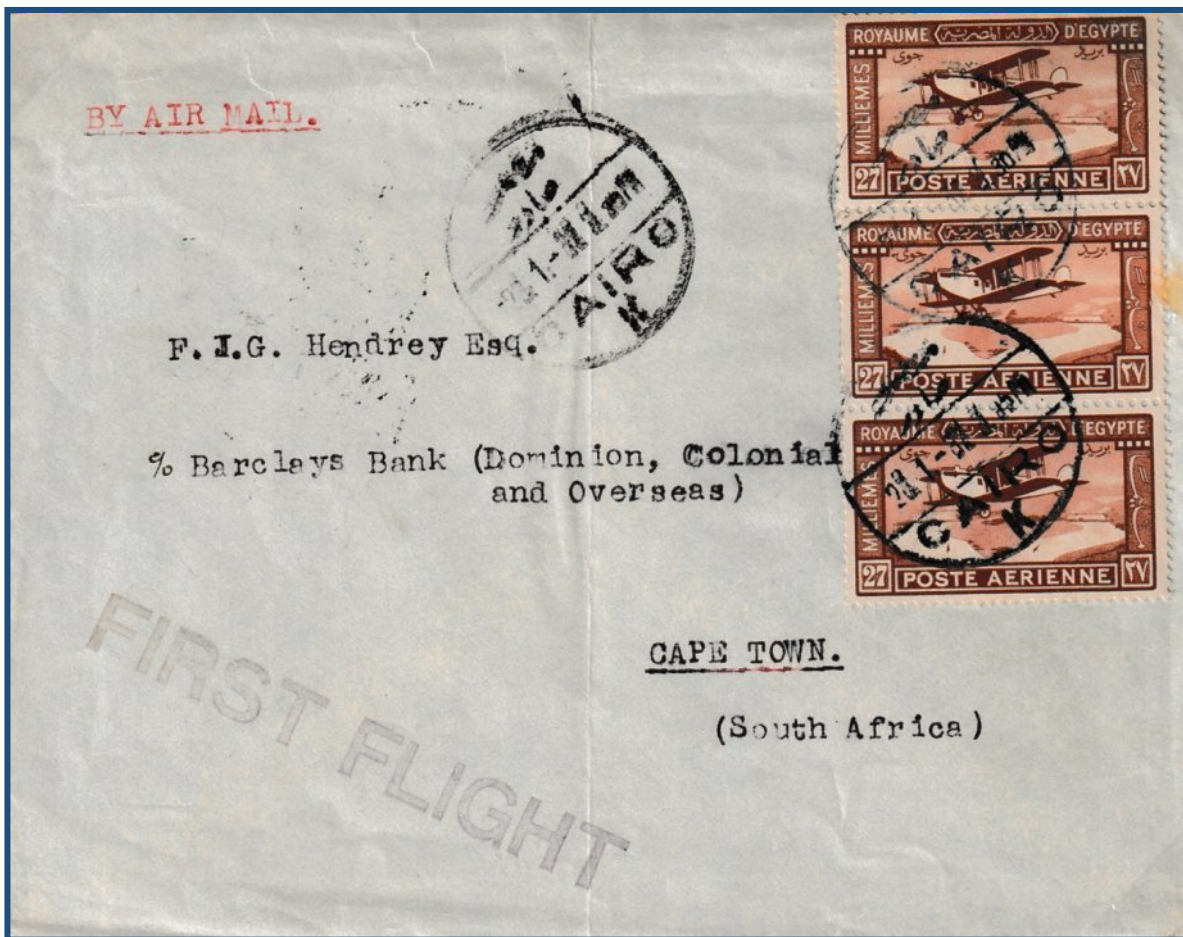
Cover by 'Graf Zeppelin' from Cairo to Germany, April 10th, 1931. With red 'By Airship "Graf Zeppelin"' cachet. CDS Graf Zeppelin Cairo. Franked: 100 mills.

FIRST FLIGHTS – INDIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

Because Egypt has always been a central hub for passengers traveling to India, Asia, and southern and central Africa, it was essential to have the airmail service developed in early 1930's.



Postcard first flight by Dutch – India Air Line from Port-Said to Berlin, Germany, Port-Said CDS, November 5th, 1931. With red cachet 1st Flight. Franking: 30 Mi. 2nd rate.



Reverse Arrival CDS
CAPETOWN
Feb 2nd, 1932



Revers shown
details about Airline,
Famous LONDON-
CAPE TOWN LINE

Cover sent from Cairo on 23 January 1932, to Cape Town, South Africa. First flight by The Famous London – Cape Town Line arrive to Cape Town on February 2nd, 1932.

DUTCH AIRMAIL

On November 1st, 1931, the Egyptian authorities approved the use of both K.L.M. (Dutch Air Line) and Imperial Airways for transporting mail to Europe. On November 9th, it was announced that the air mail service would be available from Alexandria on Fridays through Mondays via Imperial Airways.



Cover 17 July 1933 Dutch Airmail sent to London from Cairo, Egypt with 1933 Airmails 1m, 2x2m, 3m, 4m, 5m, 6m, 2x7m, 9m, 10m, 20m, 30m and scare use of 200m top value tided by Cairo CDS, on reverse, with 'Retta' cancels. **Unusual Usage.**



Reverse of the cover.

ALEXANDRIA – SINGAPORE + CAIRO - ZURICH

First flight EGYPT - SINGAPORE, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

On December 12th, 1933, service extended from Rangoon to Singapore via Bangkok and Alor Star.



Cover 11 Dec 1933.
Sent to Singapore from Alexandria, Egypt. First flight London to Singapore via Paris – Cairo – Karachi – Calcutta – Rangoon. 1st day opening of the regular Airmail service by Imperial Airways.

Less than 10 items believed to exist.



Commercial advertising cover 'Shephard's Hotel' Egypt CDS Jun 22, 1934, sent to Zurich, Suisse via Misr Airwork. Franked: 20 mills. covering postage rate.

COMMERCIAL FLIGHT - SIMON ARZT

The Simon Arzt post office in Port Said operated from October 1934 to March 1957 and had distinctive postal markings. It played a crucial role in facilitating communication and commerce in the region and is remembered as an important institution in the history of Port Said.



Cover 23 Aug 1935 sent to England from Port-Said via Alexandria, Egypt.
 Franking: base air 9x2m, 10m total 28m correct franking.



Cover 4 Apr 1935 sent to England from Port-Said via Alexandria, Egypt.
 Cancelled by Simon Arzt CDS. Franking: Total 28m correct franking.

AIRMAIL TO PALESTINE + SYRIA BY MISR AIRWORK

The flight from Cairo to Haifa called at Port-Said & Lydda which was the aerodrome for Jerusalem. This cover flown on the 1st flight when service became a daily one.



Cover to R.A.F Ramleh, also known as ER RAMLE a few miles from Lydda. Franked 25 mills, Palestine did not qualify for the preferential "Empire" surface rate 15mills, so this is 20mills plus 5mills air mail surcharge. CDS Abu Suwer Aug 22, 1935. Transit marked Cairo 23 Aug, arrive ER RAMLE 24 Aug 1935



Cover correctly franked 25 mills which includes the Airmail surcharge of 5m. From Cairo on 23 August 1935 Back of cover: Cancelled MOUVEMENT ETRANGER, CAIRO 23 August 1935. Transit Mark BEYROUT 26 August, arrived CDS SOFAR 26 August 1935

A new service was introduced whereby mail for Lebanon and Syria was Flown to Haifa, and then carried overland (by car) to Beirut and Damascus.

CYPRUS - EGYPT BY MISR AIRWORK

The first flight from Cyprus - Egypt took place 21 days before the first from Egypt, it is the reason being the Egyptian authorities were that much later in confirming the service. The first mail from Cyprus being carried on 10th Aug 1935, some 14 days before the first mail flown from Egypt.



Cover bearing the Cypriot Airmail cachet, and correctly franked canceled Nicosia, 9.30am. 4 Aug 1935. Arrived at Cairo, same date at 5-6pm, takes around 7 hours to arrive.



Sealed cover franked 21/2pi. for normal rate + 1pi for Air mail surcharge. Cancelled Nicosia 10 Aug 1935, transit mark Cairo 11 Aug, arrive Heliopolis 12 Aug 1935.

CYPRUS - EGYPT BY MISR AIRWORK

The service which opened in August 1935 was short-lived, and was canceled 19th October, with a forecast that it would be re-introduced in 1936. Once again, the first flight was ahead of that from Egypt. As in 1935, it was a weekly service and continued until 30th September.



Cover sent from NICOSIA 10 August 1936, 10 AM. Arrived in CAIRO PAR AVION (2) on 10 August 1936, 6-7 PM. This is 1st flight by MISR AIRLINES.



Cover from Port-Said 24 August 1936 sent to CYPRUS on reverse CDS's Arrival NICOSIA 24 August 1936; LIMASSOL, then KYRENIA 26 August 1936.

**MISR AIRWORK TO SWITZERLAND
MISR AIRWORK TO IRAQ**



Cover sent from Port-Said 7 Feb 1936 Canceled by Simon-
Arzt. Arrived at Klosters -
Switzerland on 12 Nov 1936.
Franked: 33 mills.



Cover sent from Port-Said to Bagdad on 16 Dec 1936 Canceled by Port-Said Traffic, C/O
Post Master, arrived at BAGHDAD on 17 Dec 1936. Postmarked green cachet FIRST
FLIGHT BY MISR AIR LINES (Sep. 16th. 1936 Port-Said Bagdad, EGYPT-IRAQ) 1st flight.

A Twice weekly Air mail service Port-Said to Bagdad by Misr Airworks was started 16 September 1936. Each Wednesday and Friday (the 16 was a Wednesday). The Airmail surcharge for a letter of 20gms was 12 mills, this item is unsealed, so it travelled by Printed Matter rate 4 mills plus 12 mills surcharge.

Less than 10 items believed to exist mailed on first flight to Bagdad with C/O Post Master.

MISR AIRWORK AND ALA LITTORIA

Ala Littoria S.A. was the Italian national airline that operated during the fascist regime in the 1930s and 1940s. A first flight cover of the Ala Littoria to Haifa, this cover addressed to Cairo was flown from Haifa by Misr Airworks.



Cover sent from Iraq to Port-Said Egypt 10 Dec 1936 Canceled by Rashid, transit Baghdad, arrived at Port-Said on 11 Dec 1936. Postmarked green cachet (Iraq, Palestine, Egypt) opening first flight for Misr Airworks - Air mail line.



Back of the cover with Port-Said transit 11 Dec 1935 and

ONE OF FIVE ITEMS RECORDED 3CM/AIR FIELD - FIRST FLIGHT FROM IRAQ TO EGYPT

CAIRO TO MELBOURNE - VIC BY ALA LITTORIA

MISR AIRWORK AND ALA LITTORIA

Ala Littoria S.A. was the Italian national airline that operated during the fascist regime in the 1930s and 1940s. A first flight cover of the Ala Littoria to Haifa, this cover addressed to Cairo was flown from Haifa by Misr Airworks.



Cover sent from Cairo to Melbourne - VIC 7 Jul 1937 Canceled by ROMA 1^D 'VOLO ROMA - HAIFA' and arrived at CAIRO 'PAR AVION' on 8 Jul 1937.



Cover sent from Roma to Cairo 7 Jul 1937 Canceled by ROMA 1^D 'VOLO ROMA - HAIFA' and arrived at CAIRO 'PAR AVION' on 8 Jul 1937.

MISR AIRWORK TO SYRIA 1937

In August of 1935, a new service was introduced but was unfortunately suspended on September 19th of the same year. It was later re-introduced on May 20th, 1937, allowing for transportation by air to Haifa and then continued overland by road to Beirut and Damascus within the same day.



Cover sent from Port-Said to Syria on 20 May 1937. 1st flight to Syria after re-introduced arrived at Damascus on 21 May 1937 takes one day to arrive.



Back of the cover with DAMAS CDS 21 May 1937.

MISR AIRWORK - CYPRUS SERVICE 1937

Flight in both directions started simultaneously at the beginning of June. Once again, a weekly service which lasted until 1st October 1937.



Cover sent from Alexandria to Cyprus on 2 Jun 1937. 1st flight to Cyprus after re-introduced arrived at LIMASSOL on 3 Jun 1937 takes one day to arrive.



Cover sent from LIMASSOL to Port-Said on 4 Jun 1937. 1st flight from Cyprus to Alexandria, Egypt after re-introduced arrived at Port-Said on 5 Jun 1937.

MISR AIRWORK - INDIA 1937



Cover from Port-Said, Simon Arzt post office 24 November 1937. Sent to Calcutta via Alexandria same day. Arrived at Calcutta 29 November 1937. By Misr Airworks.



At Almaza Airport in Cairo, two De Havilland DH 89's, also known as The Rapid, belonging to Misr Airlines, are pictured being refueled. These aircrafts are likely to have been used for transporting cargo across the globe.