

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

MARCH 1939

NO. 4.

THE EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

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- CHAIRMAN. Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E.  
92 Harley Street, London. W. 1.
- KEEPER OF THE RECORD. A. S. Mackenzie-Low.  
" The Grange ",  
Old Town, Bexhill-on-Sea. Sussex.
- EXCHANGE PACKET SUPERINTENDENT. E. F. Hurt.  
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Dalkeith Road, Harpenden. Herts.
- SECRETARY-TREASURER. F. S. Mumford.  
174 Buxton Road. Stockport. Cheshire.

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Meetings of the Full Circle are held four times a year and the dates of those meetings will be announced from time to time in the Quarterly Circular.

Meetings of the Members interested in the various Studies are held in the intervening months by arrangement.

Members are invited to make us of the " Query Section " of this Circular to the fullest possible extent.

Subscriptions are due on the 1st. of January and are as follows :-

Full Members	10/6 per annum.
Corresponding Members.	7/6 per annum.

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MEMBERSHIP ROLL.

" F " indicates Full Members.

" C " indicates Corresponding Members.

- C. 1. G. Seymour Thompson. 88 Nightingale Lane. Bromley. Kent
- F. 2. A. S. Mackenzie-Low. " The Grange " , Old Town, Bexhill-on-Sea.Sussex.
- F. 3. Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E., 92 Harley Street. London. W. 1.
- F. 5. Colonel G. Grylls, " Green Hollow ", Bessels Green, Sevenoaks. Kent.
- F. 8. D. B. Armstrong, 428 Strand. London. W.C.2.
- F. 9. E. F. Hurt, "Wingfield ". Dalkeith Road. Harpenden. Herts.
- F. 10. Captain G. L. Hearn. " Corey's Mount ", Stevenage. Herts.
- F. 13. Dr. R. J. C. Thompson, C.M.G., D.S.O. St. Thomas' Hospital, Medical School, London. S.E. 1.

- F. 14. W. C. Hindo. 20 Southdown Crescent. Cheadle Hulme. Cheshire.
- F. 15. R. Seymour Blomfield. R.D. 7 Knoxville, Tenn. U.S.A.
- F. 16. Jean Boulad. Cie du Canal de Suez. Ismailia. Egypt.
- F. 17. Charles Fox. 298 West 11 Street, New York. U.S.A.
- F. 19. Lt.Colonel G.R. Worthington-Wilmer, D.S.O. Taylor's Close, Beaulieu.  
Hants.
- F. 20. Major J.J.Bramble, O.B.E. Flat 4.23 Queen's Gate Gardens, London.S.W.7.
- F. 21. E. L. Angeloglou. 44 Rue Malika Farida, Cairo Egypt.
- F. 22. F. S. Mumford. 174 Buxton Road, Stockport. Cheshire.
- F. 24. F. S. Sillitoe, M.B.E., 31 Priory Road. Kew. Surrey.
- F. 25. S. Lord. 20 Hackings Hey. Liverpool. 2.
- F. 26. J. R. Raeburn. 122 Montford Avenue. Kings Park. Glasgow. S. 4.
- F. 27. Surg. Captain F. F. Mahon, R.N. Princess Royal Hotel, Filey Road, South  
Cliff. Scarborough. Yorks.
- F. 28. Mrs Ian Stuart. 89 Fotheringay Road, Maxwell Park, Glasgow. S. 1.
- F. 29. R. Oakley. " Warminster " 208 Ellerdine Road. Hounslow. Middlx.
- F. 31. Douglas McNeillie, Army Audit Office. Headquarters B.T.E. Cairo. Egypt.
- F. 32. J. R. Danson, M.C. Tower Building. Liverpool. 3.
- F. 33. A. L. Pemberton. 12 South Molton Street. London. W. 1.
- F. 34. Harry Whittaker. 411 Chester Street. Victoria B.C. Canada.
- F. 35. P. L. Pemberton. 12 South Molton Street. London. W. 1.
- F. 36. Stanford Cade. F.R.C.S. 68 Harley Street. London. W. 1.
- F. 38. A. Lester Taylor. 2925 Granville Street. Vancouver. B.C. Canada.
- F. 39. Ernest A. Kehr. 127-10, 103 Avenue, Richmond Hill. New York. U.S.A.
- F. 40. A. S. Arnold, Counsellor at Law. Commonwealth Bank Buildings. Metuchen.  
N.J. U.S.A.
- F. 41. B. McGowan. " Linwood ", Dumfries. Scotland.
- F. 42. Ibrahim Chaftar. sous-chef comptable, Sucrerie d'Armant. Upper Egypt
- F. 43. Georges N. Zeheri, Immeuble Doss Pacha.24 Avenue Fouad 1er.Cairo. Egypt.
- F. 44. C. G. Eyre. " Gurteen ", Beech Hill Crescent. Mansfield.
- F. 45. E. Harold Charlesworth, Department of Chemistry. University of Manitoba.  
Winnipeg. Canada.

PROGRAMME FOR THE SESSION, 1939.

- Study I. The History of the Egyptian Post offices in Turkey, the Red Sea area and the Sudan, their duration, the stamps used in them and the postal rates and routes.  
Study entrusted to :- Charles Fox Esqre, 298 West II Street, New York.  
U.S.A.
- Study II. The History of the Foreign Post Offices in Egypt on the lines of Study I  
Study divided and entrusted to :-  
French P.O. E.F.Hurt Esqre."Wingfield", Dalkeith Road.Harpenden.Herts.  
Italian P.O. Dr.W.Byam,O.B.E. 92 Harley Street. London. W.1.  
British P.O. A.L.Pemberton Esqre. 12 South Molton Street, London.W.1.  
Austrian P.O. F.S.Mumford Esqre. 174 Buxton Road, Stockport. Cheshire.  
Greek P.O. P.L.Pemberton Esqre.12 South Molton Street. London. W.1.  
Russian P.O. Entrusted, pro tem., to A.S.Mackenzie-Low Esqre. " The  
Grange", Old Town, Bexhill-on-Sea. Sussex.
- Study III. The Postal History of the Suez Canal Zone including the Egyptian Govern-  
ment Offices and the Suez Canal Company's Stamps, their use and the  
forgeries of the same .  
Study entrusted to :- Lt.Colonel G.R.Worthington-Wilmer, D.S.O.  
Taylor's Close, Beaulieu, Hants. In collaboration with  
Mons. Jean Boulad, Cie du Canal de Suez. Ismailia. Egypt.
- Study IV. Pre-Stamp Egyptian Postal History in the Nineteenth Century and the  
Posta Europea. Study entrusted to :- A.S.Mackenzie-Low Esqre.  
" The Grange", Old Town, Bexhill-on-Sea. Sussex.
- Study V. The History of the carriage of Egyptian Official Postal Matter and the  
use of Interpostal Labels,  
Study entrusted to :- Douglas McNeillie Esqre, Army Audit Office.  
Headquarters B.T.E. Cairo. Egypt.
- Study VI. The Postal Markings of Egypt, 1866 to 1880.  
Study entrusted to :- R.Seymour Blomfield Esqre. R.D. 7 Knoxville,  
Tenn. U.S.A.
- Study VII. The Postal markings of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan from 1896, on the lines of  
Study VI. Study entrusted to a sub-group of the Circle and  
W.C.Hindo Esqre., 20 Southdown Crescent. Cheadle Hulme. Cheshire.
- Study VIII. The Compilation of an extensive Check List of Egypt which shall include  
all Postal Matter. Study entrusted to :- Mons. Georges N. Zeheri,  
Immeuble Doss Pacha.24 Avenue Fouad 1er.Cairo. Egypt.
- Study IX. The Classification of the Essays, Proofs and Colour Trials for the  
stamps of Egypt. Study not yet opened.

Study X. The Forgeries of the stamps of Egypt.  
Study not yet opened.

Study XI. The Perforating Machines used in connection with the preparation of the stamps of Egypt.  
Study not yet opened.

Will those Members who have information or material likely to be of use in furthering any of the above Studies kindly communicate with the responsible member whose name and address appears in the above programme.

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THE FRENCH POST OFFICES IN EGYPT.

Original French Script by Jean Boulard Esqre.  
Translation by E. F. Hurt Esqre.

The first office was opened at Alexandria in 1830.

The route of the French boats was very important ; several lines passed via Alexandria : up until 1851 the services of the French State ran between Marseilles and Alexandria via Malta, then at that period the State abandoned and sold the monopoly of the transport of the Compagnie des Messageries Nationales ( 22.2.1851. ) ; on 28.2.1853 this Company took the name of Messageries Imperiales, and in 1871 it again changed and became the Messageries, which is the present name of the Company. In 1860, this line was extended as far as Jaffa and Bey routh on account of the Syrian Campaign, but ion 1861 the service returned to normal. Up till 28.11.1854 there were 24 voyages a year, and after that date 26. In 1866 this line was named Line " V " .

The second Office was that of Suez. It was opened, as a result of a decision of 6.10.1862, to serve as the beginning of the overland route of the future maritime line between Marseilles and Shanghai, via Alexandria , Cairo, Suez ( Transhipment in 38 hours from Alexandria to Suez) . This line was eventually named Line "O". It was simply a forwarding office for Alexandria.

On the 27.10.1862 the " Alphee " of the Messageries Imperiales left Suez for Saigon setting up the new direct French Service across Egypt; the " Alphee " was followed a month afterwards by the " Imperatrice ". On 4.1.1863 the " Dupleix" of the lien between Alexandria and Marseilles landed in France the first mail from the Far East, brought to Suez by the " Alphee " the month before.

Then on the 22.7.1864 a monthly service to Reunion was inaugurated from this town. This was Line " T ". It was closed on the 1st. December 1888.

The third office was that of Cairo.

Opened in November 1865 to facilitate the transport of the courier Between Alexandria and Suez , this office was very short-lived. The cutting of the Suez Canal in 1869 brought about in April 1870 a modification to the journey between Alexandria and Suez, for the stay at Alexandria, and later on, the direct communication with the offices at Cairo, were abolished.

On the 25.7.1868 Mr. Guarmani, an Italian, was made the agent of the Messageries Imperiales at Cairo and Director of the French Post Office in Cairo. He left Egypt towards the end of January 1869.

The fourth office was that of Port Said.

Set up on the 25<sup>th</sup>. April 1859, to serve as the terminus of the Suez Canal, this town grew rapidly in importance on account of the great number of French people who were brought to work on the Canal.

On the 26<sup>th</sup>. February 1865, a regular steamboat service between port Said and Alexandria was inaugurated by Messrs Borel Lavaley & Co. There were four return voyages per month.

The French Post Office was only opened on the 18.6.1867 following the establishment by the Compagnie des Messageries Imperiales of a service which put in here on the Syrian route between Alexandria and Jaffa. Besides this, from the beginning of 1866 the steamboats of Messrs Frissnet & Co of Marseilles had put in here three times a month. This office became of greater importance after the opening of the Suez Canal : the packet boats on the South African, India and Far Eastern routes ceased calling at Alexandria and proceeded direct from Marseilles to Port Said.

In 1869 the boats of the Compagnie des Messageries Imperiales of France touched Port Said 3 times a month, called at Alexandria, and three times a month went on to Syria.

At the same period the boats of the Compagnie Mare Fraissinet Pere et Fils were calling at Port Said 4 times a month.

VARIOUS.

The new line from France to Indo-China was inaugurated by the departure from Marseilles on the 19.10.1862 of the " Neva ", arriving at Alexandria 25.10.1862 in the morning.

Depart Alexandria	25.10.1862.
Arrive Suez	26.18.1862.
Depart Suez	27.10.1862 by the " Imperatrice ".

which made its first voyage to India.

( Journal Le Spettatore Egiziano, October 1862 )

Boat Services of the Messageries Imperiales, 16.6.1867.

European Line.

Marseilles Depart	9.19.29. of each month.
Alexandria arrive	5. 15.25 of each month.
Alexandria Depart	9.19.29. of each month.

Line to Syria & Constantinople.

Constantinople depart	3, 13, 23, of each month.
Smyrna depart	6, 16, 26, of each month.
Alexandria arrive	5, 15, 25, of each month.
Alexandria depart	8, 18, 28, of each month.

Line to Hongkong & Japan.

Hongkong depart.	29th.	of each month.
Suez arrive	27th.	of each month.
Suez depart	27th.	of each month.

Line to Mauritius & Reunion.

Port Louis depart.	18th.	of each month.
Suez arrive	7th.	of each month.
Suez depart	17th.	of each month.

Journal " Le Mil " of the 20.6.1867.

The Compagnie des Messageries Imperiales decided that port Said henceforth would serve as part of the call on the line from Alexandria to Smyrna. The boats on the Syrian line, instead of leaving from Alexandria on the 8, 18, & 28 of each month at 8 a.m. left on the 7, 17, & 27 at 10 a.m. In this way the hours of arrival and departure in the Syrian ports did not have to be changed.

The French Postal Administration had just established a Post Office at Port Said. This Office was opened on 18<sup>th</sup>. June and dealt with mail between Port Said, Alexandria and France for the French mailboats on the 9, 19, & 29 of each month.

The conditions of postage and the postal rates are the same as those of Alexandria.

The above times are the natural results of great development made by Port Said for some time.

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MESSRS BRIGGS & Co.

As a result of some correspondence with Mr F. A. Smuth of Cairo, the well-known collector of Egypt, concerning Messrs Briggs & Co. who noted as mail forwarding agents, he writes as follows :-

" I have come across the following in an article in our local press :-

Baldwin's mantle fell on Samuel Briggs, who became the chief British merchant for a long time after Baldwin had ceased to be the Consul General in Alexandria. I have not been able to trace the date of arrival of this remarkable, though, almost forgotten, figure in Egypt but Lord Valentia, who passed through in 1805, mentions seeing him in Alexandria. Salt, who was appointed consul general in 1816 refers to Briggs' great kindness lending him money on arrival. At this time Briggs had become the friend and agent of Mohamod Ali and, as I have seen from correspondence of Briggs and others, was entrusted by the Pasha with much of his English business..... In 1818 Brigs was in India and Lieutenant Colonel Fitz-Clarence says in an account of his journey through Egypt: " I met ( in Bombay ) a gentleman of the name of Briggs, belonging to a mercantile house at Alexandria and Cairo, who has lately come

From Egypt. He is now employed in opening a trade between Egypt and India and has given me letters to his house and much valuable information. " ..... The P. & O. Agent in Egypt was Briggs, who doubtless had played a considerable part behind the scenes in inducing the Pasha to grant the concession. At first, Warhorn and Hill were in charge in Egypt, but soon after handed over to the Egypt Transit Company under Thurnburn, a well-known resident. I have seen an original draft agreement between the Pasha and Thurnburn mentioning the road ( Suez Road ) and the Construction of Post Houses. "

Mr Smyth states that the above in a quotation from an article on " A Revival of the Overland Route " apropos of the completion of the tarred road to Suez and written in 1936. This confirms that Briggs & Co were allocated in Alexandria.

E. F. Hurt

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MEETINGS OF THE CIRCLE.

The TWENTY-FOURTH meeting of the Full Circle ( the Annual General Meeting ) was held at the residence of the Chairman, Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E., 92 Harley Street, London. W. Q. on Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup>. 1939 at 2-30 p.m. when the following members attended :- The Chairman, J.J.Bramble, G. Grylls, G.L.Hearn, A.S.Mackenzie-Low, F.S.Munford, A.L.Pemberton, F.S.Sillitoe, R.J.C.Thompson and G.R.Worthington-Wilmer.

Apologies for absence were received from J.R.Danson and W.O.Hindo.

The following were elected to serve on the Executive during 1939 :-

Chairman,	Dr. W. Byam.
Keeper of the Philatelic Record,	A. S. Mackenzie-Low.
Exchange packet Superintendent,	E. F. Hurt.
Secretary-Treasurer,	F. S. Munford.

The accounts of the Circle of for the year 1938 were received and passed, and the Chairman then mentioned the cost of the recent institution of the " Quarterly Circular " and the increasing number of the Reports which had to be circulated by the Keeper of the Philatelic Record. These matters were fully discussed at some length and. On the proposal of Dr. R.J.C.Thompson, seconded by Captain G.L. Hearn and carried unanimously it was decided to raise the subscription as follows :- Full members from 7/6 per annum to 10/6 per annum. Corresponding Members from 5/- per annum to 7/6 per annum. These new rates to become operative for the current year from January 1st 1939.

A letter from Mr. Douglas McNeill, having reference to the status of the 100 Mils. With double Crown overprint, was read and carefully considered. It was decided to accept this stamp as a genuine overprint error but to record the fact that the only known copies known at the present time came from a single sheet which was found in mint condition as part of the collection of the late Post-Master General, Borton Pacha.

Study VIII. " The Compilation of an extensive Check List of Egypt which shall include all Postal Matter " was formally opened and entrusted to Mr Georges M. Zeheri. It was decided that the development of Mr Zeheri's Catalogue should constitute this Study, that the Catalogue would remain his property; that the



Circle would give all possible assistance in its production and that Mr Z eheri be requested to print :- " produced with the technical philatelic assistance of the Egypt Study Circle, who do not accept responsibility for any of thee values quotes " , or some similar statement on the title page of his catalogue.

Study III, part 3 & 5 were then presented by Lt.Colonel G. R. Worthington-Wilmer discussed and passed for circulated.

After tea the Chairman gave a display of the early Postage Dues of Egypt and expressed the opinion that, what have hitherto been considered as two separate issues ( 1884 & 1886. ), were, in fact, two printings of the same issue. He Thought that the first printing was probably produced on a remainder of the paper used for the printing of the 1867 issue. In support of this theory Dr. Byam produced a marginal block of the 20 para on paper watermarked in Italian similar To that used for the 1867 issue. Dr. Byam then demonstrated how the five denominations were built up form a single die prepared for the 20 para. For each value there was an original stone of four transfers from the original die. In all but the 20 para the unwanted portions of the design were stopped out and transfers from supplementary dies substituted. In this way is explained the Varying relative positions of the design by means of which the four types for Each value can be recognised. The 20 paras differ from the other values, in that no variation in position oof different portions of the design occurs on any of the four types. A proof form the supplementary value Die was displayed as evidence of the above theory. It showed no portion of the design fro the 20 para stamp.

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On Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup>. 1939 a Group meeting was held at 92 Harley Street and Was attended by The Chairman, J.J.Bramble & Stanford Cade of the Circle and Doctors Wortman and Anthony of the Russian Study Circle, the subject under discussion being the Russian Post Office in Alexandria. The meeting came to the following conclusions :-

1. The Russian Alexandria P.o. was opened in 1857.
2. Prepayment was not essential until 1845 in the Russian Post Offices generally when stamped stationewry came into use.
3. The Dotted postmark, as used in the Levant Offices, was instroduce about 1850.
4. There were six types of dotted postmark. 49 dots.
5. Postmark numbers, 777-787 incl. , 812 and 823-827 incl. allotted to the original R.O.P. & T.
6. Seventeen original offices :-

782 Treizond

783 Beyrout ( Syria )

Rest not classified

CONGRATULATIONS.

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Members will be pleased to learn that our Chairman, Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E. has recently been co-opted to the Council of the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

Dr. Byam read a paper entitled " Recent Observations on the Stamps of Egypt " before the " Royal " on the 23rd. February, and, at the close Of the meeting, the President, Sir John Wilson, Bart. Asked him to convey Officially his congratulation to the member of the Egypt Study Circle and to inform them that he, the President, considered that they were doing much to advance the interest of philately.

We feel that all members of the Circle will keenly appreciate the kindly Words of Sir John Wilson, Bart.

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FORTHCOMING ARRANGEMENTS.

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March 18th. 1939.	Full Circle Meeting.
May 20th. 1939.	Full Circle Meeting.

These meetings will be held at 92 Harley Street. London. W. 1.

S U B S C R I P T I O N S .

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Will Member kindly note that, at the January meetings, it was decided to raise the subscriptions as follows :-

Full members	from 7/6 per annum to 10/6 per annum.
Corresponding Members	from 5/- per annum to 7/5 per annum.

It was then decided hat these new rates should become operative for The current year from January 1st. 1939.

A further note on the subject will be found on page 7 of the Quarterly Circular, under the heading " Meetings of the Circle ".