

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

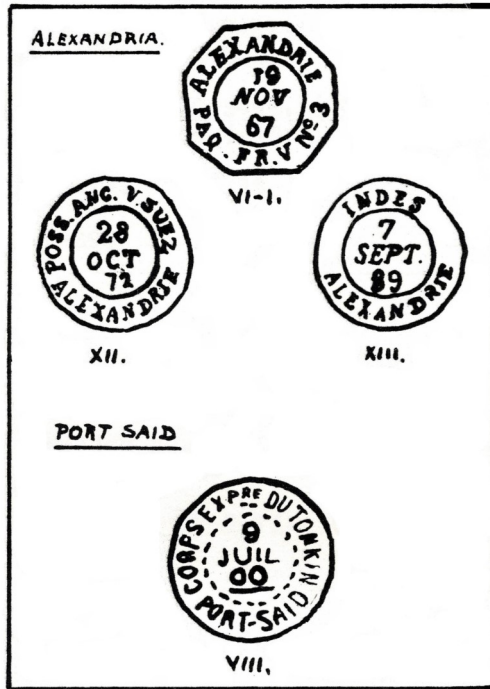
QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

AUGUST 1939

NO. 5.

STUDY II.

THE MARKINGS OF THE FRENCH P.O. IN EGYPT.



ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

ALEXANDRIA

- Type D. Earliest 1-9-99. ( Mandat ) ( 16 )
- II. Latest 22-3-54. ( Cover ) ( 16 )
- III. Latest 1-3-76. ( 16 )
- III-I. Earliest 10-10-47. ( 16 )
- Latest 23-7-54. ( 16 )
- IV. Latest 14-3-76. ( 14 )
- Insert VI-1. ( Ligne V ) 19-11-67. ( 16 ). Boats No.s 1,2,3 & 7 recorded.
- Insert VI-2. ( Logne X ) as Type VI-1 but " PAQ. FB. X "
- See Historical Notes on Lignes V and X at end of this List.
- Type VII. 18-5-76. ( 32 )
- VII-1. Earliest 8-1-89. ( 16 )
- Latest 30-1-94. ( 2 )

|              |          |           |                  |
|--------------|----------|-----------|------------------|
| Type VII-2.  | Earliest | 18-11-89. | ( 16 )           |
|              | Latest   | 3-2-00.   | ( 15 )           |
| IX-1.        | Latest   | 9-3-86.   | ( 15 )           |
| IX-2.        | Earliest | 24-8-88.  | ( 15 )           |
|              | Latest   | 16-2-36.  | ( 14 )           |
| IX-3.        | Earliest | 13-8-87.  | ( 15 )           |
|              | Latest   | 31-3-31.  | ( 16 )           |
| X.           | Earliest | 10-3-98.  | ( Cover ) ( 32 ) |
|              | Latest   | 9-4-15.   | ( 16 )           |
| Insert XII.  |          | 28-10-72. | ( 16 )           |
| Insert XIII. |          | 7-9-89.   | ( 16 )           |

CAIRO.

|                |  |           |                  |
|----------------|--|-----------|------------------|
| Type B.        | Earliest   | 22-1-69.  | ( 16 )           |
|                | Latest   | 29-12-73. | ( 16 )           |
| Insert Type C. | Smaller head to figure "9" than Type B.<br>This is the " remade " obliterator. |           | 27-1-71.         |
| Type II.       | Earliest   | 27-1-71.  | ( Cover ) ( 16 ) |

PORT SAID.

|           |  |          |                  |
|-----------|--|----------|------------------|
| Type I.   | Earliest   | 26-3-68. | ( 19 )           |
| IV-1.     | Earliest   | 4-8-96.  | ( 16 )           |
|           | Latest   | 8-1-06.  | ( 19 )           |
| VI.       | Earliest   | 5-11-94. | ( 19 )           |
|           | Latest   | 14-5-15. | ( 16 )           |
| Add VII.  | Octagonal "PORT SAID - PAQ. FB. V. No. "                 |          | ( No.s 1,2,3&4.) |
|           | Earliest   | 3-10-73. | ( 32 )           |
|           | Latest   | 9-4-81.  | ( 14 )           |
| Add VIII. | Circular as shown. " CORPS EXPRE DU TONKIN - PORT SAID " |          |                  |
|           | Earliest   | 9-7-00.  | ( 16 )           |
|           | ( used during one of the Indo-China Expeditions. )       |          |                  |

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 HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE LIGNES.— POSTMARKS - Types VI-1 & VI-2.

LIGNE "V" was originally the " Ligne d'Egypte " but was renamed " Ligne V " in 1866 and up to July 1888 ran from MARSEILLE, vi. MESSINA & MALTA to ALEXANDRIA.

In July 1888 the route was changed - MARSEILLE, PORT SAID, SUEZ, OBOCK, ADEN, ZANZIBAR, MADAGASCAR, REUNION & MAURITIUS.

In July 1895 MOBASSA & NOSSI BÉ were also added to the ports of call.  
( This Ligne served the Tonkin & Madagascar Compaigne )

LIGNE "X" Originally the " Ligne de Syrie " it was renamed " Ligne X " in 1864 and ran from MARSEILLE via PALERMO, MESSINA, SYRA, SMYRNE,, RHODES, MERSINA, ALEXANDRETTA, TRIPOLI (SYRIA), BEYROUTH & JAFFA to ALEXANDRIA. In 1867 it also called at PORT SAID.

In 1875 it was sub-divided into " Xa " as above and " Xb " in the reverse direction but calling at NAPLES instead of PALERMO on the return.

In July 1888 " Xa " ran from MARSEILLE via PIRAEUS, SALONICA, SMYRNA, MESSINA, ALEXANDRETTA, LATTAKIA, LARNACA, TRIPOLI (SYRIA), BEYROUTH, JAFFA, & PORT SAID to ALEXANDRIA while "Xb " was the reverse service.

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MARKINGS OF THE FRENCH OFFICE IN PORT SAID AND SUEZ. by E.F.Hurt.

At the last meeting of the Egypt Study Circle, when discussing the possible expertisation of Covers of the Suez Canal Company, some question was raised as to the French markings recorded such covers and the date at which the various types of markings were first known to have been brought into use or the earliest dates recorded for the usage of each of such.

At the request of the Study Circle I have made enquiries in France from Monsieur Francois, the well known expert on French markings, and who, in conjunction with Monsieur Langlois produced the handbook " Les Obliterations des Bureaux Francais a l'Etranger " in 1924.

Monsieur Francois has very kindly given me the following information and the dates given by him are the result of enquiries by himself and Monsieur Langlois from all the most noted collections in France over a number of years, so that where they themselves do not possess in their own collections the earliest date they have gone as far as possible to obtain the necessary information in so far as it exists elsewhere.

The information which I am now giving will, therefore, be of use not only in regard to the Suez Canal study but should also be taken as being supplementary to the study on the French postal markings in Egypt.

PORT SAID.

UNDATED MARKINGS.

( Up to date no dates have been recorded by the Study Circle for the three types of the 5129 obliterator of Part Said ).

M. Francois gives us the earliest date in his own collection for type A - 21/6/1868, but states that this marking is also recorded in 1867, as given in his handbook.

For Type B - M. Francois states that the date 1868 given in the handbook is the earliest date at which this type can be considered as having been put into use.

For Type C - M. Francois states that some time in 1870 is probably the actual date when this third type appeared, although his own earliest date in his collection is 21/5/71.

DATED MARKINGS.

The earliest date recorded for Type I is 28/3/1868 by Colonel Wilmer, which is two months earlier than M. Francois' earliest. M. Francois, however, considers that this marking was put into use in 1867, at the same time as Type A obliterator.

For Type II the earliest date recorded by the Egypt Study Circle, i. e. 10/7/77 by Mr. Hinds, stands, as M. Francois cannot record one as early.

For Type II-1 M. Francois states that this a late type of marking, and while he thinks it may have come into use late in 1893, his earliest recording is 1894. The Egypt Study Circle, however, has a date recorded of 23/10/81 by Dr. Byam. I think it would be advisable for this particular cover to be re-examined to be sure that it really is this particular type.

For Type III M. Francois records as the earliest date 26/5/86.

For Type III-1 M. Francois gives an earliest date of 26/2/87.

( No dates are recorded for III and III-1 by the Egypt Study Circle. )

The earliest date for Type IV is 30/9/95 recorded by Mr. Hinde, and M. Francois says that he has not got an earlier date, but that he has evidence that his marking came into use in 1894.

For Type IV-1 the earliest date recorded by the Egypt Study Circle is that of 4/8/96 by M. Boulad, but M. Francois states that he has this in 1895 and has evidence that this marking came into use in 1894.

For Type V the earliest date recorded is that by the Egypt Study Circle of 9/6/06. ( Mr. Hinde ) which is 4 months earlier than the earliest date recorded by M. Francois. M. Francois adds - " the dates which I have given in my present letter are often later than those which are shown in the handbook, which I prepared with M. Langlois, but the latter were a collation of the earliest dates known in all the collections to which we had access at the time when the handbook was written. "

As far as the Suez Canal covers are concerned, the most important points are undoubtedly the dates of the three obl iterators - Types A, B, and C.

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MEETINGS OF THE CIRCLE.

The TWENTY-FIFTH meeting of the Full Circle was held at the residence of the Chairman, Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E., 92 Harley Street, London. W.1. on Saturday March 18th. 1939 at 2-30 p.m. when the following members attended :- the Chairman, D. B. Armstrong, J. J. Bramble, J. R. Danson, W. C. Hinde, E. F. Hurt, A. S. Mackenzie-Low, F. S. Mumford, A. L. Pemberton R. J. C. Thompson, G. R. Worthington Wilmer. Total 11.

In the absence of Dr. Byam, the chair was taken by Mr A. S. Mackenzie-Low, who vacated on the arrival of Dr. Byam later in the afternoon.

Apologies for absence were received from G. Grylls and F. S. Sillitoe.

The period before tea was devoted to the consideration of the comments upon Study III, part IV, " The Stamps of the Suez Canal Co., their use and the forgeries of the same ." which had been received from various members among whom it had been circulated.

It was decided not to publish the actual photographs of the forgeries owing to the cost of production, but to confine the illustrations to the drawings of funnels, pennants and the ornamental design.

Photographs of the forgeries can be obtained from Colonel G. R. Worthington-Wilmer. Price 5/- per set.

The question of the abbreviation for the word " Piastre " was mentioned and it was pointed out that the letters " PT ", "Pt", and "Pi" had been used. It was thought to be desirable that this matter should be regularised and, as a result of a vote, it was decided to adopt the letters " PT " in the records of the Circle.

An interesting and useful contribution a on Study VI from Mons. Ibrahim K. Chaftar was passed round and discussed. It consisted of 27 photographs of postmarks with notes and comments. Nine new types are illustrated and described.

After tea A Display of Egypt, arranged by Mr. J. R. Raeburn of Glasgow who, unfortunately, was unable to be present was given. The Display was well mounted and written up and showed considerable knowledge on the part of tis owner. Several pages in the collection had interesting engravings and historical notes relating to the designs on the stamps. Among the more interesting items were :-

1. A copy of the 5 Para, April 1875, bearing both a " Retta " and a " Precancel " ( Septembre 18 ). It is unusual to find both the marks on the stamp as usually only the date stamp appears on the precancelled stamp.<sup>12</sup> A block of the 2 Mils. Overprinted on the 3 Mils orange, September 1915, from which it was see that the angle of the surcharge in the first vertical column differed from that in the remaining columns. Mr Raeburn was given full credit for having recognised this difference. 3. Three blocks of the 1 Mil 1922 Crown Overprint ( Type III, Large Crown ), showing 3 settings in each of which the positions of the " Broken Flag " varied. A hearty vote of thanks to Mr Raeburn for his display was carried unanimously.

The TWENTY-SIXTH meeting of the Full Circle was held at the residence of the Chairman, Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E., 92 Harley Street, London. W.1. on Saturday May 20th, 1939 at 2-30 p.m. when the following members attended :- The Chairman, C. G. Alterskye, D. B. Armstrong, J. J. Bramble, G. Grylls, W. C. Hinde, G. O. Hoffman, E. F. Hurt, A. S. Mackenzie-Low, F. S. Mumford and F. S. Sillitoe. An attendance of 11.

Apologies for absence were received from Stamford Cade, J. R. Danson, A. L. Pemberton, P. L. Pemberton and R. J. C. Thompson.

Dr. G. O. Hoffman of Cranham, Gloucester was unanimously elected a member of the Circle.

The Minutes of the meeting held on March 18th. 1939 were read and signed by the Chairman as being a correct record.

The second Interim Repot on Study VI " The Postal Markings of Egypt " was finally considered and left with the Keeper of the Record for publication.

The provision of Certificates of Expertisation was discussed and it was decided that the Keeper of the Record should have these prepared,

The Die proof for the central design on the 1879 De La Rue Issue of Egypt, dated 2nd. October 1878 and marked " Before Hardening " was shown by Mr. Hurt.

After tea a display-" The Austrian P.O.s in Egypt " was given by Mr F. S.

Mumford and among the more interesting items were :- 1. A cover franked in Cairo, 15 Nov. 1885, with the Posta Europea mark, Type II1 and in Alexandria with the Austrian ALEXANDRIEN in 22 m.m. circle in black. 21-11 (1855). 2. A Cover franked in Cairo with the Egyptian Government's Circular frank, Type I-1, 8 Ott. 65 and in Alexandria with the 15 Soldi Austrian Italy 1864 bearing the Austrian ALEXANDRIEN in 23 m.m. circle mark. 3. A copy of the 1 PT Egypt 1867 on piece bearing the Egyptian POSTE VICE-REALI EGIZIANNE mark, Type I-2 2 Lugl 68 III. and The Austrian ALEXANDRIEN in 23 M.M. circle 3-7 (1868). 4. A copy of the 15 Kreuzer of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, No. 1858-9, bearing the Austrian ALEXANDRIEN in 22 m.m. circle struck in blue. 5. A copy of the 15 Soldi Austrian Italy 1864 bearing the first portion - " ALEXA " of the straight line " ALEXANDRIA marking. 6. A copy of the 10 Soldi Austria 1867 bearing the Austrian PORTO SAID EGYPTEN postmark. 7. A Cover emanating from Port Said, bearing the Austrian PORTO SAID EGYPTEN circular mark 6-11-69 and FRANCO sent to Syros and stamped there with the Greek 20 Lep. as postage due.

The TWENTY-SEVENTH meeting of the Full Circle was held at the residence of the Chairman, Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E., 92 Harley Street, London. W.1. on Saturday July 22nd, 1939 at 2-30 p.m. when the following members attended :- The Chairman, C. G. Alterskye, J. J. Bramble, J. R. Danson, G. Grylls, W. C. Hinde, G. O. Hoffman, E. F. Hurt, A. S. Mackenzie-Low, A. L. Pemberton, F. S. Sillitoe. An attendance of 11.

Apologies for absence were received from Stamford Cade, R. J. C. Thompson, and F. S. Mumford.

The Chairman was sorry to announce that Mr. F. S. Mumford has his left hand injured in the act of rescuing a man from serious injury. A vote of condolence on his injuries and wishing him a speedy recovery was carried unanimously. Progress Reports. Study IV. A list of new data of the Posta Europea and Government markings received from M. Ibrahim Chaftar was passed round. This will be published in the " Q.C. " Study II " The French P.O. in Egypt " A drawing of a new marking was shown by Mr. Hurt and this will be illustrated in the Q.C.

Study VIII. It was agreed to appoint a Sub-Committee - The Chairman, The Keeper of the Record and Major J. J. Bramble - to draw up a scheme of revision for Zeheri's Catalogue which will be submitted to the Annual General meeting of the Circle. All members are requested to submit suggestions to the secretary of the sub-committee, Major J. J. Bramble.

Centenary Exhibition. It was decided that the Circle should apply for one frame for an exhibit by the Circle - The Keeper of the Record to submit a scheme for this exhibit.

It was also decided to present a Silver Medal to the Exhibition - Full members to be requested to subscribe 2/6.

Certificates of Expertisation. It was agreed that if stamps are passed as genuine, the Chairman should sign the certificate. If passed as Forgeries the Chairman and two Full members present at the meeting should sign.

Items submitted for consideration. A cover bearing the straight line ALEXANDRIA marking backstamped Austrian P.O. Constantinople 22 by E. F. Hurt. A combination cover, POSTA EUROPEA . CAIRO 17 MAGG 63. 7 to Florence. Evidence of Italian stamps in use then by Dr Byam.

Sudan. 1927-36. brown & green centre, postmarked Abu Hamed 25-II-26 and pair on piece postmarked Cassala 27-IV-35. postally used. by Major J. J. Bramble. After tea, E. L. Pemberton read the preliminary Report on Study II. The Greek P.O. in Egypt by P. L. Pemberton and gave a display of the stamps and covers of the Greek P.O. in Egypt.

Forthcoming Arrangements, Dates of the next Circle meetings agreed to were :-  
21st. October. 18th. November and 16th. December.

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STUDY VIII. Entrusted to M. Georges N. Zeheri.

The Circle has appointed a sub-committee to make suggestions to M. Zeheri as to how his Catalogue may be improved. These suggestions will be submitted to the annual general meeting of the Circle.

All members of the Circle are requested to send any suggestions to the secretary of the Sub-committee :-

Major J. J. Bramble, O.B.E.  
Flat 4. 23 Queens Gate Gardens.  
London. S. W. 7.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS.