

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

DECEMBER 1939

NO. 6.

Published by the Egypt Study Circle.

Chairman. Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E. 92 Harley Street, London, W. 1.
Keeper of the Philatelic Record. A. S. Mackenzie-Low, " The Grange ",
Old Town, Bexhill-on-Sea.
Secretary-Treasurer and
Editor of the Quarterly Circular. F. S. Mumford,
174 Buxton Road, Stockport.
Exchange Packet Superintendent. Dr. Geoffrey Hoffman, " The Red House "
Cranham, Gloucester.

No. 6.

December 1939.

A Personal Message from the Chairman.

So far the Egypt Study Circle has been a great success, in that it has brought together those of us who have common philatelic interest, and all the members have made new friends throughout the Studies we have enjoyed together. Only some of us have been able to attend the meetings and yet all have been able to participate by correspondence, in the work. It is this fact which makes me confident that we can hold together while hostilities last and it is important that we should make every endeavour to do so. In the last war philately enabled many to keep a balanced view of life and it must be made to do so again during the present struggle. Our two very good friends, our Secretary and the Keeper of the Philatelic Record, are willing to work on our behalf, as they have always done. By their efforts the Studies will be continued and the Quarterly Circular will be maintained. If L'Orient Philatelique can no longer appear, it may be possible for the reports to be reproduced in the Q. C. And this will give splendid practice to all of us in the art of saying briefly what is necessary to the proving of a point. The expertising of stamps can go on and it will add to the interest of the Circle if members will submit their suspect material for scrutiny.

If the Exchange Packet can be resuscitated I feel sure Hoffman will be the man to succeed.

In fact, if we all pull together Peace may find the E.S.C. more flourishing than at any previous time.

W. BYAM.

92 Harley Street, London. W. 1. November 3rd. 1939.

Since the above was written news has been received that the publication of L'O.P. is to be continued. Ed.

THE CIRCLE IN WARTIME, by the Editor.

Upon the outbreak of hostilities it quickly became apparent that the activities of the Circle would have to undergo some change. The London meetings had become impossible and several members were either serving with His Majesty's Forces or were engaged upon war work. Many philatelic societies have entirely ceased their activities for the time being but the position of Study Circles would seem to be rather different and, more particularly as our own labours had already commenced to bear fruit and have even won so favourable commendation by the president of the Royal Philatelic Society, it was felt that some link between our normal pre-war and post-war activities was needed - something to keep the Circle alive and together until, with the cessation of hostilities, our work can once more go ahead.

Most of the replies to the circular letter which was sent out to members on October 9th, have now been received and it would seem to be abundantly clear that practically all desire the Quarterly Circular to be continued and are willing to continue with their subscriptions so as to make this possible. Our wartime activities will therefore be as follows :-

Quarterly Circular. This will continue to be published as hitherto and members are reminded that its columns are always open to them for the exchange of views, the discussion of problems or the clearing up of difficulties. It will be sent to all members who continue with their subscriptions. Should, however, any members not wish to continue his subscription during the war period the membership of such member will be considered as remaining in abeyance. This, to obviate the necessity of a re-election at the close of hostilities.

Exchange Packet. Several members have expressed the wish that the Packet should be continued and Dr. Geoffrey Hoffman of " The Red House ", Cranham, Gloucester has very kindly offered to conduct this. Members having sheets to circulate or being desirous of participating in the circulation are asked to get into touch with Dr. Hoffman.

Meetings. While there will be no regular meetings of the Circle in London for the time being, it is felt that some members interested in some particular informal meetings from time to time. Reports of any such meetings would be welcomed for publication in the Quarterly Circular.

Expertisation. Material for expertisation should be sent to the Keeper of the Philatelic Record. The fee for each item is 2/- but a certificate will only be issued at the additional cost of the necessary photographs.

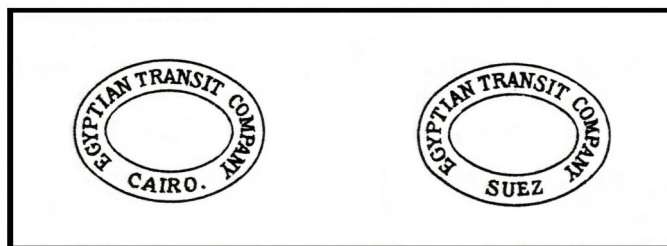
ADVERSA VIRTUTE REPELLO.

STUDY IV. PRE-STAMP EGYPTIAN POSTAL HISTORY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY
AND THE POSTA EUROPEA. A. B. Mackenzie-Low.

Mr. S. Graveson has kindly contributed the following interesting information for the Circle's Record, with permission to publish it in the Q.C.

THE EGYPTIAN TRANSIT COMPANY.

Photographs of the cachets of the Egyptian Transit Co.
known only from Cairo & Suez.



In Lieut. Waghorn's Overland Guide to India, published by Smith, Elder & Co. Cornhill, in the year 1844, the following particular are given :-

" The Egyptian Transit company was established by His Highness the Pasha and have the entire transmission of mails, passengers, etc, etc, in their own hands. This has enabled them considerably to increase their means ; and they have horse, with steam and track boats on the canal (there are no horses to be had on it but their own), Steamers on the Nile, and vans over the Desert, with hotels the whole distance from Alexandria to Suez, as well as stations and sleeping places on the Desert; and parties should be particularly cautious not to be misled by any other conveyance, otherwise they will lose the steamer at Suez or Alexandria, and be delayed a month in Egypt. We think it right to observe en passant, that the Peninsular and Oriental Co. have at present no control over the transit arrangements in Egypt, nor any interest in the steamers from Suez to Bombay, which entirely belong to the Honourable East India Company. "

Lieut. Waghorn mentions that his Company had a contract with the E.T.C. He gives the following as stages across Egypt ;

1. Alexandria to Atfe, on the Canal, distance 44 miles.
2. Atfe to Cairo, by the Nile, distance 120 miles.
3. Cairo to Suez, across the Desert, 84 miles. Along the route through the Desert there were seven station houses, placed at from ten to twelve miles distance from each other, and containing accommodation for travellers.

The transit fare from Alexandria to Suez was £15. Two cwts. Of luggage was allowed each passenger. Extra luggage was charged 16/- per cwt.

Later in the same Guide Book (page 62) the following additional information is given :

" Regarding the Pasha of Egypt, and the transit through that country, the writer now begs to be allowed to offer some truths. It must remain fresh

In the memory of all who feel interested in the Overland route how nobly His Highness Mehemet Ali acted, by allowing and even furnishing escorts for the safety of mails and passengers through Egypt during the Syrian campaign, when the late Government were at war with him, and his port of Alexandria blockaded by our fleet. And it should not be forgotten also, that in October 1839, when the news of Sir John (now Lord) Kean's success at Guznee, etc. arrived at Alexandria, one day after H.M. stammer had left that port for Malta, that his Highness permitted the writer the use of his own steamer Generoso to convey that mail and its then important despatches to Malta, by which, through the Admiral at Malta, they were sent via Marseilles to London. Other innumerable instances are on record of his fostering protection to British subjects travelling in the countries where his power extends, showing that our political influence in the estimation of the Pasha is of no small importance; and as at the present transit through Egypt, since the Pasha has taken the same into his own hands the same is far better done than it could be in the hands of any private individual or company, particularly over the Desert of Suez. . . "

Regulations relative to the Transit are also printed in the Guide. They are signed by the Prime Minister, Boghos Bey.

" NOTIFICATION "

- Regulations to facilitate the transit of all kinds of merchandise through Egypt, either from Europe and Turkey to India, or India to Europe and Turkey.
- Art. 1. In order to avoid confusion, and to render more expeditious the service of the transit, the government of His Highness will provide at Alexandria, Cairo, and Suez, distinct warehouses, separate from the chief custom-house, where will be deposited all packages which are to pass through Egypt in transit. The Government shall also appoint officers specially charged to superintend the transit service.
- Art. 2. All goods deposited at the transit depot shall be accompanied on the part of the receivers with a declaration, which shall specify the marks, contents and value ; and after being so sealed or leaded (Plombée) by officers appointed for this purpose, the said goods may be sent to their destination.
- Art. 3. Goods passing in transit shall be sent, on arriving at Cairo, to the warehouses reserved for this service, in order to verify if the seals or leads are unbroken.
- Art. 4. At the port of embarkation the custom-house officer will give a certificate that the transport abroad has been effected ; and this document will serve as a discharge for the custom-house officer where the importation shall have taken place.
- Art. 5. Passengers' luggage which shall be deposited at the transit depot, to pass through Egypt, may pass free, without being opened ; but such as have not been deposited will be subject to examination, if the customs officers require it.
- Art. 6. The transit dues will be half per cent on the declared value, and must be paid at Alexandria for all goods disembarked at this port, as well as for those disembarked at Suez. In case of evident fraud in the declared description or valuation of the merchandise, the custom-house officers, after having established the fraud, by opening the packages, shall impose a duty of 10 per cent. It is understood that goods entered for home consumption shall pay the customs established by the treaties.

Art. 7. In order to preserve the route between Cairo and Suez as free as possible from disorder and smuggling, and that the Government may answer for the safety of it, it is prohibited for any individual to take charge of transport or merchandise or luggage of passengers in transit, without special permission, and a guarantee for the good conduct of the persons employed in the service.

BOGHOS JUSSUFF.

Alexandria, 26th. May, 1843.

The covers recorded with the Egyptian Transit Company's cachet are :-

1. Letter from Cairo to Edinburgh with cachet EGYPTIAN TRANSIT COMPANY, Cairo, Postmarked at Alexandria, No. 22, 1843.
MY COVER FROM CAIRO DATED JAN 21 1849.
2. Letter from Dum Dum, India, to Heidelberg, addressed " via Trieste ", with postmark of the Austrian Post Office ALEXANDRIEN ; and cachet EGYPTIAN TRANSIT COMPANY SUEZ and AUSTRILIC AGENZIA DEL LLOYD. Date June 2nd. 1846.
3. Letter from Dum Dum directed " Through Waghorn's Agency, Calcutta, " to Naples with cachet of EGYPTIAN TRANSIT COMPANY SUEZ, Postmarked at French Post Office Alexandrie, 30 Avril 1847.
4. Letter from India directed " par Marseilles. By Waghorn Agency " to Insbruk with cachet of EGYPTIAN TRANSIT COMPANY SUEZ. Postmarked at French Post Office Alexandrie, 1 Aout, 46.
5. Letter from Dum Dum directed " By Bengal steamer to Suez p. Waghorn & Co's Agency " to Vienna with cachet and postmark as (4), 16 Juil 47.
6. Letter from Dum Dum directed " By Precursor Steamer to Suez p. Waghorn & Co's Agency " to Florence with cachet and postmark as (4), 20 Juin 47.
7. Letter from Dum Dum " Through Waghorn's Agency, Calcutta, Paid " to Leghorn, Cachet and postmark as (4). Date 30 Mai 47.

All the covers described above are in the Overland Collection of Mr. S. Graveson of Hertford, who would welcome further notes and records of letters with the Transit Company's cachets.

It would appear that the cachets were in sue over a period of at least four years (1843-1847)

1849

The Keeper of the Record will be glad to receive any additional information regarding this Study.

Photographs of the cover bearing the EGYPTIAN TRANSIT COMPANY - CAIRO cachet can be obtained from the Keeper of the Philatelic Record. Price 1/6 post free.

INDEX OF THE PHILATELIC LITERATURE OF EGYPT.

By A. S. Mackenzie-Low.

Introductory Note.

In compiling this Index I have endeavoured to make it as practical as possible, and a useful work of reference. After each publication I have when necessary inserted the heading " Comments ". This is to enable the Student to know if its contents are relative to the subject he or she is in search of.

Most of the early publications contain information that is inaccurate, especially on the 1st and 2nd. Issues on which much research work has been done and published recently.

When no comment is made on any item it may be assumed that it has been superseded by an article on which comment is made by me.

In order to avoid unnecessary duplication I have omitted such articles as are reprinted or based upon different authors in some of the handbooks. I have also omitted New Issue chronicles which are included in the handbooks and catalogues.

Publications are Indexed as far as possible in chronological order.

The Scheme of Arrangement.

I. Postal History.

II. Handbooks.

III. Catalogues.

This included - General, specialist, Dealers, and Auction Sale Catalogues

IV. General.

This includes - Notes on several issues, Stamp production, and various subjects.

V. Stamps.

This includes Essays, Proofs, General issues, Air Mails, etc.

VI. Postage Due Stamps.

VII. Official Stamps.

This includes the history of the carriage of Official Mail, & Interpostal labels.

VIII. Egyptian P.O.s abroad

IX. Foreign P.O.s abroad.

XII. Postmarks.

XIII. Forgeries.

XIV. Suez Canal.

Periodicals indexed with abbreviations.

A.S.M.C	-	Alfred Smith's Monthly Circular.
C.C.P	-	Collectors' Club Philatelist.
G.S.W.	-	Gibbons' Stamp Weekly.
I.C.F.	-	Il Corriere Filatelice.
L.O.P.	-	L'Orient Philatelique.
L.P.	-	London. Philatelist.
L.T.P.	-	Le Timbre - Poste.
M.W.	-	Meckel's Weekly.
P.G. of G.B.	-	Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.
P.M.	-	Philatelic Magazine.
P.R.	-	Philatelic Record.
P.S.	-	Postage Stamp.
Q.C.	-	Quarterly Circular.
R.O.P	-	Record of Philately.
S.C.	-	Stamp Collecting.
S.C.F.	-	Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly.
S.C.M.	-	Stamp Collectors' Magazine.
S.G.M.J.	-	Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal.
S.L.	-	Stamp Lover.
S.R.	-	Stamp Review.
T.P.	-	The Philatelist.

PART I. POSTAL HISTORY.

Egyptian P.O.s abroad and Foreign P.O.s in Egypt will be found under their respective headings.

The Post of Egypt.

By the Landi Press, Florence, 1898.. Published on behalf of " Society for Education of Every Egyptian Youth. "

Reprinted St. Martins-le-Grand. Jan. 1899, (Vol. 8). P.89.

Comments. The early Postal Service in Egypt organised by Carlo Meratti in 1881 is briefly told in the above pamphlet.

It is reproduced in the following handbooks :-

Egypt by F. J. Melville.

The Stamps of Egypt by R. E. R. Dalwick.

The Contribution of the Italians to the Organisation of the Egyptian Post Office. By Alberto Diena.

Translated by permission from Il Corriere Filatelico, Jan. 1933.
by F. P. Poplow.

P.J. Of G.H. Jan 1934. p. 7 - 10.

Comments. There is a good description of the Posta Europea service, and the article is illustrated with interesting pieces in the Author's collection which includes postal markings with inscriptions in Italian.

Les Postes en Egypte.

Publiées à l'occasion du Xe Congrès Postal Universal et du Soixante-Dixième anniversaire de la fondation des Postes Egyptiennes, Le Caire, Février, 1934.

7½ X 10¾, 132 p. Printed on art paper.

Comments. This important work give a very full description of the Postal History of Egypt from the time of the Pharaohs to the present period - compiled from official sources. There are many illustration and maps illustrating the early postal routes, and the original Official Decrees are well reproduced.

Pre-Stamp Egyptian Postal History in the 19th. Century, & the Posta Europea.

Interim Report No. 1 of the Egypt Study Circle. Study entrusted to A. S. Mackenzie-Low. L.O.P. April 1936.

Comments. This Report gives a brief History of the Postal Service in the 19th. Century, and a complete list of the Posta Europea and Government Franks. The Types are illustrated.

Pre-Stamp Egyptian Postal History in the 19th. Century, & the Posta Europea.

Progress Report by A. S. Mackenzie-Low.
Q.C. No. 1. February 1938.

Comments. This Report deals with the carriage of mails. There are revised lists of the Posta Europea Offices, and the earliest and latest known dates of the Franks.

The Influence of the Italians on the Post in Egypt. By Dr. Byam.

A paper read before the Royal Philatelic Society, London.
on 24th. March 1938.

L. P. July 1938.

Comments. This paper gives an interesting account of the Postal Service under the Italian influence from about 1842 to 1878.

Sudan Post Office Guide.

Comments. This book is published annually by H.M.S.O. The first No. appeared in 1911. It contains useful Postal information and a complete list of the Egyptian Post Offices.

The Egyptian Transit Company. By S. Graveson.

Q.C. No. 6. December 1939.

Comments. The information in this article is of considerable interest. The Egyptian Transit Company was established by Mohamed Ali

in 1843, and had the entire transmission of mails, passengers, etc. In their own hands.

Particulars are given of the seven covers in the author's collection with the E.T.C. cachets, and there are photographs of these from Cairo and Suez.

(To be continued)

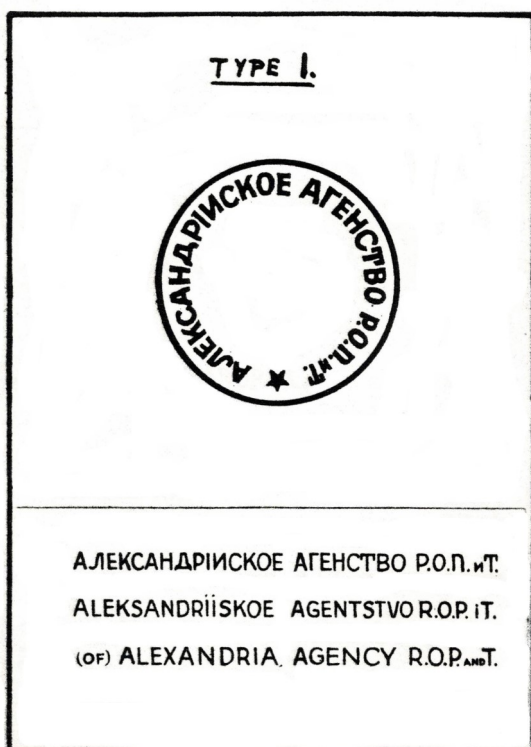
THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF THE RUSSIAN P. O. IN EGYPT.

(Study entrusted to W. C. Hinde.)

ALEXANDRIA. This office was opened in 1857 and closed 31st. October 1885.

The illustrations given are of the four types of postmarks recorded by the Circle.

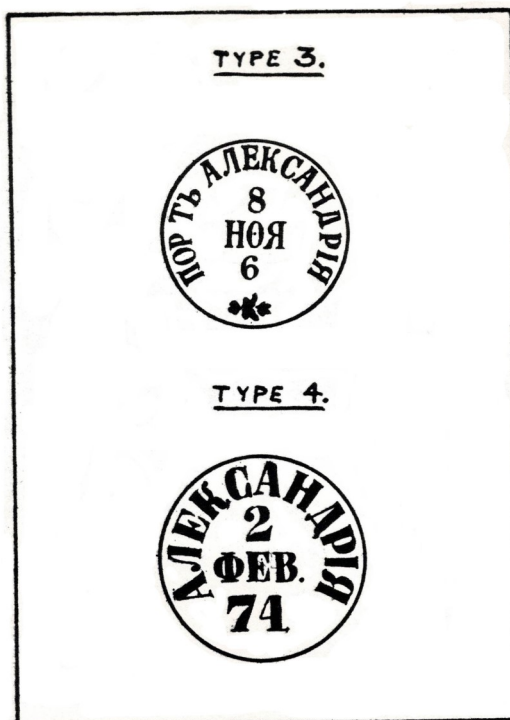
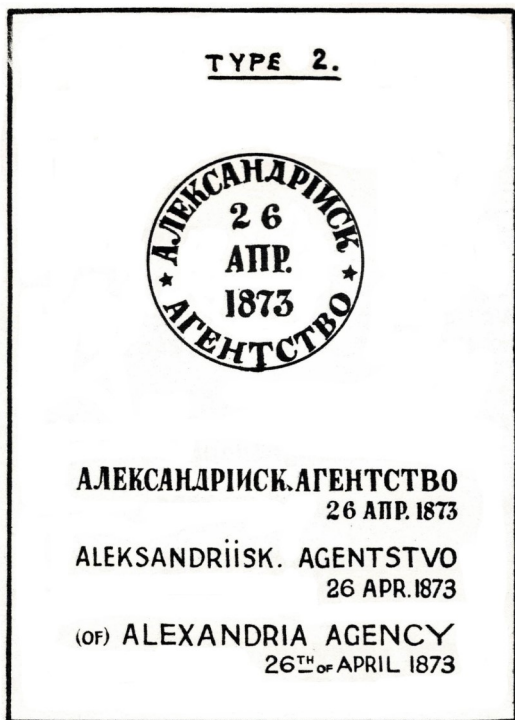
The following are the translations of these markings with the earliest and latest dates recorded for each type :-



TYPE I. ALEXANDRIA AGENCY.
R.O.P. & T.

23 Dec. 1870.

11 Jan. 1873.



TYPE II. ALEXANDRIA AGENCY.

26th. April 1873.
10th. May 1873.

TYPE III. PORT ALEXANDRIA.

4th. February 1878
11th. July 1869.

TYPE IV. ALEXANDRIA.

2nd. February 1874
19th. July 1874.

These markings have all been seen on covers.

The Keeper of the record will be glad to receive any additional information on this study.

AUCTION PRICES.

The following interesting letter has been received from The Chairman and we feel sure that all members will welcome his kind offer to contribute Market Jottings to these columns.

My dear Mumford,

I think most members of the Circle will be interested to read what prices were realised for certain outstanding items of Egypt sold by H. R. Harmer of Bond Street, W. 1. at his auction on October 30th, last.

1866, a half sheet of the watermarked paper used for this issue, stained and folded, £ 6-15-0. The other half of this sheet reposes in the collection at Buckingham Palace.

1866. 5 para, grey, perf 12½, mint block of four. £3-3-0.

1866. 10 para, brown, perf. 13 all round, used. £3. This is a very rare stamp and I paid £6 for my used copy in January 1938.

1866. 10 para, brown, perf. 12½, a well centred block of four with postmark illegible, £4-10-0., This I consider was the cheapest buy in the sale.

1866. 10 para, brown, a vertical column of four on cover, £4-10-0. This is nothing like so rare as a block of four for some reason I do not understand.

1866. 20 para, pale blue, three pairs on cover. £4-4-0.

1866. 20 para, Imperf mint block of nine. £15.

1866. 5 P.T, perf . 12½ X 15 error of overprint, 10 P. T. Unused £10.

1866. 2 P.T. orange-yellow bisected on cover to Constantinople.
£4-10-0, which I think was cheap.

1866. a similar bisected copy on dated " front ". £2-7-6.

1867. 5 P.T. brown, horizontal pair used on " front " with 1 P.T.
and 2 P.T. £2-12-6.

1886. Postage Due 2 P.T. rose red, a block of twenty-five, cancelled with the well known bogus postmark dated 1885. £2. I think the the buyer was badly had.

If you think this letter of sufficient interest, you may publish it as it stands and I will try to contribute Market Jottings for the guidance of purchasers and as a suggestion to the Editor of our Catalogue.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) W. Byam

22 Harley Street, London. W. 1. 17th November 1939.

" The History of the Post In Egypt. "

It is hoped that the Circle will eventually produce a volume in which will be embodied the results of its Studies and the Chairman now writes suggesting " The History of the Post In Egypt. " as the title of this work. He asks members to offer comments upon this title and also to give their views on :-

1. What ground should be covered in this work ?
2. Subjects for future Studies by the Circle.
3. Any way in which the Circle Organisation, or procedure, might be improved.

It is hoped that all members will write to the Secretary expressing their views upon these points.

Subscriptions.

Subscriptions. (10/6 for Full members, and 7/6 for Corresponding Member.) become due on January 1st. 1940. and those members who desire to support and receive the Quarterly Circular are asked to very kindly remit as soon as possible after that date.

INDEX.

The first figures in Roman Numerals refer to the Number of the Q.C. the second to the page.

AUCTION PRICES.	VI.	11.							
BRIGGS & Co.	IV.	6.							
CHAIRMAN,	A personal message from the,	VI.	1.						
CIRCLE IN WARTIME,	The.	VI.	2.						
CROWN OVERPRINTS.	Display by Dr Byam.	I.	4.						
"	"	On the status of some of the,	II.	9.					
EGYPT,	Index to the Philatelic Literature of,	VI.	6.						
EGYPTIAN P.O.s in Turkey,	the Red Sea are & the Sudan.	III.	5.						
EGYPTIAN TRANSIT Co.		VI.	3.						
ESSAYS & PROOFS OF SUDAN,	Check List of, from the Danson & Hinde collections.	III.	2.						
FRENCH P.O.s in EGYPT,	Postal markings of the,	II.	1.	III.	5.	IV.	4.	V.	1.
FRENCH P.O.s in the LEVANT.	List of the Offices.	II.	8.						
FORGERY, Sudan.		III.	8.						
GOUVERNEMENTALES,	Official Marking.	III.	1.						
ITALIAN P.O.	IN Alexandria. Money order cancellation.	I.	5.						
KING FUAD BIRTHDAY STAMP.	Variations in size of Portrait.	II.	10.						
LEVANT,	French P.O.s in the,	II.	8.						
LOWE, Hubert F.		III.	10.						

MEETINGS OF THE CIRCLE. I. 4. II 9.10. III. 8. IV. 7.8. V. 4.5.6.
MONEY ORDER CANCELLATION of the Italian P.O. At Alexandria. I. 5.
OFFICIAL MARKINGS, Gouvernementales. II. 1.
OBITUARY. Hubert F. Lowe. III. 10.
POSTA EUROPEA, Pre-Stamp Egyptian Postal History in the Nineteenth Century. I. 7.
PROOFS & ESSAYS of SUDAN. Check List from the Danson & Hinde collection. III. 2.
RUSSIAN P.O. In EGYPT. III. 5. IV. 8. VI. 9.
STUDIES, (General) Progress Report on the Studies. III.5.
STUDY I. III. 5.
" II. I. 5. II. 1. III. 5 & 6. IV. 4 & 8. V. 1 & 5. VI. 9.
" IV. I. 7. VI. 3.
" V. III. 7.
SUDAN. Check list of the proofs & essays in the Danson & Hinde collections. III.2.
" History of the Egyptian P.O.s in, III. 5.
" Forgery. III. 8.
TURKEY, History of the Egyptian P.O.s in, III. 5.
