

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

MARCH 1940

NO. 7.

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.

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THE STUDIES IN WARTIME.

I am pleased to report that most of the members responsible for the various Studies are, as far as possible, carrying on with the work.

Under present conditions with the mails to Egypt and America taking from three to four weeks, the usual procedure of circulating the Interim Reports will have to be abandoned for the present, but I will give in the columns of the Q.C. all reports I receive from members on new markings, fresh data, etc. These will be found under the heading of " Progress Reports on the Studies ".

A. S. Mackenzie-Low.

Keeper of the Philatelic Record.

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PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE STUDIES.

Study I. " The Egyptian P.O.s Abroad. " ( Entrusted to Charles Fox. )

Mons. Ibrahim Chaftar, (43), reports that he has in his collection a piece of a cover addressed to Mons. Le Comte de Lavison, Russian Vice-Consul at Alexandria, bearing the Egyptian Government Constantin marking, Type I-1, dated 14-9-65, and on the same piece, Alexandria, Type I-3, dated 18-9-65. An illustration of this piece is given in L.O.P. No. 43. page 557.

NEW RECORDINGS.

Constantinople.	Earliest date	14-6-65.	Type I-1.	(43)
"	1879. 5 Para.	"	III-4.	(2)
"	1879. 2 PT.	"	III-4.	(2)

Study II. " The French P.O.s in Egypt. Further Notes by E. F. Hurt.

ALEXANDRIA.           Type VI-2.        Add boat " No. 2 "  
                          Type XIII.        Date should read 7 SEP 39. ( date should also be  
  corrected on photograph. )

PORT SAID.            Add.  
                          Type VII-1.        " Paq. FR. N. "        Nos. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10.  
                          Type VII-2.        " Paq. Fr. X. "        Nos 1,2,3,4,5.

SUEZ.                 Add.  
                          Type III.          As Alexandria Type VII but " SUEZ " at top of circle  
  and at bottom " PAQ. FR. N. No " - 1,2,3,4,or 5.  
                          Type IV.          As Alexandria Type VII but reading " SUEZ-PAQ.FR.No. "  
  ( Note - the initial letter of the Ligne is omitted. )  
  Boat Nos. recorded - 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10.

Note—                The earliest recorded date in the Circle Record for Suez Type II is given as that on a cover in the collection of the late H. F. Lowe, the date being 28-7-74. Mr Jean Boulad has pointed out to me that the recorded time of opening of the French " Bureau de Recette " in Suez, according to " Les Obliterations des Bureaux Francais a l'Etranger " is 1875. I believe the above cover date is correct, but I should be glad if whoever has it will again check this date, as, if so, her is proof that the office was so opened at an earlier date than hitherto accepted.

CAIRO.

Owing to a typographical error having crept into a previous report, to some further information given to me by M. Jean Boulad and also to assistance and notes rendered by Mr Mackenzie-Low as well as inspection of covers and pieces kindly lent me by these two members, I feel that it will be best to re-write this section of the French P.O. in Egypt. This will be less confusing. Will members therefore delete all previous information under Cairo carrying over the photographs of the postmark types and using the following tabulation as being complete and up to date.

CAIRO. ( Le Caire ) Opened as a " Bureau de Distribution " November 1865.  
Became a Receiving Office about 1872. Closed March 1875.  
( N.B. Double circle date stamps with an additional outer dotted circle are peculiar to the " Bureaux de Distribution "

UNDATED MARKINGS.

Type A.            " 5119 " ( Obliterator ) in lozenge of dots. Oval head too " 9 ". Upper half of this figure comes low. Pyriform foot off " 5 ". Always in black  
  Earliest date 30-1-69. (16)  
  Latest date 28-6-69. (2)

Type B.            As Type A but round top to " 9 ". Upper and lower halves to " 9 " equal. Ball to foot of " 5 ". Always in black  
  Earliest date 18-4-68. (2)  
  Latest date 27-1-71. (16)

Type C.            ( not Illustrated ) Obliterator as before but the whole size is smaller than A & B and the head of the figure " 9 " is noticeably smaller. This is one of the re-made obliterations.

Earliest date 29-12-73. (16)  
Latest date

DATED MARKINGS.

Type I. Dotted outer circle.

Earliest date 7-3-66. (2)

Latest date 28-6-69. (2)

Type II. Plain double circle.

Earliest date 27-1-71. (16)

Latest date 4-5-74. (3)

Note - The earliest date for the type II given above is of considerable interest as it shows that the previously given approximate date for the creation of a receiving office at Le Caire, i. e. 1872 was wrong. We now have the date established at least as early as January 1871. There is no doubt about this latter date as I have seen Mr Boulad's cover. The date is very clear on the Cairo postmark and is further confirmed by the transit mark of Alexandria ( 27-1-71 ) and arrival mark of Lyon ( 4-2-71 ) both clearly impressed on the back.

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Study II. The Russian P.O. In Egypt. Notes by E. F. Hurt.

In No. 6 of the Quarterly Circular was a resumé with some excellent photographs of the known markings of the Russian P.O. in Alexandria. I believe I am right in saying that up to that date, as previously recorded also in the Quarterly, the only such markings known were on covers addressed to Alexandria.

This being so there was nothing to show whether any or all of these markings were used solely as arrival marks or if any of them were also used as dispatch markings.

I have however now handled some covers FROM Alexandria and a record of these will be of interest.

1. A cover with a block of eight of the 2 kop., horizontal network, stamp of the Russian Steam Navigation Co., issue of 1866-67 ( SG 7/8 ) cancelled with the " PORT ALEXANDRIA " marking dated " 4 FEB 67 ". I do not know who now possess this cover.
2. A cover with a horizontal strip of four of the same stamp with the cancellate-ion of " 785 " in a dotted lozenge. This cover at the back also bore the date stamp of PORT ALEXANDRIA and the place of dispatch was also indicated in MS within. This cover, I do not know who now possesses it, was an interesting proof of the use of the " 785 " obliterator at Alexandria, not previously recorded by the Circle,
3. A cover franked with a pair of the 20 kop. ( 1st. Printing, with vertical blue lines in top labels ) Russian Steam Navigation stamps of the 1866-67 issue, with horizontal background ( SG 9/10 ) again cancelled " 785 " but no dated marking, though dated 1865 inside. This cover is in my possession at present.
4. A cover franked with a single copy of the latter stamp, but of the much rarer second printing ( without the blue vertical lines in top labels ), also with the " 785 " obliterator but dated inside 27-4-68. This cover also bears at back the date stamp of " PORT ALEXANDRIA " and the arrival mark of " PORT BEYROUTH " to which place it is addressed. In my possession.

5. Another cover with the same stamp, again the second printing, with the " 785 " obliterator only, dated inside 12-3-68 but without any date stamp. In my possession.
6. A further cover again franked with the same stamp and second printing, with the dated cancellation of " PORT ALEXANDRIA " 31-1-68. In my possession.

I believe that most of the previous covers with the Alexandria markings, used on arrival, bore the numeral types of the stamps of the Russian Levant of the issues from 1868 onwards.

Covers Nos. 2 & 4 above are of particular interest as proving the use of the " 785 " obliterator at Alexandria.

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STUDY IV.

Pre-Stamp Egyptian Postal History in the Nineteenth Century & the Posta Europea.

PROGRESS REPORT No. 2.

( Study entrusted to A. S. Mackenzie-Low. )

Since my first Progress Report was published in the Q.S. of February 1938, I have got the following new data to record :-

POSTA EUROPEA.

Type II.	Alexandria.	Earliest date.	31-3-1851.	(3)
	Cairo.	Latest date.	29-9-1860.	(42)
Type III.	Kafer-Zayat.	Latest date.	11-9-1863.	(42)
	Michalla.	Latest date.	13-6-1865.	(42)
Type IV.	Kafer-Zayat	Earliest date.	13-5-64.	(42)
		Latest date.	14-4-1865.	(2)
	Michalla.	Latest date.	7-1-1865.	(42)
	Suez.	Earliest date.	18-8-1863.	(42)
	Tanta.	Earliest date.	19-7-1863.	(2)
Type V.	Alexandria.	Latest date.	9-4-1863.	(42)
	Cairo.	Earliest date.	16-1-1861.	(42)
Type VI.	Alexandria.	Latest date.	14-4-1865.	(2)

Recorded by :- (2) A. S. Mackenzie-Low  
(3) Dr. W. Byam.  
(42) Ibrahim Chaftar.

Postal Rates of the POSTA EUROPEA Service.

The earliest official reference with regard to Postal Rates is to be found in the " POSTA EUROPEA TARIF " of 1860. This Notice, in Italian, is produced in " Les Poste en Egypt " and " L.O.P. No. 25. " It gives a complete list of the rates fixed between the different towns, the charges being according to distance.

Letters. Alexandria to Cairo, and vice versa, 1 PT. A single letter, and 60 paras a double letter.

Alexandria to Suez, and vice versa, 3 PT. A single letter and 4½ PT. A double letter.

Newspapers in a bundle are charged 5 paras each for Cairo; and 10 paras for each one to any other destination.

Those newspapers that are not done up in bundles are counts as parcels and they will be charged according to weight.

Parcels. For packages or parcels provided the sender can show that they do not contain letters, but statements of accounts, acts or consular service or otherwise, will have the right to 80% reduction in weight.

N.B. The present tariff ( already in force at the end of 1856 ) was today reduced by a third on parcels exceeding double letters, with the object of making matters easier for those who have much correspondence,

Alexandria, Egypt, 1st. January 1860.

For the Director,

G. Muzzi.

#### POSTAGE PAID MARKINGS.

The amount of postage (paid is written in numerals in blue or red pencil.

Examples :- 30 - 30 paras. 1,20 = 1 piastre, 20 paras.

#### REGISTRATION OF LETTERS BY THE POSTA EUROPEA.

The earliest official reference with regard to the registration of correspondence is in the " POSTA EUROPEA TARIF " of 1860 already referred to— This Notice states

" Registered letters will be charged 2 piastres over and above the franking fixed as above for different destinations. "

Receipts for Registered letters were issued. They were inscribed RICEVUTA D'IMPOSTAZIONE, and bear the Receipt No. In the left hand corner, and state that " This Post Office has received from Sig. a latter for addressed to Date .

These receipts are signed by the Agent of the Post Office, and generally bear the POSTA EUROPEA frank of the office of issue. The Study Circle have recorded the following receipts :-

Earliest 24-2-61. ("). Latest 7-4-65 (2)

#### REGISTERED MARKINGS OF THE POSTA EUROPEA.

There are three types known to the Study Circle. They are as follows :-

- Type R-1. PER CONSEGNA without frame.  
Earliest date 1859 from Tanta (2)  
Latest date
- Type R-2. PER CONSEGNA in frame.  
Earliest date 2-7-59 from Mansura. (2)  
Latest date 9-2-65. from Samunud. (2)
- Type R-3. PER CONSEGNA, POSTA EUROPEA, CAIRO, in oval. Number in centre.  
Only date recorded 1864. (2)

Also Alexandria see photo

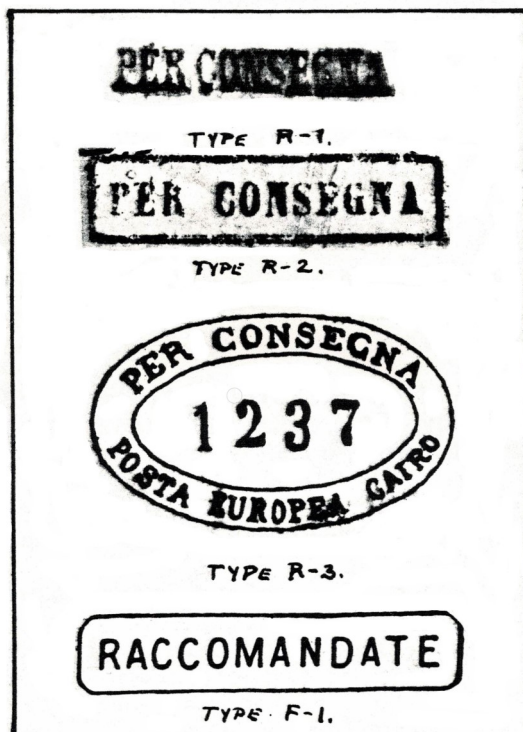
AND JY 4/9-64

#### REGISTERED MARKING OF THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

Type F-1. RACCOMANDATE in frame,  
Earliest date 19-6-65. from Alexandria (2)

Note. " PER CONSEGNA " was the word used for Registered in the old Italian vocabulary.  
In 1865 the word RACCOMANDATE came into general use, and later on RACCOMANDATO which is the singular form.

PHOTOGRAPHS of the MARKINGS.



I shall be glad if members will send me for inspection any new markings they have, or send me a description of same, also any new data.

A. S. Mackenzie-Low.

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INDEX OF THE PHILATELIC LITERATURE OF EGYPT.

By

A. S. Mackenzie-Low.

( continued from no. 6. )

PART I. POSTAL HISTORY.

Egyptian Postal Guide.

Published yearly.

Postal Notices, and Postal Rates.

See the following handbooks :- Timbres d'Egypte - A History of its stamps, Egypt, also Egyptian Postal Guide, and Sudan Post Office Guide.

Note. " Les Postes en Egypte ". In my previous instalment I omitted to mention that most of the text and illustrations In this work have appeared in L'O.P. Nos. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32 & 33.

List of the Egyptian Post Offices and their numbers.

By Abbas Pacha-Broulles.

L'Ami di la Timbrologie, Cairo. No. 1. Jan 1900.

PART II. HANDBOOKS.

Timbres d'Egypte et de la Compagnie du Canal de Suez.

Par J. B. Moens.

116 pp. 5½ X 8½. Bruxelles. 1880. Illustrated.

Comments. This excellent pioneer work contains valuable information on the early Postal History of Egypt. The most important feature in this handbook is the Essays, which are fully described and illustrated

The stamps are dealt with rather briefly, and there are one or two inaccurate statements in regard to the printing process.

Interpostal seals. There is a fairly complete list.

This is a rare book, but worth acquiring.

The Stamps of Egypt.

By W. S. Warburg.

20 pp. 5 X 7½. Twesbury. 1895. Price 4d.

De Postzegels van Egypte.

Een Studio door J. C. Huf der Heide. 29 pp. 5½ X 7½. Amsterdam 1902  
Illustrated. Price 60 cents.

Egypt. A History of its stamps. By R. E. R. Dalwick.

31 pp. 6 X 9½. Illustrated. Boston. U.S.A. 1915

Comments. Most of the contents of this handbook is produced from the Author's articles that appeared in " Philadelphia Stamp news" in 1913, and " Stamp Collecting " in 1914. Nos. 57/66, 69, 71.

Egypt. By Fred. J. Melville.

81pp. 4¼ X 6½. London. 1915. Illustrated. Price,  
paper 6d, Cloth 2/6. Leather 5/-

Comments. This useful little book was compiled from writings and information available at the time. A quarter of a century has greatly advanced the knowledge of the stamps of Egypt.

The references to Postal history are from Moen's handbook, and " The Post of Egypt ".

The types of the 1867 issue from the P. J. of G. B. April 1910.



All issues up to 1914 are described and illustrated.

A useful Bibliography is included, and a check list of all  
the issues.

Classification des Timbres d'Egypte, et Varietés.

Par George N. Zéhéri. 94 pp. 6½ X 8¾ Cairo.  
Jan. 1934. Illustrated. Price P.T. 20.

Comments. This book will be found of the utmost value to all collectors of  
the stamps of Egypt.

It has been compiled with great care and accuracy. All issues  
with known varieties from 1866 to date, including the Essays,  
are listed, and illustrated from actual photographs, some of  
these being produced specially for this work.

Note. This work is now published in the form of a Specialised Priced  
Catalogue under the title of " Catalogue des Timbres d'Egypte ".

PART III.

General, Specialist and Dealers' Catalogues.

Catalogue & Prix-Courant des Timbres d'Egypte et Sudan, des Bureau de Poste  
Français à Alexandrie et Port-Said.

Rédigé par M. Edgard Papasian, 64 pp. 4¼ X 6½  
Alexandria 1902. Illustrated. Price 1 Franc.

Kohl's Briefmarken-Handbuck ( Egypt Section )

Page 20/34. 4¼ X 7¼, Berlin 1923. Illustrated. Price 2.50 marks.

Comments. This specialised price catalogue is edited by Dr. Herbert Munk.

There is a complete translation of the Egypt section by A. S.  
Arnold in the Collectors' Club Philatelist of January and April  
1938, with the original illustration.

The information in this handbook is based on Moen, Dalwick and  
Melville's works, and Griebert's Notes of January 1193 on the  
first issue. It is therefore not up to date, ( as was admitted  
by Dr. Munk when he attended the Philatelic Congress Meetings at  
Brighton ) in respect of recent writings.

Catalogue des Timbres d'Egypte.

Par George N. Zéhéri, Cairo. Illustrated. Price P.T. 35.

1st. edition 1937. 118 pp. 6½ X 8¾  
2nd. - 1939. 124 pp. -

Comments. This is the standard specialist price catalogue of Egypt. It  
comprises all the text and illustrations of the " Classifications  
des Timbres d'Egypte et Variétés with the following additions :-

The known quantities printed of the various issues, the plate and control numbers of which prices are given, also the essays.

Note. This work will in future be published by George N. Zéhéri with the assistance of the Egypt Study Circle.

It can be obtained from M. Georges N. Zéhéri, Immeuble Doss Pasha, 24 Avenue Fouad 1er. Le Caire, Egypte. Price 8/2 post free by registered post.

Egypt and Sudan Priced Catalogue of a Specialised Postage Stamp Collection.

Eugene Klein, Philadelphia, U.S.A. March 1919. 12 pp. Illus.

Comments. This collection was formed by Edwin A. Fleishu. His most notable acquisitions were made from Brock, Richten, Cantel Bey and Worthington collections.

The Egypt 1st and 2nd issues are especially strong and there is a splendid lot of Sudan, including some unique pieces.

With four half-tone plates of illustrations this makes a useful record of notable items.

AUCTION SALE CATALOGUES.

The A. H. Stamford collection of Egypt and the Colonel C. E. Wilson collection of Sudan.

Plumbridge's sale catalogue, 5th. - 6th. March 1925, lots 86-199 with plates.

The Major E. J. Moffat collection of Egypt.

Plumbridge's sale catalogue, 1st - 2nd. October 1927. 341 lots with illus.

The A. S. Mackenzie-Low Gold Medal Collection of Egypt.

H. R. Harmer's sale catalogue, Oct. 21st.-22nd. 1929.  
479 lots. 5 plates of illustrations.

Comments. The entire collection was sold to H.M. King Fouad 1st. Of Egypt for £3,450.

Among the more important items are :-

Complete colour proof sheets of the 1st. Issue, block of the issued stamps, the die proofs of 1867, a complete sheet of the block proof of 1867.

The Hind collection of Egypt.

H. R. Hamer's sale catalogue, 20th. - 21st. May 1935. Lots 170-184. plates.

Comments. Among the rare items are 1866 10 paras, perf 12½ X 15., and Postage Due 1881, 5 P.T. Block of 12 with margins, both illus.

Henry W. Roth XX century collection of Egypt and Sudan.

Eugene Klein's sale catalogue 13th - 14th. March 1939. Philadelphia U.S.A. Illustrated.

E. E. Yates collection of Egypt Used Abroad, and Foreign P.O.s in Egypt.

Robson Lowe's sale catalogue, November 23rd. 1939. Illustrated.

Comments. Egypt used abroad, 15 lots. Foreign P.O.s in Egypt - Austria 4 lots, France 31 lots, 54 covers, and Italy 23 lots, 28 covers.

Several of these covers are illustrated. A map of Turkey in 1855 showing the offices in the Levant makes this a useful work of reference.

The " E. E. Yates " Africana collection.

Robson Lowe's sale catalogue, December 21st. 1939

Comments. In this catalogue there is an interesting collection of British Army Post Offices in Egypt, 1882 and 1885 campaigns, with illustrations of the Army Post Office types - 24 lots, comprising 34 covers, of which details are given.

AUCTION PRICES.

Market Jottings for the guidance of purchasers by Dr. W. Byam. Q.C. No. 6.

Note. Prices realised for most of the rare items in the sale catalogues I have indexed are quoted in the following Philatelic Journals :- L.P., S.C., S.C.F. And T.P.

PART IV. GENERAL.

Ce qu'apprend l'Etude des timbres - La clé des hieroglyphs. Illustrated.

Par George Brunel. L'O.P. No. 14. October 1932.

L'Histoire Egyptienne et la Philatelic. Illus. by Didier Darteyre.

L'O.P. January 1934. pp. 4-9.

Les Anciens Monuments d'Egypte. Illustrated. L'O.P. January 1934.

Outline of World History for Philatelists. Part II. Egypt. Illustrated.

By V. J. Vincent.

Supplement of " Philately in Australia. " May 1936.

Comments. The above four articles give a descriptive account of the ancient monuments of Egypt as depicted on the stamps.

CORRECTION.

Q.C. No. 6 page 6. Foreign P.O.s abroad, should read Foreign P.O.s in Egypt.

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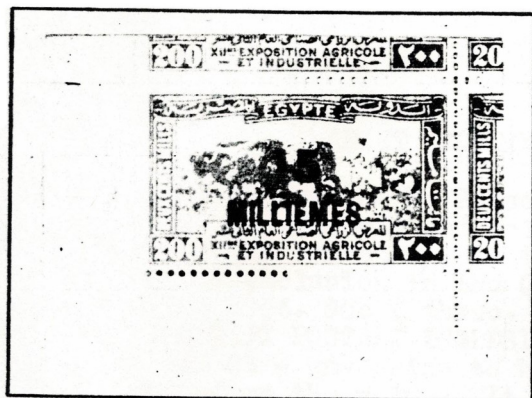
EGYPT. August 1926. 15 Mill. on 200 Mill. Violet. Double surcharge.

We show photographs of :- (a) Normal, (b) Double surcharge, a mint block of four from the left bottom of the sheet with margins and control in the Byam collection, (c) Specimen under discussion. The second surcharge is low, and to the right. The ink of the surcharge appears to be the same. The shade of this stamp is paler, and the left hand perforated margin is narrower. This proves that it is not from the sheet as (b).

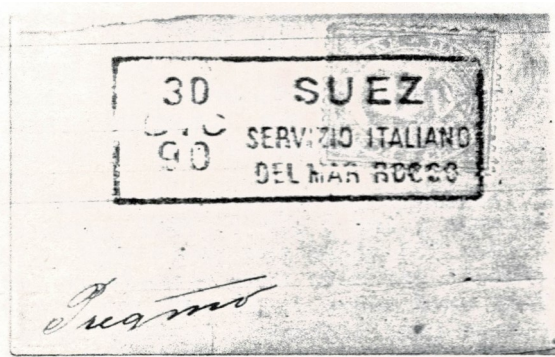
One sheet of 100 has been recorded of the double surcharge (b). This raises the question that a second sheet may exist.

The certificate issued by the Egypt Study Circle in respect of (c) was to the effect that the overprint was a forgery and was signed by Dr. W. Byam, P.L. Pemberton and A.S. Mackenzie-Low. The evidence of our signing was no knowledge of a second sheet.

We shall be glad to hear from any member who has this stamp or may know of its existence.



Dr. Byam would be glad if any member can throw light on the marking shown in this photograph.



MARKET JOTTINGS. By Dr. W. Byam.

The E. E. YATES auction by Robson Lowe on November 23rd. 1939 was of great interest to all students and collectors of Egypt. A magnificent collection of covers was being broken up, so that I hope you will think the following jottings are worthy of inclusion in the Quarterly Circular.

1. Sardinia 1855.. 80c ( three, one with defect ) on cover, cancelled with blue framed PIROSCAFI POSTALI INGLESII and POSTA EUROPEA CIARO frank on reverse - dated 11 AGO 63 - gave rise to keen bidding. In the published valuations £3-10 was suggested as the value. It fetched £4-10. This is the only cover with the Inglesi marking I have seen from the Italian P.O. In Alexandria. Other covers from Alexandria bearing the stamps of Sardinia fetched £5. £3-10-0. £3-12-6. and were dated 18-5-63. 27-7-63. and 30-6-63 respectively. The prices are surprisingly small, considering the rarity of these items. I have not seen covers from the Italian P.O. During Dec. 1863 or Jan. & Feb. 1864, so I do not know when the stamps of Italy 1st. Dec. 1863 came into use in Egypt, but the Sardinian stamps probably had a currency of not more than ten months. If any of our members has covers of the missing months I mentioned I hope he will let me see them, for the purpose of the Circle Report.
2. Italy 1863 - 2 lire ( two ) on registered cover, marked CONSEGNE, fetched £7. a rare and beautiful piece, now in the collection of Wm. C. Hinde.
3. Combination cover, Italy 40 c of 1863 with Egypt 1 PT. of 1867, both stamps cancelled in Cairo; together with a somewhat similar cover, but with defective Italy 20 c of 1865, fetched £3-15-0.
4. A beautiful cover bearing Italy 1863, 60 c ( two ) fetched only £2-2-0 though the valuation was £3. it was dated Alexandria 21-1-65.
5. Of the French stamps used in Egypt, the cheapest lot was a cover carrying Bordeaux 20 c., type II, pair cancelled large 5080 ( Alexandria ) with Egypt 1867, 1 PT. Cancelled Port Said, where the French stamps must have been applied as they were overlapped by the Egyptian 1 PT. This fetched £4, being valued at £7-10-0.
6. Combination cover, France 40 c., pair and single, cancelled large 5080 with

Egypt 1st. issue 1 PT. Strip of three, slightly defective perfs. cancelled Zagasiq, £6-10-0. The French stamps were tied by the latter postmark. All such combination covers are rare, particularly with first issue stamps as there were French offices at Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said and Suez, from which letters could be franked to Europe by French stamps also.

7. Two covers each bearing France 1853, 80 c., eleven copies on each and cancelled small 3701, fetched £3-15-0 apiece. One carried a very fine strip of 8.
  8. Of covers from Cairo ( 5119 ) franked with France 1862, one 40 c. and a pair of 10 c. laureated, brought £3.
  9. Four covers from Port Said, with stamps of France 1862, 1872, 1876 and 1900 respectively only realised £2-10-0. And as I have noted the best prices for French items used in Egypt it will be obvious that there can be keen buying from France at present.
  10. The Egypt " used abroad " was a strong section. The best price was obtained for a cover bearing 1867, 1 PT. ( one ) cancelled V.R. POSTE EGIZIANE LAGOS dated 29 SET 1871. This stamp was badly off centre. £8.
  11. A surprise for the auctioneer came when two SALONICCHI covers fetched £5-10-0. having been valued at £2-10-0. The first cover bore 1867, 20 para ( two ) cancelled with black oval Egyptian steamship line cachet used in conjunction with Greece 1867 20 lep. from Salonica to Patras. The second cover carried 1867 1 PT. ( defective ) cancelled V.R. POSTE EGIZIANE SALONICCHI. Even at £5-10-0 this was a good buy.
  12. Cover from LATAKIA with 1867 1 PT., fetched £6-10-0, though this, in my opinion, is rarer than the Lagos item.
  13. Stampless cover from ALEXANDRETTA to Constantinople via Alexandria, with circular date stamp of Egyptian P.O. at each of these paces and handstruck " 2 ", £2-2-0.
  14. Cover from GEDDA to Suez with Egyptian 2 PT. of 1866 brought £6.
  15. Cover from METELINO with 1872, perf 12½ X 13¼, 1 PT. ( pair ) to Constantinople £2-2-0.
  16. Cover from SCIO with 1872, perf 13¼, 1 PT. ( two ), £1-7-6.
  17. Two covers from SMIRNE with stamps of 1867. £3-10-0.
  18. Covers from Constantinople fetched £1 each or less, with the exception of the one with a first issue 1 PT. which brought £1-7-6.
  19. An interesting Austrian item was Levant 1867 2 sld. ( fine pair ) cancelled with black circular ALEXANDIEN date stamp. This is a newspaper rate used in this case on a funeral announcement. £1-8-0.
  20. Cover bearing Levant 1867, 3 sld., and 1876, 10 sld. ( two ) and 1867, 15 sld. ( fine pair ) cancelled with large black ALEXANDIEN date stamp. £3-10-0.
- This and the last item were " dirt cheap ".

There were many other desirable items but I think I have given enough details to show how the market is going and to make members wish that Income Tax may not stand at 7/6 for long.

On March 21st. 1940 Dr. Byam sent us a few more Market jottings. Here they are.  
On January 15th. And 16th. 1940 H. R. Harmer sold the Russian Levant collection of Agathon Faberge, in which there were several pieces from the Russian office in Alexandria.

785 seems to be the numeral obliterator for Alexandria, but I am not prepared to state that this was always the case.

1. 1866-67, Horizontal network, 2 K. rose and blue, without lines in label - a cover bearing a fine block of eight, obliterated ship letter postmarks and circular PORT ALEXSANDRIYA - 4 Feb 67, fetched £16.
2. 20 K., blue and rose—a fine horizontal strip of three and cut into horizontal pair, on separate pieces, showing the same postmark, but the stamps not cancelled. £4-4-0.
3. Seven copies of this same stamp - one bearing ALEXSANDRIYA postmark. £5-10.
4. 20 K., a brilliant horizontal pair on cover, tied with 785 in dots - £5.
5. Two fine singles of the same stamp tied with 785 in dots to a small cover. £3-15-0.

6. A very fine horizontal strip of four of this same stamp on a small piece, lightly cancelled 785 - £ 7-10-0.

7. Two fine singles of the same stamp on separate covers, tied with Alexandria dated and dotted cancellations-£4-10-0.

This was a very fine collection, containing the most remarkable prices, so it is interesting to note that there were no stamps with the vertical networks used from Alexandria and none of the 1868 issue from that office. We know that covers bearing the latter stamps exist with the circular ALEXANDRIYA markings applied on arrival. As far as we know, the Russian P.O. at Alexandria was open from some time in 1857 till 31st October 1885.

on February 26th., H. R. Harmer sold a fine mint corner block of with control of the 1938 Egyptian £1 birthday stamp for £8-8-0.

Also a collection of Commemoratives in mint control blocks of four S. G. 168 to 301. - a total of 264 stamps, for £8-10-0. - which works out at just over 7.7 pence per stamp - so I think someone did pretty well !

Note by the Editor. A photograph of the Russian 785 in dots marking was to have appeared in this issue. It has, however, been held over until the June issue when, it is hoped, Mr Hinde will write us a few lines to accompany it.

#### " The History of the Post in Egypt "

In reply to the note which appeared on page 12 of the last issue of the Q.C. we have received the following from Dr. Byam :-

Mr dear Mumford,

Mackenzie-Low and I have spent the week-end together, so I had a chance to put before him a few of my suggestions for our book which you may care to include in the Q.C. This is the result of McNeille's letter.

#### Tentative Titles.

1. Egypt: Its stamps and Postal history.
2. The Stamps of Egypt and their use.
3. The Postal History of Egypt and its stamps.
4. The History of the Post in Egypt.
5. The History of the Post in Egypt and its Stamps.

My original suggestion ( No. 4. above ) was meant to include stamps as I consider them one of the most important aspects of the History. But perhaps it would be best to be more explicit. So No. 1 will now be my choice. You might ask for other suggestions and also for a vote on those I have made.

Following up McNeille's suggestion, I roughed out a Tentative Plan for the book and here it is, as it has obtained Mackenzie-Low's approval.

#### Egypt: Its Stamps and Postal History.

Preface. to deal with the Study Circle and its works ; the other sources of information which have been drawn on.

Introduction. The Title of the Book and why chosen; comments on the arrangement of the subject matter.

Chapter 1. The first Modern Government Post in Egypt and the Posta Europea



- Chapter 2. The Consular Posts ( the foreign P.O.s in Egypt. )  
Chapter 3. The First Issue 1866 - with Essays and Proofs.  
Chapter 4. The Second Issue 1867/8 - with Essays and Proofs.

And so on, chapter by chapter, through :

- (a) General Issues.
  - (b) Official Stamps ( as these are mostly the General issue overprinted )
  - (c) Express Stamps.
  - (d) Air Mail Stamps.
  - (e) Commemorative Stamps ( in my opinion these should be separated from the General Issues . )
  - (f) Postage Due Stamps
- Chapter 20 (?) Postal Markings  
Chapter 21 (?) Egyptian Post in the Sudan, including MASSAWA.  
Chapter 22 (?) Egyptian Post Offices in Turkey and Arabia ( possibly Somalil and should come in here )  
Chapter 23. (?) Carriage of Official Mail : Interpostal Labels.  
Chapter 24. (?) The Suez Canal Zone, including the Comp. Maritime de Suez and its stamps - their use and the forgeries of the same.  
Chapter 25. (?) The British Army Post in Egypt, including the stamps used during the campaigns of 1882 and 1884. the Postal Concession. The Present Army Stamps.  
Chapter 26. (?) The Development of the Egyptian Postal System ; Stamp Printing. Air Services.  
Chapter 27. (?) Check List of Egyptian Stamps.  
Chapter 28. (?) Forgeries of importance and their recognition.

#### AN INDEX.

As you will see, this is going to be a truly formidable effort. It will take another five years of hard work, at least, before we are ready for publication. The Book will be expensive if the essential illustrations are well produced. It will only be possible to publish it by subscription or with the aid of a grant from some source such as the R. P. S. I hope members of the Circle feel that such a Magnum Opus would be justified ? Anyhow we can do no harm by considering the project and discussing its scope and arrangements, so I have made the Tentative Plan for you to publish if you see fit.

The Stamps must be described before we write about their use and the markings which appear on them, but I am prepared for fierce criticism, of what I have written as I roughed it out as I ate my breakfast on Sunday morning last.

Yours very sincerely,  
W. BYAM.

92 Harley Street. London. W. 1. 27th February 1940.