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PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE STUDIES.

By The Keeper of the Record.

STUDY I. THE EGYPTIAN P.O. ABROAD.

I am now able to give some new recordings of this Study, thanks to the kind assistance of Surgeon-Captain F. F. Mahon, R.N., Dr. W Byam and Mr. A. W. Punter (a non member) who have submitted their specimens to me for examination. The following additions have been made to the Circle's Records :-

OFFICE.	ISSUE.	DATE.	POSTMARK TYPE.	OWNER.
BARBAR.	1879 - 20 Pa.	Not Visible.	V - 5	(27.)
DONGOLA.	1884 - 20 Pa.	10 JU 84.	Similar to type VIII with Crescent & Star.	A. W. Punter.
KASSALA.	1874 - 1 P. T.	18 Mar. 76.	V - 5.	(3.)
-	1879 - 1 P. T.	- 82.	V - 5.	(27.)
-	1879 - 2 P. T.	Not Visible.	V - 5.	(27.)
KHARTOUM.	1879 - 20 Pa.	- 80.	VIII-1.	(27.)
-	1882 - 10Pa.	- 81.	VIII-1.	(27.)
MASSAWA.	1879 - 1 P. T.	1 - 1 - 80.	V-2-1.	(27.)
MASSAWAH.	1879 - 5 Pa.	19 - DE - 85.	VIII-1.	(27.)
SUAKIN.	1879 - 1 P. T.	- 79.	IV-1.	(27.)

NEW DATA.

BARBAR. Earliest Date 19 July 1879. Latest Date 18 Nov. 1882.
DONGOLA. Latest Date 10 JU 84.
KASSALA. Latest Date 1882.
MASSAWA. 19 DEC 85.

NOTE. The Egyptian Garrison evacuated Massawa on 2nd. December 1885, and it has been assumed that this office was closed on that date, but now that a dated postmark copy has turned up Of 19 DEC 85, it will go to prove that the date of closing was later than at first assumed.

The Khartoum postmarks of Type VII have been passed as genuine by Dr. Byam.

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EGYPT INTERPOSTALS.

Some Notes by E. F. Hurt.

The so called Interpostals - often wrongly described as " Locals " have a certain interest for all collectors of Egypt.

As to their actual usage the following was the explanation given in an account of them in 1868.

" These " stamps " are termed Official Stamps and if placed on Official letters would indicate the nature of that letter and so free it from charge."

In other words used on Official mail they were franks, similar in nature to the " No Value " Service stamp of later times.

The earliest use of such adhesives in the circular form as far as I can discover was in Italy. There circular Official stamps were used long before any were in use in Egypt and it was through the Italian influence that the use of such type was introduced first by the Posta Europea.

In Italy these " Interpostals " or Official stamps were used as the final seals of the mail bags but at no time did any of these Italians bear any indication of origin.

The Posta Europea labels bearing the inscription " AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLA POSTA EUROPEA IN EGITTO " were put to a different purpose as they were issued with names of the different offices and were not only used as franks in the first place but also to indicate the origin of the letter.

All the Posta Europea circulars are rare especially those from Cairo. The total list of Posta Europea offices for which these were issued was :-

CAIRO, ALEXANDRIA, DAMANHOUR, KFR ZAYAT, TANTA, ZIGAZAG, BENHA, BIRKET EL SAB, SUEZ, DAMIATA, ZEFTA, MAHALLA and SAMANUD.

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STUDY II.

INTERIM REPORT ON THE ITALIAN POST IN EGYPT.

Study entrusted to W. Byam. (E.S.C. No. 3)

The only Italian post office in Egypt was opened at Alexandria on March 1st. 1863 and closed on February 1st. 1884. Before 1863 mail from Egypt to Italy and vice versa appears to have been carried by the French service.

This Report is divided into two parts :- . I Postal Markings and II Postal services.

I. POSTAL MARKINGS.

Classification :-

Type I. Rectangular frames containing the names of the various Steamboat Services.

I.1. Piroscafi Postali Francesci.

I.2. Piroscafi Postali Italiani

I.3. Piroscafi Postali Inglesi.

I.4. Piroscafi Postali Austriaci.

Type II. Straight line inscriptions without frame.

II.1. Da Alessandria d'Egitto.

II.2. Piroscafi Postali Inglesi. in italics.

Type III. Dated Circular Magazines.

III.1. Alessandria d'Egitto - Poste Italiane. 24 mm. circle.

III.1.1. As type III.1 but with hour below the date.

III.2. Alessandria d'Egitto - (Poste Italiano). 26 mm. circle.

Date in figures : Month in letters.

III.3. As Type III.2. but date in figures only.

Type IV. Numeral Obliterators.

IV.1. 234 in a truncated rectangle of square dots.





IV.2. 234 in a circular area of heavy horizontal bars.





Type V. Double circles for special services.

V.1. With annex below containing VAGLIA (= Insured)

V.2. With annex below containing CONSEGNE (= Registered)

	
<u>TYPE I-1.</u>	<u>TYPE I-2.</u>
DA ALESSANDRIA D' EGITTO	
<u>TYPE II-1.</u>	
<i>Piroscafi postali Inglese</i>	
<u>TYPE II-2.</u>	

	
<u>TYPE III-1.</u>	<u>TYPE III-1.1.</u>
	
<u>TYPE III-2.</u>	<u>TYPE III-3.</u>

	
<u>TYPE IV-1</u>	<u>TYPE IV-2.</u>
	
<u>TYPE V-1</u>	<u>TYPE V-2.</u>

The status of certain markings current during the period of the Italian P.O. at Alexandria has not yet been determined so they are not listed here : e.g. RACCOMANDATE, RECCOMANDATO, FRANCOBOLLO INSUFFICIENTE, AFFRANCATURA INSUFFICIENTE, via BRINDISI.

The Red Sea Maritime Service and similar markings, in use after the closure of the Consular P.O. at Alexandria, have intentionally been omitted.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION.

Type I. Rectangular frames containing the names of the various Steamboat Services running between Alexandria and Europe. These marks appear to have been struck at the consular P.O. in Alexandria as they are always in the same coloured ink as the circular date mark (Type III.1.) with which they are associated on the front of the letter. The mark of the French service (Type I.1.) came into use before the Italian P.O. was opened and is then found in conjunction with the small double circle French Alexandrie mark (Type III.), both markings being in the same ink, which suggests that they were struck at the same office and therefore the stamps, worded in Italian, and subsequently used at the Italian P.O., was handed to the French P.O. as soon as it was prepared and before the Italians were in a position to establish their own service under the convention in accordance with the Law of August 3rd. 1862, No. 741, Section Ia by which Italy obtained the right to run a maritime postal service between Italy and Egypt.

The earliest example of this usage which we have seen is a letter in the Danson collection dated February 10th. 1863. A similar letter dated May 28th. 1863, both marks struck in black, in the Byam collection proves that the Italian stamps for the French packet boat was not returned to the Italians as soon as the Italian P.O. opened. When the Italian adhesive stamps came into use the steamship markings were often used as obliterations and then were frequently struck on other parts of the cover as well, but always in conjunction with the circular dated Italian mark (Type III.1). The use of this last mark as an obliterator is extremely rare and so far we have not seen an example of this usage combined with a steamship marking elsewhere on the cover. Alberto Diena however illustrates such a cover in Il Corriere Filatelico for January 31st, 1933 - the three Sardinian stamps are cancelled with the circular Alessandria mark dated 10 MAR 63 and the French Steamship mark is clear impressed well away from the stamps. Diena claims that this letter was carried as part of the first Italian mail (Lettera spedita dall'Ufficio postale italiano di Alessandria d'Egitto, nei primi giorni dell'instituzione). The circular dated mark is Type III.1.1.

The use of these Steamship markings seems to have been discontinued in 1870. Latest dates seen :-

Type I.1. 19 FEB 68 (Byam)
Type I.2. 17 SET 70 (E. Yates)

The marks are stamped in black or in blue. We do not know the significance of the colouring.

It should be noted that the first two words of the markings are in serif capitals while the letters of the third word are sans serif.

- Type I.1. PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI enclosed in a rectangular frame measuring 27 mm. X 16.5 mm.; high (The measurements of all postal markings are approximate and have been taken from the centre of each line, except in the case of numerals, which are measured from their outside margins Letters 2.75mm. high for the first two words and 3 mm. high for Francesi. Usually seen on covers but was also occasionally used as an obliterator. Earliest date seen February 10th. 1863. (Danson)
- Type I.2. PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI enclosed in a rectangular frame measuring 23.75 mm. X 12.25 mm.; Letters 2.25mm. high for the first word and 2 mm. high for Postali and Italiani. Frequently used to obliterate stamps (19 MAG 63, Byam) but usually seen elsewhere on the covers. Earliest date seen & MAG 63 (Hubert Lowe)
- Type I.3. PIROSCAFI POSTALI INGLESII. This is an extremely rare marking. There was a cover in the Yates collection, franked with Sardinian stamps, cancelled with this marking. We believe this cover is now in the collection of J. Boulad and we hope he will supply detailed measurements of this type for purposes of the E.S.C. Record.
- Type I.4. PIROSCAFI POSTALI AUSTRIACI enclosed in a rectangular frame 27.5 mm X 17 mm.; Letters not measured. The cover bearing the example seen by us was dated 1863 and had passed from Egypt to Florence. It is hoped that some of our members may possess copies and that details of the same may be forthcoming for our Record. This marking is undoubtedly a rare one.
- TYPE II. Straight line inscriptions without frame.
- Type II.1. DA ALESSANDRIA D'EGITTO. In one line ; total length 61 mm. the first D, A and E, 4.5 mm. high ; other letters 3.5 mm. high. Seen used as an obliterator on stamps of Sardinia, (issue of July 1855/61) and also elsewhere on covers, with and without adhesive stamps. Always struck in black. Apparently applied at ports of arrival ; Trieste and Ancona. One example (Byam) is associated with Type I.2. struck in blue as an obliterator, and this difference in the two inks used may be taken as evidence that Type II.1. was not applied at Alexandria.
- Type II.2. PIROSCAFI POSTALI INGLESII - in italics. The first two words in one line 50.5 mm. long. Inglesi 25.0 mm. initial letters P and I 7.0 mm. high ; other letters from 2.0 mm to 16.0 mm. (the f) Not known where or when this mark was applied, but it may have come into use in the Red Sea after the closure of the Consular P.O. Seen struck in black as obliterator on Egypt 1 P.T. of Dec. 1884 and 2 mill. of Jan. 1888, and on G.B. 1d of 1881. Also reported on stamps of British India, possibly used from Zanzibar. It is only the fact that this marking is found on stamps of Egypt that justifies its inclusion here.
- TYPE III. Dated Circular Markings.
- Type III.1. Alessandria d'Egitto, above ; Poste Italiano below; serif capitals for the upper words ; sans serif capital for those below . It should be noted that there are no serifs to the I or at the foot of either T in EGITTO. Diameter of circle 24 mm. Date in centre in three lines, the month represented by three letters, the years by its two last figures . The date is not centrally placed, the space below the year measuring 5.0 mm. vertically. This marking came into use when the Italian P.O. was opened in March 1863. it is found used as an obliterator till the introduction of Type IV.1. in May 1866, but this usage is rare. More often it appeared elsewhere on the front of the cover in conjunction with type I on the stamps, and later with type IV.1. It is finally seen in conjunction with type IV.2.
- A. Diena illustrates a cover bearing three stamps of Sardinia, issue

1855/61, cancelled with type III.1. and dated 10 MAR 63, which he suggests is the day the first Italian mail departed from Alexandria. He states 234 (Type IV.1) came into use as an obliterator in May 1866. The latest date we have seen type III.1. used as an obliterator is 3 APR 66 (Danson); and elsewhere on the cover 31 DIC 78 (Byam), the stamps are cancelled with type IV.2. Struck in blue and in black but always in the same ink as the cancellation on the stamps.

Type III.1.1. Similar to type III.1. but with the space below the year date containing a numeral or numerals and a letter - either M or S (20 M ; 12 M ; 2 S) - possibly indicating the hour. This marking has only been seen used in 1863 and it is therefore probably the original form of this stamp. The omission of the hour would account for the unbalanced appearance of type III.1.

Type III.2. Wording as type III.1. but with *Posta Italiana* in brackets below. Diameter of circle 26 mm. Day and year in figures ; month in letters. Not found in use as an obliterator. Seen only on covers in conjunction with type IV.2. on the stamps. Always struck in black. Earliest date see 24 SET 80 (H. Lowe). Presumably continued in use till 1884.

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Type III.3. Similar to type III.2. but with the date in two lines, thus 4 82 and circle 26.5 mm diameter. Types III.2. and III.3. seem to have been used concurrently.

TYPE IV. Numeral Obliterators.

Type IV.1. 234, in a truncated rectangle of square dots, placed diagonally, which decrease in size towards the central open space containing the numerals. Dotted area measures 24.0 mm. X 19.5 mm. ; the figures 5.5 mm. high. Used only as obliterator of Italian stamps. Always struck in black. Earliest date seen 27 LUG 66 (Hinde) though E Diena states this marking came into use May 1866. Latest date seen 14 GEN 77 (Hinde) which may prove that it remained in use concurrently with type IV.2. (Dr. Diena's date for the appearance of the latter obliterator is Feb. 1876.) All covers which we have seen dated bear type IV.1.

Type IV.2. 234 in a circular area of heavy horizontal bars, four above and four below, measuring 24.0 mm. to 25.0 mm. in diameter ; the numerals are 5.5 mm high. Used only as an obliterator of Italian stamps. Always struck in black. Earliest date seen 24.9.80 (Hubert Lowe), though Dr. Diena states this type came into use in February 1876. We have seen it used in conjunction with type III.1. (31 DIC 78) Byam, but usually it is seen with type III.2. or type III.3. It remained in use till the Italian P.O. was closed in 1884.

TYPE V. Double Circles for Special Services. ALESSANDRIA D'EGITTO above ; POSTE ITAL. below, all words in serif capitals, with small stars on either side - between concentric circles. Outer circle 22.5 mm, Inner circle 18.5 mm. Date in centre. The outer circle is broken below to accommodate an annex enclosing the word which indicates the special service for which the special marking was used. Always struck in black.

Type V.1. VAGLIA in annex (= Insured). Seen on a pair of the 10 cent. of 1863 ; dated 10 MAR 68. these stamps appear to have been on a postal form. This marking must be very rare.

Type V.2. CONSEGNE in annex (= Registered). Struck on the body of covers and not seen in use as an obliterator. Examples seen (a) 2 APR 70 from Cairo to Pesaro, bearing Egypt 1. P.T. and 2 P.T. of 1867 and three copies of Italy 40 cent. of 1863 ; cover also marked RACCOMANDATE and RACCOMANDATO in frames measuring 50.00 mm. and 32.5 mm. respectively (Byam). (b) 23 FEB 73 from Alexandria to Livorno bearing Italy 40 cent. of 1863 obliterated with type IV.1. Type V.1. is the only other postal marking on the front of the cover. (Danson). (c) A cover ex E. E. Yates's

collection bearing two copies Italy 2 lire cancelled Type IV.1. and elsewhere Type V.2. (Hinde) (Will the present owner please supply the date on this magnificent cover).

II. POSTAL SERVICES.

Though there was only one Italian P.O. in Egypt Italian stamps were on sale in Cairo as well as at Alexandria, and were sometimes applied to letters at the former place : they had no franking power till they reached Alexandria. This fact is proved by several covers we have seen on which the Italian stamps are tied by the Cairo Egyptian Government postmark used to cancel the stamps of Egypt which franked the letter to the coast. From March 1863, when the Italian P.O.s came into being, till April 1865 internal postage was represented by the mark of the Posta Europea and several good covers have been inspected bearing these marks in conjunction with the stamps of Sardinia and Italy. Letters in 1863 appear frequently to have been passed without prepayment and are then marked in manuscript with the amount to be collected from the recipient. The stamps of Sardinia (9 July 1855 - 61) were available from the opening of the P.O. at Alexandria and remained in use throughout 1863 ; 10, 20, 40, 80 cent. have all been seen in various shades.

It is not known when the Italian stamps of December 1863 reached Egypt as we have seen no covers of December 1863 or January and February 1864. They were certainly in use by March 1864 (Byam). The Italian 15 cent. of February 1863 was in use by 19 MAG 63 (Byam) and Danson has a good cover bearing a strip of four dated 19 GIU 63.

Stamps of the Estero series (1874) have been seen used from Alexandria as early as 2 GIU 74 (E. S. C. Exchange packet) and the issue of 1881 continued in use till the office closed. The two lire of 1874 is rare and forged postmarks have been seen. The two lire of 1881 was never taken into use. None of the varieties listed (S.G. 813 to 821) has so far been recorded as having been used in Egypt.

Postage Due stamps of Italy (1870 and later) were in use at Alexandria but it is to be regretted that no list of these has yet been compiled.

It is hoped at a later date to produce a more exact list of the above stamps, with the earliest and latest dates recorded.

That there must have been agreements between the Italian and other Governments before the formation of the Universal Postal Union on July 1st. 1875 seems obvious as we have seen letters of an earlier date carried by Italian mail from Egypt to Great Britain, Switzerland and Italy franked by Egyptian stamps alone. Also letters to Germany from Egypt franked by Italian stamps. All letters to Switzerland were apparently carried by the Italian mail, there being no Swiss P.O.s in Egypt. The earliest examples of such mail seen by the Circle are :-

1. A cover from Cairo to Florence dated 19 DEC 68, hand stamped Franca and bearing Egyptian stamps 20 para, 1 P.T. and 2 P.T. of 1867 (Byam) ;
2. A cover from Cairo to Italy dated 2 SET 1870 (Byam), but marked Affrancatura insufficiente and bearing an Italian 40 cent. Postage Due in addition to the two Egyptian stamps - 20 para and 2 P.T. of 1867.

Italian stamps apparently could be used to frank letters from Alexandria to England before the formation of the U.P.U. A cover was sold by Plumbridge (Sale No. 1075) sent from Alexandria to London, dated 19 MAG 67, appears to have been fully franked by Italian stamps - total value 1 lire 60 cent. Stamps obliterated Type IV.1, also marked with the London Circular PAID on the cover.

Two similar covers in the collection of W. C. Hines are dated 18 GEN 68 and 20 MAR 68 and were sent from Alexandria to Manchester. Both bear Italian stamps alone, which are obliterated 234 (Type IV.1), Both covers are postmarked with the Italian types I & III, also the letters PD and the London circular PAID marks in red. The postage paid on each is 80 cent. On one cover what appears to be 20 c in manuscript has been added which may indicate that the franking power of the stamp was incomplete. A third cover, also in the Hinde collection, dated 13 APR 67, sent from Alexandria to London, is franked with Italian stamps to the value of 1 lira 40 cent, but without the P.D. mark ; it is stamped FRANCOBOLLO INSUFFICIENTE and with the British circular MORE TO PAY. The cover is marked 1/6 in manuscript but this is not evidence that sufficient Italian stamps would not have carried the letter to its destination.

Postal Rates for the carriage of mail by the Italian post, to and fro between Egypt and Europe, are difficult to determine in the absence of documentary evidence but covers we have seen suggest the following :-

- (1) Single letter rate 60 cent ; double letter 1 lire 20 cent. from the opening of the office till some time in 1868 when it was reduced to 40 cent. for single letters. Toward the end of the existence of the Italian P.O. the rate appears to have been 20 cent.
- (2) Printed matter only was carried for 10 cent. in 1867 and for 5 cent. by 1869.
- (3) Greeting cards in open envelopes were charged 2 cent. in 1878 and possibly earlier.
- (4) Registered letters, including postage, cost 1 lire 20 cent. in 1870 and 50 cent. in 1882.

Combination Covers are usual till the formation of the U.P.U. Posta Europea franks Types V and VI in conjunction with stamps of Sardinia (1885/61) and Italy (1863) have been seen. Stamps of the first three issues of Egypt in combination with stamps of Italy are fairly common, Stamps of Great Britain in conjunction with Italian stamps of the Estero issue occur on letters from the British P.O. at Beyrout passing through Alexandria to Europe. One such cover in the Byam collection reached Hamburg on 18.6.75 and was carried from Egypt to Germany for 55 cent. The date of departure from Beyrout was 3.6.75, so that transit occurred in 16 days.

As late as 1876, after the formation of the U.P.U., letters can be seen bearing stamps of both Egypt and Italy ; these are correspondence which has been redirected, the charge being 1 P.T. for carrying the letter from the Italian P.O. to the Egyptian town of destination.

(I fully realise that this Report is incomplete and that it has many shortcomings, but I trust it will stimulate members of the Circle to continue this Study. I shall be grateful for help which will enable me to produce a more satisfactory Second Interim Report.)

THE TURKISH POST WITH EGYPT.

Notes by E. F. Hurt.

In the following very brief notes I am only speaking of the period roughly between 1840 and 1867.

During this period probably the main bulk of all mail between Constantinople and Egypt was carried by the French Mail Boats and through the French Offices in Alexandria, etc. and the French office in Constantinople. A small portion too was undoubtedly carried by the Egyptian Mail Boats though it is doubtful if very much was so borne to Constantinople. A little too may have filtered through from the Greek Consular Office in Alexandria to that in Constantinople.

In so far as Turkey itself was concerned it does not seem to have troubled very much about its postal interests and, in fact, at least up to 1867 the Turkish Postal Services were far from organised anywhere. There was rather a tendency to laissez faire and to leave the matter to anyone or any power who was interested sufficiently to the work in place of the Turkish Government.

As proof of this latter contention are the following facts:- Turkey issued no stamps until 1862 but in 1859 had given even the Government mail to the "Admiralty Steamship Company" run by Italian interests.

But prior to that, at least as early as 1840 another Italian Mail Boat Company, the Piroscafi Ottomani had been taking care of mail to and from Turkey and many ports in Asia Minor.

Quite recently two very interesting facts have come to my notice which are of considerable interest to Egypt collectors.

The first of these was the discovery of a cover of 1863 from Alexandria bearing the frank of the Piroscafi Ottomani reading "Agencia Piri Ottomani-Aloxandria". This cover which I illustrated on page 40 of the "Illustrated Philatelic Record". Hitherto no marking of any agency of this Company in Egypt was known but this discovery tends to show that the Piroscafi Ottomani was a link, at least during a certain period, between Egypt and Turkey and we know that the greater portion of mail overseas in the Eastern Mediterranean was handled by this company from about 1840 to as late as 1863, the Alexandria cover above mentioned being as far as I am aware the latest date for any Piroscafi Ottomani marking. From all this evidence we can gather that the Piroscafi Ottomani did not operate to or open an Agency in Alexandria until a very late date and then probably only in the hope of being able to snatch some of the traffic largely held by France and further that they did not find it a paying proposition and soon closed down. That it was unlikely to be a paying proposition is obvious when we realise that French Mail Boats of several lines were doing the round trip of the Mediterranean every week and that the calls at Alexandria and Constantinople were only, so to speak, in transit and also that they had established connections with the Austrian Lloyd and Danube Steam Navigation Company thus forming a very efficient bloc.

We now come to another interesting point on which I am able to throw a little new light. So bad had the Turkish Postal Service become in 1865 that by a firman of the Sultan a private concern was authorised to establish and carry on a local post not only for Constantinople and Galata but for both banks of the Bosphorus as far as Yeni-Mahalé the Prince Islands and the two sides of the Golden Horn with extension to San Stefano. This concern was known as the Entreprise-Liannos.

Here it may be as well to settle once and for all the proper spelling of this firm's title as it has been variously ascribed to LANNON, LIANOS and LIAUNOS. In listing the stamps of the Company, Yvert spells it LAINOS. But I happen to have one of the original postal notices of this firm autographed by the owner himself and he spells his name LIANNOS, so we will presume he is correct!

The first issue of adhesive stamps by this Company were the upright, rectangular type in three values, printed by Perkins Bacon of London and issued in the autumn of 1865. These stamps were used on all mail.

Another issue were those of oblong rectangular form which bore at the top POSTE LOCALE in one line with, below that, SERVICE MIXTE. The remainder of the stamp (see illustration in Yvert World Catalogue) consists of three lines reading :- TAXE EXT.- ; TAXE INT 20- ; TOTAL--.

My readers will probably be asking, "What has this to do with Egypt ? " Just this - (I quote from a letter dated June 1866 from a well known philatelist in Constantinople D. E. MAVROGORDATO, "Following certain engagements contracted with the Egyptian Post Office, Mons. Liannos, Director of the Local Post in Constantinople has undertaken the delivery of letters from the Egyptian Post Office. The supplementary delivery fee will be paid by the recipient. Unfranked letters or those underfranked will have the amount shown on the Foreign Mail stamp which has been issued today (and which I have last described above - E.F.H.). These stamps will indicate the amount due to the Egyptian Post Office to which will be added the amount due to the Local Post. There are four values ; 10 paras on yellow, 20 paras on rose, 1 piastre red on white ; 2 Piastres blue on white ".

The above now explains the wording on the stamp of which we are speaking. The "SERVICE MIXTE" indicated the combined Lainnos-Egyptian P.O. agreed service. In other words Liannos was not only acting as a Local Postal service agent for the Turkish Government but also in a similar capacity for the Egyptian Post Office.

Of the last three lines of inscription on these stamps the amount due to the Egyptian P.O., which was presumably paid first by Liannos on receiving the mail from the Egyptian P.O., was inserted after the words TAXE EXT. The Local Postage Delivery due was fixed according to weight by the values indicated of the four stamps described. The Total was then filled in.

While these stamps have been heavily forged - at least five different types, I have two genuine used copies. The only existing cover that I have been able to record was one in the collection of Turkey of the late famous philatelist and member of the R.P.S., Dr. Passer.

Previous to 1866 and the issue of the " Service Mixte " stamps, the other issue, according to Moens was used on letters from Egypt arriving in Constantinople. This was previous to the agreement with the Egyptian P.O.

The Liannos service did not pay and in March 1867 there occurred a strike of the employees due to non-payment of wages, which as reported in the "Etoile d'Orient" brought about a forcible interruption of the service. The Liannos service had lasted about a year and the Egyptian contract only some nine months.

On March 31st. in the evening, the Local Post had to close down, although notice of this was given in a more optimistic vein by the posting of Notices on the letter boxes which indicated that " the service is suspended until further orders " . This threw back the postal arrangements in Constantinople, the then capital of Turkey to the time of the Janissaries. The Lianos service had other difficulties to contend with as not only did the Turkish Government not give it the encouragement and support which it undoubtedly deserved but did not even fulfil the letter of the contract it had made with Mr. Lianos in 1865 after the Sultan's firman. It was this official neglect which largely led up to the strike and reports at the time show that the public felt they had been let down by the Government and not by Liannos who had served

them well, although they felt a little aggrieved that they did not receive one or two week's notice of the sudden closure, as many were left with unusable stamps on their hands.

At the same time the "Levant Herald" announced that it was proposed to put up for sale the rights to run the Local Post at a fixed payment of 40,000 piastres per year, but this did not materialise.

-----OOO-----

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E.

From J. R. Danson. 7 - 12 - 40.

Q.C. No. 7. Page 11. I have a copy of the 15 Mills. Double. I should say it comes from the same sheet as the block you illustrate. It is from the bottom of the sheet and the margin in 10 Millimetres wide from the centre of the perforation.

From W. Byam. 22 - 1 - 41.

With regards Danson's query, I have carefully examined my block of the 15 milliemes double overprint and I find that the bottom margin, measured in the way he describes, is 9.5 mm. next to the corner, and 10.0 mm. at the right extremity of the four stamps. Presumably the margin in the stamp on the right hand end of the pane would be as much as 11 mm. . I think there is little doubt that Danson's stamp is from the same pane as my block. These facts might be worth recording in the Q.C.

-----OOO-----

T H E E X C H A N G E P A C K E T.

From Dr. Geoffrey Hoffman. 15 - 3 - 41.

The position as regards our Packet is that it is in abeyance. Several Members who sent stamps for inclusion asked me to hold them till circumstances improved and some asked for them back again. I have now returned them all and hope to make a fresh start after the War.

From H. M. Wallace, 55 Albury Place, Aberdeen. Hon. Packet Secretary of the Egyptian Stamp Club. to Mr. Mackenzie-Low. 20 - 2 - 41.

I have to thank you for your letter and booklets you sent me. I would have answered you sooner but I have been awaiting an answer regarding new members from Mr. Edwards. He agrees with me that we should accept packet members for the duration of the War at the packet subscription of 2/- annually. Perhaps you would let your Committee have this information and I shall be very pleased to accept any of your members especially those who can contribute booklets. I am having great difficulty in obtaining sufficient material as my supplies from Cairo are now cut off. The packet has had to be made a general one, any country although I am not accepting rubbish. I am trying to have 50% Egypt and Sudan, the other half mainly British Colonials with a

little Foreign, but one has to be thankful occasionally to get anything.

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" W A N T S " S E C T I O N .

The Editor will be pleased to hear from any Member who would like to have an announcement made in this column. There is no charge.

Dr. W. Byam desires :-

- (a) Covers from the Italian P.O. towards its close
- and (b) Material of interest connected with the third issue of Egypt.

Captain G. L. Hearn, Corey's Mount, Stevenage, Herts desires :-

Great Britain used in Suez or Alexandria. also Great Britain used in Constantinople (1d red plate numbers in particular.)

Mr. A. S. Mackenzie-Low desires :-

L'Orient Philatelique from January 1936. , especially Nos. 28, 30, 37, 39, 40, 41, and 43. Will pay 1/3 per copy.

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COPIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS APPEARING IN THE " Q.C. " .

It has been suggested that some Members may like to have additional copies of some of their Photographs which appear in the " Q.C. " for the purpose of illustrating their collections.

Copies of any photographs which has appeared in the " Q.C. " may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary at a charge of sixpence per photograph, plus postage.

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ERROR IN Q.C. No. 9.

On page 10 there is an error in the second line of the seventh paragraph,

(the lond one). AGENCIA PIRI OTTOMANI-ALEXANDRIA should read :-

AGENZIA DI PIRI OTTOMANI - ALEXANDRIA.