

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

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THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR .

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VOL. II. No. 12.

December, 1945.

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EDITORIAL.

Christmas 1945.

The Editor send the Season's Greeting to all members at home and abroad and wishes them good philatelic hunting in the New Year.

Index to the "Q.C."

This is the final number of Volume II and it is proposed to publish a full index to Volumes I and II together, as a supplement, early in the New Year. We would, therefore, advise members who have their Q.C.s bound to wait for the index before sending their copies to the binder.

New York Exhibition, 1947.

It has come to our notice that our friends across the Atlantic are contemplating non-competitive exhibits at their 1947 exhibition, to be held at New York in celebration of the centenary of their first adhesive postage stamp. The idea is to cover the whole field of stamps issued during the hundred years in such a way as to interest the non-collector, who may thereby be induced to see the fascination of philately as a hobby. These non-competitive exhibits will be submitted by invitation only. No two persons are to receive invitation to exhibit stamps of any particular country or illustrating a given subject, so that there may be no duplication which has been the bane of visitors to International Exhibitions in the past. It occurs to us that the Egypt Study Circle might well be capable of supplying an exhibit of outstanding interest, worthy to represent us at New York and one which the organisers of the exhibition would possibly care to invite us to provide. Such a combined display would draw attention to what the Circle stands for and would enable us to display material unsuitable for exhibition in the competitive section, which we understand, will show mainly original studies and new material for the entertainment of the confirmed philatelist.

No longer will completeness be consider necessary for an award in the competitive classes and all such exhibits will be strictly limited in size, as it is realised that neither juryman nor visitor can be expected to study

miles of frames with enjoyment and profit. We are glad also to learn that the geographical classification of competitive exhibits is likely to be abandoned and the more sensible grouping of like subjects is probably to take its place. Stamps will be judged with their contemporaries, and line engravings will both compete with photogravures.

To prepare an exhibit for New York on the lines we have envisaged above will take time and careful thought, but if our members are interested, and willing to make the effort, we ought to begin laying our plans now. Will those willing to take part please let us have their views on the subject. We could then approach our Transatlantic cousins, who we have reason to believe would welcome what is intended as a friendly gesture and evidence of our wish to help.

The First Philatelic Exhibition, Cairo. 1946.

On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the issue of the first postage stamp of Egypt, the Philatelic Society of Egypt is organising a philatelic exhibition to be held in Cairo at the Grand Exhibition Palace of the Royal Agricultural Society, Gezira, from February 28th to March 8th 1946. This exhibition will be known as the "First Philatelic Exhibition, Cairo, 1946."

Fifteen gold, thirty silver-gilt, fifty silver and fifty bronze, medals are to be awarded and, in addition, there are to be two special awards, viz. a Grand Prix of the Exhibition for the best exhibit and a Grand Prix of Egypt for the best exhibit of the stamps of Egypt.

The frames are designed to accommodate large sized Yvert leaves 24½ cms. by 34 cms. and will hold 2, 3, 4, and 6 of these leaves.

There are sixteen classes, among which are included - Egypt, Sudan, Foreign P.O.s in Egypt, The Near East, Europe, British and French Colonies, Asia, Africa, America, Air Mails, Literature, etc.

We would like to send the Good Wishes of the Circle to the promoters and to those who are likely to enjoy the Philatelic gathering in one of the most delightful spring climates known anywhere in the world, and we hope and presume that H.M. King Farouk, as patron, will allow some of his treasured specimens of Egyptian stamps to be exhibited, to the benefit of philately generally, and the entertainment of his fellow countrymen.

STUDY II. THE STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN USED IN ALEXANDRIA AND SUEZ.

Captain G. L. Hearn reports the following Penny Red Plate Numbers, unrecorded by Gibbons, from his collection :-

S. G. 150, 155, 166, 185, 192. (B O I.) Use in Alexandria.

S. G. 138, 170, 199. (B O 2.) Used in Suez.

Captain Hearn also records the following from the collection of F. J. Coomer.

S.G. 81, 100, 123, 123, 125, 143, 147, 151, 166, 169, 184. (B O 2) used in Suez.

STUDY XV.

AIR MAIL STUDY.

INTERIM REPORT.

on

THE PIONEER EMERGENCY AIR MAIL SERVICE USED DURING MARCH AND
APRIL 1919 AT THE TIME OF THE RIOTS AND STRIKES IN EGYPT.

(Study entrusted to J.H.E.Gilbert.)

One of the many restrictions which set in after the First World War was an outburst of political strife in Egypt. Demonstrations started in a quiet and orderly manner, with processions of students and young people, who were agitating for greater political freedom for Egypt. They took place first in Cairo and Alexandria and then spread later to other towns. Unfortunately events took a much more serious turn, as a rougher element entered into the processions, looting and rioting commenced, and appeared to be specially directed against the European communities. Shops were wrecked and serious damage was caused, and such a state of emergency existed that Martial Law was declared. British troops stationed near the various districts were called out to help the police and civil authorities. Then to make matters worse, various strikes started and tramway workers, cab drivers and many others were involved. Many of the Law Courts had to be suspended because native judges and lawyers had also joined the strike movement. The Theological and Secondary Schools closed and nearly all business was stopped by the mob law which was fast gaining strength.

On March 16th, 1919 the railroad was cut between Cairo and Alexandria by rioters, who tore up the lines in many places. British troops were guarding important posts such as railway stations and telegraph offices, while an armoured train was put on the line between Cairo and Alexandria, to help maintain order.

Processions grew larger and more unruly and serious clashes occurred between the rioters and police, the latter being supported by the troops, which resulted in heavy casualties, both in killed and wounded, in various towns. Determined attempts were made to obtain control of the railway station at Tanta - which was defended by British soldiers - as it was the most important railway junction in the whole of Egypt, and its capture would have interrupted all communications between Alexandria and Cairo as well as the Mansura, Damietta and other lines converging there.

Telephone and telegraph wires were cut and telegrams had to be sent by train whenever possible. Mails were piling up at various towns because of the difficulties of transportation and the delivery of newspapers was seriously interfered with. At one period no Cairo newspapers were received in Alexandria for three days. Grave riots took place at Rosetta on March 17th, 1919, during which the rioters forced the railway stores, took the tools and cut the railway line. They then attacked a train and the police station, which they fired. Various trains were attacked and their occupants stoned, at many places; R.A.F. places were used to try and disperse crowds and stop them from tearing up railway lines and burning down the stations -

many of which were entirely destroyed. Alexandria was cut off for some time and the only railway connection remaining during the period was with Damansour.

Strong action by the authorities was taken and the position began to improve. The railway line from Cairo to Ismailia was opened again and there was direct communication between Cairo and Port Said. The first train finally got through to Alexandria from Cairo after a greatly delayed journey, as it left Cairo at midday on Wednesday March 19th and arrived at Alexandria the following day at 9-30 a.m. Only one set of railway lines was in use on this route, and later trains took some of the vast accumulation of mail from both Cairo and Alexandria. No civilians were allowed to travel by train either from Alexandria or Cairo without a special written permit. It was arranged that the R.A.F. would convey telegrams by plane, with the exception of those destined for stations on the Rosetta and Mariout lines which could be delivered in the ordinary way. Considerable violence was also going on in country districts where farms were looted and burned and cattle lifted.

On March 25th, 1919, General Sir Edmund Allenby arrived in Cairo as H.M. Special High Commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan. He was armed with authority to take whatever action was needed to restore law and order. The position continued to improve slowly, and the telegraph lines between Alexandria and Cairo were repaired. Railway lines were also being repaired and R.A.F. planes flew patrols continuously over the main lines in order to prevent further damage.

On March 31st, 1919, mail from the Fayoum was sent in post bags to El Wasta by land, and from Wasta to Cairo by the Nile. Many of the postal officials in various parts were highly praised for the way they had carried out their duties under most difficult and often dangerous conditions.

A general strike was declared on April 4th 1919, when all the Government offices including the telegraph, railway and post offices ceased work. Everything came to a standstill, business stopped entirely and all the shops closed. The strike spread rapidly and riots and outbreaks occurred as far north as Aleppo in Syria - over a thousand miles away. One of the consequences was a delay in the demobilisation of the British Army in Egypt and Palestine.

Mails piled up in all the important towns and foreign mail arriving at Port Said could not be moved. Local mail could not be delivered and the public were asked to go and collect their own letters from the Post Offices. On April 20th, Cairo Post Office was literally besieged by queues of people waiting for mail, but owing to the lack of Post Office sorters, only a small proportion of the public could receive their mail.

There was a considerable force of British Troops in Egypt and Palestine at this period of 1919, following as it did so closely the termination of General Allenby's victorious campaign in Palestine.

It was most important that communications should be kept open for official mail between the various units, especially when the railway, telephone and telegraphs lines were out.

This presented the Royal Air Force with a rather difficult problem as the only Squadrons equipped for service were the 111, 113, and 142 Squadrons, all of the Palestine Brigade, and the Seaplane Wing at Alexandria. It was found necessary to hold 111 Squadron in Palestine for garrison duties which

only left 113 and 142 Squadrons and the seaplanes to operate over a very large area, covering both Upper and Lower Egypt. As this was manifestly an impossible task, steps were immediately taken to form four squadrons from the Training Units. This was done in record time, and a few days after the outbreak, the whole area of trouble was garrisoned by the R.A.F. The new units formed for this purpose were "X"A.P., "X"A.D., "X" E.R.D. and Training Brigade.

It was decided to use R.A.F. planes to fly a special Emergency Air Mail Service for official mail between the various centres in Egypt and Palestine. This Air Mail Service was probably unique, because it is believed to have been (x) the first really serious attempt in history to run a regular mail service by air. Also it had to be done at very short notice and under conditions of extreme urgency.

Unfortunately it has not been possible, so far, to examine the official R.A.F. Records of this service, because they have not been brought back to London from their war-time home in the country.

It is officially recorded that there was only one Handley Page Bomber in Egypt at the time and two Porte Flying Boats which operated far up the Nile. They all did valuable service.

The Headquarters of the R.A.F. in Egypt was at Heliopolis Aerodrome, which geographically was the natural centre for the activities of this emergency service. After the mail had been brought by road from Cairo to Heliopolis, it was flown by two Bristol Fighters belonging to the Headquarters Flight to Aboukir, where it was taken by road to Alexandria.

The air mail between Palestine and Cairo was operated by the squadron from Ramleh, which was then commanded by S/Ldr. Welsh - now Air Marshall Sir William Welsh. It is believed that there were also services from Cairo (Heliopolis) to Suez and from Cairo to Abusuir, for the Ismailia area, and it is thought that the mail was taken from Abusuir to Port Said by road. It is possible that the service was also extended to Luxor, Wadi Halfa and Khartoum, but this needs verification.

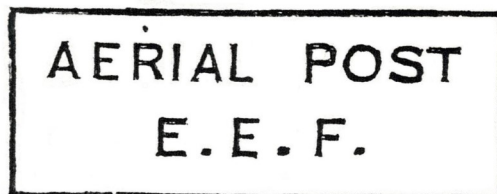
The types of aircraft used at this time were probably D.H.10, D.H.9A, Bristol Fighters and Vickers Vimy's and 45, 56, 70 and 216 Squadrons were the ones most likely to have been concerned with the Air Mail Service.

On Monday March 17th, 1919 the first mail was flown from Alexandria to Cairo. On that day the last acceptance of mail by the General Post Office, Alexandria, was at 7 a.m., and consisted of official correspondence, but as the preceding day was Sunday, there was only a small amount of mail ready, so to make up the load, a quantity of newspapers (copies of " The Egyptian Gazette ") was carried. After that date all available room in the planes was taken up by Official Mail, and newspapers were not carried again. Bank correspondence was also flown with this Official Mail and probably consisted of several letters placed in one large envelope addressed to the Bank concerned.

SPECIAL CACHETS USED.

All the mail leaving Alexandria was stamped with a special cachet (Type I) in black ink. It was evidently a hastily made hand stamp, probably composed of loose type, as the placing of the words varied considerably. All the covers seen by us are Official, headed " On His

AERIAL POST
E E F



TYPE I.

TYPE II.

TYPE III.

Majesty's Service " and therefore carried no adhesive stamps. It has not yet been ascertained whether this special cachet was applied at Alexandria Post Office or at Aboukir Aerodrome.

The mail coming the reverse way, that is, from Cairo to Alexandria, was due to start on the same day, but for some reason, at present unexplained, did not leave until the following day, March 18th. This mail was all stamped with the circular cachet (Type II.), which must have been applied either at Cairo General Post Office, or at Heliopolis Aerodrome.

Only 22 covers bearing these cachets are known to us. When it was realised what rarities these covers are, it was decided by the Egypt Study Circle to make a register and number them, recording their dates and the names of the collectors to whom they belong. It is hoped if others are found that details will be sent to the Egypt Study Circle to be recorded.

The earliest cover so far seen with Type I cachet is dated March 20th, and the latest April 1st, which is a very short period of 12 days. With Type II cachet the earliest cover seen is dated March 18th, and the latest March 28th, a period of only 10 days. It will be noticed that Types I and II ran concurrently. One or two covers are reported by Francis Field inscribed " By Air Mail " in manuscript, but so far we have not traced them and their dates are not recorded.

TYPE I. Seven covers - or small dated pieces - have been traced, numbered as follows :-

<u>Egypt Study Circle Number.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>Owner.</u>
	20-3-1919.	J. H. E. Gilbert.
1.	20-3-1919.	Henson (Canada)
2.	21-3-1919.	R. Stead.
3.	22-3-1919.	W. C. Hinde.
4.	28-3-1919.	T. E. Field.
5.	28-3-1919.	W. Penn Gaskell.
6.	31-3-1919.	T. E. Field.
7.	1-4-1919.	W. C. Hinde.
	21-3-1919.	J. H. E. Gilbert.
	22-3-1919.	" Gilbert
	24-3-1919.	" Gilbert
	30-3-1919.	G.R. Crouch
		G.R. Crouch

TYPE II. Five covers have been traced and are recorded as follows :-

<u>Egypt Study Circle Number.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>Owner.</u>
	3 AP 1919.	W Bogg (U.S.A.)
8.	18-3-1919.	W. C. Hinde.
9.	22-3-1919.	T. E. Field.
10.	25-3-1919.	T. E. Field.
11.	28-3-1919.	R. Stead.
12.	28-3-1919.	W. Penn Gaskell.
	26-3-1919.	J. H. E. Gilbert
	2-4-1919.	G.R. Crouch

Special mention should be made of No. 3 and 9 - which is really one cover bearing both cachets- the most interesting cover seen. This envelope has been used no less than four times - evidence of a paper shortage in 1919 too - and is the only known cover bearing both Type I (used at Alexandria) and Type II (used at Cairo) cachets.

TYPE III. This Type superseded Type I and II and the earliest date recorded is April 6th 1919; the latest date is May 3rd 1919, a period of 27 days. By a co-incidence or otherwise, this cachet was not used, it is believed, before the date of the General Strike was declared on April 4th. It is stamped in mauve ink, while covers despatched from Cairo bear the cachet stamped in black ink.

25 AP 1919. G. R. Crouch

Six covers, bearing Type III (mauve) have been seen by us

18 AP 1919. J. H. E. Gilbert
8 AP 1919. J. H. E. Gilbert

<u>Egypt Study Circle Number.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>Owner.</u>
	?21 FEB 1919.	Henson (Canada)
13.	6-4-1919.	R. Stead.
14.	10-4-1919	W. Byam.
15.	15-4-1919.	W. Penn Gaskell.
16.	16-4-1919.	T. E. Field.
17.	30-4-1919.	T. E. Field.
18.	3-5-1919.	T. E. Field.
	9 APRIL 19.	Mrs St. Barratt
	5 APRIL 19.	J. H. E. Gilbert

Four covers with Type III (black) have been seen by us :-

19.	8-4-1919.	W. Penn Gaskell.
20.	8-4-1919.	T. E. Field.
21.	8-4-1919.	J. H. E. Gilbert.
22.	17-4-1919.	T. E. Field.

Special mention should be made of No. 14 as this is the only cover known to us which was a private and not an official letter. It was sent from Cairo, by an Officer on H.M. Forces at Headquarters, to his wife in the south of France, and the words " On His Majesty's Service", printed on the envelope, have been altered to " On Service".

With the exception of this one letter, all the Official mail was addressed to various Headquarters, Army and R.A.F. Units, Base Records, Hospitals, Stores (both in Egypt and India), Army Pay Offices (both in Egypt and England), N.A.A.F.I. Canteen Boards, and to Army Post Offices and Field Post Offices-the majority are addressed care of Army Postal numbers.

Research into the history of this Emergency Air Amil Service has been accompanied by a search for the various Army Postal numbers used in Egypt and Palestine in 1919. It has been decided to add a list of these markings - still far from complete - in order to make clear the routes and destinations of this mail, with the hope that any mistakes or omissions can be rectified.

The following is a copy of a letter received from the Directorate of Army Postal Services, c/o G.P.O. Headquarters, London. E.C. 1. and dated 18th. October 1945.

" Dear Sir,

I thank you for your interesting letter of the 15th Oct. regarding emergency air mail services in Egypt in 1919.

Unfortunately we have now no records of the arrangements then in force nor of the personnel responsible for them In the circumstances I regret we cannot be of assistance in your researches.

Yours faithfully

(signed) F. Lane.

Brigadier. D.A.P.S. "

Postal Markings.

In view of the above, the following locations of the Army Post Offices are not Official and await confirmation, although the majority of the numbers are taken from General Allenby's Official Despatches.



FIG. B.



FIG. A.

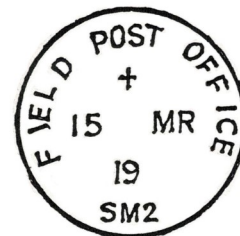


FIG. C.

The three postmarks illustrated above are those usually found in conjunction with the Emergency Air Mail Service cachets.

Fig. A. A double circle with large Z between thick curved lines below, and BASE ARMY POST OFFICE above; Used only at Alexandria.

Fig. B. A single circle inscribed ARMY POST OFFICE; used at the Advanced Base Army Post Offices.

Fig. C. a single circle inscribed FIELD POST OFFICE; used at the various

Field Post Offices in conjunction with various SZ numbers, etc. Some also bore corresponding Nos. to the Infantry Brigade to which the P.O. was attached, viz :- F.P.O. 161 to 161 Infantry brigade. It is a matter of interest to note that in both Fig. B. and C. there is a small mark over the date, which varies according to the time of day the cover was either despatched or received. "A" might indicate morning, "B", afternoon; "C" evening, and "X", night, but these marking vary considerably at different offices.

S = Stationary Post Office. Z = Alexandria Base Post Office. Therefore SZ means Stationary Post Office under the control of Alexandria.

- Base A.P.O. "T" = Port Said - used as a distributing base and also as a return letter office.
- - "K" = Kantara - After an outbreak of malaria at the end of 1916 this P.O. was transferred from the west to the east side of the Suez Canal. Kantara had a pontoon bridge over the Canal which was opened at night for ship traffic, so mails had to go by day in order to catch the early morning train the other side. Kantara developed into the Largest Army Base under canvas in the world.
- - "Z" = Alexandria - Chief base for the E.E.F. for all sea mails and also for local cross-posts.
- 1919 (March) 1st Echelon Headquarters situated at BIR EL SALEM (Palestine) (from end of 1917 onwards.)
- 2nd. - - situated at CAIRO.
- 3rd. - - - - ALEXANDRIA.
- G.M.I. Bir Salem. G.M.2. Mount Carmel. G.M.3. Jerusalem.

LINES OF COMMUNICATION UNITS

CONTROLLED BY GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

POSTAL UNITS

BASE ARMY POST OFFICES.

- K Kantara
 T Port Said
 Z Alexandria
 Y H.M.S. Arogon. Mudros (Base for Gallipoli, earlier date)

ADVANCED BASE ARMY POST OFFICE.

SZ 10 Cairo

PALESTINE LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS

POSTAL UNITS

ADVANCED BASE ARMY POST OFFICES.

SZ 8 Ramleh - Lydda
 SZ 9 Kantara - later made B.A.P.O
 "K"

ARMY POST OFFICES.

<u>Number.</u>	<u>Probable Location.</u>
SZ 4	Isamilia
SZ 5	Shallufa
SZ 6	El Ferdan
SZ 11	Alexandria and Cairo (Later date)
SZ 12	Aboukir
SZ 15	Suez
SZ 16	
SZ 20	Suez
SZ 22	Port Said
SZ 24	Suez
SZ 25	
SZ 26	Benha
SZ 50	Mersina
SZ 55	
SZ 56	
SZ 1	New Zealand Base Army Post Office.
SZ 2	Australian - - - -
E	Indian - - - -

TRAVELLING POST OFFICES.

RAILWAY TRAINS.

Z and C	Alexandria - Cairo.
C and Z	Cairo - Alexandria.
C.A.T.	Cairo - Port Said.
T.A.C.	Port Said - Cairo.

WESTERN FRONTIER FORCE.

Z and W	Alexandria - Dabaa.
W and Z	Dabaa - Alexandria.
W.1.	El Dabaa.
W.2.	Sollum.

ARMY POST OFFICES.

<u>Number.</u>	<u>Probable Location.</u>
SZ 2	Jerusalem (later date) but at Imbros in 1915.
SZ 7	4
SZ 14	Dier El Belah
SZ 17	JAFFA
SZ 18	Sida Bishr (ALEXANDRIA)
SZ 23	Shiekh Nuran (BEERSHEBA)
SZ 27	Gaza (originally Transit Office)
SZ 32	Bir El Salem
SZ 34	Beersheba
SZ 38	
SZ 43	RAFA
SZ 47	
SZ 48	52 19 CAIRO
SZ 49	(HELMICK)
SZ 57	Haifa
SZ 58	
SZ 59	Tel Kuram

TRAVELLING POST OFFICES.

RAILWAY TRAINS.

D.A.A.	Damascus - Lydda.
L.A.D.	Lydda - Damascus.
K.A.L.	Kantara - Lydda.
L.A.K.	Lydda - Kantara.
R.A.B.	Rafa - Beirut.
B.A.R.	Beirut - Rafa.

ADDITIONAL POST OFFICE NUMBERS NO INCLUDED IN GENERAL ALLENBY'S DESPATCHES.

<u>Number.</u>	<u>Probable Location.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Probable Location.</u>
SZ 3	Beni Mazar (later Austral- -ian B.A.P.O.)	SZ 39	
SZ 8	Beirut.	SZ 44	Jerusalem.
SZ 9	Tripoli (Syria) later date	SZ 45	Jaffa.
SZ 13	Deir Seneid.	SZ 59	Tel Kuram.
SZ 19	Helmich Camp, Cairo.	SZ 61	Safed.
SZ 28	Jerusalem.	SZ 62	Damascus.
SZ 35	Kantara.	SM 2	Romani (under control of Mounted Division)
SZ 28	SIDI BISHR		

HOSPITALS.

10 th Stationary (Indian F.P.O. 60. 1915?)		
24 th Stationary	-	Kantara.
44 th	-	El Arish.
15 th General	-	Alexandria.
19 th	-	- (ORWA EL WASKA) 1915
27 th	-	Cairo.
31 st	-	Port Said.
68 th	-	Alexandria.

VARIOUS COVERS ADDRESSED TO THE FOLLOWING :-

C.O.O. Base	=	Chief Ordnance Officer, Kantara.
D.A.P.S.	=	Director Army Postal Services.
D.D.S.T.	=	Deputy Director Supplies and Transport.
D.D.P.S.	=	Deputy Director Postal Services.
D.A.D.A.P.S.	=	Deputy Assistant Director Army Postal Services.
D.A.C.	=	Divisional Ammunition Column.
Command Paymaster in Egypt		at Cairo.
H.Qrs.		R.A.F.Middle East at Heliopolis.

MARKET JOTTINGS.

By W.Byam.

Sales of Egyptian stamps have not been sufficiently numerous or interesting of late to justify any notes in the Q.C. but the recent disposal of more material from the E.E.Yates collection has provided us with information regarding the present market value of Crowne Circle Franks used in Egypt. Seven such lots were sold by Robson Lowe on 26th September, 1945. The top price (£21) was realised for a cover bearing the Cairo frank, struck in red, dated 1860 sent to U.S.A. (1/5 rate). A similar cover to U.S.A., used in the same year (1/- rate), with a faint London Paid stamp overlapping the frank fetched £13. A fine example of the Alexandria frank, struck in red, on an entire letter dated 1845, to London (1/8 rate) fell to Besly for £14-10. A second Alexandria specimen on cover, dated 1857, to England (9d rate) sold for £6-15 owing to the London Paid stamp having been struck directly on top of the frank. The only Suez cover was dated 1860 and went to England (9d rate). The price £16. This is, probably, the rarest of the three franks and I am pleased therefore to have added this specimen to my collection. The most interesting item was secured by Rawson for £8-10, the Suez Crowned Circle used in 1882 or four years after the British P.O. at Suez was closed. Unfortunately only part of the cover had been preserved but the fragment carried a clear circular date stamp of 31st July 1882. It and the frank were struck in black. I would here like to draw attention to the importance attached to condition when estimating the market value of this Postal History material. It is also noteworthy that the Franks continued in use after the British adhesive stamps had been sent out to Egypt.

Note.

An article on the Crowned Circle Franks of Egypt, illustrated by photographs of the markings, from the pen of Brigadier C.D.Rawson, will appear in the March, 1946, issue of the "Q.C."

THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF EGYPT SINCE 1880.

By the Keeper of the Record.

On October 20th 1945 the members of the Egypt Study Circle met by invitation of the Chairman to consider the best classification of the postal markings subsequent to 1880.

About 50 excellent drawings of the markings since 1880 by Seymour Blomfield were displayed. These were in the form of blue prints and it was agreed that most of them should be illustrated but that only the principal Types should be allotted numbers.

The following Types were defined and unanimously approved. It was thought that special types should be allotted to markings used for Rural Services, Travelling Post Offices (Ambulant), Commemoratives, Machine and Slogan cancellations and I was requested to make suggestions concerning the classifications of these.

In the summary which is given below I have inserted the period of use, the data for which is obtained partly from the Study Circle Records and partly from my own collection. I have also received much valuable data from the articles on The Travelling Post Offices by Jean Bouald, The Commemoratives by Abdel el Ghazali & Jean Boulad and The Slogan Postmarks by Jean Boulad.

SUMMARY of the Type that were defined and approved at the Egypt Study Circle Meeting on 20th October, 1945, with suggestions by the Keeper of the Record.

TYPE	INSCRIPTION AND DESIGN.	PERIOD OF USE.
VIII.	Town name at top and Arabic equivalent at the bottom. Date in centre.	1-1-1880 to 1930.
IX.	Similar to Type VIII, but the space in the inner circle above and generally below the date is composed of vertical lines, which vary in number.	12-4-1886 to 1902.
X.	Similar to Type VIII, but under the town name there is a five pointed star in a crescent.	14-2-1885 to 12-9-1907.
	1. Town name in French and Arabic. 2. Town name in English only and larger crescent and star.	31-8-1885 -
	Known only from HEX FIRST. (Near Alexandria)	

TYPE	INSCRIPTION AND DESIGN.	PERIOD OF USE.
XI.	<p>Under the town name there is a five pointed star without a crescent.</p> <p>Known from :- Port Said, Port Taufig, Suez, Zagazig, Mansura, Assouan.</p>	<p>27-5-1907 to 3-10-1912.</p>
XII.	<p>Similar to Type VIII, but the town name in French or English is below the date, and the Arabic Equivalent above the date.</p>	<p>21-12-1926 to date.</p>
XIII.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MACHINE CANCELLATIONS.</u></p> <p>The following main types are known :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Date stamp Type VIII space 38 to 39 mm. apart. 2. Date stamp Type VIII with horizontal lines attached. 3. Do. with undulating lines. 4. Date stamp Type XII with undulating lines attached. 5. Slogan Types XVIII <p style="text-align: center;"><u>FOR SPECIAL USES.</u></p>	<p>20-12-1921.</p> <p>23-12-1921.</p> <p>4-2-1924.</p> <p>17-3-1926.</p> <p>23-4-1922.</p>
XIV.	<p><u>Travelling Post Office (Ambulant)</u></p> <p>Suggested classification of the main types :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Type VC-1 in use from 1-1-1875 to 1880 ? See L.O.P. No. 43. 2. Type VIII with dept. and arr. stations. 3. Type VIII - do - and AMBULANT or AMBT. 4. Type IX with dept. and arr. stations. 5. Type IX - do - and AMB or AMBT. 6. Type X - do - and AMBULANT. 7. Type X - do - 2 AMBULANT only. 8. Type VIII with stations and " T.P.O. " 9. Type VIII do and "& V.V. " 	<p>1-1-1880 to 26-4-1909.</p> <p>11-8-1880 to 20-8-1902.</p> <p>30-5-1887 to 1903.</p> <p>28-4-1888 to 1903.</p> <p>31-10-1892 to 11-1905.</p> <p>26-9-1895.</p> <p>27-12-1905.</p> <p>17-9-1907.</p>

TYPE	INSCRIPTION AND DESIGN.	PERIOD OF USE.
XV.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>RURAL SERVICES.</u></p> <p>Suggested classification of the main types :</p> <p><u>Undated</u> :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service Rural and the equivalent in Arabic in large oval. (Used as an obliterator on the stamps). 2. Town name in English and Arabic in oblong frame. <p><u>Dated</u> :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Single circle, date in centre - inscribed SERVICE RURAL and equivalent in Arabic above and town name in Arabic and French below date. 4. Similar but town name in straight line below date and equivalent in Arabic. 5. Double circle - Inscribed with the town name and the equivalent in Arabic in the outer circle, and "2 RURAL" and in Arabic in the inner circle. Date in centre. 6. Double circle - Inscribed in the outer circle RURAL SERVICE and the town name. 7. Similar to 6, but date in Arabic. 	<p>1890</p> <p>3-1890 to 16-3-1909.</p> <p>18-7-1908 to 11-4-1915.</p> <p>4-8-1901.-</p> <p>2-4-1909 to 6-1922.</p> <p>7-1-1915 -</p>
XVI.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>COMMEMORATIVES.</u></p> <p>Suggested classification of the main types :</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Circular postmarks, date in centre.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. French above and Arabic below. Example : ALEXANDRIE EXPOSITION - 1894. 2. French - Arabic above and below date. Example - " HELIOPOLIS AERODROME" 3. All French. Example: CONGRESS INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION 1926 - CAIRE. 	<p>22-4-1894 to 24-9-1894.</p> <p>6-2-1910 to 13-2-1910.</p> <p>1-4-1925 to 5-2-1927.</p>

TYPE	INSCRIPTION AND DESIGN.	PERIOD OF USE.
XVI (contd.)		
	4. Arabic above and French below date.	16-2-1927 to 30-4-1936.
	Example: EXPOSITION FRANCAISE - CAIRO.	
XVII.	<u>PROPRIETARY OFFICES.</u>	
	Examples: COOK & SON, SHEPHEARDS HOTEL, SHOPS, Etc.	
XVIII.	<u>SLOGAN.</u>	
	Examples: AFFIX POSTAGE STAMP AT EXTREME TOP RIGHT-HAND CORNER OF ENVELOPE, and in Arabic.	11-12-1921 to date.

Will members who have any relevant material with the new date please inform me so that I can send it on to Seymour Blomfield for the continuance of his Study.

POSTA EUROPEA FRANKS.

The Keeper of the Record has recently received an Air Mail letter from M. Jean Boulad containing the following list of unrecorded dates from the collection of his cousin, M. Gabriel Boulad.

TYPE I.	Cairo.	25-5-1844.	Earliest.
II.	Cairo	17-1-1851.	-
III.	Kafr el Zayat.	17-6-1863.	Latest.
	Mehalla.	14-4-1859.	Earliest.
	Samanoud.	15-9-1857.	-
	Tanta.	29-10-1857.	-
	-	22-5-1863.	Latest.
IV.	Cairo.	16-6-1863.	-
V.	Damiata.	22-11-1864.	-
	Kafr el Zayat.	20-7-1863.	Latest.
	Samanoud.	4-7-1863.	-
	Tanta.	29-10-1857.	Latest.
	Zagazig.	1-7-1863.	Earliest.
	Zifta.	18-5-1864.	-
VI.	Alexandria.	1-7-1863.	-

For previous recordings, See L.O.P. No. 28 and "Q.C." No. 7.