

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE.

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR.

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T H E Q U A R T E R L Y C I R C U L A R .

Published by The Egypt Study Circle.

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EDITORIAL.

With the passing of the years the procedure at our meetings has changed, by a gradual process of evolution. Whereas in the early days there were many new Studies to be "opened" and this was done formally by asking our members to bring their material bearing on the problem to be studied for inspection by the assembled Circle, where the facts disclosed were noted by the Keeper of the record, we have now arrived at a stage when most of our proposed Studies have been duly launched and their continuance is entrusted to one or more members who work at them in preparation for the Report which will eventually be submitted to the Circle and, if approved, published in the "Q.C.". As an intermediate step to the writing of such a Report the member in charge of a Study may be requested to present the facts he has accumulated at a Circle meeting for the entertainment of our members and in the hope that the resulting discussion may stimulate progress. As the subject matter for review has usually become considerable in amount it has been found necessary to allot the major portion of the time available at a meeting to the purpose of the one Study in question. Thus we no longer spend an afternoon receiving brief verbal reports on a number of Studies, as was the case in the past when our knowledge was fragmentary and often elementary. It is hoped in this way to review all our Studies in turn, so that every period of Egyptian philately may receive adequate attention, but it would seem desirable to take first things first so that we may be in a position to complete Part I of our book which could then appear as a composite whole headed by the Introduction which will give an outline of the whole work and make its individual items understandable if it should prove necessary to publish them out of sequence, a possibility we have in mind since it has been decided that loose-leaf volumes would provide the form of book most appropriate for an ever expanding subject.

As yet no publisher has undertaken to print our book though we have received tentative offers from New York, Cairo and one from in London. In one case a request to see our completed typescript was made a condition of acceptance; in another no details of size of page or nature of the

illustrations offered can be obtained by us, in spite of prolonged correspondence. Philatelic reproductions from Egypt do not fill us with confidence in the standard of illustration we would be likely to obtain in that country. Publication in England would nearly certainly be handicapped by shortage of paper but would have the great advantage of close contact between the publishers and our editorial committee, so that proofs could be corrected and exchanged without delay and matters for discussion settled at personal interviews. If a firm offer can be obtained from a British establishment, with a prospect that the necessary paper would be forthcoming, it will at once be submitted to the members of the circle. It is well to reiterate that, in the meantime, individual members are encouraged by the Circle to publish the fruits of their research where and how they can. When their work has been made possible by association with the Circle we have no doubt due acknowledgment of the fact will be made and the reservation insisted on that copyright shall not prevent the subsequent use of the information in our book.

Not only has our procedure undergone change but our membership has altered since the early days of the Circle. Many of those who took part in its foundation and evolved the lines of its working have now passed on or have left our ranks. New members have taken their places and some of these are unaware of our unwritten code of rules. We would like them to know that their active co-operation in one or more of the Studies will be welcomed and for this purpose all they have to do is to get in touch with the member in charge of the Study they select and, when contact has been made, inform the Keeper of the Record that they have become a members of their selected Study Group – in addition the Keeper of the Record should be supplied by them with all data to be culled from their personal collections which may extend our knowledge of the Study undertaken. This entails the reporting of fresh acquisitions and such information as dates and postal usages observed in their own or other collections, whether they be the property of members of the Circle or not. To enable such Studies to be made we would repeat, for the guidance of our new members, that all of us within the Circle undertake to place the portions of our collections needed for study at the disposal of our fellow members, to whom they will be loaned on request. Let our motto for ever be "Mutual assistance" for the advancement of philately of Egypt.

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EGYPT PRINCE FAROUK 10th BIRTHDAY ISSUE 1929. Feb. 11th.

by H. T. HARDY.

The stamps of this issue with centre printed in the so-called "wrong colours" have given rise to much speculation as to their nature and origin. Through the kindness of Ibrahim Chaftar Bey, President of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, I have obtained conclusive evidence of their true status which is worthy of record. The details are embodied in an undated statement bearing the official seal of the Société Philatélique d'Égypte - Le Caire, forwarded with a covering letter from Chaftar Bey dated Cairo, March 26, 1948. In this covering letter is stated "the information is from the Survey Department".

The relevant facts obtained from the Survey Department are as follows :-

A small advance supply of the stamps was printed with the portrait panel in brown for all values except the 5 millièmes, the centre of which was black.

These stamps were required as "it is customary for the Postal Administration to send a stipulated supply of each new issue of stamps for the International Postal Union at Berne sometime before the issue is placed on sale to the public".

The change of colour to slate in the printing of the main supply was made to improve the appearance of the portrait.

It would seem therefore that the adhesive labels were in the nature of Specimen stamps.

Other facts given by the Survey Department are of interest.

In March 1928 the P.M.G. requested the Survey of Egypt to prepare designs. Two photographs were obtained from the Studio Alban, one of which was accepted. From it a design was prepared and approved in September 1928. The words Prince Farouk 1920 - 1929 in Kufi Arab characters were embodied above the central panel. In the small tablets on either side beneath the Crown is written "Égypte" and in Arabic "the Kingdom of Egypt", on the left and right respectively.

"Reproduction: A working original drawing was made in photo-process tints and photographed same size. Photo originals were then prepared for each separate denomination for Master Negatives. Reproduction in half tone was by offset lithography. Control A/29. Paper, watermark, perforation and arrangement of the sheets as for previous commemoratives".

In my collection the set of these stamps in the "wrong colours" presents two interesting varieties. On both the 15 and 20 millièmes specimens there are white flaws, involving the centre panel and the coloured frame in each instance. On the 15 mills. the white flaw on the frame involves the M of Mills. and joins it to the numeral 5 above; that on the panel lies on the lower part of the jacket and is continued upwards

on to the sleeve, roughly parallel with the margin of the cuff; in neither flaw is there any "dotting" produced by the screen, on the 20 mills. the white flaw on the frame involves the right panel deforming the Arabic word beneath the numerals and spreading downwards to the left, immediately above the left hand limb of the letter U in Farouk that on the panel suggests a handkerchief held in the hand of the Prince, lying directly above the letter A in Farouk; in both flaws a few dots of the screen are visible.

Can any member throw light on the nature of these flaws and say whether other examples have been seen. Chaftar Bey considers they occurred on a "first impression which was not successful and was later abandoned". Dr. Gordon Ward gives as his opinion that they are due "to some foreign matter on the paper, which took the ink but was subsequently displaced". In fact, printing flaws.

If Gordon Ward is right it is difficult to understand how some dots of the screen are visible in the area of the flaw. If Chaftar is correct we must hope that other examples of these flaws will be found. It seems obvious that they cannot have existed on the stamps printed with the portrait in slate (to use the nomenclature of the Survey Department), as they would then most certainly already be well known, the normal issue being comparatively common.

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NOTES ON STUDY II. THE POSTS OF AUSTRIA IN EGYPT.

By R. S. Blomfield.

From the Mercury Stamp Journal - December 1947. Published by The Mercury Stamp Co., 522 Fifth Avenue, New York 18, New York.

"A few years ago, study of the files of the Austrian General Post Office revealed, that stamps and envelopes were already introduced earlier on September 1st, 1863, at the Austrian Post Office in Alexandria (Egypt), but the documents seem to indicate that the introduction was delayed due to a misunderstanding and it was supposed that the use of stamps started on October 1st, 1863 only. In the big Austrian collection, sold in our October auction, we found among other valuable research items a circular, mailed at Alexandria on September 12th, 1863, franked with two 2 soldi stamps, perf. 14. This item proves, that the introduction of stamps at the Austrian Post Office in Alexandria took place at least in the first half of September 1863, if not, as stated in the files, on September 1st, 1863. It is correct that in Constantinople, postage stamps were introduced on December 1st, 1863. At the Austrian Post Office in Moldara - Wallachia as well as those in Rustchuk, Czernawoda and Kustendje, the introduction of postage stamps took place on April 1st, 1864, at the balance of the Austrian Post Offices abroad on June 1st, 1864, on which day also the use of envelopes (which was confined until then to the Post Office at Alexandria) was extended to all Post Offices abroad."

The Mercury Stamp Journal is edited by Edwin Müller, the noted Austrian specialist, so the above should be authoritative.

THE SUEZ CANAL COMPANY.

By Jean Boulad.

In the Quarterly Circular Vol II. No. 10 on page 132 is described the front of a letter submitted by Gulbenkian on 18-11-1936 to Byam.

The letter which was addressed to France was franked with 20 centimes Suez Canal Company's stamp cancelled 5129 at Port Said, and 40 centimes Empire of France, cancelled 5105 at Suez.

In addition there was the circular dated postmark of Suez, with outer circle of dots, with the words " BAU FRANCAIS SUEZ " and the date " 6 AOUT 68 ".

Byam's comment was that the cover apparently started from Suez but the Canal Company's stamp was obliterated at Port Said ( 5129 ) its destination, not its starting point.

As the result of research I have now carried out in the archives of the Canal Company, here in Egypt, I am now able to explain the exact journey of this letter. It was sent from Port Said to Suez and franked for that distance with the 20 centimes Suez Canal stamp which, as usual, was cancelled at the French Post Office in this town ( 5129 ) ; at Suez the French 40 centimes was cancelled at the French post office ( 5105 ) and forwarded in the French mail bag to Alexandria from whence it was shipped in the French mail boat to Marseille. These mail boats departed from Alexandria on the 9th, 19th, and 29th of each month.

It is probable that the mailboat of the Levant line which used to call at port Said had already left when the letter was posted, so it was obliged to travel via Alexandria.

Normally this letter should have been franked, 1. by a Suez Canal Company stamp from Port-Said to Ismailia; 2. a 1 P.T. Egyptian stamp from Ismailia to Alexandria; and 3. a French 40 centimes stamp from Alexandria to France. But fortunately for the sender, since the 17th April 1868 the dahabiah-mail boat of the Canal Company plying between Ismailia and Zagazig had been discontinued. In consequence, from May letters to and from Egypt and Europe had to travel via Suez instead of via Zagazig as formerly. This new itinerary was communicated to the Egyptian Post-Master General in order that all mail from Egypt for the Isthmus should be sent through Suez. The postmasters of both the French and British offices in Alexandria were also asked to forward to the French Post Office Suez all mail arriving from Europe and addressed to the Isthmus.

On August 14th 1868 the above regulations were cancelled, following the opening of Egyptian Post Offices in the Isthmus.

Ismailia, 16th September 1948.

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MORE ABOUT " POSTALI INGLESII " .

by E. F. Hurt.

Collectors will remember that, some years ago, I had a cover from Cairo, dated August 8th, 1863, carried by the Posta Europea to Alexandria where it was passed to the Italian P.O. for transmission to Livorno, Italy. This cover was franked with three copies of the 80 centesimi Sardinia and the stamps cancelled with the rectangular PIROSCAFI/POSTALI/INGLESII, struck in blue ( as also the date stamp of the Italian P.O. ), showing that it was carried by British boat.

The above cover, which I illustrated in " illustrated Philatelic Record " No. 4. and which is now in the collection of M. Jean Boulad, created considerable interest as it was the first known example of the " INGLESII " cancellation on stamps of Sardinia on a letter from Alexandria. There is, of course, no doubt that covers from Egypt with Sardinian stamps are very rare, and usually at this period vessels carrying mail to Italy were those of Italian or French nationality and letters therefore bore either the ITALIANI or FRANCESE cachets.

Boulad's cover has the Cairo Posta Europea dated frank on the back.

I now report two more POSTALI INGLESII covers, which seem of sufficient interest to describe in detail.

Cover 1. is addressed to Florence from Cairo and bears on the front the Posta Europea dated frank of Jun. 4. 1863, ( Type IV ) 28 mm. circle. in black. The franking consists of Sardinia 20 c. milky blue 9 S.G. 30 ) and a 40 c. deep red ( S.G. 33a ). These stamps are cancelled PIROSCAFI/POSTALI/INGLESII in blue, which cachet is repeated on the cover, together with the Italian Alexandria date stamp of June 11th, 1863. There is also an Italian " P.D. " in black on the front. On the reverse " Da Susa a Torino " Mail train date and the Firenze arrival mark. This little cover, measuring 4½ X 3 3/8 inches, seems to leave nothing to be desired by the most exacting philatelist or postal historian except that neither of the stamps is the " inverted head ".

Cover 2. is to the same address in Florence and again from Cairo. But this time the Posta Europea mark, again on the front of the cover, is of the large type ( Type VI ) ( 31 mm. with outer circle double ringed ) and, dated Cairo Nov. 2nd. 1863, is struck in blue. The franking this time consists of a vertical pair of the 10 c. Sardinia yellow ochre ( S.G. 23 ) with the 40 c. carmine ( S.G. 34 a ), which stamps are cancelled by two separated strikes of the PIROSCAFI/POSTALI/INGLESII in black. On the front too are the Italian Alexandria date stamp of November 12th 1863, also in black, and the usual " P. D. " The reverse of the cover again, like No. 1, bears the Susa-Torino mail train date stamp and the arrival mark of Firenze.

While cover No. 1 mainly duplicates the one possessed by M. Boulad it is two months earlier and shows too that the use of blue for the Piroscafi Inglesi cachet overlapped the use of the smaller type Posta Europea dated frank of Cairo.

Both covers are, of course, extremely rare additions to the combination uses of the two postal services.

But cover No. 2. is remarkable in two respects. In the first place it is, I believe, the only known example of the PIROSCAFI POSTALI INGLESII in black, either on or off cover. Secondly this cover has been inscribed by the sender "Postali Italiano". Presumably this merely indicated that it was to pass through the Italian P.O. in Alexandria, leaving the authorities to decide on the quickest mail boat service available. One query remains in connection with these three covers. Normally, the franking paid the postage to destination, as is confirmed by the "P.D." marks, but it might be asked whether there was any reciprocal agreements between the British and Italian authorities in regard to mail boat services since, in other cases, about this period, one finds that a charge was made by foreign mail boats carrying mail for other nationalities. Such charge, which does not appear here, was often indicated by additional stamps of the nationality of the mail boat employed ( whence one sees combinations of Gt. Britain with France, France with Turkey and so on, on the Mediterranean Routes ) or a charge mark to be collected from the addressee.

As seen as possible I am having these two new covers photographed separately and, in case anyone is interested, I would have a few extra prints taken which I would supply at a nominal price ( 3/6d. each ).

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DE LA RUE SPHINXES.

by E. F. Hurt.

It would be interesting to try to ascertain how many "original" dies for the vignette were used for the De la Rue issues of Egypt.

Apart from varieties in the vignette, due to "natural" differences of production processes, between the mother die and one or more daughter dies from the same, there are other major variations, naturally more noticeable when studying the die proofs, which cannot be attributed to production processes.

I have no definite information to give but am merely putting forward a query in the hope that those members who have De La Rue die proofs will check up and give such information as may make it possible to tabulate certain Type distinctions and ultimately arrive at the number of original dies engraved.

As an example of what I mean I should like to draw attention to the right shoulder of the sphinx. On a vignette die this shows diagonal ( left to right downwards ) shading lines, while on quite a number of proofs of the entire stamp that I have seen there are eight horizontal lines. Considerable variation is also to be found in the shading of the right hand side of the head-dress which drapes the shoulder, not only in the number of cross lines but in their direction. Other variations are also



to be found in the head of the Sphinx and the lines of the shading of the pyramid, though many of these are probably only sub-die differences.

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WERE THE PIROSCAFI MARKS APPLIED IN ALEXANDRIA ?.

by E. F. Hurt.

The well known French philatelist and postal historian, Mr. L. Dubus of the Academie de Philatelie, author of an authoritative work on Forwarding Agent's marks, recently published, in Les Cahiers Philateliques, a detailed article on Italian Entry Markings on sea borne mail during the Ingelisi ( and Italiani and Francesci ) framed cachets.

In speaking of the Italiani and Francesci marks he records several types and places them, according to their format and colour, as being used at certain ports. When, however, he deals with the Piroscafi Inglesi cachet, which he mentions is " known obliterating stamps ", in black or blue, he states that it was probably in use in one of the ports of Sicily. This may be in part correct but I wish to show that this marking was almost certainly ( together with the similar Francesci and Italiani marks ) used in Alexandria.

The only three covers so far known bearing Sardinian stamps on letters from Egypt, which are cancelled with the Piroscafi Postali Inglesi framed cachet, are all date 1863. This was the early period when the Italian Post Office in Alexandria had just been supplied with Sardinian stamps and a date stamp. But at that time no numbered obliterator had been supplied. The rule in the Italian Post Offices was that stamps should be cancelled with the numbered obliterator and not with the date stamp, which was to be placed elsewhere on the letter. Having no numbered obliterator it is reasonable to suppose that, while the official would follow the rule not to cancel the stamps with a dater, he would cancel them in some way, particularly when mail was to be forwarded by a vessel of another nationality. In fact we know that manuscript cancellations were first used and we have seen such reading " Alessandria d'Egitto ". It is also possible that the handstamp " Da Alessandria d'Egitto " was a temporary expedient manufactured locally in Alexandria, though the wording suggests it was applied at the port of arrival.

Of the three covers in question No. 1 is addressed to Livorno and Nos 2 and 3 to Florence. Two have the Piroscafi Inglesi cachet on the stamps in blue and one, that of the latest date, in black.

All three covers have several important points in common. In the first place, the date stamp of the Alexandria post office is always in the same colour as that of the Piroscafi cachet, which seems to indicate that the two were applied simultaneously.

In each case, too, the first marking on arrival on Italian mail is that of the mail train from Susua to Turin. Now Susa lies 100 miles north of the Italian coast and just over the French border in Piedmont. In the

normal course of events, if carried by French or Italian boat, one would expect these letters to have been delivered to Naples, Genoa or even Livorno. Even if dropped at a Sicilian port they would be sent by sea to Naples or one of the other two ports and by no possible conception would they get to Susa or even Turin. I can trace no English boat which called at an Italian port when coming from Alexandria in 1863.

I suggest that these covers were landed at Marseilles, having possibly been transhipped at Malta or Gibraltar from the P & O boat. And as a further substantiation of this the cover in Jean Boulad's collection, which is addressed to Livorno, went to Genoa one day after being sorted on the Susa-Turin mail train and arrived at Livorno the following day. The fact that it came south and that it subsequently touched two Italian ports is proof that it had not come direct to Italy by sea.

Another interesting point is that all three covers have the same transit time factor between Alexandria and Susa i.e. 9 days; surely far too long if they had landed direct in Italy.

I suggest therefore that, even if these Piroscafi cachets were in use at Italian ports they were also supplied in duplicate to the Italian P.O. at Alexandria, as a temporary measure pending the arrival of the numbered obliterator, and used to indicate the nationality of the mail boat service and not invariably, as Mr Dubus suggests, in his article referred to above, indicators applied on arrival at a Sicilian port. In fact it would be interesting if Mr Dubus could produce any evidence that the Piroscafi Inglesi mark was ever used in Sicily in 1853.

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EARLY ITALIAN MEDITERRANEAN MAILBOAT MARKINGS.

by E. F. Hurt.

Through friends in France I have received excerpts, from valuable studies of the early Italian marks of entry, notably those applied to letters coming in by sea. Evidence is therein put forward, intended to prove that a certain mark was always applied on arrival at the port, and which I have shown, in another article, is incorrect. I have therefore extracted certain information, as given, which will be of interest to collectors of Egypt. All the following tabulation should be read as extracted "quote" from "Les Cahiers Philateliques".

Rectangular Markings.

PIROSCAFI      This occurs in three slightly different types, most easily  
POSTALI        recognisable by the format. It was used as follows :-  
ITALIANI.

- (1)    27 X 16½ mm.    Impressed in black on letters arriving at Catania, Palermo and probably Brindisi, from 1863 to 1869.

(2) Rather smaller than above ( actual format no recorded ).  
On letters from Alexandria to Brindisi, 1865 - 1860. Always in  
black and stated to be applied only to the reverse of the cover.

(3) 24 X 12½ - the smallest format - used at Livorno in 1870.

PIROSCAFI  
POSTALI  
FRANCESI

(1) This, always struck in red at back of the letter, was used at  
Genoa from 1851 - 1864.

(2) A similar mark, measuring 27½ X 16½, was in use at the following  
ports :-

Catania, 1863. struck in black.  
Messina, 1865 - 1867; struck in black.  
Messina, 1863; struck in blue.  
Palermo, 1866 - 1869; struck in black.

PIROSCAFI This was always struck in black on the reverse of the  
POSTALI cover and was used at Brindisi on letters from  
AUSTRIAGI Alexandria, 1865 - 1880.

PIROSCAFI It has not yet been definitely ascertained where this  
POSTALI was applied but, from evidence of covers noted, it is  
INGLESI believed that it was in use at Palermo from 1863 - 1869,  
having been noted in both black and blue.

PIROSCAFI  
POSTALI Applied at Brindisi in 1877.  
DEL LEVANTE

COI POSTALI FRANCESI ( Straight-line mark ) in italic or sloping type.  
This was applied both at Naples and Palermo from  
1872-1875. IN 172 it was struck in red but  
later in black.

LIVORNO / VIA DI MARE ( Circular mark. Two concentric circles with  
double outer circle line and large letter in  
central ). Letter " A " indicated arrival  
from Marseilles or Naples mail boat service.  
Letter " C " indicated arrival from  
Constantinople, Crete, Alexandria or Malta.  
This mark was in use in Livorno from 1854-1864.

The above information is at least worth recording but it would be  
interesting to hear of earlier or later dates for any of the above markings  
and also any evidence that the PIROSCAFI marks were actually applied else-  
where than indicated above, i.e. at Alexandria, on the Mail boats, etc.

The information regarding the significance of the letters in the  
Circular Livorno marks seems to answer queries that have been made on more  
than one occasion.

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STAMPS AND POSTS OF THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN SUDAN.

By Harold G. D. Gisburn and G. Seymour Thompson.

( Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. 1947 ) 120 pages. price 10/6.

This book will provide a fine foundation for a really excellent work on the stamps and posts of Sudan. Further editions will inevitably be called for, as the first edition gives promise of good things to come. The plan of the book is satisfactory and much of what has been written is of extreme interest. The historical information is readable and instructive. Some of it is hard to follow without the aid of a map and we must hope that the services of a good cartographer will be enlisted when the next edition is prepared. A map, or maps, showing the position of the various post offices and the railroad development is essential to the proper understanding of the postal markings which are to be sought by the collector.

The information regarding the various issues of adhesives is accurate, as far as it goes, but one looks in vain for notes on various varieties of the Official overprints which are known to exist but which are omitted from the Check Lists and are not alluded to in the text.

Certain outstanding items should certainly be noted when the book is revised — particularly the historic Slatin Pasha relics, now in the keeping of Winchester College, and General Gordon's last letter, now in the United Services Museum, and its pathetic cover addressed in Arabic " To the English ".

When the stamps of Egypt used in The Sudan are relisted the use of the second issue at Suakim should be noted.

Other details require attention, such as information regarding watermarks, or the absence of watermarks, and the nature of paper used and the gum.

A bibliography would add greatly to the usefulness of the work as a whole.

In spite of the shortcomings I have noted I would like to congratulate the authors on a really worth-while effort and assure them that their future endeavours will be appreciated, as their book should be on the shelves of every serious philatelic student.

W. B.

REVISED SUBSCRIPTION TO THE " Q. C. "

At the July meeting of the Circle it was decided that , commencing on January 1st 1949, the subscription to the Quarterly Circular should be raised to 12/6 per annum.

STUDY XII. THE MILITARY POSTS IN EGYPT.

Will members who have campaign covers please send details as under :-

British Campaigns to 1898.

to Lt. Colonel J. R. Danson, M.C.; T.D.  
Tower Buildings, Liverpool, 3.

Napoleonic Campaigns and campaigns from 1898 to date.

to Brigadier C. D. Rawson, C.B.E.; D.S.O.  
Ladysfield, Weyhill, Andover, Hants.

Data connected with the Army Post stamps of 1936 and 1939 should be sent to :-

Dr. Gordon Ward, 7 Pembroke Road, Sevenoaks, Kent.

20 MILLS. ULTRAMARINE, 1927 - 1937.

Brigadier C. D. Rawson, C.B.E.; D.S.O. Ladysfield, Weyhill, Andover, Hants. would like to hear from any member having blocks - used or unused - of the 20 Mills ultramarine 1927-37 ( S.G. 199 b).

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

After November 30th the address of the Keeper of the Philatelic Record - Mr A. S. Mackenzie Low - will be :-

" DORSET HOUSE", HASTINGS ROAD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA. SUSSEX.  
Tel. BEXHILL 976.