

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE.

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR.

VOL. III. No.7. (Whole Series, No. 31.) March, 1949.

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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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Vol. III. No. 7. Page 85.

March, 1949.

Whole Series, No. 31.

EDITOR'S PAGE.

Two errors occurred in the pamphlet containing the List of Members & Studies and the Synopsis of the Circle's proposed book which was published under date December 1948. They occur on the last two pages of the pamphlet under the section " Egypt: Its stamps and postal history " and are as follows :-

Last page but one.

" Part II. The State under Italian Influence, (1865-1876)."
should read :-

" The State Post under Italian Influence, 1865-1876."

Last page.

Chapter 37 applies to the Postage Due stamps of the period and not to the British Army stamps which are included in chapter 36.

Members are asked to kindly correct their copies.

NEW MEMBERS.

We welcome the following-

70. S.E. Ahmed Bey Mazloun, Vice-président de la Cour d'Appel Mixte
d'Alexandrie, Alexandria, Egypt.

71. John Firebrace, Woodthorpe Court, Silverdale Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.

72. H. H. Hammond, 1 Arthur Street, Prestwich, Manchester.

NEW STUDIES.

Study XVIII. The Postal Stationery of Egypt. entrusted to F. S. Mumford,
174 Buxton Road, Stockport, Cheshire.

JAMES CAMPBELL BESLY.

Once again Fate has torn a horrid rent in our Circle and Besly will no more occupy his place among us. He left us in the early hours of January 14th, having complete his three score years and ten. Though not with us at the start, his number on our roll was 49, Besly quickly acquired the spirit of our brotherhood and played his part right nobly, not only in our philatelic activities but also as the friend of those in need. "Service" was the watchword of his life and those of us who were privileged to know him in his happy home saw glimpses of his as Churchwarden, justice of the Peace and Father of the village where he lived in Berkshire, beloved and respected by all who knew him.

When first he joined the Circle Besly might well have been described as an ardent and serious stamp collector, whose albums contained much well chosen material from other countries as well as Egypt. Without delay he threw himself into our studies and it is with pride I look back on his rapid progress in philately for, in his own words, the work of the Circle opened a new world to him by teaching him the fascination of research into methods of stamp production and the use of stamps called Postal History. These studies revealed many hitherto unsuspected gems in the collection he brought home from Egypt, an accumulation largely acquired through the good offices of an Egyptian friend. From then on he discarded most of his other material and added to his collection of Egypt many pieces of exceptional interest selected with discrimination, resulting from increasing knowledge.

When work on the Third Issue was begun Besly joined me in the attempt to solve the problems connected with these seemingly unattractive stamps and was soon fired with enthusiasm as first one and then another enthralling discovery was made. To him I owe deep gratitude, as he cheerfully undertook all the "donkeywork" inevitable in a search for evidence to prove our theories and his methodical recording of our findings remains as a lasting memorial to his industry and intelligence. When the full story of the Third Issue is written the name of Besly will justifiably stand high in the list of those to be remembered.

His life as a "Cable man", in Egypt and elsewhere, had given Besly knowledge of communications other than postal which soon ranked him as our expert on all matters relating to the interlocking posts and telegraphs of Egyptian mail.

By his death we have lost a good a valued friend whose life among us will remain a shining example of what our Circle stands for in the world of stamps.

W. Byam

THE 1927 - 35 ISSUE.

by Gordon Ward.

An article on this issue appeared in The London Philatelist, Vol. 57, Nos. 656 to 69. Since then certain corrections have been pointed out by Brigadier C.D. Rawson and Mr. Martin Smith, to whom I am much indebted. The former calls attention to an entry in Zeheri's Catalogue which I had overlooked (dust and ashes could hardly atone for such carelessness). The first type of the 5 mills is recorded by Zeheri as an existing with control A/25 and with both diagonal and horizontal screens. The latter variety is not priced by Zeheri and is evidently very rare. Brigadier Rawson has discovered two broken strips of three dated from Suez in August 1928 and has very kindly allowed me to see these and to retain one of them. Mr. Martin Smith tells me that he recently saw at an Auction Sale a 5 mills booklet with the control A/28 A/29. He also points out that the perforation of the large stamps is not, as I had stated, $13\frac{1}{2}$ all round but $13\frac{1}{2}$ by 14. Further corrections would be very welcome.

A LETTER FROM JEAN BOULAD.

by W. Byam.

Correspondence with Jean Boulad is always pleasant and as I look back over the many letters he has written to me I realise how unselfishly cooperative he has been and our Study Circle assumes a deeper meaning. Many of these letters have found a place in the pages of the "Q.C." as they have brought new knowledge or indicated the road future research should take. One which reached me only yesterday (January 24th 1949) does both, for it contained two items of much interest.

The first is an entire letter from Alexandria to Livorno headed May 5, endorsed to be carried by the Italian mail service and bearing on the front the PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI rectangular marking (Type I-2) struck once, in black. Also on the front, in black, is a clear circular date stamp of Alexandria (Type III-1-1.) reading 5 MAG 6. The letter is franked with three copies of the 60c. (1863) violet, all cancelled in black with the numeral obliterator 234 (Type IV-1). This triple rate of franking suggests that the letter may have contained enclosures, as there is no indication that it was posted for Express Delivery. Though the obliteration is somewhat faint it ties the stamps to the letter and the numerals are distinct. The great value of the specimen however is the evidence it provides that Alberto Diena was correct when he stated this marking came into use in Egypt during May 1866. The hitherto earliest date of its use, seen by the Circle, was 27 LUG 66, on a letter in the Hinde collection.

The second item is a block of four proofs of the common rose coloured Interpostal Seals, similar to those described in an airgraph from

Boulad

publishes in the Q.C. Vol. II. No. 9, page 108. The block I have before me is printed in black on thin grey wove paper, without watermark. The design is familiar, with the words POSTE VICE REALI EGIZIANE in white above and below ALESSANDRIA in black. The central inscription is in Arabic on a background of vertical lines. Boulad states the units are Nos. 8, 9, 18 and 19, as the complete sheet of proofs from the collection of the late Abdel Gawad el Ghazali, formerly sub-Director of the Alexandria Post Office, now in the collection of Gabriel Boulad, is one of 60 units arranged as six horizontal rows of ten. It is thought these proofs are the works of V. Penasson. They are undoubtedly lithographs and each unit shows typical lithographic flaws which one would expect to be constant. It should therefore be possible, with the help of Gabriel Boulad's sheet, to "plate" single specimens.

While acknowledging the kindness of Jean Boulad we would like to thank him and say how much we look forward to reading the account of his great find in Paris, where he obtained photographs of the actual stones used for printing three values of the Suez Canal Company stamps.

MARKET JOTTINGS FROM THE U. S. A.

(Extract from a letter from
Charles Fox to Dr. Byam under
date - December 22nd. 1948.)

Last month both The Mercury Stamp Co. (Friedl.) and Harmer Rooke has sales, on the same days, which included a number of interesting items. The Mercury Sale had 284 lots of Foreign Offices in Turkey (Excluding G.B. and Egypt) and, while the material varied from very fine to poor miscellaneous lots, there were many very fine entires. The Austrian Offices realised the highest prices and bidding on these was more spirited than on the French, Italian and other lots.

The Harmer Rooke Sale included the same sort of material, with some G.B. and Egypt, but fewer lots were offered. A number of French entires, described merely as " anchor cancellations " and "from Cairo", proved to be ship covers with " Gange, Cairo, Cydmes, Aventin, etc." postmarks and sold at from 10 dollars to 22 dollars each, in some cases higher than the valuations.

The following are some of the prices realised, all for entires :-

Mercury Sale.

Lombardy-Venice, 5 and 10 Soldi. "Col Vapore d'Alessandria".	22	dollars
- - 15 Soldi. (3 pairs). circular Alex. Pmk.	9	-
Greece-Alexandria, pmk. with error of inscription, 10, 20		
80L. stamps cancelled at Corfu.	8	-
- 80L. tied "97", additional pmk. as above,	9	-

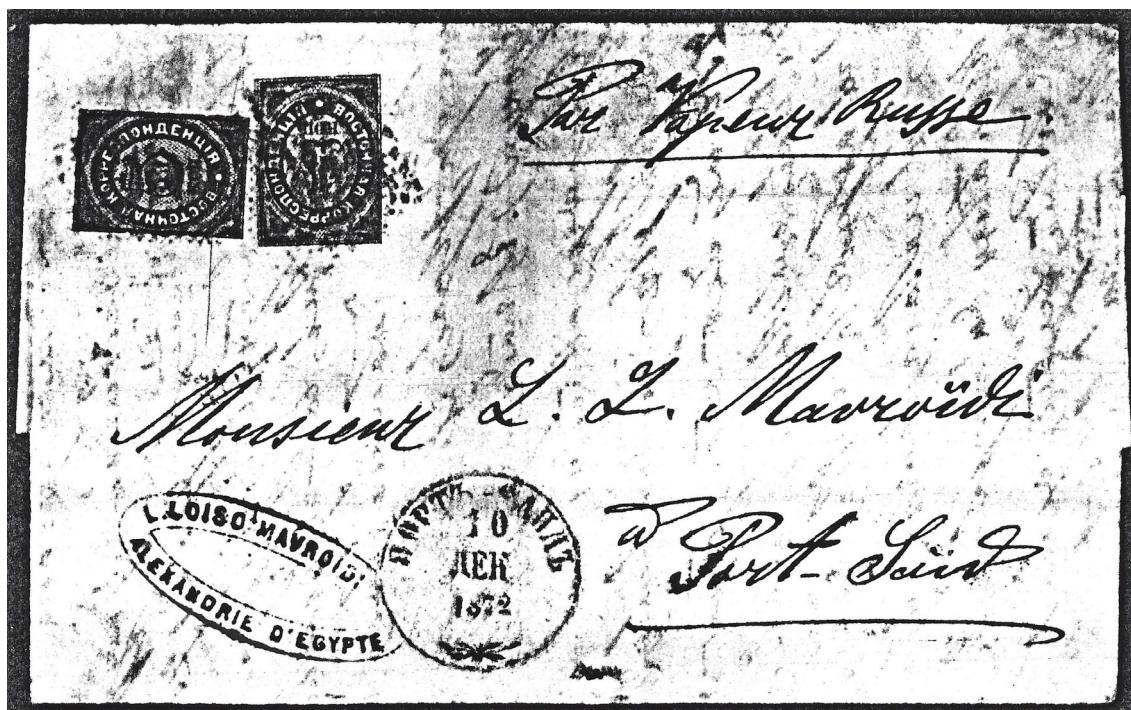
Italy.	40 c. cancelled "234" (2 entires)	4 & 5½ dollars
-	60, 20 c. cancelled "234", with Egypt 1 P.T. 1867. pmk. Tanta.	22½ -

Harmer Rooke Sale.

G.B. 2 , 3d, (1858) canc. "B01" (not tied)	11 -
Lombardy-Venice, 10 Soldi (strip of 3) circ. Alax. Pmk.	12½ -
Italy. 60 c. pair cancelled "234"	7½ -
Russia 20 k. 186 (to Beirut) canc. "783" & circ. Alexandria pmk.	20 -

Both sales included a few other lots of Foreign Offices in Egypt, but these were mostly stamps off cover. One exception, in the Mercury sale, was a Russian cover from Alexandria to Port Said, which I purchased for 37½ dollars (photo enclosed). I think the Port Said postmark must be very scarce, for I find no mention of it in any references in the Quarterly Circular. The reverse of the cover bears the Alexandria "Agency" postmark but so far I have been unable to determine what number, if any, occurs in the diamond of dots. I intend to photograph the cancellation and stamps alone, with various colour filters, which may make identification possible.

I also purchased the other Russian cover mentioned, which has the circular "Port Alexandria" postmark on the stamp, as well as the "783" applied at Beirut.



EXCERPTS FROM ANNUAL ITALIAN POSTAL REPORTS.

by Charles Fox.

1863. Italian P. O. at Alexandria opened on March 1, shortly after the establishment of steamship service between Ancona and Alexandria by the Societa Adriatico-Orientale, a private company which received a subsidy from the Italian Government for carrying mails. Four trips were made monthly, the steamers calling at Corfu and Alexandria, the home port being Ancona. During 1863 the office handled a total of 47,517 letters, 22,257 of these posted in Egypt and 25,260 received from Italy, and 45,776 pieces of printed matter. A total of 150,108 stamps were sold, a total value of Lire 15,010.

1864. Total of 36,678 letters posted in Egypt; 53,920 stamps, total value Lire 22,076, sold at Alexandria. During the year the steamers abandoned the stop at Corfu and called at Brindisi instead, making weekly trips.

1865. Letters posted in Egypt ; 46,373.

1866. From May 1, all letters were put ashore at Brindisi, instead of at Ancona. Letters posted in Egypt; 59,108.

1867. After May 15, Brindisi became the home port of the steamer company, the home office apparently having been moved there from Ancona. During this year the Co. operated four steamers; SS. Cairo, 980 tons; SS. Principé Tommaso, 984 tons; SS. Brindisi, 960 tons; SS. Principe di Carignano, 958 tons. Letters posted; 61,915.

1868. Letters posted; 55,047.

1869. Effective in October, the steamer service was extended to Venice. Letters posted; 74,113.

1870. Letters posted; 110,082. In January the R. Rubattino Co. (which, with the I. V. Florio Co., had been sharing the maritime postal service in the western Mediterranean, to Tunis, Marseilles, the Italian islands and around the Italian coast) established, on its own initiative, a steamer service from Genoa to Bombay, by extending one of its existing passenger and freight itineraries from Italy to Alexandria. This latter service apparently carried no mails, since it is not included in the list of official postal routes.

1871. Letters posted; 119,431. A Governmental commission, founded in 1870, presented in April 1871, its report on its study of the Italian merchant marine, which included the following recommendations:- Regular postal service to India; regular service between Italy, Greece and Turkey; service to North America; daily to service to the Italian islands. During the year the Rubattino Co. informed the Government that it could not continue its service to India without the aid of a subsidy and this matter was formally presented to the Government late in 1871.

1872. Letters posted; 122,415. About July the Government approved the recommendations of the commission and the following changes in the maritime services took place. The Rubattino Co, received its subsidy for the Indian postal service and, in addition, a contract was drawn up with the Peninsular and Oriental Company, covering services to India and also to the Adriatic Sea. Although this contract did not come into effect until about July 1872, the P. & O. Co. and the Societa Adriatico-Orientale shared, for the first half of the year, the service to Alexandria, maintaining weekly trips with stops at Venice, Ancona, Brindisi and Alexandria. After July the Societa Adriatico-Orientale either went out of business or ceased to carry mails, since no further mention is made of it.

1873. Report missing. (From 1874 Report):- In January 1873 a new company, La Trinacria, undertook postal service to Constantinople, Salonica, Piraeus, and Smyrna. (A few years later, this company lost several ships, failed, and its assets and services were taken over by the Floria Co.)

1874.	Letters posted:	140,116.	1878.	Letters posted:	94,666.	
1875.	-	-	1879.	-	-	77,782.
1876.	-	-	1880.	-	-	90,016.
1877.	-	-	1881.	-	-	68,029.

During 1881 the Rubattino Co. had a service from Genoa direct to Alexandria (and also to Bombay and Singapore) and the P. and O. Co. continued its weekly service from Venice, via Ancona and Brindisi, to Alexandria. The Report does not state when the Rubattino service to Egypt was started, it may have been during this year or possibly as early as 1877, when the original 15 year contract with that Company expired and was renewed.

1882. Letters posted : 109,483. On March 16th took place the formal approval by the Government of the fusion of the Rubattino and Florio companies, which became effective in April, the new company being known as the Navigazione Generale Italiana. This company had its main office in Rome, with branches in Genoa and Palermo, the former home ports of the Rubattino and Floria companies, respectively, and operated a total of 83 steamers, with services to Sardinia, Sicily, Tunis, Egypt, the Levant, India and Indo-China.

1883. Letters posted : 108,034. By the first of this year the Navigazione Generale was operating 92 ships and 4 more were being built.

1884. Alexandria office closed February 1. (The Report notes that the Egyptian and Tunisian services were seriously hammered, during 1883, by a cholera epidemic. Although not so stated, this fact may have contributed to the decision to close the Alexandria office.)

The Reports note the death, on November 1st 1881, of Raffaele Rubattino, the founder of steam navigation in Italy, who started with 2 ships in 1850. At his death, his company owned 40 ships.

UNRECORDED EGYPTIAN ITEMS.

by Ernest A. Kehr.

The sale of three hereto unrecorded Egyptian souvenirs for 945 dollars at a public auction sale of J. & H. STOLOW in New York City on January 12, 1949, caused more than a little excitement in the general philatelic center.

The items were illustrated in a widely illustrated catalogue and described as follows :-

- “ Lot 322. Egypt, 1926, 50 pi brown-violet and violet, imperf souvenir sheet commemorating the visit of the President of France (inscription in silver type in T margin), few copies known, very fine. Est. 175 dollars.”
- “ Lot 323. Same, but colors gray and purple (frame design slightly modified) few copies known, very fine. Est. 175 dollars.”
- “ Lot 324. Same, but color gray and orange-brown few copies known, very fine. Est. 175 dollars.”

Actually the first is the same design as the issued stamp of this issue, whereas the second two evidently are impressions from an essay design, the most apparent differences being :-

A. The thick coloured frame lines between the thin outer and inner frames is omitted, as is the frame line around the vignette panel.

B. The “ Royaume d’Egypte “ at top and the value panels, and Arabic inscription at bottom are colored against a white background.

These differences give the entire stamp design a much brighter and lighter appearance. The inscription, “ Souvenir / Du Visit L’Etat / Mr. Le President Du France, “ in small black caps, is printed in silver colored ink at the top of the paper upon which these impressions are printed.

As soon as the catalogue was distributed, I contacted the firm to make enquiries and learned that Mr. Julius Stolow, on a recent trip to France acquired these items in Paris without knowing anything about them, but feeling that they were worth “ Perhaps about 20 dollars.” Although he added. “ few copies known “ to the catalogue descriptions he admits that he knows absolutely nothing about any others and that this as well as the arbitrary “estimate” of “ 175 dollars “ were put in the catalogue simply to attract bids.

Before the actual sale took place the firm received approximately fifty inquiries and “ quite a number “ of bids, six reportedly for more than 200 dollars for each item.

The lots, however, were sold " on the floor " to a person identifying himself as " an agent for an out-of-town buyer ".

Note. I have made photographs of each of the items and will be happy to supply any interested member with prints at cost price of about 25c a piece for normal size and 50c a piece for 5 X 7 inch enlargements.

Members wishing to avail themselves of this offer should write direct to Mr. Ernest A. Kehr, 129 - 10, 103 Avenue, Richmond Hill, New York, U.S.A.

FIFTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE CIRCLE.

held at 41, Devonshire Place, London, W. 1. on May 20th, 1949.

The Chairman specially welcomed Monsieur Jean Boulad, of Ismailia, who is on a short visit to this country and who attended the meeting.

A new Member, Mrs. E. L. Morgan, of Swansea, was duly elected and welcomed. It was felt that Mrs. Morgan, with her knowledge of the Napoleonic and other Egyptian Campaigns, would considerably help with this Study.

Special sympathy was expressed for Robert Leslie, who is having trouble with his eyesight and was consequently unable to attend. The Chairman suggested that a letter be sent to Leslie expressing the E.S.C. condolence and good wishes, hoping it would be possible for him to continue his work with us in the near future.

Discussion took place on the proposed book to be written by the E.S.C. The Chairman spoke of the suggestions made by Mr. John Easton during his recent interview, which were as follows :- " The work should comprise two volumes of 320 pages each, small R, Octavo, 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ " X 6 $\frac{1}{8}$ " maximum size of trimmed page. 500 words per page would mean 160,000 words per volume. The cost would be £2,400 approximately for which our guarantees would be required, and the work would retail for £4-4-0 for the two volumes."

The Chairman then suggested the word allocation to each volume should be as follows :-

VOLUME I.

Introduction	5,000 words)	
Part I. Chapters	75,000 words)	90,000.
Appendix	10,000 words)	
Part II..... Chapters	70,000 words	70,000.
		<hr/> 160,000.

	Brought forward	160,000.
<u>VOLUME II.</u>		
Part III. Chapters	50,000 words	50,000.
Part IV. Chapters	70,000 -)	
Appendix & Index.	10,000 -)	80,000.
		130,000. 130,000.
15,000 words in Reserve for each volume = 2 Volumes		30,000. 30,000.
	TOTAL number of words	320,000

The number of words to be allotted was then given to each chapter and it was suggested by the Chairman that a skeleton outline of every chapter be submitted to the Editorial Committee.

The Chairman then spoke of the considerable progress which had been made in compiling the informative Check List by Martin Smith and Ibrahim Chaftar Bey and it was hoped to have this work completed within the next two years.

After discussion, when it was pointed out that it would be many more years before the proposed book could be ready for publication, it was decided that we should not proceed with negotiations with Mr. Easton until the Check List had been published. The circulation of this list would enable us to form some idea of the probable demand for the greatly expanded book the Circle is attempting to prepare.

King suggested that when the Check List was ready, he would be willing to write to all Philatelic Societies in this country to see how many would subscribe for the Check List.

The Chairman said he was anxious that the work on the proposed book should not dominate the Circle, and suggested that work on the book should not be pressed until the Check List is published.

The Chairman informed the meeting that his visits to this country from the Channel islands were likely to be still further restricted for various reasons and expressed the hope that it would be possible to hold "Semi-Circle" meetings in his absence. It was hoped that groups of the members who were interested in a particular study, would meet under an independent Chairman and continue their work collectively on a date and at a time to be mutually arranged. The Photogravure Study was mentioned as suitable for "Semi-Circle" meetings.

Mackenzie-Low proceeded to give a short display dealing with The Overland Route, illustrated by some old and interesting photographs; he also explained a new tabulated list of postal markings used, based on the reference numbers given in Sidebottom's book. The new tabulation was agreed to by all members present. He also exhibited a condensed "Waghorn Diary" prepared by him and Byam, which will be submitted to Sidebottom for criticism before it appears in the "Q.C."

Gilbert said the response to the appeal made recently for stamps for the disabled men at "The Star and Garter Home", Richmond had been most gratifying. He promised to take the many packages so kindly given by members of the Circle to Richmond and he knew they would be greatly appreciated.

After tea, King gave an interesting display on "The Postes Issue, 1936-1937" and special appreciation was expressed for the excellent writing up of his pages and the manner in which it was shown.

King suggested that controls should be described uniformly in all the chapters dealing with the modern issues of Egypt. In the discussion which followed Monsieur Jean Boulad told an interesting story of recent disclosures at the Survey Department in connection with the controls of this issue, which explained A/36 in unusual type on the 20 mills value, details of which will appear in King's Report on this issue.

The final item on the Agenda was "The Military Posts, 1939 to date". Firebrace displayed a few pages from his collection depicting Military Mail used during the last war in Egypt. The covers bore adhesives of Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India, as well as a variety of cancellations and censor marks, which caused considerable interest and discussion. Our new member was warmly congratulated for his original work.

After Brigadier Rawson had explained how official details of the Military Posts during the recent war were to be published shortly by the British P.O. it was decided not to open this Study until after this information had been released. Firebrace was invited to prepare for the opening of this Study in the near future,

The meeting finished about 7-15 p.m. - rather later than usual, owing, no doubt, to the most interesting time which all those present had enjoyed and the three excellent displays which had been provided and which had evoked keen discussion.

LOAN OF MATERIAL REQUESTED.

Dr. Gordon Ward of 7, Pembroke Road, Sevenoaks, Kent would be very much obliged for the loan of any material likely to assist the study of the large and small Army Post Stamps.

M A R K E T J O T T I N G S .

by W. BYAM.

The sale of J. C. BESLY'S collection of Egypt by H. R. Harmer, Ltd, on May 30th, 1949 produced results which I feel would have greatly interested our old friends and confirmed him in his belief that Egypt is a " safe country " to collect. Some of the items sold were obtained by him at the Cecil Rix auction in February 1943. Two examples are instructive ; (a) the complete mint sent of 1866, which I described (in the Q.C., Vol. II, No. 3, page 28) as " of exceptional colour and mostly well centered " sold for £20 in 1943 and £34 the other day ; (b) the 1872 mint block of twelve 2 P.T., with sheet margin at right, perf. $13\frac{1}{4}$ (less rare than $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$) went for £8 in 1943 and for £55 in 1949.

Other pieces worthy of note were the Waghorn cover from Boston (U.S.A.) to India bearing the two line marking in black " CARE OF MESSRS. WAGHORN & Co / LONDON ALEXANDRIA " dated May 1839 - £38. A cover (4 DEC. 65) bearing the Egyptian Government Frank of Mansura in combination with a vertical pair of Austrian Italy 1864, perf. $9\frac{1}{2}$, 10 soldi cancelled at Alexandria - £24. (J.C.B. obtained this item for £5 about eighteen months previously).

A cover franked with the British Crown Circle " PAID AT ALEXANDRIA " - £32.

A cover with the Cairo Posta Europea frank (Type VI) in combination with 1855 Sardinia 10 c (pair) and 40 c. cancelled PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI in rectangular frame - £57-10. This superb piece was obtained by Besly for £25.

A cover from Cairo with an unusually clear Post Europe frank, (Type I.) - £8.

Nineteen essays for the first three issues of Egypt realised £52-10, against the auctioneers; valuation of £20.

Of the adhesives, a used horizontal strip of three 10 para of 1866 realised £10; an unused copy of 2 P.T. of the same issue, perf $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$, ten guineas; 5 P.T. with error of inscription 10 P.T. used, perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 15$, realised £10-10. A mint block of six 20 para deep blue green of 1867 was bought for £21. (£6-10. when sold in the Rix sale.) Practically all the lots of the second and third issues rose well above the estimate valuations, an outstanding example being the 1875, 5 P.T. green, perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$, lightly cancelled and with "Royal" certificate, which realised £14-10, against a valuation of £5. Very few of this perf. variety are on record.

By contrast modern issues showed a falling off in price and some of the Commemorative issues went for quarter catalogue or less.

Twenty-three Suez Canal stamps, all unused, sold for £42 and the collection of seventy-eight of the forgeries for £11.

From which it may seem that all unusual postal history items have recently risen in value to a remarkable degree; the older adhesives are still on the upgrade but modern stamps are a falling market. Before leaving this auction there is one other piece which should go on record; the Official overprint of 1913 " O.H.H.S " between inverted commas, used with " Royal " certificate, £8-5.

Of earlier auctions by Harmer, the sale on 1st November 1948 included twelve lots of the special stamps issued for use at the French P.O.s in Egypt. The 1921 - 23 local surcharge 150m on 5 francs, unused and fine, fetched £5-5.; Of the same series the 30 mill. on 15 mill. on 1 franc, with large part original gum, £12. The Paris surcharge 60 mill. On 2 francs lilac and buff, unused, reached £22, against an estimated value of £15. All three of these stamps were for use at Alexandria. The Port Said 1899; 25 and Vingt cinq in red on 10 cents, unused, sold for £6-10- the 1921-23 local surcharge 30 mill. on 1 franc, unused £5-10. These prices give an indication of the market for this type of not too popular material.

On 9th November, 1948 the stamps of another of our members, Surgeon-Captain F. F. Mahon, R.N., came under the hammer, a total of eighty-two lots. A copy of 1866 10 para brown, perf. 13 all round, lightly postmarked but slightly off centre, sold for £15; a fair indication of the market value of this rare perforation variety. These perf. 13 stamps appear to have come from the extreme corners of the sheets and do not indicate complete sheet perforated thus. So far, copies of the 5, 10, 20 para and 10 P.T. have been recorded, but in all probability the missing members of this series will eventually be found. Of the next issue (1867) a fine unused copy of the 5 para with so called " chain flaw " (unit No. 30 on the sheet) realised £16-10.-a big figure for a stamp which occurs once in every 200, as this denomination was printed from one stone only.

The two values bearing the trial London overprint in red, for the 1922 issue, both fine copies, realised £8-15; whereas on April 4th 1949, at the Martin Smith sale, two similar specimens sold for £10-10. Only one hundred examples of the red overprint in each value (1 and 15 mills.) are believed to have been prepared. Six copies of the London overprint on the 1 millième - one unused, one used and a block of four - went for £14 = £2-6-8 a copy. There were half a million of these stamps bearing this overprint and it would seem many of them must be overlooked, owing to the difficulty in recognising the overprint, to justify such a price.

A mint marginal block of four 100 mills on £1 violet and blue (S.G. 220) realised £55 and proved the highest priced item in the collection. The four single mint copies in the Martin Smith sale went for an average of £8-7-3 each. Any piece of this stamp bigger than a single must be regarded as a rarity. There were 3090 issued.

The complete set of the U.P.U. Congress issue (1934), all very fine used, sold for £5. In the Martin Smith sale a similar set went for £4-10, whilst the mint set realised £16; and the mint set in Control blocks of four fetched £70.

A mint Control block of six Princess Ferial, with error 1493 for 1943, though estimated to be worth £24, sold for £31. In the Martin Smith sale a block of eight, with the error, from the lower right corner of the sheet,

together with a mint Control block of four, realised £36. The market value of this error would therefore seem to be stabilised.

Mahon has always been specially interested in postmarks and in the stamps of Egypt used in the Sudan. He had not shown great discrimination in matters of condition. His main collection of these items, 145 stamps, sold for £12-10. Sixteen stamps, mostly 1 P.T. 1879, used at Berber, realised £26 or 32/6 each. And six rather poor examples of the Kassala postmark went for £12-10, or 41/8 each. Eleven stamps cancelled at Massawah, fair copies only, sold for £3-10. His collection of 338 Interpostal Seals, estimated to be worth £5, realised £1.

The Martin Smith sale, on 4th April 1949, a total of 173 lots, was interesting because of the large number of De la Rue die proofs sold - 27 in all; the average figure realised was £7.; minimum £5-5-0. for the centre vignette of 1879, maximum £8-5. for the 10 P.T. " Before Hardening " dated 20 OCT 88. The three die proofs of the centre vignette for the 1895 Nile Fete Commemorative, (a) 3 OCT 95 (b) Before striking - 9 OCT 95 and (c) After striking - 11 OCT 95, sold respectively for £6-15, £7-15, and £7-15.

Of the early stamps, a horizontal pair of 1 P.T. 1866 " imperf between " with large part original gum realised £31. This seems a big price, in spite of the fact that the stamps were in good condition and well centered. The 2 P.T. bisected, on piece with Alexandria postmark, rose to £10.- a somewhat dangerous buy in view of the fact that the Expert Committee of the Royal will no longer issue certificates for bisected stamps on less than the entire front of a cover. The 10 para, pale mauve, of the next issue - two specimens on fragments of Arabic newspaper-sold for £13, and £12. So far the forger has failed to realise that a 5 para rate was for newspapers.

By comparison the high priced modern stamps were disappointing. Mint copies of the 50 P.T. Port Fuad went for £31 and £35; the latter with interrupted perf. The 1929 Prince's Birthday set with centres in the wrong colours, £21. The 1939-46 100 mills a mint marginal block of four, printed on the gummed side of the paper, £25; a gambling counter of no special philatelic interest. The 1946 Exhibition sheets, perf and imperf, £4-4. Two miniature sheets, both showing a block of four of the £E1 essay for 1923-24, one in dark olive-green, the other in bright yellow-green, each realised £44 (£16 less than the estimated value). The 1935 Army Post Jubilee seal in mint block of four, one with broken U, £8. One of the cheapest lots sold was the Express Letter stamps, 63 stamps in mint condition, including fourteen Control blocks of four, £5-15. It would be difficult to reassemble this collection today.

Several lots of both Postage Dues and Official stamps were withdrawn. The 15 mills, indigo, S.G.D.34, an unused block of four, with the variety " two stops after H " went for £46, though estimated to be worth £60. Not more than eight copies of this variety are thought to exist.

Harmer sold, on 14th December 1948, two covers of exceptional interest. The first, from the Austrian P.O. at Port Said to Syra, in 1868, franked with Austria (Emperor) 10 soldi blue and the Greek 40 Lepta - both stamps defective. £19-10. Such covers showing the small date stamp of the Austrian

P.O. at port Said are of considerable rarity. The second, an example of "accountancy franking" - Trieste to Canton, franked with Austria 1863-64 2Kr., 5 Kr., 15 Kr. (two pairs) and carrying in addition on G.B. 1/- green of 1865-67, cancelled B01, to account for payment by the Austrian authorities to cover transit over the British system from Alexandria to destination, £21.

NEW MEMBER.

73. Mrs E. I. Morgan, Cefn Eithin, Swansea, Glam.
