

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE .

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR.

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THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR.

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Vol. IV. No. 8. Page 99. January, 1955.

Whole Series, No. 44.

THE POSTS OF GREAT BRITAIN IN EGYPT.
Additions and Amendments.

by Brig. G. D. Rawson, C.B.E.; D.S.O..

1. On page 6 of Vol. IV. No. 1. of the " Q.C. " para. VIII (e) (3) it is stated that no example of a combination cover emanating from Egypt has been seen bearing British and Egyptian adhesives. A cover of this description has now, however, been acquired by Lt.-Colonel Danson, and details thereof were recently reported and illustrated in L.O.P. April 1953, page 93.

The cover emanated from Zifta mit Ghamr (near Zagazig) where a 1 P.T.(1866) was applied and date stamped 25 GEN 67. Thence to Alexandria where a G.B. 6d lilao (probably also applied at Zifta) was obliterated B Q 1 and date stamped Jan. 26. 67. The cover is marked via Marseilles, and the postal procedure for its passage is given in para 2 page 138 of Q.C. Vol. III. No. 10.

The following amendments should be made to page 6 of Vol. IV of the Q.C. para VIII e. Delete sub-para (3) and insert in the next line "British and " before the word "French".

2. In the July 1953 number of L.O.P. pages 168-9 M. Gabriel Boulad has reported yet another British/Egyptian combination cover, in this case, from England to Egypt. The letter is franked with three G.B. 4d vermilion (plate 12) postmarked Cardiff 6 March 1871, with PD in circle in red. Instructions- " via Belgium and Trieste ". On the reverse is an Austrian postmark Type II.1. (see page 150 Q.C. Vol II No. 11.) dated 16 Mar. It arrived at Alexandria 1 April 1871 and was readdressed to Cairo arriving there same date, Date stamps of both places being applied. At Alexandria, Egyptian stamps 1 P.T. and 2 P.T., 1867 issue were affixed and cancelled with date stamp. Notes on this route are shown in Q.C. Vol. III. No 11. page 140.
3. In view of the discovery of the "Registration cachet" reported on page 64 of the Q.C. Vol. IV No. 5, it is necessary to delete the statement in sub-para (i) of para VIII on page 6 of Q.C. Vol. IV.

4. The following additions should be made to the Table of Crowned Circle handstamps in Q.C. Vol. IV. No. 2. page 18.

Insert under ALEXANDRIA.

Cover with letter enclosed	Double Circle.	Red.	Mrs Maria Taylor Belmont Nr. Stranraer. Wigtownshire Scotland	per overland dispatch via Marseilles.	Yes without slits.	1/8
Red ink.	MSS. Double Circle.	Black.	May 23 1850.	11 days.	London Tombstone red.	3 JU 1850 S Leslie.

Insert under SUEZ.

Cover	Double Circle.	Blue.	Factorij der Nederlandscham ^{al} Maatshappij Batavia.	Nil.	Nil.	1/4	Red chalk.	MSS.	Double Circle.
Black.	20 Oct. 1854.	-	?	-	owner anonymous, reported by M. Cicurel. L.O.P. Oct. '53. p 229.				

5. Mons. A. Cicurel reports the following -

- (a) Q.C. Vol. III. No. 11. page 148. Alexandria Postal marking II.2 in red. Latest date 13.10.63. substitute for 19.4.61.
- (b) Q.C. Vol. IV. No 1. page 2- Cairo postal marking II.1. Substitute 9.7.71 as earliest date for blue marking.

6. Amendments to B O l dates, etc. Q.C. Vol. III. No. 12.

- page 153. $\frac{1}{2}$ d rose red. add plate 13.
- 154. 1d - - add plate 119 and insert X in C.D.S. Type IV-4.
- 155. - plate ~~173~~. Insert X in C.D.S. Type IV-4.
- 177. - - - - -
- 185. Substitute X for O and insert X in C.D.S. Type IV-4.
- 198. Insert X under Type IV-4.
- 156. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d plate 4. C.D.S. for Type IV-3, 30-4-77.
- - 6. - - - - 25-2-77.
- - 8. - - - - 15-1-78.
- 158. $\frac{1}{2}$ d green. Substitute O for X.

page 156. 3d plate 5. C.D.S. for Type IV-1 22-1-70.

- Add plate 15.

- - - 20.

Amendments to B O 2 cancellations.

page 161. 1std rose red, plate 14. insert X for obliterator.

1d - - - 73. Substitute X for O.

- - - 74. Insert X for obliterator.

- - - 81. Substitute X for O.

- - - 84. - - -

- - - 100. - - -

162. - - - add plate 110.

- - - plate 113. Insert X for obliterator.

- - - 123. Substitute X for O.

- - - 124. - - -

- - - 125. - - -

- - - 143. - - -

- - - 147. - - -

- - - 150. Insert X for Obliterator.

- - - 151. Substitute X for O.

- - - 156. Insert X for O.

- - - 159. Substitute X for O.

- - - add plate 167.

- - - plate 170. Substitute X for O.

- - - add plate 178.

- - - plate 182. Insert X for obliterator.

- - - 184. Substitute X for O.

163. 3d rose add plate 15.

- - - 20.

- - - plate 5. Insert X for obliterator.

page 163. $\frac{1}{2}$ d green. cancel.

6d. pale chestnut. Insert plate 12 and X.
(Robson Lowe's sale, 27-1-54, lot 19.) (Z 389a)

8d orange. Insert X. (L.O.P. Oct. 1853. p. 229)

8. Received from Mr. Pemberton.

Q.C. Vol. III. No. 11.

page 145. Marking Type II.1. period of use for black ink.
Substitute 20.8.40 and 4.7.52. (McGowan)

146. Type III.4. period of use. Substitute 1869 for 1870. (McGowan)

149. - IV.2 - - - - - 10.10.69 for 9.4.69. (McGowan)

150. - IV.4. - - - - - .10.73 - 4.10.74. (McGowan)

Q.C. Vol. III. No. 11. page 143.

M. Cicurel states "I have an envelope posted in Vienna addressed to Bombay bearing three Austrian stamps of 3 Kr. each obliterated WIEN 9.5.68 and a 3d of G.B. superimposed on the Austrian stamps obliterated B O I type IV.2 (5 bars) with Alexandria date stamp (very faint) May 22-68 and the arrival Bombay stamp dated 5.7.68.

NOTES ON UNITED STATES ARMY POST OFFICES IN EGYPT IN WORLD WAR II.

by Professor Peter A. S. Smith.

A comprehensive location list of U.S.A. P.O.s was published in 1949 by A. J. Tripp for the War Cover Club. The following list of A.P.O.'s used in Egypt has been extracted from it.

- 485. Kabrit, Jan 12, 43 to June, 43, when it was transferred to Libya.
- 486. Deversoir, Jan. 12, 43; Heliopolis, March 1, 45, ceased operations Oct. 31, 1945.
- 498. Heliopolis, Oct. 14, 43 (Camp Russell B. Huckstep); transferred to Libya May 1, 1944.
- 523. Cairo, Jan. ? 46 to May 15, 46.
- 535. as above.
- 616. Cairo, Nov. 20, 42; Camp Huckstep, Oct. 1, 43; Cairo Dec. ? 46 to March 6, 1947.
- 626. Heliopolis, Jan. 19, 43 to May ? 43.
- 678. - , Nov. 7, 42; Camp Huckstep, ? ? 43; ceased op. Oct. 22, 45.
- 680. same as 535.
- 684. Camp Ataka, Oct.3,43; Camp Huckstep, Jan.16, 44; Alex. Sept.16,46; c.o.Dec. 16,46.
- 685. Cairo. Jan.16,44 to July 30,44.
- 686. Suez, Oct.3,43; Port Tewfik, Oct.27,43; Camp Ataka, Jan.16,44; stamp sales ceased Jan.26,45; Cairo, Mar.1,45; ceased op. May 15,46.
- 696. Cairo, Dec. 23,42 to Nov. 24,43.
- 785. Alexandria, Nov.30,42; Gambut, Jan.4,43 to April 21, 43.
- 786. Alexandria, Dec. 5,42; Gambut, Jan. 4,43 to May ?, 43.

788. Heliopolis. (John Payne Field), Oct. 3, 43; Stamp sales discontinued
Oct. 20, 45; ceased op. Mar. 7, 47
787. Cairo (Devernoir Airfield ?) Jan. 21, 43; ceased op. Oct. 6, 45.
795. Cairo, same as 535.
797. Cairo, same as 535.
799. Cairo, same as 535.
814. Cairo, June 25, 42; ceased op. Aug. 12, 42.
816. Cairo, Jan. ?, 46 to March ?, 46.

This information was obtained largely from official records, and it does not therefore mean that each number has been seen used from Egypt. Probably a number of them were merely transferred to headquarters at Cairo to be put on the shelf, and thus never saw use during their stay in Egypt. Many were used earlier in Iran and other places in the Middle East, and later moved on to Saudi Arabia or Libya and Italy.

CHRISTMAS "FREE" ISSUE A.M.Ls. FOR SERVICES IN EGYPT.

by A. Beardsmore.

I possess four A.M.Ls which are stamped "Free" in red. The stamp is 8 mm. high and 22 mm. broad, and is across the space for the postage stamp on the sheets. At the time of the issue of these I was stationed at Helwan, about 15 miles south of Cairo on the east bank of the Nile. The markings are clearly made by the same rubber stamp, as obvious imperfections are common to all, and the use of a red censor stamp at the earlier part of the period (28 Oct. to 3 Nov.) suggests that the stamp was locally produced and the letter cards impressed on the unit.

Each of the four sheets is cancelled by the usual POSTAGE PREPAID stamp bearing the No. 88 and the censor mark is RAF 86 in a square. The first was written 28 Oct. 1943, postmarked 29 Oct. 1943, the second 1 Nov. 1943, postmarked 7 Nov. 1943, the third 19 Nov. 1943 and postmarked 20 Nov. 1943, and the last bears a normal 3d stamp over the "FREE" mark, was written 30 Nov. 1943 and postmarked 3 December 1943. The first three were all delivered in Leicester on 11th December 1943 and the last on 13th December, 1943. As other A.M.Ls passed through the post in between these dates and were delivered in all cases separately and before 11th December, it is clear that the "FREE" issues were despatched in a batch and all delivered together, irrespective of the date of posting.

The second of the four letters contains the following sentence :- " I am writing this on a Christmas Free issue air mail letter card, it being the second of a series of five with which we are to be issued ". I have no trace of the fifth, if there was one.

It would seem that the "FREE" cachet only operated for a limited period of about a month, the limits being from a date after 23rd Oct. 1943 to a date before 30 Nov. 1943, as by the latter date the "FREE" issue was out-of-date and payment of postage was necessary.

In Oct./Nov. in 1942, I was stationed at Shandur on the Suez Canal and in Oct./Nov. 1944 at Khartoum. No free issues were made there (my correspondence still exists) and I think it can safely be assumed that, so far as Egypt is concerned, the "FREE" cachet was used in 1943 only.

THE SECOND AIRMAIL STAMP. S.G. 178a.

Mr. G. T. Houston of Melbourne, Australia writes that he has inspected many blocks of 4 with control A/29, both ordinary and with Zeppelin surcharges, and that he has always found only the one identical type of control number.

Stamp No. 50, the corner stamp above the control number invariably shows the variety of the "additional sailing ship" or feluker, a blob of colour showing on the left bank of the eastern branch of the Nile under the right hand section of the Delta barrage.

Mr. Houston enquires - would this constant appearance of the identical control number together with the variety on the corner stamp justify the conclusion that this issue, and presumably also the preceding air, S.G. 178, and Express, S.G. E.l. stamps have all been printed in printers sheets consisting only of one pane of 50 stamps.

Information forwarded by Captain L. Phillips.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM MR. G.T.HOUSTON OF AUSTRALIA. (E.S.C. No. 83.)

Prince Farouk Issue in "wrong colour centres".

In the Quarterly Circular Vol. III No. 6 pages 75/76 two flaws are described, occurring on the 15 and 20 mills values of the Price Farouk issue in "wrong colour centres". Confirmation is sought of the existence of these flaws on other similar stamps.

In my collection there are a number of sets in "wrong colour centres" and amongst these are the following items :

<u>Face value.</u>	<u>Panel (Centre):</u>	<u>Frame:</u>
5 mills.	one dot of the screen missing just over the heart of the Prince.	-----
10 mills.	flaw as described by Hardy, plus one dot of the screen missing just under the lapel of the jacket.	arc-shaped flaw descending from under second L of Mills towards the centre of the decoration, above P of Prince. The Arabic equivalent of Mills only faintly visible.
15 mills.	flaw as described by Hardy, plus missing dot of screen, as described above (10 mills)	flaw as described by Hardy, reaching from middle of M of mills upwards, nearly touching the lower end of figure 5 of 15. Stop after 1 of Arabic 1929.
20 mills.	flaw as described by Hardy for 15 mills value. plus missing dot of screen, as described above (10 mills)	arc-shaped flaw descending from middle of S of mills, towards the centre of the decoration above P of Prince.

N.B. The three flaws in the centre panel are very similar to the one described by Hardy - but NONE OF THE THREE IS IDENTICAL. However the missing dot of the screen seems to me identical.

I have also a pair of the 15 mills on piece (Parcel post C.O.D.) cancelled Ismailia 12.II.29, and a single copy 15 mills used, name of post office illegible, dated 11.FE.29. These would establish the "wrong colour centres" as postally used on the first and second day of their issue. Some specialists consider the "wrong colour centres" as proofs that "found their way into collections".

ITEMS IN THE POSSESSION OF MR. HOUSTON not yet catalogued by Chaftar-Zehere or S.G.

2 on 3 Milliemes 1915 - Z 54d I have a used copy with the surcharge very much misplaced to the right, the albino surcharge in the correct place, but there is no trace of the misplaced inked surcharge on the left hand side.

15 Mills. Crown Opt. Z 76 I with crushed crown, similar, if not identical to the crushed crown on stamp No. 83 of the setting with crushed crowns of the values hitherto known with these. It is a used copy.

3 Mills. Crown Opt. I can confirm existence of this setting with the crushed crowns. McNeillie exhibited one at Cairo. I have one used copy of Z 71 I b, position of the crushed crown is stamp No. 92 of the pane.

Inverted watermarks: O.H.E.N.S. No. Z 23 (3 Mills. mint)
Crown overprints No. Z 73 II
- - - No. Z 70 III

" Surcharge à cheval " (s.à.c.) No. Z 69 III
No. Z 71 III

I have one complete pane of 100 stamps Z 106a - 13 Mills with the inverted watermark, control A/32, purchased at Alexandria Post Office when this issue was being used up.

WANTED BY Mr. G.T. HOUSTON. 230 Collins Street, Melbourne C.I. Australia.

At present I study the plate flaws of the De La Rue and Harrison printings of the pictorials. I would like to purchase entire sheets of 200 of the 2 Mills, 1914, 1921 and 1922 (altogether 6 different controls). Could any member help? There are also the six different controls of the 1 Mill. issue which I would like to buy in complete panes.

THE WATERMARKS OF THE DE LA RUE ISSUES OF EGYPT - 1879 - 1902.

I enclose my comments on the Watermarks of the De La Rue issues of Egypt 1879-1914, the very interesting study of this matter by Mr. A.J.Revell as published in Q.C. Nos. 41 & 42, also some further information on same.

Page 73. It would be useful to include in this part of the study a check list of the normal and inverted watermarks of the Sphinx and Pyramid " Milliemes and Piastres " issue.

Page 75. In the check list on page 75 the 5 Mills S.G. 123 is listed with the sideways watermark in both directions. There is a very interesting explanation of the use of paper with the Type II Crescent and Star watermark sideways for this stamp. THIS OCCURS ONLY ON BOOKLET STAMPS. De la Rue's were the first stamp printers in the world to experiment with stamp booklets and they were in fact responsible for the first issues in this form in philately, viz. the booklet issues of India $\frac{1}{4}$ anna 1902, Egypt 3 & 5 mills 1903 and Great Britain 1 penny 1904. It is assumed generally that all these booklet stamps were printed from specially prepared dies and that the electros were arranged in such manner that the third and fourth horizontal rows of the pane of 60 (6 horizontal rows of 10) would always form tête-bêche pairs. This seems to me NOT TO HAVE BEEN THE CASE with the 1903 Egyptian booklet stamps as I have never yet seen a single BOOKLET stamp of the 3 or 5 mills (S.G. 109 & 111) with inverted watermark. I have in my collection one stamp, S.G. 97, with inverted watermark but this is definitely not a booklet stamp. Also I have a number of booklet stamps, S.G. 109 & 111, with perforations cut straight, at top on some stamps, at bottom on others. This would establish the fact that booklets of this issue were stapled or sewn either at the top or bottom margins of the pane of 60. This fact, together with the conscientious supervision of De la Rue's in printing the sheets correctly with the watermark in normal position, accounts for the total absence of booklet stamps with inverted watermark of this issue. However, when De la Rue proceeded in 1914 to print stamp booklets of the 5 mills, S.G. 123, they were at that time using paper accomodating two panes of 100 stamps (10 X 10) for the ordinary sheets. That size of paper for panes of 100 would have caused considerable confusion and difficulties of accounting, if used only partly for booklets, as remaining stamps without usable margins for stapling (viz. 40 stamps per pane) would have had to be used up in the ordinary way. Therefore they must have decided to use the remainders of paper of the 1902 issue for sheets of 240 stamps (4 X 60) for the printing and making-up of booklets, as the panes of 60 are best suited for this purpose.

Whether special dies were used for these booklets is not yet known to me, but without doubt the booklet sheets were not arranged, half the stamps looking to the left and the other half to the right, to form the usual middle row of tête-bêche pairs. I have a number of booklet panes and stamps with perforations cut straight either at right or left. This proves that these booklets were stapled or sewn either at the left or right margin, and that the electros were arranged all looking in the same direction. If booklet panes or stamps would exist with perforations cut straight on ONE SIDE ONLY, this would point to the normal or usual make-up of booklet sheets in the tête-bêche manner, as explained above.

Now, as the 1902 paper was intended for horizontal oblong stamps with the Type II Crescent and Star watermark upright, the same paper being used for vertical oblong stamps of the same size, would show the watermark sideways in relation to these latter stamps.

The position of the sideways watermark towards the right or left must be purely accidental, because from the printers' point of view it was irrelevant whether the paper was fed into the printing press with the watermark facing right or left. Only when an upright watermark corresponds to an upright stamp design, would the feeding into the printing press of the watermarked paper be subject to careful checking. The same applies to the Crescent and Star multiple watermark of the Harrison printings. In this case the normal or upright position of the watermark is such that the crescent appears closed on the left and the star is on the open right hand side of the crescent. Therefore in these issues the watermark must appear in this position to correspond to the upright vertical design of the stamps. Both the stamps of the Geographical Congress and the essay in issued design of the 5 Mills First Fouad Portrait stamp have been issued with this

watermark upwards - in an abnormal position.

An interesting sidelight regarding stamp booklets was their initial unpopularity because the postal authorities of India, Egypt and Great Britain charged in the beginning a small sum to the public for the cost of preparing the booklets and for the additional materials used for this purpose, like covers, interleaving, thread or staples, etc., Later, when this extra charge was dropped, stamp booklets became so popular that nearly all countries issue these at present.

I have checked over the years at least 50,000 copies of the intervening issues 1884-1906. and particularly at least 5000 copies of S.G. 88/90 and all had the usual large WM Type II which is approximately 14 mm. wide. Just recently I checked another lot and had the very pleasant surprise of finding two copies of the 1 P.T. 1884 with the narrow WM Type I which is only approx. 13 mm. wide. This find must necessarily amend Mr. Revell's check list because up to date he does not list any stamp of the 1884-1902 issues with the narrow WM Type I. Both copies are used, as follows :-

1. Postmark: ALEXANDRIE RECOMMANDEE 30 AV 85 T VI
2. Postmark: CAIRE DEPART .. JU 85 IX

This would point to the fact that at least two sheets or 480 stamps of S.G. 88/90 with WM Type I were issued. This variety must definitely be classed as an **ERROR**. Both postmarks are comparatively early ones; this issue came out late in December 1884.

Further to the remark of Mr. Revell (Page 71) that "from the check list it will be seen that the two types occur on the issue between 1879 and February 1884 ..." I would like to suggest the following. The second type or WIDE CRESCENT AND STAR WATERMARK does NOT OCCUR SIMULTANEOUSLY with the first type WM on the above issues. The issue of 1884 according to the catalogues consisted of the 10, 20 paras, 1 & 5 P.T. values only and it can be taken for granted that the 5 para and 2 P.T. values were also issued in 1884, but now - 5 years after their first appearance in 1879 - printed on the newly adopted paper with the second type or wide crescent & star WM. As a matter of fact there is nothing to suggest that either of these values lost their postal justification or usefulness, as the former was replaced in 1888 by the 1 mill S.G. 93/94 still in the brown colour and the latter was re-issued in a slightly changed colour in 1893 to avoid mistakes due to the issuing of the new 3 mills S.G. 104. of the same year. This calls in my opinion for new catalogue listings for the 1879 - Febr. 1884 and the later 1884 (15 December) Pyramid and Sphinx issues. The 1879 issue to stay as at present but marked with a distinct narrow type 1 WM and the latter of December 1884 to be catalogued as follows :-

1884 (15 December) Type 2 or wide crescent and star WM (14 mm wide)

- 5 Paras brown (I think only the dark shade)
- 10 - green
- 20 rose-carmine & bright rose
- 1 Piastre blue, ultramarine (pale and deep)
ERROR of WM. with narrow Type 1 WM.
- 2 - orange yellow
- 5 - pale grey and slate.

This new listing would put these issues into their proper places and dispose of the illogical procedure of 2 values being listed (or known to exist, as they are not yet listed by our standard or specialist catalogues) 5 years before they

were actually issued in that form. The early postmarks point to the probability of the earlier paper having been used by mistake.

REPORTS ON SOMALI LAND AND THE HARAR PROVINCE. By Major F.M.Hunter,
1st Assistant political Resident, Aden and Lieutenant J.D.Fullerton,
Royal Engineers.

Simla; Government Branch Press. 1885.

(Extract made by W. Byam in Addis Ababa where he found
a copy of this Report in the British Embassy Archives.)

Page 10, Para 2. Harrar. After the death of the Ameer Ahmed Sultan of Harrar, at the time of Burton's visit (1853), Khalifa Citra succeeded to the Ameer'ship. He was, however, almost immediately deposed by Mahomed, whose oppressive acts caused the people to petition the Egyptian Government to annex the country. This was done in 1874, Raouf Pasha being appointed the first Governor of Harrar.

The first act of the new Governor was to strangle the Sultan; and, although the son of the latter appealed to the Government at Cairo, nothing was done.

In 1878 General Gordon, R.E. (who at that time was Governor-General of the Sudan and Harrar Provinces) visited Harrar, and finding that Raouf Pasha had been guilty of oppression and illegal trading, dismissed him. Towards the end of 1878, the Harrar Province was taken out of the hands of the Governor-General of the Soudan, and a separate Government formed in 1879. The result of this was that in the summer of 1880 the tribes revolted, and more troops (2 battalions of infantry) had to be sent to the assistance of the Governor. The rebellion was put down, and since then the province has been quiet. The present Governor is His Excellency Ali Pasha.

Page 11, para 3. The Governor is assisted by a Deputy Governor, who is President of the Council, and the usual staff of civil officials, among whom may be mentioned the official holding the position of Postmaster-General and Chief of the Office for the Suppression of the Slave Trade.

Page 11, para 5. It is very difficult to estimate the population of Harrar. The different officials who were questioned on the subject giving widely different answers. Probably 20,000 souls, including the troops, is a fair estimate.

Page 99, General Remarks. There is probably nothing new or strange in the observations which follow regarding East African trade. The first great, and to some extent insuperable, obstacle is the want of speedy, safe and cheap communication with the coast. It is foolish to talk of a railway being constructed to Harrar unless the province be annexed by some civilised power other than Turkey or Egypt. From a casual survey the engineering difficulties of constructing a line between Zaila and Gildessa would not be very great. A company of Sappers would, in a month, so improve the rough mountain track between Gildessa and Egu as to render

it easy of traverse by camels or other beasts of burden.

Note by W. Byam. This does not suggest that Great Britain held Harrar at date of this Report, 1885. See Report on Study I by Charles Fox.

At present the hire of a camel between Harrar and Zaila, including food for the driver and commission for the Abban or contractor, seldom amounts to less than ten dollars. It is obvious that none but the more valuable descriptions of merchandise, such as coffee, wares (sic), hides, or ivory can stand so heavy an increase to their Harrar value. Again, the duties and fees charged by the Egyptian Officers are heavy enough when in accordance with the authorised tariffs, but render commerce almost impossible as exacted by the local officials.

It has been calculated the expenses on coffee of the value of 100 rupees at Harrar will amount to 30 rupees before it can be embarked at Zaila, after which there are the charges for shipping, the freight to Aden, the cost and fees on landing to be paid before it reaches the Aden market, then comes the broker and his profits, and finally the merchant on a large scale commences operations. Of course it is the price at which the latter can obtain the coffee, which enables him to judge of the desorability of dealing in that article of merchandise.

The risks of transporting treasure from Zaila to Harrar are very great, and there being no small coin, the use of money is necessarily very limited. Except in Harrar itself, a Maria Theresa dollar is the least valuable; or, more correctly speaking, the only medium. There is no reason why the rupee and its fractional monetary divisions should not be universally accepted as the coinage of North-East Africa. Aden, in the interior of North-East Africa, is looked upon as the emporium of the world, and our coinage is known not to be debased and to have an intrinsic value.

There are not many firms of any considerable importance or wealth engaged in trade with Harrar, nor is the business done very profitable. One is almost surprised at the vitality which exists in commerce, and it is probably due to the fact that no actual labour is required for mercantile pursuits. Losses are more common than gains. Every man that has a few dollars sets about trading; generally he loses all he has, and returns to labour at Aden. Some of course succeed and become, by their additions to their flocks and herds of camels, cattle, sheep and goats, influential tribesmen. Every man in North-East Africa is a trader by nature, and the more civilised Arab or Indian finds it very difficult to make any profit in competition with him. The truth is the Somali merchant does not care much whether he gains or loses. If the former, he looks on it as good luck; if the latter, he can always begin again, and is no worse off than when he started. The vicissitudes of fortune are borne stoically, and the competition of foreign traders and superior capital is jealously watched, and thwarted when possible. It is obvious that, in a country swarming with robbers, the Somali with his one camel load made up of ghee, coffee, hides and feathers is in a better position than the owner of fifty or a hundred, because he has less to lose; and, when it has gone, he can commence again, which the Western, or even Indian trader, does not so easily find himself able to do.

DISPLAY OF EGYPT BY MEMBERS OF THE CIRCLE.

A Display of Egypt is to be given to The Royal Philatelic Society, London 41, Devonshire Place, London, W. 1. at 2-30 p.m. on Thursday March 17th, 1955. and a resumé of the contents of the frames is included with this number..

MARC POURPE FLIGHTS.

In the last issue of the Quarterly Circular (September 1954) it was announced that an article on the Marc Pourpe Flights by Mr. J. H. E. Gilbert would appear in the present number. Recently, however, Mr Gilbert has written to say that " more information keeps coming in making it still more interesting and, in these circumstances, the publication of this article is postponed. It is, however, hoped that Mr. Gilbert will have all his additional data ready in time for the article to appear in the next number of the "Q.C."

RESIGNATION.

No. 79. Miss D. M. Archer; Colonsay, Joiners Lane, Chalfont St. Peter,
Bucks.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

63. Brigadier W. M. Hayes, C.B.E., Filwood, Parkway, Camberley, Surrey.
67. P. W. Simonson, 12, Hoddle Street, Abbotsford N. 9. Victoria, Australia
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