

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE .

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THE CIRCLE'S TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY.

The TWENTY-THIRD OF JANUARY, 1956 will mark the "COMING OF AGE" of the Circle and it may be appropriate to this occasion if we recall that on this day in 1935 the Circle was inaugurated under the chairmanship of Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E. with a membership of eleven. Since then, under his able guidance, it has grown and prospered having enrolled, during the years, no fewer than 89 members of whom 47 are actually on our Roll today.

Some of our original stalwarts are, unfortunately, no longer with us but we remember with pride the fruitful labours of Hubert Lowe, Glyn Grylls, E.F.Hurt, G.L.Hearn, R.J.C.Thompson, Worthington-Wilmer, J.J.Bramble, Douglas McNeill, P.L.Pemberton, Georges Zéherá, G.A.Hoffman, J.C.Besly, and J.K.Sidebottom who all did so much to further our knowledge. It is also a source of satisfaction to record that seven of our members, past and present, - Byam, Chaftar, Holmes, Mackenzie-Low, P.L.Pemberton, Sidebottom and Gordon Ward - have all received the high honour of being elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

A review of some of the work undertaken by the Circle during the first ten years of its existence appeared in the Quarterly Circular for March 1945 and since then considerable additions to our knowledge of the Stamps and Postal History of Egypt have been made as a result of the activities of our members. Among the more important phases of this work may be mentioned :- The Posts of the Foreign Powers in Egypt - Great Britain, (Rawson); Greece, (Byam); Austria, (Mumford); The Postal markings of Egypt, (Blomfield); The British Military Campaigns in Egypt, (Danson); The Postal History of the Sudan, (Danson); The Third Issue of Egypt, (Byam and the late J.C.Besly); The Watermarks on the De La Ruse issues of Egypt, (Revell); Postal markings, (Minett); Air mail services, (Gilbert); Fouad portrait issue of Egypt and other modern issues, (Gordon Ward); and the Express services, (Phillips).

This work has enabled the Circle to give two notable Displays (1) On November 20th 1947 before the Postal History Society and (2) on March 17th 1955 at the Royal Philatelic Society, London. (for accounts of these, see the Quarterly Circular, Vol. III, No. 5, pp. 58-68 and Vol. IV, No. 9. pp. 111-113.)

With so much to its credit during the past we think the Circle may look forward with confidence to the future and can only hope that our Chairman may be spared to us for many years to come.

F.S.M.

POSTMARK - " PORT SAID / QUARTIER ARABE "

We illustrate a postmark found on the 1 piastre of Egypt 1888 and Dr. Gordon Ward would like to hear from anyone who can complete this marking and help with information as to its usage.



S T U D Y II.

T H E G R E E K P O S T I N E G Y P T .

by W. BYAM.

In an attempt to give shape to this difficult section of Study II, I have compiled what I regard as a Diary of the Greek Post in Egypt and submit it for discussion, correction and amplification by members of the Circle. In this work, which has been carried on spasmodically during the past six or seven years, I have received considerable help from three friends in particular and I wish to express my gratitude to them and publicly acknowledge my indebtedness. - N. S. Alfieris was the first to come to my assistance, with much useful information about postal markings, postal rates and methods of transport. Ahmed Mazloum was generosity itself and put at my disposal the whole of the valuable Greek material contained in his vast collection, many items being sent to me for inspection and study. A. B. Economides supplied me with historical data. Further assistance in the elaboration of this Study will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

It will be seen that I have made no attempt to list the adhesives issued at Alexandria and have omitted a study of the collection of postage due. Information about postal rates is confused and collaboration with the postal services of other nations is almost a closed book. The constantly expanding boundaries of Greece during the past hundred years has added to the difficulties of this Study.

D I A R Y O F T H E G R E E K P O S T I N E G Y P T .

- 1830 February 3rd. Greek Independance recognised. (Greek affairs were in the hands of Russia until Greece opened her own Consulate at Alexandria.)
1833. Consular Office opened at Alexandria on some date between October 1st and November 15th.
- August 18. Michael Tossitza informed of his nomination as Consul General of Greece in Egypt in a letter written by S. Tricoupis, Minister of Foreign Affairs. (Julian and Gregorian Calendars showed a difference of 12 days during the XIXth. century - Greece did not adopt the Gregorian Calendar till February 16th 1923, which day then became March 1st.
- November 21st. Appointment of Tossitza confirmed by Boghos Youssef Pasha on behalf of the Egyptian Government.
1834. Post Office opened in the Consular Office.

1834. March 31st. Earliest recorded Entire from Alexandria with Greek (Consular) Frank. (Type I-1) (Demitriou)
1835. Earliest Circular Frank (Type I-2) (Argyropoulos)
1839. August 7th. Earliest recorded Entire carried by the French Post from Egypt to Greece. (Byam).
1843. Austrian Lloyd Steamship Company carried most of the mail between Egypt and the Greek mainland and the Islands.
1848. Postal rate between Egypt and Greece for 7.5 grammes -
By Austrian Lloyd, 60 Lepta. (12 Kreuzer)
By French Line, 30 Lepta.
By Italian Line, 40 Lepta.
1854. Post Office in the Consular Office closed: the result of the Crimean War, which began on March 27th 1854.
1857. P.O. re-opened in Consular Office Building. The Treaty which ended the Crimean War was signed at Paris in March 1856.
1858. Greek P.O. opened at Alexandria in a building other than the Consulate: Probably at Rue de la Poste No. 21 where it was known to be in 1867 when the Director was G. Civitanidis.
- October 24th. Earliest recorded example of the Double-Circle postal marking; Alexandria mis-spelt and TOURKIA below, (Type II-1), (Mazloun). Re introduced 1878; earliest recorded example March 5th; Latest, November 2nd. (Byam). No example seen by the Egypt Study Circle between 1869, July 6th and 1878, March 5th. Used as obliterator on adhesives for first time on the latter date.
- October 24th. Earliest recorded example of the Π .E. \wedge . postal marking, (Type IV-1), (Mazloun). Latest recorded example 1871, October 14th. (Byam). Probably discarded at the same time as Type III-1.
1861. October 1st. Greek adhesives came into use at Alexandria.
1862. August 10th. Earliest recorded example of Numeral obliterator, Rhombus of dots bearing " 97 " in centre, Type III-1. (Danson). Latest recorded example, 1871, October 14th. (Byam). In use

when adhesives were first issued in 1861. It was ordered to be discarded in 1872, but in the Mazloum collection there is a stamp of the 1876/80 issue which bears this marking.

1866. October 23rd. Postal Rate for Austrian Lloyd, by Royal Decree, 40 Lepta for letters up to 15 grammes.
1868. PRepayment of postage compulsory from the end of this year.
- August 1st. Earliest recorded example of 40 Lepta rate: Egypt to Greece. (Mazloum).
- 1869, November 22nd. Earliest example of the Double-Circle postal marking; Alexandria correctly spelt and TOURKIA below. (Type II-2). (Byam). Latest recorded example, 1876, October 25th. (Koubbeh Palace). (No covers seen dated 1877. Was Type II-1 brought into use a second time because Type II -2 was not available ? It is stated Type II-1 and II-2 were in use concurrently but this has not been confirmed).
1872. Postal rate between Egypt and Greece by Khedivial Mail, 40 Lepta.
- May 22nd. Earliest recorded example of Double-Circle marking; Alexandria correctly spelt, Tourkia replaced by " 97 ", (Type II-3). (Byam). Latest recorded example, 1881, December 19th. (Demitriou). Certainly in use until P.O. closed.
1873. May 2nd. Earliest example of Δ .E.II. postal marking, (Type IV-2). (J.Boulad). Latest recorded example, 1873, August 23rd. (Byam).
1875. March. Postage Due adhesives first issued.
- July 1st. From the date the U.P.U. commenced to function until the P.O. at Alexandria was closed, the postal rate for ordinary letters was 30 Lepta. Greece signed the U.P.U. Convention, as an original member, in 1874.
- 1880, October 7th. Earliest recorded example of Registered marking, CHARGE, (Type IV-4). (Byam). Latest recorded example, 1881, August 8th.

(G.A.Dimitriou) (Types IV-3 and IV-5 not seen by the E.S.C. in England.

1881. December 31st. Greek P.O. closed in company with other Greek P.O.s in Turkey.

GREEK POST OFFICE IN ALEXANDRIA.

POSTAL MARKINGS.

TYPE I. SEAL FRANKS.

Type I.1. Double oval: 44 X 37 mm. and 32 X 26 mm.

I.2. Circular in outline. 33 mm. in diameter, with Greek coat of arms in centre.

(These two Franks were illustrated in Hurt's Illustrated Philatelic Record, No. 1., the inscription they bear appears to be "Greek Consular Office in Egypt".)

TYPE II. DATED CIRCULAR MARKINGS.

Type II-1. Double circle. Alexandria mis-spelt. Tourkia below.

II-2. Double circle. Alexandria correctly spelt. Tourkia below.

II-3. Double circle. Tourkia replaced by 97.

TYPE III. NUMERAL OBLITERATORS.

Type III-1. Rhombus of dots bearing the numerals 97 in centre.

TYPE IV. POSTAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION.

Type IV-1. Π. Ε. Λ. = PAID TO PORT (of country of destination).

IV-2. Δ. Ε. Π. = PAID.

IV-3. Registered marking. = SYSTEMENON

IV-4. CHARGE = Registered marking.

IV-5. Insufficiently paid

ΠΑΗΡ
ΑΝΕΠΑΡΚΗΣ

(= ΠΛΗΡΟΜΙ ΑΝΕΠΑΡΚΗΣ)

(Payment Insufficient).

POSTAL RATES.

In 1848. 7.5 grammes by Austrian Lloyd 60 Lepta (or 12 Kreuzer).

by French Line 30 Lepta.

by Italian Line 40 Lepta.

1866, October 23rd. A Royal Decree established the following rates by the Austrian Lloyd; Greece to Alexandria;

Letters of 15 grammes 40 Lepta,

Samples up to 15 grammes 15 Lepta,

Printed matter up to
30 grammes 5 Lepta.

From 1872 by Khedivial Mail 40 Lepta for 15 grammes.

1875, July 1st. From establishment of U.P.U. 30 Lepta for ordinary letters and 60 Lepta for registered letters. Newspaper rate, 2 Lepta for each journal - till P.O. at Alexandria closed.

E.S.C.Record suggests ; Alexandria to Greece 80 Lepta for ordinary letters till April 1868.

Fourteen letters bearing stamps before this date are recorded, nine franked 80 Lepta, whether stamps were applied at point of departure or at destination, and five were franked with more than 80 Lepta. (1D. 10 L. to 1 D. 90 L.): none of these letters shows evidence of registration.

Earliest recorded 40 Lepta rate 1st August 1868.

Earliest recorded 30 Lepta rate 24th July 1875 but this rate nearly certainly came into force on 1st July 1875.

Combined franking seen confirms 20 Lepta as internal rate for single letters from June 1871.

Registered letter of 7 October 1880 suggests franking 30 L. plus 30 Lepta for registration and 20 Lepta for internal Greek postage.

Mumford's letter dated 6th Nov. 1869 carried by Austrian Lloyd from Port Said to Syros bears 20 Lepta adhesive for internal postage and 60 Lepta paid for Austrian charges, Egypt to Syros.

SOME MARKINGS ON SOLDIER'S LETTERS FROM THE EGYPTIAN ARMY

IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR OF 1948 - 49.

by Professor Peter A. S. Smith.

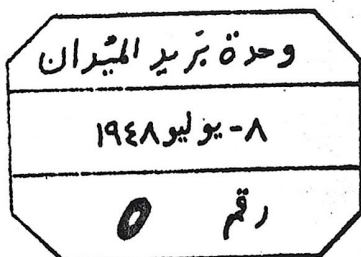


Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

Field Post date-stamp and Censor's stamp of the Egyptian Army in the Arab - Israel War of 1948 - 49.

In the six years since the military campaigns of the Arab-Israeli war there have appeared no publications known to me describing the markings appearing on soldiers' mail from the Egyptian Army. I do not have the material or knowledge to treat the subject adequately, but in the complete absence of other information, these notes may be of some use. They are a description with comments of five covers in my collection, obtained from a correspondent in Egypt shortly after the end of hostilities.

All of the covers which I have are addressed in Arabic only to rural localities in the neighbourhood of Matay, and all are apparently written by enlisted men. They are stampless, and bear no postage due markings, which implies that a free mailing privilege existed. The remaining feature in common is a large handstamp, either on front or back, in the form of a rectangle 50 X 35 mm. with chamfered corners (Fig. 1.). It is inscribed in Arabic in the top line " wahidat barid almaidan " (field post unit), in the middle line the date (day-month name-year) written in Arabic and expressed in the Gregorian calendar, and in the bottom line a large number and " ragn " (number), both Arabic. The numbers seen are 2 or 5 ; the handstamp is struck in purple, black or blue-green. On one of the covers this is the only marking.

On three of the covers there is an additional handstamp consisting of two concentric triangles, 29 and 8 mm. on a side, respectively, inscribed in between in Arabic " uradha 'ala - arraqib - mukhabarat alharbiya b (shown to - the censor - military correspondence), with a two or three figure number in Arabic in the centre. This marking is struck in purple or dull blue, in an ink differing from that used for the first marking. (see Fig. 2.) On three of the covers, Figures 1 and 2 are the only handstamped markings, other than the backstamp of the civil post office at destination.

One of the covers, bearing Fig. 1 but not Fig. 2 bears a censor label, which is tied to the cover by a handstamp consisting of two concentric squares, 30 and 19 mm. on a side, respectively, bearing the Arabic numeral " 1 " in the centre and an illegible Arabic inscription between the squares. In the most legible portion, it may read " markaz " (district). The label itself is printed in red

on plain white paper, and carries in a single line the inscription " fataha bima'rafa markaz arruqaba " (opened by means of the district censor), in a rectangular frame 65 X 20 mm.; there is a further inscription in very small type outside the frame at top reading " namooj ragm " (form number) & mh ". At bottom is another inscription having both letters and numerals, including " 1948 " (all in Arabic) and " matbua al--- " (----- printing), unfortunately too small to be completely legible.

All of the letters bear in manuscript a signature in handwriting different from the address, together with the word " ruja'a " (read), apparently an officer's endorsement. Two of the covers bear in the upper right corner in the same handwriting as the address " albarid alharbi " (army post).

Unfortunately, most of the dates are largely illegible, and it is impossible to tell the time taken for the journey to the addressee. July 8, 1948 is the earliest legible date, and " 15 JU. 9 " (backstamp) is the latest. More material would obviously be very helpful, but it appears to be extremely difficult to obtain. It is to be hoped that some of the excellent philatelists in Egypt will give us a more complete history of this military post when the domestic situation permits.

BRITISH, BRITISH EMPIRE AND ALLIED FORCES MILITARY MAIL IN EGYPT

1932 - 55 (or longer).

The following Agenda has been prepared by Brigadier C. D. Rawson who would welcome any observations upon it which members may care to make. he would also like to receive any data possessed by members concerning U.S.A. troops in Egypt during the two wars. We suggest that members possessing information and (or) material coming under any of the headings in this list should communicate with Brig. Rawson.

1. The British Forces Concession . (Military and R.A.F.)
 - (a) The Egypt Postage Prepaid numbered Crowned Franks, their locations, and the units to which they were issued.
 - (b) The Seals, Postal, Letter, Christmas and Letter Stamp (in the order in which they were issued.
 - (c) The Army Post Stamps. Kings Fuad and Farouk.
 - (d) The C.D.S. and machine cancellations used with (b) and (c).
 - {1} Military Post Office.
 - {2} Civil Post Office
 - {3} With Censor Marks
 - {4} Record of correct cancellations on 3 months Farouk A.P.
 - (e) The Anglo-Egyptian E.600 cancellations
 - {1} Used IN Egypt
 - {2} Used ex Egypt.
 - {f} British F.P.O's 1939-41 to end of concession.
 - {g} Naval mails up to end of concession.

2. British Empire Forces in Egypt add dates.

(a) Australia

- (1) Australian F.P.O. cancellations on Egypt Stamps.
- (2) - - - - - Australian stamps.
- (3) Egypt Postage Prepaid cancellations on Australian stamps.

(b) New Zealand (1) (2) (3) as above.

(c) Indian (1) (2) (3) as above.

(d) South African (1) (2) (3) as above

3. Allied Forces in Egypt.

(a) Czecko Slovak

(b) Free French

(c) Greek

(d) Polish

(e) U.S.A.

(f) Yugoslavia

(g) Norwegian (?)

4. Miscellaneous War Time Markings.

(a) Egypt Postage Prepaid cancellations on Egypt stamps

(b) - - - - - M.E.F. stamps settings and printings.

(c) - - - - - on mail flown in from Sudan.

(d) Combination covers.

5. Post War British Markings from conclusion of Postal concession.

(a) British Fleet Mail offices.

(b) Egypt Postage Prepaid markings on British mail adhesives.

(c) British F.P.O's from end of Army Post Stamps to end of Censorship.

(d) - - - - - Censorship to final evacuation of Egypt.

(e) Post War Canal mail.

6. Enemy markings. (a) Italian. (b) German.

7. Censor Marks classify and locate.

8. Egyptian War in Palestine.

9. Airgraphs.