

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE.

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THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR.

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Vol. V.   No. 2.   November, 1957.   ( Whole Series, No. 50. )

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THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR.

Published by The Egypt Study Circle.

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Vol. V. No. 2. Page 13. November, 1957. Whole Series, No. 50.

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AL-AZHAR UNIVERSITY COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE, 1957.

An issue to commemorate the 1000th anniversary <sup>SURVEY</sup> of the foundation of Al-Azhar University was printed in 1943, at the State Department, by the photo-gravure process on wove paper, watermarked Crown and Arabic "F" (Royal Cypher), Perf. 13½, the denominations being 6 mills. green; 10 mills, bright violet; 15 mills. dull purple; and 20 mills. grey. The control number - A/42 - was printed in the colour of the stamp. These stamps were never issued to the Post Office.

In 1957 ( 27-4-57 ? ) three of the denominations, 10, 15 and 20 mills. were reprinted from the cylinders prepared in 1942 and were overprinted |<sup>M</sup>V7 = 1376 by typography and, by the same operation, the control number, A/42, was crossed out by two horizontal lines and the new control OV/1 = A/57, added - all in red. There is a small hole through the S.W. corner of the left-hand tablet containing the value in French on the last stamp of the sheet ( Right-hand end of the bottom row ) in each denomination made by the machine used to apply the overprint. Dr Byam has these stamps on cover, dated 14-5-57 from Ismailia. The shades of these overprinted stamps differ from those of the stamps printed in 1943 and sold at the Koubch Palace auction.

We shall be glad to hear from any member having information regarding this issue and would particularly like to hear from anyone who is able to suggest why the original printing was never issued. Was it because the period 970 A.D. to 1942 A.D. did not represent the 1000 years which the issue was supposed to commemorate. ?

EGYPT POSTAGE PREPAID.

( A Study by Members of the Forces Postal History Society. )

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( continued from page 12. )

<u>No.</u>	<u>Earliest date.</u>	<u>Latest date.</u>	<u>Probable Nationality.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
93.	23-11-41	15-5-46	S.A. (1943) G.B. ('44-45)	14/11/42 25 Road Constr. Coy S.A.E.C. (Note 16)
94.	11-10-41	11-6-43		
95.	22-5-42	22-2-43	S.A.	17/9/42 1st. S.A. Division.
96.	7-11-42	25-9-45	S.A.	30/8/43 Allied Liason Staff H.Q. 21/5/45 No. 1 Signals Coy.
97.	- 1-41 (Jagger)	22-8-45	S.A. ('44-'45)	
98.	27-9-42	30-10-44	G.B.	CAIRO. 27/9 to 25/10/42 151st Inf. Bde.
99.	- - 41	5-10-44	S.A.	23/7/42 to S.A. ( Note 8 )
100.	13-11-41	5-3-42	S.A.	
101.	13-5-42			13/5/42 2nd S.A. Div. Salvage Unit.
102.	7-11-41	12-11-42	G.B. (1941) Indian (1942)	10/12/41 70th. Div. Ordnance Workshops.
103.	15-5-42	11-7-44	G.B.	Almaza 19/6/42. ( Note 17 )
104.	9-9-41	10-4-44	S.A.	2/9/42 to S.A.
105.	- No information.			
106.	22-11-46	4-12-46		CAIRO.
107.	} - No information.			
108.				
109.				
110.				
111.	6-12-42	26-10-43		
112.	23-1-44	- 1-45	G.B.	
113.	22-6-43	8-6-44		
114.	- 1-43			
115.	21-6-43			

<u>No.</u>	<u>Earliest date.</u>	<u>Latest date.</u>	<u>Probable Nationality.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
116.	23-6-43			
117.	No information.			
118.	27-8-43	8-3-47	G.B.	Port Said. 5/10/43 From 15th GEN.HOSP.
119. 120.	No information.			
121.	27-12-42 (or 43)	22-5-45	G.B.	HELIOPOLIS. July '55 reported ?
122.	No information.			
123.	26-11-42	1-5-43		
124.	6-12-43	15-7-45	G.B.	
125 - 128.	No information.			
129.	21-12-43	24-3-47		SIDI BERBER. 24/3/47. Probably 156 Transit Camp, Port Said.
130.	2-8-43.			
131.	10-11-41	- 9-44	G.B.	
132.	18-5-34 (i.e. 43)	11-1-45	G.B.	
133.	No information.			
134.	11-6-43			
135, 136.	No information.			
137.	1-1-43	6-12-43	S.A.	
138.	- 10-42 (Jagger)	20-12-43	S.A.	
139.	27-7-43			
140.	17-4-44			160/54 H.A.A. Regt. R.A.
141.	27-6-43	15-8-43		
142.	11-7-43	9-9-43		
143.	7-6-43	22-7-43		
144.	6-4-42			
145.	No information.			
146.	17-6-43			
147.	No information.			

<u>No.</u>	<u>Earliest date.</u>	<u>Latest date.</u>	<u>Probable Nationality.</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
148.	9-6-43.	9-10-46.		24/9/46 Army Signals School.
149.	26-1-43	- 4-44 (Jagger)		160/54 H.A.A. Regt. R.A.
150.	No information.			
151.	22-5-44 (?)	15-9-44	G.B.	11/8/44 2 Base Workshops.
152.	11-8-43	28-3-44	G.B.	
153.	31-1-45	10-2-45		
154.	20-12-43	19-5-44	G.B.	19/5/44 3 G.H.Q. Signals.

MACHINE.



- (a) 8-7-42 1-3-43 5 Wavy lines.
- (b) 18-3-43 17-11-44 SLOGAN :- "IT PAYS TO LEND".  
(Backstamp 1945).

NOTES.

- (1) See also "Postal History of the 2nd A.I.F." by Harry S. Porter, M.C. Published in the Australian Stamp Monthly beginning October 1946.
- (2) Found struck in violet at first.
- (3) 2040 Seychelles Coy. P.C., M.E.L.F. 5/9/46.
- (4) Struck in violet 18/1/42 on reverse being Indian F.P.O. 13 struck in same colour.
- (5) Composite Operating Company, S.A.E.C. 27/10/41; 15th Scottish General Hospital, M.E.F. 16/6/44.
- (6) 1 Egypt Signals, M.E.F. 21/6/47. No censor mark.
- (7) H.I.14, G.H.Q., M.E.F. 3/12/42 and 19/2/43.
- (8) Month in Roman figures.
- (9) R.A.C. Base Depot, M.E.F. 3/5/42.

- (10) Endorsed by writer "Western Desert" 13/9/42; S.M.C. G.H.Q.  
M.E.L.F. 23/1/47.
- (11) No. 1 Fighter Squadron S.A.A.F., M.E.F. 1/7/42 (G.B.) and 28/8/42 (S.A.)
- (12) 104 Regiment R.H.A. M.E.F. 25/11/42.
- (13) 10 Field Battery, 4 Field Regiment 30/7/43; 112 M.U. R.A.F. M.E.  
6/11/45.
- (14) 151 Infantry Brigade Workshops, M.E.F. 1/3/43.
- (15) R. and T. Depot, U.D.F. Admin. H.Q. M.E.F. 24/5/43.
- (16) R. and T. Battalion, S.A. Base, U.D.F., M.E.F. 5/4/43.
- (17) B.D.R.A. M.E.F. 26/5/42.
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EDITORIAL NOTE.

This Study is a combined effort of the members of the Forces Postal History Society, who have contributed information based on covers in their collections.

I have endeavoured to embody all these facts into a comprehensive listing without any distortion. The form taken for this is largely due to influence from Mr. J. A. Firebrace, whose help I wish to acknowledge gratefully. I must also acknowledge the assistance of all those several F.P.H.S. members, whose names must remain anonymous, although especial mention is due to Mr. E. Jagger and Brigadier C. D. Rawson of the F.P.H.S., and Mr. C. W. Minnett of the Egypt Study Circle for most valuable contributions.

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NOTE BY F. S. MUMFORD.

If any member of the Circle possesses specimens containing these markings with earlier or later dates than those listed above, or has any additional information, will he kindly send me details so that they can be published in the "Q.C." and Mr. Burney notified.

I have the following in my collection :-

<u>No.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date.</u>
14.	26 JU 42.	76.	2 NO 42.
18.	1 AU 42.	85.	7 AU 42.
19.	23 MR 43.	92.	11 NO 42.
26.	1 MA 41.	105.	23 XI 42.
48.	28 DE 41.	123.	23 NO 42.

FORGED COVERS OF THE SUDAN CAMPAIGN.

By Professor Peter A. S. Smith.

The Story of the military campaign that successfully wrested the Sudan from the Mahdi in the closing years of the last century is well known. It had the immediate philatelic consequences of the issuing of a surcharged Postage Due stamp by Egypt, 3 milliemes on 2 piastres, to allow the collection of postage without additional penalty on letters from Egyptian soldiers, and the issuing of a set of Egyptian stamps specially overprinted for use in the reconquered areas in the Sudan. None of these stamps is plentiful on cover, and most are quite scarce. Consequently, the post-war boom in postal history has given a handsome market value to them. Since the unused stamps are still readily obtainable, the temptation to the forger is obvious.

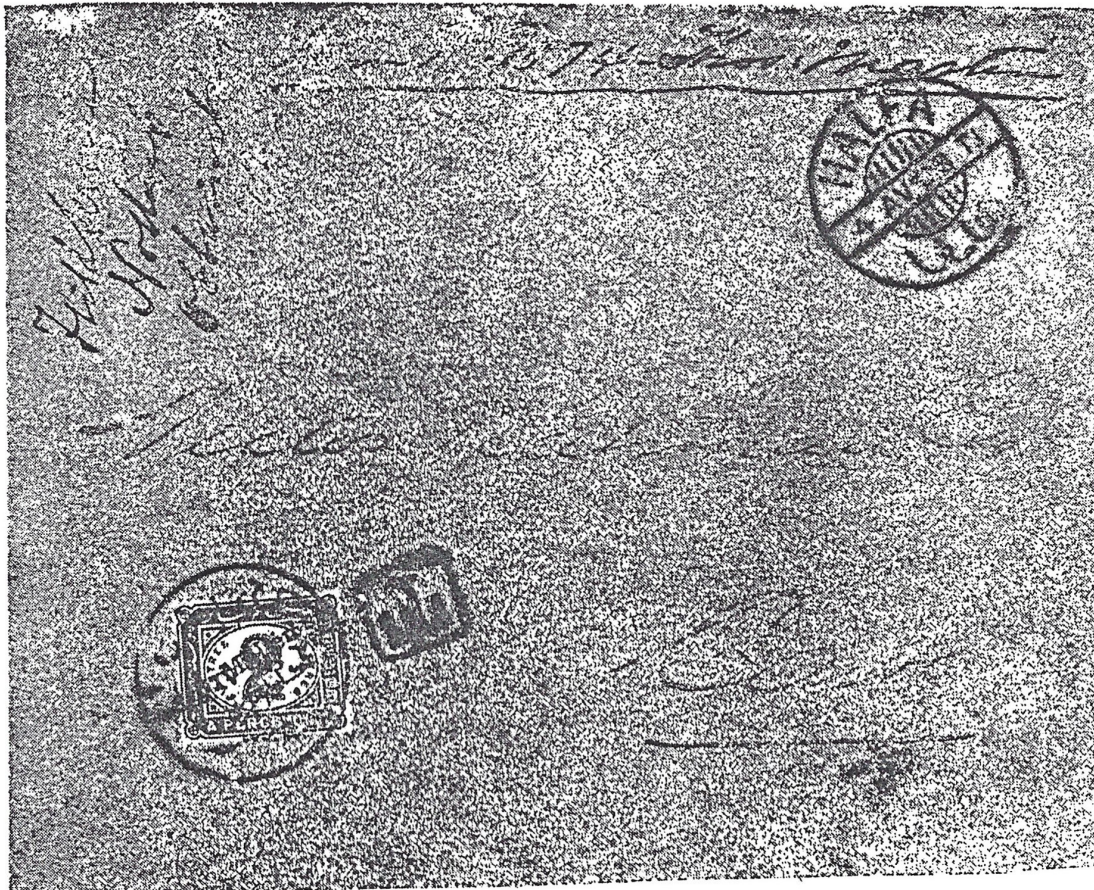
The evidence is now unmistakable that the act of serious forgery has occurred. I have seen several suspect covers during the past year: Colonel Danson has yet another. Dr. Byam has also examined them, and I can report that we all agree they are unquestionably forged, and that they emanate from the same source. It is our hope that this publication of their characteristics will cut short their evil career.


All the covers so far seen are addressed in the same handwriting to a Victor Nahman, at either Alexandria or Cairo. They bear manuscript endorsements reading "Field (sic?) Service. No Stamp obtainable / FB" and "From ----", different names and numbers being given. The sender's names are written in the same handwriting, with only a slight attempt at variation, although different coloured inks are used. The effect is such that a single cover seen by itself is deceptive, but a group of two or more is betraying.

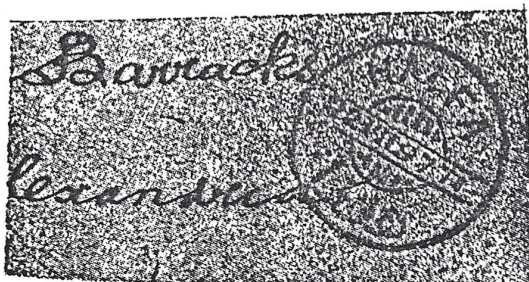
All but one of the covers seen bear a forged postmark of Halfa. On one of them this cancels a pair each of the 2 P.T. and 5 P.T. of the first issue of Sudan, a most improbable franking. The others are unfranked, and bear in addition the 3 mill. Egyptian provisional postage due stamp, cancelled at destination. The forged Halfa date-stamp differs in many ways from the genuine one in use at that period (1897-98). The letters are too big, and fill up too much of the area in the upper arc. The inner arc, filled with vertical bars, has seven thin bars instead of six thick bars. The date has the month expressed in French, abbreviated; the genuine date-stamp uses Roman numerals at this period, the horizontal lines that frame the date are connected to the outer circle, whereas in the genuine they do not quite touch. The inner circle (interrupted by the date-band) is irregular, being elongated vertically - that is, the small arcs above and below the date-band are part of the same perfect circle in the genuine, but not in the forgery. The Arabic equivalent of "Halfa" differs in several details from the genuine. In spite of all these differences, the general effect of the forgery is good.

The cover that did not bear the Halfa date-stamp bore that of Atbara / S.P.S., dated 30 VII 98. It is well done, and would easily deceive when seen by itself.

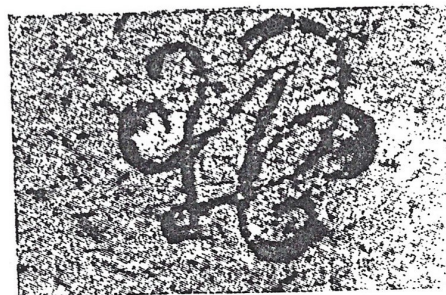
The Cairo and Alexandria cancellations appearing on the affixed postage due stamps appear to be genuine contemporary ones, presumably supplied by connivance, or very well done forgeries. The envelopes are all very fresh, showing no sign of having contained a letter, and clearly did not pass through the post. Two representatives of the unwholesome group are illustrated, also the genuine Halfa c.d.s.



FORGERY. Ex. Danson collection. Exact size. The forged , struck at Cairo, has a thick foot and square-ended serifs.

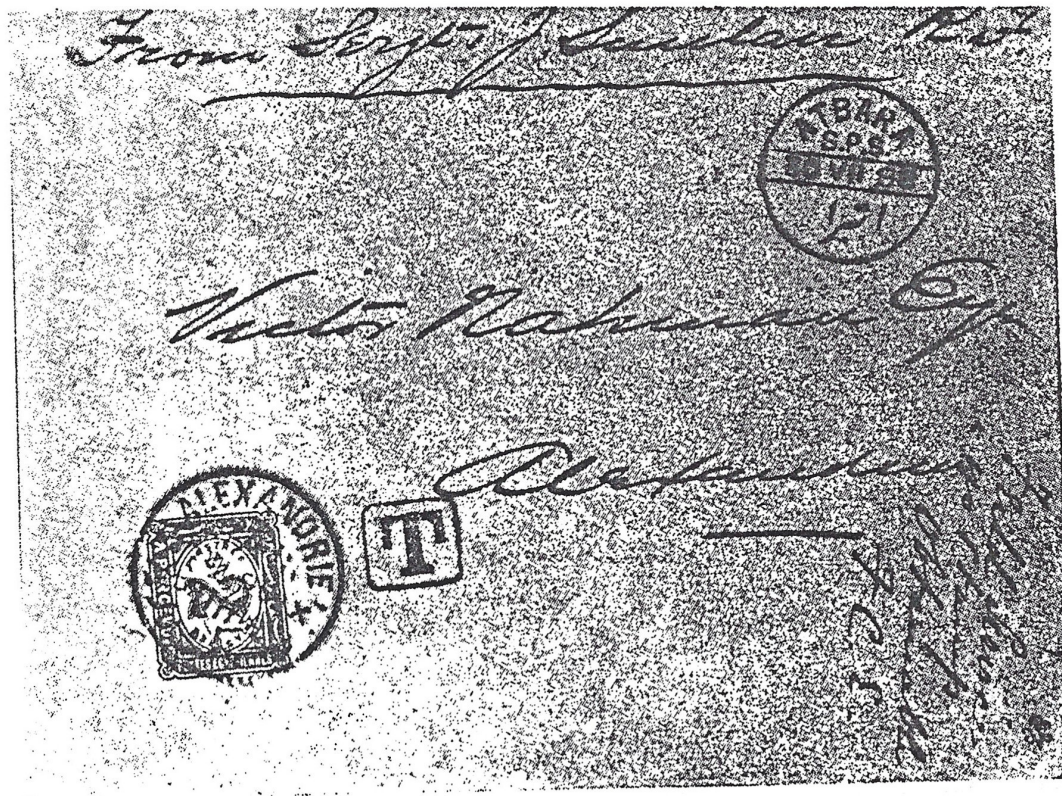


Genuine Halfa c.d.s. Ex. Byam collection.



Enlarged reproduction of monogram on several forged Egypt P.D. covers.





Forged cover ( exact size ) ex. Mumford collection. The forged T struck at Alexandria has a thick foot and square-ended serifs.

FOOTNOTE BY Dr. W. BYAM.

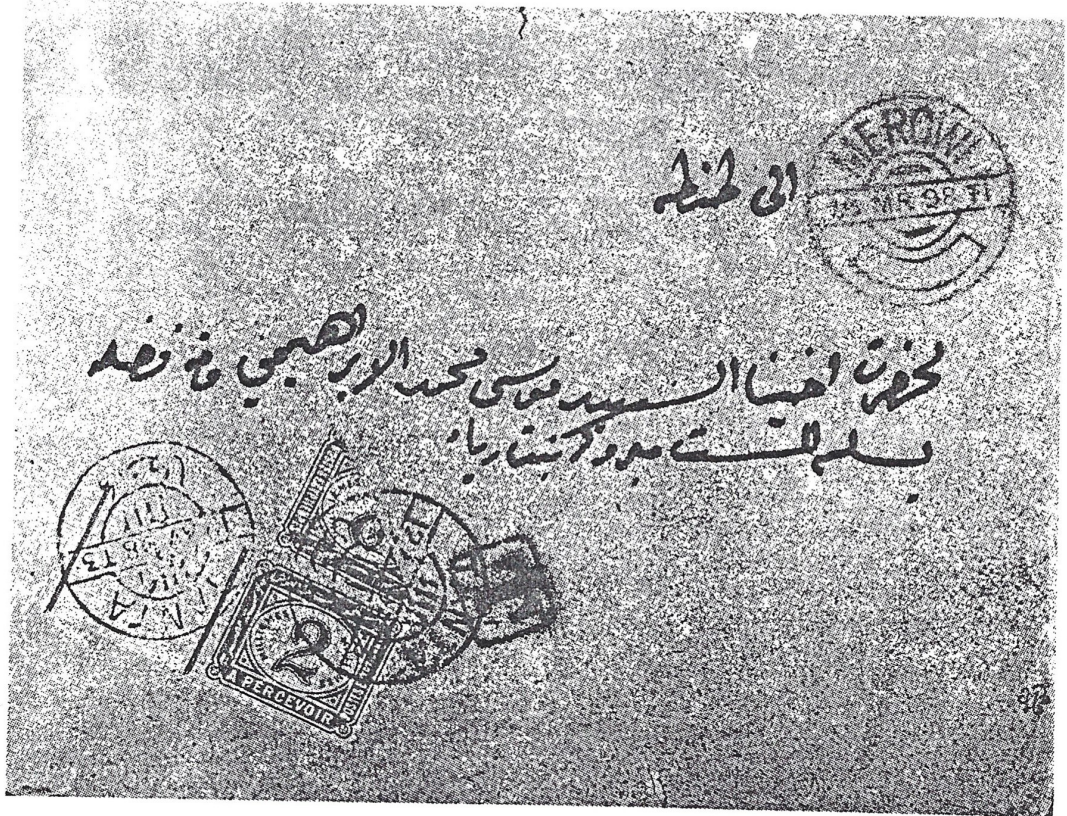
This most important revelation by Peter Smith exposes a typical pitfall awaiting philatelists-of-the-future who, we are led to believe, will mainly collect and study postal markings. Some of the covers alluded to were seen in Egypt and accepted as genuine by the experienced student GABRIEL BOULAD ( L'Orient Philatelique. Vol. VI. No. 69. January, 1950, page 295 ).

In addition to the covers mentioned by Professor Smith there is a second cover from Atbara in the collection of F. S. Mumford a photograph of which I have substituted as an illustration to Smith's article, as the reproduction is exact size whereas that sent from the U.S.A. was slightly reduced.

On these forged covers I have seen the following names of supposed writers all of whom had practically identical handwriting ; Sergt. J. Sinclair; Pte. Thos. Martin; Pte. A. Adams; Pte. A. Wheeler; Alf. Jenkins; Pte. A. Coats.

In my collection there is a letter from Merowi dated 16 MR 98 addressed

in Arabic to Tanta, where it received a 2 millicmes P.D. and a bisect of the same stamp. I consider this to be a forgery, as the letters of MEROWI are 5 mm. high, instead of 4.5 mm. on the genuine marking, and the horizontal lines touch the circle.



Byam collection. Forged postal markings. Letters of MEROWI too tall. Letter T in box too coarse. Stamped monogram is seen on several of the forged Egypt P.D. covers.

T A B I L.

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION - TEL AVIV, ISRAEL.

17th to 23rd. Sept. 1957.

A brief record of material of interest to Members of the Egypt Study Circle, seen by Dr. Byam.

1. Two examples of the Egyptian Jaffa circular date stamp on Egypt 1867, 1 P.T. (a) in the collection of Benny Guggenheim of Switzerland - V.R. Poste 7 Lug 1871 - undoubtedly genuine; (b) in the collection of Sol. Rozman of U.S.A. which appeared to read GIAFFA but was not clear. The space between V.R. and P of POSTE looked unusually great. In my opinion this specimen is of doubtful authenticity, though I admit I saw it only in the frame where it was placed above my head.

The Guggenheim display created much interest as it covered the whole field of postal development in the Holy Land; it was awarded the GRAND PRIX NATIONAL and richly deserved it.

2. An entire in the ZWI GANS collection carried by the French post from Alexandria to Genoa, via London - French c.d.s. Type I Alex. of 17 Avril 1838; London c.d.s. ( in black ) 10 MAY 1838 also boxed BRITISH/FOREIGN. No Genoa mark seen. This is an early date and an interesting route.

The Gans display included an example of the Victor Nahman covers described as forgeries by Peter Smith. Gans kindly presented me with two more of these " bits of iniquity ". Both he and his wife are keen students of the Postal History of Egypt and intend to apply for membership of the Egypt Study Circle; from them we may hope to receive useful information about the postal services in the Gaza strip and also of the P.O.W. camps, for publication in our " Q.C. "

3. A cover in the display of F. W. POLLACK, of Israel, editor of The Holy Land Philatelist, which I hope will interest C. D. Rawson - Alexandria to Malta, franked with G.B. 1/- green - large letters - cancelled BOM, Type 1. Alex c.d.s. A/DE 4 / 67 ( in black ); also struck in red on front a straight line REGISTERED in serif caps, without frame. Above this last marking a fragment of green adhesive label remained attached to the letter - I could see no legible lettering on it.
4. PRODRAMOS MELON of Turkey showed a fine display of Egypt used abroad, also interesting pieces of the first three issues and useful examples of mail carried by the Foreign Consular Posts. He received a silver medal. This collector will, I hope, apply for membership of the Egypt Study Circle when he should be encouraged to supply full details of his material - Meanwhile the following nine specimens are worthy of record :-
  - (a) Front from Dardanelli to Smirne 7 MARZ 72 - franked 1872 5 para strip of four and pair 20 para lithographs, in deep blue shade and perfect specimens - Postal rate 1 P.T. 20 para.
  - (b) Cover from Cavalla to "Salonico" franked with vertical pair 1867, 1 P.T. cancelled V.R. POSTE / 16 AGO 1871.
  - (c) Cover from Metelino V.R. POSTE / 13 LUG 74 to Cosp. No adhesive but marked 80 in MS.

- (d) Cover from Metelino to Greece franked 1872 horizontal pair 1 P.T. cancelled 31 OTT 1872.
- (e) Cover from Metelino to Smirne dated 25 GEN 1872.

On both (d) and (e) the numeral 8 in 1872 is small and apparently inverted. I do not know this c.d.s. with the small inverted 8 on stamps of 1867 used at this P.O.

- (f) Cover from Smirne to Alessandretta. c.d.s. of Smirne V.R. POSTE / 1 APR 1871 T.t.- No adhesive but P.D. numerals 80 struck in black and also a handstamp TAXE in large serif caps, without frame, which I think is a French marking applied at Alessandretta as I found two similar specimens in the display by OHRAN BRANDT, both struck at Alessandretta. At the N.W. corner of Melon's cover was written 2/G which means 2 garouch or 2 P.T. This should settle the problem of this numeral handstamp which I consider we can accept as 80 para postage due to be paid.
- (g) Cover from Smirne to Gosp. bearing single copy of 1867 5 P.T. cancelled c.d.s. Type I.1. 27 MARZ 68. Also on front, in black, RACCOMANDATE and in MS. grme 25 $\frac{1}{2}$  i.e. a triple weight letter = postage 3 P.T., registration fee 2 P.T. Was a registration mark spelt thus used in Egypt ?.
- (h) Entire carried by the Austrian Post dated 1845 to ZARA in Austria bearing clearly struck ALEXANDRIA, in black. This is one of the clearest examples of this straight-line marking I have seen.
- (i) Entire from Alexandria, dated May 1833, bearing handstamp V. TRIESTE in straight line, enclosed in oval, struck in blue. This is the earliest evidence of the Austrian Consular Post in Egypt known to me.

Among other things in the Melon exhibit I noted a page of singles carrying the UFFICIO NATANTE cancellations, both ALES and GOSP. The exhibit did not contain entires from any P.O. abroad franked with stamps of 1866 but I noted four First Issue singles used at Smirne bearing c.d.s. of 1867. It would seem therefore that our earliest record for Smirne of a First Issue stamp cancelled with c.d.s. is still October '66. Stamps used before this date bear the rhombus of dots. Can any collector in Egypt correct this statement?

5. The ERNEST KEHR exhibit included the Jaffa circular Interpostal seal, in blue, which he suggests is a forgery. Kehr claims it is printed by typography. To me it looked more like a grossly over-inked lithograph, but I could not study it properly in the frame, so I remain unconvinced that it is not genuine. There were also covers bearing Interpostal Seals displayed as evidence that these labels had franking power. As one letter carried seals from two different P.O.s and as only in one instance was a seal date stamped ( on an undepaid letter to a high official ) or cancelled in any way the evidence was not convincing. These uncanceled seals could have been removed from the letters and used again. This exhibit contained Air Mail material of interest and attracted much attention. It received the award of a silver medal.

All told at TABIL there were six exhibits of Egypt, including one by Charles Joncker of Belgium and my own. Zwi Gans gained a silver medal and also the silver bowl presented by the Philatelic Society of Haifa. I met several Israeli philatelists who collect Egypt and came to the conclusion that eventually collectors in Israel will rank high in the world of stamps.

The Posts of Great Britain in Egypt.

Registered Post.

by Brigadier C. D. Rawson. C.B.E., D.S.O.

In the Q.C., Vol. IV, No. 5, Pp.63-4, the existence of a Registration date stamp for Alexandria was reported. This was circular, and dated Aug. 20, 1870.

G. T. Houston now reports that he has two specimens ( A & B ) of this circular frank in his collection. Particulars are as follows :-

- A (1) Letter sheet from Alexandria addressed to Maritime Insurance Company Limited, Brown's Building, North Entrance, Liverpool.
- (11) Registration c.d.s. in red. REGISTERED JA 2 72 ALEXANDRIA just to left of top centre of letter. Diameter 22.5 mm. Height of letters 2.75 - 3mm.
- (111) per French Packet.in manuscript.
- (1V) Oval registered London arrival mark on right front of letter. REGISTERED A1 13 JA 72 LONDON.
- (V) Double circle date stamp in red on reverse REGISTERED 4 JA 13 72 LIVERPOOL.
- (VI) Oblong frame with sender's name in blue green G.S.Salmoni.top right corner.
- (VII) Franked with 1/- green (S.G. Z 363 plate 5) at bottom left front corner cancelled with obliterator BOI Type IV-3 in black.
- (VIII) On front is straight red pencil line, vertical, probably indicating either registration number (one ?) or rate of postage to be charged (1/-). This is adjacent to the registration date stamp.
- B. (1) Letter front from Alexandria addressed to London with c.d.s. REGISTERED JU I 73 ALEXANDRIA in red.
- (11) Two different London Registration stamps (oval) in red (both on front of letter) reading respectively REGISTERED S 8 JU 73 LONDON and REGISTERED FN 9 JU 73 LONDON.
- (111) Franked with 1/- green (S.G. 117 Plate 7) top right hand corner. Obliterated with BOI Type IV-3 in black.
- (IV) Adjacent to Alexandria Registration stamp is 34 in blue pencil. presumably registration number.
- (V) Marked "via Brindisi"
- (VI) No registration label.

NOTES.

In the Q.C. Vol. V. No. 1. Page 4 is reported the discovery of an oval registration date stamp for Alexandria by A. L. Cicurel. This was dated 1 March 1878. It can now be established that -

- (i) A circular registration date stamp existed for Alexandria from Aug. 20 1870 to July 1 1873 and that between this latter date and 1 March 1878 the oval variety was introduced.
- (ii) The registration fee was 4d. Postal rate from 1870 onwards via Marseilles or Brindisi was 3d for a single letter.
- (iii) It would appear that Cairo was not issued with a registration date stamp, but merely wrote the number of the registered letter on the cover and sent it with 1/- stamp thereon to Alexandria where the franking stamp was obliterated BOI, but the Registration date stamp not applied.
- (IV) The reason for the postal rate of only 2½d on A.L.Cicurel's cover to Malta is not yet evident.
- (V) Any further information will be welcome.