

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE .

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR .

Vol. V. No. 10. (Whole Series, No 58.) December, 1961.

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THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR.

Published by The Egypt Study Circle.

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Deputy Chairman - J.H.E.Gilbert, "Morven", West Close, Middleton-on-Sea, Sussex.

Keeper of the Philatelic Record - A. S. Mackenzie-Low, "Brook House", Blackboys, Sussex,

Deputy Keepers of the Philatelic Record -

Chas. W. Minett, "Fairmead", Bridgefield Road, Tankerton, Kent.

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Secretary-Treasurer & Editor of the Quarterly Circular.

F. S. Mumford, 81 Beech Road, Cale Green, Stockport, Cheshire.

Vol. V. No. 10. Page 101. December, 1961. (Whole Series, No. 58.)

CHANGES IN THE CIRCLE'S EXECUTIVE.

The 99th. meeting of the Circle was held at the house of the Royal Philatelic Society, London on Thursday, October 26th, 1961 when the following members were present :-

Dr. Byam, (Chairman), J.H.E.Gilbert, (Deputy Chairman), Jean Boulad d'Humieres, L.Bowyer, Lt.-Col. J.R.Danson, John Firebrace, Chas. W. Minett, F.S.Mumford, R.A.G.Potter, E.H.Proctor, W.B.Rae, and Professor Peter A.S.Smith. Total 12.

The Chairman expressed the pleasure it gave both himself and the members present to welcome Professor Smith who all were particularly glad to meet on this, his first, visit to the Circle. He was also pleased that Mons. Boulad had been able to come over from Switzerland to be present. Professor Smith then spoke of the pleasure it gave him to come to the meeting and meet some of his fellow members, some of whom he had known previously only through correspondence. He added that, before leaving America, our old friend Charles Fox of New York had written to him stating that he regretted being unable to participate but wished to send greetings to the members present and also to congratulate Dr. Byam upon his sale catalogue which was such a mine of information.

Resignations from office to take effect from January 1st. next, were then received from Dr. Byam and A.S.Mackenzie Low who had served the Circle ever since its formation on January 23rd. 1935 and from the Secretary who had held office since 1936. A hearty vote of thanks and sincere appreciation of their services to the Circle was accorded to the three retiring officers, after which the following appointments were made :-

Hon. Life President - Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E.,

Chairman - Lt.-Colonel J.R.Danson, M.C., T.D.,

Secretary-Treasurer - E.H.Proctor,

Keeper of the Philatelic Record - Chas. W. Minett,

Keepers of the Reference Collection - E.A.Piprell and G.D.Turton,

Editor of the "Q.C." - R.A.G.Potter,

and a Sub-Committee was to consist of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Hon. Treasurer and the Editor of the "Q.C."

LIEUT.-COLONEL WILLIAM BYAM, O.B.E.

An appreciation by the Chairman elect.

I suppose it would be sometime in 1925 that I first met Byam. I knew that, like myself, he collected the stamps of Sudan, he having spent many years there attached to the Egyptian Army and I was very anxious to meet him. This I did by obtaining an introduction to him by a mutual friend. Our first meeting took place one evening after dinner when he showed me some of the high lights of his collection, and also crossexamined me as to what I had got but I very much doubt whether he believed what I told him until he saw them for himself some months later. So started a friendship which has increased as the years have passed.

Byam started to collect stamps just after the first World War and formed collections of various countries, but he soon disposed of these and, when he sold his Sudan collection in 1929, he decided to concentrate on the stamps and postal history of Egypt, and the results of his labours are familiar to all members of the Egypt Study Circle.

Byam was not a mere accumulator of stamps though he had a vast collection of Egypt. He is a philatelist of the highest order and his studies of the set up and printings of the first three issues have been quite outstanding and are the result of very concentrated and detailed work.

Fortunately the results of his labours are not lost to us owing to the recent sale of his collection. The sale catalogue is a mine of information and he also published the majority of his findings in the London Philatelist, L'O.P. and other philatelic journals, including our own "Quarterly Circular".

Byam became a member of "The Royal" in 1924 and in 1933 he joined the Society of Egypt.

On the 23rd. of January, 1935 eleven English members of the latter Society held a meeting in London, when the chair was taken by Byam and the Egypt Study Circle was formed. Meetings were held once a month at his house in Harley Street and the arrangements continued until the outbreak of war in 1939.

The members of the Circle owe a deep debt of gratitude to Byam who, except when otherwise engaged in Ethiopia, has presided at the great majority of our meetings. An outstanding philatelist himself, he has taught us how to set about our various philatelic studies, and we have all learned a great deal from him.

At the last meeting of the Circle, held after the "Byam" sale, he indicated that he desired to relinquish the Chairmanship and the members present very regretfully felt obliged to accede to his request. At the same meeting, on Byam's proposition the members present did me the honour of electing me to the Chair to take effect from next spring when my present commitments end.

On behalf of all members of the E.S.C. may I wish Byam and his wife many years of health and happiness in their beautiful Guernsey home and I trust we may have the benefit of his unique knowledge and sage counsel at many future meetings of the Circle.

In conclusion, may I express the hope that when he has finished his latest book he will feel inclined to edit and correct the draft of the Circle's work on the stamps and postal history of Egypt.

The following two letters are reproduced at the request of the Chairman.

" Cedar Hill ",
Mount Durand,
St. Peter Port,
GUERNSEY.

17th November, 1961.

A. S. Mackenzie-Low, Esqre.,
Brook House,
Blackboys,
SUSSEX.

My dear Andrew,

At the meeting of the Egypt Study Circle on October 26th last, we discussed the future organization of the Circle. It was agreed that I shall be replaced as Chairman by our old friend Colonel Danson. Danson has agreed to take up the post from the end of March next. Meanwhile John Gilbert will continue as Deputy Chairman and will be responsible to act for me as I am now going out to Malta. I consider it is only right for me to resign as I no longer possess the stamps requisite to make the meetings a success.

We decided it was only appropriate for Charles Minett, the Deputy Keeper, to be acknowledged as Keeper of the Record under the new Chairman. I was therefore requested to write to you expressing the appreciation of all members of the Circle for what you have done. We all realise how much we owe you for the extremely competent way in which the Record has been kept. Minett was loud in your praise and told the members present the Record was complete, accurate, and easy to work. We all acknowledge our debt to you as one of the builders of the Circle and I am instructed to tell you we will ever be grateful for your efforts. Your careful Record will be a means of keeping the Circle in being for many years to come and will exist as a monument to your knowledge and skill as a philatelist.

May I add my personal thanks because without you at my side from the beginning I would never have been able to bring the Circle to the success it has obviously achieved. Not only have you been a friend but the most loyal colleague for whom I could have wished.

Yours gratefully,

(signed) Bill. (W. Byam).

" Cedar Hill ",
Mount Durand,
St. Peter Port,
GUERNSEY.

17th November, 1961.

F. S. Mumford, Esqre.,
81, Beech Road,
Cale Green,
STOCKPORT.

My dear Frank,

I have been asked by the Egypt Study Circle, meeting on October 26th last, to write, on behalf of all our membership, a letter of appreciation and thanks for what you have done to build up the Circle and make it a success.

The load you have carried has been immense and has been continuously added to as the years have gone by. Your patience and kindness as Secretary has smoothed the path for many of us. Your skill and tact as Editor of the Quarterly circular has produced the main means by which the Circle has been held together and which is likely to remain of supreme importance in the future.

It seems only fitting that you, Andrew Mackenzie-Low and I should all retire from office together though it is to be hoped all three will continue as active supporters of the Circle and its members.

In conclusion I would like to add my personal thanks to you, my valued friend, for the loyal way in which you have always stood by me and acted as my most steadfast helper. May we work together, in our new capacities, for many years to come.

Yours with sincere gratitude,

(signed) Bill.
(W. Byam).

NEW MEMBERS.

- 108. P.J.Drossos, 1 St. Denys Place (Dimocritou, Str), Athens, Greece.
- 109. A.R.Alcock, 11-12, Regent Street, Cheltenham Spa, Glos.
- 110. Wm. C. Scheetz, 104 Myrtle Avenue, Newark, New York, U.S.A.
- 111. W. B. Rae, "Hillside", 83 Cecil Park, Pinner, Mddlx. Tel. Pinner 4385.

RESIGNATION.

- 92. Dr. E. Rachwalsky, 9 Upper Wimpole Street, London. W. 1.
-

POSTAGE DUES.

"The Soldiers Stamp"

By

Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E.

Second State

A	B								
					A		B		
		B			B	B	B	B	
		B						B	B

Third State

1	B	3
11	12	13
21	22	23
31	32	33
41	42	B
51	52	B

16	17	18	19	20
26	27	28	29	30
36	37	B	39	40
B	B	B	B	50
56	57	58	B	B

8	9	10
18	19	20
28	29	30
B	39	40
B	B	50
58	B	B

Fourth State

A	B								
					A		B		
		B			B	B	B	B	
		B						B	A

Early in the campaign for the re-conquest of the Sudan it was decided that both subaltern officers and soldiers in the ranks should be allowed to send letters from the front to Egypt without stamps on them and without payment provided they were endorsed by the sender and countersigned by his commanding officer or his deputy. In addition they had to be inscribed "On active service - No stamps available". Thus marked these letters were not to be taxed double on arrival and the recipient was to pay three milliemes for a single letter.

As there was no postage due stamp of 3 milliemes in Egypt the tax to be collected was at first, early in 1898, represented by one P.D.2 milliemes adhesive and a bisect of the same stamp. The forgeries of these covers may be recognised because on them the letters of the town name are too big when compared with a genuine c.d.s.; the month is represented by letters instead of Roman numerals; the two parallel lines enclosing the date meet the circle, whereas on the genuine they do not do so.

This arrangement was soon followed by a provisional 3 Milliemes Postage Due created by overprinting the 2 P.T. of 1889 with a diagonally placed surcharge in black, reading 3 Milliemes above and the equivalent in Arabic below.

Two types of overprint can be recognised. Type A has a space of 2.0 m.m. between 3 and M. Type B is longer, because the space between 3 and M is 2.5 m.m. Both types are found inverted.

The overprint was applied in Cairo, by typography, to panes of sixty stamps; four states of the setting have been recorded. First state: represented by one recorded sheet only which was sold by Mackenzie-Low to King Fuad. On this sheet the right hand vertical column of six stamps bear an Arabic two (٢) instead of three (٣). It is possible that this sheet was printers' waste and that no such sheets were issued for use.

Second State: the right-hand column shows the erroneous and overprinted ٢. There are ten examples of Type B arranged as on the (C) diagram herewith. All the other stamps are overprinted Type A. Stamp No. 36 shows a broken Arabic ٢ which is often mistaken for an example of the uncorrected ٢: No. 34 shows the Arabic letter ٢ defective: on No. 38 the horizontal stroke of the last "e" in milliemes is broken.

Third State: There is no trace of the Arabic numeral ٢ in the right hand vertical column; the setting otherwise is identical with the Second State.

Fourth State: similar to the third state except that the right hand bottom stamp on the pane, No. 60, carries Type A overprint instead of Type B. The broken Arabic numeral on No. 36 persists. On stamps of orange shade the Arabic lettering is defective on Nos. 2, 38, 46, 47, 48, 49, 53 and 59; All are Type B overprints. Fourth State overprint on stamps of the orange-yellow shade show Arabic lettering normal on all Type B units. Stamps Nos. 34 and 36 show defective Arabic as seen on all previous States: both overprints are Type A.

Fifth State: similar to Fourth State but No. 36, Type A with broken Arabic numeral, has been replaced by Type B overprint with the Arabic lettering defective as seen on nearly all overprints of this type in States 2 and 3. This State is recorded only on stamps of orange-yellow shade. Every letter S in the first horizontal row of the pane is more or less defective.

In 1905 a new overprint appeared, distinguished by the right hand Arabic character bearing above it the sign Hamsa (٥). The overprint was again applied

in black, by typography, but only to half panes of thirty stamps from which all marginal paper was removed before the stamps were issued to the post office. Two settings are recognised. Setting one: on stamp No. 12 the top line of overprint measures 19.5 m.m. Setting two: on No. 12, " 3 millimetres " measures 20.0 m.m. On stamps No. 27 the first "H" of millimetres is bent to the right to such a degree that the top of the letter touches the second " i " of the overprints.

On the upper three rows of both settings the Arabic overprint is more to the right, in relation to the French equivalent above it, than it is on the lower rows.

Stamps printed on both ordinary and chalk surfaced paper were overprinted.

The overprint exists inverted: all postally used copies recorded bear the c.d.s. of MAKADA, with dates in 1905. This overprint is also known double: no used copies of this error are on record.

A typographed essay, in black, for this overprint exists. There is a period after the word millimetres. Both lines of the overprint measure 21.0 m.m.: the Arabic letters are larger than in the issued overprint which measures only 18 m.m.

E.S.C. Report of meeting on 4th May, 1961 at Rotary House.

Members present were :- Messrs Gilbert, Warren, Turton, Firebrace & Minett.

Apologies were received from Byam and Proctor.

It was proposed that the congratulations of the Circle should be sent to Colonel J. R. Danson on his becoming High Sheriff of Westmorland.

Thomas, in discussing the postal history of the " Canadian Voyageur contingent " which was formed to take part in the 1884-5 campaign in Egypt, Gilbert produced originals and photographs of some of the few recorded covers which he had found in Canada last winter, two were from the camp at Wadi Halfa to Canada and four were from Canada to the camp. Details of other known are being collected and true-to-scale photographs obtained and it is hoped to produce a listing and fuller Report in the near future. It is thought probable that collectors of Canadian postal history may have examples and the Circle would be grateful to hear of them.

The meeting went on to discuss the Postal History of the British Forces and the final draft of the Chapter dealing with the "Circular Datestamps of the Civil Post Offices during the Postal Commission period (pre-censorship), 1932 - 1939 was produced.

A first draft of the following chapter was also shown; it deals with the datestamps of the named post offices during censorship, 1939 - 1940 with postal rates and Censor Marks and Labels.

A further chapter has now been started and covers the E. 601 to E. 615 series of Datestamps and it would be greatly appreciated if members' examples, which have not already been seen for recording, were to be sent to the Deputy-Editor of the Record (Postal History - C. W. Minett).

Records for the Indian and Australian Forces mails, 1939-1941 are also under way.

Members are invited to send in any information they may have regarding an unusual pictorial envelope, with a Egyptian flavour, produced by Gilbert. It was inscribed " Mr. Albert Smith's / Overland Mail ". The front bears illustrations of a Paddle Steamer, what looks like Buffalo Bill on a Camel and an early steam train emerging from a rock tunnel. The reverse has crude illustrations of a sphinx and three odd-sized pyramids.

C I R C L E R O L L .

2. A.S.Mackenzie-Low, Brook House, Blackboys, Sussex.
3. Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E., Cedar Hill, Mount Durand, Guernsey, C.I.
12. Col. Richard Stead, Springfield, Newton-by-Frodsham, Via Warrington.
15. R.Seymour Blomfield, 5107 Cayuga Street, Chilhowee Hills, Knoxville, 14. Tenn. U.S.A.
16. Jean Boulad d'Humieres, Villa Orient, 10-12 Avenue d'Ouchy, Lausanne, Switzerland.
17. Charles Fox, 272_3d Avenue, New York, 10, N.Y., U.S.A.
22. F.S.Mumford, 81 Beech Road, Cale Green, Stockport, Cheshire.
26. J.R.Raeburn, Trewern House, Dowlais, Glam.
28. Mrs. Isa Stuart, 89 Fotheringay Road, Maxwell Park, Glasgow, S.1.
32. Lt-Col. J.R.Danson, M.C.- T.D., Dry Close, Grasmere, Westmorland.
33. A.L.Pemberton, 50 Pall Mall, London. S.W. 1.
39. Ernest A.Kehr, 127-10, 103 Avenue, Richmond Hill, New York, U.S.A.
45. Prof. E.Harold Charlesworth, Dept. of Chemistry, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada.
46. C.G.Alterskye, 4, Conway Road, London. S.W. 20.
50. J.H.E. Gilbert, Morven, West Close, Middleton-on-Sea, Sussex.
51. Robert Leslie. Wood Nook, 22 Park Drive, Whitehaven, Cumberland.
53. Henry T. Hardy, Woodleigh, Towers Avenue, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2.
54. Brigadier C.D.Rawson, C.B.E., D.S.O., The Cottage, Orchard Close, Carroll Avenue, Ferndown, Dorset.
56. Major H.Lees-Randell, 8 Clarendon Road, Sketty, Swansea, Glam.
64. E.H.Proctor, 4 Eden Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
67. P.W.Simonson, 12 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford, N.9. Victoria, Australia.
69. E.H.Warren, 8 Park Side, Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex.
71. John Firebrace. Little Chart, Walden Road, Chislehurst, Kent.
72. H.H.Hammond, Brooklands, 51 Victoria Park, Colwyn Bay, N.Wales.
74. Prof. Peter A.S.Smith, Dept. of Chemistry, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. U.S.A.
77. Chas. W. Minett, Fairmead, Bridgefield Road, Tankerton, Kent.
78. A.J.Revell, 135 Cromwell Road, Whitstable, Kent.
82. Socrate Th. Saoulli, P.O.B.70, Nicosia, Cyprus.
83. G.T.Houston, 230 Collins Street, Room 206, Melbourne C.I. Australia.
84. Albert L.Cicurel, 1 Rue Lord Byron, Paris, 8^{eme}. France.
85. E.J.A. Knight, 187 Upper Woodcote Road, Mapledurham, Reading, Berks.
86. R.A.G. Potter, 106 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent.
87. Dott. Roberto Boccardo, Piazza Manin 6/11, Genoa, Italy.
88. G.D.Turton, 7 Belmont Lane, Stanmore, Mddlx.
89. J.J.Waterman, 97 Stewart Terrace, Aberdeen, Scotland.
90. J.L.Heap, 37 Overton Road, Southgate, London. N. 14.