

E G Y P T S T U D Y C I R C L E

T H E Q U A R T E R L Y C I R C U L A R

Volume V No.11/12

Whole Series No.59/60

October 1962

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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

Vol. V No. 11/12

Whole Series No. 59/60

October 1962

Page 110

Officers

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Kent.

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Meeting of the Egyptian Study Circle at 41 Devonshire Place, London
on the 23rd. June 1962

This was the 100th. meeting of the Circle and the gratitude of all present members was expressed to the founders, of whom Dr. Byam was the only one able to be with us.

The Agenda included a discussion on "What could be learned from the Byam sale". All were agreed as to the exceptional prices which many of the covers realised - and it was of particular interest to remember the prices at which some of these were bought as recently as 1957. To give but two examples - Lot 171 bought at the Hinde sale (1957) for £80, realised £360 and Lot 172 at £50 now realised £400.

The tremendously increased interest shown in Postal History was thereby apparent - cf. sales of Napoleonic covers, Lots 883-888. Not the same very keen bidding was apparent, however, on many of the lots comprising most important philatelic studies. Was this because there were not many students of Egyptian philately? or because would-be students of such material as was offered felt that the studies had already been completed as far as possible - further material being so very difficult to obtain? Dr. Byam was quick to point out that any suggestion of completion was a most wrong assumption and that, for example, he would consider the study of the Third Issue as only just begun!

The apparent lack of interest in some of the rare blocks was also noted with surprise and the suggestion was made that perhaps the high prices paid for covers was, to a great extent, because they were of interest to collectors of countries other than Egypt. Again, however, it was pointed out that many of the foreign bidders on these items were in fact collectors of Egypt as well as being collectors of rare items.

Extract of a letter from an overseas member who attended the sale:-

"The Byam sale disclosed to me that while there are buyers of considerable means who are prepared to bid high prices for spectacular rarities, these same buyers show little interest in contributing to the continuing study of Egyptian stamps for they were not prepared to bid equally enthusiastically for incomplete studies. The effect of their eagerness to obtain only the rarities is to remove such pieces from the student and thus to further hinder studies by future students by scattering the painstakingly gathered pieces of the puzzle.

At the same time, the number of collectors of Egypt of great means must be rather small in view of the quantity of rare pieces that were either not sold, or sold for relatively low prices. A further observation is that while rare blocks of four - and particularly marginal pieces - consistently brought high prices, larger blocks never brought bids in proportion".

The purchaser of Lot 609 was understood to have broken up the sheet in the auction room for resale and regret was felt that so rare an item should be lost to philately - although the owners of the so very few sheets now left in existence may not be blamed, perhaps, if they should inwardly feel not displeased.

The sale had undoubtedly created much interest and some lots had had the effect of bringing other items to light and so increasing our knowledge. An example of this is Lot 763 - as shown in Peter Smith's article elsewhere in this issue.

ANDREW STUART MACKENZIE-LOW
Died 25th. February 1962

Andrew, who bore the membership number 2 in the Circle, had been an ardent philatelist since the early 90s of last century and we owe him a debt of gratitude for having collected and preserved much of the material on which our knowledge of the stamps and postal history of Egypt is based. He wrote much which proved the great interest of Egypt as a study for philatelists and, though much of what he wrote has required revision, he laid the foundation for the studies subsequently carried out by The Egypt Study Circle.

Among the honours Andrew gained were the Fellowship of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, which became an Honorary Fellowship when he had completed fifty years as a member; he was one of the three British Members of Honour in the Societe Philatelique d'Egypte; and, the greatest honour of all, he was elected to sign the Congress Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

I first saw the famous Mackenzie-Low collection of Egypt at the International Exhibition in New York in 1926 and, not knowing that I would ever meet the owner, I spent much time making copious notes of what was displayed. As soon as I returned to England the collection was offered to me but, foolishly, I did not buy it as my experience in those days was insufficient to enable me to appreciate the collection at its real worth. In 1929 the entire collection was sold to King Fuad and remained buried until the vast accumulation of stamps collected by that monarch was eventually disposed of.

Once I had made the acquaintance of Mackenzie-Low we started to study the Crown Overprint issue and our work together led to the formation of the Egypt Study Circle when Seymour Thompson suggested we were attempting to make a corner in these stamps because we published nothing of our findings. In reply we invited him to join us and he may thus be considered one of the founder members of the Circle. His membership number was 1.

Andrew became one of my most intimate and valued friends and we continued our studies amicably until failing health prevented my dear friend from being able to travel either to Guernsey or to London. We had a few meetings at his home in Sussex but it became obvious that serious philatelic study was proving too exhausting.

Andrew will be missed by many, as not only was he an able philatelist but also a keen golfer and an experienced and ardent gardener. His loss to me is very great.

W.Byam E.S.C. No.3

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Errata- Vol.V No.10

Page 106 - under SECOND STATE final numeral in top line should be 3 (Arabic/٣)
 under THIRD STATE Arabic numeral referred to should be 2(٢) not (٢)

Page 107 - not first "i" in milliemes but first "1"

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CYRIL G. ALTERSKYE
Died 1st. February 1962

Members of the Circle who knew him will be very sorry to hear of the death of the well-known stamp dealer Cyril Alterskye which occurred following a heart attack on the previous day.

He joined the Circle in the early months of 1939 but I first met him some years previously, shortly after he had returned from Egypt and had set up as a stamp dealer in Wimbledon.

He had a very good knowledge of stamps in general and of those of the Middle East in particular; he also had the knack of discovering unusual items.

Although he did not enjoy particularly good health he was always cheerful and was a delightful companion, and I mourn the loss of an old friend. To his widow I would desire to convey the sympathy of all our members.

J.R.Danson E.S.C. No.32

DR. REGINALD GORDON WARD
Died 10th. July 1962

Gordon Ward, who died at his home in Sevenoaks at the age of 77, was alluded to in The Times as "an outstanding philatelist" - a well deserved compliment and a most unusual one in the obituary column of our leading daily newspaper. Those of us who knew him as a member of the Egypt Study Circle will confirm the opinion expressed by the Philatelic Correspondent of The Times that Ward was one of Britain's outstanding philatelic students and had a profound knowledge of the production of stamps by typography and photogravure. His study of the second portrait issue of King Fuad was a masterpiece and the drawings and diagrams with which Ward illustrated his writings were notable for their clarity and accuracy. Of equal merit were Ward's studies of the modern stamps of Australia and South Africa.

In 1953 Gordon Ward signed the Congress Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and was subsequently elected by Congress to serve on the Board of Election to the Roll.

Not only did Gordon Ward excel as a philatelist and postal historian but he was a highly qualified physician, an archaeologist of standing and a past Master of the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Brickmakers. He was notable for his moral courage and sound common sense. In the 1914 war he proved his worth on the field of battle at Mons, on the Somme and in Salonika. We are proud to carry his name on the Roll of the Egypt Study Circle.

W.Byam E.S.C. No.3

Wants

Mr. A.J.Revell, 135 Cromwell Rd., Whitstable, Kent (Tel. Whit. 3813) is interested in compiling a list of the markings of the Khedivial Mail Line and asks anyone who possesses covers or pictures of the ships or other relevant material to please contact him.

The 44th. Philatelic Congress of Great Britain - 1962

As one of the specialist societies affiliated to Congress the Egypt Study Circle was invited to display 24 sheets at Worthing during the period 12th. to 15th. June this year. The choice of subject was left to the Chairman and the Keeper of the Record, who decided to show three groups of postal history, each containing 8 sheets. Two groups belonged to the last century and one to World War II; they consisted of:-

1. The Posta Europea
2. The French Consular Office
3. German Prisoner of War mail

A detailed description of each group now follows.

The Posta Europea covers showed examples of all the recorded types of handstruck stamps (with the exception of the intagliated Official Seal). Except where otherwise noted all the handstamps, including the Per Consegna and Franca cachets, were in blue or greenish-blue.

- Sheet 1. Type I of Alessandria addressed to Cairo, 7th. April 1848, and Type II of Alessandria, in black, also to Cairo, 29th. May 1855. Note:- Type I also exists for Cairo in both greenish-blue or black. It is relevant here to mention an important and most unfortunate error which occurred on page 10 of the Byam Sale catalogues; the illustrations of Types I and II were transposed; Type I is, of course, the smaller oval, while Type II is the larger.
- Sheet 2. Type III of Tanta bearing an unframed PER CONSEGNA (with seriffed letters) indicating registration, to Alessandria, 1859 and Type III of Mansura bearing a double-framed PER CONSEGNA (serifs) to Samanud, 1859.
- Sheet 3. Type III of Samanud bearing in manuscript "Per Consegna" and the rate of 3P.20para, to Alessandria, 1860 and Type III of Samanud bearing a double-framed PER CONSEGNA (serifs) to Alessandria, 1862.
- Sheet 4. Type V of Zagasik bearing a double-framed PER CONSEGNA (serifs) to Alessandria, 1863.
- Sheet 5. Type VI of Cairo bearing the double-oval PER CONSEGNA/POSTA EUROPEA CAIRO with the number 1237 in the centre, to Alessandria, 1864. The cover is backstamped with Type V of Mansura, and Type V of Samanud bearing a double-framed PER CONSEGNA and a double-framed FRANCA (both with serifs) to Damiata, 1865.
- Sheet 6. Type III of Zagasig (note the changed spelling) bearing a double-framed FRANCA which has been cancelled out in blue crayon and the rate 1(P) with initials added, to Alessandria, 1862.
- Sheet 7. Type IV of Alessandria in black, to Cairo, 1861 and Type IV of Cairo in black, to Alessandria, also 1861.
- Sheet 8. Type VI of Alessandria in black, to Cairo, 1865 with backstamped Type VI of Cairo in colour, and Type VI of Cairo in black, to Alessandria, 1863 backstamped with Type VI of Alessandria in colour.

The French Consular Office

- Sheet 9. Cover from Alexandria to Livourne, 9th. August 1859, franked by ten 80c. and one 10c. imperf. Napoleon French adhesives, cancelled 3704 in small figures; arrived Livorno 12th. August so the letter probably went direct.
- Sheet 10. (a) Cover from Cairo to Florence, 1st. September 1862, with Cairo "Posta Europea" Type IV in black, 80c. imperf. Napoleon French adhesive cancelled 5080 in large figures. The letter passed through Alexandria on the 2nd. September, Leghorn on the 10th. and arrived at its destination on the following day.
(b) Somewhat similar cover from Cairo to Paris, 17th. September 1863, with Cairo "Posta Europea" Type VI in blue, one 10c. and one 40c. perf. Napoleon French adhesives cancelled 5080 at Alexandria. The letter passed through Alexandria on the 18th. September, Marseilles on the 24th. and arrived at Paris on the following day.
- Sheet 11. Combination cover from Zagazik to Paris via Alexandria, 2nd. Sept. 1860, franked by a vertical strip of three 1P. 1st. issue Egyptian adhesives and three 40c. perf. Napoleon French adhesives, the former cancelled with the c.d.s. of Zagazik Type I.3 and the latter with 5080. The cover passed through Alexandria on the 5th. September, the Marseilles transit mark is illegible and there is no Paris arrival mark. One of the French stamps is tied by the Zagazik c.d.s. so they must have been put on with the Egyptian stamps at Zagazik.
- Sheet 12. Registered cover from Alexandria to Paris, 18th. January 1868, franked by an 80c. perf. Napoleon French adhesive, cancelled 5080, also on front the c.d.s. of the French Office at Alexandria and a boxed PD T CHARGE, all struck in black. On the back the "Cachet descriptif de chargements" of the French Alexandria Office struck in black and three Paris transit and arrival marks all dated 26th. January struck in blue, red and black.
- Sheet 13. The Suez office. A single laureated Napoleon 80c., a single Ceres 80c. and a pair of 40c. Bordeaux issue on piece, all cancelled 5105.
- Sheet 14. (a) Cover from Cairo to Geneva, 18th. January 1870, franked by one 20c. and one 40c. laureated Napoleon French adhesives, cancelled 5119. The front is endorsed "Via Messine" but in fact it went via Marseilles and Menton, arriving at destination on the 26th. Jan.
(b) Cover from Cairo to Jerusalem, 17th. April 1874, franked by one 40c. Ceres French adhesive, cancelled 5119. It passed through the French Office at Alexandria on the 18th. April and Jaffa on the 20th.
- Sheet 15. Combination cover from Cairo to Paris, 8th. February 1868, franked by one 1P. 2nd. issue Egyptian adhesive cancelled by the Egyptian office c.d.s. of Cairo and one 40c. laureated Napoleon French adhesive cancelled 5119. At this date, as a general rule, letters from Cairo addressed to France were handed in direct to the French Consular Office and were sent in bulk to the French Office in Alexandria to be forwarded to destination after stamping with the appropriate French stamps, thus avoiding having to pay the Egyptian postage.
If a letter was posted in the Egyptian post box in Cairo it had to

be franked with the appropriate Egyptian adhesive and such letters, when addressed to France, were normally delivered to the French Consular P.O. at Alexandria where French adhesives, if not already on, were affixed and cancelled 5080. This is the only cover I have seen with both French and Egyptian adhesives cancelled at their respective offices in Cairo.

Sheet 16. The Port Said Office.

(a) Part of a cover from Port Said to France, franked by a French 80c. Ceres adhesive cancelled 5129.

(b) Part of a cover franked by a French 80c. Ceres and an Egyptian 3rd. issue 1P. lithographed adhesive, both cancelled 5129.

(c) Piece with four 40c. French Ceres adhesives cancelled 5129.

German Prisoner of War mail

If those who have read so far will pardon this preamble to the third group they may be interested to know that the late Gordon Ward, whose passing we salute in this issue of the Quarterly Circular and who joined the impromptu Circle meeting at Worthing on what was perhaps his last public philatelic appearance, was instrumental in bringing to light the subject of this group. In 1954 the present writer was entrusted by the Circle with the selection of material to form an exhibit, later shown at the Royal, illustrating primarily the posts of the British Forces in Egypt during World Wars I and II. Among other items submitted by Gordon Ward was an unpostmarked but otherwise apparently official postcard from a German P.o.W., one Kurt Hahn, to a stamp dealer in Australia, in which there was expressed the hope that they might correspond when the former was released and home in Germany. When asked, Ward admitted he had not followed up this card, written some years earlier, and gave permission for this to be done. The result was a contact with the man who not only wrote the cards showing on sheets 17 to 20 but also provided the background information which he, who had been the chief postal clerk at each of the P.o.W. camps to which he had been sent, knew so much about. He had been captured in Italy but only after having been sent to Egypt was he permitted to write to his family.

- Sheet 17. The top portion of a printed buff reply card written by Kurt Hahn from Camp 381 at El Daba on 17th. January 1946 to his parents. The reply portion was duly returned to him and from then on he was permitted to correspond regularly. Postage was free.
- Sheet 18. A printed P.o.W. card (M.E. Form 62) to Germany from Camp 381, dated 20th. April 1946.
- Sheet 19. Two similar cards from Camp 307 at Geneifa, sent between the Spring of 1946 and 1947. One bears in violet a cachet "307 P.W. Camp".
- Sheet 20. An air mail cover (with enclosed card) from Camp 380 - also at Geneifa - franked by Egyptian air and definitive adhesives at the rate of 57mils., cancelled by British F.P.O. No. 235 datestamp of 24th. March 1948, to Germany.
- Sheet 21. Two printed cards to Germany from 3104 Independent German P.o.W. Working Coy., Egypt, dated 26th. December 1946 and 14th. April 1947.
- Sheet 22. An incoming cover from the U.S.A. (15c.) dated 1st. January 1947 to Camp 307. Backstamped with purple cachet "307 P.W. Camp M.E.L.F. (Postal Section)". In manuscript the words "Opened by (initials)",

- this was done for money control.
- Sheet 23. An incoming cover from Germany (75pf.) dated 10th. January 1947 to Camp 307. Backstamped with Egypt Postage Prepaid No. 10 dated 4th. March.
- Sheet 24. An incoming cover from Denmark (40/ore) dated 3rd. March 1947 to 1274 Ast. Wks. Coy. German P.W. Backstamped Cairo civil machine datestamp of 29th. March.

Several members of the Circle managed to get to Worthing including John Gilbert and Peter Smith the latter on his way back to the U.S.A. after a tour of duty in Germany. The above display was passed round at the 100th. Circle meeting at the Royal.

J.R.D. and C.W.M.

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The Record

The following publications have been donated to the Circle and the Keeper has sent grateful acknowledgements:-

The Interpostals of Egypt 1864-1892 by Ernest A. Kehr of New York (Circle No. 39), autographed and presented by the author. This priced listing is by far the best and most complete so far produced and contains much information that is new regarding types and sub-types, and the fact that a few Interpostals are known with traces of the papermaker's watermark. The booklet is priced at £2.25 and is published by Stamp World Inc., Box 146, Bethpage, N.Y.

The Mails Went Through by R.M. Startup of New Zealand, presented by E. Drummond Roberts of North Wembley. Now out of print, this book gives the story of New Zealand's armed forces postal services during the war years 1939-1949 and contains much to do with what the author calls "sandy Egypt".

Keeper of the Record

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For Sale

One of our members has for sale:- The first 100 copies of "L'Orient Philatelique" bound in nine volumes in green imitation leather, and the complete set of the Quarterly Circular the first four volumes being bound likewise.

Should any member be interested in purchasing this lot perhaps he would contact the Secretary who will be pleased to put him in touch with the owner.

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The S.P.E.

It has been suggested that there may be among members of the Circle some who are not members of the Societie Philatelique d'Egypte and who are perhaps unaware of the advantages of such membership. Mr. A.J. Revell (E.S.C. No. 78) is the representative in England and will be pleased to give details; his address is 135 Cromwell Road, Whitstable, Kent.

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New Items for the Record found during a Year in Europe

by Professor Peter A. S. Smith (E. S. C. No. 74)

The season 1961-2 was an exceptional one for Egyptian philately owing to the sale of the Byam collection. This event has stimulated new interest in the stamps of Egypt, not only among those who have always fancied them but also among collectors and dealers heretofore not much concerned with them. Such new interest has other effects besides the mere increase in prices, for new material is brought on to the market and old material is re-examined in the light of new knowledge.

I was fortunate enough to be able to travel to some extent at this time and have been particularly lucky in coming upon new finds. Some of these were shown to members of the Circle recently and Dr. Byam suggested that their description would interest other members, and would in any event be worth recording.

Postal Markings

1. French 5129 of Port Said on a 10para 1874, the sole cancellation.
2. A new marking reading "FRANC(A)" below, in seriffed, shaded letters, separated by a horizontal line from the Arabic "(Kh)ols al aghor(ah)", meaning "postage paid" (the same inscription is seen in the central panel of the E. E. F. Palestine stamps of 1918). This is struck in blue-black on a 2P. 1867, covering the whole stamp. The combination of Italian and Arabic suggests that this marking is Egyptian rather than Turkish, but no more can be said. Jean Boulad d'Humieres believes he has seen the same or similar cancellations on a 1P. 1867 in another collection. Various suggestions have been offered, such as that it could be a private steamship marking, or an early marking used by the Khedivial Mail Line, in the Mediterranean or the Red Sea. More information, however fragmentary, would be most welcome.
3. The known Egyptian postage due marking "80" in cursive figures (see the Byam catalogue) used as the sole cancellation on a 1P. 1867. These numeral markings were normally used only as an advice and were struck on the envelope not the stamp.
4. A presumably forged strike of (COS)TANTINOPOLI on a 5para/2½P. 1879. Although the upper inscription is lacking, the size of the circle suggests that it is an already known forgery having the diameter of Type I and the inscription "Poste Khedivie Egiziane".
5. A "Costantinopoli" cancellation (Type I) on the following values of the 1866 issue:- 5para, 20para, 1P. and 2P. Cancellations of the offices abroad on stamps of the first issue are in all cases very difficult to find, but in the case of the 5para extremely rare. I believe this example, on which the date is unfortunately too faint to be read with certainty, may be the only one recorded.
6. "Rodi" in Type III.1, dated 19th. November 1875, on a 2½P. of 1872. This value is very hard to find from any of the offices abroad and this may be the only example recorded from Rhodes.
7. The circular dated POSTE EGIZIANE/UFFIZIO NATANTE with the central indicia in the following order:- 2/COSP./MAR/year (the year figures are unfortunately illegible). The significance of this strike, in which COSP is out

of place, is that it shows that these floating-office handstamps were so constructed that the place of origin as well as the date could be altered. This strongly suggests that the same handstamp was used throughout the cruise of the mail ships, only the index of origin being changed, and is thus confirming evidence that these cancellations were applied on board. It also raises the question of whether place indicia other than the known COSP. and ALES. may exist; the marking in any form is sufficiently rare that examples from smaller offices would be expected to be exceedingly rare.

(Note - In the Record we have a note of a similar strike dated 6/COSP./MAR/? in which the year is also illegible - illustrated in L'O.P. April 1955 page 122. So far we have recorded some 40 examples of the Ufficio Natante marking, of which about one-third are COSP. A few of those recorded have COSP. or ALES. in the 3rd. line instead of the 4th., and in one example we record an inverted ALES. in the bottom line. Editor)

8. "HARTUM" in Type V.5 on the 2½P. of 1872 (perf. 12½ x 13¼) and on the 1P. of 1879. Although both must be rare I believe the 2½P. has once before been encountered, on a cover. I believe these are worth mentioning at this time, however, in order once again to correct a common false impression. In this early type of Khartoum postmark the initial letter is "H", not "K", published tracings (erroneous) notwithstanding.

9. "WADI HALFE" in Type V.5 on the 20para 1872, dated April 1876, and on the 5P. of 1874, dated 12 February 1875. This postmark is for some reason exceedingly rare, much more so than HARTUM and as few examples of it appear to be known as of any other date stamp of any Egyptian territorial office in the Sudan. The relative commonness of W.H. markings of later types may perhaps be attributed to the military build-up from 1884 of a village previously only of very small importance.

10. "TRIPOLI" in Type III.1, dated February 1872, on a 1P. of 1872. This office, of course, is one of the short-lived ones reported to have been closed in the middle of February 1872 and examples of its postmark are all rare.

11. "DJEDD(AH)" in Type VIII on a 20para blue of 1879. This postmark, introduced only a short time before the Jiddah office was closed, is extremely rare. A cover with a pair of this stamp cancelled by the same marking was one of the many exceptional items in the used-abroad section of the Byam sale.

12. The retta, struck in blue, on a 20para 1st. issue. This type of postmark is, of course, not uncommon on the 1st. issue but I have not seen it recorded before in blue. Since Cairo used blue ink for its datestamp during much of 1867 it is not improbable that rettas struck there in that period should have been blue also.

Stamps

1. A block of four of the 1P. 1872 perf 12½ x 13¼, typographed, used from Costantinopoli. Blocks of this stamp of any sort are very rare, in strong contrast to the para values, a fact that has hindered its study. The significance of this block is that all the stamps in it are of daughter-die B, distinguished by the cracked lower-right value tablet. The blocks in the Byam collection were of daughter-die A. In addition, each stamp shows a sizeable mass of colour obliterating a section of the colourless frame line at the top, near the left. Although this flaw is constant on the block, and has been seen on some other

examples of daughter-die B, it is not found on all stamps from this die. It possibly arose from the adherence of a piece of foreign matter to the daughter-die during the time that some of the mould impressions were taken from it, or it may be the characteristic of a "grand-daughter" die derived from daughter-die B. In any event, it is one more piece in the slowly accumulating collection of observations that may some day yield the key to the manufacture of the plate of this interesting stamp.

A horizontal pair of this same stamp, both clichés from daughter-die B, does not show this flaw, although there are slight traces of colour in the corresponding place, suggesting that the cause of the flaw had nearly completely worn away.

2. An example of what appears to be the "cartwheel flaw" on the 20para of 1869, in an incomplete state; the north-east portion of the wheel is missing. Since I do not have another specimen of this variety for comparison it is not possible to specify differences more particularly.

3. A proof from what must be the original die of the 20para postage due of 1884, in black, apparently lithographed, on a small piece of white paper with margins slightly larger than the distance between stamps in the sheets. The great significance of this die proof is that it contains several features not seen on the issued stamps, or even in proofs of the "original stone" of four transfer types, and adds much to our knowledge of how the 1884 postage due issue was produced. A full discussion of these matters must wait until the die proof can be properly illustrated; for the time being only its salient characteristics will be catalogued. There is a heavy, carefully-drawn asterisk in the upper panel, to the left of A PERCEVOIR; there is a thin horizontal guide line, in two segments, inside the central panel, exactly defining the level of the bottoms of the figures "20"; there is a similar guide line, but vertical, defining the alignment of the word PARAS; in the several frame lines of the design the numerous places where two straight lines meet are marked by extensions of the lines, thus transforming the angular vertices into crosses; there are right-angled guide lines a few millimetres out from all four corners of the design, and these in addition show small hypotenuse lines used to locate the corner ornamentation of the frame.

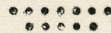
It appears that this proof is from the original drawing of the design, before the artist's working marks were cleaned away, and thus constitutes strong support for Dr. Byam's previously proposed theory that the 20para was the basic stamp from which the stones for the other values were subsequently derived.

4. The 20mils. of the 1923 King Fuad series, an imperforate copy from the upper left corner of the sheet, in the issued colour, and on watermarked paper. This stamp in this condition is not listed in Zeheri (or in other catalogues) and does not correspond to the recorded proofs. This item raises a question about the description of Lot 733 of the Byam sale, "Imperforate proofs of the ... 20m., in the issued colours". Was this item the recorded proof on unwatermarked thick paper? It would be useful if Dr. Byam could confirm this point, or if the purchaser, Mr. Hudson, could answer the question.

5. A stamp booklet, now nearly empty, containing only two copies of the 3mils. orange Sphinx and Pyramid on chalk-surfaced paper. The booklet is held together by two staples. The covers are blue, the front one being inscribed

"Egyptian Post Office/This book contains 24 three milliemes stamps/price 73 milliemes" followed by the French equivalent; the back cover has a similar inscription in Arabic. There are no internal inscriptions, there is inter-leaving of translucent paper,

This must be a rare booklet and is probably the earliest one of Egypt. It brings up the question of properly recording and studying all Egyptian booklets, which are ignored by Zeherl except for the special control number varieties and the tete-beche varieties coming from uncut booklet sheets. The Scott catalogue on the other hand lists booklet panes of all countries, although it does not record any as early as the present one. I find I have a note that a more complete example of this booklet was sold at auction in New York several years ago. Can any member add any information to the story of early Egyptian booklets? It would be nice to know in what year they were issued, for example.



The Reference Collection

The Circle is again indebted to our President for presenting more forgeries (some recently acquired) and photographs to the Circle's reference collection. Among these a 60mils./2Fr. French Post Office in Alexandria and two copies (one lithographed, one typographed) of the 2mils./3mils. inverted surcharge.

Peter Smith has kindly presented a photo-copy of a forged strike of COSTANTINOPOLI used as a backstamp on a faked wrapper.

It is hoped that other members will help build up this collection by presenting their forgeries and fakes, together with any relevant photographs, which they may have.

Editor

1st. issue, bisected 2P. Dr. Byam produced and presented to the Circle at the last meeting a bisected 2P. 1st. issue on piece, cancelled with what purported to be an Alexandria c.d.s. Type I.3 dated 29/LUGL/67/3T which at first was thought to be different from the similarly dated specimen already in the reference collection since it was remarked that the cross-bar of the first "A" in ALESSANDRIA seemed lower in this later specimen, and further, the cross-bars of the other two bars appeared to slope. It was then noted that both c.d.s. had what appeared to be an identical break and dent in the ring line under the first "A" of ALESSANDRIA.

Before they are written up, further comparison with each other and with a known genuine c.d.s. of 29th. July 1867 (or soon afterwards) will be necessary, and if any member with a similar item would kindly loan it to the Keeper of the Record it would be most helpful.

The adhesives of the French Consular Offices at Alexandria and Port Said. Forgeries of some of the overprinted issues are known and it is hoped that examples will be included in the reference collection, together with any forged postal markings that may turn up. We know of only one member of the Circle

(contd. on page 125)

The First Canadian Contingent to serve in
Egypt and the Sudan
1884-1885

by John H. E. Gilbert (E. S. C. No. 50)

The Egyptian authorities were having trouble in 1881 with the Mahdi of Sudan, who destroyed every Force that he came up against. It was therefore decided to evacuate the Sudan for the time being.

This entailed a big military operation and General Gordon was appointed for the task. He reached Khartoum early in 1884. He soon found, however, that the only way to secure peace in Egypt was to smash the Mahdi. By the end of May, 1884, the Mahdi had captured Berber, on the Nile, and thus General Gordon and his troops were completely cut off.

The British Government decided to send a relief expedition under the direction of Lord Wolseley. He decided to send the dismounted portion of the Force up the Nile to Khartoum. Large quantities of supplies were lost owing to bad boatmanship and considerable time was wasted. It was therefore decided to recruit some Canadian Voyageurs. Some of these Canadians had experience under Lord Wolseley during the Canadian Red River Expedition of 1870. Also, many of them were employed in the lumber trade and so had experience of river work which was very valuable in dealing with the Nile cataracts. The Voyageurs were paid 40 Canadian dollars per month and were provided with clothing and rations. This was the first time that Canadians had taken part in an overseas war.

The 380 Voyageurs who joined the Expedition consisted of 77 Indians, 36 English and Scottish, 93 French Canadians, 158 other Canadians and 16 other nationalities. The men remained civilians although under Army orders, disobedience being punishable by a fine. They wore their ordinary type of dress, consisting of smock, trousers and jacket in dark grey with a large felt hat. Five Canadian officers joined them in Egypt. About a dozen men missed the train in Ottawa owing to the fact that they had imbibed too freely. However, they were put on the next train and reached Montreal in time to sail with the contingent on s.s. Ocean King on Sept. 14th, 1884, and they reached Alexandria on Oct. 17th.

The boats which were used on the Nile were of a whaleboat type, about 32 feet long, 7 feet in breadth and 2 feet 8 inches in depth, and they were fitted with sails and 12 oars. They were made in many areas of England and Scotland and sent out to Alexandria, the first 400 arriving by mid-September and a further 400 by October. They were taken by rail as far as Assuit, then as cargo on the Nile until the first cataract had been passed. They were then floated and travelled on the Nile to Wady Halfa. The whole transport operation was carried out by Thomas Cook and Son. A railway operated between Wady Halfa and Sarras and rations were carried by rail to Sarras and then by boat, but troops embarked at Gemai. It is interesting to note that owing to a misunderstanding with Thomas Cook and Son, there was no coal for running the Nile steamers between November 6th. and 10th., and consequently troops and supplies were held up for 5 days.

As the Voyageurs had been engaged for 6 months only they were permitted to start their return journey to Canada in January, 1885. Volunteers to remain for a further period were sought and 89 men did in fact stay. They reached Khartoum on January 28th., just 56 hours after the town had fallen to the enemy and General Gordon had been killed. The Canadians were present, however, when the enemy was defeated at Kirkeban on 10th. February, 1885, and one officer and 43 men were awarded the "Kirkeban" clasp to the campaign medal, and the Khedive Star.

As a mark of appreciation it was arranged for the men to see Cairo and the Pyramids before leaving Egypt. The following is a copy of one of the original Army Notices giving details of the tour:-

"The VOYAGEURS are informed that the following arrangements have been made to enable them to see Cairo and the Pyramids at the expense of Her Majesty's Government.

The expense has been sanctioned by the Commander-in-Chief of the Expedition in consideration of the excellent service performed by the Voyageurs in the Soudan, in that they have so largely contributed to the success of the present campaign for the relief of General Gordon.

At 7 a.m. - Special train arrives at Boulac Dacroure Station, Cairo, where breakfast will be ready and should be taken at once to avoid delay in starting.

One pipe and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of tobacco will be issued per man.

At 8 a.m. - carriages will be provided to take the VOYAGEURS into Cairo. To prevent confusion, the VOYAGEURS will proceed in detachments of about eight carriages at a time, and passing Kaar-el-Nil Bridge, the Kaar-el-Nil Barracks, Abdin Square and Palace, the Mosque Sultan Hassan, they will be driven to the Citadel and Mosque of Mohamed Ali where guides will be in attendance.

The parties will return by the Native Bazaar and Mouski to the Esbel Gardens, thence to Kaar-el-Nil Bridge, Gizeh and the Pyramids.

At 2 p.m. - dinner will be provided at the Pyramids, viz:- a portion of meat, vegetables, cheese, bread and fruit, with one bottle of beer or ginger ale per man upon the production of the coloured ticket.

Special guides, assisted by Bedouins of the Libyan Desert, will be in attendance to assist parties in ascending the Great Pyramid, and in visiting the Sphinx, the tombs and other objects of interest.

At 4 p.m. - the return will begin to Boulac Dacroure, where supper will be provided.

At 6.30 p.m. - the train will leave for Alexandria.

At 6 a.m., 5th. inst. - the train reaches Alexandria.

- N.B.
1. A military guard will be at the Railway Station to take charge of all baggage etc.
 2. A Staff Officer of the Expeditionary Force will be present, to whom all enquiries should be addressed.

3. The Officers and Foremen are responsible that all the VOYAGEURS adhere to the programme laid down, except with the special permission of the Staff Officer.

The Canadian Voyageurs returned to Canada by way of England and would have been received by Queen Victoria at Windsor but for the fact that it was inadvisable owing to an outbreak of smallpox among the men.

It will be seen that the whole Expedition lasted only about 6 months. This, coupled with the fact that a great many of the boatmen were illiterate, makes it understandable that, of the letters which passed between the Voyageurs and their relatives in Canada, only a few are known to have survived and these are practically all from or to the Officers of the Expedition. Of the 380 men who served, 6 are known to have been drowned, 2 were killed by falling from a train, and 6 died from disease.

Little is known about the carrying of mail, but presumably it travelled the same route as the rations, i.e. by train from Alexandria to Assuit, by steamer (two were being operated on the Nile by the Navy with the help of 8 Canadian wheelmen) to Wady Halfa, by train from there to Sarras and then again by steamer, or alternatively all the way by steamer while this service was operating. No special postal arrangements were made and no detachment of the Army Postal Corps accompanied the troops.

The Canadian Officer in Charge of the Voyageurs was Lt. Colonel F.C. Denison. In his diary he records having received letters on arrival at Alexandria from R.J. Moss & Co., to whom they were assigned. He received letters from Canada on the 27th. October and the 2nd., 19th. and 20th. November 1884, the latter being delivered by mule from the camp at Sarkamatto. He received his Christmas mail by boat on 4th. January 1885 when stationed near Sheeban. He sent letters to Canada on 10th. March 1885 from Korti and received letters on 29th. March 1885 at Wady Halfa.

The Canadian officers who were with the Voyageurs in Egypt were:-

Lt. Colonel F.C. Denison
(Governor General's Bodyguard, Ontario)

Commanding Officer. Second son of Col. G.T. Denison. Born 1864. An Alderman of Toronto and a barrister. Awarded C.M.G. for his part in the campaign.

Capt. Belmont Aumont
(Governor General's Foot Guards)

French Canadian. Civil servant. Described as a rough diamond, but experienced in river work.

Capt. Alexander C. MacRae
(7th. Battalion Fusiliers)

From London, Ontario. Very experienced in river work.

Capt. E.E.A. Denison
(3rd. Battalion South Staffs)

Youngest son of Col. G.T. Denison. Joined the Expedition in Egypt, having paid his own expenses. Died en route to Canada in 1886, aged 25.

Surgeon-Maj. J.L.H. Neilson
('B' Battery Canadian Artillery)

Medical Officer. Born 1845. Became first Director General of military medical services in 1898.

Lt. Colonel W. N. Kennedy
(90th. 'Winnipeg' Battn. Rifles)

Paymaster. Born 1839. Died of small-pox in London on his way back to Canada in 1885.

Sergeant G. P. Labat
('B' Battery Canadian Rifles)

Hospital Sergeant.

Abbé A. Bouchard

Roman Catholic Chaplain. Member of a mission with Headquarters in Cairo. Had a good knowledge of Egypt. Ranked as Captain.

Of the few covers and postcards known to have survived, the list on page 128 is a first attempt at trying to record them and, as will be observed, there are only four items recorded despatched from Egypt to Canada and eight from Canada to Egypt.

This is a synopsis of all that is known so far of the correspondence connected with the Canadian Voyageurs Expedition and my thanks are due to all those collectors in G. B., Canada and U. S. A. who have helped with information. I would greatly appreciate any further information concerning other correspondence for record purposes.

The following works of reference have been of great help:-

"The Nile Voyageurs, 1884-85" by C. P. Stacey, publication of the Champlain Socy. An article by E. Richardson in "Covers", November 1958.

"Postal History of the Sudan 1873-98" by Lt. Col. J. R. Danson M. A. M. C. T. D., in the Society of Postal Historians' "Postscript", July 1952.

"The Illustrated London News", 1884 and 1885.

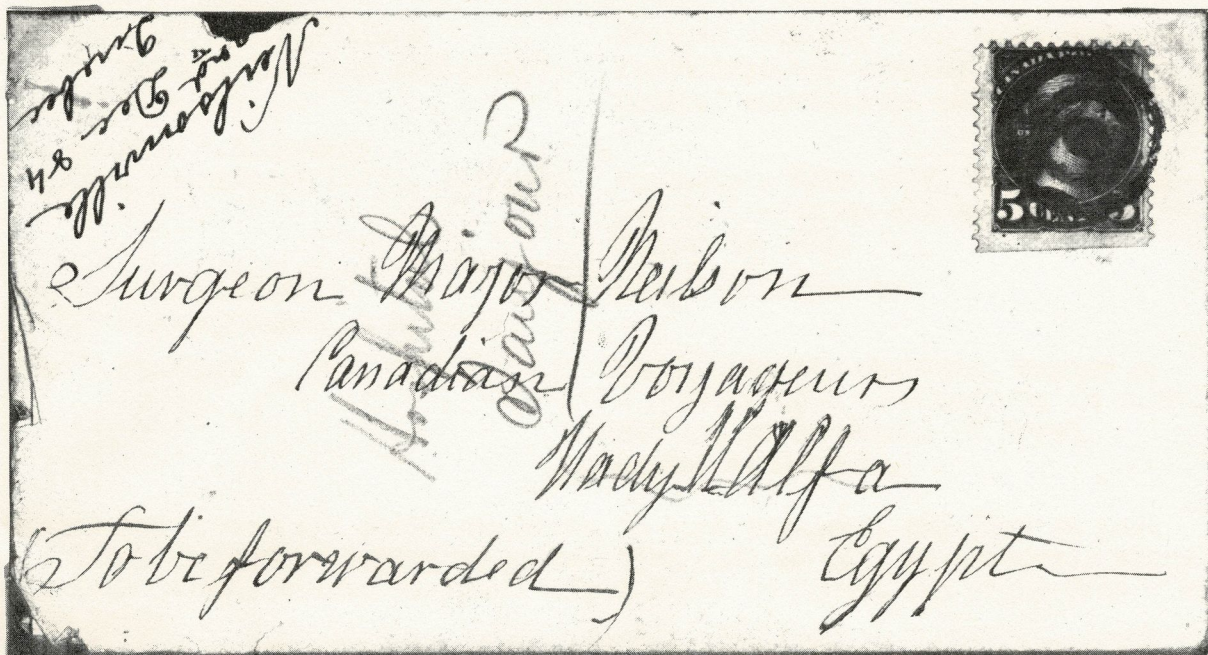
Notes:- Letter no. 4 (see list on page 128) was written on behalf of one of the boatmen by the doctor of the Expedition. All known letters sent to Egypt from Canada were addressed to the doctor - Surgeon-Major Neilson - and it is possible from the forwarding addresses and dates on these letters to follow his progress up the Nile. Postal rate from Egypt to Canada for postcards was 20 paras and from Canada to Egypt for letters was 5 cents.

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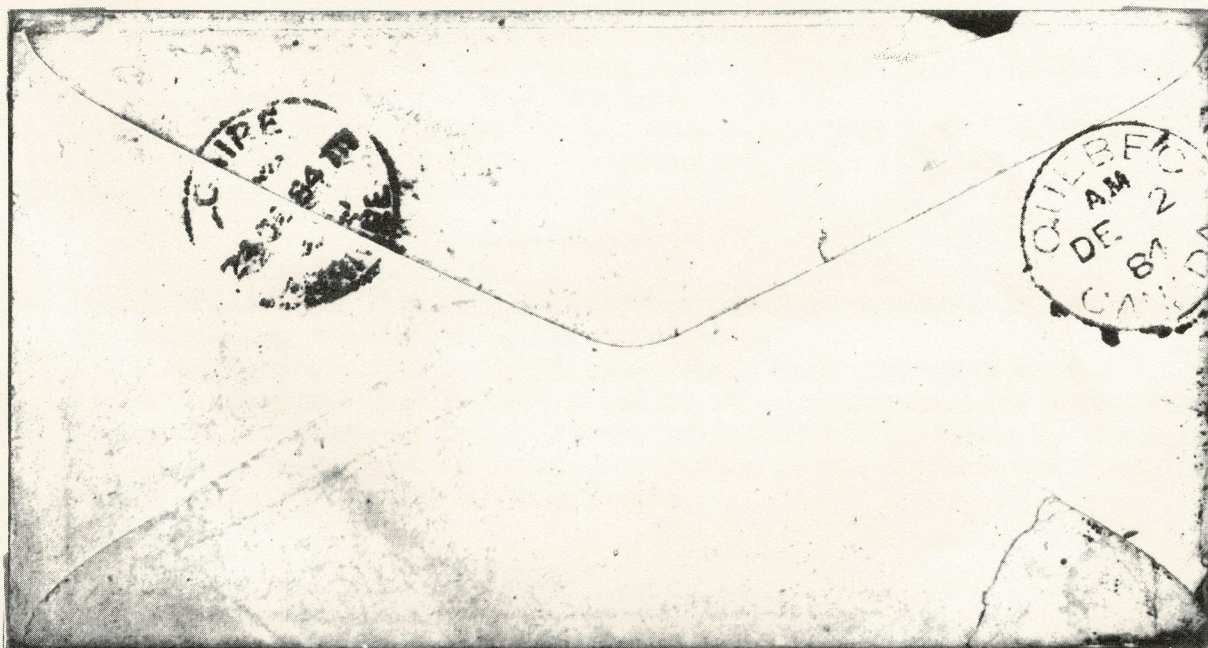
The Reference Collection (contd. from page 121) having made a specialised study of these issues and so we would be glad to hear of any relevant published work by other philatelists and to view any "genuine" forgeries which could be made available for a Circle meeting. Can you help?

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Keeper of the Record



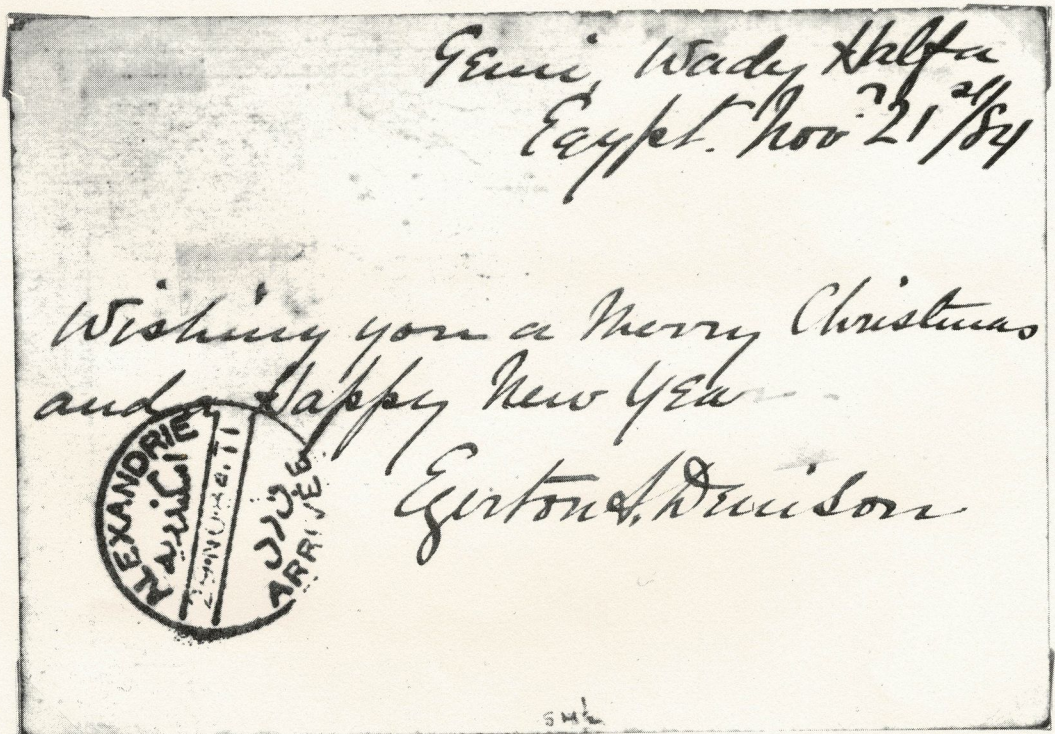
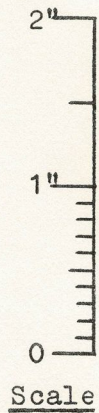
(a) Front of cover



(b) Back of cover



(a) Front of card



(b) Back of card

The Canadian Voyageurs 1884 Nile ExpeditionRecord of Covers and Post Cards sent to and from Egypt & Canada(a) From Egypt to Canada

E. S. C. Number	Collector's Name	Date posted	Letter or P.C.	Postal rate	Addressee	Cancellations		Remarks
						Front	Back	
1.	V. G. Green (Toronto) Canada	22 Nov. 1884	P.C.	20 paras	Mrs. J. M. Delamere 24 Cecil Street, Toronto.	c.d.s. Wadi-Halfa 22 No. 84 IV	-	From Capt. E. E. A. Denison, Youngest son of Commanding Officer. Died on return route to Canada in 1886. Aged 25.
2.	J. H. E. Gilbert (London) England.	22 Nov. 1884	P.C.	20 paras	Mrs. Mackenzie, 26 John Street, Toronto.	c.d.s. Wadi-Halfa 22 No. 84 IV c.d.s. (red) London	c.d.s. Alexandrie 29 No. T1 Arrivee	As above
3.	C. de Volpi (Montreal) Canada.	12 Dec. 1884	P.C.	20 paras	Mrs. J. M. Delamere 18 Cecil Street, Toronto.	c.d.s. Wadi-Halfa ? 84 small c.d.s. London 1 JAN 12 85	-	From Lt. Col. F. C. Denison C.M.G., Commanding Officer. Also an Alderman of Toronto and a Barrister.
4.	J. R. Danson (Westmorland) England	13 Jan. 1885	Letter	"On Active Service" "No stamps procurable" ? 10 cents Postage Due	Henry Nason Esq. B. A. LL.B. 469 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba.	c.d.s. Wadi-Halfa 13 JA 85	Small c.d.s. London JAN 27 1885 c.d.s. Hamilton Canada Feb 9 1885 Winnipeg Canada Feb 15 1885	From C. Nofallum - Canadian boatman. The only recorded letter sent by a Canadian boatman - possibly illiterate - written on his behalf by Surgeon-Major Neilson and without a stamp, but has a Postage Due marking (TAXED 10 CENTS ON ARRIVAL); in orange coloured envelope. ABU FATMAH lies at the south end of the third cataract.
(b) <u>From Canada to Egypt</u>								
5.	E. Richardson (Texas) U. S. A.	4 Oct. 1884	Letter	5 cents	Surgeon-Major Neilson Canadian Voyageurs Nile Expedition Cairo (If moved onwards please forward)	5 cents Small Queen. c.d.s. Quebec OCT 4 1884	-	Forwarding remarks on cover. Wady Halfa crossed out and forwarded to Tangour Hospital with pencil note indicating it was received at Tangour on 6 Jan 1885.
6.	P. A. S. Smith (Ann Arbor) Mich. U. S. A.	? Oct. 1884	Letter	3 cents	Dr. Neilson Canadian Voyageurs Cairo	Montreal and Winnipeg	-	Forwarded from Cairo to Wady Halfa and then to Gemi. Two 10 para and one 20 para Egyptian Postage Due stamps; pair cancelled at Cairo, the other at Wadi Halfa.
7.	L. W. Sharpe (Hamilton Ont.) Canada.	1 Nov. 1884	Letter	5 cents	Surgeon-Major Neilson Canadian Voyageurs Khartoum Expedition Wady Halfa, Egypt. (If en route please forward)	3-ringed Quebec	Duplex cancell- ation of Quebec City.	Embossed crest in blu on back of cover, "The Regiment of Canadian Artillery". Letter enclosed written in English:- "I was told in the Brigade Office that Surgeon-Major Neilson had made himself invaluable in assisting in the transport and disciplining of our gallant Voyageurs".
8.	V. G. Green (Toronto) Canada.	7 Nov. 1884	Letter	5 cents	Surgeon-Major Neilson Canadian Continent Voyageurs, Wady Halfa, Egypt.	c.d.s. Kingston Canada. Nov. 7 1884.	c.d.s. (red) London MP No. 18 84	
9.	L. W. Sharpe (Hamilton Ont.) Canada.	21 Nov. 1884	Letter	5 cents	Surgeon-Major Neilson Canadian Voyageurs Khartoum Expedition Wady Halfa, Egypt. (Wady Halfa crossed out and "request to forward on to Tangour Hospital")	?	Cairo c.d.s.	Pencil note stating letter was received on Jan. 10th. 1885.
10.	J. H. E. Gilbert (London) England.	2 Dec. 1884	Letter	5 cents	Surgeon-Major Neilson Canadian Voyageurs Wady Halfa, Egypt. To be forwarded.	Canadian 3-circle cancellation No. 7	c.d.s. Quebec Canada DEC 2 1884 c.d.s. Caire 24 DE 84 T. IV Arrivee	Written in pencil manuscript "Hospital Tangour".
11.	C. de Volpi (Montreal) Canada.	4 Dec. 1884	Letter	5 cents	Surgeon-Major Neilson Canadian Voyageurs Nile Expedition, Wady Halfa, Egypt. (To be forwarded)	c.d.s. Quebec Dec 4 1884	London DEC 15 1884 Cairo c.d.s. 23 DEC 1884 Arrivee	Written in pencil manuscript "Hospital Tangour".
12.	E. Richardson (Texas) U. S. A.	?	Letter	5 cents	Surgeon-Major Neilson Canadian Contigent of Voyageurs, Wady Halfa, Egypt.	Kingston duplex No. 27	-	Wady Halfa crossed out and forwarded to Tangour Hospital. Pencil note to say it was received at Tangour on Jan. 6th. 1885.

The 1866 IssueExtract from the "Byam" Sale Catalogue

(Much of this information has not been previously published and the whole is reproduced here for the benefit of members.

Editor)

The background for all values except the 1 piastre was lithographed and laid down as ten transfers from the die, arranged as a vertical column of ten. Transfers from each vertical column of ten were laid down twenty times to produce a printing surface of 200 unite (20 x 10). For the "para" values these transfers were often laid down upright or inverted in haphazard fashion, so that each of the ten original types occurs with the black inscription (this is not an overprint) upright and inverted. These variants do not constitute tete-beche pairs. The twenty transfers for each of the "piastre" values (other than the 1 piastre, which is printed entirely by typography, in two panes of 100 each) were all laid down one way up on the printing stone and thus each of the primary ten types occurs with the black inscription one way up only. The black inscription on the 2 piastres is typographed. Only nine types of the 10 piastres exist, as the whole bottom row on the printing stone was erased and substituted by transfers from the other nine types.

The distinguishing marks, hitherto unpublished, of the ten matrix types of the 2 and 5 piastre values are as follows:-

2 piastres

1. Small break in central loop of chain on left.
2. Small break in left upper white central circle just to right of uppermost point.
3. Small break in outer side of left lower white triangle, level with foot of "2".
4. Small coloured projection outside lower frame line opposite left angle of triangle in right lower corner. Break as on type 6.
5. Small coloured dot outside upper border to left of right upper angle of hexagonal chain frame.
6. Marked break in left outer coloured frame line level with lower portion of "P".
7. Small break in upper white frame line to right of stop after "E" in left upper corner.
8. Small break in upper white frame line at inner angle of triangle in right upper corner.
9. Small break in lower outer coloured frame line with fragment turned outwards to the left.
10. Fifth pearl from the top in the lower of the two left upper diagonal columns is broken and appears white to left.

5 piastres

1. Loop of band touches N.E. circle. Flag of "5" in N.E. corner indented above. Lower white frame line broken 1mm. to left of S.E. circle.

2. Coloured flaw in circle round "P.E." in S.E. corner. Break in right outer frame line three-quarters of the way down.
3. N.W. ray of central rosette fails to reach the centre. Break in outer border of S.E. loop of band at extreme right.
4. Minute coloured flaw on looped band just above S.W. loop.
5. Broken "5" in S.W. corner.
6. White flaw in background between lower frame line and curved white line above it, to left of mid-line.
7. Design inverted; space between loop and N.E. circle. Break in outer frame line just below junction with circle in N.E. corner.
8. White break in outer coloured margin of circle in S.E. corner.
9. Circular coloured flaw in white circle at N.W. corner below "P.E."
10. Design inverted; coloured flaw projecting upwards into upper transverse portion of looped band to left of mid-line.

The Perforations

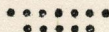
The various perforation varieties arise because two line machines, gauging $12\frac{1}{2}$ and 13, were used; the latter was employed, as a rule, on peripheral portions of the sheet. Varieties perf. 13 all round are stamps from one or other corner of a sheet. All are rare; only one copy of the 10 piastres is as yet recorded.

Stamps perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 15$ result from trials of a machine to be used for the second issue; 10 para, 2 piastres and 5 piastres with inscriptions of 10 piastres are the only values perforated thus. The 5 piastres with inscription of 10 piastres (perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 15$) is the only one of these varieties known genuinely postally used; all were used at Cairo. The 5 piastres with inscription of 10 piastres perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ has now been removed from the catalogue.

The Watermark

The 1 piastre occurs only on unwatermarked paper. On all other values the watermark occurs upright and inverted, also normal and reversed. The 5 para with watermark upright is of extreme rarity; it is known perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ and also $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$.

A marked RETOUCH of the background of the 5 para is found on stamp No.8 in the top row of the sheet.



New Members

Peter Feltus, Hong Kong American Hotel, 515 Central Building, Hong Kong.
G.E.Davies, 181 Bishop Rd., Bishopston, Bristol.

