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

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Officers

President	Lt. Col. J. R. Danson, M.C., T.D., Dry Close, Grasmere, Westmoreland.
Chairman	J.H.E. Gilbert, "Morven", West Close, Middleton-on-Sea, Sussex.
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Secretary/Treasurer		Peter Andrews, 149, Pickhurst Lane, Hayes, Bromley, Kent.
Editor of the Quarterly Circular		R.A.G. Potter, 12, Middle Row, (High Street), Maidstone, Kent.

---oOo---

REPORT OF THE 129th MEETING OF THE CIRCLE held at the offices of
the British Philatelic Association, London, on Saturday,
26th July 1970.

Present: J.H.E. Gilbert in the Chair, P. Andrews, J. Benians,
J.S. Horesh, C.W. Minett, R.A.G. Potter, G.D. Turton,
and P.E. Whetter.

Apologies were received from Col. J.R. Danson, J. Firebrace,
E.L.G. MacArthur, A.L. Pemberton, L.W. Perry,
and A.J. Revell.

The Chairman announced the passing of F.S. Mumford, F.R.P.S.L.,
(E.S.C. No. 22) who had been a Founder Member, the original Secretary/
Treasurer, and the Editor of the Quarterly Circular for a span of over
twenty years. An appreciation by John Gilbert appears in this issue.

The death of Ed. P. Pritlove, of Toronto (E.S.C. No. 139) had
also occurred since the last meeting (reported in the Quarterly Circular
Vol. VII No. 1 Page 6).

The meeting stood in silence in memory of these two respected
members.

The Secretary reported an invitation to give a display to the
Lewisham Philatelic Society on February 16th 1971, and the preliminary
arrangements were agreed.

A letter was received from a member requesting advice on the
method of distinguishing the chalk-surfaced stamps of the De la Rue issues.
It was thought that the best approach to this difficult problem was to
devote a future meeting to this subject, and the member be specially
advised and requested to attend.

Our member George T. Houston is to be congratulated in gaining
silver and silver-gilt awards at "ANPAX" Sydney, Australia, for his
displays of Egypt.

MEMBERSHIP In a discussion on ways and means to increase membership
it was felt that invitations to visit local Societies should
be followed up and that material shown should be of a popular, rather
than a specialist, nature. Brief reports of meetings should be given to
the Philatelic Press, and a programme should be included in the British
Philatelic Association's year-book.

Charles Minett gave a display and a resume of known data on the
Express Posts, and the special adhesive issues for such. The subject
matter will form the basis of an article to appear in a future number of
the Circular, but it is interesting to note that no item has been reported
during the pre-adhesive era of this service.

(Continued on page 31).

NOTES FROM THE KEEPER OF THE PHILATELIC RECORDCharles W. Minett (E.S.C. No. 77)

We are always pleased to record unusual and interesting items and, with the hope that members will report some of their treasures from time to time, we now introduce a few.

The Small 3 milliemmes Green Army Post (Zeheri No.3).

George Houston (E.S.C. No. 83), whose recent successes at "ANPEX" Sydney are reported elsewhere in this issue, has kindly reported that two of the exhibits included examples of this stamp on covers to Australia bearing correct dates:-

- i) Cds. "DIV. H.Q. P.O./30 OC 40/D.M.I." with censor mark "PASSED BY UNIT CENSOR" in double square with "237" in centre.
- ii) Cds. as above dated "26 OC 40" and same censor mark but with "217" in centre.
- iii) Cds. "2ND. BDE. H.Q. P.O./27 OC 40/--" and same censor mark but with "230" in centre.

In addition I have been fortunate in acquiring a further example on a small unsealed cover to New Zealand:-

- iv) Cds. "N.Z./28 OC 40/F.P.O. I", the censor mark as before has the number "101" and is in violet. The arrival cds. of Ponsonby dated "18 DE 40" also appears on the obverse of the cover.

The French Campaign in Egypt - 1798-1801.

An E.L. bearing the straight line "LE CAIRE" in black and addressed to the Chief of the Dantbouard Battalion, Direction of Artillery at Alexandria, from the Chief of Staff of Artillery at Cairo is dated 10 Vendemiaire 8 an. (i.e. 1st October 1799). The contents refer to the dispositions of the artillery at Rosetta and Rahmanieh and appear to be signed by one Tirlee. The letter was written some five weeks after Napoleon had left for France where he became First Consul. Some further historical research is now called for. (Minett collection).

The Austrian Consular Office at Alexandria.

An unfranked E.L. of 1870 from Alexandria to Vienna bears the Austrian Office cds. "ALEXANDRIEN/29/5" (in black, Type II-2, 23 mms. diameter), which is 14 months later than the latest date recorded by the late F.S. Mumford (E.S.C. No. 22) in the "Philatelic Journal of Great Britain (Vol. LXIX Nos. 817-9 p.4, Jan/Mar. 1959).

The rate in blue crayon is "20" and is underlined in red crayon. The backstamp of "WIEN" (red, 17.5 mm. diameter) is dated "4/6/70" which gives a transit time of 6 days. (Minett collection).

Co-operation between the Italian and Austrian Consular Offices.

An E.L. of 1877 from Italy to Cyprus is franked with a 30 cente. Italian adhesive of 1863 cancelled by the obliterator "916" in bars with, alongside, the cds. of "VENEZIA/II/LUG/77/6 M".

On the reverse are, all in black:-

- a) Transit cds. "BRINDISI/12/LUG/77/7 S"
- b) Transit cds. of the Italian Office "ALESSANDRIA D'EGITTO/20/LUG/77/POSTE ITALIANE"
- c) Transit cds. of the Austrian Office "ALEXANDRIEN/20/7/77" (in black, Type II-4 20mm. diameter)
- d) Arrival cds. of the Austrian Lloyd Steamship Line's office "LARNACA DI CIPRO/24/7".

The Austrian office mark was recorded by the late F.S. Mumford as having been used only as an obliterator. (Minett collection).

Establishment of Military Post Offices, 1935.

The following is an extract from the Egyptian Postal Administration Annual Report 1935:-

"With regard to the reinforcement of the units of the British Army, Fleet, and Air Forces, coping with the present circumstances, a considerable increase in the movement of mail and parcels has been observed in such a manner that the mail in arrival conveyed only by the Orient Steamers attained three times the previous transports.

The Administration has consequently been obliged to establish Military Post Offices at Alexandria, Port Said and Mersa Matruh besides the extension of the service at the Cairo Military Office."

----oOo----

REPORT OF THE 129th MEETING - continued from page 29.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on the programme to entertain our overseas friends at the Circle's reception during the period of "Philympia 1970".

Members were to be invited to submit twenty sheets of material from their collections - from the whole of which a balanced display will be chosen at the next meeting of the Circle on the 16th August 1970.

F.W. Benians. E.S.C. No. 123

----oOo----

BRITISH FORCES CONCESSION SEALS

by

G.D. Turton (E.S.C. No. 88)

At a meeting of the Circle held on the 19th July 1969 the subject for discussion was the British Forces Concession Seals and here follow some notes resulting from same.

With one exception complete panes of 20 of all issues were displayed. All the seals were issued in booklets of 100, comprising five panes of twenty.

With few exceptions all Postal, Letter and Christmas Seals can be fairly easily plated, and plating data has been available for many years for all issues other than the 1935 Red Letter Seals perforated 14 by the 1st and 2nd combs and the 1935 Blue Jubilee Seal printed from the same plates. Preliminary plating data in draft form for the latter issues (Panels A and B) were shown at the meeting (Turton collection).

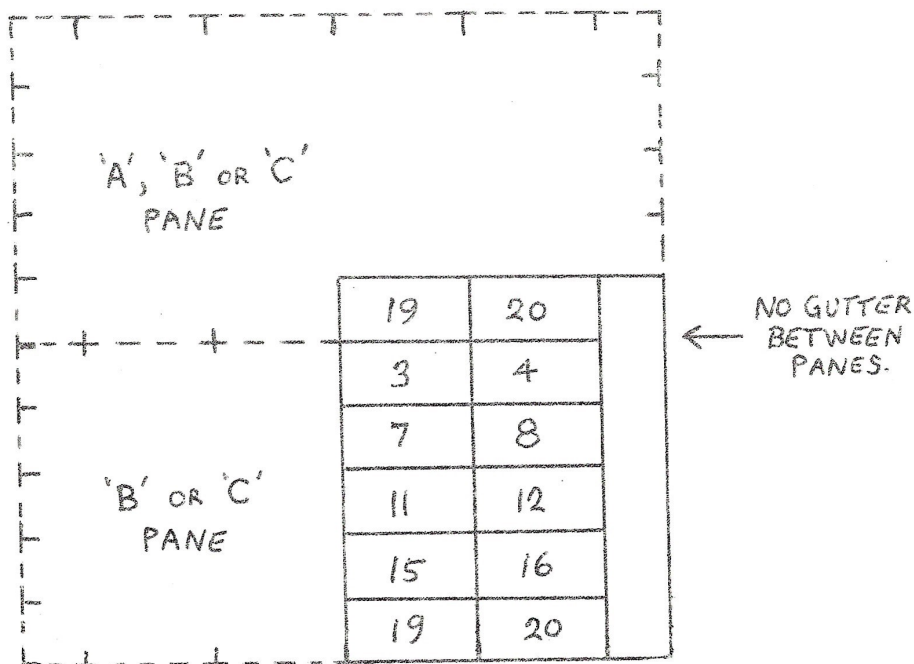
1st November 1932. Postal Seal. (Red and Blue).

Printed in sheets of 80 in four panes of twenty (4 x 5). These have been arbitrarily designated panes A, B, C and D, the actual arrangement of the panes within the sheet being unknown. The panes have no margin other than that on the left side for binding.

A proof imperforate block of twelve (2 x 6) printed in the issued colours was displayed (Gilbert collection) as shown in figure 1. Clearly there are two seals of one pane and 10 seals of another pane, but neither part pane has sufficient evidence to allocate it to a specific pane. However, both No. 20's have the well known "broken bottom right corner" and the No. 12 does not have the "dot to right of second T in INSTITUTES". It follows that the upper pair could be part of the A, B or C pane and the lower block of 10 could be part of either the B or C pane.

25th August 1933. Letter Seal. (Red and Blue).

Again printed in sheets of 80 in four panes of twenty (4 x 5) arbitrarily designated panes A, B, C and D in each of which the red portions of all 20 seals correspond exactly with those of the 1933 Postal Seal. However, in this issue there is a margin round all four sides of the pane, thus the plates must have differed from those used for the 1932 Postal Seal proof block of figure 1 by the insertion of a gutter between the panes. The perforations run right through all four margins, and other than the "Camel" Type Christmas Seals this is the only seal with margins all round the panes.



1

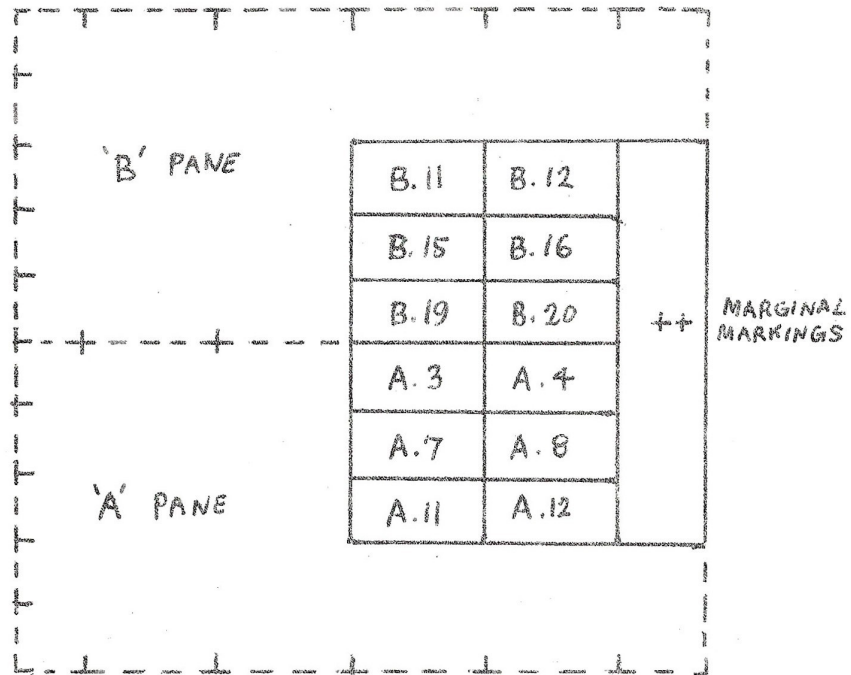
IMPERFORATE BLOCK OF 12 (2 x 6) OF 1932 POSTAL SEAL
PRINTED IN ISSUED COLOURS

1st June 1934. Letter Seal. (Red). Perf: 15 x 14.

Printed in sheets of 40 in two panes of twenty (4 x 5) arbitrarily designated panes A and B before the sheet make up was known. The side perforations have a blind perforation and without exception this was found to be at the top.

A most interesting imperforate block of twelve (2 x 6) was displayed (Gilbert collection), printed in blue, as shown in figure 2. Plating difficulty was experienced at the meeting, because the block was naturally assumed (probably quite correctly) to be a colour trial of the 1935 Jubilee Seal but without the red overprint - thus it was expected to be printed from the 1935 plates as used for the Jubilee Seal. However, subsequent examination revealed that the block was printed from the 1934 plates, probably because the 1935 plates were in use at that time. This imperforate block demonstrates the make-up

of the 1934 plates, namely that the panes were one above the other, the B pane being at the top - thus revealing that the original arbitrary designation of the plates might be considered unfortunate!



2

IMPERFORATE BLOCK OF 12 (2 x 6) OF 1934 LETTER SEAL
PRINTED IN BLUE

5th December 1934. Letter Seal. (Green). Perf: 15 x 14

These are identical to the Red Seals perforated 15 x 14, other than their colour, and presumably were printed from the same plates.

NOTE: In several B panes of both the Red and Green Seals perforated 15 x 14 a pin hole was noted at the top right of the pane which pierced the design of the No. 4 Seal in the corner of its border. The reason for it is not apparent. It was not noted on any of the A panes, nor on the 1935 Red Seals.

24th April 1935. Letter Seal. (Red). perforate 14 by the 1st comb.

Again printed in sheets of 40 in two panes of twenty (4 x 5) arbitrarily designated panes A and B. The sheet make-up still remains unknown. Entirely new plates were used as evidenced by the screen used and the plating flaws which are less pronounced and entirely different from the Red and Green Seals perforated 15 x 14.

Again there is a blind perforation on the side perforations, but in this issue it was found without exception to be at the bottom.

It was noted on the 1935 A panes that there was a + mark in the left margin adjacent to Seal No. 17, mostly with a pin hole at the intersection; but no marginal markings were found on the B panes.

6th May 1935. Jubilee Seal. (Blue with red overprint). Perforate 14. by the 1st comb.

Printed in sheets of 40 in two panes of twenty (4 x 5) designated panes A and B which are identical with the Red Letter Seals perforated 14 by the 1st comb, and presumably printed from the same plates.

Examples of the broken 'U' variety on No. 8 Seal were shown.

21st December 1935. Letter Seal. (Red). perforate 14 by the 2nd comb.

Printed in sheets of 40 in two panes of twenty (4 x 5) designated panes A and B and identical with the April 1935 Red Letter Seals apart from the perforations. The latter now have an extra hole where previously the blind perforation appeared, namely at the bottom of the side perforations; these extra holes run into the end holes of the horizontal perforations.

A block of four was shown (Turton collection) in which the extra perforation holes were at the top of the Seals, thus giving a variety "inverted comb perforation".

3 milliemes Christmas Seals.

Apart from the Provisional Christmas Seal overprinted on the 1935 Red Letter Seal, all Christmas Seals are of the Camel Type printed in panes of 20 (5 x 4) with margins on all four sides, and the perforations extending through all four margins. The perforation holes vary considerably between clear cut and ragged, even within a single pane.

It is generally assumed that all were printed from the same plates, since the plating flaws are identical throughout the various issues. Whether or not the sheet comprised more than one pane is not known, but the panes are identical.

However, a variation described later was noted only on the 1934 Blue Seals and its significance is not yet understood.

26th November 1932.

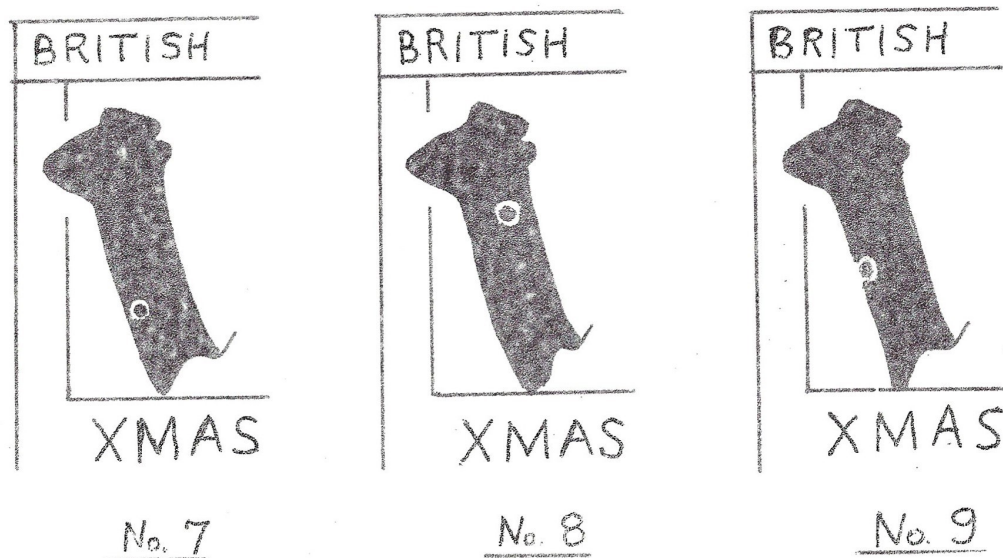
Printed in black on blue paper. Both the colour of the paper and the intensity of the black printing vary considerably, but in some cases the former might be due to fading.

November 1933.

Printed in brown.

17th November 1934.

Printed in blue. It was noted on both white and toned paper. Two panes were shown (Turton collection) both having very prominent varieties on Nos. 8 and 9, and on one of the panes also on No. 7 - as shown in figure 3:*

VARIETIES ON CAMEL'S NECK. 1934 BLUE CHRISTMAS SEAL.

These flaws take the form of an uncoloured ring with a coloured centre on the camel's neck. When the first pane was found the varieties were thought to have been caused by printing on greasy paper, but subsequent acquisition of the second virtually identical pane disproved

this assumption; but this does not rule out a greasy plate.

The variety has not yet been recorded on panes other than the blue, and its significance is not yet understood.

The two panes have the plating flaws common to all issues, but they have not yet been examined in sufficient detail to determine whether or not they have other flaws over and above those normally found.

It is hoped that anyone having similar examples, particularly in any other colour, will advise the Keeper of the Record.

23rd November 1935.

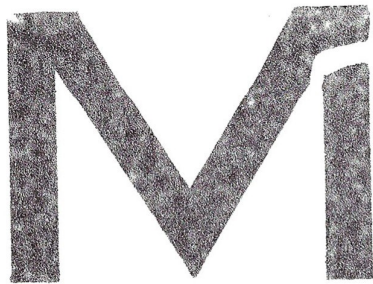
Printed in red.

16th December 1935.

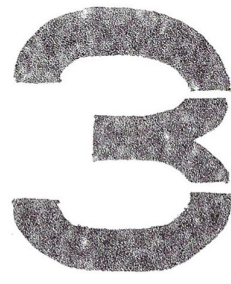
This issue comprises a provisional overprint in black "Xmas 1935/3 milliemmes" on the 1935 Red Letter Seal perforated 14 by the first comb in consequence of there being insufficient of the November 1935 Christmas Seals to meet the demand. They were issued only at Headquarters R.A.F. Cairo, Citadel Cairo, and Mersa Matruh.

All these Seals can be plated on the basis of the parent Red Letter Seal.

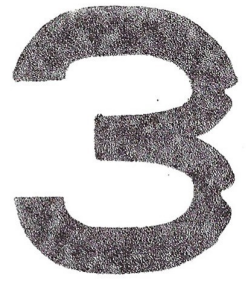
In general the overprint is well executed but there are several Seals in which the black is less intense thus giving rise to irregular uncoloured blotches within the letters and figures. A sufficiently detailed study is not recorded to determine whether or not there is any constancy, but the following (as shown in figure 4) appeared to be outstanding:-



No. 13



No. 18



No. 20

- No. 13 - damaged first "M" of "MILLIMES".
Apart from the break at the top of the
right leg the whole letter is lightly
printed and has several uncoloured
blotches.
- No. 18 - damaged "3" of "1935".
- No. 20 - damaged "3" of "1935".

17th December 1935.

This issue constitutes a reprint of the earlier Red issue and
is distinguished by its lighter colour which tends towards an
orange shade.

-----oOo-----

MEMBERSHIP

We extend a cordial welcome to the following new members who
have joined our Circle during the last twelve months:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|---|
| 144 | Gordon B. Garrett | 10165 Regent Street, No. 10,
Los Angeles, Cal. 90034, U.S.A. |
| 145 | Arthur M. Neu | 120 Vermilyea Avenue,
New York, N.Y. 10034, U.S.A. |
| 146 | D. H. Kirk | 318 High Street,
Harlington, Hayes, Middlesex. |
| 147 | W. F. Billens | 4281 E. Colony Club Drive,
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452, U.S.A. |
| 148 | Kenneth Davis | 51 Vicarage Road,
Grenoside, Sheffield S30 3RF. |
| 149 | A. Winter, Dr. | 45 Rue Carves, 92 Montrouge,
FRANCE |
| 150 | K. D. Knight | 75 Ansdell Road,
Rochdale, Lancashire. |

The following resignations have been received, with regret:-

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------|--|
| 129 | R. D. Carter | 11, Hallas Road, Kirkburton, Huddersfield. |
| 87 | Roberto Bocciardi, | Piazza Manin 6-11, Genoa, Italy. |

-----oOo-----

Our thanks to Mrs. Isa Stuart (E.S.C. No. 28) for generously
sending some 27 numbers "LOP"/"QC" the majority of which have helped to
swell the Editor's record file of "LOP", and which will be completed
(I hope) in due time. Many of our members still require back numbers and
any spares available will be gratefully received - sales of course to
Circle funds. (Editor).

-----oOo-----

IN MEMORIAM

It is with the deepest regret that we learned of the death of Frank Septimus Mumford (B.S.C. No. 22) in hospital on the 13th June 1970 at the age of 85.

He was formerly Head of the Department of Building at Stockport College, and the many students who passed through his hands owe much to his influence and training.

F. S. Mumford worked diligently in the Egypt Study Circle which he joined in 1936, and he was the Circle's first Secretary and Treasurer. He became the first Editor of the Quarterly Circular starting with Volume 1 in 1938 and completing his Editorship with Volume V No. 10 in 1961. He was forced to retire from these three important positions in 1961 because of failing health.

Mumford's special research was on "The Posts of Austria in Egypt" and the fine work he did on this 25 years ago has made it unquestionably the most authoritative work ever written on the subject. He built up a fine collection of the Austrian Consular Office in Egypt, and later carried out a further study on the Crown Overprints Issues of 1922.

For some years he had not been well enough to make the journey to London to attend our meetings and we have missed his wise counsel and friendship. He was made an Honorary Life Member of the Egypt Study Circle - the greatest honour we could pay him for all he had done for the Circle.

We wish to convey our deepest sympathy to his family, whose loss we share, since we have lost a true friend as well as a great Philatelist and Postal Historian.

J.H.E. Gilbert (B.S.C. No. 50).

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It is fitting that reference should be made to Dr. Byam's tribute to F. S. Mumford in his open letter published in the Quarterly Circular Vol. V No. 10 page 104. (Editor).

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