

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

Volume VII No. 8

Whole Series No. 80

DECEMBER 1971

FUTURE MEETINGS

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|--|
| 5th February 1972 | ... | 1914/1922 Pictorials |
| 25th March 1972 | ... | Egypt Prepaid World War 2 - 1941-1947. |
| 3rd June 1972 | ... | Third Issue 1872 - 20 paras and 1 piastre, litho and typo. |
| 5th August 1972 | ... | Civil Censor Markings - World War 2. |
| 7th October 1972 | ... | French/British Campaign 1798/ 1801 - and the Arabi Revolt of 1882. |
| 2nd December 1972 | ... | Postal Stationery. |

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR .

DECEMBER 1971

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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. VII No. 8

Whole Series No. 80

December 1971

Officers

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--|
| President | ... | ... | ... | Lt. Col. J.R. Danson, M.C., T.D., F.R.P.S.L., Dry Close, Grasmere, Westmoreland. |
| Chairman | ... | ... | ... | J.H.E. Gilbert, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L., Morven, West Close, Middleton-On- Sea, Bognor Regis, Sussex. |
| Keeper of the Philatelic Record | | | . | Charles W. Minett, Fairmead, 3, Bridgefield Road, Whitstable, Kent. |
| Secretary/Treasurer | ... | ... | ... | K. C. Brown, 4, Holm Wood Grove, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7. |
| Editor of the Quarterly Circular | | | . | H.A.G. Potter, 12, Middle Row, (High Street), Maidstone, Kent. |

--oOo--

REPORT of the 138th Meeting of the Egypt Study Circle held at the offices of the British Philatelic Association, London, on the 4th December 1971.

Our Chairman, John H. E. Gilbert, presided, he was supported by Mme. Sotiraki, Peter Andrews, Ken Brown, C.A. Gilders, E.G. MacArthur, Jim Benians, and Charles Minett.

Mme. Sotiraki (E.S.C. No. 152) was welcomed by the Chairman on this her first attendance at a study circle meeting. MacArthur, who had recently returned from a visit to the Middle East was able to give us much first-hand news of our friends in Egypt. During his stay there he had the privilege of displaying parts of his collection before a meeting of the Societe Philatelique d'Egypte when some 70 members were present. He had been able to arrange the gift of a copy of L.N. and M. William's book "The Fundamentals of Philately" as a token of the Circle's appreciation of having received back numbers of "L'Orient Philatelique" which had been donated by the Societe Philatelique d'Egypte. Mac was also able to give the Circle members first-hand news of the progress in the preparation of the next edition of the Zeheri catalogue by M. Mehanny Eid and a Committee, those present were thus able to appreciate some of the great difficulties being experienced in the production of this volume.

The Circle was asked to offer advertising space in the catalogue to the leading philatelic houses in this country. Jim Benians undertook to deal with the necessary correspondence.

The publishers have offered a half page for the Circle's own use. This generous gesture was accepted with much pleasure.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Circle, proposed a vote of thanks to Mac for the service that he had performed on our behalf during his visit.

The meeting was informed of further progress in the study led by R. Seymour Blamfield (E.S.C. No. 15) "Egyptian Postal Markings 1865-1879". The known data had been revised up to October 1971. A lengthy discussion ensued as to the best media of publication and distribution, and the best proposal appeared to be its issue in the form of a booklet with members of the Circle paying a nominal charge which would be increased for non-members.

The Second Issue 1867. MacArthur took the lead in the study of the afternoon, the second issue, and under his guidance the understanding of these stamps and the work done on them by Dr. Byam became apparent to those of us whose knowledge was limited. It was interesting to learn that the four types of each value had first been noted by P.L. Pemberton (E.S.C. No. 35) in the "Philatelic Journal of Great Britain" in 1910. They were designed by F Hoff of Silesia and engraved by him in metal, four times (2 x 2) for

each value. The original stones were prepared by means of transfers from the dies.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5 paras - one stone prepared. | 10 paras - 2 stones prepared. |
| 20 paras - 2 " s " | 1 piastre - 7 " " |
| 2 piastres - 1 " " | 5 piastres - 1 " " |

Special mention was made of the colour varieties. The Chairman suitably summed up the discussion that followed and thanked Mac for his leadership.

The programme for 1972 was discussed and the main subjects for the various meetings were agreed (as listed on the front cover - Editor).

The meeting concluded with members showing some of their recent acquisitions and a number of interesting items were seen. The Chairman wished those present the compliments of the season, which ~~were~~ reciprocated, and the meeting closed about 6.30 p.m..

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

THE BRITISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 1971

Seymour Hall, London.

The annual British Philatelic Exhibition has become well established in the philatelic calendar, and the most novel feature this year was the new lay-out of the frames in the Main Hall. The adaptation of the ex-Philippia frames into geometrically shaped units of twelve avoided the use of straight rows and provided more spacious and comfortable viewing.

Two of our members exhibited and were successful in gaining awards. John E.O. Hobbs (E.S.C. No. 151) showed Forces Postal Concession Seals (silver award). His entry included one of the original drawings made by Lt. Col. Fraser who designed the first seals. Also were noted some of the proofs of this issue. The succeeding issues were well represented including a strip of five of the proofs of the Silver Jubilee Seal.

Egypt has long been famed for the splendour of its princely hotels which offered to the traveller to the Orient, and those undertaking the 'Grand Tour' to visit the sites of former civilisations in the Upper Nile valley, every comfort and many services including that of a Post Office. F.W. Benians (E.S.C. No. 123) entry of Early Proprietary Postal Markings covered the period up to the commencement of the First World War.

Examples of Hotel Postal Stationery and the use of pictorial post-cards of the hotels were displayed, many being cancelled by the datestamps of the hotel sub post offices.

The journey of the tourist to the Upper Nile valley was illustrated with examples of letters that had been redirected from one hotel to the next on the itinerary.

The entry concluded with examples of the "Cook's Tourist Office", one cover bearing numerous postmarks and office stamps was in itself a "Cook's Tour".

One prominent display in the section devoted to literature and Society journals was our own "Quarterly Circular", which was awarded a bronze medal. The official catalogue noted that it had been published continuously since 1938.

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

Jim Benians has omitted to note that **the** award won by his own entry was a bronze medal. Congratulations to both John and Jim for their fine efforts. (Editor).

--oOo--

STOP PRESS The following CHANGE OF ADDRESS should be added to those listed on page 121:-

E.S.C. No. 137 P.R. BERTRAM,
13, Cambridge Drive,
High Farm,
WASHINGBOROUGH,
Lincolnshire.

--oOo--

NOTES FROM THE KEEPER OF THE PHILATELIC RECORD

Charles W. Minett, E.S.C. No. 77

In December John Firebrace (E.S.C. No. 71) came over for a couple of days and delved into our records of World War I material, on the study of which he and I have been engaged for a number of years.

During a return visit to Chislehurst the Record and I were regaled with items of mail of considerable historical interest covering the French and British occupations of Egypt between 1798 and 1803.

Of the short British Campaign of 1807, so far as we can discover, no items of mail seem to have survived.

We worked too on the 1882 campaign, the results of which Study together with the earlier campaigns, will form the subject to be lead by John Firebrace at the Circle meeting next October.

1914-1921 Pictorial Issue

Most of the small format stamps from 1 to 10 milliemes may be found with the single star and crescent watermark in two forms - narrow (Type I) and wide (Type II) - which were described in detail by John Revell (E.S.C. No. 78) in an article in "Stamp Collecting" (13th November 1953 page 285) and in the Quarterly Circular of June 1954 (Volume IV No. 6, page 75).

So far as our records go the exception to the rule is the 4 milliemes vermilion which has been found only with the narrow (Type I) watermark, and readers are urged to check their collections and report any example found with the wide (Type II) watermark.

1921-1922 Issue

George Houston's (E.S.C. No. 83) recent instructive article on the hitherto unrecorded varieties of the 2 milliemes value has led me to discover in my collection an example of the redrawn "EGYPT" on the vermilion stamp - Stereo 70 (with Crown overprint). (I, too, have managed to find two examples of this redrawn stereo 70 - Editor).

So far we have heard of no one finding this variety on the green stamp although, as George points out, it must exist.

World War I. Civil Censorship

Dr. A. Winter (E.S.C. No. 149) has been kind enough to show us a hitherto unrecorded handstamp which consists of a double oval in black containing the words "C.L. CENSOR'S OFFICE/ALEXANDRIA".

The cover is an unstamped O.H.H.S. one addressed to Switzerland where it received a postage due stamp which was then invalidated and the cover returned to Alexandria where it arrived on the 19th July 1919.

There is, in addition, the quite well known dumb censor mark of Alexandria consisting of four thick wavy bars.

Presumably "C.L." denoted Chief Letter Censor's Office, and the oval mark was applied as a departmental frank authorising the use of the official envelope, whilst the wavy bar cachet was struck on the return journey at Alexandria.

Egyptian Postal Stationery

Next December a Circle Meeting is to discuss this subject and I would be grateful if members will record earliest dates of used items in their collections, quoting where possible catalogue numbers used by Jean Boulad d'Humieres in "L'Orient Philatelique" (January and April 1936), Billig's "Philatelic Handbook" (Volume 21, 1954) or Higgins and Gage (1966), etc..

It is not proposed at present ^{to include} the postal stationery of the French Consular Offices of Alexandria and Port Said.

--oOo--

IN MEMORIUM

We learn from "Stamp Collecting" (11th November 1971) of the death of one of our early members - Mrs. Isa Stuart (E.S.C. No. 28) - on October 18th in Glasgow, aged 77 years.

Although 'Isa', as she liked to be known, had seldom, if ever, attended a meeting of the Circle she was nevertheless a keen student of the stamps of Egypt and a loyal supporter of the Circle.

Isa was a founder member of the Netherlands Philatelic Circle, also, and was indeed the Secretary of that body for many years.

She will be sadly missed in both Philatelic and Sporting circles (being well known as a sporting journalist). We mourn her death.

--oOo--

OBITUARYHenry WhittakerE.S.C. No. 34

It is with deep regret that we learn of the death of Henry Whittaker, at the age of 85, in hospital at Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, on August 18th 1971, as a result of a heart attack following a fall when he fractured his thigh.

He was an early member of the Circle, and resigned towards the end of the 1950's.

He had a long and distinguished career as an architect and it was he who was responsible for the Parliament Building in the inner harbour at Victoria - a world famous and beautiful landmark.

Henry Whittaker's collection of Egypt and the Sudan were well known in Canada and the Pacific Coast, for which he had won 37 medals and 17 trophies over the years. He showed these to me recently with deserved pride, the medals all being mounted in frames and hanging in his stamp room.

He was a kindly man and I shall never forget his kindness shown to my two small sons when they emigrated to Canada in 1940 during World War II.

I was with him in his home in Canada only 5 weeks before his death and I was able to comfort him and assure him of the good wishes and kindest thoughts of all the members of the Egypt Study Circle.

We send our sympathy to his widow and to his family.

John H. E. Gilbert.
(Chairman,
E.S.C. No. 50).

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members who have joined us since publication of the last Quarterly Circular:-

- E.S.C. No. 161 P.E. Woodland, 9, Hillside,
NEWPORT, Isle of Wight.
- 162 T. Aizawa, 1-5-14 Hanazono
Chiba City, Chiba, Japan.

Changes of Address:

- 99 E.A. Piprell 12, St. Nicholas Mount,
Green End Lane, Boxmoor,
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.
- 160 E. Antonini 11, Chemin de Conches,
1211 Conches, Switzerland.
- 122 Peter Andrews 51, Elizabeth Road, Moseley,
Birmingham 13.
- 121 Mrs. G.A. Hide 30, Topstreet Way,
Harpenden, Hertfordshire.
- 78 A.J. Revell Uplands House, 50 Grimthorpe Avenue,
Whitstable, Kent.
- 132 W.C. Andrews 11, Halvarras Road, Playing Place,
TRURO, Cornwall.
- 159 T.F. Olsen 1115, Keith Avenue, Berkeley,
California 94708, U.S.A.

Resignations: The following resignations have been received and accepted with regret:

- 131 A.C. Browning with effect from 31st December 1971
(Mr. Browning is in his 88th year).
- 143 Mrs. H. P. Murray w.e.f. 31st December 1971
- 124 Alwynne F.A. Letts " 31st December 1971.

A FORAY WITH A THICKNESS GAUGE

by

Peter A.S. Smith, (ESC No. 74)

Not long ago I was sent a copy of the First Issue 1 piastre, imperforate, with a query as to whether I thought it to be the "issued" imperforate stamp (as listed in the several catalogues) or a proof, and would I be interested in it? This event raised into immediate urgency a nearly dormant irritant in the back of my mind: how does one tell the difference? No catalogue known to me is of the slightest help. Correspondence I have had over many years with the most knowledgeable specialists in Egyptian stamps, including Dr. Byam, has never revealed the secret. The response to the question has been either a confession of ignorance, or a vague suggestion that it had been rumoured that it had something to do with the thickness of the paper, but no one was sure. There might be a difference in shade, for some of the other proof values are in a distinctly different shade from the issued stamps. It was also known that the issued stamps often show the effects of wear of the plate, or accumulation of dirt, resulting in filling in of the white areas; whereas the proofs were apparently printed from the fresh, clean plates. A smudgily printed stamp, then, could be taken as an issued one, but a cleanly printed one might be either a proof or an issued stamp.

I have never felt very confident about estimating the thickness of paper by feeling it, and the feel test settled nothing for me in the present instance. Obviously, a measurement was needed. One does not simply refer to 'coarse' and 'fine' perforations, but quotes the measured gauge; the same thing should apply to paper thickness. Since no philatelist of my acquaintance had ever owned up to possessing a thickness gauge, I bethought myself of my colleagues at the University, among whom almost any sort of esoteric capability is likely to be found. After some weeks of no progress, largely due to inactivity on my part, I eventually found our curator of odd apparatus and instruments in his den, and spoke of my need. He rummaged through various drawers, fruitlessly visited the machinist's shop, returned to his own lair to rummage in new places, and was on the point of giving up when he decided to have one last look in the place where he had begun. A nice little micrometer thickness gauge emerged, and I was allowed to take it home for the week-end. We are now at the end of the preamble, and I can get down to the real business of this article.

Initial attempts with the thickness gauge brought out some caveats: stamps with dirty backs (old hinges, traces of envelope, ridges of gum, etc.) give misleading results; the edges of perforated stamps are likely to measure thick, owing to a crater effect caused by the perforating pins; deeply impressed typography, such as the black overprint on the

1 piastre 1866, can give the effect of greater thickness; paper varies in thickness even over the small area of a stamp, and readings should be made at several places over the surface. With these lessons learned, I measured as large a variety of suitable material as I could get together, and in the remainder of this article I present the results.

Eighteen used copies of the 1866 1 piastre were taken as undoubtedly issued stamps. Their thickness varied from 0.0027 to 0.0033 inch (for the benefit of my overseas friends, 0.001 inch equals 0.0254 millimetres). Three unused copies with fresh gum measured 0.0030, 0.0031, and 0.0032 inch respectively, so that it appears that on this stamp the presence of gum makes little if any difference. Six examples of purported proofs (without gum) gave measurements from 0.0021 to 0.0026 inch; a real difference between the issued stamps and the proofs seemed to have been found! The measurements were then extended to the other values in proof form, for the proofs of this issue were all printed on what is evidently the same paper. Although most of them fell within the same range as the 1 piastre proofs, some were as thin as 0.0017 inch, and some as thick as 0.0030 inch (a 5 para proof). There is thus a small amount of overlap. The significance of these results is perhaps more easily apprehended in graphic form, and I have prepared a chart for this purpose. In the section headed "1866", a profile of the number of copies encountered in each thickness is given. The solid line is the envelope for the proofs, and the dotted line is the envelope for the issued stamps. The information would be more reliable if greater numbers of examples could be measured, of course, but these tentative conclusions can be drawn:

- 1) The 1866 proofs are on the whole on distinctly thinner paper than the issued 1 piastre.
- 2) Imperforate stamps thinner than 0.0027 inch (0.067 mms.) can reasonably be taken as proofs, and stamps thicker than 0.0030 inch (0.075 mm.) can be assumed to be issued stamps.
- 3) There are some stamps of intermediate thickness that cannot be distinguished in this manner, but since they are not 1 piastre stamps it may not be relevant.
- 4) With the 1 piastre proofs there may actually be no overlap with issued stamps.

The stamp that started all this had shiny, even, colourless gum - in appearance like the issued stamps. Its thickness over most of its area ranged between 0.0036 inch and 0.0038 inch, but reached 0.0044 at the extreme. I have concluded that it is an issued stamp. Now that I have its measurements, I can easily convince myself that it feels distinctly thicker and stouter than the proofs. Its margins are wide all round, enough to convince me that it is a true imperforate (although the Royal Philatelic Society, London, Expert Committee would not certify such a single, according to their most recent policy).

The possibility of distinguishing proofs of the 1 piastre from the issued stamp is gratifying, since the proofs are relatively common, and are convenient raw material for the faker to work with. By applying gum and faked perforations, the considerably more valuable issued stamp can be simulated in mint condition; if the faker uses a gauge 13 comb, he produces the extremely rare perforated 13 stamp, which commands a substantial price. Lastly, very valuable multiples of the issued stamp could be faked from the much commoner blocks of the proof. Perforating combs for 'home use' in any desired gauge are openly advertised in the German philatelic literature, and 'undetectable' regumming services are also offered. With some knowledge of paper thickness now, we can protect ourselves against this sort of fraud. I no longer feel so uneasy about my mint blocks of this stamp!

The momentum of the foregoing exercise propelled me on to the Second Issue, although there seemed to be no particular problem that paper thickness might help with. I found the thickness to be very constant within the narrow range 0.0030-0.0032 inch, with a rare case of 0.0029 or 0.0033 inch. There appeared to be no difference between the 1867 and the 1869 printings, and all stones and shades of the 1 piastre fell within the narrow range. The printer's waste of the 20 para, printed on both sides, also fell within the range. The gum on this issue makes a much bigger difference than on the First Issue. There are two sorts: a smooth clear gum, and a crinkly tinted gum. The crinkly gum tends to be very thick, and stamps with it may show measurements above 0.005 inch. The smooth gum gives thickness measurements of 0.004 inch or less.

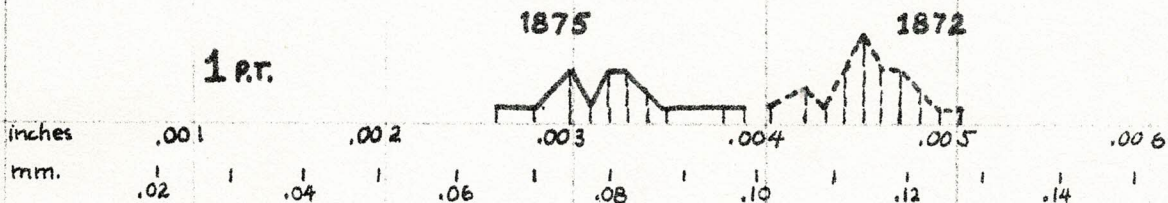
The 2 piastre Second Issue offered a possibility of detecting a difference that might indicate proof status, but the interpretation is conjectural. Ordinary used stamps show the usual thickness, and an imperforate block (which some consider to be proofs) measured exactly 0.0030 inch. However, another block, without gum, pin-perforated horizontally x $12\frac{1}{2}$ vertically, measured 0.0024 to 0.0027 inch. Although this is thinner than any other Second Issue item that I measured, I am not prepared to assess its significance at this time; undoubted proofs of the 1 piastre in black show the normal measurement of the issued stamps, and the 20 para in the pale apple green that Dr. Byam considered to be a colour trial measures 0.0034 inch.

The Third Issue was especially interesting, because of the long history of the search for reliable distinctions between the 1872 and the 1874-5 printings. Whereas design is conclusive with the 5 para, the color is decisive with the 10 para, 20 para and 1 piastre, the distinctions are more subtle with the 2, $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 5 piastres. There are some rather small plate distinctions on these three stamps, but they are not always easily recognisable, especially on heavily cancelled stamps, and it is precisely these three values that can be found in the same perforation gauge in each printing.

The various general catalogues have at various times included

Paper Thickness of Gumless Stamps

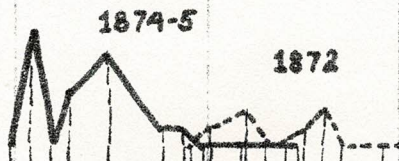
THIRD ISSUE



2 1/2 P.T.



other values



1866
1 P.T. -----
proofs ————



(proofs) → ————— ← (issued 1 p.t.)

SECOND ISSUE



SUEZ CANAL CO.



DE LA RUE "SPHINX"



FOURNIER FORGERIES



statements about relative thickness of the two printings, but they lacked conviction, and were even reversed in one instance. My measurements on 38 used copies of the 1 piastre showed a clean-cut difference; all 1875 stamps measured 0.0039 inch (0.10 mm.) or less, and all 1872 stamps measured 0.004 inch (0.11 mm.) or more. The range and frequency is best shown graphically in the accompanying chart. The average thickness of the 1875's is 0.0032 inch, and that of the 1872's 0.0045 inch. The 2½ piastres makes an interesting contrast, for although once more the 1872 stamps are on thicker paper than the 1874's, the average thickness of the 1874's is distinctly greater than that of the 1 piastre, and there is some overlap. The 1874's ranged up to 0.0042 inch, and some 1872's were as thin as 0.0042 inch, although the averages are still far apart as shown in the diagram. I would say that thickness can be used to distinguish the two printings of the 2½ piastres, but one must accept the fact that a small percentage of them will be indeterminate (in order to get a large number of measurements I have included the 1879 provisional overprints in the 1874 group, and in all other cases I used stamps that could also be distinguished unequivocally by means of plate distinctions or, in the case of some 1872's, cancellation dates).

The results on the other values are lumped together in one diagram, for I had not enough copies of any one of them to give statistically reliable numbers. The pattern of the 2½ piastres is essentially repeated, and there is a small range of overlap. This overlap is largely due to two stamps in my collection: a 20 para of 1875 measuring 0.0042 inch and a 2 piastres measuring 0.0044-47 inch. The latter was such an exception that I thought I might not have identified the stamp correctly, but it clearly showed the separated dots beneath the left hand character in the top panel, and must be accepted as an 1874.

There appears to be no difference between lithographed and typographed copies of the 20 para and 1 piastre, unfortunately. The "thin oily paper" varieties of the 1874-5 printings turned out to be deceptive. The two properties, thinness and transparency, are independent: and although it is a natural reaction to assume that the more transparent paper is thinner (as in a 'thinned spot' on a damaged stamp), this is not necessarily so. One need only put a drop of oil on a piece of paper to observe how it can become more transparent without becoming thinner. My measurements turned up oily transparent stamps in quite a range of thicknesses, although nearly all of the very thin ones (less than 0.0032 inch) appeared more or less transparent. A most revealing case was an album page of the 1 piastre that I bought at the Byam sale: it remains exactly as Dr. Byam wrote it up. A nice block on definitely opaque paper designated as 'thick' measured 0.0038-41 inch; another block, oily and transparent, designated as 'thin' had exactly the same measurement; and a third block designated 'medium' was actually quite thick - 0.0044 inch! Gum was not responsible for the first two items were unused, but the last was used.

The 5 piastre of 1874 comes in two rather distinct shades: a very

blurred, smudgy impression, often on oily paper; and a sharp, clean impression on normal paper. The few copies that I measured did not reveal a convincing difference in thickness, and I am inclined to attribute the differences to ink. The thinnest 1872 5 piastre measured 0.0042 inch, and the thickest 1874 5 piastre with or without gum measured only 0.0038 inch, so a distinction between these two printings may perhaps be quite reliable, on the other hand. It will obviously take more material to give such a criterion confidence, however.

The chart includes the result of a few measurements on some Suez Canal Company stamps, some De la Rue horizontal format stamps, and some Fournier forgeries, just for comparison. The generally quite thick paper of the Fournier's suggests that thickness may be useful in detecting other forgeries, but I have not had the time or the material to go into the subject. I hope these rather random and highly personal notes will stimulate someone else to try his hand with a micrometer gauge; if so, let us hear from you, even if only to report that you have simply confirmed, or disproved, my assertions!

TABLE OF OBSERVATIONS -- THICKNESS IN MICRONS (1 micron = 0.001 millimeter)

| Stamp | 1866 <u>1 PT.</u> | Same <u>PROOF</u> | 1866 PROOFS <u>other values</u> | 1867-69 <u>All values</u> | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Number examined | 19 | 6 | 16 | 40 | | | |
| Thickness | 69-81 | 55-66 | 43-76 | 61-84 | | | |
| THIRD ISSUE 1872: | | | | | | | |
| Stamp | <u>1 PT typo.</u> | <u>20 para typo.</u> | <u>20 para litho.</u> | <u>2½ PT.</u> | <u>other values</u> | | |
| Number examined | 24 | 4 | 6 | 19 | 8 | | |
| Thickness | 101-127 | 99-129 | 104-129 | 106-150 | 99-127 | | |
| THIRD ISSUE 1874-75: | | | | | | | |
| Stamp | <u>5 para</u> | <u>10 para</u> | <u>20 para</u> | <u>1 PT.</u> | <u>2 PT.</u> | <u>2½ PT*</u> | <u>5 PT.</u> |
| Number examined | 6 | 10 | 5 | 17 | 3 | 17 | 3 |
| Thickness | 79-104 | 76-99 | 71-106 | 71-97 | 89-119 | 81-106 | 86-97 |

*this value includes 1879 provisionals.

 NAMED MILITARY POST OFFICES IN EGYPT. 1895 - 1939.

by

 John Firebrace and Charles W. Minett
 (E.S.C. No. 71) (E.S.C. No. 77)

This is a rather clumsy and not completely accurate title for a study which leads on in some ways from the Propriety Offices studies of Gordon Ward and Jean Boulad d'Humieres in "L'Orient Philatelique" No. 94 (April 1956) and No. 114 (October 1964-January 1965). It is intended to extend the information given in "Notes on the Posts of the British Forces in Egypt (1801-1956) by Charles Minett in the "Quarterly Circular" Volume V No. 4 (November 1958) pages 42-44.

The Military Post Office datestamps which we aim to study will also include datestamps on letters from sailors, both Royal Navy and Merchant Navy, and, later, from the Royal Air Force. Probably the sailor's datestamps would have been more at home in one or other of the studies mentioned above but, since they were not included, it seems better to try and cover them now - rather than leave datestamps with either a military or nautical flavour to be dealt with on yet another occasion.

The datestamp wordings which we intend to cover include the following, either in full or as initials, together with towns known to have used them:-

| | | | |
|--|------------|----------|---------|
| Military Post Office | Alexandria | Cairo | |
| Army Post Office | Abbassia | Cairo | Kantara |
| British Barracks | Abbassia | Cairo | |
| Camp (including British and Military) | Heliopolis | Ismailia | Maadi |
| War Office | Cairo | | |
| Soldier's and Sailor's Institute | Alexandria | | |
| Seamen's Home | Alexandria | | |

Datestamps bearing some or all of these wordings will be found in many forms:-

as double or single circles, including skeletons of British and Egyptian manufacture, with British and French date forms, with numerals in Roman letters and ordinary type.

Excluded are certain Australian and Indian named military post offices and datestamps, wherever used, which do not have at least a military or naval sounding name (e.g. Citadel).

We shall try to determine the exact location of each office and the use of each datestamp, i.e. whether the Post Office was staffed by British or Egyptian personnel and whether used principally by British troops or Egyptian civilians.

We shall relate our recorded types to those of Seymour Blomfield (E.S.C. Study VI), and shall record datestamps of origin separately from those of transit and arrival.

We intend to break the 44 year period named in the title into three:-

1895 to 1914 1914 to 1920 1921 to 1939.

Registered handstamps will be dealt with as well as circular date stamps.

Although we have quite a lot of information and there are particulars of many covers in the Record, we ask members to send to the Keeper of the Record a zerox copy, an accurate tracing or the original on loan of all their own covers (or covers known to them) which they feel should be included, together with any information of a general nature which they may possess.

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