

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR.

Volume VIII No. 2

Whole Series No. 86

JUNE 1973

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FUTURE MEETINGS

4th August 1973	...	Hotel Postmarks Presented by F. W. Benians.
13th October 1973	...	Third Issue 20 paras and 1 piastre Litho. and Typo. Presented by S.L.G. MacArthur.
1st December 1973	...	1866 Issue Presented by P. Andrews.

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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

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REPORT of the 146th Meeting of the Egypt Study Circle held at
'The George' 2 George Court Adelphi London WC2
on the 14th April 1973.

J.H.E. Gilbert presided and the following members were present:-
P. Andrews, K. C. Brown, D. Clarke, B. E. Conway, C. Gilders,
J. S. Horesh, C. W. Minett. Apologies for absence were received from
Jim Benians, R. A. G. Potter, D. Turton, R. Wheatley and P. E.
Woodland.

D. Clarke and B. E. Conway, two comparative recent members of the
Circle, introduced the major topic of the meeting - the Interpostal
Seals. They had obviously put a great deal of time and effort into this
subject which was presented so well, and much was learnt from the
ensuing discussion. They advanced a new theory concerning the 'dot'
in the centre of Kehr Types 4 and 4a.

Dr. A. Winter (E.S.C. No. 149) had kindly sent photographs of two
covers from the wreck of the S.S. 'Cairo', 1905, both carrying inter-
postals, one being Kehr Type 6a and the other Type 6b.

It is intended to publish an article in a future number of the
Quarterly Circular giving full details.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Egypt Study Circle was held at Adastral House,
London, on the 3rd May 1973, during the period that the Philatelic Congress
of Great Britain was taking place in London. There were eight members
present with our Chairman presiding. Various material was passed round
and discussed, including sheets of the Third Issue (Mac Arthur) with his
notes on the identification of the higher values printings, retouches
on the 20 paras and 1 piastre, and photographs of sheets to illustrate
his plating study from perforations (see Quarterly Circular Whole No.84).
Wheatley showed pages from his collection of the 1914 pictorials, and
Conway a block of nine 10 paras/2½ piastres surcharge with inverted
watermark.

It was a most pleasant evening, although disappointing in that no
Congress visitors were present. This was undoubtedly due to the venue
which was some distance from the Headquarters Hotel, as indeed were most
of the venues for the various Study Groups and Specialist Society meetings,
inevitable when Congress meets in such a large metropolis.

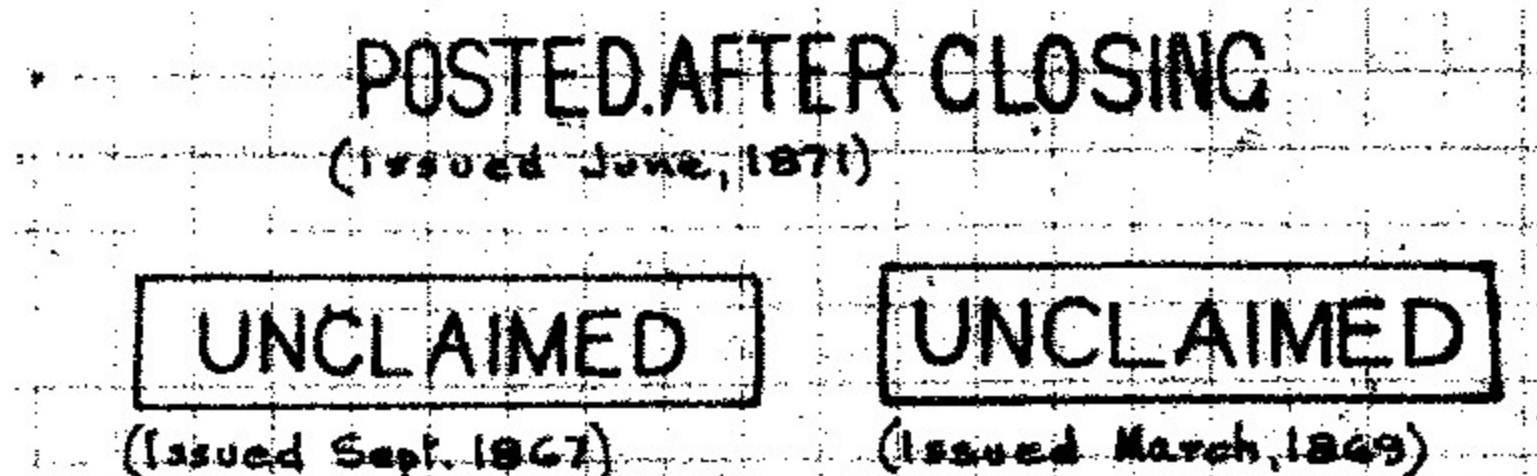
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NOTES FROM THE KEEPER OF THE PHILATELIC RECORD

Charles W. Minett (E.S.C. No. 77)

The British Consular Office, Alexandria

Leslie Bowyer (E.S.C. No. 98) has shown us two items bearing interesting information cachets applied at this office which I illustrate below.



The first 'POSTED. AFTER CLOSING' (Rawson Type III-3) is struck in black on part of a letter-sheet franked by a vertical pair of 4d. Queen Victoria plate 13 cancelled with 'BO 1' in a vertical oval with three bars (Rawson Type IV-4).

Whilst the only date given by the late Brigadier Rawson (E.S.C. No. 54) in his major study, published in the Quarterly Circular for March 1951, is 1873 - this example (which unfortunately shows only a small portion of the Alexandria datestamp) has a clear backstamp of the London Chief Office dated 15th June 1875 (see photograph in article by Jean Boulad d'Humieres in 'L'Orient Philatelique' No. 107 for July 1962, page 116).

A proof book at the General Post Office, London, has an entry which shows that this steel handstamp was passed out on the 8th June 1871 for issue to Alexandria.

The second is a framed 'UNCLAIMED' struck in vermilion on a cover which left Malta on 28th October 1876 addressed to a Capt. Geo. Hallett, s.s. "South Tyne" at Alexandria. The c.d.s. of arrival at the Consular Office at Alexandria, on the reverse, is dated NO 3/76 and an additional strike on the obverse is dated MR 1/77 - neither has a duty letter above the date.

Although Rawson did not include this mark in his study and I cannot find that any other author within our orbit has recorded it, a search in the Proof Books at the General Post Office, London, (by kind permission) reveals that two similar steel handstamps were passed for issue to Alexandria, one on the 12th September 1867 and the other on the 22nd March 1869 - it is a strike of the latter which appears on Leslie Bowyer's cover.

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No example of the earlier mark (1867) has been recorded by us and we would be pleased to hear from anyone who happens to be the fortunate owner of one.

1926-1934 Second Fuad Portrait Issue

Active work on the study of this issue has not been apparent for some years. The first major article, by the late Dr. Gordon Ward (E.S.C. No. 59) dealt with the 5 milliemes value and appeared in the Quarterly Circular for September 1946; this he followed with another, dealing with all values, which was published in 1948 ('The London Philatelist' Volume LVII, Nos. 666-669).

The study was continued by John Revell (E.S.C. No. 78) and resulted in his exhaustive monograph of the 5 milliemes published in the Quarterly Circular for May 1966 and, revised, in 'L'Orient Philatelique' for January/April 1968.

Recently Keith Pogson (E.S.C. No. 130) was fortunate in acquiring Gordon Ward's collection of this issue and now is undertaking officially the continuance of the Study with a view to publication in a future number of the Quarterly Circular. He is desirous of obtaining accumulations and multiple pieces and would welcome co-operation from our members who may contact him through our Hon/Secretary or me.

World War I. British Forces 'FREE' Cachets

Through our Chairman, Mr. R. C. Emery of Worthing has sought information on two uncensored 'OAS' covers addressed to Australia. Each bears an elliptical cachet, one inscribed 'MILITARY RECREATION/FREE/...../E' in red and the other 'SOLDIERS CAFE CAIRO/FREE/...../E' in blue. These are illustrated below.

- a) Soldiers Cafe Cairo. Struck in blue or black.
 Recorded covers: 1 to United Kingdom
 1 to Australia
 1 to local address.
 Earliest seen: 6th January 1916
 Latest seen: 20th February 1916.
- b) Military Recreation. Struck in magenta (or red).
 Recorded covers: 8 to United Kingdom
 2 to Australia
 1 to local address
 1 to Spain (exceptionally, this one has been opened and resealed by the Egyptian Civil Censor)
 Earliest seen: 21st December 1915
 Latest seen: 21st March 1916

The dotted line across the centre of each cachet normally has an authorising signature and no other form of censorship appears to have been

deemed necessary even though the mail passed through the civil post office in Cairo in every case and thus became subject to, but seldom subjected to, Egyptian Civil Censorship.

It would seem that the mail was bundled or bagged in the institution before being taken to the nearest civil post office, in all probability being dealt with in much the same way as 'OAS' mail bearing cachets of such establishments as Government and Red Cross Hospitals, Convalescent Camps, and, indeed, some Regimental Depots.

At present we do not know the exact locations of these institutions, neither do we know by whom they were operated. However, it seems probable that they came under the control of the Expeditionary Force Canteen and Mess Society and were managed by civilian contractors prior to 1917.



For full measure illustrated also (c) is a similar but more informative cachet, recorded in grey or dull violet, on mail with dates between December 1915 and February 1916. It will be seen that the Rest Camp had its' own Post Office, but whether that was where the accompanying date-stamps of the civil post office (containing the wording 'BRITISH BARRACKS/CAIRO' with the equivalent in Arabic, were applied is another matter.

Other types of 'FREE' cachet are known and details will be provided when time permits of further research. For some years now John Firebrace and I have been recording this type of material as part of our Study of the British Forces Mails in Egypt and we would be glad to see examples, or photo-copies, of items which members may have in their collections. In connection with those illustrated above we have received co-operation already from Jim Benians, Ken Davis and Len Perry.

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FINDS IN EARLY EGYPTIAN POSTMARKS

by

Ibrahim Chaftar (E.S.C. No. 42)

Sometime ago I was lucky enough to acquire, after very hard negotiations, two beautiful entire letters relating to early Egyptian Postal History. The first is wonderful and very neat, with the oval registration mark 'PER CONSEGNA' Type R.3 (reference Quarterly Circular Volume 1 page 66 - Editor) of the Posta Europea; and the second a beautiful cover with - the till lately unknown - postmark of the new Poste Vice Reali Egiziane office of Benha, applied during the second transition period of 1865, before the introduction of adhesive stamps on the 1st January 1866.

I will share, by the following words, my finds with my fellow colleagues in Egyptian philately.

1. Posta Europea: Oval Postmark 'PER CONSEGNA' Type R.3:

The oval registration postmark 'PER CONSEGNA' Type R3 was brought into use at Alexandria in the early days of May 1863. We know of a combination entire letter with this handstruck mark in the already famous Posta Europea collection G. Khouzam of Milan. The entire was posted at the Italian Consulate Post Office: Alessandria d'Egitto Poste Italiane and was to be forwarded to Tanta (lower Egypt). It bears the handstamp of the Italian Office dated 20 MAG 63 I S, in four lines, at the upper right corner and on the upper left corner the oval registration mark 'PER CONSEGNA' Type R.3, bearing in the centre No. 1326. These two postmarks are struck on the face of the entire with the same blue ink. It is strange that the handstamp (Type IV or Type VI) which ought to be struck on the face at the Alexandria Posta Europea Office, to indicate the date of dispatching, is missing. Let us suppose, then, that the operator for the two offices (i.e. The Posta Europea Office of Alexandria and the Italian Consulate Post Office of Alexandria) was the same person at the same premises.

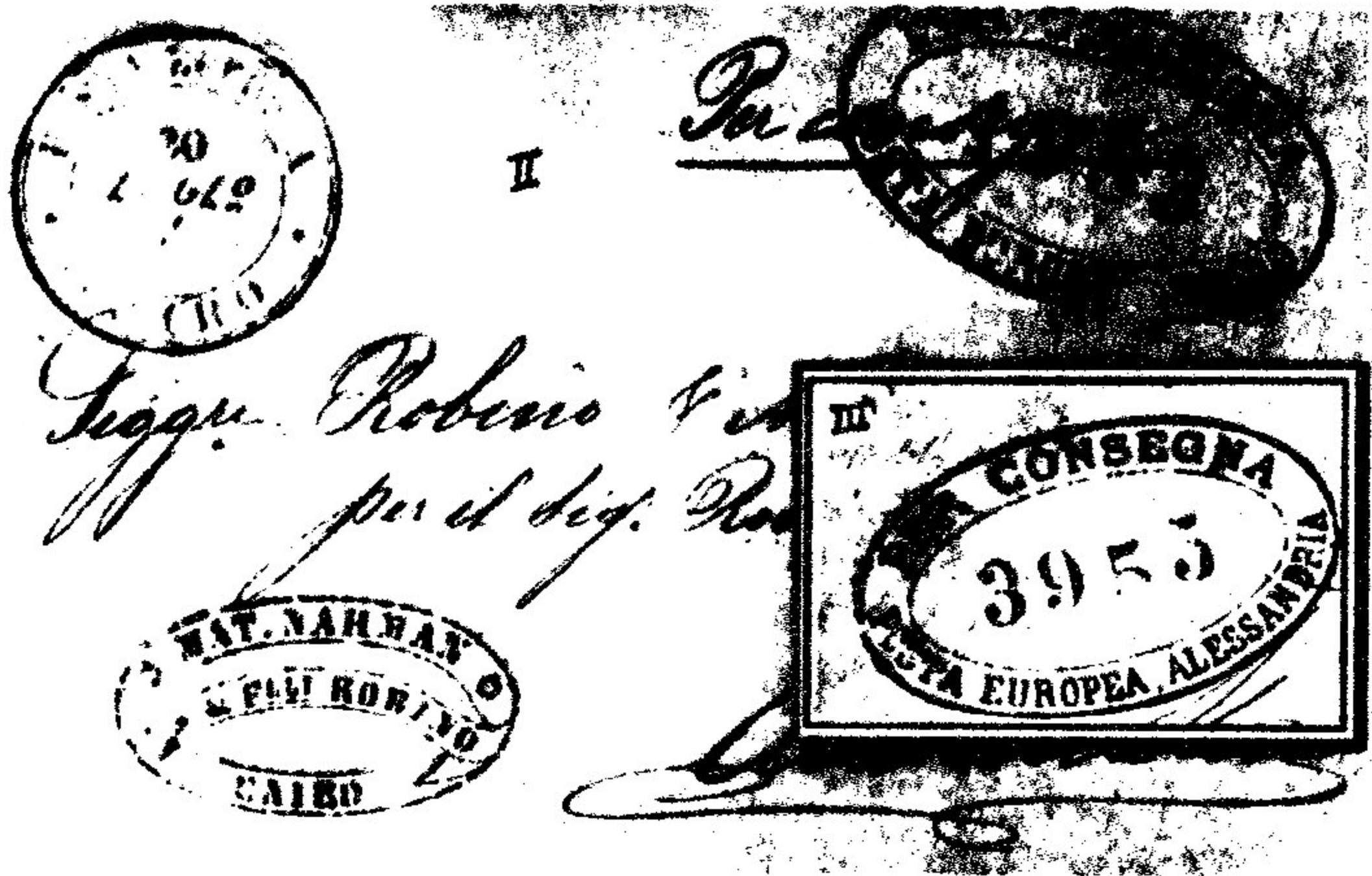
We have no information about the arrival mark of the Posta Europea Tanta office. We beg Mr. Khouzam to supply us with the reproduction of the back of his entire so we may be able to reproduce it. In the meantime we give here the illustration of the face of this remarkable entire. Mr Khouzam's collection includes also a cut piece with the oval registration mark 'PER CONSEGNA' Type R.3, bearing the number 3955 in its centre: this number is the highest recorded. Unfortunately the piece does not give any indication about its date.

As for the Cairo Posta Europea Office, we know about three entires bearing the similar oval registration mark 'PER CONSEGNA' Type R.3: in the collection of Col. J.R. Danson an entire dated 13.5.64 Number 1237; in the collection of Mr. Khouzam an entire dated 30 LUGL 64 Number 1983; and in the collection of J.H.E. Gilbert an entire dated 4.9.64 Number 2399 (or 2339?).

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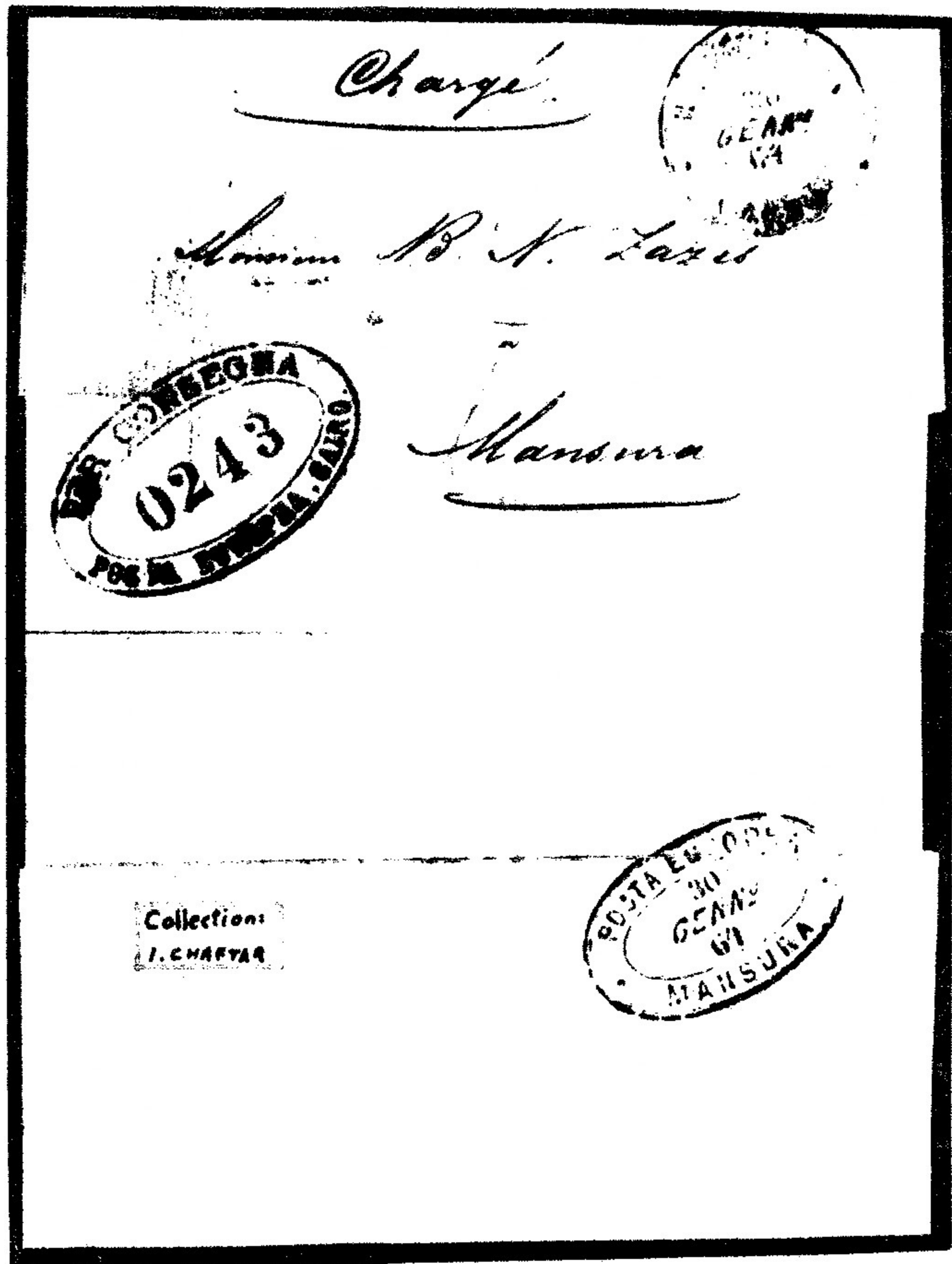


I. PER CONSEGNA ALESSANDRIA TO TANTA No. 1326 20 MAG 63 I S



II. PER CONSEGNA CAIRO TO ALESSANDRIA No. 1983 30 LUGL 64

III. Fragment PER CONSEGNA ALESSANDRIA No. 3955
(Collection G. Khouzam - Milan)



Above is an illustration of the new discovery with the very rare cancellation. The letter was posted at the Posta Europea Office Cairo to be forwarded to the Posta Europea Office at Mansura. On the right upper corner is the Posta Europea postmark of Cairo Type VI dated 30 GENNO 64 and on the lower left corner there is the oval registration postmark 'PER CONSEGNA' Type R.3 with the number 0243 in its centre, which is the lowest number recorded for that office.

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Both marks are struck in black on the face of the entire. On the back is the oval Posta Europea Type V of Mansura in black, dated 30 GENNo 64, the same date as that of departure from Alexandria.

2. SECOND TRANSITION PERIOD 15th April/31st December 1865
The Postmark 'POSTE VICE REALI EGIZIANE, BENHA'.

When the new Egyptian Postal Administration took over the private enterprise Posta Europea on the 2nd January 1865, it was decided to maintain the postal fees during the whole of 1865 and to continue the use of the date and other handstamps of the Posta Europea, until the new material with the correct name Poste Vice Reali Egiziane was ready.

From the perusal of several highly specialised collections of Egypt, and after checking here in Egypt and overseas with the members of the Egypt Study Circle, it seems that:

- a) The datestamps of the Posta Europea were in use till the 14th April 1865. We call that period (2nd January/14th April 1865) the 'First Transition Period'.

(Note from the Keeper of the Record: In the Danson collection is a cut-out of MICHALLA Type V dated 15/4/65).

- b) The new date and handstamps of the Poste Vice Reali Egiziane were introduced as from the 15th April 1865. We call the period (15th April/31st December 1865) the 'Second Transition Period'.

We must remember that the First Issue of adhesive postage stamps of Egypt was on sale from the 1st January 1866, and that all the postal fees for 1865 were noted in manuscript on the face of the entires or covers.

The new datestamps were naturally supplied to the sixteen offices handed over by the Posta Europea to the new Egyptian Postal Administration:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Alessandria | 9. Kafer Zayat |
| 2. Atfe | 10. Mansura |
| 3. Benha | 11. Michalla |
| 4. Birket el Sab | 12. Samanud |
| 5. Cairo | 13. Suez |
| 6. Damanhour | 14. Tanta |
| 7. Damiatra | 15. Zagasik |
| 8. Galiub | 16. Zifta & Mitg |

It is reasonable to think that the necessary datestamps were ordered to provide the newly established offices to be run by the new Egyptian Postal Administration:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 17. Abu Homus | 20. Ramle (Bacos) |
| 18. Kafre Dawar | 21. Teh el Baroud |
| 19. Minet el Gam | 22. Tookh |

and

The three offices opened abroad in 1865:

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- 23. Gedda - 8th June 1865
- 24. Costantinopoli - 19th June 1865
- 25. Smirne - 14th November 1865

From these 25 offices, which theoretically used the new handstamps of the second transition period we have unfortunately very few traces.

From the original sixteen offices ex Posta Europea we have only nine recorded:

- Alessandria - 18th April 1865
- Cairo - 19th April 1865
- Damiata - 3rd December 1865
- Mansura - 22nd April 1865
- Michalla - 18th November 1865
- Suez - 19th April 1865
- Tanta - 4th September 1865
- Zagasik - 18th April 1865
- Zifta & Mitg- 31st July 1865.

We have no record at all from the six offices added by the new Egyptian Postal Administration inside the country, and, by the way, we are still wondering whether these offices worked during the First Transition Period, having seen neither the datestamps of the Posta Europea nor the new Poste Vice Reali Egiziane.

From the three offices opened abroad only Costantinopoli has been recorded - 14th September 1865.

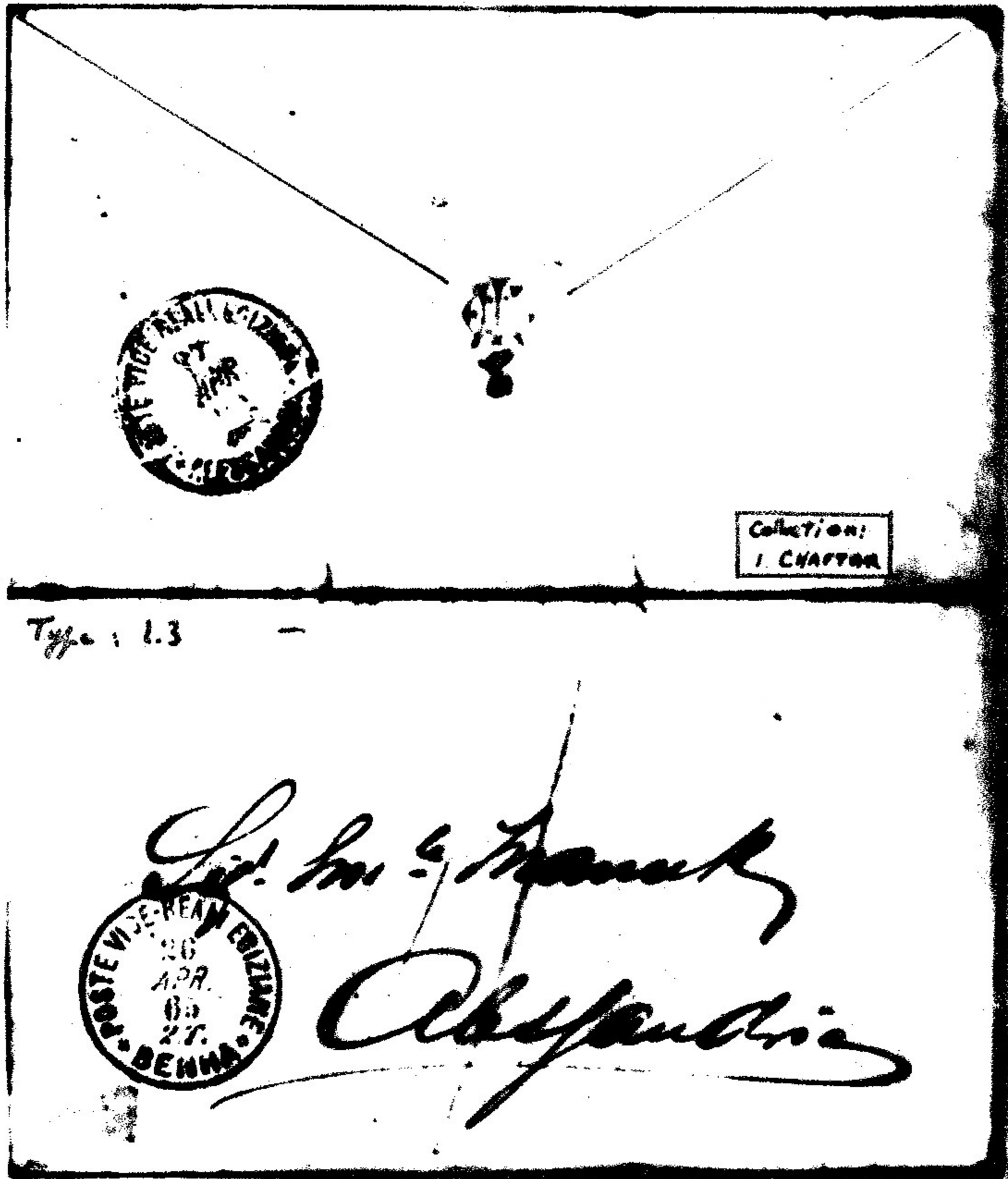
We have, then, up to the writing of these lines recorded only 10 from the 25 offices which were working during 1865. we hope in the future to unearth some material from the remaining 15 offices.

It seems that little attention was given by philatelists to the cancellations of the Poste Vice Reali Egiziane of 1865 and it is probably for that reason they are so scarce. Philatelists gave more effort to gather the cancellations of the Posta Europea during the last days of their use - the first transition period - so they are relatively more often met with. Perhaps also the entires or covers bearing no adhesive stamps attracted less attention.

During last summer, I met in hands of a well known dealer some covers of the third issue, with the ordinary one piastre rate, and two stampless covers, one with the duty fee 80 on the face, and another with the scarce and till then unrecorded Poste Vice Reali Egiziane Benha - 1865 - The dealer did not wish to part with this lot, but I succeeded to convince him to let me have them.

The Benha cover, which is illustrated on the next page, is fancy, very neat and attractive. It was addressed to Sign. Manuk, Alessandria. On the face of the cover and at the lower left corner is struck in black the 'Poste Vice Reali Egiziane Benha dated 26 April 65 2T - Type 1-3.

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Type: 1.3

Collection:
I. CHAFFOR



POSTE VICE-REALI EGIZIANE BENHA 26 APR. 65 2T.

(Earliest Date recorded)

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On the back is the arrival mark 'Poste Vice Reali Egiziane
Alessandria' dated 27 April 1865 2P Type 1-3, also struck in black.

I am glad to have added this Benha 1865 cancellation to the ten already recorded and I hope that every ardent philatelist will go through his collection or neighbouring collections, dealers stocks, and try to unearth philatelic material to further our researches on the early days of the history of our National Postal Administration.

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MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members to the Circle:-

E.S.C. No. 175	G. W. Bostwick M.D.	P.O. Box 388 Newcastle Maine 04553 U.S.A.
176	E. L. Anderson	55 Hampton Road TYNEMOUTH Northumberland
177	A. M. Neu	120 Vermilyea Avenue New York N.Y. 10034 U.S.A.
178	L. G. Zoukis	11 K. Theotoki Street P. Psychiko Athens Greece
179	T. K. Ruebush M.D.	9712 Elrod Road Kensington Maryland 20795 U.S.A.
180	S. A. Goudsmit	C/o American Physical Socy., Brookhaven National Laboratory, Building 179a Upton New York 11973 U.S.A.

The following changes of address are noted:-

E.S.C. No. 156	W. O'Reilly	Thornton Court, Thornton Cross RYDE Isle of Wight P.O. 33 1PQ
144	Gordon B. Garrett	P.O. Box 3875 Torrance California 90503 U.S.A.

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INDIAN FORCES IN THE 1882 CAMPAIGN IN EGYPT

by

John Firebrace (E.S.C. No. 71)

The two lists which follow record the only examples of Indian adhesives and postal markings which I have been able to trace being used in the 1882 Campaign in Egypt.

The first list records the Indian Field Force Post Office datestamps and the second list records the Indian adhesives cancelled by either Indian or British datestamps.

Serials on the right are references to left hand serials on the other list.

I am most grateful to R.S. Blomfield (E.S.C. No. 15), Dr. S. F. Contractor, Lt. Col. J. R. Danson, M.C., T.D., (E.S.C. No. 32), H. W. Heath and to the Keeper of the record for permission to record and publish details of their material.

FIELD FORCE POST OFFICE EGYPT

<u>Serial</u>	<u>F.F.P.O. No. 1</u>	<u>Adhesive Serial</u>
1.	Sep. 9 2 annas (defective) 1865 with $\frac{1}{2}$ anna 1873 vertical pair tied by FFPO No. 1 and 'B' in circle of bars, to Umballa, India. Written by Lt. Col. T. van Strawbanzee, R.A.	1 3
2.	Sep. 27 a piece shown to Egypt Study Circle on 3rd October 1942. No details now known.	
	<u>F.F.P.O. No. 2</u>	
3.	Sep 15 2 annas 1865	4
4.	Sep 16 2 annas 1865	5
5.	Sep 16 2 annas 1865 ('ep' of month only shown)	6
6.	Sep 21 backstamp of origin. 3 annas 1882 tied by 'B' in circle of bars and additional horizontal pen marks, to Umballa, India. Written by Lt. Col. T. van Strawbanzee.	
7.	Sep 23 backstamp of origin. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. blue Great Britain plate 23, cancelled by B.A.P.O. Egypt SP 25 no code letter, addressed to 5, North Street, David Street, Edinburgh.	
8.	Oct 1 backstamp of origin. 1 piastre Egypt 1879 issue, cancelled by Caire cds 2 OC 82, cover also showing B.A.P.O. Egypt OC 2 82, no code. Written by Major C.H. Pennington, Bengal Staff Corps.	

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INDIAN ADHESIVES

<u>Serial</u>				<u>FFPO Serial</u>
1.	$\frac{1}{2}$ anna 1873	pair on cover with 2 annas	F.F.P.O.1	1
		with Serial 3.	SEP 9	
2.	9 pies 1882	B.A.P.O.	OC 5 82 no code	
3.	2 annas 1865	F.F.P.O.1	SEP 9 with serial 1	1
4.		F.F.P.O.2	SEP 15	3
5.		F.F.P.O.2	SEP 16	4
6.		F.F.P.O.2	EP 16	5
7.		B.A.P.O.	OC 4 82 no code	
8.		B.A.P.O.	OC 4 82 no code	
9.		B.A.P.O.	OC ? 8 no code	

Note: Copies of the above have gone to the India Study Circle, and the Army Postal History Society of India.



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