

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

Volume VIII No. 5

Whole Series No. 89

MARCH 1974

FUTURE MEETINGS

- | | | |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 6th April 1974 | 1922 Crown Overprints | Peter Andrews. |
| 1st June 1974 | The British in Egypt
1882 and 1884-85. | John Firebrace. |
| 3rd August 1974 | Hotel Postmarks - Part 2
Hotels of the Upper Nile and other
proprietary markings | Jim Benians. |
| 5th October 1974 | Presidents Day (Details of this special
meeting will be given in the 'QC'. | |
| 7th December 1974 | Interpostal Seals - Part 2 | D. Clarke and B. Conway. |

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John Henry Edwards Gilbert, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L..

(E.S.C. No. 50)

John Gilbert, our Chairman, died peacefully in hospital at Chichester on the 22nd January 1974, at the age of 72.

Newspapers and the world philatelic press have referred to him as 'an internationally known stamp collector', as a 'distinguished philatelist' and as 'the happy philatelist'. To us, of the Study Circle, these commendations only partly do justice to the wonderful man John Gilbert was. His consideration, understanding and kindness were given with such a natural warmth and sincerity, that one was always at ease with him.

In 1971 John signed the Congress Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, a fitting reward for his great service to philately. He was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, which he joined in 1944 and of which he became a Council member in 1947. He was also a member or officer of a number of other philatelic societies.

In 1970 at 'Philympia' he gained a gold medal award for his Egypt, and a special commendation for his research and study of the Air Mails of Egypt. In 1971 he gained another gold award in South Africa. By naming one of the 1872 20 paras lithographs the 'Gilbert' touch, I believe the Circle conferred on John one of the highest appreciations that can be given a philatelist by his peers.

John was not only a great philatelist, his sense of community care was very keen, as one would expect from a man of his calibre. He was a member or officer of Rotaries, Chambers of Commerce and hospitals. He was engaged in helping a neighbour when he suffered the fatal recurrence of the heart attack that had laid him low a few years earlier.

To his three sons, their wives, and his grandchildren, all of whom he dearly loved, we send our condolences.

E.L.G. MacArthur.

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"PRESIDENT'S DAY"

It has been agreed, in meeting, that the Circle will inaugurate a yearly philatelic and social event to be known as "President's Day", the intention being to display selected material from a notable Egypt collection and to entertain our ladies and guests.

In the first instance our President, Lt. Col. J.R. Danson, M.C., has kindly agreed to display some of his unique material.

Saturday the 5th October 1974, at 2. p.m., has been agreed as the most suitable day and time, but the venue will have to be advised by special notice later.

United Kingdom members, and members from overseas, are kindly requested to advise me, as soon as possible, of their intention to attend, so that the organising committee may have some idea as to how many are to be entertained.

May I also take this opportunity to ask members whom I have not met, and particularly any member from abroad, to advise me of any intended visit to London, so that I may have the pleasure of arranging a meeting. Telephone 01-876-1910 (any time), or by post to 34, West Park Avenue, Kew Gardens, Richmond on Thames, Surrey.

E.L.G. MacArthur.

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LIST OF MEMBERS

It is some considerable time since we published a list of members, and it is considered that such a list would be of more interest if it be possible to include therein member's specific interests.

As this information is not to hand, it would be of help if members would please send to me, the editor - or to the secretary - brief details of the subjects within Egypt Philately in which they have a study in hand, or in which they would welcome information. This, please, as soon as possible but no later than 1st July 1974 to ensure inclusion.

Should any member prefer that his address should be excluded from this list, please inform me again by the 1st July 1974.

Editor

QC VIII

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Charles W. Minett presided as acting Chairman, and the following members were present:-

Major E.L.G. MacArthur, M.C., D. Clarke, K.C. Brown, J.S. Horesh, R.A.G. Potter, P.E. Whetter, C. Gilders, D. Turton, B. Conway, and P. Andrews. Apologies for absence were received from J. Benians, R. Wheatley and G.P. Green.

The Acting Chairman opened the meeting by announcing the passing of our dear Chairman, John Gilbert, and the meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect to a valued friend who will be so sadly missed by us all.

Nominations then took place for the position of Chairman, and subsequent voting showed that Major E.L.G. MacArthur, M.C., (E.S.C. No. 125) had received majority support, and he was duly elected.

The meeting then passed to the continuation by 'Mac' of his study of the 20 paras and 1 piastre of the 1872 issue. Plating of the 20 paras by means of the perforations was shown in some detail, the method having been already explained in the 'Quarterly Circular'.

'Mac' also outlined the way in which he proposes to tackle the 1 piastre, and requested a sight of any copies of this value typographed, perforated $1\frac{1}{3}$, that members might have.

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MEMBERSHIP

The following changes of address are noted:-

E.S.C. No. 148 K. Davis 28 Stafford Crescent, Moorgate,
Rotherham, Yorkshire. S60 3DG.

149 Dr. A. Winter Residence Buffalo, 4 Rue du Stade,
92120 Montrouge, France.

162 T. Aizawa C/o Hokkaido Kaikan,
Kita - 1, Nishi - 6
Chuo-Ku, Sapporo,
Hokkaido, Japan.

Congratulations to the following members who have won awards in the Annual Cup Competition of the National Philatelic Society:-

Challenge Trophy - J.A. Grimmer (ESC No. 164)
'Egypt - the Third Issue'.

Stanley Gibbons Award - J.E.O. Hobbs (ESC No. 151)
'Egypt - British Forces Postal Seals'.

QC VIII

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NOTES FROM THE KEEPER OF THE PHILATELIC RECORD

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

In the December 1973 'Quarterly Circular' (pp. 36-37) appeared a report of the Circle's visit to the Oriental Philatelic Association London on the 11th December. The importance of John Firebrace's material, "The British in Egypt and the Sudan - 1882-1885", shown on that occasion, and for much of which he subsequently gained a silver-gilt award at this year's 'Stampex', justifies the following detailed listing. (See also 'Quarterly Circular' Volume VII Number 12, December 1972, page 209).

1882 Arabi Revolt

1. Original letter on red-crested War Office paper from Sir Garnet Wolseley to his mother. This prophetic letter from the General-Commanding-in-Chief commences: "Alexandria, 19th August 1882. My Darling Mother, I leave this (here?) in H.M.S. Salamis at noon to-day for the purpose of landing at Aboukir Bay - you will see a village marked Tel el Kebir about 28 or 30 miles west of Ismailia. It is there that I hope to measure swords with Mr. Arabi."
(H.M.S. Salamis was the General's dispatch vessel with the British Fleet, and the decisive battle took place at Tel el Kebir on the 13th September).
2. 20 paras (1879) postal stationery postcard with manuscript date 21st Aug. 1882 cancelled on arrival with obsolescent "10" in diamond obliterator of the London Inland office. (Illustrated).
3. Cover franked with two Queen Victoria 1d. lilacs and a $\frac{1}{2}$ d. green (Officer's rate $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.) with the cds 'ISMAILIAH/24 AO 82 TI' just tying the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp - to Newport, Mon.. Each of the adhesives was cancelled on arrival in England by the obsolescent "28" in diamond obliterator of the London Inland office. The cover is backstamped 'PORT SAID' (25th) and 'Newport' (31st August). (See Illustration).



2



3



4 7 13 23

4. Unfranked cover inscribed "Active Service in Egypt/No Stamps available" and with the cds of 'ISMAILIAH/ 27 AO 82 TI' to England. On arrival it received a handstruck '2½' postage due mark. (i.e. it was charged at the single rate). (See illustration).
5. 20 paras (1879) postal stationery postcard cancelled with the double-stamp "ALEXANDRIE/ TI / AOU.28/ 82" and "A" in Bars, from an officer in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, to Scotland.
6. A similar card cancelled with the cds of "SUEZ/DEPART/13 SE 82 TI" from an officer to England.
7. Cds of the "BRITISH ARMY POST OFFICE / EGYPT" dated "B/SP 2/82" on an unfranked cover endorsed 'No Stamps Available', to Scotland. This bears an unframed 'T' applied in Egypt but a single rate handstamp '2½' postage due mark applied in England. (As illustration 4). (See also illustration 7).



7-14 (incl).



7, 8.



8.

8. A similar cds dated "B/SP 2/82" on an unfranked soldier's cover to Sussex, with the unframed "T" applied in Egypt, but a single-rate handstamp "ld" applied in England. (See illustrations).
9. A similar cds dated "B/SP 5/82" cancelling a Queen Victoria 2½d. blue (Plate 22) on cover to England. (Illustration).
10. A similar cds dated "SP 8/82" (no code letter) cancelling a 20 paras (1879) postal stationery post-card to London. The writer refers to the wounding of a Lieutenant Holland, XIX Hussars, whilst on reconnaissance. Although this officer is not listed officially as having taken part in the Campaign there is a report of this incident in 'Cassell's History of the War in the Soudan' (Chapter XIV). Apparently Lieutenant Holland had been attached to the XIX Hussars from the XV Hussars who were not in Egypt.
11. A similar cds dated "A/SP 15/82" cancelling a Queen Victoria 1d. lilac on a soldier's cover to London.
12. A similar cds dated "SP29/82" cancelling a 20 paras (1879) postal stationery post-card to London.
13. A similar cds dated "OC 1/82" on an unfranked cover endorsed "Wxpeditionary Force Egypt no stamps" to London. This received a

single-rate "2½" postage due mark on arrival in England.
(As illustration 4).

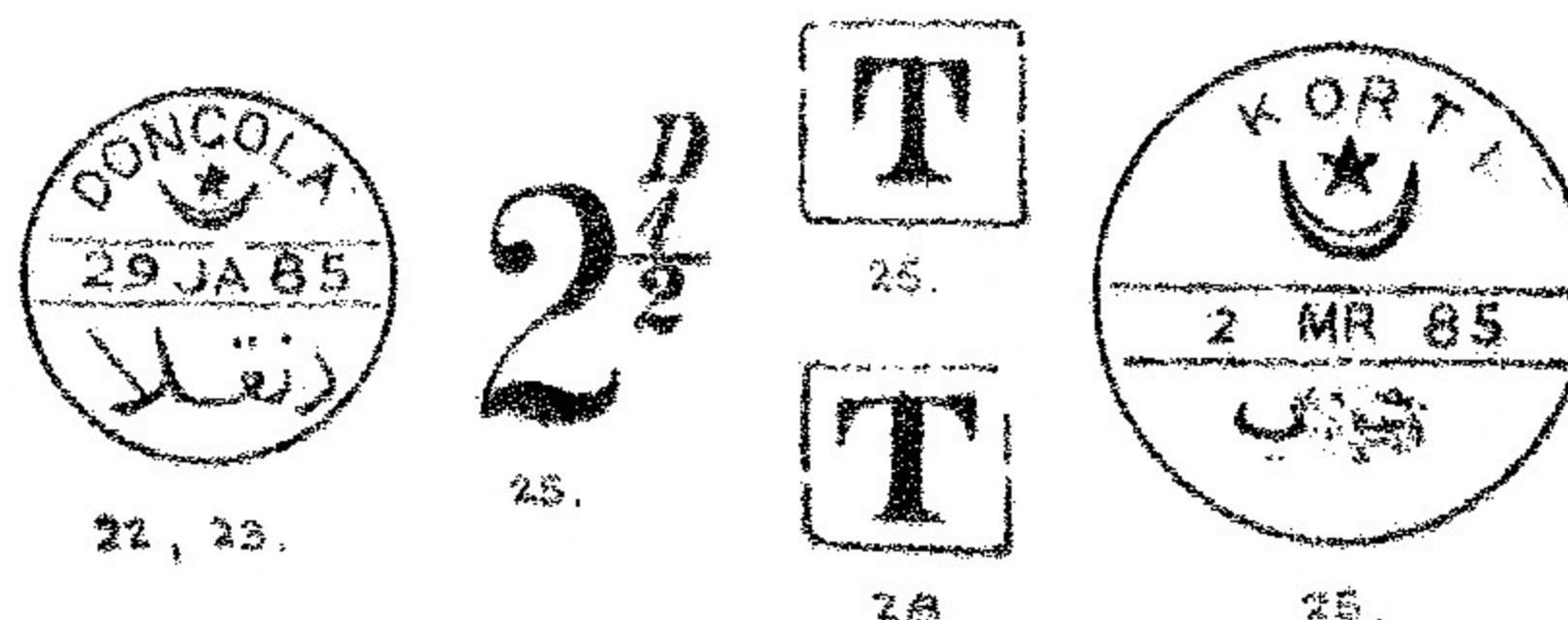
14. A similar cds dated "OC 4/82" on an unfranked soldier's cover to London, with a manuscript 'I' added in England.
15. Indian adhesives on two covers of 9th and 21st September 1882 bearing the "FIELD FORCE POST OFFICE/EGYPT" datestamps Nos. 1 and 2. (These were described in 'Quarterly Circular' Volume VIII Number 2 page 23 under serials 1 and 6 and illustrated on page 24).
16. Cover franked with Queen Victoria 2½d. blue (Plate 22) cancelled by an unframed 9 x 9 retta and with, alongside, the cds of "ALEXANDRIE/DEPART/17 OC 82 TII", to England. Impressed on the flap is "H.M.S. Thalia".
17. Soldier's cover bearing a Queen Victoria 1d. lilac cancelled on arrival by the "PLYMOUTH SHIP LETTER" cds dated "NO 22/82. From a Sergeant in the Royal Marine Light Infantry, to Chatham.
18. Original letter from Sir Garnet Wolseley at Cairo dated 6th October 1882 to the Queen's Private Secretary, Horace Seymour, in which the General refers to his proposed title.
19. Original letter from Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour aboard H.M.S. Helicon (his despatch vessel with the Fleet) at Alexandria dated 31st October 1882 to Major-General Sir Archibald Alison who by this time had assumed command of the Army of Occupation following the departure of Wolseley for England.

1883-1885 THE SUDAN.

20. Original letter from the ill-fated Hicks Pasha whilst he was at Khartoum, dated 28th July 1883 it is addressed to the Editor of the 'Graphic'. This item was accompanied by photographs of Hicks and his staff.
21. 20 paras (1879) postal stationery post-card cancelled with the cds of "KHARTOUM/19 FE 84 II" from General Gordon addressed to Jerusalem. In addition there were two Gordon letters each bearing his personal arabic seal.

1885. The Nile Expedition.

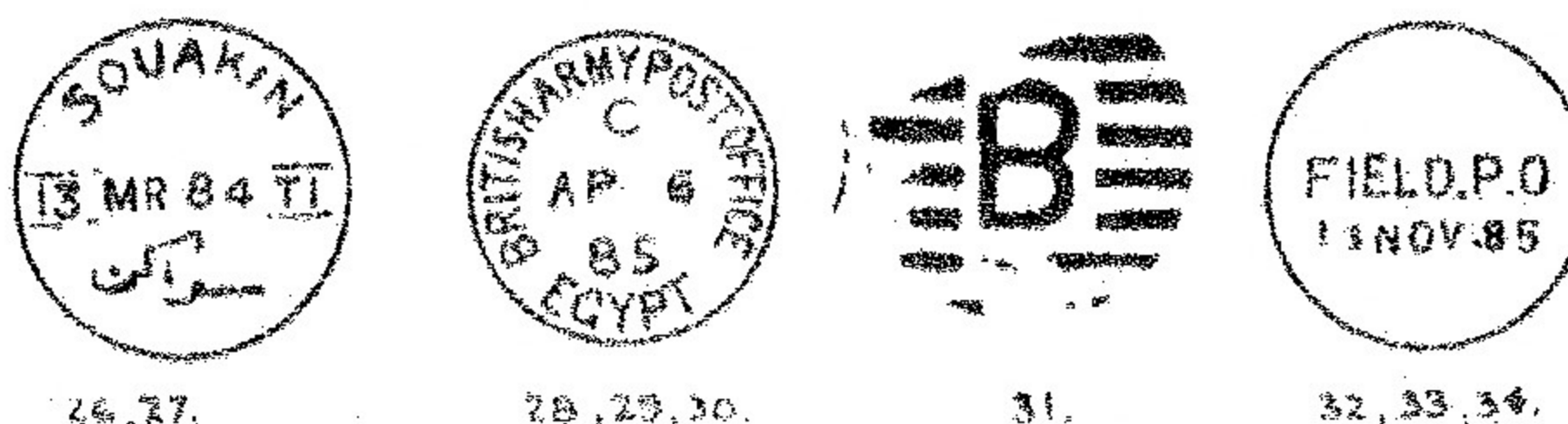
22. 20 paras (1879) postal stationery post-card with the cds of "DONGOLA/29 JA 85" addressed to Edinburgh. (Illustration).
23. Unfranked officer's cover with cds of "DONGOLA/26 MR 85" to Wales. This received the single-rate "2½" postage due mark in England. (Illustration as 4).
24. Original letter from General Wolseley at Camp Korti dated 5th February 1885, to his Nanny on learning of Gordon's death.



25. Unfranked cover inscribed "On active service no stamps" with cds of "KORTI/Star & Crescent/2 MR 85" to Wales. This received a framed "T" mark and subsequently the single-rate "2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d" postage due handstamp on arrival. (Illustration).

1884-1886. The Eastern SUDAN.

26. Cover (with O.H.M.S. deleted) franked with a pair of 20 paras surcharged 5 piastres (1884) - i.e. the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate - cancelled with the cds of "SOUAKIN/13 MR 84 TI" from the 8th Earl of Airlie to London. This was written on the day of the battle of Tamai. (Illustration).
27. 20 paras (1879) postal stationery post-card cancelled with the cds of "SOUAKIN/31 JL 84 TI" from an officer seconded to the Egyptian Army, to London.
28. Cds of the "BRITISH ARMY POST OFFICE/EGYPT" dated "C/AP 6/85" on an unfranked cover endorsed "No stamps Active Service Suakin Field Force", to Cairo. This received a framed "T" mark and later a 1 piastre postage due adhesive affixed at Cairo. (Illustration).



29. A similar cds dated "A/AP 29/85" cancelling a Queen Victoria 1d. lilac on a soldier's cover to Chatham.
30. A similar cds dated "A/MY 6 85" cancelling a Queen Victoria 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. lilac (1883 issue) on an officers cover to Dunoon.
31. Indian 1 anna postal stationery envelope with additional 2 annas adhesive cancelled "B" in 8 bars, to India. This was back-stamped at Suakin with the cds of "FIELD P.O /27 APR 85".

32. Indian 9 pies 'Soldier's and Sailor's' postal stationery envelope cancelled with the cds of "FIELD P.O /18 (16?) NOV 85" to India. (Illustration).
33. Incoming cover from Bradford (19 Apr. 1886) addressed to "The Principal Medical Officer, The Camp, Suakin" and backstamped with the cds of "FIELD P.O/4 MAY 86".
34. A number of Military Telegraph stamps cancelled QI (Quarantine Island) NO 3 85 and SK (Suakin) NO 16 85.

Note: It would be of great help to the furtherance of this study if owners of similar material were to provide full details and where possible photo-copies either direct to John Firebrace or to me, the Keeper of the Philatelic Record.

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MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members:-

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|--|
| ESC No. 181 | Charles F. Hass | P.O. Box 106, Jenkintown,
Pennsylvania, U.S.A. |
| 182 | R.E. Harris | 'The Firs', Wepstead,
Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. |
| 183 | J.J. Jensen | Thingvalla Alle 27, DK. 2300,
Copenhagen S., Denmark. |
| 184 | D. Grover | 67 Spinney Hill Drive,
Loughborough, Leics. |
| 185 | J.S. Forder | 20 Dorchester Road
Ipswich, Suffolk. |
| 186 | J.E. Manchip White | 1226 Cincinnati Ave., El Paso,
Texas, 79902, U.S.A. |
| 187 | R. Hewlett | The Hermitage, Village of Box,
Chippenham, Wiltshire. |
| 188 | J. Sears | 496 Uxbridge Road, Hatch End,
Pinner, Middlesex. |
| 189 | Samir S. Raouf | 27 Princes Court,
Knightsbridge, London SW3. |

1923- 1926 FIRST PORTRAIT ISSUERETOUCHES AND FLAWS

by

Ibrahim Chافتar (ESC No. 42)Continued from Volume VIII page 44.

It was only in April 1942 that Dr. Byam published in the 'London Philatelist' his eminent study 'The First Portrait Issue of Egypt - 1923/24'. (!).

Dr. Byam in an introduction stated how the issue was chosen and explained in detail the retouches and flaws he recognized as soon as the issue appeared. He compared his observations with those of A. J. Sefi and Douglas Mac Neille and he arrived at the conclusion that some of the sheets studied by Mac Neille differed from the sheets in his hands. He specially refuted the theory that the no control sheet was a previous stste of a C/23 sheet.

He mentioned that ten positions of the control for the 5 milliemes had been recognized but also that he had only three sheets of that value:

One complete sheet no control.

A block of the three top rows (3 x 10) from a similar sheet.

Two other sheets mentioned in his sale catalogue with no indication of control numbers.

He did not mention if the no control sheet was included in the '10 positions' above referred to, and he added that: ".....we have no evidence that only one positive for the 5 milliemes was used".

Dr. Byam also stated: ".....an imperfect carbon was used, or that the positive of 100 stamp-size was on its last legs when the carbon was taken to prepare the cylinder, and a new positive probably did duty when preparing the cylinder for the stamps bearing control B/24".

I again draw attention to 'the positive of 100 stamp-size'.

The Palace sales in 1954 threw new light on the 1923/26 issue: all values were offered in sheets with no control, proving that sheets

of all values existed with this variety and these were catalogued in the 1956 edition of the Zeheri Catalogue by A. Mazloun.

The sale also included two sheets of the 5 milliemmes variety imperforate, one with control B/24. The complete sheets of the 5 milliemmes controls C/23 and B/25 do not seem to have been sent to the Palace collection, as there is no mention of these in the Koubbeh sale catalogue.

On different occasions members of the Egypt Study Circle have shown normal sheets with different watermark positions and the late E.H. Proctor (ESC No. 64) was in charge of the study of this most interesting issue.

This First Portrait Issue of Egypt 1923/26, which was one of the first of any country for which the photogravure process of printing had been employed on a large scale, deserves further detailed study in following the steps of production and looking at the measures taken by Harrison and Sons to overcome the difficulties.

There is no doubt that the flaws and blemishes which were so numerous in the early printings required much retouching but the process was finally mastered and we see that the Egyptian issue 1925/34 produced on similar machines in Egypt by the same process (except the 'corn grain' was replaced by a 'screen') was practically without similar major varieties.

This fact is also confirmed by the stamps produced for Great Britain by Harrison and Sons in 1934, practically without major printing varieties.

In the Summer of 1940 I had some spare time in the hot evenings during a mission at the Sugar Factory of Kom-Ombo (near Assouan) and started scrutinizing some 32,000 used stamps comprising approximately 10,000 each of the 20, 50 and 100 milliemmes, and 2,000 of the 200 milliemmes all of the 1923/26 issue. This huge stock of Mr. D.L. Angeloglou was put at my disposal by this helpful gentleman.

I gathered a good quantity of flaws and retouches of these intermediate high values of which there were practically no complete sheets on the Cairo market. I shared my findings with the owner to whom I returned the packets, he gently refused to charge me for what I retained. (All Angeloglou's stock was destroyed by fire and water in the Cairo fire, 1952).

As a matter of statistics the defects and retouches totalled 5 kinds on the 20 milliemmes, 17 on the 50 milliemmes, 22 on the 100 milliemmes, and 27 for the 200 milliemmes. All the shades are represented and some flaws and retouches are peculiar to a definite shade. Some of them are minute and although the size of the stamps of this category is bigger than that of the low values, it is obvious that the

working staff was not willing to reject the pane but to try to save it.

One of these flaws is spectacular and deserves description. It is on a 100 milliemes purple of the earliest shade which shows the left frame line of the oval partly broken and the background between the chin and the left frame line of the oval badly damaged.

In this stamp (A) it is puzzling why the defect has not been repaired on the gelatine layer after removing the carbon tissue before etching, or why this defect was not repaired on the copper surface of the cylinder after etching. Has this defect developed during printing? Anyhow, I never succeeded in finding another copy to date and I have never stopped hunting.

In the meantime, I found a used copy (B) same shade and seemingly from the same pane with a similar flaw, but not identical to the first one. The background near the N.E. side, between the head and the oval, has the same 'melted gelatine' appearance. The variety is very striking and no attempt appears to have been made to remedy the defect. (See illustration on next page).

These two units were shown amongst my other retouches and flaws to Dr. Byam and my other colleagues of the Egypt Study Circle on the occasion of the 'London International Stamp Exhibition 1950'. I explained that my aim was to help the study of the 1923 issue and gather the retouches and flaws of these intermediate high values so long as they are still available in used condition - the sheets and large blocks having been sold out.

I do not intend to go on describing the other retouches and flaws in my possession here. What I want to ask is: Is it not time now that we are in a better relative position to start again studying this fascinating issue?

Mr. E. C. Ehrmann in his paper published in 'Stamp Collecting' August 1964 (!) mentions that the first photogravure press used at Hayes by Harrison and Sons was a "Johannisberg B.T.I." machine (*) and that kind had a printing surface 570 x 700 millimetres i.e. 570 mms. circumference of the cylinder and 700 mms. in length. If we take into consideration that the dimensions of the 1923/26 stamps produced are for the low values approximately 21 x 25 mms., and for the high values 25 x 30 mms. we see that there was room on the cylinders for four panes of 100 (10 x 10) for the low values and only two panes for the high

! E.G. Ehrmann A.I.I.P. "Harrisons, Stamp Printers. An account of their early work to mark the 30th Anniversary of the First G.B. Photogravure Stamps". Stamp Collecting 21/28 August 1964.

* "B.T.I." stands for "Bogentiefdruck" and denotes flat-bed feed for cut sheets. Same reference as above.



Photograph No; 3

STAMP A. - GELATINE SHIFT.

A portion of the gelatine from the lower west side of the colored oval has been removed and deposited further to the west (gelatine shift). Also a part of the neighbouring background of the portrait has been damaged (melted gelatine). No attempt has been made to correct this visible defect.

STAMP B. - MELTED GELATINE.

This other copy shows a flaw giving the appearance of the colored background of the tarbouche, and part of the colored oval (N.E. side), as originating from a 'melted gelatine'.

As the colour of this stamp is identical to STAMP A we assume that the flaw is from the same printing surface which, we suppose, was discarded.

NO OTHER COPIES HAVE BEEN FOUND IN 10,000 USED STAMPS
EXAMINED IN 1940.

values, provided the panes are placed sideways: the length of the stamps alongside the length of the cylinders. This can be proven by the shifting of the colour impression on certain stamps which show a blurring of the colour in the direction of the rotation of the printing surface (clockwise).

These dimensions of the B.T.I. cylinder allow imposition of four panes of 100 (10 x 10) low values, but it is not said that this was eventually the case for the 1923/26 issue printed by Harrison. There is a possibility that their printed sheet was composed of only one or two post office sheets of 100 units (10 x 10) each.

I have published in *L'Orient Philatelique* (*) some of my notes taken in 1947-48 under the guidance of a technician employed by the Survey Department, Cairo, and responsible in relation to the Egyptian photogravure technique. I take the opportunity to give here more precision on that particular point: the multipositive and its imposition. I must add that the following notes concern the Egyptian practice - but we must remember that the machines in use in Egypt in 1925/37 were practically similar to the machines used by Harrison for the 1923/26 issue.

My notes read:-

"The Master positive comprising the complete imposed panes of stamps is the final stage in the photographic work. The Master positive is obtained semi-mechanically by exposing the unit negative in a 'step and repeat' machine which builds up the rows of individual stamp images at precise intervals horizontally and vertically. The time of each exposure and the illumination is controlled automatically so that each separate image is identical.

Until 1937 the stamp imposition was adapted to suit the cylinder sizes of the photogravure machines in use, all the low and intermediate high values being in two panes each of 100 stamps (10 x 10). The machine sheets were divided before being perforated, the post office sheet thus consisting of one pane of 100 stamps.

The 500 milliemmes and £E1 value stamps were imposed and printed in sheets of 25 (5 x 5) only.

The stamps required for the manufacture of stamp booklets were imposed in a special manner to facilitate the make up and cutting of the books. This imposition comprised four panes each of 60 (6 x 10) stamps of which in each pane 3 x 10 were upright and the adjacent 3 x 10 were inverted."

Now in 1972 we have on the other hand the marvellous book "Fundamentals of Philately" by L.N. and M. Williams (1971)** and I hasten to give the definition these eminent authors give for the expression 'multi-positive':

* *L'Orient Philatelique* Number 119 January/April 1968, page 13-15.

"Note on 1927 Fouad Issue £E1. value".

QC VIII ** Published by the American Philately Society, USA 1971.

"Multipositive or Master positive or Dispositive is a large $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick photographic Glass Plate - at least as large as the eventual printed sheet of stamps - and the images are produced photographically with the aid of a 'step and repeat' camera".

We see that the multipositive or master positive is at least as large as the eventual printed sheet of stamps. This means that there can be one, two and possibly four panes of 100 (10 x 10) on a B.T.I. cylinder for the low values and that the 'no control' sheets of the different low values could be one, two, and perhaps four on the same cylinder; and this would explain why Dr. Byam, A.J. Sefi and D. MacNeille were finding that their 'sheets' did not correspond with each other. Evidently there is also the possibility that the printing sheet was composed of only one post office sheet.

John Revell (ESC No. 78) in his article well exposed and documented "The King Fouad Portrait Issue of 1925/34" - printed first in the Quarterly Circular and then reprinted in L'Orient Philatelique (!) points also to the multipositive as a pane of 100 (10 x 10) when he says:-

"To produce the multipositive a negative of the selected photograph is placed in a step and repeat camera to produce in reverse positive on a glass plate a pane of one hundred subjects..."

But he added that on the cylinder there were two panes of 100.

Although John Revell explains that there is a difference in the shape of a specific control, this had its origin in that the variation sometimes denotes whether the pane of 100 is from the top or bottom of the sheet of 200 stamps. This may also denote that the control blocks are from different cylinders as many cylinders were made during the experimental stages.

Concerning the two panes on the cylinder Mr. Revell does not mention how these two panes (which may adjoin side by side and not always one on top of the other) have been produced: by successive imposition by the step and repeat camera? - which would produce two multipositives absolutely different one from the other; or imposed by two carbon tissues obtained from one and the same multipositive which will give twin brothers?

On comparing the author's statements referred to we note that none stated the number of post office sheets (100 units) on a machine sheet. They all mention a multipositive of 100 units only. Dr. Byam only suspected that we have no evidence that there was one multipositive only on the cylinder.

Now if there is one multipositive of 100 units, how is it repeated twice or more often on a cylinder: two or more carbon tissues exposed

! "Quarterly Circular" No. 66/67 (Volume VI) page 64/71.
! "L'Orient Philatelique" No. 119 January/April 1968, page 16-39.

from the same multipositive of 100 and adjusted on the cylinder? - this will give rise to tremendous difficulties in registering the two or more carbon tissues; besides all the delicate and exacting handling required.

Is it not easier to impose two or more panes of 100 units by the step and repeat machine?

The 5 milliemmes stamp was certainly the value chosen to make the experiments as the bulk of the yearly order is for that value - about 10,000,000 stamps according to my estimates based on statistics published in 'Les Postes en Egypte' by the General Post Office 1934.

This quantity which makes 100,000 post office sheets a year needed certainly many cylinders to be fulfilled. Philatelically, Dr. Byam recognised 10 different controls of C/23 and no control, 5 different of B/24, and 6 different of B/25.

It is possible that one or two cylinders were produced with one multipositive of 100 units to make experiments, but probably not more because it would be uneconomical. Thousands of used copies produced very few of the varieties, retouches or flaws found on the no control or some of the early C/23 sheets.

The experimental cylinders had so many defects that they certainly were discarded from the cylinders accepted for the actual printing.

We here in Egypt came to different results as for the number of different controls recognised for the 5 milliemmes value. In a small booklet published in 1941 Gabriel Boulad (ESC No. 66) writes that the different controls are 19 for C/23, 8 for B/24, and 16 for B/25.

To conciliate all the opinions we have to resort to the evidence of what Egyptian philatelists have in hand, here and abroad. I am at the disposal of any serious student on the matter. The recording of the retouches and flaws will certainly help to settle the study.

The matter - an academic discussion - is not so important, but it has its influence on: a) how many multipositives of 100 units were used
and b) the different positions of retouches and flaws originating from these multipositives or from the working cylinders.

TO BE CONTINUED