

E G Y P T   S T U D Y   C I R C L E

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

Volume VIII No. 10

Whole Series No. 94

JUNE 1975

FUTURE MEETINGS

|                   |     |   |
|-------------------|-----|---|
| 2nd August 1975   | ... | Second Farouk Issue,<br>Control Markings.<br>D. Gorver.   |
| 4th October 1975  | ... | 1953 Bar Overprints,<br>The Definitives.<br>W.C. Andrews. |
| 6th December 1975 | ... | To be arranged.   |

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EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

Volume VIII No. 10

Whole Series No. 94

JUNE 1975

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REPORT of the 157th Meeting of the Egypt Study Circle, held at  
'The Peacock' Maiden Lane, London WC2, on the  
5th April 1975.

The Chairman, E.L.G. MacArthur, presided and the following members were present:-

J. Firebrace, R.A.G. Potter, J.S. Horeh, P. Andrews,  
G.P. Green, P.E. Whetter, K.C. Brown, P.E. Woodland, B.E. Conway,  
D.H. Clarke, D. Grover, J. Sears.

Apologies were received from those unable to attend.

The Chairman led the discussion on the 1879 surcharges 5 paras and 10 paras on the 2½ piastres of 1874. This subject had not been discussed for many years and much interest was aroused regarding these issues particularly and some other surcharges in general. As a result of some of the material passed round it was noticed that some certificates which had been issued in the past were not specific as to what had been expertised, and it was agreed that care should be taken in the future for such certificates to be more precise and leave no chance of ambiguity.

A fuller report of the material shown, and the information known about this issue will be published in the Quarterly Circular in due course.

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REPORT of the 158th Meeting of the Egypt Study Circle, held at  
'The Peacock' Maiden Lane, London WC2, on the  
7th June 1975.

The Chairman presided and there were nine members in support. Mrs. Brenda Hide was warmly welcomed, she had been unable to attend our meetings for some considerable time.

The Chairman apologised for the change in subject but David Grover had an unavoidable engagement which had necessitated postponing his talk to the next meeting. Nearly everyone attending meetings had been telephoned about this and had been asked to bring along interesting material to the meeting.

The Chairman showed the latest issue of 'Egyptian Philatelic Topics' the official journal of 'Egypt Philatelists International', and suggested that members previously unaware of this new Society might wish to join. He pointed out that this Society filled a need for collectors of Egypt at a different level to the Study Circle, and that members might find it useful to their interests.

Bert Conway showed a number of pages of very interesting material, and Peter Andrews continued his resume of the Civil Censor Marks.

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A variety of subjects were discussed, and the general opinion of those present was that the meeting had been of great interest and a similar one should be held in the future.

John Sears reported that he had brought some semblance of order to the Air-Mail section of the Record and was congratulated on this achievement. The Chairman remarked that this was the first report received on this work, and he believed that others, including himself, had not yet achieved anything like it! (It should be mentioned that much of the Record had been added to over the years and in many cases the new material had not necessarily been inserted in the various files in correct order - there was also some inevitable mix-ups during the transfer of the masses of material from the late Charles Minetts house).

D.H. Clarke (ESC No. 165) was appointed the new Secretary of the Circle. The Chairman expressed to Ken Brown the grateful thanks of the members for his excellent work and for continuing until a successor could be found, and added that without Ken's able assistance he would have found his own task most difficult, if not impossible.

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#### EDITORIAL POLICY

The Editor wishes to remind members that views and opinions expressed by members in articles and notes are not necessarily endorsed by either him or the officers of the Circle.

The Quarterly Circular exists for the publication of definite articles, facts, and also for the airing of views on matters on which a genuine difference of opinion may exist between members.

Similarly, no endorsement of fact, completeness, or accuracy is implied when members attention is drawn to articles in other philatelic publications.

It would be appreciated if members when submitting material for publication would clearly define in their manuscript that which is fact and that which is surmise or personal opinion.

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INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Kenneth Pierce (ESC No. 167) writes from Duarte, California:-

'The latest listing I can find printed in the Quarterly Circular illustrating, typing and giving dates of usage for the marks used in the FRENCH POST OFFICE IN ALEXANDRIA indicates the following:-

Type XIII 1 recorded September 7, 1839.

I would offer the following update to this listing:-

Type XIII known dates of usage (all 1839)

March 27, April 27, May 13, June 7, June 17  
August 7, August 15, September 7.

These dates are noted in R. Salles 'Paquebots de Mediteranee'. I can personally verify March 27, 1839, and April 27, 1839. The former is in my collection, and I have seen the latter.

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John Firebrace (ESC No. 71) sends the following:-

CANADIAN FORCES POSTMARKS OVERSEAS after 1950.

The Forces Postal History Society Newsletter No. 131 of March/April 1975 includes a listing entitled as above by J.A. Daynes. The references to Egypt are:-

| <u>C.F.P.O. No.</u> | <u>Location</u>               | <u>From</u>  | <u>To</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 32                  | Gaza U.N.E.F.                 | 8 Aug. 1957  |           |
| 33                  | Rafah U.N.E.F.<br>(CAPO 5049) | 16 Apr. 1957 |           |
| 35                  | Abu Suweir                    |              | 1956      |
| 5002                | U.N.E.F.                      |              | 1974      |
| 5049                | U.N.E.F.                      |              |           |

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MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members:-

|            |     |                          |  |
|------------|-----|--------------------------|--|
| E.S.C. No. | 196 | Major Edward C. W. Stagg | 81 Worple Road<br>Laleham<br>STAINES, Middlesex.                   |
|            | 197 | Kurt Wolfsbauer          | Pazmanitengasse 6/11<br>A - 1020 Vienna<br>AUSTRIA.                |
|            | 198 | A. Schmidt               | Stonecroft<br>Leafy Lane<br>Rudloe<br>CORSHAM, Wiltshire.          |
|            | 199 | Robert C Breigh          | 18301 Upper Bay Road<br>APT C-128<br>HOUSTON Texas 77058<br>U.S.A. |
|            | 200 | J. Sewell                | Grayhaven<br>Dawlish<br>Devonshire.                                |

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The following changes of address are noted:-

|     |                   |   |
|-----|-------------------|---|
| 106 | Tevfik Kuyas      | Promenade 52<br>7270 Davos Platz<br>Davos<br>SWITZERLAND.   |
| 107 | Madam Nihal Kuyas | as above.   |
| 167 | K. Pierce         | Director of Systems Design<br>City of Hope<br>1500 East Duarte Road<br>Duarte<br>California 91010<br>U.S.A. |

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Kent.

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THE FRENCH CAMPAIGN IN EGYPT

by

John Firebrace, ESC No. 71The Recordings of the SIOUTH handstruck town stamp

Some confusion may unfortunately have arisen in the size classification of the SIOUTH handstruck town stamp, of which there are two distinct sizes.

The two sizes have been contrasted as follows, in articles illustrating reproductions of these handstamps. Taking the larger as Type I and the smaller as Type II, and referring to the measured lengths of the illustrations (drawings) and the lengths as described, we find:-

|                          |           |           | <u>Type I</u> | <u>Type II</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| L'Orient Philatelique    | Jan. 1949 | measured  | 23.5          | 20 mms.        |
| L'Orient Philatelique    | Apr. 1953 | measured  | 25.5          | 23.5           |
|                          |           | described | 27            | 24.5           |
| L'Echo de la Timbrologie | Jul. 1957 | measured  | 26            | 23.5           |
|                          |           | described | 26            | 23.5           |

The concern is not accuracy, for its own sake, correct to half a millimetre, knowing how difficult it is when considering such factors as over-inking and uneven surfaces at the time of stamping with a handstamp of rubber or similar soft substance, but merely to differentiate between the two types. The lengths quoted above show the difficulties.

As the two handstamps are very similar in appearance (except for their size, it will be readily understood how important it is for illustrations to be true to scale and the dimensions clearly stated. The cover illustrated on page 4 of L'Orient Philatelique for January 1949 (A. Leralle) measures 21 mms. as shown but in fact measures 25.5 mms. and is illustrated thus as lot 885 in the Byam Sales (Robson Lowe). The example on page 65 of Egyptian Topics for May/June 1969 is accurate.

SIOUTH (Assiut) is the only town for which this difficulty occurs as the two types for Alexandria are completely different, one being in lower case lettering. Thanks to the checking of their own collections and of collections known to them by those later acknowledged, the date bracket now stands as follows:-

Type I Large      Earliest date: 17 June 1800  
 Recorded by Cicurel in L'Orient Philatelique  
 April 1953.  
 Confirmed by Boulad, February 1975.

Latest date: 18 January 1801

Recorded by Firebrace April 1973.

Type II Small Earliest date: 30 October 1800

Recorded by Cicurel in L'Orient Philatelique  
April 1953.

Confirmed by Boulad February 1975.

Latest date: 5 March 1801

Recorded by Boulad April 1975.

There is another most interesting aspect which has recently been reported. This concerns the spelling of Type II, examples having been recorded with the second letter resembling a 'Y' and therefore appearing to be spelled 'SYOUTH'. It has been possible to check all known covers of this period, thanks very largely to Jean Boulad, to establish the date bracket of this variety. Details are as follows, with Egypt Study Circle 1975 record numbers:-

Serial 6 31 December 1800. Collection Peter Smith.

This cover is illustrated in Egyptian Topics May/June 1969, page 65. No claim is made that the handstamp reads other than 'SIOUTH', but as printed the top of the 'I' does appear broader than the bottom.

Serial 7 4 January 1801. Collection Leon Dubus. Written  
4 days later.

A photostat of this cover shows both the top and the bottom of the 'I' broader than in the reproduction of Peter Smith's cover. The top of the 'I' is still broader than the bottom and the letter suggests an hour glass more than anything else. Whilst the strike is clear of the address, it is heavy looking and none of the letters are clear cut.

Serial 8 19 January 1801. Collection Rudi Jeidel. Written a  
further 15 days later.

Although the strike slightly overlaps the address, especially the foot of the 'I' and part of the 'H' it is much more clear cut and the serifs are plainly visible in the middle of the word. The second letter has a clearly pronounced 'Y'-look, much more so than the two previous examples.

Serial 9 5 March 1801. Collection E. Antonini.

Boulad has confirmed that the 'letter has a clear SYOUTH'.

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This is the evidence of the covers known to us from 30 December 1800 to 5 March 1801. It is clear from at least 4 January 1801 the second letter more closely resembles a 'Y' than an 'I'. From the evidence I think we should deduce that it is the same handstamp which we have recorded initially from 30 October 1800.

It is obviously a clearly visual and an important state and I suggest that it should be described and referred to as the 'Y'-state and further that it has come about through either a dirty or a worn letter and/or from over-inking.

As a matter of further interest Serial 4, 30 December 1800, collection Rudi Jeidel has a perfect 'I' but a 'T' (in a photograph) that resembles a perfect 'Y'.

Students should be most grateful to Rudi Jeidel for having first reported and exhibited the 'Y' variety. He points out, very rightly, that there are other differences in the strikes of SIOUTH, notably in the letter 'S'. The conclusion that all strikes of Type II come from the same handstamp is not the only one which can be drawn from the presentation of the evidence, but is the one to which the writer subscribes.

My grateful thanks are due to all those whose material is quoted, and also to those who have sent photographs or photostats, factual recordings and their own views.

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Soldiers' Letters by Air-Mail  
at the beginning of World War Two.

In September 1939 Empire Air Mail rates were raised from  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. to 1s.3d. per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. This rate applied to soldiers writing home to England and India was equivalent to 60 milliemes Egyptian.

I am anxious to obtain details of all known covers at this rate, preferably by means of a photo-copy, but failing that the following information is requested:-

- Adhesives making up the 60 milliemes rate.
- Date and datestamp of origin.
- Destination and arrival marks if any.
- Number and type of censormark and censoring officer's name if legible.

The rate was soon reduced to 40 milliemes and 28 October is believed to be the earliest date of the reduced rate. I should be interested to hear of any earlier date for this rate and also the circumstances whereby this reduction came about, with documentary evidence if possible.

John Firebrace.

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THE REGISTRATION LABELS OF EGYPT

by

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

When one turns his attention from the stamp itself to the circumstances of its use, and thus to postal history, it is usually covers and cancellations that come to mind. However, there is another aspect of the postal service, and it is one that is generally badly neglected: non-franking postal labels and postal forms. I refer to such items as registration labels, air mail labels, other directional labels, censorship labels, parcel cards, postal receipts of various types, money order forms, etc.etc.. Some of these have been treated in the philatelic literature, and there is a catalogue (Mueller) of air mail labels which includes those of Egypt, catalogues of interpostal seals, and a list of 'officially sealed' labels (in the Yvert catalogue, and in an article by the late Gabriel Boulad in L'Orient Philatelique). Registration labels seem to have escaped such treatment, in so far as I am aware - if they have indeed been described for Egypt heretofore I offer humble apologies for the oversight!

The accompanying list may be no more than a start. It is based largely on my own collection, with a few additions from some kind correspondents. The earliest date of use so far is November 1906. Because registration labels are not cancelled, it is only from covers that we can determine dates. Somewhat earlier dates may well exist, but I shall be surprised if the limit can be pushed back more than a few years, in view of the fact that I have seen a fair range of registered covers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, all without registration labels. Handstamps directly on the cover were the norm before the introduction of labels, but manuscript notations are sometimes found. Handstamps continue in use up to the present as an alternative to the use of labels.

The variety of styles is surprisingly great, and the means of separation are greater in variety than with postage stamps. So far, no clear pattern or use of style or colour is apparent, other than the variations in language, which roughly parallel those on the stamps. Registration labels are not considered as important as the stamps and in Egypt, as with most other countries, relatively little care was paid to production of esthetically pleasing or standardised labels. The paper is generally of poor quality, and the perforating (or rouletting) is generally poorly done, and in many cases so poorly that it is difficult to be sure that the labels were perforated at all! They seem to have been perforated in pads, especially in later years, so that the holes may be completely blind. The occasional use of perforation with alternating spacing, sometimes referred to as syncopated perforation, is an unusual and interesting aspect.

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Printing appears to have been carried out both typographically and lithographically, although I am not yet prepared to make a categorical statement that any were lithographed. Types A-IV through A?VI were most definitely typographed, and the lines often indent the paper. This group seems most probably to have been set up from loose type. Some of Types A-I to A-II, A-VII, and B-I look like very probable lithographs. The numbers, however, were inserted at a separate operation, and were probably handstamped. Until recent years these numbers were struck in black, later in red. With Type A-II the position of the numbers in the few examples I have seen is quite regular, and I am inclined to believe that they were inserted by a mechanical process.

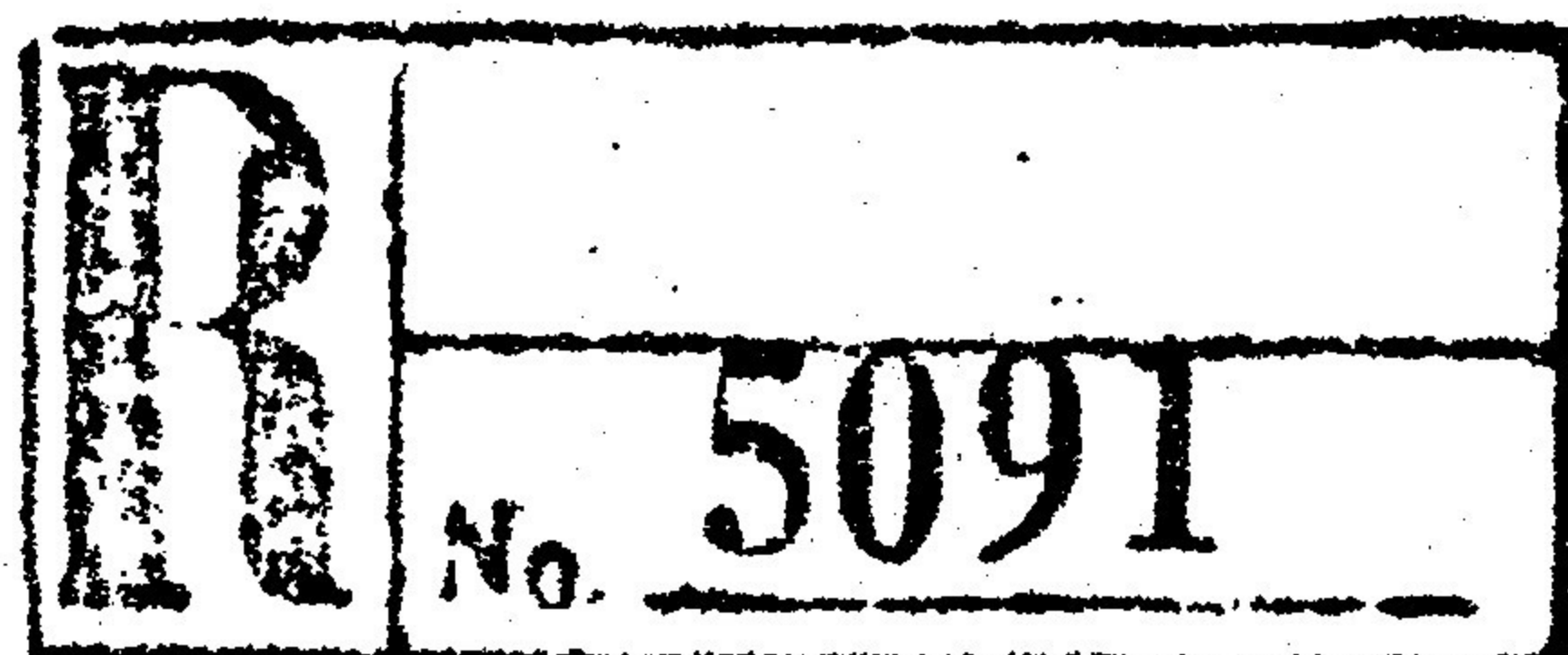
Type A-VII, the Official Service registration labels, are the most spectacular. So far they have been seen used on covers only from Cairo, and their use may have been confined to those branch post offices that were set up in government premises, such as Parliament. It is curious that they bear the legend O.H.E.M.S. that was used only on the 1922-23 issue of official stamps, but have been seen used only during the World War II period, fifteen or more years later.

Omitted from the listing here is any account of the variation of type font. The office name may be found either in all capitals or with only the initial letter capitalized. The symbol 'No.' may be found in a number of different styles. The large 'R' shows many variations. There must surely be very many offices whose names were imprinted on registration labels, but only a handful have been seen.

It should be clear that this list is only a start, and is more in the nature of a plea to members of the Circle to examine that they have and report it. In addition to new information, comments on the method of classification would be welcome.

As an afterthought, I include two items that I hope can be satisfactorily illustrated. One is a label with an inscription outside the frame, at the top. This is presumably the identification code for the form, and has nothing to do with the registration system. This label was thus most probably the top one of a column. The appearance of the printing in this case is almost certainly lithography.

(P No. 16 C i.)

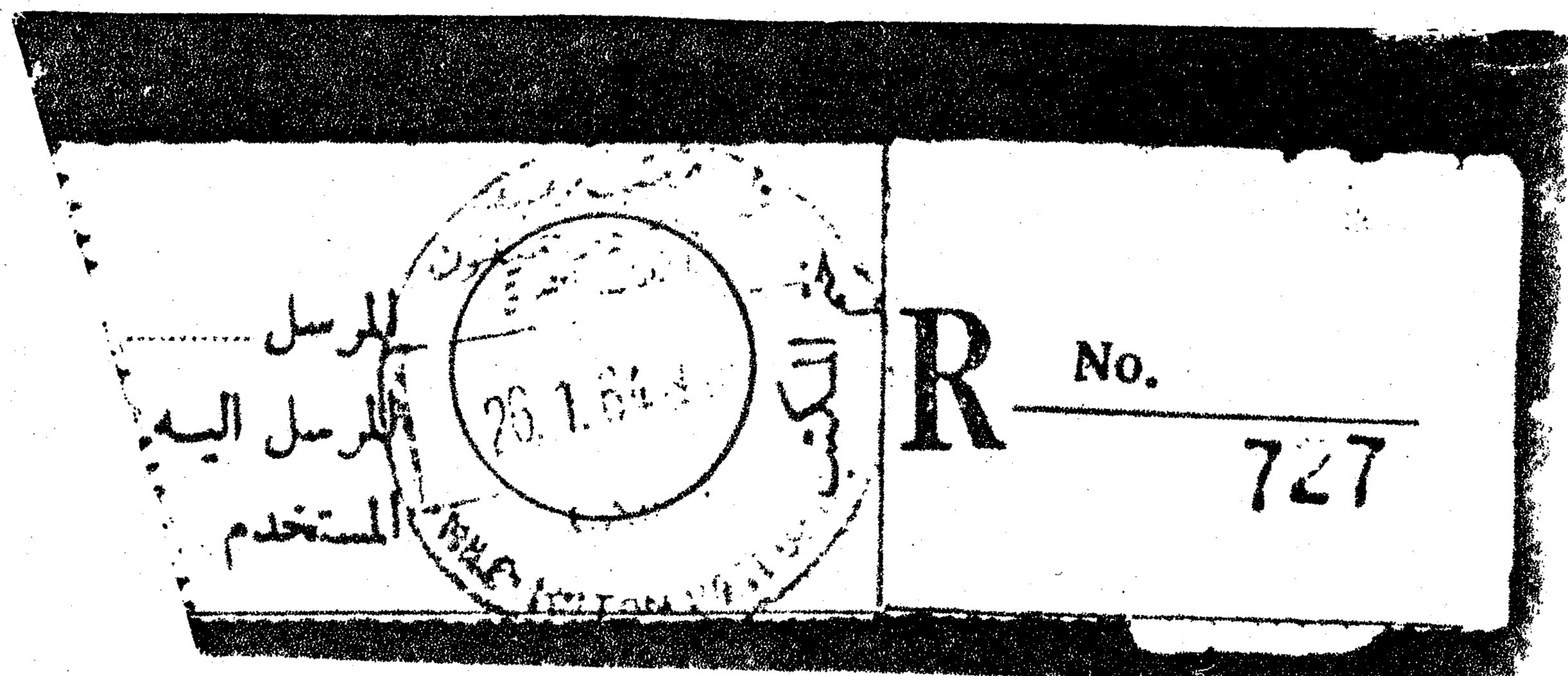
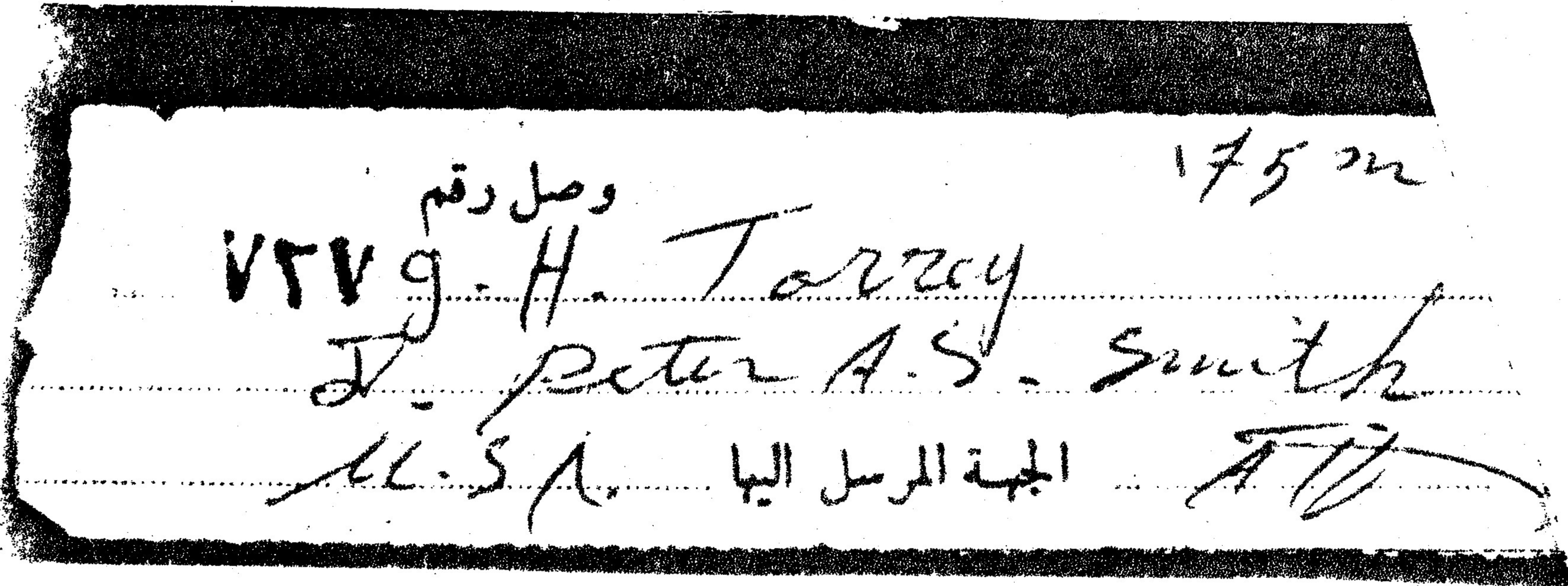


The cover on which this label occurs is dated 26.7.68.

The other item is a complete registration receipt with label attached, for a letter mailed from the Nile Hilton Hotel, Cairo, in 1964. The label at the right is gummed, and the gumming extends slightly into the receipt half, but the bulk of the receipt is not gummed.

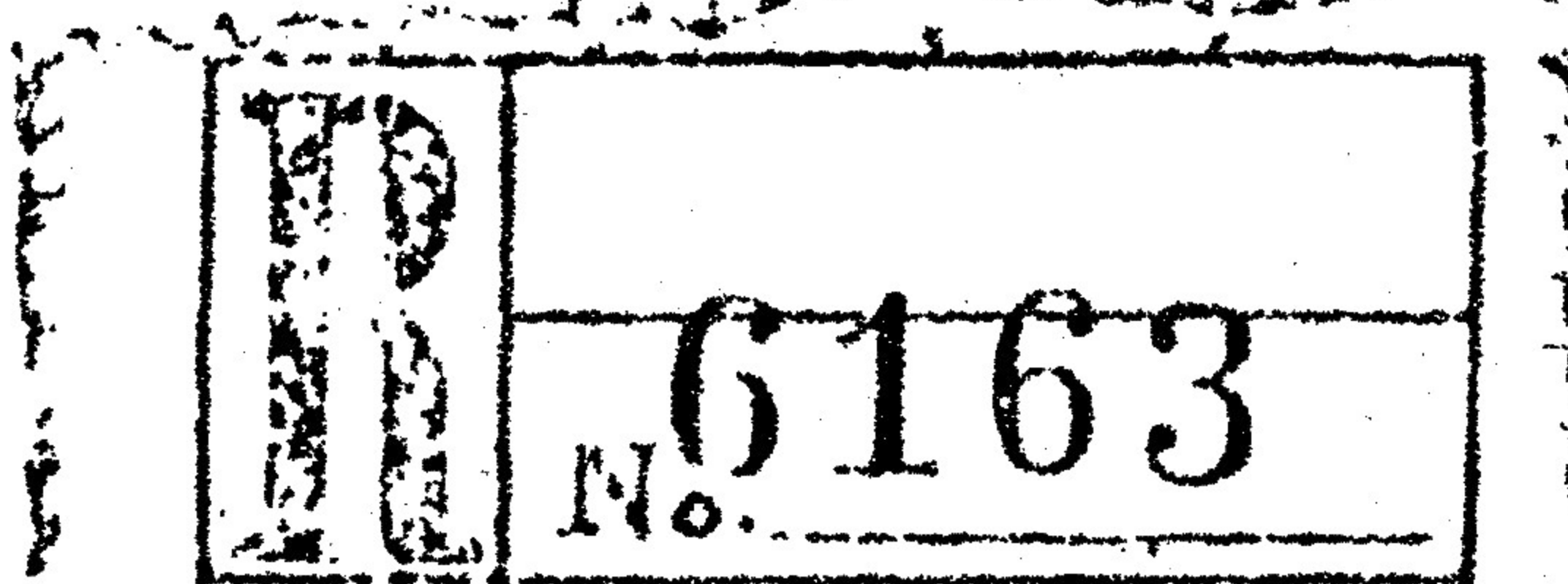
The separation between the label and the receipt is by perforation

with small, blind holes, along a thin printed line. The label was not affixed to the letter, which arrived normally by registered mail, but was brought to me along with the receipt by the sender. Apparently the use of the label on the letter was optional. This example, A-VI, is the only one of this Type that I have yet seen.

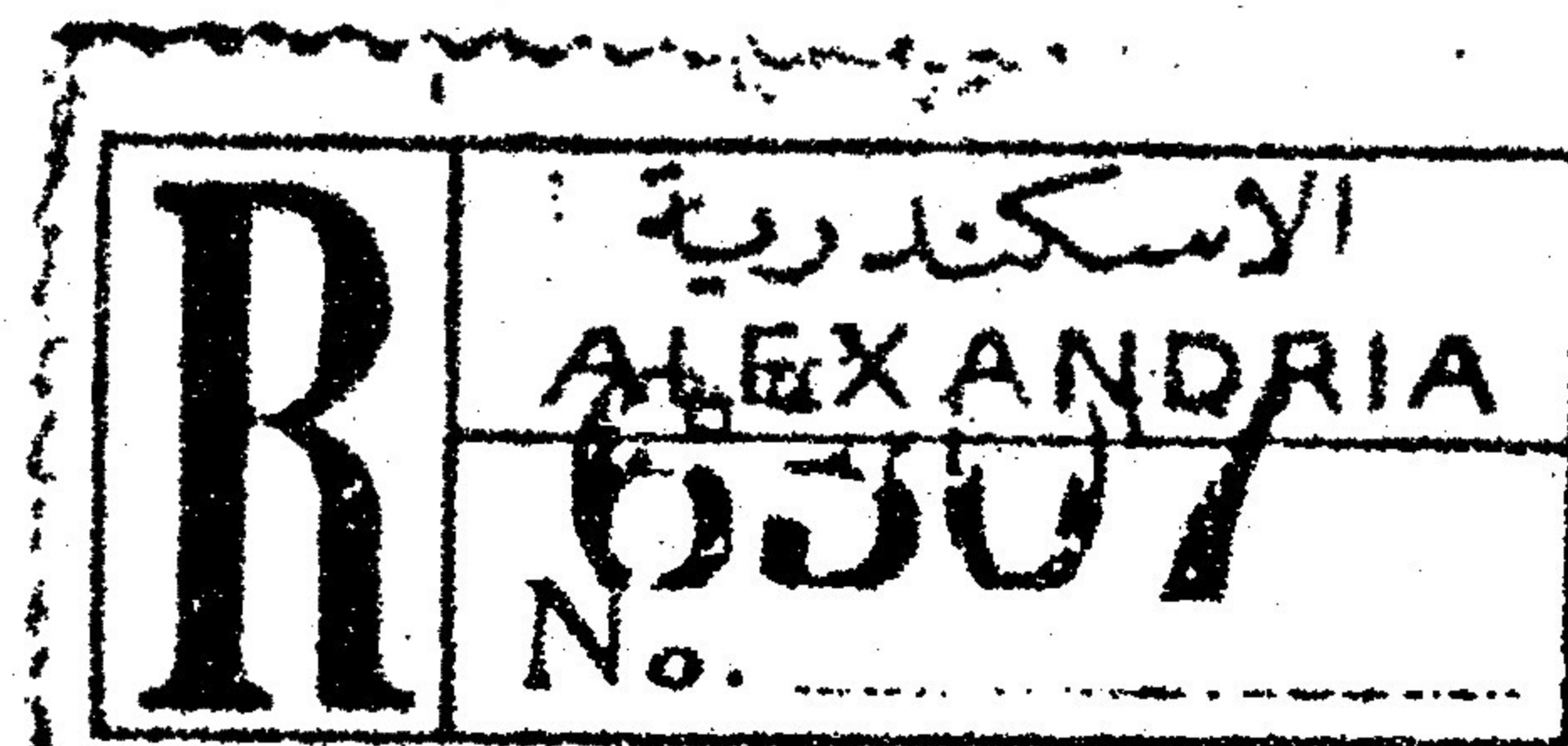


A. 'R' at left, flag at right.

A-1 Rectangular box, about 15 x 37 mm., two panels, with handstamped number in lower panel.



1. Upper panel blank.  
 Black. Perforation 10.  
 Black on peach. perf.10 (Oct.'47)  
 Black on crimson. roulette 7.  
 (March '63)  
 Red, red number. perf. 14 very blind.  
 (July '69 - August '72)



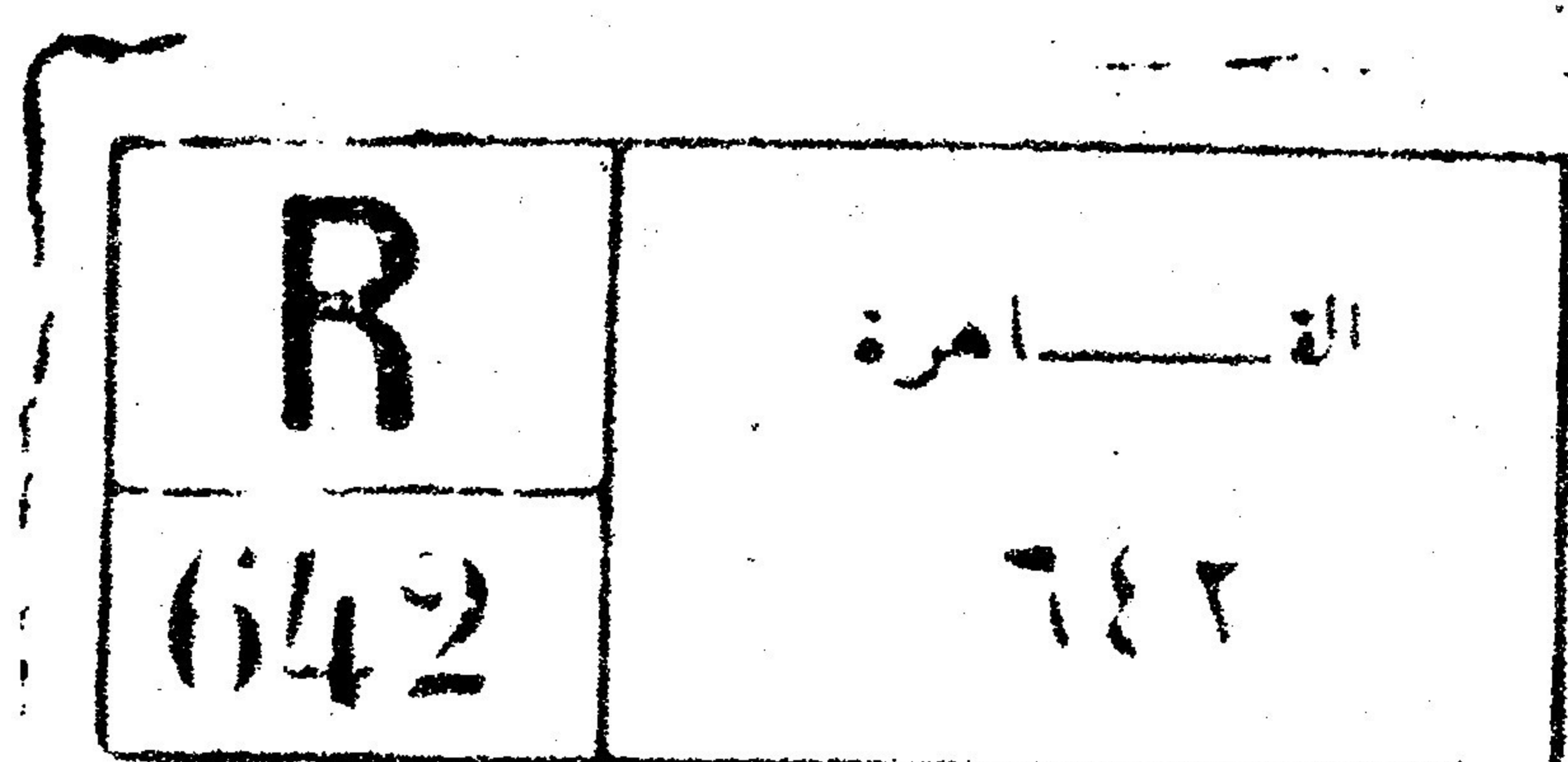
- 2 Office name in upper panel, Arabic above European.  
 e English spelling:  
 Black. Cairo. perf.10 (Oct.'48)

Black on red. Cairo. perf.10  
 (Oct. '36 - Jan. '43)  
 " " Alexandria.  
 " " Moh. Bey Farid.  
 Black on pink. Cairo. perf.10  
 (Dec.'34)  
 " " Alexandria.

## f. French spelling:

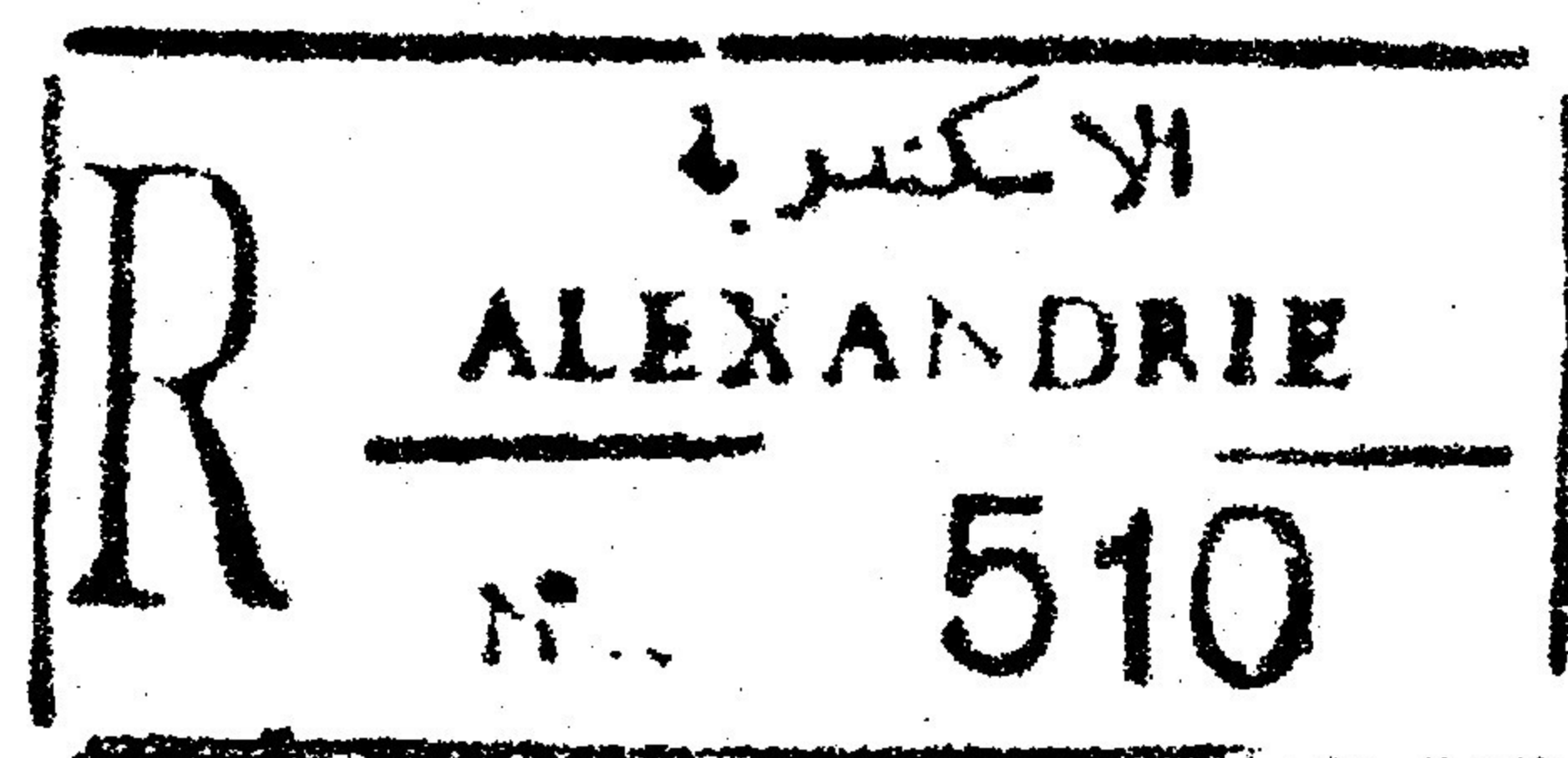
Black on peach. Le Caire. roul.14 in pairs (Sep'66)  
 Black on red. Le Caire. roul.13 (Aug.'61 - Jn.'63)  
 " " Le Caire. roul. 7 (Jan.'63)  
 Red, red number. Le Caire. perf.12 (May '68)  
 " " Le Caire. roul.13 $\frac{1}{2}$  (April '69).

## A-II Rectangular box, number below R.



- No horizontal division in flag;  
 office name in Arabic only, with  
 Arabic number below it, about  
 21 x 49 mm.

Black with red name. Cairo.  
 perf.12 in pairs ('74)  
 " " Cairo. roul.6  
 " " Cairo. perf.6  
 in pairs  
 (Dec.'74)

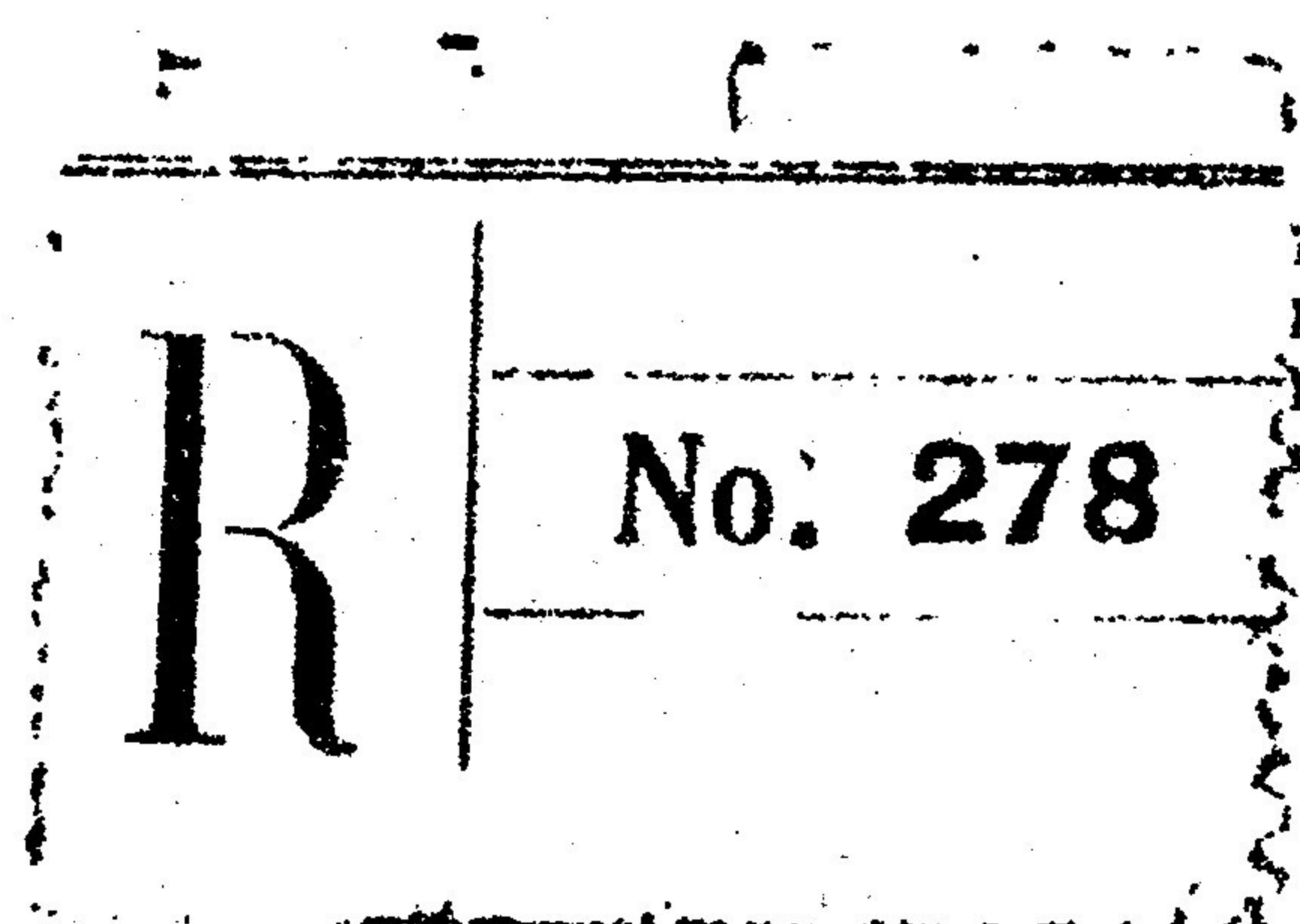
A-III-1 Rectangular box without line  
between R and flag, about 19 x 39 mm.

- Office name in upper panel, Arabic  
 over European.

## f. French spelling.

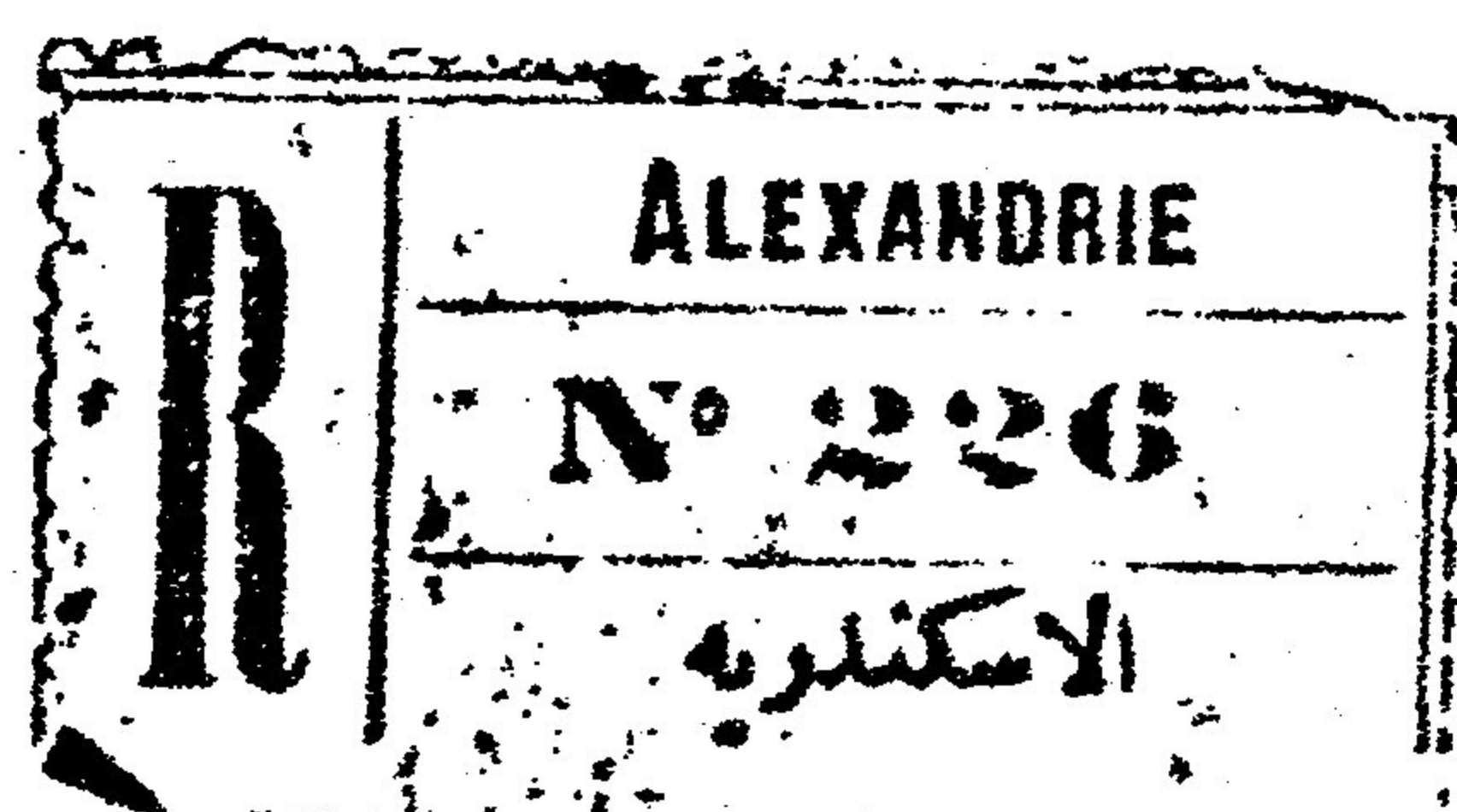
Deep magenta. Alexandrie.  
 rough roul. 6

Crimson, crimson number. Le Caire  
 very rough roul.?  
 (Apr.'71 - Nov.'72)

A-IV Rectangular box without bottom line,  
two horizontal dividing lines, making  
three panels in flag; frame double  
lined.

- No office name, number in centre  
 panel.

Black. perf.10 (Jan.'38 - Aug.'38)



2. Office name in upper panel in European, and in lower panel in Arabic.

e. English spelling.

Black. Cairo. perf.10  
(Jan.'20 - Oct.'23)

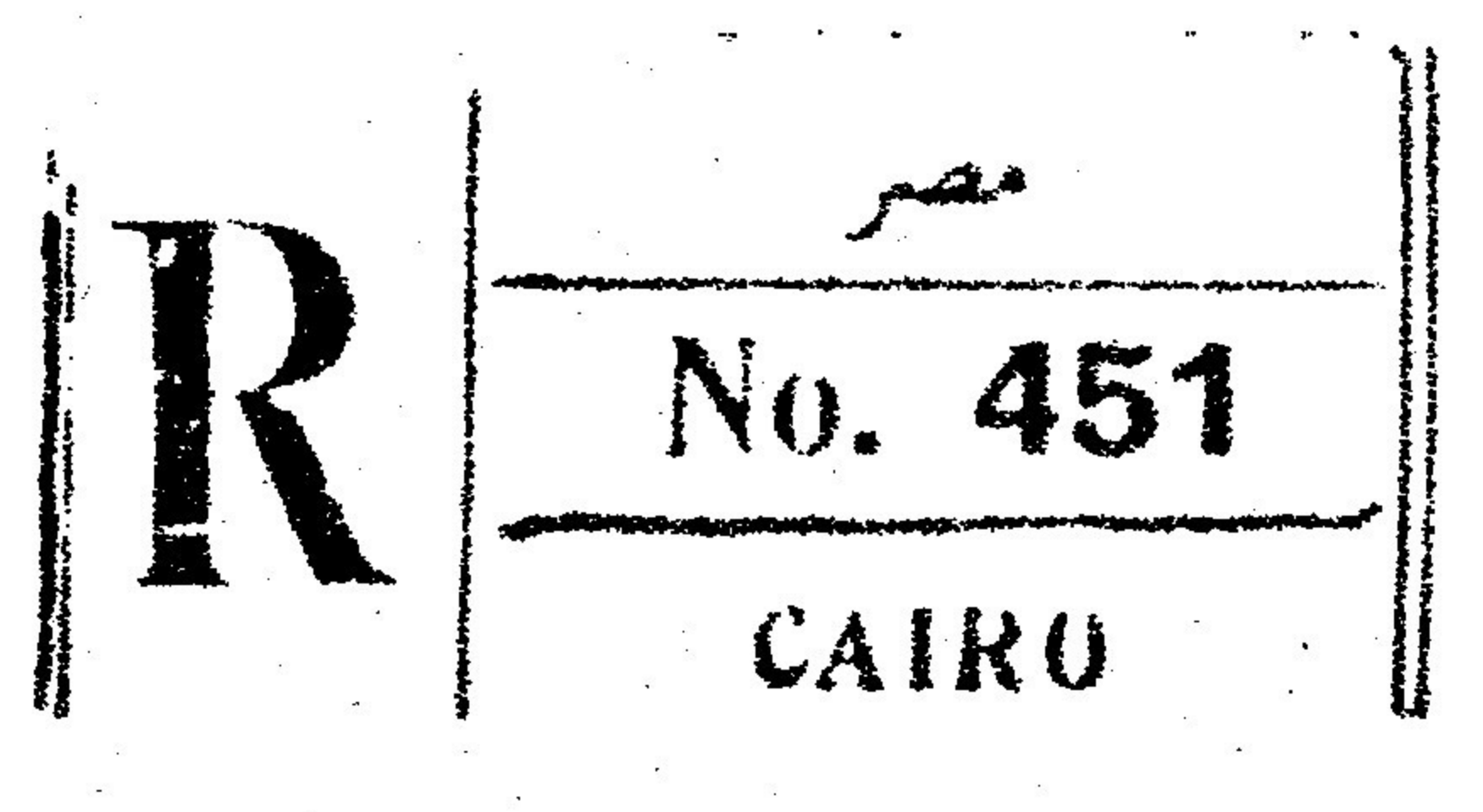
f. French spelling.

Black. Caire. perf.12  
(Dec.'11 - Jan.'13)  
" Caire. perf.10 (Jan.'15)  
" Alexandrie. perf.10  
" Caire. perf.11  
" Alexandrie. perf.12  
(Jan.'08)

3. As 2, but Arabic at top, European at bottom.

e. English spelling.

Black. Alexandria. perf.10  
(Aug.'12 - )  
" Cairo. perf.10  
(Aug.'28 - Jul.'38)  
" Qena. perf.10 (Jul.'34)

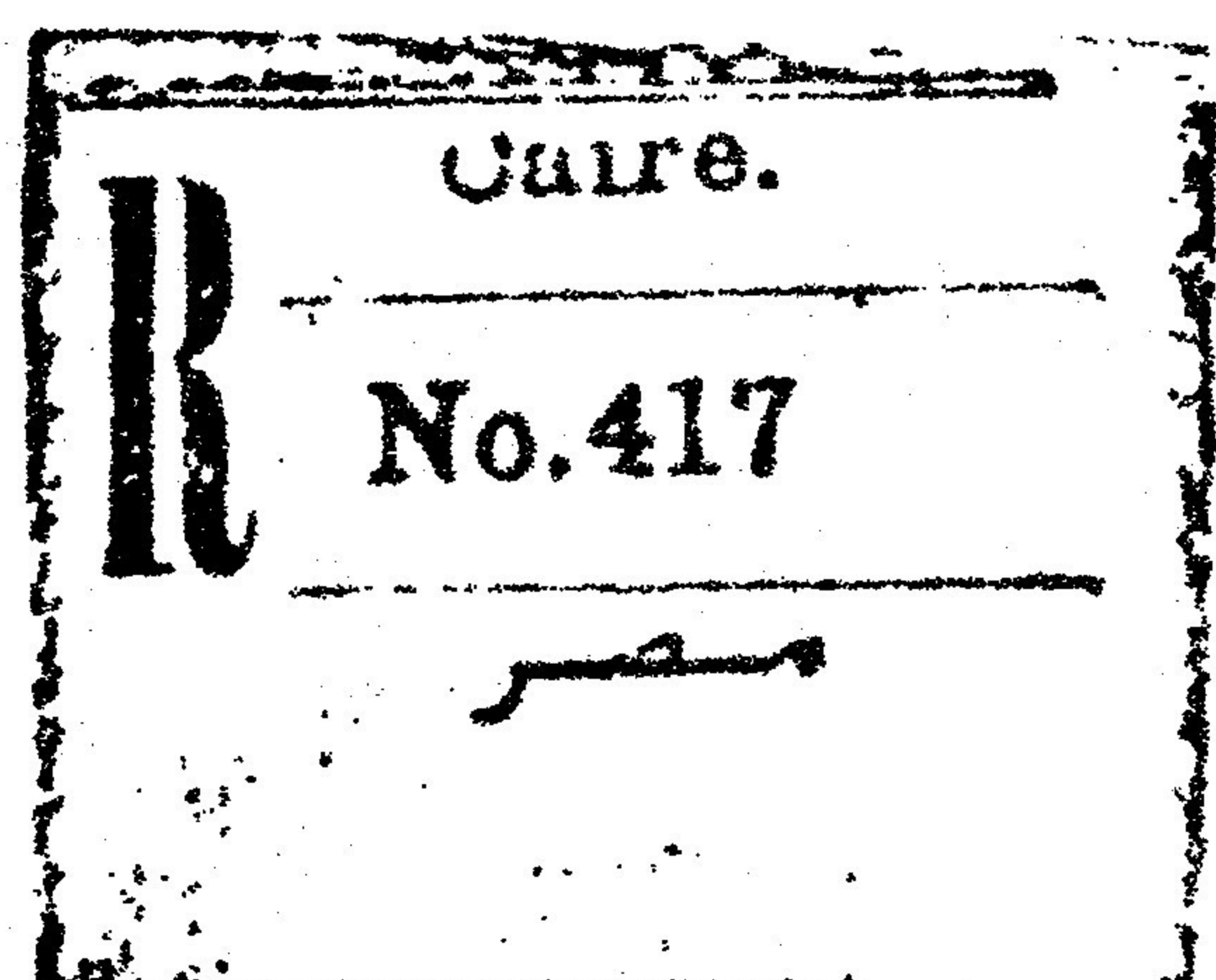


A-V As IV, but without vertical frame or dividing lines.

1. Office name in European at top, Arabic at bottom.

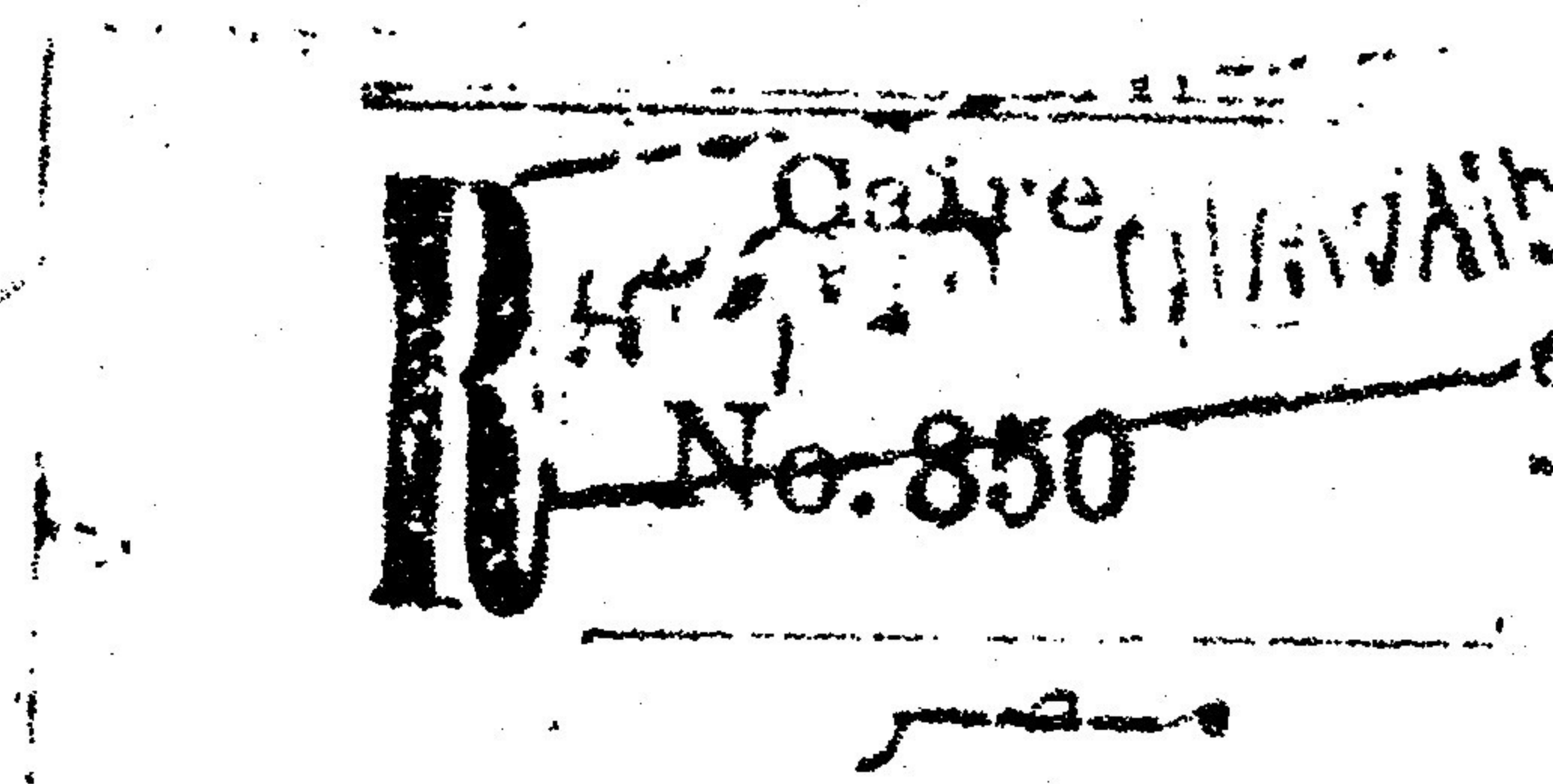
f. French spelling:

Black. Caire. perf.10  
" Alexandrie. perf.10



2. As V-1 but with handstamped boxed bilingual overprint of another office.

Black. Dawawin over Caire.  
perf.10 (Aug.'10)

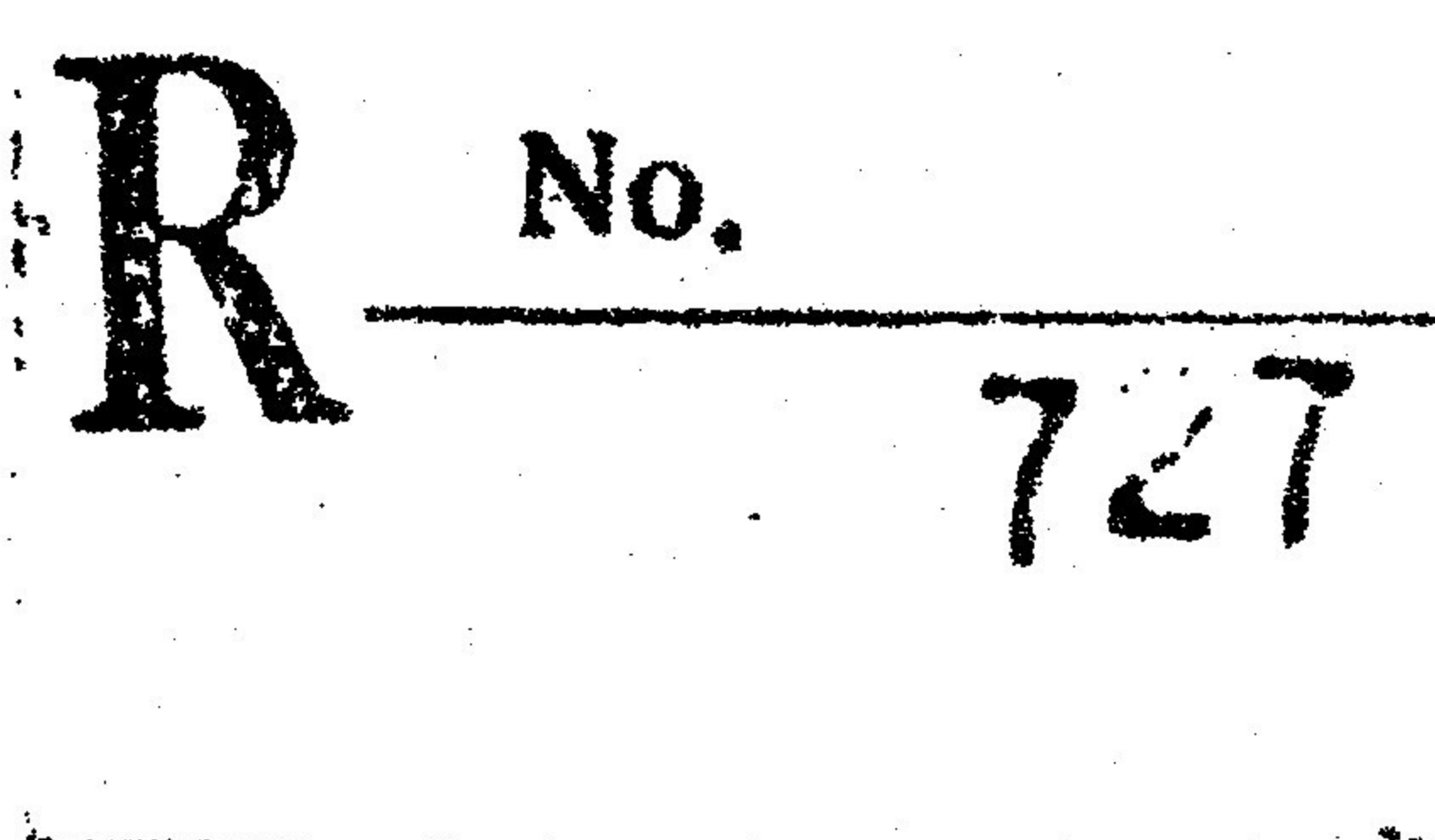


A-VI No vertical line except to left of 'R', only one horizontal dividing line. 32 mm. high.

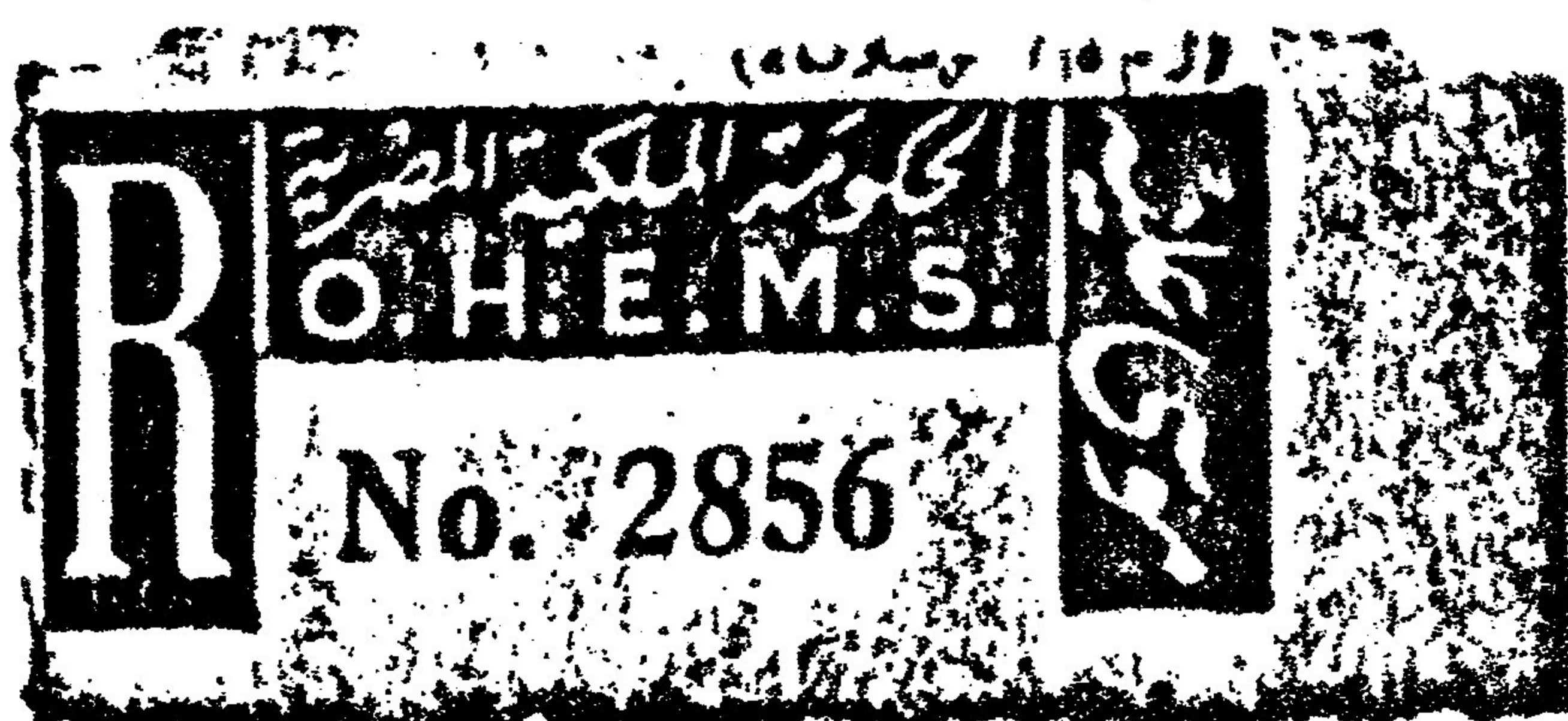
1. No office name.

Black. rough perf.14 (in 7 pairs)  
(Jan.'64)

(Perforations nearly obliterate the thin frame lines at top, bottom and left).



A - VII 'R' and inscriptions in intaglio, three panels forming an arch.



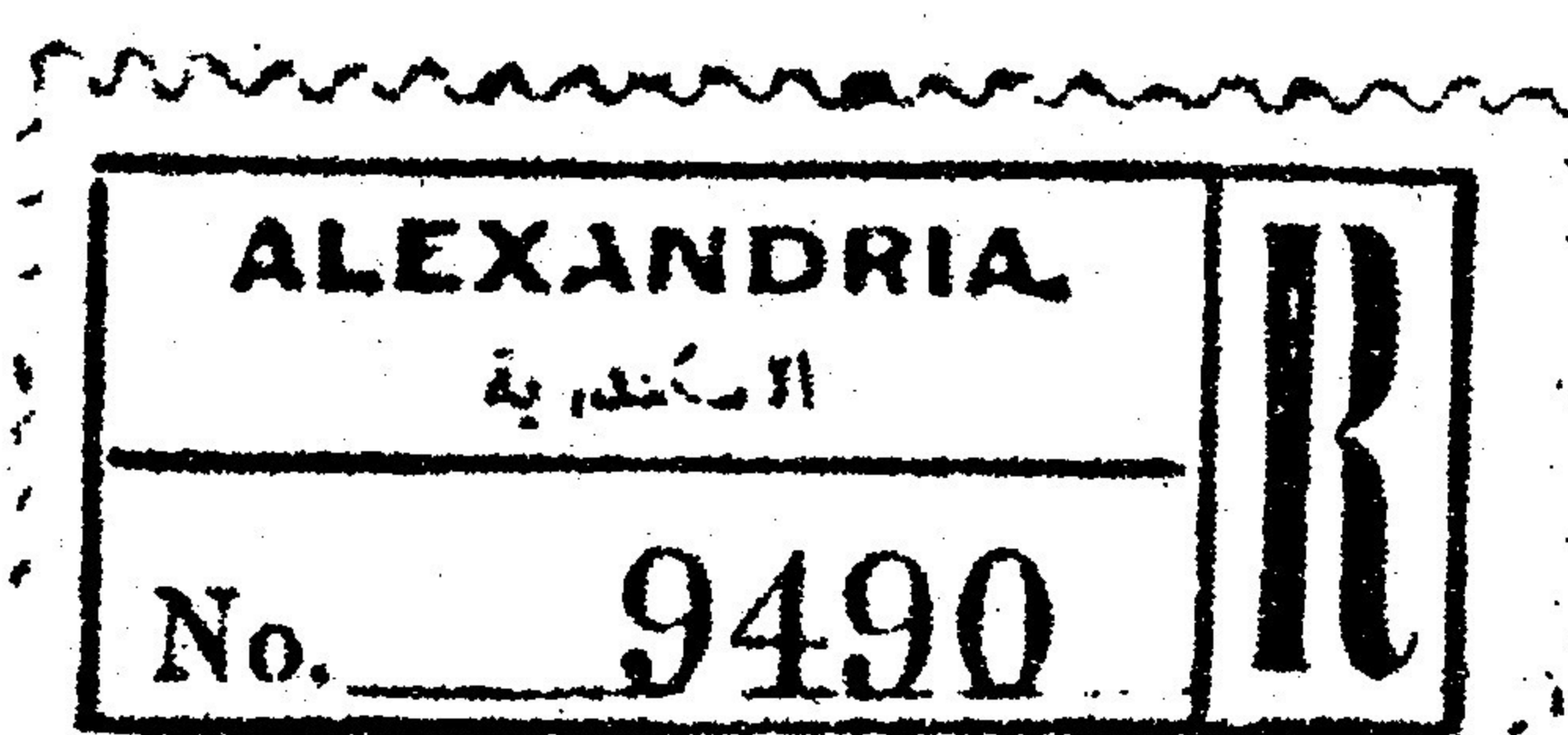
1. Inscribed O.H.E.M.S.

- Black on red. very rough perf. ?
- Dark blue on red. perf.10 (Dec.'39)
- Dark blue on light green. perf.10 (Apr.'42)
- Green. perf.10. (Aug.'44)

B. 'R' at right, flag at left.

B-I Rectangular box, about 15 x 37 mm., two panels, with handstamped number in lower panel.

1. Office name in upper panel, European above Arabic.



e. English spelling.

- Black on pink to deep rose. Cairo. perf.10 (Mar.'26 - '27)
- Black on lilac. Cairo. perf.10
- Black on red. Cairo. perf.10
- Red, black number. Cairo. perf.10 (Oct.'15)
- " " " Alexandria. p.10 (Nov.'06 - Mar.'11)

f. French spelling.

- Red, black number. Caire. perf. (May '08)
- " " " Caire. perf.13

2. As B-I. 1. Arabic above European.

e. English spelling:

- Black on deep orange. Cairo. ('29)

3. As B-I. 1. Boxed bilingual handstamp of another office.

e. English spelling:

- Red, black number. Dawawin over Cairo. perf.12 (Aug. '18)
- (handstamp applied after affixing).

as above, but handstamp in European letters only, and unframed:

- Black number. Dawawin over Cairo. (Jan.'09)

