

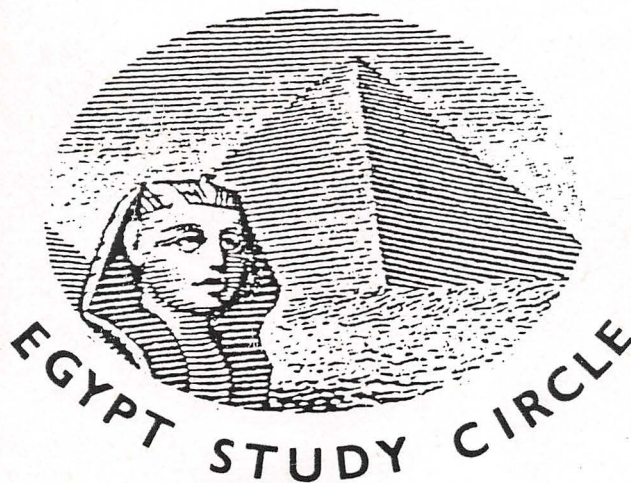
THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

Volume XI

Number 5

Whole Series 121

March 1982



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London and the contributors

Next Meetings

1982

April 17 (London) P.E. Whetter
Booklets

June 12 PROVINCIAL MEETING
at Birmingham & Midland Institute,
Margaret Street, Birmingham
(subject to be arranged, but all
Members should bring 20 sheets)

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE - THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR
Volume XI Number 4 March 1982 Whole Series Number 121

C O N T E N T S

	page
Contents	108
Officers of ESC, 1982	108
Report of Circle Meeting, 13 Feb 1982	109
Treasurer's Accounts, year to 31 Dec 1981	109
From the Chairman, re Stampex 1982	110
From the Librarian	110
Notices	110
Named Military Datestamps used in Egypt 1895-1920 - final part	
J.A.Firebrace and F.W.Beniens	111-116
New Issues, Dec 1980 - Feb 1981	117-118
C.E.H.Defriez	
Special First Day Cancels, Dec 1978 - March 1979	118
C.E.H.Defriez	
Proprietary Post Offices, Addendum 4 - The Seamen's Home, Alexandria	
F.W.Beniens	119-128
Reply to Question Time 37 - Constantinople - Galata	128-130
Reply to Question Time 38 - Cours au Chapitre	129
New Question 39.1, 1959 Nile Hilton, variety	129-130
New Question 39.2, 1968 16th Anniversary of Revolution, var.	129-130
New Question 40, Posted on the High Seas	129/131
New Question 41, French Ship cancels	129/131
Waghorn: Boucher & Townsend	132-133
F.Rowland Hill	
Booklets Galore	133-136
P.E.Whetter	
Unframed 'O' marking of the Sudan	135-136
J.M.Murphy	
Egyptian Sea Post cancels	137-138
L.Alund	
Egypt Study Circle - "The Book"	137-139
ditto - Response Coupon	139
Index to the Philatelic Literature of Egypt	
- the Definitive Issues	E.Hall Supplement 2, i to iv

O F F I C E R S o f t h e E G Y P T S T U D Y C I R C L E 1 9 8 2

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The SUBSCRIPTION to Egypt Study Circle for 1982 is unchanged at £6 and is due for payment on 1st January 1982. Please remit promptly.

Overseas Members are requested to pay by Bank Draft drawn on a London branch.

Meeting held on 13 February 1982 at "The Peacock", Maiden Lane, London, W.C.

Attending were Mr J. Sears, Chairman, and Messrs W.C.Andrews, F.W.Benians, S.Bunce, D.H.Clarke, C.E.H.Defriez, P.Grech, C.E.Grey, J.A.Grimmer, E.Hall J.S.Horesh, J.M.Murphy, B.Owen, R.Simmons and P.E.Whetter.

The Chairman welcomed new members attending for the first time: Messrs Stephen Bunce, Basil Owen and Roy Simmons.

Because of the Easter Holiday weekend, the next Circle meeting will be held on the third Saturday of the month, instead of on the second, i.e. on 17th April. The subject of the April meeting will not be as shown in the previous Q.C.; instead there will be two discussions, one being on the subject of Stamp Booklets by Mr P.E.Whetter.

A new study to be undertaken by Mr J.M.Murphy (ESC 240) was announced. This will deal with a section of the Proprietary Post Offices and will be complementary to the study being actively pursued by Mr F.W.Benians (ESC 123).

The Circle Librarian, Mr F.W.Benians, announced the kind gift by Circle Secretary Mr E.Hall (ESC 239) of 'Paquebot Markings of the World'; Mr Benians himself had donated to the Library a copy of Stanley Gibbons' catalogue number 19 'The Middle East' (which includes Egypt).

Two new members were announced by the Secretary.

The talk and display were given by Mr J.S.Horesh (ESC 118) on the subject of Sea Post markings. These were defined as marks applied to mail posted on board ship and passed to the Egyptian postal services. These started with the early Retta cancels, followed by the cachets 'PLEINE MER' and, later, 'PAQUEBOT', which was adopted at the U.P.U. convention in Washington in 1897. The speaker warned that 'paquebot' marks on loose stamps might be strikes of other countries' postal systems.

Later 'Paquebot' markings were incorporated in the circular date stamps. The speaker believed that types SP.o-4 and SP.o-4.05 are the same, and that the differences on measurement were spurious.

The 'Paquebot' marks of the French post office, Alexandrie, were also dealt with.

- - - - -

A C C O U N T S o f t h e y e a r e n d e d 31 December 1981

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Payments</u>
	£	£
Subscriptions, less bank charges on foreign cheques	666.88	
Sales of back copies of 'The Q.C.', less despatch costs	60.00	
Profit from Expertisation	102.00	
'The Q.C.': Costs of production and distribution		454.81
Affiliation, British Philatelic Federation		6.00
Officers' expenses		-
Hire of Room for Meetings		30.00
Purchase of heavy-duty stapling machine		29.46
Costs of exhibiting 'The Q.C.'		12.00
	828.88	532.27
In hand at bank, 1st January 1981	238.55	
In hand at bank, 31st December 1981		535.16
	1,067.43	1,067.43

Stampex (London) 1982

This year the exhibits of Egypt material were almost conspicuous by their absence, however John Grimmer once again successfully saved the day. First of all, in the Literature Class, the 'Quarterly Circular' was awarded a Silver-Gilt - the top prize in the Periodicals section. The present healthy state of the Circle is due in great measure to the continued excellence of the QC, and of course to its Editor.

In his 'private capacity' John Grimmer showed "Pre Adhesive Egypt". Within the restrictions of the 4 frames permitted, John mounted a comprehensive study of covers and entires starting from 1419, a letter from Venice to Alexandria. Passing through the Napoleonic Campaigns, Overland Mails (Waghorn), Posta Europea, Egyptian Government Postal Service, examples of Official, and British Army Mail, culminating in the Arabi revolt of 1882. All in all a fine exhibit for the specialist, and more than deserving of the Bronze Silver.

There were two other displays, both by non members of the Circle, and both Thematic and Historical in approach, including stamps of other countries, but basically Egypt. Mrs N.A.Hargreaves gained a Bronze for her exhibit entitled "The Sphinx", and Mr J.S.Forder was awarded a Diploma for his display called "A History of Ancient Egypt in Stamps".

- John Sears, Chairman.

F R O M t h e L I B R A R I A N . . .

"Paquebot Cancellations of the World" by Roger Hosking M.A. - published by the author, 1977.

A valuable addition for those interested in Maritime markings. Basically, a listing of port-of-arrival paquebot marks and their equivalents. Studds' own definition: 'a marking . . . used at one definite port, for the sole purpose of franking all mail received from sea going ships.'

Donated by Edmund Hall to whom we are indebted for this usefyl addition.

- F.W.Benians, Hon. Librarian

N O T I C E S . . .

Members holding sections of the Egypt Study Circle Records will shortly be supplied with self-affix labels, printed 'PROPERTY OF THE EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE, LONDON'. It is hoped that these, when affixed to Circle papers, will protect against the accidental disposal or destruction of important documents belonging to the Circle, as may have happened in the past.

SUBSCRIPTION to Egypt Study Circle for the year 1982 is maintained at £6. Members who have not yet paid are asked to do so promptly, please.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS are asked kindly to pay their subscription by a Bank Draft, drawn on a bank having a London branch address. Such a draft can be collected with no delay and no punitive charges - foreign cheques may take 2 months to collect and incur charges of almost £ 2.

INDEX TO THE PHILATELIC LITERATURE OF EGYPT - this impressive work by ESC Secretary Edmund Hall will appear as appendices to the Q.C., starting with literature on the subject of Definitive Stamps which is part of this issue.

'THE BOOK' is now likely to go forward ! See report on this on pages 137/8 and please study the INVITATION printed as an appendix to this issue. What can YOU do to help with this enormously important venture ? We have already had good, solid offers of help from collectors/researchers/writers of the calibre of Jean Boulad d'Humieres, Jim Benians and Rudi Jeidel. But we need more !

THE NAMED MILITARY DATESTAMPS USED IN EGYPT 1895 - 1920

by J. A. Firebrace (ESC 71) and F.W.Benians (ESC 123)

PART III 1920 THE AFTERMATH

It is necessary to relate briefly the events after the signing of the Armistice with Turkey on 31 October 1918, when the withdrawal of the troops to Egypt for demobilisation began. Most of Palestine and Syria were divided into four areas for "Occupied Enemy Territory Administration", part remaining under purely military control.

Egypt, under martial law, had prospered during the war. The Army had been good spenders in Egypt, buying animals, fodder and other produce and individual soldiers spent lavishly. Contributions in men to the Egyptian Camel Corps and to the Egyptian Labour Corps had been of immense value. It was not, however, evident to the British authorities that increased prosperity had been one of the factors which had sowed the seeds of nationalism among many of those who had prospered.

The Egyptian land-owning class had done well financially out of the war, with excellent prices for the cotton crop and the more enlightened Egyptians much resented that, while Egypt was a British Protectorate, they would be given no voice at the Peace Conference, whereas "Arabs of the Deserts", Cypriots and Syrians would be represented.

Not all of the commercial activities of the military had been profitable to the fellahin and as business passed through many hands pressure had been brought to bear on Egyptians at all levels to fulfil British wishes in men and materials. Neither the Army nor officials realised that injustices were being carried out in their name. There was discontent on a widespread scale by March 1919. One man was able and willing to harness it.

This man was Saad Zaghlul who was to be a thorn in British flesh for the next eight years. He was the first pure-born Egyptian to hold ministerial office as the first Minister of Education under Lord Cromer, and for some time he had been preaching complete independence for Egypt. Shortly after the Armistice he had called upon the High Commissioner, Sir Reginald Wingate, with his demands and "claiming to speak in the name of the Egyptian people".

Dissatisfied with his reception, Zaghlul sought permission to go to London to see the British Government. This, too, was refused, as was a request from Rushdi, the Prime Minister, to visit London. Wingate, in person in London, urged that both the Prime Minister's and Zaghlul's delegations should be received. At the end of February, 1919, Rushdi was invited to London but such was the effect of Zaghlul's influence in Egypt that Rushdi's achievements in London could not have any success in Egypt unless they were backed by Zaghlul. The Foreign Office still declined to meet Zaghlul. His inflammatory agitations in Egypt led to a serious threat to law and order and consequently, with three colleagues, he was arrested and deported to Malta. Egypt flare up in revolt, the principal targets being the communications of the country. Railway lines were torn up and stations burned. Telegraph and telephone wires were cut. Cairo was soon isolated.

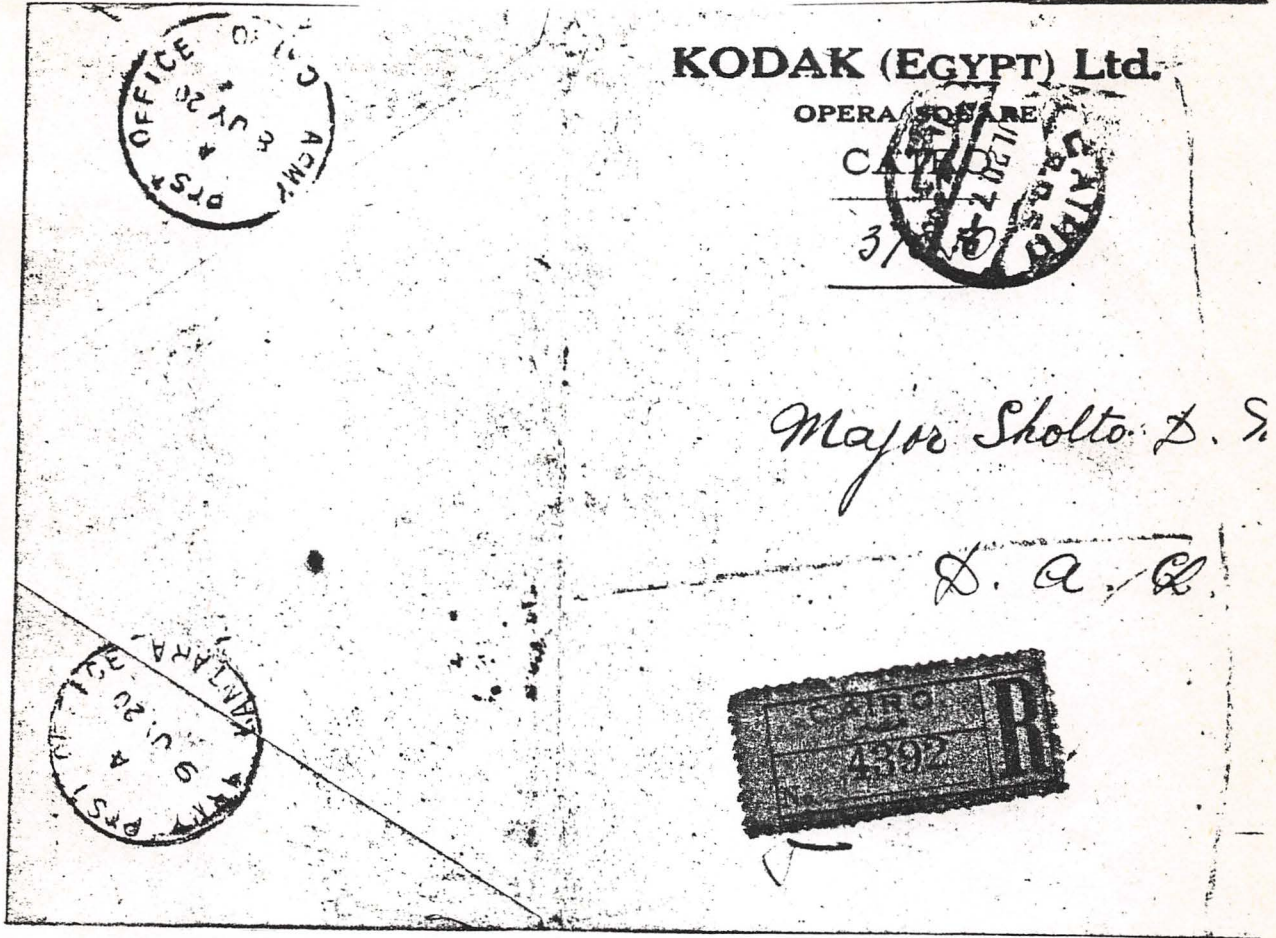
The Commander-In-Chief, General Allenby, was in Paris attending the Peace Conference. General Bulfin was in command of the Army and by means of mobile columns, which he used to patrol the country, had the situation well in hand in little more than a week. Allenby was ordered to return to Egypt immediately as Special High Commissioner with instructions "to exercise supreme authority in all matters military and civil . . . and to administrate . . . the King's Protectorate over Egypt on a secure and equitable basis." He reached Cairo on 25th March.

/ Continued . . .

ARMY POST OFFICE CAIRO and ARMY POST OFFICE KANTARA

7 JL 20 Cairo to Kantara - 12 mills Registered Letter within Egypt

Army Post Office, Cairo 8 JY 20; Army Post Office, Kantara 9 JY 20

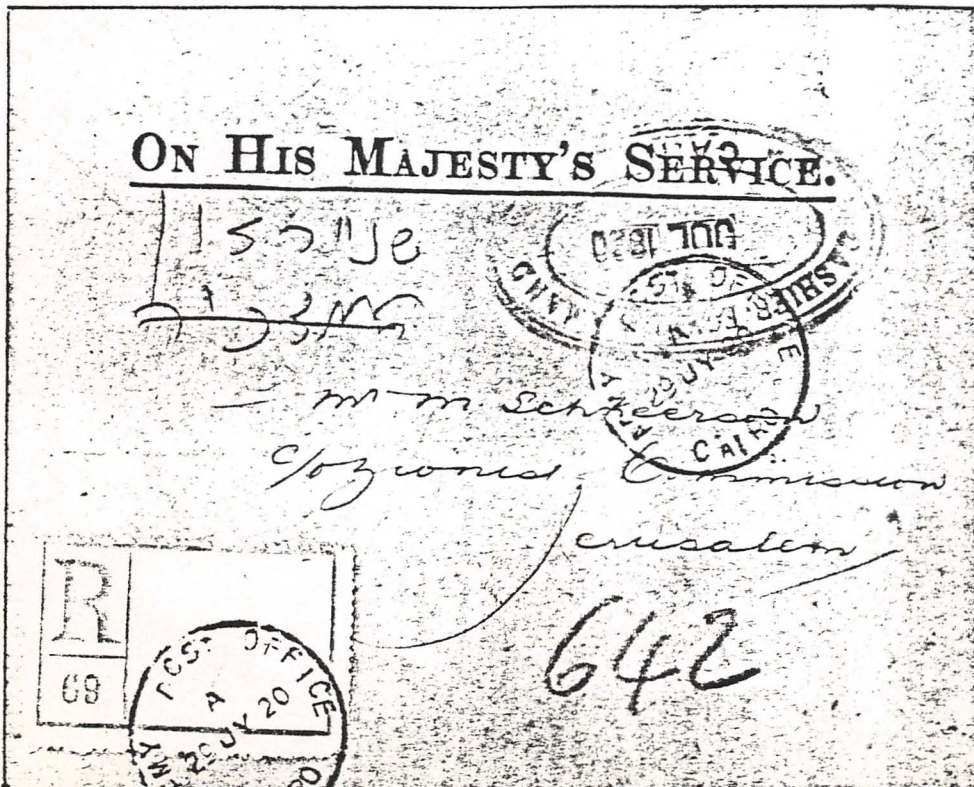


(back)

(edge)

(front)

Official Registered Letter with s.r. ARMY POST OFFICE / CAIRO dated 29 JY 20



Oval CASHIER EGYPT
COMMAND / CAIRO
struck in purple.

Addressed care of
Zionist Commission

Named Military Datestamps, 1895 - 1920 (Continued)

After consultations with his advisors, both British and Egyptian, Allenby pressed the Government for the release of Zaghlul and permission for him to travel to Europe. Permission was reluctantly granted. Continuing disorder led to Rushdi's resignation and then a period of comparative calm set in. Zaghlul and two of his three colleagues were to be future Prime Ministers of Egypt.

At the beginning of April, the Government proposed to send a Commission of Enquiry to Egypt. It was to be headed by Lord Milner with General Sir John Maxwell as a member. To be most effective it should have reached Cairo in May, but it did not arrive until December.

Allenby, having been made a Viscount and promoted Field Marshal, went to England on leave, returning to Egypt in November to find that the political situation had again deteriorated and that the period of comparative calm was over.

The Milner mission had two basic defects. The terms of reference included the maintenance of the Protectorate and it was an exclusively English body to recommend a constitution for Egypt. Zaghlul from Paris had organised a successful boycott of the Mission, which returned to England in March 1920, having made only behind-the-scenes contacts in Egypt. Fresh approaches were made in London by prominent Egyptians, including Zaghlul, to the Mission before it reported and in the end Milner produced a plan which went a long way toward meeting Egyptian claims. The Protectorate was to be replaced by a Treaty which granted Egypt independence, subject to certain reservations for special British interests.

Egypt was declared an Independent Sovereign State on 28th February, 1922.

In relating these events to the use of datestamps, there are three main considerations, only the last of which has a bearing on this present study. The first consideration was the phasing out of the datestamps used by the cavalry and infantry brigades and divisions returning from Palestine and they lasted into March 1919. This month saw the introduction of the "Aerial Post E.E.F." markings so intensively studied by John Gilbert. Thirdly, the closing of the stationary Post Offices of which only about 12 functioned in 1919. Type 1 A III of Alexandria is known up to June 1919.

In 1920, a stationary Post Office was still in use in Cairo and base post offices in Kantara and Port Said, the latest month recorded being March. To replace these, there were brought into use two types of single ring datestamp, each to be found with the date set in both one and two lines. These types had a short five-month life and are reported closed by 31st August although one September date has been recorded. They are :-

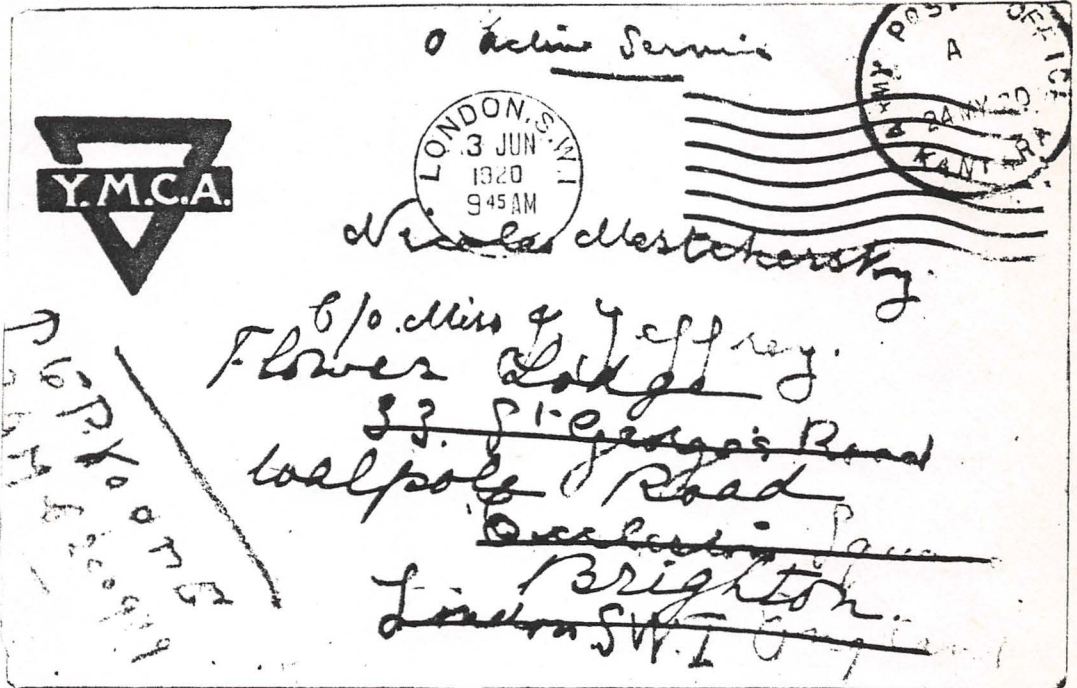
Type VII	Army Post Office	Abbassia, Cairo, Kantara, Mustapha
Type VIII	A.P.O.	Abbassia, Cairo, Port Said

Type VII Army Post Office

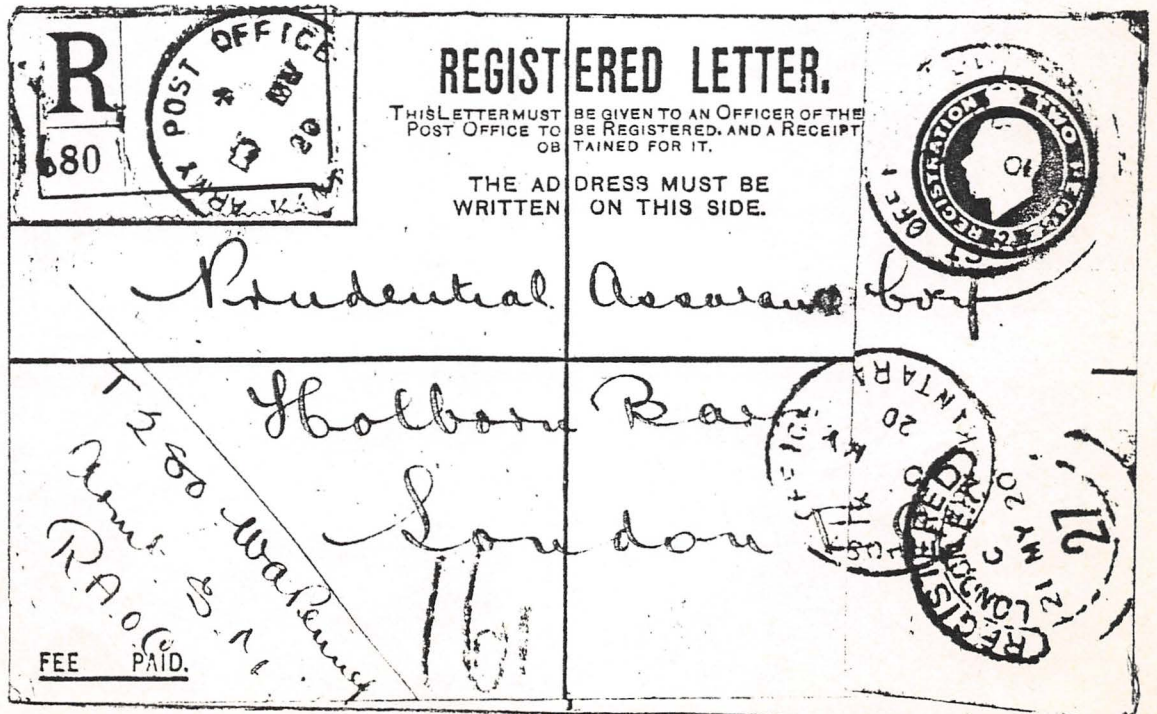
	<u>Abbassia</u>	<u>Cairo</u>	<u>Kantara</u>	<u>Mustapha</u>
	<u>VII Ab i</u>	<u>VII C xii</u>	<u>VII K i</u>	<u>VII K ii</u>
			<u>VII K ii</u>	<u>VII M i</u>
Diameter, mm	30	28	28.5	30
Date in lines	Two	One	one	Two
Earliest date	10 JY 20	8 AP 20	1 AP 20	30 AP 20
Latest date	24 AU 20	8 JY 20	29 JY 20	10 SE 20

/ Continued . . .

ARMY POST OFFICE, KANTARA Date in one line 24 May 1920
Free 'On Active Service' to England. Y.M.C.A. Red Triangle envelope
From: Private Percy Young, R.A.M.C. British Military Mission, Russia



ARMY POST OFFICE, KANTARA Date in two lines 10 May 1920
2d. Registered Letter to England, registered London 21 May 1920
From: T280 W.A.Penny, Armament Sergeant Major, R.A.O.C.



There are two variations of Kantara Ki, the first with the date below centre and the name about 2 mm from the circumference, and the second with the date in the centre and the name close to the circumference.

Type VIII A.P.O.

	A b b a s s i a		C a i r o	Port Said
	VIII Ab ii	VIII Ab iii	VIII C xiii	VIII PS i
Diameter, mm	29	30	29	29
Date in lines	One	Two	One	One
Earliest date	12 AP 20	12 AP 20	16 AP 20	8 AP 20
Latest date	14 MY 20	22 AP 20	8 JU 20	7 MY 20

Additional Information

We should like to fill out and improve this study with details of additional material in collections not so far known to us. In Part I, we are particularly interested in the regiments and units to which letters and post cards were addressed. Similarly in Part II, the identification of units from the writers of letters and cards is an important aspect.

Any help which we receive in adding to the completeness of this study will be appreciated.

Acknowledgements

With many thanks for information from their collections :-

Lars Alund, Leslie Bowyer, Michael Goodman, A.J.Revell, Peter Smith.

Bibliography

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 Allenby in Egypt, Field-Marshal Viscount Wavell. George Harrap, 1943
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Named Military Post Offices in Egypt, 1895 - 1939, John Firebrace and Charles Minett, Q.C. No. 80, December 1971

The Postal History of the British Army in World War I, Alistair Kennedy and George Crabb, 1977

History of the British Army Postal Service, Vol. II, 1903 - 1927, E. B. Proud, 1980

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J. Firebrace (ESC 71) and F. W. Benians (ESC 123)

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*** IN OUR NEXT ISSUE we commence the publication, by J.A.Firebrace and Mr F.W.Benians, of "MILITARY USE OF THE CIVIL POST OFFICE IN EGYPT 1914-16" - perhaps their best yet. Don't miss it ! (Subs paid up ?).

U A S

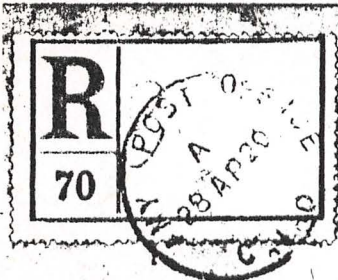


*Captain Leslie L. T. H. S.,
4 ...
...*

A.P.O. CAIRO Date in one line 1 May 1920

Free 'On Active Service' to England

From: A.W.Brown, C.F.



ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

Lieut. F. Sladden..

~~c/o Base Depot.~~ Egyptian Labour Corps.



ARMY POST OFFICE,
CAIRO 28 April 1920
O.H.M.S.

Free Registered Letter
within E.E.F.

Certified official.

...
Capt. for C.P. in E.

K A N T A R

E.E.F.

5 Coy Haifa 30/4/20

B

(All stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R.Egypt, and with watermark Multiple Eagle unless noted otherwise)

<u>Commemorative Stamps</u>	<u>SG 1430</u>	<u>SG 1431</u>	<u>SG 1432</u>
Occasion	. . . A r a b	P e r s o n a l i t i e s	. . . . .
Date of issue	. . . . .	23rd December 1980	. . . . .
Designer	. . . . .	Lotfy el Sawaf	. . . . .
Design	Mustafa Sadek el Rafai (writer)	Dr Ali Mustafa Mousharafa (Scientist)	Dr Ali Ibrahim (Surgeon)
Denomination	20 mills	20 mills	20 mills
Sheet	. . . . .	50 (10 x 5) se-tenant	. . . . .
Stamp dimensions	. . . . .	26 x 43 mm (each)	. . . . .
Perforation	. . . . .	11 x 11½ (each)	. . . . .
Quantity printed	. . . . .	500,000	. . . . .
Supplementary (facts as to the persons)	Born 1880 Died 1927 Poet, prose writer & Author. He wrote 'Inspiration of the Pen'	Born 1898 Died 1950 Appointed Dean of the Faculty of Science in 1936	Born 1880 Died 1947 Dean of the Faculty of Medecine & Director of Cairo University

	<u>SG 1433</u>	<u>SG 1434</u>
Occasion	. . . . . P O S T	D A Y
Date of issue	. . . . .	2nd January 1981
Designer	. . . . .	Ibrahim el Tahtawi
Design	Scarab of Tutankhamun	Reverse of Scarab
Denomination	70 mills	70 mills
Sheet	50 (10 x 5) NO WATERMARK	50 (10 x 5) NO WATERMARK
Stamp dimensions	30 x 50 mm	30 x 50 mm
Perforation	11	11
Quantity printed	500,000	500,000
Supplementary	Found in a gilt chest in the Antechamber of Tutankhamun's tomb, the Scarab is made of gold, inlaid with blue glass and measures 5.2 cm long, 3.9 cm wide	

	<u>SG 1435</u>	<u>SG 1436</u>
Occasion	150th Anniversary of Birth of Heinrich von Stephan (founder of U.P.U.)	13th Cairo International Book Fair
Date of issue	7th January 1981	2nd February 1981
Designer	Lotfy el Sawaf	Nadia Abdel Fattah
Design	Heinrich von Stephan and U.P.U. emblem	Fair Emblem, Globe & Books
Denomination	140 mills	20 mills
Sheet	50 (10 x 5)	50 (5 x 10)
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm	43 x 26 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½	11½ x 11
Quantity printed	500,000	500,000
Supplementary	Egypt was one of the founder-member countries who signed the treaty establishing the U.P.U. in October 1874	



SG 1430



SG 1431



SG 1432



SG 1430/1/2



يوم البريد
POST DAY
SG 1433



SG 1433/4



يوم البريد
POST DAY
SG 1434



مطير بن سفيان
SG 1435



SG 1436



SG 1436



SG 1435

SPECIAL FIRST DAY CANCELS, Dec 1978 to March 1979

These stamps were described and illustrated in Q.C. 111, Sept 1979, pp 181-2



1377/78



1379



1380



1381



1382



1383



1385/86
(formerly 1384/85)

PROPRIETARY POST OFFICES - Addendum No. 4

Study entrusted to F. W. Benians ESC 123

A general definition of this Study could be described as those offices, controlled by the Civil Postal Authorities in commercial undertakings, primarily for the convenience of 'foreigners'. To the list of those operating in 'Hotels' have been added a 'Departmental Store' and a 'Travel Agency'. In this context it would be logical to add the cancellations of the 'Seamen's Home, Alexandria' - a hostel which was operated for the convenience of merchant seamen (foreigners) while in the port of Alexandria.

The cancellations from this office have always excited attention and interest. During the mid and late nineteen-sixties they were mentioned in postmark articles of the time and these were followed by some correspondence in philatelic magazines. There was, too, an invitation in 'The Q.C.' to collate the available data. I have tried without success to trace any Record which the Circle may have had and, in its absence, I am opening a file specially for this office.

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T H E S E A M E N ' S H O M E , A L E X A N D R I A

The seamen's Home or Hostel, Alexandria, is described in the Tourist Guide-Plan of Alexandria, 1937, under the heading of 'Batiments de L'Etat, Instituts, Batiments Publics, Chambres de Commerce, etc.' as being in the Avenue Alexandre le Grand, near to the British Consulate.

But its location according to a World War II 'Services Guide to Alexandria' is given in the Commercial Dock area some one and a half miles away :-

'Seamen's Home or Hostel, Alexandria, Gate 22, Quay 33 - within the docks.'

These two addresses have given rise to some confusion but, as we shall discover, the two institutions had connections with each other, but it is the one within the docks area where the Post Office was situated.

The city of Alexandria is about 18 miles long and 1½ miles wide and is the chief port of Egypt. During the course of a year, many ships with their crews visit the city, but there seems to have been very little research into their welfare or the postal arrangements made for them while in the port of Alexandria.

The earliest reference is that, in 1860, there was a Scottish Church Mission established in an old hospital ship from the Crimean War. A local committee was formed and raised sufficient funds by 1898 to build a permanent home on a site in the docks near to No. 22 gate. It was run on a religious basis by the Scottish Presbyterian Church. It is believed that a rule was that a religious service should be held on a Sunday evening and that no beer should be sold on the premises.

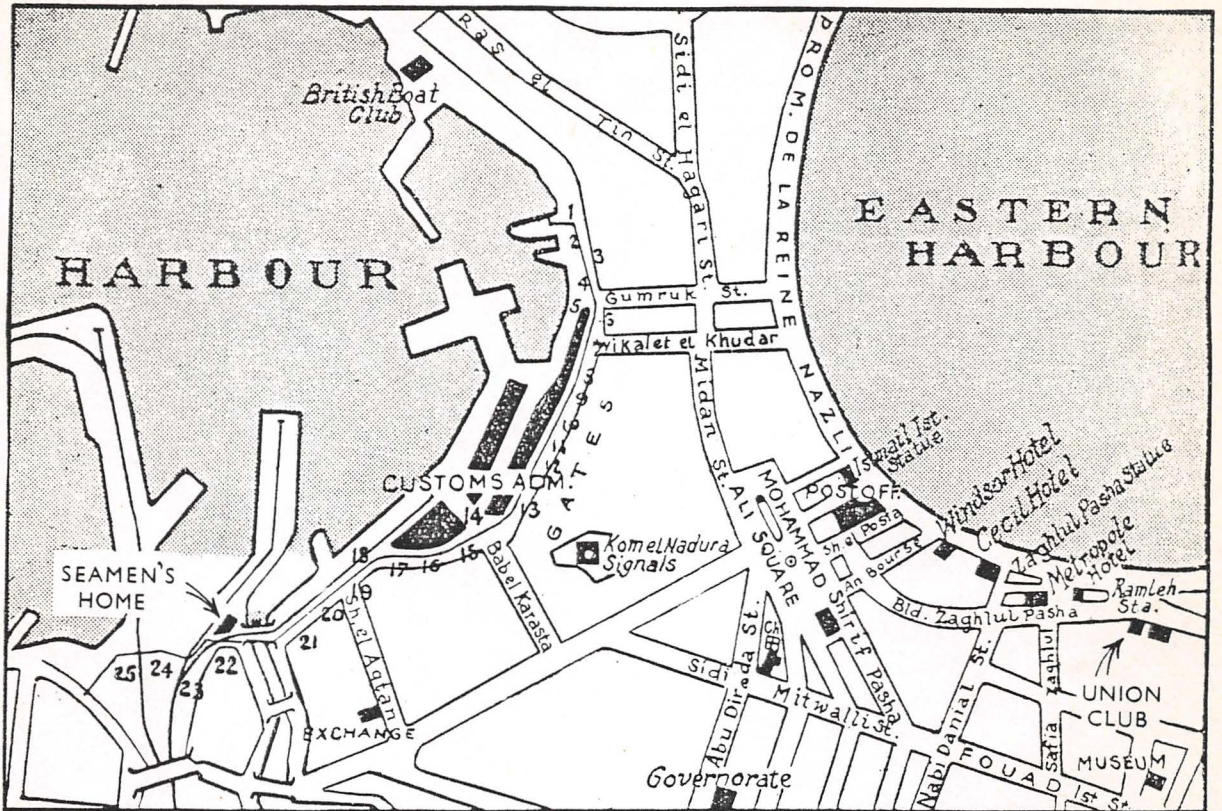
The earliest reference we have to the permanent home is in Murray's 'Handbook for Egypt and the Sudan', published by Edward Stanford in 1907, with an Index-Directory for 1910 :-

'Index - Merchant Seamen's Home, opposite the landing wharf, maintained by voluntary contributions of shipowners, residents and the Scottish Mission.' (page 589)

By some means the institution came to be run by the Consul-General and a committee, under the directorship of a Presbyterian Minister.

In 1925 it is known that a Mr Dawson with a few helpers ran it.

MAP OF THE DOCKS AREA OF ALEXANDRIA. This shows the position of the Merchant Navy Club (Seamen's Home) and the Institution (Union Club) in the town.



BRITISH MERCHANT NAVY WELFARE SOCIETY.



INFORMATION
ON
ALEXANDRIA

MERCHANT NAVY CLUB

GATE 22 — QUAY 33

ALEXANDRIA.

TELEPHONE: { CLUB No. 27263
P. O. ,, 20921

Proprietary Post Office - Seamen's Home - Continued

In 1936 there was a visit of the British Grand Fleet for ten months; the Royal Navy virtually took the place over and, at their request, beer was sold.

By 1937 it was run on entirely secular lines by an ex-policeman and his wife. The original concept was by then at a very low ebb, although a Royal Naval Chaplain did convert a bedroom for use as a chapel.

From 1938 to 1950 the honorary treasurer and secretary of the Seamen's Home and Merchant Navy Club was a Mr George W. Gerrard, O.B.E. In a note (see illustration) he says that the Seamen's Home was then: ' . . the only remaining private Post Office authorised to frank letters posted at the Seamen's Home, Alexandria Docks.'

In 1950 there was a determined effort by the Anglican Clergy in Alexandria to revive the work by an appeal to the 'Mission to Seamen'. In a report of the time :-

'On the ground floor behind the stage of the Assembly Hall was a funny three-cornered room with a harmonium and a lot of books, in which about six people can sit down and which is called a Prayer Room, the most uninviting and uninspiring spot in a most uninviting building'.

Beer was still being sold, and at this time we learn that the manager was a Greek - 'a nice fellow'.

BRITISH MERCHANT NAVY WELFARE SOCIETY

Early in 1947 the two major Institutions then in Alexandria for the welfare of merchant seamen were brought together under one umbrella and the Statutes of the new society throw an interesting light on the role of the Seamen's Home.

" STATUTES

" As adopted at a General Committee Meeting held at the British Consulate-General, Alexandria, on the 31st day of January 1947.

1. Name and Offices - The name of the Society is the British Merchant Navy Welfare Society, Alexandria, with its office care of the British Consul-General, Alexandria, or at any of the Society's premises hereinafter mentioned.

2. Objects - The objects of the Society are to create and constitute clubs for the recreation of merchant seamen visiting the port of Alexandria, to provide for their welfare generally and to collect subscriptions and donations in respect thereof.

3. Premises - The existing Clubs under the control and management of the Society are :-

(i) The Merchant Navy Club, formerly the Alexandria Merchant Seamen's Home, Gate 22, Alexandria Dock - Founded 1881.

(ii) The Merchant Navy Club, in the city. "

The Society's booklet 'Information on Alexandria' (see illustration) was issued for the benefit of visiting merchant seamen, and this outlines the the activities of the Club.

There were general sections dealing with Customs, Addresses, Hotels, Cinemas, Hospitals, Churches and Clubs.

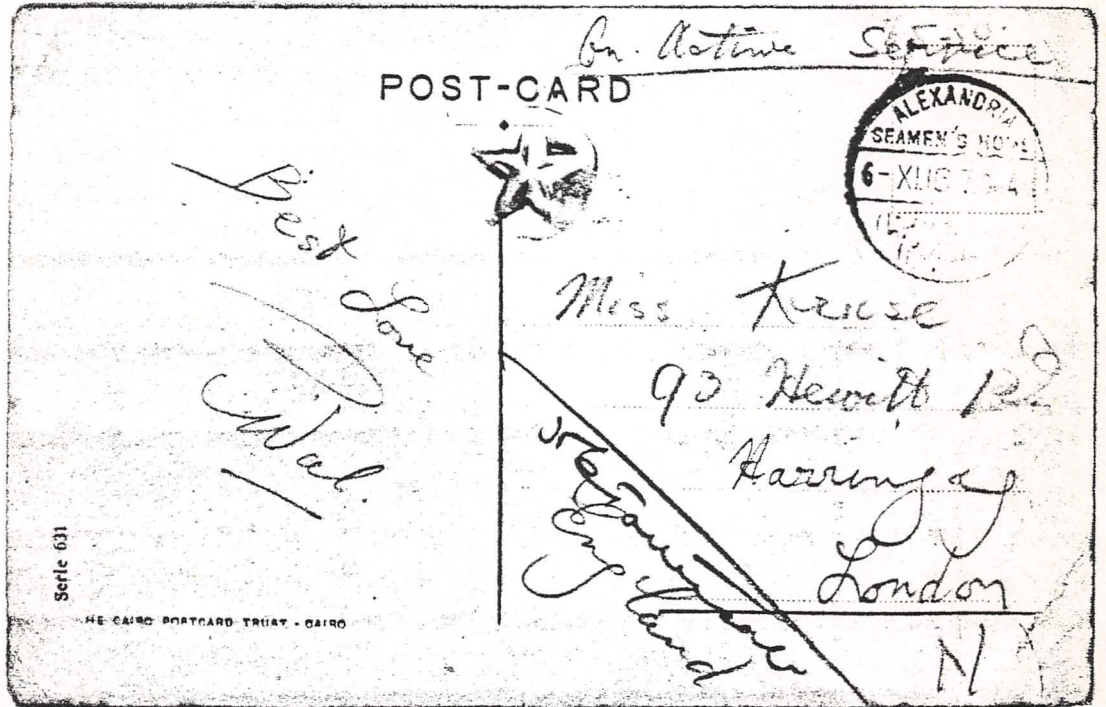
One section was headed:-

MERCHANT NAVY CLUB AND POST OFFICE

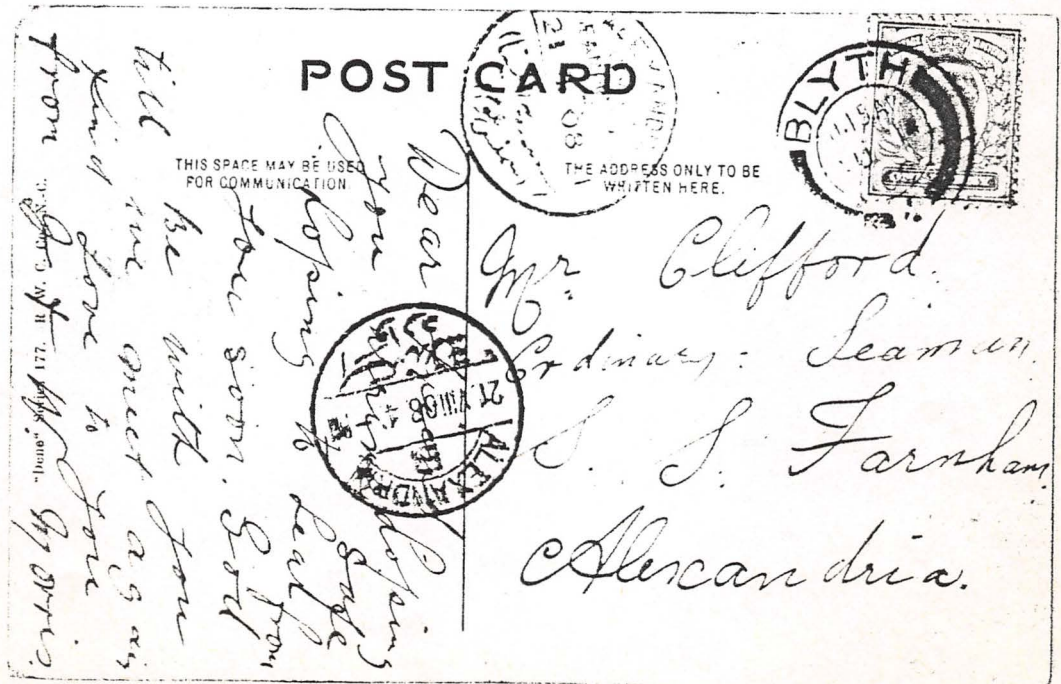
" Telephone: Club 27263 Post Office 20921

/ Continued . . .

An 'ON ACTIVE SERVICE' Postcard addressed to the United Kingdom.
Type II Seamen's Home marking dated 6 DE 16
Also the 'STAR' Dumb Censor marking of Alexandria



Post Card addressed to an Ordinary Seaman on S.S. 'Farnham'
Alexandria B Arrival Mark and Type I Seamen's Home, both dated 21 AUG 08



" Welfare Activities :-

Billiards, Cards, Chess, Dominoes, Draughts, Darts, Snooker, Table Tennis.

Sunday : A Chapel is available for those who wish to use it for divine meditation. The Manager will be pleased to meet any visitors who are desirous of coming together for prayer. The Main Hall and organ will be placed at the disposal of any Clergyman (irrespective of denomination) who would like to hold a service on the Sabbath day.

Writing and Reading Facilities - stationery is supplied without charge.

Merchant Navy personnel in hospital are visited once a week by the Manager"

(There were also directions on how to get to the City centre).

THE POST OFFICE

The office has been listed in various editions of the Postal Guide, and in earlier issues the office of 'Alexandria Port' is thought to have been closely associated with the Seamen's Home. The earliest type of datestamp has the word '(Port)' included in its legend.

The Egyptian Postal Guide of 1917 mentions this office while the 1928 edition gives a full account of the services it was permitted to perform. Listed under 'City of Alexandria', and under its own name :-

" Services Office admitted to ordinary and registered correspondence, ordinary parcels on arrival, inland and foreign ordinary money orders. Collection orders Inland Post Order Service, British Postal Order Service, British Postal Orders issued and paid.

Admitted to the Insured Parcels in arrival not exceeding £ E. 20.

All letters from abroad, addressed to men in ships visiting the port, are received at this post-office and subsequently delivered, by the Club's special postman, aboard ships as soon as they are alongside the quays or anchored in the harbour.

Letters posted at the Club must be handed over the post-office counter, there is no official box at the club. No parcels or cables are accepted owing to the post-office being situated in the customs area."

THE DATESTAMPS

Type (i) 'ALEXANDRIA / (PORT) / SEAMEN'S HOME' in the upper segment. An example on a postcard (1908) addressed to an able seaman on 'S.S. FARNHAM' is an arrival mark.

Type (ii) 'ALEXANDRIA / SEAMEN'S HOME' was in use throughout the period of the First World War. An unstamped 'O.A.S.' postcard has the dumb censor 'Star' marking of Alexandria, but the few items seen are civilian in character and appear to have escaped censorship. Noted is a postcard addressed 'S.S. RYDAN'.

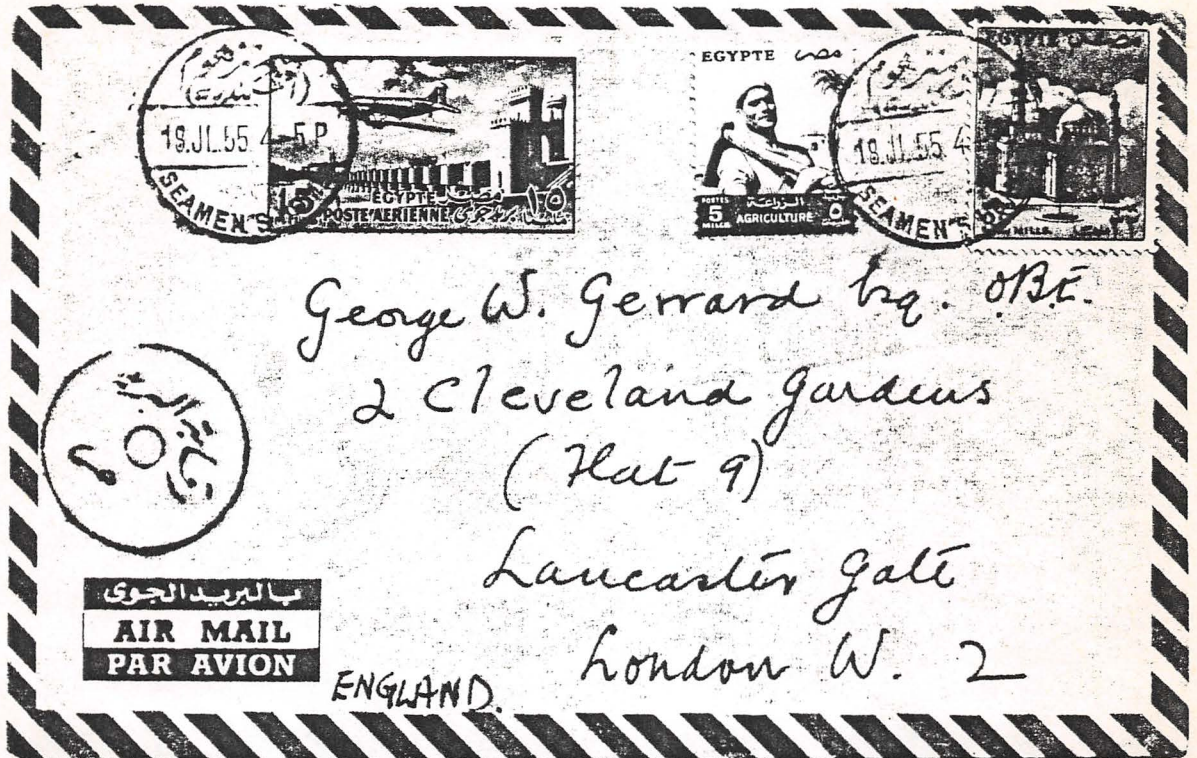
Type (iii) 'ALEXANDRIA / SEAMEN'S HOME' in use throughout the 1920's.

Type (iv) 'ALEXANDRIA / SEAMEN'S HOME' which is now in the lower segment of the datestamp, with the Arabic equivalent in the upper.

Type (v) 'SEAMEN'S HOME' (only) in the lower segment, being one of the more numerous of these generally very scarce series of cancellations.

(Notes on the Arabic inscriptions in the Datestamps will be found on the illustration page featuring these datestamps - Ed.)

AIR MAIL LETTER addressed to George W. Gerrard, O.B.E., a former Honorary Treasurer and Secretary of the Seamen's Home, with Type V datestamp of 19 JL 55



The 'Statutes' of the British Merchant Navy Welfare Society, Alexandria

A note by Mr Gerrard

STATUTES

As adopted at a General Committee Meeting held at the British Consulate-General, Alexandria, on the 31st day of January, 1947.

1. **Name and Offices.**—The name of the Society is the British Merchant Navy Welfare Society Alexandria, with its office c/o the British Consulate-General, Alexandria, or at any of the Society's premises hereinafter mentioned.

2. **Objects.**—The objects of the Society are to create and constitute clubs for the recreation of merchant seamen visiting the port of Alexandria, to provide for their welfare generally and to collect subscriptions and donations in respect thereof.

3. **Premises.**—The existing Clubs under the control and management of the Society are:—

- X (i) The Merchant Navy Club, formerly the Alexandria Merchant Seamen's Home. Gate 22, Alexandria Dock—Founded 1881. X
- (ii) The Merchant Navy Club, in the City.

4. **Members.**—Any individual or Steamship Company, Commercial Society or Company is entitled on request to be registered a member of the Society who contributes an annual subscription or donation of not less than £E. 1. Any member who

Note - The Postmarks 'Seamens Home'

This was the only remaining private

Post Office authorized to frank letters

posted at the Seamen's Home, Alexandria Docks - E

I was the Hon. Treasurer & Secretary of the Seamen's Home or Merchant Navy Club for 12 years

1938-1950!

G. W. Gerrard

Proprietary Post Office - Seamen's Home - Continued

	<u>diam/mm</u>	<u>*U/L</u>	<u>*== mm</u>	<u>Earliest</u>	<u>Latest</u>
Type (i)	28	U	4.0	29.AP.06	22.MR.09
(ii)	26	U	6.5	14.JL.09	10.JA.18
(iii)	28	U	7.5	12.MR.21	13.AP.30
(iv)	29.5	L	9.0	22.FE.31	27.AP.32
(v)	27	L	8.0	9.AP.32	18.JL.55

*Legend :-

U - English in Upper segment of datestamp

L - English in Lower segment of datestamp

== mm - distance between bars

The dates in Types (i) to (iv) are in Roman characters.

These recordings show that this office operated for a period of at least 49 years.

Type (ii) - there is a recording on a 3-mill stamp of '23'.

REGISTRATION MARK

Only one stamp appears to have been used bearing the legend 'SEAMEN'S HOME OFFICE'. The registration number being added by hand in red ink. There were at least two runs of one hundred registration numbers each but being spread over a number of years indicates how small this office was and how few items it serviced.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Registration Number</u>	<u>Type of Datestamp</u>
4.MY.17	88	(ii)
1.JA.24	3	(iii)
22.FE.31	43	(iv)

Addresses containing the names of vessels are interesting and provide a guide to the 'clientele' who used the hostel.

<u>Name of Ship</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Type of Datestamp</u>
S.S. 'FARNHAM'	21.AU.08	(i)
S.S. 'ROYSTON'	3.JA.18 / 10.JA.18	(ii)
S.S. 'SITRA'	5. MY.21	(iii)
S.S. 'STAR OF ALEMEDROUS'	9.AP.32	(v)

These markings are by no means common. From this beginning is a basis to which others may add and, when more is known, a truly fascinating story will emerge.

/ Continued . . .

ALEXANDRIA - SEAMEN'S HOME

REGISTERED LETTER with Type III datestamp addressed to Germany

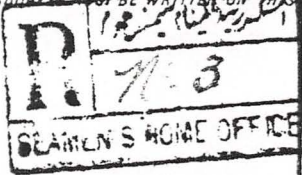


REGISTERED LETTER

This Letter must be given to an Officer of the Post to be Registered, and a Receipt obtained

البريد المسجل يجب ان يعطى له ايصالا
من مكتب البريد
والبريد المسجل يجب ان يعطى له ايصالا
من مكتب البريد

THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE - عنوان في هذا الوجه

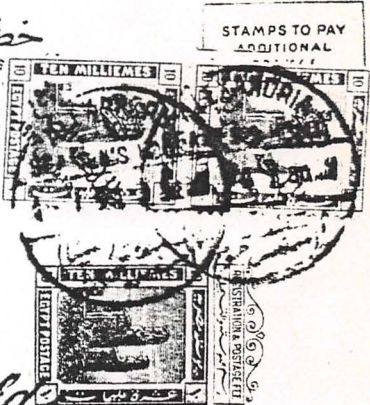


خطاب مسجل -

Officer of the Post Receipt obtained

سلم هذا الخطاب مسجول
من جانب البريد

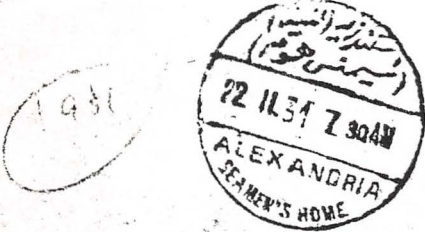
STAMPS TO PAY ADDITIONAL



Mrs.

Mrs. Louise Meutzfeldt
Hamburg 30
Regestr. 15.
Germany.

REGISTERED LETTER with Type IV datestamp (22 JL 31) addressed to London



W. H. Puxley, Esq.,

Chief Engineer,

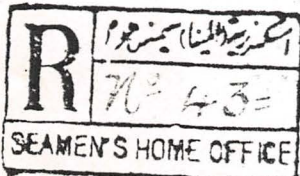
S.S. City of Oxford,

c/o Messrs. Westcott & Laurance,

West India Dock,

England.

LONDON.



K

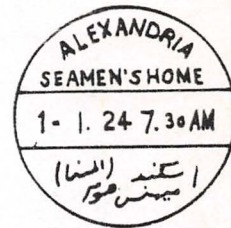
ALEXANDRIA - SEAMEN'S HOME



Type I



Type II



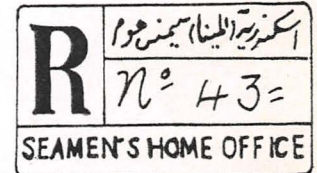
Type III



Type IV



Type V

Notes on the Arabic inscriptions in the Datestamps

* In Type I and II, the top line reads "Iskandriye", then in brackets "el-mena" - the port. The lower line, in brackets, "سيمس هوم" is a direct transliteration into Arabic of "Seamen's Home". Reading from right to left, the letters are: s - m - n - s h - (w) - m, the letter 'wau' in this case to lengthen the vowel.

* Types III and IV have wordings the same as the previous types with a slight change in the spelling of "Seamen's", "سيمس". After the initial 'sin' there is now an additional 'ya' to lengthen the vowel sound from 'se' to 'see'.

Type V has changes in the format and in the spelling of "Seamen's". The Arabic reads, top line, "Seamen's Home", lower line in brackets "Iskandria". "Seamen's" is now spelt with the final 'sin - s' being replaced by 'zay - z', "سيمز", the apostrophe 's' in "Seamen's" sounding nearer to 'z' than to 's'.

* The difference with and without the additional 'ya' is dependent upon two small dots which can be difficult to determine. So the possibility exists that all types in fact contain the 'ya'. In the postmarks seen, however, the evidence is toward the above statement.

The same day it was forwarded across the Golden Horn to the central railway station, after having received the departure postmark. It then travelled by railway to its destination, Goldberg, where it arrived on Aug. 19, 1897.

All this is of course only conjecture, as I do not know enough about the postal organisation in Turkey, but it may help the questioner.

Lars Alund (ESC 105)

REPLY TO QUESTION TIME 38

"MARSEILLE / COURS AU CHAPITRE" cds (Question put by Mr P.E.Whetter)

J. Boulad d'Humieres writes: "Cours au Chapitre" means nothing at all in a French cds. I think these words must have been wrongly read."

(It is unlikely that this can be followed up, it being an Auctioneers' description - Editor).

NEW QUESTIONS

Q. Time 39 - Varieties on U.A.R. Issues - Constant ? - C.E.H.Defriez

39.1 1959 Nile Hilton Hotel Opening.
Deformed 'O' in 'Hilton' resembling an inverted 'Q'. Bottom stamp in vertical strip of 3 from top left-hand corner of sheet.

39.2 1968 16th Anniversary of the Revolution.
Extra white dot below Arabic character at extreme right, top of second stamp of a pair.

I do not know whether or not these varieties are constant. Would members please report if they have examples in their collections, giving the positions in sheet if known. - C.E.H.Defriez.

Q. Time 40 - 'POSTED ON THE HIGH SEAS' - put by Lars Alund

I have in my collection a 13-mills King Fuad stamp with a straight cancel in four lines, showing the words:

POSTED
(T)HE HIGH SEAS
URSE (R ?)
EXCHANGE

(See illustration). This cancellation is somewhat similar to the one illustrated by Mr Hosking ("Paquebot Cancellations of the World") as number 1729, but I have never seen another copy, and I have not seen it described before. Can anybody help ?

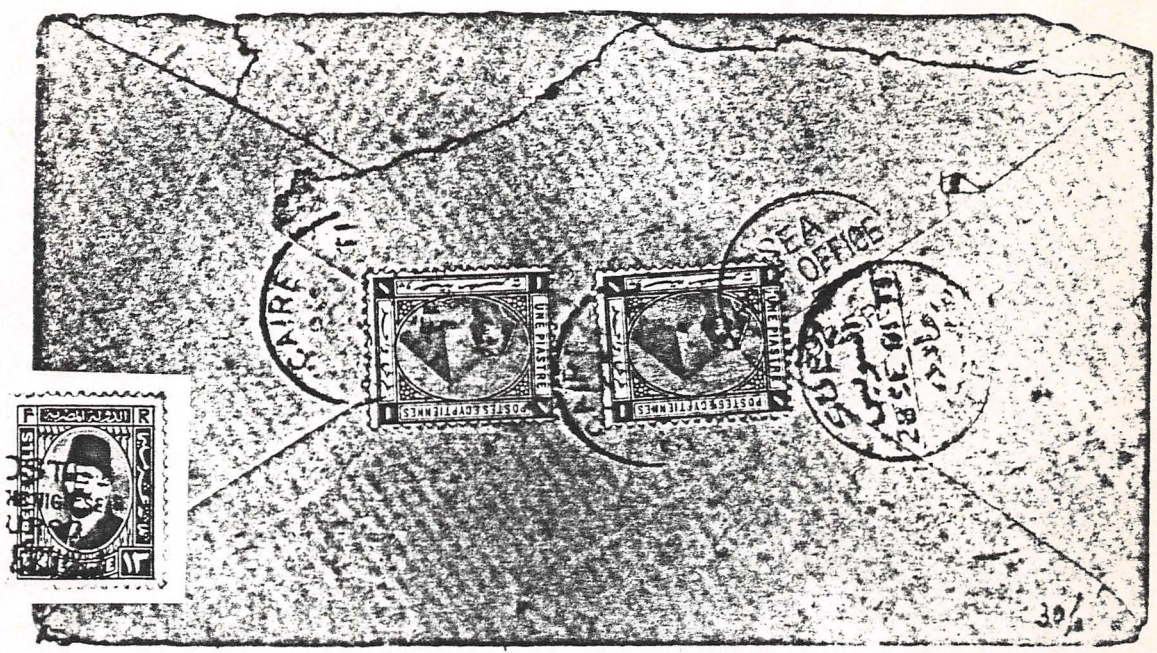
I also have a cover, addressed from Cairo to Bombay, postmarked on the front with a CAIRO postmark 28 Sep. 1881 and franked on the back with a pair of 1879 De La Rue 1 PT rose, showing the same datestamp. The cover carries on reverse a transit postmark from Suez, also dated 28 Sep. 1881 and, later, someone has struck a postmark reading "SEA / POST OFFICE / B(?) / 29 SEP . . ." (see illustration). This one is unknown to me; is it possibly not Egyptian ?

Q. Time 41 - French Ship Cancels - put by Lars Alund

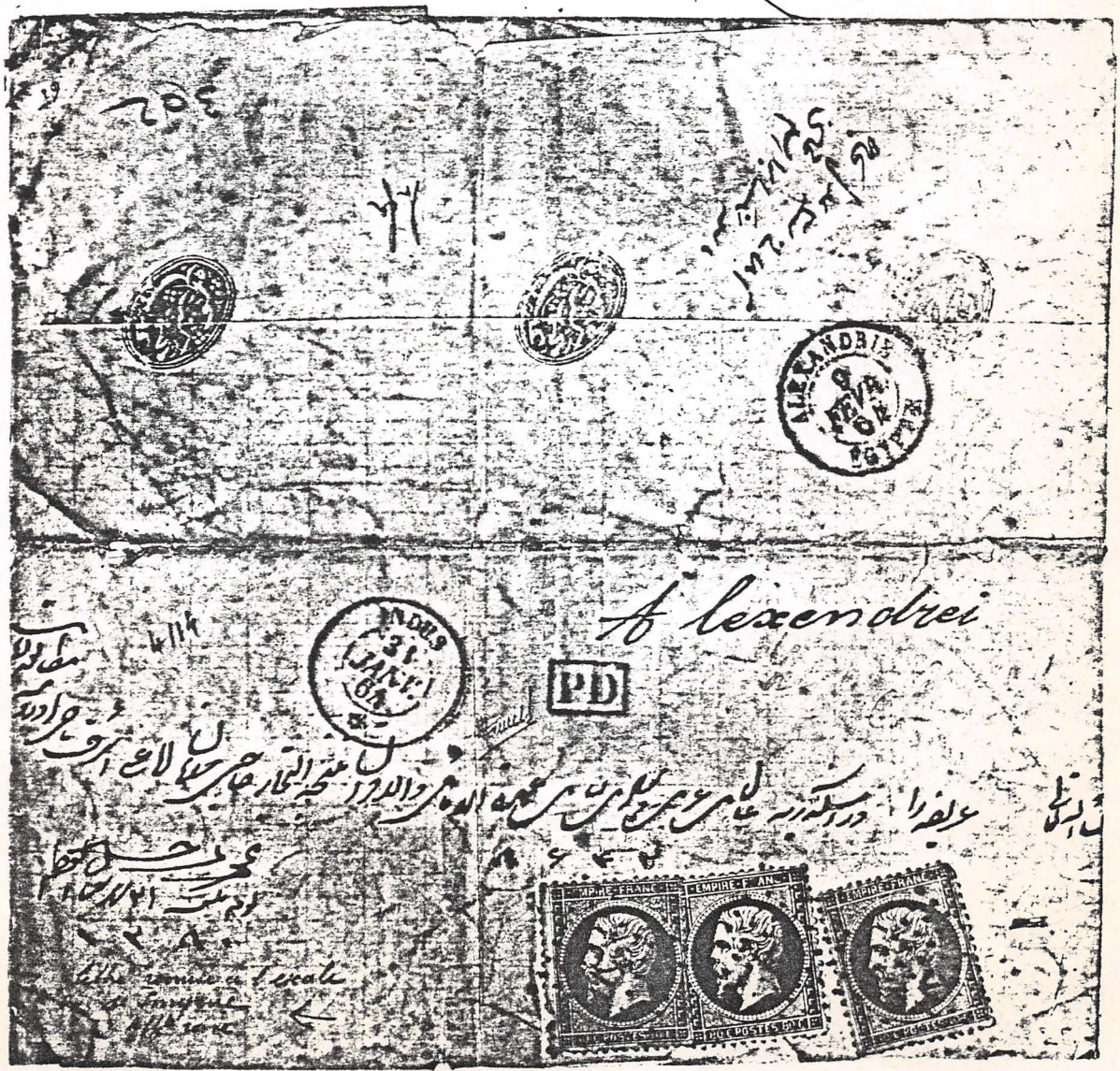
I recently acquired an entire letter, addressed in Arabic to Alexandria, said to have been written in Beyrouth. It is franked with French stamps (the non-laureated Napoleon of 1853/60, 80c, and two of 10c) all cancelled with the French maritime anchor postmark. The letter has on its front received the postmark "INDUS" 31 Jan. 64 and, on reverse, a receiving mark from the French consular post office in Alexandria, 9 Feb. 64. In L'OP Vol. VII, pages 317 et seq, Monsieur Gabriel Boulad wrote about maritime cancellations and he mentions postmarks, including names of various ships, viz. "EGYPTUS", "NIL", "ASIE", "PHASE" (should perhaps be 'Phare' ?) and "MEINAM". He does not, however, include "INDUS". Can anybody help ?

ILLUSTRATIONS to QUESTION TIME

Q. Time 40: 'Posted on the High Seas . . .' cancelling Fuad 13m also: Sea Post Office Backstamp



Q. Time 41: French Ship Cancel - 'INDUS'



W A G H O R N - THE DESPICABLE PRACTICES OF BOUCHER AND TOWNSEND

Waghorn was everlastingly managing to get into trouble with one side or the other of his business, and it can't always have been someone else's fault. However, in this case, he couldn't have been personally responsible for a disaster, as the goods left England before he left Egypt, and the letter explains how he has been 'done'. Presumably the goods were for sale to passengers crossing Egypt in charge of his agency.

" Alexandria 4th May 1840

"Thomas Waghorn Esqr London

"Dear Sir

Now that I have inspected in great part the goods per 'Minerva' I feel it necessary in order that you may regulate the payment of the different Tradesmen who supplied them to give you a few hints on the Subject :-

First Boucher -- Without an exception I have never beheld a more miserable assortment of things and (with few exceptions) they are totally unsaleable. There are hardly 12 plates alike and as to the Cups and Saucers his prices are shameful for the quality he has sent, - on referring to Invoice I find that he charges 6 shillings a dozen for Cups and Saucers and the very same article can be had here from Retailers, who purchase from Todds, for 5 shillings, how can he have the conscience to make such charges? In fact Mr Boucher has sent you all the Rubbish he had in his Warehouse & Charged you the highest price for them, and I suggest the necessity of your making a reduction of at least from 30 to 40 % on his account otherwise you must inevitably lose from 20 to 30 % by him. Cutlery It has all come out in good order but the prices are exorbitant. I can purchase the very same article (for I have compared them) can be bought here for 36 shillings a Set. You must in your own defence cut off 30 per cent on this account, otherwise you will gain a loss. Soda Water - The 14 Casks have arrived safe minus the Bottles. The packing was bad & the casks worse, more than half the Bottles are broken in some of the Casks. This might have been attributed to the Stowing on Bd the ship or carelessness in getting them up had I not been present Myself when three of them which were in the best apparent order when in the hold having gone to pieces in hoisting them up, & I can verily state the utmost care was used by Captain & men in getting them out. You should claim 30 percent at least on this a/c for negligent packing &c &c & if you have not already paid the account, most decidedly don't pay it, without this reduction be made. Seltzer Water all right Umbrellas & 3 Cases of Hats are to hand & all in good order - these will answer however it is a pity there were not some of a better quality sent of course you have had a discount on these, as the prices noted in the invoice are precisely the same they are retailed at in town. Case of Stationery all correct & in good order. Pickles, Sauces & Preserves etc etc come in most admirable order, the breakage is but trifling. The only thing to be found fault with is that there has been so much sent we will not get rid of our present stock in 2 years.

Boucher was not responsible for all this rubbish, though no other name is given in the letter, and the excess of Pickles etc must be due to faulty ordering but one way and another it's a sad picture, and there was more to come when Mr Pothonier found time for another look."

On 21st May we hear :-

"The goods pr 'Minerva' arrived at a very unpropitious moment we have not been able to get rid of but very few of these." (Presumably the Umbrellas and Seltzer water and perhaps some Stationery - the rest looks like a dead loss). "While upon this subject it is but proper to remark that Townsend has regularly done you in the Hats. They are all of the same size and too small for any reasonable man. The fact is that Mr Townsend coupled Boucher took

/ Continued . . .

" the opportunity of sending us what they could not find sale for in London. Indeed the Minerva goods taking them one with another is a very sad affair you have been charged unconscionable prices for the greater part of them and such as we can make little or no profit on."

It is a bit surprising that they could make anything at all. With all respect to the enterprising Boucher and Townsend, the principle of ordering goods in London, apparently unseen and at prices which, wholesale, only equalled the retail prices in Alexandria, seems to be profoundly uneconomic, as there would be the cartage and breakage to take into account also. Are we really surprised that the firm was everlastingly in economic chaos ?

Anyway let us close with the picture of Waghorn's staff knee deep in unsaleable crockery, cutlery and hats, wading around in broken glass, swimming in Soda Water and living on Pickles and Sauces in order to get rid of the stuff somehow.

F. Rowland Hill (ESC 212)

BOOKLETS GALORE by P.E. Whetter (ESC 133)

It all started with a telephone call. "Would I be coming to the next meeting ?" "Yes, indeed." "Well, there's a bit of a gap in the programme - do you think you could bring your Booklet Collection ?"

I said "I suppose so", trying to put as much reluctance into my voice as I could, without actually saying 'No'. It isn't that I mind showing my bits and pieces but the fact is I hadn't got a Booklet Collection. At least, not the kind of collection that we drool over at Circle meetings - rare pieces (where do they find them ?) beautifully written up with knowledgeable descriptions, plus an erudite commentary. What I had was a shoe box (nearly antique - 'best willow calf: 12/6d') full of booklets and odd notes on scraps of paper. Apart from additions here and there most of the contents hadn't seen the light of day for 30 years or more.

Armed with the fine article by Jean Boulad d'Humieres and A. John Revell in L.O.P. 127 - to whom many thanks - plus a French dictionary and H.R. Work's listing I could at least make a start by putting them all in date order. This done, how should I mount them ? Would Circle members - always assuming they wanted to see the confounded things at all - prefer to see the cover, the stamps inside, or even the interleaving covered with unintelligible Arabic characters ? Or should I "explode" them all - this would make mounting easier. No, I couldn't do this, exploding first and second issue booklets seems nothing short of vandalism - it wouldn't exactly increase their value, either ! A dynamic decision : I will fix the back cover to the album page with photo corners - in the event, the staples and stitching were a bit of a nuisance - leaving the booklet free to be opened at will. Or so I thought. Putting the whole lot in glassine envelopes makes this a trifle difficult but I'll cross this bridge at the meeting.

I have finished. The duplicates are back in the shoe box and I have a collection - yes, a collection - not a hoard.

Some notes on selected items I intend to produce - or will have produced by the time this article appears - may not be out of place. I have one example of the first issue (Work No. 1) with each stamp overprinted " SPECIMEN " (Figure 1 on page 135). My notes say "believed to be unique" but I hesitate to claim that it is. If I am ever bold enough to claim a "latest date", to be sure someone will come along with a date so much later than mine that I have to alter my write-up to "early use" !

Booklets Galore - Continued

By the same token I expect to find not only that there are plenty of "SPECIMEN" books around but that there will be inverted overprints, double overprints, overprints in inverted commas and so on. I will continue to hope. The first issue booklet sold originally at a premium of 1 mill over the price of the stamps themselves which apparently proved unpopular with the public. In 1911 the premium was abolished, the official notice indicating that from 1st July 1916 the selling price would be 120 mills and that the price on existing booklets would be altered by hand. J.B.d'H. and A.J.R. say in French and loosely translated: "We have still not seen booklets on which the sale price has been corrected by hand, nor booklets on which the price printed on the cover is 120 millimes. But that is not to say that they will not be found." I have two examples of the 120-mill booklet and it is interesting to note that the cover, printed black on blue, has been re-designed with the text in Arabic and English. (Figure 2 on page 135). Advertisements appear on the inside of the front cover, on both sides of the interleaving sheets and on rear cover, details as follow :-

	<u>F r o n t</u>	<u>B a c k</u>
Cover	Description, Arabic, English Imprimerie Safarowsky Simonds Double Stout L.C.Smith Visible Typewriter Richard Preller, Relieur Luna Park, Heliopolis Finck & Bayloender, Succ.	Gasmotoren - Fabrik Deutz Rudolf Boehm & Co Reinhold Eichhorn Lawrence & Mayo - Opticians A. Preiner, Fils P. Dittrich, Photographer Tivoli, Cairo

Both of the books I have carry the same advertisements.

The second booklet issued, priced at 73 mills for 24 x 3-mill stamps was also unpopular and in 1907 the existing stock was passed to post office counters for the stamps to be removed and sold in the normal way. J.B.d'H. says: "this explains, without doubt, why they are so rare" and asks: "Who then are the present happy owners?" I have one complete book - stapled left and with plain interleaving.

The third booklet issued was offered at 125 mills, a premium of 5 mills, until the 1st January 1919, when the price was reduced to 120 mills. J.B.d'H. and A.J.R. mention that they have not seen this booklet with the printed price 125 mills, that is, the first printing. I have one example of the first printing which is identical to the illustration on page 296 of L.O.P. 127, except that the price is shown as "125" in English and Arabic. Proof, if proof be needed, that they do exist! The interleaving is plain, which suggests that only the second printing carried advertisements.

I have one example of the 120-mill, 2nd issue Fuad (Work 8) which I do not think has been recorded. The inside front cover, one side of the interleaving and both sides of the back cover bear an advertisement in Arabic, English and French: "Space to let for Advertisements. For full particulars apply to G.P.O. Alexandria." (Figure 3 on page 135). In spite of this "advert for adverts" I do not recall having seen any Fuad or later booklets with commercial advertising.

John Revell in his article in L.O.P. 119, page 25, mentions that, during the printing of the 5m stamps for the 210-mill booklet in 1930, a small quantity of paper was fed into the printing press incorrectly. As a result Die Negative Type V was produced with inverted watermark and Die Negative Type III with upright watermark. A.J.R. adds: "Booklets are recorded containing one or two panes of the 5-mill value with these watermark errors on both types of the die negative. In complete booklet form they are rare, but in complete booklets with die negative Type V and Control Number they are extremely rare." I have booklets containing single panes of each error but have yet to find one with two panes or with a Control Number.

Figure 2



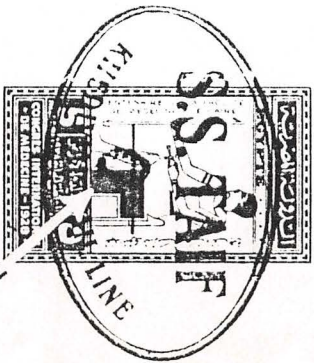
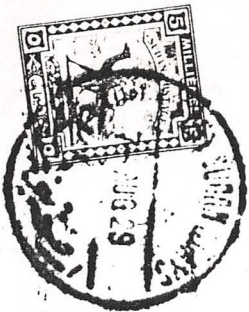
Figure 3



Figure 1



SUDAN INVALIDATION MARK STRUCK ON ADHESIVE



Tracings



Back-stamp



Mr. F. Hendrey
P.O. Box 578
Alexandria

NO INVALIDATION MARKING

7/11/20



The Cottage
Chaucer Road
Bourning
England.

Booklets Galore - Continued

Booklets are so rarely offered for sale, either by dealers or by auctioneers, that it is extremely difficult to assess the relative scarcity of any particular booklet. If members care to let me know what booklets they have I will try to publish a "league table" in a future Q.C. which may throw some light on this problem. Auction realisations might be useful, too.

Whilst on the subject of values, I have long been intrigued by the Work listing of No. 18 - "Soldier with Bayonet". The booklet stitched right is valued at $\pounds 7\frac{1}{2}$, but stitched left only $\pounds 5$ (at 1958 prices). These were presumably manufactured in equal quantities. Is it that fewer "stitched right" have survived? My shoe box contained 4 "stitched right" against 5 "stitched left". In the right direction but hardly conclusive!

P.E.Whetter (ESC 133)

Note by Editor: The H.R.Work listing of Egypt Booklets was reproduced in "The Q.C." Vol. X, No. 5, Whole No. 109 (March 1979) together with an excellent review by Mr P.Andrews (ESC 122).

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UNFRAMED 'O' MARKING of the SUDAN - J.M.Murphy (ESC 240)

In a stimulating article (QC Vol. X, No. 8, pages 192, 196-205, Dec 1979) the late Ron Potter asked whether Egypt was the only country to use a handstamp - the framed 'O' marking - to indicate that adhesives were not valid for postage. The cover illustrated on next page appears to indicate that Sudan at least did use a similar hadnstamp, although without a rectangular frame around the 'O'.

The cover emanates from the Khedivial Mail Line vessel S.S. TAIF, as shown by the clear oval cancellation struck in purple, and bears the 5 mills stamp of the 1928 Medical Conference. Use of an Egyptian stamp on an Egyptian ship should have been perfectly acceptable, but the date of posting (PORT SUDAN cds 7 AUG 29 on the reverse) eight months after its issue on 15 December 1928 indicates the reason for the hqndstruck (in black) 'O' placed slightly askew on the stamp itself: the strike measures approximately 45mm by 60mm. According to Zeheri, the stamp lost its validity on 16 March 1929, a three-month currency. Instead of a framed 'T' postage due mark, as might have been expected, someone (perhaps even the notorious Mr Hendrey himself?) then affixed a Sudan 5 mills definitive of the 1927 issue at top left of the envelope, and it was cancelled at PORT SUDAN QUAYS the same day. A machine cancel on the reverse indicates arrival in ALEXANDRIA on 13 AU 29.

There are two tracings of the 'O'-marking and, on close examination, I discover that the 'O' is not a little distorted, having been struck from the lower right, with the result that that area is over-inked, with some spreading, and the top left is under-inked. At lower left there was clearly dirt or foreign matter on the hand-stamp which has prevented a full impression. My clearer sketch includes only the over-inking at lower right; the other attempts all the gradations of the impression.

As a postscript to the above, an Egyptian cover of 1938, similarly franked with an out-of-date commemorative adhesive, bears no 'O' marking at all but has been taxed. The Casino Palace Hotel envelope bears 1, 2 and 3 mills of the July 1937 "Boy King" definitive issue, a 4 mills deep green of the Fuad 1927-37 issue, and the 5mills of the 1937 Ophthalmological Conference set. This latter, valid only from December 8 1937 to January 20 1938, was left uncanceled by the clerk using the PORT SAID / TRAFFIC / B handstamp of 17 FE 38 11.30 A, and the rectangular boxed 'T' mark added, but no other indication of the commemorative stamp's invalidity. On arrival in Worthing the letter was charged 1d Postage Due on 24 FE 38.

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EGYPTIAN SEA POST CANCELLATIONS - Some Notes by Lars Alund (ESC 105)

When I received No. 1 of the Q.C. of 1981 (Whole Series No. 117) I read with interest the notes by Mr Kenneth D. Knight about Egyptian Paquebot Datestamps. As I am not specialised in this field I put this article aside for later use.

By co-incidence, however, I have since acquired an auction lot of Sea Post items and I therefore decided to have another look at the article, and to check whether I could add anything of value to the facts given by Mr Knight. The result was surprising.

Thus I noticed a postmark from Alexandria (Type P-A 1) with the date of 27 March 1938, i.e. more than two years later than previously recorded (figure 1, on following page).

When examining the postmarks from Port Said I did not find a single copy of Type P - S 1, i.e. with a single figure after the date in the central 'bridge' of the postmark. Type P - S 2, however, with the hour given as $\frac{A}{M}$ or $\frac{P}{M}$ after the date, occurs on several copies. The earliest ones show the upper part of the postmark circle without any damage. Later copies show an indentation at about 2 o'clock in the circle; still later the circle is broken additionally at about 11 o'clock (see illustration in Q.C. No. 117 at page 24).

Amongst my material I found a copy of type P - S 2 postmarked 22 July 1914 (Figure 2), i.e. no less than eight years earlier than previously recorded! I also found another postmark of the same type with the date 29 Sep. 1926 (Figure 3). None of these two copies shows any damage in the upper part of the circle. The first state of damage occurs, however, on a cover postmarked 5 Feb. 1925 (Figure 4). As this is an earlier date than the one shown in figure 3 one is inclined to believe that two different obliterators were used.

In the first years of the 1950's this type of postmark shows another form of damage insofar that the figure "5" in the year is not visible. Instead of "51", "52", or "53" the damaged postmark shows only the last figure, viz. "1", "2", or "3" (Figures 5, 6).

I can now show this type of postmark used much later than previously recorded, viz. 22 Feb. 1967 (Figure 7).

My copies of the Port Tawfiq postmarks do not add much of interest to Mr Knight's notes. I have, however, found a copy of type P - T 2 with the date 15 Aug. 1956, or four years earlier than previously recorded (Figure 8).

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" T H E B O O K "

" We should resolve to publish 'THE BOOK' in our Golden Jubilee Year, 1985. . . . Who is for it ? "

The proposition above is taken from the Editorial on page 85 of the December 1981 Q.C., following the article in the same issue, by Jim Benians, 'Fifty Years On', dealing with the history of the founding and early years of this Study Circle. The question posed has brought a good response from those who have a good 'track record' as to research work, as the following extracts show :-

FROM F.W.BENIANS: "For some time past I have been concerned by the general lack of availability of the 'Record', especially where new members are concerned. . . . I would wholeheartedly support any endeavour to prepare for publication any section of our studies as they become available. There will never be such a good chance as now - previously unpublished works - printing, editorial - all available. I am with you all the way."

/ Continued . . .

' THE BOOK ' - Continued

FROM R. JEIDEL: " I have repeatedly voiced my opinion, both at meetings I was able to attend and in correspondence, that whatever material is on hand should be published. . . . In order to make a positive move, if the Keeper of the Philatelic Record will send me photostats of whatever he has accumulated on Thomas Waghorn specifically, and the Overland Story in general, I am willing to check whether I am able to add to that. But after that it should go to print - or another effort is wasted."

FROM P. E. WHETTER: "I would like to see these items in the Q.C. (1) The Star & Bridge cancellations have aroused a lot of interest - there is nothing like publishing early and late dates for bringing out the competitive spirit. Could we have a similar list for 'Star & Crescent' . . (2) A checklist of the small and large watermarks on DLR and 1914 issues, with invitations to report additions. I'm sure my own list is by now sadly out of date. (3) A check list of 'Used Abroad' showing the issues and values known used at each office. To stimulate interest we could ask for early and late dates. (4) I have recently bought both Minett and Potter "Express" collections and am starting a Study of these issues . . . I shall be able to let you have an article . . ."

FROM J. BOULAD d'HUMIERES: "It is a very good idea indeed to decide to think, at last, about "The Book". I will list here subjects which ought to be considered, as these are almost complete and thus ready for inclusion in "The Book". . . . I was very early entrusted with the Suez Canal postage stamps and postal service Study. In about 1973, a Swedish collector asked me if I would write a full study of this subject for publication . . . As "The Book" of the Egypt Study Circle was almost forgotten at that time, I thought I could accept the offer of Mr . . . this book will probably be published in about two years' time."

How to proceed ? - a lot of help is needed from many Members of the Circle. Please consider carefully what YOU can do, then complete the coupon below and send to the Editor, who will co-ordinate the response. Please be as specific as you can but, if you are not aware of what exactly is needed, please reply anyway and we will try to offer you some task to your liking.

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE - ' THE BOOK '

TO: John A. Grimmer, 48 York Road, New Barnet, Herts EN5 1LJ, England
(telephone 01-440 0365)

FROM: (ESC No.)

(address)

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I AM WILLING TO HELP IN PREPARING 'THE BOOK' FOR PUBLICATION

1. by undertaking responsibility for Study/Studies
2. by assisting in preparing Study/Studies
3. by assisting in research / illustrations / typing / proof-reading
4. by participating in planning or other committee work (good access to London is probably necessary)
5. by

(Write on plain paper if you do not wish to deface your copy of the Q.C.)

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