

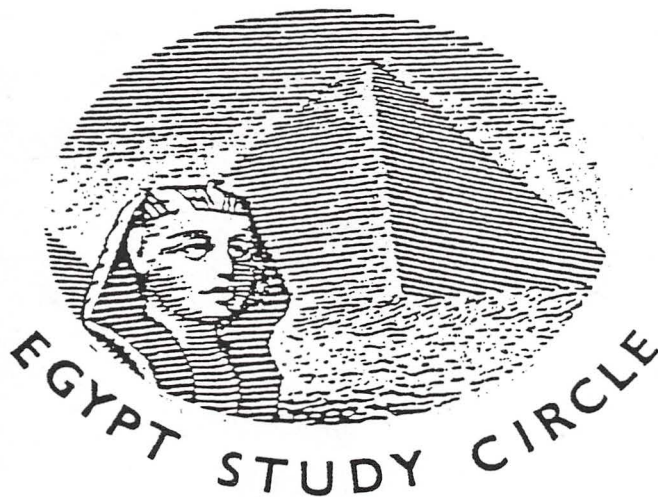
THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

Volume XI

Number **12**

December 1983

Whole Series **128**



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Next Meetings

to be held at "The Peacock" Maiden Lane London WC2

1984

Aug 11 All Members: TEN SHEETS ON A THEME

Oct 13 1st half: Overland Mail: J S Horesh
2nd half: 1st Fuad portrait: J Sears and
J A Grimmer

Dec 8 De La Rue: A J Revell

Note: on Saturday 3 Nov 1984 a team from Egypt Study Circle will display to National Philatelic Society at the International Stamp Centre 27 King Street, Covent Garden, London WC2

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE - THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR
 Volume XI Number 12 December 1983 Whole Series No. 128

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Those of you living outside the U K must have been wondering recently whether of not the Circle was still in existence following such a long period between the arrival of the Quaterly Circulars. I can assure you that we are still very much alive - as those members attending the bi-monthly meetings can testify.

One must always realise that at the present time all the 'Officers' are people who have their living to earn, and the Circle is very much a leisure activity for them. Our Editor has, among other problems, been under a great deal of pressure in his professional capacity as a Chartered Accountant and has not had the spare time to devote to the QC as was the case in the past. However, we all hope this difficult period has passed and John has agreed to continue as Editor.

You will all agree that he does such an excellent job that he would be extremely difficult to replce, and I for one am very glad that he is able to carry on. In order to catch up it has been decided to publish just two issues for 1984 in order to face 1985 (our 50th Anniversary Year) with a clean slate. But those two issues for 1984 will be **double-sized**, if we can manage it.

Incidentally, we would welcome ideas as to how we should mark the Anniversary Year, and if you have any suggestions, please let me know.

John Sears, Chairman

REPORT OF ESC MEETING IN LONDON

Meeting held on 8th October 1983 at "The Peacock", Maiden Lane,
London WC2

Mr J Sears (Chairman), Lord Alund and Messrs P Andrews, W C Andrews, D H Clarke, C E H Defriez, P L Grech, J A Grimmer, E Hall, J M Murphy, A Schmidt, B Sedgley and P E Whetter.

The Chairman welcomed Lars Alund and regretted that the usual meetings room was not available on this occasion. Two applications for membership of the Circle were dealt with. The Chairman reported that Mr V Denis Vandervelde had kindly agreed to give the display on postal history at the December meeting. Mr D H Clarke reported that he was well advanced in compiling data as to the Post Offices in Egypt, from the outset up to recent times; it was agreed that this would be a very suitable subject for publication in 1985, as part of the celebrations of the Circle's 50th anniversary.

Lars Alund kindly addressed the meeting. He had been somewhat surprised to discover that he had suddenly become one of the old members !

The meeting then turned to display by members of **RECENT ACQUISITIONS.**

Mr P L Grech first showed a letter in the later *Posta Europea* period, from January to April 1865 and it was noted that material of this period was very scarce. He mentioned that his big collecting interest was of material from the French Post Offices in Egypt, and showed a cover with a ship mark, SS Coronel, Alessandria.

Mr J Sears was interested in the 1923 Fuad portrait issue and showed a coil strip of 10 units of the 5-mills value, each overprinted CANCELLED. The strip had been separated by tearing at top and bottom, and the side perforations had been trimmed at left and right.

Mr B Sedgley showed a Royal Free Frank of the Farouk period, covers emanating from the Egyptian State Railway, and a cover franked by Farouk portrait with bars obliterations, including double bars. Mr W C Andrews expressed doubts as to this and thought it could have been contrived.

Mr D H Clarke showed a number of interesting examples from his Postal Stationery collection. He posed the question of how the albino specimens arose, and he drew attention to the progressive wear on the dies. 'Cut-outs', although frowned on as a collecting subject, were very useful in following the traces of wear of the dies.

In following discussion Mr A Schmidt reminded members that, in the past, several members who were keen auction goers used to write in *L'Orient Philatelique* about special items. He hoped that this could be resumed by a few current members, and would spread interest to all.

THE S.Z. SERIES OF DATESTAMPS

AN "S.O.S." FOR INFORMATION FROM J. A. FIREBRACE (ESC 71)

As is generally known, the S.Z. series of datestamps, taken by and large, is the most documented series of the World War I period.

Some numbers are well known and their location proved - of others we know virtually nothing.

I have prepared an "S.O.S." for information and should be most grateful for any help which members are able to give.

THE S.Z. SERIES OF DATESTAMPS

The S.Z. series of datestamps, numbered from 1 to 62, was used in the Middle East between 1915 and 1920, mostly in Egypt and Palestine, but also on Gallipoli, in the Aegean Island, in Malta, Syria, Lebanon and Cilicia.

As far as available knowledge goes, this series has been well documented by Michael Sacher, Alistair Kennedy and Ted Proud and by others in the many references that have appeared in the publications of B.A.P.I.P., F.H.P.S., E.S.C., and O.P.A.L.

A study of the various types of datestamps is of interest as evidenced by the variety of datestamps which accompanies these notes. Whilst the locations of some numbers are well known, there is a hard core of numbers, between various dates, whose location has not been identified or, in some cases, has been identified but with contradictory locations by different writers.

The numbers which appear at the end of these notes are the least well-documented, if indeed they are documented at all. If any member has, or knows of, material covering these numbers during the dates stated it would be very much appreciated if the following information could be supplied, please :-

S.Z. number, datestamp type and date

Postage rate, and destination

Shape and number of censor mark, with officer's name if legible

Transit and arrival marks

Known or suggested location and/or reference to published work

Confirmation of published information would also be helpful as would extensions to published date brackets. If photocopies are more convenient to contributors they are the more acceptable.

All contributions will be acknowledged with thanks by John Firebrace, Honeysuckle Cottage, Longparish, Andover SP11 6PH, Hampshire.

/ Continued . . .

"S.O.S" FOR S.Z. DATESTAMPS - Continued

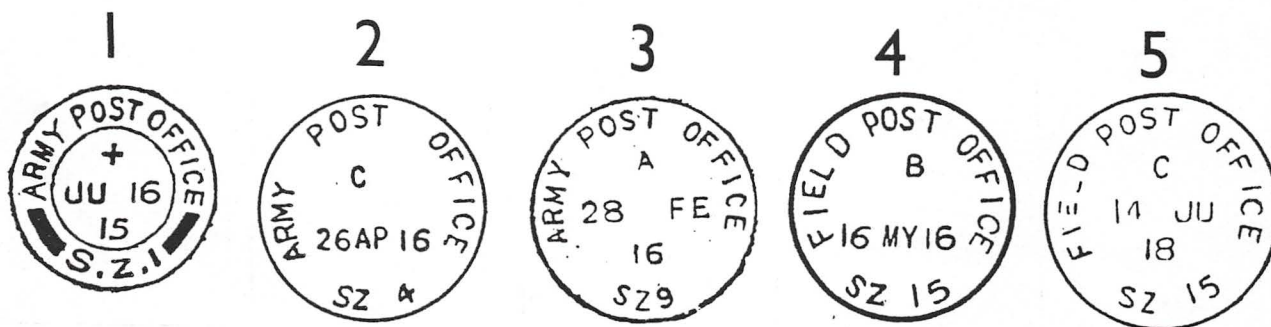
S.Z. Numbers and dates for which locations are wanted

SZ	1	August 1916	to	May 1918
	2	October 1917	to	September 1918
	5	May 1918	to	November 1918
	7	March 1917	to	May 1918
	8	August 1916	to	April 1917
	13	September 1917	to	October 1918
	16	June 1918	to	January 1919
	17	March 1918	to	March 1919
	18	August 1916	to	June 1918
	19	July 1918	to	November 1918
	20	September 1917	to	May 1918
	21	June 1917	to	February 1919
	23	October 1916	to	December 1917
	25	February 1917	to	April 1918
	26	November 1916	to	June 1919
	27	December 1916	to	November 1917
	34	August 1918	to	June 1919
	35	December 1917	to	April 1919

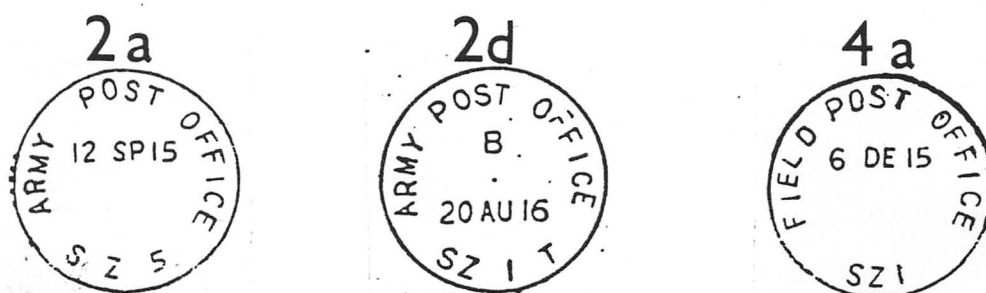
- and all data for the following numbers :-

31, 33, 36, 39, 40, 41, 42, 47, 48, 51, 52, 53, 55.

SPECIMENS OF THE FIVE BASIC TYPES OF S.Z. DATESTAMPS



SPECIMENS OF THE THREE VARIANTS



ENCOUNTERS WITH FORGERIES - P A S Smith (ESC 74)

A lucky discovery of a beautiful strike of a ZEFTA cancel has at last led to the settlement of a nagging mystery. It begins with the Byam sale, October 1961. Lot No. 606 consisted of a registered cover franked with a pair of the 5 piaster of 1874, cancelled with a c.d.s. of ZEFTA dated 31 GEN. 77 T1. The cover was unbelievably fresh, and carried a strike of the upright rectangular registry cachet inscribed EGYPTE and with a large R. I had never seen this type of registry handstamp used with the Third Issue; at that period the Italian RACCOMANDATO [A] [E] was used, in a long horizontal cartouche, without Arabic, a number, or large R. I mentioned my qualms to Dr Byam, and he conceded my point, but felt that the evidence was not sufficient to brand the cover a forgery. Unfortunately, I did not have comparison material at hand, and the opportunity to examine the cover was very limited. The lot was bought by the Swiss dealer Kottelat for £38. The cover was subsequently exhibited internationally, and was last shown at the Royal Philatelic Society in 1978.

Apart from the dubious markings, the rate of 10 pi. was also questionable, for it corresponded to a very heavy letter - over 100 grams, and the letter was of normal size and showed no wrinkles to indicate a bulky content. The illustration given here, made from the half-tone one in half size in the auction catalogue, may not be very satisfactory, but it is the best that can be managed.

The new strike of the same postmark, on a loose pair of the 1 pi., is shown along with three genuine strikes on other loose stamps. This postmarking die is recognizable from the break in the circle beneath FT of ZEFTA, which appeared in 1871; it persisted until at least 1880, having survived the change in 1874 of the general conversion of four-cipher year dates to two-cipher ones. It differs from the presumed forgery in several small ways, such as the thickness of the circle and the size and spacing of the letters. The V is clearly narrower in the genuine. The two ornaments differ in form: those on the genuine are formed of four tiny arrowheads, arranged so as to leave a colorless X between them. In the forgery, four right-angle lines are used, so arranged as to leave a cross + between them. The accompanying sketches will make this clearer. (Note that the style of ornament used in this forgery was, indeed, used in genuine Egyptian postmarks of some types, but not in type III for Zefsta).

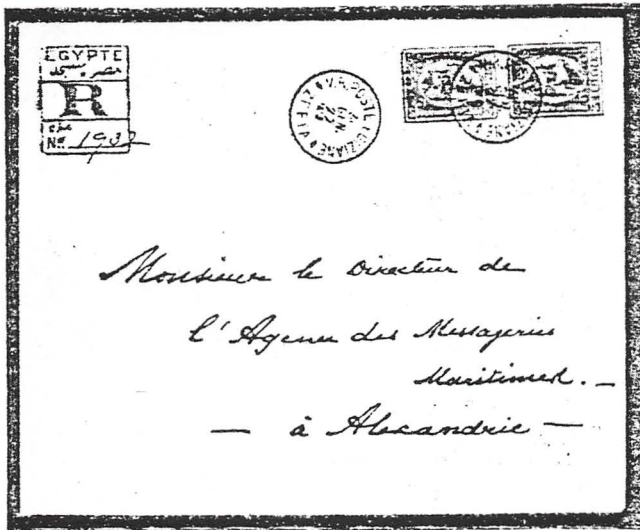
Someone went to a lot of trouble to make this cleverly-forged postmark, but does not seem to have made heavy use of it. The purpose was evidently to forge covers with rare franking, but I know of no other than the one in the Byam sale. Can any reader report another?

AIR MAIL ETIQUETTES

E Blackburn (ESC 244)

Mr P R Feltus deals with Air Mail Labels in his 'Catalogue of Egyptian Revenue Stamps'. His Type 3 is described as issued on July 16, 1934 in deep blue (perf. 10) and again on thin paper, and again in pale blue. Sheets are of 80 (8 x 10). I have two sheets of the same type in deep blue (perf. 12) in sheets of 104 (8 x 13). Mine had already been divided vertically into 4 x 13.

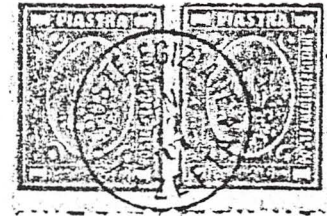
Recently-discovered
FORGERY



606

Page 77

BYAM Catalogue illustration



'ZEFTA' retouched for printing

FORGERY CHARACTERISTICS

1. Thicker ring
2. Wider gap between ring and lettering
3. NO GAP in ring below 'FT' of ZEFTA

ORNAMENTS :

Forged :

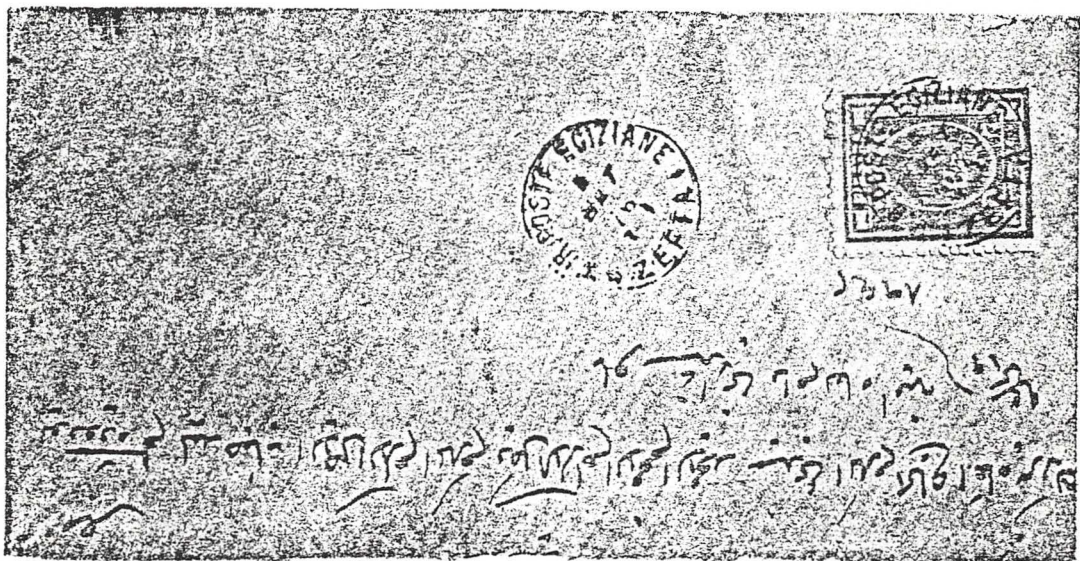


Genuine :



Note: the style of ornament used in this forgery was, indeed, used in genuine Egyptian postmarks of some types, but not in Type III for ZEFTA

(below) GENUINE DATESTAMPS on cover also on three loose singles



NEW ISSUES by C E H Defriez Oct to Dec, 1982

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

<u>Commemorative Stamps</u>	<u>SG 1489</u>	<u>SG 1490</u>	<u>SG 1491</u>	<u>SG 1492</u>
Occasion UNITED NATIONS DAY			
Date of issue 24th October, 1982			
Designer	L. el Sawaf	M Y A Hameid & A K el Hussein	L. el Sawaf	N A Fattah
Design	Trees and Factory Pollution	Dove & Olive Branch around Globe	Baden-Powell & Scout Emblems	Dr Robert Koch and Bacillus
Denomination	3 piastres	6 piastres	6 piastres	8 piastres
Sheet	50 (5 x 10)	50 (5 x 10)	** 35 (5 x 7)	50 (5 x 10)
Stamp dimensions	43 x 26 mm	43 x 26 mm	40 x 40 mm	43 x 26 mm
Perforation	11½ x 11	11½ x 11	11½	11½ x 11
Quantity printed	1,000,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Supplementary	Environment Day	Conference on Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna	125th Birth Anniv. of Baden-Powell & 75th Anniv. of Scout movement	Centenary of Discovery of the Tubercle Bacillus

** SG 1491 has
Wmk Sideways

SG 1493

Occasion	50th Anniversary of Egyptian Air Force
Date of issue	2nd November 1982
Designer	A K el Hussein
Design	First Air Force Plane and Modern Jet Fighter
Denomination	3 piastres
Sheet	50 (5 x 10)
Stamp dimensions	43 x 26 mm
Perforation	11½ x 11
Quantity printed	1,000,000
Supplementary	-

SG 1494

Occasion	50th Death Anniversary of Ahmed Shawkey and Ibrahim Hafez (poets).
Date of issue	25th November 1982
Designer	M Y Abdel-Hameid
Design	Portraits of the poets
Denomination	6 piastres
Sheet	50 (5 x 10)
Stamp dimensions	43 x 26 mm
Perforation	11½ x 11
Quantity printed	1,000,000
Supplementary	A. Shawkey was born in 1868 and was known as the 'Prince of Poets' I. Hafez was born in 1871 and called the 'Poet of the Nile'

SG 1495

Occasion	25th Anniversary of the National Research Council
Date of issue	20th December 1982
Designer	Michel Abdalla
Design	Jubilee Emblem
Denomination	3 piastres
Sheet	50 (10 x 5) <u>Wmk Sideways</u>
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½
Quantity printed	1,000,000
Supplementary	-

SG 1496

Occasion	Aged People Year
Date of issue	25th December 1982
Designer	Waheeb Farag
Design	Hand holding Flower
Denomination	23 piastres
Sheet	50 (10 x 5) <u>Wmk Sideways</u>
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½
Quantity printed	500,000
Supplementary	A conference was held in Cairo to discuss co-operation between countries on the rendering of Health & Psychological services to elderly people

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

<u>Commemorative Stamps</u>	<u>SG 1497</u>	<u>SG 1498</u>
Occasion	50th Anniversary of Arab League Academy	Post Day
Date of issue	25th December 1982	2nd January 1983
Designer	Mahmoud Roushdy	Lotfy el Sawaf
Design	'Academy' superimposed on books	Emblem of the Postal Organisation, postcoded letter and slogan 'The numbered letter is the faster'
Denomination	6 piastres	3 piastres
Sheet	50 (5 x 10)	35 (5 x 7) <u>Wmk Sideways</u>
Stamp dimensions	43 x 26 mm	40 x 40 mm
Perforation	11½ x 11	11½
Quantity printed	500,000	1,000,000
Supplementary	-	-
	<u>SG 1499</u>	<u>SG 1500</u>
Occasion	Police Day	15th Cairo International Book Fair
Date of issue	25th January 1983	31st January 1983
Designer	Lotfy el Sawaf	A K el Husseiny
Design	Police Emblem surrounded by Olive branches	Book Fair Emblem, Globe and open book
Denomination	3 piastres	3 piastres
Sheet	50 (5 x 10)	50 (10 x 5) <u>Wmk Sideways</u>
Stamp dimensions	43 x 26 mm	26 x 43 mm
Perforation	11½ x 11	11 x 11½
Quantity printed	1,000,000	1,000,000
Supplementary	-	-
	<u>SG 1501</u>	<u>SG 1502</u>
Occasion	5th U.N. Regional Conference for African Maps, Cairo	3rd African Ministers of Transport, Communication and Planning Conference, Cairo
Date of issue	2nd March 1983	8th March 1983
Designer	Faiz Farid Hana	Ibrahim el Tahtawy
Design	Satellite over Map of Africa	Emblem and Title of the Conference
Denomination	3 piastres	23 piastres
Sheet	50 (10 x 5) <u>Wmk Sideways</u>	50 (5 x 10) <u>NO WATERMARK</u>
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm	43 x 26 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½	11½ x 11
Quantity printed	1,000,000	500,000
Supplementary	52 countries participated in the conference to discuss the up-to-date developments in cartography	The Conference was held from 8th to 11th March 1983

P O I N T S F R O M L E T T E R S

Mr E Blackburn (ESC 244) writes: " . . I have been spending quite a lot of time indexing my bits of literature in a manner most meaningful to me. I hope that, as a result, I may be able to find more items for the Q.C. in due course."

Editor: We all do this, don't we ?

NEW ISSUES AND THEIR SPECIAL CANCELS
Please refer to the DATA SHEETS for dimensions, as not all illustrations are actual size.



SG 1489



SG 1490



SG 1489/92



SG 1491



SG 1492



SG 1493



SG 1493



SG 1494



SG 1494



SG 1495



SG 1495



SG 1496



SG 1496



SG 1497



SG 1497



SG 1498



SG 1498

NEW ISSUES AND THEIR SPECIAL CANCELS

Please refer to the DATA SHEETS for dimensions, as not all illustrations are actual size.



SG 1499



SG 1499



SG 1500



SG 1500



SG 1501



SG 1501



SG 1502



SG 1502

FROM THE SECRETARY

WELCOME, new members ! Apologies to members, new and old, for delays in dealing with your queries and orders - I hope to clear my correspondence backlog shortly.

BACK NUMBERS OF THE QC, also information on library matters can be obtained from John Davis, 3 Prospect Place, Beechen Cliff, Bath, Avon.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, 1984 are £6 and please send to me at 6 Bedford Avenue, Little Chalfont, Bucks. OVERSEAS MEMBERS are asked kindly to pay by cheque drawn on UK bank if possible; otherwise please send bank notes for £6, or \$8.

EDITORIAL. Apologies for lateness with this issue: it is going to press on 27th July 1984. As our Chairman says in his announcement (page 292) there will be just two issues for 1984, but we are planning to make these of 40 pages each. There will be supplements dealing with the Index to Volume XI, also Edmund Hall's Index to the Postal History literature of Egypt, and we hope to include one or more maps of larger format.

END OF VOLUME REPORT

Volume XI has comprised 310 pages, plus ten supplements occupying 24 pages; only a little smaller than Volume X, which included a double-size edition to mark the London International Stamp Exhibition. Important discoveries have been reported in the classic issue stamps, and in later issues up to UAR. Military Postal History has been well served by those dedicated postal historians, John Firebrace and Jim Benians; General Postal History has seen articles on Postage Due by our President, and a delightful blend with archaeology by 'JBH'; plus much else in this, the most active area of study. Younger members represent our future, and we can take satisfaction in noting the calibre of work done by representatives of the 'youngsters', especially secretary Edmund Hall and Mike Murphy. Question Time has put 36 new questions and many members have been involved. Our thanks to all - and, please, KEEP IT UP !

WAGHORN (OR NOT)

Letter to the editor from Mr F R Hill (ESC 212)

Dear Editor.

I was most interested in your 'pre-adhesive' article in the latest Q.C., especially in your two Waghorn covers.

The one which was 89 days in transit was fairly average for 1838, though Waghorn was already bragging about 40 days (I fancy a sort of Biblical sanctity about the number 40, somehow), but the other, 38 days from Bombay to Ayr, must be the fastest known Westbound cover, either way probably, allowing a couple of days to get from Southampton (I suppose) to Ayr.

I would very much like to have any details there are on this cover, especially the various dates, as the route could likely be worked out for it: by 1840 there's quite a bit known about what ships went where and when. It is so fast that it is possible Waghorn (or his Alex. office) managed to pull off a coup.

I would doubt any cover without markings was ever carried by Waghorn's agency - self-advertisement was so much part and parcel of the whole set-up, and I fancy that any agent who failed to publicize that Waghorn was taking care of the letter would find himself back in England via a stratospheric route in about 38 seconds.

One should not forget the Government mails, by diplomatic bag: Sidebottom estimates (on what authority, as usual, he doesn't say) that the number of letters by this means was about the same as by Waghorn's agency; and, except when some sort of hold-up occurred in the transfers at Suez and Alex, giving Waghorn an opportunity to pull off a coup, they would take about the same time. There was probably also a fair amount of private carriage of letters by people travelling to and from India, and these would tend to have no marks of any kind.

The practice of sending duplicate (or triplicate) letters continued certainly into the 1840's. I have two such pairs (one from America, which mentions a triplicate) one by overland, one by the Cape.

I know absolutely nothing about the Posta Europea, and so feel highly competent to butt in with an idiotic suggestion. Did the organisation employ local Arab sorting clerks, who would be so very much cheaper? Presumably the local European communities of those days learnt to read and write Arabic.

With all best wishes,

Fred R Hill

(Mr Hill's letter is a good instance of the friendly and helpful correspondence which there has always been between members of this circle; a practice which has done a great deal in the past to solve philatelic problems and which, fortunately, serves the same purpose today - Editor)

Book Review

THE POSTA EUROPEA AND 1984 KEHR CATALOGUE OF INTERPOSTALS.

By Ernest A. Kehr and Philip Cockrill. Cockrill Series Booklet No. 33. London, 1984. 60 pp. £ 5.00

This booklet is the third, revised, edition of Kehr's "The Interpostals of Egypt", the second edition of which appeared in 1962. The major features of the new edition are a complete revision of the prices, and the inclusion of a description of the Posta Europea (without, however, a listing of the franking handstamps). There is also a one-page list of Egyptian offices in the Turkish Empire and the Sudan for which interpostal seals are known (this list omits many of the Sudanese offices, however, and contains an unfortunate error in suggesting that Deyrout, actually a town on the Nile south of Cairo, might be a misspelling for Beyrout!).

A substantial part of the introduction consists of an essay on the status of the interpostals, which the authors contend to be official stamps with franking power. Unfortunately, the considerable amount of evidence that does not support the authors' views is ignored, and aspersions are cast on those who have published contrary views. The late Mehanny Eid, formerly President of the Philatelic Society of Egypt and Editor of the Zeheri catalogue, is dismissed as "a Government employee --- knowing nothing about interpostals", the well documented article by Dr. William Byam in the Philatelic Journal of Great Britain in 1944 is referred to only as "a biased article in an English stamp journal" without a proper bibliographic citation, and the carefully researched article on official mail in Egypt by Douglas McNeille (PJGB, March to July, 1935, reprinted in L'Orient Philatelique in 1939) is overlooked. Likewise, the study of the status of interpostals by the ESC, as a result of which the members at a meeting of the Circle unanimously concluded that the interpostals were without franking power (QC Vol. II, pp. 69-72) is not mentioned. Irrespective of the opinion one may have on the status of interpostals, a presentation of this sort cannot be given good marks for either scholarship or impartiality, I am afraid.

Although it is commendable that the Posta Europea should receive attention, the treatment given it in this booklet is disappointingly incomplete, and appears to have been written in complete ignorance of what has previously been written on the subject. No citation of any published literature is given, and the mistaken statement is made that "little seems to have been recorded in the past regarding the Posta Europea." The cataloguing of offices and handstamps by Hurt and Williams is not mentioned, and no reference is made to the several articles in L'Orient Philatelique and the QC. Worst of all, the definitive study by Jean Boulad d'Humieres, published in L'O.P. in 1963, and later in Feuilles Marcophiles and the QC, is overlooked. As a result, a number of misstatements appear. Among them is the claim that Carlo Meratti "gradually expanded (the service) to other important trading centres in the Middle East". That is, of course, quite wrong; the Posta Europea was an entirely domestic service, and had no offices whatsoever outside Egypt. The first consular post office in Egypt is said to be that of Great Britain, in 1839, when in fact the French office in Alexandria was opened in 1837. It is stated that "the design was completely altered to a more normal postal looking circular dated handstamp" around 1860, but in fact, this was done only for the Cairo and Alexandria offices (earliest recorded dates are in January, 1861), and all the

other offices retained the oval franks until the P. E. was taken over by the Government in 1865. Finally, a set of illustrations of the several types of P.E. franks is given, but unfortunately, two of them are the same (although drawn with different fidelity), yet are given different type numbers, and the numbers assigned to the franks are out of chronological sequence, nor do they correspond to the generally used numbers of Hurt and Williams, Boulad, and the ESC. The proper Type II is given the number VII, for example. Confusion will become rampant if this booklet is widely consulted.

This edition appears to be an example of an enthusiast hastening to write about a subject he loves without doing his homework. It is easy to sympathize with him up to a point, because the literature of philately is difficult to search, there being no all-encompassing index. To find out what is already known and has been published requires time and diligence, and the way is often beset with frustrations. The search is obligatory, however, if one is to make a scholarly contribution. In the present case, unfortunately, not even the obvious and easily accessible sources seem to have been consulted, such as an atlas. On p. 59, for example, EDFOU is speculated to be a misspelling of EDKOU, whereas the former is a town in Upper Egypt, and the latter is a village not far from Rosetta. Neither *L'Orient Philatelique* nor the *Quarterly Circular*, files of which are available in philatelic libraries in London, seem to have been examined, for if they had been, the complexion of the discussions of both the *Posta Europea* and the *interpostals* would surely have been different. The excuse cannot be ignorance of the existence of *L'O.P.*, for that journal is mentioned in the introduction. This is an ironic situation, for on p. 5 Mr. Cockrill criticises others with the statement :--- "errors and mistakes begin to occur in articles and treatises where the author starts to put his own interpretation to some point or other, without taking the trouble to check back on available references."

There is not space here to take up in detail the lengthy advocacy in the booklet of the alleged status of interpostal seals "as regular and proper official stamps in the true philatelic sense of the word", but it is important that readers be alerted to the fact that their status is controversial, and that there is a great deal of evidence, not presented in this booklet, against such status. J.-B. Moens, the earliest cataloguer of interpostals, for example, wrote in his treatise "*Timbres d'Egypte et de la Campagne du Canal de Suez*", published in Brussels in 1880, contemporary with the active use of interpostal seals, "These stamps, which economically replaced sealing wax, conferred no franchise on the letters". A thorough review of the subject, complete with exact references to all the previous literature on the subject, was written by the late Gabriel Boulad, and appeared in *L'O. P.* No. 70 (April, 1950), pp. 341-345. Anyone interested in the status of interpostals should consult this review.

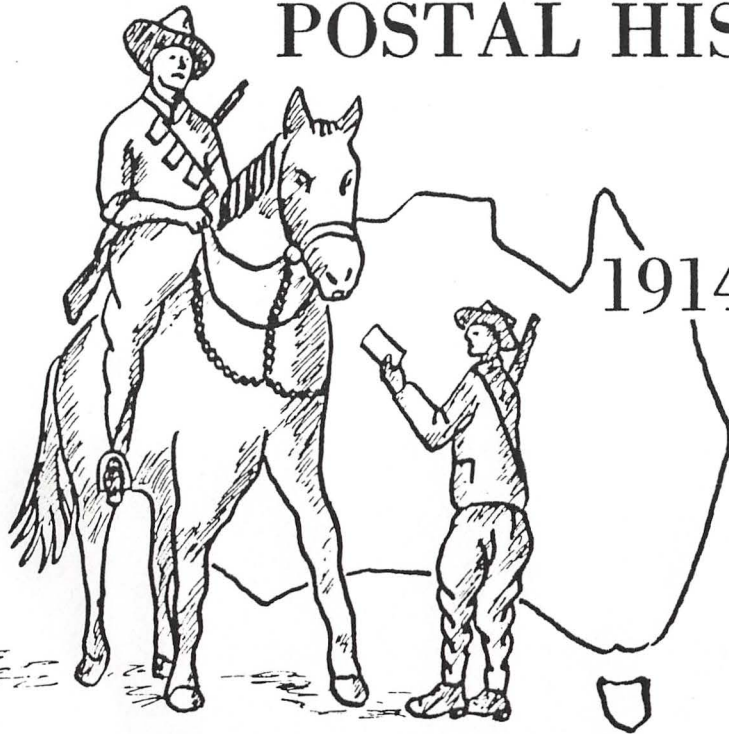
In spite of its substantial shortcomings, this booklet is a worthwhile purchase if only for its pricing, which is unavoidably a bit arbitrary, but is still nearer the market than anything else available. It is noteworthy that the prices for those from the extraterritorial offices have been increased greatly over those for domestic offices, reflecting the much greater demand.

Peter Smith

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES



POSTAL HISTORY



by

Bob Emery

POSTAL HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

After twenty years of collecting and research of the Australian Forces Mail in World War I, Robert (Bob) Emery hoped to produce a book from all his accumulated information and this has now been achieved by his publication of this massive reference book. Many times in recent years I have received queries regarding Australian Forces Mail and why it was not included in our World War I Postal History (Kennedy & Crabb). Apart from not being 'British' Army, the answer is provided in the fact that it has required some 340 pages, nearly 600 illustrations of datestamps and postal cachets with maps of the campaigns etc.—all of which have been drawn by Bob Emery. There are also illustrations of 100 covers and another 80 photographs and reproductions of ephemera, all pertinent to the military operations and altogether a considerable achievement.

An acknowledged specialist in the field for many years, some 90% of the material referred to is in his own collection. Apart from earlier articles on the subject, nothing comprehensive has been published to date, so that this massive book which covers all aspects of the Australian Forces in Australia, Egypt, Gallipoli, Palestine, France and England, will be most welcome to assist collectors of this interesting material.

Comprehensive details of base depots, datestamps etc. for the Australian Forces in England are published for the first time and this is true of much of the information in this book. An updated listing of the camps in Australia is included and a bold attempt has been made to list chronologically the locations of all the datestamps in France. These, together with the 30 pages of appendices at the end of the book, give a chronological record of locations and happenings for all sections of the Australian Forces including even Hospital Ships, Hospitals and Clearing Stations, which must be of great assistance in future in placing a particular cover correctly.

This extremely interesting book must be for many years to come the only real reference book for information on Australian Forces Mail in World War I.

George Crabb, co-author of The Postal History of the British Army in World War I

BOB EMERY is to be congratulated on producing this important book. He has given two excellent displays of his material to our London meetings in recent years.

The book can be bought from Vera Trinder Ltd,
38 Bedford Street, Strand, London WC2E 9EU

Price £ 28.00 plus postage (U.K. £ 1.77, O'seas £2.00)

U P D A T A**"STAR AND BRIDGE" CANCELLATIONS by T. Dacos (ESC 220)**

Having come across a new 'latest date' for ZAGAZIG now altered to read 4. I. 13 I take the opportunity to revise the list as follows. The revision was made from QC Nos 118 and 120.

Editor: an illustration of Zagazig latest date appears on a later page. This is the first cancel accepted, in connection with 'Star and Bridge' cancels, which relies on a fragment of the first and last letters of the town (which happen to be definitive of the name), plus of course the Arabic script !

	<u>EARLIEST DATE</u>	<u>LATEST DATE</u>
Aswan	... VI -7 (JMM)	25 I 14 (JMM)
Ismailia	20 III 08 (DC)	15 IX 15 (LA)
Luqсор	14 XII 08 (RSB)	8 (?) III 14 LA
Mansura	... VI 07 (RSB)	21 III 19 (CWM)
Port Said	28 V 07 (DC)	30 IV 18 JMM
Port Taufiq	... VIII 07 (LA)	3 IX 15 (JMM)
Suez	11 VII 07 (CEHD)	(.) 0 III 19 (LA)
Tanta	24 VI 07 (JMM)	15 V 09 (CWM)
Zagazig	4 X 07 (SMV)	4 I 13 (TD)

Editor: it is fitting that Mr T Dacos should have the last word on the listing of earliest/latest dates of these cancels, as he himself appears to have started the intense interest in them - see The QC Vol. X No 3 (Whole 107), September 1978. Or is this the last word? The best way of stimulating somebody to check his own collection, and find earlier and later specimens, is to claim to have the earliest/latest. Have you checked your collection for this cancel recently?

- - - - -

QUESTION TIME - NEW QUESTIONSQ. Time 68 - 1st Fuad Portrait - early use?

Question put by T Dacos (ESC 220)

On looking through a stock of stamps of the 1923 Fuad first portrait, I came across a (loose) 15-mills stamp cancelled in Cairo by machine cancellation on 12 FEB 23 (Illustrated).

But the 1972 Zeheri Catalogue shows that the stamp was issued on 15th October 1923.

Would the members look through their collections or provide more information and comments please?

QUESTION TIME - NEW QUESTIONS - ContinuedQ Time 69

INTROUVABLE cachet

Question put by D J Davis (ESC 213)

In recent correspondence with a philatelic friend I received a photocopy of an 1893 postcard from the U.K. to Egypt (reproduced - editor). I was able to answer his question concerning the red lozenge-shaped mark - it is the BUREAU DES REBUTS (dead letter office) presumably at Cairo.

However the INTROUVABLE cachet is not listed either in Chirchini (page 80) or in the Egypt Study Circle Sheet 3 (Miscellaneous) where Unk-1 is in three lines. My Arabic is virtually non-existent but to me the Arabic in the Unk-1 is similar though not exactly the same as in the 'new' cachet. Similarly, the French INTROUVABLE seems to be in the same lettering exactly as in Unk-1 but in the 'new' cachet there is no English. I enclose a tracing of INTROUVABLE and would ask you if you think it worthwhile putting it in Question Time in the Q.C.

Editor - always glad to have news or queries relating to possible new discoveries, whether in adhesives, cachets, datestamps, or any other feature of interest to Circle members.

- - - - -

Q Time 70

- Arabic labels/stamps

Question put by Lars Alund (ESC 105)

Many years ago I bought a collection of Egyptian stamps. Amongst them I found three labels which I have never seen before and I have not been able to locate them. As I cannot read Arabic the inscription does not mean anything to me, except for figures 5, 10 and 20. They are printed in these colours: 5 - orange; 10 - green and 20 - yellow.

I am enclosing photocopies of these labels (reproduced - editor). It would be interesting to learn if they are Egyptian or not. Perhaps some one of the members of the ESC might be able to help?

- - - - -

QUESTION TIME - QUESTIONS ANSWEREDREPLY to Q. Time 51

REPAIR OF DAMAGED MAIL

Question put by Mr E Blackburn (ESC 244) See: QC 126 (June 1983)

Mr Blackburn himself replies: I fully sympathise with editorial pleas that members unable to submit major studies for inclusion in the QC should make some contribution, however small. Nevertheless I can understand the circmspection of those who have no great knowledge of what has been contributed in the past as I have been combing through back copies I have acquired and find myself in the embarrassing position of being perhaps the first correspondent to answer his own question. In Q. Time 51 (QC 126, page 267) I asked whether post offices continued to hold stocks of Interpostals long after 1892. Now I read on page 39 of QC 88 (Dec 1973) that in 1905 envelopes from the wreck of the "Cairo" were resealed at the

/ Continued . . .

QUESTION TIME - QUESTIONS ANSWERED - Continued

Q. Time 51 (Repair damaged mail, continued)

Head Post Office in Alexandria with Seal Type VIa POSTE KHEDIVIE EGIZIANE / CABINETTO DEL DIRETTORE GENERALE. Furthermore, after perusing Mr Peter Feltus' excellent "Catalogue of Egyptian Revenue Stamps" I would consider that he deals much more comprehensively with 'Officially Sealed' Labels than do the two sources I quoted.

Q. Time 57 A. I. F. Handstamp

See: QC 127 (September 1983)

F W Benians replies: the datestamp illustrated is one of the more usual Australian Forces' cancellations found used in Egypt. Taking the legend in two parts, it may be defined as follows :-

A.I.F. = (First) AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
INTER BASE P.O. = INTERMEDIATE BASE POST OFFICE

CAIRO - the length of the wording varies from 12mm to 18mm.

The several sections of the Intermediate Base were scattered throughout Cairo.

The use of the Indian Expeditionary Force censor mark can be explained as that the "Indians" had very largely been responsible for the security of Egypt and their censor markings turn up on a variety of Forces' mail. Their numbers 121/E to 130/E inclusive are the censors usually found used with this particular series of datestamps.

A.I.F. The Australian people were solidly behind the Imperial Government in the 1914 crisis. A Division of troops was promptly made available. From a population of five million, a total of 400,000 enlisted - all without conscription.

The first convoy left Albany W.A. on November 1st 1914 with 21,529 men and 7882 horses aboard, arriving in Egypt on Dec 2nd 1914 and by the 10th all were under canvas in the various camps.

These were followed by the second convoy which sailed on the 28th December. Altogether there were 27 convoys conveying 253,000 troops and approx. 25,000 horses. the total casualties amounted to 222,000 which includes 55,583 who died. Sixty-three Australians were awarded the V.C.

The A.I.F. ceased to exist from April 1st 1921. - F W Benians.

Mr D H Clarke also replied, making the following points: the Australian Imperial Forces - Intermediate Base Post Office - Commanding Officer General Birdwood - comprised Headquarters and six subsections comprised as follows: Records; Imprest Office; Ordnance; Medical; Base Detail and Remounts.

These were not grouped in one area but located widely in both Alexandria and Cairo, records being at Alexandria and the Base Details in Abbassia, Cairo, under General Spens. - D H Clarke

QUESTION TIME ETC ILLUSTRATIONS

Q. Time 68 STAR & BRIDGE

Question Time 70



cancelled
12 FEB 23



Zagazig
latest date

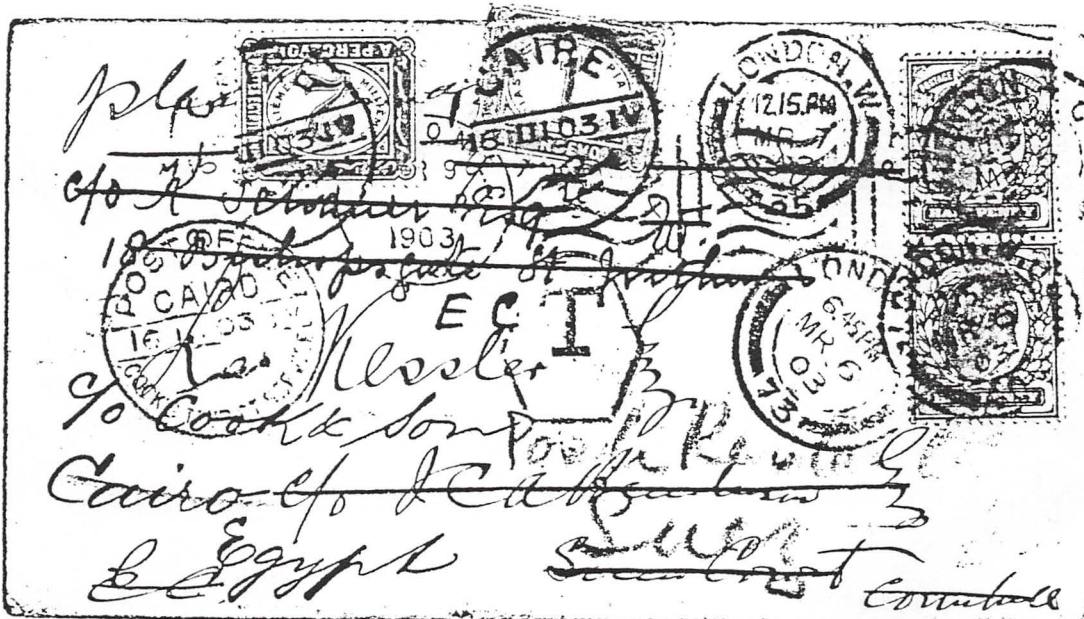


Question Time 69 New Cachet INTROUVABLE / ARABIC



UPDATA / Question Time 71

Query on Postage Due and Poste Restante



QUESTION TIME - QUESTIONS ANSWERED - Continued

REPLY to Q. Time 58

'HUR'__Cancellation

Reply from Mr D H Clarke (ESC 165): As far as I can ascertain HUR is an alternative form of HAWR which is situated at 27.52 North, 30.44 East - in the vicinity of Beni Sueff and is within the Mudriyie of Asyut. It was at one time at least in the 1920's to 1930's a rural station or office, and was serviced by Rural Service out of Itlidim Post Office. Whether this area increased in population in the 1940's I do not know: if it did then the status of that office may have been raised. I do not have any information on the troops in this areas but, if anything comes up I will keep the town name in mind.

UPDATA - Proprietary Post Office

E Blackburn (ESC 244)

A much-travelled Royal Colonial Institute envelope combines a little London postal history with Egyptian, reveals an earliest date, and prompts a question.

Sent to L. Kessler Esq care of an address in Cornhill, it was franked with a pair of GB halfpenny stamps

cancelled double ring LONDON W.C./40 12.15 PM/MR6/03
 re-addressed c/o Bishopsgate St. Within
 date-stamped double ring LONDON (?)/73 6.45 PM/MR6/03
 re-addressed in red ink c/o Cook & Son, Cairo
 date-stamped double ring LONDON.W/35 12.15 PM/MR7/03
 hand-struck London hexagonal boxed T
 Columbia machine-cancelled single ring
 LONDON E.C./(MA)R9/(?)P/1903/(?)
 Back-stamped superb AMB.ALEXANDRIE.CAIRE/16 III 03 IV
 Postage Dues 1 pi and 2m cancelled CAIRE/16 III 03 IV
 postmarked front and back type H/TC2
 COOK'S TOURIST OFFICE / 16 III 03 IV
 re-addressed in blue crayon Poste Restante, Suez.

This will interest Lord Justice Lars Alund as the Cook's datestamp pre-dates his find (Q Time 53, Whole Series 126).

QUESTION TIME - NEW QUESTIONS

Q. Time 71

Postage Due

Referring to the UPDATA item above, Mr E Blackburn (ESC 244) poses the following questions: I would explain the Postage Dues as follows: letter rate to Egypt was twopence halfpenny for a half-ounce - a deficiency of three-fifths. Double the deficiency, converted to Egyptian overseas rate would be 1 piastre 2 mills. If this reasoning is faulty, I should be pleased to learn. Would there be a Poste Restante charge at that time? If so, would this entail a further Postage Due stamp being affixed? Would it be affixed only when the letter was called for, and could it be that Mr Kessler never collected it?

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KEEP YOUR INDEX UP TO DATE !!

Use the blank spaces to record
new matter worthy of indexing

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RECENT ADDITIONS TO EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE LIBRARY

This short list of publications, with brief descriptions, should be added to Mr Jim Benians' second ESC Library List, supplement to QC 116, under the classifications listed therein.

Catalogues and Handbooks

**(1) 1980 Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue
Part 19 Middle East 1st Edition**

Presented by Mr Jim Benians this, the first edition of Part 19, includes a general listing of Egypt to June 1980, a brief section on Suez Canal Company and a listing of the French Post Offices in Egypt stamps produced for Alexandria and Port Said. There is no section on British Forces and, for those who collect Sudan, nothing on that country.

**(2) 1981 The Egypt Flight LZ127 - Graf Zeppelin
by Fred F Blau and Cyril Deighton, published by
Germany Philatelic Society Inc.**

A detailed account of the Egypt Flight with many fine illustrations and items from La Bourse Egyptienne and an unpublished work by Francis Field. No. 8 of a series of GPS Library Booklet Series.

(3) 1982 Catalogue of Egyptian Revenue Stamps with Sudanese Revenues and Egyptian Cinderellas by Peter R Feltus, published by Postilion Pubs.

With a Historical Note by Jon Manchip White and lavishly illustrated, some in colour, this is a very comprehensive listing of General Revenues, Salt Tax, Cigarette Tax, Match tax, Playing Card Tax stamps, Consular Service, Airport Tax and a whole list of Revenues used for specific purposes. There is useful information concerning the cancellations used - many were also used on postage stamps as most were applied post offices - and even sections in the appendices on the Savings Bank system and Motor Mail labels and much besides. Prices, in U.S. \$, are given for most if not all items listed. Hardback.

(4) 1983 The Travelling Post Offices of Egypt by Peter A S Smith (our President) and published by Mobile Post Office Society.

A very complete and comprehensive work in 65 pages illustrated with ten covers or cards bearing appropriate cancellations, eight maps, a listing of routes and dates as well as an assessment of relative scarcity and, for us non-Arabic experts, a listing of English-Arabic place names.

/ Continued . . .

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RECENT ADDITIONS TO EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE LIBRARY

- Continued

Military

(1) **A Brief Outline of the British Army Postal Services during World War I** written and published by Charles R Entwistle.

A 32-page handbook best described by the title itself. For the beginner this little book gives the basic information only but this is often omitted by the specialised authors who assume one does not need to be given basic information.

(2) **** World War II P.O.W. and Internment Camps**, by Derek Tomlin and published by the author.

A list of camp numbers and locations; the countries include Egypt though the listing is sparse.

(3) **But Not In Anger - The R.A.F. in the Transport Role** by Christopher Cole and Roderick Grant published in London by Ian Allan Ltd. (presented by Mr Dennis Clarke)

This is heavily illustrated with photographs and, for the aerophilatelist, gives much information on the aircraft which were used to pioneer many of the world's air routes of today. The Cairo-Baghdad route is given a chapter and a useful map is included.

(4) **The Battle of Egypt - the official record in pictures and map.** Ministry of Information, published by H.M.S.O., 1943

A mainly pictorial account of the action which culminated in El Alamein and the defeat of Rommel in the Western Desert.

Exhibition Catalogues

Not exactly catalogues of exhibitions as such, these two items are bound collections of photostats of gold medal winning collections of two of our members. There is no commentary with either collection.

Antonini Collection 1982
R Jeidel Collection 1982 (Large gold, Paris 1982)

Auction Catalogues

Covers of the World carried by French Mailboats, the T V Roberts collection, 7th October 1982, Sotheby's.

This superbly produced catalogue gives many examples of covers and entires which have passed through Egypt's ports of Alexandria, Port Said and Suez, with some superb photographs of the maritime marks applied.

** NOTE: This book transferred from the Military Study.

D John Davis, Librarian

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INDEX TO THE PHILATELIC LITERATURE OF EGYPT

Compiled by E. Hall (ESC 239)

Copyright (c) Egypt Study Circle, London, 1984List of ABBREVIATIONS used

AF	The Aero Field	p	page(s)
AJ	Airport Journal	P	Philately
Am Phil	American Philatelist	Phil J	Philatelic Journal
Am Rev	American Revenues	PJGB	Philatelic Journal of Gt Britain
Ar	Arabic		
ASMC		PM	Philatelic Magazine
		PS	
BAPIP	Bulletin of the British Assocn of Palestine-Israel Philatelists		
bis	bisect	QC	Quarterly Circular
Cind	Cinderella Philatelist	Rec P	Record of Philately
CP	Camel Post		
		SC	Stamp Collecting Weekly
EgN	Egyptian Newsletter	SCF	Stamp Collecting Fortnightly
Eng	English	SGMJ	Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal
ET	Egyptian Topics		
		SiP	Sieger Post
F	French	SL	Stamp Lover
Fil	Filatelia	SM	Stamp Magazine
FPHS	Forces Postal History Society Bulletin		
Fx	forgery		
		SMJ	Scotts Monthly Journal
GSM	Gibbons Stamp Monthly	SPJ	
GSW	Gibbons Stamp Weekly	SR	Stamp Review
HLME	Holyland & Middle East Magazine		
HPL	Holyland Philatelist		
		The Phil	The Philatelist
ill	illustration	TPO	Quarterly Journal of the TPO society
ills	illustrations		
IsP	Israel Philatelist		
		WEP	West End Philatelist
LOP	L'Orient Philatelique		
(LOP No 65)	- means identical article to LOP No. 65 repeated		
LP	London Philatelist		
LSN	Linns Stamp News	WSD	World Stamp Digest
No	number	V	Volume

Editor's Note: Mr Edmund Hall is well advanced in indexing the literature of Egyptian Postal History. The first part is likely to be included with the next issue of The QC.