



The Quarterly Circular

June Quarter 1992 Whole Series No. 162

Volume xiv, No. 10 - Pages 269 - 295



EGYPT STUDY



CIRCLE

NORMAL VENUE for MEETINGS: THE VICTORY CLUB, SEYMOUR STREET
MARBLE ARCH, LONDON

- Nov 21st Parcel Post - D H Clarke (Committee Room)
1993 Jan 16th 2nd Fuad issue - K. Pogson (Allenby Room)
Mar 2nd-7th - "EURAPEX" (Spring Stampex)
- Main Theme: Air

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EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE : OFFICERS as at 30 June 1992

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EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE - The Quarterly Circular
Volume xiv, Number 10, June Quarter 1992 Whole Series Number: 162

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From the Editor . . .

The Editor much regrets the lateness of this issue, and hopes that the quality of the content will go some way toward compensating for the delay. The article, "The Mail Disinfection in Egypt", by (non-members of ESC) de Zanche and Vandervelde is outstanding. The Editor is grateful to them for passing a copy to us for publication in The QC. The next QC is whole series number 163, for the September 1992 quarter, and the editor hopes and expects to have copy ready for the printer by early December. Plans are for the following issue Whole Series 164, are that copy is to go to the printer in early February 1993, and for succeeding printings to be done within two weeks of the end of the calendar quarters. These plans are backed up by the prospect of your Editor's professional work reducing and possibly ceasing next year. The Editor's apologies also to submitters of material which has not yet been published in The QC: it is hoped and intended to use these shortly: many are likely to be of great interest to readers of The QC.

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Obituary - JEAN BOULAD d'HUMIERES (ESC 16)

It is with profound regret that we in Egypt Study Circle learnt, belatedly, of the passing away of Mr Jean Boulad d'Humieres on 23rd March 1991, in Lausanne, Switzerland.

For half a century he had been one of the greatest exponents, both in Egypt and abroad, of Egyptian philately and postal history.

As Member No. 155 of the Societe Philatelique d'Egypte, he had been its President from 1936 to 1945, and an Honorary Life Member since 1973.

To him we owe much original research on the Posta Europea, the Hotel Post Offices, Napoleon's campaign, the Foreign Post Offices, Egyptian booklets and postal stationery, etc. However, his outstanding legacy must be his work on the postal history and stamp issue of the Suez Canal Company.

As an employee of that company, at Ismailia in the late 1940's, he was able to obtain much information from the headquarters in Paris and gain access to its archives. This enabled him to dispel several misconceptions, widely held since the 19th century, regarding the usage of the Canal stamps.

The fruit of this outstanding research was published in a series of articles in L'Orient Philatelique between 1949 and 1955. These were later translated into English and gathered in "The Suez Canal Company", by Messrs Boulad, Ringstrom and Tester (1985).

His charming personality, his cultured background and vast philatelic knowledge made him welcome in philatelic circles worldwide.

He represented Egyptian philately at various congresses and international exhibitions, as early as PEXIP, France, in 1937. From 1949 he was a Membre Correspondent of the Academie de Philatelie, in Paris.

Following the Suez crisis of 1956 and the nationalisation of the Canal Company, he left Egypt and settled in Lausanne. His writing became even more prolific and he had numerous articles published in the Swiss Philatelic Journal, Il Collezionista, Les Feuilles Marcophiles, etc., and of course the ESC Quarterly Circular and L'Orient Philatelique.

Sadly, he was knocked down by a car in 1984, and this restricted his ability to travel. With advancing years, he lost interest in philatelic matters and spent his remaining days in a nursing home.

To his sister in Bruxelles, and to the other members of his family, we extend our deepest condolences.

- Pierre Louis Grech (ESC 266).

From: Mr Robin Bertram: Secretary / Treasurer, Egypt Study Circle

SECRETARY'S MEETINGS REPORT

Report on Meeting held: 16 May 1992

Present - Messrs P. Andrews, A. I. Bates, P. R. Bertram, M. G. C. Dahl, J. Davis, C. E. H. Defriez, E. Hall, G. A. Jeyes, J. M. Murphy, J. Sears, A. Schmidt, B. Sedgley, G. Topfer and P. E. Whetter (14).

There were apologies for absence from: W. C. Andrews, J. Chellingsworth, D. H. Clarke, A. J. Revell and J. Settgast (5 members).

The Chairman reported that the next Auction List with 1,000 lots (the biggest yet) was due to come out next week. Mr P E WHETTER raised the question of ESC expertisation charges and whether these needed to be more competitive with other charges being offered. A brief discussion took place and it was decided that the committee would look into this.

Mr Tony SCHMIDT then led the first part of the meeting with "Intaglio Seals", showing examples on Interpostal Seals and photocopies of some of the rarer items in members' collections. A discussion took place.

Mr John Davis followed with "Star and Crescent" postmarks again with examples. Members present contributed with examples from their own collections.

The Circle has purchased a photocopier which is in the care of the Librarian. Perhaps we can report in a next issue on the practical availability of this machine for Circle work.

SECRETARY'S MEMBERSHIP REPORT

MEMBERS' CHANGES OF ADDRESS:-

ESC 179 Dr T K RUEBUSH

New address: 2133 Kodiak Drive NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 U.S.A.

ESC 313 Mr D S GLOVER

New address: Hawthorne Farm, Hawthorne Place, Clitheroe Yorks BB7 2HU

ESC 372 Mr J M WILKERSON

New address: P.O. Box 3233, Bloomington, IL 67702 3233 U.S.A.

ESC 405 Dr A M J TOOLEY

New address: 5, Walmersley Road, New Moston, Manchester M10 0RS

ESC 417 His Excellency Luca Daniele BIOLATO

Ambassador of Italy, Embassy of Italy,

99 Jalan U Thant, P.O. Box 10640, 55000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Collects: Egypt classic Period, Levant, B.P.O.'s, Latin America

Is currently engaged in writing a book on the Posta Europea.

ESC 418 Mr Victor BIERNA, Rue St-Nicholas, 339, B-4000 LIEGE Belgium

Collects: Marcophilie (= study of postmarks), De La Rue period; Postcards

Member: Phila Club-Flemalle, Club Philatelique Royal Liege.

RESIGNATIONS of MEMBERS

ESC 150 K D Knight; ESC 160 E. Antonini; ESC 389 D. Cornwell

- - - - -

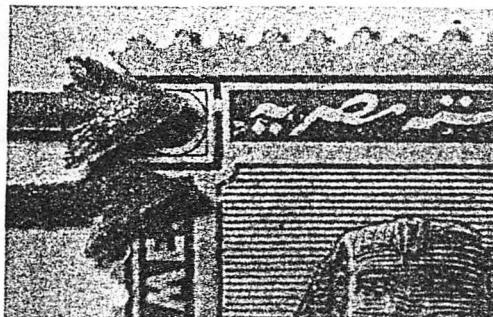
FLAWS on De La Rue - Themis Dacos

Ref. 7: 1914 5 mills "Sphinx" Deep Carmine (Zeheri) or Lake (SG)



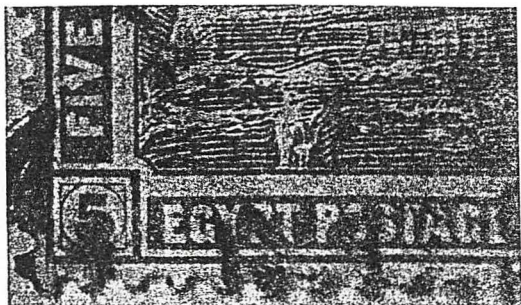
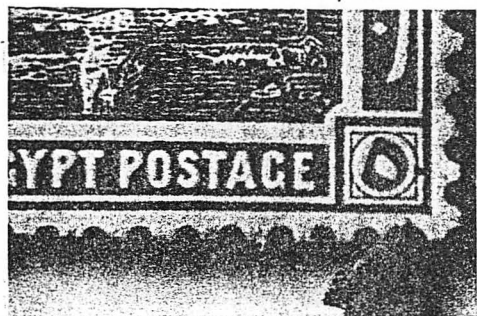
<--- 7a: White flaw in EGYPT

7b: 2 white flaws top left



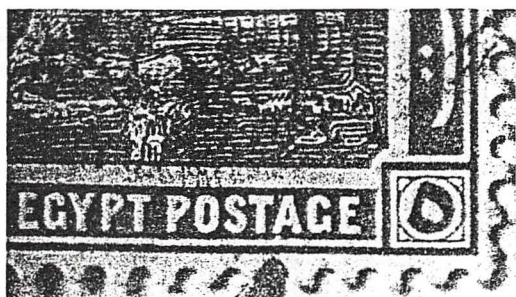
<--- 7c: white flaw, 2nd 'G'

7d: coloured flaw, corner



<--- 7e: white flaw on 'V'

7f: white flaw near 'T'



<--- 7g: white flaw near A

THIS HALF OF THE PAGE

is an advertisement for
the new second edition of the

NEW
PHILATELIC ATLAS

OF THE
OTTOMAN EMPIRE

by
Andreas Birken

in a second, considerably improved, and
enlarged edition.

The Atlas contains some 330 pages, 90 of
them comprising maps showing the post
offices and administrative boundaries of
the Ottoman Empire and the Vice-Kingdom
of Egypt and eight are maps showing the
territorial history of the Ottoman
Empire. 140 pages form an index of the
Ottoman postal sites and a further 80
list Egyptian offices and routes. The
explanatory text is in German, English
and Turkish.

This Atlas is absolutely indispensable
for all collectors of stamps or
cancellations of the Ottoman Empire and
its successor states. The price will be
88 German marks but members of the Egypt
Study Circle may purchase it for a
limited period - before December 31st,
1992 - at the subscription price: DM 75,
(£25, \$50). Payment in banknotes only,
please! [EDITOR: the fall in the £
recently means that £25 will be likely
to be too little; £30 is nearer the
(German!) mark].

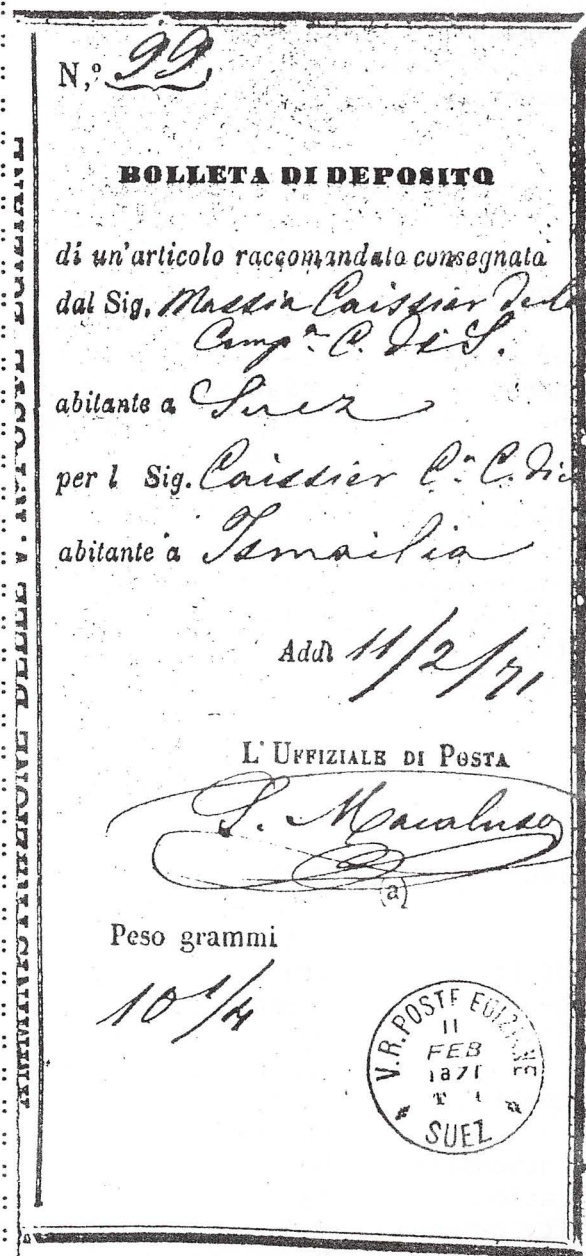
Please send order to: Dr Andreas Birken
Kreienkoppel 3, W-2000 Hamburg 65.

Or: please contact Peter R. Feltus,
P.O. Box 5339, Berkeley, Ca. 94704, USA

THIS HALF OF THE PAGE

depicts an item of
Postal Paper
used in the Italian period of
Postal Administration

PLEASE SEE PAGE 279 FOR
MORE INFORMATION AND
ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION



(a) Bollo dall'Uffizio

NEW ISSUES by C. E. H. Defriez

(all stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R. Egypt, and are without watermark unless noted otherwise)

Commemorative StampsSG 1760

Occasion	Eighth Anniversary of the Restoration of Sinai
Date of issue	25th April 1990
Designer	Lotfy el Sawaf
Design	Peace Doves flying towards Sinai
Denomination	10 piastres
Sheet	35 (7 x 5)
Stamp dimensions	40 x 40 mm
Perforation	11.5
Quantity printed	500,000
Supplementary	-

SG 1761SG(MS) 1762

Occasion	World Cup Football Championship, Italy (Participation of the Egyptian Team)	
Date of Issue	- - - - - 26th May 1990 - - - - -	
Designer	Nadia Abdel Fattah	Lotfi el Sawaf
Design	FIFA Cup, Football and Emblem.	FIFA Cup within rectangle, surrounded by flags of participating countries.
Denomination	10 piastres	50 piastres
Sheet	50 (10 x 5)	Miniature Sheet
Stamp dimensions	30 x 50 mm	80 x 60 mm
Perforation	13	Imperforate
Quantity printed	500,000 (Lithographed)	60,000 (Lithographed)
Supplementary	-	-

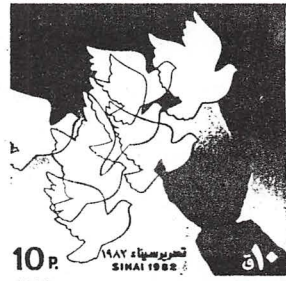
SG 1763SG 1764

Occasion	World Basketball Championship, Argentina.	Fifth Anniversary of National Population Council.
Date of Issue	8th August 1990	15th September 1990
Designer	Ibrahim el Torkey	Ali Ahmed Abdel Fattah
Design	Pyramid, Sphinx, Ball in Basket and Emblem	Sunrise over Citizens, in form of a Pyramid
Denomination	10 piastres	10 piastres
Sheet	50 (5 x 10)	50 (10 x 5)
Stamp dimensions	50 x 30 mm	30 x 50 mm
Perforation	13	13
Quantity printed	500,000 (Lithographed)	500,000 (Lithographed)
Supplementary	Egypt competed in this event.	-

NEW ISSUES and THEIR SPECIAL CANCELS

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

SG 1760



SG 1760

SG 1761



SG 1761/2

SG 1762



SG 1763



SG 1764



SG 1763 ARGENTINA 90



SG 1764



P O R T S A I D

by S. Algar

Watching a television programme recently, about the Suez Canal, made me slip into a retrospective mood, and my memories drifted back many years to my first visit to Port Said, and the Suez Canal.

I was a passenger on an old P. & O. ship, the Kalyan, bound for Singapore, where I was to join a Shell tanker as Third Officer. I was young and had romantic ideas of the East, and my first glimpse of it I found exciting, and entirely different from any other foreign ports I had seen.

As soon as we moored at Port Said, the Arabs swarmed on board, Bumboatmen, Fortune-tellers, Conjurers, Stamp dealers, Jewellers, Curio merchants, Book and Magazine sellers (selling surreptitiously 'works of art' - now known as pornography) and many not selling anything at all, but willing to acquire anything portable they could carry off undetected.

Policemen also came on board, supposedly to control the mob, but they took their duties so lightly one suspected it had been made their worth while to look the other way! The barbers were eager to charge London West End prices, if they were allowed to. The Bumboatmen spread their merchandise on a deck with all the confidence of very successful businessmen. They sold Egyptian and Eastern curios, brassware, probably made in Birmingham or Czechoslovakia, and carpets (- 'genuine' Persian, Indian or Chinese, depending on the Bumboatman's estimate of one's credulity). About this time, some of the Egyptian tombs had been opened, and the opportunist merchants actually quoted the scarabs they were offering for sale as coming from these ancient tombs!

They sold amber beads which they proved were genuine by rubbing against cloth, which then attracted pieces of cigarette paper. I bought a string of amber which, a few days ago a local jeweller told my wife was now very expensive. Some of the pedlars had small crosses made from wood from the Mount of Olives. If one looked stupid enough they would claim that these crosses were made from the actual cross that Christ was crucified on.

That was a long time ago, in 1922, but now both seller and buyer are too sophisticated to be fooled by such arrant nonsense.

What fascinated me, and many others, were the magicians, or as they were known then, the Gilli-Gilli men, from their frequent calls of " - Gilli-Gilli, come chicken, come rabbit". They were really very good. Right in front of us, on the deck, they would produce live chicks from a spectator's sleeve or pocket. Sometimes, later on, it was discovered that more than a chicken had been abstracted from the innocent's pocket!

/ continued . . .

P O R T S A I D by S. Algar (continued)

The fortune-tellers were usually Indian, with all the professional chatter, If one submitted to their request - "Can I see your hand, sir?" (sometimes, "Sahib"). The pressure increased, and one was interested by their opening gambit, "You have an interesting hand, Sir". If you did not immediately retreat, you were hooked by the next phrase, "by this line of fortune."

They were good psychologists, and specialised in telling the victim what they thought he wanted to hear. Very soon one was poorer by a few shillings, but not necessarily any wiser !

I remember, though, that on that first voyage I bought a small so-called 'prayer rug'. It seemed so oriental and authentic to my inexperienced eyes. A Sheik, - I suppose it was a Sheik - mounted on a camel with a background of mosques, palm trees and a pyramid. I expect I was overcharged at five shillings, but I still have that rug at home, a souvenir of my introduction to the East. However, the amber beads, and the strings of 'genuine' scarabs, were appreciated by young female relatives when I eventually returned to England.

An amusing characteristic of the Port Said merchants of those far-off days was their adoption of Scottish names - at least on British ships. They solemnly claimed their names were Jock McPherson, Sandy McTavish, Andy McIntosh, and even Harry Lauder. Maybe they considered Scottish names were good for business - as least on British ships.

After my introduction to Port Said, and the Canal, I frequently revisited the area, but always on Tankers, which meant we were not visited by the usual swarm of 'Princes of Commerce' that patronised the passenger ships. We did however have our share of the lesser lights !

Before arriving at Port Said, we always tried to warn newcomers to look out for the tricksters, and sharks, but our advice was not always followed. One young 'first tripper' was approached by an Arab, who, with a great air of secrecy, and a constant look over his shoulder, persuaded the young man to be allowed into his room. In the room, he produced a gold diamond ring, and implied he was in a hurry to dispose of it, as the police were interested in him ! Money changes hands, and the Arab quickly disappeared ashore. Very soon it transpired that the ring was not gold, neither was the stone a diamond. The height of gullibility was reached when one of the crew gave an Arab £1 to go ashore and get him a sun-hat. The Arab did not return. Well, the young man may have learned a lesson, that helped him in later life.

Sometimes the 'jewellers' brought watches onboard, that were so cheap, it ought to have aroused suspicion. I called them the 'Red Sea Watches' and told the young men why. It seemed to me they were specially made to survive the passage of the Red Sea - about two days - because, almost invariably, the tick stopped for ever as soon as we reached Perim ! (near Aden - Editor).

/ continued . . .

P O R T S A I D by S. Algar (continued)

It was possible, however, to buy some articles cheaply. Bags made from camel skins, leather wallets, shoes, sandals, and even carpets if one knew enough about them.

Once I was approached in Port Said by a seller of carpets who assumed a great air of friendliness, and cheerfully said, "Hello Captain, I haven't seen you for a long time." I could not recall seeing him before, ever. Then, getting nearer, "For you I have a special bargain !" Looking round to see there was nobody near enough to hear him - a part of the act - he said: "A lovely Persian carpet for," he hesitated, "£40. I would not let anybody else have it for such a poor price, but, for you - - ". The implication being that I was a long-lost friend that he wanted to do a favour for. I told him that I was not interested, but this seemed to make him more eager, and after a vague reference to wife and children - or could it have been **wives** and children, he being a Muslim - and with a great air of secrecy he whispered: " I don't want to make any profit from you, you can have this lovely, genuine Persian carpet for," - he hesitated and, as if parting with a family heirloom, said "£30". Possibly the real value was about £15, and as I walked away he dropped his price to £25. From £40 to £25 in two minutes !

Our usual stay in Port Said was for a few hours, waiting for the next convoy for the transit of the Canal. There was no time for the crew to go ashore to buy anything, so we allowed one, and one only, Bumboatman to come onboard and sell articles to the crew, for which they signed. Just before we sailed, the bumboatman produced his account, which I signed, and gave him a note to the Agent to settle his account. I, of course, deducted from each man's account the amount he had signed for. During the many times I had passed through the Canal, hundreds of men had signed for articles bought from the Bumboatman, and yet on only one occasion had I been swindled, by one man signing his account with a fictitious name. To me it is a proud record for men who would not have put me, the Captain, at the head of a popularity poll.

My final departure from Port Said, on the way home to retire, was very appropriate. I was standing in the port wing of the bridge, watching the accommodation ladder being hoisted. The policeman who had been onboard during the ship's stay, was slowly pulling away in his boat, when he looked up and saw the Chief Steward leaning on the rail. I guess that the Chief Steward had not been as generous with the policeman was the latter had expected, because a raucous voice drifted across the harbour, "You mean English bastard !" An equally raucous Scottish voice called back, " I am not English, I am a Scot."

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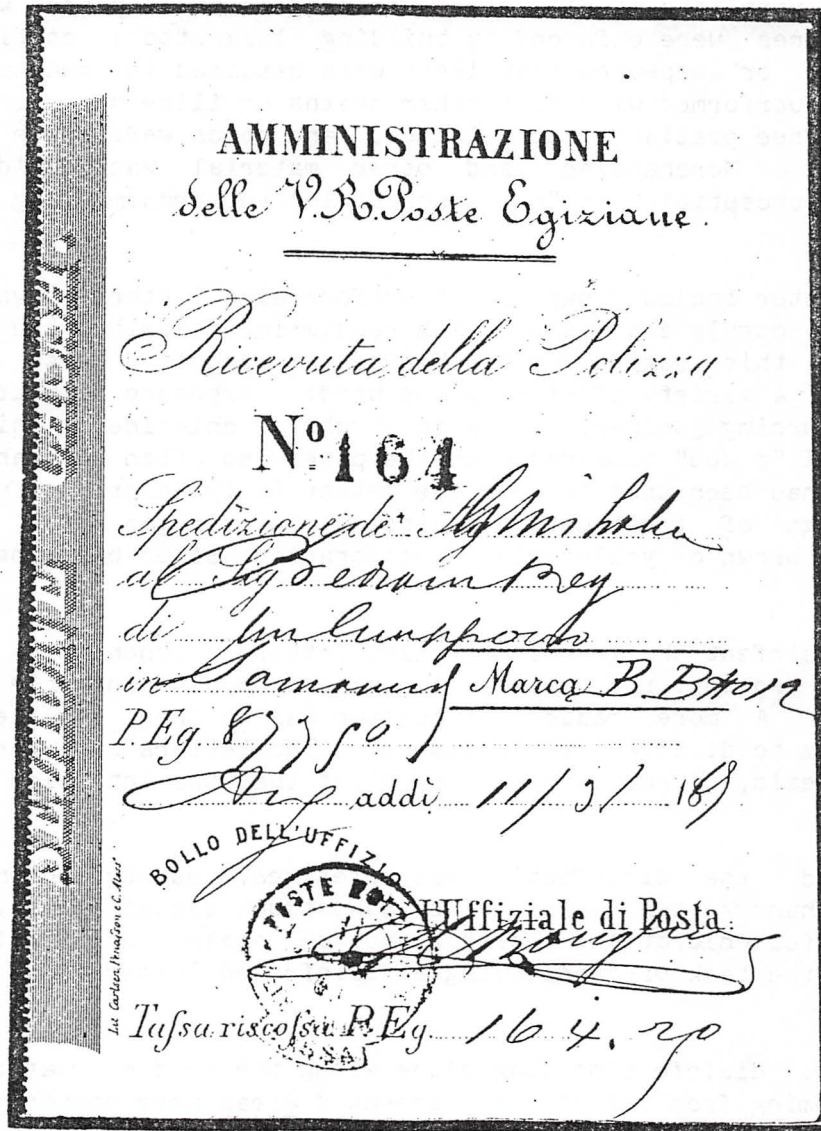
ESC Chairman Mr J Sears wrote as below when passing this text to the Editor :-

" . . . I was shown a number of articles written by a retired sea captain who had served with Shell Tankers. I met him in the hope that he might have some firm recollections of Simon Artz Stores, but although he knew the name, he had not been into their shops."

EGYPTIAN POSTAL PAPER of the CLASSIC ERA

Mr Peter R. Feltus (ESC 114) is asking for help in understanding what he calls "these treasures of 1865-1879". "Treasures" they are: he knows of only 17 specimens of these items and has produced his preliminary treatment of them. Two of the specimens are reproduced: on page 273 and on this page. They feature Italian-language handstamps, sometimes found cancelling an adhesive of second- or third-issue stamps. The cancels include the "keyhole" type, with CASSA and VAGLIA. Perhaps other issues are known (within the scope of the period mentioned above, 1865-1879). Perhaps other offices' handstamps are known. We seem to be at the outset of a new and most attractive study !

The illustrations here and on page 273 are from the collection of Mr Feltus.



THE MAIL DISINFECTION IN EGYPT - L de Zanche & D V Vandervelde

In times past, sanitary measures against epidemic diseases, like the plague and cholera, consisted of empirical precautions resting on widely-accepted beliefs. The contagionist theory maintained that epidemic diseases spread by contagion (i.e. by touch - Editor) through the so-called "pestiferous miasma".

The Health magistracies were responsible for administering the sanitary laws: the Republic of Venice was the first to formulate its own Health Magistracy (in the year 1348), which became permanent in 1490. Similar bodies appeared also in other European countries and kept in close touch with each other, exchanging information about the sanitary conditions in their own country as well as in others; in this way adequate measures were taken against the plague and, later, against cholera.

As soon as the presence of plague or cholera was recognised, the town, the port or even the whole country was isolated by means of so-called "sanitary cordons", which prevented entry into the supposedly healthy territories. Access, where permitted at all, was restricted to those places where adequate sanitary measures were enforced by building lazarettos: confinement areas where infected or suspected travellers were detained in quarantine. Once this had been performed with no further deaths or illnesses, the travellers were allowed "free pratique" and released, and goods were to be submitted to disinfection. Merchandise and other material was divided into two categories: "susceptible" or "not susceptible" (of transmitting contagion).

Susceptible matter included paper, (therefore also letters), which had to be disinfected thoroughly and every health regulation described the procedure in detail. In this regard, too, Venice is credited with the earliest regulations. A variety of methods was used: exposure to heat and/or fumes generated by burning juniper, aromatic shrubs or chlorine. This "perfuming" gave a typical "caked" appearance to the paper and often left an unbaked area where tongs had been used to hold the letter (only chlorine fumes did not leave any sign of treatment). Dipping in vinegar gave the paper a characteristic brown or yellow-pink discoloration, often blurring the writing.

In order to disinfect the inside of sealed letters, punch holes or slits were cut in them, so that the fumes or the vinegar could penetrate through the perforations. A more radical procedure was to open the letters before submitting them to disinfective treatment. The letters were then resealed by wafer or wax seals, to reassure the recipient that the intrusion was official.

Once completed, the disinfection was sometimes, but by no means always, certified by handwritten notation, by handstruck cachets or with wax seals. These signs (discoloration, slits, holes, seals, handwritten notation, cachets) make the task of identifying a disinfected letter quite simple.

In most cases, disinfection took place along the cordon or at the frontier; sea letters coming from infected or suspected areas were commonly disinfected at the port of arrival.

MAIL DISINFECTION IN EGYPT - de Zanche and Vandervelde (continued)

In the former Ottoman Empire (including Egypt) only the Franks tried to defend themselves from the plague by adopting isolation and disinfection. According to Assalini (please see figure 2), an Italian doctor who followed Napoleon during the Egypt campaign of 1798, in time of plague European people used to shut themselves up in their own homes, in order to avoid any contact with people outside, and they perfumed letters before handling.

The first sanitary rules in Egypt were issued by Napoleon (figure 3) during the French occupation (1798-1801). On 24th July 1798 he ordered the building of four hospitals at Boulak, Old Cairo, Gizeh and Cairo, and of a lazaretto* at Alexandria. At the end of August 1798, he decreed the building of another lazaretto at Cairo. However, the end of the French expedition prevented the lazarettos from being built.

Whereas the first sanitary measures officially settled by Ottoman Authorities at Constantinople date back to 1839, earlier in the nineteenth century many nationalities (from Greece, Serbia, the Danubian Principalities and Egypt), which struggled for independence, tried to differentiate themselves from the Turks by elaborating European-like sanitary regulations.

Cholera, which ravaged Egypt during 1831 (figures 1 and 2), caused the Vice Roy, Mohammed Ali, to ask for aid from the European consuls (figures 1, 4, 6).

A Consular Commission for Health was established, which ordered the building of a lazaretto at Alexandria. It was inaugurated in January 1833 (figure 3). Its location is shown on the map (figure 4).

Furthermore, the Commission recommended the establishment of sanitary cordons and the mail disinfection in times of plague or cholera. Such rules were first adopted during the cholera epidemics of 1835, when mail from infected areas was perfumed (figures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12). Cachets and seals were used at Alexandria in order to certify such treatment on mail coming from abroad (figures 8, 9).

Table 1 lists the disinfected letters of the authors' collections, and their characteristics.

Table 2 reproduces the disinfection and administrative cachets used in Egypt.

Editor:

This is a remarkable article on a little-known subject and the joint authors are to be congratulated on their collection. The Editor's apologies to the authors, and to ESC members, for lateness in printing this in The QC.

* The word "Lazaretto" is derived from the New Testament character Lazarus.

THE MAIL DISINFECTION IN EGYPT - L de Zanche & D V Vandervelde

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

(translations by the Editor)

1. Quelques reflections sur le cas de peste du bateau a vapeur francais, le Louqsor, suivies d'un apercu sur le service quarantenaire de l'Egypte.
- Alexandrie, 1846.

Some reflections on the case of the plague on the French steamship, the "Louqsor", followed by a rough idea of the Egyptian quarantine service.

2. ASSALINI, P. Riflessioni sopra la peste d'Egitto con i mezzi di preservarsene. Torino, 1801.

Reflections about the Egyptian plague, with the means of self-preservation.

3. DE LA JONQUERE: L'expedition d'Egypte, 1798-1801.

The (Napoleonic) expedition to Egypt, 1798-1801.

4. JAGAILLOUX, S. La medicalisation de l'Egypte au XIX Siecle (1798-1918). Editions Recherche sur les civilisations. Synthese no. 25, Paris, 1986.

The medicalisation (bringing in up-to-date practices and medicines) of Egypt in the 19th century.

5. MIGLIAVACCA, G: Alessandria d'Egitto. Ufficio Sanitario in Porto Vecchio. La Tribuna de Collezionista, 4:18-19, 1979.

The Health Office in Porto Vecchio (Corsica - France).

6. PANZAC, D.: La Peste dans l'Empire Ottoman, 1700-1850. Ed. Peeters, Louvain, 1985.

The plague in the Ottoman Empire, 1700-1850.

THE MAIL DISINFECTION IN EGYPT - L de Zanche & D V Vandervelde

TABLE 1

DATE (year, day, month)	FROM	TO	DISC.	SLITS	SEAL(S)	CACHET	REFERENCE in TEXT
1835	18.2	Cairo	Alexandria	+			
	3.3	Cairo	Alexandria	+	+		(Fig. 5)
	7.3	Cairo	Alexandria	+			
	13.4	Cairo	Alexandria	+			(Fig. 6)
	20.4	Cairo	Alexandria	+			
	22.4	Cairo	Alexandria	+			
	4.5	Cairo	Alexandria	+			
	18.7	Cairo	Alexandria	+			(Fig. 7)
	22.7	Cairo	Alexandria	+			
1838		London	Calcutta	+			
		(Cachet: "Lazzaretto di Alessandria")					(Fig. 8)
1839		Cons'ple	Alexandria	+	2		
		(Cachet: "Ufficio sanitario in porto Vecchio")					(Fig. 9)
1840		Smyrna	Alexandria	+	2		
1848	26.2	Beirut	Alexandria		2		
	30.7	Cairo	Alexandria	+			(Fig. 10)
	3.8	Malta	Alexandria	+			
	21.10	Beirut	Alexandria		2		(Fig. 11)
(? date?)		Alexandria	Boulak	+			(Fig. 12)

(A large envelope exists, which was resealed with wax seals reading: "Lazzaretto di Alessandria". The owner has not given permission for this to be reproduced).

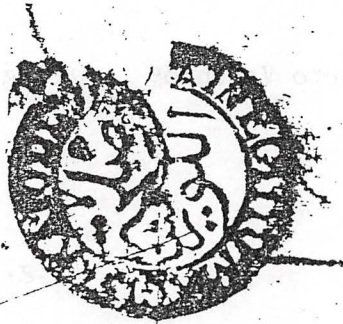
Table 2 - DISINFECTION CACHETS

Black cachet "Lazzaretto (di ?) Alessandria", 1838.



Black cachet "Uffizio Sanitario in Porto Vecchio", 1839.

ADMINISTRATIVE CACHETS



Bilingual (Italian / Arabic) black cachet "MAGISTRATO DI SANITA IN EGITTO" 1844, on a letter from Alexandria to Marseille. (Upper case - Editor).



Bilingual (French / Arabic) black cachet "Conseil G.al de Sante" struck on official letters (1878 / 1883).

THE MAIL DISINFECTION IN EGYPT

N° 3

Vice-Consulat des Pays Bas
au Caire

Avis

Tous les Sujets et protégés
de ce Vice-Consulat, sont prévenus
que, La maladie Epidémique et contagieuse
s'étant manifestée en cette Capitale, ce
qui a été reconnu au jour d'hui par les
Officiers de Santé, toutes les affaires
contentieuses sont suspendues à compter de
demain, jusqu'à nouvel ordre.

Caire ce 16. Août 1831.

En l'absence de M. le Vice-Consul



J. Carver

Fig 1. 1831 Notice issued by the Vice-Consulate of the Low Countries at Cairo, informing that the town was being ravaged by an epidemic and contagious disease (cholera).

THE MAIL DISINFECTION IN EGYPT

N. 3.

Avviso

Dai Rapporti avuti, e da quanto si è potuto rilevare sembrando indubitata la manifestazione in questa Città d'una malattia contagiosa, o epidemica, si prevengono in conseguenza tutte le Nazionali o Pochette che quest' Ufficio ha preso delle misure di riserva, ed invita loro di fare altrettanto se lo credono opportuno, avvertendoli in oltre che sono stati provvisoriamente sospesi gli affari contenziosi sino a nuova pubblicazione —

Cairo li 16. Agosto 1831
 Il Reg. Vic. Console Brit.^{co}

Edward Barker

Fig 2. 1831. Similar notice issued by the British Vice-Consul at Cairo, Edward Barker.

THE MAIL DISINFECTION IN EGYPT

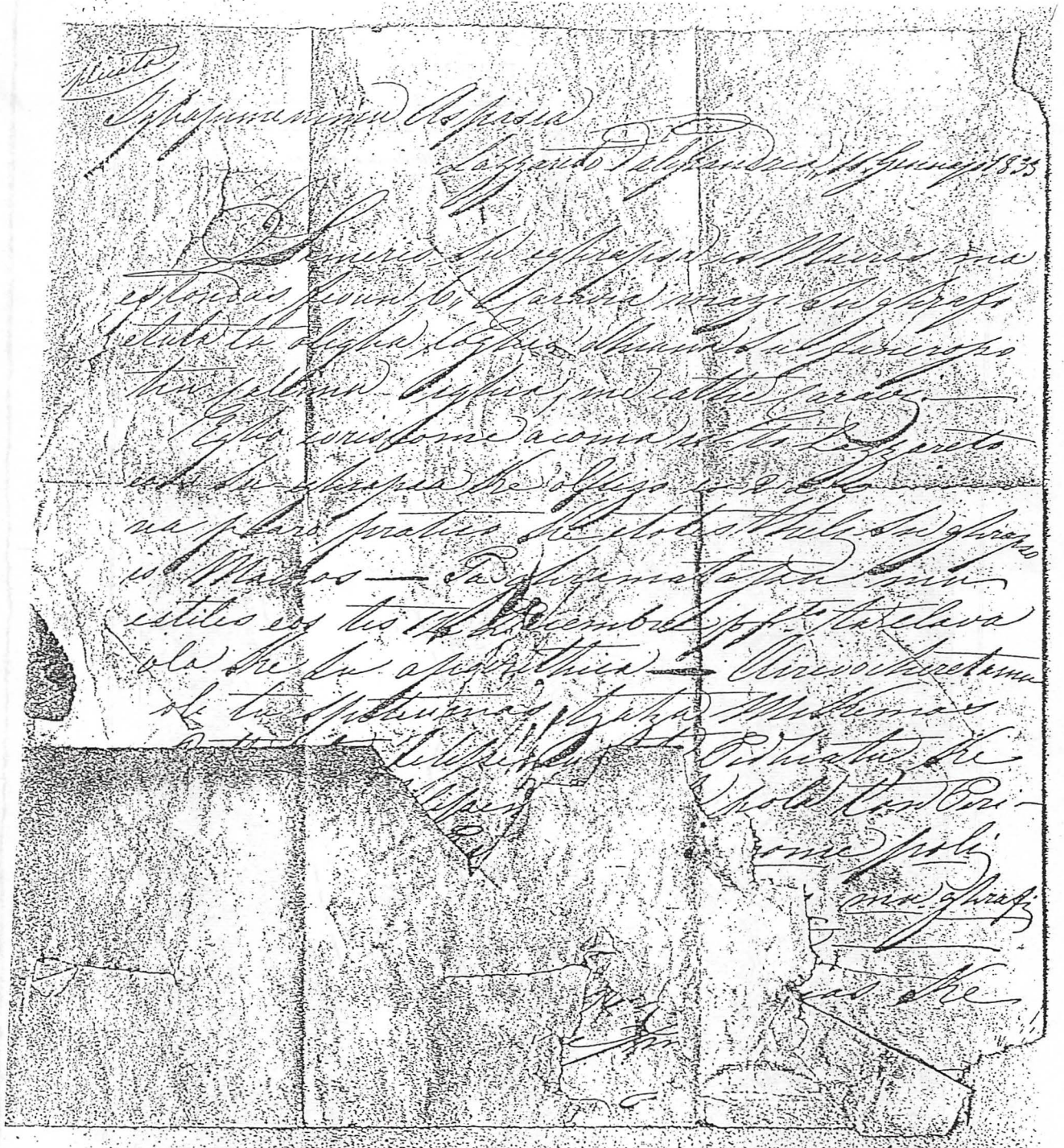


Fig 3. 1833. From the lazaretto of Alexandria, which had just been inaugurated, to Leghorn. This letter is written in Greek, but with Roman characters. (This illustration reduced by about one-third in area).

THE MAIL DISINFECTION IN EGYPT

EGYPTE MODERNE.

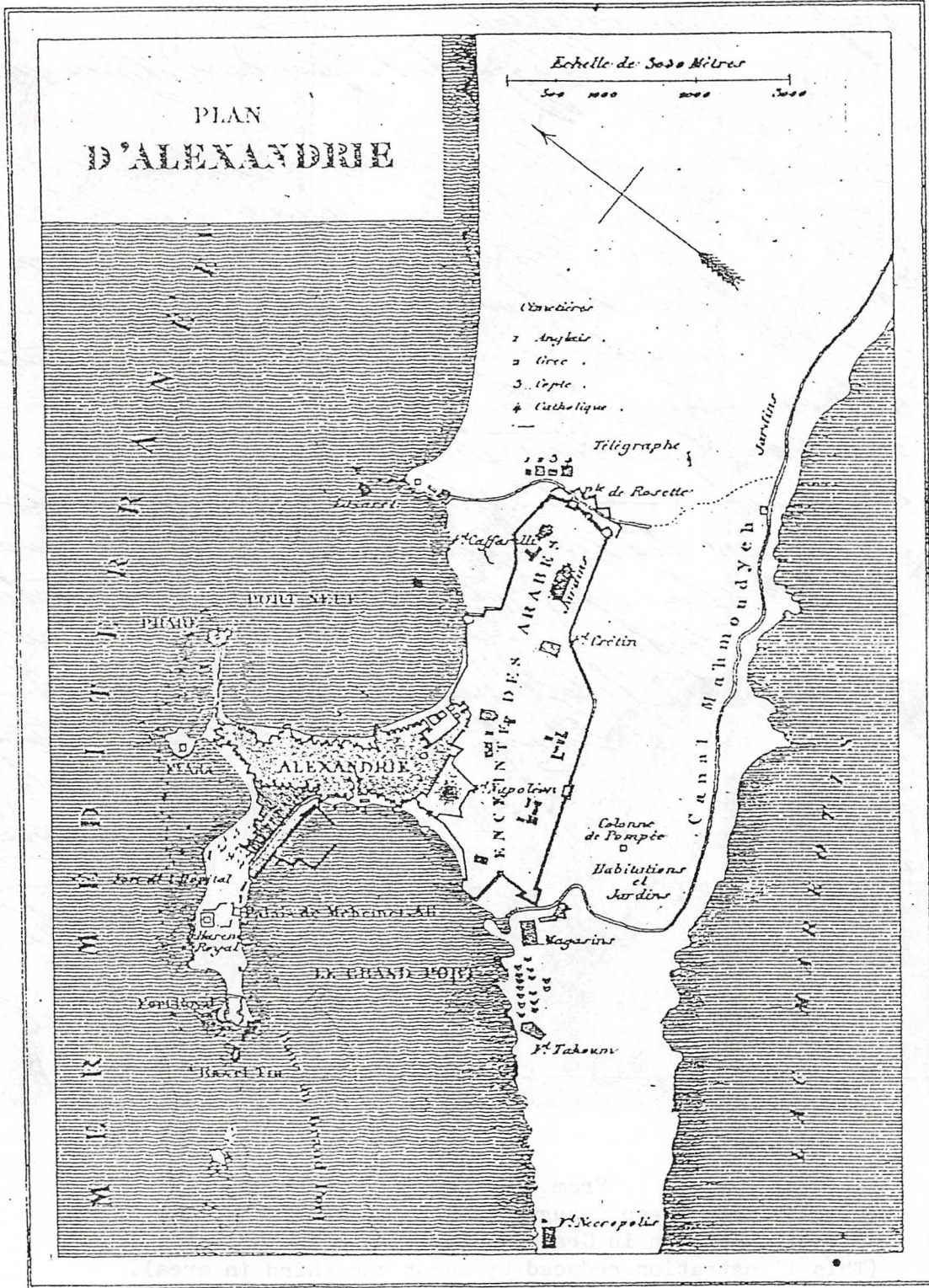


Fig 4. Map of Alexandria (19th century). Note the location of the lazaretto north of the "Port Neuf".

THE MAIL DISINFECTION IN EGYPT

Fig 5. 1835, 3rd March. From Cairo to Alexandria.
Note the presence of slits and signs of fumigation.

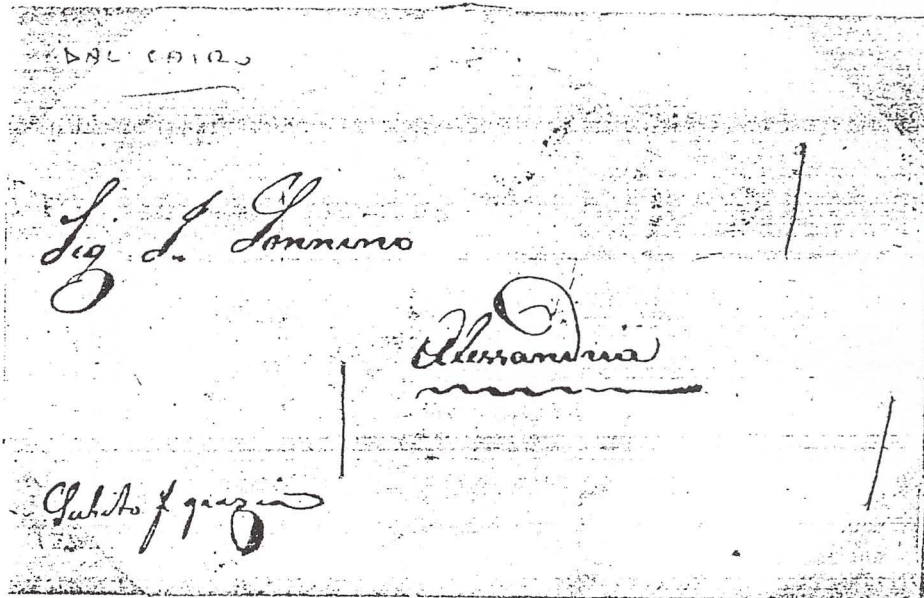
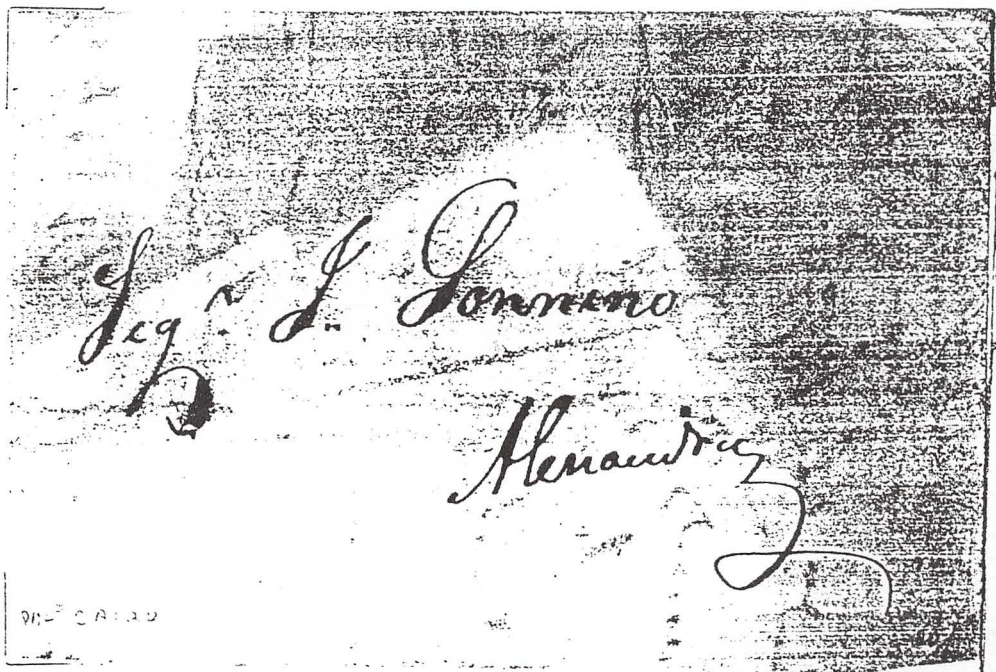
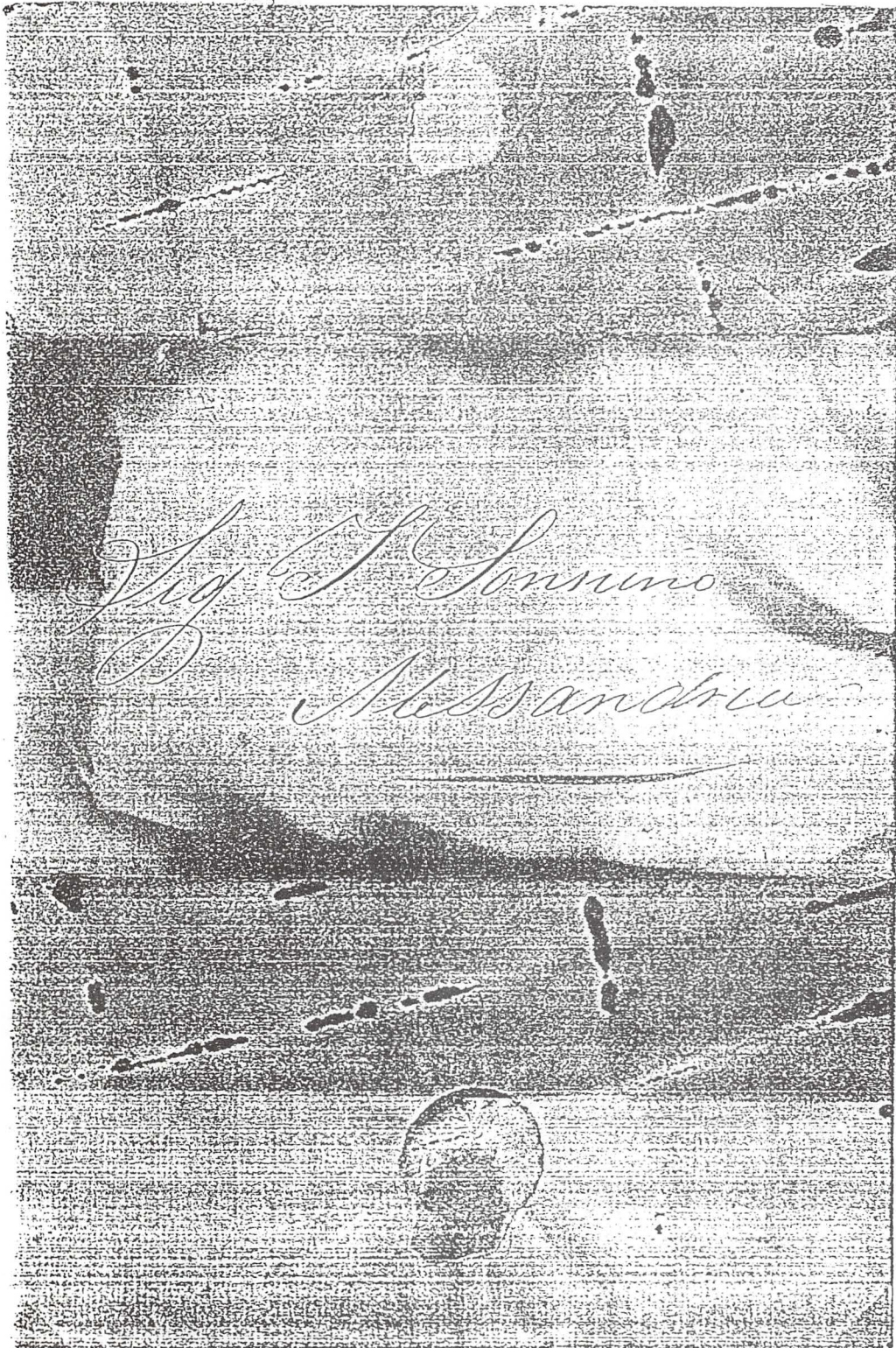


Fig 7. 1835, 18th July. From Cairo to Alexandria.
Heavily fumigated. Note the signs left by the tongs
used for holding the letter during the exposure to fumes.



THE MAIL DISINFECTION IN EGYPT

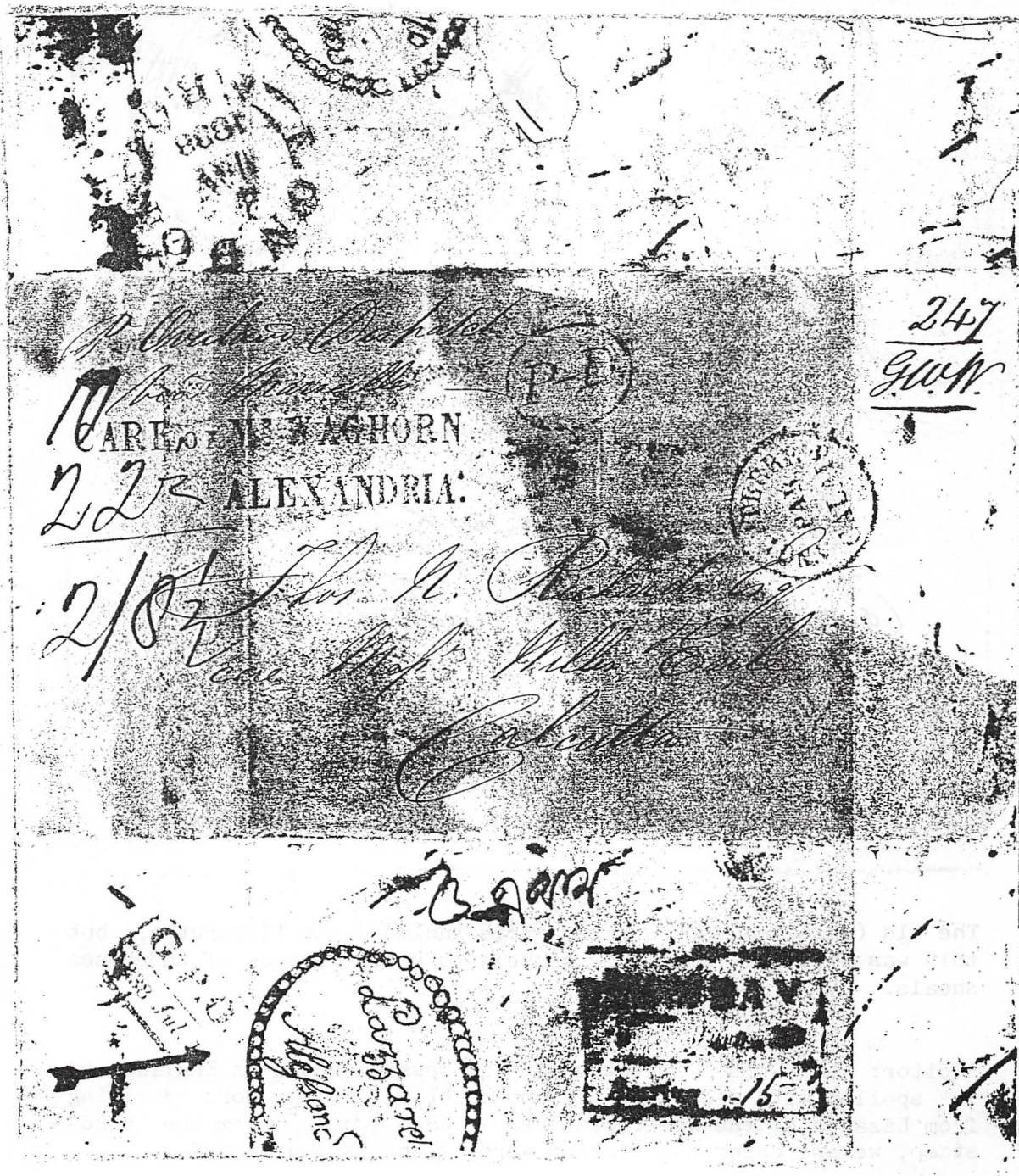
Fig 6. 1835, 13th April. From Cairo to Alexandria,
with clear evidence of fumigation.



THE MAIL DISINFECTION IN EGYPT

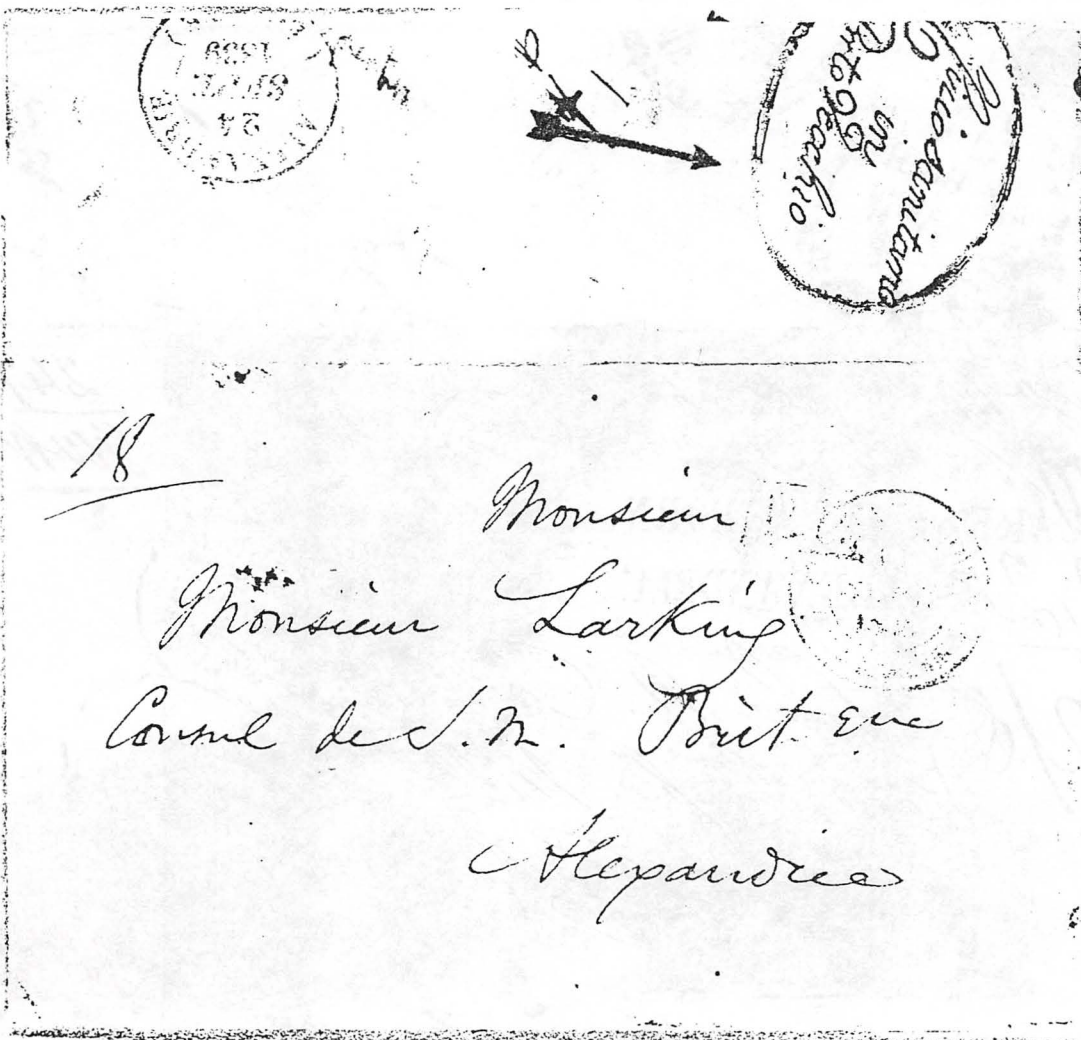
" CARE OF MR. WAGHORN / ALEXANDRIA "

Fig 8. 1838, 4th May. From London to Calcutta, Care of Mr Waghorn. Overland to Marseilles, to take advantage of the new French steamship service ('Scanandre') 11 May to Malta, arrived 17 May; 'Rhamses' 18 May to Syra arr. 21 May; 'Minos' 21 May to Alexandria arrived 24 May). By Waghorn's Overland Service from Alexandria, arrived Calcutta 15 July 1838, 72 days in transit. Stained by disinfection, but not slit. Regrettably, the oval cachet "Lazzaretto di Alexandria" has been pen-enhanced. This cachet has never been recorded, but bears a 'family resemblance' to the oval mark "Uffizio sanitario in Porta Vecchio" used in 1839 (see figure 9).



THE MAIL DISINFECTION IN EGYPT

Fig 9. 1839, 16th September. From Constantinople (French P.O.) to Alexandria, by French steamship 'Leoni' to Syra, arrived 21st September; thence by 'Rhameses' to Alexandria, arrived 24th September 1839. There are two vertical slits (28 mm) for disinfection, and an oval cachet "Uffizio Sanitario / in / Porto Vecchio" not previously reported. Regrettably, this cachet has been pen-enhanced.



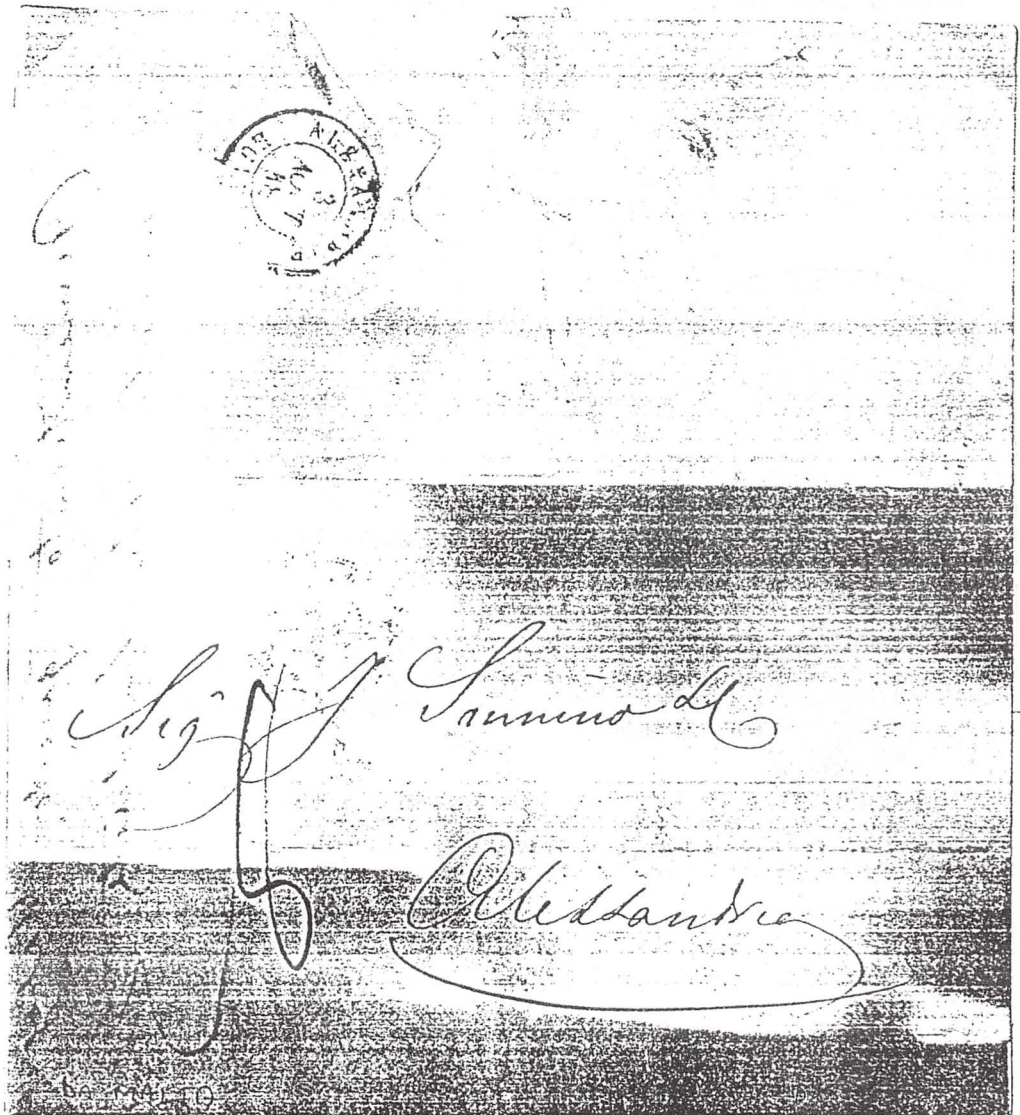
The old (western) port of Alexandria included the *lazaretto, but this was difficult for large vessels to enter because of under-sea shoals.

*Editor: the word "lazaretto" in the passage above is English and is spelled with one 'z' only, no doubt due to the word deriving from Lazarus of the New Testament. When quoting from the hand-stamp, we are using the Italian word, with its double "z".

THE MAIL DISINFECTION IN EGYPT

Fig 10. 1839, 30th July.

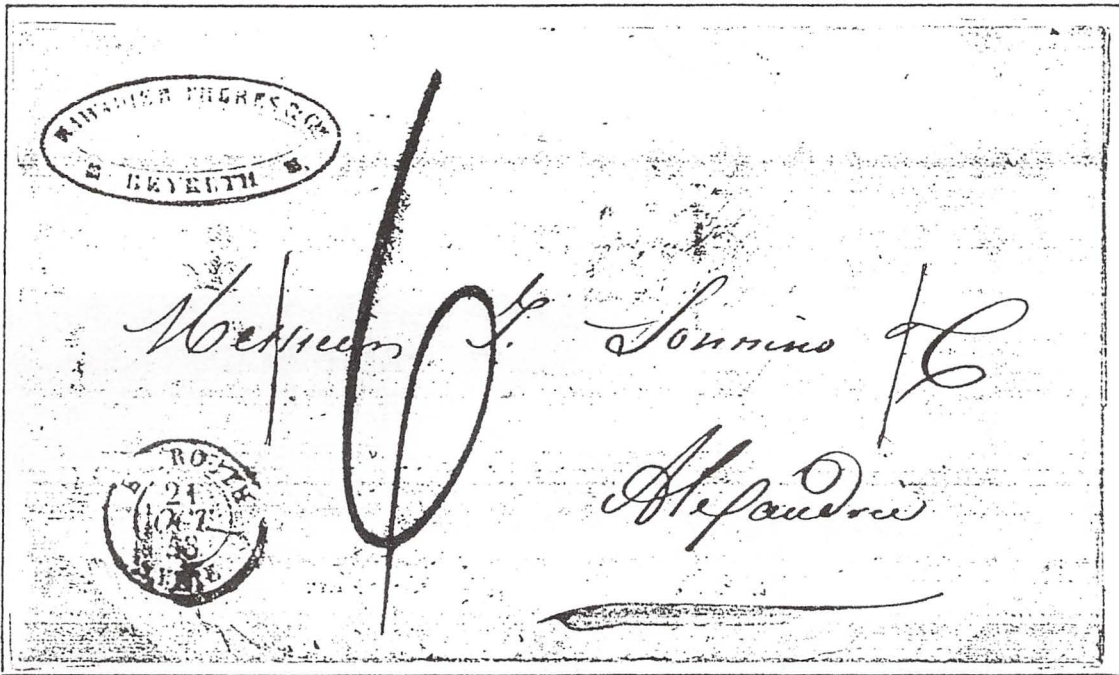
From Cairo to Alexandria, heavily fumigated.



THE MAIL DISINFECTION IN EGYPT

Fig 11. 1848, 21st October

From Beirut to Alexandria, disinfected on arrival.
Note the two vertical slits.



THE MAIL DISINFECTION IN EGYPT

Fig 12. From Alexandria to Boulack (Cairo) - in native characters.
(One-inch width removed at left and bottom, without loss of content - Editor).

