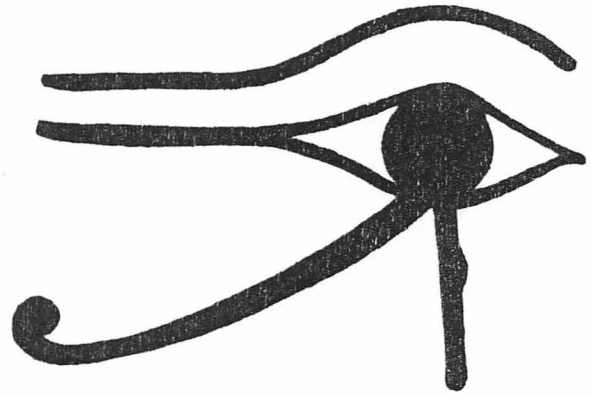


The
Quarterly Circular
of



The
EGYPT
STUDY CIRCLE

March Quarter 1996 - Whole Series Number 176
Volume XVI Number 1 - pages 1 - 30

CONTENTS

Officers, Meetings 1, Auction Accounts 2, New Members, Meeting Reports 3.

ARTICLES

The Suburban Railway Stations Of Alexandria	J. Sears	5
The Official Stamps 1972 - 1985	P. Andrews, C. E. H. Defreiz G. A. Jeyes	7
Egypt; Disinfection and Quarantine at Alexandria 1833 - 1930	V. Denis Vanderveelde	12
Civil Censorship in Egypt 1948 to 1974	P. Andrews	25

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Professor Peter A. S. Smith FRPSL, USA.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. John Sears,
496 Uxbridge Road, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 4SL, UK.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN Mr. J. S. Horesh, UK.

**SECRETARY/
TREASURER:** Mr. P. R. Bertram FRPSL,
11 Bishop's Way, Buckden, Huntingdon, PE18 9TZ, UK.

EDITOR: Dr. Michael G. C. Dahl,
3 Adeline Gardens, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 4JQ, UK.
Tel: 0191 285 3909 Fax: 0191 222 7094.

LIBRARIAN: Mr. D. John Davis,
Church View Cottage, Church Road, Upton Snodsbury,
Worcestershire, WR7 4NH, UK.

USA AGENT: Mr. Charles F. Hass,
PO Box 3435, Nashua, New Hampshire 03061-3435, USA.

EGYPT AGENT: Professor N. El-Hadidi,
Cairo University, Giza, Egypt.

**KEEPER OF THE
RECORD:** Mr. D. H. Clarke, UK.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

May 4th	Disinfected Mail	V. Denis Vandervelde
July 6th	Postal Stationery (other than postcards and envelopes)	P. Andrews

Meetings are normally held at the Victory Club, Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London. Members usually congregate in the bar from 1.00 p.m. onwards and meetings commence at 2.00 p. m.

All contents (c) copyright Egypt Study Circle, London and the contributors.

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE ACCOUNTS

Profit & Loss A/c's	Auctions Held	
	Spring 95 (20)	Autumn 95 (21)
Net Sales	£ 10041.60	£ 9360.40
INCOMINGS		
7.5% Commission on sales	790.62	702.03
Invoiced postages	211.76	215.52
Postage costs owing	<u>11.95</u>	<u>18.49</u>
	<u>1014.33</u>	<u>935.95</u>
OUTGOINGS		
Copying and postage of catalogues	291.52	294.64
Postage and packing of lots	190.79	232.84
Sundry postages	53.74	52.27
Losses (20 & 21)		15.43
Insurance		<u>38.44</u>
	536.05	631.62
NET PROFIT	<u>478.28</u>	<u>304.33</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 29TH FEBRUARY 1996

NET ASSETS	
Balance at Bank	2027
Less net amounts due	<u>336.77</u>
SURPLUS OF CURRENT ASSETS	<u>1690.23</u>

AUCTION FUND

Amount brought forward from February 1995	907.62
Add profits from Auction 20	478.28
Auction 21	<u>304.33</u>
	<u>1690.23</u>

These last two auctions have each seen the total number of lots approaching the 1000 mark which has meant that the work load on the members of the 'team' has increased. However, the auctions maintain their popularity and at least 50% of the membership bid each time. I am sure everyone would wish me to thank Mike Murphy and Alan Jeyes for all their hard work.

John Sears.

NEW MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

ESC 471 Dr. A. Z. Habib,
PO Box 72427,
ABU DHABI,
United Arab Emirates.
General Egypt.

ESC 472 Dr. I. R. El-Fishawy,
41 El Guezira El Wasta Street,
Zamalek, Cairo,
Egypt.
General Egypt & Rural Posts.

ESC 473 Mr. L. Thompson,
11 Heath Road,
Hockering,
Dereham, Norfolk. NR20 3HX.
General Egypt & British Forces
(Mr. Thompson was previously
a member, but resigned in 1967,
we welcome him back !

ESC 474 Mr. B. A. Eberman,
405 South First Street,
Geneva, Illinois, 60134, U.S.A.
Egypt; 3rd Issue

RESIGNATIONS

ESC 420 Mr. C. D. Littlejohns.

Report of meeting held 27th January 1996:-

Present	P. Andrews	T. Awff	L. Balian	H. Barker
	P. R. Bertram	L. D. Biolato	M. Bramwell	S. W. Bunce
	D. H. Clarke	J. Davis	E. H. Frazer-Smith	P. Grech
	E. Hall	C. F. Hass	S. Horesh	G. A. Jeyes
	S. K. El-Kerdani	H. Makram	J. M. Murphy	A. Ott
	S. A. R. Samra	A. Schmidt	J. Sears	V. Varjabedian

Apologies were received from:-

W. C. Andrews	C. E. H. Defriez	J. Revell	R. West
---------------	------------------	-----------	---------

The Chairman, John Sears, opened the first meeting of the year and commented that it was good to see more members attending and offered a special welcome to those attending from abroad. Delay in production of the Q.C. was raised and the Chairman reported that the editor had promised that outstanding issues should be in the hands of members in the not too distant future.

The ESC auction was mentioned and the Chairman went on to say that although the auction was well received and produced good results, there were some 'administrative problems' with delays in payments and members returning items because they were allegedly not fully described. There may be a slight delay with the next auction as it is intended to re-assess the situation and tighten up the auction rules.

The Secretary mentioned that annual subscriptions were now due and also went on to say that

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons had been in touch to offer the new 'Part 19' SG catalogue at a slightly reduced price to members - a special application form will accompany the Q. C. and members wishing to take advantage of this offer should approach SG direct. The secretary also produced the latest ABPS bulletin and mentioned the 'Newcastle 96' exhibition/stamp fair to be held 29-11-96 to 1-12-96 supported by the ABPS.

Member Leon Balian addressed the meeting on his proposed new Catalogue of Egyptian Stamps which he hoped to 'get off the ground' in the not too distant future.

A warm welcome was then offered by the Chairman to member Luca Biolato who took over the rest of the meeting with a display of his study of the 'Posta Europea' and allied posts.

Luca commenced by giving a description of the role played by the Italians in the formation of the early Egyptian posts. Apparently Luca's father had been employed in Egypt some years ago and this generated his interest in this area.

He covered the Posta Europea in great detail from its formation to its purchase by the Egyptian Government including many ancillary items from the period, showing much scarce material from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries including mails carried by 'private couriers', Napoleonic period mail, Government posts, mail from the British Army in Egypt of 1807 and much more. There is no doubt that Luca has one of the largest collections of this period and many covers/items are unique. Luca went on to mention the book he is writing on this subject.

The Chairman, in closing the meeting, went on to say that we were privileged to see such scarce material, displayed with a deep knowledge of Egyptian history and the ability to read so well the early covers, and he especially thanked Luca for taking the time and trouble to come over from Italy to give us his display. Luca said that he would be most obliged if any members having material from this period of which he is not aware would send, via the secretary, photocopies showing early and late dates of any Posta Europea covers and photocopies of both sides of any other entires or documents of the period. The meeting then closed but it was a sign of the interest that almost all members remained throughout the meeting and that discussion continued with Luca later in the bar.

Report of meeting held 2nd March 1996:-

Present	P.Andrews	P.R. Bertram	M. Bramwell	D. H. Clarke
	J. Davis	C. E. H. Defriez	E. H. Frazer-Smith	S. Horesh
	J. M. Murphy	J. Sears		

Apologies were recieved from:-

W. C. Andrews	S. Bunce	M. G. C. Dahl	E. Hall
G. A. Jeyes	J. Revell	B. Watterson	

The Chairman opened the meeting by mentioning delays in both the Quarterly Circular and the next ESC auction. Regarding the Q. C. he stated that he had been in touch with the editor and it was hoped the Q. C. would appear by the end of the month as there were problems with the typing. With regard to the Auction, there appeared to be some 950 lots to be included and

again it was the problem of getting out the list, but hopefully this would be resolved soon.

The Secretary then handed out an advertisement/proforma he had received from Messrs Stanley Gibbons, which, if completed by members, would entitle them to receive the new Part 19 catalogue at a discounted price.

A request had been received from Messrs Argyle Etkin to nominate their employee Mr. Andrew Norris as a member of the ESC and the application form was shown to the members present. It was decided to reject this application!

As there was no further business, the Chairman then introduced member Dennis Clarke, who took over the main discussion for the afternoon, instructional markings. Dennis gave the talk and display on his own (originally John Davis was to have assisted, but due to other commitments, had to pull out).

Dennis did his usual admiral job of setting out the Post Office instructions relating to the different markings - Delivery, Unknown, Registration, Specie, Insured, Refused, Not called for, etc: He showed numerous covers demonstrating the marks and other members present assisted with their examples. It appears that this was the first time this vast area of markings (advisory and instructional) has been attempted and it is hoped that something will be forthcoming for the Q. C. as there are, or appear to be, many hitherto unrecorded types.

The Chairman thanked Dennis for yet another well planned display/talk and the meeting then closed.

THE SUBURBAN RAILWAY STATIONS OF ALEXANDRIA

The following passage is taken from "A Lifetime in Egypt" by Mabel Caillard, who was the daughter of the Postmaster General of Egypt appointed in 1876 in which year the family moved to Alexandria.

This extract is from the first chapter which describes the area and the house they occupied in Ramleh. The book was published by Grant Richards in 1935.

"It (the house) was situated near Fleming station . . . and thereby hangs a tale of the time when "everyone was somebody" in the small Ramleh settlement.

The railway, which played so important a part in its' existance, divided the suburb into districts that took the names of the stations on the line; these occurred at intervals of a few hundred yards and were called after some leading residents in the vicinity.

Mr Fleming and Captain Bulkeley were close friends as well as members of the board of the railway company, and in the early days of the line had built their houses side by side in a commanding position on the southern ridge of the sand hills.

The house of Mr Fleming was a long, low building with a turret at one end, bearing an appropriate resemblance to a railway train; the Captain had indulged in a more imposing form and his residence was of two stories surmounted by a huge pair of domes, Oriental in intention, but which his fellow colonists irreverently styled 'The Pepperpots'.

Every morning the two cronies emerged from their front doors at exactly the same moment and walked in company to the nearest halt to catch the business train to town; and the process was repeated in the afternoon when, having lunched at home, they returned to Alexandria to complete their labours for the day.

Then Mr Fleming went to England on a holiday, and at a meeting of the railway board, held during his absence, it was decided to give names to the stations. Mr Schutz and Mr Bacos accepted the distinction, and Captain Bulkeley was informed of the proposal to name a third halt in his honour.

An elaborate fretwork erection marked the spot, and on his return from abroad, the glaring announcement of BULKELEY STATION confronted Mr Fleming on either side and at each end of the flimsy edifice.

He reviled his quondam (former) friend in no measured terms for having stolen a march on him and, adducing priority, demanded the substitution of his name for Captain Bulkeley's. In vain it was pointed out that the Captain's house was, if by no more than a few yards, nearer to the station in question, and that he held by his prerogative: the dispute was only settled by the company arranging to set up another station, a little further up the line, for Mr Fleming's separate use.

Thenceforth, in dignified solitude, Captain Bulkeley walked to Bulkeley and Mr Fleming - in the black top hat and coat that he always affected - walked to Fleming to travel in different compartments by the train to Alexandria. I can remember having seen the latter, but by that time the enemy was no longer present and 'The Pepperpots' had already begun to fall down, and there were cobras in the walls".

There were Post Offices still situated at Bacos, Bulkeley, Fleming and Schutz in 1932 when they were listed in the Egyptian Postal Guide of that year in the Ramleh section. The contributor has not seen a Postal Marking of Schutz; has anyone else?

(submitted by John Sears, ESC 188).

(We are indebted to John for bringing the above extract to our notice; not only as a humorous piece of 'living history', but also as an explanation of how the various stations received their names. Ed)

THE OFFICIAL STAMPS 1972-1985

P. Andrews (ESC 122), C. E. H. Defreiz (ESC 172) and G. A. Jeyes (ESC 293) ~

In the original article (Q.C. Vol XV December 1994, Whole series No. 171), it was remarked that dates of issue had not been identified since very few pieces with printing dates had been seen and that this part of the study would have to be considered later. Since then we have been able to study 79 panes of the one millieme stamp, consisting of 31 panes with watermark and 48 panes without watermark, kindly loaned by Mr. T. Awff.

When sorted, the sheets fell into three separate printings as follows:-

<u>1. Unwatermarked sheets</u>	<u>Wove paper</u>			
<u>Printing date 27-IV-77</u>				
sheet numbers	24402	28608	28609	
<u>Printing date 28-IV-77</u>				
sheet numbers	32645	32687	32712	32713
	35064	35065	36628	
<u>Printing date 30-IV-77</u>				
sheet numbers	38630	38631		

Up to, and including sheet numbered 28609 (27-IV-77), even numbered sheets show the following constant flaws:-

- stamp no 18, weak line in right side of falcon's neck.
- stamp no 34, break in three lines of left wing.
- stamp no 61, straight line break across four lines of left wing.
- stamp no 64, weakness or break in inner line of left wing.
- stamp no 80, two colourless marks in solid colour of shield.
- stamp no 94, coloured dot at top left of right wing.

and odd numbered sheets the following constant flaws:-

- stamp no 1, broken line in left wing.
- stamp no 32, break in lower edge of solid colour of shield.
- stamp no 92, large black dot to right of Arabic 'official'.

Commencing with sheet 32645 (28-IV-77), of the sheets seen, this position is reversed and even numbered sheets show the flaws on stamps no's 1, 32 and 92 whilst odd numbered sheets show the flaws on stamps no's 18, 34, 61, 64, 80 and 94.

As this reversal appears to coincide with the end of one days printing and the beginning of the next, it is probable that this occurred during the end of day cleaning when perhaps the printing surfaces were removed and inadvertently replaced in alternate positions.

This printing corresponds, in colour, paper etc; to that described as TYPE 5 in the original article.



STAMP NO 18



STAMP NO 34



STAMP NO 61



STAMP NO 64



STAMP NO 80



STAMP NO 94



STAMP NO 1



STAMP NO 32



STAMP NO 92

2. Watermarked sheetsWove PaperPrinting date 24-VI-78

sheet numbers	19455	19456	19457	19458
	19460	19461	19462	19463
	19464	19465	19466	19467
	19468	19469	19470	19471
	19472	19473		

Printing date 25-VI-78

sheet numbers	22841	22842	22881	23 85
	24248	24602	24603	25248
	26947	27623	28845	28888
	31227			

again, in this 1978 printing, commencing with sheets 19455/6 (24-VI-78), all even numbered sheets show flaws 18, 34, 61, 64, 80 and 94 and odd numbered sheets showing flaws 1, 32 and 92. Additional flaws are now seen on odd numbered sheets:-

stamp no 30, break in bottom line of scroll, left of centre.

stamp no 58, black dot above 'dal' of 'barid'.

stamp no 91, small black dot at end of 'barid'.

This printing corresponds, in colour, paper etc; to that described as TYPE 9 in the original article.



STAMP NO 30



STAMP NO 58



STAMP NO 91

3. Unwatermarked sheetsLaid PaperPrinting date 11-VI-79

sheet numbers	19293	22067	22068	34900
	34901	34902	39787	40147
	40148	41967	41968	

Printing date 12-VI-79

sheet numbers	46290	46291	48828	48829
	49090	49091	51988	51989

Printing date 14-VI-79

sheet numbers	52712	52732	52774	52775
	53451	53452	54986	54987
	54988	54989	54990	54991
	54993	54995	55025	55478
	55479			

In the above printing, sheets 46290/1 again have the sheet positions reversed, i.e. sheet 46290 has flaws on stamps 1, 32 and 92, and sheet 46291 has flaws on stamps 18, 34, 61, 64, 80 and 94 whilst all other sheets show flaws as the previous (1978) printing.

The only explanation we can see for this peculiar happening would appear to be that the printing surfaces were replaced in alternate positions after cleaning on the 11th and that some difficulty arose during the print run on the 12th which required removal of the printing surfaces and they were then again reversed. Since these two sheets are in isolation, in the series of sheets seen, with a gap of several thousand sheets each side there may of course be some other explanation.

Also on this 1979 printing an additional flaw is seen on stamp number 100 of even numbered sheets in the form of a large black mark on the falcon's left wing and on stamp 91 of odd numbered sheets the black dot at the end of 'barid' is much more pronounced. These latter remarks are of course reversed on sheets 46290/1.

This printing does not correspond exactly to any of the types described in the original article but is nearest to TYPE 5 and we have therefore listed it as TYPE 5a.



STAMP NO 100

4. Unwatermarked sheetsLaid paper

(in P. A. collection)

Printing date 3-XII-80

sheet number 84514

This sheet still shows flaws 18, 34, 61, 64 and 80 but flaws 94 and 100 are no longer seen.

Printing date 11-XII-80

sheet number 78467

This sheet still shows flaws 1, 30 and 32, but flaws 58, 91 and 92 are no longer seen.

This printing corresponds, in colour, paper etc; to that described as TYPE 7 in the original article.

It would seem that the printing surface consisted of two panes of 100 stamps each since alternate sheets show identical flaws. It also appears that each of the two panes was separately detachable from the press, as some printings show certain flaws on even numbered sheets, whilst exactly similar flaws appear on odd numbered sheets in other printings.

While examining the above sheets it was noticed that what appeared in the first place to be a general dirtyness of the background was in fact a whole series of (unintentional) black markings, probably left after the printing surface had not been properly cleaned. However, these 'dirty marks' proved to be constant and provided a means of plating the stamps on the sheet, which, although somewhat time consuming and rather trying at times allowed identification of all 200 individual stamps from a batch of 500 one mill mint singles recently purchased.

A fortunate purchase of some 4,000 used singles, assorted 10, 20 and 55mill stamps gave further impetus to the study along these lines and was very successful in that having plated all 200 one millieme stamps it was now possible to identify, exactly, the sheet position of 77-10 mill 46-20 mill and 29-55 mill stamps. This proves that the printing surface carrying the European and Arabic wording was used as a duty plate for the original printing values of 1, 10, 20, 50 and 55 mills (8 stamps of the 50 mill value have been found which can be identified, the small number being due to the very few examples of this value which we have seen).

It is certain that separate 'head' plates were then used for the remainder of the design, as can be noted from the difference in registration between the two parts of the design in the various values and this is borne out by the fact that complete panes of all other values in our possession do not repeat the 'head' plate flaws of one value to another.

Progress, albeit very little, has now been made in this study, but much remains to be done and many question remain to be answered, for instance, why are there so few (apparently) 50 mill stamps - either mint or used - available, why is it so difficult to find panes of these stamps, particularly the earlier printings etc:

We earnestly request anyone who has material of this type or any factual information on the issue to contact one of the contributors or an officer of the Circle in order to further our knowledge of these interesting stamps.

EGYPT: DISINFECTION AND QUARANTINE AT ALEXANDRIA 1833 - 1930

V. Denis Vandervelde

In a previous issue of the Quarterly Circular of the Egypt Study Circle, (Vol. XIV, No. 10), an article entitled 'The Mail disinfection in Egypt' appeared over the names of Dr. L. de Zanche and myself. While it included items taken from 'Pratique' (the Newsletter/Magazine of the DMSC), the article as such was unfamiliar to me; and in both wording and content certainly did not reflect my own understanding of a topic which has been covered quite extensively by myself and other members of the Disinfected Mail Study Circle.

Luciano de Zanche has advised me that the article, which he wrote more than two years earlier, had been resurrected by the Editor without checking its contents with either author, in the belief that it would be of great interest to his readers. This we accept, but I think that it is now sensible for me to set out a clearer picture of the story, as I see it, in its entirety.

In so doing, I have omitted Dr. de Zanche's very interesting documents relating to Cholera in Egypt in 1831 which do not belong to the story as I am defining it; and also the details of quarantine facilities at Port Said, Suez and elsewhere in Egypt, so as to concentrate on the Alexandria history.

Firstly I would like to correct a number of mistakes in the original article. The word 'Lazaretto' is unlikely to be derived from the Biblical Lazarus, but is generally attributed to the corruption in Venetian dialect of the name of the establishment for lepers and other incurables, run by the Sisters of Nazareth, a Roman Catholic order.

Porto Vecchio in Corsica is a 'red herring'; there is no doubt that the 'Port Vecchio' of the cachet I have numbered V.iii is the western harbour of Alexandria, still known as the Old Port. The map reproduced at p.288 (in the previous article) is not aligned with North at the top in the modern manner, which is no doubt why the lazaret is described as being north of the New Port, whereas it is at the eastern extremity.

The mistaken description of cachets on pp. 291/2 as 'enhanced' is dealt with in the body of this article.

The establishment of the Lazaretto

Although contagious diseases were nothing new in Egypt, the decision to construct a Western-style lazaretto at Alexandria was the result of world-wide alarm caused by the second Pandemic of Cholera, which was sweeping through the Nile Delta in 1831.

According to British State Papers, published by order of the House of Commons, the Alexandria Lazaretto had its origins in a Circular from the Viceroy to the foreign Consuls in October 1831. The Consuls assembled in the house of the Consul-General of France and formed a committee of seven to implement the plan. Ibrahim Pasha had given funds, but the project stalled until the committee was reformed, with a Presidency rotating monthly.

Letters from Colonel Patrick Campbell, President of the Board of Health in Egypt, to Viscount Palmerston, are a useful guide to these events. In a letter headed 'Cairo, Jan 14, 1837' he wrote a potted history to explain a protest from British Merchants against the Egyptian regulations.

"The Pasha built a lazaretto outside of the city of Alexandria at a very great expense, and it is capable of containing 2,500 persons. He has also built at a considerable expense a building in each of two harbours, where the people of suspected vessels, and of those in observation, come to purchase provisions, and to see their friends, etc".

Alexandria has two ports, one on the east side called the New; the other on the west side called the Old Port (Blackie's Gazetteer, 1875). The Pasha's lazaretto was built on an islet at the eastern extremity of the New Port ('greatly inferior to the Old, being much smaller, besides being exposed to the N. winds', according to Blackie).

The quarantine buildings referred to can be easily identified from contemporary maps. That for the New Port was at Ramleh (the railway station was later constructed beside it), near the centre of the southern shore. In the larger Old Port, the quarantine ground occupied the centre of the sandbank sheltering the harbour from the sea, to the immediate east of Mehmet Ali's Palace, shown on the Nineteenth Century map reproduced in the Egypt Study Circle article.

From an earlier letter of Colonel Campbell, dated 'Alexandria, Oct 16, 1835', we learn that the majority of those in the lazaretto were pilgrims to Mecca and Medina, from Constantinople and other parts of Turkey. 'This lazaretto is in an isolated situation, between Cleopatra's Needle and the Pavilion, about a mile from this city, on the shore of the New or Eastern Port, in which alone all the vessels in quarantine anchor, and there is a guard of soldiers for its protection'. He goes on to detail the 46 cases of plague (26 fatal) at Alexandria between the 4th of June and the 26th of September, 1835, and the manning and costs of the health establishments. The lazaretto, for example, had a Maltese Director, paid 1,200 piastres monthly, and 14 staff, mostly 'guardians', paid between 120 and 600 piastres a month.

The letter has been slit for fumigation and is the earliest such letter known to us. Other letters into Alexandria show slits made by a 15mm chisel, or, most frequently, scorching with tong marks: again, Dr. de Zanche's covers of 1835, illustrated in the ESC Quarterly, are typical. It seems certain that no cachets of fumigation were being employed during this period.

The treatment of mail, 1838 - 39

Suddenly, in 1838, a whole 'family' of cachets (unrecorded until quite recently) were introduced. Before describing them, I will venture a hypothesis for this change of practice.

In April 1838, the Governor of Malta resolved to bring disinfection practice there into line with that of Marseilles: (see Consul Gautier's letter, quoted by M. Carnevale-Mauzan at p.66 of his little handbook). The earliest example of the common d. c. handstamp, PURIFIE AU LAZARET/MALTE so far recorded, is dated June 1838. It seems likely that a decision of a similar kind was taken at Alexandria a few weeks earlier; the oval marking with 'Lazaretto di Alefsandria' in cursive lettering is known from a letter in my collection of May 1838 (see fig. V.i).

i) 'Lazaretto/di/Alefsandria', oval cachet recorded only May 1838.

This remarkable letter was written in London on the 1st of May 1838 and endorsed 'P. Overland Dispatch' to Calcutta. It travelled via Dover, Calais and Paris to Marseilles, to take advantage (it is presumed) of the new French steamship service; by the 'Scamandre' leaving on the 11th of May, arriving at Malta on the 17th. From Malta, the 'Rhamses' would have collected it on the 18th, depositing it at the island coaling-station of Syra on the 21st, whence the 'Minos' left the

same day for Alexandria, arriving on the 24th. The cover, it should be emphasised, shows no transit marks, and must be presumed to have travelled in a sealed bag.

From Alexandria, Mr. Waghorn's Overland Service (whose cachet appears on the address panel) took it across the Isthmus of Suez for onward transmission to India, arriving in Calcutta on the 15th of July.

Why this cover, uniquely (so far as we know) should have been disinfected at Alexandria and cachetted accordingly is not clear; but the eccentric routing posited could offer a rational explanation. Most mail to India in the 1830's proceeded to Alexandria from Malta, and not from Syra, of course. In the panic attendant on what we now know to be the last, dying gasp of the Second Cholera Pandemic, the unusual port of call, known to be prone to infectious disease, may have sufficed to convince the authorities at Alexandria of the need to disinfect this mail; it has clearly been smoked, but without slitting or perforating. The use of the Italian language needs no explanation; the 'Posta Europea' and most Egyptian official bodies at this period used Italian as the language of commerce.

ii) 'uffizio sanitario/in/Port Nuovo' oval cachet recorded only November 1838.

My cover, (to date the only example seen), originated in the French Consulate at Tarsus in Turkey (see fig. V.ii). It has transit marks of the French P.O. (as well as of the Health Office) at Alexandria, a 'PURIFIE AU LAZARTE/MALTE', a 'Paquebots de la Mediterranee' of Marseilles, and sundry Paris marks on arrival. The cancellation of the 6 francs charge raised on arrival is explained by the manuscript notation alongside, 'au dos' - the cachet on the reverse showed it to be Consular Mail, which was free of postal charges.

The absence of other transit marks suggests that it travelled in a sealed bag from Tarsus to Alexandria, where it was quarantined at the building in Ramleh. It was released to the French post office there on the 27th of November 1838. It must have travelled that day on the paquebot 'Sesostris' to Syra; and then on the 'Rhamses' (sailed 1st of December) to Malta, arriving the 4th of December, to be disinfected with the two usual chisel slits and cachet, 'PURIFIE AU LAZARET/MALTE'.

From Malta, it was most likely carried by the 'Minos', leaving on the 7th of December to arrive at Marseilles, on the 12th of December. Even on arrival in Paris, its travels were not complete, the 'Debourse' backstamp indicating that it was mis-sorted; and the boxed E16 and E18 red handstamps, that at least two postmen failed to deliver it.

iii) 'uffizio sanitario/in Porto Vecchio' oval cachet recorded September 1839.

Although I understand another example has survived, the letter reproduced in Dr. de Zanche's article in the ESC Quarterly Circular is the one in my collection (see fig. V.iii). Despite the comment, 'regrettably, this cachet has been pen-enhanced', the original shows no signs of such enhancement, I am pleased to say.

Sent by the wife of the British Consul in Alexandria to him from Constantinople, it was posted at the French P.O. in that city as normal, commercial mail, and remained within the French postal system.

Thanks to Henri Tristant's invaluable handbook, we can identify the routeing beyond reasonable doubt. It left Constantinople on the French steamer 'Leoni' for Syra on the 17th of September, arriving on the 21st (the Ligne du Levant).

From Syra, the 'Rhamses' left for Alexandria on the same day, arriving on the 24th, (Ligne d'Egypte), as confirmed by the arrival postmark. It must then have gone to the building at the Old Port quarantine ground, but I do not believe it was disinfected there. The two long slits (28mm or just over one inch) are uncharacteristic of Alexandria treatment, and are more likely to have been made by staff at the Consulate when they collected it.

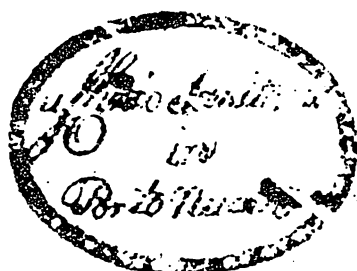
Summary

We know now that three handstamps, recognisably from the same 'stable', were in use by the Health Authority at Alexandria in 1838/9. Each was oval in format, with the rim decoratively 'corded' i.e. simulating ropework. All three are worded in Italian, the language of commerce in Egypt at this time.

The size of the oval varies, (48 x 35 for V.i, 44 x 35 for V.ii, 45 x 32 for V.iii), but the similarity of the cursive lettering is far more significant. The attribution of V.i to the lazaretto itself, (as explicitly worded in the cachet), and of V.ii and V.iii to the quarantine buildings in the two Ports, seems beyond reasonable doubt.



TYPE V.i



TYPE V.ii



TYPE V.iii

The treatment of mail 1840 - 1883

From a collection of Diplomatic documents (in French and Italian) relating to the Turco-Egyptian conflict of 1838-41 and its aftermath, published belatedly in Cairo in 1931, we know of changes in procedure which date from 1840.

'Alexandria, 16th January 1840

As The Minister will be aware, the Viceroy (Ibrahim Pasha - Ed) established a lazaret seven years ago to preserve the State from disease, and charged the Consular Corps with organising and directing the service. But there have been incidents which disturbed His Highness, principally the recent decision to cease quarantining vessels coming from Turkey with clean bills of health. For this reason, His Highness has decided to remove the service from the Consular Corps and entrust it to his Minister, Borghos Bey, with the help of merchants from every nation, each serving for one month.

The Consuls did not accept this order, which annoyed the Viceroy, who has provisionally suspended the sanitary service. However, surveillance has not ceased, and has today uncovered a case of plague'.

In British Parliamentary Papers I have found evidence that the Viceroy had his way, at least initially. A document in Italian, with an English translation attached, sets out details of the new Regulations. Dated January 21st, 1840, it bears the names of the first seven intendants : Tahir Effendi, Inspector General of the Viceroy's police, charged with Executive power, and merchants of Turkish, Greek, French, English, German and Italian nationality : the Englishman was A. C. Harris.

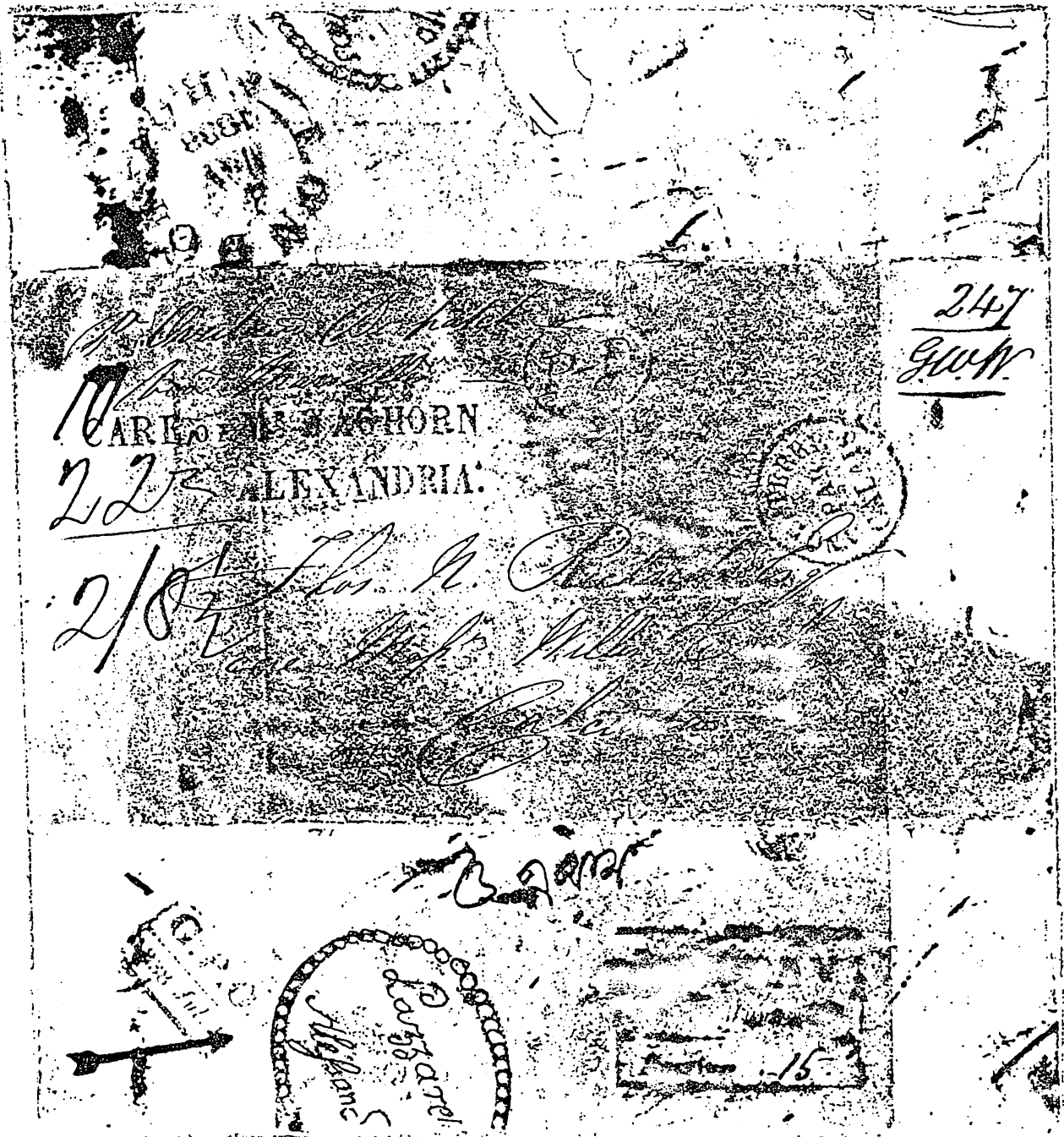


Fig V.i. 'Lazaretto di Alesandria', 1838.

However, on February the 4th, Consul Larking, (none other than the addressee of the letter at fig V.iii), wrote to Colonel Hodges as follows:-

'Both as to its regulations, and the members composing it, this Board is precisely the same as the one lately abolished....As regards personal liberty in time of plague, this power is arbitrary

Service public *Le Consul de France* *Cairo*

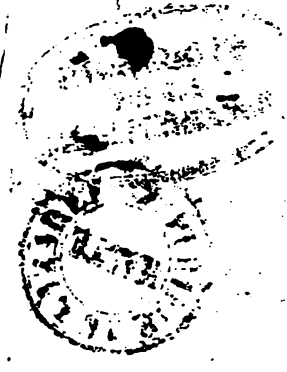


Plates

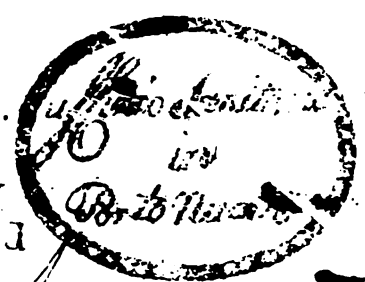
A Monsieur

*le Directeur de la quatrième Division
Bureau des Invalides.*

à Paris



27-88
10-00
31-88



SHIPPING
INDICES
SHIPPING

Sept 4 17 21
Mr. L. Hodges

John Lloyd for the Association generale

Fig V.ii. 'uffizio sanitario/in/Porto Nuovo', oval cachet recorded only in November 1838.

and liable to abuses: it authorises the removal of whole families to the lazaretto, on the suspicion of a case of plague have (sic) occurred in their house.

As regards shipping nothing is easier than to find a flaw in a Bill of Health and consequently a motive for putting a vessel into quarantine. In a country like this, where the Government and its agents are so mixed up with the trade of the place, the greatest caution ought to be used in granting them a power so easily abused. I therefore suggest no quarantine on British shipping be recognised, unless sanctioned by the Consulate.

The Board also claims the right of levying quarantine dues'.

On April the 20th, Hodges advised that 'I have reserved to Her Majesty's Consul the sole right of examining the papers, etc; of all vessels bearing the British flag, which may enter this port; and that it is by the Consul's authority such vessels are placed in quarantine, when the justice of the case requires it. The same privilege has been ceded to me as regards British subjects on shore'.

However, the old 'Uffizio Sanitario' had been replaced by a Magistracy, as willed by the Viceroy, and so it is that the cachet, (conferring free franking privileges), is worded in Arabic (for the first time) and Italian, as 'MAGISTRATO DI SANITA IN EGITTO'.

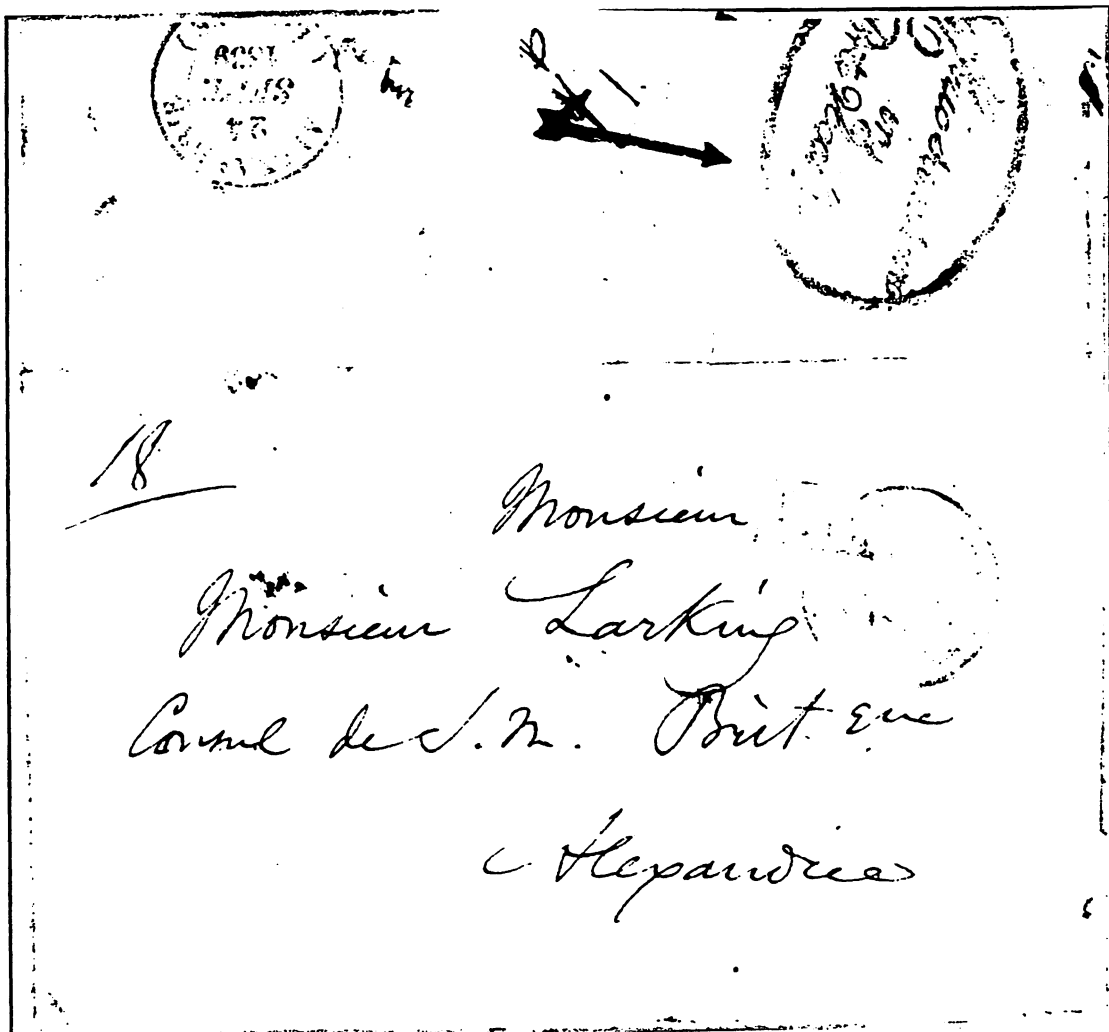


Fig V.iii. 'uffizio sanitario/in/Porto Vecchio', oval cachet recorded September 1839.

Recorded in use from mid 1841 to July 1845, it seems to have been used as a combination of frank and seal - as in the March 1843 example illustrated at fig V.iv. If, as seems likely, the Magistracy was active mainly when plague or cholera was prevalent, this usage can be explained by reference to Hirsch's handbook. The Table of Deaths from Plague in Alexandria shows, for 1843, two in March, two in April, 33 in May and 20 in June: none from September.

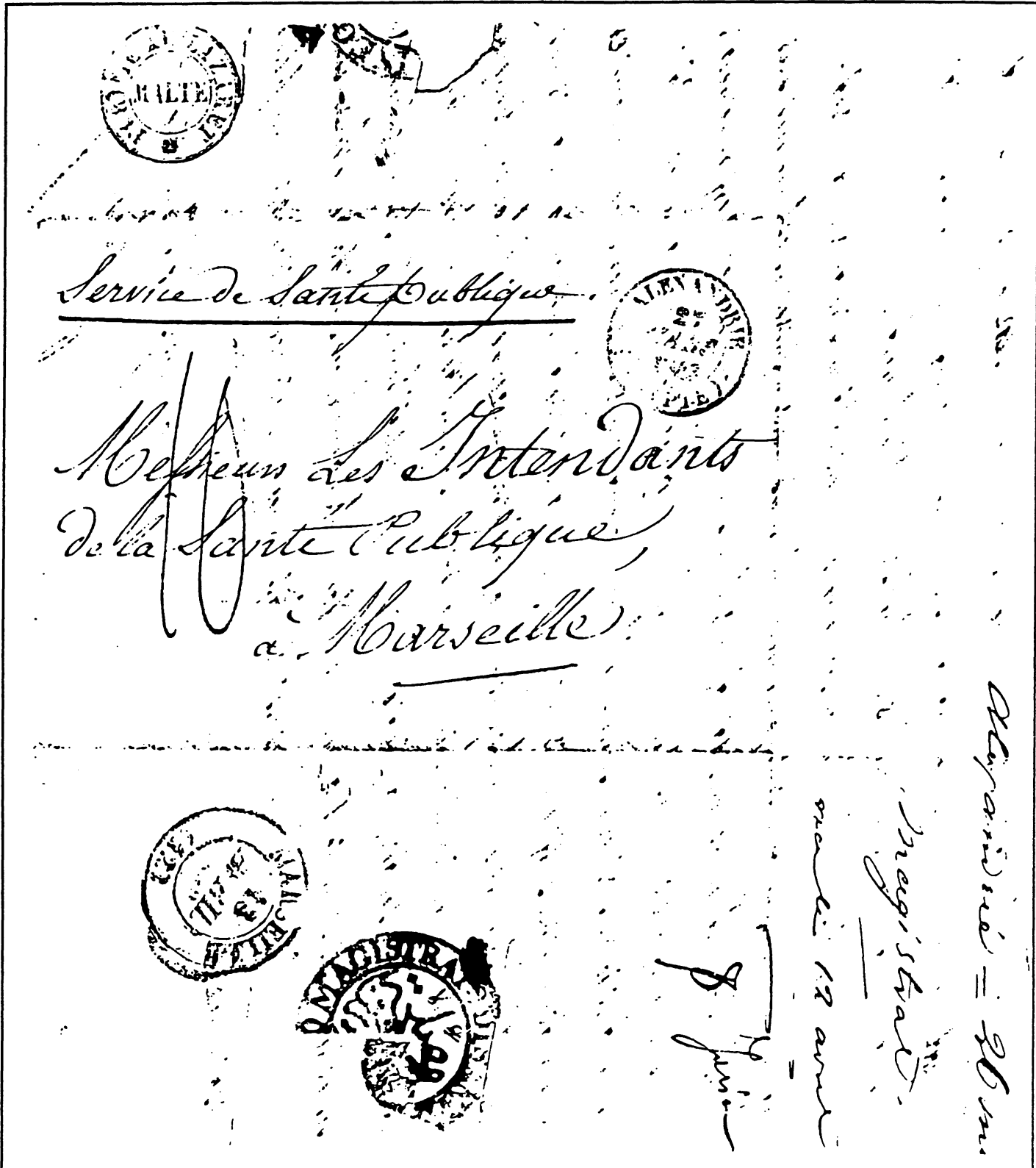


Fig V.iv. 'Magistrato di Sanita in Egitto', used 1841 to July 1845



Alexandrie, le 26 Mars 1883.

1286.

Le Magistrat de Santé en Egypte
A Messieurs les Intendants de la Santé publique à Marseille

Messieurs,

Nous avons reçu la lettre que vous nous avez fait l'honneur de nous adresser le 6 courant.

Nous allons continuer de vous en tenir au courant de notre situation sanitaire.

Notre ville, qui était exempte de peste depuis le 6 février, a vu deux nouveaux cas déclarés par nos experts: l'un dans l'après midi du 17, sur une fille fellah morte à une heure de distance de la ville; et l'autre, dans l'après midi du 20, sur une autre fille fellah morte dans les cabaret de son encense. Par un regrettable de n'a aucun moyen à sa disposition pour contrôler ces déclarations, puisqu'il s'agissait de personnes du sexe féminin; le Magistrat, après à l'égard de ces cas toutes les mesures de précaution et de spécification voulues par le Règlement.

Un nouveau cas a eu également lieu à Damiette, le 12 courant, après une intermittence de quarante jours.

Après ce cas du 12 courant, au Caire, les cinq jours d'absence logé au quartier franc, déclaré suspect par le Comité Général de Santé, la maladie s'est arrêtée.

Still later, French replaced Italian as the European language, and the frank/seal recorded 1878 - 1883 reads 'Conseil gal de Sante' (fig V.v).

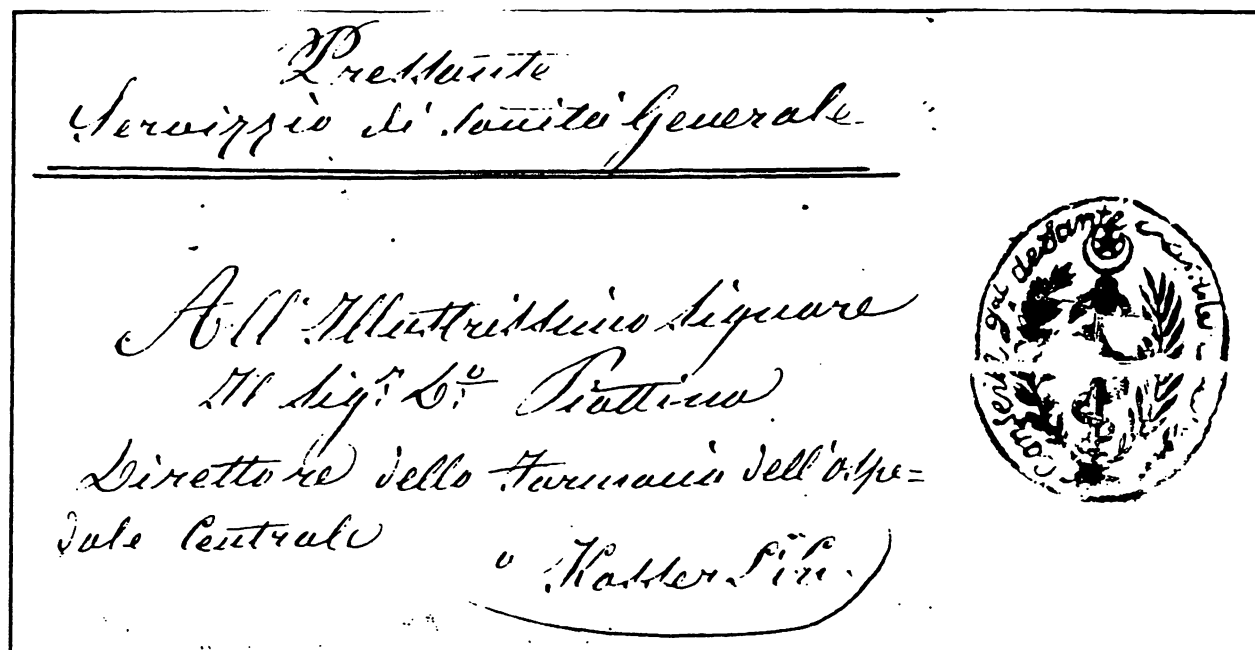


Fig V.v. 'Conseil gal de Sante', used 1878 - 1883.

The treatment of mail since 1883

The outbreak of Cholera in Egypt in 1883, (the fifth Pandemic), resulted in ships sailing through the Suez Canal in quarantine, with disinfection of mail at Poveglia (Venice), Trieste and Brindisi, as has been detailed elsewhere in 'Pratique'.

No evidence of disinfection at Alexandria is known to me of this period, but I do have a letter from the Director-General of the Egyptian Postal Administration at Alexandria to the secretary of the G.P.O. in London which throws light on the absurdities of quarantine. Dated 2nd of August 1884, it formally acknowledges that 'Egypt consents receive sacks steeped Carbolic Acid' - a reference to the British request to replace the creosoted sacks hitherto used for mails in transit: see fig. V.vi. (p.22).

By 1902, the sixth Cholera Pandemic, originating in India in 1899, was raging in the Middle East, as Moslem pilgrims returned from the Haj. But by this time, the nature of the disease was understood, and there was no logical reason to disinfect mail. Lazarettos were still needed, however, to house afflicted patients, and in Egypt they offered postal facilities. The remote anchorage of El Tor on the Red Sea, for example, was designated a quarantine port, and I have a card from a French vessel in quarantine there - the Messageries Maritime's 'Ernest Simons', dated the 25th of April 1902, with the bilingual 'Tor' postmark.

At Alexandria, a post office was opened at the Lazaret at the close of the century, (French now being used in all postal markings), though examples of its cancellation (fig. V.vii.) are extremely difficult to find. Indeed, I have yet to see it on cover, and it is not known whether any disinfection cachet was applied to mail from patients - probably not, since it was Koch's discovery of the cholera 'vibrio' in Egypt sixteen years earlier which made disinfection against that disease patently useless.

Alexandrie, le 2 Août 1884

Monsieur,

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre télégramme ainsi conçu :

"Difficulties using creosoted sacks. - Sanitary Authorities consider bags steeped Carbolic Acid equally efficacious. - Does Egypt consent"

M'étant empressé de soumettre votre demande à Monsieur le Président du Conseil Sanitaire, Maritime et Quarantenaire, et ayant été informé que la décision du Conseil a été favorable à votre proposition, je vous en ai donné communication par la dépêche télégraphique suivante que j'ai l'honneur de vous confirmer :

"Egypt consents receive sacks steeped Carbolic Acid"

Veillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Le Directeur Général

A. S. S. S.

To the Secretary
General Post Office
London

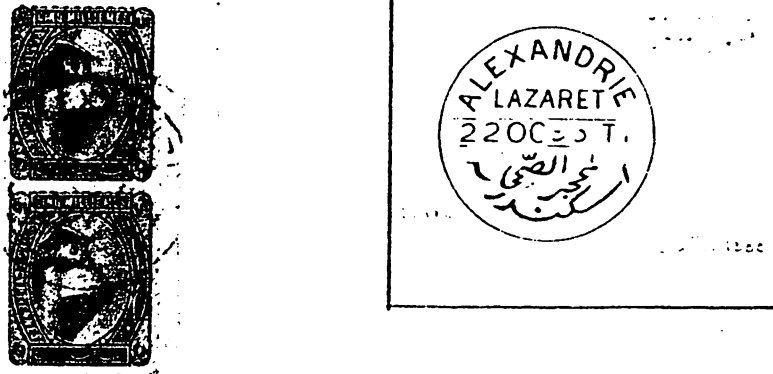


Fig. V.vii. The 'Alexandrie Lazaret' postmark known used only in October 1899.

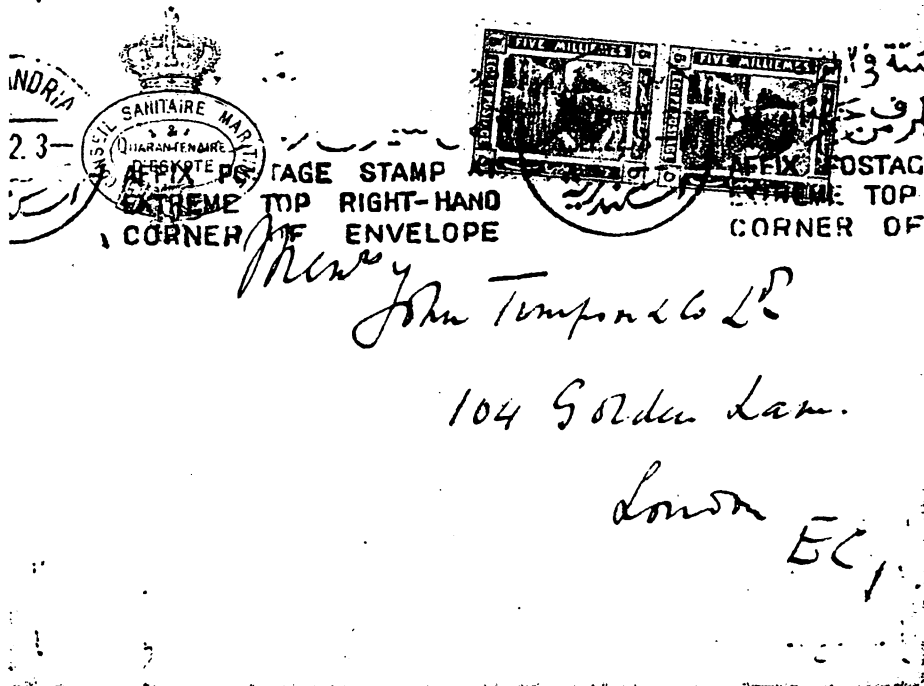


Fig. V.viii. Embossed Stationery 'Conseil Sanitaire Maritime/d'Egypte', used 1920 - 1940.

During the first three decades of the Twentieth century, the Sanitary Council has had stationery handsomely embossed with a crown over a belt inscribed 'CONSEIL SANITAIRE MARITIME' with 'QUARANTENAIRE D'EGYPTE' within the oval formed by the belt (fig V.viii. on p23). These conferred free franking privilege, but only within the Kingdom of Egypt.

Mr Vandervelde has since written a much fuller account of Egyptian disinfection practice in 'Pratique', including the postal arrangements for the Haj in 1878 and subsequently, and is now producing a detailed analysis of the earliest and latest dates for all related postal markings. Interested members or readers should write to him for details of membership of the D. M. S. C., currently costing £12 p.a. (U.K.), £15 (Europe) and £20 (airmail beyond Europe).

Bibliography:

1. 'Correspondence Relative to the Quarantine Regulations of Foreign Countries, 1836-1843', published by order of the House of Commons, London, 1843.
2. Handbook of Geographical and Historical Pathology, by Dr. A. Hirsch, translated by Charles Creighton MD and published by the New Sydenham Society, London, 1883
3. 'La Purification des lettres en France et a Malte' by Marino Carnevale-Mauzan.
4. Diplomatic documents in Italian and French relating to the Turco-Egyptian conflict of 1838-41, published in Cairo by the Ath.Politis, 1931; and summarised in English in 'Pratique' Vol.XIV, 1988 p.100 et seq.
5. 'Les Lignes Regulieres de Paquebot-Poste du Levant et d'Egypte. 1837-1851' by Henri Tristant, a limited edition published by the author, Paris, 1987.
6. 'Pratique', Quarterly newsletter of the Disinfected Mail S. C., published by V. Denis Vandervelde, 25 Sinclair Grove, London NW11 9JH.

CIVIL CENSORSHIP IN EGYPT 1948 TO 1974

Peter Andrews (ESC 122)

Time and tide they say, wait for no one, and nor apparently does the flow of censor markings from this period, although quite why it has taken so long for some of them to surface is not certain. The continuing receipt of earliest and latest dates and the discovery of several new types of handstamp have made inevitable this further update, although no new data has been received for some of the earlier types which are included to keep the study as a whole.

(استارة)
حالة الرقابة المصرية
صح بمعرفة الرقيب

Type a

seen in use 11-6-48 to 10-11-49 on both incoming and outgoing postal items.

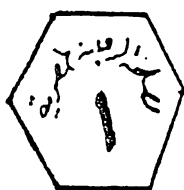
حالة الرقابة المصرية
صح بمعرفة الرقيب
حالة الرقابة المصرية
صح بمعرفة الرقيب

Type b (in blue on green paper)

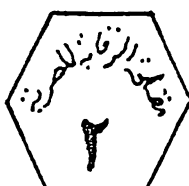
seen in use 25-4-48 to 9-11-49 on both incoming and outgoing postal items. Printed on two types of green paper, one being coarser and giving a much heavier and more badly defined impression due to ink spread.

Type c (as b but black on shades of white paper)

seen in use 20-1-48 to 17-6-74 on both incoming and outgoing postal items.



Type 1
seen in use
13-6-49 to ?-?-66



Type 2
seen in use
25-4-48 to 11-2-61



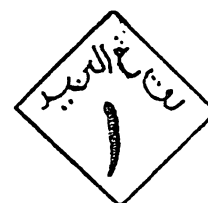
Type 2.1
as type 2, but having arabic
'mim' in place of arabic 2. Seen
in use 6-4-52 to 28-8-61



Type 3
seen in use
20-1-48 to 17-3-50



Type 4
seen in use
27-7-58 to 23-9-61



Type 5
seen in use
?-2-57 to 18-12-62

Type 6

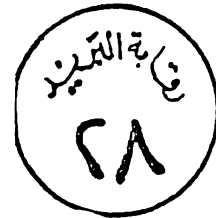
seen in use 20-1-48 to 5-10-57 in black, grey, red, magenta, green, blue and purple. One method of sealing which seems to indicate that the envelope was unsealed was by means of a small strip of paper fixed vertically across the envelope flap and tied with type 6 at each end.

Type 5.1

as type 5, but having arabic 2 in place of arabic 1. seen in use 25-4-48 to 5-7-67

Type 7

seen in use 10-7-56 to 10-2-73 in black, purple and red. Internal numbers 15 to 100

Type 8

seen in use 4-2-62 to 14-6-74 in black and purple. Internal numbers 12 to 157

Type 9

seen in use 9-6-48 to 14-12-53 in black, blue or violet. Diameter 23.5 mm

Type 10

seen in use 2-10-48 to 15-6-49 in black and blue. Diameter 23.5 mm

Type 11

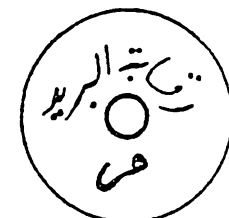
seen in use 29-6-48 to 15-8-50

Type 12

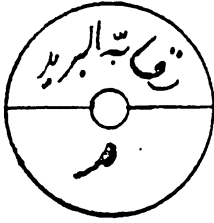
seen in use 19-12-53 to 24-7-60

Type 13

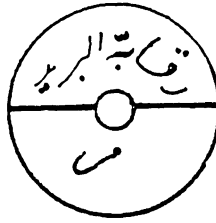
seen in use 3-3-54 to 17-3-58. Diameter 24 mm

Type 14

seen in use 9-1-54 to 13-9-61. Diameter 27 mm



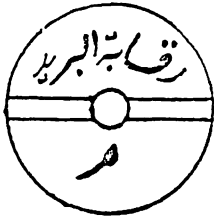
Type 15
seen in use
17-7-54 to 13-2-59



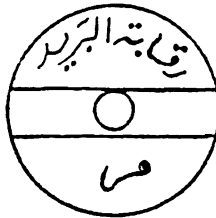
Type 16
seen in use
23-12-53 to 22-6-58



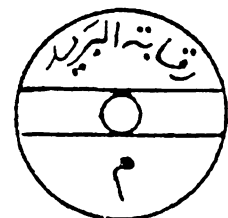
Type 17
seen in use
19-1-54 to 13-4-59



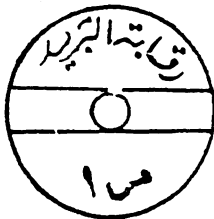
Type 18
seen in use
19-12-53 to 7-9-60



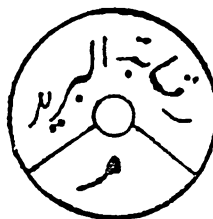
Type 19
seen in use
27-7-59 to 28-5-61



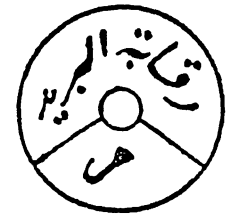
Type 20
seen in use 10-12-59 to
17-5-61. Only seen incoming



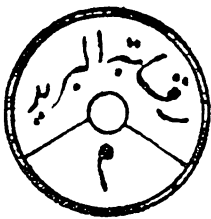
Type 21
seen in use
25-7-58 to 23-12-60



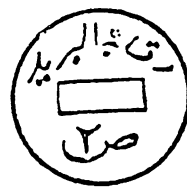
Type 22
seen in use
9-2-54 to 10-9-59



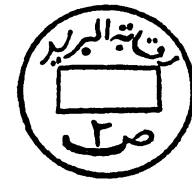
Type 23
seen in use 22-2-54 to
8-1-59. Noted on cards



Type 24
seen in use
25-3-54 to 21-12-60



Type 25
seen in use
?-12-60 to 1-11-61 (no number)
31-3-61 to 7-10-61 (number 1)
25-10-60 to 13-5-61 (number 2)



Type 26
seen in use
29-11-60 to 8-3-61



Type 27
seen in use
17-4-54 to 21-8-61



Type 28
seen in use
28-7-55 to 6-5-61 (No 1)
10-12-55 to 1-10-61 (No 2)



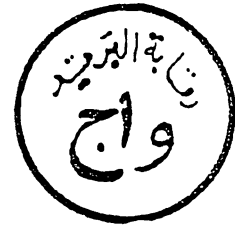
Type 28.1
seen in use
12-8-57 to 14-5-58



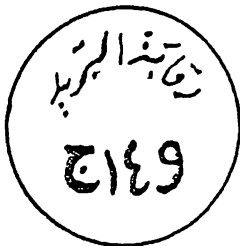
Type 29
seen in use
25-5-62 to 1-2-66 (No 1)
3-1-62 to 17-11-66 (No 2)
27-9-62 to 6-4-63 (No 3)
22-10-62 to 3-5-68 (No 4)



Type 29.1
seen in use
1-4-71 (No 2)
?-?-68 to 14-3-73 (No 5)
29-6-70 (No 6)
26-7-73 to 16-11-74 (No 7)



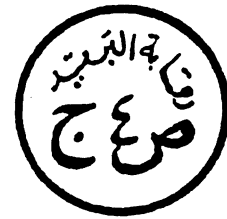
Type 30
seen in use
?-1-62 to 19-7-63 (No 1)
6-1-62 to 5-4-64 (No 2)
13-2-62 to 26-6-62 (No 3)
7-10-62 to 27-6-66 (No 4)
8-1-62 (No 5)



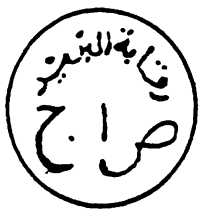
Type 30.1
seen in use
2-12-66 (No 7)
26-7-68 to 20-11-73 (No 8)
2-4-74 to 31-12-67 (No 9)
29-3-68 (No 10)
21-12-67 to 27-5-72 (No 11)
24-4-67 (No 12)
14-3-68 to 29-4-69 (No 13)
9-11-67 to 9-1-73 (No 14)



Type 30.2
seen in use
2-7-64 to 6-10-71 (No 2)



Type 31
seen in use
14-3-62 to 23-5-64 (No 1)
22-2-62 to 22-6-64 (No 2)
16-8-62 to 31-10-62 (No 3)
22-5-62 to 7-10-63 (No 4)
21-12-69 (No 8)



Type 31.1
seen in use
30-10-63



Type 32
seen in use
21-5-67 to 20-1-71 (No 5)
12-11-67 to 16-7-72 (No 6)
Illegible date (No 7)
14-12-67 to 21-12-69 (No 8)
7-3-69 to 28-9-71 (No 9)
19-7-73 (No 11)



Type 32.1
seen in use
17-3-65



Type 33
seen in use
23-11-48 to 4-10-61



Type 33.1
seen in use
23-8-48



Type 34
seen in use
17-4-51 to 13-3-58



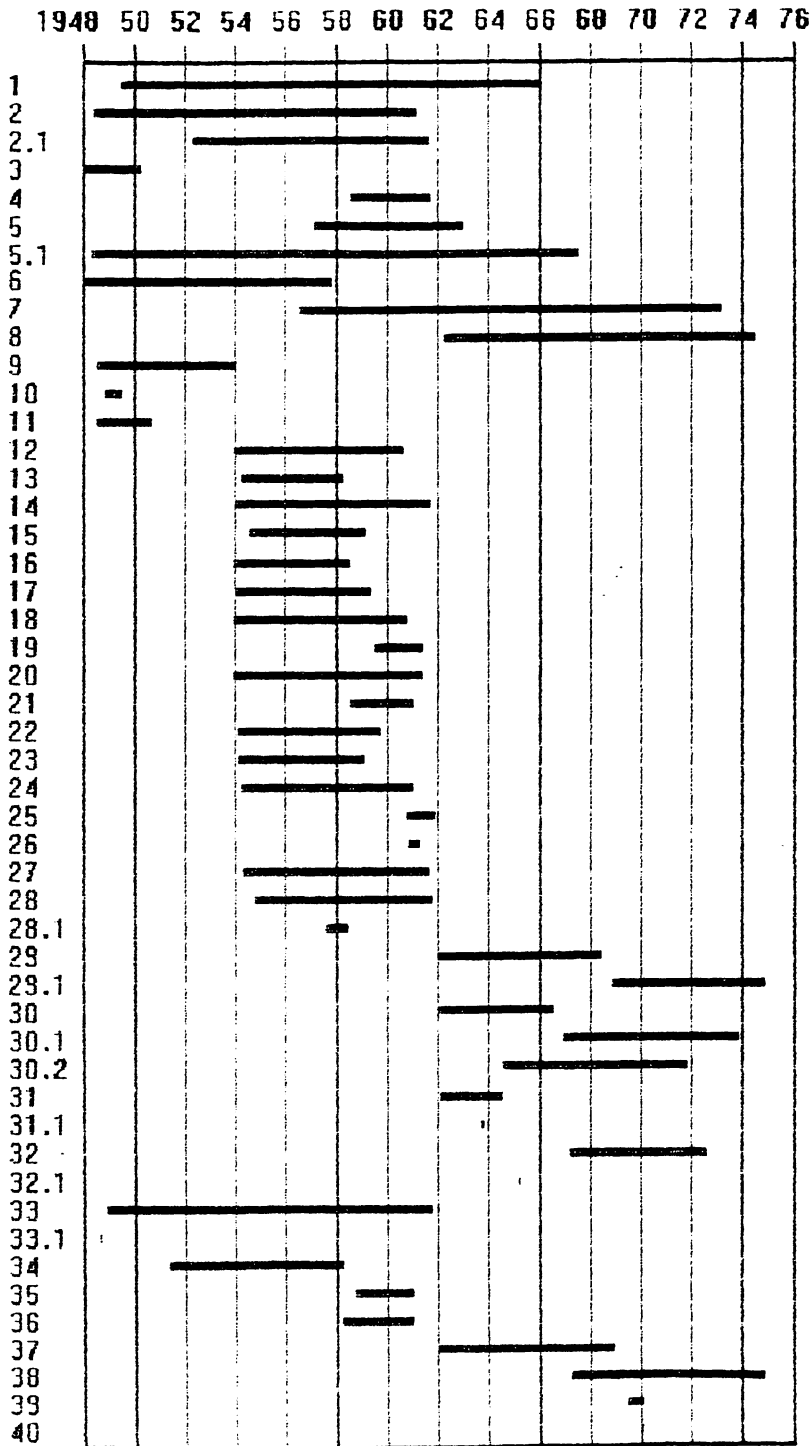
Type 35
seen in use
7-9-58 to 20-12-60



Type 36
seen in use
2-3-58 to 21-1-61



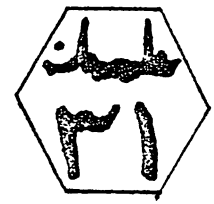
Type 37
seen in use
?-1-62 to 16-11-68 (No 1)
28-5-63 to 23-10-65 (No 4)
26-10-65 (No 5)
2-1-63 to 20-10-65 (No 6)



مقامه السريه
الت

Type 38
seen in use

- 15-7-67 (No 7)
- 26-4-67 (No 8)
- 14-4-67 to 28-9-71 (No 9)
- 22-3-70 to 6-11-74 (No 10)
- 30-6-67 to 14-10-67 (No 11)



Type 39
seen in use

- No date (No 5)
- ?-7-69 (No 24)
- 4-1-70 to ?-7-69 (No 31)

رقابته لسريه
وس ٢

The chart above gives, in graphical form, an overview of the information given in the list of dates above and contains all the new types and dates described therein.

Type 40
seen in use
27-1-70 (No 2)