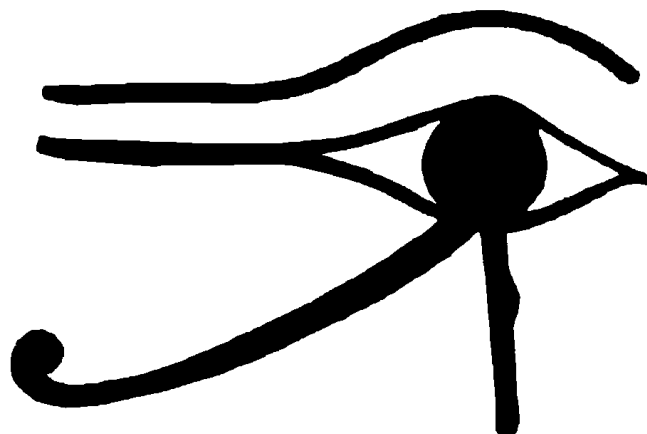


The
Quarterly Circular
of



THE
EGYPT
STUDY CIRCLE

March Quarter 1999 Whole Series No. 188
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Forthcoming Meetings.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| May 8 th . | 11 a.m. Annual General Meeting
Egyptian Railway Stations (postmarks/postcards) | All.
E. Hall. |
| July 17 th . | Second Look at Meter Marks. | D.H. Clarke |
| September 25 th . | The 'Service De L'Etat' no value stamp &
'Novelty Revenues' | P.R. Bertram
M.N.A. El-Hadidi |
| November 20 th . | Alexandria to Ramleh Tramway &
'Avis de Reception' | P. Grech
P.R. Bertram |

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

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REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 9TH. JANUARY 1999.

Present: P.R.Bertram, J.Sears, S.Horesh, G.A.Jeyes, E.Hall, D.H.Clarke, P.Grech,
L.J.Butcher, J.M.Murphy, M.C.Bramwell, P.Andrews (Total 11)
Apologies: J.Davis, C.E.H.Defriez, R.Wheatley, J.Chellingsworth,

The Chairman opened the meeting by wishing everyone 'a happy New Year' and went on to mention the excellent catalogue produced by David Feldman for their auction of Egyptian material in Zurich. He also mentioned two books being written by members; W.C.Andrews (The Cairo to Baghdad Air Route) and P.A.S. Smith's book on the stamps & postal history of Egypt. These are both expected during February 1999. The Chairman reported that he had recently been in touch with our previous editor R. Wheatley and it was still his intention to produce the missing two Q.C.'s as soon as possible. The Chairman went on to mention the forthcoming MIDPEX bourse and exhibition to be held on Saturday 3rd July 1999 at Coventry. This was well attended by members last year and he hoped for similar if not better attendance this year.

The Chairman then asked Alan Jeyes to take over the meeting with his display and talk on the advertising envelopes & labels etc. Alan gave an excellent display of material in an area not previously covered. It was well structured in three sessions and covered areas of advertisements for Printers, Stores/shops, Engineering, Medical, Shipping Lines, Cigarettes, Tourism, Bee Keeping, Onion growing, Tyres, Ostrich farming, etc. etc. - an extremely diverse topic. Many members brought allied material along to assist Alan. Much discussion took place over the Cicurel Stores in Cairo, Alexandria and Assiut. The labels (including some revenue/fiscal winter relief types) were also shown. The Chairman thanked Alan for a most entertaining display and was pleased to hear Alan often saying that he acquired this and that cover/label from fellow members. which reflected the way in which Circle members assisted each other. Members attending showed their appreciation. The meeting then closed.

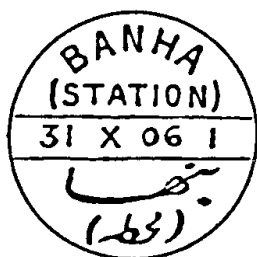


An example of an advertising envelope. Do any members have a particularly interesting advertising envelope. Any further information on Cicurel Stores, photos, history would also be welcome.

<u>New Members.</u>	ESC 516	Sameh Mohammed Said 35, Mostafa Kamel St. Balkly Alexandria Egypt
	ESC 517	Anwar Hussein Ibrahim 49, Horia Road Alexandria Egypt
	ESC 518	Arto Krickor Kasperian 5, Able Fattah Yehyan Street. El Attareen Alexandria Egypt
	ESC 519	Jurgan Zahn Verbruederungsring. 27 21493 Schwarzenbek Germany
<u>Change of Address.</u>	ESC 501	G. Anagnostoulis Omorfia and Ygeia 114, Antonopoulou Str. 382-21 Volos Greece
<u>Resigned</u>	ESC 507	B.Babister

Space Fillers, Editorial.

Thank you to those members who responded to my plea for future articles. I now have enough for the June QC but that's all; so keep writing for future QCs be it extensive articles or a single interesting stamp or cover. I had in the past collated information on various topics and had these in mind to fill some pages however with the imminent publication of Peter Smith's book this concept will no doubt be redundant. I have used one here, The French in Egypt, which I hope some will find interesting, it is therefore something of a space filler. It has allowed me to produce this copy of the QC fairly quickly and hopefully bring the QC back on to schedule.



The May meeting is on Station Postmarks and related material. This is going to very much a joint affair so ensure you bring all your relevant material with you. I am currently updating the Station Postmark data sheets which look likely to have double the number of recorded marks than previously. These I hope will be ready for the meeting so bring your material to make them out of date.

Stamps of Egypt

L. Balian ESC 251

Errata To err is human..... to forgive divine.

The following is a listing of errors or omissions that have been brought to my attention. It is by no means complete, and I strongly encourage all of you to point out anything that should be corrected or added.

This list does not include any new discoveries, such as varieties and price corrections. These, as well as, a complete review of the paper, watermark and gum of the modern issues, plus much more will be included in the future 'Mini Millennium' edition.

This is our catalogue, so please keep in touch. My Egyptian and Canadian addresses are both in the book, so write on

Page No..	Bal. Cat. No.	Comments
34.	1 to 7	Prices for P.12.5 x 13 and P.13 x 12.5 should be reversed
35.	ditto	ditto
36.	ditto	ditto
37.	illustr.	4c(1 pt) should read 4a(1 pt)
56.	40a	price should read 7.50 / 5.00
58.	58a to 62a	should read wm2a
60.	67c	price should read 1600.00 / 175.00
71.	illustr.	105l and 105k should be reversed
82.	163e	wm6c should read 163f
96.	233 200m	Date of issue is 19.3.24
100.	notes	after#250 C. Hass (L'OP 131) corrected
114.	327 100m o/p	missing quantity is 3750 stamps
114.	328e,f,g	should read 328g, h, i respectively
114.	328f	should read Wm6a with var b or c
115.	illustr	perf variety #328 should read 328c
145.	illustr	both soldier 10m show 'defense' one should read 'defence'
218.	193a	price is 25.00
413.	ctr blocks	1936 Fouad 20m delete tetc-beche
488.	CRD 1 1	price should read 5.00 / 1.50
491.	illustr	#27 should read #33
XIX - 534.	watermark	correct wmla = reversed, wmlb = inverted, wmlc = inv + rev
XX - 535.	watermark	correct wm9a = inv, wm9b = sideways right, wm9c = sideways left
IX-Inform.	re illustrations	sketches....are usually enlarged or downsized in varying degrees.

WORLD WAR II PRISONER OF WAR MAIL
Chiasso -.Sofia - Jerusalem

S.Horesh ESC123

This article is a summary, relevant to Egypt, of a number of articles written by various members of BAPIP and published in their Bulletins between 1981 and 1992. Their member, N. J. Collins F.R.P.S.L., was responsible for most of the research, for which I make no claim other than to have provided recently a final chapter in proving the reverse routes.

In January 1942 an agreement negotiated through Brazil (the protecting power) was reached between Britain and Italy for exchange by air of Prisoner of War mails to and from prisoners held outside Europe.

Five Routes were agreed and the suggested route for Egypt, East and South Africa, was via Istanbul - Jerusalem - British Air Service - and agreed in April 1942. However, a cover is known from Italy dated 14.3.42. to S. Africa.

Various handstamps and manuscript instructions are known for the route - "Orient Express" "Chiasso/Sofia", "Air Sofia/Istanbul", "Train Hayderpasa/Jerusalem", BOAC "Air Lydda/Cairo", OAT thereafter. These instructions were all on covers emanating from Europe and passing through Italy.

In December 1942 the route was shortened by train through to Adana (Orient Express, Taurus Express) and then by BOAC direct to Cairo and OAT. The service ended in June 1943.

Italian civilians were only allowed to use the route for mail to Italian Prisoners in Allied hands with the exception that mail was permitted to Papal Delegates who worked in conjunction with the Red Cross.

Some covers have had the stamps removed, and it was originally thought that this was due to vandalism but it is now proven that both British and Italian censors removed stamps to ensure there were no hidden messages under them No examples of mail had been seen in the reverse direction until I was lucky enough to acquire a Notification of Capture Card from a prisoner in 308 POW Camp Egypt (which was at Mustapha Barracks, Alexandria) to Italy. (Fig 1). The manuscript notation "Via Sofia - Istanbul" is in the top left hand corner of the card. Fig.2 is a similar card from Camp 306 (Geneifa) to Italy endorsed on the back "Via aerea - Chiasso - Sofia - Gerusalemme". This card was in a mixed lot but I could not have bid enough to acquire it! These two cards are the only ones known in the reverse direction.

References: BAPIP Bulletins 100, 101, 102, 120, 123, 134 & 135.

Poste area per *Poste area per*
 PRISONER OF WAR AF. W. 3054 (Substitute)
 CARD TO BE USED FOR NOTIFICATION OF CAPTURE ONLY
 Nome *Ferruccio* Postage Free
 Cognome *Spaggiari* franco di Bollo
 No. Matr. *11*
 Grado *Soldato*
 Unità *Bersaglieri*
 Data e luogo di nascita: *4/7/1913*
 Nome padre: *Ferruccio*
 madre: *Letizia Coricini*
 No. dell' Internato: *356488*
 Indirizzo: *308 P.O.W.*
 Italian Prisoners of War Camp *M.E.F.*
 Egypt.

VERIFICATA PER CENSURA

MURRAY BOULOCKS ALEXANDRIA
 aux soins du
 COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
 de la CROIX ROUGE
 Agence Centrale
 des prisonniers de Guerre
 GENEVE

Via aerea - Alessandria - Gerusalemme
 SCRIVERE CHIARAMENTE E BREVEMENTE PER INOLTRO RAPIDO

Corrispondenza Data: *22-7-42*

Cariissimi: Babito
 Vi faccio presente che mi
 trovo prigioniero dal giorno 17 scorso
 e sono, la mia salute è buona
 ottima con me stesso non mi sento
 di voi tutto in famiglia.
 Acceto il mio infortunio!

C/O. CHIEF. P.O.W. Central Centre C. 306.

Capl. Sergio Rosolino
Gerusalemme

Fig. 1

AF. W. 3054 (Substitute)
 CARD TO BE USED FOR NOTIFICATION OF CAPTURE ONLY
 PRISONER OF WAR Postage Free

Nome *Rosalino* franco di Bollo
 Cognome *Garofalo* P/W MIDDLE EAST 200
 No. Matr. *76*
 Grado *Soldato*
 Unità *Artiglieria*
 Data e luogo di nascita: *20-2-1912*
Montebello S. Diacomo
 Nome padre: *Garofalo Paolo*
 madre: *Pallavicini Maria*
 No. dell' Internato: *151355*
 Indirizzo: *C/O CHIEF. P.O.W. Central Centre C. 306.*
 Italian Prisoners of War Camp.
 Egypt.

aux soins du
 COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
 de la CROIX ROUGE
 Agence Centrale
 des prisonniers de Guerre
 GENEVE

SCRIVERE CHIARAMENTE E BREVEMENTE PER INOLTRO RAPIDO

Corrispondenza Data: *24/7/1942*

Cariissimi
 La salute è ottima, non pensate che
 sono come voi tutti.

Vi saluto Vi abbraccio
Baci a tutta famiglia S.
ovidei: ciao

Fig. 2

FRENCH ARMY IN EGYPT 1798-1801

E.Hall ESC 239

Historical Introduction

An imaginative strategic plan of Revolutionary France to cut Britain's lifeline to India by seizing Egypt and the Levant was an epic adventure, set amongst some of the most ancient places of history, then almost unknown to Europeans. It occurred at a critical period both for France and in the fortunes of Napoleon Bonaparte. It failed; yet Bonaparte emerged from it as the chief power in France and in position to conclude the Revolutionary Wars to his advantage. Nevertheless, it proved once again the supremacy of the British fleet and further more that a reformed British Army was a force to be reckoned with in the future.

The French Army which sailed for Egypt in 1798 was primarily drawn from Bonaparte's old Army of Italy. It included some 400, overloaded troop transports, 15 ships of the line; 15 frigates; 7 corvettes and 30 other sundry smaller, lightly armed vessels. The army, led by Bonaparte was approximately 36,000 strong, but had only 1,230 horses, 700 of which were for general cavalry use, the remainder being reserved for the generals and their staffs. Among its senior generals were Berthier, Vaubois, Desaix, Kleber, Menou, Reynier, and Dugua. Brigade commanders included Lannes, Davout and Murat. Besides the military personnel the expedition included administrative and scientific experts and archaeologists to deal with new problems of health, food, governmental organisation and language difficulties. Also to examine the treasures of the Pharaohs and to survey Egypt in all its aspects to determine its potential as a French colony. There appears to have been a genuine element of scholarship involved, Bonaparte being much interested in history and antiquity.

The expedition departed from France on 19th May 1798 and set sail for Malta, which was seized and garrisoned by a mixed force of the army and sailors, etc., under the command of Vaubois. It included the 7eme Legere, the 19eme Ligne, 5 companies of artillery and some sick and wounded chasseurs. The pick of the Maltese troops were taken up by the French and formed the cadre of the Maltese Legion. The fleet sailed on eastwards to Alexandria where it anchored on 30th June. Troops were disembarked on 2nd July with only nominal casualties. This was the start of the Egyptian summer and the French Army found itself totally unprepared for the severe alteration in climatic conditions which it experienced during the first few months of the campaign. The troops laboured over burning rocks and sand towards Cairo and the combination of heat, thirst and incessant attacks from swarms of voracious flies and mosquitoes proved too much. Thick coats, tight stocks, bearskin caps, cocked hats, waistcoats and the thick close gaiters were either stowed in the knapsacks or, in many cases, simply thrown away. As desert veterans will realise, the result was that the troops froze after sundown. Water containers, either native gourds or bottles covered in wicker work cradles were purchased from travelling merchants or beggars. Colonel Elting points out that even in the late 18th century there could hardly have been a sufficient number of beggars in Northern Egypt to be a very reliable source of supply for any army of this size.

Although disregarding the now, to say the least, negligent dress of their men, senior officers and staff allowed themselves no such laxity and retained their normal full dress with the heavily embroidered coats and elaborately feathered cocked hats. By the 10th July 1798 the Army had reached the banks of the Nile and on 13th. were engaged by an army under the command of Murad Bey at Shebekhet. After some skirmishing and desultory attacks Murad retired and re-deployed his forces before Cairo. On the 21st. July, the Battle of the Pyramids was fought. Murad Bey had approximately 40,000 men - 6,000 Mamelukes each with a couple of mounted retainers, and some 20,000 raggle-taggle infantry, most of whom were Egyptians. The Mamelukes were driven into the Nile and Napoleon marched his army in triumph into Cairo and forthwith proceeded to introduce a degree of self-government into Egypt with a new and fairer method of taxation. The Egyptians were not interested, however, and after the Cairo revolt strict order was imposed throughout the country. Further resistance was treated with swift

retribution and heads began to fall. To the Egyptians Bonaparte became-The Conqueror- 'El Kebir'.

The second phase of the campaign now opened. While Desaix pursued the largest body of fugitive Mamelukes up the Nile, Bonaparte struck at the Mameluke-Turkish forces forming in Syria. Three days later the garrison at El Arish surrendered, Gaza fell soon after and Jaffa was reached by the 4th. March. The walls were bombarded and after some three days, breaches were made. Large forces of the enemy were killed during the bombardment and during the storming. The garrison of approximately 2,000 were captured and of these a high proportion proved to be men previously captured at El Arish and subsequently released on parole. The French had no facilities to feed them nor could they be trusted and they were put to the sword. Sloane's biography of Napoleon mentions an official return to the Directory of 1,200 Turks killed in this way.

Bonaparte now moved on to St. Jean d'Acre and put it to siege. The French siege train, which had been sent by ship, had been captured by the British Naval Squadron commanded by Sir Sydney Smith who had added the cannon to the defences of the city. The siege lasted some 62 days and included 40 assaults and 26 sallies but by the 14th. May the siege had been called off. Lannes and Bon were wounded and Bon died of wounds but Bonaparte's major reason for lifting the siege appears to have been that there was fresh intelligence that the Turks were forming an army at Rhodes. Marmont, who had been left in command at Alexandria, had been keeping Bonaparte informed of their progress.

On their return to Upper Egypt the French found that a battle fleet of British, Russian and Turkish warships were landing a Turkish Army of approximately 18,000 men under Mustapha Pasha at Aboukir and that the existing defences were being strengthened with double lines of fortifications. On the 25th. July 1799 the Battle of Aboukir was joined by between 7,700 French and 18,000 Turks. The result was total victory for Bonaparte, the Turks were swept back into the sea losing 16,000 men. Dispatches were received from France which convinced Napoleon that it was in the interest of the nation (and no doubt his own) to return to Europe and on the 22nd August 1799 he departed from Aboukir taking Murat, Lannes, Marmont, Berthier and Bessieres with him. Junat and Desaix remained but were to follow later. Kleber was left in command with orders to hold out, if he could, until a general peace was signed.

Early in 1800, Kleber, recognising the desperate and isolated nature of his command, endeavoured to conclude a treaty of honourable withdrawal with Sir Sydney at El Arish, but because of some administrative delays in London no preparations were made to fulfil its terms and, meantime, Kleber found himself further engaged with a fresh Turkish Army of 70,000 cavalry and foot. Bonaparte was now First Consul of France, and was shipping supplies and reinforcements into the country. On the 7th March 1800 a French Army of 12,000 defeated the Turks at Heliopolis and shortly after, Kleber was assassinated by a Muslim fanatic and was succeeded by Menou.

Menou proved to be a good administrator, taking good care of the arms, pay, clothing and food, but was an incompetent field commander, and his treatment of his subordinates soon had them on the verge of mutiny. In 1801 a British force landed at Aboukir and on 21st. March engaged Menou in the Battle of Alexandria, during which the British commanding general, Abercrombie, was fatally wounded. A swift campaign followed during which the British forces were reinforced by another large Turkish Army out of Syria and a further combined British and East India Company force of sepoys from India via the Red Sea, which proved so successful from the British point of view that by September the same year, Menou decided he had no alternative but to surrender albeit on terms much as Kleber had sought. The French 'capitulated' piecemeal, all Menou controlled was Alexandria and the surrender was on very attractive terms to homesick Frenchmen. In September 1801 at an impressive parade, an elite detachment of British grenadiers from each of the line regiments took formal possession of the French positions. A week later the majority of the British force had re-embarked leaving some regiments in garrisons.

ORDERS OF BATTLE

On landing in Egypt the fighting strength was

Infantry	Five divisions (4 Light Demi- Brigades, 10 Lie, Legion Malte)	28,000
Cavalry	one division (7 regiments)	2,700
Artillery & Engineers	131 guns & 40 mortars	3,000
Guides	Horse & foot	480

DISEMBARKATION ORDER OF BATTLE 1798

DIVISON DESAIX	The Vanguard 21eme Legere 61eme Ligne 88eme Ligne
DIVISON REYNIER	The Right Wing 9eme Ligne 85eme Ligne Legion Malte
DIVISON KLEBER	The Centre 2eme Legere 2Seme Ligne 75eme Ligne
DIVISON MENOUE	The Left Wing 22eme Legere 13eme Ligne 69eme Ligne
DIVISON BON	The Reserve 4eme Legere 18eme Ligne 32eme Ligne
HEADQUARTERS TROOPS	Guides a Cheval Guidesa pied Artillerie apied Sapeurs Mineurs Ouvriers Legion Nautique
DIVISON DUMAS	The Cavalry 7eme bis Hussars 22eme Chasseurs a Chervil 3eme Dragons 14eme Dragons 15eme Dragons 18eme Dragons 20eme Dragons

RETURN OF THE ARMY OF EGYPT ON THE 6th JUNE 1798 TAKEN ON BOARD THE
'LIORIENT'

DEMI-BRIGADES	9eme	1,509	13eme	2,430
	18eme	1,550	25eme	1,530
	19eme	1,500	61eme	1,800
	32eme	1,850	75eme	1,700
	69eme	1,500	88eme	1,500
	85eme	1,720	80eme	560*
	6eme	520*		

*These elements, which included three companies of grenadiers are not mentioned in campaign reports and probably remained at Malta.

Besides the Malta garrison which was detached from the Army of Egypt and was a line of communication security detachment, there was also a garrison at Corfu which was not really part of the 'Egypt' force.

Terms of capitulation were that the French with arms and artillery were to be taken to France by British ships - free to serve again. British officers contemporary accounts of the conditions of the French Army before capitulation state that discipline, by British standards, had been to a great extent abandoned with officers selling arms and equipment. After fighting the Mamelukes and Turks the French had acquired many trophies including several extra swords, some being of very fancy design. Discipline may have been very relaxed but never the less the army as a whole got itself (and Kleber's bones) back home in a reasonable condition. Desvemois, a French hussar officer, states that although they retained their equipment they turned over their horses which were taken as remounts by the British Light Dragoons.

Not all the 19eme Ligne was left at Malta; one battalion appears in Egypt, at least during 1798. It is likely that it was later broken up and its men re-assigned as replacements for the other units. Kleber bought Negro slaves, raw savages from Abyssinian slave dealers, and enlisted them in this regiment.

INDEPENDENT
UNITS

- | | |
|---|---|
| (i) Legion Grecque | (vi) Companies of Janissaries - apparently a mixed unit for police and internal security. 'Omar's company' was uniformed, sometimes called Native Guides. There was also a 'Turkish Guard' under Citizen Barthelemy in Cairo, reputedly reliable. |
| (ii) Legion Cophte | (vii) 'Companies of Mamelukes' - later, with the addition of Syrians, became 'Regiment of Mamelukes of the Republic' (formed by Menou - dissolved during evacuation of Egypt.) |
| (iii) 2 companies of Cavalerie Syrienne | |
| (iv) 1 company of Moghrebins (Maghrebians) | |
| (v) 1 company of Egyptian artificers (formed from Jaffa P.O.W.'s) | |

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

1793

February Revolutionary France, already at war with Austria and Prussia, declares war on Britain and Holland.

1795

July France defeats Allies in the low Countries. Prussia makes peace.

October the Directory established in France.

1796-97 General Napoleon Bonaparte's victorious campaign against Austria in northern Italy. Austria makes peace.

1798

February Bonaparte advises against invasion of England and recommends seizure of Malta and Egypt to cut off Britain's trade with India. Egypt nominally part of Turkish Empire but in effect ruled by Mameluke Beys, Murad and Ibrahim.

19th. May Bonaparte sails with Army of the Orient from Toulon.

12th. June Malta captured.

2nd. July French land in Egypt and capture Alexandria.

3rd. July Advance on Cairo begins. Murad Bey leaves Cairo to intercept French.

13th. July First action against Murad at Shubra Khit. Mamelukes withdraw and advance continues.

21st. July Battle of the Pyramids. French defeat Murad. Ibrahim Bey on east bank of Nile not engaged. Murad flies south, Ibrahim towards Sinai.

24th. July Bonaparte enters Cairo.

1-2nd. August Battle of the Nile. British fleet under Nelson defeats French fleet in Aboukir Bay. British blockade of Egypt follows.

11th. August Bonaparte defeats Ibrahim at Saialieh. Ibrahim flies to Syria. French administration of Egypt begins.

25th. August General Desaix leaves Cairo for Upper Egypt to begin nine month campaign in pursuit of Murad.

9th. September Turkey declares war on France.

7th. October Desaix's action at El Lahun.

22nd. October Rebellion in Cairo crushed.

November-December (a) Bubonic plague, Egypt. Murad reinforced from Arabia.

(b) Second Coalition of Britain, Russia, Turkey, Austria and Naples begins to form. The Directory unable to reinforce Bonaparte.

(c) Bonaparte learns of two Turkish armies forming for invasion of Egypt and of Tippoo Sahib's rising against British in India. He determines to invade Syria to forestall Turkish invasion and deny use of Syrian ports to British fleet.

1799

January-May Desaix's campaign continues along Upper Nile. Sends Belliard to capture Kosseir on Red Sea.

6 February Bonaparte begins invasion of Syria.

9-19 February Siege of El Arish.

7th. March French assault on Jaffa. Bonaparte slaughters 4,000 Turkish prisoners. French attacked by plague.

15th. March Commodore Sir Sydney Smith RN arrives off Acre and organises its defences.

18th. March Bonaparte besieges Acre.

28th. March First assault fails.

April May Turkish army reported round River Jordan. Kleber sent to reconnoitre.

16th. April Battle of Mount Tabor. Kleber defeats Turks.

1-10th. May Attacks against Acre continue unsuccessfully.

20th. May Bonaparte raises siege and withdraws to Egypt.

29 th . May	Belliard captures Kosseir, cutting off Murad's reinforcements from Arabia. Upper Egypt now pacified but Murad still free.
May-June	(a) Successful Russian-Austrian offensive against French in Europe. (b) British defeat Tippoo Sahib in India.
14 th . June	Bonaparte returns to Cairo. Makes secret plans for his own return to France.
14 th . July	Turkish army, supported by Anglo-Turkish fleet, lands at Aboukir.
24 th . July	Bonaparte concentrates his army near Aboukir.
25 th . July	Battle of Aboukir. Bonaparte repulses Turks. Learns of French defeats in Europe and political crisis in France.
23 rd . August	Bonaparte sails secretly for France, leaving Kleber in command in Egypt.
September	(a) French defeat Russians in December Switzerland and Anglo Russian force in Holland. (b) Kleber opens peace negotiations with Turks. (c) New Turkish army advances to El Arish. (d) November. 'Coup d'etat' of Brumaire. Consulate replaces Directory with Bonaparte as First Consul.
<u>1800</u>	
28 th . January	Kleber signs treaty with Turks undertaking to evacuate Egypt. Turks advance on Cairo.
18 th . March	Kleber informed British would not recognize treaty. Turks approaching Cairo.
18 th . March	Battle of Heliopolis. Kleber defeats Turks who incite revolt in Cairo.
27 th . March	French operations to subjugate Cairo, continuing until 22 April. May British land force under General Sir Ralph Abercromby sent to Mediterranean to operate in support of Austria.
May-June	Austrians defeated at Marengo and Ulm.
14 th . June	Kleber assassinated in Cairo. Menou takes command.
5 th . September	British capture Malta.
October	Britain plans attack on Egypt by Abercromby's army, supported by Turks plus force from India and Cape of Good Hope under General Baird.
24 th . November	Abercromby assembles at Malta.
28 th . November	Austrians defeated at Hohenlinden and make peace.
December	Bonaparte persuades Russia to close Baltic to British trade and consider joint plan for attacking India.
20 th . December	Abercromby sails for Marmorice Bay near Rhodes to prepare for invasion of Egypt. General John Moore at Jaffa to co-ordinate operations with Turks.
<u>1801</u>	
22 nd . February	British sail from Marmorice Bay.
8 th . March	Landing at Aboukir Bay. Moore defeats Friant and establishes beachhead.
12 th . March	British advance on Alexandria. Menou leaves Cairo for Alexandria with 6,000 reinforcements, leaving Belliard in command.
13 th . March	Battle of Mandora. French withdraw into Alexandria, joined by Menou on 19 March.
21 st . March	Battle of Alexandria (Canope). Menou attacks Abercromby but defeated and withdraws into Alexandria. Abercromby mortally wounded, succeeded by General Hely - Hutchinson.
25 th . March	One Turkish force lands at Aboukir while another advances from Syria.
1 st . April	Baird sails from India.
2 nd . April	British capture Rosetta.
13 th . April	French in Alexandria isolated by flooding of Lake Mareotis.
26 th . April	General Coote left to invest Alexandria. Hutchinson and Turks from Aboukir begin advance up Nile.
May July	Baird arrives at Kosseir and joined by force from Cape.

9 th . May	action at Rahmaniya. French forced to withdraw, thus losing communications between Alexandria and Cairo. Turkish Syrian army advancing up east bank of Nile.
19 th . June	Baird begins advance across desert to Keneh
21 st . June	Hutchinson and Turks invest Cairo
27 th . June	Belliards, with 13,000 troops surrenders 'm Cairo
15 th . July	French leave Cairo for Rosetta escorted by Moore Baird learns of surrender and advances down Nile.
30 th . July	Moore reaches Rosetta. Belliard's force embarked for France
9 th . August	Hutchinson begins operations against Alexandria.
30 th . August	Menou surrenders. Embarks for France 14 September. Egypt now clear of French troops.
1 st . October	Peace signed between Britain and France.



General Kleber.

During the French Campaign in Egypt, from July 1798 to September 1801, a full postal service was planned and put into effect, intended to enable the inhabitants of the country to correspond easily among themselves. (Order No. 2929) of the Commander in Chief, dated at Cairo the 15th Messidor of Year 6 = 2nd August 1798. It seems that in actual fact this service was exclusively for the benefit of the expeditionary army, either for official correspondence or for an exchange of personal messages between military personnel. The circulars, postal tariffs, timetables, etc., had been translated into Arabic for the use of the native population, following the instructions of general Bonaparte, but this effort did not produce the positive result expected. This attempt to give Egypt a well organised postal service which would ensure, with the maximum of security and dispatch, the movement of government and private mail was unable to survive because of the lack of qualified personnel and backup organisation.

Bonaparte set up an administration with headquarters at Boulak for everything concerning Nile navigation and a service of river transports was established; regular sailing's took place at fixed dates from Boulak, Rosetta and Damietta. Post offices were opened in Cairo and seven towns of Lower Egypt. Natives were permitted to make use of the postal facilities. Sucey, chief army commissioner, was made organiser and director of the new postal administration. He left Egypt on December 15 1798. This was the first time the government in Egypt had set up a system for the transmission of private correspondence.

The use of special messengers, ships, camels and donkey was normal. but we can surmise that the French were also making full use of the Turkish postal system which provided established places available to receive the mail transported to there by donkey and camel from the interior and sent by means of carrier pigeons to the cities and the more important towns of the country.

It is known from recorded markings that there were six central points ready to receive and dispatch military and governmental mail, namely Cairo, Alexandria, Damietta, Rosetta, Benesonef and Siouth. It is possible that there existed other marks, because the French had established military stations in other places, like Katieh, Bilbeis, Benesseh, Esnah, Assouan, Qena, Tanta, Suez, Kosseir, Minieh, Samanoud, Aboukir, Girga and Fayoum. However no markings for these have been seen to date and in some cases the French presence was for no more then a week or two. As well as the town markings there exist military markings for 'Armee de la Mediteranee' and the 'Comm re. Ordr. en Chef' and letters with manuscript place markings.

All known covers are on heavy, hand made paper of excellent quality. They are generally folded double, so that the inner page could be used for the message, and the outer as a wrapper bearing the address. They were sealed with sealing wax. The only indication of the date is found on the message page which in some cases has been removed. Most letters are between generals and other officials but a few are private letters and have a manuscript number on them to indicate the fee to be paid. Whilst most letters are internal to Egypt a few are known to France but none of these bear any of the Egyptian markings. They do however have French markings applied on being received. These are naturally rare as the English had control of the Mediterranean and had an effective blockade of the Egyptian coast. However once in a while, usually under cover of darkness, a French or neutral vessel would slip in or out of port and a man was lucky if he received

a letter from home once a year. Intercepted letters, written by the French in Egypt were published by Pitt to discredit the Directory accusing it of abandoning Bonaparte in Egypt for its own political purposes. Letters are known from Bonaparte and other French generals on printed letter headed paper. The French brought with them two printing plants. One operated by the Orientals Marcel and a staff of thirty-one. The other was privately owned by Citizen Mare Aural and printed the scientific periodical *La Décade égyptienne*.

Napoleon's expedition was accompanied by 165 French scientists, artists and writers. In Cairo, the learned Frenchmen founded the famous Institute d'Egypte dedicated to the study of the antiquities, language, agriculture and medicine of Egypt. The most outstanding of their achievements were the

report of an initial idea for the future Suez Canal, and the discovery of the Rosetta stone with inscriptions in Demotic, Greek and Hieroglyphs giving the key to the translation of Egyptian Hieroglyphs, for until that time it had not been possible to decipher the language. In 1822 Champollion published his paper, *Lettre à M. Dacier relative à l'alphabet des hiéroglyphes phonétiques*, proving for the first time that the hieroglyphic script operated on the phonetic principle. In 1972, 150 year anniversary, France issued a set of stamps to commemorate the expedition d'egypt and Champoilion and Egypt issued one for Champollion.



Republican or Revolutionary Calendar.

Instituted 5.Oct. 1792 by the first French Republic - abolished 31.Dec. 1805.

The year was divided into twelve months of 30 days each with 5 or 8 supplementary days (Sansoulottidos) at end of the last month. The months were divided into 3 decades every 10th day being a day of rest, Sundays being ignored. Provision was made for leap years by adding a 6th day to the sansoulottidos whenever necessary to make the year and at the Equinox which was generally every 4th year. Each 4 year period was a 'franciade'.

First year of the calendar began on September 22 1792 - with the months being-

Vendemiaire (1792)	Sept. 22	to	Oct. 21.	
Brumaire	Oct. 22	to	Nov. 20	
Frimaire	Nov. 21	to	Dec. 20.	
Nivose	Dec. 21	to	Jan. 19.	(1793)
Pluviose (1793)	Jan. 20	to	Feb. 18.	
Ventoso	Feb. 19	to	Mar. 20	
Germinal	Mar. 21	to	Apr. 19.	
Floreal	Apr. 20	to	May 19.	
Prairial	May 29	to	June 18.	
Messidor	June 19	to	July 18.	
Thermidor or Fervidor	July 19	to	Aug. 17.	
Fruotidor	Aug. 18	to	Sept. 16.	
Sansoulottidos	Sept. 17	to	Sept. 21.	

Postal Markings.

Alexandria	Type I	4 x 3.5 mm	Black	Nov. 1978	4 May 1799
	Type II	31 x 5 mm	Black	July 1798	23 Sept. 1800
Assuit	Type I	4 x 4 mm	Red	17 June 1800	18 Jan. 1801
	Type II	35 x 3 mm	Red	30 Oct. 1800	5 Mar 1801
	Y State				
Benesouef		42 x 6 mm	Red	8 Mar. 1800	3 Feb. 1801
Cairo		33.5 x 5 mm	Red & Black	11 Sept. 1799	6 Mar. 1801
Damietta		34 x 3.5 mm	Black	1800	April 1801
Rosetta		34 x 5 mm	Black	22 Dec. 1799	10 Dec. 1880

Manuscript Markings.

Benesouef				12 June 1800	
Bilbeis				1 July 1800	30 Aug 1800
Siouth				10 Oct. 1800	
Suez				14 Jan. 1801	
Service Militaire				26 July 1798	

Military Markings.

AREMEE DE LA MEDITERANNEE		4 x 46			
ARM.DE LA MEDnee		4 x 26.5		5 Sept. 1798	9 Mar. 1799
Ire DIVon					
Commre.. Ordr	Type I	34 x 23 oval		28 Oct. 1799	1800
en Chef	Type II	238.5 x 25 oval		22 Dec. 1800	11 Jan. 1801

Type I	Type II	
ALEXANDRIE	Alexandrie	
Type I	Type II	Y-State
SIOUTH	SIOUTH	SIOUTH
BENESOUEF	LE CAIRE	
DAMIETTE	ROSETTE	
AREMEE DE LA MEDITERANNEE	ARM·DE LA MED^{NEE}	
	<u>I^{RE} DIV^{ON}</u>	



ALEXANDRIE.
 Au General-Divisionnaire
 Dujeat commandant la basse-egypte
 au Caire

1. Type I of Alexandria Circa 1799 letter to Major General Dougha,

Au General
 Alexandrie
 Division, Dujat
 au Caire

2. Type II of Alexandria.

BENESOUÉF.
 Au Citoyen
 Reynier Directeur des
 revenus en Nature
 au Caire

3. Benesouef to Cairo from Administrateur 1er District to Reynier directeur de Revenues.

DAMIETTE

Au Citoyen
 Reynier Directeur des Revenues
 en Nature et du Mobilier N.^o
 Au Kaire

4. Damiette to 'Kaire' to the Reynier directeur de Revenues.

SIOUTH

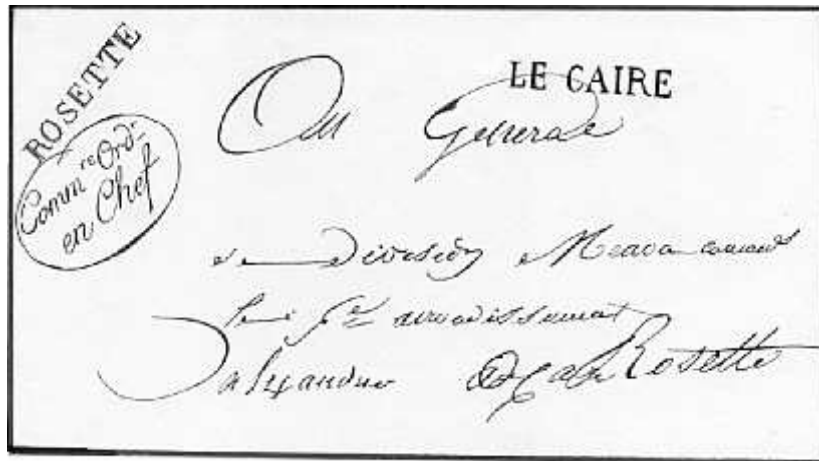
Au General de Division Foufard
 Bertrand
 Au Kaire

5. Siouth Type II in 'Y' state', from general Foufard to general Bertrand.

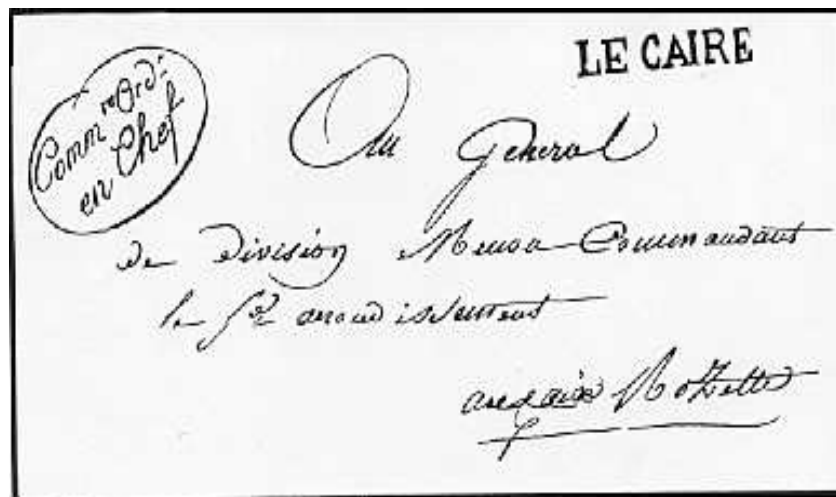
SIOUTH

Au Citoyen
 Reynier Directeur des Revenues
 en Nature
 Au Kaire

6. 1800 letter from Siouth, type II in red to Cairo.



7. Letter 1799 addressed to Cairo where 'Le Caire' mark was applied. Re-addressed to Rossette where the 'Rosette' mark was applied, then forwarded to Alexandria.



8. Cairo to Rosetter with Commissaire Ordonnateur en Chief Type I.



9. Type II from Sorton chief of staff to Renier, local tp Cairo

NEW ISSUES

C.E.H. Defriez ESC 172

All stamps are printed in lithography by Postal Printing House, A.R.Egypt without watermark.

Commemorative Stamps

	SG 2055/Bal.1457	SG.2056/Bal 1459	SG(MS)2057/BAL.1460
Occasion	International Orthopaedics Congress, Cairo	75 th . Anniv. Of Discovery of Tutankhamen's Tomb (2 nd . Issue)	
Date of Issue	17 th . November 1997	22 nd . November 1997	
Designer	Said Abdel Aziz	Lotfy El Sawaf	Said Abdel Aziz
Design	Skeleton & Globe	Goddess Serket Statuette	Scarab Pectorial
Denomination	20 Piastres	20 Piastres	.£E1 inscribed Air Mail
Stamp Dimensions	30X50 mm	26x43mm	80x70 mm
Perforations	13	12.5	Imperf. MS.
Quantity Printed	250,000	250,000	50,000
Supplementary		The Tomb was found in the Valley of the Kings, by the Englishman Howard Carter	

	SG 2058/Bal.1458	SG.2059/Bal.1461
Occasion	11 th . African Transport and Communications Ministers conference, Cairo	Inauguration of Nubia Monuments Museum
Date of Issue	22 nd . November 1997	23 rd . November 1997
Designer	Lotfy El Sawaf	Said Abdel Aziz
Design	Conference Emblem	Museum & Emblem
Denomination	75 Piastres	20 Piastres
Stamp Dimensions	26x43mm	50x30 mm
Perforations	12.5	13
Quantity Printed	150,000	250,000
Supplementary	Inscribed Air Mail	

	SG 2060/Bal.1462	SG.2061/Bal 1463
Occasion	85 th . Anniv. Of Arab Scout Movement	5 th . Pan-Arab Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Congress
Date of Issue	24 th . November 1997	9 th . December 1997
Designer	Lotfy El Sawaf & Said Abdel Aziz	Said Abdel Aziz
Design	Emblem and Scout Bugler	Congress Emblem
Denomination	75 Piastres	20 Piastres
Stamp Dimensions	43x26mm	50x30mm
Perforations	12.5	13
Quantity Printed	150,000	250,000
Supplementary	Inscribed Air Mail	

SG.2062/Bal.1464	
Occasion	50 th . Anniv. Of the Arab Land Bank
Date of Issue	10 th . December 1997
Designer	Lotfy El Sawaf
Design	Land Bank Emblem
Denomination	20 Piastres
Stamp Dimensions	26x43mm
Perforations	12.5
Quantity Printed	250,000
Supplementary	

	SG.2063 Bal.1469	SG.2064 Bal.1465	SG.2065 Bal.1466	SG.2066 Bal.1467	SG.2067 Bal.1468
Occasion	Dramatic Arts (Artists)				
Date of Issue	23 rd . December 1997				
Designer	L.Sawaf	L.Sawaf	N.A.Fattah	L.Farid	L.Sawaf
Design	'Egypt is the Cradle of the Arts Throughout the Ages (Arab Inscrip.)	Zaky Tolaimat 1899-1980	Ismael Yassen 1913-1972	Zaky Roustom 1903-1967	Soliman Naguib 1893-1955
Denomination	20 Piastres	20 Piastres	20 Piastres	20 Piastres	20 Piastres
Stamp Dimensions	26x43 mm	26x43 mm	26x43 mm	26x43 mm	26x43 mm
Perforations	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5
Quantity Printed	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Supplementary		Founder of Drama Insit.	Actor	Actor	Actor and Opera House Director

SG.2068/Bal.1470	
Occasion	15 th . Anniversary of Sinai Liberation and Inauguration of El-Salaam Canal
Date of Issue	30 th . December 1997
Designer	Lotfy El Sawaf
Design	Pharaonic Hands Offering Water to Sinai
Denomination	20 Piastres
Stamp Dimensions	50x30mm
Perforations	13
Quantity Printed	250,000
Supplementary	

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE - ACCOUNTS FOR THE AUCTIONS IN 1998.

John Sears ESC 188

<u>Profit & Loss Accounts</u>	<u>Auction 26</u>	<u>Auction 27</u>
	£ .	£ .
	<u>8143.20</u>	<u>7707.20</u>
INCOME		
10% on Sales	814.32	770.72
Invoiced Postage	151.47	199.67
Postage Owing	<u>63.88</u>	<u>22.86</u>
	<u>1029.67</u>	<u>993.25</u>
EXPENSES		
Preparation & Postage of Catalogues	339.83	329.86
Postage & Packaging of Lots	230.91	216.67
Sundry Postage & Expenses	44.11	39.80
Losses & discrepancies	30.00	8.67
Purchase for ESC Library		3.10
Insurance	<u>. .</u>	<u>39.00</u>
	644.85	637.10
NET PROFIT	<u>384.82</u>	<u>356.15</u>
	<u>1029.67</u>	<u>993.25</u>
Balance Sheet as at 31 st . January 1999		
NET ASSETS		
Balance at Bank		2261.64
Less Amounts due to members		<u>900.20</u>
		<u>1361.44</u>
AUCTION FUND		
Amount brought forward from March 1998		1120.47
Less transfer to General Account		<u>500.00</u>
		620.47
Add Net Profit Auction 26		384.82
Add Net Profit Auction 27		<u>356.15</u>
		<u>1361.44</u>

Two more successful Auctions, and once more, our thanks are due to Mike Murphy & Mike Bramwell for their continuing hard work. We must also mention Peter Andrews who now types out the Catalogue, which has added considerably to its clarity & "readability".