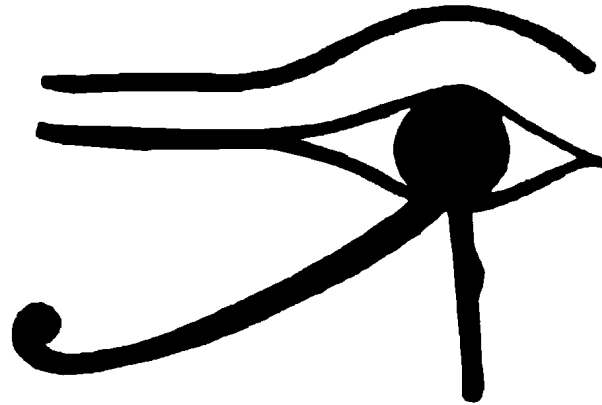


The  
Quarterly Circular  
of



THE  
EGYPT  
STUDY CIRCLE

December Quarter 1999  
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## **EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE OFFICERS.**

- President: Mr. J. Sears. FRPSL.  
496 Uxbridge Road, Pinner Middlesex. HA5 4SL.
- Chairman: Mr. P.R.Bertram. FRPSL.  
11, Bishop's Way, Buckden, Huntingdon. Cambs, PE18 9TZ, UK
- Deputy Chairman: Mr. J.S. Horesh, U.K.
- Secretary/Treasurer: Mr. G.A. Jeyes  
4, Ravine Court, Meridon Close, Canford Cliffs, Poole,  
Dorset. BH13 7JU
- Editor: Mr. E.Hall.  
6, Bedford Ave., Little Chalfont, Amersham, Bucks. HP6 6PT  
edmund.hall@virgin.net
- Librarian: Mr. D.J. Davis  
Church View Cottage, Church Road, Upton Snodsbury,  
Worcestershire. WR7 4NH
- U.S.A. Agent: Mr. C.F. Hass.  
P.O. Box 3435, Nashua, NH 03061-3435 U.S.A.
- Egypt Agent: Prof. N.El-Hadidi.  
The Herbarium, Faculty of Science, Cairo Univ., Giza, Cairo, 12613 Egypt
- Committee Mem. Mr. D.H. Clarke.
- Committee Mem. Mr. J.M. Murphy.

### **Forthcoming Meetings.**

- |                             |   |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| March 4 <sup>th</sup> .     | 10 sheets per member (Conference Room at Stampex)         | All                                   |
| May 27 <sup>th</sup> .      | Airmails of Egypt (Earls Court)                           | J.Sears FRPSL                         |
| July 15 <sup>th</sup> .     | A.G.M. 11am to 1pm.<br>Heliopolis<br>Cigarette Tax Stamps | Members<br>P.Grech<br>R.Bertram FRPSL |
| Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup> .    | Carried by Sea - a study                                  | J.Davis & E.Hall                      |
| November 18 <sup>th</sup> . | Hotels Updated  | J.M.Murphy                            |

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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**MEETING HELD AT THE VICTORY CLUB ON SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>. 1999.**

Subjects	a) Novelty Revenues. b) The 'Service L'Etat' no value stamp.
Present	P.Andrews, R.Bertram, L.Balian (Egypt), M.Bramwell, L.Butcher, D.Clarke, J.Davis, M.Dorman, C.Defriez, U.Eckstein (Germany), M.Freeman, P.Grech, N.El Hadidi (Egypt), C.Hass (USA), E.Hall, A.Jeyes, C.Kelemenis (Greece), M.Murphy, J.Sears, P.Smith (USA), B.Watterson, V.Varjabedian (Egypt)
Apologies	S.Horesh, L.Said. B.Sedgley

The Chairman welcomed all present, particularly our overseas members. It was unusual to have two Presidents (past and current) at one meeting. Before the meeting proper started Leon Balian spoke about a supplement he is preparing to his recent catalogue "Stamps of Egypt" and requested any new information from members, particularly varieties on modern issues.

Vahe Varjabedian then spoke of his recent booklet on "Perfins." Publication has, as usual, produced much additional information and new discoveries and he had produced a supplement sheet distributed at the meeting. He also showed a newly discovered postmark of Thos.Cook & Sons. Details will be published in the QC.

Betty Watterson then showed some new and interesting acquisitions.

Nabil El Hadidi then showed his revenues. He concentrated on unusual items. Feltus Revenue Catalogue listed about 900 items. Now over 1500 are known, not all new issues but many older items unknown to Feltus at that time. Nabil showed examples of Revenue Printed paper - 2 issues earlier than Feltus, then some intermediate items and the latest known - a £5 value for Land Registration. Next came some Company Bonds (Egyptian Hotel Co.) issued in 1922-4 bearing normal stamps for Revenue purposes. Even the 1934 UPU Commemoratives were used. Identity cards - issued by the Postal Authorities and bearing revenues were shown - the earliest from 1921.

This was followed by Robin Bertram with the first Official Stamp. This display followed the article already published in QC No. 189 of June 1999. However, Leon Balian, Peter Smith Charlie Hass, Dennis Clarke and Alan Jeyes brought supplementary material much of it unique or rare. This was probably the largest display of this issue possible

**SUBSCRIPTIONS.**

**Subscriptions were due on the 1<sup>st</sup>. January 2000. Cost £12.50 Sterling and should be sent to:-**

<b>North America &amp; Canada</b>	<b>C.F. Hass</b>
<b>Egypt</b>	<b>Prof. N.El Hadidi</b>
<b>All Others</b>	<b>G.A. Jeyes</b>

**Addresses can be found on page 73.**

**MEETING HELD AT THE VICTORY CLUB ON NOVEMBER 20th.1999**

- Subjects        a) The Alexandria to Ramleh Tramway  
                      b) The AR Service
- Present         P.Andrews. R-Bertram. M-Bramwell.L.J.Butcher J.Clarke, D.H.Clarke, J.Davis,  
                      C.Defriez, R.Dauwe (Holland),M.Freeman. P-Grech,E.Hall, J.S.Horesh, A.Jeyes,  
                      J.M.Murphy. L.Said. B.Sedgeley, J.Sears. A.Schmidt.
- Apologies       G.Smith, B.Watterson.

The Chairman welcomed a good attendance at the meeting, particularly Roland Dauwe who came from Holland especially for the meeting.

John Sears advised that our member, Anatole Ott, from Sweden, was ill and all present signed a 'get well' card. John then produced a large map of The Egyptian P.O.s abroad, a gift from our Past President, Peter Smith. It has been lodged in the library.

Finally the Programme for meetings and venues for the year 2000 was provisionally agreed.

Peter Grech led the first half of the meeting dealing with the Alexandria - Ramleh tramway between the years of its foundation in 1863 and its take over by the Government in 1929.

Peter started with a history of the area. At this time rapid expansion was taking place in the 7 mile stretch to the East of Alexandria. Details were given of the line as it expanded and also of the branch lines, and the reason for their development and in some cases closure. The line progressed from horse drawn trams, to steam locomotives in 1864 to finally. electric trams in 1903.

All of this development was illustrated by scores of contemporary post cards, maps and sketches beautifully presented. Finally. Peter showed the various cancels known from the Post Offices or Agencies and the Postal Seals.

Peter postulated a theory that there were no Post Offices as such - only a travelling postman. This was the subject of a lively debate but without a conclusion. Members brought much supporting material, some displayed and other items recorded by Peter.

A tremendous display which is to be the subject of an article in a forthcoming QC.

Robin Bertram then took the floor to talk and display the AR (Advice of Receipt) Services. This started in about 1875 and continues to the present, although the costs have risen from 1 piastre to 80 piastres (internally). Covers were shown showing all these rates.

Of equal importance were the forms (to 1920) and cards accompanying the letters. Another discussion took place regarding the use of these forms.

Robin produced a handout to accompany his display and this will form the basis of a further article in the QC.

**New Members.**

ESC 530 O.F.Olsen  
P.O.Box 3671  
Dubai  
United Arab Emirates

ESC 531 G.Smith  
19 Brittany Road  
Exmouth  
Devon  
EX8 5SG

ESC 532 V.G.Goode  
Langdale  
42 Bramcote Road  
Loughborough  
Leics. LE11 2SA

**Change of Address**

ESC 457 Dr. T.K.El-Kerdani  
12 Sabbagh St.  
Heliopolis 11341  
Egypt

ESC 480 D.Ogden  
52 Port Rise  
Chatham  
Kent ME4 6NQ

ESC 503 M.A.Msoliman  
P.O.Box. 346  
Alexandria  
Egypt

**Change of Post Code**

ESC 349 N.Clowes  
CF23 6LI

**Lapsed**

ESC241	A.Stragier	ESC 250	R.Lockwood
ESC 274	H.D.W.Thomas	ESC 280	M.Varin
ESC 415	F.G.Topfer	ESC 453	N.El Said
ESC 479	A.F.Moyes	ESC 481	B.G.Shamat
ESC 500	J.Wilkins		

## The French Port Said Provisionals

L.S Toutounji ESC 264

Re. the article by Peter Smith The French Port Said Provisionals of November 1899 in the September quarterly QC

About three years ago in 1996 a part time stamp dealer from Alexandria bought the lot from the family of the French Port Said postmaster. He did not notice that the overprint was different from that of the regularly issued-definitive set and he used some stamps to complete regular sets.

I was the first to notice the red sans serif overprint of the provisional issue, when a reseller offered me some, I bought most of what was available. The stamps offered at Cee-Jay auction, to which Peter Smith refers, came from me. I had swapped them for inverted centres of Libya!

Originally the stamps were issued in sheet of 150 made up of six blocks of 25 stamps each, separated by gutters. Certainly the provisionals were overprinted in blocks of 25 as can be ascertained by the constant varieties. Thus some blocks show milliemes while others don't, but they all show the same varieties in the same positions.

From my observation of the quantities offered to me, the most "common" is the 5 centimes light green type-II (Gibbons #6). this makes sense when you know the philatelic inspiration of the then postal authorities, as it is the stamp on which the overprint shows best.

From my experience, the most "common" are :5 cents. type II (Gibbons #6) of which I have had no less than 200 copies. This is followed by the 5 dark green, 15, 20, 25 cents. of which I have had about 100 of each. These are followed by the 1, 2, 3, 4 cents. of which I have had about 25 of each.

The rest are very rare and I believe that no more than 25 or 50 were overprinted of each. The 10 cents. exists in both types, the 30 cents I have seen four copies all with inverted overprint and I have seen only 3 copies of the 5 francs.

I hope this sheds some light on this elusive issue.

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### Editorial.

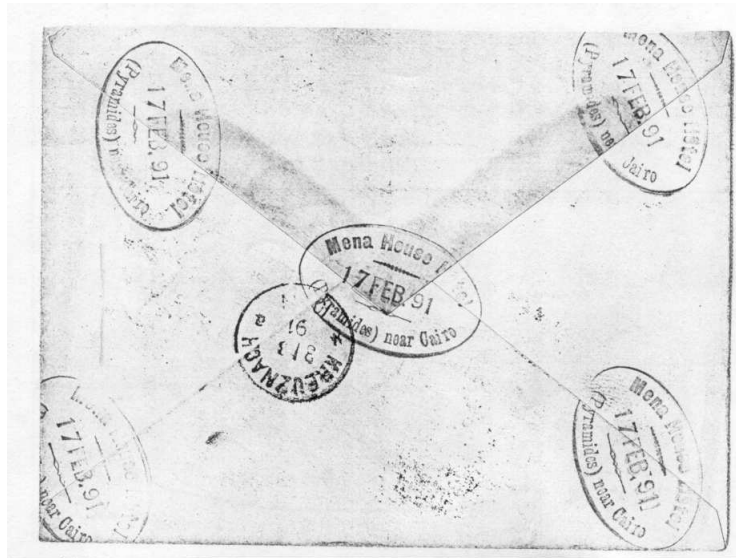
I started on this issue early in November and decided to do the station postmarks. I did not want it to be too long after the May meeting, when the subject was published. As I had made up the sheets of illustrations for the meeting I thought it would be quite quick to do. As I started I realised I had some new information sent to me as a consequence of the meeting which therefore required some new illustrations. I had also for the meeting done the drawings in a hurry a thought them not quite good enough so decided to redo most of them. At the same time I decided to digitise them all to make it easier to edit and format them on the page, which it consequently proved to be. However hard I tried I could not get the time down to less than 1¼ hours so with some 180 illustrations it became evident I could not get the QC out before Christmas. Booking extra leave I had hoped to complete this issue over the holiday period. This I obviously did not do and being a nine to five five days a week it has taken to the end of January to complete the QC. As it was, to shorten the time, I abandoned redrawing most of the Cairo marks. So it may well be March before you see this issue. I hope the March QC will be much quicker and bring us almost back on schedule.

**The First Mena House Hotel Private Cachet.**

V. Varjabedian ESC 390

Recently I found a very interesting cancellation of the Mena House Hotel. It seems the first private cachet of the hotel. It is oval, purple in colour on a back of a PS envelope 1 Paistre (1889) sent from the hotel on the 17.2.1891 to Kreuznach, Germany, via Brindisi with an arrival CDS Kreuznach, 21.3.91

As it is a private cachet it was not allowed to cancel the stamp or be used on the front of the PS envelope. The earliest date of this private cachet is 8.2.1891. The hotel post office was opened on the 15.12.1891.



**Postage Rates for Forces Mail from Egypt 1940 -1941.**

S. Horesh ESC 118

I am in the process of completing the writing up of my many Forces covers of the period 1940-1941 and am puzzled by the fact that I have a few covers without stamps or due markings.

The original Postal Concession was discontinued 1st March 1936 and the 10 mils Large Army stamp was issued the same day to be followed by the 3 mils on 1st December. The 3 mils and 10 mils small Army stamps were issued on the 16th December 1939. The 10 mils stamp was for ordinary surface mail to U.K., etc., and the 3 mils for Xmas and New Year cards. As the small 3 mils stamp was issued too late for the 1939 festival season it was withheld until the middle of October 1940 and correct usage is considered until the end of March 1941.

It should also be-noted that the troops could send airmail home for 40 mils from the 28<sup>th</sup>. October 1939. This compares with the Egyptian rate which was 60 mils until the 31 October then reduced to 45 mils but later increased.

We, therefore, see rates of 10 mils surface, 40 mils airmail and 3 mils festive mail. However, there is an unexplained part sentence on P74 of Hobbs book (2nd edition) ".....as all mail from the Forces was carried free". This presumably refers to November 1940 after the issue of the small 3 mils Army stamp.

The Egypt Postage Prepaid Military Datestamps came into use 1<sup>st</sup>. May 1941. The late Jim Benians wrote in his handbook - "Ordinary surface mail now becomes free, if addressed to the man's homeland". This was for up to 2 oz., and his table of rates included Airmail letters to the U.K. (first half oz.) 10d. (=40 mils).

Therefore, there was a scale of rates during the period - borne out by the many covers I possess - but how to amplify Hobb's unexplained sentence and the few covers I have without stamps or due markings?

I therefore illustrate a number of covers to show the problem. All stamps referred to are the 10 mils small Army stamp (except where stated) and where the covers are Honour envelopes or endorsed 'OAS' they are so denoted : -

Fig. 1 40 m Airmail	9.JY.40	MPO Cairo (T7)	OAS to Kenya
Fig. 2 40 m Airmail	1.No.40.	FPO 171	OAS to Kenya
Fig. 3 40 m Airmail	30.AU.40	E602 (T8)	OAS to Kenya
Fig. 4 No stamps surface ? Also have similar	2.NO.40 10.DEC.40)	FPO 245	OAS to Kenya
Fig. 5 No stamps surface ? Also have similar	29.JL.40 12.JL.40	E615	OAS to Kenya
Fig 6 No stamps Surface ?	20 FE 41	FPO 201	OAS to England
Fig 7 10 m Surface ?	13 MR 41	FPO 173	OAS to England

Figs 1 to 5 from the same correspondence as are Figs 6 & 7



To complete the picture I list a selection of some other covers of interest: -

10 m Surface	3 JU 40	MPO Abu Suweir (T2)	to England
10 m Surface	30 JY 40	Indian FPO17 (Mena Camp Cairo)	to India. Green Honour envelope
45 m Air (Sudan Stamps)	5 AP 41	E604 (TII) (Indian Troops Gedaref)	to England. Green Honour
9AS Air (Indian Stamps)	6 AP 41	E601 (T5) Gebeit Sudan	to Bombay OAS
10 m Surface	30 DE 40	FPO 189	to England OAS
10 m Surface	22 JA 41	FPO 189	to England
10 m Surface	24 MR 41	FPO 169	to England OAS
Also on piece	2 FE 41	FPO 190	10 m stamp
	9 FE 41	FPO 198	4 x 10 m stamps

I have listed named date-stamps, 'E' Numbers and FPO's and usage from different forces: surface and air mail. The dates for covers with and without stamps overlap and no pattern for the different usage is discernible.

Hobb's statement that all mail was carried free must in the light of the foregoing be subject to some qualification, particularly as I have vastly more covers with stamps than without.

Can any member tell us quoting, with authority exactly what mail was carried free, over what period, the origin and destinations ?



Fig.1



Fig. 2.



Fig.3

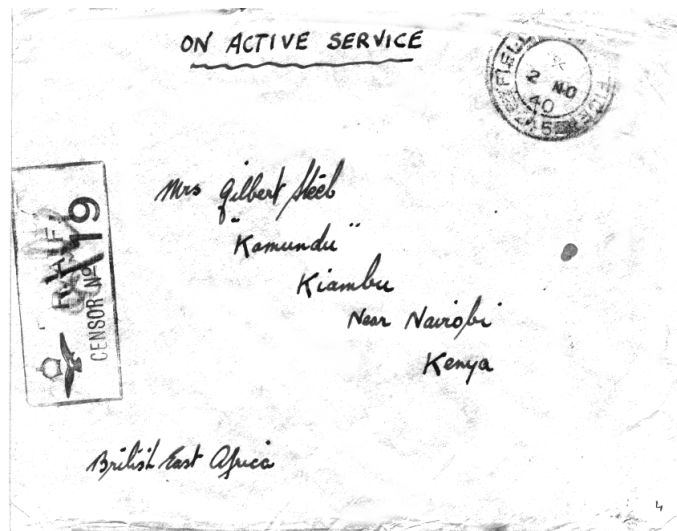


Fig.4

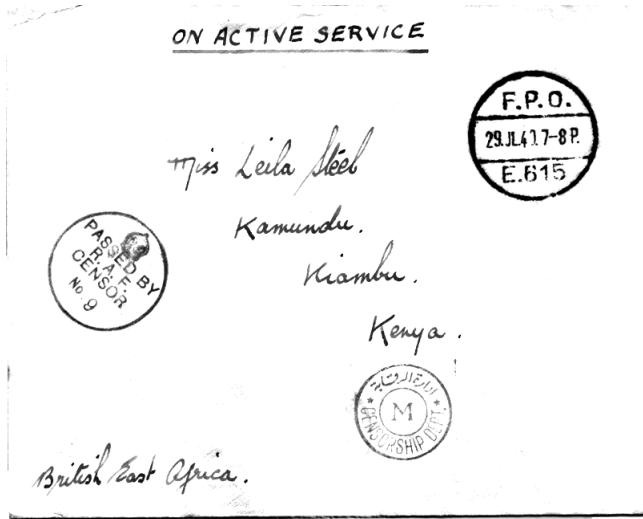


Fig 5.

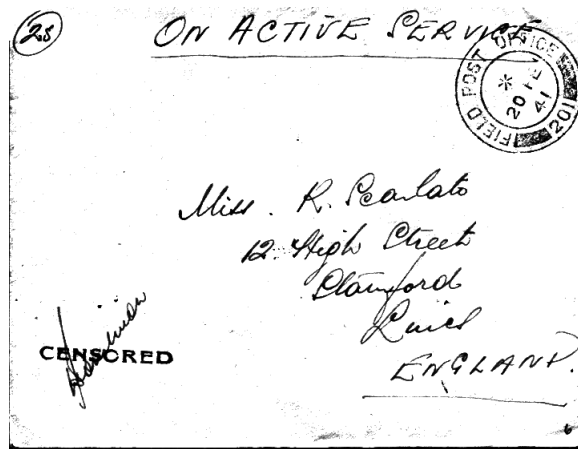


Fig.6

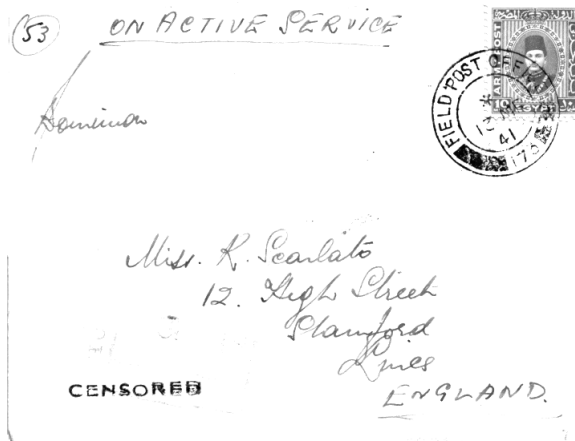


Fig.7

## Civil Postal Censorship of Egypt,

### D.R.P. Glyn-Jones ESC 231

Boulad in his article "The Postal Censorship in Egypt during World War II", and the authors of the 1970 article in *OPAL* (whole-no.-138.) illustrate and refer to the square postal censor marks-those with out numbers- differentiating between those that have a thick or solid-surrounding square line and those surrounded by a double line. In the articles they are OPAL types 33 to 41 and Boulad types 37 to 42.

Boulad elaborates by saying that these marks are extremely varied and many as to be too cumbersome to enumerate and the OPAL article refers to the various frames that are used.

However what neither article makes perfectly clear is that the central markings are duplicated in having both solid frames and double lined frames.

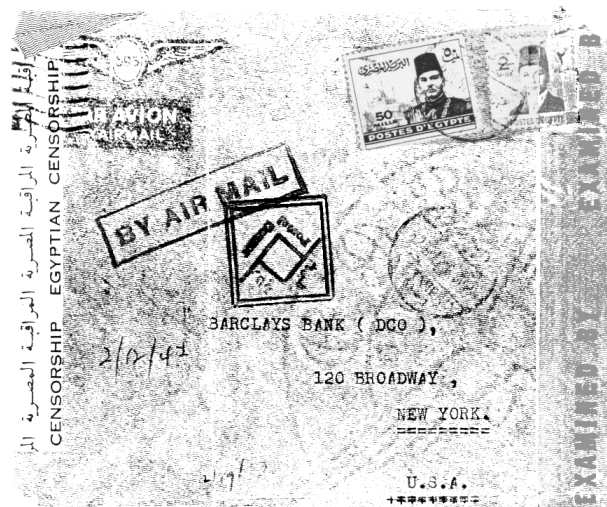
For illustration are two covers. The first from Alexandria 25 JU 40 is Boulad type 40 with solid lines instead of double. The second from Alexandria 2 DE 42 is Boulad type 39 with double lines instead of solid.

It has to be appreciated therefore that the variety is far greater then was indicated by the previous writers and is indeed cumbrous.

Fig1.



Fig2.



**Perfins On Egyptian Stamps-Update.**

Vahe Varjabedian ESC 390

After publishing my book about the Egyptian perfins, last February, many new dates and numbers were discovered by me and perfin collector friends. The following is a list of all new dates and numbers not mentioned in my book:

NAME OF FIRM	PAGE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	SEEN ON STAMPS SG No.	NOTES
AB/E	5	1910	1932	55-74-98-99-100-101-102-103-112-116-118	
B.C.I	6	1923	1936	158- 238	
BCIE	7	1923	1935	113-151-155-165-228-237-239	
BIE	8	1930	1960	162-163-234-235-239-250-254-256-279-425-428-444-447-535-559	
CLA	10	1895	1953	54-58-73-119-137-236	FRENCH OFFICE ALEX, 29-66-76
CLC	11	1900	1958	63-64-93-96-112-161-162-225-227-420-428-517	
CN(PORT SAID)	13	1908	1953	61-423-438	FRENCH OFFICE PORT SAID 130
CN (ALEX)	14	1908	1953	61	
IOB	18	1917	1926	93-94-99-117-119	
JRC	19	1923	1955	114-163-228	
LS	22	1912	1922		
OB	23	1914	1958	136-163-164-204-206-233-235-239-249-285-286-287-288-385	
PO	24	1931	1958	249-252- 278-279	
R.O.L	25	1908	1914	54-59	
R&CO	26	1921	1956	96-119-165-225-422-423-429-496	
SB	28	1896	1963	58-116-292-295-296	
THOS. COOK	29	1896	1940	55-77-79-80-78-96-97-117-119-156-160-161-163-236-257	
VOCO	30	1914	1962	116-156-457-532-546	
A.H.S.	31	1908		63	IN CAIRO
F.M.C	31	1929	1932	133-156-160-163-164	
PSOCO	31	1899		63-54-59	

Q191/1. Peter Heim ESC 384

The well known cancellation double-bridge and A was reported some times in the QC, used between 13 MR 11 (P. Andrews) and 22 JA 13 (P. Glyn-Jones)

In my large stock I found this type of cancellation, but without the 'A' in the upper segment and without its Arabic counterpart in the lower one. The dates run from VII 07 to X 08.

Neither in the data-sheets of T. Schmidt nor in the numerous numbers of LOP and QC I could find this type. Was it a precursor of the M cancellation with A and Arabic arrival?

Can anyone of our members suggest an explanation? It is striking that all cancellations on my 8 copies are of officials.

Q191/2 Ulrich Eckstein ESC 273

In his Book Peter Smith describes on page 781 the press censor marking of Alexandria.

## PRESS CENSOR/ALEXANDRIA

I have a cover with colour of the marking in violet. Can anyone give me more information about this marking. On the back of the cover is a block of 10 Para grey (BAL 49) cancelled by a red marking of Assun?, Assiout Arrivee 22.NO.83, Caire Arrivee 23.NO.83 and Ghourieh/Caire 24.NO.83.

