E G Y P T S T U D Y C I R C L E

T H E Q U A R T E R L Y C I R C U L A R

Volume VII No. 3/4

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1970

"O S E R"

E G Y P T S T U D Y C I R C L E

T H E Q U A R T E R L Y C I R C U L A R .

Volume VII. No. 3/4. Whole Series No.75/76.

September / December 1970

"PHILYMPIA 1970" NUMBER

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THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

Published by the Egypt Study Circle

Vol. VII No. 3/4 Whole Series No. 75/76 Sept/Dec. 1970

Officers

President	Lt. Col. J. R. Danson, M.C., T.D., Dry Close, Grasmere, Westmoreland.
Chairman	J. H. E. Gilbert, "Morven", West Close, Middleton-On-Sea, Sussex.
Keeper of the Philatelic Record ...	Charles W. Minett, "Fairmead", 3, Bridgefield Rd., Whitstable, Kent
Secretary/ Treasurer ...	Peter Andrews, 149, Pickhurst Lane, Hayes, Bromley, Kent
Editor of the Quarterly Circular ...	R.A.G. Potter, 12, Middle Row, (High Street), Maidstone, Kent

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"O S E R"

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CIRCLE HELD on 15th August 1970 at the British Philatelic Association's Offices, London.

This meeting, commencing at 2.30 p.m., was well attended with John Gilbert in the Chair. It had been arranged largely to discuss the final arrangements for the Social Evening to be held in September (during the period when 'Pbilympia 1970' would be running).

Members also brought along the material from their collections from which the display for that evening was chosen.

Some recent acquisitions of members were also discussed, before the meeting closed at around 6.30 p.m..

REPORT OF THE 131st MEETING OF THE CIRCLE on the occasion of "Philympia" and held at the "Albion Hotel", Hammersmith Road, on September 20th 1970.

The meeting opened at 3.45 p.m. when there were some 35 members or visitors present. Our Chairman, Mr. John Gilbert, gave a warm welcome to all, from Home and Overseas - all united in our interest in the stamps and Postal History of Egypt.

A special message was given from our President, Lt. Col. J.R. Danson, who so regretted that he was unable to be with us, but he wrote that although he was still in hospital he was now well on the road to recovery. A special message was sent back to our President with all our good wishes, which everybody present signed.

A letter of greeting was also read from Ibrahim Chaftar from Alexandria, which was greatly appreciated.

It was thought that this was the largest meeting ever to be held by the Egypt Study Circle, and far bigger than those held in 1950 and 1960 at the times of the previous London International Stamp Exhibitions.

Our Chairman said that we met in brotherhood and friendship, and would that all nations follow the lead of philatelists! There were eleven different countries represented:-

Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

and any language difficulties were overcome by translation so ably made by Mnsr. Jean Boulad d'Humieres, the senior Circle member present.

The Chairman continued, and Jean translated as he did so, and hoped everyone would enjoy their visit to London and to "Philympia 1970" where they would find Egypt strongly represented by some notable collections on display.

An appeal was made for more members to join the Circle and to join in with our various studies, so that eventually the proposed book which is in preparation could be completed for the benefit of all Students of Egyptian Philately. A special tribute was paid to our Founder and first President - the late Dr. Wm. Byam - to whom we all owed so much. The work in the various studies which he started was still continuing - mention was made in particular of the plating work so far done on the 20 paras of the Third Issue, and how it was now proposed to do the same with the 1 piastre (first printing) of the same Issue. An appeal was made to all present to send photographs of any blocks or multiples of this value they may have in their collections, whether it be typographed or lithographed, to assist in this plating study.

The Chairman concluded with a story about the early days of flying in Egypt. In Heliopolis, there is a stone statue of the head and shoulders of a man with the wing of a bird protruding, and underneath is the word "OSER". It has been noted that this wing has been used as a crest by the L.N.A. ("Ligue Nationale Aerienne") and is seen on some of the covers carried by Lt. Marc Pourpe on his epoch making flight in 1914 from Cairo to Khartoum and back. The man thus commemorated is LOUIS MOUILLARD who was known as the "Bird Man", and who tried to fly with the help of home-made wings. He tried to fly off from the tops of buildings and other high places, with only partial success, hurting himself and breaking many bones in his body in the process. But he DID try - and he tried very hard to fly. So many years ago this statue was erected in honour of a very brave man - an early pioneer of his time - and the word "OSER" means to try very hard, which he most certainly did! Could we take "OSER" to be our motto too? And to try still harder to make further progress with the various studies in hand - there is still much work to be done - and also considerable work to do to complete the manuscripts for the proposed book.

The United Kingdon members (and two from the United States of America who had been temporarily resident in the United Kingdom prior to "Philympia" week) had prepared a combined display comprising some 200 pages of Egyptian stamps and items of Postal History, which were much appreciated by our overseas visitors.

Mr. Ernie Kehr (U.S.A.) spoke on his "Philympia" display of Air Mails and especially on the two values Graf Zeppelin overprints which he had in panes. This was in reply to the Chairman's request for a photograph of these two fine pieces to help with expertising these difficult overprints. Mr. Kehr pointed out that the "error" '1951' instead of '1931' as catalogued by Zeheri appeared only onwe on the sheet, but two other stamps on the sheet had a similar variety which was blurred and not so clear. Mr Kehr had owned these panes for many years and he

expressed his pleasure at being able to display them in London, especially as they were of help to the Circle.

Mr. Kehr kindly took a group photograph of those present at this memorable Circle meeting.

Mr. E.L.G. "Mac" MacArthur spoke on the difficulties of identifying the two printings of the 2 piastre and 5 piastre adhesives of the Third Issue, and he suggested new ways of identification which he described with the help of enlarged photographs. This will be an aid to solving one of the difficult problems and it is an interesting piece of new research work. (Mr. MacArthur has written an article on this issue, which will be published in this, or the next, number - Editor).

The meeting was very informal and time was given to allow everyone to view the frames, and discuss some of their special interests and problems.

The Circle meeting closed at 5.30 p,m., which gave time for the room to be re-arranged and aired before the Ladies were welcomed at 6 p.m. to an informal reception. The evening was a great success, and all present took the opportunity of renewing past friendships and making personal contact with so many who had, up to then, been pen-friends.

For the record, the following members and guests were present:-

E.S.C. No. 16	Jean Boulad d'Humieres (Switzerland)	
39	E.A. Kehr (U.S.A.)	Miss Pogue
50	J.H.E. Gilbert (Great Britain)	Mrs. Gilbert
74	P.A.S. Smith (U.S.A.)	Mrs. Smith and Lesley Smith
77	C. W. Minett (G.B.)	
86	R.A.G. Potter (G.B.)	Mrs. and Miss Potter, and "Amber"
88	G.D. Turton (G.B.)	Mrs. Turton
105	L. Alund (Sweden)	
106	T. Kuyas (Turkey)	
107	Mde. Kuyas (Turkey)	
110	W.C. Scheetz (U.S.A.)	Mrs. Scheetz
113	P.R. Feltus (U.S.A.)	
118	J.S. Horesh (G.B.)	Mrs. Horesh
122	P. Andrews (G.B.)	Mrs. Andrews
125	E.L.G. MacArthur (G.B.)	Mrs. MacArthur
127	R. Jeidel (South Africa)	Mrs. Jeidel
132	W.C. Andrews (G.B.)	Mrs. Andrews
133	P.E. Whetter (G.B.)	Mrs. Whetter
134	C.A. Gilders (G.B.)	Mrs. Gilders
138	K.C. Brown (G.B.)	
141	Mrs. Schaefer (U.S.A.)	Mr. Schaefer
149	Dr. A. Winter (France)	Mrs. Winter
	J.E.O. Hobbs (G.B.)	Mrs. Hobbs

J. Kassab (Lebanon) M... Kassab
E. Antonini (Switzerland)
M.L. Balian (U.A.R. Egypt)
Dr. A. Mishrick (U.S.A.)
M. Nicolaizos (U.A.R. Egypt)
R. G. Piperno (Italy) Mrs. Piperno
Mrs. Z. Sotinaki (G.B.)
W.H. Wells (U.S.A.) Mrs. Wells

The display of stamps, for the meeting, was provided by:-

E.S.C. No. 50	J.H.E. Gilbert	71	J.A. Firebrace
74	P.A.S. Smith	77	C.W. Minett
78	A.J. Revell	86	R.A.G. Potter
88	G.D. Turton	113	P.R. Feltus
118	J.S. Horesh	122	P. Andrews
123	F.W. Benians	125	E.L.G. MacArthur
133	P.E. Whetter		J.E.O. Hobbs

During the evening Ron Potter was persuaded by the Chairman to tell how, at the Kent County Agricultural Show 1970, he had been amazed to make the acquaintance of some dogs remarkably similar to the one depicted on the 10 milliemes stamp of the 1967 Post Day Series. On enquiry he found they were indeed "Pharaoh Hounds", reputedly direct descendants of those used for hunting in Egypt over 5000 years ago. Although not adding to our Philatelic Knowledge it is felt that members will be interested in the extract from the leaflet appended as a supplement to this number, by kind permission of "The Pharaoh Hound Club".

REPORT OF THE 132nd MEETING OF THE CIRCLE held on the 21st November 1970 at the offices of the British Philatelic Association, London.

Our Chairman, J.H.E. Gilbert, was supported by P. Andrews, F.W. Benians, K.C. Brown, C.A. Gilders, J.S. Horesh, E.L.G. MacArthur, C.W. Minett, R.A.G. Potter, and P.E. Whetter. Mr. D. H. Clark (Hoddeston, Lancashire) was welcomed as a guest. Apologies were received from those unable to attend.

The Chairman opened the meeting and reported the death of Col. Richard Stead, E.S.C. No. 12. A silence was observed in his memory. The meeting was also saddened to hear of the death of Mr. Economides in Athens.

Good news regarding the improvement in health of our President was received most gladly. But news had been received that Mr. Gabriel Boulad (now in Beirout) was in poor health.

The Secretary reported on correspondence:-

a) Mr. K. D. Knight (E.S.C. No. 150) was available to undertake a study on recommendation of the Circle.

b) Mr. Gudenkauf, Belgium, wished to be put into touch with any member specialising in Sudan postmarks, circa 1898-1911.

c) Lewisham Philatelic Society invited Circle members to give a display of Egypt on Tuesday 16th February 1971 at 7.30 p.m.. Any members interested should contact Peter Andrews who is co-Ordinating the details.

The Secretary also reported on the "Grand" Circle Meeting held during "Philympia". Members present requested that a vote of thanks be passed to the sub-committee and members who had contributed to make it such a signal success. The Chairman passed round a group photograph taken by Ernest Kehr (U.S.A.) - unfortunately it was the only one available. A revised draft membership-form was produced by the Secretary, as requested at a previous meeting, and it was agreed subject to some minor alterations.

Mr. Minett read out the names of members who had gained awards at "Philympia" and everybody was to be congratulated, especially our Chairman who gained a gold and, in addition, a large silver. (A list of Awards gained by our members will be found in this number - Editor).

1879 Provisionals Charles Minett led the discussion, at the invitation of the Chairman, and gave a brief history of this Issue - recommending members to refer to the article by the late Hubert Low (E.S.C. No. 4) in "Stamp Collector's Fortnightly" No. 782 (28th February 1925).

The subject was opened to discussion - a half-sheet of the 5 paras produced by John Gilbert together with various multiples. Charles Minett produced photographs (actual size) of whole sheets of the 5 paras and 10 paras, made possible by the generosity of Peter Feltus.

Charles also produced a page of forgeries, from the Circle records, which were studied at great length by those present.

Since these surcharges were on the 1874 2½ piastres value, "Mac" MacArthur drew the attention of members to a master die flaw which was constant on both the 1872 and 1874 printings: part of the space between the inner frame line (at top) and the segment written in Arabic was always filled with ink. This was very helpful in establishing a forged stamp with a forged surcharge. Some examples of this were in the record and the position indicated was always clear of ink. An example of the forger being too good at his work! Some of the forged surcharges were dangerous, and not enough was known of this Issue to abjudicate on some of them.

In conclusion it was agreed that there were two priorities to be fulfilled:-

1) To establish whether one or more formes were used to print the 1874 2½ piastres.
2) A detailed study of the two values.

Mac agreed to collaborate with any member willing to undertake the study and would try and find the answer as to the number of formes.

(Note: Peter Smith's article in this number on the exhibits at "Philympia" includes some reference to these provisionals - especially of those known on cover, forged singles or genuine multiples).

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MEMBERSHIP.

We extend a cordial welcome to the following who have joined us since the publication of our last number:-

E.S.C. No. 151 J.O. Hobbs "Helvetia", 16, Blandford Avenue, WHITTON, Middlesex.

152 Mrs. J. Sotiraki, 109, Shepherds Bush Road, Brooke Green, Hammersmith, LONDON.

153 Dr. A. S. Mishrick, 122, Ryder Road, Manhusset, NY 11030, U.S.A.

Charles Minett (E.S.C. No. 77) gave a display of Egypt Forces material recently to the Forces Postal History Society. A report has been received from Jim Benians (E.S.C. No. 123) which will be published in full in our next number. Meanwhile, congratulations Charles on what apparently proved to be a most excellent evening for the members of that Society.

IN MEMORIUM

As we go to press we very much regret to learn of the death of Gabriel Boulad (E.S.C. No. 66), on the 25th November, in Beyrout.

Our sympathy is extended to the members of his family - a full appreciation will appear in our next number.

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NOTES FROM THE KEEPER OF THE PHILATELIC RECORD

Charles W. Minett (E.S.C. No. 77)

There is no doubt in my mind that retirement from normal business is an excellent thing for any actively-minded philatelist but he should beware of thinking he will be able to sit back and mount the odd stamp for, as Parkinson's Law might have decreed, more and more stamps for mounting will turn up ----- and then, of course, there's Postal History.....

The Record and I, during the past few months, have been visited by several members. John Revell and Len Perry who, on a glorious day whilst waiting in the garden (jungle) for tea, found themselves sorting out "Express" material and later "Mac" MacArthur who came down especially to seek information upon the Third Issue 20 para (but then recently he even went to the States about it - and more recently to the Lebanon - what other study of a single value has caused such journeyings?)

More recently Peter Feltus, that engaging and energetic young man, has stayed here and literally raised the dust by suggesting, organising, and erecting some forty-odd feet of fragrant pine shelving on which the Record now reposes in the Philatelic Study. Peter is still seeking multiples of the Second Issue 1 piastre for his study.

The De la Rue Issue of 1882.

Rudi Jeidel (E.S.C. No. 127) has informed me that he has a block of four 10 para (Zeheri No. 26) bluish-grey, wmk. III, with the number "2" in the rectangle with incurved corners. This has never been catalogued by Zeheri. (Vide page 58).

The Crown overprints of 1922.

Pip Whetter (E.S.C. No. 133) believes members will be interested to know that he has a right-hand marginal block of four of the 200 milliemes value, with the number "1" in a circle. The overprint is the lithographed Type 1 but Zeheri (page 74) states that no control numbers appear on the sheets of the 50, both 100's, or 200 milliemes.

This, it would seem, is an error on the part of the cataloguer as the 200 milliemes control is listed in all previous seven editions. Another point of interest lies in the fact that the first four editions list controls for the other high values with Type 1 overprint - later editions state they do not exist.

Hotel Postmarks

We have been advised of a new late date for the Savoy Hotel, Assouan - 11.III.13. It is struck in blue.

Postal Markings

Ron Potter has shown us a copy of the 5 milliemes De la Rue of 1902 with part cancellation "? NETA" Type VIII - 1.6. The date is not clear but appears to be -. IV.08 (or 06 or 09), and unfortunately the arabic place name is not visible. The first letter (or second?) of the place name has a trace of a vertical line at the bottom, suggesting it might be an "I".

We have been unable to locate this place so far, can anyone help?

1872, 1874-5, and 1879, Provisionals.

Peter Feltus (E.S.C. No. 114) has most kindly presented to the Circle negatives of sheets of the 1872 10 para issue (both perforations), and all values of the 1874-5 Issue, and 1879 Provisionals.

Should any member wish to have good photographs of these sheets to full size they can be provided at the cost of 22/-s. each.

1872 and 1874 $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 5 piastres.

"Mac" MacArthur (E.S.C. No. 125) has done some homework on the differences (in addition to those already published by Peter Smith) between the 1872 and 1874 printings of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ piastre and 5 piastres; and has illustrated them on enlarged photographs which are now in the Record. Mac is at present studying a photograph of the 5 piastres sheet of 1874, after which he will be publishing his findings in the Quarterly Circular.

Literature.

At "Philympia" Jean Boulad d'Humieres (E.S.C. No. 16) very kindly handed over to the Circle Nos. 1 and 3 of "Journal de la Timbrologie Egyptienne" (in French) which were published in Alexandria on the 1st June and the 1st August 1894, respectively. Also No. 1 of "Le Courier Philatelique" (in French and English) published in Cairo in November 1922.

These originals are most welcome additions to the Record and it would be greatly appreciated if someone can provide the missing No. 2 of the "Journal".

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THE EGYPTIAN SECTION AT "PHILYMPIA 1970"

by

Prof. P.A.S. Smith, F.R.P.S.L.,

E.S.C. No. 74.

The exhibits of Egyptian stamps and covers at Philympia were numerous, varied, and strong, and gave much pleasure to those specialists fortunate enough to be able to attend. These notes are intended to record a selection of the more unusual items on view.

The comprehensive collection of Mr. Antonini was awarded a silver-gilt medal. In eight frames, it covered classic Egyptian philately from the Napoleonic Post onwards. There were no less than seven Napoleonic covers, including Damiette, Beni Souef, Siouth, Bilbeis (manuscript marking), and Armee de la Mediterranee.

The First Issue was represented by the startling and unique unused blocks of four of the 5 and 10 piastre values, which created excitement when they were sold at the auction of the Abbott collection not long ago. A charming item was a small cover containing a printed invitation card, franked properly at the 10 para rate, and postmarked on the first day of issue - 1 GEN 66.

The Second and Third Issues were both represented by the official postal notices announcing their advent. The bisected 10 para of 1869 was shown used on a copy of the newspaper "La Trombetta" on January 5th 1872 (most of the few genuine examples of this bisect appear on "La Trombetta"). There were two quite interesting Second-issue covers. One was franked with a single copy of the 5 piaster, cancelled with a forged Type c.d.s. of Alexandria, recognizable by several features, most easily by the workshift index which in the forgery is shown as 11T with sloping numerals (Jean Boulad d'Humieres told me he has prepared an article on this and some related postmark forgeries). The other cover was franked with the 20 para and 2 and 5 piaster of the Second Issue - a spectacular combination - genuinely used to Leipzig in 1869.

The Third Issue section included an example of the very rare 2½ piaster 1872 perf. 13¼. This stamp is a major rarity and certainly the rarest normal stamp of Egypt. It is in the unusual pale violet shade characteristic of this stamp. Along with it were shown four other values, the 5 para, 20 para, 1 and 2 piasters, all perf. 13¼, and all in more or less unusually pale shades. These items are controversial. Some

specialists hold them all to be from a special printing which includes all examples of the 2½ piaster perf. 13¼. Others believe them to be from sheets (or portions of sheets) that were insufficiently inked. Whatever the explanation, they are rarely seen. One cannot leave the Third Issue without mentioning that a mint pair of the 5 piaster perf. 13¼ and a used pair perf. 12½ x 13¼ were shown (blocks of these stamps are unknown).

The 1879 provisionals were shown on small, neat covers bearing forged Cairo cancellations in Type V. This particular postmark forgery is most quickly recognised by the break in the circle beneath "C" of "CAIRO"; it has been used widely to produce all manner of fakes, including bisects of Second Issue stamps. It is most often seen adorning copies of the 1867 1 piaster printer's waste (imperforate, printed on both sides). On the other hand, genuine covers bearing these provisionals are extremely rare, and not a single example of either paying the rate for which they were intended (newspapers and greeting cards) was shown in any of the exhibits.

Two covers with Suez Canal Company stamps were shown. One of them was franked with four copies of the 5c., and the other with a 20c. and 40c. - a remarkable triple rate. Both covers had manuscript cancellations. A closely related item was a cover bearing the 20 para, 1 and 2 piasters of the Second Issue, cancelled with the "Canal de Suez/ Chantier VI" c.d.s. dated 21 Mai 69, addressed to Italy, and showing the cursive "FRANCA" handstamp to indicate carriage prepaid under the Austro-Egyptian Postal Convention.

The used abroad section contained many remarkable covers, such as one franked with a 5 piaster Second Issue cancelled at Smyrna on a registered letter to Constantinople. An old friend was the lovely cover with a pair of the 20 para Second Issue cancelled by the intaglio seal of Dardanelles (Chanak-Kile) in blue, once in the Byam collection. It was nicely matched with a cover dated 7 March 1872 bearing 1872 5 para strip of four and a 20 para lithograph, cancelled by the Type II c.d.s. of Dardanelli. A Galipoli cover dated 5 Ott. 76 was shown, and a cover franked by a 2 piaster Second Issue cancelled at Cavala (26 MAG 1871), formerly in the Smith and Kuyas collections. An early cover from the Egyptian Office at Chios was a fascinating item - the stamp is cancelled by the intaglio seal (very rare), and the letter itself appears to be dated 30 XII 1867. The office at Chios is supposed not to have been opened until 1869, along with the offices along the Syrian and Thessalian coasts. The backstamp on the cover was not visible. Perhaps Mr. Antonini will help us by re-examining this cover to confirm that the year date actually is 1867, rather than 1869. Other unusual covers from the extra-territorial offices included LATAKIA (14 Sett 1871), RODI (6 LUG 79), and LAGOS (3 MAR 1872). The Rodi cover is extraordinary, inasmuch as it is franked by a pair of the 20 para 1872, at a date over three months after the Third Issue was superseded by the Fourth Issue. Finally, the lovely

cover from Gedda, franked by a 2 and a 5 piasters of 1867, should be mentioned. It would be interesting to know if this is the same cover that was in the "Alexandria" Levant collection sold by auction in Basel last year, and before that was once offered in the Shanahan auctions.

The Antonini exhibit contained a wonderful array of the Foreign Offices in Egypt, including no less than four covers of the Russian Post Office at Alexandria! Three of these bore Russian Levant stamps; and one was stampless, and originated at Aleppo, passing through the Russian and the French Post Offices at Alexandria on its way to Marseilles. Almost as rare, four covers bearing Sardinian stamps used in Egypt were shown. One of them carried the exceptionally rare boxed marking "Piroscafi Postali Inglesi". There were mixed-franking covers in profusion, including Egypt plus Greece, Egypt plus Austria, Egypt plus Great Britain, and a spectacular Egypt plus Italy cover. This cover is the only known example of the 10 piaster First Issue on cover. The Egyptian stamps (2 x 1 piaster and 10 piaster) were cancelled in red at Alexandria, August 18th 1866. The Italian stamps were the 2 lira (three copies!) and the 60c. (two copies), cancelled at the Italian Post Office at Alexandria. Why was it necessary to have mixed franking on a cover originating at Alexandria? Normally, such a cover would have been taken directly to the Italian Post Office. This is the cover mentioned by Dr. Byam in his notes of Mme. Kuyas at Sicilia in 1959.

The aim of the Antonini exhibit appeared to have been to show every classis Egyptian stamp in a block of four and on cover; it came very close to this goal. Even the lithographed 20 para of 1872 was shown in a block. With such a rich display it is reasonable to wonder why it was not given a higher award. Did the judges perhaps not recognise the true rarity of some of the items? Or did they recognise the several forged covers, and therefore lower the award?

The Khouzam exhibit, four frames, was devoted to the Posta Europea. It was undoubtedly the most comprehensive exhibit of this part of Egyptian philately that has ever been presented at an International Exhibition. It began with three covers showing the excessively rare Type I cachet of Alexandria. One of these was a receiving backstamp on a cover from Cairo, bearing Type I of Cairo dated 22/2/48; and one was on an incoming letter from Paris to Cairo, dated September 1847. Another rarity was a cover from Atfe bearing its cachet in Type III (16th August 1864). The rare "Per Consegna" markings were shown in all their varieties. Some postal documents of great interest (and rarity) were shown: a bill of account from the Posta Europea to the Italian Consulate, registration receipts, and Advice forms. Finally, the pre-stamp Government Post that succeeded the Posta Europea in 1865 was represented - of particular interest was a fragment bearing the Government frank of Cairo, dated August 11th 1865, and showing the boxed "RACCOMANDATE" marking.

The entry of Rudy Jeidel, six frames, covered the most comprehensive time span, starting with covers of the Venetian Post in the 15th century and continuing to the King Fuad period. There were eight Waghorn covers, including a COSSEIR, and two covers showing the oval cachet of the EGYPTIAN TRANSIT CO., SUEZ. The most striking item from the showing of the First Issue was a cover from Cairo to Alexandria franked with a strip of three of the 20 para. There was, of couse, no such rate, and the cover should have had 2 piastres in postage; it was accordingly handstamped "AFFRANCATURA INSUFFICIENTE and $2\frac{1}{2}$ (double the proper rate equals 4 piastres, less $1\frac{1}{2}$ for the stamps makes $2\frac{1}{2}$ piastres). There was also a nice cover franked with the bisected 2 piastres used at Cairo on July 22nd, 1867.

The 1867 Issue was represented by a remarkable block of 16 of the 10 para, in which one stamp ($\neq$ 4) showed the variety "extra Waw" in the lower panel, in the early state. There were also both mint and used blocks of the 5 piastre, as well as a vertical strip of three!

There was a wonderful lot of essays, including Penasson essays in blocks, many National Bank Note Co. essays, the 1879 provisional overprint essay in red, etc.. The 1879 De la Rue stamps were shown in imperforate bottom marginal pairs (seven values, including 10 para violet and lilac rose) from the sample sheets sent to Egypt by the printers. Of special interest was a group of proofs of the 1924 King Fuad £E1. There was shown an imperforate block with center in purple, another with center in ingigo-violet (the issued colour), and a single with center in red-violet. The Zeheri catalogue lists only one proof colour besides the issued colour. Other examples of these two distinct color trials are known, and the listing will have to be revised.

Among the covers, special mention should be given to a Marc Pourpe flight cover, a superb example of the Government Post frank for ZIFTA & MITG. dated 16 AGOS. 65, and <u>two</u> covers from the French Post Office at Suez showing the 5105 cancellation. Covers from this office are extremely elusive, as is attested to by the fact that none is described in the catalog of the Byam collection.

The Jeidel exhibit gained a silver-gilt award.

The exhibit of John Gilbert, eight frames, was given the highest award in the Egyptian section, a gold. It showed strength in a sustained manner from the prestamp period right up to the 1930's. Particularly appealing was a cover sent from Cairo on December 25th 1849, via the British Post Office at Alexandria, and showing the rare oval forwarding cachet "Forwarded by/British Hotel/ Cairo".

The First Issue was well represented, and included a lovely

cover with the 1 piastre cancelled at Cairo in red dated 20th August 1866. A striking item from the showing of the Second Issue was a bottom marginal block of sixteen (8 x 2) of the 5 para; pieces of this issue showing sheet margins are excessively rare! The Third Issue was splendidly represented, and included a remarkable study of the 20 para of 1872 with many matched pairs, litho and typo, an exceptional lithographed block of four ex Abbott, a block of six with sheet margins from the top right corner of the sheet, and examples of the famous "Gilbert retouch" and "retouched P". This variety now appears more likely to have been caused by a finger-touch on the unhardened lithographic image on the stone, an explanation that in no way diminishes its great interest and significance, nor its historical role as one of the more persuasive clues that some of these stamps were printed by lithography.

The Third Issue section also included an example of the very rare lithographed essay in black for the 1 piastre, by Penasson, and a block of six of the 1 piaster. Another exceptional item was a block of eight, the second largest known, of the 20 para of 1874-5 perforated 12½ (even the Palace collection contained only a block of four).

Among later issues, there was a showing of the watermark varieties on the De la Rue stamps. This important aspect of Egyptian Philately is unjustifiably neglected, probably because the two types of the crescent and star watermark are not described in the Zeheri catalog.

The Army Post section included the artist's drawing for the first British Forces stamp; and a color trial for the Jubilee commemorative in the issued colour but without overprint, in an imperforate block of twelve. One of the few known covers franked by the 3 milliemes Farouk Army Post stamp was also shown.

The Postal History section of the Gilbert exhibit was full of special interest. There were two covers sent to Dr. Neilson of the Canadian Voyageurs contingent with the 1884 campaign to relieve General Gordon, and a postal card (20 para rose-red) mailed from Wadi Halfa by a member of the Voyageurs dated at Gemi, No.21, 84. However, the extra-territorial post offices were the most spectacular. Outstanding was the incredible display of no less than three examples of the IAFFA postmark, two of them on the 1 piastre Second Issue, the other on a 2 piastre 1872. There was a lovely cover from the Egyptian office at Galipoli, sent to Scio (Chios) on 26 April 1877, and franked by a 1 piastre and two 10 para stamps. The unique document bearing the only known example of the Egyptian date stamp of Zeila, formerly in the Byam collection, was another outstanding piece.

The exhibits of Gino Piperno (early postage due issues) and John Hobbs (British Forces in Egypt), each two frames, are difficult to

describe adequately, for each constituted a whole, and had to be seen in its entirety to be appreciated. These exhibits held their own without the benefit of an array of spectacular individual gems - they were the fruit of diligent searching and study.

The exhibit of Sudan entered under the pseudonym "Supremo" must be described here, for it was rich in examples of the Egyptian Territorial Post Offices in the Sudan. There were several covers each from Wadi Halfa and Suakin, but these are not so rare. However, General Gordon's last letter from Khartoum was shown (ex Byam), and an earlier cover from Gordon, posted at Khartoum but written at M'rooli in Uganda, franked with 2 and 2½ piastres stamps of the Third Issue cancelled with Type V-5, dated August 30th 1876. An 1884 cover from Khartoum, cancelled with Type VIII and franked with the 1 piastre rose, was also shown. Other Khartoum material included a number of stamps and a cover with cancellations that several knowledgeable viewers believed to be forgeries of the Type VIII cancellation: particularly suspicious was the fact that this cancellation appeared on the 10 para green, dated 14 DE 84. This stamp was not issued until December 15th in Egypt proper, and it is difficult to believe that supplies could have reached Khartoum, far distant from Egypt and under siege as well, in time to be put in use early. One more Khartoum cover should be mentioned. It was addressed to Cairo and franked by a 2 piastres 1872 stamp, cancelled with the double-ring Type IV-4 date stamp. Strangely, the cover itself bears a strike of the type V-5 date stamp of Khartoum, dated July 5th 1874. The reason for the use of the two date stamps is not clear.

The type V-5 Italian-Arabic cancellations were shown from each of the Sudanese offices that used them: Wadi Halfe, Dongola, Barbar, Hartum, and Kassala. All, of course, are rare, but the first two exceptionally so. An example from Dongola was shown on cover, franked with a block of the 10 para violet, and dated November 19th 1881.

The rare intaglio seal postmarks were shown from Massawa, Suakin, and Gedaref; and the equally rare Type II date stamp of Suakin was shown with a date that appeared to be January 21st 1869 - exceptionally early!

Although it does not command the interest of the Sudanese offices previously mentioned here, perhaps because it did not open until late and thus never used any of the classic issues, Tokar is nevertheless an extremely difficult cancellation to find. Many otherwise comprehensive collections of Egypt Used Abroad lack it. It was, therefore, especially nice to see three examples in the "Supremo" exhibit. One was on a 5 milliemes rose, dated IX 95; and two were on the 1 piastre blue, dated 23 I -5 and 16 IX 95. Unfortunately, none was a complete strike, and none showed the Arabic part of the postmark.

---oOo---

Professor P.A.S. Smith's display at "Philympia 1970"

by

J.H.E. Gilbert, F.R.P.S.L.,

E.S.C. No. 50

This outstanding display, in three frames, comprising the Consular and extra-Territorial Post Offices of Egypt caused considerable interest and admiration, not only for all the research work which had been put into this exhibit, but also for the rarity and condition of some really fine covers and stamps.

One of the outstanding covers was from Gedda dated 20th August 1867, to Suez, with triple rate. This cover was franked by a 2 piastres adhesive of the First Issue together with a 1 piastre of the Second Issue. This could only have occurred during the month of August 1867 and it must be of extreme rarity - to have the First and Second Issue stamps on one cover.

Another cover which attracted considerable attention was carried from Chios to Constantinople, dated 26th January 1879. This cover was franked with a block of four of the 1879 Provisional Issue, 2½ piastres surcharged 10 paras. These provisionals were not distributed widely and saw little use during their three months life outside the office of Cairo and Alexandria.

A cover from Bairout to Alexandretta by Egyptian steamer, thence overland to Aleppo, was carried a week before the official date of the opening of the Egyptian Office in Bairout, which accounts for the lack of Egyptian Office date stamps. It has two intaglio seal markings of BAIROUT and ISKANDERUR, and both seals, in Arabic, read "Khedivial Egyptian Post Office" and are the only ones so far recorded. The cover is franked with a 1 piastre of the Second Issue and two Turkish adhesives.

Another striking cover was sent from Canada in 1884, to Cairo, addressed to Surgeon Major Neilson of the Canadian Voyageurs Contingent, who were taking part in the General Gordon Relief Expedition under Lord Wolseley. It was forwarded on from Cairo to Wadi Halfa and then on to Gemi. It received a pair of 10 para Postage Due stamps at Cairo and a 20 para Postage Due at Wadi Halfa, and is the most attractive cover yet seen from this Expedition.

There was a fine selection of adhesives, with clear cancellations, many on covers, and also Interpostals, from the following Egyptian Offices:

Constantinopoli, Smirne, Dardanelli (which included the intaglio seal marking "Chanaki-Kili", Rodi, Gedda (with a 2 piastre bisect First Issue dated 13th April 1875), Galipoli (with cover franked 1 piastre Second Issue cancelled with intaglio seal marking), Volos (cover dated 16 MAG 1871 to Constantinople), Salonicchi, Lagos, Leros, Tenedos, Cavalla, Mytiline, Mersina, Alexandretta, Tripoli, Iaffa, and Latakia.

Without question one of the finest displays of Egypt Used Abroad seen in London - and which was quietly enjoyed and appreciated by so many knowledgeable Egypt specialists from all over the World.

The Display by John Firebrace, at "Philympia"

The catalogue description of this display read as follows:-

BRITISH AFRICA - EGYPT AND SUDAN SOLDIER'S MAIL 1882-98:

"A collection of the letters written by, and to, soldiers and sailors during the early years of the British Army of Occupation of Egypt. Campaigns include the 1882 Campaign, the Nile Expedition, Suakim Expedition, and the 1897-98 Nile Expedition."

This does less than justice to this very fine display in three frames, and which received a Silver Award, designed to illustrate the human side as much as the postal. The various personnel concerned were given details of their campaigns and medals, etc., and the ranks they finished up with - unknown names as well as the famous. John's remarks that the chaps matter most is relevant since had there been no chaps there would have been no mail!

C. W. Minett.

The Display by E.A. Kehr (U.S.A.) at "Philympia"

This entry was under the Section "AIRMAILS", and also had the distinction of receiving a Silver Award and comprised, very briefly, the following:-

Pioneer Airmails - a selection from a specialized collection including examples of Marc Pourpe (which included a cover flown on the Southern outward route from Cairo to Khartoum of which only two are recorded by the Circle), the Heliopolis meeting, Strike and Emergency Mail flights (including two E.E.F. covers Type I), and Royal Air Force Survey.

Among the adhesives were full sheets of the 1931 Zeppelin overprints (50 milliemes and 100 milliemes surcharges), and a study of the S.A.I.D.E. provisional overprints.

A truely remarkable three frames.

Details of the Display of Air Mails by J.H.E. Gilbert, at "Philympia"

This display, in five frames, received a Large Silver Award with congratulations of the Jury for research. The following highlights are of especial interest:-

1870 Ballon Monte Cover, sent from Paris to Cairo - Items connected with the 1910 Heliopolis Aviation Meeting including postcard with the original vignette, Programme and Poster - 1914 Marc Pourpe cover flown on the Southern outward route, another flown part of the return Northern route, and also a fragment of another cover - Cover flown by Ross Smith 1918 Cairo to Delhi - three covers flown on the 1919 flight from Great Britain to India (one flown all the way, another picked up at Baghdad, and the other at Basrah). A series of six covers carried in 1919 between Baghdad and Cairo - cover with letter enclosed carried by Ross Smith from the United Kingdom via Egypt to Austria in 1919 on his epoch making flight- three covers with the previously unrecorded "CIVIL POSTS - AERIAL - IRAQ" of 1915 and 1920 - and three 1922/23 flown Baghdad-Cairo with special cachets.

The third frame was devoted to the 1919 E.E.F. Emergency Air Mail Service carried out by the Royal Air Force during the time of the general strike in Egypt, and displayed mail flown in Egypt from the Sudan and to Palestine. The four types of cachet "AERIAL POST E.E.F." were represented.

Various Pioneer Flights and First Flight Covers included the flight to Kano and back in 1925 - to Khartoum and back in 1926 - to Cape Town and back in 1926. Cover from India in 1927 flown with Sir Samuel Hoare (Air Minister). Lord Carbery's flight to Egypt and East Africa. The Zeppelin flights of 1929 and 1931, and various first flight covers.

The last frame included more Pioneer and first flights as Hejaz, Germany, Australia, and Cyprus. The 1938 Royal Air Force Formation Flight

"PHILYMPIA" AWARDS GAINED BY OUR MEMBERS

We congratulate the following members of the Circle whose exhibits at "Philympia" gained Awards:-

E.S.C. No. 50	J.H.E. Gilbert	--	Gold Medal (Egypt)
		--	Large Silver (Egypt Air-Mails) and with the congratulations of the Jury on research.
127	R. Jeidel	--	Vermeil (Egypt)
		--	Large Silver (Liechtenstein)
71	J. Firebrace	--	Silver (Egypt and Sudan Soldiers Mail 1882-98)
39	E. A. Kehr	--	Silver (Egypt Air-Mails)
74	P.A.S. Smith	--	Silver (Egypt)
	J. Hobbs	--	Bronze (Forces Postal Concession)
144	G. B. Garrett	--	Silver (Philatelic Literature "Egyptian Topics")

Our congratulations also to Mrs. Jeidel (South Africa) who gained no less than three awards: Large Silver (Holy Land), Large Silver (Belgian Congo), and a Silver (Monaco);
and to the Editors of companion magazines with whom your Editor exchanges numbers as they are published: Forces Postal History Society, and the Postal History Society both of whom gained Silver Awards in the Philatelic Literature Section.

Other Awards made for exhibits of Egypt included Vermeil to Emile Antonini of Switzerland, Large Silver to Dr. G. Khouzam of Italy, and a Silver to A. G. Piperno of Italy.

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Details of the Display of Air-Mails by J.H.E. Gilbert (continued)

to Australia. The selection of adhesives included the First Air Stamp of Egypt in 1926, and blocks of the Graf Zeppelin overprints of 1931. Also numerous varieties on the Air Stamps of 1933.

Airgraph letters of 1941, and part of an Airgraph Film, completed this most interesting and historical "Air Display".

---oOo---

"PHILYMPIA 1970"

FROM A STEWARD'S ANGLE.

by

George Chew.

So many people visit Exhibitions and hardly ever give a thought to the enormous amount of really hard work that has to be done before the Big Day of Opening. Particularly do we find this to be the case with a Philatelic Exhibition.

There is al old saying "that the on-looker sees most of the game" and a Steward is surely a "looker-on" in all senses. At "Philympia" there were 383 Stewards (not including casual helpers) who offered their services voluntarily, 291 of these doing duty during the opening days of the Exhibition. This was a very great compliment to the Organisers and the Chief Steward Mr. E. F. Gee.

Those of us who spent the whole period at Olympia know full well the vast amount of work done by him and his staff of two in that tiny office by the entrance, from 9 a.m. Tuesday September 15th right up to 2.30 a.m. Sunday September 27th - but even we did not see what was done by the Stewards Committee during the months before then!

On Tuesday September 15th Stewards in teams of three began the mounting with a Supervisor over six teams. Things were a bit chaotic at the start with the Security gang (more volunteers!) breathing down our necks all the time. After lunch we got into our stride and things went more smoothly, work progressed but we were still behind schedule when we left off for the night. Wednesday and Thursday were much the same. Thursday night was the dead-line for completion and at 2.15 a.m. Friday when work ceased for the night there were still 72 frames to be completed. These were duly finished on Friday morning.

When we arrived on Friday a transformation had taken place. It really looked like an Exhibition after all! I was in the fortunate position of being attached to the Jury with a team of fourteen Stewards to assist members of the Jury in any way possible - mainly in keeping the public clear of any section being judged. This was for four days and I think I can say my team did their job, and everything that was asked of them.

From the word "GO" on Friday morning there were Stewards placed at all vantage points on all Floors - covering the whole of the Exhibition area. Their job was to help the public and at the same time keep an eye on exhibits as a sort of reserve Security. There was one spot that was a

continual source of concern - the Royal Exhibit. One Steward on that point was considered ample at the start, but the crowd were soon scrambling and it was found necessary to rope off the whole exhibit, and to put Stewards on it to control the queue which formed as a result.

It appeared an extraordinary thing to me that so many people, collectors and dealers and friends, were willing to give so much of their time, and pay their own expenses, for something from which they were not going to derive any profit except that of a very wonderful experience.

Finally Saturday evening arrived. The people who had tried to see so much in so short a time began to leave - stand-holders began to pack up and clear their stands. A small army made their way to what had been the Jury Room to report for dismounting. They were duly briefed and given their Security Badges (no one without one of these badges being allowed to remain on the premises) and at 7.p.m. worked commenced. In an amazing five hours the whole of the Exhibits were demounted and on the way to the "Bin Room" for checking. This was completed by 2.15 a.m. on the Sunday morning and we could at last go home with a feeling that another "International" was over and a big job had been done well by all concerned.

Some no doubt will now wait for 1980; as I did, in 1960, for this one!

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(The above article is an "invited one" - George Chew being one of the hundreds of volunteer helpers at the Exhibition, and one who put in as much time as anybody during the preparatory days of the Exhibition and the actual open days. Thank you, George, for your 'modest' notes and we publish as a small tribute to all who did so much, and so willingly, at their own expense. Editor.)

---oOo---

IN MEMORIUM

It is with deep regret we learn of the death of Col. Richard Stead of Newton-by-Frodsham, Egypt Study Circle Member Number 12.

Our sympathy is extended to his widow, and family.

---oOo---

"PHILYMPIA 1970"

by

R.A.G. Potter

E.S.C. No. 86

This will probably be read long after Philympia 1970 is over - but certainly not forgotten - and may well be a warning to anyone remotely considering getting mixed up with ..... 1980??

I found myself for some unaccountable reason involved with the somewhat high-sounding "Security Co-ordinators Committee" and as a result on duty (with some very happy interludes off) virtually from the start (3 days before opening) to the finish (2.30 a.m. Sunday following the closing day).

The most arduous part of the job, surprisingly, was not so much during the actual opening times of the Exhibition, as during the preparation for it. Tuesday was all too easy - a completely empty hall, no lights even, no nothing except tea (or, preferably, beer) and eats. The proposed start was delayed by some hours and there was really little sign of any progress even by evening! Wednesday appeared to be all rush and tumble - paint, distemper, wires, trolleys, vans - and the ever present danger of moving or standing still as in either case you were in somebody's way!

Although mounting progressed, much faster the third day than the first, consequently spreading the area to be covered by security, there was still little sign by the Thursday morning that an International Stamp Exhibition (or indeed an Exhibition of any kind) could possibly be opened by 11 a.m. on the Friday. There was much flurry and bustle, inevitably, and our work was not eased by the unwillingness of many of the unknown personnel (drivers, unloaders, painters, carpenters, electricians, etc.etc.) to wear their security badges. Indeed there were numerous occasions when work might well have ceased completely had not tact prevailed!

After three days of essential covering of the four floors it was a relief to all of us when we found the escalators working on the morning of the opening day. We had by that time learnt just how tiring it can be walking (or running) up and down a stationary escalator (escalators in this case) can be.

Dealers material had been drifting in the Thursday, and the rest came in Friday morning. The mounting teams worked on the Exhibits through the night Thursday, and thus only were they able to catch up on their planned schedule.

It was all the usual drill! Arrival on the Friday morning showed us that, after all, there would be an Exhibition - and all would be ready 10 minutes after the opening! and without loss!

The Exhibition, then, opened - and security now took a far different turn. We found ourselves responsible for some £12½ million worth of material, as a rough estimate - and the publicity was meant to ensure that most people (which inevitably meant also the rogues) knew about it.

Let us not say too much about the rest, except that it was an illuminating and very worth while experience. We had, I think, all had enough by the time the doors had been locked on the final day, and the demounting completed. It was all grand, especially when our Chairman reminded us that we had indeed succeeded in our prime purpose and as far as our responsibility was concerned "nothing had been stolen, and nothing had been lost". Can we be blamed for being partly responsible for the fact that no less than 240 bottles of beer and 180 sandwiches were eaten around midnight of the final Saturday?

A last gentle and general thought - the cheerfulness of all the so willing helpers throughout had to be seen to be believed, it was all too evident that the vast amount of organisation and duties were carried out by unpaid volunteers!

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CORRIGENDA

Volume VII No. 2 Whole Number 74 Page 29

REPORT OF THE 129th MEETING OF THE CIRCLE

For 26th July 1970 please read: 27th June 1970.

and please, also, accept the Editor's apologies!

---oOo---

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

It is always great to hear from members, and especially when as a result of queries raised in the Quarterly Circular - many thanks to Lars Alund for the following:-

"Having studied Mr. Seymour Blomfield's Addenda Sheet No. 5 on page 14 of QC Whole No. 73 (Vol. VII No.1) may I venture a guess about postmark No. GS - 22.5?

The illustration gives the incomplete text 'INI.....AUDIT' at top. As I cannot make anything out of this text I wonder if the third letter really is an 'I'. Perhaps it might be a 'T', weak at the top? In that case the text might mean "Internal Audit" or, abbreviated "INTERN.AUDIT", being in such case a cancellation of the audit department of the G.P.O..

Of the other newly discovered postmarks on Addenda Sheet No. 5 I can confirm the Cas. - 13.2. I have for some time had a single copy of this one, also from Cairo and with the rather blurred date of (probably) "21.SE.24".

Concerning the postmark No. 10 I presume that this one was used by the Information Office of the Head Post Office of Alexandria, where the public could get information about postal transports, fees, etc.. Of this type I have two complete strikes in my collection, both from Alexandria and with the date "18.MA.40 9-10AM".

Lars Alund (E.S.C. No. 105), Sweden.

--oOo--

Our Chairman has received, also, a number of letters from members regarding 'Philympia 1970' and especially our Circle meeting on the Sunday - it is appropriate that they should be recorded in this "Exhibition" Number of the Quarterly Circular :-

Our President, Lt. Col. Danson writes:

> "..... Have just received a letter with an awful lot of signatures on it. A very kindly thought by the E.S.C. members and others, and I appreciate it very much."

Ernie Kehr (E.S.C. No. 39):-

> "..... here is the print of that picture taken that nice Sunday. Looking at it, one realizes how many people were actually there. The only other meeting (outside of Cairo before the days of President Nasser) I can recall of such magnitude was that I arranged for our membership during the 1947 International here (New York) when among others we had Dr. Byam, Chaftar, Hammam, and Boulad". .....

Gabriel Boulad (E.S.C. No. 66) :-

"Cher et Illustre Président John Gilbert.

J'ai été infiniment touché des souhaits que vous avez bien voulu m'addresser en date du 20 septembre dernier à l'occasion de la "Philympia" de Londres.

Je suis heureux de penser qu'un si grand nombre de philatélistes éminents ont pu se trouver réunis pour la circonstance et ont bien voulu penser à moi.

Je suis assuré que tous avancent dans la science philatélique, chacun selon sa spécialité. Je conserve fidèlement leur souvenir à tous.

Depuis l'epoque ou j'ai été inscrit comme membre de l'"Egypt Study Circle" en l'année 1928 ,it ne s'est pas passé un seul jour où je n'aie pensé à la Société et a chacun de ses membres.

J'entrerai dans deux mois dans mes quatre-vingt-dix ans à la date du 4 décembre prochain. Je suis né en effet à Méhalla-el-Kobra, dans la Basse-Egypte, le 4 décembre 1881. Je souhaite du fond du coeur à chacun de vous d'atteindre un pareil âge en bonne santé.

J'aimerais vous remercier individuellement de votre aimable geste. C'est pourquoi je serais très obligé à M. Gilbert s'il voulait bien me communiquer vos noms et addresses, en précisant pour chacun sa spécialité philatelique.

Avec mes remerciements à vous, Cher Président Gilbert, et mes meilleurs voeux à tous."

.....

Ahmed Mazloum (E.S.C. No. 70) :-

"..... has given me your kind souvenir of the special meeting held on September 20th of the Egypt Study Circle during the "Philympia" Stamp Exhibition in London, signed by all the members present. It was a very kind gesture from you all and I much appreciate it and regret I was not with you, please convey my sincere thanks to all of them."

Peter Smith (E.S.C. No. 74) :-

"The meeting of the Circle was a fine thing, but with so many attending, it could hardly have been other than what it was - a social gathering. I have never been together with so many Egypt specialists - what a treat!"

Rudi Jeidel (E.S.C. No. 127) :-

"The meeting of the Egypt Study Circle was definitely one of the highlights, not so much philatelically but in regard to human relations - the international crowd and the warm, friendly spirit and the feeling of being one with so many good friends."

The ladies have been particularly reticent in writing their views, it is good to be able to record a brief summing up from Mrs. Scheetz:-

"I did not attend the exhibition except for one day since I am not a stamp enthusiast.

However, I did enjoy meeting all the people of the Egypt Study Circle reception. It is always fun to meet the person who was only a name before."

Bill Scheetz (E.S.C. No. 110):-

"I knew "Philympia" would be huge, but it exceeded my expectations. I am glad I had so many days to attend, gave me a chance to make notes of the unusual items I saw, and to contact all the dealers for those items of special interest. It was so large, it was also most tiring. A strategic placing of chairs or lounges could have been beneficial and most welcome. There were some, true, but seldom could a vacant spot be observed - indicating more could have been used.

There was a good range of dealers, causing a strain on the pocketbook. The prices seemed high, much so, until one found a 'sleeper', or his philatelic knowledge paid off in locating a rarity.

Rarities seemed almost common, in some cases, when viewingseveral in adjoining exhibits -- until one realized they represented practically all known copies recorded!

While the stamps at the Circle meeting was the excuse for getting together, the highlight was really meeting so many people from so many different countries. Legendary people, to me, from the articles they had written, the knowledge they showed so willingly in "L'OP", the "QC", and the Philatelic Press around the World.

Many thanks are due those who organised it... a BIG THANKS from Carol and myself to all who did so much for us."

Mrs. W. C. Andrews :-

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE BETTER (?!) HALF (The exclamations are the author's, not mine - Editor)

How lucky we 'stamp widows' are to have husbands with such a stimulating yet relaxing hobby, and one which will be of such benefit when they retire - after all they could have chosen drink and/or women - perhaps no less expensive, certainly more tiring; but at least stamps keep them at home!

My impressions on being privileged to attend an E.S.C. meeting, and social, albeit as an extremely clueless consort, was of the Internationality of it - so many nationalities, all with a common interest must surely be unique. The friendliness of all those present made even an outsider like me feel as though I had known everyone there nearly all my life (No! I'm not saying how many years!). And what a surprise when it became apparent on introduction that the picture formed in the mind's eye of telephone voices and correspondents differed considerably from the concrete reality! I enjoyed it so much I probably won't be allowed to attend again if the occasion ever arises when the Circle produces another such Social gathering!

"Philympia" was something else again - although not a collector - a fact that must have been noticeable! I found much to interest me in my meanderings, and the lay-out of the exhibits gave maximum enjoyment to the vast numbers attending without any feeling of crush. The burning enthusiasm of collectors seemed to convey itself to those of us whose only interest is in the well-being of our ardent collector husbands.

For those of us whose spirits were willing but flesh weaker than we care to admit, there was adequate, comfortable resting space to gather second wind; and my own hobby of Aran knitting caused no little amusement to passers by. Next time I'll set us a stand in opposition, or self-defense!

AND a note from the Keeper of the Record:

"..... Recently Jean (Boulad d'Humieres) wrote to say how much he had enjoyed meeting us once again - a sentiment fully reciprocated, Jean".....

---oOo---

A Philatelic Index

of

Published Information on the Express Services and Stamps of Egypt

prepared by

The Keeper of the Record

A. "L'ORIENT PHILATELIQUE"

(In French except where otherwise noted).

Oct. 1929 (no. 2 p.10) Reference to change of colour to red and grey.

Jan. 1930 (3 p.11) Reference to compensation to Express Service employees.

(3 p.12) Permission to buy more than 25 stamps at one time.

July 1930 (5 p.13-4) Extension of services internally.
Green pillar boxes at tramway stations, etc..
Collection times.

Apr. 1931 (8 p.12-3) Danger of sending bank notes by Express.

Jan. 1932 (11 p.9) Commencement of Express Letter Service - 20/9/22 by motor-cyclists:
Ordinary correspondence and post-cards, 15 milliemes Tax. (Georges Khayat).

(11 p.10) Issue of first Express adhesive, 20 milliemes, in November 1926, and change of colour in 1929. (Georges Khayat).

(11 p.26) Extension to foreign countries from 1.1.32, 40 milliemes surcharge.
Insufficiently franked foreign mail to be sent by ordinary post.
Red etiquettes to be used on foreign mail.

(11 p.29) Special tax for express parcels from 1.11.31., 40 milliemes surcharge.

Apr. 1932 (12 p.6) Service extended to Russia and Austria, 40 mills. surcharge.
Express registered letters for abroad, 15 mills. surcharge on top of registration fee.
Extension to all countries and towns where express facilities exist.

July 1932 (13 p.16) Service to Austria commenced 1.1.33.

Apr. 1934 (20 p.6) U.P.U. extract reference inaugural date of 1.1.32.

Apr. 1938 (36 p.259) 20 mills. Controls A/28, A/30, A/31, A/32 and A/36 reported.

(36 p.262) Note regarding 1926 and 1929 issues. Illustrated. (Gabriel Boulad).

Mar. 1939 (40 p.458-9) "Postmen" cds's of Alexandria and Cairo on express letters of 1922 to 1938. (G. Boulad).

Sept. 1939 (43 p.582) 20 mills. Control A/39 reported. (Jean Boulad).

Jan.)-1940 (45 p.28) 20 mills. Controls A/28, A/30, A/31, A/32, Mar) A/36 and A/39 reported. (Jean Boulad).

Jan. 1941 (47 p.108) Internal rate increased from 15 mills. to 20 mil. with effect from 11.7.40, and foreign rate from 40 mills. to 50 mills. with effect from 15.8.40. (Jean Boulad).

Oct. 1944 (48 p.148) Internal rate increased from 20 mills. to 30 mills. w.e.f. 12.8.43. (Jean Boulad).

(48 p.149) 26 mills. Control A/42 issued 23.2.43. Illustrated. (Jean Boulad).

Jan. 1945 (49 p.160) 40 mills. Control A/43 issued 18.11.44. (But issued at Abdin Palace on 14.11.44). Illustrated. (Jean Boulad).

July 1945 (51 p.281) Express-Air Cairo-Alexandria, 2½ hours by Misr Airlines, w.e.f. 6.5.45. Illus. (J.Boulad).

Oct. 1945 (52 p.358) Numbers printed of 20 mills. (both colours) and 26 mills.

Apr. 1946 (54 p.461) Express-Air, extension internally w.e.f. 11.2.46. (Jean Boulad).

Oct. 1948 (64 p.461)Palestine overprinted, 40 mills. Control A/46. (Jean Boulad).

Jan. 1949 (65 p.7) Palestine overprinted. Reference to printing flaws. In English. (G.S. Thompson).

Jan. 1952 (77 p.306) 40 mills. Three constant varieties. in English. (Mrs. H. Fresco).

Apr. 1952 (78 p.353) King of Egypt and Sudan overprint. 40 mills. w.e.f. 16.1.52.

Jan. 1953 (81 p.30) King of Egypt and Sudan overprint. Partial double overprint on sheet of 50.

Oct. 1954 (88 p.466&8) "Cairo Postmen/Express Delivery" cds. Illustrated. (G. Boulad).

Apr. -July 1957 (97 p.550) "Cancelled" printed on reverse - quantities. In English. (George L. Lee).

Jan. -Apr. 1959 (100 p.738) Royal imperforate printings. In English. (George L. Lee).

Oct. 1964 -Jan.1965 (114 p.434) King of Egypt and Sudan overprint on thick paper. (G. Boulad).

B. "THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR"

July 1953 (IV-4 p.50-52) The Express Services and Stamps (Capt. L. Phillips).

June 1954 (IV-6 p.76-82) Additional Notes. (G.T. Houston).

Jan. 1955 (IV-8 p.104) Query regarding the number of panes printed. (G.T. Houston).

C. SALE CATALOGUES

Feb. 1954 (12th and 18th)
(H.R. HARMER Ltd. p.67-68. "The Palace Collections).
20 mills., both colours, sheets. Some with "CANCELLED" on back.

D. HANDBOOKS, etc..

---- Zeheri catalogues. Priced.

1928 "Egyptian Postal Guide" p.6-8. General Conditions.
p.110-1. Express parcel rates, inland and abroad. Stamps to be attached to Despatch Notes.
Appendix XIII. List of P.O.'s in 1928.

1934 "Les Postes en Egypte" (In French).
pp. 67, 74, 78 and 96. General references.
p.99. Method of delivery. List of P.O.'s.
Appendix. Chart of numbers carried internally from 1922 to 1932.

1935 (1st June) Postal Administration Annual Report for 1934.
p.25. Statistics for 1933 and 1934.

1936 (1st June) Postal Administration Annual Report for 1935.
Statistics for 1934 and 1935.

1939 "Egyptian Postal Guide" (In Arabic). List of Towns with Express Services. (31 P.O.'s).

1941 (April) "Gibbons Stamp Monthly". First Issue (clear and Fuzzy printings) and Second Issue. (D. McNeille).

1942 "The 20th Century Stamps of Egypt", Ernest A. Kehr.
p.44 First and Second Issues.

1946 "Note Historique" (In French) p.50. Brief notes on the service 1926 to 1946.

1946 "1re. Exposition Philatelique du Caire" (In French).
p.31. Display of Control Blocks: 20 mills. green A/25 (two) and 20 mills. red and grey A/28 (two) and A/31 (two). (Gabriel Boulad).
Complete sheet of 20 mills. green A/25. (Albert Ceysens).

1948 "Catalogue des Timbres d'Egypte" (In French and Arabic).
S. Albani and Y. Zeitoun. Published by United Trading Agencies, Alexandria.
p.75. Priced listing of all Issues.

1959 (1st Jan.) "Royal Imperforate Printings". by George L. Lee.
p.3. 20 mills. brown (error of colour), no control number.
p.21 20 mills. brown, 20 mills. red and grey, 26 mills. red and grey, 40 mills. brown and slate.
p.22 (facing). Illustration of 20 mills. green, 26 mills. and 40 mills. and showing "CANCELLED" on reverse.
p.23 (facing). Illustration of sheet of 20 mills. red and grey A/32.

1969 "Egyptian Topics" (July-Aug. Vol.1. No.5. p.76)
40 mills. The "Flying Jet" variety. (Ralph Tipper).

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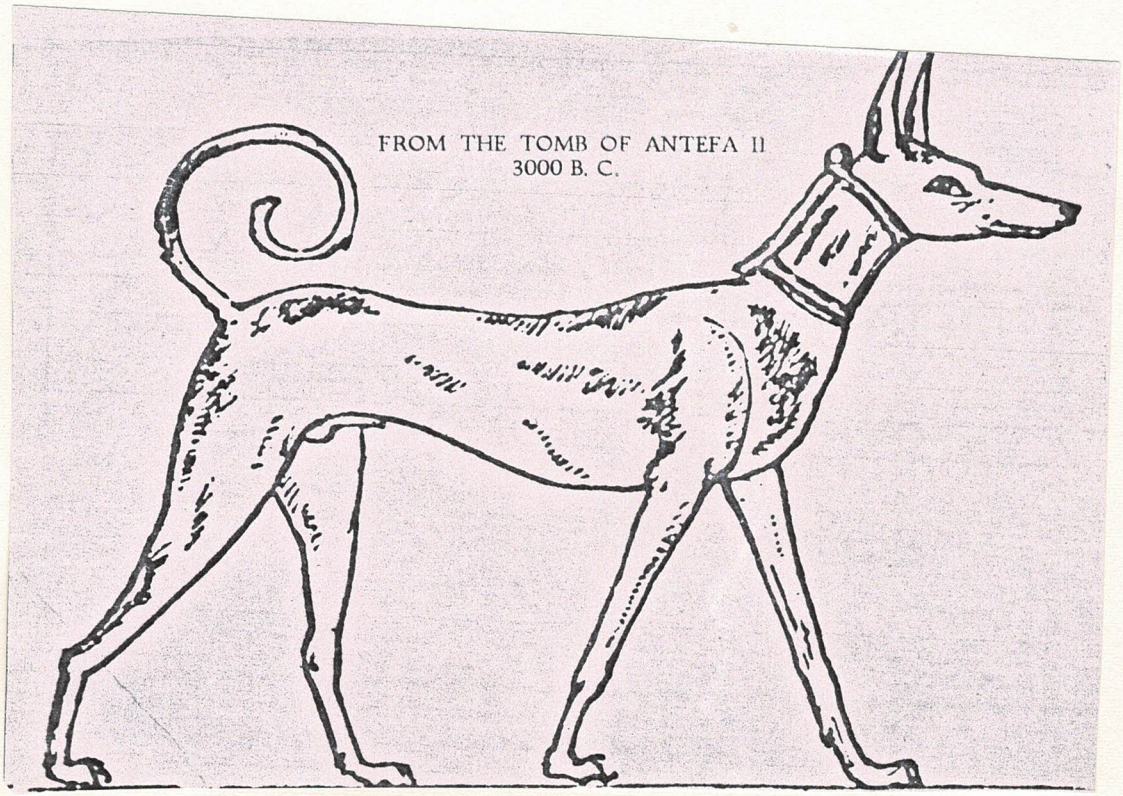
SIBUNA PHARAOH HOUNDS

The following is extracted from a leaflet published by the "Pharaoh Hound Club", and is here reproduced by kind permission of their Committee.



The Pharaoh Hound is recognised as the oldest known domesticated dog, his predecessor being the dog-like animal called the Canis Familaris Leineri. The antiquity of these Egyptian Hounds is proved by the many sculptured delineations and decorative friezes (many in colour) of the Egyptian Temples dating back to 4400 B.C..

These hounds were used for hunting by the Pharaohs and other Egyptians and there are many references to this in books on Ancient Egypt. Sir Gardner Wilkinson's book "The Egyptians in the time of the Pharaohs" refers to these dogs in a most interesting way: "They coursed with dogs which were taken to the ground in slips and loosed upon game as opportunity offered, no pains were spared to breed and train these hounds for this sport, some of which were even exported to Ethiopia. The Egyptians had many breeds of dogs, and such was their fondness of them

that an Egyptian was always accompanied by his dog, both in the house and on his walks".

Another interesting quotation comes from "Dogs, their History and Development", published by Ernest Benn and written by Ashe in 1927. "The Red long-tailed dog goes at night into the stalls of the hills, he is better than the long faced dog. He makes no delay in hunting, his face glows like a God and he delights to do his work". The dogs are also mentioned in the life of Tutankhamen and it has been said "In spite of his apparent delicate health, it was at this time he was taught to hunt hare, gazelle, ibex and antelope", but the young Prince much preferred running with his dogs or sitting quietly under the palace arbour playing senet or the serpent game with his companions. His interest in these dogs was proved by his representation of the God Anubis in the form of a dog, the beautiful model of the god Anubis is in the form of a Guard-dog found at the entrance to his tomb. (Hitherto the god Anubis was usually depicted as a man with a jackal's head).

One of the most remarkable facts about these hounds of today is that they have remained unchanged from those hounds depicted in the tombs. This can be seen from the sketch from the tomb of Antefa II dated 3000 B.C.. (See also the 10 millieme stamp of the 1967 Post Day Series, which shows items from Tutankhamen's tomb, this value depicting the God Anubis in the form of the seated dog - Editor).

The preservation of these hounds can be accredited to Malta where they are known to have existed for over 2000 years and where they have survived in their purest form as they are much revered and treasured by the Maltese farmers who guard and preserve the breed with jealous pride. In Malta they are bred for rabbit hunting and are known by the Maltese as "Kelb-tal-Fenek" which translated means "Rabbit-dog".

They were first imported into England in the early 1930's, however the breed disappeared in England until 1963 when a pair was imported from Malta, followed by eight more up to 1968. These were registered by the Kennel Club as "Pharaoh Hounds", being the recognised name for this breed as registered with the International Governing bodies, the Federation Cynologique International (F.C.I.) and the Union Internationale des Club de Lbvriers (U.I.C.L.).

The general appearance of the Pharaoh Hound gives a striking impression of elegance, power and speed; the outstanding feature being their large pricked ears, which are clear evidence of their acute alertness and intelligence, and their clean cut lines - so graceful and well balanced with a free easy movement. Being so intelligent they are easy to train and are the most affectionate and lovable characters, friendly and playful and particularly fond of children.

When one is closely connected with this breed one can understand why they won the affection and respect of the Pharaohs, and they were frequently depicted with their owners, sometimes lying at rest beside their Masters. When they died they were often embalmed and the family went into mourning.

At the present time there are approximately 75 Pharaoh Hounds registered in England and the numbers are increasing all the time. Interest in the Breed is keen in the U.S.A. and several have been exported.

In 1969 The Pharaoh Hound Club came into being, the Hon. Secretary being Mrs. Michael Dewey. Last year in November an informal gathering of Pharaoh Hound owners and their dogs was held at the home of the Chairman, Mrs. Ada, Block, and this created a great deal of interest. In addition to members of the Club, we were delighted to welcome interested people in other Breeds and several well known Judges were present too. The dogs were brought out on the lawn in pairs and particulars of the breeding of each pair was given and a great opportunity to "go over" the dogs was welcomed by all, and free discussion was enjoyed by all those present on the points of the Pharaoh Hound.

The Hon. Secretary will be only too pleased to send Standards, etc., to anyone interested in the Breed so do please get into touch with her if you would like to know more about the Pharaoh Hound.

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As several members of the Pharaoh Hound Club have shown interest in the stamp of Egypt depicting their joy - perhaps it would not be out of place for us Egypt "Stamp Collectors" to start collecting dogs!

I shall be only too pleased to arrange a contact with Mrs. Dewey should anyone indeed be interested further.

(Editor).

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