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BOOK REVIEW

John Firebrace

Nineteenth Century Wars in Egypt and the Sudan,

First published in 1997 by The Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund in conjunction with Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd. ISB 0 952717735, available from Allan Berry.....

The book contains over 200 pages, and the standard of illustrations both in greyscale and colour are of the highest standard.

I am sure that anyone interested in Postal/Social History of any area or period will find something of interest and will want this “*reference*” book in their library.

The Contents are clearly defined, the pagination is straightforward and there is an adequate Index, Bibliography and a Regimental Index.

A **Bibliography** is an important facet of any book and can be of great use to future students wishing to further their own research.

As one would expect from such an eminent Postal Historian, you immediately get the impression on first opening the pages that there is “*in store*” for the reader an abundance of intriguing facts and interesting items, you will not be disappointed.

How refreshing it is to see “*Handwritten*” pages from an actual exhibit, which had received one of the highest awards possible.

John Firebrace a renowned Postal Historian and a successful Exhibitor was one of the first people to obtain a **Large Gold Medal** for Postal History at a F.I.P. World Stamp Exhibition (Capex 1978).

There is a feast of Military covers from the various campaigns and even a few Naval Covers for collectors like myself, of special note was the letter from Horatio, First Viscount Nelson dated at Naples 6 December 1798. A Royal Naval Officers letter dated 17 July 1882 at Alexandria during the Arabi Rebellion 1882, and from Admiral Sir F B Seymour (HMS *Helion*) dated 31 October 1882, also Captain John Brackenburt (HMS *Thalia*) 17 October 1882, all from Alexandria, plus a letter from a Royal Marine (HMS *Alexandria*) dated 22 November 1882 posted at Port Said.

The only Seamens letter noted was one of the many covers from the **Michael Sullivan** correspondence whilst serving on HMS *Euryalus* at Suakin during the Saukin 1884 campaign dated 6 February 1884.

The three Covers (one from, and two to) the **Canadian Voyageurs** during the Nile Expedition 1884-1885 will prove to be of interest to most readers, as these are very rarely seen and are reminders of the involvement of British Empire Troops in far away places in the cause of "*Mother England*".

Likewise, my colleagues in Australia will find the 22 April 1885 Cover from W. Grant of the **New South Wales Contingent** serving in the Sudan, interesting. Incidentally, the *Maps* are clearly drawn and make a vast difference to the appreciation of the areas under discussion.

The **Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund and Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd.**, have to be commended in ensuring that this Collection was published and I am sure like me, any prospective Purchaser or Reader will find it more than interesting, and find it difficult to close the book, until page 218 has been reached.

A first class Postal/Social History Book highly recommended.

Gerald J. Elliott RDP