

Members' Comments On Previous Articles

Manchester Mystery - J.L./&Co. & J.L./&Co./Ss. Bulletin 307 & 308

Rosemary Smith

The full lots of 12DDF went to members who wrote to me. I have a large number of values left and I took these to the London meeting. I explained at the meeting that the whole of these perfins came from a source in Egypt and as the most probable user was Julius Liepman of Manchester (See New Identities Page 156 Bulletin 308) it was reasonable to suppose that Liepman was a cotton factor, user or merchant, who had contacts with cotton growers in Egypt.

During the American Civil War, cotton manufacturers in England had to find new sources of raw cotton and Egyptian cotton was found to be 'longer and stronger'. When the American markets opened up again, after the war, many Lancashire mills continued to trade with Egypt.

John Nelson heard this at the meeting and when he returned home he found, in his *Slaters Directory of Manchester*, a section detailing the markets abroad to which Manchester merchants shipped goods. In view

of my comments at the meeting, John says it is interesting to note that the primary market to which Julius Leipman & Co's Successors sent goods was to Egypt. So, either buying raw cotton from, or selling the cloth to Egypt, appears to be the reason why these perfins are difficult to find in this country.

I still have some values of these perfins if any other member is wanting examples. S.A.E. plus a couple of mint postage stamps.