

EGYPTIAN TOPICS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF EGYPT - FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN MEMBERSHIP

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NO. 1

Stamp News

Bureau



NEWS—PHOTOGRAPHS
RESEARCH—FEATURES

220 WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10036
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Oct. 28th
mcmlxviii

To Members of the Egyptian Philatelic Society in America:

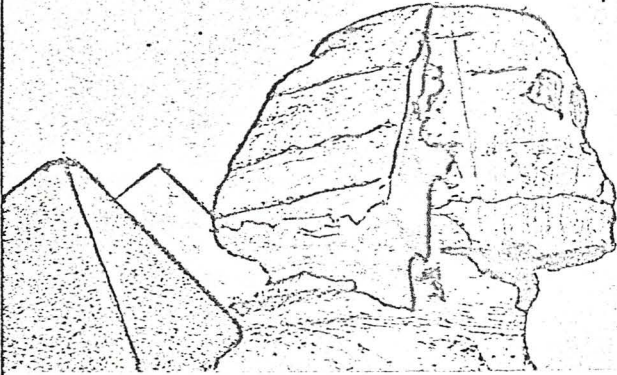
As one who has been interested in the serious collection and study of Egyptian postal history and stamps almost all of my life, and having served as American Agent of the Philatelic Society of Egypt for a total of over thirty years, I can well appreciate the enthusiasm of other American members.

In all of stampdom there is no field that offers more challenges than do the stamp of Egypt; nor are the rewards more satisfying for those who dip deep into the waters of Nile philately!

For many years I distributed regular bulletins to supplement the publications that came from Cairo---especially during the WWII years, when nothing at all came through. I can fully appreciate the ambitious task Mr. Garrett has carved for himself in undertaking the publication of a new Newsletter. In wishing him the best of luck in such a tedious, laborious task, may I hope that our fellow members will contribute of their wordage on subjects of which they have some knowledge that it shall not be just another of those "one-man jobs!"

Most sincerely,

Ernest A. Kehr



THE AMERICAN AGENT

DR. PETER A. S. SMITH
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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

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THIS COPY OF NO. 1 IS OUR GIFT TO YOU
AS AN INTRODUCTION TO "YOUR" MAGAZINE.

WE WOULD LIKE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION. NOMINAL COST OF \$2.00 YEARLY COVERS PRODUCTION COSTS AND POSTAGE ONLY. WHEN SUBSCRIPTIONS AND SUBJECT MATTER WARRANT, WE PLAN TO EXPAND TO TWELVE ISSUES EACH YEAR WITHOUT AN INCREASE IN COST TO YOU.

* * * * *

A. P. S. WRITERS UNIT NO. 30 met in a workshop session Sunday morning, October 20th, during the annual "SESCAL" exhibition in Los Angeles, California.

Moderated by Mr. James M. Chemi, editor of the A.P.S. Journal, a number of subjects of interest to the philatelic press were discussed.

Your editor received the assurances of Mr. Chemi that Egypt and the Sudan will not be overlooked in the A.P.S. Press.

* * * * *

EGYPTIAN NEWS AGAIN

Some years have passed since the American membership of the Philatelic Society of Egypt has enjoyed its own newsletter. In fact, none has appeared since the excellent journals of Messrs. Hinton and Kehr in the late 1950's and the mid 1960's.

Some members of the Egyptian Society, notably Peter Feltus and Dr. Peter Smith, the American Agent, have long felt this void should be filled. Frankly publishing a newsletter, even on a bi-monthly basis can be an onerous task. Over the years, both Mr. Hinton and Mr. Kehr repeatedly, requested the cooperation of the membership in supplying articles and items of interest with very little success. I am well aware that this condition is likely to exist in the future, however I have an intense interest in Egyptian philately and some small modicum of a knowledge in this area. With the help of some of the old reliables, I firmly believe that we can and will produce an informative, interesting and newsworthy house-organ with articles & features, of interest to everyone. I have the word of Dr. Smith, that he will, from time to time, contribute articles. This alone should insure success, as most of you are familiar with the keen knowledge and versatile pen of Peter Smith in our chosen field of endeavor.

It has recently been my pleasure to spend some time with Dr. Smith in Ann Arbor at which time he made several suggestions as to content that should appeal, particularly technical aspects of the early issues, specialized descriptive material on postmarks, bibliographies, auction prices realized on the better items, notes on forgeries, a question and answer feature, want lists and much more. Possibly some advertisements from dealers of Egypt and the Sudan.

The revival of the popular auctions would certainly be of interest but someone with the time and know-how to handle this phase will have to volunteer as I simply do not have the time.

We believe, in the forthcoming issues, we can offer some fresh and interesting viewpoints & "TOPICS". For this reason our journal will be called "EGYPTIAN TOPICS". This seems in keeping with a new beginning and the subject matter we intend to cover for you.

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RECOGNIZING THE LITHOGRAPHS OF THE THIRD ISSUE

By DR. PETER A. S. SMITH

THE STAMPS OF THE THIRD ISSUE (1872) have long been known to have been printed by typography, but discoveries in the 1940's by Ibrahim Chaftar and the late Dr. Byam uncovered the existence of lithographic printings of the 20 para and 1 piaster values. Eventually these printings were recognized by the major catalogues, and they are now listed & priced in Scott, Gibbons and Zeheri. They are much scarcer than the typographs and are priced accordingly. However, the catalogues do not go beyond listing and pricing; they do not help one to tell the two printings from each other. These notes are intended to fill that gap.

Most collectors seem to have much difficulty learning to recognize lithographs, and I have found that it is a rare dealer indeed who has learned how. The collector who has learned the trick can recognize most lithographs at a bare glance, but, it takes a bit of practice. It is worth it, for one then has a great advantage and can often pick up bargains, as well as protect himself from being misled.

Dr Byam wrote a comprehensive article for the London Philatelist on the Third Issue and included very useful descriptions of the lithographs. This article was later reprinted in L'Orient Philatelique (No. 102; April-July, 1960). These notes are largely an amplification of the information given there. The essential feature to remember is, that a lithographic stone is flat, & therefore makes an absolutely flat impression on the paper, whereas a typographic plate has the parts of the design raised above the background level, and under the pressure of the printing press, These raised parts bite into the paper to some extent. Furthermore, the composition of the inks used for lithography may differ from that used for typography.

THE TWENTY PARA

TYPOGRAPHS:

COLOR: Nearly all are dull, dark Prussian blue, with only minor shade variations.

IMPRESSION: Usually fairly sharp.

FRAME LINES: The bottom frame line is split in nearly all typos by a long, slightly sloping white line below the word "KHEDEUIE"; stamps from the bottom row on the sheet do not show this, but on them the bottom frame line is heavily impressed into the paper and is thus unmistakable.

The heavy, outer frame lines bite into the paper, depressing the colored part below the general level. It is best seen with glancing light. Hold the stamp by a light or window at such an angle that, if it were a mirror, it would reflect the light directly into your eye. A magnifying glass can be very helpful.

LITHOGRAPHS:

Some are Prussian blue, but many are in a light, somewhat milky blue shade, or in a distinct deep indigo.

Varies from sharp to blurred. The fuzzy prints are almost always lithos; some examples show a "snowstorm" effect due to a lot of tiny white spots.

On most lithos (those from Byam's Stones B and X), the bottom frame lines are solid and even, with no trace of splitting. Lithos from Stone A, which are mostly in the light blue shade, show the split the same as the typos, however.

The frame lines do not bite into the paper at all, and the paper remains absolutely flat, on both front and back. (Typos sometimes show slight embossed ridges on the back, corresponding to the frame lines.

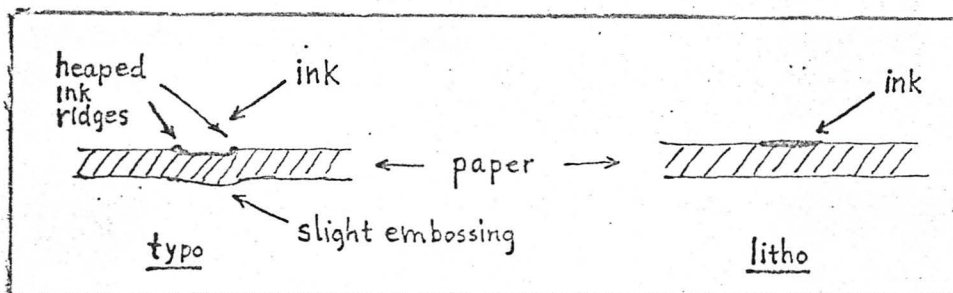
(Cont. on next page).

RECOGNIZING THE LITHOGRAPHS OF THE THIRD ISSUE (Continued from preceding page)TYPOGRAPHS:

INK: Typographs are all printed with an ink that gives a slightly matte appearance. Also, the pressure of the press forces ink toward the outer edges of the solidly colored areas, such as the outer frame lines, leaving slightly darker edges. This slight heaping of the ink at the edges can be best seen with a glass. (see sketch)

LITHOGRAPHS:

The ink used for the lithographs is usually distinctly shinier, and reflects glancing light more cleanly. It is applied evenly and smoothly, without any heaping of ink at the outer edges of the solid areas.

THE ONE PIASTER

Most of the differences between typos and lithos described for the 20 para apply equally well for the 1 piaster. The bottom frame lines, however, are never split on the one piaster, and one cannot use this guide that is so useful with the 20 paras. The colors of the typos vary from almost a pink to a rose-red; the lithos vary from rose-red to a deep red, but most of them are close in shade to the typos. The glossy ink, peculiar to the lithos, however, is usually recognizable.

The typos are fairly clear in impression from the early printings, but wear of the plate or accumulation of ink crusts occurred rapidly, & late printings are very smudged, with much of the white area of the design filled up by color. A special feature of the 1 PT. is the presence of a scrollwork background underneath the Arabic inscription in the top panel. On most typos this is nearly invisible, having been filled in with color. On most lithos, the scrollwork is clearly reproduced (but not on all lithos).

The one piaster is clearly a more difficult stamp on which to detect lithographs. With practice, however, the glossiness of the ink and the absolute flatness of the impression becomes easily recognizable. Used 1 PT. lithos are not very uncommon, but, unused ones are quite rare.

The best way to become familiar with the two types of printing is to be able to compare examples of each type, of course. I would be glad to give my opinion on the identity of any suspected litho sent to me, if return postage is sent. After that, with known examples before you, the rest will come along easily!

(Peter A. S. Smith, Dept. of Chemistry, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104)

Bibliography: L'OP No. 102; April-July, 1960
 London Philatelist Vol. XLI, pg 288
 ESC Quarterly, Vol. III, No. 3, ppg 36-37

A NOTE TO INTERPOSTAL COLLECTORS

By ROBERT M. NELSON - PSE # 4449

With the re-issue of the Newsletter, I personally would like to see a column with Interpostal Seal information, even if it is only to publish someones want list. If we could all get together on this project, not only will our collections benefit, but information and new discoveries could be catalogued.

Topics in this interesting category are plentiful; to name a few: color varieties, postmarks, die types, early and late usage with dates of the various routes, postmarks other than the offices of origin, paper, etc.

From the new directory prepared by Peter Feltus, there doesn't appear to be too many who are interested in the Interpostal field? However, I am quite sure that there are many who collect them as sidelines and who would be willing to trade for varieties, covers or other conventional material?

If we were to use Ernest Kehr's excellent catalogue and numbering system, as a standard we would always be in accord. So, if each reader interested in Interpostal Seals, would send in a small want list, or list of offers, using the Kehr numbers, our Newsletter can become a clearing house to our mutual advantage.

Simply jot down the numbers along with your name and address and send them along to the Editor of this paper and let's see what develops.

* * * * *

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE FELTUS DIRECTORY OF EGYPTIAN COLLECTORS

OWEN, GIL, (Counsellor - High School), Rt. 1, Box 427-E, Arroyo Grande, Calif., 93420
(1) Fifteen. (2) Specialized. (3) All, except U.A.R. Issues. Minor plate varieties, 19th Century blocks, 20th Century blocks of four, and sheets. (4) Postal History, Hotel postmarks, Egypt Used Abroad, Foreign Used in Egypt, commercial covers, errors, proofs & Suez Canal Company stamps. (5) Used British Colonies, Japan, Luxemburg, Liechtenstein, Mint & Used Scandinavia. (6) Yes.

Change of Address:

BABINGTON, BENJAMIN E., Ford Hill Terrace, 48 Hill St., Apt. 12C, Morristown, N. J. 07960

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome the following new member to the Philatelic Society of Egypt.

ROGERS, MAX T., 915 Lantern Hill, East Lansing, Michigan.

We have no information as to Max's particular collecting interests but I am sure we will be hearing from him and our records will be brought up to date.

A WORD OF THANKS:

Your Editor would like to take this opportunity to thank our many friends for the friendly cards and letters wishing us well with our new publication, "Egyptian Topics", and to those who have already sent in material for this edition and for future editions. Your news and comments on our hobby are of interest. Please send what you can.

* * * * *

UNLISTED BISECT



This unusual bisect of the One Piastre, rose (Zeh. No. 28, with obliteration Type, TPO- 2 (Blomfield-ESC Study VI), Alexandria-Caire, dated 8 SE 81 TII, Ambulant, (Traveling Post Office), has been examined by Dr. P. Smith and in his opinion, is genuine.

Now, this leads to a great deal of speculation as to the reason, and/or necessity, for this particular specimen.

I am of the opinion it was created, due to a temporary shortage of the lower values at the TPO and this method of franking was an emergency measure. It is cut-square and, unfortunately no info is available from the cover.

Should any of our members have, or seen, any similar copies, information would be greatly appreciated.

* * * * *

EXHIBITION COMMENTS

SESCAL '68

Held at Los Angeles, Calif., October 18-20, a fine display by HENRY WHITTAKER of Victoria, B. C., Canada, of a highly specialized display Sudan, won a bronze medal. Entered in the British Commonwealth Section, competition was keen. personally I felt you deserved more, Henry, it was a fine showing.

GORDON B. GARRETT of Los Angeles, was awarded Best of Section, in the category "Rest of the World", embracing Africa, Asia and South America, but excluding Japan, which was featured, for his display of stamps and Postal History of 19th Century Egypt.

* * * * *

MARKET TRENDS

We are indebted to our member, A. Z. Czarnecki, of Chicago for the results of the H. R. HARMER auction, held in London, in June.

From the Egyptian section of the "JAMES H. ABBOTT" collection, the following items demonstrate strength among the rarities.

1866 - 5 PT., part OG, Block of four £270
 10 PT., " " " " " £340

Multiplès of any size of the 5 PT. & 10 PT. are extremely rare, and these prices are indicative of the solid market value of these items. (See Zeheri, P. 31, for comments).

1879 - Tete-Beche pairs of the 5 pa and the 2½ PT., perf. 12½, part OG, along with some blocks and sheets (number unspecified), of the "Suez Canal Company" stamps. £480

The SAMUEL S. ANDERSON CO. of Eureka, Cal., (mail auction), held late in October listed a few of the Royal Imperfs. These sold for far less than the Lee catalogue listing.

LEE #2 (Sc #129) 2m black (5.00)	\$1.00
#7 (Sc #136) 5m red brn (12.50)	1.25
#48 (Sc #239) 50 PT. grn & sepia (Cat. \$45.00)	4.50
#013-21 (Sc #051-059), the 1938 Officials, 1m to 50m (Cat. 35.00)	3.50

Most of these have leveled off somewhere between 10% and 15% of the prices set by Lee.

APART FROM THE AUCTIONS I have seen recently a complete set of the 1934 Postal Union Congress from 1m to £1, on sale for \$300 as opposed to a Lee valuation of \$700, however it is "still in stock".

It is interesting (and saddening) to note that very little Egyptian classical or quality material has appeared in the American or European market in the past year, with the possible exception of an item or two here and there, although almost every auction lists a few mint sets and a few high values of twentieth century material.

Notes on the prices of good auction offers is always of interest and any help from our readers here will be appreciated.

* * * * *

NEW ERROR DISCOVERIES

I have just received two extremely interesting color photographs from our member Mr. A. S. KYRIACOU, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, depicting some unusual errors on issues of the U. A. R. by the Postal Authority Press.

The first of these, illustrated on the right is of the miniature sheet, issued; 23 JULY 1961, in commemoration of the Ninth Anniversary of the Revolution. (Zeheri #14, p. 224)

The normal sheet, shown below, is of 100 m. denomination, printed in reddish-brown, with an ornate border in paler brown. The date in Arabic is inscribed, in black, on the lower portion of the border. The date is entirely missing on the error.

We are advised by Mr. Kyriacou, that only 22 of these sheets are known to exist. Quantity of the original printing was 110,000 sheets, measuring 80 mm x 75 mm. The reproduction is slightly reduced in size.

Unfortunately, photographs do not reproduce well by this method but, we believe there is sufficient detail to illustrate the point.

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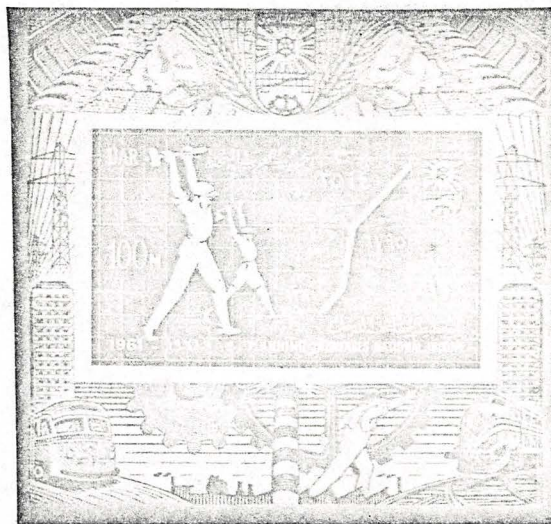
On the following page, is a sheet of thirty-five stamps with control number 07109, issued to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the Revolution on 23 JULY, 1962. Normally a bi-color in orange and black-brown, fifteen stamps show the error. Five are completely without the orange and ten show only partial coloring. (Zeheri # 279, p. 194).

Again, reproduction from the original color photo is not too good but, we have also included a single of this item for a more detailed comparison.

We understand that these will also be reproduced at a later date in a forthcoming issue of L'Orient Philatelique, probably from half tones and no doubt will show the fine detail in clarity lacking here.

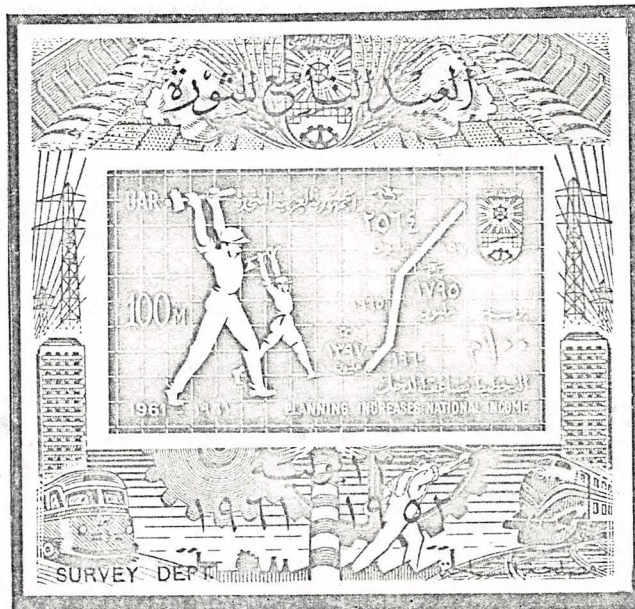
We thank Mr. Kyriacou for sharing these fine items with us.

* * * * *



THE SHEET CONTAINING THE ERROR

(The date below in Arabic missing)



THE NORMAL SHEET



THE NORMAL STAMP, illustrated at the left with orange border and vignette in black-brown, as issued 23 JULY, 1962 to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the Revolution.

The sheet of thirty - five, below showing the orange border completely missing from the third row of the sheet (from the top) Rows two and four show only partial color



Following is the first installment of a complete treatment of the Fiscals and Revenues of Egypt by Peter R. Feltus. For the past several years, Peter has researched this exciting and little known aspect of Egyptian Philately. For many years these adhesives, stickers, labels and overprinted definitives have been, for the most part, ignored. A resurgence of interest in the revenues of other countries has brought them into focus, and justly so. He does not pretend that his listing and information is complete since the quest for information seems never-ending. Anyone having varieties, denominations, colors or any items of this nature not listed, is asked to contact him. (Ed.)

THE SALT STAMPS

By PETER R. FELTUS

DURING THE LAST DECADE of the 19th Century, the Government of Egypt held a monopoly on all wholesale distribution of salt. The sales were conducted by the "Salt Department" an agency of the Ministry of Finance. All of the salt used in Egypt was purchased from the government. The rather curious way in which the government sold the salt to the retailers necessitated the production and use of the salt stamps, and worked as follows:

When a retailer wished to purchase salt, he was required to go to the Post Office, and to buy salt stamps with a total face value equal to the price of the salt he required. These stamps were then affixed to a "Salt Requisition Form", which, when duly completed and signed, was submitted to the postal clerk for cancellation of the stamps. (In Cairo and in Alexandria the stamps were cancelled with a special date stamp, used only for that purpose, whereas in all other towns the stamps were cancelled with the same date stamps used on the mails. Another special obliterator, bearing the words "Ministry of Finance/ Salt Department/ Central Office", but undated, was used on the 1897 salt stamp, and has been seen on the selvage of an unused sheet of the 10 m. salt stamp of January, 1892. (Illustrations of these two cancellations appear below). The completed form, with cancelled stamps, was then taken to a government store, where it was exchanged for the required salt. Thus the stamps, now used, once again become the property of the Egyptian Government.



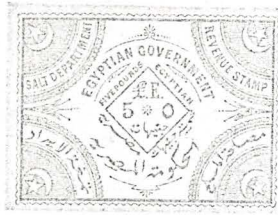
Late in 1899, probably on the first of November, the government turned the salt monopoly over to a private firm, the Salt & Soda Company, in exchange for a fixed annual sum and thus the stamps became obsolete. Sometime shortly thereafter the government offered these used stamps for sale to dealers; the quantity of these presently in the hands of collectors indicating that such sales must have taken place.

(Continued on next page)

THE FIRST ISSUE

JANUARY, 1892

10m. Blue
 500m. Orange
 £1 Red
 £2 Green
 £5 Lilac



Unwatermarked

Perf. 11 x 11½

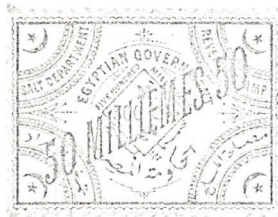
Lithographed by V. Penasson, and, like the 1867-69 postal issue, there are four types for each value, any block showing all four types. Printed in sheets of 100 (10 x 10).

PROOFS: Die proofs of the original blocks of four, in the issued colors, (except the 10m., which is represented by a proof of the 500m. in the color of the 10m.) on thin yellowish wove paper of the issued stamps. All of the proofs are imperforate. In the collection of Lt. Col. J. R. Danson is a part set of the die proofs (all except the £2 value), each bearing the signature of approval of the design and an inscription indicating the number of stamps to be ordered, as follows: 10m., 1,000,000 stamps; 500m., 100,000 stamps; £1, 100,000 stamps, and £5, 1,000 stamps. It seems unlikely that further quantities were ordered, as the second issue of these salt stamps appeared only about seven months later, and the 5 stamp has indeed turned out to be scarce.

THE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

FEBRUARY, 1892

50m. on 500m. Orange
 100 m. on £1 Red



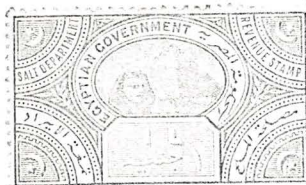
This issue simply consists of two of the earlier stamps revalued by overprinting. Apparently there was a need for values between 10m. and 500m.

It is interesting to note that neither of the provisionals is on the 10 m. stamp, of which there were ten times as many as of the other values employed, and yet, the 10m. stamp does not appear to be significantly more common than any of the others, except the scarce £5 stamp.

THE SECOND ISSUE

AUGUST, 1892.

250m. Blue & orange
 500m. Orange & Brown
 £1 Red & green
 £2 Green & lilac
 £5 Lilac & blue

WATERMARK:

Crescent & Star
 (Sideways)
 Twice on each stamp.
 Perf. 14

Typographed by De La Rue. Number of stamps in sheet, unknown, but not less than 50.

PROOFS: Die proof, of a single stamp, without the value section, printed in black on a glazed card, with "Before Hardening" and dated "13 Apr 92". Quantities issued unknown, though doubtless many more of these were produced than of the first issue, except the £5 which seems to be just as rare.

THE SALT STAMPS (continued from preceding page)THE THIRD ISSUE

50m. Black on green (1896)

50m. Black on yellow (1897)

1896 AND 1897

Unwatermarked

Imperforate

Printer unknown. Sheet size unknown. Proofs unknown. These stamps were rather crudely produced, almost certainly in Egypt. The shades of green and yellow papers used, vary widely, the first from a pale olive, to a blue-green, the second from a pale yellow to a brown-orange. The 1896 stamps are usually found unused, while the 1897 stamps are usually found used. The purpose of these stamps is unknown; obviously they, were not used in the same manner as were the other salt stamps. If any reader can shed light on their use, it would be greatly appreciated.

The months of issue of the first, provisional, and second issue of the salt stamps, which are given in this text, are estimates, based upon the dates in the postmarks we have seen on these stamps. The earliest postmarks, for each issue, are:

First Issue: Dessouk, 3 Jan, 1892

Provisional: Bouha, 8 Feb, 1892

Second Issue: Badrechien, 14 Aug, 1892

The latest date seen on a salt stamp (of the Second Issue) is:

Chizeh, 28 Oct., 1899

If any reader can add to the above information about these Egyptian Salt Stamps, please write to me. I have a good deal of duplicate material to offer to anyone who is interested and who will do what he can to help with this interesting study.

In the next number of "EGYPTIAN TOPICS" I shall set out the results of my studies of the early tobacco stamps of Egypt. If you have some interesting information concerning these, please let me know now so that it may be used in conjunction with what I have been able to learn up to the present time. Thank you. P. R. F.

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Bibliography: Fiscals & Revenues, L'OP # 116, Oct. 1965, (Feltus)
Forbins Catalogue of Revenues and Fiscals, 1915

COMING AUCTION EVENT:

In London; ROBSON LOWE LTD., has announced that an auction will be held on January 28, 1969, with a particularly strong section on Egypt. Catalogues are available, with colour, at \$3.00. 50 Pall Mall, London, S.W. 1

LATE ARRIVALS: SUPPLEMENT TO THE EGYPTIAN COLLECTORS' DIRECTORY

Since the production of the EGYPT COLLECTORS' DIRECTORY, more questionnaires have been received from collectors who wish to be listed. These are listed below as an addenda to your directory. Peter Feltus still has copies available with or without your listing.

Hagy, Robert (News writer), Route 2, Box 8, Laurel, Delaware, 19956. (1) Five (2) Specialized. (3) The De La Rue Issues of 1879-1906, used, including blocks - covers and postmarks. (4) As above. (5) Specialized collections of some issues of Guatemala, China, Great Britain, Australian States, and a few others. (6) Yes.

Heap, J. L. (Civil Servant), 37 Overton Road, London N.14, England. (1) Twenty-five. (2) Specialized. (3) 19th Century, 20th Century and Hotel postmarks, Egypt Used Abroad, Foreign Used in Egypt, All commercial covers, Military covers, Flight covers, Postal stationery, F.D.C's, British Forces stamps, Interpostal Seals, and Revenues and Fiscals. (4) Postmarks (5) Great Britain, British Guiana and Guyana. (6) Yes.

Klein, Dick (Purchasing Agent), 229 West Chicago, Apt. #6, Las Vegas, Nevada, Zip 89102. (1) Eight. (2) Specialized. (3) Postal History, all 19th Century, 20th Century and U.A.R. Issues. all varieties, Foreign Used in Egypt, Pre-stamp covers, Military covers, Postal stationery, F.D.C's, all blocks, sheets, errors, and British Forces stamps, Royal Imperforates, and forgeries. (4) Pre - 1930 material, Officials on cover, and the 1867-69 & 1872-75 Issues. (5) French Port Said, Alexandria, Sudan, Obock, Zanzibar, N-Z-W. (6) Yes.

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A NOTE TO ALL NORTH AMERICAN COLLECTORS OF EGYPT AND THE SUDAN. . .

We have just received information that a special meeting of the "EGYPTIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY" was held at the ASDA show in New York City, under the guiding hand of MR. PAUL P. LINDENBERG, a knowledgeable and dedicated collector of the "Middle East" for many years. We would appreciate a report of the meeting for our next issue of "Topics".

The purpose and intent of this publication is to provide a medium of communication for ALL NORTH AMERICAN collectors, regardless of other affiliations with the hope that a united membership might work together, study together and mutually benefit.

We have refrained in this, our first issue, from claiming to be an Official publication of the EPS since this privilege has not been granted to us. Indeed, at this writing we are not at all sure of the present structure of the EPS, or if an official or quasi-official organization exists at present as a true entity. If not, certainly the need is with us and through these pages we offer our assistance and service in any way that we can. Your expressions and comments will be appreciated.

* * * * *

AND, A WORD ABOUT OUR FRANKING:

You will note that we use "metered" postage in our mailings. This is not intended to be a philatelic discourtesy. The truth of the matter is, we simply do not have sufficient time to frank each piece of mail with commemoratives as much as we would like to. With time we may find another solution. In the meanwhile, we wish to offer our apologies and hope that some "meter" collectors are among us.

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WANTS AND OFFERS

ROBERT M. NELSON, 1617 So. Highland Str., Tacoma, Washington, 98465, wants to buy or trade for the following Interpostal Seal items. All numbers are from the Kehr (1962) Catalogue.

Nos. 1, 5, 8, 8a, 10, 14 and 15a thru 17a. 17C, 22, 22a, 26, 34, 35 and 37, 153b to 153f, 154a, b, c, 381, 382, 384, 385, 386, 388, 389A, 394, 396, 398, 400, 401, 402a, 403A, 473, 480, 482, 484, 491, 501, and 808b.

PETER R. FELTUS, 4970 Desmond Str., Oakland, California, 94618, has written to the Editor, saying:

"I have been engaged for some months in the study of the 1 PT. stamp of the 2nd Issue, illustrated on the front cover of this issue of "Egyptian Topics", (Zeheri No. 11; Scott No. 13 Gibbons Nos. 15-18). I have acquired the two large lots of these stamps that were in the Royal Collection (Palace sale lots 109 & 111), as well as the block of forty (lot 112), & good photographs of the half and quarter sheets of the black proof (half sheet was lot 91)

Incidentally, lot No. 111, unfortunately was not a sheet as advertised, but rather, a hodge-podge of blocks from several stones, arranged to resemble a sheet. To supplement these, I have been fortunate in borrowing from the present owner, much of this issue as accumulated by the late Dr. William Byam.

With all of this material to study, I have made some progress. The photos of the proofs are of the top half of the sheet (positions 1 - 100), and the third quarter (positions - 101 - 150), so Stone "B" can be considered 75% plated. Of the various multiples from the Royal Collection, I have been able to complete Stone "D" by approximately 90%. I have made just a little headway with Stone "E". NOW - I NEED HELP. I have gone just about as far as I can with the material I have already seen. I would like to see more.

If you have any multiple pieces of this stamp, I will be most grateful for the opportunity to examine them. If I can identify the Stones and positions of your multiples, I shall be glad to do so. If I cannot, I will have photos made and they will, I hope, be of help at a later date when a larger amount may be accumulated for comparison.

I have a number of blocks of various sizes in duplication of those I have chosen to retain and I will be happy to swap these or to sell them to anyone who is interested and who will help me in furthering this study. Please let me hear from you if you have any multiples; Remember, the 1 PT. of 1867-1869, used or unused.

YOUR EDITOR would like to obtain copies of O.P.A.L., Nos. 1-10, 12 & 16. Will buy outright or will borrow and return the original with two additional copies (Xerox) in 8½ x 11 format. All of the originals thru No. 56 are 8½ x 14 and do not fit a 3 ring binder.

ALSO - FOR SALE: Any O.P.A.L. number not listed above at .50 each. (plus postage overseas all in 8½ x 11. Will punch for 3 ring binder if desired.

EGYPTIAN STUDY CIRCLE QUARTERLY: We can also furnish any number of the E.S.C., Vols. I to VI., Nos. 1 thru 70. VOL. I, Nos 1-12, 164 pages, \$10.50. Any number purchased separately at \$1.00. Vol. II, Nos 1-12, the scarce wartime issue; 178 pages complete, \$11.00. Both Vol. I & II with the separate 20 page Index, if purchased together, \$20.00. Any single no of Vols. III - VI purchased separately, 75¢. Any complete Volume, III, IV, V @ \$6.50 and Vol. VI, Nos. 1 thru 10 (current) @ \$5.00. (Airmail postage & overseas, extra).

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