

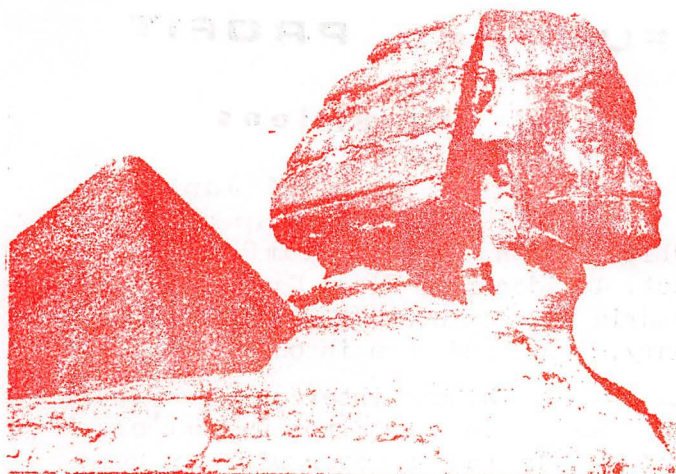
EGYPTIAN TOPICS



VOL. 2 NO. 6

WN 12

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1970



THE AMERICAN AGENT FOR
THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF EGYPT

DR. PETER A. S. SMITH
C/o Chemistry Department
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48104

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

GORDON B. GARRETT
10165 Regent Street
Los Angeles, Calif., 90034

Published six times yearly. at Los Angeles.
Subscription \$3.00 per year, US and CANADA.
Overseas subscriptions, add \$1.00 for post.

FLOREX '70

The big "NATIONAL" at Orlando, Florida is set for Oct. 30, 31 & Nov. 1. Prospectus is available now from Mr. Fred A. Schmidt, 910 N. W. 8th Ave. Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 33311.

The attractive cachet illustrated below will be used during the exhibition on the Moby Dick envelope.

FLOREX 1970

OCT 30 31 & NOV 1

ORLANDO FLORIDA

A PART OF A STAMP SHOW

with the editor

This issue of Egyptian Topics completes our second full year of publication. At present we are working on the index for Volume Two, and we are updating and rewriting the cumulative subject section with additional annotations so that it will be a truly worthwhile reference work of value. It will be distributed with our next issue.

A word just received from Dr. Davis advises us that returns from our last auction sale are not yet complete. If you are one of the guilty (tardy) ones, please settle now with the auction manager.

Just as we go to press, a note from Philip Boatright in Omaha, Nebraska. He encloses the label (coupon ?) illustrated below.



Similar to some of the cigarette labels we illustrated back in Jan-Febr., 1969 however of poorer printing quality. Color is green with letters M.R. in upper left corner; the word "CUPON" in French and Arabic in a ribbon over the head of the sphinx. The lower corners contain a value tablet "5"; five what? Perforation is an unusual 12 1/4. Does anyone know what it is? Is it even Egyptian? Drop us a line if you can help.

Philympia, the fabulous show is now a thing of the past and from all preliminary reports it was something to see. Many of our readers were able to be present and we are sure a full report will be ready for our next issue... On the show - on the Study Circle and from our many friends in Britain.

The new catalogues are out. They have been reviewed extensively in the philatelic news media. Our only comment is that few changes appear in either the Egyptian or Sudanese sections.

Some fine shows coming up during the winter months. Plan now to exhibit and give exposure to our sphere of interest.

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PARDON EFFENDI!
A FEW FREE WORDS
HERE MEAN PROFIT

bazaar

There is never a charge for WANTS and OFFERS listed for our readers in Egyptian Topics.

* * *

WANTED Copies of L'OP Nos. 1, 19 and 28.

OFFER L'OP's Nos. 56, 94 and 95. Will trade, or sell for \$1.00 each. Write D. C. JORDAN, 8 Young St., Guelph, Ontario, CAN.

WANTED by the editor; a copy of L'OP No. 63 to complete his file. Urgently needed for research and inclusion in the bibliography running currently in Egyptian Topics. . .

WANTED: E.E.F. Covers. Please write first with description of material. S. NAUDITCH, 3638 N. Canon Blvd., Altadena, Ca., 91001

PETER FELTUS will be in Europe for several months; to attend Philymphia and to tour in Europe in search of especially fine stamps

WANTED: MRS. NANCY E. SCHAEFER, 1719 Lakeview Road, Clearwater, Florida, 33518, is in need of a good clear MASSAWA cancellation for her postmark collection and study.

WANTED: A control block of the 500 Mill, No. A/30 of the 1927 Fuad Definitive Issue (Zeheri No. 116a) center photogravure, frame offset. Write now to P. E. (Pip) WHETTER, Treen, Shortlands Grove, Bromley, Kent, England. This item urgently needed to further a study being made on the controls of this issue which Mr. Whetter will share with us.

OFFER: In conjunction with the above listed study of control blocks of the 1927 Fuad definitives, Mr. Whetter writes that he has a large number of duplicates. He offers these to us at approximately 1/3 Zeheri. Write to him directly in England, if interested. . .

WANTED: WILLIAM HILL, 7743 Naniamo Street, Vancouver, B. C., Canada, is working to complete his collection of the bar overprints. He offers up to full catalog for elusive & odd items. Drop him a line if you can help. Also see Vol. 2, #3, p/ 58 for a listing of special position blocks needed.

PHILATELIC FUN AND PROFIT

By W. F. Billens

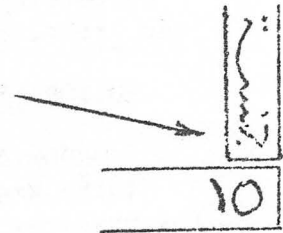
A set of three values issued 25 January, 1927 (5, 10 & 15 mm.) with a special First Day Obliteration emanating from Cairo is our subject. An identical First Day Cancel from Alexandria also exists BUT with the date 1 February, 1927, and here is our oddity.



1st Day Obliteration

at Cairo where my copies read with the normal "1927".

My most interesting error is in this First Day Cancel. I have a cover with the commemorative cancel, in blue, reading "ALEXANDRIE 1927" as it should - but with the dateline of "1 FE 26 4-5 P" ONE YEAR EARLY! This did not happen, to my knowledge,



Returning to the stamps themselves; I include a 15 Mill (Zeheri No. 20, page 135) with a small extra white dot at the bottom of the lowest Arabic character in the right lateral panel. Zeheri lists no varieties for this issue and it would be interesting to note if anyone else has noticed it, and, if it is an isolated case, or of constant variation?

15TH OPHTHALMOLOGICAL CONGRESS

This set, issued 8 December, 1937, (Zeheri Nos. 62-64) is free of variety listing, yet I have an example on the 15 m. (No. 63, page 141) depicting a small flaw that I strongly suspect is constant somewhere on the sheet.

TE * 3 2 6 6



The innermost of the two dots at the end of the Arabic, in the upper panel, has a tail, changing it from a dot to a comma!

Gordon B. Garrett

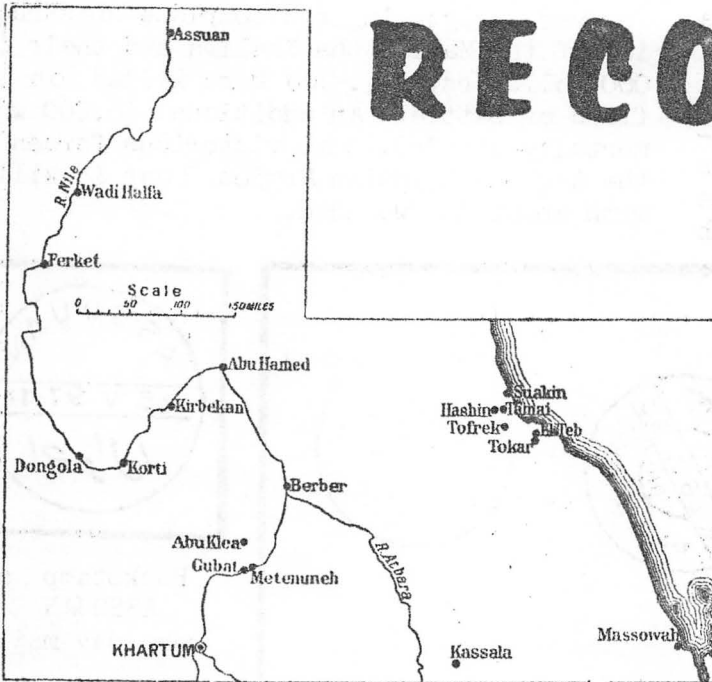
Kitchener's

RECONQUEST

of the

SUDAN

1896-1898



FROM THE 26th of January, 1885, when Gordon's mutilated body lay at the foot of the palace stairs, the victim of a spear thrown by a fanatical follower of the Mahdi, until March of 1896, no postal services operated south of Wadi-Halfa in the Nile Valley.

The Mahdi, gross and hated, was either murdered by poison or succumbed to smallpox or fever a scant six months following the demise of General Gordon. He was succeeded by the Khalifa Abdullah, fully as ingenious, resolute and cruel as the Mahdi himself had been. He continued the creation of a living hell for the peoples of the Sudan, ruling with the power of life and death.

The British, still aghast at the indecision of Gladstone and thirsting for revenge over the death of Gordon, painstakingly built up the British and Egyptian military might in the northern areas. Goaded by reports that both the Italians, advancing from Massawa (later soundly defeated at Adowa) and the French, moving forward from French Equatorial Africa, spurred the British Government into action.

Kitchener, then 49 years of age, received a telegram to commence action. The campaigns which followed were, for practical reasons, divided into two segments: THE DONGOLA EX-

PEDITION and the NILE EXPEDITION . . .

The Dongola Expedition, following the route of the old Wadi-Halfa - Saras Railway, Managed, by a series of strategic moves that began in the latter part of May, 1896 to reach Kerma a year later, routing the Derivishes from their path as they proceeded. Continuing the push Dongola capitulated on September 24, 1897, followed by Korti. El Debba and Merowi.

During this expedition most of the mail emanating from the military was unfranked and postmarked at Wadi-Halfa. Some unover-printed stamps and items of postal stationery were used by troops up the Nile and by the civilian populace at Wadi-Halfa. Rates at that time were 2½ d on arrival, the proper amount for officers' mail 1d as the fee for enlisted men. Other rates have been noted on postal stationery but we might assume that this was due to a lack of adhesives in the proper denominations. Fig 1 Other mail addressed to Egypt and usually signed by a "Major Drage" were carried post free, apparently as locals. Later a charge of 3 mills was applied.

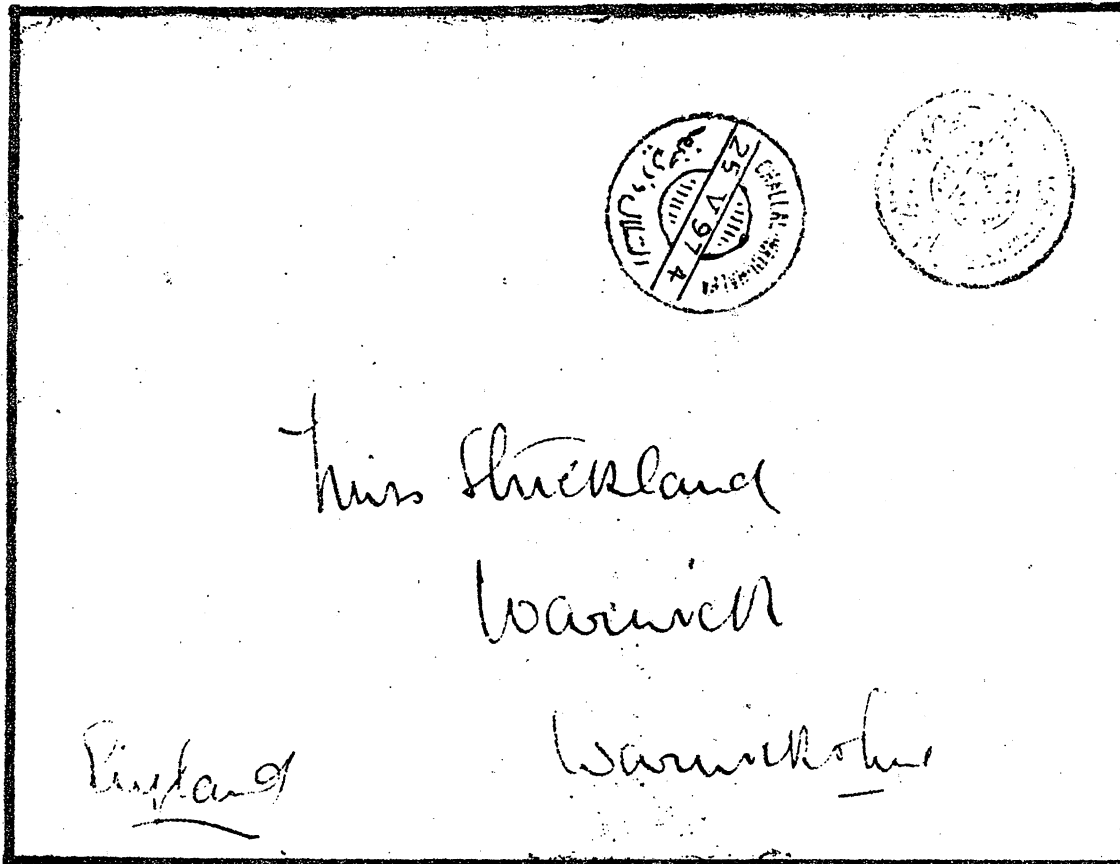
To facilitate the success of the NILE EXPEDITION, a railway was built across the desert from Wadi-Halfa to Abu Hamad, and

KITCHENER'S RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN - 1896 - 1898 (Continued)

finally on to Khartoum. Construction began on the 1st of January, 1897 and ten months later, on October 31st, 230 miles of track reached Abu Hamad, following capture and occupation of the city by a strong force on August 7th. Subsequently Berber and Atbara were secured and occupied.

At this time 22,000 troops were concentrated in the area; 9000 English and the remainder Sudanese and Egyptian. This force was augmented by six heavy gunboats on the Nile and eight steam transports fully loaded with

ammunition and supplies. By the middle of August all was in readiness and Kerreri was reached on September 1st, only seven miles from Omdurman. Here the historic battle took place which finally crushed the Dervish power forever, signaling the complete destruction of the Mahdi, the Khalifa and their 40,000 followers. 11,000 were killed on the field of battle. An additional 16,000 were mortally wounded. The victorious forces of the Anglo - Egyptian Armies lost 48 killed with about 340 wounded.



Backstamp at ASSOUAN same day mailed



Backstamp at ALEXANDRIA with arrival stamp on the 30th of MAY

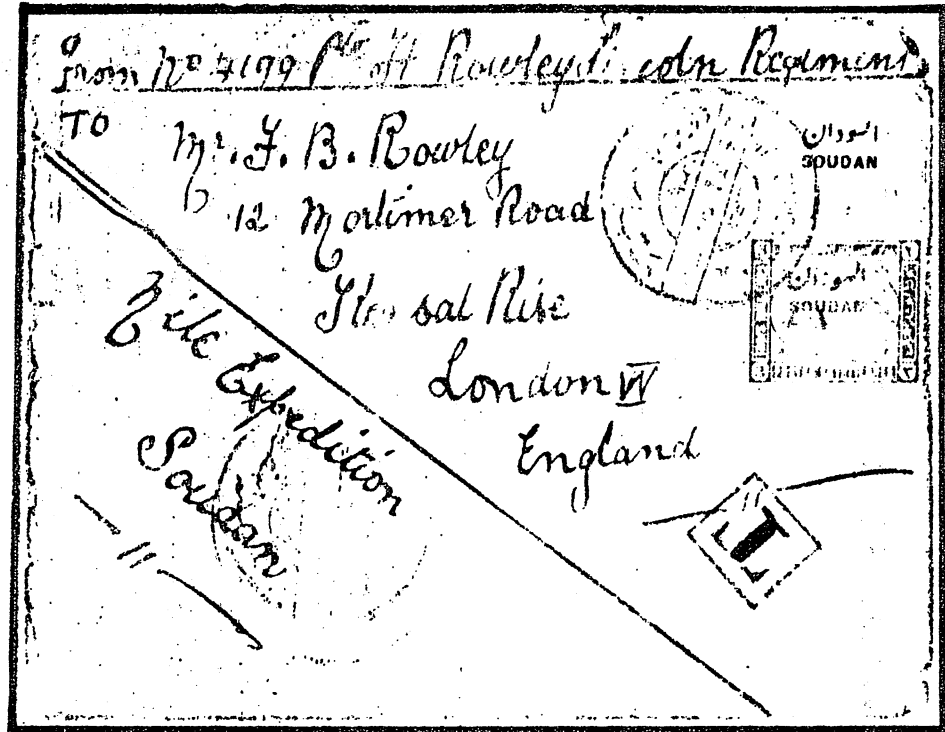
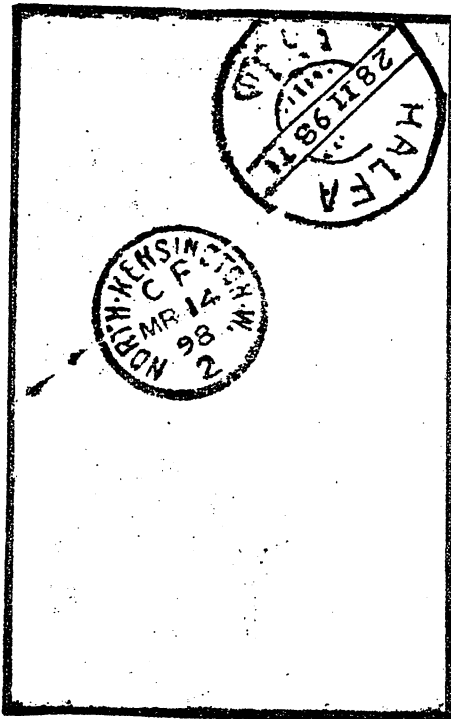
A CIVILIAN LETTER TO ENGLAND POSTED ON THE CHALLAL - WADI-HALFA T.P.O. Postal Stationery H & G Type 2 a, the 1 Piastre blue on envelope size 146.111 mm. Watermarked in French "Postage Egyptienne".

Fig. 1.

During this period (March 1, 1897) the 1st Provisional Issue appeared; the contemporary stamps of Egypt (De La Rue) overprinted "SOUDAN" in French and Arabic. In many instances these stamps and/or postal stationery simply were not available and the unoverprinted issues were used (Fig. 1), or, more often than not, simply endorsed "no stamps available" with postage due to be paid by the addressee.

The rate at that time was 3 mills for prepaid and 6 mills for unpaid. Later the rate

from the expeditionary forces was reduced to 3 mills if counter-signed by the Commanding Officer. Illustrated are two covers of the Nile campaign from the collection of Dr. Fred Valentine. The first, posted by Pvt H. Rowley of the Lincoln Regiment 23 February, 1898 is franked with a 2 mill and a 3 mill of the first Provisional Issue. Since it is not counter-signed by the C.O. the rate was 6 mills hence the boxed "T" for postage due of 1 mill. The strike is poor and we can't determine its origin. Backstamped at HALFA 28 II 98 TI / & North KENSINGTON / MR 14 / 98.



REVERSE c.d.s. MARKINGS

FIG. 2 - Note the boxed "T" for 1 mill deficiency

A second cover from Pvt. Rowley was mailed from DARMALI / 30 MA 98, again franked with 5 mills, the camel stamp of the 1st permanent issue, designed by Col. E. A. STANTON

This cover does not carry the tax due marking. It is backstamped 3 June 98 at HALFA, June (?) 98 at ALEXANDRIA, and finally at New Kensington (England) on July 10th.

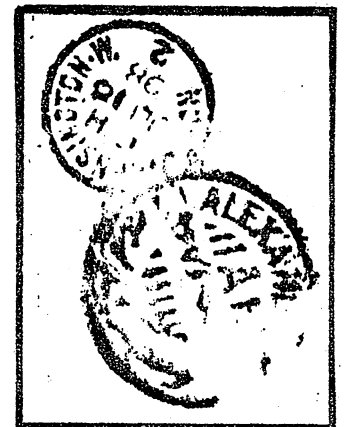
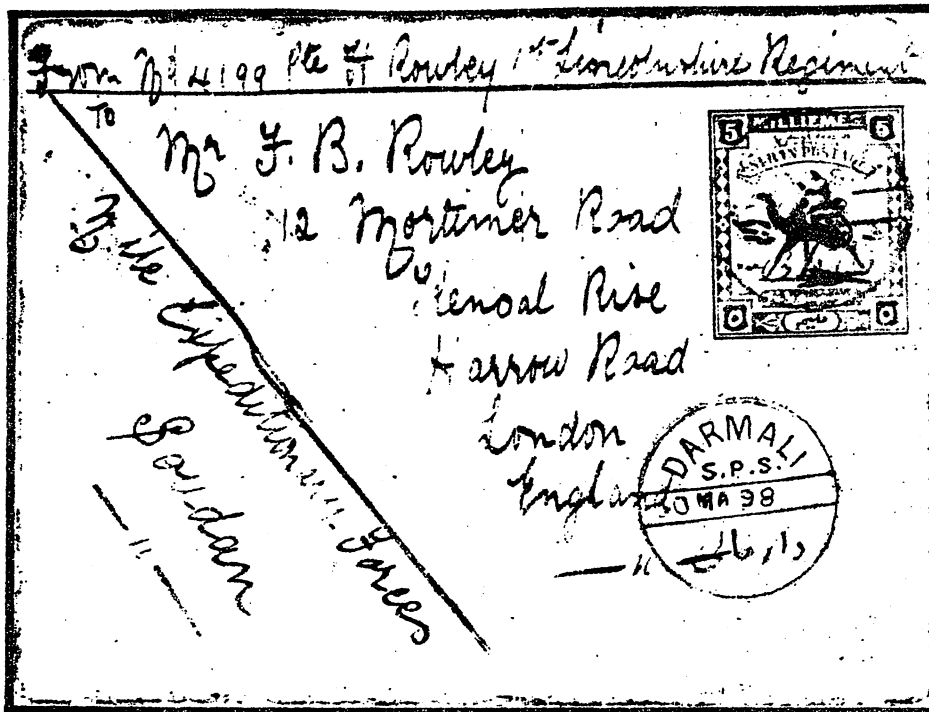


Fig. 3 - Note the absence of the Tax (Postage Due) marking on this cover although the franking here is also deficient by 1 mill.

Reverse Backstamps

KITCHENER'S RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN (Continued)

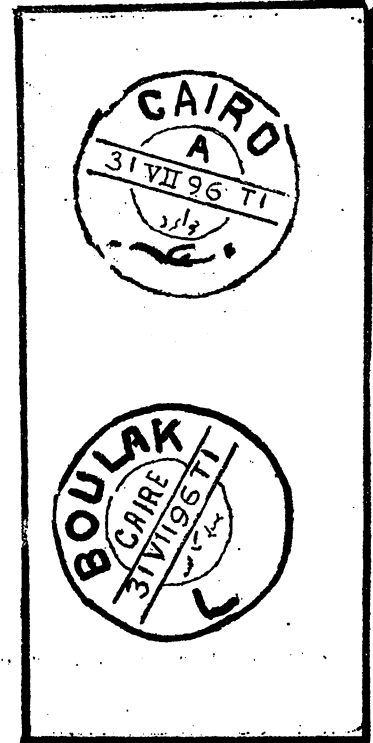
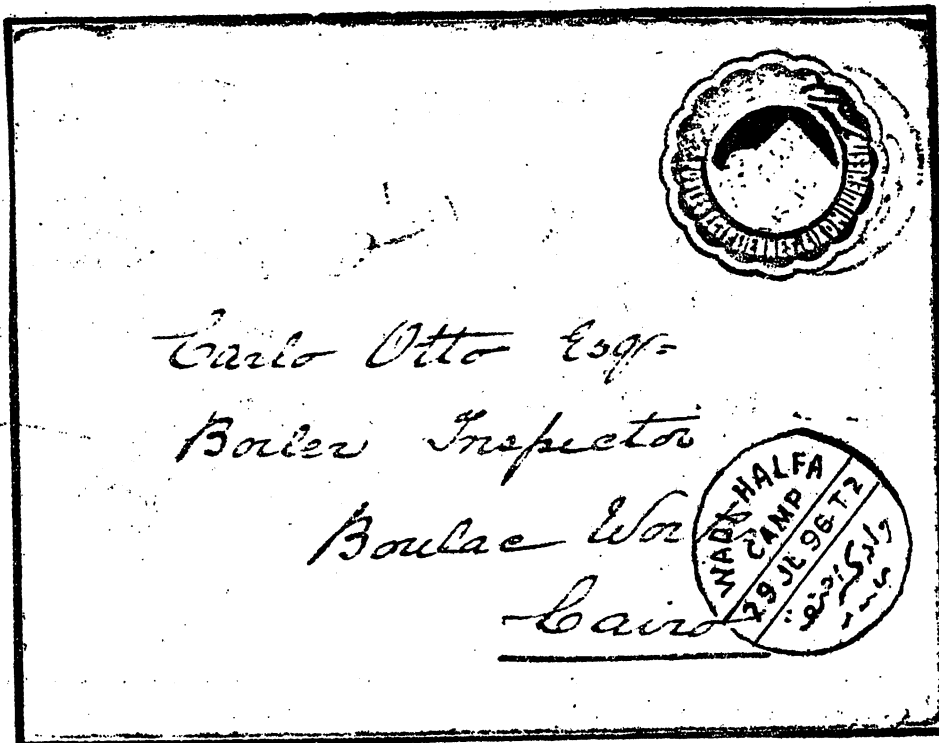


Fig. 4 - ANOTHER EXAMPLE of postal Stationery used during the military campaign, posted July 25th, 1898 from WADI-HALFA CAMP to the Boiler Inspector at the Boulac Works in Cairo. Envelope is H. & G. type 6 b, the 5 milliemes, carmine, size 120:94 mm. From Dr. Valentine's collection

Backstamped with the CAIRO arrival c.d.s. and the BOULAK (Station) cancellation.

The cover illustrated in Fig. 3 was posted by Pvt. Rowley from DARMALI. All of the men who had participated in the battle at Atbara where the forces of Emir Mahmud were routed were sent into Summer Quarters in various cities as: Atbara, Abadieh, Berber, Darmali, and Selim. The cancellation is Gisburn and Thompson's Type 5 with parallel bars, used in 1898 with the S.P.S. (Sudan Postal Service)

This cancellation is known to have been used only at Darmali, Khartoum, Wadi-Halfa and the T.P.O. during 1898.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- NEW EGYPT - A. B. DE Guerville
- A SHORT HISTORY OF THE BRITISH ARMY TO 1914 - Eric William Shepard
- POSTAL HISTORY OF THE SUDAN - Col. Danson

T B SEAL CATALOG

Our illustration of a block of the Anti-Tuberculosis seal, issued in Egypt in 1945, did not slip by unnoticed. We had no idea that so many were interested in this material.

Our reader DAVE STROCK, in Seattle, wrote & advised us that a catalogue, published by the Christmas Seal and Charity Society, is available, and he sent a copy of the Egyptian listing of some 20 items.

We have written to the Secretary of the above listed organization with a request for permission to reproduce it for the readers of Topics.

EXHIBITION NOTES...

SOJEX Atlantic City, N.J., March, 1970, to LT. CMDR. W. H. WELLS - ALLIED MILITARY FORCES IN EGYPT - WWII. A SOJEX BRONZE and the War Cover Club Award.

We also understand that HENRY WHITTAKER of Victoria, B. C. won some fine awards recently in Canadian shows but no details.

We are always interested in noting exhibition awards and giving our readers credit due. Very few write to tell us so we must rely on the philatelic press, often inadequate or sketchy. When you exhibit please let us have the pertinent data first-hand.

THE PHILATELIC LITERATURE OF EGYPT

"AN ANNOTATED RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY"

By GORDON B. GARRETT

With Valuable Assistance From CHARLES FOX

SECTION V COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

Most of the philatelic publications list new issues, among them of course, the commemoratives. None of these cursory listings will be included herein unless they are supported by comments or data that might render a service to the reader in a research capacity.

- RECENT DISCOVERY OF SKETCHES PREPARED FOR A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP IN 1894 - PIPERNO, Gino L'OP, No. 105, Oct., 1961, pp. 280-2. An interesting article illustrating nine drawings or essays proposed for the Alexandria Exhibition in 1894. Also an illustration of the postmark finally adopted in conjunction with a regular definit.
- SPECIAL EXHIBITION CANCELLATION ON 3 MILL - PIPERNO, Gino. EGYPT/Top. Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 33-33. Illustrations as in the L'OP article with the addition of a cover used with the exhibition cancel. Additional text supplemental to above list.
- NEW ISSUE LISTINGS - L'OP. all issue and the exception to our prologue. The listings in L'OP are for Egypt only and are comprehensive giving a great deal of useful data not normally found such as the name of the designer, etc.
- EGYPTIAN COMMEMORATIVES - Stamp Collecting, May 10, 1947, p. 133. A chronological listing from 1925 to 1946 giving the numbers printed and officially supplied.
- EGYPTIAN COMMEMORATIVES - BOULAD, G. Stmp/Coll., Apr. 23, 1947, p. 435. (Appeared originally in Arabic in the philatelic Guide, Alexandria, Egypt). A treatise on differences in the numbers printed of the various commemoratives and noting some of the varieties.
- THE EYE OF RE - THOMPSON, Chas. S., Scott's Monthly Journal, Febr., 1938, p. 439. Illustrated with the stamp and a drawing of the cartouche. An interesting and slightly technical treatise describing the cartouche and other data relating to the eyes.
- THE UNISSUED AL AZHAR SET OF 1942 - MULLER, Gaudenz, Stmp/Coll. (Date ?) p. 343. An article informative concerning this set, the change in postal rates, and the fact that they became known 10 years later at the Cairo sale of the King's coll.
- STATISTICS ABOUT EGYPTIAN COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS - L'OP., VOL. IX, No. 96, OCT. 1956 - JAN., 1957, pp. 489-90. A listing of commems from July, 1952 through Dec., 1956 together with the quantities issued and the quantities sold.
- LE MILLENAIRE DE L'AZHAR 942-1942 - L'OP, VOL. VIII, No. 86, APRIL 1954, p. 332. (F) A brief notation concerning the 1942 emission and the description of the sheets sold at the Cairo sale of the King's collection.
- NEFERTITI - PIATTOLI, Mario, L'OP, VOL. VIII, No. 84, OCT. 1953, pp. 221-2. (F). An informative article in French concerning the use of the bust of Nefertiti on the 30 plus 30 m. commem. and on the high values of the then current definitive set.
- LE XV^e CONGRES INTERNATIONAL d'OPHTHALMOLOGIE - L'OP, VOL. III, No. 35, JAN. 1938 (F) Illustrated with FDC and FDC obliteration with excellent descriptive material.
- LE LANGUES EMPLOYEES dans les TIMBRES D'EGYPTE - BOULAD, G., L'OP, VOL. III, No. 35 (F) Completely illustrated from the original definitives through the commemoratives to the Ophthalmology Congress. An excellent study.
- CARTES MAXIMUM - "C.M.", L'OP, VOL. III, No. 35, (F), pp. 210-11. Illustrated, concerning the use of maximum cards with the commemoratives and the definitives.
- EGYPTIAN MEDICAL CONGRESS ISSUE - L'OP, No. 22, OCT, 1934, p. 19. and No. 24, APR 1935 LOWE, H. F., p. 19. Concerning a variety of the 5 Mill, added info by Lowe.

- LES TIMBRES COMMEMORATIFS DE LA XIV^e EXPOSITION AGRICOLE & INDUSTRIELLE, 1931 - L'OP, No. 8, April, 1931, pp. 1-4 (F). Illustrated showing FDC with the special commem. set and with the normal definitives and special canceller. Good text including numbers issued etc.
- LES TIMBRES de PORT-FOUAD - and LES TIMBRES FAUX de PORT-FOUAD - DAZZI, Alfredo, L'OP, No. 8, April, 1931 (F), pp. 5-8. An article (author unlisted) concerning the reason for this special commemorative with good descriptive material and an illustrated and comprehensive work on the forgery of this issue. Reprinted in English in L'OP, No. 106, JAN., 1962, pp. 29-31
- LAST EGYPTIAN COMMEMORATIVES THROUGH FOREIGN EYES - (Originally published in Gibbons Stamp Monthly, March, 1938, (Author unlisted). L'OP VOL. III, No. 36, p. 245-246. A discussion pertaining to the Royal Wedding and Royal Birthday stamps, their small printing and an excerpt from GSM, Apr. 1938 about the "Scandal".
- NOUVEAUTES DE L'EGYPTE - BOULAD, Jean, L'OP, VOL. III, No. 36, APRIL, 1938, pp. 256-9 Illustrated with good descriptive data and control numbers on commemorative issues from the Wedding stamps and touching on some of the airs and others.
- VARIETIES OF EGYPT - L'OP, VOL. IX, No. 95, p. 412. Illustrated and descriptive text concerning the spot on the "E" in Postes on the 5 Mill denomination.
- CE QU'APPREND L'ETUDE DES TIMBRES - BRUNET, Georges, L'OP, No. 14, OCT. 1932 (F) from an article in L'Echo de la Timbrologie, 15 April, 1932. Illustrated material on the "Thoth" issue with interesting and descriptive on the cartouches. An excellent study on this issue.
- NOUVEAUTES DE L'EGYPTE - BOULAD, J., L'OP, VOL. IV, No. 54, APR. 1946, pp. 459-61. (F) Illustrated factual information and a listing of varieties, controls etc. Detail on the 1946 Exhibition issue and the sheets.
- A PROPOS D'UN TIMBRE COMMEMORATIF - PIATTOLI, Mario, L'OP, VOL. VIII, No. 87, (F), p. 429-31. Illustrated. Detailed information on the Ophthalmological Congress issue with quantities and an interesting crayon essay of the 5 Mill.
- CENTENAIRE DE IBRAHIM PACHA - PIATTOLI, Mario, L'OP, Vol. IX, No. 91, (F), pp. 171-2. Detailed information (Illustrated) on this 1948 commemorative.
- A STAMP IN SEARCH OF A FATHER - THOMPSON, G. S., L'OP, VOL. VII, No. 74, APR. 1951, pp. 75-77. Illustrated, a serious study on the compound perforations of the 1926 50 P.T. Fuad Birthday Stamp. Good for the student of this issue.
- LES SOURCES ICONOGRAPHIQUES DES EMISSIONS COMMEMORATIVES D'EGYPTE - BOULAD, J., L'OP, VOL. IV, No. 49, JAN. 1945, pp. 166-173. Illustrated. (F), A valuable work dealing with several of the early commems beginning with Thoth. Interesting line drawings of the themes with descriptive information.
- ERREURS ET VARIETIES - BOULAD, J., L'OP, VOL. IV, No. 49, an illustrated of several of the errors and varieties on the Navigation issue, Aviation Congress, and the 10 Mill value of the Thoth set. In French.
- THE VARIETY "FOND RAYE" - WARD, Gordon, L'OP, VOL. V, No. 59, JULY 1947, pp. 147. An illustrated article on the Congress of Medicine issue, the 5 Mill. Concerns the lines appearing in the background on some printings. Very good.
- UNRECORDED VARIETIES - L'OP, No. 108, Oct., 1962, p. 147. Illustrated marking a variety on the 10 m. African Postal Union Set with inverted watermark and a variety on the 10 m. of the First Arab Petroleum Congress issued in Apr., 1959.
- UNRECORDED VARIETIES - L'OP, No. 106, JAN., 1962, p. 3, A variety, name of the country, overprint in black missing at the bottom on the Arab League Center, issued simultaneously in six Arab countries, illustrated.

FRANCOBOLLI. PIASTRE EGIZIANE 2.

AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE V. R. POSTE EGIZIANE.

AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE V. R. POSTE EGIZIANE.

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
11	<p>THE WATERMARKS OF EGYPT'S SECOND ISSUE</p> <p>By Peter R. Feltus</p> <p>As is well known, stamps of Egypt's 1867-1869 issue are watermarked; after they were printed, a star & crescent was impressed into each stamp, usually on the back (though the Zeheri lists only four values with the variety "wmk. impressed on face", all six exist with the variety, as well as the 1pt. & 2pt. imperf.).</p> <p>In addition to the wmks. on these stamps, the sheet selvages were wmkd. in the same manner. The 2 sides of each sheet were impressed with the wording "Amministrazione Delle V.R. Poste Egiziane", and the top & bottom with the word "Francobolli." and the value. I was recently fortunate in having on loan the imperforate sheet of the 2pt. stamp which was in the King Farouk Collection. From it I made a tracing of the selvaige wmks., and from that, with a pen and "Letraset" instant lettering, I made an illustration which was photostatted and reduced and appears here. The typeface employed is only roughly similar to the one of the actual wmks., but the size and spacing are the same. The watermarks of the 1pt. and 5pt. sheets are the same, except for the numerals in the top-right and bottom-left corners. The para value sheets are the same at the sides, but the top & bottom inscriptions are of differing lengths and spacing (has any reader any marginal multiples of para values from which tracings of these watermarks can be made?).</p> <p>With this illustration, one can determine the sheet position of most second issue stamps or multiples that have selvaige attached. (If any reader has any marginal second issue pieces, particularly of the 1pt. value, I would be most grateful for the chance to borrow them, to photograph & return or buy, as I'm plating them. The 2pt. I do not need; I've got photos of the sheet, prints of which I can offer.)</p>								20
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FRANCOBOLLI. PIASTRE EGIZIANE 2.

Dr. A. Winter

PERFINS. . .

On Egyptian Stamps

The question of perforated letters in Egyptian stamps is not mysterious at all . . . when you know the answer, as suggested by Mr. W. T. Billens in the last (Vol. 2, #4) issue of Topics.

A number of countries have been using punctured stamps with different aims. Often, as in Egypt, firms employing a large number of adhesives were forced, to avoid pilferage by ill-intentioned employees, to puncture their stock of stamps, usually with the initials of the firm.

This method of identification aided in the prevention of their occasional resale as the origin of the stamps could be immediately known.

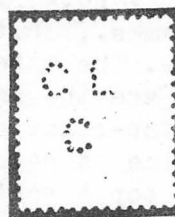
The date of the text officially authorizing this practice of puncturing stamps is to be situated at the end of the last century. The oldest copy I have seen is a "De La Rue" sphinx issued in 1906. (Sudan issued an Official 1 Febr., 1900 on remainders of the 5 m. carmine of the first provisional issue. Egypt, Zeheri #41, overprinted in English and Arabic as Sudan, Zeh #6, punctured "S.G." for Sudan Government. This provisional remained in use for one year. Ed.)

The last years of use, according to the stamps I have seen, extend into the 1950's (As an example, the French punctured stamps were used from 1876 until 1955).

The general usage of modern machine franking (meters) has rendered "puncturing" obsolete.

These punctures must obey generally some rules: not to spoil the recto of the stamp e.g., not to take more than a certain surface of the stamp, and not to alter the figure expressing the value of the stamp.

The puncture itself is made more or less carefully on recto or verso of the stamp (see illustration C L A), sometimes "a cheval", horizontally or vertically, according to the size of the stamp and the perforated letters.



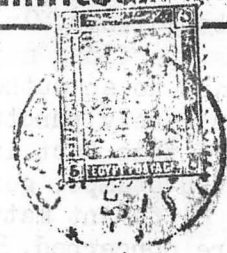
The description should follow a standardized format, giving the opportunity to describe newtypes and varieties and should include:

- 1) The height of perforated letters in millimeters.
- 2) The number of holes constituting each letter.
- 3) The existence of separating holes.
- 4) Possible extra indications (bars of letters, size of holes, etc.).
- 5) Catalogue numbers listing source of punctured stamps.
- 6) The cancellation which allows to situate the puncture(s), and sometimes to identify the firm.
- 7) Identification of origin of the issuing firm, often possible by equating the perforations with a printed or stamped letterhead or envelope. (See illustrations - THOS COOK & SON (Egypt) Limited, and "SOCIETE ANONYME du BEHERA").

Notably, the interest in punctured stamps is far larger than one would guess from a casual glance.

(Continued on next page)

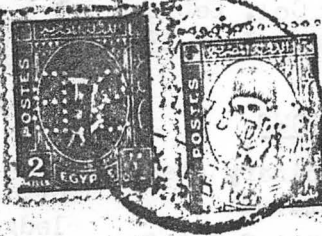
THOS. COOK & SON (Egypt), Limited.



Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son
Hornby Rd
Cook's Bldg
Bombay



Société Anonyme du Behéra



Monsieur

Georges Jonas-Titan

29. rue des Saussaies

(France) Paris VIII



PERFINS ON EGYPTIAN STAMPS by DR. A. WINTER

Primarily, they are part of a specialized Egyptian collection with particular emphasis as postal history items. On the other hand, such punctures (perfin) may be considered as an equivalent to an authenticity certificate. Forgers rarely puncture their forged stamps and, if this fact is of no interest for small valued stamps, generally genuine, it is quite a different matter as far as high values are concerned. For instance, the 2 Fr and 5 Fr of the second issue of Alexandria and Port Said (French P.O.'s) where forgeries definitely exist.

Following, in alphabetical sequence, is a basic list of perforations used on Egyptian stamps and stamps used by the French Post Office in Egypt (Alexandria and Port-Said), compiled from several French collections to which I have had access, and from the French specialized literature, using the previously listed method of description.

If all of our readers interested in perfins will check their stamps and forward the information to the editor of Topics, indicating their discoveries, it will be possible to publish supplementary listings to form a usable catalogue of all of the perforated stamps used in Egypt.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

"Les timbres perfores" by Col. Leblanc
Le Monde des Philatelistes, June 1962
and August 1970.

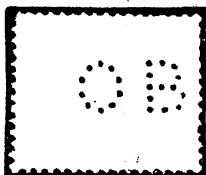
DR. WINTER'S BASIC LISTING FOLLOWS:

For EGYPT: Zeheri numbers (ordinary stamps unless otherwise stated:

For ALEXANDRIA and PORT SAID: Y & T Catalog

1) Punctures Height (h) No. of holes per on stamp each letter.

BM h 8 mm. B:14 holes, M:21 holes
On Alexandria #25



BO h 7 mm. B:13, O:10
On Egypt Nos. 99, 131
Cancelled: CAIRO.
Firm: Banque Ottomane

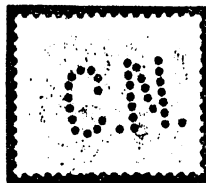
CL h 4.5 mm. C:9, L:7, A:10
A On Egypt Nos. 40, 83 &
Alexandria Nos. 29/33
42, 52a, 55/58, 70, 72
73, 76, 78.

Cancelled: Alexandrie
Firm: Credit Lyonnais (Alexandria
Branch of a French Bank

CL h 4.5 mm. C:9, L:7, C:9. 2 line text
C On Egypt Nos. 55, 88, 107, 112 and
45 on page 139

Cancelled: CAIRO

Firm: Credit Lyonnais (Cairo Branch



C.N. h 8.5 mm. C:13, N:19
Hole (period) after
each letter-larger.
On Egypt Nos. 112 &
131, Port Said, #70
Cancelled: PORT SAID

Firm: Comptoir National d'Escompte
(The French Bank).

EOB h 6.5 mm. E:10, O:10, B:13
On Alexandria No. 27

PO On Egypt No. 127

R & C^o h 6.5 mm. R:12, &:12, C:8, O:6
On Alexandria No. 62

S.B. h 8 mm. S:13, B:19, hole (period)
after each letter

On Egypt Nos. 105, 120, 121, 126,
131 and 188

Cancelled: ALEXANDRIA

Firm: Societe Anonyme du Behara

SG On Egypt
Firm: Societe Generale
(The French Bank)



TC h 6.5 mm. T:7, C:8,
& S &:14, S:19. 2 line
text.

On Egypt No. 60

Firm: Thos Cook & Son

* * *

Dr. A Winter of Montrouge, France is a knowledgeable and dedicated philatelist, dedicated to working in our area of interest. He has kindly offered to correlate all of the information we are able to gather on perforated stamps. This compilation will be published regularly as the information is received for the edification of all of our readers.

We would appreciate xerox or other types of photo copies of the actual stamps placed on a black surface, face downward as this method shows up the perfins best and will permit us to properly measure the punctures. However, if this is impractical a good drawing will do the job. Let us hear from you. Ed.

Kenneth D. Knight

G. B. L. A. Ass'n

SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES

The following article was received along with the interesting cover illustrated in our last issue, franked only by two G.B.L.A. labels and a censor marking of the Egyptian Post. Deadline time prevented our doing a proper job on Mr. Knight's article and the factual material on his fine cover. His original article follows and we offer our apology for using his illustration prematurely without his text. Ed.

* * *

Covers from the GREAT BITTER LAKES have been advertised at regular intervals for some 12 months in the English philatelic journal, "STAMP WEEKLY" by Philatelic Postal Sales of London; the price thirty - five shillings, U.S. (\$4.20) per cover. This firm's letter heading claims forty years in business, and the proprietor, Herbert G. Parsons as a member of the P.T.S. (Corresponding in Britain to our A.S.D.A.). Personally, I am unable to guarantee the firm's reputation as I do not know them very well.

A leaflet, distributed with the cover makes the following claims:

Initially the G.B.L.A. stamps, although as used on the front of covers had to be accompanied by valid Egyptian adhesives of the appropriate denomination, however during 1969 the P.O. of the U.A.R. accepted covers with G.B.L.A. stamps only.

* * * * *

It must be borne in mind however, the ease with which a rubber stamp could be cut, and hence covers forged, with or without authorized U. A. R. stamps attached.


The M.V. Agalampus is in fact two ships, tied together; the AGAPENOR and the MELAMPUS, both of which belong to the Blue Funnel Line. Note that envelope is the Blue Funnel stationery.

The G.B.L.A. stamps on this cover emanated from the Agalampus. "1969 New Year Issue", "Regatta Issue", "Port Invercargill", "World Cup" (a soccer competition played between crews of the various ships) and the "April Issue".

Stamps were printed using the spirit duplicating process, and although the number of sheets produced is given at between 80 and 120 sheets, the number of stamps per sheet is not given.

The name of the designer and producer is also not given, but he is stated to be 4th Engineer on the Agalampus, and not realizing that they would be valued by collectors he distributed them among the ships on the lake.

Well, there is the gist of the information sheet I have, and now I guess each individual collector must form his own conclusion.



50% OFF SCOTT !!

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★ IRAQ


★ EGYPT

★ SYRIA

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MIDDLE EAST STORE

ALBERT MIZRAHI P O BOX 1325 MISSION, KANSAS 66222, U.S.A.

RALPH TIPPER

Varieties On OFFICIALS

Continuing from our last issue with several more oddities, varieties and printing errors, each illustrated and described.

These officials, produced by Harrison and Sons of London as the regular issue of 1921 and 1922, with watermark of Multiple Crescent and Star were overprinted in Cairo by the Government Printing Works by typography

in panes of 100. The quality of the workmanship at the Cairo plant has provided us with many interesting varieties.

The official overprint, in three lines translates as follows:

O. H. E. M. S.
ON HIS EGYPTIAN MAJESTY'S SERVICE
THE GOVERNMENT
THE KINGDOM OF EGYPT

Fig. 1 Narrow spacing between O.H.E.M.S. and the Arabic line directly below it. (Just over 1 millimetre).

The narrow spacing on this stamp has an overall vertical size of $13\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The same as is found on all of the small stamps which make up the balance of this issue. The wider spacing found on the stamps illustrated in Fig. 2, of $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm. was apparently done so that the overprint would more in proportion applied on the larger stamp.



Fig. 2 Wide spacing - over 2 Mills, between O.H.E.M.S. and the Arabic line directly below.

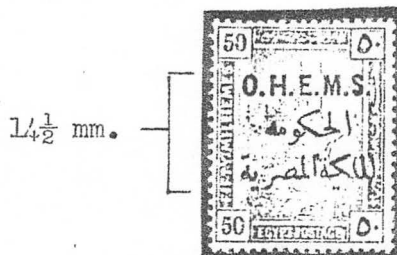


Fig. 3 PAIR OF THE 5 MILLS
WITH DOUBLE OVERPRINT

The only double overprint variety found on the stamps of this series is on the 5 milliemes, and only one sheet of 100 stamps has been found. They were not known until some years after the issue was obsolete.

One overprint is $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. below the the other and slightly to the left. The two stops after "H" and wide spacing varieties are known with the double overprint. The status of this item is very doubtful.



J. Boulad d'Humieres

Comments on Recent

Controversial Items

Several items of controversial interest have appeared in Egyptian Topics in recent months with the thought in mind that some of our readers might "Jump into the breach", and give us their opinions. Accordingly we are happy to present here the comments of JEAN BOULAD d'HUMIERES, F.R.P.S.L., of Lausanne, Switzerland, internationally known for his philatelic works, in many fields, but notably Egypt, and of course, the Suez Canal.

* * *

"TAXE & PERCEVOIR"

VOL. 2, No. 2, p. 37 - VOL. 2, No. 4, p. 73

It was never my intention to offer offense to Dr. D. C. Jordan concerning his cover as illustrated on page 37, however, I discussed the circumstances surrounding the usage of this particular handstamp which apparently had no need in the case of his cover. It has no more need in the case of Prof. Smith's cover, shown on page 73, as the 25¢ rate as shown, is absolutely correct.

When someone has lived in Egypt for a period of time he can more readily appreciate that many facts are completely different as opposed to those with which we are familiar at home, thousands of miles away. Perhaps this may be explained during my visit to London.

FELTUS IN LONDON

PETER FELTUS writes that he will be away from the old homestead for several months.

First, he will be in London to attend Phillypia and a meeting of the Egypt Study Circle the, then traveling extensively on the Continent in search of especially fine Egyptian material.

If any of our readers would like him to look for particular items write to him before mid-October to Charles W. Minett, Fairmead, 3 Bridgefield Road, Tankerton, Whitstable, Kent, England.

"THE ZIFTA & MITG." BISECT

VOL. 2, No. 5, pgs. 93-95.

An initial look at the photos of this cover — of which the dated stamps are very good, if faked — shows that the letter is addressed to Cairo, written twice on the front while the arrival backstamp is "Birket el Saab" ! How do you explain this ? It is the first contradiction that I noted.

In addition, the details given in the article concerning the differences in the dated postmarks may be of use but are not necessarily conclusive.

It will be interesting to learn of the opinion given by the E.S.C. expertizing commission. For my personal idea it is a fake.

AIRMAIL VARIETY

From the collection of Floyd Daehn we illustrate a copy of the 10 m. violet airmail issued 18 March, 1941 (Zeheri #32, page 237, Scott # C-35) with an interesting variety, a dot just below the wheel of the plane which appears as a bomb dropping. This is No. 8 on control sheet A/40. Handley-Page planes, of course, are not bombers.

It will be interesting to note if anyone else has noted this item. Perhaps it is a constant flaw.



John F. Cousins

The "GREAT BITTER LAKE LOCALS"

Writing from England, author JOHN F. COUSINS gives us some facts concerning these labels previously unpublished. He refers herein to the article which appeared recently in Egyptian Topics (Vol. 2, No. 4)

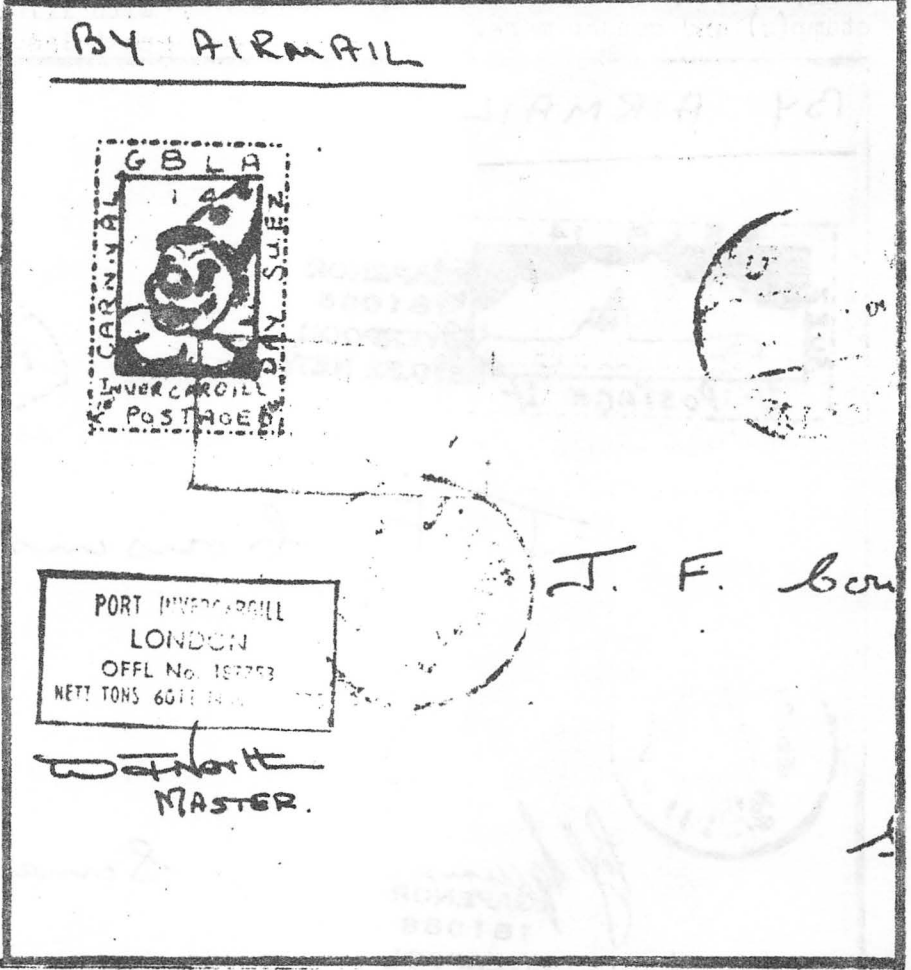
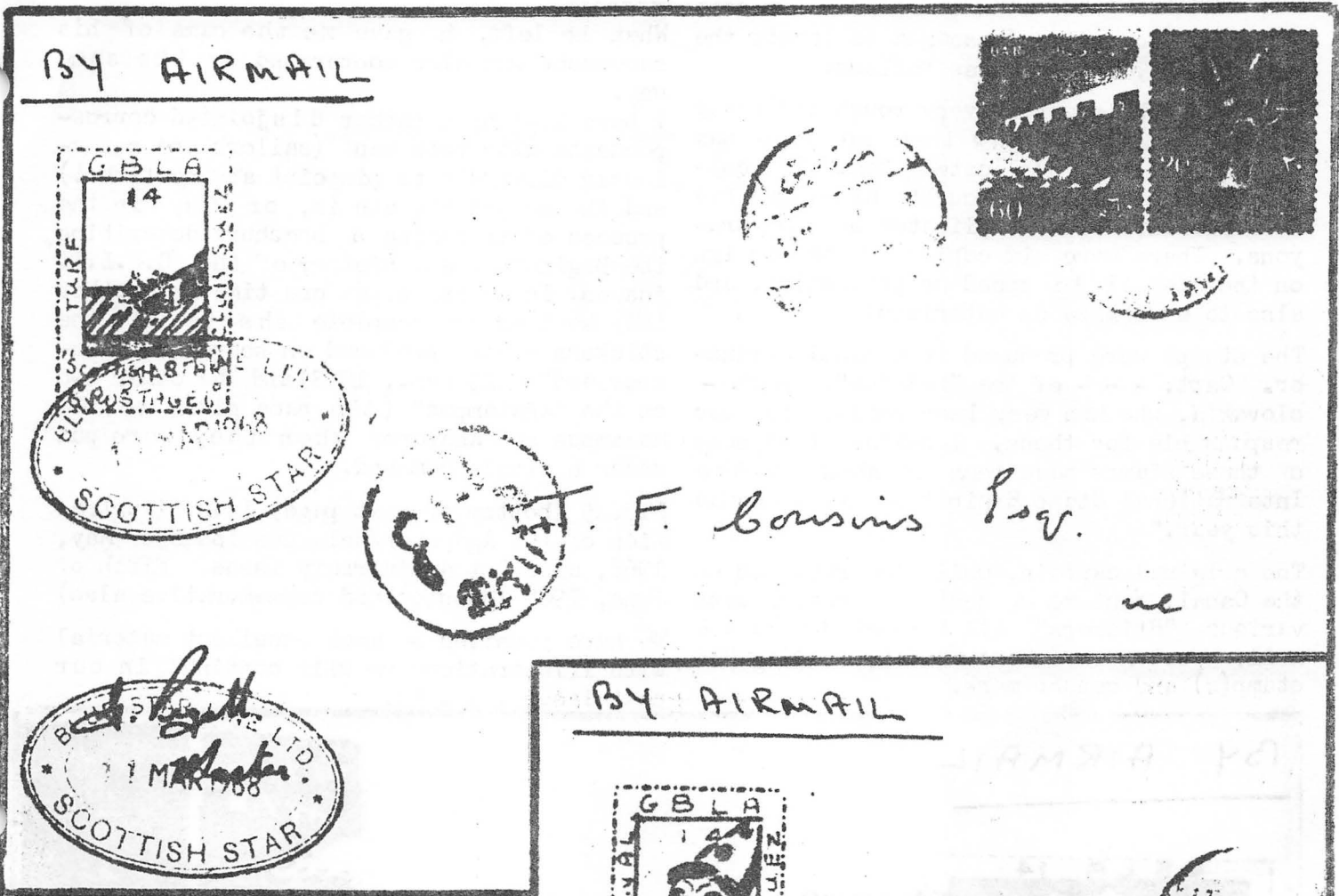
I read your article regarding the "GREAT BITTER LAKE LOCALS" with great interest, as I have gathered as much information as I have been able over the past year or so.

To begin with, without wishing to denigrate the S.P.A. Journal, their article on this subject which you mentioned as October 1968 was, of course, predated by two articles in the stamp magazine "Cinderella Stamp Corner" written by L. N. and M. Williams in March 1968 and August 1968. These items may of course, not have reached you in the United States.

(Continued on next page)



FIG. 1 One of the earliest labels to be produced by the British ships in the G.B.L.A. Figs. 2, 3, & 4 are also from British ships representing all four trapped in the Canal. All illustrations from Mr. Cousins.



Figs. 2 & 3 Early labels from the Scottish Star and the Port Invercargill. Both of these covers were franked in the usual manner with U A R adhesives

As it happens, sometime before this, in the Fall of 1967, there was a short item on these local issues on television and at that time, I wrote to the Captain of one of the British Ships trapped in the Canal and received a courteous reply dated 1 Jan. 1968 enclosed in an envelope bearing an early sticker and U. A. R. stamp, with ship's cachet, censor mark, and Port Tewfik cancellation. He explained that mail was carried from the ship by ship's agent who affixed UAR stamps and consigned it to UAR mail.

Normally mail went through a franking machine. My postal order to cover postage was returned by him and it was suggested that a contribution to the R.N.L.I. (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) would suffice.

At that time the Captain said the "Chap who designed and made them ("the stickers") has gone home and to date we have not found anyone to succeed him.

(Continued next page)

THE GREAT BITTER LAKE LOCALS - JOHN F. COUSINS

After some enquiry, I managed to locate the said "chap", who wrote as follows:

"The labels were a very rough and ready affair really. I drew them out on a wax stencil and then duplicated them. The colouring was an afterthought; as no ship had an efficient colour duplicator we used crayons. There were six copies of the design on the stencil to speed up production, and also to economize on materials.

The stamps were produced in a similar manner. Capt. - - - of the "Lednice", Czechoslovakia, who is a very keen philatelist was responsible for these. I believe that some of these stamps have been on show at the International Stamp Exhibition at Prague this year."

The original captain, while he remained on the Canal, sent me a series of covers with various "Stickers" all through the U A R mail, post-marked Port Tewfik, bearing UAR stamp(s) and censor mark.

When he left, he gave me the name of his successor who also cooperated in the same way.

I have kept up a rather disjointed correspondence with both men (sailors are notoriously difficult to pinpoint at any time!) and the second captain is, or was, in the process of preparing a brochure describing the beginnings and history of the G.B.L.A. issues. In addition, at one time or another they sent me two complete sheets of the stickers - one produced on board the "Munsterland" (25 Feb., 1968) and the other two on the "Agalampus" (the name given to the Melampus and Agapenor when they were put under a single command.

Fig. 5 (bottom of next page) is an illustration of the Agapenor/Melampus issue of May, 1968, also 1st anniversary issue, Fifth of June, 1968 (Munsterland commemorative also)

We have received so much excellent material with illustrations we will continue in our next issue . . . Ed.

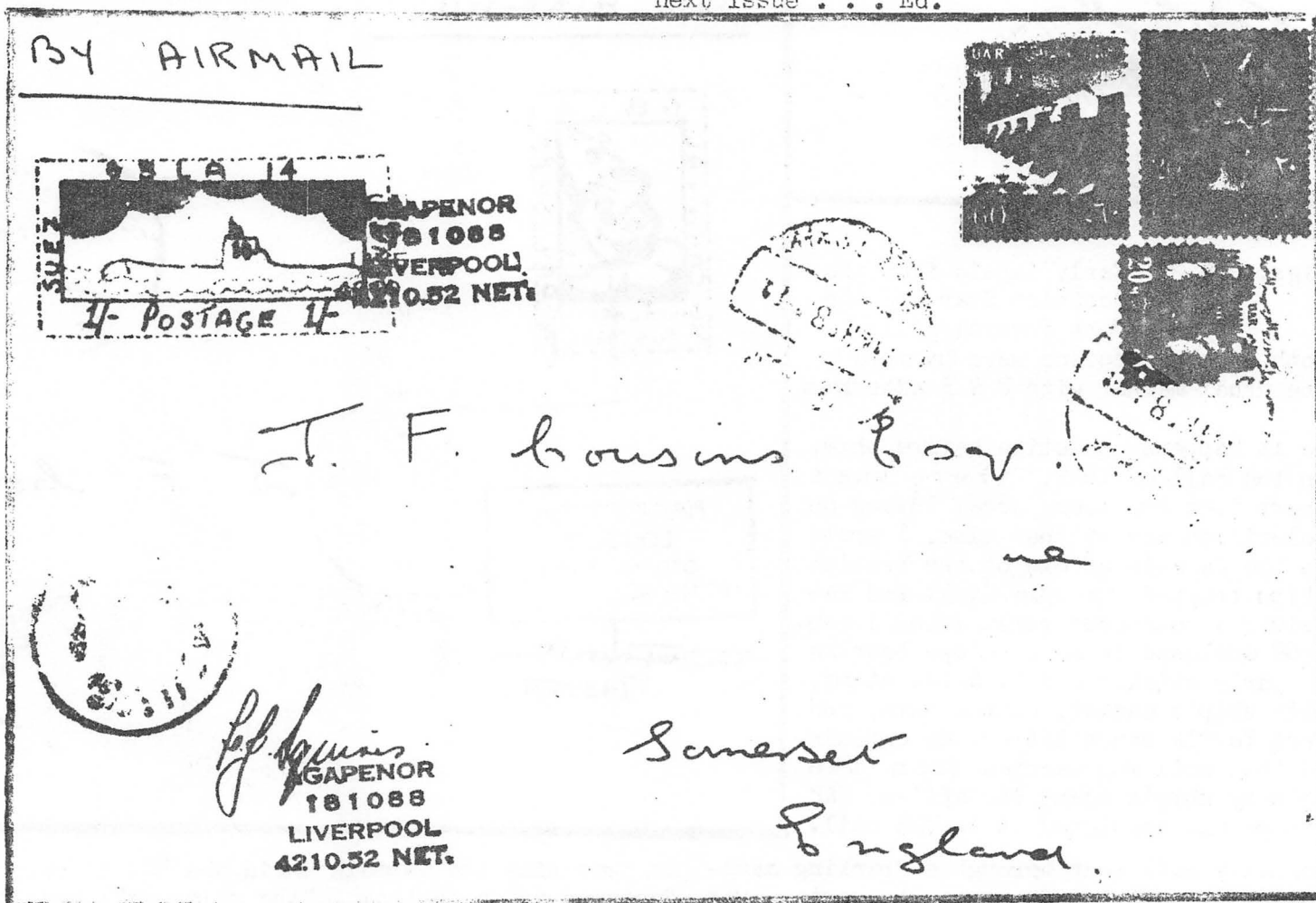


Fig. 4 - The submarine was a camouflaged dinghy, used to patrol the course on "Regatta Days" Hence the signature of the G. B. L. A. "THE YELLOW SUBMARINE".

Market Notes. . . BILL TATHUM

With the interest in bisects generated from the recent article on the Zifta & Mitg item we believe a comparison of prices on various bisects sold at auction might be of interest. We hope to bring you comparisons of the better items two or three times a year, and on the single and unusual items of interest.

ROBSON LOWE - (Byam) 24/25 October, 1961

Lot 293, Diag. well tied by blue Cairo c.d.s. of 24 July 1867, to slightly damaged native entire to Alexandria.

Est. \$140.00 Realized \$182.00

Lot 294, Similar, imperf one side, tied by blue Cairo c.d.s., 25 July 1867, to large part of entire, also with 1863 of Italy, 60c, cancel 234, & ship marking

Est. \$112.00 Realized \$263.40

Lot 295, Another tied by black Alexandria c.d.s., 20 July 1867 to large rust-stained entire, also Cairo c.d.s.

Est. \$70.00 Realized \$44.80

Lot 296, Imperf, diagonal tied to piece by blue c.d.s. (Cairo) - 27 July 1867

Lot 297, Similar, normal perfs, similar c.d.s., 20 July 1867, cut as a hexagon

Est. \$42.00 Realized \$36.40

ROBSON LOWE - 27 January, 1965

Lot 157, (Zeh. No. 5) bisected on cover well tied with blue Cairo c.d.s., dated July 1867.

Est. \$112.00 Realized \$100.80

ROBSON LOWE - 28 / 29 July, 1965

Lot 1681, 2 P.T. diagonal, 20 July 1867 on cover Cairo to Alexandria. Also fake on piece for comparison.

Est. \$182.00 Realized \$252.00

ROBSON LOWE - BASEL - 7 October, 1969

Lot 273, Diagonal, Alexandria c.d.s., to SUEZ, 27 July 1867 with BPA certifi.

Est. \$200.00 Realized \$300.00

H. R. FARMER - 17 / 20 February, 1970

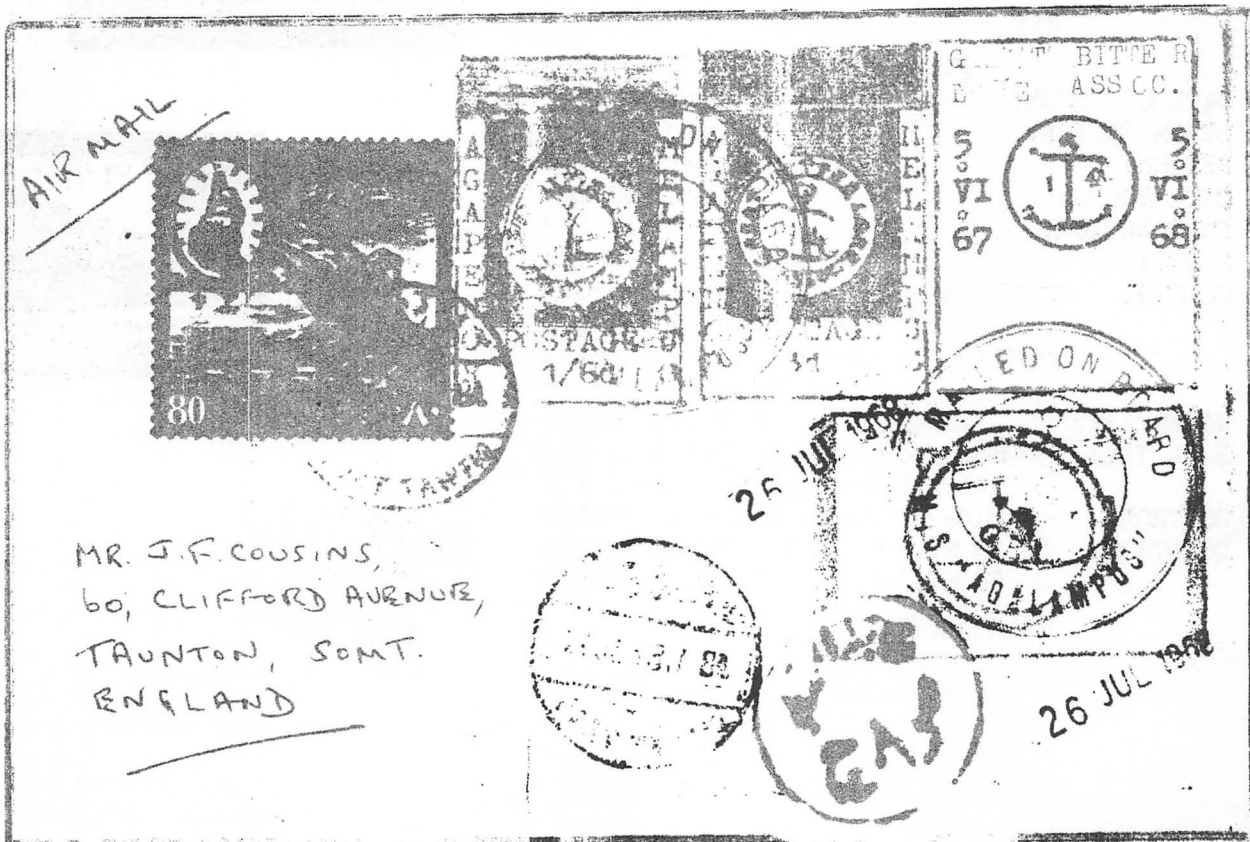
Lot 151, Diagonal, on small piece with Alexandria c.d.s., illegible date.

Cat. \$225.00 Realized \$55.00

H. R. FARMER - 14 / 16 APRIL, 1970

Lot 990, 2 P.T. diagonal, tied on folded letter by Cairo c.d.s. Carries SUEZ backstamp.

Cat. \$225.00 Realized \$160.00



UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVOLUTION

DATE OF ISSUE: 23 JULY, 1970
 DENOMINATION: 20 Mills
 DESIGN: A fist and a freed bird symbolizing steadfastness and liberation.
 DIMENSIONS: 25 x 42 mm.
 PERFORATION: 11 1/2
 SHEET: 50 Stamps (10 x 5)
 COLOR: Black, white, blue-green and orange scarlet



THE MINIATURE SHEET

DENOMINATION: 100 Mills
 DESIGN: Same as the stamp (Imperf)
 DIMENSIONS: 70 x 110 mm.



Following applies to stamp and sheet . . .

WATERMARK: Multiple Eagle
 PRINTING: Rotogravure - Postal Organization Printing House in U A R
 CONTROL: Date of Issue & Serial number
 QUANTITY: Stamps 1,500,000
 Miniature sheets 150,000



DATE OF ISSUE: 21 August, 1970
 DENOMINATION: 20 and 60 Mills
 DESIGN: Al Aqsa Mosque on fire
 DIMENSIONS: 49 x 30 mm.
 PERFORATION: 11 1/2
 SHEET: 50 Stamps (5 x 10)
 COLORS: 20 Mills Emerald & pale green tan, brown & orange.
 60 Mills Bright and pale blue tan, brown & crimson



WATERMARK: Multiple Eagle
 PRINTING: Rotogravure - Postal Organization Printing House in U A R
 CONTROL: Date of Issue & Serial number
 QUANTITY: 20 Mills 1,000,000 stamps
 60 Mills 500,000 stamps

