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TOPICS**



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Egyptian Topics



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TWELFTH ANNUAL STAMP EXHIBITION

San Francisco,

California

with the editor

Another New Year and an opportunity to wish our readers the very best in health, happiness and good stamping in the months ahead.

A perusal through this issue looks like the United Nations, with a variety of articles by our many friends from several parts of the civilized world. We thank each & every one, and we thank the new contributors with the hope they will soon become regulars.

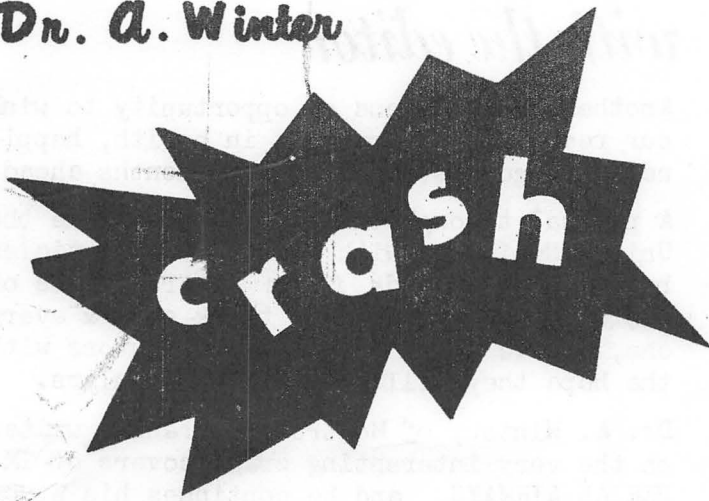
Dr. A. Winter, of Montrouge, France, writes on the very interesting crash covers of IMPERIAL AIRWAYS, and he continues his study of Egyptian perfins with additions by Lars Alund of Sweden. Gino Piperno, our faithful contributor from sunny Italy, offers yet another of his famous "varieties" on the official 10 Mill. Add to this Al Moses, Peter A.S. Smith, William Billens and Bill Scheetz and we believe you can spend an hour or so engrossed in our pages, with the added plus of keeping it for reference.

We want to thank the many among you who have offered congratulations for our silver win at Philymphia but, as we have pointed out, while we are justly proud of the achievement we offer the credit to our many fine contributors who really made it possible.

We also entered in the literature competitions of the SPA and at HAPEX (APS). We didn't win but we received UN-official comment that only the big society slicks were really in the running at APS, and only the monthlies were considered by SPA. We also believe some reasonable rules for judging the literature competitions of a uniform nature will be adopted as these competitions grow in popularity. As it stands now, the smaller organizations with small budgets will automatically be forced out of competition. We have no axe to grind; an international silver and a growing subscription list tells us all we need to know. We can't hope to compete with the "slicks" but we believe we can match our writers with the best, article for article. . . .

And, just a little note to our many friends who have written recently. We're behind in our correspondence due to the holiday rush, and the wife's trip to the hospital. Gradually getting back to normal and we'll answer the mail just as quickly as we can get to it . . . and, thanks for your many renewal subscriptions and prompt payment.

Dr. A. Winter



COVERS



SCIPIO (1)

In the years 1936 - 37 several planes crashed on the Egypt - Europe route. I have found three of them while filing my air covers. All concern liners of the British "Imperial Airways".

The first accident happened in the sea, off the coast of Crete, where the "SCIPIO" fell and crashed during a storm 22 August, 1936. Two passengers lost their lives. All mail aboard was salvaged and handed over to the post office in Athens (Greece).

My cover, posted at Alexandria on 21 August, 1936, was addressed to Pont de Vaux, in the north of France where it arrived on 30 August, 1936, having traveled via rail from Athens to Paris (*Hopkins).

In spite of rust stains the cover bears a good legible one-lined strike on the face in large purple letters:

"Accident d'Avion"

Length of this text is 87 mm. (See illustration at right).

COURTIER (2)

Another liner, the "COURTIER", sank at Phaleron Bay, near Athens, Greece on 1 October, 1937, as it winged, homeward bound from Alexandria. It carried mails from India, Iraq and

Egypt. Three passengers lost their lives on that ill-fated journey.

I have a cover from this mail addressed to Paris, France, bearing the Alexandria departure marking of 28 IX 37 1.30 PM. The stamps have been lost by water immersion.

The French Postal Services sealed the letter by sticking two official labels on the reverse with the following text:
N° 509 "POSTES TELEGRAPHES.
(Art. 26, I Ve fasc. de l'Instruction generale)



CRASH COVERS . . . (Continued)

Superimposed on these labels we find a large five-lined wreck cachet in violet, as:

SERVICE POSTAL FRANCAIS

Correspondance retardee par suite
du naufrage d'un Avion

Reconstitue par le Service Francais

NE PAS TAXER

(See illustration below).

This cachet translates as follows:

French Postal Service, mail delayed due to wreck of airplane. Restored by the French Service. Not to be taxed.

This cover appears to have reached Paris by 6 October (Hopkins).

The third cover illustrated survived the crash of the liner "CYGNUS" which occurred at Brindisi, Italy on 4 December, 1937. Homeward bound, it carried mails from Hong Kong, India, Ceylon, Singapore, New South Wales, Palestine, Egypt and Greece. Thus a very large and varied mail was aboard.

CYGNUS (3)

My cover was posted in Cairo on 3 December, 1937, and damaged during the disaster. It carries large violet stains.

The French post closed the letter with two labels similar to those illustrated on the "Courtier" cover (below), also struck in purple, as follows:

SERVICE POSTAL FRANCAIS

Correspondance retardee

par accident d'Avion

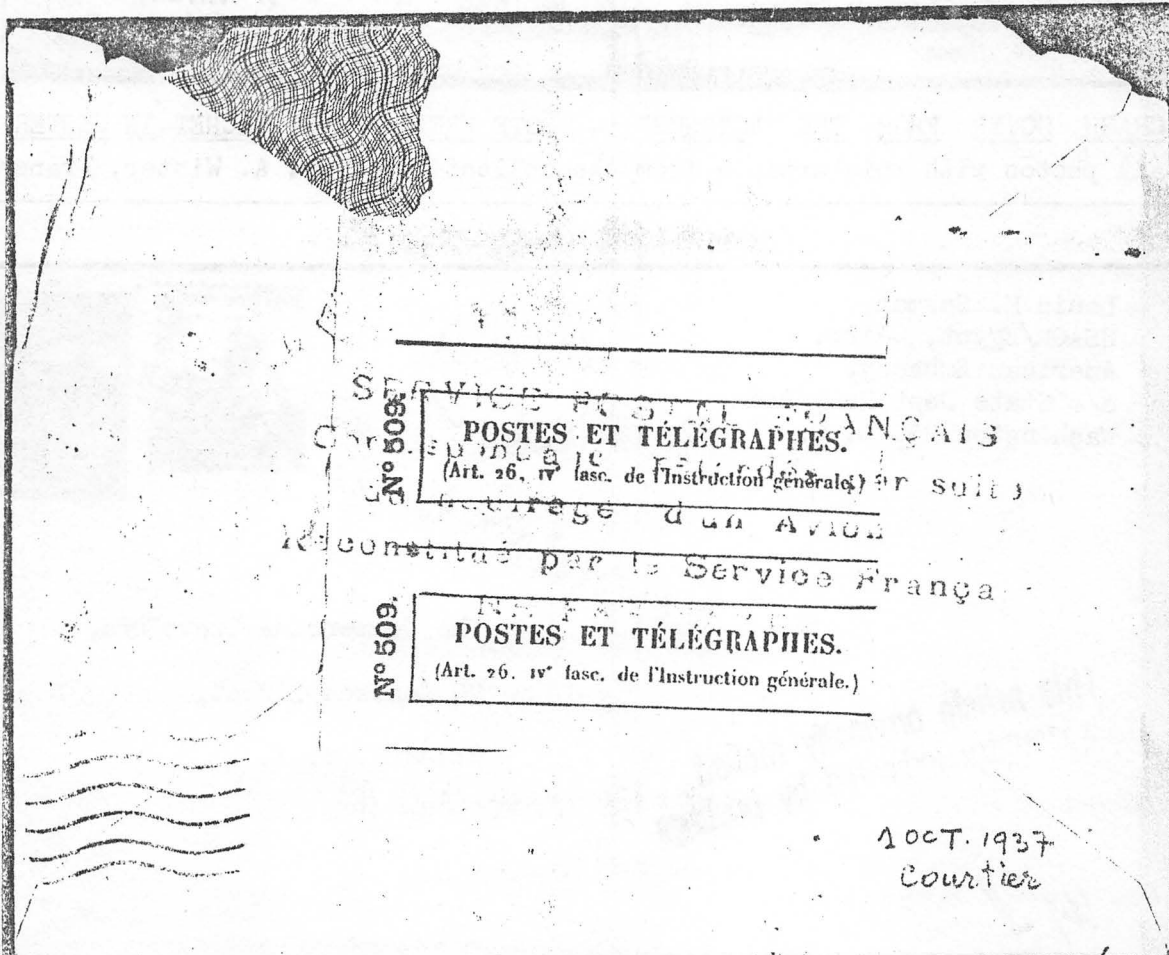
Priere de ne pas taxer **

** French Postal Service. Mail delayed by air crash. Not to be taxed.

* * *

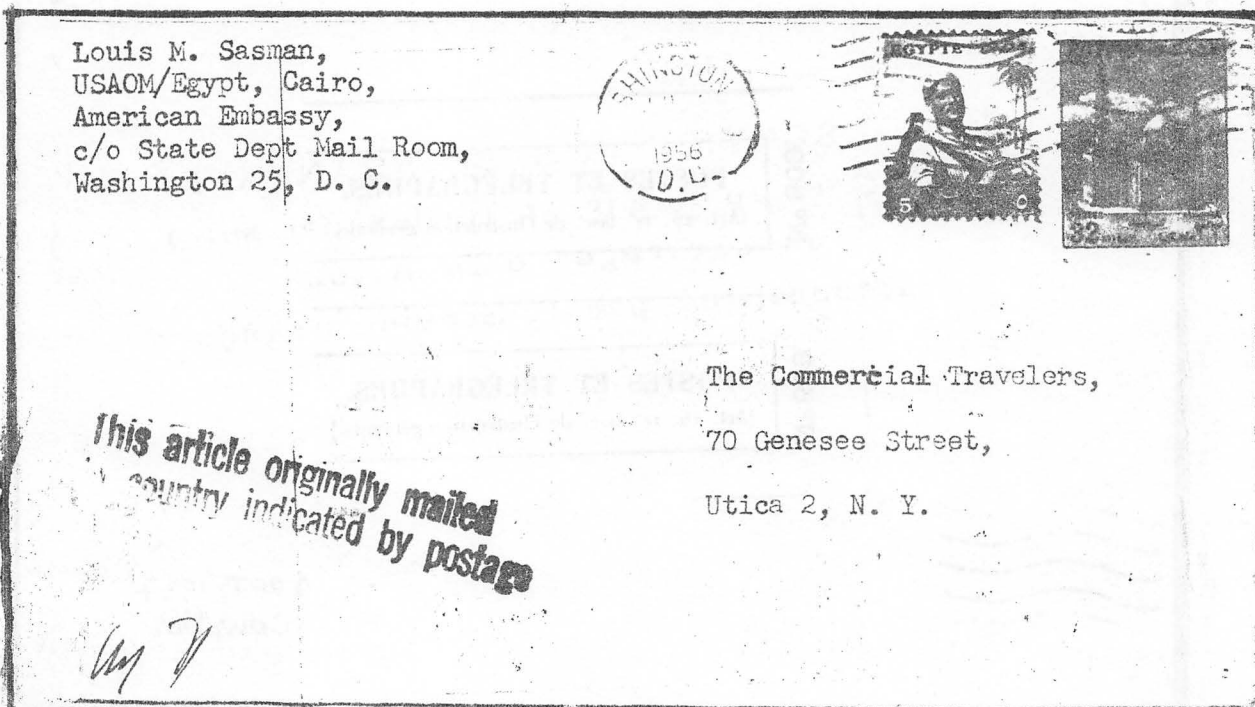
Bibliography:

- L'Orient Philatelique, No. 113.
- Wreck Covers, by Gabriel Boulad
- A History of Wreck Covers, A. E. Hopkins
- The Aero Field, Vol. 5, No. 2, April '41
- Biogs. of 20 British Flying Boats.





CRASH COVER FROM THE "CYGNUS" - NOTE FRENCH WRECK CACHET IN CENTER
 All photos with this article from the collection of Dr. A. Winter, France



*This article originally mailed
 in country indicated by postage*

WJ

Alfred J. Moses

Personal Mail

Via Diplomatic Pouch

Covers bearing foreign postage stamps with U. S. postmarks offer an unusual sight to many philatelists. Such covers are encountered in personal mail from U. S. diplomatic missions abroad to the United States, and in mail that had been posted on the high seas aboard a vessel of foreign registry prior to discharge of the mail at a U. S. port. The latter type of mail bears the marking "Paquebot" or an equivalent term and is not the subject of this article.

Personal mail from an American diplomatic mission abroad to an address in the United States is exemplified by the cover illustrated on the lower half of the preceding page. This cover was sent, in 1956 by a person with the U. S. Embassy in Cairo to a business in the United States.

Until 1964 personal mail from staff members of American Missions abroad to addresses in the United States required franking with stamps of the country of origin at the International airmail rate from that country to the U. S. for such mail to be sent via diplomatic pouch. The pouches were sent to Washington, D. C. as air cargo. The mail received no postmark abroad as it was not processed by a foreign postal service. On arrival in Washington, the mail was channeled to the Washington City Post Office where the Washington postmark, and frequently the marking "This article originally mailed in country indicated by postage" were applied.

The use of foreign postage on such letters was left up to the Mission's Chief after July 2, 1964 as he could authorize domestic U. S. postage for such mail. The final demise of our nice covers came on October 1, 1966 when diplomatic pouch mail was classified as domestic U. S. mail.

Much of the information presented here has been taken from the definitive work on the U. S. Diplomatic Pouch Mail by Col. Leonard H. Smith Jr., which appeared in the S.P.A. Journal, Vol. 30, No. 6, Febr., 1968, pp. 369-381. Students of this subject will find his article to be an indispensable source of information.

* * *

Editor's note: AL MOSES is the highly regarded Editor of the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner's Weekly Stamp Department and an Associate Editor of the National Stamp News. His personal collection is extensive with specialized areas in the German, polar, military and paquebot field. He has a large number of interesting and informative articles to his credit in a variety of national publications.

Peter Kenedi of California, Inc.

15445 VENTURA BLVD.
SHERMAN OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91403

PORT SAID *Taxe à percevoir*

The PROVISIONAL POSTAGE-DUE HANDSTAMPS of Port Said, French Post Office, of 1921 have been discussed in EGYPTIAN TOPICS Nos. 2, 3 4 and 6 of Volume 2 in the past year. Jean Boulad d'Humieres has questioned the validity of these provisionals on the ground that the covers illustrated were already properly franked. He pointed out how easy it would have been in Egypt at that time to have had such items cancelled per complaisance by the French postmaster. Nevertheless, I do not think these provisionals can be dismissed so easily. For one thing, the letters in question would only have been properly franked if they were not overweight.

I recently wrote to Mr. Robert G. Stone, of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society Inc., regarding these stamps. Mr. Stone has written in detail of other French Colonial postage-due provisionals in the Collectors' Club Philatelist this past year. He has very kindly given me permission to quote from his reply.

"About your questioned cover from Port Said (actually, to Port Said), I have to confess the usage is entirely new to me, as I have been with the Colonies, and have paid little attention to the Offices. However, on general principles, I can make a few comments for you to mull over. As you and Mr. Boulad suggest, the addition of the Port Said stamp with special cachet could well be a fantasy added later. But the Yvert & Tellier specialized catalogue, Vol. III, 1940 (the last issued), has a footnote on p. 229 mentioning this cachet as having been used in Nov., 1921, on postage stamps of Port Said serving as surrogates for postage-due stamps, and their legitimacy is not questioned. Now, your cover is earlier in date than November by a few months (July), but I would not be concerned about that because the Yvert reference was probably based on a report in one of the journals by somebody who just happened to see only November covers, even though the usage had been going on for some time. But we find in the same catalogue that, starting in about June, 1921 French postage-due stamps of several denominations were overprinted similarly to the Port Said stamps at that time, and were used at both Alexandria and Port Said. The

quantities of these overprinted were small (500 to 1700). So we can say that prior to these due overprints, there probably were no dues stamps available at Port Said, and even after the overprints were issued, the stock was so small that it probably soon ran out (what with heavy philatelic sales). On Nov. 17th, therefore, they made another overprinted set on the French dues stamps, this time just for Port Said. The quantities were somewhat larger than in June. As to the rates: your cover with 25c. stamp would have been properly franked for a single weight letter, but if it happened to exceed the single weight by one weight-step, then the postage due with penalty would be two times the deficiency, or 50c. = 15 Mills. Ergo, I don't offhand see anything wrong with the cover. As you say, it doesn't look philatelic.

Apparently, prior to 1921, they used ordinary French postage-due stamps at Port Said, without overprint, as they are listed thus in Langlois and Francois "Les Obliterations des Bureaux Francaises a l'Etranger" (Yvert 1924), p. 9 and 114. My guess would be that the French dues ran out of stock around May or June, 1921 or sooner, and when a fresh supply came from France, they decided to overprint them in Egyptian currency, as already done with the postage stamps."

Mr. Stone's remarks require little further comment, except to emphasize that any new issue of provisional stamps in Egypt immediately attracted large philatelic purchases so that a quantity that might have sufficed for many months of ordinary use would be quickly exhausted. It seems likely that the stock of ordinary French postage-due stamps held at Port Said was overprinted in Egyptian currency in normal course, following the overprinting of the postage stamps (April to June), and that the small stock available was inadequate to fulfill philatelic as well as postal needs. Recourse to the handstamped provisionals in question would have been a logical action while awaiting a fresh supply of postage-due stamps from France, during the period July November 17, 1921.

Peter A. S. Smith



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

* * *

WANTED: L'OP's containing articles on the Port Fuads and the 1879 Provisionals, 5 and 10 on 2½. If you can help write to WEBER STEARNS, P. O. Box No. 112, Astor Station, Boston, Mass., 03123. . . .

AN OFFER: "POSTAL HISTORY of the BRITISH FORCES in EGYPT 1932-40", recently published by John E. O. Hobbs of England. Booklet contains 40 pages with details of the postal service, postal seals, 9 pages of illustrations. Price \$3.00. Write now to WALTER BJORK, 54 West 84th St., N.Y., N.Y., 10024.

WANTED: Egyptian airmail control blocks for specialized collection. See listing in last issue. If you can help - write to WILLIAM HILL, 7743 Naniamo St., Vancouver, B. C., Canada

WANTED: More wants and offers so your poor overworked, underfed editor wouldn't spend so much time here at the &%_\$\$&? typewriter trying to fill up this space. DO IT NOW !!

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

WANTED: V. ANDONIAN, P. O. Box 11093, Oakland, California, 94611, needs various sets of Royal Imperforates. Please write first, and include price.

EXCHANGE: A. S. Michrick M.D., 520 Franklin Ave., NYC, N.Y., 11530, has a very extensive collection of varieties & imperf's. He would be delighted to compare notes and exchange. Write now if you are interested. . . .

WANTED: Your editor is looking for early airmail items of the Sudan and Egypt: collateral material, covers, vignettes, labels, ANY covers flown by Walter Mittelholzer, to Africa or other destinations. Needed for a planned article on the life and flights of this famous Swiss pioneer.

THE PYRAMIDS

We printed an article in our last issue on page 5 entitled "Pioneer Air Event in Egypt" which concerned an early balloon flight by Spelterini over the pyramids.

Dr. Smith translated from a German Publication "Der Semmler Dienst" while your editor copied exactly from the Swiss Air catalogue.

Both of these publications listed the flight as being over the three pyramids, Khufu, Kheops and Khefren.

William J. Brown of King George, Virginia, writes to correct us, and he is perfectly correct. We should have known better.

The three pyramids of Gizeh, of course, are CHEOPS, Khefren and Mycernius. Bill goes on to say that the Pharaoh Khufu and Kheops are one and the same; that Khefren was the son of Cheops and that Mycernius was the son of Khefren.

There are numerous spellings of these names depending on the tongue, with variations in pronunciation as well.

Bill says one standard set is English while the other is Greek, however, like Bill I am never sure either just which is which. My encyclopedia was no help either.

In any event, we thank you Bill, for taking the trouble to correct us. Now, if you can kindly tell me where to acquire the card!

EGYPT - SUDAN

SEE MY ANNOUNCEMENT
IN THE NOVEMBER - DECEMBER
ISSUE OF EGYPTIAN TOPICS

WANT LISTS FILLED

SOME CHOICE MATERIAL
FROM THIS LISTING IS
STILL AVAILABLE

FLOYD H. DAEHN
5849 PARK AVENUE
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55417

Gino Piperno



I refer the readers of this short comment to my previous article to Egyptian Topics, No. 2, January-February 1970, wherein I have mentioned the existence of the 15 mills overprinted with O. H. E. M. S., having both the variety "two dots displaced to the bottom" and a large circular break in the letter "S". Mr. W. F. Billens also mentioned these two varieties on the 2 mills value of the same set (Zeheri, 22b, in Topics No. 4, of Vol. 1, May-June 1969).

In the enlarged photo above illustrated, we now record the existence of the dull-blue 10 mills value (Zeheri No. 26b) having both of the two above chronicled varieties.

FURTHER NOTES ON THE BROKEN 'S' By Peter A. S. Smith

The variety "broken S and dropped dots" described by Messrs. Billens & Piperno occurs in position No. 99 in the pane of 100, as shown by a pane of the 2 m. in my collection. This pane is setting D, which was used insofar as is known, only for the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 blue, and 15 m. "milliema", but not for the 10 m. carmine or for the 15 m. "milliemat".

A pane of the 5 m., also setting D, in my collection does not show the broken S, al-

O. H. E. M. S.

"OFFICIAL"

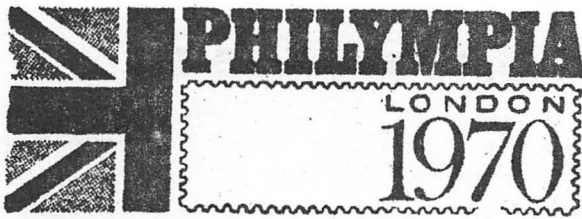
Varieties

Thanks to Mr. Billens, who first drew my attention to these two varieties on the same stamp, we can thus confirm the existence of at least two stamps more (the 10 and 15 mills). Of course, it may be supposed that all the values of this issue should exist with both varieties, but where are they? Who knows of them?

Let us hope that other collectors, in the near future may confirm the existence of the remaining stamps of this issue with the "dropped dots" and the "large circular break" on the letter "S", and that one day the Zeheri catalogue will list them in the regular manner as constant varieties.

though it does have the dropped dots and the break in the lower Arabic inscription. It may therefore be that the broken "S" was not originally present, but resulted from damage during printing. Alternatively, the damage may have been noticed after printing was under way, and the broken letter may then have been replaced. In either event it could have resulted that not all values of setting D show the broken "S". I have not seen any values other than those reported.

Bill Scheetz



Everyone has read of Philympia's huge size, the crowds and the lines of people entering so I won't dwell on this. One thing I learned, and pass on - buy a season ticket and avoid the lines when there is a special door to enter. Saves a lot of time.

The popularity of stamp collecting is certainly unquestioned when one could see the crowds in attendance. Meeting fellow collectors; names you'd seen, authors you've wanted to meet, etc., all was most pleasant. Renewing acquaintances of long-time friends was also a pleasure.

Sunday, the Study Circle Meeting, brought together the largest gathering ever (according to our English hosts). Not only many of the British members, but internationally as well. A varied display of many specialties was set up, with a selected line-up of those showing, telling of the special items on display. Then we visited, examined closely the special items, and discussed various questions or items we had with us.

Jean Boulad, John Gilbert, the Jeidels of South Africa, Lars Adlund of Sweden, the Pipernos of Italy, Kassabs from Syria. Mr. E. Antonini of Switzerland, Nancy Schaefer, the Peter Smiths and Peter Feltus, and many many more. (Hope no one is offended for not mentioning their names).

Ernie Kehr took a picture we all hope will appear in print.

The varieties on display at Philympia were the magnet drawing these people together at various times during the show. It was great to talk personally with these individual International experts on their specialty. Was this a genuine stamp? How did such a rate appear to him? That cancellation date: could it possibly be genuine. Etc., etc.

Egyptian Viewpoint

Rarities seemed commonplace after seeing so many, sometimes 3 of the 4 known world copies etc., such as Leros; and a Leros was discovered in a collection at one of the dealers!

Dealers in abundance were there, with quite a bit of Egyptian material, stamps, covers, etc. The prices were sky-high however, in most instances.

Some really good deals were made, however, by those whose knowledge permitted them to recognize rarities not known by their owners.

One of the most interesting presentations was made by Mr. MacArthur at the Study Circle meeting. It concerned identification of the 5 Piastre, 1872 or 1874. His method is most interesting, and has been widely checked by him. It will be interesting to learn if anyone can disprove it.

That there is a wealth of good material in the world, as well as many "discoveries" yet to be made, is certainly unquestioned. And, many very knowledgeable people around, as shown by the people who attended.

This was my first foreign International but not my last - God-willing. Not only was the show and the meeting great; the return home was also a highlight. Shared a seat on the plane with Gordon Torrey and the flight became the shortest ever!

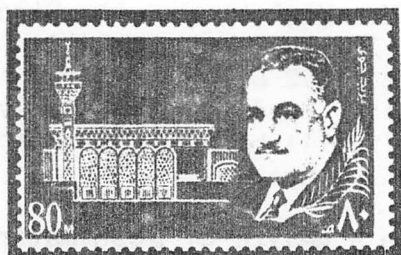
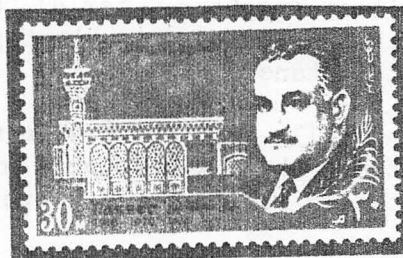
Thus ended our Philympia trip, a perfect highlight to 8 days of highlights. . .

* * *

EASTLAND AUCTIONS (PETER KENEDI) will feature Egyptian material - in one of the March 1971 Auctions. Write now for your catalogue. Two locations - California and Michigan.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

GAMAL ABDEL NASSER 1918 - 1970



A set of four denominations of which the two higher values are airmails were issued early in November in commemoration of the death of their beloved Arab leader who died on September 28, 1970 in Cairo.

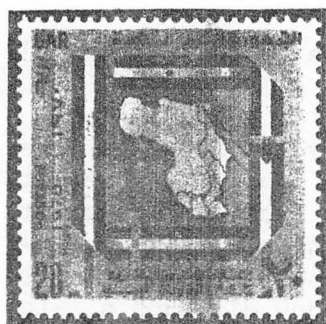
DATE OF ISSUE: 5 November, 1970
 DENOMINATIONS: 5, 20, 30 and 80 Mills
 DESIGN: 5 & 20 m. Nasser's portrait
 30 & 80 m. Nasser's portrait beside the mosque which is his tomb
 DIMENSIONS: 5 & 20 m. each 25 x 30 mm.
 Air Mail 30 & 80 m. " 50 x 30 mm.
 PERFORATION: Listed as 11½, measures 11¼
 SHEET: 5 & 20 m. 100 stamps (10 x 10)
 30 & 80 m. 50 " (5 x 10)
 COLORS: Portrait in black on all values.
 5 m. Sky-blue, black & white
 20 m. Nile-green, " " "
 30 m. Olive-green, " " "
 80 m. Cocoa-brown, " " "
 WATERMARK: 5 & 20 m. Unwatermarked
 20 & 80 m. Multiple Eagle
 PRINTING: Rotogravure - Postal Organization Printing House in U A R
 CONTROL: Date of Issue & Serial number
 QUANTITY: 5 & 20 m. 2,000,000 each
 30 & 80 m. 500,000 each

NOTE* Marked initial printing. The initial printing designation gives the right to the Postal Organization to reprint these stamps within 15 days only, as from date of issue.

Issued in honor of the 1st Anniversary of the Charter signed on 27 December, 1969, by Presidents, Nasser of the U A R, Moammar EL Kazafi of the Libyan Arab Republic, and the President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, Gaafar Nemeiry.

DATE OF ISSUE: 27 December, 1970
 DENOMINATION: 20 Mills
 DESIGN: Map of UAR, Libya and Sudan encircled in ribbon in the colors of the flag of U A R
 DIMENSION: 40 x 40 mm.
 PERFORATION: 11 1/4
 SHEET: 35 stamps (5 x 7)
 COLOR: Green, pale green, black & red
 WATERMARK: Multiple Eagle (1 per stamp)
 PRINTING: Rotogravure - P. O. Printing.
 QUANTITY: Not Listed

TRIPOLI CHARTER



A set of five commemorative stamps were released by the Postal Organization Printing House in honor of the following occasions. (1) 50th Anniversary of the Egyptian Medical Association. (2) 50th Anniversary of the Egyptian Engineering Association. (3) The Egyptian Credo. (4) Centenary of the Egyptian Library. (5) 50th Anniversary of the Government Printing Offices.

DATE OF ISSUE: 20 December, 1970
 DENOMINATION: (Se-tenant) 20 mills each
 DESIGNS: Medical: Medical & Psychiatry Emblems and the building.
 Library: Old & new buildings
 Credo: Quote by Nasser in Arabic
 Engineering: Old & new buildings
 Printing: Its emblem and the old and new buildings.

DIMENSIONS: 42 x 25 mm. each
 PERFORATION: 11 1/4
 SHEET: 50 stamps (5 x 10) each
 COLORS: Shades of blue, yellow, brown, green, and white
 WATERMARK: Multiple Eagle
 PRINTING: Rotogravure, by Postal Organization Printing House in the U. A. R.
 QUANTITY: 1,500,000 of each

EGYPTIAN LIBRARY

Established in 1870 by ALY MOBARAK who, in his lifetime gathered books, manuscripts, & printed matter scattered in mosques, houses of Wakfs, sanctuaries, cemeteries, & institutions, and added them to many other books in various languages a nucleus for a public library. Originally at Darb el Gamameize and later at Bab El Khalk Its fine new building comprises the National Library, House of Historical documents & the library Director-ate.



MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Established in 1919, it began as the first popular organization to recruit doctors and raise the standards of the medical profession and the practice of medicine.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICES

The Government press was established in 1820 - as the first printing press in the country. Its publications were the Holy Quran, official journals and State printings: school books, periodicals, etc., in different languages, including Hieroglyphic, Syriac, and Hebrew. The Government press has always participated in the modified and additional issues of postage stamps during the years 1879, 1884, 1915, 1922, 1924, 1926 and 1943. Considered the largest printing facility in the Middle East, it comprises more than 35,000 meters on seven floors, with up-to-date printing machinery offset and photo-engraving sections etc., with a training center annexed to the main building. Total cost of this facility was nearly L.E. 4,500,000.

ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION

Created on the 3rd of December, 1920 when an agreement was signed by the 100 founders, now numbering 30,000, as an organization of professionals as a means of publishing their researches; to keep abreast of technical advances, and to improve their social position. They were recognized by the government in a decree signed on 12 December, 1922 when the constitution was approved.

CREDO

The text of the credo on the commemorative, in Arabic translates as follows:

"The most significant victory achieved by the Egyptian entire struggle is that in which the science and the people stood, one beside the other."

GAMAL ABDEL NASSER

POSTAL ANNIV. - First Issue of 1971



POST DAY

The Postal Organization in the U.A.R. annually celebrates its anniversary at the beginning of the year, in 1971, on January 2.

DATE OF ISSUE: 2 January, 1971
 DENOMINATIONS: 5, 10, 20 and 55 Mills
 DESIGNS: 5 m. QALAWUN - 1285
 10 m. AS SALEM - 1244
 20 m. ISNA - 1081
 55 m. AL HAKIM - 1013
 DIMENSIONS: 61 x 28 mm.

This year's commemorative offering is a set of four stamps and a special vignette with the Emblem of the Post, in se-tenant strip.

PERFORATION: 11 1/4
 SHEET: Not listed
 COLORS: Blue, green, brown and yellow.
 WATERMARK: Multiple Eagle
 PRINTING: Rotogravure - Postal Organization Printing House in U A R
 QUANTITY: Not listed

REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

DATE OF ISSUE: 2 January, 1971
 DENOMINATION: 2 P.T.
 DIMENSION: 40 x 40 mm.
 DESIGN: Maps of the three countries and their flags
 PERFORATION: 11 1/4
 SHEET: 35 stamps (5 x 7)
 COLORS: Scarlet red - Leaf green, Half-tones "Light Green", Black on white background
 WATERMARK: None
 PRINTING: Rotogravure Egyptian Postal Press in Cairo, U. A. R.
 QUANTITY: Unlisted
 CONTROL: Unlisted

MUTUAL COOPERATION SUDAN LIBYA U A R



Will be withdrawn from sale after 6 months.
 Stamp will be valid for prepayment of postage until demonetized by law.

Peter A. S. Smith

FLAWS on the 1866 Issue

SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES

IN THE AUGUST ISSUE of Topics there appeared a description of some interesting plate flaws on the First Issue, discovered by the sharp eyes of William Billens. One of these was described as a retouch on the 20 para value, together with a companion stamp showing a white flaw where the putative retouch would be. Although these two flaws are in the same part of the design, and retouching would seem at first consideration to be a reasonable explanation, the evidence is clear that there can be no relation between the two flaws. Their occurrence at the same place in the design is purely fortuitous.



It was mentioned, on the second page of the article, the stamp with the white flaw belongs to Type 2 of Byam's classification into ten lithographic transfer types, whereas the stippled flaw is on a Type 10 stamp (in both cases reference is to the background, not the overprint). If one were a retouched version of the other, the two would have to be of the same type.

Through the kindness of Mr. E.L.G. MacArthur of the Egypt Study Circle, it is now possible to report the positions on the sheet for these two varieties. Photographs of the

complete proof sheets show that the stamp with the white flaw joining 2 and 0 is at position #140, and the stamp with stippled flaw is at position #198. Position 140, however, is a Type 7 stamp with a Type 2 overprint. The illustration in Topics is not clear enough for me to verify the type, but it does, indeed, seem to resemble Type 7. The perforation, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$, is consistent with a stamp from vertical row 1 or 20 (i. e., the extreme right or left row).

Position #198, of the 20 para has an additional variety, of even greater importance, but it is unfortunately obscured by the cancellation on Mr. Billen's example. The central word of the overprint has a prominent black dot just above and to the right of the central loop. This changes the word from 'Misr' to 'Midhr'. There are, incidentally, many other flaws and varieties on the stamps of this value.

The other major variety reported by Mr. Billens, the 5 piastre with a prominent gash slashing through the top word of the black inscription, is also a constant variety. It occurs at position #76 on the proof sheet.

* * *

PLATE FLAW

NUBIAN MONUMENTS

AN INTERESTING

DISCOVERY. . .

By **W. F. Billens**

To start things off, I think I've come across a good one! This is the 10 Millieme carmine, of the 1921-22 Harrison printing of the pictorials (Zeheri No. 63, page 68).

It has a broken frame at the lower left, equal in size and quite similar to the broken frame already listed as Zeheri #55e for the one Mill value! This break is vertical at the lower left, whereas the one mill is horizontal at the lower right. Here the break is caused is caused by ink flowing in from the outside; the one Mill has ink flowing outward. It is very distinct.



Is there a member with a full sheet of this only 48 year-old item who would be good enough to check for constancy and, if so, identification of the plate position?

My drawing of the flaw appears above. If the flaw is confirmed as constant I will have photograph made for reproduction in Egyptian Topics.

Our Cover. . .

AN ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPH of the Sphinx & the "Great Pyramid" by Karel Chaloupka.

First reproduced in Czechoslovakia through the facilities of Spring Books, the Spring House, London NW5.

in WESTERN STAMP COLLECTOR

To the many of our readers interested in Nubian Monuments, a relevant article, written by our colleague and friend, Ernest A. Kehr, appears in the January 9th edition of the Western Stamp Collector, entitled "PHILAE COMES TO LIFE".

Ernie, as usual, does a fine job and includes much descriptive material in such a manner that, seemingly you are traveling with him as he narrates. Having made many trips to our favorite philatelic area, he writes with authority.

He also goes into detail on the special issue released last October 24th by the Postal Organization in commemoration of the Nubian Monuments, listed in our new issue section in Vol. 3, No. 1.

* * *

UNIQUE HONOR TO TIPPER

A faithful reader and regular contributor to Topics, RALPH C. TIPPER, a retired Toronto (Canada) banker was recently honored in the Leisure Section of the Toronto Daily Star. The article, in six columns, entitled "EGYPTIAN STAMP COLLECTION WINS PRIZES" by James Montagnes, cites Ralph's early beginnings as a stamp collector at the age of 10: his interest in early Egyptian history which led to the collection of Egypt and the Sudan, and ultimately, to his specialization in in these countries.

The article also mentions many of the Exhibitions in Canada and Britain where he has won major awards for his material, especially his covers with markings of the British Forces in Egypt.

Ralph currently is working on a new area of interest, postal cards, postal stationery, early pre-stamped envelopes, censored WW I envelopes and postal marks used during the martial law periods in Egypt.

An interesting photograph of Ralph, deeply engrossed in his favorite albums accompanies the article. Congratulations to you, Ralph for accolades well deserved.

Peter A. S. Smith

The

**FURTHER
NOTES**

Sellschopp Fantasies...

CONTINUED FROM EGYPTIAN TOPICS, VOL. 3, No. 1, NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1970, PAGE 2 . .

The earliest record of these fantasies that I have been able to trace is a brief note published in L'Orient Philatelique, No. 29, July, 1936, p. 107, where they were at once condemned. The notice, in French, reads in translation:

"A Philatelic Fantasy. Mr. A. L. Taylor, our member No. 311, of Vancouver, B. C., Canada, has sent us this illustration of an Egyptian item. This so-called essay, in various colors, having been declared a fake by our expert, we place all our members on guard against this item, which is nothing but a fantasy, without any value."

It appears that they had been unknown to Egyptian specialists before that time, and they were certainly promptly condemned. I recall receiving them on approval at some time in the mid-'30's from H. E. Wilson & Co., who were specialist dealers in Egypt. The freshness of all the specimens I have ever seen is consistent with such a relatively recent origin.

Professor Lowell Ragatz recently wrote me that he first saw them just after World War II, when he bought some from a dealer in London, and since then has seen them offered in Antwerp and Australia. Their connection with Wilhelm Sellschopp is uncertain. Sellschopp had a stamp shop in San Francisco in the early 20th Century, and was apparently a highly regarded dealer. He later returned to Hamburg to continue his business, but the San Francisco business may have been carried on (by relatives?).

It may be purely coincidental that the earliest encounters with these fantasies were on the West Coast (Los Angeles & Vancouver).

Prof. Ragatz tells me that Sellschopp was not the sort who would have perpetrated a fraud, but, on the other hand, they might have been created as souvenirs or promotional seals, with no intention of representing them as essays.

Prof. Ragatz showed me a number of blocks. All were printed in units of four, with margins around the periphery wider than the spaces between the seals. Some were unwatermarked, and others had portions of a large watermark, which appears to have been a central watermark in sheets of writing paper, probably of about 8½ x 11 size. The legend NATIONAL BANK forms an arc, beneath which is the outline of a capitol dome, plus the word BOND. This fact strongly suggests that the seals originated in the U.S. Perhaps they were marketed in Hamburg at an early date, as well as on the West Coast.

The 12 color combinations reported in the last issue of Topics remains complete, even after examining the holdings of several collectors, and it is thus very probable that there are only twelve.

I am convinced there was no fraudulent intent on the part of whoever had these fantasies printed, and as long as they are sold as curiosities of relatively recent origin, and not misrepresented as essays, there is no ground for complaint. On the other hand, I am very curious about why someone went to so much trouble to create them!

Dr. A. Winter

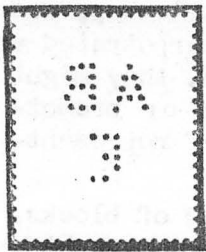
PERFINS.**On Egyptian Stamps**

Since our basic list of Perfins in Topics, Vol. 2, No. 6, November-December, 1970, we have received contributions from two of our readers: David Stump, Editor of the Per-

fins "Bulletin", the A. P. C. Yearbook, and several others; also Ralph Group of Seattle, Washington, whom we thank. Their kind help enables us to publish our 1st added listing.

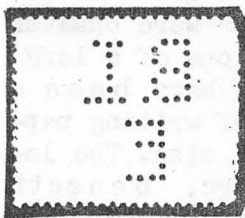
FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL LISTING, with additions and corrections to previous list:

Zeheri numbers (ordinary stamps, unless otherwise stated).

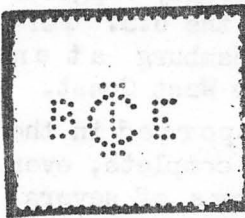


height: 6 mm. A: 10 holes
B: 13, E: 10. With two line
text on Egypt Nos. 41 & 51.

A B
E



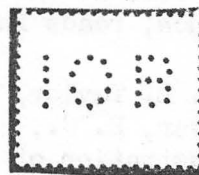
B. I.
E.
h: 8 mm. B: 16, I: 10,
E: 14, Period after B and I
Two line text on Egypt No.
107. Cancelled: Alexandria
Firm: Banco Italo-Egiziano



B E E
h: (B & E): 5.5 mm. h (C):
7.5 mm. h (I): 9.5 mm. B:
12 holes, C: 16, I: 13, E:
10. C and I ligatured.
Firm: Banca Italo-Egiziano
(Cairo Branch?). On Egypt
No. 111.

Previously
Illustrated

C L
A
Additional listing on Egypt
Nos. 38 and 94



I O B
h: 7 mm. I: 5, O: 10, B: 13
On Egypt, Nos. 46 and 47



L S
h: 6 mm. L: 7, S: 11

Previously
Illustrated

O B
Additional on Egypt Nos. 54
(p. 140), 97, 103, 109, 110
138 and on 152



R
& Co
h (R - &): 6 mm. (C): 6.5,
o: 3.5. Two line text on
Egypt No. 45



V O
Co
h: 6 mm. V: 9, O: 10, C: 7,
and o: 6. Two line text on
Egypt Nos. 48, 103 and 110

Lars Alund

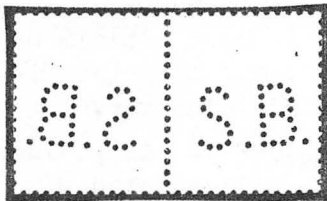
PERFINS...**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

I have read with some interest, the article in Egyptian Topics (Vol. 2, No. 6, Sept. - Oct., 1970) by Dr. A. Winter. I would like to add a few additional lines.

When I was young and just starting to collect stamps, I was taught by older and more experienced collectors that torn or otherwise damaged stamps were to be thrown away. Of course, the punctured stamps or "Perfins" as we call them today, considered as damaged stamps. I cannot tell how many perfins I have thrown away in the early days and I guess that most collectors did the same.

B O (Banque Ottomane) also on stamps Nos. 122 and 195

C L (Credit Lyonnais Alexandrie) also on Nos. 80, 85, 88 and 106.



S B (Soc. An. du Behara) also on Nos. 42 and 122. There is one interesting detail to note about this perfin. One vertical pair of No. 42 shows the S.B. reversed on the lower stamp i.e. the S.B.'s turn their backs to each other. Evidently the sheet of stamps was folded before the puncturing took place.

T C (Thos Cook & Son) Also on stamp & S No. 35.

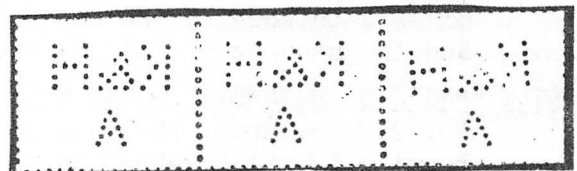
Furthermore, I have two perfins, not listed by Dr. Winter, viz:

Because of this many of the "perfins are quite scarce now.

When I first began to acquire an interest in the postal history of Egypt some years ago, I also saved and tucked away all perfins I came across. They are not many, but all the same I do have a few items to add to Dr. Winter's list. Starting with perfins, already listed by Dr. Winter, I would like to help complete his list of the punctured stamps with the following (all Yvert and Tellier numbers), viz:

A B In two lines. All letters 6 mm. E high. A - 10 holes, B - 13, and E 10. Found on stamp No. 49.

(Dr. Winter's supplement, on the previous page covers this item but not on stamp No. 49. Ed.)



K & H In two lines. Height: K and H: 5½ mm. & and A: 5 mm. K - 10 holes, & - 12, H - 12, and A - 10 Found on Egypt No. 35.

(We have also forwarded this information on to Dr. Winter so it may be incorporated into the master listing with Zeheri numbers.)

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THE PHILATELIC LITERATURE OF EGYPT

"AN ANNOTATED RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY"

By GORDON B. GARRETT

With Valuable Assistance From CHARLES FOX

SECTION VI AIRMAIL

- PIONEER EMERGENCY AIR MAIL SERVICE USED DURING MARCH AND APRIL 1919 AT THE TIME OF THE RIOTS AND STRIKES IN EGYPT - Gilbert, John H. E., Quarterly Circular of the Egypt Study Circle, London, Vol. II, No. 12, pp. 166 - 174. An excellent study of this interesting phase of pioneer Egyptian Airmail history by an acknowledged expert in this field. Recommended for the student and specialist, Illustrated.
- LIEUT. MARC POURPE. PIONEER FRENCH PILOT - GILBERT, John H. E., QC, Vol. IV, No. 9, pp. 115 - 122. A comprehensive, illustrated study of Egypt's first pilot to carry mail.
- MARC POURPE - MORTANE, Jaques. and Flight (magazine, 1914), also La Revue Aerienne, 1914. We have not seen these but note them listed under bibliography at the end of Mr. Gilbert's article in the QC, noted above.
- INAUGURATION CENTRAL AFRICA - ENGLAND (IMPERIAL AIRWAYS LINE) (First Flight to Greece). The Airpost Journal, Vol II, No. 5, May 1931. A brief but informative account with dates and cities listed, amounts of mail carried etc. Good for research.
- MIRABELLA BAY - CRETE and GREAT BRITAIN - SOUTH AFRICA - Airpost Jour., Vol. II, No. 5, pp. 9 & 11. Facts on landing in 1929 on the Crete/Egypt/India run of interest to specialists; itinerary of the 9 countries of the new British service opened in 1931 to Egypt, Sudan and So. Africa.
- EGYPT - SOUTH AFRICA - AIR MAIL NOTES AND NEWS, May 1932. A complex listing of the amounts of mail from Cairo and Alexandria to points south on the run of January 23, 1932; also mail carried to Dutch E. Indies from Egypt.
- SWISS - AFRICA FLIGHT - A/M Notes & News, May 1932. A short article on the inaugural of mail between Zurich and Nairobi on Dec. 15, 1929, with the five stops listed and the amounts of mail carried. Pilot Walter Mittelholzer.
- SOUVENIR "PACUSAN" DREAMBOAT COVER RECORDS EPIC RECORD FLIGHT - Airp. Jour., Vol. 18, No. 2, November, 1946, p. 47. A brief article, illustrated with signed cover bearing Egyptian adhesives for this historical Honolulu to Egypt flight.
- THE S. A. I. D. E. PROVISIONALS of EGYPT - KEHR, Ernest A., Airp. Jour., Vol. 20, No. 3, December, 1948, pp. 75 - 76. Illustrated. Good text for student with translation of the overprint and a comprehensive listing of the errors in the overprint compiled by the author.
- T.W.A. FLIES TO EGYPT - SINGLEY, Richard L., Airp. Jour., Vol. XVII, No. 8, May, 1946, pp. 274 - 76. Illustrated. Notes on the inaugural flight 3/31/46 from Washington D.C. to Paris and on to Cairo, and later flights via Lisbon, Madrid and Rome
- EGYPTIAN AIR MAILS - Autolyceus, West End Philatelist, Vol. XXIII, No. 267, May, 1926, An article dealing briefly with the flights of Marc Pourpe, Cairo-Delhi, 1918, the military post of 1919, Cairo-Baghdad Air mail and some notes on the first (1926) Egyptian air mail stamps.
- M.E.A.N. CONFERENCE OVERPRINT - SCOTCHER, W. B., Philatelic Magazine, Feb. 7, 1947. pp. 57 - 58. Interesting and informative. Enlarged illustration of the overprint with translation under each section of Arabic characters in English.

MORE EGYPTIAN VARIETIES - WARD, Gordon, M.D., Stamp Collecting (England), January 15th, 1954, p. 619. Illustrated with drawings of flaws on the Bar overprints (air) and errors in the Arabic. Good specialized text.

THE AIR STAMPS AND AIRMAILS OF EGYPT - GILBERT, J.H.E., The London Philatelist, Vol. 48, No. 679, June 1949. Good text but some duplication of material previously listed in ESC/QC., Vol. 2, No. 12. Interesting plates of photos of stamps, covers, cachets and postmarks.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FROM THE AIR MAIL MAGAZINE (A. Phillips, England) . . .

Illustrated covers (Imperial First Flight) Alexandria / Mwanza and Cairo / Mwanza, 1931. No. 46, December, 1942, p. 911.

R.A.F. AIRGRAPH GREETING A.E.F. - Illustrated (no text) No. 59, January, 1944, p. 1173

* * * * *

THE GRAF ZEPPELIN AIR MAIL STAMPS OF EGYPT - KEHR, ERNEST A., The Airmail Digest, Vol. 1, No. 3, Oct / Dec., 1938 (Philippine Islands). Reprinted in Egyptian Topics & updated by the author. Vol. 1, No. 6, Sept / Oct., 1969. pp. 96-97. Interesting and timely after many years.

THE SPECIAL ROYAL IMPERFORATE PRINTINGS OF EGYPT - LEE, Geo. L., The Airpost Journal, Vol. 29, No. 7, April, 1958, pp. 194-197. The airs illustrated with a complete table by Scott, Minkus and Zeheri Nos., No. of sheets, stamps per sheet and overall number of stamps printed in this imperf condition.

NEW U. A. R. AIRMAILS - KEHR, Ernest A., The Airpost Journal, Vol. 34, No. 8, May, 1963, pp. 193-194. Interesting insight on the modern airs of the U.A.R.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS HAVE APPEARED IN EGYPTIAN TOPICS . . .

CANCELLATION ERROR ON ZEHERI C-2 - BILLENES, W. F., Vol. 1, No. 6, p. 97. Deals with Deals with error in cancel prior to date stamp was issued.

AIR MAIL ODDITY - HAVING TO DO WITH COLOR OF LISTED OVERPRINT - BILLENES, W. F., Vol. 2, No. 4, p. 81. Black instead of red overprint noted on the 3 m. Palestine issue.

EGYPT AIRMAIL - OVERPRINT DOUBLE - PIPERNO, GINO, Vol. 2, No. 5, p. 97, July/August, 1970. Color illust. with the Arabic (red) overprint double.

AIRMAIL VARIETY - DAHN, Floyd, Vol. 2, No. 6, Sept/Oct., 1970, p. 125. Illustrated with the "Bomb" variety (dot below wheel of plane).

PIONEER AIR EVENT IN EGYPT - SMITH, Peter A. S., Vol. 3, No. 1., p. 5. Article on one of the little-known balloon drops made by Spelterini in 1904.

U. A. R. AIRMAIL VARIETY - ANGELI, Georgio, Vol. 3, No. 1, p. 9. Perforation and misplacement, illustrated (Zeheri No. 91).

* * * * *

PIGEONS POSTAL SERVICE - Egyptian Postal Administration, L'OP, Nos. 25, July, 1935 in French, and 109, Jan. 1963 in English. A chronicle of Egypt's early Pigeon Post from a book published by the Postal Admin. 1 Feb., 1934 for 10th UPU Congress.

EGYPT AND SUDAN NOTES - THOMPSON, G. Seymour, L'OP, Vol. VI, No. 65, Jan., 1940, pp. 7 and 8. Illustrated, with remarks on various airmails and S.A.I.D.E. in particular. Mentions several varieties of interest to the specialist.

(To be continued in our next issue)

PHILATELIC

FUN AND PROFIT

By W. F. Billens

XVTH AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

This set of five denominations, issued 15th February, 1936 shows no varieties in Zeheri however, I have detected two variations in the otherwise perfect printing of this issue; both are pretty nice.

My copy of the 5 Mills (Zeh. No. 51, p. 140) has a large and very distinct break in the first Arabic character at the top, just below and slightly to the left of the "E" in Egypte.



Then the 13 Mills (No. 53) exists with an added line that is quite unusual. Rising vertically from each of the two rooftop pagodas are vertical lines that I presume are flagpoles. I have a copy with a nearly horizontal red line, the same thickness as the two "flagpoles" which runs all the way across the stamp. It starts at the left border, passes about 1 mm. above "POSTES", cuts into the upper Arabic at the left and arrives, straight as an arrow, at the second perforation on the right!

* * *



A QUERY ?

A young man from Amarillo, Texas sends the following queries on Sudanese philately. He is serious and we feel his questions merit our attention: can you help? Your editor will see that he receives your answers.

- 1) What was the day of release of the 5 mill, 1897 provisional? Gisburnand Thompsons' "Stamps and Posts of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan gives a hint on page 40 that it was sometime in May. Do you know the day?
- 2) When (or about when in your estimation) did Port Sudan open a Post Office? It was officially established in 1909, but I have copies dating back to 1906. Moreover, I have a registered cover mailed from Port Sudan in 1905!
- 3) Are the El-Obeid cancels (type #10 in G & T that scarce?
- 4) Why do Tewfikia cancels of about 1900 carry the name of the country, "SUDAN", after "TEWFEKIA"? Was it because of the Fashoda incident?
- 5) Do you have any information on the postmasters of Khartoum? i.e., the Khartoum post office before the Mahdi's revolt.

These questions may seem quite easy to answer at a quick glance. Not so easy when you read them carefully. If you can help send your answer to the editor. If some of these same queries have been bothering you let us know and we'll print the answers later.

* * *

From the collection of FLOYD DAEHN we illustrate a block of four of the 10 Mill definitive, issued 23 January, 1953 (Zeheri #218, p. 117). A paper crease has created an interesting perforation variety.

