

# EGYPTIAN TOPICS



THE BALLOON "EAGLE", EXHIBITED IN MAJOR CITIES OF  
THE WORLD BY AERONAUT E. CODARD. (See page 69).

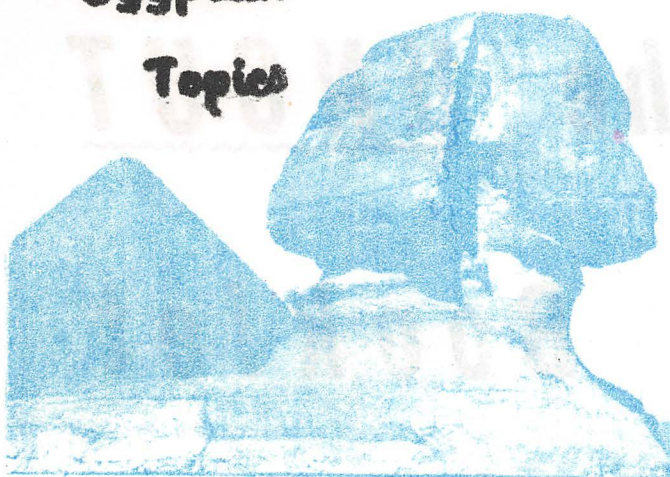
Vol. 5. No. 4

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May — June 1923



## Egyptian Topics



### EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

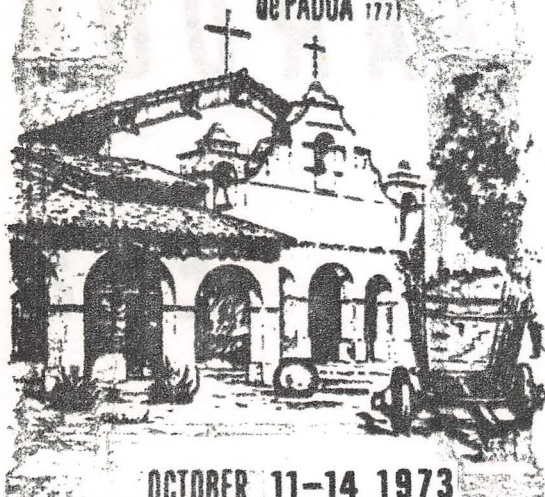
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## California Missions

SAN ANTONIO  
de PADUA 1771



OCTOBER 11-14 1973

# SESCAL

## *with the editor*

At long last Summer is upon us, although in many parts of our country, including Southern Calif. no odds are available. With the summer though, will come the philatelic doldrums and many will put the stamps aside until Fall.

This also takes a toll on the news so we have taken some precautions to stockpile some interesting items for our summer edition. Along with the news we do owe you an apology for being late getting Topics in the mail this time. We have moved to a suburb of Los Angeles, partly to escape the smog and partly to be nearer our work. Forty miles of Freeway driving every day was m-u-r-d-e-r and the two hours it took was too great a waste of time. Please note our new address:

P. O. BOX 3875  
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, 90503

All mail to the old box number is, of course, being forwarded but, we suspect, by Wells Fargo Pony Express. "Stamps" for May 12th just arrived. We have never published our phone before and it is non-pub. but many of our readers and friends do visit the Southland and we'd be most happy for a call and a visit. Call the office weekdays, 8 to 5 (213) 775-3761 and home evenings (213) 371-7795.

As we go to press the prospectus is out for the APS Convention show to be held this year in Los Angeles, in conjunction with SESCOAL. Space is going very fast so if you are interested in exhibiting we suggest you write now for your prospectus, TO SESCOAL, 417 So. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, Ca., 90057. Some very nice trophies (not those little medals you throw in the drawer later!).

KEN PIERCE is hard at work on the new catalog of the stamps of France Used in Egypt: something for which a real need exists in comprehensive and factual form. This is his only specialty and he has some eye popping material, some of which needs exposure to be appreciated and catalogued. We plan to run it serially with good illustrations: and we hoped to begin with this issue however, Ken is in the process of getting married so, the delay is justified. We wish him and his pretty bride the best of everything

\* \* \*



**Peter A. S. Smith FRPSL**

THIS ARTICLE BY DR. SMITH IS A FACTUAL ACCOUNTING OF THE ACTUAL SCARCITY OF THIS MATERIAL. A RASH OF RECENT DEALER OFFERS AND AUCTION OFFERINGS MISREPRESENTING THEM AS RARITIES, INTENTIONALLY OR OTHERWISE, TO INDUCE THE NOVICE TO BUY AT INFLATED PRICES HAS DRAWN A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION. IF YOU PLAN TO ACQUIRE ANY OF THIS MATERIAL — READ THIS CAREFULLY. Ed.

The reason for an article on this subject just now is the appearance of some seriously misleading descriptions in auction catalogs and dealer listings, which have the effect of inducing the inexperienced collector to pay a high price for what he is asked to believe is a rarity, when the item is, in fact, somewhat common. The items are joined booklet panes; that is, blocks from the sheets printed for the preparation of booklet panes; which have not been cut up into panes of six. Here is a representative example of such a description, taken from a current auction catalog: "#212a var., 5m. Farouk, 2 unsevered booklet panes, a scarce unlisted variety. Only 20 such blocks can exist, - - - ECV \$225.00".

Since all Egyptian booklet panes contain six stamps, it was necessary to prepare special plates for printing them; plates containing an even multiple of six, instead of the normal 200 impressions. The size chosen was 120 subjects, arranged in two panes of 60 separated by a gutter. When the sheets were severed into panes of 60 by guillotining down the middle of the interpanneau gutter, enough selvage was left for binding into booklets, half of the panes being bound at the left, half at the right, as shown in the diagram. This method was used for the 5m, 6m, 10m, and 20m. Farouk "Boy King" type. For the 1926 Fuad booklets, the groups of six that were to become the booklet panes were arranged tete beche so that the selvage would always be on the left for binding; otherwise the arrangement was like that for the Farouk stamps.

# **The UNCUT**

## **Booklet**

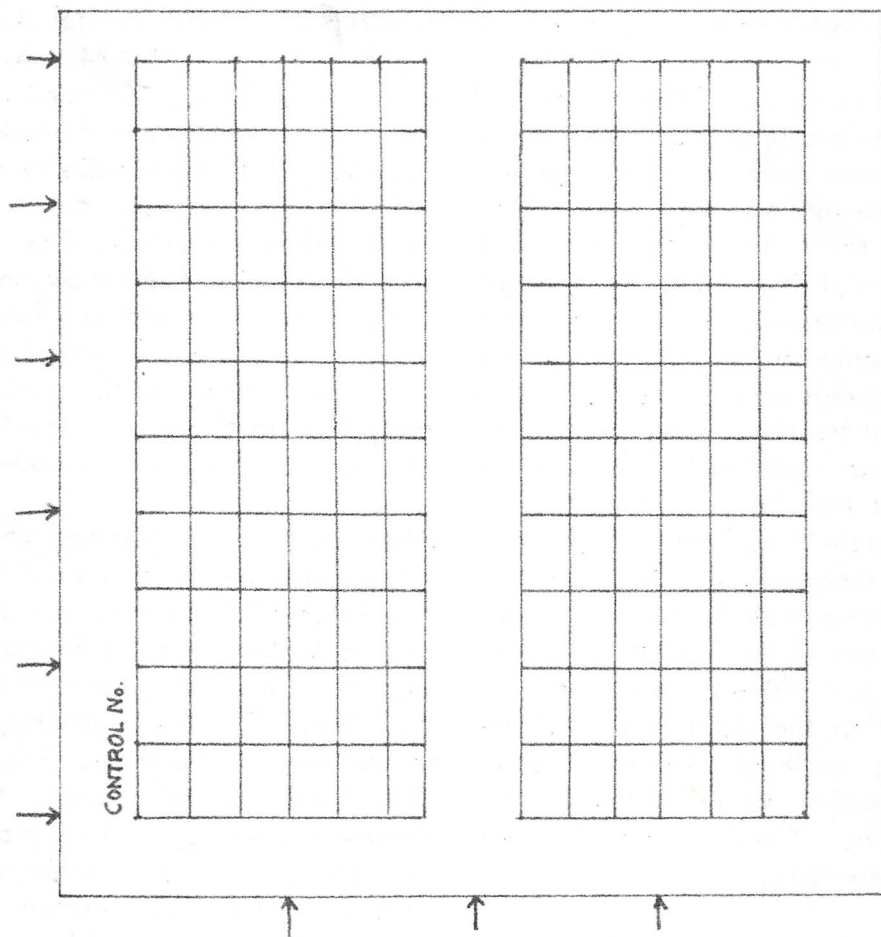
## **Sheets**

## **of the**

## **FUAD—**

## **FAROUK**

## **Era**



Arrangement of the booklet pane sheets. Arrows show where the cuts were made to produce booklet panes. Vertical arrows also show the location of the *tete beche* pairs on the Fuad stamps.

All of this would be essentially academic, were it not for the fact that these special sheets, normally never intended to be distributed in uncut condition, reached the philatelic market in two distinct ways. Single stamps from them cannot be distinguished from those from uncut sheets, but blocks more than three stamps wide of the Farouk group, or six stamps wide with sheet margin at each side of the Farouk group, can be unequivocally recognized as coming only from the booklet sheets. The reason for the smaller multiple in the case of the Fuad stamps, of course, is that such strips have a *tete beche* pair. In addition, interpanneau pairs of the Fuad stamps are *tete beche*.

Since these items are recognizable, and of considerable philatelic interest, their scarcity, as a major determinant of value, is a pertinent matter to know about.

The method by which the Farouk booklet sheets became available is fully described in a footnote on page 93 of the 1972 edition of the Zeheri specialized catalog; the same information appeared in earlier editions. Owing to the expansion of World War II to the Middle East, shortages of paper developed in Egypt and many things were curtailed. In 1941, the manufacture of booklets of 5, 15, and 20 m. stamps stopped. There was,  
(continued next page)



FUAD — FAROUK UNCUT BOOKLET SHEETS — Continued from previous page — P.A.S.SMITH

however, a considerable supply of sheets of stamps printed for conversion into booklets still on hand. In order not to waste scarce commodities, these were delivered to the post offices for sale in the normal way to the public at large; delivery of these sheets to the Postal Administration is reported to have been made on November 6th, 1941. This event received rather little attention, but nevertheless, numbers of these sheets were bought by philatelists and preserved, either intact, or in blocks of a size suitable for identification. The number of booklet sheets sold to the public has been published\*, but the fraction of them preserved by philatelists can never be known; it is obvious however, that the statement quoted at the beginning of this article is completely false. Full sheets of sixty are scarce today, but many are known, and even I have two full sheets of the 5m., two of the 6m. and one of the 15m. I mean here by "full sheet" the post office sheet of sixty, for it was in that form that the sheets were sold, the two panes making up the printed sheet having been cut apart, probably before delivery to the Postal Administration. The 6m. booklet sheets became available similarly, but later.

A rough idea of the relative scarcity of the uncut booklet panes can be derived from the pricing of control blocks in the Zeheri catalog. Control numbers on ordinary sheets of 100 were printed on the bottom margin and are horizontal. On the sheets for booklets, the control number appeared once on the printed sheet of 120, on the lower left side of the pane, written vertically. Blocks, or even singles, with control number are thus immediately recognizable if they came from booklet sheets. For the 5m., four different control numbers are recorded: A/37, A/38, A/38A/39, A/40; They are priced at about 1-1/2 times the price of the ordinary control blocks of the same year.

\* Jean Boulad d'Humieres, *L'Orient Philatelique*, Jan., 1965, reports: 5m., 165,140 sheets; 6m., 37,000 sheets; 15m., 1,552 sheets; and 20m., 1,392 sheets.

The situation for the 6m.; (two controls: A/41, A/41A/42). 10m. (control A/38), and 15m., (controls A/38, A/38A/40, A/39A/40) is similar. For the 20m., recorded with control A/40 only, the booklet control block is given a value ten times that of an ordinary control block; this value in booklet sheets must therefore be far scarcer than the others. The right-hand panes from the booklet sheets show no control numbers, either at side or at bottom, and lower left sheet-margin blocks without control can thus be recognized as coming from the booklet sheets. These are priced in Zeheri at a level close to those of the control blocks from booklet sheets.

The second way in which uncut booklet sheets became available was by way of the auction sale of the Palace Collections, which took place after the abdication of King Farouk. It had been the custom, dating from early in King Fuad's reign, for a sheet of each new printing of each stamp to be delivered to the King. That meant one example of each control number, for control numbers represent printings, and not plates. A given plate may be used for several different printings, in which case the control number is revised each time, by deleting the old one with bars and inscribing the new one after it. "A/42B/42" indicates that the plate was used for two printings in the same year (1942); "A/40A/41" indicates that the plate was used twice, once in 1940, once in 1941. The uncut booklet sheets were included in these deliveries to the king, and after the auction, they came on the market as the lots were dispersed. This is the only source of the booklet sheets of the Fuad stamps, and it also added a small supply of the Farouk stamps. The Fuad sheets were unsevered, consisting of two panes joined. Each such sheet contained 20 simple *tete beche* pairs and 10 *interpanneaux* *tete beche* pairs. These sheets were largely, if not entirely by now, broken up to provide these *tete beche* items. The scarcity of items from these sheets is obviously inversely proportional to the number of printings made; this accounts for the different prices for the *tete beche* pairs of the 5m, 10m. and 15m. stamps. The booklet sheets of the Farouk stamps found in the

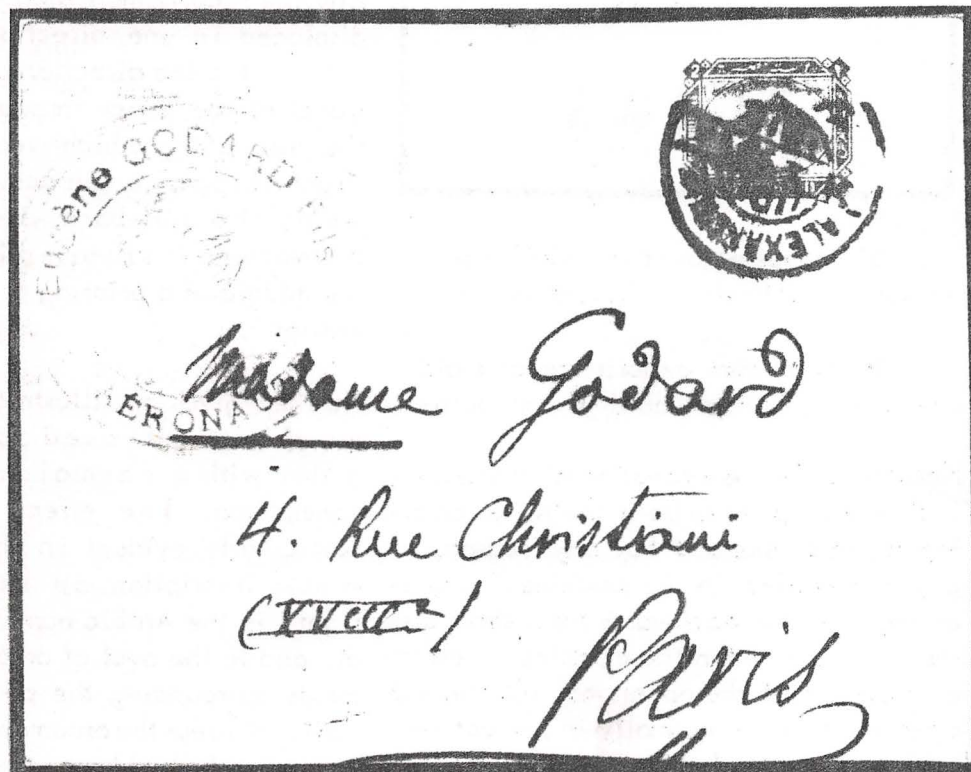


Palace Collections are reported by Jean Boulad d'Humieres, L'OP, Jan., 1964, to have been uncut sheets of 120, but I have never seen an interpanneaux pair of any of the Farouk stamps. If any reader has an interpanneaux pair of a Farouk stamp, I urge him to report this important information.

Two other types of booklet sheets were found in the Palace Collections: proof sheets, imperforate and unwatermarked and overprinted "Cancelled" on the back, and sheets on unwatermarked paper with wildly misplaced perforations. The proof sheets corresponded to the issued sheets: one sheet for each control number. The booklet sheets of the Fuad stamps were unsevered sheets of 120; I know of the proof booklet sheets of the Farouk stamps only in severed panes of 60. Items from these proof sheets are obviously scarce, and the tete beche 10m. and 15m. Fuad stamps must be considered rare. The "wild perforation" varieties appear to exist in the full range, including the tete beche varieties from the Fuad booklet sheets.

In summary, joined booklet panes of the Farouk "Boy King" stamps are not rarities, and command only a modest premium! Don't be taken in!

#### UNUSUAL AERONAUTS CACHET FROM EGYPT



## AERONAUT GODARD IN EGYPT IN 1894

With this issue we are able to display a most interesting cover addressed to Paris from Alexandria with departure date of 31 X 94 T6, to the wife of the famous French Aeronaut, EUGENE GODARD. The cover carries the personal rubber stamp circular cachet, struck in purple depicting a balloon in the center and between double lines, the name EUGENE GODARD Filis at the top and the word AERONAUT at the bottom.

Since the year date is 1894 we first thought it might have been flown in a balloon in conjunction with the Alexandria Exposition however, the dates of the exhibition were only from 22 April 1894 to 24 June 1894, much earlier than the date on this cover. Believing it still might be pioneer air-related, we sent photos to England, Egypt and Paris for information. Our good friend and fellow air enthusiast did not know either but — he knew where to go and who to see to find out. From his friend and internationally known air-expert, Mr. Gorce-Bride in Paris (whom you will remember as the one who furnished us with the original article so capably translated by Dr. Winter, from the original article by M. Marc Pourpe which appeared in a 1971 issue of Topics.

Dr. Winter, quoting Gorce-Bride says, Your Godard cover is, of course, genuine as I have several examples in my own collection showing many varieties in the cachet. These letters most certainly never went aboard a balloon. The Godard family used to exhibit their balloons in every place they could in those early years.

Generally, they made no special flights except in a few well known cases — not in Egypt however, it is very (cont. on p. 74, Col. 2.).



Ibrahim Chaftar

## EGYPT'S

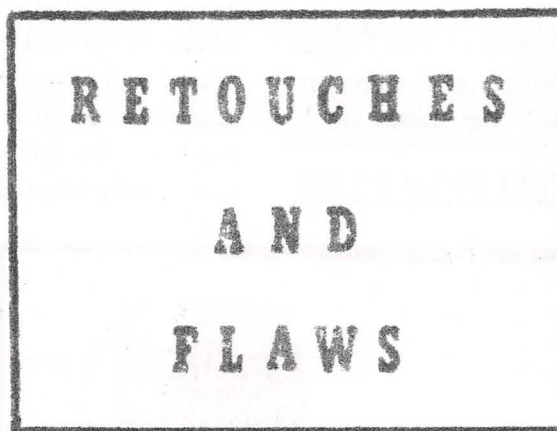
## First Portrait Issue

PART III - The conclusion of this authoritative article by one of Egypt's best known philatelic scholars. Continued from our last issue.

DR. PETER A.S. SMITH, in an interesting article published in L'OP, No. 125, of April 1972, wrote on "double impressions" on the Second Portrait Issue 1925/34 and subsequent stamps — printed by the photogravure process in Egypt.

He noticed and commented on these varieties as long ago as the late 1950's and he corresponded with other philatelists including Mehanny Eid and the late Dr. Byam. No one had noticed these varieties before and no good explanation was forthcoming. However, in August 1959 he received a letter from Dr. Byam quoting about the 3 mil. photogravure double impressions, that — at the Philatelic Congress at Torquay he had the opportunity to ask about these "doubles" at the end of a talk given by the head of the printing works at

1923 - 1926



"Si jeunesse savoit et vieillesse pouvét, les choses en iroient mieux".

"If youth had experience and old age ability, things would get on better".

Harrisons. The explanation of that expert is: they are apt to arise if the roller printing has to be stopped for any reason, e. g., some defect in the machine. The paper may then run backwards for a short distance so that when the machine is restarted a portion of the paper may run through a second time — normally in perfect register — but not always so.

Dr. Smith comments:

"The explanation is convincing for it explains why the second impression is always very pale — the plate had not been inked a second time. The plates for this type of printing are, of course cylinders, which rotate as the paper passes through, only a strip being in contact with the cylinder at any given moment. It is also clear from the above explanation why the second impression is displaced in one direction only; it is the direction of travel of the paper through the press along which very slight slippage can occur during the roll-back when the machine is stopped in the middle of a printing operation".

He then gives the illustration of a 100 mil. used together with a normal for comparison. The effect is particularly evident in the Arabic inscription on the right, in the Arabic numerals and in the oval of ornaments surrounding the portrait. Whereas the ornaments are normally hollow and



show fine details, on the double impression they are blurred and the hollow spaces are normally filled up.

He pointed out also that he should make it clear that although the explanations came from Harrison's who printed the First Portrait Issue, he has never seen an example of the effect of that issue. He knew of them only on the Second Fuad Portrait and the "Boy King" Issues. The values he had seen are Second Fuads: 15 mil., 20 mil. blue, large format, 50 mil. pale center, 100 mil. pale center and the Boy King 3 mil.

I take the present opportunity to publish what we do know here in Egypt on the subject. Although I understand the great lines given, which are convincing, I must add that these happenings are congenital to the photogravure process itself.

A long time ago I gathered stamps of the First Portrait Issue giving the appearance of double impressions and I offer on the following pages some enlargements of a few of them. I may add that the doubling on the 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 15 and 20 mil. is striking. The effect is more visible on the 1, 3, 5, and 15 mil. It is to be noticed that the effect of the doubling is visible on a bloc of four of the 15 mil. on the lower pair only.

DOUGLAS MAC NEILLE in his participation in the "First Philatelic Exhibition, at Cairo 1946" showed:

1923 - 2 milliemes - Mint sheet of 100 without control. The shading to the left on the base of the figure "2" is so strong that the outline appears duplicated on stamp No. 92. (13)

We noticed them as long ago as 1945 (this doubling effect), but we did not have any ideas nor did we have any kind of an explanation.

(13) Catalogue of "Iere Exposition Philatelique due Caire", 28 Fevrier 1946, page 26, participation of Douglas MacNeille, Class I, Section II, Division 2, Frame Nos. 205 - 215.

On photo No. 5 the effect on the oval is certainly not due to a double impression. The oval is very thick on its N.E. part and, I believe is due to a clever retouch. There is evidence of rejoining. Adjacent to the photo itself I have written an explanation in an attempt to clarify, from my point of view, how that defect happened.

Photo No. 6 actually reproduces six stamps of the 5 mil. denomination, the left side showing evidence of double impressions. The left label containing the words in Arabic, EGYPT POSTAGE: the white space composing the Arabic letters being narrower, and the border of the outer frame strongly doubled.

Photo No. 7 gives the same variety on two stamps on the right. To be noticed that this variety of the doubling on the RIGHT are scarcer than the same on the left. The two left stamps show a curious variety of doubling of the left outer frame of the stamps. This doubled line of the outer frame is very scarce. Only four stamps have been picked out from 8,000 used I examined. I must add that each one of these four stamps is different, each from the other.

Photo No. 8 shows the double impression on the left side of the two stamps, but here I succeeded in finding the same variety on two different stamps. These units show the same defects so it is evident that their origin is from the same unit of a printing surface. How can a double impression happen in the same place? Here we need more information, unfortunately I am unable to advance any at this time.

Photo No. 9 depicts a double impression on the 3 mil. It will be noticed that the Latin numeral three is narrower than normal. Then we have three stamps of the 15 mil.; The Latin numerals and the entire Arabic inscription on the left and the Arabic numerals and the whole Arabic inscription on the right of the stamp are narrower. To be noticed; on one of the stamps the doubling is in the right direction while contrarywise, on the other stamp it is in the left direction. I suppose that these effects are due to the direction of rotation of the cylinder. The last 15 mil. also



EGYPT'S FIRST PORTRAIT ISSUE — 1923 — 1926 by I. CHAFTAR

SHOWS A DOUBLING of the oval from the right and left side. The blue collar fills the left and right side of the white oval itself. The white space containing the Arabic label at left and right of the stamps is narrower than normal and the effect, in blue color, is more visible and striking than the reproduction in the black and white photograph.

Photo No. 10 gives a real double impression on the entire surface of the stamp (5 mil.) from top to bottom. The upper border is doubled also the snake, ornament like. The face and eyes of the portrait and the white collar round the neck are evidently doubles. The two numerals, the Latin and the Arabic are strongly shaded from top to bottom by the red-brown color and finally, the color runs out of the bottom of the frame.

This is a striking variety. I found another copy less pronounced, probably from the same sheet, but a doubling similar to photo No. 10 must be very rare.

IN CONCLUSION . . .

I do NOT pretend to be an expert in photography. I have simply presented here some of the examples of material I have gathered over the years, asking my colleagues to help with their opinions and I repeat — it is time — the stamps are still easily available — for a team of researchers to try to find out how all of the retouches, flaws, and double impressions were caused as well as settle the make-up of the First Portrait Booklets Issue. I am at the disposal of any volunteer willing to collaborate.

IBRAHIM CHAFTAR

Alexandria, Egypt — September 1972

OUR NEXT ISSUE WILL FEATURE ANOTHER INTERESTING ARTICLE BY M. CHAFTAR ENTITLED "FINDS IN EARLY EGYPTIAN POST-MARKS". Writing from Alexandria, with a lifetime of Egyptian knowledge to draw from and, for many years, with privileged access to the Egyptian Postal Archives for research, his studies and articles have enriched Egyptian philately far more than most living persons today.



PHOTO NO. 5

On examining this stamp we notice that the colored oval containing the portrait is considerably thicker beginning under the snake-like ornament and ending at the white space at the end of the tie. The space between the right lotus stem and the white line at the right has disappeared. The remainder of that oval is thicker than normal.

How has this defect been produced ? It cannot be the result of a faulty application of the carbon tissue on the multipositive glass. We know that special attention is given to provide close contact between the carbon tissue and the thick glass of the multipositive. Even a special device is used, a "vacuum printing down frame", allowing for the air to be drawn between them to secure contact.

If we examine the oval under the left snake we can see, like a rejoining, the thick part of the oval of the remaining line which is relatively thinner. Also under the white space at the end of the tie we see the same fact. Are we in front of a clever retouch ? by hand — or by a mechanical device ?





#### PHOTO NO. 6

The stamps in this illustration show, on the left side of the outer frame a squash causing an enlarging of the white frame surrounding the entire design. Also, the left label containing the words EGYPT POSTAGE seems to have a double impression. (The white space composing the Arabic letters being narrower). These varieties are scarce and represent a kind of double impression.

Three additional photos from Group 6 appear on the following page.

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OUR REGULAR BIBLIOGRAPHY WAS OMITTED DUE ONLY TO LACK OF SPACE. IT WILL BE RESUMED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE . . .

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PHOTO NO. 6 — ADDITIONAL PHOTOS FROM THIS GROUPINGFRENCH AERONAUT GODARD (Cont.)

probable they had exhibited a balloon in Egypt at sometime during their visit there; thus the cover is related by matter of balloons in Egypt (and addressed to a relative in Paris) but it does not have anywhere near the value it would have as a genuinely flown pioneer aerial item. There are many covers from many places not related to any flight bearing this cachet as it was freely used by Godard on all of his correspondence throughout his travels."



M. EUGENE GODARD began his aeronautical career early in the 1850's, later joined by Madame Godard who, herself, performed in the capitols of Europe as an early female aeronaut, notably at the Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen and frequently, with her husband and two small sons, Louis and Jules.

M. Godard was also one of the prime movers in establishing the balloon posts during the siege of Paris in 1870. Later both sons became well-known aeronauts in their own right. In 1880 Louis, along with Gabriel Yon set up shops in Champs-de-Mars where they manufactured precision hand-sewn balloons.

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### PHOTO NO. 7

The two stamps on the right side of this illustration show the same squash and like a visible doubling of the white space composing the Arabic letters FIVE MILLIEMES, but on the right. These variations are scarcer than the stamp showing the same variety on the left (only two, see plate No. 6).

The two stamps on the left side of this illustration show a fine line doubling the left side of the outer frame only on the face of the label containing EGYPT POSTAGE.

How has this line been produced? It is not the result of any damage to the doctor blade. Only four different stamps showing this line. Always on the left, have been found amongst the 8000 used copies examined.





EGYPT'S FIRST PORTRAIT ISSUE — THE ILLUSTRATIONS — CONTINUEDPHOTO NO. 8

These two stamps (5 mils. 1923) show a double impression on the left side of the frame and the Arabic text (EGYPT POSTAGE) also double (the white part is narrower than normal). The puzzling item is that these two stamps are from the same unit of a printing surface. They show the same defects identifying one stamp with the

other. Can you offer a reasonable theory ?

How can a printing surface have a double etching for part of it ? Or, if this is a part "double impression", how can we have the same impression ? If we suppose cockling of the paper, in the case of stoppage of the printing machine can the doubling occur on the same place of a sheet ?

PHOTO NO. 9 (Illustrated on the following page with four units)

This 3 millieme stamp (upper left) shows the Latin numeral narrower than normal. Besides the color splash on the white part of it, the left edge of the outer frame is squashed in the left direction of the cylinder movement. Stamp Nos. 2 & 3 show the double impression on the two Arabic labels, left & right, Also on the Latin numeral 15. All of these are narrower than normal. Stamp No. 2 shows the doubling towards the left, and stamp No. 3 on the right. Stamp No. 4 shows the same effect as stamps Nos. 2 & 3. In addition, It shows a doubling of the oval from the right and left side, the blue color filling the left and right side of the white oval itself.

"TREASURES OF TUTANKHAMUN". THE BRITISH MUSEUM DROPS FINAL CURTAIN ON FABULOUS EGYPTIAN EXHIBIT WITH A SPECIAL CACHET & FINAL DATE STAMP 30 DEC. 1972 AFTER SUCCESSFUL EIGHT MONTH RUN !!









EGYPT'S FIRST PORTRAIT ISSUE — 1923/26THE ILLUSTRATIONS — CONCLUSIONPHOTO NO. 10

Real example of a double impression on all the surface of the 5 mils. stamp, from top to bottom. The upper border is doubled also the snake like ornament. The faces and the eyes of the portrait and the white collar around the neck are evidently doubles. The two numerals, both Latin and Arabic, are strongly shaded from top to bottom by the red-brown color and finally, the color runs out of the bottom outer frame.

TRULY A RARE STAMP IN 8,000 USED COPIES

NOTE ++ The editor will be glad to put any serious collector in touch with Mr. Chaftar to further this study. GBG



## EXHIBITION NOTES...

At long last we are able to present some items on Exhibitions; new faces too! While we urge the display of "our" material quite often it seems few are interested in shows in recent months.

**WESTPEX (San Francisco)** Showing for the first time, **PETER FELTUS**, of Oakland, with a most interesting display of Egyptian revenues in several frames, garnered a **SILVER MEDAL** for his efforts. Peter has some scarce and unusual material which most of us have never seen before. Mounting, due to the large size of some of the documents presented a problem, handled nicely by Peter and the cooperation of the show people.

**WESTPEX** To **VAHAN ANDONIAN** displaying some of the real rarities among the proofs and essays of Egypt, a **BRONZE MEDAL**. Much of his material is from the Royal collections with condition near perfect. We noted among them many multiples, die proofs on card, before and after "striking", a complete set of the American bank note issues, the early Penassons in various, assorted colors and much more too numerous to list in this small space. The judges were frank to admit that their knowledge in this area was limited. He'll do better next time out!

And, good friend **LARRY VINCENT** takes the time to write and tell us about **ASHEPEX 73** Asheville, No. Carolina's big Spring Annual, and, of course, it turned into the usual Egyptian Study Circle (Larry says gab-fest). Tex and Dave Schaefer made the trip from Florida, and Dorothy Minto from Etowah, N. Car. exhibited five frames of "Antiquities on Postage Stamps". She repeated her last year's effort by again winning "BEST IN SHOW". Congratulations!!

We also find out now that Dorothy is the editor of the Antiquities Handbook, published by the Fine Arts Philatelists. Perhaps a little effort on Topics in your chosen area when you have the time ?? Dorothy.

Larry says show and visit was a great success. A plan now is being made for another reunion during the Charlotte show in July.

Oh, and thanks for the chow cover, autographed by all three . . .

Prospectus is out now for the APS Convention Show here in Los Angeles in conjunction with **SESCAL — EARLY OCTOBER . . .**



# ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

All issues printed by the Postal Printing House in the Arab Republic of Egypt

## THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

On the 17th of May all nations celebrate the day of telecommunications because this date coincides with the original date of establishment. This union works to help and arrange international cooperation in this field.

Date of Issue: 21 March 1973  
 Denomination: (AIR MAIL) 30 Mills  
 Designer: M. NABIL HENDAWI  
 Design: Map of the world and some of the equipment used in telecommunications.  
 Dimensions: 30 x 50 mm.  
 Sheet: 50 Stamps (5 x 10)  
 Perforation: 11-1/2  
 Colors: Dark blue, pale blue, and black and white.  
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle  
 Printing: Rotogravure  
 Quantity: 500,000 Stamps



## THE FAMILY PLANNING WEEK

Birth Control is considered as one of the basics for raising the family standard of living and by giving consideration to the health and cultural care of its members. This has a profound effect on society and for that reason, the nations pay attention to the services of family planning.

Date of Issue: 21 March 1973  
 Denomination: 20 Mills  
 Designer: M. NABIL HENDAWI  
 Design: The symbol for family planning depicting a husband and wife.  
 Dimensions: 30 x 50 mm.  
 Sheet: 50 Stamps (5 x 10)  
 Perforation: 11-1/2  
 Colors: Pale orange, deep orange, green, black and white.  
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle  
 Printing: Rotogravure  
 Quantity: 1,000,000 Stamps



## NEW DEFINITIVE

Date of Issue: 21 March 1973  
 Denomination: 20 Mills

Identical to previous issue except for change from olive green to a deep rich purple.



SON ET LUMIERE — SOUND AND LIGHT — THE KARNAK TEMPLES AT LUXOR

With the advent of 1973, the Egyptian Organization of Antiquities inaugurated the new "Son et Lumiere" Project of the Karnak Temples at Luxor,

built over 20 centuries and considered one of the greatest and most ancient archeological items in the modern world.

Date of Issue: 21 March 1973  
 Denomination: (AIR MAIL) 110 Mills  
 Designer: SALAH ABD EL KERIM  
 Design: A column from the Temples of Karnak reflecting light.  
 Dimensions: 30 x 50 Mills  
 Sheet: 50 Stamps (10 x 5)  
 Perforations: 11-1/2  
 Colors: Deep blue, rose black and white.  
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle  
 Printing: Rotogravure  
 Quantity: 250,000 Stamps



Cancellation used for this emission was the same as that illustrated on the preceding page with the telecommunications issue, i.e.

"SPRING ISSUES".

CAIRO INTERNATIONAL FAIR

The Fair opened, in 1973, on the 10th of March to show the most recent achievements and developments in the field of production from all parts

of the world. About 40 countries and several firms of international import will participate.

Date of Issue: 21 March 1973  
 Denomination: 20 Mills  
 Designer: SABER AHMED SAIDA  
 Design: The Globe, a Cog and a symbolic ear of corn.  
 Dimensions: 42 x 25 mm.  
 Sheet: 50 Stamps (5 x 10)  
 Perforation: 11-1/2  
 Colors: Green, pale green, turquoise, gray, and black and white.  
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle  
 Printing: Rotogravure  
 Quantity: 1,000,000 Stamps

OFFICIAL STAMPS RE-ISSUED

Date of Issue: 15 April 1973  
 Denomination: 20 Mills

Identical with the issue of 1 July 1972, etc, but, with colors changed to brown and purple. Reference: Topics, July/August 1972, page 93.

A NOTE ABOUT THE EGYPTIAN POSTAL AUTHORITY

We believe a note of thanks is overdue to the fine members of the Philatelic office of the Egyptian Postal Authority. We have had some difficulty in the past in obtaining good strikes of the commemorative cancels used on First days and we mentioned this to the Philatelic Office. In the past few months they have supplied us with fine strikes for our reproduction on cardboard. Fine cooperation.





PARDON EFFENDI!  
A FEW FREE WORDS  
HERE MEAN PROFIT

## bazaar

There is NEVER a Charge for WANTS or OFFERS listed for our readers in EGYPTIAN TOPICS . .

\* \* \*

**WANTED:** Souvenir Sheets — Scott's #B6a & B6b, mint, (NH preferred), at a reasonable price. Would also like mint copies of C3 & C4 mint. If you can help drop a line to GUS KATHMAN, 6216 W. 35th Street, St. Louis Park, Minnesota, 55416. Please quote your price when writing.

**WANTED:** Special Delivery Stamps — Scott E1-5. Need information as to source of supply. Would like to acquire items on cover, and essays or proofs. GENE D. PILARSKI, 24 Mary Lue Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15223 . . .

**THE NEW ZEHERI CATALOG:** Available for immediate delivery. Special price to P.S.E. members \$7.00, others, \$7.75. Order from PETER R. FELTUS, 4970 Desmond Street, Oakland, California, 94618

**WANTED:** Egypt No. 7 mint. If you have a spare drop a line to DR. FRANK AUTRY, P.O. Box #714 Corsicana, Texas, 75110 . . .

**AVAILABLE SOON!** The all new "CATALOGUE OF STAMP PROOFS", emanating from the private collection of Kings Fuad and Farouk of Egypt. Now a comprehensive, up-to-date listing with current prices and a wealth of information not previously in print. Price will be \$6.00 U.S. Reserve your copy now. Write to ALBERT MIZRAHI, P.O. Box #1214 Mission, Kansas, 66222, U.S.A. . . .

**AN UNUSUAL OFFER:** A full sheet of the 13 mil. rose carmine of the 1944-51 Farouk Issue. Zeheri #151 bis b, Control A/50, the INVERTED WATER-MARK — "Arabic F" and Crown, p. 98 (1972 Ed.). Make your offer direct to: FREDERIC COSTI, 8404 Bay Parkway, Brooklyn, New York, 11214 . . .

**OFFER:** Large accumulation and variety of material, better items, cancellations etc., both Sudan and Egypt. Send want list to Willaim G. Bogg at NEW ENGLAND STAMP CO., 45 Bromfield St. Boston, Massachusetts., 02108 . . .

**WANTED** — Egypt, Sudan, British & Italian African Colonies with Military Markings, German Feldpost in North Africa, E.A./A.P.O. during W.W. II & Boer War. Write: WALTER BJORK, 54 W. 84th St., New York, New York, 10024

**WANTED** — By your editor — A few Pioneer Air Post items of Egypt and the Sudan i.e., Cobham covers (1925-6), Mittelholzer flights to Africa in 1929-30, Sir Arthur Coningham's R A F flight to Kano in 1925. Also Palace imperfs: C-2 & C-6 C-18 - 25 and Scott S-30 — C-36. R A F label of 1934 (Heliopolis) and Carbery vignettes. Write G.B. Garrett, P.O. Box #36491, L.A. Calif.,

**WANTED** — Postal History as covers: P.O.W. covers; Turkish Offices in the Holyland, Covers to or from Palestine (Egypt, Palestine, U.A.R.). War Covers, period 1948 - 1956 - 1967 and related material. Send details to R. J. Cohen, P. O. Box #162, Parkchester Station, Bronx, New York, 10462 . . .

**WANTED** — Odd lots, album pages or accumulations of Egypt - U.A.R. - Sudan. Send description and prices first to: CHARLES W. MAYER, 1927 Wakefield Dr. Nashville, Tennessee, 37215

**WANTED** — R A F labels issued for the Air Meet in 1934: also a Graf Zeppelin Suez cancellation on card or cover. Need the E.E.F. cancels — all three types. If you can help write to: Dr. WINTER, 45 Rue Carves, 92, Montrouge, France.

V. ANDONIAN is interested in acquiring additional items among the Royal imperfs, early covers and essays of Egypt etc. Write to him at P.O. Box 11093, Oakland, Calif., 94611 . . .

**OFFER** — A couple still left. Unusual felt cachet on unaddressed FDC from SUDAN. (Scott Nos. 142 & 143) the anti-malaria set. \$1.00 postpaid. BLAKE R. WHEELER, 14230 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades, California, 90272 . . .

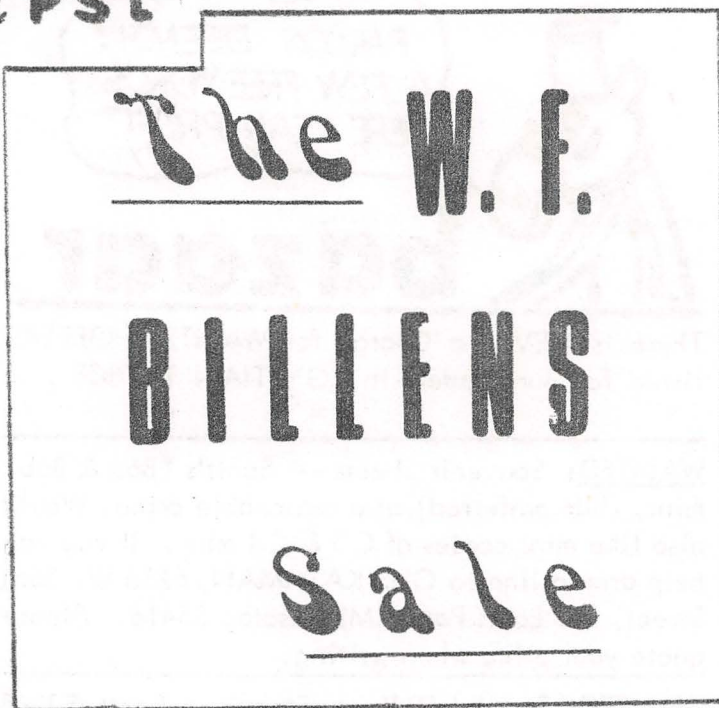
**THE ALL NEW ZEHERI IS OUT!** A must for serious collectors of Egypt and the Sudan. Available now in hard bound edition from PETER FELTUS, at 4970 DESMOND STREET, OAKLAND, CALIF. 94618. A beautiful reference — Priced right!

**WANTED** — New Authors to write articles on favorite subjects in our area of collection for Topics. Every collector has something unusual they want others to know about. Here's your chance. Fancy manuscripts not necessary. If we can read it — We can print it!!!!



## Peter A S Smith FRPSL

THE COLLECTION OF EGYPTIAN stamps formed over a period of 25 years by MR. W. J. BILLENS of Port Clinton, Ohio was sold at auction on October 7th, 1972, by Earl P. L. Apfelbaum, Inc., of Philadelphia. It was broken down into 123 lots, and ranged from Posta Europea covers to foreign offices in Egypt. The collection was relatively weak in covers, but strong in minor varieties (uncatalogued flaws). Mr. Billens was particularly fond of the 1866 issue, which was represented in uncommon detail, in the form of most of the ten transfer types of each value (as described by the late Dr. Byam), the four positions of the watermark, and the various combinations of perforation 12-1/2 and 13.



The Posta Europea covers sold rather evenly for \$20 to \$27, except for Zagazig in Type V, and Zifta, type III, which brought \$40 each; Cairo Type II, misdescribed as Type I, brought \$36 (a price too high for the Type II and too low for a real Type I), and Benha, Type V, which brought \$95. This last is one of the rarer Posta Europeas. Mr. Billens acquired it from me about 20 years ago when a Swiss dealer sold me a lot of five examples, of which I kept one and sold the rest to acquaintances for \$8 each. I have never before, or since that occasion, been offered another Benha, and have seen only one other at auction. The error in description of the Cairo as Type II is a legacy from the catalog of the Byam sale in 1961, in which the printer interchanged the illustrations of Types I and II, although the lots themselves were correctly described. All Journal articles that I know of have the types correctly described, but no one seems to read them! Type I is rare and valuable, and was used only in the 1840's; Type II is one of the commonest and least valuable, and was used in the 1850's.

The Suez Canal Company stamps were represented by one lot, containing the complete set "with light blue part strike with fake c.d.s., and extra shades of the 5c and 20c. The realization, \$72.50, was a fair price for genuine unused

stamps, — but, for stamps disfigured by fake cancellations?

The First Issue was for the most part lotted into large groups of each face value, on album pages, which thus preserved the descriptive write-ups. These lots went extremely cheaply, even allowing for the fact that condition was quite variable; only about 7% of "estimated catalog value"!

Some of these lots were very good value, although there were many mistaken identifications of types and wrongly measured perforations. A few of the better items were lotted separately, among them being unused and used copies of the 20 paras perf. 13 all around, which sold for \$48 and \$34, respectively. Both of these stamps were subsequently rejected as fakes when submitted for expertization; one or more sides had been re-perforated (on one stamp, the faker had not even bothered to remove an old hinge, and the perforation holes went through both stamp paper and hinge!) Both of these stamps, which were illustrated, were of small dimensions, which is enough to arouse suspicion. The perforation all around comes only from one corner stamp out of the sheet of 200 and is accordingly rare. It can be expertized by virtue of the fact that the corner position can be plated by means of minor printing flaws, which are



documented by photographs of complete proof sheets available to expert committees.

A controversial cover bearing a bisected 2 pi. cancelled 23 JUL 67 at Zifta & Mitgmr, accompanied by a "Royal Philatelic Society certificate declining to state an opinion, has been discussed at length in Egyptian Topics before. This cover sold for \$50.00. I understand that the Egypt Study Circle subsequently declined to give it a certificate on the basis of various facts, prominent among them being that the Arabic address is to Cairo, but the arrival backstamp is instead, that of Birket el Sab.

The large lots of Second and Third Issue did little better than those of the First Issue. The 1872 and 1874-75 printings were mingled in the collection, and others in the lots did not help. The lot containing the 1873 and 1874-75 20 para stamps did not distinguish the lithographs from the typographs a most unfortunate lapse. Insofar as I could tell from photographs of the lot, there appeared to be some lithographs, and the lot with 39 stamps and one cover was certainly a bargain at \$17, a price not unreasonable for the cover alone.

Individual items fared better. A 5 para 1867 with the "chain" flaw, made \$44, in spite of the fact that it was thinned and had no gum (Zeheri ~~LE~~50). A used 5 pi. 1872 with plate flaw, "broken pyramid", brought an amazing \$75 (Zeheri #20e, ~~LE~~50). The "cleft pyramid" variety on an 1879 Provisional 5 pa./2-1/2 pi. sold for \$44 (Zeheri #21a, ~~LE~~50).

The later issues included some large lots, mostly in the "collections and Reminders" section, that contained most of Mr. Billen's minor printing flaw varieties. These sold quite weakly. In some cases that I had an opportunity to examine, most of the varieties bordered on the microscopic, and some of them were not varieties at all, but simply cases of minor damage to the stamp after printing — scrapes, pricks, etc. — and some varieties identified as constant were, in fact, not so.

One surprise was the realization of \$42 for a postal stationery item; the 1891 3m on 5m postal card with inverted overprint. Although it is catalogued at \$150 by Higgins & Gage, I am not aware of any sales that justify such a figure, and I sus-

pect that this is a record price for an item of Egyptian Postal Stationery.

The section of Austrian Offices in Alexandria was strong on loose stamps, but included only one cover (stampless with straightline ALEXANDRIEN; sold for \$40. The estimates were rather high for this rather common cancellation, and most of the realizations were half estimate or less, but there were two outstanding exceptions: an 1867 25 soldi "coarse beard" Scott cat. \$20, brought \$48, and a 50 soldi (Scott #7, \$20), brought \$105! On the other hand, a real rarity, the PORTO SAID/EGYPTEN" cds, on a 2 soldi yellow, sold for only \$48. This cancellation is so rare that the Byam collection contained no example on a single stamp. The sole example in the Byam sale was a transit cancellation on a stampless cover, (sold for 58 pounds).

The French Post Office in Alexandria was represented by a number of covers, which realized from \$5 to \$36 each. The much rarer cancellation, "ALEXANDRIE/PAQ. FR." used in conjunction with an obliterator in the form of an anchor in a grid of dots, was represented by a pair of nice covers, which brought \$52.50 and \$46. This cancellation was used on mail posted on the French mail boats leaving Alexandria. The sale contained no examples of French stamps used in other offices — Cairo, Port Said, Suez — although there was a lot of 63 different unused items of the French issues specifically for Port Said, catalog \$204.30, sold \$110 — very strong!

Of the other foreign offices in Egypt, the most interesting lots were an 1876 cover franked by Greek 10 and 20 l. stamps cancelled at Alexandria, very cheap at \$24, and an 1878 cover franked with Italy 30 c. overprinted "ESTERO" cancelled "234" in a circle of horizontal lines, which brought an amazing \$80. This obliterator is actually rare on cover for it was introduced only after the business of the Italian P.O. had declined sharply as a result of the formation of the U.P. U.; the usual obliterator is "234" in a chamfered rectangle of dots.

Lot 750 contained "1866-1937 Proofs and Essays" and had a "suggested bid" of \$75 to \$100; it realized \$120. It actually contained four Riester essays (the very commonest), an 1867 1 pi. proof,



### THE "W. F. BILLENS" SALE (Continued)

a Prevost essay, twelve of the commoner Penasson essays, seven essays by Harrison for the First Portrait Issue (1924), three proofs of that issue (5 m., 15 m.), a die proof essay of a handsome Consular Service fiscal stamp somewhat resembling the  $\pm$ E 1 of 1924, four Royal proofs of the second Farouk definitives, a set of 12 Sellshopp fantasies, and a set of seven mostly damaged proofs of the 1866 issue. A lot of 58 revenues, "mostly salt and tobacco tax issues", brought \$13 (suggested bid - \$30 - \$40).

A large collection of postal markings contained in eight ring binders, including 49 covers, and covering all periods from 1866 to recent, had suggested bid of \$250-\$300; it sold to a European collector for \$170. The last lot was a small collection of Egyptian stamps used abroad in the consular Post Office. It consisted of a nice BAIROUT on a 5 para 1867, a beautiful VOLO on a 1 pi. 1867, two average SMIRNE - 1 pi. 1867, and eight CONSTANTINOPOLI, all on third issue stamps except one (1 pi. 1867). The realization of \$85 surprised me for only one item is rare (Volo), and that only moderately so, and Cos'poli is rather common. Insofar as I could tell from the photographs of the album page, all of the items in this lot were genuine.

As for conclusions, it seems that the market for the unusual in Egypt is very strong, especially if the material has a Postal History flavor, but interest in ordinary stamps seems to be light. Is this the trend of the future?

### CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE POSTMARKS - FRANCE USED IN EGYPT?

Ken Pierce needs help. If you recognize any of them write to him % City of Hope. Systems Design, 1500 E. Duarte Road, Duarte, California, 91010.



### "LOCATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS - UNITED STATES ARMY POST OFFICES - WORLD WAR II AND LATER" NOW AVAILABLE FROM WCC

Compiled by Thomas F. McGrath and the late Kevin Rogan, the latest in a series of APO listings has been published by the War Cover Club in the new Third Edition - 1973.

For those of you familiar with previous editions you are aware that this is an indispensable work for the student of this interesting material. (See Dr. Peter Smith's informative treatise published in Topics, July/August 1972, p. 84).

Special features that facilitate its use and add to its usefulness are a flow chart of mail from overseas and a page of explanatory notes which are invaluable in helping the Postal Historian untangle the often confusing story of APO mail transmission.

Clearly printed in large format, its 102 pages are jam-packed with info for novice and expert alike.

Price: \$5.00 to non-members; \$4.00 to members of the W.C.C. Available from Lincoln E. Kiefer, P.O. Box 352, Montvale, New Jersey 07645.

W.C.C. publishes the excellent bi-monthly "War Cover Bulletin". Sample copy and information on the society for \$1.00 and SASE (16¢ postage), #10 envelope to the address listed above.

Featuring regular auctions, Egyptian military mail is often presented, valuable for the various APO numbers, dates and censor markings.

Ken is hard at work on a new catalog and going into detail to make it the most comprehensive on this special subject. It will appear in Topics.

1. TRO ? 2223-8 on Alexandrie (top left).
2. a) ? DE NOH - 5/-3/? (poss. HON.)  
b) ARG or C? on Port Said
3. ? HUGO ? - 30/12 on Port Said
4. PARIS 1899 - Why a Paris cancel on the Port Said stamps?

Ken's forthcoming catalog will be featured serially in Topics and will feature some most unusual items, many not listed in any catalog, never the less genuine and meriting catalog status.

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