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EGYPTIAN TOPICS



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EXPOSITION
PHILATELIQUE
INTERNATIONALE
art et philatélie



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with the editor

We always feel that editors are charged with the responsibility of imparting "some great words of wisdom" to their readers. In fact, in the editorials of the great journalists we always seem to find "real plums" of wisdom. Unfortunately, our own meager efforts never seem to come up to our own ideas of the standard. However, we try to "tell it like it is".

The big news this month, of course, is the finalization of our new "Society". After more than a year we have finally gotten down to the "nitty-gritty" and the ballots are enclosed with this issue. Please complete them and return promptly so everyone may have his say recorded.

As noted in our last issue, we have been invited by the SESCAL committee to hold an Egyptian/Sudanese specialty show in Los Angeles in October 1975. To do so we must guarantee them 100 frames of our material. In addition to the regular awards from SESCAL, Egyptian Topics and some of our interested readers will make available special Egypt awards.

This is a great chance to publicize our area as it will receive national press coverage. We will see to it that the judges are qualified. We have provided a place on the ballot for your use. Please consider it carefully. Security arrangements at SESCAL are excellent and your editor will be on hand to see that it is handled properly.

For our next issue — two nice surprises as we begin our seventh year. First: an extremely fine and original article by E. Menne Larson, of Hobro, Denmark on the U.N. Battalion stationed in Egypt. A factual account by the man who, perhaps knows more than anyone on this special subject, well illustrated. It has been nearly two years in the making and I am sure it will be a revelation to many interested in this material . . .

AND — just today we received from Major E.C.W. Stagg, author of the fine treatise "SUDAN", The Postal Markings 1867 — 1970, recently published by the Royal Philatelic Society of London, a most interesting article on the Postal Concession Period 1932 - 39, beautifully illustrated.

From a quick glance, this promises to quickly become another standard work of this period.

"HAPPY HOLIDAYS" TO ALL

Guest Editorial

By CHARLES F. HASS, Jenkintown, Penn.

THE NECESSITY OF COOPERATION

It would seem that the readership of *Egyptian Topics* is comprised of collectors having varied interests, from those who collect only the stamps of Egypt and/or the Sudan, to those who engage in many facets of the seemingly endless number of choices offered by the Philately of these two areas.

Egyptian Topics offers an excellent opportunity for each and every collector of Egypt and the Sudan to make contact, through the medium of philatelic journalism, with other collectors of the same persuasion. Not only does this fine journal enable a collector to share his philatelic knowledge and expertise with others, but it also allows him to seek answers to his most baffling questions, and gives him the opportunity to receive aid in a particular study, through collaboration with his fellows.

There are currently in existence, in the United States, a very small number of journals dealing exclusively with the philately of one particular area. I know of none which measure up to the caliber of *Topics*, which is the only regularly published journal in the world covering our area of interest, with the exception of L'Orient Philatelic, Cairo and the Quarterly Circular of the Egypt Study Circle, in London, neither of which appears as often as *Topics*.

Topics is a completely non-profit venture, the credit for which goes to Gordon Garrett, who instituted the journal and has kept it going for the six years it has been in existence. Gordon has put a great amount of time and effort into the production and mailing of *Topics*, and he has always found the time to write interesting and informative articles in each issue, and for these accomplishments, Gordon deserves our sincere thanks and admiration.

A philatelic journal, however, cannot live by thanks alone. It cannot be a one-man, a twoman or even a ten man operation. It is like a fruit tree in that it must be watered and nurtured by those for whom it bears fruit. Without this care, it will most certainly wither and die. What is needed to keep *Topics* alive and well is cooperation, and a mutual effort on the part of all collectors of Egypt and the Sudan to contribute to its growth and well being. We cannot burden Gordon with the entire job.

Many readers may not realize that the articles in *Topics*, freely contributed, for the mutual enjoyment and edification of all interested parties. One does not have to be an advanced specialist or a philatelic scholar to contribute. Surely, many of us have unanswered questions, word of new discoveries, or particular interest which would be worthy of inclusion in *Topics*. Facts do not become common knowledge unless they are recorded for others to share.

Often, the author of a particular article in *Topics* is seeking further information on a given facet of Egyptian or Sudanese philately. All too often there is little or no response to his plea. Certainly, any individual who has had the courtesy to take the time to share his findings with his fellow collectors deserves to hear of any additional information that may be known by any of us who have read his article. To merely subscribe to our journal is not enough! Each of us must do his or her part to help Gordon in keeping *Topics* the fine journal that it has always been.

The concept of the American Society of Egyptian and Sudanese Philatelists has been spoken of many times, but such a society has not materialized, seemingly due to lack of get-up-and-go on the part of the collectors whom it would serve. We have, in *Egyptian Topics*, a fine opportunity and foundation upon which to build such a society. Let us not allow this opportunity to pass us by. We are quite widespread geographically and most of us are fairly distant from

our fellow Egypt collectors. We must not allow this factor to prevent us from forming a bond, based on our mutual interests. Topics has given us something upon which to build. Let us join together and take full advantage of it now !!!

Charlie hass

EDITOR'S ADDENDA . . .

We thank Charlie sincerely for his kind words but, we hasten to point out without the many fine readers who have contributed to its success over the years, Topics would long since have expired in an ignoble struggle. Praise is always appreciated but we must point out, too that the editor has received a host of other intangible benefits, not the least of which is the friendship of many fine collectors around the world with whom we correspond, some of whom we have met, many more we look forward to meeting. Truly it is non-profit but must everything be crassly commercial? The pleasure of sharing, the knowledge obtained and the life-long friendships that result have no measure in tangible commodities; these we may reserve as our personal rewards in our albums.

Yes Charlie — we always need help. No editor has sufficient knowledge to maintain, year after year, any journal that is to be of lasting value. Of course, there have been some giant philatelic literary figures in our ranks — dedicated men such as Melville, but these emerge only once in two or three generations. Nothing will humble an editor as the day he must sit before his typewriter, with an empty folder at his elbow and a deadline staring at him!

Yes Charlie — we need help, help from good friends like yourself who send in reams of copy just at a time when the bottom of the barrel runs dry; friends who practice in the sharing they preach about. Yes, we need help from every reader who has an idea, a fact, a problem or an interesting item that might appeal to our fellow readers, and soon we hope, to read as "fellow members".

And now, to our "Society". Your editor must shoulder the blame for dragging his feet in the

matter of getting it off the ground. At a quick glance it would seem to be a simple matter. In reality it is a monumental task the culmination of which takes a great deal of time. With this issue is included the long-awaited ballots and by the first of the new year, 1975 we should be an organized group for our common knowledge and pleasure. No one must be excluded if he, or she, has a sincere interest in our aims and a sincere desire to promote our area of the hobby through study and research. Our aims must include the furthering of the bonds of friendship, if only by mail — after all, this is what it's all about — philately, the carrying of the mail; the mutual pooling of our advice, our knowledge and our common problems AND our solutions to the benefit of every single one regardless of where he may reside.

Dear reader — if you have stayed with us this long, I am sure the message is clear. We need you! We sincerely hope you need us! Your method of contribution is immaterial, but your thoughts, your comments (pro or con), support in a manner commensurate with your ability — your problems and your interests are ours.

Share with us through the medium of the printed word with your fellow collectors and all of us will surely benefit.

Gordon B. Garrett

Address Changes . . .

Recently we have been plagued with an abnormally large number of returns due to address changes where readers forget to advise us in time to make the correction. Normally our mailings are Third Class which means that they cannot be forwarded. These are returned to us at an additional cost of 16¢ each and in some cases the new addresses are noted. We remail these but if no forwarding address is left then it remains here until we hear from you.

While we make every effort to keep our files up to date and to retain back issues for those who have not received them, this does create an added expense to us and frankly, with postal increases as they are, we just can't keep up. PLEASE give us your new address promptly.

Marlowe Booth

TWO VERY INTERESTING COVERS recently drew the attention of your editor, both of which are illustrated, front and back.

Although we may easily surmise as to the route they may have traveled some certain knowledge would be of interest.

Both covers are franked with stamps of Poland, both are addressed to Geneva, Switzerland and both are sealed with EGYPTIAN CENSORSHIP LABELS.

Cover No. 1 is Registered at Warsaw 23 with a circular date stamp of 19 XI. 1944 on the face. On the reverse it carries a transit marking of 26.-3-1945 and a Swiss arrival date stamp, Geneva, 15. V. 45 + 11, nearly five months for delivery. The unusual items, in addition to the label, are the three Egyptian censor markings — two small — 22 mm. in

From

POLAND

With

"SUSPICION"

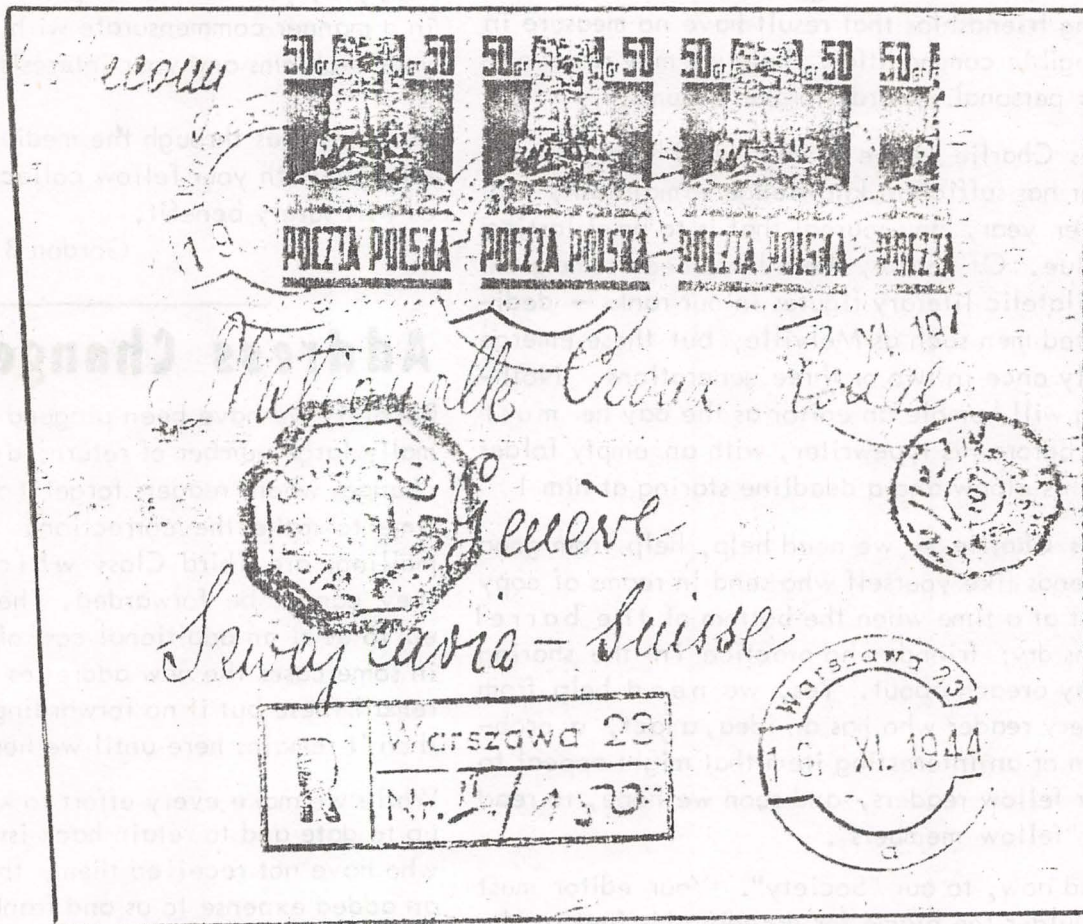


Fig. 1 - Cover 1 depicting the various datestamps and censor markings. . .

diameter with the numerals 49 and 107 and the larger one — hexagonal in shape — 33 mm. in diameter. The number is 100.

The small marking was in use from 15 September 1939 until the end of the war, this being Boulad's Type #2. The larger size is Boulad's Type #4 which came into general use on January 31, 1940. This would be 4 (e) as the size changed with each group of 10: i.e., 51-60, 61-70, 71-80, 81-90, 91-100. In this case the numeral floats free in the center not being bounded by a circle or square. A handstamped numeral marking "006435" also appears on the reverse.

COVER NO. 2 while similar, was posted at Warsaw on 25 XI 44, stamped on both the front and reverse. It does not carry the Ankara transit stamp and the Geneva arrival stamp of 15 V. 45 - 11, appears on the front, identical to delivery date of Cover No. 1. It also bears two strikes of the small censor marking with a numeral 45 on the face and two on the reverse with the same numeral 107. The same censor marking described for cover No. 1. appears very lightly struck on the reverse with numeral "100". It too, is sealed across the top and the left side of the envelope with the EGYPTIAN CENSORSHIP LABEL. Numeral marking on the face is "006343". This too, is Registered but



Fig. 2 - The reverse side of Cover No. 1. showing transit, censor and arrival markings of the Swiss, Egyptian, Turkish and Polish Postal authorities.

On the reverse of this cover we note too, the stamped censor mark of the Polish, bearing the number "88".

Unfortunately, working from photographs, the colors of these various markings are not available.

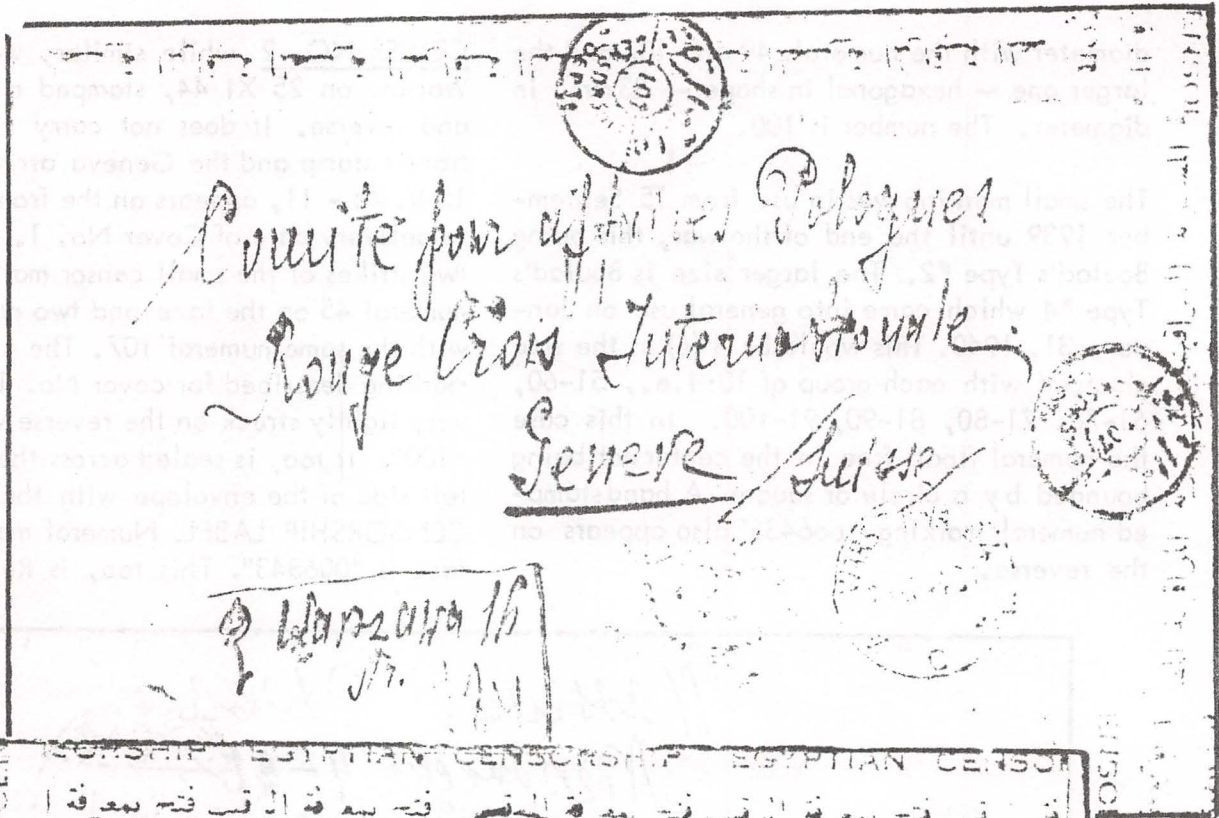
unlike Cover No. 1, the Registry markings are in manuscript.

During 1944 and 1945 many devious routes for the delivery of Allied mail existed, however, this cover, addressed to Switzerland from an

(Continued on following page.)

Fig. 3 -
Reverse
of cover
No. 2
(Right)

Fig. 4 -
Front of
the same
cover
with its
unusual
censor
markings



Iron Curtain Country should have traveled thru German territory unmolested save for censorship as the Swiss remained neutral. Many examples of German wartime postal cooperation exist, particularly from Norway thru Germany to the U.S. These carried the Swastika censor marks of the German Reich and were delivered in much better time than either of these two covers enjoyed.

Now for the speculation? Did these covers contain material objectionable to the Germans so that necessity of delivery meant a long and devious route through Turkey and Egypt?

How were they carried? and why the long delay in delivery? A factual answer would be of considerable interest to our readers.

Bibliography: Egt. Top. Vol.4, No. 4, 7/72 - Postal Censorship in Egypt during WW II. Boulad

CHARLES E. HASS

UNLISTED OVERPRINT

1897 SUDAN Discovery

A VERY UNUSUAL and pleasing "find" is the horizontal pair of the 1 millieme value of the 1897 "SOUDAN" Provisional overprints on the stamps of Egypt illustrated below.



The Type II overprint (from the second horizontal row of the pane of 60 stamps), is centered on the vertical perforation rather than on the stamps themselves, an absolutely perfect example of the surcharge "à cheval" as termed in Zeheri.

The only Zeheri-listed stamp with misplaced overprint is the 2 milliemes green. Gibbons does not list any individual stamp as such, but does make a reference to the fact that some are known with this variety. Harold G. D. Gisburn and G. Seymour Thompson, in their book Stamps and Posts of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan (1947), the major reference work to date dealing with this area, list only the five and ten piastre values of the set with misplaced overprints. They add that reprints — produced from the original stereotypes by a "high Egyptian official", whom they do not name.

Gisburn and Thompson further add that these reprints were produced on stamps of the 1902 chalk-surfaced printing, from which the chalk had been removed by chemical means.

These assertions by Gisburn and Thompson would lead us to believe that any and all examples of stamps of the 1897 issue with misplaced overprints are forgeries. This is quite obviously not the case! The "high Egyptian official" whom they mention is well known to many of us. He was one Henry Cantel Bey, a French national. Cantel Bey, using the original stereotypes, produced excellent reprints of these stamps (among other of his philatelic (?) Creations"), easily identifiable as such because of the use of the chalk-surfaced sheets then current. He could not have removed the chalk from the paper by chemical means, because to do so would result in the removal of the design of the stamps, which were printed upon, and absorbed into the chalk!

The 1 millieme pair is unquestionably printed on the 1888 "slightly" surfaced paper. The overprint definitely genuine, being an exact type II. Therefore, there can be no question as to the authenticity of this example.

While on the subject of the forged "SOUDAN" overprints, I might add that I have been researching this very interesting area of Egyptian Philately, with the eventual goal of publication of a detailed photographic study, listing and typing each and every existing example of bogus overprint. With the help of some of my fellow philatelists, I have managed to obtain quantities of forgeries for study, and am happy (?) to report that I have identified 58 individual types to date in quantities of from 1 to 50 each. I am in earnest need of greater quantities of this material for study and would welcome any assistance that could be rendered by the readers of Topics. I would gladly identify as to genuineness any copies of these stamps that may be in doubt.

I believe that fully 75% of all used stamps of this issue on the American market are bogus. A reference work in this area is long overdue and I hope to fill this gap with a fitting and exacting study.

Kenneth D. Knight

THE PIGEON POSTS OF EGYPT

Following his "Introductory Look" in our last issue, Ken follows up with some factual notes on the early Pigeon Posts, Possibly one of mans earliest attempts at air mail. Ed.

The Sultan, NUR UD DIN, who ascended the throne of Aleppo in 1146, introduced a pigeon messenger service into Egypt.

The use of pigeons for mail services were not unknown, indeed it is reported that in the time of Ramses (circa 1300 B.C.) Egypt had an efficient pigeon post system that covered an area from the Red Sea to the Levant.

Between the Early Posts of Ramses and the Mameluk pigeon posts, Egyptian, Greek and Romans are known to have employed pigeons for ship to shore communications in the first century B.C.; and pigeon posts operated in Arabia (from the 8th century A.D.) and in China (7th century A.D.).

Under the Mamelukes, pigeon mail routes followed the horse postal routes, the lofts being established every seven miles. Each of the lofts being kept constantly supplied by means of a mule service, with the pigeons of neighboring lofts.

The routes of the mail services operating within Egypt were:

- 1) Cairo to Alexandria
- 2) Cairo to Damietta
- 3) Cairo to Upper Egypt
- 4) Cairo to Gaza, and thence to Damascus and other parts of the Sultanate.

The "EARLY" POSTS of EGYPT

A letter from Cairo to Damascus taking between eight and thirteen hours to complete the journey.

In addition to the relay-pigeon system, there was also an express service (Hawadi) flown in a single stage between Cairo and Damascus.

The day to day management of the posts was entrusted to the Chief of the Chancery, who also held the title of the Master of the Posts.

Strict regulations related to the messages to be conveyed, both in regard to the use of a specially prepared fine paper and the actual written message. This letter had to be "telegraph" style; all flowery symbolic language and invocations, so beloved by the Oriental

were forbidden, as were all titles in the address.

It is reported that the messages were attached to the tail feathers or fastened under the wings of the pigeon. Personally, I am of the opinion that such methods of fastening would be impractical and time consuming. Would it have not been simpler if the message had been wrapped around, and then tied to the pigeons leg? The suggested method of fixing the message to the leg would also be less likely to impair the flight of the bird.



Ahmed Al-Maqrizi (the noted Arab historian) commemorated on the U.A.R. stamp of 1965 (Zeh. pp. 205/389 recorded that, in 1288 there were 1900 pigeons in the lofts at Cairo alone. Each of the pigeons used in the service was marked by branding iron on both the back and the foot.

Pigeon houses and the postal services were a source of particular pride in Egypt and Syria until the Turkish invasion of 1402 when the lofts were destroyed and the service ceased. It is thought however, that the service was reinstated to some degree by the end of the fifteenth century.

REMEMBER TO MAIL YOUR BALLOT

EXHIBITION NOTES...

FLOREX '75 — The Big extravaganza down in Florida, to MRS. NANCY "TEX" SCHAEFER, a Silver Medal for her fine showing of EGYPTIAN POSTAL STATIONERY. . .

STOCKHOLMIA '74 — Sweden's International GOLD MEDAL to JOHN E.O. HOBBS for his showing of Egypt postal service of the British Forces 1932 — 1940.

To GEORGIO KHOUZAM, GOLD MEDAL — for exhibiting Egypt - 1840 - 1865. The Posta Europea.

A SILVER-BRONZE to GORDON B. GARRETT for his showing of the Pioneer Airposts - Stamps and covers of Egypt. And, a SILVER-BRONZE in literature for "Egyptian Topics".

With as many shows as we have had in the past few months, I am sure that many more exhibits of Egyptian material have taken place, and we would like to list your win in this column. Let us know when you win with Egyptian material.

OUR DREAMED-OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY WILL SOON BE A REALITY . . .

REMEMBER TO MAIL YOUR BALLOT. !!!

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Articles on Egyptian Early Posts . . .

- 1) The Holy Bible (in addition to excerpts quoted from the Book of Esther, further references to ancient postal systems are to be found in II Chronicles, in Job and in Jeremiah).
- 2) A short History of the Mail Service; Carl Scheele (Smithsonian Institution Press).
- 3) Portrait of Egypt; Lord Kinross (Andre Deutsch, London, 1966).
- 4) Collecting Postal History; Prince Dimitry Kandrouroff (Eurobook Ltd., 1973).
- 5) International Encyclopedia of Stamps; (IPC Magazine, Ltd., London, 1970).

NB - This is the only source I have been able to locate that makes reference to the pigeon posts of Ramses.

- 6) Various articles from L'Orient Philatelique and the Quarterly Circular of the Egypt Study Circle of London.
-

Gordon B Gamett

R.A.F. Long Range Development Unit

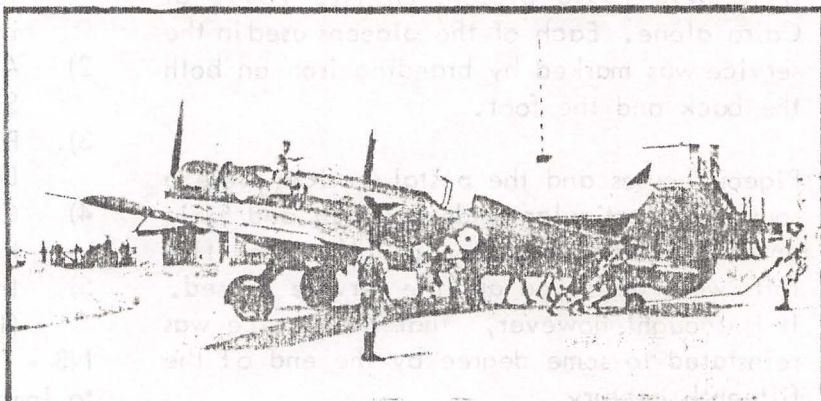
SEPTEMBER 10th, 1935 was the day the Air Ministry of Great Britain cancelled its existing biplane contracts and yielded to pressure from Sir Robert McLean, Chairman of Vickers Airplane Co., Ltd. after some very factual discussion in favor of the new type monoplane then on the drawing board. Contracts were duly signed for 96 of these new machines — a simple act that would, three years later — set unheard of long distance records to the glory of Britain and in the process, become something of a red-letter day for aero-enthusiasts of the Egyptian posts as well.

Early in 1938 mounting pressure for more durable machines, to run economically for long periods of time, over long distances, was felt. The Russians held the world record for endurance at that time and several other countries were striving to overcome the relatively short range of the machines in use at that time.

The Wellesley, already in production with several experimental craft numbered in the K 7700 series were in an excellent position.

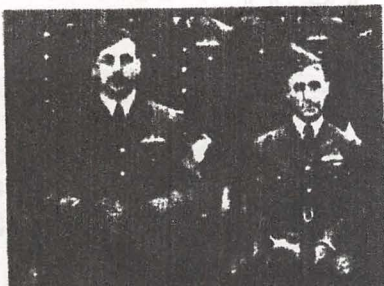
Of these models, K 7717, the fifth production machine was assigned to 45 (B) Squadron in Egypt where it was tested extensively under desert conditions with the new Pegasus engine. This testing proved invaluable from several other standpoints as well in defining other weaknesses that were remedied on its return to England.

NON STOP
ENDURANCE
FLIGHT
1938



Ft Lt Hogan's Wellesley at Ismailia, being tolled out for the attempt on the world distance record by the R.A.F. Long Range Flight.

(Continued on the following page).



Squadron Leader R. Kellett and Flight Lieut. A. Combe, Commanders of the two ships destined to finish non-stop.



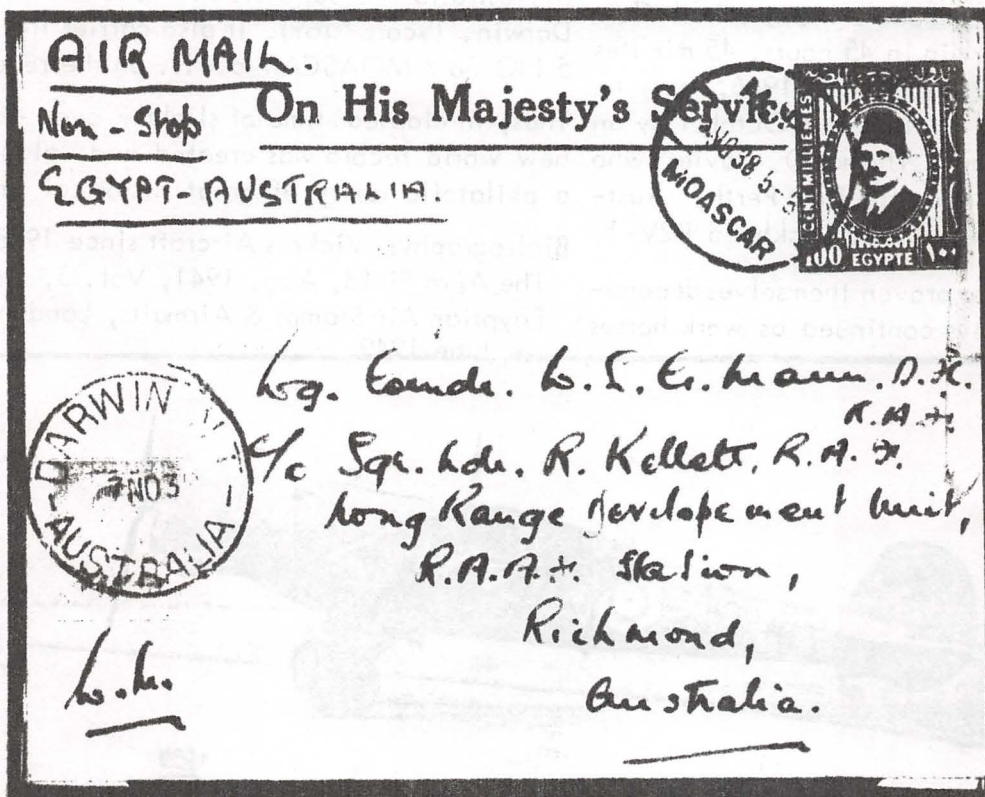
Flight Lieut. H.A.V. Hogan forced out of the non-stop flight at Timor 300 miles after he had broken the existing Russian record.

In the same year a special LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT UNIT of the R.A.F. was formed under the command of Wing Cmdr. O. R. GAYFORD, DFC, AFC, whose exploits in African skies are not unfamiliar as he had flown from Cranwell to Walvis Bay, S.W. Africa in 1933 in company with Flight Lt. G. E. Nicholetts in a Fairey monoplane.

Apart from K7717, five standard Wellesleys were converted for this unit, bearing the numbers: L2637, L2638, L2639, L2680, and L2681. Each received the installation of the newest and finest BRISTOL PEGASUS XX II engines with many special fittings and refinements and a test run was made under the command of Sqdrn. Leader Kellett (who later commanded the Long Range Flight) to the Persian Gulf and return, stopping briefly at Ismailia. They landed back in England on July 7th, 1938.

The red-letter day finally arrived when, on November 5th three of the five planes ready were selected. First L2638 Sqdrn. Ldr. R. KELLETT, 2nd. Lt. R. T. GETHING & Pilot Officer M.L. GAINES, second L2639, Flt. Lt. H. A. V. HOGAN, Sgt. T. D. DIXON and Flt. Lt. R. G. MUSSON and in L2680 Flt. Lt. A. N. COMBE, Sgt. A. B. GRAY and Flt. Lt. B. K. BURNETT ran the 3600 foot length of the runway at Ismailia enroute to Australia NON-STOP.

(Continued on the following page.)



RAF LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT FLIGHT — EGYPT/AUSTRALIA

Take-off weight was 18,400 lbs., enabling them to reach an altitude of 10,000 feet in 45 minutes as planned. After 12 hours adverse weather set in over the bay of Bengal and steadily deteriorated with a fierce storm raging, heavy rain, lightning and a cloud-laden sky.

While passing the island of Celebes they surpassed the existing Russian's previously set record, however, severity of the storm had taken its toll in added fuel consumption and L 2639 was in trouble with the fear that it might not make it through on the final leg to Darwin and by mutual agreement between the three commanders, Flt. Lt. Hogan landed at Kupan, Timor, continuing his flight after refueling there.

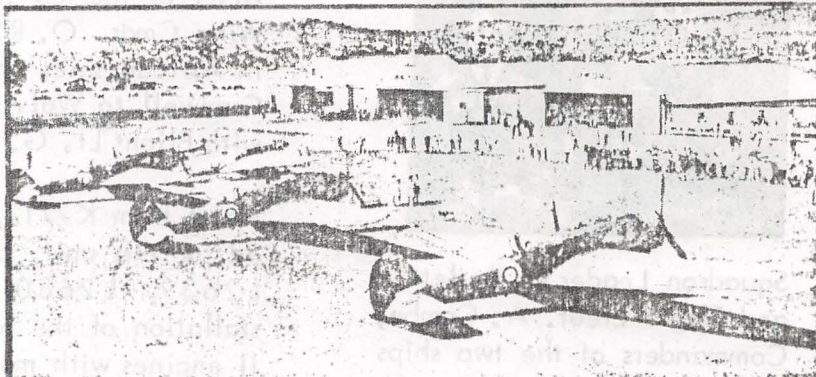
Some 48 hours of elapsed time later Combe and Kellett, having crossed the Timor sea, landed at Ross Smith airport in Darwin. Kellett had 44 gallons of fuel left and Combe had only 17.

Thus a record flight of 7,157.7 miles was officially created. This record remained unbroken on the books for the next eight years (1946) when British Air Commodore N.H. d'Aeth flew from London to Darwin in 45 hours, 45 minutes in a Lancaster on 21-23 August 1946, only to have this shattered on the 1st of October by an American Navy Cmdr. Thomas D. Davies, who flew 11,236 miles non-stop from Perth, Australia to Columbus Ohio in a Lockheed P2V-1.

Meanwhile, having proven themselves dependable, the Wellesleys continued as work horses

AT RIGHT —

Lt. Hogans plane L2639 which landed for refueling at Kupan in Timor due to abnormal gas consumption during storm



RAF Long Range Flight of three Wellesleys during tour of Australia after record flight.

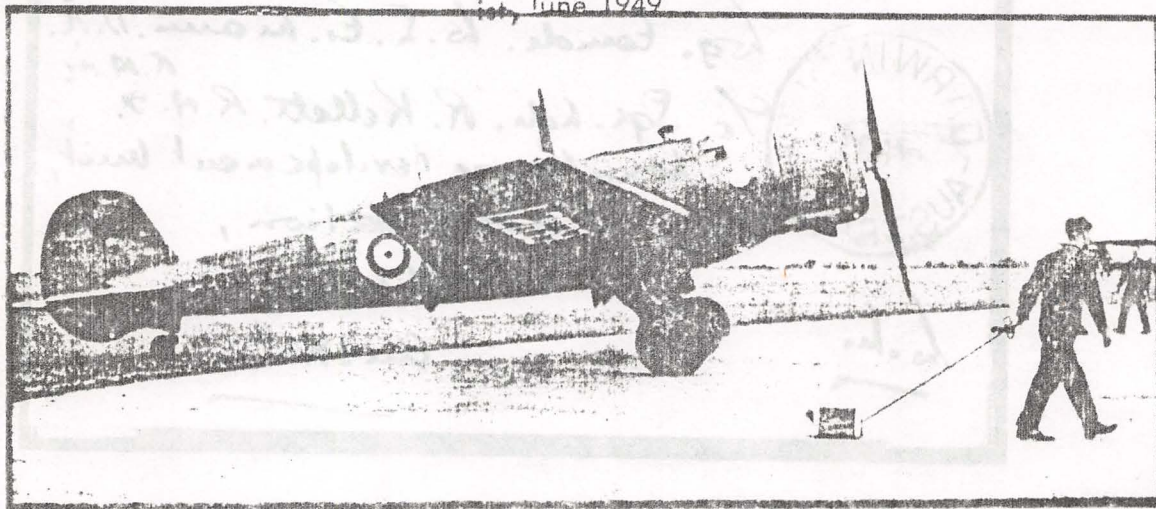
in the Middle East during the early part of WW II.

A total of 140 letters were carried on this special flight, however, only twenty will be in private collections as the remainder were commercial, political or official and none is very likely to appear on the philatelic market.

The cover illustrated on the previous page, from the author's collection, addressed in the hand of Kellett, is postmarked at MOASCAR (near Ismailia) 5 November 1938 at 03.55 hours, franked with the 100m. King Fuad definitive. On arrival in Australia it was franked with a 1937 issue, 2 p. scarlet of Australia and cancelled 7 November 1938, at Darwin. (Scott #169). It also carries the M.P.O. / 5 NO 38 / MOASCAR c.d.s. on the reverse.

Thus, in elapsed time of slightly over 48 hours a new world record was created and, along with it, a philatelic rarity of great historical import.

Bibliography: Vickers Aircraft since 1908, Andrews. The Aero Field, Aug. 1941, Vol. 5, No. 6, Egyptian Air Stamps & Airmails, London Philatelist, June 1949.



THE PHILATELIC LITERATURE OF EGYPT

"AN ANNOTATED RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY"

By GORDON B. GARRETT

With valuable Assistance From CHARLES FOX

SECTION XII — METERS (Continued from Vol. 6, No. 5.)

THE METER POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE — BARFOOT, S. C. & SIMON, WERNER, Published under the authority of Universal Postal Frankers Ltd., 90, Regent St., London. Page 29. An illustrated account of the first six types to 1933.

POSTAL MARKINGS OF EGYPT — Study No. 6 of the Egypt Study Circle — BLOMFIELD, R.S. 1 page (Mechanical markings) as Type XIII, Nos. 1-6, differ from Nos. listed above in type.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS APPEAR IN L'ORIENT PHILATELIQUE

LES AFFRANCHISSEMENTS MECANIKES D'EGYPT — BOULAD, Jean, No. 22, October of 1934. pp. 8-9. (F) illustrated. An account of the early types of meter markings and some notes on the varieties which occurred. Continued in No. 23, January 1935. pp. 6-7.

LES OBLITERATIONS MECANIKES D'EGYPT — BOULAD, Jean, No. 26, October 1935 on pp. 4-6. In French and Arabic, profusely illustrated with many more types and illustrations of the slogan cancels in use at that time. Comprehensive and of value to the specialist.

LES AFFRANCHISSEMENTS MECANIKES D'EGYPTE — BOULAD, Gabriel, No. 81, January, 1953. pp. 49-53. (F). A listing to 1952 including some of the earliest with descriptive material and notes on the slogans used. Also a listing of many of the company users by dates in Egypt. Illustration of usage in 1922 and 1934.

LES OBLITERATIONS MECANIKES D'EGYPTE — BOULAD, Gabriel, No. 84, October, 1953. Being an illustrated listing of mechanical postmarks rather than meters.

NOTES ON DIFFERENT SUBJECTS (AU SUJET DES AFFRANCHISSEMENTS MECANIKES) — BOULAD, Gabriel, No. 88, October 1954. pp. 513-515. Notes (F) from this article on three pages with some very interesting meters of 1953/1954 showing slogans (illustrated) by various business firms in Egypt.

(To be continued.)

Back Issues

As we have mentioned on many occasions, we make an effort to retain back issues of Topics for new readers and for our older subscribers who wish to complete their file.

At present we have only nine complete files of Topics left and when they are gone they cannot be duplicated as the masters were destroyed long ago. Full files (six years) November 1969 through the December 1974 issue are now available at a cost of \$24.00 plus postage.

After Volume 2, No. 2, we have, for the most part, an ample supply and these can be furnished at a cost of \$1.00 plus postage for singles or \$5.00 for full volumes of 3 and 4. Volumes 5 and 6 remain at the regular price to subscribers.

Occasionally, the press will miss printing on a page and you may get a blank. If this happens let us know when you get your copy and we can usually supply the missing page gratis.

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

Egypt's Stamp Issuing Policy has long been on the conservative side. As a result we had no emissions to report in our last issue. Under their policy however, they do issue several stamps at one time. Most interesting with this report is the Souvenir Sheet in commemoration of the U.P.U.

CENTENARY OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION — 1874 - 1974

Date of Issue: 6 October 1974
 Denomination: 110 mills
 Designer: EDMUND CALIVIS
 Design: The Motto of the UPU in Allegorical figures.
 Dimensions: 74 x 100 mms.
 Sheet: Souvenir Sheet
 Perforation: Imperforate
 Colors: Gold, brown and apple green (An eroded green, as it appears on aged copper).
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: Rotogravure — PPH — Cairo
 Quantity: 100,000 sheets

The Deputies of 22 Countries, Egypt included had signed the first treaty to establish the UPU on October 9th, 1874. Now after the passing of 100 years this group numbers 150 member countries and governments. It works as an organized wing of the United Nations doing its best to promote uniform postal service around the world.

SIXTH EXHIBITION OF PLASTIC ARTS

Date of Issue: 6 October 1974
 Denomination: 30 mills
 Designer: AESHA HUSSEN
 Design: A pallet for mixing colors with a trowel and brushes.
 Dimensions: 40 x 40
 Sheet: 35 Stamps (5 x 7)
 Perforation: 11.5
 Colors: Royal purple, deep yellow, with browns and white.
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: Rotogravure — PPH — Cairo
 Quantity: 1,000,000 Stamps

Plastic artists will participate in this exhibition representing all doctrines. It is the occasion of an artistical festival. The Exhibition contains tableaux, carvings, engravings and porcelain.

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INAUGURATION OF THE MERIDIAN HOTEL — CAIRO

Date of Issue: 6 October 1974
 Denomination: 110 mills
 Designer: LOTFY EL SAWAF
 Design: The modern multi-storied hotel
 Dimensions: 24 x 42 mms
 Sheets: 50 Stamps (10 x 5)
 Perforations: 11.5
 Colors: Ultramarine, yellow,
 Brown and White.
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: Rotogravure — PPH — Cairo
 Quantity: 250,000 stamps

This hotel is distinguished by its delightful situation on the Roda Island in the midst of the River Nile in Cairo. It consists of 300 rooms and several entertaining centers.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROSSING OF THE SUEZ CANAL

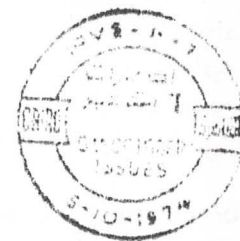
Date of Issue: 6 October 1974
 Denomination: 20 mills
 Designer: M. NABIL EL HENDAWI
 Design: A portrait of President Sadat on a background depicting the achievements after crossing the Suez Canal.
 Dimensions: 50 x 42 mms
 Sheets: 50 Stamps (5 x 10)
 Perforation: 11.5
 Colors: Pale yellow, pale olive green, black, white and red.
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: Rotogravure — PPH — Cairo
 Quantity: 1,500,000 stamps

Our armed forces achieved the greatest victory of our time by crossing the Suez Canal and storming the Bar Lev line in a few hours. It is the victory which restored dignity to the Arab peoples and strengthened their confidence in our armed forces.

TEACHERS DAY

Date of Issue: 6 October 1974
 Denomination: 20 mills
 Designer: M. NABIL EL HENDAWI
 Design: The ideal teachers' badge
 Dimensions: 24 x 42 mms
 Sheet: 50 Stamps (10 x 5)
 Colors: Ultramarine, chocolate brown and white.
 Perforation: 11.5
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: Rotogravure — PPH — Cairo
 Quantity: 1,500,000 stamps

Teachers are a creative force from the working people. They are honored because of their important role in our Republic, the country of knowledge and faith.



WRITE: TOM OLSON — 4 Woodmont Court,
 Berkeley, California, 94708 for the
 Details of our New Issue Service.

NEW ISSUES OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT (Continued).

Date of Issue: 24 October 1974
 Denomination: 55 mills
 Designer: WAHEEB FARAG
 Design: An aspect of one of the Temples of Philae and the emblem of UNESCO.

Dimensions: 24 x 42 mm
 Sheet: 50 Stamps (10 x 5)
 Perforation: 11.5
 Colors: Deep azure blue, pale yellow and pale and dark browns, white.
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: Rotogravure — PPH — in Cairo
 Quantity: 400,000 stamps

WORLD STANDARDS DAY

Date of Issue: 24 October 1974
 Denomination: 10 mills
 Designer: LOTFY EL SAWAF
 Design: The motto of regular standardization a cog machine and some used material on a graphical background.

Dimensions: 48 x 30 mm
 Sheet: 50 Stamps (5 x 10)
 Perforation: 11.5
 Colors: Azure blue, black, white and yellow.
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: Rotogravure — PPH — Cairo
 Quantity: 1,000,000 stamps

RETURNING REFUGEES

DATE OF ISSUE: 24 October 1974
 Denomination: 20 mills
 Designer: IBRAHIM EL TORKI
 Design: The UNRWA EMBLEM and a succession of registers publicizing the continuous aggression of the Israelis against the Palestinian refugee peoples.

Dimensions: 40 x 40 mms
 Sheet: 35 Stamps (5 x 7)
 Perforation: 11.5
 Colors: Burnt orange, brown, white and blue.
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: Rotogravure — PPH — in Cairo
 Quantity: 1,000,000 stamps

UNESCO - INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SAVING NUBIA'S MONUMENTS.

In honor of the member countries of UNESCO who participated in saving the monuments of Nubia, Philae's Island comprised of a group of the most beautiful of the monuments which are sinking into the River Nile.



There is no doubt the present proportion of the industrial promotion and the great development in international trade necessitates that planning should tend to promote and apply regular standardization on national and international levels.



Issued to remind the world of the fairness of the refugees case and of their right to return to their land unmolested.



FAMILY, CHILDHOOD AND SOCIAL WORK DAY . . .

Date of Issue: 24 October 1974
 Denomination: 30 mills
 Designer: LOTFY EL SAWAF
 Design: A child and the mottoes of UNICEF and SOCIAL WORK
 Dimensions: 40 x 40 mm
 Sheet: 35 Stamps (5 x 7)
 Perforations: 11.5
 Colors: Pale pea green, light blue, Deep black - brown, gray-brown and white.
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: Rotogravure - PPH - Cairo
 Quantity: 400,000 stamps

Family and child welfare represent one of the major concerns in the Arab Rep. of Egypt. Social Work Day is an expression of gratitude and esteem presented by the Ministry of Social Affairs to those who work in the field.

THE FESTIVAL STAMP

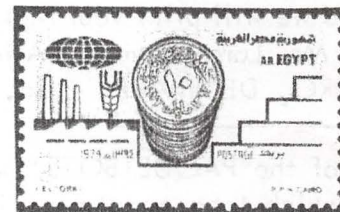
Date of Issue: 7 November 1974
 Denomination: 10 mills
 Designer: EDMUND CALIVIS
 Design: A calla lily
 Dimensions: 25 x 31 mm.
 Sheet: 100 stamps (10 x 10)
 Perforation: 11.5
 Colors: Royal blue, yellow, Nile green & white.
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: Rotogravure - PPH - Cairo
 Quantity: ?

Issued each year during the Festival Season as a special post card rate for greetings:

INTERNATIONAL SAVINGS DAY

Date of Issue: 7 November 1974
 Denomination: 20 mills
 Designer: IBRAHIM EL TORKI
 Design: Savings emblem and a stack of Egyptian coins
 Dimensions: 25 x 42 mm.-
 Sheets: 50 Stamps (5 x 10)
 Perforation: 11.5
 Colors: Deep blue, medium green, grayish-brown and white.

As we go to press additional information on International Savings Day — 1974, is not available.



Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: Rotogravure - PPH - A.R. Egypt
 Quantity: ?

E. MENNE LARSON

QUERY?

INTERESTING
ITEMS OF

EGYPT



E. MENNE LARSEN is the Editor of a very fine Journal on the Stamps of Denmark - (In Danish) with English explanations, entitled, *POSTHISTORISK TIDSKRIFT*. He has long been a subscriber to *Topics* and a very knowledgeable collector of Egyptian material. He is also responsible for many fine First Flight covers from Denmark to Egypt on Scandinavian Airlines System, some of which are quite rare. He has taken time from his busy schedule to submit the following queries on some interesting items which will be of interest to our readers. If you can help him drop a line to the editor of *Topics* and we will print your reply, or write directly to Mr. Larsen: Bymarks Alle 22, DK 9500, HOBRO, DENMARK. Ed.

1 - The origin of the "PAQUETBOTS" mark as illustrated which I have on a strip of three Egyptian stamps (5 mills of the Crown Overprint Issue of 1922). Notice particularly the spelling of the word "paquebots" which is the plural form of the word paquebots as far as I know. WHERE was this mark used? and WHEN?

2 - In my collection I have a perforated green label measuring 25 mm. x 30 mm. showing a value of 5 mills in English and Arabic. It depicts a map of Palestine overlaid with the words PALESTINE in both English and Arabic. In the upper right corner to the left, a sun with rays. To the right, in the lower corner, the value in Arabic and some Arabic text.



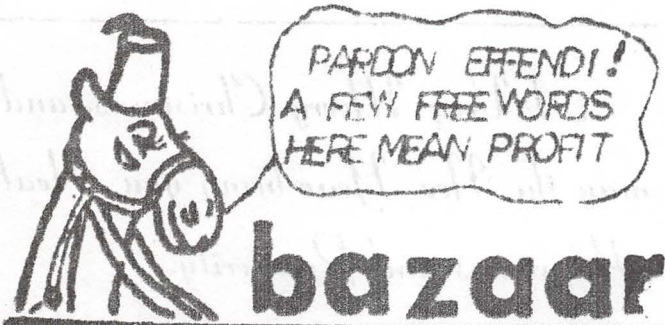
A rough drawing of the label as it is described by the author . . .

It is, according to my opinion, not a stamp, but a "Charity" label, sold for the benefit of refugees or a similar purpose.

My copy is postmarked Gaza and I believe I have another copy on cover from Gaza also.

Period of usage is the Mid - 1960's. What kind of a label is this? Who designed it? For what purpose, and where, was it sold? (At the Post Office?). Was its use on letters compulsory?

3 - I have read somewhere that the Egyptian Postal Administration operated a post office in RAFAH in the British Mandate Territory, Palestine in the 1930's. Does any reader have any information on this post office and know about any postmarks from this office during this period?



There is NEVER a CHARGE for WANTS/OFFERS listed for our Readers in EGYPTIAN TOPICS.

* * *

CORRECTION: Incorrectly listed in our last issue.

WANTED - Cancels of Austrian Post offices in the Levant. Also cancels on DANUBE S.N. Co. stamps:- Write: R. S. Blomfield, 5107 Cayuga Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee, 37914

WANTED - Egyptian Interpostal Seals. President of Manchester (England) Society and collector of Egypt for over 30 years would like to contact any one with material for sale - possibly trade. Write with details to: E.C. Henderson, 31 Maple Ave. Whitefield, Manchester, England, M25 7EP. . .

WANTED - Lots of readers to offer and ask for - interesting WANTS AND OFFERS to help us fill up this page in each issue. Everyone has an item or two, no longer of value to him (or her) and it might be a treasure to someone else, filling a long-vacant space. List It Now! FREE . .

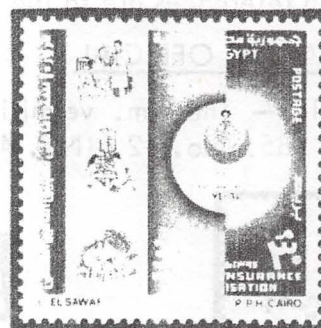
STILL WANTED - Urgently - For inclusion in the BIG, NEW CATALOG of FRANCE (All of the material USED IN EGYPT). To begin soon in serial form in Topics as the most complete and authoritative work in this area ever attempted. LET US know of any ODD or UNUSUAL material that we can include. We want it as complete as possible. If you can help, write now to: KENNETH PIERCE C/o City of Hope Medical Center, 1500 Duarte Road, Duarte, California, USA, 91010.
If you have read this far - you must be - looking for something of interest. Why not make a list - RIGHT NOW - while you are comfortable - and tell us what you need? We'll print it in January and instead of looking for it now - you'll have it in February. Nuff sed!

WANTED - The editor is interested in ALL kinds of Philatelic literature for private research library. If you have unneeded or unwanted material - please write to Gordon B. Garrett, P.O. Box 3875 Torrance, California, 90503

NEW ISSUES OF A.R. EGYPT (Cont.)

HEALTH INSURANCE ORGANIZATION

Date of Issue: 7 November 1974
 Denomination: 30 mills
 Designer: LOTFY EL SAWAF
 Design: Emblem of the organisation
 Three medical vignettes.
 Dimensions: 40 x 40 mm.
 Sheet: 35 Stamps (5 x 7)
 Perforation: 11.5
 Colors: Royal purple, lavender.
 Vermilion, gold, white.
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: Rotogravure - PPH - CAIRO
 Quantity: ??



CURIOUS ?

Illustrated are two items which I have been unable to identify. As a guess, they appear to be Turkish in origin, possibly locals, but more probably for cigarettes. Very crude in seven different colors (with shades) all marked "20" except one "30". All printed in black on pastel colored paper in green, yellow, pink, blue and orange. The writing on each color is different although the number is the same ? ? ?



PHILATELIC FUN and PROFIT

Kenneth D. Knight

Our hope is to keep this column alive with a full and steady stream of interesting errors, varieties, and unusual oddities. This will clear all material on hand. PLEASE send in your items NOW !! If we lack enough for a complete column from some one reader, they can be combined . . .

All catalog references are to the 1972 Zeheri.

THE DE LA RUE OFFICIAL

1914 - 1915 — The 4 m. vermilion overprinted. Zeheri p. 285. No. 12. (No. 40 overprinted).



We note extensive damage to the bar of the first "H" of the overprint.



Another example of the same stamp with damaged letter "O" of the overprint.

1971 — UAR rotogravure issue for W.H.O. The 20m. commem., bistre & violet. Zeheri page 237. No. 564.



The name of the Pharaonic doctor HESY RA has a badly malformed letter "H" resembling a "K". Zeheri lists the spelling as Hesy Raa. Errors are unusual from the P.O. Printing House in Egypt.

*A Very Merry Christmas, and
may the New Year bring you Health,
Happiness and Prosperity.*



1975 DUES ARE DUE

FOR MEMBERS OF

Philatelic Society of Egypt

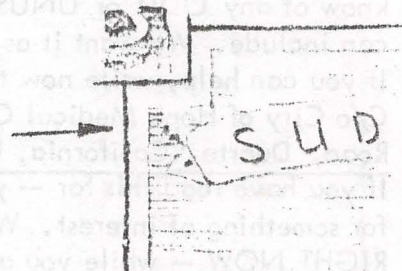
PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK NOW TO:

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

DO NOT MAIL CHECKS TO TOPICS
FOR PSE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DUES.

SUDAN — AIR MAIL

1931 — the 5 mill of the regular issue of 1927 (No. 43), overprinted AIR MAIL. Zeheri pg. 383, No. 1, black and brown.



Extensive white flaw in the upper left corner of the stamp to the left of "SUDAN". Sheet position is unknown, however, this stamp is on the fifth vertical row from the right-hand edge of the sheet.