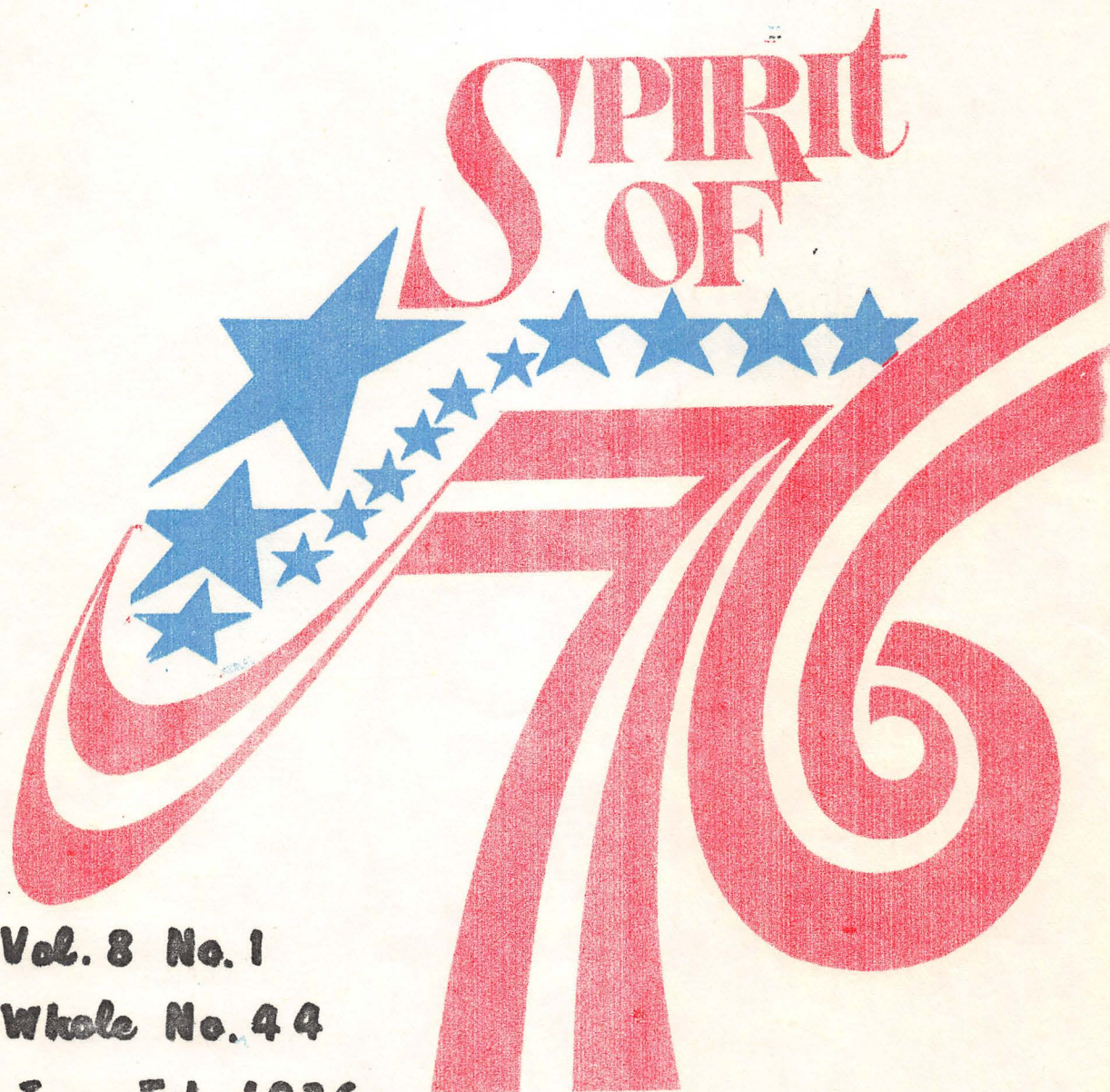


EGYPTIAN
PHILATELIC
TOPICS



Vol. 8 No. 1

Whole No. 44

Jan - Feb. 1976

Single Copy \$1.25

EGYPTIAN PHILATELIC TOPICS



EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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P. O. Box # 3875

Torrance, California, 90503

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
EGYPT PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

PRESIDENT	DR. PETER A. S. SMITH
VICE PRESIDENT	PETER R. FELTUS
SEC'Y - TREASURER	GORDON B. GARRETT

Please send all news items and subscriptions, articles, wants and offers, to the publisher.

Matters pertaining to the Philatelic Society of Egypt — which is not to be confused with this Society — should be sent directly to Dr. Smith who is also the American Agent for Egypt. His address will be supplied by the editor . . .

Egyptian Philatelic Topics is published six times yearly at Torrance, California, U. S. A. and all dues (\$4.00 per year, U. S. and CANADA, are payable in advance to the Sec'y-Treasurer. All overseas dues are \$5.00 yearly for extra post.

TELL YOUR EGYPT COLLECTOR FRIENDS —
HELP YOUR SOCIETY GROW 1

With the Editor. . .

We often take the time to vent our wrath editorially on some of the pet peeves of the day, and in recent articles the post office department has not emerged unscathed for some of the assinine — (our thoughts) practices they endorse; some of the rip-offs they advocate with regard to stamp-issuing ? policies and more particularly, a deterioration in the quality of the postal service while they continually raise prices to cover mis-management, all during a period when a well-known independent postal organization, carrying ONLY third class material is able to do so at a nice profit, and this due to the fact that it is run as a business instead of an ungainly octopus feeding at the public hand which you and I must pay for. Well, enough of the US P. O. for now but, I do have another matter as equally ignominious and about which, I sadly fear little short of a boycott would help.

This new bone-of-contention involves our National Birthday — 200 Years of Statehood — the noble BUY-CENTENNIAL. Seems to me that such a milestone in the history of a great nation should be celebrated in dignity and solemnity. Instead, every fast buck boy and rip off artist in the country is busy producing a most amazing variety of shoddy merchandise in the name of patriotism that it has ever been our misfortune to encounter. Philately is high on the list with our own revered post office high on the list with so many emissions of dubious value that it will tax our juvenile collectors for many years to come in order to compete for each denomination, variety, plate block FDC and all the rest they feel they must collect — in the name of being "complete".

Fortunately, Egyptian philately hasn't "Got into the Act" yet — and I hope they don't feel that it will be necessary. Back to the subject of Egyptian stamps, a thorough perusal of auction catalog material, dealer's lists and the philatelic press — shows very little in the way of good material for sale in our area; even the commoner items of the 1930's and '40's seem to be drying up. Have you for example, tried to find multiple pieces or control blocks of the Fuads or Farouks ? This must inevitably be reflected in the catalog prices. Many new devotees to the art of collecting Egypt learn to their dismay that, while the catalog says is is a reasonable country to collect. Where do they find it ? . . .

ERNEST A. KEHR

Your Editor's efforts to rekindle the memory of the old Opera House, built in 1869 by Khedive Ishmael, through a short article in our last issue illustrating the Egyptian commemoratives - and a photo taken in the days of its glory with the statue of the Khedive's father astride a gallant charger, brought fond memories to our member, Ernie A. Kehr who has championed Egypt and its fabulous philately by repeated visits and the printed word for many years.

On a recent visit he managed to obtain official permission to photograph the ruins as they appear today. Ernie states that this was probably the most difficult photo assignment that he has attempted because, understandably, they did not want photos of devastation and waste that might be used against them as propaganda. We hasten to point out, most emphatically, that the photos illustrated here are the remains of a disastrous and tragic fire of one of the world's irreplaceable landmarks, feted in history for lavish operatic extravaganzas and the birth place of the Italian virtuoso, Verdi's "AIDA".

Fires of this kind can and do occur everywhere and these photos might have been taken in any city in the world. The story of this famous opera house and of its tragic destruction is well known through the civilized world and anyone who might try to use photos of this kind as a propaganda medium would be hard put explaining it in any different context. Note particularly the older but well-kept buildings and the greenery in the background and obviously little different than we might see in any one of more than a hundred other urban areas where demolition and reconstruction were in progress. Ed.

SEEING YOUR PICTURE OF THE OLD OPERA HOUSE, in Cairo, and a mention of its tragic destruction, I made up a couple of prints from negatives taken about 7-1/2 months after the fire.

I might say that of all of the visits and photo-

MORE

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EGYPT

graphy in Egypt, this one was the toughest to obtain. Cameras were strictly forbidden within two blocks of Opera Square, which incidently, is just in front of the main post office. Seems they simply didn't want any pictures of devastation which could be used as anti-Egyptian propaganda which continually attempts to reflect Egypt as a "slum country". Only after at least half a dozen requests at various offices did I finally reach a minister friend of mine and got the necessary written permits.

Continued on the following page:

MORE INFORMATION ON THE CAIRO OPERA HOUSE By ERNIE A. KEHR

Even before the destruction, there were plans to erect a new Opera House on Gezireh Island. These plans never got off the ground because of the costs involved.

More recently this plan was revived, however, there are some in Cairo who the new building will be constructed on the site of the old one for sentimental reasons.

One should remember that the Old Opera House was in the midst of Cairo — within a short walk from both the Continental and Shephard's hotels and a number of fashionable villas.

Today, opera goes along the Corniche, where the major hotels also are now situated so Gezireh would be nearer and more accessible.



Above and right. — Photos taken by the author of the aftermath of the tragic fire that destroyed the world-famous "Cairo Opera House, the dream of the Khedive Ishmad and built in 1869.

This pile of rubble is typical of urban renewal sites the world over where modern stauctures are replacing the old and the outmoded and of course, Cairo too, has its share of modern building and improvements.

See Topics Vol. 7, No. 6 for initial article . . .

Gordon B. Gemett

ANOTHER VERY INTERESTING COVER with multiple markings has come the way of the editor and we would like to share it with you.

This particular item was mailed in Cairo during the early part of the war (6 December 1941), franked with two of the Boy King issue, the 2m. and 15m. and cancelled with the Cairo departure c.d.s. — (Blomfield's type XII-2.3) with the letter "H".

On the reverse side we find the machine cancel of Cairo dated 12 December 1941. (Blomfield's Type XIII-6) with the Arabic, the date, the time and the city set in five lines in a single ring circle. Six days in Cairo? Or, did it ever leave?

Addressed to the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, Shanghai, it is cacheted with a double lined rectangle 67m. X 20m. reading: SERVICE SUSPENDED/RETURN TO SENDER in deep violet. It also received the Egyptian return marking (Blomfield Type ReS-2.5) struck in pink. A very clear and not often seen marking as complete as this one although it is occasionally found in pink or red, in part, on stamps themselves.

The cover is censored by both the British and the Egyptian authorities, bearing the Egyptian "CENSORSHIP" closing strip — in pale blue and white on the left while the British strip "OPENED BY CENSOR / 46C and the official with Lions Rampant in bright carmine, are on the right.

In addition, the face of the letter carries three other censor markings. A circular strike in purple measuring 24-1/2 mm. in diameter with the figure "1" in the center. This is G. Boulad's Type IV (1a). Below this, partially covering the ReS mark is another Egyptian in square format being Boulad's Type 5, (8b) which he lists as quite rare. It has no numeral marking.

SERVICE SUSPENDED



RETURN TO SENDER

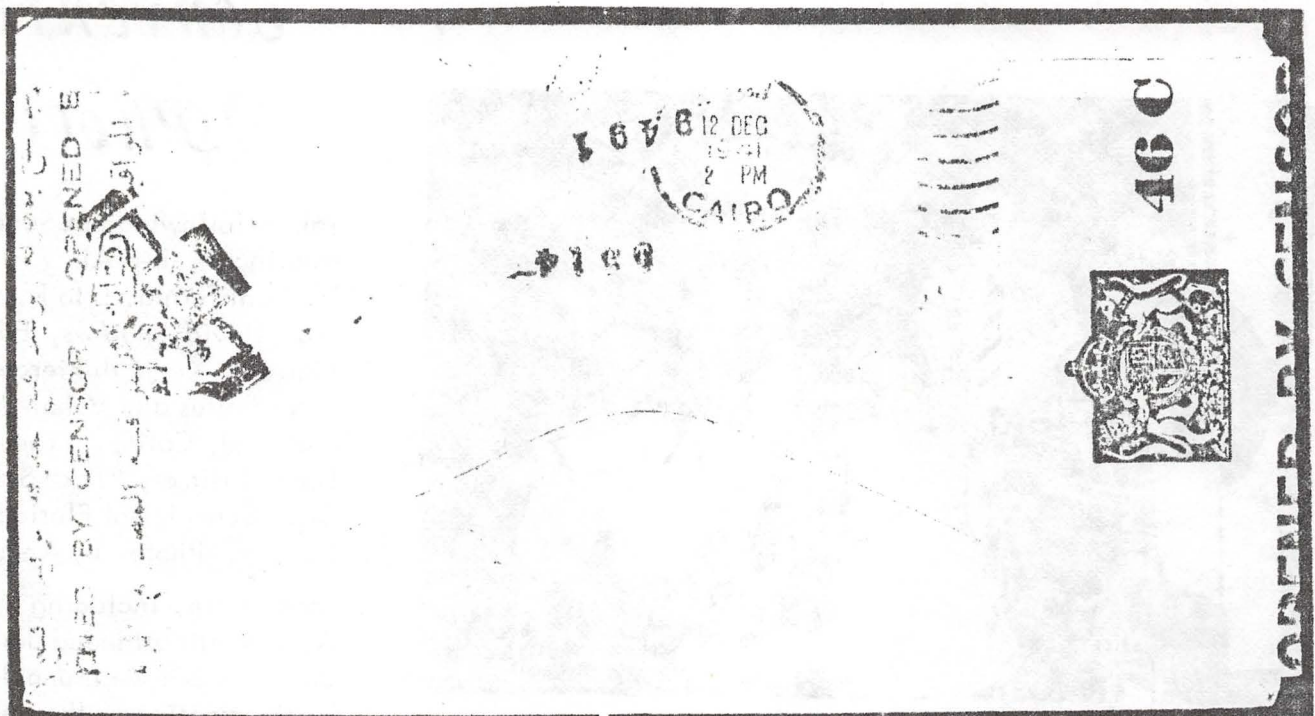
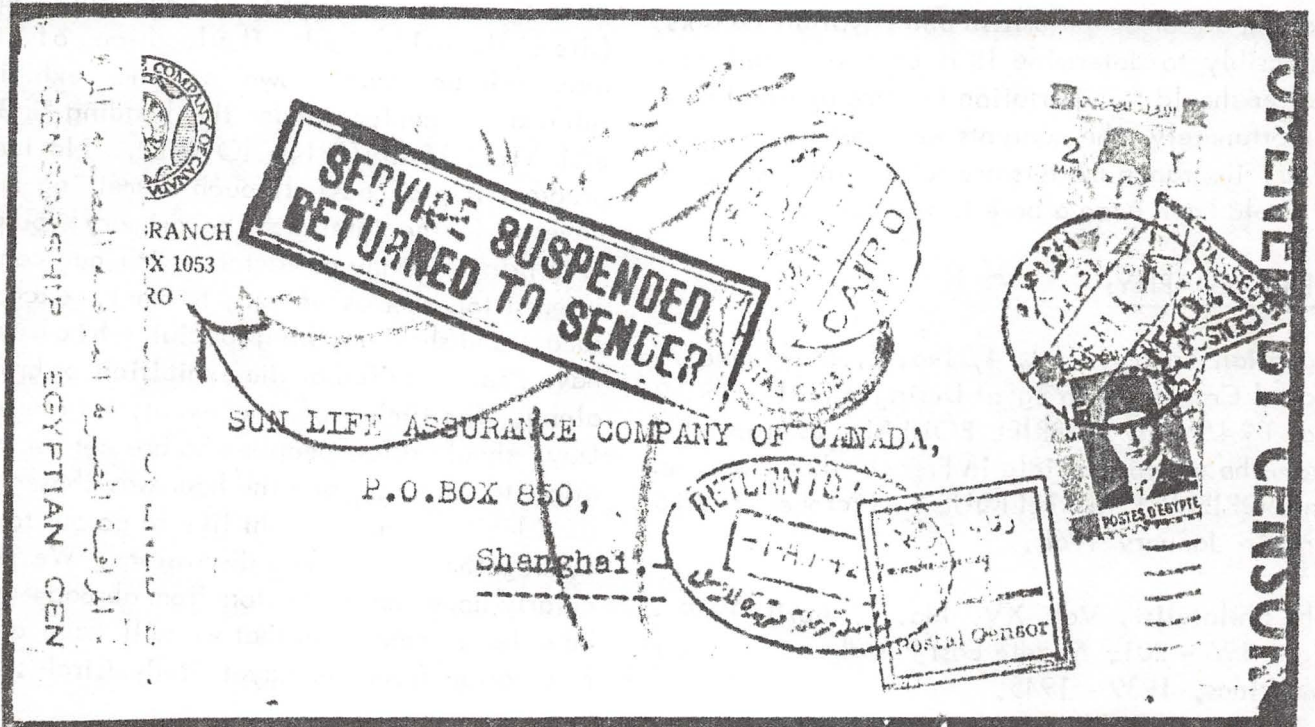
The third censor marking on the face is British. A triangle in black with the words "PASSED CENSOR" showing a crown in a smaller triangle in the center. (No. 25 which appeared in the 1st published in The Philatelist, Vol. 15 No. 7, in April 1949). Letters in each of the lower corners are illegible.

Another interesting censor marking in purple from the Egyptian office, is on the reverse. It consists of the top half of a hexagon marking

with a square in the center, framing the numerals "95". This is similar to Boulad's Type 5 (in the 91-100 section of the series but not listed directly by him as having been used in this manner with the English portion removed. Also on the reverse side are two sets of numerals (handstamped), 5514 and 9491 struck in purple, 4 mm. high.

We have been unable to determine the significance of these numbers ?

Oh ! Almost overlooked. Also on the face in heavy red crayon, an Arabic notation with '2' large manuscript arrows, one in red and one in blue crayon, pointing to the return address.



SERVICE SUSPENDED (Continued)

We think it is quite attractive as a War Cover item, and doubly interesting because of the return to Sender cachet and the various markings.

Since it carries no Shanghai markings, arrival or otherwise, and no other transit markings, it is apparent that it did not leave Egypt at all, simply sent to the Return Letter Office after possibly making a tour of the British and Egyptian censors, ostensibly to determine if it contained seditious matter should transportation become available? Unfortunately, the contents were not intact, however, insurance matters are seldom interesting, & it could have been a bore to the censors.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Egyptian Topics, Vol. 4, No. 4, May/June 72 Postal Censorship in Egypt During WW II - 1939 to 1945, by GABRIEL BOULAD, as translated from the original article in French that appeared in L'ORIENT PHILATELIQUE in October, 1946 and in January 1968.

The Philatelist, Vol. XV, No. 7, April 1949 - pgs. 196 - 201. Middle East Postal and Censor Markings, 1939 - 1945.

SOCIETY TO MEET AT INTERPHIL

Through arrangements made by our President — Dr. P. A. S. SMITH, a meeting for all collectors of Egypt will be held at Interphil '76 — in Philadelphia on Monday, May 31st., from 4:00 to 6:00 PM in a room at the Convention Center (site of the exhibition). The location of the room will be made known at the exhibition information center, under the heading "EGYPT PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL". No formal program is planned, although something might develop in the interim. The primary purpose is to bring as many collectors with our common interest together as we can, to meet, exchange ideas, and show anything special which might have been acquired at the exhibition or brought along. The timing of the event, on Memorial Day, should allow people who are not on vacation to join us, and the hour was chosen with the idea that groups might like to go out to dinner together to continue discussions. We particularly hope that collectors from abroad might be able to come, and that we will have a representation from the Egypt Study Circle.

Convention

Photo



Taken following our Sunday morning meeting at SEACAL '75 in Los Angeles, California. L to R. Rear standing: David Andrews, Editor Gordon Garrett, Kenneth Pierce, Vice Pres. Peter Feltus and Vahan Andonian of Oakland, Calif., Front row seated Donald Himer, "Tex" Schaefer and Dave Schaefer of Florida and Lee Harrow. Photo by Andonian.

Many more, including Pres. Peter A. S. Smith attended during the day show but were unable to stay for the meeting or the photograph.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION:

EGYPT PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL

An original draft submitted for your approval:

1. NAME:

The name of the Society will be EGYPT PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL.

2. CONSTITUTION:

The organization is a non-profit making association of members and the property of the organization is vested in its officers as trustees for all of the members for the present.

3. OBJECTS:

The objects and aims for which the organization is established are:

- (a) To promote, encourage and contribute to the advancement of Egyptian Philately.
- (b) To publish, on a regular basis, or as may be determined by the officers or other properly designated persons, a bulletin, journal, or newsletter.
- (c) To sponsor, or publish books and papers of significant value in the Egyptian area of philately; to hold or sponsor, assist or promote exhibitions, displays, competitions and meetings dealing with any aspect of Egyptian philately.
- (d) To organize, or cause to be organized, or to be instrumental in the matter of philatelic auctions, postal auctions and, when possible, to circulate philatelic packets or sales books.
- (e) To cooperate with other bodies engaged in the publication, study, exhibition or advancement of Egyptian philately.
- (f) To undertake any other activity whatsoever which may seem to the officers, designated committee, or other appropriate persons, to be conducive to, or assist in, the attainment of any of the foregoing objects.

4. MEMBERSHIP:

- (a) Membership shall be open to any person over the age of 18 residing in any part of the world, provided that the Committee retains the right to grant membership to a person below the age of 18 if they deem it fitting and proper.
- (b) Applications shall be in writing on the form provided for that purpose, addressed to the relevant membership secretary, or other person so designated. This formality may be waived under appropriate circumstances.
- (c) No applicant shall be admitted until his subscription has been received by the Treasurer.
- (d) Application for membership shall impose on the applicant an obligation to be bound by the Constitution of the organization.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION (Continued).4. MEMBERSHIP: (Continued)

- (e) The Officers (Trustees, Committee) shall have the power to suspend or expel any member whose conduct is considered to be prejudicial to the organization and may do so in the case of a member whose current subscription shall not have been paid by the last day of February (or sixty (60) days following the date on which dues (subscription) became due.
- (f) Resignations shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary.
- (g) Members shall inform the relevant membership secretary, or other designated person of any change of address.
- (h) A member may be elected an honorary life member, on the recommendation of the Committee, by the members of the organization at a general meeting, by special publication, or such other method as may be determined by the Officers (Trustees, Committee).

5. SUBSCRIPTIONS (Membership' Dues) :

- (a) The annual subscription for membership shall be decided by the Committee and approved by the members after notice has been duly published in the Journal at least sixty (60) days prior to the date in which any increase or decrease is to take effect. Such subscriptions shall be payable in advance to the Treasurer not to exceed sixty (60) days after the date on which they become due.
- (b) Membership shall extend for a period of twelve months from the date the member is accepted into the organization. Members desiring to have their memberships on an annual basis, i.e., January 1st through December 31st. to coincide with the issue dates of a complete year file may do so by paying one full years dues plus the additional months required pro-rata.

6. COMMITTEE:

- (a) The affairs of the organization shall be administered by the Committee in accord with the Constitution.
- (b) The Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, the Auctioneer, Membership Secretaries, the Journal Editor and any other member apart from officers as may be appointed by the President because of geographical reasons, particular talents, etc.
- (c) The Committee shall be elected by a regular vote of the membership in good standing with General Elections to be announced in the July/August issue of the Journal in even numbered years and nominations made by mail, seconded by at least one other member in good standing. Terms of all elected officials shall be for a period of two (2) years.
- (d) On retirement from office, any Committee Member shall be eligible for re-election.
- (e) Due to the geographical locations of our membership, worldwide, officers' meetings and such business as it may necessary to conduct for the welfare of the organization shall be conducted by mail or telephone. Matters affecting the general membership will be published in the next following edition of the Journal.

- (f) Any resolution in writing, signed by all members of the Committee for the time being shall be as valid and effective as if it had been passed at any general meeting of the Committee.
- (g) Nominations for Officers may be made by the Committee for all elective posts and will be subject to approval of the general membership after being published in the Journal.

7. ADMINISTRATION:

Without limiting the general powers of the Committee to manage the affairs of the Organization, and in addition to the powers provided in SECTION 4, Items (a), (b), (e) and (f) and SECTION 6, Item (a) hereof of the Committee shall have the following specific powers:-

- (a) To make regulations which shall be binding on all members of the Organization.
- (b) To appoint members to fill casual vacancies and to co-opt additional members to the Committee.
- (c) To appoint and rescind the appointment of sub-committees, the Journal Editor (and any other publication which the organization may sponsor) all of whom shall be answerable to the Committee.
- (d) To lay down and vary (if appropriate or necessary) any rules of the Organization for competitions.
- (e) To invest any funds of the Organization as the Committee may deem fitting and proper.

8. GENERAL MEETINGS:

- (a) General Meetings may be called by proper notice in the Journal to take place on a National or Regional basis as may be appropriate and most particularly in conjunction with a major show or exhibition. The ranking Committee member present will chair the general meeting of the Organization.
- (b) General Meetings shall be open to the public but provided that no one may cast a vote unless he or she is a member in good standing.

9. CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION:

Changes in the Constitution may be made by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the membership voting by secret mail ballot subsequent to adequate notice having been published in any regular or special edition of the Journal, but in no case less than sixty (60) days prior to the date on which the election or subject to be voted on has been published.

10. OTHER MATTERS:

Any matter not covered by the above Sections shall follow such parliamentary procedure as laid down by Robert's Rules of Order. The Committee shall have the power to handle such other problems, assignments or situations as may be necessary for the good of the Organization provided such actions are in accord with the Provisions of this Constitution.

ANY MEMBER WHO FEELS ANY CORRECTION, ADDITION OR DELETION TO THE ABOVE IS IN OUR BEST INTEREST FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER IS INVITED TO MAKE KNOWN HIS WISHES TO THE PRESIDENT: Dr. P. A. S. SMITH, Dept. of Chemistry, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48104, and/or to the Secretary/Editor whose address is on the Masthead.

REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

ALL POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN ARE PRINTED BY THE POSTAL PRINTING HOUSE, IN ROTOGRAVURE, IN THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

NO OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS ARE ISSUED AND NO SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS ARE UTILIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS . . .

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS ISSUED FOR UMM HARAZ SATELITE STATION:

In contradiction to the notice above, some of the special issues are printed elsewhere — This issue is a case in point, having been printed in London by Thos. de la Rue & Sons.

Date of Issue: 1 February 1976
 Denominations: 2-1/2, 4, 10-1/2 PT.
 Designer: Unlike Egypt, the Sudan does not advise us of names of the designers, nor do they appear on the stamps themselves.
 Design: 2-1/2 PT. Earth Station and the
 4 PT. "Camel Post", showing
 10-1/2 PT. the progress of communications in the Sudan. All demonimantions identical.
 Dimensions: 29-1/2 X 40 mm.
 Sheet: 50 stamps (10 X 5)
 Perforations: 13-1/2 X 14
 Colors: 2-1/2 PT. Pale green pale yellow, Mauve, black & white.
 4 PT. Lavender, pale yellow, Yellow, mauve & B & W
 10-1/2 PT. Pale violet, pale yellow, mauve, brownish yellow, and black and white.
 Watermark: Unwatermarked
 Quantity: 2-1/2 PT. 200,000
 4 PT. 100,000
 10-1/2 PT. 100,000



These commemorative stamps will continue on sale for six months, but will be valid for payment of postage until they are demonetized by an act of law.

For direct philatelic service write to: Director General, Dept. of Posts & Telegraphs, Philatelic Section, Khartoum, Sudan. Price for this set is .63 plus .22 postage US & Canada; 20 p. + 8 p. postage in Sterling currency. (Available through our new issue service by special order).



PARDON EFFENDI!
A FEW FREE WORDS
HERE MEAN PROFIT

bazaar

AN ADVERTISEMENT IN WANTS AND OFFERS IS FREE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THIS JOURNAL. To Buy, to Sell, to Trade — Use it — its yours

PROOFS AND ESSAYS WANTED. V. Andonian is still looking for Essays, Proofs, Royal Imperforates, Posta Europea covers or any other interesting Egyptian material. If you have duplicates or would like to sell for a good price write to him at P. O. Box 11093, Oakland, California, 94611.

MATERIAL FOR TOPICS. Tell us about your interesting and unusual items. Write to the Editor if you need help in putting it together. P. O. Box #3875, Torrance, California, 90503

WANTED — More members to take advantage of our NEW ISSUE SERVICE. Save money and have all of the New Issues sent to you. This is a service of your society - strictly non-profit. See our advertisement in this issue for details.

SUEZ CANAL — "Tex" Schaefer writes to tell us she still needs a genuine copy of the 20c blue! If you can help write to her at: 1719 Lakeview Blvd., Clearwater, Florida, 33516. . . .

SPECIAL NOTICE

To members of the Philatelic Society of Egypt... Dues (\$3.00) are being accepted for 1976. Send now to Dr. P. A. S. Smith, Chemistry Department University of Michigan, 48104. Still no guarantee on next edition of L'Orient Philatelique, BUT the Society is alive and needs your help now during some very trying times. Do not send to Topics

CHARLIE HASS still urgently needs many pieces of postal stationery - mint and used of Egypt and the Sudan for his study. Also USED copies of any stamps of Sudan, First Issue. P. O. Box 106, in Jenkintown, Penna., 19046

WANTED - Information, photos, or xerox of multiples of the large S. G. perfins of the 1897 overprints on 1st. camels of the Sudan. Also cancels on Scott #228 (English or Arabic) and info on the unlisted but existing 4 pt & 65 mm values of the revolution. Tom Higel Bx 2341 APO NY 09009

OUR NEW ISSUE SERVICE

SOME TIMELY NOTES FROM TOM:

TOM OLSON of Berkeley (California) advises that he recently mailed a shipment of Egypt Issues to all subscribers in Topics New Issue Service. He says there was some mis-understanding with the Philatelic Agency in Cairo. This has been straightened out. However, it did result in the July through December issues being sent at one time causing delay in mailing to our subscribers to the service, outside of his control. He thanks those involved for being so patient.

This latest shipment included 20 different items including one souvenir sheet. A subscriber who received singles got the entire lot for \$2.10, including a very modest charge for service. While it is inevitable that a slight increase will be necessary due to postal increases and the cost of envelopes for mailing, it will still be held to an absolute minimum. Our service is strictly non-profit. Arrangements may be made for special mailings by providing stamped, self-addressed envelopes to Tom.

For any additional members who wish to subscribe, send your deposit on the following, or or reasonable facsimile, to

TOM OLSON
4 Woodmont Court
Berkeley, Calif., 94708

TOM: Send me the following NEW ISSUES of Egypt, for which I enclose my deposit, as follows, to apply against my order:

- ___ Single of each issue - deposit \$ 2.50
- ___ FDC of each issue - deposit 2.50
- ___ Blk of 4, each issue — deposit 10.00

MY NAME IS: _____
(Please print)

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Other instructions: _____

THE GREAT BITTER LAKE POST

A PHILATELIC HISTORY OF THE G.B.L.A.

As a member of the Great Bitter Lake Association, I am writing to bring you Greetings of Goodwill for 1974 and to attract your attention to a particular and important piece of G.B.L.A. news.

At present I have just returned home on leave for some weeks after an eight month spell at sea. This included two separate commands in ships managed by Denholm Ship Management Ltd of Glasgow. The first being seven weeks in an Ore Carrier running from Norway and Spain back to the U.K. The second vessel being a Container and General Cargo vessel operating between Japan and Europe then Australia and Europe. You may recall that I spent my initial 30 years serving in Blue Funnel & Glen Line ships; then in 1972 when containerisation of the cargo liner fleets made redundancies in all positions, I transferred to Messrs. Denholm's. Their large modern fleet is owned by varied shipowners, including U.S., Swedish and Norwegian, and types of vessels managed include V.L.C.'s, O.B.O.'s, Tankers, Bulkers, RO-RO's, Container ships, Chemical & Gas Carriers, etc. etc.

However our experiences on the Great Bitter Lake were unique and set an example in International co-operation of great merit. This is recorded in rather a wonderful way--the G.B.L.A. Postage Stamps and envelopes-- and to ensure that they are placed on International record for all time, and to tell the story of so many G.B.L.A. seafarers' experiences, I have written a book entitled *THE GREAT BITTER LAKE POST*. It is due to be published in England shortly by the PICTON PUBLISHING COMPANY LTD of CITADEL WORKS, BATH ROAD, CHIPPENHAM, WILTSHIRE, SN15 2AA, ENGLAND., at £6 after publication. However by special arrangement with the publishers, all G.B.L.A. members are now offered the only chance of obtaining it at the pre-publishing price of £5 Sterling, plus postage. So I enclose an order form, which I hope you will use.

Possibly an additional breakdown of the book's background would be more specific, so as brief a coverage as possible follows.

The Great Bitter Lake Association was formed by the Seafarers aboard the 14 ships trapped in the Great Bitter Lake of the Suez Canal in the June 1967 war between Egypt and Israel. Its origin being that in their trapped state the ships could only look to each other for mutual assistance in foodstuffs, water and medical needs. The Captains held a meeting and listed everything that was

available in their very varied cargoes; these proved sufficient for a protracted stay. Exchanges of these cargoes were accordingly arranged and the goodwill thus kindled was extended to making social engagements and sporting activities to relieve the uncertainty of the war and the boredom of imprisonment. There were Horse Race & Car Race Meetings, darts matches, swimming galas and football matches (aboard the *Port Invercargill*). Cricket on the *Melampus*, Table Tennis Tournaments on *Munsterland*, Bowls and Obstacle Races on *Sindh*; monthly sailing regattas involving 30 to 40 small craft of three radically different classes--all adapted or built on the ships. The British newspaper *Daily Express* presented a large silver cup ("Suez Little World Cup") for football matches. Even G.B.L.A. Olympic Games were organised by the two Polish vessels with real gold medals given by Germany for the many events.

The 14 ships, as you know, comprised 1 American, 4 British, 1 Bulgarian, 1 Czechoslovakian, 1 French, 2 German, 2 Polish and 2 Swedish; and their G.B.L.A. organization was crystalized in a special Sunday Church Service--a highly circumspect Mass-Booze-Up for an hour aboard the German ship *Nordwind*; its full details appear in the book together with all other aspects of the remarkable International life we enjoyed.

The writer was the first Captain to hold a double command on the Lake--that of the Blue Funnel ships *Agapenor* and *Melampus* between April and August 1968 for 5 months. During that time I decided to make my own contribution to this seafaring community, which became a waterborne International Federal Republic in its own right (being in no-man's water), by compiling the history of the G.B.L.A. Postage Stamps, its Post Offices and Postal System which became acknowledged by the Universal Postal Union of Geneva. In eleven weeks, by interviewing 400 men on the Lake, most details of these stamps were established, from their inception, to August 1968; and these were duly printed and a copy given to each of the 14 ships. Since then a far greater quantity of information concerning all issues up to 1973 has come into my hands through the generosity of very many good G.B.L.A. members and other kind philatelists. Thus some 6 years of G.B.L.A. Postage is recorded in 786 individually different stamps, which have been examined and recorded for philatelic posterity.

Overleaf

Apart from the dry-as-dust measurement of the stamps (made in millimetres for future identification proof), their designs are described in relation to the ship and artist who produced them, also the fascinating story behind each design which, of course, tells of the varied and changing life of the G.B.L.A. seafarers on the Lake. The methods of printing are described and the colours given, along with an explanation of the lettering (for British, German, Polish, French, Egyptian both modern and ancient hieroglyphics appear in the languages used).

Each G.B.L.A. philatelic artist gave of his best to interest his G.B.L.A. friends and for them to stick the stamps on their letters and the special envelopes to their homes. The less able efforts of some artists were *never* spoken of in a derogatory way in comparison to the highly sophisticated efforts of others. All were received with the respect and affection due to a seafarer's contribution to G.B.L.A. and were used for personal and business mail to be dispatched by the particular G.B.L.A. Post Office and go on their way rejoicing through the rest of the World's postal system.

These stamps were mostly commemoratives recording a specific event such as a Regatta, every 100 days on the Lake, or Christmas. Every conceivable subject seems to have appeared on them, from war to love and peace, and script from Roman English to Slav Russian, Arabic and ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. They are even more commemorative of each individual artist who donated his talents and imagination and on leaving the Lake was succeeded in his task by other keen and able seafarers. Thus the Olympic flame of G.B.L.A. International life has been passed down in a continuing story of six years through its postage stamps.

The true spirit of United Nations really working without the petty jealousies and mean-mindedness of partiality has been exemplified by G.B.L.A. in its bonaccord, mutual assistance, friendliness and understanding. Although vast quantities of beer and G.B.L.A. iced Punch (a classic vintage also documented in the book) were thoroughly enjoyed in the desert heat; there were never any punch-ups or quarrels—a lesson worthy of thought. The author, in talking to others who were on the Lake at different times to himself, has found this to be astonishingly true. We all knew that we had been given something rather special in our life on the Lake, and we made very certain that we were not going to spoil it.

When we boarded another ship, we always shook hands with *everyone* we met—it was bad manners to do otherwise. When we departed a lusty wave of the hand was given. Inspid indifference had no place, it was *right* out. G.B.L.A. worked because everyone put their enthusiastic conscious effort into its activities. Great efforts were often required, and they were given unstintingly; and the pleasure was in the giving and the mutual enjoyment. The G.B.L.A. ties, beer mugs, car badges, blazer badges and pennants are now treasured

possessions the World over; for some 3000 men have spent their allotted sojourn on the ships and moved on. But the Postage stamps are spread even wider.

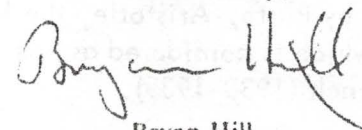
It is to ensure that this unique galaxy of Postage Stamps is put on record for all time, that this book has been written; and without doubt it will give considerable value to the stamps and envelopes themselves. I have given something more than just a catalogue of the stamps and hope that the text, photographs of the ships and life on the Lake and the reproductions of the stamps themselves will be of a general interest to all; particularly to seafarers and philatelists; but especially as a personal record to each G.B.L.A. member himself. This truly was YOUR LIFE, and YOU helped to make it. I rather think too that we Seafarers will be giving the academic sociologists a thing or two to muse over!

Thanks to the Publishers, it is hoped that the Preface will be generously bestowed by a certain country's eminent Diplomat, who was actively concerned with the 1967 Suez war.

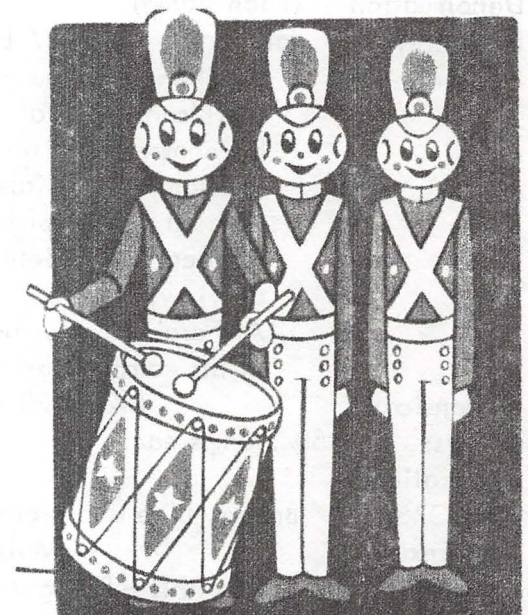
The Publishers will appreciate the earliest ordering possible in order that he can print the required number of what could be a limited edition, and I would be pleased to autograph your own copy if you should so wish. If there are any other people you know who may be interested and anxious to have a copy, I have asked the Publishers if requests could be made direct to them—Messrs. Picton Publishing.

With all best wishes for your good health whether ashore or afloat.

Yours sincerely,



Bryan Hill



ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

Three stamps were issued by the Postal Organization of Egypt in the long running series in honor of famous Arabic personalities. These are commemorative stamps. Special cancellation and 1st. Day covers were used.

AL BIRUNI (Abu-al-Rayhan - Mohammed ibn Ahmed Ali Khwarizmi)

An Arabic composer of Persian origin, he was a composer as well as a historian; an erudite scientist in mathematics, physics, astronomy, medicine, philosophy, sufism, and religion. He was the first to prove the apogee of the sun, early forming an equation to determine the circumference of the earth which the European scientists call Al Biruni's rule.

AL KANADY, Abu Yusuf Ya'qub ibn Ishak

Al Kanady began his mental existence as a talker, thereby displaying a wide knowledge of mathematics, physics, astronomy, medicine, geography and music. He was the first man to attempt a reconciliation between philosophy and religion. He has produced learned compositions in many of the sciences. He adhered to the creed that God created the world yielding to his deeds by many means and that the incidents of the universe are connected together. His major theory is related to that of Aristotle. His compositions and research comprise a field of research data that have been invaluable to scientists and philosophers who came after him.

AL FARABI (Abu Nasr Mohammed)

He is the Moslem's philosopher and one of the great translators of Greek philosophy. As he explained Aristotle's logical, physical and ethical books he was called the second teacher. He was responsible for a number of valuable writings. Also he was influenced in his political philosophy by Plato, Aristotle, the Koran and the precepts presented by Al Farabi's Great Book of Music which is considered as one of the greatest Arabic compositions in music. It was translated into French (1930-1935).

- Date of Issue: 23 December 1976
 Denomination (Each stamp) 20 mills
 Designer: (all three) LOTFY EL SAWAF
 Design; (1) A likeness of the philosopher Al Biruni' with a symbol of his compositions and discovery
 (2) The same of Al Kanady along with a symbol of his philosophical and scientific points of view.
 (3) Al Farabi and symbol of some of his compositions and music.

- Dimensions: (42 X 25 mm. each)
 Sheets: 50 Stamps each (5 X 10)
 Perforation: 11-1/2
 COLORS: Brown, blue and green on white.
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: PPH - Rotogravure Cairo
 QUANTITY: 1,000,000 of each stamp . . .



POST DAY 1976

The Postal Organization celebrates Post Day on January 2nd, 1976 with the issue of interesting commemoratives depicting treasures from the tomb of Tut Ankh Amon.

Date of Issue: 2 January 1976
 Denominations: 20, 30, 55 and 110 mills.
 Designers: 20 m. SABER SAIDA
 30 m. WAHIB FARAG
 55 m. FAHIMA ABD EL AZAIM
 110 m. IBRAHIM EL TORKY

- Designs: 20 The head of an ibex made of alabaster at the end of a boat decorated in color and gold leaf with real horns taken from a young animal.
- 30 The head of a lion engraved on wood inlaid with glass and gold leaf cover.
- 55 The head of a sacred cow in one of the forms of the goddess Hathor engraved on wood with surface coating of gold, black varnish and glass colored.
- 110 Head of the god Horus in the form of a hippopotamus engraved on wood and covered with gold leaf and glass.

Dimensions: Each stamp 30 X 50 mm.
 Sheets: 50 Stamps (5 X 10)
 Perforation: 11-1/2
 Colors: 20 m. Deep blue-black, beige, orange-brown and white.
 30 m. Brown, blue, gold and white
 55 m. Beige, light brown, grayish green and off-white.
 110 m. Royal blue, black, gold, white

Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: Rotogravure by the Postal Printing House in Cairo.

Quantity: 20 m.)
 30 m. : 400,000 of each stamp.
 50 m.)
 110 m. 250,000 only of this value.

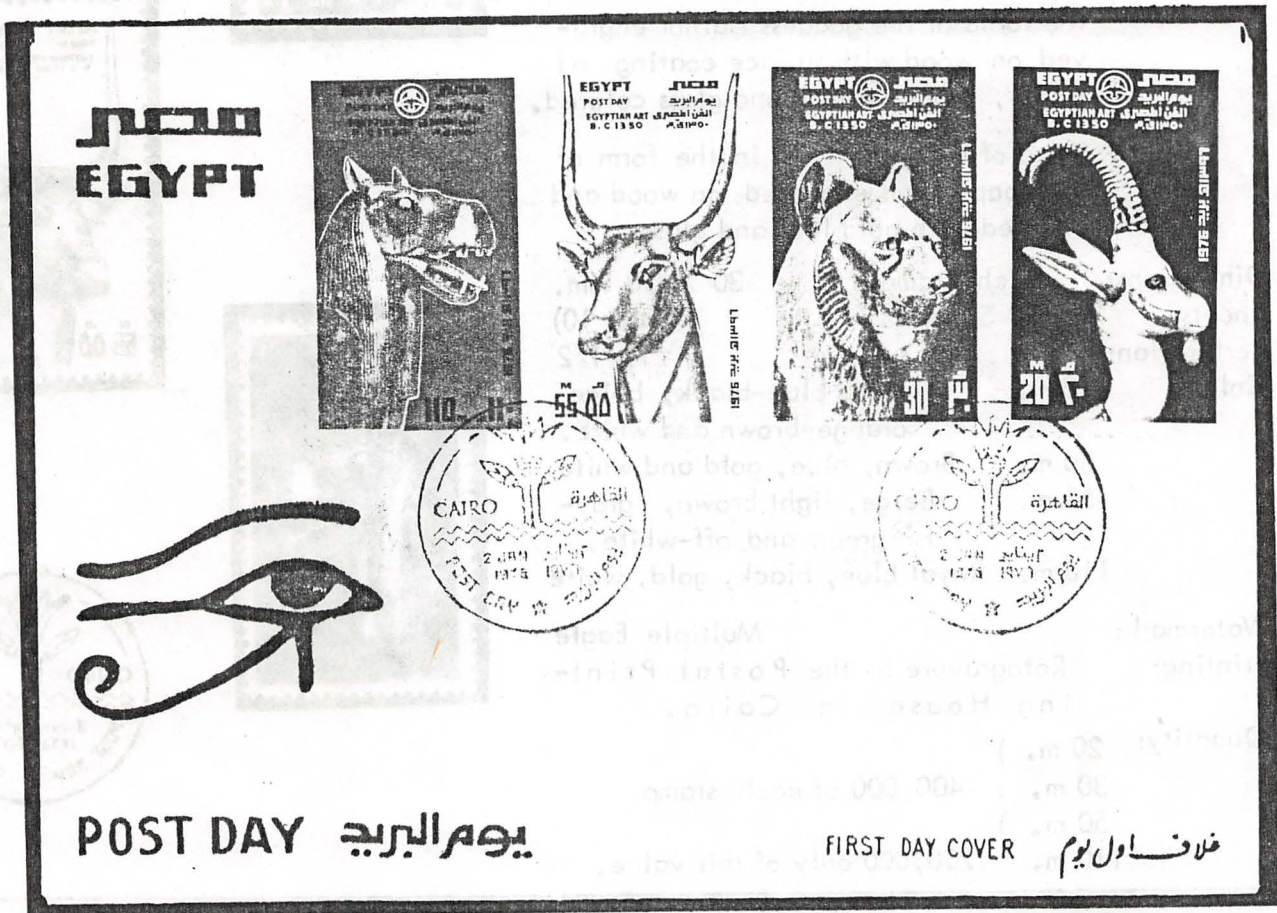


FILLING UP THE LAKE OF THE HIGH DAM . . .

The lake created by the High Dam was filled to its utmost capacity for continual storage. The following will be achieved.

- 1 — 2 million acres of additional tillable land.
- 2 — A stable irrigation system.
- 3 — Better drainage and navigation.
- 4 — Protection against high floods.
- 5 — 10 billion K.W.H. per year.

Date of Issue: 27 January 1976
 Denomination: 20 mills
 Designer: SABER AHMED SAIDA
 Design: The High Dam's lake filled up - symbolic designs representing - generation of electricity and the industrial and agricultural renaissance.
 industrial
 Dimensions: 30 X 50 mm.
 Sheets: 50 stamps (10 X 5)
 Perforations: 11-1/2
 Colors: Turquoise, deep purple, purple lavender, black, orange, white
 Watermark: Multiple Eagle
 Printing: Rotogravure by the Postal Printing House in A.R. Egypt - Cairo
 Quantity: 1,000,000 stamps



Illustrated is an official First Day Cover as supplied by the Philatelic Office of the Egyptian Postal Authority, available to our members through our New Issue Service.

MAIL AUCTION**CLOSING DATE**

OF FINE EGYPTIAN STAMPS, ESSAYS, CANCELLATIONS
POSTAL HISTORY ITEMS AND LITERATURE . . .

USUAL AUCTION RULES WILL APPLY. MAIL ALL BIDS
DIRECTLY TO PETER R. FELTUS (Not to Egyptian Topics).
Send to 4970 DESMOND STREET, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
Zip Code 94618, U. S. A.

March**31**

<u>LOT #</u>	<u>EGYPT</u>	<u>Minimum Bid or Est.</u>
1.	ESSAYS: 1865 Prevost 10para brown on pale blue paper (Zeheri # 6), fine	MB \$20.00
2.	1865 Prevost 10para pale violet on cream card (Zeheri # 6), fine	MB 20.00
3.	1869 Prevost 00para blue on laid paper (Zeh. # 29II), fine	MB 15.00
4.	1869 Prevost 00para green on laid paper (Zeh. # 29II), fine	MB 15.00
5.	1869 Prevost 00para blue on card (Zeh. # 29II), with minor thin, still fine	MB 15.00
6.	1922 Harrison 50m. green Fuad (Zeh. # 93b), v.f.	MB 15.00
7.	1922 Harrison 50m. brown Fuad (Zeh. # 93b), v.f.	MB 15.00
8.	1922 Harrison 50m. gray Fuad (Zeh. # 94), fine	MB 15.00
9.	DEFINITIVES: 1867 2pt. with Watermark Impressed on Face, used (unlisted), several faults, rare	Est. 10.00
10.	1867 5pt. block of 4 of the most artful Forgery, f.	Est. 2.00
11.	1869 10para with Watermark Impressed on Face, used (Zeh. # 9i), v.g. - fine	Est 20.00
12.	1869 1pt. on neat envelope, pmkd. Samanud (type III-2.5n) in 1871, flap gone but still fine	Est. 10.00
13.	1884 1pt. blue, horiz. Imperforate pair, v.f., n.h.	Est. 35.00
14.	1884 5pt. gray, mint Block of four, v.f., n.h.	Est. 10.00
15.	1888 1m. brown, horiz. Imperforate pair, v.f., n.h.	Est. 35.00
16.	1888 5m. red, horiz. Imperf. pair, cut close at rt., otherwise v.f., n.h.	Est. 25.00
17.	1922 Crown Ovpts., a minor specialist's lot; 75 unused & 80 used stamps, some blocks & varieties, generally good - fine.	Est. 20.00
18.	1923 5m. brown Fuad, horiz. Imperforate Proof pair on unwatermarked thin paper (unlisted), v.f.	MB 40.00
19.	1923 5m. brown Fuad, horiz. Imperforate Proof pair on unwatermarked thick paper (unlisted), v.f.	MB 40.00
20.	1948 20m. Farouk, Imperforate control block with crossed out A/48 control, v.f., n.h.	Est. 25.00
21.	1960 35m. blue, Imperf. control block of 25 (a spectacular quarter sheet), v.f., n.h.	Est. 75.00
22.	COMMEMORATIVES: 1929 Farouk's 10th Birthday, Royal Imperforates set (Lee cat \$200), v.f.	MB 65.00
23.	1931 Ag. & Ind. Congress, Royal Imperforates set (Lee cat. \$125), v.f.	MB 40.00
24.	1932 Railway Congress, Royal Imperforates set (Lee cat. \$300), v.f.	MB 100.00

25.	1936	Ag. & Ind. Congress, Royal Imperforates set (Lee cat. \$175), v.f.	MB	70.00
26.	1946	Philatelic Exhibition, complete mint sheets, f.	Est.	12.50
27.	1946	Phil. Exhibition. official First Day Cover but with violet cancellations (few were made), v.f.	Est.	5.00
28.	1947	10m. red & green Evacuation, complete sheet, f.	Est.	2.50
29.	1949	10m. brown & green M. Ali, complete sheet, fine	Est.	4.00
30.	1951	10m. green Cotton Cong., complete sheet, fine	Est.	3.00
31.	AIRMAILS: 1941 10m. violet, Royal Imperforate (Lee cat. \$75), v.f.		MB	\$15.00
32.	1946	30m. M.E.A.N.S. Ovpt., complete sheet, v.f.	Est.	6.00
33.	POSTAGE DUES; 1889 2m. green, Imperforate block of four with selvage, v.f., n.h.		Est.	50.00
34.	1889	1pt. blue, Imperf. corner block of four, v.f.	Est.	50.00
35.	1952	30m. K.E. & S. ovpt. in Black, a color trial, vf	Est.	7.50
36.	POSTAL STATIONERY: 1932 3m. & 13m. Postcards, used, (H&G # 33 & 34, cat. \$12.50), minor faults, fine		Est.	5.00
37.	1932	1m. Fuad Wrapper, used (H&G # 7, cat \$8.50), f.	Est.	4.00
38.	1934	15m. Fuad Reg. Envelope, used without add'l stamps (H&G # 5, cat \$20), v.g-f.	Est.	10.00
39.	1965	10m. Envelope with First Day pmks., no address (H&G # 42, unprices), fine	MB	3.00
40.	1968	115m. Aerogrammes (4 diff.), mint (H&G # 11a)vf	MB	7.50
41.	1968	80m. Aerogrammes (4 diff.), mint (H&G # 12a)vf	MB	7.50
42.	1968	140m. Aerogrammes (4 diff.), mint (H&G # 13a)vf	MB	8.00
43.	1969	55m. Reg. Letter Sheet, used as aerogramme to U.S.A. with add'l stamp (H&G # 1, cat \$22.50), v.g.	Est.	8.00
44.	1973	20m. Envelope, used to U.S.A. with add'l stamps (H&G # 47, unprices), fine	Est.	5.00
45.	FRENCH OFFICES IN EGYPT: France 1 fr. of 1877 tied to small piece by Port Said cds of 1897, fine		MB	5.00
46.	1885	French Office in Turkish Empire 1 piastre with Alexandria cds, v.g.	MB	3.00
47.	1899-1902 Alexandria 15c. blue & 15c red, each with Port Said cds, v.g. - fine		MB	2.50
48.	1902	Alexandria 40c., 50c. & 1 fr., used blocks, f.	MB	4.50
49.	1915-21 15m. on 50c corner block & 10c + 5c. block (Scott # 57 & B1), mint, f.-v.f.		MP	3.00
50.	1921	Port Said 15m. on 50c. (Scott # 52b), mint, f.	MB	5.00

BOOKS

51.	Baedeker, <u>Upper Egypt, with Nubia</u> (1892). 403 pages, 11 maps & 26 plans. Covers & endpapers tatty but contents fine; a rare early volume.		Est.	20.00
52.	Baedeker, <u>Lower Egypt & Sinai</u> (1895). 509 pages, 14 maps, 33 plans, 7 views & 76 vignettes. Covers & endpapers tatty but contents fine, a scarce volume.		Est.	15.00
53.	Baedeker, <u>Agypten</u> (1902). 597 pages, 36 maps, 55 plans & 58 vignettes. A German language edition of this great guidebook, fine		Est.	15.00
54.	Budge, <u>The Nile - Notes for Travellers in Egypt</u> (third edition, 1893). An attractive guide with 425 pages and ornate cover, v.g. - fine		Est.	10.00
55.	Budge, <u>The Nile - Notes for Travellers in Egypt</u> (fourth ed., 1895). An attractive guide with 438 pages and ornate cover, fine		Est.	10.00