

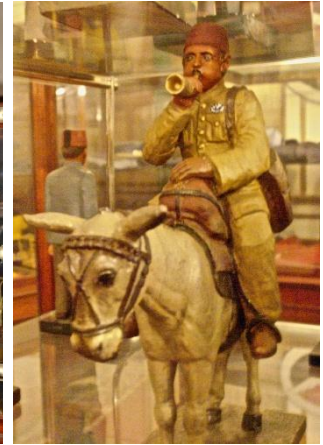
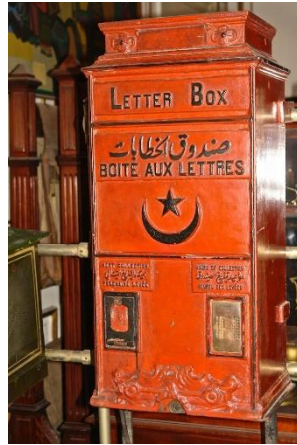


The Eye of Horus - Beginners' Corner 6 - with David Ogden. Memories of a sad, lonely and forgotten space have been swept away in a magnificent renovation of the postal museum, which now displays its once overlooked treasures in a bright area full of past glories waiting to shine once more

Postal Museum of Egypt: If you're lucky enough to visit Cairo, be sure to visit the wonderful Postal Museum, dedicated to the history of Egypt's postal service. It is in Al-Ataba Square, on the second floor of the Central Post Office building and easily walkable from Tahrir Square or via the Metro (Attaba station).

The neo-Baroque building (*below*) was established during the Khedivate period, in the late nineteenth century. The museum inside was founded by King Fuad I and officially opened in February 1934, but revealed to the public only in 1940. It reopened in 2022 after a highly successful full-scale renovation.

The multi-room museum has extensive displays of postal artifacts, pictures and documents showing the various ways of delivering messages (*Rural Post right above*) in Egypt over the centuries. Visitors can see postage stamps issued by the Egyptian authority since 1866, employee uniforms, postal equipment, models of post offices, miniature figurines of services over the centuries and a historical section.



Highlights among ancient artefacts include clay tablets, Pharaonic courier relics and early communication tools. The Ancient Egyptians were probably the first to send messages through an organized postal service. Diplomatic correspondence exchanged nearly 3,500 years ago between the pharaohs and rulers of Babylon, Assyria, Syria and Palestine were inscribed in cuneiform writing on square clay tablets.

Postal paraphernalia includes displays of leather mailbags, vintage letterboxes, postal uniforms and badges, and seals spanning Roman to modern times. Among philatelic treasures are Egyptian and international stamp collections, including – behind the massive desk of the first postmaster-general, Giacomo Muzzi Bey – a giant mosaic of the Pyramids and Sphinx made from 15,000 used stamps (*right*).



Dioramas and models include miniature post offices, distribution scenes, transport models, postal aircraft and the first airmail letter that was sent from Cairo to Karachi. Letters, telegrams and official correspondence (*left*) illuminate Egypt's social and political history, and there are busts and portraits of influential figures like King Fouad, King Farouk and Muhammad Ali Pasha.



Most exhibits are in English and Arabic. The highly qualified staff will gladly point out some of the lesser known but fascinating items. And don't miss the excellent gift shop. I'd recommend the Egypt Post branded items.

Whether you're an Egypt Study Circle veteran or new to philately, the museum offers a memorable and educational journey through Egypt's glorious postal story.