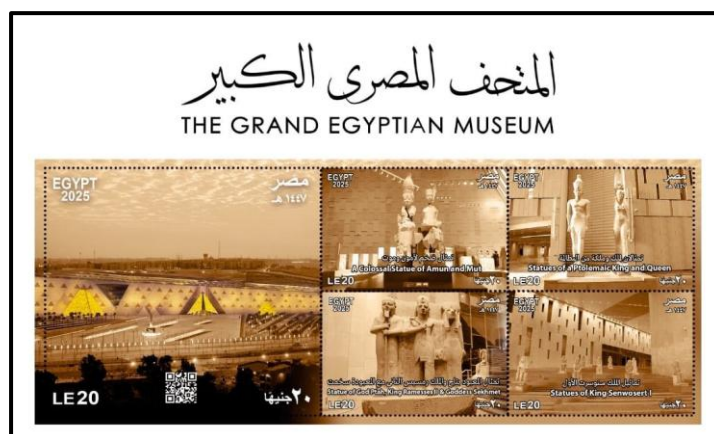


Egypt stamps echo Grand Museum opening

At last on November 1 Egypt opened its Grand Egyptian Museum – largest in the world based on a single civilisation and at a vast cost over the many years of building, selecting and conserving the spectacular displays finally on view a couple of kilometres north of the Pyramids Plateau (*Mike Murphy writes*).

President El-Sisi welcomed 80 heads of delegations and guests of honour, including kings and presidents, to an event featuring music, dance and a drone display highlighting creativity from the Step Pyramid to modern architecture. The opening, he said, marked a new chapter in Egypt's civilization, with the museum and its 60,000 artefacts – 5,000 from Tutankhamun's tomb alone – a global beacon of knowledge and peace.

Egypt Post released new commemorative stamps to mark the opening, a souvenir sheet (14x23cm) with a miniature sheet and five stamps featuring massive monumental architecture, and another set (5x9cm) with three se-tenant stamps featuring the museum façade and its Arabic logo *al-mathaf al-masrie al-kebir*. All have QR codes offering collectors an interactive digital experience with the museum.



The souvenir sheet with four statue groups and the museum façade, all of face value LE20; and, below, the November 1 FDC handstamp on the three LE 10 stamps



Dalia El Baz, Chair of Egypt Post, noted that the stamps were designed to capture the museum's architectural splendour and its priceless artefacts and reaffirmed Egypt Post's commitment to supporting Egyptian culture and history through special editions.

For a personal view, I have always worried about placing major architecture inside a modern building, for fear of losing what Lawrence Durrell called its "spirit of place", its original context. To reproduce them even further, by displaying them at stamp size, diminishes them more, I feel. But Egypt Post redeems itself with a 16-page souvenir booklet with single sheets illustrating 30 more stamps (*above*) from the new displays, including Khufu's inestimable boat.

Study Circle Gold at Egy-Phila

We congratulate Circle members on the Gold-medal list at the Egy-Phila exhibition in Cairo in October: Lucien **Toutounji** (ESC 264, Hotel Posts, Grand Prix) and **Sami Sadek** (ESC 559, TPOs), scored 91 for their 8-frame exhibits. There was more gold for **Hisham Bassyouny** (ESC 391, British Forces, 90) and **Samuel Khela** (ESC 759, Egypt's first airline), both 90, and Gold for the new *Nile Post* (**Joe Chalhoub**, ESC 391, 91). To help in planning, the PSE assures us that future events will be in September/October.