

Story of a Stamp: 7. Kicking Off with Egypt's Football Stamps!

David Ogden (ESC 480)

Egyptian stamps have celebrated everything from pharaohs to space exploration, and football has scored a number of appearances. Football-themed stamps are special fun because they combine sport, history, art, and national pride. Sing along: *Misr! Misr! Tahya Misr!* (Egypt! Egypt! Long live Egypt!).



Egypt's first football stamp - issued for the 1960 Rome Olympics

The earliest football stamp I can find is from the sports campaign and Rome Olympic Games set, issued in 1960. A 5 millimes football stamp (SG 642) featured among other sports.



Despite mascot Tut's help, Egypt lost to Spain in the Under-17 world championship in 1997

The 1985 Egyptian Football Victories is one of the classic modern football issues. These are commemorated on a strip of five 5 piastre stamps (100 p = 1LE), with Cairo Stadium featured across two stamps and players in the colours of Al Zamalek, Al Ahly and Arab Contractors adorn other 5p stamps. SG 1598/1602. A similar set was issued in 1987.

Success in the 1986 African Nations Cup merited another set celebrating Egypt's winning its third championship, by 5-4 on penalties after a goalless draw with Cameroon. The star player was attacking midfielder Magdi Abdelghany but the set-tenant pair may be hard to distinguish, the African Nations logo (CAF) in English on one stamp and Arabic on the other (SG 1633-34).

Egypt qualified for the 1990 World Cup for the first time since 1934, and issued a stamp (SG 1761) featuring the World Cup and a miniature sheet (SG 1762) celebrating Italia '90. Under coach Mahmoud El-Gohary, Egypt topped their CAF qualifying group and beat Algeria in a two-leg playoff for a place in the finals.



Se-tenant stamps marked a 5-4 penalties success in the 1986 African Nations Cup



Success in Africa for three Egyptian clubs was marked by a 1987 miniature sheet and FDC

The decisive goal in the return leg was scored by Hossam Hassan front of 100,000 fans in Cairo. In the tournament itself, Egypt shared a 1-1 draw with the Netherlands, a goalless draw with Ireland, and an unlucky 1-0 loss to England. Two points meant exit at the group stage.

As hosts of the 1997 FIFA U-17 world championship Egypt produced 20p and 75p (SG 2043/2044) stamps plus a miniature sheet (SG 2045). The bright modern design features the tournament emblem, introduces the cartoon pharaonic mascot “Tut” and features the trophy. Group games in Cairo attracted 70,000-plus attendances. Egypt bowed out in a quarter final shoot-out to Spain.



A striking miniature sheet celebrated a seventh African Cup win

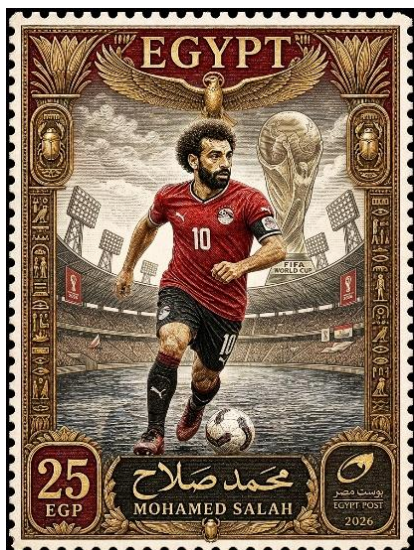
Stamps of 30p and 125p were issued for the 2001 39th World Military championship, held in Egypt, and the home nation's win was celebrated with a stunning miniature sheet (SG 2203).

A 2004 FIFA Centenary issue 150p stamp marked the world body's centenary (SG 2380). The Egyptian Football Association was founded in 1921 and became a member of FIFA in 1923. In 2008 Egypt

won the African Cup of Nations for the sixth time, beating Cameroon 1-0 in the final in Ghana. A 30 pt stamp featured the trophy. Many more football related issues have followed, giving plenty of opportunity for national or world-wide supporters to enhance their collections.



Egypt hosted the 2019 African Nations Cup, but the winners were Algeria



Final whistle: Egypt Post recently announced a stamp honouring the team's achievements at the 2026 World Cup. The Pharaohs came through Group G, then beat Australia in their first World Cup knockout game. Sadly, they exited at the last 16 stage, losing - unjustly, many believe - by 3-2 to Lionel Messi's Argentina. At the time of writing, I have not seen the new stamps but here is a fantasy image of what one might look like, featuring the “Egyptian King”, Mohamed Salah*.

Footnote

*Image created using Microsoft Bing Image Creator (AI-generated).

This article first appeared in the *Quarterly Circle* of September 2026