Postage Meter Stamps of Egypt 1922-1971 and Their Usage

The first postage meter machine to be used in Egypt was a Moss Model "D" with five fixed values. It had been manufactured in New Zealand and was one of three imported into London. This machine was delivered to the National Bank of Egypt on 27 February 1922, but was only used for about a month due to malfunction, and it was returned to London in April. Meter usage in Egypt did not resume until 1933, when the National Bank took delivery of a Neopost machine with three fixed values. Following the successful trial of this machine, two more values were added, and nine additional Neoposts were shipped – this time with five fixed values.

Neopost was soon followed by most of the world's major manufacturers of machines – Francotyp, Universal, Hasler, Satas, Pitney Bowes and Postalia. No machines were ever manufactured in Egypt, although the Nessim, a "coin-in-the-slot" type, invented by a young Egyptian engineer and manufactured in Germany, was in use for 145 days during 1934 in the lobby of the Central Post Office in Cairo.

From 1933 through the deposing of King Farouk in 1953, all meter stamps adopted for use in Egypt included the royal crown and Tougra of the reigning monarch (Fuad I through 1937 and Farouk I, thereafter) – either within the franking die, or, in the case of the Nessim, at its side.



Arrangement:

This exhibit is arranged into three "political" time periods – (1)The Kingdom of Egypt from 1922 when the first meter machine was introduced into Egypt, until the overthrow of the monarchy in 1953; (2) The Republic of Egypt through the establishment, with Syria, of the United Arab Republic (UAR) in February of 1958*; and (3) the UAR through 1971 when the name was changed to the Arab Republic of Egypt. Within these three time periods, the meter stamps are listed by machine manufacturer in order of the manufacturer's introduction of machines into Egypt.

* Syria actually withdrew from the UAR on 9/28/61. Egypt continued to use the UAR name until 1971, at which time it was changed to the Arab Republic of Egypt. No postage meters were in use in Syria during its brief membership in the UAR.

Significant items are identified by a light blue backing, and include all values of the Moss Model "D" machine on cover, except for the 4 mill which is only known as a specimen strike (the 50 mill value in this exhibit is one of three known, and is the only one on a complete cover), an essay prepared for a Universal "Midget" machine which was never used in Egypt, various other essays, and a last day example of the Nessim machine, autographed by the inventor.