



The
20TH CENTURY
STAMPS
of
EGYPT

by
Ernest A. Kehr



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OF
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PHILAS
LIBRARY
COLLECTION

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FOREWORD

The collection of Egyptian stamps as a field for philatelic specialization has grown remarkably during the last decade, a fact which may be attributed to three reasons. In the first place, all but a very few items listed in the standard catalogs are common so that the average collector may, within a reasonable period of time, expect to complete his major and many minor varieties. Secondly, Egyptian stamps (especially the early issues and the provisionals of 1922) afford a fertile field for the study of paper, watermarks, perforations and printing faults. Plating, moreover, is also possible in many of the issues. Thirdly, the designs of the stamps themselves are interesting and reflect the entire scope of Egypt's history, from the dawn of civilization right down to our own day.

In dealing with the stamps of the Twentieth Century one cannot accurately begin with the turn of the century. The stamps in use then are theoretically remnants of an issue introduced in 1888. (The first definite stamp of our study came in 1906).

The work, therefore, will begin with the de la Rue stamps depicting the Sphinx and Pyramid, and inscribed, "Milliemes," and continue through the regular emissions, postage dues, officials and air mails. The commemorative issues will be mentioned in chronological order, but not treated in detail as this subject was comprehensively dealt with in a booklet¹ published by the author about a year ago, and which may be referred to by those collectors interested in the subject.

Acknowledgment and sincere gratitude is hereby expressed to His Excellency Mahmoud Hassan Bey, Minister of His Majesty, King Farouk, to the United States; Foad Bey Toulba, First Secretary of the Royal Egyptian Legation at Washington, D. C., and Andre Cattau, also of the Royal Egyptian Legation. These gentlemen read the manuscript of the series, to check its historical and descriptive contents and make such corrections as were necessary for complete accuracy. The articles, therefore, as they will appear in print have the approval of His Excellency.

In presenting this work, the author wishes to acknowledge the previous studies carried on by such eminent philatelists as Dr. William Byam, A. S. Mackenzie-Lowe, Douglas McNeille, Jean Boulad, Fred J. Melville, Georges N. Zeheri, G. Seymour Thompson and others who have written articles in other publications from which a great deal of information was considered before compiling this monograph. The author does not assume the attitude that he has completed the study of the stamps treated, though twelve years have been passed in assembling the material herein presented, so if any reader has further information, it will be appreciated.

—Ernest A. Kehr.

1. "The Commemorative Stamps of Egypt," dealing with all commemorative stamps, giving the story of the designs, a list of all known varieties, quantities issued, etc. Fully illustrated. Available from the author at 50 cents a copy while the limited supply lasts.

POSTAGE ISSUES

Issue of 1888

Until 1888 the postage stamps of Egypt were issued in denominations of paras and piastres, the units of currency popularly employed by lands under the domination of Turkey; but in December, 1887, a decree was posted stating that "from the first of next January the present stamps of the five and ten paras will be replaced by new stamps of one and two milliemes. In consequence all stamps of five and ten paras will be replaced by such of the one and two milliemes in all post offices."

The new series, therefore, appeared on New Year's Day of 1888. Like the previous set, the new adhesives were produced at the London plant of Thomas de la Rue & Company. All values were surface printed on a fine white wove paper, impregnated with a true watermark consisting of a crescent and star.

The central vignette depicts a view of the Sphinx and the Great Pyramid of Cheops, not as an exact reproduction as it was in 1888, but rather as a "restored" picture showing the engraver's conception of what these ancient monuments may have looked like when they were new. The upper panel is inscribed in Arabic characters, reading right to left, "Post¹ Masri." At the right is the Arabic inscription, reading from top to bottom, to indicate the face value, as follows:

- One millieme — Oshr al kirsh (1/10 piastre).
- Two milliemes — Oshra al kirsh 2/10 piastre).
- Three milliemes — Thalathet ashar al kirsh (3/10 piastre).
- Five milliemes — Khemsat ashar al kirsh (5/10 piastre).
- One piastre — Kirsh Wahid (one piastre).
- Two piastres — Kirshan (two piastres).
- Five piastres — Khamset Kourush (five piastres).
- Ten piastres — Ashrat Kourush (ten piastres).

The nuisance (and consequent loss of revenue) of having people remove cancellations from used stamps had become rather universal, and security printers decided to experiment with ideas to prevent this. De la Rue devised a paper which had been coated with a soluble substance so that the printing ink would be impressed on

this coating and not on the paper itself. If washing were attempted, not only the cancellation, but the whole stamp design would be removed.

Known as "chalk" or "chalky-surface" paper, it is familiar to collectors the world over. Collectors who cannot distinguish between ordinary and the chalk paper may make certain by taking the edge of a worn silver coin and rubbing it across one of the perforation "teeth." If it leaves a black line the stamp is chalk surface stamp.

In 1902 this chalk-surface paper was used for the Egyptian stamps, and while the design² is identical to the 1888 issue, philatelists recognize these as a new variety. It is with this set, therefore, that our Twentieth Century consideration commences.



1. There is no "P" in the Arabic alphabet and in the early designs the word is spelled "Bosta" but later two extra dots were placed under the Arabic "B" so that it would be pronounced as a "P."

2. The vignettes of all stamps in the set are identical but the frames, while basically the same, are slightly different in each stamp.



The set was printed in sheets of 120 stamps each, divided into two panes of sixty stamps.

The Sphinx, a Greek name for a compound creature with a lion's body



Die Proof of the Two Milliemes Denomination.

and a human head, from the Greek word, "sphinxin,"—to draw tight, squeeze—is typically Egyptian. The most celebrated example is the Great Sphinx at Giza, near Cairo. Carved from rock, it stands 189 feet long and dates to the VIth Dynasty.

According to inscriptions of the XVIIIth Dynasty in the shrine between the paws³ it represented the sun god, Harmachis.

The pyramid shown behind the Sphinx is that at Giza and known as Cheops, or by its Arabic name, Khufu. It is the largest of the group of three which are still regarded as a wonder of the ancient world. It was erected about 3,700 B. C. as a funerary monument of the Pharaoh whose name it bears. When it was built it stood 481 feet high (now only 450), with a base of 755 feet long (now 746). It contains 2,300,000 blocks, weighing about two and a half tons each.

Much may be inferred from the pyramids. First is the patent fact that the pyramid proves that the square and right angle and four points of the compass were clearly comprehended then and durably presented for posterity. This very possibly led to the division of the year into four seasons, to the theory of elements, and other such arbitrary human divisions of things into quarters. The pyramids further show the belief in future life and the desire for immortality.

A check list follows:

- 1 millieme, brown.
 - a. pale brown.
 - b. pale brown, inverted watermark.
- 2 milliemes, green.
 - a. green, inverted watermark.
- 3 milliemes, orange.
- 5 milliemes, carmine.
 - a. pale rose.
- 2 piastres, brown-orange.
 - a. pale brown-orange.
- 10 piastres, mauve.

In 1906 a new value was required and the design of the five millieme value of the current set was adopted with minor modifications. The lined background behind the Sphinx and partly behind the pyramid was removed, leaving those portions white.

3. At the time the stamps were designed the paws of the Sphinx were still hidden under the sands of the Sahara. They were excavated only recently so that modern tourists know it as it was when it was erected. There are interesting differences in the engraving of the central vignette of all these Sphinx and Pyramid stamps. The collector who will carefully study the foreground sand, the shading of the Sphinx's face and the edge of the Pyramid, on the extreme left, it will be possible to detect evidence of wearing. One of the most unusual varieties is that known as "the Chamberlain stamp," in which the Sphinx seems to have a monacle as a small circle of color frames the left eye.

The difference in effect caused by this slight alteration is very striking, and gives an appearance of brightness to the scene.



They were printed in sheets of 240 stamps, divided into four panes of six by ten stamps, surrounded by a colored line. The space between the upper and lower group is a horizontal pair of lines, over which there is a row of perforations. The plate numbers are to the right and left of the sheet margin.

4 milliemes, vermillion.
a. bright vermillion.

THE PICTORIAL ISSUE OF 1914

For the first time since the adoption of adhesive stamps¹ by the Egyptian government (1866), pictorial designs were introduced and the resulting series shows a few of the ancient glories of the land of Pharaohs as compared with modern scenes.

The new stamps are known to have been in the course of preparation as early as October, 1912² and the first day of sale was expected to be New Year's, 1914. Because the anniversary day of the accession of Khedive Abbas Hilmi II (Jan. 8, 1892) came only a few days later, however, the issue was deferred until Jan. 8, 1914. The series, therefore, may be classified as a commemorative issue if the collector so desires.

The pictorials manifest several new departures: They are inscribed in English and Arabic, instead of the French language and they carry the face value expressed in milliemes throughout the entire set, instead of

1. When postage stamp adhesives were introduced in 1866 only arabesque designs were employed as vignettes because of a Mohammedan custom which did not tolerate the use of pictorial matter on any official obligation. In 1868 Muzul Bey prevailed upon his superiors to allow the use of the Sphinx and Pyramid, arguing that without some sort of picture the stamps of Egypt could not be distinguished from those of Turkey, and that these ancient monuments used on stamp designs would advertise Egypt internationally.
2. Mentioned in "The Daily Telegraph," London, Oct. 31, 1912.

the former millieme and piastre values.

The entire series was prepared by Thomas de la Rue & Company, of London. They are surface printed on white paper impregnated with the characteristic watermark of a single crescent and star. The 3, 4, 5, and 20 milliemes denominations are known with the watermark inverted; the five milliemes value is also known with the watermark placed sideways.

The entire set exists imperforate on paper with the watermark, but these are not exactly errors as they were either plate proofs or sheets irregularly distributed by officials of the Egyptian government. The imperforates on unwatermarked paper are rather common and may be considered to be color trials.

The A. S. Mackenzie Low collection, which was eventually sold by the H. R. Harmer Company, of London, to His Majesty, Fouad I, who was an ardent philatelist until his death in 1936, contained a set of ten die proofs in black, on white glazed cards, with various dates at the top-left corner (April to Sept., 1913), and "Before Hardening," "Before Striking," and "After Striking."

The quantities issued for each value in the set is not known, but as they were used until 1921 it may be reasonably expected that it ran into the millions. Blocks are worth a premium only if they have control numbers attached. Some full sheets are still in the hands of wholesale dealers.

Because the stamps were subject to close inspection before they left the factory, no minor varieties in the design are known.

One-Millieme



The one-millieme stamp of the set depicts a dhow, felucca or gyassa, a sailing vessel that is as characteristic of the Nile as the pyramids are of

Egypt. Most unusual is the sail of this type of boat, thousands of which carry freight from one part of the ancient river to another. It is a large triangular rig so fastened to a short mast that the winds, which blow across the Nile, will propel the ship in any desired direction.

Almost all ordinary freight is dependent upon the felucca for transportation in Egypt, despite the fact that railroads and even airplanes carry a great many Egyptian products to markets more rapidly. They can carry heavy loads of sugar, stone, or cotton, their gunwales almost awash; or two or more of them may be lashed together and piled high with chopped straw like a truncated pyramid. When they are empty they seem to ride over the water rather than through it, their gaily painted prows pushing the muddy river aside. In the evening, when the wind dies down, they hug the shores so their sailors can punt with poles or tow them along from the bank.

Two-Millimes



The two-millimes stamp of this set portrays Cleopatra IX, Queen of Egypt, the last but one of the Ptolemies, according to a mural painting on the wall of the Temple of Denderah. In this representation Cleopatra is wearing a complicated headdress embodying the attributes of three deities of Egypt. Projecting from the forehead is the vulture-goddess of Maut. Then there is a horned disc of Hathor, the cow-goddess which in reality is the Golden Calf of the Israelites, typifying motherhood, the milk of human kindness, etc. Surmounting these is the symbol of Isis.

The cartouch just above Cleopatra contains the Heiroglyph³ characters which are interpreted, Klaupatra. It was this very inscription, incidentally,



Imperforate Pair of the Two Millimes Value

together with the word Ptolemaios, on the Rosetta stone (now in the British Museum) which furnished Young and Champollion with the key to the translation of the heiroglyphs, bringing to life a formerly dead language. There are two printings of this stamp and they may be distinguished by the shades, the first being brighter than the second.

3. From the Greek words, ieros—sacred; and grapheln—to carve. Characters in the picture writing of the ancient Egyptians, which could not be interpreted until the Rosetta Stone was discovered at Fort St. Julian, near Rosetta, in 1799 by Bunsford, a French officer in Napoleon's forces. It consists of a black basalt stone upon which are inscribed hieroglyphic, Greek and later ordinary Egyptian handwriting (known as Demotic), with a decree of the priests assembled at Memphis in favor of Ptolemy V Epiphanes. The words, "Klaupatra" and "Ptolemaios," gave the clue to the translation of the rest of the inscription and a comprehensive key to this picture writing was obtained through which many of the ancient murals and inscriptions could be read. The Rosetta Stone was ceded to the English at the capitulation of Alexandria, in 1801, and is now in possession of the British Museum.

Three-Millimes



The three-millimes stamp depicts the Kasr Ras-el-Tin in the Moham-medan quarter of modern Alexandria. Located on the site, or at least in the vicinity of the ancient Pharos, formerly an island upon which the most famous of all lighthouses had been built by Alexander in the fourth century B. C., this palace is flanked on either side by inclosed gardens that are said to be the most attractive in Alexandria. It gets its name, which means—in Arabic—"the head or blossom of the tin," from the fact that so many of these fig trees grow in its gardens. The name Ras-el-Tin is also applied to the cape at the western end of the peninsula in Alexandria, and as such is translated as "cape of the figs."

Two printings of this design exist and can be distinguished by the shades of ink. The second printing, which is more yellowish, also exists with an inverted watermark.

Four-Millimes



Rising like the jagged peaks of a young mountain range against a cloudless sky, are the summits of the Pyramids of Giza, reproduced to form the

vignette of the four-millimes stamp of the pictorial set.

The largest of these typical Egyptian funerary monuments, the Great Pyramid of Cheops (Khufu, in Arabic), named after the man under whose direction it was constructed, is a familiar philatelic subject, as it has appeared on Egypt's stamps continuously since 1867, but this is the first time that its companions gained postal recognition.

The others are Khefren and Men-kaura, respectively, and both are nearly as large. The Pharaohs of ancient Egypt seemed no more able to cease from the fashion of building pyramids (others may be found in various parts of Egypt) than birds do from the instinct of building nests.

When M. Clemenceau visited Egypt after the World War I, he said that to him the Pyramids seemed superstitious, puerile and costly in human life. In reply an Egyptian newspaper, "The Egyptian Gazette," suggested that some medium get in touch with the spirit of Cheops and learn his opinion of the Treaty of Versailles.

The two camels in the foreground, which are among the world's largest animals, look like fleas on an elephant when compared with the monstrous memorials.

Five Millimes



With the Pyramids, in front of which it stands, the Sphinx is undoubtedly the greatest mystery of the world, and widely recognized as the true symbol of Egypt.

The use of its picture, then, on the five-millimes stamp, which was the commonest value of the set, is most logical.

The statue is hewn out of living rock, but pieces of stone have been

added to fill out the contour where necessary.

The body is about 189 feet long, its head about 30 feet long, its face 14 feet wide and the whole monument 70 feet high. Originally there were probably ornaments on the head, the whole of which was covered with limestone facing while the face was tinted with red. None of these remain today although they were visible towards the end of the last century. The battered condition of the Sphinx is due in a large measure to the vandalism of the Mamelukes and the soldiers of Napoleon who used it as a target for rifle and cannon practice.

A number of mysteries enshroud the monument, but we do know that it represents Harmachis-Ra, and that it was in existence in the days of Cheops in about 3,700 B. C., for records exist which say that he repaired a monument, the description of which fits the Sphinx.

In printing these stamps the regular paper, watermarked with a crescent and star, was used, but during the rush of making many thousands of sheets necessary, the paper was often inserted into the presses upside down or sideways so that the five-millimes value exists with watermark normal, inverted and sideways.

Ten-Millimes



Though generally referred to as the Colossi of Memnon, the two giant statues located at Thebes and depicted upon the 10-millimes stamp, are actually representations of Amenhotep III, who as the son of Thutmose VI, reigned over Lower and Upper Egypt about 1,400 B. C. He was a great builder and was responsible for the erection of numerous monuments and statues, particularly those at Thebes and Luxor. He waged a war against

the Ethiopians, and dominated all land between Nepata and the Euphrates River in Iraq (then called Mesopotamia).

The Colossi were originally a portion of the entrance to Amenhotep's funerary temple, the rest of which has since disappeared. He ruled for thirty-six years and near the end of his reign, Egypt's Syrian province was invaded by the Hittites and the Khabiri.

According to the Greek version supplied by Homer, Amenhotep is referred to as Memnon, a king of Ethiopia, son of Tithonus and Aurora. He came with 10,000 troops to assist his uncle, Priam, during the Trojan War, where he killed Antilochus, son of Nestor. On account of the latter's age, Memnon refused to fight Nestor but was later slain by Achilles. According to historians, the statue of Memnon had the ability to utter strange sounds at sunrise each day. At sunset these sounds became lugubrious. Strabo, the geographer who heard the mysterious notes, confessed that he could not determine whether the music proceeded from the statue itself or from the people who continually surrounded it.

One theory attributed the sound to the action of the rising sun on the dew in the cracks of the stone. Others said that it was a trick of the priests, one of whom hid himself in the statue and struck a metallic sounding stone. The chief argument in favor of the latter theory is that such a stone still exists in the lap of the statue, with a recess cut in the block immediately behind it which is capable of concealing a person from view below. It is further stated that the sound was often repeated when any famous person (like Emperor Hadrian) was there to hear it while on ordinary occasions it occurred but once.

The statue was dismantled at the order of Cambyses and by an earthquake in 27 B. C.

Twenty-Millimes

The Great Pylon, or gateway to the ancient Temple of Karnak near Luxor, is depicted on the 20-millimes stamp of the 1914 series.

The top of this pylon, when first built, was about eighty feet above the ground, and its width nearly 100 feet. Each of its towers is hollow and in front of the walls are channels

with sockets in the ground in which huge flagpoles were placed when Thebes was keeping festival. The face



of the pylon is covered with texts and sculptures which refer to the dedication of Amen-Ra, and to the victory of Ramses II over Kheta. The battle which took place near the City of Kadesh on the Orontes resulted in the overthrow of a great confederation of Syrian tribes. Among the texts on the pylon is a description of the fight written by Pen-ta-Urt, a poetical narrative which so impressed the king that he ordered it copied on stelae and many public buildings throughout the country.

The outside of the walls are covered with scenes relating to the campaign and describing Ramses II in triumph.

Fifty-Millimes

The Citadel of Cairo, depicted upon the 50-millimes stamp, was built by Salah-ad-Din (Saladin) and was intended by him to be the strongest part of the fortification with which he girdled the city; it stands on a spur of the Mukattam Hills and though it is practically useless in these days it was impregnable when built. It was begun in 1176 under the direction of Amir Karakush and was finished in 1208. The stone used in making the Citadel was taken from the Pyramids, and Ibn Juber, who visited Cairo in 1183, says that the men employed in its construction were either Europeans who had been taken prisoner by Saladin, or Muslims who labored without pay.

Within the Citadel are the Mosque of An-Nasir (1317-18), the Mosque of Suleiman Pasha (1526) and the Mosque of Muhammed Ali, which,

while begun by Ali himself, was not finished until 1857.

Outstanding in the modern history of the fortress is the massacre of the Mamelukes, which took place on March 1, 1811.

All the Mamelukes, who were mercenary or slave soldiers, were decoyed into the Citadel by Muhammed Ali under the pretense of celebrating the investiture of his son, Tusun, as Pelisse of the Army. Shahin Bey and all the other leaders, except one, came to the Citadel with their followers and having drunk coffee with Ali, formed a procession with the Pasha's men in front and behind them.

As soon as they arrived at the gate it was suddenly closed before them. The Pasha's troops that had cleared the gate (a company of Albanians), rushed back to strategic positions above the Mamelukes who were shut in between the walls and the narrow road, and began mowing them down.

In a very short time the 470 Mamelukes were slain and only one escaped by jumping his horse over a parapet to the moat below. The horse was killed but the officer made good his escape.



A well within the Citadel is believed by Israelites to be the work of Joseph when he was sold into captivity, though really it was named after Yusef I, master of Karakush, builder of the Citadel.

100-Millimes

The Great Rock Temple at Abou-Simbel is the subject of the 100-millimes stamp, and was selected to represent the glory of Upper Egypt since it is located in the Sudan district, 763 miles from Cairo.

Abou-Simbel was originally an entire village, but during the centuries between its heyday and the present age, everything but the temple vanished. It was built to commemorate the victory of Ramses II over the Syrians, referred to in the description of the 20-millimes stamp.



It is the largest and finest monument in Nubia, and for simple grandeur is second to none in all Egypt. It is hewn out of solid gritstone rock to a depth of 185 feet, and the surface, which originally sloped down to the river, was cut away from the front of the temple. The facade is ornamented with four colossal statues of Ramses II, each 66 feet high. Ramses was a vain ruler anxious to have his deed recorded for all time so he had elaborate inscriptions, testifying to his achievements, hewn in the stone of his arms and neck-ring. But then the leaders and mercenaries of later peoples came by, wished to earn their share of glory, and inscribed their deeds on the pedestal and limbs of the old king, while below we read: "We wrote this Archon, son of Amobichos, and Pelekos, son of Udamos." There they stand, poor, unknown lieutenants, who once came adventuring here, and have become more famous than the king between whose toes they incised their doings, for many a wanderer in the East can read their Greek, but only a few scholars can decipher the hieroglyphics.

4. This same design was used by an English artist who had been invited to submit a suggestion for the first Sudan stamps, by Lord Kitchener. It was rejected because the Rock Temple was beyond the border of the Sudan.

200-Millimes

The last of the pictorial series, the 200-millimes stamp pictures the Assuan Dam. The dam is not only one of the world's outstanding engineering feats of all time, but also one of the most important factors in Egyptian agricultural life. It was conceived by the British government in 1890 when Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff and Sir William Willcocks were assigned to the task of surveying Egypt for a proper site. Actual work, due to financial and local difficulties, was not commenced until 1898.

The dam, which was made of coarse-grained red granite, extends 2,185 yards straight across the valley of the Nile, holding back some 37,612,000,000 cubic feet of water. The sluice gates, which are opened on July 5 of every year, are capable of discharging about 353,000 cubic feet of water a second to irrigate farm lands all the way along the ancient river.

Work started in the summer of 1898 and the foundation stone was laid by the Duke of Connaught on Feb. 12, 1899.

All the foundation work was finished in 1901 and the masonry, in June, 1902, one year before contract time, and less than three years after the first stone had been put in place. In 1912 and again in 1933 the height of the dam was raised a total of fifty



feet, making it now 180 feet high. The northern, or lower side of the dam, is shown on the stamp.

The Arabic inscriptions in the top panel of all values is identical and reads: "Posta Masrieh" (Egyptian Postage). That in the lateral panels of all stamps up to the 50 millimes,

and the 200 millimes, and that in the bottom panel of the 100 millimes, is the Arabic equivalent of the face value. These read as follows:

- 1 millime—millime wahid.
- 2 millimes—milliman.
- 3 millimes—thalathet millimat.
- 4 millimes—arbaet millimat.
- 5 millimes—khamsat millimat.
- 10 millimes—ashrat millimat.
- 20 millimes—ashrun milliman.
- 50 millimes—khamsoun milliman.
- 100 millimes—meat milliman.
- 200 millimes—meatan milliman.

A complete check-list of this issue follows:

- 1 millime, olive-brown.
 - a. pale olive-brown.
 - b. imperforate, watermarked.
 - c. imperforate, unwatermarked.
- 2 millimes, green.
 - a. turquoise.
 - b. imperforate, watermarked.
 - c. imperforate, unwatermarked.
- 3 millimes, orange.
 - a. yellow orange.
 - b. imperforate, watermarked.
 - c. imperforate, unwatermarked.
 - d. inverted watermarked.
- 4 millimes, red.
 - a. imperforate, watermarked.
 - b. imperforate, unwatermarked.
 - c. inverted watermarked.
 - d. watermark sideways, star on left.
 - e. watermark sideways, star on right.
- 10 millimes, blue.
 - a. imperforate, watermarked.
 - b. imperforate, unwatermarked.
- 20 millimes, olive-green.
 - a. imperforate, watermarked.
 - b. imperforate, unwatermarked.
 - c. inverted watermark.
- 50 millimes, lilac.
 - a. purple.
 - b. imperforate, watermarked.
 - c. imperforate, unwatermarked.
- 100 millimes, black.
 - a. imperforate, watermarked.
 - b. imperforate, unwatermarked.
- 200 millimes, plum.
 - a. pale plum.
 - b. imperforate, watermarked.
 - c. imperforate, unwatermarked.

The following control numbers are found on sheets of the different denominations:

- 1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 20, 100 and 200 millimes.
- 2 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 millimes.
- 3 1 and 5 millimes.
- 4 5 millimes only.
- 5 5 millimes only.

Provisional

In 1915 supplies of the two-millime denomination ran out and a provisional was created in October of that year by surcharging the three-millime stamps at the Government Printing Office at Boulak. The philatelist who studies these provisionals will find a number of small varieties in the overprinting text, but for all reasonable record there are only two major errors. The first comprises an in-

verted surcharge and the other a double surcharge. In the case of the latter the surcharge is not really double. It consists of a sheet of stamps that was fed into the press before ink had a chance to strike the type so that only an impression, without color, hit the stamps. They were



later fed into the press and imprinted with the normal black surcharge. The only way a philatelist can find one of these is by examining the back of his specimens very carefully to find traces of two surcharges impressed. Though the impression is light, it is nevertheless strong enough to be seen without the aid of a glass.

The Boulak plant was not a very modern establishment, nor were the printers masters of the trade. It very often happened that the press from which the stamps were printed worked faster than the men operating

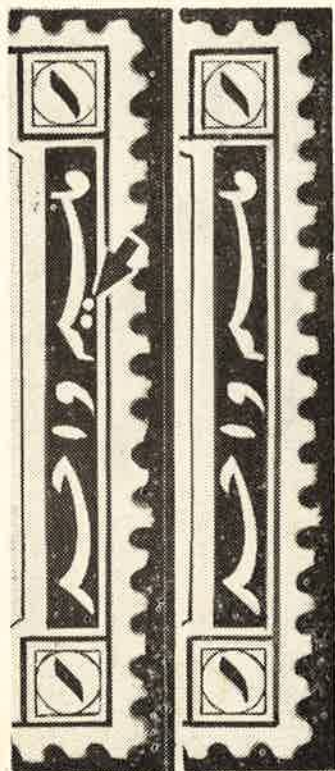


them. As a consequence the inked type often struck the bed of the press before a sheet could be inserted. When the next sheet was fed into the press the stamps not only received the normal overprint on the face, but also a reversed offset overprint on the gum side. These are not uncommon, but specialists like to have examples of

them in their collection. This variety is found only on unused stamps as the impression struck the gum and would be washed off when cancelled copies are soaked from the letters on which they were mailed.

Harrison Printings

After having been in use for over five years, the stock of the de la Rue



pictorials up to the 100 milliemmes was running low and a new supply was required. Egyptian officials solicited bids from the firm of Harrison & Sons as well as from Thomas de la Rue & Company, and when it was found that their offer was better, the Harrison company obtained the contract to supply the new series.

The finances of Egypt were not too well off, so rather than go to the expense of preparing new designs, the de la Rue firm was asked to turn the master dies over to the new contractor from which new printing surfaces could be made. The new stamps are identical in color, but they may be distinguished by a new watermark

which consists of a triple crescent and star¹ design especially prepared for use on the new emission.

In making the printing plate of the one-millieme stamp, the transfer engraver made a small mistake for on one stamp of every sheet there is an error in the Arabic inscription. The correct inscription shows two dots under the Ye, or third character from the right. The error shows the character without the two dots. This constant variety is not recognized by the Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, published by the Scott Company, but is listed in most foreign books and is a particular favorite with Egyptian specialists. Dealers in America are seldom aware of its existence and collectors will do well by hunting for it. It appears as the last stamp in the lower right corner of the sheet and generally has a sheet margin attached.

NEW COLORS

In November, 1921, the 2, 4, 5 and 10 milliemmes appeared in new colors—red, green, rose and dark carmine instead of green, vermilion, lake and blue. The four-millieme, printed by Harrison, appears only in the new color.

Fifteen Milliemmes

In 1922 an altered postal rate went into effect in Egypt and a need for a 15-milliemmes stamp presented itself. Orders for a new design were placed with the engravers. An essay², depicting the Tombs of the Mamelukes in Cairo, exists but was apparently rejected in favor of the accepted design which shows a statue of Ramses II, the Pharaoh who spent on an average of a day a week doing things for

1. About 1915 Egypt adopted a flag with three white crescents and stars, placed sideways at the left of a red field, so that the points of the crescents (two, placed vertically, at the left and one at the right) face right. Some time later the flag was changed so that it includes but a single crescent with three stars (white) placed in the form of a triangle, on a green field.
2. The A. S. Mackenzie Low collection, which was purchased by King Fouad I, in 1920, contained two copies of an essay prepared by the Survey Department in Cairo, for a 15 milliemmes design. It depicts the Tombs of the Mamelukes in Cairo. These medieval Arab mausolea of Egyptian rulers were erected mainly by the Circassian Mamelukes and were originally provided with a numerous staff of sheiks and attendants. The revenues of the mosques having been confiscated during the reign of Muhammed Ali, the tombs gradually fell into ruins. Now, however, the Waqfs Ministry has taken them into its keeping and they are consequently maintained in good condition. They are located below, and within sight of, the Citadel. One of the Mackenzie Low essays is on rough paper, the other, on smooth paper.



15 Millieme Stamp with Wrong Arabic Inscription (left), and Corrected Text (right).

his people and country, and the rest of the week in recording his deeds and glorifying himself for having done them.

The accepted vignette was copied from one of his statues which stood in front of the Temple of Ptah in Memphis, where he ruled in splendor after his return from unsuccessful Syrian campaigns against the Hittites and Hyksos.

It is interesting to note that there are two distinct types of this new value, which may be recognized by comparing the Arabic inscriptions in the lateral panels.

When the stamp was first produced the Harrison Company had instructions to make up a distinctive design, and a brief sketch of what inscriptions should be placed on the adhesive. It is obvious that the designer, or an Englishman who had some slight acquaintance with the Arabic language, was not fully aware of the correct Arabic style and accordingly the stamp appeared with an Arabic inscription, in small characters, reading, "Khamsetashrata Millieminet." The stamps were printed and when the first supply reached Egypt, officials noticed that the inscription represented very poor Arabic and immediately notified the printing company, asking them to alter it to the more correct form of their language for "fifteen milliemmes." There was not enough time to wait for the corrected adhesives as the new rate had already gone into effect, so the stamps received were placed in service and sold as post offices.

As soon as they could be produced, new stamps with lateral panels containing the corrected "Khamseta Ashara Millieman," were delivered to Cairo. The new stamps not only have

a corrected spelling, but the inscription is larger and more in keeping with the style used on the other values of the set. Those stamps with the small inscription were withdrawn from sale but not destroyed. Later in 1922, when the Coronation series, with the crown and Arabic overprint, were provisionally produced in Cairo the remainder was also overprinted and put into circulation. Some, furthermore, were overprinted "O. H. E. M. S." for use as official stamps.

A check list of varieties of the Harrison set follows:

- 1 millieme, brown.
 - a. two dots missing.
- 2 milliemmes, green.
 - a. horizontal pair, imperf. between.
 - b. blue-green.
- 3 milliemmes, orange.
 - a. vertical pair, imperf. between.
 - b. inverted watermark.
- 5 milliemmes, carmine.
 - a. horizontal pair, imperf. between.
- 10 milliemmes, blue.
- 20 milliemmes, olive.
- 50 milliemmes, claret.
- 100 milliemmes, black.
 - a. brown-black.

CHANGE OF COLORS

- 4 milliemmes, green.
- 2 milliemmes, vermilion.
- 5 milliemmes, pale rose.
- 10 milliemmes, carmine.
 - a. inverted watermark.
- 15 milliemmes, slate blue, small characters.
- 15 milliemmes, slate blue, large characters.

The following control numbers are found on the different varieties:

- A20—1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 milliemmes.
- A21—3 and 15 milliemmes.
- A22—1, 5 and 15 milliemmes.
- A23—1, 20, 50 and 100 milliemmes.
- B21—2, 4 and 5 milliemmes.
- B22—2, 5 and 15 milliemmes.
- B23—2, 4, 5, 10 and 15 milliemmes.

In 1916 Gen. Sir Reginald Wingate, Sirdar and Governor-general of the Sudan since 1899, replaced Sir R. McMahon as British High Commissioner in Egypt, and at that time the declining health of Sultan Hussein Kamil



Crown Overprint Stamp of 1922 Double (left) and Inverted



Crown Overprint Stamp of 1922 Double



Crown Overprint Stamp of 1922 Inverted

made a settlement of succession urgent. Though no official or public announcement was made of this while the Sultan was still alive, it was yet an open secret and known in the inner circles of officialdom that after Sultan Hussein's death the throne would pass to Prince Fouad, the sixth son of Ismail and younger brother of Sultan Hussein, and not to Prince Kamal el Din, his son, the latter having already if not officially, made his decision in the matter. When Hussein died in October, 1917, therefore Fouad became Sultan of Egypt.

On Feb. 28, 1922, the British Protectorate of Egypt terminated and the country was declared a kingdom, with Fouad I as its ruler. He was presented with the crown of the new government on March 15, 1922. A set of stamps (the de la Rue and Harrison pictorials) was overprinted with a crown and Arabic inscription, but as these are actually commemoratives they will not be treated here¹ except to say that there are four distinct types of overprints: one lithographed and three typographed. They were issued only on Oct. 6, 1922, the date on which Fouad's accession was acknowledged according to Moham-medan custom.



Essay of the first Fouad Series

The Egyptian government decided to issue a definitive series of postage stamps as soon as Fouad was proclaimed king of the country, to supersede the provisionally overprinted pictorials and an order for essays was

1. These are dealt with in detail in "Com-memorative Stamps of Egypt," by the author of this series and available from him at 50 cents a copy.

placed with Harrison and Sons. A photograph of Fouad, made by Hanselman of Cairo, was submitted from which the designer was asked to prepare his sketches.

The essays consist of stamps in the corner of each of which is a circle, bearing the figure of value: Latin numerals in the upper and lower left, Arabic numerals in the upper and lower right. In the upper panel that joins the upper circles is the Arabic inscription, "Albareed al Masri," while in the lower panel is the Arabic in-



Essay of the first Fouad Series

scription of value. At the left is the inscription, "Egypt Postage," and at the right is the inscription of value, expressed in English.

The known values of these essays are: 5, 10, 15 and 50 milliemes, all of which exists in perforated condition. An imperforate five-milliemes essay is also believed to exist.

The only complete set of essays was in the A. S. Mackenzie Low collection, which is now in possession of the King of Egypt. They were produced from recess engraved dies and printed on white, watermarked paper. Some specimens are known on envelopes cancelled by the post office, and while no accurate record is available, it is thought that no more than twenty copies of the essays exist.

In addition to these, which were made by known engravers, George Zeheri illustrates two others in his Catalogue des Timbres D'Egypte. They show the Egyptian symbol of longevity at the top, two ancient columns at either side and an Arabic inscription of value at the bottom. A drawing of King Fouad, facing right and wearing a fez, in the oval center.

One of the essays shows two stamps of the 15-millieme denomination separated by four oblong slugs. The other shows two of the same stamps side by side and framed at the left and bottom with a solid line of colored ink.

The understanding between the Post Office Department and Harrison & Sons was that the set was to be made from recess engraved plates after the designs had been approved by the officials. Guy Harrison, of the firm that bears his name, prepared the essays made by the photo-gravure process, submitting them for design approval only. These were returned and proofs from recess engraved dies were subsequently submitted. These were returned again, with the comment that they were not quite as attractive as the first ones, and that the stamps were to be produced from the roto-gravure process. Harrison & Sons had done little work with this process, which had been introduced around 1860, but which had little commercial use until 1890².

Harrison & Sons, therefore, were not equipped to produce roto-engraved stamps in such quantities as were needed and ordered by Egypt. It required nearly eighteen months of experimentation to overcome the technical difficulties before satisfactory results were achieved.

By this time a new design had been prepared and it was issued as the first Fouad type, in 1923. The accepted design portrays King Fouad in the center oval, surmounted by the uraei and solar disc, an ancient symbol supposed to have power to ward off evil. At either side, between the oval and the lateral panels, is a conventionalized lotus flower, which has been used as an Egyptian decorative motif for centuries.

In the left panel is the Arabic inscription, "Al Bareed al Masri" (Egyptian Postal Service), while in the right is the Arabic inscription of the face value of the stamp. At the bottom, the figure of value is written in each corner: in Latin numerals at the left, and Arabic, in the right. This is the first set that is without any foreign language³. The designs for all values are the same, but the size of the lower and higher denominations

2. The first postage stamps made by the photo-gravure process were the Bavarian issues of 1914, the Bulgarian and Czechoslovakian series of 1919 and 1920.

is different⁴. The £1 value is printed in two colors.

The five-milliemmes stamp appeared on April 16, 1923, while the 1, 10 and 15 milliemmes were added on Oct. 6; the 20 milliemmes, on Oct. 13; the 3 milliemmes, on Nov. 21; the 2, 4, 50 and 100 milliemmes, on Dec. 6; the 1£, on Jan. 5, 1924, and the 200 milliemmes, on March 19, 1924.



An interesting error was made in designing the £1 stamp of this series, which was probably due to the designer's oversight of the fact that the British pound and the Egyptian pound are not equal in value. In Egypt £1 sterling is worth only 97½ piastres, while the "livre," or Egyptian pound is worth a full 100 piastres, i. e., about one pound sterling and six pence. The latter is generally indicated on obligations by writing the sum as £E1. It was first decided to re-engrave the die and make new printing plates, but later the stocks were delivered and used. The difference between the two pounds, in American currency, is about forty cents.

Some of the inks used in printing this set are fugitive, so collectors should be careful when immersing them in benzine. Watermarks⁵ are visible so there is really no reason why the chance of benzine immersion should be necessary, anyway.

3. The first issue was inscribed in Turkish; the stamps of 1867-'79 bear Italian; the issues between 1880 and 1913 bear French, and the 1914-'23 series carry English inscriptions as well as the Arabic.

4. The stamps up to and including the 15 milliemmes measure 18½ x 23 mm.; the 20 milliemmes to £E1 measure 22½ x 28 mm.

5. With this issue philatelists are introduced to the fourth type of watermark, which consists of a crown and the Arabic letter "F," and abbreviation for Fouad. In multiple across the entire sheet so that either a complete watermark unit, or various portions of it, appear on a single stamp.

On account of the delicate manner in which the original die design is transferred to the printing plate⁶ a number of flaws and defects were caused. To make new printing surfaces each time a flaw was produced would have been too expensive as well as too bothersome so that most accidental blemishes were retouched. A comprehensive study of these re-



touches was published in serial form in Gibbon's Monthly Journal⁷, of 1937-'38, having been carefully worked out by Douglas McNeille. Since these flaws and retouches represent a specialized study and research field, only a mention of their existence is made herewith and the collector who wishes to go into greater detail is recommended to the aforementioned treatise.

The £1 stamp was printed in sheets of twenty-five stamps, all other values were produced in sheets of 100 stamps each.

A complete check list of this set follows:

- 1 millieme, orange.
 - a. yellow-orange.
- 2 milliemmes, black.
 - a. bright black.
- 3 milliemmes, brown.
 - a. pale brown.
- 4 milliemmes, green.
 - a. yellow-green.
- 5 milliemmes, red-brown.
 - a. dark red-brown.
 - b. pale red-brown.
 - c. inverted watermark.
 - d. imperforate.

6. A negative is made from the original die design and photographed on a copper surface that has been treated with a sensitized emulsion. This process requires several steps and is very similar to the method of making the printing surface which produces roto-gravure sections of newspapers.

7. This series was also reprinted in "L'Orient Philatelique," official magazine of the Egyptian Stamp Club of Cairo, of which the author of this booklet is the American agent.

- 10 milliemmes, rose.
 - a. pale red-rose.
- 15 milliemmes, blue.
 - a. bright blue (1925).
 - b. pair, imperforate between.
 - c. imperforate.
- 20 milliemmes, blue-green.
 - a. turquoise.
 - b. imperforate.
- 50 milliemmes, myrtle green.
 - a. pale myrtle green.
- 100 milliemmes, red-violet.
 - a. brown-violet.
- 200 milliemmes.
 - a. pale violet.
- £1 blue frame and dark violet vignette.
 - a. pale violet vignette.

Control Numbers found on these stamps are as follows:

- B23—1 millieme.
- B24—1, 5 milliemmes.
- B25—5m, 20 and 100 milliemmes.
- C23—2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15 milliemmes.
- C24—2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15 milliemmes.
- C25—1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 15 milliemmes.
- C26—2, 15 milliemmes.

The 50, 200 milliemmes and £1 did not have control numbers. The five milliemmes value is also known with control number B25/.

To commemorate the International Geographic Congress, held at Cairo from April 1 to 30, 1925, the Post Office Department authorized the issue of a set of three stamps, depicting the mythological god, Thoth. The set includes the following denominations: 5, 10 and 15 milliemmes.

Another set of six stamps was issued to mark the Twelfth Agricultural and Industrial Exposition, on March 1, 1926. These show a picture of a fellahin (native farmer) ploughing a



15 Millieme with Double Surcharge

field with two oxen. The set includes the following denominations: 5, 10, 15, 50, 100 and 200 milliemmes.

The birthday of H. M. King Fouad I provided the occasion for another commemorative, this time representing but a single stamp with a face value of 50 piastres and portraying His Majesty in a three-quarter length portrait. It was issued on April 2, 1926.



A large quantity of the high denominations of the Agricultural set that remained on hand after the stamps were withdrawn from sale were returned to the Survey Department¹, at Cairo, where a provisional surcharge was applied changing the values of the 50 milliemes to five milliemes; the 100 milliemes to 10 milliemes; and the 200 milliemes to 15 milliemes, all denominations which were in constant use. These were returned to the post offices and sold, as regular stamps, after Aug. 24, 1926.

The check list follows:

- 5/50 milliemes, green-blue.
 - a. inverted watermark.
 - b. "5" of surcharge is broken.
- 10/100 milliemes, lilac.
 - a. inverted watermark.
- 15/200 milliemes, violet.
 - a. double surcharge.

Official figures for this set are:

- 5/50 milliemes—150,000.
- 10/100 milliemes—167,000.
- 15/200 milliemes—167,500.

A set of three commemoratives were issued to mark the International Navigation Congress, held at Cairo in 1926. The stamps depict an Egyptian galley, said to have been that of Queen Hatshepsut. The set, which was issued on Dec. 9, 1926, includes the 5, 10 and 15 milliemes.

These three stamps and the previously issued birthday stamp were overprinted "PORT FOUAD" and issued on Dec. 21, 1926, to mark the dedication of a new city of that name, which is located just opposite Port Said.

On Jan. 25, 1927, Egypt issued another colorful set of three stamps

1. Shortly after the first Fouad set was issued the Survey Department of Egypt installed printing presses which are capable of producing postage stamps so that it no longer remained necessary to let foreign contractors do this work. The first set to be made by this new printing establishment was the Geographical Congress issue of 1925.

to commemorate the International Cotton Congress, held in Cairo at that time. The stamps show a cotton boll and blossoms and include the following values: 5, 10 and 15 milliemes.

In 1927, after the Fouad set had been in use for nearly four years, it was decided to modify the design and the set, known as the second Fouad Issue, was produced by the Survey Department, again by the photo-engraved process. The Hanselman portrait of the king was placed in a central oval and a distinctive frame design placed around it. In the upper-left corner is the letter "F" (Fouad); in the upper-right is the letter "R" (Rex or Roi); in the lower-left is the Latin numeral of value; in the lower-right is the Arabic numeral of value. "Egypte" and the face value of the stamp, written in French, are in panels at the bottom and left, respectively. In the upper panel is the Arabic, "Addawleh al Masrieh" (Kingdom of Egypt), while at the right is the Arabic inscription of value, written out.

The stamps with a face value of one to 15 milliemes, inclusive, have the bottom panel arranged in a curved band. The value from 20 to 200 milliemes, inclusive, have the bottom panel straight. These latter also have minor modifications in the rest of the design. There is a crown between the top of the stamp and the central oval; the vignette has a decorative border around the vignette and the background, between the oval and the frame panels is made up of vertically ruled lines, whereas in the low denominations this portion of the stamp has conventionalized ancient lotus stems.

The two highest denominations, the 500 milliemes and the £E1, are more

elaborate, and are, moreover, printed in bi-color. A glance at the illustrations will serve better to describe them than written words.



All values, up to and including the 15 milliemes, measure $17\frac{3}{4} \times 22\frac{1}{4}$ mm.; the 20 to 200 milliemes measure $22\frac{1}{4} \times 27\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; the 500 milliemes measures $39 \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ mm., and the £E1 measures $22\frac{1}{2} \times 39$ mm.

"The Standard Catalogue of Postage Stamps" makes no mention of it, but the Stanley-Gibbons book does state that there are certain "screen" variations to be found on stamps of this issue, and as they are quite vis-

ible to the naked eye, and because specialists want both types, a brief description is offered herewith.

In the process of making cliches for reproduction a piece of plate glass is placed between the object to be reproduced and the printing surface to which it is being transferred by photography. The plate glass has a given number of fine, transparent lines crossing each other at right angles, to break the light into small dots, which then become visible in the printed reproduction. The number of lines within each square inch varies and depends upon the quality of paper to be used in printing. In making a newspaper reproduction there are only about 60 to 70; for rotogravure pictures, or for postage stamps the number may run up to 150 or even 200¹.

At first the stamps of this issue were made with the screen running vertically and horizontally, but it was found, by experience, that the minute vertical lines on the printing surface caused the wiping blade, which scraped excess ink from the printing surface, to sometimes catch while the revolving printing cylinder rotated.

This catching often caused the blade to spatter printing ink on the paper



Showing the differences in the screen used on the Second Fouad Issue. The diagonal screen is at the left and the horizontal screen is at the right.

that was being fed into the press, or on the cleaned portion of the cylindrical printing surface. In either case specks of ink appeared on the design of the printed stamps and those portions of the sheet had to be destroyed, representing a waste-loss.



Experimentation showed that if the screen were placed diagonally instead of at right angles to the stamp design the screen lines would not hamper the wiping blade and less spoilage would result. Accordingly, later printings of the more commonly used denominations may be found with both the vertical and horizontal screens¹.

In producing the two highest denominations, both the photo-engraving and lithographic processes were used for the frame designs, and while an expert in the graphic arts can tell these two apart without hesitation, the average stamp collector may employ a method that is unailing.

Under a strong magnifying glass the photo-engraved frame of both the 500 milliemmes and the £E1 show a rough, saw-tooth-like edge on all colored portions of the design. On the lithographed stamps the edges of all colored areas are perfectly smooth. The vignettes of both of these, however, were produced by photo-engraving, with a diagonal screen.

A check-list of the Second Fouad Series follows:

- 1 millieme, orange.
 - a. yellow-orange.
 - b. diagonal screen.
 - c. yellow-orange, diagonal screen.
 - d. inverted watermark.

1. If the collector will look at the illustrations on the previous page he will see the dots which make up every picture.

- 2 milliemmes, black.
 - a. gray-black.
 - b. diagonal screen.
 - c. gray-black, diagonal screen.
- 3 milliemmes, olive brown.
 - a. dark olive-brown.
 - b. diagonal screen.
 - c. dark olive brown, diagonal screen.
- 4 milliemmes, yellow-green.
 - a. diagonal screen.
- 5 milliemmes, orange-brown.
 - a. diagonal screen.
- 10 milliemmes, orange-red.
 - a. dark red.
 - b. diagonal screen.
 - c. dark red, diagonal screen.
 - d. dark red, diagonal screen, inverted watermark.
- 15 milliemmes, ultramarine.
 - a. pale ultramarine.
 - b. diagonal screen.
 - c. pale ultramarine, diagonal screen.
 - d. pale ultramarine, diagonal screen, inverted watermark.
- 20 milliemmes, olive.
 - a. pale olive.
 - b. dark olive, diagonal screen.
 - c. diagonal screen.
- 50 milliemmes, Prussian green, diagonal screen only.
 - a. green-blue.
 - b. dark green-blue.
 - c. pale green blue.
- 100 milliemmes, brown violet, diagonal screen only.
 - a. claret.
 - b. dark claret.
 - c. pale claret.
- 200 milliemmes, deep violet, diagonal screen only.
 - a. mauve.
 - b. pale violet.
- 500 milliemmes, chocolate and Prussian blue, photo-engraved frame.
 - a. lithographed frame.
- £E1 dark green and olive-brown, photo-engraved frame.
 - a. lithographed frame.

Three new commemoratives were issued on Dec. 29, 1927 in connection with the Statistical Congress of Cairo. The vignette depicts Amenhotep and the following stamps made up the set: 5, 10 and 15 milliemmes.

In 1929 a Medical congress was held in Cairo and two stamps were issued as a compliment, on Dec. 15. The 5 milliemmes shows a picture of Im-Hotep and the 10 milliemmes, a portrait of Mohammed Ali Pasha, founder of the first Medical college in Egypt.

On Feb. 11, 1929, Prince Farouk, now King of Egypt, celebrated his tenth birthday and to mark the occasion the country issued a set of four stamps portraying the lad. The values are: 5, 10, 15 and 20 milliemmes. This set also exists with the centers printed in brown instead of the normal black.

In 1930 a change of colors was required and a new series of stamps, with the same design, was put into use. Besides the different colors, the stamps are also slightly larger, measuring 18 x 22 3/4 mm. A check-list of these follows:

- 3 milliemmes, deep green.
 - a. bright deep green.
- 4 milliemmes, brown.
 - a. bright brown.
 - b. inverted watermark.
- 5 milliemmes, orange-brown.
 - a. bright orange-brown.
 - b. brown-red.
 - c. bright brown-red.
 - c. inverted watermark.
- 13 milliemmes, carmine-rose (a new denomination).
- 20 milliemmes, blue (1).
 - a. bright blue.

(1). The design of this stamp is the same as the 20 milliemmes stamps of the previous series.

On Feb. 15, 1931, a set of three stamps was issued to commemorate the fourteenth Agricultural and Industrial Exposition. The vignette depicts a farming scene as taken from a wall painting in a Karnak temple. The set includes the 5, 10 and 15 millieme denominations.

A quantity of the 50 piastres Birthday stamp of 1926 and the £1 regular issue of 1923 remained in the post offices and in order to use them up both of these were provisionally surcharged with new values, a supply of



which was more necessary. On March 4, 1932, therefore, these stamps appeared as 50 and 100 milliemmes, respectively.

The overprint was applied by the Survey Department of Egypt, at Cairo, and consists of the new value, expressed in French and Arabic, and bars obliterating the original figures of value.

"Though this (the Birthday stamp of 1926) was but a single design and denomination, several minor varieties exist to make it an interesting issue for the specialist. Both thick and thin papers were used, but most unusual is the fact that two sizes of perforating needles were employed to produce compound perforations on some stamps.



"In perforating the sheets of twenty-five stamps, the top and bottom rows of five stamps each are perforated 15 vertically. The second row from the top is perforated 15 about one-quarter of the way down and perforated 14 the rest of the way. The third (middle) row is perforated 14 vertically; the fourth row is perforated 14 about three-quarters of the way down and perforated 15 the rest of the way.

"The horizontal perforations all gauge 14. In each sheet, therefore, there are ten stamps perforated 14x15; five perforated 14 x 14; five perforated 14 x 15 and 14 and five perforated 14 x 15 and 15. In the compound perforations a tiny gap is evident between the different size holes¹."

Four hundred forty sets of these were sent to Berne, for distribution to members of the Universal Postal Union.

A complete sheet of the 100 milliemmes value is known to exist and as this is an extremely rare item, even

1. From "Commemorative Stamps of Egypt," by B. A. Kehr.

in a block of four, the sheet is one of the world's rarities.

A check list follows, the figures in brackets indicating the number² issued:

- 50 mills on 50 piastres, violet (56,690)
 - a. perforated 14 x 14 (28,345)
 - b. perforated 14 x 14 & 15 (28,345)
 - c. perforated 14 x 15 & 14 (28,345)
- 100 millimes on £1 (3,750)

2. The official release stating the quantities of this set issued, did not specify how many of them were made on thick paper and how many on thin, so it is not possible to specify quantities here. The collector, however, should remember that both types of paper exist on this provisional issue, and build his collection accordingly.

In 1932 a 40-millimes denomination was added to the set. It is the same design and size as the 50 millimes stamp of 1927, but is printed in olive brown, with a diagonal screen.

On Feb. 1, 1934, another change of colors was put into effect, and a check list follows:

- 4 millimes, deep green.
 - a. bright deep green.
- 10 millimes, purple.
 - a. violet.
- 15 millimes, dark violet.
- 20 millimes, ultramarine (1).
 - a. bright ultramarine.

(1) This stamp is the same design as the lowest denominations of the 1927 series.

The control numbers¹ found on stamps of this type follows:

VERTICAL SCREEN

- A/26 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 and 15 millimes
- A/25 5 millimes only.

DIAGONAL SCREEN

- A/25 5 millimes only.
- A/26 2, 4 (yellow-green), 15 (ultramarine), 20 (olive), 50, 100, 200 millimes.
- A/27 1, 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 millimes, £E1.
- A/28 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 50 millimes.
- A/29 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 50, 100, 500 millimes.
- A/30 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 50, 100, 500 millimes.
- A/31 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 50 millimes.
- A/32 1, 2, 3, 5, 13, 20, 40, 50, 100 millimes.
- A/33 4, 20 millimes.
- A/34 4, 5, 10, 20, 500 millimes.
- A/35 1, 5, 15, 200, 500 millimes, £E1
- A/36 3 millimes only.
- A/37 3, 40 millimes.
- A/28 A/29 15, 20 (2) millimes.
- A/30 A/31 3, 5, 10, 100 millimes.
- A/32 A/34 1, 2 millimes.

1. Control numbers on Egyptian stamps printed at the Survey Department plant are in fact, plate numbers which indicate the year when the plate was used. There may have been more than one plate used at the same time, in which case all of them bear the same control. In cases where one or more control numbers appear it means that the same plate was called into service more than one year because it had not been worn so badly as to make the preparation of a new plate necessary.

2. This variety exists with three bars obliterating the old number, A/28 as well as four bars.

- A/33 A/34 5 millimes (3).
- A/33 A/36 40 millimes.
- A/32 A/37 100 millimes.
- A/34 A/35 1, 10 millimes.
- A/32 A/35 50 millimes.
- A/35 A/37 200 millimes.
- A/36 B/36 50 millimes.
- A/28 A/29 A/20 50 millimes.
- A/31 A/32 A/33 15 millimes.
- A/31 A/32 A/34 2 millimes.
- A/31 A/32 A/34 A/35 2 millimes.
- A/31 A/32 A/33 A/34 15 millimes.
- Without control mark 1 millime.

A set of four stamps was issued on Jan. 19, 1933, to commemorate the International Railway Congress, held at Cairo. Each of the stamps depicts a different type of locomotive used in Egypt between 1852 and 1933. The set includes the following denominations: 5, 13, 15 and 20 millimes.

In 1934 the Tenth Universal Postal Union Congress was held in Egypt and to mark the event a long set of fourteen values was prepared and released. The first twelve stamps of the set shows Ismail Pasha in civilian clothes, and the other two, which are larger in size, portray him in full regalia. The values include: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 13, 15, 20, 50, 100 and 200 millimes, 50 piastres and £E1.

On Feb. 15 of the same year the fifteenth Agricultural and Industrial Exposition was held in Cairo and five more stamps were issued. The 5 millimes shows the entrance to the Agricultural Building; the 10 and 13 millimes shows the entire facade of this structure and the 15 and 20 millimes shows the Industrial Building.



In January, 1936, a four-millimes stamp was issued with a modified design which has the same general layout as the previous series, except that the frame panels have different inscriptions. The top panel has the Arabic inscription, "Addawleh al Masrieh" (Kingdom of Egypt), the

3. This variety exists with two bars obliterating the old number, A/33 as well as with four bars.

left panel has only the word "Postes"; the right panel has the Arabic inscription of value, and the word "Mills," is placed under the "4" in the lower left corner while the Arabic, "millimet" is placed under the Arabic "4" in the lower right corner. The word "Egypte," in the curved bottom panel, moreover, is slightly smaller than in the previous issue.

In March the 20 millimes, blue, was added to the four millimes value, and although King Fouad died on April 30, 1936, the one, two and five millimes values were added to the set. The following month the 15 millimes made its appearance and in January, 1937, the set was completed by the addition of the 10 millimes denomination. These, like the former stamps, were photo-engraved by the Survey Department at Cairo. A check list follows:

- 1 millime, yellow.
 - a. bright yellow.
- 2 millimes, black.
 - a. gray-black.
- 4 millimes, green.
 - a. green-blue.
- 5 millimes, orange-brown.
 - a. inverted watermark.
- 10 millimes, violet.
 - a. lilac.
- 15 millimes, purple.
- 20 millimes, blue.

A list of control numbers follows:

- A/35 4, 20 millimes.
- A/36 1, 2, 5, 10 and 15 millimes.
- A/37 4 millimes.
- A/35 A/36 4, 20 millimes.
- A/36 A/37 1, 2 millimes.
- A/36 B/36 5 millimes (1); 10 millimes.

1. This variety exists with two or three bars obliterating the A/36.

A set of three colorful stamps was issued to mark the signing of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty, in London.



The stamps all show the scene of the conference, with Anthony Eden at the head of the table, and include the following values, which were first sold

on Dec. 22, 1936: 5, 15 and 20 millimes.

Though Farouk succeeded his father, King Fouad, on April 28, 1936, as ruler of Egypt, a regular series portraying him did not appear until July 29, 1937, the date of his investiture. Because it was issued on that day some philatelists call it the coronation set and regard the stamps as commemoratives. The watermark, a crown and the Arabic letter, "F," remained the same¹ but the design of the stamp was entirely new and shows a tendency toward modernism in philatelic layout.

A rectangular vignette portrays the young monarch, in civilian clothes, and wearing a tarboush. The figures of value, in French, at the left, and Arabic at the right, are placed between the side frame and the central rectangle, just at the side of the tarboush. In the top panel is the Arabic inscription, "Addawleh al Masrieh," and at the bottom is "Postes d' Egypte." The corners, although they are darker than the other frames in color, are square and blank. The whole stamp is rather pleasing to look upon. A check list follows:

- 1 millime, orange.
 - a. bright orange.
- 2 millimes, pale rose.
- 3 millimes, red-brown.
- 4 millimes, green.
 - a. bright green.
- 5 millimes, brown-red.
 - a. bright brown-red.
- 10 millimes, violet.
- 13 millimes, rose-carmine.
 - a. bright rose carmine.
- 15 millim c. claret.
 - a. bright claret.
- 20 millimes, blue.

A list of control numbers follows:

- A/37 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 13, 15 and 20 millimes.
- A/38 5 millimes only.

1. The letter "F" has a particular significance to the Royal Family of Egypt and as a result when he married the daughter of Yussuf Pasha Zulfikar on Jan. 20, 1938, he changed her name to Farida. His children have been named Ferial and Favzah. In the watermark the dot is over the center of the curve: it would be more accurate if this dot were over the right end of the Arabic letter.

These stamps continued in use and are even now being sold at Egyptian post offices. In 1939 higher values were added. Each of these features a bust portrait of His Majesty King Farouk, in the uniform of Marshal of the Egyptian Army, facing front. A different background is included in each value. On the 30 millimes is a scene of the three Pyramids of Giza; on the 40 millimes is the Mosque of



Hussan in Cairo; on the 50 milliemes is the Cairo Citadel, which was described in connection with the 1914 pictorials, viz., 50 milliemes denomination; the 100 milliemes shows the Assuan Dam, also described in connection with the 200 milliemes value of the 1914 set; the 200 milliemes depicts the Cairo University, which was founded by King Fouad, who was also its president before he became King of Egypt. These stamps measure $27\frac{1}{2} \times 21\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The £E1 stamp measures $23\frac{1}{2} \times 29\frac{1}{2}$ mm. and contains an oval vignette portraying His Majesty in a half length portrait, also in military uniform, surrounded by a decorative scroll design border.

Three more commemoratives were issued on Oct. 15, 1937, to commemorate the Treaty of Montreaux which abolished capitulations in Egypt. The stamps show an Egyptian watercarrier and include the following denominations: 5, 15 and 20 milliemes.

On Dec. 8, 1937, three stamps were issued as a compliment to the Ophthalmological Congress, held in Cairo at that time. The central vignette depicts the Oudjat, or "good eye" of the ancient Egyptians. The set includes the 5, 15 and 20 milliemes values.

Since the Farouk set was continued as a regular issue, this design was retained and when a new six-millieme denomination was required in 1940 was used. This new value was printed in green. The paper, watermark and perforations are the same as the previous nine values.

forations are the same as the previous nine values.

Booklets

The use of booklets as a convenient means of selling postage stamps was adopted by Egypt early in the twentieth century as evidenced by the following notice which appeared in the "Egyptian Gazette," in December, 1902:

"NOTICE

"The Egyptian Post Office intends to introduce on January 1, 1903, a convenient system of selling stamps in little booklets. Stamps may, after that date, be purchased in quantities of 24 at a time. The stamps will not adhere to each other as they will be interleaved with wax paper.

"The extra cost of buying stamps in this manner will be only one millieme per packet, and it should prove a very popular innovation, as it affords special facilities for carrying stamps in the pocket.

"Alexandria, December, 1902."

It has been learned that booklets have been regularly issued since that date, but repeated efforts to obtain official information from the Post Office Department in Egypt produced no results.

Every letter addressed to the Director of Posts, at Cairo, like many other inquiries pertaining to stamps of that country, remained unanswered. For some unknown reason the Egyptian Post Office Department is reluctant to divulge information pertaining to matters of especial interest to philatelists.

Under the circumstances, therefore, it is impossible to present a check list of booklets in used in Egypt.

OFFICIALS

The section devoted to official stamps of Egypt is unusually interesting. Few collectors realize that this country had official stamps before it had regular adhesives for ordinary postage. As early as 1865 Egyptian officials used round adhesives, commonly referred to today as Interpostal Seals. These were affixed generally



to the flap of the envelope in which official correspondence was mailed so they served both as a frank and as a seal. Most catalogs do not recognize these interpostals, which were in use continuously between 1865 and 1892, primarily because there are too many varieties. (There are over 1,000 of them, and if any collector is interested enough in their study he is referred to a series, written by the compiler of the present work, and published by "Weekly Philatelic Gossip.")

The job of preparing a separate interpostal for every city and town in Egypt became increasingly difficult with the expansion of the country, so in 1892 the following notice was posted in various offices in Egypt:

"The public is hereby informed that the special postage stamps, which, from January first, will be used exclusively for official correspondence, will be on sale at the Alexandria and Cairo Post Offices on and after the 5th proxo. Price 1 P. T. each stamp. Alexandria, 30th December, 1892."

The stamp is unusual in the fact that it has no face value: it was intended that a single copy would be used to frank any one piece of official correspondence, regardless of size or weight. Under the circumstances, postmarked pairs, strips and blocks, legitimately used, should not exist.

The design resembles the 1889 postage due series in layout. The top panel is inscribed, "Postes Egyptiennes" and the bottom "posta Masri," in Arabic. The oval center panel has the French, "Service de l'Etat" and the Arabic, "Meeri," both of which might be translated as meaning, government service. A star is in each corner and decorative patterns fill out the remainder of the stamp's design. These were surface-printed in sheets of 240 stamps each, arranged in four panes of sixty stamps, by Thomas de la Rue and Company of London.

In 1905, when the de la Rue Company adopted the use of chalk paper, this stamp was, like the regular and postage due stamps, printed on this coated stock. The chalk paper varieties of the "Meeri" stamp, therefore, are the first officials of the twentieth century.

The use of the Meeri stamp was not entirely satisfactory, for it did not allow the government to keep track of all the mail dispatched, so it was decided to issue a set of official stamps with a face value that could be distributed to officials for use at the same rates established for public correspondence.



Accordingly, on Jan. 29, 1907, an order was published stating that all officials, except those who enjoyed the franking privilege, must use the

1. Unregistered correspondence of Ministers, Counsellors and Under-Secretaries of State required no stamp if it was franked by the sender's signature and office handstamp. Official journals and government printed matter required neither stamp nor frank. Government correspondence sent to foreign lands had to be franked with regular postage stamps in the same manner and at the same rate as public correspondence.

2. Because the Arabic word in the central oval (related to the Turkish Amir . . . Prince . . .) was pronounced "meeri," the stamp became popularly known as the "meeri issue."

new overprinted stamps. On Feb. 1, 1907, the new set made its appearance. It comprised the stamps issued in 1889-'89 (on chalk paper) overprinted with the letters, "O.H.H.S." and the Arabic, "Ameeri."

The stamps were originally issued at the post office in sheets of 240 stamps each, arranged in four panes of sixty stamps. Ignoring the panes, each sheet contained twelve rows of twenty stamps.

The overprints, as well as the basic stamps were produced by Thomas de la Rue and Company, of London. The job, moreover, was so proficiently executed that there are no minor varieties to trouble the collector.

A check list follows:

- 1 millieme, brown.
- 2 millienes, green.
 - a. double overprint *4.
- 3 millienes, yellow orange.
- 5 millienes, carmine.
- 1 piastre, blue.
 - a. bright blue.
 - b. ultramarine.
- 5 piastres, gray.
 - a. gray-black.
 - b. bright gray.

On Jan. 1, 1909, the meeri stamp was re-introduced by an order dated, Dec. 17, 1908, but as before, its use was restricted to non-registered correspondence sent to destinations within Egypt only. If the piece of mail was to be registered additional official stamps, bearing a face value were required to prepay the registry rate.

In November, 1913, the supply of the five-millienes denomination became exhausted, and a provisional was required as a new supply could not be ordered from London in time. The supply was so rapidly exhausted, as a matter of fact, that for a time a four-millieme stamp was accepted for use until the new stamp was received and distributed.

Sheets of the regular five-millienes stamp were sent to the Government Printing Office at Boulag where they were hurriedly overprinted with simply "O.H.H.S." In a treatise published by The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain and reprinted in L'

3. An abbreviation for On His Highness' Service. Egypt was under the rule of a Khedive at the time and "His Highness" referred to him.

*4. The 2 millienes value with the double overprint was not catalogued by Gibbons until 1934. In his series on official stamps of Egypt, Douglas McNeille states that he has never seen a copy of this error, nor was it in the A. S. Mackenzie Low collection which was sold to King Fouad. It is not listed by the Specialized Catalogue of Egyptian Stamps, compiled by Georges Zehri.

Orient Philatelique, Douglas McNeille states that the overprint was made up of an original hand-set group of two by six abbreviations transferred to electrotpe forms, which were subsequently applied to full sheets of the regular stamp.

The haste with which these stamps were produced, and the poor craftsmanship of the employees of the plant, resulted in the production of several mistakes, all of which are recognized as minor varieties by philatelists.

The check list, which follows, will cover these:

- 5 millienes, carmine, "O.H.H.S."
 - a. without period after the "S."
- b. inverted overprint *1.
- c. inverted overprint, without period after the "S."
- d. the left side of the "O" is missing.
- e. the left upright of the second "H" is short.
- f. the right upright of the second "H" extends below the level of the other letters.
- g. a double apostrophe after the "S" *2.

1. According to available records, one entire sheet was made with the overprint inverted. This one was sold and used during March and April, at the Zifta post office.

2. This variety is somewhat mysterious though it is regarded as having been genuinely produced and issued. It was discovered in 1914 or 1915 by E. L. Angeloglou, a stamp dealer in Cairo. Shortly thereafter a large quantity of these provisionals were purchased by a collector in Cairo, and among them found a strip of three containing this variety. To date about a dozen specimens, all used, have been found. It is surmised that this was a trial overprint which had been rejected but that some of them got into circulation.

In June, 1914, a second printing of the meeri stamp was made by the de la Rue firm. This printing was made in sheets comprising six panes of 100 stamps each, arranged 10 x 10. Actually there is no definite way of



distinguishing this printing from the previous one, on chalk paper.

In accordance with an order of December, 1914, five stamps of the regular issues of 1888-1914 were overprinted for official use by the Government Printing Office at Boulag, in full



Inverted Surcharge.

sheets without the removal of the sheet margins. The typography was composed of electro settings arranged in groups of 2x6, providing type variations which make plating and study possible.

The first two stamps of this new set comprised the two-millimetre value of 1902, and the four-millimetre value of 1906. There are two printings of the two-millimetre stamp which may be distinguished by the differences in non-recurring minor varieties.

The first two stamps were issued in sheets of 240 stamps each, just as they were issued as regular stamps.

Later the 1, 3 and 5 millimetre denominations of the 1914 series were overprinted with the same¹ type and issued in sheets of 200 stamps each.

As in every other set produced at Boulag, this series of stamps has an abundance of minor varieties to spice the endeavors of the philatelists who make a specialty of this type of material. The setting for the overprint on the last three stamps is 2x5 instead of 2x6.

A check list follows:

- 1 millimetre, brown.
 - a. no period after the "S."
 - b. overprint misplaced so that the Arabic inscription is at the top and the "O.H.H.S." is at the bottom of the stamp.
 - c. the Arabic alif (first character from the right) is broken.
- 2 millimetre, green.
 - a. double overprint #2.
 - b. inverted overprint.
 - c. overprint misplaced, as described before.
 - d. without period after the "S."
 - e. double overprint, without period after the "S."

- 3 millimetre, orange-yellow.
 - a. overprint misplaced, as described before.
 - b. without period after the "S."
 - c. round period after the "S."
 - d. the Arabic alif is broken.
- 4 millimetre, vermilion.
 - a. inverted overprint.
- 5 millimetre, carmine.
 - a. overprint misplaced, as described before.
 - b. without period after the "S."
 - c. Arabic alif is broken.

1. "O.H.H.S." (On His Highness' Service) and the Arabic, Ameer.

*2. Only the two-millimetre value exists with the overprint double, and in describing a mint block of four of them, in the A. S. Mackenzie Low collection, the cataloguer states: "One sheet was found showing nine stamps at the upper right corner with the overprint double. These were torn out and the other five sold." Only these last five, therefore, are now available to philatelists.

In October, 1915, the 2, 4 and 5 millimetre values were again overprinted, but this time with an over-



print which shows an Arabic hamza over the alif. This overprint was executed by lithography and from all

indications, one design was drawn on a stone and then transferred to the actual printing surface, as no recurring varieties can be found. There are, however, numerous minor varieties caused by faulty transfers, such as broken letters, indistinct periods after the abbreviations, etc. The overprint, moreover, can be found misplaced on the basic stamps in varying degrees.

Since these stamps on an envelope protected it from censorship during the World War I, citizens with political influence often obtained copies and employed them on personal mail.

One sheet of the five-millimetre value is known with the overprint badly shifted, due to the fact that the sheet was creased before it was inserted into the press.

As in the previous issue, the 2 and 4 millimetre stamps were issued in sheets of 240 stamps each; the 5 millimetre, in sheets of 200 stamps each.

A check list follows:

- 2 millimetre, green (1).
 - a. inverted overprint.
 - b. double overprint.
 - c. misplaced overprint.
 - d. the letter, "S", is below the level of the other letters.
- 4 millimetre, vermilion (1).
- 5 millimetre, carmine (1, 2, 3).
 - a. overprint misplaced.

The figures in brackets indicate the plate numbers found on sheets of this issue.

On March 13, 1922, the five-millimetre stamp of the Harrison issue appeared with the same overprint, also lithographed by the Government Printing Office at Boulag. Late¹ the 1, 2 and 3 millimetre value of the pictorials was added to make a complete set



which replaced the former issue, which was, by that time, exhausted.

The overprint was applied to full sheets of 100 stamps each in settings

of 5x5 on 1, 2 and 5 millimetre stamps. The setting was probably the same for the 3 millimetre² value, but as this stamp is scarce large blocks have not been available to check this point.

The variety of the 1-millimetre stamp, with the two Arabic dots missing under the inscription in the right panel exists in the overprint.

As the top and left sheet margins were removed to facilitate overprinting, stamps with the control numbers attached, are unknown.

A check list follows:

- 1 millimetre, brown (A20, A22, A23).
 - a. dots missing under Arabic inscription in lateral panel.
- 2 millimetre, vermilion (B21, B22, B23).
- 3 millimetre, orange (A21).
- 5 millimetre, pale rose (B21, B22, B23).

The numbers in brackets indicate the control numbers of sheets used in making these provisionals.

1. The 2 millimetre stamp appeared on June 16, the 1 and 3 millimetre values appeared on June 28, 1922.

2. Because of its comparative scarcity, the 3 millimetre value, with the hamza over the alif, is commonly encountered with a faked overprint, the most conspicuous flaws of which are enumerated below:

- a. The overprint is crude in general.
- b. All four periods after the O.H.H.S. are round instead of square.
- c. The top curve of the "S" in the fakes is oval rather than perfectly rounded.
- d. In the fakes, the distance between the S is 15 1/4 mm. while in the genuine stamp it is exactly 15 mm.

The printing of all the official stamps between 1913 to 1922 was done on presses which required manual feeding and often the presses operated faster than the men who inserted the sheets of stamps. It often happened that the inked type struck the bed of the press before a sheet had been inserted so that when the following sheet was fed into the press, it not only received the regular impression on the face of the stamp, but also an offset reversed overprint on the reverse side. Because the sheets were already gummed, the offset hit the gum and not the paper so that examples of this variety are found only on unused stamps, or cancelled copies that had the postmark applied by favor. These are not uncommon, but Egyptian specialists like to add them to their collections and will pay a slight premium to obtain them.

On March 15, 1922, Fouad became the first king of modern Egypt, and to mark the occasion, as well as to make the new official stamps technically correct, the entire set of pic-

torials, from one to fifty milliemmes, was overprinted, "O.H.E.M.S." — Al Hakumeh Al Mulkeh Al Masrieh" (The Government of the Kingdom of Egypt).

Of all Egyptian sets, this one has been studied more thoroughly by experts than any others. Comprehensive articles have been written and published about printings, settings and minor varieties to be found in this issue, and an attempt to set all the known facts down in this series would comprise both duplication and plagiarism. For the benefit of American collectors who may not have had an opportunity of reading these studies, the major varieties will be described so that they may be singled out by the philatelic sportsman.

In all, there are six printings of this official overprint, each of which may be distinguished from the other by the serious student and classified

stamps of all denominations except the 50 milliemmes.

C. A space between the first two characters from the left, in the bottom line, so that the entire line is about 1/2 mm. longer than the normal overprint. Found only on the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 blue, and 15 large, milliemmes stamps.

D. The period after the "M" is only a faint speck, or missing entirely. Found on stamps of all denominations except the 50 milliemmes.

E. Two periods after the "H" and none after the "S". Found only on the 3, 4, 5, 10 carmine, and both 15 milliemmes stamps.



5 Milliemmes, Double Overprint.

F. The two dots under the "ye" in the middle of the bottom line are missing. Found only on the 4, 5, 10 carmine, and both 15 milliemmes stamps.

G. Round period after the "S." Found only on the 4, 5, 10 carmine, and both 15 milliemmes values.

H. Double overprint. Exists only on the 5 milliemmes value.

I. Broken characters in the Arabic portion of the overprint. All values have such broken characters which may be spotted by collectors without difficulty. Some fractures are small but others are so large that entire letters (Arabic) are missing. As these are as constant as the aforementioned varieties, philatelists may use them to identify stamp positions in the sheet.

1. An abbreviation for "On His Egyptian Majesty's Service," which shows that Foud was now king of Egypt, and no longer merely a sultan, or khedive.

2. The existence of this variety was explained as follows: In setting the type for the overprint by hand, the compositor noticed that the period after the "S" was defective so he took it out of the form. While he picked out another period from his font the rest of the type in the form shifted. Without checking, he replaced the new period slug in the opening he saw, which happened to be after the period behind the "H." The form was locked up and the overprint applied to several sheets of various denominations (this was done so that a supply of all values could be distributed as soon as possible; otherwise the entire stock of one denomination after another, would have been printed) before the error was spotted and subsequently corrected.

A check list follows:

1 millieme, olive-brown (A20, A22).

- without the two points under the Arabic inscription in right panel.
- space between "E" and "M."
- dots under the "ye" below the "re."
- period missing after "M."

2 milliemmes, vermilion (B22).

- dots under the "ye" below the "re."
- period missing after "M."

3 milliemmes, orange (A21).

- dots under the "ye" below the "re."
- period missing after the "M."
- two dots after the "H" and none after the "S." (B21, B23).

4 milliemmes, green.

- two dots after the "H" and none after the "S."
- space between the "E" and "M."
- period missing after the "M."
- dots under the "ye" below the "re."
- two dots under middle of bottom line are missing.

5 milliemmes, pale rose (B22, B23).

- two periods after the "H" and none after the "S."
- no period after the "M."
- two dots under the "ye" below the "re."
- two dots under the middle of the bottom line are missing.
- space between the "E" and "M."
- double overprint.

10 milliemmes, blue (A20).

- two dots under the "ye" below the "re."
- no period after the "M."

10 milliemmes, carmine-lake (B23).

- two periods after the "H" and none after the "S."
- space between the "E" and "M."
- no period after the "M."
- two dots under the "ye" below the "re."

15 milliemmes, blue (small inscriptions) (A21).

- two periods after the "H" and none after the "S."
- space between the "E" and "M."
- two dots under the "ye" below the "re."
- no period after the "M."

15 milliemmes, blue (large inscriptions) (B22).

- two periods after the "H" and none after the "S."
- no period after the "M."

- two dots under the "ye" below the "re."
- two dots under the middle of the bottom line are missing.
- space between the "E" and "M."
- 50 milliemmes, claret (A22).
- a space between the "E" and "M."



Block of the 5 Milliemmes, Showing the Wide Spacing Between the E and M.



Block of the 10 milliemmes, showing the "dropped dots" variety.



10 Milliemmes, Inverted Overprint.

as "Printings A, B, C, D, E and F." Classification is possible by the recognition and position of minor varieties on the sheets. The more important ones are tabulated herewith:

A. Wide space between the "E" and "M" and found only on the 1, 4, 5, 10 carmine, both 15, and 50 milliemmes denominations.

B. The two dots under the last "ye" (second Arabic character from the left, in the bottom line) are dropped below the level of the tip of the following character, "re." Found on the



Block of the 4 millimetres, showing the variety, "Two dots after the H, none after the S,"

The numbers in brackets indicate the plate number of the sheets overprinted.

In 1924, after the provisional officials of 1922 had been used up, and after the regular King Fouad stamps had been introduced for regular postage, a supply of the latter was sent to the Survey Department of Egypt¹ where an order was placed to have them overprinted for official use. The



familiar "Ameeri" was again used and these characters were applied by typography. There are three distinct types of the overprint, each of which may be distinguished as follows:

- A. There is a space between the first and second Arabic characters from the left. The whole overprint measures 7½ mm.
- B. These two characters are joined. The overprint measures only 7 mm.
- C. The first character from the left ("ye") is considerably larger than on the other types.

1. This was the first job of making stamps which was done at the Survey Department. The first actual postage stamp made at this plant was the Geographic Congress commemorative of 1925.

The stamps were issued by the post-offices in full sheets of 100 stamps each (10 x 10) and were overprinted direct from type in one block of 100.



Block of the 5 Millimetres, Showing Variety, "Two Dots After H, None After the S."

The top and right margins were removed from the sheets before printing so that the control numbers were not destroyed.

A check list follows:

- (Overprinted in black on all values except the 2 millimetres, which is overprinted in red).
- 1 millimetre, yellow-orange (B23, B24).
 - 2 millimetres, black (C23, C24, C25).
 - 3 millimetres, brown (C23, C24).
 - 4 millimetres, yellow-green (C23, C24, C25).
 - 5 millimetres, red-brown (C23).
 - 10 millimetres, red-rose (C23, C24).
 - 50 millimetres, sea green (has no control number).

As soon as the Survey Department of Egypt undertook the printing of its country's stamps an order was placed for definitive official issues and in 1926 a set of nine different stamps for official service appeared.

These were lithographed and in layout, are very similar to the postage due series made by the Survey Department.

The upper and lower left corners is the figure of value, expressed in Latin numerals; in the upper and lower right corners is the same figure, expressed in Arabic. The top panel contains the Arabic inscription, "Al Mamlaka Masrieh," while the bottom panel contains the inscription, "Al

Bareed Al Masri." In the left lateral panel is the inscription of value, expressed in French. In the opposite panel is the same inscription, expressed in Arabic. The frame of the inner oval are the words, "Royaume D'Egypte-Postes." Within that oval are the words, "Service" and "De L'Etat," and "Ameeri" between them.

Conventionalized lotus flowers are used as decorative designs to separate the frame design from the central oval. With the exception of a very few varieties in which retouched designs are discernable, there are no minor varieties.



A check list follows:

Size 18½ x 22½ mm.

- 1 millimetre, orange (A/26, A/36, A/37).
- 2 millimetres, black (A/26, A/37).
- 3 millimetres, brown (A/26, A/37).
- 4 millimetres, yellow-green (A/26, A/37).
- 5 millimetres, brown (A/26, A/31, A/33, A/35, A/37).
- 10 millimetres, violet (A/33, A/34, A/36, A/37).
- 15 millimetres, blue (A/26, A/32).

Size 22½ x 27½ mm.

- 20 millimetres, olive-green (A/26).
- 50 millimetres, blue-green (A/26).
- a. green (A/35, A/36, A/37).

On Feb. 1, 1932, the colors of the 10 and 15 millimetres stamps were changed from red to violet, and from blue to lilac, respectively. In Oct. 1935, the 20 millimetres, green, stamp in the large size was withdrawn and a new blue stamp, in the small size, was issued to replace it. We have therefore the following additions to the check list:

Size 18½ x 22½ mm.

- 10 millimetres, violet (A/33, A/34, A/36, A/37).
- 15 millimetres, lilac (A/33, A/36, A/37).
- 20 millimetres, blue (A/35, A/36, A/37).



In 1938 the Survey Department changed the design of the official stamps. In addition to the altered make-up, the new stamps are horizontal instead of vertical as before.

Like the previous set, these are lithographed.

In the lower and upper left corners are the Latin figures of value, with Arabic numerals in the opposite corners. "Al bareed al Masri," in Arabic is again in the top panel, while "millieme" is written in French at the left, and in Arabic, at the right. The central oval has "Service de l'Etat," in modern, block letters, arranged around the edge, while the Arabic, "Hakumi" (governmental) is in the center. "Postes d'Egypte" is in the bottom panel.

A check list follows:

Size $22\frac{1}{2} \times 19$ mm.

- 1 millieme, orange.
- 2 millimes, red.
- 3 millimes, olive-brown.
- 4 millimes, yellow-green.
- 5 millimes, brown.
- 10 millimes, bright violet.
- 15 millimes, rose-violet.
- 20 millimes, blue.

Size $26\frac{1}{2} \times 22$ mm.

- 50 millimes, myrtle green.

AIRMAILS

Although the first airmail adhesive was issued in Egypt on March 10, 1926, scheduled flights carried mail between Cairo and many parts of the Near East long before that date.

Airmail service was inaugurated by the Royal Air Force as a complement to their flights between Egypt and Iraq. In March, 1921, a conference between the Colonial Secretary of State for Great Britain, the Chief of the Air Staff, the local British Army and Air Force Commanders was held, at which it was decided to develop an air route between Cairo and Bagdad. Captain Leslie S. Potter of the Royal Air Force quoted the following reasons for having reached their conclusion:

- "A. Such an air route would afford students of the R.A.F. an opportunity of doing some practical training flying.
- "B. This route would link communications chains existing between Europe and India, and possibly, Australia.
- "C. It would establish a line of rapid communication and troop transport from the extensive bases of Egypt to unsettled areas of Palestine, Iraq and Trans-Jordan.
- "D. It was to establish and develop a regular airmail route to the Near East."

The first flight commenced in August, 1921, when a bi-weekly schedule was planned. A list of dates on which various first flights from Egypt were established is available. In each instance the rate mentioned is a sur-tax, a charge made in addition to the regular first-class letter rate. This list was published in the "Air Post Journal" for September and October, 1941.

The first planes used to carry mail out of Egypt were single-engined De Havillands of the 9-A type, powered with 400 h.p. Liberty motors. Various other types, such as Vimys, Vickers, Vernon and later, Victorias, were all engaged in this first route.

The mail carried was generally landed at Cairo, though delivery was occasionally made at Alexandria, 131 miles further on.

The Imperial Airways, Ltd., took over the operation of the Cairo-Bagdad route as soon as the airway was well established and charted. Their first plane over the line flew Dec. 31, 1926. Continual extensions and links between that route and existing, or subsequently developed routes of other lines soon connected the Egyptian air-

mail service with international lanes encircling the world.

The first Egyptian airmail stamp was produced by the photogravure process at the Cairo plant of the Survey Department of Egypt. It depicts one of the De Havilland planes in flight over the Nile. The top panel has the French inscription, "Royaume d-Egypte," and the Arabic counterpart, "Addawleh al Masrieh," (Kingdom of Egypt). "Milliemes," in French and Arabic are in the left and right lateral panels, respectively. In small characters, at either side of the plane is the Arabic inscription, "Bareed Gawee," (Air-poste).

In the bottom corners are the numerals, "27" in Latin and Arabic figures. "Poste Aerienne" is in the bottom panel between the figures.

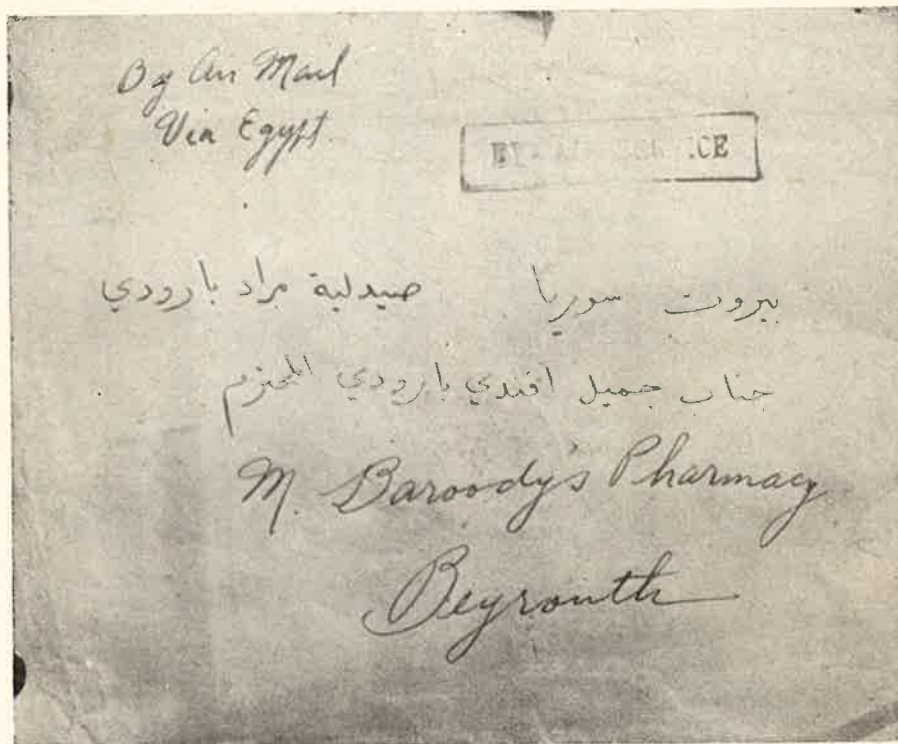
The stamps were printed in purple on white paper with a watermark consisting of a crown and the Arabic letter, "F" (initial of Fouad, king of Egypt), multiple.

The control number of the plates from which these were printed is A/25. The perforations gauge $13\frac{1}{2}$.

After having been in use for nearly three years, these stamps were issued in brown instead of purple. The design, watermark and perforations, however, remained the same so that the philatelist has no difficulty in distinguishing the two. The control number of the new stamps is A/29 and they were first placed on sale on July 17, 1929.

When it was announced that the Graf Zeppelin would make a special trip from Friederichshaven to the Holy Land, via Cairo, the Egyptian Postmaster General hurriedly authorized the emission of two stamps that would simultaneously commemorate the visit and prepay postage on mail carried from Cairo by the great German dirigible.

There wasn't sufficient time to design new adhesives for the occasion so the order, decreed by the Egyptian Postmaster General, called for the provisional overprinting of the brown 27-millimes stamp of 1929. One thousand sheets of these were sent to the Government Printing Office at Boulak with a requisition that they be appropriately surcharged.



Cover Carried on Pioneer RAF Flight from Bagdad to Cairo in 1922

Half the quantity was to be for the 50-millimes (post card rate), in blue, and the other half for the 100-millimes (letter rate), in violet. The words, "Graf Zeppelin-April 1931, we're inscribed in French and Arabic, together with the new figures of value. Bars obliterated the "27."

The entire overprinting plate of fifty subjects was handset from type fonts in stock at the Boulac plant. As may well be expected, handsetting of a form like this resulted in the creation of several flaws, the characteristics of which give the advanced specialist an opportunity of plating the issue.

Though it is possible to distinguish all fifty surcharges, there are several flaws that are so striking that they have been recognized as minor varieties by the leading catalogues.

1. 50/27 millimes, blue on brown.
 - a. 1951 instead of 1931.

- b. The Arabic "5" (the large circular character), touches and joins the line of Arabic characters above it.
- c. The "n" of Zeppelin is considerably larger than the other letters of the word.
2. 100/27 millimes, violet on brown.
 - a. A large dot in front of the Arabic "100."
 - b. The bars obliterating the "27" are both badly bent.

This commemorative set was placed on sale only three weeks before the arrival of the Graf Zeppelin, at post-offices in Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said and Suez.

The Graf arrived in Cairo on April 10, 1931, and after a short cruise over Egypt, left for Palestine with 747 cards and 1,711 letters destined for the Holy Land. Through some slip, none of these were delivered there, but returned to Cairo where an additional 4,046 cards and 5,908 letters were placed aboard for the return flight to Germany.



The following is an official record released for publication by the Egyptian postal administration pertaining to the Graf Zeppelin stamps:

Delivered to the Post Office Department:

A. Postally used	8,000 sets
B. Cancelled to order	1,000 "
C. Sold in unused condition	9,540 "
	18,540 Sets

Other distributed:

A. Officers and crew of Graf Zeppelin	2,000 sets
B. Sent to U.P.U., Berne	1,600 "
C. Destroyed in the course of printing	2,950 "
	6,550 Sets
Total	25,000 Sets

This set is one of the most popular of all issued for the Graf Zeppelin and at the present low catalogue value,



Graf Zeppelin Block of 50 Millimes Showing Error, 1951 Instead of 1931 on Lower Left Stamp.



Minor Variety of 100 Milliemes
Showing Dot in Front of Arabic
100

it ought to make a fine buy for the wise collector.

With the broadening of Egypt's aerial connections with the rest of the world and the consequent multitude of varying rates, it was thought advisable to issue an entire series of airmail stamps to frank mail carried in that manner. The Survey Department, therefore, printed a set of twenty different values, ranging from one to 200 milliemes.

The design of the stamp, which is identical for all values, depicts a Handley-Page Transport plane, with four engines and capable of carrying forty passengers. The accommodations in this type of plane are luxurious and include a bar and installed radio. The power is provided by four Bristol-Jupiter radial air-cooled engines of 550 h.p. It can carry a payload of 7,000 pounds.

The ship is shown flying over the Gizeh pyramids. In the foreground is Khufu, then Khefren, and behind, Menkaura. In the background, behind the Khufu Pyramid (better known as Cheops, its Greek name) the collector will find a portion of the golf course that has been built in connection with the Mena House Hotel.

In the top panel is the French word, "Egypte," and the Arabic, "Ad-

dawla al Masrieh" (Kingdom of Egypt). The figure of value, in French and Arabic, are in squares just below the top panel, at left and right, respectively.

In the bottom are the French "Poste Aerienn" and "Bareed Gawee," which, translated mean Airmail service.

In May, 1938, the color of the two milliemes stamp was changed from gray and black to orange and black. Later in the same year the stock of this set was so large that a postal decree made it possible for residents of Egypt to use airmail stamps in the prepayment of rates on any other postal service.

On Dec. 20, 1934, Egypt issued a set of five commemorative stamps to mark the International Aviation Congress, which was held in Cairo at that time. Because the stamps all carried designs of airships they have come to be recognized as airpost items.

The five and ten milliemes values depict one of the huge transport-passenger planes used by the Misr Airlines of Egypt at that time; the 13 and 15 milliemes values depict the German Dornier Wahl airship, the DO-X, one of the largest sea planes ever built, while the last of the series, the 20 milliemes, depicts the Graf Zeppelin, whose postal service is internationally known by philatelists.



100 Millieme with Dot in Front of 1931

POSTAGE DUES

In considering the postage due stamps of Egypt we must again take into consideration that the de la Rue Company, of London, had the stamp printing contract and that a distinctive design was introduced in 1889 and that these designs remained in use between then and 1922 when the Harrison Company took over.

The design is a simple one, embracing only an oval panel in the center, containing the figure of value and the word, "Milliemes," on either side. The



frame is inscribed, at the top, in Arabic, "Mustahik—ashra al kirsh"; "Posta Masri," in Arabic, at the left; "Postes Egyptiennes," at the right, and "A Percevoir" (postage due), at the bottom.

When the chalk-surface paper was introduced in 1905-'06, this new, coated stock was also used in making the postage dues so that the collector must consider the paper on which the stamps are printed in order to distinguish the original issue from the twentieth century one.

The two milliemes value on chalk paper appeared in 1906 and the remaining three denominations were first reported the following year.

A check list follows:

- 2 milliemes, green.
 - a. inverted watermark.
 - b. watermark sideways.
- 4 milliemes, maroon.
 - a. inverted watermark.
 - b. watermark sideways.
- 1 piastre, blue.
 - a. inverted watermark.
 - b. watermark sideways.
- 2 piastres, yellow-orange.
 - a. watermark inverted.
 - b. diagonal half, used as 1 piastre.

A decree, published in the "Weekly Bulletin of the Egyptian Postal Department," on Feb. 14, 1898, gives the

1. See description previously given.

reason for a provisional stamp that was issued during that year, as follows:

"In accordance with the regulations now in force the postage on letters from and to non-commissioned officers and soldiers in the Egyptian Army, in garrison on the frontier, as well as at Suakin and Tokar, is fixed at 3 milliemes for prepaid and 6 milliemes for unpaid letters.

"This tariff is applicable also to letters of soldiers taking part in the Expedition to the Sudan; and, in consideration of the fact that such soldiers will most frequently be in places where they are unable to obtain postage stamps, it has been decided that unpaid letters sent by them shall only be liable to the single rate of 3 mil., instead of 6 mil. Consequently, all unpaid letters duly countersigned by the officer commanding the corps to which the sender belongs, and coming from a part in the Sudan where no post offices exist, will only be charged on delivery with 3 milliemes. For the purpose of indicating this rate the department proposes to convert 2 piastres unpaid letter stamps into 3 milliemes by means of a surcharge"

In 1889, accordingly, the announced provisional appeared, having been produced at the Government Printing Office, at Boulaq. It is placed diagonally across the yellow stamp, in black and reads, "3 Milliemes-3 Ashar al kirsh." There are a number of minor varieties in this issue, but as it is definitely a member of the nineteenth century group they will neither be mentioned nor tabulated here.

The only reason the stamp was mentioned at all is that in 1905 another printing was made by the Government Printing Office, at Boulaq, and while the inscription appears to be identical there are a few minor differences, most conspicuous of which may be seen in the "Alif" (the first Arabic letter from the right). In the 1898 printing this consists of just a vertical line. The 1905 provisional has an "hamzah" over the alif. The hamzah cannot be perfectly defined in English except to say that it corresponds, in a great measure, to the "breathing marks" of the Greeks. It

looks very much like a reversed figure 2.

As may be expected, the crude equipment at Boulag, and the carelessness of the printers engaged in mak-



ing the provisional, combined to produce a number of minor varieties, all of which are eagerly sought after by Egyptian philatelic specialists. Rarest of these are the inverted surcharge; the double surcharge, and the surcharge in which the first "1" of "Milliemes" is broken and tips to the right, touching the following letter.

A check list follows:

- 3 milliemes on 2 piastres, yellow-orange.
 - a. chalk paper.
 - b. inverted surcharge.
 - c. double surcharge.
 - d. period after "milliemes."
 - e. "1" of "Milliemes" broken.
 - f. portion of the Arabic inscription missing.
 - g. pair, one stamp with double surcharge.

This provisional and the regular series of four denominations on chalk paper remained in constant use until the stamp printing contract was given to the Harrison and Sons company. Even then the designs were considered



satisfactory and the master dies were, like the dies of the pictorial series, turned over by the de la Rue firm.

In line with the Egyptian policy, adopted after the settlement of the Fashoda Incident, of inscribing her

stamps in the English language, the Harrison company changed "Postes Egyptiennes" to "Egypt Postage" in the right lateral panel, and "A Percevoir" to "Postage Due" in the bottom panel. The piastre values were no longer produced and higher millieme denominations substituted.

The two and four-milliemes values have "milliemes" arranged at either side of the numeral in the center of the stamp; the 10-milliemes shows the "milliemes" in a narrow band across the numeral in the center.

The new Harrison paper, that with the triple crescent and star, was employed in making these dues.



A check list follows:

- 2 milliemes, green (A20).
 - a. inverted watermark (A21).
- 4 milliemes, vermilion (A20).
- 10 milliemes, blue (A20).

Later in 1922, when the colors of the pictorial stamps were changed, the same alteration was made in the postage due issue. The design remained the same but the colors are different as indicated by the check list:

- 2 milliemes, vermilion (B22, B23, B25).
 - a. inverted watermark (B24, B25).
- 4 milliemes, green (B21, B23).
 - a. inverted watermark (B24, B25, B26).
- 10 milliemes, carmine (B22, B23).
 - a. inverted watermark (B24, B25).

The control numbers of the plates used in making this set are indicated in parentheses.

When Sultan Fouad was made King of Egypt in 1922, the pictorial stamps then in use were overprinted with a crown and Arabic inscription, "Al Mulkeh al Masrieh 15 Mars 1922," indicating the day on which Fouad was named King of Egypt. The postage due stamps were the same size as the small pictorials except that they were horizontal, so rather than make up a separate overprinting form, the same lithographed overprinting form

used for the aforementioned pictorials was used by the Government Printing Office to produce provisional postage dues.

In feeding the sheets into the press the diagonal overprint struck the basic



stamps in such a manner that it appears to be inverted.

All supplies of the first three denominations, and 26,000 copies of the 2 piastres¹ denomination were so overprinted before it occurred to one of the printers that by feeding the stamps into the press in the opposite direction the overprint would appear "normal." As a result the remaining 8,000 copies of the two piastres value were printed in the "correct" manner.

A check list follows:

- 2 milliemes, vermilion (B22, B23).
- 4 milliemes, green (B23).
- 10 milliemes, carmine (B23).
- 2 piastres, orange (1).
 - a. overprint "normal" (1).

The numbers in brackets indicate the plate or control numbers of the stamps overprinted.

By 1926 the existing stock of postage due stamps had been exhausted and a new supply was required and as the Survey Department of Egypt had undertaken the production of stamps an order was placed with that plant for new postage dues. It was officially issued on March 16, 1927.

The design is a simple one, and as these adhesives were used only in Egypt, the Arabic figure of value was given a prominent position in an oval central vignette around which the

1. This is still one of the values originally printed by the de la Rue Company in 1880.

French words, "A Percevoir- . . . Milliemes," were arranged.

In each upper corner is a square containing the figure of value. The top panel is inscribed in Arabic, "Al-bareed al Masri" while in the left panel is the Arabic, "ogra mustahikeh" (penalty fee), and in the right panel is the Arabic, "millieme". In the bottom panel is "Postes Egyptiennes." Decorative lotus plant designs separate the central vignette from the frame.



The check list follows:

Size 18 x 22½mm.

- 2 milliemes, gray-black (A/28, A/30, A/31, A/32, A/34, A/35, A/36).
 - a. gray (A/20).
 - b. bright gray-black (A/26).
- 4 milliemes, blue-green (A/27, A/28, A/34).
 - a. yellow-green (A/26).
 - b. bright green (A/35, A/36, A/38).
- 5 milliemes, red-brown (A/26, A/27).
- 8 milliemes, plum (A/26).
 - a. bright claret (A/35, A/36).
- 10 milliemes, pale red (A/26).
 - a. brick red (A/28).
 - b. bright brick red (A/28, A/29, A/30, A/33, A/34).
 - c. red (A/36, A/38).

Size 22 x 27½mm.

- 30 milliemes, bright violet (A/26, A/27).

1. The 30 milliemes is inscribed "thalathun millieme."

In December, 1932, the color of the four-milliemes stamp was changed from green to olive-brown. The design, paper and watermark remained the same.

- 4 milliemes, olive-brown (A/31, A/32).

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Egypt had special delivery service for many years, but because this country's stamps were formerly made by foreign engraving firms the cost of preparing separate, distinctive adhesives for special delivery letters was considered to be unnecessary. Until the first adhesive of this type appeared, ordinary postage stamps were used and only the inscription, "Expres," written across the envelope, or indicated by a printed label, was required to procure special delivery service for the letter so sent.

In 1925, however, when the Survey Department of Egypt was assigned to the task of making its country's stamps, the addition of a special delivery stamp was made. The stamp die was made and plates were photo-engraved during 1925 and the early part of 1926, but as printing regular stamps and three commemorative sets



occupied most of the Department's time and equipment, the stamps were not finished promptly. They were placed on sale at post offices on Nov. 25, 1926.

The design depicts a native mail carrier speeding across a desert road, astride a modern motorcycle. A group of six palm trees is at the left, in the background. The square in each upper corner contains a crescent and three stars while the top, curved panel is inscribed with the Arabic characters reading, "Addawla al Masrieh" (Kingdom of Egypt). In the left lateral panel, reading up, is the French, "Expres," and the right lateral panel is the Arabic, "Albareed al Mostaagel" (Special delivery service). In a circular panel in the lower left is "20 Mills" and in the right corner

is the Arabic numeral, 20, and the Arabic inscription, "Millieman." "Royaume d'Egypte" is in the bottom panel.

The first printing of these stamps was made in green ink and they appear rather hazy and indistinct. Later a new printing plate was produced whose lines were clearer though the ink remained the same color. The philatelist may compare a number of specimens he may get and without difficulty, distinguish one printing from the other.

In a few years the Survey Department caught up with its work of turning out postage stamps and was then in a position to improve on the first special delivery stamp.

The design of the 1926 issue was perfectly satisfactory but the color did not make its appearance as striking as it might have been. As a result the designers experimented and

finally decided to make a bi-color job of future issues. The border design was accordingly printed in red and the center in black. The first of these appeared at post offices on Sept. 15, 1929.

This stamp, unlike its predecessors, was lithographed. It may be found in sheets with the following control numbers: A/28, A/30, A/31 and A/32. There are no varieties in either issue so that a check list includes only the following:

20 millimes, sage green, hazy impression
20 millimes, sage green, clear impression
20 millimes, red and black.

1. In this form of lithography only the master design was drawn on stone. Transfer impressions from the die were laid out on a zinc plate, which was subsequently curved to fit the printing cylinder so that the stamp sheets were made in the same manner as photo-engraved emissions.

MILITARY SEALS

In the current "Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue," published by the Scott Company, the collector will find four stamps listed as #M1-4, under the heading of "Army Post Stamps." It is not the intention of the writer to dispute the eligibility of these stamps for catalogue listing, for only



the editor of that publication can have the final word as to what shall, and what shall not be recognized. The argument made, however, is that if these adhesives are recognized, then the various issues which were used by the same persons, and prepared under the same circumstances, between 1932 and 1936, should also be recognized. If these are deleted (and they most certainly should not, for they served actual postal duty) then the four aforementioned adhesives have no place in the catalogue either and should be removed.



In fact, though, the military seals of Egypt have as much right for recognition as any other adhesives used in Egypt since 1865.

The writer made a comprehensive study of these stamps, wrote an article on them, including copies of the official decrees through which they were authorized, and published it in the "Weekly Philatelic Gossip," for June 1, 1940. In view of this article's

existence only the most important facts will be presented here.

The Postal laws of Egypt, as promulgated by Giacomo Muzzi Bey, in 1865, gave the exclusive right of carrying mail within Egypt to the Egyptian government. The British soldiers who were garrisoned in that country, therefore, could not send letters home at the customary reduced rates which were in effect in other lands to which they were assigned. To provide cheaper rates for these soldiers officials of the British Forces negotiated



a deal with the Egyptian government whereby, through the payment of a concession fee, English soldiers in Egypt could send letters to other parts of the British Empire for less than the standard foreign rate charged by the Egyptian government.

Letters sent under this concession rate had to be deposited in Regimental or Unit post boxes and not in Egyptian postoffices. Under the arrange-



ment, the British Forces in Egypt had to provide distinctive adhesives for this service, and as it was only an experimental undertaking, no elaborate printing job was assigned.

For the sake of simplicity, all pertinent information will be given in the check list and any collector who desires more information, is referred to the aforementioned article, copies of which will be found in any philatelic library.



A. November 1, 1932.. Printed in red and blue on white paper, by Hanbury, Tomsett and Co., London. Depicts the seal of the NAAFI #2 seal and the inscription, "British Forces in Egypt-1 piastre." 500,000 issued. Imperforate specimens known to exist.

B. August, 1933. Same as last except that "Postal Seal" was altered to read, "Letter Seal." 516,000 issued. Imperforate specimens known to exist.

C. June 1, 1934. Rose carmine on white. Printed by Harrison and Sons, Ltd., London. Design shows the Sphinx in the background with the inscription, "British Forces in Egypt-Letter Stamp" across its face and "1 piastre" in panels at the upper left and lower right corners. 250,000 issued. Perforated 15 x 14.

D. December 5, 1934. Green on white. Same design as last. 250,000 issued.

E. April 24, 1935. Red on white. Same as #C except that the perforations gauge 14 on all four sides. 405,000 issued.

F. May 6, 1935. Blue, same design, but overprinted, "Jubilee Commemoration-1935," in red. 27,000 issued. One variety, in which the "U" of Jubilee is broken, exists.



In addition to the foregoing letter stamps, special adhesives were prepared to prepay postal rates on Christmas and New Year's greeting cards, which were carried at the special rate of three milliemmes. A check list of these follows:

AA. November, 1935. Maroon on white. Camel and Arab standing in front of a pyramid, crudely drawn. "British Forces in Egypt" at the top; "XMAS SEAL" in a ribbon across the center, and "3 Milliemmes 3" across the bottom. Printed by the Amalgamated Press, Cairo. 54,000 issued.

BB. Nov. 17, 1934. Same design as last, but printed in blue on white paper. 63,000 issued.

CC. Nov., 1935. Same design, but printed in red-orange on white. 101,000 printed, and known as the First Printing.

DD. Dec., 1935. Same design again, but printed in pale orange on white. 12,075 issued and known as Second Printing.

EE. December 22, 1935. The letter stamp, #E, surcharged "XMAS 1935-3 Milliemmes," in black, arranged in two lines placed horizontally across the stamp. 10,000 issued.

All regular seals were issued in booklets of 100 stamps each, comprising five panes of 20 stamps (the letter stamps in five rows of four, and the Christmas seals in four rows of five).



A notice posted in the British Barracks stated that the use of these seals would be discontinued on March 1, 1936, and that special adhesives, printed by the Survey Department of Egypt would replace them, but that rules governing their use would remain unaltered.

The stamps that resulted are the ones listed in the "Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue."

On that date a stamp, identical to the large size regular postage stamp, portraying King Fouad, and issued in 1927, made its appearance. Instead of an inscription of value in the left, lateral frame panel, however, "ARMY POST" was placed. The face value was 10 milliemmes (1 piastre), and it was made by the photogravure process in carmine on white paper, with the



contemporary crown and Arabic F watermark.

In November of 1936, the same design was used for a 3-milliemmes stamp that could be used as a Christmas seal. The check list, then includes the following:

G. March 1, 1936. 10 milliemmes, carmine.
FF. November, 1936. 3 milliemmes, green.

These stamps remained on sale for several years, but as soon after the

death of King Fouad, as was possible, the Survey Department produced new designs, portraying King Farouk. These were issued in 1939.

The check list follows:

H. 1939. 10 milliemmes, carmine rose.
GG. November, 1939. 3 milliemmes, green

1. Reported to have been £10,000 the first year and £6,000 a year every succeeding year.
* Naval, Army, Aerial Forces Institute.