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رسالة تأبين للدكتور إبراهيم شكري



إلى روح الدكتور إبراهيم شكري، أحد رواد هواية جمع الطوابع، الذي ترك بصمة لا تنسى في قلوبنا وفي عالم الهوايات البريدية.

لقد كان الدكتور إبراهيم من أبرز أعضاء الجمعية المصرية لهواة طوابع البريد، حيث أسهم بشكل كبير في تعزيز هذه الهواية ونشرها بين الأجيال المختلفة. يُعتبر كتابه عن البوسطة الطوافة المرجع الأساسي للمهتمين بدراسة التاريخ البريدي، وقد أضاف الكثير من القيمة إلى هذا المجال.

تميز د. إبراهيم بروحه المرححة وطباعه اللطيفة، وكان منزله في شارع أبو الفدا بالزمالك دائماً مفتوحاً لاستقبال جميع الهواة، مما جعل منه ملاذاً لكل من يسعى لتوسيع معرفته وتبادل الخبرات.

إن فقدانك يا د. إبراهيم سيكون له أثر عميق في نفوسنا، وسنفتقدك كثيراً في كل لقاء وفعالية. نسأل الله أن يرحمك ويجعل مثواك الجنة، وأن يلهمنا جميعاً الصبر والسلوان

Mike Murphy

Ibrahim Shoukry

Egypt: The Rural Postal Service



An Introduction

Cairo - 2010

Essays of Kings Fouad 1st Portrait Issue

Yasser Omar

It is the greatest pleasure to someone who makes studies in philately and

King Fouad of Egypt



The 1st Portrait Issue

- In March 15th 1922, Egypt was proclaimed a kingdom and Ahmed Fouad Sultan of Egypt, became King Fouad I. Egypt decided to issue a set of stamps bearing the King's portrait for the first time to mark the declaration of independent kingdom.
- It took 18 months of continuous developments, involving 3 print houses presenting essays on the subject, four methods of stamp printing processes, and more than 100 different essays till the approval was given.
- This was the first set of stamps produced using the Photogravure method of printing, apart from a set from Bavaria in 1914 that had a small print run.
- This set was very short lived (3 Years). All the information on the stamps were in Arabic. The UPU insisted that Egypt would issue new set to replace this set & was issued in 1927. However the stamps continued to appear on postal material until late 30's.
- This set also witnessed the issuing of the high value of the 1 pound (1£E) for the first time in Egyptian Philately for the increased need for high value usage for parcels.



The Essays - Harrison & Sons - Offset Lithography

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1923-24



- 1922 The earliest known Photographic & Composite Essay for King Fouad portrait issue, made by De La Rue depicting a portrait of King Fouad using the frame of the 1914 Pictorial Issue with Mock Perforation



Watermark,
pointing
RIGHT.

- 1922 Unique Color Harrison & Sons Small red-rose sheetlet of 18 (18.5 x 22.25mm) with two blocks of 9 with Arabic text and bi-lingual numerals printed on gummed & watermarked paper.



- 1922 Unique Color Harrison & Sons Large Brown sheetlet of 18 (23.5 x 28.25mm) with two blocks of 9 with Arabic text and bi-lingual numerals printed on Un-Gummed & Watermarked paper.

The Essays - Survey Department - Offset Lithography

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1922-26



In 1922 the survey department of Egypt carried out experiments to produce line-drawings facsimiles of the 1914-22 pictorial issue & the 1922 King Fouad portrait. The Papyrus design (left) and the Lotus design (right) were printed by offset lithography. Sheetlets of the 15m. were printed showing two blocks of 9 & an ornamental gutter in-between in various colors.



Two blue line-engraved essays printed on un-gummed & un-watermarked paper with Arabic text and bi-lingual numerals. These were initial trial prior to printing the sheetlets.

The one of the left has the shading lines outside the central vignette and around "البريد المصري" absent.



Two cut out single essays from Survey Department Sheetlets of 18 in Lilac showing both the Lotus & Papyrus designs (Top Left Corner & Bottom Right Corner)



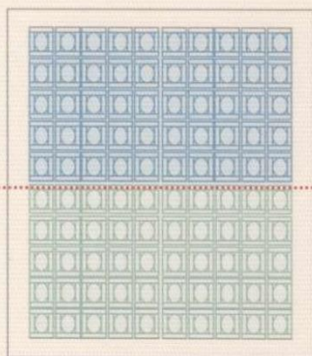
Survey Department Light Mauve (on paper) Sheetlets of 18 (18.5 x 22.25mm) with two block of 9 showing both the Lotus & Papyrus designs with Arabic text and bi-lingual numerals.

The Essays - Harrison & Sons - Offset Lithography

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1922-26



The King's portrait in Civilian attire was printed by offset lithography in imperforate sheets of 100 (10 x 10) with two different frame designs in the upper and lower halves of the sheet. The upper 50 essays (upper half) had the Lotus columns while the lower 50 (lower half) are floral garlands.



Lotus Columns
Design



Floral Garlands
Design



These essays exist in two sizes 24.5 x 29.5 mm. and reduced size 21 x 24 mm.. These also exist on both gummed watermarked paper and un-gummed, un-watermarked paper.



Harrison & Sons se-tenant essays (small format 21 x 24 mm) in vertical pairs from the middle of the sheet showing the two designs (Lotus columns & floral garlands). All are on gummed and watermarked paper (multiple crescent & star pointing right except for the yellow with a reversed WM).

The 6 colors are the only recorded colors for this Essay.

Harrison & Sons se-tenant black essay (large format 24.5 x 29.5 mm) in vertical pair from the middle of the sheet showing the two designs. Printed on gummed and watermarked paper (reversed watermark)

Essays - Harrison & Sons - Offset Lithography

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1923-24



2 Large format marginal single Harrison & Sons essays in Dark Blue printed on un-gummed & un-watermarked paper and showing the two Alternative Designs (Lotus columns & floral garlands).

Three Harrison & Sons 15m blocks of 4 of the small essay format in Brown and two shades of Blue (Blue & Yellow-Blue). All printed on un-gummed & un-watermarked paper



Watermark
Pointing RIGHT



Three Harrison & Sons 15m blocks of 4 of the small essay format in Red Black & Blue. All printed on gummed and watermarked paper

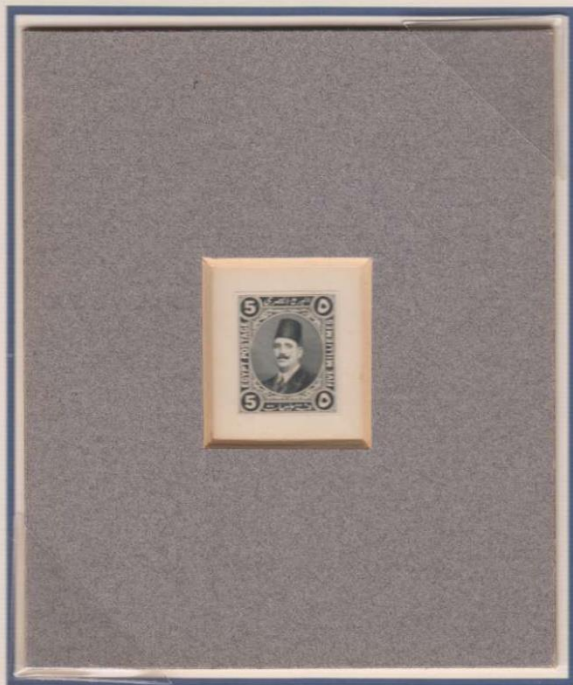
The Essays - Harrison & Sons - Line Engraving

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Period 1922-24



It was agreed initially that the set will be printed using recess (line engraving), as were the Penny Black and most the high value classical stamps. This was very fine and expensive printing process that Egypt had never thought of offering itself before. Harrison & Sons turned to Perkins Bacon to help as they did not have their own engravers.

Harrison & Sons produced the 5 mills sheetlet in variety of colors to represent each of the denominations. It has been recorded that at least 2-3 shades of each color exist. It is however recorded that only 4 sheetlets of each color/shade were produced.



1922 Sunken Die proof of 5 Mills single stamp in Black printed on thin wove Un-Gummed, Un-Watermarked paper and mounted on thick presentation card. Engraved by Perkins Bacon for Harrison & Sons



Two examples of the 1922 Harrison & Sons "Type I" 5 mills bi-lingual single working die proof (essay) miniature sheetlet in Pale & Deep Red. These were intended for the 10 mills.

The Essays - Harrison & Sons - Photogravure

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1923-26



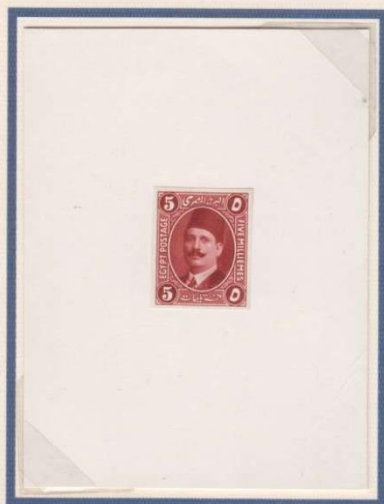
Reaching better results with photogravure printing by applying the fine grain used in Collotype caused Harrison's return to the photogravure project once again. However, they were still not settled on whether they use the Mesh Screen or Granular Screen.



Screen A
Grid/Mesh



Screen B
Granular



- Two 5 mills imperf Red-Brown essays of **TYPE I** on thin gummed watermarked paper (multiple crescent & star) mounted on card & cut to the size of the essay. Printed using two different screens Grid/Mesh and Granular



Screen A
Grid/Mesh



Screen B
Granular



- Two 5 mills imperf Red-Brown essays of **TYPE II** imperf singles on thin gummed watermarked paper (multiple crescent & star) mounted on card. The two essays are printed using two different screens Grid/Mesh & Granular

The Essays - Harrison & Sons - Photogravure

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1923-26



Between June 26th and July 7th, Harrisons moved on to printing on production machines. Several sheets of 100's were printed in 3 different colors & values; 5, 10 & 15m, on perforated $13\frac{3}{4} \times 14$, watermarked multiple crescent & star & gummed paper. They chose a reticulated (granular) screen for the three values, except for the 10 mills.



Screen A
Granular



Reversed WM (pointing to the left)



Screen B
Grid/Mesh



UNRECORDED pair with grid/
mesh screen with the colors missing
from the bottom of the pair



Perforated 5 mills Brown & Blue
Blocks printed with granular screen
with reversed watermark

● Unrecorded imperforate essay of the 10 mills rose-red with two blocks of 4 showing different printing methods to compare the change in appearance due to screening, at real production level.



Perforated Corner Blocks of 5, 10 & 15 mills Essays printed with granular screen on gummed and watermarked paper with watermark pointing right



The Essays - Harrison & Sons - Photogravure

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1923-26



- Set of 4 color trial essays of 5m with various colors affixed to cards with manuscript of the proposed values of 3m (Sepia), 4m (Yellow Green, 10m (Rose-Red) & 15m (Blue) which were adopted for the issued stamps.

The Essays - The Background

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1923-28



1922 Perkins, Bacon & CO., 5 mills Red & Blue Mock-up, Composite Essay. The king's portrait was cut out completely as well as the inner part of the frame, leaving a rectangular portion. These two parts were then pasted on a section of the "Engine-Turning". The space between the coat and the frame was retouched by hand to extend the coat to the frame.



UNIQUE - The only 2 mock-up essays recorded with the hand retouch



Harrison & Sons
watermark sideways

Type A

Smooth Mesh/Grid
Background



Type B

Engine Turning
Background



May 3, 1922 Harrison photogravure imperforated essay sheetlet of 4 for un-issued bi-lingual 5 mills design in Black on thin gummed wove paper with Harrison WM and utilizing conventional screen (grid/mesh). Every vertical pair carry an alternative background

1 of 2 Recorded Sheetlets

The Essays - The Fez (Tarbouch) on 5m

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1923-26



Type A

Original design with dark
and solid Fez and dark face



Harrison & Sons 5m Greenish-Blue imperforated photogravure essay affixed on card (Type A), with dark colors & no Light on the Fez. Printed on thin gummed wove paper with Harrison WM with conventional screen (grid/mesh).



Harrison & Sons 5m Black imperforated photogravure essay affixed on card (Type A), with dark colors & no Light on the Fez. Printed on thin gummed wove paper with Harrison WM with conventional screen (grid/mesh).



Type B

Modified design with light re-
flections on both sides of the
Fez and Light on face



10m single & 5m block of H&S modified imperforated photogravure essays (Type B), with light colors & prominent Light on Fez. Printed on thin gummed wove paper with H&S WM with conventional screen (grid/mesh).



Harrison & Sons wa-
termark sideways



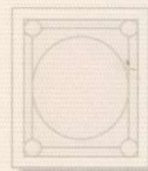
10m single of H&S modified imperforated photogravure essay (Type B). Printed on thin gummed wove paper with H&S WM with conventional screen (grid/mesh). This is cut from a large RARE Essay with multiple shades.

The Essays - Harrison & Sons - Photogravure - 50m

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1923-26



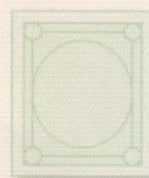
Harrison's efforts went then to adopting a conventional screen similar to what was used in the Bavarian set of 1914. Again, a poor definition resulted from the harsh grain used in these 50 mills essays in various colors.



1922 Harrison & Sons 50 mills Brown & Green Imperforated
Essays printed in sheetlets of 4 on thin Un-Gummed & Un-
Watermarked paper.

TYPE I : Smaller essay format 20mm x 17mm with
dark background behind the king's head. Poor Printing
quality, blurred details and no light on the Fez

An improvement was realized by printing larger format of the 50 mills; Highlights were added to the
original design, but yet satisfactory result was not achieved.



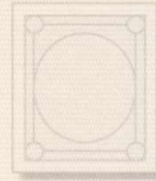
TYPE II: Larger 50m essay format 22mm x 18mm
with Light behind the king's head (Left Side) and light
on both sides of the Fez



Two Harrison essays of 50 mills block of four large & small sheetlets in Green & Black printed in Sheetlets of 4 on thin
woven un-gummed & un-watermarked paper.

The Essays - Harrison & Sons - Photogravure - 50m

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1921-26



TYPE III: Larger 50m essay format 22mm x 18mm with Light behind the king's head from both sides, but no light on the Fez (Tarbouch).



TYPE IIIa (Perforated)

Harrison Essay of 50 mills gray single perforated printed on thin wove un-gummed & un-watermarked paper with Light behind the king's head from both sides, but no light on the Fez (Tarbouch).



TYPE IIIb (Imperforated)

Harrison Essay of 50 mills gray single imperforated printed on thin wove un-gummed & un-watermarked paper with Light behind the king's head from both sides, but no light on the Fez (Tarbouch).

Harrison & Sons Essay of 50 mills marginal block of 20 from the top of the sheet in gray printed on thin wove un-gummed & un-watermarked paper. with annotation "Wrong size" and dated 13/9/21.

Largest Recorded Block

The Essays - Harrison & Sons - Photogravure - £E 1

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1923-28



4 Harrison & Sons essays of £E1 **TYPE I** in block of 4 sheetlet in Orange, Blue, Black & Yellow Green printed on thin wove un-gummed un-watermarked paper .

دنه واحد مصري



TYPE I

The Arabic for Pound is not legible & the word الف (Thousand) reversed) instead of Numeric value



جنيه واحد



TYPE II

Clear Arabic for Pound (جنيه واحد) & there is a Numeric Value of 1 Pound

Rare Harrison & Sons £E1 single essay **TYPE II** in Dark Blue printed on thin wove un-gummed un-watermarked paper.

Only Two are Recorded

The Essays - H&S - Composite Bi-Color - £LE 1

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1923-26



- 3 different Harrison composite bi-color essays of 1 pound TYPE I, in Apple Green & Black, Brown & Orange-Yellow and Black & Orange-Yellow, all printed on thin wove Un-Gummed, Un-Watermarked paper.

Each one is possibly Unique



- Unrecorded imperforate EE1 two impressions in Brown on un-watermarked wove paper (88 x 53mm); The First one (without slash marks) has hand painting around head, the other (on the right) has the head cut out, probably for use in another composite essay, unusual. The other one (below pair) is a color photocopy of the Brown and Green essays.

Believed to be Unique

- 3 different Harrison composite bi-color essays of 1 pound TYPE I, in Apple Green & Black, Brown & Orange-Yellow and Black & Orange-Yellow, all printed on thin wove Un-Gummed, Un-Watermarked paper.

Each one is possibly Unique

The Essays - Working Drawings

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1922-26



April 1922, Two working drawings of the 2 mills & 20 mills of composite photographic essays, with extensive hand-drawn modifications in ink and Chinese white (95 x 110 mm. in continuous tone and mounted on a gray card. A smooth background was used for the vignette.

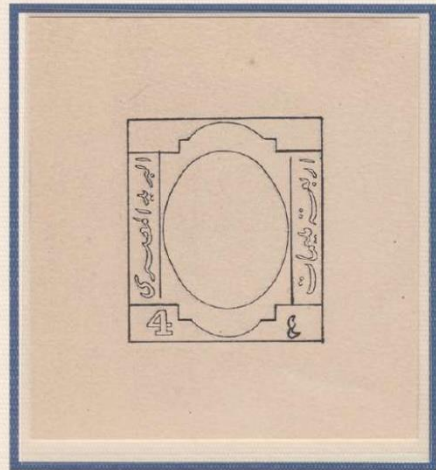
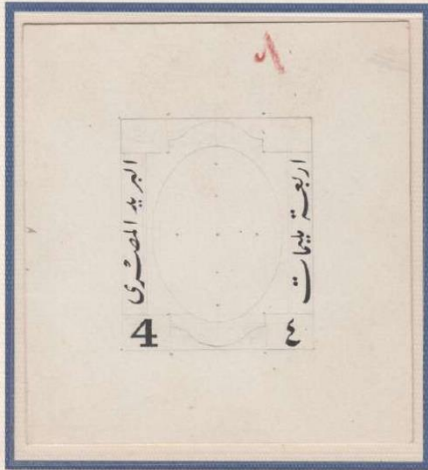
UNIQUE - Only 1 known to exist from each value (2m, 5m & 20m)

The Essays - The Frame & Handwriting

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1922-29

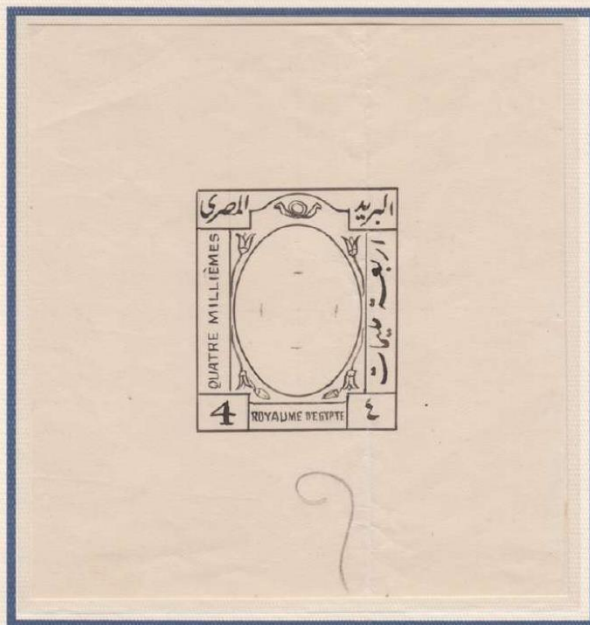


1922 Harrison & Sons Original Execution Drawings for the frame & handwriting of 1923 King Fouad 1st portrait issue. These were drawn by designer to double scale. They were recorded in both Solid & Hollow writing for the values 1 millieme (2), 3 milliemes (1), 4 milliemes (3) & 10 milliemes (2).



1922 Harrison & Sons Original Execution Drawings for the frame & handwriting of the 4 milliemes in both Solid & Hollow Writing

Both are either **UNIQUE** or 1 of 2



1922 Harrison & Sons **ADVANCED** Original Execution Drawings for the frame & handwriting of the 4 milliemes in both Arabic & French with artwork around the frame Writing

Possibly **UNIQUE**

The Essays - Harrison & Sons - The Final Touches

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1923-26



It seems that the authorities were trying to create some symmetry in the upper frame with the Latin and Arabic values in the lower frame by putting the Scarab design, but they later aborted it and kept the upper frame empty in the issued stamp.



1922 Harrison & Sons pair of imperforate Proof/Essays of 15m Red-Brown (the color of the issued 5 mills) on cards "A" & "B".

The Essay on card "A" has a Glossy finish and more light on the king's face with manuscript "This is the style of finish required". The Essay on card "B" has a more Matt finish and darker (pinkish) king's face with manuscript "This is not the style of finish required".



1922 Harrison & Sons imperforate Photographic Essay of the 5m (larger format 20mm X 26.8mm) using the blue color of the 1 Pound and depicting the portrait of King Fouad with the military attire that was adopted for the issued 1 Pound. This does seem a late essay trial as the designs around the frame were adopted and so is the portrait as well.

Possibly UNIQUE

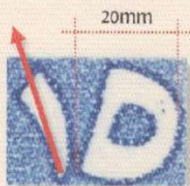
The Essays - The Arabic Numerals - 15mills

King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1923-25



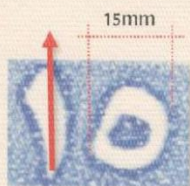
Essay Design

Large Arabic 5 & slanted
Arabic 1



Issued Design

Small Arabic 5 & Straight
Arabic 1



15 mills Greenish-Blue imperforated essay corner pair from U/R corner with Printer's notation "received 17/4/23". Printed on un-gummed, un-watermarked Carton Paper with the large Arabic numeral 5.



1922, 15 mills Blue Imperforated Essay block of 40 from the bottom of the sheet (folded to fit). Printed on Gummed & Watermarked Glossy Paper (Triple Crescent & Stars) with the Large Arabic Numeral 5.

The Largest Known Block

The Essays - The Arabic Numerals - 20mills

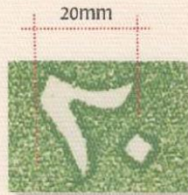
King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1922-26



Even though the design was approved and adopted, Arabic numerals of the 15mills and 20mills still had to be modified and changed. The size of the Arabic numerals in the issued stamps were eventually smaller than those earlier suggested. Some collectors mistakenly classify these two Essays as proofs.

Essay Design

Wide Arabic 2 with flatter curve

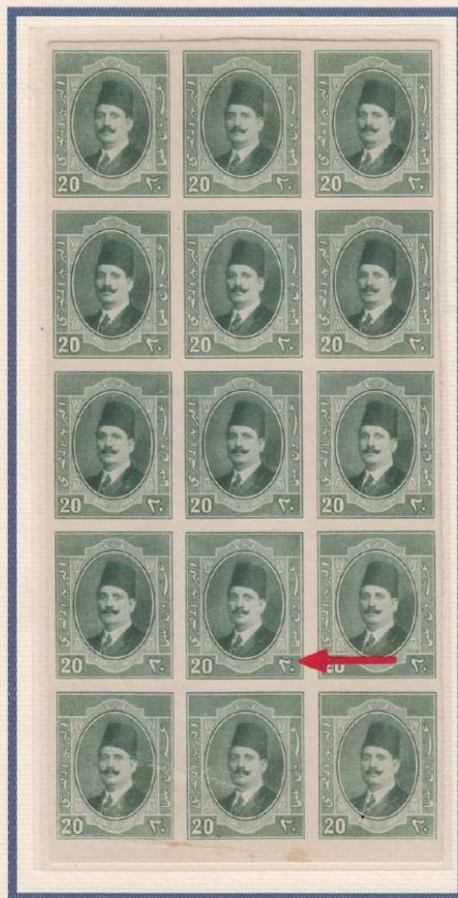


15mm



Issued Design

Narrow Arabic 2 & Deeper Curve



20 mills Green Imperf Essay in marginal block of 15 printed on Un-gummed, Un-watermarked carton paper with the Large Arabic Numeral 2.

The Essays - The late Bradbury Wilkinson Essays

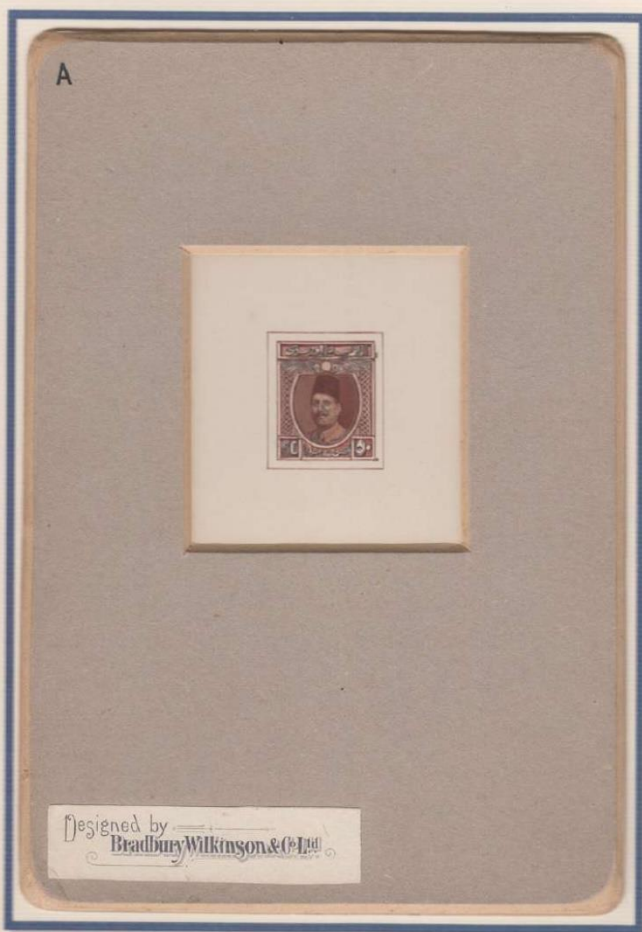
King Fouad of Egypt
The 1st Portrait 1923-24



In late 1923, hoping to obtain a contract, Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. Asked Mrs. E. Jackman, the staff artist, to prepare some essays for the King's portrait. The essays showed the king in 3 attires, one civilian and two military, drawn from 3 photographs taken by Mr. Hanselman, the court photographer.

A preliminary sketch set of hand-painted essays were prepared in two sizes for 8 values with various frames and colors. From these sketches, 3 of the smaller essays 1m (civilian attire), 50m (military attire) & 100m (military attire with Neck order), were selected to prepare the finished essays of the same values on presentation cards.

The backs of these presentation cards were dated 9th Jan 1924 which makes them the latest issued essays for the 1923 King Fouad Portrait issue.



Bradbury Wilkinson 50m hand-painted brown essay in its final finished stage on presentation card. The design is depicting King Fouad in military attire without decorative medals/orders and the writing is all in Arabic except for the numerical value of 50 which is drawn in both Arabic and English.

Believed to be Unique



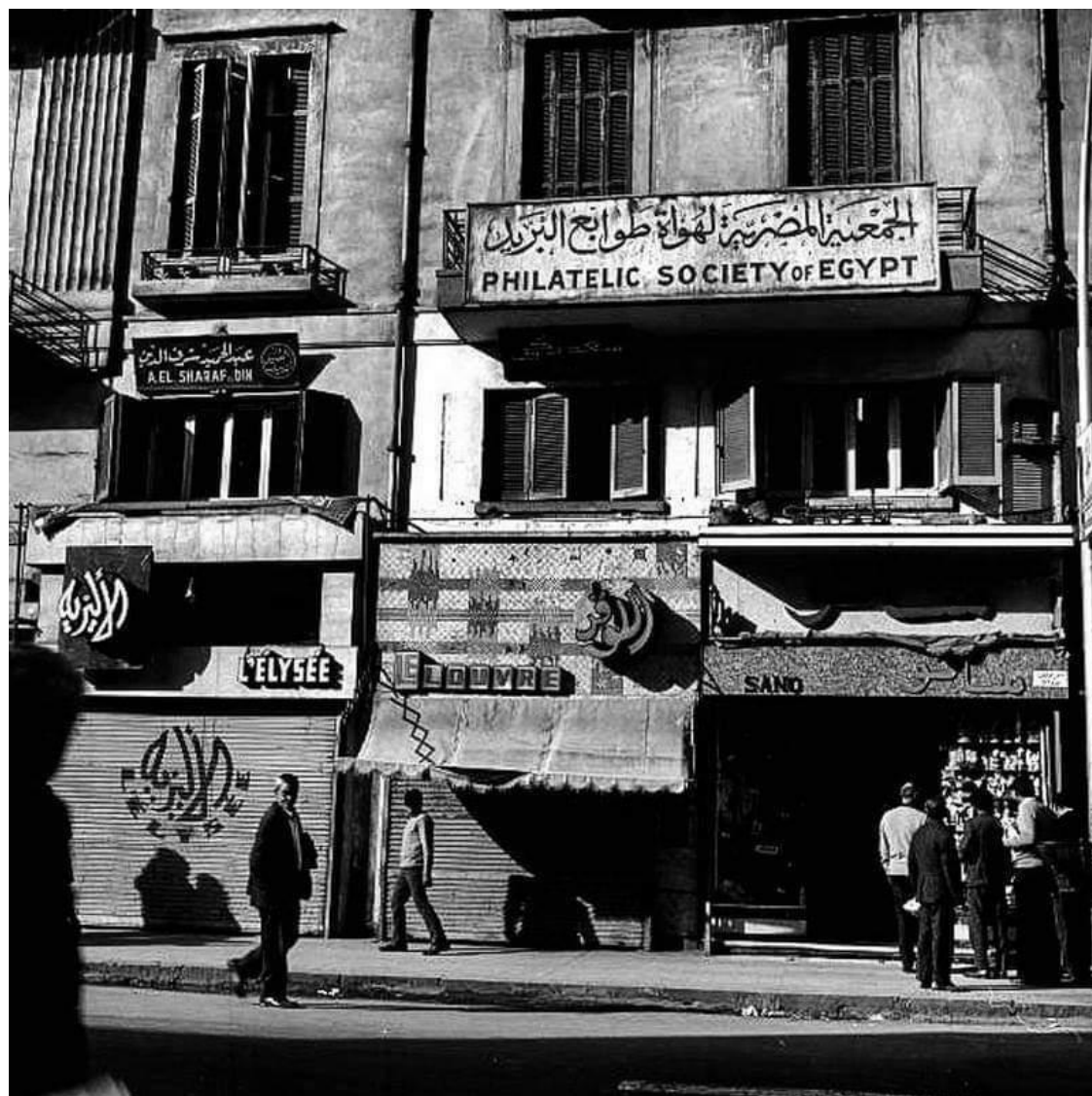
The members of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, PSE, have for some time noticed that Arabic texts whether on covers, postcards, documents ... etc. are being erroneously translated into English in catalogs, magazines, websites and even private collections, with serious consequences to the interpretation of the item in question.

The PSE has a group of members who are fluent in both Arabic and English languages and are gladly willing to help not only with any translation required, but also with the interpretation of other aspects relating to social, historical and geographical circumstances of the time, such as familial salutations, bureaucratic jargon, handwritten annotations and talismanic markings.

This service is available to anyone, just send to this email a clear scan of the item; front and back of a cover, postcard, content of a letter or document ... etc. and we shall be happy to oblige as soon as possible.

Provisionally, this service is free of charge for single items.

Email: egyptianphilatelicsociety@gmail.com



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