

Slip-up in UN World Heritage issue

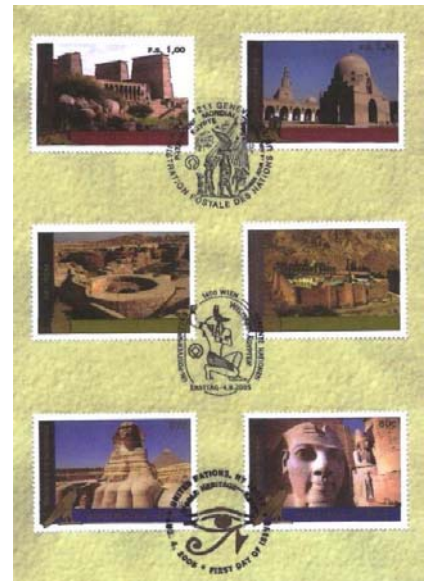
Mike Murphy (ESC 240)

Thematic collectors may be interested to know that on August 4 the United Nations issued six commemorative stamps and three booklets on the theme “World Heritage - Egypt”, the eleventh in a series illustrating World Heritage sites.

The stamps, showing various aspects of Egypt Ancient to (almost) Modern, have face values of 37 and 80 cents, 1 and 1.30 Swiss francs and 0.55 and 0.75 euros; they measure 50mm horizontally by 35mm vertically. Perforation is 14 x 13 1/4.

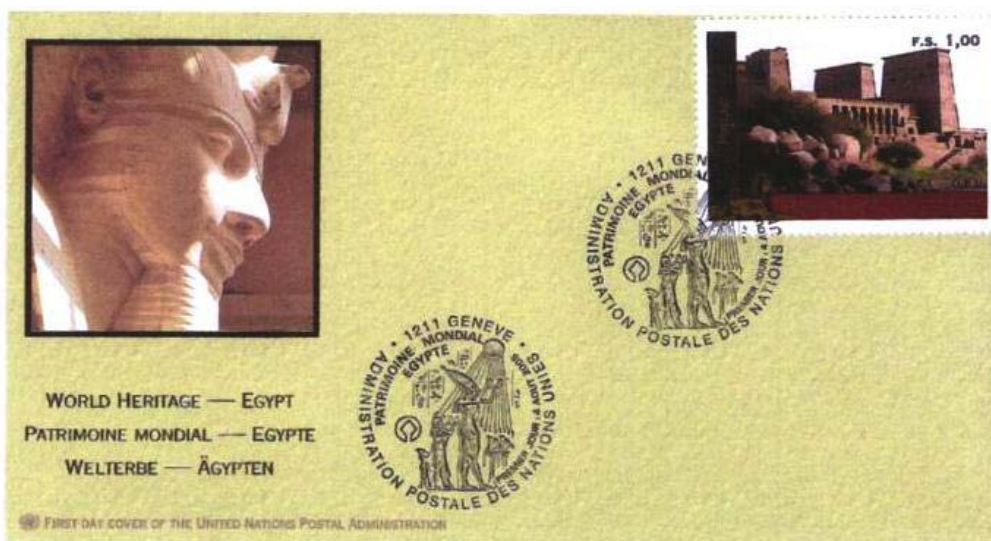
The sheets of 20 have four marginal inscriptions: the World Heritage emblem with “UNESCO” above and “World Heritage 2005” below. One copyright symbol appears in the lower left margin.

The designs were adapted by Rorie Katz and the stamps printed in offset by Enschedé of the Netherlands. More details may be found at <http://www.un.org/Depts/UNPA/additional/egypt/>



Value	Design	Number printed
7 cents	Memphis and its necropolis	275,000 (13,750 sheets)
80 cents	Theban necropolis	195,000 (9,750 sheets)
1.00 francs	Nubian monuments (Philae)	180,000 (9,000 sheets)
1.30 francs	Islamic Cairo	180,000 (9,000 sheets)
€ 0.55	Abu Mena	250,000 (12,500 sheets)
€ 0.75	Saint Catherine, Sinai	250,000 (12,500 sheets)

Special first day hand-cancellations were available at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Palais des Nations, Geneva, and at the Vienna International Centre. But as Caroline Scannell (ESC 419), our New York member who runs *The Old World Archaeologist* magazine (www.owasu.org), was quick to point out, it appears that the UN has made an error with its Vienna commemorative CDS.



The third-century BC temple on the one-franc stamp, on the island of Philae south of Aswan, is dedicated to the goddess Isis. But the CDS shows Akhenaten, the monotheist heretic pharaoh of the Amarna period, some thousand years earlier, whose main claim to fame was that he swept away all the ancient gods (including Isis!) and

(for a short while at least) replaced them with the Aten disc of the sun. So a most unsuitable postmark for that particular stamp: but perhaps an FDC all the more worth collecting because of that!