

FORGERY

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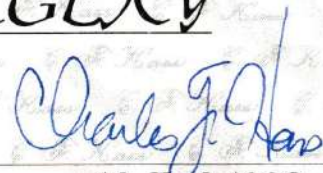
After a thorough and careful study of the item submitted to me for authentication as EGYPT, 1994 (30th October), 5 piastres orange-red and deep dull purple regular issue stamp (large format, overall size of 25mm x 30mm, image size of 20.5mm x 26.2mm), perforated 11.25 horizontally and vertically, printed by two-color photogravure on unwatermarked, glossy paper — a mint, southeast corner block of eight stamps (two across by four down), each stamp with

ALL INSCRIPTIONS (IN DEEP DULL PURPLE) COMPLETELY MISSING.

S.G. #1916 (var.), Scott #1511 (var.), of which an exact-size, color photograph is affixed, along with a photograph of a normal block from the same area of the pane, to the reverse of this document, I hereby certify it to be with

PRINTED IMAGE CHEMICALLY ALTERED — A FORGERY

This submitted block of eight stamps is from the southeast corner of a larger block (which I have seen prior to the removal of this piece), probably originally a full pane of one hundred normal stamps, on which the inscriptions have been carefully removed, leaving each subject with only its central portrait. This has been done in a blatant, but rather crudely done, attempt to defraud unsuspecting collectors. The forger has obviously employed a solvent to dissolve away all of the deep dull purple ink of the inscriptions, having carefully avoided removing the central image (it may be that he has staged the centers with a solvent-resistant agent, in order to protect them). The indications of this fraudulent alteration are numerous. Most obvious among them is the fact that, although the darker portions of the two-color centers of the stamps are in the same deep dull purple ink (i.e., printed from the same photogravure cylinder) as the inscriptions, there is no absence of color in any areas of those central images (other than where carelessness (or incomplete staging) has allowed the solvent to slightly act upon them — this is quite visible on the top of the portrait on the upper pair of stamps of the submitted block. If the inscriptions were legitimately omitted, the only printed image on each stamp would be that of the orange-red area of the portrait. Additionally, although the paper used for these stamps is glossy, the gloss remains only on an area roughly approximating the center of each stamp and on the marginal selvage (an attribute easily observed when the surface of the block is turned in such away as to enable it to reflect sunlight or artificial light). Dissolved purple ink from the inscriptions may be readily seen in the area of the perforation holes overall — having been absorbed into the surrounding paper and gum (large ink smears also appear on several areas of the gum). Under short-wave ultraviolet light, the effects of the alteration may be graphically observed. The uneven luminescence of the paper surface, resulting from the action of the solvent, is spectacularly obvious, and the strokes made by the forger in erasing the inscriptions may be easily detected. Careful examination of any stamp from this altered sheet will reveal it to be, beyond question, a rather unsophisticated attempt to defraud.



4th April, 1998

Certificate No. 1998-F64

Submitted by Dr. Adel A. Abdel-Hafiz



