

XX

Commemorative Issues of the Monarchy

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Lithographed Issues¹

1925: Geographical Congress

These were the first commemorative stamps actually issued by Egypt; the much earlier Nile Fête stamps (Chapter XLI) were never issued.

They were also the first Egyptian stamps to be printed by the Survey Department of Egypt. As such, they were a technical experiment, for although the department had printed the first two stamps of Palestine and the first stamps of Hejaz, its printing experience had been mostly with maps.

The stamps were requested in August 1924 by the Ministry of Communications; a photo of the medallion to be presented to the members of the Congress was submitted as the basis for the design. It featured Thoth, God of Learning, inscribing the hieroglyphics in a cartouche for "Fuad, King of the North and South - ever living - beloved of Ptah".

Thirteen designs for a 15m., carefully drawn in horizontal format in pencil, and an "original sketch", much like the issued stamps, similarly drawn, were in the Palace Collections of Egypt, as well as three imperforate essays with minor variants in the bottom inscriptions, and a horizontal design painted in blue showing a river scene². A rather large vertical design, the size of which was dictated by the limitations of the available perforating machine, was first prepared, followed by a horizontal one in

October 1924, but the King chose the vertical version³. The inscriptions were in Arabic and French, in contrast to the preceding issues of ordinary stamps.

In December, formal drawings four times the ultimate size were prepared in three styles and submitted to the King as ferro-prussiate prints. Photo-originals were made of the selected version in partially reduced size and used to make unit lithographic plates, from which a quantity of pulls in black were produced. These were affixed to a board in seven rows of 15 and photographed in that form. The negatives, reduced to stamp size, were then used to prepare aluminum plates for lithography. This unusual overall process was necessary because the Survey Department did not yet have a step-and-repeat camera.

Pre-gummed watermarked paper was obtained from Harrison & Sons and the stamps were printed with the watermark upright. It was the same watermark as used by Harrison's for the ordinary stamps. However, Houston⁴ has claimed that it is "quite different", without giving details. This is probably a misconception arising from the fact that the individual watermark bits were not all quite alike and the crescents vary in width by as much as a half millimeter. The spacing of the triple crescent-and-star units is identical on all Harrison paper I

have seen, and the stars in all cases have five rays, one pointing straight up, and the two flanking ones joined to the tips of the crescent. The stamps were perforated 11½x11 on a comb machine.

There were two printings of the 10m. (rose and deep rose) and 15m. (pale blue and blue); the single printing of the 5m. was in brown with small shade variations. The sheets of 105 bore an interrupted buffer bar (Fig. 1) like the previous typographed stamps and one control number, in Arabic only. This appeared on the right margin beside stamp no. 105 for the first printing, and on the left margin beside stamp no. 1 for the second. The details are set out in Table 1.

The first printing had colorless, smooth gum; the second had yellowish gum with diagonal streaks.

The stamps were issued on April 1st 1925 and the second printing was put on sale on April 10th, which was after the Congress had closed. The cancellation of the special Congress post office can therefore be found only on the first printing.

The paper is subject to elongation on soaking⁵; although unused stamps are of uniform height, used ones may be up to 4mm longer.



Fig. 1 The buffer bar and control number.

TABLE 1 — GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS			
Denomination	Control No. (Arabic)	Printing	Delivery Date
5m.	(A.25)	114,870	19 FE 25
10m. rose	(A.25)	58,905	19 FE 25
10m. deep rose	(B.25)	27,300	2 AP 25
15m. pale blue	(A.25)	57,805	19 FE 25
15m. blue	(B.25)	26,140	2 AP 25

The 5m. and 10m. exist imperforate: one sheet of the 5m. and one sheet from each printing of the 10m. With the 5m., the left column of stamps received perforations at the top and bottom of each stamp only; this variety can thus be found se tenant with the fully imperforate⁶. Severely skewed perforations exist on the 5m. only (one sheet of 105). This variety was probably accidental, but it may have inspired the deliberately produced obliquely misperforated “royal proofs” on later issues.

Some crudely drawn essay sketches of a 15m. in blue and black ink, six in all, of unknown origin, have been described by Kehr⁷. The Survey Department’s proofs, along with the plates, were destroyed after printing and none seems to have escaped.

A sort of error, printed on both sides, exists for the 15m.; in addition to the primary impression, another one, very weakly inked, was applied on the gummed side at right angles.

A considerable number of mostly minor plate varieties in the form of spots or broken lines occur on these stamps⁸. The two most prominent are a white flaw in the bottom panel of the 10m. joining normally separate Arabic letters (position 42)⁹ (Fig. 2), and a flaw resembling an accent mark on the E of POSTES on the 5m. (position 21)¹⁰.



Fig. 2 Plate flaws:
5m., broken I in INTERNATIONAL;
10m., joined letters in *bared*.

1926: Agricultural and Industrial Exposition

The custom of issuing commemorative stamps for international congresses and national expositions begun with the Geographical Congress gathered momentum with the issue of a six-value set for the Twelfth Agricultural and Industrial Exposition, held in Cairo in March 1926. The stamps were requested of the Survey Department in June 1925. It assigned the Superintendent of its Photo-process Office to take photographs of suitable subjects. From one of them, showing water buffalo pulling a traditional plough, three sketches were made and submitted to the Postmaster General in October. Original working drawings in solid and air-brush tints were prepared for the frames in four-times ultimate size, along with retouched negatives of the vignette. Prints made from these were used to make photo-originals. Then, using a half-tone screen for the vignette and a newly acquired step-and-repeat camera, plates for lithography were prepared. The inscriptions, as before, were in Arabic and French.

Three pen-and-ink drawings for the 10m. and one for the 15m. were in the personal archive of A.J. Hewitt¹¹, who was the principal artist with the Survey Department.

In contrast to the Geographical Congress issue, more conventional sizes were adopted for both the individual stamps and the sheets. The latter were printed as two panes of 50 which were cut, trimmed, and perforated before delivery. A new watermark, a crown and Arabic *fe'* in multiple, was introduced with this issue and the Second Portrait Issue, as described in Chapter XIX. The perforation was in a finer gauge, 13x13½. The control numbers, A/26 for each value, were inscribed in European characters instead of Arabic.

A preliminary supply of 2500 sets was delivered on January 25th 1926, and the bulk of the order on February 11th. The quantities of the high values were injudiciously large (Table 2) and the majority remained unsold at the end of the period of sale, March 1st to April 30th.

TABLE 2 — THE 1926 A. & I.E. ISSUE			
Value	Color	Printed	Sold
5m.	dull brown	202,500	(202,500)*
10m.	rose	202,500	(202,500)*
15m.	dull blue	202,500	(202,500)*
50m.	myrtle green	202,500	52,500
100m.	dull redish lilac	202,500	35,000
200m.	violet	202,500	35,500

* Presumably, although reference 1 states that a substantial remainder was destroyed.

CANCELLED in multiple. The 5m. value differs drastically from the rest in being printed on both sides, the two impressions being out of register with each other (Fig. 3) (only one side was overprinted CANCELLED). A sheet of each value was also prepared on watermarked paper with obliquely skewed perforations.

Small variations in the half-tone vignette allow single stamps to be identified with a specific position in the sheet; some of these variations are big enough to be considered as plate flaws¹².

A special circular date-stamp was used at the Exposition post office as well as a special rectangular registration handstamp (the latter is relatively scarce).



Fig. 3 The 5m. 'royal proof'.

1926: Surcharges on the A.& I.E. High Values

These stamps are not properly considered as commemoratives, but they are taken up here for convenience. The Postal Administration, with characteristic frugality, decided to use up the large unsold inventory of the Agricultural and Industrial Exposition high values by converting them to low values in higher demand. The job was given to the Government Printing Works in Bulaq, which carried it out by typographing new values in bold characters, in French only, across the middle of the stamps (without obliterating the less conspicuous original denominations). The 50m. became 5m., the 100m. became 10m., and the 200m. became 15m. The right and top margins were removed before surcharging, but the control numbers remained.

The stamps were put on sale on August 24th 1926. The quantities printed, as given in the Zeheri catalog, were: 5m. - 150,000, 10m. - 167,000, 15m. - 167,500. These stamps are thus much commoner than the unsurcharged high values.

Many of the numbers and letters of the surcharging plates were faulty, in some cases prominently (Fig. 4). Dazzi¹³ has illustrated complete panes, and has carefully cataloged the constant varieties. The broken 5 (5m., position 17), broken S (10m., position 41), and broken M with thin S (15m., position 24) are listed in the Zeheri catalog but are more clearly illustrated elsewhere^{6,12}.

Inverted watermarks exist on the 5, 50, and 100m. One pane of 50 of each value except the 10m. was produced imperforate on gummed, watermarked paper. They are not known to have been sold over the counter and may be of proof status.

This set marks the initial appearance of "royal proofs" on thick, ungummed, unwatermarked paper overprinted on the back with

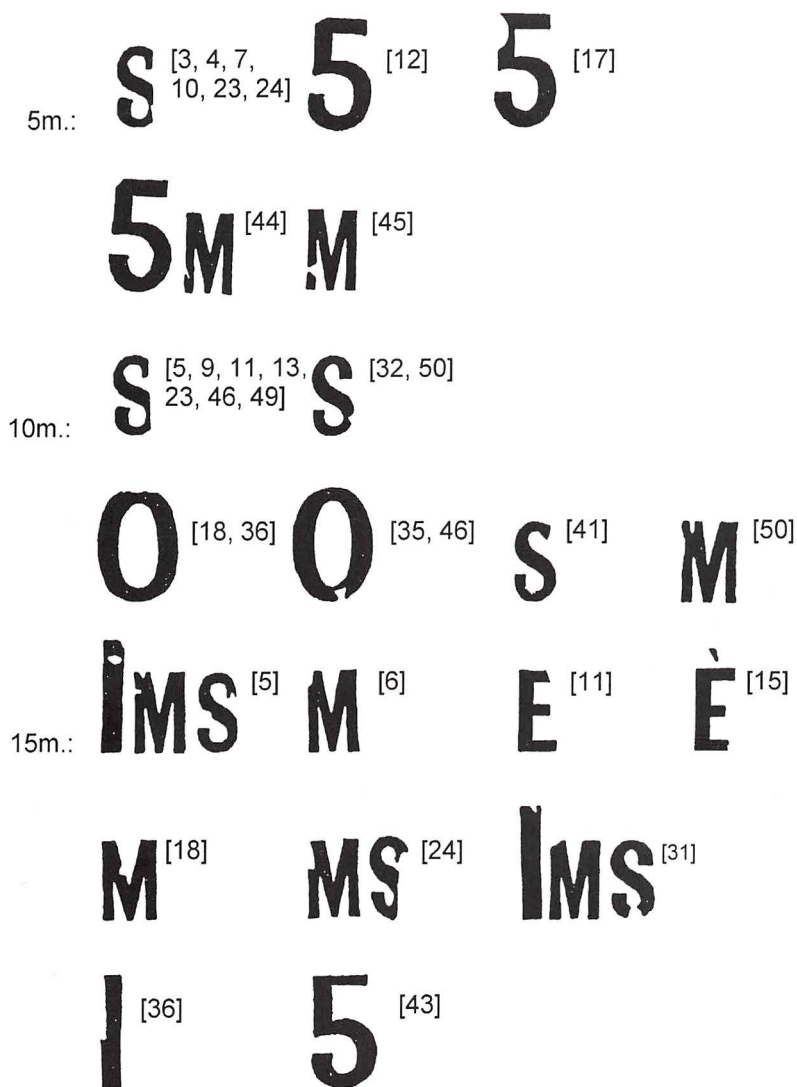


Fig. 4 Constant plate varieties.

A pronounced flaw on the 10m. consisting of a heavy blot on the IL of MILLIEMES developed later in the printing on position 17; at least 15 sheets were found with it^{14,15}.

A sheet of the 15m. received a double surcharge (the Byam collection contained a lower-left block of 15 with control number)¹⁶. This error has been forged more than once, and examples are known with a forged surcharge added to a genuine normal stamp, and with both impressions forged¹⁷. One suspected forgery was so well done as to be indistinguishable from the genuine except for the relative positions of the two impressions and the centering of the basic stamp; but the observation could also be taken as evidence for the existence of a second sheet.

An inverted surcharge of the 5m. turned up about 15 years after the stamps were

issued, but was judged to be a fantasy made by a forger¹⁶ or an unissued variety. Many years later an undoubtedly genuine example used on fragment at Naghada was discovered¹⁸. Because both the basic stamps and the surcharges can be plated, it is possible to establish if the surcharge belongs on the stamp on which it appears (in the foregoing example the surcharge normally in position 11 occurs inverted on the stamp in position 40).

Inverted watermarks (quite scarce) are known on the 5m. and 10m.

No proofs are known, and neither royal proofs on thick paper nor those with skewed perforations were produced.

1926: International Navigation Congress

A set of three stamps issued for this Congress (held in Cairo) was Egypt's first venture into bicolored commemorative stamps. The design features an ancient Egyptian galley taken from a mural in the temple of Queen Hatshepsut in Deir el Bahari, west of Luxor. A small cartouche at the upper left contains King Fuad's name in hieroglyphics. A small cartouche at the upper right contains King Fuad's name in Arabic.

Unlike the previous commemorative set, both the frames and the vignette were lithographed in solid tint. Plates of 100 in two panes of 50 were prepared for each. The watermark, crown and Arabic *fe'*, and the perforation, 13x13½, were as used for the previous commemoratives; no inverted watermarks have been reported. The control number, A/26, was the same for each value. The vignette, common to all values, was printed in black; the frame colors were brown (5m.), brick red (10m.), and blue (15m.).

Large, meticulously drawn essays, denominated 5m., and a black proof, were in the Hewitt archive¹¹. Color trial plate proofs of the 5m. in each of the issued colors in blocks of six, perforated on the outer sides but rouletted in between, were sold from the Palace Collections². Royal proofs, imperforate on thick paper and with skewed perforations on watermarked paper, were prepared as one sheet of 50 of each value.

There are several nice plate flaws on these stamps. Position 49 of alternate sheets of the 5m. has a damaged ("blotted") letter Y in EGYPT (Fig. 5). Position 15 of alternate sheets of the 10m. has a white flaw in the right inscription panel, joining the first *meem* of *milleemat* to one of the dots of the *ya'* (Fig. 6). Position 30 of alternate sheets of the 10m. also has a flaw in the right inscription panel; the *ta'* (top letter) of *milleemat* has a pronounced bulge in the middle (Fig. 7). Other flaws in the form of breaks, dots, and spots have been described¹⁹.



Fig. 5 Blotted y.

Fig. 6 Joined *meem* with dot under *ya'*Fig. 7 Bulge in *ta'*

1927: International Cotton Congress

The set of three stamps for the Cotton Congress was produced by lithography in much the same manner as the previous issue, except that the vignette was printed by half-tone like the Agricultural and Industrial Exposition stamps. The design of the vignette is a horticultural fantasy, a sprig of a cotton plant having on the same stem a bud, a blossom, an unopened boll, and an opened boll. It was made from a group of separate photos supplied by the Cotton Research Board, Giza. Unfortunately, the image does not show up well in the coarse half-tone. The first sketches for the design were submitted in August 1926.

The frames were printed in solid tint by lithography in the same colors as the Navigation Congress stamps, but the vignettes were printed in dull green. A new feature, corner guide marks, was introduced to help in obtaining good register of the two parts. These were on the vignette plate and consisted of two small arcs, one at the upper left corner of the sheet and one at the upper right (Fig. 8). Ideally, they should fall exactly on the corner of the frameline, but they are often displaced slightly, and are then more easily seen.

The stamps were printed as before in two panes of 50, each with control number A/26 in the color of the frame; watermark and perforation were as in the previous set. An initial delivery of 2000 sets was made on January 1st 1927 and the remainder by January 20th. The totals were: 5m. – 302,000, 10m. and 15m. – 202,000 each. They were put on sale on January 25th and were valid for postage through April 24th.

A special date-stamp was provided for both Cairo and Alexandria. The one for Alexandria was at first incorrectly dated and read 1 FE 26, a year too early²⁰.

No major plate flaws are known for this issue, but a minor one, consisting of a small extra dot in the right inscription panel, below the first Arabic letter (the *kha* of *khamisa*), has been noted²⁰, but the position is not known, and it may not be constant.

Royal proofs of the usual sort were prepared in one sheet of 50 each.

1929: Birthday of Prince Farouk

Preparation of a set of stamps to commemorate the tenth birthday of the Prince was requested by King Fuad in March 1928. The design was approved in September and work

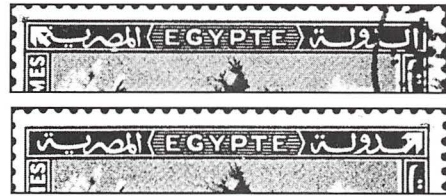


Fig. 8 Sheet-corner guide marks.



Fig. 9 Hand-painted essay for final design.

proceeded for printing a four-value set by photolithography. They were to be bicolored, with the vignette of the Prince in uniform color and the frames each different. Both parts were printed in half-tone. Sketches, drawings, and photographic proofs were in the Hewitt archive¹¹(Fig. 9).

An advance delivery of 2000 sets was made on January 8th 1929. The vignette was black on the 5m. and a soft brown on the three other values. The customary allotment to the UPU of 440 sets came from this delivery²¹, which was also sent to Ismailia (and perhaps some other places) for eventual sale to the public. There was evidently immediate dissatisfaction with the appearance of the vignette and the main supply, which was not delivered until January 31st, had the vignettes in slate (shades) and was made from a new plate. The frames were unchanged: 5m. – greyish brown, 10m. – carmine red, 15m. – ultramarine, and 20m. – light turquoise. The quantities were the same for each value, 200,000. They were put on sale on February 11th for one week only. The perforation, 13½x13, royal watermark, and printing in two panes of 50, were the same as for

previous commemoratives. Each value had control number A/29.

There were no major varieties, but the 10m. has been noted²² with the center displaced about 1mm downward and to the right. Various minor plate flaws exist^{21,23,24} including one with a third dot in the Arabic of the right value tablet of the 20m.²⁴

Very few of the first colors were actually used, although some have been seen cancelled at Ismailia²⁴.

The 15m. has been reported²⁵ with a paler frame color resembling that of the 20m. It is not clear whether this is a genuine error or a changeling.

The usual royal proofs, on thick, imperforate paper and on watermarked paper with skewed perforations, were produced in a sheet of 50 for each value.

1933: International Railway Congress

Preparation of the four-value set for the Railway Congress began well in advance, in February 1932. Pencil sketches and careful drawings in India ink on tracing paper were made²⁶ (Fig. 10). A large group of these was in the Hewitt archive¹¹.

The decision to use pictures of historically representative locomotives was made in June and photographs of various locomotives of the Egyptian State Railways were

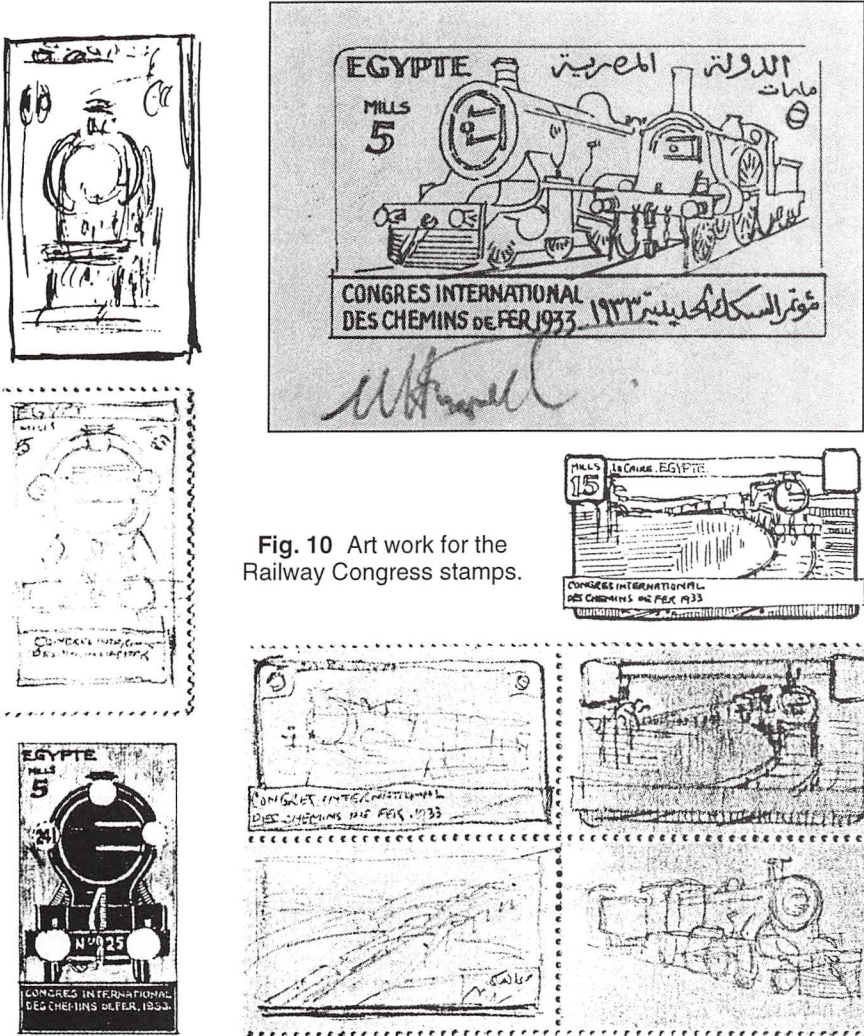


Fig. 10 Art work for the Railway Congress stamps.

gathered for use as the basis for design work. By this decision the narrow-gauge light railways were unfortunately ignored. The subjects were:

- 5m. – Engine No. 1, built in 1852 by Robert Stephenson & Co.
- 10m. – Engine No. 41, built in 1859 also by Stephenson, elaborately decorated for use on the special train for Khedive Said.
- 13m. – Engine No. 68, built in 1862 by Neilson & Co.
- 15m. – Engine No. 787, an express passenger locomotive built by the North British Locomotive Co. in 1925.

A useful book, *Chemins de Fer d’Egypte*, was prepared for delegates to the Congress. It contains a large number of maps and a history of the development of the State Railways system and of the several agricultural railways, as well as an illustration of Engine No. 41 in color.

The frames and the line drawings for the vignettes were approved in October and the final proofs received the approval of King Fuad in December 1932. Printing by photo-lithography proceeded forthwith and delivery was completed before the end of the month. Perforation, watermark, and sheet size were the same as for the previous commemoratives in horizontal format. The control number A/32 appeared on all sheets. Two vignette plates are recorded as having been used for the 13m., but no difference between them has been detected.

The denominations differed from the previous commemorative sets because of a change in postal rates: internal letters – 5m., foreign postcards – 13m., letters to Britain and Colonies – 15m., UPU letters – 20m.

The stamps were placed on sale at the Congress site, the Heliopolis Hotel, on January 19th 1933 and remained valid for postage through April 18th. The quantity printed of the 5m., 202,000, was normal, but that of the other values, 52,000 each, was unusually small. The 13m. was used up rapidly and was taken off sale by the third day. Thereafter, a complete set could only be obtained by means of a coupon from the Director of Posts.

The special Congress cancellation at first had a curious error: the year of the Congress, 1933, was reversed in mirror image. This was quickly noticed, and it has been estimated²⁷ that only about 50 covers, posted on the first day, received the erroneous cancellation.

The usual royal proofs of both kinds were prepared in a sheet of 50 for each value. No plate flaws have been reported.

Photogravure Issues¹

1926: The 58th Birthday of King Fuad²⁸

A single impressive stamp was chosen to honor King Fuad on his 58th birthday. This unusual choice of anniversary may have been based on the lunar Muslim calendar according to which it would have been the 60th anniversary of his birth (AH1284–1344).

The contract was given to Harrison & Sons rather than to the Survey Department, the photogravure facilities of which were probably overtaxed with preparing the ordinary stamps for issue in 1927. Grounds for doubting that the work was actually done by Harrison's were published²⁹ in 1951 with the suggestion that the stamps were printed in Holland or Belgium; it has been subsequently established that Harrison's sub-contracted the work to Nederland Rotogravure Maatschappij.

A group of five photographic essays with elaborately ornate frames^{2,28} was submitted by Harrison's (Fig. 11), but they were rejected in favor of a simpler, dignified design (Fig. 12) prepared in three versions by Verruchi Bey, Architect to the Palace. The selection was made in January 1925 and Harrison's prepared 19 models in different colors (some are in the Cairo Postal Museum). The denomination, 50 piasters, was exceptionally high, presumably to enhance the impact.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 25 (5x5) on paper with the Harrison watermark, triple crescent and star in multiple; two thicknesses of paper have been reported⁷, but measurements have not been published and no distinction is usually made. The watermark exists reversed. There was no control number.

Perforating the sheets of stamps of unusual size seems to have caused difficulties. The gauge used was 14x14½ line, but apparently the machine used for the long vertical

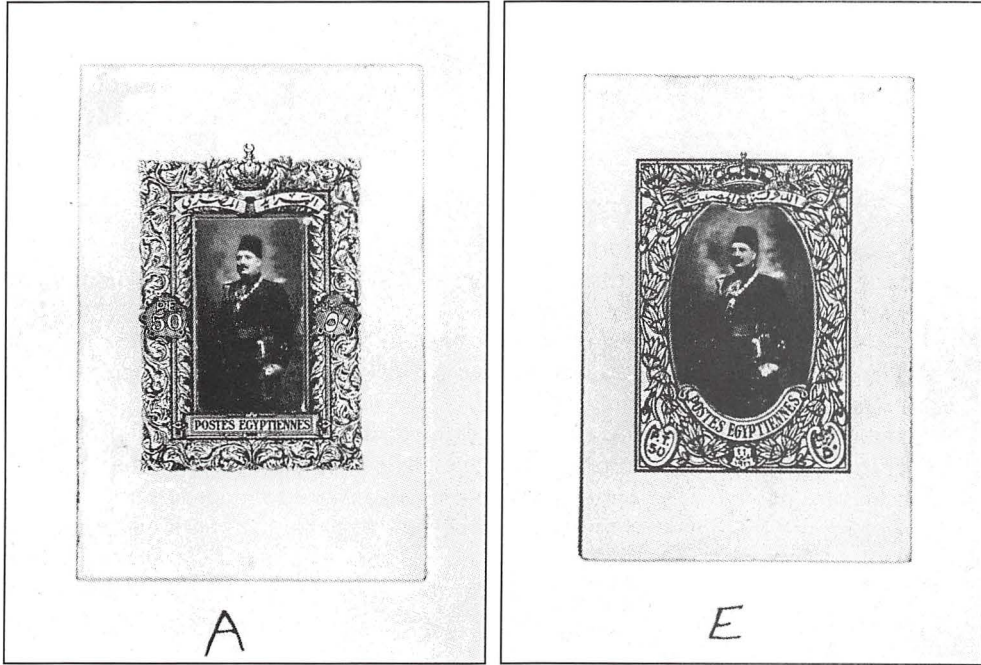


Fig. 11 Harrison essays.

dimension did not have a perforating head of sufficient length. Consequently, the vertical rows were extended with a gauge-14 head. This perforated only three rows and part of a fourth vertically, thereby leaving one row of five perforated 14 all around and one row having perforation $14 \times (14 + 14\frac{1}{2})$. The break in gauge can be found on either row 4 or row 2. One sheet at least missed being perforated across one end, giving rise to a rare variety, imperforate at top or bottom (only singles are known, on which the imperforate margin is torn across). For the uncharged stamps, this variety is known only from the top row, in used condition. On some sheets there was an exceptionally large space between the design and the top line of perforation, giving rise to tall stamps.

Of the 200,000 stamps printed, 440 were sent to the UPU and only 56,750 are said to have been sold. An initial delivery of 15,000 was received on March 29th and another 120,000 on April 24th; they were put on sale on April 2nd 1926 and apparently remained valid (presumably until



Fig. 12 Verruchi essay.

the end of the monarchy). The majority of them were used, probably on parcel cards, and unused stamps, as well as examples used on envelopes, are distinctly scarce.

No plate flaws have been reported, although minute imperfections make it possible to plate the stamps. No royal proofs were prepared. Some of the issue was used for consular fiscal purposes.

1926: "Port Fouad" Overprints²⁸

The dedication of the new port town, Port Fouad, opposite Port Said, and the concurrent opening of its post office in December 1926 was an occasion of much festivity and advance publicity³⁰. The set of three Navigation Congress stamps and the 50PT. King's Birthday stamp were overprinted PORT FOUAD ("Le Caire" was blocked out on the Congress stamps). The overprinting was assigned to the Government Printing Works, which used lithography.

Of the three low values, 2,500 each were printed, and of the 50PT., only 1,520. The latter, of course, included the perforation varieties. The UPU was sent 440 sets.

The advance publicity combined with the small quantity of stamps to generate a riot that wrecked the post office and caused three deaths. Some stamps must have been damaged in the process. However,

most of the stamps were distributed to visiting dignitaries. A hand-stamped SPECIMEN exists, origin unknown (3 copies claimed).

Other than the perforations on the 50PT., varieties include the plate flaws on the Navigation Congress stamps and one overprint variety in which "Le Caire" is blocked out by a double bar on the 15m. (perhaps because low centering failed to cover the name sufficiently). One sheet of the 50PT. was found to have an inverted overprint and was burned before the date of issue³¹.

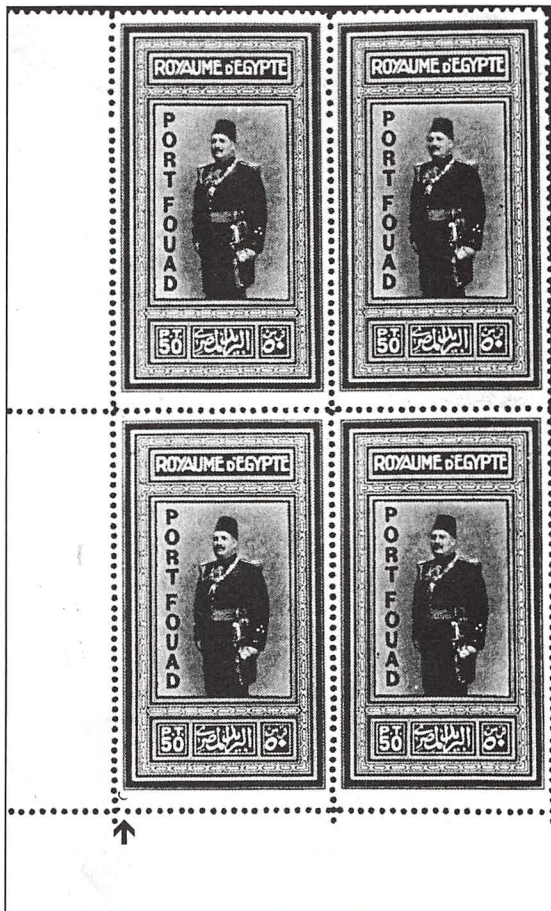


Fig. 13 The PORT FOUAD date-stamp and a corner block of the issued stamp (showing a registry guide mark for the overprint at the lower left corner).

Each of the corner stamps of the 50PT. has a corner pinhole used to achieve exact placement on the press²⁸ and a tiny guide mark at one corner.

A large proportion of the stamps was used on covers cancelled on the first day, 21 DE 26, and handed back to the owners. Used stamps, usually on such covers, are somewhat less scarce than unused.

The small printings and relatively simple overprints led to forgery in a short time. The most deceptive of them were made on unoverprinted stamps on genuine covers that had been posted in Port Fouad on the first day (apparently in preparation for subsequent forgery). However, forgeries also exist on unused stamps. Some forgeries can be quickly eliminated by two tests. If the overprint shows the typical features of typography, indenting into the paper and ink squash at the edges of the letters, it is forged³². If the stamp is used it must bear the Port Fouad cancellation (Fig. 13), for the stamps were not used elsewhere. The more sophisticated forgeries require minute comparison with genuine reference examples or exceptionally good photographs of them. However, some forgeries can be detected by deviations in the lettering, especially of the 50PT.³²

1932: Surcharged Stamps

It is convenient to take up these stamps here, out of order, and although they are not commemorative stamps, in order to facilitate comparison with the basic unoverprinted stamps.

The ever-frugal Postal Administration decided early in 1932 to dispose of stocks of the obsolete 50PT. King Fuad Birthday and £E1 King Fuad portrait stamp of 1924 and requested the Survey Department to surcharge them respectively "50 milliemes" and "100 milliemes". The surcharges were drawn in India ink on tracing paper and the necessary number of photographs of them were pinned in position to match the sheets. Photographic negatives made from these mock-ups were used to prepare plates for photo-lithography. Some of the drawings and photos were in the Hewitt archive (Fig. 14)¹¹.

The 50m./50PT. was delivered in a quantity of 141,750 stamps on February 4th 1932 and put on sale on March 4th. Some spoiled sheets were destroyed. Of the 100m./£E1, 3,750 were delivered on February 6th and put on sale on March 6th. No errors are known, but the perforation varieties indigenous to the 50PT. stamp persisted on the surcharged ones. The variety imperforate at bottom is rare, and known used only; none

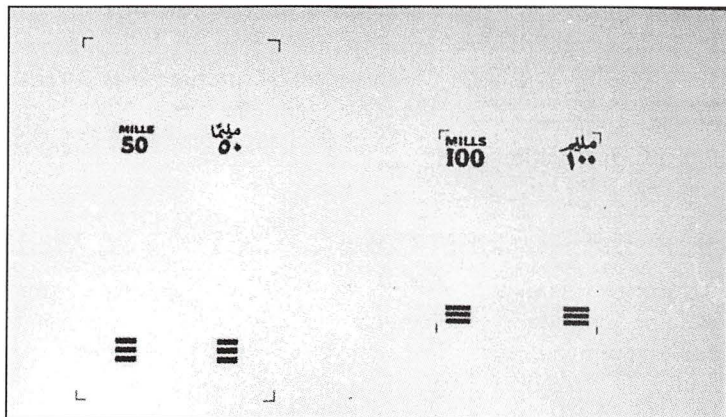


Fig. 14 Art work for the surcharges.

is known imperforate at top. Both surcharged stamps exist with reversed watermark.

The 50m./50PT. was used extensively on parcels, and is thus commoner used than unused. However, philatelists were evidently immediately aware of the small printing of the 100m./£E1 and most of that denomination were quickly sold and saved. Consequently, it is much scarcer used, and the few used examples are mostly on registered first-day covers.

Multiples of the 50m./50PT. are not scarce, and even full sheets can be found (with difficulty), but multiples of the 100m./£E1 are somewhat rare. There were no control numbers. No royal proofs were made.

There are reports of a typographed forgery of the 100m./£E1 made on genuinely used stamps (beware of unclear cancellations, or those of other than Alexandria or Cairo). Unused stamps are unlikely candidates for forgery since the original stamps are of nearly equal value.

1927: International Statistical Congress

The original sketch for a set of three stamps was submitted to the Ministry of Finance in August 1927. The subject was a statue of Amenhotep, a photo of which was supplied by the Cairo Museum. He was responsible for the first census in Egypt. Some sketches were in the Hewitt archive¹¹.

This issue was the first departure from photo-lithography for printing commemorative stamps by the Survey Department, which carried out the order using photogravure. The process was much the same, however; master positives instead of negatives were used with the step-and-repeat camera to generate the printing cylinders (see Chapter XXVI for more details). The cylinders printed two panes of 50, each with control A/27. Perforation and watermark were as usual. Two cylinders were used for the 5m., one for each of the other values.



Fig. 15 Flaw between LE CAIRE and 1927.

An initial delivery of 2000 sets was made on November 14th 1927 and the remainder on November 22nd, with these totals: 5m. chestnut – 302,000, 10m. brick red – 202,000, 15m. bright blue – 202,000. They were put on sale on December 29th and were valid until March 16th 1928.

A proof sheet of the 10m. is displayed in the Cairo Postal Museum, annotated with a variety of plate flaws to be corrected³³. It is curious that the most prominent flaw was missed: a heavy spot of color between LE CAIRE and 1927 (Fig. 15). It occurs on position 32 of alternate sheets and is found in the control number corner block.

The usual royal proofs were produced in one sheet of 50 each.

1928: International Congress of Tropical Medicine

This Congress coincided with the centennial of the Qasr el Aini Hospital and School of Medicine founded by Mohammed Ali the Great. The set of two stamps was thus a double commemorative. The subjects of the design were selected by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Cairo, in April 1928 and accepted by the Postmaster General in May. For the 5m., a picture of Imhotep taken from Madden's *Surgery in Egypt* was

adopted. Imhotep was a “universal genius” who lived in the 30th–29th century BC and was a renowned and revered physician as well as royal architect, astronomer, sage, scribe, and Grand Vizier under Pharaoh Zoser. His effigy is featured on the badge of the Faculty of Medicine. The portrait of Mohammed Ali the Great shown on the 10m. is from a painting.

The standard procedure was used from working drawings to master positives and photogravure cylinders, and the stamps were printed in two panes of 50, with control number A/28. Two cylinders were used for the 10m., one for the 5m. On October 31st, 402,000 of the 5m. and 400,000 of the 10m. were delivered and they were put on sale on December 15th with validity to March 16th 1929. Perforation and watermark were as usual. Three drawings and proofs denominated 15m. were in the Hewitt archive¹¹.

A curious variety, somewhat scarce, on the 5m. consists of thin vertical stripes, most readily visible on the background, giving an appearance of corduroy (Fig. 16). It is not constant, and is not attributable to the printing cylinder. It is best explained as a temporary malfunction of the doctor blade mechanism, allowing it to vibrate or stutter during the wiping process³⁴.

On the 10m. a small but readily seen plate flaw occurs on position 6 of alternate sheets: the bottom bar of the E of INTERNATIONAL is broken, such that the letter resembles an F.

The usual royal proofs were produced in one sheet of 50 each.

A very curious, even unprecedented, variety, a double watermark, one faint, on the 5m., was reliably reported³⁵ in 1972. Perhaps it was the result of a roll-back of the dandy-roll during manufacture of the paper (such a variety, repeated regularly

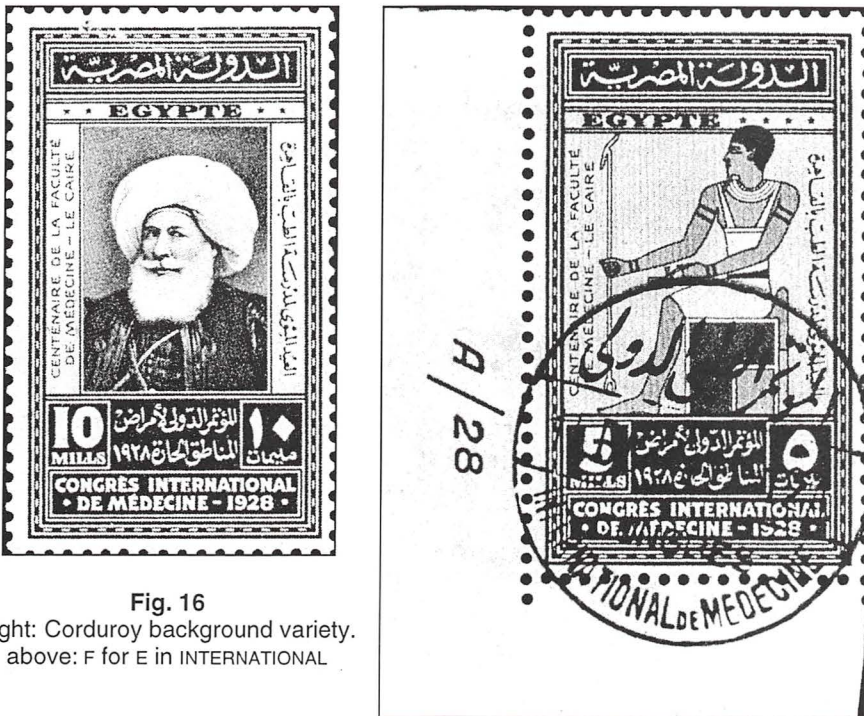


Fig. 16
right: Corduroy background variety.
above: F for E in INTERNATIONAL

throughout the sheet, has also been reported on the 15m. King Farouk ordinary stamp of 1937).

1931: Agricultural and Industrial Exposition

A design for stamps for the occasion was requested in March 1930 and the Antiquities Department of the Egyptian Museum supplied photographs of reliefs in the tomb of Ti in Saqqara. One showing a reaping scene was chosen, and sketches were prepared; they were approved by King Fuad and the Ministry of Finance in December. The standard process was followed, starting with a line and wash drawing, leading to a photogravure cylinder for two panes of 50. A group of essays and incomplete proofs was in the Hewitt archive¹¹ (Fig. 17).



Fig. 17 Incomplete photographic essay.



Fig. 18 Broken upper right corner.

The three values were delivered on January 6th 1931 and put on sale from February 15th to May 15th: 5m. chestnut – 502,000, 10m. brick red – 402,000, 15m. blue – 302,000. The control number for each was A/30. Perforation and watermark were the same as the previous sets.

There is one prominent plate flaw: the upper right corner of the 5m. is broken in position 43 of alternate sheets (Fig. 18).

The usual royal proofs were prepared in sheets of 50 each.

1933: Congress of the International Aviation Federation

Designs for a set of five stamps were requested in May 1932; three of them were selected:

5m. and 10m. – Imperial Airways passenger airplane *Atlanta*

13m. and 15m. – *Dornier DO-X* flying boat

20m. – airship *Graf Zeppelin*

A group of eight pencil sketches, four pen-and-ink drawings, and some incomplete proofs was in the Hewitt archive¹¹.

Wash drawings were made of the frames; these were then photographed and prints were made. Prints made from retouched negatives of the aircraft were added and the combinations were rephotographed to make photo-originals from which the photogravure cylinders, with two panes of 50, were made in the usual manner. On October 28th the following quantities were delivered: 5m. chestnut – 202,000, and 52,000 each of 10m. violet, 13m. brownish red, 15m. purple, 20m. blue.

The control numbers were A/33 for each; perforation and watermark were as for the preceding issues.

The stamps were on sale from December 20th 1933 to January 19th 1934. It should be noted that they were not air mail stamps. The denominations were those for the principal categories of surface mail letters and postcards, and the stamps have no inscription denoting air mail.

A plate flaw on the 13m. consists of a broken 9 on the airplane, resembling a 5 (i.e., '1925' instead of '1929') (Fig. 19); it occurs on position 4 of alternate sheets. A watermark variety, a badly broken Arabic *fe'*, has been reported³⁵.

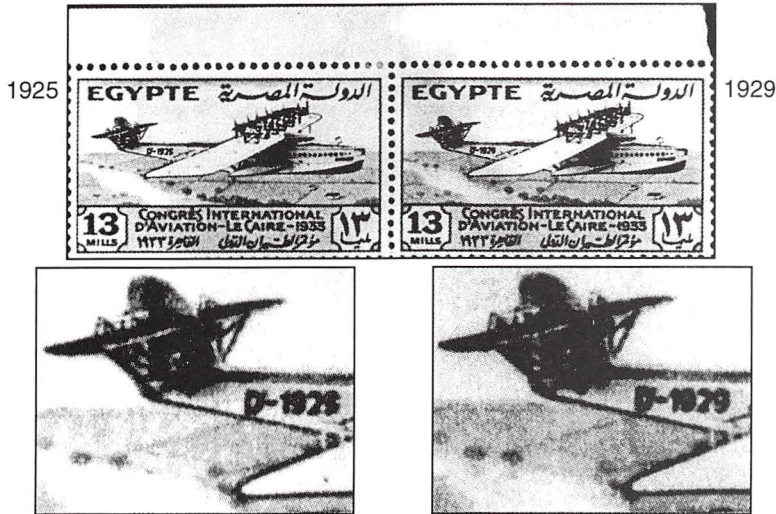


Fig. 19 1925 instead of 1929 on the aeroplane.

Although most of the first-day cancellations were correctly dated, a substantial quantity read 20DE 32, one year too early.

The usual royal proofs, on imperforate thick paper or on watermarked paper with skewed perforations, were prepared in one sheet of 50 each.

1934: Tenth Universal Postal Union Congress

A Congress of the Universal Postal Union is normally held only at ten-year intervals and is an event of major importance for the country hosting it. The siting of the Tenth Congress in Egypt called for celebration by the Postal Administration, and it was accordingly decided to issue a complete set of the denominations in current use to commemorate the Congress.

The decision to feature the portrait of Khedive Ismail Pasha, who was responsible for the creation of the Egyptian Postal Service out of the *Posta Europea*, was made at the beginning when specific designs were requested in April 1933. The Survey Department submitted sketches in June, and they were promptly approved. The twelve low values used a photograph supplied by the Royal Library, and the two high values featured a three-quarter-length picture supplied by the Royal Khassa. Pen-and-ink drawings were in the Hewitt archive¹¹.

Photogravure cylinders were prepared much as for the Aviation Congress stamps. They bore one sheet of 100 of the low values and one sheet of 50 for the high values. In view of the anticipated extended period of use, the quantities printed were larger than for most commemoratives: 1m. orange, 2m. black, 3m. sepia, 4m. blue-green, and 13m. brick red – 502,000 each; 5m. chestnut – 802,000; 10m. violet and 20m. blue – 602,000 each; 15m. purple – 402,000; 50m. greenish blue, 100m. blue-green, and 200m. blue-violet –

202,000 each; 50PT. sepia and £E1 deep greenish blue – 17,000 each. Deliveries were completed in November 1933 and the stamps were put on sale on February 1st 1934. The original termination date, December 31st, was extended to June 30th 1935.

All control numbers were A/34. The low values were perforated 14x13½ and the high values 13½x13; the watermark was the usual, crown and *fe'*.

The only error recorded is an inverted watermark on the 50m., only known used (rare)³⁶. Some minor plate flaws have been noted³⁷. Royal proofs of the two usual types were made in one sheet of 100 each for the low values and one sheet of 50 each for the two high values.

The Congress post office was opened at Heliopolis on January 11th, in advance of the date of issue of the stamps, which was presumably set for the opening day of the Congress. First-day cancellations erroneously dated 1 FE 43 are not scarce.

The quantities issued were evidently more than enough to fill the philatelic demand at a time of world-wide economic depression, and large quantities were used in the ordinary mail. Consequently, the high values are less expensive used than unused.

A most useful book, *Les Postes en Egypte*, was prepared for the delegates to the Congress; it consists of a detailed, illustrated history of the development of postal services, but not quite all of the information in it is reliable. It was subsequently reprinted in *L'Orient Philatelique* in instalments.

1936: Agricultural and Industrial Exposition

When the Postmaster General initially requested that stamps be prepared to commemorate the Exposition, the question of having them be triangular was raised. However, the idea was abandoned because of the extra expense. Instead, the usual rectangular format was adopted and the Survey Department prepared nine sketches based on photographs of the Exposition buildings. These were located in the exposition compound in Gezireh, just across the bridge from the Maidan el Tahrir, the Nile Hilton Hotel, and the Semiramis Hotel. Three of the designs were chosen: 5m. chestnut – the main entrance gate (vertical format), 10m. violet and 13m. brick red – the Grand Palace, 15m. dull purple and 20m. blue – approach to the Central Building. All three designs embodied a departure from conventional stamp design; there were no framelines, and the image of each stamp was continuous with those of neighboring stamps. A large group of sketches, drawings, and photographic proofs was in the Hewitt archive¹¹.

Photogravure cylinders having two panes of 50 were prepared in the usual manner, except that the working drawings were used directly, without intermediate photo-originals. Denominations were entered by means of transparencies (10m. and 13m.) or were added to the originals (15m. and 20m.). In the middle of these preparations the date of the Exposition was changed from December 1935 to February 1936 and new photopositives and cylinders had to be made.

The stamps were delivered on January 13th:

5m. – 502,000	15m. – 202,000
10m. – 202,000	20m. – 102,000
13m. – 102,000	

The control numbers were A/36, the perforation 13½x13 (5m.) or 13x13½ (all other values), and the watermark the same as previous issues. A dandy-roll flaw, caused by a broken bit, shows in one subject of the multiple watermark and has been noted on the 5m. and 20m.: the Arabic *fe'* is almost totally missing³⁵ (this error presumably exists on the other values). The stamps were on sale from February 15th to May 15th 1936.

Only minor flaws, which may not be constant, have been reported³⁸. The customary two types of royal proofs were prepared in one sheet of 50 each.

1936: Anglo-Egyptian Treaty

When the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty was signed, August 26th 1936, the Minister of Finance proposed issuing a commemorative set of stamps and arranged to have a suitable photograph taken of the signing ceremony in London. Four sketches had been made for stamps of normal commemorative size before the photograph was received, but these were abandoned in favor of a larger size (that of the 1925 Geographical Congress, but horizontal) in order to accommodate the photograph with adequate detail. King Fuad having died in April, these were the first stamps of the reign of King Farouk, and they bore his initial, F, in the upper left corner, and his monogram in Arabic at the upper right. The stamps used English instead of French inscriptions for the first time since the 1914–21 pictorials. Two pencil sketches, three pen-and-ink drawings, a complete essay for the frame, and photographic proofs were in the Hewitt archive¹¹.

Photogravure cylinders having one sheet of 100 (10x10) were prepared in the usual manner. Deliveries were made in November and the stamps were placed on sale from December 22nd 1936 to March 22nd 1937: 5m. deep chestnut – 560,000; 15m. dark purple – 320,000; 20m. blue – 240,000. The perforation, 11¼x11½, differed from that of previous commemoratives, but the watermark was the same. Control numbers were A/36.

One sheet each of the usual two types of royal proofs were prepared. However, the quantities were twice as great as most of the previous commemoratives, owing to the larger size of the sheets.

Later Issues

Since most of the characteristics of the commemoratives issued after 1936 are the same and are given in the general catalogs and in the last (1972) edition of the Zeheri Specialized Catalogue, they will not be repeated here. However, there are a number of special features that deserve mention.

Printing Plates

Beginning with the 1937 issue for the Abrogation of Capitulations, the commemoratives were printed from photogravure plates rather than cylinders. In most cases there were two panes of 50 per plate; the exceptions were the oversize stamps: 1938 Wedding (1 pane of 50), 1938 Birthday (1 pane of 25), 1940 Princess Ferial (2 panes of 100), and 1949 Agricultural & Industrial Exposition (low values – 6 sheets per plate, 30m. – 8 sheets per plate). The 1946 Stamp Anniversary, 1951 Mediterranean Games, and 1952 Crown Prince Ahmed souvenir sheets were printed 2 sheets per plate.

Control Numbers

The arrangement of the control numbers changed with the 1947 Fine Arts issue to one in which the lower left and upper right corners had the control in European characters and the other two corners had it in Arabic. The arrangement was changed again with the 1948 Cotton Congress issue to one in which the Arabic and European control numbers appeared once only, at the lower right of the sheets.

Imperforates, Proofs, Errors

Some of the commemorative stamps were found in imperforate sheets or blocks on watermarked paper in the Palace collections:

1938 Birthday (25)	1951 Wedding (60) + 27 imperforate souvenir sheets
1938 Leprosy Congress (50)	1951 Mediterranean Games 10m. (240), 30m. (80) + 12 imperforate souvenir sheets (one as a pair)
1944 King Fuad Death Anniversary (100)	1952 Abrogation of Treaty 10m. (90) 22m. (68), 30m. (78) + 25 imperforate souvenir sheets
1945 Birthday (100)	1952 Crown Prince Ahmed (200)
1946 Stamp Anniversary, 17m. only (100)	
1946 Withdrawal of Troops (90)	
1946 Arab League, 15m. only (50)	
1950 Desert Institute (80)	
1946 Fuad I University (70)	
1946 Geographical Society (77)	
1951 Cotton Congress (90)	

Apparently beginning in 1937, the Survey Department submitted impressions from trial plates of nine subjects, imperforate, in some cases in trial colors or shades, for approval by the King. Not all of them seem to have been returned, but were found in the Palace Collections when they were sold in 1954. There was only one of each. With bicolored stamps, separate trial sheets for each color were made. No trial sheets of nine were found for the following issues: 1938 Wedding, 1938 Telecommunications 5m. and 20m., 1938 Birthday, 1938 Leprosy Congress, 1944 King Fuad Death Anniversary, 1949 UPU, and all subsequent issues.

Some errors were found in the Palace Collections. These include the 1946 Stamp Anniversary 1m. with the overprint inverted and misplaced (50) and the 1946 Troop Withdrawal imperforate with misplaced flag (50). Unfinished proofs exist: 1938 Birthday, frame alone (50) and vignette alone (25); 1948 Ibrahim Pasha, frame alone and vignette alone (50 each); 1949 Mohammed Ali, 16 different color trials, and 1949 Abolition of Mixed Courts, 12 different imperforate color trials. A combined sheet of essays and color trials of the 1943 Princess Ferial overprint was made up with each horizontal row of ten being different, including blue, black, and green, and different typefaces; two of the rows had double overprints. The sheet has since been broken up into vertical strips of ten showing each variety.

Sketches, drawings, and photographic proofs of most issues up to the 1940 Princess Ferial stamp were in the Hewitt archive (examples shown in Fig. 20).

There is one fake or bogus item in this period: the 1947 Interparliamentary Union commemorative with a false "double impression", made by printing a coarse half-tone



Fig. 20 Items from the Hewitt archive: stages in the Ophthalmological Congress issue.

image of the design onto a normal stamp³⁹. Notwithstanding its crudeness, this bit of fakery continues to be offered in auctions, complete with illustration and effusive description, and some advanced collectors who should know better proudly display them in their collections. The dots of the half-tone impression are very obvious.

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10. Anon., *L'OP* No. 95, 412 (July 1956).
11. The Hewitt archive was sold by Robson Lowe International, Ltd., in Basel on March 23rd, 1979. Many of the essays and sketches are illustrated in the catalog of the auction, and some in the David Feldman sale of 3-8 November, 1996.
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14. G. Piperno, *ET* 2, 12 (Nov./Dec. 1969).
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18. C.F. Hass, *QC X* (12), 345 (whole no. 116, Dec. 1980).
19. W.F. Billens, *ET* 3, 90 (July/Aug. 1971).
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