

SOME NOTES ON BOOKLET ISSUES

By Peter Andrews (ESC 122)

Many Auctioneers when describing booklets use the H. R. Work Catalogue of Booklets as a reference and unless one is in possession of such a catalogue these references are either confusing or meaningless.

For some considerable time I have tried unsuccessfully to obtain a copy of the Work Catalogue and am indebted to 'Pip' Whetter (ESC 133) for an extract of the relevant Egypt section which is reproduced here for the benefit of members whose search has also been in vain.

Having recourse to this list one is now able to relate the particular booklet as described in an auction lot, but alas, the list is not entirely accurate and requires some amplification before use in study or for "writing up" a booklet collection.

The first three booklets were produced by Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd of London utilising stamps of the then current issue with star and crescent watermark. All booklets had interleaving of paraffin waxed paper, commonly used in hot countries to prevent stamps adhering to each other.

W1) 1st January 1903. 4 panes 6 x 5 mill Zh 41, two staples Left-Hand Side, black on pink. This booklet was put on sale at 121 milliemes but was not popular, due no doubt to the one millieme surcharge and a Postal Circular of 16th June 1911 stated that "starting the 1st July following, the booklets containing 24 stamps of 5 milliemes will be sold at 120 milliemes instead of 121 milliemes".

W2) 1st July 1903. 4 panes 6 x 5 mill Zh 39, two staples L.H.S., black on blue. The selling price of this booklet (73 milliemes) seemed to be just as unpopular, but in this case the booklets were distributed to Post Offices to be sold over the counter as loose stamps according to a Postal Circular dated 15th October 1907.

These first two booklets were manufactured from sheets of 240 stamps (comprising four panes of 60 in 6 rows of 10) each pane providing 10 booklet panes of six stamps (2 x 3) .

W3) 8th January 1914. 4 panes 6 x 5 mill, Zh 48, two staples either L. or R.H.S., black on pink. Again the original sale price of 125 milliemes was reduced to 120 milliemes from 1st January 1919 as stated in a postal Circular of 29th December 1918. As stamps of this issue were printed in sheets of 200 (comprising two panes of 100 in 10 rows of 10), a special forme of 240 subjects was produced and printing carried out on stocks of paper remaining from the previous stamp issues. This format produced stamps with sideways watermark and, depending on the relative position of the sheets when put to press, can be found with the crescent open to either right or left (Zh 48b or Zh 48c).

From 1921 the printing of Egyptian postage stamps was carried out by Harrison & Sons Ltd of London and from this date a new watermark, the multiple star and crescent, came into use.

W4) 12th June 1921. 4 panes 6 x 5 mill, Zh 60; two staples, L.H.S., black on pink, sold at 120 milliemes.

This booklet had white paper interleaves between the panes of stamps but in this case there were five such interleaves and each carried an advertisement either side in either English, French or Arabic. Advertisements were also printed on both sides of the back cover and inside the front cover, with details of the booklet make-up and price printed in English and Arabic on the outer front cover.

W5) November 1921. 4 panes 6 x 5 mill Zh 61, two staples L.H.S., black on pink, sold at 120 mills. Interleaving now reverted to plain paraffin waxed sheets and the advertising experiment abandoned.

W6) 14th April 1923. 4 panes 6 x 5 mill, Zh 73.11, one staple L.H.S., black on pink. On the 15th March 1922 Egypt became an independent Kingdom and the then current stamp issues received an overprint of a Royal Crown and an Arabic inscription with date commemorating the event. A special forme was prepared by the National Printing Works at Boulac comprising six impressions (3 x 2) of the overprint (small crown, type II, see Zeheri Catalogue, 1972, PP 71 & 72). Existing booklets (no. 5) were taken apart, each pane of stamps overprinted separately and the booklets reconstituted with a single staple fixing (booklet panes show the marks of the two stapling operations).

W7) 1923/24 4 panes 6 x 5 mill Zh 86 two staples black on pink sold at 120 mills
Zh 86 two staples black on pink
1 pane 6 x 10 mill Zh 87
1 pane 6 x 15 mill Zh 88

These latter two booklets are rather a mystery since there seems to be no record of the dates of printing or issue and no evidence of the printing plate make-up, but both types are described in the Byam Sale Catalogue within lots 738 and 739

Subsequent issues of Egyptian stamps were printed by the Egyptian State Survey Department and from 1926 to 1943 booklets were manufactured from sheets of 120 stamps comprising two panes of 60 (each 6 x 10) separated by a vertical plain gutter the width of a normal stamp. During the reign of King Fuad the panes of 60 stamps intended for booklet manufacture contained three stamps upright and three stamps inverted in each row, thus when the panes were cut and bound on the left hand side, an equal quantity of booklets had upright and inverted watermarks-.

W8) 8th January 1927. 4 panes 6 x 5 mill Zh 103, stitched at L.H.S., black on pink, sold at 120 milliemes. This issue was the first of a long series delivered to the Post Office on 8-1-27 (W8), 2-5-28 (W9), 7-6-30, 13-7-31, 7-7-32, 7-8-34 and 7-9-35,

W10) 14th October 1930. 2 panes 6 x 5 mill Zh 103, stitched at L.H.S., black on
1 pane 6 x 10 mill Zh 104
blue

1 pane 6 x 15 mill Zh 107

W11) 21st October 1936. 4 panes 6 x 5 mill, Zh123, stitched at L.H.S., black on pink. This booklet and a further issue on 15th September 1937 contained stamps bearing the head of Fuad with modified frame (Postes) and were sold for 120 milliemes.

From 1937 a change in the method of booklet manufacture is observed and booklets are stitched at either right or left. Sheets of stamps still contained 120 stamps in two panes of 60 but did not have the tete-beche arrangement and any inverted watermarks are the result of sheets of paper being inverted when put to press. The stamps showing King Farouk in civilian dress and having watermark Royal Crown and Arabic letter F.

W12) 29th June 1938. 4 panes 6 x 5 mill, Zh 131, stitched L or R., black on pink. Again a number of deliveries were made to the Post Office on 29-6-38 (W12), 29-4-39, 8-1-40 and 6-11-41, all booklets being sold at 120 milliemes each.

W13) 29th April 1939. 2 panes 6 x 5 mill, Zh 131, stitched L or R, black on blue. 1 pane 6 x 10 mill Zh 133

1 pane 6 x 15 mill Zh 135

W12 and W13 also had a further innovation in that the interleaving was changed to a brownish white paper with postal advice (in Arabic) to the purchaser.

(Work appears to have assumed that since the 'Boy King' stamps were issued in 1937 the booklets were also issued during that year).

In 1941 booklet manufacture was stopped and the sheets of stamps prepared for this purpose were distributed to Post Offices for over-counter sales. These stocks contained stamps of 20 milliemes denomination but as far as can be ascertained this value was never included in any booklet issue. 20 millieme blocks are extant but none so far as I am aware show the tell-tale booklet stitching marks and it is somewhat of a mystery why Work included his W14 unless, having seen sheets or control blocks of this stamp from the booklet forme, he assumed that booklets had been manufactured.

W15) 26th May 1942. 5 panes 6 x 6 mill, Zh 132, stitched L. or R., black on pink. These booklets sold for 180 milliemes and there was a further delivery to the Post Office on 27-6-43. It would seem that again Work assumed booklet production at time of stamp issue.

Once again booklet production ceased and the sheets of stamps were forwarded to Post Offices for sale over the counter.

From 1951 booklet manufacture recommenced with the stamps now depicting King Farouk in military uniform. Sheets of stamps for booklet production underwent a further change and each printing sheet which previously held 120 impressions now had only 54, disposed as 9 booklet sheets of 6 (3 x 2) and printed in three rows of three. Each booklet pane was cut directly from the sheet and formed a 'miniature sheet' with selvedge on all sides, thus allowing left or right-hand stitching at will. Control numbers were lost during the cutting of these sheets.

W16) 1951 4 panes 6 x 10 mill Zh 151, stitched L. or R., black on pink. sold for 240 milliemes

W17) 1952 2 panes 6 x 4 mill Zh 149, stitched L. or R., black on pink. 2 panes 6 x 10 mill Zh 1511 pane 6 x 22 mill Zh 155 sold for 300 milliemes

Unsold booklets were withdrawn from sale on the abdication of King Farouk and used by the Parcels Office of Cairo Central Post Office before these stamps became obsolete.

W18) 1954 4 panes 6 x 10 mill Zh 219, stitched L. or R. black on pink sold for 240 milliemes

Manufactured in exactly similar manner to W16 these stamps also had the Royal Crown and Arabic watermark.

This article, like Topsy, has 'grewed' somewhat from the few explanatory notes intended whilst looking through the Work listing but it is hoped that it will give assistance to anyone with an interest in the stamp booklets of Egypt. To those requiring further information, the articles by A.J.Revell and J. Boulad d'Humieres in *L.O.P.* No. 127, pp 291-303, and *L.O.P.* No. 114, pp 412-427, together with the excellent bibliography following that article are recommended reading

EXTRACT FROM THE H.R.WORK CATALOGUE OF BOOKLETS 1958

1.	1903 4 panes of 6 5m carmine rose Stapled Black on pink Value 120m, price 125m	\$90
2.	1903 4 panes of 6 3m orange Black on blue Value 72m, price 73m	80
3.	1914 4 panes of 6 5m lake Black on pink Value 120m, price 125m	65
4.	1921 4 panes of 6 5m lake Stapled Value 120m Wmk mutt. crescent & star Black on pink	60
5.	1921 4 panes of 6 5m pink Stapled Black on pink	45
6.	1922 4 panes of 6 5m pink: Crown Overprint Stapled Black on pink	50
7.	1924 120m 4 panes of 6 5m brown Stitched Black on pink	30
8.	1927 120m 4 panes of 6 5m chestnut Stitched Blue on pink	30
9.	1929 120m 4 panes of 6 5m dark red. brown Stitched Black on pink	25
10.	1930 210m 2 panes of 6 5m Black on blue, 1 pane of 6 10m; 1 pane of 6 15m Stitched	30
11.	1936 120m 4 panes of 6 5m Stitched Black on pink	20
12.	1937 120m 4 panes of 6 5m Stitched right and left Interleaves plain or printed Black on pink	10
13.	1937 270m 2 panes of 6 5m 1 pane of 6 10m 1 pane of 6 15m Interleaves plain or printed Black on blue Stitched right & left	20
14.	1937 270m 2 panes of 6 5m 1 pane of 6 15m 1 pane of 6 20m, as No.13	25
15.	1940 180m 5 panes of 6 6m Stitched right & left Black on pink	10
16.	1944 240m 4 panes of 6 10m as No. 15	12
17.	1945 300m 2 panes of 6 4m 2 panes of 6 10m 1 pane of 6 22m as No. 15	20
18	1955 240m 4 panes of 6 10m Soldier with bayonet as No. 15	Stitched right 7½ Stitched left 5

(With acknowledgements to the publishers of the H.R.Work Catalogue of Booklets, 1958 - Editor).