

EGYPT'S FIRST COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE: 1925

A Philatelic Centennial Tribute to the International Geographical Congress in Cairo

PURPOSE & SCOPE OF EXHIBIT

This exhibit commemorates the 100th anniversary of Egypt's first commemorative stamp issue, released in March 1925 to honor the 15th International Geographical Congress held in Cairo. Printed in three denominations by the Survey Department in Cairo, it marked the first time the department produced a postage stamp. This presentation explores issue production, postal usage, design evolution, & broader historical context through mint stamps, congress-era covers & production varieties - reflecting philatelic significance & Egypt's national aspirations.

ORGANIZATION & PRESENTATION

The one-frame exhibit is arranged chronologically & thematically by denomination. Each double-wide page presents production features, postal rates, & usage - both domestic & international - along w/ notable varieties. The structure is designed to balance scholarly depth w/ visual clarity, conforming to competitive exhibiting standards.

RARITY & DIFFICULTY OF ACQUISITION

While mint stamps are moderately available, genuinely used examples on cover during the congress period (1–10 March 1925) are scarce. Particularly difficult to obtain are correctly rated solo franking's, full sets on commercial mail, & international airmail or registered usages. Collecting challenges include:

- Acquiring color trials, essays, & congress souvenirs, many of which were produced in small quantities & rarely appear on the market
- Securing congress-dated cancellations w/ appropriate rates
- Identifying authentic usages versus philatelic fabrications

These factors heighten the philatelic significance of this material in the context of the centennial.

Of particular importance, the exhibit displays a **unique set of 3 original pencil drawn essays**, a set of 3 color trials stamps in the same size & denominations (w/varieties), a set stamped "SPECIMENS", upper & lower left corners of the uniquely genuine mis perforated sheet, all plate blocks issued, recorded & unrecorded varieties.

Difficult to acquire items are bordered in **RED**.

TREATMENT & RESEARCH

Beginning w/ thirteen design proposals submitted in early 1924, the exhibit follows the approval & production process leading to the final design, which features Thoth—the Egyptian god of learning - inscribing a hieroglyphic dedication to King Fuad ("Fuad, King of the North & South - ever living - beloved of Ptah"). The stamps were issued in 5, 10, & 15 milliemes, printed on ready-gummed, watermarked paper supplied by Harrison & Sons Ltd.

Due to the stamp's large dimensions, standard sheet orientation could not accommodate two panes per sheet. As a result, paper was used sideways to fit 105 stamps (7 rows by 15 columns) in a single pane, causing the watermark to point upward instead of rightward as in earlier issues. This created pane layout irregularities & other anomalies.

The exhibit concludes w/ an in-depth analysis of positional varieties - an especially complex task due to the absence of intact panes. Block reconstructions were attempted, contributing original research to this foundational chapter in Egyptian philately.

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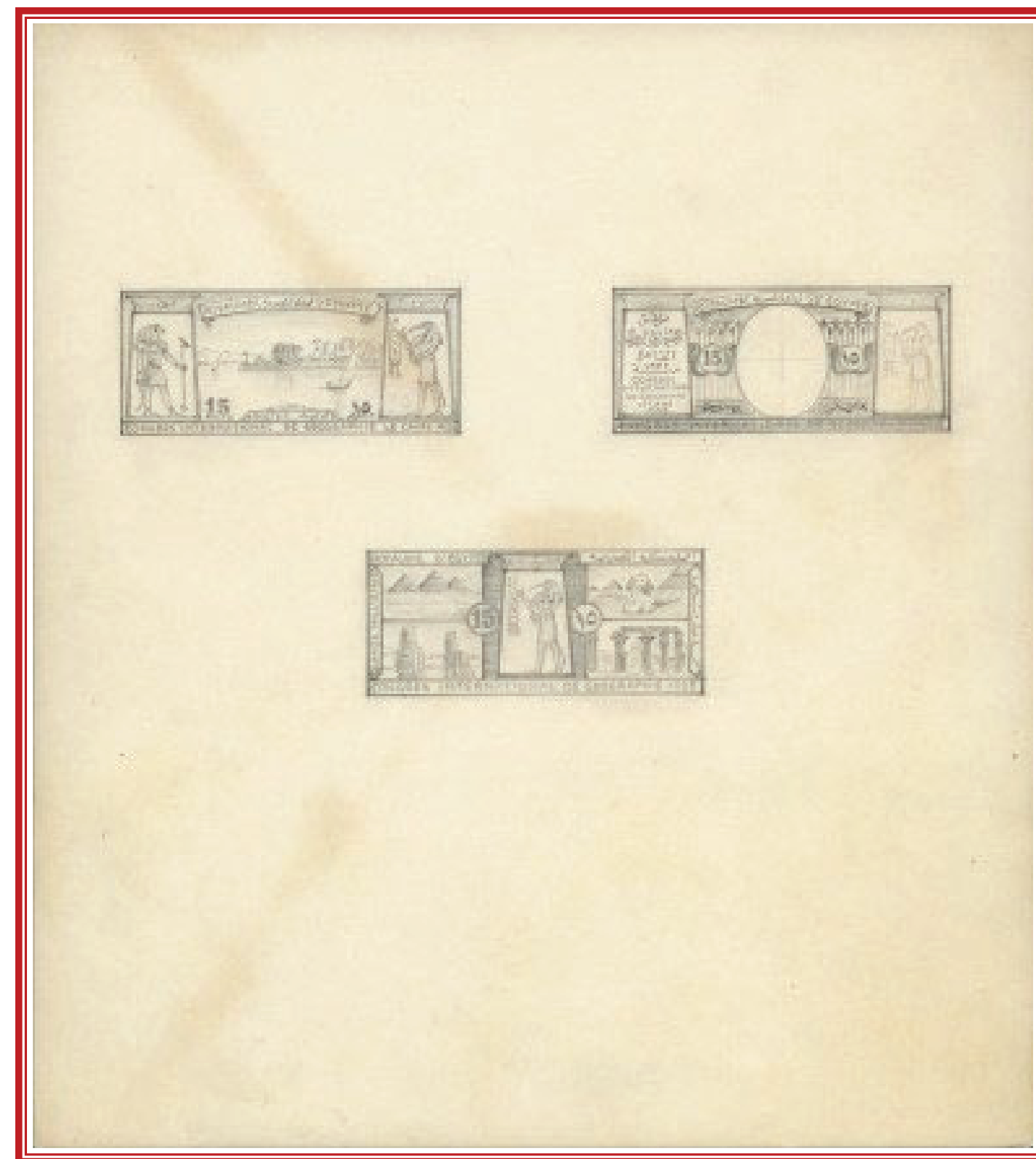
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ONE OF 2 KNOWN COMPOSITIONS; 3 PENCIL DRAWN ESSAYS ON THICK CARD W/ DIFFERENT SCENES OF THE NILE OR EGYPTIAN MONUMENTS. FINAL DESIGN PERSONALLY APPROVED BY KING FOUAD.