

EGYPT - THE THREE MILLIEMES ARMY POST STAMPS - 1936 – 41

Special Stamps for Use on Holiday Greetings

Synopsis

Purpose of Exhibit: This traditional exhibit shows the various forms of these two special stamps (royal printings, control number blocks, and large multiples) and their use by British and Commonwealth forces based in Egypt. Smith, Chaloub and others consider the royal printings proofs or pre-production material as they represent the earliest impressions made from the printing plates. Special items of interest are identified with a 6 point maroon border.

Historical Background: On March 1, 1936, there was a change in the postal concession regulations between the Egyptian postal authorities and the Commander of the British Forces in Egypt. A new one-piastre Army Post stamp bearing King Fouad's portrait replaced letter stamps. As with the previous letter stamps these could be used only on letters posted in military mailboxes from members of the British forces to destinations in the United Kingdom and the Irish Free State. However, when Commonwealth troops came to Egypt at the start of World War II the destination regulation was relaxed allowing the stamps to be used by the troops on letters to other areas of the British Empire.

Issued December 1, 1936, the large three milliemes stamp in green was for use on Christmas and New Year's cards. These stamps were withdrawn from sale on February 15, 1937, and issued again in December 1937 through 1939 for the holiday mail season, each time being withdrawn the following February. These stamps remained on sale until February 1940 but continued to be used for the following December's Christmas mailings.

The small Army Post stamps with King Farouk's picture, issued on December 16, 1939, replaced the large Army Post Stamps. This was too late for the use of the stamp on Christmas cards so the stamps were withdrawn from sale and released in October 1940. First day covers of this stamp are not known but any other use on cover (solo, multiple or combination) is scarce. Army Post stamps became invalid on 1 May 1941 when the postal concession was revised.

EXHIBIT PLAN:

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|----|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Large Army Post stamps | pages 2 — 3 |
| 2. | Proper and improper uses | pages 4 — 6 |
| 3. | Small Army Post stamps | pages 7 — 9 |
| 4. | Solo use on cover | pages 10 — 12 |
| 5. | Combination use on cover | pages 13 — 14 |
| 6. | Multiple use on cover | pages 15 — 16 |

Exhibit Highlights:

Page 5: Latest recorded use of large 3 milliemes Army Post stamp.

Especially noteworthy are the three solo use covers of the small Army Post stamps properly used listed below.

Page 10: Solo use of small 3 milliemes stamp on cover to Australia (one of seven known).

Page 11: One of seven known solo use on cover to New Zealand.

Page 12: Solo use of 3 milliemes on cover to India, one of four recorded examples.

Page 16: Extraordinary franking of sixteen 3 milliemes on cover to Australia, a possible record for this stamp.

Knowledge of Subject:

The exhibitor has been accumulating and studying postal concession material for the British Forces in Egypt for more than 30 years. After each showing the exhibit is carefully reviewed in line with the jury's comments and appropriate changes are made including addition of new or different material. At the request of the author the exhibitor reviewed, edited and commented on three drafts of a new book on the Postal Concession period (see Davis below). Many of his covers and stamps are illustrated in the book.

Previous Exhibitions:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Exhibition</u>	<u>Award</u>
August 2014	Philakorea 2014	88 points
February 2014	Texpex	Gold
May 2013	Australia 2013	82 points
February 2013	Sarasota National	Gold
January 2013	APS Ameristamp Expo	Prix d'Honneur
September 2012	Milcopex	Grand Award

Selected References: (suggestions for jury members are in bold face):

- Chaloub, Joseph, *The Nile Post Handbook and Catalogue of Egyptian Stamps*, Joseph Chaloub, Westmount, Quebec, Canada, 2003.
- **Davis, John. *Egypt: From the Postal Concession Until Suez 1932 to 1956, Part 1 Until 1st May 1941*, John Davis, Upton Snodsbury, England, 2014.**
- **Hobbs, John E. O., *British Forces in Egypt Postal Service 1932-1940*, Second Edition, John E. O. Hobbs, Worthing, England, 1984.**
- Smith, Peter A. S., *Egypt, Stamps and Postal History, A Philatelic Treatise*, James Bendom, Limassol, Cyprus, 1999.