

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

Special Stamps for Use on Holiday Greetings

Purpose of Exhibit: This traditional exhibit shows the various forms of these special stamps (royal printings, control number blocks, and large multiples) and their use. 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. Especially noteworthy are the three solo use covers of the small Army Post stamps properly used.

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 These stamps were withdrawn from sale on February 15, 1937, and issued again in December 1937 through 1939 for the holiday mail season, each time being withdrawn the following February.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. A cover with latest recorded use of this stamp is displayed on page 5.

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 This was too late for the use of the stamp on Christmas cards so the stamps were withdrawn from sale and released in October 1940.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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| 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 |

LARGE ARMY POST STAMP - FIRST DAY COVER - 1 DECEMBER 1936

