Egypt

Third Issue.

First Printing.

Intrinsic Flaws.

There are many flaws on the 1872 typographed values, which have been classified as intrinsic and extrinsic flaws.

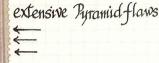














-white flash on Pyramid

Intrinsic flaws arise during the making of stereos. The flaws are usually colourless areas caused by air bubbles or hard lumps in the plaster of Paris used to make the moulds for the 1872 stamps. If a bubble was trapped on the die face it conformed to the shape but at contact point there was only a thin shell of plaster. Any "Piks" or projections were trimmed when the stereo was removed from the mould. If the trimming was not carried out exactly to the surface plane an area resulted, which printed where it should not have or which did not print when it should have.

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Extrinsic flaws arise from subsequent damage to the completed stereos. They are mainly the result of damage to the outer frame line of the design, which is caused by adjusting the positions of the loose stereos, by means of a tool, when arranging them in the forme. Alternatively the outer frame is completed disrupted, due to the metal edge of the stereo having given way as a result of roller pressure during printing.

As the extrinsic and intrinsic flaws are not duplicated in the 1874-75 printing the conclusion is that the stereos for both printings are not identical and that the plaster of Paris moulds were replaced by flong (papier mâché) moulds for the second printing.