

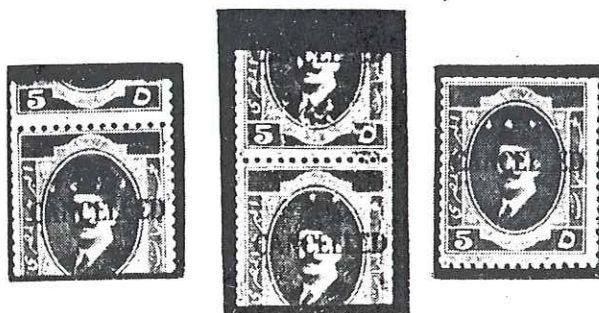
"CANCELLED" ON STAMPS OF EGYPT

by M. EID, *President of the Society*

Egypt is one of the countries that had stamps overprinted "CANCELLED", but, to my knowledge, is the only country that had this word printed either on reverse or on both sides of the stamps.

Before 1953, nobody connected with philately was aware of any Egyptian "CANCELLED" stamps, other than the 5 mills, chestnut, of the 1923-24 regular issue. This stamp was overprinted CANCELLED in black capital letters, on the middle of the design, thus covering the face of King Fuad.

Although this stamp had never been put on sale, yet some copies found their way to the local market and fetched considerable prices.



The CANCELLED 5 mills. Fuad stamp in different sizes.

Philatelists had, and still have, different opinions on the status of this stamp and the purpose for which it was overprinted in that way.

In the edition No. 32 of April, 1937, of this Journal, a note by an eminent philatelist on this stamp was published in French, of which the translation is as follows :

"In 1923 an attempt was undertaken to make booklets of postage stamps, using the 5 mills. Fuad, preliminarily overprinted with the word CANCELLED; but this trial proved to be a disaster, because the Survey Dept. Press at Cairo had not yet acquired the necessary implements for this delicate work. The booklets thus obtained, were in fact composed of stamps so irregularly cut that they demonstrated the most varied sizes.

The product of this trial was unfit for use, and the outcoming pieces of stamps were almost all destroyed."



Again, in an interesting study on "Booklets Of Postage Stamps Printed In Egypt", published recently in French, in edition No. 6 of the "Journal Philatélique Suisse" of June, 1963, this famous philatelist repeated the same statement, and added that this CANCELLED stamp originated from sheets of 100 stamps each.

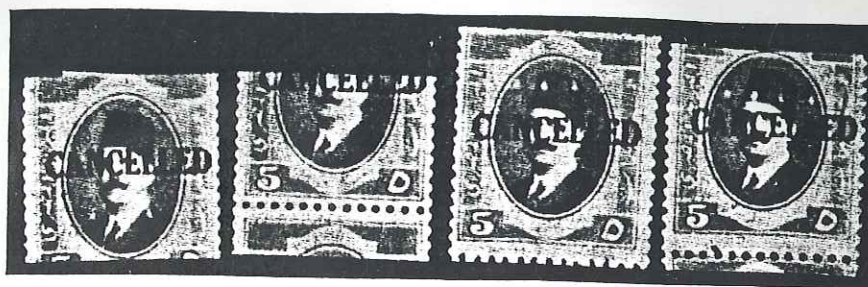


Photo illustrated in the "Journal Philatélique Suisse"

In fact, the Survey Dept. Press is not to be blamed for these "pieces of stamps", which did not undergo any process in this press, neither of printing nor of overprinting, perforating or cutting the sheets in panes for booklets as it is believed by some philatelists.

The 1923-24 issue was printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd. of England, shortly after Egypt had been declared an independent country, and therefore the inscription on the design of the stamps was made totally in Arabic (only the numerals denoting the denominations were repeated in Western figures) to gratify the overwhelming patriotic feeling, and consequently this issue has been usually known by local collectors and dealers, as "the Fuad Arabic Issue". For this same reason, the inscription of the crown overprint of the previous issue of 1922 was made also in Arabic only; and in my opinion, the overprint of CANCELLED would not have been made in English, but in Arabic, if this work had been entrusted to the Survey Dept. Press, or to any other local press, at that time.

In my article on the 1923-24 issue, published in Arabic in the edition No. 72, Vol. IV of Oct., 1950, of this Journal, I emphasized my belief that these CANCELLED stamps were supplied by Harrison and Sons Ltd. to the Postal Administration in rolls to be inserted in a coin machine, which was tested and proved to be a complete failure; and consequently was rejected and never used. This was the explanation given to me by the dealer who had almost all the stock of these CANCELLED stamps, and I found it very reasonable, especially when I noticed that nobody pretended to have ever seen a sheet, a booklet pane or even a pair of them. Moreover, one can easily notice that each stamp bears a horizontal line of minute blind pin holes or scratches (which show on the illustrated photos as tiny little white spots), and this denotes that each stamp received separately a clutch at the time it was cut from the roll by the defective coin machine. Certainly, these scratches would not occur on every stamp in cases a sheet was cut in booklet panes.

Some years later, chance gave me the unexpected concrete evidence of what I have always believed about these stamps. Before giving his sanction for the destruction of many obsolete issues, the Director General of the Postal Administration thought he might commission me to view the stamps and see if any should survive. There, among the remainders, were four rolls of the CANCELLED stamps, which were free of any pin scratches. They, together with the obsolete issues, were destroyed a few days later.



UNSORTED.



RETOUCHES 9 FLAWS.







REV'D WMS



ROUGH
PERFS

REV'D LMK



REV. WMKS.

RETOUCHES & FLAWS ?



RETOUCHES & FLAWS ?



RETOUCHES & FLAWS ?



RETOUCHES & FLAWS ?



BOOKLETS.

RETOUCHES & FLAWS



RETOUCHES & FLAWS

PERFS



RETOUCHES & FLAWS



RETOUCHES & FLAWS



RETOUCHES & FLAWS



RETOUCHES & FLAWS



BLURRED & CLEAR PRINTS



BLURRED PRINT



CLEAR PRINT



REV. WAKS

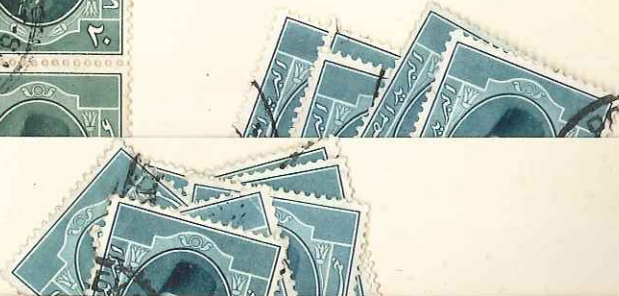
RETOUCHES & FLAWS

PERFS





NORMAL STAMPS



Egypt. *best*

**A FINE SELECTION OF
POSTAGE STAMPS . . .**

FLAWS *4-11 1/2*
46 volder 4 m
4-11 1/2
11 1/2
5-11

Country.....

No..... Value.....

FISCAL X



