

# Charles F. Hass

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Authoritative Expertizing, Since 1970, of the Stamps and Postal History of Egypt and Sudan

I, the undersigned, having carefully and thoroughly examined the following item, submitted to me as .....

**EGYPT** - 1915 (11<sup>th</sup> May), cover from Alexandria to Cairo, franked by a single 5 millièmes rose-carmine 'Fourth Issue' definitive / regular issue adhesive (type of January, 1888), on chalk-surfaced paper, the stamp being .....

**FROM A COIL ROLL PREPARED IN 1910  
FOR USE IN AN AUTOMATIC MACHINE,**

of which an exact-size, color photograph is affixed and embossed to the reverse of this document, I hereby certify that it is .....

**GENUINE IN ALL RESPECTS**

Identification: \* Nile Post #D50e, variety; Balian #90, variety; Zeheri #41c, variety; Stanley Gibbons #63d, variety; Scott #48b, variety. \*

Condition: \* \* The adhesive is fully sound, and is tied to the cover by a neat, bilingual "ALEXANDRIA / O / 11. 5.915. 7.30 PM" postmark. \*

Remarks: \* \* A 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1910 letter from the Egyptian Postal Administration to Thomas De La Rue and Company states "This administration has placed at the service of the public an automatic machine for the sale and distribution of postage stamps". In that same letter, a request is made regarding the manufacture of, and cost of, rolls of 500 stamps for use in said machine. Sample rolls of 500 and 1500 coil stamps were sent by De La Rue to Egypt on 8<sup>th</sup> April, and on 12<sup>th</sup> May Egypt ordered 500 reels (750,000 units) of the 5 mills coil stamp. No further orders for such coils appear in the De La Rue archives. The rolls were formed by the pasting-up of horizontal strips of ten stamps which had been guillotined from stacked panes of ordinary stamps, with the result that the upper and lower edges of each stamp showed straight-cut perforation tips (in some cases, due to imperfect alignment of the stacked panes, the perforations on one edge of a strip were near-completely cut-away, while on the opposite, parallel edge they were of unusually extended length). The 1910 5 millièmes coil stamp is one of the true rarities among the definitive stamp issues of Egypt. It is possible that the machine was not placed into service, and that the bulk of the coil stock was destroyed. For nearly a century, the existence of only several used examples, including the stamp on this submitted cover, had been recorded (no mint examples were known to exist until, in 2006, a few mint coil strips ranging in length from eighteen stamps to three stamps were discovered). The submitted item is one of only two covers currently recorded bearing this rare coil stamp. I have applied my "C. F. Hass" authentication mark to its reverse. \*

*Charles F. Hass*

21<sup>st</sup> January, 2009

Certificate No. 2009-005 (\*©2009)

Submitted by Mr. Joseph H. Chalhoub

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