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## **EGYPT:**

The complete collection of special Exhibition Seals for the Switzerland, French and Belgium Stamp Exhibitions.

King Farouk entered the arena of philatelic exhibitions by showing a group of Egyptian rarities and special printings at the Imaba Exhibition at Basle, Switzerland in 1948.

For this occasion the Survey of Egypt, printers of all Egyptian stamps, were ordered to print a special Seal. One variety was produced, shown here in three slightly different shades plus 2 perf misprint shades. It is not known just how rare the regular seals are, very likely samples were given to all exhibition visitors, but it is known that only 25 each of the 2 perf varieties exist. All 5 specimens as enclosed came from the special Egyptian exhibit at Basle.

In 1949 two more philatelic exhibitions came up; Citex at Paris and Bepitec in Brussels, and for the two, King Farouk had prepared a far more valuable exhibit of Egyptian special printings. Again the Survey of Egypt was commanded to produce special seals and they came up with an interesting emblematic design for both countries in a rather unusual format of 4 units to a perforated block, each block having the usual Egyptian plate number right in the centre of the 4 stamps of each block. 16 such blocks made up a complete sheet.

Cipex is represented here by 3 shades, 2 perf varieties and no less than 6 imperf color trial blocks. Bepitec has exactly the same set-up.

Again presumably the normal block must have been available to all visitors so no doubt were printed in larger quantities. The perf varieties and the imperf color trials are however in a different category. Only one sheet of each was printed so only 16 blocks of every variety exist, making them rarities of the first rank.

All of the enclosed come from the official King Farouk Exhibition collections and there are no other Egyptian exhibition seals known.

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