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


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After a thorough and careful study of the item submitted to me for authentication as EGYPT, 1923 (11<sup>th</sup> July), cover from Alexandria to Cairo, franked by a single 5 mills pink adhesive (of November, 1921), with diagonal, three-line, typographed, black overprint of "👑" over Arabic "المملكة المصرية / ١٥ مارس ١٩٢٢" ("The Kingdom of Egypt / 15 March 1922"), the stamp being .....

**FROM THE "KINGDOM OF EGYPT" BOOKLET,** issued on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 1923, Nile Post #D82 IIA (from booklet #SB8), Balian #191b (from booklet #191), Zeheri #73.II (var.), Stanley Gibbons #102 (var., from booklet #SB80), Scott #82 (var.), of which an exact-size, color scan is affixed and embossed to the reverse of this document. I hereby certify it to be.....

## GENUINE IN ALL RESPECTS

  
20<sup>th</sup> January, 2009

The 5 mills stamp, with type IIA  overprint, franking this submitted cover, is from what is probably the rarest stamp booklet of Egypt. The complete booklet contained four panes (each of six stamps), separated by glassine interleaving, between pink card covers (the front cover with blue imprint, in Arabic and English, "POST OFFICE / This Book contains 24 Five Millieme Stamps / Price: 120 Milliemes"; the back cover plain), held together by a single staple, 16mm in width. In order to produce this booklet, an unknown quantity of the earlier, unoverprinted 5 mills booklets of November, 1921 (each held together by two staples, of 9mm or 12mm in width) were disassembled. The loose panes were overprinted individually, and were then re-stapled into 4-pane booklet form. No alterations were made to the original booklet covers. In order to produce the booklet pane overprinting forme, two individual, loose stereotypes of type IIA were placed one above the other (subtypes 2 over 4). That 'matrix' of two was then stereotyped three times to create the forme of 3 x 2 images. Established theory holds that there was but a single forme of six images used to overprint the panes. However, it is almost a certainty that there were two formes used, as individual stamps and pairs are known to me which do not exhibit some of the prominent stereotyping flaws found on most panes (as shown by arrows in the illustration below). The 5 mills stamp with type IIA overprint (called "type IIB" by Mackenzie Cow and Byam in order to distinguish it from the overprint found on 1m, 4m, 10m and 15m sheet stamps) can come *only* from a booklet. As the number of booklets produced was apparently quite small, even single examples of this stamp are quite scarce, and covers are rare (I currently know of *only two*). Many such stamps were probably discarded as being 'uncollectable' due to the fact that they had straight edges on one or two sides. The stamp on the submitted cover is fully sound and fresh, and is from position #2 of the pane. I have applied my "C. F. Hass" authentication mark, in violet, to the reverse of the cover. c.f.H.



← The composition of the booklet forme of six subjects

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Submitted by Mr. Joseph H. Chalhoub