

# Charles F. Hass

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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, 1866 (1st January), 1 piastre mauve, with Turkish-language  overprint in black, on unwatermarked paper, an .....*

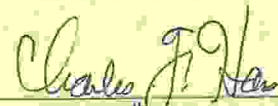
**UNUSED BLOCK OF FOUR ISSUED STAMPS,**

**with FULL, ORIGINAL GUM,**

*entirely perforated 12½, lightly hinged — Nile Post #D4, Balian #4, Zeheri #4, Stanley Gibbons #4, Scott #7 — of which an exact-size, color photograph is affixed to this document, I hereby certify it to be .....*

**GENUINE IN ALL RESPECTS**

*One of a series of seven stamps comprising Egypt's First Issue, all produced by Pellas Brothers, of Genoa, Italy, the 1 piastre adhesive differs from the other six values in that it was printed entirely (both its mauve groundwork and its black overprint) by typography (the other six values of the issue were entirely lithographed, with the exception of the 2 piastres value, on which the overprint was typographed). This submitted block is one of a very small number of surviving unused multiples of the issued 1 piastre stamp. It is clearly distinguishable as the issued stamp, rather than being a proof (numerous blocks exist of the latter). Its full, original gum is lightly hinged. The block exhibits some signs of foxing (not unusual in First-Issue multiples of any denomination), and has a small water stain at the center of its right-hand edge, affecting two stamps (largely insignificant on an item of such rarity). It is from positions #128-129 over #148-149 of its original sheet of two hundred stamps (twenty stamps wide by ten stamps deep, separated centrally by an unprinted, vertical gutter). The overprint of its northwest stamp (pos.#128) shows a constant positional flaw, in which the letter 'sin' of the word "Posta" is broken and incomplete (as ). Because the mauve groundwork of this 1 piastre value was printed from two hundred identical stereotypes, blocked at random (upright or inverted) to create the forme, stamps can occur in two different types: Type I has the scroll ornaments in the inner oval touching at top; type II has them touching at bottom. As both of its right-hand stamps are of type I and both of its left-hand stamps are of type II, this fascinating block is composed therefore of two horizontal tête-bêche pairs. To my knowledge, this block has not previously been authenticated by any expert or expert committee. On the reverse of its southwest stamp, I have struck, in violet, my C. F. Hass authentication chop. C.F.H.*



29<sup>th</sup> May, 2005



Certificate No. 2005-008

Submitted by Mr. Joseph H. Chalhoub