NEWS OF THE WORLD OF STAMPS
By KENT B. STILES
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FORMER King Farouk's collection of Egyptian stamps, confiscated by the Egyptian Government after his enforced abdication, realized 50,000 Egyptian pounds, equivalent to $144,000, according to word received here after the public auctions in Cairo concluded last week. This information reached Bernard Harmer, head of the New York house of the London stamp auctioneering firm of H. R. Harmer, Ltd. The Harmer company did not participate in the selling but served as professional advisers to the Egyptian Government and in this capacity had arranged the 119-page catalogue.

Earlier it had been officially announced at Cairo that the stamps brought $240,000. The discrepancy of $96,000 may be explained by the fact that the Government was apparently not satisfied that some of the 1,143 lots were bringing bids as high as had been anticipated and did some buying on its own account rather than sell for the sums offered. The figure given out in Cairo is approximately $40,000 more than informed American philatelic observers had expected, although some wild published guesses here had placed the value from $500,000 to $1,000,000.

The entire collection, including United States, Confederate States and foreign stamps auctioned on Wednesday and Thursday, brought an estimated total of $350,000.

It was unofficially reported here last week—without confirmation from Cairo—that the stamps which the Egyptian Government bought are to be brought to New York for auctioning.

The highest price realized was $7,700 paid by K. Bileski, a Winnipeg, Canada, dealer, for a twentieth-century collection of stamps, sheets, color trials, photographs and related material which had been shown at various international exhibitions. This grouping contained a total of 14,050 stamps.

NEW ISSUES

LAST Wednesday was the twentieth anniversary of the death of Belgium's King Albert I (1875-1934), who was killed on a mountain-climbing expedition. In commemoration Belgium has issued three stamps: 2 francs plus 50 centimes, an equestrian statue of the sovereign; 4f plus 2f, a proposed monument at Rochers de Marche-les-Dames, where he met his death; 9f plus 4.50f, a Marche-les-Dames view, with Albert's portrait in upper right. Surtaxes will help finance a national monument to political prisoners.

Egypt Reported Sending Some of Farouk Collection Here



From Vatican City, Belgium and Austria.

Afghanistan—When 35-pouls orange and 1.25-afghani blue were issued late in 1953 for the twenty-second anniversary of the University of Kabul's faculty of medicine, two printing errors were made: "XXIII" instead of "XXII" and "Madecine" for "Médicine." The stamps have now been reissued with the mistakes rectified.

Austria—Edwin Mueller has received a photograph of a blue-green stamp issued last week on behalf of sufferers of the recent snow slides in the Austrian Alps. "Lawinenopfer" (Avalanche Victims) and "1954" and "1S+20g" have been overprinted in brown on the 1946 2-schillings showing a winter scene at St. Christof am Arlberg, Tyrol. Overprinted brown asterisks block out the original corner figures of value. Thus is created a provisional charity item of one schilling plus twenty groszy.

France—The forthcoming "Day of the Stamp" commemorative will bear a likeness of the Count of La Valette, otherwise Antoine Marie Chamans (1769-1830), French statesman and diplomat who at one time held office as Director of Posts.

Greece—Robert O. Truman is advised from Athens that the fifth anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is being commemorated with an air-mail group: 1200-drachma, torch bearer; 2400d, a coin of the Amphictyonic League (sixth century B. C.); 4000d, goddess Minerva.

Paraguay—A portrait of Silvio Pettirossi (1889-1916), aviator, is on 5-centavos blue, 20c rose, 50c brown and 60c lilac air stamps received by K. Fatoullah.

Switzerland—On March 15 will appear four multicolored commemoratives. A 10-centimes with "ear, leaf and flower" as the design will mark the Eleventh Swiss Exhibition for Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry. A 20c picturing a "winged spoon" will be for the Swiss Tourist and International Cookery Exhibition. The Rhine River "from Basle to the sea" is traced on a 25c, with a steering wheel symbolizing "the international importance of the waterways." A 40c with a football superimposed on a map of the world is for "world championships of football in Switzerland."

Vatican City—Pierson Ostrow has received 25-lire red-brown and ultramarine and 60L blue and chestnut commemorating the Lateran Pacts under which Italy recognized, on Feb. 11, 1929, the sovereignty of the Holy See. The design presents a portrait of Pius XI, then the pontiff, with an air view of the Vatican as background.

REQUESTS IN CONGRESS

Eight of Iowa's Representatives at Washington have each introduced a bill asking for postal commemoration of the centenary of the Iowa State Fair and Exposition. Congressmen Paul Cunningham, James I. Dolliver, H. R. Gross, Charles B. Hoeven, Ben Franklin Jensen, Karl M. LeCompte, Thomas Ellsworth Martin and Henry O. Talle would have the Post Office Department issue a 3c stamp on Aug. 19, with first-day sale at Des Moines.

A special stamp "in honor of the community chests throughout the nation" is requested in a measure offered by Representative Robert W. Kean of Livingston, N. J.

Representative Armistead I. Selden Jr. of Greensboro, Ala., has asked for a 3c stamp for the American Legion's thirty-fifth birthday.

In another House bill, Representative Herman P. Eberharter of Pittsburgh suggests an airmail 6c stamp with "Liberty and Justice for All" inscribed.

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