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# Germigny-des-Prés

**By George W. Rohrer**

On October 23, 2000 the French post office issued a stamp honoring the church at Germigny-des-Prés. (Scott 2759)

The *commune*, population 500, is located in the *departement* of Loiret on route D60, thirty kilometers east of Orléans.

Some years ago as our friends in Burgundy were bidding us a gracious *au revoir*, they virtually ordered us to stop at Germigny-des-Prés, one hundred twenty-five kilometers distant. The visit to the historic church proved to be a most rewarding experience.

In the early ninth century Theodulfe, a friend and counselor of Charlemagne, founded Germigny and constructed a summer palace on the site. A private oratory, built to serve the palace, was consecrated January 3, 803.

The oratory was in the form of a Greek cross, a modest ten meters square, with four apses. It was modeled after Charlemagne's church in Aix-la-Chapelle.

The palace was demolished by fire in the mid-ninth century, probably during one of the Viking raids that plagued the area.

In a renovation during the fifteenth century the builders destroyed the west apse of the oratory and added a nave with nine bays. They erected a lantern tower whose openings for light were covered with sheets of translucent alabaster.

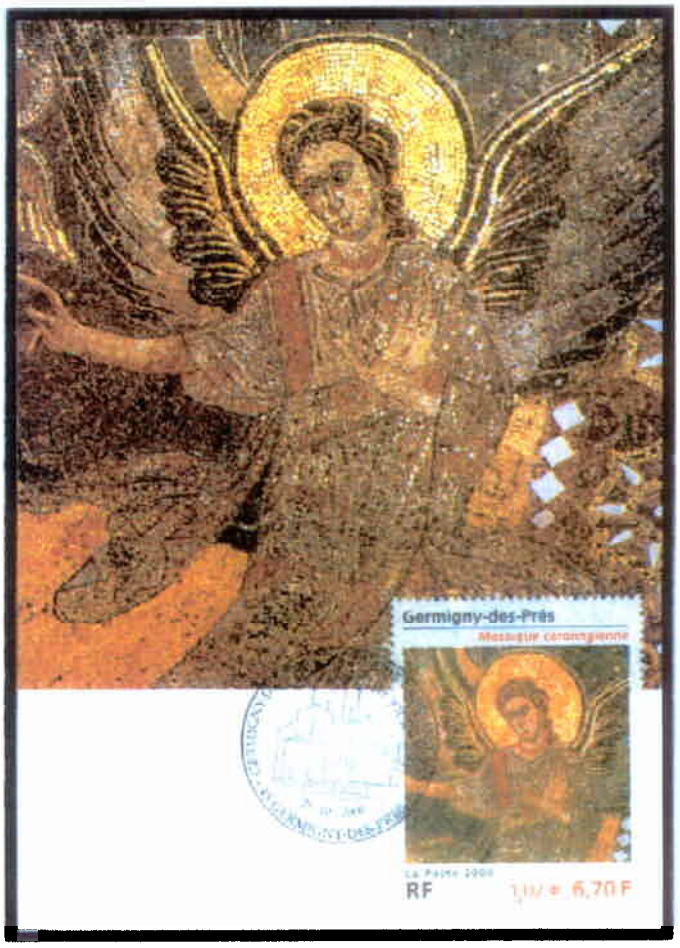


**Figure 1**

Over the years the building was neglected and fell into disrepair. Restoration undertaken in 1867 went on for ten years.

During the reconstruction several urchins were observed playing with glass cubes they had picked up in the church. The removal of layers of plaster from the ceiling of the east apse disclosed a mosaic picture dating from Carolingian times. Experts agree that mosaics had once decorated the entire oratory. Only those in the east apse have survived.

The 130,000 little glass cubes which make up the

*Continued on Page Four*

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## SIFTING THE DIRT

Well, I've reached that point again — all the other 15 pages have been read, re-read, and then looked over once again. All that's left is the little notes reminding me to mention this or that. I'm sorry this issue is a few weeks late — hopefully the next issue, the June edition, will be out the first week in July. I still hate deadlines but I do love the work.

### Once again, thanks to Hugh Johnston and George Rohrer

Some people you can really count on, and you want to be careful never to take them for granted. Two special people this quarter are Hugh Johnston with his story about hieroglyhics and royal names, and George Rohrer concerning France's oldest church and the recent stamp in the French Art Series. In the next issue we will look at Monuments of Angkor through the courtesy of Nguyen-Bao-Tung, and Eileen Meier will report on the Taliban folks and archaeological sites.

### *The Explorator* is for you

Several stories in this issue were first discovered on the web site *The Explorer*. It comes out every Sunday morning, edited by David Meadows, and features all the news of archaeology throughout the world over the past week. The site also contains the web page addresses of the periodicals checked and a connecting internet address that you click on and the story comes onto your screen. The service is free and is one of the most valuable on the internet. It's part of my Sunday ritual. E-mail them at:

explorator@yahoogroups.com

### Looking for information on rock/cave paintings/art

New member Herman Goldstein is looking for fellow collectors of stamps commemorating rock and cave painting. The first that comes to mind is several in the south Africa area, and recent articles by George Rohrer. If you'd like to answer him, check the next paragraph on new procedures to use.

### OWASU Secretary will act as forwarding agent

Eileen Meier, our secretary-treasurer, wants to begin a new process for members wanting to contact another member. The Board of Directors feel that publishing member's addresses is not a good policy nowadays, but wants members to be able to contact each other. She proposes that if an OWASU member wishes to correspond with an *Old World Archaeologist* author, they would send her a stamped and sealed envelope with the OWASU member's name on the envelope. She would then fill in the address and send the letter on its way. It would be up to the author whether to contact the letter writer. Eileen's address is printed in the adjoining masthead. If you want to contact the editor of *OWA*, however, please do so directly at his address in the masthead.

### A perplexed editor

"Now what is he going to get started on now," I can hear your thought process! Well when I was researching the story on Mar'ib, I came across a strange accented letter. Several times I ran into an "h" with a dot under it. I try to be very careful to put in the accented letters from my character font. But the "h" with a dot under it is not listed. I checked the dictionary (American Heritage) and the only references to letters with dots under them were "s" and "r", and they were apparently from early Sanskrit. It seemed to me that each time the "h" was used in Mohammad's name or an Imâm's name it had the dot under it. So the search is afoot. Drop me a card if you know of the origin or what effect the dot has on the pronunciation or accentuation of the letter. Now that wasn't so bad, was it?

## *Merle's Musings . . .*

As you will read in George's report the possible merger of OWASU and MASU is off for the time being. It is possible that we may be conducting more joint ventures in the near future at various stamp shows. If you have an idea for hosting an event or joint event in your area, please contact me.

In the last year or two, I have noticed several new reports of discoveries of sunken ships around the world. In addition, there have been excellent shows on PBS recently about the USS Monitor, and the CSS Hunley. Is anyone doing a collection or an exhibit on the subject of underwater archaeology? If so, I would be interested in reading about your approach to the subject and how you have focused your efforts.

If you are not comfortable authoring an article on the subject, please contact George, and he will help you develop an article.

Merle Farrington
President, OWASU

# Mesoamerican Archeology Study Unit gets an editor, well, former editor, Larry Crain, after a long hiatus

It was a pretty exciting time around the Holland household a few weeks ago. I opened up the February issue of Codex Filatelica and an insert dropped out. It was a note from Editor Chris Moser that a new editor had been found.

Now that news in itself was superb for me. I was not really looking forward to filling in for the new world group, having a hard enough time trying to keep on schedule for the old world group. So I was excited.

But that initial excitement was only the bud on the rose bush. The excitement really blossomed when I read further that the new editor will be Larry Crain. Now Larry lives in Medford, about 100 miles away by crow flight, but crows in Oregon fly a rather convoluted route.

I have known Larry for 30 years or so and never knew he collected archaeology on stamps. I knew him for his activity and support of local stamp clubs throughout Oregon. We pass and talk at almost every show held in Oregon, from Portland to Medford. We both usually attend PIPEX throughout the northwest and Canada. He is one of the few major players supporting, and working to further, stamp collecting in the whole state.

An interesting thing that Larry does for his home stamp club, Southern Oregon Philatelic Society, is that if he knows anyone traveling to another country, he provides the postage, and the club newsletters, and gets them mailed from that country. I think at last count he had mailed the club's bulletins from five continents. What a great idea! *(Ed. Note: The next time any of you travel to Persepolis, let me know!)*

It should be noted that Larry was editor for MASU prior to Chris Moser's years. Chris has spent a total of 20+ years as editor. Larry's last time as editor of MASU was 16 years ago.

The current issue carries on with Part X: South American Archeology on Stamps of the World. This section covers the Peruvian Andes.

This is a great group to join. Several of our members hold joint membership in both study groups. For information on the group, contact Chris L. Moser, MASU Secretary-Treasurer, Box 1442, Riverside, CA 92502-1442, or e-mail at
cmoser@ci.riverside.ca.us

## Germigny-des-Prés

*Continued from Page One*

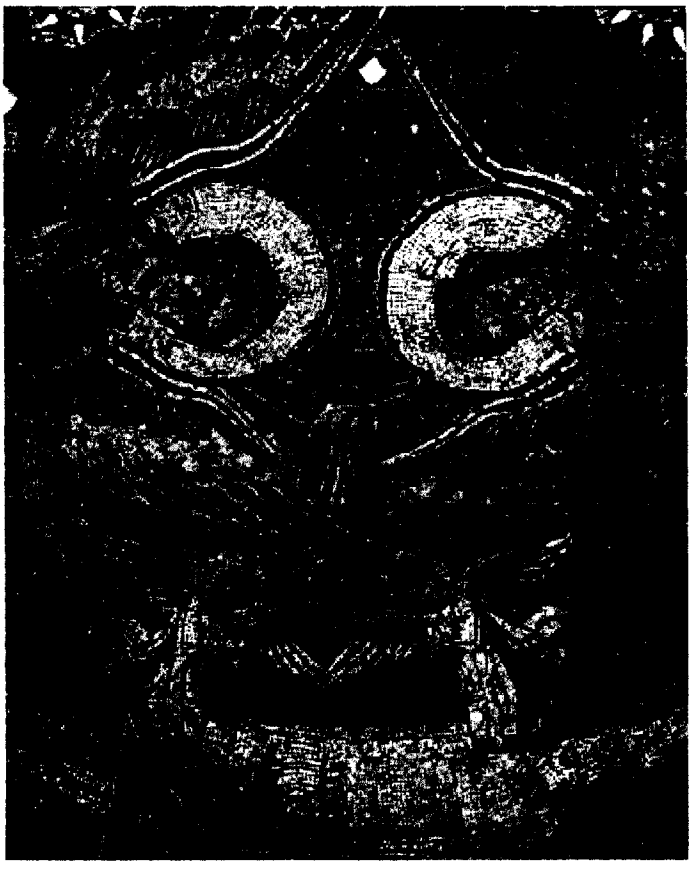


**Figure 2**

composition are of various colors — gold, silver, blue, green, purple, and red, on a gold ground. The figures are believed to follow a pattern dictated by Theodulfe himself. Two angels with their wings entwined hover over the scene. The hand of God is descending from the sky between the halos of the angels. The Ark of the Covenant stands below, surmounted by two small cherubim.

The 6.70 franc (1.02 euro) stamp portrays one of the angels. (Scott 2759 maxicard, Figure 1). Figure 2 reveals the whole scene.

Latin verses are inscribed in mosaics around the base. Translated — "Observe the holy oracle and the cherubim, contemplate the splendor of the Ark of the Covenant and in this light, think to move by your prayers the Master of Sinai and mention, I pray you the name of Theodulfe."

Some of the mosaics have been lost during renovations of the oratory. The ceiling as a whole, however, with its modern lighting is more resplendent than it must have appeared to worshipers in 806.

We kept wondering if the oratory was now a parish church. Who would know better than the curé at Germigny?

We were delighted to receive a letter from Madame Michèle Moreau of Germigny-des-Prés answering our inquiry. The aged priest had turned our letter over to Madame Moreau, who is responsible for the maintenance of the church.

There is a severe shortage of priests in the region and the curé is obliged to serve twelve parishes. Many baptisms and marriages are performed in this oldest church in France, but mass is celebrated only once a month on a Saturday evening.

Most of the 110,000 people who come annually to Germigny-des-Prés will also visit the church museum and patronize the gift shop for books and souvenirs.

Figure 3 offers a view of the exterior of the church seen from the east. This includes the apse that contains the mosaics. The first day cancellation repeats

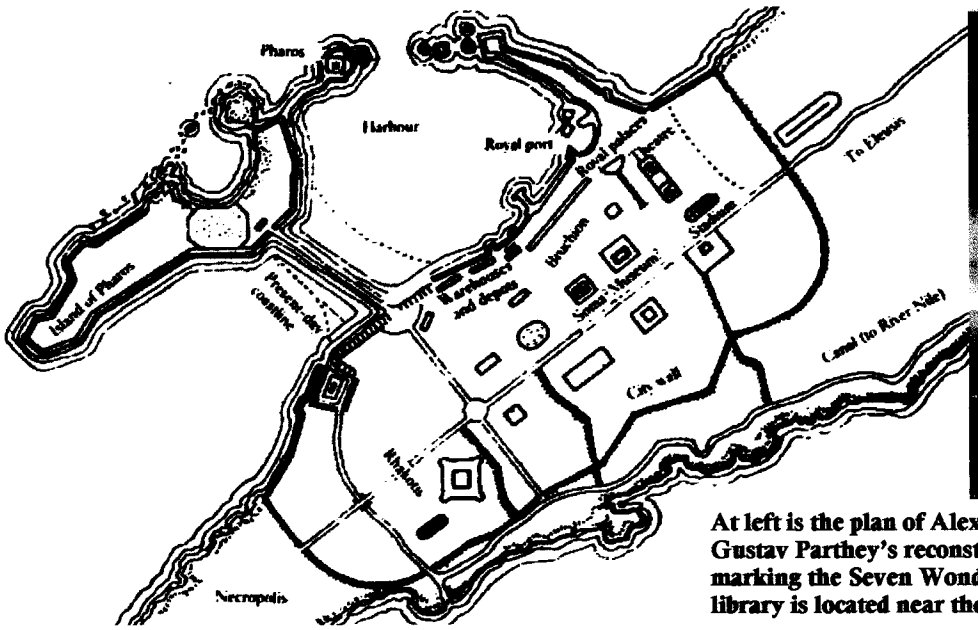
this same scene .

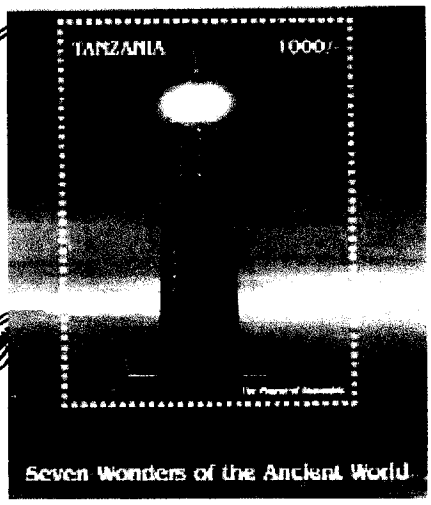
The photo of the south side (Flgure 4) reveals the length of the nave added in the fifteenth century.

Scott 2759 is the fourth and last in the French

**Figure 3**

# Biblioteca Alexandrina rises from ashes after 1500 years




**At left is the plan of Alexandria in Ptolemaic times according to Gustav Parthey's reconstruction. Above is Tanzania Scott 1640 marking the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The rebuilt library is located near the site of Pharos.**

The ancient world's foremost center of higher learning, the Biblioteca Alexandrina, rebuilt in modern splendour, opened May 3, 2001 near its original location.

Egyptian officials hope that the £140 million project, two decades in the making, will reassert its academic pedigree, which has never been the same since the library was destroyed by fire more than 1,500 years ago. The early-May opening was for journalists and academics with a formal opening ceremony in October.

The new oval building, designed by a Norwegian architect, has been widely hailed as a masterpiece. Its marble walls, inscribed with the alphabets of known and forgotten languages, sweep out majestically over the Mediterranean shoreline. Papyrus, the ancient source of paper for the old library, grows in a moat that surrounds the circular building.

The interior offers some of the most expansive research and reading space in the world. But even as the library, whose predecessor was built in the 3rd century B.C. and used by Euclid and Archimedes, is reopened alongside the ancient site, there are growing concerns for academic freedom of thought throughout the Middle East.

A senior official, Dr Mohsen Zahran, said: "The ancient library was not just a library; it was a university in every sense of the word, a beacon of learning for the entire world. Academic freedom was held in the highest regard then, and we hope that standard will be upheld within the walls of the modern institution."

Jews, Christians and even Buddhists were known to have studied at the ancient library, which stood near the Alexandria Lighthouse, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The Ptolemaic rulers of ancient Egypt are known to have acquired books with a rare passion for the time.

The Athenian scientist and philosopher Demetrios of Phaleron, in charge of filling the shelves, had persuaded the Ptolemy Soter that "books have more courage to tell kings the truth then have their courtiers".

Alexandria's ancient library contained some 700,000 volumes and was by far the largest intellectual treasure of its day. But the main library was destroyed by fire in the 3rd century A.D. during the civil war under Aurelian, and a subsidiary library was destroyed by Christian zealots in A.D. 391.

The new library is starting with 500,000 volumes and thousands of CDs, musical tapes and videos.

RESOURCES:

Luciano Canfora, *The Vanished Library*, University of California Press, Berkeley. 1990.

United Kingdom Telegraph May 3, 2001, via *The Explorator*.

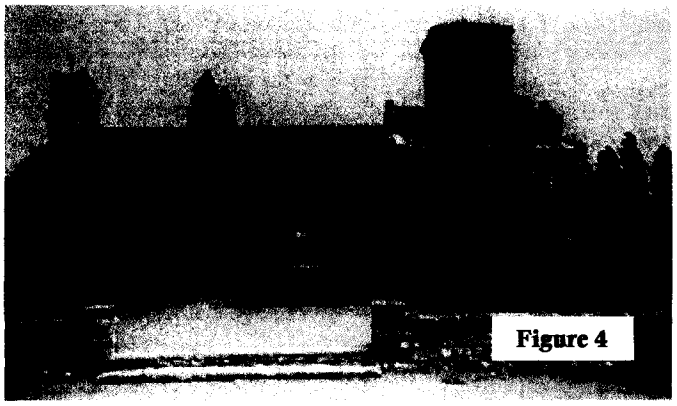


**Figure 4**

Great Art series for 2000.

It is moving to reflect that Charlemagne was viewing these same mosaic pictures in the oratory 1200 years ago.

# All the archaeology books you ever wanted to own . . .

Scanning the internet daily for items of an archaeological nature is a daily chore for a lot of us. And particularly so for editors of archaeology magazines knowing there are still blank pages to fill.

Most of my search time is spent on eBay in the fields narrowed down to philately and publications, and of course, topcal stamps with an archaeological theme.

In one of my searches late in the middle of the month I came across an interesting sounding title, "Archaeologia — Archaeology Books and Prints." The bid was only a dollar so I entered my bid because I wanted to watch the progress of the bidding week.

I was surprised to find at the end of the auction I was the high bidder (in fact, the only bidder).

The book arrived a few days ago and I'm sure happy I won the lot. It's worth a lot more than $1.00.

ARCHAEOLOGIA

ARCHAEOLOGY BOOKS & PRINTS

The book is published by Archaeologic, a firm in Oakland, California. My interest was piqued enough to give them a call to see what the company was about.

They have a stock of around 10,000 volumes, some coming, some going, and some just waiting for the right person to come along.

I was wondering about their clientele and they report that 1/3 is academia, 1/3 libraries, and 1/3 folks who just love archaeology — sorta like us, I guess.

They do not have a store front. The business is run from a home of one of the partners, but appointments may be made to come and browse through the stacks. I mentioned that antiquarians, archaeologists, and philatelists like to spend a lot of time browsing and they responded that that wouldn't be a problem.

The volume I purchased was issued in 2000, and a current revision is planned for early this summer. The book is around 500 pages, set in 9-point type and loaded with the books you'd like to own. The booklist is broken down into five areas. Archaeology of Ancient Egypt covers item numbers 1-1924; Archaeology of Ancient Near East, items 1925-3119; Archaeology of Greece and Rome, items 3120-4551; Archaeology of the Americas, items 4552-5719; and Old Archaeology Prints, item numbers 5720-5829.

Now you can also access their booklist on the Internet. If you are not on the Internet, stop in at your local library, and the people there will assist you.

I accessed their web page and found the listings of the books and all ordering information and also an archaeology screen saver program you can download free.

The web site is:

www.archaeologia.com

The company maintains two e-mail addresses — according to your needs:

orders@archaeologia.com
support@archaeologia.com

The phone number is (510) 832-1405, and fax is (510) 832-1410 and the address is Archaeologia, 707 Carlston Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610.

Below is reprinted the listing for one of Heinrich Schliemann's books. Read it! Only $17,500.00. The tune keeps running through my head, "If I was a rich man dada dah dada da dah!" The great majority of the titles are in our price range. *So little time, so many books!*

SCHLIEMANN, HEINRICH. Trojanischer Alterthümer. Bericht über die Ausgrabungen in Troja. lx + 320 pp. & 1 plate, 19th century 1/2 calf with 4 raised bands, gilt-lettered spine with the initials "S.S." (for Sophia Schliemann) at foot, original wrps. bound in (light rubbing at extremities, remnants of Schliemann's paper private library label at foot of spine). FIRST EDITION, Leipzig: F.A. Brockhaus, 1874. 17,500.00

*In September, 1871, a firman from the Porte permitting the excavations at Hissarlik, arrived and serious work started immediately with eighty workman recruited from Calvert's village of Ren Koi. One can follow almost week by week the progress of the excavations in the twenty-three reports contained in this book, covering three seasons of prodigious work, from October, 1871 to June, 1873.*

*Further fascinating details are to be found in the letters Schliemann wrote from Hissarlik to antiquaries and scholars like Ernst Curtius, Alexander Conze, Emile Burnouf and many more, detailing his daily finds. Schliemann's greatest find came at the end of May, 1873: the first glimpse of gold, followed by the dismissal of all the workmen for the day and the extraction, piece by piece, of this important hoard by Schliemann and his wife in the greatest secrecy, at the risk of their lives, underneath precariously overhanging cliffs of earth and stones.*

*The exact date of the discovery is not known, but on May 30 Schliemann wrote a hasty note to Calvert at Akcke Koi, secretly sending six baskets and a bag for safe keeping, undoubtedly containing "Priam's treasure." With this the excavations were brought to an abrupt end.*

*Over 200 pages of this work contain annotations, comments or marginalia in the hand of Heinrich Schliemann, written (in pencil) in English, German and Greek. Several objects, such as a cup and dagger are drawn by him in the margins. On page 307, Schliemann comments "Homer can not have seen Troy." An extensive examination of this work would, most likely, reward the Schliemann scholar.*

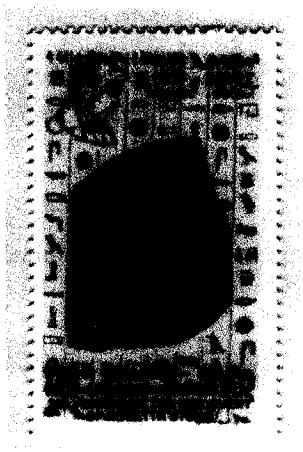
*From the library of Professor Åke Åkerström.*

# The Names of Royalty Translated

**By Hugh W. Johnston**

In 1979 I introduced topical stamp collectors to the hieroglyphic writing of the ancient Egyptians.[1] That article was illustrated with Egyptian stamps having hieroglyphs in their designs. Since that time, many more commemorative and definitive Egyptian stamps have been issued which show the intriguing symbols. In this narrative we discuss hieroglyphs in royal names.

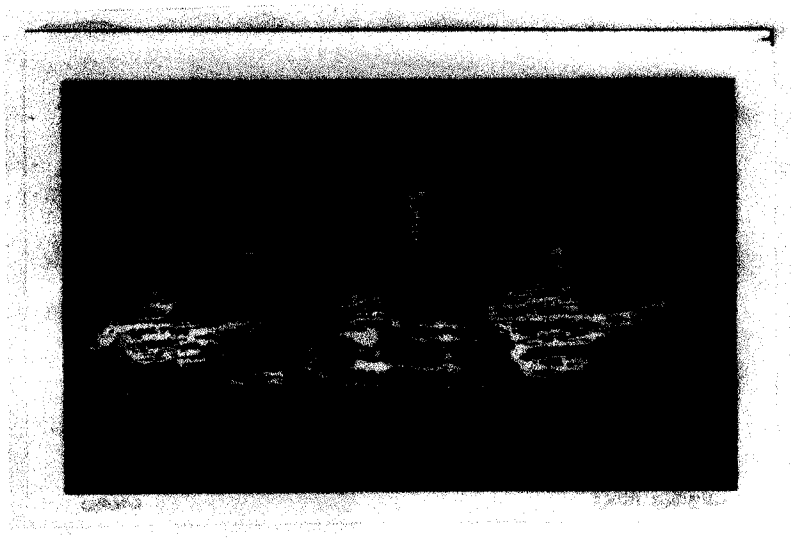
To review a bit, let us recall J. F. Champollion's 1922 translation of the Rosetta Stone's 14 lines of hieroglyphs in which he discovered the name of Ptolemy V.[2] The location of this name on the stone is indicated by a cartouche (a ring of rope) in the upper third of the stone's face as illustrated in Scott Egypt C238. Behind the stone are shown some of the 24 one-consonant signs of the hieroglyphic alphabet.[3]



Scott C238

As we shall see in the following paragraphs, the reading of Egyptian signs gets more complicated. Not only are there one-consonant, but also two- and three-consonant signs. Of approximately 1500 known signs, 750 were commonly used.

In the design of Scott Egypt 1460 we find in the cartouches the birth names of four kings of the Fourth Dynasty (2613-2498 B.C.), each headed by the title, *nesu-bity*, "King of Upper and Lower Egypt" (the sedge plant and bee over cakes). From the left they are *Khufu (Cheops)*, "Protected by Khnum;" *Khafre (Chephren)*, "Appearing like Re; *Menkaure (Mycerenus)*, "Appearing like the Souls of Re" and *Shepskaf*, "His Soul is Noble."



Scott 1460

The first cartouche contains the name of the king expressed in one-consonant signs; the others

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[1] Hugh W. Johnston, "Cartouches of the Pharaohs," *Topical Time*, 1979, pp. 47-51.

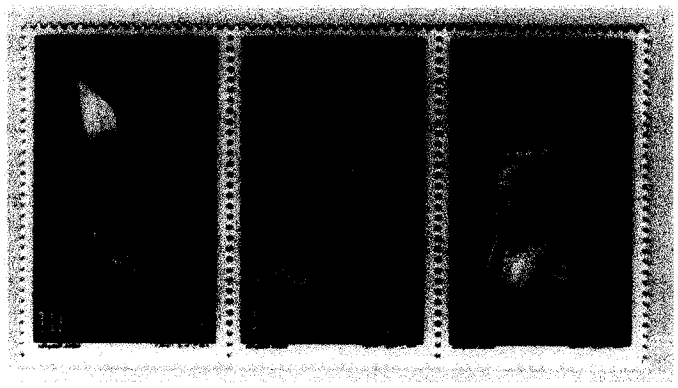
[2] Carol Andrews, *The Rosetta Stone* (British Museum Publications, London, 1981).

[3] Mark Collier and Bill Manley, *How to Read Egyptian Hieroglyphs* (University of California Press, Berkeley, 1998).

also contain in addition two-consonant and three-consonant signs.[4]

Moving on, we come to a se-tenant triad of stamps (Scott 1500-1502) showing statues of kings of the 13th and 14th Dynasties. In each, the throne name is first, followed by the birth name.

*Kheper-ka-re*
"The soul of Re
comes into being."
*Senusret*
"Man of the God-
dess Wrosret"
1971-1926 B.C.

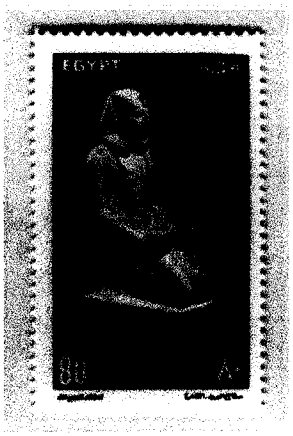


*Auyibre*
"Re succors
the heart."
*Hor*
"He faces
the journey."
c. 1760 B.C.

Center: *Ny-maat-re* "Belonging to the Justice of Re," *Amen-em-het*, "Amun is at the head."
1842-1797 B.C.

In 1994 Egypt issued three stamps depicting 18th Dynasty statues in the Cairo Egyptian Museum:

*Men-kheper-Re*
"Lasting is the
Manifestation of Re."



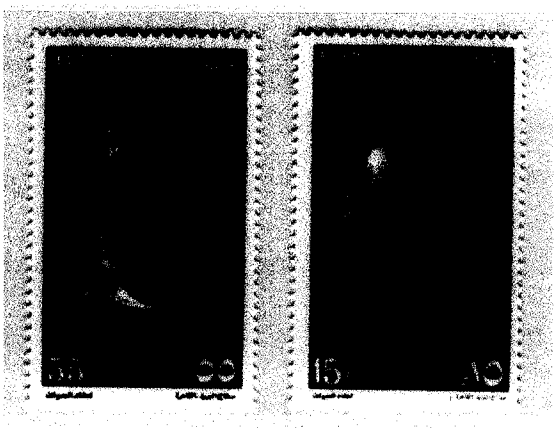
*Djehutymes*
"Born of the God Thoth"
1504-1450 B.C.

Scott 1549

*Maat-ka-Re*
"Truth is the soul of Re."

*Hat-shepsut*
"Foremost of
Noble Ladies"
1498-1483 B.C.

Scott 1548



*Nub-maat-re*
"Lord of Truth is Re."

*Amenhotep heqa-waset*
"Amun is pleased,
Ruler of Thebes."
1386-1349 B.C.

Scott 1547

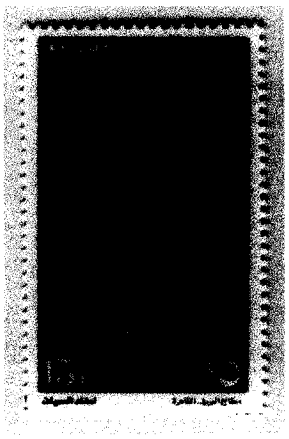
[4] Many of the names of kings (later called pharaohs) may be found in Peter A. Clayton's *Chronicle of the Pharaohs* (Thames and Hudson, New York, 1994).

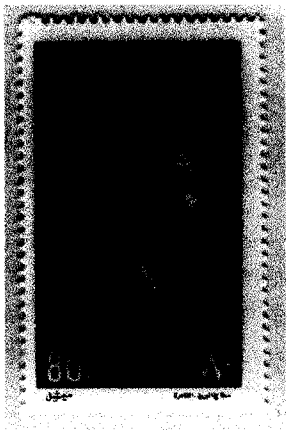
The birth name of Amenhotep contains a new element not previously discussed — an epithet, a characterizing word or phrase accompanying the name, *i.e.*, *heqa waset*. "Ruler of Thebes."

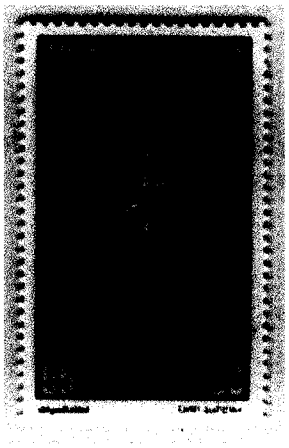
In 1995 another set of stamps (Egypt 1579-1581) appeared. These featured a sandstone statue of the so-called heretical sun worshiper Akenaten, a plaster bust of Queen Nefertiti (The bust is in the Charlottenburg Museum, Berlin.) and the gold death mask of king Tutankhamun. Again, note the epithet in the birth name of Tutankhamun.

*Nefer-kheperu Re*
"Beautiful are the manifestations of Re."

*Akh-en-aten*
"Servant of the Aten"





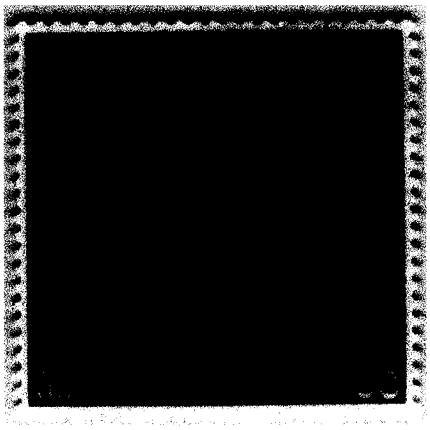


*Neb-kheperu Re*
"Lord of manifestations is Re."
*Tut-ankh-Amun heqa-iunu shema*
"Living Image of Amun"

1350-1344 B.C. *Nefertiti* 1334-1325 B.C.
"The beautiful one has come."

1579 1581 1580

Following the throne and birth names of the king is yet a third, the Horus name. This name is shown in a *serekh*, a schematic plan of an early mud palace, the top representing its plan and the lower part its facade. It is topped by the figure of Horus represented as a falcon. On the stamp (Scott 916) illustrating the back of Tutankhamun's chair, two serekhs are shown in which the hieroglyphs face the central figure, the god of breathing, Heh. The translation is "Horus, Strong Bull [*i.e.*, the Powerful] Perfect of Birth."



Scott 916

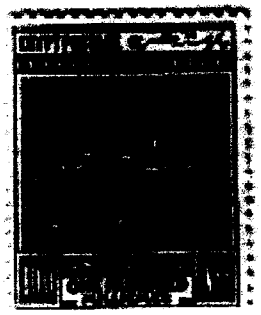
Above the shoulders of Heh are the throne name, introduced by the title "Bodily Son of Re Whom He Loves," and the birth name, introduced by the title "King of the North and South, Lord of the Two Lands."

Actually, the entire scene is a hieroglyph. Heh grasps notched palm ribs resting on tadpoles (signifying millions of years) with the *ankh*-sign (meaning life) over one arm. He kneels on the hieroglyph for gold. The interacting symbols convey the hope of a long and prosperous life.[5]

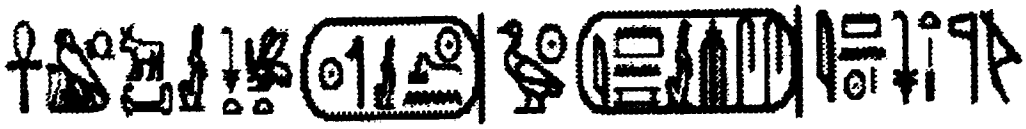
[5] Nicholas Reeves, *The Complete Tutankhamun* (Thames and Hudson, New York, 1990), pp. 185-186.

We now come to a discussion of elements on stamps showing royalty of the Ramesseide Era. As a monument builder, Ramesses II (1279-1212 B.C.) stands pre-eminent among the pharaohs of Egypt. His most well-known temple stands above Lake Nasser at Abu Simbel.

The central design of Scott Egypt 58 is superbly engraved. Ramesses' titulary, displaying his honors and attributes, can be partially made out on the temple facade with the aid of a magnifying glass. Some of the many titles of this king appear before and after his throne and birth names. The hieroglyphs to the right of center on the fascia read



Scott 58



"The Uraeus-crowned Living Representative of the Heavenly Horus, the Powerful, Loving Justice, King of the South and the North, *User-maat-re Setep-en-re* ('The Justice of Re is Powerful, Chosen of Re'), Son of Re, '*Ra-messes mery-amun* ('Re has fashioned Him, Beloved of Amun'), Beloved of Amun-re, King of all the Gods"[6]

We cannot pass by Ramesses II without mentioning his favorite wife Nefertari. She was buried in a sumptuous tomb in the Valley of the Queens. On a lintel over the doorway to her burial chamber is written the statement "Words spoken by Ma'at, daughter of Re, [I] protect [my] daughter, the king's great wife, Nefertari, beloved of Mut, justified. (The line is written backwards on the stamp!)."[7] There is honorific transposition of the hieroglyph for the goddess Mut from its position at the end to the beginning of the cartouche (Note similar transpositions of gods' names on stamps previously shown).

Scott C215

We have come full circle in our discussion of royal names on the stamps of Egypt (There are two additional: the Golden Horus and the Two Ladies names, but these have not appeared on any Egyptian stamp to my knowledge). We end this article with the observation that the ancients expressed foreign names with one- and two-consonant signs. The name of Cleopatra VII illustrates the point. J. F. Champollion correctly deciphered the name of this queen found on an obelisk unearthed by W. J. Bankes at Philae and transported to England. The signs correspond to letters of the Greek alphabet with the exception of the last two, a cake and an egg.[8]

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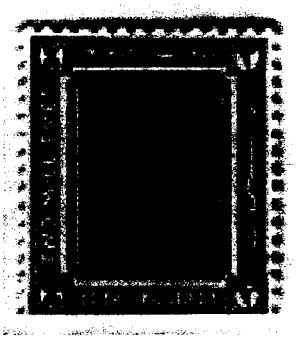
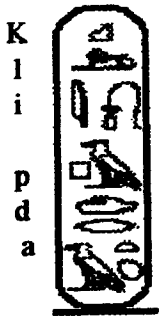
[6] Johannes Dümichen, *Der Aegyptische Felsentemple von Abu-Simbel* (Gustav Hemplen, Berlin, 1869) p. 10.

[7] John K. McDonald, *The Tomb of Nefertari* (The Getty Conservation Institute and the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, 1996), pp. 89, 91.

[8] Carol Andrews, *op. Cit.*, p. 15.



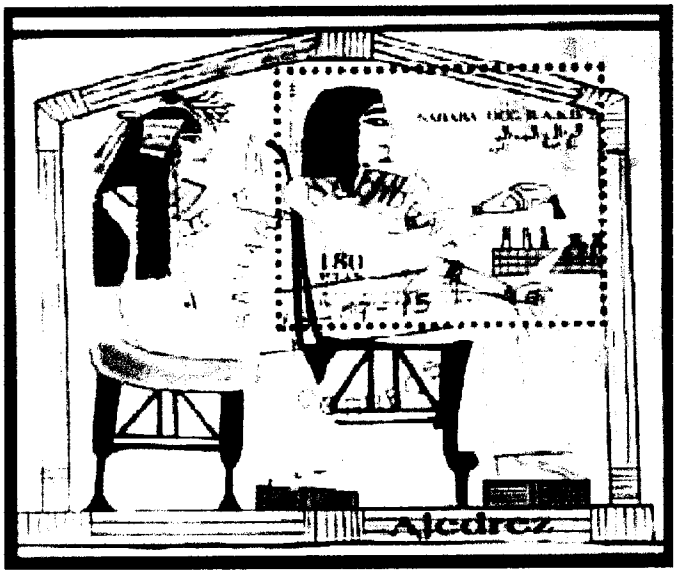
Scott 51




"Father's Glory, Goddess Isis"

In summary, we have presented examples of the hieroglyphic writing of three of the five names of the kings of ancient Egypt: the throne name, the birth name, and the Horus name. Associated with these are the kings' epithets and titularies. In addition, we have illustrated the writing of foreign names in hieroglyphs.

## *Stamps and Stories*




### First came Old World . . . then New World . . . and now Cinderella archaeology!

One of the editor's recent acquisitions is featured here. I would have been very happy to provide the Scott number, but this issue is beyond Scotts.

It is an archaeology-theme stamp, but we know it as a Cinderella. Notice the faked cancel: Sahara Occidental, 13 Sept. 95 (actually printed on the stamp). Value is 180 ptas. At the bottom is the word Ajedrez. The only stamps Scott lists for Sahara Occidental are two sets from early Spain and they were superseded by Spanish Sahara, and the area was later split between Morocco and Mauritania.

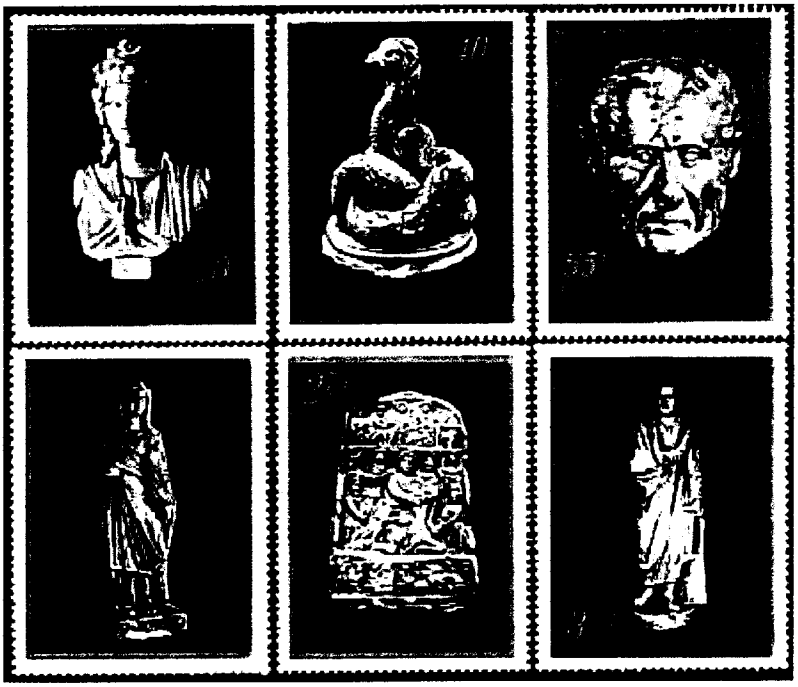
The first person to come up with a definition of R.A.S.D. and Ajedrez wins the S/S and I'll even pay for the postage!

### Archaeology art works excavated in Romania

Romania issued this set (at right) on Oct. 20, 1974. The set of six, Scott 2519-2524 pictures art works that have been excavated in Romania.

The 20 bani shows a bust of Isis from the first century. The 40 bani is a serpent by Glycon. A bronze bust of the Emporer Trajan is shown on the 55 bani stamp. A statue of a Roman woman, third century, is pictured on the 1.75 lei value. The 2.75 lei value pictures a Mithraic bas-relief. The high value in the set, 3.60 lei, shows a Roman man statue of the third century.

This set would provide an interesting page in your album. And if you wanted to dig a little deeper, a one-frame display on Romanian archaeology.



# Another ancient civilization found in Central Asia

A major early civilization — rivaling in sophistication the ones that emerged in the Indus Valley and Mesopotamia, the famed cradle of civilization — apparently thrived in central Asia between 2200 B.C. and 1800 B.C.

These people, who lived in desert oases in what is now Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, used irrigation to grow wheat and barley, forged distinctive metal axes, carved alabaster and marble into intricate sculptures, and painted pottery with elaborate designs, many with stylized versions of local animals, according to discoveries that have emerged during the past decade or so.

Since no one knows who the people were or what they called themselves, archaeologists have given the culture the name Bactria Margiana Archaeology Complex, or BMAC, after the ancient Greek names for two lands in the region.

"Who would have thought that now, at the beginning of the third millennium A.D., we'd be discovering a new ancient civilization," said Fred Hiebert, an archaeologist at the University of Pennsylvania Museum in Philadelphia. He has excavated in the region nearly every year since 1988, shortly before the Soviet Union fell.

Some researchers consider writing to be a criterion for any true civilization, and now Hiebert said he thinks he may have evidence for meeting that, too — a tiny stamp seal carrying four letter-like symbols in an unidentified language. He has dated it to 2300 B.C.

Hiebert presented his findings this month at an international meeting on language and archaeology at Harvard University.

"The implication of the seal is incredible," he said, because there's no existing evidence that these people had a written language. And the characters engraved in the stone stamp are unlike any ever seen.

"It's not ancient Iranian, not ancient Mesopotamian. I even took it to my Chinese colleagues," he said. "It was not Chinese."

How could such an advanced culture have been so overlooked?

In the 1970s, Soviet archaeologists working in remote deserts west of Afghanistan came upon vast ruins, each one bigger than a football field. All were built with the same distinct fortress-like pattern — a central building surrounded by a series of walls.

By the mid-'70s, the Soviet archaeologists had discovered several hundred of these structures in the areas known as Bactria and Margiana.

But their findings remained little known to the outside world because they had never been translated from Soviet journals.

"I was absolutely stunned," said Harvard archaeologist Carl Lambert-Karlovsky, who reads Russian and who, 20 years ago, first read some of the Soviet literature on this unknown world. He transferred his amazement to Hiebert, who was one of his graduate students.

**The editor has been stymied trying to locate Bactria and Margiana in archaeology textbooks, atlases, and National Geographic maps. The sites mentioned lie in the Kara Kum valley/desert which can be seen in the map running north and south near the edge of the Turkmenistan/Uzbekistan border, closely following the direction of the Amu Darva River. The dozens of settlement ruins of the unknown civilization stretch east acorss the Kara Kum desert into Uzbekistan and perhaps the northern part of Afghanistan. The area is 300 to 400 miles long and 50 miles wide.**

No one knows the extent of this civilization, which may reach beyond Margiana, deep in the Kara Kum desert, and Bactria, which straddles the Uzbek-Afghan border.

Hiebert said he believes that a third area, Anau, outside Ashgabat near the Iranian border, is connected to this civilization, perhaps even the origin of the culture. It is about 2,000 years older, going back to 4500 B.C., or the Copper Age. A New Hampshire archaeologist, Raphael Pumpelly, had discovered ancient ruins at Anau in 1904, but the site did not receive much attention from the Russians. Only now, said Hiebert, are all the pieces, once divided by political boundaries, falling into place.

Over his years of study in the area where the civilization existed, Hiebert discovered that the various oases "looked like they were in the middle of nowhere, but they are part of the route everyone went on from west to east for thousands of years."

The oases, built in moist areas, created natural step-

ping stones on a trading route that reached from China through the Indus Valley to Mesopotamia — all Bronze Age civilizations of the third millennium B.C.

The fortress-like buildings of the civilization are larger than the biggest structures of ancient Mesopotamia or China, said Harvard's Lambert-Karlovsky. "The size at the base of some of the buildings is equivalent to the base of the pyramids," he said.

The Soviet archaeologists determined them to be temples because of their size and distinctive layout, but Hiebert, who spent time looking for bone shards, seeds and other remnants of living patterns, came to a different conclusion.

He said the buildings were more like housing complexes, with areas for ordinary people to live, others for the elite, storage areas, and what appear to be areas for ritual.

The dwellers were industrious in other ways as well. In Bactria and Margiana, there was no natural stone or metal. "It was nothing but sand," Hiebert said, and yet the ruins contained elaborate works in alabaster, marble and bronze. "The oasis people would import materials and manufacture them in their own art style."

Lambert-Karlovsky said that many of the artworks, utensils and jewelry were buried with the dead. In an unusual pattern for other early people, the women were buried with more valuables than the men.

Most of the artifacts Hiebert found remain in Turkmenistan — the politically correct way to do archaeology today. But in his office on the fifth floor of Penn's University Museum, he displays a few.

There is a foot-tall alabaster column, a carved marble plate on a stand, an alabaster bowl, pieces of delicately painted pottery, and a bone pipe, possibly for drug use, carved into a little stylized human figure. Near the pipe, Hiebert found remains of the herb ephedra as well as poppy.

Small bronze axes carry designs, including one of a wild boar, and a piece of pottery is decorated with leopards. "Their world was full of dangers — wild boars, snakes, scorpions," Hiebert said. These animals show up in their ritual art.

The animal patterns support an idea, suggested by the Soviet archaeologists, that the people practiced an early form of the religion known as Zoroastrianism, which originated in Persia. Animal worship was part of Zoroastrian ritual, as was the use of fire, suggested by some hearths, or altars, found in the remains of ancient buildings.

More laboratory work might reveal what the climate was like during the Bronze Age — probably much wetter and more conducive to farming than it is now.

Hiebert plans to go back in June, armed with satellite maps he obtained with the help of NASA. These reveal wet oasis areas — where other lost cities are likely to be found.

RESOURCES:

Detroit Free Press, May 3, 2001, via *The Explorator*.

*National Geographic Maps* on CD.

***Just when you think its all figured out . . .***

# China finds more Great Wall

The Great Wall of China just got a little greater; China says it's 310 miles longer than previously thought.

A recently discovered section stretches to the edge of Lop Nor, a desert used as a nuclear test site until China stopped testing in 1996, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Previously, the wall's westernmost end was thought to be a remote fortress at Jiayu Pass.

The rediscovered earthen wall extends from Gansu province to the neighboring northwestern region of Xinjiang, according to Xinhua. It makes the Great Wall 4,470 miles long instead of 4,160 miles.

Nor does it likely end there: beacon towers extend as far as Kashgar in Xinjiang's southwest.

"There is no doubt this is part of the Great Wall as it consists of the city wall and beacon towers, forming a complete defense system," Luo Zhewen, regarded as China's foremost Great Wall expert, reports.

Luo said the section was built to protect merchants traveling the ancient Silk Road.

Built some 2,000 years ago and extended and renovated by later imperial dynasties to keep out invaders, the Great Wall is China's most famous landmark.

The latest section — discovered in 1998 by research fellow Mu Shunying of the Xinjiang Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology — could help Beijing reinforce its claim to Xinjiang. The region's Muslim ethnic people, the Uighurs, had their own short-lived republic before China's Communist Party seized power in 1949.

Uighur separatists seeking to throw off Chinese rule have waged a low-level campaign of bombings and assassinations since the 1990s.

While eastern sections of the wall near Beijing are made of brick, the recently found section is made of yellow sandy stone and branches.

# NEW DIGS

New issues from the last three months are listed here. Sources are Linn's and Scott Stamp Monthly. Lightface numbers are Scott catalog numbers and boldface is country and date of issue. The letters in parens at the end of each listing indicate the type of stamp:

A = Solid archaeology

B = Ancient history

C = Paleontology

D = Anthropology/archaeology peripherals

**Algeria, Oct. 18, 2000** Scott 1198-1200. Set of three featuring Roman Cinerary Urns Found at Tipasa. Denominations are 5, 10d, 24d. (A)

Scott 1198

**Andorra (French Admin.), Dec. 16, 2000** Scott 529. Single 6.70fr featuring prehistoric pottery of Prats. (A)

Scott 529

**Andorra (Spanish Admin.), Nov. 14, 2000** Scott 268 Single 35p value issued for 25th Anniversary of National Archives. Features cunieform (or similar) writing on stone or clay tablet. (A)

Scott 268

**Australia, Sept. 15, 2000** Scott 1873-74. Set features Olympics and 45c value shows Parthenon and $1.50 has view of Sydney Opera House. Joint issue with Greece 1968-69. (A)

**Bolivia, 2000** Scott 1102-10. Set of nine commemorating Artifacts from National Archaeological Museum. 50c, Pando; 50c, Potosi; 70c, Beni; 90c, Tarija; 1b, Chuquisaca; 1b, Oruro;3b, Cochabamba; 5b, Santa Cruz; 20b, La Paz. (A)

**Bosnia, Serb Admin. (Republika Srpska), Nov. 22, 1999** Millennium booklet pane of 6, shows Egyptians, obelisk and then several other events in modern history. (A)

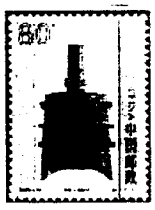
Scott 2737

**Brazil, Apr. 9, 2000** Scott 2737. 51c stamp commemorates 500th anniversary Discovery of Brazil. (D)

**China, Oct. 20, 2000** Scott 3055-58. Set of four featuring Relics from the Tomb of Prince Jing of Zhongshan. (A)

Scott 3055

**China, Dec. 31, 2000** Scott 3074-77. Set of four featuring ancient bells. 80f, Jingshu bell; 80f, Su chime bell; 80f, Jingyun bell; $2.80, Qianlong bell. (D)




Scott 3074

**Costa Rica, Jan. 28, 2000** Scott 534-35. Both vertical strips of five different. 534 shows Pre-Columbian artifacts: a, Jaguar; b, Scorpion; c, Bat; d, Crab; e, Beast with horns. 535 shows obverse and reverse of coins. (A)

Scott 534

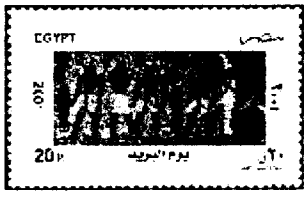
**Czech Republic, Aug. 30, 2000** Scott 3129. 9k single featuring Ancient Olympics. (A)

**Denmark, Sept. 27, 2000** Scott 1190-91. Contemporary Art Type of 1998. 4k value depicts Pegasus, by Kurt Trampedach. (D)

Scott 1765

**Egypt, Aug. 20, 2000** Scott 1765. 20p stamp issued for National Insurance Company Centennial, shows Pharaonic scene. (D)

**Egypt, Jan. 2, 2001** Scott 1781-83. Set of three honors Post Day and Ancient Egyptian Art. 20p shows eight standing figures and 125p has three large standing figures. 1783 is an imperf 125p value and pictures a chariot. (A)

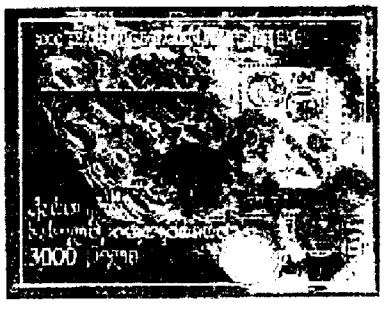



Scott 1781

**France, Sept. 18, 2000** Scott B698-B703 (Booklet is 703b). Set of semi-postal commemorating Adventurers. B701 features Paul-Emile Victor (1907-55), ethnologist, polar explorer. B702 honors Jacques-Yves Cousteau (1910-97), oceanographer. B703 honors Norbert Casteret (1897-1987), speleologist. (D)

**France, Oct. 21, 2000** Scott 2759 Art Series issue. See Page One for story by George Rohrer. (A)

**Georgia, May 11, 2000** Scott 239. Souvenir sheet commemorating 3000th Anniversary of Georgian State System. The view of the sheet in Scott's Stamp Monthly shows artifacts, coins and I'm not sure what all else. But I bet you could spend some time and make a great single page out of it. (A/D)




Scott 239

**Greece, Sept. 15, 2000** Scott 1968-69. Set of

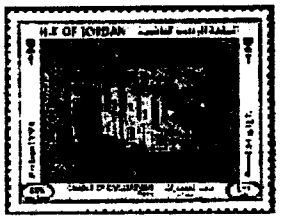
Scott 1968

two issued with Australia for Olympics. 200d shows Parthenon and 650d Sydney Opera House. (A)

Scott 1420

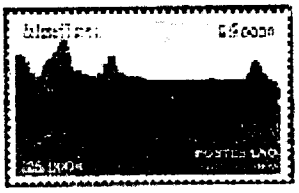
**Israel, Dec. 5, 2000** Scott 1420. 4.40s singal with tab marks the Aleppo Codex with an ancient manuscript on the stamp. (A/D)

**Jordan, Oct. 24 and Oct. 31,1999** Scott 1640-51. Four sets of three stamps each commemorating Cradle of Civilizations. 1640-42 archaeological sites Petra — 100f, Al-Deir; 200f, Khazneh; 300f, obelisk tomb. 1643-45 Jerash — 100f, Cardo Maximus; 200f, Temple of Artemis; 300f, Nymphaeum. 1646-48 Amman — 100f, Roman Theater; 200f, Citadel; 300f, Ain Hhazal statues. 1649-51 Wadi Rum and Aqaba — 100f, Camel Riders, Wadi Rum; 200f, House in Aqaba; 300f, Ruins at Aqaba. Scott has reserved numbers for additional stamps in the set.



Scott 1640

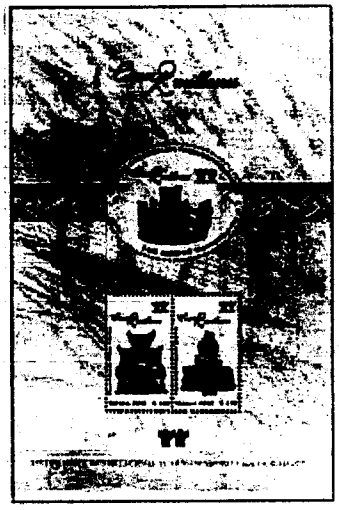
**Korea** Scott 1974 (issued July 1, 2000) Sheet of five in Millennium series featuring Late Choson Dynasty. Scott 1975 (issued Sept. 1, 2000) Sheet of six featuring the Koryo and Choson Dynasties. Scott 1976 (issued Oct. 1, 2000) Sheet of six features items from the Joseon Dynasty. (A)



Scott 1400

**Laos, 1998** Scott 1400-02. Set of three issued to mark historic sites. 10,000k, Hotay Vat Sisaket; 25,000k, Vat Phou; 45,000k, That Luong. (D)

**Mexico, June 27, 2000** Scott 2190. Sheet of three showing a, 3p, sculpture of pre-Hispanic building; b, 3p, sculpture of pre-Hispanic building with stairway; c, 10p, sculpture of pre-Hispanic natives in circle. (D)



Scott 2190

**Mexico, Dec. 14, 2000** Scott 2220. Single issue honoring pre-Hispanic city of El Tajin, shows pyramid style temple. (D)

Scott 2220

**Monaco, Oct. 2, 2000** Scott 2179. 5.20fr single commemorates Observatory Grotto 50th Anniversary, and Anthropological Museum 40th Anniversary. Monaco's museums are a natural for a one-frame exhibit. (D)

Scott 2179

**Sweden, Jan. 31, 2001** Scott 2404-05. Two stamp set (4.5k and 5k) showing rock carvings of animals and people and rock carvings of ships. (A)

Scott 2404

**United Nations, Oct. 6, 2000** Scott 784-86. World Heritage Sites — Spain. Panes of 20 plus booklets. 33c, 786a, Alhambra, Generalife and Albayzin, Granada; 60c, 786d, Amphitheater of Merida; 786b, Walled Town of Cuenca; 786c, Aqueduct of Segovia; 786e, Toledo; 786f, Guell Park, Barcelona. Offices in Geneva numbers are 362-364 and Vienna numbers are 279-281. Designs are the same. (A)

**Yemen, May 16, 2000** Scott 730-31, 731a. Set and souvenir sheet issued for First Genral Conference of Yemeni Immigrants. 60r value shows dhows and 90r shows fort and camel. (D)

**FRANK & ERNEST**

# Researching Yemen stamps provide insight to modern era

I came across this Yemen set a few weeks ago on eBay auctions and felt it would make a good story for our newsletter. I used for a reference *Ancient Ruins, The Past Uncovered* by L. Sprague de Camp and Catherine C. de Camp. But after a few hours of study in the Mar'ib and the Queen of Sheba chapter I became aware that the real story for us is the multitude of barriers, both political and religious, that early archaeologists encountered . . . and that some of the same barriers are still in place. So here's the story:

"In the nineteenth century, South Arabia (except for a British protectorate at Aden) formed part of the decaying Turkish Empire. Local rulers, paying tribute to the Sultan, carried on pretty much as they pleased. One of these rulers was the Imâm of Yemen. The title means that the ruler is the spiritual as well as the temporal successor to Muhammad, since the Imâm is the head of the Zaydi sect of Islam. These priest-kings had ruled Yemen since 897.

Of all these living fossils of kingdoms, Yemen was the most secluded. On being told that a foreign infidel might enter the country, the ordinary Yemenite would instantly answer: 'By God, we'll slay him!' He meant it, too.

Nevertheless, in the 1830s a few Europeans began to brave Yemeni hospitality. In 1843, the Frenchman Joseph Thomas Arnaud made the first notes on Yemeni archaeology. Getting into the country as the private physician of a Turkish general, he made an unauthorized caravan trip to Ma'rib — then a village rising amidst ancient ruins — where his medical skill persuaded the Emir of Ma'rib to protect him. He copied some inscriptions but had to quit when mobs threatened him.

In 1869 another intrepid Frenchman, Joseph Halévy, not only invaded Yemen but traveled widely about the country and brought back copies of 686 inscriptions. Being a Jew, he disguised himself as an oriental Jew and carried letters of recommendation to all the Jewish communities. In early 1900s, there were about 45,000 scorned and segregated Jews living in Yemen.

Halévy was followed by an Austrian, Eduard Glaser, who made three visits to Yemen in the 1880s and 90s. Glaser not only garnered a treasure of inscriptions, manuscripts, and notes, but even trained a number of Yemenites to collect materials for him. Nevertheless, despite his skill at passing himself off as a Muslim, he had several narrow escapes.

Since Glaser's time, many foreigners have gained access to Yemen on one pretext or other, but few, however, have gotten to Ma'rib. One who did was the Egyptian archaeologist Ahmed Fakhry.

In 1947, Fakhry went to Yemen in hope of visiting Ma'rib. The Yemenites told him it was hopeless because the Imâm, Yahya ibn-Muhammad, was a tough old tyrant who did not allow anyone to travel there. He once said: 'I and my people would rather live in poverty and eat grass than allow foreigners to enter the country.'

Despite the Imâm's suspiciousness, Fakhry unexpectedly got permission to go to Ma'rib. He set out quickly before the Imâm changed his mind.

At Bilqîs' capital, Fakhry had to endure the threats and insults that were the lot of the foreigner in Yemen, even when the stranger was a Muslim and a fellow Arab. He found to his horror that the Yemenites were demolishing the ruins of a dozen structures of ancient Ma'rib in order to cut up the stones and use them in a large, fortresslike governmental building. The local governor said: 'He was very proud of his work, and boasted that he was ruining the remains of dead pagans for the welfare of the living Moslems.'

When Fakhry protested, the royal officials 'could not understand my enthusiasm for the preservation of the remains of the ancient heathen inhabitants, and they told me that they could never explain such an attitude from a Moslem like myself. All such remains, they maintain, are the work of non-believers who adored idols, and their memory must be destroyed wherever it occurs. Arguing with people of such a mentality can only complicate matters'."

*To Be Continued Next Issue*

**Yemen Scott 113-120, C20-21, issued Oct.14, 1961, perf and imperf. Top to bottom:**
**1i, Woman with grapes;**
**1b, Alabaster funerary mask;**
**2b, Horned animal's head, symbolizing Moon God;**
**4b, Bronze head of an emporer 1st or 2nd century;**
**8b, Statue of Emporer Dhamar Ali.**
**10b, Statue of a child, 2nd or 3rd century;**
**12b, Stairs in court of Temple of the Moon God;**
**20b, Alabaster relief, boy riding monster;**
**6b, (C20) Columns, Temple of the Moon God;**
**16b, (C21) Control tower and spillway of 2,700-year-old dam of Mar'ib.**
**Overprints also were issued for the whole set.**