

KEOPS' PYRAMID

STUDY OF RARITIES PREDECESSORS OF THE MODERN MAXIMAPHILY, 1901-1914

Exhibitor: LEON IANCOVICI Esq.,
ROMANIA

The **Egyptian Pyramids** are ancient pyramids-shaped masonry structured located in Egypt. The earliest known Egyptian pyramids are found at Saqqara, northwest of Memphis.

The earliest among these is the Pyramid of Djoser (constructed 2630 BC–2611 BC) which was built during the third Dynasty. This pyramid and its surrounding complex were designed by the architect Imhotep, and are generally considered to be the oldest monumental structures constructed of dressed masonry.

The most famous Egyptian pyramids are those found of Giza, on the outskirts of Cairo. Several of the Giza pyramids are counted among the largest structures ever built. *The Pyramid of Khufu at Giza is the largest Egyptian pyramid. It is only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World still in existence.*

The shape of Egyptian pyramids is thought to represent the primordial mound from which the Egyptians believed the earth was created. The shape of pyramid is thought to be representative of the descending rays of the sun, and most pyramids were faces with

polished highly reflective white limestone in order to give them a brilliant appearance when viewed from a distance. Pyramids were often also, named in ways that referred to solar luminescence.

While it is generally agreed the pyramids were burial monuments, there is continued disagreement on the particular theological principles that might have given rise to them. One suggestion is that they were designed as a type of "resurrection machine".

Giza is the location of the Pyramid of Khufu (also known as the "Great Pyramid" and the "Pyramid of Cheops" or "Keops' Pyramid") the somewhat smaller Pyramid of Khafre (or Kephren), the relatively model-sized Pyramid of Menkaure (or Mikerinus) along with a number of smaller satellite edifices known as "Queen's pyramids" and the Great Sphinx. Of the three, only Khafre's Pyramid retains part of the original polished limestone casing, near its apex. This pyramid appears larger than the adjacent Khufu pyramid by virtue of its more elevated location and the steeper angle of inclination of its construction – it is in fact smaller in both height and volume

The exhibit "KEOPS' PYRAMID" represents the author's effort over half a century to collect and study only those TCVs that we considered true "postal accidents" and which, coincidentally for the period in which they appeared (the second half of the 19th century) some today meet the characteristics in a superlative way and fall into the category of modern Maximum Cards.

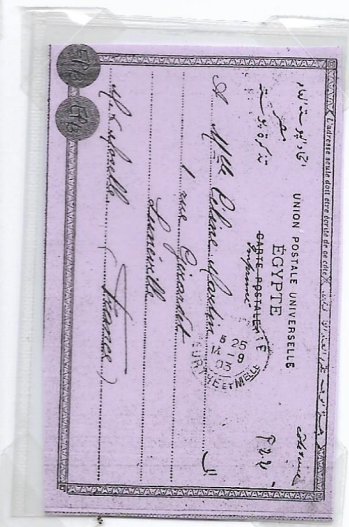
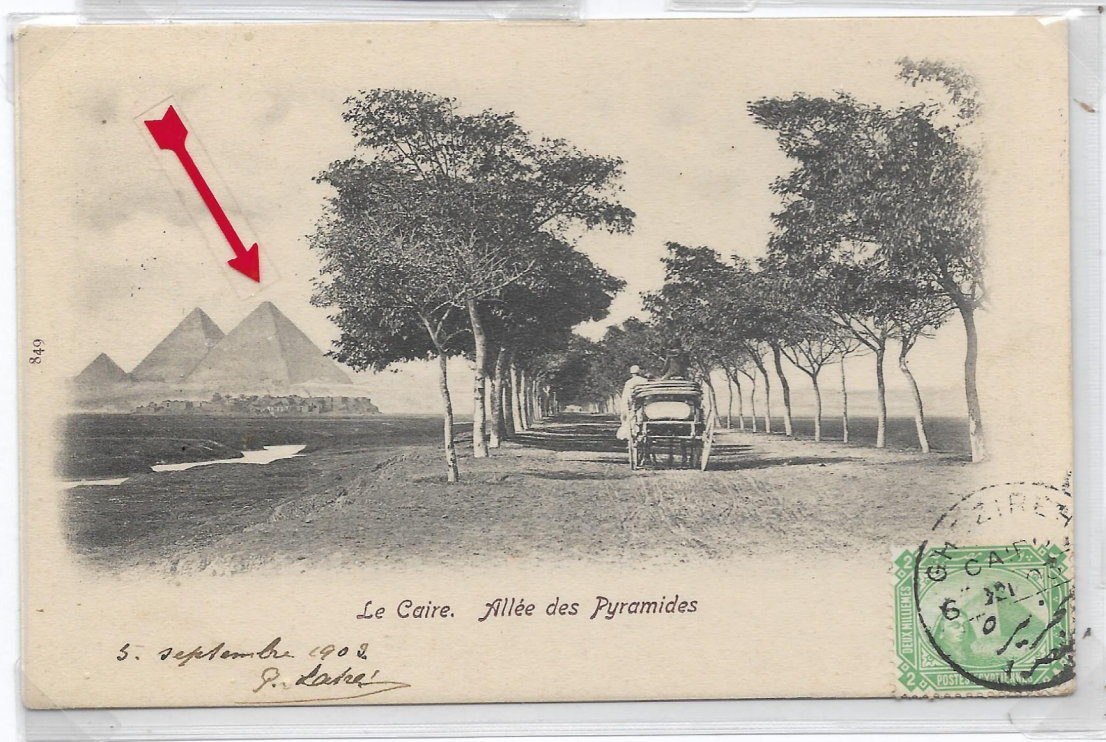
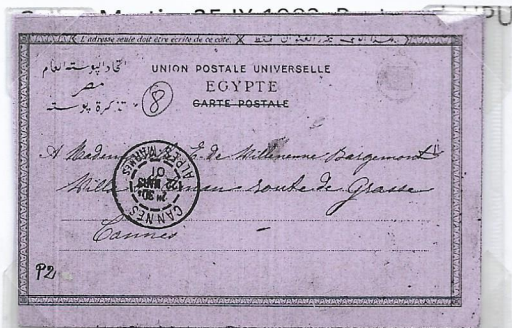
I have opened a page like no other in the science of the history of
Maximaphily...

Each of the maximum card presented below is, as a whole, unique!

The Giza pyramid complex is an archaeological site on the Giza Plateau (GIZEH), on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt. It includes the Great Pyramids (Khufu) Cheops/**Keops**; Khafre and Menkaure. **The Great Sphinx**, several cemeteries, a workers village and an industrial complex. It is located in the Western Desert, approximately 9 km (5ml) west of the Nile river at the town Giza, and about 13 km (8 ml) southwest of Cairo city center.

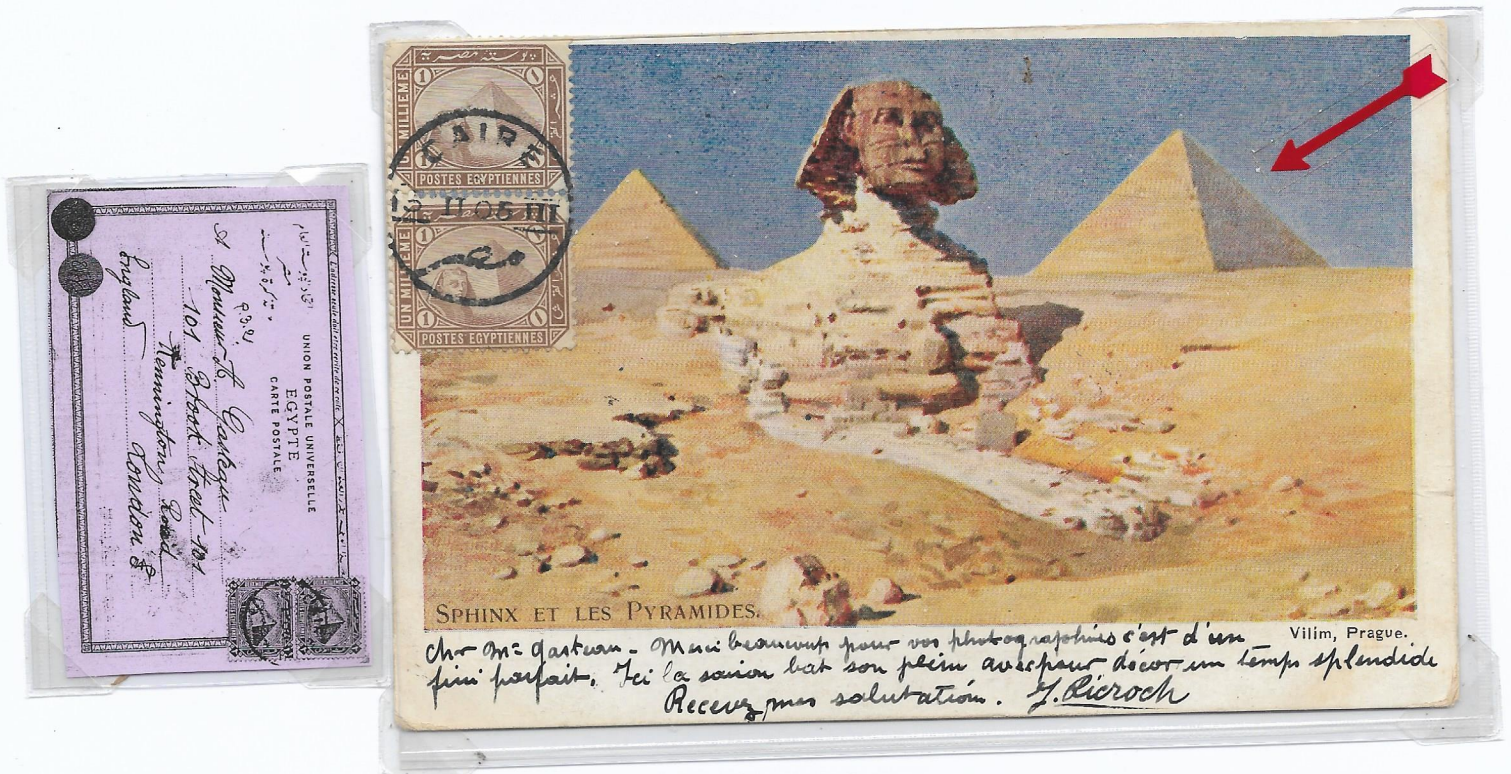
1901. Subject: Keops' Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1901. Date of stamp issue: 1888 Yv 37. Cancellation: **CAIRE**, 5.III.1901. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender: ?. Address: Mme E. de Milleune, Cannes, 22.III.1901. Post card: Lichtenstern & Harari, Commision-Agents Cairo # 113 (See verso 1).

1902 VERY RARE POSTMARK. Subject: The Egyptian Piramids: **Keops**, Kephren, Menkaure. Place concordance: Gizeh Plateau.Cairo. Time: 1902. Date of stamp issue: 1888, Yv. 37. Cancellation: **GIZEH/CAIRO**, 5.IX.1902. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender: P.Latre, 5.IX.1902. Address: Mlle



The pyramids, which have historically been common as emblems of ancient Egypt in the Western imagination, were popularized in Hellenistic times, when the *Great Pyramid* was listed by Antipater of Sidon as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It is by far the oldest of the ancient Wonders and the only one still in existence.

1905. Subject: Keops' Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1905. Date of stamp issue: 1888 Yv 36. Cancellation: **CAIRE**, 15.II.1905. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender: I. Ricoch. Address: Mr. A. Gasteau, London, England. Post card: UPU Egypt, Vilim, Prague (See verso 1).

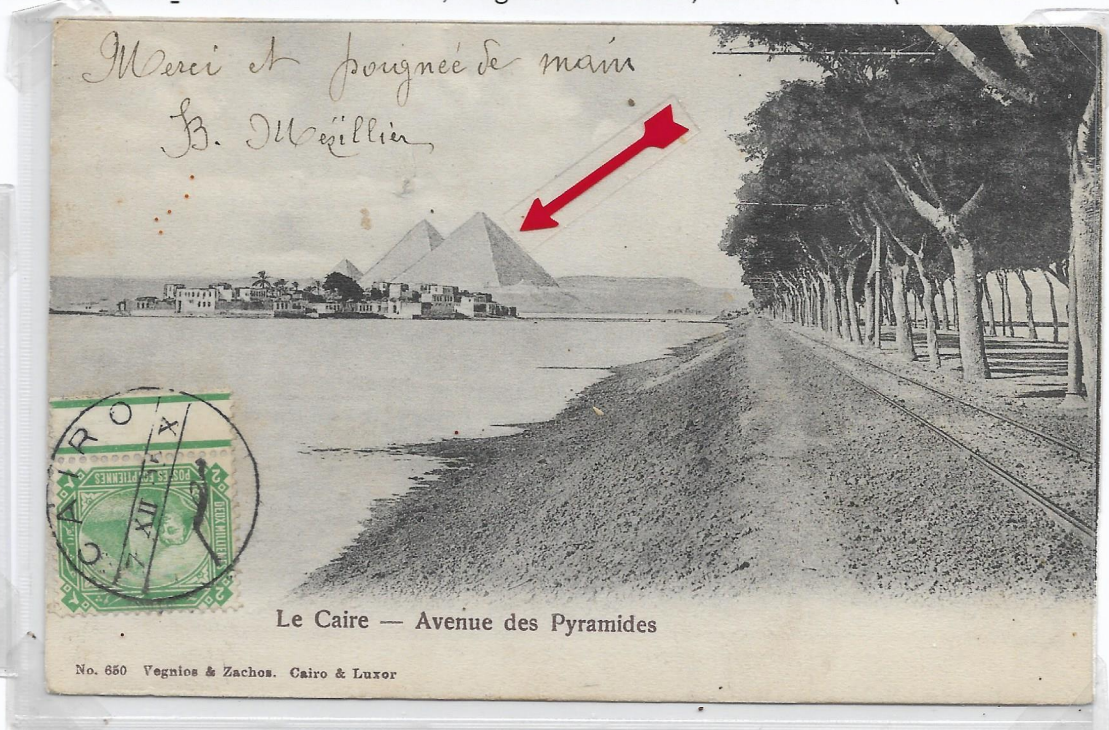


1903. RARE POSTMARK. Subject: Keops' Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1903. Date of stamp issue: 1888 Yv 37. Cancellation: **CAIRE**, 7.IX.1903. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender: ?. Address: Mlle Renee et Irene Mignot, Kairouan, Tunisie, 8.9.1903. Post card: UPU EGYPT (See verso 2).

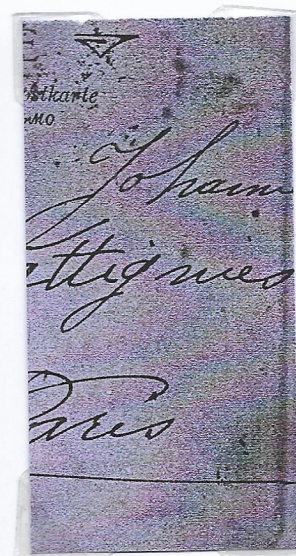


The Pyramids of Giza consist of the Great Pyramid (also known as the Pyramid of Cheops/Keops or Khufu and constructed c.2580-2560 BC), the somewhat smaller Pyramid of Khafre (or Chephren) a few hundred meters to the relatively modest-sized Pyramid of Menkaure (or Mykerinos) a few hundred meters farther south-west.

1905. Subject: Keops' Pyramid/The Great Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1905. Date of stamp issue: 1888 Yv 37. Cancellation: Cairo T, 7.XII.1905. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender: M. Missilin. Address: M. Paul Cassel, Obberville, Somme. Post card: UPU EGYPT No. 650, Vegalos & Zachos, Caire a Luxor (See verso 1).

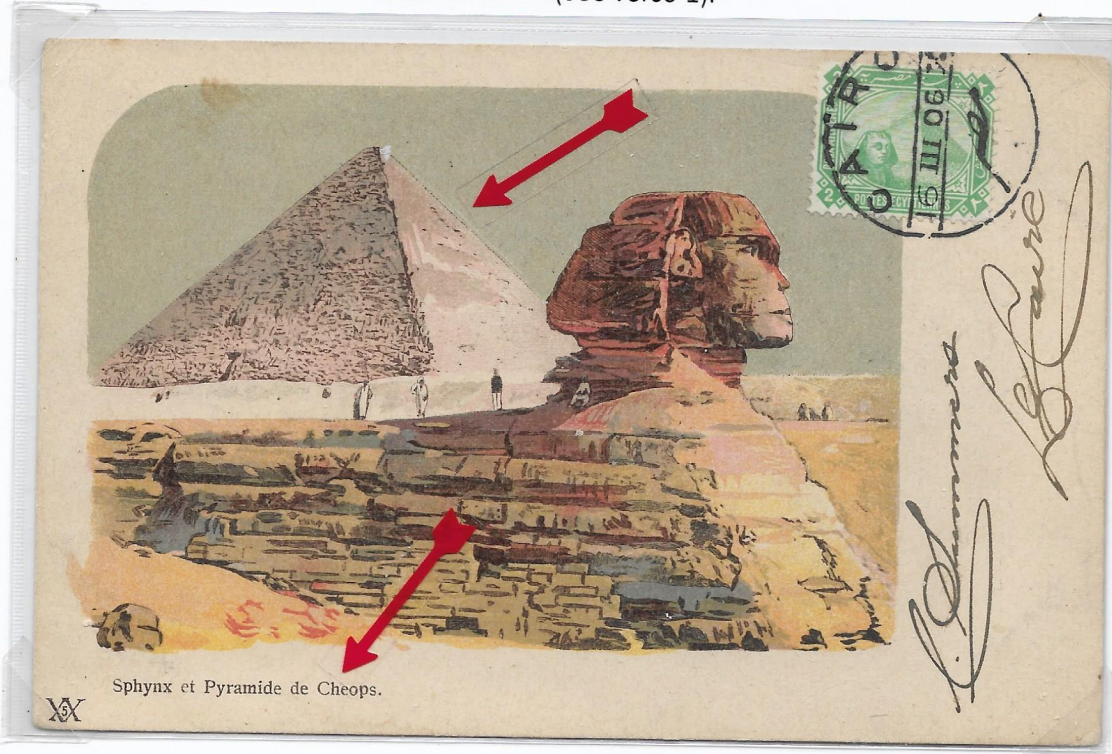


1907. Subject: Keops' Pyramid/The Great Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1907. Date of stamp issue: 1888 Yv 41. Cancellation: Cairo, post office "J" 1.4.1907. Illustrated post card effectively circulated (?) by post. Sender: Louise. Address: Madame Fourvel Johannes (See verso 2).

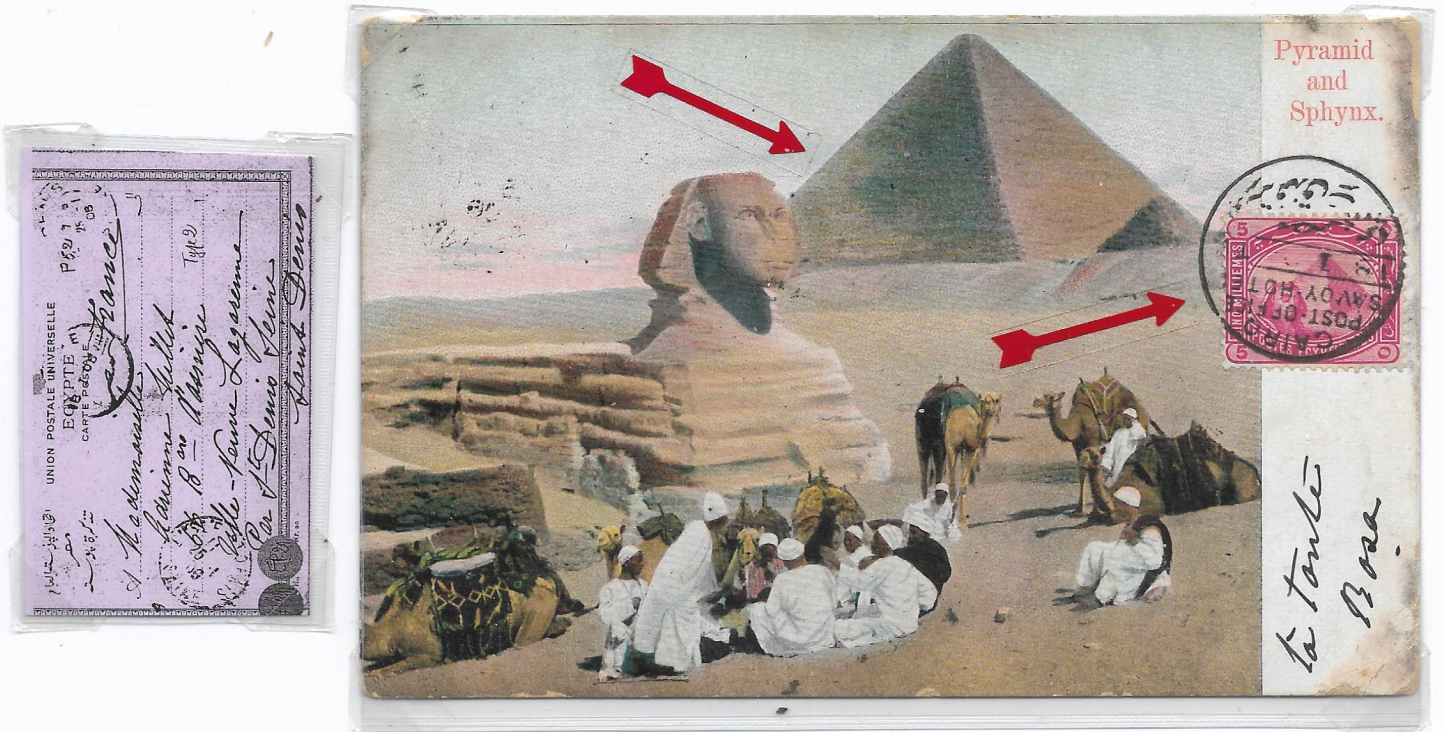


The Great Sphinx lies of the east side of the complex. Current consensus among Egyptologists is that head of the Great Spinx is the Khafre Along with these major monuments are a number of smaller satellite edificies, known as „queens” pyramids, causeways and valley pyramids.

1906. Subject: Keops' Pyramid and the Egyptyan Grand Sphinx. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1906. Date of stamp issue: 1888-1906 Yv 37. Cancellation: CAIRO, 16.III.1906. Illustrated post card effectively(?) circulated by post. Sender: indecipherable. Address: Melle Fernande Dubui, Paris, France. Post card: UPU X5X (See verso 1).



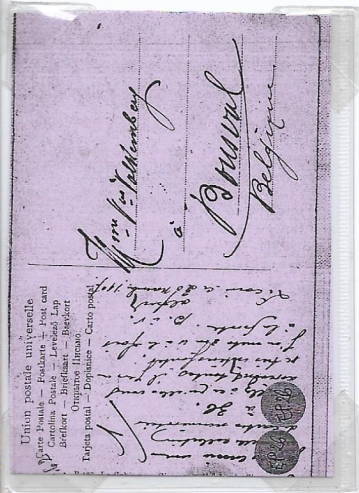
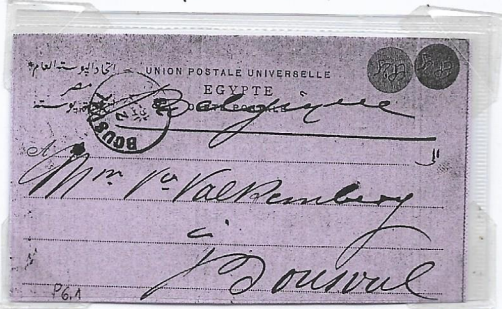
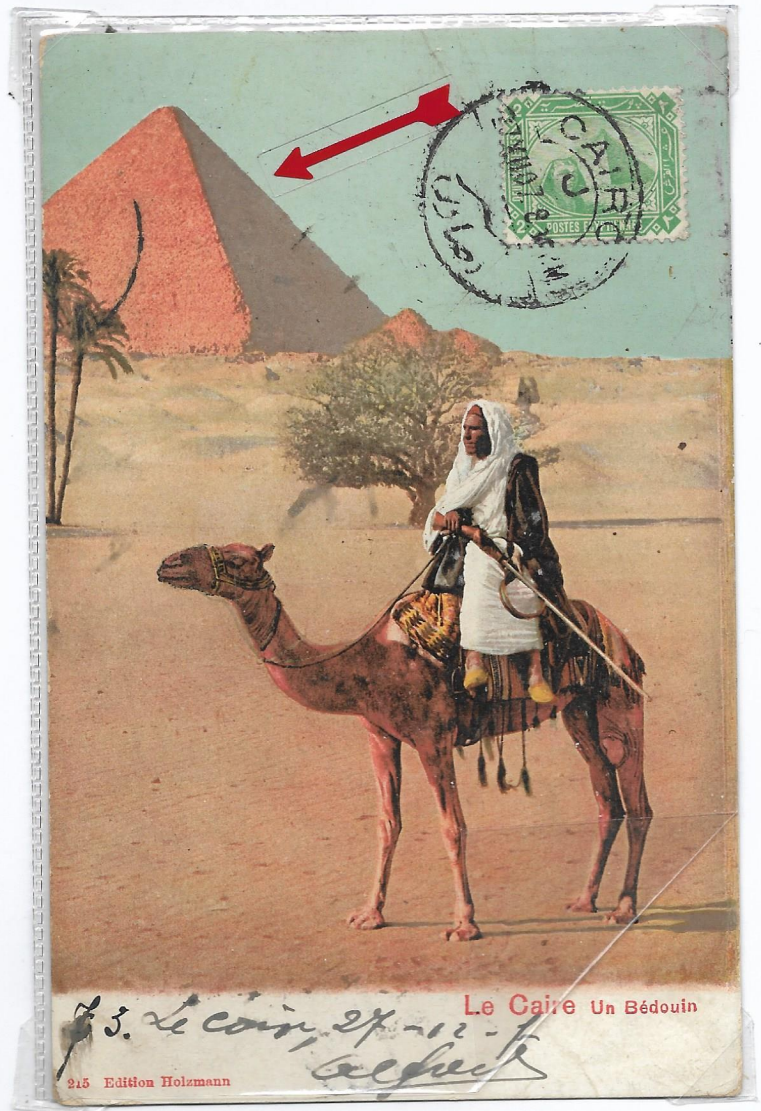
1906. VERY RARE POSTMARK. Subject: Keops' Pyramid/The Great Pyramid and the Egyptian Grand Sphinx. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1906. Date of stamp issue: 1888-1906, Yv 41. Cancellation: CAIRO, POST OFFICE SAVOY HOTEL, 18.I.1906. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender: Rosa. Address: Melle Aduine Millet, Saint Denis, 25.I.1906. Post card: UPU EGYPT (See verso 2).



KHFUFU'S PYRAMID COMPLEX. Khufu's Pyramid Complex consists of a valley temple, now buried beneath the village of Nazlet el-Samman; basalt paving and nummulitic limestone walls have found but the site has not been excavated. The valley temple was connected to causeway which was largely destroyed when the village was constructed.

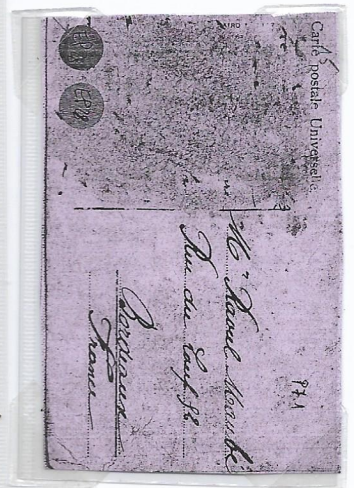
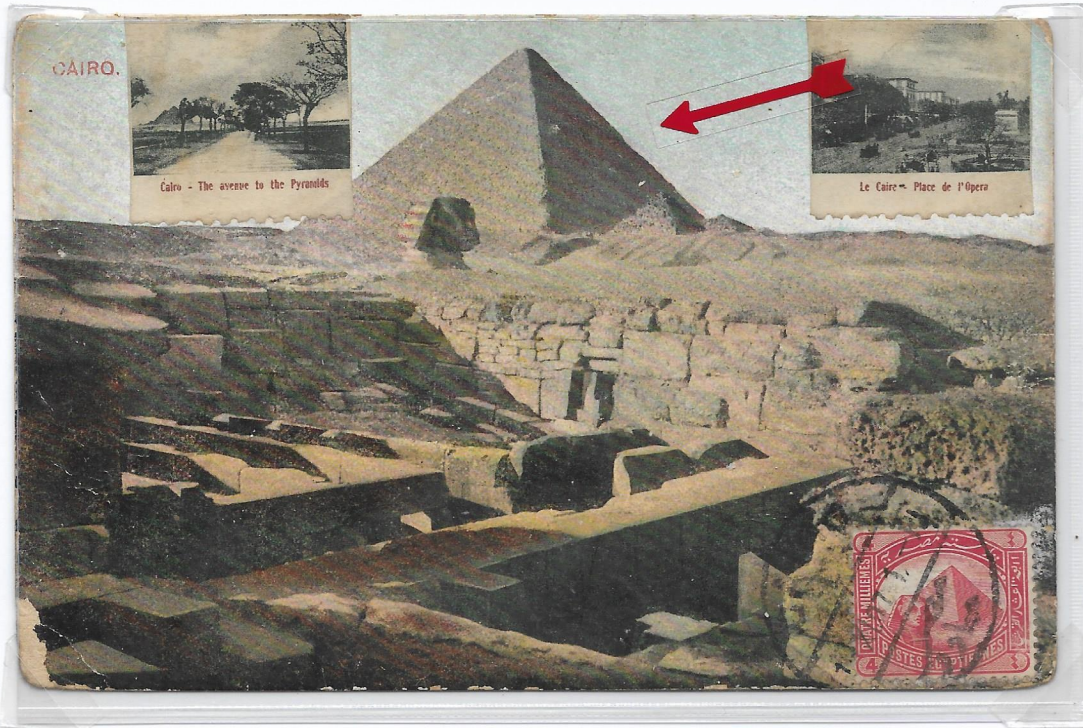
1907. Subject: The Keops' Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egipt. Time concordance: 1907. Date of stamp issue: 1888-1906 Yv 37. Cancellation: CAIRO (post office "J", 27.XII.1907. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender Alfred. Adresse: Mr. Valemborg, Bousval, Belge, 2.1.1908. Post card: UPU EGYPT, Art Institut Orell Fussl(See verso 1).

1907. Subject: The Keops' Pyramid/The Great Pyramid and the Grand Sphinx. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egipt. Time concordance: 1907. Date of stamp issue: 1888-1906, Yv 37. Cancellation: Cairo, post office "F" 30.XI.1907 Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender: Alfred. Adresse: Mr. Valemborg, Bousval, Belge. Post card: UPU EGYPT, Post card: UPU R137 (See verso 2).

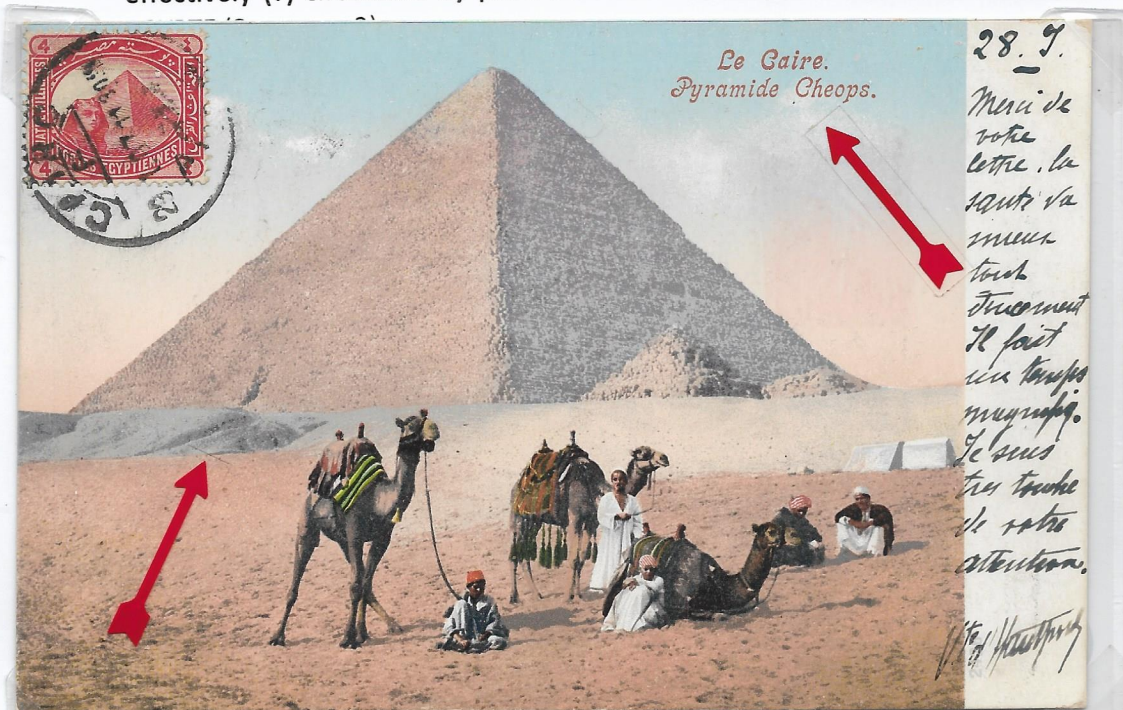


The causeway led to the Mortuary Temple of Khufu. From this temple the basalt pavement is the only thing that remains. The mortuary temple was connected to the king's pyramid. The king's pyramid has three smaller queen's pyramids associated with it and five boat pits. The boat pits contained a ship, and the 2 pits on the south side of the pyramid still contained intact ships.

1907 Subject: The Keops' Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Egypt. Time concordance: 1907. Date of stamp issue: 1888-1906, Yv. 40. Cancellation: Cairo 11.XI.1907, postal office "C". Illustrated post card effectively (?) circulated by post. Sender: ? Address: M. Raoul Maube, Bordeaux, France. Post card: UPU Egypt (See verso 1)



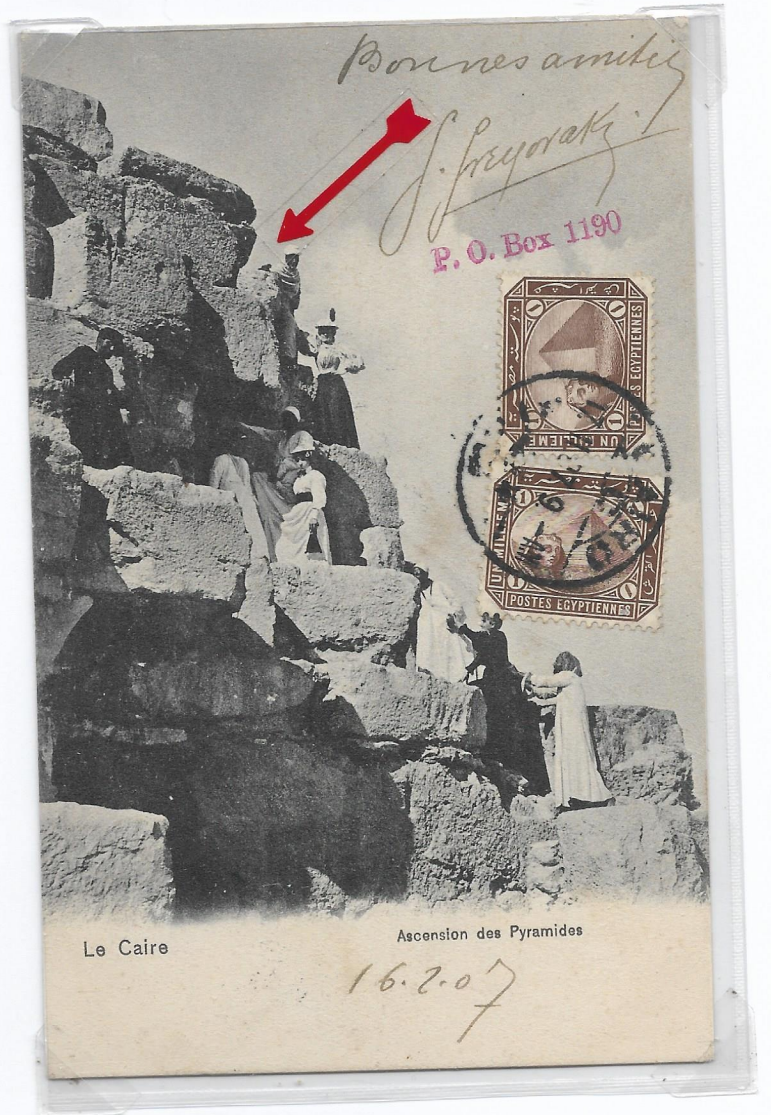
1907 Subject: The Keops' Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Egypt. Time concordance: 1907. Date of stamp issue: 1888-1906, Yv. 40. Cancellation: Cairo 29.I.1907, postal office "F". Illustrated post card effectively (?) circulated by post. Sender: Ute Hautpoch. Address: M. Joseph Beurier. Post card: UPU



One of these ships has been restored and is on display. Khufu's pyramid still has a limited collection of casing stones as its base. These casing stones were made of fine white limestone quarried from the nearby range.

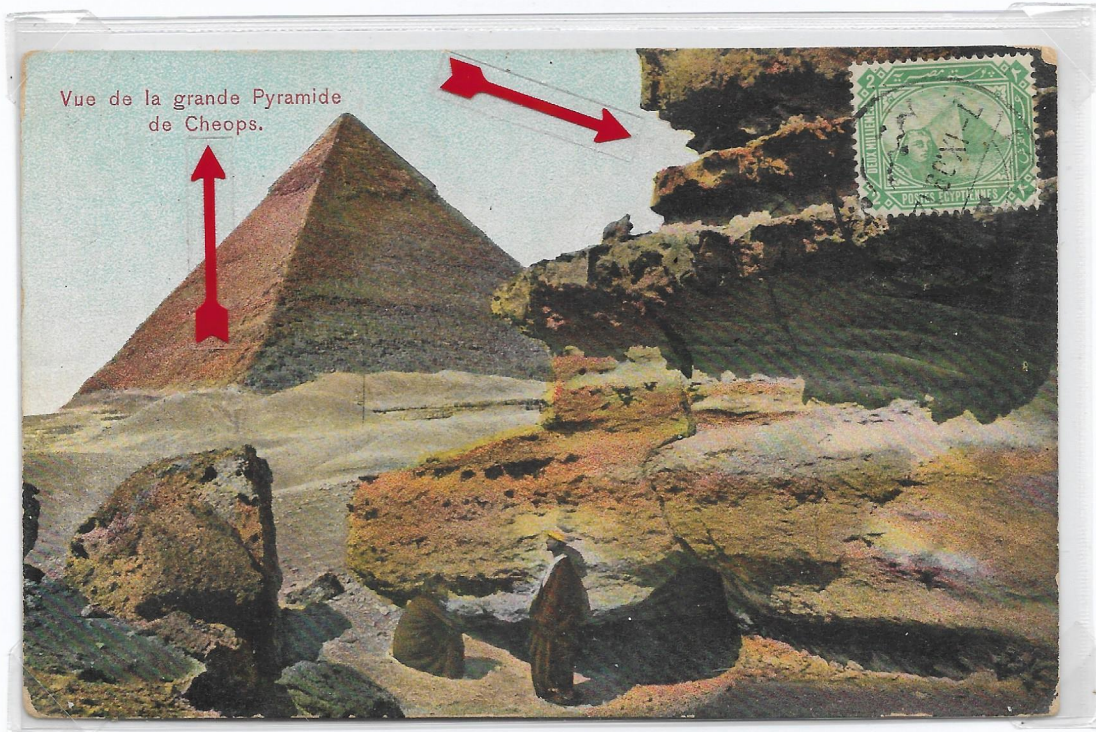
1907. Subject: Keops' Pyramid.
 Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1907.
 Date of stamp issue: 1888 Yv 36.
 Cancellation: CAIRE postal office "C", 16.II.1907. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post.
 Sender: S.Grigoraky. Address: M. Henri Suleau, Grandvilleirf, France.
 Post card: UPU EGYPT. (See verso 1).

1907. Subject: Keops' Pyramid.
 Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1907.
 Date of stamp issue: 1888 Yv 37.
 Cancellation: CAIRE, 7.XI.1907. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post.
 Sender: Alfred. Address: M. V. Valembey, Bousval, Belge.
 Post card: UPU EGYPT. The Collector (See verso 2).



Most construction theories are based on the idea that the pyramids were built by moving huge stones from a quarry and dragging and lifting them into place. The disagreements center on the method by which the stones were conveyed and placed and how possible the method was.

1909. Subject: Keops' Pyramid/The Great Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1909. Date of stamp issue: 1888 Yv 37. Cancellation: Cairo, 7.IX.1909. Illustrated post card effectively(?) circulated by post. Sender: Bert. Adresse: M.Lemourne, Seine, France. Post card: UPU EGYPTE, Au Carto-Sport, Max H. Hudmann, Le Caire, serie 59756 (See verso 1).



1913. Subject: Keops' Pyramid/The Great Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1913. Date of stamp issue: 1888 Yv 40. Cancellation: Cairo, Postal office "K", 6.XI.1913. Illustrated post card effectively(?) circulated by post. Sender: E. Epelly. Adresse: Sg. Devoti avocet, Rhodos, Egee. Post card: The Cairo Post Cards ruit Cairo (See verso 2)



In building the pyramids, the architects might have developed their techniques over time. They would select a site on a relatively flat area of bedrock-not sand-which provided a stable foundation. After carefully surveying the site and laying down the first level of stones, they constructed the pyramids in horizontal levels, one on top of the other.

1912. Subject: Keops' Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1912. Date of stamp issue: 1888 Yv 40. Cancellation: CAIRO, post office "F", 13.III.1912. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender ?. Address: Melle Victoria Salair, Salonique. Post card: No 59760 (See verso 1)



1913. Subject: Keops' Pyramid/The Great Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1913. Date of stamp issue: 1888 Yv 40. Cancellation: CAIRO, 1.4.1913. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender: Marinette. Address: Melle Marguerite Bedoillox, Paris, France. Post card: 18342 R&J.D. Gizeh (See verso 2).



For the GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA (KEOPS' PYRAMID), most of the stone for the interior seems to have been quarried immediately to the south of the construction site. The smooth exterior of the pyramid was made of a fine grade of white limestone that was quarried across the Nile.

1908. Subject: Keops' Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1908. Date of stamp issue: 1888 Yv 36. Cancellation: CAIRO, 8.I.1908. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender: S. Dollinger. Address: M. Roger Cerkens, Amsterdam 16.I.1908. Post card: UPU EGYPT, Au Cartosport Max H. Rudmann, Le Caire Publishing House, No. 239 (See verso 1).



1908. Subject: The Keops' Pyramid/The Great Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1908. Date of stamp issue: 1888 Yv 37. Cancellation: Cairo, post office "J", 7.1.1908. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender: Luis. Address: L.Legal, Rueil, France, 18.1.1908. Post card: Lichtenstern & Harari, Cairo, Serie No. 14 (See verso 2).

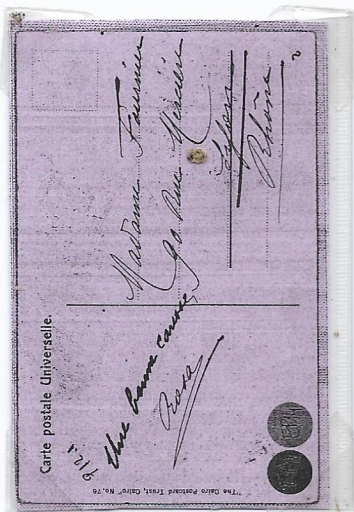


These exterior blocks to be carefully cut, transported by river barge to Gaza, and dregged up ramps to the construction sits. Only a few exterior blocks remain in place at the botton of the Great Pyramid. During the Middle Ages (5th century to 15th century), people may have taken the rest away for building projects in the city of Cairo

1908. Subject: Keops' Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egipt. Time concordance: 1908. Date of stamp issue: 1888 Yv 40. Cancellation: CAIRO, post office "G", 16.I.1908. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender: Rosa. Adresse: Mme Fournier, Lyon, Rhone. Post card: The Caire Postcard Trust, No 76 (See verso 1).



1910. Subject: Keops' Pyramid/The Great Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egipt. Time concordance: 1910. Date of stamp issue: 1888 Yv 37. Cancellation: Cairo, post office "o", 16.5.1910. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender: Marinems. Adresse: Mr. Kovi, Pays Bas. Post card: Lichtenstern & Harari, Cairo (See verso 2).



To ensure that the pyramid remained symmetrical, the exterior casing stones all had to be equal in height and width. Workers might have marked all the blocks to indicate the angle of the pyramid wall and trimmed the surfaces carefully so that the blocks fit together. During construction, the outer surface of the stone was smooth limestone; excess stone has eroded as time has passed.

1908. Subject: Keops' Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1908. Date of stamp issue: 1888-1906 Yv 37. Cancellation: CAIRO post office "F", 08.IV.1908. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender: Pedro. Address: Mr Ionescu Ion, Craiova, Romania, 3.V.1908. Post card: Lichtenstern & Harari, No 16 (See verso 1).

1912. Subject: Keops' Pyramid/The Great Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1912. Date of stamp issue: 1888-1906, Yv 37. Cancellation: Cairo, post office "D", 3.III.1912. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender: Roni. Address: Melle Yvonn Besson, Paris, France. Post card: UPU (See verso 2).



PURPOSE. The pyramids of Giza and others are thought to have been constructed to house the remains of the deceased. Pharaohs who ruled over Ancient Egypt. A portion of the Pharaoh's spirit called his was believed to remain with his corpse. Proper care of the remains was necessary in order for the "former Pharaoh to perform his new duties as king of the dead."

1908. Subject: The Keops' Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1908. Date of stamp issue: 1888-1906 Yv 37. Cancellation: CAIRO post office "O", 15.II.1908. Sender ?. Address: Melle Moreau, Amiens, France. Post card: R.&J.D. Publishing House, Serie No R 129. (See verso 1)



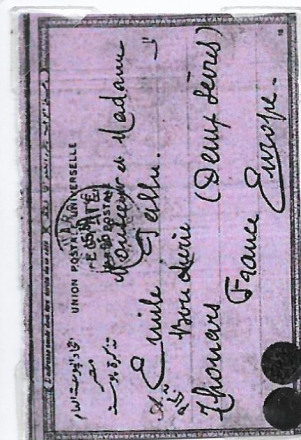
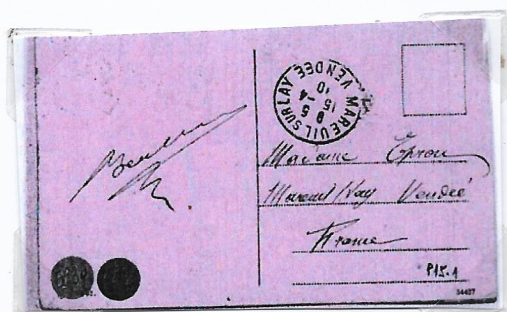
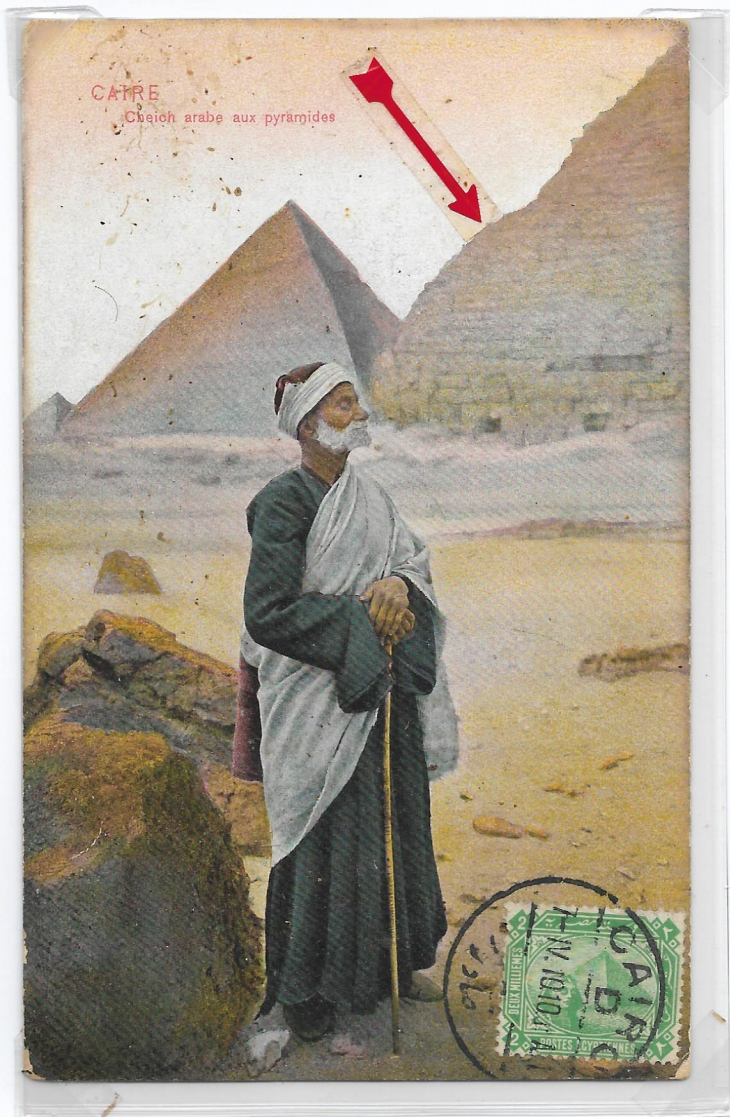
1911. Subject: The Keops' Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1911. Date of stamp issue: 1888-1906 Yv 37. Cancellation: CAIRO post office "X", 21.IV.1911. Sender: Sanis. Address: Mme Truteaux, Paris, France. Post card: LL Publishing House, Serie No 18. (See verso 2)



ASTRONOMY. The sides of all three of Giza pyramids were astronomically oriented to the north-south and east-west within a small fraction of a degree. Among recent attempts to explain such a clearly deliberate pattern are those of S.Haack, O. Neugebauer, K. Spence, D. Rawlins, K. Pickering, and J. Belmonte. The arrangement of the pyramids is a representation of the ORION CONSTELLATION according to the disputed Orion Correlation Theory.

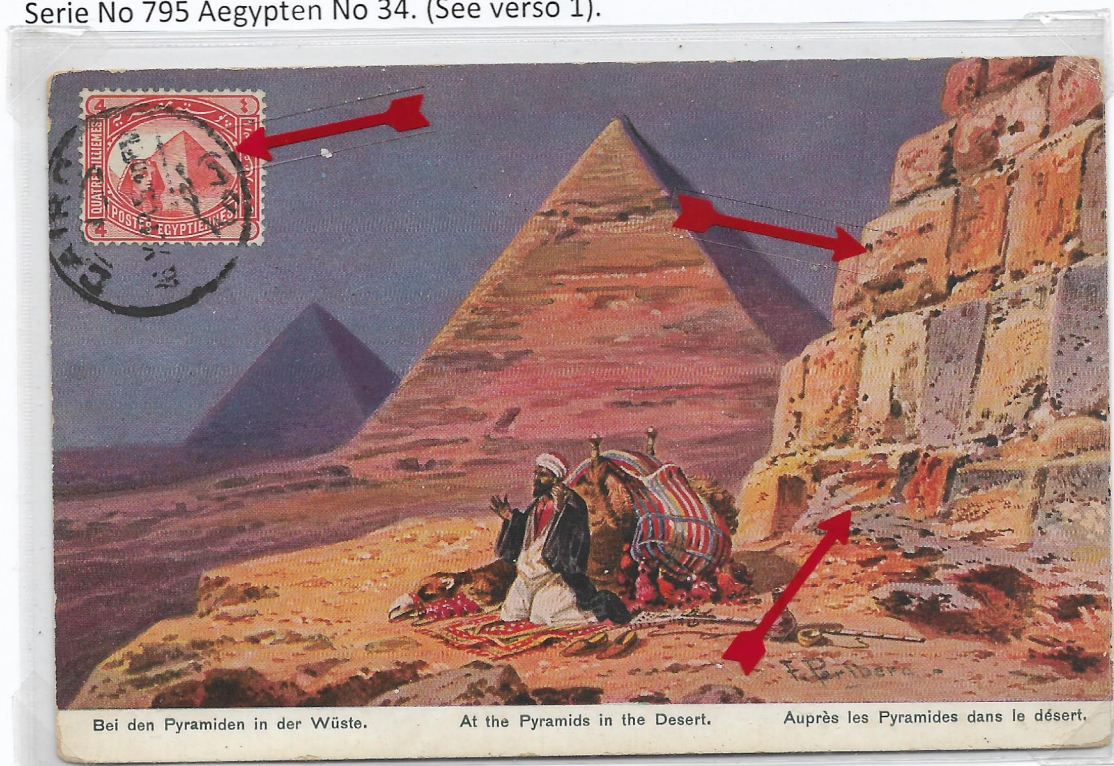
1910. Subject: The Keops' Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1910. Date of stamp issue: 1888-1906 Yv 37. Cancellation: **CAIRO** post office "D", 07.IV.1910. **Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post.** Sender Bencu. Address: Mme Eprou, France, 8.V.1910. Post card: ? Publishing House, No 544271.Lichtenstern& Harari, No 16 (See verso 1).

1909. Subject: The Keops' Pyramid/The Great Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1909. Date of stamp issue: 1888-1906, Yv 40. Cancellation: **Cairo, post office "D"** 19.XI.1909 **Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post.** Sender: Rene. Address: MM Emile Thomars, France. Post card: UPU EGYPT (See verso 2).



At the Pyramids and Sphinx in Gizeh Desert.

1913. Subject: The Keops' Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1913. Date of stamp issue: 1888-1906 Yv 40. Cancellation: CAIRO post office "J", 06.X.1913. Sender Sabah. Address: Monsieur Jacqu Lambert, Lyon, France. Post card: x Publishing House, Serie No 795 Aegypten No 34. (See verso 1).



1914. Subject: The Keops' Pyramid/The Great Pyramid. Place concordance: Gizeh, Cairo, Egypt. Time concordance: 1914. Date of stamp issue: 1888-1906, Yv 37. Cancellation: Cairo, post office "C", 19.X.1914. Illustrated post card effectively circulated by post. Sender: Mohamed Fahmy, Cairo. Address: Mr. James Vollenweider "Morgensonne", Switzerland. Post card: UPU (See verso 2).

