

H.M. King Farouk 1 of Egypt and Sudan *1920-1965* SU1A - Born to Sunni Islam. The last Monarch in Egypt. As Crown Prince our young subject held the rank of Scout King of Egypt. Sr. Farouk probably learned of the radio hobby in the Scout program, where there was a Scouting membership in Egypt of 8 thousand and growing. Educated in Egypt and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, England. Upon his coronation in 1936, the hugely popular 16 year old King Farouk made a public radio address to the nation. Marking the first time a sovereign of Egypt had ever spoken directly to his people in such a way. Royalty sometimes have interesting family relationships. Farouk's sister was married to "The Shah of Iran." The Shah spent time at Koubbeh Palace, Egypt's official 75 acre guest house. Koubbeh had a special transmitter installed for broadcasting.



Cairo had the oldest press agency in the Middle East, Egyptian press far and away was the most widely read in the region. Not many could afford recreational shortwave radio in those days. The ever present newspaper was evident everywhere. I wonder if that is so today with the Internet? Who misses the odor of the press ink and the smudged finger tips?



The first radio station in the Arab world was opened in Egypt. It was installed by the British Authorities under the reign of King Fuad I in 1926. I am beginning to understand the mystique held into the radio hobby especially during the 30-s 40s and beyond by governments and their questionable caustic view and restrictions to anyone enjoying the electronic marvel radio hobby. Or radio given the evil eye by authorities.

It is known SU1A owned a 1938 Continental Clipper Coach a very expensive brand of travel unit by Schult

Trailers. Could this have been radio equipped? Above Royal Montazah Palace built in 1892 at Alexandria. The Palace and 350 acres sits on a rocky bluff over looking the Med. Egypt was on the communications world map. The 1938 International Telecommunications Conference was held in Cairo. Meaning a badge of honor and prestige for the King of Egypt to usher in modern times in the communications field. His Nation sponsored world wide regulation of International radio and Shortwave Broadcasting beginning 1 February and adjourned 9 April. Continued page two.

Very little if anything is known about the radio hobby of King Farouk 1. He had many hobbies and was a generalist in rare coins, autos, philately, clocks, jewelry, and hunting. Many are quoted to having a conversation with The King over the ham radio bands ten and twenty meters. We list two positive memories. QSL cards from H.M. Farouk were received by many state side stations.

Royal Montazah Palace in Alexandria was the last residence of King Farouk before abdication. On the grounds was a hunting lodge and gardens. Today the lodge is a luxury hotel and casino. There eventually came the time H.M. The King became exiled and sailed off into the Mediterranean, in 1952 with his Royal Yacht SS Mahroussa arriving close by Naples, Italy with his longtime friends.



The last abode in Italy of the exiled King SU1A. Credit Maximiliana. I recently ran across a Readers Digest article (April 1947) written by Karl Detzer in which he wrote about W2IXY Dot Hall communications supervisor with the NYC Fire Department. She said “Recently a mans voice called one night on my shortwave with a slight accent from Cairo.” The voice said, I just heard you talking to the station in Athens and I hope you don’t mind the intrusion. When Dorothy said she didn’t mind,

he explained that she was the first woman with whom he had talked on the air. They chatted for a while. As they signed off he said he’d like to send her a memento. Some time later a set of reproductions from the National Museum of Egypt arrived, with a pleasant note from her new friend of the air waves - King Farouk, SU1A. Note as yet we can’t find a issued call for the King.

Joe W5NA said; “The funniest thing that ever happened to me on the air was shortly after I obtained my ticket in 1947, I worked a Egyptian Amateur who advised me his name was David. When I received his QSL, my heavens was I surprised. The card was from David Farouk, King of Egypt.” Your author contacted Joe via email and got the following response - “Sorry I can’t help but I lost that Farouk card at my parents home, the house was damaged in one of the hurricanes. I’m now age 78 and my memory is not good.” A suggestion, K5JB Joe Butler was very active in the 47-50 era and could possibly help. Will we ever view a King Farouk QSL card? May it be so. W8SU 2010



One of your authors favorite people is Dr. Zahi Hawass - Prefecture of Antiquities or Secretary General of Supreme Council of Antiquities, also known as “The Pharaoh” Dr. Hawass has such vigor teaching about Egyptian antiquities. His range of English is good and keeps one’s interest continually on the cable about Ancient Egypt. SU1CR is a Les Nouvelles DX card. Being King I doubt that King Farouk would need an issued call.

A works in progress. 73 W8SU