



France & Colonies Philatelist

POSTAGE-DUE MARKINGS AND STAMPS OF FRANCE, 1750-1942*

Arthur P. Merrick (#743)

Postage-due stamps and their forerunners, the early postage-due markings on cover, seem to be of minor interest to general or specializing collectors of most countries, including France. To my knowledge, only a few serious studies of postage dues (the "taxes") have been made by French philatelic students. In contrast, are the many superb and detailed studies of postage issues, such as Fromaigeat's on the Empire issues, Joany's on the Sage, or similar works on the 20th Century issues by DeLizeray, to mention only several. The specialized catalogs of France pay little attention to the dues. One such 1968 catalog gives 3 varieties of the 15c lithographed due of 1863, a relatively scarce stamp, but devotes 17 listings to the 5c Blanc of 1900, a most common stamp.

It is my carefully considered opinion that the postage-due markings and stamps of France are grossly underpriced by existing handbooks and catalogs and in auction realizations and dealers' quotes. This is probably because of various factors, such as inaccessible information (on the forerunner marks especially), little knowledge of scarcity, quantities used, etc., and a general lack of study or interest on the part of even dedicated French specialists.

In one of Raoul Lesgor's specialized handbooks, he wrote with reference to the first issue of France postage dues, 1859-78: "These much neglected poor relatives of the collection of France, with their varieties, lithographic reports and other interesting features, really deserve a better fate."

A collector of limited means or time should not try to cover the entire field of due markings and stamps but aim for a representative showing of the

*Editor's Note: We are very happy to have this contribution from member Arthur Merrick, whose reputation as an enthusiastic and knowledgeable specialist in certain areas of French philately has often been relayed to us by many of our members. Our readers will doubly appreciate Mr. Merrick's effort in view of illness which made it difficult for him to write. This is the first installment of a series of 4 articles on the dues. The late Raoul Lesgor had promised us a writeup of his original studies on the litho dues but his illness and death intervened—he loved the dues and Mr. Merrick's articles would have warmed his heart.—R.G.S.

whole postage-due history or confine himself in detail to a small segment of the field. With diligent searching of circuit books, dealer stocks, auction catalogs, bourse tables, etc., he can often pick up items at a fraction of their real value. It won't be easy or fast, need not even be expensive, but it will be enjoyable. The end result will be a part of his collection that will be the

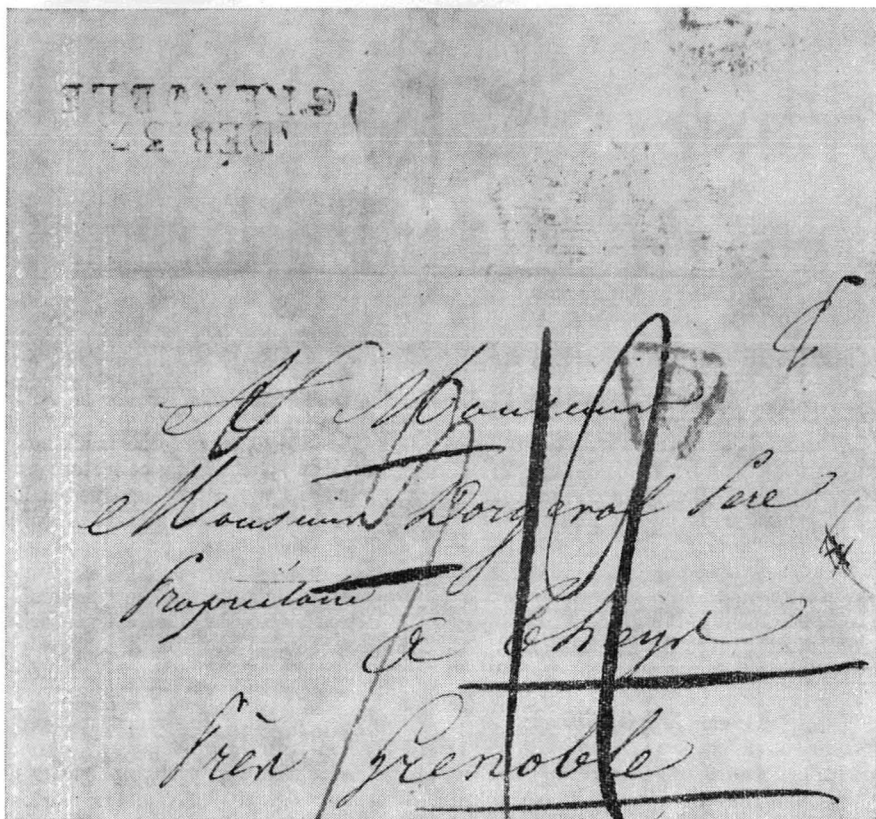


Fig. 1. Letter Paris to Grenoble 1814 with two décime marks, a "12" and a "9" and a "DEB 37 / GRENOBLE" handstamp postmark on back, indicating the letter was forwarded from Grenoble and remarked with a new due rate. The P in triangle is a Paris postmark.

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envy and education of his fellow collectors of France—and in time also a profitable investment.

The following series of articles has three purposes: 1) to show you how much enjoyment can be had from the pursuit of dues; 2) to indicate how many distinct areas there are in collecting them and the depth of each; and 3) to increase enthusiasm, interest, study and communication on the postage dues of France among collectors of France. Look over your own collection, maybe you will find the beginnings of a dues collection in your own albums!

I.

Postage-Due Markings, 1750-1880

The history of French postage-due (taxe) markings goes back, in my collection and library, to 1750, when the large and sometimes almost undecipherable so-called *décime* marks in manuscript began to be used. (See the samples illustrated in FCP #35, Sept.-Oct. 1947, p. 20, and repeated in #47, p. 19; they were first fully illustrated and classified in the "Catalogue des Estampilles."—R.G.S.) *Décime* means one-tenth, in this case 1/10th of a franc or 10 centimes. Thus the manuscript mark "6" means 60 centimes, or "19" means 1fr 90c, etc. These markings were applied to the front of a due-charged letter by pen, pencil, or a crude handstamp device. The style varied over the years; the early ones were small and angular, the later ones large and free-flowing. The colors were ordinarily black, brown or blue, but sometimes red or greenish. Denominations were seemingly endless, from 1 centime up to over 95 *décimes* have been reported, reflecting the changing and complicated rates in effect in that long period prior to 1850. (Sometimes the due marks were expressed in other than *décimes*—in livres, sous, or francs and centimes, in which cases the numeral would be followed by a small letter "l," "s," "fr" or "c".)

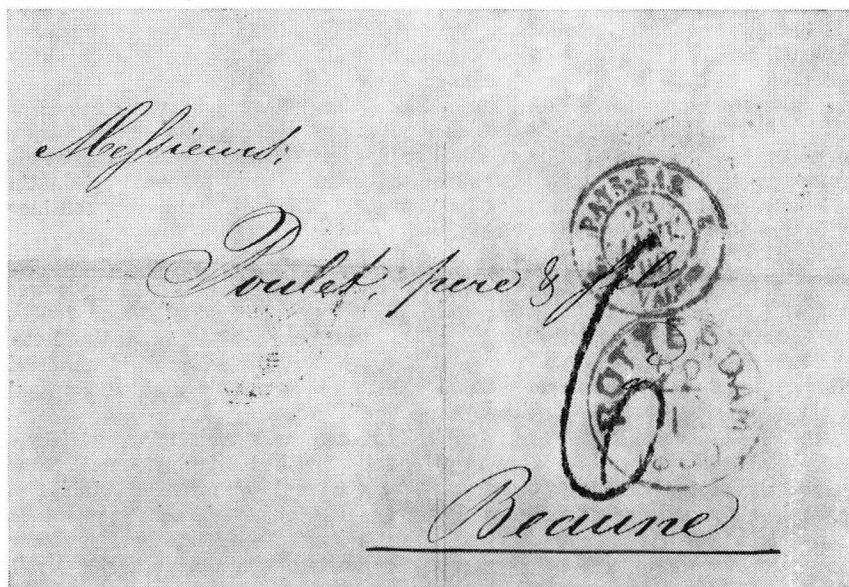


Fig. 2. Letter from Rotterdam, Holland, to Beaune 1840, with handstamped "6" *décime* mark, and entry mark into France of Valenciennes. The *décime* marks of this period were nearly all handstamps imitating the old script style.

In 1825, "for postal accounting reasons" (really to keep the postmen from pocketing postage-due fees collected) it was decided that a distinctive stamp or label ("etiquettes taxes") be affixed to mail on which postage was due because of attempt to fraudulently claim the official free franchise. Such a stamp was first issued in December 1825, and is thus the world's first separate adhesive postal stamp. It was divided into two parts, one part to remain on the piece of mail and the other to be returned to the postoffice for accounting. Both parts had the amount of tax due inscribed by pen in appropriate places. However, judging from a few covers known, it apparently was used in three ways: either the top (or the bottom) half, or the entire label, was left on the letter or parcel. It was large in size, about 50x75 mm, and printed on white, rose, or yellow paper. In February 1845 a similar label, but one part having a smaller size than the other, was issued (for the same purpose) in black on yellow, or rose, or white. Little is known, or at least recorded, about these two stamps and authentically used both are extremely rare. In 30 years of collecting France I have never seen one on cover that was expertized as genuine.

From 1832 to 1869 they used a large printed label form (headed "No. 97. Elements de la Taxe") size $4\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ ", black on yellow, on which the postage due on letters coming from foreign countries was itemized and totalled, a sort of bill presented to the addressee and kept by the post office as an accounting record. These are little known and not mentioned by most of the writers on the dues.

In May 1850 the postal rate schedules in France were greatly simplified as were the postage-due fees, owing to the introduction of adhesive postage stamps. At that time the large hand stamped hollow outlined numeral due marks came into use for mail unprepaid or insufficiently prepaid (with stamps or cash). They ranged from "4c" and "5c" (which was for the 5c tax on letters from Spain to France 1860-69) to "5Fr" (issued 1868), but most of the numbers were for various centime rates (in steps of 5) and the "c" was not included in the handstamp. These stamps were normally in black, blue or red though violet is also seen. Some denominations such as the 25 and 30 are quite common, others quite rare. The 4c and 40c marks were not issued until the 1870s; and uses of some denominations are reported up to 1882 or so, though they are not common after 1878. In 1859 the use of adhesive due stamps was made obligatory instead of the numerals, on all mail originating and delivered in the same local postoffice district, but the numerals continued to be used on other mail until 1882.

Before passing on to other due markings it would be well to mention that the manuscript and handstamped numeral due marks in the script style were used also for marking the amount of PREPAID postage, from around 1640 to the 1840s, but in these cases the mark is put on the BACK of the letter, whereas the postage-due marks were on the front. The prepaid numerals are very much rarer than the due marks because very little mail was prepaid in those days.

During the period 1850 to around 1880 there was a tremendous variety of other markings used to designate insufficiently franked or unpaid mail. These include the various forms of a letter "T" (in triangle or circle or plain), the boxed or unboxed words: "Timbre Poste Insuffisant," "Affranchissement Insuffisant," "Non Affranchise," "Insuffisant," etc. These can be found various sizes, various styles of type, usually handstamped but occasionally in pen or pencil, in black, red or blue, etc. The different types are not only associated with different postoffices but with different periods at the same postoffice, and a large postoffice may have used a number of styles at the same time. Nobody has ever thoroughly catalogued all these marks and they would

form a fascinating field for study.

Several unusual types of due marks that are rarer and much sought after by specialists are the "déboursés," "détaxes," and special explanatory or instructional due marks. The Déboursés are town postmarks with the word "déboursé" or "Déb." added; these are to indicate that the addressee had moved and the letter forwarded, the accounting for the tax collection thus transferred to another postoffice. If a due had been charged by mistake this was rectified by marking "détaxé". Extra due charges for attempted fraud were sometimes marked by handstamps reading: "Double Taxe Contravention", "Taxée pour incluse", "Saisie en fraude taxe double", "Pour complément de taxe", "A Taxer pour écriture", etc.

From 1761 to 1876 and even later, letters originating in Paris have been marked for due with all of the above general types, but in addition Paris used hundreds of postage due marks peculiar to that city. They (as well as the general types) are superbly described and illustrated in the book by Rochetté and Pothion.

Finally, one should not overlook the foreign due markings that may appear on letters addressed to France and marked for due there. Included here might be the many special accounting marks ("Art.12," etc.) on mail transiting Great Britain or its colonies enroute to France (see FCP #121, p. 76, "For The Record," item No. 60).

For the student of postage rates the collection of the due marks could be organized to show the different rates according to various routes, distances, origins, functions, etc.

So I wish you happy hunting in this field where you can relax free from competition and enjoy a unique and relatively inexpensive collection.

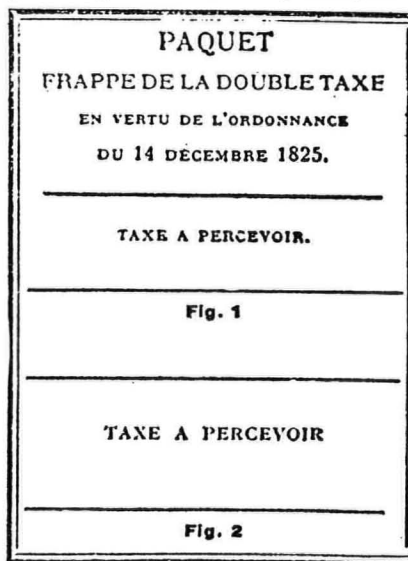


Fig. 3. The postage-due label (etiquette taxe) of 1825, used to collect the double tax for letters sent by government employees fraudulently pretending to be official mail. This illustration shows the two parts (Fig. 1) and (Fig. 2) which were mentioned in the text. The Fig. nos. have been added by St. Brice from whose book this is taken. The complete original form had a printed extension at the bottom giving instructions to the postal clerks (see Yvert specialized cat. 1939, p. 269, or Joany, 1968).



Fig. 4. Letter from Las Palmas, Spain, to Montpellier 1863, showing the "5c" outline numeral due mark specially used on letters from Spain 1860-69

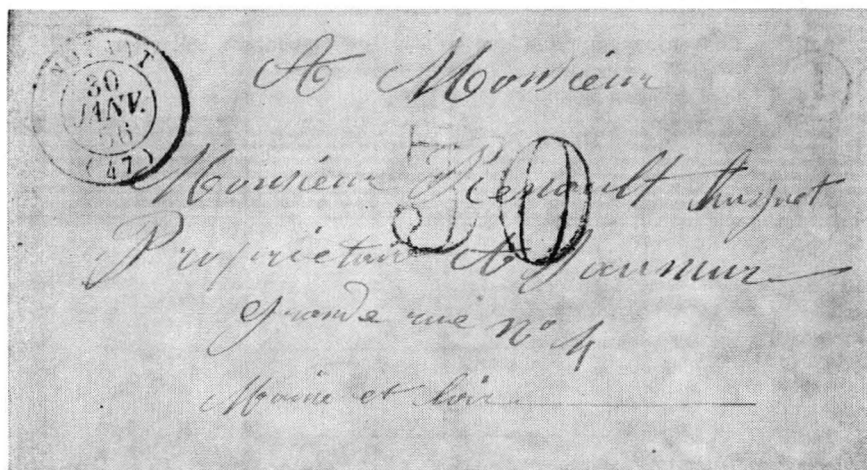


Fig. 5. Letter from Noyant to Saumur 1856 with the "30" outline numeral due mark.

References:

- Saint Brice, I. de: "Étude sur les Timbres Taxe, 1849-1896." 1946.
 Doé, F.: "Les Chiffres Taxe de France, 1858-1928." Yvert, 1929.
 Yvert et Tellier: "Catalogue des Timbres Poste de la France et des Colonies Françaises," "Tome I, France." 1939 (last ed.) (the "specialized" cat., not the annual one).
 Maury, A. et al: "Catalogue des Estampilles et Oblitérations Postales de France," Yvert 1929. (Chapt. III, "Marques indiquant que le Port est à Payer," pp. 67-81).



Fig. 6. Letter from Larroque-D'Olmas to Livorno, Italy, 1857 with manuscript décime mark in red "4", and "affranchissement insuffisant" in pen (black).

Noel, G.: "Catalogue des Oblitérations des Chiffres Taxes Carrés de France, 1859-1878." Paris, 1956.

Rochette, A. and J. Pothion: "Catalogue des Marques Postales et Oblitérations de Paris." Paris, 1958.

DeBeaufond: E. H.: "Catalogue des Oblitérations des Timbres de France 1849-76." Paris, 1947.

Lesgor, R.: "France 19th Century Specialized." 1956.

Lesgor, R. et al: "The Cancellations on French Stamps of the Classic Issues, 1849-1876." 1948.

Maison A. Maury: "Catalogue Spécialisé de Timbres Poste de France." 1968 Ed. "Catalogue Yvert et Tellier," Tome I, 1968.

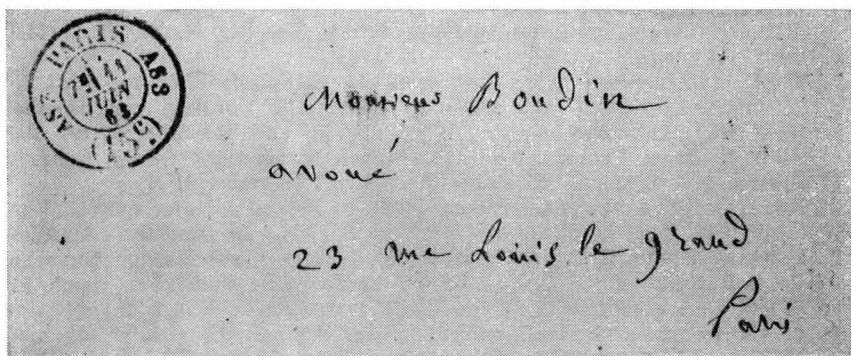


Fig. 7. Letter from Paris to Paris of 1863 with a rare unlisted circular type of district office AS3 dated due postmark inscribed "15c", in green.

- Lenain, L.: "La Poste de l'Ancienne France des Origines a 1791, avec Catalogue des Marques Postales." Arles, 1967. "Supplement a 'La Poste de l'Ancienne France'". Arles, 1968.
- Serrane, F.: "Timbres-taxé Carrés de France 1859-82." Paris, 1931.
- Germain, P.: "Les Chiffres-taxé Carrés de France 1859-82, Reconstitution des Panneaux et Deux Feuilles." Paris, 1955.
- Germain, P. and G. Dreyfuss: "Les Etiquettes Taxes, Précurseurs de France." Paris, 1961.
- Dreyfuss, G.: "Les Piquages Semi-privées de France—Chiffres-Taxe." Paris, 1963.
- Joany, R.: "Nomenclature des Timbres des Timbres-poste de France—Timbres Taxé," La Philatélie Française #175, 15 Jan. 1968, pp. 12-13.
- Condamine de Clumane: "Timbre Taxé Française 1844-45." Lille, 1911.

A U. S. Post Official who spent 3 months working in the French PTT was interviewed (upon his departure) by "Postes et Télécommunications" (Feb. '68). He compared the French and U. S. postal operations. He noted the U. S. would have to double the number of its employees to make the 2 to 3 deliveries a day customary in France. The biggest postal sorting center in France is only the size of an average American one. Also the smaller size of the country makes faster delivery an easier problem in France. In France the public tolerates bad telephone service (operated by the PTT) but not bad postal service whereas in the U. S. it seems to be the reverse.

MEMBERS APPEALS

(Paid Advertising)

- WANTED:** In addition to items listed as wanted by me in last three Philatelists, I am looking for: Railway cancels of France, 1855-1876, on cover. Buy or trade. Arthur P. Merrick, 15546 S. E. Green Hills Court, Portland, Ore. 97236. (Member 743).
- WANTED:** To trade France, mainly 19th century, cancellations, covers (of cancel interest only), and varieties, for anything of similar nature that fellow members may have to offer. Byron E. Bolyard, 2431 North Sawyer, Chicago, Illinois 60647. (Member 851).
- WANTED:** Used stamps of France which carry advertising on the selvage (from booklet panes). Also Sowers, Peace types, Mariannes, etc. Gilbert R. Loisel, 88-11 34th Ave., Apt. 4G, Jackson Heights, N. Y. 11372 (Member 877).
- WANTED:** Direct exchange against want-list. Have mint France, Scott Nos. 64, 348, 624, 726, C27 (also used), most issues 1960 to date, various others. Need 751, 247A-254A, sowers, B285-90, C32, and non-Scott items. Bas's Scott, Yvert, or Thiaude. Also need French Africa 1960 to date. Robert D. Graves, 4015 Alameda, El Paso, Texas 79905 (Member 1085).
- OFFER:** I am breaking up a large collection of French colonies mint and used up to 1926, from an estate of one of my friends. Any members interested can send me want lists. The material is very high class on the whole Helge Ploughmann, P. O. Box 3174, Cape Town, South Africa (Member 714).
- WANTED:** Germain's "Le 25c Ceres de 1871 au type I," vol. 1 only. Fromageat's constants of 20c Laureated, plates A2 and A3 (preferably as Le Monde etudes 3 and 11). Fine genuine France J25 used. French postal stationery. Stanley J. Luft, 3048 Village Dr., Ft. Mitchell, Ky. 41017. (Member 915).

AN INTRODUCTION TO AND A LISTING OF THE COIL STAMPS OF FRANCE

By Raymond L. Smith, #756

As my collection of French stamps by simple Scott and Yvert numbers reached the limit of my pocketbook, I began to explore other avenues of French material. One of these led me to the coil stamps. Upon examining this field further, I soon noted there was no complete listing of stamps issued for coils, only scattered data in various books and catalogues. The late Raoul Lesgor listed some coils in his annual price list of French stamps. In his booklet, "France, 20th Century Specialized" he listed those for the Blanc, Sowers, and Pasteur issues and described their production. In an article in Number 119 of the "F&C Philatelist" he described the coil issue of the 25c Coq de Decaris (Scott 1024). This was about the extent of the information I could locate in English. There was, however, quite a bit of information printed in French (see references at end of article). Several French catalogues list some of the various types and their prices. The specialized catalogue published by Georges Monteaux gives an excellent listing and pricing. The "Catalogue des Variétés de France" published by Editions "Cérès" has the most complete listing. Maury's catalogue lists only the pre-cancelled coils. The other standard French catalogues do not list the coils. As no one source apparently gives a complete listing of the French coils, the following list was compiled using all my available sources.* Scott and Yvert numbers have been used for stamp identification and, as far as could be determined, it is indicated if the coils exist either in horizontal or in vertical strips. The referenced die types were taken from Monteaux's specialized catalogue. They are generally the same as those used in the French material referenced in this article.

Unused flat-plate coils usually are priced and collected in horizontal or vertical strips of 6 stamps, and unused "rotary" (cylindrical-plate) coils in vertical strips of 11 stamps. This serves to differentiate them, especially in the absence of distinguishing die types, from stamps printed and sold in sheet form. Flat-plate sheets are 5 stamps wide and 5 stamps high between gutters, hence the need for collecting minimum strips of 6 for flat-plate coils. Incidentally flat-plate coils were cut into strips and connected as "paste-ups," the earlier ones by hand. Rotary coils generally are vertical and are collected in strips of 11, to differentiate them from the 10-stamps-high panes for sheets. In some cases, where only flat-plate sheets exist, the corresponding rotary coil may be collected as a strip of 6. In one instance, (Scott 267, Yvert 283), the coil type can be mistaken only for the booklet type, and a strip of 3 is sufficient (booklet panes, of course, being only 2 stamps high between gutters). However, singles or pairs are quite sufficient where the coil stamps have a special die type. It is difficult to secure most coil stamps; in fact many are quite scarce and command a high price, and a few are even rarer than the most expensive (catalog value) French stamps such as the 1 fr. vermillion of 1849.

Used copies are not much more common; in sorting large quantities of used stamps, I have found only a few of the more common ones. Used copies, unless of a unique die type, preferably should be collected on cover or piece.

In addition to their distinguishing die types, coils may be readily identified by their evenly and machine-cut opposing sides. These perforations are not ragged and uneven as would be when torn apart in the usual manner.

*Ed. Note: The French PTT has not announced the printings of the coils, which is the reason for the problem in compiling this information.—R.G.S.

But this is not always the case as some people tend to separate stamps with scissors. Even so, identification may be made as non-coil scissors-cut stamps may have four cut sides, and the cutting may not be as uniform and parallel as when done by machine. Incidentally there have been occasions where sheets printed specifically for coils were sold directly to the public in sheet form, that is, uncut. Such stamps, of course, would tend to show normal torn-apart perforations, and can be distinguished only if they are of the specific die type for coils, or, rarely, by marginal markings. Stamps from the new eight-stamp booklets also have machine cut sides. These stamps should not be confused with the corresponding coil stamp. Stamps from the panes of eight have one vertical side machine cut, the other opposing side will show the normal torn-apart perforations. Stamps from the smaller booklet, consisting of two strips of four stamps, have two horizontally, machine-cut, opposing sides. In the rotary-coil stamp the two opposing vertical sides are machine cut. Some of the recent stamps have been issued in both coils and the two eight-stamp-sheet booklets.

The more recent coils (all rotary since the mid-1920's and all vertical since the mid-1930s) are issued in vertical rolls of 1000 for use in vending machines similar to those here in the States. They usually are dispensed in singles or pairs by those machines, in which cases the top and bottom perforations also are machine cut. The relative scarcity of mint and used coil stamps might possibly be ascribed to the French public's distrust of these impersonal vending machines!

I gratefully acknowledge the assistance and critical review of this article given by fellow F&CPS member Stanley J. Luft.

References:

- "Timbres de France," by DeLizeray and others, Vol. V (several articles between pages 31 and 91).
 "Timbres de France," by DeLizeray and others, Vol. VI (very good coverage throughout volume).
 "Timbres de France," by DeLizeray and others, Vol. III (scattered data between pages 44 and 99).
 "Timbres de France," by DeLizeray and others, Vol. VIII (very fine data).
 "Timbres et Types," by DeLizeray, Vol. I (5c Sower, pages 30-31)
 "Timbres et Types," by DeLizeray, Vol. IV (see pages 34-36).
 "Timbres et Types," by DeLizeray, Vol. V (4c & 5c Blanc, between pages 17-18)
 "Timbres et Types," by DeLizeray, Vol. VI (pages 22-23 and 47-48).
 "France—20th Century Specialized," by R. Lesgor (pages 9-10 and 17-18 for methods of production; the various coils are listed with the particular stamp design).
 France & Cols. Philatelist, No. 119, Dec. 1964 (0.25c Coq), art. by R. Lesgor.
 "Catalogue France Spécialisé"—Georges Monteaux, 1967 Edition.
 "Catalogue des Variétés de France"—Editions "Cérès," (2nd, 3rd or 4th ed.).
 "Maury Catalogue France," 1967 Edition.

Scott	Yvert	Description	Horiz.	Vert.
112	110	Blanc, 4c brown. Printed in sheets for coils. Exists only surcharged "Affranchs Postes," rotary-plate type II.	x	x
113	111	Blanc, 5c green, rotary type IIB	x	x
		Blanc, 5c green, rotary type IIB, surch. "Affranchs Postes"	x	x
115	233	Blanc, 10c lilac, rotary type II, surch. "Affranchs Postes"		x
139	130	Lined Sower, 15c green, flate-plate type IV	x	x

		Lined Sower, 15c green, rotary type VI		x
144	161	Lined Sower, 50c blue, flat-plate type I		x
145	198	Lined Sower, 50c green, rotary (existence doubtful)		x?
146	199	Lined Sower, 50c vermilion, rotary type III		x
159	137	Sower, 5c green, flat-plate type I	x	x
160	158	Sower, 5c orange, flat-plate type I		x
		Sower, 5c orange, rotary type IIB		x
162	138	Sower, 10c red, flat-plate type IA	x	x
163	159	Sower, 10c green, flat-plate type IA		x
		Sower, 10c green, rotary type IV	x	x
		Sower, 10c green, rotary type IV, surcharged		x
		"Affranchts Postes"		
164	279	Sower, 10c ultramarine, rotary type IV	x	x
		Sower, 10c ultramarine, rotary type IV, surch.		x
		"Affranchts Postes"		
165	189	Sower, 15c red brown, rotary type I		x
		Sower, 15c red brown, rotary type I, surcharged		x
		"Affranchts Postes"		
166	139	Sower, 20c brown, rotary type IV	x	x
167	190	Sower, 20c red violet, rotary type IV		x
168	140	Sower, 25c blue, flat-plate type IA		x
		Sower, 25c blue, rotary type IIIC		x
169	235	Sower, 25c brown, rotary type IIIC		x
		Sower, 25c brown, rotary type IIIC surcharged	x	x
		"Affranchts Postes"		
173	192	Sower, 30c blue, rotary type IIA	x	x
		Sower, 30c blue, rotary type IIC		x
178	194	Sower, 40c vermilion, rotary type II		x
179	236	Sower, 40c violet, rotary type II		x
180	237	Sower, 40c light ultramarine, rotary type II		x
185	170	Pasteur, 10c green, rotary		x
186	171	Pasteur, 15c green, rotary		x
189	174	Pasteur, 30c green, rotary		x
191	176	Pasteur, 50c blue, rotary type II	x	x
192	177	Pasteur, 75c blue, rotary (?)	x	x
194	179	Pasteur, 1 fr blue, rotary type II	x	x
196	181	Pasteur, 1 fr 50 blue, rotary		x
(Rotary only from here on)				
264	280	Peace, 30c green		x
265	281	Peace, 40c violet, type II		x
267	283	Peace, 50c red rose, type IIB		x
271	365	Peace, 65c ultramarine, type III		x
276	368	Peace, 90c ultramarine, type II		x
359	410	Mercury, 20c red violet, surch. "Affranchts Postes"		x
361	412	Mercury, 30c red rose		x
368	416	Mercury, 70c magenta		x
602	813	Marianne de Gandon, 15 fr red, type I (existence doubtful)	x	
653	886	Marianne de Gandon, 15 fr ultramarine, type III	x	
751	1009A	Marianne de Muller, 6 fr brown (only exists in coils)	x	
753	1011	Marianne de Muller, 15 fr carmine	x	
755	1011B	Marianne de Muller, 20 fr ultramarine, type I	x	
756	1011C	Marianne de Muller, 25 fr rose red, type I	x	
941	1233	Sower, 20c greenish blue and carmine rose	x	
942	1234	Marianne a la Nef, 25c vermilion and ultramarine	x	
968	1263	Marianne de Decaris, 25c gray and lake	x	

		Marianne de Decaris, 25c rose and carmine (color variety)	x
1024	1331	Galic Cock, 25c ultra., carmine and brown	x
		with red or green serial number on back	
1024B	1331	Galic Cock, 30c green, red and bistre	x
		with red or green serial number on back	
1144	1469	Mont-de-Marsan Arms, 25c red-brown and blue	x

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, AND CATALOGS

- "L'Index Philatélique de France et Variétés 1849-1968—Europa." Illustr. 92pp. M. Peemans, 56 rue de Faubourg-Montmartre, F75-Paris 9. (Priced list by Yvert nos., indexed by design types.)
- "Oblitérations Mécaniques de France." Vol. III. By P. Brémard. 1967. Brochure, Le Monde, 7 rue des Italiens, Paris 9 (Continuation of catalog, being run serially in Le Monde).
- "Catalogue Triade 1968, 53rd Ed." (France, Colonies, French community, Saar, Monaco, Andorra). 1967. 4.50F. H. Thiaude, 24 rue du 4 Sept., F75-Paris 2. (This year has added very detailed listings for the 1fr vermilion and 1fr carmine Cérés.)
- "Catalogue Yvert et Tellier 1968, Tome I, France et Pays d'Expression Française." 1967. 4.50Fr? Yvert et Tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins, F80-Amiens. (Added this year are the entires of France and a great many more minor varieties of France and colonies.)
- "Le Collection Maximaphile." By G. de la Ferté. 64 pp. 1967, 9Fr plus .70 postage. L'Echo de la Timbrologie, 37 rue des Jacobins, F80-Amiens. (Reprint of a serial article from L'Echo; an extended treatment of French and colonial maximum cards, how to collect them, arrange and mount, etc.)
- "Stamps of Italy Used Abroad, Vol. V, Rhodes." By Tchilinghirian and Bernardelli. Harris Publs., London. 40sh. 1967. (Includes a detailed treatment of the French p. o. at Rhodes).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

The February and March issues of "Postes et Telecommunications" (mag. of the PTT) had extensive articles on the special arrangements the PT made for the Winter Olympics held at Grenoble and vicinity recently. Evidently the affair placed a great strain on the PT facilities and in spite of all preparations for the crush the officials expected a lot of complaints which they would have to bear philosophically and politely. The March issue quotes favorable comments from the various stars of the games, which were no doubt selected and salved the conscience of the officials.

The "reform" of the French postal system by introduction of department code numbers and standardization of postmarks has finally reached to the overseas territories. The four overseas departments as a group have been assigned code no. 97, and some of their postmarks already contain this number. But in order to distinguish between the territories, subnumbers have been designated: 97-1 Guadeloupe, 97-2 Martinique, 97-3 Guyane, and 97-4 Reunion. Some of the postmarks include these, either with or without the hyphen (97-1 or 971, e.g.). The new postmarks began to show up in the last few months of 1967, according to Tristant (La Phil. Fr., Jan. '68); they are all in the new standard single-circle style. Also the numbers are appearing in the registration labels.

THE REGULAR ISSUES OF FRANCE 1876-1966 ACCORDING TO THEIR NORMAL POSTAGE USAGE

By Stanley J. Luft

Corrigendum to Section IIC, in previous issue:

After the subsection on the Merson issue had gone to press, I had the opportunity of reading Colonel Lebland's "Les timbres de France au type Merson," in *l'Echo de la Timbrologie*, No. 1367, 1 Nov. 1967, p. 5. Lebland's short paper is not supported by documentation, but would indicate that the following changes be made in dates of issue: the 60c Merson in June 1920; the 3F. violet and blue (Sc 128, Yv 206) in July 1925; and the 10F. in August 1926.

III. The Sower Issues of 1903-1938

A. The Lined Sower Issue of 1903-1938

Scott type A20

Designed by Oscar Roty; engraved by Louis-Eugène Mouchon

10c

The 10c rose (Scott 138, Yvert 129) replaced the 10c retouched Mouchon (Sc 133, Yv 112) in June 1903.†

Usage (existing Tariffs of 1 Jan., and 1 April 1879):

*#Postal cards (domestic, colonies, and foreign);

#Samples (échantillons), to 100 gm (colonies and foreign).

Type I adhesive stamps, from flat plate sheets of 150 stamps, printed and issued in 1903; remainders issued in 1906-07. Stamped postal cards printed 1903-06; with prepaid reply, 1904-06.

Replaced by Type II in early 1904. Flat plate adhesive stamps printed and issued in early 1904; remainders issued in 1906-07. Some stamped postal cards, with and without prepaid reply, printed 1904-06 (rarely, Types I and II are found in combination on postal cards with prepaid reply).

Replaced by Type III in 1904. Flat plate adhesive stamps printed and issued in 1904-06; color changed to carmine-rose in 1906.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 16 April 1906):

*Letters, to 15 gm.

Stamped envelopes and letter-cards (Type III) printed 1905-06, issued 1906.

Adhesive stamps of 1905-06 printings overprinted F.M. (Franchise Militaire).

Replaced in 1906 by 10c Sower with Ground (Sc 155, Yv 134).

15c

The 15c green (Sc 139, Yv 130) replaced the 15c retouched Mouchon (Sc 134, Yv 125) in April 1903.

Domestic usage (existing Tariff of 1 May 1878):

*Letters, to 15 gm;

*Letter-cards.

Type I gray-green, from flat plate sheets, printed and issued in 1903-06; stamped envelopes printed and issued 1904-05; stamped letter-cards printed and issued 1904-06.

Type II gray-green (moderately scarce), from flat plate sheets, printed in

†—Dates are those of earliest known use, unless otherwise indicated.

*—Primary or common use.

#—Continued through succeeding tariff(s).

1903 only; some stamped letter-cards of 1904-05 are of this type.

Type III gray-green (scarce), printed only in 1904, as flat plate adhesive stamps.

Type IV gray-green, from flat plate sheets, printed in 1904-06; overprinted F.M. in 1904-05.

Rendered temporarily without specific use by domestic Tariff of 16 April 1906.

Foreign usage, Tariff of 4 Oct. 1907:

Letters, to 15 gm (for adjoining areas of Spain).

Domestic usage (Tariff of 1 May 1910):

Letters, from 20 to 50 gm (no further printings, hence only remainders, chiefly Type IV, were used).

Usage (domestic Tariff of 1 Jan. 1917):

*Letters, to 20 gm (domestic);

*Letter-cards (domestic);

*Postal cards (domestic);

*#Postal cards (foreign);

Registry fee (domestic).

Type IV, in varied shades of olive-green and dark green, printed as flat plate sheets on GC paper in 1916-19; paste-up coils (very rare) from remainders on normal paper, issued 1917-18; stamped letter-cards printed in 1917-18.

Type I resurrected for stamped envelopes and printed in 1917-19.

Type V, chiefly in shades of olive-green, created for flat plate booklets of 20 and 40 stamps, and printed on GC paper, from Jan. 1917 to 1919 (1920 booklets of 20, on normal paper, are very rare); stamped postal cards printed 1917-19; stamped envelopes printed 1919-20.

Usage (domestic Tariff of 1 April 1920):

Printed matter, from 50 to 100 gm;

#Postal cards ("of 5 words").

Type IV adhesive stamps, in pale green, printed in 1920-24; flat plate precancelled POSTES PARIS in 1920-22, and POSTES FRANCE in 1921-22; chiefly on remainders on GC paper; flat plate precancelled (with familiar concentric arcs) on sheets of 1921-24 printings, and issued from Sept. 1922 to 1924.

Type VI gray-green rotary coils (extremely rare) printed in 1923 or 1924.

Foreign usage (Tariff of 1 April 1924):

Printed matter, to 50 gm.

Replaced by 15c Pasteur (Sc 186, Yv 171) in Sept. 1924.

20c

The 20c violet-brown (Sc 140, Yv 131) replaced the 20c retouched Mouchon (Sc 135, Yv 126) in June 1903.

Domestic usage (existing Tariff of 1 Jan. 1876):

Samples (échantillons), from 50 to 100 gm.

Printed only in flat plate sheets, from 1903 to 1906; the deep chocolate brown shade dates from 1906.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 16 April 1906):

*Letters, from 15 to 30 gm.

Replaced by 20c cameo Sower (Sc 166, Yv 139) in Dec. 1907 (or early 1908).

25c

The 25c blue (Sc 141, Yv 132), replaced the 25c retouched Mouchon (Sc 136, Yv 127) in April 1903.

Usage (existing Tariff of 1 Jan. 1879):

*Letters, to 15 gm (foreign);

*Letter-cards (foreign);

Registry fee (domestic, colonies, and foreign).

Printed in flat plate sheets from April 1903 to 1906; an ultramarine shade date from 1903; deep blue and "black-blue" (latter very rare) shades printed in 1906; stamped letter-cards printed in 1904, suppressed 24 June 1906, but not retired officially until Dec. 1909.

Replaced by 25c cameo Sower (Sc 168, Yv 140) in 1907.

30c

The 30c violet (Sc 142, Yv 133) replaced the 30c retouched Mouchon (Sc 137, Yv 128) in June 1903.

Domestic usage (existing Tariff of 1 May 1878):

*Letters, from 15 to 30 gm.

Printed only in flat plate sheets, from June 1903 to 1906; deep violet shade printed in 1906.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 16 April 1906):

Letters, from 30 to 45 gm.

Replaced by 30c cameo Sower (Sc 170, Yv 141) in 1907.

45c

The 45c violet (Sc 143, Yv 197) replaced the 45c Pasteur (Sc 190, Yv 175) early in 1927.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 9 Aug. 1926):

*Printed matter and échantillons, from 100 to 200 gm.

Printed only in rotary plate sheets of 100 stamps; in violet from Oct. 1926 to 1927 and in 1929, in deep violet in 1928-29, and in lilac in 1931-32; rotary precancels printed from Feb. 1927 to 1931 (or 1932).

Replaced by 45c Laurens ("Peace") (Sc 266, Yv 282) in 1933.

50c

The 50c blue (Sc 144, Yv 161) replaced the 50c Merson (Sc 123, Yv 120) in 1921 Foreign usage (Tariff of 1 April 1921):

*Letters, to 20 gm;

Registry fee.

Printed in flat plate sheets from June 1921 until later that year; paste-up coils from sheets also issued.

Replaced by the 50c Pasteur (Sc 191, Yv 176) in 1923.

The 50c olive-green (Sc 145, Yv 198) replaced the above Pasteur in late 1925.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 17 July 1925):

*Letters, from 20 to 50 gm.

Rendered temporarily obsolete by Decree of 22 Jan. 1926.

Type I printed in flat plate sheets in late 1925 and early 1926. In conjunction with Tariff of 9 Aug. 1926, emergency printings were made of Type IIA, from cylindrical plates, in July and Aug. 1926;

Domestic usage:

*Letters, to 20 gm.

The stamp was replaced, in Aug. 1926, by a similar one in red, the normal color for single-rate domestic letters (Sc 146, Yv 199).

The 50c red, printed and used primarily, during its entire existence, for single-rate domestic letters, was relatively long-lived, and comes in many types. Type I, for flat plate booklets of 20 stamps (with pubs), was printed and issued from Aug. 1926 to 1928.

Type IIA was printed in rotary plate sheets from August 1926 to 1932; the orange-red shade dates from 1928-29; carton paper (rare) was used briefly in 1929; overprinted F.M. (Sc M6, Yv 6) in 1928 and 1931; overprinted for the Congrès du B. I. T. (Sc 256, Yv 264) in 1930; rotary plate booklets of 20 stamps (with pubs) printed from June 1931 to 1932; stamped letter-cards printed in 1930-32.

Type IIB, for flat plate booklets of 10 and 20 stamps (with pubs), was printed from June 1928 to 1930; this type was used for stamped envelopes in 1928 and stamped letter-cards in 1929-30.

Type III, in deep red, for rotary coils, was printed late in 1926.

Type IV, in deep red, for rotary plate booklets of 20 stamps (with and without pubs), was printed between Jan. 1929 and June 1931; this type was used for stamped letter-cards printed in 1927-30.

Additional usage:

*Letter-cards (domestic);

Postal cards to Luxembourg, from 1 May 1928;

Postal cards to Canada, from 4 Sept. 1929.

Printings of the 50c red were interrupted in 1929, in favor of the 50c Jeanne d'Arc (Sc 245, Yv 257), and in 1930-31, for the 50c Expo. Coloniale ("Fachi") (Sc 260, Yv 272).

Replaced by the 50c Laurens (Sc 267, Yv 283) in 1932.

The 50c Turquoise (Sc 147, Yv 362) replaced the above 50c Laurens in 1938.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 12 July 1937):

*Invoices, basic rate.

Replaced by the 50c blue Mercure (Sc 364, Yv 414A) in 1939.

60c

The 60c violet (Sc 148, Yv 200) replaced the 60c Merson (Sc 124, Yv 144) in 1924.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 24 March 1924):

Letters, from 50 to 100 gm;

Registry free.

Foreign usage (Tariff of 17 July 1925):

*Postal cards.

Printed in rotary plate sheets from June 1924 to 1925; value became obsolete following Tariff of 1 Feb. 1926, but could be used, from that date, for single-rate letters and postal cards to nearby destinations in Belgium, Spain, and Switzerland.

50c/60c

Overprinted (Sc 229, Yv 223) by flat plate on remainders of above 60c violet, following domestic Tariff of 9 Aug. 1926, to meet the large need for the single-weight letter rate; about 20 million stamps issued in July 1927.

55c/60c

Special precancel overprint (Sc 236, Yv Préo 47), applied by flat plate on the 60c violet in Aug. 1926, for franking the Fall catalog of the Louvre department store; about 1.2 million were so overprinted. Because the domestic Tariff of 9 Aug. 1926 had intervened and the rate—for printed matter and échantillons, from 200 to 300 gm—had been increased to 65c, an additional 10c stamp was required for this special mailing).

65c

The 65c rose (Sc 149, Yv 201) was printed in rotary plate sheets in Sept.-Nov. 1924, and issued in Oct. 1924; newly-created value following Tariff of 24 March 1924:

Domestic usage:

Letters, to 20 gm, incl. COD service charge (recouvrements).

Rendered obsolete following Tariff of 17 July 1925.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 1 May 1926):

Letters, from 20 to 50 gm (stamp, however, was not reprinted).

Domestic usage (Tariff of 9 Aug. 1926):

Printed matter and échantillons, from 200 to 300 gm.

Some remainders were precancelled by flat plate, from Sept. 1926 to 1927, for above service.

Replaced by 65c olive-green (Sc 150, Yv 234) in early 1927.

Printed in rotary plate sheets from late 1926 to 1931 (or 1932); rotary plate precancels applied from Feb. 1927 to 1930, and in 1932.

Replaced by 65c violet-brown Laurens (Sc 270, Yv 284) in 1933.

50c/65c

Overprinted (Sc 230, Yv 224) by rotary plate on remainders of the 65c rose (see 50c/60c, above); about 55 million stamps issued in Aug. 1927.

75c

The 75c rose-lilac (Sc 151, Yv 202) replaced the 75c Pasteur (Sc 192, Yv 177) in 1926.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 9 Aug. 1926):

*Letters, from 20 to 50 gm.

Foreign usage:

Letters, to 20 gm, to Luxembourg, from 1 May 1928;

Letters, to 20 gm, to Canada, from 4 Sept. 1929.

Type I, for rotary plate sheets, printed from Nov. 1926 to 1931. Type II (very rare), for rotary plate sheets, and probably planned for a relatively long period of issue, printed only during 17-21 May 1932, then retired.

Replaced by the 75c Laurens (Sc 272, Yv 284A) in 1932.

80c

The 80c red (Sc 152, Yv 203) was printed at the end of 1925, the value having been reestablished (for the first time since 1876!) by the Tariff of 17 July 1925:

Usage:

Letters, to 20 gm, incl. charge for *recouvrements* (COD) (domestic);

Printed matter, from 150 to 200 gm (foreign).

Suppressed following Tariff of 1 May 1926.

50c/80c

Overprinted (Sc 232, Yv 220) by flat plate on remainders of above stamp (see 50c/60c, above); about 9 million stamps issued in Jan. 1927.

85c

The 85c red (Sc 153, Yv 204) was printed in rotary plate sheets from July to late (?) 1924; newly-created value for domestic use following Tariff of 24 March 1924:

*Registered letters, to 20 gm.

Suppressed following Tariff of 17 July 1925.

50c/85c

Overprinted (Sc 233, Yv 221) by flat plate on remainders of above stamp (see 50c/60c, above); about 22 million stamps issued in Feb. 1927.

1F.

The 1F. blue (Sc 154, Yv 205) replaced the 1F. Pasteur (Sc 194, Yv 179) in 1926.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 1 May 1926):

Registry fee;

Express fee.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 9 Aug. 1926):

Letters, from 50 to 100 gm.

Replaced by the 1F. orange Laurens (Sc 277, Yv 286) in 1933.

(to be continued)

F. & C. P. S. OFFICIAL

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The January meeting of the Society featured the prize winning collection of Mr. William J. Connelly, namely French Congo. Mr. Connelly discussed the art of mounting and writing up a collection. This ran the gamut from layout and design to description to be used to harmoniously layout a page so that it was neither crowded or bare of material. His material covered production, design, proofs, and the finished issue of the making of a stamp issue.

At the February meeting, Mr. Marc Martin was back for another visit with his collection of the Maritime Post of the Mediterranean. However, additional material was present for showing over and above that previously shown. Everyone at the meeting came away with a more thorough knowledge of the maritime posts than they had ever known before.

March found the Society's members welcoming one of our newest members, Mrs. Lauretta Garabrant, showing a portion of her husband's fine 20th Century collection, entitled "France at a Glance—1900-1968." Mr. Melvin Garabrant is also a new member of the Society. They are one of the few husband and wife teams in the Society, maybe the only one. The presentation showed quite a few of the interesting issues produced as means of raising money for the various charities, etc., in France. Post World War II, Liberation, and Europa issues were also represented. A very interesting item indeed was the Smile of Rheims booklet, which was secured, believe it or not, in a trade with a correspondent in France for 80 popular phonograph records. It was most gratifying to see a new member exhibiting so early in their association with the Society. Also it was good to see what can be done with 20th century material, which to date had not been shown to the membership to any great extent. It does point out the fact that our Society is indeed for collectors of all French material, old or new. In the business vein, the Annual Dinner was planned for May 25, 1968, place to be selected. Please plan early for this event.

The next night, your Society was the invited guest of the Collector's Club of N. Y. The entire program for the evening was presented by the Society. The following were the members showing their material and discussing their presentations:

Mr. Fred Kramer—France First Issues—1849 Issues & Balloon Montes

Mr. John Ramsey—Prestamp Covers of France

Mr. Marc Martin—Maritime Posts of the Mediterranean

Mr. Killiam J. Connelly—French Congo—Definitive Issues Specialized

Mr. Ira Zweifach—Pneumatic Post of Paris

For this affair there was a very good turnout. Two presentations were on slides, which made it doubly interesting. At the end of the meeting, certificates were presented to the exhibitors in appreciation by Mr. Phil Silvers, President of the Collectors Club. Mr. Silvers expressed the thanks of the Club for the fine program presented by the Society.

INTERPEX

The France and Colonies Philatelic Society participating in Interpex with an exhibit of nineteen frames of French material from the collections of ten members won two of the overall Interpex awards. Mr. William J. Connelly, showing portions of his French Congo won a Silver Award. Mr. Walter E.

Parshall was awarded a Bronze for his presentation of the Postal Markings and Cancellations of the principality of Monaco.

The awards given by the Society were won by:

Silver Award — Mr. William J. Connelly — French Congo Definitive Issues Specialized

Silver Award — Mr. Walter E. Parshall — Postal Markings and Cancellations of Monaco

Bronze Award — Mr. Marc Martin — Siege of Paris 1870-1871, "Gazette de Absents"

Honorable Mention — Mr. John Ramsey — Prestamp Covers of France

Special Award for Research — Mr. Adrian Boutrelle — Alsace Lorraine, 1870— A Photographic Study of Varieties.

Other members contributing to the overall exhibit were:

Miss Beatrice Berner — French Paintings On Stamps

Mr. George Miller — French Polynesia Covers

Mr. Eric Spiegel — French Colonies General Issues, 1860-1892

Mr. Kenneth Roberts — Cameroun from Colony to Independence

The jury for the Society exhibits was comprised of Mr. Phil Silvers, President of the Collectors Club of New York, Mr. Ira Seebacher, well known sports collector and newspaper man with a New York paper, and one of our own well-known members, Mr. Gus Wittenberg.

For the entire Interpex exhibition, the Judges were Mr. Silvers and Mr. Seebacher, and Mr. H. D. S. Haverbeck, a Past President of the Collectors Club. The Society was indeed fortunate to have secured the seasoned services of two of the three judges of the overall show for our own jury.

DID YOU PAY YOUR DUES?

Regular members who have not paid their 1968 dues by 1 July 1968 will be removed from the mailing list and will not receive further issues of the Philatelist until the dues are paid.

NEW MEMBERS

- 1097 STICKELER, Gaston, 331 Murray Drive, Apt. A, King of Prussia, Penn. 19406 — France mint and used. French Colonies mint or used prior to Liberation.
- 1098 HEARN, Fred J., 76 Southill Drive, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada. Background study on the subject matter of French Commemoratives; also early France relating to Town numeral cancels; Town cancels on the Sage (Scott A15).
- 1099 HOKE, Mr. Kay H., P. O. Box 6686, Savannah, Georgia 31405 Indo China and successors; French Offices in China, French Africa.
- 1100 CYR, Henry Bruce, Box 88 E, R. R. #4, Jasmine Hill, Wetumpka, Ala. 36092 — France and Monaco
- 1101 KAUNITZ, William, 717 Boelsen Dr., Westbury, L. I., N. Y. 11590 France mint 20th, mint and used 19th.
- 1102 STARKEY, Squadron Leader Donald A. J., 5635 Gross Dr., Dayton, Ohio 45431 — France in general.
- 1103 MASON, Russell, 19 Vieira Court, South Dartmouth, Mass. 02748 Part-time Dealer in French Material.
- 1104 McAVOY, Arthur J., 73 Webster St., Arlington, Mass. 02174 French Mint; Cahiers.
- 1105 BALAN, Pierre, Laboratorios Hormona, S. A., A. P. No. 20, Naucalpan, Edo. de Mexico, Mexico — France and Colonies, mint and first day covers, Yvert and Tellier Vol. I.

- 1106 CZOER, Frank E., 4010 Hutchinson Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45211
Mint France; First Day Covers and Maximum Cards (present and past);
Postal Stationery.
- 1107 KELLEY, Stillman F., 2nd, "Hardendale," P. O. Box 12, Ivy, Va. 22945
Unusual Items of French Material.
- 1108 HENSON, William, 261 Bedell Terrace, West Hempstead, N. Y. 11552
France.
- 1109 GREENBERG, Sanford, 620 Mohawk Rd., West Hempstead, N. Y. 11552
French Colonies.
- 1110 HILL, Myron G., Jr., Box 91081, Cleveland, Ohio 44101
Postwar France.
- 1111 NURIK, Irving A., 54 Center St., Pompton Lakes, New Jersey 07442
General France.
- 1112 BAUER, Rudolph E., 3 Pimm Ave., Auburn, New York 13021
French Africa; Monaco; Part-time dealer in French Colonies.

REMOVED FROM MEMBERSHIP LIST

R. Lesgor, R. L. Lindgren, John M. Hurley, Walter E. Monagan, Jr., Herman Randolph, H. W. Grant, Walter C. Utt, Leon J. Cohen, Jan C. Prins, Paul DeLiban, Janet D. Cooper.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 1065 LITT, Margot, 401 East 89th St., New York, N. Y. 10028.
- 1043 FRENKEL, George P., 455 4th Avenue, San Francisco, Cal. 94118
- 392 BARNHART, H. M., D.D.S., 2233 Huntington Dr., Suite 6, San Marino, Cal. 91108
- 197 GORDON, Robert S., Box 145, Northfield, Vermont 05663
- 1087 MARTIN, John W., 129 Preston Drive #B, Manor Heights, Port Deposit, Maryland 21904
- 804 FALARDEAU, Cletus J., 7632 Sturgess Avenue, La Mesa, Cal. 92041
- 65 MOZIAN, Gregory, 147 West 42nd St., New York, N. Y. 10036
- 1036 GREENWOOD, Arthur S., 4609 North 19th St., Arlington, Va. 22207
- 285 MINSKER, John H., 104 Maple Road, East Aurora, N. Y. 14052
- 698 KUHN, W. E., 1840 N. W. Ramsey Drive, Portland, Oregon 97229
- 517 KATZ, William A., M.D., 140-30 Ash Avenue, Flushing, N. Y. 11355
- 676 TAVES, Ernest H., M.D., 12 Hubbard Park, Cambridge, Mass. 02138
- 1073 CASTOR, William N., P. O. Box 18341, Denver, Colorado 80218
- 512 BLINN, Mrs. Christine S., P. O. Box 730, Woodbury, N. J. 08096
- 368 MALMGREN, Ralph T., 1693 Great Plain Ave., Needham, Mass. 02192
- 1032 SEFTON, Daniel, Hotel Westover, 253 W. 72 St., New York, N. Y. 10023
- 946 VOSSLER, MSGT, Vernon R., P. O. Box 383, Shaw AFB, So. Car. 29152

CHANGE IN SPECIALTIES

- 181 HOROWITZ, Wm., 264 Main St., Huntington, N. Y. — Early cancellations, France used Abroad, Napoleonic army markings and letters. French stamps before 1875.

Our Past President Charles J. Bretagne has been elected to the Board of Vice Presidents of the American Philatelic Society; we hope his recent illness will not keep him from enjoying this signal recognition of his efforts in promoting philately.