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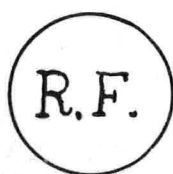
PHILATELIST

July-August 1945

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The "R. F." Cancellations
On U. S. Airmail Stamps



R.F.

RF

RF

RF



RF RF RF

R.F. RF

By courtesy of Mr. George Mary of Long Island, who won a high award at the Stampex show in Newark, N.J. this summer with his exhibit of these R.F. marks on covers, we give the status of them as reported by responsible officials of the French post office service. Mr. Mary has translated the communications.

"The 'surcharge' R.F. placed on the 6 cents U.S. stamps by French Naval Post Offices has as its aim to cancel them. For inland service, to France and the French Empire, large warships (like the Montcalm) having a Postal Agency, cancel the letters by a handstamp indicating the date and the name of the ship. Letters coming from smaller ships are cancelled by the Naval Post Office established at the port where the ship is. These offices use handstamps with the date and the words 'Poste Naval.'"

"Letters sent to the U.S.A., from any ship, are intercepted at a Naval Post Office which, to make the stamp no longer usable, applies on it the marking 'R.F.' The postmark 'Poste Naval' is applied on the letter but not on the stamp." --- M. Bucaille, Agent Postal, French Cruiser "Montcalm," Naval Post, French Africa.

The second communication reads:

"At the request of the American authorities, an imprint R.T., varied for the various naval post offices, is applied on letters sent to the U. S. and franked with U.S. stamps. This imprint is not intended to identify the bureau of origin, as it would be contrary to the rules on movements of ships. Only difficulties of execution because of the state of war explain this variety." -- Le Chef du Bureau de la Poste Naval de Casablanca, May 25, 1945.

Thus it is clear that the "R.F." on United States stamps is a killer, and cancelling device, and no more than this. It is a French killer and used only on mail to the U.S. which is franked with U.S. stamps. We lack any evidence that it was used either as a precancelling device, or as a surcharging device for entire sheets of stamps. Engel's article in Nov. 5 1945 Mekeel's Weekly would indicate possible precancel use; but evidence for such use is thus far lacking.

Mint copies with this cancellation exist; but for the most part they are definitely known to bear counterfeit R.F. cancellations. The remainder of them clearly were very lightly stuck

onto the letters. These last became detached or have had careful "philatelic" removal, preserving the gum.

The illustrations show most types of "R.F." killers found on U.S. airmail stamps. Besides these, others are known; the exact number of the different types is not yet settled. Manuscript R.F., handwritten on the stamps as killer, also is known. Despite the order against it, often the office mark was also struck on the stamp.

The red 6-cent airmail is the stamp on which these killers normally occur; but sparingly they may be found on others. One case, much publicized in the stamp weeklies, was that of the 8-cent olive green airmail stamp, clearly just an accidental use by someone who had one with him in the area of this usage.

The actual cancelling devices were made out of various materials. Most of them are clearly "home-made," hand-cut in various materials. The impressions are mostly of a sort characteristic of devices cut in wood or cork, and definitely are not those of rubber devices. Your editor is convinced that none of them were rubber--the more so as the ink used was the regular ink for postmarking, and that ink is quickly ruinous to rubber devices. That ink swells them irregularly and such distortion, well known among the old U.S. rubber handstamp postmarks when misused in regular cancelling ink, is strikingly absent.

Pont du Gard Issue

Mr. Henry Jervis, whose articles in British papers on French stamps have been reprinted in late numbers of the *Philatelist*, contributes a new and useful treatment of the Pont du Gard issue to the *"American Philatelist"* of May 1945. Copies can be had at 35c each from H.C. Musser, Executive Secretary, A.P.S., State College, Pa.

POSTMARKS FROM STAMPLESS COVERS OF THE PERIOD OF THE FIRST REPUBLIC & CONSULATE Reprinted from *Postal Markings Magazine*, 1939

91 PISE 23 P.85.P
BRUGES FEVRIER NICE

After the First Republic was founded, the French started a war in self-defense that became a war of conquest and was continued under the Consulate and the First Empire of Napoleon.

The first postmarks in conquered territory were Army markings, followed by the erection of departments of civil government. The postmarks bore the numerals of these departments. Bruges, now in Belgium, was in department 91 - *La Lys*. Pisa, in Italy, was in No. 113 - *La Méditerranée*. The date is backstamped (in French) probably at the town of arrival - Cascina, although this was not a French postoffice. Both are red. Nice, returned to Italy from 1815 to 1860 and now France again, had the "P.P." signifying Postage Paid aside the numerals for the *Alpes Maritimes* department on Feb. 9, 1814.

NIV XXI

During the First Republic, a special calendar was used. This marking comes from Tarascon and the date is the 21st of Nivose - the letter shows the year 7; equivalent to Jan. 11, 1799. It is in red.



Angers used two unusual marks for mail arriving. The smaller is the least common; both are more common in red than in black.

All from Dr. A. V. Richardson.

France, Airpost Stamps

By Spying Eye



Scott's C3 and C4 — 1928
S. P. A. JOURNAL MAY 1945



GENUINE



FORGERY

| | Genuine: | Forgery: |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| Length of the overprint (measure bottom) | 14 mm. | 15 mm. |
| Distance between "1" and "F" | 9 mm. | 10 mm. |
| Height of "1" of "10" | 3½ mm. | 4 mm. |
| Diameter of "0" of "10" | 4 mm. | 4½ mm. |
| Distance from bottom of "1" of "10" to defacing lines | 4½ mm. | 5 mm. |
| Period after "R" of "FR" | Round | Oblong |
| Type and numerals | With serifs | Without serifs |

CAUTION: OTHER FORGERIES EXIST.

The type and numerals used in overprinting the genuine stamps are uniform in thickness while on the forgery each seems to be from a different font. The period after "FR" is in line with the type on the genuine overprinted stamp but on the forgery the period is one-third higher than the bottom of the letter "R." As the stamps were overprinted in New York, the ink used on the forgery compares favorably with the genuine. While this forgery will not fool you if you have a genuine to compare it with, it is recognized as a dangerous forgery and extreme care should be exercised when purchasing this issue.

We are indebted to Mr. Henry Kuhlmann of the Chicago stamp firm, Kuhlmann and Nagel, for calling this forgery to our attention and for loaning their rare Ile de France covers and the forgery for illustrating this article.

(All Photographs by Diamond)

LIBERATION ISSUES of 1944

From Mr. Henri Meneaud, Paris, well known precancel collector, we have received this fall an article supplementing the information about Liberation Overprints which was published here in Nos. 20 and 21. Much of it duplicates what we have reported; but the additions are valuable and should appear.

We quote in part, pending space for a more full presentation:

"The Nazis having left Tours on the night of Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 1944, the General Postmaster of Indre-et-Loire Department ordered a stoppage in use of stamps of the Petain type unless these were overprinted with the letters R.F. On Sept. 2, this General Postmaster sent to all the Postmasters in the Department circular No. 201 with instructions. The mail was very small, and many offices did not have handstamp letters for the overprinting of stamps. Thus only ten offices overprinted them in this Department."

"The offices at TOURS GARE sold about 2500 copies of the Petain 1.50 and about 200 each of (the other values listed by us). The Committee of Liberation overprinted all the stamps the public had. There are known The Mercury 10c, 30c, 40c, 60c. The Petain 4 and 4.50 franc both typographed and engraved were overprinted."

France: First Issues

P R O O F S

Listing by Fritz Billig, 1945, with report of recent Paris prices (in U.S. money).

Continued from January-February 1945 page 2

| | | | |
|-----|-----|--------------------------------|-------|
| 25c | pa. | black on India paper | 20.00 |
| | pb. | black on thick paper | 20.00 |
| | pc. | blue on India paper | 20.00 |
| | pd. | red brown | 1.25 |
| | pe. | blue on white | 1.25 |
| | pf. | blue on bluish | 1.25 |
| | pg. | blue on rose | 1.25 |
| | ph. | Prussian blue | 1.25 |
| | pt. | tete beche pair, Prussian blue | 50.00 |
| | pi. | green | 5.00 |
| 40c | pa. | In various colors | 1.25 |
| | pb. | Various colors on pelure paper | 3.00 |
| | pc. | "4" retouched | 20.00 |
| 1f | p. | black on India paper | 20.00 |
| | pa. | red on blue | 5.00 |
| | pb. | red on rose | 5.00 |
| | pc. | red on carmine | 5.00 |
| | pd. | carmine on greenish | 5.00 |
| | pe. | blue | 5.00 |
| | pt. | blue, tete beche pair | 50.00 |
| | pf. | blue on bluish | 5.00 |
| | pg. | black on white | 5.00 |
| | ph. | black on gray | 5.00 |
| | pi. | black on blue | 5.00 |
| | pk. | 1f & 25c in pair, blue | 30.00 |

R E P R I N T S (Sept. 1862)

1849-50 issue

40c: Dull color, worn plate showing only a few details. Height 22.35 mm. instead of 22.25 mm. in original. 4920 issued.

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| pale orange | 30.00 |
| pair | 85.00 |
| block of four | 200.00 |
| reprint with retouched "4" | 750.00 |

1f: Reprinted in red brown only. Color similar to original. Height 22.40 to 22.5 mm. instead of 22.25 mm. in original. 4920 issued.

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| reprint | 50.00 |
| pair | 125.00 |
| block of four | 275.00 |

To be continued as Mr. Billig sends in copy).



"Day of the Stamp" was celebrated on Oct. 13 '45 with a 2fr--3fr adhesive in blue, picturing King Louis XI, "Creator of the State Post." A special cancellation was used at Le Havre, as illustrated.

--Philatelic Magazine
Nov. 2 1945

RECOGNIZING THE BORDEAUX ISSUE



Some of us, including those who would hardly be called mere tyros in French stamps, find the recognition of the 1870 Bordeaux issue one of the difficult matters. The situation grows more complicated than the catalog listings for France alone would indicate; the imperforates, issued in the 1870's for the Colonies, are more confusing than the early France issues (Second Republic before 1852).

The first, and often the surest method, for identifying a Bordeaux Issue stamp, is that of recognizing its lithographed character. All lithographed lines have a typical "string of beads" effect; this effect is not present with lines made by any other printing process. The lithographic line shows this effect best on a thin line, as the outer border. but it is also, often, quite conspicuous in the "brickwork" that fills in the pendentives between the circle and the rectangular border.

Picture No. 1 is of a typical lithographic line. Picture No. 2 is of a typical typographed line.

No matter how poorly printed may be a Colonial imperf. of the 1870's, none of the characteristics of litho. lines show up on them.

I am informed by some students that in almost every case the outer border, the single separated line around the outside of the stamp, is thinner on Bordeaux stamps than on well nigh any Second Republic imperfs or on well nigh any Colonial imperfs of the 1870's.

From the Senf catalog of 1927 the following further "spot recognition point" is "lifted":

On the Bordeaux issue stamps the shading of the neck and cheeks consists of either strokes or short lines or continuous lines. On all the other Ceres head issues the shading in these parts consists largely of dots.

On certain values, the spacing of the words "Repub Franc", and of the two numerals of value and "Postes" at bottom, is reported to be not the same as on the other issues, in Bordeaux issue stamps--- but as this is not general, the distinction is of less use than expected.

Yvert's catalog, 1938 and 1939 editions, gives the following key characteristic:

"The easiest means of distinguishing stamps of this issue from engraved stamps of the same type, which served imperforate in France in 1849-50 and in the colonies in 1871-76, is to note that the wreath protrudes much less at the top of the head on the stamps printed at Bordeaux than on the others. (This does not apply to the first type of the 20c blue, Bordeaux)"

The comparatively rare Type I of the 20c in this issue is the only exception, therefore, to the key characters: flat wreath and shading in lines or dashes. However, its general look and shade and the lithographic character of lines on it will prevent error.

--S.G.R.

Beware of clever counterfeits of the Group Type issues of all colonies. There are many of them being circulated unrecognized.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This number is unreasonably late. All delay is not my fault; but so much of it is, that I prefer to take the entire blame. Normally the July-August number appears in September, and in October the September-October number gets us on regular schedule. This number has been "on the way", partly typed up and pasted up since mid-October; but actually is not going to press until late December.

I prefer not to invent excuses or alleged excuses. Just let's be candid: I loafed.

You will judge of my sincerity by the speed with which I now get publication up to schedule in the coming few months. ---S.G.R.

Out-of-Print Numbers of F. & C. Philatelist

Two numbers of Vol. 1 of the Philatelist are out of print: no more copies are on hand at the Secretary's office. To reprint these would be quite expensive, for there is a minimum charge to be met. 200 or 300 copies would cost us no more than 50, 75 or 100. The Philatelist is a "planographed" or "photo-offset" job, on which the minimum charge is the same up to quantity mentioned or beyond. However, if 70 copies of either number can be sold, either as singles, or in orders for entire volumes, at the regular prices, we can come out without loss.

Your present officers are reluctant to diminish the funds on hand by making these reprints, unless reasonably sure that the cost will not be a loss or a long unliquidated liability.

FRENCH OCEANIA.

Official List of the stamps overprinted FRANCE LIBRE, put on sale April 21, 1941. From the "Journal Officiel, Mars et April 1941" ----- by courtesy of our member, Mr. Edmond Queyroy. The translation is by another member.

| Face Value | Color | Number over-printed | Sent to London | Held in the Colony | De-royed as defective | Put on sale |
|------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1.00f | Brown | 50000 | 15000 | 35000 | 375 | 34625 |
| 2.50f | Dark Green | 17000 | 12500 | 4500 | 2550 | 1950 |
| 3.00f | Ver-milion | 17000 | 15000 | 2000 | 325 | 1675 |
| 3.00f | Green | 29250 | 15000 | 14250 | 225 | 14025 |
| 5.00f | Pale Blue | 30000 | 15000 | 15000 | 700 | 14300 |
| 5.00f | Lilac | 13000 | 10000 | 3000 | 75 | 2925 |
| 10.00f | Pale Red | 13500 | 10000 | 3500 | 250 | 3250 |
| 10.00 f | Green | 8500 | 7500 | 1000 | 350 | 650 |
| 20.00f | Pale Lilac | 7500 | 7000 | 500 | 100 | 400 |
| 20.00f | Sepia | 9500 | 8500 | 1000 | 325 | 657 |
| 5.00f | Air Mail, Green | 105000 | 15000 | 90000 | 525 | 89475 |

SECRETARY'S REPORT

June 1 to Oct. 31, 1945

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome.

- 214. Brach, Erich H., 9 Ann St., Paterson, N.J.
- 215. Salmon, 320 Highview Place, Silver Spring, Maryland.
- 216. Quigley, Pfc. Clarence, 5 Grand St., Gloversville, N.Y.
- 217. Elliott, Delmar L., 2304 Isabella St. Sioux City, Iowa.
- 218. Demers, Odias, Sanford, Maine.
- 219. Barnel, Roger, Ingenieur des Travaux Publiques, Cayenne, French Guiana.

REINSTATED:

- 83. Engerrand, Dr. George C., University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 99. Baudry, Paul, to 51 East 67 St., New York 21, N.Y.
- 187. Wright, Condr. W.R., to U.S. Naval Supply Depot, Mechanicsburg, Penna.
- 161. Wengelewski, Charles, to 7051 South Eggleston Ave., Chicago, Ill.
- 145. Billig, Fritz, to 168-39 Highland Ave., Jamaica 3, N.Y.
- 156. Hoefler, Otto, to 1430 Chestnut St., San Francisco 23, Calif.
- 46. Anthony, Miss Helen, to Mrs. C. F. Stringham, 35 Franklin Place, Montclair, N.J.

RESIGNATION ACCEPTED:

- 157. Steczynski, Myron, Chicago, Ill.

Report on Election of Officers for 1945-46.

At the meeting of May 3, 1945, recommendations of the Chicago Chapter and of members afield, by letter, were considered; and guided by these and the judgment of those present, the following were the officers elected:

President: Ensign J.B. Kremer 3rd
 Vice President: S.G. Rich
 Treasurer: Paul Baudry
 Asst. Treasurer: Dr. R.L. Wood
 Recording Secretary: George A. Mary
 Corresponding Secretary: Helen V. Anthony

Ensign Kremer is expected back from active service before the year is over. S.G. Rich was appointed Editor of the Philatelist.

A NEW SERVICE

On the suggestion of Member Carl Stephenson, we being this month a free service: without any charge we will run, not more than twice in succession, members' notices of stamps wanted, by purchase or exchange. The notice is limited to a total of 30 words in all in each case, and we ask that for the present, no member put in more than one notice at a time. If this service does effective work for the members, we shall expand it. Membership number will be included always.

WANTED: to trade or buy varieties of 19th Century France. Carl Stephenson (45), Boardman Hall, Ithaca, N.Y.