

# FRANCE COLONIES



VOL. I NO. 3

PHILATELIST

MARCH-APRIL 1942

Published bi-monthly by the France and Colonies Group  
Address all communications to Dr. A. J. C. Vaurie, 5 E. 53 St., New York, N.Y.

\* \* \*

**MEMBERSHIP.** We take pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

- 69 - ELLIS, CHRISTOPHER, 549 Prince Albert Ave., Westmount, P.Q., Canada (F.U. & Un. Col. U. only to 1938. Un. from 1938-Air Mail, F. & Col. U.-Un.-Sem. Post. U.)
- 70 - TISSERANT, GEORGE, 97-21 135 Drive, Ozone Park, N.Y. (F.)
- 71 - METZGER, HAROLD, 5207 Helen Ave., St. Louis, Mo. (F. & Postal History-Exch.)
- 72 - HARMER, H.R., 32 E. 57 St., N.Y.C. (Counterfeits, Reprints, Forgeries F & Col.)
- 73 - KNOLLMUELLER, JOHN, 1886 Lake St., Salt Lake City, Utah
- 74 - MONOSSON, LEON, 505 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C. (Dealer-spec. new issues-former publisher of "Le Marché Mondial Philatélique")
- 75 - DELPUECH, A.C., 1114 W. Clinch Ave., Knoxville, Tenn. (F. & Col. Exch-Col. General Issues (Scott #1-59) with readable postmarks & covers)
- 76 - SHAW, K.W., Main St., Stanhope, N.J. (Stamps & covers of Inini, Guiana, Martinique, Guadeloupe, St. Pierre & Miquelon - also War Covers)
- 77 - BIEBER, H.R., 648 North 11 St., Reading, Pa. (F. & Col. U. Exch.)
- 78 - HILL, DR. W.W., Dep't. of Anthropology, Univ. of N. Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M. (Oceania & New Hebrides U. & Un. Exch.) /1876)
- 79 - MORTON, J.B., 1170 1/2 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. (F. & postmarks, shades U. to
- 80 - HALL, L.W., 115 Devonshire St., Boston, Mass. (F. & Col. Un. advanced collector)
- 81 - VAN KATWIJK, PAUL, Dean, School of Music, So. Meth. Univ., Dallas, Texas (F. & Col. U. to 1938. Exch.)
- 82 - MAY, PHIL, 1358 N. Western Ave. Chicago, Ill. (F. & Col. 20th Cent. Un. only)
- 83 - ENGERRAND, G.C., Dept. Anthropology, Univ. of Texas, Austin, Tex. (F. & also American Colonies (St. Pierre, Mart., Guad., Guiana, Inini) U. only)
- 84 - LAMOUROUX, L., 222 Lawrence Ave. W., Toronto, Canada (F. & Algeria, Morocco, Madagascar-to lesser degree, Indo-China, St. Pierre, Mart. & Guad.)
- 85 - BERNER, B.I., 620 Fifth Ave. N.Y.C. (Dealer spec. new issues & Free French)
- 86 - KEPNER, E.E., 621 E. Loren St. Springfield, Mo. (F. regular & semi-post. issues)

- Change of Address -

VOGEL, MRS. E.F. (37) to 155 East 52 St., New York, N.Y.

**CORRECTION:** Mr. Ben Hamilton, Jr. (60) asks us to state that he no longer collects Niger; also his Algeria & St. Pierre are not specialized and his AEF & Cameroun are specialized but not highly so.

\* \* \*

At the meeting of Feb. 5th, Mr. Ralph Holtsizer (18) came up from Philadelphia to show his collection of Martinique. The range of this collection is probably unique. All major varieties are complete and not many of the minor varieties have escaped Mr. Holtsizer - if any.

\* \* \*

At the meeting of March 5th, Mr. Donald D. Burgess (32) came down from Binghamton to show his New Caledonia collection. His collection is very effectively presented and much original research has gone into his fine study of some of the early provisionals.

Mr. H. R. Harmer also showed a unique bloc of the Ile de France provisional (10 fr. on 90c) with inverted surcharge and wide spacing - no less!!

\* \* \*

The collections of both Mr. Holtsizer and Mr. Burgess have won many prizes and their showings were enthusiastically received by the members present.

In this group we present what is by far the most common type of French cancellations up to 1876. 90% or more of the used stamps will bear a similar cancellation. They are all true cancellers as opposed to postmarks, the latter appearing somewhere else on the cover. Even though they were only meant to deface the stamp, they are not "mute" for each has, with the exception of the anchor, its own particular significance - and they tell many an interesting story.

For Paris the system was different from that of the Departments. From the 1st of January, 1852, to July 1st, 1863, with the exception of the Central Office which used the solid star (Fig. 33), all the other offices used a lozenge of dots with a letter in the center (Fig. 29) - the list going from A to N. When the office was important enough to have branch offices, the letter was followed by "S" meaning "succursale" or branch office; if there was more than one branch, the "S" was followed by a number 1-2-3 and even 4. For the first two years these letters were in roman type (Fig. 29) - without serifs - and from 1854 to 1863 in slightly larger letters - with serifs - (Figs. 30 and 31).

From 1863 to 1876 all main and branch offices were arranged in a continuous series, using the star with a number (Fig. 34) - the list going from 1 to 39 inclusive. The Central Office still continued to use the solid star (Fig. 33).

For the Departments, as well as foreign offices, on January 1st, 1852, a lozenge of dots with small numerals 4 m/m high (Fig. 27) was put into use. The list was alphabetical and ran from 1 to 3739. The additions until the end of 1862 ran the list up to 4494. A very few - I only know of three - have a "BIS" following the number (Fig. 28) - all three of these offices were communities in the suburbs of Paris which became gradually caught in the growth of the city but nevertheless kept up their original number - with the "BIS" added.

The first of January 1863 - as in the case of the numbered Paris stars - a different numeration was introduced. The numbers are now 7 m/m high (Fig. 35) and run with additions until 1876 to 6449. The first 99 numbers (and less than a dozen others with 3 figures) have dashes on either side of the numerals (Fig. 37). If the number can be read both ways "66" or "99" a small cross points the correct way (Fig. 38). Large cities such as Lyon (2145) having branch offices indicate them by an additional letter (Fig. 36).

Railroads carrying and receiving mail have an abbreviation of the line such as Paris-Calais "PC" (Fig. 39). On the return trip, Calais-Paris, the canceller then reads "CP", and if there is more than one train a day, the number of that train (Fig. 40). If confusion could arise a more detailed abbreviation is used (Fig. 41) Paris-Belfort, there being Paris-Bordeaux "PB", Paris-Brest "PBR", etc. The offices in the Paris Railroad stations had also their canceller (Fig. 42). The full list is PGNO (Gare du Nord-Ouest: Saint Lazare), PGL (Gare de Lyon), PGE (Gare de l'Est), PGO (Gare de l'Ouest: Montparnasse), and PGSO (Gare du Sud-Ouest: Orléans).

Offices opened for special events had cancellers of their own such as the Exposition of 1867 (Fig. 43), and the National Assembly 1871-75 (Fig. 44). Several types exist of both.

Napoleon fought a goodly number of campaigns, and field post offices had their cancellers, such as Army of the Alps Quartier Général (Fig. 45) and Army of the Orient Bureau of the Cavalry (Fig. 46). Army camps also had their cancels such as the camp of Kamiesch of the Army of the Orient (Fig. 47) or the Camp de Sathonay in France (Fig. 28). Military units also have theirs such as the 2nd Division of the Imperial Guard (Fig. 49). Finally Napoleon III himself had his own office with its canceller, Bureau Spécial de l'Empereur (Fig. 50).

Perhaps the most popular canceller is the Anchor (Fig. 32) for use on board of all packet boats from 1853 to 1876. It does not deserve its popularity for it is the only one of the cancellers that has nothing specific to say. The name of the boat or line figures only as part of the postmark.

(To be continued)

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



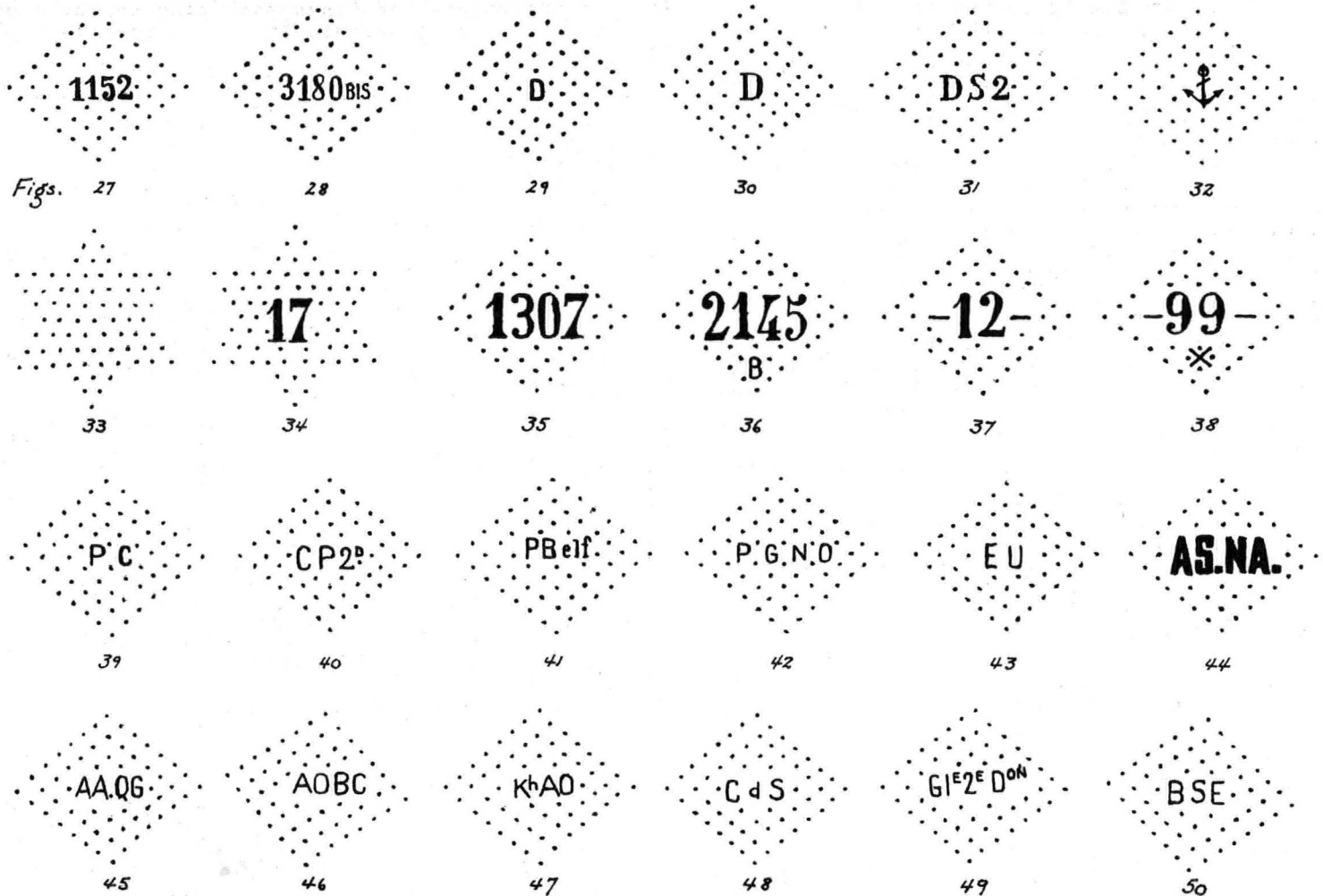
We take pleasure in introducing that demon philatelist, Jacques, Pierre, or Henri (or whatever you want to call him). Jacques is like all of us - there is a lot he doesn't know -- but he wants to learn - so he has kindly consented to run for us a QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS COLUMN.

The above characteristic action photograph of Jacques was taken by John McGee (20) who starts the ball rolling by asking the first Question: "I have a Monaco - Scott's type A2, cancelled by the wiggly-line type of French R. cancel. Is this a French railway - if so, which one? Does tiny Monaco have a railway cancel all its own?"

**Answer:** The cancellation belongs to a French railway. Two lines go thru Monaco and Monte-Carlo - the "couvoyeur-ligne" Vintimille a Marseille (VINT.M.) and "couvoyeur-ligne" Menton a Marseille (MENT.M.). Mail brought to the mail car in Monaco and Monte-Carlo received a cancellation (see illustration) denoting the locality and the abbreviations of that particular railroad line. The number 87 is the number of the Department of the Alpes-Maritimes in which the principality is found. Its total area is but 8 square miles and includes only the two towns of Monaco and Monte-Carlo.

### SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO JACQUES

We have seen a long set of 39 values from Oceania made up of stamps belonging to several issues. They are overprinted in bright violet with a large "V" and the 3 dots-dash emblem. The consensus of opinion among the dealers is that the overprint is bogus - and as a crowning shot Mr. Berner (85) states "that the authorities of Tahiti in answer to a cable deny the very existence of such a set of stamps."



## NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES

### French India

The souvenir sheet (Scott #110) has received a diagonal surcharge "France Libre". There was some question as to the authenticity of this overprint. Mr. Fatoullah(5) has shown us the sheet as well as his correspondence and cables with a reputable old English dealer, who sent the sheets to Mr. Fatoullah and who states "only 400 sheets were printed ..... about half are damaged such as without gum, torn, etc.... They come from General de Gaulle's headquarters in London..."

**France:** Mr. Fatoullah has also shown us Scott #402 with the spacing so narrow between the "5" & "0" that they actually touch. This variety occurs at position 6 on the left pane.

**French Colonies:** Mr. Monosson(74) has shown us a set of 48 stamps, 2 for each of 24 colonies, 1fr. & 2.50, large size pictorials different for each colony, with portrait of Marechal Pétain in upper right corner. They were printed at the "Institut National de Gravure in Paris."

**France**—Twelve semipostals have been issued, but the sale has been subject to restrictions, and is by subscription only. We understand that the sale has been conducted in both occupied and unoccupied France. The designs feature the coats of arms of twelve of the more important cities throughout the country.

20c plus 30c dark brown. Arms of the city of Nancy.  
40c plus 60c red orange. Lille.  
50c plus 70c turquoise blue. Rouen.  
70c plus 80c. Bordeaux.  
80c plus 1.00f rose. Toulouse.  
1.00f plus 1.00f gray green. Clermont-Ferrand.  
1.50f plus 2.00f blue. Marseilles.  
2.00f plus 2.00f gray violet. Lyon.  
2.50f plus 3.00f emerald green. Rennes.  
3.00f plus 5.00f brown orange. Reims.  
5.00f plus 6.00f ultramarine. Montpellier.  
10.00f plus 10.00f red. Paris.

L. Monosson.

## Stamps Feb 14, 1942

### Whitfield King to Ignore de Brazza Stamps in Catalog

**T**HE Whitfield King & Company's Bulletin for January, 1942, reports that they have decided not to purchase nor include in their catalog any of the French Equatorial Africa 1 franc plus 2 francs stamps which were reported in the New Issues department of this magazine February 7, 1942.

Whitfield King has this to say about their decision: "We are informed that the stamps will be sold at 1s. each, the additional charge between the face value and the selling price being paid to General de Gaulle's Armaments Fund. We consider that if a Charity stamp is issued and sold at three times its actual postal value this is quite enough to ask the public to pay. Offering stamp dealers these stamps at 1s. each is in our opinion unreasonable and they should certainly be available at their face value, plus the surtax, and should be sold through the Free French Headquarters and not through any other organization."

The stamps, according to report, were placed on sale in London by a society called "Les Français de Grande-Bretagne."

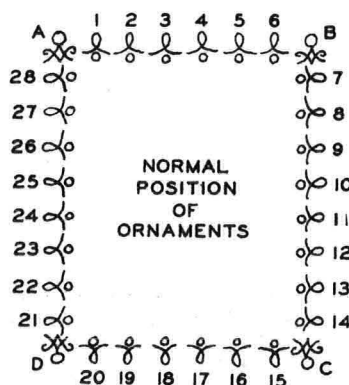


On December 23, 1891, two stamps were issued that have long been my pets. These are Scott's Nos. 11 and 13, 10c on 40c of the 1877 and 1881 general colonies issues. They were surcharged in sheets of 50 (two panes of 25 each) work and turn from a form of 25 subjects so that the right-hand pane always has the surcharge inverted. Thus the inverted surcharge is no scarcer than the normal, as is properly reflected in the catalogue value. Both exist with double surcharge, also with double surcharge, one inverted.

Of the imperforate stamp (No. 11) 4,800 copies were issued, 2,400 normal and 2,400 inverted, which breaks down to 96 sheets.

There were 11,000 of the perforated (No. 13) 5,500 normal and the same quantity inverted--220 sheets.

The charm of this issue, to me, lies in the fact that it is possible to reconstruct the entire setting from single copies. This is done through varying positions of the ornaments constituting the border of the surcharge. Each setting of the border consists of 32 small pieces of type, a total of 800 for the entire form. The accompanying illustration shows



the normal arrangement of the ornaments--circles inside, except the corner pieces which have the circles at top or bottom.

The compositor evidently took pains at first to see that the type was correctly set, for of the first nine positions one piece only is turned. From then on he apparently took a "to heck

with it" attitude and it was every piece of type for itself, for they are turned every conceivable way. Baron de Vinck de Winnezele, in his "Colonies Françaises et Bureaux à l'Étranger--Étude des Timbres Surchargés et des Émissions d'Impression Locale de 1852 à 1919" has charted these variations and made reconstruction of the surcharged pane possible. This chart is too lengthy to run here, but I should be pleased to copy it for anyone interested.

The only constant variety is the omission of the period after 10c, found in positions 16 and 18. Copies are common in which the hyphen is missing or the periods after N.C.E. in various combinations, but seven years of chasing after these two stamps have proved to me that they are inconstant varieties.

May 25, 1892, brought forth another interesting surcharge, the 10 centimes on 30c brown of the 1881 general issue for the colonies (Scott No. 12). There were 50,000 issued in groups of 50 (two panes of 25 each) and half of these have the inverted surcharge.

The Yvert specialized says that the surcharging was done from two forms of 25 subjects each, one having the frame and the other the figures and inscription. With due respect to the experts involved, I claim they are in error.

I have in my collection a complete sheet of 50 of this issue. On the normal pane of 25 are the two varieties pictured in the next column, in positions 10 and 16. If their information

is correct, these varieties should appear also in the right-hand (inverted) pane as the same setting was supposedly used to surcharge that also. But they do not. It is possible that the varieties were noticed and corrected before the other half of the sheet was surcharged, but after seeing the utter disregard for minor border variations shown in the previous surcharges I consider it a very remote possibility.

As to the form supposedly containing the figures and inscription--minor varieties appearing in certain positions on the normal pane of my sheet are not found in corresponding positions on the inverted pane. For instance: position 5 of the normal has no periods after N or C; position 6 has a thick hyphen; position 10 has thick hyphen; 17 has thick hyphen; 20 has no period after N. On the inverted pane: 5 has no period after E; 10 has no period after N; 18 has no period after N; 23 has no period after C. Not one of these varieties interlocks with the corresponding position on the other pane.

Precise measurement of scores of copies has failed to reveal any difference in space between the inscription and the frame. As a matter of fact, in one double surcharged copy I have, one of the surcharges is badly misplaced on the stamp and the inscription follows the frame in this misplacement. It would be impossible for a press feeder to do this intentionally if he were foolish enough to want to. So there can be only one conclusion--each stamp was surcharged in one operation and not two.

Which leaves us with another delicate problem. Having shown that there was but one form for each pane of 25 and that there were at least two different forms, why were inverts necessary? Here two choices are open, and I can't definitely say which is correct. Either they were made deliberately, or the entire sheet as printed consisted of at least four groups of 25 stamps, so that any one pane surcharged normally would not be in horizontal juxtaposition with the same setting inverted. Take your pick.

Minor varieties, such as thick hyphen, missing periods and various combinations of these are common and may or may not be constant. An interesting variety in the figure 1 is shown here. It was not constant throughout the printing, although I have seen two copies, and was caused either by collapse of the type face or by temporary adherence of some foreign matter to the type. This stamp exists with double surcharge, double one inverted and double both inverted. If you like shades, it also comes in yellow brown.

A variety listed by Scott and mentioned as of doubtful legitimacy by Yvert is with only the value double. Yvert says the ink of the second impression is of a different shade, which it is. Regardless of whose explanation of the method of surcharging is correct, there is no way in which the figures alone could legitimately be used in a second impression.

(To be continued)