

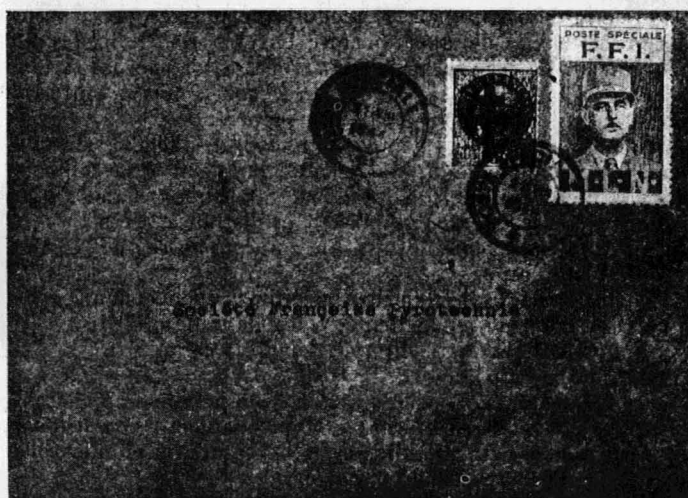
France & Colonies Philatelist



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The Paris 1944 Heroic Week Stamp, Frank and Postmark

(From Biblioteca del Filatelista,
of Barcelona, July 1946, and Inter
catalog)



When Paris was being liberated from German occupation, during the insurrection of the "Heroic Week" of August 19 to 26, 1944, the regular postal services were completely suspended in the city and suburbs. The F.F.I. (Forces Francaises de l'Interieur), usually called the Maquis, established a temporary service for mail by motorcycle, with military carriers.

The F.F.I. surcharged a supply of the current 1.50f red brown Petain stamps with a bold face Cross of Lorraine in black. 20,000 copies were thus made.

Mail franked with this stamp always also had a large blue label of the F.F.I., with picture of De Gaulle. This De Gaulle label appears as a required additional franking, and thus must rank as a postal frank of this service. Proceeds of sale of the blue label went to help the funds of the Maquis, we learn.

Cancellation was always the special double circle, apparently a rubber handstamp, struck on both stamp and De Gaulle frank. There were several of these devices, differing slightly in lettering style, but not in wording. Pictures

of Heroic Week stamps and covers in several of the stamp papers show the various devices.

Unused copies of the stamp and the label are apparently far from plentiful.

A number of these covers were secured from recipients in the following months, and were sold on Nov. 13 1944, at the Armistice Day celebrations, for the benefit of F.F.I. members and their families. The Comité de Liberation Nationale in these cases got 300f. each for the covers. (Then about \$6.25). "Inter" catalog gives prices that come to about the same in terms of exchange at the time of publication.

Some covers had either an additional cachet (in the American sense of the word) or a postmark, reading "Paris Libéré." The descriptions, unfortunately, do not make it clear which is meant; nor have we seen a picture. "Inter" gives a price 1/5 higher for these.

From the pictures seen, it is clear that some of the covers were "philatelic" and apparent on these is the fact of not having been carried--- no address or name of addressee only. Covers to be of full standing should have full address.

Covers with Stamps Affixed on Both Sides

Our member, Mr. E. F. Keyes, poses a problem: How to mount covers which have stamps on both sides or interesting postal markings on the back, so that both sides may be seen. His problem arises from covers of the French Colonies during World War II. This problem faces almost every one who collects covers, at some time.

The plan that seems to work best, in most cases, is to cut a window in the album page. The window needs to be even and rectangular -- the corners should be rounded off to prevent start of tearing at those points. The window is best only large enough to show what you want, on the back of the cover. The cover is mounted directly over the window.

Provided your pages are of good heavy stock, like Scott's Douglas or Ne Plus Ultra, no more need be done. If you use lighter pages, you may have to reinforce the page around the window.

Provided a cover is badly frayed at several edges, it may be best to open up these edges, to lay out the cover as a large flat piece, and to mount it alone on an entire page. In such a case, good sense indicates reinforcing (on the inside) the one fold which is not slit apart.

Some few collectors have devised means for mounting covers, either in a transparent holder or "au naturel", so that the left end only is fastened down, by a strong hinge on which the piece may be swung to see the back.

On mounting over a window, it is probably the safest plan to use art corners, perhaps cutting off their bases so they do not lap within the window, and putting a thin card within the cover to make it rigid enough to stay in place. When a cover is laid out flat, twelve to fifteen of the least peeling stamp hinges, five along the top and the rest spread out along the others of the edges, will usually hold it safely.

Which Are the Rarest Stamps of France?

By P. Almasy, in "Je Cherche", Jan. 1946.

This investigation was made via the columns of "Tout Lyon Philatliste," and has produced most interesting results. It is again reported because of the lively interest it aroused among all collectors.

After examining 500 collections of various sizes and degrees of specialization, I was able to establish a list which offers several great surprises. To use the figures of the list, these three significant facts must be considered:

1. Some of the collections contained several copies of the same stamp. I did not count the number of collections, but the total number found of fine copies of any stamp in the entire 500 collections seen.

2. The relatively small number of certain modern stamps unused, compared to quantities of older stamps, is thus caused: many collectors assemble several shades, cancellations, etc., of the same stamp when it is a classic issue, but are content with a single copy on mint modern issues.

3. For stamps since 1900, I have counted only unused stamps. Most of these items are common as used copies. Because many collectors do not seek them except unused, the number of used copies found in the albums would distort these tables.

Here are the numbers of superb items which I have been able to count in surveying these 500 collections, among which are included in proper proportion small, medium-sized and large ones.

(For the convenience of our readers, we have added the Scott number and identification, for each stamp.-- Editor, F. & C. P.)

Yvert number	Scott number	Issue and Stamp	Unused	Used
1	1	10c 1849	18	117
2	2	15c 1850	2	51
5	7	40c 1850	9	47
6	9	1f carmine 1849	3	75
7	8	1f vermilion 1849	1	19
9	10	10c 1852 Presidency	5	106
15	17	25c Empire imperf	6	79
18	21	1f Empire	1	34
27	31	4c 1863 Laureate	61	108
33	37	5f Empire	10	43
34	49	10c surch. on Empire	2	--
35	24	1871 5c Empire type	26	167
40	39	2c Bordeaux	59	96
41	40	4c Bordeaux	13	71
42	41	5c Bordeaux	31	118
44	43	20c Type 1 Bordeaux	8	58
47	46	30c Bordeaux	23	70
49	48	80c Bordeaux	15	90
62	65	2c Sage Type 1	30	61
76	79	10c green Sage Type 2	12	78
114	119a	25c 1900 two-printing	91	
115	120	30c 1900	100	
118	119	25c 1900 one-printing	77	
122	126	2f 1900	41	
127	136	25c 1902	76	
128	137	30c 1902	63	
152	B8	35c+25c 1917	96	
153	B10	50c+50c 1917	91	
154	B12	1f+1f 1917	50	
155	B14	5f+5f 1917	31	
182	197	1f Philat. Congress	119	
207	131	10f 1927	65	

An Indo-China combination of town mark and paquebot mark, reported as scarce.



208	132	20f 1926	78
216	226	5f Exhibition 1925	137
231	B11	1f+25c 1927	118
232	B13	5f+1f 1927	109
241-2	241	Strasbourg Min.Sheet	51
252	B27	1.50f+8.50f 1928	84
256	B34	1.50f+3.50f 1930	117
269	B38	1.50f+3.50f 1931	81
275	B39	40c+10c 1931	104
276	B40	50c+25c 1931	105
277	B41	1.50f+50c 1931	105
285	274	90c dark red 1932	100
287	279	1.25f olive brown 1932	139
292	292	75c 1933	169
294	294	1.50f 1934	196
321	C17	10f Air Mail 1936	105
398	354	50f 1938	207

Poste

Aerienne

1	C1	2f Air Mail 1927	89	106
2	C2	5f Air Mail 1927	76	109
3	C3	10f rose Isle de France	2	1
4	C3	10f blue Isle de France	2	1
13	C13	3.50f Air Mail 1936	189	327
14	C14	50f small Air Mail 1936	49	78
15	C15	50f big Air Mail 1936	51	69

The study remains open for extension. If the examination of a second series of collections brings any noticeable modifications of the table here presented, I shall publish the information.

(The study here presented covers a number of collections sufficient to make the results here given statistically valid. The sampling method adds to reliability by making it representative and free of "skewing." The results may be used without reserve.

In this table, it is remarkable that a stamp of so low price as Scott No.31, the 4c Empire, is included; that several of the Bordeaux items of higher price than some here reported are absent.

The reader may take it that any item not in this list, other than rare color varieties not separately listed by Yvert, is not among the scarcest French stamps. It is clearly implied that any item not reported here was found more than 207 times in the 500 collections.---Editor F.& C.P.)

Is this how some French Colonials were made in 1947?



"Say, chief! Can I use de equipment to run off a couple o' rare stamps my kid ain't got in his collection?"



Type L.O. Merson Varieties

Prompted by the article on varieties in this type, in No. 28 of this journal, our member Mr. G. Tisserant proceeded to examine a fair number of copies of the 2f red and the 1f dark red on G.C. paper. He discovers the following, and has shown your editor the stamps to prove his results:

1. The two types intergrade: the open fold becomes filled up and finally solid, in several stages; the wide fold's two lines fill in between and become one line of a "narrow fold".

2. The small lines on the sleeve immediately above the edge of the cloth, gradually change from the turning line to the separate dash.

3. All four variants listed by Mr. Iliffe are found on the 1f on G.C. paper, 1917-20 issue.

In addition to this, the line along the sleeve, above the bare arm, but not forming the edge of the sleeve, shows on the 2f, on some copies, a definite vanishing of the thick shaded point at the middle. Mr. Tisserant calls this "line cut at middle."

The evidence which Mr. Tisserant has shown makes it clear that the two varieties result from plate wear --- flattening of the electros and perhaps some slight chipping off of parts. Mr. Iliffe indicates his idea that they are deliberate changes in the die; but the facts here brought out make that claim invalid.

Colonial General Types:
An Omission

In setting Mr. Stone's article, in No.29 of this journal, one line of text was omitted, near the end, speaking of cancellations on the 10c Eagle.

Correct statement of the matter, near top of page 19, column 2, is:

"The PD in circle or rectangle of Reunion, PP in rectangle of Guadeloupe, CEM in lozenge of Mexico, army correspondence cancels, anchor in lozenge of dots, and French arrival marks, can all be found on the 10c."

It is a pleasure to correct this omission, to disentangle the confusion that the one omitted line may have caused.

Facteur Marks

Especially on the Type Sage stamps, but also on other issues, we occasionally find a small circle postmark, about 10 mm. diameter, with a numeral or letter within.

These are known as "Facteur" postmarks, and are applied by a carrier to mail picked up on his route and normally delivered on the same route either on the same trip or the next. ("Facteur" is the French term for a letter-carrier).

The reader should not confuse the facteur's postmark with the triangular postage due mark which is sometimes struck on a regular stamp.

Messrs. Stephenson and Zilm are thanked for suggesting that this note may be of interest.



French Colonial Observations

BY EVEREL E. KEYS
in Moksell's Weekly

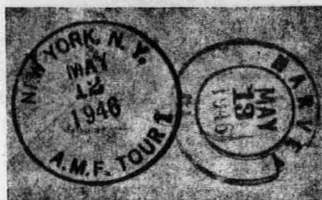


Figure 1

• War covers of the French Colonies, particularly French Equatorial Africa, supply many intensely interesting backstamps. It seems apparent that early in the war irregularities occurred due to uncertainty because of a lack of an organized plan for despatching the mails which previous to this time were routed through France. A study of the backstamps and various means of censorship indicate a more or less confused state. During this period, it is evident that covers from Brazzaville were not always routed in the same way. One example of this is a cover marked Brazzaville, Oct. 24, 1941. It was franked with Free French provisional postage and was passed by the Gold Coast censor, as is indicated by the censor's stamp on the face and strip on the back of the cover. In addition, the cover carries a Gold Coast backstamp. There are no French censorship markings. However, it does show a Leopoldville, Belgium Congo, backstamp.

Later on a more orderly procedure was followed. In most cases covers from cities in the nearby area were backstamped Brazzaville. Covers from as far away as Libreville and Fort-Lamy were thus backstamped and also carried the Brazzaville Postal Control marking. Perhaps such mail was routed through Brazzaville because of censorship regulations and consequently received the Brazzaville backstamp.

While I can supply no official information on the subject, it is certain that there were several censorship offices with-



Figure 2

in the territory of French Equatorial Africa. This is shown from Postal Control Commission markings of which I have "A", "B", "E", and "G". Covers showing the complete list of these markings would no doubt prove interesting.

One cover from Fort Archambault was backstamped, Bangui, Oubangui-Chari (Fig. 2). This one was opened at each end as well as at the top by various censors, including the French, and carried strips and markings from each of them. In addition, it was routed through Belgium Congo and carried two backstamps from that country. I might add that none of these covers were backstamped in the United States unless they were registered.

A situation similar to that in French Equatorial Africa seemed to have existed in Guadeloupe where covers mailed from other cities were backstamped, Pointe A. Pitre, before transmission to the addressee. Likewise censored covers from Wallis and Futuna were forwarded through either Noumea, New Caledonia, or Papeete, Isle Tahiti, and carried backstamps of those post offices. However, only registered covers have been noted from these colonies.

Sellmansberger Stumbles

F.E. Sellmansberger, writing in the American Philatelist of November 1947 and December 1947, follows Henry Jervis in that journal of December 1945, in misunderstanding certain printing varieties of the typographed French stamps. His descriptions of the features seen are correct: his interpretations seem to be based on lack of knowledge of ordinary letterpress printing and how electrotypes plates wear under heavy service and long runs.

What Mr. Sellmansberger calls "re-entries" (with his own mental reservations indicated by use of quotes for the term) and what Mr. Jervis called a "double impression" are neither more nor less than normal wear effects on electros.

As electrotypes wear, they frequently take on a curious change. On one or both edges of any line or solid, a raised burr of copper forms. If on both sides, the line appears thinner and as if doubled. If one side only, the line becomes heavy, and irregular of edge. This burr at the edge of a solid acts to prevent the ink making an imprint just behind it, simulating a double print of the white portion adjacent.

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jan. 31 to Feb. 10 1948

Your secretary brought you up to date in no. 31 of the Philatelist, and accordingly has not a single item of official business for this number which goes to press only a week later.....

Except

DUES:----- Dues for 1948 are now payable.

Please send to the Secretary,

Mrs. Helen A. Stringham,
35 Franklin Place, Montclair, N.J.

\$2.00 for members who are in the Parent Chapter as "Resident" members; \$1.00 for all others.

PHILATELIST: --- The Editor assures us that he has all plans made to catch up with the numbers between now and June. He says that he will much appreciate articles to publish, whether short or long, or suggestions for subjects on which to get articles.

THE NEW SERVICE

Want or exchange notices: 25 words or less, one or two insertions only for each notice. Members only; no charge. Those who insert notices here expect not to be bothered with any material or offers other than the particular ones which they mention here.

French Air Labels wanted; governmental, air line, semi-officials, and poster stamp types. Air line baggage, cargo labels, etiquettes, etc. I will buy or exchange. Earl H. Wellman, Brookfield, ILL. (Member 251)

Anchor cancellations: I have quite a few to exchange for other anchors. Jacques Misy, Box 47, Planetarium Station, New York 24, N.Y. (Member 16)

Wanted to purchase France 20th Century imperf pairs. Send on approval, naming lowest price in spot cash, for each piece. Brainerd Kremer, 211 Glenridge Ave., Montclair, N.J. (Member 8)

Formula post card of France with attached 20c Type Sage adhesive (not 20c rate made up of other stamps) wanted. Submit with price, please. S.G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2)



Type Sage

Those interested in this group of stamps of France will find a fairly long article, covering aspects and raising questions not discussed in most previous treatments, in the book of the Thirteenth American Philatelic Congress (1947). The book may be had from Jere Hess Barr, 533 Penn St., Reading Penna., for \$1.00. This notice is inserted at the request of officers of the Group, since the article in question is written by your editor.

A recent perforation oddity. Not explained. Picture is from "France Philatelic", March 15 '47