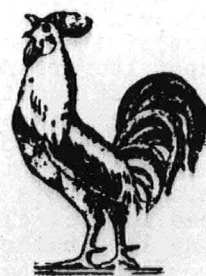


France & Colonies Philatelist



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Conspirators' Would-Be Stamps

By Georges Olivier

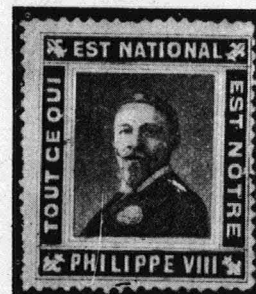
Translated from "Philatelie 1946 "

No longer is there need to prove that stamps are an excellent vehicle for political propaganda. In every country, anyone who wants to overthrow a government finds time to get printed "stamps" showing the picture of the head of the conspiracy, or the party emblem, accompanied with some slogan or motto.

Apparently the earliest example of a "conspirator's stamp" is the series produced in 1865 by the Irish independence party, then starting to fight against England. The Cuban promoters of the insurrection against the Spanish government followed with the "stamps" issued in 1868. But let us now limit ourselves to those productions of this sort which have appeared in France.

(France was the next country to have such "stamps." We use the term essay for them from this point on, rather than speak of them as stamps, "stamps" or by any invidious term. Present American usage of the term "essay" definitely includes such items. ---Translator)

The first such pieces appeared in 1872 according to Cazin & Rochas, but only in 1875 according to Arthur Maury. These were 10c and 15c essays in various colors: 10c orange, red; 15c green, blue, lilac, brown, red, black. They exist very slovenly perforated, and imperf. In an oval border, they show the portrait of the legitimist pretender to the French throne, the Count of Chambord. The four corners are ornamented with fleurs-de-lis. The wording Postes on each side and France at top, makes us think that the unknown authors of this issue intended



it for postal use, if their movement had succeeded. Actually, these essays were used only for propaganda purposes. Victor Demange also mentions the existence of stamped envelopes, 105 x 85 mm., in this type: 15c green, purple.

As strictly an oddity, I mention the macabre design which the engraver Felicien Rops line-engraved and printed on glazed paper in 1874. It is a memento of anti-republican propaganda. Printed in black, this essay or label shows a death's head in a circle, with a thigh-bone at left looking like numeral 1 of the "face value" 1 centime. This is probably merely an artist's fantasy, to which it would be an exaggeration to attribute and political importance.

Later, in 1887, an issue was prepared, at a print shop in Frankfurt (Germany) we are told, for the account of General Boulanger who had hoped to overturn the Third Republic for his own gain. This time we may say we are dealing with items intended to be used as regular stamps, but never issued because of the chekmating of the conspiracy. These essays, perforated and imperf., were twelve: as follows.

Center in brown

- 1c green
- 5c red on blue-gray
- 10c red on yellow
- 20c blue on blue-gray
- 25c lilac
- 30c green on blue-gray
- 50c dark blue on yellow
- 75c lilac on blue-gray
- 1f carmine
- 5f blue
- 20f golden bronze on blue-gray
- 20f gilt on blue-gray

Copies without portrait are reported to exist. The essays were not delivered till very late in the affair, when the aspirations of General Boulanger no longer had any chance of fruition.

Three other items, now become very scarce, must be added to the collection of Conspirators' Essays of France. Their style recalls that of the Irish propaganda labels. They were issued or published by the "Union regionale Bertonne" in several places: Lesneven in Finisterre, 1903; Gourin in Morbihan, 1904. The annual conventions of this group were held at these places and dates.

The two first, of 1903, show the Keltic harp beneath the cross with rays, representing Christianity. On each side of the harp is a heraldic ermine, in memory of the former dukes of Brittany. The upper corners showed the "Bardic three lines", symbol of divine power which creates (line slanting up to right), conserves (vertical line) and destroys (line slanting down to right). Cazin and Rochas say this sign is that of the Girsedds, or bardic academies in Great Britain and in Armorica. The wording "Briez Unvaniez" signifies Breton Union.

One of these labels, in red, carries the numeral 5, and the other, in purple, the numeral 15, in each lower corner. We do not know whether these mean centimes or, in view of the secessionist spirit of the Bretons, they planned to have their own money. Of the red 12,000 copies were made and of the purple 31,000, all perforated.

The third essays, issued in 1904, shows up, in black in a carmine border similar to the preceding ones, a standing figure accompanied by a dog. This is Saint Herve, a hermit who

lived near Brest in the sixth century and whom the Breton bards chose as their patron. The wording is: at top "Briez" and below "Gourin 1904". Numeral of value is 15.

Victor Demange includes among the conspirators' essays of France a set with the portrait of Berta de Rohan, descendant of an old French family. But these are labels of Carlist propaganda, issued in 1899 to 1901 in various Spanish cities. Berta de Rohan was the wife of Don Carlos.

Finally, there are some propaganda labels with the portrait of Philippe VIII, who was a candidate for the French throne. We know of two such, rather large size, each carrying a different wording. One has the famous "Tout de qui est national est notre": the other, "Tous pour un: un pour tous." The two labels are worded "Philippe VIII" (King of France) and the inevitable emblem, the fleur-de-lis.

We may add, as stamp-like items of propaganda, political in nature, the two feminist series of 1901 1908. The first, printed in three colors -- light blue, dark blue and carmine -- was given to the public on Oct. 17, 1901 by the group led by Hubertine Auclert, which was campaigning for woman suffrage. Miss Auclert declared that the printing of these labels had been done because of the feelings aroused among the suffragettes by the issue of the 15c Type Mouchon stamp. On that, the symbolic personage seemed to say: "Come and see the rights of man." "We wanted," said Miss Auclert, "to have people see a man announcing the Rights of Woman." Lithographed, the printing was 100,000 copies. The labels were sold at 100 for 65 centimes (13 sous). The same society issued in early 1906 another label, printed in four colors -- purple, blue, red brown, brown -- designed by Mr. L. Mangin. This pictured a couple in ancient costume voting at the ballot box, while "Universal Suffrage" was shown with rays like an immense sun, on the horizon. A postal card, with the same picture enlarged, appeared at the same time, with the wording: "Women who submit to the laws and pay taxes like men, should like men have the right to vote."



Normal



Variety

Variety in the 5c of 1900

France No. 113, the 5c 1900 in Type Blanc, shows a variety reported in Maury's book but not yet catalogued by anyone. This is in the appearance of the shading of the mirror in the hand of Liberty.

In the normal stamp, there is a triangle of colored ink at the bottom of the mirror, just above the handle. In the variety, this is missing, but a triangle, placed sidewise, appears in the middle of the mirror.

The variety has been reported with millesime 3, as one member of a gutter pair with this millesime showing.

-- Harold Metzger

New Catalogue of French Cancellations
(Yvert & Tellier 1947)

Reviewed by Brainerd Kremer

"Catalogue Des Obliterations Des Timbres De France 1849-1876" By E.H. de Beaufond, of l'Academie de Philatelie.

An excellent work on the cancellations of France (1849-76) was published recently by Yvert & Tellier of Amiens, France. The author, E.H. de Beaufond, of l'Academie de Philatelie, is widely known as one of the leading authorities on French stamps. He had handled this difficult and extensive task in a concise and carefully arranged handbook of 114 pages.

The work contains a preface written by Mr. E. Fregnac, of l'Academie de Philatelie, followed by an explanatory introduction by the author himself. Herein he sets forth his plan and mentions his methods of pricing the various postmarks. For instance, he tells us that a price quoted for any given cancellation is the value of that cancellation in its most common form. He adds that further ramifications would necessitate a specialized listing for each cancellation, entirely outside the scope of his project. He also tells us that certain rare cancellations are marked "X" in the price columns of the tables, because in these cases it is impossible to quote a "standard price."

First to appear in the main body of the work are illustrations of the cancellations themselves. These for the most part are tracings but, in some cases were taken from actual photographs. The cancellations are grouped according to type, each being numbered for quick and easy reference. The author has arranged the cancellations, both in the case of the above illustrations and in the tables which follow, in this approximate order;

Town-and-date stamps.

Provisional cancellations used during the first two weeks of 1849.

Paris cancellations, including town-and-date stamps, rollers, numerals, stars, railroad "lignes", clerks' handstamps, etc.

Special cancellations, including rural handstamps, palaces, expositions, National Assembly meetings, due marks, etc.

Railroads, including railway stations and courier-convoyeurs.

Foreign postmarks including British, Spanish, Italian, etc.

Military postmarks including "griffes," town-and-date stamps, camps, campaigns, etc.

Maritime postmarks including anchors, paquebots, etc.

Postage due stamps and their cancellations.

The illustrations are followed by a series of tables, each of which takes up the entire space afforded by two facing pages. These tables are arranged by issues. Here are listed the prices of the cancellations found on the various stamps. The tables are titled as follows:-

- Issue of 1849-50 and Issue of 1852 (Presidency)
- Issue of 1853-60 (Empire, imperforate)
- Issue of 1862 (Empire, perforated)
- Issue of 1863-70 (Emperor Laureate)
- Issue of 1870 (Siege of Paris)
- Issue of 1870-71 (Bordeaux)
- Issue of 1871-75 (Ceres)
- Issues of 1859-78 (Postage Dues)

The carefully constructed tables offer a wealth of information at a glance. For instance, the first table is titled:

"ISSUE OF 1849-50; PRESIDENCY"

Below the heading, the table is divided into vertical sections bearing headings as follows:-

- a) Postmark (a thumbnail sketch of the postmark)
- b) Type of Cachet (subdivisions: "off cover", "on cover.")
- c) Color

Then follow columns for the different stamps of the issue in which the prices for the various cancellations are noted both on and off cover. Spaces have been left for pencil notations in cases where a particular cancellation has not been seen up to the present time.

One of the most interesting sections of the work occurs directly after the table devoted to the stamps of the 1863-70 issue. It is the only part of the catalogue not arranged in tabular form. This consists of a short discussion of postmarks of the Franco-Prussian War, including an extremely interesting listing of covers bearing mixed frankings. This was necessitated in the case of letters exchanged between France and Alsace-Lorraine during the days between March 1871 and May 1872.

During this time double postage was required on these letters—first a payment to the French authorities, and, secondly a tax imposed by the German Government payable in stamps of the occupied territory of Alsace-Lorraine. The author divides this era into three periods. The first period (March 24, 1871 to August 31, 1871) when such letters were franked with a 20c French stamp and a 20c German occupation stamp; the second period (Sept. 1, 1871 to Dec. 31, 1871) when the French rate was raised to 25c, and the mixed franking consisted of the 25c French stamp together with the 20c German occupation stamp. During the third period, (Jan. 1, 1872 to May 15, 1872) the 25c French stamps are found in combination with the German eagle-type stamps, usually the 2 groschen. (Reviewer's note: I have seen this when the German stamp was 1 groschen.) The author tells us that mixed frankings are found after May 15th, the date when this regime ended.

A really new sidelight on the Franco-Prussian War postal history is included in this section. It appears that when no occupation stamps were available at the German end, letters from France to Alsace-Lorraine were stamped "20" in black or in blue. Sometimes, in addition to this "due" postmark, letters are found bearing a straight-line mark "TAXE ALLEMANDE" (German charge). This lasted until two months after the armistice.

The author is to be congratulated on having done an extremely difficult job exceptionally well. It is truly a most valuable asset for reference in the study of this tremendous field, the classification of the myriad experiments made by the French authorities in the search for the ideal "obliteration".

New Information On The Colonial 5c Ceres
By Robert G. Stone

The information given on this stamp in our note in the F & C Phil No. 31, Jan.-Feb. 1947, p.3, was based on early articles of Dr. Bouvet. His later work included in Dr. Locard's catalogue on the general issues (1944) have come to our hand only recently. Meanwhile our own

studies confirm the revisions which these authors have indicated. There were only five printings, rather than more as postulated heretofore. Moreover the copies on very deep blue paper, which even Scott catalogues as a variety, come from the first printing, not the fifth. The proper description of the printings is as follows:

1. May 27 '72 Bright green on deep turquoise paper.
Dark yellow green on clear greenish blue paper (dull impression).

(The two shades of this printing are quite definite when compared, and were even singled out by two non-specialist exhibitors at the Cipex last May--Dr. Bouvet does not recognize them.)

2. Apr. 21 '73 Yellow on bluish paper (azure).
(A most pleasing shade)
3. Mar. 16 '74 Clear Bluish-green on faintly tinted paper. (This print is the one most often seen, with vertically or horizontally lined backgrounds in the medallion, similar to that on various French stamps of the 1862 - 76 period)
4. May 10 '75 Yellow green on thin very pale greenish-blue paper.
(Shows most of the very worn defective impressions of the 5c)
5. Apr. ? '76 Yellow green on very pale greyish-blue paper.
Yellow green on whitish thin paper. (This is the shade and printing which has the occasional watermark "LA-CROIX FRERES" in the sheet, due to use of paper intended for French stamps)



Deep yellow green on pale yellowish thick paper.

There is an odd variety known that has gum on the face; and a variety having a thin line of green parallel and about a millimeter outside the frame of the stamp - the 1 and 2c Ceres also have this. The pin-perforated variety mentioned by old writers was made in Cochinchina, but as copies on cover are almost never seen it is not feasible to expertise it.

One must be prepared to find copies used very late, in the 1880's even, some of which apparently come from the earlier printings. The explanation for this was given in our article on "The Classic French Colonies" in American Philatelist for Sept. 1947.

THE NEW SERVICE.

Want or exchange notices only; members only; one or two insertions; 25 words or less; no charge. In replying, please offer only what is asked for.

Algeria wanted: 19th Century Numeral cancellations--Small, Nos. 3705 to 4448--Large, Nos. 5000 to 5169 -- on 19th Century France. Adrien Boutrelle, 205 W. 57 St., New York 19, N.Y. (Member 12).

Free French overprints on genuine covers, or cancelled on piece, wanted. State catalog number and Price. Everel Keyes, 14742 Center Av., Harvey, Illinois. (Member 246).

I need Zululand No. 12 or 12a on cover, alone or in multiples or in combination. Submit with price, please. S.G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2)

SECRETARY'S REPORT February 15 to March 15, 1948

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome ---

- 312 Cubells, Pierre A., 2, rue des Gravières, Soissons (Aisne) France (France and U.S. mint, only)
- 313 Sellmansberger, Frederick E., 101 West Lindburg St., Pittsburg, Kansas (Production Methods)
- 314 Van Deventer, Dan, R.R. 2, Perry, Iowa. (Martinique, used)

APPLICATIONS PENDING:

- Novotny, Edward Jr., 4371 W. 25th Place, Chicago 23, Ill.
Portmess, R. C., P.O. Box 115, Clayton, Ga.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: (please notify Secretary immediately when you move)

- 98 Hatfield, Jack, to 345 W. State St., Springfield 15, Ohio
156 Hoefer, Otto, to 236 Yale Ave., Fresno 4, Calif.
146 Peterson, E. N., to R.D. 2, Montgomery, Ala.

LOST MEMBER: (the Secretary will appreciate help in locating)

- 294 Miroff, Martin M., formerly at 701 East 84th St., Chicago 19, Ill.
(all mail has been returned)

DUES for 1948 are now payable. Bills have been mailed. Please make checks or postal notes payable (in U.S. funds) to "France and Colonies Group" and send to the secretary, Mrs. Helen A. Stringham, 35 Franklin Place, Montclair, N.J.

ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

As provided in the By-Laws, Article 4, annual meeting of the Group has been set by the Board of Directors for Thursday, May 6, 1948, 8 p.m. onwards, at The Collectors Club, New York, N.Y., (22 East 35 St.) in conjunction with meeting of the Parent Chapter held at same time and place.

No nominating committee has been set up, nor having any nominations been made prior to date of the Annual Meeting.

All members in good standing, resident and non-resident, are entitled to voice and vote.

BACK NUMBERS OF THE PHILATELIST:

A limited number of sets of all numbers of the Philatelist except No. 1 are still available. Any member may obtain information from the Secretary, Mrs. Helen A. Stringham, 35 Franklin Pl., Montclair, N.J., or may send her \$1.00 for each volume (six numbers) desired. Any single number may be had for 25 cents.

Wanted: Covers before 1900 with cancellations of the various International Expositions (all countries). Brainerd Kremer, 211 Glenridge Ave., Montclair, N.J. (Member 8).

What offer in trade for Monaco 1914 Card of April 1914 Rallye Aerien with Monaco Air Mail stamp Sanabria No. 301 tied by event postmark? John R. McGeem, 25 D Ridge Road, Greenbelt, Maryland. (Member 20).

Yes, I will buy almost any First Issue France stamp in fine condition. In sending, please give price for each item. Brainerd Kremer, 211 Glenridge Ave., Montclair, N.J. (Member 8).