

France & Colonies Philatelist



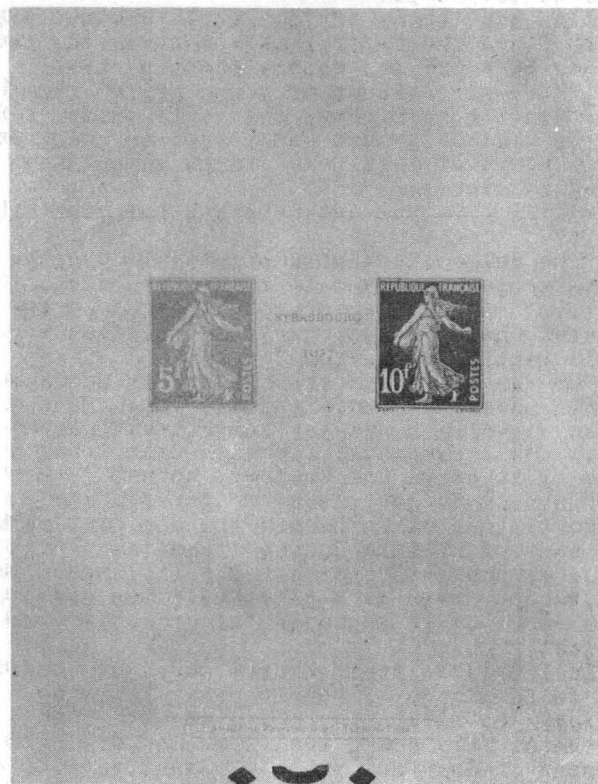
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The 1946 Corsica Arms 10c, with the variety "No C after 10" on northwest stamp of this block. Photo by Courtesy of Malden Chapter, France & Colonies Group.



The rare Imperforate Strasbourg Sheet. "Only forty-two copies known" says our member Charles B. Mills, in sending us this photo of his copy.

From
"Je Cherche"
1946
No. 1



Story
of the
Bourse
inside
this
number

The Stamp Bourse in Paris in 1860.

From a woodcut by Jules Germain, in
a paper of the time.

The Stamp Bourse in Paris in 1860.

By Paul G. Almsy, in "Je Cherche, No. 1, 1946.
(See front-page picture)

These young people, so queerly garbed, are our grandparents -- also philatelists. Butts of the jokesmiths of the time, laughed at by everyone, all the same they were devoted to their "mania" with admirable patience and ardor.

The custom of collecting stamps became known in Paris in 1858 or 1859. For the most part, the first collectors were children and juniors, who met daily in the Graden of the Tuileries. There the stamp bourse was born in 1861. Arthur Maury thus describes it:

"In the shade of the large chestnut trees, which lined the central mall, between the fenced flower beds and the square opening where two ancient-style statues of young girls faced an intersecting path, boys and girls daily formed little pleasant groups and passed to each other their books of duplicate stamps which they desired to exchange."

"I'll give you two Belgians for your Spanish."

"The collections were pleasantly enriched by types whose novelty made them attractive. Meanwhile, mothers and governesses, seated on the big covered chairs, supervised the childish trading while reading or sewing."

"On Thursdays and especially on Sundays, the little market was more active. High School and college students brought their liveliness -- and their small change. There also came young chaps working in banks and business houses from which it was easy to get plenty of foreign stamps. In a short time, sales became the dominant activity. The name of "Little Bourse" (meaning "little stock exchange" -- Editor F. & C. Phil.) was a happy one, though given as a joke. All the newspapers thus spoke of it whenever "timbromania" was the subject."

In 1864, the Stamp Bourse brought together two to four hundred people every Thursday and Sunday. Children now formed no more than half of these. This was a real free market, in which persons of doubtful probity also appeared. Many complaints were made, and a special policeman had to be on hand.

The keepers of the Gardens were glad to get an order not to admit these periodical meetings, which were an annoyance to them. Chased out of every corner of the Garden of the Tuileries to which they had betaken themselves, the collectors trekked to the Garden of the Luxembourg. In time, when they had become more numerous, this new market was again ousted by order, betook itself to various spots in the Champs Elysees, and finally to Marigny Square, behind the Guignol theatres.

French people stick to their ways --- maybe even a little too much. Since then, generation after generation, stamp people have all remained faithful to Marigny Square.

(We omit Mr. Almsy's several final remarks about need for better housing for the Bourse, out of the weather etc. -- Editor, F. & C. Phil.)

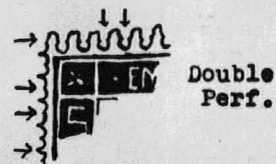
The 1948 Semi-Centennial of Clement Ader, great pioneer of aviation -- background is Ader's bat-like machine.

The name is pronounced "Adair", not "Aider" or "Ahder."



EXTRA !!

Unlisted Variety,
Unknown Till Now
of the
One Centime Empire 1862



The Perforate Empire Issue of 1862 was made by use of a comb perforating machine. This, of the sort then coming into use in several of the European countries, perforated one row of stamps across the sheet at each stroke, doing the top and sides of the row of stamps at one stroke.

The stamps were moved, and the next stroke of the machine perforated an adjacent row. Since top of one row of stamps is bottom of next row, the three-side work completes all four sides on every stamp.

Mr. Carl Stephenson, of the Group, has shown us the 1c 1862 with double perforation.

Top of stamp has extra deep holes, which have a "figure-eight" shape.

Bottom of stamp does not show the effect, as when torn out of sheet the deep holes were left on the stamp below and only short stubs of the perf. teeth remain on the bottom of this copy.

Sides of stamp show very small, very narrow teeth, between the holes. Every hole has its side in the figure-eight form, as a two-lobed indentation.

The stamp has town cancellation of Bagneres de Bigorre, but year date is not visible.

This is probably the first major variety of this stamp (or issue) discovered in many years. Search for any previous record of this variety, in handbooks and catalogs, has been entirely in vain. If ever previously reported in any stamp journal, in or out of France, the item has met with entire neglect by everyone.

1942 Bisect of 1 Franc Petain

Mrs. Monica Mellish, one of our new members, has shown your editor a cover of Aug. 1, 1942, sent within Paris, on which the 1.50f rate has been made up by a single and a bisect of the Petain 1f red (Scott No. 437). A vertical pair is used with the lower stamp diagonally bisected. Every point about the cover shows non-philatelic origin. The machine postmark, slogan, ties the stamp and a half perfectly across the bisection, across the perfs between the unsevered "pair" and elsewhere.

This may be a perfectly ordinary cover of an everyday regular usage. But is the first one we of the Group have seen.

As to Chronicling New Issues.

A few members have written in, suggesting to us the possibility of service by a chronicle of new issues in this journal. There are several good reasons why such a section has not been included and probably could not be included.

Appearing, as we do, only six times a year, new issues will in some cases have been given report in the stamp weeklies seven or eight weeks before we can do it. If we are delayed a week in appearing, or a month, it is worse. And with long arrearage such as existed in 1947, the usefulness of new issues reports becomes zero.

Therefore, our first editor, Dr. A. J. C. Vaurie, adopted the policy of referring all inquirers to several of the good stamp weeklies for any such service.

GleaningsAmong the Postmarks of Martinique.

By Robert G. Stone and Ralph Holtsizer.

The types of postmarks and a list of the post offices of Martinique were given by one of us in No. 1 of this magazine, Nov-Dec. 1941. At that time, the information to be had on the postmarks came from Langlois and Bourselet's well known book, "Les Obliterations des Bureaux de Postes des Colonies Francaises." (Amiens 1927). Since then the authors have uncovered many details not hitherto published, as well as some new types. In France too, Mr. Fregnac has made similar discoveries, and recently published an illustrated article on them in *Cahiers Philateliques*, No. 7. The following notes combine his information with ours. In this series we plan to cover the dated circular postmarks and auxiliary postal markings down to date. A study of the manuscript markings will appear elsewhere.

I. Straight Line Handstamps of the Pre-Adhesive Period, 1740-1859.

General Postmarks, undated, used on mail to foreign destinations. Presumably only at St. Pierre, but possibly also at Fort Royal (later called Fort de France).

All in black unless otherwise noted.
Exact reading given, even to punctuation.

LA MARTINIQUE

Roman capitals
4 x 57 mm.

.1784 to 1793. Very scarce.

(R. Lowe reports a letter from Martinique dated 1797, in second British occupation, handstamped MARTINIQUE in black. As style and size are not given, hence not known to us, we cannot list it here as a type nor say it is any type we list.)

MARTINIQUE

Roman capitals, modern outline, in octagon box. 4 x 41 mm for word; box 29 x 42 mm. Reported 1812; very probably a marking of the British occupation post office. Very rare.



MARTINIQUE.

MARTINIQUE. (Also without period).

Roman capitals, scant 4 mm. x 42 mm. including period. Q with "double foot" as pictured. Red 1814; black 1814-17. Probably introduced during British occupation, but kept in use after restoration to France 1816. Rare.

MARTINIQUE

Roman capitals, 4½ to 5 x 44 to 46 mm. 1816-1842. Common.

MARTINIQUE

MARTINIQUE. Roman caps, scant

4 mm x 44 mm. including period; box 8 x 51 mm. rounded ends. 1822-1842.

Period sometimes missing (or did not print when struck). Possibly a new device made in the 1830's as mark seems slightly shorter in later years. Scarce; rare before 1839.

MARTINIQUE.

MARTINIQUE

Roman shaded capitals 3 x 38 mm. Reported 1841 only. Very rare.

MARTINIQUE

Town Postmarks, undated, used on foreign and (rarely) domestic mail. Concurrent in time with the General Postmarks, and apparently having the same significance. No letters with both types on one are known to us.

All in black unless otherwise noted.
Exact reading given, even to punctuation.

St. PIERRE. and fleur-de-lys

Fleur-de-lys possibly struck separately?

St. PIERRE.

Roman capitals (lower case t). One example reported from around 170. The earliest Martinique marking. Very rare.

S T P I E R R E

Roman capitals; high small

S T P I E R R E

T. One example reported from 1775.

Very rare. Note spaced-out lettering.

S T P I E R R E

Roman capitals, high small
T. 1831. Rare.

S T P I E R R E

FORT-ROYAL.

Roman capitals, in box with rounded ends. In blue only. 1842-40? Very scarce.

FORT-ROYAL.

MARIN.

Roman capitals, in box with rounded ends. In blue only. 1846-51. Very scarce.

MARIN.

(TRINITE.

This has not yet been reported yet, but is likely to have existed: probably in box with rounded ends. Trinite was the only other post office in the period before 1849 in which the offices, all but this one, had a mark of this type.)

FRANCOIS.

Crude Roman capitals, in double-lined rectangle box. Dot over I. Ms. date accompanies it. 1849-51? Rare.

8. avril. 50.

FRANCOIS.

(Possibly Ajoupa Bouillon, Gros Morne and Petit Bourg also had some type of straight line mark between 1849 and the mid-1850's. Thus far only manuscript markings have been seen).

Ship-Letter Marks.• **ShipLre . MARTINIQUE**

In double oval, 30 x 40 mm. with crown in center.

(Lowe's Type SA of British "handstruck stamps" (sic!))

Reported 1801 and 1812. Probably used only 1800-01 and 1810-16, British occupation, as it is a British mark. Thus far found only on letters leaving Martinique for British countries via private vessel. This type of mark was introduced at several British



ports around 1799-1801, for use on letters arriving via private packets and deposited in the post office under the "Ship Letter Law" of 1799. Very rare. In black.

Auxiliary Marks:

Franchise.

Script upper and lower case, in rectangular box. 1844. Black. On official mail, prepaid or free. Very rare.

Franchise

(To be continued)

THE NEW SERVICE

Want or exchange notices; members only; one or two insertions only; no charge. Those replying will please offer only what is asked for here.

Reunion No. 201 needed by H.R. Bieber, 648 N. 11th St., Reading, Penna. (Member No. 77).

French Colonials for exchange with any member who will contact me. Benjamin Wyche, Box 1960, Winston-Salem, N.C. (Member No. 299).

Exchange for stamps of France with any member, medium collector; all countries, basis Scott or de Brimont, all countries; have many duplicates. Especially want Merson Type, France Nos. 126, 132, used. Monica Mellish, 407 W. Magnolia Ave., Centralia, Wash. (Member No. 290).

I wish to buy a small French collection. Submit with lowest price. Rudolph Rager, 821 Woodland Ave., Valley City, N. Dak. (Member No. 304).

Will exchange for French stamps, good quality foreign. Rudolph Rager, 821 Woodland Ave., Valley City, N. Dak. (Member No. 304).

I have some fakes of early issues and some Anchor cancellations. Want to exchange? Musy, Box 47 Planetarium Station, New York 24, N.Y. (Member No. 16).

1931 Arc de Triomphe Double Transfers

Our member Mr. Carl Stephenson has shown the editor what may turn out to be the varieties for which many have sought. Two copies of Scott No. 263 submitted by him, both used, show the right hand border line doubled. On one, this line is only partly doubled; at each end and at middle. Right hand edge of tablet of value, part of R (of FR) and left edge of 2 are doubled.

The other one is more completely doubled. The right hand frame border

The other one shows more complete doublings. The right hand frame line, the right hand border of tablet of value, and outlines of characters 2 FR, all show doubling hardly needing a glass to see. The wording at bottom is doubled on the words TRIOMPHE and F. BIVEL DEL.

Displacement is to right in both doublings.

By courtesy of The Airpost Journal, we show the new 1948 Air Mail stamps of New Caledonia and French Oceania. There are other values and some other designs, but these four are typical.

SECRETARY'S REPORT May 1 to June 15, 1948.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome ---

- 321 Baughman, R.W., 155 East 51st St., Long Beach 5, Calif. (French Colonies)
- 322 Connelly, W.J., Harris Ave., R.D. 1, Bound Brook, New Jersey. (French Colonies in Africa).
- 323 Gilbert, Raymond H., 105 Maple Av., Glenbrook, Conn. (France 1849-76)
- 324 Habib, Jacob, 1407 Sheridan Ave., New York 56, N.Y. (France).

APPLICATION PENDING:

Feneberg, Arnold C., 302 West Loudon St., Philadelphia 20, Pa. (France, Colonies)

RESIGNATION ACCEPTED:

284 Crounse, Mrs. A.R., Minneapolis, Minn.

RESIGNATION PENDING:

242 Hedley, R.P., Buffalo, N.Y.

CHANGES AND CORRECTION OF ADDRESS:

- 316 Fernald, Alan R., 71 Washington Square, New York 12, N.Y. (House number wrong in last report).
- 204 Seed, Allen H., Jr., to 932 Northwestern Bank Bldg., Minneapolis 2, Minn.
- 264 Vooy, Daniel W., to c/o Philatelic Literature Review, P.O. Box 300, Canajoharie, N.Y.

MEETINGS of the Parent Chapter, New York, N.Y.:

No meetings are scheduled for the New York members until September. The room at the Collectors Club will be open for those members who wish to gather informally on the regular meeting nights, the first Thursday of each month.

PHILADELPHIA AREA MEMBERS:

All members living in or near Philadelphia are asked to contact Mr. H. Thomas Davenport, 2000 East Madison St., Philadelphia 24, Pa., member No. 315, in order that we may form a chapter of the Group in Philadelphia. Please write now.

THANKS

to those members who have returned their unneeded supplementary sheets on the Numeral Cancellations.

Pages 2, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 23 are still needed.

Postage will be refunded.

Happy Vacation.

