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"Free French" Stamps of the Cameroons

NOTES ON "FREE FRENCH" CAMEROONS
 by E.F.Hurt(63), Harpenden, England

"FALLS" Varieties:---

The figure 2. Five types.

2 2 2 2 2

Normal Antique Narrow Roman Closed

The figure 8. Three types

8 8 8 8

Wide Wide Narrow Wide
 Small Large Broken

The figure 4. Four types.

4 4 4 4

Normal Closed Normal Narrow
"A" "B"

The figure 7. Three types.

7 7 7

Normal Fancy Fancy
 I II

"RUBBER TAPPING" Varieties:---

The figure 2. All as in " Falls " stamps.

The figure 4. Three types as in " Falls " stamps; in place of closed numeral, a smaller 4 (Stamp No. 24).

The figure 7. All as in " Falls " stamps

The figure 8. Wide small, wide large, and narrow only.

"ELEPHANTS" Varieties:---

The figure 4.

4 4

Normal Closed

The wording.

FRANGAIS CAM

Hyphens.

Normal
Thick

Recumbent I **—**
 Oval stop & hyphen **..**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J		
2	2	2	2	2	7	7	7	8	8		
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
8	4	4	0	0	0	4	4	4	5	5	5

(See note at end of article)

A fair amount of mail bearing these stamps has been received by commercial houses in London and used covers and pieces appear from time to time in London auctions. These are chiefly franked with the higher values, having come through on registered packets and airmails.

The "Libre France" overprints on these stamps present some interesting varieties as there was an undoubted shortage of type locally to make up the necessary settings for overprinting the sheets. These varieties are as follows:-

2 Fr. (Native). No. 31, thick & thin hyphens in date. No. 32, capital letter "I" on its side in place of hyphen between 8 and 40. No. 36, two thick hyphens in date. No. 37, both hyphens are thin (normal) but second is dropped. No. 41, oval full stop between 27 and 8. In top row two adjoining stamps show (i) both hyphens thick (ii) FRANGAIS with thick and thin hyphens. In the last two rows a block of four can be had with upper left stamp showing closed 4 from a different fount; upper right, two very short hyphens; lower left, a Roman 4; lower right, two very short hyphens.

3 Fr. (Native). Pair in top row with FRANG and thick & thin hyphen varieties. No. 41 as in 2 fr. Block of four from bottom row showing - upper left, broken A in FRA; upper right, defective A in CAM; lower left, Roman 4. Nos. 31, 32, 36, 37, as for 2 fr.

4 Fr. (Native). No. 41 as for 2 fr. Block of four from two bottom rows - left top, both hyphens thick; right top, broken A in FRA; lower left thick & thin hyphens; lower right, Roman 4. A second block of four from two lower rows - upper left, thick & thin hyphens; upper right "recumbent" "I" for second hyphen; lower left two thick hyphens; lower right second hyphen dropped.

10 Fr. (Native). Pair in top row - left, second hyphen raised; right FRANG. No. 41 as for 2 fr. Block of four from two last rows with varieties as for last piece described under 4 fr. Block of four from two lower rows - upper left, broken A in FRA; upper right 40 joined and defective A in CAM; lower left Roman 4; lower right closed 4 (different fount).

15 Fr. (Native). No. 41 as for 2 fr. Pair in top row as for 10 fr. Block of four from two lower rows as for 10 fr. (recumbent "I" etc.) Block of four from two lower rows - upper left, broken A in FRA; upper right, broken A in FRA, and very short hyphens; lower left Roman 4; lower right 4 and 0 very close together.

25c (Falls) 45c (Falls) 70c (Falls). The settings are identical for the overprints on these values and the following varieties of figures in the date appear: Figure 2, five types; fig. 7, three types; fig. 8, three types; fig. 4, four types; fig. 0, three types. The varieties occur as follows: No. 1, closed 2; No. 2, narrow 8; No. 3, closed 2, variety 7, closed 4, narrow 0; No. 11, small & large stops, antique 4; No. 12, closed 2, narrow 8, deformed 0; No. 13, antique 2, narrow 8; No. 14, antique 2, narrow 8, square stops, broken 0; No. 21, narrow 2, fancy 7, dropped stop, broken B for R in FRA, antique 4, narrow 0; No. 22, antique 2, fancy 7, small 4, narrow 0; No. 23, narrow 8, closed 4, 0 for 0; No. 24, antique 2; No. 15, comma after "27", narrow 8; No. 16, fancy 7; No. 37, Roman 2, small first stop, broken 0; No. 38, small E in CAMER, fancy 7.

50c (Tapping rubber). A vertical strip, in two rows, of five each, including lower margin can be had, showing the following varieties:-

small A in CAM, deformed 4, wide M., large and small stop and the following varieties of type of figures: fancy 7, three times (Nos. 3, 4, 7, on right hand pane of 25); antique 2 (on No. 4), broken 2, closed 2, large 8 (on Nos. 18, 19, 24).

90c (Elephants). Block of 4 from left hand margin - upper left, raised second hyphen, closed 4; lower left, short hyphens; upper right, broken A in CAM. Second 4-block from left margin - left upper, thick hyphens, second dropped-right upper, thick & thin hyphen, first dropped; right lower, both hyphens are reclining letters "I". No. 6, broken B for R in FRA, small 8.

1 Fr. 25 (Elephants). No. 1 stop for hyphen. No. 6, broken B for R in FRA. Left margin 4 - block - upper left, closed 4, raised hyphen; upper right, broken A in CAM. Second left hand 4, block - upper left, thick hyphens, 2nd dropped; upper right, thick & thin hyphens, 1st dropped; lower right, reclining letters "I" for hyphens. Left margin vertical pair - upper second hyphen raised; lower FRANGAIS, first hyphen raised. No. 1, stop for hyphen. No. 6, broken B for R.

1 Fr. 40 (Elephants), 1 Fr. 50 (Elephants), 1 Fr. 60 (ditto), 1 Fr. 75 (ditto), 2 Fr. 25 (ditto), 2 Fr. 50 (ditto), same varieties as for above.

Note the overprint on the Elephant series is the same as that used for the Native series except that the sheets were overprinted vertically on account of the format of the stamps. There does, however, appear to have been one or two cases in the overprinting of both series where the type has been loose in the form & dropped out to be replaced by other type and, in other cases, it has shifted, altering the spaces. This is probably due to native labour. The stock of type seems to have been strained to its utmost.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since receiving Mr. Hurt's interesting and timely "Notes," an article by H. G. Porter has come to our attention, published in "STAMP COLLECTING", Blackfriars Press, Gloucester, England, for Oct. 4, 1941, Vol. LVII, No. 3. Mr. Porter's plating seems to vary from Mr. Hurt in the only item we could check (50 c "Tapping Rubber"). According to Mr. Porter "There was evidently a second printing of this value..." and there are "...at least six settings of the type for the overprinting..." In order to assist our readers we print, along with Mr. Hurt's, Mr. Porter's illustration of the type varieties as taken from "STAMP COLLECTING." We would like to suggest to our readers that there is still a lot to learn and that they should study all of the multiple pieces that fall into their hands.

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The following commemoratives were issued:
1. Noel 1941, France Libre, F.N.F.L. (Red surcharge)
0 fr. 10-1,725 copies; 0 fr. 20-1,800; 0.25-1525;
0 fr. 40-1,600; 0 fr. 45-1,510; 0 fr. 65-1,500;
0 fr. 70-1,510; 0 fr. 80-1,500; 0 fr. 90-1,500;
1 fr. 00-1,500; 1 fr. 25-1,500; 1 fr. 40-1,550;
1 fr. 60-1,500; 1 fr. 75-1,315; 2 fr. 00-1,500;
2 fr. 25-1,500; 2 fr. 50-1,500; 3 fr. 00-1,500;
10 fr. on 0.10-1,500; 20 fr. on 0.90-1,500.

2. Noel 1941, France Libre, F.N.F.L. (Black surcharge)
500 of each of above values, except 1.75 of which only 300 were printed.

The compositions used in printing were destroyed.

Saint-Pierre, le 31 décembre 1941
L'Administrateur, A. SAVARY

- 87 - LANNEN, R.L., 2224 Minnesota Ave. S.E. Wash. D.C. (F. & F. Revenues or anything F not listed in Scott.)
- 88 - LABAT, Yvan, 156 Manhattan Ave., New York (F. & Colonies, Used and Unused)
- 89 - MORRIS, Stanley N., 650 No. Lorel Ave. Chicago, Ill. (France 1849 to date)
- 90 - SEGNETZ, Paul H., 2519 E. Wood Pl., Milwaukee, Wisc. (F. special usages, scarce cancellations, Col. general issues only)
- 91 - KNAUER, Lloyd, 643 High St., Pottstown, Pa. (France, shades and all variations)
- 92 - BRECKENRIDGE, R.W., 21899 Parnell Rd. Shaker Heights, Ohio (F. & Col. 19th cent. U. & Un. - 20th cent. Un. & Free French)
- 93 - BAUDRY, Paul, 110-07 73rd Rd., Forest Hills, N.Y. (F. especially imperf. very fine condition. Exch.)
- 94 - BULL, D.M., 53 Magnolia Ave. Garden City, N. York (France. Exch.)

Elections of club officers were held at our April meeting, the following being elected unanimously:

Honorary Chairman : Mr. GERARD GILBERT (50)
 President : Mr. STEPHEN G. RICH (2)
 Vice-President : Mr. RAOUL LESGOR (1)
 Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. A.J.C. VAURIE (17)

Dr. Vaurie continues as Editor, FRANCE COLONIES PHILATELIST (and hereby wishes to thank "Steve" Rich for his great help and many valuable constructive criticisms).

At the May meeting we had the pleasure to have as our speaker Mr. Dave Bull (94). Mr. Bull showed a large and interesting collection of France. The collection is especially well illustrated by very fine diagrams and much original study has been devoted to the "Semeuse" & "Peace" types.

Stamps May 23, 1942

Camerouns—The information below is translated from a letter just received from the head of the Cameroun postal service. The figures regarding quantities of over printed stamps and the first days of sale are official. They are copied from the aforementioned official's letter, which is dated February 4, 1942.

Free French Cameroun Overprints—1939 stamps overprinted CAMEROUN FRANCAIS 27-8-40 in red or black:

Value	Color of Overprint	Quantity Printed
2c	red	99,850
3c	black	49,650
4c	red	99,400
5c	black	26,950
10c	red	199,400
15c	black	47,950
20c	red	14,800
25c	black	100,000
30c	black	15,000
40c	black	40,000
45c	black	50,000
60c	black	30,000
70c	black	50,000
80c	red	29,950
90c	red	300,000
1.25fr	black	59,950
1.40fr	black	34,950
1.50fr	black	60,000
1.60fr	red	50,000
1.75fr	red	59,900
2.25fr	red	60,000
2.50fr	black	59,950
5fr	black	15,000
10fr	black	8,500
20fr	black	5,000

1925-1927 stamps overprinted as above, all overprinted in black:
 50c 450,000 copies overprinted
 5fr 20,000 copies overprinted
 10fr 15,000 copies overprinted
 20fr 12,500 copies overprinted.

1939 New York Fair stamps overprinted as above, all overprinted in black:

25,000 copies each of 1.25 and 2.25 fr stamps overprinted.

The 1939 pictorial, 1925-1927 regular and 1939 New York Fair stamps overprinted CAMEROUN FRANCAIS 27-8-40 were placed on sale at various dates ranging from October 2 to October 26, 1940, as occasion demanded.

Various 1925-1927 stamps overprinted OEUVRES DE GUERRE and surcharged surtaxes as follows:

1.25 fr brown and blue plus 2fr, 10,000 copies overprinted; 1.75fr brown and orange plus 3fr, 10,000 copies overprinted; 2fr green and orange plus 5fr, 10,000 copies overprinted.

This series placed on sale on October 21, 1940.

1939 pictorial stamps overprinted SPITFIRE and surcharged 5fr surtax on the 25c, 45c, 60c, and 70c values; 4,000 copies of each value overprinted.

Placed on sale November 28, 1940.

1939 New York Fair stamps overprinted SPITFIRE GENERAL DE GAULLE and surcharged 10fr surtax; 5,000 copies of 1.25 and 2.25fr stamps overprinted. Placed on sale February 24, 1941.

1939 New York Fair stamps overprinted AMBULANCE LAQUINTINE and surcharged 10fr surtax; 10,000 copies of 1.25 and 2.25fr stamps overprinted. Placed on sale June 3, 1941.

Courtesy of "STAMPS" and Ben Hamilton, Jr.

A ministerial decree of May 6, 1892, ordered all colonial postmasters to overprint stamps of the general colonies issues on hand with the name of the colony. This was to prevent traffic in stamps which had been profitably carried on due to differences in currency in the various colonies. In Cochin China, for instance, where the currency was silver, the fluctuation of the Mexican dollar might make 1,000 francs go as far as 1,300 francs in New Caledonia or some other colony which used French currency. Speculators bought stamps in the colonies where the values were low and resold them under face but still at a profit for use in other colonies.

On June 24, 1892, the governor of New Caledonia issued a decree providing that the stamps shall be handed over by the Treasury Paymaster and the Accountant-Receiver of Posts to a committee appointed to superintend the work of printing. This edict apparently was not taken seriously, for the stamps were overprinted as needed.

The first handstamp provided was of copper and didn't hold up under pressure, the top of the final E of Caledonie finally collapsing. M. de Rouvray, then postmaster at Nouméa, had a firm in Sydney, Australia, make another stamp of steel. Thus two distinct types were created, quite similar but readily identifiable after the distinguishing point is known. Type I, from the copper stamp, nearly always has the final E crushed at the top, while Type II retained a clear impression to the last.

Should a copy be found that was struck with Type I before it broke down, the length of the middle horizontal bar of the E will provide easy identification.

Type II was used rather promiscuously by the postal employees and as late as 1914 was still in the Nouméa office. For this reason, no definite quantities overprinted can be listed. In Yvert Type I has a catalogue value about three times that of Type II, but I have found the ratio of scarcity to be much higher than that.

The following denominations are known to exist in Type I: imperforate--4c, 20c, 35c, 40c, and 1 fr; perforate--5c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c yellow, 25c black on rose, 30c, 35c, 75c, and 1 fr.

Type II exists in all these and in addition: imperforate--1c, 2c, and 75c; perforate--1c, 2c, 4c, and 40c. As is to be suspected when hand-stamping occurs, all values are to be found with overprint inverted, double or horizontal and a number of them in pairs, one without surcharge. I have never seen a variety in Type I, although they may exist.

It is believed that the 1c and 2c imperforate, and possibly the 1c, 2c, and 4c perforate, were surreptitiously overprinted long after the issue became obsolete. Really dangerous forgeries of all values exist.

November, 1892, brought the first definite stamps for New Caledonia, the "Peace and Commerce" type printed from the key plate as used for all the colonies with the name of the colony struck in by a second impression. Designed by Alphée Dubois, and engraved by Louchon.

Varieties are few: the 20c and 75c with background tint on the back of the stamp; 10c and 15c without S in Dependances; 50c with legend inverted (at the top of the stamp) and minor varieties due to defective impression.

(To be continued)

E E
 Type I Type 2

SAINT PIERRE AND MIQUELON

We are pleased to present the official figures of printings for the Free French surcharges and overprints for Saint Pierre & Miquelon. The exact text of the "Journal Officiel" is given.

JOURNAL OFFICIEL DES ILES SAINT-PIERRE ET MIQUELON
Pgs. 112, 113, 114, 115 77 Année No. 2 15 et 28 Février 1942

TERRITOIRE DES ILES SAINT-PIERRE ET MIQUELON

SERVICE DES POSTES

A la suite du ralliement des Iles Saint-Pierre et Miquelon à la France Libre, la totalité de l'existant des timbres postes au 1^{er} janvier 1942 a été surchargé comme suit: (Trans: Following the rallying of the Islands of Saint Pierre & Miquelon to Free France, all the existing postage stamps on Jan. 1, 1942, were surcharged as follows:)

1^o France Libre, F.N.F.L.:

Emission 1920

0 fr.10 - 154 copies
0 fr.30 - 276
0 fr.20(colis) - 240

Emission 1932

0 fr.02 - 482 copies
0 fr.04 - 1,611
0 fr.05 - 306
0 fr.20 - 787
0 fr.40 - 35,060
0 fr.45 - 747
0 fr.50 - 16,775
0 fr.65 - 2,805
0 fr.75 - 12,647
1 fr.00 - 397
1 fr.25 - 22,825
1 fr.50 - 516
1 fr.75 - 17,750
2 fr.00 - 8,338
5 fr.00 - 483
5 fr.00 on 1.75 - 9,900
10 fr.00 on 1.25 - 4,000
20 fr.00 on 0.75 - 4,000

Emission 1938

0 fr.02 - 289 copies
0 fr.03 - 495
0 fr.04 - 842
0 fr.05 - 208
0 fr.10 - 47,300
0 fr.15 - 129
0 fr.20 - 625
0 fr.25 - 46,482
0 fr.35 - 185
0 fr.40 - 21,200
0 fr.45 - 22,500
0 fr.55 - 45
0 fr.60 - 235
0 fr.65 - 14,606
0 fr.70 - 2,974
0 fr.80 - 259
0 fr.90 - 86,398
1 fr.00 - 13,625
1 fr.25 - 17,000
1 fr.40 - 23,300
1 fr.50 - 200
1 fr.60 - 22,654
2 fr.00 - 1,510
2 fr.25 - 17,350
2 fr.50 - 13,205
3 fr.00 - 27
5 fr.00 - 100
20 fr.00 - 179

Emission 1938 (cont.)

0 fr.20 on 0.10 - 17,000 copies
0 fr.30 on 0.10 - 30,000
0 fr.60 on 0.90 - 22,000
1 fr.50 on 0.90 - 35,000
2 fr.50 on 0.10 - 9,950
10 fr.00 on 0.10 - 4,000
20 fr.00 on 0.90 - 4,000

Oeuvres Sociales

1 fr.00 0.50 - 7,000 copies
2 fr.50 1.00 - 7,000

Exposition N. Y.

1 fr.25 - 17,120 copies
2 fr.25 - 20,475
2 fr.50 on 1.25 - 14,907
3 fr.00 on 2.25 - 14,918

Emission 1932 - Chiffres Taxes

0 fr.25 - 735 copies
0 fr.30 - 789
0 fr.50 - 216
2 fr.00 - 3,299
3 fr.00 on 2.00 - 3,000

sans F.N.F.L.

3 fr.00 on 2.00 - 9,500

France Libre, F.N.F.L. - Chiffres Taxes

0 fr.05 - 3,840 copies
0 fr.10 - 5,313
0 fr.15 - 5,916
0 fr.20 - 5,876
0 fr.30 - 5,515
0 fr.50 - 5,990
0 fr.60 - 4,848
1 fr.00 - 4,960
2 fr.00 - 6,029
3 fr.00 - 811

2^o Noel 1941, F.N.F.L.:

Emission 1938 - Chiffres Taxes

0 fr.05 - 2,000 copies
0 fr.10 - 2,000
0 fr.15 - 2,000
0 fr.20 - 2,000
0 fr.30 - 2,000
0 fr.50 - 2,000
0 fr.60 - 2,000
1 fr.00 - 2,000
2 fr.00 - 2,000
3 fr.00 - 2,000

A la suite de ces surcharges la valeur de l'existant était de 1,090,300 fr.34. Les compositions ayant servi à l'impression ont été détruites. (Trans: Following these surcharges the (face) value of all existing stamps was 1,090,300 fr. 34. All the compositions used in the printing were destroyed).

Saint-Pierre, le 27 février 1942.

L'Administrateur,
A. SAVARY