

# France & Colonies Philatelist



Published bi-monthly by the France and Colonies Group

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## 1861 U.S. Cover to France with French Usage and Interesting Markings.

The cover here pictured was lot No. 154 in the July 6th sale by Sylvester Colby, held at the National Philatelic Museum, Philadelphia, Pa. In its interest as a striking U.S. cover, the fact that it shows well certain incoming mail usages in France might be overlooked.

The rate to France was 15 cents for quarter ounce at that period. This item was heavier, so due postage was required.

The cover is evidently the work of a French sender, in New York. The writing looks French, and the way "Per "Asia"" is placed in the right upper corner, the stamps at the left upper corner, are found quite often on French covers in this period.

The New York postmark in black shows a quite usual carelessness of the day: use of the 6 rate mark town mark without regard to the actual 15 cents in stamps. The black grid to cancel both stamps and struck again on the cover is typical for foreign mail out of New York-- the extra use of it off the stamp is the sign used for ship letters outgoing. (Compare the special town mark

with grid in it found on letters to the Pacific Coast, from New York at this period).

The "Asia" was a British ship. of the Cunard line. Arrived in England, the letter was noted as over weight and marked with "Short Paid" in box, in red. It then was sent on to France, via Calais.

Here it received in red the double circle of the Calais receiving service, reading:

ETATS UNIS SERVBR. A.C.A. CALAIS.

which Chase & Beaufond report for this period, as belonging to the Calais to Paris R.P.O. The red mark seems unusual, as it is reported only in black.

Backstamp is Paris in black.

The "16", in script figures on front is not a manuscript mark but handstamped. We take this for a 16-decime mark, because the due rate for letters insufficiently paid, coming into France from England was 1f 60c, as shown on the well-known boxed due mark of the period.

Your editor saw this cover and examined the various markings. The British "Short Paid" mark is definitely over the New York, not under it--and the ink of the grid matches that of the New York 6 town mark.

Because of its features as a U.S. cover, this item was run up high by bidders, coming close to the \$400 mark ere it was knocked down. The date is very early for the 5c stamp in red brown--of which the earliest date hitherto known had been July 13, 1861. All this despite the fact that it is the outside ply only, of a folded letter.

#### Something New : French First Day Postmarks.

France has broken with immemorial usage and has issued the covers of the Famous Men series at the birthplace of each, with the cancellation 30 mm. single circle reading "Premier Jour" at top, place at bottom, and straight across center the man's name; date in two lines below the name.

Thus far we have received:

Delacroix, June 2 1951, from Saint Maurice, (illustrated).

de Musset, June 2 1951, from Paris.

Gay Lussac, June 2 1951, from St. Leonard de Noblat (Hautex Vienne).

Talleyrand-Perigord, June 2, 1951, from Paris

As this is written we expect to see:

Surcouf, Presumably from St. Malo.

Napoleon I, probably for Ajaccio (Corsica) and most likely somewhat delayed in arrival.

---Raoul Lesgor

#### Appointive Officers of the Group

President Fernald has made the following appointments, effective as of publication:

Mr. Edmond Queyroy, Librarian. Will members please send Mr. Queyroy any periodicals, brochures, books, which may be of value for preservation for the use of the Group.

Mr. S.G. Rich, Contest and Exhibit Chairman. He will handle the work of the Group 20th Century Contest and the Group's cooperation with the Philatelic Museum for the January 1952 20th Century French Show and any other stamp shows in which the Group may cooperate.

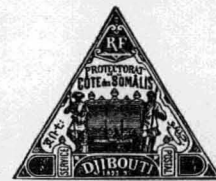
#### Obock and Somali Coast (Continuation)

By Edmond Queyroy

In June 1894 a definitive set of 15 stamps, large pictorials, Scott Nos. 6 to 22 appeared, all imperforate. The low value rectangulars show a view of Djibouti; the triangular 5 francs shows a French gunboat; and the lozenge type 25 and 50 francs show a caravan of camels crossing the desert. These two last values served as revenue stamps also. The inscriptions on the stamps include both "Protectorat Cote des Somalis" and Djibouti. For this reason older, and British catalogs still, list the country as "Djibouti", but have not ever spelled the port name the English way, "Jibuti," as is done in seafaring circles.

These stamps are imperforate, made by the Government Stamp Works at Paris. All have the perforation-like border line around the design.

In 1899 the 4 centimes was surcharged 0.40, for a new rate. 15,000 copies were made. These stamps were not sold to the public uncanceled. Only two sheets, 24 stamps, have thus far been found without cancellation. On 1900 the 40c in the regular large pictorial design replaced it; and in 1902 the 5c appeared in new colors, yellow green and green on quadrille-printed paper.



0.40

5 centimes

5 centimes

DJIBOUTI

This paper is not made watermarked with quadrille lines, but has them printed onto it in clear varnish.

From Jan. 4 into February 1902, various stamps of Obock and Somali Coast were surcharged to provide for shortages:

#### On Somali Coast:

0.05 on 75c, Scott 24...18660 copies  
0.10 on 1f, Scott 25...8000 copies  
0.40 on 2f, Scott 26...2330 copies  
0.75 on 5f, Scott 27...1600 copies

#### On Obock:

0.75 on 5f, Scott 27B...436 copies

Shortages continued, so that on April 15, 1902 we had further overprinted revaluings: all for 5c and 10c rates.

#### On Somali Coast:

5c on 40c, Scott 28..quantity unknown  
10c on 40c, Scott 29..quantity unknown

#### On Obock:

5c on 30c, Scott 30..quantity unknown  
10c on 25c in read, Scott 31.....  
quantity unknown  
10c on 10c, Scott 32..quantity unknown  
10c on 2f, Scott 33..quantity unknown  
10c on 25c in black, Scott 33D,  
20 copies

5c on 25f, Scott 33E..quantity unknown  
5c on 50f, Scott 33F..quantity unknown



All the attractive stamps issued from 1894 to 1902 were absorbed far more by the great demand from collectors than in actual use in the colony.

In August 1902 the administration issued a new pictorial set, in three attractive designs by Paul Marwart. These were line-engraved by Benjamin Damman, and plate-printed in Paris. These are bicolored jobs. In 1903 the whole set reappeared with black centers instead of various colors. The Scott catalog gives the subjects. Both the 1902 and 1903 issues were withdrawn on Feb. 12 1910, and the entire supply at Djibouti



1902 and 1903



1909



incinerated on that day. The entire supply at Paris was likewise burned at about that date.

In November 1909 they had been replaced by new designs with the same subjects, but all of large, uniform size. Paul Marwart again designed them, but J. Paylat did the engraving, this time for letterpress printing instead of plate printing. These 1909 stamps were withdrawn July 1, 1915.

(To be concluded)

#### Lebanon Twice-Surcharged Variety

Our member, Dr. D. H. Wells, has shown your editor two copies of Lebanon No. 94, the doubly surcharged 1928 10 piastre stamp. These show an interesting variation in the relative position of the two surchargings. One copy shows the Arabic surcharge placed so that the two double bars from the two surchargings are 1/2 mm. apart and the Arabic wording is 2 mm. from the upper of the double bars to its lowest vowel-dot. The other shows this surcharge placed so that the two double bars are 2 mm. apart and the upper of them is overrun by the vowel dots of the Arabic inscription.

It may not be clear to many collectors that these stamps are twice surcharged; yet the catalog listings leave no doubt on this. The 1928 issue is headed "Stamps of 1927 Overprinted" and the 1927 stamps are the Republic surcharge on the "Grand Liban" 1925 series.

Without seeing part or whole sheets, there is no way to determine whether this variation is caused by variation in placement of the one or the other surcharge within the sheet, or by the accident of how far variation in the centering of the stamps caused differing placement when surcharged either time. Well may we hazard the guess, based on the differing spacings on the Transvaal 1893 surchargings and other similar cases, that the form of type was set up with the subjects at different spacings between successive rows so that every subject would be likely to be sure to print on the stamp and not on its edge.

#### Richelieu Bobs Up Again and Again

The proverbial short memory of stamp people has let the Richelieu Air Mail fake, made in New York on the 1.50f Pétain stamp of Francem come on sale again as if it were a legitimate stamp. We cannot be too emphatic that this is a fake, of the crudest and rawest nature. See our discussion in No. 21, May-June 1945.

#### Domestic Single Letter Rates of Metropolitan France

Jan. 1 1849 to Jan. 6 1949

Compiled by Count T.M.de Pierredon.  
Translated by Charles Bretagne.

Date of start of rate	For letters of weight	When stamped	When stampless.
Ja.1 1849	7 gr.	10c (1)(2)	10c (2)
Ja.1 1849	15 gr.	15c (3)(6)	15c (6)
Ja.1 1849	7 1-2 gr.	20c (4)	20c (4)
Jy.1 1850	7 1-2 gr.	25c (4)	25c (4)
Jy.1 1853	15 gr.	10c (5)	10c (6)
Jy.1 1854	7 1-2 gr.	20c (4)	30c (4)
Ja.1 1862	10 gr.	20c (4)	30c (4)
Ja.1 1863	10 gr.	10c (5)	15c (6)
Ja.1 1863	10 gr.	10c (2)	15c (2)
Se.1 1871	10 gr.	15c (7)	25c (7)
Se.1 1871	10 gr.	25c (4)	40c (4)
Se.1 1871	15 gr.	15c (5)	25c (6)
Ja.1 1876	15 gr.	25c (4)	40c (4)
My.1 1878	15 gr.	15c (4)	30c (4)

#### Uniform National Rates from April 16, 1906

Ap.16 1906	15 gr.	10c	(8)
My.1 1910	20 gr.	10c	
Ja.1 1917	20 gr.	15c	
Ap.1 1920	20 gr.	25c	
Jy.17 1925	20 gr.	30c	
My.1 1926	20 gr.	40c	
Au.9 1926	20 gr.	50c	
Jy.12 1927	20 gr.	65c	
No.17 1938	20 gr.	90c	
De.1 1939	20 gr.	1f.	
Ja.5 1942	20 gr.	1f.50c	
Mr.1 1945	20 gr.	2f.	
Ja.1 1946	20 gr.	3f.	
Ja.1 1947	20 gr.	5f.	
Ja.2 1947	20 gr.	4f.50c	
Jy.8 1947	20 gr.	6f.	
Se.21 1948	20 gr.	10f.	
Ja.6 1949	20 gr.	15f.	

- (1)----- From Sept.12 1850.
- (2)----- Local and within a community.
- (3)----- From July 23 1850.
- (4)----- National rate.
- (5)----- Within Paris only.
- (6)----- Paris and suburbs.
- (7)----- Local only.
- (8)----- In all this period, if a letter is sent unpaid, the due postage is twice the normal for the same piece prepaid. Thus, an unpaid piece on Jan. 1 1942 would be charged 3 francs--the rate of 1.50f doubled.

#### Stephenson's Article on Sower Type Stamps

An illuminating study on France stamps of the Sower Type, by our member Carl Stephenson, was published in the Collectors Club Philatelist of September 1950. In a first-hand study of the varieties listed for three of the lower values, enlarged photographs show how these varieties do actually intergrade, or actually occur in set-tenant position on electro plates made from one die only.

The plain fact brought out is that study of insufficient material by the pioneers has led to uncritical reporting of varieties happening to be concomitant with major differences on a few copies, as stigmata for major separations.

Catalog-makers please notice.

### The 20th Century Contest

With this number of the Philatelist, every member receives an entry blank for the Group's Competition for Philatelic Prizes, established by Mr. Raoul Lesgor, and of which full announcement was made in the May-June 1950 and November-December 1950 numbers of this publication.

Please note the changes which were made in order to make this competition a portion of the 20th Century France Exhibition planned for January 5th to February 3rd, 1952, at the National Philatelic Museum, Philadelphia, Pa.

The Group's Competition on 20th Century has been made two special sections, distinct from the regular showings, with their own awards. But every item shown herein may, at the option of the judges, receive an award as if in the regular sections; and the winners of the first prizes in the Group's Competition Sections will of course be considered for the Grand Award covering the entire show.

In the Group's Competition, three prizes will be given in each section, provided there are at least six entries in each.

The collections entered must be entirely new, and must not have been exhibited previously to or before the Group or any Chapter thereof. The competition is limited to France or any French Colony, Mandate, Offices Abroad, or Protectorate, 20th Century only, one stamp or one issue only.

No limit or minimum is set to size of collection or number of pages.

The entries must be shown in the frames at the Museum, and only material actually shown will be considered. There is no provision for material not put into the frames. The cost is \$3.00 per frame -- each frame will hold 16 pages of any of the usual album sizes.

The entries for the Group's Contest should be sent to Contest Chairman S.G. Rich, P.O. Box B, Verona, New Jersey, with payment of \$3.00 per frame, to order of the National Philatelic Museum. The Group will attend to making the further arrangements. It is most desirable, in fact urgent, that we should know well in advance of the actual show what entries to plan for.

The Contest entries will be judged during the first days of the exhibition, and the awards presented then.

(For the rest of the exhibition, the Museum will send information to all members of the Group probably in November 1951. Contestants in the Group competition are not estopped from showing other material in the regular sections of the show, but such material, even if it would qualify for the Group contest, will not be judged as part thereof.)

### THE NEW SERVICE

Want and exchange notices only; members only; one or two insertions only; no charge. Those who reply will please offer only what is asked.

**Wanted:** Covers with the 5f Type Sage (No. 96 or 96a, Scott) properly used on them. S. G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2)

**Will buy** 40c Type Sage, off paper, or on piece or on cover, showing date of use before October 1878. Don't offer any copy later than this; set your price when you send. S.G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2)

### SECRETARY'S REPORT July 1 to 20, 1951

#### NEW MEMBERS: Welcome---

- 475 Maurin, Emile, 31 rue Proudhon, La Plaine St. Denis, Seine, France (France)  
476 Walter, Col. Mercer C., National War College, Fort Leslie McNair, Washington 25, D.C. (France)

#### APPLICATION PENDING:

Reichert, William E., P.O. Box 327, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- 38 Borie, Renshaw, to 2410 Panama St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.  
114 Meyer, Charles E., to 46 Cumberland Ave., Verona, N.J.  
384 Hayes, Wm. J., to 3157 Stone Ave., Omaha 11, Nebr.  
413 Rafferty, Lt. John H., to 6411 Vanderbilt Ave., Houston, Texas.

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A Correction-----Gladly Made  
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In No. 56, March-April 1951, we misattributed, in the write-up of the Sojex exhibits shown by the Philadelphia Chapter members, one award.

Second medal went to Helen Feneberg for her French Covers of 1828 to 1950. Mr. Frantzen did not get any award for his "Chad to Rhine".

#### French California Goldfield Cover

Mr. Harry M. Konwiser showed us, June 1951, a remarkable stampless cover, American in origin but with most of its story that of its postmarks which indicate fully its complicated French travels. This folded letter originated at Camp Seco, Calif., May 18 1857, sent stampless to France with town mark and PAID in blue, manuscript rate 25 cents.

Then comes a red New York Paid 6 mark dated June 13.

The next mark is French: "Et. Unis Serv. Am. A. C." with letter at bottom indicating train crew ("brigade") handling it obscured by later writing over it -- most likely H. Date is June 25 1857. This is the R.P.O. incoming mail mark, of Calais to Paris R.P.O., indicating that the item came off an American ship. Then follows Paris a strasbourg B, June 28, Further R.P.O. mark; then Renwez (Ardennes,) office of destination address, June 29. The cover was forwarded, receiving Renwez June 29 again, and sent to Mezieres. All these marks are in black as usual.

The cover was refolded, getting the inner side of the address ply of the double sheet outside, and remailed stampless to a new addressee Mezieres badly struck plus outline 50 rate mark, date illegible, is with this; also Renwez, again office of destination, July 29 1857.

"Quite odd", to put it mildly, is this letter from a French chap in the gold fields, telling of difficulties in getting his passage home to France paid for in advance.

#### Index

In No. 43 of this journal, January-February 1949, we published an index to the first 38 numbers, compiled by our member Mrs. Catherine W. Menninger.