

# France & Colonies Philatelist



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## France The G.C. Paper Issues

By W. A. PARR

In GIBBONS' STAMP MONTHLY



The two types of lettering found in the margins.

**D**URING the First World War of 1914-1918, special commemorative stamps were issued in many countries of the world, and, in the case of France, we recall to memory the Red Cross and War Orphans issues, the Valenciennes local, the overprinted German stamps, and others. But, with the passing of time, most collectors of France will agree that those special issues have been eclipsed in philatelic interest by the ordinary definitive stamps printed in France during the War years on makeshift paper.

In many collections, despite their strange appearance, these issues are not separated from the normal ones; in this way an interesting basis for study is overlooked. On the other hand, many people allot to their G.C. sets stamps which are on paper varieties other than the war-time kind, in spite of the fact that some of these stamps may clearly bear postmarks earlier than 1916.

**Origin of the G.C. paper.** It was in that year, when the War had already raged more than a twelvemonth, that it was deemed necessary, for the purposes of economy, to use for the manufacture of the paper on which the stamps were printed components of a coarser nature, which were not only less affected by the war-time increases in prices, but were also more accessible for further supplies in the future. Thus was created the "rag" or "granite" paper (it is known by many names), with its many "impure" or "unbleached" shades and tones.

The official circular introducing the new paper was dated December 8th, 1916, and it particularly emphasized the need for the careful handling of the sheets by reason of their fragility. It was at first intended that the paper should be employed only for stamps of which a great number were consumed at that time; stamps of "grande consommation", and for this reason

the sheets of stamps on the new paper bore the distinguishing letters "G.C." at the top and bottom. But it was not long before all the French definitives in general use, including the Postage Dues, were printed on this paper.

**The Postal Tariffs, 1914-1917.** A summary of the tariffs in force in 1914, namely, those based on the Decrees of April-May 1910, indicates the following rates:

### INLAND :

#### Newspaper or Printed Matter

1 c., 2 c., 5 c.

#### Postcard

5 c.

#### Letters

up to 20 gr. 10 c.  
20 gr. to 50 gr. 15 c.  
50 gr. to 100 gr. 20 c.  
for each additional 100 gr. 5 c.

### FOREIGN :

#### Printed Matter—per 50 gr.

5 c.

#### Postcard

10 c.

#### Letters—up to 20 gr.

25 c.

(These last three rates designated by stamps in the U.P.U. colours—green, red, and blue respectively.)

Foreign : Letters—for each additional 20 gr. 15 c.

It is not, therefore, surprising that the first stamps to appear were the 1 c., 5 c., 10 c. and 15 c. in 1916. On April 1st, 1917, however, the Inland Tariffs were modified so that the four Inland Letter rates became 15 c., 25 c., 30 c. and 5 c. This, no doubt, accounts for the prevalence today in fair quantities of the 15 c., and the comparative scarcity, seeing that these are definitive stamps, of the 10 c.

**Postage Stamps on G.C. paper.** A complete list of the ordinary Postage stamps first issued in 1916 and 1917 on G.C. paper is as follows :

Type	S.G. No. of normal stamp	S.G. No. of G.C. stamp
Blanc (1900):		
1 c. grey	288	353a
2 c. claret	289	355
3 c. orange	290	356
Sower 2 (1907):		
5 c. blue-green	331	357
10 c. red	334	358
Sower 1 (1903):		
15 c. slate-green	316	359-61
Sower 2 (1907):		
20 c. chocolate	338	362
25 c. blue	341	363
pale blue	342	364
30 c. orange	343	365
35 c. violet	345	365a
Merson (1900):		
40 c. red and pale blue	303	366
45 c. deep green & blue	304	367
50 c. cinnamon & lavender	305	368
1 f. lake and yellow	306	369

In 1919 and thereafter the 1 c. Blanc was printed in slate instead of in grey, and the first printings in the new colour were on G.C. paper.

From September 1919 the 1 c. slate was overprinted " $\frac{1}{2}$  centime" in red, and there again the first stamps employed were on G.C. paper. We can therefore add these two stamps to our list:

Blanc (1900):		
1 c. slate	288a	354
$\frac{1}{2}$ c./1 c. slate	379	—

#### Postage Due stamps on G.C. paper.

The Postage Due stamps in use in 1914 comprised: 1 c., 5 c., 10 c., 15 c., 20 c., 30 c., 50 c., 1 f., and 2 f. in the Taxe (Duval) type, and 1 c., 10 c., 30 c., and 50 c. in the Recouvrements (Valeurs Impayées) type.

The 1 c. black Taxe stamp (S.G. D12) issued 1882-1891, and printed again from 1898 until 1907, may be said to have been current (it was not withdrawn until 1924), but it was not printed on G.C. paper; neither were the 1 f. and 2 f. values of the same type S.G. D36 and D39).

The 20 c. bistre Recouvrements type (S.G. D50) first appeared in 1919, and its earliest printing was on G.C. paper. The 30 c. and 50 c. of that type (S.G. D42 and D43) were withdrawn by an order dated August 13th, 1917, and were not therefore applied to this paper.

We therefore compile a similar list for the Postage Dues:

Type	S.G. No. of normal stamp	S.G. No. of G.C. stamp
Taxe (Duval)		
5 c. pale blue	D30	D44
10 c. pale brown	D31	D45
15 c. pale green	D32	D46
20 c. olive-green	D37	D46a
30 c. pale carmine	D33	D47
50 c. dull claret	D35	D47a

CHECK LIST				Paper colors*		
				W	G	YG
Blanc	1 c. grey	...	...	7, 8, 9	7	6, 7, 8, 9.
	slate	...	...	—	9	9, 0
	2 c. claret	...	...	—	7, 9	7, 9, 0
	Do. (G.C. 8 mm.)	...	...	—	—	7
	Do. (G. 8 mm., C. 9 mm.)	...	...	—	—	7
	3 c. orange	...	...	—	9	7, 9
	Do. (G.C. 8 mm.)	...	...	—	—	7
Sower 2	5 c. blue-green	...	...	7, 8, 9	6, 7, 8	6, 7, 8, 9, 0
	10 c. red	...	...	—	—	6
	Do. (G.C. 8 mm.)	...	...	—	—	6
Sower 1	15 c. slate-green	...	...	7, 8, 9	7, 8, 9	6, 7, 8, 9
Sower 2	20 c. chocolate	...	...	9	8	7, 9, 0
	25 c. blue	...	...	7, 9	—	9
	pale blue	...	...	8	7, 0	8, 0
	30 c. orange	...	...	7, 8, 9	7, 8	6, 7, 0
	35 c. violet	...	...	8	9	8, 9
Merson	40 c. red and pale blue	...	...	x	—	x
	45 c. deep green and blue	...	...	x	x	x
	50 c. cinnamon and lavender	...	...	x	x	x
	1 f. lake and yellow	...	...	x	x	x
	Do. (background omitted)	...	...	—	x	—
Blanc	$\frac{1}{2}$ c./1 c. slate	...	...	—	—	9, 0

#### Pre-Cancels

5 c. POSTES PARIS 1920	...	...	—	6	6
15 c. POSTES PARIS 1920	...	...	9	9	9
5 c. POSTES PARIS 1921	...	...	—	6	6
15 c. POSTES FRANCE 1922	...	...	9	9	9
45 c. AFFRANCHTS POSTES	...	...	—	—	x

#### Postage Dues

Taxe (Duval)	5 c. pale blue	...	...	—	—	7, 8
	10 c. pale brown	...	...	8	—	7
	15 c. pale green	...	...	—	—	7
	20 c. olive-green	...	...	8	—	8
	30 c. pale carmine	...	...	—	—	7, 9
	50 c. dull claret	...	...	—	—	8, 0
Recouvrements (Valeurs impayées)	1 c. olive	...	...	—	—	8
	10 c. violet	...	...	7	—	—
	20 c. bistre	...	...	—	—	9
	60 c./1 c. olive	...	...	—	—	8

#### Recouvrements (Valeurs impayées):

1 c. olive	D40	—
10 c. violet	D41	—
20 c. bistre	D50	—

In October 1926, stocks of the 1 c. olive were overprinted with a new value of 60 c., which we may therefore add to our list, as all the stamps so overprinted were on G.C. paper:

#### Recouvrements (Valeurs impayées):

60 c./1 c. olive	D60	—
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**Pre-Cancels.** The pre-obliterations "POSTES PARIS" and "POSTES FRANCE" were applied to current stamps in 1920, 1921, and 1922, and it was therefore inevitable that some of the G.C. paper issues should be so employed.

The 5 c. blue green (S.G. 357) was overprinted "POSTES PARIS 1920" and "POSTES PARIS 1921", and the 15 c. slate green (S.G. 359) was similarly overprinted "POSTES PARIS 1920" and "POSTES FRANCE 1922".

The pre-obliteration "AFFRANCHTS POSTES" introduced in September 1922 and still in use to this day was applied to the 45 c. Merson in that month, and it is said in some French catalogues that the first printing was

from the 45 c. on G.C. paper. A copy of the G.C. stamp in the author's possession resembles not so much the 45 c. on G.C. paper, which is of a deep olive-green on a pale buff paper, as the well-known 45 c. Merson on cream paper which was peculiar to the 1922 period and after, and which is of a pale green colour on a very yellow base. The author has not been able to secure a 45 c. "AFFRANCHTS POSTES" with the letters G.C. in the margin, but in the final check list this stamp will be given the benefit of the doubt.

#### (To be concluded)

\* The letters signify White, Yellow, Yellow-Gray, the three major paper color groups.

The numerals for each stamp show which millesime or year of production is known for the stamp on that paper.

Dashes indicate the absence of known copies on such paper.

Full explanation of table is in concluding instalment, to appear in our next issue.

-- Editor, F. & C. P.

Obock and Somali Coast.

By Edmond Queyroy

## (Conclusion)

At that date, July 1, 1916, a new set of pictorials with different designs went into service -- again, the subjects are given in the Scott catalog. Mr. A. Montader designed these: Mr. G. Hourriez engraved them for letterpress production. At first there were 17 values; 5 new ones were added in 1922-24 and 16 more in 1925-33. These various values were added to supply changed rates as the franc slowly but remorselessly moved downward in value in this period. Thus the green newspaper rate stamp moves from the 5c in 1915 to the 10c in 1922, to the 20c in 1925, the 30c in 1927 and the 1.75f in 1933.



The 1938 set at last included Governor L. Lagerde, the great Administrator of the colony, who had done so much to tighten the bonds of friendship between France and Ethiopia. This new set with additional values issued to 1904, used four designs:

For lowest values: Mosque of Djibouti, engraved by Barlangue.

For next higher group: Native Warriors, engraved by Ouvre.

For third group: Governor Lagerde, designed by Kerhor, engraved by Feltesse.

For upper values: View of Djibouti (modern view in frame revived from 1894 stamps). Engraver not reported.

All these stamps were line-engraved and plate-printed by the Institut de Gravure, at Paris.

The later sets include two printed by rotogravure: those of 1943 and 1947.

The commemorative stamps were designed and engraved by various artists. Their names are known in most cases and of interest. We report them:

1931: 4 stamps:

40c, Scott 135, engraved by J. de la Neziere.

50c, Scott 136, engraved by Mme. Cayon Rouan

90c, Scott 137, engraved by Alph. Parent

1.50f, Scott 138, engraved by

Georges François

1937: 6 stamps; 32,000 of each issued.

20c, Scott 139, designed by Goujon, engraved by Cottet

30c, Scott 140, designed by Robichon, engraved by Feltesse

40c, Scott 141, designed by Mme. Cayon Rouan, engraved by P. Munier

50c, Scott 142, designed and engraved by Decaris

90c, Scott 143, designed by A. Delzers, engraved by G. Barlangue

1.50f, Scott 144, designed and engraved by Decaris

1937: Souvenir Sheet, imperf.

3f, Scott 145, designed by Robichon, engraved by Feltesse

1939. New York World's Fair. Both Values: engraved by Decaris, and plate printed by the Institut de Gravure, Paris.

1945. The set of two values commemorates the great Governor Eboué, who gave so much to France by his great efforts for the cause of the Free French in Africa. Both values were designed and engraved by P. Munier.

1947: The 19 values in rotogravure by Helio Vaugirard were all designed by Magnan.

Among the Semi-Postals we have this information:

1915. Red Cross: Designed by Montadier, engraved for letterpress print by Hourriez.

1938: Commemorating the 40th anniversary of the discovery of radium by the Curies: designed by J. Piel, engraved by J. de la Neziere.

1939. The 5 values commemorate the 150th anniversary of the French Revolution. Designer and engraver not reported; all plate-printed by Institut de Gravure, Paris. This set is rather scarce used and on cover. About 7000 sets were sold. By official order, dated Dec. 31 1939, the stocks on hand were burned, in all the colonies.

1950. The Oeuvre Sociale stamps were designed and engraved by R. Serres.

( The End )

## 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: mint or used: send on approval, or quote price: France, Alsace-Lorraine N8, N9, N10, N11, N12, N14; also the Ionian Islands, Zante overprinted iddue. Monica Mellish, 407 West Magnolia St., Centralia, Wash. (Member 290)

Wanted: Paris start cancellations with Nos. 23, 27, 29, 31, 39. Please offer with price. Col. M.C. Walter, National War College, Fort McNair, Washington 25, D.C. (Member No. 478).

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)

French Showings at Capex in Toronto, Ont.

By and large, the French and Colonial stamps were very sparingly shown at Capex. Some very fine material was included in the 12 frames of French and Colonial showings.

Emile Chenevisee, of Brazil, showing France 19th Century, 3 frames, had Bordeaux proofs in black, several values se tenant; nice covers of the 5f Empire; Sages in mint strips; dues in mint blocks. There was no specialization worthy of mention. Unknown 1893 precancels were present.

Eugene A. Hamord of Montreal showed stampless covers of 1680, 1735, 1762 an on; color proof material of 1849 and 1862 issues; fine lot of cancellations, plate flaws, color variations.

John J. Britt's die proofs included many of 1942-29 French Colonies.

J.P. Rouleau, of Montreal, showing Liberations of 1945, featured also the Faux Petain-- a very good showing of them.

Agnes Burlingame had a well-displayed lot of 1798 stampless through to 1900.

French items were scattered through other exhibits sparsely.



We remind you as emphatically as we can, that the entries for the 20th Century Study Contest, open only to members of the F. & C. G., close December 31st 1951. Entry forms were sent with No. 58, the last previous number, of this paper to all members.

All entry blanks should be in Mr. Rich's office before that date.

It was originally planned to judge all these entries at the opening of the 20th Century show of France and Colonies at the National Philatelic Museum, Philadelphia, in January. This big time Philadelphia event has been postponed till April 1952, as detailed elsewhere on this page. Thus the first showing and judging of entries in the Lesgor Contest will be held at the Group meeting on January 8th, 1952, at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35 St., New York, beginning at 8 p.m.

Please send to Stephen G. Rich care of that club, or bring promptly that night, your actual exhibit in this contest. If you send, please do send soon enough to avoid any possible chance of arriving too late.

Please note that Lesgor entries will have a second showing in April at Philadelphia, in which they will be eligible for additional awards in the Twentieth Century Exhibition.

If you have not yet entered the contest, you are urged to do so. Extra entry blanks are in the hands of both Mr. Rich and Secretary Chas. Bretagne--all particulars are in the Aug.-Sept. number of the Philatelist.

Alan R. Fernald, President.

#### Philadelphia Dates Changed.

Important news comes out of Philadelphia, as the National Philatelic Museum announces that the big 20th Century France Exhibit, originally scheduled for January, has been postponed until April 1952.

This change of plan has been made to allow sufficient time to cover a much greater scope in plan than was originally anticipated.

These changes include an elaborate catalogue of the event; numerous medals and awards in the various classes; the inclusion of Monaco and Andorra as well as 20th Century France and the French Colonies; the attendance of prominent French officials; and, among other features, a specially prepared French Government Exhibit.

Bernard Davis, Director of the Museum, proposes that this exhibition, the largest-scale 20th Century show ever staged, be used to champion the charm and interest inherent in 20th Century collecting, using France as a classic example.

There is also under discussion a plan to hold a two-day F. & C. G. convention some time during the Exhibit (tentative date, Saturday and Sunday, April 13th & 14th). This would be our first general meeting and would fittingly mark our completion of a ten year span as an international society.

Entry blanks for the 20th Century Exhibition, with all particulars, will be available from the Museum in good season. We bespeak the wholehearted support and participation of all F. & C. G. members, to make this a noteworthy occasion.

I believe it presents the greatest opportunity ever offered us, for popularizing on a national scale, the branch of philately that has given us so much pleasure and absorbing interest --- the study of the postal issues of France and other Colonies.

Alan R. Fernald, President.

#### NEW MEMBERS: Welcome ---

- 477 Reichert, William E., P.O. Box 327, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. (France)
- 478 Rosenthal, Saul C., 213 Seaman Ave., Rockville Centr., L.I., N.Y. (No specialty stated)
- 479 Sell, Kenneth E., 1529 Delaware St., Berkeley, Calif. (Gandon Issues)
- 480 Scott, Vivian N.C., 1530 Hermosa Avenue, Hermosa Beach, Calif. (France, Belgium)
- 481 Wilson, Mrs. Elva B., R.D. 1, Box 10, Alexandria, Ohio. (France & Colonies, etc)

#### RESIGNATION ACCEPTED:

- 81 van Katwijk, Paul

#### REINSTATEMENT:

- 334 Wines, Irving E., 557 Nelson St., Chambersburg Penna.

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- 422 Alder, Bradbury C., to 747 16th St., Massillon, Ohio.
- 39 Balme, Joseph, to 7225 Sommers Road, Philadelphia 38, Pa.
- 287 Bond, Wm. H., Jr., to P.O. Box 1432, Mc Allen, Texas.
- 475 Marin, Emile, to 71 rue Marc Dormoy, Paris 18e, France.
- 457 Mitchell, H.D. to 327 Winthrop St., S.E., Washington 20, D.C.
- 208 Pollack, Herbert, M.D., to 5435 Hyde Park Blvd., Chicago, Ill.
- 109 Robeson, John M., to 202 East 73 St., New York 21, N.Y.
- 404 Schauer, W.E., to 5 West Gilman St., Madison 3, Wis.
- 473 Walls, Clarence W., to 4024 S.W. Tualatin Av, Portland, Oreg.
- 377 Glanton, G.P., to 2149 Magnolia St., Los Angeles 6, Calif.

#### MEMBERSHIPS LAPSED:

If your number is listed below, you have not paid your dues for the calendar year 1951. Your membership will lapse with this number of the Philatelist. No further numbers will be sent to you.

51, 77, 120, 166, 187, 208, 209,  
224, 274, 282, 312, 322, 324, 343,  
345, 349, 361, 367, 372, 389, 390,  
398, 400, 406, 407, 412, 414, 420,  
423, 425, 426, 430, 442, 444, 445.

Should you want to continue, please send in, without delay, your dues for both the year just ending and 1952 (the latter so that we won't be asking you for more dues forthwith).

Charles Bretagne, Secretary  
P.O. Box 67, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.



The animals on the 1945 stamps, French Guiana, are two of the Tamandua Ant-Eater, or "Great Ant-Eater", called "Tamanoir" in French according to Gasc's dictionary.