

France & Colonies Philatelist



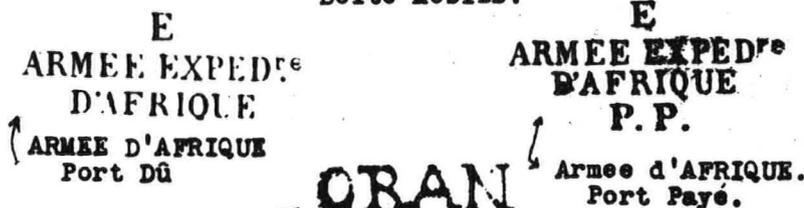
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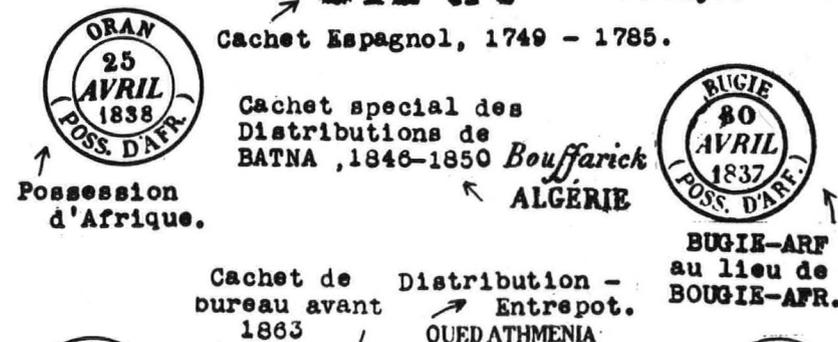
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ALGERIA : The Types of 19th Century Postal Markings.

Photographed and translated from C. Abder Halden's originals, by Adrien Boutrelle. Text on next page.



ORAN



Algeria: The Types of 19th Century
Postal Markings

BOOK REVIEWS

Translated by Adrien Boutrelle from the work of Charles Abder Halden, in the book of which he is co-author; with E.H.de Beaufond, Illustrations on page 5, assembled and photographed by A.B.

If we except the Spanish town mark used in the 18th century (in center of our plate), the oldest Algerian postmark is the double straight line mark:

**ARMÉE EXPÉDITIONNAIRE
D'AFRIQUE**

which was used by the French Military Post from the landing at Sidi-Ferruch, beginning in June 1814 and continuing to 1835.

In 1827 the postal service of the armies in the field was joined to the Treasury service. It was handled by the officers called "Army Pay-Masters. They had rank as officers. The corps of 37,000 men was brought over in a fleet of 645 ships. The order was that the service was to have six special offices, identified by the first six letters of the alphabet.

(See the device just to left of the Spanish ORAN mark; it comes with the various letters).

Postmark "A" was the only one in use in the earliest days. It is known on letters which come from the General Headquarters of the army, Navy, Health service, etc. It was a distinctive postmark for the office of Alger up to 1835.

Postmark "B" is found from July 1830 onward. Later, this postmark characterizes the city of Bone, after it was conquered in 1832.

Postmark "C" appeared in 1833 in the town of Bougie.

Postmark "D" is known only in July and August 1830 use.

Postmark "E" was used for Oren's office, in 1832.

Postmark "F" has not ever been found.

In 1835 the territory occupied by the French was given the name "Possessions Françaises dans le Nord de L'Afrique." The new postmarks read "POSS.DAFR.", replacing the military postmarks. (See illustration just below the Military "E" mark on our plate). However, the postal service kept its military organization up to 1860, but followed the civilian postal regulations.

In 1839 the word "Algeria" became the official name for the French holdings in North Africa.

The postmarks of the Army Expeditionary Corps also exist with inclusion of "P.P." for "Port Payé" meaning carriage prepaid. Those without a line to this effect indicate postage collect.

FRANCE

Three stamps were issued during the period of Oct. 27-29 to honor three exponents of modern French poetry. A 8fr deep violet stamp, engraved by Phenulpin, bears a portrait of Charles Baudelaire (1821-1867). The 12fr gray-violet stamp, shows a portrait of Paul Verlaine (1844-1896). It was engraved by Dufresne. The last of the series, a 15fr green stamp, engraved by Barlangue, pictures Arthur Rimbaud (1854-1891).

CHAMBERS STAMP JOURNAL

December, 1951



Monographie des Timbres-Poste de l' Emission de Bordeaux, France. By H. Lorne. Paris, 1952, 215 pp. paper, Beaufond, publisher. 600 francs.

If the lack of reference works and studies was one of the reasons which kept the Bourdeaux issue from occupying the place it deserves, in American collections of French stamps, this excellent book may be destined to correct such a situation. Mr. Lorne has combined the studies of Maury, Serrane, and Dilleman, adding his own observations over 20 years. He has thus presented the total of the research so far done on the Bordeaux Issue in a very comprehensive book.

In separate chapters, he treats the history of the issue, the process of its printing, the characteristics of each stamp and its "reports", the varieties, retouches and stone flaws. Other special chapters deal with the use of the Bordeaux stamps and with the cancellations to be found on them. Unlike so many publications on stamps, the illustrations in this book are of a quality which permits the user to recognize the finer details of design.

The relative scarcities of the varieties are indicated by means of code figures, which allow for evaluation in using any catalog. As far as the cancellations are concerned, the figures of the code coincide almost completely with those given in the charts in Lesgor & Minnigerode's book on this subject.

Every collector of French stamps who can read French, should use this book as a guide, into this most exciting and unduly neglected part of French philately. He will find that, for merely one example, the extremely small quantities of the stamps made (except for the 20c, Type 3), do show that these 80-years-old stamps are bound to become more and more valuable possessions--- that the current catalog prices are far from doing justice to their scarcity.

The variety of colors, "reports" (laydowns of intermediate stones), retouches and cancellations make this issue an almost unlimited object for specialized collecting. It is Mr. Lorne's merit to have presented us with the concise handbook which will encourage many collectors who up to now refrained from venturing into the field of this issue on account of the lack of accessible published research.

---E.L. Rothschild.

Genese de la Poste Aerienne du Siege de Paris, by Paul Maincent. Rouen, Bellanger, Oct. 1951, 112 pp. American price \$6.00. (See note in F. & C. Phil. No. 61 about a special supply to Group members, not exhausted as this review is sent to press--Editor, F. & C. P.)

This book is carefully documented history--- rather than a simple treatment as philately, by one of the leading authorities in the field.

Nevertheless, for all those interested in the Ballons Montés, it is the indispensable introduction to such "standard" works as that by Le Pileur on this first air mail service.

It recounts the great efforts made by Nadar, Dartois and Durouf in the decade preceding the War of 1870, to promote "free ballooning." The very large number of reproductions of all sorts of contemporary documents, letters, photographs, and maps, makes these years before and during the siege of Paris become very much alive. An actual letter of Nadar, Sept. 17, 1870, makes the first mention of "free balloons" for postal use. When the complete blockade of Paris came, the

night of Sunday, Sept. 18, 1870, there followed, in a couple of days, the world's first official establishment of an air mail, signed by Leon Gambetta, then Minister of the Interior.

The scheme was ready. The first air mail's first take-off was on Sept. 23, 1870, piloted by Durouf, carrying about 275 pounds of mail in a balloon called "Le Neptune." The successful landing was just above the mouth of the Seine.
---John Weare.

Catalogue 1952: Preobliteres France, Algeria, Monaco, Tunis. Editor, H. Menard (Paris), 40 pp., paper. Louvain (Belgium), C.R. Higby, publisher, 11 rue de l'Entrepot; \$1.00. March 1952.

This is the first really adequate catalog in the field of French precancels. It includes the "Annulation pour les imprimés" as well as those more conventional precancellings of 1893 and in the years since World War I. There is enough of bilingual treatment, in English as well as in French, so that almost anyone can use the book. Prices are in U.S. dollars.

We are complimented by the use, which we had pleasure in granting, of the illustration from F. & C. Phil. No. 40, of the picture of Mr. John B. Morton's block of 1c Sage precancels -- even though his name is given incorrectly. Due credit to us is given.

----S.G.R.

Catalogue des Preos d'Europe. By Jean Lepingle. Bruxelles, Le Cercle d'Etude et d'Echange des Preobliteres, 14 rue Renkin. Paper, 120 plus 20 pages, mid-1951. Price not stated: reviewer's copy cost \$2.10 delivered in the U. S.

This ambitious work, covering Austria, Belgium, France, Hungary, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Monaco, along with Algeria and Tunis over in Africa, will not commend itself to students of French precancels. It omits the "Annulation pour les imprimés" or Type F-1, not merely in the France list but everywhere (Austria, on early Newspaper Tax stamps especially). If there was any way to make it hard to find an item, such a way of listing was always adopted. Separation of the list into two sections, typographed and handstamped precancelling, and listing of the Belgian items by stamp, rather than primarily by town and type, aids in making the book hard to use. Position indication is very confusing.

The one good point is that the listings are correct and, for Belgium, the only complete set ever published.

---S.G.R.

Yes: We Are Quoted in the S.P.A. Journal

The article and picture on the Stamp Bourse in Paris in the 1860's published in No. 37 of this paper (Jan.-Feb. 1948) was reprinted with appreciative remarks and credit, in the S.P.A. Journal of April 1952. Thank you Editor J. Elmer Zinsmeister.

Society Official Notice: Election of the Officers for 1952-53

Complying with the by-laws, we inform all the membership that the election of officers is to be held at the meeting of the Group's "Parent Chapter" on Tuesday, May 6, 1952. This will be held on that date at the Collectors Club, 22 E. 35th St., New York, N.Y., meeting set for 8 p. m. but business session probably not beginning, unless exceptional conditions force it, before 8.30 at earliest.

This is the annual meeting. All members of the Group, whether "resident" or "regular" have both voice and vote if present.

F. & C. G. CONVENTION IS CANCELLED

It has been necessary to change our plans for a general France & Colonies Group meeting or symposium this spring. Tentative dates, May 17-18, had been selected; and Philadelphia chosen as a place of meeting, because of an expected -- and planned -- 20th Century France and Colonies exhibition at the National Philatelic Museum, coincident to those dates.

The Museum has just advised of a change in their plans and the cancellation of the exhibit.

As the two events were so closely allied, it now seems best to abandon plans for the meeting.

This we regret, as we have all been looking forward to meeting with members from outside the New York area. That was one of the prime incentives for such a meeting.

A.R. Fernald, President

March 25, 1952.

Interesting Further Points on that 1941 De Brazza Semipostal of Equatorial Africa

Doubtless some readers were puzzled when they could not find the continuation of the sentence at the end of page 1 of No. 61 of this paper -- telling about De Brazza. Your editor was like many another editor -- in "making up" three of the lines were lost... as happened in April 1951 "Natural History" for example.

The sentence, complete, and finishing out the paragraph, reads:

"While he was in Paris, shortly after the Franco-Prussian war, de Brazza became interested in Africa. Around 1879-80 he made his first journey to Gabon in company with Dr. Noel Bally."

Mr. Frederic Muhlenheim, our member, sent us an explanation of the absence of accent and of cedilla in the inscriptions, as mentioned with the illustration on page 2. He tells us that in good French usage they do not normally use an accent or a cedilla on a capital letter, most particularly when a word is all in caps. That variation in usage probably is not known to the greater part of our members, and surely it was wholly unknown to the caption-writer of Scott's Monthly Journal. He, not Mr. Hamilton, must be given responsibility for the statement, which is an implication of aberrant usage.

Your editor comments that usage has not been uniform on this, as the Type Sage stamps have a cedilla under C of "Francaise" but no accent on the first E of "Republique" -- and he has some memory that among the Group Type issues of the colonies some have and some lack these marks in the colony names, all in capitals.

We REALLY Understated a Book's Price.

Your editor has been subjected to a deserved kidding for giving the price of the Wanos and de Belleville book on Varieties of France, 1900 to 1949, as 5 francs in the review in No. 61.

The price is, at last report, 525 francs.

Members who wish to complete files of this paper, or who desire particular numbers, again are reminded that Secretary Bretagne can supply their needs. Most numbers are 25 cents apiece; when bought singly; \$1.00 for the 6 numbers of any one annual volume. Vol. 1, No. 1 reprint, is \$1.00.

PHILA - TELLING

Member L.L. Hopkins, 10 Washington Rd. Scotia, N.Y., wishes to correspond with members to exchange views on the Gandon issues.---Your fine Editor, Stephen G. Rich, braved over 150 miles of sleet bringing me your last Philatelist. He is doing a wonderful job! the Philatelist must go thru.---Agnes Burlingame exhibited her fine Lesgor Contest prize winning collection. Jeanne d'Arc's stamps of France at our February meeting---Adrien Boutrelle, our official photographer, presented an exhibit of Algeria, covers, cancellations, and post - marks, at the meeting in March.---While I am Winchelling, let me ask members to drop me bits of news of interest, we like to know what our members are doing.---What do you think of a Phila-Telling column as a new and informative feature in our own Philatelist ---My apologies, Miss Stevenson, for misspelling your name in the previous Philatelist. Welcome as a new member.---From South of the Border, we welcome "Captain Jean E. Castaingt" of Puebla, Mexico.--- It's Spring time and we find "Helen Stringham" your past Secretary, planning her garden, pretty soft!--Glad to hear that John Weare, our "Publicity Chairman" is in good health again, best wishes.--- If you like our "Philatelist", show it to a friend, and do send in a new member.---Have you sent in your 1952 membership dues.---Don't miss the Philate-list, report change of address when you move.---Psychologists Donald Super & Ralph Carlson, found " Philatelists "to be of superior mental ability -- and of superior social and economic standing. Be proud that you are a Philatelist. Watch for your copy of Linn's Weekly dated the 28th. of April. It is sponsored by the F. & C.G. --- Three designs among 14 stamps feature the new regular issue for Algeria. The values range from 10¢., to 30 francs.---France will issue a commemorative, honoring the late Marshall Jean de Lattre de Tassigny.---The franc official-ly quoted at 350 to the \$, is weak, friends report from Paris, that with dollars in hand they find 500 francs for each dollar rather easily.--- A member wrote to me, requesting that I find him many French stamps showing very fine and clear "Town Cancellation" of Zanzibar.---Well. I will admit that I am quite a "Philamarcomaniac" myself, but boys, pleeeeeease.

CHARLES J. BRETAGNE.

About that planned Convention

See President Fernald's statement on an inside page of this number, telling what happened, with the result. Both the proposed show in May and the Group Convention while it would have been in progress, are postponed.

MEMBERS' APPEALS

(See explanation and terms in next column)

Your used Madagascar duplicates needed for cancellation study. Also Comoro Is., Diego Suarez etc.; off cover, on cover; any quantity; the low denominations; all issues. Exchange basis preferred. H.A. Stringham, 34 Minerva Ave., Manasquan, N.J. (Member 46)

NEW MEMBERS, Welcome:

- 482 Stevenson, Marjorie E. 305 South Lang Ave. Pittsburg 8, Pennsylvania. -- (France)
- 483 Castaingt, Jean E. Capt. Privada de la 33 Poniente # 3311, Peubla, Mexico. (France to 1920 Specilaized)

APPLICATIONS PENDING:

- Markovich, Leslie, 5501 W. North Ave. Milwaukee 8, Wis.
- Baker, E.S. 198-90 Roslyn Drive, Rocky - River, Cleveland, Ohio.
- Vanderheiden, Harold, 154 South Oak Park - Ave. Oak Park, Ill.
- Cavanagh, Regina M. 1616 Hollister Ave. Santa Barbara, California.
- Leppman, Ulrich, 286 South Church Street, Moorestown, New Jersey.

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED:

- 264 Vooy, Daniel W.P.O. Box 300 Canajoharie, New York.
- 310 Minnigerode, Meade. Essex, Connecticut.
- 401 Piper, A.O. 1124 14th. St. Racine, Wisc.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 377 Glanton, G.P. to 424 N. Bonnie Brae Ave. Los Angeles 26, California.

DUES FOR 1952 ARE NOW PAYABLE, "REMIT TO:"

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

MEMBERS' APPEALS

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 by the member who first suggested what used to be the "New Service": Precancel POSTES FRANCE on no. 139; Newsprint cancellations on Nos. 12, 13, 23, 40, 42, 53, 67, 89, 90 (also some later); anchor and colored cancellations on 19th century France and general issues of colonies (do not send stamps but ask for a specific want list. Carl Stephenson, Boardman Hall, Ithaca, N.Y. (Member 45)
Wish to exchange mint or used France and Colonies for mint France and Colonies needed for my collection, on an even Scott catalog basis. H.L. Hunter, Box 541, Clemson, S.C. (Member 395)
I will buy some of your duplicates: fine used only, of Chad, Mauritania, Ubangi, Upper Volta. Write if interested. (Dealers please abstain !!) Leon E. Arnal, 4301 Linden Hills Blvd., Minneapolis 10, Minn. (Member 23)
Still hunting for the elusive covers with 5f Type Sage properly used on them and formula card with 20c rate paid by a single 20c Type Sage. S.G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2)
Wanted: Madagascar 1903 issue, Scott or Yvert Nos. 63-69, preferably used, singles or strips, that show "atermark" of paper manufacturer. Will exchange or buy. Helen A. Stringham, 34 Minerva Ave, Manasquan, N.J. (Member 46)
Wanted: French Colonies No. 3, 10c Eagle and Crown, on or off cover, with identifying cancellation. Please quote price of each item. F.D. Thweatt, 768 Potomac Ave, Buffalo 9, N.Y. (Member 472)