

France & Colonies Philatelist



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ENCASED STAMPS OF FRANCE

The feature article on this subject, in the May-June 1952 number of this paper, brought in a number of interesting letters reporting other items of this sort. Arrival of the most recent and comprehensive, early in February 1953, gives occasion to report to date on the matter now.

Mr. Norbert Bouvier, our member in California, gives us this account:

"During the 1914-1918 war nearly all small change, in those days the equivalent of 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c and 40c U.S. money, disappeared. The moving of the Government and of the government agencies to Bordeaux in early August 1914, had caused a tremendous disruption. Minting coins was out for some time--quite some time. But the need for fractional coins was urgent; so though it was not authorized by law, the government did allow the resourceful business men to supply their own."

"For a small fee, any business could have five centime stamps and ten centime stamps encased in light aluminum with a mica facing. Sometimes the casing was brass, but most of them were of light aluminum. For the small fee, the business firm had its name and address printed or die-stamped on the metal."

"For 25 centimes and 50 centimes bills, local Chambers of Commerce through a central agency, had small squares of paper, about 2½ inches on each side, printed showing the value and their names and addresses. For 1 and 3 francs these same Chambers of Commerce had an alloy of copper minted into tokens, with their names and the value."

"These various currencies were used through the war and for several years after. By that time the 25 centimes and 50 centimes bits of paper had been lost or destroyed. Whatever was salvaged, was redeemed by the Chambers of Commerce, who then issued some 25 and 50 centimes



Obverse



Reverse

tokens, similar in reduced sizes, to those for 1 and 2 francs."

"So many of these things--none redeemable by the Government--were issued, that they are very common in France today, nearly forty years after their issue."

"The similarity of the U.S. 1862 items to those of France is striking. What I never could understand is why they limited the value of the encased stamps to 5 and 10 centimes, when the coin shortage of 25,50 centimes and 1 franc was very acute."

From several of the members and from Mr. M. G. O'Reilly, of the Eire Philatelic Association, information has come that enables us to make a tentative first list of the varieties known: in most cases no date has been reported., nor does one appear on the case according to the reports as received.

5c Sower dark green, Madeleine Cinema,
14 Bd.de la Madeleine (O'Reilly)

5c Sower green, Credit Lyonnais 1920
(Wm.W.Wylie in previous article,
O'Reilly)

5c Sower green, GC paper. Nouvelles
Galeries,Nouveautes-Ménage-
Aménagement (O'Reilly)

5c Sower green, Au Printemps,Paris, 1921
(a department store)

(Agnes Burlingame)
5c Sower green, Lisez La Lanterne, Eclair
Tout,10c. Lithographed on
brass. (Bouvier)

10c Sower red, Spidoleine,Huile pour Autos
(Bouvier)

10c Sower red,GC paper, Societe Generale
Capital 500 Millions
(O'Reilly)

Any item not described is embossed aluminum.

Mr. Bouvier was kind enough to let your editor see his two items, as was Mr. Wylie a year ago. Mr. O'Reilly offered to bring them to a meeting at which your editor would be, but was not taken up because his descriptions sufficed.

Several collectors, including Dr. G.Cammitzer of the German specialist society, have stated that similar encased coins were made in large variety and quantity in Germany at the same time and for the same reason. Attention has also been drawn to the Russian stamps printed on cards with instructions on back, for monetary use, in this period; to the Rhodesian cards with stamps affixed, for the same purpose during the Boer War, to the Mafeking local bills during the same war. We limit our treatment to France,however.

If any member knows of a comprehensive list of French encased stamps,information about such list, where it can be obtained, price, etc. may well be welcome to members.

French Stamps in Bundles, ---Used as Small Change

Prompted by the article on Encased Stamps in No. 63, May-June 1952, our member, Mr. Aaron Carpenter, wrote in, as follows:

"There was another device used in lieu of a one franc piece. They used to give you twenty five-centimes or ten ten-centimes stamps with a piece of string tied around them. Sometimes they were sewed through the center."

"Having need of stamps one evening, I took two of the little packages apart and I found that they had unused stamps on the top and bottom, but in the center were eighteen used copies of the five centimes."

"I was living in France at the time."

"The Credit Lyonnais was not the only one to use encased stamps. Nearly every bank and every department store in Paris and elsewhere in France used them from time to time. During the period from 1918 to 1921 nearly every little town in France was issuing its own fractional scrip. In fact it was an exact duplication of what we went through in the States during the Civil War."

The Second Lesgor Contest:Results: Jan. 6, 1953

Eight exhibitors showed material in frames, in the second holding of the Lesgor Contest, on Jan. 6, 1953. Previous winners were naturally eliminated from the awards. Those competing were Miss Clemencon,Mr. Hunnewell,Dr. Katz,Mr.Kremer, Mr. Neidorf,Mr. Rich,Mr. Sullivan, and Mr. Wittenberg.

Henry M. Goodkind, Fred Barovick, and Albert H.Higgins, all of the Collectors Club, were the judges of this Second Lesgor Contest.

First place went to Gustave Wittenberg, who showed 4 frames of the First 20th Century issue of France, specialized. Second to C.G.Sullivan for his study of the 5 centimes Sower Type. The third award was to Miss Louise Clemencon for an exhibit of the 15 Centimes Gray Green,Sower type with lined background. Fourth award was to Charles Neidorf for his plating of the Moroccan Semi-Postal surcharge of 1946.

In all the winning studies,inexpensive stamps were involved yet these were found to afford a fertile field for advanced study.

One of the primary objectives of these contests is to show that serious philatelic study including research is not necessarily confined to the really few, but can be enjoyed by any collector of modest means who has the taste for this activity.

Mr. Hunnewell made the trip from Malden,Mass to show in person at this contest.

---Alan R. Fernald.



Essay, without numeral of value, for the Iris Type (Scott A99, used 1939 to 1944).

Enlarged photo, by Adrien Boutrelle (lifted from his 1952 Christmas card).

By courtesy of Scott's Monthly Journal, we show the plight of the collector who wants to examine stamps by the thousand to discover varieties, and who has his wish as to really adequate supplies.



"Don't you think it's time to start putting them in an album?"

Announcing the Third Lesgor Contest:
Showing and Judging in
January, 1954

Dear Members:

In this number, you will find the rules for the next Lesgor Contest, which will be judged January, 1954. Many of you, both resident and non-resident, I hope will compete.

When studying your stamps, if you find something new or interesting, why not write about it and send your article to be published in the Philatelist. Other members, you know, may be interested in the same subject too, and they, in turn may contribute more.

It is always interesting to read what our members are working on. So please contribute to the Philatelist. We shall be most appreciative.

Louise Clemenccon, President.

Accepted Revision of the Rules, for the Lesgor
Annual Contest for the year 1953-54

To encourage more members to take part in the annual Lesgor Contest, it is proposed to add an additional category to the competition. In the past, some members may have refrained from even attempting to prepare entries, because they felt that they lacked the inclination, the eyesight, the patience, the time, the material, the experience, or whatever, for undertaking original research. If the requirements were not quite so stringent, however, some members might be encouraged to take part, and in time might graduate to the desired stage of doing research work. Hence, two classes of competition are proposed.

Class A shall be restricted to:

Studies, emphasizing original research, of a single 20th Century stamp or stamp issue, of France or any of its Colonies, Offices Abroad, Protectorates or Mandates.

Class B shall include:

Studies of a single 20th Century stamp or stamp issue of France or colonies, including as many of the known types, varieties or usages as possible, but NOT primarily involving original research.

Each entry shall be marked to indicate the class to which it belongs, and shall be judged accordingly.

Collections previously exhibited once at a regular meeting of the Group shall be eligible for competition in the Lesgor Contest ONLY if they have been materially altered by re-arrangement of material or by the addition of new material (or in both ways).

Judging shall be restricted to material that is mounted in the wall frames of the Collectors Club meeting room. While no limit to the size of the collection or the number of pages in the entry is set, exhibitors should not plan to show more than four frames of material (12 of the usual size album pages are all a frame will hold), in order that as many exhibitors as is possible may be accommodated.

Charles Neidorf, Lesgor Contest
 Committee Chairman.

In case you forgot or missed it:

Our member, Ralph Holtsizer, took the Grand Award for Best in Show, at the A.P.S. Convention Show, held Sept. 1952 at Philadelphia with his Martinique exhibit. Considering the unusual way that this show was set up, with some 200 single frame exhibits, this is a remarkable victory.

More About
The French Consular
Provisionals at Jerusalem
from May onward, 1948.

Our article in No. 45, May-June 1949, has been reprinted in the Israel Palestine Philatelist of March 1950. As a result, new information came to light. We have the pleasure of presenting this knowledge in two articles:

1. Printing and Varieties of the French
Consular Provisionals.

By E. Tolkowsky

Information regarding these fascinating issues has come to light, which completes, or in some cases corrects, some statements made at the time:

The First Issue:

We quote the original article (F. & C.P. No. 45): "...the consular order...established a rate of 6 francs for mail by sea and 16 francs for mail by air, with the stamps to be supplied by surcharging 150 each of the no-face-value consular stamps for the 6 francs rate and for 10f to be added on air mail."

The impression this statement makes is that, separately, two distinct overprintings had been made: a separate one of 6 francs and still another separate one of 10 francs. Actually, the two overprints were made simultaneously, on the same sheet. Se-tenant pairs, of which I have one, prove this beyond dispute. Not more than thirty such se-tenant pairs, used or unused, are believed still to exist.

The Third Issue:

We quote again: "Mr. Neuville.....directed that 5000 copies of the 6 franc Marianne type stamps be surcharged with the value of 20 milliemes." The sheet, as all specialists in France's stamps know, is of 100 subjects in ten rows of 10 stamps each. The overprinting form was set up in type, of ten horizontal rows with five subjects in each. The sheet was overprinted separately on the left and the right hand sides, but apparently without breaking it into two pieces. (L'Echo de la Timrologie, Nov. 1952, p. 480).

We know of two overprint varieties:

Broken S, subject 26 in the overprint form and therefore stamps Nos. 51 and 56 of the sheet.

Displaced "20 Milliemes. Plate site is not yet located. The author would be glad to hear from anyone who has plated it.

100 copies of each variety were made, since, as stated, the 50-subject form was printed onto each of the 50 sheets (5000 stamps) twice. How many have survived is of course hard to know.

A printing variety, a double strike of the overprint on the two lowermost rows of stamps, exists. It shows up conspicuously on RUSA, of



The Corner Block
 with double

JERUSALEM
 20 milliemes

Doubling is with
 second impression
 to right, about 4
 mm. out of register.

"Jerusalem," but actually includes all of both lines. As illustrated, it is present on all four stamps in the southeast sheet corner. Probably it was caused by the sheet flapping as pressure was relieved during the surcharging.

The article referred to gives August 6, 1948, as probable last date of use. We have seen Dec. 1948 on a cover--four months later.

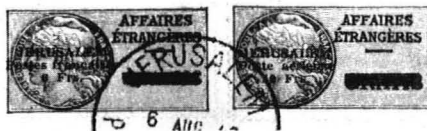
Late Use of French Emergency Stamps in Jerusalem in 1948.

Mr. Leon Shupak has shown your editor a cover with the French 6f Marianne stamp surcharged at Jerusalem for 20 milliemmes, used to Paris on a letter, with the proper postmark, same as that illustrated in No. 45 of this journal, but with date Dec. 9 1948. This is five months beyond the normal period of use and four months after the latest date hitherto reported. It seems to be the cover mentioned by Mr. Tolkowsky, and which he evidently owned when reporting it.

Inquiry among informed collectors revealed no definite information as to how this might be explained.

The only lead came from Mr. Henry Kraemer, the president of the Staten Island Philatelic Society, who was able to state definitely that a French emergency air mail service out of Israel operated at intervals until near the end of the year 1948, while the regular Czech air service was getting into smooth, regular running.

The many qualified persons who saw this item agree that it not only is clearly genuine, but apparently free of any "philatelic influence. It certainly actually went through the mails, was delivered to addressee in Paris. Complete lack of any backstamps or transit marks hinders the appraisal and understanding of it.



The First Issue Stamps
and
The Jerusalem Postmark
mentioned in the text
immediately preceding.

The Early Tunisian Postage Dues

By Raoul Lesgor

Reprinted from "France & Colonies Specialist,"
June, 1949

Prior to 1901, when the first regular postage dues were issued, stamps of the regular issue, perforated T in large holes were in use.



This T perforation was obtained from special plates smaller than the sheets of stamps so that the sheets were folded before hand thus producing as many inverted perforations, Tête Bêche, etc.

This did not apply to the higher values, 75c to 5f which were not perforated in full sheets but in small lots as the need arose.

These perforated T's can be found in three distinct types:

Type I. 6 vertical holes and 2 on

each side. Holes are about 1 1/4 to 2mm in diameter. This was used mostly in Tunis.

Type II. 5 vertical holes and 2 on each side. The holes are 2mm in diameter. Used mostly in the bureau of the interior.

Type III. The T is much smaller and made of 6 vertical holes a millimeter or less in diameter. This is the rarest of all three types and was used exclusively in Gafsa and La Goulette.

In addition, postmasters were instructed to cancel these postage dues with pen crosses diagonally from the corners. This pen cancellation to be at least two millimeters wide. Not every postal employee followed these instructions to the letter, and pen crosses vary in thickness. Some postmasters secured rubber stamps of different types of crosses. After April 1st, 1901, the ordinary postal cancellation was used, the crosses only in cases of reforwarded mail.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

November 15, 1952 to January 15, 1953

NEW MEMBERS: WELCOME--

- 523 McCully, H.B., 765 Scotland Rd., Orange, N. J. (France, 19th Century).....
- 524 Moller, Harry, MSTs, Box 15, Navy 127 P-M. Seattle, Wash. (General).....
- 525 Nackenson, Leon, 1878 Harrison Ave., New York 53, N.Y. (France only).....
- 526 Hilton, Homer, Jr. National Bank, Jackson, Mich. (Madagascar & Martinique)....
- 527 Worwood, W., 6 Labonte St., Charny, Quebec, Canada. (France only).....
- 528 Scottino, Robert L., Universal Picture Co., 445 Park Ave., New York 22, N.Y. (France first day covers, De Luxe proofs, etc).

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 273 Mullen, George, to 8 Avon St. Everett, Mass
- LOSS: (Cannot reach this member with mail)

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

RESIGNATION RECEIVED:

- 403 Schafer, Wm. Boston, Mass.....

REQUEST TO MEMBERS AND APPLICANTS:

Should you receive unsolicited approvals, the form of address or other circumstances, showing that probably the publication of your name from this journal has been taken as the occasion for trying this illegal practice upon you, will you please notify your Secretary or the Editor. We cannot, however, prevent anyone from sending to names here appearing circulars; and in case you get merely such, please file unnoticed in your waste paper basket.

NOW IS THE TIME:

For all good members, "to pay their dues for the current year 1953. Many have already done so. We have not as yet sent "bills for dues" except as requested. We depend merely upon your interest and enthusiasm to keep us on a going schedule. Send in your check for \$1.00, if regular member, or \$2.00 for resident members (New York metropolitan area membership). Send to Charles Bretagne, P.O. Box 67, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Respectfully submitted
Charles Bretagne, Sect.

MEMBERS' APPEALS

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

Wanted to buy: Catalogue des Estampilles de France et des Colonies Françaises, published in 1929, Yvert & Co. W.F. Edinger, 223 South 5th St., Louisville 2, Ky. (Member 373)

Copy wanted for this journal: we have plenty of articles on France old and new, but Colonial articles will run dry very soon. Anyone with an article on Indo-China, New Caledonia, Guiana, or any other colony: welcome. The Editor (Member 2)

Wanted: France Empire with Mexican cancellations (CEM-F, CEF-M, or normal Veracruz, Mazatlan, Manzanillo, Campeche, Tampico postmarks, on pieces or covers); Great Britain stamps 1841 to the 1881 issue with C63, C64 Mexican cancellations (pieces or covers). Price each item. Capt. J.E. Castaigne, P.O. Box 180, Pulebla, Pue., Mexico (Member 483)