

France & Colonies Philatelist



Published bi-monthly by the France and Colonies Group

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P O S T E R R E V E N U E S T A M P S

Little as revenues are collected, still less are "Covers" or rather whole pieces, showing the use of revenues. Pieces showing the imprinted poster revenues before the adhesives came in, and even a listing of them, just do not exist...any few items have been reported obscurely or long ago, or never put on printed record.

The first adhesive stamps for posters date from December 21, 1872. They are in the design also used for the other revenues of this period ("connaissements" or bills of lading, "copies" for suplicate legal documents and "dimension" for certain advertising taxes). These are still very plentiful.

In 1881 appeared the Head design. But what a head! If it is Marianne, her hair is in wild disorder. It has no characteristic of Ceres. One is reminded of the head of Medusa, with its serpents vice hair, as seen in Theseus' shield. Probably this repellent picture is of "Fisca" the spirit of taxation. At that, this 1881 lady is handsome, good-natured, compared to others we have had since then. These stamps were first imperf.; the not regularly perforated but pin-perforated 13½. The paper is strikingly variable: white, gray, yellowish, buff, gray-brown, and for the perforated issue, bluish, also.

(continued on page 6)

The 5c orange, which has been offered as a rarity, is a color changeling of no money value.

In 1891, the large design, with Ceres in a small round medallion, and value in a different color (most often black), appeared. Many stamps of this issue are exceedingly common. However, the great run of copies now seen are either torn, thinned or stained -- sometimes they have all three defects on the same stamp.

But in 1914 and 1922, rather rare printings were made of the 50c to 3 francs values, all with "7 2/10 in the inscription. This additional fraction vanished in 1923 with the issue then brought into use.

The Poster Revenue Stamps have yielded their place to present day revenues for all uses, not for any specific ones. But since 1927 there do exist departmental and municipal poster revenue stamps, which are not discussed here.

Cancellation normally was done by affixing the stamp to the blank paper, and printing the notice over it. Thus portions of the wording appear on the stamp, printed. Parts of the big bold numerals and letters are most usual. This is substantially the same method as postally used in 1869 into the 1880's and sporadically, even as late as 1905. We call that usage a form or precancelling, "Annulation pour les imprimés" and have treated it several times in this paper (most lately in No. 40, July-Aug. 1948)

Most interesting in collecting Poster Revenue stamps, aside from the really rare 1914 and 1922 issues, are the essays. These exist for all the types, from that of 1872 on through the Ceres type. They come imperf. and perforated, with and without indication of value, and in remarkably varied colors. The pictures for this article are those of essays in a collection at Lyon.

Unfortunately, the older catalogs (Roussin, Moens, Yvert) and a never one (Forbin) have made only slight mention of these essays. Yet they are literally the pearls of the album, both because they are far less plentiful than the issued stamps, and because, especially, they do not bear the disfiguring printed cancellations.

(Translated and enlarged from article in L'Argus Philatelique, Feb. 1, 1948. The cancellation information is the addition).

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)

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. Castaigt, P.O. Box 180, Pulebla, Pue., Mexico (Member 483)

Wanted: Paris Star Cancellations all stations, especially on 1c 1862, 1c, 2c, 4c 1863, and 1c, 2c, 4c, 5c 10c 1870. A.M. Scott, 62 Lenwood St., Charleston, S.C. (Member 507)

Wanted to buy or exchange against stamps of South Africa and African territories, first day covers, cachets and special cancellations of France. Dr. Werner Grunthal, P.O. Box 1725, Johannesburg, South Africa. (Member 529).



GERARD GILBERT

Mr. Gerard Gilbert, who was not only among the great stamp men, but also was actively one of the members of this Group in its early days, died May 7, 1943. We pause to remind ourselves that it is ten years since we lost this grand stamp man, who died too young at the age of only 62.

Mr. Gilbert (pronounced "Jill Bear") had a long and distinguished stamp career in France ere coming to the United States just in time to avoid the troubles that beset his country when invaded in World War 2. He had been told that his health would not stand wartime rigors.

His greatest fame came from his being chosen to catalog and auction the great collection of Ferrari, as agent for the French government.

His philatelic work will last when that sale is forgotten. His numerous articles on various stamp matters, his book on Alsace-Lorraine, his co-authorship in the great book, Les Paquebots Français et Leurs Cachets, will alone ensure his place in the philatelic Hall of Fame.

After he came to the United States, he went extensively into the study of United States, the earlier issues. Several articles by him, which propounded new explanations of puzzling facts, were the catalytics to bring out renewed study, more facts, and better understanding.

He was the Group's Honorary Chairman during our first years, up to his untimely death. The suavity and graciousness which he brought into our meetings has become a tradition with us. In the French term of appreciation, he was truly "un brave homme."

Ahoy! Collectors of Madagascar and of Reunion

Our member, Rev. A.W. Ronald Hughes, wants to get into touch with active collectors of these two countries. He wants to correspond and to exchange information. His address is:

The Rectory, Llangynw, Welshpool, Montgomeryshire, Great Britain.

Mr. Hughes has a series of articles on French North Africa, just starting, in Gibbons' Stamp Monthly, of London, and is starting work for similar articles on Reunion and Madagascar.

Exhibited at Sojex 1953, the Camden, N.J. show, was a remarkable collection of ININI, shown by our member, Mrs. Christine S. Hushbeck. Covers not philatelic were there-- seven of them; used copies off cover; Free French cancellations, all hard to find at all. Truly a remarkable showing whose merits the judges missed.

The Old Problem Turns Up Again.

"Which Variety of Type Sage Represents the Die as it was Originally Made?"

Since 1882, it has been known that there are two types or varieties of the Peace & Commerce (Type Sage) issues of France. These are differentiated by the position of the name and word "J.A. SAGE INV." beneath the southwest corner of the design. The stamp which first went into use had "N" of this under "B" of "REPUBLIQUE." Later these stamps appeared with "J.A.SAGE INV." less widely spaced and beginning about 1/2 mm. nearer the corner of the stamp. The "N" comes under the "U" of "REPUBLIQUE." The variety which first went into use is always known as Type 1; that which came later as Type 2.

In 188 and 1891 the differentiation for the entire series was completed. In 1898, Mr. Arthur Maury was intrigued by the question as to which of these varieties represented the die as it had been originally engraved. A query to Mr. Mouchon, the engraver of this type, produced a letter which Mr. Maury published in L'Echo de la Timbrologie in that year. The wording of this letter indicated that the stamps which had first gone into use were from the original die.

This statement could, however, not be reconciled with what various proofs owned by various collectors indicated as to the succession, in time order, of original and remade dies. For some years this was a moot point. Then, in 1907 Mr. Maury's great book brought further confusion into the picture. The letter of Mr. Mouchon, as therein reprinted, differed from the same letter in its 1898 published version, in stating that the stamps as issued later, "N under U", do represent the original die.

Apparently the presence of this contradiction did not attract any attention until Dr. Herbert Munk mentioned it in a footnote. page 661, Kohl Handbuch, Vol. 2, in 1929. Ever since then sporadic attempts to revive the matter and to show that "N under U" is the original die, have taken place. For the most part, these have died for lack of interest on the part of the collecting public.

In the London Philatelist of May 1939, Mr. Henry Bessemer reopened the question. Because of the war, this hung fire for ten years. Mr. Bessemer established connections that enabled him to do further work from 1949 on. His second article, in the London Philatelist of June 1951, and a pair of articles by Mr. Henry Jervis, in the American Philatelist of July 1951 and Feb. 1952, brought the matter conspicuously to philatelic attention.

The Academie de Philatelie in Paris took the first serious notice of this problem and these articles, in 1952. At its meeting of March 15 1952, they appointed a committee to discover and report on the facts and on the conclusions that these facts justify. For various reasons, not the least of which was the necessary courtesy to Mr. Bessemer and out member Mr. Jervis, the F. & C. Philatelist purposely refrained from even mentioning that the problem was in the eyes of the public at all, until the committee of the Academie should have published its report.

Your editor, who has been in correspondence with these two gentlemen, and had taken a different view from them, personally, did not wish to use this journal to publicize his own point of view. In fact, he had in preparation, to be published elsewhere, an article which would have



The two types of Peace and Commerce (Scott A15) super-imposed: Type I (N under B) above Type II (N under U). THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST FEBRUARY, 1952

accused Mr. Maury of deception of a deliberate sort, of which the two contemporary students who have just been mentioned, were not aware. That article is no longer needed; the manuscript of it has been destroyed.

The committee of the Academie very carefully went over all evidence in the recent articles and all material such as proofs, the actual dies in the Postal Museum, etc. In this respect, the wealth of material which they studied gave them a great advantage over all previous studies and students combined. It would appear that photographs of the actual dies (master and working dies alike) were obtained by the committee, although no previous workers save Mr. Maury had secured such documents (and he only one of the many possible). In this respect, they stand in the position of presenting more accurate information than that carried by the carefully synthesized diagram used by the two recent writers. Any unwitting inaccuracies in the diagrams are thus eliminated.

It is clear from the report of the committee that Mr. Maury did not intentionally change Mr. Mouchon's letter either in 1898 or in 1907..... it is clear likewise that a typographical error in publishing the letter in 1898 is the source of the whole discussion, of the existence of a problem at all. We do not know why Mr. Maury failed to notice this mistake, or to get a correction of it into print promptly. But the committee is very definite in concluding that the 1907 version is the correct one. With this conclusion we are in agreement independently of the committee and of each other.

The report of the committee goes quite extensively into the matter of erroneous identification of dies seen in the Postal Museum after 1949. From their report, clearly the source of confusion is insufficiently careful examination of this material. Human fallibility has come into the picture.

The upshot of the report is summed up by the committee in its final paragraph, as follows:

"The type from the original die is "N." under "U." It is catalogued as Type 2 because stamps in it were issued after those from the remade die (July 1876 for the 25c ultramarine). The type from the remade die is "N" under "B." It is catalogued as Type 1 because it is the first type that was issued (May 1876 for the 15c gray lilac)."

Thus, objective evidence of the most varied and extensive sort has been put on printed record in this report of the committee of the

Academie de Philatelie in L'Echo de la Timbro -
logie of February 28, 1952. The old problem need
no longer vex anyone.....though doubtless in
future years there will be those who will see
one or more of the articles preceding the 1953
report, and may seek to revive a dead argument.

Brainerd Kremer
Stephen G. Rich



Our Dinner -----May 9th, 1953

There have been so many requests that we
repeat our Spring Dinner similar to the one at
Au Gaulois last year, that we have gone ahead
with it. We can now give you the details. Here
they are:

The date: Saturday May 9th, at 7 p.m.

The place: Au Gaulois Restaurant, 351 West
57th St., New York (near 9th Ave.)

The cost: \$4.75 per plate, inclusive. This
pays for dinner and includes: the
cocktail, one glass of wine (red or
white) and tip for service.

There will be no speeches.

We will again enjoy a well-cooked, typical
French dinner, selected by Madame, and a pleas-
ant informal coming together. It is O. K. to
bring stamps for trade or sale.

Reservations NOW please, to A.R. Fernald, 71
Washington Square South, New York 12, N.Y.

"Mayonnaise."



In No. 53, Sept-Oct. 1950, and
again in No. 66, Nov.-Dec. 1952,
we have discussed the 2c 1869
lilac Newspaper Stamp of France
with 5c surcharge. In our last
treatment, we described the surcharge as not in
good standing, on the basis of inquiries made
by Mr. F. Muhlenheim.

Mr. Lesgor, owner of the two items when they
were first described, and still owner of one,
took issue with the Philatelist, because in his
view the one he still has, and presumably the
other also, are genuine, valid items. He said
that if the perforated one is bad, he would
"spread it with mayonnaise and eat it."

Accordingly, at his request, your editor did
further study on the actual item. On April 8,
1953, it was examined twice under the editor's
microscope. It was taken to Brainerd Kremer for
examination under his violet ray lamp. Under
the 'scope, with strong cross light and using
20 diameters magnification, the surcharge was
clearly visible as on top, where it crosses the
cancellation. Under the violet lamp, the top
position of the surcharge, over the cancelling
where they overlap, was conspicuous.

Thus the surcharge was applied AFTER use.
Your editor has to reverse his 1950 opinion
on this.

So we may expect the treat, at some Group
meeting in the near future, of seeing Mr. Raoul
Lesgor eat this stamp covered with mayonnaise.

*** SECRETARY'S REPORT ***

January 15, 1953 to April 10, 1953

NEW MEMBERS: WELCOME.

- 529 Grunthal, W. Dr. P.O.Box 1725, Johannesburg
U of S Africa. (Modern France).....
- 530 Hunt, Madison Mrs. 10 Hillside Rd. Claymont
Delaware. (France & Colonies).....
- 531 Sawyler, Russell H. R 2, Box 297, Decatur,
Illinois. (France).....
- 532 Kahn, William 45 East 22nd. Street,.....
New York 10, N.Y. (France).....
- 533 Jones, Wm. G. Jr. Capt. 5459 No. New.....
Braunfels Ave. San Antonio 9, Texas....
- 534 Bush, Kenneth C. 60 Grace St. Buffalo 7,..
New York. (France Classics).....
- 535 Lake, M.B. 3014 Mt. Helens Place, Seattle,
Washington. (No Classification).....
- 536 Williams, Raymond S. 42 Preston Street,..
Windsor, Conn. (France).....
- 537 Macomber, W.J. P.O.Box 6076, Philadelphia,
14, Penn. (General).....
- 538 Patton, Edward, A. P.O.Box 2, Juneau,.....
Alaska. (France & Colonies).....
- 539 Slater, Raymond L. 1701 7th. Avenue,.....
Birmingham 4, Alabama. (France).....
- 540 Pierce, Arthur P.O.Box One, Haddonfield,..
New Jersey. (Maritime Cancellations)...
- 541 Levy, Raphael, 22 Pinecrest Parkway,.....
Hasting on Hudson, N.Y. (France).....
- 542 Dodge, Norman M. State Sanatorium Hospital
Victor Cullen State Hospital, Maryland.
- 543 McDowell, Robert E. Fairland Ave. Buechel..
Ky. (France & Colonies).....

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 515 Josephson, Paul R. to 2714 South East.....
Trails, St. Joseph, Mo.....
- 476 Walter, M.C. Col. to 2014 Scroggins Road,..
Alexandria, Va.....
- 419 Beal, James H. to 535 Belvedere Ave. N.E..
Warren, Ohio.....
- 427 Fuerst, Milton Jr. to P.O.Box 4007, Carroll
-ton Station, New Orleans 18, La.....
- 483 Castaignt, J.E. Capt. to Apartado Postal..
180, Puebla, Pue. Mexico.....
- 229 Jervis, Henry to Bridge House, Newlyn.....
Penzance, Cornwall, England.....
- 397 Karseboom, Glenn to 2733 Meyer Ave.....
Grand Rapids 9, Michigan.....
- 156 Hoefler, Otto to 833 W. E Street, Ontario
California.....
- 477 Reichert, William E. to 1423 Farrel Lane..
Richland, Washington.....
- 29 Schilling, W.H. Jr. to 5501 Woodcrest Dr..
Minneapolis, 10, Minn.....

LOSS, MAIL RETURNED:

- 297 Tölzman, George E. 1709 W. 66th. Street,..
Chicago 36, Illinois.....

RESIGNATION RECEIVED:

- 175 Wasserscheid, A.A. Garden City, New York..
66 Griswold, A.S. Dr. Bridgeport, Conn.....

REINSTATEMENT:

- 5 Fatoullah, K. 505 Fifth Ave. New York, N.Y

Respectfully submitted
Charles Bretagne, Secretary.



St. Pierre-Miquelon is the
only country other than
Newfoundland to picture
the Newfoundland Dog on
stamps: 1932 dues; 1938
regular issue and F.N.F.L.
surchargings.