

# France & Colonies Philatelist



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The Malden Number

By the members of the Malden Chapter  
F. & C. Group



Vichy Govt.  
stamp. The  
letters and  
numerals on  
this show  
details.



Underground  
stamp. The  
letters are  
crude; right  
shape num-  
erals solid  
in part.

## The Espionage or Underground Issues of France

This story is information gathered over many years from papers, magazines, catalogs, etc.

These stamps were issued for two purposes.

First: they served as means of identification. If one member of the French Underground had occasion to send a message of importance to another member, he would use one or more of these stamps. On arrival of the letter, the recipient would check the stamps: if found to be of this type, they could be reasonably sure of what the source was, and act accordingly.

These stamps were to be destroyed as soon as received, so that there would be little chance of the enemy finding the method of identification used. For this reason, used copies of these stamps are very scarce. On a cover of the right date, one would be practically a museum piece.

There were six different values: four of the Petains (50c, 1f, 1f 50c, 2f), and one each of the Iris (1f 50c) and Mercury (30c). (Two more, a 25c Mercury and a 70c Petain, have also been reported).

The second reason for making these was to defraud the enemy of the postage.

Some of the identifying features of various ones among the Underground or "False" stamps in these patriotic forgings are:

On the Iris and Mercury, there is no trace at all of an accent over first E of REPUBLIQUE. On the Iris 1.50 the hub of the torch has the upper edge scalloped, whereas on the genuine it is smooth.

On the lower value Petains, two vertical or slightly diverging lines show on the forehead in the Underground production, instead of a dot.

On the 1.50 and 2f Petains, the letters of POSTES FRANCAISES are not only rough, but their



Vichy



Underground

normal colored strokes within the white stroke where thick, are missing or vague or in short bits.

The 1.50 Petain has numerals coarse and with

Pre-War and used  
by Vichy Govt.

Underground

much less white within them than in genuines.

Both upper values of the Petain have a break in top of head: smaller in the 2f.

The 2f shows the left eye as if in a box.

Both values show the moustache coming down over the mouth: the genuines expose the mouth.

The 1f 50 Petain was printed in sheets of 24 stamps, 6 wide and 4 high. The seal of the Underground appears on the back of each, under the gum. This is a large circle with one Cross of Lorraine in the center: at bottom "Atelier des Faux" and at top "Defense de la France -- Direction", both in small capitals.

There are numerous other differences to use in distinguishing these patriotic forgeries. But these will suffice for most needs. The reader, looking for Underground stamps, needs to know that the Iris and the lower 3 value Petains are more clearly printed than the genuine. On the Mercury and the two upper Petains they are very noticeably less well printed.

The articles are many, and contradict each other on some points. Lafitte's story, in Nov. 15 1946 number of L'Officiel de Philatelie is probably the most useful for recognition work.

Pre-War and used  
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Underground

Illustrations from Mr. Laritte's article, of which mention has been made. For excellent information and more details, see Chase & Lesgor, in Stamps, Aug. 16, 1947 and Cooper's articles in the British paper, Stamp Collecting, in 1950.

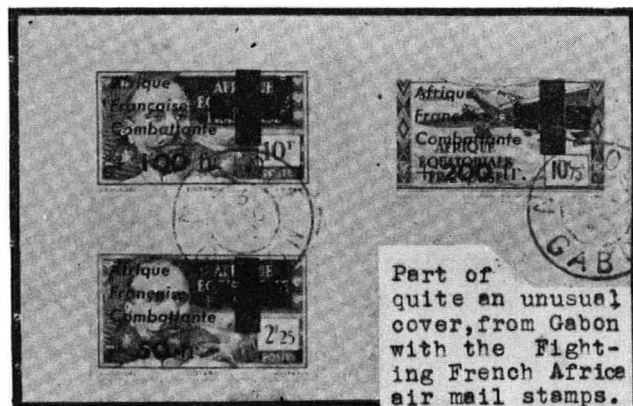
The Malden Chapter of the France and Colonies Group was organized as The French Collectors Group of Malden. It had been in existence about a year, when their representative, Mr. Earl Hunnewell, spoke to Raoul Lesgor about joining the F. & C. Group. They were admitted to the nation-wide Group, by charter granted in March 1946.

The number of members has been limited to only 8, since the monthly meetings are held at the members' homes. About every six months, a meeting open to all collectors interested in France or any Colony, is held in the hall of the Malden Y.M.C.A. At the last open meeting, about fifty visitors were present, and 35 or 40 albums of French stamps were on display. The guests are invited to bring along their collections, so that the members of the Malden Chapter may help them with any problems they may have.

Through the help of the Malden Chapter, some lots of philatelic material, thought worth only \$25.00 by its owners was found to be worth over \$200.00. This is just one example of what the Chapter is doing to help others.

#### Unreported Variety: 2f 1938 Arc d'Orange

The 2f here shown has one line in the right-hand border of the picture shorter than the two on each side of it. The normal stamp has them all of same length. Will members please check their copies and see if we can find at least one more copy with this variety. Please send word to Earl Hunnewell, Y.M.C.A., Malden 48, Mass., who has the copy pictured here. The same part of the normal stamp is also shown, alongside.



Puzzler

Here is a cover of 1856, France to the U. S., via England, stampless, with R.P. O. mark from France which is apparently not listed in any of the books. It could not be located in Chase & de Beaufond's great 1951 catalog of French R.P.O. postmarks, nor in any other available source work.

British Paid and New York British packet mark appear, as well as this. Place of origin in France not stated. The French R.P.O. mark is struck on back as well as on front of the cover.

Information wanted, by Earl Hunnewell.

*Via Liverpool*



*Mrs. Charles B. Belding*

*Dorset, England*

*United States of America*

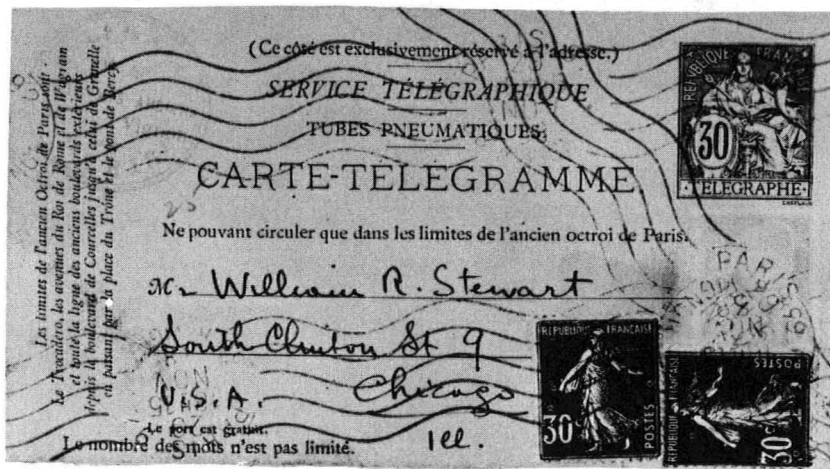
Converted to a Wider Range.

This card has gone beyond its area for regular use, by addition of adhesives to convert it to the needed rate. Used in 1929, it is a much older pneumatic tube card. The 10c Iris does not show up in the photo, so we add a color-screened bit taken to show it.

The Free Delivery notice ("Le port est gratuit") has some interest.

This is strictly a "philatelic" item, done on purpose by some stamp man.

1929 use.



S. 513

On His Majesty's Service



Monsieur le Colonel de la GATINERIE;

Amis des Volontaires Français: 3580

Queenberry Way;

ADMIRALTY SERVICE

If undelivered to  
be returned to:—

London S.W.7



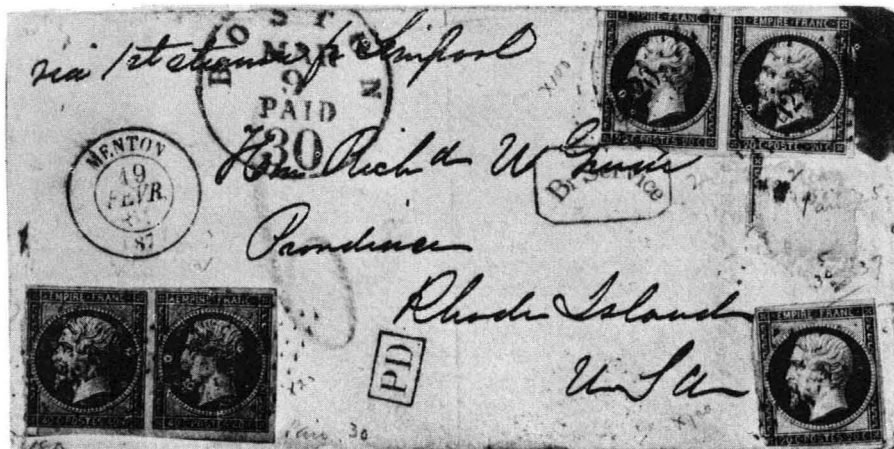
British Official Envelope  
Used by Free French Headquarters during  
World War 2.

The Free French forces were given use of official free franking, when London was their site of headship.

Besides the validating dated mark shown, there is on this cover, too faint for any adequate photographing, over the printed "Admiralty Service" a handstamp of French use. It reads "Marine Nationale", has an anchor in the middle, and "F.N.G.B." (for Forces Nationales en Grand-Bretagne) at bottom. We cherish such items.

Much-Postmarked Cover of 1861 to U.S.

The complications of pre-U.P.U. rates are nicely shown by this cover to the U.S. The manuscript big 6 next to a pair of 40c, is rate in decimes (10 centimes each) but the actual payment, 1 franc 50 of 15 decimes including a stamp partly peeled off, comes to 30 cents U.S. money. Hence Boston paid for that amount; French outgoing PD in box (paid to destination). British Service carrying it is shown. On back is R.P.O. Paris a Calais 1, octagon in circle. Boston 30 is U.S. accepting mark for the PD.







This line goes on all the way down (not so in any other type)



#### The Fifth Type of the 3 francs of 1930 (Reims Cathedral)

Independently, this new type was found by us, and previously by Wanos & de Belleville, whose 1949 Catalogue des Variétés 1900-1949 pictures it. (illustration BM, page 55). In this, at the left of tablet of value, outer vertical line of tablet continues downward to meet label in which name of subject occurs. Pricing indicates that it is not plentiful. We are proud to have found this without knowing that anyone else had done so, and equally glad it is verified by W. and de B. ---The Malden Chapter.

#### 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: Paris Star Cancellations all stations, especially on 1c 1862, 1c, 2c, 4c 1863, and 1c, 2c, 4c, 5c 10c 1870. A.M. Scott, 68 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).

Wanted: to exchange against good used current stamps of British Colonies, Latin America, Europe, Asia and Far East, good used stamps of French Colonies and early cancellations of France..... Norman R. Dodge, Victor Cullen State Hospital, State Sanatorium, Md. (Member 542)

#### Gilbert Memorial Award for 1952.

The Gerard Gilbert Memorial Award, for the best article in English, by a member on French or French Colonial philately, is awarded each year on articles published during the previous calendar year.

The Group's committee found one article of the 1952 production so far ahead of anything in possible competition, that without the least hesitation the award went to this:

The Manuscript Postmarks and Cancellations of Martinique.

By Ralph Holtsizer and Robert G. Stone  
Collectors Club Philatelist, July, 1952.

#### \* SECRETARY'S REPORT \* April 10, 1953 to May 1, 1953

##### NEW MEMBERS WELCOME:

- 544 Burr, Russell 778 Valour Rd, Winnipeg....  
Manitoba, Canada. Gen.& Literature..
- 545 Daniels, Rolfe B. 2697 North Beachwood Dr.  
Los Angeles 28, Cal. General.....
- 546 Marder, John L. 139 South Clark Drive.....  
Los Angeles 48, Cal. France only...
- 547 Gill, Robert J. 10 Light Street, Baltimore  
2, Md. France 19th. Century.....

##### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 71 Metzger, Harold M. to Route 6, Box 640....  
Tampa 4, Florida.....
- 297 Tolzmann, George H. to 5258 Lolita Avenue,  
Los Angeles 41, California.....
- 287 Bond Jr. W.H. to P.O.Box 9132.....  
San Antonio 4, Texas.....
- 121 Urton, Roy N. to 826 North Foote Avenue,..  
Colorado Spring, Colorado.....
- 539 Slater, Raymond L. to 1701 7th. Ave. West,  
Birmingham 4, Alabama.....
- 362 Davis, Bernard, to 2041 N. Broad Street,..  
Philadelphia 22, Pa.....

##### RESIGNATION RECEIVED:

- 479 Sell, Kenneth E. Berkeley 3, California...

##### APPLICATION PENDING:

- 548 David, Platt W. 2306 Ella Lee Lane,.....  
Houston 19, Texas. France & Col.....

Respectfully Submitted  
Charles Bretagne, Secretary...

#### Annual Meeting, May 5, 1953

The officers elected for the year 1953-54, at the annual meeting, May 5, 1953, are:

President: Brainerd Kremer.

Vice-President: Louise Clemenson, who asked not to have a second year as President.

Recording Secretary: Charles Neidorf.

Corresponding Secretary: Charles Bretagne.

Treasurer: Robert L. Wood, M.D.

Directors (in addition to the officers):

Benoni Bureau, Edmond Queyroy,  
S.G. Rich, and Gus Wittenberg.

President Kremer appointed:

Editor: Stephen G. Rich

Parent Chapter Program Chairman: Gus Wittenberg.

Publicity Chairman: Alan R. Fernald.

#### The Awards Won, and Other Doings of Members.

Just before ending her year as President of the Group, Miss Louise Clemenson took "Second Grand Award" at the Pottstown, Pa., stamp show, April 24, 1953, with her showing of Reunion. At this show not only the best in show but also the exhibit next it merit to it, get trophies.

At the Parent Chapter meeting of May 5, the award for best showing of any colony, an Exapa Plate, was taken by George Weiler with Upper Senegal and Niger.

Your editor was chairman of judges, with Mr. Bretagne, our able secretary as one co-judge, at the Waterbury, Conn. exhibition, April 24-25.

Your editor was also chairman of judges at the Central New York Federation show at Sidney, N.Y. on May 9. Our member Don Burgess won high place, special prize for First Award nearest to trophy rank, for his extensive showing of New Caledonia.