

France & Colonies Philatelist



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The Die Types of the 25c Sower Design.

By Charles Neidorf



Die A or Type 1
(1907)



Die B or Type 2
(1922)



Die C or Type 4
(1924)



Die D or Type 3
(1920)

Description and story in article on page
14 of this number.

The Die Types of the 25c Sower Design.

By Charles Neidorf

These diagrams (on the foregoing page) would appear to be the first ever published that show the characteristics of the die types of the 25c Sower design with a reasonable degree of accuracy. They are derived from a set of original photographs. As accurate pictures, they surely are long overdue.

So far as this writer is aware, all diagrams previously published on these are derived from either heavily retouched photographs or from poorly drawn freehand sketches. The ones in Louis Barrier's recent "Essai sur 'Les Semeuses'" are perhaps the best of the lot, but are far from complete fidelity to the actual stamps; while those in Wanos & De Belleville's specialized catalog of France are about the poorest. Our own diagrams, in Mr. Bull's piece on this issue, in No. 5 of this journal, July-August 1942, fall short quite as much.

In fairness, it must be mentioned now that a certain amount of retouching of the photographs used here was found to be unavoidable, in order to clean up the backgrounds and to even out any slightly ragged edges of numerals, frame lines etc. Thus, the diagrams may not agree with any one particular copy of any one of the stamps, with absolute hairline accuracy. Also, it is quite easy to find stamps, particularly overinked copies, which differ to some slight degree from the diagrams.

But certainly these new diagrams are very far closer to reality than are previous efforts. The addition of arrows pointing to key stigmata or distinguishing characteristics may be a worth-while time-saving addition. Words also are not alone too satisfactory for calling notice to small differences between a series of related items.

There are two systems of notation for these types or dies, not agreeing in order in which, for systematic purposes, the varieties are set. We give both, and the date of appearance of each type.

Note that A and D resemble each other in that both have a conspicuous constriction in the horizontal base of the numeral 2, near where it joins the diagonal portion. An obvious distinction between the two lies in the "head" of the 2, which is noticeably hollower in Die D than in Die A.

Die C can be recognized by the fact that the tail of the C extends to the right of the upper tip, and that the extreme left end of the horizontal base of the 2 is closer to the thin inner vertical frame line than in the other types (0.2 mm. instead of 0.4 or 0.5 mm). Previous descriptions gave measurements to the outer frame line.

By elimination, this leaves Die B, which can further be recognized by the distinctive shape of the horizontal base of the 2: the two edges more nearly parallel to each other along most of their length than in the other types --- and by the long, narrow serif at the right end of the flag (top bar) of the numeral 5.

Previous descriptions of the die types have mentioned other characteristics, notably the shape of the letter C in each type. While many differences undoubtedly do exist, the ones that are mentioned here seem to be those most easily noticed. These are adequate for rapid, accurate segregation of the types.

But the diagrams speak for themselves.



From the District Purchased in 1860.

This cover, which we showed in No. 69, has an additional interest. It originated in Menton, the last town in France as one comes to the end of France and the Italian boundary along the Riviera.

Menton and Roquebrune to the west of it were possession of the Princes of Monaco from a time before 1500, save for brief French holding under the First Empire. In 1848 Menton and Roquebrune revolted, sought Sardinian protection, but were subdued.

France, acquiring Savoy and Nice in 1860 from Sardinia as reward for aid in the wars of unification of Italy, bought this narrow strip on the coast from the Prince of Monaco later that year. This cover is quite soon after purchase. (Feb. 19 1861; year shows well on original photo)



Photo by Leon W. Banks

The Judges, at the Stamp Show, April 24, 25 and 26, 1953 at Waterbury, Conn.

Left to right:
Treasurer Steeg of the A.P.S.
Your Editor
Your Secretary, Mr. Charles Bretagne (whose picture has been asked for by members).

Types 1 and 2 of Type Sage--- Further

We of the Group may well feel pleased that our synopsis of the report of the committee of the Academie of Philatelie, in the March-April 1953 number of this journal, was a real SCOOP, first publication of the results on this side of the "fishpond."

Our member, Dr. Carroll Chase, has done, in his usual accurate way, a complete translation, that is in print in the American Philatelist of July 1953.

Western Stamp Collector reprinted what we gave as synopsis, in their June 9 1953 number.

Mr. Henry Jervis and your editor have been in correspondence on this in recent weeks, but as nothing new in the way of information on the matter has come forth, we do no harm by respect for Mr. Jervis's wish not to make public such comments as he has written.

The matter really stands decided, unless some new facts come forward. We hope the losers will take their defeat gracefully.

Annual Dinner, May 9th, 1953

The Annual Dinner of the F. & C.G. was held, at "Au Gaulois" Restaurant as hitherto, on May 9th, 1953, with a very good turnout, of about 30 persons.

Shortly after all present were seated:--Mr. Lesgor lived up to his promise to eat his controversial surcharged French newspaper stamp with mayonnaise, if it should prove phony.

While the excellent meal was being served and enjoyed, Mr. Lesgor vanished, reappearing soon, transformed into a Parisian apache, complete with cloth cap, long sideburns and red handkerchief around his neck. He was carrying a guitar, with which he accompanied himself in singing several apache songs. Mr. Lesgor received not only a round of applause for being the life of the party, but also the contents of a plate passed around jokingly, started by our waitress with four pennies on the plate. (Mr. Lesgor pocketed the proceeds, about \$1.25).

So we went on to group singing, of course including "Alouette" and, unexpectedly, "A Bicycle Built for Two."

President Kremer then asked for a rising vote of thanks to Mr. Fernald for his very fine handling of the arrangements and one to Miss Clemenceau for supplying each guest with a tri-colored basket of mints.

This was followed by a "tambola" (?) Each one present wrote his name on the back of his (or her) ticket and placed it in Mr. Lesgor's cap. Mrs. Bretagne drew the winner: Mr. Auerbach got a jar containing a pound of French mixture.

Speeches, including some on a group trip to France, and Mr. Boutrelle's photographs of the occasion, ended a grand, enjoyable evening. We show, for lack of space, only a part of one of these pictures, with Mr. Lesgor "en apache."

-----Charles Neidorf.



The "Puzzler" is Solved.

This R.P.O. mark, "Ambulant Ouest No. 1," on which Mr. Hunnewell asked information in No. 69, is not French but Belgian, says Secretary Charles Bretagne. So this cover did not originate in France but in Belgium.



The "V. P. M." Mark

of 1851 & 1852

Further Information.

By Ben Reeves,
President, S.P.A.



Referring to the comprehensive coverage of this Tuscan health office marking, which was long mistaken for a French postal marking, see the articles by Mr. Rothschild and myself in No. 66 of this paper (November-December 1952).

An interesting point in the study of these is the addressee of Mr. Rothschild's cover: Pate & Co. or Pate & Fils. Like Mr. Rothschild's no less than fifteen of my own covers are to this firm in Livorno.

Until the late August S. Hertz, a hunter for philatelic finds and a stamp broker in London, liberated the accumulation of the Pate firm's correspondence covering over 100 years, covers with this marking were very scarce. No study of the V.P.M. marking had been (or could really well be) made until the Pate find came on the market. This is one of the many cases in which material that Mr. Hertz hunted out is now being used in research.

The firm Pate & Co. started in business, in Livorno, in 1801, and the house continued until 1930. The business was dissolved on the death of the last descendant.

The Pate family, of Irish origin, were strict Catholics, and left everything to the Vatican.

Hertz contacted the Secretary of the Vatican and made the deal for the Pate correspondence, which was shipped to England. Out of this accumulation we are getting some of the finest postal history material of Tuscan and other Italian origins.

I add that Deninger, in his 1948 book on the stampless cover markings goes with the sources Mr. Rothschild mentions in repeating the old and erroneous interpretation as French and "Voie des Paquebots de la Mediterranee." But correct information is that it is Tuscan, and it means: "Via Particolare Maritimi." We cannot keep the covers bearing it in our French collection save if they originated in France.

Paris 1944

Heroic Week

Covers.



Editor J. Elmer Zinsmeister, of the S.P. A. Journal, writes, referring to our treatment of these in No. 66 (Nov.-Dec. 1952) that he and Mrs. Zinsmeister at one time owned quite a few of these covers; that they have kept six of them which are now in their collection. Dates and addressees are as follows:

To Credit Foncier Francais, 22 VIII 1944.
To Societe Credit Departementale, 22 VIII 1944.
To Secours Refugiés, 25 VIII 1944.
To Cie Location Terrains, 24 VIII 1944.
To Transports en Communes, 24 VIII 1944.
To Service Observation Scientifique, 25 VIII 1944.

All save that to "Transports en Communes" have the square "Paris Libéré" cachet. In other ways they are identical (stamp, label and postmarking) with the two we have pictured.

That Numeral Postmark List for France

Members who were in the Group as far back as 1946 will recall that, beginning in 1943 we were sending out with each number of the Philatelist one or more mimeographed sheets in a series to cover the whole numeral list for French griffes of the 1850's to 1870's. This series was not continued in later years.

The new officers, with the members that were at the Annual Meeting in May, would like to be really informed as to whether any further units in this set of sheets are wanted.

The general feeling seems to be that it may not be needed, since the complete list is now to be had as a small book, and also has been run in one volume of Billig's Handbooks.

Members who still want the list published by us this way are asked to let President B. Kremer know, promptly. Postcard him: Brainerd Kremer, 18 Plymouth St., Montclair, New Jersey. In the absence of definite signs of demand, the list probably will not be continued.

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: to exchange against good used current stamps of British Cols., 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)

Wanted-- France Historical Album (pub. Barclay Press, Montreal). Prefer new, but acceptable used copy might do. H. Hilton Jr., c/o National Bank, Jackson, Mich. (Member 526)

Wanted for study: dated corner clocks, also full sheets of France 263 (2fr. Arc de Triomphe). Will pay postage both ways. Will purchase any quantity of used multiples. Charles Neidorf, 127 Cannon St., New York 2, N.Y. (Member 364)

For publication in this journal we want ten short articles, with or without pictures, on any Colonial stamp subjects (We have oodles of copy on Metropolitan France). Editor, F. & C.P. Yes, we can use longer colonial articles and some on offices abroad, also. S.G. Rich, Verona, N. J. (Member 2),

By Request

French Emergency Issue Jerusalem Use Very Late.

At the request of several members we persuaded Mr. Leon Shupak, the member of the Israel-Palestine Stamp Club (we may not have the name of this body exactly right) to let us run a photograph of the December 9, 1948 cover which we wrote up in the January-February number, (No. 67).

We now provide those members with the picture which they desire. The stamp is the Jerusalem overprint, 20 millimes on 6f Marianne.

Antecedent article is feature, on front page of No. 45, May-June 1949.

* SECRETARY'S * REPORT *
May 1, 1953 to July 15, 1953

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME:

548 Davis, Platt Walker, 2306 Ella Lee Lane, Houston 19, Texas. France & Colonies.
549 Tolkowsky, E. 172 Avenue J. Van Ryswyck, Antwerp, Belgium.....

APPLICATIONS PENDING:

550 Streeter, Wilson W. 7744 79th. Place..... Brooklyn 27, N.Y. French Colonies....
551 Brock, Fred C. MD. 600 So. Reese Place, Burbank, California. French & Colonies, War Covers, Classic & Modern...

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

19 Cléménçon, Louise to 30 Monroe St., AI-2.. New York 2, N.Y.....
5 Fatoullah, K. to 116 Nassau St. New York.. 38, N.Y.....
36 Thomas, Bernard to Box 58, RFD # 1, Sperryville, Va.....
168 Wallace, Angus B. to 12 Jervis St. Orillia Ontario, Canada.....
286 Ness, Ole to 13130 Valley Heart Drive, Studio City, California.....
404 Schauer, W.E. to 1839 N. 54th. Street, Milwaukee 8, Wisconsin.....
471 Tedford, Leonilda to 750 Kappock Street, New York 63, N.Y.....
377 Glanton, G.P. to 683 So. Rampart Avenue, Los Angeles, California.....

DUES FOR 1953 ARE NOW PAYABLE: FINAL NOTICE....

If your membership number is on this list, you have not attended to paying for this year. May we hear from you by check or postal note, do it now, before you forget.....
84,134,209,231,274,303,309,335,366,377,388,413,429,438,446,452,453,469,484,489,490,500,508,510,513,514,518.

Respectfully submitted
Charles Bretagne, Secretary.

NOTICE ***** NOTICE ***** NOTICE ***** NOTICE
GREATER LOS ANGELES F & C.G. MEMBERS.

The undersigned members invite the more than 20 members of the France & Colonies Group, living in the Los Angeles County, to attend an informal meeting in order to organize a local chapter... The meeting to be held at the Club house of the Los Angeles Philatelic Club, 417 So. Alvarado St Los Angeles, California. (1 block north of Mc... Arthur Park) on Thursday September 17th. at 8 PM.
G.P. Glanton M.M. Miroff Dr. F.C. Brock

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE



Monsieur William Lattery
supérieur Général des Lazarets
et des Filles de la Charité
95, Rue de Sévres, 95
Paris (6e)
France