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# France & Colonies Philatelist



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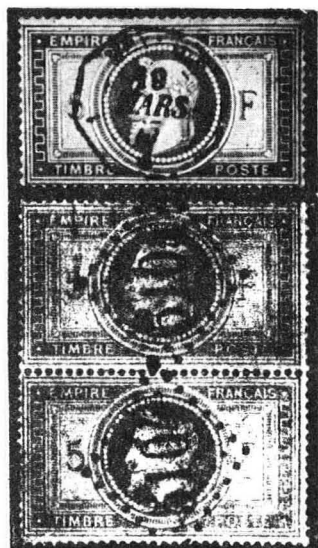
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## A Short Study on the 5 Francs of the Empire. The Printing Varieties--Detection of Forgeries.

By R. Cotin

Translated from "La Quinzaine Philatelique."



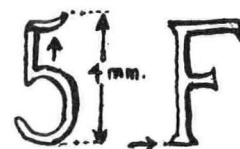
The 5 francs stamp of the Empire was issued in August 1869. It remained in use a long time, in spite of the change of government in 1870, until it was retired from service as late as June 1, 1877. Despite this long duration of its activity, the printing was notably small, since it does not exceed 4,451,850 copies. This is almost the same quantity as made of the orange 40c of 1849. But its soft and easily-tearing paper, the frailness of its perforation, and its large shape, made it specially vulnerable to the damages of time and to clumsiness of men. This all explains the great rarity of this stamp in perfect condition.

Two striking examples will buttress my words on this:

A Belgian expert, whose name I regret to have forgotten, wrote in the Revue Internationale Philatelique that there are three stamps which could be considered in "prime condition" with small defects: one tooth missing or corner rounded, small crease, or little tear. One of these stamps was the 5 francs of the Empire.

Many French philatelists, who are, as everyone knows, the hardest people in the world to please on quality of stamps, will not easily admit any such statement. Meanwhile, they would do well to heed this hint, if they do not want the space for the thirty-third stamp of France (as Yvert lists them) to remain forever empty in their collections.

The second case is supplied to me by the results of an inquiry made by my friend Pierre Almay (Translation in this journal, March-April, 1947, No. 32, page 6--Editor). "What are the rarest stamps of France?" After having examined 500 collections of high standing (Most of these, large collections), his figures showed that the 5 francs Empire, used, was in fourth place, after fine pieces of which the prestige is established. In the 500 collections there were 19 copies



Type 1



Type 2

of the 1f vermillion; 34 copies of the 1f Empire; 24 used and 31 unused of the 5 plus 5f Orphans; and 43 used, 10 unused copies of the 5f Empire.

We understand that this count is not limited to copies in perfect condition only. Neither must we conclude that, out of 500 collections, 53 contained the 5 francs Empire used or unused. Some collections certainly included three, or four, copies of this same stamp. That fact does make a little smaller the number of its happy owners.

Without stretching a point, I could give the 5f Empire third place, since the total of 5 plus 5 francs Orphans, unused and used, is 55. But I desire to include only used copies within my reckoning.

Thus, in fact, our 5f used, in perfect condition, would be rarer, with 43 copies, than the 15c green used, which would take fifth place, with 51 copies. It would be interesting to extend this study, to discover whether the order thus established would be maintained or changed.

#### Varieties.

1. A fine variety of print.--- On 6 copies from the first pane of 75, the lines that form the background in the central rectangle, are doubled in the upper left corner, especially the third and sixth lines from the top. These two are doubled for their whole lengths. This constant variety can be seen with the naked eye. In these copies the upper left corner lacks the even look of the other corners. This lovely variety is found on subjects 9, 13, 21, 22, 28 and 72. Yvert's 1939 specialized catalog of France rates it at twice normal price, reports it coming 4 times in every 100 copies.

2. Large numeral 5.--- This measures 4 and one quarter mm., instead of 4 mm. Rating: unused, twice normal; used, 1 1/2 times normal.

3. Numeral 5 and F in blue.--- The stamp was printed in two operations, as was the case with the Mouchon type 1's of 1900. The first trip through the press printed the main design; a second trip the numeral 5 and letter F. This variety appears clearly only on copies of the gray-violet shade. Rating: unused, 1 1/10; used, 1 3/10.

4. No indication of value.--- Doubtless, one sheet escaped the second printing? At present, only four copies, which incidentally are all defective, are known of this great rarity.

#### Types.

Marconnet has described three different types of the 5 francs Empire. On examining many copies of this stamp, I have found the first two readily, but up to now have not been able to put my hand onto Type 3. Maybe some readers will be luckier.

Type 1 --- Numeral of two lines, completely separated; the loop of the 5 seems a bit more open than in Type 2. The lower line of the flag of the 5 forms a little horizontal cavity, and ends in a small ball or knob. Base of F is conspicuous, especially at left.

Those copies of this type which I have examined have a light and even-looking impression. The little white lines between shading lines of the background and the medallion, are always completely visible, in contrast to their being at times filled up or partially obscured on stamps of Type 2. This fine, light impression of Type 1 seems to belong to the earliest of the printings.

Type 2 --- Numeral 5 solid, completely so or almost so in its upper half; loop a little more open. Lower line of flag rising more obliquely, without any little dip, nor having ball at end. Left base of F almost effaced. (See picture).

Type 3 --- Numeral 5 formed of 2 lines except vertical bar and the obliquely rising part of flag.

#### Detection of Forgeries

Here are the features of the genuine:

1. The leaves in the interior corners show 5 quite distinct lobes.
2. 64 pearls around the medallion.
3. The cedilla under C of FRANÇAIS is thin.
4. Within the medallion and in the body of the stamp, the shading lines are much thinner than the white intervals between them.
5. The shading of the nose is formed of 8 well-made and equidistant strokes.
6. The lines shading the eyelids are almost horizontal.

An old forgery, lithographed on wove or laid paper, has only 63 pearls, and the leaves in the interior corners are badly formed. Easy to recognize!

The Geneva forgery does not have the points listed above. The cedilla is thicker than the letter. (See points 3 and 6).

If counterfeits are hardly to be feared, repaired stamps, sometimes very extensively repaired, can mislead buyers. Here are the most dangerous repairs, because almost invisible:

--- Perforations remade one one side ( gauge 1t).

--- One tooth added (benzine and hand lens).

--- Partial patching up of design, hidden by cancellation.

To be a competent judge on these questions, it is desirable to have on hand a defective copy of the stamp being examined, as a first resort. One can thus compare dimensions, paper, shade and perforation.

Of course these precautions are needless if one buys his rare stamps from a specialist who signs the stamp, or has it signed by a recognized expert.

#### Addition by Editor, F. & C. P.

The foregoing article was published in 1947. We are indebted to our member, Mr. Hermann Schloss for sending it to us for translation, as result of seeing the "Compilation" on this stamp, in No. 36 of this journal, Nov-Dec. 1947. The delay in translating and publishing it has been so as to see copies of the stamp meanwhile.

Your editor, having some statistic training, can state that Mr. Alamy's sampling is large enough to be statistically valid, with small error. Another 500 collections might shift one place up or down on each of several stamps, but would not make any major change.

Your editor is convinced that all the "types" intergrade fully. This holds true for the sizes of the numeral, the shape of the flag of the 5, and for the amount of clogging or single-lined, solid portions of the numeral. The foot of F likewise can be found in a perfect series, with minute variations down the line, from the full bottom serif to the one-sided base. Clogging of the interior and adhesion to the outside, of the numeral, by dried ink not fully washed off at the end of each day's run, accounts for all the variations of the 5. Once dried on, these bits of dirt resist later washings. The foot of the F is probably a progressive break or granulation, with particles of copper leaving the plate, one by one during running, and increasing the break as it shows in print.

Philatelic scholarship in France, with all due respect to Mr. Alamy and others, has neglected, detrimentally, the intergrading, in the effort to establish a series of separate types.

The difficulty in establishing, in many cases whether a stamp has the 3 3/4 mm. height figure called "Type 1" in Scott's catalog or the 4 1/4 mm. height figure there called "Type 2", gives further point to this comment.

Mauray's great book reports this 5f with "SPECIMEN" in 14-point gothic light caps, in black, overprinted onto it. This variety is not mentioned by later writers. Evidently it is excessively scarce.

Kremer, from source not stated, reports the stamp on paper watermarked with maker's name. Obviously this watermark occurs once or twice in the sheet, probably near margin. Hence it will show up on very few stamps. (French Philatelic Facts, Feb. 1951, p. 145).

The "numeral in bistre" variety listed in the 1954 Thiaude catalog, and that in blue, listed by Scott, would both appear to be fakes. Such a statement goes quite against general opinion--- but to anyone who has seen what happens with age and exposure to these purplish pigments used in the 1860's, as on the U.S. 24 cent stamps then current, it seems almost an obvious explanation that need only be checked by exposing a damaged 5f stamp to light for long enough time.

Considering how choice a stamp this is, the small amount of actual study ever done on it is most remarkable. For instance, the thesis was thrown out, in the 1947 "Compilation" in this journal, that long and short flags on the 5 can be found. Nobody has yet troubled to verify or to deny this.

On the forgeries: one comment must be made:-- Who is going to bother to count the dots around the medallion anyway? Surely some other marks to identify this Geneva forgery can be located. We'd love to start a diatribe against line and dot counting as means of deciding if a stamp is forged. But this isn't the place to do so.



#### Those Almost Hidden Camels

How far Somali Coast's stamps go in showing the camel as that colony's typical sign, is not always fully realized. We are familiar with the rider on this ungainly beast on the 1894 high value triangles, on the 1899 surcharged triangles, and on the regular issue in use from 1902 until 1915.

However, from 1938 on, the camel came back onto Somali Coast stamps, though inconspicuously. In fact, we might almost call these the "Hidden Camels, save that they are not hidden. They are merely inconspicuous.

The camel shows up small on the Warriors type of 1938, way down near RF in lower right corner. On the Lagarde type in that issue, the camel is above the head, partly under the word "Somalis," in the small reproduction of a camel type stamp (the triangle changed in shape).

The two values of the Vichy Air Mail stamps of 1941, the triangles, show a camel down in the lower left corner.

The two values of the Vichy 1942 Air Mail Semi-Postals have a camel, standing tail end towards us, on the extreme left.

---S.G.R.

#### Chandernagore

Referring to Mr. Broadbent's comments about stamps used in Chandernagore, former French enclave near Calcutta, India, mention is needed that Bouvet dealt fully with the place in his articles in L'Echo de la Timbrologie, 1947 to 1950, and with the 4c Ceres Colonial in No. 984, Dec. 31 1936. Thus none of the suppositions or doubts of Mr. Broadbent need exist.

The 4c Ceres which Mr. Broadbent found with Chandernagore town postmark cancelling it, is either an outright fake or else a philatelic very late use. Mr. Broadbent is so sure of its genuineness, that the latter is obviously the correct explanation. Definitely, it has been settled that this stamp was sent only to Cochin China, and used there only in 1876-1877. That fact is on many records, among them some which surely are accessible to Mr. Broadbent.

Full information requires hunting for items cancelled prior to 1876 with the lozenge of dots of Chandernagore, before the town marks were struck on the stamps. If any 4c Ceres can be located with this marking, it will be the fact to upset all assumptions. That particular mark --Chandernagore's lozenge--though rare is more, far more than distinctive. It is unmistakable. See my article on these "blind lozenges" in this journal of May-June 1944, also reprinted in The Philatelic Magazine (a British paper) during the same year. This mark is the only boxed lozenge that any French colonial office used.

---Robert G. Stone.

(Editor's addition:-- Quite evidently, date is 1882, not 1872, on the cancellation on this 4c Ceres. Enough cases are known of stamps used at places where not stocked in the post office, to make the supposition that this is such a case quite possible. The U.S. 5c 1847 used at Fryeburg, Maine and at Vincentown, N.J. are two well known cases of this sort. One could suspect that someone coming from Cochin China to the enclave had this stamp in his wallet or papers, and used it at the latter place.

Stamp Collectors Fortnightly please copy.)



5 frs. lilac-grey used on 1873 cover from VENEZUELA, the stamp cancelled with the anchor type, the octagonal La Guayra datestamp on the obverse. A very rare value used abroad

ROBSON LOWE



The 4c Ceres of the Colonies, as mentioned in Mr. Stone's article --usual Cochin China cancel.

Paris 1867 Exposition cancellation. Less often seen than those of later Paris expositions.

---G. Marchand



**Characteristic Varieties of 20th Century  
French Colonies  
with Guadeloupe as Example**

By Robert G. Stone.

It is well known that 20th Century French Colonies do not, in general, offer the complexities and scope for specialization or study that the 19th Century stamps of these colonies do. But many serious collectors would prefer to find an interest in 20th Century material, because of its greater availability, smaller cost, and relative freedom from forgeries, etc. Unfortunately, collecting 20th Century French Colonies has acquired the stigma of appealing only to superficial and even meretricious tastes. Most of us see only the monotony of the issues or their generous use in cheap packets, in "free" offers, and in approvals. Even those who content themselves unashamedly with merely pretty stamps, cannot overlook the poor quality of the French colonial pictorials prior to 1930, nor the greater artistry in recent years of many Swiss, Belgian, Swedish, Hungarian, or other stamps.

Also, the postally unnecessary, philatelically inspired overprints of 1903-06 and 1912, the Vichy sets, the Free-French overprints etc., have planted deep misgivings in the minds of many collectors. The impression prevails that given sufficient money, the major varieties of the 20th Century Colonies can be completed without effort and in a short time -- hence are a mere space-filling proposition. It is not surprising, therefore, that the most enthusiastic coterie of French Colonies collectors is devoted to cancellations, which have a big scope and are free from rackets.

Is this all that can be said for Colonials? No: there are bright spots for those who seek a challenge and spice. There are perhaps a dozen aspects or sidelines of the 20th Century Colonies material which are not cultivated very much and provide really interesting opportunities. Much of this material is scarce. But while it is yet unpopular, one can with patience pick up a lot of it at a modest outlay.

These fields are:

- Millesimes (Group Type).
- Coins Dates (dated plate numbers)
- Shades and paper varieties of pictorials
- Booklets and booklet panes.
- Revenues (Colonial, and French used in the colonies)
- Postal Stationery
- Imperforates (Genuine errors), and
- Imprimatur (imperfis not issued as regular stamps).
- Study of engraving and printing methods
- Study of designs, designers, subject matter
- Proofs and essays
- Overprint errors
- Specimen stamps.

To give some idea of the general scope of these topics for the colonies as a whole, a brief historical review may be helpful.

We recall that during the 19th Century the Colonies' stamps began with a "clean" record, but after 1880 they were clouded by many surcharges subject to philatelic influence and forgery. In 1892 a reaction set it with the dull, uniform Group Type for all colonies. This was practically devoid of any but the most trivial varieties. As the 20th Century opened, the Colonies were still using the Group Type, but in 1901 there were color changes. The Group Type has, on most printings, millesimes.



05 10

Pictorials were introduced in Obock, Somali and Congo before 1902. But they were a scandal as they had been foisted on the postal service by private connivance, much printer's waste escaping into the "trade." Before the post office could bring itself around to regular and legitimate issuing of pictorials, it permitted an even more alarming scandal -- the overprints of 1903-06, a weak echo of which was felt in 1912. The bitter complaints of outraged philatelists had meanwhile made the authorities a bit more circumspect.



With the pictorials, which became general around 1905-08, began a relatively "clean" era for the colonies; but they were poorly produced (little competition from other countries as yet) and there is very little in the way of varieties of the error type. However, the origins of the designs, methods of printing, quantities printed, etc., are largely unknown and seem to hold a number of mysteries for someone to unravel. The printings continued over a decade or two, leading to a great range of shades and papers, that make an interesting study too.

During the first World War there appeared the Red Cross overprints and the provisionals in Togo and Cameroons, with many varieties, many errors, that must be looked on with considerable dubiety. They have been pretty well studied and no longer seems to have the interest they once had. The inflation of the 1920's required some overprinting; this was done at Paris and shows only several small errors, apparently all honest mistakes, for most colonies.

After 1930, to meet the competition of other countries for the philatelists' dollars, colonial pictorials began to improve greatly in design and execution, though there were some exceptions. In this period we note the entrance of commemorative and semi-postal sets, mostly in uniform designs for several or all colonies. These are often handsome, but too obviously of philatelic inspiration, though they were issued in a regular manner and freely used for postage (excepting some of the 1943-47 sets). There is little about them to attract the student, except perhaps the designs and printing processes used. The regular pictorials of the 1928-41 period, call for study of designs, printing and use. For these purposes the study of the proofs adds valuable clues.

World War 2 was responsible for use of new methods of printing: lithography and photogravure; also for overprints, rife with varieties, some rare, dubious or forged. The post war trend continues toward a better quality of design and production, but also toward the undesirable practices, which are: too many issues, semi-postals with too high plus charges, and wholesale quantities of "de luxe proofs" and imperforates.



Essay for a Joan of Arc 50c stamp



Union Francaise Essay

In summary, we can say that the first three decades of our century will prove more interesting for the collector seeking variety, than the past two decades. Such material as millesimes, postal stationery and booklets are largely confined to the earlier period as are most of the errors.

The occurrence of the various classes of material listed above was similar as to character, amount and date in the various colonies. A review of what is found for Guadeloupe should be typical, and will give a more definite idea of the scope:--

The general catalogs do not list many minor varieties of 20th Century Guadeloupe. Scott's and Gibbons' indicate very few outside the 1903 and 1904 overprinted issues. Yvert and Thiaude give the most.\* The 10c, of the 1901 issue, is known imperforate and part perforate-- these are genuine errors and very rare. The less said about the 1903-04 overprints the better ---- if collectors knew the circumstances of their issuance, they would not want to bother with them, however intriguing they may appear. Though the number of varieties is enormous, they have been studied to death and will not repay the student any further. It is now impossible to form a complete collection of them, anyway. The wide-spacing varieties of the 1912 overprints are well-known but really rare. Double, triple, inverted and displaced overprints of the 1917 Red Cross overprint on the 15c are found, though there is some question whether these are printer's waste or issued stamps.

Booklets and booklet panes of several values of the 1905 issue are now listed in Scott's. Overprints of 1927 show the listed varieties: 90c on 75c with bars missing, and the 3fr on 5fr with period missing. In the 1928 issue the 1c exists imperforate and the 10c with "RF" missing. Examples of the 50c overprints of 1943-44 are reported struck on both back and front of the stamp. The miniature sheet of the 1937 3fr commemorative is known with the name of colony omitted. Commemoratives, semi postals and regular postage of 1947-49 come imperforate with gum-- more imprimaturs than stamps, through released in rather a wholesale manner (for the philatelic market only).

Millesime numbers were printed on some of the 1901 issue and on the postage dues of 1905 and 1928.

A small amount of postal stationery was issued after 1900 in the Group Type and in the 1905 pictorial type. It is common unused (except for one printing of the pictorial card) but very scarce used.

The items just described constitute what may be called the "recognized" varieties. They may not be very impressive in scope (outside the 1903-04 issue), but that, by the same token, may speak well for the relative "cleanness" of the Guadeloupe emissions since 1904. There are however, further opportunities for the specializing collector or student, which may be cited:

The commoner denominations of the 1905 and 1928 issues show a great range of shades because of the frequent reprintings. Also there are interesting paper variations in these stamps.

The dated plate-number imprints in the corner of the sheets (or panes), so-called coins datées, are seen on most issues since 1905, and could be made the subject of study, just as is done in France for French 20th Century issues, and in the U.S. for Bureau Issues.

Proofs of various sorts are known for most of the 20th Century Guadeloupe design types. The color-trial die proofs are commonest, but are rare before 1941. The die proofs show what parts of the design or numerals were separately engraved or separately printed, and they are thus necessary for any study of the manufacture of the stamps.

One of the problems is to find out why the 65c blue of the 1905 type is different from the rest of the printings of that type.

Stamps overprinted "Specimen" (for the U.P.U.) may exist of many French colonials, but must be very rare. We have seen only one Guadeloupe set thus: the 1943 overprints.

A "sideline" to consider is the revenue stamps. The colonies have used some French revenues, some specific issues of their own and some overprinted postage stamps. A few of the latter have been used for postage, though without sanction in most cases.

\* The Kohl Handbook is a useful work, if one can read German, for detailed listings of the varieties. --Editor, F. & C.P.

#### The 25c Sower Design, surcharged ALGERIE.

In an article in Linn's Weekly Stamp News, of April 28, 1953, this writer called attention to the existence of both flat plate and rotary press printings of the 25c blue, Sower design, in the first overprinted issue for Algeria. In this series each of the other denominations can be found only as either a flat plate or a rotary press printing, but not both ways.

Now it turns out that, in addition, there is a die type identification problem to consider.

Die C was used for these stamps issued in sheets, whether flat plate or rotary press. Die B was used for the flat plate booklet pane stamps.

For some reason, this fact is not recorded in Barrier's exhaustive "Essai sur les Semeuses," nor elsewhere, so far as is known.

---Charles Neidorf

#### Article on Free French Forces "Secret" Mail

Members who are interested in this phase of World War II philately will find a short and good article by our member, Everel E. Keys, with two covers pictured, in Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News of Sept. 18, 1953.



### Catalog Review

Standard Postage Stamp Catalog, 1954. (110th Edition). New York, 1953, Scott Publications Inc. 1953.

We received a review copy of Part 1 of the 1954 Scott Catalog shortly before the previous number of this paper appeared. As that volume does not include any French countries, review of it would be out of place.

When the complimentary review copy of Part 2 arrived on the morning of Nov. 7, it was taken out of its package with both trepidation and interest. Would the Scott people have paid any attention to the suggestions made to them, which Group members and others had originated? Or would they, as in many previous years, have had a way to avoid using them--a "pocket veto"?

Your editor's file on the Scott Catalog has been consulted. It showed that a surprising and pleasing number of suggestions have been heeded this year, including some on French countries.

For instance, the two sections of Madagascar are now separated by headings: French Offices Abroad in the island before 1896, and Colonial issues....the former head mentioning properly that colonial general issues also saw use in the offices ere annexation. We note that No. 34a, the questionable bisect, is no longer listed.

The pricing, by and large, in all the French Union countries, shows little change. The few changes, such as reductions of a drastic sort on the Free French issues of Equatorial Africa, are so conspicuous that the Scott firm brags quite properly about this improvement in its handout release to the stamp press on this volume. Now if they had also drastically corrected downward the aberrant prices of certain items in issues of almost every colony during the 1920's, they would really have something to crow about.

By and large, except for some well justified increases in unused prices for a few stamps of France (No. 64 is one), the rest of the French and French Offices and French Colonies' pricings show utter absence of any attention. Thus, even your 1952 edition will, in the main, serve you adequately as the new one for French countries.

In our review of the corresponding volume of the 1953 catalog, we were unjust to Scott's on one point. With that edition the old infantile abbreviations for continents, uncritically kept after every county name since the days of Poppa Scott, were deleted. Our review accused them of still continuing these relics of the ice age.

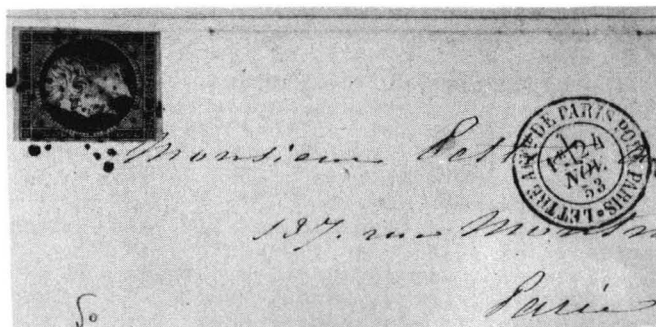
What was said here a year ago on retention of misplacement of French Morocco as "Offices" still holds true. What we then said about the wholly unrealistic pricings likewise remains the fact for all countries of the French Union. What we then said as to half-hearted specialism in listings of early issues of French countries, as contrasted to "straight" listings for later in the same country, still remains true. What we then said about the need for drastic downward repricing, holds for the new edition to almost the same extent. Certain badly worn and now incorrect cuts of surcharges, about which some Group members informed the Scott firm, remain unreplaced; though possibly the information was received too late to use in this edition.

Outside the French lands a pleasing number of corrections have been made. "At long last" (as saith Edward, Duke of Windsor) Ethiopia has been pulled out of its British 19th-century misnaming as "Abyssinia", for example. But Persia

is still the alias for Iran, and the never-actual country name "Dutch Indies" for the issues, before independence, of Indonesia. Likewise, the North American islands, Iceland, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Martinique, Guadeloupe (and others) are not yet shifted into Volume 1, third section, in which they belong.

"Better, but not enough better," with only scattered improvements, too few of them, is the judgment on Scott 1952 Vol. 2.

S.G.R.



### "Paris pour Paris"

By courtesy of our Malden Chapter, we show now an 1853 cover at the 10 centimes intra-city rate with the special "Lettre Affranchie de Paris pour Paris" postmark ("Affranchie" abbreviated). The stamps used for this service are not always too easy to find used singly as in this case. This is part of a mourning wrapper, with black bands at the ends (Vertically) and the stamp, say our Malden members is the scarce shade, No. 10a of Scott.

### "Passé à la Comptabilité"

A notation struck in blue in abbreviated form, "PASSÉ A LA COMPÉ", on a part-paid letter from the Mayor of Grand Bourg, Guadeloupe, to France, in 1872, is the only marks of this type known to us from any French country. It may be translated as "Passed through the accounting," and we surmise that it refers to a postal book-keeping process, probably a sampling check that is made only once a month or per quarter (as is customary in many postal services). However, since the letter was from the Mayor of the town and therefore likely official correspondence, the mark may signify debiting of the postage in the town's ledgers.

The fact that the letter was marked "Insufficiently Paid" and charged 7 decimes postage due also may have a bearing. Whether the mark was added at the office of origin or at Pointe-à-Pitre in transit or in France on arrival, we cannot say.

Has anybody any information on this?

-- Robert G. Stone.

If you think the catalogs are wrong about any matters, please recall that usually those who make them are uninformed. Each item of need to make corrections should be sent in a letter by itself, so it can be put into the proper place, and used when that point is reached on writing the next edition. Keep a carbon of your letter, so you can write again next year if need be.

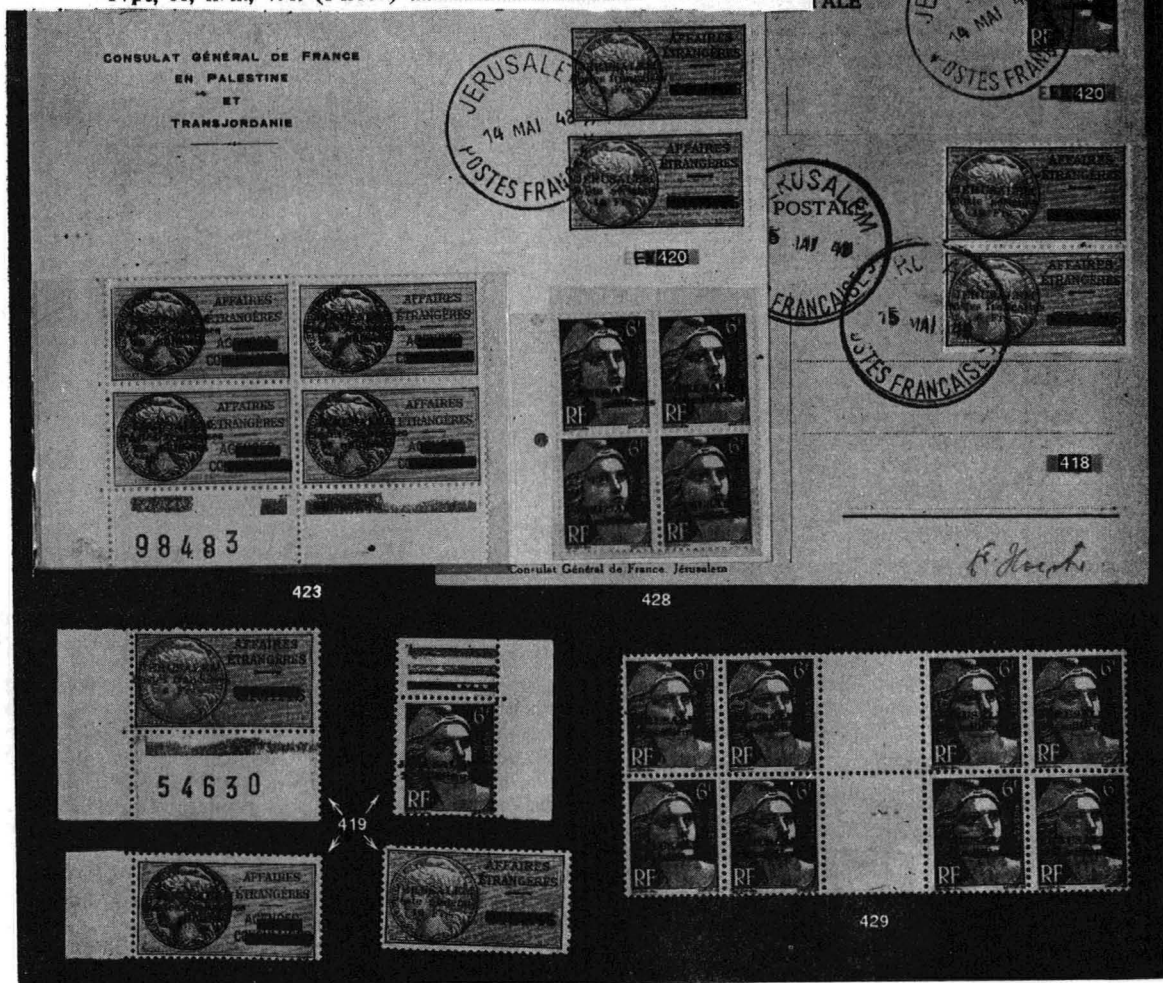
# More Pieces from the 1948 French Consular Emergency Service at Jerusalem.

Because of the interest among members in this material, we avail ourselves of the courtesy of Mr. Bayer, of the Penny-Black Stamp Co, to rerun from his auction catalog of Oct. 1 and 2, 1953, pictures of the items sold, together with the descriptions of those lots pictured. It will be noticed by examining these pictures that not one, but two of the long Consular Stamps were overprinted May 15, 1948---of them, one has the wording "Gratis" blacked out and the other one the wording "Affaires Consulaires."

PENNY BLACK STAMP CO.,

OCTOBER 1st, 2nd, 1953

- 418 HP1-2 FRENCH POST SERVICE in JERUSALEM; Consular "GRATIS", ovpt in light blue "Jerusalem Postes franc. 6 frs" and "Jerusalem Poste aerienn 10frs" each only 150 cop. issued, set-tenant pair tied to view card; probably unique, H, v. f. (Photo)
- 419 HP1-4 Same, cpl. set of 4 incl. #1 & 4, both corner cop.; H, n. h., v. f. (Photo)
- 420 Same, 4 diff. on cov. and 2 post cards, H, v. f. (Photo)
- 421 HP3 Same, ovpt "Jerusalem Postes franc. 20 mill." in deep blue,
- 423 HP3 Same, BL corner imprint block of 4, n. h., v. f. (Photo)
- 428 HP4 Same 6fr margin block of 4 with the broken "S" var. scarce, n. h., v. f. (Photo)
- 429 HP4 Same 6fr horizont. gutter block of 8, L block double impression of ovpt, H, n. h., v. f. (Photo)



French Service in Tripoli in 1900 Era.

Before the Italian invasion, Tripoli was in the hands of the Turks. As a general rule, the people living in its seaports liked to mail letters at the pier. There were two post offices in the city, one French and one Italian.

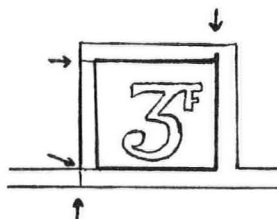
For such a purpose the shipping company had a special box depository. The French ship that would make the run stopped at several points along the coast; the mail, already sorted on board ship, would be rerouted for Spain or Italy or France as the case might be. The only marking aboard ship would be the letters B. M. in an oval ---this stands for Boite Mobile.

All other cancellations would be applied at Gabes, and the canceller would read "Regence de Tunis." Letters would be accepted with either French or Italian stamps. The markings would be the same.

--Mario Colaezzi, of the Italy Stamp Group.



Still Another  
Reims Cathedral  
Variety



Our member Ray Williams, Windsor, Conn. sends in a diagram of a variety on the 1930 3f Reims Cathedral, Type 1, apparently not hitherto seen nor reported.

The protruding spur at upper right corner of value tablet, and light lines across the left margin of that tablet, together with light line continued down through space below tablet, are the characteristics. Mr. Williams' diagram is here given, enlarged from his pencil sketch.



Current Floral or Horticultural Slogan Postmarks used in Paris

\* SECRETARY'S REPORT \*

September 15 1953 to November 15 1953

NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME:

- 552 Harrielle, C.H. Newark, Illinois.....  
France & Colonies.....  
553 Wilson, Edwin T. Box 54 Tabor, New Jersey.  
France.....  
554 Reitzel, Dean. 2737 Vicente Street,.....  
San Francisco 16, California.....  
France & General.....  
555 McKanna, A.G. 5 Kirk Bradden Rd. E.....  
Toronto 18, Ontario, Canada.....  
France (specialty Sower Stamps) General.

APPLICATION PENDING:

- 556 Dowling, Clare O. 10132 Wentworth Avenue,  
Chicago 28, Ill. (France & Fr. Africa).  
557 Fairchild, Edmund, 1320 N. State Street,  
Chicago 3, Ill. (France).....

DECEASED:

- 286 Ness, Ole Studio City, California.....

REINSTATEMENT:

- 461 Naudet, L.C. 65 Nassau Street, N.Y. 17, NY.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 88 Labat, Yvan, to 19 Clarke Drive,.....  
East Northport, L.I., N.Y.....  
114 Meyer, Charles E. to 74 Lane Avenue.....  
West Caldwell, New Jersey.....  
446 Hughes, R.A.L. Rev. to John Rectory,.....  
Railton Terrace, Moston, Manchester 9,.  
Great Britain.....  
524 Moller, Harry to 1135 N.E. 122nd. Avenue,  
Portland 16, Oregon.....  
525 Nackenson, Leon to 511 West 232nd. Street,  
New York 63, N.Y.....  
539 Slater, Raymond L. to 1701 7th. Ave. West.  
Birmingham 4, Alabama.....

MEMBERSHIP LAPSED:

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 51 Labine, R.P.         | 274 Remsen, Douglas.  |
| 209 Anderson, M.R.      | 335 Feneberg, Arnold  |
| 309 Torrey, Gordon H.   | 388 Lapinski, Dan. J. |
| 366 Feneberg, Helen D.  | 429 Golden, Mrs. R... |
| 413 Rafferty, John H.   | 489 Foster, Ted. C... |
| 452 Thomas, J. Burgess. | 508 Goodman, I. S...  |
| 490 Wells, Gale B.      | 513 Simard G.....     |
| 510 Daniele, I. Mrs.    | 518 Touret, F.A....   |
| 514 Sheindelman, R.L.   |                       |

The above members may be reinstated upon a fee, paid to the Secretary for the year 1953.....

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles Bretagne, Secretary.

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: Books, periodicals or catalogs, with information on postal markings and cancellations on early French stampless covers; listings and values. Kenneth C. Bush, 60 Grace St., Buffalo 7, N.Y. (Member 534).

Numbers of Le Marchophile wanted: Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 22, 23. Will take any or all; price each one you send. Ernest L. Rothschild, 3585 Van Antwerp Place, Cincinnati 29, Ohio (Member 402)

Still chasing the elusive copies of the 40c Type Sgce with very early postmark dates: 1878 and earlier on the N under B; 1880 and earlier on N under U. Fancy price, as for fine unused copy, paid for any item earlier than dates now known. S.G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2)