

France & Colonies Philatelist



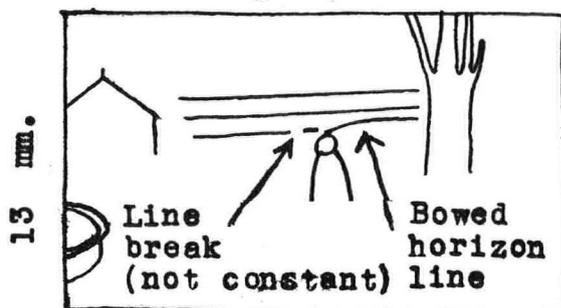
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Vignette Differences In the Native Market Type of Senegal

By Daniel H. Roberts

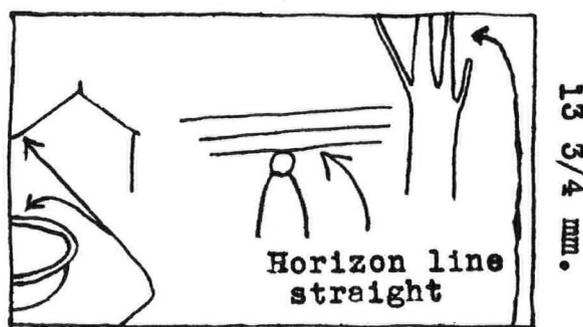
T Y P E I

21 1/2 mm.



T Y P E I I

22 1/4 mm.



More of hut and of food receptacle is shown. Branches fan out further

Following the Faidherbe-Ballay series of 1906 for all the French West African Colonies, each of these colonies received its own, distinctive pictorial issue between 1913 and 1914. Of these the Native Market type, Scott's A28 of Senegal, in use from 1914 to 1935, is one of the most interesting.

The vignette (center) of these stamps exists in two distinct types. The diagrammatic sketch of each illustrated the differences.

When perfectly centered within the denomination frame, type I vignette is contained completely, without overlap. Other details further identify type I. From left to right, the bottom line of the sky background has a break, varying in size on different copies. This break has also been seen double. On other copies no break exists here at all. Of course, one or more line breaks would ordinarily be caused by wear or damage to the plate, barring defective inking.

But just to the right of the native's head, this "horizon line" is elevated and slightly, a very little, bowed. This feature is constant,

whether or not the breaks to the left are, as in most copies, present.

A strip of three 1 centime stamps of type I, examined by me, contained two adjacent stamps without the line break, while the third had the break. This strip came from a chalky paper or, as the writers in French call it, Papier couché. Perhaps a complete sheet with exceptionally clear impression would reveal the sequence of the break irregularities within a single sheet. Of course, one such sheet would be required, of each printing plate that existed in this type vignette, for wholly sure analysis.

The varying character, presence or non-presence of this break, plus the complicating chance of defective inking, minimizes its value for characterizing type I. The collective details in this article are intended for classification of the vignettes, not for showing the possible plate or printing varieties.

Type I was the original 1914 vignette.

In type II there is no irregularity in the shape of the horizon line to the right of the native's head; and normally the line is entire or uninterrupted to the left thereof. But this vignette is approximately 3/4 mm. longer, 3/4 mm. higher than is type I. Both width and height, we emphasize, are greater.

This condition produces a margin of overlap on two, three or all four sides of the inner border of the denomination frame. The extent of this border lap on any one side depends on the registry of the vignette printing. Some border lap is always present, even with perfect centering of the vignette. Some border lap is always present, we repeat.

At the extreme left edge of the vignette, 2/5 mm. or thereabouts more of the thatched hut and food receptacle in the lower corner appears than is in evidence in type I. Finally, the branches of the baobab tree in right background appear, in type II, approximately 1/4 mm. longer than in type I and fanned out somewhat more widely.

These major characteristics mark off type II.

By noting the major differences, types I and II are identifiable quite easily with the naked eye, when classifying the stamps at random.

It is difficult to measure precisely, on the two types, the size of the vignette, because of close contact of the vignette border with the inner border of the denomination frame. The dimensions vary, up to approximately 1/4 mm. from normal, on some vignettes. We do not know what causes this: whether plate wear or some variant in manufacturing.

Precise measurement, under a glass, is best secured with clear, early printings in sharply contrasting colors. Type I copies with perfect vignette centering are most easily measured. By selecting an off-center vignette, in which a long and a short side are aligned within the denomination frame, border lap confusion is limited to the two remaining sides when measuring a type II copy.

I have been unable to find any cases of any intergrading between the two types, whether in size or in partial presence of characteristics. The largest type I, in either direction, does not even approach the smallest type II.

Type II was introduced no later than 1922.

Proof of its appearing that early exists in its presence on the 25c and 50c of 1914, which became obsolete on the issuance of the changed color stamps of those values in 1922. Of the cancelled copies at hand of the 25c blue, type II, few show legible year dates. On cover, or off, the earliest is February 23, 1922, and the latest a St. Louis to Casablanca commercial air mail cover with mixed franking: seven of the 25c blue type II plus a 5c black and rose, to total

the then current air rate, 1f 80c, postmarked, March 23, 1926. The 25c blues on this cover may merely indicate use of stock years obsolete, at the St. Louis office. The February 1922 dating is merely the earliest had at the moment, but is not surely the earliest usage of type II. If any member has an earlier case, he will do us a service by reporting it.

Curiously, with the issuance of the 1922 color changes, type I was again put to use on some of the denominations which had already appeared in type II in the 1914 colors: notably the 25c, 50c.

For classifying these issues in respect to the types, a table of those seen is appended.

Commencing approximately with the 1925 - 26 color changes, type II would appear to have had exclusive use, on these and all later issues. As a result, there is no need to classify beyond the 1925 surcharges.

While this table is quite comprehensive, it is reasonable to suspect that some--but by no means all--items listed in only one type exist in both and need only to be discovered. Hence no claim for completeness is made for the list.

The 1, 5, 10 and 35 centimes of the 1914 series exist, in addition to ordinary paper, on the chalky paper, called "papier couché" in French. This is a paper coated with a hydrous aluminum silicate, having a marked affinity for printing ink, producing a brilliant impression with sharp definition.

The writer has never seen printings on chalky paper in other than type I vignette. This paper had a limited period of use.

Caused probably by worn plates, or a paper with poor ink-taking qualities, or both causes, some printings of many items could properly be named "sand storm impressions." The ink-absorbing quality of the paper used in printing these stamps ranges from good in the earliest years, to very inferior (with occasional exceptions) in later years.

Scattered shade differences, some very conspicuous, occur in these issues. No doubt their sequence in time could be worked out, from the cancellation dates.

Thus it appears that there is quite a large range of varieties in Scott's A28 of Senegal.

Table of Vignettes and Stamps of the Native Market Type, Senegal.

1914-17	Vignette type	1922	Vignette type
1c	I, II	5c	II
2c	I, II	10c	I, II
4c	I, II	25c	I, II
5c	I	30c	I
10c	I	45c	I
15c	I, II	50c	I
20c	I, II	2f.	II
25c	I, II	60 on 75c	I, II
30c	I	1 on 15c	I
35c	I, II	2 on 15c	I
40c	I	4 on 15c	I
45c	I	5 on 15c	I
50c	I, II		
75c	II*		
1f	I, II	1924	
2f	I		
5f	I, II	25c of 5f	I
		1925	
		65 on 15c	I
		85 on 15c	I
		85 on 75c	II

*The 75c of 1914 should also exist in type I but has not yet been seen by me in that type.

The B M in Oval
used
off Tunis
in 1934



The Mediterranean B M in oval, for the Boite Mobile, reported along the Tripoli coast with mailing at Gabes, in our No. 72, has shown up on a cover much later, from a British ship in 1934 to England.

This cover, with emblems of the P. & O. and associated lines on the flap, is franked Tunis 1f50 blue, amphitheatre and camels. It has this BM in oval, same size as reported for 1903 in No. 72 of this journal, but new much worn. Town postmark on stamp is Bizerte, May 13, 1934. There are no backstamps on the cover.

The presumption is that this is the same use as reported for 1903, but now on a British ship along the Barbary coast. "More information is wanted."

To which we add as we go to press, that same marking has been shown us on covers from West Indies, various periods, by Mr. R.G. Stone.

S.G.R.

New Caledonia 1903 Jubilee Surcharge

Supplementing what was published in the series "Know Your Forgeries" in this journal in 1943, by courtesy of the S.P.A.'s Expertizing Committee we are able to give some specific hints.

The genuine overprinting can be told almost unflinchingly.

In the genuine: feathering of legs of eagle goes equally far down on both legs; in the word "Septembre" the letters are visibly shorter than distance from cross bar to top of a of the word "Caledonie" close to it.

In the imitation, feathering is visibly longer one leg than on the other; letters of word "Septembre" are as tall as the distance from cross bar to tip of A in "Caledonie."

Your editor has the bad overprint on one of Fournier's imitations, and can vouch for it as showing these divergences.

Editorial:
Tell Us What You Want.

The most difficult task in editing a journal, such as this, is to know what content the members wish to find in it. The only way in which such information can be had by the editor is by the members asking for what they desire.

Therefore, each member will really do a favor to the editor, by postcarding him on what they would like to see in the Philatelist. When six or seven or more requests for the same subjects or closely allied ones come in, it becomes only proper to secure articles in that field. When only one or two requests come, however forcible, it may be that a few enthusiasts and none else are interested.

Getting the articles is much easier than to know which ones are desired.

Please be "vocal" on this. Your editor does want to feel that he is not following his own likings, or those of a few specialists, to the detriment of serving the more prevalent of the needs among the membership.

S.G.R.

New 200-franc airmail stamp issued by the Archipelago of the Comoro Islands off Madagascar, Africa.



Prussian Postmark Cancelling French Stamp
in 1871

Mr. Robert Cotin of Paris, president of Cercle des Etudes Specialistes des Emissions Francaises, a group of research philatelists, has been kind enough to furnish us, via one of their members who is also a member of the F. & C.G., this photograph of a Prussian army postmark used on the 1870 Bordeaux Type 1 stamp, 20c. This is an unusual usage, since most mail thus postmarked, being of army or official origin, went stampless and free. Civilians attached to the invading armies had to pay postage on their mail.

The reading is (in black):--

K. PR. FELD-POST EXPED AVANT GARDE

5

ARMEE-CPS

31 - 1

The last two figures are the date, which can hardly be any year save 1871.

This same postmark is known in blue on the 20c Bordeaux Type 1, from report 2.

Mr. Cotin's research indicates that the unit involved, Advance Guard of the 5th Prussian Army was in the Department of Seine-et-Oise at that date, but, being a mobile formation, could have been at least in part elsewhere also.

Mr. Cotin further mentions that a like mark reading

K. PR. FELD-POST EXPED INF. DIV.

is known with ten numbers probably designating different army corps. He also reports one which reads the same, different in form, with twenty five different numbers "which are not exclusive" since there were 102 different postmarks of the Prussian army for various units.

These postmarks cancelling the stamps which were then current in France, both Boudeaux and Napoleon Laureate are exceedingly scarce, worthy of hunting for.

The C.E.T.S.E.F.'s member and representative in the United States is our member, Mr. Ernest L. Rothschild, 3985 Glecross Ave., Cincinnati 17, Ohio. Anyone interested should communicate with him.



These are recent air mail issues of the Cameroons and Viet Nam. The Cameroons stamp, picturing D'Eden Dam, was issued Nov. 18, 1953.

CORRECTIONS
for
MEMBER LIST
as published in the
March-April number
(No. 74)

In place of entry of
John A. Morrison as Member 79
substitute two members' names

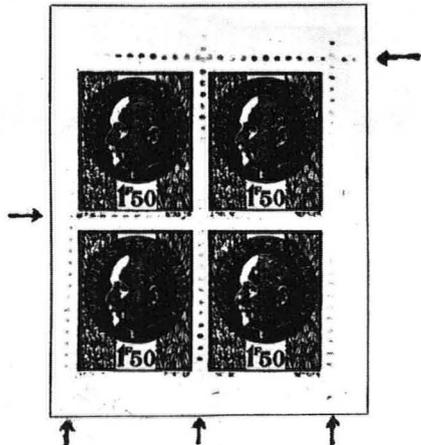
John A. Morrison 7 John B. Morton 79
727 Van Buren Ave. 366 Richmond Ave.
Elizabeth 4, N.J. Buffalo 22, N.Y.

The editor's sincere regrets go to these two men
whose long standing in the Group should allow
of no confusion between them.

In place of incorrect name for Member No. 481,
in as a "Mrs.E.B. Wilson," substitute:

Mr. Alva B. Wilson 481
R.D.1, Box 10
Alexandria, Ohio

Again, the Editor's regrets--but he followed
the original report for this member, in No. 59,
Secretary's Report, in making up the list.



Perforations on the Faux Petain.

In order to get the stamps to show up well on
the picture of the Bruxelles Souvenir Sheet of
the Paux Petain, on front page of No.74 of this
journal, it was necessary to make so light a
print of the photo from Mr. Hayes' negative, as
to not show the perfs. at all.

Because the perforation spacing is distinct-
ive, markedly different from that on the genuine
that was imitated, we print here a deep photo,
hiding details of the stamp design but bringing
out this feature. It is just a dark print from
the same negative.

CONDITION I

The face is skinned.
And the perfs are clipped,
With a half-inch cut
Where the scissors slipped.
A big gum stain
And a crease from wear--
Close all around,
But the inside's there.
A black cork-daub
Sorter veils the scene,
An' you can't see much
Of what was green.

Where hinges pulled
There's a place that's thin--
But it's a damn good stamp
For the fix it's in.
If you send it back--
With language rank,
We'll put you down:
A "Condition Crank."

—Quoted from an auction catalog in the
New Southern Philatelist, 1933.

NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME:

- 574 Bouray, Alan Rice Institute, P.O.Box 1892
Houston 1, Texas. France & Colonies,...
Fr. Africa, Fr. Imperfs, recent issues.
- 575 Herson, Julian Dr. 7229 So.Constance Ave..
Chicago 49, Ill. All, more on Monaco...
- 576 Berger, Harry F. 114 Wilson Ave. Havertown
Penn. France only.....
- 577 Boffin, Isabelle D. Miss 3501 Anderson...
Ave. Albuquerque, New Mexico. France....

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED:

- 134 Lake, Sidney 1033 Madison Ave. Paterson 3
New Jersey.....
- 521 Hoover, Norman R. 39 Union Square W.....
New York 3, N.Y.....

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 2 Rich, Stephen G. to 13 Otsego Road, Verona,
New Jersey. (Residence).....
- 14 Kagan, Alexander to 9171 Corona, Thornton,
Colorado.....
- 45 Stephenson, Carl, to 101 Brook Lane, Ithaca,
New York.....
- 90 Segnitz, Paul H. to P.O.Box 2041, Las Vegas
Nevada.....
- 269 Handy, Merritt F. to 21 Garnett Street,...
Malden 48, Mass.....
- 365 Riess Hans R. to read Riess, Harold D. to
Box 87, Williamsburg Station, Brooklyn,
11, New York.....
- 417 Bates, Chandler to Brentwood, Selden, Va..
- 436 Bouvier, Norbert, to 1624 Vallejo St., San
Francisco 23, Calif.....
- 438 Juliard, Alex.S. to "Green Acres," Narberth,
Penna.....
- 506 Libman, Charles R., to 6706 North 15th St.,
Philadelphia 46, Penna.....

LOST MAIL IS RETURNED:

- 39 Balme, J.P. 7225 Sommers Rd. Philadelphia,
38, Pa.....
- 455 Slagle, E.C. 532 9th. Ave. S.E. Minneapolis,
14, Minn.....

NOTICE.....NOTICE.....NOTICE

Yes dues are still collectible for 1954
your cooperation will be deeply
appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted.
Charles Bretagne

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: Paris Star cancellation with Numeral
31. Mercer C. Walter, 2014 Scroggins Rd., Alex-
andria, Va. (Member 476)

Wanted to buy: French Oceania; used only, pairs
strips and blocks of all issues to 1927. Dr.H.
M. Barnhart, 2185 Huntington Drive, San Marino,
Calif. (Member 392)

Wanted: unused copy of Jaipur No.33 (not a
French country but maybe someone among us can
find it). Submit with price, please. S.G.Rich, P.O.
Box B, Verona, N.J. (Member 2)

Your Secretary can supply you with all back
numbers of the Philatelist, from No. 1 to date.
No. 1 \$1.00; other numbers \$1.00 per volume of 6
consecutive numbers or single numbers 20c each.
Charles Bretagne, Secretary, P.O.Box 67, Pough-
keepsie, N.Y. (Member 357)

Wanted: World War 2 covers with Free French
military postmarks, 1942 to 1946. Please describe
in detail and price each item, or send on appra.
Everel Keys, 14742 Center Ave., Harvey, Ill. (Mem-
ber 246)