

France & Colonies Philatelist



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**One of the Syria Free French Military
stamps, imperforate and Inverted Background**

Our member, Mr. Roger-Max Cremona, supplies this photograph of a complete sheet of the 2.50 franc Syria Military Stamp, Scott No. M7, which is not only the imperforate variety, but, also, has its dull yellow background printed on inverted. The poor register of the two printings makes it easy to notice the inversion. The bistre or "Cream" or dull yellow background on all this 1942 issue is reported by other catalogs. Maybe your own perforate copies have it inverted and unnoticed!

Those "BM" Postmarks

Commenting on the 1934 use reported in No. 75, on page 15, Mr. Robert G. Stone says:

"The BM was used at various French ports as well as (perhaps early only) on some boats between Algiers and France, Bone, or Oran, etc. But the use would not be on a British ship: it has to have been in the port, on arrival, a sort of paquebot mark."

From the file of The Seaposter, which was lent us by Mr. Stone, we cite BM uses:

Algeria: cover with corner card of Mascare, Algeria, French stamps, postmarked Oran, 1899, with black BM in oval.

French Morocco: Senegal cover addressed to Morocco, stamp cancelled Casablanca, 1928, with black BM in rectangle.

French office at Beyrouth, in the Levant: - B.M. in oval, used regularly in the 1870's at the French P.O. or on letters mailed at the French wharf there (R.G. Stone)

French office at Istanbul. French Levant stamp, postmarked Constantinople-Galata, Postes Françaises 5.8.05 with BM in circle and boxed "MER NOIRE." (Brigadier Studd).

Indo-China: postal card cancelled (no date mentioned) Vinh, Annam; Indo-China stamps, with black BM in rectangle, slightly larger than at Casablanca.

Madagascar: two covers, Antaninarave 1927, Tananarive July 1927, both with a distinctive BM in black, boxed. (Town names cited as in the report, even if this is incorrect).

Mr. Stone seems to be the source, in that journal, of the statement that many of these BM marks originate on railroads, from loose letters taken onto a train and postmarked at end of run.

We quote Mr. Stone's letter on the BM used in Guadeloupe, expounding what he said in The Seaposter, July-Aug. 1952:

"The BM in the West Indies was used only on the mail-bus route between Basse-Terre --Pointe à Pitre (Guadeloupe) from 1887 to date. All the offices along the route used the mark; not the bus. None known from Martinique."

Mr. Stone also reports, unpublished as yet: - a new and unknown BM, 12½ x 14½ mm, serified caps not boxed, struck on a 4c green Sage Colonies, imperf. stamp. No information as to place of origin.

Possible confusion mentioned by writers in The Seaposter: certain postmarks of Birmingham, England, wholly different from any French mark in style and looks, have the city abbreviated as B M.

Your editor notes that the BM marks are not normally struck on the stamp, but appear to be thereon by accident only. In some few cases, in early days, the BM may have been used instead of the current lozenge shaped killer.

Our thanks go to Mr. Stone for supplying the information asked for in No. 75 and much other material on this BM subject, as well as for the loan of the file of The Seaposter.



Pierre Gandon's essay (left) for the 100fr airmail stamp shows an undraped Hebe clinging to Zeus's neck in a different position than in the re-engraved die (right) which was used. Both essay and die proof are in black and carry the designer-engraver's signature.

SCOTT'S MONTHLY JOURNAL

Shown on the 1935 lower value stamps, the 3c of 1940, and surcharged for new values listed as French West Africa stamps, type A29 of Senegal in Scott's catalog should correctly be stated to be "Faidherbe Bridge, St. Louis"..... not at Dakar as that catalog gives it.

This road bridge, bowstring truss in build, connects Bouetville, terminus of the 163-mile Dakar-St. Louis line, with the town of St. Louis. The town (which is not pronounced "Saint Lewis" like our city in Missouri) is built on an isle in the Senegal River, eleven and one half miles above its mouth, close to Mauritania, and on the northwest border of the western French Sudan.

St. Louis, the oldest colonial establishment of France in Africa, was founded by Dieppe merchants about 1626. Its modern development started in 1854 with the appointment as governor of the colony the talented military engineer, General Faidherbe, founder of French West Africa, who is shown on 1906 stamps of Senegal and others of the West African colonies. Still the capital of Senegal, St. Louis was the residency of the Governor General of French West Africa from 1895 to 1903. In November 1903 the residency was moved to Dakar.

---Daniel Roberts.

Book Review

Forged Stamps of Two World Wars. By L.N. & M. Williams. London, 1954, paper, 48pp. 6s. To be had in the U.S. at \$1.20 from H.L. Lindquist, 153 Waverly Place, New York 14, N.Y.

The Williams brothers have covered the postal forgeries and propaganda issues of both sides of the two wars, compactly assembling the facts as they have been recorded, unifying them into one story in the case of each issue. For us of the F. & C. Group, the section on French postal forgeries, used by the Allies and the Maquis or Underground in World War 2, is of prime or even sole interest. The treatment is useful, fully adequate to almost any need, and agrees with the most recent research. It brings in the matters dealt with our in No. 69, in Mr. Lafitte's work in L'Officiel de Philatelie, etc. into system, reporting further marks of recognition that are hitherto not adequately shown, if at all.

The Pétain-Laval propaganda labels in stamp form are also treated.

This book will serve well anyone interested in the subject or any part of it. It is writing by the Williamses, at its best, definitely better than their previous published works.

--- S.G.R.

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: A complete set of the "1849 Lady" labels printed at the Citex 1849 stamp show; or will buy individual colors separately. Rolfe B. Daniels, 2697 North Beachwood Drive, Los Angeles 28, Calif. (Member 545).

Exchange: Used stamps of Canada (current issue), Cuba, French Colonies, and the world, for stamps of France I need. Norman M. Dodge, YMCA, 1736 G St., N.W., Washington, D.C. (Member 542).

Wanted: A nice cover or two of France Type Sage 1f, Scott 76 or 84, single copy used alone on cover--single copy, used alone, preferably on a cover not over 3½ x 6 inches. Name cash price when sending. S.G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2).

Indo-China: Some Minor Varieties.

By S. Strowski; translated from L'Echo, Sept. 30, 1952. Courtesy of our member, Norman R. Dodge.

We deal with certain oddities, regularly seen on a dozen of the locally-made issues between 1941 and 1944. Printed on papers of poor quality, very roughly perforated, these are the ones on which the monogram of the French Republic is replaced by the initials of the "French state," E.F.

The two stamps commemorating the celebration of Nam-Giao were among the first issued. They picture an elephant, richly carapaioned, with his howdah, a passenger in it, and his mahout. The 3c red brown (Scott 213) and the 6c crimson (Scott 214) each have a variety. On the 3c, a small vertical line, 2 mm. long, appears in the margin, at the level of the upper right corner. On the 6c, there is a very obvious flaw: the elephant, seen three quarters face, lacks an eye, which has vanished in printing.

The three stamps of the explorer Pavie, of 1944 issuance, likewise show minor varieties which are constant. Only the 4c orange (Scott 245) has two such. In normal copies, the letters E.F. in upper right corner are each followed by a period. In the varieties, one or both of these stops fail to appear. Furthermore the little c, abbreviation of cents, accompanying the numeral, is missing on some stamps. Finally, this same 4c has copies on which the bar of the F, much elongated on normal specimens, is shortened by more than half its usual length. (Presumably F of E.F. at top, not that of Francaise at bottom -- Editor, F. & C.P.)

The 10c of the same type (Scott 246) is subject to the same aberrations. Its color makes them show up better than on the 4c. The same peculiarities occur on the 20c dark red (On this see note after Scott 246; this is an essay and not a stamp; the Viet Nam overprint on this series is not listed by Scott but can be found in Yvert. -- Editor, F. & C.P.)

The two stamps of the Cathedral or Martyred Cities (Scott B30, B31) which ended these copious issues, are likewise full of oddities.

For the 15+60c (Scott B30), there are, first of all, two printings in two distinct shades of color. There is a dark printing, which is less sought after, and a lighter printing, which is more desired, of the violet brown. On this stamp sometimes one can see a white dot, to left of the cathedral, at the height of the rose windows.

The 40c+1.10 blue (Scott B31) also was made in two printings, a deep and a light one. The light printing includes a variety easy to see: a white line, to right of cathedral, in the opaque clouds of smoke. A little bluish spot can also be found, in the bottom of the stamp, above the letter L of "Orleans."

Naturally, all these varieties are of more interest when shown in contrast with a normal copy. They have not escaped the sharp eyes of dealers in Indo-Chinese oddities, who have sold them to collectors. I owe the listing and description of them to one of the French administrators who were in Indo-China during those painful years and who knew how to uphold, at the peril of life, against the Japanese occupiers, the rights and the prestige of France: Mr. Le Bas, of Pontivy.

Senegal Native Market Type

1. Omission of a Key Line in Article.

Readers of Mr. Roberts' excellent and wholly original article in No. 75, may have been very much puzzled when they reached lines 7 and 8 in column 1 on page 14, by an apparent confusion of sentences. Your editor, in making up this part of the number, omitted one line of text -- a key line at that.

Insertion of the omitted line makes the part involved, read thus:

"This strip came from a chalky paper, or as the writers in French call it, Papier couché printing, and therefore was of clear impression. Perhaps a complete sheet with exceptionally clear impression would reveal the sequence of the break irregularities within a single sheet".

Our editorial regrets to Mr. Roberts for the damage unwittingly and unwillingly done to his ideas in this remarkably fine article.

2. More Listings by Vignette Types.

Mr. Adrien Bourelle has reported, as relayed to us by Mr. Roberts, the following additions:

1914	40c	I, II	(Scott 98)
	75c	I, II	(Scott 108)
	2f	I, II	(Scott 119)
1922	5c	I, II	(Scott 83)
	45c	I, II	(Scott 100)
	2f	I, II	(Scott 120)

These were previously reported in one type only and now are known in both. This list includes the 75c, which Mr. Roberts reported in Type 2 --- the item which he expected exists in Type 1 also, but had not seen.

Mr. Raoul Lesgor reported to Mr. Roberts the 1.50f in both types, 1 and 2. However, as it is not sure whether this is the 1.50f on 1f 1927, (Scott 134) or the "straight 1.50 f.", we await more definite information.

F. & C.G. Officers 1954-55.

Elected at the Annual Meeting, May 4, 1954:

President, Paul Baudry.
Vice-Pres., Gustave Wittenberg.
Recording Secretary, Josephine Roberts.
Corresponding Secretary, Charles Bretagne.
Treasurer, Robert L. Wood, M.D.
Trustees: E. Queyroy, S.G. Rich, J. Musy and C. Sullivan.

Appointed by Pres. Baudry:

Editor: S.G. Rich
Program Chairman (Parent Chapter):
G. Wittenberg.

French Stamps used in Guadeloupe

From recent acquisitions, Mr. R.G. Stone adds to his list in No. 73 of this journal: all 1952 uses:

Marianne de Gandon: 12f orange
Monuments and Scenes:
40f P19 du Midi
50f Caen, Abbaye aux Hommes
60f Arboise

He would be glad to see and acquire covers with other French stamps than those listed in No. 73 and here.

World War 2 Provisional Postage
of Madagascar

By R. E. Keys

On viewing the "Kayes Provisional" substitute for stamps, illustrated in the F. & C.P. of Jan.-Feb. 1954, I was reminded of the provisional use of stampless mailing in Madagascar during stamp shortage in the war years of 1944-45.

Originally I was made aware of the shortage when a remittance, which had been sent to this colony for stamps, was returned, via the U.S. Post Office Department, with accompanying letter advising that, because of the demands of the service, the order could not be filled. Since then, several covers of the period have come my way; a few of them now repose in my collection.

Three of my covers carry a provisional hand-stamp imprint, as pictured herewith, which has wording:

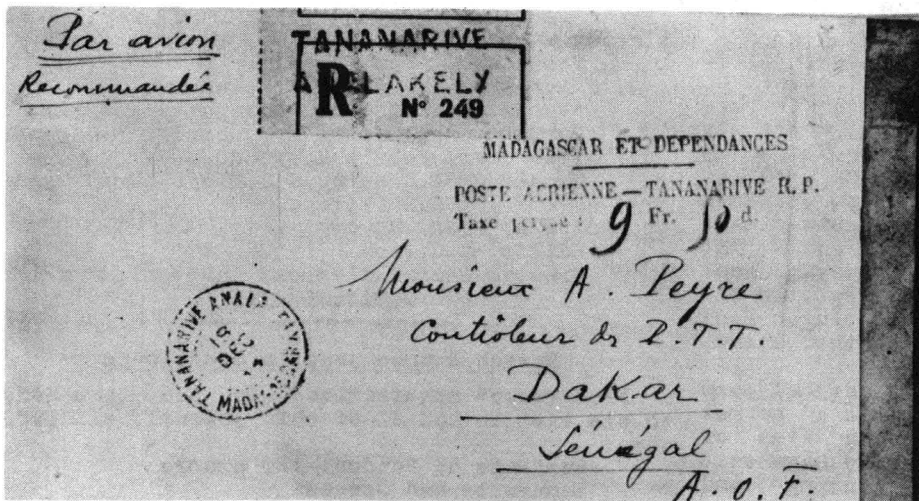
Madagascar et Dependances
Poste Aerienne -- Tananarive R.P.
Taxe percue Fr. d.

The amount of postage, different in each case, was written in by hand, as in the Kayes Provisional. R.P. means "Recette Principale", which stands for Head Office of the colony.

The cover illustrated was a censored registered air mail letter to Dakar, Senegal, and shows postmark "Tananarive Analakely/Madagascar/ 18 Dec 44." Backstamps are Dakar Jan 4 1945 and a square with S above 110; also usual oval censor mark tying the censor label.

Of two other covers with same stampless rate marking in lieu of stamps (A reversion to usage of stampless days before 1849, and like usual U. S. handstamped paid raters up to 1856 --Editor, F. & C.P.), one was addressed to a service man, in Djibouti, Somali Coast; the other, with a R. P.O. postmark reading "Tamatave-Tananarive, Madagascar," was addressed to Tamatave. A fourth cover shows a similar rating imprint by a hand-stamp, but with office name "Diego-Suarez" in lieu of "Tamatave R.P."

There is nothing about these covers to show definite Free French origin. However, since all were mailed from a Free French colony, in the period of Free French rule, during the war, they are included in this part of my collection.



(Mr. Keys would be glad to have reports of any similar covers, and any explanations which would shed further light on the story of this usage. Members can find his address in the list of members in No. 74 of this journal. --Editor).

* SECRETARY'S REPORT *

May 15 to July 15 1954

APPLICATION PENDING:

- 578 Skupniewitz, Ed. 959 No. Leavitt Street, Chicago 22, Illinois. France.....
- 579 Broadbent, Arnold, 5 Oakley Street, Shrewsbury, England. Fr. Col. Gen. Iss.
- 580 Farrington, J.A. Jr. New Hope, Penn..... Postal Markings, Plating, France only..

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 188 Burhart, Harry L. to 761 N.W. 147th. St., Miami, Florida.....
- 281 Schloss, Hermann, to 36-15 168th. Street, Flushing 58, New York.....
- 542 Dodge, Norman M. to YMCA, 1736 G. Street, N.W. Washington, D.C.....
- 497 Kesler, Robert L. to HQ, 4711 Defence Wing Presque Isle, A.F.B. Maine.....
- 546 Marder, John I. to 1478 South Roxbury Dr., Los Angeles, California.....
- 561 Horowitz, Sigismund to 220 West 93rd. St., New York 25, New York.....
- 568 Delaize, Paul C. to 1306 Oak Hill Ave., Hagerstown, Md.....

REINSTATEMENT:

- 452 Thomas, J. Burgess 31 North Street..... Georgetown, Mass.....

DIRECTORY CHANGE:

- 394 Famulener, Keith 605 Main Street..... Owego, New York.....
- 534 Bush, Kenneth C. 60 Grace Street..... Buffalo 7, New York.....

NOTICE

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Check your membership card. If it does not read in good standing to December 31, 1954, you have not yet paid your 1954 dues. Mail check as soon as possible to your Secretary. Thank you.....

Respectfully Submitted
Charles Bretagne, Secretary.

This genial face is that of Secretary Charles Bretagne of the Group. He didn't ask that it be run, but as several new and distant ones among the members want to see his face, we show him.



It Is Made Here.

This is the building in Verna, N.J. where your editor has his office and makes up this journal. The window on side with dark screen and that behind it, giving on fire escape, are of the office. (Shown by request of members),