

# France & Colonies Philatelist

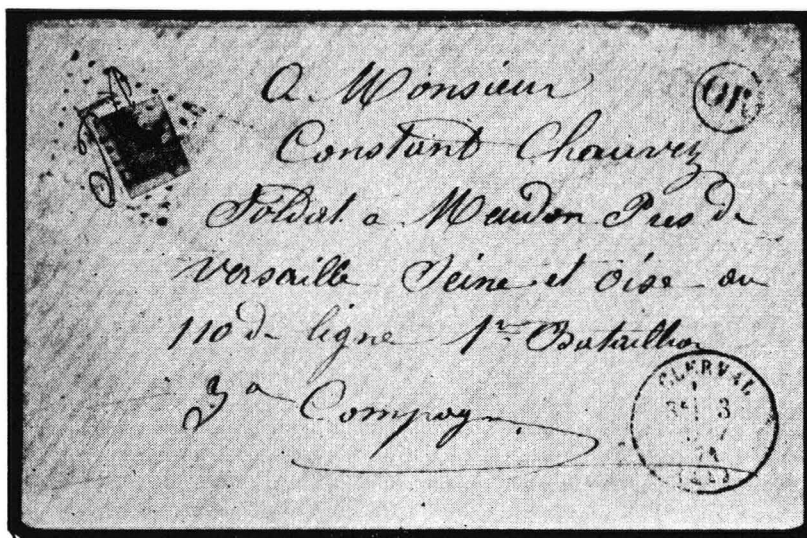


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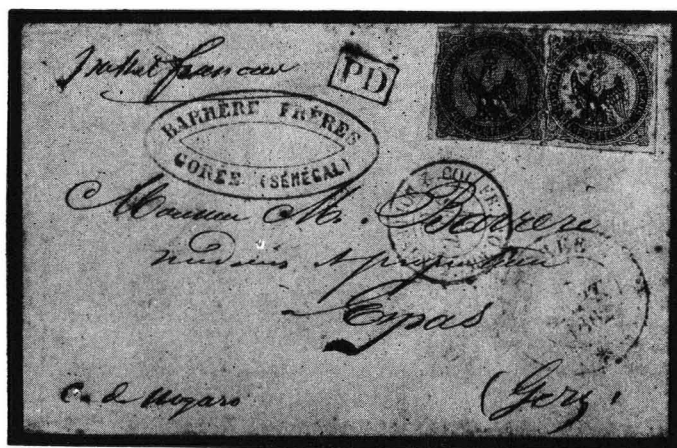
Editor: Stephen G. Rich, P.O.Box B, Verona, New Jersey

## Three Unusual Pieces



80c rose, quarter used as 20c, well tied to immaculate small envelope by clear large numeral canc. "1054", bearing town pmk of origin Clerval, May 3, 71; a beautiful cover of the greatest rarity; ex "Argentiere" coll.

H. R. HARMER, Inc.



10c and 40c Eagle, from Goree, Senegal, in 1862 for 50c rate to France with Goree town postmark and Colonies Packet ship postmark.

Carl E. Pelander.



1c Empire Laureate, used in Annulation pour les Imprimés (the journal printed over affixed stamps, in block of four, unusual large multiple.

M. Jamet.

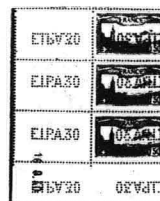
With our thanks to these dealers for pictures from their recent catalogs of their sales.

The 1930 Air Mail Issue of France

By Raoul Lesgor  
Co-Founder and Honorary Life Member of the  
F. & C. Group.



Site of the  
constant  
flaw



Dated corner  
Aug. 16 1930  
(16.8.30)

The punching on an entire sheet, including margins. Normal, inverted, reversed, are all present se-tenant here.

The first normally-issued air mail stamps of France appeared in 1930. These are the 1.50F in carmine, ultramarine and blue: Scott's nos. C5, C6, C6a and C6b; Sanabria nos. 5, 6, 6a, 7, 7a and 7b. They were produced during the period when France was experimenting with line engraving, after more than 80 years of exclusively letter press printed stamps. A distinctive feature is that the ultramarine of this series is the only stamp of France, if not of the whole world, that Scott lists with punched initials.

In 1949, I published an article on the group of stamps in an obscure pamphlet (The France and Colonies Specialist No. 1; the only number of it ever published). This article passed all but unnoticed.....perhaps not wholly unnoticed as I like to think that it caused the Scott firm to remove the listings of so-called "worn plate" varieties of these stamps from their catalog.

Let us review this issue from scratch.

Albert Laurens was the designer. He depicted a plane over Marseille, with the Church of Notre Dame on left. However, the city profile as it here appears is not readily recognizable. Abel Mignon was the engraver. The stamps were printed in sheet of 25 on the rotary press, with date of printing show in lower right corner, as on all rotary press products among stamps of France. Thanks to these date corners, we have found that printing of this issue started Dec. 1929, with the carmine stamp, Scott No. C5.

A dated corner reading 1928 is known, but it is an error by a workman when starting a day's printing. The ultramarine stamp was printed in October 1930; the blue through 1932.

As far as we can determine, only one cylinder or curved plate, printing three panes, was used. The quantities of stamps printed were relatively small: 8,000,000 copies in carmine and around twice as many of all the blue varieties whether ultramarine, blue, or any other nuance. With 75 stamps per impression, this gives about 320,000 impressions from the plate in all. Modern case hardening methods, chrome or steel plating being added also, cause this to be far below the bulk of work required to make the plate wear or to show any signs of deterioration.

In fact, this issue is signally free of any varieties, retouches, re-entries, or other sorts of variety. The terms "retouched dies", "worn plate", etc. have here been applied uncritically as easy explanations, not well considered, when we have only variations in printing.

The poor impressions exist. The mere naming of them wrongly as "worn plate" etc. must never make us ignore them. What caused them? Simply varying quality of paper, or of ink, or of both, plus poor workmanship by inexperienced pressmen. The postal authorities evidently bought papers and inks for each printing as needed, with a blithe indifference to uniformity of quality or color. The only stamps in the group which seem to have been the object of special care were the ultramarines, Scott's No. 6a.

However, there is one actual flaw in the design. It appears on every copy of these 1.50F stamps in every color. This is a slight doubling of the bottom frame line, over the name of the designer, under the E of POSTE.

Dated corner blocks which I have show, among others, the following of the reds:--

carmine rose	printed 27.12.29
pale carmine rose	printed 11. 1.30
pale rose	printed 30. 1.30
carmine	printed .30
(day and month not legible)	
deep carmine	printed 2.6.30
(Dates given as they actually appear)	

All these are on fairly white to light yellowish paper. But I have also had, printed in 1930, some very pale rose corners on white, and on definitely yellow paper. There were also some very deep carmine copies, actually crimson or "lake." The impressions vary from very good to poor.

Printings of the ultramarine stamp started in September 1930. This run was of the stamps intended for commemorative service at the Exposition Internationale de Poste Aerienne, which was held from Nov. 6 to Nov. 20, 1930. The three dated corners which I have, were printed between Sept. 15 and Sept. 19, 1930. All are finely printed; there is uniformity of color and of paper.

The bright ultramarine, the scarcest of this group, I have on both white and very yellowish paper. This last gives this stamp its very distinctive appearance. It is very poorly printed, with dated corner Oct. 24, 1930.

The first printing of the blue stamps took place on Nov. 4, 1930, two days before the opening of the Exposition. I have it in two shades printed the same day: blue and deep blue. From then on, printings are spread over a period of months. They vary in richness of shades, as well as in quality of paper and impression. The finest production I have seen occurred at the end of 1931: a nice deep blue color on very fine white paper.

Let us now turn our attention to the punched device.

Probably the committee which conducted the exhibition requested a special stamp or else a surcharge. Instead, the administration delivered to them the current design stamp, but in a different color -- not any red, but the wholly different ultramarine variety which was given mention earlier in this article. The committee either guessed or was informed that this change of color was to be made permanent. In order to justify the premium of 5 francs or the admission fee necessary to obtain the new stamp, it was decided by the committee to perforate the stamp with a device, letters and figures EIPA30, which would both commemorate the show and make the stamp distinctive. It seems certain that this punching was not applied before the Exhibition. Both the punched and unpunched stamps were on sale to visitors at the Exhibition.

The punching of the stamps presumably was sanctioned by the postal authorities.

This punching was done by blocks of 4 stamps. Merely a glance at the illustration showing the punching of an entire sheet or pane suffices to decide this. Every sheet that I have seen -- and my memory serves me back to 1930 -- was punched in units of 4 stamps.

It is logical to presume that punching was done as needed, and in many cases upon request, sometimes accompanied by special instructions, by collectors and dealers. The man or men in charge of the punching evidently were advised, to be as accommodating as possible to any and all reasonable requests. This explains why the 1.50f carmine, as well as possibly other stamps, can be found punched with this device. I have seen, and owned, the special post card of the Exhibition, with the fourfold punch on it -- one or more subjects coming onto one or several of the affixed stamps, whether ultramarine or carmine in color.

I do not know of any of the blue or of the bright ultramarine stamps with this punching. Thus, I consider that they probably were never delivered at the Exhibition.

The real puzzle resides in the fact that sheets, blocks and pairs can be found with the punching inverted or reversed and se-tenant with normal punching. Still more puzzling are multiples with some subjects unpunched but se-tenant with punched copies (normal or otherwise). All sorts of such combinations exist. Yet the explanation comes clearly from studying these stamps in complete sheets. At least in some cases, the sheets were folded before punching.

Thus one stroke of the punch went through a pair or more of plies of paper, on which stamps were face to face or back to back when punched. No set pattern of folding seems to have been

followed. If it was, it has not shown up on the entire panes still extant. Of course in folding the sheets it was done along the perforations on the sheet between the stamps. Variations in folding account for the copies missed and some not punched. If the punching device had been large enough to take the whole sheet at one stroke, we could not have the variations so plentifully.

No matter in what pattern folded, the sheets can be expected to show almost the same numbers of normal, inverted or reversed punchings. This is precisely what we find. Thus high prices for inverted, reversed, or *tete beche* punchings are not justified.

With the varieties explained, we come to the problem of listings.

If the punching was done with the approval, or authorization, of the postal authorities, the punched stamp should be given a major number, with the unpunched 1.50f ultramarine as a sub-variety. If the punching was done without any official sanction, it is a private change on a stamp, and should be removed from the catalog. Little attention, if my memory is right, was given to these stamps in 1929. Thus we may not ever find out their real status.

The punched stamp is definitely not a semi postal. It is no more so than hundreds of other stamps issued in many countries, to commemorate a philatelic gathering of any sort and sold at a premium over face value to help defray the cost of the affair. The fact that the premium was collected by a private group, for no charitable purpose whatever, definitely puts this stamp into a different class. For it to be semi-postal it would have to have supplied funds for some government-sponsored beneficiary organization.

These are my judgments, as clearly put as I can word them. If I am wrong on any point -- let us have presentation of facts which will settle that matter.

#### 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.

Chandernagore (French India). Good price paid for clear circle date-stamp cancellation, DEC. 1882 or near. A. Broadbent, 5 Oakley St., Shrewsbury, England. (Member 579)

Wanted: Precancelled Paris Impr. rollers, 4 and 5 lines. Submit on approval to B.C. Alder, 747 16th St., N.E., Massillon, Ohio (Member 422)

Correspondence with anyone collecting the states of Laos, Cambodia and Viet Nam. Write Mrs. Myrtle I. Watt, 214 Union St., Johnstown, Penn. (Member 581).

Wanted: Certain stamps of the 1913-14 long sets of the French African colonies. Submit list of what you have with prices. Jack Revare, R.D. 2, Richmond, Mo. (Member 583)

Wanted: Used stamps of Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam for study. Submit with price to Mrs. Myrtle I. Watt, 214 Union St., Johnstown, Pa. (Member 581).

I need a copy of the 5c green Sower, France No. 159 (Scott) with postmark showing year date 1922 or 1923 clearly. Chas. Meyer, 74 Lane Ave., Caldwell, N.J. (Member 114)

Wanted to buy: all very fine used modern items of France and French Colonies; plus Indo-China, Very fine mint No. Q3 (Parcel Post). Frederic Muhlenheim, 623 Vine St., Chattanooga 3, Tenn. (Member 589)



## AUCTION --- DINNER



To be held May 14, 1955  
(Saturday evening)

It has been several years since we have had a "donation auction", in which members donated good duplicates to be auctioned off for the benefit of F. & C.G.

As the charter of the Collectors Club, at the home of which we meet, does not permit any sale or any sort to be held on their premises, it has been suggested that such a sale might be held by us on the night of our annual dinner-----the tentative date of which is May 14th. Our sale would be made a part of the evening's program.

We now have the task of assembling and of listing the material for this sale. While May 14th may seem distant, it is not too soon, right now, to send your stamps for the event.

While we do not expect great rarities, it is possible to assemble interesting items, each of which will bring a minimum of say \$1.00: which will be "sought for" items. Say a nice block, a good single, an interesting cover. You can send several pieces; but make them each a really desirable entrant.

Here is a challenge to turn loose your good "dupes"; to help your Club; to participate fully in extending its activities in research and in study; and to bring the charm of French collecting to a widening circle of philatelist people.

Get out those good duplicates today---be it what you will, even a packet of Senegal Native Market stamps in Type 2 for Adrien and Dan to run each other on-- and mail them to

A.R. Fernald  
71 Washington Square South  
New York 12, N.Y.

who will assemble the sale.

Our goal is 100 good lots.

The dinner is definitely set for  
Saturday evening, May 14, 1955,  
7 p.m. Price to be not over \$5.  
Place to be announced very soon.

#### Report on the 1955 Lesgor Contest, Jan. 4, 1955

Because of rather short notice, the number of exhibits was smaller than in previous years. On quality, the material shown was right up to the standards previously set.

Grand Award, Best in Show, went to Mr. Adrien Boutrelle for his study of Senegal Native Market type with photographic study of the various developing plate flaws.

Class A (Research), First, went to Mr. Charles Neidorf for the First Engraved 15c of French Morocco.

Class A (Research), Second, went to Mr. Daniel H. Roberts for Senegal Native Market type.

Class B (Study), First, went to Miss Louise Clemenson for the 10c red Sower Type of France. No other awards were made.

Fred Klingenstein  
Alan R. Fernald  
Stephen G. Rich } Judges



MADAGASCAR  
AIRMAIL

1954 200 francs value with design by Gandon picturing a pair of Catta's lemurs, a curious nocturnal mammal native to Madagascar.

Western Stamp Collector

#### \* SECRETARY'S REPORT \*

Nov. 15, 1954 to Feb. 15, 1955

#### NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME:

- 590 Marlow, Henry A. Inst. Admt. Aff. APO 205.  
USOM-Iran, New York, N.Y. (Algeria and Tunisia).....
- 591 Wyzenbeek, K. 12 Villa St. Mt. Vernon, N.Y.  
(France).....
- 592 Myers, Nat C. Jr. 404 East 55th. Street, New York 22, N.Y. (France etc.)...
- 593 Dumont, Arthur A. 11 Woodlawn Ave., R.D., Bound Brook, New Jersey. (France.)
- 594 Safie, J.M. Park Drive South, Rye, N.Y. (France & Colonies).....
- 595 Perell, S.C. Col. 680 Newfield Avenue, Stamford, Conn. (France).....
- 596 Bregartner, W.G. 14 Madison Avenue, Summit, New Jersey. (Used Colonies)
- 597 Mac Kay, F.W. 307 East 44th. Street, New York 17, N.Y. (France & Cols.)
- 598 Pohl, Herbert A. 60 West State Street, Westport, Conn. (France etc.).....
- 599 Swanson, Robert C. 89 Hamlin Place, Staten Island 2, N.Y. (France, 19th.)
- 600 Waldman, Leonard, 165 West 91st St. New York 24, N.Y. France & Colonies
- 601 Verwilt, W.B. 903 Park Ave, Hoboken, New Jersey. (France & Colonies)...
- 602 Seibert Henri C. RD3 Athens, Ohio. (France & Colonies).....
- 603 Leeb, Lothar 140-26 34th. Avenue, Flushing, N.Y. (France).....
- 604 Ketover, Richard, 182 Cooper Place, New Haven, Conn. (France).....

#### DECEASED:

- 387 Ferreira, Ellsworth, Maplewood, N.J. ....

#### REINSTATED:

- 20 McGee, John R., P.O. Box 291, Greenbelt, Md

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 289 Parkinson, A.E. to 210 Ashurst Avenue, Secane, Penna. ....
- 370 Tait, A.C. MD, to 1000 Rossier Street, Sunnyside, Washington. ....
- 333 Schneierson, Joel, 143-50 Hoover Ave., Jamaica 35, N.Y. ....
- 501 Jackson, T.T., 54 Woodcut Lane, Roslyn Heights, L.I., N.Y. ....
- 527 Worwood, W., 1404 13th Ave. West, Charny, Que., Canada. ....
- 97 Lidman, David, 6 Sixth St, Park Ridge, N.J.
- 357 Bretagne, Charles, to P.O. Box 30, Toughkeepsie, N.Y.
- 589 Muhlenheim, Frederic, 623 Vine St., Chattanooga 3, Tenn.

#### CHANGE IN THE DIRECTORY, TO READ:

- 13 Mary, G.A. 11928 Charnock Rd. Los Angeles 66, California. ....
- 476 Walter, Mercer C. Brig. Gen. 2014 Scroggins Rd. Alexandria, Va. ....

#### RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED:

- 75 Delpuech, A.C. Knoxville, Tenn. ....
- 247 McDaniel, R.C. Dr. Philadelphia, Penna. ....
- 279 Anthony, P.W. Merion Station, Penna. ....
- 485 Baker, E.S. Cleveland, Ohio. ....
- 553 Wilson, Edwin T. Tabor, New Jersey. ....
- 566 Kremer, E.C. Mrs. Montclair, New Jersey..
- 569 Liengma, G. New York, 19, New York. ....

Charles Bretagne Sect.  
(Note Change of Box) Post Office Box 30,  
Poughkeepsie, New York