

France & Colonies Philatelist



Published bi-monthly by the France and Colonies Group

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Fig. 1

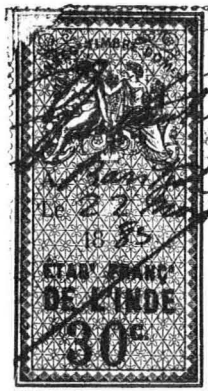


Fig. 2



Fig. 3 Fig. 4

F R E N C H I N D I A --- The 1903 Oddity.

By Roaul Lesgor

Listed in all the catalogs in a way to hide all their story, are the 1903 emergency items of French India

At the beginning of December, 1903, there was a serious shortage of the 5, 10, 15 and 40 centime stamps at the Pondicherry post office, in French India. But there was a surplus of the current 25 centimes and 50 centimes stamps of the regular, Group Type series then current, in the colors of the period before 1900. Pending the arrival of the new supply of the short values ordered from France, Mr. Luresac, director of posts, had the surplus of old-color 25c and 50c stamps turned into needed values by surcharging:

2100 of 25c surcharged 0,05 in red (Scott 20)

2100 of 25c surcharged 0,10 in red (Scott 21)

6900 of 25c surcharged 0,15 in red (Scott 22)

1500 of 50c surcharged 0,40 in black

(Scott 23)

This print job was done in Pondicherry (Fig. 1).

Several varieties occur in the surcharge.

Notable are the narrow zero in the 10c and the 40c surcharges. The comma-- which is not a period but a comma, according to French usage, normally is elongated. It also comes with the

head rounded--is much scarcer thus.

However, not enough 5 centime stamps for the need, mainly on postal cards, had been made.

A fairly large number of revenue stamps, 30c face, which were used on realty deeds, was on hand (Fig. 2). It was decided to convert this into a postage stamp by surcharging it.

The stamp was too tall for the normal use it would have. Likewise the 30c value at bottom of it, had to be eliminated. Thus, a new form was set up, using the same type for value as on the surcharging of the Group Type onsoletes, with name of colony and POSTES above the numerals.

The revenues were imprinted in their sheets of 25; then the stamp was cut in half in every case, so that only strips of 5 exist or at any time existed. This is Scott 24, our Fig. 3.

As hitherto, normally the comma is long, but the round-headed comma occurs on positions 3 and 5 on one strip, position 4 on another. Wide E occurs on position 5 of one strip, as shown in our Fig. 4. (Listed by Yvert).

But now comes the major oddity of them all.

For some reason, possibly carelessness, one sheet was cut badly. On at least one row, the cutting took off the bottom of the value. Since it was not allowable to destroy these damaged items without official permission, and they were not fit for postal duty, the strips were pieced together, the usable and the discarded parts, by means of strips of gray gummed paper on back.

The cutting was again done, in the usual way and the correct position. The pair which we show as Figs. 3 and 4 comes from that strip. It shows the erroneous cut as if a crease, on the front.

This surprise is typical of the many that we find in French material.

(It was the author's and editor's wish that both sides of the slit-and-repaired pair should be shown; but an adequate photo of reverse was not yet secured when we went to press. The plan is to show reverse as a short item in the next number.--Editor, F. & C.P.)

Book Review.

Postal History and Postmarks of the Franco-Prussian War and After, 1870-71. By Wilfred Bentley. Paper, 38pp., published by the author, 95 Albany Road, Stratford-on-Avon, England. 60 cents post free to orders from America.

If you want orientation in this field, here is the book that will set you right and enable you to avoid errors, from the start. The facts here assembled are all on previous record but hitherto have not been brought together nor the mutual relationships made clear. The postal history of France in those dark years is here well set forth.

This book does not aim to give full lists of postmarkings, of dispatches of mail, and thus is not for the advanced specialist. Its merits are accuracy of statement, bringing matters into the proper mutual bearings, and excellent style. To serve the new collector in this adequate way is probably a greater service than an exhaustive or specialized detailed book would have rendered.

We would have liked to see references given to several works in our language, such as to the "French Philatelic Facts" series of Kremer, for those wanting the next further stages of knowledge. But this omission is not important.

S.G.R.

The Parent Chapter of F. & C. Group meets each first Tuesday of the month, save in summer, at Collectors Club, 22 East 35 St., New York. All members, whether resident or not, are entitled to attend meetings.

Catalog Review

Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, 1956 Vol. 2. European Countries etc. New York, Sept. 1955, 1238 pages; cloth, \$5.00. Scott Publications Inc.

As last year, Vol. 2 of Scott has come ahead of Vol. 1. It was preceded by a three-page bit of publicity, which would give the impression of the new catalog being wondrously improved over the 1955 edition.

As far as France and Colonies are concerned: mighty little has been done. Some phonies of New Caledonia, listed uninformedly years ago, fell out; a few prices are upped slightly on France; that's all. Old inaccurate cuts, to which Group members have called Scott attention, remain as hitherto, in many colonies.

Your editor could go "all out" in finding the catalog wrong, with common items priced up but unobtainable ones left low, as Afghanistan 307 and 307A, about which he informed Scott's with no results--- but why belabor the matter? For us of the F. & C. Group the new Scott is only a 1954 or 1955 edition with new issues added.

S.G.R.

Richelieu

Let's face the unfortunate and annoying fact that this 1943 phony, the alleged "Air Mail" one made privately in New York and which never paid any postage, is being systematically made into an item of accepted standing.

We omitted name of the auction firm by which three of these were sold, including a pair with one phony surcharge double, in the last number.

Now no less a house than Harmer's has fallen for this phony, simply because Sanabria never delisted it. Their Sept. 21 1955 sale has the Richelieu item in it, and it was sold without a word as to its real nature. Since we now have named Harmer, we mention that the June sale of the three was by Mozian.

Your editor informed the Harmer firm about the item; and they didn't take it gracefully... they tried to get us to pass the buck to the A. S.D.A., who had already tried without success to get the Sanabria catalog to delist this bad one that is merely an air mail etiquette.

S.G.R.

That Cuban Cover

In No. 82, page 20, we showed a cover from Paris to Havana in 1867 which had, besides the usual postmarking, a boxed italic capitals mark NE. Mr. Edwin Mueller has since then shown your editor two similar covers from the same correspondence, 1865 with blue NE2 not italic in box; likewise 1868 cover with same blue unboxed NE2. The two originated in Le Havre; 60c postage 1865; 40c postage 1868.

But the nature and meaning of the NE2 on the two and the NE boxed on the 1867 we showed, is still unknown. It is sure only that they are Havana marking, as the two new covers have them in same ink as the Havana postal backstamps.

Who now can tell us what NE and NE2 signify, and why applied?



24-Hour Auto Race
at Le Mans
Philatelic Exposition
at Nice

Two French Pictorial 1954 Postmarks

The Territory of Inini and Its Stamps

By Christine Stericker Hushebeck.

The Territory of Inini comprises what used to be the greater part of the area of the colony of French Guiana. Only a narrow strip at the coast is now designated by the older name.

The relatively undeveloped back country was made a separate "dependency of French Guiana" on June 6, 1930 by decree of the French government. It became a part of French Guiana again by law of March 19, 1946, but is now a separate *arrondissement* by law of Sept. 14, 1951.

The area of the Territory is 30,301 square miles. Within this there are more, larger areas marked unexplored on the maps than there are on the maps of all French Africa. The territory is connected with French Guiana by waterways, which are navigable only by small craft because of the many rapids. The natural resources have not been developed to any extent. Among the principal products are rosewood, other cabinet woods, and some gold.

Inini was at one time used extensively for a penal exile district. However, penal colonies in it have been discontinued and the last convicts were returned to France in 1945.

Stamps were issued and in use from April 7, 1932 until May 30, 1947. These were to have been put on sale in Paris on Feb. 13, 1932; but due to illness of the director of the Official Agency in Paris, sale did not start till April 7th. The stamps, save for the 1937 Colonial Arts 3 franc souvenir sheet and the 1939 New York pair, all are French Guiana stamps overprinted. Nowadays, stamps of France find use, as French Guiana has ceased issuing its own.

Because of the small population, the high proportion of illiterates among the 5,000 inhabitants, and the lack of commercial development, used stamps and especially covers are very scarce from Inini. The catalog prices do not thus do justice to the situation. As would be expected, commercial covers are especially hard to find.

Rates were, in the period of Inini's own stamps (single letter rates):

To French Guiana, 1 franc

To France and other colonies, 3 francs

Air Mail to France, 10 francs.

I lack information as to rates to other than these destinations.

The only covers this writer has seen are the ones in my own collection, a little over 30 in all. Of these, five are of particular interest and merit description.

Registered letter to Acker Stamp Co., Jackson Heights, N.Y. New York World's Fair issue, cancelled Secteur de l'Ouest, Oct. 7 1939; backstamp of arrival Oct. 27, 1939 and other backstamps.

Regular letter, 1f rate, with 30c 1940 and 70c 1940, cancelled St. Elie, Territoire Inini, Nov. 29 1941, addressed to "Etablissements Symphorien Cayenne", with backstamp "Contrôle Postale, Guyane Française, Cayenne" Dec. 3 1941. From the Société Nouvelle de Saint-Elie et Adieu-Vat.

Cover to Banque de France, Tunis, with rate of 3 francs made up of the 1.25f 1933 pair, plus 50c 1932; cancelled "Secteur de l'Ouest" May 8, 1942 and backstamped "Tunis Receiving February 29." There is no year date in this, but it must be 1944, since Tunis was not accessible for a letter until that year, on account of the war. As this is not air mail, the 1944 supposition can be more reasonable.

Cover to Comptoir Franco-Marocain, Port Lyautey, Morocco, cancelled "Secteur de l'Ouest," May 8 1942; backstamped "Received June 13", year

not legible. 3f rate made up by 2f 1932 and 1f 1938.

Cover to M. L'Administrateur General du Petit Marseillais, Marseille, cancelled "Secteur de l'Ouest" May 8, 1942. 3f rate made up by the 1.75 franc 1938, and the 1.25 franc 1939.

With these covers in mind, the list of post offices and dates of operation, as we have it, would seem to be slightly inadequate. But this is the information: known offices and dates when in operation:

St. Elie -- 1930-1946. (This existed under the government of French Guiana before establishment of the Territory).

Secteur de l'Ouest -- 1933-36

Secteur du Centre (Saut-Tigre) -- 1934-1937

Secteur de l'Est (Epoué) -- 1940

Port-Inini -- 1943-1946

Cacao -- dates not known.

St. Nazaire -- dates not known.

A Reminder on the Fifth Lesgor Contest

To be held at the Group's Meeting, February 1956

This contest is open to all members, whether or not Resident. Non-Resident members are most specially invited to compete this time.

The adopted set-up:

3 Classes:

1. Original research

2. "Open Class" including studies of cancellations,

3. One Subject -- an issue, a period, or one colony, one stamp, etc.

Normally each showing will be limited, to 12 album pages.

Only collections not previously shown in competition in the Lesgor Contests may be entered, unless a collection once shown has been substantially altered, since its previous admission.

There will be Four prizes:

Best in Contest

3 for best in each class.

The contest is NOT limited to 20th Century this year. Material of any French land, whether it is colony, mandate, protectorate, offices in a land abroad, of France itself, is eligible.

All entries are to be made by a set date to be announced probably in our next number, and the actual exhibits will be required to be sent in to the person then designated or delivered at the Collectors Club by a date, some days before the actual showing, to be announced.

Wednesday, November 2, 1955

F. & C. Group to be Guest Exhibitors at the Collectors Club. New York, N.Y.

Exhibits of up to 24 pages will be shown in the wall frames, with talks by those presenting them. Miss Louise Clemenson, our Past President, gives us this list--non-resident members who can not come are sending their exhibits to her:

Agnes Burlingame: Jeanne d'Arc stamp

Chas. Bretagne: Newspaper Stamps

Paul Baudry: Early France

Christine Hushebeck: Inini with Covers

Chas. Neidorf: French Morocco

S.G. Rich: Type Sage items

Robert G. Stone: Martinique or Guadeloupe

Geo. Weiler: Colonies General Issues

Mrs. Myrtle Watt: Indo-China

Gus. Wittenberg: Transition from Rights of Man Type to Sower Type stamps.

* SECRETARY'S REPORT *
July 15 to October 15 1955

NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME:

- 609 Hals, Nathan 9810 Newton Ave. Cleveland 6 Ohio. General.....
610 Meek, Lola Y. Mrs. 1422 37th. Avenue, Apt. 6 Seattle 22, Wash. Fr. Morocco.....
611 Clark, Robert J. 716 Campbell Ave. Waterloo Iowa. No Specialty indicated.....
612 Garfield*Perry Stamp Club, Hotel Manger, Cleveland 14, Ohio. Literature, etc. California. 1st. Issue Fr. Colonies..
613 Christensen, Art 1537 Union, Alameda,....
614 Stearns, Allen P. 240 Beale St. Wollaston, Mass. Obliterations.....
615 Utt, Walter C. Pacific Union College,.... Angwin, Calif. French & Colonies, in General, & Military History.....

Reinstatement:

- 353 Smith, Henderson L. Capt. Home address is, 1525 Goodwin St. Jacksonville, Fla.. Mail address is: Det. 2 1141 Spactron APO 11, New York. France & Col. Used

Applications Pending:

- 616 Lagios, Nick 710 St. Catherine Street, W. Montreal, P.Q. Canada. French Levant
617 Des Forges, Jacques 3666 Mentana Street, Montreal 24, P.Q. Canada. France & Vat
618 Lapierre, Roch 2736 Pie IX Blvd. Apt. 3, Montreal 4, P.Q. Canada. France.....
619 Nelson, Armand 5152 Baldwin, Montreal, P.Q. Canada. Dealer.....

Application for Reinstatement:

- 350 Hurtubise, Yvon 1889 St. Clement Street, Montreal 4, Canada. Monaco.....

Deceased:

- 296 Shelton, Herhert L. 1621 Avondale Crescent Vancouver, B.C. Canada.....

As Secretary of the France and Colonies Group I am extending the sincere sympathy of all our... members and myself to Mr. Stephen G. Rich, our Editor, in the passing of Mrs. Rich last June.. Mrs. Rich was an ardent collector and was well known in philatelic circles.....

Resignation Received:

- 522 Peloquin, Raymond H. 205 Gaulin Avenue, Woonsocket, R.I.....

Change of Addresses:

- 12 Boutrelle, Adrien to 832 8th. Avenue, New York 19, N.Y.....
61 Stone, Robert G. to Accokeek, Md.....
266 Rothbaum, Richard E. to 240 Central Park S New York 19, N.Y.....
273 Mullen, George to 23 Tufts Street, Malden, 48, Mass.....
380 O'Connor, Harvey to 455 Birch Street, Winnetka, Illinois.....
397 Karseboom, Glenn to 119 Cutler Street, Grand Rapids 7, Michigan.....
435 Oakes, Frank E. to 1222 Elmwood Avenue, Evanston, Illinois.....
441 Sturznicke, Donald M. to 105 North St. Rye, New York.....
451 Hozian, Edward V. to 3519 W. 78th. Place, Chicago 29, Illinois.....
526 Hilton, Homer Jr. to 510 East Michigan St. Marquette, Michigan.....
545 Daniels, Rolfe B. to 3085 St. George, Los Angeles 27 California.....
561 Horowicz, Sigismund to 229 West 79th. St. New York, N.Y. c/o E. Robin.....
570 Welsch, Russell L. to 218 Hyacinth Ct. Kirkwood 22, Mo.....
583 Revare, Jack to 2/Lt. c/o Finance & Acct. Office, Ft. Leonard Wood. Mo.....

The Following members are not paid to date for: 1955. No more Philatelist will be sent after...

this notice is published. Check your number if, listed below. If so Please send your dues..... 36-39-78-88-107-178-193-231-297-312-410-446-483 497-499-511-530-535-558-562-564-565-567-575-576 586..

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.

I have some duplicates in my stamp covers, early 1800's, Bordeaux and Le Havre. Can use almost any used French Colonies stamps. John McGee, Box 291, Greenbelt, Maryland (Member 20).

Have accumulation of 2872 Pasteur type A23, various denominations, cat. \$88.70. Can anyone use it, giving in exchange \$44.35 of their duplicates which I can use? Also have 880 stamps type Sage (A15) cat. \$27.02 and 661 of Type A16 cat. \$13.54. Plenty of shades--unpicked. J. Musy, Box 9, Trumbull, Conn. (Member 16)

Articles on Colonial subjects wanted for the next few numbers of this journal. Any colony in any period but Indo-China wanted most of all... Editor, F. & C. Philatelist.

Wanted: Any material of French Offices in Morocco Nos. 59 and 60: mint or used; singles, and blocks, multiples, covers, proofs, or whatever you have. Chas. Neidorf, 910 Sheridan Ave., New York 51, N.Y. (Member 364)

I have extensive M E U duplicates, many better. I want French Miniature Sheets B-4 to 44, and Peace ' Commerce better mints. Will trade even basis, like quality. Send want list, stating what you have to trade. Col. V. N. Scott, 1530 Hermosa Ave., Hermosa Beach, Calif. (Member 580)

7501 Sowers, types A20 & A22, cat. value \$726, to swap for \$363 catalog value of material with cat. val. of over 5c each which I can use for swapping. J. Musy, Box 9, Trumbull, Ct. (Member 16)

Cover with the Le Mans 24-Hour Auto Race pictorial postmark of 1954 wanted-- preferably small cover without any fancy cachetting or any publicity imprint. Submit with price. S.G. Rich P.O. Box B, Verona, N.J. (Member 2)



Meeting Programs

The Group meets at Collectors Club, 22 East 35 St., New York, N.Y. first Tuesday of the month starting 8 p.m. Usually some members come early around 6 p.m. and go to dinner together.

Whether you are resident or non-resident, you as a member are entitled to come to all these meetings. In fact, the officers are always glad when a non-resident member shows up-- and when any member brings a visitor.

Announced are the following:

Nov. 1, 1955: Mr. E. Queyroy: Colonies

Wednesday Nov. 2 1955-- The Group will be Guest Exhibitors at the Collectors Club meeting. Everyone come, whether or not showing.

December 6, 1955: Mr. P. Baudry; Empire Imperforates 1853-1860

Jan. 3 1956: S.G. Rich: 5 Francs Napoleon.

Feb. 7 1956: Lesgor Contest.