

# France & Colonies Philatelist



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## Double Perforation

This variety is not of great significance but does have interest.

In No. 37 of this journal, Jan.-Feb. 1948, we treated it, giving a drawing to show its looks. Your editor ran across further copies of this same stamp with this variety, thereafter.

Our member, Professor Carl Stephenson, whose copy was the subject of the 1948 article, sent us, shortly before he died in 1954, a photo of the stamp. This we now show, along with rerun of the drawing.

The perforating was done with a machine of the comb type, perforating three sides of each stamp at one stroke, and completing each stamp with the next stroke. It thus seems likely that just one row across a sheet could show doubling and the rest of the sheet be normal.

The figure-8 holes produced by the doubling, will of course make the teeth very slim on the sides, but have no effect of this sort with end teeth.

## Catalog Review

Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalog, 1957, Vol. 2. New York, Oct. 1956; 1262 plus 10 pages, cloth, \$6.00.

30 pages larger than in 1956, the new Foreign Section of Scott more nearly justified the advance blurbs as to improvements effected, than did any edition of recent years. The 37,494 price changes which the publishers announce are well spread, so that few countries or even sets of stamps seem to have had drastic repricings.

Advance publicity did not emphasize a really major change, a correction in placement that is long overdue, and which had been repeatedly as well as strongly urged on the Scott firm by the France & Colony members. No longer do we find French Morocco mislisted under "France, Offices in....." Now it is in a proper place, at last. Spanish Morocco has likewise been renamed from an old error, and properly placed. We predict that this will again need changing, when stamps of independent Morocco appear; but let us meanwhile be happy.

In France the price-changing is mainly the raising of unused-copy prices and lowering of those for used copies. The 19th Century changes are well justified; in fact often too little. In the used-copy 19th Century prices a further drop of the same amount next year would be a useful closer approach to the facts of the market.

France No. 37a has been deleted, along with the inaccurate note explaining two alleged but really fictitious "types" of No. 37. The new note, explaining the range within which 5 and F vary continuously in size, is a welcome correction.

We still look in vain for the placement of the Arc de Triomphe issues of 1944 and 1945 in the regular issues instead of as "Occupation" or any other such mistreatment; for shift of Nos. P7 and P8 from "Newspaper Stamps" to the proper place in the regular issues; and for listing of the well-known "Festung Lorient" German stamps of the end of World War 2.

Nothing has yet been done, though Scott has been repeatedly urged to act, on replacing those worn, inaccurate cuts of surcharges, as in the 1903 Senegal regular issues and dues. There are many cases through the book, in which such cuts would lead many to reject the genuine items, and to accept some of the crudest forgeries.

Taking the French lands as fair samples, we can welcome the new 1957 Scott with at least a little cordiality, in contrast to the disdain to which shortcomings of recent annual editions had forced us.

-----S.G.R.

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Information is now Requested

France issued a Sports series of stamps on July 9 1956. We know the designer, Raoul Serres, but we have requests for information about the locales of the 50f Rugby and 75f Alpinisme.

What stadium or place the 50f?

What mountain being scaled and which in the background on the 75f?

Your editor will pass on the information to the inquirers; and he would also like the facts on the 75f for his own "Mountains" topical collection.

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Hint to avoid forgeries: with strong light and a good magnifier, one can often tell if a surcharge is over or under a cancellation. If over the postmark, it is clearly a falsification.

France-- The Half Centime 20th Century  
Stamps

Reprinted by express authorization, from page 72 of Mr. Lesgor's 1955 handbook on France 20th Century Specialized (Copyright, R. Lesgor).

Readers please note that these stamps, while issued for the newspaper fractional rates, were valid and found some use, on letter mail. Covers with such use, not "philatelic", are known---they seem to be prized.



13. NEWSPAPER RATE OVERPRINTS

The 1 and 3 centimes of the Blanc design were overprinted 1/2 centimes in 1903, especially for election circulars but were not issued due to a change of rate. The totality of the issue was destroyed.

The experiment was repeated in 1919, but this time the value thus transformed was intended as a complement rate for newspapers. The 1 centime gray, on G C paper was the first value to receive this overprint, which was again applied on stamps issued in 1922 to 1926, and in 1925 on stamps intended for the professional schools with the addition of the SPECIMEN overprint.

All of the above were stamps printed with flat plates. Two half sheets with the overprint inverted were discovered in Bordeaux, bearing the millesime 9.

From 1926 to 1930, the same overprint was struck on stamps of the same design, issued from Rotary presses, and is therefore of Die B. Inverted overprints found in this Die are falsifications.

Stamps of the Sower design, printed with rotary presses were also overprinted 1/2 centime from 1933 to 1937.

The overprint measures 14 1/2 millimeters in height on the stamps printed with flat plates, and 15 millimeters on the stamps printed with rotary presses, this variation in size being due to the bending of the overprinting plate.

1919-37. Stamps of the Blanc and Sower design overprinted.

NE7	1/2 c. on 1c. black on white. Die A	.05
a	1/2 c. on 1c. black on GC	.04
b	1/2 c. on 1c. inverted overprint	
c	Block of 4 with millesime and GC imprint	1.00
NE8	1/2 c. on 1c. black. Die B	.03
NE9	1/2 c. on 1c. bistre olive. Sower Design	.03
a	1/2 c. on 1c. bistre brown	.03
Millesimes.		
NE7	Mill. 9, 0.	Dated corners
NE7a	Mill. 2, 4, 5, 6.	NE8 Dates. 1926, 1927, 1928, 1930
NE7c	Mill. 4.	NE8 Dates. 1933, 1934, 1935, 1926.
		NE9a Date. 1937

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Madagascar

From the sale catalog of Robson Lowe, March 14, 1956, we illustrate a combination use cover -- 1896 France stamps surcharged together with a Group Type. Unfortunately Mr. Lowe's figure is of top portion of cover only.



1896 "25c" in an oval on 40c. red on yellow, a fine example (except a corner perf. apparently pulled) used together with 1895 25c., and 1896-99 25c. on 1896 cover from Antananarivo to Dunfermline.

75 centimes, Madagascar to Scotland. Reunion to Marseille ship mark as well as town mark of Tananarivo where mailed.

## GOOD ENOUGH TO SING ABOUT

Such was the  
Group Dinner  
November 17, 1956



Saturday evening, the 17th of November... the Group personnel began leaving the A.S.D.A. show at the Armory, and coming in from elsewhere, in the half-hour from 6.30 on. Up to 48th street near 6th Avenue, opposite the Radio City garage to the St. Germain Restaurant. We had a room all to ourselves upstairs, with its own private bar.

From Carlisle Barracks Pa. came Col. Williams and from Philadelphia Mr. Franzen; from Danbury in the Connecticut hills Dr. and Mrs. Wood; from Poughkeepsie the Bretagnes. We missed a few of the "regulars of past dinners, such as our Eater of Mayonnaise-Spread Stamps, Mr. Raoul Lesgor; and the equally genial Brainard Kremer.

Even at that, there were 26 of us.

We didn't need any entertainment or any decorations. Everybody had a good sociable evening in an informal way.

The food was all it should be; better than on previous dinner occasions. Vin rouge for those who wanted it; discretely sufficient of other potations as we lingered long after the viands were gone, chatting on things philatelic, aided keeping everything agreeable. Nobody overdid it.

Your editor, Chas. Meyer and Walter Parshall stayed and stayed and stayed, then adjourned to a cafeteria to finish their philatelic talk over coffees... we did get home before dawn.

Congratulations to Past President Baudry who made the arrangements, for providing just what suited everybody perfectly.

### Prestige

Never was the high admiration of an informed philatelic group for Classic French Stamps well exhibited better shown than on Wednesday, Nov. 21, 1956. Though it was Thanksgiving Eve, and though a business session specially called had delayed the start, Mr. Paul Baudry kept all the audience right to the end on that date.

He gave the feature showing at the Collectors Club, in New York, that night. His France 1849 to 1875, admirably selected pages, filling most of the frame space, really "wowed them" as they say in circles theatrical.

Mr. Baudry's talk was clear, logical and full of attention to the really interesting points.

His son, Dr. Baudry, operating the projector for a number of excellent slides, contributed a feature of the showing that was appreciated in full.

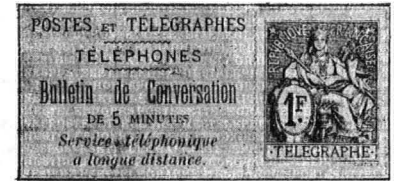
We have few in our Group who talk so well on their stamps, with such clear speech, large but not deafening in volume, so it is heard well and pleasantly as Mr. Baudry. His command of the American language is excellent, and the French tang in his speech gives it piquance without a trace of confusion or chance for misunderstanding him.

### New Member Wants Contacts

Col. R.C. Williams, Jr. (Member 661), Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Penna., who joined the Group recently, would like to establish correspondence with members who are interested in his fields: Classic France before 1876; Monaco. Not trading, but interchange of information, is the aim.

### French Telephone Tickets.

Translated and extended from an article by Mr. Gramdmaitre, retired inspector in P.T.T., ex L'Echo de la Timbrologie, of March 31 1939. Additional information is from Maury and various catalogs.



Prior to 1883, telephony in France was operated entirely by a private company, a consolidation of three smaller ones which had obtained franchises for service in Paris. The merger began service in 1880, with public pay stations opened in 1881. Later they are reported to have extended their operations to other cities.

The first coupons, each good for a 5-minute conversation, are listed as of 1880 in Yvert's catalog. Thus they would appear to be produced and used by the "Société Générale des Téléphones." Typeset, printed on black on thin brown - white paper, they were issued in booklets, perforated to remove from the bound stubs, but imperfect along the other edges. Yvert and Thiaude both report a 25c and a 50c.

Other sources date these 1885 and ascribe them definitely to the government service.

Government telegraph service was extended to telephones in 1883 at Reims, Roubaix and Tourcoing. Government service in Paris also existed as early as 1885. Public call booths were set up at the central in Palais de la Bourse. For the Paris pay stations, tickets were issued good for a 5-minute call at 50c; for those in other cities for a 5-minute call at 25c.

These tickets bear a stamp as a part of the design, identical with that used on letter cards and pneumatic letters. This large seated figure design persists through all issues.

The 1885 issue, worded at top "Ministère des Postes et Télégraphes", consisted of:

25c blue, on bistre background.

50c red, on pale lilac background.

These tickets are printed on card, and perf. 13½ on all four sides.

In 1887 we have two more tickets, with special inscriptions:

1f red on pale blue, for long distance services.

3f black on green, for international services.

In 1891 a new interurban night service at 30 centimes was introduced, with a corresponding new added ticket:

30c black on pale violet.

This was apparently specially inscribed, with an indication that it was for night service.

In 1896, a change of rates first led to surcharging the tickets on hand and then to issue of one new item.

First: the 25c tickets were overprinted with (translation):

5 minutes in local service;

3 minutes in interurban service.

The 50c tickets were changed to 25c by an overprint of new reduced value plus the new validity as on the 25c.

A new 25c ticket, embodying this statement of applicability, was also issued:

25c blue and red on bistre background





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This  
stampThis  
postmark  
used in  
1879

The wording was changed, as to both heading and catch-line, in 1897. Top line now reads "Postes & Telegraphes" and center catch line is changed to "Bulletin de Communication." Also, the stamp imprinted on each ticket was changed, with its lowest line reading "Telephones."

The 1897 series, still perf. 13½ and still with colored background imprinted on the card, includes:

- 25c blue on buff
- 30c black-brown on lilac
- 50c red on pale rose
- 1f red on pale blue
- 3f black on green.

In that same year the new 25c ticket itself was overprinted for reduced new rate, and with the words "Taxe Reduite" (Rate Lowered): all in red:

- 15c on 25c blue on buff.

Beginning in 1899, the tickets showed up without colored background, on cream or white card, still perf. 13½. New values were added, as dated in the following list. Some values did not appear on plain card until quite late dates, as this list shows.

- 10c violet (1901)
- 15c black (1900)
- 25c blue (1906)
- 30c brown (color changed) 1906
- 40c brown-orange (1899)
- 50c orange (1906)
- 75c rose (1899)
- 1f red (1906)
- 3f green (1906)

Telephone tickets were retired from service after 1911. The supplies on hand, and cancelled ones in the various offices, were officially destroyed by burning, done by an appropriate commission.

As these tickets, save the first two, bear stamps as part of their designs, it is customary to collect them as part of postal stationery---at least among collectors in France.

(For details as to their use, as to how the used copies came into philatelic hands, etc., see Maury, 1907, pp. 460-468--Editor, F. & C. P.)

#### What is a Precancel?

The question keeps arising whether we are correct in applying the term "Precancel" to the cancelling by printing text or heading over the stamp, in producing a newspaper. This usage is called "Annulation pour les Imprimés" in its occurrence on France's 1869 Newspaper stamps as the normal cancellation, and on other issues of the period 1869-1892 and again in 1905.

The Official Precancel Catalog of Hoovers, in the last edition of its Introduction, defines a precancel thus:

"A precancel is any postage stamp, stamped stationery or revenue stamp which has been cancelled prior to actual use for which it was issued, by, under the supervision of, or with the permission of proper authority, with a device which was used for no form of post-cancelling by the same post office."

Since Annulation pour les Imprimés was done prior to mailing the newspapers, it surely is a precancelling. The question of whether its use was undertaken in order to identify matter on which a special rate applied, or for taxation, or any other reason, has no bearing on whether the usage is or is not precancel. --S.G.R.

#### Information Wanted: French Colonies 2c Red Brown Ceres Type of 1876 (Scott No. 17)

The facts as I know them are that this stamp was issued in October 1876 (Yvert); that copies were sent only to Cochinchina.

I own two copies of this stamp, cancelled as follows:

1. SAIGON/5/FEVR/79/COCHIN CHINE
2. REU / \* / SAI

Both are apparently the correct type of cancel. In the first case: does not 1879 seem a rather late date for such a small and apparently scarce issue?

In the second case: do I have a forged postmark? Or is there some office in Cochinchina recorded, of which this may be a part? Or are copies known from other parts of the French Union?

On comparison with other copies of this same stamp, both items seem to be genuine and not any other stamp.

Over the last several years, I have been offered copies of both the 2c red brown and the 4c gray of this issue, cancelled in such a way that only a small part of the cancellation is on the stamp... just enough to indicate (But not to surely show) that it was used in Saigon in Cochinchina.

Does anyone have information as to correct and exact dates of issue, place of issue -- and what do the forged cancellations look like?

All comments appreciated.

Leo F. Goerth, P.O. Box 417, Akron, Ohio.

(Suggestion: the "REU" postmark could be the ship mark of a Reunion-Marseilles paquebot, on which this piece of mail, originating in Cochinchina, was carried.--Editor, F & C. P.)

#### Festung Lorient

Surcharge  
3 times  
actual  
diameter

Mr. Emile Maurin asks us, and we are glad to do as he asks, to make it very clear to the members that the article on Festung Lorient in No. 88 (July-Aug. 1956) was a translation by him from that of Mr. Arthur Lafon, in "Le Timbre" of 1948 and 1949. Mr. Maurin added some comments of his own at the end.

He further asks us to mention that the cover cancelled at Croix is owned by Mr. Lafon, not by himself. The animadversions on the neglect of this issue by the cataloguers are Mr. Lafon's, he informs us.

#### No Gum !

From the Malden Chapter we received a quote out of an unnamed book by Sir James R.A. Clark, Bart., F.R.P.S.L.:

"It is sometimes stated that the absence of gum on used copies is sufficient to prove the stamp is not colonial. This, however, is a fallacy."

"In Madagascar many stamps had to be destroyed as unsaleable owing to their having stuck together from the damp heat. Consequently it became the practice to send out the stamps un-gummed to the colonies, particularly those in a hot moist atmosphere."

# PHILOPODE BOOKLETS OF FRANCE

## AND OTHER SIMILAR PIECES.



Since we published Mr. Jervis' fine article on these in No. 85 (Jan.-Feb. 1956) there has been some correspondence coming to the office of the editor on various aspects. We now attempt some coordination of the various statements.

Mr. Raoul Lesgor doubts the price of \$100.00 which Mr. Jervis cited for a set of three Philopode booklets. He states that though he watches auctions, offers, etc., he has never run across any such price. He states that as late as when Mr. Jervis' article was first published, he had sold sets of three Philopode booklets at \$20 to \$25 per set. He also informs us that singles, one booklet, are now being sold at \$15.00 each by Mrs. Freydier, widow of the maker of them.

We further have a question, source of which we purposely withhold, whether the plates still exist and whether any new printings are made as the market may absorb them. On this, nothing of a solid nature in information is yet had.

Mr. Jervis, replying to queries, states that Mr. Barrier, the well known student (and Type Sage authority) accepted the figures which he uses as valid, as far back as 1932; and that he published them in the journal "Memorial Philatelique"; that they have not been challenged.

Mr. Jervis further traces these figures to Mr. Gustave Bertrand, well known and very much esteemed philatelist, who first made them public.

It would seem that the charges that more of these Philopode booklets are being made, rest on very thin grounds, and are naive suspicions, of the sort based on presuming every mean or nasty innuendo to be true and every honest rebutting to be "motivated" which we normally expect from such writers as George W. Linn.

Inquiries as to other booklets similar to the Philopodes, led to our getting from Mr. Raoul Lesgor, extracted by him from Ceres' 1950 catalogue of French advertising and booklet stamps, the following list: avowedly incomplete:

1. Semi-Official "Pubs" on Booklet margins.
  1. Maurice Digeaux, Spécialiste des Carnets.
    - 5 booklets Sower 10c green;
    - 44 booklets Pasteur 10c green;
    - 113 booklets Sower 50c red;
 all with publicity on cover also; and
    - 38 booklets same designs and values without publicity on cover but with pane (sheet) margin advertising.
  2. Cities of Normandy: --Le Havre, Dieppe, Fecamp, as well as products from these cities. Several types, on booklets of the 10c Pasteur.
    - Surcharge green on white or white on green.
  3. Cycles Chantecler (Bicycles). Red overprints, on pane margins of the 10c Pasteur and the 50c red sower.
  4. Aigloline, Huile Aiglone. Black imprint. On booklets of the 10c Pasteur.
  5. Cities of the Doubs Department. Six different cities, on Pasteur 10c green.

There are others.

2. Semi-Official "Pubs" on Margins or Gutters of Regular Sheets
  1. Philopode: Sower 15c, 25c and 50c.
  2. Neyrac les Bains: Iris 1.50f and Mercury 50c
  3. Exposition Philatelique de Dijon. Stamp not stated.

4. Exposition Philatelique de Rennes. Stamp not stated.

There are others.



Look on Page 32.  
Then:  
Hasten in YOUR  
entry in the  
Lesgor Contest.

### Book Review

Grandeur et Servitude des Timbres-Poste des Territoires Français (Les Transformations non postales). By Henri Janton. Paris, 1956, paper, 32 pp. (Price not stated). Published by the author, 33, avenue Marechal Lyautey, Paris 16; to be had from R.W. Larsen, 8714 Etiwanda Ave., Northridge, Calif.

Mr. Janton has brought together the colonial conversions of stamps issued for postage, to use for other purposes, in this convenient list. He explains the situation involved in each of the cases he reports. We reported the Ivory Coast stamp money in this journal in No. 64 (1953); but French Guinea, Madagascar and New Caledonia have other productions of this sort hitherto not on accessible record.

The second and third parts deal with stamps converted for "Pecule" and for revenue use. The former of these is a compulsory withholding of wages for government savings accounts.

By giving both Scott and Yvert numbers for the basal stamps used, Mr. Janton makes his book readily useful here as in France.

Those interested in stamp money must needs acquire this book. S.G.R.



### Further Report on the 5f Empire

Since the report in the Jan.-Feb. 1955 number (No. 85) your editor has managed to acquire some 20 more copies, bringing his total well up, to just over 80. The new material, which, emphatically, is chosen without regard for the usual criteria for good condition, emphasizing the usefulness of the poorest copies for study purposes, clinches the results attained in the first stages.

The 5 and the F vary from 3 7/10 mm. to 4 1/2 mm. in height. Somewhat over half the 5's and F's are 4 9/10 to 5 1/10 mm. high.

The collection was shown to Mr. G.R. Harmer of Scott Publications Inc. during the spring. This was the prime evidence that led him to cut out of the 1957 Scott Catalog the old listing as two "types."

The material in hand indicates further that the different "types" on of one catalog which is published in France intergrade completely.. the two pictures of these are thus again ends of a smooth series, in which most copies fall between the two "types."

The 5 and the F differ in height by 2/10 mm. on some copies: 5 being 4 1/10 mm. and F only 3 9/10 mm. on the same copy, for example.

Furthermore, the added material provides a complete intergrading from the gray-lilac to the blue imprint of 5 and F.

The study progresses.



# A Study of the 1 Centime Bordeaux and the 1 Centime Colonies

By Roger Phoris  
Translated from "France-Philatelic", March  
15, 1947

Last September, I had a visit from a fellow with whom I had this conversation:

"I have seen," said he, "that you want the old stamps of France, according to this ad. Now I am bringing you a magnificent item, which I bought a few days ago and which, by a curious coincidence, carries you mark on its back."

"Yes;--this is a stamp which I sold two months ago; but I could acquire it again. What do you want for it?"

"A thousand francs."

"What? It's a most beautiful piece; but it isn't worth this price, just the same."

"A stamp quoted at 850 francs, with a sheet margin, isn't worth a thousand francs?"

"But this stamp is quoted at 125 francs, as a sheet margin copy I personally sold it for 200 francs."

The talk continued. I had all possible difficulty in getting my visitor to understand how we were not dealing with the 1c Bordeaux--- but with the 1c Colonies. I well recalled selling it at a bourse, and I had even been surprised when the buyer took fifteen copies of this stamp, at a price above the current quotation. Now I had no doubt of his purpose.

I have told this little story to convince the new collector that, for items on which confusion is possible, he must go to responsible dealers, who will set him right in his purchases, and not to certain shady merchants who will rook him.

Hence I decided to discuss now in this paper the distinction between the 1 centime Bordeaux and the 1 centime Colonies. I ask pardon if I appear among specialists who know all about the matter--- for, as I said, this journal is aimed to everyone.

Here is a brief story of these two stamps and their characteristics.

## 1 Centime Bordeaux

In 1870, communications with Paris were broken during the invasion, and the distant areas soon lacked stamps. That is why the National Mint at Bordeaux produced an emergency issue.

The head of Ceres, copies from the 1849 type, was adopted as the design and lithography was used because time pressed. Soon the 20c was put into use; then the 8 other values of the set.

The 1c olive, issued November 13, 1870, included three intermediate stones, which each had visible distinctions:

Intermediate Stone 1-- The shadows at the eye are made of dots; the colorless line which outlines the head, to separate sharply the hair from the background of the medallion is hardly visible. As the stone wore, the number of dots on the eye diminished, up to vanishing wholly.

Intermediate Stone 2-- The shadows beneath the eye are formed of broken lines; the white line behind the head is visible. In worn prints the background is missing in the upper corners.

Intermediate Stone 3-- The white line behind the head is lacking. On the new stone, shadows under the eyes are formed of broken lines; on a second state of it, these lines are joined, one to another.

The 1c often shows a special feature: a small white line joins two pearls of the medallion's border opposite the tip of the nose. On the lower right portion of the vine leaf it carries the signature of the engraver Yvon.

## 1 Centime Colonies.

The 1c Colonies was printed four times, from April 21 1873 to April 4 1876. It is separated from the 1c imperf. of France by thicker paper and a darker shade.

If we compare with attention the 1c Bordeaux and the 1c Colonies, it is practicable to mark numerous differences.



## Bordeaux

1. The dot between the frame and the letter C is placed exactly in the middle.

2. The letter R touches the circle.

3. The letter B touches the circle.

4. The dot between the frame and the letter R is placed exactly in the middle.

5. The ears of grain are vague.

6. The shadings on the neck consists of dashes.

7. The O of POSTES is quite oval.

8. The bunch of grapes has 16 fruits.

(Items in parentheses added by translator: also Colonies item 1 reads "almost touches the circle" -- obviously a misprint).

(The distinctions here will apply to the 2c stamps also -- Editor, F. & C.P.)

## Colonies

1. The dot between the frame and the letter C almost touches the C.

2. The letter R does not touch the circle.

3. The letter B does not touch the circle.

4. The dot between the frame and the letter R almost touches the R.

5. The ears of grain are very well drawn.

6. The shadings on the neck consist of dots.

(7. The O of POSTES is round).

(8. The bunch of grapes has 14 fruits).

## India Paper

We are indebted to Mr. Raoul Lesgor for the suggestion to supplement the column in No. 89, reprinting definitions, by mention that India Paper as it is called in our language is known as "papier de Chine" and "Papier-Chine" in addition to "papier chinois", in French. He tells us that "papier chinois" is not generally used as the term.

Mr. Lesgor says further that frequently the term is further abbreviated, so that a stamp, on India paper, will be described as "3f orange sur Chine" for example. All this may help in reading French books, auction lists, etc.

See page 32 for details of the  
**Sixth Lesgor Contest.**



The happy man has made his entry.  
The glum one will wait until too late.

About the "Richelieu" Overprint.

During 1943 and early 1944, there was quite a little discussion of the "Richelieu" overprint put on the then obsolete 1.50f red brown Petain stamp of France. Only brief mention of it was made in this Philatelist, because interested and informed members of the Group were compiling two articles, which appeared in "Stamps" during Feb. 1944 and "Gossip" during May 1944. Requests for information continue, however.

The known facts are:

The "Richelieu" rubber handstamped overprint was strictly unofficial, applied by persons in New York not connected with any organ of French government (of any of the then existent sections -- De Gaullists, Giraudists, Petainists), in mid-1943, on stamps bought up along Nassau St. and uptown stamp dealers' row. The device was then put aboard the battleship "Richelieu."

No cover is yet known on which the stamp with "Richelieu" overprint actually paid postage or any part of postage.

It has been disavowed as unknown, illegal and unauthorized, by the French authorities.

Covers bearing it show it cancelled by favor or by accident only. Its standing is exactly an airmail etiquette made out of an obsolete stamp, but unofficially made.

The same overprint on stamps of Senegal and Mauritania is of the same origin and standing, but is on stamps still valid at the time.

Any catalog listing does not affect the case but is simply an error-- whether in the "Air Post Catalog" or in any present or future book published in France.

The price is today being pegged by those who wish to see it "legitimized", and who are buying up all copies, bidding them up to what they aim to charge for it, as they appear on the market.

The handstamp is reported still to be in existence, and in hands in which it could be used for making more copies or other varieties.

Help for Puzzled Ones.

Those among the membership who have puzzling questions about their stamps or covers that are within our field, can always get help via those of us who are carrying forward the work of this group.

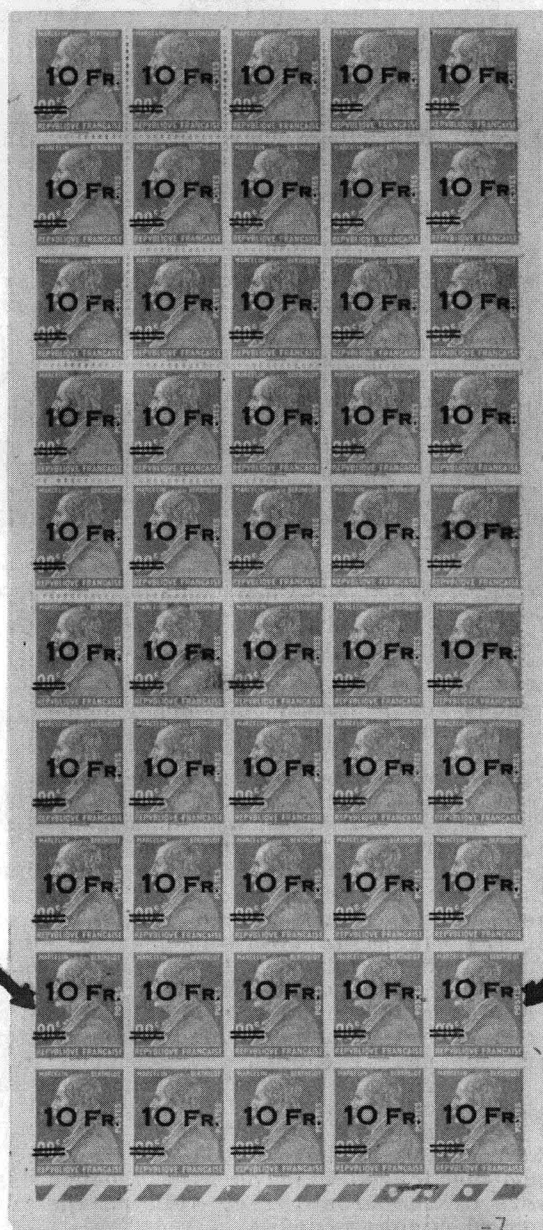
If you will put just one question into your letter, keeping it specific, and will include a return envelope with postage on it, sending it to the Editor, it will be passed on to the one among the members who in his judgment can most likely answer it. We cannot guarantee that in every case we can get you the reply-- but we'll do our best. Sometimes the editor may find that a phone call to one of several people living in the area for which he doesn't have to pay tolls for phoning, will give him the reply to return to you.

Please respect the fact that we are giving a volunteer, unpaid service, by making your query definite and including the return envelope with postage on it. We can handle single inquiries-- but even two in a letter make it a burden.

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.

Pane of the 10f on 90c  
1928 Air Mail,  
"Ile de France."

9th row shows the wide  
spacing.



A treasure of the  
Postal Museum, Paris  
(Picture copyright by  
them)

Secured for us by the  
courtesy of our member  
Henry Jervis.

Only 3000 copies made.  
(Mr. Jervis and the  
Sanabria Air Mail cat-  
alog both so state).





Oyezi

Oyezi

Ye Syxthe Lessegorre Conteste  
on Ffebruarie ye 5the, 1957

This heading is strictly irrelevant  
fanciful pseudo-antiquity, to attract  
your attention. but now read on.

**LESGOR CONTEST**

The Sixth Annual Lesgor Contest, open to all members of the Group, new or old, resident or distant, tyro or specialist, professional or amateur, will be held February 5th, 1957.

It will form the feature for the meeting on that date, at Collectors Club, 22 East 35 St., New York.

Here is the needed information for everyone who will compete--we hope you will be many:

1. Limit of size, 3 frames--36 album pages of usual size. You may show less if you wish to.

2. Anything in France and Colonies may be entered. 20th Century is preferred.

3. If you want to enter, write AT ONCE to Ira Zweifel (Program Chairman) 306 West 93 St., New York 25, N.Y., telling him what you will be showing, plus how many frames you want. Please, a specific title for your exhibit.

4. The actual exhibit should either be sent prepaid to the France & Colonies Group, care of Collectors Club, 22 East 35 St., New York 16, N.Y.; or brought there on Feb. 5th in time to frame. If you send--do it soon enough; allow at least three days more than you expect will be needed for transit.

5. Please provide your own insurance coverage.

6. When entering your showing, please inform Mr. Zweifel whether you will have the exhibit there ahead of time, or will bring in Feb. 5th.

7. The Group will return exhibits by express collect, unless you take yours or enclose the postage for its return including insurance on parcel post, certification or registration.

8. The classification and prizes are to be announced when we know what exhibits we shall have--how many, and of what material.

Present plans are for a Best in Show, a prize for best research showing, and one more for best other showing. If enough entries come in, there will be prizes for best stamp study and the best cancellation study.

9. Closing date for notice of entry to reach Mr. Zweifel is January 15, 1957.

10. The judges will be partly or wholly non-members of the Group. They will be instructed to disregard monetary value.

Purposely we announce this contest thus late because past experience has shown that intense concentrated work on a Lesgor Contest showing has produced the best exhibits and most earnest competition.

A Department Offered for This Journal.

Mr. Frederic Mulhenheim, our member, makes us the offer to provide in each number a list of the new issues of all the French Union countries since the last number.

We do not know how strong or widespread any interest in this is among the Group. As we come out at 2-month intervals, we wonder whether some other sources supply the information with more promptness. Please postcard your ideas to the Editor.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome.

- 666 Bryan, Bill, Lt. Col. 3151st. Supply Group.  
APO 30, New York, N.Y. (French Col.,  
in Africa & French Morocco).....  
667 Meyhew, Harold W. 3136 Air Depot Group,...  
APO 290, New York, New York. (France  
and the Colonies).....

APPLICATION PENDING:

- 668 Kindler, Jan. 65 Bedford Street, New York,  
14, N.Y. (French Semeuses Cancells).

CORRECTION (of "Correction")

- 640 Shown, Hugh V. ....this is the correct way  
to spell the name, not the alleged right  
one given as a "Correction" last report..  
The Editor gave the Secretary an error,  
confusing Mr. Shown with another man....

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 349 Goerth, Leo F. to P.O. Box 417 Akron, Ohio.  
592 Myers, Nat C. Jr. to 199 Secor Road,.....  
Scarsdale, New York.

Respectfully submitted  
Charles Bretagne, Secretary

Special French Number of L I N N ' S

Arrangements have been concluded with Carl R. Rueth, editor of Linn's Weekly Stamp News, for a France & Colonies number of that paper, to be the issue of April 29, 1957.

The Group's officers have made this matter their concern, and completed the agreement.

Articles for this number are wanted.

Your editor therefore is calling on every member who can do it, to supply a good popular, interesting article on his pet French or Colonial field.

For convenience, the articles will travel to Linn's via your editor's office, P.O. Box B, at Verona, New Jersey.

We need to have material in hand by March 10 at latest. Earlier is better. Linn's can make a limited number of cuts, if you provide photos or other cuts copy.

MEMBERS' APPEALS

Want and exchange notices only; members only; no charge; one or two insertions only. Those who reply will please offer only what is asked.

Wanted: French Colonies general issues, Commerce type used on cover. Also loose stamps for cancellations. Leo F. Goerth, P.O. Box 417, Akron, Ohio (Member 349)

Strip of 3, used, of Scott No. 93 of France, 25c deep red, wanted; submit with price, please.. M. F. Ohlrogge, 60 Jackson St., New Rochelle, N.Y. (Member 520)

Cover, small and sans publicity imprint, of the Le Mans 24-Hour Auto Race 1954, wanted. Submit with price. S. G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2)

Five Francs Empire stamps, no matter how bad the condition, wanted at appropriate prices, for study of varieties. I have 80; need 100 or more; heavy cancellation even if unusual not needed; legible year date cancellations useful specially if early. S. G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2)