

France & Colonies Philatelist



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The Fabulous Pair

25c Ultramarine, Types 1 and 2, 1876



N under U (Type 2) N under B (Type 1)
Se-tenant in unsevered used pair
Sept. 16, 1876 use, at Paris.

Discovered in a lot of the ultramarine 25c stamps by our member Nathan Hals, this prized pair had not been noticed amid the Type 2's that comprised the lot. When it turned up, late in 1955, Mr. Hals could not believe his eyes. But on showing it to members, it was verified fully as being the very scarce se-tenant pair.

Photo by our member Adiren Boutrelle, showing details beyond any question. The rough looks of the Type 1 stamp identify it as stereotype and, therefore, loose cliches instead of a plate. The Type 2 stamp is less rough, but still within the identifiable range of stereo production.

Information at hand indicates that less than 25 pairs, unused and used, are known.

The Several Similar Town Mark Devices of the
French Post Office at Jerusalem

By E. Tolkowsky.

That the French post office at Jerusalem, in the period from 1900 on, had at least two town and date mark devices, slightly different, most students of the Offices Abroad know. The well-known Catalogue des Estampilles illustrates two such, but complicates the matter because month is shown in words in one, numerals in the other one. Both have been forged, as mentioned by me in my articles (F. & C. Phil., No. 87, May-June of 1956. I picture them both there.

Examination of my material shows me that at least three devices, different in the parts of the lettering that are fixed, not movable, do exist. The word "Jerusalem" and "Palestine" are variable in length from one device to another. It seems simplest to identify the devices via the distance between the ends of the two words, at the right, measuring from furthest corner of E to furthest corner of M, at the ends near outer circle. The M is inverted relatively to the E-- thus:

E (distance) W

Position of I of "Palestine" relative to gap between dashes of the inner circle also gives identification. The J varies, with its turned-up hook in varying relation to the main line.



Fig. 1
12 3/4 mm.

Fig. 2
11 3/4 mm.



Fig. 3.
10 mm. or a little more

The E to M distance is 12 3/4 mm. in device used earliest (Fig. 1).

Later devices, apparently contemporary with each other in use, have this distance, E to M, shorter: 11 3/4 mm. (Fig. 2)
10 mm. (Fig. 3)

Does a fourth type or device exist? Or have we even more of them? Let us not confuse the matter by reference to the movable slugs for date etc. and their arrangement; let us limit ourselves to the fixed parts of the device. If the pictures in the Catalogue des Estampilles, which were shown in my article on forgeries, are accurate, the 10 mm. space device comes with two arrangements of these, with months in word and in numeral.

Can readers help me with early and late date of use for each device? With time of change to numeral in month-designation, and on which one or ones of the handstamps it occurred.



Type 1
N under B
Type 2
N under U
Illustration from American Philatelist, August 1956, by authorization of editor of that magazine.

Type Sage Again -- Editor's Error

Please look in No. 89, Sept.-Oct. 1956, on page 23. In the article "The Types of 'Type Sage'" there, a proofreading lapse caused it to read incorrectly.

Original typescript reads:

"..... require that Type 1, N under B, cannot exist thus."

Your editor somehow got it wrong in typing up the copy to measure for photo-offset printing.

Careful examination of the Jervis pictures in the American Philatelist, August 1956, which are there mentioned, is disquieting. The proof in Type 1, N under B, with blank white numeral tablet is either a very late derived-die proof, in which the white tablet has purposely been made; or else we have a photo on which some art work has been done, changing it. The borders of the value tablet do look as if some such change at least may have been made. But we do not enjoy the idea that any deception has come into this matter.

Your editor also repeated his mistake of the wrong type designation in his last paragraph!

Most embarrassing; but it would be utterly out of reason to avoid admitting the mistakes.

The fact still remains that the presence of both types with white blank tablets upsets our previous ideas. But in the absence of dates of the items shown-- an omission we hope Mr. Jervis will promptly and definitely correct in print-- our situation is only that of bafflement.

Illustration reprinted from the American Philatelist by express permission of its editor.

The columns of the journal are open to Mr. Jervis for a definite, specific statement about the dates of these proofs. He is invited to put the facts on record here--preferably compactly, without reference to any other matters.

Gerard Gilbert Memorial Award Revived

In 1949 the Group established an annual award for the best article of each year published on French and French Colonial philately. The plan was to encourage contributions of new, hitherto unknown or unrecorded information, or new ideas on the bearing of facts previously known.

This award, a certificate, was given in 1949 and again until 1952.

It is now proposed, at the instance of Mr. Ira Zweifach, that we make awards for each year since then. Suggestions for candidates for the awards for 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956 are welcome.

This award is a memorial to that great student and contributor, Mr. Gerard Gilbert, who was one of our members and Honorary Chairman during the last years of his life. It takes the form of a fine certificate.



6th LESGOR CONTEST



Seven exhibits were brought or sent in, for the 6th Lesgor Contest. These just filled all the frames in the Collectors Club meeting room, where the Group regularly met on that date.

Mr. Zweifach has succeeded in getting as the judges, Messrs R. Lesgor, P. Baudry and Edmond Queyroy. As will be recalled from the notices of the contest, the classification was to be the judges' own formulation. They decided to have two groups: Research Showings and Non-Research. They further decided on an award for the best in the show, regardless of its nature.

Mr. Harold Metzger, from Florida, took the Best in the Show, for his Plating of the 25c Ceres Perforated. This was exceedingly finely displayed, with sufficient diagrams, making it an aesthetic as well as a philatelic joy.

In the Research Division, Mr. Charles Neidorf took the first award, for a careful study about the several plates used in producing the 1917 engraved 15c stamp of French Morocco. Varieties hitherto puzzling fell into order with the new facts showing use of replica plates.

A second research award was given S.G. Rich, for his small showing of color-sequences in the 1900 issue of France plus some varieties of a minor sort not hitherto reported.

In the General Section, Mr. Jan Kindler took the top award with a comprehensive showing of the 10c Red Sower Type, from the start to the end of its use, plus its used abroad.

Mr. Gustave Wittenberg's showing of the Sower Type, including coil strips et al., was given the next award.

The judges further gave Honorable Mention to the exhibit of Mrs. Marion McPartland, sent in from Michigan, and featuring the Red Cross issues of all the French Countries.

As has uniformly been the custom, the actual awards are to be items of philatelic use, such as stamps or covers that will enhance the collection winning them, or such pieces of equipment as a fine pocket stock book. Thus, it was not practicable to bestow them at the time; but the several donors who promised prizes will see to it that the recipients get them. We ask due lenience for any human frailty in delaying the sending or bestowal.

Meeting of the Group on March 5, 1957

At the regular Group meeting, Tuesday, March 7th, at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35 St., New York, N.Y., Mr. Herbert J. Bloch, well known and highly esteemed stamp student, will show: French Colonies: Selected Pages from a Reference Collection, including the Free French Overprints of St. Pierre-Miquelon.

All members, resident or non-resident, are of course entitled to attend these meetings. We hope some from afield will come to this one.

Change of Status for T O G O

By Frederic Milhenheim

A letter from the Ministry for Oversea Areas dated Feb. 1 1957, to me in response to my inquiry, states: (translation)

"Togo is made an Autonomous Republic by the Government Order No. 56-847, of August 24, 1956"

"In applying the changes made by this order the administration of the posts of Togo issues its own stamps. But this territory is always an integral part of the French Union."

Thus the name of the country from now on is:
REPUBLIQUE AUTONOME DU TOGO.

FRANCE'S NEWEST — Pictured here are two new French stamps to be issued during January. They depict two extremes in the delivery of messages. The 15-franc stamp at top is dedicated to the carrier pigeon, while the 500-franc number, below, honors the fast delivery provided by France's new jet airliner "Caravelle."

National Stamp News
Jan. 10, 1957

French shipside or wharf postmark at Panama, 1877. on then current 25c.

Courtesy of M. Jamet.



Can You Help on this Puzzle-- about the Eagle Type Colonies Issue?

By Leo F. Goerth

Yvert's catalog indicates that reprints from the Eagle Type plates were made in 1887 on order of Mr. Granet, then Minister of Posts. Gibbons indicates that reprints were made in 1887, in sheets of 4 x 4 stamps, without gum.

Can we presume that the two catalogs mean the same production, the same things?

Several months ago I purchased a copy of the 5c green "Granet" reprint, from Dr. Chase. This stamp was cancelled: Dr. Chase noted that it is a favor cancellation.

It reads thus:

TONG-
23 AVRIL 79
HAIPHUNG



The last part of the town name is off beyond the edge of the stamp.

Recently, while sorting out some copies of the 80c carmine, I found one with the identical cancellation, in almost the same position. Such careful placing seems to show that the one who applied the cancellation was not giving himself away. It corroborated Dr. Chase's statement (Not I ever doubted it).

Can someone give me further background about this cancellation-- and who was the culprit?

Were all the values so cancelled?

The 80c with this TONG- cancellation matches my 50 or so copies in color of ink and paper, so that I have no way to know if it is a Granet reprint or not. In fact, on the 5c green, color does not seem to furnish any difference between the Granet reprint and the original stamp.

All comments will be appreciated. Reach me at P.O.Box 417, Akron 3, Ohio.

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.

Covers wanted, showing Mite Star of Paris Main Office used as cancel at Branch Offices in Paris, except Bureau J or Place de la Bourse.... Please submit prices, or list wanted in exchange. Mrs. James W. Dayton, Lodestone, Amherst, Mass.... (Member 113).

French Morocco Locals wanted, as listed in French catalogs. Send information and prices only; not stamps. Lt. Col. Bill Bryan, 3151st Supply Group, A.P.O. 30, New York, N.Y. (Member 666)

Wanted: Letters J and M in lozenge of dots cancellations; Letters B-H and L in lozenge of dots cancellation with the hour of distribution town postmark. Will buy; give price; or will give two different for one. These must be on cover. Merritt F. Handy, 21 Garnett St., Malden 48, Mass. (Member 269)

Strip of 3, used, of Scott No. 93 of France, 25c deep red, wanted; submit with price, please.. Wm. 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)

* SECRETARY'S REPORT *
December 15 to February 15, 1957

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome.

- 668 Kindler, Jan. 65 Bedford Street, New York, 14, N.Y. (French Semeuses Cancelled)
- 669 Gray, Dr. Stephen W., Anatomy Department, Emory University, Georgia..... (19th Century Colonies)

APPLICATION PENDING:

- 670 Gadbois, Charles 1420 E 13th. Avenue,.... Denver 18, Colorado (France & Cols)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 16 Musy, Jacques A. to P.O.Box 7 Valrico,.... Florida.....
- 611 Clark, Robert J. to P.O.Box 728 Evanston, Illinois.....
- 493 Langston, George E. to 5910 Buick Drive, Indianapolis 24, Indiana.....
- 664 Churchman, David C. to 542nd. Engr. Co.... (Survey Base) APO 231, New York, NY.
- 11 Weiler, George A. to 60 1/2 Riverside Drive, New York 24, New York.....
- 592 Myers, Nat C. Jr. to 199 Secor Road,.... Scarsdale, New York.....
- 3 Queyroy, Edmond, to 55 West 42 St., New York 36, N.Y.....



FISHING for

this year's DUES!

Your 1956 dues are now payable. Please send them in early, so as to save time and money to your faithful Secretary---to celebrate his 7th year as Secretary, without pay and so so much of work of various kinds.

You do not have to wait for your notice, to pay:

- New York resident members: \$2.50;
- All other members, in the U.S. and abroad, \$1.50.

Send all dues to
Charles Bretagne,
P.O.Box 30, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Respectfully submitted,
Chas. Bretagne, Secretary



French Morocco's Dues Converted into Postage, 1893

Even as loose stamps, these are rarities not often seen. Used on cover, they are most unusual --but, thanks to courtesy of H.R. Harmer, Inc., we show such a cover from one of their sales in 1951. The two stamps together make the correct 15 centimes rate.