

# France & Colonies Philatelist



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Published bi-monthly by the France and Colonies Group

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**STEPHEN G. RICH**  
1890-1958

On August 16th the France and Colonies Group lost a good friend, a devoted worker and a fine scholar. It was a loss that will not easily be forgotten by the members of this organization, for men like Steve Rich are few and hard to find. He will be missed by all whether they knew him or not.

Although Steve had entered the hospital for major surgery a few weeks earlier, the shocking blow of his death was totally unexpected by those who were close to him. An alert, active man with many and varied interests, his passing is a difficult thing to realize. Until the very end he never ceased making energetic plans for the future.

A devoted man, Steve gave unstintingly of himself in his efforts to further the cause of this society and philately in general. There were few offices in this Group that he had not occupied and few jobs that he had not handled — and handled well. One of our founding members (he held card No. 2), Steve never lost interest in the France and Colonies Group. At various times he held the office of President, Vice-President, Member of the Board and Membership Chairman. He ran an active problem service which has been of immense help to many, served on innumerable committees and acted in many other official capacities. But Steve's greatest contribution to the Group was his 13-year tenure of office as editor of the "Philatelist." In those years he did much to amass a truly amazing amount of material of permanent use to the collector of French material. Those of you with complete files of our journal can attest to that. In addition, Steve was a one-man production service. He personally set the articles, did the paste-up, arranged for the illustrations and printing, and even folded, inserted, addressed, stamped and mailed the finished copies.

During the past year Steve often worked while ill, telling no one, even in the face of complaints and admonishments when this paper did not appear on schedule.

Raoul Lesgor, founding member number one, has this to say about Steve... "No man to my memory has done so much for stamp collecting — not only for what he has written and studied on many subjects (he had close to 3,000 articles in print at his death —Ed.), but for his complete and undivided devotion to the hobby, for the help and

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## EDITOR'S

## CORNER

After what must seem like an unconcionable delay to many, the "Philatelist" makes its appearance once again — this time we assure you, on a constant basis.

The reasons for its long absence from your mailbox are many, beginning with Steve Rich's illness — a period during which he worked under great difficulty, although few knew it — and the stunning blow of his death in August. Weeks of waiting followed before we could get "Group" property, including the material for this issue and the addressograph plates containing the list of our membership, released by his estate. Then followed a hunt for a typographer to set copy and a mailing firm to handle the addressing and mailing of the paper — operations formerly handled by Steve himself. Other difficulties cropped up, including the disappearance of much of the backlog held by Editor Rich for use in this journal, helping to add to an already aggravated situation.

However, these obstacles have at long last been eradicated and the "Philatelist" is an actuality once more. As your new editor I will do my best to keep it that way.

You will notice that this issue and the one following it have a double number. This is to allow us to build a new copy bank, to make it possible for us to end the current volume in December and to start Volume 18 in January as it properly should.

As we promised last March, every issue will contain at least eight pages. Other major improvements will follow. One of them — typeset copy, making for easier readability and better appearance, has already been put into effect. It is but a first step forward in a plan to turn the "Philatelist" into a first class philatelic magazine.

Accomplishing this fact will be no easy task and to bring it about we need help and more help — YOUR HELP!

We need new and interesting material to fill our pages. While we are relying heavily on those who have supplied us so well in the past, we would like to see articles by others of our members who have specialties not touched upon by the "Philatelist." If you feel you are not up to writing such an article, send us the material and we will see that it is put into shape for publication with full credit to yourself.

We need advertisements — read the announcement elsewhere in this issue. The "Philatelist" offers a very special and concentrated market for anyone who has French material to offer as well as a general philatelic market. Get us an ad if you can. Dealers and auctioneers will find our reasonable rates most attractive.

We need more readers. Sign up a new member. Not only will you be helping to create new interest in French philately, but you will be helping to get us the funds we need to make the "Philatelist" a publication we can all be proud of.

— Ira Zweifach,

Editor

## Memo From

## Helen Stringham:

Dear Mr. "Scott" Catalog,

I do not have a color television set (in fact I do not have a black and white one), nor do I ever look directly at the sun without a dark glass before my eyes, but I do have pretty good luck matching tints in paint, wall-paper, silk or woolens.

Please take a good look at some stamps which you have listed as: Tunisia No. 198, picturing a detail from the Great Mosque at Kairouan.

Thiaude gives two listings for the 12-franc value:

228 — red and brown

229 — brown and orange

Yvert and Ceres give two listings with some price variation:

318B

318C

but they both call the equivalent of Thiaude No. 228 a "red-brown."

Most definately I have found the border to be NOT THE SAME COLOR as the interior, on this stamp.

Can you not see that there are TWO two-color stamps of the 12-franc value, so gaily listed as No. 198 in your revered "collectors' bible?"

Sincerely,  
Helen Stringham

## BENIN & LAGOS

## OVERLAP IN 1880'S

Homer Hilton, Jr.

French and British spheres of interest on the coast of Africa to the west of Lagos were considerably intermingled in the 1880's. Limits of territory between the powers were established by an Anglo-French agreement signed on Aug. 10, 1889.

The district known as Kotonu was transferred to the French territory of Assinie, later known as Benin — which in turn was later incorporated into Dahomey. In exchange, Lagos received the Pokra district.

Thus, any covers from the Kotonu district, in the period under British administration would be genuine and extremely interesting forerunners in a French colonial collection. Likewise, French stamps used in the Pokra district (General Colonial issues, probably Du Bois type) should be of interest to British Colonial collectors, as well as of French Colonial interest as used in an area no longer French.

I shall be glad to have any information that such items exist, and will report them in this journal. Reach me at: 510 East Michigan St., Marquette, Mich.

# THE FIRST LINE ENGRAVED STAMP OF FRANCE

by  
RAOUL LESGOR



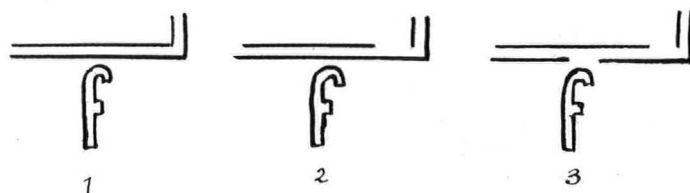
Issued to help raise funds to stabilize a dipping French currency, the 1.50 fr + 8.50 fr semi-postal of 1928 (Scott-B27), was the first of a series we call the "Sinking Fund" issues. The top-heavy surtax, 8.50 fr for a franking value of only 1.50 fr, made it, of course, very unpopular. Two million were printed of which 180,000 were sold - mostly to collectors and dealers. The balance was destroyed. The administration could have salvaged this large lot of unwanted stamps by surcharging them, as they did later with another denomination (Scott B47), but perhaps no one thought of it.

The stamp, designed by P. Turin in a style popular at the time, shows the truncated heads of an industrial worker and a girl farmer, symbolizing industry and agriculture. The engraving of the original die was done by A. Mignon. Its color is blue, ranging in shade from light to intense, with a short use of a blue green ink which is quite scarce.

B27 is perforated 13½, a perforation which served for only one other French stamp (the first issue of the Pont Du Gard - Scott - 253). The printed area of the design measures 34.6 x 20.6 mm, considerably smaller than the perforated dimensions, making for extra large margins all around.

So far B27 appears to be a run of the mill issue, but under closer scrutiny certain peculiarities appear which make it highly interesting. Unfortunately the stamp is growing scarce, making the study of it more and more difficult. Large blocks and sheets are no longer easily obtainable and it is regrettable that French collectors did not take the trouble to gather all the information available to them at the time of issue. After all, this stamp represented an entirely new departure, a minor revolution in fact, as far as stamp production in France was concerned, and one cannot but deplore that a noisy, inquisitive and pestiferous 20th century replica of Arthur Maury was not around to record enough facts about B27 to preclude guessing - because what follows is merely guesswork, based on what little information there is to be had about this stamp.

Thanks to a brochure published in 1954 by the now retired director of French stamp production, Monsierr R. Poujet, we know that the French Postal printing establishment was not prepared in 1928 or equipped to produce line engraved stamps. Outside technicians had to be called in. We also learn that the plates used for this stamp were electro-chemically produced and that hand presses of very low production capacity served for the printings.



B-27 Composition of Plate of 50

Row	I	II	I	I	I
1	I	II	I	I	I
2	I	II	II	I	I
3	I	II	II	I	I
4	I	II	II	I	I
5	I	II	II	I	I
6	I	II	II	III	I
7	I	II	II	III	I
8	I	II	II	III	I
9	I	II	II	III	I
10	I	II	II	III	I

Fig. 4

Chances are several plates were manufactured. How many we do not know. Logic leads us to believe that this was so, since a single hand press printing with a single plate of 50 subjects would have taken an extraordinary long time to turn out two million stamps. The plates were probably made from electroplating from a single mold, and of this we are almost sure, since a single plate composition has been reported to date.

Only three stamps were printed by this method - the B27 and Scott # 253-4. They all appeared during what was probably a transitory period, for during this time rotary presses had been installed and starting with the 10fr La Rochelle (Scott # 251), issued in March, 1929, all subsequent issues were printed on these presses.

Although the French catalogs calls them types, in my opinion the differences to be found in copies of B27 are really only varieties (see Figs. 1,2,3). Variety 1 is without flaw. Varieties 2 and 3 are the result of plate breaks in the die during transfer. To bear this out let us look at the plate composition (Fig. 4). There are 26 stamps without variety (I) - 19 stamps with variety (II) - and 5 with variety (III). By the very location and coincidence of these varieties we can exclude the theory that the transfer was made on mobile clichés, assembled and locked in plate forms for the electrolyte bath.

Another theory, possibly the right one, is that the transfer was made with a transfer roll of five stamps horizontally right on the plate. This would explain the location of the varieties as follows: Top row - a break is found in the second stamp only of the transfer roll. In rows 2, 3, 4 and 5 the breaks are discernable at positions 2 and 3, reading towards the right. In rows 6 to 10 another and different break occurs at position 4 of the roller. Only position 1 and 5 remain intact. A transfer roll of 5 stamps is very uncommon - we cannot recall a single instance of such a transfer.

My own theory, offered with misgivings, is that the transfer was made on small vertical reports of five stamps. Another look at the composition of the plate will confirm the feeling that the number 5 is important. In my theory the transfer was made from a transfer roll of a single stamp, which is very normal, repeated five times on a vertical strip of soft steel or some other medium. In that case we find that five of the ten strips display the design undamaged (A,B,C,D), one strip with the first transfer at the top undamaged and the other four featuring a break #2, three complete strips of five with variety or break #2, and finally one complete vertical strip displaying variety #3 on all five transfers.



## reviews

THE EAGLE — Dedicated to the Postage Issues of the French Colonial General Issues, etc. Vol I, No. 1. Published by the Study Circle of the French Colonial General Issues — A Chapter of the France and Colonies Group.

The France and Colonies Group knows full well from recent checking on printing costs, that producing a periodical is expensive, and that only the dedication of certain individuals makes its production possible. We cannot, therefore, carp at the mimeographed format of this first issue of the Study Circle's new organ so appropriately named "The Eagle," after the design of the first French Colonial stamps.

Rather we must cheer its appearance on the scene. Most amateur reviewers (and I am one) almost inevitably say that this is fine and that is good...But!... These are not buts, simply notes for the future. Those who write and those who edit must know of the dedication and enthusiasm required to tell others what they know and to spread that knowledge in print. The high ambition and quality shown by the task of translating the Bouvet article on Reunion, the excellent illustrations and the reports of work done by the members, make this a fiery debut.

This reviewer, having done much work at translating, recently, came to the same conclusion as Brian Hooker when putting Cyrano de Bergerac into English - don't! It is surprisingly difficult to rewrite into English and avoid coming up with a too literal translation. It is a task that requires a thorough knowledge of both languages so that idioms and constructions carry a literary meaning as well as a literal one. Being technical, the Bouvet article does not suffer too much in translation but this reviewer feels that a translator must put such information into our own tongue engagingly enough to attract new students, rather than merely answer the questions of those who will labor through fog to get the answers anyway.

A system of classification is an excellent thing when logical. It is descriptive and saves much money and space in illustrations. I am afraid that the method of classifying the cachets and griffes adopted by Messers Stone and Goerth show that they understand their subject so well that they have failed to realize that the average reader does not. The decimal system of classification, the AA, aa, Ab, etc. type headings used by them will only result in his ultimate confusion. Too, they have not allowed for differences, two cachets differing in border type receiving the same number. It might be well if they adopted the French system of giving each item a number which all authors follow. HALS

Les Premiers Timbres des Colonies Francaises par Comte Olivier de Pomyers: 157pp, plus 5 halftones pasted in, paper bound. Impr. A. Painchaud, Aubigny-sur-Nere (Cher), 1957. For sale by the author, Aubigny-sur-Nere, 4,800 Frcs.

This book is a revision and extension of the pamphlet published by the author in 1935, "Les Precurseurs des Colonies Francaise." It deals primarily with the so-called general issues of the French colonies, though there are notes on the use of French stamps in the colonies and on cancellations.

Unlike the works of Bouvet, Locard and Stone on the

general issues this work does not deal with the stamps as such, but with their usage and cancellation in each colony, stamp by stamp, shade by shade, etc. As a considerable number of collectors are now specializing in the use of the general issues in such detail, our readers will wish to know whether this book is worth to them what it costs (about \$11 U.S.). For one who is studying or collecting the G.I. in all colonies by shades and various cancels and post offices, de Pomyers book will probably seem worthwhile. However, he added only about five per cent more records of uses over what were listed in his 1935 booklet, and his records are being assimilated into other studies currently being published elsewhere. The Comte has performed a service to collectors in publishing the records of uses he had in his large collection and has seen over the years. It is unfortunate that he had to issue it privately, making the cost so high.

Although the Comte has undoubtedly seen thousands of general issue stamps, what he has recorded is but a very small sample of the millions of these stamps that were issued and used. He makes many statements about the rarity of certain uses in such dogmatic and final terms that the inexperienced collector may often be misled. This reviewer has also seen thousands of G.I. stamps, and can show that in many cases uses are not as rare as they appear to de Pomyers. We have many uses unknown to him. On the other hand we found a number of records new to us in his lists. Likewise, other collectors are constantly turning up new finds. This is inevitable. It is what makes collecting the G.I. so fascinating. The Comte is highly opinionated about the status of certain stamps, cancels and uses - other specialists and students are in disagreement with him on many of these points, but he does not mention other authorities. In fact, one gets the impression that collecting is a pure emotion for the Comte.

There is little mark of the objectivity, careful research and good logic of a real student. On all technical matters he is silent, evasive or very general. He does not even furnish illustrations of the types of cancellations. Apparently he assumes one knows already all about these things, accordingly he gives no reference to guide the reader to them.

The five halftone plates are taken from the auction catalog of Miro for the sale in which de Pomyer's collection was dispersed in Nov., 1956. --Robert G. Stone

## ENGRAVED STAMP Contd.

If this theory is the right one, then the strips were assembled in plate form haphazardly and electroplated.

I do not claim that my theory is the right one. There are a couple of weak points which will be obvious to the reader. But the theory of the horizontal transfer roll of five is also weak. Perhaps a third explanation will come forth. If this article is instrumental in inducing someone better qualified than I to dig deeper, it will not have been in vain. Perhaps the gods of French philately will come out of their ivory towers and release the necessary information, which they no doubt possess, to help solve the many vexing problems which still surround many of the 20th century issues of France.

# ON THE 2c CERES FRENCH COLONIES

ROBERT G. STONE



For the collector contemplating purchase of a 2c or 4c, the primary question should be whether the stamp is genuine. The imperforate Ceres of France, deperforated French Ceres, the proofs and even Bordequx, are sometimes passed off on the unwary as Colonial stamps, to which they have a great resemblance. The outright forgeries are not very good, but require some knowledge of the genuine to detect; they may have imitations of the correct cancel.

In "L'Echo" for Oct. 31, 1956 there appeared a short article by Comte de Pomyers claiming "revolutionary recent discoveries" about the 2c Colonial Ceres. It seems, however, that his views are only his old ones which Dr. Bouvet had cast serious doubt upon and which, now that the latter has passed away, are being trotted out with the hope that they will be more favorably accepted. His first "discovery" is that the 2c shows several different nuances of shade and impression, "proving" that there must have been more than one printing. This is a quite unjustified inference, for in many, if not most of the individual printings of all the colonial general issues there are considerable ranges of shade and impression within the one printing - if the printing was fairly large it was usual for such variations to arise because more than one mix of ink was needed and the paper and adjustments of the press varied in the course of printing. But Dr. Bouvet found in the archives the records of all the orders for the Ceres printings and and they show only one printing of the 2c was made.

Some of Comte de Pomyers other "discoveries" have more substance, much of it covered by Bouvet and well known. He points to the fact that the 2c was used up gradually until 1881 or 1882, and that some copies were used in the small offices of Lower Cochin China. While we may agree with him that this suggests the stamps were possibly issued to some of these places in addition to Saigon, when he argues that these long years of use also mean there must have been several or more printings we feel that he is again being illogical. Next he brings up the cases of 2c with cancels of Reunion and New Caledonia - he wants us to believe they are genuine, possibly favor cancels. As a Reunion specialist, he should have a valuable opinion, but we, like Bouvet, prefer to remain very skeptical. De Pomyers mentions having seen a cover with a strip of five 2c from Saigon dated 1880 - the only cover we have ever heard of. The Comte states that the 2c used is "infinitely rarer" than the 4c used - here we can only say that this is contrary to the observations of collectors in this country.

In the F & C G P No. 90, P. 28, Mr. Goerth and the Editor ask for information on the use of these stamps. It is curious that, whereas the 4c Ceres and 25c black Sage, the other two leading rarities of French Colonial general issues, were the objects of definitive studies published by the late Dr. Bouvet one can find very little in print about the 2c. The brief paragraph in Locard's "Catalogue Documentaire" and a few remarks by Dr. Bouvet add up to just about all that is known about it.

The 2c stamp was printed (along with the 4c) on April 1876, and put on sale in Saigon (Cochin China) on July 12, 1876 the same day as the 4c. Earliest known uses of the stamp are in mid or late August, 1876. The two stamps were specially ordered by Cochin China to use on printed matter mail, of which there was apparently an increasing quantity from Saigon, though no more than from some other colonies. For a long time the colonies had been using the 1c and 5c in combinations and multiples to prepay such mail. Probably the Saigon merchants merely complained loudly for more convenient denominations and got them. The 2c and 4c Ceres had first been issued (perforated) in France in April-May 1872, but no colonies had ordered them during 1872-75. The 1876 printing was the only one of these stamps for the colonies.

Whereas the 4c was practically used up by mid-1877, after which only a few cancels with scattered dates into 1878 are seen, the 2c continued in stock and saw a straggling and sparse use until 1882. It is the opinion of all the best authorities that both the 2c and 4c were sold only in the Saigon P.O.. A certain very few copies are known with postmarks of Reunion, French Oceania, New Caledonia, French India, and other offices in Cochin China. Over 90% of such copies have either demonstrably false cancels or have a very dubious aspect or are not genuine stamps. Dr. Bouvet concluded that all those of Reunion, New Caledonia, French India and other offices in Cochin China which he had seen were false in one way or another. Some from other Cochin China points and one we have seen from Pondicherry seem to be genuine, but are so few as to indicate no more than a purely accidental use resulting from private importations. In the case of the 4c the dates are usually after the stamp was exhausted at Saigon. There are, too, a few obviously philatelic uses dated years after the correct period of use and from remote colonies like Guadeloupe! We have seen the 4c on faked covers from Martinique, with imitation "MQE" lozenges. Any lozenge on a 2c or 4c is false as the lozenges were no longer being used when and where the stamp was current. The "CCH," "C" and "CCN" lozenges had been discontinued in early 1876.

The genuine postmarks on these stamps are three types of Saigon datestamps of 1876 and some later types too on the 2c. The false cancels (both Saigon and other colonies) are of a genuine type in most cases, but may be incorrect in some details or not belong to the right period; many are struck with little of the mark showing so that one cannot judge easily. At Saigon, at least, the genuine stamps were usually struck with the postmark centered on the stamp (if a single) or on the pair (4c). The false postmarks are apt to be heavily inked with a greasier substance than generally seen in genuine markings. Saigon postmarks were characteristically light and clear.

The false Saigon postmarks are seen only on non-gen-

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## 20C BORDEAUX OF 1870

A Last Article By S.G.R.

Sure differentiation of the three types of the 20c of the Bordeaux lithographic issue has always been a stumbling block to even the rather experienced collectors of France. The stigmata given in Scott's catalog seem to be insufficient for sure identification. What is more, many of us find that we cannot surely separate these stamps from the imperforate 20c of the Colonies readily.

The trick is to get a nice clear perforated 20c, Scott 57 or 57a, to use as the standard of reference.

First you look at the headband or "fillet" on Ceres' head. If the sheaves of grain stick up more than halfway from the line of the top of the hair to the row of pearls, your imperforate stamp is most likely the Colonies imperf. But it could be a Bordeaux or the rare 20c blue of 1849. Compare with sheaves on your 20c perf.

If it is a Bordeaux, there is a fine, not a thick, white line around the outer border of the circle of pearls. If the pearls are noticeably irregular in size and shape, it is a Bordeaux...this is stated by Michel's catalog to be the best mark for sure recognition. The vertical lines that shade the triangles between the medallion and the border are rather conspicuously irregular, and normally show many breaks in their waving lengths. The shading of the corner of the jaw and the neck won't help you, for it is like that on the 1849 and Colonial imperfs. This is Type 1.

Now if your copy doesn't have the sheaves of grain protruding, you know you have a Bordeaux without bothering further (The 1c, 2c and 4c sometimes show protruding sheaves).

There are two usual types of the 20c here: both of them have the shading under the corner of the jaw and on the neck in dashes or continuous lines. Both of them have the lines of shading under the eye slanting downwards to the left...your 20c perf. doesn't.

Type 2 has the shading under the jaw quite light, normally broken into separate dashes and lettering of inscriptions at least as thin and as small as that on your standard perf. copy.

Type 3 has the shading under the jaw very noticeably heavy, and with the dashes running together at many points into longer lines, on most copies. The lettering is visibly heavier, and at least some of it visibly larger, than on your standard perf. copy.

Try these stigmata, and let your editor know if they solve your problem.

### STEPHEN G. RICH Continued

advice he so freely gave to all who asked for it, for his continuous fight against the incompetent, the false experts and for his impatience with plagiarism and braggarts.

"Not an easy man to oppose, Steve disliked criticism and contradiction, but these were the very faults of his qualities. He proved right more often than not.

"His death has truly created a void in our ranks and I shall always remember him as one of the very few philatelists I have known whose memory should be preserved. He is gone, but knowing him has been a privilege. When my time comes I may not possibly rate a eulogy, but if I did I wish that Steve Rich had been there to write it."

So say we all.

## GROUP TO RAISE DUES

The recent postal hike, as well as our many new expenses (enumerated in the Editor's Corner), has forced your Officers and Board of Directors to a decision it has long tried to avoid. Group dues, starting Jan. 1, 1959, must be raised from \$1.50 to \$2.50 for non-resident members and from \$2.50 to \$3.50 for resident members. It is hoped that this \$1.00 more per year from each member will give us the extra funds needed to operate the Group activities.

This raise was the absolute minimum we could affect and still benefit from. We feel, however, that every member will get his moneys worth in the new and improved "Philatelist" and from the many services inaugurated some months ago. Other membership benefits promised are in the offing and will be provided as funds become available. A new and up-to-date membership list, as well as a complete and fully revised index to the "Philatelist," are ready at this very moment. They will be put into print as quickly as we can pay for them.

Therefore, in accordance with Article IX of the by-laws, a meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Sept. 16, 1958. At that meeting Article III was amended by a unanimous vote to read...Annual dues of Resident members shall be \$3.50....All Non-resident members shall have annual dues of \$2.50...

Pursuant with these by-laws a vote was taken at the regular November meeting and the amendment was approved unanimously.

Further, in accordance with Article IX...at least thirty days notice will be given to each member of any such amendment by publication in the official journal.

This is hereby done.

Ira Zweifach,  
President

## "PHILATELIST" TO OPEN PAGES TO ADVERTISING

Starting with the January-February issue, the "France and Colonies Philatelist" will open its pages to advertisements for the first time in its seventeen years of existence. Dealer interest and natural reader demand for advertising space in these pages has induced your Editor and Board of Directors to reach this tradition-shattering decision.

The "Philatelist" is the perfect medium for those who have French philatelic material to offer, specialized or otherwise. It also affords a fine medium for auction houses and anyone who has a "specific" to offer.

This paper reaches a most concentrated and highly selective audience with a large buying potential. Its readership embraces most of the high-power French specialists in this country, as well as abroad, and an advertising message printed in these columns will reach a market difficult to contact through a general stamp magazine.

We have thoroughly investigated the sales potential and audience reaction to this innovation and believe that your sales message here will mean profit to you. Rates are low and should prove extremely attractive to those who have a "specific" to offer.

Please contact the Editor if you are interested. Full information and rates will be sent immediately.



# GROUP NEWS

## THE GERARD GILBERT MEMORIAL AWARDS

Established in 1950, at the instance of Mr. Raoul Lesgor, this award, in honor of the great philatelist, Gerard Gilbert (1879-1943), a resident member of this Group during his later years, was first given for the best writing in English on French and Colonial stamps during the year 1949. It went to Meade Minigerode and Raoul Lesgor for their book, "The Cancellations of French Stamps of the Classic Issues - 1849-1876."

The Gerard Gilbert awards were not given in the years from then on except for one in 1952 to Ralph Holtsizer and Robert G. Stone for their article "The Manuscript Postmarks and Cancellations of Martinique" in the "Collectors Club Philatelist."

The present officers and directors decided that the Gerard Gilbert Award should be revived and given for every year through 1957. At the Spring Conference, the committee appointed for this purpose announced the winners for each of the years from 1950 through 1957. Appropriate certificates have been sent to each. For 1952 the award was again given, covering a series which began in 1951 and which had not been considered on this technicality - thus making two 1952 awards.

The winners are:

- 1950: Brainerd Kremer, for "French Philatelic Facts" a series of handbooks begun in 1949.
- 1951: Robert G. Stone, for "The French Colonies," several articles in more than one journal.
- 1952: E. Tolkowsky, for several studies on French Levant and the Jerusalem French Office.
- 1953: Charles Neidorf, for "Tour Hassan Issues of French Morocco," a serial in the "Collectors Club Philatelist."
- 1954: Daniel Roberts, for "The Native Market Place Issue of Senegal" in "France & Colonies Philatelist" and reprinted in "Mekeel's Weekly."
- 1955: Henry M. Goodkind, for "The R. F. Issues of France Airmails," in "Aero-Philatelists' News."
- 1956: Stephen G. Rich, for "Type Sage, the Rough Stereo Printings" in "Collectors Club Philatelist."
- 1957: Raoul Lesgor, for "France, 19th Century" and "France, 20th Century," two handbooks.

The award is to be given each year regularly from now on.

## CONFERENCE EXHIBITION

Filling more than 40 frames, the competitive Conference Exhibition proved a great success. The exhibits were excellent and the judges had a difficult time selecting the winners. Their decisions were as follows:

- Grand Award: Harold M. Metzger - "France 25c 1870-Specialized."
- 1st Prize: Sigmund Horowicz - "Algeria Abroad - Cancellations on French Classic Stamps."
- 2nd Prize: Louise Clemencon - "Sower Type 10c."
- 2nd Prize: Nathan Hals & Charles Bretagne - "The Newspaper Stamps of France."
- 3rd Prize: Charles Meyer - "The Marianne de Gandon Issue."

## OFFICERS ELECTED

At the Annual Meeting held on June 3, 1958, the present officers of the Group were reelected unanimously.

They are:

President	Ira Zweifach
Vice-President	Nathan Hals
Secretary	Charles Bretagne
Recording Secretary	Jan Kindler
Treasurer	Edmond Queyroy

Charles Meyer was reelected to serve on the Board of Directors. Three new members were elected to fill out the Board. They are: Louise Clemencon, Sigmund Horowicz and Charles Neidorf.

The following appointed officials were named by President Zweifach:

Editor:	Stephen G. Rich
Membership Chairman	Stephen G. Rich
Program Director	Nathan Hals
Publicity Chairman	Louise Clemencon

## LESGOR TO TAKE OVER GROUP PROBLEM SERVICE

Replacing the late Stephen G. Rich as head of the Group's Problem Service, Raoul Lesgor will endeavor to answer any questions you may have regarding the stamps of France and her Colonies. Those questions which Mr. Lesgor cannot answer will be referred to the many experts available to him. This service is free to all members, but a stamped self-addressed envelope must accompany each query if you are to receive an answer.

Mr. Lesgor's reputation as a student and expert in French philately is known to all of you and we urge those with problems to take advantage of this fine service.

His address is: Raoul Lesgor, Holmes, N.Y.

## 2c CERES Contd.

genuine stamps, but the marks of other places are known on both genuine and forged stamps. The lack of any known covers with the 2c and 4c used genuinely outside Cochinchina has probably much to do with suspicion held against copies so cancelled off cover. In any case one does not find that copies cancelled outside Saigon bring any premium in auctions. --In fact we have noticed how the same stamp of this type tends to pop up again and again in auctions as if everyone were getting wise to its dubiety.

The 4c was frequently used in pairs to make the 8c circular rate; numbers of such covers are known (ones with singles are much rarer in my observation). We have yet to see, however, a 2c on paper offered at auction. Such a piece must be excessively rare (Locard and de Pomyers knew of only one). Off cover the used 4c is little, if any rarer than the used 2c; all catalogs used to quote the 4c at over twice the used 2c, but lately the more market-wise catalogers give the 4c only a small premium. This accords with my own observations of their frequencies in auction. Other collectors have expressed similar conclusions.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

MARCH 15 TO SEPT. 15, 1958

### NEW MEMBERS WELCOME:

- 720 Schlenkhoff Carl, 1006 Meadow Lane, San Jose, Calif.  
721 Marlowe, Monroe, 572 San Francisco Ave., Pomona, Calif. (Senegal)  
722 Banister, Harry W., 102 N. Wabash Ave., La Fontaine, Indiana (France & Colonies)  
723 Herman, Wm. M., 310 E. 44 St., New York 17, N.Y. (Covers)  
724 Morris, Reginald G., Trenowith, Ruan Minor Helston, Cornwall, England (France & Colonies)  
725 Ehrman, Spencer M., 2675 S.W. Georgian Place, Portland, Oregon (General)  
726 Fisher, Dorothea, 631 Park Ave., New York 21, N.Y. (General)  
727 Pekar, Alex J., 35-55 29th St., Long Island City 6, N.Y. (France)  
728 Peter, Emmett B., P.O. Box 553, Leesburg, Florida (Siege Post & Stationary)  
729 Smith, Calvin J., 3414 Derry St., Harrisburg, Penna. (France & Colonies)  
730 O'Kane, Wm. Jr., 139 Prospect St., Stamford, Conn. (France General)  
731 Wolff, Hilbert L. Dr., 531 W. Briar Place, Chicago 14, Ill.  
732 Langford, Carl T., 108 Hillcrest Ave., Orlando, Florida  
733 Connelly, Wm. J., 116 Greene Ave., Middlesex, New Jersey (France, Africa before 1940)  
734 Clark, Leonard D., 4928 Westbourne Road, Cleveland 24, Ohio (20th Cent. France)  
735 Selko, Fred, 195 Springfield Ave., Columbus, Georgia (France & Colonies General)  
736 Cohen, Irving, 612 W. 178th St., N.Y. 33, N.Y. (France & Colonies)  
737 Tacquard, A.H., 123 Cincinatti Ave., San Antonio Texas (France & Colonies)  
738 Kennell, Wilfred C., 4574 E. Illinois Ave., Fresno, Calif. (France)

### APPLICATIONS PENDING:

- 739 Stehny, Mike, 2954 Goodson, Hamtrank, Michigan  
740 Godfrey, Alex H., 676 Riverside Drive, New York 31, N.Y.

### DECEASED:

- 2 Rich, Stephen G., Verona, N.J.

### REINSTATED:

- 474 Raymond, G.J., 6035 Hornwood Drive, Houston 36, Texas

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 61 Stone, Robert G., to Box 180, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.  
353 Smith, Henderson L. Capt., to Box 337, Officers Mail Room, Bolling Air Force Base, 25, D.C.  
590 Marlow, Harry A., to c/o American Express, Geneva, Switzerland  
663 McPartland, Marion Mrs., to 33 Grove Lane, Levittown, Penna.

## MEMBERS' APPEALS

POSTMARKS & covers bought or exchanged of French Guiana, Inini, Cote Somali, Fr. Oceania, small Fr. Colonies. Also Bahamas, Maldives, Br. Sol. Ilands., Gilb. & Ellice Ilands. G.J. Raymond, 6035 Hornwood, Houston 36, Texas. (Member 474)

WANTED: For research, Fr. Gen. Col. Issues (particularly Dubois & Tax types) on or off cover, used in Madagascar, Mayotte, Nossi Be, Anjouan, Diego-Suarez & Ste. Marie. Offers to Reg. Morris, Trenowith, Ruan Minor, Helston, Cornwall, England. (Member 724)

WANTED: Cancellation of Paris Exposition 1855 on cover; also Vincennes sub-office, Exposition of 1900; also machine cancels used in Paris, except commonest, to 1928. Submit with prices please. J.B. Morton, 155 Cleveland Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. (Member 79)

EXCHANGE WANTED: French Africa south of the Sahara, especially Madagascar and Reunion. I have a wide range of items to offer. Helge Plougman, P.O. Box 3174, Cape Town, South Africa. (Member 714)

OBOCK & Somali Coast. Am interested in contacting collectors of the above countries with view of exchanging information on early cancellations. Cliff Adams, c/o American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador. (Member 688)

FOR SPECIAL FGC STUDY: Will buy used early stamps of Obock & Somali Coast, especially covers with "gros points" cancellations. C.H. Adams, c/o American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador. (Member 688)

GRAND COMORO ISLANDS: Am interested in obtaining any stamps (past or present) on cover. Will purchase or trade. Leo G. Goerth, 386 E. York St., Akron 10, Ohio. (Member 349)

FRANCE & COLONIES: Have some nice cancels on France & some duplicate French Offices to trade for Fr. Col. Gen. Issues. Leo G. Goerth, 386 E. York St., Akron 10, Ohio. (Member 349)

FRENCH AFRICA: Wanted to exchange covers, all periods including Military Campaigns, pre-adhesive, etc. Correspondence welcome. Also wanted Postal Centenary covers, postmarks of whole world, especially France. Rev. A.W.R. Hughes, Coalbrookdale Vicarage, Iron Bridge, Shropshire, England. (Member 446)

WANTED: Stamps of France with 1916 overprints (a) "POSTES SERBES" and (b) "S.P. du M. Bordeaux." (Mint). Submit prices or exchange to: E.F. Keys, 38 Warraroong St., Beverly Hills, N.S.W., Australia. (Member 605)

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- 664 Churchman, D.C., to 77 West Westfield Blvd., Indianapolis 8, Indiana  
666 Bryan, Bill Lt. Col., to 119 West Washtenaw, Lansing 23, Michigan  
681 Erickson, R.K., to 8000 4th Ave., Brooklyn 9, N.Y.