

FRANCE



COLONIES

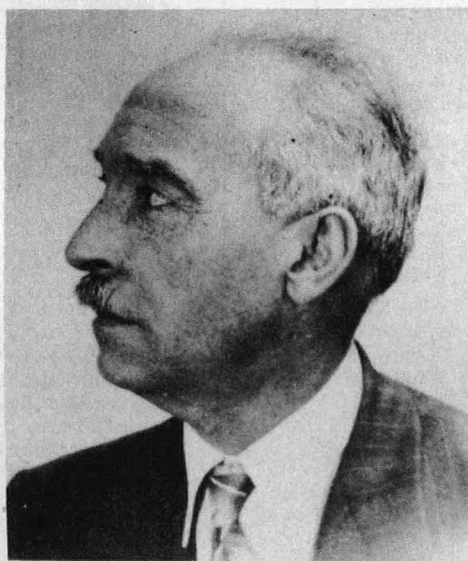
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About four years ago I was present at an auction when a grey haired gentleman was pointed out to me - "That's the famous Gilbert..." After the sale I met him for the first time and it was the beginning of many and frequent friendly meetings. Now these meetings are irrevocably over and with them has gone a part of my heart, and a door has been forever shut on my richest philatelic pleasures! Gerard Gilbert died on the night of May 7th.

We would meet in all sort of places and the hours would fly by - never a talker had a more interested listener - and infinite were the stories, lessons and anecdotes - "Doctor, you like the Bordeaux. I have seen them grow, when I was only 10 and in knee pants I was selling the 80 centimes for 12 sous and making 2 sous profit..." From the pro-

fit of 2 sous so fondly remembered Mr. Gilbert went on to be the greatest dealer in his time and it was in one of his sales, the Mors sale, that history was made when for the first time a stamp brought the fantastic and unheard of price of 100,000 francs.

Many other great sales went by culminating in the Ferrari sales. There never had been and never will be another sale like this - and to my and our good friend went the honor of holding them. He had been selected by the French Government not only for his pre-eminence as a dealer but because of his great reputation as an expert. For to Mr. Gilbert stamps were not merely pieces of property capable of bringing prices rivalling rare jewels; they were to him jewels of another kind -- to be studied, understood and treasured in

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SYRIA

There are many forged surcharges of all the more expensive stamps. They should be expertized. The surcharges most often forged are those of the first issue, the first two airmail issues and the Aleppo set of 1920.

Concerning the latter, a great many forgeries can be avoided by remembering that the fleuron was only printed in the originals on stamps bearing the Gédéon surcharge in Type II.

O. M. F. }
 Syrie ← 14 mm
 1 1 mm
 PIASTRE }
 Gédéon - Type II

This surcharge has only a 1mm spacing between "Syrie" and the numerals, and the whole of the surcharge is 14mm. high. The clue of the Gédéon printings is in the "e" of "Syrie" which is wide and always open; furthermore, the ink used by that firm is always very shiny.

SOUDAN

1894 Surcharges on the Dubois type. The forgeries are on original stamps or are on forged stamps (see General Issues). The original surcharge being lithographed, as in the forgeries, it is very hard to tell, and the stamps, being expensive, should be expertized. Fournier cancellation on originals or forged stamps: double circle, 24 mm. diameter, to the left KAYES, to the right SOUDAN FRANCAIS, in the center 3E/7 FEVR. 93.

1894-1900 - Groupe type. - The whole set was forged by Fournier (see General Issues).

SOMALI COAST

DJIBOUTI - There are dangerous forgeries of the early overprints and their varieties. These stamps should be expertized.

1894 - The 25 and 50 francs (diamonds) were cleverly forged by Fournier. They should be expertized, but a few signs will help one to be careful. In the forgeries: under the "s" of "Pcs" there is a dot instead of a comma, the "O" of "50" is as big as the "5" when it should be smaller. Fournier cancellations are: wavy outer circle with interrupted inner circle DJIBOUTI 18 OCT 99 POSTES; double circle, inner circle interrupted DJIBOUTI 10 AOUT 97 COLONIE-FRANCE; a similar cancel with COTE FRANCAISE DES SOMALIS 7 MARS 04 DJIBOUTI (this latter was also used on the 25 and 50 fr. Oboc). These two stamps were mainly used for fiscal purposes, a few were used for postal necessities and these were stamped with a control letter and numeral. They exist also stamped with the letter "S" for "SPECIMEN", the "S" was removed and the stamp sold for regular stamps. These latter are very dangerous. So many "S"s were removed that now a stamp with the "S" is considerably scarcer than a normal stamp.

The surcharges of 1899 to 1902 were all counterfeited.

The stamps of 1902 and 1903 were all illicitly reprinted. These clandestine stamps are all on thick paper always slightly tinted, but the originals are on thin white paper. The impression of the originals is sharp and the perforations regular; in the "phonies" the printing is not nearly so sharp and the perforations are irregular. From the same illegal origin come practically all the inverted centers and varieties. They should not be collected.

SENEGAMBIA AND NIGER

1903 - Groupe type - The whole set was forged by Fournier (see General Issues).

SENEGAL

1887-1892 - As there are many types of the surcharges (of 1887) and as the stamps are all valuable, they should be expertized. There are Fournier surcharges both on original stamps and on the forgeries (see General Issues). Fournier cancellations are: double circle, inner one interrupted, two stars on the sides - a) 21 1/2 mm. diam. SENEGAL 2 SEPT 92 ST LOUIS; b) 22mm. diam. SAINT LOUIS 12 SEPT 92 SENEGAL; c) 22mm. diam. DAKAR 11 JUIL 92 SENEGAL; d) wavy circle, no stars, maximum width 25mm. ST LOUIS A DAKAR 4 JUIN 92 SENEGAL upside down.

1892-1912 - Groupe type - The whole set was forged by Fournier (see General Issues).

1903 - The surcharges have been forged by Fournier.

1906 - Balay type (for forgeries see General Issues).

1915-18 - Red Cross - The varieties have been forged very deceptively and are found both unused and on cover; expertization necessary.

1903 - Postage Dues - (for forgeries see General Issues).

SAINT PIERRE AND MIQUELON

There are a great many surcharges in this colony. Outside of the early ones most of them were speculative and made expressly for the "needs" not of the postal authorities but of the stamp dealers. This propensity seems to be a tradition, as witness the highly fishy "Free French" issues of recent date.

1885 - For the forgeries of No. 1 see General Issues. There are many forged surcharges both on forged stamps (No. 1) and on originals. There are also reprints of the surcharges. As these three stamps are very valuable, they should be expertized without fail.

1885-91 - Surcharges with bar between figures of values and SPM - All the surcharges were forged by Fournier; for those on forged stamps of Dubois type see General Issues.

1886 - Provisionals - PD bar and numeral. The issue of these three small labels was not regularly authorized. Due to a lack of stamps, the postal authorities were only authorized to collect postage and apply to the mail the mention PD (Paid to Destination). A hand struck marking was meant but as this was understood and not specified, the postal authorities, not adverse to making a profit, took advantage of the so-called "ambiguity" and printed adhesive labels with the PD and a figure of value. Those who still want to collect them should at least know that they have been "imitated" in such quantities by Fournier and others that the large majority are counterfeits.

1891 - Surcharges ST. PIERRE M-on. - For forged stamps see General Issues. The forged surcharges have also been applied to originals. For those made and cancelled by Fournier the cancellations are: double circle, inner one interrupted, 22 1/2 mm. diam. ST PIERRE ET MIQUELON 12 SEPT 92 star at bottom; idem, 22 mm. ILE AUX CHIENS 2 AOUT 92 ST PIERRE ET MIQON in black or blue.

1891-92 - Surcharged with new values - Forged surcharges on both originals and forged stamps (see General Issues).

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SAINT-PIERRE & MIQUELON

Notes on the Postal Markings
By Robert G. Stone (61)
(Cont. from Vol. II No. 3, p. 9)

FOREIGN MARKINGS ON SPM STAMPS

The foreign arrival marks on loose ship letters from SPM consist of: a) special types reading "paquebot" or "posted at sea", etc., and b) the usual types of "killers" and town postmarks, of the places of arrival. The first class are distinctive and few in number whereas the latter are of many varieties. (For illustrations see Jarrett's "British North America Handbook, 1929" and Boggs: "Postage Stamps and Postal History of Newfoundland") They are mostly familiar to collectors of used Canadian and Newfoundland stamps or covers. Very occasionally an RPO cancel of railway mail routes running out of Halifax, North Sydney, or Port aux Basques appears on a SPM stamp. We shall illustrate here only the special "paquebot" types and some of the killers, so they can be identified when only partly showing on a stamp off cover. Quite likely French, British, Icelandic, and U. S. port of arrival marks

Fig. 1

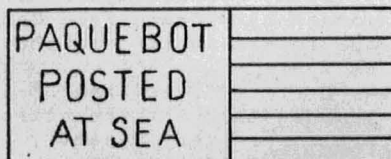
Paquebot.

Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

will also be found on SPM stamps but such uses must be very exceptional and we have yet to run across any. (See Cockrill's: "Ocean Mails".)

The great majority of the cancellations are in black, but red was used occasionally from 1880 on and in more recent years, purple.

It is perhaps simplest to list the arrival marks on SPM stamps primarily according to the port and secondarily by the style of mark.

For Halifax: --

- A straight line "Paquebot" in black (Fig. 1), used from 1890's to about 1915 (?); not common.
- A machine cancel with circle-date stamp reading "Halifax--(date)--N.S." and in the slogan box in 3 lines "Paquebot -- Posted -- at Sea" (Fig. 2) used since about 1920 to date, concurrently with types (a) and (c); -- moderately common.
- A large circular cancel inscribed in several lines: "Paquebot -- Posted at Sea -- Received--(date)--Halifax" (Fig. 3). Used since about 1905 to date; the commonest Halifax "paq." mark on SPM stamps.
- Ordinary circle-date stamps of Halifax, some in duplex with a killer of horizontal parallel bars (Fig. 4). Occasional between 1890 and 1920.
- A machine roller cancel of parallel bars with name and number of post office inserted sideways. These are found for other ports, such as Montreal, etc.
- Railway mail cancels, routes from Halifax; rarely.

For North Sydney, or Sydney, N. S.: --

- Regular Sydney and No. Sydney circle-date cancels. Occasional on SPM stamps, 1890's to date.
- A circular cork "killer" in black (Fig. 5), about 5/8" diameter, seen occasionally on SPM stamps, 1890's-1920 (ca.); on covers the North Sydney dated postmark will be found as a backstamp. These cork killers were used in other ports as well, and there are many varieties,-- as square,

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON

- quartered or cut in other various ways.
- c) Large circular cancel inscribed in several lines same as type (c) for Halifax, but "North Sydney, N. S." in place of "Halifax" (Fig. 3). Used since about 1905; very common on SPM stamps after 1920 particularly.

- d) Railway mail cancels, routes from No. Sydney or Sydney; rare.

For Montreal, P. Q.: --

- a) A very smudgy crown centered inside of a (broken?) circle, (Fig. 6) used on loose ship letters occasionally since 1890's; not common on SPM. (A regular Montreal circular postmark will be on the cover with this mark.)
- b) A machine roller cancel of 11 horizontal bars and "Montreal, P.Q." inserted sideways at intervals in small letters similar to that used in Halifax type (e).
- c) Various regular circular Montreal postmarks.

For Quebec, P. Q.: --

- a) Various machine cancels, consisting of usual circular dated postmark in duplex with flag or slogan box; very rare on SPM.

For St. John's, Newfoundland: --

- a) Various "killers", in form of circles or ovals of parallel heavy bars or diamonds, 1880's to date.
- b) Various circular dated postmarks and machine cancels with slogans.
- c) Railway mail cancels, reading "T.P.O." from St. Johns, etc.

For Port aux Basques, Newfoundland: --

(Similar types to those of St. Johns).

In addition to the above Canadian ports, there is a possibility of finding SPM stamps cancelled at many other of the small coastal towns of the St. Lawrence Gulf region.

CORRECTION: On p. 12 of last issue under Type G, I said I doubted the existence of this type for ILE AUX CHIENS, but I have just found a specimen, dated 1882.

This ends Mr. Stone's article on St. Pierre.

NEW MEMBERS Welcome to our new members:

- 130-ROLLAND, André-45-15 43rd St., Sunnyside, N.Y. (F. & Col. U. and Unused)
- 131-RUSSELL, William-7 Vinton St., Melrose, Mass. (F. to 1876. Algeria)
- 132-STUART, Elmer-58 W. Washington St., Chicago, Ill. (F 19th and 20th Century)
- 133-BALL, D.B.-4227 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill. (Covers of F. & Col. 19th & 20th Century)
- 134-LAKE, Sidney-1033 Madison Ave., Paterson, N.J. (F. 20th C. only U. & Un.-also Precancels --- Paquebots markings, all Cols. Guiana, Martinique & Oceania-all canc. plus paquebots)
- 135-HALL, G. Burnley-700 E. Main St., Lock Haven, Pa. (F. & Col.)
- 136-KUHLMAN, Henry-58 W. Washington St., Chicago, Illinois

- CHANGE OF ADDRESS -

- MORRIS, S.N. (89) to 4845 W. Adams St., Chicago, Ill.
- THOMAS, B. (36) to 73 Perry St., New York, N. Y.
- KEPNER, E.E. (86) to 2034 Colorado Blvd., Los Angeles, California

FORGERIES . . .

1892 - Postage dues surcharged and with TP- The surcharges are on both originals and on forged stamps (see General Issues). Some but not all of the forged surcharges are lithographed instead of being typographed as on originals; however, some of the forged surcharges are typographed.

1892-1912 - Groupe type - The whole set has been forged by Fournier (see General Issues). - The same remark applies to the first two Parcel Post stamps.

1941 (Dec.) - "Free French" Issues - We have just learned that for the scarcer values, forged overprints were very recently manufactured in New York, then sent to Canada to be put on covers which were in turn taken to the Colony --- there they were kindly cancelled and shipped back to New York where they are now being sold. **BEWARE** of all expensive items!

1893 - Postage Dues - There are forged surcharges on both originals and forged stamps, (see General Issues). (To be continued)

GERARD GILBERT. . .

his mind. Mrs. Gilbert has told me how so often she had to get out of bed at 3 A.M. to chase her husband to his own.

The greatest philatelic pleasure of his life was not the Ferrari sales but the purchase of the Pastre correspondence, that enormous treasure trove of postal history that brought to light so many new finds and made so many collectors happy. Mr. Gilbert swam in the bliss of hundreds of thousands of unsorted covers never once handled by a collector. From this correspondence has come much of our knowledge of paquebot markings.

Before coming to this country, Mr. Gilbert was active in the Académie de Philatélie of Paris, in constant collaboration with that group of brilliant philatelic students that numbered François, Langlois, Strowski, Bourselet, Doé, Veneziani, Dilleman and others. The books written by him were few, being limited to one work on "Alsace Lorraine, Création des Euxaux de Poste jusqu'à 1870" and, in collaboration with Bourselet, Marechal and François, "La Poste Maritime, Les Paquebots Français et Leurs Cachets." But every book that was published under another's name had a large part of Gilbert in it -- they were all brought to him for his advice and criticisms - Dilleman's classic on the Bordeaux-just to name one.

In the life of our Group Mr. Gilbert's death leaves an enormous gap. - He was not only our Honorary Chairman but also one of our earliest sponsors. All of us, those that came in close personal contacts and the others who often listened and benefited by his advice, will feel the irreplaceable loss. His last official act was the Chairmanship of the committee for revisions on France in the Scott Catalogue - undertaken at the suggestion of Mr. Hugh Clark, the publisher.

And now what is there left to say - except two dates - He was born in Paris on November 1, 1879 and died in New York on May 7, 1943. I saw him in his bed ten days before he died and I am reminded by his conversation and advice on that day of that verse of Lucretius that he would have liked best to leave for us: -

"Et quasi cursores, vitae lampada tradunt...."