

France & Colonies Philatelist



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ONCE MORE, WITH FEELING

There has been a long and disheartening delay in the publication of the "Philatelist" due entirely to business and personal problems incurred by your editor during the past months. The situation has now been resolved and publication is being resumed with this issue.

We would like to thank all of you for being so patient during an irritating and trying period. As for the future, we will let it speak for itself in the regular appearance of this journal.

Most sincerely,
Ira Zweifach

MULTIPLE TYPES OF FRENCH TYPOGRAPHED STAMPS

CHARLES NEIDORF

Mr. Neidorf's study, exploring the reasons for the existence of multiple types of French typographed stamps, is an important contribution to the growing list of serious articles concerning French philately in the English language. Herewith, part one of three-parts.

1. Introduction

Readers familiar with the "Bulletin Philatelique du Midi" will recall a series of articles by Pierre de Lizeray, entitled "La Raison d'Etre des Types Multiples", starting with the December, 1956, number and continuing with a long series entitled "Les Modeles de Cliches-Report". The writer of the present article is to a very considerable extent, indebted to de Lizeray, whose pioneering efforts to shed light into so many hitherto obscure corners of French philately, as reported in a continuing series of articles published in the "Bulletin" and also in "Le Monde des Philatelistes", certainly deserve to be far better known than has been the case thus far. If the various references to de Lizeray's work included here-in have the hoped-for effect of stimulating interest in the efforts of this dedicated student, as well as in the many as yet unsolved problems relating to the multiple types of French typographed stamps, this article will have served its purpose.

There are many French typographed stamps known to exist in more than one type which are eminently respectable and are accepted without question by catalogue-makers and collectors alike. No serious collector of French stamps would think of putting a type Sage stamp into his album, for example, without first determining whether it belonged to the "N under B" or the "N under U" type, and the same care in distinguishing types holds true for the nonlaureated Empire stamps, and several others.

When it comes to the twentieth century issues, however, the idea of the existence of multiple types is either accepted only reluctantly, if at all, the descriptions of even the better known, more distinctive types being confined to the more specialized catalogues, or else their very existence is considered doubtful.

The writer can recall a striking instance of the skeptical attitude toward the question of the existence of multiple type where a well-known philatelic writer (who shall be nameless here) expressed the opinion that the search for multiple types was the "bane of modern French philately" and stated his conviction that in certain specific instances a series of stamps could be assembled which would demonstrate the complete intergrading of stages between two "supposedly" different types.

Anyone who has attempted to distinguish the various types which have been described for the Sower stamps knows perfectly well that on poorly-printed copies the distinguishing characteristics are sometimes obscured to the point where it is not easy to be certain which type one is dealing with, and furthermore that poorly-printed French typographed stamps are unfortunately far from scarce. Moreover, the extent to which the various types differ from one another varies over a wide range of distinctiveness; sometimes differences are comparatively minute. But to speak of intergrading is surely going too far. Such a mistaken notion arises basically from a lack of knowledge or understanding of the technique of French stamp manufacture. For the production of

EDITOR'S CORNER

Once again the "Philatelist" is on the move. It is our fervent hope that such an irksome and distressing situation may never occur again.

You will notice that the numbering of the issue continues in sequence. The Volume number has been changed. This means, of course, that last year's Philatelist will have run short. We hope from time to time to get out an extra issue to make up for these missing numbers. It will take a long time, but eventually it will get done.

We would like to call attention to our change of address. Please send any correspondence or material for the editor to:

Ira Zweifach
336 Central Park West
New York 25, N.Y.

Apropos of changes, there are many taking place in the structure of the French Union. We will try to keep you as up-to-date as possible philatelically on what these changes are. If you have any such information we would be grateful if you would send it to us so that we may keep the members informed.

Looking ahead, we can tell you that in the next issue, in addition to part two of Mr. Neidorf's study, there will be a new contribution by Robert Stone and another interesting article on the French colonial airmails, plus all the regular features. Keep an eye out for it.

In closing we would like to call your attention to another new and important contribution to French philatelic literature to appear in the Collectors Club Philatelist beginning in January. It is a three or four part study by our Corresponding Secretary, Charles Bretagne and our Vice-President, Nathan Hals on the Fiscal and Postal History of the Postmarks and Stamps on Newspapers of France, 1794-1914. This too, it is hoped, will appear in handbook form sometime in the future.

REUNION continued

The other markings, apart from the Metz postmark, are; Franking mark, 2F.20 in double lined oblong. PD in oblong, in red as usual. Railway ambulant, STRASBOURG 2, PARIS, 29 D, 24 Avril, 55.

A very interesting bit of postal history, indeed.

REUNION – A Bit Of Postal History Arnold Broadbent

All collectors, as well as specialists in Reunion, will be interested in this unusual sidelight of French postal history.



As everyone knows, the French Possession of Reunion, after its restoration to France by the Congress of Vienna in 1816, resumed its ancient designation, "Ile Bourbon," which it had borne for 142 years before the French Revolution of 1789. (For two years after the Revolution, 1791-93, it was known as Ile de la Reunion, and then in honor of Napoleon, the name was changed to "Ile Bonaparte. The British captured it in 1810.)

The name Bourbon was restored and remained in use from 1816 to 1848, when the revolution of that year finally banished the Bourbon dynasty from the throne of France and the Second Republic began. Thereafter, for sixteen years, the island was again known as "Ile de la Reunion," but in 1865 the name was shortened to "Reunion," and has so remained to this day.

Now, one might suppose that the hated name of Bourbon having been suppressed (hated, that is, by the Parisians), the "Ile Bourbon" datestamps in use in Reunion would have been withdrawn. Perhaps they were. But it is one thing for the Paris Postal Administration to order the return of the datestamps, and another thing for the local administration in Reunion to carry out the order in full.

It may be that some relics of Royalist sentiment survived in the island; this would not be surprising, for it is a notorious fact that colonists in remote possessions are often more Royalist in sentiment than the mother country (e.g., Canada). However that may be, there is evidence that the "Ile Bourbon" datestamps were not all suppressed, for here is a reproduction of a cover from Metz in France, addressed correctly to a solicitor in St. Denis, Ile de la Reunion, on 24th April, 1855 -- seven years after the change of name.

It will be noticed that the arrival datestamp on the back of the cover (which has been slit to show both back and front) is St. Denis, Ile Bourbon, 17 Juin, 1855.

THE CANCELS OF THE FRENCH NAVY P.O.'S W.W.I

FREDERIC J. PATKA

The second of two articles concerning French Army and Navy Postal Markings of World War I.

Throughout World War I little was heard about the activity of the French Navy, even in France. Just as little was known about the cancellations used by this branch of the French armed forces.

For a long time the Navy mail from the floating unit bore only a rubber stamp reading, "Marine Française Service à la Mer," and an anchor in the center. Larger units, such as cruisers and battleships, had in addition a straight-line stamp with the name of the ship and its classification. And, until March, 1916, the opening month of the first Navy PO, all Navy mail was handled by the BCM-Marseille.

There were, in addition to the rubber stamp markings of the floating units, those of the stationary installations, such as the coast-artillery, seaplane stations, airship-stations, submarine bases, etc. All these units had only unit stamps similar to those of the larger ships. These markings also indicated the type of unit.

The main base PO of the French Naval Forces in the Mediterranean was in Marseille and played the same part as the BCM-Paris did for the Army and the BCM-Marseille for the Orient-Army. For some reason two years of warfare went by before an official Navy PO was proposed, and, as was mentioned before, it was not until March 20, 1916, that the office was opened. Its official designation was, "Bureau Postal Navale Marseille - Navy PO Marseille. After the installation of this office the BCM-Marseille, which was only handling the mails of the army in the orient was broken up.

Only two postmarks are known from the NPO Marseille - a single-ring datestamp and a straight line marking. The descriptiond follow:

Single-ring: Top- POSTES NAVALES, Bottom- B.N. A three-line date slug is found in the center. Color-normally black, but exists in red, violet and blue.(Fig. 1)



1

Straight-line: POSTES NAVALES. B. N.(Fig. 2)

POSTES NAVALES. B. N.

2

The NPO at Toulon was the great rival of that at Marseille. It was called, Tete de Lignes - head of the lines. This NPO used far more cancels than the one at Marseille as two important communication and supply lines ran from Toulon to the Mediterranean. They were called Line A and B.

At first these cancels carried the name of the town, but after the reorganization of the Army and Navy postal service these cancels were withdrawn. They were octagonal like those of the 2nd class civil office with the inscription at top reading, "TOULON POSTES NAVALES" and at bottom, "LIGNE A or B (Fig. 3)



3



5

The straight-line cancel consisted of two lines reading - "TOULON POSTES NAVALES" and below it LIGNE A or B (Fig. 4)

TOULON POSTES NAVALES
LIGNE B

4

As the Army and Navy Postal Service was reorganized during 1916 new cancels were brought into use. There was a single ring with POSTES NAVALES at top and LIGNE A or B below, mostly without date slugs. They were black, but sometimes are found in violet, red or blue (Fig. 5)

A straight-line cancel was also used reading straight across, "POSTES NAVALES, LIGNE A or B (Fig. 6)

POSTES NAVALES. LIGNE A.

6

Then, as sea-transport and communication lines increased, it became necessary to open new offices and provide cancels for them. Lines C,D,E,F and G were opened. Line C was so extensively used that it was divided into C and Cl.

The new cancels came in single-ring form and straight-line. The single ring had at top, "POSTES NAVALES" and "MEDIT D"etc. at bottom, a three-line date slug in black or violet (Fig. 7)



7

POSTES NAVALES C.

8

INCONNU AUX
DARDANELLES

9

MULTIPLE TYPES

multiple types, far from being hypothetical, is an inherent characteristic of that technique which can be stated quite positively to have been in operation continuously up to the present time and which will continue to operate into the indefinite future, so long as the present plate-making procedures are not superseded.

2. Terminology

Let us be quite clear as to what is meant by the word "type". It is perfectly proper to speak of different types of paper, ink, gum, perforation, printing or overprinting process, postmark, etc. But when not otherwise qualified the term, as applied to stamps, is generally understood to refer to constant design differences, and is so used here.

Obviously a distinction must be made between design differences characteristic of types, on the one hand, and those describable as varieties or flaws, on the other hand. Essentially this depends on how early in the plate-making procedure a design difference is introduced. If it affects the die, which is used in both states, before and after the modification, to prepare plates from which stamps are actually printed, then the differences are peculiar to separate types; if it appears at a later stage (on a lead mold made from the master or working die, on the master electro, on the wax or plastic mold made from the master electro, or on one of the copper electros used to prepare the printing plate) then the result is a variety or flaw. A particularly illuminating discussion of types, varieties, flaws and anomalies appears in an article by Andre Rochette.(1)

On the basis of the classification originally proposed by Baron de Vinck,(2) Rochette has indicated the various ways whereby type differences may originate:

1. Retouch of the master die (or a copy thereof), both states of the master die having been used to prepare plates from which stamps were actually printed. (E.g., the type Sage stamps.)

2. Preparation of more than one working die for a particular denomination in a series. Since the value numerals are separately engraved on each working die they must inevitably differ somewhat from one another and are recognizable as separate types. (E.g., the four types of the 25 c. Sower, solid background.)

3. Retouches of a single working die (or copies thereof) in several successive stages, each one of which was used to prepare plates from which stamps were actually printed. (E.g., the five types of the 15 c. Sower, lined background.(3))

It should be noted that these procedures are not mutually exclusive; various combinations may occur. For example, in the case of the 10 c. Sower, lined background, de Lizeray (4) indicates that type II was derived from the original by retouching the first working die. Later, due to the excessively worn state of this working die, it was decided to revert to the master die in order to prepare a second working die, on which the value numeral was separately engraved, giving rise to type III.

Retouching the master die (or a copy thereof) undoubtedly is a rare occurrence. In the case of the type Sage stamps it is well known that this was necessitated by accidental damage to the original. But there have been other instances when retouching, or rather redrawing, of the original design was resorted to, for other reasons. De Lizeray (t) cites three:

1. Improvement of the artistic quality of the design. Thus, on the Mouchon design of 1900 the square frame around the value numeral was changed to a shield-shaped background, certainly a change for the better. Likewise, on the "Sower with ground under feet" design the ground was eliminated on the thin-lettering Sower design which followed it, resulting in an improved appearance of the figure.

2. Improvement of a utilitarian feature. One example is the substitution of larger, more readily visible value numerals on certain of the perforated Ceres type stamps in 1871. Another is the substitution of the solid background for the original lined background of the Sower type stamps, so that the colors distinguishing the various denominations would stand out more boldly.

3. Improvement of the quality of the impression. Illustrating this are the two types of the 50 c. Fachi woman design, where the effect of the added white shading lines on the retouched type is to make the impression of the stamp appear much less heavy than the original design.

In reality, not all of the foregoing instances of retouching of the master die, cited by de Lizeray, are germane to this discussion. It must be obvious that the original and re-drawn Mouchon designs or the Ceres design with small and large numerals, or the Sower design with lined or solid background, all of which are immediately recognizable by the naked eye as distinctly different design types, really don't belong in the same category with the two types of the 50 c. Fachi woman design, which can be distinguished only by observing rather minute characteristics. The difference between these categories may be only one of degree, but it is a very real one nevertheless.

The trouble, of course, is that the word "type" has more than one accepted meaning. In the first three instances cited above it is used in a broad, generic sense to refer to related but obviously distinct design differences. A separate usage occurs in connection with those rare instances of engraved plates which are either "touched up" prior to being put into use or else retouched later on; each "touched up" or retouched position on the plate obviously belongs to a "type" difference from that of every other position. But note that in neither case are the related designs referred to as type I, type II, type III, etc., whereas it is precisely this latter usage which is applicable to the examples with which this discussion is concerned. For our purposes the term refers solely to instances of a particular stamp existing in two or more forms (attributable to differences appearing on the die), none of which is immediately recognizable as being obviously different from the others.

Whereas instances of retouching of the master or intermediate die leading to the production of such types are rare, use of several different working dies or successive retouching of a single such die (and hence the production of multiple types) is quite the normal procedure when a particular denomination remains in use over a long period of time and appears in various forms (booklets and coils are well as sheets).

Theoretically, as de Lizeray (6) points out, the use of several different working dies could result in the production of up to six different types:

- Type I - Flat plate sheets
- " II - " " booklets
- " III - " " coils
- " IV - Rotary press sheets
- " V - " " booklets
- " VI - " " coils

Successive retouching of a single working die (or copies thereof) is essentially a different procedure, for which, de Lizeray suggests, properly speaking a different terminology should be used, viz:

- First state (etat I) - Flat plate sheets
- Second " (" II) - " " booklets
- Third " (" III) - " " coils
- Fourth " (" IV) - Rotary press sheets
- Fifth " (" V) - " " booklets
- Sixth " (" VI) - " " coils

Elsewhere, however, de Lizeray (7) points out that without extensive research (most of which it should be noted, as yet remains to be done) the student is in no position to determine beyond any doubt, simply by studying the stamps, whether several different working dies were used or whether one die was retouched several times. Therefore he has no choice but to apply the same terminology to the products of both procedures.

Most of the time no real problem of identification arises, but conceivably successive "cleaning up" operations on a single working die could result in only minute differences between stages. Where, then, does one draw the line in describing types? The only practical solution, de Lizeray remarks, is to apply the term only to constant important modifications of the die--a rather subjective criterion at best and one liable to different interpretations on the part of different students. Thus it is always best to bear in mind that there is nothing magical about the word "type" which automatically removes it beyond the reach of controversy.

Quite the contrary. Many thoughtful students have been unhappy about the variety of different concepts covered by this single term (including one not heretofore mentioned, peculiar to engraved stamps, namely the two "types" described for the 20 fr. Pont du Gard stamp, depending on whether or not there is a break in one of the frame lines; here the effect is produced by a relief break on the transfer roll, not by a modification of the die). As a result of this diversity of accepted usages,

many students have wished that a better terminology might be substituted, notably Raoul Lesgor, who has preferred to use die A, die B, die C, instead of type I, type II, type III.

One cannot agree that the substitution has been entirely satisfactory. Even if the two terms were not synonymous, within the meaning of the most widely accepted definition for the word "type" as applied to typographed stamps, so that there is really no net gain in clarification, there is the objectionable duplication of terminology that must be remembered by the student using both American and French reference sources.

Another factor which cannot be ignored is the powerful effect of long-established usage; it is simply too late in the day to try to get the French to substitute a different terminology, for example, for what they have referred to for years as types I to IV of the 25 c. Sower, solid background. This is not to say that French terminology is completely firmly established and therefore not subject to change. Practically every issue of the "Bulletin Philatelique du Midi" reports the discovery of a previously undescribed type or subtype and from time to time old type designations are changed. perhaps it is still too early to hope for a satisfactory solution at this time, since much research on types is being done right now in France, but it seems to this writer that what is needed eventually is 2 new authoritative book describing all of the types of French stamps, which would establish a systematic terminology that practically every one could accept for a reasonable length of time. Even if on theoretical ground the term "type" appears to be less than perfect, if everyone agreed, for example, as what a writer had in mind when he referred to type III of a particular stamp, or else could refer to such a book for a description of this particular type, then there would be no ambiguity.

References

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2. Baron de Vinck de Winnezele: "Les Types des Timbres de France (1900-1938)".
3. De Lizeray, Pierre: "La Geneologie des 15 c. Semeuse Lignee." Bulletin Philatelique du Midi, No. 177, Oct. 1956, p. 677.
4. De Lizeray, Pierre: "Les Types du 10 c. Semeuse Lignee." Bulletin Philatelique du Midi, No. 176, Sept. 1956, p. 662.
5. De Lizeray, Pierre: "La Raison d'Etre des Types Multiples." Bulletin Philatelique du Midi, No. 179, Dec. 1956, p. 717.
6. De Lizeray, Pierre: "Les Methodes d'Impression des Timbres-Poste", 1955, p. 26.
7. De Lizeray, Pierre: "Les Semeuses Lignees de 1903 aux Aspects Multiples." Bulletin Philatelique du Midi, No. 165, Sept. 1955, p. 433.

GROUP NEWS

GROUP TAKES PART IN INTERPEX FOR 2nd YEAR



"Interpex 1960," New York's annual international stamp exhibition, will be held from March 25-27. And, for the second successive year the France and Colonies Group will take part in it. Sharing in the undertaking with us will be such eminent organizations as the Collectors Club of New York, the Aero Philatelists Inc., and the Postal History Society. The theme of the show will be "100 Years of Stamp Collecting."

The date of the show was especially selected so as to honor International Stamp Day, also known as St. Gabriel's Day, the patron saint of Communication and Philately, which falls on March 24th. This day is of special significance this year inasmuch as it was 100 years ago that stamp collecting really came into its own with the opening of the first open air stamp bourse in the Tuileries in Paris, which has since become an institution in that city.



La Bourse aux Timbres vers 1860, dans le Jardin des Tuileries.

Any member who can attend this fine show will be welcomed with open arms. Tickets are \$1.50 for all three days if you show your membership card at the door. All of us in New York would like to see you there.

In view of the great success enjoyed by last year's exhibition, this forthcoming event will be greatly expanded. To take care of this additional need for space, the entire second floor of the Trade Show Building at 35th St. and Eighth Ave. has been reserved. The area comprises 18,000 sq. feet, thereby providing ample floor space for the many attractive features which are planned.

As usual, there will be a court of honor and several foreign countries will officially participate with exhibits of their most outstanding stamps, as well as colorful displays pointing up their background and culture.

A dealer bourse will be set up for a limited number of those dealers handling only the highest quality material. Among those participating will be Charles Bretagne, our Corresponding Secretary. Also, of special interest to the dedicated stamp collector will be two auctions. One to be held on Friday and the other on Saturday morning.

NEW MEMBERSHIP LIST NOW IN PREPARATION

The long promised new listing of members and their specialties is now in active preparation and will appear in the near future. It is certain that since the last list appeared some years ago, many of you have changed your specialty or the type of material that you collect. In order to make the new list as accurate as possible, we are asking anyone who has made such a change to notify your editor of it as quickly as possible.

All that is required is your name, address, new specialty and your membership number. We will do the rest. Please send this information to:

Ira Zweifach
336 Central Park West
New York 25, N.Y.

C. C. PHILATELIST MEDAL TO ROBERT G. STONE

Once again congratulations are due to Robert G. Stone, whose work is familiar to all of you. This time, Mr. Stone has been awarded the coveted Collectors Club Philatelist Medal for his monumental study - "FRENCH COLONIES - THE GENERAL ISSUES (With Special Notes On Their Use in Guadeloupe)" which ran for a full year in the Collectors Club Philatelist.

Mr. Stone's excellent work is one of remarkable philatelic research and is a must for anyone interested in the General Issues of the French Colonies. Those wishing to own this useful work will be delighted to know that it will soon be available in handbook form, published by the Theodore Steinway Memorial Fund of the Collectors Club. We urge you to watch for it.

NAVY CANCELS

Lines C1 and G had two sub-types which read MED C1 or G below instead of MEDIT.

Line F also had a cancel without any inscription below except the single letter F.

The straight-line cancels were all of the same type – "POSTES NAVALES C" etc. (Fig. 8)

A few other officially issued cancels exist besides the ones described above. They were privately made by the personnel of these offices. In July, 1915 the Central Office for the Navy mail of the Dardanelles Fleet used a simple two-line cancel for returned letters – "INCONNU AUX DARDANELLES" (Unknown at the Dardanelles). It is rarely seen and little known (Fig. 9)

The mail to the French battleship, "Le Bouvet," lost at the Dardanelles, was stamped with a special stamp and returned to the sender. The stamp, in the charge of the Navy Paymaster at Toulon, read "LE DESTAINATAIRE N'A PU ETRE ATTEINT EN TEMPS UTILE" (not possible to reach the addressee at the right time). any mail to be returned that did not have a senders address was opened by a Navy official. Those that had the senders address mentioned inside were returned, all others were destroyed.

A meeting was held between the Navy and the Postal Ministry and they agreed that all opened and resealed letters that had been addressed to the Le Bouvet and could be returned (some 200 items) should have a four-line rubber stamp reading as follows:

Le DESTAINATAIRE n'a pu etre Atteint
Le BOUVET ayant Disparu
lettre ouvert par
le Service de la Solde de Toulon

The translation is: "Impossible to reach the addressee/ "Le Bouvet" is missed / letter opened by the Paymaster, Toulon.

Later in the war a troopship sank off the French coast. This ship carried a lot of mail sent from the Orient-Army. The bags carrying the letters were salvaged some time later. Of course the mail contained in them was in a horrible condition. Stamps had been washed off, envelopes unsealed and the writing was about 90% unreadable from the action of the salt water. Each letter was gone through and those with readable addresses were stamped with a straight-line rubber stamp reading – BATEAU NAUFRAGE MARSEILLES (ship sunk Marseille).

It is unknown where this stamp was applied, at the Navy PO, the BCM Marseilles, or the civil PO Marseilles.

Below is a list of all the cancels used at the Navy PO, Toulon:

Octagonal: TOULON POSTES NAVALES LIGNE A
TOULON POSTES NAVALES LIGNE B

Single-Ring: POSTES NAVALES LIGNE A
POSTES NAVALES LIGNE B
POSTES NAVALES MEDIT A
POSTES NAVALES MEDIT B
POSTES NAVALES MEDIT C
POSTES NAVALES MEDIT D

POSTES NAVALES MEDIT E
POSTES NAVALES MEDIT F
POSTES NAVALES MEDIT G
POSTES NAVALES MED C I
POSTES NAVALES MED G
POSTES NAVALES F

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 for.

WANTED: Madagascar, 1891 Type-set issue; on cover, and in blocks. Homer Hilton Jr., Union National Bank, Marquette, Mich. (Member 526)

WANTED. France Postage Due J11, J29 to J45a in Millesime pairs, blocks of four or sheets of 50 – mint or used. Also J1 to J28 on cover. Price separately. – A.P. Merrick, 7204 SE 32 Ave., Portland 2, Oregon. (member 743)

RENE CAILLIE ISSUES (Dahomey, Scott type A6) wanted, used on or off cover, Seeking 1939 issues, 1944 surcharges in railway, airmail and parcel post cancellations. Purchase or trade. – W. Connelly, 116 Greene, Middlesex, N.J. (Member 733)

Exchange, Mayotte, Moheli, Nossi Be, New Caledonia, New Hebrides for other colonies. – E.F. De Mers, 7201 Walton Way, La Mesa, Calif. (Member 622).

Am looking for regimental vignettes of World War I and also material related to military uniforms, such as post cards or cigarette cards, particularly French & German (Series Toussaint, Bucquoy, etc.). – Walter C. Utt, Box 373, Angwin, Calif. (Member 615).

WANTED: Sources (dealer or otherwise) of French postal stationary and French parcel post issues. – John K. Sherman, 2502 W. 22nd St., Minneapolis 5, Minn. (Member 308)

WANTED: French rocket covers and early Mexico covers. – Mrs. Isabelle Boffin, 3501 Anderson Ave. S.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico. (Member 577)

FRENCH POSTAGE RATES TO U.S.A.

For those collectors who like to make up their own First Day Covers, covers for postmarks, etc. from France and overseas departments (French Guiana, Inini, Martinique, Guadeloupe, etc.), Gale J. Raymond of Houston Texas brings us the official information issued by the French P.T.T. on the current French postage rates to the U.S. in the new French currency. They are:

LETTERS -- 1st 20 grams	50 centimes
additional 20 Gr. or fract.	30 centimes
POSTCARDS	30 centimes
PRINTED MATTER (Imprimés) to 50Gr.	20 centimes
REGISTRATION an additional	60 centimes
AIRMAIL LETTERS & POSTCARDS -- per 5 Grams, an additional	35 centimes

SECRETARY'S REPORT

To Feb. 1, 1960

NEW MEMBERS: WELCOME!

- 754 Kaho, Billi Jo-Anne, Box 136, Seldovia, Alaska (France & Col)
- 755 Pacheco, George, M. 4477 Sierra Drive, Honolulu 16, Hawaii (France & Col.)
- 756 Smith, Raymond L. M/Sgt. Hq. 2nd Comm. Const. Sq APO 12, N.Y. (France & Col.)
- 757 Helsher, Judith Miss, 57 Kimberly Lane, South Glastonbury, Conn. (France)
- 758 Welch, John C. 3315 Braemer Road, Shaker Heights, Cleveland 20, Ohio (France & Col.)
- 759 Drellich, Marvin G. (M.D.) 108 E. 37 St., New York 16, N.Y.
- 760 Lee, Arthur R. III, U.S. Information Service. APO 153, San Francisco, Calif. (French Offices in the Orient)

REINSTATEMENTS:

- 48 Novy, Joseph, Galls Village, Conn. (19th Century. Prestamp Covers)
- 429 Golden, Maxime Mrs., 655 W. Bittersweet Place, Chicago, Ill. (Napoleonic Covers, Cholera & France)
- 586 Whetstone, George W. 575 S. Ashburton Rd., Columbus 13, Conn. (French Guiana, Martinique, Guadeloupe)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 12 Boutrelle, Adrian to 230 Jay St., Bklyn 1, N.Y.
- 113 Dayton, James Mrs. to APO 928 USOM Postmaster, San Francisco, Cal.
- 413 Rafferty, John H. Capt. to Engr. Sect. Hq. Sixth Army. Presidio, San Francisco, Cal.
- 540 Pierce, Arthur D. to Natchez Trail, Medford Lake, N.J.
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