

France & Colonies Philatelist



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THE SECOND ENGRAVED STAMP OF FRANCE - THE 20FR "PONT DU GARD."

RAOUL LESGOR

The modern issues of France are beginning to come into their own. Ranking high among the most interesting of these latter-day stamps is the 20fr "Pont Du Gard" (Scott # 253, 254 and 254a). Specialists and non-specialists alike will welcome this informative study by Mr. Lesgor.



The 20 fr "Pont du Gard" is the second stamp produced by France through the line engraving process. The first, the famed "Agriculture and Industry" issue (Scott # B27) appeared a few months earlier.

Engraved stamps were a drastic departure from what had been done before, and it was only at the repeated demands of collectors that such a step was taken. We have learned through recent articles published in the "France & Colonies Philatelist," that many phases of the production of these stamps are still very much of a puzzle - especially those concerning # B27, 253 and 254. In fact, one cannot scrutinize the origins of either issue without delving into the origins of the other. As far as 254a is concerned there are no mysteries, only details, upon which I will expand a bit further on.

The Scott Catalog is the only catalog, here or even in France, where these engraved issues are presented logically in chronological order. Without false modesty, I might say that I am in a large part responsible for these Scott classifications. Up to 1941 we were completely unable to make head or tail of the various issues of the 20fr as well as the 3fr Reims. - Mr. Henry Jervis; the English specialist, should be credited with the first break-through, through his article which appeared in the "Philatelic Magazine" in 1941. Thanks to Mr. Jervis' discoveries, plus a few of my own, I was able to write a small essay on the 20fr which was published in this journal in 1942. On the strength of these discoveries, I

offered an entirely new classification in my specialized price list for 1943. That there were a few errors, long since corrected, in this new classification, I have no intent of denying. However, I was very surprised and flattered when I realised that this classification had been accepted word for word and incorporated in the 1944 edition of the Scott catalog.

As for the 3fr Reims, Monsieur Girard Gilbert, one of the most admirable philatelists it has been my privilege to know, made a very thorough study of that stamp. He gave me the information he had gathered, which in turn was embodied in my price list, and subsequently in the Scott catalog.

Until recently, only the early issues of France were considered worthy of being collected, fostering a great lack of interest in modern stamps. The beautiful and extremely interesting lithographed Bordeaux issue, for instance, was not really scrutinized until the middle of the 1920s. Thanks to Dr. Joany and others, the mysteries (and there are mysteries aplenty) of the Sage issue are slowly being solved. And through the continued efforts of our friend, Pierre de Lizeray and a small group of sincere and dedicated contributors to the "Bulletin Philatelique Du Midi," the magnificent and complex "Sower" issues are, in turn, being subjected to intensive research to the delight of hundreds of new enthusiasts.

Unfortunately, in some cases, it is a bit late for research. A great deal of documentation has been lost, or gone astray, or is no longer available to the student. This is a great pity, because such as we, who like to know the reasons for so many incongruities, as well as the solution to the many problems presented, have to depend mostly upon hypothesis and imagination. I am happy to report, however, that this does not apply to the more recent issues, which are thoroughly studied by the small group of philatelists mentioned above almost before the ink has dried.

But enough of digression, let us go back to our friend the 20fr "Pont Du Gard." We must accept, to begin with, the fact that M. Cheffer, the engraver, prepared only one die. I have examined all the shades and types in complete sheets, and used copies by the hundreds. I can assure the reader that all have one thing in common: a small dot of color under the frame surrounding the numerals of value at the left. (Fig. 1)

The Pont du Gard stamps appeared in the following sequence: 1929. I: Flat plate printing in sheets of 50 by hand press. Thick opaque paper. Printed design measures 35.8 x 20.6 Mm. Comb perforations — 13½ all around. Scott # 253. Colors: Red brown, dark red brown, orange brown (rare). Design characteristics: The lines of shading under the third arch from the left, second tier, are made of near horizontal lines. (Fig. 2)

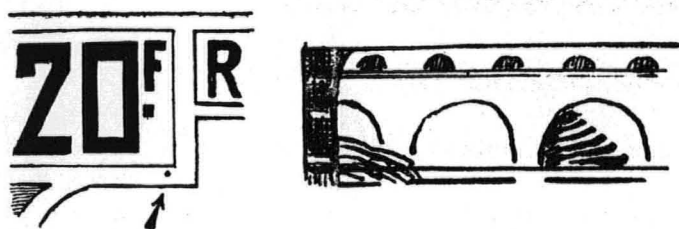


Fig. 1.

Comb Perf: In this method, the top and two vertical sides of the stamps are perforated in one operation, all along a row. This process is repeated down the sheet. The corner perforations are always perfect.

1930(?) II: Flat plate printing in sheets of fifty by hand press. Thick opaque paper. Dimensions of design: 35 x 20.8 Mm. Color: orange brown. Line perforation 11½ x 11½. Scott # 254. Design characteristics: Same as for preceding stamp. The only variations between the two issues, are the formats and the perforations. The design of both stamps are exactly alike and are from the same die.

Line perforation: Line perforation is used for all U.S. stamps. In this process the perforating is done in two operations. One strike for the vertical and another for the horizontal holes. The corner perforation generally shows two holes, one near or over the other. This method of perforation had never been used in France before this printing, or since. It is my opinion, possibly not shared by others, that the Postal Administration had no such perforating machine, and that since the Atelier du Timbre (Bureau of Printing) desired a better perforation to frame the odd size of #254, the job was given by contract to the Institut de Gravure. The Institut, at that time, was printing and perforating Algeria #78 and Tunis #140, both line engraved, both odd size stamps and both line perforated 11 x 11 (also 12½). All this, is of course, pure speculation on my part, since unfortunately no documentation is available.

To explain the odd size of #254, one has to refer the reader to a U.S. stamp, Scott #703, the Yorktown commemorative, which offers the same anomaly. Both come

in two sizes due to the shrinkage of the paper which may have been fed to the press with the fibers going in the right or wrong direction either by accident or design. The paper was moistened to insure better printing, and shrank in one direction while stretching in the other during the drying period.

1931-1937 III: Rotary press printing in sheets of 75 (three panes of 25 stamps). Thin transparent paper. Comb perf. 13 x 13. Dimensions of design: 35.8 x 21Mm.

Color: Red brown (1931), orange brown — oily ink (1936) dull grayish brown (1936-7).

Design characteristics: Many retouches and reinforced lines may be seen all over the stamp. The shading in the third arch is made of diagonal lines, oriented toward the top and forming a triangle (Fig. 3) A very fine line connects the frame surrounding the right numerals of value with the main design. (Fig. 4)

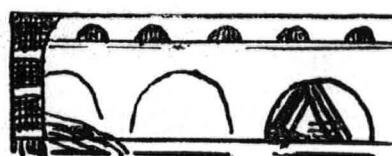


Fig. 3

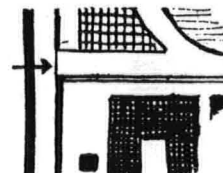


Fig. 4

The broken frame variety: The French catalogs have adopted this broken frame line (Fig. 5) as a description for two types. Nothing could be more erroneous. It is merely a variety of the stamps printed by rotary press and nothing else. This can be very misleading. The original Cheffer die was transferred to the roll and retouched. This transfer roll, in turn, served to transfer the design to the plate of 75 (see Fig. 6) horizontally from the extreme left to the extreme right in sequence through the three panes. The break occurred during the transferring of the fifth stamp of the top row of pane 2. All the stamps beyond feature this break. In all, nine stamps have the frame intact, and sixty six, the frame broken. Only one horizontal pair can be found with the two types se tenant, at position 9 and 10 of pane 2. Nine vertical pairs se tenant may be found. Only one block of 10 from pane 1, at the top of the sheet occurs.

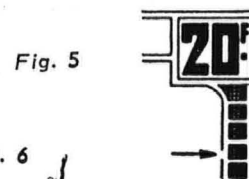
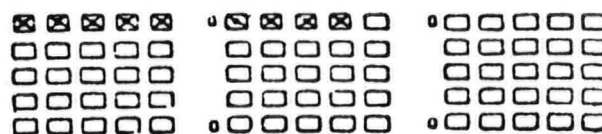


Fig. 5

Fig. 6



This is important because vertical pairs, both without the break, are being offered from France at fancy prices. Any vertical pair without the frame break, perforce, comes from the flat plate sheets of #253.

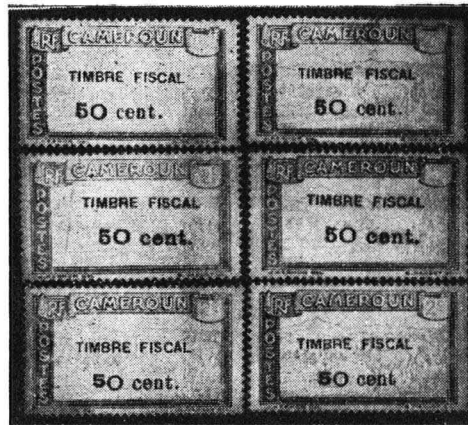
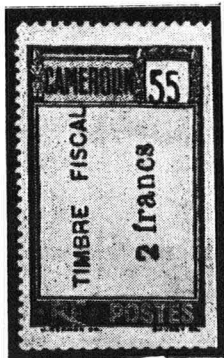
The so-called "Riviere Blanche" variety: This is pure hoax. In 1936, a large printing was made on hard paper with a very oily ink. In all the stamps from this

continued on page 40

FRANCE LIBRE – Some Little Known Overprints and Surcharges

EDMOND QUEYROY

Of the stamps which appeared during the last war, those overprinted France Libre, or otherwise surcharged by the Free French governments, are among the most interesting. Their numbers are small and the variety of the overprints great. Here, Mr. Queyroy discusses some of the lesser known issues of the group.



Cameroun Revenues: Five examples of postage stamps surcharged by the new government with the word FISCAL to make revenue stamps. There were twenty-two in all.

The first French colonies to become *France Libre*, were Cameroun on August 27, 1940, and French Equatorial Africa on Sept. 13, 1940. Next came New Caledonia, New Hebrides and French Oceania, on February 21, 1941. St. Pierre & Miquelon followed in December, 1941; French India in late 1941; Somali Coast in 1942; Reunion on December 18, 1942. Madagascar went Free French on Jan. 19, 1943, and French Guiana in March, 1943. The events leading to these changes of government need not detain us, as we are concerned with the stamps, not the history of politics.

This article will not repeat the well known issues, which are well listed in the catalogs, but will exhibit and explain those stamps which are very little known.

Cameroun Revenues. Surcharging postage stamps with the word FISCAL at the same time as the postage stamps were changed to *France Libre*, the new government made revenue stamps. There were four different revenue printings onto postage stamps: August, 1940, December, 1940, May, 1941, and March, 1942. In all twenty-two stamps were issued; of these we show five.

Three of these twenty-two stamps are very scarce, as the numbers issued were very small. These are:

- 2f in black on 1.60f (Scott No. 246), 100 copies issued in August, 1940.
- 2f in red on 10c blue green (Scott No. 229), 50 copies issued in August, 1940
- 20f in black on 90c (Scott No. 240), 50 copies issued in March, 1942

Many of the revenues made out of postage stamps have been destroyed in the colony, because of little use and no market for them among collectors.

French Equatorial Africa Revenues. A set of nine postage stamps were surcharged with new values and the word FISCAL, to provide revenue stamps from 5c to 50f. These were made at the same time as the cataloged regular postage stamps and airmails, in 1940 to 1942. The set of nine is made up as follows:

- On the 1c (Scott No. 33): 0.50f, 2f, 3f, 4f, 10f, 50f.
- On the 2c (Scott No. 34): 0.75f.
- On the 3c (Scott No. 35): 1.50f,
- On the 15c (Scott No. 39): 5f.

French Equatorial Africa: The two settings of the 1941 set, mentioned by Scott in the note after No. 141, are really two separate printings – two distinct issues. The first issue of Nos. 133 to 141 with only 1mm. spacing, issued in 1941, was made in 1941, with 25,000 of each value. The set with 2mm. between "Afrique" and "Francaise" was made in June, 1942, with only 8,000 complete sets.

The 5c, 10c, 25c and 35c come with no cedilla under C of "Francaise." One subject in the form carried this error, which appears to have been corrected before the other values were surcharged.

French Oceania: The surcharge was very carefully done, with competent proofreading of the form of type before any stamps were overprinted. Thus there are no varieties or errors. However, there is one stamp variety. The 1f (Scott No. 126) comes without period under F. This variety, not cataloged anywhere, can presumably also be found on the unsurcharged 1f stamp of 1934 (Scott No. 103).

French India. As noted after No. 209 in Scott's catalog, this country has issued one particularly scarce set. These are the "FRANCE TOUJOURS" in circle with

Over.

Cross of Lorraine, as pictured here. Only 200 copies of of each stamp were made; and nearly all were cancelled on covers. Mint sets are very scarce. Some values are surcharged in red, some in blue.



A. French Equatorial Africa – one of nine postage stamps surcharged with new value and the word FISCAL.

B. French India – “France Toujours” in circle with Cross of Lorraine.

The FRANCE TOUJOURS stamps were issued in accordance with a government order of March 6, 1943. They are legitimate in every sense, and arose from a particular occasion in the history of those days. For full listing, see any French catalog such as that of Thiaude.

St. Pierre and Miquelon. The complete set is exceedingly difficult to obtain cancelled or on covers.

Some of the interesting varieties, of which not all are cataloged, are:

Double surcharge on the 35c (Scott No. 230a); only twenty-five copies made.

The four inverted surcharges (Scott Nos. 209a, 238a, 241a, and 257a), of which 59 copies each were issued except for 75 copies of No. 238a. These are *exceptionally scarce used*.

The 90c and 1.25f (Scott Nos. 238 and 249) with NO PERIOD between N and F of “F.N.F.L.”

The 30c on 10c and 60c on 90c (Scott Nos. 250 and PERIOD between N and F of “F.N.F.L.”

The 1.25f (Scott No. 240) with middle bar of F lacking in first F of “F.N.F.L.” (Broken letter).

“St. Pierre-Miq” has some pleasing and really rare varieties on its “Noel 1941” issues.

In the carmine surcharged set, one stamp in every twenty-five has a small o in “Noel.” Each unit of 25 as printed has this just once-one subject in the form of type. This is illustrated in the upper half of the picture, with the normal variety below it for comparison. As there were only 1,315 copies made of the 1.75f in this set, there are only 1,315 complete sets and only fifty-two copies with the small o.

This same variety, small o, occurs in the black surcharged set. As only 300 copies were made of the black 1.75f, only 300 complete sets can exist. Of these only 12 can have the small o. The other 19 values of this set were made in 500 copies each, giving us *twenty small o copies* for each of those values.

All the Noel sets, in both colors, were sold before the variety was discovered. A few complete sets in carmine have been assembled; but I do not know any complete set with the small o in black. Broken N – J58-139, J59-212, J60-236, J61-235, J62-220, J63-239,

J64-193, J65-198, J66-241, J67-32, – same F small N.



St. Pierre & Miquelon 35c with double surcharge.



Scott # 240 with no period between N and F of F.N.F.L.



Scott # 251 with no period between N and F of F.N.F.L.



Scott # 240 lacking middle bar of F in 1st F of F.N.F.L.



Carmine surcharge with small o in Noel. This occurs in one stamp in every 25 – upper surcharge. Lower, Normal.

The Postage Due stamps, Codfish type, show an interesting variety likewise. As pictured, one stamp in every block of twenty-five has a NARROW N in "F.N.F.L." Also as pictured, one stamp in every twenty-five has a broken N here, lacking both vertical lines.

Most of these due stamps come with St. Pierre cancellation. Langlade is scarce; Iles aux Marins very scarce.



Postage Due Stamps, codfish type: one stamp in every block of 25 has a narrow N in F.N.F.L.; also one stamp in every 25 has a broken N lacking both vertical lines.

French Guiana and Inini. One of the rarest sets of FRANCE LIBRE overprints is the set of eight of the airmails surcharged in 1943 (Scott Nos. C1 to C8). 300 mint sets exist. There are known five covers flown to the United States and twenty-five covers flown within the colony itself.

There is also a variety, the 1.50f, with inverted surcharge, of which twenty-five copies only were made.

In this colony and Inini a special postmark was put into use in 1943, with FRANCE LIBRE in center above date. It is used directly on the stamps, without separate killer. This postmark is found on:

French Guiana 1929-40 issue (Scott Nos. 109 to 151), and on Scott Nos. 161, 169, 170, B11.

French Colonies Nos. B1 to B6 (both Guiana and Inini marks),

Inini, Scott Nos. 1 to 40, 42, 43 dues Nos. J1 to J10.

The aim of our group is to help collectors to get as much information as possible. If you are interested in these FRANCE LIBRE surcharged issues, please get in touch with me. Later from time to time a listing of all the surcharged FRANCE LIBRE will be given in the "Philatelist" with the amount of stamps issued.



Special postmark used in French Guiana and Inini with FRANCE LIBRE in center above date and one of stamps on which it was used.

JOHN B. MORTON TAKES BEST IN SHOW AT FIRST RICH MEMORIAL CONTEST

The first Stephen G. Rich Memorial Contest was held at The Collectors Club in New York on Nov. 8, 1960, with a large group in attendance. Entries were received from a wide area and the material in the frames was excellent. The judges, Gustave Wittenberg, Edmund Queyroy and Ira Zweifach had a hard time coming to a decision. The winners were:

Best In Show: Paris Cancellations – John B. Morton, Buffalo, N.Y.

1st Prize Research: 1900 Issue, French Congo – Wm. J. Connelly, Brooklyn, N.Y.

1st Prize Open Class: Study of Apres Le Depart Cancels – Reginald G. Morris, Fetcham, England

1st Prize Cancellation Class: Numeral Cancels of Algeria – Adrian Boutrelle, Brooklyn, N.Y.

2nd Prize Cancellation Class: Cancellations of French Oceania – George E. Miller, Upper Montclair, N.J.

GROUP TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERPEX '61 – March 17-19

For the third successive year the Group will take part in Interpex, the International Stamp Exhibition to be held in New York from March 17-19. As usual the France and Colonies Group will sponsor an exhibit by its members. It is hoped that many of our non-resident members will show this year to give the visitors to the exhibit a well-rounded idea of the groups activities.

Frames will be \$5.00 each with a limitation of not more than three frames per person. Prizes will be given those judged best. Full information on entering, etc. will reach you in plenty of time to get your material to us for mounting.

The Group will have its own lounge, meeting room and exhibit area. There will also be a banquet held by Interpex to which all members are invited. Costs for the dinner have not yet been determined. Other Interpex attractions will be announced shortly. If you can come to New York for the exhibit we guarantee you a good time. make your plans now.

CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES

1960 MEMBERSHIP LIST

Resident:

766 Wells, Wm. E., change address to read – 226 Noroton Ave., Noroton Heights, Conn.

Non-Resident:

338 Feneberg, H. G., change name to read – Fenneberg, Harry G.

707 Eaton, Frederik, change specialty to read – France, 1849 to date.

If any other errors in the listings given in issue #106 of the Philatelist are noted, please report them to the editor and they will be corrected in the following issue.

A NEW TYPE OF "RF" OVERPRINT

PHILIP SILVER

Philip Silver, President of the Aero Philatelists and newly elected member of the Board of Governors of the Collectors Club, has come up with a new type of "RF" overprint that looks like a good candidate for permanent catalog listing. Our thanks to him and to Henry M. Goodkind, editor of The Aero Philatelist Annals for permission to use this material.

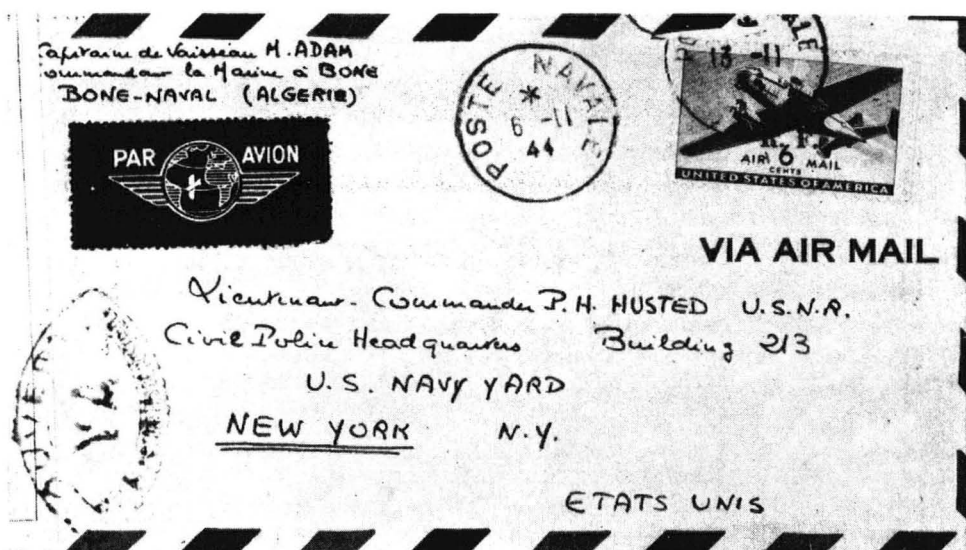


Fig. 1. Cover addressed to Lt. Commander P.H. Husted with an unlisted type of "R.F." overprint. Distinguishing characteristics are the serifs in the letters.

In his comprehensive book on the "RF" overprints 1, Mr. Goodkind listed nine types that appeared on genuine covers received from French Naval personnel. These are shown on page 23 of the book. On page 21 of the same book, in discussing evaluations for the various types, the statement was made:

"It is not unreasonable that there may be correspondence with 'RF' covers that is now unknown, but that will come on the market at some future time."

The writer believes that the covers shown in Figs. 1 and 2 are part of such an unknown correspondence.

It will be noted that both covers are addressed to Naval personnel at the Navy Yard, New York, N.Y. The cover shown in Fig. 1 is addressed to Lieutenant Commander P. H. Husted, U. S. N. R., Civil Police Headquarters, Building 213, U. S. Navy Yard, New York N. Y., Etats Unis. The one shown in Fig. 2 is addressed to Etats Unis. Both of these covers, as well as a third cover addressed to Lieut. Commander and Mrs. Husted, 655 Park Avenue, New York City, U. S. A. came from the estate of the late Captain McKittrick whose philatelic material was sold at auction recently by Mr. John A. Fox, New York dealer and auctioneer. It will also be noted that both of the illustrated covers were sent by Capitaine de Vaisseau M. Adam.

The writer would like to pause here and emphasize that the sender's name is extremely important in the development of this story. The fact that both covers are from M. Adam's correspondence and other pertinent data will be used in this study to claim the discovery of a new type of "RF" overprint.

It can be seen that the cover shown in Fig. 2 is dated

August 11, 1944. The six cent air mail stamp is overprinted with a clear type 5 "RF" overprint. The return address, which seems to have been applied with a rubber handstamp, reads as follows:

Capitaine de Vaisseau M. ADAM
Commandant la "GLOIRE"

So, Mr. Adam was at the time, the Commander of the Cruiser "Gloire." It would appear that this is the first time that a correspondence has been found from so high ranking an officer; previous covers all seem to have been sent by enlisted personnel. What makes this cover all the more interesting, however, is the enclosure it contained, (See Fig. 3) It is a handwritten note, dated July 24, 1944 addressed to Captain McKittrick and signed by M. Adam. The note reads:

Dear Captain McKittrick,

I have just heard from Captain Old the hard trial which you are suffering. I want you to know that your sorrow is mine to (o). I have appreciated your friendship too much not to be beside you in the days of suffering.

I will not offer you human condolence, but as we belong to the same Faith I assure you of my hearty prayers. Our good Padre will say Mass to-morrow for Mrs. McKittrick and yourself, and I will join him in asking God to help you.

Yours very sincerely
signed M. Adam

Apart from its philatelic value, the letter appears to be the work of a devout person and sincere friend. It is likely the men became acquainted when the "Gloire" was

in the United States for repairs.

Now look at the cover shown in Fig. 1. The handwritten return address is also that of M. Adam. But he is now assigned as Commander of the Naval base at Bone, Algeria. The cover is also franked with the six cent air mail stamp. But, the stamp is overprinted with a hitherto unrecorded type of "RF" overprint. In size, the letters are slightly smaller than type 1. Also, the letters "R." and "F." are spaced somewhat farther apart than in type 1. But, the outstanding features are the serifs in the letters. No previous covers, from French Naval personnel, examined by Mr. Goodkind in his study on the "RF" overprints were found with this type. However, he has illustrated one bogus type on page 53 which bears a general similarity to our "discovery." If one were to compare the two "RF"s with serifs several points of dissimilarity will be noted:

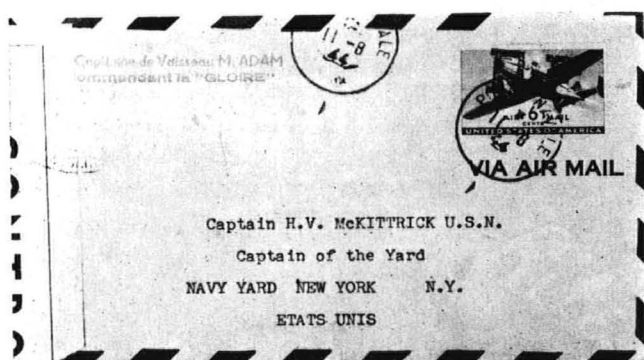


Fig. 2. Cover addressed to Capt. H. V. McKittrick with clear Type 5 "R.F." overprint.

Bogus type shown on page 53:

1. The tail of the R points out towards the right.
2. The top bar of the F points upwards to the right.
3. The center bar of the F points upwards to the right.
4. The period after the F is slightly higher than the bottom of the letter.

Genuine type shown in Fig. 1:

1. The tail of the R points downward.
2. The top bar of the F is horizontal.
3. The center bar of the F is horizontal.
4. The period after the F is on a line with the bottom of the letter.

In discussing the cover shown on page 53 of his book (Fig. 63), Mr. Goodkind makes the following remarks: "Fig. 63 has the unknown type Scott "c", San. "k" overprint, as does the bottom stamp on Fig. 64. Thus Scott Type "c" seems to be bogus, unless one

finds it used on legitimate French Naval air mail, which has not been the case in this study."³

The correspondence from M. Adam would seem to fill the void noted by Mr. Goodkind. And here the importance of the letter enclosed in the Fig. 2 cover becomes evident. Many points of similarity are noted in the handwriting of the letter and the return address on the cover in Fig. 1. The upper case printed "M's" are similar; so are the printed "P's" and "C's." The formation of the lower case written "r's" and "d's" is the same in both examples. Indeed, even a person not expert in such analysis cannot fail to detect points of similarity in the handwriting of both the cover in Fig. 1 and the letter in Fig. 3.

The cover is cancelled with two different types of *Poste Navale* handstamps. The first is dated November 6, 1944, and the second, which ties the stamp, is dated

July 24. 1944

Dear Captain McKittrick,

I have just heard from Captain U.S. the hard time which you are suffering. I want you to know that you sorrow is mine too. I have appreciated your friendship too much to not be beside you in the days of suffering.

I wish our often your human condition, but as we belong to the same Faith, I assure you of my hearty prayers. Our Good Father will say Mass for you tomorrow for Mrs. McKittrick and yourself, and I will join him asking God to help you.

Yours very sincerely

M. Adam

Fig. 3. Letter enclosed in the cover shown in Fig. 2.

November 13, 1944. Both *Poste Navale* cancellations appear to be genuine since their characteristics are similar to many of the covers illustrated in Mr. Goodkind's book.

The writer hopes that the publication of this article will "flush" out other covers bearing a similar "RF" overprint. But until that should happen, it is the author's feeling that this cover marks the discovery of a hitherto unrecorded genuine type deserving of future catalogue listing.

NOTES

(1) UNITED STATES, RF (French) Overprints 1944-45 On Air Mail Stamps and Stationery, by Henry M. Goodkind, published by the Collectors Club, N.Y. 1958

(2) Ibid. Page 21

(3) Ibid, Page 53

SECRETARY'S REPORT

To Dec. 1, 1960

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME:

- 774 Levy, Theodore, 525 Barry Ave., Chicago 14, Ill.
(France & Cols)
775 Ghetler, Harry, 350 Duffering Rd., Montreal P.Q.,
Canada (France & Cols)
776 Driscoll, James J., 760-67 St., Brooklyn 20, N.Y.
(France & Cols)

DECEASED:

- 316 Fernald, Alan R., 2415 Woodward Way, Atlanta 5, Ga.
657 Evans, Alexander, 180 Livingston St., New Haven,
Conn.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 7 Morrison, John A. to 82-74 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica
32, N.Y.
124 Turner, George T. to 408 A St. S.E., Washington 3,
D.C.
262 Silberstein, M.L. to 705 N. Thompson, Conroe, Texas
612 Garfield Perry Stamp Club to Manger Hotel, 1802
E. 13 St., Cleveland, Ohio
644 Sharp, Harry to 17697 Mt. Elliott, Detroit 12, Mich.
666 Bryan, Bill, Lt. Col. to 2440 S.W. Hoffman St.,
Portland, Oregon
700 Higby, C.R. to 1730 Dufferin Ave., Wallaceburg,
Ont., Canada
704 Kanak, Richard C. to 1541 N. Kennicott Ave.,
Arlington Heights, Ill.
413 Rafferty, John H. Jr., Major to Box 48, HQE, HQ
Co., Usals, Presidio of Monterey, Calif.

20F PONT DU GARD continued

printing, due to the poor quality of the ink, the finer lines of the design, in the river bed, on the bridge and in the hills above the bridge, have all but disappeared. This should be classified as an "oily print" because it is not a plate variety. The same plate of 75 stamps, the only one made, was used later for the printings in dull grayish brown and the finer lines of the design are again in evidence. This is merely what the French call an "impression depouillee," a denuded print, of no importance except for color. At any rate it is not worth more than a normal copy.

There is much more to this issue than meets the eye. As I have said before, we have barely scratched the surface as far as the engraved issues are concerned. The cancellations to be found on them is still a closed book.

There are many opinions as to how the plates used for the flat bed printings have been manufactured. Several theories have been advanced including the logical one which may not be right at all, if we consider that line engraved stamps were a new venture for the inexperienced technicians of the "Atelier du Timbre." I feel sure that if ever some documentation comes to light, many new facts, hitherto merely a matter of conjecture, will be confirmed as truth and will lead toward the real solution of the problem.

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: France postage dues on cover in Millesime Pairs or Corner Date blocks. Submit with lowest net price. A. P. Merrick, 7204 SE 32 Ave., Portland 2, Oregon. (Member 743)

WANTED: France to USA 19th Century covers. Submit with lowest net price. A.P. Merrick, 7204 SE 32 Ave., Portland 2, Oregon (Member 743)

BUY OR EXCHANGE: Mint Cambodia for Laos Nos. 25,26, C13. Viet Nam Nos. 20-26. Indochina Nos. 3-21, 24-40. All Cochinchina, Annam & Tonkin and all errors of preceding countries. Want all mint. Arthur R. Lee III, American Embassy, USIS, APO 301, San Francisco, Calif. (Member 760)

WANTED: France and Colonies early issues to 1949 only at wholesale prices. Including regular, commemorative, semi-postal, airmail, airpost semi-postal, postage due, military franks, occupation, official and newspaper. George M. Pacheco, 4477 Sierra Drive, Honolulu 16, Hawaii (Member 755).

EXCHANGE: Have a few thousands of France #58 (25 centimes blue) to swap for what have you in general foreign - basis Scott. Jacques A. Musy, P.O. Box 7, Valrico, Florida (Member 16).

WANTED: Will buy all Obock and Somali Coast triangles, mint and used, very fine to superb, at reasonable prices. Send stamps and/or description and prices. C. H. Adams, B. P. 2085, Tangier, Morocco (Member 688).

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

WANTED: Source of postally used stamps of the new African Republics. Rolfe B. Daniels, 123 S. Alexandria Ave., Los Angeles 4, Calif. (Member 545).

WANTED: APO 418 covers (French Guiana, World War II). John M. McGarry, 189 Ashuelot St., Dalton, Mass. (Member 710)

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

WANTED: APRES LE DEPART marks on metropolitan, consular office and colonial covers. Details first, please. Reg. C. Morris, RCA(GB) c/o RCA, Riverton, N.J. (Member 724)

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, 215 Adams St. Brooklyn 1, N.Y. (Member 733)