

France & Colonies Philatelist



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THE PARIS POSTAL MUSEUM AND ITS POSTMARKS

By J. A. ROBINSON

Paris has so many places of interest that it is excusable if one is not familiar with them all. As Mr. Robinson Points out in "Stamp Collecting" the collector will probably visit the shops of the Rue Drouot, and even the Stamp Market in the Place Marigny, but he may well overlook the "Musée Postal, situated in the quiet Rue St. Romain, the most interesting spot of all.

The home of the Musée Postal is No. 4, Rue St. Romain, a small 18th century house built in the classical style. Appropriately enough, it once belonged to the Duc de Choiseul Praslin, who was Superintendent General of the Posts between 1760 and 1770.

What is there to be seen? Almost everything connected with the postal history of France. This theme is developed on the broadest possible lines and utilises any material that is considered relevant: paintings, drawings, casts of sculpture, maps, as well as items more directly connected with the postal service of any nation. Philately is, of course, represented, but it is only one aspect of the picture, and a recent introduction at that.

The museum has been in existence since 1946, when the great authority on French postal history, M. Eugene Vaille (whose work deserves to be translated into English and so become known to a wider public) was appointed its first Curator. Only about 10 visitors are received daily, but its collection is continually being increased to such an extent that it is hoped to move to more spacious premises eventually. Agitation for the establishment of such a museum had a pre-war origin. In 1939 a stamp was issued, with a surcharge which went to a Postal Museum Fund bearing a reproduction of a painting by Fragonard entitled "The Letter". Another stamp with a surcharge was issued in May 1946, just before the museum was opened. Again, the subject is appropriate, Chardin's picture of a woman sealing a letter.

Ten rooms are devoted to tracing postal history from Roman times to the present. The entrance hall contains the museum's latest acquisitions as well as housing the sub post office which functions there. The walls of the staircase leading to the first room to be visited are decorated with murals showing different aspects of postal activities through the centuries. The



Choiseul



Fig. 1

room is concerned with pictures and documents tracing the history of the posts. There is even the uniform of the "Directeur des Postes" of the time of Napoleon III. The adjoining room is devoted to the means of conveying letters, and contains models of ships, coaches and mail trains. In a smaller room is housed a diorama with three scenes: the working of the Paris Post Office at the end of the 17th century, and the arrival and departure of mail in its courtyard.

In the room devoted to the Roman service are itineraries and casts of bas reliefs, funerary inscriptions and so on, which help to throw light on the great cursus publicus. Also can be seen a model of one of the posting houses, where the courier would change his horse, refresh himself and rest before going on.

What was once the chapel of the house is, appropriately enough, now devoted to mediaeval material, and such unusual items as a copy of a list of deaths which a monastic messenger delivered to religious houses. One notable feature is the stained glass windows, which reproduce details concerned with letters from manuscripts of the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries. Even such a

Over.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

social document as the Bayeux Tapestry has a part to play, and it is interesting to note that the section reproduced in the museum showing William the Conqueror's messengers was chosen as the subject of a stamp issued in 1958.

One section of interest to the air-minded is that devoted to the Siege of Paris in 1870. On show is part of one of the balloons which carried the micro-photographed messages out of the city, and one of the zinc cylinders (boules de Moulins) which were filled with letters and thrown into the Seine.

On the ground floor the stamp-lover will surely linger over the complete reference collection of the stamps of France and the French Union which is embellished with proofs, essays, colour trials, artists' sketches and printing plates. In addition there is a large collection of maximum cards. "Marcophilie" is the French term for the study of postal markings, and in the museum this is taken to include the seals used for closing up mailbags as well as strikes of date-stamps and the actual date-stamps themselves. There is a particularly fine collection of markings associated with the postal facilities enjoyed by the Napoleonic armies in Europe.

In addition to all this, and much more material too numerous to be enumerated, there is a reference library available to serious students. It is well endowed with copies of postal treaties and similar items as well as back numbers of the leading French philatelic magazines and some of those of other countries.

A visit to this museum should end with a souvenir in the form of a postcard, posted at the sub-office, to which will be applied its distinctive postmark. Below I have listed some of those which have been used since the museum was opened, and I have tried to give a description of their design together with dates of issue and use when known. The list does not claim to be complete, but I hope that interest in these postmarks may thereby be stimulated.

The museum was opened to the public on June 4th, 1946, the ceremony being performed by the then Minister of Posts, M. Jean Letourneau. To commemorate the event a distinctive datestamp, the first of many, was used at the museum's sub post office during the inaugural week (Fig. 1). It is worded MUSEE POSTAL, SEMAINE D'INAUGURATION, and depicts a candlestick, quill pen and a hand sealing a letter. In addition a special post-

card was printed in an edition of 2,000, bearing a reproduction of Chardin's painting of a woman sealing a letter, and underneath it INAUGURATION DU MUSEE POSTAL. The word "Musée", however, is spelt with a grave accent instead of an acute accent over the first "E".

On June 11th, 1946, a new date-stamp was brought into service, and it was in use at various times until 1948 (Fig. 2). The central design is of a mediaeval "postman". At this time there was no organized postal service except that of the royal messengers. The public's letters would have to be entrusted to the "poste des occasions", as it has been termed in France, the chance meeting with a pilgrim, traveller or merchant whose route might coincide with that along which the letter had to travel. Note the heavy seals hanging from the tapes which secured the communication.

It has been the museum's policy to hold special exhibitions from time to time. One such was held in November 1946 to commemorate the efforts of Claude Chappe. He was the inventor of an optical telegraph which was widely used in France before the introduction of the electrical form. The device consisted of an upright post to which was fastened a transverse bar. At the ends of this were movable arms. Differing positions of the arms represented words or letters. By means of a series of these machines placed at intervals so that each was seen clearly from the next it was possible to relay messages comparatively quickly. Chappe showed his invention to the National Assembly: it was successfully tried out between Paris and Lille, and by 1793 was put into general use. The date-stamp used in conjunction with the Chappe Exhibition (Fig. 3) shows the device and the date 1793. On the first day (November 15th) it was struck in blue, but thereafter in black. Chappe himself has twice been represented on his country's stamps. The first time was in 1944, a belated celebration of the 150th anniversary of his invention, on a 4 fr. blue stamp, and the second time, with a different portrait, on a 10 fr. red, one of five stamps issued in honour of the International Telephone and Telegraph Congress held in Paris in 1949.

The work of Antoine-Marie Chamant, Comte de Lavalette, was illustrated in an exhibition of 1947. He was the man most closely connected with the reorganisation of the postal system of France and the Empire during



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

and after the Napoleonic conquests which so altered the political map of Europe. From 1801 to 1804 he held the title of "Commissaire Central du Gouvernement pres les Postes". From then until 1815 he held the position of "Directeur General des Postes". On the restoration of Louis XVIII to the throne Lavalette slipped into the background but on Napoleon's return from Elba he re-assumed his old job. For this, after the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, he was condemned to death. While awaiting execution of sentence he was lodged in the Conciergerie, where so many illustrious prisoners had been lodged during the Revolutionary period. He was saved by escaping in women's clothes brought by his wife when she visited him on the eve of execution. The escape caught the public's fancy and it was made the topic for popular drawings, caricatures and cartoons. The commemorative date-stamp, first used on March 15th(?), 1947, shows a part of La Conciergerie. Lavalette's portrait appeared on the 1954 12 ft. + 3 fr. brown and green Day of the Stamp issue.

In 1947 also, the work of the Universal Postal Union, then holding its 12th Congress in Paris, was shown in an exhibition, "Les Postes Internationales". A commemorative date-stamp was first used on June 29th, 1947, and appears to be a representation of the U.P.U. monument at Berne (Fig. 4).

In 1948 France celebrated the 300th anniversary of the accession of Alsace. It was ceded to France by the Treaty of Westphalia, made at the conclusion of the Thirty



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

Years War. An exhibition to commemorate the fact was held at the Postal Museum under the general title "La Poste en Alsace". In fact, it divided itself into three parts, each with a different date-stamp. Fig. 5 shows the first. On it is Strasbourg Cathedral, a Mail coach and the dates 1648 and 1948. In the second, the details are the same except that the wording at the bottom is STRASBOURG instead of PARIS. Strasbourg, however, was not French in 1648, and became so only after Louis XIV had seized it in 1681. For these two marks, the earliest date I have seen is June 9th and the latest October 5th. The third date-stamp was used in connection with an exhibition of material concerned with Mulhouse, another city in Alsace. It, too, has the mail coach common to the other two, but behind it is a view of part of the old town of Mulhouse and the wording at the bottom is MULHOUSE. At the top is the city's coat of arms, a red mill wheel on a silver background, denoting its importance as a textile centre. On each side of this are

the dates 1796 and 1948. Why the date used is 1796 I cannot say, for reference books give the year in which this former free city joined France as 1798.

Also at some time in 1948 the "Mediaeval Postman" datestamp, which had been used when there were no date-stamps in service connected with temporary exhibitions, was replaced. Its place was taken by the one illustrated in Fig. 6. Time has moved on as far as the design is concerned, for it depicts a mounted messenger of the 17th century. By now also the speed and efficiency of the postal services had improved. Since Henry IV's reign the facilities of the royal messenger service were available to the public, and a "Surintendance Generale des Postes" had been created to administer it.

Fig 7 was used at the exhibition entitled "La Poste Gallo-Romaine", early in 1950. In this display attention was focussed on the Roman postal administration, and in particular its effect in the Province of Gaul. It was under the Emperor Augustus that organised relays of messengers to carry despatches to and from the provinces came into being. Later this service divided into two, the former using heavy wagons and carrying goods and passengers. The lighter form of two-wheeled conveyance, such as that shown in the date-stamp, was reserved for a speedier posting service (known as the *cursus velox*). The design in Fig. 7 is taken from a carving of a Roman courier in the Treves Museum.

HELP WANTED

The following was received from Mr. C. R. Higby (member 700), who as many of you already know, is a specialist in French Precancels. He says —

"So many people belittle the lowly precancel but — Lot #210 1c Bleu de Prusse, obl. Imprime, bon centrage leg. dec. Sup., was offered at "Prix de depart, FFR 600 (\$120.00) — which I offered, but didn't get as it went for FFR, 937.17 — approx \$188.00. and lot #289, 2 essais en noir de 2c Jouneaux sur fragment d'affiches diff. l'un non dentele, chacun surch. Specimen en rouge et obl. caracteres d'Imprimerie TB, was offered at "Prix de depart — FFR. 150 (\$20.00) — which I offered, but didn't get as it went for FFR, 250 (\$50.00). Those are pretty fair prices.

"I was particularly interested in the latter as I have a 2c imperf black Journaux surcharged in red "EPREUVE" precancelled by the printing of an advertisement. Does anyone know the why and wherefore of these?"

Can someone help Mr. Higby? Anyone with information about this interesting precancel may contact him at 170 Dufferin Ave., Wallaceburg, Ontario, Canada.

Anglo Corsica Contd.

The French departmental numbers of the franking stamps used for Corsica in 1790 were 19 and 90 (illustrated in "Estampiles et Obliterations Postales de France"; Yvert et Cie). The last number was introduced in 1793 when the island was divided into two departments and was used in the southernmost area.

THE FRENCH CONGO DEFINATIVES Part III

W. J. CONNELLY

Part three of Mr. Connelly's four-part study of the French Congo definitives covers perforation varieties, numeral varieties, inverts, watermarks and the number of each value to be printed.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

The French Congo Definitives were one of the few early French Colonials to be line perforated. This meant much handling of the sheets of stamps during perforating, and resulted in a number of perforation varieties coming into being. Extra lines of perforations, as well as, "Off Center," and part imperf. show up in the issue. Figure 1. is an interesting example. Not only are the perforation lines misplaced, but an extra line of perforations run through the bottom stamp as well.

The issue was perforated both $11\frac{1}{2}$ and 11. $11\frac{1}{2}$ is usually found on the early printing on the heavier papers. Perforation 11 is usually found on the thin papers. However, since the thickness of the papers used varies so greatly, exceptions to the above general rule have been found.

As mentioned in the previous segment of the article, one of the classic items of Philately, the Inverted Center, is to be found in this issue. While very scarce, inverts of the background are known to exist. Figure 2 shows the 4 centimes with the central background inverted. Other stamps of the issue that exist inverted are: 1c, 1F and 5F. There are also stamps in existence with the value numerals inverted.

Aside from the various types previously identified in the first article of this series, the most distinctive in-

dividuality of the stamps are the numerals that indicate their values. The numerals show tremendous variety and were obviously done with but a fraction of the care that was devoted to design detail. It appears evident that the numerals were engraved directly on the plate rather than being "rocked in," as the borders and centers had been.

The stamps are printed on watermarked paper. Each of the three designs that make up the issue have their own distinctive watermark. (See Figure 3). The 1c through 15c have a thistle sprig. The 20c through 75c watermark shows a rose branch, while the 1, 2, and 5 Franc watermark is an olive branch.

One important watermark error was made. There are copies of the 5 Franc in existence on paper with the rose branch watermark of the 20c through 75c stamps.

It is interesting to note that despite the fact that the definitives were expressly issued for French Congo, "French Congo" is but one of many cancellations that have been struck on stamps.

For instance, the "LIBREVILLE-GABON," was used on the Definitives at the same time that, "LIBREVILLE-CONGO FRANCAIS," was used in 1900. In addition, "TCHAD CONGO FRANCAIS," "UBANGUI CHARI," "MOYEN CONGO," and "UBANGUI CHARI CHAD" for example, all appear in the Definitives' cancellations.

It is interesting to note that by following the cancellations only, it would have been evident that the breakup of French Congo in 1906 into separate colonies was going to happen. For instance, Gabon, a part of French Congo resumed the issuance of stamps in 1904 despite the fact the French Congo was not broken up into 4 separate colonies until 1906. Oddly enough, after French Congo no longer existed as a colony, its name remained in use in the now separate and distinct areas. For instance, Brazzaville cancellations in 1908 still identified itself as, "CONGO FRANCAIS."

As a matter of fact, the legend, "CONGO FRANCAIS," was still used in the area that had once been French Congo for over 10 years after it had been partitioned.

The total number of stamps of the Definitive issue are as follows:

1c	249,000
2c	199,300
4c	145,800
5c	199,500

10c	99,700
15c	
20c	99,700
25c	99,800
30c	99,800
40c	49,900
50c	49,900
75c	29,600
1F	25,000
2F	15,000
5F	10,000

No positive figures are available for the total number of 15c stamps printed. However, it would be logical to assume that an order of magnitude might be arrived at by noting the following facts: (1) Since there was only 1 out of every 100 stamps of each sheet that was Type II (with the end of the left elephant tusk missing in the border design – see first segment of this article). (2) Catalogs of the 1930's show the 15c Type I the same value as the 10c. However, the value of the 15c Type II is less than half the value of a 10c Type II. (e) The 5c and 10c values were the postal denominations in greatest demand and among which there would be the greatest attraction, from the collector's standpoint.

Therefore it would be reasonable to assume that about 120,000 15c stamps were produced.

Overprints of the stamps were produced for French Congo in 1903 and for the French occupation of the Cameroons in 1916.

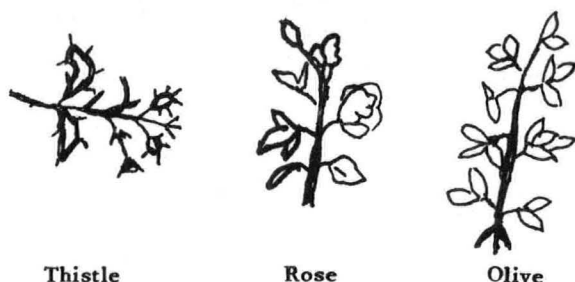


Fig. 3 - Watermarks

The overprints in 1903 were produced to provide additional supplies of 5c and 10c stamps in French Congo. A total of 2,415 of the 30c was overprinted with a new value of 5 centimes and 2,822 of the 2 Franc value was overprinted with a new value of 10 centimes.

In 1916, during World War 1, the French Congo Definitives stamps were overprinted and were used during the French occupation of the Cameroons. However, not all of the Definitives were used. The French Congo stamps used were:

15c	50c
20c	75c
30c	1F
40c	2F

The values remained the same as the original stamps.

To be continued

A Forgotten Anglo-Corsican Postal Service

A postal historian, fingering his way through a pile of grimy, dust-laden correspondence of the 1790's may find his interest aroused at the sight of some unfamiliar hand-struck stamps which after examination are found to be the Corsican towns of Corte and Bastia as reproduced below (both in black):

CORTE BASTIA

Unless his knowledge of history is profound, it is doubtful whether he will not hesitate before assigning them to British origin. This is, nevertheless, the case and derives from the British occupation between June 1794, when his Britannic Majesty King George III was proclaimed King of Corsica, and October 1794, when his rule ended.

The circumstances surrounding the stirring events of this period have been vividly described in an article sent us by Mr. Andre Leralle, from which these notes have been extracted.

The National Assembly (1789) afterwards became the National Convention. This, which constituted the government of the First Republic, was formed on September 21st 1792. By 1794 the country was in the grip of terror, the government in the hands of extremists, seventy of the ninety departments in revolt and Toulon held on behalf of King Louis XVII by Anglo-Spanish navies and armies.

The raising of the siege of Toulon and the withdrawal of the British fleet (under Admiral Hood), due in some degree to the improved and efficient handling of the artillery by the young Napoleon Buonaparte, set the stage for subsequent events.

Admiral Hood on arriving at Corsica found Pascal Paoli (the great patriot), who had been appointed on his return from exile as a General in the National Guard, in command. Paoli ordered the surrender of a number of the larger towns to the troops of Generals Dundas and Stuart. Bastia and Calvi (H.M.S. "Agamemnon" took part in the blockade of this town) resisted, but as relief was improbable they eventually followed suit.

When British rule was established (June 1794) Sir Gilbert Elliot became Viceroy, to Paoli's great chagrin, and as a result of his obstructionist activities he was soon banished to England. With the administrative change British postal methods and hand-struck stamps of the type shown above came into force, and the cover described by M. E. Fregnac in his Corsican catalogue, addressed "Al Signor Ceccaldi Colouna, Maggiore (Major) del Quarto Battaglione (4th Bn.) Anglo-Corso, a Bastia", with hand-struck "CORTE" in black and 4d. (rate for fifty miles), is of exceptional interest.

Mr. Leralle has recorded "Bastia" in red, and as a large naval contingent, five British foot regiments and a dragon regiment formed the occupying force, the discovery of other covers and place names is possible.

On the withdrawal in 1796 the island of Elba was taken but not retained.

Contd. on Page 35

FRENCH AND RELATED PHILATELIC DUBIETIES

JAN KINDLER

One of the most curious of the several French dubieties is the strange set of stamps issued in 1887 for a misguided hero with ambitions to become a dictator who became a figure of derision in the eyes of all Paris.

THE BOULANGER ISSUE OF 1887



Georges Ernest Boulanger, Minister of War during the Third Republic, and an extreme Jingoist, found himself the focus of rightist popularity and attempted to use its enthusiasm to further his ends as a political adventurer. He became the leader of a national movement known as Boulangism and which foreshadowed modern fascism. Appealing to the French desire for revenge against Germany, he gathered all the elements hostile to the Third Republic. The adventure proved abortive and he was forced from his government post in 1887 and later deprived of his command as a French General. For a time his jingoism and hysterical mass appeal gave him immense popularity, then the Paris press turned on him, heaping him with ridicule. The government moved in and Paris laughed. Urged that the time was ripe for a military coup, Boulanger, hesitated. Then, learning of a threatened prosecution for endangering the security of the state, he lost his nerve and fled to Belgium. The bubble burst, the Boulangist plot caved in under the laughter and the apathy of the public.

The would-be dictator swiftly drifted into oblivion and three years later, in 1891, committed suicide in a forlorn little Belgian cemetery on the grave of his late mistress.

In 1887, while the hopes of the Boulangistes were running high, an issue of postage stamps bearing the effigy of the misguided general was prepared at a print shop in Frankfurt, Germany. Unfortunately, by the time the stamps were ready for delivery the conspiracy had been checked and the movement behind it had gone into decline.

The issue is sometimes spoken of as a series of essays, but in reality it is just another entry in a long list of politically inspired dubieties.

Had Boulanger come to power, it is more than possible that his personal postage stamps would have come into use, since he saw himself as the future dictator of France. Ordinarily, as philatelic history shows, such products as these are usually churned out as propaganda

labels and nothing more. However, in this case it may be said that a true postal product was at least attempted, for each stamp was given a value and they were imprinted with the phrase "Poste Francaise."

All the values, of which there are twelve, were of the same design as the illustration at the top of this page. All were printed on variously tinted papers. The frames were printed separately in twelve different colors, including gold, one to each stamp. The central vignette is printed in brown ink for all the values, although it appears to be of different shades due to the several papers on which it was apposed.

Copies have been reported to exist without the portrait, but these are merely a compounding of the original hanky-panky which brought them on the market in the first place.

NEWS OF INTERPEX

Many awards will be presented at the forthcoming International Stamp Exhibition, scheduled from March 30 to April 1st, 1962 at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in New York City.

First of all, a Grand Award will be given for the most outstanding exhibit by a government, as well as two special government awards — one for the most exceptional philatelic material on display and one for the most unusual presentation. Furthermore, Interpex will sponsor three Grand Awards for the most outstanding collections among all those on display, regardless of club affiliations: one for the best classical collection, one for the best modern collection and one for the best topical collection. In addition to the prizes which our own group will award to those members with the best exhibits, Interpex is also giving two special trophies — a First Award and a Special Award — to be given to each club's two most deserving members.

Interpex also announces a reception, combined with a luncheon, will be held at the United Nations in N.Y. for the delegates and members of the APS and other participating clubs. This reception is scheduled for Saturday, March 31, at 12:00 noon and will feature a talk by the UN Postal Administration, Mr. D. Thomas Clements. Those interested in attending please contact Ira Zweifach, 336 Central Park West, New York 25, N.Y.

REVIEW

French Colonies, The General Issues, by Robert G. Stone. Published by the Collectors Club, 22 E. 35th St., N.Y. 16, N.Y. as Handbook No. 11 of the Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publication Fund. 118 pages, 61 illustrations and 28 tables. Paper bound. Price — \$2.00.

This latest addition to the Steinway Memorial Fund publications is evidence that, regardless of price, the quality, preparation and dedication of both writers and editorial staff remains high. It is this reviewer's feeling that here is a handbook that should be hailed with gratitude by everyone seriously interested in French philately. Mr. Stone has produced a scholarly and eminently useful study on the fascinating general issues produced by France for use in her colonial empire during the years 1860–1892. Except for isolated articles buried in philatelic periodicals, there has been no serious work in English devoted to this important segment of French philately. Little, it might be added, is available in French.

Covering the Eagle issue of 1858–70, the issue of 1871, the 1872–76 issue, the Sage issue of 1876–80, the Dubois issue of 1881–91, the postage Due issues of 1884–1910 and the semi-postal issues of 1943–44. Mr. Stone's detailed and explicit handling of his material is thorough and accurate.

Until now, collectors specializing in these classic issues of the French colonies have had to work out their problems from the material at hand and through what information they could glean from an occasional article or from a fellow student. Through this fine handbook, information on production, paper, gum, colors and shades, varieties, essays, proofs, reprints, counterfeits, cancellations, quantities printed and tables of usage is available in one authoritative volume.

In addition to the coverage of those aspects of the general issues listed above, Mr. Stone has given special attention to the cancellations, shades, use on entires, etc. of the stamps of Martinique, St Pierre-Miquelon and particularly Guadeloupe, long a specialty of the author.

Collectors will find the discussion and illustrations of the cancellations used on the first three issues of especial value as they will find the table showing the relative scarcity of their use on the various denominations of each issue in each colony.

Other tables appearing throughout the book supply at a glance the printing, the Paris print date, denomination, and color of each stamp, color of paper used, type of impression, quantities printed, quantities sent to the colony and the relative scarcity of the various types of cancels.

Plate varieties are discussed at length, colors and shades are taken up, giving information on the use of shades as a means of identifying different printings.

Entires are taken up issue by issue. Information is supplied as to which covers are common and which are unusual, denomination by denomination and colony by colony.

Inks are gone into, papers studied, types identified and on and on. In its 118 papers this handbook contains more needed collector information than many a work three times its size. Further, the material is explained with clarity and accuracy is a keynote. Where there is disagreement or controversy among authorities, Mr. Stone makes note, so the reader may not be misled.

The illustrations are good and are helpful additions to the text. All in all this is a work that is thorough exhaustive and a must for anyone who has any interest in the general issues of the French colonies. Mr. Stone, in his preface, says that there is much that is yet to be learned, much that has not been solved. Perhaps that is so, but in the meanwhile we think it the best available.

We would further recommend this handbook to any student of French philately and to all philatelists as a model treatment of one specialized field. It is a worthwhile addition to any philatelic library and at a very, very reasonable price.

Ira Zweifach



TUNIS — The Perforated Due s

Prior to 1901, when the first regular postage dues of Tunis were issued, stamps of the regular issue, perforated T in large holes were in use.

This T perforation was obtained from special plates smaller than the sheets of stamps so that the sheets were folded beforehand, thus producing many inverted perforations, tete beche, etc.

This did not apply to the higher values, 75c to 5f which were not perforated in full sheets, but in small lots as needed.

These perforated Ts can be found in three distinct types:

Type I: 6 vertical holes and 2 on each side. Holes are about $1\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 mm in diameter. Used mostly in Tunis.

Type II: 5 vertical holes and 2 on each side. Holes are 2mm in diameter. Used mostly in the Bureau of the Interior.

Type III: The T is much smaller and made of 6 vertical holes a millimeter or less in diameter. This is the rarest of all three types and was used exclusively in Gafsa and La Goulette.

In addition, postmasters were instructed to cancel these postage dues with pen crosses diagonally from the corners. This pen cancellation to be at least 2mm wide. Not every postal employee followed these rules. Crosses vary in thickness and some postmasters secured rubber stamps of different types of crosses. After April 1, 1901 the ordinary postal cancellation was used, the crosses only in cases of reforwarded mail.

Raoul Lesgor

GROUP NEWS

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings

First, please permit me to extend to all of you and your families, a sincere wish for a Happy New Year...in Health, in Wealth AND PHILATELY!

Comments

We were pleased with the comments a number of you sent in regarding the continuation of this column in the "Philatelist". We were honored by comments from both new and old members. It was very nice to receive comments from all of them and particularly members number 22 Phillip Ham and number 1 Raoul Lesgor. It's nice to know that Raoul is recovering nicely from a serious operation!

Exhibits

In our last column we urged you to enter your exhibits in the Steven G. Rich Memorial Exhibit. It was a complete success and an excellent crowd attended the Exhibit and meeting. Why not plan now to enter the special France & Colonies Exhibit in the coming INTERPEX (which incidentally has had its date changed to March 30, 31 and April 1st at the Statler Hilton Hotel in New York City.)

Dues

The Board of Directors has voted to increase the dues of Resident (New York area members) Members from \$3.50 to \$4.50 a year and Regular Membership dues from \$2.50 to \$3.50 a year. The organization has held back as long as possible on voting this increase. I'm sure you understand that we do want to keep the quality of the, "Philatelist," at its present level and maintain all the advantages and services of the France & Colonies organization. The new dues will go into effect in the 1962 year. In comparison with other specialized stamp organizations dues and services, our publication, activities and services are both worth-while and reasonable.

Efficient Ladies

Nora Lock, who served most efficiently for the last two years as recording Secretary of our meetings in the Collectors Club in New York City reluctantly resigned because of the pressure of her regular responsibilities as a Technical Librarian. Needless to say, she resigned only the Secretary's post...not as a member. Beatrice Berner has been appointed to the office for the balance of the term and is doing an equally fine job.

Again, I wish all of you the very best in 1962.



Sincerely yours,
W. J. Connelly
President

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: Unusual cancellations on early France, Will buy or give 20th Century or some 19th Century in exchange. Glenn Karseboom, 119 Cutler St., Grand Rapids 7, Mich. (Member 397)

AM INTERESTED in obtaining material of the Merson type, its use in the colonies, shade varieties, overprints, etc. A.L. Lindgren, 194 Eggleston Ave., Elmhurst, Ill. (Member 779)

stamp

SECRETARY'S REPORT

To Jan. 1, 1962

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME:

- 834 Johnson, David A., 924 W. 24th St., Erie 4, Penna. (France)
- 835 Jamet, Maurice, 2 Rue Taitbout, Paris 9, France (Dealer)
- 836 Liveright, Frank I., 132 Second Ave., Westwood, N.J. (France)
- 837 Olson, Paul A., 356 West Avenue, Noroton Heights, Conn. (France)
- 838 Jasch, Herbert R., 502 Edgeknell Lane, Fort Wayne, Ind. (Printing methods, Postal history, etc.)
- 839 Travis, Mildred L., 207 South Date St., Apt. 2, Toppenish, Wash. (Togo, Guinea, African Cols.)
- 840 Potts, Robt. D., 3031 S.E. 138th Ave., Portland, Ore. (France proper, postal & Semi-postal, mint, pre-cancelled)

APPLICATIONS PENDING:

- 841 Buse, Raymond L. Jr., 2540 Handasyde Ave., Cincinnati 8, Ohio.
- 842 Gutenstein, Robert G., 83-33 Austin St., Kew Gardens 15, N.Y.
- 843 Chiswell, E. A., 55 Rosetree Road, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

DECEASED:

- 220 Stevens, D. B. Mrs., South Hadley, Mass.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 197 Gordon, Rober S. to P. O. Box 13292, Phoenix 2, Arizona.
- 688 Adams, Clifford H. to American Embassy (USIS) APO 271, New York, N.Y.
- 778 Burnand L. to 8007B Bowling St., Laughlin AFB, Del Rio, Texas
- 826 MacKay, F. W. to Fairfax Hotel, 2100 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Wash. 8, D.C.