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## ON THE TINTED BACKGROUNDS OF EARLY FRENCH STAMPS By Raoul Lesgor

These backgrounds, supposedly in harmony with the color of the stamps, not including the very deep colors applied to the stamps of the Sage design, offer more reasons for confusion than any other variations of the early issues<sup>1</sup>, and I may add, more erroneous statements than the most controversial cancellation or postmark.

To give an example: At a recent meeting of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society, a guest speaker stated in all seriousness that the 20 centimes blue, Empire imperforate, Scott's #15, on pink paper (not listed by Scott, for reasons unknown) resulted from a sheet of this stamp being accidently soaked in red wine (he did not specify what brand), and I think that he believed it.

Let us be serious. The 20 centime blue on pink is a reality, rare to be sure, but still occasionally seen.

It came into being when the printers, faced with a shortage of paper tinted light blue intended solely for the 20 centimes, used sheets of paper tinted light pink prepared for the 80 centimes rose, Scott's #20, but only for a very short time. Possibly also, it was done in error. It is a known fact that the 20 centimes blue ou pink, and the first printing of the 80 centimes rose, were issued at about the same time, towards the end of 1859. To the more curious, who like to experiment, I would advise that they soak their few duplicates of #15 in a glass of red wine, preferably imported, and admire the results. They will be convinced.

This same 20 centimes, on greenish, Scott's #16, in both types, owes its birth to similar circumstances, when sheets of paper tinted light green for the 5 centimes #13, were inadvertently, or otherwise, printed with the 20 centimes Page 2

blue. This happened in 1861, and the fact that the two types of the 20 centimes were thus affected, proves, among other things, that plates of both types were in use simultaneously, at the end of the issue. I have been told that these various colored papers, aside from the wine-soaked blue on pink, can be obtained by dipping the stamps in various colored liquids, but these would fool only the beginners.

Another stamp about which there may be some confusion is Scotts #24, the 5 centimes green perforate, of the 1862 issue, on blue tinted paper. The 5c non-laureated stamp was in use constantly from 1862 to 1872, since the Laureated issue had no 5 centimes. It comes in a great variety of shades, light, dark, yellow or sage green, and on tinted papers of many shades and several hues, including the pale blue. But the real #24 was printed more or less continuously from Dec. 18, 1871, on through March at least, if not to May 1872, on blued paper prepared for the 1 centime Laureated. The 5c paper had run out of stock but the 1c paper was on hand and was no longer needed be. cause the printings of the 1 centime stamp were about to end. Meanwhile the printing of the new 5c Ceres had begun about February or March 1872 using again the same 1c paper stock. Thus the early printings of the 5c (#53) Ceres are on the same paper as the last printings of the 5c non-Laureated. This case was no error such as may have happened in the earlier cases mentioned, for the letter of the Mint Controller stating it was done deliberately is published in Maury's book. Yet, in a recent article Joany states that the #24 was printed on paper prepared for the #53—probably an unintentional slip on his part. Bouvet, Fromaigeat, and Rochette in their studies of the 5c all confirm that it was the 1c paper used.

The 20c blue on lilac or violet tinted paper is not explained in such manner. This tint would be in harmony with a violet or blue-violet stamp, but such a stamp has not been issued. In fact no violet stamp exists among the early issues, if we exclude the pale lavender 5 francs #37. Possibly a 25c or 20c had been contemplated in violet so that there would be no conflict between the 20 and 25c, both blue. But the 25 centimes was retired and the problem solved itself. Possibly the paper tinted lilac was available and Mr. Hulot decided to use it. But this is mere speculation on my part. I may be completely "offbase."

There are some unexplained shade variations in the Sage issues as well, but I will give my opinion of these at a later date.

<sup>1</sup>The description and explanation of the tinted backgrounds is very brief and inadequate in most catalogs and treatises. The best discussions based on documentary sources are by Bouvet in L'Echo de Timbr., 15 April 1937, p. 407, and Dr. Fromaigeat in Bull. Phil. du Midi #241, Jy-Aug. 1962, p. 835. Your Editor also discusses the matter from the point of view of the effect of the tinting on the judging of the color of the stamp, in Coll. Club Phil. for Jan. 1958, pp. 14-18.—R. G. S.

# FRENCH COLONIES: THE ALLEGORICAL GROUP TYPE-SOME FURTHER NOTES

#### By Robert G. Stone

My article on this subject in the Amer. Philatelic Congress Book 1962, pp. 67-100, did not pretend to be exhaustive. I have meanwhile had opportunity to examine files of some leading French philatelic journals from 1892 on that were not available to me previously. Whereas no major contributions to the subject were discovered, some interesting further details came to light on certain aspects, in particular with regard to the color changes, remainders, and overprints, which we commit to the record in the following. Also included is new information on the Fournier forgeries kindly communicated by a reader.

The 1900 Color Changes-We noted that many of the color-changed denominations supposedly issued in 1900 were printed or supplied in very small quantities, without apparent reason. In the columns of his Le Collectioneur des Timbres Postes, Maury reported an extensive correspondence from his subscribers living in the colonies which indicated that as late as 1905 and 1906 many of these color changes still had not been supplied to the colonial postoffices. In St. Pierre-Miquelon for example, in 1905 the postoffice had not yet received any of the color changes, and when the postmaster had requested them from Paris (to please his collector customers) he was sent instead only the old issues (1892 colors). Evidently then, the Ministry would not supply the new colors until its stocks of the old ones were used up. This was all the more curious because in 1901 Paris overprinted the St. Pierre-Miguelon 10c red (new color) for parcel-post use and sent them out to the colony right away. It is definite from my own observations and the contemporary philatelic press that the 5c yellow green was not sold in SPM until late 1908 and the 10c red not until 1909. The conclusion drawn from the reports of Maury's correspondents is that the new 5, 10, and 15c colors were available in most colonies by 1903 or earlier. whereas in many colonies the 25 and 50c were not available until 1905 or later. New Caledonia and Indochina seem to have received all their color changes sooner (1901?) that the other colonies did. However, one can find some of the color changes cancelled in a colony before the dates of their first sale there; but these arc explained as copies purchased in Paris and sent to the colony for philatelic use. The question thus arises: why did the Ministry print all those stamps in 1900 when it had no intention to distribute them (or most of them) immediately to the colonies? One of Maury's correspondents expressed the view (as though it were a fact) which would plausibly account for it, namely that the stamps were prepared in 1900 to be ready for sale in conjunction with the Paris Exposition and to show the UPU that the colonies were complying with a UPU request to conform to the UPU recommended colors. And presumably they printed small quantities because of the large stocks of old colors on hand.

The 5 Franc.—The 5fr denomination was not really needed in any colony, except Guiana, according to a correspondent of Le Postilion (1920, p. 10-11). Why Guiana? Perhaps because of the many gold shipments from there. It was reported to Maury that the 5fr was required in Martinique for parcels post; indeed, 1000 of a 5fr overprint on the 60c postage-due stamp were issued locally in MQE in October 1903 for parcels post. Then, later in 1903 the 5fr Group Type was sent to MQE to take the place of this provisional overprint. But we note that already in August 1904, 10,000 (or 15,000?) of these 5fr stamps were overprinted "10c"! The requirement was thus certainly minuscule and the printing of the 5fr excessive if not totally unnecessary.

The Remainders.—A disturbing question revolved around the disposal of the remainders of the Group Types after they were superceded by administrative changes (in colony name) or by pictorial issues. In early 1903 the Ministry announced it would burn all the remainders of obsolete colonies then on hand in Paris, amounting to well over 2,000,000 fr face value. And in April reports alleged these had all been burned. But later in 1903, to the shock of the philatelic trade, it was discovered that a considerable part of these stocks were not burned after all but sold below face clandestinely by employees of the government to merchants who then flooded the market with bargain offers. The French stamp-dealers syndicate promptly and loudly complained to the Ministry, but never got a formal reply; nor was a public explanation ever made. Rumor had it, however, that as the burning was not properly supervised, somebody was able to withdraw unburned or incompletely burned packages from the incinerator.

In December 1912 the Ministry sent a Dépeche to all the colonial Governors instructing them to burn the stocks remaining of the Group Type (excepting those of India and Oceania, which had not yet been supplied with pictorial replacements). Probably some of the colonies no longer had any considerable stocks left, but it is said that Martinique (1913) and Guadeloupe (1914) at least, did burn stocks in compliance with this order.

The Overprints.—A lot more could be said about the overprints on the Group Type; the numerous details about settings and varieties of the 1898-1905 overprints locally made we leave to the catalogs. We noted in passing that there were abuses of some of these issues, mentioning especially the notorious ones of Guadeloupe and New Caledonia. However, some of the irregularities connected with other 1900-04 overprints border on the fantastic and are not so well known. The actions of the officials handling the Indochina overprints for offices in China caused a great public scandal in 1906. The type for certain of these overprints was not promptly destroyed but allowed to lie around in an office for a month or so; some employees in collusion with officials used this opportunity to run off 200,000 francs face more overprints than authorized in the decree, including unauthorized varieties. As these were all sold through the Hanoi postoffice windows and to its credit (but to favored customers and often cancelled to favor there instead of in China), neither the Ministry nor the courts meted any severe punishments for this.

Unauthorized overprints of Diego Suarez with a circular cachet reading Ste. Marie de Madagascar were privately made in 1894; in 1906 a dealer who pretended they were a genuine issue unsuccessfully sued an editor who published an expose of them.

The 1901 overprints of Reunion were largely bought up by a postal employee who also moonlighted at a local bank. When he found the bank using quantities of these overprints on its mail he managed to have all the bank's supply of them notched with scissors (they passed the mails thus) so they would not reduce the philatelic value of his own hoard! Covers with these notehed stamps now make an interesting item for the Reunion specialist.

We failed to mention that neither India nor Oceania had any of the 1912 overprints, as their Group Types had not yet been replaced by pictorials.

The 1912 overprints were highly touted by the dealers and the demand was so great that many orders could not be filled. Speculation was rife and prices quickly rose to many times face, only to fall again when the fever subsided. In Dahomey the demand by speculators was such that the Governor issued an order to the effect that these stamps would be sold only to frank correspondence presented at the postoffice windows, and the sender could chose only his combination of denominations, not of the various individual stamps of a given denomination.

It was said that about one-half of the 1912 overprinting went to the colonies and the other half sold in Paris.

Although all the (unoverprinted) 5c and 10c remainders of all colonies were allegedly destroyed in 1912, a note in Maury's magazine indicates that the 5c and 10c remainders of Grand Comore, Mayotte, Anjouan, and Moheli on hand in Paris were sent to Madagascar for postal use.

It is interesting to note that several colonies also overprinted some of the Group Type postal stationery with provisional values (see ACEP catalog).

There is a variety of the "5" in the second printing of the November 1912 overprints first reported by Chevassu (in L'Echo no. 1108). It consists of a prominently altered top bar of the 5 of the 5th stamp in the sheet of 150. The Whole Number 118 (Vol 21 No. 1)

appearance of the alteration varies. On the red overprints the bar is much thicker than normal,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{3}{4}$  mm instead of 1mm, the extension being of different weight than the normal part, and the top of the would-be normal part often shows a deep horizontal depression. This variety on red surcharges was found in the Ivory Coast 30c, Gd. Comore 4c, Guiana 4, 35, and 40c, Mayotte 15 and 25c. On the black surcharges (and a few red ones) the bar variety is different, being thinner by almost  $\frac{1}{2}$  of normal; the top of the bar is curved concave upward. This has been found on the Dahomey 25c, Madgascar 20c Gabon 2 and 4c, Moheli 4 and 20c, and St. Pierre-Miquelon 25c (red). Some stamps only show this alteration as it first began to develope during course of printing, that is a mere irregularity of the top of the bar, as can be seen on the Anjouan 20c, Guiana 20c, and Mayotte 2 and 20c. However, not all sheets of these particular stamps have the altered 5. The "0" next to the altered 5's shows a tendency to press deeper into the paper. On the 10c overprints of 1912 minor damage of the 10 is evident in position 6.

The Forgeries.—After reading our discussion of the Fournier forgeries of the Group Type, Paul B. Freeland kindly informed me that there is another type of Fournier forgery of the Groups which I was unaware of as it is not mentioned in Serrane, Earce, etc. Mr. Freeland had noted the existence (unpublished) of this forgery, although made by lithography and similar appearing to the other Fourniers, by its slightly different size. It occurs in some of the copies of the "Album des Facsimiles" but only in singles. A dealer has recently been offering them in blocks of 5x5 but without selvedge, so the size of the original sheets is not definitely known. These blocks have only one denomination in them, in contrast to the other Fournier Groups printed i.r composite sheets of 6x5. Hence my statement that multiples of a denomination would not be found among the Fournier forgeries is incorrect.

References:	
References:	

A. Maury, various notes in Le Collectioneur de Timbres-Poste:

> 1900: p. 339 1903: p. 46, 221 1904: pp. 48-50 1905: pp. 183, 249, 274, 398 1906: pp. 21-22, 182-183, 351, 388

1907: pp. 1-4, 33-35, 121 1912: p. 43 1914: p. 166 Le Postilion: 1902: p. 314 1905 (#179), pp. 255-256 1907: (#263), pp. 17-20 1912: p. 314

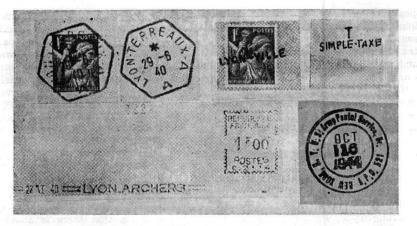
# THE POSTAL SERVICE IN LYON DURING THE FIRST GERMAN OCCUPATION, JUNE-JULY, 1940

#### By M. Charvet

By order of the Ministry of Posts, large reserve stocks of stamps had been set up in several cities, of which Lyon was one, in case of war, with instructions to send all these reserves to the centrally-located city of Limoges in case of invasion.

The German armies were advancing very fast. During the night of 17-18 June 1940 all the postmasters in the Lyon region were instructed to forward all their stamps, monies, bonds, cancelling devices and such, to the Recette Principale of Lyon, where they were loaded onto five trucks and, under the supervision of Mr. Charvet (the author), sent to Montpellier. Three more trucks left Lyon during the day for the same destination.

Lyon being declared an open city, all the civil-service employees were ordered to remain and insure a regular service, but with the much reduced material at their disposal. Upon request by telephone three date stamps of the Lyon-R.P. were returned to Lyon by a private auto and used in this bureau



(office) after the 20th of June. The Germans entered Lyon the same day.

Several more cachets were discovered that in the confusion of the preceding days had been hidden, or in some other way, had failed to be included in the shipment to Montpellier. Among these were the postmarks of all the auxiliary bureaux, which can be recognized by their hexagonal shape. Thus, eight of these auxiliary cachets were reassigned as follows:

LYON-TERREAUX A to LYON-BROTTEAUX LYON TERREAUX B to LYON MOUCHE LYON TERREAUX C to LYON ST JEAN Set LYON TERREAUX D to LYON MONTPLAISER LYON TERREAUX E to LYON PREFECTURE LYON TERREAUX F to LYON ST JUST LYON TERREAUX G to LYON VILLETTE LYON R.P. D to LYON PERRACHE LYON R.P. G to LYON LAFAYETTE LYON VILLETE PBA to LYON MONCHAT

Served from June 20 to 30 Served from June 21 to 30 Served from June 21 to 30 Served from June 21 to 30

Other mutations took place, and thus are recorded the following: LYON MONTPLAISIR served as LYON-VENISSIEUX from June 22 to 30. MEYS served as LYON CALUIRE for the same period. ST FOY LES LYON A for ST FOY LES LYON from June 19 to July 1. AIGUEPERSE probably served (?) at ST RAMBERT L'ILE BARBE.

The other bureaux had retained or recovered their cachets and used them during the period.

By order of the German military authorities, the trucks sent to Montpellic: were returned to Lyon on the 30th of June, and normal functioning was restored in all bureaux by the 1st to 3rd of July. However, before the return of the trucks there was a shortage of postage stamps, although the need for them was not very heavy. A small stock of stamps was gathered and distributed.

Two franking machines were borrowed from private firms, and put in service as follows: one at the sorting office of the bureau LYON-GARE (see illustration) reading "Lyon-Archers No B2114". The other was used at the oureau Lyon-Brotteaux, and carries the inscription "Lyon-Brotteaux No C 0406". Both of these machines were used from the 22nd of June to the 10th of July 1940, but in view of the relatively small amount of mails circulated, they are quite rare, and extremely interesting.

As likely in abnormal times, this troubled period saw a number of "cachets de fortune" (emergency cancellations). Pen or pencil marks, the old "P.P.", rubber stamps borrowed from private users, and all sorts of other markings, all interesting if denoting the proper date of use, and all scarce. The Lyon-R.P. utilized a roller displaying the name of the bureau, which had served previously on registry labels.

The stock of postage-due stamps in turn was very limited. A small quantity was gathered from various sources and served until the 27th of June. For lack of the proper cancelling device, an old straightline rubber stamp, formed of the words LYON-VILLE in block letters, served for cancelling them.

From the 28th of June to the 30th incl., after the stock of postage dues had become exhausted, ordinary postage stamps were transformed into dues stamps with the same rubber stamp, which can then be considered as a surcharge. A total of 550 stamps of the Mercury, Iris and Ceres designs, demominations 30c, 50c, 1fr and 2fr were thus transformed and served concurrently with the regular dues returned from Montpellier.

In case of letters forwarded without stamps although postage had been paid on them (in cash), they were struck with a rubber stamp which consisted of a "T" and the words SIMPLE TAXE (see figure).

Letters without postage dues but still to be taxed, were so annotated in blue pencil with the amount to be collected.

During the second German occupation of Lyon in 1944, nothing of philatelic interest happened because the Germans allowed the normal functioning of the postal service. But the American troops, after the German retreat, installed a postoffice for their own use. This postoffice operated from October 16th 1944 to February 15th 1946. The cancellation (see figure) consisted of the regular double-ring cachet inscribed "U. S. Army Postal Service A.P.O. 521 NEW YORK, N. Y."

Comment:—After reading this article, which Mon. Charvet kindly gave me permission to submit to FCP, I realize that few of the above described items can be available. No doubt only philatelists on the scene at the time could have had a chance to secure some, in many cases of course, self-addressed. Also, they could interest only collectors who make a special study of the War years or of the Lyon region. Possibly other just-as-interesting events took place in other locales. But if this interests only a few collectors it has not been written in vain.—R. Lesgor.

# F. & C. P. S. OFFICIAL

#### THE NEW OFFICERS

The officers elected for 1964/65 are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Charles Bretagne VICE-PRESIDENT: Ira Zweifach TREASURER: Beatrice Berner RECORDING SECRETARY: Walter Parshall CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Gilbert R. Loisel DIRECTORS: William Connelly, Cecil Sullivan, Eric Spiegel



**Charles Bretagne** 

The newly appointed officers are: ening patience. LEGAL ADVISOR: Frederick Joseph EDITOR: Robert G. Stone

#### THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Fellow Members — As your new President I would like to bring you up to date on a major change you are in part aware of as you read this issue of the Philatelist in its new format.

The Philatelist has been quite irregular in the past 18 months due to many problems which we believe are now behind us. We greatly regret that pressure of his professional writing committments prevents Ira Zweifach, our able past Editor, from continuing his work on the Philatelist.

It is with great pleasure that I with my fellow officers present to you Robert G. Stone, well known as a prominent collector and writer on France and Colonies philately, who will assume the Editorship of the Philatelist; and this issue is the first one to reflect his work.

I wish to remind our members at large that the labor involved in running the affairs of your Society is constantly rendered without compensation except for the love of Philately and your appreciation. Therefore I know you will join me in thanking all the past officers, and the new officers who have graciously agreed to serve the coming term with me.

Also my appreciation goes to all the members who without hesitation paid their dues without a murmur during these difficult past months; you deserve recognition for your high faith and loyalty in bearing with the officers and supporting the Society. I am sure that in the end you will be well rewarded by the Philatelist. Again my personal thanks joined with those of my fellow officers for your heart-

Sincerely, Charles Bretagne, President.

### EDITORIAL NOTE

With this Number the France and Colonies Philatelist appears in its new letterpress format, which we hope will prove acceptable to our readers. Initially we plan four issues per year, but as contributions and funds permit we may go to six or more per annum. It is intended to continue the publication of contributed articles of original research, general review, or commentary, provided they are not too long nor too highly technically specialized, nor requiring very fine halftones. (As heretofore the scope of subject matter is limited to France and Colonies; other French speaking countries are not included.) In addition, some regular "departments" are contemplated, at least as an experiment: the listing of substantial articles on France and Colonies in other current magazines, new books, announcements and notices of events of interest. Some books will be reviewed. New issues will not be systematically covered, as other philatelic organs with more frequent issue and space, describe them adequately. If there is enough lead time we may announce plans for some of the future stamp issues.

Comments from the members and readers as to what they find most useful or interesting in FCP will be welcomed. And of course, contributions-articles, news, queries, new discoveries-must be forthcoming else we will not have a magazine. So. friends, "get with it" and let us hear from you. (Please submit ALL contributions in double-spaced typing on one side of the paper only.)-R. G. S.

### NEW MEMBERS

#### (As of July 27, 1964, Secretary's Report)

903

Springthorpe, Arthur A., R. R. 1, Wheatley, Ont., Canada (France 19th Canc.)

- 904 Aldrich, David A., 215 So. Evergreen, Arlington Heights, Ill. (France & Andorra)
- 905 Field, James W., 245 E. 35th St., New York 16, N. Y. (France & Col.)
- 906 Novitski, R. K., 38 M.M.S., Box 16, APO 130, New York, N. Y. (Fr. Col.)
- 907 O'Brien, John F., 6213 Camess Way, North Highlands, Calif. (General)
- 908 Koebke, Ernest L., 40-50 Denman St., Elmhurst 73, N. Y. (F & C)
- 909 Hein, Richard F., 36 El Paso Place, Salinas, Calif. (Telstar)
- 910 Emerson, Claude, 3496 Sandy Beach Rd., Grand Island, N. Y. (Fr. Equat. Af., Congo, Middle Congo, Gabon, Chad)
- 911 Mulvanity, Ed. D., Rural Route #4, Winchester, Va. (France proper)
- 912 Cajuste, Renee, 656 Sutter Ave., Brooklyn 7, N. Y. (France used)
- 913 Arsenault, H. P., P. O. Box 100, South Walpole, Mass. (Laos, Cambodia, Viet-Nam)
- 914 Salomon, Wm. N., 106 West 47th St., New York 36, N. Y. (Dealer)
- 915 Luft, Stanley J., 3600 Astoria Court, Kensington, Maryland (19th Cent. on & off cover, Cancels on classics, forgeries, locals, errors, varieties)
- 916 Friedman, Harold H., 141 Jackson St., Newton Center, Mass. (Gen. For'n)
- 917 Martin, Charles, 18 Padanaram Rd., Danbury, Conn.
- 918 Shelley, John G., Jr., Geiger Bros., Mount Hope Ave., Lewiston, Maine (Stampless covers, postmarks, post. hist.)
- 919 Mello, C. E., 541 Fremont Drive, Pasadena, Calif. (Gabon, Middle Congo, Fr. Congo, Fr. Equat. Af.)
- 920 Marabella, Capt. Nunzio, 2135 Huffman Dr., Columbia, So. Carolina (France & Col.—everything)
- 921 Graham, Jack B., Lorane Route, Box 280, Cottage Grove, Oregon (French Polynesia)
- 922 Hopps, Ed. C., 2246 Medill St., Chicago 47, Ill. (Fr. Col., occup., military, offices abroad, stampless)
- 923 Lance, Jack, Hq. 26 Air Div., Box 581, Stewart AFB, New York 12554
- 924 Bennett, Richard D., 17 Academy St., Newark 2, New Jersey.
- 925 Rosenstein, Sharon, 99 Windsor Rd., Asheville, North Carolina
- 926 Rider, John, 1182 Broadway, New York 1, New York
- 927 Bogg, Wm. G., 45 Bromfield St., Boston 8, Mass. (Dealer)
- 928 Hirsch, Marcel S., 900 Palmer Rd., Bronxville, New York
- 929 Woodford, Glen A., 12 Tyler Court, Manlius, N. Y. 13104
- 230 Wejrowski, Edw. R., B-23, 4221 So. 6th St., Milwaukee, Wisc. 53221
- 931 Willetts, John V., 629 Third Ave., San Diego 3, California
- 932 Wood, Kenneth A., 7473 Rosewood Ave., South Burnary, B. C., Canada
- 933 Wie, Ho Sie, 18-20 Djalan Imam Baondjol, Surabaja, Indonesia
- 934 Scoffield, A. W., 765 Arcadia Ave., Lachine, P. Q., Canada
- 935 King, Wm. M., R. R. 1, South Charleston, Ohio 45368
- 936 Simon Wm. R., 10609 Hayes Ave., Silver Springs, Md.
- 937 Siegel, Robert, 100 West 42nd St., New York 36, N. Y. (Dealer)

### THE BURRUS FRENCH COLONIES AUCTION SALES

Many collectors have heard of the great collection of the whole world assembled by the late Maurice Burrus of Switzerland. It has been reputed as the successor to the famous Ferrari collection and in the class with the Hind, Caspary, and Lichtenstein collections. After being tied up for several years in the litigation and robbery following on the Shanahan fiasco in Dublin, parts of the collection finally began to appear in auctions in Europe and U. S. in late 1962, and sections are still to come, though some have apparently been sold privately. There have been three sales of the French Colonies (probably not all of it) the catalogs for which I have seen, so that some judgement on the scope and quality of the collection of F. C. can be given. The first sale held by Willy Balasse in Brussels had 178 lots colonies and French offices abroad, and a little Algeria. Only Anjouan, Benin, Cameroun, Dahomey, Diego Suarez and Tahiti were included. Although these collections were fairly complete in major varieties, there were no proofs and few covers, the exceptional pieces being in multiples and minor varieties of certain of the early overprinted stamps. A few outstanding or unique pieces are noted but in general these Burrus were rot quite up to the Ferrari, Hind, and Dwight collections. A copy of Cameroun #42A (Yv) brought 7,500 fr, almost double catalog, and a Tahiti #14 (Yv) brought far over cat., otherwise most prices obtained were well below catalog. The only real gems of this sale were the full mint sheets of Diego Suarez lithographs Yv mos. 6 to 9.

The next sale of Burrus F. C. was of the General Issues, sold by Roumet in Paris last November. This was not a very large nor specialized collection (274 lots) compared to others sold in recent years or still intact, but the mint stamps were very strong in blocks of 4 or pairs, and the covers included some nice and very desirable items. The tete-beches of the 10c and 20c of 1871 were exceptional, the mint 10c tete-beche being the probably unique piece that was in the Ferrari collection—it brought 17,055 fr. Other outstanding items were a mint pair of the 2c Ceres, a block of 14 used 25c Ceres (canc. New Caleconia), a block and a strip of 5 and a pane of 25 of the 25c black-on-red Sage. Prices fetched by the g.i. were consistently high, some fantastically so. A 2c Ceres and a pair of 4c Ceres on covers brought over \$600 each, which is not as exceptional as some prices got by less spectacular items with more specialist appeal due to rare cancellations.

The third Burrus F. C. sale was held in London last February by Robson Lowe, but the catalog was a jointly written and published affair of J. Robineau of Paris and R. Lowe, each lot being described and priced first in English then in French; the first 936 lots were from Burrus and the last 111 from a South African collector. Only about 10 colonies are covered in the Burrus plus some Offices Abroad, and not all of these countries are complete. Again the strength is in the earlier issues and overprints with a lot of blocks and multiples, some minor varieties and covers. In minor varieties and "errors" the collections were representative and in very fine condition but not complete nor specialized. Most of the outstanding pieces were mint panes or sheets of early overprints, and covers. We note particularly: panes of Indochine 1889, Zanzibar 1894, Guadeloupe 1903 dues (a unique sheet), Madagascar 1891 typeset, Martinique 1888 and 1904, Obock 1893-4, Reunion 1891; covers of Madagascar 1896 large surcharges, Obock triangles, Reunion #1 and 2. The catalog was disconcerting because the French and English descriptions did not agree and often one or the other was erroneous. The catalog valuations were rather inflated even for the present good market, and we understand that many very high prices were obtained. This sale had more to intrigue a specialist than the previous two. However, the small Kaplan collection in the same catalog shows the still more interesting results obtained by a collector of greater knowledge and selectivity .--- R. G. S.

### PHILATEC CAME AND WENT

We didn't go to Philatec. But the publicity, the stamps, the accounts in the press and reactions of some attendees we know, are now at hand, so we can sum up a bit, from a distance once removed. Of course, Philatec was an international show, not just a France and Colonies affair. Yet France being the host, French philately naturally was heavily exposed.

France had not had an International for some time (1949) and its philatelic community was, as any good host, anxious to show its best, do it a little different and a little better, if possible. The planning was evidently very well done; the merchants, philatelic societies, and the government worked hard together in excellent harmony. The contribution of the government was greater than usual in international shows in western countries; the PTT indeed went "all-out" and undoubtedly can take a good deal of credit for the triumph. All accounts grant that Philatec was a magnificent show and in several ways probably topped all previous Internationals. The physical arrangements, space, decor, etc., could hardly be faulted; the quality and representativeness of the exhibits was outstanding even for an International. A catalogue of 272 pages served better than usual as a guide to the manifold and complex affair. "Technique" was the special theme (hence "Philatec"), and accordingly the educational exhibits and activities were a big cut above those in previous shows; likewise the exhibits of various countries and firms showing how their stamps are made, etc.-the PTT outdid itself in this regard. Even the weather was good. But alas, nothing is perfect in this world and Philatec was not without some critics-especially of the souvenir sheet, of which more anon.

The exhibits showed much emphasis along lines which have been poorly if at all represented heretofore: namely, participation of juveniles, thematic collections, booklets, artists and engravers, philatelic press, and philatelic expertization.

As for the exhibits of France and Colonies stamps, the Grand Prix National went to Roget Loeuillet for his France nos. 1-60. The extraordinary and famous collection of France of Joseph Schatzkes obtained the Grand Prix a'Honneur awarded by the President of France and the Grand Prix Philatec. The Court of Honor also contained the rare British proofs and essays belonging to Queen Elizabeth II, the Sardinia and France used in Monaco of Prince Reinier, Cardinal Spellman's collection, the extraordinary France and Colonies of Leon Dubus, the beautiful Colonies general issues of P.-L. Pannetier, and the "terrific" French carnets of Mon. Tessier.

Now, about those special stamp issues for Philatec: There was first the Philatec propaganda stamp of Decaris 0.25 face issued Dec. 14, 1963, and special illustrated machine cancels to go with it. Booklets of 20 with Philatec pubs also were sold. This stamp most of us have or have seen. The idea of issuing far in advance a stamp to advertise an international stamp show seems to be an innovation. Then on 9 May 1964 (some weeks before the opening) another propaganda item was issued, this consisting of a compound sheet in which each horizontal row in the pane had 4 different designs (and two different face values) with the Philatec emblem on a gutter label in the middle of the row. It was sold only in strips of 4 se-tenant (with label) at 1.10fr face (no surtax, and cheap enough). The December stamp did not seem to us one of the better French stamp designs, but this strip of 4 is a real pretty piece with its stamp-within-a-stamp designs of the Blanc and Merson types on the two inner cliches. Finally, for the opening on June 5, a 1fr stamp design was printed in the current "space series." It was printed only in souvenir sheets of 8, size 11¼ by 5¾ inches, consisting of two blocks of four separated vertically by a block of four labels bearing the Philatec emblem and pairs of these same labels at top and bottom of the sheet. In the sheet margins an inscription runs completely around the four sides. These sheets were sold only at face value (8fr) plus the price of 8 admissions to the show, totalling about \$6 U.S. At Philatec a single of this stamp was sold cancelled on a cover, as part of each ticket of admission, and the stamp-with-ticket was also sold as a package by advance subscription from March 2 on at certain postoffices all over France. The admission surtax was of course credited to the Philatec sponsors Page 12

to help defray their expenses. There were some complaints about the high cost of this admission package, and especially the sheet, to which the **PTT re**plied that actually the admission cost to Philatec was less than to other recent international shows.

Obviously, this sheet should be collected entire. But unfortunately it is too large to fit in most American and British albums. The stamp is not in our opinion as attractive as it might have been for such a purpose.

Next question: how good is or will this odd-ball sheet be? That depends on how many are sold and how many of these remain intact. Our ever-loving faithful correspondent, R. Lesgor, noted when his second batch of the sheets arrived, that the serial numbers in the coin datee were all in the 80,000's. Now, when 99,999 comes around the machine reverts to 00,000 and starts over again, so one does not know if the reported 80,000 is from the first or a later cycle. But anyway, it seems there must have been a fair number of sheets printed and at their price they ought not to be rare, for awhile at least. Probably only 10-15,000 sheets were sold direct to collectors, the larger part going to dealers. We just hope there was or is no hanky-panky so some favored dealers didn't pay the full admission surtax—the probity of the PTT is pretty good these days and we do not know of any reason to doubt it. But you might hear some "rumors"—there are always a lot of suspicious philatelists who like to imagine the worst (not always without good cause).

During Philatec the PTT had on display a printing machine making carnets of the 0.25 Coq de Decaris. Each day of the week they printed the covers in a different color, so we have a series of 7 special booklets for Philatec. These were sold only at the philatelic windows at Philatec, Paris RP, Paris 41, Bordeaux RP, and Marseille rue de Rome. The colors were: Friday—rose carmine, Saturday—ultramarine, Sunday—green, Monday—yellow-brown, Tuesday—light red, Wednesday—black, and Thursday—violet. The back cover reproduces an engraving of an old fashioned printery.

Special large circular fancy cancellations were used at Philatec postoffice, showing a mail courrier on horseback in the center.

Thus Philatec has left us probably more philatelic souvenirs than any other international show.—R. G. S.

# NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, AND CATALOGS

(Listing will be made of items pertinent to France and Colonies sent in by publishers for review or note, as well as other items of probable FCPS interest which come to our attention. Listing does not necessarily imply official endorsement by the Society or its officers. Any comments appended will be purely the Editor's opinion or quotes of other's opinions.)

- "Madagascar, 1889-1902." By H. Kricheldorf and P.-L. Pannetier, in: "Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde," Reihe A, Lieferung S, pp. 121-175. Frankfurt/Main, 1961. Sold by F. Billig, N. Y. \$1.50. (Very thorough and authoritative work.—R. G. S.)
- "Les Constances du 20c Napoleon Non-Lauro Non-dentele Type I." By Dr. Fromaigeat. Etude Nr. 48, Le Monde de Philatelistes, Paris 1962. 5 fr.
- "Les Obliterations Temporaires Mecaniques Francaises." Tome I. By P. Bremard. Etude Nr. 49, Le Monde des Philatelistes, Paris 1962. 6fr. Tome II, Etude Nr. 61, Le Monde, Paris, 1964. 6fr. (More vols. to come yet.)
- 'Timbres et Types." Vol. III, Carnets. Vol. IV, Coins Datees. The Author, P. de Lizeray, 14 Rue de Poitiers, Paris. 1962. 5fr and 6fr. resp.

- "Nomenclature des Timbres-Poste de France." By Dr. R. Joany: Vol. IV, "Timbres Poste d'Usage Courant 1900-31," Montpellier, 1962. Vol. V, "T.P. 1929-41," 1964. Vol. XI, "Les Preos," 1963. Vol. XIII, "Timbres Fiscauxpostaux," 1964. 7fr, 5.50fr, 6fr, and 5fr. resp. (For sale by P. de Iizeray, 14 Rue de Poitiers, Paris 7.)
- 'Histoire Postale du Territoire du Belfort; Suite d'un Catalogue des Marques Postales et Obliterations." By R. de Fontaines. 264 pp. 1963. The author.
- "Les Timbres Poste au Type Sage." By Dr. R. Joany. Tome I and II. Etudes Nrs. 47 and 54, Le Monde des Philatelistes, Paris 1963. 40pp and 84pp. 6fr each. (The definitive work based on many new discoveries.)
- "Les Cartes Officielles de Franchise Militaire Emises en France au Cours de la Guerre 1914-18." By M. Lefevre. Etude Nr. 51, Le Monde des Philatelistes Paris 1963. 2 fr.
- "Les Timbres de Colis Postaux de France." By G. Chapier. Etude Nr. 52, Le Monde des Philatelistes, Paris, 1963. 3.50fr.
- "Timbres de France," Vol. VII. By P. de Lizeray, J. Blanc, and Col. Lebland. Montpellier, 1963. 108pp. (Reprints of articles in BPM.) For sale by P. de Lizeray. 8fr.
- "Oblitérations des Bureaux Temporaires France, Pays d'Expression Francaise, Andorre, Monaco, 1962, et Cotisation des Obliterations Temporaires Francaises 1941-1962." Etude Nr. 50 Le Monde des Philatelistes, Paris 1963, 5.50fr. Same title, but for year 1963, Etude Nr. 63, 4fr.
- "Catalogue des Marques Postales des Bureaux de Distribution de France "Cursives" 1819-1854." By J. Pothion, J. de Micoulsky, and J. Legendre. 44 pp. 1963, La Poste aux Lettres, 17 Faubourg Montmartre, Paris 9.
- "Nomenclature des Bureaux de Poste Francaise 1852-76 (Petits et Gros Chiffres Cotés)." By J. de Micoulsky and J. Pothion. La Poste aux Lettres, 17 Faub. Montmartre, Paris 9, 18.85fr. (1963?)
- "Histoire de la Poste aux Lettres a Strasbourg." By H. Crachot. 300 pp. 1963, Impr. et Ed. Savernoises, Saverne, 1963. 36fr.
- "Contribution a L'étude du 10c Empire Lauré." By J. Nitard. 1963. Nitard et Fils, 29 Rue St. Ferreal, Marsaille. 4fr. (Important study.)
- "Les Timbres Francais de 1963: Notices Officielles des P.T.T.; Les 41 Timbres de 1963 par leur Auteurs." By R. Duxin. Etude Nr. 60, Le Monde des Philatelistes, Paris 1964. 4fr. (Reprint of the official notices on the French stamps of 1963.)
- "Les Principales Oblitérations Francaises a Travers l'Histoire Postale de Courbevoie." By B. Bourgeois. 1964, 21pp. The author.
- "Quelques Considerations d'Histoire Postale sur les Timbres Pour Colis Postaux de la Cote d'Ivoire." By H. Tristant. Etude Nr. 64, Le Mondes des Philatelistes. Paris, 1964. 12 pp. 3fr.
- "Catalogue Etoiles avec Chiffres de Paris, Sept. 1863-Mars 1876." By A. Rochette. 124pp, 500 figs. 1964. 27 fr. The author, 8 Rue du Puits-del'Ermite, Paris 5.
- "Timbres de France: Les Bleues de France et Autres Varietés de 1849 a 1963." By A. Suarnet and H. Lorne. 1964, 235 pp. 22 fr. Ed L. et T. P., BP 6, Provins (S. et M.). (New edition of an old and well-known book; convenient compilation but not always reliable.)
- "Le 20c No. 22 Panneau C." By J. Guyot. Paris 1964. 28pp. 5.65fr. Club des Specialistes de France, 62 Rue Sedaine, Paris 11.
- "L'Oblitération Francaise." By J. Pothion. 70pp. 1963. 15fr. The author, 17 Rue Faubourg Montmartre, Paris 9. (An excellent beginners guide to collecting French cancellations.)
- "La Poste Maritime, Tome I, Les Entrées Maritimes et Les Bateaux a Vapeur." By R. Salles, Paris 1961, 190pp. 35fr.; "Tome II, Les Paquebots de la Mei-

iterranée de 1837 a 1939," Paris 1962, 318 pp. 45fr.; "Tome II, Les Paquebots de l'Atlantique Sud, Bresil-Plata, Cote Occidentale d'Afrique." Paris, 1964. 221 pp. 45fr. The author, 74 Rue de la Tour, Paris, 16. "Addenda" to Vols. I and II, issued 1963, 1964, gratis. (Monumental work; 3 more vols. to come.)

"Le 25 Centimes Céres de 1871 au Type II." By P. Germain. Vol. I, 230 pp. Vol. II, 138 pp. 700 figs. Paris 1963, E. H. de Beaufond (by advance subscription only.) (Very detailed study, gives platings, all varieties.)

"Franzosischen Oceanie, 1927-1962." By Dr. R. H. Houwink. In: "Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde," Reihe A, Lieferung 7, 1962. Frankfurt/Main, DM 6. (Authoritative treatment by the editor of the French Polynesia Newsletter; available from F. Billig, N. Y., or from K. Bald, 8781 Wernfeld uber Gemunden/Main, Germany.)

# FOR THE RECORD

(This Department is devoted to short notices on recent discoveries of varieties, unusual or little-known items, submitted by correspondents or culled from the recent magazines.)

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1.) In L'Echo #1324, April '64, p. 291, is illustrated a first-day local (philatelic) cover of Corsica dated 6 Dec. 1943 with Algerian stamps cancelled at Ajaccio. L. Lefaux says he has several like them. Corsica was liberated on 4 Oct. 1943 and the philatelic club of Essitac requested authorization to organize this souvenier of "Premiere Journée du Timbre Algérien en Corse" using stamps brought in by the troops.

2.) In Bull. Phil. du Midi, #256, Dec. '63, p. 1165, P. de Lizeray reports a find of a strip of 4 of 25c Coq de Decaris from a vending machine at Vannes, 23 July 1963, by M. Respaud. De Lizeray had announced the planned sale of such stamps in machines in BPM #252 but had not seen any before. He comments on this in detail in BPM #258, p. 1187.

3.) P. Morel d'Arleux in BPM #258, p. 1193, indicates discovery of a green surcharge of the AFFRANCHISSEMENTS POSTES on the 5c Type Blanc. He found 7 or 8 copies in a large lot of these surcharges, some more green than others. The date of printing is not known.

4.) Your editor has discovered an unreported type of postmark for Guadeloupe, not shown in Langlois and Bourselet, nor in Wall's articles, used on commercial mail from Pointe-a-Pitre to an import firm in New York over a period of years. The mark is similar to Type I of Langlois and Bourselet, but the inner circle is solid and consists of a doublet of two concentric circles close together. Diameter of outer circle is 25mm. It was used apparently around 1902 to 1909. Most surprising!

5.) Jan Kindler's articles in FCP 1962-63 on French and Related Dubieties remind us of a little-known example of gallimaufry on board the French mail packet OXUS during late 1905. It is mentioned in the book "La Poste Maritime" by Bourselet et al, p. 98-9; but a more enlightening note appeared in Le Collectioneur de Timbres-Poste for 1906, p. 19-20. The postal agent on board the OXUS (on the Port-Said to Madagascar run, at that time) pretended there was a shortage of 10c French stamps on board and took 15c stamps and bisected them; after sticking them up on passenger's mail he would cancel them with a long two-line cachet in violet reading: "Affranchissement special / faute de timbres a 10 cent.", then postmark them with the ligne mark of Ligne V. They are seen only on picture postcards, cancelled during November 1905. The example I have (probably untypical) has two bisects se-tenant to a gutter between them. About 2,000 pieces were mailed. The Administration denounced them as unauthorized and chastised the agent. The agent apparently made some money on the deal as he collected 10c for 7½c of stamps. During October 1905 the agent had used merely a cachet reading "Port payé / paquebot poste OXUS", which was more legal but less interesting.—R. G. S.

6.) In Feuilles Marcophiles no. 158, pp. 18, 51, M. Veron reports discovery of an entire letter of 1807 bearing the straightline postmark "ARGEL" of the Spanish postoffice at Algiers; the only previously known mark of this office was cited by de Beaufond and dated 1841.

7.) M. de Fontaines illustrates in Bull. Soc. des Amis du Musée Postale, no. 3, 1963, a crash cover salvaged from an airplane on the regular Paris-Guadeloupe flight which was wrecked near Basse-Terre in 1962.

8.) It seems not to have been noticed until 1960 that the heliogravure issue, Riziere Type, of Indochina 1931, shows two or three distinct types on the 20c, 21c, 22c, and 25c, differing in thickness and size of the numerals, general impression, and shades. They were found and described by Count de Pomyers, Bull. Phil. du Midi, no. 223, Dec. 1960, pp. 468-9.

9.) Postal forgeries of the 10c and 40c Petain type of Indochina 1943-44 were reported in 1946 (L'Echo, 30 Sept. '46, p. 356) but the full story on them will be found in Bull. Phil. du Midi for Nov. 1946, p. 3-4. About a thousand stamps were made and the majority went out on mail from Hanoi during 1943-44. The forger was soon caught and some of his stamps destroyed in 1944. The PTT then issued the 40c in a somewhat different color. The counterfeits were printed from two cliches each slightly different.

10.) In case any of our readers are curious why the Mauretania 1.50 fr red-brown of 1939-46 issue (No. 112A of French catalogues, not listed by Scott for a long time) is priced so high and has been rising rapidly, see Bull. Phil. du Midi, #75, Dec. 1947, p. 5. This was a reprint which the Administration forgot to announce, and was almost gone before anyone noticed. Only about 4000-5000 were sold, mainly in March 1947.

11.) The Dahomey strike stamp (timbre de greve) of 1937 is extremely rare. A railroad strike in French West Africa did not affect the mandated territory of Togo where traffic continued normally. The Chamber of Commerce of Cotonou planned to transfer to Lomé the accumulating perishable packages charging a surtax of 10fr to be collected by means of a stamp. The PTT had the project stopped before it really got going. A very few stamps fell into the hands of some collectors. They represent the head of a native in red with a legend 'Ch. de Commerce — Cotonou — 10 Francs''. (See G. Chapier "Les Timbres de Fantasie," or BPM #201.)

12.) During much of Feb.-April 1911 there was great shortage or lack of lower denomination (1 to 25c) stamps in Ivory Coast postoffices, and for a time senders had to either frank with higher denominations than needed or not put any stamps on and let the receiver pay a double postage due. The PTT imported some Senegal 5c stamps and the Governor authorized the p. o. at Aboisso to use them for several weeks. However, many other p. o.'s also used them without being authorized. At least the PTT resisted making overprints. This usage is not mentioned in Yvert specialized nor in Tristant's treatise. (See Coll. de T. P., 1911, p. 179; 1912, p. 23.)

13.) The overprints made on Senegal and Mauretania stamps in 1943-44, though catalogued under those colonies, were actually the first stamps for general use throughout French West Africa (A. O. F.); the overprinting was done locally at Rufisque, Senegal. There were two postal forgeries, made by hand-stamp, and passed into the mails in Dahomey (of the 15fr and 20fr on 90c Rene Caillie). See Alteriet, L'Echo de T., #1117, p. 544-5.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

(This Department will note meetings, exhibits, auctions, events held, proposed projects, personals, deaths, etc.)

On 1 Jan. 1964 the Administration de PTT began taking subscriptions to the notices of new issues of French stamps. For foreign subscribers the price is 25fr per year. Address: Mon. le Chef du Centre des Renseignments Postaux, 23 Rue Mederic, Paris 17.

It is reported that A. Rochette is preparing a new complete treatise on the Paris "étoiles" (1863-76), in commemoration of the centenary of these popular cancellations.s

Mon. Pierre Yvert, head of the Yvert et Tellier firm of Amiens and publisher of L'Echo de la Timbrologie, died suddenly on 13 January. He was long a leader in promoting high standards in philatelic commerce and publication, and active in organized philately in France.

Mon. Henri Thiaude, proprietor of the well known firm of that name and catalog publisher, died on 8 March. His son Michel will continue the business.

Maurice Jamet, the Paris dealer and auctioneer, announces in the pages of Feuilles Marcophiles that he is preparing a catalog of the marques postales (postmarks of the pre-adhesive era) of French Colonies and would welcome information and data from correspondents.

# 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.

Requests for insertions to be sent to the Secretary.)

EXCHANGE: Better France such as Scott #1, 7, 37, 39 mint, 89 mint, 241, Ci7 mint for similar such as 2, 16, 226, 254. Otto Hoeffler, 7017 S. E. 35th Ave., Portland 2, Ore. (Member 156).

WANTED: French postage dues on cover or with unusual cancels from Scott J1 to J45A. Also millesime pairs or coins dates blacks of the postage dues. Scott J46 to J79. Submit with prices or will exchange for 19th or 20th century France. A. P. Merrick, 7204 S. E. 32nd Ave., Portland, Ore. (Member 743)

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

WANTED: French Indochina, Proofs, essays, millesimes, covers, revenues, postal stationery, dubious issues, anything interesting. Submit with net prices or will exchange with pre-WWII French colonies (non asiatic). Irving Kopf, Box 2835 Yale Station, New Haven, Conn. (Member 814)

WANTED FOR A SPECIALICED STUDY: Used copies only of France #263 (2 fr. Arc de Triomphe), especially multiples (pairs, strips, blocks); also used singles in quartity. Charles Neidorf, 1580 East 22nd St., Brooklyn 10, N. Y. (Member 364)