



Published bi-monthly by the France and Colonies Group
 Editor, Dr. A. J. C. Vaurie * * * Secretary, Miss H.V.Z. Anthony

CAMEROUN

CURRENT CANCELLATIONS

By Ben Hamilton, Jr.(60)

Cameroun cancellations adequately fill the bill for the collector desiring something interestingly different. The number of post offices and postmarks are enough to make a quest for the postal markings of this mandate intriguing.

There are 60 regular post offices and three railroad(travelling)post offices in Cameroun. They are shown on the map. The numbers correspond with those in the list of post offices contained in this article. (Editor's note: As there seemed to be important discrepancies in the location of these offices, and I was not able to get in touch with Mr. Hamilton, who is in the Army, I have taken the liberty to redraw the map, locating only those offices I was able to locate on official maps. The enumeration follows Mr. Hamilton's list.)

Typical Cameroun postmarks are illustrated depicting the 14 basic types. Type 10 really comes in two forms. The type illustrated has narrow letters. The other kind, not shown, has wide letters as in type 2. (Cont. on back page)



1



2



3



3a



4



5



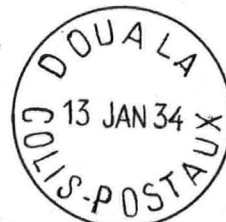
6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14

BOOK REVIEWS

We want to thank our member Mr. Fritz Billig for sending us volume III of "Billig's Philatelic Handbook," published by Billings Stamp Company, 151-14 85th Ave., Jamaica 2, N.Y., price \$3.00.

Volume III of this very valuable series contains much of particular interest to collectors of France. Included are listings of the Precancels, Balloons and Balloon Letter-Journals, Booklets and Deluxe and Miniature sheets, every item in these four sections being priced. But the great value of the book lies in a complete listing of the numeral cancellations, both large and small. This section alone covers 45 pages of close print and is well worth the price of the book. This list is identical to the one we supply in the supplements and if anyone gets tired of waiting, we are happy to say that at last such a list is available in this country.

Other sections of interest to the Group are a list by our member Delf Norona, of the A.E.F. post offices in Europe (practically all of them in France); a full illustrated listing of the postal stationery of Algeria and of its Parcel Post stamps; an illustrated listing of the Morocco Local Posts.

It is Mr. Billig's intention to continue to publish additional sections on postal stationery and we can only congratulate him on rendering a real service to collectors. There has long been a crying need for a modern catalogue of foreign postal stationery.

We have just received the first three sections of the "Priced Catalogue of Local Postage Stamps" by E.F. Hurt and L.N. & M. Williams, published by our member E.F. Hurt, 12 Dalkeith Road, Harpenden, Herts., England, price 5 shillings for each section. In the U.S. it can be obtained from Billings Publications (address above), \$1.20 in the U.S. per section. The fourth and final section will be forthcoming in January.

There are relatively more Local Stamps that fall into the orbit of a French collection than even French specialists are aware of--the reason being, of course, lack of listings in the standard catalogues. The first 3 sections of Mr. Hurt's catalogue include among French locals: Amiens strike issue, the much neglected Cherifien Posts that were really an official adjunct to the French Postal Service in Morocco, the Christmas Island via Tahiti, the French New Hebrides Co., Gauthier Frères, Haut-Oubangi, the Lorin Agency. Part IV will include the Moreau, Valenciennes and Cherifien handstamps. All the Morocco Locals are listed, alphabetically, we regret to say, and not as one section, which would have been more natural and practical.

CAMEROUN.... (Continued from page 4)

RAILROAD (TRAVELLING) POST OFFICE POSTMARKS

There are 3 railroads in Cameroun: The Northern Railroad, 161 kilometers long, running from Bonabéri to N'Kong-Samba; the Central RR, 308 kms. long, running from Douala to Yaoundé; and the Otélé-M'Balmayé RR, a short, narrow gauge line.

The Northern RR uses type 11 postmark. Type 13 is the regular Central RR postmark. However, since the early part of 1941 the type 12 postmark has been put in use on the Central RR. This I have seen only on the 50c Free French overprinted Cameroun stamp (Cameroun #264). The Otélé-M'Balmayé RR uses type 14 postmark.

announcing

... of importance to ALL members

that at the December meeting the working arrangement of the Group was completely changed and reorganized.

The steady growth of the Group and the pressure of other duties made it imperative that Dr. Vaurie be helped in handling the work. This will be handled by a complete organization elected as follows:

Treasurer: Mr. Paul Baudry

Recording Secretary: Mr. George Mary

Corresponding Sec'y: Miss H.V.Z. Anthony

All correspondence relating to inquiries, application for membership, and the renewal of dues or any other matter concerning the Group, are from now on to be sent to Miss Anthony, at 24 Franklin Place, Montclair, New Jersey. Dr. Vaurie continues only in the capacity of Editor of the "France and Colonies Philatelist" and only correspondence relating to Editorial policy and all contributions of material for publication should be addressed to him at 5 East 53rd St., New York 22, N.Y.

Application for membership will be turned over by Miss Anthony to a membership committee consisting of Messrs F. Colombain, C.T. Boettger, and A. J. Dean.

The Group President is Mr. S.G. Rich and the Vice-President Mr. R. Lesgor.

* * * * *

So far only half of the members have sent in their dues. Please cooperate and pay promptly.

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We are going to use addressograph plates so please make sure that your address is complete and includes postal districts where they exist.

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NEW MEMBERS Welcome to our new members:

- 144-BRISKIER, Dr. A.-Mt. Sinai Hospital, 5th Ave. at 100th St., New York, N. Y.
- 145-BILLIG, F.-151-14 85th Ave., Jamaica 2, N.Y.
- 146-PETERSON, E.N.-4364 Oakenwald Av. Chicago, Ill.
- 147-CRAPSER, C.C.-4723 Sheridan Road, Apt. B3, Chicago, Ill.
- 148-DIAMAND, A.-11 So. La Salle St. Chicago 3, Ill.
- 149-ZINSMEISTER, J.E.-340 South Pine Ave., Chicago, Ill.
- 150-JANKOWSKI, L.-10 South La Salle St. Chicago, 3, Ill.
- 151-GAPINSKI, J.-814 No. Ashland Ave. Chicago, Ill.
- 152-KOZAKIEWICZ, Dr. L.-1530 No. Damen Ave., Chicago, Ill.

* * * * *

We wish to thank Mr. Reeves personally and publicly for his great work in sending us all the above Chicago members... Chicago, how about it? Why not hold meetings of your own? -- We would like to see an active Chicago section .. Get going Ben ...

* CHANGE OF ADDRESS *

KNOLLMUELLER, John (73) to 2159 Preston St., Salt Lake City 5, Utah
 QUEYROY, Edmond (3) to 27 East 95 St., New York, N.Y.

KNOW YOUR FORGERIES

(Continued from Vol.II, p.24)

MADAGASCAR

1889-91 - There are very many and various forged surcharges. Some of these forged surcharges were made by Fournier both on originals and on forgeries of the Dubois type (see General Issues); the forged cancellation is: double circle, 23 mm, TAMATAVE 25 JANV 91 MADAGASCAR. Have these surcharges expertized.

1891 - Typographed locally - Dangerous forgeries exist, especially of the 1 and 5 franc, some of these even on covers. On the originals each stamp is different and therefore these stamps should be expertized. There are several forgeries, usually lithographed; on one of them the letters in the word POSTES are thicker than those in FRANCAISE. Besides the forged cancellation mentioned above there are 2 others used on these stamps: a) TAMATAVE 15 OCT 91 MADAGASCAR, b) TAMATAVE 25 MARS 92 MADAGASCAR -- both double circles, 23 mm.

1895 - Forgeries exist in which the overprint is lithographed instead of typographed, as in the originals.

1895 - Majunga Issue - The sincerity or need for these provisionals is under a cloud --- if you must collect them, they should be expertized and should be cancelled 25 Feb. 1895. - Fournier forgeries of these bear the forged cancellation: double circle, 23 mm, MAJUNGA 28 DEC 96 MADAGASCAR.

1896 - Surcharges in oval - These stamps were supposedly made up for military mail and with the exception of the 25 on 40 never saw the inside of a post office. They were exceedingly well forged, including the cancellation; however in the latter a slight oversight put the T of ET too close to the P of PES, whereas on the original cancellation there is a space between them of about 1 1/2 mm. They were also forged by Fournier with the cancellation: double circle, 23 mm, TAMATAVE 7 SEPT 96 MADAGASCAR.. Expertize these stamps.

1896-1906-12 - Groupe type - The whole set was forged by Fournier (see General Issues), who used the forged cancellation mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The varieties of the set of 1912 were likewise forged on originals.

1902 - Surcharges - Dangerous forgeries - If on forgeries of the Groupe type, they are obvious, but if on originals they should absolutely be expertized, especially those on the Diego-Suarez stamps and all the rare and expensive varieties. The variety "without comma" offered is usually a normal stamp with the comma scratched out.

1904 - In 1904 a miracle happened in various offices throughout the colony. Many stamps mysteriously disappeared only to reappear on covers, neatly cut in two and handsomely adorned with handstamps, almost all worded identically "Affranchissement exceptionnel ... etc." Naturally only a very few stamps were manufactured thus so as not to spoil the market. The handstamps being the personal initiative and property of the officials, they were retained by them and it is even whispered that these men were not adverse to using them from time to time to oblige friends....or perhaps for cash. The collectors who have a strong stomach and are willing to swallow these should be advised that other people got envious and manufactured their own handstamps.

1921 - The surcharge 1 fr. on 5 frs. on Zebu

type has been forged, also the red and black surcharges 25c on 35c of the 1908 set. Compare or expertize.

1896 - Postage Dues - The overprints were forged by Fournier both on originals and forgeries of the dues (see General Issues), and accompanied by the forged cancellation described under the provisionals of 1896.

LEBANON

For the overprints on the Merson type check up in General Issues if the stamps themselves are not forgeries.

The overprints, especially the bi-lingual ones, are very complex and present innumerable varieties and errors. As some of these are fairly expensive and rare, I would not be surprised if forgers had been tempted.

1930 - Twenty sets of the Silk Congress set were issued imperforated. As some of the perforated stamps have very large margins, the perforations have been trimmed off and these offered as the imperforates. These should not be bought except in pairs.

LATTAKIA

No forgeries known.

IVORY COAST

1892-1900-12 - Groupe type - The whole set has been forged by Fournier (see Gen'l. Issues).

1904 - There exists a forgery of the 0.05 on 30c. Expertize.

1906 - Balay type - for forgeries see General Issues for the colonies - forged cancellation: double circle, inner circle interrupted, GRAND-BASSAM (small star) 25 MARS 15 COTE D'IVOIRE.

1915 - Red Cross - Forged variety double surcharge - also exists on covers.

1903-05 - Parcel Post - There are many types and varieties; specialization and expertization are necessary. There are many forged surcharges on originals but mostly on forged postage dues (see General Issues).

ININI

No forgeries known.

INDO CHINA

1889 - There are forged surcharges on originals as well as on Fournier forgeries of the Dubois type (see General Issues). The varieties of the surcharge are also forged. The forged cancellations are: double circle, 24mm (a) NAM-DINH 1 OCT 92 TONKIN, (b) HANOI 3^e/27 FEVR 94 TONKIN. These were also used on the forgeries of the Groupe type and on those of Annam and Tonkin.

1892-1900-12 - Groupe type - The whole set has been forged by Fournier (see General Issues). In addition to the above forged cancellations, there are two more: a) double circle, 22mm, HANOI 2^e/21 JUIL 92 TONKIN, b) 23mm, HANOI 2^e/20 AOUT 92 TONKIN.

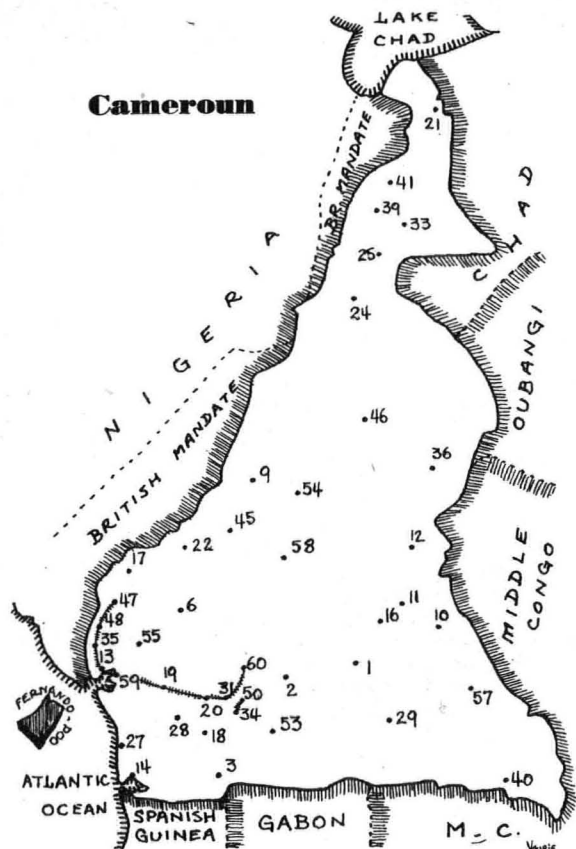
1914-17 - Red Cross - Forged surcharges especially of the double, triple and quadruple surcharges. These varieties are under a cloud of suspicion even when original.

1919 - Forged surcharges of the two piastres values in which the final S of PIASTRES is defective and blurred at the edges. These forgeries exist likewise for the sets of the offices of Canton, Hoi-Hao, Kouang-Tcheou, Mongtseu, Pakhoi, Tchong-King and Yunnanfou.
* * * * (To be continued)

CURRENT CANCELLATIONS

Type 1, formerly universally used at Cameroun post offices, is now obsolete at all except Mora which alone uses this type on all mail. Some of the types shown have, from time to time, been applied in colored inks. For example, until very recently Kentzou's postmarks were handstamped in blue ink and the postmark of Messamena, Campo, Djoum, and Tibati have sometimes been applied in purple ink. Black ink is the common color.

Following is a list of Cameroun post offices, official dates of inauguration under French administration, and type of postmark used. The numbers, referring to type of postmark, refer to the numbers under respective illustrations:



POST OFFICE	DATE OPENED	TYPE PMK. IN USE
1. Abong-M'Bang	May 16, 1927	2
2. Akonolinga	June 25, 1917	2
3. Ambam	Sept. 27, 1934	7
4. Ayos	Mar. 20, 1925	2
5. Bafang	Oct. 14, 1926	2
6. Bafia	Apr. 13, 1931	5
7. Bafoussam	June 5, 1916	2
8. Bangangté	Dec. 5, 1932	2
9. Banyo	Aug. 6, 1930	7
10. Batouri	Feb. 24, 1930	3
11. Bertoua	June 6, 1929	3
12. Betaré-Oya	Feb. 23, 1938	3
13. Bonabéri	June 5, 1916	2
14. Campo	Oct. 20, 1926	7
15. Djoum	July 29, 1930	7
16. Doumé	July 19, 1927	3
17. Dschang	June 5, 1916	2
18. Ebolowa	May 14, 1917	2
*(a) Ebolova		3
19. Edéa	June 5, 1916	**3a
20. Eséka	June 5, 1916	2, 3
21. Fort-Foureau	Apr. 24, 1932	7

22. Foumban	Mar. 10, 1930	3
23. Foubot	Dec. 12, 1930	2
24. Garoua	June 5, 1916	3, ****5
25. Guider	Nov. 14, 1937	3
26. Kentzou	Oct. 9, 1931	2
27. Kribi	Mar. 22, 1917	2, 3
28. Lolodorf	Apr. 16, 1917	2
29. Lomie	June 5, 1916	3
30. Lum	Oct. 11, 1937	6
31. Makak	June 3, 1922	3
32. Manoka	Dec. 17, 1935	3
33. Maroua	May 13, 1931	3
34. M'Balmayô	Apr. 26, 1928	2
35. M'Banga	Nov. 28, 1926	2
****(a) MBanga		3
36. Meiganga	Feb. 28, 1931	5
37. Mélong	Feb. 8, 1937	2
38. Messamena	Aug. 25, 1936	3
39. Mokolo	Apr. 3, 1938	7
40. Moloundou	Apr. 6, 1925	7
41. Mora	Feb. 7, 1917	1
42. Nachtigal	May 12, 1933	3
43. Nanga-Eboko	May 12, 1933	3
44. N'Dikiméki	Sept. 25, 1926	2
45. N'Gambe	Sept. 25, 1925	7
46. N'Gaoundéré	Mar. 25, 1923	2
47. N'Kong-Samba	June 5, 1916	*****3
48. Nyombe (or N'Yombé)	Feb. 6, 1918	2
49. Obala	Oct. 4, 1929	3
50. Otélé	Sept. 25, 1925	3
51. Poli	Oct. 12, 1931	2
52. Saa	Apr. 1, 1939	4
53. Sangmélima	Apr. 15, 1931	3
54. Tibati	Sept. 29, 1930	7
55. Yabassi	Sept. 10, 1917	3
56. Yagoua	Sept. 22, 1933	3
57. Yokadouma	Feb. 7, 1917	3
58. Yoko	May 14, 1925	3

Postmarks of Cameroun capitals:

59. Douala (administrative capital) ***** June 5, 1916 - The following postmarks are used by Douala post office: 2, 3, 5, ***** 8, 9, 10.

60. Yaoundé (legislative capital) opened May 14, 1917. Yaoundé uses types 2, 3, 9 postmarks.

* The Ebolova spelling is erroneous. It was issued originally without proper authority. The postmaster had understood that the government was going to change the spelling of the town name from Ebolowa to Ebolova. The change was never made.

** In type 3 the letters at top and bottom are 4 mm. high; in type 3a they are but 3 mm. high.
*** Type 5 Garoua postmark has so far been seen only as a backstamp on a cover from Guider, - but probably this type 5 Garoua postmark exists on Cameroun stamps.

**** The correct spelling is with apostrophe. Only in the type 3 postmark is the apostrophe missing.

***** N'Kong-Samba has used a type 2 postmark with apostrophe and hyphen. It is not certain if it is still used. On type 3 the apostrophe and hyphen are missing and the two words are joined as one.

***** The date of opening of the Douala post office given here is the official date of opening under civilian authority. A military post office, jointly operated by British and French, was maintained in 1915.

***** Type 8 postmark has wavy killer bars at both sides of the postmark proper. This is a machine cancellation and is used only at Douala.

Information on the opening dates of the various post offices supplied by M. Acier of Cameroun P.O. Dep't., to whom my thanks are extended.

(Please turn back to page 2)