



Published bi-monthly by the France and Colonies Group
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A Progressive Flaw on the 20c Empire Laureate

By G.A.L. Dumont and R. Janet

(Translated and consolidated from articles in
 "L'Echo de la Timbrologie, Sept. 30 1936 and
 June 30 1937)

Among the interesting plate flaws in plate 1 of the 20c Laureate, is one deserving special notice. The flaw is reported as "three varieties" by Meinertzhagen, his Nos. VI, 5a and 5b, in the London Philatelist of February 1929; two of these are shown in the Yvert specialized catalog of France, (V.26 and V.27). But in fact, all three are the same stamp. In three sharply differentiated stages, this stamp shows a constant flaw in the form of a small protruding stroke on the left leg of the second A in the upper inscription (Fig. 1).

First Stage (Fig. 2): A large white patch, with rounded shape appeared between the Emperor's hair and the 7th pearl in the northeast sector (directly under the second A), evidently a clean depression in the electrotpe, unchanging until it was retouched.

This flaw is known in a strip of 4, and in a vertical pair on a letter dated June 21 1867. If this is not present from the start of the printing of this stamp, it certainly showed up very early.

The lower stamp of the pair is a bottom sheet margin copy. Hence the flaw is located on the 14th row. As the flaw is not on the pane A1 shown at Tipex, it surely is from the other half, the B1 pane.

Second Stage (Fig. 3): Retouching, leaving traces of tool marks, entirely changed the appearance of the flaw. This became a trapezoidal spot, infringing on the edges of the Emperor's hair. The blue outline indicates a pressing back of the metal. Traces of disturbance show right up to the ring of pearls.

At this same time a new flag appears: a small white spot in the medallion at the right, close to the space between the 14th and 15th pearls

A

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

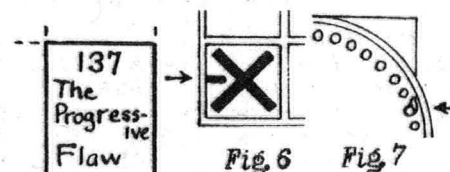


Fig. 6

Fig. 7

146	147	148	149	150
Flaw Fig. 7	Flaw Fig. 6			Well known Flaw

Fig. 8

in the northeast sector (above the middle pearl on the right)

In this stage, decidedly rare, the stamp is known on a letter dated March 4 1868, and in a vertical pair on a letter dated March 6 1868. This latter shows, as in the former case mentioned, the sheet margin at the bottom of the lower stamp.

Third Stage (Fig. 4): A second change occurred very soon afterwards, but whether by wear, accident or retouching we do not know. The two flaws remain clearly visible and appear thus:

(a). A horn among the Emperor's hair.

(b). Traces of flaws in the medallion.

(c). A more or less conspicuous deformation towards the southwest of the 7th pearl in the northeast sector, beneath the letter A. These defects became greater as time went on, and finally took the form shown in Fig. 5.

In this stage, the stamp is quite plentiful. It is known in horizontal and vertical pairs and on letters dated in December 1868. (Misprint in original says December 1867; previous to second stage!--Translator)

The location of this variety has been definitely made: it is subject 137 of pane B of Plate of type I.

The flaw is known in vertical pairs, with the lower stamp showing the sheet margin. This lower or margin stamp shows a constant flaw itself: a small white line within the southwest corner box, next to the floret (Fig. 6). By examination of numerous copies of this small and constant variety in pairs and strip, it has been established (by Mr. Janet) that the next stamp to the left has itself a small and constant flaw: a small spot against one pearl on the upper right (northeast), as shown in Fig. 7.

These two flaws are found in strips with a well known and located variety, which occupies subject No. 150 of pane B of Plate I, the southeast corner stamp of the pane. No. 150 is the Variety 18, gap in the right hand border, listed in Yvert's Catalogue France & Colonies. This No. 150 shows various stages. These have, in addition to the gap in the right border, a white spot before the top of the forehead, or this flaw plus a similar one but smaller, in front of the nose.

The attached diagram (Fig. 8) shows the plating of these various flaws. (Redrawn and worded in English by translator).

Congratulation, Mr. Morris

Mr. Stanley N. Morris, member of this Group, won the award of the Austin Philatelic Club of Chicago in December 1944, for the best paper read at their annual contest session. Need we say that it was with a paper on "The First Issue of France"? The Group is pleased to offer Mr. Morris, who has been a member since within a few weeks of our becoming organized, our heartiest congratulation.

France was the first country to use postage due stamps (1859) followed next by Baden (1863) for rural delivery use only ("Rural Stamps").

Guadeloupe's Postmarks and Cancellations

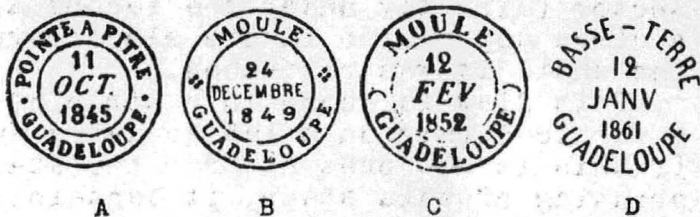
by Robert G. Stone

Guadeloupe is exceptional among French colonies in that its markings appear in large variety at an earlier date than most others. Collectors who appreciate the pleasure of working up a small country, with few offices but with a great variety of cancellations and postmarks, may well find Guadeloupe an interesting and not too difficult field of this sort. The remarks here are not intended to be exhaustive, nor concerned with minutiae of exact datings and measurements. The aim is to indicate the scope of the subject as this author has already enjoyed finding it. Others will make "discoveries" for themselves.

The literature of the subject includes several elaborate articles, but the writer can assure every reader that much is not even mentioned therein and often there are errors handed down from first erroneous scribe to other scribes through the years."

Guadeloupe began its range of markings far earlier than Martinique, and thus offers a much larger field to the collector. Martinique had very few markings before 1879; Guadeloupe starts in the 1840's, in the stampless period.

An article by the writer in the Stamp Specialist Green Book (1943), pp. 65-80 illustrates many Guadeloupe covers, various postmark types, etc. and gives a detailed list of cancellation groupings and usages. The pictures and groupings are based on Langlois & Bourselet's great work, "Les Obliterations des Bureaux de Poste des Colonies Francaises." Despite the vast opportunities which these authors had and used, through many years of study on many collections, much has been found that these two had never reported. Bouvet reported much in L'Echo de la Timbrologie, March 14 and April 15, 1935; the writer has found as much more, unknown to Langlois, Bourselet or Bouvet, in the last two years. The late Gerard Gilbert informed me



that in the great Pastre Freres correspondence, which he handled, there were several townmarks from Guadeloupe in the 1800-1830 period which had not been shown by Langlois & Bourselet. Nobody knows how much more remains to be found, nor where it may turn up.

The early circular town marks of types A, B, and C have not yet been found from other offices than those listed by Langlois & Bourselet. We infer that probably they were used at only six or seven offices. However, type D, the "circular" (no actual circles), was evidently introduced widely between 1853 and 1860, and used up to 1865. It has been found, not canceling stamps but on covers stampless and stamped, from Basse Terre, Pointe à Pitre, Copestere, Gd. Bourg (Mie. Gte) (also Gd. Bourg (M.G.)) Moule, St. Martin, St. Francois, Anse Bertrand,

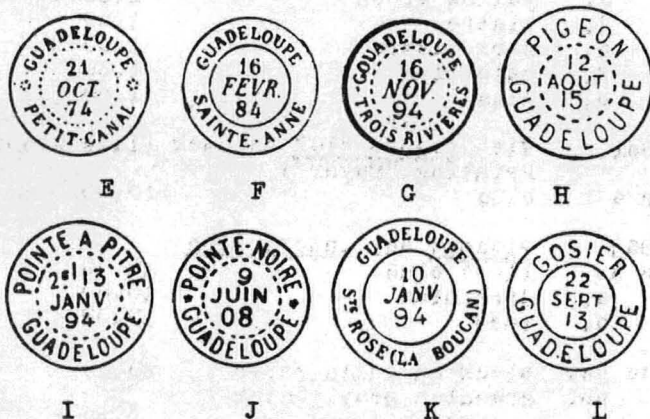
Ste. Anne, Sainte Rose, Trois Rivières, and Port Louis. Some variations in style occur from office to office; some have parentheses around "Guadeloupe". Later impressions are often smudgy and show heavy wear of the devices.

Type E of the town marks appeared about May 1865 and was supplied to the offices using the Type D circulars and to the following additional offices. These may be new offices opened between 1865 and 1880; but some of them may be older and thus may yet be found on Type D marks.

Bouillonde, Gosier, Canal, Petit Canal, Pointe Noire, Capesterre (M.G.), Lamentin, Obymes, Baie Mahault, Baillif, Deshaies, Courbevre, Goyone, Vieux Fort, Vieux Habitants, Marie Galante, St. Louis (M.G.), Desirade, Ste. Rose L.B., St. Rose (Bourg), Saintes (T.D.B.) Saintes (T.D.H.), St. Barthelemy.

After 1876 these double circle marks appear on the stamps. Up to this time the use of "killers" for cancelling the stamps had been required. Thus covers or at least cover fronts, are needed to find the double circles prior to 1867. The types of killers used in Guadeloupe have been illustrated and listed fully in the France & Colonies Philatelist of May-June 1944.

Between 1880 and 1890 no new post offices seem to have been opened. Type F appeared during 1880, as did Type K. We do not know if all offices received Type F devices, since many have not yet been found in this style but only in Type E.



Types I, J, and L, sent out from 1887 on, are found in various offices, but no one type from all. Type J was used at most; Type I went to Basse Terre and Pointe a Pitre only; Type L to Bouillonde and Gosier only. The stars at the side are missing on some type J. marks.

From 1890 onward many new post offices were opened. In 1894 Type G was distributed to perhaps half or more of the then existing offices. Around 1913 or perhaps a little earlier, Type H appears. It soon supplanted the older cancellers at the majority of the offices. In a few cases it was used concurrently with types E to G.

Type H is the first mark of the new offices opened between 1913 and 1926. These are: Matouba, Bananier, Les Mangles, (Le) Lezarde, Marigot, (La) Pigeon, Vieux Bourg, Sainte Marie, Grand Fonds (de) Ste. Anne, and (La) Boucan. We are not sure that the mark of Vieux Bourg exists.

About 1938 or 1939, a new type of larger diameter, 30 mm., a single circle instead of the older double circles, was introduced. This went

to all the offices, including the new ones: Campeche, Bas-Schoelcher, Dozer, Douville, Saint Robert, Saint Guillaume Village, Sainte Genevieve, Le Calvaire, La Gripiere, Ferry, Prise d'Eau, Riflet, and Mossioux.

During the 1930's Pointe a Pitre and Basse Terre used a number of machine cancellations. These carried various slogans such as "Consume La Banane Guadeloupe" and the like.

The old postmark devices remained in use at some offices for many years later.

The old postmark devices remained in use at some offices for many years after later types had been supplied to them. It is not unusual to find types E, F, G, I, and J, and L in use in the 1920's, and several styles in use at the same time from one office!

The abbreviations of the town names vary greatly, and thus the same office may appear in several forms on successive devices. These minor varieties lend interest to the field. The abbreviations "M.G.", "Mie.Gte.", T.D.H., T.D.B., etc. refer to the "dependencies" or smaller islands which form part of the political unit of Guadeloupe. These are Marie Galante, Terre de Bas, Terre de Haut St. Martin, St. Barthelemy and Desirade.

Censor marks of the present war include the usual oval inscribed "Ouvert par l'autorite militaire", and a double-border circle reading "Controle Postale--Guadeloupe--Commission A" (or "Commission B"). The "Commission A" mark is rare, as it was used only during the first two or three months of the war. "Commission B" is very plentiful.

Chicago Chapter

Beginning with January, the Chicago Chapter plans to meet every month. Members living in or near Chicago, who wish to receive the meeting notices, should notify the Chapter Secretary (or better still, become Chapter members). Mrs. Viola Kunzendorf, 1255 West 96th St., Chicago 45, Ill, is Chapter Secretary. Out of town members who are in Chicago and want to know of a single meeting date, should get in touch with the Chapter Secretary or Mr. L. Jankowski or Mr. Ben Reeves, any of whom will know date and place of the next meeting.

New York Meetings

The New York resident members, some of whom live as far as 25 miles out and quite a number in another state, meet on the first Thursday of each month, at about 8 p.m., at The Collectors Club, 22 East 35 St., New York, N.Y. (East Side Subway to 33rd St., 6th Ave. Subway to 34th St., or 34th St. crosstown bus to Madison Ave. are nearest transit access).

At the October meeting the Napoleonic and Revolutionary Covers of Henry A. Meyer of Evansville, Ind., were shown; at the November meeting Mr. A. Landauer exhibited his Early France. Robert S. Gordon showed Mauritania, every office on almost every stamp, a cover collection. For January a Club Contest has been arranged; for February Mr. S.S. Jalkut, Secretary, The Booklet Pane Society, is showing Booklets of France.

S E C R E T A R Y ' S R E P O R T

Nov. 1 to Dec. 31 1944

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to our new members:

194. SENSTAD, Ken., 1808 Cameron Ave., La Crosse, Wis.
 195. MOLZAN, Edmund, 720 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito, Calif.
 196. COOKE, E.W., 720 Pomona Ave., Appleton, Wis.
 197. GORDON, Robert S., 144 Gates Ave., Montclair, N.J.

-----CHANGES OF ADDRESS-----

- KUNZENDORF, Mrs. Viola, to 1255 West 96th St., Chicago 45, Ill. (Correction, with our regrets for the error in the July-Sept. number.)
 MENNINGER, Mrs. W.C., to 2260 Cathedral Ave., N.W., Washington 8, D.C.
 NOVY, Joseph, to 1900 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 15, Ohio
 ROBESON, John M., to 627 West 113 St., New York 25, N.Y.
 SHERIFFS, Leigh, to 13160 Boca de Canon Lane, Los Angeles 24, Calif.

-----CORRECTIONS IN LIST-----

- 188 BURKHART, Harry L., name misspelled in previous report.
 160 CHATTERSON, C.M., name misspelled in previous report.
 191 KUNZENDORF, Mrs. Viola, given as "Miss" in previous list: Also address correction listed under "Changes."

-----RESIGNED-----

- 31 LAUPER, F.A., Milwaukee, Wis.

DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE FOR 1944-1945

The dues are \$1.00 except in the case of "Resident Members" who attend the New York meetings and for Chicago Chapter members. Those who are either New York Resident Members or Chicago Chapter Members pay \$2.00-----of which \$1.00 goes to the separate fund for New York meetings or to the Chapter Funds for similar purpose in Chicago. Chicago Chapter members may pay their dues to the Chapter secretary or direct, as they choose.

We do not send separate individual notices. Please pay promptly, and thus be sure that your Philatelist will keep coming. Members whose numbers are between 1 and 180 who have not yet sent in your dues are urged to do so now while you are thinking of it. Mail to "The France & Colonies Group", Helen V. Z. Anthony, Corr. Sec'y, 24 Franklin Place, Montclair, New Jersey. We'll do the rest.

If there is a zoning number in your address NOT on this envelope, kindly indicate it when paying your dues. Please also let your Secretary know of all changes of address.

We now have 14 members in the state of California, at least ten of whom are in the Los Angeles area. One of those members has been wondering about a group get-together. What are YOUR ideas, Calif?

France : First Issues

P R O O F S

Listing by Fritz Billig, 1944, with report of recent Paris Prices (in dollars and cents)

1848	Ceres Type	
	<u>Without indication of value</u>	
Pr 1	black on China paper	20.00
a.	black on carmine	17.50
b.	blue	17.50
	<u>Head only</u>	
Pr 2	black	20.00
	<u>Inscription: Essai 1858 (on top)</u>	
Pr 3	black on India paper	10.00
a.	black on ordinary paper	1.50
b.	green	1.50
c.	yellow green	1.50
d.	bistre	1.50
e.	dark bistre	1.50
f.	pale blue	1.50
g.	blue	1.50
1861	With figure "10" on back (like Greece. Printing "Meyer")	
Pr 4	blue	10.00
1862	<u>without any inscription</u>	
Pr 5	light blue	10.00
a.	dark blue	10.00
b.	rose	10.00
10c	pa. black on India paper	20.00
	pb. greenish gray, thick paper	2.00
	pc. bluish gray, thick paper	2.00
	pd. bistre, thick paper	2.00
	pe. black, meshy paper	10.00
	pt. bistre, TETE BECHE	45.00
	pu. pale blue, silk thread	20.00
	pq. gray, silk thread	20.00
15c	pa. black on India paper	25.00
	pb. green	1.00
	pc. dark blue	1.00
	pd. pale blue	1.25
	pe. bistre on greenish	1.25
	pf. bistre on rose	1.25
	pg. brown on blue	1.25
	ph. green on pelure paper	10.00
	pt. tete beche pair	140.00

(To be continued as Mr. Billig can submit copy)