

FRANCE



COLONIES

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PHILATELIST

December 1944 and
January-February 1945

Published bi-monthly by the France and Colonies Group

Secretary, Miss H.V.Z. Anthony
24 Franklin Pl., Montclair, N.J.

- FEZZAN -

Translated from the June 5th 1944 number of La Cote Philatelique, of Algiers, sent us by our member in the army oversea, Jacques Musy.

Mr. Paul Bede communicates the following to us:

The various authors who have studies the stamps of Fezzan are not in agreement about the overprinting of the surcharged stamps of Algeria. Some of them hold the view that this overprint was made at Sebha only and that there need be added to the quantity produced the numbers of stamps of other postal services.

However, according to Arrete 37, article 3, it is clear that Sebha actually provided all the other localities of use with the stamps:

Arrete 37

Lt. Col. Delange, Military Commandant and Delegate of Fighting France at Fezzan:

In the light of proclamation No.1 of General Leclerc

and in the light of General Instruction No. 1 on Military Organization in Fezzan, on the powers and duties of the Military Commandant and Delegate of Fighting France at Fezzan:

Notice:

Article 1: A series of postal stamps of the Italian Colonies is overprinted with the wording "Fezzan -- Occupation Francaise"



and of the values needful for various postal rates.

Article 2: This series will be issued on May 15, 1943. By a commission designated by the Military Commander of the Territory there will be set up the office for receiving these, for recording the values, and to put them into service.

Article 3: These stamps will be put on sale on May 16, 1943.

by the post office of Sebha, which will, as far as possible, supply the postal agencies of the Territory. Monies from the sale will come in to the Postal Agent at Sebha, and are to pass to the special agency which will receive them, each month.

(Articles 4 to 9 are not quoted by Mr. Bede).

Article 10. This decision is to be registered and to be sent wherever necessary.

Sebha, May 11, 1943

(Signed) DELANGE

Our Society Editorship.

Dr. Vaurie, who has done a notably fine job in editing this bimonthly since it started, has so many other calls on his time, especially in the present manpower shortage in his profession of dentistry, that he finds it impracticable to continue as editor. Accordingly, at his often repeated request, his name has been omitted in the masthead, this month. From material which he assembled, the last two numbers and this one have been put together by other officers of the Group.

The matter of replacing him will be let hang over until the annual election of officers, in May.

France: First Issues

P R O O F S

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

Continued from October-November 1944

20c pa.	black on India paper	20.00
pb.	black on thick paper	20.00
pc.	various color proofs	1.00
pd.	double prints	1.50
pe.	olive, TETE BECHE pair	20.00
pf.	blue, TETE BECHE pair	20.00
pg.	with silk thread	10.00

20c		
blue p.	blue on bluish gray ('50)	20.00
	block of four	450.00
pa.	tete beche pair	1000.00
pb.	blue on India paper ('48)	30.00

E S S A Y S

25c on 20c blue (red surcharge):	
25 only	500.00
25 C (error, 1 subject)	-----

R E P R I N T S

These were made in September 1862; the color of each is generally lighter than of the stamps issued; paper is white; size of printed portion is slightly different from that on the stamps.

1849-50 issue.

10c:	Width: 18.25 mm instead of 18.00 mm. in original. 4920 issued.	
	bright bistre	10.00
	block of four	47.50

15c:	Height: 22 mm. instead of 22.25 mm. in original..	
	bright green	45.00
	block of four	250.00

20c:	Height: 22.25 to 22.30 mm. instead of 22.40 to 22.50 mm. in original.	
	black on grayish	15.00
	block of four	100.00
	light blue	10.00
	block of four	80.00

(To be continued with listings of the stamps, as Mr. Billig can submit copy).

O u r M e m b e r s O v e r s e a

Several of us have received letters from our charter member Jacques A. Musy, now in the army in Europe. He sent copies of the Algerian stamp journal, La Cote Philatelique, and of Italian stamp papers. When he last wrote, he was with the troops in Italy.

We also hear from our charter member now in the navy in the Pacific, Ensign J. Brainerd Kramer 3rd, occasionally. During 1944 he got to Hawaii frequently in the course of his duties, and has established contact with philatelic people in that locality. He continues his active interest in French stamps, and has added Hawaii to his collecting fields.

Communications from France

The earliest philatelic word from France in the days after liberation appears to have been a postcard of Sept. 26, 1944 from Henri Menard of 16 rue de Lancry, Paris 10me, received by S. Rich. Mr. Menard is a well known collector, who wrote on French precancels in American journals before the present war. He is still active in stamps--he mentions that there have been many new ones among French precancels during the past years and that new Republican ones were to be issued very soon.

The first French stamp journal to come here after liberation was an October 1944 number of L'Echo de la Timbrologie.

Various of our members have heard from their philatelic friends in France since communication has been reopened. We learn that such means of contact as are at present open, permit stamps to be sent here with reasonable ease. Among the men with whom correspondence is now open, are Messrs. Champion, Brun and Thiaude.

Up to going to press with this number of the Philatelist, it appears that printed matter can be sent to France only when sent as first class mail.

FRANCE -- Experimental type,
Dunkirk & Arras R.P.O.

-- Langlois and Bourselet
in Les Annales de Philatelie.



The Post Office at St. Cloud Palace, France

By L. Goffaux

Reprinted from Postal Markings, No. 61
July 1936

Translated from Les Annales de Philatelie,
July 1836, and used by permission.

The Palace of St. Cloud was a royal residence after Marie Antoniette had bought it in 1785 from the grandson of the Regent. Up to then it was the Chateau of St. Cloud. It was the scene of significant events: the day of 18th Brumaire, year VIII (November 9, 1799); the signing of the famous Ordinances (July 25, 1830) and the declaration of war against Prussia. Napoleon I, Charles IX and Louis Philippe, one after another, added to its ornaments; but it was Napoleon III who really made it the Palace—a celebrated and magnificent resident, which could not survive the Emperor, to whose fortune it seems to have been associated. (It was destroyed in the war of 1870—Translator)

The existence of a special post office at the royal residence from 1785 on appears to be demonstrated. In fact, the Postmark Catalog indicates that from that date there has been seen a postmark; blue, in two lines; CHATEAU DE SAINT-CLOUD, with a fleur-de-lis after the word "Chateau". This office appears to have been closed by the Revolution, but reopened on 15th Thermidor, year X, by the First Consul. From this time dates a rectangular postmark in red: the oldest impression of this that we have seen dates from 30th Nivose, year XI (Jan. 20, 1803).

ST CLOUD
POSTE PRES LE
GOUVERNEMENT

BAU DELACOUR
A ST CLOUD

Beau DELA M^{on}
DU ROIAS: CLOUD



About 1843 the dated circular town mark, 26 mm. diameter, was introduced.

For the first time the name of Palace appears on the subsequent type, used alone or accompanied by the killer lettered P S C for cancelling stamps. It is smaller than the early circle and with the inscription: Bureau du Palais de St Cloud.

When did the Office take this new name?



According to the Postmark Catalog, the date 1855 is considered the oldest. But in my own collection I have an official free envelope of Nov. 19, 1852, carrying this date town mark and along side it that of Paris-Franchise 3, in red; in the left corner of the envelope the handstamp in blue, 2 lines: "President de la Republique—Service des officiers d'ordonnance." The town mark of Bureau du Palais de St Cloud is completely identical with that here illustrated. Contrary to the statement in the catalog, it is in black instead of red. The

letter is addressed to the office of the mayor of Montmartre and is backstamped Montmartre 19 Nov. 52.

This backstamp indicates that the letter was transmitted with the speed which the occasion called for. The plebiscite took place on Nov. 20 and 21, 1852; Louis Napoleon awaited the result at St. Cloud Palace.

Since the postmark existed under the presidency of Louis Napoleon, it is probable that this postmark dates from the beginning of the presidency, or at least from the beginning of 1852. Information as to earlier dates is sought from readers.



Railway Post Office in Reunion

By Ben L. Cash

This small island colony of France, located in the Indian Ocean has a railroad almost all the distance around its coast. There is a traveling letter car which uses this postmark. There are four postmarkers used, all alike, except for the key numeral following the word, "Convoyeur".

EARLY LOUISIANA POSTMARKS — FRENCH-MADE

By R. Seymour Blomfield

There is another book, in addition to "The History of British Postmarks" that many collectors of postal markings would enjoy, as an example of study and research. It is: "Catalogue des Estampilles et Obliterations Postales de France et des Colonies Francaises." This was published by Yvert & Co.

This work covers the Mes. markings of the 13th. and 14th. centuries right up to the modern machine markings.

In this work is noted, under "Nouvelle Orleans" the following:

Nouvelle Orleans. Occupied in 1682, sold to the United States in 1803. 1790. Inscription in two lines, in a 25 mm. diameter circle. The first line is illegible, the second reads ORLEANS. This mark is accompanied by the inscription INDIAS (Indias Occidentales or West Indies) and is catalogued as a red postmark, valued at 75 francs.

Another letter, dated Nouvelle Orleans, Jan. 1791, bears the mark "ISLAS DE -- BARLOVENTA" in two, red, lines. This mark is not French, but is noted as it was probably applied at the port of the Island of Barlovento, Lower Antilles. Under "Marks of Entry into France" are several types on mail received from the United States, such as:

Le Courier de l'Amerique
* New York*

of 1784 vintage.



From PEKIP, the International
Philatelic Exhibition at Paris.
In 1937

Alleged to have been the first
Automobile Show station of any
post office -- Paris 1906



SECRETARY'S REPORT

January 1 to 31, 1945

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome.

198. Olson, Kenneth F., 835 North Cass St.,
Milwaukee 2, Wis.
199. Sabin, Milton H. 11 Berkeley Place,
Cedarhurst, L.I., N.Y.
(200. Application pending)
201. Hinton, John S., P.O. Drawer 310,
Jamaica 1, N.Y.

-----CHANGE OF ADDRESS-----

99. Mann, George A., to P.O. Box 488,
Roseville, Calif.

DUES.

This notice is directed to those whose dues for the current year, October 1944 to October 1945, have not yet been received.

NOW IS THE TIME.

New York City and metropolitan area dues are \$2.00. All non-resident memberships, \$1.00.

Chicago Chapter members please pay their one dollar via their Chapter Secretary, together with the dollar Chapter dues, so that she may keep the records in order.

All others: please send to Miss Anthony at the address on the front page of this number.

PHILATELIST.

Back numbers of this bulletin are available, except Vol. 1, No. 1. Volumes 2 and 3 may be obtained, for one dollar per volume, from the secretary (name and address on front page of this number). Many members have availed themselves of this opportunity to obtain duplicate copies for cross reference.

CHICAGO CHAPTER NEWS

The first Chapter meeting was held on Nov. 22nd; 12 members and one guest present. It has been very difficult to find a suitable place to meet, without too much expense. Mr. Reeves has finally secured us the use of a room at Austin Town Hall.

Our second meeting was held December 19, and from the first of the year meetings are to be held regularly at that place on:

The Fourth Wednesday of Each Month.

Helen T. Cunningham, Sec'
6112 Caldwell Avenue
Chicago 30, Ill.

Election of Officers for 1945-46

At the meeting in New York on May 3rd, 1945, the election of officers for the coming year will take place according to established custom of the Group. These officers may be nominated by any member, resident or otherwise, or by our Chicago Chapter; and votes in writing, if sent

in, will be counted. Please send to Secretary Anthony. The officers to be elected are :
President, Vice-President, Secretary,
Treasurer, and Editor.

I would prefer not to serve a fourth term as president, especially as I can take on duties as Editor now that Dr. Vaurie cannot handle the work.

Stephen G. Rich, President.

An Oddity

With or

Without

R. F.

? ? ?

(Translated from La Cote
Philatelique, June 5, 1944)



On June 7, 1943, to celebrate the victory of the Allies over Von Arnim's troops in Tunisia, a Tunisian commemorative and semi-postal stamp was put on sale throughout North Africa.

Prepared beforehand for the expected freeing of Tunisia, this stamp shows the three helmeted heads of British, French and American soldiers.

The idea at the time of planning the stamp was to supply one for the 1.50 franc rate then the current one in Tunisia, to commemorate the liberation and the spread the glorious news far and wide. It was not known what supplies of the older stamps were on hand in the country.

Altered to a semi-postal stamp by the addition on a " 8.50", this stamp was called upon to fill a different role: that of aid to the war victims of Tunisia. It is rarely seen used on letters. Almost the entire issue, believed to have been about one million copies, was bought and kept unused, in the usual way when so large addition to the postage rate is made.

If we are to believe the evidence from our own magnifying glass, it is evident that at one time someone had planned to put the monogram R. F. on this stamp. It seems to have been erased from the lithographic stone.

Actually, in the stippled part of the design at the lower left, there is still a trace of an R interlaced with an F, visible even to the naked eye, forming the monogram R.F. Enlarged, this is shown in the accompanying illustration.

Combination Empire-Republic Covers

Especially in 1871, but not limited to that year, numerous covers went through with Empire and Republic stamps used together. The rate to the United States is frequently made up with an 80c rose Empire Laureate and a 40c Republic. The Empire 80c stamps were on hand in quantities to fill all needs on this value until some time in 1872.

These combination covers are not very scarce and do not command a high price in the market, except when some special feature adds to their value.