

FRANCE



COLONIES

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Address all communications to Dr. A. J. C. Vaurie, 5 E. 53 St., New York, N. Y.

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MEMBERSHIP. Since our last issue (Dec. 1st) there has been, despite the outbreak of war, a very rapid and encouraging growth in membership. The list follows, keeping the same arrangement as the original directory, i.e., F means France only, U - used, Un - unused, Exch - that the member states specifically that he is interested in exchanging stamps. Please report any changes of address directly to the Secretary.

- 54 - LANDAUER, Aron, 39 Summit Ave., Brookline, Mass. (F. to 1876 canc. & covers)
- 55 - MAURER, Xavier, 48-24 58th Lane, Woodside, N. Y. (F.)
- 56 - HARKINS, D. L., Caldwell, Ohio (general F., Algeria, & Free Fr. issues)
- 57 - RAPICAULT, André, 569 Academy St. NYC (F. & Col. prefers Un)
- 58 - NORONA, Delf, 315 Seventh St., Moundsville, W. Va. (War covers of F. & Col. p. marks & covers of F. & Col. to 1890, Oriental Col. & offices to 1900)
- 59 - HAY, A. B. Lt. Colonel, Headquarters Third Mil. Area, 605 Fed. Bldg. N. Orleans (F. general Un, also covers & cancellations. Exch.)
- 60 - HAMILTON, Ben, Jr., PO Box 102, Whittier, Cal. (F. also highly specialized Algeria, Cameroun, A. E. F., Niger, St. Pierre & Miquelon)
- 61 - STONE, Robert G., Blue Hill Observatory, Mass. (Guadeloupe, Martinique, & St. Pierre & Miquelon, covers & cancellations)
- 62 - PICKARD, A. G., 200 Lake St., Glencoe, Ill. (large collection F. & Col.)
- 63 - HURT, E. F., 12 Dalkeith Rd., Harpenden, England (student of F. philately & postal history for 30 years)
- 64 - PARK, David W., 372 E. 183 St., Bronx, NYC (F. & Col. Exch.)
- 65 - MOZIAN, Gregory, 505 Fifth Ave., NYC (the well-known Auctioneer)
- 66 - GRISWOLD, Dr. A. S., 4611 Main St., Stratford, Conn. (F. & Col. U. & Un. Exch.)
- 67 - NOUSS, Henry O., 405 N. Elizabeth Ave., Ferguson, Mo.

- Change of Address -

CHASE, Dr. Carroll (21) to R. F. D. 1, Milford, New Hampshire
MCGEE, John R. (20) to 218 Third St., S. E., Washington, D. C.

* * *

At the meeting of Thursday, Dec. 4th, Dr. R. L. Wood showed his very fine collection of Oceania and Somali Coast. We also had the pleasure to welcome into our midst as a member Mr. Gerard Gilbert, the famous expert who made philatelic history when he dispersed in a series of auctions the Ferrari collection - the greatest the world has ever seen.

* * *

At the meeting of Jan. 8th, Mr. Stephen G. Rich showed his well known French precancels, including some extremely rare ones. The talk given by Mr. Rich was especially interesting and the constructive discussion that accompanied it made the meeting a most stimulating one.

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Last minute addition:

- 68 - PRUD'HOMME, R. M. E., 1516 Masonic Ave., San Francisco, Cal.

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HAVE YOU Yvert's Specialized Catalogue or any other philatelic literature on France & Col. for sale? Please advise editor as members waiting to buy.

NEW CALEDONIA AND DEPENDENCIES

By Donald D. Burgess (32)

(Continued from p. 2)

Not exactly stamps, but interesting, are the two cachets used about 1876 when the Noumea post office ran out of stamps. One, an equilateral triangle whose sides measure 45 mm., carries the inscription "P.D/Affranchi/en Mumeraire/Faute de/ Timbres Coloniaux/ See des Postes Nelle Caledie" in gothic caps. This was used on first-class mail. The other, a broken circle 26 mm. in diameter, has the inscription "Postes/Art. 46/10c" and was used on printed matter.

* * * * *

From 1881 to 1891 there is little to note. Such stamps as were issued were surcharges on little-used values to create denominations that were necessary for postal rates then in effect--5c and 25c stamps seemed to be needed more than any others.

On June 1, 1881, the 35c of the 1878 general colonies issue was surcharged NCE 25 in panes of 25. It exists with inverted surcharge. NCE varies in length from 13½ to 14½ mm.

October 21, 1882, brought two surcharges, the NCE 5 on 40c and NCE 25 on 75c of the 1877 general issue for the colonies. These were surcharged in panes of 25 and both exist inverted. NCE measures 14½ to 15 mm. in length and, in the case of the 5 on 40c, this is very important.

March 15, 1883, was the date on which the NCE 5 on 40c of 1877 was issued. There are no major varieties. Surcharged in panes of 25.

The NCE 5 on 75c of 1877 general issues, issued December 31, 1883, marked a change in printing methods. The type was set in a form of 25 subjects as heretofore (probably all the characters they had), but the stamps were surcharged in sheets of 150, 6 panes of 25. Due to the method employed in feeding into the press (known as work and turn) the right hand panes nearly always have the surcharge inverted. NCE is 18 mm. in length.

On January 29, 1884, the 5 on 40c of the 1877 general colonies issue appeared. This was also surcharged in sheets of 150 from a form of 25 subjects and the inverts appear as in the previous issue. NCE is 18 mm. long and is important. The only difference between this stamp and the 5 on 40c of 1882 is in the length of NCE, but it means the difference between a few cents and many dollars in value. I was responsible for the footnote now appearing in Scott's catalogue but even since it was added I have had reliable dealers send me this cheap stamp in place of the rarer one. Unknowningly, I am sure.

The 1 franc of the 1881 general colonies issue was surcharged N.C.E. 5c on June 29, 1886. Surcharging was done in groups of 50 from a 50-subject setting of which the right-hand form had two or three rows of inverted surcharges at the bottom. Thus it is possible to get vertical pairs with the surcharges tête-bêche. Besides the inverted surcharge it exists with double surcharge and with double, one inverted. N. C. E. is in outline caps.

This same 1 franc of 1881 was given a similar surcharge in August, 1886--N.C.E. 5c but with N.C.E. in gothic caps. These were surcharged from a form of 25 clichés and exist inverted, double, and double, one inverted. The quantity was 14,900. At the same time there were surcharged 100 of the 1 fr. imperforate of 1877, which thus becomes one of the scarcest stamps of New Caledonia. Both of these last two issues are to be found with periods missing, but they are instant varieties. (To be continued)

THE CANCELLATIONS OF FRANCE UP TO 1876

By Dr. A. J. C. Vaurie (17)

(Continued from p. 2)

"Lettres chargées" (literally "loaded" letters) containing drafts or money and registered letters paid high postage, this being still higher for foreign destinations. But prior to the 5 francs stamp of 1869 the highest denomination available was either a 80 centimes or a 1 franc stamp. In order to make up the necessary rate several stamps, usually in strips, had to be used. To avoid cancelling each stamp separately, a practical time saver was invented, an endless roller, a sort of roulette which was run by hand at will over the length of the strip.

Apparently the first one to be put into use, 1849, is the "large roller" with 6 rows of large square dots (Fig. 19). There are several varieties of this roller, one with 7 rows of much smaller square dots (Fig. 21) and one with 5 rows of broad dashes instead of dots (Fig. 22). The dates of use of these last two are not known but they are found on the '49 and '52 issues. Another variety - date unknown - (Fig. 20) is similar to the large roller but is made up of smaller more widely spaced square dots. It appears on the '53 issue.

A contemporary roller but of later appearance is the "endless grille" (Fig. 16) not very long in use and soon replaced by the "endless small dots" roller 12 or 13 lines broad (Fig. 23) and by a kindred but prettier roller with a pointed arrangement (Fig. 18), in 1852. Easily the prettiest and also the last of the rollers is the "endless stars" which appeared in 1855 (Fig. 17).

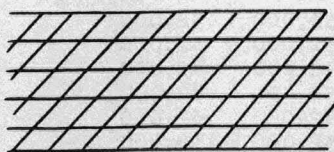
Not rollers, but fitting in with these mute cancellers are three scarce hand killers, one with a circle of many small round dots irregularly spaced, (Fig. 24) sometimes called the "poivrière" or "pepper pot," and another with fewer square dots also arranged in a circle (Fig. 26) and nicknamed the "Bee hive." Finally in 1860 the Hôtel des Postes or central office in Paris put into its own private use an octagonal arrangement of evenly spaced round dots (Fig. 25). (To be cont.)

At the January meeting it was reliably reported that some very undesirable speculation was known to have taken place with some values of the current Free French overprints of French Equatorial Africa.

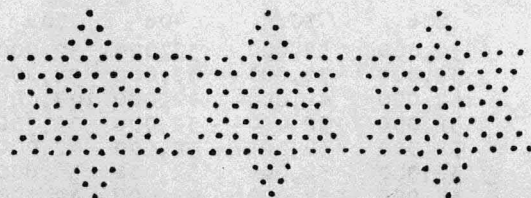
25,000 copies of the 4 centimes with Black overprint were issued and 32,000 or 35,000 copies of the 75 centimes. With the exception of a few copies used by a few favored individuals and those sent for the benefit of cataloguers, the entire issue of the 4c was cornered by a speculator - which is an easy task since the face value of the whole issue would be but 1,000 frs. or 20 dollars. Something similar was done with the 75c. These stamps are now offered wholesale by one of the latest arrivals in Nassau Street at the tune of 4 and 12 dollars each respectively.

A St. Pierre & Miquelon provisional of the same face value, 4 centimes, issued in 1891 - 50 years ago - (Scott #42) now catalogues but 60 cents and sells for less.

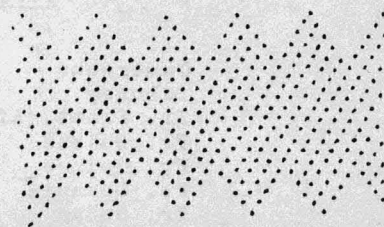
Such practices do not tend to bring good repute to French Colonial stamps and do not help in the eyes of collectors the Cause which sponsored them. Let the buyer beware - and refrain!



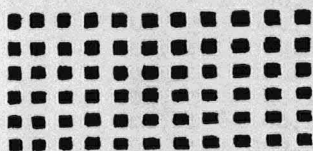
Figs. 16



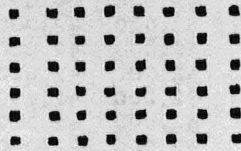
17



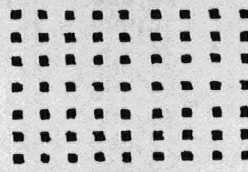
18



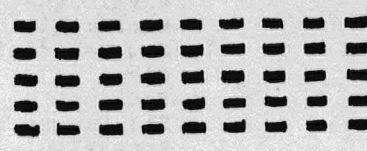
19



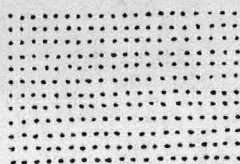
20



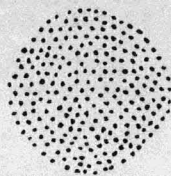
21



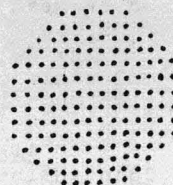
22



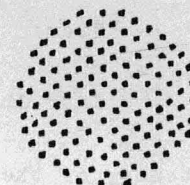
23



24

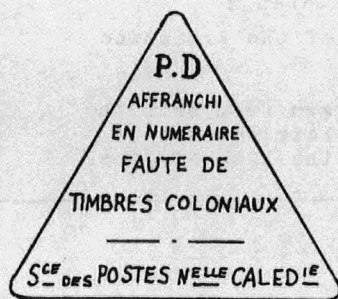


25



26

Illustrations of cachets mentioned in Burgess' article. (Full size)



News from France

By Leon Monosson

THE small-sized 1fr. Petain-stamp, issued at Vichy on August 14th, 1941, is the first of a set of eighteen values to be issued. The stamps will be all small-sized, typographically printed in three different types, made up in sheets of one hundred, with dated corners ("coins datés").

Of the "France d'Outremer" 1941 stamp, issued on July 17th, 1,261,000 have been printed, and already sold out.

In order to stop speculation, as well as to avoid having unnecessary waiting of thousands of buyers in front of the Post Office on the days of issue, the Postmaster General of France decided to advise in future by radio the exact number of copies of each new issue.

The following stamps were withdrawn from circulation on August 16th, 1941:

Nos. 166 20c Sower, 395 1/1.75 Cérès, 409 1/2.15 Miners, 413-6 Petain-set, 417 Mistral, 396-7 Cérès overpr., 401, 404, Peace overpr., 406-8 Peace overpr., 409A Carcass. overpr., 410 Vincennes overpr., 412 St. Malo overpr., B104-7 National Relief, B110 Cancer, B108-9 War Prisoners, B111 Petain.

These are the numbers of copies issued of the Petain-stamps:

40c, 1,930,000; 80c, 1,954,000; 1fr., 4,077,000; 2.50, 1,977,000.

We notice that the most expensive stamp is the one of which the largest quantity was printed. This is a proof of the unreasonable speculation, which will come to an unhappy end some day,

when held back stocks will be offered again in the market. By comparison, the 1fr. Petain-stamp should be twice as cheap as the 80c Petain-stamp.

Algeria. The blue 1fr Petain-stamp appeared in gray-black with a red overprint "— 4f.00". The proceeds of this surcharge will be divided in equal parts between the two organizations: "Help to Demobilized" and "Help to War-Prisoners."

Tunisia. Three stamps have been overprinted: The 1.25 red, 1.40 lilac, 2.25 blue of the Colisée de'El Djem-type. These stamps have been withdrawn from circulation on March 10th. All the remainder has been overprinted. 1fr. is the new face value.

Tunisia. The National Relief-set, issued on June 16th, 1941, was printed in 105,000 copies of each stamp. The values are: 1.00/45c green, 1.30/1.25 red, 1.50 lilac, 2fr/2.25 blue. The stamps were sold at the P. O. as indivisible sets, five for each buyer. The complete issue (with exception of 5,000 sets sold at Lyon) was sold out in Tunisia in two days.

The French Colonial set "Defense of the Empire," composed of 72 stamps (3 by Colony), has a face value of 260 fr., of which 130 fr. are for the benefit of the organization "Mutual help to military and workers of the French Empire." Number of copies issued is 38,000 complete sets.

The famous "National-Relief" set, issued for 8 French Colonies, has been issued in 10,000 complete sets only. Its price in France is already 2,000 fr. per set.

The above is reprinted through the courtesy of the author and of STAMPS Magazine of Dec. 20, 1941.

**Size of the Printings of Some Recent Colonial Issues
by Edmond Queyroy (3)**

8

Paris International Exposition Issue - 1937

	20c	30c	40c	50c	90c	1 fr.50
Cameroons	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Dahomey	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Fr. Equat. Afr.	42,000	42,000	42,000	107,000	42,000	42,000
Fr. Guiana	32,000	32,000	32,000	53,000	32,000	32,000
Fr. Guinea	32,000	32,000	32,000	42,000	42,000	32,000
Fr. Oceania	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Fr. Sudan	32,000	32,000	32,000	42,000	42,000	32,000
Guadeloupe	32,000	42,000	42,000	64,000	42,000	42,000
Ivory Coast	32,000	32,000	32,000	42,000	42,000	32,000
Madagascar	42,000	42,000	53,000	214,000	53,000	53,000
Martinique	32,000	42,000	42,000	64,000	42,000	42,000
Mauritania	32,000	32,000	32,000	42,000	42,000	32,000
New Caledonia	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Niger	32,000	32,000	32,000	42,000	42,000	32,000
Reunion	32,000	32,000	32,000	42,000	42,000	32,000
St. Pierre & Miqu.	32,000	32,000	32,000	42,000	32,000	32,000
Senegal	32,000	32,000	32,000	42,000	42,000	32,000
Somali Coast	32,000	32,000	32,000	42,000	42,000	32,000
Togo	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
	8 caches	12 ca.	16 ca.	20 ca.	1fa 12ca.	2fa 12ca.
French India	55,000	50,000	32,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
	2 cents	3¢	4¢	6¢	9¢	15¢
Indo China	75,000	120,000	230,000	530,000	230,000	230,000

Algeria

Centenary of the taking of Constantine - 1937

65centimes 7,975,000, 1fr. 1,930,000, 1fr 75c 1,917,000, 2fr 15c 2,100,000

Centenary of the foundation of Philippeville - 1938

30c 530,000, 65c 7,448,000, 75c 432,000, 3fr 253,000, 5fr 283,000

Semi-Postals, for the relief of families and mobilized men - 1940

1fr+1fr 700,000, 1fr+2fr 500,000, 1fr+4fr 500,000, 1fr+9fr 100,000 *

Lebanon and Syria

Lebanon - 1937 (Scott #145) 2 piastres on 3pi - 800,000

Lebanon - Air Post - 1938 (Scott C75-C78) Medical week of Beyrouth, 9 to 13 of May,
4 stamps 30,000 of each

Lebanon - Air Post - 1938 (Scott C79) Nogues Commemorative 30,000 and 10,000 souvenir
sheets containing 4 stamps

Syria - Air Post - 1938 (Scott C88) Nogues Comm. same quantities as Lebanon

* Algeria - 1938 (Scott B27) Commemorative of the 20th Anniversary of the Armistice
450,000 stamps printed, but only 187,000 sold

Some Dates: - The Curie Semi-Postal set for the colonies was withdrawn from sale the
10th of July, 1939. The Indo China New York World's Fair set was
issued the 10th of May, 1939. The San Francisco set the 12th of June.

The Post Offices of Martinique by Ralph Holsizer (18)

* Absalon	Diamant	Marin	Saint-Esprit
Ajoupa-Bouillon	Ducos	Morne-des-Esses	Saint-Joseph
* Alma	* Fonds-Bouché	Morne-Rouge	Sainte-Luce
Anses-d'Arlets	* Fonds-Coré	Morne-Vert	Sainte-Marie
Balata	* Fonds-d'Or	* Parnasse	* Sainte-Philomène
Basse-Pointe	Fonds-La Haye	Pelletier	Saint-Pierre
Belle-Fontaine	Fonds Saint-Denis	* Petit-Bourg	Sainte-Thérèse
Bellevue	Fort-de-France	Plateau-Didier	Schoelcher
Bois-Boyer	Francois	Poterie	Terres-Sainville
Carbet	* La Grand Anse	Prêcheur	* Terrier
Case-Pilote	Grand-Bourg	* Préfontaine	* Tivoli
* Céron	Grand-Rivière	Redoute	* La Tracée
Champ Flore	Gros-Morne	* Rivière-Blanche	Trinité
* La Chapelle	Lamentin	Rivière-Pilote	Trois-Ilets
* Colson	Lorrain	Robert	Vauclin
Croix-Rivail	Macouba	Sainte-Anne	Vert-Pré
Desmarinières	Marigot	* Perriolat	* Vive

This is the complete and official list supplied by the postal authorities of
Martinique on March 25, 1941. (*) means that those offices have been discontinued,
some due to lack of customers and some because the customers were wiped out by the
eruption of Mt. Pelee in 1902.