

# France & Colonies Philatelist



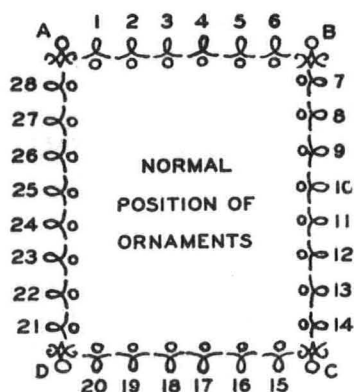
Published bi-monthly by the France and Colonies Group

Secretary: Mrs. Helen A. Stringham, 35 Franklin Place, Montclair, N. J.

Editor: Stephen G. Rich, P. O. Box B, Verona, N. J.

*The Reconstruction of New Caledonia Nos. 11 and 13*

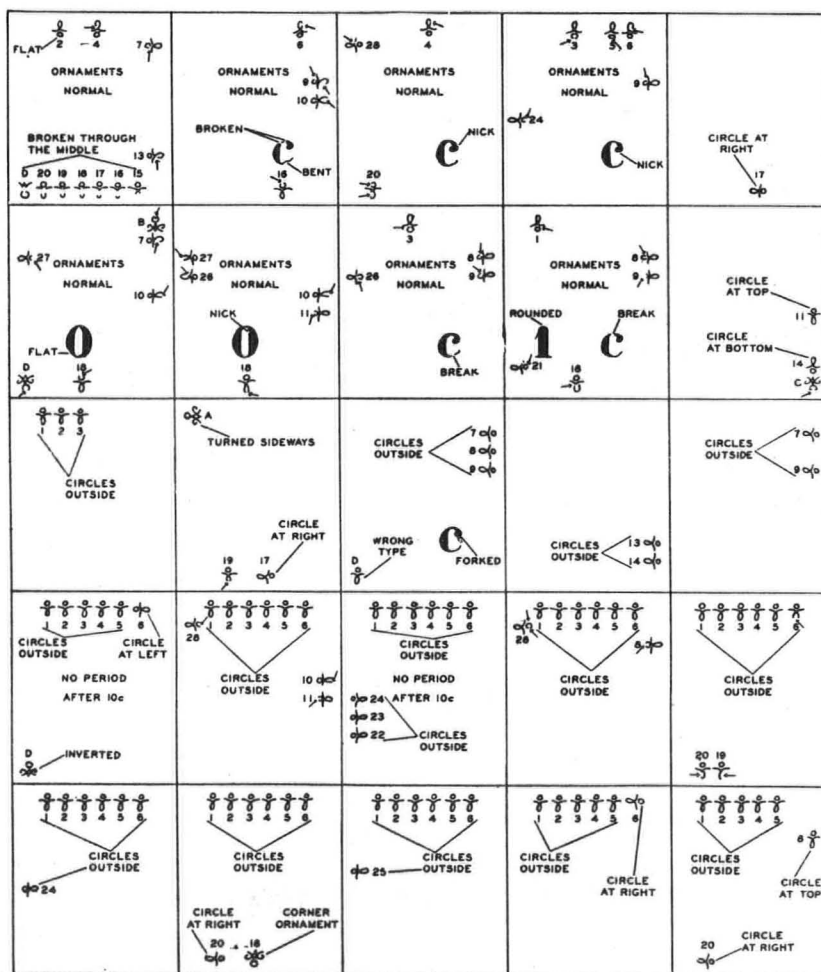
By Donald D. Burgess, Member F. & C.G.  
Reprinted from S.P.A. Journal, March 1945.



New Caledonia 10c on 40c of 1891 presents two major numbers because of the basic stamps carrying the same surcharge. Number 11 being surcharged on the imperforate 40c general colonies issue of 1877 and No. 13 on the perforated 40c of 1881. They were authorized by a decree of Gov. A. N. Gaillard on December 23, 1891 to alleviate a shortage of 10 centimes values, and the date of issue is given as that same day.

Quantities issued were 4,800 of No. 11 and 11,000 of No. 13. Due to the method of surcharging, in which a form of twenty-five subjects was locked sideways in the press and a sheet of fifty (two panes of 25 with vertical gutter between) was fed, one end first and then the other, half of the stamps exist with normal surcharge and half with inverted. For reasons best known to the press feeder, both exist with double surcharge and with double surcharge, one inverted.

Baron de Vinck de Winnezelee, in  
his "Colonies Francaises et Bureaux  
à l'Étranger" (Philatéliste Belge,



1928), has worked out a formula by which each position of the form can be recognized, principally by positions of the border ornaments but sometimes by constant type breaks. The reconstruction chart herewith is based on his work, with such additions as

I have found making the work easier  
and more accurate.

Note particularly the normal position of the ornaments—it is the key to the entire reconstruction. At the top, bottom and sides the unconnected circles are inside, the ovals outside.

The top corners have the circles at the top; the bottom corners have them at the bottom. Apparently the compositor who set the type started out with good intentions, for eight of the first nine settings have all ornaments normal, but after that it was every man for himself.

In those eight positions with normal border only the constant type breaks are the determining points. The Baron concentrated exclusively on the border but I have found that the type used in "10c." also presents individual characteristics that make checking more simple. These I have illustrated on the chart.

Positions 17, 19, and 20 all have only ornaments 1 to 6 with circles outside and also must be separated by the type breaks.

All of the other fourteen positions have different type positions that make determination easy.

The variety no period after 10c is constant and occurs only in positions 16 and 18. Other missing periods and hyphens are treacherous and in examining hundreds of copies I have found none that is constant except a missing period after N in position 4—and I can't guarantee that.

Differences in the quantity of ink on the platen will account for many seeming—and perhaps actual—breaks in the ornaments besides those pictured, but they are unnecessary to the task at hand.

When it is considered that there were issued only ninety-six sheets of number 11 and 220 sheets of number 13 it can be seen what a search lies ahead in filling all positions. After a dozen years I still lack from one to five positions in the four possible reconstructions (perforated and imperforate, normal and inverted), but the thrill is in the hunt.

R.F. R.F. R.F.

No.1 No.2 No.3

R.F.



No.4

No.5

## "R.F." Cancellations on U.S. Airmails: Further Information

In our July-August 1945 issue (No.22), we showed and explained this usage. By courtesy of Mr. George Mary, our enthusiastic member on Long Island, the story can now be extended.

The period of use begins in the spring of 1944, at a date not yet established nor vouched for by any official notice thus far reported. In the later part of the year it becomes much less frequent, and in 1945 gradually vanishes. Last reported dates seem to be about mid-1945.

Mr. Mary has shown us four very small types of overprint, all clearly rubber handstamps, in black, struck with typical rubber handstamp ink. We illustrate them here, actual size from his covers and pieces.

No. 1 is accompanied by Poste Navale circle dated Jan.10 1945 (10-1-45) and tying stamp to piece.

No.2, accompanied by the six-sided postmark of the battleship Richelieu, dated March 9 1945, also tying the stamp, differs from No. 1. The letter R is definitely different.

No.3, accompanied by the six-sided postmark of the cruiser Gloire, dated May 18 1945 but not tying the stamp, and by later Poste Navale mark (circle), is very much like No.2. It is not the same device. The R differs in the tail; the F differs in length and shape of ends of horizontal strokes.

No.4, accompanied by Poste Navale mark, date not visible on piece, tying the stamp, is very markedly smaller. This one alone has periods in line with bottom of letters.

All save No. 3 are on the U.S. 6-cent airmail stamp, the regular red one. No.3 is on the U.S. 6-cent airmail envelope with border. The covers are all addressed to places in New York state.

An excellent article on these cancellations appeared late in 1945 in the Swiss paper, Berner Briefmarken-Zeitung, in French, over signature of "Le Marcophile." This article, shown us by Mr. Mary, definitely verifies our statements in this journal that the "R.F." marks on the U.S. airmails are cancellations; further, that they were used in order to identify the authorized special usage of U.S. stamps on airmail to this country from the French ships.

The Swiss article illustrates a type that up to now has not been shown in any journal this side of the "fishpond." No.5 is carefully traced from that illustration. Quite possibly this is what was intended to be recorded by the description in Mekeel's Weekly, from which the smaller



of the circle types shown in our first article was reconstructed into a picture. Size agrees, but lettering differs. The larger circle type which we showed is also reconstructed from the description in Mekeel's. The other pictures in our previous article are reproduced exactly as they appeared in Mekeel's, and we have the late but sincere pleasure of acknowledging source.

All our earlier and present pictures of the "R.F." cancellations are exact, actual size.

The Berne article further shows the Poste Navale postmarks accompanying the "R.F." cancellations: one with no office number and one with "Bureau No.83," both dated Dec. 22, 1944 (22-12-44).

The number of different "R.F." cancellations found on U.S. airmails is larger than thus far recorded, says Mr. Mary. We hope that he will give us a comprehensive and authoritative story on the subject, showing all types with their range of dates of use, etc. Will readers please communicate any information on the "R.F.'s" to him, at 8025 215th St., Queens Village 8, L.I., NY



#### Special Notice.

At the meeting in New York on April 4, 1946, the program will be exhibits by members, of not over 12 pages, in competition. Mr. Lesgor offers a philatelic item of value for the exhibit that shows the best new information. Only material newer before shown before the Group may compete.

Members living far afield, or who cannot be present, may send their exhibits to the Editor or to the Secretary for showing. Get your stuff to us by April 2 at latest and please include return postage. Otherwise it will be sent back by express collect.

#### Our New Headpiece

We are indebted to our member John R. McGee, of Greenbelt, Md., for the very lovely job on the headpiece for the Philatelist. He lettered it and presented it to us with compliments and good wishes. It was reduced photographically to the required size, without losing character.

#### EDITORIAL

##### Why So Much on Counterfeits?

One of the members wrote in, deprecating the amount of attention given in the Philatelist, both under Dr. Vaurie's editorship and the present one, to the various counterfeits of French and French Colonial stamps. This member points out the possibility that this emphasis might be discouraging to new collectors in our field.

The answer is:

We have emphasized this aspect because there have been continual requests for this information. For the most part, the facts about the recognition characteristics of the counterfeits have been inaccessible: scattered through many small articles in various journals, or embodied in costly books that are out of print.

In cold fact, a few of the counterfeits are really choice show pieces: we refer to the forgeries of the 15c Type Sage of France made to defraud the postal service, and the Faux Petain stamp, made by the Underground during the late war.

--S.G.R.

#### Additional Facts on the 1944 Liberation Issues

By Henri Menard

The reader is referred to the articles in the Philatelist of March-April 1945 (No. 20), May-June 1945 (No. 21) and Sept.-Oct. 1945 (No. 22), for the listings to which these notes are additional. In particular, early information was not accurate as to which issues were official or "regular."

The most "regular" issues are those made at Châlons-sur-Marne, Lille, Lyon and in the Loire Valley.

**Annecy:** This is very regular: for eight days this series was on sale at the post office, and only five stamps were sold to each purchaser.

**Argentan:** This town was destroyed during the fighting. Frequently the stamps of Cherbourg have been called the "Argentan issue"; but no genuine issue of the place is thus far known.

**Baccarat:** The issue was made by order of the Mayor and the local captain of the F.F.I., and put on sale Nov. 27 1944. It was sold in the post office while awaiting the regular stamps of the Republic. Two types of surcharge exist in the sheet. There is one more denomination than listed in this journal. Several of the denominations are rare.

**Badonviller:** Liberated the same day as Baccarat, the eleven overprinted values listed (March-April 1945 number) were sold in the post office and are "regular" whether "authorized" or not.

**Bellegarde:** There were six denominations in all, not merely three as reported, all with surtax. They were sold at the post office in commemoration of Liberations and for the benefit of the Front National. Some are known on covers.

**Civrey:** A "strictly unofficial" series was issued here.

**Cluzes:** This issue is certainly very "regular." Six denominations were sold at the Mayor's Office on Sunday, the first day, and after that for some days at the post office.

**Curzay:** 16 denominations were issued by the postmaster after receipt of the circular from the Direction des Postes. These are a rare set.

**Marseille:** All letters mailed Sept. 7 and 8, 1944, at the station Marseille-St.-Ferreol, had the stamps overprinted with the device shown.



This overprint is not known on unused stamps and quite possibly is a cancellation.

**Montreuil-Bellay:** Not previously reported. Several stamps were overprinted by order of the F.F.I. when they held the town; and stamps not surcharged were refused use as no longer valid.

**Mornant:** From Oct. 3 to 12, 1944, this issue was sold at the post office. The stamps have been seen on many letters. There were 15 denominations: 50c, 60c, 70c blue, 70c red, 80c brown, 80c green, 1f, 1.20f, 1.50f, 2f, 2.40f, 3f, 4f, 4.50f, 5f.

**Montluel:** Entirely unofficial.

**Paris:** The overprint is unofficial, made by clerks at Station No. 123.

**Roanne:** This issue was "regular" and sold in the post office. I have received letters with postage paid by these stamps.

Vesoul: A handstamped overprint was used. Several letters have been seen with these stamps. Between this article and the three preceding ones, the listing of the Liberation overprints is believed to be complete.

F. & C. G. Members Win Highest Awards  
at Polpex Stamp Show, Chicago

Polpex 1946, held Feb. 9 to 12 in Chicago by the Polonus Philatelic Society, was marked up as the occasion when members of the Group had their real field day and brought home all the prime bacon.

Ben Reeves, a charter member of our Group, took the Grand Award for best in the show. We congratulate him on this well-merited result. He exhibited Heligoland Postal Stationery.

Polpex did not have prizes by separate sections or classes, but a limited number of the awards of each class (first, second, third) that were awarded on merit regardless of the class or division in which and exhibit was placed.

Of the three First Awards, two went to our members. Lester Jankowski took one for a fine lot of Austrian Precancels. S.G. Rich took one for France Type Sage.

Markings From Older French Stampless  
(Reprinted from Postal Markings magazine, 1939).



Many of our members have served in the armed forces; some are now home; others soon will be. Do we have your correct address? Are you receiving the Philatelist? Please check up and send your list of missing numbers to the secretary.

Back numbers of the Philatelist are still to be had (from the secretary) at \$1.00 per set of six (a year's numbers) or 25 cents for any single copy. Only one or two very early copies are out of print.

THE NEW SERVICE

Want or exchange notices: 25 words or less; one or two insertions. Members only; no charge.

Wanted: Algeria, Scott Nos. 13a, 16a, 39a, 78a, 99a, 132; also errors, etc. D.L. Harkins (56) Caldwell, Idaho.

Wanted: Covers with Type Sage 1c green, 2c, 4c 5c, and 1 franc. S.G. Rich (2), Verona, New Jersey.

SECRETARY'S REPORT  
Jan. 1 to Feb. 23  
1946

APPLICATIONS PENDING:

Mills, Mr. Charles B., P. O. Box 357, Moline, Illinois  
Burlingame, Miss Agnes, c/o Guaranty Trust Co. of N.Y., 140 Broadway, New York 15, N.Y.  
Folito, Ted, Jr., 3239 St. John Ave., Kansas City, Mo.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome.

223. Bartleson, R., 1018 West 47th St., Seattle, Wash. (Liberation Issues)  
224. Goldwasser, Marcy A., 2141 Coney Island Av. Brooklyn 3, N.Y. (France & Colonies general)  
225. de Brimont, P., 1006 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal, Que., Canada. (General)  
226. Norton, O.S., R.D. 1, Box 361, Ripon, Calif. (Cancellations)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

204. Seed, Mr. Allen H., Jr., to 202 Metropolitan Bldg., Minneapolis 2, Minn.  
217. Elliott, Mr. D.L. to 165 Los Cerritos Trailer Court 2391 Judson Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
221. Leon, N. N. was incorrectly listed as Mr. N. Madison in previous issue. His address is Box 1445, Beverly Hills, Calif.  
Keel, Mr. J. L. to Box 1163, Ada, Okla.  
194. Sensted, Pvt. Kenneth P., 46049537, AAF. Bu. B.T.C., 3706 Squadron H, Sheppard Field, Texas.

NOW IS THE TIME for all good members to pay their dues for the current year, October 1945 to October 1946. Many have already done so. Therefore this notice is addressed to those members from whom your secretary has not yet received the \$1.00 for non-resident membership or \$2.00 for resident (New York metropolitan area) membership.

We have not as yet sent out bills for dues, except as requested, since the Group was organized. We depend upon your interest and enthusiasm to keep us going. But sooner or later your copy of the Philatelist will stop arriving so send in your check or cash or money order and keep your membership up to date.

STAMPS FOR THE WOUNDED are still needed in almost all areas where our boys are hospitalized. There has been much publicity in the press on this subject, and almost all stamp clubs have received the appeal. If you can spare anything philatelic, stamps, albums, supplies or periodicals turn them over to your local groups. If you do not belong to a "home town" club, send them to Mrs. H. A. Stringham, 35 Franklin Pl., Montclair, N. J. and she will turn them in at the sorting and distributing office of "Stamps for the Wounded". Red Cross workers and stamp collectors who have visited with these boys are enthusiastic over results obtained in very short periods. MORE materials are needed all the time. If you have already given, give again.