

France & Colonies Philatelist



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W e A r e V e r y L a t e

There are many reasons why this number comes to you nearly eight months after its date as given on the masthead. But there is little use in proclaiming the many reasons. Your editor's inclination is to take all the blame, since his own delays are a major fact in the matter.

D i s t i n c t i o n s A m o n g t h e F r e n c h S t a m p s

By Bertram W. H. Poole.

Reprinted from Mekeel's Weekly of March 23, 1925

(We reprint this article at the suggestion that a number of our members, especially those who are new to French stamps, would appreciate such "elementary" information--Editor.)

With only catalog illustrations as a guide, he would indeed be a wise collector who could sort his French stamps in the way they should go. Study Scott's types A1 and A8 for example, then see if you can distinguish the 10c stamps of the two issues. Can you do it? Few collectors can.

While a few foot-notes are thrown in, here and there, none of the catalogs are very clear on the numerous points concerning the interesting issues of the Republic of France which are a puzzle to all—beginners and advanced collectors who have not specialized.

With the kindly co-operation of Mr. A. Blanc, who has drawn the splendid illustrations which accompany these notes,



Fig. A.

1849

40 40 40
I. II. III.

Fig. C

we propose to elucidate most if not all of the knotty points.

The first postage stamps issued in France appeared in 1849. the simple but



Fig. B

1870

artistic design showing a head of "Ceres" as allegorical of the Republic (Scott's type A1). These stamps printed from engraved plates, while those of similar design, issued in 1870, were lithographed. But this fact is not sufficient as a guide to identification, so far as the average collector is concerned, especially as regards the 10c and 40c values. In the engraved type, the stalks of grain project beyond the head and almost touch the pearly circle (Fig. A). In the lithographed, or Bordeaux issue, the ends of the stalks of grain are indistinct and do not project at all (Fig. B). Mr. Blanc's drawings lay striking emphasis on these points of distinction.

An interesting variety of some rarity is found in connection with the 40c value of this 1849 issue. Normally the numerals "4" are as shown in types I and II of the annexed cut, but a rarer variety with wider "4" is known as illustrated by type III. According to Gibbons' catalog the variety "occurs twice in the bottom row only of each sheet. One of these stamps has the wide 4 on both sides, the other on one side only."

The issues of 1852 to 1870 provide no real difficulties if the illustrations in the catalog are studied. The design of the stamps of 1852 (Scott's A2) is at once identified by the inscription "Repub. Franc"; the issue of 1853-60, while showing the same portrait of Napoleon III, is inscribed "Empire Franc"; the issue of 1862 is of similar design but the stamps are perforated instead of being imperforate; while in the series of 1863-70 the head is adorned with a wreath of laurel leaves in honor of the Napoleonic victories in the invasion of Italy. Two types of the 5 franc are recorded, these differing in the height of the "5F" as mentioned in the catalog.

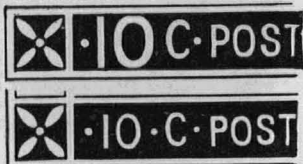


Fig. D

In 1870 the unscrupulous ambition of Napoleon III and Bismarck led to the Franco-German war which resulted in a series of defeats for the French, culminating in the disaster at Sedan on September 2nd. This terrible news overturned the empire and the Republic was again proclaimed. The Germans claimed concessions of territory, and as these were refused, they marched on Paris and besieged that city. During the siege (and later) the old plates of 1849 were resuscitated for all values except the 1 franc. Where the colors are the same the stamps

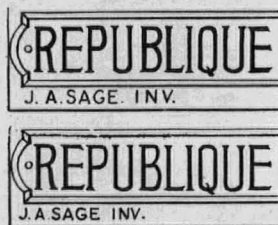


Fig. E

of this set can be at once distinguished from the fact that they are perforated. During the siege of Paris, where all the postage stamps had hitherto been printed, a temporary printing establishment was set up at Bordeaux and as the original plates were in Paris and there were no facilities for making duplicates, resort was made to lithography. These stamps were all imperforate and, as we have already shown, they can be quickly identified by the indefiniteness of the stalks of grain.

A new design for the 1c to 5c values (Scott's A7) was introduced, but apart from any other differences, these are easily told from the fact that they are imperforate while the engraved stamps

of corresponding denominations are perforated. Scott mentions three types of the 20c of the Bordeaux lithographs, while Gibbons lists four, viz.: "I.—With wide space between inner circles and outer frame at top; inscriptions in smaller letters, shading of dots on neck. II.—Thicker lettering, shading of horizontal



Fig. F

lines on neck. III.—Taller lettering, lines on neck and fuller shading under the eye. IV.—Similar to III but with point of bust 1mm from the pearly circle." Type I is considerably rarer than the others.

In 1872 new plates were made for the 10c, 15c, 30c and 80c values (Scott's A14) with the numerals of value larger than before. The differences are clearly shown in Fig. D.

In 1876 an entirely new design (Scott's A15) was introduced, this being known as the Peace and Commerce type. There are two varieties of most of the values. In type I, which is the rarer, the letter "N" of the designer's imprint "J. A. Sage—Inv" is shown below the "B" of "Republique" while in type II the "N" is under the "U" (Fig. E). In 1877-78 there was a general change of colors and later new values were added, but all were



Fig. G

of the second type only. While further changes and additions were made in 1898-1900 philatelists were astonished to find the 5c in yellow-green re-appearing in the obsolete first type. It is interesting to note that in this resuscitated type the numeral "5" is much larger than before.

In 1900 three new types were introduced and of these the 10c and 25c provide two varieties. In the first plates made for these values, the numerals were printed at a second operation, while in later printings the entire stamp was printed at the same time. The earlier and scarcer type may be told by the misplacement of the numerals or the fact that they are in a lighter or darker tint than the balance of the design.

In 1902 the design of the 10c to 30c values was redrawn (Scott's A19) "Postes" being inserted in the upper border and the numerals being on a leaf-bordered shield.

In 1903 the well-known "Sower" design was introduced. In 1906 this was



Fig. H

redrawn, the background being solid instead of lined, and ground being placed under the feet of the Sower lady (Fig. F).

Later, in 1906, the design was again modified, the ground being removed so that the figure is apparently walking on air (Fig. G, Scott's A22). The 10c and 35c values were issued first and on these the numerals and letters of "Postes" are thin, as shown in the sketch Fig. G.

In 1907, other values appeared and new plates were made for the 10c and 35c, all having numerals and letters thicker as illustrated in Fig. H.

In 1917, stamps of the 1901-7 types were printed on paper of poor quality, due to the paper scarcity caused by the war. This paper is usually grayish and contains bits of fibre, similar to granite paper.



Fig. I

(This 1917 coarse paper is called "O.C. paper" and stamps printed on it are treated as distinct varieties by the modern collectors — Editor, F. & C. P.)

In the Postage Due stamps, we find an interesting problem concerning the two values of the first type (Scott's D1). Both the 10c and 15c exist lithographed and typographed, and as the difference in value is considerable, it is well to know how to distinguish them. In the typographed variety, the accent over "a" does not slope so acutely as in the lithographed,



Fig. J

while the letters of "Centimes" are not only thicker but the "E's" are distinctive in having the central bar nearly as wide as the top and bottom ones. Fig. I illustrates the typographed variety, while Fig. J illustrates the lithographed.

Due Stamps Used to Prepay Postage in Reunion, 1901

In the Needham collection of covers, there were several interesting French Colonial pieces to which I have never seen reference in the literature. Two of these were from Reunion, and franked with the postage dues of the 1894 general issue for the French Colonies: one with the 5c, the other with the 15c (Scott's J15 and J17). These stamps were used alone to prepay postage. The covers were mailed and cancelled at Pointe de Galets, Reunion, Jan. 20, 1901. A notation, in ink, on the faces of the covers, written by the postmaster and initialled by him, indicates that the due stamps were valid for postage owing to lack of regular stamps. A further notation on the back in pencil, source unknown, states that the usage was validated by a decree, at Pointe de Galets between Jan. 1 and 21, 1901.

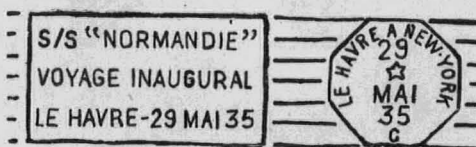
These covers were again sold, at \$6.50 for the two, in Kelleher's sale of April 11, 1942.

-- R.G. Stone

Manuscript "N" on France 30c 1872.

Mr. Sam Zander, Galveston, Texas, has shown your editor a copy of the 30c brown of 1872, No. 62 of Scott, cancelled with the usual star of dots from Paris, and with a manuscript capital N written on the cheek of Ceres about 3 mm. high. It is your editor's recollection, (but he cannot locate the source) that in that period, Bonapartists used to put this initial on their postage when writing their political friends, to show their loyalty to Napoleon III or "Napoleon IV", the Prince Imperial.

In Memoriam
for a
Noble Ship
that had
Bludgeoning
of Fate.



Illustrations of R F Cancellations on U.S. Airmails

The R.F. Cancellations
on U.S. Air Mails.

"Marseilles" Script type 28 mm.	"Oran" circle type 26 mm.	Forgery of "Oran" 22 mm.	Boxed type 23 x 8 mm.
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France & Colonies Group Exhibitor
Wins First Award at Collectors Club.

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 1946, was "Study Groups night" at the Collectors Club, New York. No less than thirteen special field societies, including the Booklet Pane, Essay-Proof, Hellenic, Australasian, Precancel, Aerophilatelist, and others, competed each with a chosen exhibit from among what each club's membership could show.

First prize went to the France and Colonies Group exhibitor, Mr. J. Brainerd Kremer 3rd, with his exhibit of the 1863 issue of France: every type of regular cancellation, and the various dies and varieties. Aerophilatelists took the second prize and the New York Precancel Stamp Club the third.

The judges were Elliott Perry, Sol Glass, and John Britt.

New Caledonia 50c 1928 Variety.

Mr. Richard Kuklinski of Chicago has shown us a block of six of New Caledonia No. 148, the 50c "landscape" type, mauve and light brown, with one stamp showing a conspicuous dot on the mask at the right side of the stamp, between the eye and the mouth. The block is from the top row of the lower pane, with gutter attached. This variety is in the second row of the pane, with one ordinary stamp on each side of it. Neither right nor left pane margin is on the block; so we cannot yet locate the "dot variety" exactly.

The colors of this block are mauve and light brown. This may help in establishing the date in the life of the stamp at which this variety appeared.

Does the 50c stamp exist at all in "violet"? Scott gives its color as "violet" but we have never seen it in that color.

Gabon 1911 1 Centime Variety.

Mr. Joseph Tober, Passaic, N.J., has shown us Gabon No. 40, the 1c Pangown Chieftain of 1911 with the final S of Postes missing, P of Postes defective, I and Q of Afrique defective---also some other flaws. All flaws are in the orange printing. We suspect that this rather pleasing variety might be found fairly often, and on other values in the same type. Perhaps study of many copies would show progressive development of the flaw.

If you don't go with any results or opinions published in this journal, we'll publish yours if you'll write it up into any article.

Much information has been added, on the "R.F." cancellations since the article in our July 1945 number (No. 22).

Mr. M. O. Warns, in the Airpost Journal for May 1946, gives an exhaustive treatment of the various types of cancellation, picturing 25 of them, all different. In a following article in the same journal for October 1946, he adds four more types, including a boxed type and a script type. We reprint these two last pictures.

The script type was reported to have been used at naval bases in Southern France, and has accordingly been called "Marseilles Type." This type apparently was applied before affixing the stamp to cover. Some of these were taken away by the purchaser instead of being used. Such a practice does not constitute surcharging -- nor even precancelling, however. All covers which have been pictured show that the French "Poste Navale" or other postmark always ties the stamp to the cover. Booklet pane stamps as well as sheet stamps were cancelled with the script.

Mr. Warns is explicitly in agreement with the contention of the F. & C. Philatelist --- that the "R.F." marks are cancellations: only cancellations. He cites one case in which this marking occurs on a sailor's stampless letter, with "F.M." marking also to show that the usual free transmission of mail here applied.

By courtesy of Mr. George Mary, from whom we had loan of the cover, we illustrate here the large circle type, 26 mm., which was incorrectly pictured from a description only in our July 1945 article. This is known as the "Oran" type, because first found on covers originating there.

The Oran type has been counterfeited, put on unused 6c airmail stamps, which have their gum still. The forgery is 22 mm. in diameter; it is struck in black rubber handstamp ink instead of in the regular grease-base ink used by the postal people for cancelling. The lettering is neither strictly vertical, nor slanting to the extent normal for italics, rather crude in look, and with the tail of the R unduly curved. Thus it can be identified immediately. We thank Mr. Mary for lending us the forgery to trace.

The smaller circle type illustrated by us in the July 1945 article is also incorrectly shown from a mere description. We regret that a copy of the actual item has not been at availability to enable us to show it accurately.

Mr. Warns' second article reports definite evidence that one type of R.F. cancellation on U.S. air mail stamps was used at Martinique, for mail from the aircraft carrier "Bearn" and from other French ships immobilized there. Up to now we have known only of use from North Africa and from metropolitan France.

The facts at hand now demonstrate beyond any reasonable doubt that the "R.F." on U.S. air mail stamps is strictly a cancellation: that any unused copies with it are "favors" that had escaped by complaisance of the cancelling officials.

Please note that in the July 1945 article, one typographical error may confuse you: near top of page 13 (front page), column 2: the cancellations are given as "R.T.", incorrectly--they are all "R.F."

S.G.R.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

April 10 to July 15, 1946.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome ---

223. Polito, Ted, Jr., 3239 St. John Ave., Kansas City 1, Mo. (Liberation Issues)
 224. Bartleson, R., 1018 West 47th St., Seattle 3, Wash. (Liberation Issues)
 225. Goldwasser, Marcy A., 2141 Coney Island Ave, Brooklyn 3, N.Y. (France and Colonies General)
 226. de Brimont, P., 1006 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal, Que., Canada. (General; Dealer).
 227. Burlingame, Miss Agnes, c/o Guaranty Trust Co., 140 Broadway, New York 15, N.Y.
 228. Mills, Charles B., P.O. Box 357, Moline, Ill.
 229. Jervis, Henry, 113 London Road, Coalville, Leicestershire, England.
 230. Glass, Lester S., 1831 Glenifer St., Philadelphia 41, Penna.
 231. Williams, Mrs. Anne Stanley, 3709 Fannin St., Houston 4, Texas.
 232. Young, Howard J., 280 Central Ave., Orange, N.J.
 233. Kyburg, Albert, 215 Grand Ave., Palisades Park, N.J.
 234. Tchilinghirian, S.D., Room 610, 115 Broadway, New York 6, N.Y.
 235. Dombrowski, William T., 123 West 31st St., Bayonne, N.J.
 236. Wyman, Francis, 6 Pine St., South Portland, Maine.
 237. Timpany, Clair A., 129 Selden St., Boston 24, Mass.
 238. Waylett, Wilson, P.O. Box 1003, Olympia, Wash.
 239. Upjohn, D.H., 964 South Liberty St., Salem, Oreg.
 240. Pasquier, Pierre Q., 2014 Bretton Place, Toledo 6, Ohio
 241. van Straten, Dr. Leon, 71 Collins St., Melbourne C.1. Vic., Australia.
 242. Hedley, Richard P., 45 Allen St., Buffalo 2, N.Y.
 243. Biggs, H., 391 Connaught Ave., Halifax, N.S., Canada.
 244. Leclair, R., 758 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal, Que., Canada.
 245. Stone, Marshall H., 30 Hillside Avenue, Cambridge 40, Mass.
 246. Keys, Dr. Everel, 14742 Center Ave., Harvey, Ill.
 247. McDaniel, Dr. Robert C., 7360 North 21st St., Philadelphia 38, Pa.
 248. Norton, O.S., R.D. 1, Box 361, Ripon, Calif. (Cancellations).

APPLICATIONS PENDING:

- Kuklinski, Richard, 2546 South Drake Ave; Chicago 23, Ill.
 Murphree, Idus, 1031 North 33rd St., Waco, Texas.
 Wellman, Earl H., Brookfield, Ill.
 Lutters, Mrs. Alice E., 1302 Taft Road, West Englewood, N.J.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

16. Musy, Jacques, to P.O. Box 47, Planetarium Station, New York 24, N.Y.
 90. Segnitz, Paul H., to 6191 Third Ave, South St. Petersburg 7, Fla.
 97. Lidman, David, to Editor Philately, 200 South 7th St., St. Louis 2, Mo.

MEMBERSHIP LIST:

Your Secretary, up to this number's going to press, had not completed the manuscript of the promised list. It will appear as soon as it can be completed.

THE NEW SERVICE
 Want or exchange notices; 25 words or less, one or two insertions. Members only; no charge.

Wanted: To purchase cancellations--19th Century: Anchor, Numeral, Registered, Straight Line, Paris and Paris stations specially. K.F. Olson, (198), 835 North Cass St., Milwaukee 2, Wis.

Wanted: Algeria, Scott Nos. 13a, 16a, 29a, 78a, 99a, 132; also errors, etc. D.L. Harkins (56), Caldwell, Ohio.

Would like to hear from members collecting Free French issues. Pvt. K.F. Senstad 46049537, A.A.F.Bu., B.T.C., 3706, Squadron H, Sheppard Field, Texas. (Member 194)

Wanted: Covers bearing Mersons and Sages (of Colonies and France), Merson errors and varieties, Sage Blocks. Henry Jervis, 113 London Road, Coalville, Leicestershire, England. (229)

Paris covers wanted: stampless; numbered stars, ambulants, and neat moderns. John B. Morton, (79) 1170 1/2 Delaware Ave., Buffalo 9, N.Y.

Wanted: 2c Type Blanc (1900 issue), precancelled in Type I Hoover ("Annulation pour les imprimés"). S.G. Rich (2), Verona, New Jersey.

Variety of Port de La Rochelle Type 3.

Mr. Fred Hieber, our member in Florida, shows the editor a copy of the Port de La Rochelle 10f in Die or Type 3 (Scott No. 252) with the closed O in "10f", with an apparently unreported minor variant (or is it a major variety?). The stamp is in the typical dull blue of the printings in 1935-37, postmarked March 11, 1935.



This copy shows the bottom of the boxes containing "Republique Francaise" and "10f" continuous.

Mr. Hieber reports that among some 50 copies of the stamp, no other showed this variation.

The picture shows the feature.

Your editor has not found any mention of this variety. Nor is it listed in the Yvert, Inter, Berck, or Thiaude catalogs; nor in Scott, nor in the British Stanley Gibbons catalog.

Further comment for future numbers invited.

"Whistling Marianne"

This stamp, first of all, is an ordinary letterpress job, or "typographed" or "surface printed" as such jobs are called in philatelic usage. Thus whatever applies to ordinary book and magazine printing applied here.

The whistling effect is produced by the accident of a round bit of dirt, presumably caked ink, adhering to the surface of the plate. Sometimes such bits adhere very firmly and are not removed in the washing of the plate at the end of a day's running.

When the plate is put to work again, the bit of dirt prints as a black mark; and as it stands up slightly, the lines of the plate right close to it do not print. Thus we get the pursed lips effect.

Just how many impressions might be taken before the action of the press dislodges the bit of dirt cannot be said; since it is a variable depending on the tenacity of the dried ink. Also the adherent round bit of dirt might be discovered and removed by the man running the press.

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