

France & Colonies Philatelist



Published bi-monthly by the France and Colonies Group

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(This number published Feb. 1 1947)

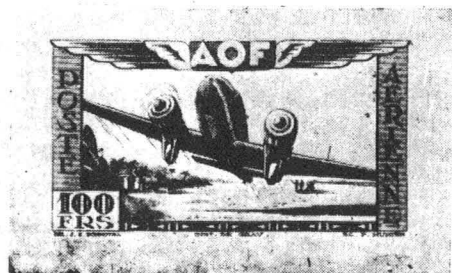
The 100 francs Sénégal Air Mail

By P.G. Almasy.

(Translated from "Les Ondes Philatéliques" 1946)



Original Design
and
Stamp
as issued



Essay
derived from
Original Design
but not issued as
a stamp.

We are dealing with a very beautiful colonial stamp, made for air mail use in Senegal: it is No. 30 of Yvert, No. C25 of Scott. The large design, 48 x 26 mm., is printed in two colors, carmine and ultramarine. The face value is 100 francs. This was the first stamp put into use by French postal services with so high a face value. The rise of rates required the further making of stamps of 200 francs face, later.

The vignette represents a large two-motor plane at the moment of taking off from an air port somewhere in Africa. The original drawing was made by Bonhotal. The engraving is the work of P. Munier. The Institut de Gravure, in Paris, printed the stamp, which is line-engraved and recess-printed, on an ultra-modern press which permitted printing the two colors in a single run. (Scott gives one color as rotogravure).

When the administration ordered this stamp, it had been decided to use it only in Senegal. Thus the name of this colony was engraved on the original die. After several essays had been printed, a further order came long, directing that the stamp should serve for all the colonies in French Equatorial Africa (A.O.F.). The name "Senegal" accordingly had to be removed. So as not to spoil the original die, the Institut made a remarkably successful transfer, and thus obtained a second die. From this, the word was removed and the entire lower portion of the

stamp engraved anew. The runway was lengthened and the shadow of the plane is made to stand out well.

(The removal of the lower part of the stamp design was done by grinding it off the relief during the process of transfer, not by taking it out of the secondary die. In line-engraving, no other method is practicable or is ever known to have been used.--Editor, F. & C. Phil.)

This was never put into circulation as a stamp. A very few proofs were made, which were neither perforated nor gummed.

Before plate-making began, the Ministry of Colonies returned to its first decision, giving the order to prepare the stamp for Senegal only. Thus the original die, carrying the colony name, served for plate-making.

50,000 copies were printed forthwith. This first printing, made in 1942, has the colors all bright and the paper pure white. A little later a second printing of 50,000 was made, which is distinguished by yellow paper; the colors are a little paler. Finally, in 1943, the Ministry had a reserve of 200,000 stamps printed. The paper is white, slightly thinner than hitherto.

All these stamps are comb perf. 12½. (Scott says 12½ x 12).

As a result of an accident in production, two sheets were not perforated. The 50 pairs from these two sheets are rare and interesting.

(All material in parentheses is added by the Editor of the F. & C. Phil.)

French Protest Forgeries

The secretary of state has transmitted to Postmaster General Robert E. Hannegan a note from the French Embassy with relation to sale on the American philatelic market of stamps of certain French colonies bearing alleged spurious surcharges without knowledge of any French authority. The note requests the American authorities to take such measures as may be necessary to repress these alleged frauds.

The note from the French Embassy points out that these stamps of Saint Pierre and Miquelon, of the Cameroons, and of Senegal have never had legal circulation in the colonies of origin.

"They are therefore forgeries" the note states, "and their sale, for this reason, is prejudicial to the interests of the French government, as well as to the bona fide purchasers who are victims of the fraud."

With reference to the stamps of Saint Pierre and Miquelon, it is said they bear the unauthentic surcharge "Oeuvres demer." This has been put on two vignettes already bearing the official surcharge "France Libre." These stamps are the 0.9 franc and 1.4 franc of the 1938-40 (Hello-Vaugirard) issue presenting the same subject of the stamp of the Cameroons (native woman, issued in 1939-1940). The 2 centime stamp received the surcharge in red "French Cameroons 27-8-40" authorized by local decree No. 92 Sept. 12, 1940. No stamp of this series has received the surcharge F. L. or "France Libre." Consequently, if one is circulated in

the United States, it is a forgery. As far as the stamp of Senegal bearing a non-official surcharge is concerned, it is a question of a denomination of the aviation series of Senegal of 1935, the 4.75 franc, orange. The surcharge would be in black, green, blue and red and would be as follows:

"Entr' Aide français" with the mistake in agreement "francais" instead of française "95.5 francs." The governor general of French West Africa stated that no issue of this kind had been made in his colony. Consequently, this stamp, changed without the knowledge of any French authority, is also a forgery.

In his reply to the communication from the secretary of state, the postmaster general pointed out that the circulation of such stamps in philatelic channels had not heretofore been brought to the attention of his department, and that due warning would be given the philatelic press of the existence of such counterfeits.

"If, as a result of the publicity" the postmaster general stated, "definite knowledge is obtained as to the existence and whereabouts of such stocks of counterfeit stamps, a complete investigation will be ordered and the facts turned over to the secret service division, Treasury Department, for prosecution. You may assure the French Embassy that there exists ample authority of law for the protection of foreign postal administrations in cases of this character and that the full co-operation of the Post Office Department can be expected."

-- Stamp Review (St. Joseph, Mo.) June 1946

The commonest of all counterfeits of French or colonial stamps among material offered here in the U.S. are the Fornier forgeries of the Group Type (1892 on) of the colonies. Watch for the "closed fist" grasping central staff, as it is the easiest key to catch these forgeries.

In Memoriam.

Francois M. Colombain, charter member of the Group and well known among collectors and the trade in New York, died Jan. 13, 1947, aged 71. The Group sent a wreath to the funeral.

Catalog Review

France. A catalog. New York; Nassau Stamp Co., Jan. 1947. Plastic binding; \$3.00.

Our group president, Mr. Lesgor, has done the job long needed: an adequate catalog of France in English. He has expanded his former price list into a real catalog, listing items whether or not he has them in stock, and giving details of the specialization of the earlier issues. The many illustrations, showing varieties well, are a welcome aid to many collectors.

The new book might receive much praise, also much discussion of its features here. But Mr. Lesgor prefers that his position as Group president be respected by saying little, making no extensive praise or evaluation of the book.

Nevertheless, your editor must in all honesty say that the extent and accuracy of information in this new catalog makes its appearance a major event in the philately of France in this land. For the first time, a collector can now go past the simplest phases of French collecting, aided by an adequate list of what exists, in one book, fully illustrated, and his own American language. The prices appear to be a very accurate report of the current market as of about Dec. 1, 1946.

--S.G.R.

Dues Used as Postage, Reunion, 1901

Several interesting covers from the Needham collection show a usage not yet reported in any journal or book. Two were franked with due stamps prepaying postage: one with the 5c, one with the 15c, of the 1894 Colonies general dues issue. They were mailed and postmarked at Pointe des Galets, Reunion, Jan. 20, 1901. A notation in ink on the face of each, written and initialed by the postmaster shows that the dues were used in a shortage of regular stamps. ---Robert G. Stone.

THE NEW SERVICE

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

Would like to hear from members collecting Free French issue. Pvt. K.P. Senstad 46049547 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. (Member 229).

Wanted: 2c Type Blanc (1900 issue) precanceled in Type I Hoover ("Annulation pour les imprimes"). S.G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2).

Wanted, for trade or cash: Many French precancels, anchor cancellations, colored cancellations, plate varieties, shades, etc. Carl Stephenson, Boardman Hall, Ithaca, N.Y. (Member 45).

By-Laws of The France and Colonies Group

Adopted at the regular meeting, Jan. 3, 1947
at New York, N.Y.

Article 1. Name.

The name of this organization shall be: The France and Colonies Group.

Article 2. Objects.

The objects of this Group shall be: the promotion of collecting and study of stamps, postal history and related subjects, of and pertaining to France and her dependencies, and such other branches of Philately as may interest or benefit its members; to cultivate a feeling of friendship and cooperation among philatelists; to assist its members in acquiring and disposing of philatelic and literary material.

Article 3. Membership.

Any person of good character interested in the objects of this Group may become a member of the Group.

The classes of members shall be: resident members and non-resident members. Resident members are those persons who reside in, or in the metropolitan area of, New York or any other city where regular meetings are held by Chapters of the Group. The New York Chapter shall be called the Parent Chapter. Annual dues of Resident members shall be \$2.00, with \$1.00 thereof retained for the separate fund of the Chapter. All other members, not so classified as Resident members, shall be Non-Resident, with annual dues of \$1.00. Adult members of either class shall be eligible for membership on the Board of Directors. All members shall have equal voting rights. All dues shall be payable on the first day of October of each year.

Membership shall be granted upon written application and upon payment of the annual membership dues of the applicable class in advance. Each application shall be approved unanimously by the Membership Committee.

A member shall be in good standing when not in default in the payment of dues or of other indebtedness due to the Group and against whom no charges are pending.

Voluntary withdrawal of a member shall be effective thirty days from and after receipt of notice in writing by an officer, only when the member is in good standing.

A member shall continue in membership upon censure or during a period of suspension, with such limitation of privileges as shall be determined, upon cause and after notice, by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

A member may be expelled for cause by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. Expulsion shall be solely upon a finding of improper conduct or any conduct unbecoming a member, based upon written charges of another member, served in writing upon due notice of a hearing thereon.

Article 4. Meetings.

The annual meeting of the Group and election of Directors and Officers shall be held in May, on at least ten days' notice, at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors.

Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Board for named special purposes.

A Chapter may call meetings at any time or place, at discretion of its Chapter Chairman or Secretary.

Article 5. Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year of the Group shall begin on October first, annually.

Article 6. Officers and Directors.

The elective officers of the Group shall be a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary, all ex-officio Directors. They and four Directors at Large shall comprise the Board of Directors.

The Board may appoint an Editor. The Elective Officers and all four Directors at Large shall be elected at the Annual Meeting, and shall serve from the time of the adjournment of the annual meeting of their election to the adjournment of the next annual meeting and until the election and qualification of their successors in office. Vacancies pending an annual election shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors.

Elective officers will perform the usual duties of their respective offices and shall exercise the authority requisite therefor. The President shall execute on behalf of the Group all contracts, deeds and other legal instruments. The President and the Treasurer jointly shall sign all warrants for expenditures properly incurred by or on behalf of the Group. No elective officer shall receive any compensation for his services. The Board of Directors shall manage and control the affairs of the Group in accordance with these By-Laws and subject to adopted motions or resolutions by the members at the meetings of the Group.

The Board of Directors shall be convened in session upon call of the President, or of any three members thereof, for special purposes as stated in the call, or for the general transaction of business. Mail votes of directors shall not be effective for any purpose. Four directors shall constitute a quorum for any Board meeting. The chairman for any Board meeting shall be the President, if present; then the Vice-President; and then such other Director as may be senior on the rolls. The Chairman for all Group meetings shall be similarly chosen.

Article 7. Committees.

The president shall, with the advice and approval of the Board of Directors designate all Committees and all appointees thereto. The Chairman of any Committee shall be a member of the Board of Directors. Such Committees shall serve for the term for which the officers of the Group are elected, and until their successors are appointed, but any member shall be subject to removal by the President at any time.

The Membership Committee shall be a permanent committee.

Article 8. Publications.

France & Colonies Philatelist shall be the official journal of the Group. The Philatelist, and any other publication sponsored by the Group, shall be published by the Editor, under the supervision and direction of the Board of Directors. The subscription price shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

All receipts and expenses from publications, whether from advertising or otherwise, shall be payable directly to or by the Treasurer.

By-Laws concluded at bottom of page 12, Col. 2.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

July 15 1946 to Jan. 15 1947.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome ---

248. Milbury, John M., 40 Ridgeway St., Mount Vernon, N.Y. (France).
 249. Van Zuilen, Walter H., 3500 Fillmore Ave., Brooklyn 10, N.Y. (France).
 250. Lutters, Mrs. Alice E., 1302 Taft Road, West Englewood, N.J. (France, Guba, Netherlands).
 251. Wellman, Earl H., Brookfield, Ill. (Air Mails and Air Labels).
 252. Murphree, Idus, 1031 North 33rd St., Waco, Texas. (French Possessions in the Pacific).
 253. Kuklinski, Richard, 2546 South Drake Ave. Chicago 23, Ill. (General collector).
 254. Harrity, Charles F., 818 Hampden Boulevard, Reading, Penna. (France).
 255. Borenstein, Harris, 68 Linden St., Everett 49, Mass. (Cancellations and 19th Cent.).
 256. Bureau, Benoni, 42-04 Layton St., Elmhurst, L.I., N.Y. (France).
 257. Hunnewell, Earl E., 83 Pleasant St. (Y.M.C.A.) Malden 48, Mass. (France; General Air Mails).
 258. Habrial, Henry A., R.D.2, Allentown, Penna. (France & Colonies; Free French).
 259. Sayles, A.L., 716 City Savings Bank Bldg., Alliance, Ohio. (No specialty stated).
 260. Holmdahl, John W., 368 41st St., Oakland, 9, Calif. (French and British Cols.).
 261. Nolin, Gerard P., 608 West 148 St., New York 31, N.Y. (Semi-Postals; Commemoratives).
 262. Silberstein, Milton L., 1607 Francis St., Houston 4, Texas. (Forgeries, Revenues, Locals, Telegraphs, Postal Stationery).
 263. Purves, George T., Knightstown, Ind. (France).
 264. Vooy, Daniel W., 40 West Main St., Mohawk, N.Y. (Philatelic Literature).

APPLICATIONS PENDING:

Sontheimer, Henry, 140 26th Ave. North, St. Petersburg 4, Fla.
 Milon, Pierre, P.O. Box 127, Fort de France, Martinique, French West Indies.

REINSTATED:

36. Thomas, Bernard, 4465 Q St., N.W., Washington 7, D.C.
 59. Hay, A.B., 820 Poydras St., New Orleans, La.

DECEASED:

40. Colombain, F.M., Long Island City, N.Y., Jan. 13, 1947.

RESIGNED:

169. Katz, Dr. Otto, New Orleans, La.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

34. Menninger, Mrs. William C., to 1724 Collins Ave., Topeka, Kansas.
 36. Thomas, Bernard, to 4465 Q St., N.W., Washington, 7, D.C. (This address also given with his reinstatement).

98. Hatfield, Jack, to 903 Linden Ave., Springfield, Ohio.
 133. Ball, Dwight B., to 4230 North Greenwood Av., Chicago 13, Ill.
 223. Bartleson, R., to R.D.1, Box 1022, Edmonds, Wash.
 225. de Brimont, P., to 3561 Peel St., Montreal, Que., Canada.
 237. Timpany, C.R., to West Medway, Mass.

CORRECTION: On page 8 of Philatelist No. 26, several New Member numbers were listed incorrectly: Correct listings of them are as follows: see No. 24 also.

223. R. Bartleson (not 224).
 Mr. Polito, listed as Member No. 223, did not join but let application lapse.
 224. M.A. Goldwasser (not 225).
 225. P. de Brimont (not 226).
 226. O.S. Norton (not 248).
 No. 248 is assigned to Mr. J.M. Millbury who is listed as a new member in this report.

The Editor accepts and admits responsibility for these numbering errors.



The Big Break."

From our member, Paul H. Segnitz, we got the picture just above, showing the famous very big plate break on the 20c Napoleon Laureate. This break he explains thus (from Yvert's specialized catalog):

Worn spots developed in the plate. To repair these, the plate was filled at broken spots by flowing on bits of hard solder, on which they re-engraved by hand the missing parts of the designs. These inlays speedily broke away, in big chunks, and apparently taking more of the plate with them in many cases. Hence the "Big Break" represents two successive stages of the damage to the plate.

Members well informed on U.S. Bureau Print Precancels will know of similar solder repairs and further breakings on the overprinting plates used with those stamps-- which, like the French stamp plates, are electrotypes.

By-Laws of the F. & C. Group
 --- continued from Page 11.

Article 9. Amendments.

These By-Laws may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board of Directors and, in addition, upon at least 30 days' prior notice to each member by publication in the official journal or otherwise by two-thirds vote of the members actually voting personally, or by proxy at an annual or special meeting.