

# France & Colonies Philatelist



Published bi-monthly by the France and Colonies Group

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ANNULATION  
pour les  
IMPRIMÉS

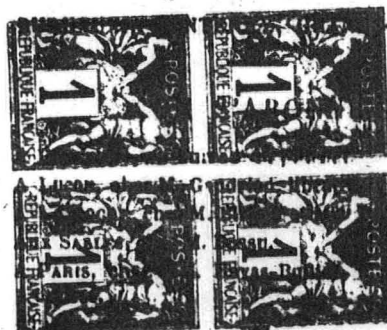
A little known --  
and still less  
appreciated usage  
and cancellation

Story on page 14.

Only known piece with  
more than a pair of  
stamps in this usage.  
John B. Morton's

Dimanche 14 Avril 1878

*TRAVAIL ET LIBERTÉ.*



-REF, 39

place de la

**Annonces, 25 centimes la ligne.**

Front of newspaper, showing the usage, regular and exclusive cancellation on the Empire Newspaper Stamps of 1869.

Dimanche 22 Août 1869. LE NUMERO 12 CENTIMES. N° 54. — Dix-septième année.

CE JOURNAL PARAÎT TOUS LES DIMANCHES

PREX D'ABONNEMENT.

PARIS : un an, 7 francs; — six mois, 4 fr.; — trois mois, 2 fr.

DÉPARTEMENT : un an, 5 fr.; — six mois, 3 fr.; — trois mois, 1 fr.

EN DEHORS DU DÉPARTEMENT : un an, 10 fr.; — six mois, 5 fr.; — trois mois, 3 fr. — Annonces : 25 centimes la ligne.

ON S'ABONNE

A Nantua, chez M. AUBRY, imprimeur et libraire; — à Bourg, chez les Libraires; — à Paris, chez MM. BAUDRY, LAGRANGE, BELLEIN ET C<sup>e</sup>, place de la Bourse, 31; LA FORTIN, au Palais de Justice; MOUTIER, ESTIVAL et FELS, place de la Fontaine; — et chez tous les autres Libraires. Les abonnements sont payables d'avance.



This usage, which we illustrate overleaf, is one of the few cases in French postal doings, in which a private cancelling is recognized as not only valid, but sufficient. As this sort of cancellation is applied before mailing, it has the requisite character for consideration as a mode of precancelling. American collectors have long recognized and collected stamps thus used, among the precancels of France. But in France these have been made a separate group.

With the issuance of the Newspaper Stamps in 1869, this method was required in mailings on which they were used. Certain of these newspaper stamps paid postage, or postage and tax jointly while others had revenue (tax) validity only.

The regular postage stamps of this period are found used in this same manner, both at this time and after the fall of the Empire. During and immediately after the fall of the Empire, almost every stamp that could pay a newspaper rate was so used. Older issues, dating back to the imperforate Empire series, all still valid, were used up in this way. We lack all evidence up to now, that Annulation pour les Imprimés on 1853 and 1862 stamps was applied earlier than 1869. Indeed, we find later dates showing, now and then, on such pieces.

The same usage was put into action with the revenue stamps for posters, inscribed "Affiches" --and has continued with equivalent revenues of later issues up to at least the late 1930's.

This "Annulation" consists of applying the unused stamps to the blank sheets of paper on which the journal or poster is to be printed. The reading matter is printed right over the stamp or stamps, and constitutes the only cancellation required. No postal killer, nor any town mark, is added by the post office, save in the rare cases when an item has been sent on to a new address, by the office to which it was originally directed.

Thus, stamps so used will show portions from the text, headings or ornaments of the journal printed right onto the stamp. Pieces which show the date of use, and entire journals, are sought after, in preference to stamps off paper.

The list of stamps known used this way, was published in 1936 in the Foreign Section of the Hoover Official Precancel Catalog. Since then, it has not grown. Hoovers, treating the usage as the earliest form of precancelling in France, call it "Type 1" of French precancels and give it the designation "Type F-1" in the Universal (Precancel) Style Chart.

This usage thins out after about 1875, but is found sporadically in use up to 1904. Although it was officially discontinued in 1890, we find examples of it in most years to 1904.

Multiples used in this way are far from usual. Pairs are known. Mr. Morton's block, Type Sage 1c black on blue, is the only larger piece thus far reported.

The really scarce items in this usage are:

- 1c 1853 imperforate
- Bisect of 4c laureate used as 2c
- Bordeaux issue, especially the 4c
- 5c 1871
- 1900 issue, especially the 2c
- All 5c and 10c stamps

No example of more than 10c face thus used has been reported. This statement included the multiples as well as single stamps. The 15c Bordeaux thus used is authoritatively stated to be a case of revenue use on a poster.

----- S.G.R.

Stampex 1948, the 17th annual show in North Jersey, was held at East Orange, N.J., Oct. 15, 16, and 17, 1948, just before this number went to press. This was the first major or national show in the season now opening. With 295 frames, each holding 16 album pages of usual size, Stampex as usual was one of the largest shows of the year.

This event was shared by the Group members. A few very choice exhibits formed their share.

George Weiler showed the 25c of the Commerce Type, general colonial issue of 1881, with the cancellations of the various colonies very well and fully exhibited on this saffron stamp. He took a second award in the Cancellations group.

John J. Britt showed Air Mail Proofs and Essays of the World, featuring recent French and Colonial ones. He took a first award in the Essays and Proofs.

Charles E. Meyer showed "Twenty Years of Numeral Cancellations in France, 1853-1873," with a pleasing array of covers.

Marcy A. Goldwasser showed the 20c France of 1853, with specialization well started. As a new collection, it was an example of remarkable progress in a short time, with excellent understanding of the philatelic problems involved.

Other members of the Group, who exhibited, were represented by material other than French, or French Colonial, stamps.

Mrs. Stringham, Mr. Britt, and others of the Group helped materially in mounting the show. Your editor was in charge as Director.

#### Stamp Forum in Newark, N.J., Nov. 5, 1948.

Mrs. Edith M. Fisher, who has done much for us on making our October 23 Pre-Centenary Forum and Dinner a success, is holding the Newark News Second Philatelic Forum, at the Newark News Auditorium, 215 Market St., Newark, N.J. on Friday November 5, 1948. The afternoon session is for the juniors. The evening session, 7 to 10 p.m., is for adults and will consist of seven events of 15 minutes each. One is the Swiss movie, on the making of stamps by rotogravure. Admission is free. Group members are among the speakers.

#### THE NEW SERVICE

Want or exchange notices; members only; one or two insertions only; no charge. Those replying will please offer only what is asked for here.

Wanted: New Caledonia "France Libre" overprints on genuine mailed covers. Also other colonies. Please describe and state price wanted. E.E. Keys, 14272 Center Ave., Harvey, Ill. (Member 246).

Want to buy Mint Algeria Nos. 98, B12, B13; Algeria precancels Nos. 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 17, 21, 37, 38, 39, 41, 48; Algeria Booklet Panes Nos. 7b, 13a, 13a, 49b, 50a, 53a. Martin M. Miroff, 3641 Barry Ave., Los Angeles 34, Calif. (Member 294)

Can you send us an interesting item of 100 to 200 words, with or without a picture, from your pet field of French or French Colonies stamps or covers or postmarks? We can always use such "shorts." Editor, F. & C. Philatelist.

Will trade used France & Colonies and used U.S. Commemoratives for used (only used) French Occupation Germany and Hungary. John F. Kusse, 231 West Linn St., Bellefonte, Penna. (Member 343).

Type Sage, used, off or on cover, showing dates before June 1 1876, wanted. Price each one by itself, please. S.G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2).



Gleanings  
Among the Postmarks of Martinique

By Robert G. Stone and Ralph Holsizer.  
(Continuation)

III. The Blind Obliterators ("Lozenges") 1859  
to 1880.

There were only two types of blind cancelers regularly used to obliterate the general issues in Martinique. They are described by Stone in the article "How to Identify the Blind Cancelers on General Issues of the French Colonies 1959-76" in this magazine of May-June 1944 (Vol. 3, No. 4).

At first the Eagle stamps were cancelled by a "lozenge" or diamond of 64 fine dots in rows 8 x 8 and 19 mm. long. This is Fig. 4 of the article mentioned, and we reprint it herewith. This killer wore so rapidly that by 1862 the dots were much enlarged, some more than others, and deformed. A mere three years of use, from presumably a Nov. 1859 beginning, produced this result. The late use of this device is easy to confuse with the cancellings at Guadeloupe and Reunion. From 1862 until the retirement of this device, June 1864, the edge of one or two sides of the wooden base on which it was mounted would often strike the stamp or cover. The result was an appearance as of an extra row of deformed or smudged dots, as in the accompanying picture. Also, in one or both directions the dots in a row may thus appear to count to 9 instead of 8. This can mislead any collector into thinking he has a French India cancellation (9 x 9). The lozenge used at Fort de France did not become so badly worn as that used at St. Pierre, where the volume of mail was greater.

Fortunately, in March 1864 a new lozenge with initials MQE within an 8 x 8 array of dots replaced the old devices. This is illustrated at this point.

The old blind device was used only at St. Pierre and Fort de France, as far as we can tell. There is good evidence that the "MQE" type was issued in late 1864 to Gros Morne, Petit Bourg and Ajoupa at the same time as they first received dating postmarks. The evidence is not entirely conclusive, perhaps:-- all the covers known to us bearing the town mark from any one of these places and the "MQE" on their stamps, passed through Fort de France or St. Pierre en route one way or the other, and could therefore have received the "MQE" in transit.

The writers would appreciate hearing from any collectors who own or have record of any local Martinique covers which bear the "MQE" and that either surely or obviously did not pass through either Fort de France or St. Pierre.

In any case, the fact that only two or five offices had the "MQE" lozenge and town markers, explains why most of the small offices, in which the sexton or choirmaster acted as post agent, resorted to pen-cancelling the stamps in this period. We are preparing a study of these pen cancellations for publication elsewhere. Let it suffice to state here that Martinique was the only colony regularly to pen cancel the general issue. Collectors should cherish, rather than despise them thus. It is often possible, as we

have found, to identify the place of use, when pen-cancelled: each post office tended to mark with a distinct "signature."

(Editor's note: It would hardly seem likely that a small office would postmark mail and not cancel the stamp, as has been suggested for the offices at Gros Morne etc., higher up)

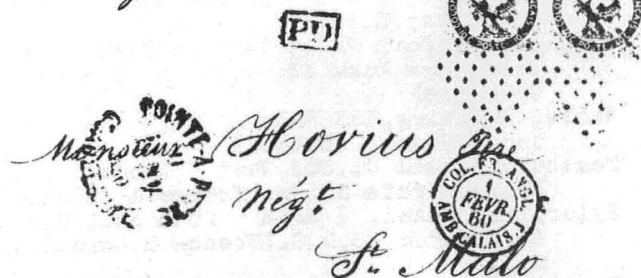
Regulations put out by Paris in 1876, as a result of the Colonies joining the U.P.U., required that from July 1, 1876, the lozenges would no longer be used. Stamps would thenceforth be cancelled with dated postmarks only. Most colonies seem to have conformed promptly. But, for some reason, Martinique did not cease regular use of its lozenge until Jan. and Feb. 1878, and not altogether until 1880. However, even from 1859 to 1876 it was customary here to postmark rather than to obliterate the low denominations of the stamps when on circulars, newspapers, and other printed matter. Prior to 1876, other values occasionally were postmarked by accident. The prolonged use of the lozenges after 1876 quite likely is related to the fact that most of the small offices were not supplied with postmarkers until 1879.

The first-type lozenge is rather hard to find -- and even when the searcher is familiar with the subtleties of its identification on stamps off cover. It is known only in black, and of course only on the 1, 5, 10 and 40 centimes in the Eagle issue. The earliest known examples are from the spring of 1860.

On the other hand, the "MQE" lozenge sure is one of the commonest of all French Colonies cancellations. It can be found on nearly all of the general issues. Only the Ceres 2c and 4c, the Sage 1c black, 2c brown, 25c blue and 2c yellow were not issued to Martinique. This lozenge is commonly struck in black; and very rarely in blue. It can be found on certain French stamps which were used in Martinique by accident or by fraud. These are: 10c Presidency, 5c 1853; 5 fr 1863(?): 10c, 20c, 40c and 80c Bordeaux; 10c, 20c, 25c, 30c, 40c and 80c of 1870 (sometimes with perfs trimmed off!) These are very rare but quite genuine.

Mention should be made of an improvised or "cachet de fortune" obliterator, used at Petit Bourg in Feb. 1872. It is in the form of a "rectangular ring with the corners flattened" -- a description not entirely clear, since a ring is circular in shape. Dr. Bouvet postulates that it was struck with "a ring from a post bag," as was sometimes done in Europe. Presumably it was a rectangle with the corners rounded -- a form of postal device not unknown elsewhere, and really one of the metal links used for joining straps to make longer pieces. Only one cover is known with this marking, in the Fregnac collection.

*The d'Anglone*



A typical Martinique cover front of 1860 showing blind lozenge on Eagle stamps and the other markings.

(To be continued)



One of the new and very beautiful ones among Air Mails of the Colonies.  
Issued 1948

#### A Correction

Philatelist, No. 39, front page, first line, reads "In Nos. 22, 24 and 46..." This should be "Nos. 22, 24 and 26." The editor mistyped it.

#### Index

Our member, Mrs. Catherine B. Menninger, has prepared an index to Nos. 1 through 38 of this journal. We had intended to include it, but are forced to delay it at least one number for lack of facilities to type it up and meet the deadline date.

#### A Disavowal.

Perhaps this should appear in some other of the stamp papers. Your editor has been accused of being opposed to the use of pochettes -- of "Visi-Trays" and the like -- for mounting stamp collections. This is not what he has said, nor what he has implied. He has merely reported in other papers that stamp show judges seem to be inclined to underrate drastically material that is so mounted. Linn's, John Latta and others please note.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT July 15 to Sept. 15, 1948

#### NEW MEMBERS: Welcome---

- 325 Beaudoin, Norbert, 7945 Manistee Ave., Chicago 17, Ill. (20th Century France & Colonies)
- 326 Browne, Frank L., 2235 Lake Ave., Baltimore, 13, Md. (Lebanon, Alexandretta, Latvia, Cuba, Manchukuo).
- 327 Geiger, Raymond R., 1312 West Rockland St. Philadelphia 41, Pa. (France)
- 328 Goldman, Joseph, 21 Wilson Ave., Lynbrook, L.I., N.Y. (France & Colonies)
- 329 Jackson, Gustave J., 801 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton 9, Penna. (France only, mint and used)
- 330 Johnson, H.E., 545 North State St., Chicago 10, Ill. (France)
- 331 Perney, Jean J., 8 rue d'Alsace, Besancon (Doubs), France. (France 19th century imperfs: pairs, blocks, on cover)
- 332 Porter, Willard H., R.D. 1, Centerville, Wilmington, Del. (French and British colonies; U.S.)
- 333 Schneiersen, Joel U.S., 145 Central Park West, New York 23, N.Y. (France & Colonies)
- 34 Wines, E. Irving, 557 Nelson St., Chambersburg, Penna. (France)
- 335 Fenneberg, Arnold C., 302 West Loudon St., Philadelphia 20, Pa. (France & Colonies)
- 336 Byler, Miss Mabel, 3004 25th At., N.E., Washington 18, D.C. (France & Colonies, U.S.)
- 37 Day, Chas. H., 706 32nd St., Saskatoon, Sask., Canada. (Mint France; Mint Air Mails)

- 338 Fenneberg, Harry G., 302 East Second St., Parrysburg, Ohio (France & Colonies)
- 339 Frank, Herbert A., 438 Wall St., Meriden, Conn. (France & Colonies)
- 340 Franzen, Leo B., 4448 Hurley St., Philadelphia 20, Pa. (No specialty stated)
- 341 Hopkins, L.L., 10 Washington Road, Scotia 2, N.Y. (20th Century France and Sweden)
- 342 Jacobs, William, 565 West End Ave., New York 24, N.Y. (France Airmails)
- 343 Kusse, John F., 231 West Linn St., Bellefonte, Penna. (France & Colonies, used only)
- 344 Leclerc, Donat, 3985 Mentana St., Montreal 24, P.Q., Canada. (France & Colonies)
- 345 Reinhardt, Ernest, R.D. 1, Port Jervis, N.Y. (France & Colonies)
- 346 Obert, Charles H., 201 Alsace St., Bridgeport 5, Conn. (20th Century France, mint only)

#### APPLICATIONS PENDING:

- Carpenter, Aaron E., 804 Westview Ave., Philadelphia 19, Pa.
- Foy, Andrew, 1223 Halsey St., Brooklyn 27, N.Y.
- Goerth, Leo F., P.O. Box 6, Cincinnati 7, Ohio.
- Hurtubise, Yvon, 1889 St. Clement St., Montreal 4, P.Q., Canada
- Reilly, Frank F., 108 Grove St., Hempstead, L.I., N.Y.
- Smith, Lt. Henderson L., Tyndall Field, Panama City, Florida.
- Thon, Nathan K., Armstrong, Iowa
- Waldbott, George L., 602 Professional Bldg, Detroit 1, Mich.
- Wells, D.H., D.O., 421 South 11th St., San Jose 12, Calif.

#### RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED: we regret you leave us.

- 242 Hedley, R.P., Buffalo, N.Y.
- 260 Holmdahl, J.W., Oakland, Calif.
- 118 Kircher, J.F., Jr., Saint Louis, Mo.
- 233 Kynurg, Albert P., Palisades Park, N.J.

#### DECEASED:

- 263 Purves, Major George T., Indianapolis, Ind.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 10 Wood, Robert L., M.D., to 365 Clinton Ave, Brooklyn 5, N.Y.

#### Philadelphia Area Members:

We should like to report at the Forum, to be held Oct. 23rd at the Hotel Lafayette, New York; that a new Chapter has been formed. Please get into touch with Mr. Thomas Davenport, 2000 East Madison St., Philadelphia 24, Pa. Hope springs eternal.....

#### Greater Los Angeles Members:

Will those who wish to form a chapter of the Group in that area please get into touch with Mr. Martin M. Miroff, 3641 Barry Ave., Los Angeles 34, Calif.

#### Adding to Membership:

If YOU know of anyone who may be interested in the Group's activities, please write to the Secretary for application forms, which you can send your friends. Or send in the names and addresses, and the Secretary will contact them. We would like to have your help in reaching all collectors of French and French Colonial stamps and all interested in this part of philately. We are not mind-readers; so you will have to help us reach these people.