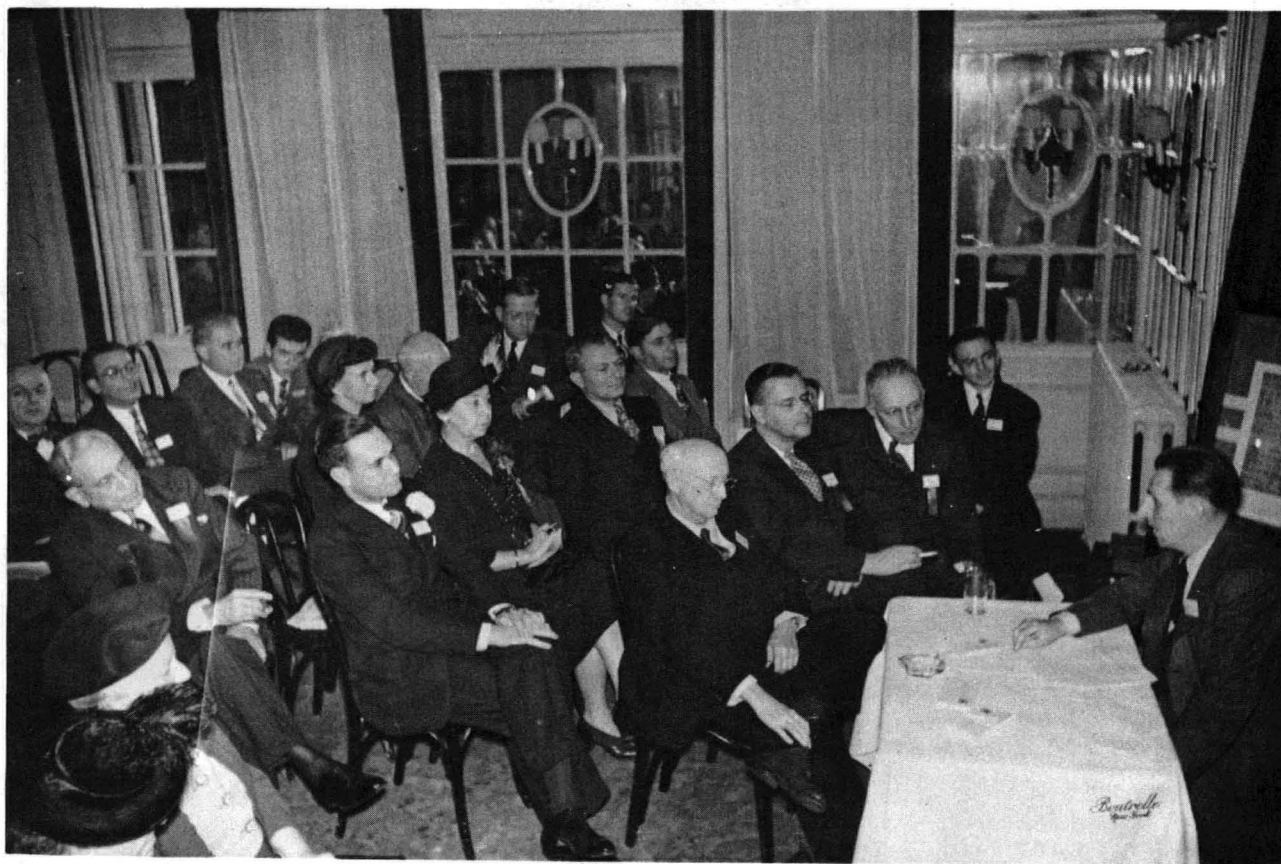


France & Colonies Philatelist



Published bi-monthly by the France and Colonies Group

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The Gerard Gilbert Memorial Forum, Oct.23,1948.
during the
Pre-Centenary Celebration of France's First Stamps.

Robert G. Stone, presenting his paper, on Colonial issues. Some of the 65 persons then present, show in this picture. Front row, left to right: Alan R. Fernald(at extreme left), George Weiler, Dr. Carroll Chase, Brainerd Kremer, S.G. Rich, C.E. Meyer. Next to Mr. Weiler: Miss L. Clemencon, Raoul Lesgor, and Henry Goodkind of Aerophilatelists.

(Story of the Celebration in this number)

Photo by Boutrelle

Gleanings
Among the Postmarks of Martinique

By Robert G. Stone and Ralph Holtsizer.

(Continuation)

IV. The Later Circular Postmarks
1879-1948

Continued from No. 41, page 19---
first section of this chapter.

(Type A. See No. 41)
(Type B. See No. 41)
(Type C. See No. 41)

Type D. Double circle, 23 to 24 mm., outer diameter, inner circle dashed; wording in gothic capitals; name of office at top, date in center in 3 lines. MARTINIQUE at bottom. Without asterisks or fleurons. Issued to almost all the offices; used between 1887 and about 1925, but for varying periods at the various offices. In general, it superseded Types A and C, though the periods of use of Types D and A or C overlapped for several years, usually 1887 to 1893.

Reported from:

Absalon, Ajoupa-Bouillon, Alma, Anse d'Arlets (Ansed'Arlets), Balata, Basse-Pointe, Belle-Fontaine, Carbet, Case-Pilote, Croix-Rivail, Diamant, Ducos, Fonds-Coré, Fonds-Lahaye, Fonds-St. Denis (Fonds-Saint-Denis), Fort-de-France, François, Grand-Bourg, Grand-Rivière, Gros-Morne, Lamentin, Lorrain, Macouba, Marigot, Marin, Desmarinières, Morne-des-Esses, Morne-Rouge, Morne-Vert, Petit-Bourg, Plateau-Didier, Poterie, Prêcheur, Redoute, Rivière-Pilote, Robert, Ste. Anne, St. Esprit (Saint-Esprit), St. Joseph (Saint-Joseph), Ste. Luce, Ste. Marie (Sainte-Marie), Ste. Philomène, St. Pierre (Saint-Pierre), Schoelcher, Tivoli, Trinité, Trois-Ilets, Vauclin.

At most offices, more than one die of this type was issued over the years; hence minor varieties, changes in spellings, etc.

Varities:

1. FORT DE FRANCE/date/CHARGEMENTS. 1887 (?) to 1908, often in blue or purple. Diameter 24 mm. As illustrated.
2. With fleurons or asterisks at sides (very rare).

Type E. Double circle, 24½ to 26 mm. outer diameter, inner circle dashed; wording in gothic capitals; name of office at top; hour of collection and date in 3 lines in center, MARTINIQUE at bottom. Without asterisks or fleurons. Issued only to Saint Pierre (St. Pierre) and Fort de France, 1887-1925; often in red or blue; very common. Used concurrently with Types C and D.

Variety:

1. St. PIERRE *(MARTINIQUE)*, 25 mm., black, red, or blue, 1898(?) - 1902.

Type F. Single circle, 30 to 31 mm. diameter; wording in gothic capitals; name of office at top, date in center, one line only, MARTINIQUE at bottom. No asterisks or fleurons. Issued first in 1924. It rapidly replaced Types D and E. Though neither we nor L. & B. have seen it from all the offices in existence in the period 1924-1935, there is little doubt that all the offices were supplied with it, including Absalon, La Pelletier, Bellevue, Fonds Lahaye, Champ Flore, and Tivoli. In this type the word "Saint" is always spelled out. The use of hyphens in the compound names is not consistent.

Type G. (Not in L. & B.) Single circle, 29 mm. diameter, wording in gothic capitals; name of office at top; date in center in one line, MARTINIQUE at bottom, with or more often without asterisks (fleurons) at sides. First issued about 1935. This type does not seem to have replaced Type F generally. It did so at some few offices.

Reported, without asterisks, from Saint Pierre, Terres Sainville, Fort de France, Basse Point, La Chapelle, Redoute, Trois Ilets, Fonds Saint Denis, Rivière--Pilote.

Reported with asterisks from Sainte Marie, Macouba, Fort de France, Daint Esprit and Saint Joseph.

Blue and purple inks are frequently seen.

Type H. (Not in L. & B.) Single circle, 26 to 27 mm. diameter, wording in gothic capitals as in types F and G; in center a 6-pointed star at top, and date beneath in two lines.

Introduced about 1940, thus far seen only from Fort de France (common), Morne Rouge, and Balata. At these it has largely superseded types F and G as the postmark in regular use. The older devices still occur on mail from these offices.

(End of Section 4. Series to be continued)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

This number goes to press so closely after the last, that no report has been made up. As our editor plans to get No. 43, Jan-Feb. 1949, on the way without further waiting, a report will appear in that number: but meanwhile:

DUES:-- Will members please bear in mind that by sending their dues in for the current year, without waiting for any more reminders, a great help is given in keeping the machinery of our society running smoothly and effectively. When you send, please include some memorandum as to what the dollar (non-resident) or \$2 (resident) is for, and if possible your roster number.

This is addressed to the few who have thus far forgotten to send in their share of what it takes to keep the organization going.



The Pre-Centenary Celebration.
October 23, 1948

This Saturday was a red-letter day, in very many ways. The Hotel Lafayette, center of French hospitality in New York, was the locality. Some hundred and fifty philatelic people took part in this occasion in one way or another. Many who are not conspicuously identified with philately of France or the Colonies, nevertheless came.

Several of the persons actively concerned had arrived by noon, and all exhibit material then was set up for viewing. The informal parties at lunch really started the activities.

The Forum, which began at 2 p.m., and which included five half-hour papers, with discussion and questions arising from each, had more than fifty persons in attendance the whole time, with sixty-five at its peak, filling the room most comfortably.

The Forum was opened by Mr. Raoul Lesgor, who announced the establishment of the

Gerard Gilbert Memorial Award,

to be given each year for the best contribution of an original nature to the philately of France and the Colonies. This will be a conspicuous and substantial recognition of fine work, to be awarded by a jury of experienced philatelists in each year.

The Gerard Gilbert Memorial Award honors the memory of that great student of stamps, who did the appraisal and cataloguing of the Ferrary collection, and who, as a resident on New York in his later years, was a beloved and highly esteemed member of the Group.

Following this announcement, your editor, as forum chairman, introduced the speakers. They presented their topics in this order:

Brainerd Kremer: 19th Century Stamps:

An exhibit, with comments on the more unusual aspects.

Dr. Carroll Chase: The Stampless Period:

Napoleonic postal material, with the Military Maps actually used by the Emperor, shown and explained.

George A. Weiler: 20th Century Stamps:

The range of collecting interests which they provide.

Robert G. Stone: Colonial Issues:

A presentation of the untouched philatelic possibilities.

Henry Goodkind: Air Mails:

The remarkable showing of the origins of aviation and the air mail service on the stamps of France.

Mr. Bernard Davis of Philadelphia also spoke briefly on the plans of The Philatelic Museum, which is to open in that city on Dec. 4th.

Under the toastmastership of Mr. Chester A. Smeltzer, the dinner started promptly, with an even hundred persons present. The guest of honor was Dr. Carroll Chase. Mr. Ludovic Chancel, the Consul-General of France in New York, and Mr. Pierre Pelieu, Director of the New York office of the French Overseas Territories, also were guests.

The proceedings of the evening centered on the honoring of Dr. Chase, specifically for his work in French philately.

Mr. Chanel and Mr. Pelieu, representing France officially, spoke of the work Dr. Chase had done to cement friendship between the U.S. and France by means of conspicuous philatelic service. Then on behalf of the Group, Dr. Chase was given the specially engraved solid silver cigarette box,

a token of esteem and appreciation. Mr. John J. Britt, on behalf of the Aerophilatelists, also honored Dr. Chase. Mr. Richard S. Bohn, president of the Collectors Club, presented for that club a handsomely engraved scroll honoring Dr. Chase.

The celebration was timed to come as closely as possible, to the date at which the printing of the first two French stamps, those issued on Jan. 1, 1849, had begun in 1848.

Mrs. Karen Lidman planned and organized the celebration. Miss Louise Clemenceon, Mr. John J. Britt and Mr. Alan R. Fernald rendered much and valuable aid.

MADAGASCAR

The current 100 francs brown stamp showing a winged figure has been released with a three-lined red overprint which reads: "TERRE ADELIE DUMONT-D'URVILLE" and the date "1840". It is believed this stamp was issued to mark an expedition to that South Polar area by P. E. Victor. More details will be appreciated. Illustrated herein. A. F. Stern

THE AIRPOST JOURNAL
DECEMBER, 1948



Varieties of the 25c Ceres of 1871

By Harold M. Metzger

(Illustrations by courtesy of Raoul Lesgor)

Three well defined types, considered to have their origin in three successive states of the die, as it wore, exist on this stamp, the 25c blue Ceres, Scott No. 58. These are not same as the many breaks and other flaws which occur on these stamps, but are the major varieties. The specialized catalogs, such as that of Lesgor or that of Yvert, report them. But the listings in the various general catalogs, Scott and those of French origin, omit them.

A really detailed study of this stamp, with all the story, all the major and minor varieties listed and many pictured, is given in the Kohl Handbook, Part 1 of France, which exists in our language as well as in German (Collectors Club, New York, 1928).

The three types are recognized instantly, by the corner rosettes.

Type 1, stamps printed from the same plate as used for the imperforate printing of 1850, and one new plate, has no constant peculiarities in the rosettes in any corner.

Type 2, from plates made shortly after 1872, has, as pictured, these two marks: a triangular spot of color across the vertical white space to the left of the upper right rosette; a white dot (irregular in shape) under the lower left petal of the bottom right rosette.



Type 3, from plates made after 1873, lacks the marks of type 2. It has these marks: color spot in each of three of the four petals, upper petals of the two upper rosettes.



Types 1 and 3 are the plentiful ones. Type 2 is hard to get. Pairs of types 2 and 3 together on one plate, exist and are really great rarities.

Marianne with a Monocle!

From "La Presse Philatelique", July 15, 1946, we take this picture of an interesting variety similar to the "Whistling Marianne" which we showed in 1946. This time, the blob of dirt appeared on the left eye. This is on the 2f stamp.

The origin of the blob is well known: a bit of dirt or caked ink stuck to the plate. This raised blob got inked, but also prevented ink from reaching the plate in the area just around it. Thus it is strictly a mere accident of printing, a bit of carelessness.

The write-up in La Presse Philatelique very absurdly attributes the variety to a disc falling out of a perforation hole. This is the first time we have heard that this issue or any other of France was perforated before printing!



The Southampton M.B. Postmark
on French Stamps

Before the war, there was a daily steamship service, run by the Southern Railway of Great Britain, between Le Havre and Southampton, with the ships Normanna and Hantonia in service, if my memory is right. At the Havre end, a box for mail was hung at the end of the gangway. Letters for Great Britain could be mailed in this, until the gangway was lifted. Letters thus mailed, got cancelled by the postal service at Southampton, with the postmark pictured.

"M.B." Means Movable Box," not "Mobile Box" as usually stated. That form of the name is unofficial and a literal taking-over of the name in French.

The writer went to all the bother of getting a cover sent to himself, per the good offices of an old friend then residing in Le Havre. Merely a week after receiving it, he came across a 3f Merson lilac with this very same cancellation; and just recently he secured a 2f orange and several Sowers and Pasteurs---all with it.

This service is still running, but at the last we heard (summer of 1948), there were only two departures a week each way, as there was only one steamer on the service.

We have often wondered what the cancellation would be on a letter addressed to France, mailed at the Southampton end. Who can tell us?

-- L. Lamouroux.

(Editor's addition: The M.B. of Southampton dates far back into the earlier days. It shows various forms, but always the same reading, substantially. This rounded-off octagon form was regular in the 1880's, and is taken from a Sage 5c in the editor's collection. If any of our readers can write up a complete story of these Southampton M.B.'s, it will be welcomed for this journal).

Upper Volta Exists Again, 1947 and on.

The colony of Upper Volta was reconstituted, as a territory with its former limits, by decree of Sept. 4, 1947. Portions of Ivory Coast, Niger, and French Sudan were again regrouped, as during the period March 1 1919 to Jan. 1, 1933. The new colony will be administered through the A.O. F. government (French West Africa).

Area of the colony is 293,000 square kilometers, equal to 113,000 square miles. Population, estimated as 3,016,000 in 1945; of these about 700 are "European." American mission activities are centered at Dedougou, Koudougou, and Yako.

Certain districts are administered by Army officers. The colony is peaceful, and is garrisoned solely by 6th Bn. Tirailleurs Senegalais, with posts at Batie and Dedougou.

Head colonial post office is at Ouagadougou. Other post offices are:

Banfora	Kaya
Batie	Koudougou
Bobo Dioulassa	Leo
Doromo	Ouaghiouya
Dedougou	Po
Diapaga (postal agency)	Saria
Diebougou	Tenkedogo
Dori	Tougan
Fada N'Gourma	Yako
Gaoua	
Kampti	

In Ouagadougou and Ouaghiouya, the initial OU is pronounced like W in English.

-- George A. Weiler

(Editor's note: New stamps for Upper Volta are to be expected, but have not shown up, to date of going to press. Meanwhile, the previous ones of the former administrations in this area, with dates showing use since the reconstitution, are interesting "forerunner" items for anyone).

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 to buy or exchange, used only, in good condition Reunion No. 53, 17 copies; and Reunion No. 54, 5 copies. L. Clemencen, 32 Monroe St., BH-5, New York 2, N.Y. (Member 19)

Will exchange U.S. for France or colonies, basis Scott. Otto Hoefler, 236 Yale Ave., Fresno 4, Calif. (Member 156)

Photostat copy of France & Colonies Philatelist No. 1 will complete your file. \$1.25 post free and cash with order only; it takes ten days for making. Frank L. Browne, 2235 Lake Av., Baltimore 13, Md. (Member 326)

If you need U.S. Telegraphs, Orange Free State or Bechuanaland stamps, I will swap for any Type Sage items of France I can use. Used millésime singles or pairs most desired. S.G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2)

Wanted: French Colonies General Issues, only used copies, of Scott nos. 24, 39, 55, 58; also others of same issues and of France. As for list. Cash, or if desired, French stamps in exchange. Carl Stephenson, Boardman Hall, Ithaca, N.Y. (Member 45).