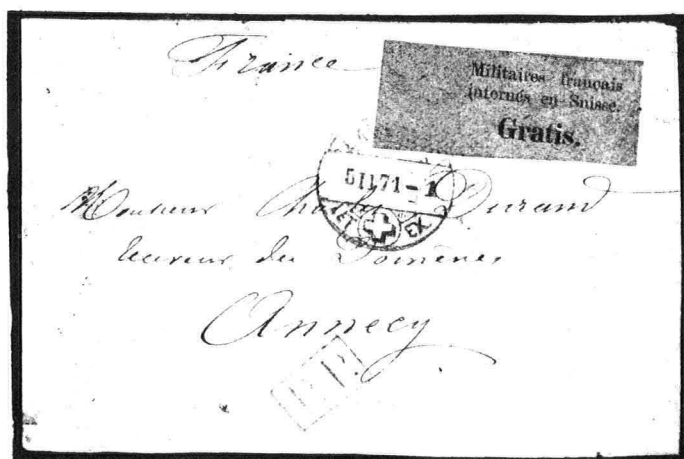


France & Colonies Philatelist



Published bi-monthly by the France and Colonies Group
Secretary: Mrs. Helen A. Stringham, 34 Minerva Ave., Manasquan, N.J.
Editor: Stephen G. Rich, P.O. Box B, Verona, N.J.

Late usage
Nov. 5, 1871



Picture
by courtesy of
Corinphila
of
Zurich

A Little-Known Usage of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71.

Many of us have read of the usage here shown but few of us have actually seen such covers. The French soldiers, escaping into Switzerland after the debacles of this war, were given refuge in camps ("interned") but refused return to France until after the end of the war. The Swiss provided postal service without charge, on a limited number of letters from each soldier.

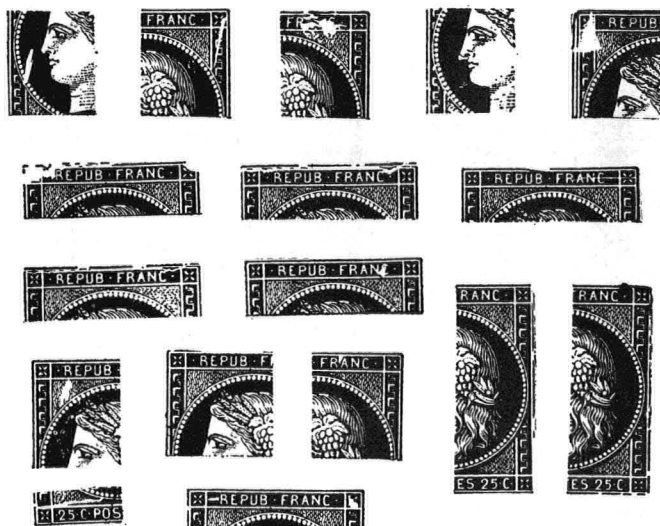
The label, as shown here, was affixed to show that it was correct not to charge postage.

The "Internees' Label" is usually thought of as a Swiss issue, but belongs equally to the French collection because of its purpose. As a postal issue, it is Swiss; as used it is part of the French story. Let both the Helvetian and the French collectors feature it and cherish it as something unusual.

Our impression is that this is without even one parallel in postal labels or stamps. If any collector can inform us of similar items from a different country or period, such material will be welcomed.



This Ballon Monté cover from 1871 is one of several shown in the Lesgor and Minnigerode book which we review in an adjoining column.



Some of the plate varieties of the 25c blue #73.

There are over 100 known plate varieties of the 25c blue, #73. These varieties affect for the most part the frame lines on all sides, these being broken, double, bent, retouched etc. Varieties also occur in the inscriptions and the solid color around the head. These form an interesting field for research.

---Raoul Lesgor

Cancelled in London

From La Quinzaine Philatelique of April 16, 1947, we reprint this interesting picture: the French 25c stamp with London postmark of 1888 killing it. Whether the letter came through without any French cancelling (by accident?) or whether it was mailed in the British city and not noticed, is not stated.



Flaw on the 2f Arc de Triomphe 1931

Illustrated in No. 41, Sept.-Oct. 1948, this was slightly erroneously shown. Please note that the letter I of GIVEL is not short, as previously shown; specially that beneath the break in the border there is a line extending down through V of GIVEL to edge of stamp. The line is shown somewhat too thick in this picture, as a means to bring it conspicuously to notice.



The Cancellations on French Stamps of the Classic Issues 1849-1876. By Raoul Lesgor and Meade Minnigerode. New York, Nassau Stamp Co., late 1948. 128 pp., cloth, \$3.50.

Here is a book that does two jobs. For the collector who can't read French but likes French stamps, this is the long-needed guide to their cancellations, in our own language. For the one who wants a systematic and coherent coverage, to bring his knowledge into order or get the place of some item or group in the whole scheme, this product of the knowledge and skill of two among our members, is well adapted.

In conjunction with the numeral cancellation lists, now available in several forms, we now have substantially all needed information with which the collector need be equipped.

Lavishly illustrated, with both postmarks and the actual stamps bearing them -- not to forget some very interesting and even beautiful entire covers -- the book is done right. Bob Stone has written up the maritime marks clearly and well. The Franco-Prussian War with its special usages such as balloon posts etc., are well handled by the authors.

Unlike most books on stamps, this one has an unusual quality--style. It is well written, so it is easy to read, easy to refer to. The only lack is an index. But the various tables easily can be found; "leafing through" while looking for the relevant illustration will prove a quick alternative for the absent index.

Every reviewer is expected to mention flaws which he finds. The only real defect which this reviewer finds, is the use of French terms, not turning them into their equivalents in our own language. With "cachet", as our authors use it, this is most apt to cause confusion. This word has its own special meaning with us. Also, we note that our authors blithely ignore usage and say "double ring" (German style!) instead of calling them "double circle" marks.

--- S.G.R.

Reunion 1949 Issue

By Raoul Lesgor

Recently a set of French stamps were issued, to be used in Reunion -- which you know became an integral part of France as of January 1st, 1949.

These are the same stamps used in Metropolitan France, overprinted C F A and new values. The reason for this issue was the fact that the Reunion franc is selling at a premium over the franc of France, at a ratio of about 150 to 100. This surcharge is meant to discourage currency speculation and exports of capital at black market rates between the Department of Reunion and metropolitan France.

Fancy explanations have been given, about this C F A overprint. Some present it as Colonies Françaises d'Afrique, ignoring the fact that Reunion is NOT in Africa but in the Indian Ocean. Another explanation which has been given is that it stands for Colonies Françaises des Antilles, the West Indies, still further away!

I believe that logically this overprint is meant to curb speculation, and that it means no more than "Contrôle des Fonds Autonomes" or more reasonably "Contrôle des Francs Autonomes". No doubt we shall be definitely enlightened shortly.

Gleanings
Among the Postmarks of Martinique

By Robert G. Stone and Ralph Holtsizer.

(Continuation)

Changes for the portions
which have already been
published.

In No. 41, page 19, Type B Variety 2 is said to be "For the special use of the section handling underpaid or unpaid mail." The same words fortunately are not used for Type D Variety 1, in No. 42, page 22.

These marks, with the word "Chargements" at bottom, were used for Registration with Insurance. They are not known in postage due use. So they are still special duty postmarks.

Your editor is responsible for adding in the erroneous statement, on the basis of his having been thus misinformed long ago about their use, by some forgotten source.

V. Miscellaneous: Commemorative, Army, Maritime, and Auxiliary Markings.

No specialized collection of French Colonial markings would be complete without representation of these special categories, which are so popular in the case of France itself. To be sure

V. Miscellaneous: Commemorative, Army, Maritime, and Auxiliary Markings.

No specialized collection of French Colonial markings would be complete without representation of these special categories, which are so popular in the case of France itself. Though the colonies are not so rich in variety and in number of specimens of this material as is the mother country, in general it was the practice, to introduce into colonial postal service the same special usages and types of markings for them, as were offered in Metropolitan France.

Many collectors of colonies' stamps are not aware of this. The reason: in most colonies, the special and auxiliary markings are apt to be quite scarce, or even rare, whereas from France they are generally common. Martinique, since it is an island on main trade routes, offers much scope among the maritime markings, but a rather small varieties in the other groups considered.

A. Commemorative and Slogan Postmarks.

1. A boxed slogan, box 28 mm. long and height not reported, in 4 lines: MARTINIQUE/PERLE/DES/ANTILLES. In duplex with the usual postmark of Fort de France. Known from the late 1930's on, but scarce. Possibly a machine cancel. Black.

2. A boxed slogan, box 49 x 10 mm. Used solo. ST. PIERRE PLAGE/LA PLAGE A LA PAGE. 2 lines. Black. Translation: "St. Pierre Beach: the up to date beach." 2 lines.

3. A boxed slogan, box 49 x 22 mm., double lined. 4 lines of text: 2^e Salon de la / FRANCE D'OUTRE-MER/ Grand Palais, Paris/ 23 Nov.-10 Dec. 1939. Black. Used solo. St Pierre, 1939.

4. "The Day of the Stamp", philatelic affair, celebrated annually in March from 1947 onwards,

in France and Colonies, was the occasion in Martinique for using special fancy cancels in large double circles 36 mm. in diameter. That for 1947 is worded: JOURNÉE DU TIMBRE at top, FORT-DE-FRANCE at bottom, with an ink well and a pen in it beside the date, 15 MARS 1947 in two lines, in center. The 1948 version was in the same style and wording; but in the center a uniformed postman (bust only) holds a letter; date in two lines: 6 MARS 1948. These were extensively used, on philatelic mail.

4 Boxed in rectangle: OUVERTURE DE LA/ LIGNE AERIENNE/(picture of an airliner)/27 SEPTEMBRE 1948/ MARTINIQUE-PORTO RICO. As this flight was cancelled till 1949, the covers postmarked for the flight also bore "ANNULÉ/VOYAGE DEFERÉ."



B. Army Correspondence Postmarks.

Many varieties of these were used in the colonies, and much remains to be learned of them. This was ably revealed by Mr. George Weiler, in a talk before the France & Colonies Group in 1947. L. & B. illustrated only three types for Martinique. Usually they are struck in black, but often in blue, rarely in red or purple.



A



B



C

Type A (of L. & B.) Octagonal outer frame, 22 mm. diameter, with inner circle. Inscribed in roman capitals. C.D. ARMEES at top, date in three lines in center; name of office at bottom and fleurons at both sides. Reported from Fort de France and Saint Pierre in 1893(?). Common.

Varieties:

1. COR. or CORR.) D.ARM. instead of C.D. ARMEES. Seen from Fort de France, 1880. Rare.

2. Month in the date in gothic capitals, 1887-93. Common.

Type B (of L. & B.) Octagonal outer frame 23 mm. diameter, with inner circle. Inscribed in gothic capitals. CORR. D'ARMEES at top, date in three lines in center; name of office at bottom but no fleurons. Reported from Fort de France, only, 1887-1905(?). Common.

Type C (of L. & B.) Octagonal outer frame 27 mm. in diameter, inscribed in circle of gothic capitals: CORRESPONDANCE DES ARMEES MARTINIQUE without date. This was used by troops scattered over the interior of the colony, 1881-1901, in black, red or blue. Very scarce.

There are probably more varieties of these types, as well as possibly additional types to be discovered. The late Gerard Gilbert told one of us (R.G.S.) that he had found in the archives in Paris records of many types prepared and supposedly issued to the colonies, but which he had never seen used or listed.

Note: the army correspondence postmarks used on the French mail packets calling at Martinique are discussed below as "Official French Maritime Markings."

(This instalment will be continued in the next number)

I V O R Y C O A S T **Post Office List, 1948**

By Edmond Queyroy

From Public Notice No.3273,P.T., of July 17, 1948, the following list of offices existing at that date is copied, as a convenience in the collecting of that colony. This list serves us also in two ways:

1. Changes of boundaries which shift offices into new divisions of French West Africa, become evident.

2. Fantasy or illegitimate canceling of stamps at offices not correctm can be noticed

The plan is to present the divisions, month by month, till all are covered.

Ivory Coast:

A. Independent or "full" offices:

Abidjan (Head Office).

Abengourou
 Aboisso
 Adzopé
 Agboville
 Agnèbikrou
 Adiaké
 Bingerville
 Bondoukou
 Bouaflé
 Bouaké
 Bouna
 Boundiali
 Dabakala
 Dabou
 Daloa
 Danané
 Dimbokro
 Divo
 Duékoué
 Ferkessedougou
 Gagnoa
 Grand-Bassam
 Grand-Lahou
 Guiglo
 Katiola
 Korhogo
 Lakota
 Man
 Odienné
 Oumé
 Sassandra
 Segoula
 Tabou
 Treichville
 Tiassalé
 Touba
 Toumodi

B. Subordinate offices or Postal Agencies. (Only one).

Badikaha(subordinate to Ferkessedougou).

T H E N E W S E R V I C E

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

Seeking blocks, used and unused, of the 1937 Colonies Issue of René Caillié. W.J.Connolly, R.D.1,Harris Ave.,Bound Brook,N.J.(Member 322).

Somali Coast and/or Obock: Wanted to buy all issued used only. Off or on covers or pieces--single items or quantity. Robert W. Baughman,739 North Kansas Ave.,Liberal,Kas.(Members 321).

Wanted to buy: used stamps of the Geres and Napoleon Head issues of France,for my collection of postmarks; lots or single items. Herbert A. Frank,13 South Colony St.,Meriden,Conn. (Member 339).

Wanted :Type Sage 25c ultramarine 1876 with cancellation showing date clearly before August 1876 (either type stamp). Also 25c blue of 1877 cancelled before Aug.1877. Price each item. S. G.Rich,Verona,N.J. (Member 2).

S E C R E T A R Y ' S R E P O R T **March 1 through April 15,** **1949**

Members please note: Secretary's new address is 34 Minerva Ave.,Manasquan,New Jersey.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome --

- 376 Aronson,S.,Newcastle,Texas. (France and Colonies)
 377 Glanton,G.P.,U.S. Naval Station,Public Works Dept.Eng.,Tacoma 2, Wash. (France and Colonies;Czechoslovakia)
 378 Johnson,Mrs. Vanchon,1601 Royal Blvd., Glendale 7,Calif. (France)
 379 Kun,Henry P.,574 West End Ave., New York 24,N.Y. (France,Austria)
 380 O'Connor,Harvey,Little Compton,R.I.(France, Martinique,Guadeloupe)
 381 Quint,Henry F.,789 West Ferry St.,Buffalo, N.Y. (France, Revolutionary and Napoleonic Covers;Confederate States)
 382 Donovan,Afred W.,20 Bishop Road, Malden 48, Mass. (France,Russia,Germany)
 383 Harvey,H.Holbrook,Box 1145 Main P.O., Los Angeles 53,Calif.(France & Colonies)
 384 Hayes,Wm.J.,3045 Huntington Ave.,Omaha,11. Nebr (Various special items)
 385 Kennedy,Arthur M.,Jr.,750 Fruithurst Drive, Pittsburgh 16, Pa. (France,Lebanon, Syria,Canada, U.S.)
 386 Meadows,N.H.,12 Galt Ave.,Toronto 8, Ont, Canada. (No specialty stated)

APPLICATIONS PENDING:

- Rice,William B.,310 West Wilder St.,Philadelphia 23, Pa.
 Scott, Miss Miriam,220 Radcliffe St.,Bristol, Pa.
 Weare,John,457 West 57 St.,New York 19,N.Y.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- 192 Cunningham,Miss Helen T., to Biltmore Dr., Barrington, Ill.
 46 Stringham,Mrs. Helen A.,to 34 Minerva Ave.,Manasquan, N.J.

RESIGNATION RECEIVED:

- 148 Diamond,Alfred, Chicago, Ill.

LOST:Mail has been returned from last address known to us:

- 147 Crapser,Charles C.
 291 Kerr,James A.
 320 Portmess, R.C.
 302 Van Duzer,H.B.

Please notify the Secretary if you know the whereabouts of these four members or any one of them.

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER:

Membership is now 19. Other members in the Philadelphia area are urged to establish contact with the Chapter Secretary, Mr.Ramond R. Geiger, 1312 West Rockland St.,Philadelphia 41,Pa.

Meetings are held the first Monday in each month, at 8 p.m. in the Board Room, Philatelic Museum,Broad and Diamond Sts.,Philadelphia.

ANNUAL MEETING:

This will be held Thursday,May 5, 1949, at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35 St.,New York,N. Y, at 8 p.m. All members are urged to attend -- all members, whether or not resident, have vote at this meeting.