

France & Colonies Philatelist



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April 30, both values

The French Consular

Provisionals at Jerusalem

in May, 1948

An interesting and strictly legitimate provisional issue of French Offices Abroad was a result of the end of the British Mandate in the state of Israel. We are indebted to Mr. Fritz Billig, one of our members of long standing, for the information herein and for loan of the stamps and covers which were photographed and are here shown.

Under date of April 30, 1948, the French Consul General at Jerusalem, Mr. Rene Neuville, acting under his powers derived from a law of 1781, took action to provide for mail service to France during the gap between the end of the British service and the establishment of that of the State of Israel. The consular order for supplying the needed stamps, of which we have a copy, establishes a rate of 6 francs for mail



May 15



May 26

by sea and 16 francs for those by air, with the stamps for these to be supplied by surcharging 150 each of the no-face-value consular revenue stamps for the 6c rate and for 10c to be added on air mail.

The 6f stamp was sold for 7 milliemmes, and the 10f stamp for 13 milliemmes, local money. All proceeds from sales of 6f stamps went directly to the P.T.T. at Paris, and from the 10f stamp were paid to the airmail carriers.

The large single circle postmark of this office was specified as the cancellation to be used.

We illustrate one of each used together on a cover to Paris, at what appears to be the last day on which this service was operated. As this is written, information is not at hand about the first date of use, whether service operated continuously, etc.

A further consular order by Mr. Neuville, dated May 15, set the air mail rate at 20 milliemmes, and provided for surcharging 2000 of the same consular revenue stamps as previously had been used, for this value. Of these, some unused copies are known, and we illustrate one by courtesy of Mr. Billig, as for the previous item.

Mr. Neuville, following up these two orders on May 26, further directed that 5000 copies of the 6 franc Marianne type stamps be surcharged with the value of 20 milliemmes for use in this temporary service. We illustrate one such, again on August 6 cover and by courtesy of Mr. Billig. All overprinting was in black. Mr. Neuville's first two notices state that there existed a lack of stamps for the service to be established.

Your editor is not able to state now what proportion of each of the four stampssaw actual postal use, nor to what extent the covers known are "Philatelic" in the bad sense. Unused copies of the first two stamps are very scarce; but the dealers' estimate of values for the 20 mil. on consular revenue indicate that even fewer of this remained unused. Covers of any of these are definite rarities.

Further information is wanted, and if any member can write us an additional article, that will get prompt publication. Copies of all three consular orders are in your editor's file and can readily be published in either original or translation if enough desire for them shows up.

The cover with the May 26 stamp →



1949 Centenary
Commemoratives
of France

Catalog Review

Catalogue Thiaude 32e Edition. Paris, early 1949, 240 pp. paper. H. Thiaude, 24, rue due 4 Septembre, 120 francs. (To be had in the U.S. from Jacob Habib, 1407 Sheridan Ave., New York 55, N.Y., \$1.00 (special rate to F.&C.G. members, 75 cents, postage 6 cents extra)).

Thiaude's catalog doesn't need any puff or any publicity from us. Its own merits have made it one of the accepted handbooks for all stamps of all the French countries. Less specializing than Yvert, this book nevertheless is far from a "bare" list. The listings for millesimes, for dated corners, for blocks, for certain of the more desirable cancellations, etc. are given and with prices.

Illustrations of varieties seem to be clear and accurate.

The treatment of the Liberation issues which came out in 1944 seems particularly convenient.

The user may find it wise to take a half hour to get the arrangement of this book well understood. The strictly chronological order of issues is departed from in order to separate the commemoratives into groups according to the subject-matter. Fortunately, a good index for all commemoratives is included.

Opinion of our dealer members seems to hold that the pricing is a good, accurate report of the market when the book was published.

--S.G.R.

Occasion for Delay

Your editor had to go to hospital in late May, for some long overdue surgical repairs. Before going, he hoped to get this number out. Just as might have been expected, everything jammed at the time. This number therefore had to wait for things being sufficiently clear after return to the office, to get it out.

For the information of all friends, the work done was 100% successful, restoring pep and speed to pre-war standard. It wasn't specially hard either, in hospital, nor really painful.



France

Melvin René Walff
153 av. E. Vaillant

Seine.

Boulogne-Billancourt

Gleanings
Among the Postmarks of Martinique

By Robert G. Stone and Ralph Holtsizer.

(Continuation)

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

(Continued from No.44)

(Readers will please note that in No.44, the heading as just given and four lines of text to follow it, were printed twice--the first version ending with a phrase not in the final wording).

C. Maritime Postal Markings.

These are of several major distinct categories:--

(a) The official postmarks for use On board the French government-subsidized mail packets, which have called at Martinique since 1863.

(b) The French naval vessel postmarks, used sometimes on Martinique stamps when the ships of the navy are visiting or stationed there.

(c) The unofficial pursers' handstamps of or on merchant vessels, used on Martinique stamps when mailed on board while the vessel is moored in the harbor of the colony (U.P.U. regulation).

(d) The cachets (in the American sense of the word) of steamship company agents or of naval offices on shore.

(e) The arrival marks of foreign ports (such as "paquebot," "Ship Letter", etc.), used on loose ship-letters received from Martinique.

There are also numerous foreign markings--of which some are maritime in nature-- that may appear on letters or stamps of Martinique origin as transit marks or accidental strikes (usually the latter if they come onto the stamp), most of the time in addition to the Martinique postmark of origin. These are not without some interest but, by definition, are quite beyond the scope of this article.

(a). Official French Maritime Postmarks are completely described in the book by Gilbert et al., "La Poste Maritime," (Amiens, 1936). The lines or routes to the West Indies began to Mexico, in 1863 via Martinique. In 1865 they were much expanded to cover ports all over the Antilles, Central America, and the Spanish Main.

Mail clerks were kept on board, who postmarked letters in transit or mailed on board, and sold French stamps. Until 1876, the stamps on letters mailed on board were cancelled by a diamond of dots (8x8) with an anchor in the center; thereafter by the special dated postmarks issued for each route or boat. Thus, in order to identify or verify the origin of a stamp obliterated with the "anchor," this stamp must be on cover or letter, with inscription inside or outside giving the sender's address. The general issues of stamps for the French colonies were sometimes used on these ship letters when the ship happened to be in a colonial port but they were not sold on board.

Martinique stamps with the maritime postmarks may safely be considered as having been mailed on the boats while at or just after they left Martinique.

The first type of postmark issued to the West Indian lines (applied on the face or back of cover only, not on stamps) had an octagonal outer frame and an inner circle, inscribed in roman capitals: at top the name of the country

or colony from which the boat had departed; in center the date in three lines; and at bottom the name of the ship.

For Martinique the following ship names in this type of postmark have been reported:

Florida, Impératrice Eugénie,

Louisiane, Tampico, Vera Cruz.

They are all rare, 1862-66. In 1865 a small device, a double circle postmark with COL. FRANC. or COLONIES FR. at top and the name of the ship at bottom was briefly in use.

In 1865, beginning about April, the routes were rapidly expanded, and each one designated by a letter of the alphabet. These routes or lines ("French" lignes) touching at Martinique at one time or another, 1863 to date, were:

Ligne A, Dec. 1865-1940 St. Nazaire-Panama.

Ligne B, Feb. 1875-Dec. 1878 St. Nazaire-Mexico

Ligne C, Aug. 1865-1940 Fort de France-Cayenne

Ligne D, Dec. 1878-1940 Havre-Bordeaux-Cayenne

Ligne E, Apr. 1865-1940 Fort de France-St. Thomas;

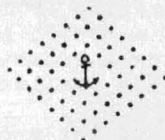
-Guba; -Haiti; -Marseille;

-Colon (1878-86).

Ligne G, Mar. 1873-Nov. 1875 Fort de France-Basse Terre-Pointe à Pitre

Ligne L, 1866-1889 Fort de France-Venezuela-Curacao

This instalment will be continued in the next number of this journal.



THE NEW SERVICE

(We continue this name although this service has been running for over three years)

Want and exchange notices only; members only; one or two insertions only; no charge. Those who reply will please offer only what is asked.

Wanted to buy or exchange: postal stationery, that used in the Penumatic Tube system of Paris. Correspondence with collectors of this material also invited. Dan J. Lapinski, 1906 Lake St., Melrose Park, Ill. (Member 388)

Exchange wanted: will give fine stamps of British Colonies and Western Europe for France 19th Century Ceres and Napoleon types, and for French Colonies from 5c Scott catalog up. Arnold Kirchover, 316 Hamilton St., Albany 1, N.Y. (Member 43).

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

Somali Coast and/or Obock--Wanted to buy all issues used only; off or on covers, or pieces --- single items or quantity. Robert W. Baughman, 739 No. Kansas Ave., Liberal, Kas. (Member 321).

Trade: Complete 30-volume set Encyclopedia Americana, 1949 edition in original packing case, cost \$249.50, for equal catalog value in mint 20th Century France. List of items needed on request. Charles H. Obert, 201 Alsace St., Bridgeport 3, Conn. (Member 346)

Wanted: French or French Colonies' covers with clear impressions of the double circle postmark or backstamp inscribed "Poste aux Armées." Prefer those of World War II period. Please describe and price each one separately. Everel E. Keys, 14742 Center Ave., Harvey, Illinois (Member 246)

Book Review

French Philatelic Facts, January-June 1949, Centenary Issue. Montclair, N.J., Brainerd Kremer. Subscription \$2.00 per year (Three numbers). This number 36 pages.

Had it been possible to bring out this May-June number of the Philatelist at the planned time, this would have been an announcement, not a review. For this publication was announced in advertisements during April 1949, but the first unit showed up in early July.

This is a double number, to mark the 100th anniversary of French stamps. It thus covers all the first issue instead of merely the two 1849 stamps. The ambitious effort is here made, to combine into one book everything that has been written, in whatever place, on the stamps treated. The result has been to bring into our own language a goodly range of information which had hitherto been accessible only in French.

From experience in coordinating material from different sources, your reviewer knows the difficulty of the task. The temptation towards prolixity and repetition is very great. "Spot checking" of such portions of this book as your reviewer could competently judge, showed that this temptation has been completely resisted--- that all the facts, from the various sources, are in, but combined into one unified account on each stamp. The evaluation of information from various sources has been properly done-- when a statement in print has actually been a guess, or has been wrong, Mr. Kremer has not fallen for it.

Easily the most unusual feature, and the one which contributes most to our understanding of early French stamps, is the 8-page illustrated chapter on "The Postal Reform in France" giving the development of the use of stamps. Inclusion of the Act of the Assembly of Aug. 24, 1848, establishing the new rates and the use of that newfangled device, the stamp, is most worthy of mention.

Mr. Kremer has been fortunate indeed to get the aid of that scholar of penetrating understanding as well as comprehensive information, Dr. Carroll Chase, in this project.

Your reviewer finds it hard to mention any faults or flaws. The photo-engraver did under-etch a few cuts, making them too dark for best results. A number of terms might well have had translation into our language instead of being left in French-- such as "Decree" for the Act of Assembly, "Découpage" for underlay, "Annulations" for cancellations, etc. The nature of the plates used-- that they are plain, everyday electrotypes such as are regularly used today for similar stamp production-- is not clearly set forth. Nor is it quite as emphatic as one might desire that the die was not engraved in the same way as that for a line-engraved stamp but exactly the reverse thereof. In fact, we miss specific statement that these stamps were made by ordinary letterpress printing.

These are minor faults. The wide range of accurate information, the excellent pictures, many of them entirely new, and the clean-cut presswork of the book, combine to make it one of the year's notable additions to works helpful to collectors of France.

---S.G.R.

Mr. Maurice Herpin of Paris invented the word "Philately", probably in 1867.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

April 15 through June 15, 1949

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

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome --

- 387 Ferreira, Ellsworth G., 13 Highland Ave., Maplewood, N.J. (France, Covers)
- 388 Lapinski, Dan J., 1202 N. 18th Ave., Melrose Park, Ill. (Pneumatic Mail Postal Stationary of France)
- 389 Rice, William B., 310 W. Wilde St., Philadelphia 23, Pa. (Dealer, no specialty stated)
- 390 Scott, Miss Miriam, 220 Radcliffe St., Bristol, Pa. (Air Mail)
- 391 Weare, John, 457 W. 57th St., New York 19, N.Y. (France and Colonies, Morocco)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- 43 Kirchhofer, Arnold, 316 Hamilton St., Albany, N.Y.
- 36 Thomas, Bernard, 110 Valley Rd., Brookmont 16, Md.
- 38 Borie, Renshaw, P.O. Box 381, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
- 269 Handy, M.F., 122 Malvern St., Melrose 76, Mass.
- 302 Van Duzer, H.B., P.O. Box 8, Largo, Florida
- 356 Wells, D.H., D.O., R.D. 1, Box 409, Colfax, Calif.
- 213 Kiefner, C.H., 750 Pifer Road, Houston, 7, Texas

DUES for the current year (now half gone) are still unpaid by less than one-sixth of the membership. This is a good record, but let us try to make it a better one. If your card does not show your membership in good standing to October 1949 or 1950, please look up your bill and mail it with check to the secretary at new address given above. Second billings will go out shortly -- why wait until then?

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY VACATION: There will be no scheduled meetings of the New York Chapter until September, but the Collectors Club have invited those who wish to meet informally to use the room on our regular night in July & August.

ANNUAL MEETING:

At the Annual Meeting, May 5, 1949, the various officers presented reports, showing their work for the year ending, with special emphasis upon the very successful Pre-Centenary Celebration.

Officers elected for the year 1949-50 are:

President: George A. Weiler
 Vice-President: Alan R. Fernald
 Corr. Secy: Mrs. Helen A. Stringham
 Recording Secy: Miss Louise Clemenson
 Treasurer: Dr. Robert L. Wood
 Directors: Thomas Davenport (Philadelphia, Pa.); Carl Boettger, William S. DeLafield, Brainerd Kremer.

The invitation of the Collectors Club for us to undertake translation of Parts 2 and 3 of the France section in the Kohl Handbook, to be published the Collectors Club Philatelist, was accepted. President Weiler appointed a committee, Messrs. Lesgor, Rich and Kremer, to handle this.