

France & Colonies Philatelist



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Secretary: Mrs. Helen A. Stringham, 34 Minerva Ave., Manasquan, N.J.

Editor: Stephen G. Rich, P.O. Box B, Verona, N.J.

Oradour-Sur-Glane June 10th, 1944

IT is perhaps fitting that we should reproduce in this issue the Oradour commemorative stamp of 1945, a recent Sunday marked the anniversary of the hideous massacre which in a few hours turned the peaceful French town of Oradour, far remote from the fighting in Normandy, into a place of death and desolation. Even after four years of horror, this useless act of terrorism turned the blood cold in the views of all civilised people.

Intended to crush the indomitable French spirit, actually it spurred on the French patriots, then in the last stages of their long concealed and carefully planned operations for the liberation of the country, in co-operation with their allies from the Nazi terror.

We do not print the horrifying details of this deliberate and cold-blooded crime: they may be read in the official account* of the tragedy published by the French government. From a philatelic point of view we note that the commemorative stamp depicts with masterly restraint the culminating horror of the death of the women and children over 500 in number, who had been herded into the church before the sacred building was systematically fired by the German murderers.

*Oradour, Vision d'Epouvante, ouvrage officiel, par Pachou et Masfrand, Paris: Charles Lavauzelle et Cie, 1945.

Designed and engraved by Maureen Raoul Serres the stamp bears unmistakable evidence of its manufacture in the *Atelier de la Fabrication des*

Timbres at Paris. Printed in *taille-douce* on the usual unwatermarked paper, and perforated 13½ the issue amounted to 4½ millions. The stamp was selling in Paris in April last at twice face-value. By the end of February the surcharge of 2 francs had augmented the National Oradour Relief Fund by over 5½ million francs.

The national fund had also be augmented by the *Oeuvres Philatéliques D'Oradour* (Oradour Philatelic Relief Fund) organised by Monsiuer Tournier of Cieux (Haute

Vienne) in his capacity of Administrator of the national fund. For the *Oeuvres Philatéliques*, stamps contributed by generous philatelists in France and other countries are sold by auction and the proceeds are devoted to the purchase of Savings Bank Books for the many small children orphaned by the tragedy.

The special *cachet* here illustrated was in use, we understand, for less than a fortnight. As will be seen, it depicts the ruins of the church and one of the sign-boards now placed at the town entrances, bearing the inscription:—
ORADOUR - SUR - GLANE. SOUVIENS-TOI.
REMEMBER.



Philatelic Magazine

JUNE 28, 1946

Among recent French semi-postals, the Oradour stamp has not had the attention its significant story might well give it. We therefore reprint this 1946 account in full, with the idea that our members will appreciate knowing the entire story. The special cancellation, as shown, is apparently not well known, nor plentiful.

Gleanings
Among the Postmarks of Martinique

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

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

(Continued from No. 46)

C. Maritime Postal Markings.
(Continuation of instalment)

(Conclusion)

(c). Unofficial Merchant Marine Postal Markings, continued.

Caribbean pleasure cruises occasionally bring some famous ships of the large transatlantic services to Martinique, thus resulting in unusual maritime postmarks such as the "Columbus", of the Hamburg-American Line (more lately "Hapag"), the "Munamar" and "Munargo" of the Manson Line, and the "Normandie" of the French Line. For the two cruise visits in 1938 and 1939 of the "Normandie" to Martinique, two special cancellations were used at Fort de France --- as illustrated herewith. They are probably quasi-official in character, since the "Normandie" had a French seapost office on board--a rather unusual route, as it did not go to any port of France or a colony. We illustrate it also. The sad fate of this ship may give these items special interest.

(d). Corner Cards and Agents' Cachets of Steamship Companies and Naval Offices: Under this heading there is very little known from Martinique. The "Marine aux Antilles", the cachet illustrated here, is not a postal marking. It appears in red as a corner card--a "cachet" in the American sense of the word ---on official or free-franked non-stamped covers from the Naval Office at Fort de France in 1940-43.

(e). Loose-Letter "Paquebot" Arrivals and Marks of Foreign Ports. Theoretically, almost any port's "paquebot" mark might appear on the stamps of Martinique. Actually, only those of certain neighboring Antillean and North Atlantic ports are ever seen. The U.P.U. rules require loose letters to be deposited in the post office of the next port of call. However, this rule is not strictly observed. The "paq" marks which are likely to be seen on Martinique stamps are:

PAQUEBOT 2½ x 23½ mm., double-footed Q.

Pointe à Pitre, Guadeloupe.

BASSE TERRE/PAQUEBOT. Basse Terre, Guadeloupe.

PAQUEBOT in box 32 x 9 mm. Castries,
St. Lucia.

POSTED ON BOARD SHIP in box. Roseau,
Dominica.



PAQUEBOT in box 48 x 7½ mm. Kingstown,
St. Vincent.

PAQUEBOT in large fat capitals, 53 x 7 to
8 mm. Kingstown, St. Vincent.

POSTED/ON/BOARD in box. Bridgetown,
Barbados.

PAQUEBOT 29 to 30 x 4 mm. St. Georges,
Grenada.

PAQUEBOT/TRINIDAD in double lined box.
Port of Spain, Trinidad.

PAQUEBOT/date/TRINIDAD, in circular buckle
type postmark. Same place.

PAQUEBOT/TRINIDAD in double circle post-
mark, with or without date in center.
Same place.

PAQUEBOT 37 x 4½ mm. Hamilton, Bermuda.
12 in circle in vertical oval of bars. New
York, N.Y., 1888-1902.

PAQUEBOT/(N.Y.-2nd Div.) New York, N.Y. 1900-
1908.

N.Y.P.O. HUD. TERM. STA./date/ PAQUEBOT
Circular postmark, New York, N.Y. 1905-
1920.

NEW YORK, N.Y./date/PAQUEBOT in circular
postmark, sometimes with killer. 1920's
N.Y.P.O./date/PAQUEBOT New York, N.Y.
1908-30.

NEW YORK N.Y./month and day/PAQUEBOT in
circle postmark, year and vertical
oval killer outside. 1930.

NEW YORK N.Y. 12/month and day/ year. in
circle postmark with machine killer
of 7 bars inscribed PAQUEBOT 1920-.

NEW YORK N.Y./date/PAQUEBOT in circular
postmark with vertical oval killer of
7 horizontal bars inscribed PAQUEBOT
1920-

PAQUEBOT 35 x 4 mm. Boston, Mass.

PAQUEBOT 27 x 4½ mm. Boston, Mass.

PAQUEBOT 28½ x 3½ to 4 mm. Boston, Mass.

PAQUETLOT Boston, Mass., 1932-33 only.

PAQUEBOT 35½ x 4½ mm., thick serifed caps.
St. Johns, Antigua, 1948 on.

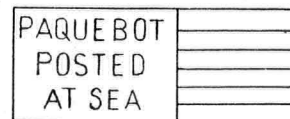
BOSTON MASS./date/year in circular post-
mark with machine killer of 7 hor-
izontal bars inscribed PAQUEBOT 30
x 4 mm. 1933 on.

St JOHN N.B./SHIP LETTER St. Johns, N.B.,
Canada. 1890--1915

PAQUEBOT ST. JOHN/date/N.B. in circle post-
mark with machine killer (slogans).
1930 and on. Same place.

PAQUEBOT/POSTED AT SEA/RECEIVED/date/ SAINT
JOHN N.B. Circle postmark, 1915 on.
Same place.

Paquebot.



Paquebot in script letters. Halifax, N.S.
Canada, 1900-1917.

HALIFAX/date/N.S. in circle postmark with
machine box killer worded PAQUEBOT/
POSTED/AT SEA and horizontal bars.
Same place, 1925 on.

PAQUEBOT/POSTED AT SEA/RECEIVED/date/ HALIFAX
in circle postmark. 1913 on. Same
place.

CRISTOBAL/date/CANAL ZONE in circle postmark, with machine flag killer worded PACQUEBOT. Cristobal, C.Z.

CRISTOBAL C.Z./date/PAQUEBOT circle postmark, year and vertical bar killer outside. Same place.

TRANSITO/date/COLON in circle postmark. Colon, Panama.

Many small ports have no special "paq" mark, for loose ship letters but use their regular postmarks for this purpose. Such is the case in Martinique.

D. Auxiliary and Special Postal Markings.

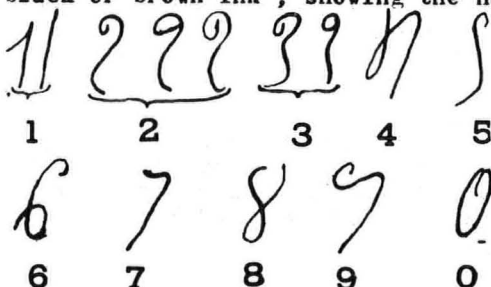
When available in the colonies, these are usually of the same style, if not identical with those in France. Curiously, the "P.P." (Port Payé) marks so common in some colonies are not known from Martinique. Nor have we seen from there any: APRES LE DÉPART, ARTICLES D'ARGENT, ABONNEMENTS, BOITE MOBILE, DÉBOURSES, REBUT, EXPRES, RECLAME, RECouvreMENTS, etc. This fact we explain by considering that with its small population, this colony's postal service has not warranted such specialization as is found in Paris and other large post offices.

The following items has been seen by us on Martinique covers, and occasionally, by accident on the stamps:

- PD in box, red or black, 1849 to 1876.
(for Payé à Destination)
- R in box, black, blue, purple or red, 1890's on (for Registration)
- AR in box, black, 1890's on, (for Accusé de Reception -- return receipt)
- T in triangle, black, 1900 on (for Taxe-- postage due). Rare. Illustrated.
- T large roman or gothic bold face letter (for Taxe) Several sizes, and styles. 1890's on. Illustrated.
- CHARGE boxed or without box, black, blue, purple. For Registration with insurance. 1900 on. Illustrated in two styles (others reported also)
- RETOUR black (for Return to Sender) 1900's
- RETOUR/A L'ENVOYEUR (for Return to Sender) black, 1900's.
- INCONNU boxed or without box, black, blue, (for Unknown). 1900's.
- AFFRANCHISSEMENT/INSUFFISANT, boxed, black, (for Insufficient Postage -- postage due). Rare. 1860's-1910?
- RECOMMANDÉ black, purple (for Registered). 1900's.



Rate and charge marks: From the early 1700's, until about 1876, it was customary for the post office to mark the postage to be paid or to be prepaid on the outside of the letter with a pen mark in black or brown ink, showing the number



of sols, decimes or centimes. If prepaid, this was put on the back of the letter; if to be paid, on the front. The variety of these marks, which are distinctive and do not agree with numerals as written today, is legion. We illustrate some typical forms. Only a few were used in the colonies: chiefly 0, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 9 decimes.

About 1854 a series of large double-lined numeral handstamps were issued to show the due postage amount. Struck in black or blue on the face of the letter, they are rare in colonial use. Probably the 15 and 30 (centimes) will be found.

Letters sent via the British packets, 1848 to 1876, often have bright or dark red crayon or ink British charge marks on the face, for "4d" or "1/-".

Registration Labels: The familiar oblong registration labels with "R" and the name of the post office handstamped on them, will be found from about 1930 on, from Martinique.

Censorship Marks and Labels: These form an interesting group from Martinique, because they were used in the two World War periods.

The first war brought forth the oval inscribed OUVERT/ PAR/ L'AUTORITÉ MILITAIRE. This was used again in the last war. Several new types appeared in 1939-44, in black, red or purple:

CENSURE MILITAIRE
straight line,
gothic capitals

CONTROLE
straight line
gothic capitals

CENSURE MILITAIRE*
MARTINIQUE*
in double circle,
large numeral in
center (1 to 12
have been seen).

CONTROLE POSTALE*
MARTINIQUE*
same as last and
with same numbers.

CENSURE MILITAIRE
double circle,
MARTINIQUE straight
across center.

CENSURE MILITAIRE

CONTROLE



These marks were meant to be on the covers, especially to tie the labels used to seal letters opened for censorship. However, often the stamps were hit by accident. Censored letters were locally sealed with strips of ordinary manila, white bond, or colored tissue paper, without any printing on them.

Official Mail and Free Franking Marks: There have been no special markings for official free franking in Martinique. Such mail is postmarked with the regular devices, but no stamps are required. In early times the proper official had to endorse the letter with his initials (the "paraphe") to entitle the letter to pass free. In recent years, during the last war, this seems not to have been required in most cases. The Government Departments usually frank their mail with stamps, for which they must "budget"--that is, be debited on the post office books.

THE END

"Free French" Hero

A SERIES issued by Fezzan, the Territoire Militaire (Military Territory) which the French carved out of Italy's former African colony of Libya, introduces Colonna d'Ornano (1895-1941) on 15fr and 20fr stamps which show his uniformed figure beside a military edifice, Fort Colonna d'Ornano, named after him. It stands in the oasis town of Mourzouk, and it was there that d'Ornano met his end.



SCOTT'S MONTHLY JOURNAL

THE NEW SERVICE

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

With postmark showing date in July 1876 or earlier, I will buy copies of the ultramarine 25c France 1875, either type. Price each item separately, please. S.G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2).

Wanted: to buy all stamps of French Colonies --preferably used-- for Scott International (Junior) Album. William H. Schilling Jr., 722 Second Ave. South, Minneapolis 2, Minn. (Member 29)

Wanted: World War 2 covers from Madagascar and the Levant area, with censorship by French of Free French forces. May include combination censorship; must have clear postal markings. E. E. Keys, 14742 Center Ave., Harvey, Ill. (Member 246)

I will buy millesime pairs, blocks of 4 with sheet margin and initials G.C. (France, or France overprinted for colonies' use only. Send on approval or write particulars. Fred Hieber, 4045 N.W. 22nd Court, Miami 37, Fla. (Member 212).

SECRETARY'S REPORT

June 15 through September 15,
1949

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome --

- 392 Barnhart, H.M., D.D.S., 2185 Huntington Drive, Suite 6, San Marino, Calif. (French Oceania, Prussia, U.S. 1922-26, etc)
- 393 Diard, Dr. Henri, 5 rue du Patis, Tonnere, France. (France and Colonies)
- 394 Famulener, Keith, 605 Main St., Owego, N. Y. (French Semi-Postals)
- 395 Hunter, Prof. H.L., P.O. Box 541, Clemson, S.C. (French Colonies--used, and unused Afs)
- 396 Jones, C.T., 725 Joshua Green Bldg., Tacoma, Wash. (France)
- 397 Karseboom, Glenn, Harrison, Mich. (19th Century Cancellations)
- 398 Kloo, Harold, 34 Nesbit Ave., West Hartford, Conn. (France)
- 399 Morris, Alfred T., 27 West 21st Ave., Vancouver, B.C., Canada. (France)
- (Applicant 400 still pending at time of report)
- 401 Piper, A.O., 411 St. Patrick St., Racine, Wis. (France & Colonies)
- 402 Rothschild, Ernest L., 3585 Van Antwerp Pl., Cincinnati 29, Ohio (France mint and used, varieties)
- 403 Schafer, William, Box 73 Astor Station, Boston 23, Mass. (Guadeloupe, Martinique)
- 404 Schauer, W.E., 916 Van Buren St., Madison 5, Wis. (No specialty stated)
- 405 Schellens, Richard N., 2825 Hopkins Avenue, Redwood City, Calif. (Europe)
- 406 Vengrove, Charles F., 694 Crown St., Brooklyn 13, N.Y. (No specialty stated)
- 407 Yaroslavski, Mrs. Helen, 601 S.E. 26th St. Ct. Des Moines 16, Iowa. (French Colonies)

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED:

- 203 Mrs. Edna E. Deutsch
- 300 F.R. Ferryman
- 197 Robert S. Gordon
- 277 Richard Maass
- 259 A.L. Sayles
- 302 H.B. Van Duzer

DECEASED:

- 126 Carl T. Boettger, Aug. 24, 1949
- 199 Milton H. Sabin, Aug. 17, 1949

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- 6 Kutner, Charles, to 472A Allenhurst Road, Buffalo 14, N.Y.
- 114 Meyer, Charles E., to 36 Woodrow Place, Caldwell, New Jersey.
- 289 Parkinson, A. Eric, to P.O. Box 8, Primos (Delaware Co), Penna.
- 240 Pasquier, Pierre Q., to 2025 Bretton Place, Toledo 6, Ohio.
- 370 Tait, Arnold C., M.D., to 312 South 7th St., Sunnyside, Wash.

NEW DIRECTOR:

To replace Carl T. Boettger, deceased, at the meeting of Sept. 8 1949, the Board chose Harold Noren to fill the unexpired term.

PUBLICITY FOR THE GROUP:

The France & Colonies number of STAMPS, on June 4, 1949, has created considerable interest as shown by mail received. Many of the letters received have expressed a thirst to know more along the lines of our interests and studies.

We naturally received some letters in which only offers to sell us stamps were made -- such persons did not care to join the Group.

We are indebted to the Western Stamp Collector for a favorable description and mention, just a little earlier. After the original flood of inquiries, occasional letters still come along.

Every answer has been sent-- every inquiry is taken care of. Some were delayed-- too many at once! My apologies to all.

WE MOURN OUR LOSSES.

Your Secretary and your Editor join in this expression of our real loss in the passing of Carl Boettger and Milton Sabin within only one week of each other. We who had the privilege of knowing these members in person perhaps had a better chance to know their sterling qualities as men and as stamp people, better than others to whom they were names or correspondents.

Milton Sabin, living quietly in his home on Long Island, not only enjoyed his stamps --he understood them and was a keen finder of very interesting varieties. He showed some material before the Parent Chapter during the last year of his life, and gave us a most delightful time on that evening.

Carl Boettger had been a member of the Group from very early in our history. Ballons Montés, the flown covers of the Siege of Paris in 1870 and 1871, were his pet field in French collecting. He was also a high-power collector in the field of China, active in the specialist group in that field as among ourselves. Rarely did he miss a meeting of the Parent Chapter. He left a fitting monument to his keen, unobtrusive way of understanding stamps and usages in the article on Siege of Paris in Stamps of June 4, 1949.

The world was a better place because Milton and Carl lived in it.