

# France & Colonies Philatelist



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Dates of Issue  
of the Stamps  
in Type Sage

By Dr. Carroll Chase

Translation, authorized for  
France & Colonies Philatelist  
by courtesy of Dr. Chase, from  
Le Marcophile, September 1949.

It has always seemed to me that the date of issue of a stamp is of first importance. Though such dates are known for almost all stamps of France, apparently that of the issuance of the Type Sage has remained inexact. In such documentation as I have at hand, I find nothing that is specific. In Maury's history of the postage stamps of France and the latest (1939) edition of Yvert's specialized catalog of France and Colonies, I have secured the information which is tabulated below. This deals solely with the stamps in Type 1 (N under B):

	Maury	Yvert
1c green	February 1877	Nov. 8, 1876
2c green	September 1876	.....
4c green	November 1876	Nov. 30, 1876
5c green	July 1876	July 1876
10c green	September 1876	Aug. 20, 1876
15c gray lilac	May 1876	May 1876
20c red brown	October 1876	June 20, 1876
25c ultramarine	July 1876	.....
30c brown	July 1876	June 11, 1876
40c orange red	.....	June 1, 1876
75c carmine	October 1876	June 20, 1876
1fr bronze green	February 1877	Sept. 15, 1876

According to this list, the earliest known date would be May 1876 for the 15c.

Yvert's catalog adds: "It has not always been possible for us to state exactly the date of issue of certain stamps, chiefly those values



which exist in both types. The statements given in the listings are often based on the oldest cancellations known. As fast as discoveries are made, some dates can be advanced."

In an article by Mr. C. Gueritault on French stamps of Type Sage, made by the Bank of France and called "the Regents' printings," in Cahiers Philatéliques of May 1949, we read: "This issue was part of those which the Bank of France had printed during the period from the start of the year 1876 to July 1, 1880."

Moreover, recently I bought from Canada a lot of 500 copies of the 5c green of Type Sage. Nearly all of them were of course in Type 2. But in one of the envelopes there were four copies in Type 1, all cancelled with the dated postmark of Le Havre: 28 Mars 76, 2 Avril 76, 5 Avril (doubtless 1876, though the year numeral was not struck on the stamp, and 10 Avril 76. If there had been only one copy, I might have considered it an error in the year, possibly... but here are four very clear dates, all much ahead of that given for the appearance of this value.

I have had a photographic enlargement made of the stamp with the earliest date. The postmark appears clearly and cannot be challenged. No doubt the post office at Le Havre was supplied with this 5c stamp very early. It hardly seems likely to me that an error in date, in an office of such importance, could have lasted for 15 days.

Will anyone find some documentation, or other cancellations of equally early dates -- or even earlier? I am sure that the collectors of the stamps of France will be happy to gain such knowledge.

(Editor's Note: By courtesy of Dr. Chase, we show the illustration twice: once from his picture as published with the original article in French, and once from a light print made to emphasize the postmark and minimize confusion, which the stamp design might cause.

Dr. Chase tells us that the stamps and notes had been presented before the Académie de Philatélie before publication. We are particularly honored that Dr. Chase here presents the newly found facts for the first time in our language.

This question of the dates of issue of Type Sage stamps has been much worked on by some of the ablest students of French stamps at various times, and continues to be one on which what we know is far from final.)

### FRENCH GUINEA Post Office List, 1948

By Edmond Queyroy.

As for Upper Volta, Ivory Coast and Dahomey, in recent numbers of the Philatelist, again I cite from Public Notice No. 3273, July 17, 1948, of the P.T.T., to give the present roster of post offices for another colony.

#### French Guinea (Guinée Française)

##### A. Independent or "full" offices: Conakry (head office)

Beyla .....	Kankan .....
Bissikrime .....	Kindia .....
Boffa .....	Kissidougou .....
Boké .....	Kouroussa .....
Coyah .....	Labé .....
Dabola .....	Macenta .....
Dalaba .....	Mamou .....
Dubré .....	N'Zérékoré .....
Faranah .....	Pita .....
Forécariah .....	Siguiri .....
Gaoual .....	Télimélé .....
Gueckedou .....	Youkounkoun .....

##### B. Subordinate or "Secondary" offices or Postal Agencies.

Bentimodia	branch of	Boké
Benty	" "	Forécariah
Dinguiraye	" "	Bissikrime
Farmoreah	" "	Forécariah
Friguigbâ	" "	Kindia
Kolenté (La)	" "	Kindia
Konkouré	" "	Mamou
Linsan	" "	Mamou
Mali	" "	Labé
Ouassou	" "	Dubréka
Souguéta	" "	Kindia
Victoria	" "	Boké
Yambéring	" "	Labé

This list is useful in avoiding stamps which are illegitimately cancelled, and further shows by which offices are now included, the present boundaries of the colonial unit of government.

Further French West African colonies will be covered in later lists.

#### We Gladly Correct An Omission.

Our September-October 1949 number contained a reprint of an article on the Oradour-sur-Seine stamp and postmark, which originally appeared in the well known English journal, "The Philatelic Magazine." Due credit was given to that publication; but the name of the author was not known to us when we went to press.

This we particularly regret, as the article was written by one of our own members of the France & Colonies Group abroad:---- Mr. Henry Jervis, of Coalville, Leicestershire, England. He is well known to our readers, as he has contributed many fine articles to our pages in earlier numbers. We take considerable pleasure, now that we have learned of it, in making known that he is the author.

The author's name was not on the copy of the article which came to us. Whether it had been removed in clipping too close, or whether the place of first publication did not include any author's name, has not been investigated. What really matters is that Mr. Jervis shall receive proper mention as the author. We feel glad to do this in the quickest time possible.

Our member,  
Mr. L. Lamoureux  
of Toronto, Ont.  
and  
Mrs. Lamoureux  
at Versailles  
Summer of 1949



On French soldier's letter, 1936, from Arohih -- Greek stamps used. The occasion for it is not recorded.  
--Reprinted from La Liaison, July 1936.

#### "Origine Locale"

The stamps of the 1891 issue of Monaco and later may be found overprinted with the letters "O L." within a circle of dots. This overprint stands for "origine locale" (of "local origin"), and for a long time it was considered an official overprint. However, it is a special postmark which was used to obliterate the stamps on letters handed to the mail men on their routes or collected by them on territory which was really French. This arrangement whereby Monacan or French stamps might be used indiscriminately within a limited area was stopped in 1908 and, consequently, the "O L." postmark ceased to be used after that year.

Stamp Collectors Fortnightly,  
Sept. 24, 1949

France Type Merson

By A. Brun

Translation of article written specially for us and referring to No. 46, pages 13 and 14 (July & August 1949 number)

This type has been imitated on a large scale before 1914.

It is misleading to illustrate for comparison a genuine 5 franc of France printed after 1914, because the technique of printing is not the same. The clichés were made anew many times, from the same die; but with minor differences. The impression is much clogged, and of a wholly different quality.

In the light of what has just been stated:

In the originals (earlier printings) the lines of shading of the ribbon which passes behind the olive branches in the upper left portion are delicate, indistinct, and sketchy. But in the so-called "Marseille Forgeries" there are four quite distinct horizontal lines.

In the shield at the upper left, containing "5fr" there are four lines of shading, of which the two upper ones consist of dashes with dots beyond them. In the forgeries there are five lines of dots without dashes. (These lines are to the left of the top of the numeral of value---Editor, F. & C. Phil.)

At the lower right corner, there are three short vertical lines and a fourth incomplete one, often united by spreading of the ink. In the forgeries there are four complete lines which are unbroken and well separated.

What the France & Colonies Philatelist says about the upper left corner is exactly correct.

Memorandum on Type Merson Levant Forgeries

Referring to No. 46, page 14 and front cover illustrations, Dr. Wood's article does not say or infer that the characteristics there shown are valid for any other stamps in this type, but only those few specifically mentioned. These stigmata will definitely be misleading if taken to mean that lower values in this type, or those other than of Port Said and Levant, are to be taken as genuine or bad on the basis of them.

The wording of the article might also cause the mistake of thinking that the stamps of Djibouti are subject to these tests. However, since none of these are in Type Merson, such is clearly not the intent.

We are indebted to our member Paul H. Segnitz of Florida, for suggesting that these points be made clear. He mentions that the early (before 1914) printings of France stamps in this design show as much detail as the Levant and Port Said forgeries.

---Editor, F. &amp; C. Phil.

Book Reviews

We could half fill this number with reviews of publications on French and Colonial stamps which came in since the last review that we ran (in No. 46). The reviews here are made short, in order to use space for strictly philatelic copy --the choice of books to review is the editor's own.

French Philatelic Facts, October 1949. 28 pp. Montclair, N.J., Brainerd Kremer.

This is section 3 of the handbook that will appear piece by piece, combining and coordinating information from all sources. Nos. 1 and 2, in a single combined number, were reviewed in No. 45 and hence no need exists to detail the plan and scope of the work.

This section gives full treatment of the cancellations found on the 1849-50 first issue of France. Well organized, with full-page plates of both the provisional and the regular cancellations, the book can be used without even the least confusion.

The last seven pages deal adequately with the Presidency Issue of 1852, including proofs, essays, and the cancellations found first on this issue.

As in No. 1-2, evaluation is well done. Use of untranslated French terms has lessened, but French phrasings persist. This section betters the standard attained previously.

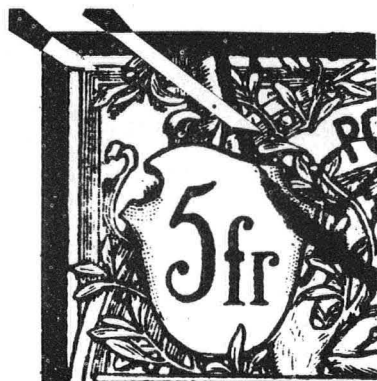
Billig's Specialized Catalogues: Vol. 5: France, Plating of the 20 Centimes Blue 1863. Jamaica, N.Y., Fritz Billig.

This is not a "catalog" in the usual stamp collecting sense. It is General G. Dumont's set of illustrations of each stamp in each pane, for which recognition points are known. The stigmas for each position are located by arrows. There is no text. The last four pages show some of the rarities enlarged, with plate states noted. For the intensive student of the 20c Napoleon Laureate, this Billig book is a real boon.

The France & Colonies Specialist, No. 1. New York, Nassau Stamp Co., 1949. 48 pp.

Raoul Lesgor's house organ is an intriguing combination of offers and very meaty informative articles. The latter include a compact study of the shades and varieties of the France 1849's; also a less adequate one on "The Electroplating Process" used for making stamp plates in France. An excellent map of French North Africa fits in with the Algerian numeral cancellation list, to help make the Algeria and Tunis offers pages an attractive sales device. As with almost all the articles published on French stamps, one comment must be made: Translate those French words.

(All three reviews by S.G.R.)



Left hand  
pictures

"The Real  
McCoy"



Right hand  
pictures

"Only an  
imitation"







Southampton and  
Other British  
" M B "  
Cancellations  
on  
French Stamps.



Readers of the journal, "The Philatelist," the postal history magazine published monthly by Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1, England, are finding a comprehensive serial on this subject in it, beginning with the November 1949 number. This series is of great use to those interested in either early or current cancellations on French stamps.

We may find it possible to reprint parts dealing with our subject, later on. This depends on whether there is enough demand from our own membership, and whether more urgent copy might crowd it out. Till the instalment covering the Moveable Boxes used in the Mediterranean, and at Suez, and east of Suez, appears, we can not know whether French stamps are involved in the usage in those areas.

Meanwhile, we mention that MB marks of the same styles as Southampton (See F. & C. Phil. No. 42, page 24) are reported and pictured from the following: London, Dover, Newhaven, Folkstone, Jersey and Weymouth. London and Southampton are the only users of the recent circle types (See F. & C. Phil. No. 44, p. 6). All the others are the "milestone" or octagon type, with the size not the same for all offices. Range of dates of use is 1856 to 1938.

The attention of the editors of La Quinzaine Philatelique, whose April 16 1947 query we have reprinted in this journal, No. 44, is suggested to be given to this series.

#### 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 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 or 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).

Wanted: stamps of General French Colonies issues cancelled in Guadeloupe or Martinique; or anything of interest for a specialized collection of these islands. Wm. Schafer, Box 73, Astor Sta., Boston 23, Mass. (Member 403)

40c Sage Type 2 (Scott 95) wanted, with date in postmark before 1882. I offer 10c each, for those I can use, and 25c each for dates 1878 or earlier. S.G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2)

#### NEW MEMBERS: Welcome --

- 408 Clarkson, Logan, Apt. 301, 780 Eglinton Ave., W., Toronto 10, Ont., Canada. (France Libre overprints)
- 409 Cox, Thos. R., 983 Park Ave., New York 21, N. Y. (No specialty stated)
- 410 Frye, William A., Jr., 211 West Maple St., Lansing 6, Mich. (Mexico, France & Colonies)
- 411 Furn, Robert, Apt. 2, 4105 Cote des Neiges, Montreal 2, P.Q., Canada. (France and Colonies; early classics)
- 412 Knowles, Buford L., 1005 East 60th St., Chicago 37, Ill. (General collector)
- 413 Rafferty, Lt. John H., Jr., 728 Adams St., Port Townsend, Wash. (Mint France, and Austria).
- 414 Gantner, Aug., 139 Turnpike, South River, N.J. (No specialty stated).

#### APPLICATION PENDING:

Bruckner, Alfred, 1910 South Hamilton Ave, Chicago 23, Ill.

#### APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:

Apfelbaum, Earl P.L., 1428 South Penn Sq., Philadelphia 2, Pa.  
Bates, Chandler, P.O. Box 164, Gloucester, Va.  
Blackstadius, T., Hovas, pr. Gothenburg, Sweden.  
Doiron, Miss Lucille A., 4001 Fairmont St., N.W., Washington, D.C.  
Miller, A. Robert, 10449 Holman Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif.

#### RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED:

378 Johnson, Mrs. Fanchon.  
14 Kagan, Alexander.

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

38 Borie, Renshaw, to P.O. Box 381, Niagara Falls, N.Y.  
377 Glanton, G.P., to General Delivery, Tacoma, Wash.  
396 (Correction of typographical error) Jones, C.T., 725 Joshua Green Bldg., Seattle 1, Wash. (Wrong city previously given).  
124 Turner, George T., to 34-52 73rd St., Jackson Heights, L.I., N.Y.  
280 Webb, Wm.C., to 361 Irvington Ave., South Orange, New Jersey.

DUES for the current year, now started, still are unpaid by a small portion amongst the membership. This is a good record; but let this year be our best record!

If your card does not show that you are in good standing to October 1950, please look up your bill and mail it to the Secretary with the check, postal note or money order--address is 34 Minerva Ave., Manasquan, N.J. Second billing will go out ere too long--why wait until then?

BACK NUMBERS of the Philatelist can be had from the Secretary at 20c each or \$1.00 per any complete volume of 6 consecutive numbers. Only Vol. 1 No. 1 is not in stock--photostates can be had of No. 1: see Browne's notice in "New Service" in Philatelist No. 41 or 42.

Hint to collectors new to the stamps of the French countries: whatever holds true for U. S. stamps, the opposite is true for French ones.