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Address all communications to Dr. A. J. C. Vaurie, 5 E. 53 St., New York, N. Y.

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# A STUDY OF THE TYPES OF THE SOWER AND PEACE ISSUES

By Dave M. Bull (94)

Much has been done and much remains to be done in the study of the early stamps of France, but when we come to the 20th century, little is to be found in the catalogues or elsewhere regarding the various types or printing faults. Probably the only one to do any serious work in this connection was Baron de Vinck, who published a series of articles in "L'Echo de la Timbrologie."

There were many issues in the third period of French stamps (1900 to date). Of these we will attempt to deal with only two series: the Sower and Peace issues. In the Sower issue there are three different designs, the first with lined background and a rising sun; the second without lined background and sun but with ground under the feet; the third similar to the second, only without the ground. The first and second designs have but one type. The third design has several different types, described below.

## SOWER ISSUE

5 CENTIMES--Issued in 3 colors, green, yellow and rose. Three different types. TYPE I: distinguished by a dot forming the bottom of the "Q" in "REPUBLIQUE" and the width of the "5" is 3mm. (Fig. I). TYPE II: the dot becomes a short dash touching the bottom of the "Q" and the width of the curve of the "5" is  $3 \frac{1}{5}$  mm. (Fig. II). TYPE III: same as Type II but the top of the "C" has a square end instead of round. (Fig. II). The 5c green and the 5c yellow were printed in both Types I and II but the 5c rose appears only in Type III.

10 CENTIMES--Issued in 3 colors, red, green and blue. Two types, the second having 4 sub-types. TYPE I: thin letters and numerals. TYPE II: much thicker than Type I. The difference in the sub-types lies in the small letter "C" as shown in Figs. III, IV, V and VI. Type IIB has another difference: a dot under the "Q" - while all the other sub-types have the dash.

15 CENTIMES--Two types. TYPE I: the numeral "1" is thin with the oblique point formed of straight lines. At the end of the upper bar of the "5" is a small triangle extending down. (Fig. VII). TYPE II: the "1" is very much thicker and the oblique point is curved. The end of the upper bar of the "5" is terminated by a small vertical line. (Fig. VIII).

20 CENTIMES--Two types. TYPE I: the lower point of the "2" forms nearly a right angle and is some distance from the left border. (Fig. IX). TYPE II: the "2" is entirely different in design from Type I; the lower point forms an oblique angle and is very much closer to the left frame line. (Fig. X). Type I and II of the 20c are known as tenant but this piece is very rare.

25 CENTIMES--Four types. TYPE I: the upper end of the "C" is square and slightly hooked. The head of the "2" is less indented than any of the other types. The lower point of the "2" is 1mm. from the left frame line and forms

(Continued on next page)



# THE SOWER AND PEACE ISSUES

(Continued from p. 18)

an acute angle with the base.(Fig.XI).TYPE II: top of the "C" curved and the end square. The lower point of "2" is  $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. from left frame line. Base of the "2" thicker and not so pointed as in Type I.(Fig.XII). TYPE III: upper part of the "C" curved but the end rounded.Lower point of the "2" slightly less than  $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. from left frame line. Base of "2" thicker than Type I but more pointed than Type II.(Fig.XIII). TYPE IV: the "C" shaped as in Type I but slightly thinner. Lower point of "2" slightly more than  $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. from left frame line. Base of "2" is similar to Type I but right point not turned up as much. (Fig. XIV).

30 CENTIMES--Two types. TYPE I: upper bar of "5" measures  $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. and is  $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. from left frame. (Fig.XV). TYPE II: upper bar of "3"  $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long and  $3\frac{1}{5}$  mm. from left frame line. (Fig. XVI).

40 CENTIMES--Two types. TYPE I: upper and lower points of "C" are almost on same vertical line.(Fig.XVII). TYPE II: lower curve of "C" is almost horizontal and its point extends to the right beyond upper point. (Fig. XVIII).

## PEACE ISSUE

There are four types differing in the draping of the robe under the belt buckle. The 50c which is the commonly used value and was printed in enormous quantities shows all 4 types. The other values have but one constant type.

50 CENTIMES--TYPE I: the "C" is small and thin and both extremities are the same, the folds of the draping are as shown in Fig. XIX. TYPE II: the "C" is much larger and the upper extremity ends in a ball. The folds the same as in Type I.(Fig.XX). TYPE III: the "C" is the same as in Type I, the folds have an entirely different arrangement (Fig.XXI). TYPE IV. The "C" is again the same as in Type I, but the folds present still another arrangement. (Fig. XXII).

The 55c and 80c are Type I, the 1 fr.25 and 1 fr.75 are Type III, and all other values are Type II.

## THE EDITOR'S SCRAP BOOK

From Paul H. Segnitz (90)  
2519 East Wood Place, Milwaukee, Wis.



"This mark is on the special variety of the 25c blue Semeuse Camee (Scott's 168) with the block-letter overprint "ANNULE". Yvert classes these as "Para-Obliterés". It is from the brief paragraph in the Yvert Specialized that I learn that the stamp represents one of those used in the training schools for postal employees, in

this case, the one at Besançon. Complete postal equipment - counters, sorting racks, all official forms, etc. - was supplied in these schools, and apparently they made up their own "dummy" letters, using stamps of the regular issues which had, with true French caution, been made invalid for public use by the overprint. They learned to cancel properly, too, with the obliterator as shown. Yvert intimates that there were a number of similar schools and that the canceller always included the legend "Cours Pratiques" and the town name, though the position of the two was sometimes reversed. They are valued the same, whether or not "cancelled".

(Mr. Segnitz would appreciate comments)

## NEW MEMBERS Welcome to our new members:

- 95-PINCHOT, S., 106 W.47 St., New York, N. Y. (Dealer - new issues)
- 96-LEAVY, Louis R. Room 302, 134 B'way, Brooklyn N.Y. (F.19th U.& Un.-20th Un.-Blocks 20th Cent. U.& Un.)
- 97-LIDMAN, David "The Chicago Sun," 400 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.
- 98-HATFIELD, Jack 519 S. Belmont Avenue, Springfield, O. (Cols. U. only on & off cover, Postal Stationery Used)
- 99-MANN, George A. P.O. Box 223, Klamath Falls, Oregon (F. & Col.)
- 100-LINDQUIST, Harry L. 2 W.46 St., New York, NY
- 101-LYON, Robert J. Scott Stamp & Coin Co. 1 W. 47 St., New York, N.Y.
- 102-SANABRIA, Nicolas 521 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.
- 103-DOW, Howard L. 44 Shippee Ave., W. Warwick, R.I. (anything pertaining to F. shades, parcel posts, types, precancels, labels, seals, proofs, essays, dues, specimens, annules, booklets. Wants to buy and Exch.)
- 104-CARTER, Don 3516 Drexel Drive, Dallas, Texas
- 105-ALT, John 1529 N. 8th St., Sheboygan, Wisc.
- 106-BERSON, Gene 185 Sycamore St., Tiffin, Ohio (F. Un. & specialized Guynemer stamp coll.)
- 107-KOHLER, Jacob F. 31 Elijah St., Woburn, Mass. (F. Un.-interested in latest issues)
- 108-SAMUELS, C.B. Heerenstraat 13, P.O. Box 386 Paramaribo - Suriname (Guadeloupe, Martinique & Guiana only-U. & Un.-Exch. much desired). Mr. Samuels states that only Registered Air Mail reaches him due to war conditions.
- 109-ROBESON, John M. 83 Riverside Drive, N.Y.C. (F. & Col. Gen'l. coll. 19th & 20th cent. Exch)
- 110-LARIMORE, Dr. Louise D. Greenwich Lodge, Greenwich, Conn. (Punched stamps, especially on covers)

## NEW ADDRESSES

- BALME, Joseph P. (39) M/Sgt. Co. B, 94th Signal Batt., Camp Crowder, Missouri
- LITTWITZ, Walter C. (9) 430 E. 86 St., New York, N.Y.
- METZGER, Harold M. (71) 4217 Downing Ave., Tampa, Florida

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At the June meeting, Miss Helen Anthony (46) gave a timely talk on Madagascar and its postal history. The large island presents much of interest from many points of view---philatelic included. Miss Anthony gave full justice to her subject and her talk was well received by a large attendance.

As a mark of honor and in gratitude for the great help and generosity shown to our Group, Mr. Harry L. Lindquist, our guest for the evening, was presented by unanimous vote with membership number 100.

The July meeting was held at the Collectors Club, this organization having graciously offered us the use of its club rooms. Due to the summer vacations, no meeting was held in August.

Starting with the September meeting, we moved into very convenient and fine quarters in Room 902 at the newly opened Fifth Avenue Philatelic Center, 505 Fifth Ave.-corner 42nd St.

Mr. Gerard Gilbert (50), our Honorary Chairman, was the speaker for the evening and he held us all greatly interested by telling us some of the experiences of his long and distinguished career. He showed as well some very rare pieces and brought out several hitherto unknown facts. Some forgeries were discussed also, and it is with great regret that we cannot give a detailed report, due to lack of space.

## NEW CALEDONIA AND DEPENDENCIES

By Donald D. Burgess (52)

(Continued from p. 16)

On December 5, 1892, some of the little-used 75c and 1 fr. denominations of the 1881 general colonial issue were revalued by handstamping to make 5c or 10c values. Quantities were as follows: Black surcharge--5c on 75c, 15,000; 10c on 1 fr., 12,000. Blue surcharge--5c on 75c, 15,000; 10c on 1 fr. either 17,900 or 18,000. The prize of the lot is the 10c on 1 fr. imperforate surcharged in blue, of which 100 were issued, presumably and charitably by error. All except the rare one exist with surcharge inverted and the 10c on 1 fr. blue with double surcharge. Yvert has this to say of the inverts: "The inverted surcharges having originally been issued in small quantities were, for a long time, rare. The office at Nouméa later made, with the original handstamps, an altogether illegal reprinting." Obliging cusses, to say the least.

An order of February 17, 1893, created the 5c on 20c, using the same handstamp which made the 5c revaluations in the previous issue. This exists inverted and double and was issued on the same day the decree was dated. Apparently this issue pretty well exhausted the remaining stock of the general colonies stamps, for no more is heard of them in New Caledonia's philatelic history.

Things went along pretty smoothly for more than six years until December 29, 1899, when Governor P. Feuillet authorized another surcharge "in view of the insufficiency of stocks of 5, 10 and 15 centimes stamps..." From this came the 5c on 4c and 15c on 30c, of which 40,000 each were issued. For the former the scrolled N-O-E 5 used in 1892 and 1893 was resurrected and for the latter a new handstamp was made, N.-C.E. and 15 in circle. Both exist inverted and the 5c on 4c with double surcharge. By error, one sheet of 150 of the 4c received the 15c surcharge instead of the 5c. I have forgeries of both of these cheap stamps, the former with surcharge applied on top of the cancellation on a genuine stamp and the latter a counterfeit from the beginning, stamp and all.

Changes of colors in the Determination Peace and Commerce type were issued of one type of issued in 1900-01. The 5c was issued in 1901, quantity unknown. All others were issued in December, 1900, in the following quantities: 10c, 250,000; 15c, 1,000,000; 25c, 182,700; 50c (imprint in carmine), 10,200.

In 1901 a shortage of needed values again dragged out the handstamps used in 1899. From these were surcharged the 5c on 2c (40,000), 15c on 75c (40,000) and 15c on 1 fr. (23,793---it must have been the entire stock). All three exist with inverted surcharge and double surcharge and both of the 15c values with vertical surcharge. Apparently there was no reprinting of these errors, for they're mighty tough to get.

Governor Feuillet, on being informed that the postoffice was "just plain out of" 5c and 15c stamps, issued a decree on February 8, 1902, which permitted the revaluation of 30c and 40c stamps, "the first in values of 5c by the printing of a figure 5, the second in values of 15c by the printing in black of the figure (s) 15". This was carried out the same day, the surcharge being printed from type in sheets of 150 and the quantities 63,000 of the 5c on 30c and 57,000 of the 15c on 40c. Both exist inverted

with a listed (Yvert) quantity of 2,000 each. (Don't ask me how they get that figure when they were printed in sheets of 150.) There were also printed, by error, some 5c on 2c and 15c on 2c from this type. Since these were not authorized in the decree they are not considered as major numbers. Baron De Vinck gives 50 as the quantity of the 5c on 2c and 100 for the 15c on 2c. With tears in my eyes I ask--how the hell can they be considered as errors when the pressman had to tear a sheet apart and either take out some of the type or cover it up when printing these "errors"?

Two typographical varieties have reached catalogue listing, a broken-headed 5 and a short figure 1, shown here. The former is found in positions 19, 25, 69, 75, 119 and 125 for the 5c and in 17, 34, 67, 84, 119 and 125 for the 15c, which adds up to 2,520 for the 5c and 2,280 for the 15c in spite of Yvert's figures of 1,680 and 1,520. The short figure 1 is only in position 106, so 380 of this variety were issued.

In addition to these constant varieties there are innumerable breaks in the letters and figures which permit an innocuous form of specialization.

The commemorative series of 1903, marking 50 years of French possession, was issued July 16 by virtue of a decree by Governor E. Picanon which provided that they should be "for interior use exclusively in the colony and its possessions." Originally it was planned to issue two sets, one for exterior use and one for interior, to carry a surtax for the benefit of the New Caledonian treasury and a few were so surcharged. However, the Minister for the Colonies vetoed the idea and these were relegated to the status of essays.

All the current denominations, including both shades of the 5c, received the overprint from a form of 150 electrotypes made in Sydney, Australia. The corner stamps in each pane of 25 have a small cross in the outside corner. The 10c was first overprinted in black but this did not show up against the black background and the color of the overprint was changed to red. Those which had already received the black overprint were re-overprinted in gold, thus making a double overprint in two colors. While Scott lists the 10c with gold overprint only, it is doubtful if it exists.

Position 2 on the plate had the I missing in the right-hand side of the arc, making it read TENA RE and this exists in all values. Yvert notes that this was not missing at the start of the printing and cites as proof a block of the 10c from the upper left corner of the sheet which does not have the variety. However, it must have broken down shortly after the printing began.

Various other varieties exist, such as: Double overprint--4c, 15c, 25c, 75c (black and red) and 1 fr. (blue and red). Baron De Vinck classes these last two as essays. The 1 fr. also exists overprinted in black instead of blue and the 1c with inverted overprint. Some values are known with the corner dates missing due to misplacement of the sheet in the press. This could occur only in the 1st, 6th and 11th rows.

(To be continued)



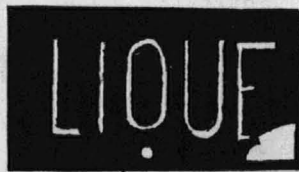


Fig. I Type I



Fig. II Types II &amp; III

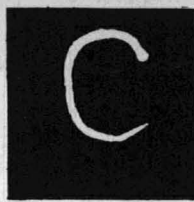


Fig. III Type IIA

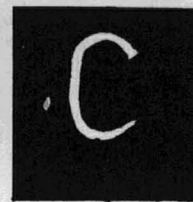


Fig. IV Type IIB

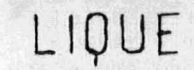


Fig. V Type IIC

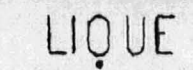


Fig. VI Type IID



Fig. VII Type I



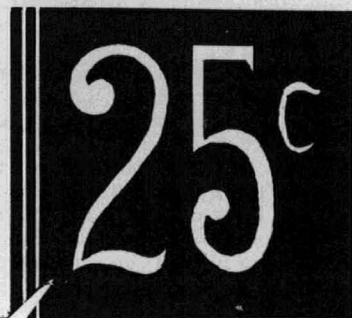
Fig. VIII Type II



Fig. IX Type I

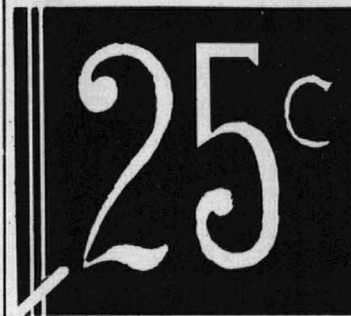


Fig. X Type II



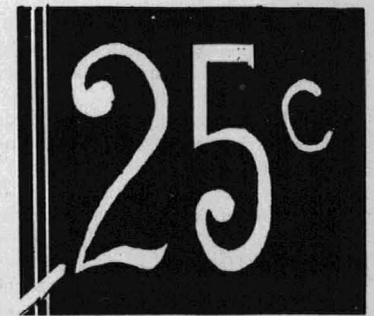
1 mm.

Fig. XI Type I



3/4 mm.

Fig. XII Type II



3/4 mm.

Fig. XIII Type III



3/4 mm.

Fig. XIV Type IV



Fig. XV Type I



Fig. XVI Type II



Fig. XVII Type I



Fig. XVIII Type II

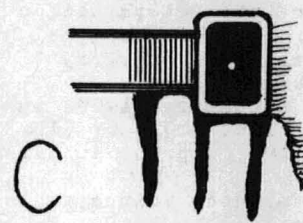


Fig. XIX Type I

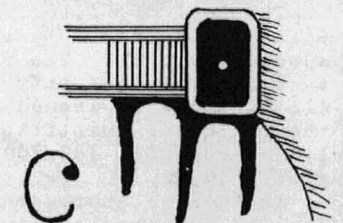


Fig. XX Type II

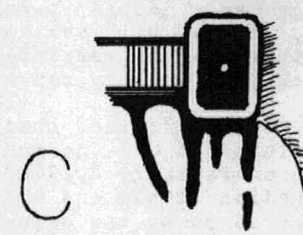


Fig. XXI Type III

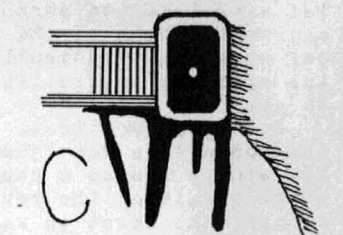


Fig. XXII Type IV