

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.

Condensed Account of French Stamps

Cancelled in Spain

By J. Majo Tocabens

in Publicidad Filatelica, Barcelona, July, 1949.

(Translated by a Group member)



Barcelona
Sword Hilt
--on pair
25c Sage



FRANCA
on 40c
Napoleon
laureate



Madrid
on 1c
1871

To discuss "mixed frankings" with the French stamps cancelled in Spain, in an article, is a hard task. There does not exist much material to furnish detail and dates that would give real interest to such a study.

Over many years, I have taken occasion to read and study books and articles mentioning Spanish cancellations of French stamps, which make them into mixed frankings. I could not find any dates other than those already known for the classic case of the marks used at Barcelona to cancel stamps on mail brought to that port via ships, but not cancelled. Some carry the Estafeta de Cambio ("Exchange Express") postmark and the rating mark. Others have those of two lines of ships, Estrangero-Barcelona.

Then imagine my surprise, to discover, used on a foreign letter, the existence of a postmark (cancellation) like that of "Estrangero Barcelona," in which the name of the Capital is in place of that of Alicante. This seems to be fantastic, at first sight.

Aside from these two postmarks, created on purpose for mail put aboard ships in the port of Marseilles and addressed to Barcelona, every other item is fortuitous and accidental. They arise from the casual way in which a stamp, that was bought, affixed but not postmarked in France was noticed and seen to be not cancelled, when the letter reached its destination. It was thus cancelled by courtesy of the local office.

Those most easily found are the so-called post cart cancellations, which at once attract our attention, from 1858 onwards. They were struck at Barcelona. Parallel to them, and at the same time, we find the oval killer with rays

or number of dispatching office. These two were both then in use. We have had opportunity to see several fine examples of French stamps of 1853-60, which came through uncanceled, to get the numeral cancellation 42 at Teneriffe, from mail carried by sea in a similar way.

As France celebrates the start of its second century of stamps, we bring this contribution in extension of what has been published. We are sure that, aside from the collections of Messrs. Vidal, Lenze, Bresca and Majo (whose material has been seen) there is much more material, spread around, from which a second article could come.

The postmark of Barcelona, with the "sword hilt" within inner circle, well known and used in 1878, occurs on a beautiful pair of the 25c Type Sage in ultramarine, which we illustrate.

A fine imperforate 80c Napoleon came to Madrid and there received the postmark, the grid then in use. Likewise, a 40c Napoleon, perforated, is known with the diamond of dots.

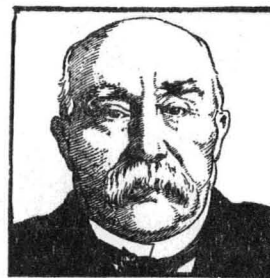
We have another copy which is very odd, and is cancelled at Madrid. This is the 1c of 1871, cancelled with the town mark of the capital---a postmark very scarce on foreign stamps.

Another is the 40c Napoleon laureate, which is cancelled with FRANCA in oval. This was applied, by the indications which are present, at San Feliu de Guixols (Gerona) a cork exporting city doing business actively with France. This mark shows that no other postage was charged on this letter. We illustrate this item.

This is a small topic; but these examples, some of which are "only known copies," might become the starting points for collectors of a future time, French or Spanish, to identify the marks of such mixed usage.

(The editor of F. & C. Philatelist has shown me a letter from a firm in Marseille to one in Barcelona, with the 25c Type Sage black on red, cancelled with double circle, no date, reading ADMON DE CAMBIO BARCELONA, 010 in center, and backstamp of the double circle with sword hilt of Barcelona, Jan. 20 1879 -- a cargo invoice, of which it is obviously the history that it was sent on the ship and went into the mails at the "exchange" (Cambio) or customs office when it was taken ashore at Barcelona.--Translator).

The three illustrations on previous page are all that appeared with the original article in the Spanish stamp paper.--Editor, F & C. P.



The "Tiger" of France and Postage Stamps.

By John Weare (Translator)

In their current price list No. 5, called *Propos Philateliques*, which reached this country from Paris around New Year's, Messrs. Robineau and Fourcault, both of whom are members of the American Stamp Dealers Association, publish the following tale. It is of particular interest to the France & Colonies Group. It has as subtitle "The Story of a Postage Stamp Exposition."

On the 5th of June 1907, there opened for a week in Paris a postage stamp show which turned out to be a great and unexpected success. The place was the former headquarters of the Association of Stock Exchange Brokers, at No. 6 rue Ménars, very near the Stock Exchange itself. The French philatelic world was greatly astonished at the wide popular success of the show. In those days there was just as little of public interest in stamp shows in France, as in other places.

The show was announced to the public by official government white posters, signed by the Minister of Public Works and the Under-Secretary for Posts and Telegraphs. Of course, it found a place on every official government billboard throughout Paris and the suburbs. So this show had the stamp of official government support, as well as an exposition hall in the very center of the financial district. The public thronged to see it.

This exposition was doubly original in its character. Only stamps of France were shown; and these were drawn almost entirely from one private collection -- a large one, to be sure -- of Mr. de l'Argentiére, a member of the Stock Exchange. He personally secured some additional great rarities from two eminent collectors: the Count du Durieu and Mr. Kastler. The show pieces were placed under glass in large frames which crossed and recrossed the large exhibition room with something like 175 square yards of floor space.

The postal administration furnished uniformed employes as guards, and further placed a table in the vestibule, to serve as a temporary post office, where mail could be stamped with the special Exposition postmark. This was the primitive ancestor of the elaborate special post offices installed in the various modern Centenary Expositions. The catalog took 30 pages to describe the singles, pairs and blocks, which even then were recognized as outstanding.

The decision to arrange this Exposition came about by the merest chance. Mr. de l'Argentiére and the famous Premier, Georges Clemenceau, happened to be guests in the same hunting party. The "Tiger" was not philatelist, but did have a very open mind for anything curious which would hold the attention of a man like Mr. de l'Argentiére. So he asked about the collection, which he had heard was a very extensive one, and said that he would like to see it. Mr. de l'Argentiére replied -- and quite rightly -- that a stamp collection as large as his, even though marvelously set up and

'Doctored' Proofs Of French Issue Can Fool Unwary

From
Western Stamp
Collector
Sept. 24, 1949

the regular stamp paper of the period.

Certain French colonial proofs which have been similarly treated to simulate genuine stamps are known to exist, The Philatelic Magazine adds.

Among colonial issues of which "doctored" proofs have been represented as genuine stamps are the General Faidherbe, Oil Palm and Doctor Ballay types of Dahomey; some of the Blanc and Mouchon types of French offices in Alexandria, China, Port Said and Morocco; the "Peace and Commerce" types of Anjouan, Gabon and Oceania;

Also the 1907 issue of Middle Congo; the Mosque type of Somali Coast; the 1913 series of French Guinea; the 1914 series of Upper Senegal and Niger; the 1907 issue of Indo China and the 1908 postage dues; the 1908 issue of Madagascar; the 1908-09 series of Martinique; the 1907 series of Reunion and the 1909-17 series of St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Cleverly "doctored" proofs of the 2 francs stamp of the 1900-06 series of France (Scott's No. 126) are being offered in Paris as genuine copies of the stamp, which catalogs \$25 in mint condition.

Henri Thiaude, the eminent Paris dealer and publisher, has run across a number of such "doctored" proofs of the scarce stamp recently, according to The Philatelic Magazine of London.

The proofs, of course, are imperforate and have no gum, but the high catalog value of the stamp has encouraged stamp fakers to put faked perforations on the proofs, gum them and offer them as genuine stamps.

It is reported that these fakes can generally be identified because perforations do not correspond with those of genuine stamps. Also the paper used for proofs is distinctly whiter than

classified, could not be seen and appreciated in a short visit. Rather, he continued, selections from the albums should be set up as an exhibit. In fact, for a long time he had wanted to do just that.

Thinking of the exhibition rooms which were at his disposal, he said he himself would gladly finance such a show, if he could secure some official government support for the venture.

Clemenceau promised he would get it for him; and what's more, the great political leader kept his word. Thus was added to the many titles for glory of the "Tiger," that of being a powerful promoter of philately.

It is interesting to recall that after the death of Mr. de l'Argentiére, this very same collection was sent to the United States, for sale at auction by the late Dr. J.C. Morgenthau. There were three sales in the fall of 1922. Mr. Weare has a priced catalog of the third sale, in which were the used stamps of France along with world-wide used blocks of four.

Unusual New Caledonia Item.

Mr. Edmond Queyroy has shown your editor one item of New Caledonia 1884 issue which we think may be "only copy known." It is the 5c on 40c, Scott No. 6, but which has the surcharge double. The two strikes are both clear, but one is definitely much fainter than the other. The less strong strike is so badly placed that lower half is at top of stamp -- the other strike normally centered. This copy has correct cancellation, etc, but is cut rather on the close side all around. Surcharge is Type b of Scott, the one with bars close and N C E near 5 but widely spaced within its line. This item was sold to one of our Group members, whose collection may be expected to show it in public at next winter's stamp shows. (He asks that we withhold his name for the present).

N C E
5



For Your Attention, "Mr. Scott."
You Don't List This Error.

From the list of offers of March 1950, which Mr. L. Miro of Paris has sent out, we show the Cameroun 1925 error-- 2 francs in the color of the 5 francs, in the center of a sheet corner block of 9. The rest of the stamps are the 5f value. Color: brown and black, bluish paper.

Yvert lists this as No. 129c.

Here is a variety exactly on a par with the much-prized U.S. 5c Red Error of the 1914 period which Scott has long listed.

"Mr. Scott," don't miss the New Caledonia item just above, either.

Book Reviews

Fournier's 1914 Price List of Philatelic Forgeries ("Facsimiles of Obsolete Postage Stamps"). Photo-offset exact reproduction, 1949, 72 pp., H. Garratt-Adams & Co, Blmdon, England. With introduction by Lowell Ragatz. U.S. orders via Janet van den Berg, Worthington, Ohio. \$1.60, post free.

As a guide to what stamps the late, but not lamented, Fournier had imitated up to 1914, this preprint of his 1914 list is of use to us and a valuable aid. However, this purveyor of "artistic imitations to the detriment of collectors' funds" added several later job in quantity, notably all value of the Group Type of all the colonies. The list may thus fail of full service if used uncritically, or as all-sufficient.

The "blurb" pages and multilingual notices are interesting reflections of stamp conditions in this period. Perhaps they have most interest of anything in the book.

Lowell Ragatz contributes an interesting and wholly adequate history of Fournier and what he did.

Some purchasers expected that the reprint of the 1914 price list would include material that might help them in recognizing Fournier items. Unfortunately, it includes nothing of the sort. French Philatelic Facts, February 1950. 24 pp. Montclair, N.J., Brainerd Kremer.

This is the first section of Vol. 2 of this comprehensive handbook on France's stamps. The standard of the preceding sections is kept up, and in fact bettered. Evaluation is definitely improved; untranslated French words have become far less frequent.

A chapter covers the 1849-52 issues ably, with relative values for cancellations, colors, covers, etc. The information is embodied in a set of tables which represent not only a survey of the actual market, but are drawn up for ease of reading. We wonder how a busy dealer can get time to do this draftsmanship, which is clearly Mr. Kremer's own work.

The rest of the number contains the first of the Empire issues: general discussion of their features, rates, etc, and treatment of the 1c and 5c of 1852.

As in previous sections, all the works which are authoritative are drawn on, and what they state is coordinated and evaluated properly. No collector need any longer be stymied for lack of access to books or inability to read French, as far as this handbook now reaches. Much of what is in this section has never before been available in our language.

(Both reviews by S.G.R.)

KOBE AND MARSEILLES SEAPOST

By Willard P. Snyder

The Messageries Maritimes maintains regular mail service to the Far East. Ships sail out of Marseilles every fourteen days and all are equipped with Seapost facilities.

The present terminus of the route is Kobe, Japan. Originally this line was known as Marseilles to Yokohama, later changed to Marseilles - Shanghai. The extension to Kobe took place late last year.

All postmarks are of the regular French type as illustrated. The numbers in the lower portion of the cancellation designate the seapost office. This does not mean however that the same ship retains the same number. This varies according to whether or not the clerk is changed, in which event he takes his cancellor and equipment with him to the next boat.

From "Postal Markings" magazine, 1955





The recent Algerian
Air semi-postal and
regular Air Mail.



The 1949
Racine stamp
of France

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.

Photostat copy of the France and Colonies Philatelist No. 1 will complete your file. \$1.25 post free; cash with order only; and it takes ten days. Frank L. Browne, 2235 Lake Ave., Baltimore 13, Md. (Member 326)

Wanted: a well centered used copy of the following stamps of French Oceania, to complete the used single stamps in my collection: No. 18, 64, 74, 75, 120. Dr. H.M. Barnhart, 2185 Huntington Drive, San Marino 9, Calif. (Member 392)

Catalog wanted: to buy: Yvert & Tellier's Specialized Catalog, 1939, Vol. 2 only, (French Colonies, Protectorates, etc.) Leon Arnal, 4301 Linden Hills Blvd., Minneapolis 10, Minn. (Member 23)

For cash or exchange, wanted: French Colonies, general issues only, in very fine used condition for shades and cancellations; also earlier French precancels and colored or newsprint cancellations on 19th Century France. Carl Stephenson, Boardman Hall, Ithaca, N.Y. (Member 45)

Postal Stationery wanted-- France & Colonies mint, except Navigation and Commerce ("Groupe") type; entires only. Also commemorative post cards of France, mint or first day cancelled. Send on approval. P.W. Anthony, 60 Merbrook Rd., Merion Station, Penna. (Member 279)

Formula card (early postal card of France, with adhesive stamp) wanted, but only with the 20c brown Type Sage on it for foreign rate--not 20c made up of several stamps. Send on appro, with price. S.G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2)

SECRETARY'S REPORT March 1 through 31 1950

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome --

- 400 Bruckner, Alfred, 1910 South Hamlin Avenue, Chicago 23, Ill. (Air Mail; imperforates) (Omitted from report in No. 48)
- 414 Wauters, Pierre, 13 Place Saint-Marc, Rouen, (Seine-Inferieure), France. (France and Hungary, mint only). (Omitted from report in No. 48)
- 415 Gantner, Aug., 139 Turnpike, South River, N.J. (No specialty stated) (Roster number given as 414 in No. 48)
- 421 Miller, A. Robert, 10449 Holman Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif. (France)
- 422 Alder, Bradbury C., 444 Heath Pl., Hackensack, N.J. (France)
- 423 Baldy, Mrs. Florence E., 713 North Walsh St., Carson City, Nevada (No specialty stated)
- 424 Chadbourne, E.L., 30 Browning Rd., Somerville, Mass. (No specialty stated)

- 425 De Putron, John C., 411 South 13th St., Lincoln, Nebr. (France & Colonies)
- 426 Doiron, Miss Lucille A., 1401 Fairmont St., N.W., Washington, D.C. (France)
- 427 Fuerst, Milton, Jr., 738 Royal St., New Orleans 16, La. (France; Latin America)
- 428 Fuhrmann, John B., M.D., 5 Main St., Flemington, N.J. (France 19th Century cancellations)
- 429 Golden, Maxine (Mrs. Robert), 655 Bittersweet Place, Chicago 13, Ill. (France classic issues)

APPLICATION PENDING:

Hanson, Oliver G., R.D. 2, Box 194, Yankton, S. Dak.

NEW APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:

- Bouvier, Norbert, 1626 Vallejo St., San Francisco 23, Calif.
- Flinn, Robert M., 414 South 5th St., Albuquerque, N. Mex.
- Keating, Matthew, 453 3rd St., Brooklyn 15, N.Y.
- Keester, Comdr. George B., 110 Duke of Gloucester St., Annapolis, Md.
- Kerns, Jack T., 1461 23rd St., Manhattan Beach, Calif.
- Lewis, Walter B., 1608 South Crescent Ave., Park Ridge, Ill.
- Oakes, Frank E., 19 Green Acres, Rolla, Mo.

RESIGNATION RECEIVED:

329 Jackson, Gustave J., Scranton, Penna.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- 326 Brown, Frank L., to 7004 Bellona Ave., Baltimore 12, Md.
- 269 Handy, Merritt F., to 44 Highland Ave., Malden 48, Mass.
- 356 Wells, D.H., D.O., to R.D. 2, Box 1914, Grass Valley, Calif.

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER held a regular meeting, Monday, April 3, at National Philatelic Museum. Board & Diamond Sts., Philadelphia. Mr. L. Juliard was guest speaker... recently come to Philadelphia from Belgium.

LOST MEMBERS: Mail has been returned and can not be delivered, when addressed to: Allen H. Seed Jr., Minneapolis, Minn. Dr. Edmond A. Holberg, Chicago, Ill. The Secretary will be grateful for assistance of any member who can help locate these.

DUES for the current year of 1950 are coming in with much appreciated promptness. The kindly notes of interest and expressions of praise for our editor's efforts and those of our contributors are gratefully received. MOST of the dues bills have been mailed. If you haven't yet received yours, don't wait: send along now your dollar (for non-residents) or two dollars (for resident members). Please make checks payable to the Group and mail to Mrs. Helen A. Stringham, 34 Minerva Ave., Manasquan, New Jersey.

HELP FOR PUZZLED ONES: The editor informs me, as this goes to press, that the notice in No. 49 about such service has produced a number of requests, all of which have been handled with all possible speed and, to judge from what the members have written, with satisfaction. When you want information, write the editor and be sure to enclose reply envelope with postage on it. Keep to one specific question each time, and it will be handled. This is a new service, furnishing stamp information only, inclusive of cancellation and cover information.