

France & Colonies Philatelist



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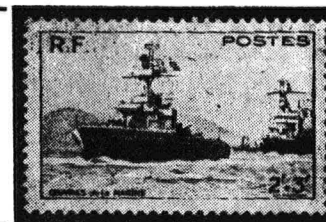
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French Naval Postmarks

By J. H. and JAMES TIERNEY

STAMP COLLECTING

November 5th, 1949



THE French specialist as well as the collector of Sea Post cancellations have the opportunity of making interesting additions to their respective collections in the form of covers bearing French Naval postmarks.

It was in 1913 that Post Offices were first established on board French Naval ships, and since then correspondence mailed on board has been duly postmarked indicative of the particular ship concerned.

According to recent official information the following ten ships of the French Fleet are at present equipped with Post Offices, viz :—

1. Bâtiment de Ligne *Richelieu* (battleship).
2. Croiseur *Montcalm* (cruiser).
3. Croiseur *Georges Leygues* (cruiser).
4. Croiseur *Gloire* (cruiser).
5. Porte avions *Arromanches* (aircraft carrier).
6. Croiseur *Duguay-Trouin* (cruiser).
7. Ravitailleur *Jules Verne* (supply ship).
8. Croiseur-Ecole *Jeanne d'Arc* (training ship).
9. Croiseur *Emile Bertin* (cruiser).
10. Cuirasse *Lorraine* (armoured ship).

The inscriptions in the postal markings are in French as above. The writers have used italics to indicate ship names, and also within brackets the English equivalent of the French Naval classifications.

All those ships, especially the Aircraft Carrier *Arromanches*, to the British collector, have a most interesting history. The ship mentioned which was the Light Fleet Carrier H.M.S. *Colossus* was transferred on loan to the French Navy on August

8th, 1946, and re-named *Arromanches*. This transaction exemplifies the spirit of co-operation that has long existed between Great Britain and France.

No mail is postmarked aboard Naval ships sailing under the British Flag, and it is decidedly unique to find a postmark emanating from a ship belonging to the Royal Navy with a Post Office on board operated by a foreign power.

For a period during the late war, the other nine ships, including the 35,000 ton battleship *Richelieu* were immobilised in different locations : Alexandria, Casablanca, and French West Indies, etc.

Following the successful landing in North Africa and at different times, those French ships again joined forces with the Allies, and rendered valiant service against the enemy in various theatres of war, including active participation in "D" day, and subsequent operations for the liberation of Europe.

The possibility is ever present of locating covers from former French ships with a particular historical interest. The writers recently acquired two such covers from the respective French cruisers *Jean de Vienne* and *Algerie*. Both those ships were scuttled at Toulon in November 1942, when the French outwitted the German attempt to seize their Fleet.

Illustrations may well enhance the appearance of a collection of this nature, and there are two specially suitable for incorporation. These are the two stamps of the French possession of Algeria issued at the beginning of this year featuring reproductions of the battleship *Richelieu* and Aircraft Carrier *Arromanches* respectively. The latter is particularly interesting as it features a British Naval ship.

Covers may readily be obtained, as the contributors have experienced, by writing a friendly letter of request preferably in French, but if not briefly in plain English, addressed to L'Officier Postale—Name of ship desired—Poste Naval Francaise, Toulon (Var.) or alternatively similarly addressed except instead of Toulon it may be sent to Brest (Finistère) France.



Earlier French Naval postmarks are pictured and described in No. 25 (Jan-Feb. 1948) and No. 33 (May-June 1947).



Reported as
issued on
May 27, 1950:

The new French
commemorative,
honoring
Raymond Poincaré,
who was Premier
during World
War I.



SENEGAL
Post Office List, 1948

By Edmond Queyroy

The office listings for the various colonies in French West Africa, taken from Public Notice No. 3273, have been given for Dahomey, French Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mauritania and Upper Volta in previous numbers. We continue with that for Senegal. These lists will help in avoiding any stamps with illegitimate cancellations, and by comparison with earlier lists and maps, can show the post-war boundary changes.

Senegal:

A. Independent or "full" offices:

Saint Louis (head office or Recette
Principale)

Bakel	Guéoul	Mecké
Bamby	Guinguineo	N'Dande
Bignona	Joal	N'Doulo
Birkelane	Kafrine	Pire
Cascas	Kanel	Podor
Coki	Kaolack	Pont
Dagana	Kehémér	Rufisque
Dahra	Kédougou	Sakal
Dakar-Principal	Kelle	Saldé
Dakar-Colis postaux	Khombole	Schikotane
Dakar-Succursale	Kidira	Sédhiou
Dakar-Médina	Kolda	Sokhone
Diouloulou	Koungheul	Tambacounda
Diourbel	Lingère	Thiès
Fatick	Louga	Thilogne
Foundiougne	Marsassoum	Tiaroye
Gandiaye	Matam	Tivaouane
Gorée	M'Baké	Vélingara
Gossas	M'Bour	Ziguinchor

B. Subordinate or Secondary Offices or
Postal Agencies:

Aéré branch of	Podor
Baila branch of	Bignona
Bargny branch of	Rufisque
Carabane branch of	Ziguinchor
Diaganiao branch of	Thiès
Dianah-Malery branch of	Sédhiou
Diaroume branch of	Sédhiou
Inor branch of	Sédhiou
Oussouye branch of	Ziguinchor
Passy branch of	Kaolack
Port-Mayer branch of	Ziguinchor
Toubacouta branch of	Sokhone
Popinguine branch of	Thiès

The two West African colonies not yet listed
will be covered in future numbers.

The 40c Ceres of the Colonies general issue, 1871 imperf., Scott No. 14, comes in a color that is so pale and yellowish that many have thought it was a fade or changeling. This color is the regular one at one period.

Competition for Philatelic Prizes
Within the Group

We announce, with great pleasure, a competition for philatelic prizes, which has been set up by Mr. Raoul Lesgor. All members of the France and Colonies Group, resident or non-resident, are eligible to compete. The prizes will be awarded at the Parent Chapter meeting in October, 1951, and all entries will be exhibited before the Chapter at that meeting.

The prizes will be philatelic material, each item suited to the interests of the collector whose exhibit an award goes, and chosen by Mr. R. Lesgor himself. They will be of some value, and difficult items to find at all.

The Board of Judges will be composed of non-members of the Group, chosen for their knowledge and experience. The prizes, philatelic material in nature, will be distributed at the end of the exhibition.

The collections entered must be entirely new, and must not have been exhibited previously to the Group.

This competition is limited to 20th Century material, of France or any French Colony, Mandate, Offices Abroad, or Protectorate.

Two sections are provided:

1. One stamp.
2. One issue--which may include any later surchargings on the same issue, if a competitor so desires.

In each section, three prizes will be given, provided that there are at least six entries in each. Should one section have only four entries, only two prizes will be given. In such case, the extra prize will be either not given--or, if the other section has ten or more entries, it will be transferred to that section.

The exhibits will be judged on the following scale of 100 points total:

Original study and research.....	60
Presentation.....	30
Value and rarity.....	10

In one exhibit, only one country's issues may be included, save for cancellations. This will limit, for example, an exhibit of the Pasteur issue of France by excluding surcharges on it for Algeria; but will allow including this set without Algerian surcharge, cancelled in Algeria. Later surcharges for use in France may of course be included. The same issue surcharged for the Algerian service becomes an exhibit of that one country, but could include an Algeria-surcharged stamp showing use in France by cancellation.

The "One Stamp" section will be very closely limited to the exact meaning of that term.

No limit of size of collection or number of pages is set.

Suitable arrangements for receiving, handling and returning exhibits will be announced, close to the time of actual showing and judging.

Wallis and Futuna Islands.

An examination of the 1950 Scott Catalogue, 1950 edition, shows that every stamp is priced the same used and unused. This condition usually indicates that the used copies, more specially those showing clear cancellations correct as to date, are definitely harder to find than unused ones. We suggest that this country, used and on legitimate non-"philatelic" covers, might be a field calling for real effort to collect.



Earlier Date Than Hitherto Known for
The 2c Green Type 1 of 1876.

The picture herewith is taken by our member, Mr. Carl Stephenson, Ithaca, N.Y., of a stamp in his collection. Comparison with the date which is reported by Dr. Chase, in No. 48 of this magazine (November-December 1949) shows that here we have something not hitherto reported--Aug. 17 1876, as against an indefinite "Sept. 1876" date in all previous records.

Dr. Chase has been supplied with another copy of this photograph, previous to publication of this note.

French Precancels Take Trophy
for Best Non-Polish Exhibit
at Polpex 1950

Ben Reeves, our member in Chicago, took the trophy for the best exhibit other than Polish stamps or covers, at the Polpex exhibition, held in Chicago in March 1950. Against very heavy and varied competition, his showing of French stamps thus used, on complete original newspapers or covers, won this highly prized award.

We congratulate Mr. Reeves most heartily, for this well-merited recognition of his philatelic attainments.

Your editor took the Larking Trophy for the best Polish exhibit at that same show with his Poland No. 1 specialized. Thus the France and Colonies Group made a clean sweep at the 1950 Polpex stamp show.

Specialty Album for French Africans.

Just after the last number had gone to press we received notice from Scott Publications Inc., that a new edition of their Specialty Album for French Africa has gone on sale. This one forms part of the 24 looseleaf albums for the various countries, covering the world. The French Africa album is in two binders; \$19 for the books.

Supplements are also now on sale for earlier editions of the specialty albums, including the French Africa album. These cover all issues from the 1947 through the 1949 Scott catalogues.

Earliest Known Dates of Use of 2c Green 1876
of France.

Supplementing what is stated in the article in another column in this number, a survey of handbooks conveniently reached and stamps in the writer's collection, reveals the following:

Type 1 stamp:

Maury : September 1876 (quoted by Chase)

Yvert specialized 1935: no date given
(also quoted by Chase)

Kohl Handbook: May 13 1876

Gibbons 1936 catalog: Aug. 1876

Copy in my collection: Paris, Aug. 18 1876.

Type 2 stamp:

Yvert specialized 1935: Sept. 14 1876

Kohl Handbook: no date given (see below)

Gibbons 1936 catalog: Dec. 1876

Copy in my collection: Oct. 24 1876.

Dr. Munk, writing Kohl, gives his sources -- the then current philatelic papers of 1876, the great work of Maury, etc. The date for the 2c Type 1 he took from Yvert specialized catalogue of 1927; clearly it was a misprint.

Dr. Munk, in text below listing of the 1876 issue, cites Marconnet and/or Lemaire with date of Sept. 14 1876 for the 2c Type 2.

From some unknown source I have a note in my collection giving earliest Type 1 date as June 22, 1876.

Mr. Stephenson's Aug. 17 1876 thus remains the earliest sure date for the 2c Type 1.

--S.G.R.

I N I N I

Little collected, apparently not of interest to most collectors, this French Colony may well provide a collection of considerable scope. The post offices are few, and cancelled copies not too plentiful. Scott 1950 and Thiaude 1949 give hardly any differentials between used and unused copies on prices; but Yvert 1940 gives most that had then been issued, two to four times unused price for used copies.

What the Kohl Handbook, Vol. 5, pp. 375, 376, has to say on Inini may be of use: we translate:

"By a decree of June 6, 1930, published in the Journal Officiel of June 12th, the southern half of the colony French Guiana, inclusive of the fort of Inini, was separated as a distinct administrative area, under the name "Territoire de l'Inini." On the west, south and east, this district is directly bounded, respectively, by Suriname and Brazil. At the time of establishment, only two post offices existed in the district: Cacao and Saint Nazaire. The stamps prepared for the new territory, by overprinting the current postage and due issues of French Guiana, were to have been put on sale at the official sales agency for colonial stamps, in Paris, on Feb. 15, 1932, originally. Owing to the illness of the director, the official agency at Paris delayed the date of sale, first to the middle of March and finally to April 7, 1932, on which day the stamps for Inini first went out by sale in Paris."

"The date of issue given for Scott Nos. 27 and 32, Oct. 2, 1933, is that of their first official day of sale in Paris."

From Scott we add the post office, at the capital, St. Elie

Scott Beats Us To It!

In No. 50, March-April 1950, we cited that 2f Cameroun stamp in the sheet of 5f, picturing it from Mr. Miro's price list. We dislike to admit it, but the office copy of Scott is the 1949 edition. As it isn't in that, we just took as granted that it had not been added when the 1950 edition appeared. That judgment was based on usual happenings in similar cases.

As the French say, "Hélas!"

It's in, and priced at \$100.00, just about the correct net market price. We rejoice that the old "brushing-off" methods of the house of Scott have at long last started to vanish.



The "stamps" like Diego Suarez 1890 issue in general style and appearance but inscribed for "Congo Francais" are inventions of an impostor and cancelled with a false town postmark. The 1950 reprint of "Phantom Philately" tells it all.

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.

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)

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

April 1 through May 15, 1950.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome --

- 430 Flinn, Robert M., 415 S. 5th St., Albuquerque, N. Mex. (No specialty stated)
 431 Hanson, Oliver G., R.D. 2, Box 194, Yankton, S. Dak. (French Colonies)
 432 Keating, Matthew, 453 Third St., Brooklyn 15, N.Y. (France)

- 433 Keester, Comdr. George B., 110 Duke of Gloucester St., Annapolis, Md. (New Caledonia, China, and Forerunners)
 434 Lewis, Walter B., 1608 South Crescent Ave., Park Ridge, Ill. (France & Colonies)
 435 Oakes, Frank E., 19 Green Acres, Rolla, Mo. (France, Austria)
 436 Bouvier, Norbert, 1626 Vallejo St., San Francisco 23, Calif. (France, U.S.)
 437 Griffin, W.T., P.O. Box 601, Everett, Wash. (France; no colonies)
 438 Juliard, Alex. S., 441 Brookhurst Ave., Narberth, Penna. (Dealer; student of forgeries)
 439 Kerns, Jack T., 1461 23rd St., Manhattan Beach Calif. (Lebanon, Syria)
 440 Leacock, L.H., Mount Royal College, Calgary, Alberta, Canada (St. Pierre-Miquelon)
 441 Sturznickie, Donald M., 75 Greenridge Ave. White Plains, N.Y. (Africa)

APPLICATIONS PENDING:

- Baltz, Charles F., 230 Courtland St., East Stroudsburg, Penna.
 Rediger, Emile, Lexington, Ky.

NEW APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:

- Hughes, The Rev. A.L. Ronald, The Rectory, Llangynyw near Welshpool, Montgomeryshire, Great Britain.
 Van Meter, David, 525 West Foster Ave., State College, Penna.

APPLICATION FOR REINSTATEMENT:

- 274 Remsen, Douglas B., M.D., 225 East 19 St., New York 3, N.Y.

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED:

- 358 Champlain, Charles E., Addison, N.Y.
 217 Elliott, Delmar L., Long Beach, Calif.
 334 Wines, E. Irving, Chambersburg, Penna.

Your Secretary reminds you that under the abridged postal service now operating, we have to rely on you to give us any change in your address, as "directory service" is no longer supplied.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- 381 Quint, H.F., to 3400 Gillingham Road, Kansas City 2, Mo.
 164 Weinstein, Meyer, to 530 D Grand St., New York 2, N.Y.

ANNUAL MEETING: New Officers:

- At the Annual Meeting, May 4, 1950, officers were elected for the year 1950-51:
 President: Alan R. Fernald
 Vice-President: William S. Delafield
 Corresponding Sec'y: Mrs. Helen A. Stringham.
 Recording Sec'y: Miss Louise Clemenson
 Treasurer: Dr. Robert L. Wood.
 Directors: Miss Helen Feneberg;
 Harold Noren;
 Raoul Lesgor
 Stephen G. Rich

President Fernald appointed S.G. Rich editor of the Philatelist for the year.

DUES for the current year are still payable, if your membership number is listed here:

1	6	8	30	43	59	95	97	127
128	134	154	166	187	192	207	209	254
264	268	270	292	293	298	314	318	331
333	344	348	349	350	353	354	355	360
369	370	379	380	391				

Please make check payable to
 France & Colonies Group,
 and mail to Mrs. Helen A. Stringham, 34 Minerva Ave., Manasquan, New Jersey.