

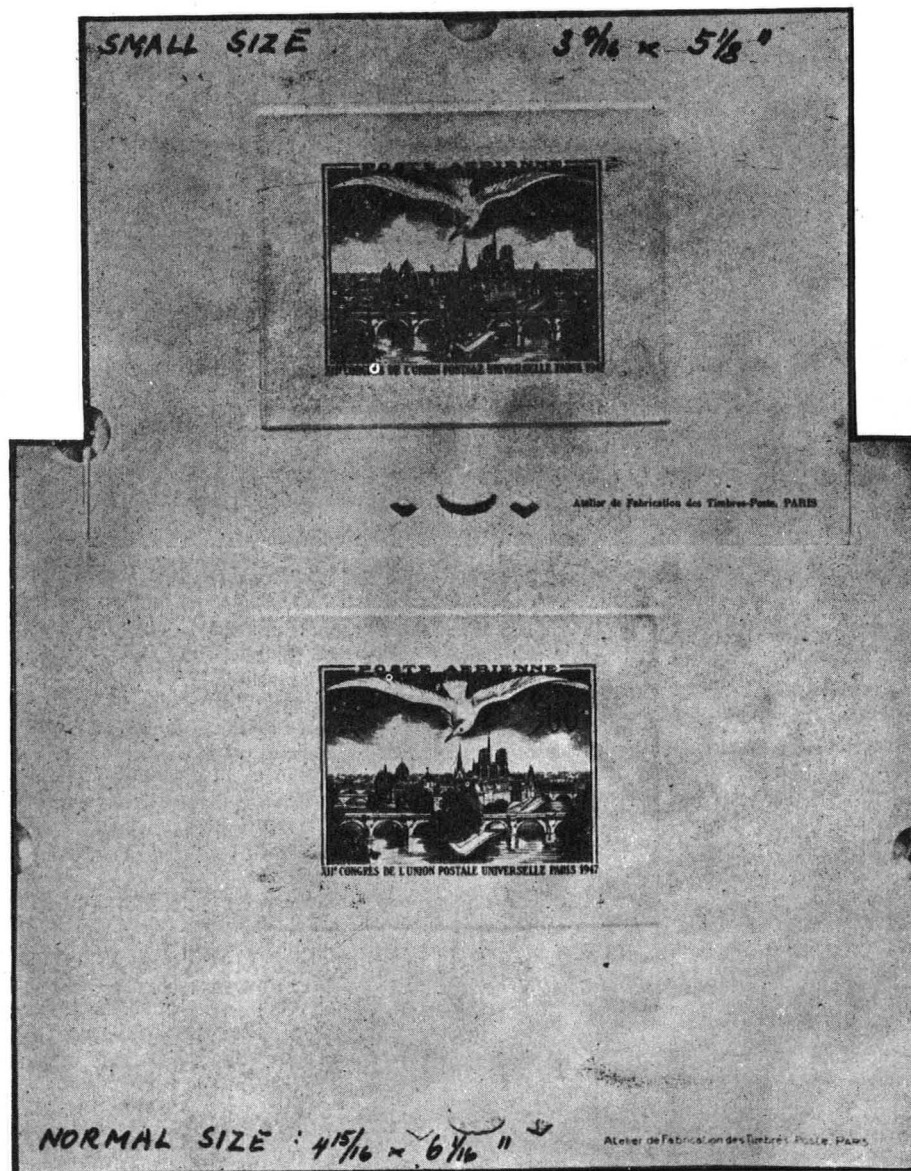
France & Colonies Philatelist



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.

Epreuves De Luxe - De Luxe Presentation Proofs



Full Size Illustration of Both Varieties of Die Proofs

From The Essay Proof Journal No. 28

1923-50 France Essays and Proofs

The Essay-Proof Journal, October 1950, which came from press along in November, contains the comprehensive treatment of this field in small space, compactly written by Mr. Joseph H. Burke of Paris. A list, presumably complete, of the De Luxe Presentation Sheets, Collective De Luxe Proof Sheets, and single and collective proofs on gummed and perforated sheets, with prices in dollars (converted from the French current actual market reports), makes this article useful to a greater extent than one might expect.

For any collector of 20th Century issues of Metropolitan France, whose collection is highly or far developed or who wishes to make it grow finely, \$1.50 for this number of the Essay-Proof Journal is a well-rewarding outlay. Send to Julian Blanchard, Business Manager, 1 Sheridan Square, New York 14, N.Y., asking for Journal No. 28 of Oct. 1950.

By permission of the Essay-Proof Society, as granted us by that grand student, Editor Brazier of the E-P. Journal, we reprint here pictures of some of the essays, from this article. (See the front page also).



1949 Set of "Epreuve Multiple"



Essay for a Joan of Arc 50c stamp.



Union Francaise Essay

The stamp part of an unusual Reunion cover of 1866, with the "52c" error for the 25c stamp, and three different surcharged stamps used for one franking--three, each of a different issue.



This piece shown by courtesy of Harmer Rooke & Co., whose Nov. 6 1947 sale included it among many choice pieces of the Colonies.

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 to 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.

(This announcement is rerun from Philatelist No. 51, May-June 1950, so that all members may be reminded of the contest and need not have to refer to that number for the arrangements.)

French Philatelic Facts. Vol.2, No.2, June 1950; Vol.2, No.3, October 1950. 20,28 pp., paper. Montclair, N.J., Brainerd Kremer.

We have discussed the merits of the Kremer work, instalment by instalment, as it has come from press. Thus it is almost sufficient to say that the standard of previous sections is maintained and bettered in these two. No. 2 of Vol.2 carries the Empire Imperf. series to the end and covers the perforated issue. No.3 is devoted primarily to the cancellations on these two issues. But it goes on to start treating the Laureate issue, covering rates, dies, plates -- not forgetting essays, envelope essays, and the other interesting matters preliminary to the actual stamps.

Coordination of information from sources in various books continues to improve, section by section as this work appears.

The treatment of the cancellations seems to be particularly convenient, in that it covers the difficulties and confusions with which the novice (and some of us not novices) may usually be beset. Distinctions usually left to word of mouth are given. Eight full-page plates, with pictures in actual size, leave no doubt possible as to what is meant in each case. Wordings of the postal markings are explained in most cases -- a much needed addition to the scope of every previous treatment.

S.G.R.

Le Havre Philatelic Exhibition Forgeries

By CAPT. A. R. COOPER
STAMP MIRROR DECEMBER 16, 1950

Yvert's Catalogue notes briefly under the Le Havre Exhibition overprint (S.G.470) "Attention aux fausses surcharges." Yet no further details as to the method of detecting these is given.

Appended here is a table which describes, in detail, the differences between the genuine and the two forged overprints on the 2Fr., in the hope that it will be of value to all serious collectors of France.

Authentic	1st Forgery	2nd Forgery
Surcharge: EXPOSITION 314 m/m	31 m/m.	30.5 m/m.
E. of EXPOSITION Normal	Lower bar of E longer and inclined downwards	Upper bar shorter than the lower
The last 8 letters of EXPOSITION horizontally aligned	Unwedged at bottom after the letter T the deviation is vertical of 1 m/m at the right of N	Horizontally aligned but N slightly higher
N of EXPOSITION well poised and large	N large inclined from right to left	N well poised but narrow
The first I vertical	Inclined from right to left	Vertical
Surcharge "Le Havre" normal	E of the article "Le" lower bar longer than upper	Same as original
Surcharge 1929 tail of 9 nearly closed	Tail of 9 open	As original
Surcharge "PHILATELIQUE" 32 m/m.	32 m/m.	30.5 m/m.
Eye of P normal, more to the left of the stamp in comparison to the E of EXPOSITION	Large eye P inclined from right to left	Narrow eye but leaning more to the right
First L aligned on the Text	Vertical line of L shorter than other letters	Same as original
Second I aligned on the Text	As original	Lower from other letters
U vertical lines equal length	Right vertical line shorter	As original
Final E well poised	Inclined from right to left	Well poised

Moreover, in examining the back a forgery can be easily detected. The original surcharge was made with a fluid ink which has pigmented the back in blue.

NIGER The Post Office List, 1948

By Edmond Queyroy.

With this colony, we complete the listings of offices for the West African Colonies, as taken from Public Notice No.3278 of July 17, 1948.

These lists will help to avoid stamps which are illegitimately cancelled (for sale to us of the philatelic public), and to determine post-war boundary changes.

Niger:

A. Independent of "full" offices.

Niamey (head office or Recette Principale ("RP" as often given))

Agadez	Mainé-Soroa
Bilma	Maradi
Birni N'Konni	N'Guigmi
Dogondoutchi	Say
Dosso	Tahoua
Filingué	Tanout
Gaya	Téra
Gouré	Tessoua
Madaoua	Tillabéry
Magaria	Zinder

B. Subordinate or Secondary Offices. (Postal Agencies).

Dakoro, branch of Maradi
Ouallam, branch of Tillabéry
Sensané-Houssa, branch of Naimay
Yeni, branch of Niamey.

(Some pronunciations: N'guigmi as "Ung geeg me" second syllable accented; Ouallam as "Wallum" with first a as in "cat"; Birni N'Konni about as "Beer Knee Ung Conny" with accent on the Con)

French Congo's 1891-92 Surcharges

By BERTRAM W. H. POOLE

THE extensive territory in Equatorial Africa known as the French Congo has been divided in various ways for military and political purposes. It has an area nearly four times that of France itself, and it encompasses territories known variously as Gabon, Middle Congo, Ubangi-Chari, Chad and French Equatorial Africa.

During early colonial days, Gabon, with its capital Libreville, was the most important center, and the colony was known by that name. Then, for a time, it was known as French Congo. Later, it was split into separate administrative divisions as Gabon and French Congo. Again both territories were united as Gabon, and finally it became French Equatorial Africa.

In the early period, when it was known as French Congo, its philatelic history was really a continuation of that of Gabon. The stamps used there were of the "Commerce" type prepared for general use throughout the French Colonial Empire—listed in the Scott Catalogue as French Colonies Nos. 46-59. A supply of these stamps reached Libreville in 1889.

By the spring of 1891, there was a shortage of the values most generally in demand and the colony used the inevitable remedy of overprints on denominations which were in ample supply.

Surcharging Decreed in 1891

THE value first exhausted was the 5 centimes. As a consequence, the Commissioner-General of the territory, Count Francois de Brazza, signed a decree in March, 1891, authorizing the making of 1,500 5c stamps from the 15c value (Scott's No. 3), as there seemed to be plenty of the 15c on hand. This small supply lasted only a month and on April

22 an additional 2,000 of the 15c stamps were similarly surcharged.

To avoid speculation, the stamps were not sold directly to the public, but were affixed to letters, etc. by postal employees. As a result, this supply lasted until September.

Then an official decree dated Sept. 2 authorized the surcharging of 3,000 1c stamps with the new value of 5c. Red ink was used, but after 100 had been surcharged (Scott's No. 1) the printing was stopped, as it was considered unsatisfactory. The type was re-set and the balance of the stamps surcharged in black (Scott's No. 2). This accounts for the rarity of the stamp with red surcharge, which shows a space of 4 mm. between the numeral "5" and the letter "c," instead of 1 mm. as in the black overprint.

Unused Stamps Leaked

THESE stamps were soon sold out and early in December 2,000 of the 25c stamps were converted into 5c values (Scott's No. 5). The official decrees covering these various provisionals all stated that these temporary stamps would only be sold for an immediate franking of correspondence by postal officials. However, there were plenty of leaks, for today most of these varieties are little, if any, scarcer unused than they are used.

Besides the new "5c." all these stamps were also overprinted "Congo Français" at the top.

In spite of frantic requests from the colony for further supplies of the regular stamps the home authorities thought it could wait until the stamps of the "Navigation and Commerce" type, then in preparation, were ready. As a consequence of these



Left, the "Congo" form of the overprint, arranged vertically (No. 7a). Center, the "Timbres" misspelling on the 1fr postage due (No. 17). Right, the "Navigation and Commerce" type which finally reached Libreville in 1892.

dilatory tactics for nearly a year the French Congo officials had to provide makeshift supplies of the 5c, 10c, and 15c stamps.

Five decrees are known to have been issued between Feb. 29 and Sept. 20, 1892, authorizing the following provisionals:

1,200 5c on 20c (Scott's No. 6).
7,500 5c on 25c (Nos. 7 and 11).
6,000 10c on 25c (Nos. 8 and 12).
1,000 10c on 40c (No. 9).
9,500 15c on 25c (Nos. 10 and 13).

The surcharging took several forms—horizontal, vertical reading upwards, and vertical reading downwards. At first the overprint read "Congo Français" with the first "O" a capital letter (Nos. 6 to 10) while later supplies printed in September show this "o" in normal lower-case (Nos. 11 to 13).

Postage Dues Converted

AFTER a time the surplus supply of the 25c value was exhausted and, as the home authorities had still not been heard from, it was decided to convert some of the postage dues into regular postage stamps by means of the usual overprint. Various decrees authorized this step:

2,500 5c on 5c (Scott's No. 14).
2,400 5c on 20c (No. 15).
2,200 5c on 30c (No. 16).
2,750 10c on 1fr (No. 17).

Red ink was used for surcharging the black stamps (5c, 20c and 30c) while the brown 1 franc was surcharged in black. The surcharge was placed vertically reading downwards or upwards. Downwards is said to be the normal position, but they seem to be just as plentiful one way as the other. A number of the 1 franc were also overprinted horizontally.

Between "Congo français" and the value, the words "Timbre poste" appear but, for some reason or other, the first word is shown in plural form—"Timbres"—on the 1fr. denomination.

These were the last of the provisionals, for in November a supply of stamps in the newly adopted "Navigation and Commerce" design arrived at Libreville and they were placed in circulation without delay. No doubt the colonial officials breathed a big sigh of relief that the days of makeshift issues were over.

SCOTT'S MONTHLY JOURNAL

November-December, 1950

Our member, Richard N. Schellens, calls to our notice the fact that from 1876 on, French stamps were printed with two panes of stamps, 150 in each, set *tete-beche* to each other. In further handling, after printing, the halves, identical and with margins always to right of stamps, were cut apart, before being perforated. Thus no *tete-beche* pairs across the gutter between panes have appeared.

THE NEW SERVICE

(We continue this name although this service has been running for over four 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: Letters-in-lozenge cancellations on France 19th Century. Price each item, please. C. Bretagne, Box 67, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (Member 357)

Have you stamps by Pierre Gandon? Send me a postal card with Scott numbers and years of issue. Elmer Hampson, 3 Hillside Ave., Nutley 10, N.J. (Member No. 450)

Still wanted: Formula card with the 20c rate paid by a single 20c Type Sage stamp. S.G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2).

SECRETARY'S REPORT August 15 through Nov. 15, 1950.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome ---

- 442 Hughes, The Rev. A.W. Ronald, The Rectory, Llangynw, Lontgomeryshire, Great Britain. (Used French Colonials)
447 Boyer, Donald P., 2804 Du Pont Circle, Richmond 22, Va. (France)
448 Byrne, William E., P.O. Box 836, Lexington, Va. (France mint, used, covers; recent colonies from 1934)
449 Deuble, George H., P.O. Box 271, Canton 1, Ohio (No specialty stated)

- 450 Hampson, Elmer, 3 Hillside Ave., Nutley 10, N.J. (Stamps by engraver Pierre Gandon)
451 Hozian, Edward V., 7921 South Hermitage Ave., Chicago 20, Ill. (New Caledonia, and other French Colonies)
452 Thomas, J. Burgess, 31 North St., Georgetown, Mass. (Ship mail, army and railroad cancellations)
453 Hunter, William S., M.D., Monson State Hospital, Palmer, Mass. (No specialty stated).
454 Neumann, Mrs. Paulette, 575 Riverside Drive, New York 31, N.Y. (France, mint and used, proofs).
455 Slagle, Elmer C., 532 North Ave. South East, Minneapolis 14, Minn. (France)

REINSTATEMENT:

- 87 Lannen, Robert L., 4216 Wheeler Road, S.E., Washington 20, D.C. (France, all the regular issues)

APPLICATION PENDING:

- Willis, Mrs. John T., Forestburg, Texas

RESIGNATION RECEIVED:

- 70 Tisserant, George, Ozone Park 16, L.I., N.Y.

DECEASED:

- 268 Burd, E.G., Tacoma, Wash.
239 Upjohn, D.H., Salem, Oreg.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- 377 Glanton, G.P., to 1115 12th Ave., Oakland, Calif.
311 Ipp, John A. (listed as "Lost" in No. 52) to 2950 N.W. 66th St., Miami, Florida.
396 Jones, C.T., to 1508 Lake Washington Blvd., South, Seattle 44, Wash.
307 Jones, Claude E., to 11415 Cashmere St., Los Angeles 49, Calif.
13 Mary, George A., to 11928 Charnock Road, Los Angeles 34, Calif.
114 Meyer, Charles E., to 451 Bloomfield Ave., Verona, N.J.
401 Piper, A.O., to 1124 14th St., Racine, Wis.
155 Sheriffs, Leigh, to 430 North Bowling Green Way, Los Angeles 49, Calif.
175 Wasserscheid, A.A., to 59 Euston Rd., Garden City, L.I., N.Y.

MEMBERSHIPS LAPSED:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 348 Foy, Andrew | 344 Leclerc, Donat |
| 58 Hay, A.B. | 293 Martin, J. |
| 270 Irvine, George J. | 95, Pinchot, S. |
| 207 Kiehl, George F. | 353 Smith, Lt. F.L. |
| 292 Knoll, Arthur F. | 369. Steele, Donald M. |
| 379 Kun, Henry P. | 354 Thon, Nathan K. |
| 331 Perney, Jean J. | 314 Van Deventer, Dan. |

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER reports installation of the new officers at a recent meeting:

Chairwoman: Miss Helen Feneberg
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Leo B. Franzen
Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. Raymond R. Geiger,
1312 West Rockland St., Philadelphia 41, Pa.

This number of the Philatelist coming into your hands marks the completion of seven years as Secretary. The membership numbers issued up to now are only one less than three times as many as what they were when Dr. Vaurie retired from this position. The 152: now 455.-- H.A. Stringham. (May the Editor report that the additional one was secured before December 1? It was indeed a pleasure to reach this total.)