

No. 63 (Vol. 11, No. 2)

May-June 1952

France & Colonies Philatelist



Published bi-monthly by the France and Colonies Group

Secretary: Charles Bretagne, P.O.Box 67, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Editor: Stephen G. Rich, P.O.Box B, Verona, New Jersey



Obverse



Reverse

E N C A S E D S T A M P O F F R A N C E

The 5 centimes green-----Encased in 1920
for use as small change in the absence of
hard money after World War I, by a bank.

We are indebted to our friend, Mr. Wm.W. Wylie of Albany, Oregon, who edits the stamp paper, the Western Stamp Collector, for these pictures of both sides of an item which he owns. It is the 5c Sower, the regular stamp then in use, turned to monetary use by encasement in a flat brass container with mica over the stamp. Mr. Malcolm V. O'Reilly, of the Eire Philatelic Society (not Erie, but Eire, the Irish special field group) tells that there were several similar cases in France at that period. Who will give us now a comprehensive article on the subject?

This usage was not original with France nor yet new. Encased United States stamps made and used this same way in 1862, by many firms, are known to collectors and much prized. But this 1920 usage appears to be the most recent.

The Oval V.P.M.
Postmark
of the 1850's

V.P.M

19 x 26 mm.

Mr. Leon E. Arnal, our member, reports this mark, in dark red, as pictured herewith, size 26 x 19 mm., on a letter from Marseille to Livorno in Italy, dated May 27, 1851.

Hitherto this mark has been reported only on mail originating in Tuscany, which normally was sent to France via Livorno as exit port. In the book of Bourselet, Gilbert, et al., on Les Paquebots Français, our standard authority, it is mentioned only on mail from Tuscany, in red, "towards 1850." It is there pictured, this same size.

In Vol. 3, No. 4, of this paper, May-June, 1944, Dr. Vaurie pictures this same mark but gives the size as 26 x 13 mm. But the proportions of his picture, which is reduced in size, show clearly, beyond possible doubt, that the 13 mm. measurement given is an error. Hence, any hunt for a 26 x 13 mm. mark is foredoomed to failure, unless there is another mark, of longer oval form. But we lack all report of a second mark.

Your editor believes that Mr. Arnal has made a significant discovery, in finding this on a cover of French origin. The whole question as to where it was struck, and what the initials mean, must be reopened. The mark itself is out of type for a French one. The suggestion is now put forward for possible confirmation by more evidence: this is a Tuscan mark, applied at Livorno, and meaning "Via Piroscafi Maritimi." ("By way of seagoing steamships"). The accepted meaning, which Mr. Dod gave in his "Etimilles Postales Françaises," is: "Voie Paquebots Méditerranées." This meaning we have to question as pure guesswork. Your editor congratulates Mr. Arnal on securing an unknown use of a very rare marking.

"More information wanted" is the last word.

10

More about De Brazza and his Travels.
By Daniel Roberts

Referring to the March-April number of this journal, No. 62 page 7, the travels of De Brazza are not given fully and there are errors in the dating. Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th and 14th Editions, is the source of the information now added.

De Brazza's first journey to Gabon actually commenced in August 1875, at which time he departed from Paris accompanied by the naval physician Dr. Noel Eugene Ballay. On this trip, de Brazza and Dr. Ballay explored the Ogooué river.

De Brazza, having gone beyond the basin of the Ogooué, also discovered the rivers Alima and Likona, but descended neither watercourse.

Turning north then, the two men again reached the coast in November 1878. This places the date of de Brazza's first period of exploration of Gabon in 1875-78, not 1879-80.

After returning to France, De Brazza fitted out a new expedition. Again in the company of Dr. Ballay, he commenced his second journey to Gabon in December 1879. Reaching Gabon in 1880, the two men ascended the Ogooué for the second time, where de Brazza founded Franceville, on the upper reaches of this river. From there, de Brazza continued his journey of exploration. He reached Stanley Pool in the Congo, the site of Brazza ville in later years, in September 1880.

(Editor's note: We have word via the Scott firm that Mr. Hamilton, whose article in No. 61 started the comment in No. 62, grants that he was in error on de Brazza's first trip to those parts. Readers who may be puzzled in trying to pronounce "Ogooué" are informed that it is "Oh GOO way." --- S.G.R.)

Cover partly franked with a block of the F. F. L. forgery, killer dated April 8, 1947, from Lille—Bousse to Glebe Field in Suffolk, England.

S. P. A. JOURNAL



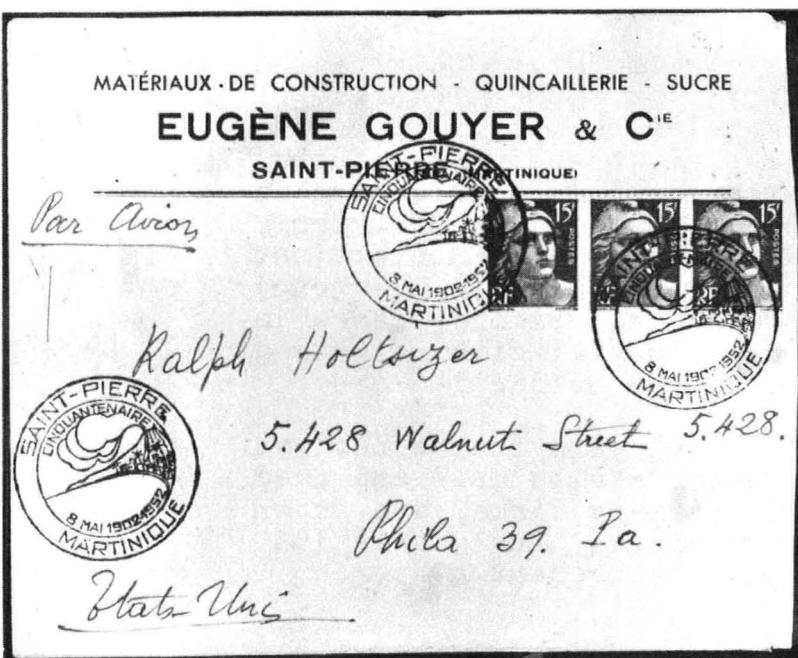
Mont Pelee Volcano Eruption
Has 50th Anniversary Postmark

By Ralph Holtsizer.

The cover which I received May 12th, 1952, from St. Pierre, Martinique, shows the fancy special cancellation to mark the 50th anniversary of the destruction of the city by Mt. Pelee on May 8, 1902. It was on this date that the entire city and population of 40,000 was destroyed. One person survived: a negro prisoner confined in a subterranean dungeon, to which the poisonous volcanic gases did not reach.

Stamps of Metropolitan France appear on this cover, according to the current usage in Martinique.

The 1947 postage stamps of Martinique depict Mt. Pelee on three values, Scott type A28 on the 4, 5 and 6 franc stamps designed by Barlanque.



11

Poste aux Armées -- 610

By E.E. Keys

On the basis of information contained in an article entitled "Contribution to the Study of the French Military Post," by Capt.G.de la Ferte, an officer of the French army, I was formerly of the opinion that the numbers in the lower portion of the French military postmarks indicated the numbers of the particular B. P. M. (Military Post Office). It is true that the information given in that article applied specially to cancellations of the World War 2 period, and probably did not apply to the covers I am now considering.

The first of these covers has a return address consisting only of the sender's name and "Aux Armées". It shows the classic type of the French military postmark, without number, on its face, and was addressed to Jerusalem. On the back there is a receiving stamp reading "POSTE AUX ARMEES" with the number "610" between two asterisks at the bottom of the mark. The year date on each of these marks is 1941. See illustration herewith.

On receiving this cover, I of course decided that the number "610" was that of the B. P.M. with headquarters at Jerusalem. More recently, however, I have discovered other covers which appear to have been directed to the same area; but the addresses and markings furnish a somewhat different aspect of the matter.

One of these, with a cancellation of France dated June 4, 1940, was addressed to a member of the armed forces at "Base Aérienne 139, Secteur Postal 606, Air levant". However, the address was changed in transit by the addition of "4 Battow 80 HANA"; the number "606" was crossed out; and "SP 610" added in its place.. The back of this cover also shows the classic "POSTE AUX ARMEES/610" receiving date stamp, similar to the one mentioned earlier in this article.

Another cover, with a Cairo, Egypt postmark, dated Sept. 22, 1940, and only a straight line Poste Aux Armees in script on its face, was addressed to a soldier at "C.R. 3e Groupe - E.M., 80e R.A.N.A., S.P. 615, via Port Said." In transit, the address was changed to read "2e Groupe, 80 R.A.N.A., S.P. 606, via Port Said", and finally the number "606" was deleted and "S.P. 610" was added to the address. This cover carries on the back a transit date stamp with inscription "POSTE AUX ARMEES/SP615" and the date Oct. 5, 1940. It was censored by Egypt and the French.

The evidence from these addresses and military postal markings points towards the new idea that these numbers, rather than indicating the numbers of the B.P.M., as was the case later in the war, were in reality the numbers of the Secteurs Postaux (postal Districts, singular of the word being Secteur Postal), which at the start of the war corresponded with a large unit, as a division, army corps or army, as suggested by Capt. de la Ferte.

In military postmarks, this period no doubt was one of transition. With the growth of the Free French movement, an entirely new type of postmark came into use by the Free French Forces. Of these new postmarks, the earliest date of use that I have seen is March 21, 1942.

Information from other collectors as to the location of such offices would be of interest to many of us.

The Lesgor Contest
Competition within the Group.

All members of the France & Colonies Group, resident or non-resident, are eligible to compete.

The rules and conditions will be established by a committee and published in the Philatelist as soon as possible.

All entries will be exhibited before the New York Parent Chapter at the January 1953 meeting. The awards will be certificates.

Louise Clemenccon, President.



Notice About Dues

Because of the cost of printing and mailing, which is increasing, no further numbers of the F. & C. Philatelist will be sent to members in arrears on dues. This is a final notice.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bretagne, Sec'y.



Correction

About Algerian Early Postmarks (See the article by Mr. Botrelle in No. 62(p.6)).

Mr. Boutrelle asks us to mention with as much conspicuousness as possible, that in his words about the feature photograph, the oldest postmark of Algeria was used from June 14, 1835 on, not from June 1814.

In editing his notes into form for printing, your editor took "from June 14 to 1835" to be intended to mean from June 1814 into 1835, and so worded it. It is a pleasure to remove from Mr. Boutrelle the appearance of having made a statement which is erroneous.

M E M B E R S ' A P P E A L S

Want and exchange notices only; members only; one or two insertions only; no charge. Those who reply will please offer only what is asked.

Your used Madagascar duplicates needed for cancellation study. Also Comoro Is., Diego Suarez, etc.; off cover, on cover; any quantity; the low denominations; all issues. Exchange basis preferred. H.A.Stringham, 34 Minerva Ave., Manasquan, N.J. (Member 46)

Wanted: French Colonies No. 3, 10c Eagle and Crown, on or off cover, with identifying cancellations. Please quote price of each item. H. D. Thweatt, 768 Potomac Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. (Member 473)

Wanted: Madagascar 1902 issue, Scott or Yvert Nos. 63-59, preferably used, singles or strips that show "watermark" of paper manufacturer --- will exchange or buy. Helen A.Stringham, 34 Minerva Ave., Manasquan, N.J. (Member 46)

The elusive early dated copies of 40c Type Sage, are still wanted, on or off cover. No. 74 (T-1) earlier than Oct 1878; No. 95 earlier than Nov. 15 1882 wanted. Price each item, please. S. G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2)

Can use France 109, 1c 1900, with cancellation showing year date 02, 03, 06, 08, 09, 12, several of each for dated shade study. Price each item; but would buy a bulk lot of this stamp. S. G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2)

Charles



Bretagne

PHILA - TELLING

Member Benoni Bureau is the artist who created the fine F. & C.G. emblem shown at the head of this column... Do you know that the mail coach shown on our latest French semi-postal, 12 fr. plus 3 fr. green, is still in Paris. The artist sketched and copied this design from the coach used in Paris in 1844 and now on exhibit at the Paris Postal Museum.. At our April meeting, Mr. Brainerd Kremer exhibited and explained a fine showing, the difference between the two issues The Bordeaux and the Paris issues... At the May meeting, Steve Rich bobbed up again with more of the Type Sage stuff, he presented a color-fading experiment to determine if certain issues are fades... In June, we held a discussion group, pertaining to a display of frames from Charles Neidorf, (French Morocco) Alan Fernald, (Semi-postal used blocks) Gus. Wittenberg, (The Revolutionary Period) and Louise Clémenton, two frames of (Réunion) a very interesting evening... Member Clarence W. Walls of Portland, Oregon wrote to me stating that C.T. Jones of Seattle Wash., won a gold medal, showing an outstanding collection of France, at the PIPEX, the Pacific Northwest Stamp Federation... Louise Clémenton won a first at the STAMPEX, the Essex Stamp Exhibition, at Newark, N.J. Showing Réunion... Gus Wittenberg won also with his French Historical material, at the "SOJEX" Association of South Jersey Stamp Club... Three members did well at the Pottstown, Pa., Stamp Club. Charles Meyer won with one issue, the 5¢ green Semeuse, Agnes Burlingame, with 19th. century France, and Gus Wittenberg with French Historical Material.... Mister Adrien Bourtelle won the Edmond Quesroy prize, awarded for the best showing of the year during the F. & C.G. meetings at the Collector's Club... Members from all over the USA are asked to send this column, records of the activities prize won & French collections being exhibited Don't let the N.Y. members take all the credit in this column... Your Editor Steve Rich is now General Chairman of the EXSPA to be held August 14, 15, 16 & 17, 1952, at the Astor Hotel, in N.Y. Other members taking active part in this S.P.A affair are Louise Clémenton, Registration, and Agnes Burlingame, Entertainment for the Ladies. A F. & C.G. Lounge will be available at this SPA affair so that many of the resident members, may have the opportunity and pleasure of meeting out-of-town members. Two awards will be donated by the F & C.G. for the best showing of France or French Colonies exhibited at the EXSPA, one each for 19th. & 20th. century The N.Y. F & C.G. members enjoyed an annual dinner at the Gaulois on April 5th. Under the direction of Mr. Fernald, Miss Louise Clémenton & Burlingame, A decor and atmosphere was French... Mister W.H. Schilling Jr. of Minneapolis, Minn. was present at our April meeting; we enjoy meeting our out-of-town members, drop in when in N.Y., we meet at the Collector's Club, 22 East 35th. St. N.Y. every first Tuesday of the month, except, July, and August... A tip on how to keep your copies of the "Philatelist" An Elbe Daisy spring back Binder will hold ten volumes, it fits perfectly. A few good words of gratitude for our retiring

President, Mr. Fernald did a splendid job this past year. He will continue to serve you as the Chairman of Publicity... The Ladies have every thing in hand now, it is with pleasure that I introduce your new President. Miss Clémenton.

CB.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

April 1, through June 15, 1952

NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME:

- 484 Vanderheiden, Harold, 154 South Oak Park, Ave. Oak Park, Ill. France & Col. Can.
 485 Baker, E.S. 198-90 Roslyn Drive, Cleveland 16, Ohio. France & Colonies, used.
 486 Markovich, Leslie, 5501 West North, Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. France & Colonies.
 487 Abt, Henry E. 37 West 57th. Street, N.Y.. France.
 488 Pool, Max, 41 West 86th. St. New York, NY Dealer.
 489 Foster, Ted. C. 4115 Clinton, Los Angeles, California. France.
 490 Wells, Gale B. 356 Clinton St. Columbus,, Ohio, France & Colonies.
 491 Cook, Adam C. 717 University Place, Grose-Pointe 30, Michigan. France.
 492 Leppman, Ulrich, 286 Church St. Moorestown New Jersey. France & Colonies.
 493 Langston, George E. 4961 West 13th. Street Indianapolis 24, Ind. France & Col.
 494 Berry, John S. 56 Williard St. Malden, 42 Mass. France. Vatican.
 495 Respaud, Marcel, 7 rue Madira, Courbevoie France. France & Colonies.
 496 Cavanagh, Regina, 1616 Hollister Avenue.. Santa Barbara, California, France.
 497 Kesler, R.L. Box 150, 655 AC&W Square... Watertown, New York. France, North Afr
 498 Weston, H.E. 143 South Third St. Harrisburg Pa., France.
 499 Pierce, Lester H. 201 Harrison Boulevard, Valparaiso, Ind. General.
 500 Fiehl, Emma K. 37-35 90th Street, Jackson Heights 72, New York. France Comm.
 501 Jackson Thomas T. 9 Russet Lane, Levittown, New York. France, North Africa.
 502 Yaconetti, Ronald J. 314 2nd. St. S.E.--- Puyallup, Washington. General.
 503 Vincent, Lawrence, 5026 Drexel, Detroit, -- Mich. French North Afr. Syria, Lebanon.

APPLICATION PENDING:

- Elkins, Anna, 880 East 35th. St. Brooklyn 10, N.Y. France, semi-postal.
 Goodman, I.S. P.O.Box 133 Bloomfield, N.Y. France.
 Libman, Charles R. 6706 N. 15th. Street, Philadelphia 40, Pa. France & Col.
 Grand, H.W. 991 Wadsworth Drive, North W. Atlanta, Ga. France.
 Scott, Arnald, 62 Lenwood St. Charlestown, S.C. France cancellations.

MEMBER DECEASED:

- 272 La Rocque, William E. Woburn, Mass.

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES:

- 226 Norton, O.S. to P.O.Box 808, Manteca, Cal.
 404 Schauer, W.E. to 3314 North 7th. Street, Milwaukee 6, Wis.
 100 Lindquist, H.L. to 153 Waverly Place, New York 14, New York.
 Malden Chapter, to YMCA, 83 Pleasant St.. Malden 48, Mass.

RESIGNATION RECEIVED:

- 381 Quint, Henry F. Kansas City. Mo.
 449 Deuble, George H. Canton, Ohio.