

France & Colonies Philatelist



Published bi-monthly by the France and Colonies Group

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MADAGASCAR



British Consular mail
and French stampless
carriage from point
of French receipt.



British Consular mail
and French stamps of
Dubois type for the
French postage

Both covers to England.

British Consular and French Postage,
on Early Letters from Madagascar.

By courtesy of Robson Lowe, Ltd., we reprint these two pictures from "The Philatelist" of May, 1955. In both of the cases, they show the regular usage of 1886 and earlier months of 1887. This usage, established 1884, was discontinued in mid-1887.

Normally, the large British stamps, which had gum on one corner only, were detached either by the British consul's office at Tamatave, or later in the travel of the letter. These two, which went through without losing the British stamps, are therefore choice pieces.

The 25c French Colonies General Issue, the black on rose 1886 stamp, would seem to have been affixed by sender. French ship mark, mostly hidden by the British stamp, trenches onto its left edge. Tamatave town mark cancels the stamp. A third French mark appears in part above the British stamp, showing apparently the word "Marine."

The other cover, which seems to have been sent stampless, with boxed PP in manuscript, poses a problem in postal use. Nothing in the story in Mr. Lowe's magazine indicates that a stamp is on back, or that one was on it and has been lost. Yet some such possibility cannot be ruled out.

Two Fine Articles in General Stamp
Papers during July 1955

Our valued and active member, Charles Neddorf, not content with publishing a comprehensive and solid monograph on the Tour Hassan issues of French Morocco in Collectors Club Philatelist in 1953 and as a handbook, came out in "Stamps" of July 30, 1955, with an excellent shorter write-up of one of the interesting problems. Space does not let us reprint it here, we regret.

Our founder member Raoul Lesgor, appears in Western Stamp Collector of July 9, 1955, with a reprint of the article which was the feature in No. 89 of this journal, on the origin of the 10c Sower with Ground. Fan mail indicates that this reprint was much welcomed by the readers of the Western.

In both cases, the Group is given as making the contribution.

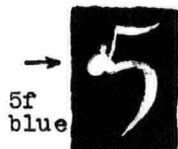
The W1 d Nested Circles Postmark

We asked information on this one, in the May-June number. Mr. Edwin Mueller very kindly supplied entire story:

This was used at Vienna, in the main post office, to cancel stamps on incoming mail, which had been missed at office of dispatch or en route. Hence, when it appeared on a 5c Sage of France, it showed its normal use. W1 means "Wien 1"; "d" is the section of the post office where this cover was handled. This and similar Austrian killers can be found on stamps of all countries, says Mr. Mueller.



Interesting Flaw on 5f Marianne de
Gandon



George Weiler, our member and past president of the Group, has shown us a 5f Marianne de Gandon (1947, Scott 579) with a curious blob on the 5, as pictured. This is evidently a flaw in the electro plate, by all indications. It is definitely not a damage to the stamp by abrasion--under the microscope the paper is entirely undamaged.

Just a Reminder----November 2, 1955 at C. Club

Wednesday evening, November 2, 1955, is the night when the France & Colonies Group will be guest exhibitors at the meeting of the Collectors Club, in New York. On that date, we shall provide the exhibits and talks of the evening.

If you can come, whether exhibiting or not, please be there.

Exhibits are being arranged by Miss Louise Clemenson, 30 Monroe St., AI-2, New York 2, N.Y. If you want to participate, write her, with the full information as to what you want to show.

Our aim is to provide a number of short but very fine showings, covering the French Union in many lands and periods.

Exhibits will normally run to not over a 24-page unit in each case, and may be shorter.

The wall frames will be used for our showing that night. Members of the Group will care for mounting of exhibits for those who cannot come and mount them in person.

Unrecorded Varieties
of the 15c Sage Issue, France

By M. Stewart-Smith

Reprinted from The Stamp Lover, 1939; copied and sent us by Mary B. Davies.

The Peace and Commerce issue seems to have been comparatively neglected and the literature, at any rate in this country, is very scanty.

This short paper does not pretend to give a full description of all the varieties of this stamp such as the various shades, papers, flaws, and quadrille marks, but will refer mainly to a number of constant varieties so far--to the best of the writer's knowledge--unrecorded.

The right hand lower corner seems to be one of the first places to show signs of wear and tear. Here at least 6 constant flaws can be recognized. The most interesting of these is the disappearance of the lower part of the outer frame line. In some cases it just fades away, but other specimens suggest a definite rupture, for the upper fragment is bent outwards. This flaw seems to be rather more frequent in the stamps printed on plain paper.

It may be well to mention at this stage that no differentiation is made between the printings on the two papers, for simplicity of description is aimed at, and only the mere indication of the flaws in this region will be given.

The inner frame line in this region wears thin and finally disappears, but it is interesting to note that it is practically always present when the corresponding part of the outer frame line has gone.

The tablet lines show constant breaks, and certain specimens have color heaped in the lower tablet corner.

These flaws seem to be progressive--first a weakness of the line develops, which goes on to a complete break. The semicircles show a large variety of worn specimens, many of which are quite constant in character. A deficient left hand corner is also constant, but it is rather uncommon, for so far I have only come across three different specimens, though there are two others where line is weak. One of these is right hand stamp of a pair with the flaw well marked, while the left hand stamp just shows a very weakened line.

There is next a large group of varieties, some of which may or may not be due to double strike. These varieties are so numerous that I doubt if double strike is the true explanation for all. Duplication or even triplication of the inner frame lines, duplication of Republique Française, and blurring of the stem of the figure 5 are found. Duplication of the outer frame lines--chiefly the right--is also met with, but usually the duplication ends at the tablet. Again this duplication may affect all the line down to the bottom, or only part of it. One specimen stands out, for as a rule the extra line is very close to the normal one, but in this particular stamp it is well out, the inner frame line and the extra line being equidistant from the outer frame line.

The duplicated inner and outer frame lines are often, but not always, associated with some reduplication of the letters of Republique Française.

The variations and retouches of J.A. SAGE INV. and E. MOUCHON D. & V. have been well described, so will not be mentioned here, but study of this stamp shows that there are two types of J. A. SAGE INV, one with small letters and the other

with large. This suggests the use of a new die, which was used for both plain and quadrille papers.

Other specimens have been found, but only singly. Two of these are well worth mention. One stamp--on plain paper--shows what at first glance looks like a badly splintered lower tablet and frame lines, but on closer examination, suggests a somewhat clumsy retouch. The other shows an abnormally shaped kneecap, again perhaps due to a retouch. In addition, the triangular space at the back of the left knee of Commerce has probably been repaired.

There are other parts of the stamp to be worked on; for instance the right hand part of the scroll over the tablet containing 15 looks as if it will give material for study; letters of Republique Francaise are defective, and perhaps retouches can be found in the left leg of Commerce.

This is rather to be expected when one considers the long life of this issue and it is rather surprising that so little has been written when there is clearly so much material at hand.

Since writing these notes I have examined several more thousands of the 15c stamps, and have found yet another flaw in the right hand lower corner, making seven in all. In this new one the lower frame line is broken just before it meets the outer frame line, so the angle is not complete. As can be imagined there are several stages of this flaw, the most marked being quite a large break which happens to be associated with a deficient right outer frame, so that the angle which should be formed by the two lines is represented by a dot.

I have found twelve specimens of this particular flaw, so one can truly say that it is a constant one.

(Your editor is glad to reprint this report of varieties, though the author's interpretations of their nature are subject to serious queries. Most of the "doublings" are the normal results of wear plus slightly insufficient cleaning of ink from letterpress electrotypes plates. The description of "retouch" as a cause for any of these varieties must be questioned strongly.

--Editor, F. & C.P.)

Richelieu Phonies

Despite all our efforts over the years from the appearance of the Richelieu Air Mail Etiquet made from invalid Petain stamps, these items do keep cropping up, sold as stamps (which they are not). The latest outbreak was a regular, an invert and a pair with one surcharge double, in a June 1955 auction held in New York.

It is well known to us that the hand stamp with which the Richelieu was made had been preserved and is in the hands of the person who made them at the time they burst onto the market. More are apparently being supplied, and variety production seems now to have begun.

In fairness to the auction house, of which the partners are friends of this Group, let it be stated that on being informed of the nature of these phonies they were careful to announce their real nature at the sale.

- 357A ★ 1943 Richelieu 1fr50c red brown (San. 26) og, fine
 357B ★ — 1fr.50c red brown, Surch Inverted (San. 26a) og, very fine
 357C ★ — 1fr.50c Vert. Pair upper stamp Double Surch (San. 26, 26B) og, very fine (Photo)



The Fifth Lesgor Contest

To be held at the Group's Meeting, February 1956

This contest is open to all members, whether or not Resident. Non-Resident members are most specially invited to compete this time.

The adopted set-up:

3 Classes:

1. Original research
2. "Open Class" including studies of cancellations,
3. One Subject -- an issue, a period, or one colony, one stamp, etc.

Normally each showing will be limited, to 12 album pages.

Only collections not previously shown in competition in the Lesgor Contests may be entered, unless a collection once shown has been substantially altered, since its previous admission.

There will be Four prizes:

Best in Contest

3 for best in each class.

The contest is NOT limited to 20th Century this year. Material of any French land, whether it is colony, mandate, protectorate, offices in a land abroad, of France itself, is eligible.

All entries are to be made by a set date to be announced probably in our next number, and the actual exhibits will be required to be sent in to the person then designated or delivered at the Collectors Club by a date, some days before the actual showing, to be announced.

More details in our next number.

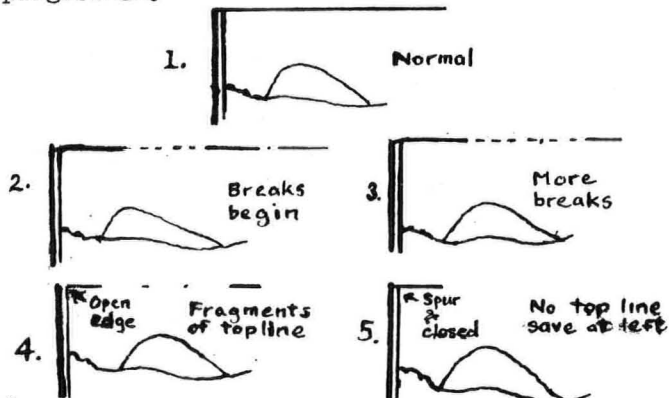
Varieties of the 50f 1949,

Mount Gerbier de Junc

By Frederic Muhlenheim.



In a lot of a thousand of this plentiful one I found these four "cassures" which would seem to be the result of a worn or broken relief on the transfer roll. I have found many of each, and other copies which enable one to follow the weakening and breaking of the top line as break progresses.



(He sent the editor the stamps and the drawings have been checked with them).



Mr. P.L.
Pemberton

Mr. Arnold
Broadbent

Our member, Mr. Arnold Broadbent, receives as Grand award, April 18, 1955, the Sefton Fiddian Cup, won with his exhibit of Blind Cancellations on French Colonial General Issues. (Shropshire Philatelic Society, England, annual contest).

Photo by courtesy of Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury News.

Our congratulations to our member resident in Shrewsbury, England.

November 2, 1955

This will be the Wednesday evening on which the France & Colonies Group will be the guests of the Collectors Club, New York, putting on an exhibition with talks. See the detailed story as far as we have it, on page 18. We aim to put on a very fine showing-- any member who can not come because of distance can have some good local member show his material for him. Miss Louise Clemenson, 30 Monroe St. A1-2, New York 2, N.Y. who is handling the arrangements, will get the correct exhibitor for any distant material.

It Keeps Them Puzzled!

This cover of 1867, to Havana from Paris, on French ship, has nothing unusual except the one mark, NE boxed. Everything on it save that is just normal of the period; the strip of three of the 80c Laureate makes it a delightful piece.

But Stone, Konwiser, Ezra Cole, and other well informed ones-- all can't explain or place the NE boxed mark beyond just that "It is Spanish of Cuba."

Who can solve this puzzle?

Malden Chapter F. & C.G. brought the picture to us.



* SECRETARY'S REPORT *

May 15 to July 15, 1955

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

477 Reichert, William E., to P.O. Box 625,....
Newport, Wash.
583 Revare, Jack, to Badger Ord., Baraboo, Wis...

No other business these two months as several... applications in hand are awaiting completion... of replies from references or other phases of... the requirements.

Respectfully submitted
Charles Bretagne, Secy.

MEMBERS' APPEALS

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

I have some duplicates in my stamp covers, early 1800's, Bordeaux and Le Havre. Can use almost any used French Colonies stamps. John McGee, Box 291, Greenbelt, Maryland (Member 20).

Have accumulation of 2872 Pasteur type A23, various denominations, cat. \$88.70. Can anyone use it, giving in exchange \$44.35 of their duplicates which I can use? Also have 880 stamps type Sage (A15) cat. \$27.02 and 661 of Type A16 cat. \$13.54. Plenty of shades--unpicked. J. Musy, Box 9, Trumbull, Conn. (Member 16)

Articles on Colonial subjects wanted for the next few numbers of this journal. Any colony in any period but Indo-China wanted most of all... Editor, F. & C. Philatelist.



Railway Post Office in Reunion

By Ben L. Cash

This small island colony of France, located in the Indian Ocean has a railroad almost all the distance around its coast. There is a traveling letter car which uses this postmark. There are four postmarkers used, all alike, except for the key numeral following the word, "Convoyeur".

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request from
No. 19, Dec.
1944, of this
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