

France & Colonies Philatelist



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General Issues for the French Colonies, 1859 to 1881

By WILLIAM E. ROSENBLOHM

The collecting of these old stamps of the French Colonies issued between 1859 and 1881 is one of the most interesting of all the byways of philately. Unfortunately, this particular group has been sadly neglected by collectors in the United States, and in keeping with many of the early classics of most countries, these stamps are little appreciated here. This neglect is due in large measure to the lack of information on the stamps and, although in the main inexpensive, they are remarkably scarce when one is on the hunt for them.

It is well for the collector who seeks these issues to realize at the outset that the majority of them are what can now be termed "classics," not expensive rarities it is true, except in two or three instances, but classics in the sense that they possess that air of distinction and scarcity which has been attained by old things.

Difficult To Recognize

Unfortunately, some of the stamps of the group are difficult to recognize because of their similarity to the early issues of France. On the other hand, it is fortunate for the true philatelist that this is so because it lends an air of enchantment and excitement to the paper chase for the elusive items. Without doubt, there is many a fine used specimen resting quietly in a collection of France which should find its rightful place under the heading of French Colonies.

Before the general issues came into being, the issues of France of 1849 were employed in five colonies to frank correspondence to what is termed metropolitan France (the whole of France it-

self as distinguished from the colonies and the outlying territories or as the French term it "outremer." These five colonies were: Martinique, Guadeloupe, Reunion, French India, and French Guiana. Since the stamps are identical to those issued in France, they may only be distinguished by cancellation or if on cover. The quantities issued were as follows:

Colony	10 cent	25 cent	1 franc
Martinique	2500	9000	5000
Guadeloupe	2500	9000	5000
Reunion	2500	3500	6000
French India	1000	1500	3575
French Guiana	400	2000	1500

It is important to know that letters originating in French India were often mailed through British Offices in India and were cancelled at the French Office in Alexandria (Egypt) en route to France and this fact accounts for the extreme rarity of cancels from the offices in India: Pondicherry, Chandernagor, Mahé, Karikal, and Yanam. In addition, there was a transfer of stamps from the Indian Offices to Reunion which accounts for the smaller issue from India and the correspondingly larger issue of Reunion, especially of the 1 franc value, the need for which was greater in Reunion than in India.

1859 Eagle Type

The first of the general issues was the eagle type of square format. Of these stamps the first issued in 1859 were the 10 centime and 40 centime values. The 1 centime and 5 centime stamps followed on May 1, 1862 and finally, the 20 centimes and 80 centimes values appeared about 1865. The one centime stamp is good property used and the five centime used is one of the

scarcest of the whole issue. It is missing in most collections and is equally scarce as the 80 centimes value. Strangely enough, pairs of the 10 centimes value are much more common than singles of the 20 centimes since it was common practice to use a pair of 10 centimes to pay the 20 centimes rate.

The 10 centimes value exists in *tête béche* pairs but is very rare and is seldom offered even at auction. All values of this set were reprinted and the reprints may be distinguished by the brighter colors. Dangerous forgeries exist and may be distinguished by the over-all size of the design which is slightly larger than the original, by the characters which are thicker, and by the crown which also is larger and is placed somewhat to the left of the eagle's head.

Easy To Identify

reated presents no difficulty as it is imperforate while the regular issue of France is perforated. Although the latter stamp exists imperforate also, it isn't likely that the average collector will encounter this stamp.

The 5 centimes Napoleon however, is extremely interesting. It is identical in design to France No. 13 and as both stamps are imperforate, difficulty may be encountered in determining which is which. The true stamp of the French Colonies differs in shade being distinctly yellow green while that of France is more bluish green in hue. Although a comparatively rare item, it is possible that many a true French Colony No. 8 is improperly mounted as France No.

13. Used copies can be determined by the cancellation of small diamond shaped dots in the form of a diamond. Similar cancellations used in metropolitan France invariably had the cancellation composed of small round dots in various shapes.

The other values of this set should give no difficulty and are common enough, even the 20 centimes and 80 centimes values not being particularly elusive.

With the issue of 1872 however, we have two rarities, the 2 centimes red brown (Scott's No. 17) and the 4 centime gray, (No. 18). These two stamps are virtually impossible to differentiate between those regularly issued in France and, in the writer's opinion, are only worthwhile if properly cancelled or on entire. Fortunately, both stamps were used only in Cochinchina and the Saigon cancel is usual on genuinely used copies. Since their known use extended only from 1876 to 1877, genuinely used copies must bear either of those dates. All others can be considered forgeries.

Contrary to the value indicated in the Scott catalog, the 2 centime used is of comparable rarity to the 4 centimes. Some French catalogs recognize this parity and price the respective stamps accordingly.

Difficult To Locate

The 15 centimes Ceres with large figures of value is a particularly difficult stamp to locate especially in fine condition. Most collections will have a copy of France No. 61 trimmed of perforations and with an indistinguishable cancel substituted for the real thing. In purchasing this item, always be sure that it has sufficiently wide margins on at least three sides to properly identify it as the proper stamp.

The Peace and Commerce type otherwise known as "Type Sage" is a fascinating one. Usually they come in fine condition with nice margins. Fortunately for the collector of today, the postal clerks of the early days in the French Colonies were meticulous in separating the stamps with scissors for their patrons, but unfortunately for us, such courteous action caused an extreme rarity of multiples, blocks and strips. Such pieces are virtually priceless and simply do not exist in many instances. In most cases, the cancels are clear and can easily be deciphered.

Of the 23 major varieties of this type listed by Scott, only three are rare and these are the 15 centimes gray violet, the 25 centimes black on red, and the 25 centimes yellow on straw. All are extremely rare in mint condition and in used, the 25 cen-

times black on red is the best of the three. The scarcity of the 25 centimes yellow on straw should be an indication that this stamp deserves a better catalog valuation than it has at present.

Forgeries Exist

Forgeries exist of the 25 centimes black on red but genuine used stamps will always bear a cancellation of either Mayotte, Nossi-Be, or New Caledonia, those of the latter place being met with far more often than those from either Mayotte or Nossi-Be.

Except for the postage dues, the issue of 1881, type Commerce of Alphonse Dubois, was the last of the classic general issues. Here there are no scarce or rare items and the specialist can have a field day with the various shades, colors of papers, and imperforates where they exist. By this date, the stamps were in general distribution throughout all of the French Colonies and hence a great variety of cancellations can be found.

It is of interest to note in passing that fine mint specimens of this set are really rarer than the catalog indicates. The combination of extremely brittle paper, crackly gum, and very careless perforating, makes the possibility of survival of fine copies somewhat slim. In most cases specimens will have only partial gum thus resulting in thin spots, paper cracks due to the age of the gum, or atrocious centering closely approximating those stamps of the United States produced in the pre-electric eye days.

End of General Issues

During the latter part of the 1880's, the various colonies sought self-determination and pressured the government into issuing a multiplicity of key types bearing the colonies' names and thus was brought to an end a most interesting period in both French postal history and in that of philately itself. With the passing of the years appreciation of the general issues has risen and waned periodically but the loss in popularity can in no way detract from the desirability and the fascination of these well-designed issues.

Get a few of these stamps, study them for a short time, absorbing the elements of the designs and it is certain that you too will discover a new charm, a certain air of excitement and expectation as each new specimen is added either to a straight variety different collection, or, if your heart so dictates, to a specialized collection of these issues. Try it and see if you don't agree that it will bring a new zest you never believed possible!

Facteur Marks

Especially on the Type Sage stamps, but also on other issues, we occasionally find a small circle postmark, about 10 mm. diameter, with a numeral or letter within.

These are known as "Facteur postmarks," and are applied by a carrier to mail picked up on his route and normally delivered on the same route either on the same trip or the next. ("Facteur" is the French term for a letter-carrier).

The reader should not confuse the facteur's postmark with the triangular postage due mark which is sometimes struck on a regular stamp.

Messrs. Stephenson and Zilm are thanked for suggesting that this note may be of interest.

(Reprinted from No. 32,
March-April 1947)

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Demonetized Stamps of France.

Prompted by questions and doubts at the Dec. 1955 meeting of the Parent Chapter, query was at once made to Dr. Carroll Chase for the facts of demonitization. The Doctor was most gracious in reply, sending to France for authoritative and complete information. We are now privileged with the full statement, communicated to Dr. Chase by Mr. Pierre Morel-d'Arleux from sources in the French Postal Museum.

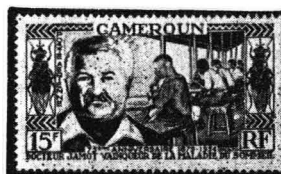
No 19th Century French stamps have ever been demonetized.

20th Century demonetized items:

Yvert number	Scott number	Name of stamp(s)	Date demonetized
148-155	B3-B10	Orphans series	Oct. 31 1922
183-186	198-201	Olympic Games	Sep. 30 1924
209	219	Ronsard	Dec. 31 1924
246-251	B24-B30*	Sinking Fund	Oct. 31 1936
253-255	B31-B33	Sinking Fund	Oct. 31 1936
266-268	B35-B37	Sinking Fund	Oct. 31 1936
252	B27	Labor	May 31 1933
256	B34	Smile of Reims	Apr. 15 1935
269	B38	French Provinces	Mar. 31 1936
470-473	413-416	Pétain	Nov. 1 1944
505-525	427-447	Pétain	Nov. 1 1944
576	B153	Pétain	Nov. 1 1944
580	B157	Pétain	Nov. 1 1944
606-608	B175-B177	Pétain	Nov. 1 1944
565-566	B147-B148	Tricolor Legion	Nov. 1 1944
584-586	B158-B160	War Prisoners etc.	Nov. 1 1944
719a	542A	Marianne de Gandon	Mar. 31 1947

This last, 5f rose was demonetized because it had been sold at 10% under face, that is 4f 40c.

* Not including No. B27, previously made invalid.



For the 75th anniversary of the conquest of sleeping sickness, the Cameroons plans early issue of this 15 francs stamp with design by Phélin picturing Doctor Jamot, a view of a medical research laboratory and tsetse flies.

Western Stamp Collector

A Puzzling Catch By Ernest L. Rothschild

In a letter to this writer, Mr. André Suarnet, author of "Bleus de France" and "Retouches et Défauts de Clichés des Timbres de France", tells the following story:

Not long ago, a man fishing in the Seine hooked an object which he believed was a bomb. After he tried in vain to explode what he took for a war head, he dismembered the spherical object, destroying and discarding the shell. To his surprise, he found that it contained a number of letters. These he ripped open, hoping to find some secret messages from some spies. Fortunately the contents of the letters did not interest him enough to make him explore all of them. So a few remained intact.

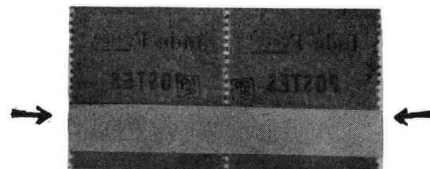
By good luck, Mr. Suarnet was able to get hold of these few remaining pieces out of the contents of what had once been one of those scarce "Boules de Moulin," the floating device in which the French postal service had tried unsuccessfully to ship mail into Besieged Paris in 1870-71.

Though the "boules" hardly fit into an album they are eagerly wanted by many collectors of French postal history.

We wonder at the possible confusion of the fisherman, when he found letters dated in 1871 in the supposed bomb!

FRENCH INDIA ---- The 1903 Oddity
(Continuation)
By Raoul Lesgor

In the previous number, No. 83, of Sept.-Oct. 1955, I showed the halved revenue stamps made into postage, with the slit-and-repaired pair. The reverse side, with paste-up was promised to be shown now. Here is the picture. This concludes the story.



Port Said Bad Ones

Thanks to Mr. George E. Cleaver of Reading, Pa., we have seen some bad ones of the Merson Type surcharges of 1921 for Port Said. Comparison to known genuines, shows that the word "Milliemes" has exceedingly minute serifs on letters in the bad ones; also on these bad ones the M's reach all the way down to the bottom with the middle or sloping strokes. The bad ones also are done on the early shades of the stamps, not on those current in 1921.

On genuines, middle strokes of the M's are not long, but stop above lower edges of the letter. The serifs are readily visible, in fact they are conspicuous.

Along with about 150 other forgeries, including a number of the Fournier Group Type of the Colonies, your editor had the pleasure of being allowed to destroy these on Nov. 22 1955. So he had reason for a good Thanksgiving.



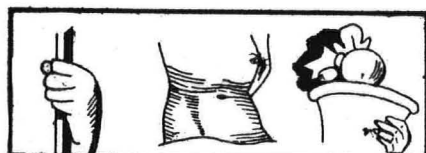
Recipe to avoid this impasse: get the Mrs. to be philatelic in her own right---your editor did better still, for Mrs. Rich had already been a collector from an early age, before we were married.

Cartoon from Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly.

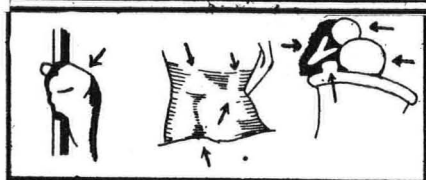


Rarely seen -- used tete-beche pairs of the 80c Empire, imperf. and perf. From a 1951 sale catalog, courtesy of H. R. Harmer Inc., several of whose personnel are among our members.

Genuine



Forgeries



"Group Type" of French Colonies

The pictures here given of the genuine and the forged Group Type stamps, 1892 to 1906, of the Colonies, have been given several times in this journal: in 1945 and in 1952 most recently. As a few bad ones show up even now, we repeat them as a reminder and for the service of newer members.

The Key characters are three. That on the right, the shape of the leaf above left corner of cornucopia at right of stamp, can be noticed without even a magnifying glass in most cases. In the bad ones it is a striking white letter V.

The absence of fingers in Mrs. Peace's hand grasping the flagstaff is the surest sign that you have an imitation.

The absence of navel on Mr. Navigation often is difficult to determine, specially with used copies. Hence this characteristic of forgeries need only be mentioned.

Lesgor Contest

Every member received a special postal card on this from President Baudry, mailed Jan. 18th 1956. Even had this number been out on time, this card was planned.

As you will not get this number in time for shipping or bringing material for the contest, a reminder about it herein would be useless.

The postal card was sent to every member of the Group, not merely resident ones nor those in the U.S. and Canada.

We hope that when we get the next number of this bulletin to you, we shall be able to state that the Lesgor Contest of 1956 was the Best Ever, largest number of entries and the finest material ever entered therein.

We reproduce the card in full:

The LESGOR CONTEST

France and Colonies Group—February 7, 1956

Every member is reminded that the Lesgor Contest, open to every member, will be held at the Collectors' Club, 22 East 35th St., New York 16, N. Y. on Tuesday evening, February 7, 1956.

Four Prizes: Best in Contest
Best in Original Research
Best in "Open Class" including Cancellations
Best in one subject: one issue, period, stamp, or colony.

This year it is not limited to 20th Century.
12 pages maximum—Only material not previously shown.
Exhibits should be sent to the Collectors Club, addressed care of Miss L. Clemencon, to arrive by February 3 at latest.

Paul Baudry, President

Handbook Review

France 20th Century Specialized, Part 1. By Raoul Lesgor. Holmes, N.Y., Nov. 1955, published by Raoul Lesgor. Spiral binding, 100pp, \$3.50.

In this book, which is more than a catalog, less than a highly specialized treatise, Mr. Lesgor has tried to bring order out of what has long been a most confusing period of French stamps. Drawing ably and with good selection, from the various sources, combining this information with his own first-hand knowledge, he has now covered the issues from 1900 to 1930.

The value of this work is not merely that it is the first treatment of this period in full detail in our language. Additional value comes because Mr. Lesgor has been properly critical of previous older work, properly appreciative of new additions to our knowledge, such as Mr. Neidorf's work on the varieties of the 25c Sower (This journal, No. 70, 1953). The discussion of rotary press printing and its features was found both lucid and comprehensive enough.

This reviewer used as his touchstone the treatment of the 1900 issue, the only one within the period on which he knows enough to venture an opinion. Based on that set, the only adverse possible comment might be that Mr. Lesgor is not always conscious of the particular points, at which the tyro finds difficulty. The fairly common occurrence, for example, of 25c of that set in two-printing production, with breaks in inner frame around the numeral is not mentioned.

Under the Sower type, this reviewer strongly wishes that Mr. Lesgor had made it clear that intermediate forms between the various "Dies" pictured, exist. Whether abandoning the former and misleading term "Type" for "Die" was wholly correct, may thus be questioned; but that this change clarifies the treatment is certain.

Approximate dating of the appearance of each color variety of each stamp, would have been a valuable additional help. This we hope can be done in a second edition, based on study of the millesimes, dated corners and postmark dates. Thus, on the lined-background Sower, the user will then be spared wondering if his 10c stamp is rose or rose carmine, his 50c vermilion or orange red (aren't these two really names of one and the same color?), and so forth.

The treatment of coils, booklets, "Annulé" and "Spécimen" surcharged stamps, precancels, and the G. C. paper issues, right with the more usual material of the period, is a proper part of the coverage. We are delighted to see that Mr. Lesgor neither omitted nor slighted these.

In reporting his own actual selling prices for all material at the date of publication, specifically so stating, Mr. Lesgor has set the catalog-publishing firms an example of honesty much needed.

The large range of illustrations, some new to publication, others familiar, has been chosen with excellent eye to what is most useful.

As for errors---they are few and fortunately not at critical points. In general, they consist of translating French terms inadequately. But page 33 has one amusing typographical mistake--"Faked Corners" for "Dated Corners!"

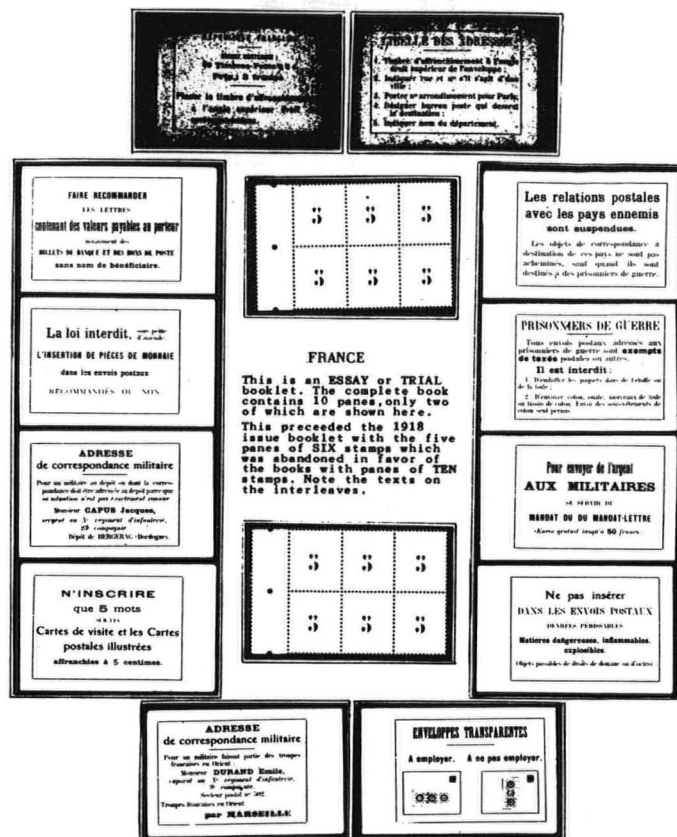
Mr. Lesgor's effort to bring order into the stamps of this period must be applauded for its success. His final page of acknowledgments, all made conspicuous, is a graceful touch indeed.

S.G.R.

Essay Booklets of France

By Harry H. Moskowitz

Reprinted from "The Booklet", December 1955



These French Essay booklets are briefly mentioned in Gustave Bertrand's book, "Memorial Philatelique," page 179. He merely mentions that the 1918 booklet with the panes of six was preceded by various essays, in which the panes were made up of gummed and perforated labels with figures indicating the denomination of the stamps. He also mentions the interesting fact that the interleaves bore information concerning military correspondence and with prisoners of war.

We have seen three different essay booklets of France as follows:

No.1. 10 panes of 6 labels, figure 5 in green. Green printing on buff covers.

No.2. 5 panes of 6 labels, figure 10 in orange. Orange printing on covers.

No.3. 2 panes of 6 labels, figure 25 in blue. Black printing on dark blue covers.

All of the above have interleaves with information similar to illustration above.

Recognizing Coil Stamps of France

Since the French coil stamps were made out of sheets or "endless" strips previously sent through the regular perforating machines and so perf. on all sides of each stamp, it is not "obvious" to recognize them.

But the machine-cut coil edges, showing as sharply cut, straight ends of perf. teeth on two opposite sides of the stamp, provide sure identification of a coil single, new or used.

France and Colonies Night, Nov. 2nd,
1955, at the Collectors Club

The F. & C. Group provided the program of Nov. 2, 1955 at the Collectors Club. Under the able arrangement and chairmanship of Miss Louise Clemenson, ten exhibits by our members, distant as well as local, were presented. This evening was a really good showing, on which the members of the Collectors Club expressed their pleasure to several of us. It was indeed a feather in our cap to have done so well, in contrast most striking, to other like attempts by others of the special field societies.

Mimeographed programs provided by our member Mr. William Martin helped greatly.

The exhibitors and their showings were:

Mr. Paul Baudry, our president, opened with France 1853-60 Empire issues, covering the date order in which each value appeared and how Susse Brothers initiated the use of perforations.

Mr. S.G. Rich showed Type Sage material, in which entire journals franked under the scarce "Annulation pour les imprimés" usage but with this issue, were the feature items.

Mr. Gustave Wittenberg presented a clear historical study of the transition from the 1900 "Rights of Man" type to the Sower type of 1906. The many transitional designs were adequately, yet compactly explained.

Miss Agnes Burlingame then made the hit of the evening, with portions of her collection of the 1929 Joan of Arc stamp in all its range of interests for every aspect of collecting.

Mr. Charles Bretagne's exhibit of "Fictif" dummy stamps for use in the postal schools plus the "Annulé" surcharged stamps earlier in use there, was explained by your editor.

Mr. George Weiler followed with the General Colonial Issues to 1892, presenting use in every colony, with its distinctive markings.

Mr. Robert G. Stone, who came from Maryland for the occasion, showed Guadeloupe and St. Pierre Miquelon material, emphasizing the interest of the 1885-86 surcharging of the latter.

Mrs. Christine Hushebeck, who came from Delaware for the occasion, exhibited something the very existence of which was recently thought impossible: Inini, all stamps, each on cover. In several cases short-lived offices were present.

Mr. Charles Neidorf expounded the plate varieties of Morocco's 15 centimes 1917, using photographic enlargements so good that he did not need to explain much in detail.

The exhibit of Viet Nam and Laos, sent by Mrs. Myrtle Watt from Johnstown, Penna, on which Mr. Edmond Queyroy did the honors, concluded a most comprehensive evening. The Collectors Club presented its lovely certificates of appreciation for each exhibit.

Group Lounge at Fipex

The Group has taken a Club Lounge at the big Fipex International Stamp Exhibition, April 28 to May 6, 1956, in New York. Miss L. Clemenson has accepted the duty of seeing that this is properly decorated, equipped and supplied with our literature, and staffed for all the periods when visitors are likely.

Volunteers to staff the Lounge are needed.

Even more urgent are contributions to cover the total cost of around \$250.00. Some money has already been contributed. Come one--- come all. "A word to the wise is sufficient."

The "Susse" Perforations.

Mr. Henry A. Meyer, Evansville, Ind., who is well known for his Brazil, Cape of Good Hope and Hawaii philatelic studies, as well as for many others, furnishes us these photos of two covers, plus one loose stamp, examples of this private perforating of Empire imperfs.

The 1861 (Oct.) and 1862 (Feb.) covers from Paris are typical examples, with the more usual values. The loose 1c from Dunquerque in June 1862 would seem to be rather unusual.

This firm, Susse Brothers, were stationers, licensed stamp distributors. They were able to run their stamp sales volume into a large amount, by furnishing the stamps perforated. The 2% commission allowed them was far less than the cost of perforating.



Editorial
"Late Again"

Your editor has again fallen from grace. In past years, before 1950, he got behind with the Philatelist. But never until this number, has he been really badly late in the last five years.

Work on this number was begun Dec. 6, 1955.

Hardly was it under way, when a slight finger injury prevented typing up copy into the strips for pasting-up, for a week. And then it seemed as if every possible delay came along, not only the Christmas rush, but being away for ten days Dec. 24 to Jan. 4. After then.... well if any urgent matter had delayed all fall, seems that the other person involved brought it out since Jan. 1 and needed quick results.

So will you please all indulge your editor for this lapse?

Forgeries of Palestine Postmarks of the French Offices
 Reprinted from the Bapip Bulletin, Dec. 1954
 through courtesy of S.N.Shure.



Fig. 1a



Fig. 2a



FIG. 3



FIG. 4



FIG. 5



FIG. 6

A large stock of almost all types of forged French postmarks of Palestine has recently been discovered and traced to London. Their origin is most probably in France.

We are able to be the first to expose these counterfeits by kind permission of Mr. S.N. Shure (Chicago) who made the discovery and furnished us with a comprehensive report and enlarged reproductions. We have had an opportunity of examining some of the material which consists of early French stamps of very fresh appearance with postmarks of Jaffa, Jerusalem, and Caiffa.

On careful study and comparison with early illustrations published abroad Mr. Shure found that the postmarks had been taken direct from illustrations. They thus vary in minor details from genuine strikes and it is this fact that betrays them to the expert eye. The impressions are well defined but appear to lack the continuity in the lines which is a characteristic of postmarks struck from metal instruments. In order to identify the material used in the making of the forger's instruments, Mr. Shure compared enlargements of impressions from steel with such from rubber stamps. It seems certain that lightly inked rubber stamping was the process employed by the forger.

To reveal all the various differences from the originals appears inadvisable, but the following few pointers including some explanations on the appearance of the impressions should enable collectors to recognise the imitations if offered.

Figs. 1, 1a, 2, 2b illustrate the minute differences between a rubber stamp impression and such from metal. This can be seen under the magnifier. Thin lines from a strong impression from rubber present an entirely different appearance from a similar impression from metal; but when the rubber is lightly inked, these thin lines from rubber present ever recurring white dots which are particularly noticeable with regularity in these forged postmarks.

Fig. 1 is an enlarged section of a lightly handstruck postmark from a steel instrument still showing a marked continuity and density in most lines. These qualities attain perfection in prints executed from type by letterpress (Fig. 1a).

Fig. 2 is an enlarged section of a heavily struck postmark from a rubber instrument. The continuity of the inked areas being nearly complete, it is their marginal irregularities that are at once noticeable and in many places the sharpness of impressions from metal is absent. Against this example another (Fig. 2a), equally enlarged, has been placed to show the quite different appearance of a lightly inked impression from a rubber stamp. The similarity in the appearance of its lines with that of the enlarged counterfeits is striking.

Fig. 3 is the earliest Jaffa type forged. The arrangement of the "pearls" above the A and F of JAFFA alone give the forgery away. All genuine examples have such a dot exactly midway between the tops of the A and F. The inset shows an upper section of the genuine postmark for comparison.

Figs. 4, 5. The second E in JERUSALEM has slightly longer horizontal

lines, the upper and lower ones not being strictly parallel as in the genuine postmark.

The segmented inner circles in all these types do not show the correct lengths of the dashes nor the correct relationship of these to the letters of the inscriptions. This can be easily established by comparing with genuine copies. Fig. 6 is the corresponding forgery for Jaffa.

The dates of all these counterfeits are:-

Jaffa -- 27.10.76 and 1E / 7.6.05
Jerusalem -- 5* / 25.8.11 and 7* / 25.8.11
Caiffa -- * / 13.1.11.

It may be noted that the Jerusalem index 7* is quite unusual and that the existence of 5* in genuine copies has still to be established. The numeral 19*, worn and blurred in later years, usually appears in examples of this type of postmark.

According to a report from Mr. E. Tolkowsky (Antwerp) a forgery exists of the small type numeral 3768 of the French Jaffa office and one of the Austrian JERUSALEM / GERUSALEMME types. We hope to publish details in a subsequent issue of the BULLETIN.

An Experience on Buying Mixtures

By Norman M. Dodge

My interest is used stamps of French Colonies sold in bulk with the items still on paper and showing cancellations attesting to their postal use. A thorough reading of "Stamps" magazine in 1953 revealed but few dealers in this country who handle such material. In fact, good bulk material from metropolitan France itself seems almost as hard, almost impossible to locate.

I therefore obtained a copy of *l'Echo de la Timbrologie* from France. I found that the Office-Philatelie, of Sete (Herault) sells bulk lots containing French Colonial stamps. Upon further written inquiry, Mr. G. Jacomet of that company wrote that he could furnish a lot with net weight of 200 grams for \$10 (3500 francs).

I mailed a letter requesting the lot of used French Colonies and sent an international money order for the required amount. I learned that such orders are not sent with the message, as is the case with a domestic money order.

Upon waiting the usual six weeks, and since nothing arrived, I again wrote Mr. Jacomet. He replied a few weeks afterward, on a card, with many current stamps affixed, that a general strike at the time had tied up all governmental services. He cursed the Communists, and said "Long Live the Atomic Bomb." He indicated that my package my package had left Sete, from the railroad station on a certain date and was then at Le Havre, the port through which all mail of the type of mine must pass. There was also litigation between officials of the railroad, which carried the package, and the members of the Customs Service.

Upon Mr. Jacomet's earnest entreaty to be patient, I waited ten more weeks. Then I wrote another message. A few weeks after this action my package, including many colorful current used French Colonial stamps, neatly clipped, at last was received with a great sense of relief. I had known that a customs declaration sticker is needed; but my little package looked as if every important government official had checked on it. The heavy tar paper, covered with all sorts of labels, was almost worn out. An explanatory folder was enclosed also.

Among the used French Colonial stamps on paper were found three different values which puzzled me. These are airmails of Reunion, as illustrated in Scott's catalog after the 1942

issue of air mails. Below the illustration, it states that stamps of type V2 were not placed on sale in Reunion. How were these stamps then found on paper, cancelled?

I would like to hear from any members of the Group who may find this letter of interest. I am member No. 542; present address 1736 G St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

(The Vichy Reunion items were almost surely cancelled in Paris, with Paris postmarks, for sale to collectors.--Editor, F. & C. P.)

January 1955

High Value Airmails for French Africa



French Equatorial Africa and the Cameroons placed new air mail stamps in the 50 francs, 100 francs and 200 francs denominations on sale Jan. 24 and the designs are illustrated through courtesy Gimbels Stamp Department.

Subjects of the new air mail stamps for French Equatorial Africa are 50 francs, transport of logs down a river; 100 francs, native fishermen and nets and 200 francs, composite scene symbolic of industrialization in Africa.

Engravers (and possibly designers) are 50 francs, Raoul Serres;

100 francs, Pierre Gandon and 200 francs, Decaris.

Subjects of the new air mail stamps for the Cameroons are 50 francs, logging truck; 100 francs, giraffes on the savannah with airplane overhead, and 200 francs, scene in the port of Douala.

Engravers of the Cameroons stamps are 50 francs, Pheulpin; 100 francs, Hertenberger and 200 francs, Henri Cheffer.

The new air mail stamps for the French African colonies were printed from recess engraved plates at the French Government Printing Office in Paris.

-Western Stamp Collector,



Diego Suarez 1890: an unusual block of the 25c. From a mail auction 1954 catalog of G. Marchand in Paris. The litho. transfers placed out of alignment on the stone show up well.

MEMBERS' APPEALS

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

Wanted: Stamps in good condition of the 1853-60 issue (imperial Empire) with interesting cancellations. Also Occupation stamps 1870-71 (Alsace-Lorraine). Paul Baudry, 47 East 87 St., New York 28, N.Y. (Member 93)

Five France Empire stamps, no matter how bad the condition, wanted at appropriate prices, for study of varieties. Please price each copy by itself. I have 59; need 100. S.G. Rich, Verona, New Jersey (Member 2)

Exchange: Wanted, France and Colonies; I have 5000 duplicates plus better European. Jack Kerns, 1500 South Oxnard Blvd., Oxnard, Calif. (Member 439).

Want the following; will trade or buy. Give price when sending: on cover only. Cancellation items of Paris: letter M cancellation; B Hour of Distribution; H, L; Paris stars Nos. 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 36 with both Boulevard stations on postmark. Merritt F. Handy, 44 Highland Ave., Malden 48, Mass. (Member 269)

One dollar offered for a copy of France No. 95 (40c Sage Type 2) with postmark showing date unmistakably earlier than 1880. Catalog price of this stamp used is 3 cents. S.G. Rich, Verona, New Jersey. (Member 2).

Wanted: Any material of French Offices in Morocco Nos. 59 and 60: mint or used; singles, and blocks, multiples, covers, proofs, or whatever you have. Chas. Neidorf, 910 Sheridan Ave., New York 51, N.Y. (Member 364)

I have extensive M E U duplicates, many better. I want French Miniature Sheets B-4 to 44, and Peace Commerce better mints. Will trade even basis, like quality. Send want list, stating what you have to trade. Col. V.N. Scott, 1530 Hermosa Ave., Hermosa Beach, Calif. (Member 580)

7501 Sowers, types A20 & A22, cat. value \$726, to swap for \$363 catalog value of material with cat. val. of over 5c each which I can use for swapping. J. Musy, Box 9, Trumbull, Ct. (Member 16)

Cover with the Le Mans 24-Hour Auto Race pictorial postmark of 1954 wanted-- preferably small cover without any fancy cachetting or any publicity imprint. Submit with price. S.G. Rich P.O. Box B, Verona, N.J. (Member 2)

* SECRETARY'S REPORT. *

October 15 to December 1, 1955

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome.

- 516 Lagios, Nick 710 St. Catherine Street, W. Montreal, P.Q. Canada-French Lev..
- 617 Des Forges, Jacques 3666 Montana St.,, Montreal 24, Can. France.....
- 618 Lapiere, Roth 2736 Pie IX Blvd. Apt. 3, Montreal 4, Canada, France.....
- 619 Nelson, Armand 5152 Baldwin, Montreal, Canada. Dealer.....
- 620 Jodry, Richard L. 410 Yellowstone Ave., Billings, Montana. France & Col.....

APPLICATION PENDING:

- 621 Gaillaguet, Raymond L. 187 Don Avenue,, Rumford 16, R.I. France 20th. Cent..
- 622 DeMers, Edward F. 7201 Watson Way,..... La Mesa, California. France & Col...

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- 8 Kremer, Brainerd, to 8 Lee Place, Upper Montclair, New Jersey.....
- 561 Horowicz, Sigismund, to Apt. 61, 229 West 78 St, New York 24, N.Y.....
- 612 Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, to Hollenden Hotel, Cleveland 14, Ohio
- 20 Mc Gee, John R., to P.O. Box 98,..... Greenbelt, Maryland.....

Resignation Received:

- 347 Carpenter, Aaron E. 804 Westview Avenue Philadelphia 19, Penna.....

Respectfully Submitted
Charles Bretagne.

Book Review

Les Obliterations de Maroc. By Georges Chapier. Bischwiller (Bas-Rhin), l'Echangiste Universel. Nov. 1955, 72 pp., paper, 525 francs.

Mr. Chapier is already known for his books like this on postmarks of Algeria and Tunis. In this new one he runs true to method and to form. First comes the historical background, then the postal markings of offices in the pre-1913 era, when France, Spain, Britain, and Germany all had Offices Abroad in Morocco, while there also were both local and Sultanate indigenous services.

This is followed by an exhaustive survey of the postal markings of French Morocco. Spanish Morocco is not treated at all.

Official, military, naval and air mail markings complete the treatment.

The lists of slogan postmarks, machine and hand, with all offices of use of each seem to be most useful.

We could have wished for datings of various items; but perhaps this is not reasonable for us to ask.

Except for a very few crude tracings of the German and some other scarce marks, the figures are accurate and clear. We really don't think the British town mark of Tangier in 1873 had a reversed N as shown, however.

A useful book, bringing together information partly not on previous record and for the rest scattered through at least a dozen sources, many of them out of print.

S.G.R.