

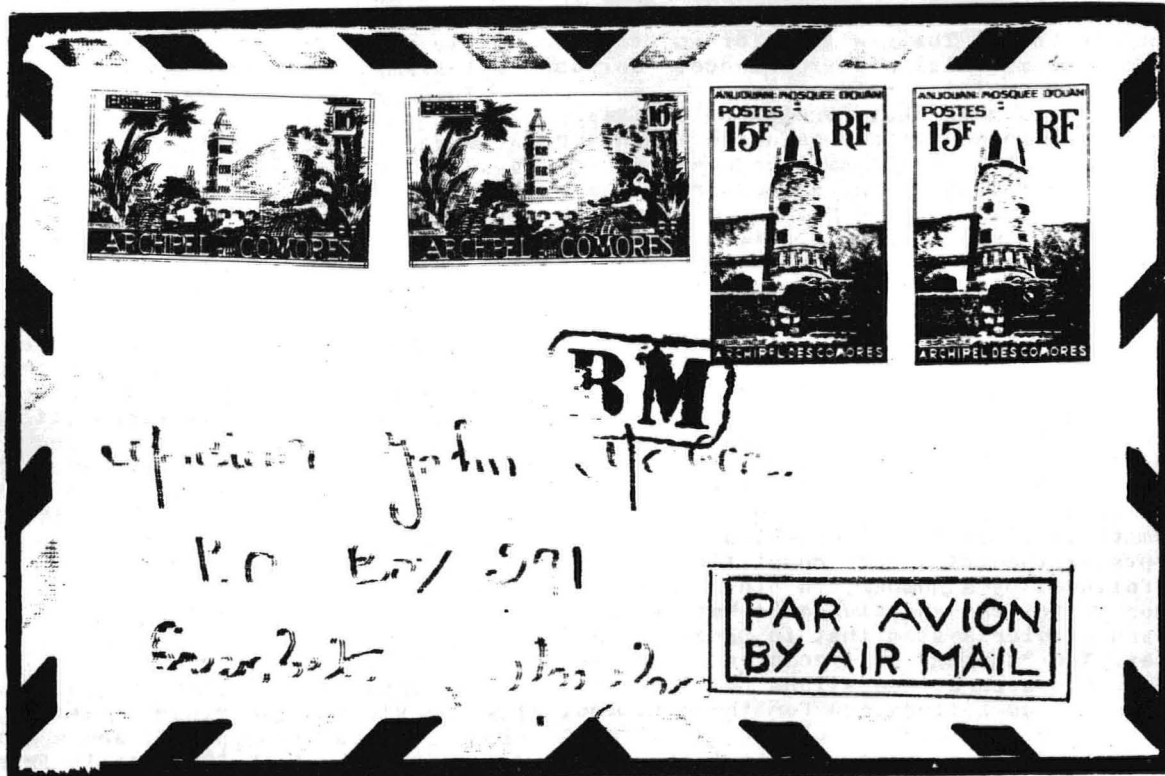
France & Colonies Philatelist



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Picture not retouched except for drawing in the lettering on the gray-blue etiquette for air mail. This did not photograph well.

1956 Boite Mobile Cancellation from Comoro Islands

This cover, received around March 1, 1956 by our member in Maryland, John R. McGee, is reported by him to be strictly a non-"philatelic" cover from a non-stampic correspondent.

He inquired of the sender, who reported that it had been mailed in "Special Air Mail Box" at post office, Moroni p.o., on Grand Comoro island, in February 1956. Exact date does not seem to have been given. The B M in rounded-corner rectangle is the only mark on or near the stamps. Mr. McGee reports that there is a very faint trace of a Madagascar transit mark on lower left corner. It did not show in the photo.

A letter mailed same way, same box, in late March 1956 by the same correspondent did not get this mark but just a usual Tamatave town cancellation, says Mr. McGee.

This is similar to the new B M of Guadeloupe reported by Mr. Stone elsewhere in this number, but larger. The photo is intended to be actual size, but may be 3% enlarged in diameters.

Some Recent Literature on the Colonies.

By Robert G. Stone

In Vol.3, No.3, of this journal, the present writer published an article on the status of the early surcharges of the French Colonies, following one by Bouvet in *L'Echo* of May 31, 1936; now in *L'Echo* of Oct.31 and Dec. 31, 1954, Gorron returns to the question. He makes essentially the same points as Bouvet, with a brief review of the methods by which the surcharges were made. But this adds no details not in de Vinck's book or Yvert's catalog. He minimizes the danger of the forgeries, saying the overprints and the cancels on the stamps have small variations and peculiarities that are not imitated; and hence the fakes can be told. This is true for an expert with reference material and experience. Gorron concludes with an interesting remark:

"We regret to note that foreign collectors are often more interested in our colonies than are their French colleagues. In America, numerous are the collectors who study in particular the stamps of the Antilles, Guiana, and St. Pierre-Miquelon. And the rarest stamp of our colonies, the postage due No.2 of Guadeloupe, appears in a greater number of trans-Atlantic than French collections."

The many of us who pay such attention to the cancellations of the French colonies will find of special interest the series of articles currently appearing in *L'Echo*, by H. Tristant. ("Essai de Classification des Cachets Postaux Français d'Outre-Mer de 1876 à Nos Jours, *Echo* nos. 1212 (Nov. 30 1954), 1213-1218, 1223, et seq.) It will probably appear later as a book. The author attempts to classify all colonies' postmarks into types, defined by a code consisting of a letter followed by a number, and other notations for minor varieties---he wished to have an universal and simpler system than in Langlois and Bourselet. The "typing" gets complex, however, because he has separate notations for the style of the circle and letters, and for the date line. For the earlier markings his classes are quite sharply defined and precise. But in later years there were so many odd and almost unique styles that some of the classes embrace very dissimilar marks (to my eyes at least). The result is not entirely satisfactory, therefore; but there is no doubt that Mr. Tristant has a complete knowledge of the colonies' markings. He has many that I had never known of before.

In particular, his treatment of the railroad, ship and other "ambulant" types is very thorough and useful, as he lists all the marks of each type. This is not done for the ordinary postmarks.

In *La Philatelie Française*, during 1954, a series by C. Deloste on the censor marks used by France and colonies during the last war, seems to be a rather exhaustive catalog.

A series by E. Fragnac on "Les Marques Postales des Colonies Françaises," begun in *Cahiers Philatéliques* in 1946-50, is being continued in *L'Echo* (Nos. 1202, 1203, 1209, 1210, 1211, et seq.). In the field of pre-stamp-period postmarks this greatly amplifies Langlois and Bourselet. It is a "must" for all interested in the early markings of the colonies.

In connection with the Centenary of New Caledonia in 1953, E. André published, in *La Philatélie Française* (Nos. 18-20) a series, reviewing the 19th century issues and postal history of that colony in comprehensive fashion, though with little if any new information.

The early postal history of Madagascar is treated for the first time in a full and well-documented manner by Bouvet in *L'Echo* Nos. 1205, April 30 1954. ("Les Débuts de la Poste Française à Madagascar.") It covers the decrees, stamps used, and cancellations. No Madagascar collector can do without it.

To return to the early colonial surcharges---it seems to us that the subject still remains very unsatisfactorily treated and understood in the literature. What is needed is a more careful analysis of the individual issues, with attention to the documents, motives, actual use, and reasons for the stamps. A mere decree is often a facade for all sorts of "monkey business." The stamps often do not accord with the decrees and we still do not know in all cases which were real stamps and which were machinations.

This is well brought out by a series of studies on the first surcharges of Martinique, that appeared in *L'Echo*, 1953-54. The first is by Chevassu and Pannetier (*Echo* No. 1191, Feb. 28, 1953) on Yvert Nos. 1, 1a and 1b. Three articles follow, by Bouvet, in *Echos* Nos. 1191, 200 and 1203, on the 1886-92 surcharges of Martinique. The picture is very complex, and confusing, but some surprising facts are revealed. All Martinique collectors should study this. The first surcharge of Martinique (% on 20c, June, 1886) was apparently done unofficially by the postmaster at Fort de France (he was a collector!). Though without sanction of St. Pierre, it was not suppressed: none are known cancelled at St. Pierre! The 0.01 and 0.15 on 20c of March 1888, when cancelled in 1888 all have fake postmarks. The 0.01 and 0.05 of May 1888 are likewise all falsely cancelled in 1889-90. An interesting sidelight on the cancellations is that, from June 28 1890 to January 1891, the only postmark used to cancel mail at Fort de France was the octagonal "Corr. d'Armées" mark, even on non-military mail.

Indo-China collectors should note the following: Strowski on minor varieties, *Echo* No. 1186, Sept. 30 1953, p. 336; and a study of the Postes Rurales in *La Philatélie Française*, No. 33, Jan. 1956.



GOOD ENOUGH TO SING ABOUT

See the announcement about the
Group Dinner
elsewhere in this number



Book Review

France 19th Century Specialized. By Raoul Lesgor. 50 pp., paper, Wire-O binding. Holmes, N. Y., R. Lesgor; \$2.00.

Mr. Lesgor's 1955 volume on 20th Century was reviewed in this journal No. 84, Nov.-Dec. 1955. The useful method is continued in this new book which deals with the 1849-1900 stamps. Striking, almost conspicuous, is Mr. Lesgor's ability here again shown, to combine new information on the matters treated, with the accepted systematizing to produce a coherent treatment. New facts are properly fitted in.

This is a workable, useful handbook.

The treatment of the postage due stamps has our special applause, because it deftly avoids complications. Likewise, the explicit way in which the Newspaper stamps are brought to order is a delight. On the precancels, we regret that the newspaper-text precancellings of 1869-1892 were not included.

S.G.R.

✚ 5c
B1 & B2

French Morocco's 1914-15 Red Cross Issues,
Surcharged in Rabat.

By Charles Neidorf

✚ 5c
B4 & B5

This article was prepared at your editor's request, in response to a letter to him, asking for information about French Morocco's 1914 Red Cross stamp, listed in Scott's catalog as No. B1. According to the information to be found in the various specialized catalogs, this is French Morocco's scarcest (total issue: 25) and highest priced stamp.

No discussion of this item would be complete without also taking into account Nos. B2, B4 and B5. Inasmuch as most collectors of French Moroccan stamps (and Red Cross stamps as a field) have undoubtedly run into trouble trying to identify these, all of which are closely similar in appearance, it was felt that a detailed discussion of their origin and characteristics is of general interest.

The other early Red Cross issues are far less likely to be troublesome. No. B3 is a scarce item (total issue: 1,500), produced locally in Oudjda by means of a wooden handstamp and water-soluble aniline ink, which was used to apply the surcharge, on stamp at a time, to every stamp on the sheet. Most collectors will never see a copy; besides, there is no identification problem connected with it since the shape of the Red Cross surcharge, even the style of the 5, is distinctive. As for Nos. B6 to B9, they were all produced in Paris, are distinctive in appearance, have very few varieties, are inexpensive and likewise present no problems, other than their being far more elusive than their low prices would lead one to expect.

The writer has drawn upon two sources of information for the discussion which follows: the 1938 edition of Yvert & Tellier Specialized Catalogue for France and Colonies; and "Maroc, Postes Françaises," by Exelmans and de Pomyers (1948). The latter book, a French Moroccan specialist's gold mine of information, much of it the result of original research, not available elsewhere, has been strangely neglected. It has never been reviewed in this country, so that it is practically unknown here. One notes with interest that, in their ten-page discussion of the nine Red Cross stamps, the authors include considerable information which corrects or contradicts statements appearing in the Y. and T. Specialized Catalogue, long considered the bible of French colonial collectors.

The four Red Cross stamps with which this article is concerned were all produced during the latter part of 1914 (and perhaps early part of 1915 on a press of the newspaper, "L'Echo du Maroc," in Rabat. A typographic surcharge plate containing 25 clichés* (5 x 5) was used. The half-sheets of 150 stamps which were supplied by the post office were divided into panes of 25 for surcharging. These were separated in such a manner that the left side of each pane had neither vertical sheet margin nor vertical central gutter margin. As a result, millesime pairs do not exist. The gutter strip containing the millesime numeral 4 can be found attached to a stamp on its left side, but never on its right side.

Basically there were only two Rabat issues, or one might even say that only a single issue was intended. In September 1914, 125,000 copies (25,000 according to Y. & T.) of No. B2 were issued. The supply soon began to run low, so a further printing was authorized. This presented an opportunity for making a relatively minor change in the surcharge: substitution of a single horizontal bar in the cross (Nos. B4 and B5)

instead of the original double horizontal bar (Nos. B1 and B2), the numeral "5" and letter "c" remaining the same. Why then four major catalog numbers?

No. B1 is listed separately because the basic stamp (Scott's No. 30) is different from the one (Scott's No. 42) used to prepare No. B2. While No. 30 has only an Arabic surcharge and the numeral "10", No. 42 has this surcharge plus "PROTECTORAT FRANÇAIS" as well. The presumption is that a pane of No. 30 was inadvertently included in the supply of No. 42 when the Red Cross surcharge was applied. Not only that--but it was fed into the press upside down, so that the Red Cross surcharge is inverted.

✚ 5c

B3
Oudjda



B7

MAROC
مراكش

B8

However, as Exelmans and de Pomyers point out, why only a single pane of 25? Why not six panes of 25 from a full post office half sheet of 150? The authors state that around 1940 they were offered a complete pane of 25 of No. B1 at a very impressive price, but turned it down because of their doubts about its true status. Is it possible that this is the only material in existence of this variety? Does any reader of the "Philatelist" know of a reference, perhaps in an old auction catalog, to single copies of this stamp?*

The reason why Nos. B4 and B5 are listed separately is that, while No. B4 was issued in Rabat in March, 1915, (22,500 copies), No. B5 was sold largely from a special post office on the grounds of the Casablanca Exposition in September, 1915. (Only 2,500 copies). E. & de P. state, however, that they have two copies of No. B5 cancelled in Rabat in March, 1915. This writer also has a copy cancelled in Rabat, date not showing. It would appear that both stamps, Nos. B4 and B5, were actually printed at or around the same time, with the same surcharge plate*, the only difference being the color of this surcharge---vermillion on No. B4, carmine on No. B5. Logically, then, No. B5 is entitled only to variety status under B4 (or vice versa), not to a major catalog number.

The 25 clichés* which constituted the Red Cross surcharge, used to produce Nos. B1 and B2, were not all alike. In many instances the two horizontal bars of the cross can be seen to be of unequal length and varying spacing, evidently resulting from their being not firmly fixed in place.* More significantly, the following varieties occur:

- Horizontal bar of "5" straight, not curving at tip: ball at tip of curved portion damaged on its left side, terminating directly under vertical stroke, not extending past it towards the left.
- Letter "C" missing.
- Vertical stroke of "5" broken near its base.

The well known variety A is handled in a curious manner in the various French catalogs. The Y. & T. Specialized Catalogue describes it as the "narrow 5" variety, listing it as No. 49d (Scott No. B2) and No. 50c (Scott No. B4). Then in a footnote it adds: "...finally there exist

numerals which have the top of the horizontal bar straight " leaving the impression that it is referring to a distinctly different variety, position unknown. The Y. & T.-Champion catalogue for France & Colonies (1955), however, makes no mention of a "narrow 5" variety but does list one with "bar of 5 straight"; and the same is true of the Thiauge and the Maury catalogs. E. & de P. follow the treatment of the Y. and T. Specialized catalog, making no mention of a straight horizontal bar.

Variety B originated in the course of the printing of No. B2. Intermediates with part of the letter "c" missing, prior to its complete disappearance, can be found. It was detected by the printers and corrected*, so that it is not to be found on Nos. B4 and B5, whereas varieties A and C are.

Each of the latter varieties occurs once on a complete pane of 25 stamps, but, curiously, in different positions in different printings. According to Y. & T., there were four printings of No. B2, with the varieties distributed thus:

Printing No.:	1	2	3	4
Variety: A	17	17	17	14
B	7	--	--	--
C	3	3	3	13

E. & de P., on the other hand, believe there were only two printings, in reverse order from that given by Y. & T.:

"plate"	1	2
Variety: A	14	17
B	--	7
C	13	3

The reason given is that No. B5 (the scarce "Casablanca" printing) has varieties A and C in exactly the same positions as on the "Plate 2" printing of No. B2. The presumption is that after the surcharge plate * was used to print No. B2 (with variety B2 corrected in the course of the printing) it was laid aside and used again, after the substitution of single horizontal bars in the crosses, to prepare No. B5. The fact that the (presumed) last printing of No. B2 and the printing of No. B5 have the same distribution of these varieties and that both have the surcharge in carmine, is regarded by E. & de P. as evidence that No. B5 was actually produced before No. B4, regardless of when they were issued. A clincher is provided by the fact that No. B4 has these same varieties in a slightly different arrangement: variety A in position No. 25 and variety C still in position No. 3.

Really, the reference by E. & de P. to "plate 1" and "plate 2" of No. B2 (and similarly for Nos. B5 and B4) is unrealistic. A much more plausible alternative explanation to account for the fact that the same varieties occur in different positions on the various issues (one, in fact, suggested by E. & de P.) is that each time the plate * had to be cleaned it was taken apart, after which the 25 clichés* were re-assembled without regard to the original location of any particular cliché. What is involved, therefore, is a variety of settings of a single plate*.

Various errors are reported to have been made in applying the Red Cross surcharge to Nos. B2 and B4: specifically a double surcharge and an inverted surcharge variety of each. E. & de P. state that they have examined material of all of these, which have the appearance of being absolutely genuine errors. They warn, however, of the existence of other similar varieties, plus a double surcharge, one inverted, which have the appearance of being too good to be true. Also, there exist stamps on which the color of the

surcharge is intermediate between vermilion and carmine, very different from the normal colors; and finally, the Red Cross surcharge is to be found applied to the 20c and 25c values.

All the aforementioned were strictly unauthorized. What happened, according to information furnished to E. & de P. by old Moroccan collectors who were presumably in a position to know the facts, was that certain unscrupulous persons obtained access to the print shop for a few hours and, using the original surcharge plate, produced these and perhaps other errors, with the intention of defrauding collectors.

Oddly enough, all these varieties, according to E. & de P. are known on pieces cancelled in December, 1914, months before the official date of issue of No. B4. Can any reader of the "Philatelist" confirm this? The writer has in his collection an example of the double surcharge variety of No. B4 on cover cancelled in Rabat on Dec. 9, 1915.

On the basis that clandestine printings are known to have been made and also on the grounds that the number of copies of No. B1 is suspiciously small, E. & de P. state emphatically the belief that this stamp should be included with the other unauthorized printings, in the same category. That is: it is strictly a phantasy which should be stricken from the catalogues.

In addition to the aforementioned, which are at least of some philatelic interest because the original surcharge plate was used, E. & de P. state that there exist dangerous counterfeits of Nos. B4 and especially B5, generally made on used stamps. It is to be noted that varieties A and C were not counterfeited, so that the presence of either can in some measure be regarded as an indication of genuineness.

It must be borne in mind that Nos. B2, B4, and B5 were triply surcharged. In addition to the Red Cross and "5c" there is the original Arabic surcharge and figure "10" and the "PROTECTORAT FRANÇAIS" surcharge. Each of the latter contributed its quota of scarce varieties.

First, there is the wide numeral spacing variety: the figure "1" is 1½mm. from the figure "0" instead of the normal 1mm. This occurs only once a single stamp out of six panes: it occurs only once in the half-sheet of 150 stamps. According to Y. & T. its position is No. 149 on the half-sheet: No. 24 on a pane of 25 stamps. This is an error, duly reported by E. & de P., and confirmed by a study of material in this writer's collection. What the editors of Y. & T. catalogue did not know or failed to take into account was that the surcharge plate* with the Arabic word for "centim" (centimes) and the figure "10" was cleaned in 1914. In the course this, the clichés were evidently disassembled and replaced in a different order, so that the wide spacing variety now appears in position No. 64 (second stamp to the left of the millesime, on Nos. B2, B4 and B5).

as for the "PROTECTORAT FRANÇAIS" surcharge, the best known variety is the one with "inverted S", which occurs in position No. 150 on the half sheet, position No. 25 on one out of six panes of 25. On No. B4 it is always accompanied by variety A (horizontal bar of 5 straight) of the Red Cross overprint.

In addition, there are some minor varieties of the "PROTECTORAT" surcharge: broken "T" (position No. 21); first "0" in "PROT" broken (No. 66); and second "0" in "TORAT" broken (position No. 65).

Finally, no discussion of these stamps would be complete without calling attention to the unrealistically low catalogue prices for Nos. B2 and B4 (and for Nos. B7 and B8 as well) A

comparison of the small quantities issued, of these four stamps, with the prices listed, will serve to explain why they are so hard to find:

Stamp (Scott No)	Quantity produced	Scott	Yvert	Gibbons
B2	125,0000 (25,000 according to Yvert)	.15	40f	9d
B4	22,500	.40	125f	2/6
B7	75,000	.15	40f	6d
B8	90,000	.60	40f	6d

(Unused prices cited)

* The Editor regrets feeling compelled to add a footnote. The term "plate" and the other term "cliche" are erroneous throughout this article. This is a locked-up form of loose type, as the discussion of the various changes and varieties clearly shown further on in Mr. Neidorf's fine treatment. We hasten, however, to mention that the French do not make a distinction between a plate and a form of locked-up type, so the error is not Mr. Neidorf's.

** The Editor must again add a comment. Post office stocks and specially those at counters, will often contain fragments of sheets of older stamps of a value, along with new stock. When a supply is bought, one often gets a mixture of these. The presence of this small remnant from the tail-end of a previous supply therefore is not at all unreasonable-- nor is it in the least unreasonable to expect that one, two or even 6 such panes of 25 could have been supplied for surcharging.

Step Out with a
share in this project.

We Cordially Invite.....

Many times in the past, the Parent Chapter of the France & Colonies Group has extended a cordial invitation to all non-resident members to attend our meetings. Since distance makes it impossible for many of you to do so, now we are extending just as cordial an invitation to your collections!

In the thought that much valuable date and new information may be secured from this unseen material, owned by the non-resident members of the Group, we ask you to send your showings for exhibition at our meetings. There it is to be explained and discussed by those who may know the particular field.

In return, we will issue a fine "Certificate of Merit" for each unit thus displayed, and will give you the benefit of anything we may garner from your showing or discover as hitherto not known in it, in the discussions.

So that your stamps may have complete protection while they are out of your hands, our Editor, Mr. S.G. Rich, has been appointed to be in charge of them at all times. He will care for them precisely as if they were his own material --storing in his safe deposit vault, bringing them under his insurance coverage. Your stamps will be returned promptly after being shown, by fully insured mail, with no return postage cost to you-- and will be carefully packed.

Do not feel that you must send great rarities or specially super-valuable material, although they are welcome. We are interested in anything and everything, so long as it has philatelic interest. So let's see some of that material held by the members scattered across the country. We here in the resident area, will appreciate it!

-----Ira Zewifach.

A Still Earlier Date

for Type Sage 40c.

We now have:

April 15 1878 seen;
April 25 1878 as shown;
April 10 1878 possibly;
April 30 1878 reported.
But no March dates yet.



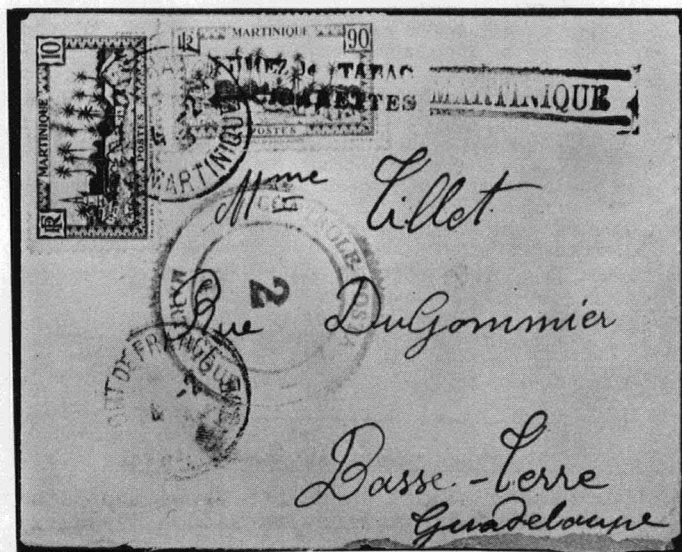
Following our report and picture of the April 25, 1878 copy of this stamp, 40c Sage Type One, your editor ran across a memorandum from 1951, that at the Toronto exhibition in that year Mr. Louis Lamoureux, our member, had shown him one with postmark date in April 1878, the day being 10th to 19th-- the 1 showing but the second of the day numerals so little on the stamp that it could only be identified as present.,.,.,., most likely 0,8, or 9.

Found also was a 1950 memo. that Mr. L. C. Hatch had shown your editor in 1950 a 40c Sage Type 1 with April 30 1878 postmark.

Sept. 10 1956 our member Abbott Chase showed your editor a copy postmarked 15 Avril 1878, the collection time being 6^e, Paris, rue Mont (the rest of street name not on stamp).

Thus April 15 1878 is the sure earliest date, and one of four April 1878 copies now recorded.

The two record slips were found when, after reporting the April 25 1878 copy, your editor went to mount up his 40c material.



Unreported Straight-Line Advertising Slogan of Martinique in 1942

Thanks to our member, Ralph Holtsizer, this envelope, mailed Feb. 4 1942 at Fort de France with backstamp Basse-Terre Feb. 6 1942 and the "Controle Postale Guadeloupe" mark as well, now is shown. The straightline mark, rubber hand-stamped (in black, we understand), reads

FUMEZ le TABAC MARTINIQUE
CIGARETTES

The key to understanding the many values and "odd values" of French and colonial stamps lies in the steady lowering of the international exchange value of the Franc, from 1920 to 1950.

France-- The Red Cross Issues During World War I

By Raoul Lesgor.

Reprinted by express authorization, from pages 71-72 of Mr. Lesgor's 1955 handbook on France 20th Century Specialized (Copyright, R. Lesgor).



At the start of World War I, a 10 centimes red, Sower Type II was overprinted with a small Red Cross indicating at the same time a surtax of 5 centimes for the benefit of charitable organizations. This was an emergency issue to be replaced by a stamp of definitive design which was being prepared.

This red cross overprint was applied on half sheets of 150 stamps from flat plate printings. 600,000 stamps were thus overprinted.

There are several minor varieties of this overprint, but all errors such as double or inverted surcharges are falsifications.

1914. First Red Cross Issue

CH1	10c+5c red	.15
a	10+5c orange-red	.30

The second red cross stamp was issued in September 1914, and remained on sale through 1920, although printed only through 1916. This variety was also the offspring of flat plates, printed in sheets of 300 delivered in half sheets of 150 to the post office, on white paper in 1914-15 and on GC paper in 1916. It was also printed in sheets of 240 stamps sold in booklet form in 1915.

1914. Second Red Cross Issue

CH2	10c+5c red	.50
a	10c+5c red	.70
b	10c+5c booklet pane of 10	

Millesimes

CH1	10c. Mill. 4	
CH2	10c. Mill. 4, 5, 6.	

A new type of Red Cross stamp was issued in August of 1918, a large size stamp printed in two colors in sheets of 150 delivered in half sheets of 75 to the post offices. This stamp designed by DuMoulin and engraved by Hufte, represents the Hospital Ship "Asturia" torpedoed by the Germans, in the left panel, and a Red Cross nurse at right.

1918. Third Red Cross issue

CH3	15c+5c dark slate and red	1.50
i	15c+5c Imperforate	

Note, there are some slight variations in the color of the stamps from dark to light, and of the red cross which appears brownish-red at times, but probably due to oxidation.

Facteur Mark in Modern Use

Our member Abbott Chase has shown the editor a 5f emerald-green Marianne de Gandon (1948; No. 598 of Scott) with a small, 8 mm. circle which encloses a bold numeral 1, struck three times as cancellatum on the stamp. It is off cover.

We take it that this is a modern example of the well-known Facteur Mark (see No. 61 of this journal). Confirmation or other explanation is desired.

Because so many French and French Colonial stamps are made by ordinary letter-press printing, anyone collecting in our field is at an advantage if he has a knowledge of printing in the usual manner as done for books, circulars or any other everyday printed product. Varieties, for example, are more readily understood; their origins are "obvious" to the "print shop fan."

Definitions Currently Accepted.

Because there is confusion amongst us about the exact meanings of some terms widely used, an excerpt from "Our Definitions" by the late Dr. Clarence W. Brazier, published by him in No. 1 of the Essay-Proof Journal, January 1944, may help some members. This article represents an accurate report of the philatelic usage of these terms in North America. Similar terms in French do not always carry the same meanings, so that care is indicated in understanding what is meant.

We republish by courtesy of the Essay-Proof Society, copyright holder.

ESSAY--any design, or part of a design, essayed to or produced by a government (or established mail carrier) for a stamp and differing in design in any particular from an officially issued stamp. There are die essays, plate essays and forms of experimental essays, as well as unfinished or incomplete designs that may form part of a finally approved design.

PROOF--any impression from an officially approved design die, plate or stone, or a new plate made from the approved die, in which the design is exactly like the stamp as officially sold to the public, regardless of the color, kind of paper or material on which it is printed, or any experimental treatment to which it was subjected and not used on stamps sold to the public.

TRIAL COLOR PROOFS--are impressions from the approved design die or plate in any color ink not normal to the issued stamp.

REPRINT--An official printing similar to the issued stamps from the approved stamp die, plate or stone after the stamps are obsolete, that is sold to the public at face value but not usable for postage when printed. (Some U.S. special printings are actually reprints). Other impressions from approved design dies, plates or stones or new plates made from the approved die, are termed proofs.

REISSUE--a reprint usable for postage.

REPRODUCTION--an official copy sold at face value to the public, similar to a previously issued design for a stamp which it resembles in engraving, design, color and paper. It may or may not be usable for postage.

LABEL--according to Funk & Wagnalls' dictionary is "a slip, as of paper, affixed to something and bearing an inscription to indicate its character, ownership, etc." Thus it is philately applied to such designs that may resemble stamps but do not indicate payment for official postage or revenue, such as Christmas seals, etc.

INDIA PAPER is a (Chinese) very thin, soft absorbent, semi-opaque handmade paper of bamboo fibres averaging .002 to .003 inch thick without wove or laid screen marks.....it is white to faint yellowish in color.

The French terms "essai," "épreuve" etc. do not correspond precisely with these American terms, and hence can be confusing if merely taken over at face value. In particular, the French term for India paper is "papier chinois."

The only exhibit of any French country at the S.P.A. Convention show, Grand Rapids, Mich., during August 1956, was Miss L. Clemenceon's Réunion. In the "Open System" of awards, with everything as "one huge section" after the major trophies, the quality of this exhibit was shown by winning a silver medal.

Napoleonic Cover

By FRED C. BROCK, M.D.

One of my favored covers shows the efficiency of the postal service during the Napoleonic wars, sent from Napoleon's birthplace, Ajaccio, on the island of Corsica, to Osnabrueck in northwest Germany. Both sides of the cover are illustrated.

The letter originally was sent to Paris from Ajaccio, written on Nov. 4, 1811, and shows the red Paris arrival mark on the back: Nov. 22, 1811 with the mail carrier's mark C 22.

The letter was readdressed to: Auviller par Clermont in the Department Oise, north of Paris, where the father of the addressee, the Chevalier de Landevoisin, added a letter of his own on the second page on Nov. 25, 1811. He crossed out the original address in front, marked the letter: au dos & voir dos, which means: see back, and addressed again on the reverse side to Osnabrueck, where his son was stationed as Inspecteur des Postes au Lettres (Postal Inspector) of two occupied German departments.

During the Revolution in 1792 France was divided into 83 governmental, as well as postal departments; Nr. 1-83 in alphabetical order, with the exception of 3, which later received higher numbers: Nr. 88, 89 & 115. The occupied territories received the numbers 84-134, according to the time of the establishment of postal departments, between 1792-1813 in the Netherlands (including the later Belgium), Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Spain.

The first cancellation on the letter is: 90 Ajaccio in black, another exception. The southern part of Corsica, French since 1770, obtained the Department Nr. 90 until 1810-11, when the whole island became united under the Nr. 19. Department Nr. 90 was later, in 1813, assigned to Barcelona, Spain.

The letter shows further the cancellation: P.58.P. in red, because Clermont is located in the Department 58: Oise, north of Paris.

P.P. means Porte Paye (Postage Paid) by the sender. Postage was usually paid at that time by the receiver; therefore most of the mail showed only the department number and the town cancellation.

The two German Departments on the reverse side of our letter are:

1. The Department de la Roer (name of a river west of the Rhine) Nr. 103, with the postal inspection seat in



Aachen (Aix-La-Chapelle), established in 1801.

2. The Department de l'Ems Supérieur (name of a river northeast of the Rhine) Nr. 130, with the seat in Osnabrueck, established in 1810.

The letter was taxed once at 12 decimes and twice at 14 decimes, but all of them are crossed out in front, either with the change of address, or because the addressee was a post office inspector and thus received his mail free.

The letter does not show any date of arrival in Osnabrueck.

Reprinted from "Covers" of May 1956. Dr. Brock and Secretary Bretagne, independently each had the idea that members would be glad to see it in this journal. Our thanks to Editor McIning for allowing the re-run.

There is an announcement about the France & Colonies Group Dinner Saturday, Nov. 17th on the rear page of this number



The Types of "Type Sage"

Our member, Mr. Henry Jervis, has returned to the fray on these with a highly technical article in the August 1956 American Philatelist. In this, Mr. Jervis' main effort is to show that Mr. P.M. d'Arleux is entirely wrong in the 1953 report of the Academie de Philatelie. We gave a resume of that report in No. 68 of this journal.

Strangely enough, and without his seeing how significant the discovery is, Mr. Jervis prints two photos of proofs of Type Sage in the types --both with center panel wholly blank. Now it happens that the accepted explanations require that Type 2, N under U, cannot exist thus! We hope Mr. Jervis will abandon belaboring Mr. d'Arleux and sneering (most unfairly, we think) at the Academie de Philatelie, for a real study of what the new facts imply.

Your editor may be blind, stupid or lazy--perhaps all three. But in ten years on the Sages, he has never seen Type 2, N under U, in a blank center proof, nor any picture thereof, hitherto. S.G.R.

Officers of the Group for 1956-57

Elected at the Annual Meeting, May 8, 1956, we have the following officers now serving us:

President: Gustave Wittenberg
Vice-President: Charles Neidorf
Corresponding Secretary: Charles Bretagne
Recording Secretary: Ira Zewifach
Treasurer: Edmond Queyroy
Directors: Paul Baudry, Alan R. Fernald, Sigismund Horowicz, Cecil Sullivan.
(Mr. Wittenberg appointed S.G. Rich as Editor for the year).

-----Louise Clemenceon.

Auxiliary Postal Markings from Guadeloupe

By Robert G. Stone

The numerous types of auxiliary markings used in France are well known to collectors. Among these are: Chargé, R, AR, BM, Retour à l'Envoyeur, T, Après le Depart, etc. In the colonies and especially the smaller ones, such marks have been used to a much more limited extent. Little attention has been paid to them by student of cancellations.

For Guadeloupe we listed them in our Catalog, published in Collectors Club Philatelist, Jan. and March 1955.

One of those most frequently seen from this colony is the B M in oval 20 x 11 mm., meaning "Boite Mobile", used since about 1887 on letters posted with the mail wagon en route between Pointe-a-Pitre and Basse-Terre. Remarkably, the identical B M mark was used on this service for the whole period 1887 into 1954. Then, in 1955 (or perhaps late 1954) a new style B M was introduced. It is in a rectangular box, 14.5 x 10.5 mm., with rounded corners and with non-serifed letters.

Another interesting mark of this category in Guadeloupe is the "Après le Depart." During 1863, such a mark was used at Pointe-a-Pitre, and perhaps at Basse-Terre, identical in style and size with some of those in service at that time in France--Paris, for example. They are very rare. The first one we saw we were inclined to think was accidentally struck onto that letter when it arrived in France. But as more turned up, all from the same year, we recognized that they must actually have provided a "Too Late" service in the colony. It is surprising that this would be necessary, or in sufficient demand under the conditions there at the time to justify providing the mark. We don't know of any other early use of the Après le Depart mark outside of France. The fact that none have been seen from Guadeloupe after 1863 until very recent years suggests that the need was so limited that the mark was abandoned.

We shall be interested to hear from other colonies collectors with data on any auxiliary marks in the colonies.



Received for Review.

Early in 1956 we received from Dr. S.H. Ron, of Caracas, Venezuela, a gratis copy of his new monograph on "Origins of the First Issues of Postage Stamps of Venezuela", in Spanish. This of course is outside the scope of our Group and journal.

We have thanked Dr. Ron for it; any member to whom this is useful may have the 71-page volume by merely writing the Editor and enclosing 12c in postage. There is just one copy.



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When you write to another member for aid or information, it creates good will to include an envelope addressed to yourself with return postage affixed. If you send to Canada, 5c in that country's stamps are needed; to France 25 francs, of French postage. It's a fine way to use up unused copies with tears, thin spots etc. All French and Canadian stamps you are likely to use this, even if from before 1900, are still valid.