



Published bi-monthly by the France and Colonies Group
Address all communications to Dr. A. J. C. Vaurie, 5 E. 53 St., New York, N. Y.



A



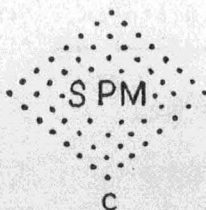
B



D



E



C



F



G



H



I



J



K



L

SAINT-PIERRE & MIQUELON

Notes on Postal Markings and on
Cancellations on its Adhesives
By Robert G. Stone (61)

In view of the small size of the colony we are not surprised to find barely a dozen types of markings. This limited scope for the collector is compensated by the rarity of some of these marks and by the fact that foreign cancellations are common on the stamps. Indeed, a large fraction of the mail from the colony is deposited in Canadian and Newfoundland ports as loose ship letters, either by the regular packets or by private boats. This is readily understandable, as fishing is the chief occupation and neighboring British possessions form an important market and source of staple provisions for the islanders. There have long been regular and fairly frequent packets connecting the colony with North Sydney, Halifax, Port aux Basques and St. Johns whereas the communications with France have been more infrequent and at times only indirect. Owing to the freezing of the St. Lawrence, connections with Quebec, Montreal and Prince Edward Island have been limited to the summer season (May-November).

MARKINGS OF THE COLONY

The postal markings of St. Pierre and

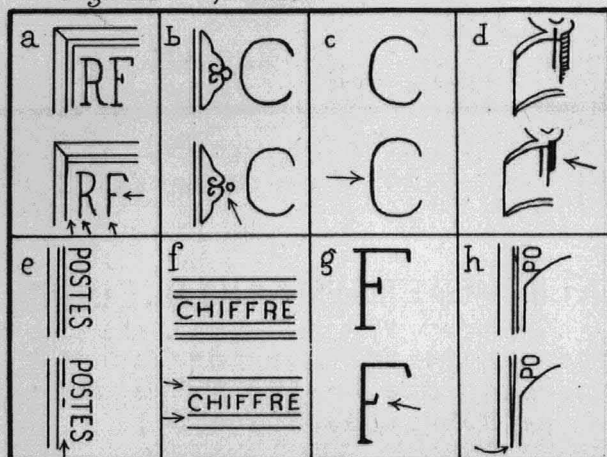
Miquelon were listed by Langlois and Bourselet, but in a rather sketchy and incomplete fashion, as material is scarce, perhaps more so in France than it is here. We can add something but undoubtedly other types are yet to be found, such as Army Correspondence cancels and pre-adhesive handstamps.

The earliest St. Pierre and Miquelon marking seen by Langlois and Bourselet was from 1853, a fancy one (A), probably modified from an administrative cachet of the period. Sometime in the 1850's, type (B) appeared, and it was probably used at least until 1862, when similar types in the other colonies were superseded. The lozenge of 64 dots (8x8) with SPM (Cont. on back page,

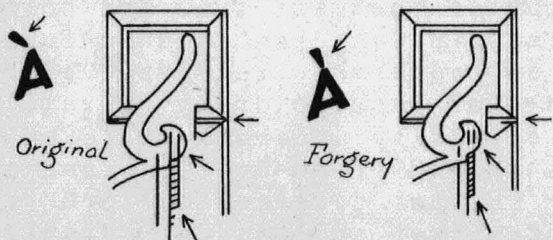
(Continued from pg.6)

1884-1906 POSTAGE DUES. There are several crude and ancient forgeries, but there are besides two sets of Fournier forgeries. Fournier I: the complete set of values, lithographed,

Originals = top rows.



see diagram (arrows) for signs b, d, f, h. Fournier II: photogravure, see signs a, b, c, d, e. Two more modern forgeries photolithographed are more dangerous: the first one can be identified by signs b, f, g. The second one is for the high values, 1, 2 and 5 francs (brown for the colonies, black for France). This is the most dangerous of all the forgeries and it can



best be told by the shading of the scroll which is not as sharp in the forgeries and which has small differences (see diagram). Also on the 2 and 5 fr. of the forgeries the slant of the accent on the "A" varies.

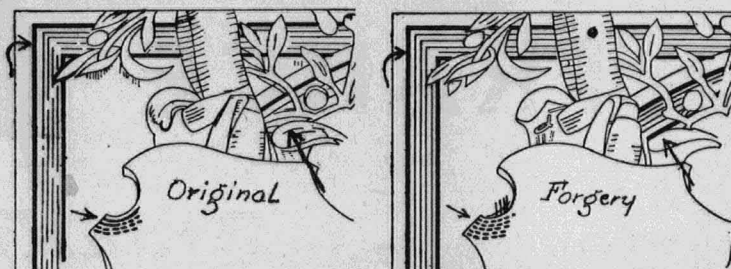
The 60c brown, 1 fr. rose, and 1 fr. carmine are also forged. The forgeries can be identified by the illustration.

The forged cancellations are especially common on all the postage dues, and there exist also forged millesimes.

MERSON TYPE (Scott's Liberty and Peace). -- Although the stamps of this type do not belong to the General Colonial Issues, they were used in a number of offices, such as Alexandria, Port Said, Morocco, in the Levant, Crete, Dedeagh, Cavalle, China and Zanzibar, with and without surcharges - the surcharges, of course, being forged. They seem to have been sold only cancelled, and only the stamps and surcharges issued before the World War were forged.

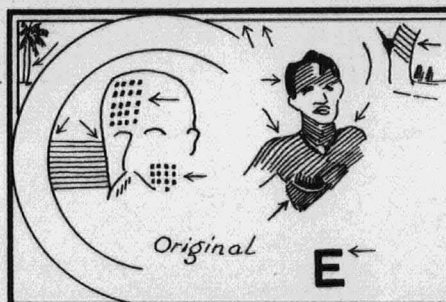
These forgeries are exceedingly dangerous, being so well made. They first appeared in 1912. The first forgery was the 5 fr. of France, then the forger replaced the word "POSTES" by the name of the office, and the "REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE" was replaced by "POSTE FRANCAISE." They exist for the 5 fr. of France and for the 1, 2 and 5 fr. of the offices.

The illustrations are taken from "L'Echo de



la Timbrologie," Jan. 31, 1936, No. 962. There are many discrepancies, but the most important ones are: a) the lines in the upper left corner where only two lines join in the original and three in the forgeries, b) the curved lines to the right of the tree trunk are shapeless and hardly visible in the original; they stand out sharply in the forgery, c) in the upper left corner of the shield there are five lines of dots: in the original the two top lines are always thickened and fused into an uninterrupted line, in the forgery the lines are formed of sharply separated dots. In connection with this last point, it is important to remember that on the 5 fr. only the originals have only four lines of dots where the forgery has five.

1906 BALAY TYPE. 1, 2, and 5 fr. for the following colonies of "Afrique Occidentale Française," (French West Africa); Dahomey, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Senegal, Upper Senegal and Ni-



ger. The forgeries are phototypographed. See illustration for the characteristics of the originals, - in the forgeries: the palm tree in upper left corner is shapeless and its trunk is broken; in the large tree, the right half of the trunk shows only 2 or 3 diagonal lines of shading; in the Negro girl only one line of shading on the forehead, and the lines of shading across her body are broken or form blotches, her breasts are blotched spots; round dots on the forehead and cheek of the portrait instead of sharp squarish dots, the horizontal lines not touching either the cheek or circle; the white line under the frame line is much too thin at left and the extremities of the letters, instead of being sharply marked, are rounded. There are also various forged cancellations.

FRENCH OFFICES. Alexandria, Cavalle, China, Dedeagh, Morocco, Port Lagos, Port Said, Vathy, and Zanzibar. Overprint on the Sage type consisting of the name of the office, issued in 1893 for the offices in the Levant, and in 1899-1900 for Port Said and Alexandria, and in 1894-1900 for China.

In the originals the printing is always very sharp and regular, the edges of the letters and serifs being very sharply outlined. The forgeries have letters with blurred edges and sinuous uncertain outlines; the serifs are rounded. Most of these forged overprints were applied by a parsimonious forger on French stamps already used but very faintly cancelled. If your stamp shows two cancellations, one very faint, the overprint must be considered a forgery.

ZANZIBAR

Everything has been forged and some forgeries are very common. As there are many different types and as practically all the stamps are expensive, expertization is absolutely necessary. For the franc values of the Merson type, see General Issues for the Colonies. In the postage dues, the forged surcharges have been applied to genuine stamps as well as to the forgeries. For the characteristics of the latter, see General Issues for the Colonies.

WALLIS AND FUTUNA

I don't know of any forgeries and none seem to have been reported so far, probably because the stamps are too cheap to make it worthwhile.

The stamps of Wallis are distributed from New Caledonia; when this colony joined the "Free French" movement, it overprinted some of its stamps with "France Libre" and did likewise on the stamps of Wallis and Futuna without consulting this colony on its affiliation. When Wallis refused to join the de Gaulle movement, it refused to admit the stamps, which therefore have no standing.

UPPER VOLTA

A few of the surcharges have been forged. They can be told by exact comparison and measurements.

UPPER SENEGAL AND NIGER

1906 Balay type. (see General Issues). These have a forged Fournier cancellation: double circle dated cancellation, diameter 24mm., BAMAKO-KOULO 6 JAN 11 HAUT-SENEGAL-NIGER.

TUNIS

1897 The stamps of 1888 were reprinted on thick paper with thickish yellowish-white gum whereas the original printings are always on thin paper with greyish-black gum. This re-printing was not done because of postal needs but strictly for collectors, the cancellations being obligingly post dated.

1881-1901 Postage Dues, -- (regular postage stamps prior to 1901 perforated "T") -- These are dynamite as it is practically impossible to tell the originals from the "imitations." Maury in the "Collectionneur de timbres-poste" of February 1890 offers "...the stamps we offer are perforated by us. The lovers of varieties can have small or large "T," in normal position, inverted, or sideways..." This was old stuff to Maury, as he had had plenty of experience with the Susse perforations. Most of the Maury perforations were applied to cancelled stamps. --- Fournier also obliged with forged cancellations: double circle, 24mm., inner circle interrupted, at the top TUNIS, at the bottom REGENCE DE TUNIS, in the center 7E/9 AOUT 91 or 1E/20 JUIN 94.

The large majority of the originals are pen cancelled, some have St. Andrew's crosses, and a very few can have, theoretically, a dated cancellation prior to April 1st, 1901, at which date the perforated stamps were withdrawn.

TOGO

There exist various forgeries of the occupation overprints and surcharges on the German stamps. These are very good, particularly for the expensive varieties -- should be expertized.

TCHAD

Apparently there are no forgeries.

TAHITI

Literally everything has been forged! And most of it very cleverly. Unofficial and "extra" printings were also permitted many many times with the original handstamp "...to oblige the numerous demands of dealers of postage stamps."

As most of the stamps are very valuable they should be expertized, but a few points will serve to eliminate a good many of the forgeries. The forged overprints were applied not only to genuine stamps but also to forged stamps, so first verify if the stamps of the Dubois type and the postage dues are not themselves forgeries (see Colonies General Issues). Also if the stamp is cancelled, in the original cancellation the first "I" of "TAITI" appears to be taller than the second "I," this being due to the fusion of the two dots over the I with the letter itself. The forged cancellations lack this particularity. Two Fournier cancellations are: PAPEETE 7 MAI 93 TAHITI and PAPEETE 18 AOUT 93 TAHITI, both double circle 20 to 21mm in diameter.

In the 1893 slanting TAHITI overprint, only the cheaper varieties (5, 10, 15, 20, 25 black on rose, 75c and 1 fr.) were sent to Berne; and in the "1893 TAHITI" horizontal overprint, only the 15, 20, 25 black on rose, 75c and 1 fr. We can assume therefore that only these values were used for postal needs. Of the others, only one sheet or two were overprinted. The same is true of all the postage dues except for the 20c of the "1893 TAHITI" overprint. An important point to remember concerning these overprints is that the originals always have very heavy greasy ink which has soaked through the paper, showing greasy and yellowish on the back; the "extra" printings are made with a totally different ink.

The varieties of the 1903 issue (inverts, doubles, etc...) have all been forged. The Red Cross of 1915 has also numerous forgeries.

(To be continued)

In Memoriam GERARD GILBERT

Gerard Gilbert, rare stamp dealer and expert of international note, died May 6, of a heart attack in his apartment in the Great Northern Hotel. His age was 63.

Born in Paris, he studied at Janson de Sailly and later became a member of the firm of Gilbert & Kohler, which handled the sales of the outstanding stamp collections in Paris. Among these were the Mirabaud and Dr. A. Chiesa collections. From 1921 to 1925 M. Gilbert sold the Ferrari collection, said to have been the largest in the world, which brought in more than \$2,000,000.

A veteran of the first World War, he came to the United States in 1939. He was the author of many articles on philately.

He leaves a widow and a son, Michel.

If you like the "PHILATELIST" --

- Show it to your friends
- Bring in a new member
- Send us Material for Publication

inside (C) was used to cancel the general issues of the colonies from 1862 to around 1875, but is rather hard to find. Type (D), likewise rare, appeared around 1861 and was used to postmark the covers up to about 1875. Type (E) also appeared in the early 1860's but seems to have long outlasted (D). Type (F), contrary to Langlois and Bourselet, was not a successor of (E) but was used concurrently with it from about the early 1880's on. (E) and (F) seem to obliterate the majority of the cancelled-to-order and philatelically-used 1885-92 issues of adhesives with cancellations dated after 1893 (up to 1904 at least). We note that even some 1908 pictorial stamps were cancelled to order with type (F) in May of 1909. Type (G), in the 19th century style, appeared, according to Langlois and Bourselet, as early as 1879, inscribed at bottom for each of the offices, "Ile aux Chiens," "Miquelon," "St. Pierre," and "Langlade." We have never seen a specimen of this type and we greatly doubt its existence. Possibly type (D) is the real counterpart for "St. Pierre" of type (G) for "Ile aux Chiens," etc., but in (D) there is only one size of font and no fleurons. Type (H) first appears around 1890, but it does not largely supersede (E) and (F) until sometime after 1893. (H) is supposed to exist inscribed for all four post offices, but only "St. Pierre" and "Ile aux Chiens" are common; we have seen only one specimen for "Miquelon" and none for "Langlade." Possibly only mails for local delivery were cancelled at the sub-offices, the foreign mails being collected and forwarded to St. Pierre for cancelling. It is difficult to imagine why "Ile aux Chiens" should be found more often than "Miquelon," which place has much the more population. Type (I) was introduced in 1924 and soon became universal to date. Type (J) dates from 1926, inscribed, according to Langlois and Bourselet, with "Ile Chiens," "Miquelon," and "Langlade," but we doubt it was ever issued to Ile aux Chiens and Langlade, unless used there only for a very brief period, since we have never been able to find such specimens. Even the "Miquelon" of type (J) is very scarce. About 1935 "Ile aux Chiens" was renamed "Ile aux Marins" - allegedly because ribald puns on the name "Chiens" irritated the inhabitants. Since then a cancel of type (K) has been used there - not rare. The censor cachet (L) appears on nearly all covers mailed since the summer of 1939; occasionally it strikes the stamps by accident.

Other auxiliary markings that normally are to be impressed on the covers, also sometimes get on the stamps; these include the various forms of "PD," "PP," boxed; the due marks: "T" in triangle, "T" in circle (17mm diam.); and the registration mark "R" in a box. A heavy smudgy black bar (5X35mm) is occasionally seen on the pictorial issues--probably for parcels. French boat cancels are very rare on St. Pierre and Miquelon. (To be concluded in next issue) -

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members:

- 127-ROBERTS, Daniel H.-24 Romaine Ave., Jersey City, N.J. (Colonies, Used and Unused)
128 & 129-TUCKER, D.J.-H. E. Harris & Co., 108 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, Mass.

- CHANGE OF ADDRESS -

LABAT, Y. (88) to 136 West 173 St., New York, N.Y.
REYNOLDS, Mrs. M. (49) to 498 Kenoak Drive, Pomona, California

THE FIRST LINE-ENGRAVED FRENCH STAMP

By Dr. A.J.C. Vaurie (17)

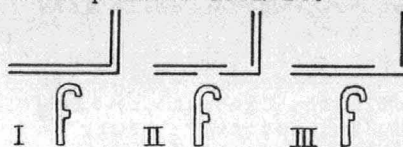
Of particular interest is the semi-postal stamp issued in 1928 for the benefit of the Sinking Fund-(Scott B27).

The design is by P. Turin and the engraving by A. Mignon whose names appear at the bottom respectively at the left and right. The surtax of 8 francs 50 was for the benefit of the Sinking Fund. The decree authorizing this stamp is dated the 28th of April 1928. It was issued on May 2, 1928 and sold only during the month of May, being retired the 31st of May 1928--an extraordinarily short sale for a French stamp.--Five years later, on May 31st 1933, it was demonetized. Altogether, 2,000,000 copies were printed--perhaps due to the fact that the surtax was so high the sale "flopped" very badly--only 160,000 copies were sold which may account for the prompt withdrawal. All remainders were destroyed; I presume this was done soon after the withdrawal from sale, but I have not been able to find the date.

What makes this stamp particularly interesting is the fact that it was the first French stamp to be recess printed. This was done at the Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres in Paris. The printing was done by a flat plate in sheets of 50, 10 vertical rows of 5 subjects. The perforation is 14 X 13½. Only one plate seems to have been used.

The mode of making up the plate was as follows: the die was steel engraved and was hardened. Then this die was applied five times to the surface of a soft steel transfer roll, the impressions being arranged horizontally, side by side in a row. The design was then of course in relief.

The transfer roll was hardened and pressed ten times onto the surface of a flat soft steel plate. If one or more of the five impressions on the transfer roll has a flaw, this flaw will appear in the same position in each of the ten vertical rows. The engraver then went over his plate of 50 subjects to correct any existing flaws. The flat plate was hardened and stamps were printed from it.



The engraver did not do his job so well, for we see at once that there are three well differentiated types arranged as

follows:

I	II	I	I	I
I	II	II	I	I
I	II	II	I	I
I	II	II	I	I
I	II	II	III	I
I	II	II	III	I
I	II	II	III	I
I	II	II	III	I
I	II	II	III	I

We can see where the corrections were made: all stamps in the first row are Type I, in the second row Type II, the top stamp in the third row is Type I, but all others in that row are Type II; in row four, the top five stamps are I, but all others Type III; the fifth row is all Type I. Thus the first stamp in row 3 and the first five stamps in row 4 are the corrected stamps and examination shows plainly these corrections.

If we break down the number of stamps sold this will give us: Type I 83,200, Type II 60,800, Type III 16,000. Type III is not then too common.