

EIGHT (8) PAGES  
in  
this number.

# France & Colonies Philatelist



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This number is three months late in  
publication and mailing to members.

## Another Double Perforated Empire



We are indebted to our member in England, Mr. Arnold Broadbent, for this striking oddity, which most beautifully supplements the Empire 1c that we featured in No. 90, Nov.-Dec. 1956.

Mr. Broadbent's 80c Empire, which has the Paris star cancellation, apparently that sans numeral, has the two perforation trokes out of register with each other both vertically and horizontally. The picture shows the state well. The stamp is of the lighter or paler shade.

Mr. Broadbent says:

"It looks as though the whole sheet was perforated twice, perhaps because the original lines of holes infringed on the design, and the makers tried again; got it right at their second attempt. In theory there ought to be specimens from this sheet with double perfs all round."

Whether any were so torn from the sheet, and whether any such have survived, we do not know.



### Dates of Issue of the Marianne de Gandon Stamps

Compiled from Gibbons' catalogue, 1952  
Additions and changes welcomed. Please  
be sure of your facts when reporting.

1.50f	Feb. 15 1945
2f blue green	Feb. 26 1945
2.40f	June 1945 (day not stated)
2.50f	1948 (day & month not stated)
3f black brown	April 1945 (day not stated)
3f brown	(no separate listing)
3f rose	March 1946 (day not stated)
3f green	July 17 1947
3f cerise	May 10 1948
3.50f	March 27 1947
4f ultramarine engraved	Feb. 2 1945
4f ultramarine regular	April 19, 1945
4f lilac	July 25 1946
4f bright violet	(no separate listing)
4f bluish green	May 10 1948
4f brown orange	Dec. 14 1948
4.50f	Jan. 23 1947
5f green	April 3 1945
5f rose	Jan. 3 1947
5f blue	July 17 1947
5f yellow green	Dec. 14 1948
5f purple	1951 (day & month not stated)
6f ultramarine	June 19 1945
6f red	June 26 1947
6f green	1951 (day & month not stated)
8f	Sept. 21 1948
10f orange	June 1945 (day not stated)
10f blue	Feb. 1946 (day not stated)
10f blue engraved	Feb. 1946 (day not stated)
10f purple	May 10 1948
12f	Jan. 24 1949
15f engraved	June 6 1946
15f purple	June 19 1945
15f rose	Jan. 6 1949
15f blue	1951 (day & month not stated)
18f	1951 (day & month not stated)
20f engraved large	May 30 1945
20f engraved small	May 3 1946
25f engraved large	May 30 1945
25f engraved small	Feb. 1946 (day not stated)
50f	April 1 1945
100f	April 13 1945
5f on 6f	Jan. 24 1949

### Doubled Design 45c Pasteur.

By Abbott Chase



The 45c red, Pasteur type, here pictured, has a very noticeable doubling of the design, over most of the stamp. This is specially distinct above the head, appearing almost as a halo; and over the numerals. The bottom frame line is doubled for the whole width of the stamp.

This copy was found in a "world wide" mixture purchased in Belgium. The variety is not mentioned by Lesgor. Berck lists a "raccord" but not in the location of, or to the extent of this specimen. Wanos & de Belleville 1949, in their catalog of 20th century varieties, report the doubled bottom line and a "gash in color over the head" separately.

This issue was "typographed"—that is, letter press printed like any ordinary book or magazine—from electrototype plates. From the engraved master die, molds were taken in some thermoplastic, probably the mineral wax ozokerite. The molds were assembled for the size pane or sheet desired, and a single electrototype of the group made.

We can explain the variety by the idea that in impressing one subject, the mold was imprinted twice, with a second impression not exactly in register with the first. This could give the doubling. We can presume that this was done to correct a defective or unsatisfactory mold. Thus it is a genuine re-entry.

(Note by the Editor: No sooner did we have Mr. Chase's article, than Mr. Charles E. Meyer, our member making Marianne de Gandon his field, showed us almost every value of that series with this same doubling. So we wonder if some other, hitherto unknown cause, is at work.)

### Cuban Arrival Marks on Letters from France etc.

The accompanying picture, reprinted from No. 82 of this journal, July-August 1955, shows the boxed NE mark. Similar Marks with numerals, 1 and 2, and with NA instead of NE are known, all on mail from various countries to Cuba.

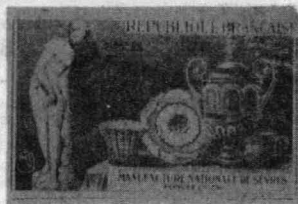
We are indebted to Dr. B. Cruz-Planas, whose Cuba collection took a high trophy at Fipex, for the story.

NE means "Norte Europa" and was applied on incoming mail from Northern Europe, from early 19th century to 1876, at Havana. NA for "Norte America" was of similar usage. Numerals show the zones of various postage rates.



### **France Releases Two Pictorials**

France is honoring philately this month with its annual Stamp Day (Journée du Timbre) semi-postal and is following this issue with a 30 francs commemorative for the 101st anniversary of the National Porcelain Manufactory in Sevres.



The Stamp Day semipostal goes on sale March 16. The design of the 12 plus 3 francs semipostal is by Decaris and pictures a felucca or rowing galley which was an early form of mail transport in the Mediterranean.

The 30 francs stamp for the anniversary of the Sevres porcelain works appears March 25. The design by Munier pictures a number of examples of the famous Sevres porcelain.





The Colonial Sage 25c Black on Red Imperf.  
By Arnold Broadbent

Recently I have been engaged, at the instance of my friend and fellow-member Leo F. Goerth, of Akron, Ohio, in translating the special article about this stamp which was published by the late Dr. Paul Bouvet in "L'Echo de la Timbrologie" of January 15, 1937. The worthy Doctor is very positive and dogmatic on the point that this stamp was issued only to three colonial possessions, viz., Mayotte, Nossi-Bé and New Caledonia. Indeed, he was so positive about it, and so insistent on the point, that he managed to persuade the editors of the Yvert specialized catalog to delete the note appearing in the 1927 edition, which said:--

"The 25c black on red seems only to have been sent to Madagascar, from which depend the islands of the Indian Ocean (Ste. Marie, Nossi Bé, Mayotte) and New Caledonia and Tahiti."

I am not at the moment concerned with Tahiti, about which colony I have no precise information, but I can state with a considerable degree of certainty that Dr. Bouvet was mistaken in his assertion that the stamp was not used in Madagascar. For, I have a very fine copy in my own collection which I am positive bears a Madagascar cancellation.

Unfortunately, there is only a small portion of the date stamp showing, on the bottom at left hand corner. As so often happens with this stamp, the black cancellation shows up only faintly against the background. But I make out the letters "....AGA.." in baton\* characters near what would be the middle of the upper part. The inner circle is not dotted, but is the usual interrupted series of short lines which accompany the "baton" lettering.

In fact, the visible portion of the date stamp coincides precisely with the specimen illustrated on page 29 of Langlois and Bourselet's "Les Obliterations des Bureaux de Poste des Colonies Françaises." (1927). This date stamp was used in the smaller offices of Madagascar, before they became of sufficient importance to have separate name stamps of their own.

There is, so far as I know, no other colony but Madagascar which shows the letters AGA in the middle of its name, nor is there (again, so far as I am aware) any French town bearing a name in which this particular sequence of letters occurs. So, the possibility that my specimen is or might be a French stamp with the perforations cut off, must be ruled out. Anyhow, the way the stamp is cut, it is clearly from an imperforate sheet.

Can any other collector of these issues produce an evidence confirming or denying my proposition?

(\* The term "baton" for lettering means the unshaded sans-serif or gothic typical of French postmarks since around 1880 --Editor, F. & C. P.)

Notify us without delay when you change your address, so we can get the Philatelist to you without delay. Secretary Bretagne is the one to notify; not your Editor.

The 4c Colonies Ceres with usual cancel of Saigon. Asterisk or "fleuron" at side of postmark between words.



### A Study of the 4 Centimes Colonial Ceres

By Dr. P. Bouvet  
Translated by R. G. Stone  
from L'Echo de la Timbrologie, of  
Dec. 31 1936 (No. 984)

Foreword: Upon the request of Mr. Kähler, the Berlin expert and corresponding member of the Académie de Philatélie, the Académie decided to prepare a report on the expertization characteristics of the two "vedettes" or stars among the stamps of the French Colonies (general issues). These are the 4c Ceres yellowish gray and the 35c sage black on orange. Dr. Bouvet was charged with this study. It is his report on the 4c, approved by the Académie, which we publish now.

After having collected on several occasions the views of Messrs. Brun, Champion, Dillemann, Gilbert, Lemaire and Miro, I now appear to give you the conclusions which I have arrived at, on the identifying characteristics of this stamp: the 4c Colonial Ceres.

#### The Dates:

I distinguish two different categories: on the one hand, the date of printing; on the other, the dates of issue, that is, of placing into use.

Although the 4 centimes Ceres of France was issued May 15, 1872 (date on the control register in the collection of the Mint Commission) and delivered to the public according to Maury in July of the same year, the colonial stamp of the same value, employed at Saigon (Indo - China) was not put on sale, as we shall see, until the 12th of July 1876.

#### Date of Printing:

At what date was the Colonies 4c printed?

I have discovered (documents to show) that the printing of colonial stamps of which the 4c was part, was ordered on Jan. 11 1876 by the Ministry of Navy and Colonies, and was completed on April 4 1876\*. I am convinced that there was only one printing of this value, all of which surely was sent to Saigon.

#### Date of Issue and Use:

The 4c Ceres was regularly in use for 13 months. The dates that one encounters are only from July 12 1876, the earliest known, to the end of August 1877.

The 4c green Sage which superseded it was very likely being used in July 1877. Certainly, it was in September, as I can show you: a copy cancelled Sept. 6 1877.

#### The Paper:

Texture: The grain in it is rather close and opaque. The design of the stamp is not apparent on the back; but that side is nevertheless sprinkled with a series of small light spots.

Thickness: Contrary to what has been thought hitherto, the paper of this stamp cannot be considered as "thick."

Its thickness is merely medium. To judge it I made a number of measurements with a precision micrometer. Some of these on stamp without gum, indicated an average thickness of 45/1000 mm. By an earlier series of measurements, those

\* We omit the original statement and substitute the author's footnote which corrected it -- Translator.

of stamps of 1849-76, the paper varied from 35/1000 to 50/1000 mm. Thus one cannot call the paper of this Colonial stamp "thick."

#### The Background Tint:

It is a lighter shade of the stamp color, and sufficiently perceptible that one could not call it white. It must be stated, moreover, -- and this qualification will be equally valid for the shade of the stamp itself -- that one can see small differences of color between various copies. I believe that these differences must be explained by the reaction of the gum upon the paper, an action probably caused by the heat and humidity of the colonial climate. (Translator's note: In later years I think Dr. Sovet was not so sure the climate was the explanation. R.G.S.)

#### The Impression:

It is far from being good. One can even say it is mediocre. Certain extremities of the wavy lines of the spandrels between the frame and the medallion did not come through in the printing. The lines of shading of the neck and of the cheek, and especially those under the eye, are formed almost entirely of lines rather than separated dots.

Finally, one of the best features for expertizing is the examination of the background of the medallion. In the colonial stamp, this background is not uniform (solid). It presents a weak horizontal lining which, without being perfectly regular, is none the less rather clearly marked.

#### The Color:

This is difficult to define. It partakes in reality of a yellowish-gray tint, having also a slight greenish reflection.

#### The Gum:

It is comparable to that of the corresponding French stamps. It seems certain that the stamp was sent to the colony gummed. It is necessary to destroy the legend that gum was applied in the colony.

This stamp, in unused state, is the greatest rarity among the stamps of uniform type for the colonies. The Ferrari collection contained 5 copies and a pair. As indication of the rarity, I mention that the latter sold for 6,500 francs.

According to Mr. Lemaire, one block of 4 had been known. Bernichon had offered it to Count Durrieu for 8,000 fr. He replied that he would be content with just a pair; so this unique block was cut into two.

#### Reaction to Ultraviolet Lamp:

This gives nothing particular. Some copies remain grayish white; others take on a deeper tint.

#### Pin Perforations

Two pairs of the 4c "percées en points" are known; one from the Ferrari collection. This perforation was done with an instrument flattened crosswise, because it led to the formation of large long indentations. It gauges 11 perfs in 2 cm. (As Mr. de Fayolle notes, very probably this perforation was made on a sewing machine. The dates of cancellation of these two pairs are June 14 and Aug. 9, 1877.)

Must one consider this perforation as authentic? While the view of some experts, such as Mr. Gilbert, is favorable, I must be permitted to express a doubt on the subject. Since one can not find a copy on cover or circular, it will be difficult to prove the genuineness of such a piece. What fortifies me in this conviction is that, following Marconnet, it has long been said that in Indo-China they perforated all the general issues. But, for the 15 years in which I have specially searched for these stamps, I could not discover a single one on cover. This is the reason for my skepticism.

#### Cancellations

I have already stated that the 4c Ceres was sent only to Cochinchina. But I have a further conviction that it was used only at Saigon. This was the opinion of the old experts, as reported by Marconnet; and in the "Catalogue Officiel de la Société Française de Timbrologie," Cardon wrote that "all cancellations other than for this city are false."

Since they ceased to use the "CCH" lozenge at Saigon around March 1876, one finds only the dated postmarks on the 4c, which was not placed on sale until July of that year.

What marks of Saigon does one encounter on this stamp? To my knowledge, there are three:--

1. The 23 mm. circular postmark, with inner circle of 34 dots, "Cochinchine" at top, and "Saigon at bottom," "fleurons" at each side between the words. This mark is always in black. However, under the lens and a strong light, the ink has a bluish reflection. This is the normal cancel that one almost always finds on this stamp. But very exceptionally one can find two others:--

2. The dated postmark, 23 mm. diameter, with "Saigon" at top, "Cochinchine" at bottom, and, (often) the line for day of month divided to include the hour of collection. This mark is rare on this stamp, but presents no special interest. It only indicates a very late use, i.e. in late 1877 and during 1878.

3. Finally, an octagonal mark of the Army Correspondence of Saigon. A copy of the 4c with this cancel was in the Count de Pomyers collection. (Not in the Dec. 1956 auction of the de Pomyers coll. --Translator). But I emphasize that the normal mark was the one first described.

I do not wish to have this discussion without indicating confidentially a curious peculiarity of the first mark, in the year number, "76" in the date block. One finds, during the year 1876 two types numerals "76." One could qualify as the "usual" one, because it corresponds to the style of numerals used during the years preceding and following. It is composed of characters measuring 3 mm. high and 1 mm. wide. This was used during all of 1876 except the three months July, August and September, the months which coincide with the beginning of the use of the 4c.

During these three months the "76" was of smaller characters, measuring 2 mm. high and 1 mm. wide. Moreover, their form is very special, the tail of the 7 being much more vertical than in the normal type. These characters were not made locally, as one might think at first, but came from Metropolitan France--in the postmarks of France used in 1876 they literally abound.

Furthermore, it is a curious fact that the old year numbers reappear in October. The small numerals do not seem to have been used in the Army Correspondence postmark. I have permitted myself this digression, because these small numerals are so surprising when one does not know about them, that it can cause him to suspect the authenticity of the postmark having them.

#### Modes of Use.

The 4c was used primarily in pairs, to frank the 8c rate on newspapers and printed matter, in particular commercial circulars on import and export trade from the firm of Denis Frères. Many single copies off cover surely came from pairs, cut apart.

They also used the stamp as a complement to other denominations. This was seen in two pieces sold in a Marseille auction, on which a 4c was combined with other values (pair of 5c Ceres on one, 10c yellow-brown on rose on the other). The dates of cancellations of these pieces were Jan



1 and 6, 1877, respectively. Mr. Longlois remembers having seen at the time a visiting-card envelope with a pair of 4c and a pair of 1c Eagles to make the 10c rate.

Did there also see service a bisected 4c, with a full 4c to make a 6c franking? Mr. Lemaire says yes; but I cannot yet determine what rate would conform to such a franking.

#### Counterfeits.

The experts do not, as yet, know of any well-made counterfeits of the 4c. but it is well to beware of 4c Bordeaux with Saigon cancels--- authentic or not.

On the other hand, there exist indisputably forged postmarks, on so-called 4c colonials, of which I have seen illustrations in certain auction catalogs.

It is obvious that we must beware of 4c of France with perforations cut off, stamps with very narrow margins or on which one finds under strong magnification these traces of sections of perforations.

Having thus rapidly passed in review the main characteristics for intrinsic identification of the Colonial stamp, I now consider with what other stamps these could be confused.

It is certainly possible with the 4c imperforate of France, even though this stamp is rare.

It is also possible--but to a lesser degree--with the two types of proofs of this stamp.

It goes without saying that I do not mention the 4c Bordeaux, a lithographed stamp, which can not be confused with the typographed stamps that I am now going to review:

#### The 4c Ceres Imperforate of France.

This stamp is so rare that I even ask for a moment whether it really exists. The persistence of its listing in treatise and catalogs prodded my perseverance in efforts of searching. In this circumstance I think of the collection which must be consulted among all those which deal with the stamps of France and Colonies, and of the courtesy and affability of its owner in placing it at our disposition. I refer to the collection of our amiable President (of the Academie); and so I soon found this rare piece.

In the first place, one can distinguish the 4c imperforate of France by its light aspect and the whiteness of the paper. These contrast --- strongly---with those features of the colonial. But let me examine, in the same sequence as before, the various characteristics:

Paper: It is of a truly characteristic whiteness.

Impression: Good, although not "very fine." The shading under the eye, the cheek and the neck, is very marked, but formed almost entirely of continuous lines. The presence of separate points in the lines is exceptional. It is the same for the wavy lines of the spandrels. An examination under strong magnification permits seeing the spot (flaw) on the cheek, of which I shall speak later. Finally, the background of the medallion is never lined.

Color: Very strikingly characterized as Gray White ("gris-blanc") by Marconnet and "pearl gray" by the Yvert specialized catalog. It is simply, in my view, "pale gray." The reference to the 4c shade given by Serrane in his work on the Bordeaux stamps is identical, or the next thing to it.

It is well to note in this connection that the specialized catalog of France states correctly that the Ceres imperforates of France are in shades much paler than the colonial ones.

Gum: It is a beautiful white, brilliant and crackled.

Reaction under Quartz Lamp: No particular reaction.

But before leaving this stamp, I should recall that Mr. Dillemann indicated the existence of a half-sheet of 4c Ceres imperforate, filed in the collection of the Mint Commission. It also is of the 4c imperforate of France.

#### 4 Centimes Proofs

It remains to consider the characteristics of the proofs of the 4c. I add immediately that one must be easily fooled, to confound these with the colonial stamp.

The proofs are two:

1. Die proof "with the spot" (essai à la tache)

2. Color-trial proof.

#### 1. The Spotted Die Proof.

This is, in my opinion, the proof made before the printing, because its aspect coincides very strikingly, in its impression, lining of the medallion, and color, with a copy of 4c France in my collection postmarked July 28 1872., i.e. in the very month it was issued.

Paper: The paper is clearly different, because it is the transparent proof type of paper ---the effigy appears distinctly on the back--- yet it is of the same thickness as the colonial paper.

Background Tint: It is white, as in the imperforate of France.

Impression: The impression is fine. The shadings of the figure, although well-marked, are light. The spandrels are light, contrasting strongly with the deep tint of the background of the medallion, which presents a very apparent, and regular, horizontal lining.

What characterizes this proof and gives it its name, is a little, elongated spot on the cheek of Ceres, due, it is said, to a stroke of the burin\*. This oblique spot lies on an imaginary line which joins the curl of the lips with the lower edge of the lobe of the ear. It parallels the curve described by the free end of the shading lines of the cheek and near it, extending from the second or third line from the top, down to the fifth line. Viewed under strong magnification, this spot, of variable aspect, depending on the position of the stamp in the sheet, is irregular and even a little chopped up. It has to exist on the die itself because--- which confirms my opinion--- I and Dillemann found it on a copy of the 2c Ceres of France in his collection. Moreover, Dillemann possesses the make-ready sheets of the 4c; all of them have cut-outs at the level of the cheek.

You know that a counterfeiter has made this spot disappear from a certain number of proofs to pass them off as colonial stamps. Mr. Gilbert, who has the data on this case, learned that to do this the faker used a moistened stump with a suspension of pulverized pumice.

Color: I readily judge the shade, rather difficult to define, as greenish gray ("gris-vert"). The nuance of the background of the medallion and shadings of the numeral "4" is rather deep.

Gum: It is, as on the proofs generally, thin, shiny in some spots, with a fine yellowish crackling in other spots; the authenticity of this gum is, moreover, disputed.

\* Editor's comment: Since this was not a case of intaglio engraving, any additional spots or lines represent metal not removed with the burin. The explanation is therefore not valid. (S.G.R.)

## 2. The Color Trial Proof ("Essai de couleur").

If the proof, which we describe now, has any interest, that is much less than with the preceding one. Its unprepossessing aspect really makes confusion impossible.

Paper: Its paper is semi-transparent, intermediate between that of the spotted die proof and the colonial stamp or France imperforate. Its thickness is approximately the same.

Paper Tint: Absolutely characteristic. It has a rosy reflection which, in combination with the stamp color, gives it a soft aspect and prevents the design from standing out clearly. However, in certain copies this is attenuated. It is even said that the counterfeiters would have had to expose the sheets to sunlight to derive this rosy tint.

Impression: It is, to say the least, mediocre. But its interesting feature is that the horizontal lining of the medallion presents a series of deep grains which, when examined under a Zeiss lamp, become blue-violet. Also, the letters of the inscriptions at top and bottom are stronger than in the other stamps or proofs.

Color: To identify it well, it is necessary to subtract the rosy paper tint. Then one notes in examining particularly the medallion that it is yellow-gray (gris-jaune), exactly comparable to the reference yellow-gray given in Serrane's work for the 4c Bordeaux.

Gum: It is identical with that of the spotted die proof.

In summary, and to conclude: I will say that with a little attention it is impossible to confuse the 4c Colonial with other analogous vignettes, imperforates, or proofs.



### Brief Editorial

We are sorry to be late. Many factors caused the delay, but it is all my fault. I do aim to get the July-August number out within September and the Sept.-Oct. number out within the first or second week in October. S.G.R.

### Rochester, N.Y. Exhibition

Our members, Helen Lauer and John Morton will have a prominent part in the Niagara Frontier Federation's exhibition, at Sheraton Hotel in Rochester, N.Y., October 5 and 6. Members who can attend this will find it most pleasing.

### Free French Movement in Australia.

This subject, all but unknown, is treated by our member E.E. Keys, in Stamps of June 23, 1956, most interestingly. One lone cover produced as a result of this unofficial body's existence, has come to light and is illustrated. Corner card and Lorraine Cross shield with "France Libre" on flap of envelope are the only distinguishing marks. Postage is regular Australian 1d.

### Group Member Honored by Veterans' Organization

Mr. Frederic Mulhenheim, whose articles have often appeared in this journal, was elected in May 1957 to the position of General Secretary of the Federation of French War Veterans (in the U.S.) and to the same position in the Central Committee of the French Associations in the United States.

### Book Review.

Carnets de Timbrés-Poste, France et Colonies. Impression sur Rotatives avec Dateurs etc. By A. Teissier. Bulletin Philatelique du Midi, 125 pp., 1956

Aside from its ridiculous price quotations, the Rodgers catalog was a good work, but age has dimmed it and limited its scope. For our needs as French booklet collectors, we have existed on the niggardly diet of the 1950 "Pubs" issued by Ceres and the 1932 Yvert Specialized. The "Pubs" was limited by a lack of attention to covers, lapses, and a completely bewildering listing of the colonies' issues. The '32 Yvert was fairly complete up to its date, but its chief value lay in the illustrations of the pubs. Both apparently suffer a serious deficiency, if G. Bertrand's listings of town issues, like those of Provens, are correct. At this writing the only comprehensive listing, and that by issues only, not by pubs, for the colonies, is Scott's! No French catalog lists booklets for the colonies.

The past year of the France & Colonies Group saw a movement by Louise Clemenceon to make an adequate catalog of the booklet issues of France and a committee has commenced work. We heard of the book under consideration and ordered it, in the hope that it would help us. Hélas! It is of no help at all.

After the comprehensive main title, we find the limitation to the rotary press issues---and the "etc." covers the limitation to the dated corners. (First kook on the door:-- I have a Petain booklet with a date not listed in this work.) Also, not all the rotary issues are covered: only Peace, Petain, and the two Mariannes, of Gandon and of Meuller. Coupled with an absolutely bewildering array of listings defying comprehension, and with minutiae whose validity cannot be trusted (from the example of my own Petain), this book is a remarkable example of fly-speck philately. Actually, there is a limited fund of information for us:--numbers of the booklets, dates and plate quantities. But, in the light of certain crying needs in the study of booklets, it is a waste of paper.

We need to know more about the unofficials--the private issues, such as Huile Aiglon. (The only one documented is the Philopode). Certain official private issues are unlisted, such as: L'Etoile d'Avion on the 50c red Sower (lined ground), aside from those in the Memorial Philatelique mentions by Bertrand.

This reviewer cannot recommend a book of so limited scope to any but a wealthy dated-corner collector.

---- Nathan Hals.



### Italian Volunteers in France.

From our member Mr. F. Milhenheim we have received photocopy of an article in L'Echo in Feb. 1957 plus his translation and some further information.

The article, by Renzo Bernardelli:

"I have the good luck to bring to the notice of collectors, French or otherwise, two French postal markings hitherto unknown, used on mail from Italian volunteers serving in the Army of the Vosges during the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71. Both are struck in brownish red, on either front or back of the envelope.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

The first (Fig. 1) is worded in Italian thus: LEGIONE VOLONTARI ITALIANI --1<sup>o</sup> BATTAGLIONE. It is applied to a letter sent under franking by a soldier belonging to the Legion of Italian Volunteers. On the front the envelope bears the sending town mark of St. Leger sur d'Heune, Feb. 22 1871, a small boxed PD mark and this device. On the back of the envelope are postmarks: the Paris-Lyon railroad, Susa-Torino railroad, Milan Station and finally Bergamo Distribuzione, Feb. 24 1871.

The second (Fig. 2) is in French. The letter was mailed Feb. 24 1871 at St. Leger sur d'Heune; it has the same backstamps as the other; reached Bergamo Feb. 27 1871.

The sender of these two missives must have been a very happy-spirited man, for, despite the times and the war, he addressed the first of these letters, with much chivalry, to one Miss E.V., calling her, on the envelope "amabile signorina" (lovable Miss E.V.) and on the other one, which he addressed two days later, he used on the envelope the words "bellissima signora" (very handsome Miss E.V.).

Mr. Milhenheim's additions:

When the French empire collapsed, Garibaldi brought his aid to the provisional government. His army took part in several hard battles, in Alsace-Lorraine, Doubs and Burgundy. After the war Garibaldi was elected deputy in five departments, but was unable to take the position, as he was an Italian citizen.

In 1914, his sons Giuseppe and Bruno, came with 12,000 Italian volunteers to help France. They formed the 3rd and 4th Regiments of the Foreign Legion.



### Plants, Lepers, Malta Knights Recognized

Those who lean to Botany on Stamps will find three from Madagascar to their liking. Each, according to Gimbels Stamp Department, features a plant.

On the 2fr is seen the roots and foliage of the cassava plant from which tapioca is obtained. The 4fr has the "Glove" plant, while the 12fr shows the plant from which vanilla is derived including the bean pods and the foliage.

Two commemoratives, each 15fr, pay tribute to the Knights of Malta and their work among the lepers. One, of French Equatorial Africa, shows a hospital perched up on the bank of a river. The other from French West Africa shows a Knights of Malta truck convoy.

--Linn's, April 1 1957



From and by courtesy of  
Scott's Monthly Journal, February, 1957

## FIDES Set Shows Hydroelectric Power, Cotton Plant, Hospital, Port Expansion

By BEN HAMILTON

TOPICAL collectors, are you interested in African costumes, African weaving, anthropology, arboriculture, architecture, automobiles, breakwaters, bridges, city planning, colonial capitals, cotton blossoms, cotton gardens, cotton processing plants, docks, dock cranes, hills, hospitals, hydroelectric plants, maps, mission stations, missionaries, port buildings, rivers, roads, ships, statues and waterfalls? All of these subjects are represented on the recent French Equatorial Africa "FIDES" set, Nos. 189-192. "FIDES" is derived from Fonds d'Investissement pour le Développement Economique et Social.

The FIDES set supplies lavish propaganda for an extensive modernization program currently under way in the French overseas union. Proud of this ambitious public works project, French officials want stamp collectors around the world to have a condensed panorama of the most prominent portions. The features of these stamp designs represent a blend of European and African cultures.

### Boali Falls Electrification

The attractive waterfall on the 5-franc value symbolizes an important chapter in electrical development in the colony. The Boali Falls, 50 to 60 miles northwest of Bangui (capital of Ubangi-Shari), is part of the M'Bali River which empties into the Ubangi River. "Boali" means chief place of the Ali tribe. Long a sightseeing attraction for tourists, the falls are now the center of a large industrial program. The building shown on the stamp is the main

power plant of the electric company called UNELCO (Union Electrique Coloniale).

A huge cotton processing plant, powered by the UNELCO hydroelectric unit pictured on the 5f stamp, is located near Boali Falls. This plant was indirectly advertised in 1956 by a boxed, two-line slogan postmark reading: "CENTRE DE TISSAGE CHUTES DE LA BOUALI" (Center of Weaving, Boali Falls). The postmark was replaced on Oct. 10, at Bangui, by a new one advertising big game hunting.

### Moundou Cotton Expansion

The 10f value shows Africans of the Gané tribe, commonly called the Banana people, bringing baskets full of cotton to a big collection point. The Banana are a relatively primitive people who, until recent years, wore absolutely no clothing. The main villages of this tribe are in the Mayo Kabi River area of Chad territory, south of Garoua in Cameroun.

The cotton plant buildings are part of the modern processing system at Moundou, an important government post on the western Logone River in southwestern Chad. The cotton factory is operated by Cotonfran, the great company extending throughout southern Chad. "Cotonfran" is derived from Cotonnière Equatoriale Française and Moundou, the town name, is a Cambai word for a kind of marsh grass that grows near there.

The bridge spanning the western Logone River, in the background of the 10f stamp, is a long concrete span still being built.



Probably the most ambitious building project in the F. E. A. FIDES program is the new hospital displayed on the 15f value. The main unit, to the left in the design, is to be five stories high, including a maternity section. At the right of the picture is a two-story structure for African patients. To the left of this building is a smaller unit for surgery. Between this edifice and the five-story main building is a smaller central pavilion filled with administrative and reception offices.

The hospital, located in the northern part of Brazzaville, is expected to be ready for use about the middle of 1957.

### Libreville, Modern Port

The 20f shows the planned expansion and modernization of port facilities at Libreville, Gabon. Always the chief port in Gabon, Libreville has been second only to the main port of Pointe-Noire.

The view on the stamp is from a hill overlooking the Gabon estuary. The scene

was drawn from the site of the Roman Catholic Mission Sainte-Marie du Gabon. The object in the central foreground is a statue of Monseigneur Bessieux, mounted on a pedestal.

Bessieux was of the Holy Ghost society. He founded the Mission Sainte-Marie du Gabon on Sept. 26, 1843. His colleague, Archbishop Philippe-Prosper Augouard was honored in 1952 on a 15f airmail stamp of F. E. A.

### Sheet Margin Inscriptions

The upper left corner of each sheet has a sheet serial number stamped in black. This is not a plate number. The lower left sheet corner has a date (-6:2:56 on some values or -7:2:56 on others) printed in black to indicate when the stamps were printed.

\* \* \*

The chiefs of economic affairs at Brazzaville, Fort-Lamy and Libreville, F. E. A., supplied data for the foregoing article.

## STOP PRESS

French precancels took the Grand Award at the Pittsburgh, Pa. Convention show of the Pre-Cancel Stamp Society convention, August 8th to 11th, 1957.

March 15 to May 15 1957

A number of our members, whose interests are strongly in the Colonies General Issues, but not to the exclusion of other stamps of the French Union, have formed within the Group a Chapter, under the name "The Study Circle of the French Colonies." The prime movers in this new and welcome specialty body have been contributing a series of articles in this and earlier numbers on aspects of their field.

The two prime protagonists of the new circle are Robert G. Stone and Leo F. Goerth. Mr. Stone at P.O. Box 21, Accokeek, Md. is the contact man.

We hope that this circle will proceed into a career of valuable service, publicizing their philatelic interests in general stamp journals as well as within this magazine.

Our Booklet Committee  
Asks Members' Help

A committee formed by the Parent Chapter, and headed by Louise Clemencon, has undertaken the complete cataloguing of the Booklets of France. This project will cover the filed, including the range of privately printed booklets and stamps mounted on advertising frames or labels. This Committee is interested in all available information about the issue, the advertisement on the stamp stub or surrounding the stamp, and/or on the booklet cover; and the serial numbers (if any) of such of these items as anyone may have. A mimeographed form will enable members easily to supply this information. This will be included with the next number of the Philatelist as a separate sheet, not part of the journal.

Pertinent information and general correspondence on the subject should be addressed to the chairman, Miss Louise Clemencon, 30 Monroe St., AI-2, New York 2, N.Y.

Officers elected at the Annual Meeting, May 7, 1957

President.....Ira Zweifach  
Vice-President.....Nathan Hals  
Secretary.....Charles Bretagne  
Recording Secretary.....Jan Kindler  
Treasurer.....Edmond Queyroy  
Directors-at-Large.....Gustave Wittenberg,  
Paul Baudry, Allan R. Fernald, Charles E. Meyer.

And appointed officials were named:  
Publicity Chairman, Louise Clemencon  
Program Chairman, Nathan Hals  
Editor, Stephen G. Rich.

MEMBERS' APPEALS

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

Urgently wanted: Unused blocks of:-- French Oceania nos. 32, 34, 42, 48, 51, 57, 58, 59; used blocks of Nos. 35, 42, 48, 52, 58, 64, 65, 68, 69, 70 and 71. Dr. H.M. Barnhart, 2185 Huntington St., San Marino, Calif. (Member 392)

France & Colonies Poster Stamps: wanted to buy or exchange other stamps of the world. Also want catalogs and literature on poster stamps. Dr. A.H. Feinerman, Box 31, Macomb, Ill. (Member No. 683).

Will exchange USED French Colonials with other members; especially cancellations --- also covers. Roy N. Urton, 826 North Foote Avenue, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Member 121)

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome.

- \*\*\* The Study Circle of the French Colonies... (General Issues) Box 21, Accokeek, Md..
- 672 Fulton Donald J. c/o J. Briggs 45 Gramercy-Park, N. New York 10, New York.....
- 673 Roussel Joseph, E. P.O. Box 633 Lowell, Mass (France & Colonies Mint Sets)
- 674 Regad, Eugene D. 1638 Walnut Street,..... Allentown, Penna. (France).....
- 675 Warren, Alan 937 Harper Avenue, Drexel-Hill, Penna. (General).....
- 676 Taves, Ernest H. 16 Gray Gardens East..... Cambridge 38, Mass. (19th. Cent. France)
- 677 Becam, Jean Yves, 392 Vassar Road,..... Poughkeepsie, New York. (French Cols.)
- 678 Spero, Eugene 46 Sterling Street,..... Brooklyn 25, N.Y. (France (General))..
- 679 Dawson Louis J. 84 Hubbard Avenue,..... River Plaza, Red Bank, New Jersey. France, Algeria, Saar.....
- 680 Jorissen, Andre L. 1006 Highland Road,.... Ithaca, New York. (Fra. & Fra. Col. in Ame
- 681 Erickson, Robert K. 71 Gelston Avenue,.... Brooklyn 9, New York. (France).....
- 682 Lugo, Antonio 9 Castillo Street,..... Ponce, Puerto Rico. (Fra. Fr. Guiana, Inl.
- 683 Feinerman, Albert H. M.D. P.O. Box 31,.... Macomb, Ill. (France & Cols., Stamps, Cov
- 684 Cook, Randall, Rev. Langdale, Alabama.... (Semi-Postals.....
- 685 Seguin, Edmond A. 7301 Vineland Avenue,.... Sun Valley, California. France & Cols.
- 686 Evans, John G. 1972 11th. Avenue,..... San Francisco 22, California. (General

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- 484 Vanderheiden, Harold to 3318 Wrightwood... Avenue. Chicago 47, Illinois.....
- 621 Gaillaguet, Raymond L. to 15 Fletcher St.. Rumford 16, Rhode Island.....
- 380 O'Connor, Harvey to Little Compton, R.I....
- 589 Mulhenheim, Frederic to 101 West 83 Street New York 24, New York.....
- 266 Rothbaum, R. to 1415 Raleigh Road,..... Mamaroneck, New York.....
- 557 Fairchild Edmund, to 105 West Adams Street Chicago 3, Illinois.....
- 505 Grant, H.W. to c/o R.N. Houston, 7370-111th Street, North, Largo, Florida.....
- 156 Hoefler, Otto to 6249 Chelton Drive,.... Oakland 11, California.....

Resignation Received:

- 133 Ball, Dwight B. 215 East Pine Street,.... Avon Park, Florida.....

I wish to thank all members who in the past two months have sent in their dues, and many have.. Dues for 1957 are now payable.. You do not have to wait for your notice, Save your Group postage and handling charges by sending your dues. Send all dues to Charles Bretagne Poughkeepsie, N.Y..

New York Residents \$ 2.50 All others \$ 1.50...

Respectfully Submitted  
Chas. Bretagne, Secretary.



**WE ARE**  
**FISHING for**  
**this year's DUES!**