

France & Colonies Philatelist



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Stamps of the Suez Canal Zone

From *STAMP COLLECTING* November 23rd, 1951

By L. N. & M. Williams



Enlarged section of
stamp showing how
to identify forgeries.

(See text)



IT was in 1875 that Lord Beaconsfield bought (with Rothschild money) from Khedive Ismail Pasha, the Egyptian holding of Suez Canal shares, and thus made the British government the largest individual shareholder in the enterprise, and also laid the foundation for the somewhat involved and "delicate" situation which has been featured so much in recent newspapers. Seven years before that momentous purchase, the Suez Canal Company had made its short-lived issue of postage stamps.

The stamps, there were four of them printed by lithography, were intended for issue on July 1st, 1868. There is no record when they were in fact first issued in Egypt—at Ismailia they came into use on July 14th—but they were not sent to Egypt from France until June 25th, and it is unlikely that they were issued until some time after July 1st.

The stamps, and new postal regulations which came into force on July 1st, 1868, signalled a change of policy by the Suez Canal Company. Earlier, although the Company had carried mail to and from people along the route (cut and projected) of the Canal, no charge for these services had been levied by the Company in spite of the fact that the service had caused increasing expense.

Originating with a suggestion by M. Gustave Riche, the Company's Director of postal services, the new policy was to charge for carriage of mail; prepayment of the Company's charge was made compulsory for mail despatched with the zone, and a delivery charge on incoming letters was levied at offices of destination.

To provide for the various charges, four values of stamps had been requisitioned; they were 1c. black, 5c. green, 20c. blue, and 40c. red. They had been ordered during April in Paris from Messrs. Chézaud and Tavernier in St. Jacques, and were delivered to the Suez Canal Company's Paris headquarters on June 17th.

The stamps were lithographed—from stones, for in those days substitutes were not in use—the die being an engraving of a single 20c. stamp; there are 120 stamps to the sheet. The 20c. stone was built up by taking 120 separate lithographic transfers from the die; and there are, therefore, 120 types in the 20c. sheet. For the other values, blocks of four transfers for each were laid down on an original stone, the figures of value altered, and each printing stone was built up by thirty re-transfers from these blocks of four; there are, therefore, four types (each repeated thirty times) in each of the sheets of the 1c., 5c. and 40c.

The stamps were printed on paper supplied by Messrs. Lacroix Frères, and some sheets bore the paper-maker's watermark "LA—F" in partly outlined capitals. Stamps bearing part of the watermark are very rare.

There seems to have been something faintly prescient about the notice chronicling the new issue in *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* (no. 38, August 1868, p. 375). After stating that the Company had just sent to Egypt a large stock of special postage stamps which had just been issued, describing the use to which the stamps would be put, extolling the glory of France, the work of de Lesseps and the Canal, mentioning the hitherto gratuitous mail services of the Company, the notice went on: "The stamps are not beautiful, the lithographic printing gives them the appearance of imitations from Hamburg . . .".

The stamps were on issue only until August 16th, 1868, after which they were withdrawn in accordance with a long wished-for (by the Company) agreement with the Egyptian government, whereby the Egyptian postal authorities undertook the mail service in the isthmus from that date, and Egyptian postage stamps were used from then on. The Company's stamps were demonetised on August 31st, 1868. Only a small number of the stamps were used postally (in those days "postmarking to

order" was unknown) and, indeed, the whole printing was not very large, the numbers printed being: 1c., 13,200; 5c., 30,360; 20c., 104,160; 40c., 10,800.

THE FORGERIES

The "imitations of Hamburg", to which *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* made reference were, of course, the products of the notorious German forgers, and they were not long in turning their attentions to the stamps of the Suez Canal Company. *The Philatelist* (vol. vi, p. 86) for June, 1872, chronicled the first forgery of these stamps, and since then many more have come from the ateliers of the nefarious.

Although there have been more than a dozen different sets of forgeries, all but one of them can be immediately dismissed—indeed, with most of them the difficulty is not so much to distinguish them from as to find points of similarity to the genuine.

There is one primary question to pose when examining a specimen for genuineness. Look at the space just above the tablet containing "Postes". In that small space (not, of course, the outline to the tablet) underneath the oval, and extending from a point below the extreme right of the "D" and the centre of the foot of the "Z" there are lines of shading. Look at those lines closely. Are there only vertical lines? If the answer to this primary question is "Yes", then the specimen is a forgery.

If there are not only vertical lines but also diagonal lines, then further examination is necessary. Is the paper tough, white, and of good quality? Is the gum thick and heavily cracked? If the answers to all of these questions are "yes" then the probability is that the specimen is genuine.

The so-called "dangerous" forgeries are printed on poor-quality paper, which is brittle, and sometimes quite brown in colour as though it had been dipped in coffee. (For the technically interested reader: the furnish of the paper on which these forgeries are printed is about 20% cotton, 5% to 10% mechanical wood, and the balance is chemical wood. The same technically interested reader may deduce from this that the paper is almost certainly of French origin, was made certainly not earlier than about 1886 and not later than about 1911; the probable date of manufacture was about 1906.) When gum is present on these forgeries, it is, generally, smooth, shiny and thin.

These "dangerous" forgeries were made from the actual printing stone of the 40c. value of the Company's stamps—this is the only stone missing from the Company's archives, as was discovered by M. Jean Boulad, who was given access to the records when he was in Paris a few years ago. It is a fact useful to specialists and "platers" that the genuine 40c. stamps can be plated from sheets of the 40c. of these forgeries, which exhibit the characteristics of the genuine stamps, somewhat masked by the crudity or harshness of the impressions, which resulted from the later use or, rather, misuse of the stone. The other values of these forgeries, although approximating the designs of the genuine stamps, also exhibit a harshness of impression which is best characterised by the photographic term "soot and whitewash".



2 modern counterfeits from a set found in a German-made packet in 1954. See further discussion of the Suez Canal stamps, page 23.

Alleged to have been the first Automobile Show station of any post office --Paris 1906

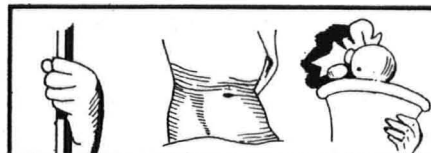


"Group Type" of French Colonies

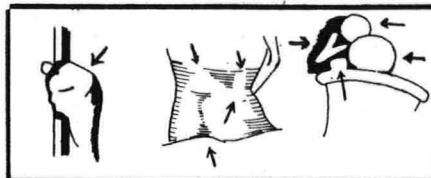
Several members have requested that we run again the pictures published in No. 23(1945) but not since 1952,, which enable anyone to decide surely whether he has the genuine or a forgery of any of the colonial issues of 1892 to 1907.

The key characters are three. The one at the right, the shape of the leaf above left corner of the cornucopia at right of stamp, can be seen without a magnifying glass in most cases except when hidden by a cancellation. The absence of fingers on the hand grasping the flagstaff may well be the surest feature on which to know a forgery. I do not find the absence of navel a good characteristic for ready recognition when a bad one is suspected. --S.G.R.

Genuine



Forgeries



Help for Puzzled Ones.

Those among the membership who have puzzling questions about their stamps or covers that are within our field, can always get help via those of us who are carrying forward the work of this group.

If you will put just one question into your letter, keeping it specific, and will include a return envelope with postage on it, sending it to the Editor, it will be passed on to the one among the members who in his judgment can most likely answer it. We cannot guarantee that in every case we can get you the reply-- but we'll do our best. Sometimes the editor may find that a phone call to one of several people living in the area for which he doesn't have to pay tolls for phoning, will give him the reply to return to you.

Please respect the fact that we are giving a volunteer, unpaid service, by making your query definite and including the return envelope with postage on it. We can handle single inquiries-- but even two in a letter make it a burden.

Facteur Marks

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

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

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

Postmark of the U.S. Army in France in World War I.



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Stamps of the Suez Canal Zone.

Additional to the article by Messrs. Williams we present information from various sources.

The Suez Canal Co. stamps are strictly French but are found listed in the British sections of catalogs because they come under Egypt. Scott has long omitted them (since around 1900), considering them as locals. Robson Lowe shows, in his Cyclopaedia, Vol. 2, page 268, a Suez Canal 20c pen-cancelled, used in combination with the then current Egypt 1 pi., on piece, Ismailia July 28 1868 town postmark.

According to Lowe, at least twelve complete and different sets of forgeries exist.

Recent forgeries, exceedingly clever, on very white thin paper, faintly wove, with smooth gum almost colorless, as pictured on page 22, resemble the genuine very closely, even to showing traces of the cross-hatching under "De Suez."

On these, the fresh, clean look gives us the sign that they are bad. Flag on center or main mast on these is defective, consisting of two lines not meeting, top one short, in most copies. All tests on design features in "Album Weeds" are passed by these recent imitations, as are all in Dorn's recent work.

The Williamses really overestimate the ease of spotting the bad ones. This comment has to be made, since most of us do not know the genuine well enough to "dismiss immediately" any one of the imitations. Your editor, working for the S. P.A. as examiner of sales books and the expertizing committee, notes that roughly 4 out of 5 Suez stamps that have turned up in these services since 1950, have been imitations.

One set of imitations has the funnel shown in outline or faintly shaded. Another has a man clearly visible between funnel and mizzen (rear-most) mast. Another has the clouds very fully shown and conspicuous--perhaps this is the one with the rear-deck passenger also. Either of these is often provided with a huge and solid stream of smoke from the funnel, often reaching well beyond the sail on the mizzen mast.

Another set of bad ones has the lettering of "De Suez" unduly complete, with all strokes in each letter joined, instead of being broken on most or all letters. Still another has these words close to bottom of label instead of being centered therein.

In case of doubt, the chances are that the copy at hand is an imitation.

Dome forgeries have outer line very thick and conspicuously far, up to its own width, from the inner frame line. Any perforation is a sign of a forgery, since none of the genuine ever were perforated, even by fakers.

Though not priced high, a genuine Suez Canal stamp is really very scarce, fully worthy of a Philatelic Foundation certificate.

---Editor, F. & C. Phil.

Algerian Designs Show Wild Life

A Fennec, which is a type of desert fox and a stork in flight over the city of Setif are the subjects of two Red Cross semipostals released recently by Algeria from designs engraved by Mazelin.



The Fennec is pictured on the 12-francs plus 3 francs. In the background appear Mount Gara Kima and Fort Lugeaud on the Sahara frontier. The stork in flight appears on the 15 francs plus 5 francs value.

--Western Stamp Collector,
May 18 1957

Early Jaffa and Jerusalem French Postmarks.

By E. Tolkowsky

The following list of those which I have, is published in the hope that others will report, to me, any other covers and dates of them, also any variants or types not yet recorded.



Jaffa

Jaffa Type 1

JERUSALEM 23 JUL 1853

Jerusalem Type 1

Jerusalem Type 2

Jerusalem 12 Mai 1856

Jerusalem Type 3

Jaffa:

Type 1, black italics,
from Aug. 29 1852 to Nov. 9 1854.
First known circle date mark, with
outer ring of dots, Feb. 22 1855

Jerusalem:

Type 1, non-concentric circles, in
black. Two copies known:
Aug. 29 1852; Jan. 23 1853
Type 2, all capitals, condensed
roman, in black with day in ms.
Two copies known:
Apr. 13 1853; July 3 1853.
Type 2, as above, in greenish
blue. Two copies known:
Jan. 24 1854; Nov. 8 1854.
Type 3, upper and lower case bold
roman, day printed, in gray blue.
Three copies known:
May 12 1856 to Feb. 3 1858.
"Jerusalem Cross", in blue.
Earliest date known: Oct. 29 1858.

Please report anything in this field: reach me
at 172 Avenue Jan van Ryswick, Antwerp, Belgium.
(I am member No. 549 of the F. & C. Group).

Colonial General Issues Study Circle

To all members of the France & Colonies Group:.

For a number of years, a small assemblage of collectors, most of whom are at present members of the F. & C. Group, have been much interested in the French Colonial General Issues.

Within the last several months, we have banded together into a Study Circle--we applied for, and have received, a charter as a chapter of the F. & C. Group.

We now would like to extend an invitation to all serious students of the General Issues, to join our circle.

Basically the purpose of the Study Circle is fivefold: (1) To collect and exchange information; (2) To translate into English pertinent articles; (3) To conduct research into all phases; (4) To help resolve all questions presented by members; and (5) Eventually to edit and publish a specialized catalog of these issues.

We might add that we have a number of translations already available; and much of the basic work for the catalog has been done. In fact, the preliminary layout of the Eagle Issue is about completed and ready for distribution to the Circle members.

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Akron 10, Ohio



Pictures courtesy of Maurice Jamet

The Tete Beches of the
20c Empire Perforated (1863-67)

By General G.-A.-L. Dumont

Translated from L'Echo de la Timbrologie, of Oct. 15, 1935 and two numbers in 1937, on recommendation of Founder Member Raoul Lesgor. Original in French supplied by Founder Member Dr. Vaurie.

Review of previous writings:

Yvert states that tete beches are found at first in positions 10 and 33, then on 33 alone; then later on position 20, of each half sheet.

Kohl Handbook writes that in Type 2 there were made numerous color trial proofs in many shades of bistre and of brown, with one of the later plates used for the perforated issue in 1866-67 showing the tete beche on subject 90 of each half-sheet.

This writer adds that the 20c blue exists as imperforate tete beche, but was never so issued. One or two imperforate sheets containing this variety, which were discovered, came from plates which did not show up except in 1866-67, when perforated stamps were in regular use. The sites of the tete-beches were those found for them on the perforated stamps from the same plates: positions 10 and 33.

Marconnet writes: The 20c with Emperor's head not laureated did not include any tete beches at first. There was at least one rearrangement, perhaps a few days before perforating was begun. This change introduced into the sheet 4 tete beches, two at right and two at left, occupying the same position: Nos. 10, 33, 160*, 183.

On the 20c perforated stamps we find three different positions for the tete beches, caused by rearrangements and the substitution of new clichés for the worn ones.

At the start of the issue the location of the tete beches was the same as for the imperforate sheet: positions 10, 33, 160, 183. Then positions 10 and 160 vanished and there remained no more than Nos. 33 and 183.

Finally there was another rearrangement, in which there was at least one tete beche which formed positions Nos. 20 and 170.

Because of the disagreement existing between the writers, it would seem that the tete beche situation deserves to be treated in detail. Such procedure is possible, thanks to notes made and pieces secured during recent years, notably by Mr. Dillemann.

The number of plates of the 20c Empire type 2 has not been ascertained. But there are some statements about two of them, the first and the last.

The first plate, which served for the imperforate printing of 1861, was used in October 1862 for the first production of the perforated stamps.** It did not contain any tete beches.

The last plate is that which Mr. Hulot was authorized to make, as per official letter dated

* The text reads "161" in the original, but as the same item is spoken of as position 160 in all other mention; also all later mention is of Position 10, not 11, (160 in second pane being same as 10 in first pane)-- we venture to emend.

---Translator.

Sept. 15 1866, while awaiting the delivery by Mr. Barre of the die for the new laureate type which did not appear until April 1867. (See Maury, page 141).

We do not believe that this plate contained any tete beches.

However it may be, there certainly were tete beches in different panes in positions 10, 20, 33, and 90, and a fifth which we have not yet been able to locate.*** (Footnote on page 25)

1. Tete Beche in Position 10.

a) Material:-- Unused pair, northeast corner of sheet with control mark (right pane, Mr. Dillemann's. Block of 8 unused, with control mark and imperf., Mr. Kastler's.

b) Identification:-- A large white round spot between the lower end of the southeast branch of the southeast ornament and the corner of the square.

This stamp, as a single, appears in the list of Major O.H. Collier as No. B.I. 26, and in mine as No. B.L. 40.

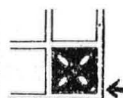
c) The stamps in positions 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20 are also identifiable, at least in the later printings. No. 8 in particular is Meinertzhagen's variety No. 2; all the stamps of the top row have the bottom lines more or less doubled and worn.

d) The appearance of stamps from this plate, considered as printing, with large letters and the color a little slaty, is characteristic.

We have only one tete beche pair on cover, of June 4 1867 from Marseille to Lyon.

But single copies and covers bearing stamps of positions 7, 8 and 20, give these dates:

Sept. 7 1867(8) Dec. 9 1867(7)
Nov. 11 1867(20) Dec. 13 1867(7)



2. Tete Beche in Position 33.

This is the only one which occurs surrounded with stamps horizontally on both sides of it.

a) Material:-- Used strip of 4, left edge of sheet, Mr. Dillemann's. Used block of 4, lower right stamp tete beche, my own. Unused block of 18, left edge of sheet, imperf., Mr. Champion's.

b) Identification:-- Two more or less sharp lines, one on center of nose, the other touching at lower edge of forehead.

With these features, the stamp appears in the list of Major H.O. Collier as No. L.S. 17 and in mine as No. G.M. 12.

c) Adjacent stamps sometimes are identifiable. No. 32 in particular shows a known variety (No. L.P. 5 of Collier, No. G.C. of my list): two irregular white dots, one large at top and the other smaller on bottom, on fourth unit of the Greek border, counting upwards.

d) This tete beche is found fairly often on cover. I have it dated March 10 1867, June 24 1867 and Sept. 17 1867. Further, from other material I have the date for the adjacent stamp, No. 32:-- Lyon, July 1 1867.

The pane containing tete beches of positions 10 and 33 together allows us to combine dates of these two and to state that they are included between March and December 1867.



** Thanks to many breaks in the lines of most of the stamps, it was possible for Major Collier to reconstruct the lower third of a pane with imperforate stamp. I have been able to do the same reconstruction with perforated stamps.

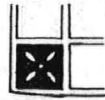
---General Dumont.

3. Tete Beche in Position 90.

a) Material:-- Sheets of proofs, Mr. Kastler's. The two panes of all these sheets are identical.

Photograph of a very late printing, right pane, in Maury, page 91. Block of 6 (3 x 2) unused, right edge of pane, my own.

b) Identification:--The bottom outer line is plainly bent in and up towards the southwest square with ornament, and sometimes consists of dots. This stamp is No. B.F.3 in my list.



c) The stamps of positions 79, 99, 100 are easily identifiable:

79: The right outer line is dotted, opposite the third and fourth units of the Greek border, counting upwards.

99: The upper outer line shows three small gaps above EM.

100: The upper outer line is broken above the inner right border line and between this line and the third dot.

d) This is a handsome stamps with thick lettering. The tete beche is known on covers dated Aug. 26 1868, Nov. 21 1867 and Jan. 17 1868.

Further, this pane shows two well known varieties:

On No. 27, bottom outer line thickened at right and at left (Meinertzhagen No. v/25; Collyer No. BFS 1; my own No. BF 1. On covers dated Oct. 23 1865; Jan. 51 1866; Jan. 17 1866; July 23 1866; Paris Jan. 5 1867; Essones May 22 1867; Paris July 24 1867, etc.....

On No. 143, line thickened by a blow below ES (Meinertzhagen No. v/22; Collyer B F 13; my own No. B F 19.) On covers dated Feb. 22 1867; Feb. 17 1857; March 3 1867; Dec. 31 1867; Jan. 30 1868; June 2 1868; etc.....

4. Tete Beche in Position 20.

a) Material:-- Photograph of unused tete beche in vertical pair, northeast corner of the sheet, without control mark (left pane), lot 66 in Coyette's auction of Dec. 16 1932. Vertical pair with control mark on upper stamp (right pane) in my collection.

b) Identification:-- Not accomplished.

c) The stamp above this pane corner position 10, does not carry any identifiable flaw.

d) The appearance of the stamp, thin letters and deep color, seems to be characteristic of the printings of 1863-65.

A vertical tete beche on cover of Dec. 19 1861, Mr. Dillemann's, would seem as if it can be only this.

5. Tete Beche, Unknown Position.

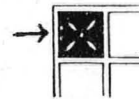
(The later work by General Dumont and by Mr. Janet are included after this section)

a) Material:-- Unused horizontal pair, tete beche at left (Second state); horizontal and vertical pairs on covers (First state).

b) Identification:-- This variety comes in two states:

First, with two small dots (white) within the ornament square on northwest corner close to left edge, about a third down from top; the other, smaller, below it.

Second, with this flaw, plus an irregular white spot obliquely touching the lower edge of the legend-label at bottom, exactly



***But see the later work by General Dumont and Capt. Janet, incorporated into this translation, on this point. ---Translator.

under the third dot; bottom outer line thickened.**** Listed as Nos. BI7, BFS 22, by Major Collyer.

c) This tete beche cannot be confused with Nos. 10, 20 and 90. It might be a special state, of No. 33 after No. 10 disappeared, but we lack any evidence thereof. Adjacent stamps do not provide more to locate this piece.

d) The stamp has the same appearance as the tete beche of Position 33: large letters, slaty blue color.

On covers in first state, we have Paris April 13 1867 (Capt. Janet) and Cour Cheverny April 4 1867 (Mr. Dubus).

(From L'Echo of March 31 1937)

5. Tete Beche, Left Edge of Pane.

Friendly correspondents have sent us useful information, so that it is possible to rewrite the end of the article in L'Echo of Oct. 15 1935, completing the study.

a) Material:-- Unused block of 15, left edge of sheet (Comte de B.). Strip of 3 on cover. Two vertical pairs, etc beches above and below (these 3 in my collection).

b) Identification:-- (as in preceding section word for word--Translator).

c) This tete beche is, beyond question, at the left edge of a pane. It does not appear ever to have been reported. It remains to find its exact place in the pane, the material at hand enables us to limit our investigation.

Indeed, on considering the accompanying plan including a vertical pair, the block of 15, and a vertical strip of 4 placed on the block by virtue of a strongly visible flaw, one must decide that the tete beche can occupy only one of these positions: 21, 31, 41, 51, 61, 71, 81, 91, or 101. The last is unlikely, since the vertical strip does not seem to reach the bottom of the sheet.

It was not possible to go further on reconstruction of the sheet, with the block of 15 in the first state.

d) The stamp has the same appearance as the tete beche in position 33: large letters, slaty blue color.

On covers, we have as dates:

One in first state: Lisleux Feb. 2 1867.
Paris March 17 1867 (Mr. Gueritault).
Paris April 13 1867 (Capt. Janet).
Cour Cheverny April 4 1867 (Mr. Dubus).
Briennon April 28 1867.

(From L'Echo of Nov. 30 1937)

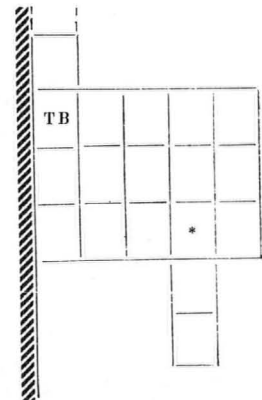
By General Dumont and R. Janet

In the Echo of Oct. 15 1935, General Dumont published an article on the tete beches of the 20c Empire perforated (1863-1867) completed by an article which appeared in the Echo of March 31 1937.

On the fifth tete beche, at left edge of

**** Not yet having found this stamp in this state on cover, I would be most grateful to any person owning it, if he will give me the date. ---General Dumont.

The later work incorporated from the 1937 articles makes this request no longer valid. ---Translator.



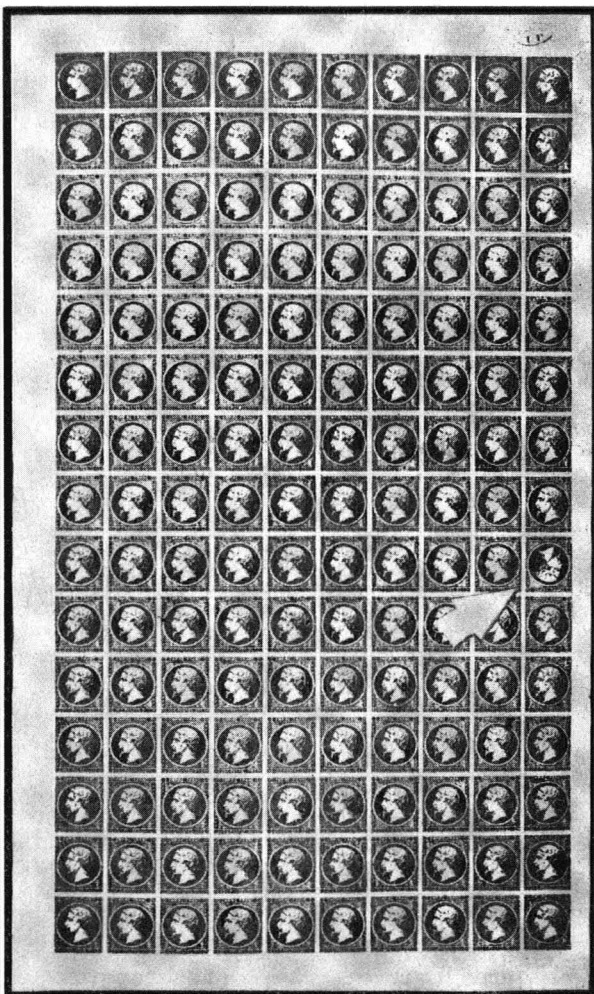
pane, General Dumont writes: "It remains to find its exact place in the pane...one must decide that the tete beche can occupy only on of these position: 21, 31, 41, 51, 61, 71, 81, 91 or 101."

Now we can state surely that this tete beche occupies the 51st position in the pane, and almost certainly that this pane or half sheet was printed at about the same period as the pane which contains the tete beches in positions 10 and 33; that is, towards the end of the year 1866 or around the start of the year 1867.

Thanks to many pieces which we own, we have just actually reconstructed these two panes of 150 stamps almost completely. As this is written there are only 13 stamps to be located, on each of these.

As of now, and with reservations for further discoveries, it seems probable that the pane containing tete beches in positions 10 and 33 and that containing one in position 51, form the plate which Mr. Hulot, director of stamp making, was authorized to construct because of the delays on production of postage stamps with laureated effigy. (See the service instruction sent by the administration under date of Sept. 15 1866, and reproduced by Maury in his "Histoire des Timbres-Poste Français, page 141).

Meanwhile--and we specially insist upon this point, since it is needful to be very cautious in this matter--it is possible that these panes, previously made, served for printing of stamps only towards the end of the year 1866 or at the start of the year 1867.



Complete pane of the 20 centimes, showing the tete-beche

at Position 90.

Courtesy of "Stamps" from their number of Feb. 21, 1942

Conclusions

(1. As in original article)

If we admit that the plates for this issue except the one used for the 1861 imperforate printing, have their two panes identical, there existed, as the writers have stated:

One plate of 1863-1865 with tete beche at position 20.

One plate of 1866-1867 with tete beches at positions 10 and 33 on one of the two panes. (One sheet from this plate, which we have mentioned as imperf., exists, printed late in view of the many flaws which it shows.)*****

One plate of 1865-1868 with tete beche at position 90 (of which numerous proofs were reported by the Kohl Handbook).

We have not found any justification for the opinion expressed, that at some particular time the tete beche at position 10 vanished, leaving only that at position 33 extant.

(2. As given in March 31 1937 article)

Among the numerous half-plates of this issue four contain tete beches:

One of 1863-65 with tete beche at position 20.

One of 1866-67 with tete beches at positions 10 and 33 (without there being any basis for the published opinion that at some moment that at position 10 vanished, leaving only that one in position 33 in use).

One of 1867 with tete beche at position ...1.*****

One of 1865-68 with tete beche at position 90 (of which are the numerous proofs mentioned by Kohl).

***** This plate is marked by a considerable doubling of the lower outer line of the stamps of the 14th horizontal row. We have been able to reconstruct this row in 10 different states. It would be most interesting to see imperforate copies with these flaws, which would, by the state they show, allow of dating more precisely the printing date of the imperforate sheet. Mr. Meinertzhagen, in 1929, mentioned in the London Philatelist the existence of positions 136-137 in an imperf. pair in his collection.

---General Dumont.

***** Mr. Janet's article, here given in full, locates this as Position 51. --Translator.

"Visiting Brethren"

Those of us living in the New York area had the pleasure of visits by two of our members who reside elsewhere, during October.

Mr. E. Folkowsky, from Belgium, was in this country from Oct. 5th to 19th, staying at Yorktown Heights, N.Y. Your editor was able to meet him on Oct. 10th, spending a good part of this day with him at the Collectors Club, in New York, of which he is a member. He also saw some of our dealer members; he had a most agreeable time with Editor Goodkind of the Collectors Club Philatelist. He was at the Collectors Club for their October 16th meeting, there getting the chance to know President Zweifach, Vice-Pres. Hals and others of us.

Mr. Dale Phelps from Grand Rapids, Mich. took a brief vacation to drive to this area with Mrs. Phelps and daughter Debby. He came to your editor's office on Oct. 14 morning. Fortunately, all work could be dropped, to go first to Kremer's stamp shop with them; then to be guide on a tour of New York, ending at Queyroy's stamp shop. The Phelps left for home late next day.

Catalog Review.

Standard Postage Stamp Catalog, 1958, 114th Edition, Vol. 2. New York, Scott Publications Inc. Total 1289 pages, Sept. 1957

The Scott Catalog, Volume 2, which includes all the French countries, looks noticeably thicker than that of 1957. Examination shows that this is caused by use of a very slightly heavier paper rather than by any bulk of additions. Getting along with only a total of 12 pages more than a year ago, is a noteworthy and praiseworthy accomplishment.

Editorially, attention has clearly been put onto price changing rather than on corrections and improvement of listings. For us, interested in French countries, the striking feature is that many unused stamp prices, for metropolitan France, the offices and the colonies have been gently raised, normally around 20 percent. The prices of used items have rarely been changed.

We continue to be dismayed by the retention of inaccuracies and unwise systematizing, much of which have repeatedly been called to the notice of the Scott people. In particular, since Morocco became a kingdom before work on this volume began, it would have seemed obvious to take the French Morocco and Spanish Morocco listings and rearrange them as one country, in the M's after Montenegro. But we suppose that this will not be done until perhaps 1968!

We can hardly find fault with the Scott editors for not yet making the urgent change of putting the Arc de Triomphe stamps of 1944-46 in the regular listings instead of erroneously giving them "Occupation Stamps" (sic!) listing. The information about them reached Scott's office just too late. Also, this change would involve renumbering all issues from that date out.

The many inaccurate cuts of colonial overprints, to which the Scott house's attention has repeatedly been called, are all left unchanged.

This reviewer has every wish to boost Scott catalogs, as his father was the key man in getting them out, from 1897 to 1914. But the present publishers just won't let him do so, for lack of gumption to make needed changes.

For example, the long pictorial colonial sets of the period 1905 to 1940 are in every case much harder to get used than unused. The Scott prices fail to reflect this. They also fail to show which denominations are scarce.

"And so on, far into the night."

--S.G.R.

Engraving Oddity on
France 1957 30f
"Public Works."

Courtesy Scott's
Monthly Journal.
Oct. 1957.

The engraving error on France's recent 30fr Public Works commemorative (#835, September Chronicle) appears on every stamp in the sheet. It was first reported in print by a British collector, H. S. H. Bidmead, writing in Stamp Collecting:

"The name of the designer, Clement Serveau, is shown correctly (in the lower



left-hand corner) with the base of the inscription towards the left-hand side of the stamp. The name of the engraver, J. Piel, is however, not only shown upside down, i.e. with the base of the inscription also towards the left-hand side of the stamp, but is mirror-wise, i.e. it can only be read normally if viewed in a mirror.

"As to the cause of the error, it would seem unlikely that the designer's and engraver's names were engraved at the same time, as they would then probably be in the same condition. One might suggest that the designer's name appeared on the original engraving and the omission of the engraver's name was noticed at the first or subsequent proof stage, when it might have been added to the original die or to the transfer die.

"Monsieur Piel is, of course, one of the most experienced of French engravers, and must be credited with a reliability which would prevent him inscribing any wording so that it would be printed in reverse. It might be, therefore, that his name was added by some less-expert hand, but even so, Monsieur Piel must now achieve fame as the engraver who forgot his own name."

The French Oceania Newsletter.

By Robert G. Stone

All you folks who collect French Oceania should subscribe for the "French Oceanic Settlements Newsletter, edited and published by Mr. R. H. Houwink, 3 Parklaan, Zeist, The Netherlands. Its is now in its third annual volume of four numbers per year, a mimeographed magazine with about 40 pages per volume. Through the courtesy of Leo Goerth, I have had the opportunity to look over the last two volumes.

In Vol. 2 (1956) are articles on subjects such as: Classification of French Oceania postmarks, Tahiti Postal Stationery of pre-1892 period, list of French Colonies general issues used in Oceania, the 1903 provisionals, coinage, 1915 Red Cross overprints, the posta at Huahine.....plus many short notes and news on the more recent issues and services.

Vol. 3 (1957) offers a historical survey of French Oceania airmails, the very rare Utuaroa imperforate 15c of 1919, and a revised list of French Oceania cancellations.

While some of the information doesn't seem to us to be quite infallible, I don't see how the French Oceania specialist can do without it. They still list the "T1" and "T2" lozenges, which as far as Dr. Bouvet and I could determine, are probably non-existent. They were once reported 40 years ago or more by somebody, and never seen since. The "OCN" lozenge and a mute lozenge (only one example known) are the only ones known on cover from Oceania. Dr. Bouvet concluded that, if the "T1" lozenge exists, it was more likely from Tonkin.

Varieties of 1945 Martinique Surcharges



2^{Frs}

(These types, with bars on values and this imprint of new value--10f and 20f in words)

In L'Echo de la Timbrologie of June 30 1956, Mr. M. Bernard describes a number of minor variations in the surcharges of Martinique stamps issued in 1945 (Scott Nos. 190-195). They seem to be mainly defects due to broken type, or to looseness or displacement of the type. In most cases these stamps were overprinted in settings of 50 subjects, apparently from forms of loose type rather than from electros.

1f on 2c: 1 is 6.4 mm high normally. Position 49 has it 5.9 mm. The serifs at foot of 1 are often missing from Positions 18 and 42, or incomplete in positions 6 and 41.

2f on 4c: The loop ("boucle") of the 2 is broken in positions 2, 13, 32 and 35. Position 32 comma attached to the end point of the loop of the 2. The vertical line at right end of base of 2 is often absent on positions 2, 12 and 15--The g of Frs. is slightly raised in position 6 and lowered in position 12.

3f on 2c: The lower curve of the 3 is broken on Position 32. The n is broken on Position 42.

5f on 65c: The curve of the 5 is broken on Position 24. The vertical bar of the 5 has a break in Position 26.

10f on 65c: X in Dix is an italic in position 26. Many broken letters, as seen in positions: 38, 42, 43 and 47.

20f on 3c: S of Francs much raised, Position 6. G of Vingt raised, Position 28. The curve of G of vingt lacks serif on Position 23.

----Robert G. Stone.

The "A.E.D." and "A.E.J.F." Markings
On Stampless Covers

By Nathan Hals

One of the more interesting books in the Collectors Club Library is the "Annuaire des Postes, ou Manuel du Service de la Poste aux Lettres et aux Chevaux, à l'Usage du Public... etc. etc. etc. Publié par Ordre de l' Administration, Paris, à l'Hotel des Postes. Rue J.-J. Rousseau, 1833." Except for its size, it is not much different from a modern postal regulations book with its lists of rates, rules and post offices. But when it is over one hundred years old, it can contain dynamite to knock us out of the sloth of repeating incorrect ideas.

Chapter II of this Annuaire has notes on the employment of the handstamps struck on the letters. It illustrates and explains each device ("cachet").

Page 74 has:-- (my translation)

"9. Stamp for letters to a foreign country, paid to Destination. **A.E.D.**"

(A.E.D.--Affranchi, Etranger, Destination)

"10. Stamp on letters for a foreign country paid only to the frontier. **A.E.J.F.**"

(A.E.J.F.--Affranchi, Etranger, Jusqu'au, Frontier)

Page 77, top states (my translation):

"The stamps A.E.D. (No.9) and A.E.J.F. (No.10) are self-explanatory: they are applied at the point of departure on letters to a foreign country."

There can be nothing more explicit than this language. But it belies every cover I have seen with these markings. This is not saying much because of my limited experience and material. But the Yvert Estampilles, 1929, does not clarify these marks, except to say that the A.E.D. was struck by a "bureau of exchange."

On every cover I have seen with the marking A.E.D. it has been used strictly as a postal monetary control mark (comptable) on prepaid letters to France. I have not seen it in the form of 1833, but only in an oval, with or without a numeral. Frequently the amount due in France was marked in one corner. I have no doubt that these exchange bureaus were the minor U.P.U.'s of the their day and that they kept accounts of the moneys due to each country's postal system.

The marks they struck on the letters were not so much to show that they had checked the letter through, but to show Paris that they had so done. We must always keep in mind the strict and heavy hand Paris maintained on the affairs of the postal system, and of how many clumsy or inconvenient handlings of letters took place because Paris wanted to check every letter possible through Paris.

I would appreciate hearing from owners of covers to other countries from France, which have these marks. Dates, exchange points and rates are needed.

Short Editorial

The intended schedule, bringing out this number four weeks after No.94, could not be kept. But we are now so close to schedule that the Nov.-Dec. number certainly will be in the mails ahead of Dec. 15th. We hope the fine articles and putting the last 8-page number of the year earlier than usual, will compensate. It was translating General Dumon't article correctly, revising to get exact meaning, that made most of the delay.

----S.G.R.

* SECRETARY'S REPORT *
August 15 to Oct. 15, 1957.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome:

- 703 Berner, Miss Beatrice M., 200 East 36th..
St., Apt., 8-H, New York 16, N.Y. (General
France).....
704 Kanak, Richard C., 3833 South 61st Court,...
Cicero 50, Ill. (France).....

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 419 Beal, James H., to P.O.Box 388, Warren...
Ohio.....

This genial face is that of Secretary Charles Bretagne of the Group. He didn't ask that it be run, but as several new and distant ones among the members want to see his face, we show him.



Saturday, November 23rd, 1957

The Annual Dinner
of the
France & Colonies Group

Place: same as last year, where we had so fine a time:



St. Germain Restaurant
(Maison A. de Winter)
36 West 48th St., New York
opposite Radio City



It will be over when this reaches you. Cards of announcement went out to every member within 200 miles and a few just beyond that distance twice in November. As we go to press, largest dinner attendance in our history is sure.

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.

Will give 4 different Paris letters, letters or numerals in lozenge of dots cancellations on covers, for Letter M in lozenge of dots. Must be on cover. Same trade for letter J on cover. Merritt F. Handy, 21 Garnet St., Malden 48, Mass. (Member 269)

French Africa collector would like to contact persons with like interests. Object: to purchase or trade. My collection not too advanced. Dale Phelps, 600 Crofton St., S.W., Grand Rapids 9, Mich. (Member 691).

Will give two covers for letter B cancellation with cachet "hour of distribution"; same for letters H and L. Will buy; if so give price in letter. Merritt F. Handy, 21 Garnet St., Malden, 48, Mass. (Member 269).

Would acquire the 10 centimes red Sower (Scott No. 162) with the Montenegro overprint: S.P. du M./Bordeaux in any form: single, block, used, on cover or piece--even inverted. Jan Kindler, 65 Bedford St., New York 14, N.Y. (Member 668).

Wanted, Ballons Montés. Submit with price or send description. Ernest H. Taves, M.D., 16 Gray Gardens East, Cambridge 38, Mass. (Member 676).

Literature Wanted. on French Africa, and on cancellations. Books, paper clippings, also list of identified numeral cancels. Thomas Gilbertson 708 Elm St., Anoka, Minn. (Member 694).