

GROUP Type Forgeries from François Fournier

Loïc Dufresne de Virel
Col.Fra 781 / FCPS (US) 3370

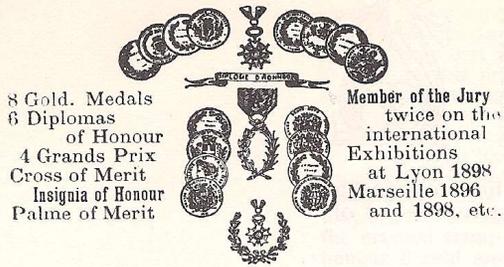
Let's Start With a Bit of History



- François Fournier (1846-1917) was an “editor of facsimiles of obsolete stamps“, as he called himself, established in Geneva (Switzerland), initially associated with the forger L. H. Mercier
- He dominated the market for forgeries from 1900 to 1914, producing up to 800 sets covering more than 3,500 different stamps, all countries combined, publishing a sales catalog which had grown from 18 pages in 1905 to 64 pages in 1914 (quite sought after by collectors today), with no less than 10,000 regular customers and representatives in 23 countries.
- He also ran a “Philatelic Clinic” employing up to 5 experts capable of retouching and repairing damaged genuine stamps, which counted up to 2,500 clients – including world-renowned stamp dealers.
- The First World War put an end to its activities. At the end of the war, Charles Hirschburger tried to take over the business, without much success.
- The *Union Philatélique de Genève* acquired the stock and equipment in 1927, and embarked on the production of some 480 reference albums (all different), sold at the time for £5 to qualified buyers.

Today's Agenda

- Part 1 – A Flourishing Business
- Part 2 – The “Album of Fac Similes” (UPG)
 - Part 2a – A few introductory pages
 - Part 2b – Pages dedicated to French Colonies: Sample stamps, cancellations, and overprints
 - Part 2c – Pages dedicated to the Group type
- Part 3 – Fournier Forgeries on the Market Today
- Part 4 – Tips to Spot these Forgeries & Bibliography



8 Gold. Medals
6 Diplomas
of Honour
4 Grands Prix
Cross of Merit
Insignia of Honour
Palme of Merit

Member of the Jury
twice on the
international
Exhibitions
at Lyon 1898
Marseille 1896
and 1898. etc.

F. FOURNIER

Editor of *Fac-similes of obsolete Stamps*

Formerly L.-H MERCIER, founded 1891

17, Rue du Rhône, GENEVA (Switzerland)



Trade mark registered in Bern No. 16.062

„PHILATELIC CLINIC“

Repairing of defective Stamps either torn,
soiled or bleached, punched with holes,
badly margined or perforated.
The colours are not dissolving and
unchangeable in water.



PRICES FOR REPAIRING

Stamps catalogued after Stanley Gibbons
or Senf under Sh. 16^{rs}, Fr. 1.50 the pièce
Above Sh. 16^{rs}, 10 % of catalogued value.



Ask for my price list No 17 which contains prices
of more of 800 different sets of F.-S. and which will be sent
gratis and post free on receipt of Postcard.

Dear Sir,

In consequence of the daily growing demand for Approval-Selections and as it is my desire to give entire satisfaction to my numerous patrons, I find it advisable to establish a special Department exclusively for the expedition of same. My business transactions which at present already extend over every country of the world will be very much improved through this arrangement and as my stock has been enormously enlarged during the last 3 years, I am now in a position to satisfy any demand.

In future I ask you to send for an Approval-Selection, under conditions specially stated on enclosed Order-Form, which contains no obligation on your part as to the amount of purchase, you will simply fill up Order-Form, cut it off and send it to my address when you will receive by return of post the Stamps F.-S. desired. Should your takings be Fr. 33.40 gross, I shall allow you a commission of 25 per cent (Trade discount). Below Fr. 25.— net, prices are strictly net and Postage for sending and returning of selection extra.

I hope you will take advantage of this offer as I am convinced that it will give you full satisfaction.

Awaiting your esteemed orders, I remain yours truly,

F. FOURNIER

Fournier ran a very successful business

- Long-established company (Founded 1891)
- Multiple Medals at Philatelic Exhibitions
- Able to supply stamps on most want lists
- Motivated sale practices
- Philatelic Clinic at the service of the most demanding philatelists

After 1905, things got complicated, as many dealers in Europe started to re-sell stamps from Fournier as authentic items on the second-hand market

F. FOURNIER

Verlag von

Briefmarken *
* Facsimiles
* ausser Cours *

11, Rue du Rhône, 11
GENÈVE (Schweiz)



PREISLISTE
Gratis und Franko

Philatelistische Klinik
Reparatur defekter
Briefmarken

Werter Herr,

Hiermit beehre ich mir Ihnen mitzu-
teilen dass ich seit der Erscheinung
meiner letzten Preisliste N° 14, eine
Menge Neuheiten verlegt habe welche
sehr gut gelungen sind. Ich ersuche Sie
also mir gefl. eine Auswahlendung
derselben verlangen zu wollen u. zwar
ohne Kaufzwang betreffend die Höhe
Ihrer Entnahme.

In der Hoffnung dass Sie diese güns-
tige Offerte benützen werden, zeich-
net.

Hochachtungsvoll!

F. Fournier

F. FOURNIER
Editeur d'Art
11, Rue du Rhône
GENÈVE (Suisse)



Warren C. Haseltine Esq.

P. O. Box 422,

Aurora, Ill.

DEMANDEZ „LE FAC-SIMILE”

Revue de la Maison Abt. Fr. 3.- pour 12 Nos.

U. S. A.

N° 1 Première Année Octobre 1910

„Le Fac-Simile”

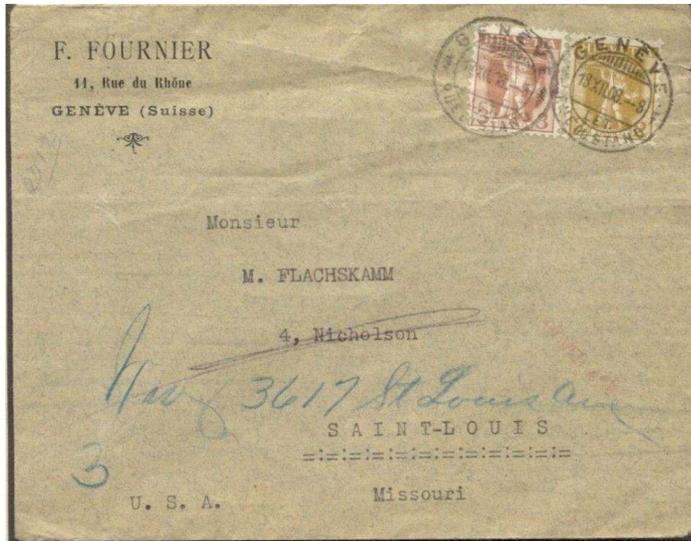
ABONNEMENTS
Fr. 3. par An.

Organe Mensuel
publié par la Maison
F. FOURNIER
Editions d'Art
GENÈVE (Suisse)

Les Abonnements partent du 1^{er} L.

ABONNÉS ATTENTION

de rappeler une fois de plus à mes
ABONNÉS que je me fais un plaisir de
leur fournir à la valeur faciale, c'est-à-
dire sans commission, les timbres
suisses actuellement en cours, obli-
tés ou non, de même que les nouvea-
tés au fur et à mesure de leur émis-
sion. Les spéculateurs demandent
trop cher.





FAC-SIMILÉS

2^{me} Choix - 2^o Auswahl - 2^d Choice



Place la série Stücke der Satz Plöcke the set

Table of fac-simile stamps with columns for Nos, Country, Year, Denomination, and Price (F.C.). Includes entries for Afghanistan, Allemagne, Antilles, Espagne, etc.

Table of fac-simile stamps with columns for Nos, Country, Year, Denomination, and Price (F.C.). Includes entries for Etats Conf. d'Am., France, Guatemala, Guyane anglaise, etc.



Fac-Similés de SURCHARGES sur Timbres

Fac-Similés de AUFDRUCKE auf Marken

Fac-Similés de SURCHARGES on stamps

Table of fac-simile stamps with surcharges or overprints, including columns for Nos, Country, Year, Denomination, and Price (F.C.). Includes entries for Abyssinie, Afrique orient., Allemagne, etc.



Place la série Stücke der Satz Plöcke the set

Table of fac-simile stamps with columns for Nos, Country, Year, Denomination, and Price (F.C.). Includes entries for Chypre, Cochinchine, Congo belge, etc.

L'UNION PHILATÉLIQUE DE GENÈVE

(SOCIÉTÉS PHILATÉLIQUE ET TIMBROLOGIQUE RÉUNIES)

FONDÉE EN 1892

comptant à ce jour 225 membres a pris dans sa séance mensuelle du 9 décembre 1927
l'engagement d'honneur par l'organe de son Président, de son Comité



et des 68 membres présents, de procéder à l'anéantissement complet du stock de Timbres Fac-similés, provenant de son achat du fonds de commerce de feu C. Hirschburger, successeur de F. Fournier, fabricant de Timbres Fac-similés.

Après prélèvement des vignettes nécessaires à la confection de 480 albums (vignettes qui ont été toutes annulées, soit au recto, soit au verso, au moyen d'une encre indélébile) le stock restant a été détruit en présence d'un huissier assermenté de la République et Canton de Genève.

Les clichés, tampons oblitérants, surcharges et tout le matériel ayant servi à cette fabrication de Fac-similés, sera déposé après avoir été rendu inutilisable, dans un Musée de Genève, ou une salle d'Exposition permanente de la fabrication des Fac-similés à Genève sera installée.

Genève, le 20 septembre 1928.

PROCÈS-VERBAL DE CONSTAT ET D'ATTESTATION

L'an mil neuf cent vingt-huit et le quinze septembre, Je soussigné Louis-Auguste Métral, huissier assermenté près les Tribunaux du Canton de Genève, certifie qu'à la requête de l'Union Philatélique de Genève (Sociétés Philatélique et Timbrologique réunies) ayant son siège social à Genève, Café de la Bourse, place de la Fosterie et en présence de Messieurs E. Friderich, L. Prothom, R. Blum, A. Meyer, E. Gutschel, R. Musso, et L. Keller, tous domiciliés à Genève, membres de l'Union Philatélique de Genève.

Je certifie avoir assisté à l'anéantissement par le feu du stock complet de Timbres Fac-similés restant après prélèvement des pièces nécessaires à la confection des 480 albums créés par l'Union Philatélique de Genève.

Les cendres résiduelles de cette incinération ne comportaient plus aucun timbre ou parcelle de timbre reconnaissable.

Dont acte pour servir et valoir ce que de droit.

Louis MÉTRAL, huissier.

Enregistré à Genève, le 17 septembre 1928.

THE JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

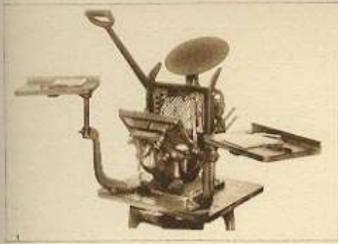
Fournier is dead, but his works live after him, and, scattered broadcast in collections all over the world, constitute a grave menace to Philately. The public-spirited action of the Philatelic Union of Geneva has effectively stopped the further dissemination of these dangerous counterfeits, and has provided the expert with the most useful means for distinguishing readily stamps that derived their illegitimate birth in the Fournier atelier.

Considering the vast quantity and variety of the « facsimiles » sequestered by the benevolent action of the philatelists of Geneva, one realises that Fournier's works were directed largely at the young collector, and future generations of junior philatelists will honour the Philatelic Union of Geneva for clearing the market of this threatening cloud of spurious stamps. With the junior in years, the adult dilettante will join in the rejoicing at the cleansing of one of the worst of the Augean stables.

As for the experts they will know how to appreciate and value the important records of philatelic perfidy revealed and laid bare in the Fournier Albums on which the Philatelic Union of Geneva is expending such care.

Fréd. J. MELVILLE,

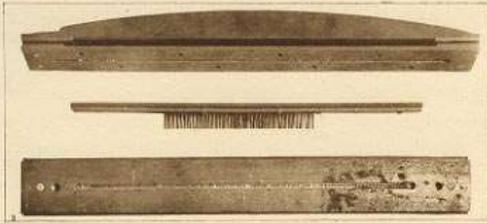
President, Junior Philatelic Society, London.



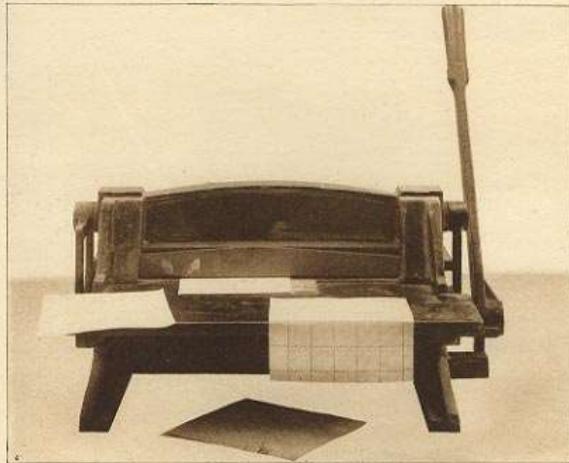
Machine à imprimer les timbres.



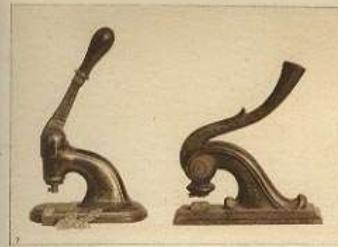
Machine à imprimer les surcharges.



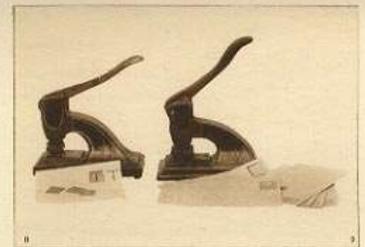
Peigne pour denteler les timbres en feuilles.



Machine à denteler les timbres.



Pour la frappe des timbres avec reliefs.



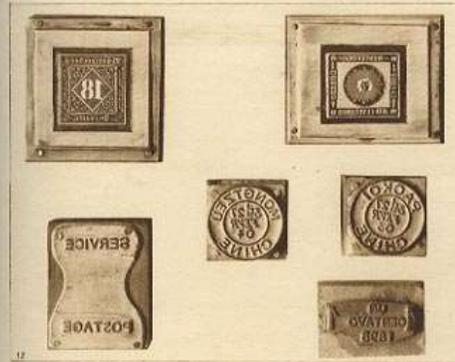
Taxe de Tunisie

Dentelure du timbre de Hongrie



Presse à confectionner les paquets

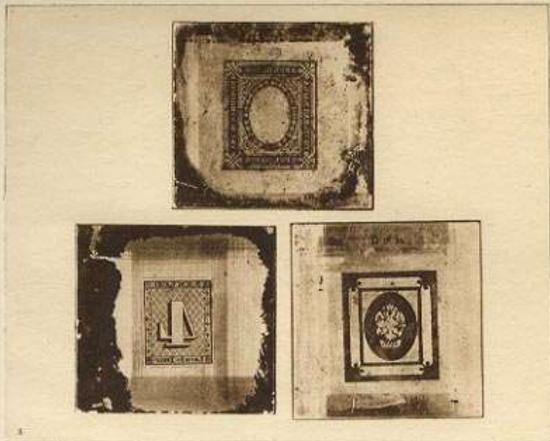
Machine à frapper la grille « États-Unis »



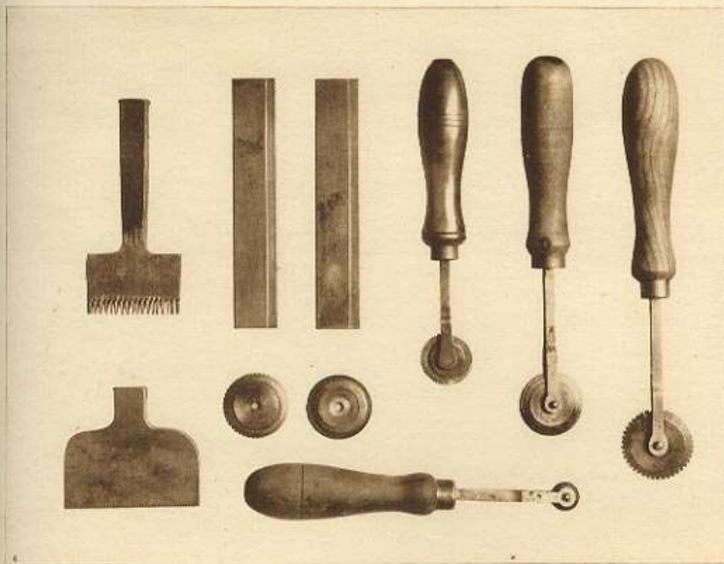
Clichés zinc et cuivre pour timbres, oblitérations, surcharges.



Oblitérations ; bouchons, bois.



Clichés acier gravés.



Matériel utilisé pour la confection des diverses dentelures : Serpentin, piqués, percé en lignes, percé en scie.

PERFORATIONS ET DENTELURES DIVERSES

Dentelures 11

• 11 1/2

• 12

• 12 1/2

• 15

• 15 1/2

• 14

• 15

Percé serpentin

Percé en scie

Percé en lignes

Percé en arcs

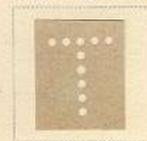
Piqué



Grilles - Etats-Unis



Perforation Taxe Tunisie



Some figures, all countries combined

- 400 kilos of stamps
- A good part damaged by humidity, burned at once
- Anyone willing to guess the catalog value of the remaining stock, in French Francs, according to the 1928 Y&T catalog?

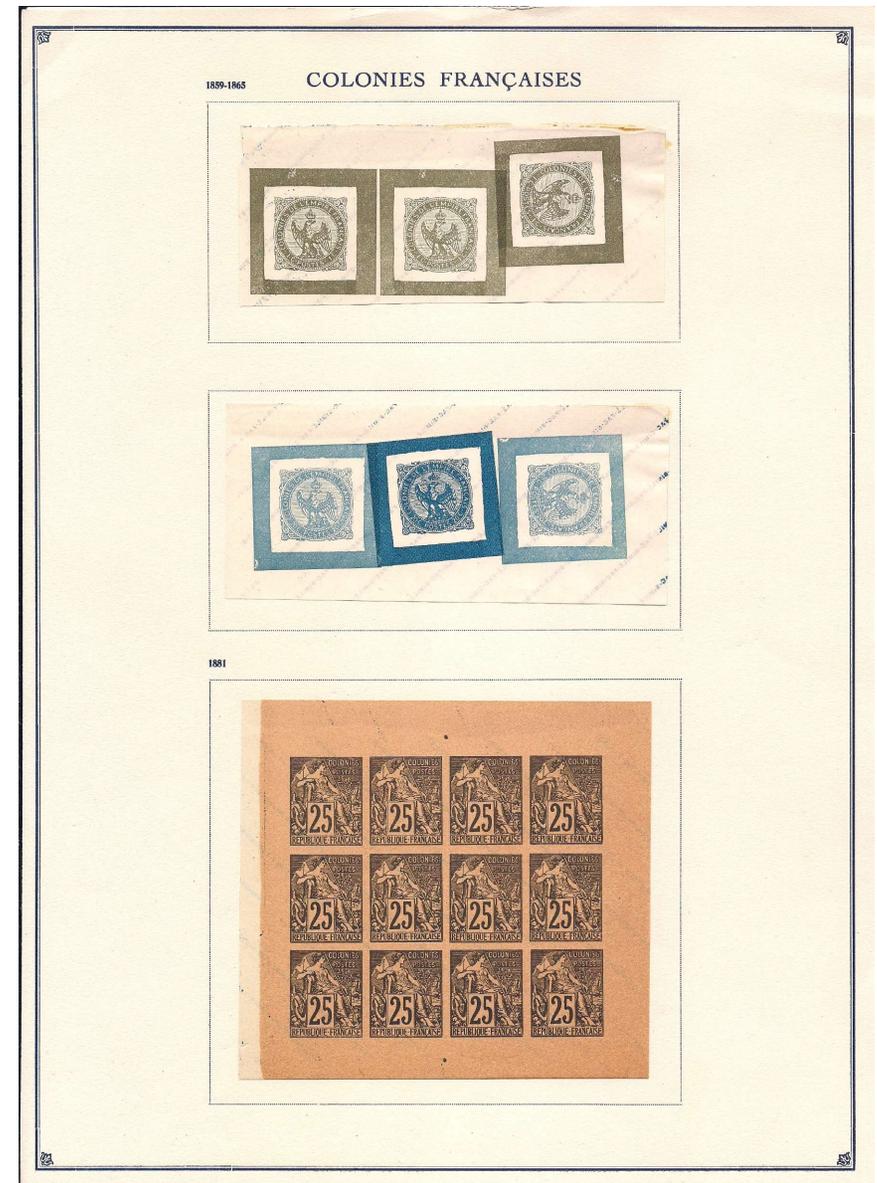


2,846,796,500 Francs

- 480 albums
- 86,400 sheets
- One million two hundred thousand stamps cut or separated and stuck in pieces, strips, or blocks in the respective frames
- 273,600 strokes (cancellations) et 248,000 overprints

In the following slides, we'll cover:

- 1859-1865 – “Eagles”
- 1881 – “Alphée Dubois”, with imperforated and perforated blocks
- 1884 – “Duval” postage due stamps
- 1891 – “Colis Postaux” from French Congo
- 1890 – Early block from Diego Suarez
- 1852 – Reunion’s first stamp
- 1889 – Reunion postage due stamps
- 1889 – Gabon #14 and #15, also the first stamps of this colony
- A few proofs from the Côte des Somalis and Obock (meaning the UPG didn’t find the actual stamps in Fournier’s inventory)
- Sample cancellations
- Two full pages of sample overprints



COLONIES FRANÇAISES



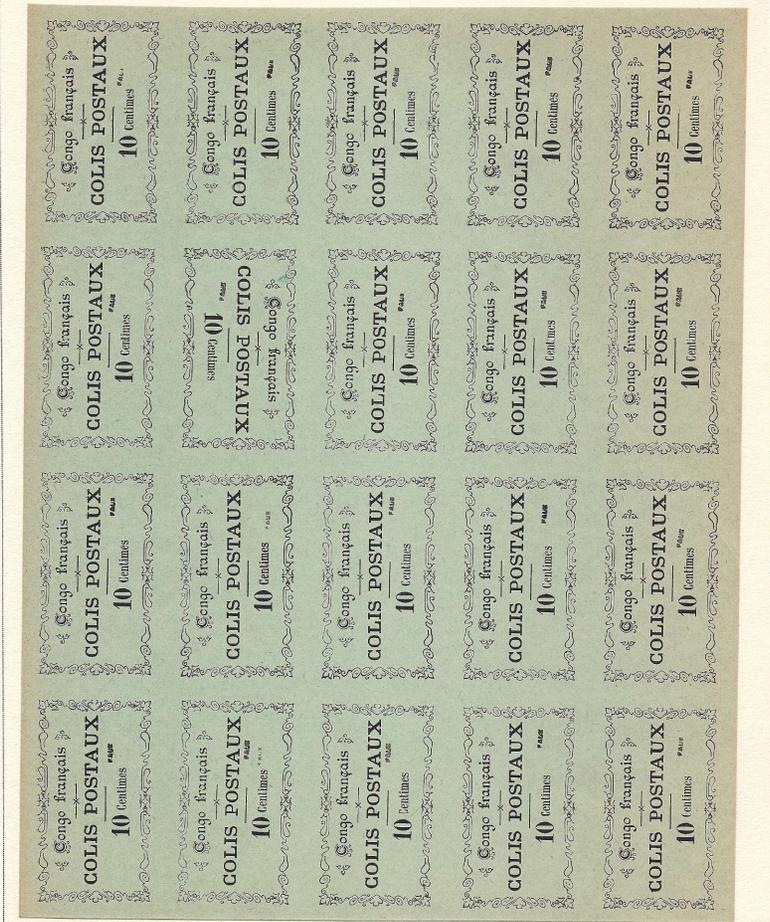
COLONIES FRANÇAISES



Timbres taxe 1884-1892



CONGO FRANÇAIS



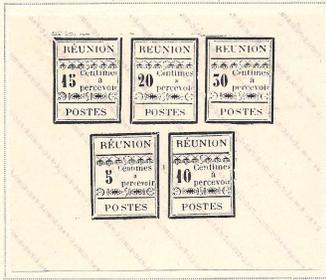
1890

DIÉGO-SUAZÉ



RÉUNION

1851



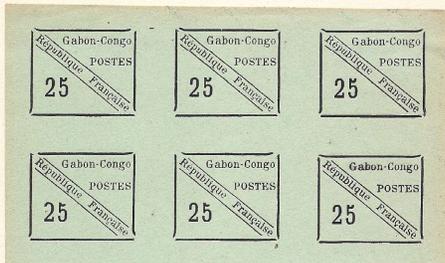
1889

TIMBRE - TAXE

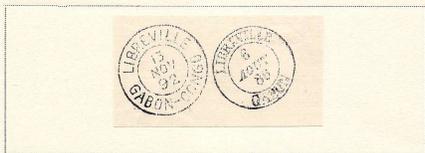


1889

GABON



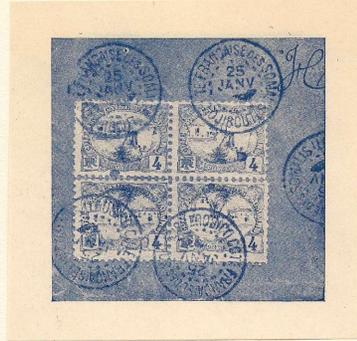
OBLITÉRATIONS



Surcharges



ÉPREUVE DES CLICHÉS DONT LES TIMBRES N'EXISTENT PLUS AU STOCK



COLONIES FRANÇAISES



COLONIES ALLEMANDES

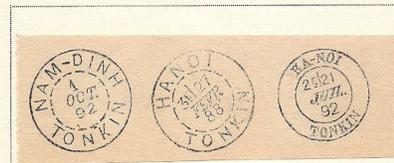


ANNAM ET TONKIN

Surcharges sur timbres-poste des Colonies Françaises de 1881

A & T	A - T	A & T	A & T	A & T
1	1	1	1	1
A & T	A & T	A - T	A & T	A & T
5	5	5	1	1
A & T	A & T	A & T	A & T	A & T
5	5	5	5	5

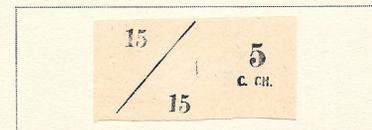
Oblitérations



COCHINCHINE



Surcharges sur timbres français 1881



SURCHARGES

Nouvelle Calédonie

N^o 2
CALÉDONIE

N.C.E.
5

N^o 4
CALÉDONIE

N.C.E.
10

N.C.E.
10 c

N.C.E.
5 c.

N.C.E.
25

Saint-Pierre et Miquelon

15 c.
SPM

15 c.
SPM

05
SPM

15
SPM

5
SPM

25
SPM

5
SPM

T
ST-PIERRE N. 00
P

P D
5

Nossi-Bé

NSB
0 25

NSB
0 25

NSB
25 c

NSB
25 c.

25

15

15

Nossi-Bé

Nossi-Bé
1 fr

Nossi-Bé
75

Nossi-Bé
50

Nossi-Bé
25

Nossi-Bé
25

NSB
25

Nossi-Bé
chiffre-taxe
0.35
A PERCEVOIR

Nossi-Bé
chiffre-taxe
0.35
A PERCEVOIR

Nossi-Bé
chiffre-taxe
0.50
A PERCEVOIR

Nossi-Bé
chiffre-taxe
0.30
A PERCEVOIR

Nossi-Bé
chiffre-taxe
0.30
A PERCEVOIR

Nossi-Bé
chiffre-taxe
0.20
A PERCEVOIR

NOSSI-BE

Nossi-Bé
25 c.
A PERCEVOIR

Nossi-Bé
15 c.
A PERCEVOIR

Nossi-Bé
10 c.
A PERCEVOIR

Nossi-Bé
5 c.
A PERCEVOIR

Nossi-Bé
5 c.
A PERCEVOIR

Nossi-Bé
5 c.
A PERCEVOIR

Nossi-Bé
chiffre-taxe
1 F
A PERCEVOIR

Nossi-Bé
0.10
A PERCEVOIR

Nossi-Bé
0.10
A PERCEVOIR

Nossi-Bé
25 c.
A PERCEVOIR

Sénégal

15 01 10 01 5 5 5
10 10 5
SÉNÉGAL 75
SÉNÉGAL 15 15

Réunion

RÉUNION RÉUNION RÉUNION RÉUNION RÉUNION 5c. B
15 c. 2 c. 2 c. 2 c. RÉUNION 2

Benin

Diego Suarez

BENIN BENIN BENIN DIÉGO-SUAZÉ DIÉGO-SUAZÉ 15

Martinique

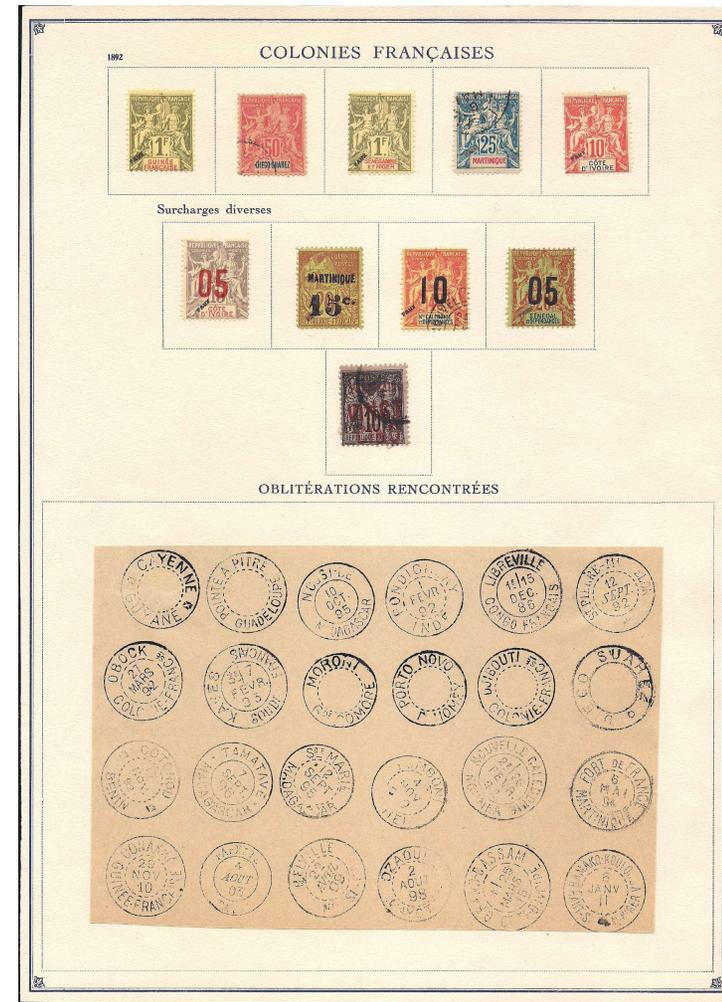
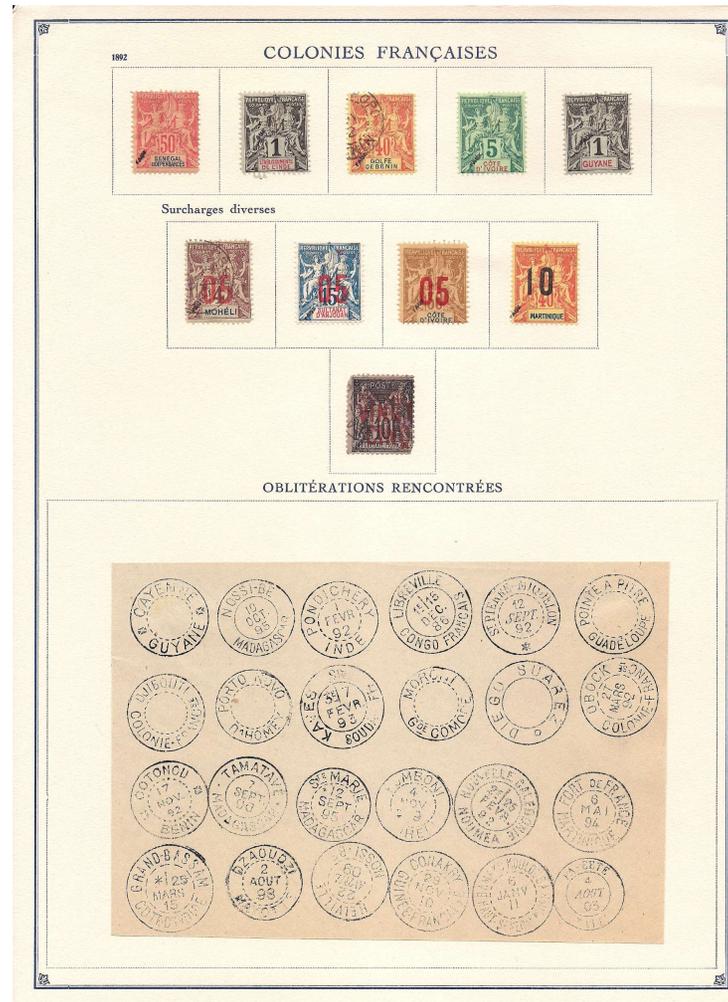
MARTINIQUE MARTINIQUE MARTINIQUE MQE MQE MARTINIQUE MARTINIQUE MARTINIQUE
05 05c. 05c. 15 c. 15 c. 5c. 5c. 01c.
1892 MARTINIQUE 1892 TIMBRE-POSTE TIMBRE-POSTE TIMBRE-POSTE MARTINIQUE MARTINIQUE 1892
05c. 05c. 01c. 01c. 05c. 15c. 15c. 15c.

Indo-Chine Française

INDO-CHINE TIMBRE COLIS POSTAUX 5 R D
INDO-CHINE 89 5 R D
INDO-CHINE 89 5 R D
INDO-CHINE 1889 5 R D
INDO-CHINE 1889 5 R D

Two Similar « Group Type » Pages for Illustration

- Each album had 171 pages, ranging from the Azores to Zululand
- Many pages are devoted entirely to the French Colonies, including 4 mainly dedicated to the Group type (pages 30 to 33)
- There are also stamps, cancellations and surcharges specific to a particular colony throughout the pages, generally in alphabetical order:
 - Alexandria (page 4)
 - Annam and Tonkin (page 9)
 - French Congo (page 35)
 - Diego-Suarez (page 40)



1892

COLONIES FRANÇAISES



1892-1912

ANJOUAN



Oblitérations



GUADELOUPE

Timbres-taxe 1876



Surcharges sur timbres des Colonies Françaises



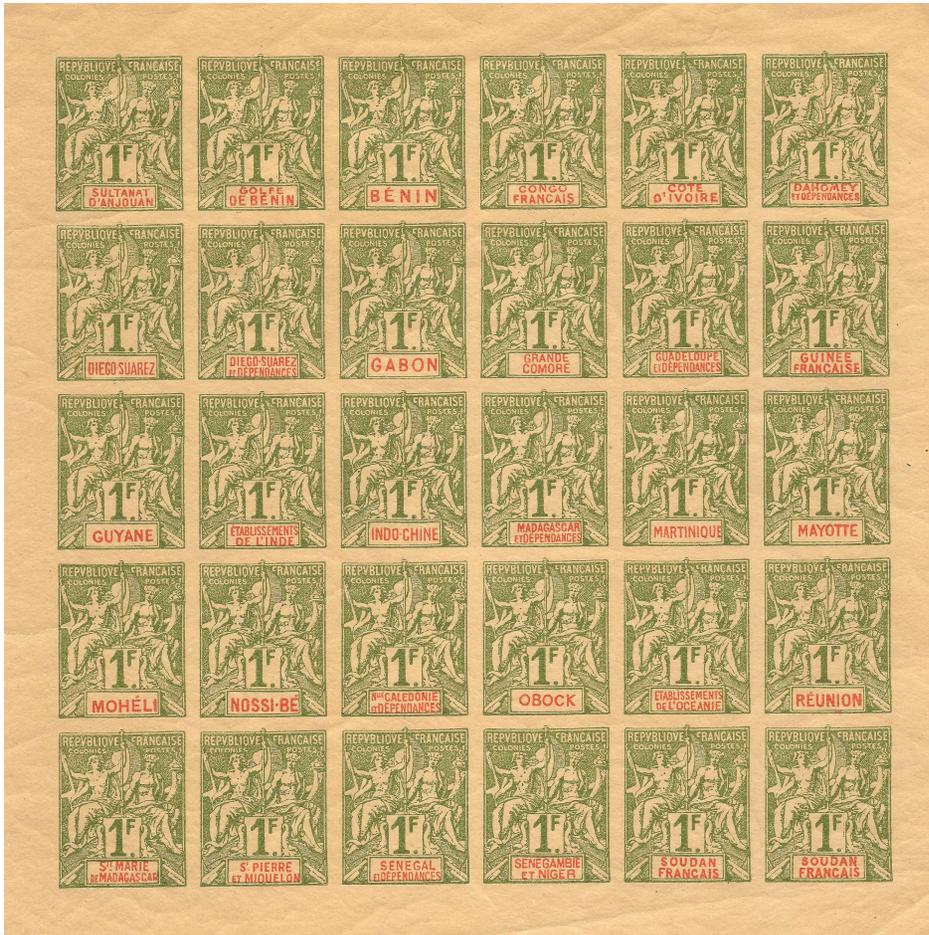
1892

Oblitérations

1912

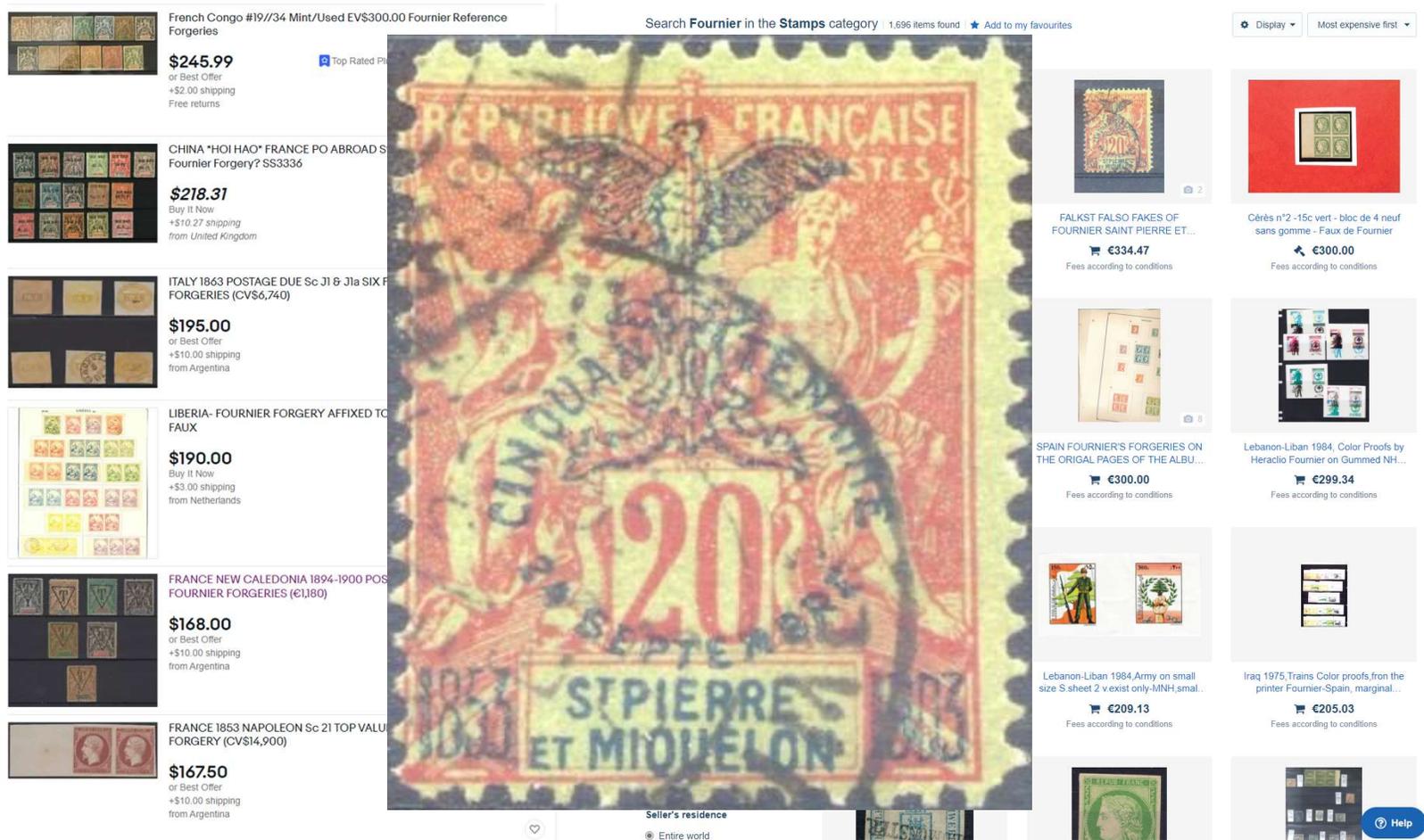


The Same, Unmarked!



- Block having escaped the marking of the Philatelic Union of Geneva (It might have been sold way before 1927)
- No FAUX label on the front or back
- Names of 29 former French colonies, from ANJOUAN to SOUDAN FRANÇAIS, with GOLFE DE BENIN / BENIN, DIEGO-SUAREZ / DIEGO-SUAREZ ET DEPENDANCES, as well as SOUDAN FRANÇAIS x2 to complete the block of 30
- These blocks are quite exceptional because Fournier basically printed blocks of 25 (5 x 5)

Popular Stamps on [eBay](#) and Delcampe ;-)



Search **Fournier** in the **Stamps** category | 1,696 items found | Add to my favourites

Display | Most expensive first

French Congo #19//34 Mint/Used EV\$300.00 Fournier Reference Forgeries
\$245.99
or Best Offer
+\$2.00 shipping
Free returns

CHINA "HOI HAO" FRANCE PO ABROAD S Fournier Forgery? SS3336
\$218.31
Buy It Now
+\$10.27 shipping
from United Kingdom

ITALY 1863 POSTAGE DUE Sc J1 & J1a SIX F FORGERIES (CV\$6,740)
\$195.00
or Best Offer
+\$10.00 shipping
from Argentina

LIBERIA- FOURNIER FORGERY AFFIXED TO FAUX
\$190.00
Buy It Now
+\$3.00 shipping
from Netherlands

FRANCE NEW CALEDONIA 1894-1900 POS Fournier Forgeries (€1,180)
\$168.00
or Best Offer
+\$10.00 shipping
from Argentina

FRANCE 1853 NAPOLEON Sc 21 TOP VALU FORGERY (CV\$14,900)
\$167.50
or Best Offer
+\$10.00 shipping
from Argentina

REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
20
ST PIERRE ET MICHELON

FALKST FALSO FAKES OF FOURNIER SAINT PIERRE ET...
€334.47
Fees according to conditions

Cérés n°2 - 15c vert - bloc de 4 neuf sans gomme - Faux de Fournier
€300.00
Fees according to conditions

SPAIN FOURNIER'S FORGERIES ON THE ORIGINAL PAGES OF THE ALBU...
€300.00
Fees according to conditions

Lebanon-Liban 1984. Color Proofs by Heracio Fournier on Gummed NH...
€299.34
Fees according to conditions

Lebanon-Liban 1984. Army on small size S sheet 2 v exist only-MNH, smal...
€209.13
Fees according to conditions

Iraq 1975. Trains Color proofs, from the printer Fournier-Spain, marginal...
€205.03
Fees according to conditions

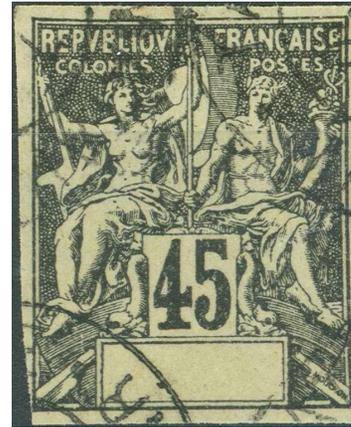
Seller's residence: Entire world

Help

Perforated Blocks of 25 (5 x 5)



Series without perforations and without legend



A few additional varieties – perforation errors





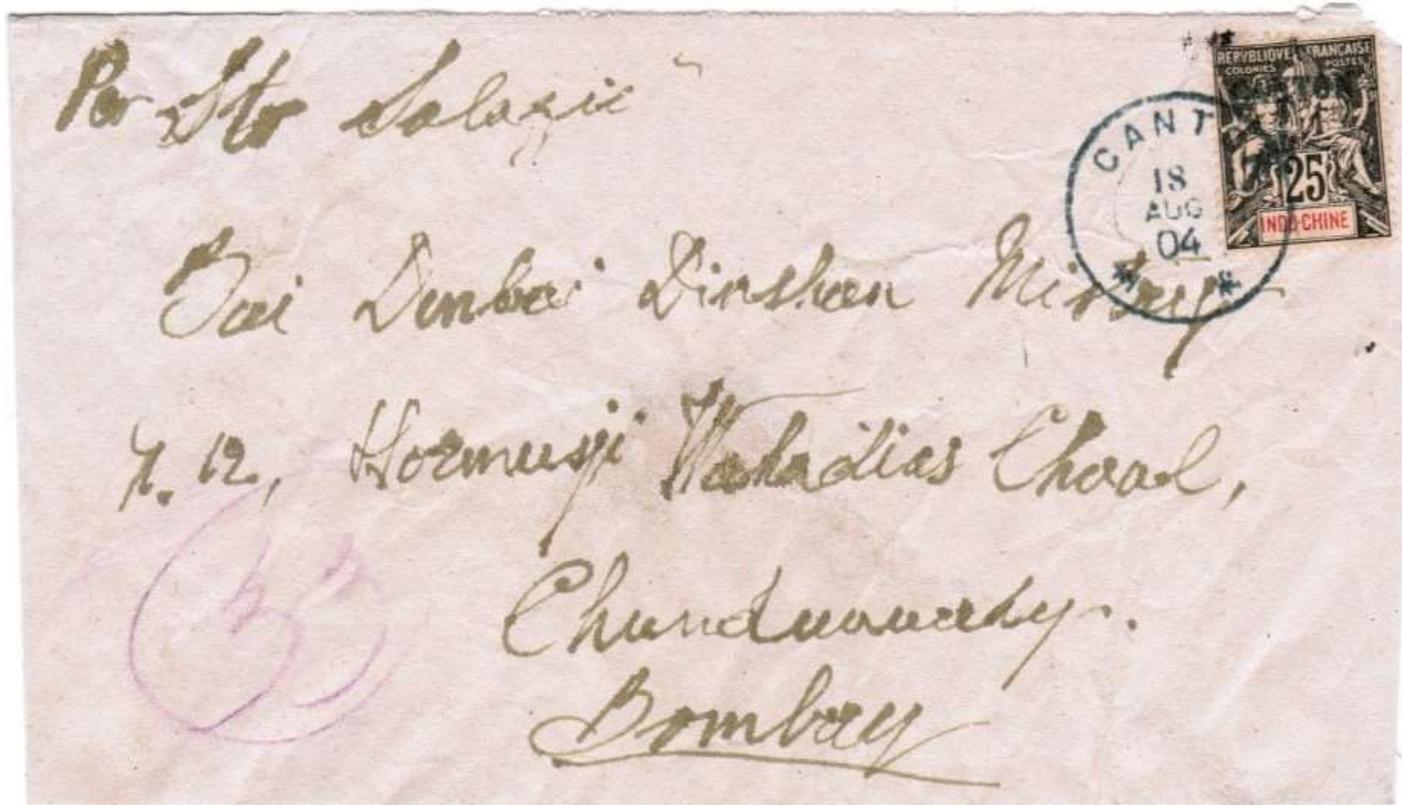
A cover seen recently on Delcampe, with a starting price of €50.00



- Not listed as “Fournier” but the 25c is obviously a forgery – even at low res
- 30c doesn’t correspond to any standard rate at the time
- The octagonal cancel is somewhat “suspect”
- Rough opening could be a crude attempt to give this cover some legitimacy



- Stamps look like Fournier, but this cover was probably created much later.
- 63 centimes is a very original amount, when it comes to franking
- Stamps were no longer in use in Indochina at the time
- Based on the date on the Saigon Central cancel, April 18, 1939, this would be one of the latest known usages of Group type stamps on cover, if not the latest ;-)



How to tell this is a fake:

- Stamp
- Cancel
- Absence of transit or arrival cancels
- Other indications

“Par steamer Salazie” – this specific vessel made two trips from Yokohama to Marseille in 1904 :

- as Ligne N N^o 1 from April 8 to May 17
- as Ligne N N^o 4 from October 7 to November 16

Forgeries That Don't Even Try...



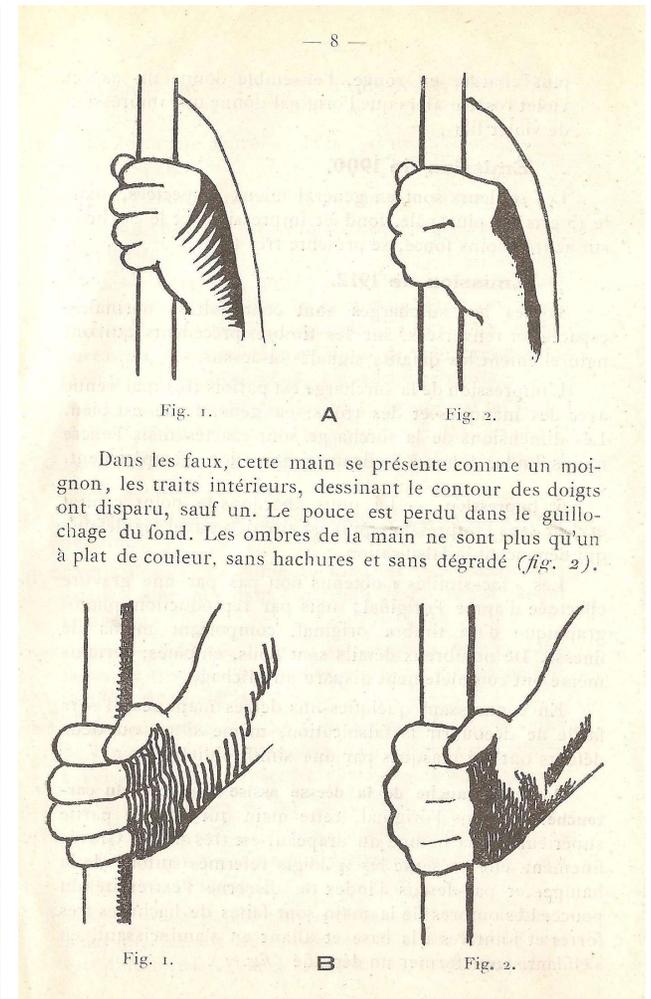
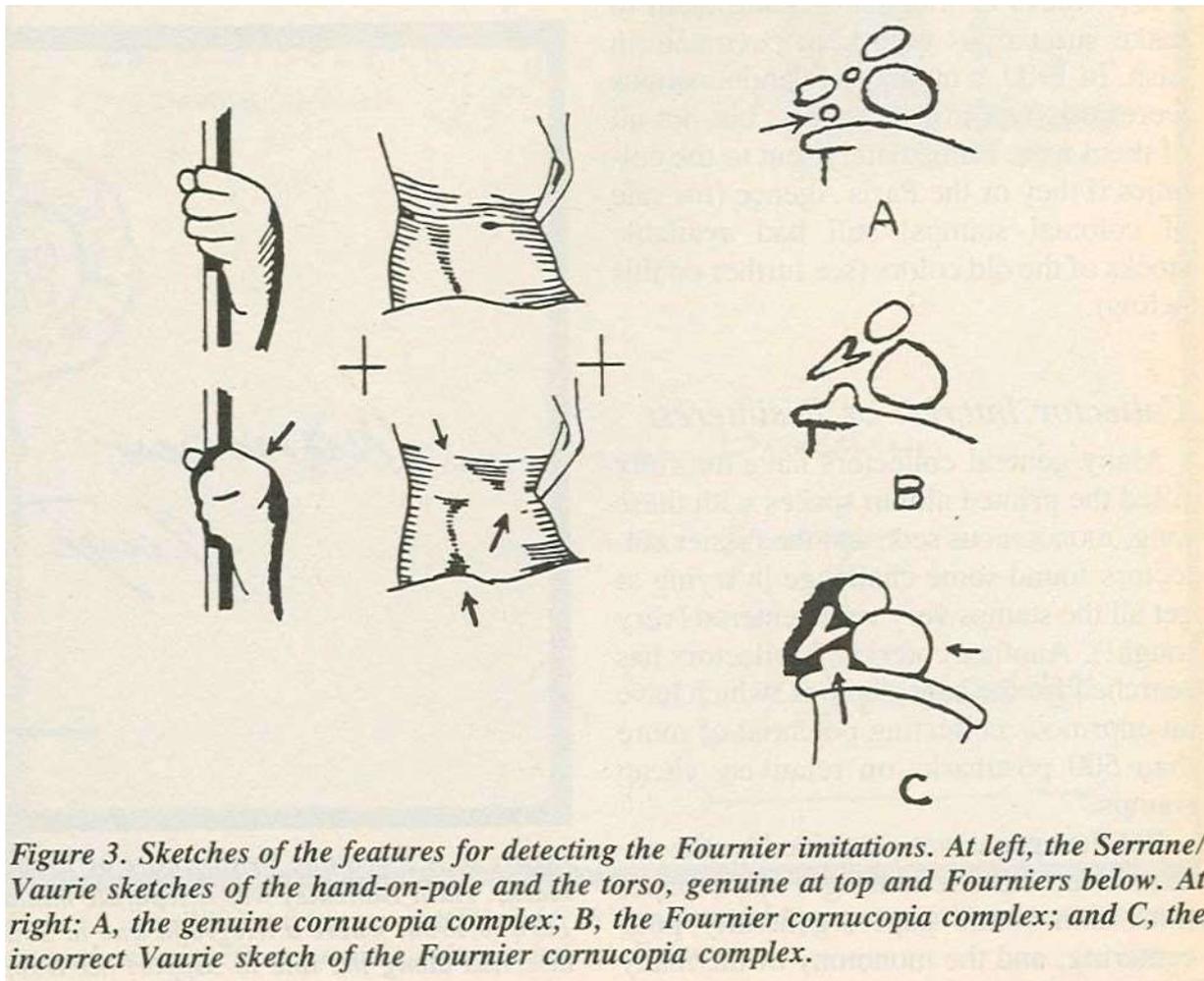
- 1 Fr olive from DIÉGO-SUAREZ on unused postcard
- Excessive franking
- View of the Military Hospital in St-Claude, in Guadeloupe!
- Postmarked 18 JANV 92, almost 2 years before the stamp was issued!



Authentic or Fake – It's Like a Game



Well Documented in Philatelic Literature



Bibliography

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- Presentation by Jean Jacques DIEUZY posted on aps-web.fr
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