

STAGES IN THE SEARCH FOR A REVISED DESIGN, 1903-1906
EXPERIMENTAL ESSAYS



THE LANDSCAPE SOWER

A modification of the design in use proposed and executed by the engraver, Mouchon. The sun has been moved to the front of the figure so as to eliminate a much criticized flaw of the 1903 type
UNADOPTED



PROOF SHEET OF EXPERIMENTAL ESSAYS

Showing progressive alterations of the original die

ESSAY PLATE PROOFS



ON STAMP
PAPER

All imperforated copies of this stamp are from the essay sheets (120 printed)



BRISTOL CARD PROOF

Only 75 copies (3 panes of 25) were pulled of this de lux exhibition proof



BOTTOM
PANE
LEFT BLANK

SCHEMA OF THE ESSAY SHEETS

Two panes: Sower with ground

Two panes: The Landscape Sower

Bottom third of the plate left blank



PLATE TWO
with the notched
pressure bar



Copy from the provisio-
nal plate cancelled on
April 17, 1906, nine
days before the official
release date of April 26



PERFORATION ERROR

AN EMERGENCY ISSUE : SOWER WITH GROUND
A PROVISIONAL PRINTING FROM THE ESSAY PLATE

Complete sheet of fifty subjects without millésime number : April 10, 1906



EMERGENCY ISSUE

PLATE II

150 SUBJECTS



Plate I



The distinctions can not be relied on in isolated specimens E.G., the NW stamp in this block from plate II exhibits characteristics of plate I

Prepared in a rush, the plate did not wear well: Defective Printing



Normal
Plate I



Normal
Plate II



Plate II



DEFINITIVE PRINTING

APRIL 26, 1906



Dark Paper

COMPARISON

The second printing is lighter. The lines in the forward arm are barely visible and the frame beneath the ground pedestals.



Very Poor
Plate II



Dull red



Dark red



Light red



SHADE VARIETIES

*The controversial
"Lie de vin" variety*



white
good quality

PAPER VARIETIES

loose weave

off white, thin





The 'most blue' shade
(dark & less rose)



The 'proof'
color: red
(on card)



The exact
lie-de-vin
shade ↗



NE is more red than SW



ultra-scarce
rose shade

lie-de-vin

dull red

THE CONTROVERTIAL 'LIE DE VIN' SHADES (1906)

POSSIBLE SOLUTION:

CAN THE SHADE BE INTEGRATED?



A NEW PROBLEM

The lie-de-vin shade
on a heavy-line print
of 1912

(only known example)



The 'lie-de-vin' on cover ↗ one of six known

LIE de VIN

There the accusation is that it was a
changeling artificially created (~~by a poet~~)
chemical means. It is a changeling, I
doubt - But it is a natural i. a

The change was inherent in one ~~sort of~~ a
abservative ink used during one run of the presses
(ink Hatchet were notoriously ~~ever~~ disparate)

Bought, at the
time, in small
quantities - as
is well known -

A characteristic of this eratic ink was
~~a lateral capillary de-vin~~ ^{claw-like} ~~de-vin~~ ^{into}
the latent possibility of its turning
shade either as it ~~does~~

- most likely as it became fully dry. Every attempt

~~undertaken to duplicate, this change by using
chemicals, w. chemicals~~

~~in copies that had
not been so affected~~

* to change ^{w. chemicals} unaffected copies of the
S w- gr- have so far failed
— yet, if such changes were so made, they
cannot have been so difficult to do -

In my opinion the change to blue or
green naturally in an ink that had, inherent in
its composition, a propensity for that change.
By the way I noticed so far by historians = a similar batch
of ink — a sample for the same manufacturer? was used to

naturally

at the time

Present & seen of later sources what go.

INTERMEDIATE ESSAY

THIN INSCRIPTIONS



Although it appears to be a color proof, this trial is in reality a transitional essay of importance since it retains the minute line projecting from the sower's forward arm, a detail that was eliminated in the accepted version. Otherwise the design is substantially as intended: cameo, without ground; serifed numerals

RARE

THE THIN-LINE ISSUE, 1906

THE DE LUXE PROOFS ON BRISTOL BOARD



WITNESS STAMPS

Proof on cardboard: without perfs.

RARE

Issued in panes of twenty-five to rural offices
as proof that the stamps were official and valid



EXHIBITION PIECE

With simulated perforations

Only three panes of twenty-five printed - Rare

THE THIN-LINE INSCRIPTIONS



THE PRINTING OF JULY 13

1906

PRIMITIVE VERSION

Though put on sale July 28 at noon, the issue was withdrawn by 2 P.M. The printing was unsatisfactory to the authorities who ordered the die retouched

As retouched by Mouchon



deep red

Before Mouchon Retouches



normal



dull red





THIN-LINE INSCRIPTIONS of 1906
TYPE TWO: RETOUCHE by MOUCHON
PRINTING RESUMED SEPTEMBER 15

When the printing of July 13 proved inadequate, the engraver was asked to retouch the letters of the inscriptions as well as to reinforce some lines in the figure as indicated below. Printed to Jan. 21, 1907



Two shades from the printing of January, 1907

leaning 6



LOCATIONS of the RETOUCHES

Small line added within cap

JULY 13



SEPT. 15



COMPARISON OF THE TYPES





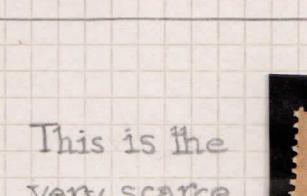
SHADES



← Recto-verso



← Aberrative perfs



This is the very scarce "papier vergé" printing of which only a few copies survive.



THE THIN INSCRIPTIONS AFTER RETOUCH

SHADES AND PRINTING VARIETIES



A RECURRING FLAW CHARACTERISTIC OF THE THIN LINE PLATES : BREAK IN FRAME AT RIGHT SIDE OF THE TOP FRAME-LINE



This integration displays the progressions of the flaw as the line thins under the reiterated pressure of the presses (top row), begins to crack (column at right), and finally breaks altogether as shown in the stamps at bottom



THE DEFINITIVE TYPE WITH HEAVY LINES, 1907

MASTER DIE



ARTIST'S PROOF

When the Mouchon retouch proved ineffective, orders were issued to the printing office, on October 24, 1906, to make additional corrections. These changes, which consisted largely of strengthening the lines of the inscriptions, were made by the engraver, L'Homme, working on a new die pulled from the original matrix and which served to create working dies for the individual values of the entire cameo Sower issue. In consequence, the above die lacks the numerals of value.



COLOR TRIAL, Numerals of value inserted. ON PINK PAPER
Neither of these is catalogued



HEAVY INSCRIPTIONS DEFINITIVE TYPE

Printed from January, 1907

Although the first sheets were run off the presses on Jan. 22, the stamps were not issued to the public until September, 1907.

The French practice is to collect & display the stamps of this period by dated pairs



Paper A



Dark
1907.

Paper B



light

1909

1908

dark



1911



1910

1





1912



1913



1914



light red



red



deep red



normal

5



orange shades



leaning

5



C



6



J



G



1916

Four paper varieties



G.C.

Due to rate changes, printing ceased from Dec., 1916 to April 21, 1920

Printing resumed
1920



Final printing
1921





SCARLETS

BRIGHT
GROUP

LIGHT
GROUP

INTEGRATION of the SHADE VARIETIES



DARK
GROUP



SCARLET

Nov. 1907 only



BRIGHT RED



ORANGE RED, 1920

MAJOR INK & PAPER VARIETIES



THE G.C. PAPER

Introduced in 1916 as a war-born substitute, it is of poor quality and was used for this value only during Nov. & Dec. The identifying letters appear once per sheet in the bottom selvage.



Yellowish paper, 1915



Experimental: thin
and semi-transparent



1907: MISSING NUMERAL OF YEAR



Earliest stage of defect ↑

↑ Final stage of defect



← Partial impression

Albino impression →

An anomaly which occurred on one plate of the 1907 printings. A worn font did not take ink properly & produced partial, faint, or albino impressions. In rare cases, as at top right, no mark at all.





1910
Booklet price lowered
← on remaining stock to
2 francs by overprint
SCARCE



DIE RETOUCHE

1910

HEAVY-LINE BOOKLET

Administration des Postes et des Télégraphes.

Carnet de 20 Timbres-Poste à 10 f. 10.

PRIX : 2 francs.

Note 2 Fr. value : printed





THE COILS 1908-1911-1915

Any vertical strip of six stamps up to fifteen indicates provenance from a genuine coil printing

Note that the vertical edges are machine-cut



PART SHEET OF THE 1915 COIL ISSUE

Note, in the margin, the two 'millésime' numbers sans intervening selvage

VERY RARE

Roulette de 600 Timbres-poste à 10 c.

Valeur 60 Francs

10c. rouge



PART SHEET FROM A COIL PRINTING

VERY RARE



N 22011 11

+

The stamps destined for coils were printed on sheets of the same size as those used for the regular issues but in panes of 75 (5×15). The two rows of intervening selvage were brought together at the bottom.

AN EXPERIMENTAL PLATE NUMBER

1914

A 09843 -

4



In 1914, a few sheets of the 10c red Sower were run through the presses with a plate number then being considered for adoption. The idea was abandoned.

THE G.C. PAPER OF 1916

M 22011 1 ■ G C

Late in 1916, a paper of poor quality was put in use as a wartime conservation measure. It was used for the 10 c. value only during Nov. & Dec. of that year.

6



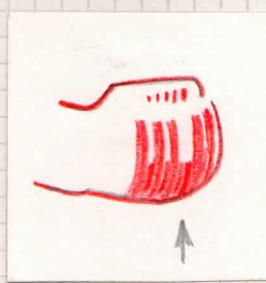
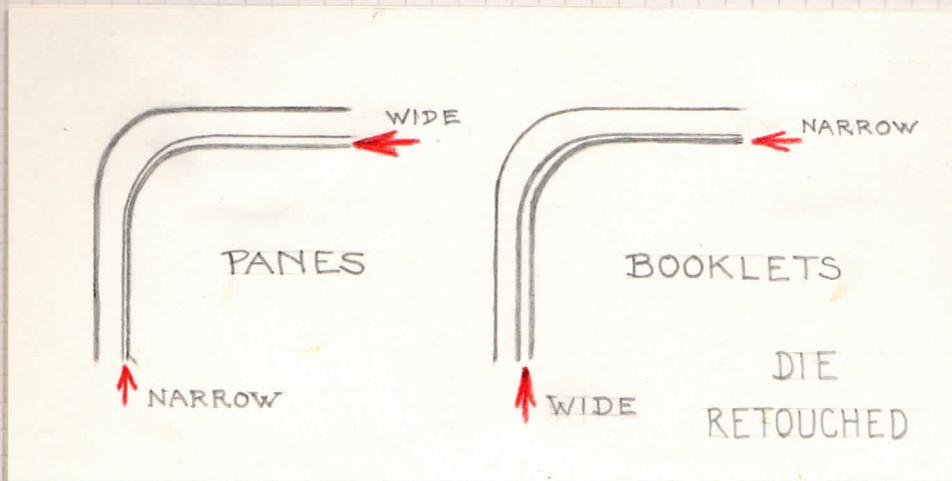


A TOTAL OF
24 UNUSED
COPIES ARE
NOW KNOWN



One of
Seven
Known
used
copies

THE BOOKLET ON G.C. PAPER
ONLY ONE OTHER PIECE OF THIS GREAT RARITY IS KNOWN



Shade line of
the right hand
has been broken.

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BOOKLET PLATES

THE PSEUDO THIN-LINE OF 1916

A printing in which the inscriptions appear to be of the thin-line type. The cause of this aberration is not known but experts feel it is due to ink and make-up factors. F. Scarce



TRUE



PSEUDO



NORMAL

COMPARISON

THE RED CROSS ISSUES
1914 - 1916



Pale red

Rich Red

TEMPORARY OVERPRINT

TOTAL PRINTING: 600,000
ISSUED ON AUGUST 11, 1914



THE THIN-FIVE VARIETY
compared with a normal specimen

THE REDESIGNED DEFINITIVE ISSUE, NEW DIE

In use from September 10, 1914 through Dec. 1917



MILLÉSIMES

Including the
1916 dark paper



These two types comprised the first and second semi-postal issues of France. The surcharge of 5 centimes went to the Red-Cross.



THE RED-CROSS BOOKLET

The vignettes are $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. wider & taller than they are on the sheet.

SCARCE



REDESIGNED VERSION ON G.C. PAPER

A very few sheets of this issue were printed on a light, yellowish variety of the G.C. paper and are very scarce. Authority: Barrier

OVERPRINTED FOR MOROCCO 1915



MONSIEUR J. DUKARD

9, Rue Griffon, 9

LYON

(Rhône)

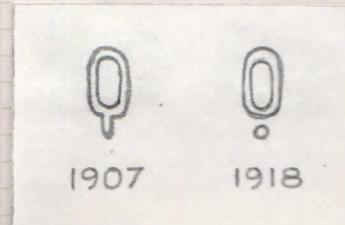
on cover ~

1918 BOOKLETS

NEW DIE



SINGLE PANE
displaying characteristic selvage



THE MAJOR DISTINCTION OF THE DIES
occurs in the tail of the 'Q' in 'République' at top



COMPLETE BOOKLET
Of 30 stamps in five panes of six stamps
SCARCE

1918 BOOKLET PART SHEETS

RARE



The stamps for these booklets were printed in sheets consisting of three panes of 48 subjects (3 x 16) for a total of 144 stamps. A very few of these sheets were sold at post offices in Paris and from them portions such as these have survived. They reveal the characteristics of the plate: the pane of three stamps across and the holes in the intervening margins.



IMPERFS



POSTAL SCHOOL

POSTAGE DUE

VARIETIES NOT ISSUED TO THE PUBLIC

BISECTED
FOR USE AS
5 centimes value

Not authorized
but accepted on
rare occasions
as here where it
helps pay 1920
rate to Geneva
without incur-
ring a due tax

VERY RARE



VARIETIES NOT ISSUED
TO THE PUBLIC



THE ULTRA-SCARCE
'ANNULÉ' HANDSTAMP
IN VIOLET (1911)

ISSUED TO EMPLOYEES
AT THE POSTAL SCHOOL

STRUCK ON BOOKLETS ONLY.

THE FRONT COVER IS ALSO MARKED

TELEPHONE WO 2-3888-9

Aristocrat OFFICE EQUIPMENT

97 READE STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10013

19

M

- PICK UP**
- DELIVER**

use text next

to single specimen
(about varieties)

issued for
use in the
Postal school
and
made available
by the
"Annulli"
overprint

text
about the
Scarce
handstamps

VARIETIES NOT ISSUED TO THE PUBLIC

MAILED - STRUCK ON SHEETS

1911

BY:

insert nice piece bond paper

THE VARIETIES NOT ISSUED TO THE PUBLIC



IMPERFORATED

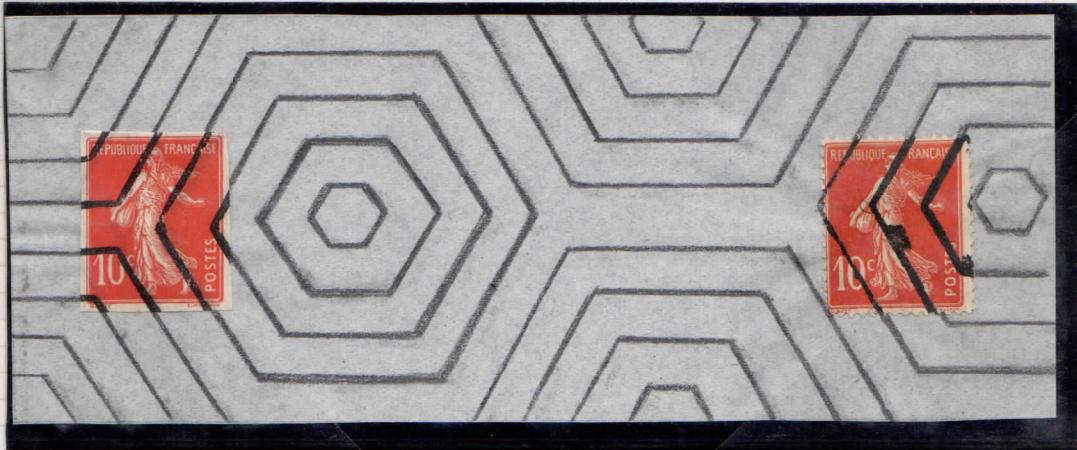
No imperf. specimens were ever released to the public. All examples were clandestinely leaked from the govt. printing plant & unauthorized

POSTAL SCHOOL SPECIMENS
issued in 1911 to trainees after having been overprinted so as to obviate their use as postage.



POSTAGE-DUE OVERPRINT - 1917

Emergency authorization was granted for this precancel-overprint to a very few offices during a war-shortage.



HEXAGON-CONCENTRIC DESTRUCTION CANCEL

Used by the government to obliterate defective and trial printings before burning at the Bank of France

PRODUCTION FLAWS



Missing



Angled

Way off

PERFORATION ERRORS



Chopped



Double →



HEXAGONAL
OBLITERANT
USED TO DE-
STROY DEFEC-
TIVE PRINTINGS



TELEPHONE WO 2-3888-9

Aristocrat OFFICE EQUIPMENT

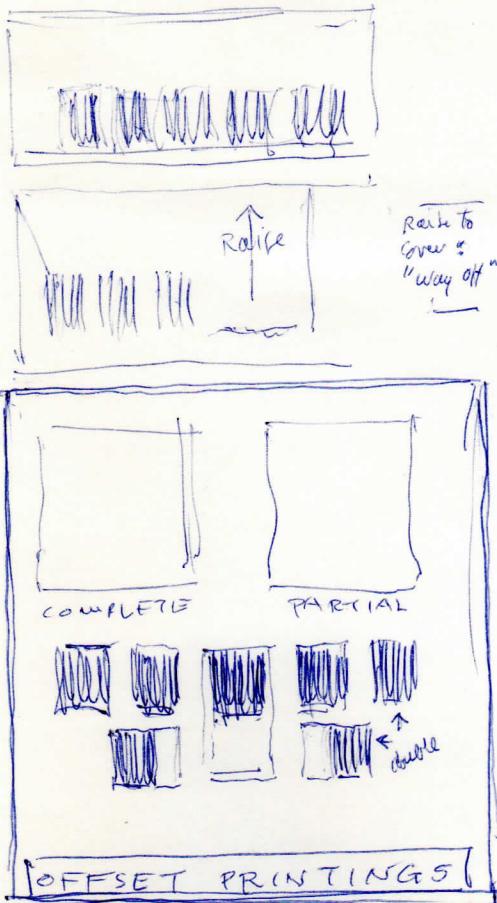
97 READE STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10013

19

M

- PICK UP**
 DELIVER

PRODUCTION FLAWS



—
Mark w/ Name }
[] }
[] }
[] }
[] }

INSERT PIECE OF
ELBE SHEET

BY:

Big enough to
cover the words
"chopped" & "double"

I may have
to do whole
page over,
varying all
perf pieces by
3-4 squares

reverse
beneath

PRODUCTION ERRORS

COMPLETE



PARTIAL



SHADE
VARIETIES →



← DOUBLE
IMPRESSIONS

OFFSET PRINTINGS



MISSING NUMERAL OF YEAR

In 1907, a few sheets were printed without the usual 'millesime' number.

PRINTING ACCIDENT

A PORTION OF THE PANE, DUE TO A FOLD IN THE SHEET, IS PRINTED ON OBVERSE

1908







Face →

← S



← Hand

Foot →

C →

This is the
largest piece
known that
shows these
varieties ▷



THE MOST FAMOUS OF THE PRINTING FLAWS

THE MISSING "C" and "S"
& "broken face" varieties

THE SOWER WITH THE CANDLE

A crack occurring on one plate
at position 36 → November 1907



Early



Middle stage



Complete



FORGERIES AND FLIM-FLAM

COLOR ESSAY, POSTALLY USED

Specimens of this known trial shade of a raspberry hue, though perforated, were normally obliterated with the standard hexagon-concentric killer cancel and then burned. This copy escaped, probably by theft, and was successfully used as postage. There are fragments of paste on the ungummed back and the vestige of a dated cancel reading: 1927, L-1



RED-CROSS, DOUBLE OVERPRINT

All such 'errors' are of private origin.



F.M. OVERPRINT ON THIN-LINES

The overprint was never authorized for use on the thin inscription types

THE LORULOT POSTAL FORGERIES PRODUCED IN 1909



Immediate distinguishing characteristic: linear perforations

change title to
Unauthorized flour flour

Remove false horizont and
Replace with ~~the~~

- ① the double inverted V's - cross on ground
sower
- ② the "guadeloupe" opt.

Do separate page on the Postal Forgeries



CURIOSITIES OF THE 1914-1918 WAR



1915: ESSAY OF PROPOSED OVERPRINT
to commemorate the recovery of Alsace. Unadopted



Galerie Lafayette

ENCASED FOR USE AS
EMERGENCY CURRENCY

Medallions of aluminum, a
metal which had then no mili-
tary significance. Glacine enve-
lopes. Advertising on backs



Legend on verso



Design on verso



"Chocolat Francois"



"Spidoline"

MINIATURIZED BY A PHOTO-REDUCTION PROCESS
SOLD FOR THE BENEFIT OF BLINDED SOLDIERS

F.M. OVERPRINTS

1907 through 1916

None printed in 1909



MILITARY FRANCHISE

Type-set in plates of 150

Authorized through 1929



The Broken F (pos. 144)



Imperfected



Inverted



On fading S



OVERPRINTS FOR ASIA MINOR

CASTELLORIZO



TYPE I Authorized: June, 1920
by order of Naval Administrator Terme

TYPE II, August 26, 1920

HANDSTAMP
500 Specimens only



LEVANT

FOR USE IN FRENCH OFFICES IN THE TURKISH EMPIRE



TYPE I : ISSUE OF 1920
For use by Consular Service P.O.'s
Overprinted in Paris.



TYPE Ia, Unrecorded Variety
Vertical spacing is one mm. shorter
Width of '20 Paras' is 3/4 mm. narrower

PROVISIONAL ISSUE OF MARCH 26, 1923

Handstamped during a shortage by decree
of the Consul General, L. Santi, the issue
was in use for five days only, until new
stocks arrived on March 31. Hence it is
relatively scarce in the cancelled state.



FIRST ISSUE
OF 1920
30,000 COPIES



TYPE ONE

2 mm Spacing
200,000 copies
Gedeon printing



THIN O.M.F.
20 PARAS
ON ONE LINE

SECOND ISSUE OF 1920

Heavy O.M.F.; Paras on 2 lines
PRINTED BY TWO SHOPS



TYPE TWO

1 mm spacing
400,000 copies
High Commissariat



THE INVERTED PRINTING OF TYPE I
of which only one sheet is known. Scarce.



O over C



MULTIPLE ERROR
10 Paras instead of 20
Exists only inverted



On yellow paper



THIRD ISSUE OF 1920

For the Eastern Sanjaks. 'SAND. EST': Sandjaks de l'est

THE OVERPRINTS FOR MEMEL

Territory on the Baltic coast taken from the Germans by the Treaty of Versailles and administered by a commission under French presidency.

1919-1923



ISSUE OF JULY 7, 1920
1.4 MILLION PRINTED IN PARIS



ISSUE OF APRIL, 1921
Additional surcharge struck in Memel



ISSUE OF JANUARY-APRIL, 1922
143,000 PRINTED IN PARIS

SYRIA

TYPE I : Issue of Nov. 21, 1919

T.E.O. : Territoires Ennemis Occupés
9000 copies printed



TYPE III : Issue of Nov. 21, 1920

O.M.F. : Occupation Militaire Francaise
15,000 copies printed



TYPE II : Issue of May, 1920

The plates were handset and the issue, locally printed, frequently displays the effects such as this misplaced '2' or the straddling & and angled printing on the block.



TYPE IV : Issue of 1921

Another locally handset & carelessly printed surcharge the making of which produced several varieties of errors including the inverted and doubled surcharges as here and the inverted 'S' at left



INVERTED ↑ S

