

France & Colonies Philatelist



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THE FIRST LINE ENGRAVED STAMP OF FRANCE

In the last issue of the "Philatelist" Raoul Lesgor, theorizing on the 1.50 fr. + 8.50 fr. semi-postal of 1928 (Scott B-27) said, "If this article is instrumental in inducing someone to dig deeper, it will not have been in vain." Someone has dug deeper. We are proud to present this further article on the B-27 by that eminent French authority and world-known philatelist . . .

PIERRE DE LIZERAY,
of the Academie de Philatelie

In a recent letter Mr. Raoul Lesgor asked if I could furnish any additional information about the stamp known as "Le Travail" (Scott's No. B27), the first line engraved stamp of France.

My information being just as scanty as that which is generally known about the subject, I decided to ask some one who had been involved in the production of the stamp and, as it turned out, I knocked on the "right door".

Later on I read Mr. Lesgor's article. There several new questions were raised which unfortunately I had not put to my informant. But I think that easy deductions, in conjunction with the information given by my "right door", may provide the answers to these questions.

Before my visit to my informant I had read and re-read what Mr. R. Pouget, the former director of the Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres-Poste on the Boulevard Brune, had to say about the early stages of the production of French line engraved stamps, in the brochure referred to by Mr. Lesgor.

Unfortunately his French text is not clear, even to a Frenchman, and what can be understood from his remarks does not give a true picture of what actually took place. In fact, it is a curious mingling of what was done by other printing establishments at the time (but was never done at the Blvd. Brune) and what was done later on at the Blvd. Brune. Whether or not the text is "purposely" not clear, I don't know.

This brochure refers to an electrolytic process of producing engraved plates, but it must be understood this was a process used elsewhere and not at the Bd. Brune. This was told to me by my informant, but in addition to that one can be sure of it from two facts.

The first fact is the appearance of the three varieties of this stamp (Lesgor's figs. 1, 2 and 3). They reveal at once three states of the transfer roll, with two successive (and additive) breaks affecting those parts of

the engraving standing up in relief on the transfer roll.

The second fact is indicated on Lesgor's fig. 4. Not only did my informant state that a transfer roll was used but he told me just how the transferring was done. He said that the secret of the successful use of the transfer roll method was to begin the "rocking in" at one end of the plate, then to go over to the opposite end, and so on. He told me that before this secret was known the Bd. Brune ran into a great deal of trouble and, in the end, failure.

Lesgor's fig. 4 shows the progress of the work, for this progress is clearly indicated by the well-known three successive states of the transfer roll.

The first and last vertical columns were "rocked in" first. Then came the N-E corner of the plate. Then came the first break (second state of the transfer roll, and of course of the stamp). The next work was probably done in the S-W corner (opposite to the N-E, a confirmation of my information). The end of the work occurs near the center of the plate, after the laydown of the five positions of state III.

In this article Mr. Lesgor says that the French postal administration was not equipped in 1928 to produce line engraved stamps. A clear distinction must be made between the making of the plate and the printing of the stamps. We have seen that the Blvd. Brune was able to produce a plate, and did produce one. This plate being made of iron, it is permissible to deduce that it was a sturdy one and sufficient for the production of 2,000 stamps.

It is also possible to say that if two plates were used for this stamp most likely they were not prepared at the same time. So, if there was another plate it could only have been "rocked in" either before or after the plate indicated in Lesgor's fig. 4, and would include only state I or state III subjects. **Continued on Page 6**

EDITOR'S

CORNER

Once again we must apologise for being late, but at long last all difficulties have been ironed out and we can assure you that #101, scheduled to appear the first week in April, will be on time. It will be the first "Philatelist" to carry advertising. Meanwhile we beg your indulgence.

Editorial matter has been flowing in and we are delighted to give you what we believe is a diverse, and what we hope is an interesting issue. The controversy begun by Raoul Lesgor in #99-100 continues with a splendid rebuttal by one of our most distinguished members, the great philatelic scholar, Pierre de Lizeray. (In #102 still another of our fine philatelic researchers enjoins the battle with a further argument on the controversial B-27. Charles Neidorf, winner of the Collectors Club Philatelist Medal for his amazing work on the Tour Hassan issue of Morocco, undertakes to refute both Mr. Lesgor and Mr. De Lizeray. Watch for it.)

Colonial enthusiasts and airmail collectors will find the article and checklist on the 1939 Special First Flight Handstamps of New Caledonia, supplied to us by Henry M. Goodkind, editor of the "The Collectors Club Philatelist" and "The Aero Philatelist Annals," quite useful. Oddly enough the information used in this article came from a translation made by our member George Weiler.

The tiny "Notopfer" stamp, described and explained by Frederic Muhlenheim, a frequent contributor to these columns, is also of unusual interest. We feel sure that after reading the facts about this unknown little bit of postage a lot of you will include it in your collections.

This seems to be a month of answers, rebuttals and explanations. Bob Stone, moved by a comment of Nathan Hals in a recent review, has been prompted to explain and discuss some of the methods used in classifying postmarks. Puzzled postmark collectors should benefit from this one.

Incidentally, we would be very pleased to know what you readers think of the material in each issue. Only through your comments can we give you the type of article that you wish to see in your journal. We are trying to keep as happy a balance as possible between classic and modern, colonial and metropolitan. We firmly believe that in a journal of this type there should be something to please every member of the group. Your thoughts on the matter will help guide our editorial policy.

In closing I would like to mention Mr. Neidorf's plea for cast off philatelic journals and other material you no longer want. All of us felt that the Collectors Club Library would be the best repository for it. There, it will be of use to all students of French stamps. Too, it will help perpetuate the name of Stephen G. Rich who did so much for this organization. We hope your response will be most generous.

WANTED:

French Philatelic Periodicals

CHARLES NEIDORF

It is perhaps not generally remembered that some years ago the France and Colonies Group authorized the establishment of its own library of French philatelic books and periodicals, for the benefit of the membership. Up to the present time the collection has remained quite small, but at a recent Group meeting it was decided that a determined effort should be undertaken to expand the library collection, particularly by adding, if possible, complete sets of a number of current French philatelic periodicals.

In recent years the results of a surprisingly large amount of valuable original research on French stamps has been published, particularly by Pierre de Lizeray, and his colleagues in the pages of the "Bulletin Philatelique du Midi," but also in "Le Monde des Philatelistes," "La Philatelie Francaise," and perhaps several others unknown to the writer.

Anyone who has had occasion to study some of these research articles knows beyond any doubt that they surely deserve to be better known and more widely used, and that they will continue to serve as a mine of useful information for many years to come. It is most regrettable, therefore, that these articles remain largely inaccessible and unknown, because no complete file exists in this country, apparently, of the "Bulletin Philatelique du Midi" or "Le Monde." It is only quite recently, through the efforts of Raoul Lesgor, that subscriptions to both have become readily available. But, while this is all to the good, it has only served to whet the appetites of students of French stamps, who must wonder what they have missed in preceding issues.

Surprisingly, the library of the Collectors Club, which is available for use by resident members of the Group, is rather disappointing as far as current French philatelic periodicals are concerned. It has only "L'Echo de la Timbrologie" (with a gap between 1940 and 1945), "La Philatelie Francaise" and "Le Marcophile."

Obviously, the situation with respect to the Group's collection of French philatelic periodicals needs to be improved. Does anyone know of a source of back numbers of the "Bulletin Philatelique du Midi" or "Le Monde des Philatelistes," or have such back numbers to dispose of? The Group would be most happy, it goes without saying, to receive donations of back numbers from members or friends. Any material received will be given to the Collectors Club library for permanent storage and safe-keeping. It will be given in the name of Stephen G. Rich to help begin a memorial collection of French philatelic material in his name. Each donor will be credited for his donation and will receive the thanks of all involved. The cooperation of the membership is earnestly solicited.

NEW CALEDONIA

Special First Flight Handstamps

HENRY M. GOODKIND

Our special thanks to the "Aero Philatelist Annals" and Mr. Goodkind, its editor, for permission to use this material. — Ed.



Fig. 1 The handstamped overprint. (photo Boutrelle)

On page 309 of the "Sanabria Air Post Catalog," 1957-8 edition under New Caledonia the following is found:

"NOTE: A 90¢ red 'Exposition Internationale Paris' postage stamp of New Caledonia and Nos. 20, 24, 25 and 26 with handstamp overprint, 'ler, Courrier 100% Aerienne — Nouvelle Caledonie — France via Australia' were used on March 22, 1939, from Noumea to Paris. Correspondence was received in Paris, April 15, 1939. Stamps thus overprinted were never sold unused, but affixed to the letters. Price for the cover: \$15.00." (See Fig. 1)

Through the courtesy of George A. Weiler, past president of "The France and Colonies Group," we received some additional information about these handstamps that adds further to the text note in the Sanabria catalog. Because it is direct information from France, it is believed to be reliable.

Mr. Weiler has translated into English the contents of three articles in the 1939 "Echo de la Timbrologie" pages 409, 456 and 520. We quote:

"We have received from one of our kind subscribers M.R. Pognon, a cover, which was distributed in the April 4th mail, having left Noumea on March 23rd, and having gone by air mail on the whole trip.

"Mr. Martinet accomplished this first aerial flight from New Caledonia to France in collaboration with the Postal Administration. This aviator left the aerodrome at Voh on March 24th, reached Brisbane, Australia the same day, and at that point the mails were transferred to other air mail services of the British Dominion, which carried them by air to their destinations.

"Covers must carry the notation 'Par Avion MARTINET' and the Postal Administration placed on the stamps of New Caledonia a rubberstamp slogan reading:

ler, Courrier 100% Aerienne
N'vle Caledonie-France
Via Australia

"The cover, which was sent to us, was franked with the two 4.50 Frs. brick-red postage stamp of the 1939 issue, both having the surcharge with this imprint.

"We chronicled in our last issue, the courageous initiative of a Noumea druggist, Mr. Martinet. Our kind subscriber, Mr. Pognon, has written to us again with further interesting details of this first air mail link.

"Thanks to the perfect organization of the New Caledonia Postal Service, which deserves congratulations, 6500 grams (6 kilos, 5/cents.) of mail were carried. Of this mail, 1154 letters were addressed to France, 75 to Australia, 44 to Indo-China and India. The total postage ran to over 15,000 francs and this must have required almost 10,000 stamps for the Postal Administration to surcharge and then cancel. The collectors were not barred from taking advantage of the opportunity offered them to have mail on this flight.

"Besides the 4.50 frs. stamp of 1938, a rather large number of other stamps received the imprint of the rubber handstamp, which we showed before. M. Rouland sent us the list of stamps surcharged as follows:

15¢ Yvert 144 (Scott 147)*	85¢ Yvert 152A (Scott 155)
20¢ Yvert 145 (Scott 142)	1fr Yvert 154 (Scott 158)
20¢ Yvert 166 (Scott 208)	1 fr. 75 Yvert 156A (Scott 167)
30¢ Yvert 147 (Scott 144)	2 fr. Yvert 157 (Scott 203)
30¢ Yvert 167 (Scott 209)	3fr Yvert 158 (Scott 172)
70¢ Yvert 151A (Scott 152)	1fr. 75 50¢ Curie (Scott B4).
75¢ Yvert 152 (Scott 153)	

"Now Mr. Sarrazin writes that he has received a cover that was franked with the following stamps that were surcharged by the rubber handstamp. These are:

50¢ violet & brown (Yvert 2500 (Scott 148)*, the 90¢ red (Yvert 159) (Scott 173)."



Fig. 2 One of the special flight covers.

Illustrated is a cover from our collection (Fig. 2). The dates and markings correspond to those mentioned by this French source. This cover is cancelled in Noumea, New Caledonia, March 22, 1939 and backstamped Paris, France, April 4, 1939. Also it carries the notation "Par Avion MARTINET." The four stamps having the handstamped surcharge are Scott Nos. 158, 169, 173 and 212. We have seen other covers using different stamps. So from this reliable French source, we know that there were at least seventeen postage stamps with Scott Designs A19, 20 and 21 handstamped and the note in the Sanabria Air Post Catalog" can be amended in this respect.

* (Ed. Note) The Scott Catalog numbers have been added by us.

REVIEWS

UNITED STATES RF OVERPRINTS ON AIR MAIL STAMPS AND STATIONERY (1944-45)

By HENRY M. GOODKIND

The Collectors Club, 22 E. 35 St., N.Y. 16, N.Y. \$2.00

This 63 page, profusely illustrated handbook, published under the auspices of the Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Fund, puts the most up-to-date knowledge on this fascinating subject for both U.S. and French collectors under one cover. Mr. Goodkind is in a unique position to present the subject authoritatively because of his standing as an aero-philatelist and an expert on the staff of the Philatelic Foundation.

The 'RF' (Republique Francaise) overprints on U.S. air mails current during World War II excited much doubt, inquiry and research, and now engage the forger because of their increasing value. Only an informed collecting community can foil the "fausseau," and only an informed public may appreciate the color and excitement of possessing these items. Almost singlehandedly, as far as publication is concerned, Henry M. Goodkind has performed this task, and we are in his debt.

Space and impropriety prevent a recapitulation of the points of this monograph. Rather this review must be an appreciation of the work. The only thing lacking here must remain a lack — a list of authentic dates and sources of use. We have here the precision and research accorded to the Ballon Posts, and as with that fascinating study, so will the story of these 'RF' overprints receive their due in time thru the pioneer efforts of such as Mr. Goodkind.

It must be noted that the fastest growing section of our philatelic hobby — postal history — is here served as never before. The documentation and postal markings are well covered. The author has given us a new pleasure on a silver platter. — Hals

Catalogue des Marques Postales et Obliterations de Paris, 1700 — 1876. Andre Rochette & Jean Pothion. Privately issued, Paris 1958.

In 349 pages the authors have covered the field of the postmarks of Paris over a 178 year period in very fine fashion. The collation of these marks was a tremendous job and nearly all the faults of its great exemplar, the 1929 'Estampiles' of Yvert, have been corrected here.

The 'faults' of the 'Estampiles' were inherent in the infant field of postmarks in 1929; a mass of material was listed without explanations or incorrect statements of use or origin, and now most of these puzzles have been solved for the student. Some few are incompletely explained or not explained, but that is no fault of the authors who have made a great name in postal history in France thru their previous researches in the field.

We, who are interested in philatelic literature, well know the dedication and expense required to bring knowledge into print, and this book is worthy of our sympathy when we realize it had to be privately issued for lack of support from a publisher. Because of this factor the work

is limited to the classifications of marks not recently covered by others, otherwise it might well have been over 700 pages! The Preface by Leon Dubus and the body of the work mention the supplementary writings necessary for a 'total' picture of the Paris marks. They represent the fields of entry marks, ambulants, special post-offices, newspaper useages, etc., and quite a bit of money and searching for one who would like to complete this section of his library.

This reviewer found nothing to quibble about — no immediately noticed errors of typography, fact, or missing material. As anyone knows, who collects covers, any decent collection will contain marks not previously listed or used at dates or manners unnoted before. I added file cards to notes of my copy of additions to the listings, but none were of major importance and will be mentioned only to the authors.

There remains, now that we have this book, only a few things to write up: an adequate list and explanation of the free frank privileges and those who used them and a study of the marks of the suburbs of Paris. In addition, there are certain supplementary marks, like the C.L., O.R. and others of the provinces that might be covered.

The only philatelic work supplanted by this is Rochette's own 'Etoiles de Paris', but again, if this had been a 'complete' work it would have only been duplicative of authoritative works by Noel, Carrol Chase, Chapellier and others.

In my opinion this book stands with the 'Estampiles' and the 'Comte de Nice' (Delrieu and Moutafoff, Yvert 1947) as a milestone. We go on from here. — Hals

LA Documentation Philatelique (Bulletin de la Societe Philatelique Franco-Britannique et de la Societe Philatelique de Neuilly-sur-Seine). Published jointly by the two societies; editor, Pierre Langlois, 98 Cours de Vincennes. Paris 12^{EME}.

It is a pleasure to greet another serious philatelic periodical from France — there are all too few. La Documentation Philatelique is now in its fifth year and 20th Whole Number, the last two of which have recently come to my attention. It is put out by two small societies of the Paris environs, one of about 150 members the other of 450, mostly philatelists of the studious type. Many belong to both which brings a reduction in dues. These societies have new issue services and circuit books. Dues are 500 fr. a year. LDP No. 19 May 1958, was a special number of 24pp devoted entirely to the mail of the "great fisheries" of the Grand Banks and Gulf of St. Lawrence — actually the articles have as much to do with St. Pierre — Miquelon as with the fishery. Some extended comments by us on this issue will appear in The Eagle, no. 2. Number 20 of LDP, 36 pp, for June-Sept. 1958, has valuable articles on Hulot, the Franco-British Postal Convention of 1843, the London "windmill sails" precancels, reviews, new issues, and society activities. Altho part of LDP will be devoted to British philately, the French specialist will find it a very worthwhile publication, scholarly, well edited, and neatly reproduced (mimeograph). May it have a long and expanding life. — R. G. Stone

ON CLASSIFICATION OF POSTMARKS

ROBERT G. STONE

Mr. Hals' comment on Leo Goerth's method of numbering stamps in his catalogue of the general issues (FCP # 99-100, p. 16, review of "THE EAGLE") leads me to offer a few observations on the related subject of classifying postmarks for cataloguing purposes, with the hope of enlisting a more sympathetic understanding of this general problem.

It must be obvious that there are many ways of classifying and cataloguing postmarks, depending on what features are of interest, what the catalogue is to be used for, etc. The interests of collectors vary so widely that it cannot be expected that any classification will serve all purposes equally well. The classifications one sees in the literature usually represent either a solution satisfying some very particular interest (maybe only the author's), or a compromise made to serve all collectors of a certain class. I have never been fully happy with any classification or catalogue I have seen, including my own, and I don't expect to be. It is not usually easy to come up with something approaching the ideal because the complexity of postmarks tends to defeat the objectives of simplicity and ease of use in the classification. Those of us who just like to make an intellectual exercise out of classification for our own amusement and edification without regard to the interests of others nor to the limitations of publication, must be prepared for the likelihood that their efforts will not be publishable nor adopted far and wide. At the other extreme there is a need for some classification that will meet with enough standardization and acceptance so that communication among stamp dealers and collectors is facilitated.

In the field of French Colonies we have been for years stuck with the classification and catalogue of Langlais and Bourselet. Of late all French colonial specialists have keenly felt the inadequacies of L. & B. and as a result there has been a rash of new classifications offered. In my own recent articles on Guadeloupe postmarks I still followed L. & B., which I now regret. Meanwhile Tristant's classification appeared — it is so complex that one cannot really use it in any practical way; nor does it have any special logic which illuminates the history or character of the markings. Its arbitrariness illustrates a type of weakness in many classifications. There is no pattern in it that is easily remembered or understood. I think Mr. Hals' complaint regarding Goerth's stamp catalogue is based in large part on this. And I must concur with him. His other complaint is that there is ambiguity because two different stamps may receive the same number — the same sort of thing can happen in a postmark catalogue, either through carelessness, or because the cataloguer's knowledge is incomplete, or because some things had to be overlooked in order to gain the desired simplicity. The more aspects of the marks that are considered the more hairs that can and have to be split. There is really no answer to this prob-

lem of simplicity vs. completeness, only a compromise depending on what hairs and how many one wants to split.

But there is another possibility in catalogue classification which offers more opportunity for improvement without introducing unwanted complexity. This has to do with the logic and information capacity of the system of symbols used to identify the items. We have already pointed out the lack of this in Tristant's system. Our member Jean Wall of Paris, has developed a classification of postmarks and applied it to a number of French colonies. It illustrates how the symbols used in a classification can convey a lot of information by themselves and still be easy to understand and use. He divides the dated postmarks (1864—) into those having a single ring and those having double ring, but without assigning a special symbol for this feature — the order of the symbols shows which it is:—

Double-Ring Cachets:

1. Diameter of the outer ring: the number of mm
2. The form of the outer ring:
 - C - continuous
 - D - discontinuous
 - P - small pearls
 - T - large dashes (Fr.: traits)
3. If the letters are Roman: (R)
If the letters are Gothic: no symbol
4. The decorative motif, if any:
 - ET - stars (Fr. ½ Etoiles)
 - FL - fleurons
 - PT - points

Thus a cachet might be designated 24C(R)ET — that is a double ring with outer ring continuous circle of 24 mm diameter, inscriptions Roman letters, and stars for decoration.

Single-Ring Cachets:

1. The form of the ring:
 - U - uniform continuous circle
 - UD - uniform discontinuous circle (i.e., dashes)
 - H - hexagonal continuous ring
 - HD - hexagonal discontinuous ring
2. The diameter of the ring: in number of mm

Thus a cachet might be HD26FL — that is dashed hexagonal ring, no inner ring, of 26mm diameter, Gothic letters in inscriptions, fleurons.

Note the large amount of information conveyed by these short designations which are abbreviations of the descriptive terms (in French). Compare this with symbols like "0.31," "Type Aa", "Type C", etc., in systems which use arbitrary numerical or letter characters in chronological or other sequence. Wall claims his system takes care of 95% of the French colonial marks from 1864 to date. His system also has the advantage of flexibility in accommodating new discoveries; new postmarks of different style and size can be added without disrupting the rest of the catalogue, though sometimes additional symbols may have to be tacked on to the old ones or new categories (such as octagonal rings) provided for. The systems with arbitrary symbols do not have this flexibility because they can be added to only at the expense of destroying the original logic of the system, if there was any, or by requiring exten-

A Little Known Philatelic Item

FREDERIC MUHLENHEIM

But were two (or more) plates necessary for the rapid production of this stamp, if there was an emergency? First, I suppose that for a completely new creation no promise of a quick production was given by the Blvd. Brune; it would have been too audacious and presumptuous. Secondly, the printing press that produced the stamp was a good and rapid one.

Here we reach the culminating point of my information. When this last bit of news was given to me, of course, I couldn't believe my ears. A hand press at the Blvd. Brune that was good and rapid?

For "Le Travail" the press was not a hand press, was not the property of our national printing establishment, and did not operate at the Bd. Brune.

A Mr. Chassepot, talented son of the inventor of the Chassepot rifle, so celebrated during the Franco-Prussian war and long afterwards, invented and constructed the machinery needed to turn a good and rapid typographic press into a sufficiently good line engraving press. A splendid performance, indeed!

For, as it was stated to me: "There was no suitable press on the market, of whatever construction, except in America, where such presses were used for the rapid production of American stamps". These presses were not for sale; the Americans could only print stamps for us. But our government wanted the stamps to be produced in France. So the job of doing the printing was given to Mr. Chassepot. We should say the printing only, as the plate or plates were made by the Blvd. Brune.

Mr. Chassepot was very much concerned about preserving the secrecy of his invention. He was, perhaps, suspicious that some other clever printer might make a copy of his invention. So he forbade anyone from the Blvd. Brune "to come into his workshop and see his machine either running or stopped".

Here we come to a very amusing detail. Once, while he was in a rather nervous state of mind, he said to the manager of the Blvd. Brune: "If by chance somebody tries to copy my discovery, you can be sure I will answer him with the gun invented by my father", the celebrated Chassepot rifle!

The details contained in this article have come to my knowledge very directly and very recently. They have never been published in France by me or anyone else, and I bring them first of all to the attention of the members of our Group, to honor one of our members whom I admired very much, whose work on the Sage stereos, which is of enormous importance, I have translated, revealed and propagated in France, that great searcher and man of heart, Stephen G. Rich. Tomorrow I shall reveal in France what I have said here concerning "Le Travail", the first engraved stamp of my country. Stephen G. Rich rendered us a signal service in studying our Sages. I would like to thank his country of origin by revealing for it the major outlines of the origin of another French stamp, "Le Travail".



The tiny "Notopfer" stamp was issued on Jan. 1, 1948, by the American and English Administrations in the occupied zone of Germany. It appeared during the memorable "Air-Lift" established by the U.S. Air Force to counteract the blockade of Berlin by the Russians in their vain attempt to separate that city from the three western zones.

A postal tax stamp, it had no franking value, but was obligatory on all letters carrying regular postage. Its price of two pfennigs went to help defray the enormous costs of that incredible aerial bridge.

Ten days later the French Postal Administration hopped on the bandwagon, joining its American and British cohorts in the use of the "Notopfer" stamp and making it obligatory in the French occupation zone (Usage began on Jan. 10 in Wurttemberg and on Feb. 1st in Baden and the Palatinate). It saw use until May 31, 1948.

Typographed in dark blue or blue, the stamp may be found in almost every perforation size from 11 to 14 and imperforate. Two watermarks are known — Scott Wmk. #285 (wavy lines) and Scott Wmk. # 286 (Dp).

It is quite evident from the above facts that these little stamps belong in any collection embracing the occupied zones of Germany. Minkus and Michel, recognizing this fact, list the stamp, but give the wrong dates of usage. Scott has yet to include the stamp in their catalog.

While not a rarity at present, this tiny stamp holds much promise for the future. Its very smallness and short term of use are all helping to make it a fast disappearing item.

Since it is so small, the most satisfactory and desirable way to collect the "Notopfer" is on cover with a clear strike of the postmarks used in each zone.

"Notopfer" reappeared in July, 1949, when the French authorities saw fit to revive its use on domestic mail. Its purpose was to raise funds for the reconstruction of buildings destroyed during the war. It was overprinted in red with the two words: WOHNUNGSBAU/ABGABE and its use was obligatory until Dec. 31, 1949. The same profusion of perforation sizes and watermarks exist here. In addition, a regular stamp, orange in color, Perf. 12, with Scott Wmk. #285 (wavy lines) and a value of 2 pfennigs, was issued on August 22 of that year for the same purpose. This stamp was inscribed: WOHNUNGSBAUABGABE /STEUR 2 MARKE/WURTEMBERG-HOHENZOLLERN.

It too, was withdrawn from use on Dec. 31, 1949.

GROUP NEWS

COME TO "INTERPEX"

FEB. 27 - MARCH 1, 1959!



Based on the success of last year's "Spring Conference," the Group is planning what they hope will be the largest and most elaborate Exhibition and Get-Together ever held in our eighteen year history. Making this possible is "Interpex," the International Stamp Exhibition. A three-day show, "Interpex" will be held at the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City from Feb. 27th to March 1st, 1959. Seven other philatelic societies and ten foreign governments are all joining to make this one of the philatelic events of the year.

We, of course, will have our own competitive exhibition, our regular annual banquet for members and their friends and our own special meeting. A letter containing exhibition entry blanks, the price of frames and full information about the show will be sent out in the very near future.

One of the special events planned for this three-day affair is a Dutch Treat cocktail party on Friday night when old friends can meet and new members can make the acquaintance of their fellow collectors. Saturday evening, naturally, has been reserved for our now famous French gourmet dinner at the St. Germaine restaurant. Those of you who have attended one of these enjoyable affairs know what a wonderful time is had by all. Only two rules are strictly enforced — No Speeches! No Formality!

A special meeting of the Group will be held at the hotel on Saturday morning which we hope will be attended by many non-resident members.

In addition to our own events there will be a 300 frame exhibit of stamps from all over the world, including many outstanding rarities, a large dealer's bourse at which Secretary Bretagne and Treasurer Queyroy will each have booths, a U.S. Post Office which will put the new Lincoln stamp on first day sale and will provide First Day Cancellations for those who want them as well as offer a large selection of current commemoratives.

The Post Office Department, the Lincoln Museum in Washington and Peter Cooper in New York will all show rare Lincoln manuscripts, rare Lincoln stamps, books and other fabulous pieces of Lincolniana.

There will also be a magnificent display of \$1,000,000 in carved sapphires, an unusual stamp auction which will

utilize closed circuit television for the first time in philatelic selling, Cardinal Spellman's famous "Blackjack" collection and many, many other fabulous attractions.

How much will all this cost? Amazingly little! We are delighted to announce that, although the general public will be charged \$1.00 for each admission, anyone showing his France and Colonies Group membership card will be admitted for half price or \$.50. Those that prefer it may purchase a comprehensive ticket for \$1.50 which will allow them to come and go as often as they like through the entire run of the show.

The banquet, which of course is optional, will cost \$5.50 per plate, and we can assure you that it is well worth every cent of that amount. The fee includes, in addition to the truly superb dinner, a souvenir for the ladies, wine and your tip. The annual awards will be presented at this time and the winners in the competition will be announced.

The various committees in charge of preparations have gone all out to make this the most memorable affair ever held by the Group and we hope that everyone who can possibly attend will do so.

Miss Louise Clemenccon, 30 Monroe St., AI-2, New York 2, N.Y. is taking care of dinner reservations as well as those for hotel rooms. Those interested please contact her as soon as possible.

Exhibition information will reach you shortly. Vice-President Nathan Hals, 1425 Theriot Ave., Bronx 60, N.Y. is the Exhibition Chairman. He will be glad to supply you with answers to any questions you may have.

We earnestly suggest that you put this fine show at the top of your "must" list and make New York your goal on Feb. 27th. All of us would like to see you there.

E. QUEYROY APPOINTED MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Edmond Queyroy has been appointed Chairman of the Membership Committee to fill the vacancy left by the death of Stephen G. Rich. Mr. Queyroy, whose wide contacts make him particularly suited for this position, graciously agreed to take on this new job in addition to his duties as Group treasurer. All membership inquiries should be sent to him at the following address:

Edmond Queyroy
55 W. 42 St.
New York 36, N. Y.

KREMER APPOINTED RESEARCH CHAIRMAN

Brainerd Kremer, who conducts our Identification Service for France proper and also for the revenue stamps of France, has been appointed Research Chairman for France & Colonies revenues by the American Revenue Association. For the answer to your French revenue problem send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Brainerd Kremer, 8 Lee Place, Upper Montclair, N.J.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

MARCH 15 TO SEPT. 15, 1958

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME:

- 739 Stehney, Mike, 2954 Goodson, Hamtramk 12, Mich.
(French Southern & Antarctic Territory)
740 Godfrey, Alex N., 676 Riverside Drive, New York 31,
N.Y. (General)
741 Keyser, Henry G. 412 N. Geneva St., Ithaca, N.Y.
(20th Century France)
742 Terry, Glen F. 2630 Palm St., Bakersfield, Calif.
(Cancellations)
743 Merrick, Arthur P., 7204 S.E. 32 Ave., Portland 2,
Oregon (France Postage Due & General, 19th
Century France to USA on covers)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- 61 Stone, Robert G. to Box 384, RFD #3, Belleville, Ill.
269 Handy, M. F. to 37 Waverly St., Malden 48, Mass.
349 Goerth, Leo F. to Box 2021, Orlando, Florida
336 Byler, Mable Miss, to 2126 Sunnyside Place, Sara-
toga, Florida
316 Fernald, Alan R. to 15 W. 11 St., New York 11, N.Y.

DECEASED:

- 38 Borie, Renshaw, Philadelphia, Pa.

ROBERT G. STONE Contd.

sive renumbering or redesignating in the catalogue just to accommodate one new item. Anyone who has studied library science and is familiar with the tortured development of the Dewey Decimal System (like Mr. Goerth's postmark classification) will know what I mean. There is no magic in the number 10 — postal administrations never planned their postmark types for grouping by 10's.

Though I prefer Mr. Wall's system for French colonial postmark cataloguing, I do not like the way he applied it to Guadeloupe because I find some features important which he did not consider — but it is very easy to reassign the symbols without changing their meaning. Mr. Wall does not, incidentally, assign any symbols to the dater part of the postmark (which is the source of trouble in Tristant's system) because the postal clerks could switch daters from mark to mark leading to infinite possible combinations of no basic significance. However, this will not satisfy the need to describe cases where the type of dater is important for determining whether a cachet is genuine or has been backdated.

Since writing the article on the 2¢ Ceres Colonies I have learned of the existence of two more covers bearing the 2¢, making three known in all. I would estimate that about 25 covers with the 4¢ are known. Also I have recently been shown a copy of the 2¢ with a Reunion postmark that appears to be correct, but I am sure that such a case is of accidental nature.

— R. G. Stone

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 for.

WANTED: Madagascar, 1891 Type-set issue; on cover, and in blocks. Homer Hilton Jr., Union National Bank, Marquette, Mich. (Member 526)

WANTED. France Postage Due J11, J29 to J45a in Millesime pairs, blocks of four or sheets of 50 — mint or used. Also J1 to J28 on cover. Price separately. — A. P. Merrick, 7204 SE 32 Ave., Portland 2, Oregon. (Member 743)

RENE CAILLIE ISSUES (Dahomey, Scott type A6) wanted, used on or off cover, Seeking 1939 issues, 1944 surcharges in railway, airmail and parcel post cancellations. Purchase or trade. — W. Connelly, 116 Greene, Middlesex, N.J. (Member 733)

POSTMARKS & covers bought or exchanged of French Guiana, Inini, Cote Somali, Fr. Oceanic, small Fr. Colonies. Also Bahamas, Maldives, Br. Sol. Ilands., Gilb. & Ellice Ilands. G.J. Raymond, 6035 Hornwood, Houston 36, Texas. (Member 474)

WANTED: For research, Fr. Gen. Col. Issues (particularly Dubois & Tax types) on or off cover, used in Madagascar, Mayotte, Nossi Be, Anjouan, Diego-Suarez & Ste. Marie. Offers to Reg. Morris, Trenowith, Ruan Minor, Helston, Cornwall, England. (Member 724)

WANTED: Cancellation of Paris Exposition 1855 on cover; also Vincennes sub-office, Exposition of 1900; also machine cancels used in Paris, except commonest, to 1928. Submit with prices please. J.B. Morton, 155 Cleveland Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. (Member 79)

EXCHANGE WANTED: French Africa south of the Sahara, especially Madagascar and Reunion. I have a wide range of items to offer. Helge Plougman, P.O. Box 3174, Cape Town, South Africa. (Member 714)

OBOCK & Somali Coast. Am interested in contacting collectors of the above countries with view of exchanging information on early cancellations. Cliff Adams, c/o American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador. (Member 688)

FOR SPECIAL FGC STUDY: Will buy used early stamps of Obock & Somali Coast, especially covers with "gros points" cancellations. C.H. Adams, c/o American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador. (Member 688)

GRAND COMORO ISLANDS: Am interested in obtaining any stamps (past or present) on cover. Will purchase or trade. Leo G. Goerth, 386 E. York St., Akron 10, Ohio. (Member 349)

FRANCE & COLONIES: Have some nice cancels on France & some duplicate French Offices to trade for Fr. Col. Gen. Issues. Leo G. Goerth, 386 E. York St., Akron 10, Ohio. (Member 349)