



France & Colonies Philatelist

RANDOM NOTES FOR COLLECTING THE SOWER ISSUE

By Raymond L. Gaillaguet

O. Roty first designed the "Semeuse" for the Mint, which produced it as the definitive silver coin of 1897.

In 1900 the postal authorities ran a contest for a new definitive postage stamp to replace the Peace & Commerce (Sage) and Mouchon issues which were not popular. Since they could not agree on a winner among the contestants, Roty's already existing design was chosen in 1903.

The first result, the "Semeuse sur fond ligné" (lined background) of 1903 was changed by the artist when the PTT felt that the lining took away some of the fluidity of the subject.

The consequent "Semeuse Camée avec Sol" (cameo sower with ground under the feet) of 1906, although it had a plain background was even less popular since it gave the impression of a statue rather than the free-flowing symbol of the Republic which it was attempting to conjure.

However, the idea of a plain background was pleasing and was adopted later in 1906 for the final definitive design, but with the ground under feet removed; "La Semeuse Camée sans Sol" came in two forms:

1. The "primitif" with thin numerals.
2. The "retouché," which soon became the definitive one (numerals slightly thicker).

From April 1903 with the 15 centimes, green-olive, to 1938, when the 20 centimes dark red type III (used for booklets with pub), this stamp was in continuous production. In the thirty-five elapsed years so many fascinating events occurred that each stamp should be studied separately in order to get the full scope of the usages made during the life of this issue.

The entire series has one thing in common: it was typographed and perforated 14x13½. The printing changed from flat plate, where the frame of the stamp always measures 18x22 mm, to the rotary plate, where the size varies but is generally 18½x22½ mm. The rotary plate was first used in early 1922 and the 10 centimes green, Type I, was printed by both types of plate.

The lowest denomination of this series was the 5c green. First date of



(a) I (b) II (c) III (d) IV
 Fig. 1. The Four Types of the 25c Sower Without Ground.

sale was 5 March 1907 and sold until July 1921. It was replaced by the 5c orange.

The 5 centimes has two types:

Type I flat plate for sheets of 300 and of 240 for booklets, the tail of the "q" is formed by a dot detached from the letter.

Type II flat plate for sheets of 240 for booklets only, the tail of the "q" is formed by a small line attached to the letter.

The blue 25c was the stamp in use for the longest time, from the 19th of

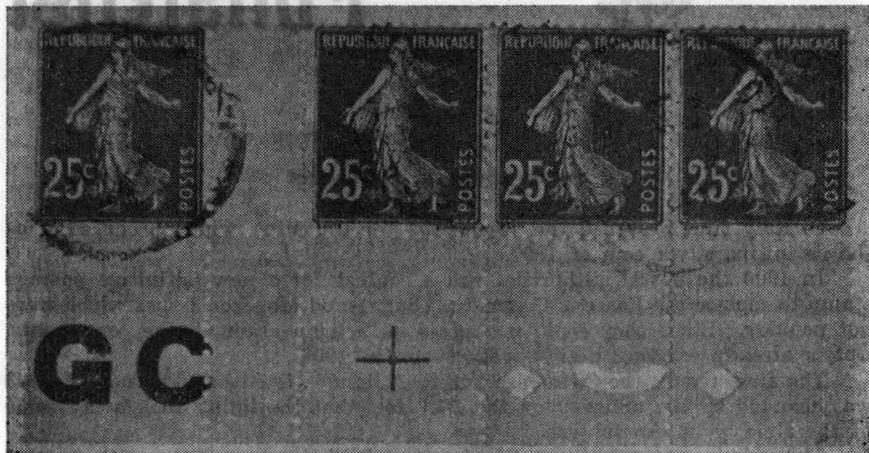


Fig. 2. 25c on GC paper.

"GC" in lower sheet margin under stamp #145. Note also guide cross for perforation operation and 3 hole control punch.

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Robert G. Stone, P. O. Box 471, Biglerville, Pa. 17307.



Fig. 3. Defective Inking.

June 1907 to June 1927. It was replaced by the 25c yellow-brown.

The 25 centimes has four types:

a) *Type I flat plate for sheets of 300 from 1907 to 1916 on good quality paper and on G.C. paper from 1917 to 1920, and again on good quality paper from 1920 to 1923. (Fig. 1a)

b) In sheets of 240 for booklets without pub.

In the value slug, the upper part of the "C" has no line. The head of the "2" is not as deep as in the other types. The lower point of the "2" forms a sharp angle and is 1 mm from the margin.

a) Type II flat plate for sheet of 240 for booklets without pub, issued in 1922. (Fig. 1b)

b) by flat plate for sheet of 240 for booklet with pub issued in 1924.

c) by flat plate for sheet of 120 for private booklets with pub (1925)

In the value slug, the upper part of the "C" is curved and the end of the "C" has a definite straight line. The head of the "2" is more hollow than in Type I. The end of the "2" has a very sharp angle and is only $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mm. from the margin.

a) Type III by flat plate in sheets of 300 printed at end of 1923 and in 1924.

b) by rotary plate in sheets of 100 printed from 1924 to 1927. (Fig. 1c)
The upper part of the "C" is very rounded and the lower part is longer towards the right. The upper part of the "2" is hollow while the point is also $\frac{3}{4}$ mm from the frame, but the right side of the tail of the numeral is much lower than the left side.

Type IV by flat plate in sheets of 240 for booklets without pub printed in 1920. The "2" is slightly more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mm from the frame. The base of the "2" is thicker than in Type I and better drawn than in Type II. The



Fig. 4. Printed on an Accordion Fold (opened out)



Fig. 5. Printed recto-verso (on gum side, from set-off impression on press bed) (Milleme "O")

tail of the "2" remains on an horizontal plane as in the first two types. (Fig. 1d)

Paper varieties:¹

The long duration of this issue resulted in a wide variation of papers.

- A. Thick paper, coarse, more or less cream color (1900 to 1909).
- B. Thick paper, not coarse, generally pure white (1907 to 1910).
- C. Thin paper, smooth and sometimes glazed. When held up to the light it shows little shiny points (from 1909).
- D. Paper showing a pattern of lozenges more or less visible when held up to the light (from 1915).



Fig. 6. Misperforation.



Fig. 7. Imperforate.

Fig. 9. From worn plate or dirty plate.

E. Pattern as above but easily visible on the back (1920).

G. C. (grande consommation) Paper: World War I forced the government to use lesser-quality paper for printing some of the different issues. At first this paper was to be used only for the issues in heavy usage, but it was in time used for all values. The initials "G.C." can be found above the 5th stamp in the sheet of 150 and under the 145th stamp. According to Robert Gallon, there were 70 different G.C. issues including millésimes and paper varieties. (Fig. 2)

All of the printing varieties ever found in printing processes can be found in this issue. Herewith, I am attempting to illustrate the more common of these varieties.

1. Defective inking. Ink too thick (Fig. 3)
2. Accordion fold: caused by paper folded before the printing. The folded part is not printed and causes the accordion effect. (Fig. 4)
3. Recto Verso: Caused when a sheet is not fed to the press and the inked plate prints an impression on the plane of the press. When the next sheet is fed in, the ink is transferred to the gum.³ (Fig. 5)
4. Misperfed: Caused by a sheet moving slightly and the perfs fall in the wrong place. All of the 1907 issues can be found misperfed, most of them on the flat plate printings. (Fig. 6)
5. Imperfs: Escaped perforation. They can be completely imperfed or imperfed on 1, 2, or 3 sides. (Fig. 7)
6. Printed on raccords (paste-up): should have been rejected but somehow was passed to the public. Also illustrated in a foldover, this never passed inspection but found its way out of the printing office in the pocket of some employee. (Fig. 8)
7. Used plate: Altho the illustrated example is deemed from a worn plate I feel that it is rather the product of some poor wiping of the plate and the ink filling up the figures. (Fig. 9)

1. Page 49, "Essai Sur Les Semeuses," by Louis Barrier.

2. Page 5, "Les Semeuses de 1907," by Robert Gallon.

3. Page 29, "France Specialized," by Raoul Lesgor, 1945.

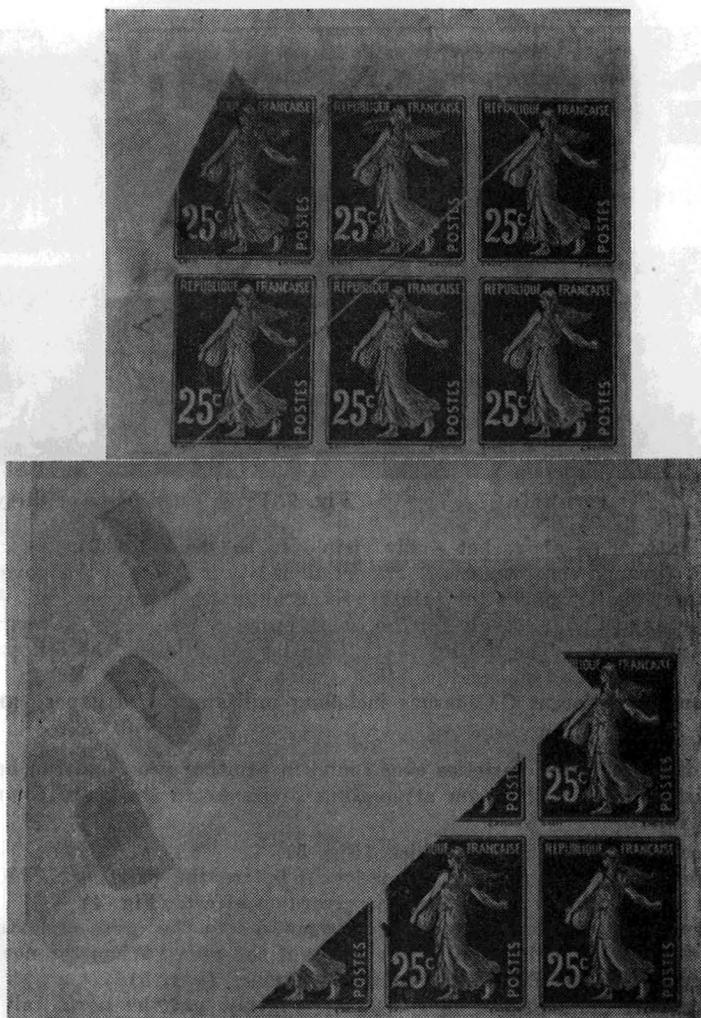


Fig. 8. (a) (Top) Printed on pasted-up paper joint (raccord)—join is at angle to stamp frame.
 (b) (bottom) Overlap of joint turned back to show effect.

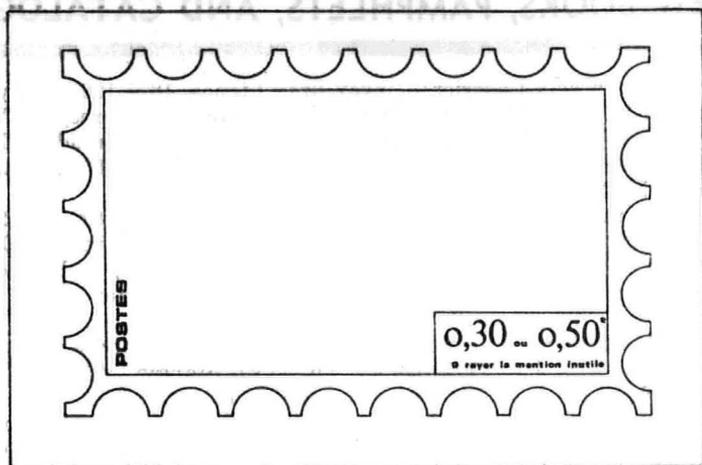
STOP PRESS!

The French PTT Innovates The Personalized Stamp!?

The magazine *Postes et Télécommunications* (a house organ of the French Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications) in its no. 196, April 1972, runs a short breezy note obscurely tucked in the back pages, which unveils a bombshell that may shake the postal and philatelic world to its foundations—the personalized postage stamp (le timbre-poste personnalisé)! It was issued (so it says) on April 1 on an experimental basis, without any preceding fanfare or announcement that we have knowledge of. We quote the note (translated):

“Who will say that the administration of the PTT isn’t keeping up with the times? Such an initiative, which would have appeared hare-brained, even

Le timbre-poste personnalisé



shocking, only a few years ago, today amounts to meeting a fundamental need of the era: the need for communication. It is in this spirit that it is necessary to understand the decision, unique in the world up to now, of the French Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications to put on sale, as a trial, on the first day of April 1972, a 'personalized postage stamp' which will be to an envelope what a postscript is to a letter. This stamp, a fac-simile of which is reproduced here, is entirely white and anyone can put on it, according to his taste, his individual imprint for his correspondence. Anything is permissible: the lover can design a heart, the soldier a ninepin, the gambler a four-leafed clover, etc. The imagination is thus freed; dream up a bit, in effect, what you would send to your receiver, to your creditor or to your mistress—. Already, some experiments in communications of this type have been made in certain towns with these white labels made available to the public. In every case the results have been excellent. Thus the postage-stamp is now, in its turn, raised to the category of the mass media and no doubt your future letters will be better welcomed by your correspondents. The interest of the PTT in this decision is evident: now one can no longer reproach the PTT for depersonalizing the mail with its 5-digit postal code numbers soon to go in force. The new stamp on the contrary shows the deep humanity of the postal authorities of our country. Always solicitous to provide the best service to its clientele, the administration of the PTT thus proves once again that it knows how to adapt itself to the needs of the time and to propose solutions agreeable to all. In addition, the PTT has put stress on this happy initiative by organizing a contest for the most beautiful 'personalized postage-stamp'! So all of you get out your crayons, pens, and brushes; cut out one of these stamps and send it to us decorated according to your taste or inspiration of the moment. The ten best works, chosen by the jury, will serve as the theme for a future philatelic series [stamps?]."

Need we say that this opens the door to a tremendous development (if they don't quickly shut it off)—and how will philately cope with it? Millions of stamps, mostly unique—no handful of Mulready caricatures—impossible to catalog. And will not people use the stamps to send implied messages—perhaps libel, or pornography? Brave new world! But on April 1st—hmmm, are they kidding? Who knows, we haven't seen one yet. The Philatelist will keep you informed.—R.G.S.

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, AND CATALOGS

- "Catalogue des Cachets Courriers-Convoyeurs—Lignes, 1877-1966." By J. Pothion and P. Lux. 1972. 92pp. 27Fr p.p. La Poste aux Lettres, 17 Faubourg Montmartre, F75-Paris 9. (Standard cat. of marks of railroad mail agents giving types of marks, lines classed alphabetically, coeff. of rarity, by color of ink.)
- "France Oblitérations 1849-1876." By J. Pothion. New edition 1972, 78pp. Illustr. 33 Fr p.p. La Poste Aux Lettres, 17 fbg Montmartre, F75009 Paris. CCP Paris 111574-06. (Priced cat. for cancel specialists, of legible marks on cover only, with normal franking. The standard for classic French cover prices.)
- "Stanley Gibbons Europe I Stamp Catalogue." (A-F Countries, incl. France and Colonies gen. issues). 1972, 476 pp. \$7.95. Stangib, 595 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017. (Prices in English money.)
- "Catalogue General 1972 du Service Philatélique de l'UNESCO." 70 pp. 1972, gratis on request. Service Philatélique de l'Unesco, 9 Place Fontenoy, F75007-Paris. (Priced cat. in francs of stamps of UN and its agencies, by Unesco and Yvert nos.)
- "Catalogue F.D.C. des Enveloppes 1er Jour 'CERES' 1972." 15th Ed., Spring 1972. Illustr. 5Fr+0.65 postage. Ceres, 23-25 rue du Louvre, Paris 1.
- "La Nomenclature des Timbres Poste de France—Tome XV, Timbres pour Colis Postaux." By Dr. R. Joany. May 1972. 10Fr. p.p. The author, 33 ave. de Suffren, Paris 7. CCP Paris 2317657 (Reprint of his series from La Phil. Fr.; especially useful condensed listings with background info. for sidelines not covered conveniently in other works.)
- "Maury—Catalogue Spécialisé de Timbres-Poste France, Reunion CFA, Sarre, Monaco, Andorre, Nations Unis, Europa—1973." (Tome I). Spring 1972. 8.25 Fr p.p. Maison A. Maury, 6 Blvd. Montmartre, F75-Paris 9. CCP444-68. (The annual Maury cat. appears before the others. New categories are added this year, espec. a specialized listing of Monaco for cancels, millesimes, entires, etc.)
- "Catalogue des Oblitérations Daguins Jumeles." By M. E. Barthélémy. 30 pp. 1972. Club "Le Meilleur," F18-La Chapelle-Hugon.
- "Prix Courant 1972 des Editions P. J." 80 pp. 1972. Empire Philatélique, 48 Galerie Montpensier, F75001-Paris. (Price list of FDCs publ. by this firm.)
- "La Resistance Antihitlerienne a Travers les Timbres." 1972. 292 pp. illustr. 50 Fr. Assoc. Nationale des Anciens Combattants de la Resistance, 79 rue Saint-Blaise, F75-Paris 20. (Reproductions in colors of 1500 items from 40 countries, incl. Fr. and cols.)
- "Catalogue 1972 des Editions A. V.": "Animaux" and "Fleurs." 121 Fr. each. 1972. Ed. A. V., 7 rue de Chateaudun, F75-Paris 9. (Topicals of animals and flowers.)
- "30 Ans de Journée du Timbre 1938-1968." Price? Date? By M. Larren. Cercle des Collectionneurs des Arts, 20 rue de Lille, F59-Roubaix.
- "Timbres et Types, Tome IX." By Pierre de Lizeray. 1972, 52 pp. 11.40 Fr p.p. Brochure #138, LeMonde des Philatélistes, 11bis Blvd. Haussmann, F75-Paris 9. Paris CCP 18382-12. (Continuation of series of reprints from Le Monde on various aspects of modern French issues, subtypes, etc.)
- "Obliterations des Bureaux Temporaires et Premieres Jours, France, Pays de l'Expression Francaise, Andorre, Monaco, Réunion—1971, avec Cotisation P. J. et Oblit. T. 1941-1971." 1972. 56 pp. 11.40 Fr p.p. Brochure #140, Le

- Monde des Philatélistes (see above). (Continuation of annual series of reprints of listings from *Le Monde* with prices from 1941 on.)
- "Les Dernières Années des Colis Postaux de France." By Ch. Gavault. 1972. 16 pp. 7.10 Fr p.p. Brochure #141, *Le Monde des Philatélistes* (see above). (Reprint of articles on recent issues of French parcels post stamps.)
- "Les Surcharges Provisoires 'E. A.' de l'Etat Algérienne." By G. Goudard and P. Savelon. 1972. 80 pp. 15.25 Fr p.p. Brochure #142, *Le Monde des Philatélistes* (see above). (Reprint from *Le Monde* of long serial on the E. A. overprints on French stamps for Algerian republic, detailed listing of all the local issues.)
- "Les Timbres Français de 1971. Notices Officielles des PTT—Les 49 Timbres de 1971 et Leurs Auteurs; Les Timbres d'Andorre 1971." By R. Duxin. 1972. 48 pp. 12.55 Fr p.p. Brochure #143, *Le Monde Des Philatélistes* (see above). (Reprint of the official notices of the PTT on each stamp of 1971, France and Andorre with Duxin's comments.)
- "Stamp Yearbook 1972." By A. Blair, editor. 1972. Link House Pubs., Croydon, Engl. (Contains article by Hayhurst on "The postal history of the French Revolution".)

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from FCP #148, p. 33)

183.) L. Dubus in a note in *La Phil. Fr.* illustrated a cover with Napoleon perforated stamps in which one of the stamps in a strip of 4 had been largely cut out leaving a narrow rim of 2 sides of the design. The cancellation shows this was cut out before the stamps were affixed to the cover. Dubus points out that this is an example of a regular practice of the Mint (stamp printery) from mid-1859 to 1875 or 1876, to cut out of sheets any defectively-printed stamps leaving a border of them on each side over which a good stamp was pasted. On the cover illustrated with strip of 4 containing one of these cut-outs, the paste-over replacement stamp became separated before the strip was put on the cover and it was then stuck on displaced to the left of the cutout space. The perforation of the replaced stamp is doubled, one set of which does not match the rest of the strip. This indicates that the cutting out and paste over was done to the sheet before it was perforated, but with a previously perfed paste-over replacement stamp; the sheet was then perfed with the result that the replacement was perfed twice! Fantastic, isn't it.

184.) Some odd French temporary postmarks of 1910: Circular date stamp inscribed "Fete Fle Gym^{que} St. Quentin / Aisne / 15-5/10". This stands for Fete Fédéral Gymnastique de St. Quentin, 25 May 1910—a nationwide gymnastic festival held at St. Quentin on that date. Another is inscribed: "910 * Millénaire * 910 * de Cluny / 10-9/10." This was for a postoffice set up in the old Abbey at Cluny on the occasion of the celebration of the 1000 years of Cluny. It is said to be a very rare mark.

185.) Maury reported in 1914 seeing a cover bearing a 3-line cachet reading: "Correspondance retardée par l'indélicatesse d'un Facteur, Regrets de l'Administration." The cover had been delivered 2 years late. The postman (facteur) must have been very indiscreet to require such an apologetic hand-stamp of explanation—very unusual for postal administrations.

186.) Have our "cinderella" collectors ever seen the propaganda label put out in 1914 by the 10th Esperantist Congress held at Montmartre. It shows a windmill and star-shaped sun with rays; or the one for the "Fetes de

Jenne D'Arc / Orleans 6, 7, 8 Mai 1912"? Or the one for Suffrage Universelle showing a man and a woman placing ballots in an urn (from before 1914).

187.) The rural postmen (facteurs ruraux) in the region of Gien, France, during the period before the 1st World War used to use dog carts to get around.

188.) Some of the special temporary postmarks of Tunis of the early 1900s are little known and quite scarce or rare: They include: "Tunis / Congres Ligue-Enseignement / 13/4/03," "Tunis / Concours de Gymnastique / 8/4/12," "Tunis / Conf^{ce} Consultante / 21/11/12," "Tunis / Congres Avanc^t. des Sciences / 26/3/13," "Manoeuvres / Tunisie / 5/10/03," "Nemcha / Regence de Tunis / (with date in Arabic)."

189.) The Ile d'Ouessant off the coast of France near Finistère for many years had rather limited mail service. A correspondent of Maury in 1913 described it as served by a facteur-receveur who received mails twice a week in winter and 3 X a week in summer by a packet that stopped only from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each trip. The men of the island were all seamen and away most of the time so Ouessant became known as the "island of women." When the mail arrived all the women in their quaint costumes congregated before the postoffice.

190.) The 2 fr postage due stamp of France of 1881 came to be greatly detested by the public after April 1910 when it was used to collect penalties under a law on "abusing the reduced postal tariffs." Finally in Dec. 1912 this "law of contraventions" was repealed and the stamp withdrawn by an arrêté of 21 Jan. 1913.

191.) The straightline cachet HORS LIMITES was struck on pneumatic-tube correspondence or telegrams which were addressed to points outside the limits of Paris provided with the pneumatic service. The cachet reading: "A Distribuer / Comme Correspondence Postale" was used on pneumatic-tube letters which had insufficient postage or were too heavy and had to be delivered by ordinary mail.

192.) During the Moroccan campaigns of 1910-14 various red-cross labels sold to benefit the wounded were issued and often used on letters and packages just like Christmas seals. One of them shows a red-cross flag and is inscribed "Société Française de Secours aux Blessés Militaires, 19 rue Matignon, Paris" and another: "Union des Femmes de France / Croix Rouge Française" with vignette of Neptune, engraved by Ernest Dubois.

193.) By an Arrêté of 11 July 1912 the Indochina administration provided that booklets of subscription for daily transport of packages of provisions between the two railroad stations (of Saigon?) would be sold at 1.50 piastre per month—the booklets contained a label for each day of the month which must be pasted on the package by the sender. This has not been catalogued as a regular parcel post stamp because it carries no face value and could not be exchanged nor refunded in money.

194.) In forwarding registered mails in France and colonies during the 19th century the postoffices tied the letters up in packages for each destination and sealed the ends of the tying string with sealing wax. There was a facing slip beneath the wax identifying the package. Around 1865 certain p.o.'s in the tropics complained that the wax often melted in the heat and caused letters to stick together. So in 1866 he p.o.'s were furnished gummed labels imprinted with a double-ringed circular cachet inscribed: "Administration Générale des Postes de France" to use in place of the wax in sealing the packages, at least those going to or from warm countries.

195.) The marginal control punches on sheets of French and Colonial

stamps since 1876 underwent several modifications in time. From 1876 to Oct. 1902 they were in the outer lateral margin of each pane of 50, and consisted of the three-hole punch—a vertical one with a small triangular one above it and below it. From Nov. 1902 to Dec. 1907 the punch is found in the wider and gum-less margins and the triangles became diamond-shaped holes. In mid-Dec. 1907 they shifted the punch to the bottom margin of each group of 50 stamps. (From DeLizeray in *Le Monde* Apr. '66, after Queste-Mime.)

196.) One often reads in the magazines about "feuilles de remplacement" in connection with coins datés for the 20th century typo stamps of France. What are they? We recall that the sheets are serially numbered in the corners by a machine that counts up to 100,000 and then starts over again with 1. Some sheets show two such numbers. These are sheets from a different printing batch (or possibly later in the same one) than that of the first serial number (in the normal position), that have been inserted in the pile of the first 100,000 to replace sheets withdrawn because they were defective. Their original serial number is crossed out with bars and the number of the sheet replaced is handstamped in. Sometimes there are even three numbers on a sheet, when the first replacement sheet was also found to be defective and had itself to be replaced.

197.) A complete list of the special types of French Naval postmarks of the post WW I period is given in an article in *Le Monde* March and April 1966. (For the pre-WWI naval marks there is a *Le Monde* Brochure, No. 20, 4.70Fr, by Parlange and Truc.) The types of postal agencies in the Navy were: 1. war vessels with a postal agent on board—hexagonal mark of dashed frame line inscribed with class and name of the boat (classes are: Porte-Avions, Croiseurs, Batiments-de-Ligne, Aviso-Escorteur, Porte-Hélicoptère, Batiment-Base). 2. Fixed naval postal agencies (old boats tied up): hexagons with place and name of boat plus the word "Marine." 3. Land-based postal agencies: hexagons with name of place plus word "Marine," or plus word "Arsenal," "Dépot," "Secteur," "Santé," etc. 4. Naval postoffices: circular postmarks with name of place followed by "Naval."

198.) In some catalogues, among the postal stationery of France are listed a special type called "Livrets d'Identité," a term which is not sufficiently self-explanatory so that many collectors wonder what they are for. These first appeared in small printings (10,000) in 1892 in the Sage Type and a second very small later issue in 1910 in the Merson Type. The PTT never put out any publicity on these and even many postal employees did not know about them. Their purpose was to provide a traveler to foreign countries with an identification under UPU auspices with which he could obtain payment of money orders sent to him any place he went. The "livret" consisted of a booklet of 36 pages (incl. the cover) containing information about the bearer, his photo, etc., instructions in many languages, and detachable coupons. The first booklets had a 50c stamp imprinted on it representing the cost of issuing the booklet. Each front cover also bore the wording "Union Postale Universelle / Livret d'Identité / No. _____" and a printers indicia at bottom (a coin daté). These booklets are very rare.

199.) One of Maury's correspondents informed him that in April 1904 there was issued at Mohéli a provisional issue quickly sold out, consisting of "10c" and MOHÉLI overprinted on the gutters of the sheets of stamps as was done in Zanzibar in 1897. Maury says it went unnoticed by collectors at the time and he had no further information on it. There have been occasional copies come up in France auctions in recent years including some overprints on the Mohéli stamps themselves which we suspect are of the same origin. It is not listed in Yvert specialized, nor by Tristant in his article on colonies

provisionals, nor by us in our article on the colonial provisionals (Coll. Club Phil. 1970-71) because its status is not clear.

200.) An Anglo-French treaty drawn in April 1904 and effective in 1905 had a number of minor philatelic consequences. There were agreements on many small changes in boundaries between territories and various privileges in certain areas, which served to reduce political friction. England gave up the Iles de Los facing Conakry, French Guinea, which the British had partly fortified. The agreement made in 1898 on the boundary of Chad and Nigeria was changed to make a boundary more practicable for France. Spheres of influence in Egypt, Morocco, New Hebrides, and Siam were agreed on subject to further declarations. The French abandoned their centuries old privileges to use the so-called French Shore (NW and NE coast) of Newfoundland for French fishermen to land and dry their cod, though the French rights to fish in the coastal waters were continued. This affected the Grande Peche mail in that one could no longer find letters from fishermen originating at Newfoundland shore places. England agreed to give navigation rights to France on the Gambia River in order to reach some interior parts of Senegal more readily and the Gambia-Senegal border was shifted several km in places.

201.) A little-known air mail service began in Dec. 1945 between France and Indochina, operated by the military. Less than 50 covers from the first flight are known, which left France 10th of Dec. and arrived in Saigon 17th Dec. and at Dalat on the 21st.

202.) A solid-lined hexagonal postmark for the French airforce military postal agency at "Ouakim Air / Senegal" was in use from at least mid-1957 until 1966 or later (when it was now in Mali Territory); it is the only such agency mark in the French colonies or overseas territories that has been reported.

203.) Dr. Joany had an article on the non-émis (printed but not issued) stamps of France in Documents Philatéliques #16. The list covers the following: 20c blue Ceres 1849-50, 5c Journaux blue and rose of 1868, the 10c overprinted on 10c bistre Napoleon Lauré 1871-2, the 20c Sage blue Type I of 1876, the 60c Taxe Duval-Type in brown on yellow of 1886, the 20c Réseau d'Etat of the Colis Postaux of 1901, the 2fr Arc de Triomphe in violet-rouge of 1928, the Colis Postaux surchargé "B" of 1936?, the 30c Paix de Laurens precancelled in green 1933-7, the 2.25F Cezanne in blue-green 1939, the 70c Paquebot Pasteur in deep green of 1939, the Marianne de Dulac heliogravure of 1941, the Timbres de Service in Type Francisque of 1943 (Courrier Officiel). There are also some "non-émis émis"—that is, sold by the PTT but not issued: the 90c Descartes red of 1937, and 4F Marianne de Gandon precancelled green, 1948.

204.) In the Italian journal Filatelia for Oct. 1966 G. Savona illustrated a cover from Evian (les Bains) on which one stamp is cancelled with the gros chiffres lozange and the other with the petites chiffres lozange—a very remarkable oddity and probably very rare.

205.) In Lyons in 1914 three labels were issued for soldiers to use on their FM mail (cards); they bore amusing inscriptions: "Patience on se Reverra," "A Lyons on Pense a Vous," "En Avant les Goues, en Avant."

206.) Dr. Goubin writing in L'Echo mentions a peculiar dated postmark of Rennes inscribed "Cabine Financière" used there during 1963-4. He found out that this was intended for the same purpose as the "Recouvrements" postmarks which most principal French p.o.'s have. They are for use by special clerks who handle money orders, but sometimes use them on ordinary mail at general delivery.

**THE REGULAR ISSUES OF FRANCE 1876-1966
ACCORDING TO THEIR NORMAL POSTAGE USAGE**

By **Stanley J. Luft**

(Continued from FCP 147, p. 22)

VII. B. The Mercure Issues of 1938-1945

(Republique Francaise, Postes Francaises, and Paris "RF" overprints)

Scott type A93

Designed by Hourriez

1c

The 1c sepia (Scott 353, Yvert 404) replaced the 1c cameo Sower (Sc 156, Yv 277B) 10 May 1939.

Domestic usage (Tariffs of 1 Sept. 1937 and 17 Nov. 1938):

Newspapers, to 75 gm, special bulk rate, within department of origin;
Complementary value.

Printed in sheets from 19 Dec. 1938 to 14 March 1939, and from 3 March to 22 Sept. 1941.

Probably suppressed following promulgation of domestic Tariff of 5 Jan. 1942.

2c

The 2c deep green (Sc 354, Yv 405) replaced the 2c cameo Sower (Sc 157, Yv 278) 9 March 1939.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 12 July 1937):

#*Newspapers, to 75 gm, special bulk rate;

Domestic usage (Tariff of 17 Nov. 1938):

Electorial circulars and voting bulletins (unsealed), per 25 gm.

Printed in sheets 19-29 Dec. 1938 and from 13 July to 2 Sept. 1939.

Probably suppressed following promulgation of domestic Tariff of 1 Dec. 1939.

5c

The 5c rose (Sc 355, Yv 406) replaced the 5c rose cameo Sower (Sc 161, Yv 278B) in late October 1938.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 1 Sept. 1937):

#*Newspapers, from 75 to 100 gm, special bulk rate;

#Newspapers, from 125 to 150 gm, special bulk rate, within department of origin.

Printed in sheets at Paris between 20 July 1938 and 27 March 1939, and at Limoges from 25 Jan. to 9 March 1940.

Suppressed 23 Jan. 1942.

10c

The 10c ultramarine (Sc 356, Yv 407) replaced the 10c ultramarine cameo Sower Sc 164, Yv 279) 17 October 1938.

Domestic usage Tariff of 1 Sept. 1937):

#*Newspapers, from 125 to 150 gm, special bulk rate;

#Newspapers, from 100 to 125 gm, non-bulk rate;

#*Newspapers, to 75 gm, "ordinary" (individual) rate.

Printed in sheets at Paris from 10 Aug. to 26 Sept. 1938 and 4 Nov. 1938 to 24 Feb. 1939, at Limoges between 27 Sept. 1939 and 25 April 1940, and at Paris from 27 Jan. to 22 April 1942.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 5 Jan. 1942):

Complementary value.

Replaced by the 10c "Postes Francaises" of same design (Sc 455, Yv 546) 1 Nov. 1942.

Printed in sheets between 22 July 1942 and 3 Feb. 1945, issued from 1 Nov. 1942 to 12 May 1945; about 226 million printed.
 Flat-plate "RF" overprints (Sc 499, Yv 657) applied at Paris to sheets of the 1942-44 printings, and issued 27 Nov. 1944-Feb. ? 1945.
 Replaced by the 10c "Broken Chains" (Sc 524, Yv 670) in 1945.

15c

The 15c orange-red (Sc 357, Yv 408) replaced the 15c cameo Sower (Sc 165, Yv 189) in December 1938.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 1 Sept. 1937):

#Newspapers, from 150 to 200 gm, special bulk rate;

#Newspapers, from 75 to 100 gm, "ordinary" (individual) rate

Printed in sheets from 26 Sept. to 4 Nov. 1938.

Replaced by the 15c orange-brown (Sc 358, Yv 409) 3 April 1939.

Printed in sheets from 27 March to 1 June 1939.

Suppressed in March 1941.

20c

The 20c lilac (Sc 359, Yv 410) replaced the 20c rose-lilac cameo Sower (Sc 167, Yv 190) 17 Oct. 1938.

Domestic usage (Tariffs of 12 July and 1 Sept. 1937):

*Printed matter, to 20 gm;

#Newspapers, from 100 to 125 gm, "ordinary" (individual) rate;

#Newspapers, from 200 to 250 gm, non-bulk rate;

Visiting cards, w/o written messages.

Foreign usage (Tariff of 1 Aug. 1937):

Newspapers, to 20 gm, special reciprocal bulk rate.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 17 Nov. 1938):

#*Printed matter, to 20 gm, special bulk rate

Printed at Paris in sheets of Type I between 24 Aug. 1938 and 27 July 1939, and from 19 Nov. to 12 Dec. 1941; rotary plate precancels printed at Paris from 16 Nov. 1938 to 6 June 1939, at Limoges during 18-27 May 1940, and at Paris from 14 May to 5 Sept. 1941. Rotary-plate precancelled coils of Type II (scarce) were printed in 1939.

Precancels suppressed following promulgation of domestic Tariff of 5 Jan. 1942; ordinary stamps replaced by the 20c Petain (Sc 427, Yv 505) from 4 Dec. 1941.

25c

The 25c green (Sc 360, Yv 411) replaced the 25c yellow-brown cameo Sower (Sc 169, Yv 235) in early November 1938.

Domestic usage (Tariffs of 12 July and 1 Sept. 1937):

Printed matter, from 20 to 50 gm;

#Newspapers, from 125 to 150 gm, "ordinary" (individual) rate.

Foreign usage (Tariff of 1 Aug. 1937):

#Newspapers, from 20 to 50 gm, special reciprocal bulk rate.

Printed in sheets at Paris from 8 Aug. to 8 Sept. 1938 and from 21 Nov. 1939 to 27 May 1939; at Limoges from 20 or 29 Sept. 1939 to 12 June 1940.

Suppressed in March 1941.

30c

The 30c red (Sc 361, Yv 412) replaced the 30c brown-red cameo Sower (Sc 174, Yv 360) 22 Feb. 1939.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 17 Nov. 1938):

- #*Printed Matter, to 20 gm;
- #Newspapers, from 400 to 450 gm, special bulk rate;
- #Newspapers, from 150 to 200 gm, "ordinary" (individual) rate;
- #Visiting cards, w/o written messages.

Foreign usage (Tariff of 1 Dec. 1938):

- #Newspapers, to 20 gm, special reciprocal bulk rate.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 5 Jan. 1942):

- Newspapers, from 100 to 150 gm, special bulk rate.

Printed in sheets (Type I) at Paris from 15 Feb. to 9 Aug. 1939, at Limoges 2-6 Oct. 1939 and from 18 Jan. to 12 June 1940, and at Paris between 15 Sept. 1941 and 6 March 1942; rotary-plate precancels printed 22-24 Sept. 1941, issued Oct. 1941 and suppressed upon promulgation of domestic Tariff of 5 Jan. 1942. Coils of Type II printed in 1939.

Printings coincided in Oct. 1941 with those of the 30c Petain (Sc 428, Yv 506), which was issued between 25 Oct. 1941 and 2 March 1942.

Replaced by the 30c "Postes Francaises" of same design and color (Sc 456, Yv 547) in Dec. 1942.

Printed in sheets between 14 Sept. 1942 and 29 Jan. 1945, issued from 15 Dec. 1942 to 12 May 1945; about 55 million printed

Flat-plate "RF" overprints (Sc 500, Yc 658) applied at Paris to sheets of the 1942 and 1943 printings and issued 27 Nov. 1944 to early 1945.

Replaced by the 30c "Broken Chains" (Sc 525, Yv 671) in 1945.

40c

The 40c violet (Sc 362, Yv 413) was issued early in 1939, following promulgation of domestic Tariff of 17 Nov. 1938:

Domestic usage:

- #*Printed matter, from 20 to 50 gm;
- #*Postal cards "of 5 words";
- #Newspapers, from 250 to 300 gm, "ordinary" (individual) rate.

Printed in sheets at Paris from 10 Jan. to 2 Sept. 1939, at Limoges from 14 Dec. 1939 to 21 March 1940, and at Paris from 6 Sept. to 24 Dec. 1941 and from 6 Jan. to 13 May 1942; rotary-plate precancels printed at Paris 7-12 June 1939, at Limoges 13-18 May 1940, and at Paris 30 Jan. to 28 May 1942; precancels issued July 1939

Domestic usage (Tariff of 5 Jan. 1942):

- *Printed matter, to 20 gm, special bulk rate;
- Newspapers, to 50 gm, "ordinary" (individual) rate;
- Newspapers, from 150 to 200 gm, special bulk rate.

Printings coincided in Fall 1941 with those of the 40c Petain (Sc 429, Yv 507), which was issued between 30 Oct. 1941 and 2 March 1942.

Replaced by the 40c "Postes Francaises" of same design and color (Sc 457, Yv 548) in Nov. 1942.

Printed in sheets between 29 Aug. 1942 and 8 Dec. 1944, issued from 15 Dec. 1942 to 12 May 1945; rotary-plate precancels printed between 3 April 1943 and 3 April 1944, issued July 1943 until rendered obsolete by domestic Tariff of 1 March 1945. About 73 million ordinary and precancelled stamps printed.

Flat-plate "RF" overprints (Sc 501, Yv 659) applied at Paris to sheets of the 1944 printings and issued 27 Nov. 1944-early 1945.

Concurrently in use with the 40c "Broken Chains" (Sc 526, Yv 672) early in 1945. Rendered obsolete by domestic Tariff of 1 March 1945; probably remained on sale until stocks were exhausted.

(To be continued)

CURRENT JOURNAL ARTICLES

Le Monde des Philatélistes (7 rue des Italiens, Paris 9 CCP 18382-12, \$7/pr.) (CC)

- #241, March 1972: Vernet: "Variétés sur les timbres colis postaux type i"; Doroszalai: "Le Générale DeGaulle dans la philatélie—les premières émissions a sa memoire"; Chapier: "Les timbres peus connus pour colis"; Rykner: "Cartes-postales et entiers postaux des colonies Francaises émissions generales" (begin serial); Hemard: "L'Opinion d'un jeune sur la programme" (of Fr. stamps).
- #242, April '72: Tristant: "Histoire postale de la Cote des Somalis" (end of serial); Lebland: "Formats et dentélures—les timbres de colonies Francaises 1885-1941" (cont.); Marion: "L'Héliogravure" (end serial); Dufour: "Libre opinion sur les flammes"; Mélot: "Terminologie Philatélique—Léxique Francaise-Allemand" (begin); DeLizeray, Rouques and Convert: "Le cinquantenaire de l'impression par rotatives et les coins datés" (begin).
- #243, May '72: Bath: "Defense de coins datés"; Rykner: "Cartes postales et entiers des col. fr. émissions gen." (end serial); Continuations of serials by Brumeaux, DeLizeray, Savelon, Lebland, Bourgeois, Gine-stet, Joany, Doroszalai, Mélot, Rouques.

L'Echo de la Timbrologie (37 rue des Jacobins F80-Amiens CCP Lille 1671-38; 26Fr/yr) (CC)

- #1418 Feb. 1972: Boblique: "Le 50c au type Paix, Yv 283" (begin); Blanc: "Emission de Bordeaux—étude des reports et nuances" (cont.); Brijon (cont.)
- #1419 March 1972: Lodret: "Les oblitérations de Nouveaux Depts. d'Algérie 1959-62" (begin); SATA: "La thème polaire—La Terre Adélie"; Boblique: "Le 50c au type Paix" (end serial); Blanc: "Emission de Bordeaux" (cont.); Schutz: "Concorde a travers des timbres et les oblitérations" (end serial); Fioretti: "Le baseball at la philatélie"

La Philatélie Francaise (14Fr/yr, Fédération des Sociétés Philatéliques Francaise, CCP Paris 7.633-46) (CC)

- #220, Feb. 1972: "La Journée de Timbre 1972"; Hirel: "Et les timbres parfumées?" Joany: "Colis Postaux" (cont.); Amand: "La Journée du Timbre a travers le monde" (begin); Bath: "L'Impression des timbres francaises par les rotatives" (cont.); "Nouveaux tirage de l'aérogramme a 1.15F?"
- #221, March '72: "Le cinquantenaire du coin datés"; Amand: "La J. du T. a travers de monde" (end); Harnoud: "Chronique thématique—les sites et monuments de France" (cont.); "Chronique maximophile—notions élémentaires"; "Le BEPTOM."
- #222, April '72: Storch, Demyeny at Landeau: "Etude descriptive des entiers postaux de France" begin serial); Joany: "Colis postaux" (cont.); Bath: "L'impression des T. P. Fr. par rotatives" (cont.)

Philatélie (24 rue du Sept. 4, F75-Paris 2; 16Fr/yr?)

- Feb. 1972: "Innovation au Ministère"; "A la découverte d'un personnage celebre méconnu—Chomedey"; Gachot: "La poste francaise a Landau de 1680 a 1815"; Brijon: "Avec ceux de la ligne historique France-Amerique du Sud" (cont.); "Un anniversaire célébra: Le Tour du

Monde en 80 Jours"; "De P. Fogg au passages de France, un centenaire qui rend hommage a J. Verne"; "Le Chevalier de Kerguelen, héros ou escroc?"; "Madagascar, proie de convoitises européens—les courtiers des rois"; "Les adversaires de Bonaparte utilisent la poste pour organisé leur complots—marques de Consulat"; "Les routes et itinéraires de la Poste aux Chevaux."

March '72: Le procès de la Boule des Moulins 1968"; Cadenat: "La poste militaire"; Cohn: "Un ballon monté simulacre"; Lebland: "Les timbres de la France Libre 1940-45"; Gachot: "Bureaux et cachets ambulants en Alsace en 1940-41"; DeLizeray: "Les types de Semeuses inscriptions grasse"; "La poste aux chevaux"; "L'Affaire des timbres anglais de Madagascar"; "Dans les villes caravaniers du Sud Sahara, les mineurs noirs et marchands arabes échangent l'or et le sel—la poste aux lettres a travers le Sahara"; Chomedey—le Canada sur les timbres de France."

April 1972: Fillinger: "La poste a Riedesheim"; Joany: "Cinquanteenaire de coins datés"; Bouttes: "Documents postaux concernant les prisonniers de guerre 1939-45"; "Les rapports postal franco-anglais"; "Les timbres de cathédrales de France"; "La poste aux chevaux—de la difficulté pour voyages par la poste"; "Lyon au 18th siècle"; "La bicyclette a mis la poste rurale a l'heure du progrès". "Texte intégrale du procès de la Boule de Moulins 1968."

Bulletin de la Société des Amis du Musée Postal (4 rue Saint-Romain F75-Paris 6, CCP Paris 5751-11; 20F/yr) (CC)

#36, 4 Trim. 1971: Cappart: "La poste en 1870-71—Bureaux des ambulants"; Cohn: "L'Achéminement périlleux d'une lettre par ballon monté"; Cohn: "Le duel de Nadar ou comment s'écrit l'histoire"; DeFontaines: "De la fausse monnaie a la fin du 18th siècle."

#37, 1st Trim. 1972: Fromaigeat: "Tresors du Musée Postal de France" (dies and plates of classic France); Cappart: "Le Cabinet Noir"; DeFontaines: "Quelques mésaventures des courriers de Belfort en l'An IV"; Boussac: "Lettre a Léon Gambetta"; Mimault: "Grille a 16 cases du Dept. l'Ille et Vilaine."

Feuilles Marcophiles (19 Ave. de Chatelet, F77-L'Orée-de-Lesigny; 25F/yr) (CC)

#187, 1st Trim. 1972: DeFontaines: "Après le crime de Rastatt" (of April 1799); Weidlich: "Remarques sur les marques postales francaises des villes hanséatiques"; Lejeune: "Le factuer rurale en 1971"; Paris: "Le agences postales des sections administratives specialisés"; Parlange: "La poste navale francaise de 1945 a 1958"; Dumont: "Le service de colis postaux en Alsace-Lorraine 1918-40"; Garcin: "A propos de quelques cachets d'arrive francais"; DeFontaines: "Les courriers convoyeurs—stations de la region de Montbéliard"; Chapier et Lejeune: "Poste de chemin de fer."

#188, 2nd Trim. 1972: Parlange: "Les cachets commemoratifs des campagnes de la 'Jeanne d'Arc'" (at Clipperton Id 1934); Deloste: "Les prisonniers de Mai-Juin 1940"; Durieux: "Les oblitérations coloniales des timbres de France au type Sage (1er partie)"; Saulgrain: "Les premières marques aéropostales francaises—Beteny et Quimper 1910"; Dreyfus: "Un troisième cachet provisoire 'Epinal 1871'"; Gachot: "Les marques de franchise du type 'XSP' pour la correspondance internationale"; DeFontaines: "Belfort 1870-71"; Lautier: "Le cachet 24bis"; Germain: "Le Docteur Carroll Chase"; Chapier et Lejeune: Coin de néophyte—la poste maritime"; Chapier: "Les affranchissements mécaniques"; Lantoine: "Quelques accidentés d'aviation."

- Postes et Télécommunications** (20 ave. de Ségur, F75-Paris 7; gratis?) (CC)
 #195, March '72: "Des codes très spéciaux"
 #196, April '72: "Le timbre poste personnalisé."
- Révue des PTT de France**
 1971, #6, Nov.-Dec.: "La lettre et ses supports à travers les ages."
- Indo-China Philatelist** (Box 4014, Fullerton, Cal.; \$4/yr) (CC)
 Vol. 2, #1, Feb. 1972: Cartafalsa: "People and places of North Viet Nam";
 Desrousseau: "Postal history of French Indo-China" (begin serial).
- Bulletin of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society** (of G. B.)
 #118, Oct.-Dec. 1971: Levett: "Plating the 25c of 1870-71" (cont.); Holder:
 "The German occupation of France 1870-72" (cont.); Bister:
 "Twenty years of the Grand Prix de l'Art Philatélique Français";
 Barker: "Meurthe et Moselle — centenary of a provisional Dept."
 (transl.); Bister: "La flamme bi-date"; French postoffice numerals
 list (cont.).
- War Cover Club Bulletin** (Box 352, Montvale, N. J.) (CC)
 Vol. 14, #10, Apr. 1972: Cohn: "The mail of the Paris siege" (cont.)
- Collectors Club Philatelist** (22 East 35th St., New York 10016)
 Vol. 51, #s 1 and 2, 1972: Stone: "It happened in St. Pierre—those over-
 printed issues of 1885-1892."
- Postal History Journal** (Box 24, Bayside, N. Y. 11361; \$3.50/issue) (CC)
 #29 and #30, 1971-2: Stone: "Popular Fr. Cols. have an intriguing postal
 history."
 31, May 1972: Stone: "Role of letters in postal history—French colonial
 correspondence"; Cohn: "Review of Harmant's Pigeongramme cat."
- Essay-Proof Journal** (K. Minuse, 1236 Grand Concourse, Bronx, N.Y.; \$10/yr)
 Whole #85 (1965): Stone: "The Pictorial issues of French Colonies 1891-
 1941—a half-century of design and production in retrospect" (Con-
 tinued in nos. 87, 89, 90, 94, 96, 99, 101, 102, 103, 105, 107, 108, 110,
 111, 113, 114, and to be continued)
- Stamp Lover**
 1972, #2, March-April: Fletcher: "Postal forgeries—France 1917-20."
- Postal Stationery**
 March-April 1972: Lurch: "Foreign early issues—France."
- SPA Journal**
 Nov. 1971: Cohn: "Airpost fables and phantoms of 1870."
- Philatélie Internationale** (Switzerland) (CC)
 Vol. 1, #1: Heyd: "Paris par Moulins" (begin serial)
- Story Post**
 #104, Feb. '72: Siège de Paris 1870-71"; "Le Havre Spécial 1914-18."
- American Revenuer**
 #244, April '72: Abrams: "Revenue stamped paper of France."
- London Philatelist**
 V. 81, #745: Habbard: "A french cachet d'entree."
- Philatelic Magazine**
 1972, #2, Feb.: Williams: "Gauthier Freres et Cie."
- Diligence d'Alsace**
 #6, 1971: Charbon: "La poste gallo-romaine"; Loeb: "Huninge, poste de
 la Porte de France"; Gachot: "La poste de service en Alsace 1940-41."

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

This year is the 50th Anniversary of the use of coin datés on the sheets of French and colonial stamps, the first known dated corner on a regular issue being the 10c Semeuse green plate A+A dated 4/3/22. Some sheet trials from the then new rotary press were made before that. For this occasion P. de Lizeray, L. Rouques and L. Convert are running an article in *Le Monde* (April et seq.) this year on the 50th Anniv. of the printing by rotary plates and the coins datés, which reviews the subject of coin datés in very clear and summary fashion.

The lone air-letter sheet (aerogramme) of France in 1.15F denomination is being reported with vignette in deep orange instead of yellow and in a paper of more pronounced blue. Is this just a single new printing? Will it get a separate catalog number?

Our member Jeanne Hudak won the Grand Award for her World Scouting exhibit at the recent Cleveland Stamp Show, the first time the top award has gone to a topical in this show. Our members in New York have seen some of her handsome collection exhibited several times in the Rich competition.

Old-timers who sentimentally remember the song "Roses in Picardy" will be interested to note that a *Roses en Picardie* festival is held annually at Parc d'Isle at Saint-Quentin (Aisne) in June. A special postmark for a temporary postoffice at the festival was used there this year 23-24 June.

Don't forget the RIPEX VII will be held at Warwick Mall, R. I., Sept. 30-Oct. 1, open to all collectors and many fine awards. Frame fee \$2. Write to member Ray Gaillaguet, Gen'l Chmn., 221 Waterman, Providence, R. I. 02906.

On 1 June postoffices in four additional Departements (Gironde, Loire-Atlantique, Moselle, Meurthe-et-Moselle) were provided with the 4 "phosphorescent"-banded stamps issued first on last Fb. 1 (see FCP #148, p. 36).

Booklets of 10 and 20 of the 0.50F Marianne de Bequet are being issued with a new cover design symbolizing the new Code Postal.

L. Boscus of Bordeaux reports that the 12 Italian stamps overprinted in 1944 "Italia Republicana Fascista/Base Attalantica" (or "Republica Sociale Italiana") for use at the Bordeaux Italian submarine base have been seen lately with forged overprints, signed on back "R.A." or "A.B."

The Prix Philatelique Européen 1972 was awarded to Emile Bayle for the greatest service to Europa philately in 1972. The prize is given by the Cercle d'Etudes Philatélique Europa of Strasbourg, which held a Europa philatelic exposition there in May.

On the occasion of the visit of Queen Elizabeth II to France in May, the postal museums of France and G. B. jointly organized a postal-historic exhibition at the PTT headquarters in Paris. The themes were on postal relations of the two countries over the centuries. Some exceptional pieces from the Queen's collection were included. A temporary P. O. with fancy cancel was available.

Andre Suarnet, well-known author of several books on varieties of the "blues" of France, died on Feb. 24 at 74.

Dr. Joseph Schatzkes, one of our Paris members, recently described his great collection of classic France, with aid of color slides of his album pages, before the Club Philatelique Francais. This collection is now one of the several finest of early France in existence, replete with rare varieties and covers in impeccable condition, including much 1870-71 material too.

L. Berthelot, President of FIP and of the French federation of philatelic societies, has signed on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of the British Philatelic Congress.

Envelopes mailed in France of a size too small for the new mechanical sorting process, are being returned to senders stamped "Inadmis/Dimension Minima 10cm x 7cm"!

Quite a few of the new flammes in France are appearing again with the postmark at right, as they used to be before the edict of last year to put them at the left. It is not clear whether this is a reversal of policy or some types of machines can't be modified for the new system.

At the Congress of the French Federation of Philatelic Societies being held this year at Saint Brieuc in May, there was to be a special competition and discussion of Grande Peche mail, showing 12 pages from the collections selected by each Region of the Federation, the winner to be awarded a special cup. Saint Brieuc is one of the coastal towns from which many fishermen and trawlers have gone out to the Grand Banks. But we do not see how enough Grande Peche material is available to support such a competition.

An association of collectors of automated mail (of all countries) has been formed in France—the Groupe Ultra Violet Francais. Address: M. Stieber, Les Liiserons, Ausillon, F81-Mazamet. A thematic group devoted to celebrated men is being formed under FIP auspices; if interested write (with stamp for return) to Roger Gaspar, 2 promenade d'Orleans, B-4880 Spa, Belgium.

The 5-digit numbers of the new French postal code were already starting to appear in the postmarks of some larger towns in April, and no doubt before the year is out there will be a great many.

A young collector of 18 years age, wrote a letter to Le Monde (March '72) giving his critique of the French stamp program. He has, we think, some good points and perhaps it will shake up the PTT boys a bit. First he notes that there were many celebrated personages born 100 years ago who were more significant than the few put on stamps in 1971. Why not have more stamps per year in this series. The stamps in that series should all be vertical format and have identical sized images and finely engraved realistic presentation—it isn't fair to collectors nor attractive as a set to have the visages and design vary. But the denominations could be varied. He thinks it is time to have a series on railroad locomotives—there being many new types now as well as old ones gone into limbo. The touristic stamps like "Martinique" and "Guadeloupe" didn't show anything very special. Avoid horrors like the Diamant B and Marianne de Bequet. Some important current events have not been commemorated on stamps. There should be a series on the monuments of Paris.

Marc Dhotel, Secy. of the French Association for Thematic Philately and a leading exponent of thematic philately and juror at many international exhibitions, has prepared an extended article on his "Reflections on Some Principles of Thematic Philately," which he kindly sent us for translation; it appeared in *Topical Times* for May-June 1972. In it he expresses his philosophy distilled from over 20 years experience as one of the pioneers in this field. Mon Dhotel cites 5 principles which he believes should be fundamental for thematic philately: 1) Thematic philately is primarily, and must remain, a form of philately; 2) Thematic philately is not limited by geographical space nor any historic time periods; 3) Thematic philately must call on all the resources of philately; 4) The philatelic documents presented in a collection for exhibition must have a definite and certain relation to the theme studied; and 5) A good balance must be sought between the philatelic resources and the thematic necessities. He cites many amusing and ridiculous examples of collections he observed (in exhibitions) which violated these principles. It adds up to the key point that to be a good thematic collector one has to be a good philatelist.

A special postmark was used at Cairao, Tahiti, in Feb. 1972 when the steamship "France" called there on its world cruise.

The Ceres 1972 Catalogue is the first to list the 0.25 Coq de Decaris variety printed on fluorescent paper (bright yellow under UV lamp), as no. 1331a and priced 60F used and 300F mint. Some foreign catalogs have listed or mentioned it, however (Gibbons, Zumstein).

Several members have informed us that they use Stanley Luft's article in the *Philatelist* as a guide for arranging and mounting their France 1876-1966. They obtain extra copies of the *Philatelist* or xerox the needed pages and cut out the data for each stamp value, pasting it (in a black border) at top of the album page. The various types and subtypes are then mounted below in the same sequence as in Luft's tabulation; for each type there may be, in sequence: mint singles, millésimes and/or coin datés, used for shades, flaws, multiples; booklets, coils, entires, etc. Cancellations and covers might follow or be mounted separately.

Col. G.-C. Deloste of Bordeaux, author of numbers of important articles and books on the French military postal markings and services, dies on 25 April. He was an amiable correspondent and helped a number of our members with information.

Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum Seeks Donations of French Stamps

Sister M. Fidelma Conway, the Executive Director of the Museum, located at Regis College in Weston, Mass., has requested the Society to inform our members of the gaps in the Museum's collection of French stamps in case any of us would care to make gifts of them, the Museum being without funds for purchases and dependent on donations (tax deductible). The following Scott nos. are needed, preferably mint: 2, 82, 12, 21, 24, 43, 65, 68-9, 72-7, 79, 82-4, 92-6, 100-3, 105, 107, 112, 116-22, 124-5, 130, 132-42, 147, 163a, 175b, 180, 197, 236, 249, 252, 263, 268, 291-4, 296-7, 299, 300a, 307, 456, 474, 531, 594, 694-9, 706-10, 729, 734, 738-9, 751-2, 756, 768-73, 781, 783-5, 789-90, 792-3, 869-72, 895, 903, 910-19, 928, 937, 939, 942A, 952-5, 964-6, 968, 974, 978, 980, 986-7, 994-6, 1019-26, 1028, 1034-5, 1040, 1052-1125, 1131-8, 1148-51, 1154-70, 1175, 1182-7, 1189, 1192-1305, B5, B8-10, B38, B41, B294-9, B349, B358, B361, B365-401, B406-7, B409-51, C34, C37-45, J8-9, J13, J15-28, J34-5, J37-9, J41-3, J45-53, J63, J69-71, J76, J78-9, J91-7, M1-3, M7, N1-12, Unesco 206-208.

F. & C. P. S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Your response to our questionnaire this winter made it plain that you expected less yak and more action in this corner. Here is a summary of activities and projects for the year:

1. Tax status—Internal Revenue ruling has been obtained confirming our tax-exempt status as a non-profit corporation.
2. Philatelist—Questionnaire results will be reflected in adjusted emphasis in content. (Special project by Director Stanley Luft and Editor Bob Stone.) (See FCP #148, p. 45-46.)
3. 30th Anniversary—Prize winning major participation in INTERPEX this March. (See FCP #148, p. 45.)
4. Publicity—Special anniversary issue of Linn's in February (and thanks to Director Ira Zweifach for coordinating the articles).
5. Membership—Director Eric Spiegel reports the largest number of inquiries and new members ever
6. Index—Yes, Virginia, there will be one. Really, soon.
7. Tape/Slides—Two presentations are in preparation. Photography is essentially complete and narratives have been drafted.

Thank you for your thoughtful suggestions and assistance in making this a productive and enjoyable year.—JEL.

Notes

The annual banquet held 20 May at Café de France was memorable for the very fine French cuisine and the auction of books which made \$65 for the treasury—Ira Zweifach called the lots with drama.

The Correlator Book is sold to members and non-members at \$2.50, from the Secretary (corr. to note in FCP #148).

The Gerard Gilbert Award of the Society for 1971 has been awarded to Geo. E. Hargest for his book "The History of Letter Post Communication between United States and Europe, 1845-1875," published by the Smithsonian Instn. (see review in FCP #146, p. 93).

The officers have prepared a list of stamp firms and dealers which run public auctions or mail sales often containing considerable France and colonies material, in US and Europe; copies of the list can be had by request to Pres. John Lievsay, 245 Park Ave., 36th Floor, New York. N. Y. 10016, at 50 cents.

Reminder that members not having paid dues by end of June were removed from the mailing list and did not receive this July FCP.

At the meeting of May 2, the present officers were re-elected, and the two expiring terms on the Board were filled by Gus Wittnberg and Marc Martin.

The Secretary reported at the May 2 Meeting that as of 12/31/71 there were 401 paid up members plus 3 honorary members.

Meeting of April 4

After a short business session, at which the May banquet was discussed and the awards from Interpex were distributed to winners who were not in attendance at the Interpex banquet. Mel Garabrant was introduced and spoke on "A Glance At Modern France," showing items in the frames in club room. He covered topics in the fields of proofs, first-day covers, cancels, meter can-

cellations, etc. This was a fine exhibit for the topical collector and also demonstrated that one did not have to collect just the classics to enjoy French material. The very lively open discussion which followed went on for some time.—W.E.P.

Meeting of May 2

The annual reports by officers and committees were presented. William Connelly then showed slides and gave a discussion of his extensive prize-winning collection of "French Congo." He explained in detail the numerous varieties, proofs and essays, the printing methods employed, and the postal history. A question and answer session followed.—W.E.P.

The Meeting of 6 June

After a brief business session Gus Wittenberg showed a selection of his French military covers and cancels 1750-1919. He gave special attention to the Napoleonic organization of the military posts, and then to the First World War for which he outlined the re-organization of the posts thru the Paris Central and the interface with civil posts. He showed for the latter period examples of the regular markings, franchise postcards, and a very interesting group of prisoner of war mail sent thru Switzerland to Berlin.

NEW MEMBERS

- 1359 DUKE, Stanley H., 6529 Willow Lane, Apt. 105, Brooklyn Center, Minn. 55430 (France; Monaco)
- 1360 DuBANE, Jean Jacques, 305 West 13th St., New York, N. Y. 10014 (General collector of French material)
- 1361 LALLOUETTE, Joseph L., 228 Norfolk Ave., Pawtucket, R. I. 02861 (France)
- 1362 KEITH, Henry G., 6154 West 82nd, Los Angeles, Cal. 90045 (Numerical cancellations and general French material)
- 1363 HUSSEY, Jon A., 7911 Juniper Ave., Gary, Ind. 46403 (Cameroun; French Southern and Antarctic Territories)
- 1364 PLYLER, Earle F., 1330 Classen Bldg., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73106 (Paris Star cancellations; Paris cancellations to 1880; Blanc issue)
- 1365 ENGSTROM, Gerald R., 562 Upper Mountain Ave., Upper Montclair, N. J. 07043 (Regular iss. France and Cols; Fr. and Col. revenue stamps)
- 1366 YOSHIKAWA, Shoichi, 302 Hartley Ave., Princeton, N. J. 08540 (Early 19th France used and covers)
- 1367 BACHAND, Lea A., 143 Cottonwood St., Fairhaven, Mass. 02719 (France; former French Colonies; First Day issues.)
- 1368 COULTER, Stephen, 3 St. Mark Drive, Florissant, Mo. 63031 (Metropolitan France)
- 1369 MEYERS, Barbara Jane, 147-36 Ninth Ave., Whitestone, N. Y. 11357 (Topical: art, musicians, dramatists, etc.)
- 1370 CULVERHOUSE, Mary Jane, 1344 Briar Creek Road, Apt. 7, Charlotte, N. C. 28205 (General collector of French material)
- 1371 PALMER, Dr. Luben P., 1369 Barton St., East, Hamilton, Ont., Canada (France and Colonies)
- 1372 PASTAN, Paul L., 25 Cutler Lane, Chestnut Hill, Mass. 02167 (French Colonies to 1947)
- 1373 GROBSTEIN, Michael J., 5006 Llane Dr., Woodland Hills, Cal. 91364 (French African colonies)
- 1374 WITT, Morton J., 2156 East 34th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11234 (France mint—General)

- 1375 NASH, Morton, Box 786, Bennington, Vt. 05201 (French Colonies General issues; Annam & Tonkin, Cochinchina, Indo-China, So. Viet-Nam)
 1376 GEISER, Capt. Anthony F., 2300 24th Road South #614, Arlington, Va. 22206 (General France)
 1377 WHEELER, James S., 8620 Northeastern N. E., Apt. 25, Albuquerque, N. M. 87112 (France, mainly mint)

REINSTATEMENT

- 770 NADATA, Henry, 4022 Kuiken Terrace, Fairlawn, N. J. 07410 (France)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 1336 BESSY, Alex, B. P. 197, Antsirabe, Madagascar (French speaking countries; USA; Canada)
 1263 VAN GILDER, Edmund, Foreign Service Lounge, Department of State, Washington, D. C. 20520
 659 RAMSEY, John P., Rt. 2, Box 270H, Bayshore, Seneca, S. C. 29678
 1346 BENTLEY, Ronald, 4612 Harwich Drive Waldorf Md. 20601
 1322 FEINSTEIN, Sheldon, 3386 Wisteria Dr., San Diego, Cal. 92106
 1282 O'GRADY, Patricia, 232 N. Ave. 53, Los Angeles, Cal. 90042
 1029 AINESWORTH, Wing Cdr. Joseph C., 28 North Close, RAF Mendenham, Marlow, Bucks SL7 2EJ, England
 1182 LOTWIN, J., Marcel, Apartado Postal 11-456, Mexico 11, D. F., Mexico
 1271 SHOTTON, Lewis, 7 Peak Road, Clanfield Portsmouth, England
 1002 CHAITE, John J., 2226 Southgate Sq., Reston, Va. 22070
 1195 BATEL, Henry D., 7A Carillon Dr., Rocky Hill, Ct. 06067
 1255 GURTON, Victor, Thiells Road, Stony Point, N. Y. 10980

RESIGNED

Martin H. Levin Pierre Robichaud, Mrs. F. W. Fisher

REMOVED FROM MAILING LIST FOR NPD

B. E. Bolyard, I. Martin, W. Carson, E. Bardock, A. Minerva, F. Robles, A. Weinberg, W. G. Annable, V. W. Arnold, A. Bahnsen, S. G. Baird, B. H. Clark, E. F. Dobies, W. J. Higgins, R. Ketover, J. N. McNash, L. Marques, A. Oszvath, T. Schoenenberger, J. J. Sipos, Jr., J. B. Tempesta, Jr., R. B. Wallace, A. J. Wielgosz, J. F. Brun, P. P. Couture, R. L. Cunningham, M. Sabourin

MEMBERS APPEALS

(Members Advertising)

- WANTED: Accumulations of French Indochina stamps or covers for variety and cancellation studies. Ronald Bentley, 4612 Harwich Dr., Waldorf, Md. 20022 (Member 1346)
 WANTED: Tunisian postal history items, buy or exchange; also correspondence with any other persons interested in that subject. Lewis Shotton, 7 Peak Road, Clanfield, Portsmouth, England (Member 1271)
 WANTED: To trade duplicate plated positions of Scott 33 and 58 France with other plating enthusiasts. Stanley J. Luft, 3048 Village Drive, Ft. Mitchell, Ky. 41017 (Member 915)
 OFFER: A file of the France and Colonies Philatelist complete except for #62 (Mar.-April 1952). \$42.50. Ralph Holtsizer, 202 Main St., Darby, Penna. 19023 (Member 18)