

France & Colonies Philatelist



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Secretary: Mrs. Helen A. Stringham, 35 Franklin Place, Montclair, N.J.

Editor: Stephen G. Rich, P. O. Box B, Verona, N.J.

The New French Colonials

By Robert G. Stone



Have you seen the new pictorial sets of French Colonies,—those which began to come out in late 1946 and are still appearing from time to time until all the colonies will have been supplied? These are the "new look" for the Colonies, to replace the psychologically "dated" provisional Free French sets of 1944-46. You may have seen the beautiful original essay drawings for some of them exhibited by the Ministry of Colonies at the Cipex in New York last May.



The new designs are, on the whole, appropriate and artistic in conception and in some cases very beautifully produced. All are line engraved. Although the various artists and engravers who worked on them display different styles of designs of the Free French era. The highly modernistic, allegorical and conventionalized style of the latter is evidently now in disfavor, as is likewise the use of lithography.



But the new sets are more modern in taste than most of the pre-war colonials. The trend towards a clean, somewhat-stylized manner, yet not overly economical of ornament, witnessed notably in the last pre-war recess-printed sets of French Guinea, Dahomey, Togo, Cameroun and Mauritania, is conspicuous in the new productions—for which we are grateful. The use of two-color recess-printing on some values very much enhances the effectiveness and attractiveness of their designs, but few of these two-tone jobs approaches the hard realistic impression we are accustomed to in certain British colonials. Likewise the brilliant precious cameo effect of modern Scandinavian, Belgian, Hungarian, Swiss, and other European stamps, made by rotogravure, is missing.



Gallic taste perhaps runs to a softer, less explicit expression - and we think in many cases, as in the new air mails of St. Pierre-Miquelon, the results in the French colonials are more in keeping with the spirit of the designs. However, it may be that this is partly the consequence of the quality of manufacture or the need for economy.

The new issues follow the pre-war custom of having two, three or four designs in each set. The postage dues continue to be small stamps



whose appearance suffers from over-reduction of the otherwise good designs. Among the designers is Decaris, whose work, as seen for example in some of the new Guadeloupe stamps, is rated very high by connoisseurs of engraving. He is one of the few designers who engraves his own drawings and thereby obtains the effect of spontaneity in the printed product. His style is rich in detail and full of life, by comparison with which the work of the other artists in the Guadeloupe set is pallid. But for verve, the sense of true life and movement so rarely seen in the stamp art of any country, we think the new Togo and Cameroun sets reach just about the acme of French Colonial stamp design.

All in all, Monsieur le Ministre des Colonies has done well for us. However, we are informed he has decided these will be the last individual colonial sets. Only a general design for all colonies is planned for hereafter. Although many collectors feel there have been too many colonial issues, we are sure as many others will regret the new policy if carried out and lose interest in collecting colonies' stamps. In recent years, we believe, the issuance of general commemorative series for the colonies has done much more harm to this collecting field than the regular issues. There is also the little matter of "epreuves de luxe" and imperforates - these have become a veritable racket and ought to be suppressed.



Colonial Airmail Rarities.

Few of our members have ever seen these 1921 French Guiana items. They were letterpress jobs made for the Compagnie des Transports Aeriens Guyanais, and franked mail on the route between Cayenne and St. Laurent, July to October 1921.

We illustrate all four types. Nos. 1 and 2 of July 1921; Nos. 3 and 4 of September 1921. The first comes in two colors; the others in three colors each. Except No. 2, all are printed on colored paper in black; No. 2, the rouletted stamp of July, is printed in color on colored papers.

These stamps required regular postage to be paid also, for carriage beyond the air route, as they were non-governmental air-line issues.

More about the 1.50f Pasteur

By F.E. Sellmansberger



In No. 32 of this journal, Mr. Rich speaks of "mental reservations" in discussing my article on that stamp in the American Philatelist, Dec. 1947. That is exactly what I had: -- mental reservations. I was faced with the problem of accounting for seeming re-entries in white, on a colored background.

How could such re-entries occur? Printed by letterpress, as these stamps were, the imprint of a re-entry would necessarily be in color, not in white. Yet the doubling looks just like the re-entries on line-engraved stamps. So I put it thus to indicate that the term was used in a way not to imply cause of the effect-- I said "re-entries," with quotes.

Modern French stamps, printed by letterpress, are known to show doubling caused in at least four different ways. There may be even more of these ways. In this case, two may be neglected. Those two would have filled the white doubling with color. One other is most unlikely in this case. We have just these alternatives: Either the sheet of paper was not stretched at full length when printed, or Mr. Rich is right on his thesis of printing from a worn plate. Perhaps a light could come by inquiring of the director of the French stamp printery. The length of time each plate was used, would tell us much.



The World's First Commemoratives

By S.G. Rich

France was the first country to issue a set of commemorative adhesive stamps, or even a lone commemorative. The U.S. Centennial envelope may antedate France's Type Sage stamps by a few days --but we lack accurate dating for both the Sage adhesives and these envelopes.

France Type Sage commemorates:

1. The paying-off in full of the indemnity imposed by the Germans in 1871.
2. The establishment of the Republic, as the definitive and lasting form of the French government in 1875
3. Adhesion of France to the Universal Postal Union, effective on Jan. 1, 1876.

France Type Sage also holds the record for the longest use of a commemorative series: 24 years.

France Type Sage held the record for widest use of a commemorative type till the British in 1936 got out their Silver Jubilee issue. Used in all colonies as well as metropolitan France, Type Sage was world-wide.

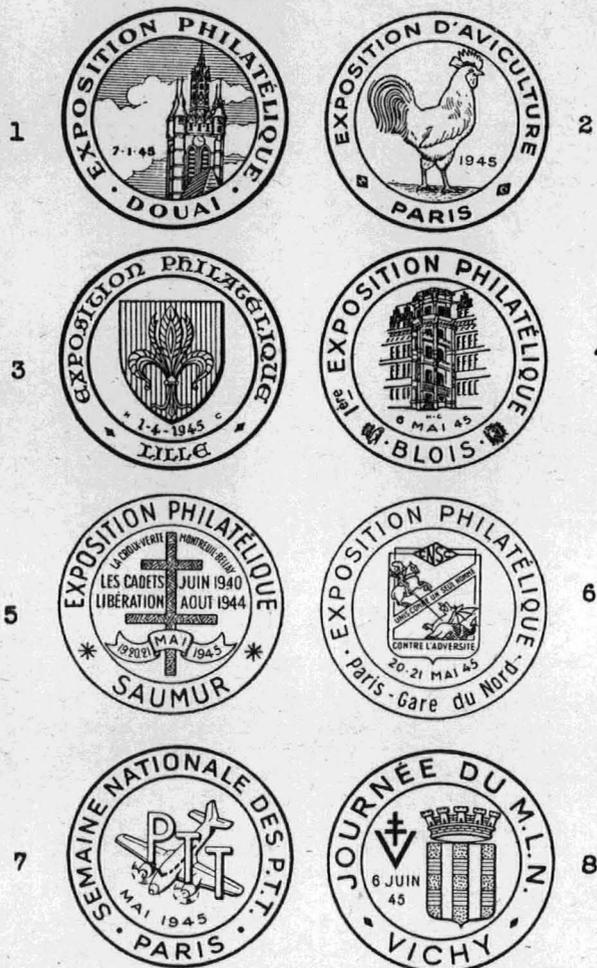
First day covers are not known, for one very good reason. The stamps were fed into use as the various values of the Ceres issue became exhausted. No record of the date of actual issue of the Sage stamps was kept. What dates we have are earliest known uses, dates shown in postmarks on stamps or covers.

The first sure date we have is May 13, 1876, for the 25c ultramarine Type I. Vague dates are given for the 15c brown Type I: "May" by some authorities and "April" by others. All of the other values appeared later.

French Fancy Cancellations used in 1945

1. Douai stamp show, Jan. 7, 1945
2. Poultry show, Paris, March 30, 1945
3. First stamp show, Lille, May 1, 1945
4. First stamp show, Blois, May 6, 1945
5. Stamp show, Samur, May 19-20, 1945
6. Stamp show, Paris (at North railway station) May 20-21, 1945
7. National Air Mail Week, May 21-27, 1945
8. Day of the National Liberation Movement, June 6, 1945

Three others, not pictured, were:
 Stamp Day (Journée du timbre), Oct 13, 1945.
 Martyrs' Day, Montauban, July 24, 1945
 P.T.T.'s booth at Paris fair, Sept. 8-24, 1945.



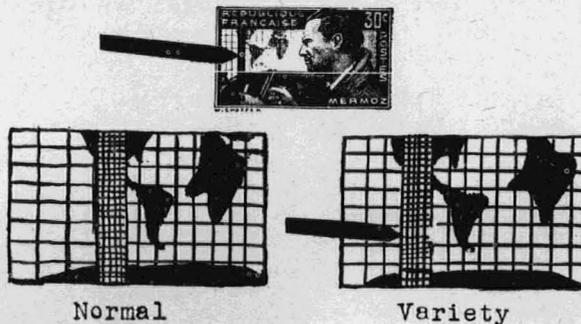
SECRETARY'S REPORT

This number appears so closely after number 34, that no report can be included on new members, address changes, etc. A complete report to the closing date will appear in No. 36.

DUES for 1948 are now payable: \$2.00 for "Parent Chapter" resident members; \$1.00 for all others. Please make checks or postal notes payable to "France and Colonies Group" and send to Secretary, at the address on front page.

Thanks go to the many members whose dues came in at once on our previous mention of dues. You have saved your Secretary much work and confusion.

Plate Flaw in the 30c Mermoz of 1937



This plate flaw is not scarce, as approximately 40% of all copies show it. As the picture shows, there is a conspicuous break in the row of small squares forming a band vertically across the background map, near the left end of the stamp.

The flaw occurs on all three plates used for the stamp, on subjects Nos. 31 through 50; and also on No. 26 on one plate. It is clearly a relief-break. Its existence is clear evidence that two reliefs were made for transferring this line-engraved design from the die to the plate. No 26 on one plate is probably a re-entry; and anyone who has a copy identifiable as No. 26 position should examine it carefully for evidences of re-entry such as are well known on earlier U.S. stamps.

Yvert's Specialized Catalog lists this plate flaw-variety.

-- Harold Metzger

"How did you get hurt, Gaston?"
 "I tried to buy the new 200 francs of Sakoubonazonke on the day the boys first got it in."



THE NEW SERVICE

Wanted or exchange notices; members only; one or two insertions only; no charge. Those replying will please offer only what is asked for here.

What offer in trade for Monaco April 1914 Rallye Aerien card with Monaco Airmail No. 301 of Sanabria tied by event postmark. J.R. McGee, 25 D Ridge Road, Greenbelt, Maryland (Member 20)

Algeria 19th Century numeral cancellations on France wanted: Small, Nos. 3705 to 4448; Large, Nos. 5000 to 5169. Adrien Boutrelle, 205 West 57 St., New York 19, N.Y. (Member 12).

Wanted, Free French overprints on genuine covers, or cancelled on piece. State the catalog number and price for each. Everel Keyes, 14742 Center Ave., Harvey, Ill. (Member 246).

Wanted: Covers before 1900 with cancellations of the various International Expositions (all countries. Brainerd Kremer, 211 Glenridge Ave., Montclair, N.J. (Member 8).

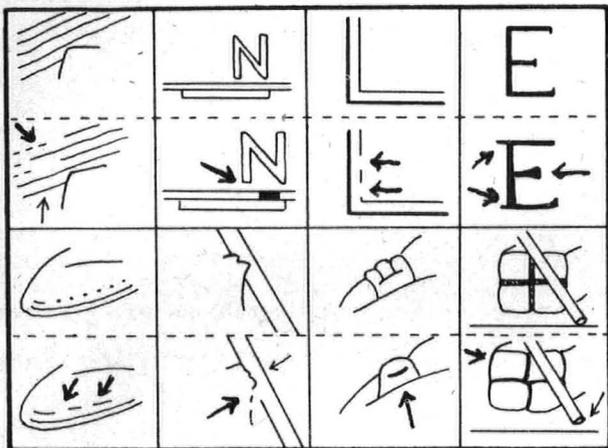
Sell me covers of the Type Sage 20c (both colors), 1f, 2f and 5f Type Sage used alone -- if you have them used alone on cover. S.G. Rich, Verona, N.J. (Member 2).

Yes, I will buy almost any First Issue of France stamp in fine condition, Price each item when sending. Brainerd Kremer, 211 Glenridge Ave., Montclair, N.J. (Member 8).

A page of reprint material, which has been published by us in earlier numbers (before 1945) and which has been asked for by some of the members.

Forgeries of the General Colonial 1881 Issue

1881-86 DUBOIS TYPE. (Scott's Commerce type). The whole set was forged by Fournier. See diagram for a few characteristic signs -- (arrows point to discrepancies in the forgeries) -- the lines behind the hair, white bar under "COLONIES," lower left corner frame, final "E" of "REPUBLIQUE," shading of the right forearm, the hair projecting over flagstaff, ornament on



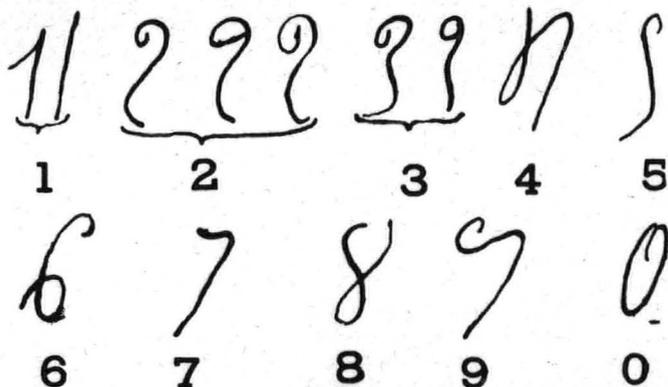
right arm, ropes on bundles and end of flag-staff touching.

There is another set of forgeries perforated 12 instead of 14x13½ in the originals. Other signs of these forgeries are: a contour line to the flag, hair covers entirely the flag-staff, the white line under "COLONIES" is shaded strongly underneath and at right, there is only one line of shading on the right forearm, etc...

Bear in mind the characteristics of the forgeries when coming to the surcharges of the individual colonies; if the stamp itself is a forgery, why bother about the surcharge?

THE "POST OFFICE NUMERALS."

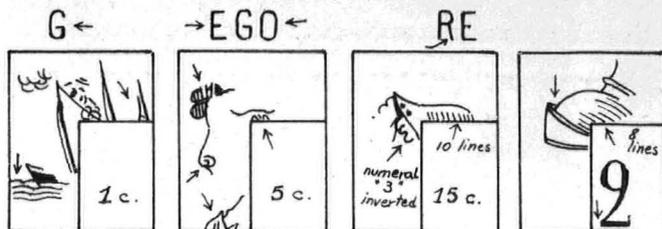
These rating handstamps were in use as late as 1882, and may cause some confusion on covers because certain of the figures are not according to the modern forms.



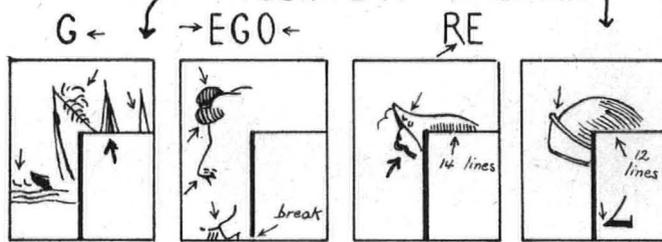
Forgeries of Diego Suarez 1890 and 1891

1890 - lithographed locally - the color of the ink is more gray than black. In the originals the frame lines around the numeral are of

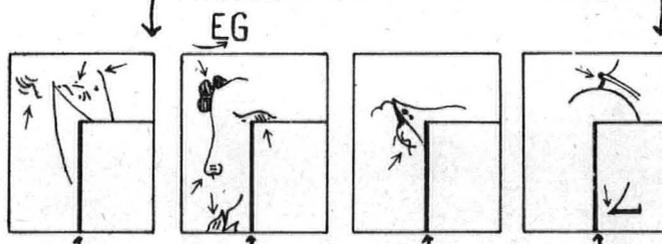
ORIGINALS



FOURNIER'S FORGERIES



PHOTOLITHOGRAPHED FORGERIES



even thickness. (See illustrations for characteristic signs of the originals and some of the common forgeries). The paper of some forgeries is yellowish. The Fournier cancellations are: double circle, 24 mm, DIEGO-SUAREZ 1 SEPT 92 MADAGASCAR; idem 23 mm; idem, 15 MARS 90, 28 SEPT 91, 27 SEPT 90 - all in black or blue. The photolithographed forgeries are much better done than the Fournier and the frame line to the left of the numerals is sometimes of deceptive thickness though generally too thick. Some of these have received genuine cancellations!

1891 - 5 centimes lithographed locally -- There exist several forgeries; some are crude, but some photolithographed ones are very good; in these one of the signs is to check the figures 8 and 9 of the date; in the originals the 8 never touches the line above it and the 9 often touches, in the forgeries both figures touch. Also the printing is done with too black an ink.



← Date 1891 under Numeral of Value

The two articles on Forgeries are by Dr. A.J.C. Vaurie.