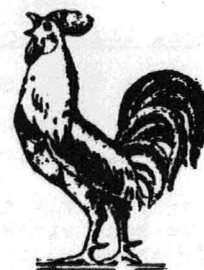


France & Colonies Philatelist



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The 1943

5f Lyonnais Arms

Broken Tail Variety

Thanks to our Malden (Mass.) chapter, and to Earl E. Hunnewell of that chapter and for the membership thereof, we show this interesting but little known variety on the lower stamp of the pair here pictured.

This stamp, No. 460 of Scott, also comes in two other varieties:

Imperforate

Without the red printing.

Presumably the broken tail variety comes in each of these also, but we have no report that it has been so seen.

The imperf. and no-red-print varieties both are fairly scarce but by no means "rarities of the first order." We learn that there are not as many of the Broken Tail known as of either of the others.

The Broken Tail variety is definitely scarce as a used stamp, or on cover alone or with some other stamp or the regular 5f Lyonnais.



Major Change in Postmark Dating for France and Algeria.

Year dates are in full, from the start of 1948, instead of in two numerals only, according to Mr. G. Chapier, in the February 1948 "Argus Philatelique". This plan also has been extended to postmarks of Morocco, we learn.



Gleanings
Among the Postmarks of Martinique.

By Robert G. Stone and Ralph Holtzizer.
(Continuation)

II. The Early Dated Postmarks, 1830-1878.

Relatively little new information about these has come to hand since Langlois and Bourselet, 1927. Only three major types were introduced by the French Martinique postal service from 1830 to 1879. One type underwent a number of minor variations in font, spelling and fleurons, as well as changes caused by wear. Two more types were issued by or for the British Packet Agency at Martinique.

1. Large double circle, 31 mm. diameter:

* **ST PIERRE * MARTINIQUE** (High small T)
Date in three lines in center.
Black, 1832-1840. By 1837 the inner circle had worn away completely. Very scarce.



(This type not yet known from Fort de France).

2. Medium-sized double circle, 26-28 mm. diameter. Various wordings:

SAINT PIERRE MARTINIQUE *
5-pointed star at bottom. Date in center in three lines.
Black, 1841-48; red 1843. Somewhat scarce.



S^T PIERRE MARTINIQUE * (High small T over dot)
Large 8-pointed fleuron at bottom. Date in center in three lines.
Black, 1848-1859(?). From 1852 on, rather worn. Common.



Same as last.
Letters and numbers of the date are smaller, narrower and closer together. Black, 1856-1862. After 1857, the fleuron was worn and has a point in the center. By 1860 the entire device became badly worn. (No picture to be had)
Very common.

Same as last two.
The fleuron is smaller and usually has a dot in the center. Black, 1859-1864. Common.



FORT-DE-FRANCE MARTINIQUE *
Small 6-pointed fleuron at bottom. Date in three lines in center. Black, 1850-1864. Somewhat scarce.



3. Small double circle, 24 mm. diameter. The inner circle of dots.

* **MARTINIQUE *** (name of post office).

Offices seen: prior to 1879:

- Ajoupa-Bouillon
- Fort-de-France
- Gros-Morne
- Marin
- Petit-Bourg
- St. Pierre
- Trinité



Black or blue, 1864-1893. Date in center in three lines. Very common to scarce, depending on the office.

(The varieties of this type all appeared after 1878).

4. Double circle interrupted by MARTINIQUE.

("Rimless" or "Circular" type).
Office name in arc, in gothic capitals. 25 mm. diameter.
Date in center in two lines.
Letter A below date.
Black, 1848-Dec. 1878.



This is the postmark of the British Packet Agency at St. Pierre. It may also have been used at Fort-de-France, for a shorter time. It is not known whether the Agency used the mark, or it was given to the French post office to use in the Agency's behalf. This mark appears frequently, but by no means always on the backs of letters dispatched via the British Royal Mail boats. The French postmarks may also appear on the cover (face or back). In such case they usually are dated a day or so earlier than the British mark. Scarce. (See article by Stone, American Phil., April 1943)

5. Single circle, 20 mm. diameter.

MARTINIQUE / month and day / year / PAID
This mark was registered in the G.P.O. at London as having been issued to the British Packet Agency at Martinique in 1863 or 1864. But it has never been seen used on a letter. If found, it should be on face of the cover, in red.

(To be continued)

France, 1852 Essay.

By C.W. Brazer
(From Essay-Proof Journal, July 1943)

Essayed by M. Pichot of Poitiers.
"essai de Cayenne"



11E-B.

1852.
11E-B. 25 Centimes.
Size of design 18.5x22 mm.
- a. Lithographed with chemical ink changeable when wet, overprinted with a horizontal net work of fine mesh wavy lines in dull light yellow on white wove paper.
 - 11 b/2 dull light orange
 - 13 1/3 dismal v. deep y-orange
 - 17 a/2 dull v. vivid o-yellow
 - 45 1/4 smoky deep b-g-blue
 - Arthur Maury in his Historie des Timbres-Poste Francais also lists the following which have not been seen by this committee for cataloging.
 - carmine
 - red-brown
 - violet
 - lilac
 - b. on yellow paper
 - black

We Hate to Admit It--But We Have To.

On No. 36, front page, in making it up, the first four lines should have been cut out --and discarded. Our face is red.

The Mont-Saint-Michel 5f Types or Dies:
Do they Intergrade?

A Philatelic Friendship
By Everel F. Keys

Copies of this 1930-31 stamp, Scott Nos. 249 and 250, 5f brown, now and then come along that are hard to place as to which die they are. The fact is clearly emerging that the two supposed dies or types are not sharply separated: that the break in the spire develops gradually.

Copies have been seen with the break hardly visible, very short. Then a series can be made up, with the break increasing in length -- also with an "intermediate condition" in which there are two short breaks.

The illustrations in Scott's catalog are far from satisfactory on this feature. This arises from their being old and worn, and thus fail to represent the actual situation.

In your editor's judgment, the classification of the unbroken spire variant with heavier or more extensive cloud effects in the sky as Type 2 by Scott and by the British catalog of Stanley Gibbons, with dates of 1930 and 1929 given, probably is not valid. Yvert, we note, reverses these and gives 1930 date for both.

A real study of the matter, using covers and stamps showing earliest dates of use, as well as unused stamps to show the variation of break in spire, might well be a useful contribution. The information is really needed.

Mr. Carl Stephenson, our member, showed your editor the material which gave rise to what is here suggested.

Reversed Maker's Name Oddity -- Syria

HELIO QARIRIQUAV

Past President Lesgor of the Group has shown the Editor copies of Syria Nos. 215 and 254, on which the printer's name, Vaugirard, at lower right corner is reversed. He mentioned that the fact was communicated to him by someone who had the idea that it was a rare "error."

These stamps are the 0.75f red of 1932 and the 0.25f on 0.75f of 1938.

Examination of several other copies of these stamps indicates that the reversed name is the regular thing: that apparently all subjects in the sheet have this variety. It isn't a variety among the 0.75f stamps but a feature of all of the copies of it.

But examination of other values of this set of stamps, the 1930-36 set as listed by Scott, shows no occurrence of the reversal on any other value.

THE NEW SERVICE

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

I have some fakes of early issues and some Anchor cancellations. Want to exchange? Mury, Box 47 Planetarium Station, New York 24, N.Y. (Member no. 16)

Back numbers of the F. & C. Philatelist can be had from the Secretary. Almost all except the very earliest are on hand.

Type Sage used, off or on cover, showing dates before June 1 1876 wanted. Price each one by itself, please. S.G. Rich, Verona, New Jersey (Member no. 2)

About ten years ago, in trying to secure certain stamps of Cameroon on cover, one effort of mine was made by a communication to the postmaster at Kibri. After a long period in which there was no response, I addressed a second letter to him. Some time later, there came to me a letter from a Mr. Essam Moise, of the customs service at Kibri. In it, he called attention to my correspondence to "his friend the Postmaster," and stated that he would send me the stamps which I wanted.

Following this, a friendly and very interesting correspondence was carried on with Mr. Moise until January 1940. Then it abruptly came to an end. Several letters were forwarded to his address. But, receiving no reply, I decided that perhaps he had been called into the armed services of his country, and because of the censorship, was unable to tell me the situation.

Essam Moise was not a stamp collector, though I did send him our Famous Americans series on cover, complete. He was intensely interested in music. At one time he asked information on and the addresses of manufacturers and dealers who could supply folding organs, preferably second hand.

Through our correspondence, he learned that I wished my French Colonial stamps in used condition, on cover if possible. In view of that, he sent me in November 1939 a hand carved ivory letter-opener with my initials on one side of the handle, and decorated with a miniature ivory elephant at the very tip of the handle.

The address card attached to the package in which the letter-opener was sent, as well as an accompanying letter, were both franked with the stamps of Cameroon of 1939, the New York World's Fair and Revolution Anniversary sets, and the regular series, Scott numbers 225 to 251. In transit this package and envelope were so badly damaged that it was advisable to remove the stamps. On soaking them off, I found that about half of the stamps carried a bluish-green line drawn straight across the narrower dimension of each stamp, on its back. These lines withstood the soaking very well, and are still conspicuous on the backs of the stamps. However, their purpose is not known to me.

Before this date, Mr. Moise had been transferred to Douala. His Christmas greeting, received on Jan. 4, 1940, was the last direct word which I had from him. His letters, the hand carved and beautiful ivory letter opener, together with the stamps and covers which he sent me, continue to be a testimonial of the spirit of friendship which is fostered around the world through our stamp collecting hobby.



The last three temporary or occasion postmarks used in France in 1947. (Courtesy L'Argus Philatelique)

Plate Break on 5 Francs Type Merson.

Mr. George Tisserant, our member whose enjoyment is to discover varieties on stamps, and to trace the development of such varieties, sends a series of four of the 5f blue and buff, Type L. O. Merson, issued 1900, No. 130 of France in the Scott Catalog. They show a rather intriguing break in the frame line, under SE of FRANCAISE, with the growth of this variety. All the stamps are used in 1923, by the dates in the postmarks.



AISEI ↑

The break starts as a narrow one under the space between S and E. It becomes wider. A new break under the right-hand end of E starts, and the line between the two breaks becomes thin. Finally, the entire line is absent under SE and base of the label at the right hand end; and under AI, the line both is thin and shows further breaks starting.

Numeral Cancellation Book by Kremer.

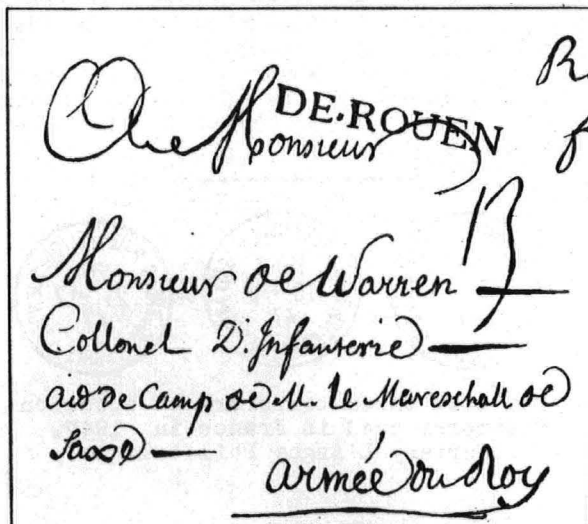
Brainerd Kremer has published, in June 1948, a Check List of French Numeral Cancellations.

This book brings together in convenient form for carrying around, the identifications of the French numeral cancellations, including those of Algeria, of Offices Abroad, and the Paris Stars. It is based on Langlois and Veneziani's book, as are all such lists published anywhere. The typographical errors which marred lists as previously published in this country, are absent.

Mr. Kremer has admitted to your editor that a numerical list in addition to the alphabetic one would have been of great use; but reasons of keeping down cost and bulk made such a list impracticable.

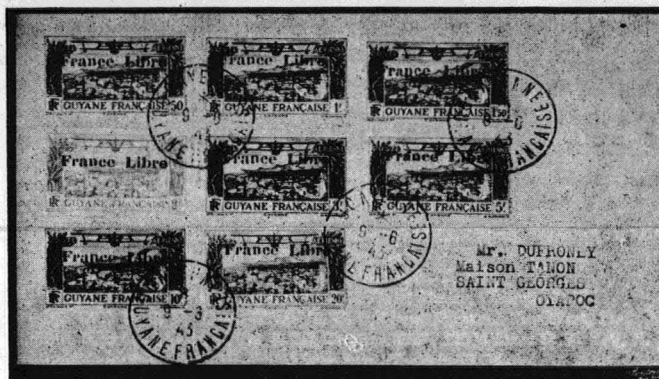
The Kremer book will not make the sheets of numeral cancellations which we furnish to our members useless. Many of us care enough for the numerals to welcome these lists, but do not do enough in this field to justify sending \$2.50 to buy this book. We shall continue to provide the sheets.

Mr. Kremer's book is a fine example of photo offset printing from typed originals, and it is most convenient to use. Author-publisher's address is 211 Glenridge Ave., Montclair, N.J. (F. & C. Group member No. 8).



This number of the Philatelist goes to press so close to No. 37, as the Editor is getting up to date, that no additional report beyond that in No. 37 is included.

As the Secretary will probably be away for some time, perhaps on several occasions, during the summer, and busied with summer doings at other times, will members please allow for such delay as may thus occur in handling their letters?



"FRANCE LIBRE" SURCHARGES ON AIR STAMPS OF FRENCH GUIANA

by EDMOND QUEYROY

As the accompanying photograph shows, the French Guiana Air Mail set C1/C8 was surcharged "FRANCE LIBRE," in 1943.

As many collectors of Air Mail and French Colonies do not know the facts about this issue, I will explain the story by documents received.

Being very interested in all surcharged Free French stamps, I sent a cable to Cayenne asking for information as soon as I received five covers from French Guiana with stamps showing this surcharge. However, I have waited a long time to get the information I wanted to know. Since the arrival of those five covers, I have written thirty-eight registered letters to my correspondents and to the Postmaster! After my effort, I am now able to give all the information to collectors, who, I am sure, will find it interesting.

French Guiana became Free French in March 1943. On this occasion the Post Office at Cayenne, by authorization of the Governor, made all efforts to commemorate this event by a surcharge printing on stamps. The first chosen was the Air Mail set, Scott C1/C8. The chief difficulty which arose was to have blocks made up for the surcharge, but after a short time a few sheets were surcharged with the overprint "FRANCE LIBRE".

As soon as the stamps were ready, five sets were sent to the Free French Government at Algier, asking permission for

this issue, and at the same time five covers were sent to me. The Post Office at Cayenne feeling sure of Algier acceptance, sold 300 sets of the surcharged mint Air Mail stamp and twenty five covers were sent within the colony itself. But the next day Cayenne received a cable from Algier saying: "We can not give our consent to this issue." Cayenne sent a new request, but Algier maintained its decision.

The remainder of this issue was then destroyed by a Commission. After the refusal of Algier, the Cayenne authorities had in mind to commemorate the change in allegiance by a special postmark cachet bearing a date, and in the center "FRANCE LIBRE." They had a hard time having the cachets made. Only one man was qualified for this kind of work. One cachet was ordered for each post office in Guiana and Inini.

The one available man was kept very busy, and was able after a certain period to deliver only two postmarks for Guiana and two for Inini. But few envelopes carried this scarce cancellation "FRANCE LIBRE." Most of the letters sent in the colony were passed from hand to hand to avoid the censor, and the envelopes sent outside of French Guiana were very few in number.

These dated France Libre cachets were destroyed after the end of the war in Europe in November 1945. We find envelopes and stamps bearing this cancellation "FRANCE LIBRE" on Air Mail Scott C1/C8. On stamps "Aide aux Combattants" (Guiana and Inini) Entraide 5Fs+20Fs. and very few envelopes with stamps of Guiana 1929-40), Inini (1932-40).

(Reprinted from Airpost Journal, November 1947)

FRANCE -- PRE-REVOLUTIONARY STAMPLESS COVER
Rouen, June 27 1747.
Town mark in red.

A. J. H. Richardson's this tracing.
From one Jacobite exile from England, written to another serving in the army of Marshal Saxe during the War of the Spanish Succession.

(Reprinted from Postal Markings, 1936)