By courtesy of Mr. Martin M. Sternfels, of Waterbury, Conn., we show the cover which was the basis for Scott catalog adding, 1957 edition we believe, the 5c yellow green 1898 Type One (N under B) imperforate. It is used with Type 2 5c yellow green 1898 perforated, to make up the then current 15c domestic rate.

This pair is No. 105a of the catalog.
The 5c Type 2 was added as No. 104a, in 1958 edition, from some other source.
We do not know why these are both listed as unused copies only, with no price for used ones given in either case.
Postmark date on this cover is Aug. 26, 1900.
Our impression is that both types as imperfs came out in 1900. Information wanted.
At the Annual Dinner, Saturday, November 23rd, 1957

Forty-five of us, the largest number ever at the group's Annual Dinner, had a really wonderful time. As last year, we met at the St. Germain Restaurant, facing Radio City on 48th St. For every diner there was a complimentary copy of Brainerd Bremer's List of French numeral cancellations. For every lady there was a special favor, something French but of interest to the ladies. No. 95 of this journal, just off press that day, was also distributed to everyone.

As always: no speeches.

The picture herewith, furnished us by our photographer member, Adrien Boulêtre, shows a few of the guests and members present. From the left: Mr. L. M. Rob, Paris dealer (a guest), President Zweifach, Secretary Bretagne, Mrs. Kindler, Recording Secretary Kindler, Mr. G. Behn of Paris (a guest), Robert G. Stone.

We gathered at 6:30 p.m., sat down at 7:30, and were starting to break up by 11 p.m. The vin rouge, the vin blanc and the food, were all excellent.

Among those present were Dr. and Mrs. Robert L. Wood; Mr. Raul Lesgar; Mr. & Mrs. Brainerd Kreme; Mrs. Bretagne; Mr. & Mrs. Fred Auerbach (the latter known in the stamp trade as Pauline Neumann); many others whose names your editor is not able to cite.

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Report from the General Issues Study Circle

The Study circle wishes to announce that Dr. Bouvet's article on the use of the Eagle, the Napoleon and the Ceresissues in St. Pierre and Miquelon, has been translated by Mr. A. Cronin, and is available to members of the Group. This article, plus that on the cancellations of St. Pierre-Miquelon published in Vol. 2 No. 3 of the F. & C. Phil., is about all the information now available on this colony at least up to the 1892 period. The Study Circle has a rough draft of the specialized listings of General Issues, used in St. P.M. This will be available soon.

A monograph has been prepared on the first three issues of the Parcel Post stamps of Ivory Coast. The basis is an article, as published in a French journal, by Mr. E. André, and ably translated by Mr. Andrew Cronin of Canada. This monograph is available to all interested members of the group.

Both books may be had from Leo F. Goerth, the Secretary of the Study Circle, 386 East York St., Akron 10, Ohio.

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Wrong Plant

We are indebted to Mr. Frederic Malheheim, for a very interesting correction. On page 15 of No. 93, May-June 1957, we reprinted a bit from Linn's about the Madagascar pictorials. In Linn's text the 4½f is stated as showing a plant called "Clove plant."

Now Mr. Malheheim tells us that this is a misprint for CLOVEplant− source of the dried aromatic buds which form that spice so much used.

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Postal Forgery of the Marianne de Gandon

The Berner briefmarken-Zeitung lifted in December 1950 an article in L'Echo de la Timbrolologie, which would seem to have appeared a few weeks earlier about postal forgeries of the Marianne de Gandon. We translate in full:

"A large hubbub about fake 15f stamps, of the Marianne de Gandon type, made much noise in the south of France. A long time had elapsed since the counterfeiters in our country had worked on making forgeries to do postal duty. Their new product, by which old lady P.T.T. had felt herself injured, luckily has been possible to get stopped. It is not at all bad as far as quality of product is concerned.

"A glance can distinguish that the numbers and letters are lightly thickened on the bad ones, while on the genuine they are of a thread-like aspect. The G of the signature GANDON has been badly imitated and looks like a C. The perf's done with less good luck, are irregular and a bit zigzag. We also notice the differences in the shading of the chin and of the upper lip."

"These stamps, printed in sheets of 25, with no margins, were sold cheaply to tobacco retailers in the Marseilles region, who thus made substantial profits. There is no need to talk about their singing their fingers. The postal administration could properly be surprised when people of that sort, who normally secure ten thousand francs in stamps per month from them, now are asking for no more than two thousand francs' worth. One need not be some great lawyer, to guess the reasons for this sudden lessening."
STOP PRESS

7th LESGOR CONTEST

When: Tuesday evening, FEBRUARY 4, 1958.
Where: At the Group's meeting, Collectors Club, 22 East 35 St., New York, N.Y.

Who may compete: Every member of the France and Colonies Group, no matter where the member resides.

Prizes: At least one in each of the two divisions:
- Research (new information demonstrated)
- General: any collection you deem worthy.

If enough exhibits turn up in either section (4 or more) there will be 2 prizes given.

How enter: Notify Recording Secretary Jan Kinder, 65 Bedford St., New York 14, N.Y.

saying what you wish to show, in which division, and now many album pages of usual size.

Limits: No limit as to period: 19th and 20th Century: any French country.

We have 20 frames, which will each hold 12 pages of usual size, or 9 pages of Scott International Album size.

If many exhibits, we shall have to frame part of the exhibit from each contestant--but the Judges will see it all.

How send: To the Group, care of the Collectors Club, 22 East 35 St., New York 15, N.Y.

Send in time to have the package in the Club's keeping by Jan. 31. Please include return postage. Please indicate which pages we may have only the judges see, if we are jammed for space.

Judging: Three judges, of whom we plan to have two well-informed stamp people not members of the Group.

Returning of Exhibits: We intend to get all exhibits into the mail within 2 days after the Contest.

And finally: neither money value nor age of what you show will have any bearing on the awards. They could go to 1600-69 stamps of France, or to 1957 Madagascar--strictly on merit of the exhibit. It is a free-for-all.

No handicap.

Step Out with a share in this contest this year.

We would be very glad to have entries from those members living very far afield--California, and Canada and overseas.

31

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D I C T I O N A R Y  P R O J E C T

The France and Colonies Group, in undertaking to prepare a dictionary of French philatelic terms, approaches a problem made formidable by semantic difference, variations in definitions caused by development and changes in the French postal system, and by the necessity to limit ourselves to a dictionary and not an encyclopedia. The memorable production, 1929 edition by Yvert on the Estampilles, encyclopedic in concept, was marred by lack of definitions. But it became a mighty signpost pointing toward the excitement and fun in the field of postal markings and a strong pusher to research.

The research goes forward--to the study of a problem that existed, but, incomplete as our results may be, a milestone must be established from which we can go forward. Every one of us who owns a mod- erate quantity of stampless covers can boast of markings not yet listed, as well as usages unexplained.

The problems of French philately relate to our lack of definitions, and in some cases of material. Certain problems arise from experience on the part of owners of material, to over- blow their value by interpreting incorrectly. One of the wisest things done in handling of information and form of values on stampless covers, is absolutely to limit the colors of the ink to only three descriptions: red, black, and blue; without consideration of ANY variations. Green shows up occasionally, but is explained as a special usage without additional value.

One of the difficulties, semantic brings on arguments over words instead of meanings. It must be understood that all markings applied by the system are postal marks. However, certain marks have no reference to the origin, destination, or route of travel of the letters: A.E.P., P.F.P., P.P., A over V, X, and even the P.P., P.F., P.D. marks as well as others were postal bookkeeping marks. The postal system was highly centralized in Paris; and in Paris they demanded to know everything possible about their financial affairs at any moment. There was also, a highly legalistic reason for the numerous cachets à date and Après le Depart markings. The system had to stand ready to explain why any letter was delayed or apparently delayed. The date stamps on the letters were legal evidence.

There is no counterpart in French philatelic literature to the U.S. custom of writing up the routes and personalities of our early mails. If it exists, it has not been popularized for English language readers. Yet there is more than a hint that the colorful personalities and events of the French postal system would equal ours.

Knowledge of this aspect would increase our understanding of the whys and wherefores of certain usages. —— Nathan Hals

(First article is both a prospectus for the Dictionary Project and a first draft for the introduction to the Dictionary when produced.)

Spanish Cuban Marks M61, M62, found on Covers from France to Cuba etc.

We are indebted to Dr. B. Cruz-Planas, from whom we got the information that the N.E. means "Norte Europa" that the numerals, indicating the rate zones whence the covers came, signify the number of zedales (Cuban money of the period) of the rate which applies.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

December 15, 1957

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome.

705 Lizery, Pierre de 14, rue de Pottier... Paris, France. (The French Plates)

706 Zuck, William, 304 Parallel Avenue, Pittsburg, Pa. (France & Prec.)

707 Eston Frouin, S. A. 30 Jones Road, Wallingford, Conn. France 1819 to date.

708 Dicaire, Paul A. 35 Chapline Avenue, St. Catherine, Ont. Canada (France & St. Pierre & Miquelon)

709 Miro L. fils 18, rue de la Ferté, Paris 9ème France. (Classic Stamp Dealer)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

681 Cook, Randall REV. to Bromfield, Florida
67 Nous, Henry O., to Box 2775 Hamilton Sta., Pompono Beach, Florida
532 Kahn, William, to 2 Seton Rd., Larchmont, N.Y.
462 Robbins, Elsie Miss to 1204 Wakefield Rd., Fountoun, Penna.
305 Noren, Harold E. to 6 Howard Park, New Rochelle, N.Y.
527 Worwood W., 1682 17th St., North, Charny, Quebec, Canada
557 Fairchild, Edmund to 210,5 E. Cloverland, Drive, Covina, California
333 Schnitzer, Joel, 61 Limon Road, Lawrence, L.I., N.Y.
155 Sheriff, Leigh to 1782 Mendeville Canyon Road, Los Angeles 49, California
419 Beal, James H. to P.O. Box 388, Warren, Pa.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Respectfully Submitted

Charles Breitner, Sec'y

MEMBERS' APPEALS

Want and exchange notices only; members only; on or two insertions only; no charge. Those who reply will please offer only what is asked.

French Numeral cancellations wanted:— large and small numbers, Algeria and Foreign Offices. Will swap or buy, on or off cover, thousands of copies to trade. W.H. Schilling Jr., 3501 Woodcrest Drive, Minneapolis 34, Minn. (Member 29)

Wanted for study quantity France Scott Nos. 14,15,18,25,26,27,32 to 36, 50, 51, 55 to 59, and Type Sage. Please make offers with last price wanted. Frederic Malmenheim, 101 West 83 St., New York 24, N.Y. (Member 389)

Wanted: French Occupation of Hungary:— Ared Issues Nos. 1N4, 1N5, 1N10, 1N16-18, 1N24, 1N29, 1N1J-5. Richard C. Kanak, 3833 South 61st Court, Cicero 50, Illinois. (Member No. 704)

Would acquire one 10 centimes red overprint Scott No. 162 with the Montenegro overprint: S.P. du M./Bordeaux in any form: single, block, used, on cover or place—even inverted. Jan Kindler, 65 Bedford St., New York 14, N.Y. (Member 668)

Wanted: Balloons Monté, Submit with price or send description. Ernest H. Taves, M.D., 16 Gray Gardens East, Cambridge 38, Mass. (Member 676).

Literature Wanted, on French Africa, and on cancellations, books, paper clippings, also list of identified numeral cancels, Thomas Gilbertson, 708 Elm St., Anoka, Minn. (Member 694).