

delcampe

The free magazine for collectors

Classic Collections No.2/2022

MAGAZINE



Stamps

Joint stamp issues

Postcards

Mermaid postcards

Photography

Old photo albums

Coins

How did people pay for things during Nero's reign?

FROM 24 TO 26 NOVEMBER 2022

Terrasses de Fontvieille
Principality of Monaco

anno  1997



MONACOPHIL
2022



3 PHILATELIC
EXHIBITIONS

INDIA

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

100 ICONIC ITEMS

AT THE ESPACE LÉO FERRÉ:

80 stands operated by postal administrations
and international stamp dealers





Editorial

Summer's here! After spring, when we were (finally!) able to attend shows again, a beautiful summer is on tap, along with your new Delcampe Magazine - Classic Collections. This second issue of the magazine continues the editorial line of the first one: it covers stamp, coin and postcard collecting with some photos. But what do we really have to show you? What fruit does this Delcampe Magazine offer? Instead of peach postcards, we have an article about mermaids and cats. Postcards from the 1900 Paris Exposition will be our nectarines. We've added blackberries found by the children during summer camp. They're also featured in an article. Sweet strawberries are replaced by an article on the Académie de Philatélie about the legends surrounding the Europa competition,

the Floravène books of stamps and a study of Vézelay. This mix of red berries will be as delicious as our article on joint issues!

Pretty, golden apricots are for Queen Victoria's sovereign coins, a comparison between six-pound coins and an article about antique coins from the time of the emperor Nero.

Lastly, we have cherries for our article on old photo albums discovered by chance, contrary to old, rare posed photos.

I'm convinced that all this will make for a subtle, tasty and generous summer fruit salad full of the sunshine we're looking forward to! I would like to wish you all a wonderful summer full of warmth, barbecues with friends, discoveries and collections! Happy reading!

Héloïse Dautricourt

Forever **stamped** on your memory!



- 90 million items for sale
- More than 1 million active users per month
- 20 years of experience
- Register for free

Join us to give a new dimension to your collection!

 **delcampe**.net

The collectors' marketplace



Joint stamp issues collector, who are you? **16**



Two silver ecus (crowns) so very different! **18**



Mermaid postcards **22**



Des sirènes en cartes postales **54**

Contents

Delcampe

- 3 Editorial
- 6 The World of Collecting

Stamps

- 8 Border closed
- 9 Top Sales
- 10 Luxembourg: Kropemann and Melusina
- 13 Joint stamp issues collector, who are you?
- 24 Behind the scenes
- 36 Errare humanum est...
- 46 Vézelay

Coins

- 18 Two silver ecus (crowns) so very different!
- 34 A Sexy Seychelles banknote!
- 35 Top Sales
- 42 How did people pay for things during Nero's reign?

Postcards

- 16 Cats: postcard stars
- 30 A walk through the 1900 Paris Exposition
- 38 Happy summer camps
- 41 Top Sales
- 54 Mermaid postcards

Photography

- 24 Collecting old photo albums

Cover ©Miriam Rosner, Post Luxembourg



The World of Collecting: videos about your interests

www.delcampe.net has been providing more and more content to collectors for nearly two years now. Delcampe's YouTube channel features regular short videos on a range of topics related to coin, postcard and stamp collecting. But that's not all! We recently invited you to discover a selection of the top sales on the website each month.

The idea is to show short, varied and interesting video content accessible to all collectors, from beginners to the most specialised. Want to find out more? Discover our videos on our YouTube channel!

But first, Delcampe Magazine would like to take you on a tour behind the scenes.

The videos are filmed entirely by the Delcampe team on the company's premises. Alexandre, Sébastien, Héloïse and Marco take turns presenting the videos under the direction of our director, editor and cameraman. A lot of work is also done before and after filming.

The presenters choose topics and write the material, which they vary.

This means alternating collections and sometimes talking about topics specifically for beginners and at other times for more specialised collectors.

Silvia works on the miniatures, the background images that will make you want to discover topics.

Olivier is the prompter king during filming to ensure that the presentations are smooth. He also uploads the videos to YouTube and adds the sub-titles translated by our precious translation team. The videos are available in the six languages of our community. He coordinates the project.

Marguerite lends a helping hand during filming and helps choose the vi-

suals of the collection items that will be displayed during the video. She also promotes the videos on the social networks once they're ready.

The best Delcampe sales also involve a lot of teamwork. Silvia and Marguerite, with the help of Philippe our collection expert, choose the items. Alexandre edits the video and H eloise provides the

voice over. Olivier uploads the videos on YouTube and takes care of search optimisation and Marguerite broadcasts them on social media.

We hope you like, and will like, the results of all of this hard work! Discover our YouTube channel and subscribe to watch every new video!



Border closed

By Dominique Sollin of the French *Académie de Philatélie*

By decision of the government of Félix Gouin, France completely shut its land borders with Spain between 1 March 1946 and 10 February 1948 as a result of political disputes between the Franco regime

and the provisional government of the French Republic.

By decision of the Minister of the Interior, no one was allowed to cross, except for a few authorised persons. The clauses covering cross-border workers were draconian and families with members on both sides were forbidden from seeing each other. The officially imposed physical isolation was combined with emotional distance because the postal ministry:

“Forbids exchanges between France and its possessions and Spain and its possessions, suspends all private telegraph messages and maintains a ban on telephone communications”.

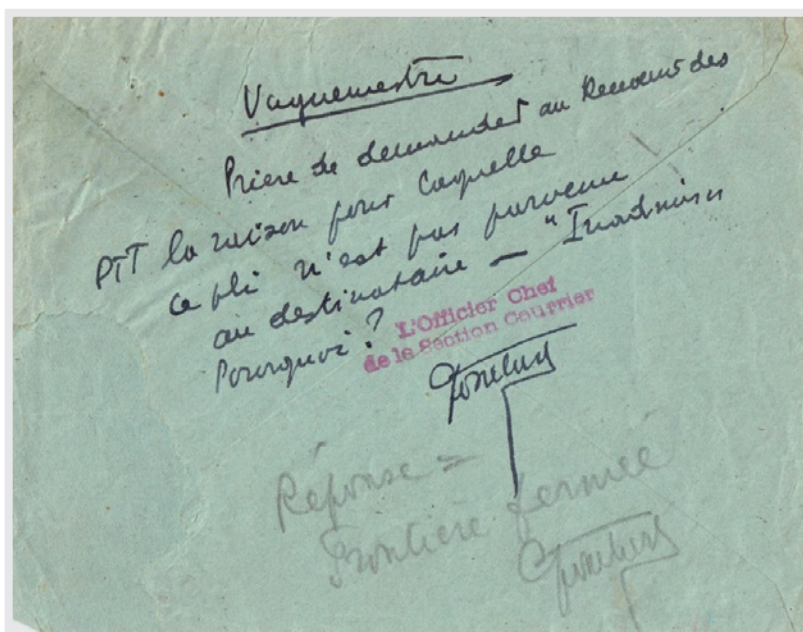
Letter from Toulon to Barcelona

Date-stamp Toulon-sur-Mer of 10 July 1947 cancelling a 10-franc Palais du Luxembourg stamp. Rate of 1 February 1946 for another country, up to 20 g: 10 francs.

However, this was an airmail letter and part of the date-stamp of 10 July is on the “airmail” sticker. On 10 July 1947, the postage was five francs short. This was the airmail surcharge for Europe, the rate on 18 March 1946, up to 20 g.

The five-franc *Marianne de Gandon* was cancelled by the Toulon date-stamp of 11 July 1947, the next day!

Envelope sent by the colonel of the *Centre administratif des Troupes coloniales dans la Métropole* for the “Ministre Plénipotentiaire, chargé du Consulat de France à Barcelone (Espagne)”. Marked “INADMIS” and “Return to sender”.



The summaries of the conferences are available on the Académie's website.

Top SALES

delcampe.net



Pasteur stamp - overprinted

10F on 1F50
France - 1928

5 550 €



Reich Brustschilde

2 Kreuzer
Germany - 1872

Sold at fixed price:

844€



40c rose carmine

Unperforated medallion
Leopold I
Belgium - 1849

3 198,50 €



Ceres 40c bright orange

Bordeaux issue - 4' large bloc of four ** / *

France - 1870

1800 €



Dahomey - N°41 **

10c on blackish-brown and red 1912 signed Scheller with certificate

1350 €



Italy - Airmail

Transatlantic cruise Balbo 1933 overprinted «SERVIZIO DI STATO» ** with Diena certificate

1700 €



Kropemann and Melusina, at the heart of the myths and legends of the Europa competition



This year, the theme of the Europa competition is the stories, myths, legends and tales of European countries. The competition had already used the same theme in 1983 and in 1997, with the legend of Melusina and the hunter of Hollenfels.

This time, Post Luxembourg decided to present the mermaid Melusina again, as well as the story of Kropemann. The story of the mermaid Melusina starts with her wedding to Siegfried I, founder of Luxembourg in the 10th century. According to

legend, Melusina would only wed under two conditions: she would stay close to the Alzette River and be alone at noon on Saturdays. However, Count Siegfried was overcome by curiosity and eventually broke his second

Post Luxembourg 2022, Europa legend stamps, Melusina and Kropemann

promise. He looked through a keyhole and saw that Melusina had a fish's tale. She realised that he was there and disappeared. According to the legend, she reappears every seven years to add a stitch to a shirt. The end of her work will coincide with the flooding of the city of Luxembourg by the overflowing Alzette. Fortunately, the city is still there!

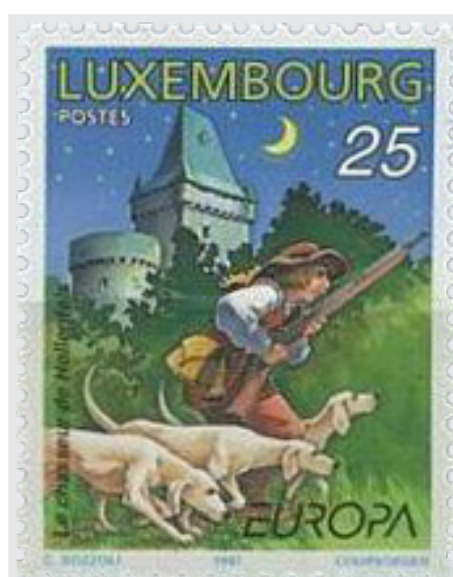
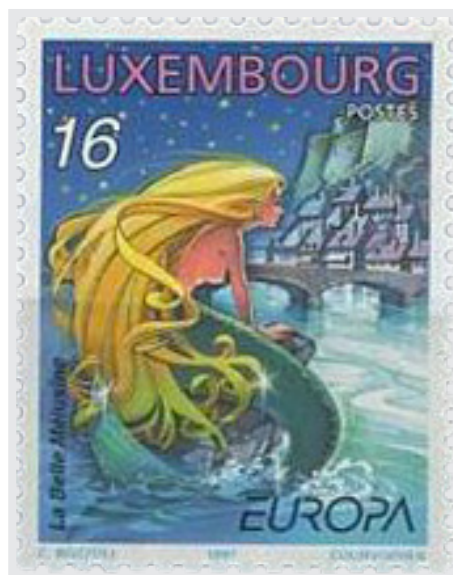
The other legend, the one about

Kropemann, tells the story of a spirit who lives in the water and drags children in when they come too close. Over time, this terrible creature has become the mascot of the municipality of Redange and a symbol of clean, preserved nature. The theme is dear to Post Luxembourg, which has also created a stamp for greener cities.

The two stamps were created by Miriam Rosner and printed by offset. Post Luxembourg is taking part in the competition with them, and paying homage to these two legends of its folklore. We wish them much success!

Post Luxembourg 1997, Europa stamps, Melusina and the hunter of Hollenfels.

Post Luxembourg 2022, greener cities stamp.





Available in our shop on
www.postphilately.lu

35€
 shipment
 included

A unique collection

All luxembourgish stamps issued in 2021.

34 postage stamps and a "black Print"
 of the special "Christmas" stamps in one set.

www.postphilately.lu
contact.philately@post.lu

* The value added tax varies according to the delivery address.





Joint stamp issues collector, who are you?



There are many different ways to collect stamps: by theme, country, a specific stamp, cancellation marks...there are really many possibilities. Some collectors collect joint issues.

Joint issues are stamps that are issued on the same date and for an identical purpose. The visual is also usually the same. This type of collection isn't limited to stamps: first day covers and stationaries are also included. The topics can be wide ranging:

stars, animals, events, folklore...there are all sorts of joint issues. It's a fascinating topic and a group called the "Association des Collectionneurs d'Émissions Conjointes" follows it closely. The chairman, Richard Zimmermann, has just made his catalogue of

Canada-France 2008, joint France-Canada joint first day cover.
Germany-Austria 1910, precursor, joint issue.



joint issues available to the general public free of charge. Leafing through, it becomes quite obvious that issuing stamps with the same motifs in different countries is not a new trend. Stamps from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick from 1851 are a good example. The territories got together in 1867 to join the Canadian Confederation.

There have been hundreds of joint issues since then. Contrary to popular belief, joint issues aren't limited to two countries, although that is most often the case. The example here is a joint African issue by no fewer than 15 countries for the 40th anniversary of ECOWAS. There are also joint issues by continents. Small countries have also gotten involved because these special items are highly sought after.

While in many cases an issue consists of two separate stamps, there are also issues like the Italy-San Marino issue of 8 October 1994 which consist of a single sheet with a note on the back indicating the country in which the stamp can be used.

A collection of the joint issues of one or more countries can be fairly easy to build with a modest budget. It will be very

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick 1851, stamps with an identical drawing.
 Africa 2015, joint issue by 15 countries for the 40th anniversary of ECOWAS.
 Italy-San Marino 1994, joint issue.

interesting because it will be directly related to the history of countries given that most joint issues are made to celebrate events.

If you're interested in this type of collection, you should go to the <https://philarz.com> website. The site was created by the JSIC non-profit and is completely free.

And, of course, we encourage you to discover the joint issues on sale at www.delcampe.net.

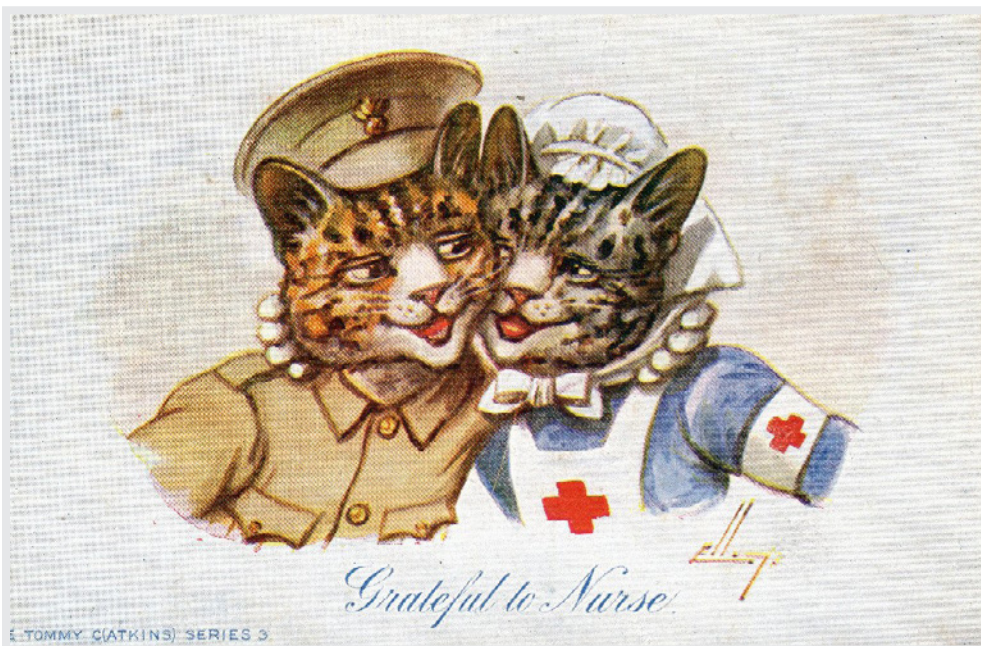
[CLICK HERE](#)

- France-Morocco 2019, joint issue.
- Vatican-Monaco 2017, joint first day cover.
- Armenia-Russia 2006, joint first day cover.





Cats: postcard stars



Cats are still Instagram's most popular characters at the moment. Whether you have one or not, you've probably seen one or another video featuring smart, funny or just plain cute cats.

Old postcard - humanised cats , first meeting.

Old postcard - humanised cats "Grateful to nurse".

This pet, one of the most common, has been admired since long before the era of social networks and videos. Today, more than 77,000 postcards of cats are for sale on Delcampe. Already in the 19th century, the first cat shows were held to honour this animal..

The cat is also a wonderful creative topic. As you will see, many postcard illustrators have made the cat their favourite subject. Among them is Arthur Thiele. This animal illustrator, who lived from 1841 to 1919, created dozens of postcards of humanised cats, i.e. cats wearing clothes or in human postures, such as skiing. Several of his famous postcards have sold for over €100 each on Delcampe.

And he is not the only illustrator. Boulanger and Louis Wain, among others, created adorable cards with cats. Less prestigious but still appreciated, modern postcards also feature cats. This is not surprising when you think of the number of people who appreciate this domestic feline.

Discover thousands of cat postcards for sale on Delcampe!

[CLICK HERE](#)



Four old postcards - humanised cats drawn by Arthur Thiele.

Old postcard of humanised cats in hat and bow-tie.

Old postcard - cat drawn by Louis Wain.



Two silver ecus (crowns) from the same year: so very different!

When looking through recent coin sales on Delcampe, I came across two one-ecu coins (6 livres/pounds) from 1793 sold one day apart at very different prices. Why? That's the question I asked myself and which I will try to answer with the precious help of numismatist Jehan-Louis Roche.

Initially, the coins appear to be the same in certain respects. They bear the year 1793, "REGNE DE LA LOI" around the edge and symbols of the French Revolution, including the Phrygian cap and rooster. The angel representing the Genius of France is holding a law tablet on which it is engraving the word 'CONSTITUTION'. However, the coin with the effigy of Louis XVI indicates that it is year 5 of Liberty, which does not appear on the other coin. Expert numismatist Jehan-Louis Roche pointed out that the obverse of one coin corresponds to the reverse of the other.

The second coin has "République Françoise" on its obverse side with the value of the coin, i.e., six livres (one ecu) and the letter A, which indicates that the coin was struck in Paris.

Between 10 and 11 million coins with the effigy of "Louis XVI, roi des François", were struck. The engra-

ving is by Augustin Dupré. The 6-livre silver "François" ecu was established during the Constitution period. It was created by the law of 9 April 1791 and modified by the decree of 25 July 1792 authorising the liberty cap on the reverse of the coin.

Only 2.5 million of the other coin were minted, which may explain the difference in price. It was struck after the execution of Louis XVI. The coin was also engraved by Augustin Dupré. It was created by decree on 5 February 1793 and discontinued on 1 April 1834 by the law of 14 June 1829.

This was the period when the monetary system changed in France. The livre (ecu) system was abolished in 1793 in favour of a system based on the franc, which was promulgated by the law of 18 Germinal of Year III (7 April 1795).

In addition to the price difference, which may be due

to the fact that four times fewer of the second coin were minted, and its overall condition, I was struck by another aspect: both coins were struck in 1793, yet one bears Year 5 and the other Year II...

The revolutionary calendar began to be used in September 1792, but only came into effect in October 1793. This means that Year II was likely calculated based on the new calendar. As for Year 5, if 1789, the year of the French revolution, is renamed Year 1, it is logical that 1793 would become 1793, or Year 5.

Mr Roche provided an additional explanation: until the king's death, some coins had the two dates "An de la liberté" starting in 1789 and the traditional year (e.g., 1791, AN 3 de liberté). Note that some Year II ecus do not include the year 1793. The decree of 7/10/1793 states that only the revolutionary era could be shown. These constitutional coins are among the most significant values of the period even though there are more valuable ones like the 24-livre Tours gold coins. The Convention divided the livre into decimes and centimes by decree on 17 Frimaire of Year II (17 December 1793). The law of 18 Germinal Year III (7 April 1795) decreed that the livre would now be called the "franc". That is how the ecu became the franc.

Over 250 French coins were sold on Delcampe in less than a week. There are many different kinds, from different periods.

Be sure to explore the coin category on www.delcampe.com.

[CLICK HERE](#)



On the left page

France 1793, 6-pound ecus with the effigy of Louis XVI (obverse and reverse).

On this page

France 1793, 6-pound République Françoise ecus (obverse and reverse).



Collecting old photo albums



The first photo albums appeared at about the same time as photography was invented, i.e., in the 1830s and 1840s. While we now have super modern albums to compile hundreds of photos of all sizes and every which way, I would like to take you on a journey into the past to discover the very first albums.

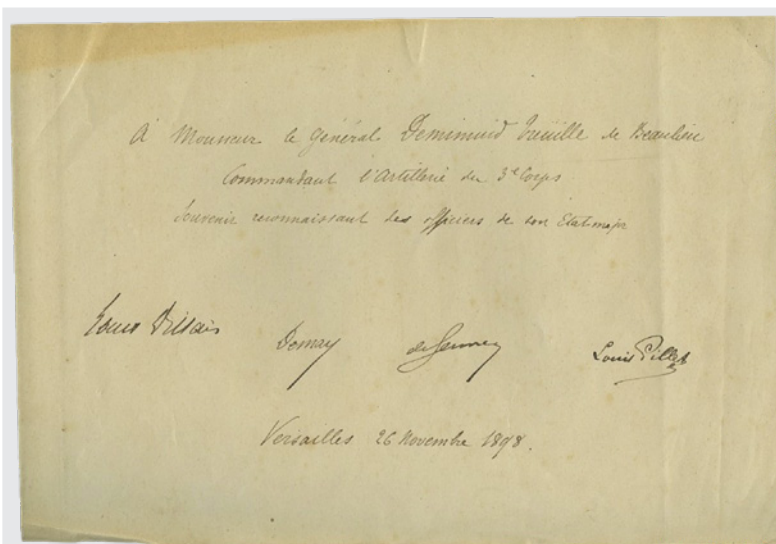
Most of the first albums were born with photography studios. The goal was to collect family souvenirs in one place to be able to show them to whomever was interested. Remember that, unlike today, taking a photo was both a rare and expensive undertaking back then.

They were also used to collect photo visiting cards which had their heyday in the early days of photography.

There were already all sorts of photo albums at the end of the 19th century. Some had leather bindings and others were decorated with mother-of-pearl. The photos inside were often set in cardboard to protect them or give them the appearance of a medallion.

In addition to family albums, this period also saw the first memorial albums which captured the deceased under different angles before they were buried.

Wedding albums, far more uplifting, were also popular at the end of the 19th century and throughout the 20th century. As it was an important event, it was usual to hire a photographer who would take photos on the day of



On the left page

Old photo album (1867) dedicated to the Paris Exhibition.

On this page

Old photo album (cover, cover page and a photo) showing military manoeuvres.



Old photo album from 1891
Pages with photos mounted as medallions

the celebration and put them in a special album designed for the purpose.

Of course, there are also many other subjects: travel, family events, military manoeuvres... whenever people want to remember a moment.

Photo albums were made throughout the 20th century. There are different kinds: with sheets between each page, or with plastic sleeves...the idea was to keep important memories close by.

Today photo collectors are always looking for these beautiful witnesses to the past.

Discover the old photo albums for sale on Delcampe!

[CLICK HERE](#)



Maison ouvrière de l'empereur Napoléon III.



Old photo of the back of the house of Napoleon III included in an album. Old album featuring a journey to the Orient and one of the inside pages.



Behind the scenes

By Jean-Paul Fournier of the French ACCP (*Association des Collectionneurs de Carnets et de Publicitimbres*)

In France, the years 1925 to 1928 were an interesting period for books of advertising stamps. At the time the books were made in limited series and the issues were delivered to the houses, cities or organisations that requested the advertising. These books of stamps were said to be “semi-private” and had only 10 stamps each. The limited issues obviously increased speculation and led to abuses. The distribution system was modified in 1928 and the books, with 20 stamps, were sent to a post office chosen by the issuer. These books were known as “localised books”. The entire system, which was the subject of many complaints, was definitively ended by a decision of the Under-Secretary of State on 29 August 1929. There are many stories to be told about this short period of time. Here is one of them.



Two types of printing for the same stamp!

The Joan of Arc stamp was printed in books between March and July 1929. While sheets were printed solely on rotary presses, books were printed both flat and on rotary presses. This is the only book of stamps, along with the red line 50-centimes Sower to have used two types of printing. Colonel Leblanc identified two different types:

- type 1 for sheets (rotary) and flat books: stamp height 20.75 mm;
- type 2 for rotary books: stamp height 21.25 mm (another criterion is cited for the Orleans cartouche, but is not consistent). The shade of the paper is

The following is written on the book cover: “We will send you a free sample when you send us the cover with two stamps stuck to it”.

often more yellow.

Flat-print books:

When printed flat, the stamps are stapled to the cover and the central gap (bridge), which is the width of a half stamp, is perforated. The upper edges of top of sheet books are not perforated. The flat-print books contain the varieties of boxes found on the rotary-printed sheets. There are 12 advertising combinations in the margins.

Seven of the twelve books are "semi-private" that is, they were sold in the post office selected by the advertiser (who could purchase the entire stock) and were printed in very limited runs.

This Floravène book is one of the "semi-private" books printed flat and sold in a single post office (Bordeaux – the name of the city appears vertically on the cover). It was printed in the first half of 1929.

In the "Echo de la Timbrologie" no. 813 of 15 November 1929, Gaston Tournier wrote: "This book was used, in part, for advertising for the medical field".



Letter to a chemist.

The book was printed in 5,000 examples (or 4,500 - see below).

In the "Quinzaine philatélique" no. 50 of 20 May 1929, André Suarnet wrote: "Floravène was printed in 4,500 examples.../... The Floravène sold books at reasonable prices to stamp collectors who wanted them, in the belief that the advertising wouldn't lose out. Conclusion? In my opinion, this maintains the passion for stamp collecting and new angles are needed;

they provide the spice of collecting. Not just new finds but, especially, quickly rising issues. All of us who come to terms with the fact that we don't own a vermilion always hope to discover a modern beauty at a reasonable price. We complain every time there is something new and we're in a hurry both to see it, and to have it."

Doctor J. Braun explained the differences between the advertising bands in his catalogue of advertising stamps published in

1958: "it would be normal (...) that in a band with five adverts (...) the five bands would be similar. That isn't the case (...). There are (...) five different adverts depending on the box they're in. This is due, particularly for the old adverts, to the way the same text is repeated five times when "electrotyping", which was done manually, so imperfectly, resulting in differences in the size or shape of the letters...

For example:

Upper boxes. (Floravène text)



Box 1: The two bars of the F are short and equal. The N is less open on top than in box 3.



Box 2: The right foot of the R is far from the A. It is closer in boxes 1-3-5.



Box 3: The two bars of the F are similar to box 1, but the N is more open on top.



Box 4: The right bottom of the R is away from the A as in box 2, but the upper opening of the N is wider. The lower bar of the E is shorter than in box 2.



Box 5: The lower bar of the F is longer than the upper one. The lower end of the F is bevelled.

There were several adverts in succession for this stamp in the "Echo de la Timbrologie". Issue of 30 June 1929: the price was 35 F.

FRANCE **AVANT la HAUSSE**

Demandez à votre Marchand le carnet privé FLORAVÈNE

le plus beau et le plus rare des carnets privés. Prix par unité : **35 francs.**

Number 816 of 31 December 1929: The price increased to 30 francs.

UN ÉVÈNEMENT IMPORTANT DANS LA PHILATÉLIE

Carnet "FLORAVÈNE"

La Société de la "FLORAVÈNE" a distribué dans le Corps Médical, à titre de publicité auprès des médecins philatélistes, une certaine quantité de ses carnets.

Le Carnet "FLORAVÈNE" devenant rare depuis qu'il a été coté dans les catalogues YVERT & TELLIER et GALLIA, la Société de la "FLORAVÈNE" a décidé de faire bénéficier la clientèle philatéliste des quelques centaines de carnets qui lui restent.

Elle remettra **gratuitement** à tout acheteur d'un postal de :

3 kilos (4 boîtes pour 30 fr.)	=	1 carnet.
5 kilos (8 boîtes pour 60 fr.)	=	1,2 carnet.
10 kilos (18 boîtes pour 130 fr.)	=	1 carnet.

Délicieux aliment à consommer au petit déjeuner du matin ou en entrémets variés, la "FLORAVÈNE" est au surplus très fortifiante et d'un goût exquis.

Adresser les commandes à la Société "FLORAVÈNE", 139, Boulevard du Président Wilson à Bordeaux, elles seront expédiées d'après leur ordre d'arrivée.

(Chèque Postal : BORDEAUX N° 9056)

Number 823 of 15 April 1930.

CARNET PRIVÉ FLORAVÈNE

Le plus intéressant des carnets privés

Stock presque épuisé

En vente chez les principaux négoc. en timb.-poste

AVANT LA HAUSSE :

Le carnet. **30 francs.**

AN IMPORTANT STAMP COLLECTING EVENT.



The stamps appear to have been used well after they were available for sale (1929). Letters from 1935 (for Switzerland) and 1934.

Floravène book

The Société de la Floravène distributed a number of its advertising books to stamp collecting doctors in the Medical Corps. The Carnet Floravène has become rare since it was listed in the Yvert & Tellier and Gallia catalogues. As a result, the Société de la Floravène decided to offer its stamp collecting customers the several hundred books it had. It provided every buyer of a postal of:

- 3 kilos (4 boxes for 30 francs) = block of 4
- 5 kilos (8 boxes for 60 francs) = 1/2 book.
- 10 kilos (18 boxes for 130 francs) = 1 book

A delicious food for breakfast or for different desserts, Floravène is also fortifying and delicious.

Send orders to
Société Floravène, 139,
Boulevard du Président Wilson,
Bordeaux. They will be sent in
the order they are received.

Postal cheque: Bordeaux no.
9056

There are very few varieties of this type of book. Here is a fan fold.

Let's consider what André Suarnet wrote in 1929. We've just shown you that it's possible to fill in the pages of an album with an everyday event...rather than wait for excessive deliveries of little interest from the post office which, today, is more interested in its financial interests than in Stamp Collecting (emphasis).

Sources: Catalogue Yvert volume 2 the books of France Echo de la timbrologie 1929 1930

Quinzaine philatélique of November 1929

Site <http://j257.fr/>

To find out more: A.C.C.P website

<http://www.accp-asso.com/>

or contact the Chairman Jacky Girard 157 avenue de Saint-Augustin - 11100 Narbonne





A walk through the 1900 Paris Exposition



Welcome to 1900! Paris is abuzz. The World's Fair is coming to Paris again this year. It was announced on 13 July 1892 and planning has been under way for eight years.

Emile Loubet officially opened the doors on 14 April 1900. There were no fewer than 136 access points, including the superb door designed by René Binet featuring a beautiful statue over six metres tall called La Parisienne. The grounds opened to visitors the next day. The hours were from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm with a ticket costing

a franc and the event lasted for 212 days... Inside there were 112 hectares to visit, which 50 million people did! And, for sports lovers, the city of lights welcomed the second Olympic Games of the modern era at the same time.

Forty-three countries participated. With the exception of the

Old postcard - the entrance to the Paris Exhibition (Porte monumentale).

Old postcard - Mucha drawn for the 1900 Paris Exhibition.

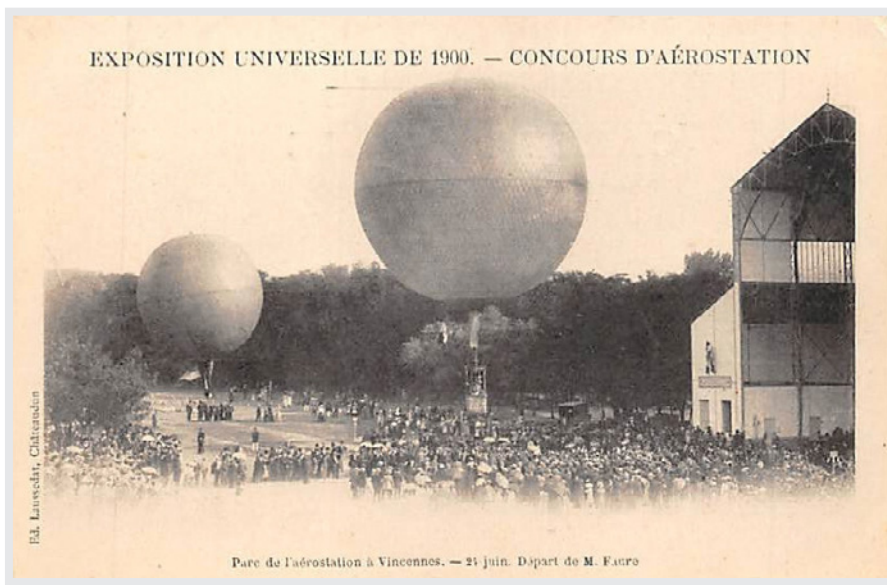
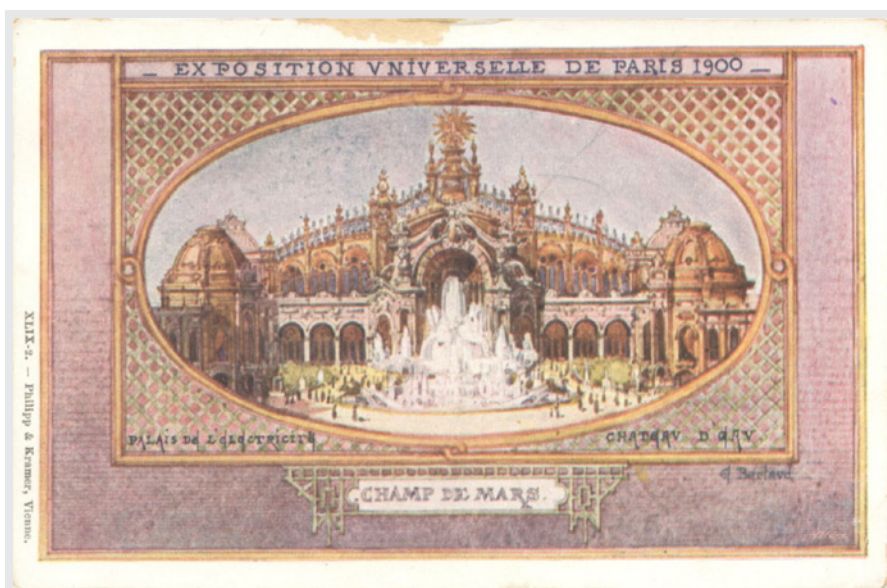
Mexican pavilion set up a little further away, the many ephemeral buildings were located between the Invalides and Alma bridges. The Russian palace was so impressive that it quickly becomes known as the “Kremlin of the Trocadero”!

There were many attractions for visitors: a moving walkway, a big wheel, the cinema... It was also the opportunity to discover new technologies like the Diesel engine and the Siderostat, an impressive astronomical instrument. The Paris Exposition closed its doors on 12 November 1900. The concept of the World's Fair was born in London in 1851. The idea was to give countries the opportunity to express their grandeur and promote their innovative powers in other countries. This wasn't the first time Paris hosted the exposition: they were held there in 1855, in 1867, in 1878 and in 1889. However, 1900 signalled the start of a new century under the sign of Art Nouveau. The Paris Exposition celebrated the inventions of the last century. While London had welcomed 5 million visitors, Paris

Old postcard the Austrian Palace.

A chromolithograph of the Champ de Mars.

Old postcard - balloon exhibition.





hosted 50 million! This illustrated the growing success of the exhibitions.

Over 120 years later, Dubai's Expo 2020 closed its doors after welcoming 192 countries.

The 1900 Paris Exhibition left traces in Paris. It gave the city the Petit and Grand Palais and the metro, which was initially designed to link the Invalides with Porte Maillot. Today, it is still a leading example of Art Nouveau. The event was the best embodiment of the Belle Epoque, as you can judge for yourself in these old postcards.

Want to find other ones? Go to www.delcampe.net!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Old postcard by G. Mouton for the 1900 Paris Exhibition.



Play your **cards** right on Delcampe!



- 90 million items for sale
- More than 1 million active users per month
- 20 years of experience
- Register for free

Join us to give a new dimension to your collection!

 **delcampe**.net

The collectors' marketplace



A Sexy Seychelles banknote!

Have you heard about the 50-rupee banknote from the Seychelles that caused such a stir that it was removed from circulation in 1973? Why? Because it contained the word "Sex"! Want to hear this amusing anecdote? Then this article is for you!

Queen Elizabeth in a charming setting!

It's the early 1970s and the Seychelles are still part of the British Empire. The country issued a 50-rupee banknote depicting Queen Elizabeth. To the right is a beautiful Seychelles archipelago seascape with palm trees on the far right.

The banknote is part of a set in which Queen Elizabeth appears very dignified in a number of different exotic settings. However, the word "Sex" appears very clearly among the palm leaves.

It may, of course, have been a mere coincidence...the banknote's designer didn't necessarily do it on purpose...but the damage was done! The government quickly took the decision to change the

banknote. They destroyed the old ones that were returned and exchanged them for less controversial new ones.

Very valuable banknotes

The original value of the banknote was 50 rupees, i.e., about €3.50. Its rarity has increased its price considerably. The banknote is now selling for over €500 on average on the Delcampe website. So, if you have one in your collection, you should be aware that it is quite valuable.

Discover the Seychelles banknotes available on Delcampe.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Top SALES

delcampe.net



Victor-Emmanuel II coin

20 Lire
Italy - 1861

308 €



Sewer coin - pre-series

2 francs
France - 1977

3 300 €



20 Mark gold coin

Wilhelm II
Prussia - 1900

420 €



Silver tetradrachm from Athens

Greece, 454-404 BC

770 €



Former German states / Frankfurt

Silver coin 3 guilders 1687
Zutphen VF

198,20 €



Silver coin 3 guilders 1687 Zutphen VF

Very few copies known to exist!
The Netherlands

3 250 €





Errare humanum est...

By Michel Soulié of the French APM

And it can lead to some absurd situations, even in an operation as finely tuned and managed as the postal service! Here is the unusual story of a recent letter.

The letter above is, among many others, a brilliant example certified by postal marks. At the top left you can see the address vignette of the sender at Gallargues (30). The destination is Chantilly (60643). The letter has a self-adhesive stamp from a 2010 book. The letter posted at Gallargues was cancelled and indexed (fluorescent bands at lower left) on 19 June 2021 by the automatic postal processing machines (which correctly iden-

tified the stamp and the two fluorescent bands) at the Plateforme Industrielle de Courier of Mauguio Languedoc Pic (code ROC 3983 1A-02 and waves).

So far, so good. The letter was sent to Chantilly for delivery. That's where everything went wrong: when sorting for the delivery, the clerk didn't recognise the stamp and, without reading the information on it, figured it was a vignette. He applied the linear stamp "AFFRANCHISSEMENT ILLÉGAL" (illegal cancelling) in red across the stamp. He put a local oval stamp on the left side for the tax owed (tax stamps were eliminated in 1988) and wrote in the

amount, €3.62.

This corresponded to €1.28 for the cancelling and €2.34 in tax for insufficient franking at the 2021 rate. The letter was submitted to the recipient (a company), which refused it. Back at the post office, the clerk added the linear stamp "REFUSE PAR LE DESTINATAIRE" (refused by recipient) in black under the tax amount. The office glued on the bilingual vignette with the QR Code "Restitution de l'information à l'expéditeur" (return of information to the sender), checked the "Pli refusé par le destinataire" (letter refused by recipient) box in black felt pen and crossed off part of the indexing code.

The fact that the postal worker didn't know the stamp (which, it's true, is rare on mail) may be explained by

the fact that it was a self-adhesive stamp from a book where it was combined with a red Marianne of Beaujard (Y and T no. 507). This stamp was issued in 2010 for the 150th anniversary of the issue of the first adhesive stamp, representing Mercury, drawn and engraved by Guillaume Harang 1814-1884 (known as the "Cabasson") and issued in 1860. The employee was, however, somewhat negligent and even incompetent given that the stamp (although commemorative with an unusual aspect) was marked

"Priority mail".

M. Soulie January 2022. Gift from J.C. Rouquette.

Discover our **exclusive videos** about **collections!**



Join us on  YouTube



Happy summer camps



Summer holidays have been around for a long time, since the Middle Ages. The purpose was initially to allow students to help in the fields during a very busy time of the year. The idea of school holidays expanded over the centuries. On the other hand, the concept of summer camps is much more recent.

It started in 1876 and is attributed to the Swiss pastor Hermann Walter Bion. He started the first summer camp for health reasons: the 68 children who attended travelled to the mountains to enjoy the pure air, play sports and get in

shape.

Other camps started up soon afterwards in the mountains where the air appeared to do miracles for the children. The first French summer camps were organised in the 1880s. Many centres opened up between

Old postcard - Esch summer camp 1912.

Cover of an old book to collect funds for summer camps in France.

the 1920s and the end of the Second World War. At the time many children, often from the lower classes, were able to enjoy a big change every summer.

There were both religious and non-religious camps, and different non-profits planned the summer camps, which were often the only holidays the children had. In the beginning, the summer camps were not covered by any legislation and were managed by people with no training. Starting in 1938, they were legislated and the directors received training.

Many baby boomers attended camps in the 1950s and 1960s. To date, over 60 million children in France have enjoyed these happy stays.

As mentioned above, the groups of children often came from the lower classes. It took some ingenuity to find the funds needed to complement the ones provided by the municipalities, which often organised the camps. That's where postcards came into play. Postcards were used as a way to raise funds for the summer camps. It's a popular subject which is currently in fashion. There are many books of postcards from summer camps with photos of happy children enjoying a sunny day.

Many photos, in the style of



Old photo of a summer camp.

Old photo of a summer camp in Switzerland in 1912.

Old postcard for the "œuvre arlésienne" for holiday camps.



school class photos, were taken during the holidays. They made a nice souvenir which the children and their parents cherished when they came home. They also helped in collecting the funds needed for the next year.

Nowadays, some of the postcard books and unique cards sell for very decent amounts on Delcampe.

We would encourage you to explore them...With a little luck, you may recognise some of the children!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Three summer holiday old post-cards.



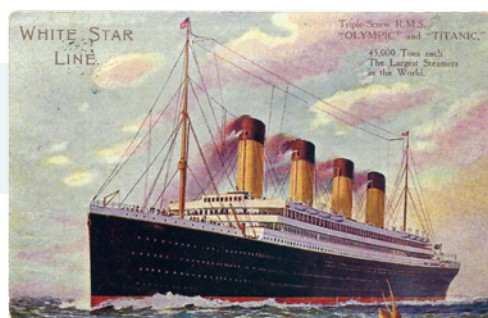
Top SALES



Corsier
La Station
Zwitzerland - 1903
240 €



JOB advert
Alphonse Mucha
France - 1898
750 €



White Star Line
RMS Olympic / Titanic
Postcard sent from Queenstown (IRL) on 8 February 1912
1 237 €



Chief supervisor of the Paris underground
Postcard sent from Courbevoie in January 1914
525 €



Original photo Archduke Friedrich & Maria Christina of Austria as children.
Photographer: L. Angerer Vienne
161 €



Original photo 'RAF Mechanics and their Spitfire aircraft' 1943
328,05 €



How did people pay for things during Nero's reign?



Nero, the last emperor of the Julio-Claudian dynasty, was not supposed to become emperor. It was the scheming and poisonings of his mother Agrippina that propelled the young man to the throne.

Agrippina was a powerful woman. She appears with her sisters and brother Caligula on the coins used during the latter's reign. Following Caligula's death, her uncle Claudius became emperor. Agrippina married him and had her son Nero adopted by him. She was thus able to push aside Britannicus, the legitimate heir. To consolidate Nero's power, she encouraged her son to marry Octavia, Claudius' daughter, and his half-sister. Emperor Claudius was poisoned and died in 54 and young Nero became emperor at 14.

The start of the emperor's reign

Nero was counselled by Seneca and Burrus during the first years of his reign, which proved to be exemplary for the management of the empire. A coin was struck to celebrate the "Quinquennium Neronis", (the first five years of Nero's reign).

Agrippina had a great deal of influence over Nero at this time. One of the first coins of Nero's reign features him in profile alongside his mother. The reverse side of the coin shows Augustus and Livy on a chariot, to pay homage

Sesterce with the effigy of Nero from 65
Claudius and Agrippina denier from 51

to the first Roman emperor.

Nero's reign saw a significant monetary reform. He changed the metrology and metal standards implemented by Augustus. Tiberius had already made a start by moving from 1/41th of a pound (the alloy implemented under Augustus) to 1/43rd of a pound. Under Nero, this was changed to 1/45th of a pound. He decreased the quality of certain gold and silver coin alloys and had more coins produced by the mint in Rome rather than the one in Lugdunum.

The monetary system implemented by Augustus in 19 BCE had nine coins. Two were gold: the aureus and quinarius. The silver denarius and quinarius were made of silver. The sestertius and the dupondius were made of brass and the as, the semis and the quadrans were made of copper. Note that there was a single type of gold quinarius and there are no known silver quinarius from Nero's reign.

From 55 to 60-61, the reverse of the coin had a laurel wreath and the letters ex S C (Ex Senatus Consulto, i.e. by decree of the Senate). While coins were changing between 61 and 63, sometimes with older and sometimes with new reverse sides, the writing remained the same.

From Agrippina to Poppea

Nero met Poppea through his friend Otho in 58. She was the second woman, after Agrippina, to have significant influence over the emperor. Agrippina was assassinated in 59, which enabled Poppea to gain control over Nero.



Obverse and reverse of a Nero aureus from 56-57

Obverse and reverse of a Nero dupondius



Obverse and reverse of a Nero as
Obverse and reverse of a Nero
denier from 64-65

Nero's long-term advisors changed in 62. Burrus died and Seneca retired. Tigellinus took their place. That same year, Nero divorced Octavia because she hadn't given him an heir, contrary to Poppea, who was pregnant (however, the child died four months after birth). He immediately married Poppea after the divorce. Octavia was executed.

The reverse side of the coins changed more often starting in 63-64.

A major event marked Nero's reign: the great fire of Rome. Nero was initially the scapegoat. He blamed the Christians, which he had executed with horrendous cruelty. At the same time, he opened his palace to the homeless and distributed food.

In addition to being emperor, Nero was also an artist, which was frowned upon at the time. The latter days of his reign saw endless conspiracies and executions. In 68, the Senate removed Nero, who decided to commit suicide to avoid cruel official punishment. His last words were reportedly "Qualis artifex pereo" (What an artist the world has lost in me!). His death also signaled the end of his dynasty. He was succeeded by Vespasian, of the Flavian dynasty, and new coins were issued to replace the Julio-Claudian ones.

Discover the Roman coins for sale on Delcampe!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Strike **gold** on Delcampe!



- 90 million items for sale
- More than 1 million active users per month
- 20 years of experience
- Register for free

Join us to give a new dimension to your collection!

 **delcampe**.net

The collectors' marketplace



Vézelay

Located in the Yonne department in France, it's on one of the main routes of the Saint Jacques de Compostelle pilgrimage.



Artist stamp proof no. 759 of the Yvert & Tellier catalogue.

Deluxe proof

There are colour proofs. The codes are: 1101, 1120, 1302, 1415, 1417, 1605, 1701, 1706 and 1708 (see the Pierre Puech interview).

Identified in some catalogues as issued on 20* July 1946, engraver R. Cottet, 4 runs for a total of 34.54 million stamps from 24 June 1946 to 21 June 1947.

*L'Echo de la Timbrologie states: "sales started on 21 July". A temporary office was in service with special first-day cancelling on 21 and 22 July.

However, in the Officiel de la Philatélie, 20 July is confirmed for the main receipt in Paris.



Excerpt from the Officiel de la Philatélie of July 1946.

The large size was expected. All of the small stamps issued during the war had led to boredom in the stamp-collecting world.

It is part of the values that could cancel a letter during the shortest period of postal history: 1 and 2 January 1947.

Tarif	Utilisation	Intitulé du tarif	Nbr de jours
01/01/1947 02/01/1947	01/01/1947 02/01/1947	Lettre ordinaire France jusqu'à 20 grammes	2
01/05/1947 07/07/1947	01/05/1947 07/07/1947	Accusé de réception pour envoi objet recommandé	68
08/07/1947 20/09/1948	08/07/1947 15/11/1947	Carte postale ordinaire	131
01/01/1946 31/12/1946	20/07/1946 31/12/1946	Poste restante payée par l'expéditeur lettre ordinaire	165
01/11/1946 31/12/1946	01/11/1946 31/12/1946	Avion Afrique du Nord lettre ordinaire de 20 à 30 grammes	61
08/07/1947 20/09/1948	08/07/1947 15/11/1947	Facture ordinaire	131

Excerpt from Baillargeat's work, *Catalogue des timbres de France, Seuls sur lettre*.

There are many maximum cards with the date 21-22 July 1946, which would indicate that this is the actual issue date: 21 July 1946



Two very different colours have been reported.

There are even three colours on the cancelled stamps.

R. Joany states in the Nomenclature des timbres-poste de France:

1946

- Dull to light purple.
- Light to dark crimson
- Dark purple

1947

- bright purple to light and bright
- Light purple-red

It is noted that the colour of this stamp is usually water soluble!

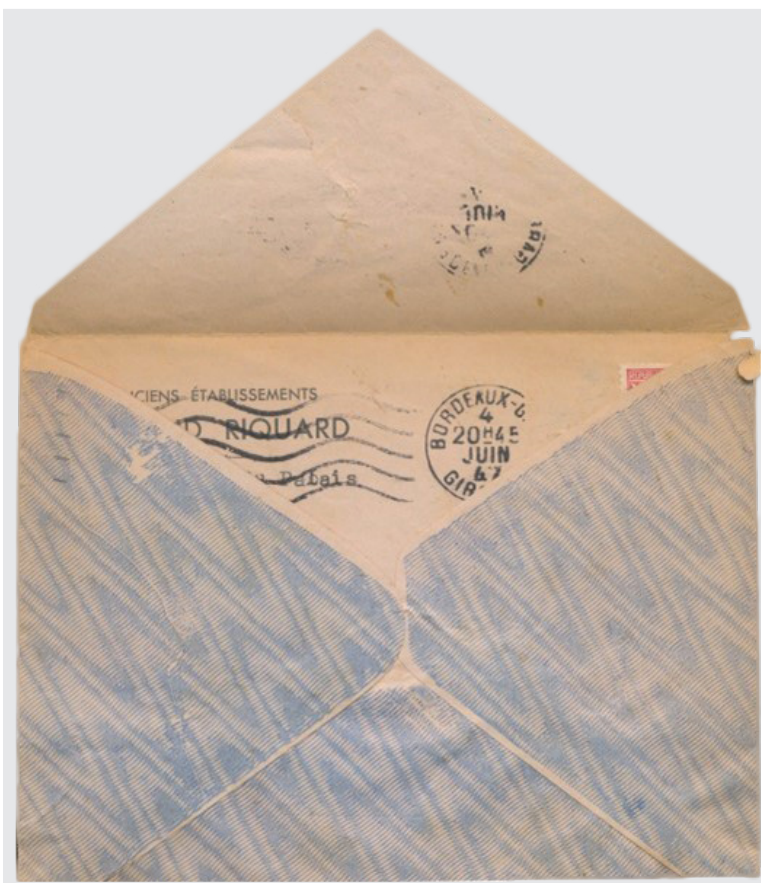
Printing on laid paper is reported for 25 June 1946.

The only varieties indicated are printing on a tear and mis-perforation.





Invoice, price validated from 8 July 1947 to 21 September 1948. Since the Vézelay stamp was withdrawn from circulation on 15 November 1947, it was apparently only used for four months in this configuration.



This envelope was reused by positioning it upside down! Mechanical cancelling in Evreux on 6 August 1947 for Conches in the same department.

Five francs: the price for an ordinary postcard on 8 July 1947 also, which means that the stamp was used extensively.

Second day of the price of the postcard in July 1947, even though the date on the card is the 10th, the actual cancellation on 9 July after 6:00 pm is visible.



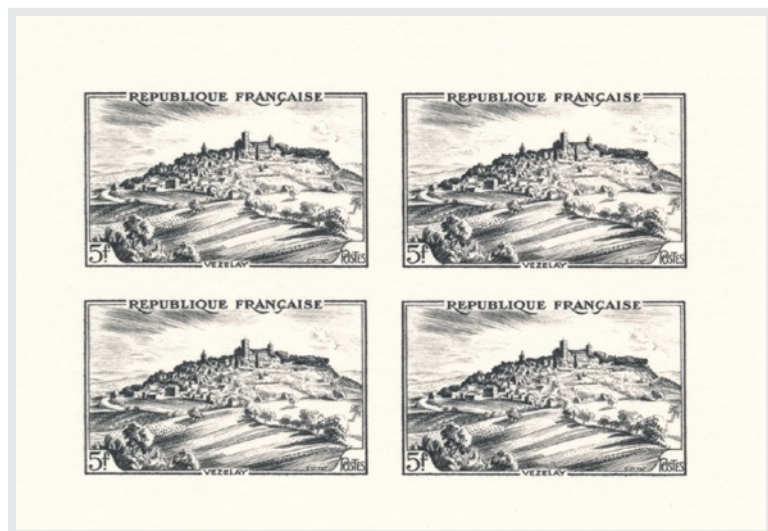
Two stamps for this letter price at the first weight level for other countries from 1 February 1946 to 30 April 1948.



Use is not very common, four Vézelay stamps for the first-level registered letter.

In the work "Les sites et les villes, les poinçons de l'histoire 1849-1973" published by the Musée de La Poste in 1987, a copy was made and is present in the plates inserted in the document.





A Daguin flame was used for this commemorative in 1946:



Cancelled 1f50 postcard, postcard rate for five words since 1 January 1946.



A new stamp with the city of Vézelay was issued in 2008.



Excerpted from the "Livres de La Poste, Portraits de régions, La France à voir, carnet de voyage, by Noëlle Le Guillouzic.

Bibliography: Timbroscopie N°76 in 1991, étude du 5 francs Vézelay incluant le 15 francs Rocamadour.

Four questions for Pierre Puech, a specialist in stamp proofs and a founding member of the Facebook group: “Philatélie les spécialistes des épreuves”

Hello Pierre, how long have colour proofs of our French stamps been available?

Intaglio proofs with an ink reference and a plate mark appeared with the first intaglio stamps (France 1929).

They were printed on a sheet similar to the deluxe proofs, with a plate mark (a mark left by pressure when printing), control perforations (diamond, crescent, diamond) and the ink reference (1104Lx, 1529Lc...). Contrary to deluxe proofs, they don't have a protective paper sheet or the note “Atelier des timbres-poste”. Other than for exceptions, two die sizes were used for the French 32 x 50 mm and 54 x 67 mm stamps. For standard stamps,

both plate mark sizes are sometimes present for colour proofs. The reason for this is not clear.

There are also colour proofs of letterpress prints. One of the characteristics is that there is no plate mark. The oldest one known is probably the Duval tax stamp of 1881.

What were they used for?

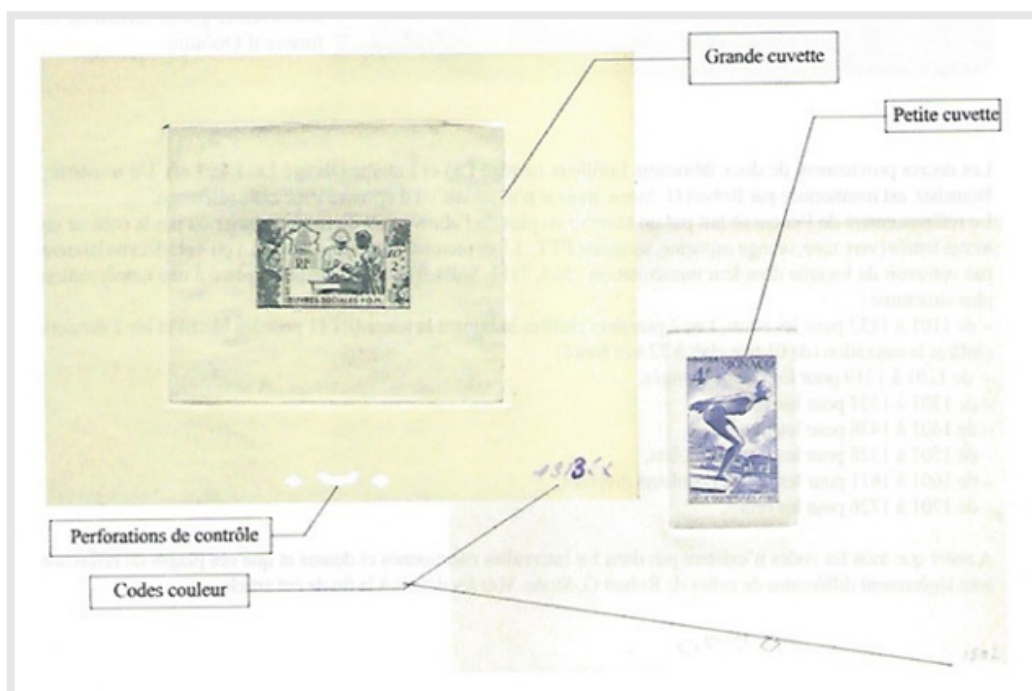
They were used for essays to select the colours and check the colour rendering against the size (placement and depth of the engraving lines). The first engraved stamps were printed in monochrome intaglio. Colour proofs played their role well until two-colour intaglio printing and colour essays were printed in sheets (around 1950) and monochrome colour proofs disappeared.

There are usually 10 to 20 test colours per stamp. The record is 49 colours for the 1952 Council of Europe stamp (Yvert 923).

There are colour proofs for the French colonies, which were used as final proofs (AOF, AEF, Guiana, etc.).

Who printed the proofs? How large were the runs?

Apart from a few letterpress proofs printed at the engraver's, colour proofs



are printed by the *Atelier des timbres-poste* (or by a private printer like the *Institut de Gravure*). They are recognisable by the control perforations.

The run sizes are not known. The estimate of five to ten examples for each colour has been published and repeated many times. However, the assessment I did of 2,500 French colour proofs, 2,000 for Morocco and 1,500 for other colonies clearly showed that it is extremely rare to find two proofs of the same colour for the same stamp (except for the special case of private archives of printers that have been brought to market). If I had to give a figure, I would say that, on average, stamp collectors have access to one or two proofs for each colour for every 10 to 20 colours, about 40 maximum per standard stamp.

How popular are they and where can they be found?

Contrary to artist, deluxe and collective deluxe proofs, colour proofs are not quoted in catalogues. They are recognisable thanks to the characteristics above, in particular thanks to the presence of a colour code, even though they have some-

times been erased. Some can be found in auction catalogues and on auction sites like Delcampe. Price? It depends on the subject and their age. For a French stamp, about €50 to €150, but much more for an airmail letter, the Victory of Samothrace or for the non-issued Emile Baudot of 194. In those cases, prices can exceed €500.

Thank you for these explanations, Pierre.





Mermaid postcards



The mermaid, a fascinating mythological character, has intrigued human beings for many centuries. This half-female, half-fish character has been featured in many ancient rituals. And of course, she is a wonderful collection topic in deltiology among others.

Old postcard - fantasy scene with mermaids.

The mermaid in myths

In the book of Enoch, which was written between 300 and 100 BC, it is mentioned in the Revolt of the Angels.

As early as the 7th century, the mermaid is mentioned in Norse mythology. But the storytellers do not agree. For some, she is Margygr, the giant of the sea, a sort of half-woman half-fish sea monster with a terrifying face. For others, she is a fish-tailed maiden, like the image we have today.

In the Middle Ages, the mermaid regularly appears in medieval bestiaries, described as half human, half fish, with a comb and a mirror as attributes.

But the popularity of the mermaid was certainly increased by Hans Christian Andersen through his famous tale of "The Little Mermaid" in the 19th century. She became the emblem of Copenhagen and inspired the Disney teams who popularised her even more in the late 20th century.

She is also evoked in voodoo rites in Haiti.

Old postcard - fantasy scene with mermaids.





Old postcard - Fantasy scene of a woman posing as a mermaid.

Old postcard - Fantasy scene of a fake mermaid.

Advertising Old postcard with a mermaid.

From myth to reality

Christopher Columbus, in his writings, mentions having seen three of them near Santo Domingo... It is likely that he mistook them for lomentines! These animals produce a long, monotonous cry that could evoke the traditional song of mermaids.

It also turns out that there have been fetuses with sirenornelia, a malformation that results in having only one leg. This probably contributed to the development of the myth. However, this anomaly does not allow survival. It is therefore totally impossible to have an adult with sirenornelia.

Around the 16th century, pastiches of "dried" mermaids appeared. These are very particular Asian creations consisting of a monkey bust and a large fish tail. The result is quite surprising and far from the sulphurous image of the mermaid!

Today, the mermaid remains an attractive mythical character, which can constitute a pleasant topic of collection. Many postcards bear her gracefully drawn effigy because she remains a fantasy of beauty.

Discover the mermaid postcards for sale on www.delcampe.net

[CLICK HERE](#)



Buy - Sell - Collect!



- 90 million items for sale
- More than 1 million active users per month
- 20 years of experience
- Register for free

Join us to give a new dimension to your collection!

 **delcampe**.net

The collectors' marketplace