

French Forerunners

By Bob Schwerdt (#505L)

A cursory check of the Timbres Perfores: France et Colonies by Dedecker, Herbert & Janot yielded slightly more than two dozen French perfin types showing out-of-country use. Since many of the catalog entries do not indicate place of origin, there may be additional perfin types that have been used in French offices and colonies abroad prior to these offices and colonies issuing their own stamps.



Figure 1. Juin 1900; postmarked Alger with tiny CL perfin of the Credit Lyonnais (Cat# CL190).

Most of these out-of-country perfin types are from Algeria with Alger the prevalent postmark. Other postmarks from this region found on perfinned French stamps are Bone Constantine, Boufarik, Oran, and Sidi-Bel-Abbes.

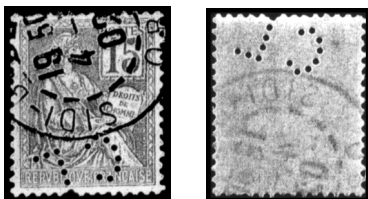


Figure 2. 1902; postmarked Sid-Bel-Abbes with CL perfin of the Credit Lyonnais (probable Cat# CL197).

Algeria began issuing stamps in 1924 and discontinued in 1958. After a long struggle, Algeria was granted independence in 1962 and began again to issue its own stamps. The best place to find early Algerian postmarks is on French stamps issued before 1925.

In addition to Algeria, some French perfins appear with Alexandria (Egypt) and Constantinople (Turkey) postmarks. The accompanying

illustrations show perfins recently reported by others or owned by the writer. There must lots more



Figure 3. 21-11-1918 postmark from Oran with CL perfin of the Credit Lyonnais (probable Cat# CL200; Algeria catalog CL9).



Figure 4. 25 SEPT 1894; postmarked Constantinople-Galata with CL in postal card of the Credit Lyonnais (probable Catalog #CL3 of Levant).

out there hidden in collections. Give the French perfins a deserved turn-over; you may be pleasantly surprised and even find some perfin types and postmarks not listed in the catalog.

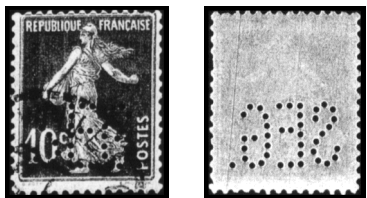


Figure 5. Illegible postmark from ‘...ville’ (perhaps Phillipeville- Constantine, Algeria) used by Sene Clauze (probable catalog #SEG66 or SEG32 of Algeria).



Figure 6. Alexandria , Egypt postmark used by Mesageries Maritimes (French Cat MM88).

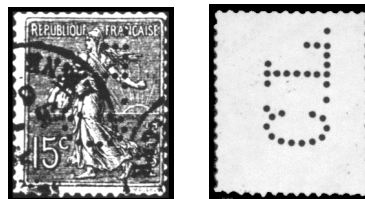


Figure 7. Alger postmarks French Cat C.L.240, Algeria #C.L.13.



Figure 8. Constantinople, Turkey postmark used by Mesageries Maritimes (French Cat MM88).