

VOLUME VI, No. 1

JULY, 1958



THE AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS

★ ★ A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE ON AERO-PHILATELY ★ ★

This Issue Features:

-
- UNITED STATES
RF OVERPRINTS
(Part 3)
 - BRAZIL ETA CO. AIRS
 - INDEX OF VOLUME V

DIRECTORY OF DEALER MEMBERS

BILLIG & RICH

55 West 42nd St.
New York 18, N. Y.

IRWIN HEIMAN

2 West 46th St.
New York 36, N. Y.

L. W. CHARLAT

180 Broadway
New York 7, N. Y.

F. W. KESSLER

500 Fifth Ave.
New York 36, N. Y.

P. J. DROSSOS

1 St. Denys Place
Athens, Greece

JOHN W. NICKLIN

110 West 42nd St.
New York 18, N. Y.

FATOULLAH & LAZAR

116 Nassau St.
New York 38, N. Y.

PENNY BLACK STAMP CO.

116 Nassau Street
New York 38, N. Y.

GIMBEL'S STAMP DEPT.

B'way & 33rd St.
New York 1, N. Y.

H. REICHENTHAL

("Mr. Aero-World")
P. O. Box 870
Miami 5, Florida

H. R. HARMER, INC.

6 West 48 St.
New York 36, N. Y.

NICOLAS SANABRIA CO., INC.

521 Fifth Ave.
New York 17, N. Y.

H. E. HARRIS & CO.

108 Mass. Ave.
Boston 17, Mass.

S. SEREBRAKIAN, INC.

P. O. Box 448
MONROE, N. Y.

Vol. VI



No. 1

THE PHILATELIST AERO ANNALS

Contents

BRAZIL (Zoran Ninitch)	3
<i>The ETA Company Air Mail Stamps</i>	
1958 EXHIBITION and CONVENTION	5
<i>Philadelphia, Pa. October, 1958</i>	
VENEZUELA (Henry Kraemer)	6
<i>The 2 Bs. of 1937 with Triple Overprint</i>	
UNITED STATES (Henry M. Goodkind)	7
<i>RF Overprints 1944-45 on Air Mail Stamps and Stationery (Conclusion)</i>	
EDITORIAL	30
<i>Many Reasons For Satisfaction</i>	
INDEX of VOLUME V	31

Copyright, 1958, by Aero Philatelists, Inc.

Henry M. Goodkind, Editor

All communications regarding publication, editorial matters, all literature for review should be sent to the Editor.

Organization matters and all communications relating to Aero Philatelists, Inc. should be mailed to:

AERO PHILATELISTS, Inc.
22 EAST 35 STREET
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

THE AERO PHILATELISTS ANNALS published quarterly each year by Aero Philatelists, Inc., 22 East 35 Street, a non-profit corporation, chartered in New York State. Printed by J. W. Stowell Printing Co., Federalsburg, Md. Entered as Second-Class Matter at Federalsburg, Md., under Act of March 3, 1879.

Distributed free of charge to all members of Aero Philatelists, Inc., in good standing.

Back numbers, when available, for sale at \$1.00 each.

ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising is accepted only from members or firms of which one individual is a member of Aero Philatelists. Rates are as follows:

Cover—

Second	\$22.50	Per insertion
Third	22.50	Per insertion
Fourth	25.00	Per insertion

Inside—

Page rate	20.00	Per insertion
Half page	12.50	Per insertion

Subject to 20% discount for four consecutive insertions. This discount applies only if the space taken is the same size in each issue.

For Advertising, please contact:

BERNARD FINK, 1528 Pitkin Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

1958 OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	STANLEY R. RICE
<i>Executive Vice President</i>	SAM RODVIEN
<i>First Vice President</i>	LOUIS N. STAUB
<i>Secretary</i>	PHILIP SILVER
<i>Assistant Secretary</i>	FRANK GLANZ
<i>Treasurer</i>	BERNARD FINK

BRAZIL

The ETA Company Air Mail Stamps (San. Nos. 301-305)

By ZORAN NINITCH *

A law of 1920 established the air mail service in Brazil. But only by the statute of March 27, 1927 was this first legislation put into effect. The means used by Brazil to inaugurate its air mail service is perhaps different than that used by other countries.

The Government authorized the Aviation Companies, non-government enterprises operating within Brazil, to issue special air mail stamps to pay for the extra air mail service. The public using the air mail service was obliged to pay both the national postage rate for letters plus the air post rate, which was considered an extra tax.

It may be for these reasons that "the Scott Catalogue" does not list these Brazil air mails, considering them of a private nature.** But other catalogs do. The stamps described are listed as Sanabria Nos. 301-5; Yvert 1-5 and Michel E-1-5.

When air mail was established in Brazil, there were three Aviation Companies operating and authorized to issue special stamps for air post. They were 1) Sindicato Kondor, 2) Varig*** and 3) the ETA Co. ETA is the abbreviated name for "Empresa de Transportes Aereos".

The first issue of the ETA stamps appeared on June 19, 1929. They were issued in small sheets of 16 (4 x 4) with the following denominations—200, 1000, 2000 and 5000 reis. The first issue was printed on thick paper with yellowish gum and with clean 11½ perforations (See Fig. 1). At the time of this issue, the air rate for a letter was 200 reis.

On November 28, 1929 a new denomination was added to the set with the same design and also printed in sheets of four stamps. But this new 300 reis appeared in small sheets that were not perforated on all sides. (See Fig. 2). Thus single copies of the 300 reis are found with two straight edges.

The owner of the ETA Company in order to improve the appearance of the stamps ordered a new issue. However, the printer did not follow the orders but printed all five denominations on one sheet. (See Fig. 3). The paper now used was a thin, transparent one and the gum was white.

The ETA Company refused to accept the new stamps as printed and requested that the job be done over again. The printer, in order not to lose money on the order, now furnished miniature sheets of 16 somewhat like the first except that he cut out the last row with the four 300 reis stamps (see Fig. 4) and then made a new block of four sheet with only the 300 reis. (Fig. 2).

The sheets comprising the First Issue has on the lower part a perforated large white margin. Fig. 1 shows where the four edges of the sheet are not perforated. The sheets

* Mr. Ninitch is the editor of "Brasil Filatelico", official publication of "The Clube Filatelico do Brasil", one of the largest philatelic clubs in South America.

The following article was published in Portuguese in the "Brasil Filatelico" No. 81, December, 1948. The author has translated it into English for exclusive publication in THE AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS.

**(Editor's Note) It can be pointed out that starting with the 1957 edition, "The Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue" listed Colombia's French and Scadta Company air mail stamps and in 1958 added those from Ecuador.

*** See AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS Vol. III, No. 3.

BRAZIL

200	200	200	200
1000	1000	1000	1000
2000	2000	2000	2000
5000	5000	5000	5000

Fig. 1

200	200	200	200
1000	1000	1000	1000
2000	2000	2000	2000
5000	5000	5000	5000
300	300	300	300

Fig. 3

300	300
300	300

Fig. 2

200	200	200	200
1000	1000	1000	1000
2000	2000	2000	2000
5000	5000	5000	5000

Fig. 4

of the Second Issue lacks the perforated margin on the lower part (Fig. 4). Thus we find that the stamps come in the following way.

The 200 and 300 reis cannot exist perforated on all four sides. The 1000, 2000 and 5000 come two ways. Two stamps from each sheet of 16 come perforated all around, but the other two are perforated on three sides only.

The 300 reis can be found in different forms. Those from the Second Issue, that were cut away by the printer, differ from those he printed separately in a block of four. The former are perforated on three sides, but the latter on only two.

The Second Issue was also printed differently. They were first done in complete sheets of 40 (8 x 5). These complete sheets do not exist, because they were cut into strips of five for sale. Even this Second Issue in strips of five is scarce, and very few now exist in collections, even in Brazil. Multiple pieces of the ETA Company stamps are seldom seen, and some of the most famous Brazilian air mail collections, when sold at auction, disclose how little of the ETA Company stamps in blocks or strips existed.

The total quantity issued of both issues were 2600 miniature sheets of 16 with the four denominations and 2000 blocks of four with the 300 reis.

The engraving was done by the Brazilian Mint and the printing by the Typografia Villasboas Ltd. of Rio de Janeiro. The first sheets were rouletted. But this proved impractical as it was very difficult to separate the stamps. Afterwards they were perforated.

1958 CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION

Plans Well Along

Since the decision was made last winter to stage in October, 1958 an Exhibition at the National Philatelic Museum and hold a three-day Convention from October 10 thru 12 in Philadelphia, Pa., plans have been progressing most satisfactorily. The voluntary work being done by the Philadelphia and New York members will pay dividends, assuring a great success.

Chapter No. 5 of Philadelphia, Pa. has been meeting every month, making all necessary arrangements for staging the Exhibition as well as planning for a most hospitable reception for all.

Also the Directors of AERO PHILATELIST'S have been meeting once a month—the first time during the summer months—receiving reports from Philadelphia. More trophies and prizes have been promised. Each section will have a trophy for the best, a plaque for 1st prize, medals and certificates. There will be two classes—one for those collections having gained awards in international exhibitions and those that have not.

Co-Chairmen Higginbotham and Mead report an unusual amount of advance interest, including inquiries from foreign members. Honorary Chairman, John J. Britt, promises that the Exhibition will be as great as forecast. He reports that already more than 50 members have signified their intention of exhibiting.

With all these promising reports, a plea is made again for all members not only to exhibit but also to plan to personally come to Philadelphia on October 10, 1958. The Prospectus of the Exhibition will be in your hands shortly, so it is advisable that you do not delay making your entry and reservation.

For further information, please contact:

RAYMOND N. YOUNG, *Secretary*
1958 Convention
909 West Lehigh Avenue
Philadelphia 33, Pa.

VENEZUELA

The 2 Bs. of The 1937 Resellado With Triple Overprint (Sanabria No. 156b)

By HENRY KRAEMER

Those readers, who recall the excellent series of articles on the air mail stamps of Venezuela by our Editor, Henry M. Goodkind, that appeared in the former *"Aero Philatelist's News"* in 1952, will remember all the interesting details behind the 1937 Regular Air Mail Issue. This was printed in Italy and the Postal Officials of Venezuela were far from satisfied with the results or the handling of the stock by the Italian printer. Therefore, as Mr. Goodkind explained, the remaining supply of this set were ordered shipped to Venezuela and all surcharged "Resellado/1937-1938". This surcharging was done in Venezuela.

Some errors in the surcharge are known to have come on the philatelic market. The 2 Bs. denomination is cataloged by Sanabria with three errors in the overprint.

At a 1957 auction of a well-known air mail collection, I was an unsuccessful bidder for the variety of the 2Bs. with double overprint (San. 156a). A collector attending this sale and knowing of my extensive collection of Venezuela air mails wondered why I did not buy this double overprint. My reply was that I owned a copy with a TRIPLE overprint (San. 156b).

Illustrated is an enlargement of the copy in my collection. It is cancelled, no doubt showing use in the mails. The date of the cancellation is December 18, 1937, which is incidentally the second day when these surcharges were placed on sale. One will note my copy has a clear double impression of the surcharge and one faint third impression. My investigations disclosed that this is the only copy so far found with a triple overprint.

Photograph by Boutrelle



UNITED STATES

RF (French) Markings 1944-45 On Air Mail Stamps and Stationery

PART III (Conclusion)

(Continued From Vol. V Page 121)

By HENRY M. GOODKIND

Doubtful RF Covers

Having dealt with the questionable unused material, now a large assortment of RF "covers" are discussed, because there was something about each one that caused all, who examined them, to raise a question if they were legitimately used. A great variation was found. Some of these RF covers gave indications of going through the mails. However, their use did not seem to be proper. A second group of covers may have done postal duty, but it was meaningless as far as the RF overprint was concerned. A third type of cover seemed to be a fake by all tests. All such covers are unaddressed, and usually the RF overprint will be shown to be counterfeit. Thus the doubtful covers fall into the following three general categories:

1. Postally used, but *not* by French Naval personnel.
2. Postally used, but with unidentified RF marking.
3. Not genuine covers.
 - a. addressed
 - b. unaddressed

1. Postally Used, But Not By French Naval Forces

One must know certain circumstances about the mail that was overprinted RF. These salient matters must be understood:

- a) The RF was applied only in 1944 and 1945 at the naval bases, or on ships operating in or around North Africa. There is no record of any mail from Europe ever being overprinted RF.
- b) Only the mail of the French Navy using American air mail facilities had to be identified.
- c) All mail had to be censored.
- d) RF overprints were used only for air mail to the United States and Canada, no other destination.

Before discussing some covers that are questioned, allow us to show what happened to air mail letters to America after one in the French Navy left North Africa, and transferred to Europe. Fig. 44 shows a cover from France. Both the sender and addressee are well-known to students of RF material. In fact, the writer's very first RF covers, which were mentioned previously as being found in 1944, are from the "Mrs. Mackay" correspondence. There were nine "Mackay" covers in the total lot examined. Fig. 44 shows exactly what happened after this correspondent with Mrs. Mackay was stationed in France. The U. S. air mail stamp could do no postal duty. It has been crossed out with ink. Instead three 1.50frs. French postage stamps carried this letter, which came by surface, not air mail, to New York. This clearly indicates that already by November, 1944 one stationed in France, but not now attached to the U. S. Navy, were no longer afforded our Armed Forces mailing privileges.

RF OVERPRINTS



Fig. 44. A most revealing cover from "The Mrs. Helen Mackay" correspondence, the very first "RF" covers seen by the writer. Here the French nurse had returned to France, and the U. S. air mail service could not be used as shown. (Stanley R. Rice collection).

Fig. 45 is from the well-known "Ropars" of Philadelphia, Pa. correspondence. Mrs. Ropars' covers from the Submarine "Le Centaure" are an important part of the RF overprints. There were 16 covers with various types of RF initials, (see Fig. 39). Fig. 45



Fig. 45. U. S. air mail from Toulon in June 1945 without an "RF" overprint. (Donald W. Phipps collection).

RF OVERPRINTS



Fig. 46 (Top). An unidentified Type of "RF" with "APO" cancellation and French postage stamps. (Richard E. Samek collection).

Fig. 47 (Bottom). A cover in the same handwriting as Fig. 46. Also with an unidentified "RF" and "APO" cancel. The return address is noted "Italian." No "RF" overprints are known from Italy and also from one with the U. S. Army. (Richard E. Samek collection).

is from the same French sailor, who was aboard "Le Centaure", but now on June 24 1945 is stationed in Toulon, France with the following return address on the back,— "Military Detachment to the Commission of Railroad Terminals". Notice the 6c. U. S. air mail stamp has *no* RF overprint. Thus Figs. 44 and 45 show how air mail to America was handled after the French Naval personnel were transferred from North Africa to Europe, and were cut off from U. S. air mail services.

a) Types San. "e" and "i" (Figs. 46 and 47).

Several RF specialists have classified the "RF" on Fig. 46 as Sanabria Type "e". This writer shows a genuine Type "e" by Fig. 18. In the entire lot of covers examined nothing exactly like the RF marking on Fig. 46 has ever been found. Furthermore, notice the cancellation reads "APO" (Army Post Office), while there are also two French postage stamps affixed. One is the 1.50frs. "Petain", the other the French 5cs. of the U.S. Occupation Forces. Since all this indicates origin from Europe, not North Africa, while the sender is with the U. S. Army, not the French Navy, Fig. 46 shows an item that does not stand up as legitimate use of RF overprints.

RF OVERPRINTS

As for Fig. 47, this is from the same correspondent as shown by Fig. 46. Here too the type is unknown, not corresponding to any examined. Some classed this as San. Type "i". But it is far different from the genuine Type 9 as found on Fig. 10 or even our new Type 10. The use, just as with Fig. 46, is from Europe (Italy) and with APO cancels; it cannot be.

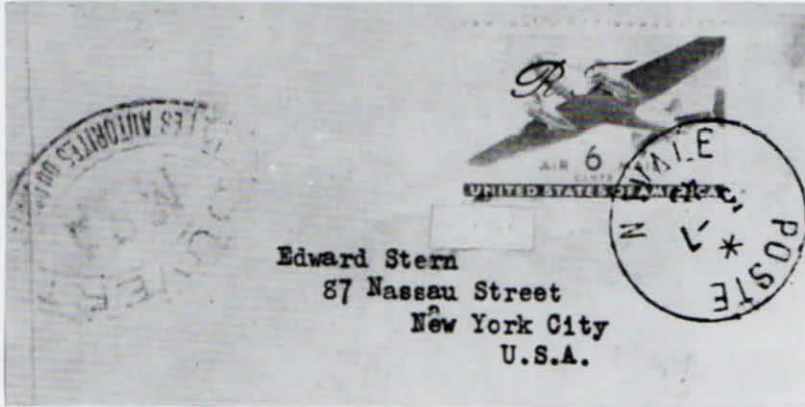


Fig. 48. An unidentified "RF" overprint only found on mail like shown in Figs. 49 and 50 or illustrated in advertisement in "Stamps" (May 18, 1946 page 297). No mail examined from French Naval personnel used an overprint resembling this. (Richard E. Samek collection).

2. Postally Used But With Unidentified RF Type (San. Type "m", Scott CM5, UCM2, 3)

A number of covers were examined with San. Type "m" Scott Type "e" (Toulon). Of all the genuine covers from the French Naval Forces in North Africa examined, not one had an overprint resembling San. Type "m" or Scott Type "e". Every cover seen with this Type is of the style shown in Figs. 48 and 49—all addresses typewritten on the

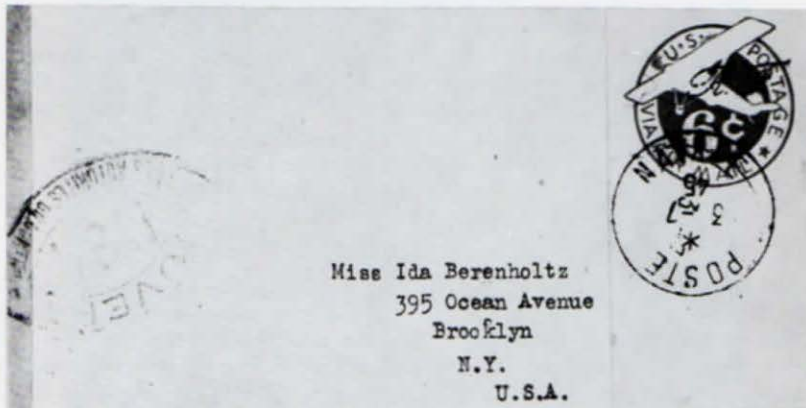


Fig. 49. The unidentified San. Type "m", Scott Type "e" overprint. The letter enclosed is not from one in the French Navy. (Richard E. Samek collection).



Fig. 50. No verification can be found that anyone with the French Navy had the provisional 6c on 2c air mail envelope. Nor has any such postal stationery been seen used by the French Forces. Also The RF overprint cannot be identified. (John J. Britt collection).

same machine and addressed mostly to a very well-known New York stamp firm, or its proprietors. Different from all the French Naval mail, these covers have no sender's address or rank on either the front or back. However, they are all with French censor marks, and give some indication of having passed through the mails. Most all these covers like those shown in Figs. 48 and 49 are cancelled July 3, 1945 (a few August 2). Some of the envelopes still had the letters enclosed. All contained the same laconic note—"With compliments", plus the signature of a person known in New York philatelic circles. This is far different from the letters written by French sailors, that happened to have been left in RF covers the writer examined.

Also, this Type Sanabria "m", Scott "e" has been found on many different forms of unused material, including full sheets and complete booklet panes of three, plus various air mail postal stationery including the 1945 Provisional one (Scott UC8). *In all the French correspondence, not one piece of postal stationery was found using this 1945 Provisional surcharge (Scott UC8).* Thus, the Provisional 6c. air mail surcharged envelope with RF is difficult to explain. Fig. 50 illustrates the only condition the writer has seen of such envelopes with Type "m", Scott "e", all being uncanceled and unaddressed.

Fig. 48 shows one of the 6c. air mail booklet stamps used on a cover. A booklet stamp legitimately used by the French must be exceedingly rare. *In all the French Naval covers examined, the writer found only one booklet stamp with Type 3 (Fig. 38).* Although the stamp is not tied to the cover, many similar covers exist from "La Toulonnaise" to "Mrs. O. B. Klug" in Normandy, Mo. Incidentally, this "Klug" correspondence is the only one found to destinations other than East Coast cities in America.

There is another matter about the Type (Sanabria "m", Scott "e") RF overprint that seems to class it differently from all the others. Closely studying this type on a full mint sheet, as well as on some covers and postal stationery along with many individual stamps and booklet panes, a sameness in the appearance was noticed by those specialists working with the writer.

All the other RF overprints (Types 1-10) indicate a handstamped application. Thus a variation is seen in the appearance of each overprint (see the illustrations). However, this one type of RF overprint shows little or no variety. Likewise some believe it looks more like a printed than handstamped overprint. If this theory proves correct, then one can wonder why just this one overprint was applied differently from all the others.

Consequently, from the evidence seen as specified above, this Sanabria Type "m", Scott "e" RF overprint is subject to question. In the writer's opinion, *it cannot be accepted as legitimate, unless it appears upon covers with evidence of use by the French Naval personnel.* Such covers may exist. But pending their appearance, a specialist in RF overprints must hold reservations on Scott CM5 (San. M12) and Scott UCM2-3.

RF OVERPRINTS

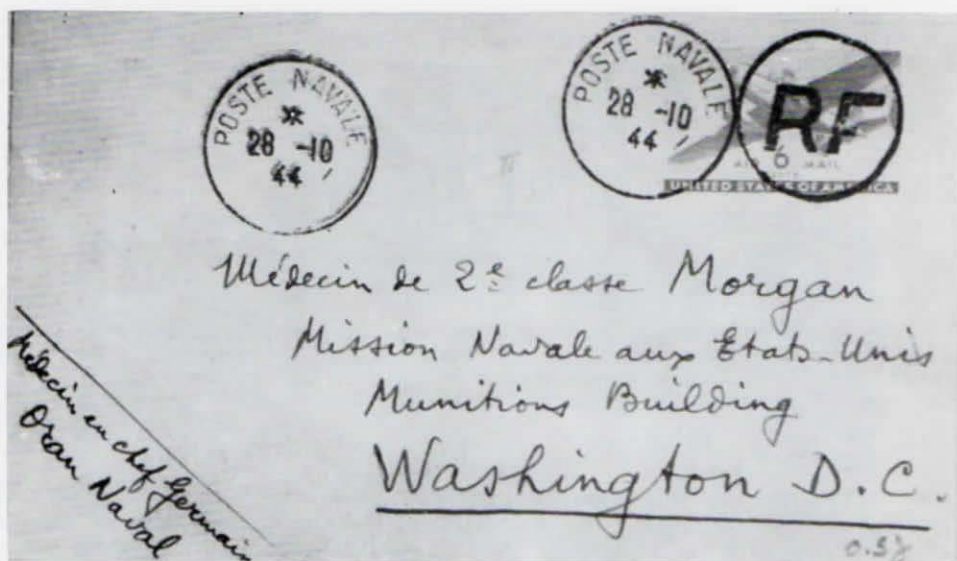


Fig. 51. (Richard E. Samek collection).

3. Not Genuine Use

a) Addressed covers.

We shall attempt now to list and describe all the different types of covers, that we consider not genuine. We doubt if any passed through the mails. All seem made-to-order. Some appear to be complete counterfeits, both the RF overprints and the "Poste Navale" cancellation. Others appear to have been made-to-order, possibly using a genuine RF overprint and/or "Poste Navale" cancellation.

When we first examined the cover (Fig. 51), there were some things about it that puzzled us. First of all, there was no censor marking nor censor tape. Then the return address in the left corner was mystifying, because no other French cover had come from Oran. Furthermore, the envelope had been unopened, most extraordinary for wartime correspondence. Generally the RF covers were carelessly ripped open by the recipient. Thus the Fig. 51 cover was put aside by us as puzzling, and not included with the other genuine RF covers.

Shortly thereafter when another collection was loaned us for study, the cover (Fig. 52) caught our eye. The handwriting resembled that in Fig. 51. The sender is the same "Medecin en Chef Germain", but instead of "Oran Navale" in the lower left corner, it reads "Poste Navale". Inspecting this cover further, the address was—"Poste Navale"—one that had never appeared. How could this cover be delivered as addressed? Furthermore, it seems to be registered and bears a manuscript "Recommandie" plus a Registration Label in the upper left corner. It is very doubtful if a 4.50frs. French stamp could pay for registration on U. S. air mail. No other registered mail with RF overprints has been found. But registered mail always must have a receipt mark, usually on the back. This cover lacks any backstamp. Also, the cancellation reads, "Poste Navale/Bureau No. 83." This too is unknown. Finally, there are no signs of censoring anywhere. Such a cover, in our opinion is, "too good to be true", and cannot pass our approval as genuine.

Then some covers appeared with the RF overprints inverted, (Fig. 53). These all bear what seems to be Type 4 marking. But a careful comparison with Type 4 RF as appearing on many genuine covers showed that there were differences with the initials RF. Also, the "Poste Navale/ 7/3/45" cancellation seemed wrong. The covers, (Figs. 51 to 53) show no postal use, no censor marks, no signs of mailing and no sender's name or

RF OVERPRINTS

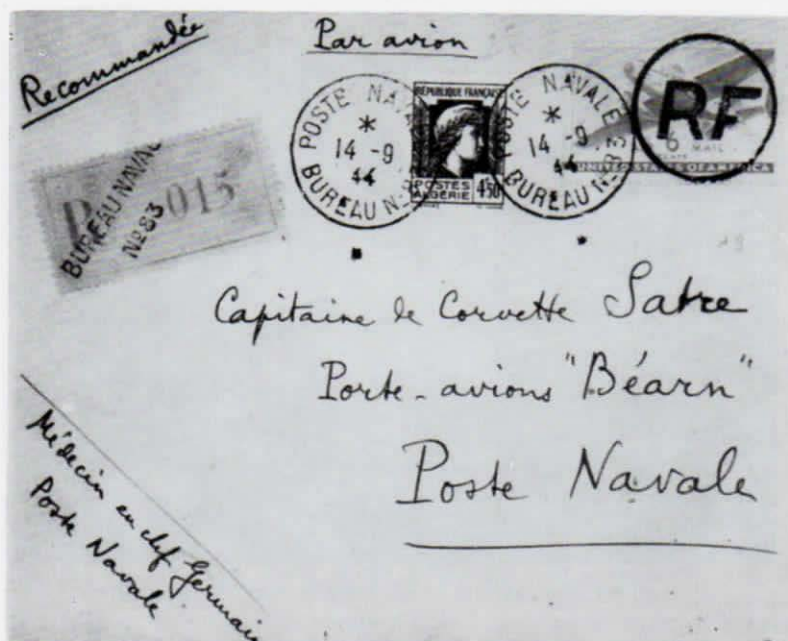


Fig. 52. The address is not to America. Why Registration and then with no markings on back? The handwriting is the same as on the cover (Fig. 51). (Sam Rodvien collection).

We Specialize in

**AMG
ISRAEL
POLAND
TRIESTE
VATICAN CITY**

Write for our price lists.

ALL THE AIRLETTER SHEETS * AND 1-ST DAY COVERS IN STOCK

PENNY BLACK STAMP CO.

Est. 1912
S. L. Bayer, Prop.

116 Nassau Street, New York 38, N. Y.

RF OVERPRINTS

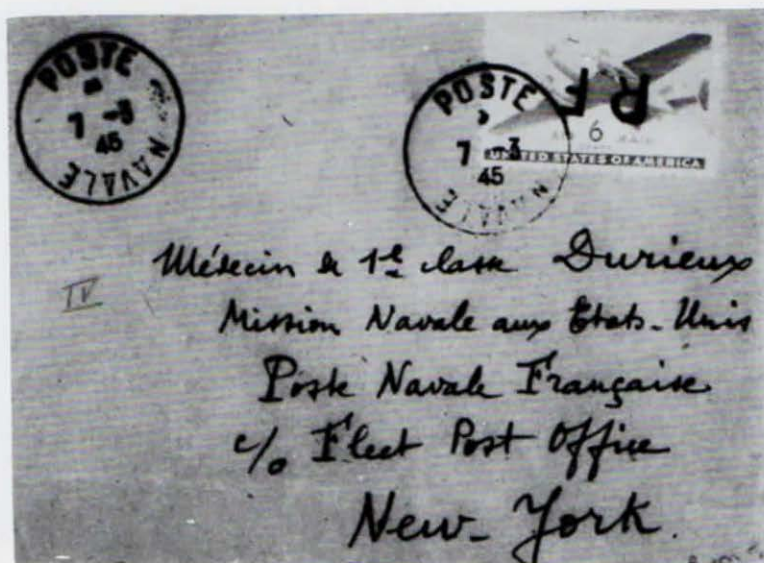


Fig. 53. Handwriting is the same as Figs. 51 and 52.

address. We had great doubts about their being genuine, so we put them aside.

Upon later re-examination, something coincidental was noticed that previously had escaped our eyes. Look at the handwriting on Figs. 51, 52 and 53. All are the same! So every one can be classed as not genuine. Also compare the enlarged RF overprint (Fig. 54) to the genuine Type 3 in Fig. 17.

Now six covers are illustrated, (Figs. 55 to 61), that have two outstanding things that are wrong:—1) All are addressed to France. *This could not be, because RF overprints were used only for air mail to America.* 2) There are no censor markings nor



Fig. 54. Stamp with counterfeit inverted overprint. It is on a cover that has the same handwriting as Figs. 51 to 53, no return address or censor markings.

RF OVERPRINTS



Fig. 55. The Type 2 "RF" and both "Poste Navale" cancellations differ from those found on genuine covers. "RF" markings were valid only for air mail to America.



Fig. 56. Cover addressed to Nice, France, not to America. Also notice no censor marking, sender's name and address. Both the Type 2 overprint and the "Poste Navale" cancels differ from those found on genuine covers.



The highest price

ever paid for a single airmail stamp, \$11,500, was paid in a 1957 Harmer Rooke auction for the 25c on 10c "Black Honduras" (Scott #C12, cataloguing \$17,500). The previous record price of \$5,300 was paid in 1939 for this very stamp.

Let us sell your finest airmails for top prices, too! Consult us now.

HARMER, ROOKE & CO., Inc.

560 Fifth Ave. (at 46th), New York 36.

International Auctioneers of Fine Stamps

Stamps for Sale ???

WE CAN BE OF SERVICE TO YOU ! !

For more than a quarter of a Century, COLLECTORS, DEALERS, TRUST COMPANIES and EXECUTORS OF ESTATES have consulted us regarding the conversion of Philatelic Properties into CASH.

IF YOU WANT TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION . . .

we can offer early dates and attractive terms. Expert supervision of all material by an experienced Philatelic Auctioneer. Liberal advances pending sale. Comprehensive insurance and Holmes Electric Protection safeguards your property while in our possession. Our Catalog distribution is world-wide.

OUR PRIVATE SALES SERVICE . . .

successfully places Collections, Stocks and Rarities where this method is preferred.

IMMEDIATE CASH IS WAITING . . .

for the outright purchase of suitable material regardless of amount.

Our Advice, Backed by 32 years Experience in the Stamp Trade, is at Your Disposal

Information Cheerfully Given

IRWIN HEIMAN, INC.

Serving American Philately Since 1926

2 WEST 46th STREET

NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

ROOM 708



Tel.: JU 2-2393

1. Nov. 20-21, 1943 TACA F. F. Caribbean route, 10 different, all cacheted	\$ 5.00
2. AUSTRIA, C18, 21, 27 on Zepp flown card, July 12, 1931	4.00
3. BULGARIA C5/11, May 26, '37 registered	4.00
4. ECUADOR, 1st Air Mail Ecuador to Costa Rica, Apr. 2, 1930, registered	2.00
5. GERMANY, C28, 29, 31, 44 Graf Zepp flight, Oct. 14, 1933	3.50
6. GERMANY, Hindenburg flight to North America, May 6, 1936, registered	1.00
7. GUATEMALA, FF G. C. to Mazatenango, 8/23/30	2.00
8. GUATEMALA, FF Barrios to Miami, C17/19, registered, Dec. 5, 1931	10.00
9. HONDURAS, C54 on regd cover	2.50
10. HUNGARY C22, Zepp card, Iceland flight 1931	2.50
11. NICARAGUA, CO3, Panama FF to Guatemala, 1929	2.00
12. EL SALVADOR, 1931 FF to Jamaica, registered	1.25
13. ditto, C19 on regd FF to Colombia, 1931	2.25
14. SPAIN, CB7 on regd card to Holland	1.00
15. U. S. A. C14 on Zepp cover to Seville, 1930	25.00
16. URUGUAY, 305, C9, only day use 1925	2.00
17. URUGUAY, C61/62 registered FDC	10.00
18. VATICAN, C11, 12, 15, 17 registered 4/4/49	25.00

RICHARD N. CONE

Route 8, Box 269

Tucson, Arizona, U. S. A.

RF OVERPRINTS



Fig. 57. (Left) An enlargement of a GENUINE Type 2 RF; (Right) The counterfeit Type 2 RF on Fig. 56.

sender's name and address. The covers—Figs. 55, 56, 58, 59, 60 and 61, in our opinion, are not genuine, and there is good reason to believe that all of the RF overprints are counterfeit.

A guide to help one distinguish between a genuinely flown and a fake cover may be done by study of the address on a cover. It is known that during World War II few, if any, French naval personnel owned or had access to typewriters. *Therefore, most all of their correspondence with RF overprints is handwritten. Consequently, when one sees a RF cover with a typewritten address, he may regard this with suspicion.* There may be a few exceptions, but so very few that this test should prove useful.

b) Unaddressed Covers

Little need be written about covers that are unaddressed, having just an RF overprint and a "Poste Navale" cancellation. Fig. 62 (top) and 63 show the kind that are quite common on the philatelic market. They all carry 12-cents for air mail, the double rate, while Fig. 64 has 3 stamps and the 6c. on 2c. envelopes, a total rate of 36-cents.

Fig. 63 has the unknown type Scott "c", San. "k" overprint, as does the bottom stamp on Fig. 64. Thus Scott Type "c" seems to be bogus, unless one finds it used on legitimate French Naval air mail, which has not been the case in this study.

Notice that all covers bear the same dated "Poste Navale" cancellation "11-10-44", another strange coincidence.



Figs. 58-59. Both covers are addressed to the same person in Paris, France. No censor markings nor sender's name shown. Both the Type 1 and Type 5 RF are not genuine.

RF OVERPRINTS



Figs. 60-61. Two examples of not genuine Type 4 RF overprints. The cover at the left (Fig. 60) is addressed to the same party as shown in Figs. 58-59. The one at the right is addressed to Casablanca, French Morocco. Obviously this latter is wrong, because military air mail to America from North Africa originated in Casablanca. Furthermore, all four covers (Figs. 58 to 61) give evidence that the addresses were done on the same typewriter. Typewritten addresses are suspicious, because the French do not seem to have had them during the last war.

Counterfeit Material

The following experience occurred during the writer's work on this RF study.

A New York dealer had been known to the writer as having handled some RF material. This dealer was visited in his office in the hope of securing some additional material for help in this study. The writer was disappointed, because he was told there was nothing any longer in stock for his use. Then the dealer spoke to the writer, substantially, as follows:



Fig. 62. (Top) Counterfeit Type 5 RF on Provisional 6c on 2c air mail postal stationery. The cover is unaddressed. (Bottom) A genuine Type 5 RF shown for comparison purposes (Stanley R. Rice collection).

RF OVERPRINTS



Fig. 63. No Type resembling this was found on any covers from the French Naval Forces. Also with the Provisional air mail postal stationery and unaddressed, indicating strongly that such a Type is bogus.

"In your past writings, you have served philately well. I consider you one of the best and fairest writers on stamps of the present time. Since you are doing such a fine service, I want to tell you what I know about these RF overprints.

"Genuine material is very scarce. There has been little to sell. So in Europe, counterfeit material was made. I know because I received some. It began coming here as early as 1945. I did not sell it, but unfortunately others did. I believe that if I loaned you for use in your article some of the counterfeit material, I shall be doing a service to philately.

"Here is a cancelled stamp with a fake cancellation and RF overprint, plus two covers made up by the same source of supply. (Shown in Figs. 65 and 67.)

"I might add that this European source, who wished to supply me with this material also wrote that he could send covers with 'RF' inverted, price upon application. Thus, I have my doubts about most material with inverted RF."

The upper stamp in Fig. 67 shows an enlargement of the counterfeit RF and cancellation given by the above stamp dealer to the writer. The stamp still has original gum on the back. Beneath it in Fig. 67 is a genuine Type I for comparison.

The counterfeit overprints on cover loaned to the writer are shown in Fig. 65. These two are key pieces.



Fig. 64. 36-cents air mail prepaid to nowhere! Both the Types 4 and 5 RF overprints are not genuine, while the stamp at the bottom has the same bogus type as shown in Fig. 63.

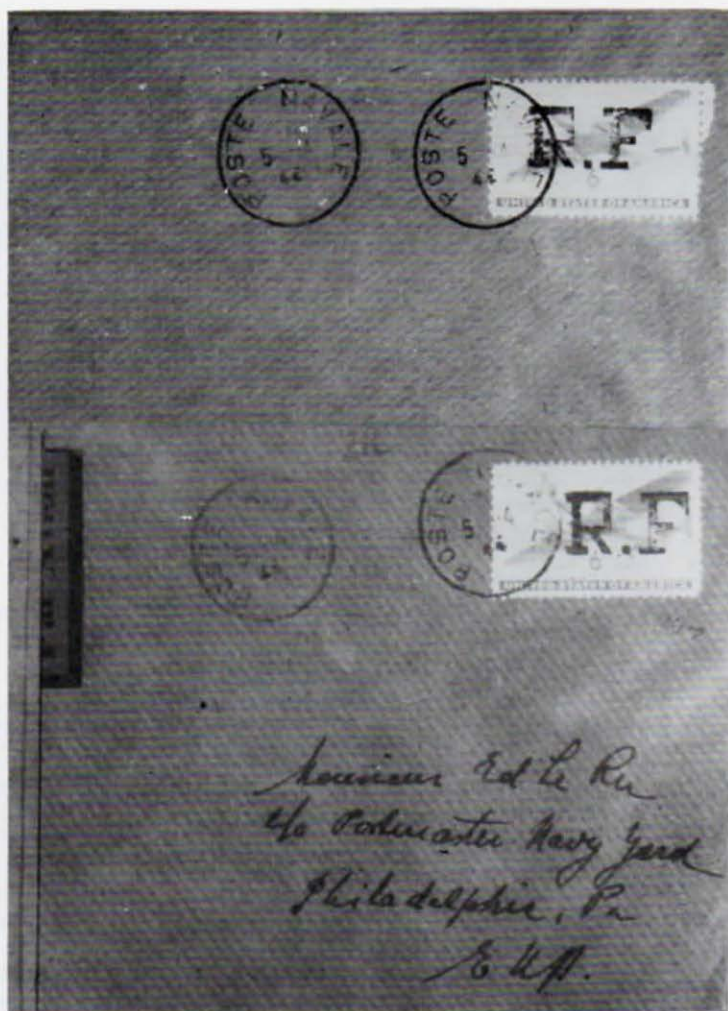


Fig. 65 (Top). Counterfeit Type 5 overprint with fake "Poste Navale" cancellations on unaddressed cover that was given to the writer as a fake item manufactured in Europe.

Fig. 66 (Bottom). Compare to Fig. 65. It is the same except that now a faked address has been added along with an air mail etiquette and brown tape at the left to simulate genuine use. The faker obviously did not know the regulations, because he would have added more to the counterfeit piece like Fig. 65 to make it look more like a genuine cover.

As for Fig. 65 compare it to Fig. 66. The RF overprint and fake "Poste Navale/4-5-44" cancellations are the same. This style of "Poste Navale" cancel does not appear on any genuine covers. Obviously, the addressed cover, (Fig. 66) had a bit more added to make it appear like a better deception. To our eyes, the covers shown by Fig. 65 and 66 have the Type 5 "RF" that tallies closely with this counterfeit stamp shown in Fig. 67. Our previous "detective work" doubting the genuineness of these covers seems to have been substantiated.

The RF overprint on the covers shown in Figs. 59, 62 (top) and 64 matches closely the counterfeit markings shown in Figs. 65 to 67.

The inverted "RF" appearing on Fig. 53 possibly could be the fake inverts that the New York dealer had been offered from Europe. We agree with the statement told us,

RF OVERPRINTS



Fig. 67. (Top) This is an enlargement made of the counterfeit Type 5 RF that was presented to the writer as a known fake manufactured abroad. (Bottom) An enlargement of a genuine Type 5 RF for comparison purposes.

The counterfeit Type 5 shown above still has original gum. Also study the fake "Poste Navale" cancel. Comparison of the known counterfeit with Type 5 overprints shown by Figs. 59, 62, 64, 65 and 66 indicate that all are very similar, different from genuine Type 5 RF and therefore counterfeits.

that most inverted overprints are fakes.

Close study of the Type 2 "RF" overprint on genuine covers like those shown in Figs. 8, 32, 39 and 40 shows differences from the fake marking made later in Europe as illustrated by Figs. 55 and 56. Fig. 57 shows a comparison of the genuine Type 2 "RF" overprint enlarged alongside an enlargement of the known counterfeits as appeared on Fig. 55 and Fig. 56.

No collector need shy away from collecting RF overprints because of doubtful or fake material. If he will acquaint himself with the counterfeits illustrated here and the appearance of the RF overprints on genuine covers, he will know. If in doubt, then the material may be submitted for an opinion to the Philatelic Foundation's Expert Committee, 22 East 35th Street, New York 16, N. Y., or other recognized expert committees.

A total of 355 covers were examined. According to the writer's analysis they turned out to be:—

Genuine	200 (about 55%)
Doubtful or Fake	155 (about 45%)

There is no reliable way of determining just when the first spurious RF material began. Some collectors, who own such material, were surprised to find out that their RF overprints did not stand the test of genuineness, because they alleged that their purchases had been made early. This is an inclusive argument. There are many instances in the long history of philately when it is known that imitations had been manufactured very soon after the time of issue. Since the RF overprints ceased around the summer of 1945, it is highly probable that some people in North Africa or Europe may have begun making spurious material for philatelic sale as early as the fall of 1945.

RF OVERPRINTS



Fig. 68. Five examples of typical used off cover copies. Those on the top row have RF types never seen on genuine French Naval mail, thus probably being bogus. The two on the bottom row may have come off genuine covers, since they closely resemble a genuine Type 1 and Type 6. However, one has difficulty establishing beyond a reasonable doubt the genuineness of these off-cover copies. (Author's collection).

Relative Scarcity of Types of RF

It is our firm belief that genuine covers with RF overprints are not easy to find. They were used widely by French Naval personnel in North Africa from about July, 1944 through the spring and early summer of 1945. But many of the recipients were much more interested in the letter contents than the envelopes. Consequently, mail arriving in the U. S. was usually carelessly ripped open by the recipient, and the envelope was thrown away. Few paid attention to the "RF" marking on the cover. One like Mrs. Odette Descoubés was an exception.

The writer knows of one (about 15 covers) correspondence that was saved by the actions of a philatelist. The non-collector recipient was hearing regularly from a French sailor. At first, she threw the envelopes away. Then, one day, a stamp collector in Ithaca, N. Y. happened to see her mail and noted the "RF" overprint. He asked her what she did with the envelopes. Being told that she threw them away, this prudent collector asked her to hold them for him. Nearly every group of correspondence has an interesting story to go with it. Unfortunately, space does not permit the relating of all the stories behind these "RF" covers.

Your attention is called to Table III, that tabulated the types of "RF" overprints found on the 200 genuine covers. This affords one some indication of the relative scarcity of each type. The small Type 1 RF overprint is the most common, by far. If all these covers are typical, then the following table lists each type according to the number of each found:

Table III

RF TYPE (Fig. 17)	SCOTT TYPE	SAN. TYPE	NUMBER GENUINE
1	a	g	87
2	f	h	29
3	—	c	23
4	b	d	26
5	d	l	14
6	—	n	6
7	a	n	6
8	—	e	3
9	—	f	2
10 (Fig. 69)	—	—	3

RF OVERPRINTS

Catalog Prices

"The 1958 Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Vol. I" prices the RF overprints as does "The 1957 Sanabria Air Post Catalogue". These need not be itemized. With one exception, both catalogs price the various types, both unused and used, from \$4.00 up to \$10.00 each. The exception is Sanabria M13, (Type "n") that is priced for \$75.00 unused and used.

At the time of this writing, it can be stated that these prices do not reflect the market. For instance, in October, 1956 the writer saw an "Odette Descoubés" Richelieu cover with Type 1 RF on the 6c. air mail stamp in an auction lot of a large New York City dealer. This is the most common type. The cover sold for \$25.00! There were also three covers like the one shown in Fig. 64. The three stamps on one cover total catalog price by Sanabria is \$16.75. All three covers offered at auction were unadressed. The RF overprints on these covers did not look good to the writer. Their average auction sale price was \$4.00 each, which shows that collectors and dealers know the RF material, as shown by these contrasting realizations of \$25.00 for a genuine cover and \$4.00 for those not genuine.

In fairness to the catalog pricings, RF overprints represent new listings. Genuine covers are seldom advertised for sale by dealers, and only occasionally do they come up at public auction. Under these conditions, the first attempts at catalog listing and pricing are understandably off, perhaps more than they should be. Furthermore, unused copies have been bought and sold in good faith. As a result of this study, it is hoped that two reliable American catalogs like Scott and Sanabria will not price any type of RF overprint unused in future editions. But the used price should reflect the value on genuine covers. Consequently, if one tries to buy with current catalog prices as a guide, he most likely will not be successful.

As for used off cover stamps with RF overprint, most of the specialists consulted agree with the writer that such material is "neither fish nor fowl". In other words, a RF overprint used off cover may or may not have been removed from a genuine cover. Often it is difficult to determine, unless the "Poste Navale" cancellation tallies exactly with the fake ones illustrated in this study. *RF overprints should be collected on cover, so that there is no room for any question about genuineness.* (See Fig. 68)

When one faces a situation where material is so seldom offered for sale, the matter of setting a realistic catalog price is difficult. The RF market is just beginning to stabilize. Since 1945, it has shown a steady upward trend. The current American catalog prices reflect the 1948 market. But, within a few years, it is a reasonable certainty that future catalog prices will better reflect the market.

Little can be said about the RF listings in the French stamp catalogs except that, in our opinion, they are far inferior to those in either Sanabria and Scott. First of all, the overprints are incorrectly placed under France when they properly belong under the United States. Secondly, although many types are listed—some bogus and fake—all are lumped together under one price. And finally, the French catalogs price the RF overprints unused, often omitting a cover price. The writer and those RF specialists he has consulted in America have not heard of nor seen a collection from France that is comparable to those over here. They may exist, but none have been shown according to our observations in prominent international philatelic exhibitions.

Current Market Values

It has been suggested that this study offer some indication of a fair market value for RF overprints. As mentioned previously, since genuine RF covers seldom are offered for sale, this is no easy task.

This work represents a comprehensive study of the RF overprints. It also can serve a useful purpose if the catalog editors will refer to the information given. However, it is the function of a commercial catalog editor rather than an amateur philatelist to supply prices.

RF OVERPRINTS

There is only one proper way to collect RF overprints, namely, on flown covers from the French Naval Forces to the United States or Canada. Therefore, the following categories of material, in the writer's opinion, can be classified as of *LITTLE PHILATELIC VALUE*:

- Unused*
- Used Off Cover*
- Unaddressed Covers*
- Addressed Covers*
 - a) *with unidentified types*
 - b) *on mail not to America*
 - c) *on mail not from French Navy*

Now follows Table IV, which attempts to evaluate all the genuine RF material examined. The well-known Continental system of grading is used as follows:

- (R) scarce
- (RR) rather scarce
- (RRR) very scarce
- (RRRR) rare—only a few seem to exist.
- (U) unknown

Table IV

RF TYPE (Fig. 17)	AIR MAIL STAMP	AIR MAIL STATIONERY *
1	R	R
a. double **	RRRR	RRRR
b. double with Type 2	U	RRRR
c. double with Type 4	RRRR	RRRR
d. inverted	RRRR	U
2	RR	RR
a. on 8c air stamp with Type 1 or 4	RRRR	U
3	RR	RR
a. double	RRRR	RRRR
b. on booklet stamp	RRRR	U
c. on postage stamps	RRRR	U
d. inverted	RRRR	U
4	RR	RR
a. double	RRRR	RRRR
5	RR	RR
a. on two stamps	RRRR	U
6	RRR	RRR
7	RRRR	U
8	RRRR	RRRR
9	RRRR	RRRR
10 (see Fig. 69)†	RRRR	U
a. inverted	RRRR	U

* Although adhesive stamps are more popular than postal stationery collecting, there actually should be no great difference in valuation with the RF overprints.

** In listing varieties such as inverted, double overprints, double with two Types, RF on postage stamps, on Booklet stamps, on more than one stamp or on the 8c air mail, only those varieties actually seen have been listed and priced. Others may exist with different types. If so, one could estimate their value in line with those listed above.

† Fig. 69 shows the Type 10 RF overprint that appeared on correspondence from the Cruiser "Le Terrible". This is a very crude overprint. Only a few covers are known with Type 10 and each has a variety. Fig. 41 showed a cover with a pair of 6c air mail stamps with this Type 10 RF applied only once in the middle of the two stamps. Another cover examined has the RF overprint inverted.

RF OVERPRINTS



Fig. 69. Type 10 RF.

Conclusion

Philately frequently benefits from the ravages and tragedies of wartime, because often emergencies arise that create issues like these "RF" overprints. Occurring during a war, the usual advance philatelic notices are lacking. In fact, often stamp collectors find out about an emergency issue only long after it has been discontinued.

These "RF" overprints represent important history, both to the United States and France. Even British collectors are concerned as these were the outgrowth of the great Allied Campaign in North Africa during World War II. As previously pointed out, some of the French naval vessels operated with the British Fleet. The RF overprints were a necessity created solely to facilitate the orderly flow of air mail under overtaxed wartime conditions. An unused stamp or embossed envelope is meaningless. A legitimately used covers tells an exciting story. Cancelled copies of stamps, even on small pieces, likewise have little significance. Who can tell if such material actually came originally from legitimate air mail?

It must be admitted with sorrow that philately also has its unpleasanties. There were commercial dealers here and abroad, who saw in these "RF" overprints a chance for illegal profit. There is no doubt but that much material had been made-to-order solely for philatelic sale, actually after their official use had been discontinued.

This latter has created a problem of confusing collectors, who could not tell the legitimate from the manufactured. It is hoped that this study has brought forth the needed information to dispel any confusion, that may have existed in the past. Our sole objective was to try to bring order out of confusion. Time will tell how well we have succeeded.

Acknowledgments

In order to properly pursue this study, it was essential to inspect and study as much material as possible. Therefore, a number of collectors known to have "RF" material were approached and all coöperated to the fullest extent. Our special thanks to *Adrien Boutrelle, John J. Britt, Thomas A. Matthews, Stanley R. Rice, Sam Rodvien, and Maurice Tripet* for the loan of their material. *Mr. Richard E. Samek's* persistence, in past correspondence to find some records pertaining to these "RF" overprints, cannot go unnoticed. His work produced the important directives. Also, the loan of his extensive material from his collection has proved of enormous help.

Although the writer has not seen or contacted *Mr. George H. Mary* for some years, he must acknowledge the value of his information at a time when so little was known. This writer learned much from personal contact with *Mr. Mary* back in 1947 or 1948. Thanks also to *Stephen G. Rich*, the editor of "*France and Colonies Philatelist*".

Some scarce types of RF overprints would have remained unknown, except for the coöperation of *Messrs. Donald W. Phipps and William J. Hassan* of Ithaca, New York. *Dr. Jerome Beller* of Virginia disclosed the Cruiser "*Le Terrible*" correspondence with the Type 10. Also thanks to *John A. Gravelek*, Miami, Florida and *Emmett Peter, Jr.*, Leesburg, Florida.

Some of the professionals in the stamp trade offered assistance, that helped in locating various information. *Messrs. Sidney F. Barrett and James B. Hatcher* of Scott Publications, Inc. and *Robert J. Lyon*, editor of "*The Sanabria Air Post Catalogue*" have aided the writer over the years in seeking information on RF overprints. Many others, although not mentioned by name, made helpful suggestions, mostly in locating material.

Many, aware of our work on this subject, called the writer's attention to "RF" articles in various publications that may have escaped notice. *George T. Turner*, Presi-

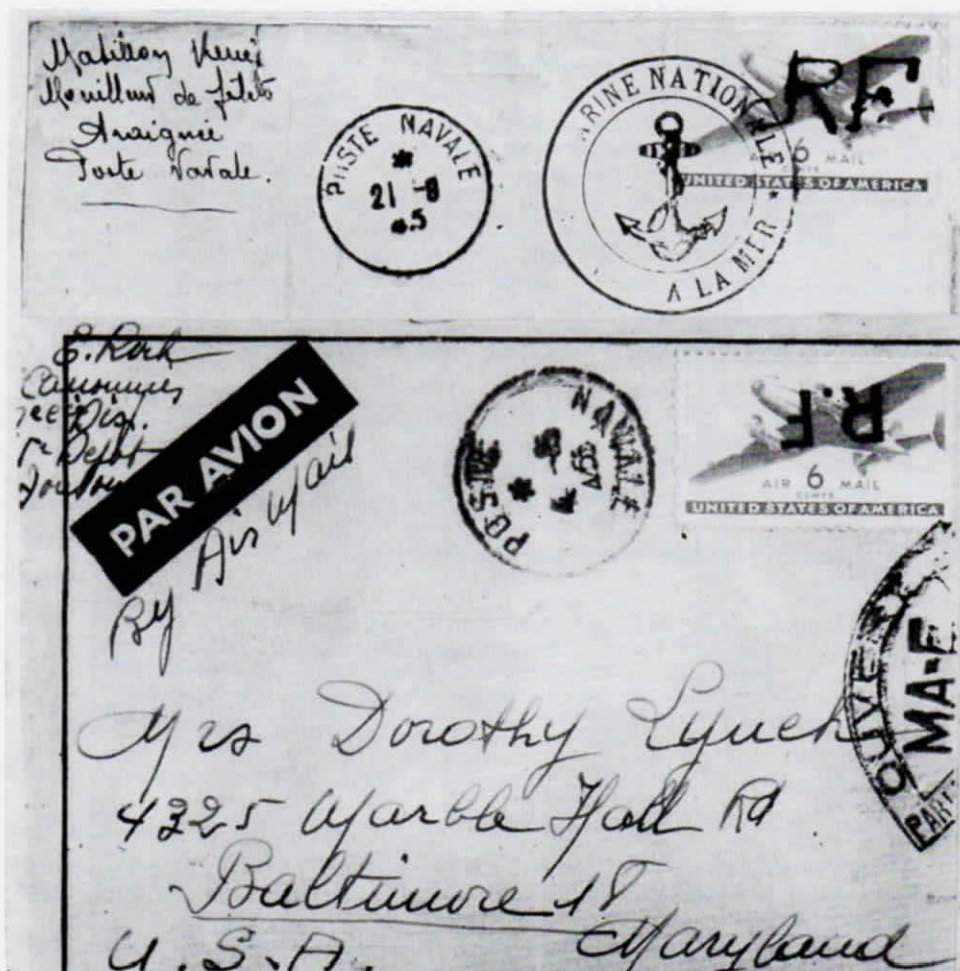
RF OVERPRINTS

dent of the American Philatelic Congress, was most helpful with this. So were *L. W. Charlat, Irwin Heiman, F. W. Kessler, and S. Serebrakian*, all well-known air mail stamp dealers and auctioneers.

Furthermore, as with so many philatelic students, the *Library of The Collectors Club*, 22 East 35th Street, New York 16, N. Y. was often consulted, and past writings could never have been located without the services of The Collectors Club Librarian, *Mrs. Josephine Eldridge*.

Since the illustrations represent such an important part of this study, the photographic work by *Adrien Boutrelle* is appreciated.

Finally, there is nothing like an eye-witness. My colleague on the Expert Committee of The Philatelic Foundation and helpful aide in my editorship of "The Collectors Club Philatelist", *Harrison D. S. Haverbeck* supplied this. The President of The Collectors Club was an ensign in the U. S. Navy during World War II. He saw much duty in European and North African waters. His experiences added to our knowledge.



RF OVERPRINTS

APPENDIX A

Tabulation of Correspondence

A. NAVAL BASES

RF Type	Base	Dates Cancelled	No. of Covers
3, 6	Agadir	Mar. 25-Nov. 14, 1944	3
5	Algiers	Sep. 10-Nov. 3, 1944	5
1, 3	Casablanca	July 18-Sep. 8, 1944	5
1, 3, 7	Toulon	Mar. 28, 1944-Aug. 21, 1945	5
9	Tunisia	Aug. 18, 1944-Jan. 3, 1945	3
			Total 21

B. FRENCH NAVAL VESSELS

1, 3, 5	Battleship Richelieu	Sep. 28, 1944-Mar. 9, 1945	80
1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9	Cruiser Gloire	May 8, 1944-June 3, 1945	24
2, 7, 9	Submarine LeCentaure	Mar. 8-Aug. 10, 1945	16
1, 2, 9	La Toulonnaise	July 19, 1944-Feb. 5, 1945	8
3, 8, 9	Cruiser Georges Leygues	Aug. 22, 1944-Aug. 1, 1945	7
2, 3	Submarine LeGlorieux	Oct. 9, 1944-Feb. 26, 1945	6
5, 9	Cruiser Montcalm	Sep. 14, 1944-Jan. 17, 1945	5
1, 2, 9	Destroyer Marocain	July 3-Oct. 21, 1944	5
1, 5, 10	Cruiser LeTerrible	July 4-Aug. 18, 1944	5
2, 3, 9	Cruiser Emil Bertin	Dec. 12, 1944-Mar. 21, 1945	3
1, 3	Despatch Boat Annamite	Feb. 3-Apr. 10, 1945	3
2	Submarine Archimede	Aug. 28, 1944, Jan. 1, 1945	3
1, 9	Escort Gavelot	Dec. 5, 1944, Jan. 1, 1945	2
1, 2	Escort Gabier	June 2, Dec. 6, 1945	2
9	Lt. Cruiser Le Malin	Oct. 28, Nov. 13, 1944	2
4	F. N. V. Bearn	Apr. 19, 25, 1945	2
9	Despatch Boat LaCapriceuse	July 16, 1945	1
1	M. V. Touralhaut	Feb. 20, 1945	1
9	Duguay Trouin	Apr. 25, 1945	1
?	Cruiser Fantasque	June 13, 1945	1
3	(Unidentified)	June 18, 30, 1945	2
			Total 179

Recapitulation

5 Naval Bases	21 covers
20 Naval Vessels	179 covers
Total	200 covers

Summary

The above tabulation shows that just a little over 10% of the legitimately used RF overprints found on covers from French Naval Personnel were from the Naval Bases. Notice also that from these land bases both Bizerte and Oran are missing.

Almost 90% of the total amount of genuine covers came from the French Naval Ships when at sea. Also notice from the first column of this tabulation how often one type of RF is found from many different sources. For instance, Type 1 was seen used by two Naval Bases and from nine vessels, a total of eleven.

RF OVERPRINTS

Thus the source of origin bears absolutely no relationship to the genuineness of the RF overprint, despite such statements being in the catalogs. Also it is incorrect to identify an overprint with a specific Naval Base or warship.

Bibliography

- Aero Philatelist's News*, Vol. I, No. 3; Vol. III, No. 14. "RF Overprints" by Henry M. Goodkind.
Vol. IV, No. 14, "RF Overprints" by Richard E. Samek.
Airpost Journal, May 1946, "RF Overprints on U. S. Airmail Stamps" by V. H. Rohwedder and M. O. Warns.
Oct. 1946 "More on the R. F. Overprints" by M. O. Warns.
Berner Briefmarken-Zeitung, Dec. 1948, p. 148.
Bureau Specialist, Vol. 19, No. 8 (Aug. 1948) p. 190.
France & Colonies Philatelist, No. 22 (July-Aug. 1945); No. 24 (Nov.-Dec. 1945) "The 'RF' Cancellations on U. S. Airmail Stamps" by George A. Mary and Stephen G. Rich.
No. 39 (May-June 1948) Reprint from "Aero Philatelist's News", Vol. I, No. 3 by Henry M. Goodkind.
La Cote Philatelique, Apr. 1945 "Timbre americain-surcharge francaise" by M. Flandrin.
Meekel's Weekly, Nov. 5, 1945. "R. F. Overprints on U. S. 6c Airmail" by John H. Engel (Liberty Circle).
New York Sun, Dec. 15, 1944.
Philately, Sept. 9, 1946. "RF Markings" by M. Flandrin.
Sanabria's Air Post News, Vol. 2, No. 13 (June 1948) "The RF Overprints on the U. S. 6c Air Mail" by Benjamin Mechanick with following rebuttals by Henry M. Goodkind and George A. Mary.
Stamps, May 18, 1946, p. 297 (Advertisement)
May 22, 1948, p. 286 "The 'RF' Overprints on the 6c U. S. Airmail" by J. Harris Gable.
July 17, 1948, p. 90 "RF Overprint or Control Cancellation on 6c U. S. Air Mail (C25)" by Donald W. Phipps, USN.
Sept. 11, 1948, p. 382 "The 'RF' overprints on U. S. 6c Airmail 1943-45" by Henry M. Goodkind.
Weekly Philatelic Gossip, Aug. 11, 1945. "RF Imprinted U. S. Air Mails" by Stephen G. Rich.
Western Stamp Collector, May 8, 1946. "Some French Stamp Peculiarities" by Stephen G. Rich.

Errors, Varieties and Airmails

For 30 years we have been specializing in all unusual items: Errors, Varieties, etc., regardless as to whether they are or are not listed.

Now we have on hand a very large selection of Airmails U. P. U., U. N., Inverted Centers, Sports, Topicals, Miniature Sheets, De Luxe Sheets, Proofs, Die Proofs, Rotary, etc., etc.

We have oddities and unusual items from many different countries as:—

Albania, Abyssinia, Belgium, Brazil, Canary Islands, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Ecuador, Epirus, Far East, France & Colonies, Greece, Georgia, Honduras, Iceland, Ifni, Iran, Italy & Colonies, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Monaco, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Poland, Romania, Russia, Saar, Salvador, Scadta, Spain & Colonies, Tangier, Tanna Touva, Uruguay, Venezuela.

We will gladly make up special offers or selections on approval.

Please write countries, price range and specialties. (Usual references, please).

We are also always buyers of similar material.

S. SEREBRAKIAN, Inc.

P. O. Box 448

Monroe, N. Y.

Many Reasons For Satisfaction

Stamp collecting is a hobby, except for those dealers who make it their sole means of a livelihood. A hobby should give satisfaction and afford one a lot of pleasure. Sure, many of the stamp dealers struggling to make some money understandably will not find much pleasure in stamp collecting. But it should be different with collectors. Yet it is surprising to read so many writing on philately with an unhappy undertone. Some attribute this to the lack of financial remuneration from stamp writing. But regardless, you all must have perceived these unhappy writers, be they amateur or commercial. They don't like anybody or anything (except themselves). They find fault with the designs of all new stamps, every exhibition is badly run, philatelic societies are only for a few egotists that vote themselves in office, there are no good philatelic students, every other collector is a sucker and so forth.

Perhaps we are one of the few exceptions, but we hope not. Our writings, editing and work for AERO PHILATELISTS' publications are now going into their 12th year, always having been upon a complete labor of love basis. And great satisfaction has come to us through much recognition of our efforts.

In this year just past, many leading philatelic publications from here and abroad have reprinted all or a good part of our articles or editorial comments from this quarterly magazine. Thus it is realized that our writings have been spread before thousands, who are not members of AERO PHILATELISTS. Our work has gained international recognition, while our organization receives good publicity without having promotional campaigns as some other philatelic societies do.

Two of the most widely circulated stamp newspapers in America, "Linn's Weekly Stamp News" and "Western Stamp Collector" have reprinted from both the January and April, 1958 numbers of THE AERO PHILATELISTS ANNALS. The May, 1957 "Sanabria Air Post News" has reprinted our January editorial in its entirety as did "Western Stamp Collector". The Sanabria publication prefaced this reprint with most praiseworthy remarks.

There has been further recent recognition of AERO PHILATELISTS. The editor of "Linn's" has written us an invitation for a special number of their newspaper in March 1958 on air mail stamps and our organization. This appeared on March 31, 1958.

Practically every month some complimentary notice of this magazine comes from abroad. Have you noticed how many of the recent authors in this magazine have been from outside the United States? There would be many more articles by foreign philatelists if they could write about air mails in English or we had a translation staff.

Before us are many stamp periodicals from Europe. There is much favorable mention of THE AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS in many British journals as well as those from France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, India, Denmark, Norway and Spain. We receive fine notices in South America. Argentine, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Honduras, Nicaragua, Uruguay and Venezuela are telling their readers about us in a regular manner. Why even a good portion of our 1950 article on "The First United States Air Mail Stamp" was reprinted in a Japanese stamp paper. Everything, of course, was in Japanese except the names of AERO PHILATELISTS and this author's. These seemed to defy translation into Japanese.

Yes, we are happy with philately and collecting air mail stamps; often work for this publication is hard, always done without one cent of salary. Yet there are many pleasant sides. We believe that the unhappy boys just don't know how to go about deriving fun from stamp collecting. Even a swell hobby like philately offers them no security, no enjoyment—nothing but the chance to complain. AERO PHILATELISTS and its publications have proven that there is much satisfaction in doing a job well and then having it universally recognized. Maybe the complainers are too lazy, and brood if constant headlines are denied them. Work hard, but have fun doing it.



THE AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS

INDEX

Volume V 1957-1958

Aero Philatelist's 1957 Convention Report (Philip Silver)	91
1958 Convention and Exhibition	99
1958 Officers and Directors	62, 100
Air Mail Bag (Letters to the Editor)	122
Australia, the "Herald" and "Pals" Semi-Officials	59
Bulgaria, 1931 Exhibition Issue (H. M. Goodkind)	23
1931 Exhibition (J. L. Wacht, S. Amaral)	123-4
Canal Zone, 31c Air Mail Imperf Vertically (Lt. Col. J. T. DeVoss)	45
Catalog Reviews	60, 94, 126
Editorials	3, 51
France, RF Overprints (See UNITED STATES)	
Honduras, 1930 Provisional Issue (Irving I. Green)	5
1925 "Black", World's Rarest Air Stamp (Editorial)	51
INDEX of Vol. IV	31
Latvia, C4 a Fake	61, 96
Newfoundland, Fake "Alcock-Brown" cover (H. M. Goodkind)	55
"Alcock-Brown" cover faking (Sidney J. Harris)	122
New Guinea, 1932-34 Air Mail Issue	125
Obituary (Theodore E. Steinway)	29
United States, the Second Air Mail Stamp (Scott C2) (H. M. Goodkind)	35
RF Overprints (Parts I and II) (H. M. Goodkind)	67, 101
Uruguay, 1921 Blue Overprint (Philip Silver)	53
1921 Issue (Robert Hoffman, Dr. E. Hormaeche)	28
World's Rarest Air Mail Stamp (Editorial)	51

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



..... 19.....

AERO PHILATELISTS, INC.

22 EAST 35th STREET, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

I hereby apply for admission to membership in AERO PHILATELISTS. Annual dues of \$5.00 are remitted herewith and are to be returned to me if my application is not accepted.

NAME

ADDRESS

Street

.....
City, Town or Village

Zone

State

.....
OCCUPATION

SPECIALIZING IN

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

REFERENCES

Each applicant is requested to furnish two references preferably philatelic.

References:

1. NAME

ADDRESS

2. NAME

ADDRESS

EXTRACTS FROM BY-LAWS, ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP

Any person of good character interested in aero-philately, over the age of twenty-one, and who will be an asset to the Society, may become a member. Application for membership shall be in writing, and shall be accompanied by annual dues of \$5.00.

HARMER'S 1957-58 SEASON

We illustrate a few of the wonderful rarities which were sold by us this season.

Whether buying or selling properties, both large and small, it will pay you to contact us.



Scott #C1. Cat. \$2,200.00.
SOLD \$1,900.00



Scott #C5. Cat. \$2,800.00.
SOLD \$2,100.00

H. R. HARMER, Inc.

The "Caspary" Auctioneers

6 WEST 48th STREET

NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

Write for free illustrated catalogues of future attractive lots being offered through Harmer's Auctions.

And when you come to sell write for our booklet, "Modern Methods of Philatelic Auctioneering", explaining clearly all the advantages of selling through H. R. HARMER, Inc.



Scott #C4. Cat. \$15,000.00.
SOLD \$17,000.00



Scott #C12a. Cat. \$2,600.00.
SOLD \$3,400.00

SANABRIA has been synonymous with
THE VERY BEST IN AIRMAIL
for more than a quarter of a century.

Every collector and dealer active in any branch
of aerophilately sooner or later **MUST TURN** to
SANABRIA'S AIR POST CATALOGUE
for authoritative answers to many questions
not to be found elsewhere.

SANABRIA'S BLUE RIBBON NEW ISSUE SERVICE
IS UNEQUALED AS THE MOST RELIABLE SOURCE
OF EVERYTHING THAT APPEARS IN Air Stamps,
and economical too!

A magnificent stock of mint Air Stamps
is behind **SANABRIA'S WANT LIST SERVICE**
so popular with astute collectors who have
tried everything else.

NICOLAS SANABRIA CO., INC.

A. Medawar, Pres.

521 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.