

APOLOGY

The Secretary regrets very sincerely that it is now eleven months since the issue of the last Bulletin but there has been very little material to include.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

A meeting of the Study Circle was held on Saturday, 16th January, 1954, at 12, Avenue Mansions, London, N.W.3. There were present Mr. Wright (in the chair), Mrs. Green, Messrs. Compton, Creswell, Keach, Turner. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Green, Thrasher, Wood and Loader.

Major Corbisier de Meaultsart had very kindly sent a further batch of Congo covers and these were available for the members at the Meeting. A very hearty vote of thanks was extended to our honorary member for his continued kindness in sending us the covers which were so much appreciated by all.

The Secretary reported that General Jean Du Four had written saying that he would be in London early in May when he was giving a talk to the Croydon Society and if there was a convenient Study Circle Meeting he would very much like the opportunity of meeting other members of the Circle. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Study Circle should be arranged to suit General Du Four and that he should be invited to display part of his collection.

The Secretary reported he had application for membership from Mr. D.F. Thomson and Mr. E. Barstow Smith, and it was agreed that these two gentlemen should be invited to join.

A further auction sale was thought possible and it was agreed that the Secretary should arrange it. Any packet material could be circulated with the auction lots. The Secretary asked that any lots or packet material should be sent to him in the next four weeks.

There being no other formal business, Mr. Wright showed his 1886 - 1894 Portrait Issues. Apart from a walth of the high values there were many complete panes and sheets. The method of assembly of the plates from cliches of 10 was apparent. Many interesting and rare varieties of the "Colis Postaux" overprint were included also a variety of essays some apparently being remainders of the "Grosse Barbe" Issue that they thought might be overprinted "Congo Belge" and used after the Independent State became a colony.

At the close of the meeting the sincere thanks of those present was expressed to Mrs. Green for her continued kindness in allowing the use of the flat for the meeting and for the generous hospitality that she provided.

A meeting was held at 12, Avenue Mansions, on Saturday, 1st May, there being present Mrs. Green, General Du Four and Messrs. Compton, Creswell, Loader, Thomson, Turner, Wood and Keach. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Green, Thrasher and Wright. Although a Member of the Study Circle from its beginning, General Du Four had not previously attended a meeting and he was very warmly welcomed. He brought with him part of his magnificent collection to display to the Circle.

The principal part of General Du Four's display illustrated the technical history of the Mols and Van Engelen Issues from the original design through the dies, transfer rollers, and plates with their subsequent re-entering and retouching. It is not possible adequately to summarise the General's splendid address but amongst the treasures displayed were the original pictures in water-colour, normal stamp size, of the 1894 Issue, all beautiful little pictures, die proofs of the 1894 Issue, examples of the 10 centimes of 1895 with centre inverted, mint and on cover, one of the eight known examples of the 10 francs of 1898 with centre inverted, the only known complete sheet of 10 centimes of 1915 with Type II centre, complete sheets of the 5 francs of 1894, of the 5 francs with typographed "Congo Belgo" overprint and of the 5 francs from the Princes Printing.

General Du Four showed also a selection of sheets tracing the postal history of the Congo from pre-adhesive covers, Inland and Homeward Labels, on and off cover, and a wonderful array of rare and unusual cancellations. In addition there were blocks of the high values of the portrait issues in superb condition. It was a meeting that will remain long in the memory of those who had the privilege of attending.

At the close of the meeting the gratitude of those present was expressed to Mrs. Green for once again allowing the Circle the use of her flat.

On Saturday, 24th July, the Study Circle met at the Sheiling, Forest Road, East Horsley, Surrey, there being present Mr. Compton in the chair and Messrs. Creswell, Green, Loader, Thomson, Wright and Keach.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Green and Messrs. Thrasher and Wood. The Secretary stated that M. Jacques Du Four had taken over joint editorship of "Le Revue Postale" and had offered to the Circle the magazine at a reduced subscription of 2/-d per annum provided that substantially all members of the Circle agreed to participate. Certain of the members not present at the meeting had already confirmed their agreement to this arrangement and this was supported by those present.

Displays of stamps were then given by all present, Mr. Compton's being a miscellaneous selection of cancellations including many choice Paquebots and a number of fakes and forgeries. Mr. Wright followed with a dozen sheets of stamps with the typographed "Congo Belge" overprint including many outstandingly good fakes with the usual characteristics of the overprint but all $16\frac{3}{4}$ mms. long and in blocks and strips in this condition and indeed, apparently genuinely used on cover. He included also an imperforate block of the $3\frac{1}{2}$ francs Princes Printing and a nearly complete sheet of the 15 centimes Princes Printing.

Mr. Creswell showed stamps of the 1915 Issue bearing the large 15 and 30 surcharges used on the postal stationery in 1922. The stamps were cancelled with the usual circular date stamp but are probably unofficial overprints; in addition, there were inverted and double surcharges of the Elisabethville overprint of 1923. Mr. Keach showed a study of the 25 centimes booklet stamp of 1915.

Mr. Loader presented an interesting selection of war-time Congo and Ruanda provisionals with many of the surcharge varieties, double, inverted and displaced, including a block of the 2 fr. 50 on 2 fr. 40 Ruanda with the surcharge very much askew resulting in one stamp having no overprint at all.

Mr. Thomson showed a number of complete sheets of the 1896 and 1900 Issues, all in immaculate condition, and a special card issued at the Kivu Festival Exhibition. Mr. Green concluded the series of displays with a practically complete collection of the Mols Issues all with taxes overprints, all types being represented.

EXTRACTS FROM CONGO ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN

Mr. Heim has sent a further series of extracts from the above Bulletin giving information on new and existing post offices in the Congo.

21st May, 1953	Kabungu, new subsidiary P.O., District Nord-Kivu, Province of Kivu, attached to the principal P.O. of Bukavu.
26th May, 1953	Katako-Kombe, promoted to subsidiary P.O., District of Sankuru, Province of Kasai, still attached to Lodja.
3rd August, 1953	Bokungu, promoted to subsidiary P.O., District of Tshuapa, Province of Equateur, still attached to Boende.
21st September, 1953	Kiri, new subsidiary P.O., District Lac Leopold II, Province of Leopoldville, attached to Inongo.
1st October, 1953	Oshwe, promoted to subsidiary P.O., District of Lac Leopold II, Province of Leopoldville, still attached to Banningville.
19th October, 1953	Basongo, closed.
2nd November, 1953	Kaniama, new subsidiary P.O., District of Haut-Lomani, Province of Katanga, attached to Kamina.
5th November, 1953	Banga Tshela, promoted to principal P.O.
10th November, 1953	Kamina Base Militaire I, promoted to principal P.O.
16th November, 1953	Kamina Base Militaire II, new subsidiary P.O. attached to Kamina Base Militaire I.
1st December, 1953	Moanda, new subsidiary P.O., District of Bas-Congo, attached to Banana.
1st January, 1954	Bambesa, new auxiliary P.O., District of Uele, Province Orientale, attached to Buta.
1st January, 1954	Kole, new auxiliary P.O., District of Stanleyville, Province Orientale, attached to Buta.
1st January, 1954	Ndu, new auxiliary P.O., District of Uele, Province Orientale, attached to Aketi.
2nd January, 1954	Bulungu, new auxiliary P.O., District of Kwango, Province of Leopoldville, attached to Kikwit.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1st April, 1954 | Ligasa, new auxiliary P.O., District of Stanleyville, Province Orientale attached to Basoko. |
| 1st April, 1954 | Kirundu, new auxiliary P.O., District of Stanleyville, Province Orientale, attached to Stanleyville 1. |
| 1st April, 1954 | Geti, new auxiliary P.O., District of Kibali-Ituri, Province Orientale, attached to Bunia. |

THE 1 FRANC VALUE OF 1894

For some time the writer has been endeavouring to reconstruct plates of the 1 franc violet and 1 franc carmine of the 1894 - 1908 Issues using J. Crustin's book "Etat Independant du Congo, Le Timbre a 1 fr. de 1894". The plate positions of many of the stamps are clearly indicated in the book but on others the book shows scratches which are not constant over all the printings and many of the "doubles frappes", particularly those at the top righthand corner, are far from prominent and are very similar on many of the stamps. However, Mr. Wright kindly lent the writer his complete sheet of the stamps in the violet shade and from that he was able to make considerable headway and has produced a fairly complete list of plate varieties for recognising both violet and carmine stamps and a copy of this is attached. In the descriptions of the stamps in the violet shade with the exception of Nos. 19 and 37 the constancy of the varieties in the complete sheets has been confirmed either by another stamp in violet or carmine or by Crustin's description.

In the case of the carmine stamp the descriptions are from observations of single stamps and are made by comparison with their violet equivalents.

The descriptions are mostly verbal, the locations of the varieties being indicated on the attached photographic copy of the stamp, and it is necessary for reference to be made to Crustin's book.

Any member who can fill gaps in the tabulations is earnestly requested to do so.

ADDITIONS TO BALASSE CATALOGUE (FROM BALASSE MAGAZINE)

3	Strip of three, used	1,250
GP2N3	Used	15,000
27C1	Imperf. between, Mint	7,000
95C1	Imperf. between, used	3,000
97C1	Imperf. margin, used	2,000
104C3	Surcharge double, used	1,000
105C3	ditto used	1,000
225C2	Surcharge displaced, Mint	400
226E1	Horizontal line instead of cross in surcharge	7,500
227C2	Surcharge displaced	400
238C2	Imperf. horizontally, Mint or used	1,500
R11V7	Mint	2,500
R29S1	"OCCUPATION", type B, Mint	400
R115C2	Surcharge displaced (?)	500
R121C2	Surcharge displaced	600

(The above information on 121C2 appeared in Balasse Magazine No. 92; in Magazine No. 96 the addition occurred again but this time the price was 1,500 mint or used).

Bulletin No. 12

November, 1954

RECENT AUCTION REALISATIONS

Harmer, 5th July, Balasse 5M and well centred £12; 15, M strip of 3, £38.

Harmer, 12th July, 72-80 and R36-44M, £6; 209-230, M blocks of 4, £4; Message Sheets £6; Ruanda 122-5M £2.10. 0.

EXTRACTS FROM PERIODICALS

Balasse Magazine No. 96

Emission dite "du General Tombeur", Timbres du Congo Belge surcharges RUANDA ou URUNDI - J. van Bleyenbergh.

The author describes postal stationery and also covers bearing adhesives with the "Ruanda" or "Urundi" overprints and asks for knowledge of other such stationery and covers in used condition. From those that he has seen the author claims that they were all overprinted by the two rubber stamps used by the field post office.

La Revue Postale - Nos. 2 and 4

Les Conquetes Belges dans l'est Africain Allemand 1916 - 1917 - General Jean Du Four.

The writer gives a short history of the East African Campaign and then begins to list the postal markings including Usumbura, Kigali, Kitega, Kissenyi, Kigoma, Udjidji, Karema and Tabora.

Le Philatliste Belge - No. 69

Les Timbres du Congo Belge (contd.) - Dr. H. Avidon.

This series of articles continues with the "Grosse Barbe" issues of 1887 - 94, listing the various shades and probable numbers printed. Mention is also made to the relative scarcity of some values in blocks and on cover.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at Cedar Lodge, Uplands, Ashtead, on Saturday, December 11th. Members attending are asked to bring with them twelve album sheets to display to the other members.

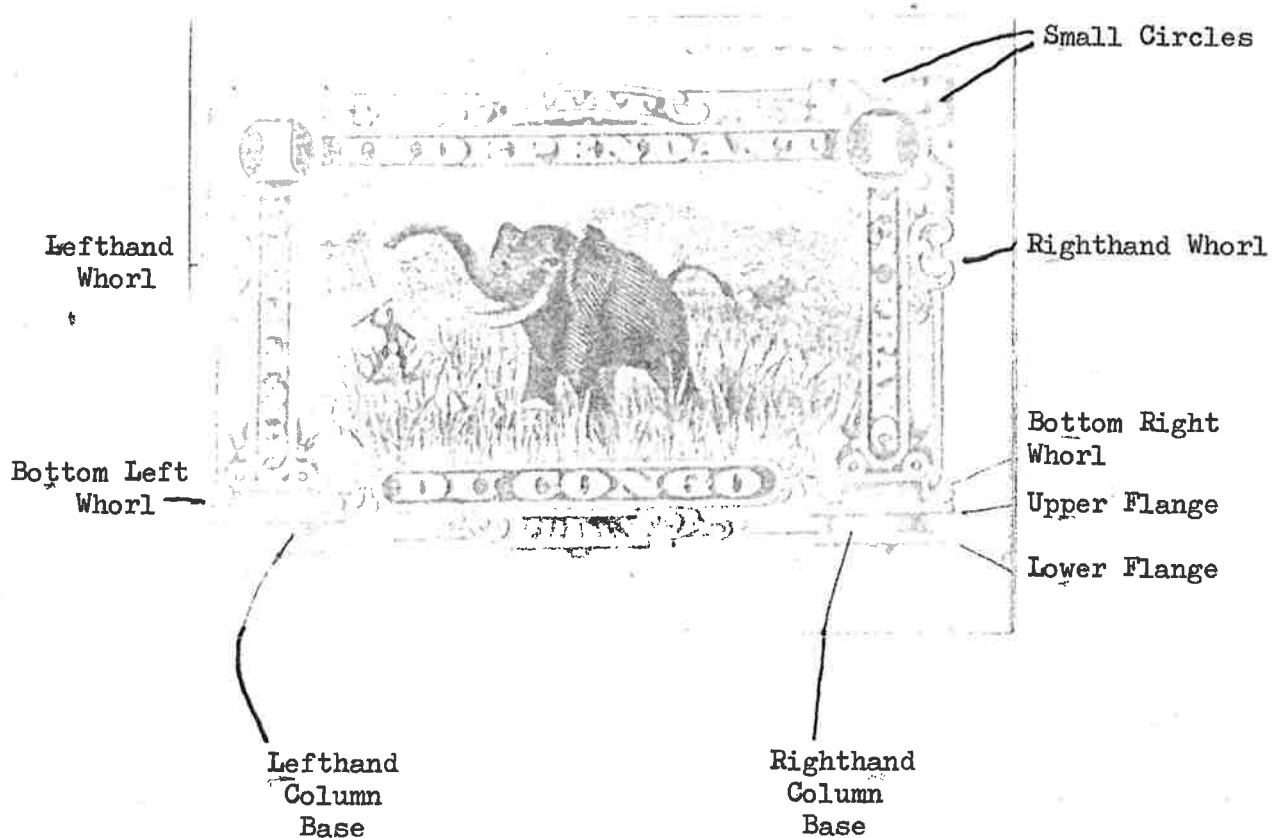
NOTES ON THE PLATING OF THE 1 FRANC - 1894 - 1900

Many of the plate scratches on the violet and carmine stamps are not found in all printings although there is no indication of this in M.J. Crustin's book on the plating of this stamp. In general centre plate guide lines, scratches and other blemishes present in the original violet printings are missing from the later carmine printings and one can presume that these blemishes had been burnished out; a few additional centre plate scratches appeared during the carmine printings. On the other hand original frame plate scratches remained during later printings and additional ones appeared.

Except where stated to the contrary, varieties are in the frame plate in violet or carmine.

It must be pointed out that particularly under the headings "Violet" and "Carmine" not all the blemishes and, in many cases, not the most prominent ones, are described, but only those thought to be most useful in recognising the plate position.

R.H.K.



<u>No.</u>	<u>Violet</u>	<u>Carmine</u>	<u>Crustin</u>
1	Spears doubled	As violet	As violet.
2	Nearly vertical frame plate scratch in lefthand whorl.	Very faint scratch.	As violet.
3	Thickening of bottom frame line; doubling of whorl under "NGO"; doubling of righthand whorl; doubling of righthand vertical frame lines; vertical centre plate guide line to right of "NGO".	As violet but no centre plate guide line.	Bottom frame line only and this by no means correct.
4	Faint doubling of the lefthand 1; doubling of shading above "IND"; two nearly horizontal parallel scratches in margin above "ANT"; three centre plate dots in lefthand column base.	As violet but no frame plate scratches nor centre plate dots.	Doubling and parallel scratches.
5	Doubling of line above "AT".	As violet.	As violet but doubling line is shown too high.
6	Bottom frame line doubled (quite unique).	As violet.	As violet.
7	Clear doubling of bottom frame line especially at right and no doubling of ring around righthand 1; horizontal black guide line in margin below D of "DU".	As violet but no centre plate guide lines.	As violet.
8	Nearly horizontal scratch in the bottom flange or righthand column base.	As violet but with horizontal centre plate scratches below the righthand column base.	As carmine.
9	Coloured dot in white circle around the righthand 1 to the left of top of the figure.	As violet.	Doubling of righthand frame lines.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Violet</u>	<u>Carmine</u>	<u>Crustin</u>
10	Dot in A of lefthand "FRANC" to the right of the horizontal bar.	As violet but with very faint centre plate diagonal scratch in the bottom of the lefthand margin.	Doubling at righthand side of the frame; centre plate scratch as carmine.
11	Bottom frame line doubled at the centre and on the righthand side; the vertical lines on the left of the lefthand column base are doubled (compare with Nos. 6, 12 & 29); the whorl below O of "CONGO" is doubled downwards at the very bottom but there is no doubling of the part of the whorl inside the bottom frame line and this serves to distinguish the stamp from Nos. 6, 12 & 29.	As violet.	Doubling of bottom frame lines; two fine black scratches.
12	Bottom frame line slightly doubled at right; lefthand column base doubled as on Nos. 11; whorl below O of "CONGO" doubled internally (c.f. No. 11).	As violet.	Doubling of bottom frame line.
13	Dot in upper margin $\frac{3}{4}$ mm above top frame line immediately above first D of "INDEPENDANT".	As violet.	Doubling of bottom at righthand side.
14	Vertical frame lines to right of righthand "UN FRANC" clearly doubled (also thus on Nos. 3 & 9 q.v.)	As violet.	Doubling of righthand frame line; horizontal black guide line through ETAT.
15	Horizontal doubling of righthand side of the circle around righthand 1 (not very pronounced); whorl below G of "CONGO" doubled and very little else.	As violet but doubling of whorl not so pronounced; long nearly vertical black scratches in the righthand margin extending from "F" to "G".	Doubling of righthand side and black vertical scratches as carmine.
16	Small mark (doubling) in the bottom of the lefthand whorl.	Mark in lefthand whorl as violet; series of very pronounced dots in the bottom righthand margin; nearly vertical black scratch at the bottom of the lefthand margin.	Doubling of righthand side and bottom; dots and black scratches as carmine.

No.	Violet	Carmine	Crustin
17	Horizontal scratch in the bow of the first D of "INDEPENDANT"; left-hand vertical line of centre part of left-hand column base missing.	As violet.	Doubling of righthand side and bottom.
18	Nearly horizontal scratch in middle part of righthand column base; mass of black dots below elephant's trunk.	Scratch in righthand column base as violet.	Slight doubling around righthand 1.
19	Faint frame plate dot to left of small circle to the south west of left-hand 1; faint mark at the top of the left-hand vertical limb of the first N of "INDEPENDANT". (Not confirmed).	As violet.	Light outward doubling of left vertical lines of left-hand column base flanges.
20	Upper left part of left-hand 1 doubled internally.	As violet.	As violet; righthand frame partly doubled.
21	Very light but quite clear doubling of lower line of top flange of righthand column base; upper part of whorl below NG of "CONGO" with horizontal lines doubled; black dot at centre height between righthand frame lines.	As violet but without black dot.	Doubling of part of righthand frame; frame plate scratches in top and bottom margins and in righthand margin.
22	Nearly vertical scratches above left-hand end of bottom left-hand whorl.	Vertical black guide line very faint, but visible in elephant's back.	Partial doubling of righthand side; frame plate scratches in righthand margin; black scratch in bottom margin,
23	Vertical black guide line from summit of mountain down to elephant's back.	Vertical black guide line very faint, but visible in elephant's back.	Vertical guide line as violet; doubling of north east and south east corners.
24	Vertical black guide line above centre part of elephant's tail; small white circles below second O of lower "CONGO" clearly doubled (also on Nos. 5, 14 & 15).	Circles doubled as violet	Righthand 1 partly doubled; four very faint nearly vertical frame plate scratches in righthand margin.

No.

Violet

Carmine

Crustin

25 Small circle above righthand 1 clearly doubled to left (not unique); very slightly doubling to left of right side of outer circle around righthand 1; vertical black guide line through lefthand 'UN' (not unique).

26 North east part of outer circle around righthand 1 doubled internally for length of 1 mm. (see No.31); black dots below trunk of elephant (present in various positions in many stamps).

27 Nearly vertical frame plate scratch in righthand margin to right of 'NC' and 1 mm. to ^{right of} righthand frame line.

28 Oblique scratches in upper flange of righthand column base.

29 Lefthand vertical lines of upper and lower flanges of middle of lefthand column base clearly doubled (also on No.6 - only stamps with lefthand frame line on middle parts doubled).

30 Small circle above righthand 1 clearly doubled to left (not unique); two black dots in righthand column base.

31 Very clear doubling for length of 1 mm. at north east of outer circle around righthand 1 (as No.26 but more pronounced).

Doubling of north east frame; short vertical black line upwards from the summit of the mountain.

Doubling of north east corner (much exaggerated) fine horizontal frame plate scratch to the right of the centre part of the righthand column base.

Scratch as violet; doubling of north east corner and bottom frame line.

Scratches in righthand column base as violet; oblique (NE/SW) frame plate scratch through U of 'DU' finishing on stamp No.33.

Righthand 1 doubled. Two black scratches in righthand margin to right of R of 'FRANC'.

Black dot at summit of mountain; doubling in north east corner (very grossly exaggerated).

Partial doubling of north east corner; dark spot at the top of the mountain.

As violet.

Doubling of dot above righthand 1 as violet; one black dot in righthand column base (probably unique).

As violet

No.	Violet	Carmine	Crustin
32	Nearly vertical frame plate scratch in righthand margin at north east corner 0.2 mm. from righthand frame line; parallel and nearly vertical scratches to right of top of N of righthand "FRANC" $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to right of the top of this letter.		Scratches as violet; doubling of north east corner; black dot in the mountain.
33	Multitude of nearly horizontal frame plate scratches in margin below "CONGO".	As violet.	As violet; diagonal frame plate scratch in top margin on No. 28 (q.v.).
34	Internal doubling of bottom right corner of lefthand 1; centre plate mark (doubling) in centre of lefthand 1.	As violet.	As violet; diagonal frame plate scratch in the south east corner extending to No. 39.
35	Top frame lines doubled.	As violet.	As violet.
36	Righthand column base with horizontal lines slightly doubled; outer circle around righthand 1 partly doubled internally for 2 mm. in north east; black dot 0.2 mm. to right of end of elephant's trunk.	Doubling of righthand column base and circle around righthand 1 as violet.	As carmine.
37	Doubling of north east of circle around righthand 1; vertical frame plate guide line in righthand margin to right of small circle to south east of righthand 1; diagonal mark from south east point of righthand whorl obliquely. (not confirmed).		Doubling in north east corner; vertical black guide line to left of I of "INDEPENDANT".
38	A nearly horizontal scratch in margin above "ENDAN" and very close to top frame line; south east corner doubled (doubling of bottom frame line only $\frac{1}{2}$ mm long).	As violet but with vertical plate setting line in south east corner.	As carmine.

No.

Violet

- 39 Faint horizontal scratch in margin below G of "CONGO", 1.3 mm. below bottom frame line; two faint scratches rising nearly vertically from bottom right whorl.
- 40 Very faint nearly horizontal scratches in north west corner $\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above top frame line; vertical black guide lines to left of I of "INDEPENDANT" (not present on complete sheet).

Carmine

Crustin

Doubling of righthand inner frame line (not seen on complete sheet)
Diagonal scratch in north east corner from No.34 (q.v.).

Vertical guide line through I of "INDEPENDANT"; nearly horizontal centre plate scratch in north west corner continuing from No.39 (q.v.).

- 41 Bottom frame lines very clearly doubled; circle around righthand 1 doubled internally for $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in north east.

As violet.

- 42 Bottom frame line very clearly doubled and north east and south east parts of circles around righthand 1; dot in I of "INDEPENDANT".

As violet.

Doubling of bottom and righthand side.

- 43 Long nearly vertical scratches outside righthand frame line covering the whole length of "FRANC".

As violet but with vertical plate setting line in north east corner.

As carmine and some doubling in north east corner.

- 44 The horizontal line to the north east of and 1 mm above the top of the T of "INDEPENDANT" doubled upwards (this line is doubled downwards on Nos. 36 & 42).

As violet.

Doubling in north east corner; nearly vertical scratch upwards from bottom righthand whorl (practically invisible on stamps seen)

- 45 Nearly vertical scratch between righthand frame lines cutting outer line above R and inner line above N.

As violet but with oblique (NE/SW) scratch through upper part of righthand whorl.

Scratch through whorl only.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Violet</u>	<u>Carmine</u>	<u>Crustin</u>
46	Horizontal line doubling internally the righthand leg of the N of lefthand "FRANC" (unique).	As violet.	Partial doubling of north east corner.
47	T of "INDEPENDANT" partly doubled (also on 46, 48, 49 & 50) but righthand outer frame line doubled internally.	As violet and with three short nearly horizontal black scratches below lefthand column base.	Partial doubling of north east corner; black scratches below lefthand column base.
48	Very faint nearly horizontal scratch above the first ND of "INDEPENDANT" $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. above top frame line; black dot in F of righthand "FRANC" (probably not unique).	Scratch above ND of "INDEPENDANT" only.	As carmine and with partial doubling of north east corner.
49	Most pronounced doubling of vertical lines in the righthand side of the frame (see Balasse).	As violet.	As violet.
50	All letters of "ETAT" and "INDEPENDANT" doubled; scratch from lefthand side of righthand column base for $2\frac{1}{4}$ mm. in a west, south westerly direction.	As violet.	Scratch as violet; doubling of lefthand frame line.