



FAKES FORGERIES EXPERTS

SAINT-PIERRE ET MIQUELON: THE NUMBER ONE

Le N°1 de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon



Born in the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, Jean-Jacques Tillard developed an interest in stamps of his home islands. In 1986, Jean-Jacques participated in the activities of the Philatelic Commission. Six years later he became President of the local philatelic society.

He has published four reference books, and inaugurated a business specializing in expertise of the philately of SPM. In 2004, he connected with the duo of "Dallay" catalogue fame and collaborated with them in the production of the section dedicated to St. Pierre and Miquelon. He also participated in many conferences at various exhibitions in Canada and the United States of America.

Has participated in many International Stamp Exhibitions since 2007, and won 9 FIP Gold awards. Was accepted into the European Academy of Philately in 2008. Organised the great exhibiting show in St-Pierre "SPM EXPO 2011" with 4 FIP judges in 2011.

His daughter, Livie-Laure, has inherited his passion for philately. She has already exhibited at an international level, and has won the top award in the youth category at the world philatelic exhibition in London 2010.

The two-centimes stamp in the perforated 'Alphée Dubois' type of the General Issues for the Colonies (Yvert 47) was given two different hand-struck surcharges in black for use in SPM at the start of 1885. One provided the figure of value "5" and the other the letters "S P M". These surcharges were carried out using a wooden cachet for the figure of value but a composing stick (movable cachet) for the letters. These surcharges are always found inverted. Depending on the pressure used in applying these cachets, the spacing of the letters S P M can sometimes vary slightly.

This value alteration was intended to overcome the shortage of 5c stamps needed for the franking of a letter, an invoice or a printed-matter item sent locally (within each island).

At least three printings were carried out: the first dates from 7 January 1885 (not 3 January as several catalogues indicate); the second was towards the end of January; the third was on 9 March.

One printing (Fig. 1) produced thickened strikes and a greyish black colour; the other two printings (Fig. 2), however, gave improved strikes, well inked and thus of a deeper black.



Fig. 1 Genuine - thickened strikes and greyish-black color.

Les timbres-poste des Colonies générales, dentelés au type "Alphée Dubois" à 2 centimes de couleur lilas-brun, reçurent deux différentes frappes manuelles de couleur noire en ce début d'année 1885 : Ces surcharges étaient réalisées par un cachet en bois pour le chiffre et par un composteur (cachet amovible) pour les lettres, elles se retrouvèrent renversées sur la totalité des exemplaires. Selon la pression exercée sur les cachets, l'écartement des lettres S P M pouvait parfois légèrement varier.

Cette transformation permet de combler la pénurie de timbres à 5c prévus pour l'affranchissement d'un pli, d'une facture et d'un imprimé adressés localement (à l'intérieur de chaque île).

Au moins trois tirages furent réalisés; le premier en date du 7 janvier (et non du 3 comme le signalent plusieurs catalogues), le second vers la fin du mois de janvier, le troisième le 9 mars.

L'un des tirages présente des frappes empâtées et de couleur gris-noir, les deux autres affichent une surcharge plus nette, bien encrée, donc plus noire.

Fig. 1 Authentique - frappes empâtées de couleur gris-noir.



Fig.2 Genuine - improved strikes well inked and deeper black.

The end of the circle of the "5" as it curves back is modestly extended towards the exterior. The lower part of the "5" forms a perfect circle. These details can in this way alert beginners.

Size of the figure "5" : 8.5 mm;

Size of the strike "S P M": 13 - 13.5 mm.

The varieties of the surcharges are extremely rare on this number 1. The most well-known variety is the double strike of "S P M" tête-bêche (Fig 3) where the strike of the second "S P M" has been applied later - that is to say, a second surcharge has been struck on an example with the thickened strikes printing (probably at the request of a collector). One can see the difference in the shade of the inks in the "S P M" at the blackest part of the strike.



Fig.3 Genuine: a rarity of French colonials.

Fig.2 Authentique - frappes nettes bien encrées et plus noires.

L'extrémité de la boucle du "5" qui remonte est légèrement décalée vers l'extérieur. La partie inférieure du 5 montre un cercle parfait. Ces détails peuvent déjà alerter les néophytes. Dimension du chiffre "5": 8,5mm. Dimension de la frappe "S P M": 13 à 13,5mm.

Les variétés de surcharges sont extrêmement rares sur le n° 1. La variété la plus réputée demeure la double frappe "S P M" tête-bêche car le second "S P M" apposé à l'endroit provient d'un autre tirage; c'est-à-dire qu'on a apposé une autre surcharge plus tard (probablement à la demande d'un collectionneur). On peut apercevoir la différence de nuance des encres avec le "S P M" à l'endroit qui est plus noir.

Fig.3 Authentique, Rareté des colonies françaises.

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On 24 November 1885, a fresh supply of the 2 centimes reached the archipelago. Moreover, it was no longer a 2c brown-lilac but a 2c brown. However, two examples are known of this 2c brown with the genuine surcharge. These strikes of the surcharge were evidently carried out at a later date at the request of a philatelist. Many dealers and collectors thought that these stamps were forgeries.

In fact, these two examples are now characterized as "reimpressions".

It should be noted that on these two examples the "P" of "S P M" stands slightly higher than the other two letters. This observation, as well as that of the size of the "S P M" surcharge, which can vary by a half millimeter, prove that the cachet used is probably a composing stick (movable cachet).



Fig.4 Genuine, reimpression.

Le 24 novembre 1885, une nouvelle commande du 2 centimes arriva sur l'archipel. En revanche, il ne s'agissait plus du lilas-brun mais du 2 centimes de couleur brun.

Or, il existe deux exemplaires connus du 2 centimes brun avec la surcharge authentique.

Ces frappes ont donc été réalisées après cette date à la demande d'un philatéliste. Plusieurs marchands et collectionneurs pensaient que ces timbres étaient faux.

Ces timbres sont désormais répertoriés comme des "réimpressions".

A noter que sur les deux exemplaires connus, le "P" de "S P M" est légèrement plus haut. Cette observation, ainsi que celle constatée sur la dimension de la surcharge "S P M" qui pouvait varier d'un demi-millimètre, prouvent que le cachet utilisé est probablement un composeur (cachet amovible).

Fig.4 Authentique, réimpression.



Fig.5a Genuine.



Fig.5b Forgery.

Fig.5a Authentique. Fig.5b Faux.



Fig.6 Forged surcharge here. The surcharge is too sharp and black, with a different ink.

Fig.6 Fausse surcharge "à l'endroit"
Surcharge trop nette et noire, encre différente.



Fig.7 Amazing strip, showing different types of surcharge. The surcharges are obviously bogus.

Fig.7 Surprenante bande montrant
différentes variétés de surcharges.
Surcharges évidemment fausses.