

ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON: Colonial Series through First Pictorial

Philatelic Significance

The island group of St. Pierre and Miquelon is the last French territory in North America. The vast French Empire in North America had included Acadia (lost in 1710), Quebec (lost in 1759), Louisiana (sold in 1804) and the French Shore of Newfoundland (ceded in 1904). St. Pierre and Miquelon was for 450 years, except for brief periods of British occupation, a strategic French colonial outpost and commercial center. St. Pierre was the base for the French deep-sea fishing fleet and French fishermen in Newfoundland. St. Pierre postal connections were with Nova Scotia, North Sydney in summer and Halifax in winter. The best current philatelic reference for St. Pierre is the latest Maury (2010-2011).

Treatment

A rare very early **1835 folded letter** from St. Pierre to the French port of St. Malo is mounted on the title page. This traditional exhibit plan, in chronological order, is in eleven chapters starting with stampless forerunners, with use of French Colonies general issues identified from St. Pierre-Miquelon postmarks on stamps or from markings on covers, the 1885-1891 overprinted French Colonies stamps with the colony name or SPM initials, the 1891 'Tablet' issue inscribed with the colony name and in 1906 the first pictorial extended series. The exhibit has a timely conclusion with several 1931 die and plate proofs heralding the replacement of the first pictorial issue with a new set the following year.

Philatelic Knowledge, Personal Study & Research

The exhibitor for several decades was editor and contributor to the *St. Pierre & Miquelon Philatelic Journal*. Personal studies by the exhibitor are indicated with a magnifying glass icon.

The research is published in popular journal articles and books listed below.



- Taylor, James R., 2019, *St. Pierre & Miquelon - the 1891 'non-émis' trial. The Overprints on the 1f imperforate Sage stamp*, FFE Fakes, Forgeries & Experts Journal, v. 20.
- Taylor, James R., 2016, *St. Pierre & Miquelon: 1891 "ST-PIERRE M - on" Overprints*, London Philatelist, v. 124, n.1431, December, p. 468-474.
- Taylor, James R., and Slabbinck, Henk, 2014, *Mail from the French Shore of Newfoundland*, FriesenPress, Victoria, BC, Canada, 128 p.
- Taylor, James R., 2012, *St. Pierre and Miquelon Postal Markings 1854-1864*, London Philatelist, May, v.121, p.144-148.
- Taylor, James R., 1999, *The St. Pierre & Miquelon Specialized Stamp Catalog*, Penny Black Publishing, Calgary, Canada, 193 p.

Rarity

Scarce and rare items are outlined in red. Particularly important philatelic gems are listed below with their location specified by frame and page number. The unique, UPU example St. Pierre-Miquelon stamps from the Madagascar archive are too numerous to identify each one with a red outline.

Highlights of the Exhibit

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| Frame 1, page 2 | 1849 rare folded letter from St. Pierre via Sydney, Cape Breton, and Halifax to France |
| Frame 1, page 6 | Only about a dozen covers are known with the 7 x 7 lozenge of dots cancel. The rare 10c + 40c = 50c franking tariff of January 1, 1857. |
| Frame 1, page 10 | Pre-UPU use of Canadian stamps at St. Pierre-Miquelon. Only a few covers known with Canada small queen franking. |
| Frame 2, page 4 | '5' (always inverted) on 2c brown and the two '25's with 'SPM' on 1fr green are rarities |
| Frame 2, page 11 | Three rare covers show usage of the 1886 'PD' primitive labels used at St. Pierre. Fewer than ten covers reported of this issue. |
| Frame 2, page 12,14 | Essays of the 'ST - PIERRE M - on' overprint on the 1f imperforate 'Sage' stamp. 10 reported for type A and 3 reported for type B (Maury 31) |
| Frame 3, pages 4-5 | Blocks of four of the Plate proofs of 13-values of the 'Tablet' set, specially printed in 1900 on card paper, imperforate. |
| Frame 3, page 13-14 | An oversized unique 1914 parcel wrapper, franked with multiple 'Peace and Navigation' stamps. |
| Frame 4, page 3 | Unique Portuguese UPU Colonial Specimen "Ultramar" marking from the Portuguese Goa archive. |
| Frame 4, page 11 | 1931 picture postcard carried on the return airplane flight by Charles Roy from St. Pierre to Sydney. One of only two covers flown |
| Frame 5, page 11 | UPU unique example stamps of St. Pierre-Miquelon from the Madagascar archive. [shown with the issued stamps and covers]. |
| Frame 6, page 2, 4, 10; Frame 7, page 14-15; Frame 8, page 5 | UPU unique example stamps of St. Pierre-Miquelon continued |
| Frame 7, page 5 | Stamp shortage of 1926, the PP 05 ST PIERRE rare type, only used on May 6 th , 1926. |
| Frame 8, page 12 | Die proofs of Second Pictorial vertical design |

Presentation

Double pages are employed for displaying an important oversized 1914 parcel wrapper and large consular mail covers. Line-diagrams illustrate early postmarks that identify use at St. Pierre-Miquelon of French Colonies general issues (stamps of France imperforate, and the 1881 perforated Dubois series). A sketch of the 'LACROIX FRÈRES' paper maker's watermark appears beside the rare watermarked 5c Cèrès imperforate issue. The 'broken plate' variety of the 'Sage' imperforate general issue is illustrated with two diagrams. Several maps orient the viewer to historical events and mail routes.

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Philatelic additions (among other items) to the previous showing of the exhibit

