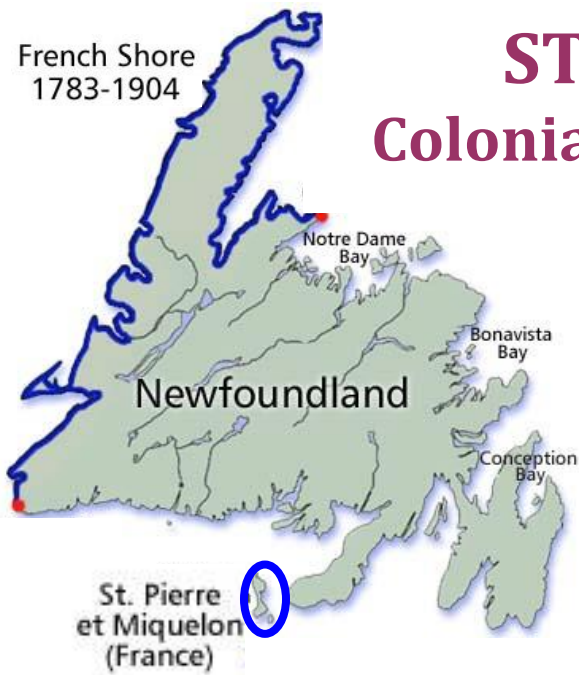


French Shore  
1783-1904





# ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON


## Colonial Series through First Pictorial


**Geography:** St. Pierre & Miquelon served as a commercial and administrative center for French Newfoundland, which included the French Shore of the island of Newfoundland until this concession was ceded to the British in the 1904 *Entente Cordiale*.

### Exhibit Legend:

 = Important items, rare stamps, multiples, errors, rare proofs, and exceptional covers

 = Expert photo certificate inserted behind the page

 = Expert signature is on the back of the item

 = Original research  
(article published by the exhibitor)

**Purpose:** This traditional exhibit studies the stamps issued and their usage at the French North American Colony of St. Pierre & Miquelon. Forerunner pre-stamp folded letter sheets are shown. Stamps were introduced in 1859 and became compulsory to prepay postage in 1862.

**Treatment:** Organized chronologically, the exhibit follows the evolution from the early stampless pre-post office era, the inception of the Post Office in 1849 and the introduction of the "Imperial Eagle" stamps in 1859. The various French Colonial imperforate stamp series, Napoleon III, Cérès, Sage and Taxe designs of metropolitan France, are shown postmarked at St. Pierre & Miquelon. The perforated Colonial types appeared in 1881. Stamp shortages in 1885-1891 prompted surcharges and crude makeshift labels. Stamps inscribed "St. Pierre et Miquelon" appeared in 1891. The first pictorial set appeared in 1909 with colour, value, overprint and rate changes over 23 years. The first pictorials conclude with a showing of the pre-production colour trials and proofs of the successor second pictorial series, then in preparation.

**Research / knowledge:** The exhibitor has added to the sparse available literature and shared original research in several published books and scholarly articles 1995-2019. Several complex stamp formats and unusual stamp usage routes are illustrated with line drawings and maps in the exhibit.

**Significance:** St. Pierre & Miquelon (a French territory to the present day), along with the landing and fishing concession of the French Shore (ceded by treaty to the British in 1904), for two centuries was a rich, industrial scale, fisheries resource that supplied codfish to the dinner tables of western Europe and the French West Indies. This important trade worked two ways. Cane sugar, molasses and rum arrived from the West Indies and manufactured goods from France and America. From 1917 to 1932 a lucrative trade, transshipping contraband alcoholic beverages to the Eastern Seaboard of the United States, flourished during prohibition.

**Excitement/ Drama:** The various stamp series of the French General issue can only be recognised as used at the colony of St. Pierre & Miquelon by the postmarks on single stamps and the markings and routes revealed on covers. The exhibitor has chosen to increase the level of difficulty by showing these General issue single stamps with the hard to assemble legible St. Pierre & Miquelon postmarks.

### Plan

#### Chapter

1. Pre-philately - Stampless folded letter sheets
2. French Colonies general issues postmarked St. Pierre & Miquelon in 1859-1891
3. French Colonies general issues surcharged 1885-1891
4. 1891 Stamps of French Colonies general issue overprinted diagonally "ST-PIERRE M - on"
5. Navigation & Commerce 'Tablet' Series of 1891- 1909, Color changes, Consular mail
6. First Pictorial Issues (I) 1909
7. Navigation & Commerce Surcharges 1912
8. First Pictorial Issue (II) 1915 Extended Series, New values / Colours / Overprints /
9. Stamp Shortage of 1926
10. First Pictorial Issue (III) 1926-1932 Extended Series, New values / Colours /Overprints/ Provisional Postage Dues/ Commemoratives
11. Second Pictorial issue in preparation in 1931/ pre-production die and plate proofs.