

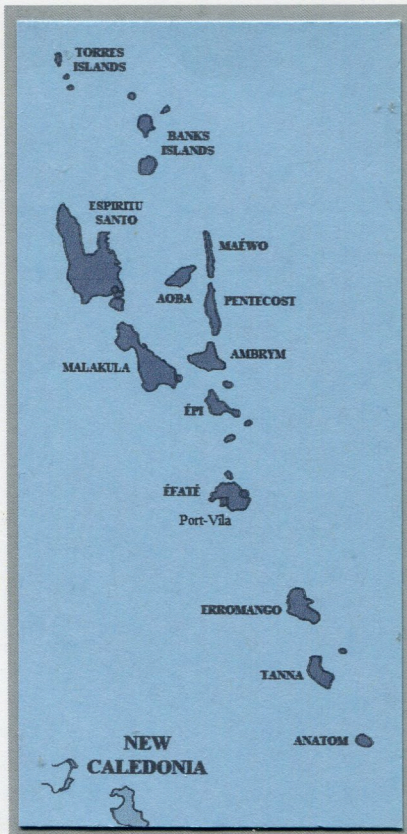
THE 1893 FRENCH MILITARY FRANCHISE ESSAYS OF THE NEW HEBRIDES

- a *closer* look

The French's grand plan

In the late 1800s, Britain and France were both reluctant to take ownership of the New Hebrides islands because of the tough climate and the savage inhabitants. However, their settlers looked to them to provide some sort of authority and stability

In 1893, French military officers in New Caledonia came up with a plan whereby troops could be stationed on certain islands which could eventually be acquired for France.



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They would issue a Military Franchise stamp similar to that already issued for New Caledonia.

To encourage the cooperation of the British, a bi-national design was chosen. President Sadi Carnot facing Queen Victoria.



essay from 3rd printing group

Plan

Each chapter is set in a quadrant.

This traditional exhibit shows these colorful, rarely seen essays in order of printing group.

General characteristics of each group are shown first (**the big picture**).

Specific features that link printing groups or confirm printing order are then shown using enlargements (**a closer look**).

Enlargements are 50% or 200% larger than the original essays.

The top shows the big picture.
The middle shows the essays.
The bottom takes a closer look.

1. Definitions

The French's grand plan
A military officer as printer
Naming conventions
Essay characteristics
Printing features

2. 1st printing group

Characteristics
Lettering on background stone
The 5 different printings
Printing features
Signs of previous printings

All items are significant.

Different quadrant and matte colors represent each printing group.

*pr personal research

3. 2nd printing group

Characteristics
Lettering on disk and background stones
Printing features, Forgery
Signs of previous printings

4. 3rd printing group

Characteristics
Lettering on design stone
Printing features, Forgery
Signs of previous printings
The British's response

1. Definitions

the **big** picture

A military officer as printer

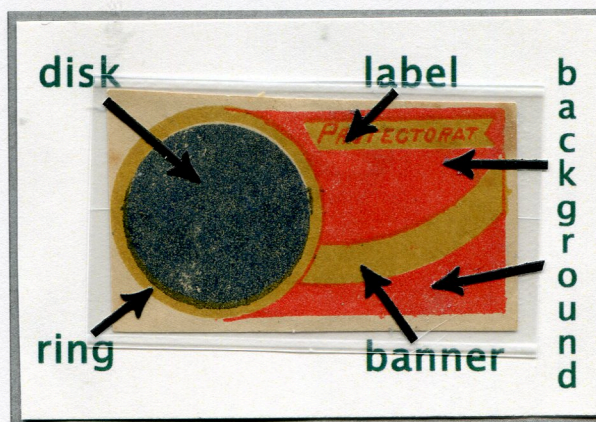
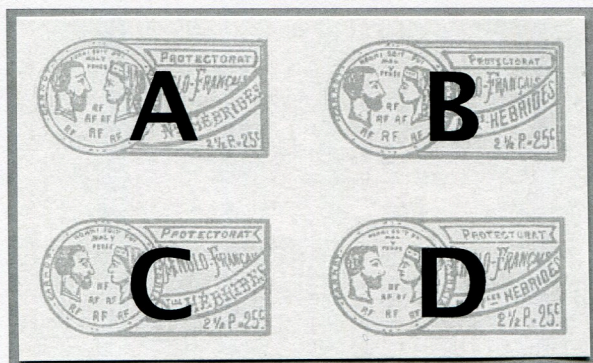
The essays were lithographed in sheets of four subjects with each drawn slightly differently. They are attributed to Lt Col Delauney, the Commander of the naval artillery squadron stationed in Noumea at the time, and who designed the New Caledonia military franchise stamps.

The word "stone" refers to a section of the physical lithographic printing stone (these stones were large enough to print posters) where Delauney prepared each part of the sheet of four essays for printing.

Naming conventions

The letters **A, B, C** and **D** are used to represent each of the four essays on a sheet.

The parts of each essay are called the **disk, ring, label, banner** and **background**.



Essay Characteristics

Main constant characteristics of the essays

Disk

President Sadi Carnot facing Queen Victoria

The quote **HONNI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE**

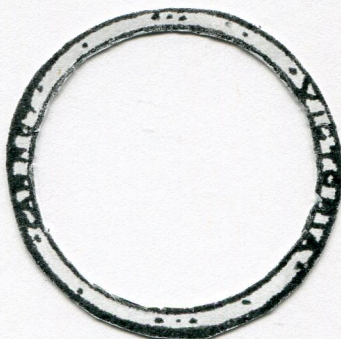
RF lettering (6 items) below the two heads of state



Ring

CARNOT and **VICTORIA** lettering on the sides

Small dashes in 2 groups of 3 (top and bottom) and 8 singles at regular intervals around the ring



Background

ANGLO-FRANÇAIS lettering at top left

ANGLO is completely visible or partially obscured by the ring



2 1/2 P = 25c. lettering.

The use of 25c may have been chosen over 15c as a move to gain free franking privileges.

2. 1st printing group

Characteristics

Labels

Lettering from the design stone (positions A and C)

Lettering in the background color (positions B and D)

Position A:



Position B:



Position C:



Position D:

(expected to be PROTECTORAT in background color)

Position C: Misspelled *PPROTECTORAT* appears in all three printing groups

Essai in manuscript above position B - test printing *pr

Banners

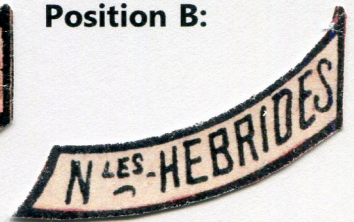
Lettering in the background color (positions A and C)

Lettering from the design stone (Positions B and D)

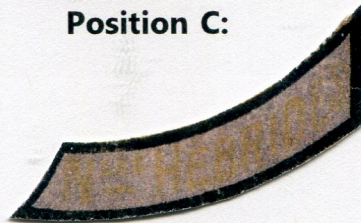
Position A:



Position B:



Position C:



Position D:

(expected to be NOUV^{LES} HÉBRIDES in black)

1 - Ocher disk/gray ring printing

Position A single exists with unchanged banner frameline and large black mark in banner.



Position C



Position B

7 singles reported - positions A, B, C

the **big** picture

Lettering on background stone

The printer added lettering to the background stone in either a label or a banner for each position (**printing 1**).

When this was printed, part of the lettering in the banner in position A was obscured by the top frameline.

The printer scraped part of the top frameline away and reprinted using colors that made the lettering in the banner more legible (**printing 2**).

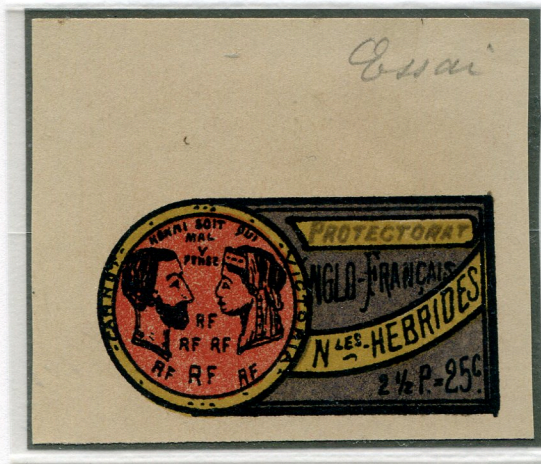
He prepared a combined disk and ring printing (**printing 3**) which lacked the stone for the labels and banners, to make it easier to see any traces of lettering in them.

He set up a print run using a lighter coverage of ink for the ring, labels and banners (**printing 4**), and one with a lighter coverage of design ink (**printing 5**).

All the lettering on the design stone was quite neat up to this point. The new lettering on the background stone was still fairly presentable.

2 - Red disk / yellow ring printing

Position A single exists showing black mark partially removed



Position B

6 singles reported - positions A, B, C, D

3 - Yellow disk and ring printing

Position A in sheet shows almost complete removal of black mark



Position B

1 design sheet, 1 design single, 1 complete sheet, 3 singles reported - positions B, C




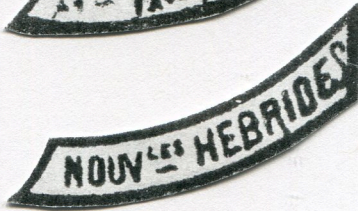


debris to right of O in **ANGLO** (doughnut hickey) *pr

Registration marks of design sheet and complete sheet are **15.3cm** apart.

1. Definitions

Printing features

Main characteristics that changed between printings

Label	Banner	Color registration marks
<p>PROTECTORAT lettering</p>  	<p>N^{les}-HÉBRIDES or NOUV^{les}- HÉBRIDES lettering</p>  	 

Characteristics for each position

The most important feature for determining printing order is a series of retouches of the top and left framelines of the banner in position A

Sample essays shown are from 3rd printing group.

left leg of A of ANGLO extends into disk in ring color *pr

Position

A



Lettering of N^{les}-HÉBRIDES deliberately changed between printings

differs between printings



framelines at left and bottom of banner scratched away

frameline at top of banner redrawn

break in top of 2 in 25

Position

C



lettering of N^{les}-HÉBRIDES deliberately changed between printings

4 or 5 dots in ring color

frameline at bottom of banner redrawn thicker

Characteristics which help to order the printings

Flaws: Areas of a stone which show imperfections. They may deteriorate over time.

Retouches: Areas of a stone which have been deliberately altered or repaired

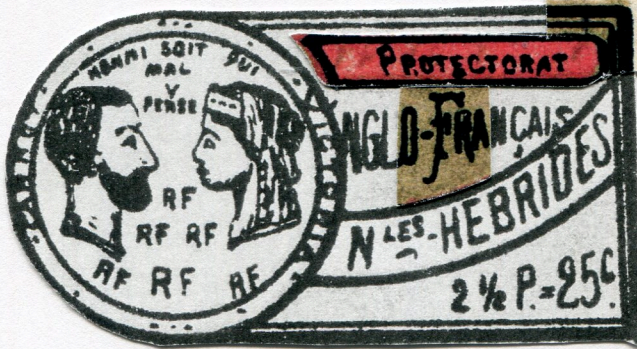
Palimpsests: Areas of a stone which bear traces of previous printings.

In each printing, the design was transferred to another stone so that the other parts of the essays could be more accurately positioned. These design palimpsests were for the most part removed during successive color print runs.

Registration marks: There is at least one set of registration marks for each group of printings. They show which stones were used (with one exception) and can shed light on printing order

Lettering of **PROTECTORAT**
in background color as well
as in design color

Lettering of **PROTECTORAT** deliberately
changed between printings



vertical spur in
background
color

Position

B

thick top of F,
short top of R *pr

Lettering of **PROTECTORAT**
in background color as well
as in design color *pr

Lettering of **PROTECTORAT** deliberately
changed between printings



differs
between
printings



thick top of F *pr
top right tip of banner
shows in background
area to the left of
frameline

Position

D

2. 1st printing group

4 - Light pink ring, label, banner printing

traces of PROTECTORAT
in background color



doubling caused
by paper moving
during printing



Position A

2 singles reported - positions A, C

Printing features

Flaws and retouches

**Position A Printing 4
Example**



left leg of A of
ANGLO extends into
disk in ring color



frameline scraped lightly
on top to allow N of N^{les}
to be more visible

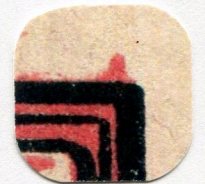


break in top of
2 of 25

**Printing 3
Example**



F in FRANCAIS tall
with small top *pr



vertical spur in
background color

**Position C Printing 1
Example**



4 or 5 dots in
ring color



no thickening of
frameline at bottom
left of banner

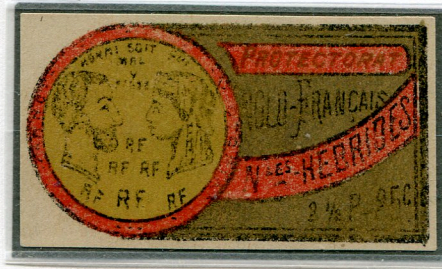
Position D

(F in FRANCAIS tall
with small top) *pr

(top right tip of
banner shows in
background area to
the left of frameline)

Registration marks: Printing 3 exists as a complete sheet and a design sheet, as registration marks correspond (design, disk and ring, background).

5 - Light design printing



Position B

3 singles reported - positions B, C, D

Signs of previous printings

Palimpsests reveal remnants of the design which was transferred to the background stone. *pr

Printing 4

Position A PROTECTORAT lettering in background color, especially under **P**, **E** and **A**, visible beside lettering from design stone

No conclusive findings for this group of printings

Position B



Printings 2, 3, 4

Position C Examples exist with PROTECTORAT lettering in background color visible beside lettering from design stone

No conclusive findings for this group of printings

Position D

Previous printing:

Design

Current printing:

Background - one label or banner for each position

Background Stone

3. 2nd printing group

Characteristics

Labels

Lettering from the design stone (Positions A and C)

Lettering in the background color (positions B and D)

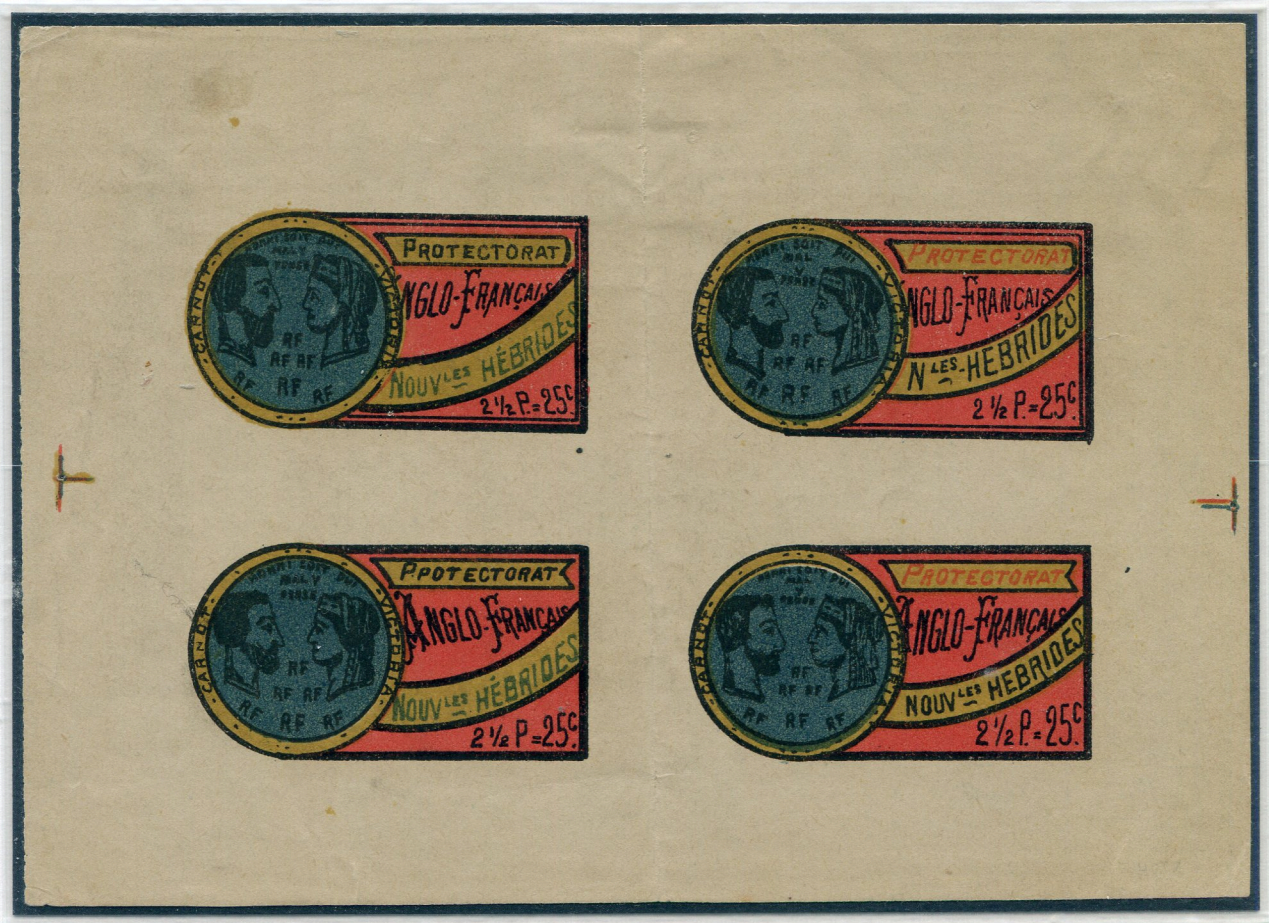
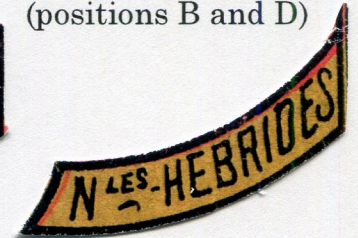
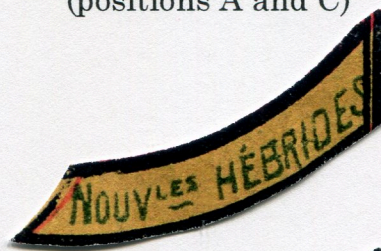


Essai exists in manuscript above position B - test printing *pr

Banners

Lettering in the disk stone color (positions A and C)

Lettering from the design stone (positions B and D)



10 complete sheets reported, more expected to exist

Registration marks 15.3cm apart, no design registration mark

the **big** picture

Lettering on the disk stone and background stone

The lettering in the banners for positions A and C were printing in the frameline. The printer had scratched out some of the frameline from the design, but it still wasn't sufficient.

He ground down an old design stone and etched disks for all positions and added lettering **NOU^{LES}-HÉBRIDES** for positions A and C. To get the lettering to stand out, he used blue ink for the new disk stone.

The background was redrawn, more finely than the previous version. The rings, labels and banners were similarly redrawn.

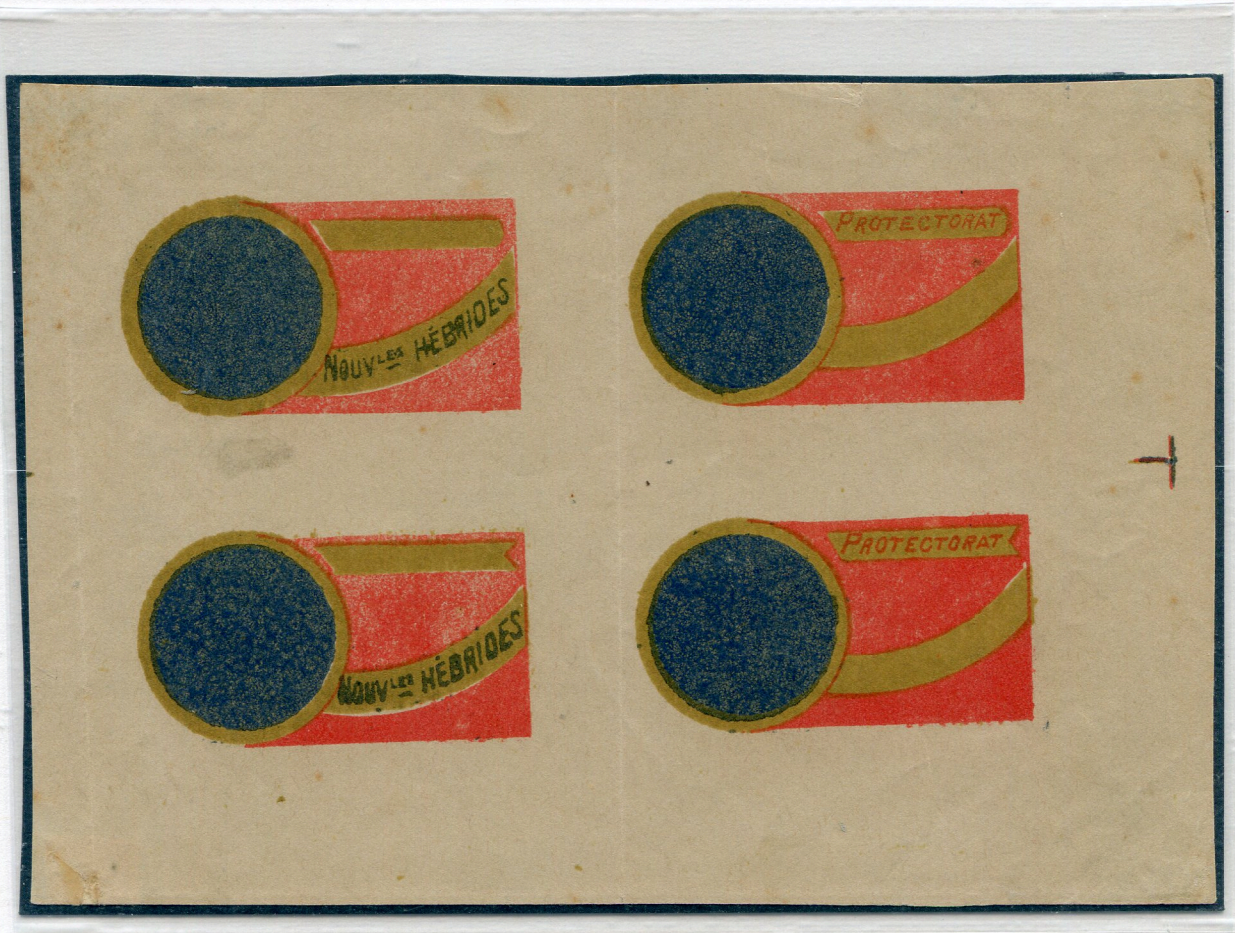
He made print runs of the color stones, and retouched the disk stone between runs, to remove traces of design. All the lettering on the design stone was still quite neat up to this point.

A more transparent ink was used for the complete printing to enable the design detail in the disk to show more clearly

Essai exists in manuscript below
position D - test printing *pr

Position C

parts of
design
framelines
visible in
banner in
disk stone
color *pr



11 color sheets reported, more expected to exist

Registration marks **15.3 cm** apart

4. 3rd printing group

Characteristics

Labels

Lettering from the design stone
(all positions)



type définitif (above position B) or *définitif* (below position D) reported in manuscript on two complete sheets and one design only sheet - accepted final printing *pr

Serif typeface used for banner change.

New lettering is quite roughly drawn.

Banners

Lettering from the design stone
(all positions)



traces of
PROTECTORAT
in background
color *pr

traces of
PROTECTORAT
in background
color *pr

14 complete sheets reported, more expected to exist

Registration marks of design sheet and complete sheet are 16.2 cm apart - 9mm wider

the **big** picture

Lettering on the design stone

The printer decided to put all the lettering for the labels and banners on the design stone, so as to make it readable regardless of colors used.

He used a serif typeface for the banners. This and the lettering used in the labels and banners was quite untidy

The first design printings appear to have been printed on whatever paper came to hand!

Dark non-absorbent paper and both sides of an embossed deep violet paper (wallpaper?) were used as he cleaned up the design.

He made color print runs to remove traces of design from the background stone.

Thick design printing embossed paper (color side)



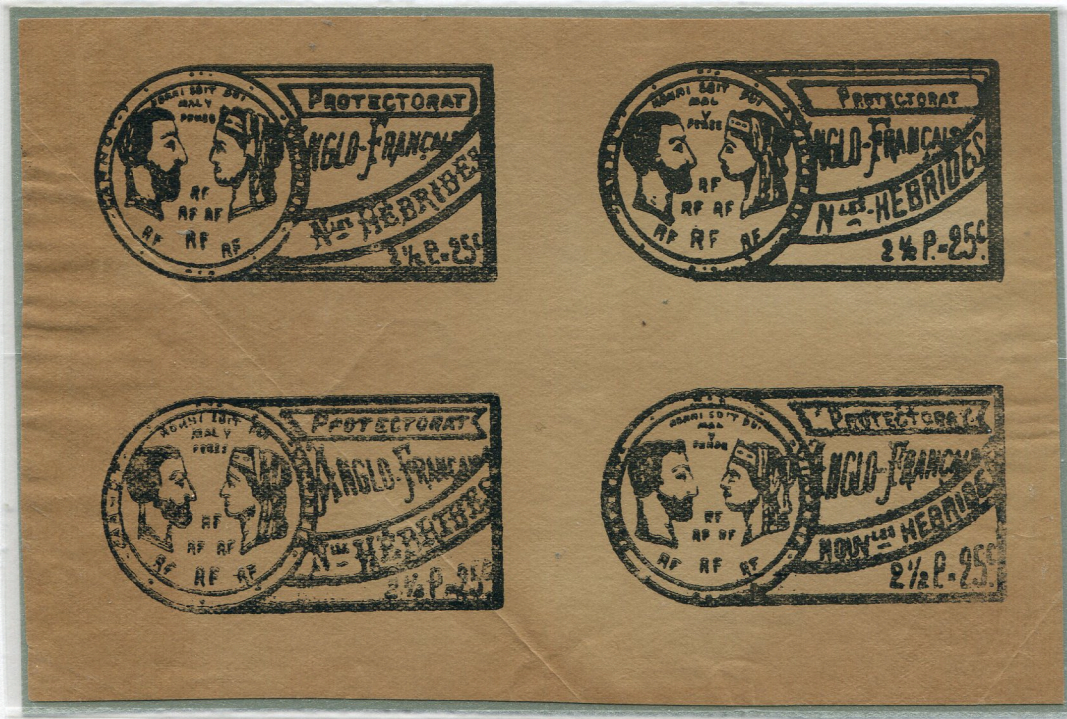
strokes before
and above
PROTECTORAT
removed

short F in
FRANÇAIS *pr

Position D

2 color side singles reported - positions C, D
1 cream reverse side single reported - position B

Thick design printing dark non-absorbent paper



Position D

vertical strokes
before and above
PROTECTORAT

This is the only reported sheet, 3 singles reported - positions C, D

Registration marks trimmed from sheet

3. 2nd printing group

Colors only printing

17 singles, 1 pair reported

opaque gray-blue

Position B



opaque gray-blue

Position C

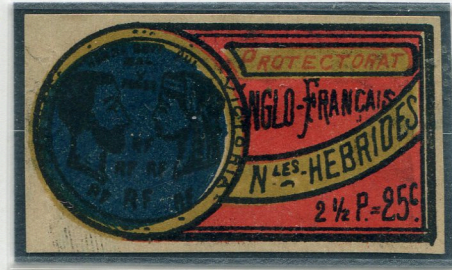


Complete printing

14 singles reported

opaque dark blue
(discovery copy - only one single reported)

Position B



translucent dark blue

(on all other sheets and singles reported)

Position C



Printing features

Flaws and retouches

Position A



frame line scraped at left to allow N of NOUVELLES to be more visible



background spike protrudes



break in top of 2 of 25

Position B



F in FRANCAIS tall with small top *pr

Position C

(no relevant flaws or retouches)

Position D



F in FRANCAIS tall with small top *pr



bannerspike protrudes

Registration marks:

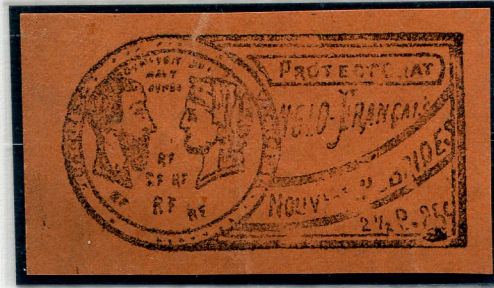


Only color registration marks exist. No design registration marks.



Forgery of the 2nd printing group

Characteristics



3 singles reported

This forgery is modeled on position A of the 2nd printing group, but has the following differences:

Dashes scattered around the ring (7 at top left and 9 at bottom right), not in groups of three as per the genuine

No vestige of the **A** for **ANGLO** exists

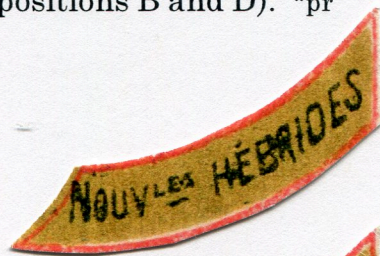
Lettering of **PROTECTORAT** slightly smaller

Rubber stamped in black on orange paper

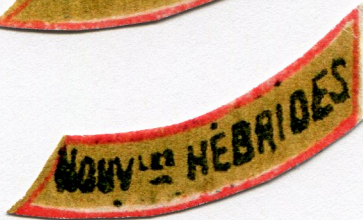
Signs of previous printings

The color print runs show varying amounts of remnants of the design which was transferred to the disk stone. This is seen in all positions, particularly on the banner frameline (positions A and C) and the ring (positions B and D). *pr

Position
A



Position
C



Position
B



Position
D



Previous printing:

Design

Current printing:

Disk + lettering in Position A, C

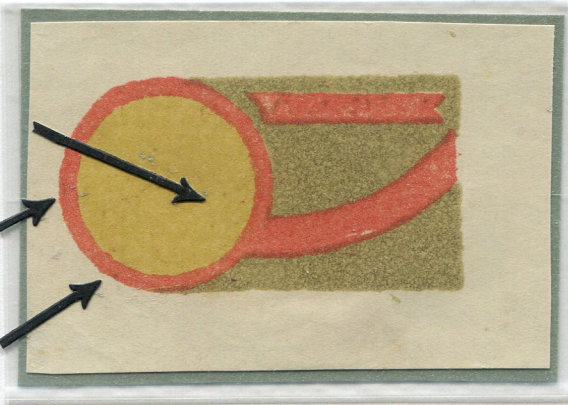
Disk Stone

4. 3rd printing group

Colors only printing

traces of **PROTECTORAT**
in background color

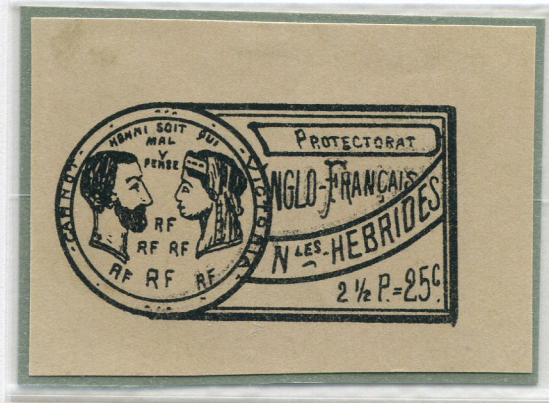
traces of design in ring color *pr
traces of design in background color *pr



Position D

6 singles reported - positions A, C, D

Design only printing



thick top on F in **FRANCAIS**
thin top of R in **FRANCAIS** *pr
doubling caused by paper moving during printing

Position B

3 sheets, 6 singles reported - positions B, C, D

Printing features

Flaws and retouches

Position A



left leg of A of **ANGLO** extends into disk in ring color *pr



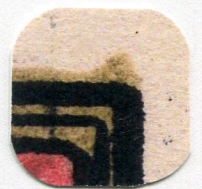
framelines at left and bottom of banner scratched away, frameline at top of banner redrawn



break in top of 2 in 25



thick top on F in **FRANCAIS**
thin top of R in **FRANCAIS** *pr



Vertical spur in background color

Position B

Position C



4 or 5 dots in ring color



thickened frameline at bottom left of banner



short F in **FRANCAIS** *pr



top right tip of banner shows in background area to the left of frameline

Position D

Registration marks:

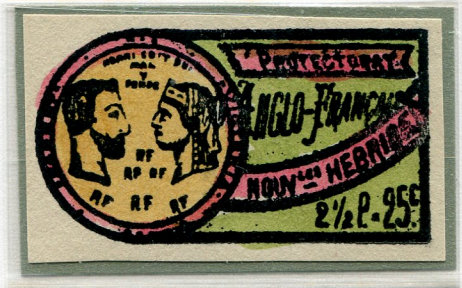


Design sheet shows multiple pin holes as part of the design registration marks, indicating that the design was transferred to the stone.



Forgery of the 3rd printing group

Characteristics



2 sheets, 2 singles reported

Photocopy of position D of the thick design printing before the stone was cleaned up.

Colored in with highlighting pens in modern colors.

Signs of previous printings

Due to transfers of the design during the preparation of the essays, palimpsests exist in the color print run and the completed essays. *pr

Position A	Example exists with N^{les}-HÉBRIDES lettering in background color visible in banner, and design artwork on disk in ring color	PROTECTORAT lettering in background color beside design stone lettering	Position B
Position C	Example exists with traces of design artwork on disk in ring color	PROTECTORAT lettering in background color in label, Design artwork in disk in ring and background colors	Position D

Prior printing:	Design	
Previous printing:	Background - one label or banner per position - same as 1st printing group	Design
Current printing:	Background - no labels or banners	Ring Label Banner - same as 1st printing group
	Background Stone	Ring Label Banner Stone

The British's response

The British saw through the French's plan. They objected to the use of military forces stationed in the islands, and rejected the stamps. Thus they were never issued.

This was an important victory for the British in the political jockeying that took place between the two countries, and foreshadowed joint government of the New Hebrides as a Condominium in 1906.