

## CLASSIC ERRORS OF FRANCE

by Steven C. Walske

Among philately's most renowned errors are the tête-bêche (or "head against foot") stamps of the classic issues of France. These dramatic errors were caused by the upside down placement of individual stamp dies, or clichés, during the printing plate preparation. Other related errors occurring in this 1849-1875 period, such as wrong denominations placed in a sheet of another value, were also caused by cliché placement errors.

A simplified description of the plate preparation process is as follows. To create each printing plate of 150 stamps, individual clichés were pressed in lead from a master die and arranged facedown in 15 rows by 10 columns. Once in place, they were fused together at the back with heated solder and copper to create a lead assembly, and then flipped over for inspection. If a cliché was upside down or if the wrong value cliché had been inserted, the correction was very difficult due to the solder fusing which prevented the easy replacement of clichés. Consequently, it appears that no attempt was made to correct the tête-bêche clichés, while the value tablets of incorrect clichés were manually retouched directly on the lead assembly or plate. Using galvanoplasty, copper printing plates, or galvanos, were then manufactured from the lead assembly, and the printed stamps show the effects of these errors. Some writers refer to the galvanos as half-plates, since two were normally attached together for printing purposes. For the purposes of this article, however, each galvano of 150 impressions is defined as a plate.

All of these errors are rare, although some considerably more so than others. For the most part, unused errors are rarer than their used counterparts. Relative rarity for any particular error is a function of the overall number of stamps issued for that denomination, the number of erroneous clichés relative to the total number of clichés used, and the relative likelihood that pairs of that denomination would be used postally. Detailed descriptions of these errors, organized by issue, follow below.

The 1849-50 "Ceres" Issue

The 1849-50 first issue of France has the greatest number of different tête-bêche varieties, and they include the premier philatelic items of France. The tête-bêche is known in all values of this issue except the 40 centimes, which has two examples of wrong denomination clichés.

- The 10 centimes tête-bêche occurs in *bistre*, *bistre-brun*, and *bistre-verdâtre* (where appropriate, colors are described in italicized French for consistency with standard references), and is somewhat less scarce due to the large number of 10 centimes stamps printed and the high number of tête-bêche clichés relative to normal clichés. Of two plates used, one had three tête-bêche clichés at positions 27, 58, and 145, and the other was error-free, so 1% of the clichés were erroneous. From September 1850 to September 1852, there were 17.1 million stamps of this value printed, so it can be estimated that 170 thousand tête-bêche pairs were issued. Used pairs of this value can also be readily found, since the 20 centimes stamp was discontinued as of July 1, 1850, and it is not uncommon to see a 10 centimes pair used to make up a 20 centimes rate. Figure 1 shows an unused *bistre-brun* strip of three with tête-bêche, formerly in the Ferrary collection.



Figure 1 – 1850 10 centimes tête-bêche in an unused strip of three

- Only 3.3 million copies of the 15 centimes value were printed using two plates, so it is rare even as a single stamp. From the printer's records, it is known that 2.4 million stamps were printed using the first plate, and only 900 thousand using the second plate. One tête-bêche cliché occurred at position 80 of the second plate, so it can be estimated that only six thousand tête-bêche pairs were printed. This value was principally used for the local rate within Paris from July 1850 until June 1853, so it is rarely found in pairs. However, a 1 franc 30 centimes rate to the United States gave rise to the only unique tête-bêche variety of France. Figure 2 shows a March 1852 double-weight cover front from Paris to New Orleans. Its 2 francs 60 centimes franking includes the only known (unused or used) tête-bêche pair of the 1850 15 centimes stamp. This cover has an interesting history. In 1896, it was

brought to a leading Parisian dealer named Victor Robert by an American merchant who had a suitcase packed with hundreds of covers addressed to the Lelièvre firm in New Orleans. After several days of sorting through the suitcase, Robert came across the tête-bêche cover. He immediately called Count Philipp la Renotière von Ferrary, the leading collector of the day, who purchased the item for 7,500 francs, or four times the then-current price of a Post Office Mauritius stamp. Ferrary was greatly concerned when the item's authenticity was later questioned, so the pair was removed from the cover and placed in boiling water. When the pair surprisingly did not disintegrate, it was pronounced genuine. The cover was illustrated in the November 1924 11<sup>th</sup> Ferrary sale, and was not seen in public again until the PHILEXFRANCE '89 exposition.



Figure 2 – Unique 1850 15 centimes tête-bêche pair on cover front to the United States

- Six plates were used to print 41.7 million copies of the black 20 centimes from December 1848 until February 1849. Only 31.1 million were sold and, while much of the surplus was destroyed, quite a few remainders survived. The tête-bêche is known for positions 92, 110 and 148 of the first plate, position 93 of the third plate, and position 115 of the fifth plate; the other three plates were normal. Although difficult to estimate, it appears that approximately 175 thousand tête-bêche pairs were issued. Pairs of this stamp are commonly found paying the domestic double-weight letter rate from January 1, 1849, until June 30, 1850, so used tête-bêche pairs can readily be found. The tête-bêche

occurs in both the black on white paper and black on yellow paper varieties. Figure 3 shows a marginal block of thirty stamps on white paper with the position 93 tête-bêche of the third plate. This exceptional piece was formerly in the renowned Champion collection.



Figure 3 – 1849 20 centimes black on white tête-bêche in an unused block of thirty

- The blue 25 centimes stamp was issued on July 1, 1850, to reflect an increased domestic letter rate, and remained in use until September 1852. While three plates were prepared, only two plates were used to print 45.2 million stamps. One tête-bêche cliché occurred at position 131 of the second plate. The second plate was not placed in use until 4.3 million stamps had already been printed using the first plate, so only about 136 thousand tête-bêche pairs were printed. Since pairs of this stamp were principally used to pay the domestic double-weight letter rate, many used tête-bêche pairs have survived. However, only two unused examples are known, one of which is illustrated as Figure 4 and was formerly in the Ferrary collection. Since position 131 is on the left margin of the sheet, all horizontal tête-bêche pairs of this value must be “face-to-face”, and any “back-to-back” pairs are forgeries. Figure 5 illustrates a used full-margined vertical tête-bêche pair showing its placement near the lower left-hand corner of the plate.



Figure 4 – One of two known unused 1850 25 centimes tête-bêche pairs

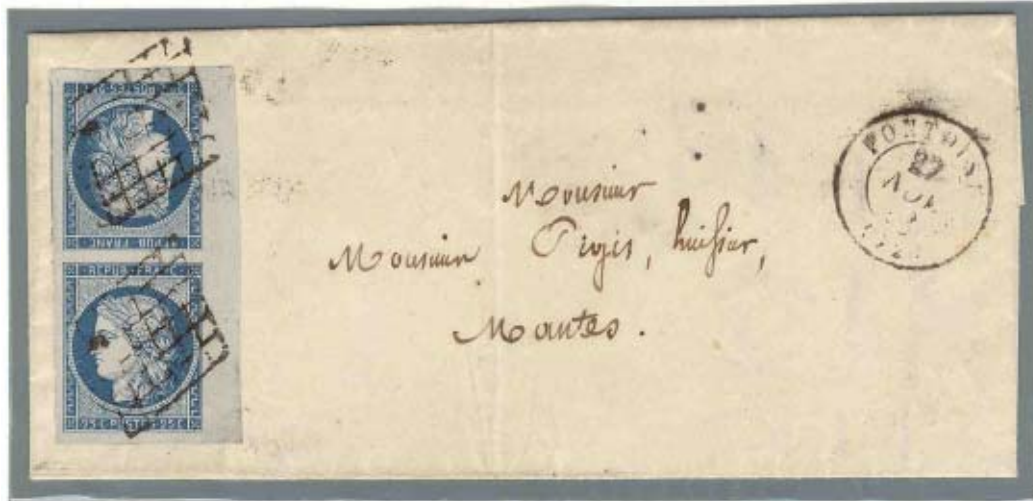


Figure 5 – 1850 25 centimes tête-bêche pair showing position at lower left of plate 2

- The orange 40 centimes was the only value of this issue that did not have any tête-bêche clichés, although two 20 centimes clichés were erroneously inserted at positions 146 and 147 of the second of the two plates used. The value tablets of these clichés were re-engraved either on the lead assembly or the copper galvano, and all of the four retouched 4's are sufficiently different to be quite recognizable. Starting in February 1850, 4.1 million stamps were delivered, so about 14 thousand copies of each retouched stamp were printed. Consequently, these errors are quite rare, and extremely so with both errors in a pair. Figure 6 shows a mint marginal strip of five that includes both errors at the left. This extraordinary piece passed through the collections of Ferrary, Hind and Rothschild. These errors can also be found in the 1862 official reprint, for which 14.5 sheets of 300 were printed. This means that the reprint of the retouched 4's is quite rare, with only fifteen copies of each stamp issued. Figure 7 shows a marginal strip of five reprints with both retouched clichés at the right. Curiously, no tête-bêche errors re-occur in the 1862 reprints of the other values of the 1849-50 issue, since it appears that an effort was made to select only error-free plates for the reprint.





Figure 6 – Both varieties of the 1850 40 centimes retouched 4’s in an unused strip of five



Figure 7 - Both varieties of the 1862 reprint of 40 centimes retouched 4’s in an unused strip of five

- The famed 1 franc *vermillon* stamp was issued in January 1849 to pay the domestic triple-weight letter rate, and was withdrawn from service in December 1849 because its color was too close to the soon-to-be issued orange 40 centimes stamp. Two printing plates were prepared for this denomination, the first of which contained a single tête-bêche cliché at position 35, and the second of which was normal. It is believed that only the first of the two printing plates was used to print just 250 thousand of the *vermillon* stamps in the first week of 1849, and 122 thousand of those were returned to be destroyed in December 1849. Consequently, only 850 tête-bêche pairs were in circulation, ranking them among the rarest of French errors. Four major color variations exist for this stamp: *rouge-brun*, *vermillon*, *vermillon terne*, and *vermillon vif*. One heavily cancelled *rouge-brun* tête-bêche pair on an August 1849 cover to India is known, while a faulty used strip of three on a fragment is the only known example of the *vermillon* tête-bêche variety. A cancelled strip of three of the *vermillon terne* “*etrusque*” stamp is the only tête-bêche known in that rich shade, and is shown in Figure 8. This strip was among the 122 thousand *vermillon* stamps returned to the Post Office in December 1849 and

annulled with the grill cancel. It was saved from destruction by a postal official, who retained it in his possession until 1931, when it first appeared on the philatelic market.



Figure 8 – Unique 1849 1 franc *vermillon terne “etrusque”* tête-bêche in a strip of three

- The leading philatelic item of France involves the 1 franc *vermillon vif* stamp. In 1931, a mint block of 22 *vermillon vif* stamps was found between two pages of a book in Bordeaux; included in that block was the only known copy of the *vermillon vif* tête-bêche. The block was cut up, but the tête-bêche was preserved in a block of four, which was subsequently acquired by Champion. It was shown at SIPEX '66 by General Gil, at ARPHILA '75 and INTERPEX '76 by Duane Hilmer, and more recently at PHILEXFRANCE '89. This “Aristocrat of Philately” is illustrated here as Figure 9.



Figure 9 – Unique 1849 1 franc *vermillon vif* tête-bêche in an unused block of four

- Starting in January 1849, and concurrently with the 1 franc *vermillon*, the 1 franc *carmin* came into use. Both of the 1 franc plates were used to print 2.13 million carmine stamps, while 260 thousand carmine-brown stamps were printed on plate 1 only. This indicates that 7,100 carmine and 1,700 carmine-brown tête-bêche pairs were issued, for a total of 8,800 carmine errors. Figure 10 illustrates a carmine tête-bêche pair on a cover to the United States.



Figure 10 – 1849 1 franc *carmin tête-bêche* pair on cover to the United States

- An unissued variety of the 1 franc *vermillon* is the so-called “Vervelle”, named after the French dealer who first publicized this variety. In 1892, he purchased a partial sheet of 139 unused *vermillon pâle* stamps from the estate of Anatole Hulot, who had been the printing supervisor of the 1849-50 issue. Included in that sheet was the tête-bêche at position 35, which Vervelle separated from the sheet in a block of four, illustrated here as Figure 11. The block passed into the Ferrary collection, was sold in the November 1924 11<sup>th</sup> sale to Arthur Hind, and was later in the Champion collection.



Figure 11 – 1849 1 franc “Vervelle” tête-bêche in an unused block of four



- Because black cancellations did not show clearly on the black 20 centimes stamp, plans were made to change the stamp's color to blue. The blue 20 centimes stamps were printed from April 1849 until March 1850, but were never placed in usage because of the July 1850 domestic letter rate increase to 25 centimes. A total of 23.3 million were printed from five plates, including the first plate of the black 20 centimes printing, which contained tête-bêche clichés at positions 92, 110, and 148. None of the other plates contained tête-bêche clichés, so it can be estimated that about 100 thousand tête-bêche pairs were printed, although virtually all of these stamps were destroyed by the Post Office in July 1851. The tête-bêche is known in all three major color varieties of this stamp: blue on yellowish paper, blue on bluish paper, and dark blue. Figure 12 shows position 148 for the blue on yellowish variety.



Figure 12 – 1849 20 centimes blue on yellowish tête-bêche in an unused block of ten

#### The 1853-60 Imperforate “Empire” Issue

There were no errors in the 1852 “Presidency” issue, and only two different tête-bêche varieties in the 1853-60 issue, so the fabrication methods seem to have improved after 1850. For the 1853-60 issue, tête-bêche varieties are known for the carmine 80 centimes, rose 80 centimes, and carmine 1 franc values. The imperforate 20 centimes type II tête-bêche has been shown to be a variety of the 1862 perforated stamp, and will be described along with the other 1862 errors.

- Two plates were used to print 9.9 million copies of the carmine 80 centimes stamp from December 1854 until November 1859, when the new rose color was adopted. One tête-bêche cliché was at position 150 (the lower right-hand corner of the sheet) of one of the plates. Consequently, it can be estimated that only about 33 thousand tête-bêche pairs were printed. The stamp was issued principally for the new triple-weight domestic letter rate, but multiples of this stamp were commonly used on mail to foreign destinations, so used tête-bêche pairs can readily be found. On the other hand, only one unused copy, shown here as Figure 13, is known to have survived. To help authenticate these stamps, as well as the imperforate rose 80 centimes stamp of this issue and the perforated rose 80 centimes stamp of the 1862 issue, two signs are constant. First, because the upside down cliché was at the lower right sheet corner, all horizontal tête-bêche pairs must be “back-to-back” and not “face-to-face”, and all vertical tête-bêche pairs must be “neck-to-neck” and not “head-to-head”. Second, the upside down stamp at position 150 has a small white spot just opposite the bridge of Napoleon III’s nose.



Figure 13 – Unique unused 1854 80 centimes *carmin* tête-bêche pair

- The imperforate rose 80 centimes stamp was in use from November 1859 until September 1862, when the perforated stamp of the same color was issued. The same two plates used for the carmine 80 centimes stamp were used to print 7.1 million rose-colored stamps. The position 150 tête-bêche error also re-occurred, and it can be estimated that only 24 thousand tête-bêche pairs were issued. This tête-bêche variety is also quite rare in unused condition. One of the three known unused examples is illustrated in Figure 14.



Figure 14 – Unused 1859 80 centimes rose tête-bêche pair showing the spot opposite Napoleon’s nose

- The carmine 1 franc value of the 1853-60 issue was printed in August-September, 1853 for the triple-weight domestic letter rate. Since this rate was lowered to 80 centimes on July 1, 1854, only a total of 900 thousand stamps were printed from two plates. One of those plates contained a tête-bêche cliché at position 131 on the left sheet edge, so only three thousand tête-bêche pairs were issued. That position also requires all horizontal pairs to be “face-to-face”. This is one of the rarest errors of the classic period, and only three unused copies are known. A spectacular marginal block of six is illustrated in Figure 15, and was also formerly in the Champion collection. This variety is also rare on cover, and one of the two covers known is shown in Figure 16. This tête-bêche variety also re-occurs in the 1862 official reprints as shown in Figure 17.



Figure 15 – 1853 1 franc carmine tête-bêche in unused lower left corner margin block of six



Figure 16 - 1853 1 franc carmin tête-bêche strip of three on a cover to Montevideo



Figure 17 - 1862 reprint of 1853 1 franc tête-bêche in an unused block of 9

### The 1862-71 Perforated “Empire” Issue

Only two errors occur in this issue, one of which (the 80 centimes value) was first seen in the imperforate 1853-60 issue. Five new tête-bêche plate positions, however, were introduced for the 20 centimes value.

- A total of 17 plates were used to print 1.1 billion 20 centimes stamps in four distinct printings. In 1862-63, the first printing of 76 million employed five plates used previously for the imperforate issue, so there were no tête-bêche clichés. The second printing of 420 million was made in 1863-64 employing six new plates, the second of which (A2) contained a reversed cliché at position 20. Accordingly, about 470 thousand of these errors, which can be identified by two dots in the upper left rosette, were issued. The third printing of 446 million was realized in 1865-67 with four new plates, the third of which (C3) contained a tête-bêche cliché at position 90. This was also the plate used for the 1866 SPECIMEN overprinted stamps. It can be estimated that 740 thousand of these errors, which are distinguished by a weakened frame-line at the lower left corner, were issued. The fourth and last printing of 177 million occurred in 1867 with two new plates. The first plate (A4) had tête-bêche clichés at positions 10 and 33, so about 600 thousand of each were printed for a total of 1.2 million. Position 10 is identifiable by a small dot in the lower right rosette, while position 33 is easily identified by a tangent line just opposite Napoleon III’s eye. The second plate (B4) had a reversed cliché at position 51, known by a small point in the upper left rosette, so about 600 thousand of these errors were issued. This means that a total of 3 million errors were issued, making this the most common of the classic errors of France. Figure 18 shows position 90 of plate C3 with SPECIMEN overprint. It is interesting to note that even the overprint was reversed for the error.





Figure 18 – 1866 unused 20 centimes tête-bêche pair with “SPECIMEN” overprints

- For unknown reasons, a small number of the 20 centimes stamps from the third and fourth printings were issued imperforate, leading to a very rare variety encompassing tête-bêche positions 90 C3, 10 A4, 33 A4 and 51 B4. Only a handful of these imperforate tête-bêche varieties survive in unused condition, and no used copies are known. Figure 19 shows position 33 A4 in an unused imperforate marginal block of thirty stamps, which was formerly in the Burrus collection.



Figure 19 – 1867 20 centimes tête-bêche in an imperforate unused block of thirty

- The same two plates used previously for the two imperforate 80 centimes values were used to print 17.8 million perforated 80 centimes stamps. With the same single tête-bêche cliché as before, a total of only 59 thousand errors were printed. The scarcity of this error is underappreciated by most catalogs.

The 1863-70 “Laureated” Issue

In 1863, stamps bearing the laureated effigy of Napoleon III made their appearance. Most values of this issue are error-free, although one tête-bêche variety occurs in the 4 centimes type II, and the 5 franc stamp shows the celebrated variety without ‘5’ and ‘F’.

- Two plates were used to print 35 million 4 centimes type II stamps, starting in 1866. The only tête-bêche cliché occurs at position 25 of the second plate, as shown in Figure 20 (the “croix de repère” was above the fifth column in the sheet), so about 115 thousand errors were printed.



Figure 20 – 1866 4 centimes tête-bêche in unused block of eight

- Two plates of 75 clichés each were prepared for the background of the new 5 francs value in June-July 1869, although only one was used to print 4.45 million stamps from July 1869 until April 1870. At least two different value plates were prepared and used for the ‘5’ and ‘F’ on these stamps, because both small and large ‘5’ varieties are known. Since this stamp was issued in sheets of 150, four passes through the press were required; twice for the background, and twice for the value ‘5’ and ‘F’. This

multi-stage process was naturally prone to error, and resulted in an unknown but small number of stamps being issued without value. In fact, examination of the seven known used copies without ‘5’ and ‘F’ (none are known unused or on cover), shows two distinct varieties; a *gris-violet* used in Paris during 1874, and a *gris-bleu* used in 1877, so at least two half-sheets of 75 were issued without value. A *gris-bleu* example with a May 1877 Alençon datestamp is illustrated below in Figure 21.



Figure 21 – 1869 5 francs *gris-bleu* stamp with missing ‘5’ and ‘F’

#### The 1870-75 Perforated “Ceres” Issues

The fall of Napoleon III’s empire in September 1870 meant the abandonment of stamps bearing the effigy of the Emperor. To expedite the change, the old 1849-50 plates with the image of Ceres and the politically correct label of “Republique Francaise” were pulled from storage to be used once again. This meant that the errors found in the first issue of France would necessarily be reproduced by France’s Third Republic. Four denominations were affected: 10 centimes, 15 centimes, 20 centimes, and 25 centimes. In fact, the 10 centimes errors would be reproduced twice, as described below.

- The same two plates used to print the 1850 10 centimes stamp were used to print 34.1 million perforated stamps. This *bistre* stamp, designed to pay the domestic local letter rate, was in usage from its October 1870 issuance during the Siege of Paris until the September 1871 rate increase. Just as in 1850, one of those plates contained tête-bêche clichés at positions 27, 58 and 145, so it can be estimated that 340 thousand errors were printed. Figure 22 illustrates this error on two letters that left Paris in manned balloons during the 1870-71 Siege of Paris. These same plates with errors were used to print imperforate 10 centimes stamps for General Colonies usage in 1871.



Figure 22 – 1870 10 centimes tête-bêche pairs on Siege of Paris Ballons Montés

- The six 1849-50 plates were also used to print 79.5 million perforated blue 20 centimes stamps, with the same five tête-bêche positions in three of the plates. These stamps were also in use from October 1870 until September 1871, and it is estimated that about 440 thousand errors were issued. A very rare tête-bêche variety is the blue 20 centimes on yellowish paper, which may have been a special printing during the April-May 1871 Paris Commune. These errors appear in the 1871 General Colonies 20 centimes stamps, which were printed from the same plates.
- The orange 40 centimes stamp was also printed from the two 1850 plates, and remained in use from October 1870 until 1876. Just as in 1850, there are no tête-bêche varieties, although the two stamps with retouched 4's appear again at positions 146 and 147 of the second plate. With a total of 54.2 million stamps issued, it can be estimated that 180 thousand copies of each error were printed. Figure 23 shows both errors at the bottom of an unused block of four. These errors can also be found in the 1871 General Colonies 40 centimes stamps.



Figure 23 – Both varieties of the 1870 40 centimes retouched 4's at the bottom of an unused block of four

- To reflect the September 1871 rate increase, the perforated *bistre* 15 centimes stamp was issued to replace the 10 centimes value, and remained in use until June 1873. Since both of the 1850 15 centimes plates were used to print this value, the single tête-bêche at position 80 of the second plate reappeared. The total number of stamps printed amounted to 130 million stamps, so about 430 thousand errors were issued. In spite of the large number issued, tête-bêche pairs of this stamp are surprisingly difficult to find since so few rates called for 30 centimes.
- Three 1850 25 centimes plates were also used to print 600 million 25 centimes type I stamps starting in September 1871. Even though there was only one tête-bêche at position 131 of one of the plates, over 600 thousand errors were issued. It is difficult to calculate the actual number of errors, because the plate with tête-bêche position was not in use for the entire period. One used example of a 25 centimes type II tête-bêche pair has also been reported.
- In January 1873, a need arose again for a 10 centimes stamp. Since the *bistre* 1871 15 centimes stamp was still in circulation, the traditional *bistre* color for the 10 centimes value could not be used. Accordingly, the new 10 centimes stamp was printed on rose paper using four of the five 1850 10 centimes plates, including the plate with errors at positions 27, 58 and 145. A total of 52 million stamps were issued, including an estimated 260 thousand tête-bêche pairs. Figure 24 shows this error in a strip of four on an October 1874 cover.





Figure 24 – 1873 10 centimes on rose tête-bêche in a strip of four on a domestic triple-weight cover

- In March 1875, the 10 centimes stamp on rose paper was replaced by a new design with larger numerals in the value tablet, but still on rose paper. However, one cliché of the 15 centimes stamp with large numerals was mistakenly inserted at position 90 of the 10 centimes sheet, but was not detected initially. This gave rise to the 15 centimes error on rose paper. The printing plates for this new stamp were made with movable clichés, so it is generally assumed that the error was corrected quickly. With a total of 42 million 10 centimes stamps printed, it cannot be estimated how many errors were issued given the uncertainty of when the error was corrected on the printing plate. Figure 25 shows this error se-tenant with the 10 centimes stamp.



Figure 25 – 1875 15 centimes on rose error of color se-tenant with normal 10 centimes on rose

## Summary

In summary, there are only twenty-four errors in the classical issues of France. The table below shows the aggregate statistics for these errors, including 2001 Ceres catalog values.

<b>Stamp</b>	<b>Approximate # Issued</b>	<b>Error Type</b>	<b>Estimated # of Errors</b>	<b>Unused Value (FF 000's)</b>	<b>Used Value (FF 000's)</b>
<b>1850 10c Bistre</b>	17 MM	tête-bêche	170,000	FF 450.0	FF 90.0
<b>1850 15c Green</b>	3.3 MM	tête-bêche	6,000	none known	1500.0
<b>1849 20c Black</b>	31 MM	tête-bêche	175,000	55.0	47.5
<b>1850 25c Blue</b>	45 MM	tête-bêche	136,000	1150.0	70.0
<b>1850 40c Orange</b>	4.1 MM	retouched 4	28,000	170.0	40.0
<b>1849 1fr Vermillon</b>	128 K	tête-bêche	850	2850.0	1600.0
<b>1849 1fr Carmine</b>	2.4 MM	tête-bêche	8,800	1250.0	160.0
<b>1849 1fr Vervelle</b>	150	tête-bêche	1	2100.0	unissued
<b>1849 20c Blue</b>	23 MM	tête-bêche	unknown	600.0	unissued
<b>1854 80c Carmine</b>	10 MM	tête-bêche	33,000	1850.0	175.0
<b>1859 80c Rose</b>	7 MM	tête-bêche	24,000	350.0	70.0
<b>1853 1fr Carmine</b>	900 K	tête-bêche	3,000	1900.0	900.0
<b>1862 20c Blue</b>	1.1 B	tête-bêche	3,000,000	30.0	6.5
<b>1862 20c Imperf.</b>	Unknown	Tête-bêche	unknown	1000.0	none known
<b>1862 80c Rose</b>	18 MM	tête-bêche	59,000	130.0	52.5
<b>1866 4c Type II</b>	35 MM	tête-bêche	115,000	120.0	70.0
<b>1869 5fr Violet</b>	4.5 MM	no 5 & F	unknown	none known	550.0
<b>1870 10c Bistre</b>	34 MM	tête-bêche	340,000	40.0	15.0
<b>1870 20c Blue</b>	80 MM	tête-bêche	440,000	26.5	11.0
<b>1870 40c Orange</b>	54 MM	retouched 4	360,000	23.0	0.9
<b>1871 15c Bistre</b>	130 MM	tête-bêche	430,000	275.0	75.0
<b>1871 25c Blue</b>	600 MM	tête-bêche	> 600,000	60.0	22.5
<b>1873 10c on Rose</b>	52 MM	tête-bêche	260,000	27.5	12.0
<b>1875 10c lge. num.</b>	42 MM	15c on rose	unknown	25.0	30.0

For the most part, there is a good correlation between scarcity and catalog value, particularly for cancelled errors. The only noticeable anomaly is the low relative value attached to the 1850 40c retouched 4's, and the corresponding high relative value attached to the 1850 10c tête-bêche error. The value of

unused errors is harder to correlate to the number of errors issued since, as in the case of the 1850 25c and the 1854 80c, there are often only a handful of surviving copies known.

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