

Saint Pierre and Miquelon, the “Group” type issue 1892-1908

SYNOPSIS

The goal of this exhibit is to show every aspect of the “Group” type created in 1892 and put into service at the beginning of 1893 in St. Pierre and Miquelon. **More than 35 years of study and acquisition** were necessary to assemble this collection. A huge deal of research through auction catalogues, local archives and philatelic articles was necessary, along with many interviews with Mr. E. Grabowski (a specialist in the study of “Group” stamps from all the colonies). This has permitted me to go forward and create this study.

Given the sparse population, the difficulties with postal communications and the sparse amount of correspondence due to illiteracy (especially amongst the fishermen), covers from the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century are very rare.

It was a real challenge to respect the balance of the frames (stamps, stationeries, mails etc ...) but it was successful. Some judges suggested to me to put stationeries at the end but as I present few mails with these stationeries, it was necessary that I show them in unused condition before these mails. They have understood this choice.

For a better understanding of the study, the main text of page 1 is in English

Development :

The **unique large die proof** (the maquette does not exist) **which is probably the most important philatelic piece in the French colonies story** (very expensive item - “*Musee de la Poste in Paris*” wished to have it -), the different artist proofs, the unique essays, a rare complete sheet (only two exist) and all the “millesimes” are shown in **the first frame**.

All stationeries issued, in a scarce perfect condition, including the last ones **with “millesimes”** (scarce), are shown in **the second frame**.

the third frame shows the different overprints : Colis Postaux, Specimen (unique), Ultramar (very rare), the different varieties, the unusual set of the “1900 special printing”, and all kind of mails with rare destinations and rates, small “bureaux” like **Ile aux Chiens, Miquelon** and **Langlade** (only one cover known), multiple rates, registered, all postmarks known including the foreign maritime marks ... all are presented and explained until the **frame # seven**.

The frame # eight show rare particular covers (military, “A R”, “oeuvres de mer”, taxed covers, “colis postaux” etc...), a great and rare study about forgeries (full sheet with different colonies), and an epilogue with the next issue.

Condition and rarity :

The condition is very good. All items have been selected when it was possible. Value and rarity are high and about **80 items are unique**. All these elements have allowed me to create **the most important “Group” type exhibit in the world**.

Best Awards :

Several LG medals and Grand Awards during the last three years (95 to 97 points)

According to several specialists, this collection is one of the largest in the world for all French colonies.

Last acquisitions :

Since last year, a huge acquisition, unique, which no one knew existed: all values (except the 35c issued later in 1908) with the "specimen" overprint were found in foreign archives and certified by the expert Bendon recognized in this subject (page 34). Then an exceptional piece, a watercolor painted card posted by the “mobile box”(page 123) and canceled with a Canadian cork’s cachet allowed me to improve this exhibit and redo few pages.

Jean-Jacques TILLARD, june 2018.