

# The 1893 New Caledonian Military Essay for the New Hebrides

By J. Crompton



A complete sheet (reduced by approx. one-half) showing the errors and the marginal guide-mark.

The New Caledonian military authorities in 1893 devised a series of labels for the use of their troops, and in order to show the military franchise of a 10c reduction in the postal rate on their personal mail.

Similarly, a military franchise stamp for the proposed French occupation of the New Hebrides was produced, but the stamps were never issued because the Convention of 1888 placing the islands under a joint Anglo-French Naval Commission gave England the right to protest against such a move.

A Lieut-Colonel Delauney appears to have been responsible for the design, and the essay is of particular interest on account of it being a bi-national design.

Crude figures of Sadi Carnot, President of France, and Queen Victoria were in the vignette with the inscription HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE above the heads and RF six times below them.

The value of 2½d.-25c. was also included, with the legend PROTECTORAT ANGLO-FRANCAIS NOUVELLES HEBRIDES expressed in three lines.

The essay was prepared in four types, on one sheet (2 x 2), with guide lines between stamps 1 and 3, and 2 and 4. The issue was lithographed at Noumea.

The following colours are known, although there may be more:—

1. Gold, black, dark blue and rose-red.
2. Red, yellow, black and gray-green.
3. Single colours, such as red, and black.

On each of the four types the following errors occur:—

*Stamp 1* (top row, left-hand side): AF for RF, under chin of Sadi Carnot.

*Stamp 2* (top row, right-hand side): v for y in MAL Y PENSE.

*Stamp 3* (bottom row, left-hand side): P for R in PROTECTORAT.

*Stamp 4* (bottom row, right-hand side): c for s in SOIT.

*Editor's Note:* Reprinted from *Stamp Collector*, London, February 10, 1961, with permission.