

COMORO ISLANDS

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Originally peopled by Bantus, Malagasies, other Africans, Arabs, and Shirzis (Iranians), the Comoro Islands already had a rich and complex history even before European arrivals. Portuguese, Dutch and English traders visited from the 17th century, but it was not until the French colonial period that a unified rule was imposed on the islands.

In 1841 France purchased the island of Mayotte, and in 1886 established a protectorate over Grande Comore, Anjouan, and Mohéli. Initially each island was a separate protectorate, then in 1908 these were grouped together as the single colony of Mayotte & Dependencies. This in turn was downgraded in 1912 to a province of Madagascar. Revenue stamps are not known from the 19th century. Possibly French issues were used in the same way that they were in Nossi-Bé etc. After the 1912 union with Madagascar, it seems that regular Madagascar revenues were used in the Comoro islands.

During WWII the Comoros at first remained with Vichy France (1940-42) but then joined the Free French. British and South African troops occupied the islands until 1946, when the Comoro Islands became a separate French overseas territory. Demands were made for greater autonomy. As a result of fiscal autonomy, the first Comoro revenues appeared in 1955. From 1961 a measure of self-government resulted in a local parliament. In 1973, France agreed a path to full independence by 1978. The Comores Parliament jumped the gun, unilaterally declaring independence in 1976 as the Etat Comorien, using the Madagascar CFA franc as currency.

At this point Mayotte opted to stay within the French Union, while the other three islands (Grande Comore, Anjouan, Mohéli) formed the République Fédérale Islamique des Comores. In 1979 a new currency, the Franx Comorien, was introduced, linked to the French Franc (though at increasingly inflationary parities) and in due course to the Euro in 1999.

From 1978 to date, many coups, and secession movements in Anjouan and in Mohéli, involving, socialist atheists, muslim clerics, French mercenaries, and other local

and foreign forces, have produced a kaleidoscope of short-lived regimes and scandals (including the alleged theft of 11½ million Comoro Francs worth of revenue stamps by a Minister).

The Confederation was formally revived as Union des Comores in 2000, an umbrella organisation over these discords.

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COMORES - REVENUE



1960. French key type, ovpt COMORES in black. Perf c13 (?).

1. 1F rose, brown & blue	5.00
2. 2F rose, brown & blue	5.00
3. 4F rose, brown & blue	5.00
4. 5F rose, brown & blue	5.00
5. 8F rose, brown & blue	5.00
6. 10F blue, red & brown	5.00
7. 16F blue, red & brown	15.00
8. 20F blue, red & brown	7.50
9. 30F blue, red & brown	10.00
10. 50F blue, red & brown	7.50
11. 60F blue, red & brown	15.00
12. 100F blue, red & brown	10.00
13. 200F orange, red-brown & black ...	20.00
14. 500F orange, red-brown & black ...	20.00
15. 1000F pale green, dark green & black .	50.00
16. 2000F pale green, dark green & black .	75.00
17. 5000F violet, rose & black	100.00



1965. Same design but ovpt in blue-black. Wmk AT. Perf c13(?).

18. 1F red, brown & blue	5.00
19. 2F red, brown & blue	5.00
20. 5F red, brown & blue	5.00
21. 200F orange, red-brown & black	10.00
22. 400F orange, red-brown & black	15.00
23. 500F orange, red-brown & black	15.00



1965. Same design but ovpt in red (R). Wmk AT. Perf c13(?).

24. 10F blue & red-brown (R)	5.00
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1965. Same design ovpt in red (R), now wmk AGT. Perf c13(?).

25. 20F blue & red-brown (R)	5.00
26. 30F blue & red-brown (R)	7.50
27. 50F blue & red-brown (R)	7.50
28. 100F blue & red-brown (R)	10.00



1975. Crescent moon and star, upright. No wmk. Perf 13½.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 29. GRATIS blue, red-brown & black | 10.00 |
| 30. 10F blue, red-brown & black | 5.00 |
| 31. 20F blue, red-brown & black | 5.00 |
| 32. 50F blue, red-brown & black | 5.00 |
| 33. 100F rose, red-brown & black | 5.00 |
| 34. 200F lime-yellow, red-brown & black | 7.50 |
| 35. 500F orange, red-brown & black | 10.00 |
| 36. 1000F pale brown, red-brown & black | 15.00 |
| 37. 2000F orange, red-brown & black | 20.00 |
- Some values also known surcharged by hand.



c1980. Daussy key type, in Franc Comorien currency.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| 40. 5000FC blue & black | 10.00 |
| 41. 10,000FC green & black | 15.00 |



c1995. Crescent moon and stars sideways, inscribed REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE ISLAMIQUE DES COMORES.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 50. 5000FC pale blue & black | 10.00 |
| 51. 10,000FC emerald & black | 15.00 |

Other values probably exist.



c2001. Crescent moon and stars sideways, now inscribed UNION DES COMORES.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| 60. 500FC brick-red & black | 10.00 |
| 61. 10,000FC pale green & black | 25.00 |
- Other values probably exist.



c2010. Crescent moon and stars in triangle.
60. 25,000FC green, grey & black 20.00

COMORES - CONNAISSEMENTS

Bills of Lading. A : the first stamp with face value was affixed to the captain's original shipping document, and B : the matching "Control" stamps were affixed as proof of carriage to one or more official counterparts. Control stamps had no face value, but single examples can be linked to the matching face value by their colour. Stamps priced as "-" theoretically exist, but have not been seen.



1955. Stamp of Madagascar, handstamped TERRITOIRE / DES / COMORES. No wmk. Perf 13½.

- | | A | B |
|--------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. 6F blue & black | 10.00 | 10.00 |



1955. Stamp of Madagascar, the A type surcharged and black bar through previous value, handstamped TERRITOIRE / DES / COMORES. The B types were not surcharged, hence the 60c cannot be indistinguished from the previous issue. No wmk. Perf 13½.

- | | A | B |
|---|-------|-------|
| 2. 24F on 2F40 rose, blue & black | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| 3. 50F on 6F on 60c blue & black | 25.00 | |
| 4. 100F on 12F on 1F20 violet, blue & black | 35.00 | 35.00 |

- 5. 200F on 24F on 2F40 rose, blue & black 75.00 -

1955. Same design, but wmk. Perf 13½.
A B

- 6. 6F blue & black 15.00 -
- (7. 12F violet & black)
- 8. 24F rose & black - 15.00



1960. Key type of France, ovpt COMORES (A). Control stamp (B) with ESTAMPILLE DE CONTROLE in small letters, accent over second "ô".

- A B
- 9. 50F green & black 7.50 7.50
- 10. 200F violet & black 50.00 50.00



1965. Similar, but control stamp with ESTAMPILLE DE CONTROLE in tall letters, no accent over second "O".

- A B
- 11. 100F pale green & black 15.00 15.00



c1965. Similar, but control stamp with ESTAMPILLE DE CONTROLE in tall letters, accent over second "ô".

- A B
- 12. 400F violet & black 35.00 30.00

COMORES - ENREGISTREMENTS



1955. Revenues of Madagascar, handstamped TERRITOIRE / DES / COMORES. Perf 13½.

- 1. 15F green & yellow 10.00
- 2. 25F green & yellow 10.00
- 3. 30F green & yellow 15.00
- 4. 40F green & yellow 20.00
- 5. 100F green & yellow 25.00
- 6. 200F green & yellow 50.00



1955. Revenues of Madagascar as above, handstamped TERRITOIRE / DES / COMORES, but also surcharged, with "X" over previous value. Perf 13½.

- 7. 4F on 30c rose & yellow 15.00
- 8. 16F on 60c rose & yellow 15.00



1955. Revenues of Madagascar, handstamped TERRITOIRE / DES / COMORES. Perf 13½.

- 9. 50c red-brown, blue & red 7.50
- 9a. pair, one without handstamp 100.00
- 10. 1F violet, blue-green & blue 7.50
- 11. 1F50 violet-grey, olive & blue 10.00
- 12. 2F violet, blue-green & blue 10.00
- 13. 3F violet-grey, olive & blue 10.00
- 14. 5F violet-grey, olive & blue 10.00
- 15. 10F rose, blue-green & blue 15.00
- 16. 50F rose, blue-green & blue 15.00
- 17. 60F rose, blue-green & blue 50.00
- 18. 100F rose, blue-green & blue 25.00
- 19. 200F rose, blue-green & blue 35.00
- 20. 500F rose, blue-green & blue 50.00
- 21. 1000F rose, blue-green & blue 75.00



1955. Surcharged revenues of Madagascar, with "X" over previous value, handstamped TERRITOIRE / DES / COMORES. Perf 13½.

- 22. 2F on 25c brown, blue & red 10.00
- 23. 20F on 1F50 violet-grey, olive & blue ..
..... 10.00

COMORES - TRANSPORTS

Tax on road transport contracts. Two-part stamps; a control half inscribed ESTAMPILLE DE CONTROLE would have existed, but has not been seen for this Comoros issue.



1960. Transport stamp of France (this value was printed solely for colonial use?) ovpt COMORES in black.

A B

1. 10F violet & black *35.00 -

ANJOUAN

Anjouan seceded from the Comoro Federation in 1997 and voted to rejoin France. France rejected the request. Anjouan rejoined the Comoro Federation in 2002. At this time attempts were made to set up Anjouan as a tax haven. In 2007 a rigged election resulted in another "vote" for secession. Pan-African forces then invaded the island to enforce Comoro's claims. Anjouan is now part of the Comoro Federation again, albeit tentatively and with unsettled government.



1999. Map.

1. 50F grey, carmine & black 7.50
2. 100F yellow, carmine & black 10.00
3. 500F orange, carmine & black 10.00
4. 1000F brown, carmine & black 15.00
5. 2500F colours? 15.00
6. 5000F colours? 20.00