

CONGO (FRENCH)

In 1880 Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza signed a treaty between France and the African kingdom of Téké, establishing French sovereignty over the area and making the village of Mfoa the planned capital, to become Brazzaville. In 1891 Gabon was joined to the colony, but separated off again in 1904, at which time Ubangi-Shari and Chad were also made separate colonies. In 1911 the region of New Cameroon was given to Germany in exchange for German recognition of French interests in Morocco - but reconquered in 1916 during WWI.

Vast ranges of land to the north were claimed and leased to concessionary companies who exploited the land and human resources by any means possible, but often failed due to lack of finance and lack of white settlers willing to endure the hostile conditions and climate. Between 1921 and 1934 a 511 km railway was built (at considerable cost in money and human life) linking Brazzaville to Pointe Noire on the Atlantic Coast - necessary as cataracts at Brazzaville prevent ships navigating the full length of the Congo. Pointe Noire was developed as a deep sea port, opening in 1942.



This economic development was undertaken by French companies whose forced labour contract paperwork was sometimes prepared in France - as a consequence, a fluid attitude was taken with the use of revenue stamps, and French revenues can be found with cancels of Congo and Gabon.

In 1910 a decision to re-centralise colonial administration meant that Middle Congo, Gabon, Ubangi-Shari and Chad were temporarily grouped together under the umbrella of Afrique Equatoriale Française (AEF), separated again in 1915, and eventually recombined in 1934. In 1925 the region of Haut-Ogooué was loaned from Gabon to Middle Congo, and returned in 1946. The integration was gradual and inconsistent. Revenue stamps designated AEF became available from 1930 for use in all territories (these group issues are listed under French Equatorial Africa), while regional issues were also made inscribed MOYEN CONGO in the 1930s and even up to 1958, apparently intended only for the

French Congo territory (these are therefore listed in this section), and not issued in Gabon etc.

The 1950s saw a move towards independence, and the four territories again divorced, each becoming a separate independent republic. Thus, the Moyen Congo became the Republic of Congo and then was renamed Popular Republic of Congo (often called Congo-Brazzaville, to distinguish it from the former Belgian Congo which became the Democratic Republic of Congo). Currency (the CFA Franc of Equatorial Africa) however remained in common for the four former AEF territories.

Thanks to the following for information and scans :
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CONGO (FRENCH) REVENUE

Timbre Fiscal = General Duty.



1930. Daussy key type with lined background inscribed A.E.F. / MOYEN CONGO in red (R).

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. 2c bistre & blue (R) | 5.00 |
| 2. 10c bistre & blue (R) | 5.00 |
| 3. 20c bistre & blue (R) | 5.00 |
| 4. 25c bistre & blue (R) | 5.00 |
| 5. 50c bistre & blue (R) | 5.00 |
| 6. 1F green & vermilion (R) | 7.50 |
| 7. 2F green & vermilion (R) | 10.00 |
| 8. 3F green & vermilion (R) | 10.00 |
| 9. 5F green & vermilion (R) | 10.00 |

x

1936. Daussy key type with diamond background inscribed A.E.F. / MOYEN CONGO in red.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------|
| 10. 25c lilac & red | 7.50 |
| 11. 50c lilac & red | 7.50 |



c1942. Locally surcharged and bars through previous value.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 12. 2F on 2c bistre & blue (R) | 20.00 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|



1959. Daussy key type (with diamond background).

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 13. 50F blue & red | 15.00 |
|--------------------------|-------|

CONGO (FRENCH) CARTES D'IDENTITE



1958. Daussy key type, inscribed "CARTES / D'IDENTITE / M.C.". With wmk.

1. 25F blue & red 35.00

CONGO (FRENCH) COLIS POSTAUX

Post Office Parcels. There was a 10c tax on receipts; the Post Office issued special stamps to collect this tax. Postal cancels are normal.



1891. Typo (illus reduced). Printed in a matrix of five; (probably sheet size of te, with two rows tete-beche), differences in the frame ornaments give five different types. Imperf.

1. 10c black on green 75.00
1a. tete-beche pair 750.00



1893. Receipt stamp of France, with rubber handstamp ovpt "Congo Français / COLIS POSTAUX" (handstruck unevenly, reading down).

2. 10c grey 100.00

CONGO (FRENCH) CONNAISSEMENTS



1905. Connaissements key types, A) tax stamp, B) Control copy (no value shown).

- | | A | B |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. 60c blue & black | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| 2. 1F20 violet & black | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| 3. 2F40 rose & black | 20.00 | 20.00 |



1922. Postage stamp of 1907 ovpt A) "Timbre de Connaissements" and surcharged, or B) ESTAMPILLE / DE CONTROLE ovpt. Leopard and frame in first colour stated.

- | | A | B |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| 4. 1F20 on 5c green & blue | 25.00 | 25.00 |



1930. Connaissements key type inscribed A.E.F. / MOYEN CONGO.

	A	B
5. 1F20 violet & black	35.00	35.00
6. 2F40 rose & black	25.00	25.00

CONGO (FRENCH) COPIES



1904. French General Colonies postage due stamp, ovpt vertically EXPÉDITIONS / et / COPIES, reading up or down, as stated. Imperf.

1. 60c yellow-brown (reading down) .. 35.00
2. 1F20 on 1F rose on buff (reading up) .. 75.00



1904. Postage stamps of French Congo (Bakalois woman) ovpt with TIMBRE / pour / COPIE, eight-pointed star over previous value, and surcharged.

3. 0F60 on 30c red & yellow 50.00
4. 1F20 on 75c lilac & yellow 50.00



1905. Copies key type.

5. 60c blue & black 7.50
6. 1F20 violet & green 7.50
- 6a. error violet & blue *35.00
7. 6F green & brown 10.00
8. 12F rose & blue 15.00

CONGO (FRENCH) DIMENSION

1922. Postage stamp of 1907 ovpt "Droit de timbre spécial" and surcharged. Leopard and frame in first colour stated.



1922. Postage stamps of 1907 ovpt TIMBRE DE DIMENSION and surcharged. Leopard and frame in first colour stated.

1. 2F on 5c green & blue 15.00
2. 3F on 5c green & blue 35.00
3. 4F on 5c green & blue 50.00
4. 6F on 5c green & blue 75.00
5. 8F on 5c green & blue 100.00



1958. Dimension stamps of France further inscribed A.E.F. / MOYEN CONGO.

6. 100F orange & black 15.00
7. 200F green & black 35.00
8. 400F blue & black 50.00

CONGO (FRENCH) ENREGISTREMENT



1892. Postage stamps of French General Colonies, ovpt vertically "Congo Français / ENR / 10 centimes", reading down, in red (R).

1. 10c on 25c black on yellow 10.00
- 1a. error "EN" 25.00
- 1b. ovpt reading up 50.00
2. 10c on 25c black on rose 35.00

ENREGISTREMENT

1 fr.

1904. Postage stamp of French Congo (leopard design, horizontal format) ovpt ENREGISTREMENT, bar, and new value.

3. 1F on 5c green & blue 350.00
- 3a. double ovpt, one inverted 1000.00
- (4. 2F on 10c carmine & blue)

#3a : one exists.

#4 : reported, but not seen in modern times.



1904. Postage stamps of French Congo (Bakalois woman) ovpt with bar through old value, ENREGISTREMENT reading down, and surcharged.

5. 1F on 50c dark purple & pale lilac ... 20.00
- 5a. double ovpt 100.00
6. 10F on 75c plum & yellow 200.00



1904. Postage stamps of French Congo (Coconut palms and warriors at Libreville, Gabon) ovpt ENREGISTREMENT reading up, (not surcharged).

7. 2F carmine & grey-brown 50.00
8. 5F orange & black 150.00



1905. Key type. Dull colours and grey to buff paper.

10. 1F pale blue & black 7.50
11. 2F yellow-brown & black 10.00
12. 3F pale green & black 10.00
13. 4F pale bluish & black 15.00
14. 5F pale lilac & black 15.00
15. 10F grey-brown & black 25.00
16. 100F red & black 50.00



1926. Same designs, brighter colours, white paper, and some additional values.

17. 1F bright blue & black 7.50
18. 2F yellow-brown & black 10.00
19. 3F green & black 10.00
20. 4F bright blue & black 15.00
21. 5F lilac & black 15.00
22. 10F olive-brown & black 25.00
23. 50F violet & black 75.00
24. 100F red & black 50.00

25. 500F purple-brown & black 100.00
26. 1000F deep yellow & black 150.00

CONGO (FRENCH) PÉCULE

Pension or savings, a modest but theoretically obligatory scheme for African forced labour. Labour gangs from Gabon sometimes worked in the Middle Congo, and vice-versa, in logging and on building the Congo railway and internal roads. The Pécule overprints were applied not only on the French Congo stamps listed below, but also on revenue stamps of Gabon, AEF, and France itself. For further issues, see under Gabon and AEF. Conscription for forced labour only ended in 1946.



1931. Enregistrement stamps handstamped PÉCULE

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| 1. 1F pale blue & black | 15.00 |
| 2. 2F yellow-brown & black | 20.00 |
| 3. 3F pale green & black | 20.00 |
| 4. 4F blue & black | 20.00 |
| 5. 10F grey & black | 150.00 |
| 6. 50F violet & black | 100.00 |
| 7. 100F rose & black | 100.00 |



1939. Postage stamps of Middle Congo, ovpt *PÉCULE* and surcharge, in red (R) or in black. Currency inscribed A) small "fr.", B) taller italic "Fr." and C) "FR.".

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 10. 10fr on 1c brown (R) | 100.00 |
| 11. 20fr on 2c blue (R) | 350.00 |
| 12. 20fr on 4c olive (R) | 200.00 |
| 13. 20FR on 20c red on rose | 350.00 |

CONGO (FRENCH) PROPORTIONNEL



1922. Postage stamps of 1907 ovpt TIMBRE PROPORTIONNEL and surcharged. Leopard and frame in first colour stated.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. 5c on 4c blue & brown | 10.00 |
| 2. 10c on 4c blue & brown | 10.00 |
| 3. 15c on 4c blue & brown | 10.00 |
| 4. 20c on 4c blue & brown | 10.00 |
| 5. 25c on 4c blue & brown | 10.00 |
| 6. 30c on 4c blue & brown | 10.00 |
| 7. 35c on 4c blue & brown | 10.00 |
| 8. 40c on 4c blue & brown | 10.00 |
| 9. 45c on 4c blue & brown | 15.00 |
| 10. 50c on 4c blue & brown | 15.00 |
| 11. 1F on 4c blue & brown | 15.00 |
| 12. 2F on 4c blue & brown | 25.00 |
| 13. 5F on 4c blue & brown | 35.00 |

CONGO (FRENCH) QUITTANCES



1922. Postage stamp of 1907 ovpt "Droit de timbre spécial" and surcharged. Leopard and frame in first colour stated.

1. 25c on 1c brown & red-brown 7.50
2. 25c on 2c violet & brown 7.50
3. 50c on 1c brown & red-brown 7.50
4. 50c on 2c violet & brown 10.00
5. 1F on 1c brown & red-brown 10.00
6. 1F on 2c violet & brown 10.00
7. 5F on 1c brown & red-brown 20.00
8. 10F on 2c violet & brown 25.00
9. 20F on 4c blue & brown 75.00
10. 50F on 5c green & blue 200.00
11. 100F on 10c red & blue 750.00

Only one example known of #11.



Quittance stamps of France are known with cancels of the Congo Railway company. It is not known if these were actually used in the Congo, or simply by the parent company administration in France.

CONGO 11. (FRENCH) TIMBRE SPECIAL

Tax on posters and advertising



1922. Postage stamp of 1907 ovpt "Droit de timbre spécial" and surcharged. Leopard and frame in first colour stated.

1. 12c on 5c green & blue 50.00
2. 24c on 5c green & blue 35.00
3. 36c on 5c green & blue 35.00
4. 48c on 5c green & blue 35.00

CONGO (FRENCH) MUNICIPALS

BRAZZAVILLE



c1950. Locally typeset with diamond pattern security background. Rough perf.

1. 15F yellow & black 20.00