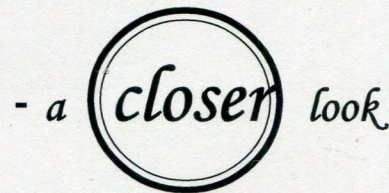


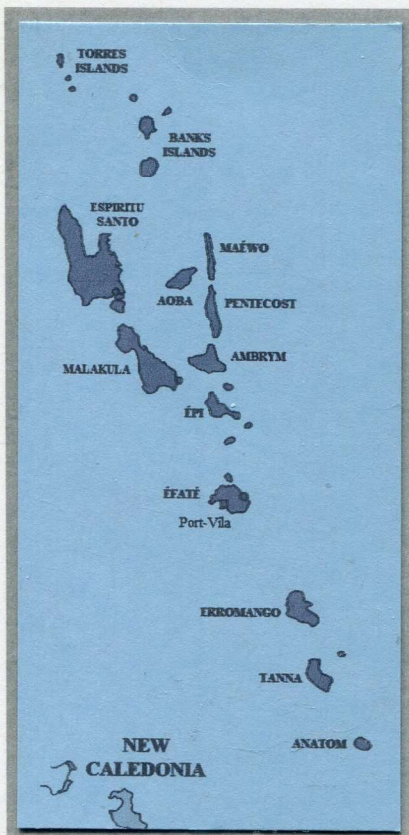
THE 1893 FRENCH MILITARY FRANCHISE ESSAYS OF THE NEW HEBRIDES



The French's grand plan

In the late 1800s, Britain and France were both reluctant to take ownership of the New Hebrides islands because of the tough climate and the savage inhabitants. However, their settlers looked to them to provide some sort of authority and stability.

In 1893, French military officers in New Caledonia came up with a plan whereby troops could be stationed on certain islands which could eventually be acquired for France.



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They would issue a Military Franchise stamp similar to that already issued for New Caledonia.

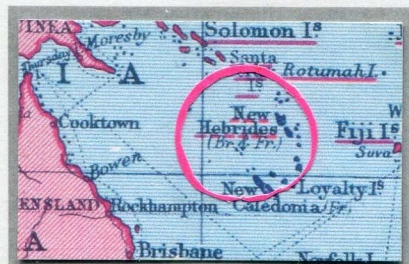


essay from 3rd printing group

To encourage the cooperation of the British, a bi-national design was chosen: President Sadi Carnot facing Queen Victoria.

Plan

Each chapter is set in a quadrant.



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Enlargements are 50%, 100% or 200% larger than the original essays.

Different quadrant and mat colors represent each printing group.

All items are significant.

This traditional exhibit aims to present these colorful, rarely seen essays in order of printing group.

General characteristics of each group are shown first (**the big picture**).

Specific features that link printing groups or show printing order are then closely examined, by showing enlargements (**a closer look**).

Very few of these essays have survived. No definitive list of printings or printing order currently exists. This exhibit will analyse those reported and available for study, and draw conclusions based on evidence seen in the essays themselves.

The top shows the big picture.
The middle shows the essays.
The bottom takes a closer look.

1. Definitions

The French's grand plan
A military officer as printer
Naming conventions
Essay characteristics
Printing features

2. 1st printing group

Characteristics
Lettering on background stone
The 5 different printings
Printing features
Signs of previous printings

3. 2nd printing group

Characteristics
Lettering on disk and background stones
Printing features, Forgery
Signs of previous printings

4. 3rd printing group

Characteristics
Lettering on design stone
Printing features, Forgery
Signs of previous printings
The British's response