

Obock

Obock was established as a French coaling base in 1883. A post office was opened the following year. Until 1892, general 'Colonial' stamps were used to frank letters.

Unoverprinted 'Alphée Dubois' issued cancelled
'OBOCK'



Obock

Prior to 1892, French general issues were used in Obock. But as elsewhere, to prevent these general colonial issues being used for currency speculation, a decision was taken to customise the stamps of each territory. Stamps of 'Alphée Dubois' issues held locally were therefore handstamped at the Obock P.O. Two types of overprint were used.

(a) curved overprint



(Rouney)



(Rouney)



Behr

Obock

1892 Alphée Dubois overprints

(b) straight line overprint



Varieties



opt omitted
(Roumer)

Obock

February 1892

'Alphée Dubois' general Colonial series overprinted

(a) curved overprint



(Roumer)

(b) straight line overprint



Obock

February 1892.

Curved overprint : used on cover



25 February 1892 cover to London, franked at the 50 cents 'foreign' rate. Arrival backstamp (London): 6 April.

An unusual, early, cover sent in the same month that the stamps were issued, to a scarce destination. The coaling base for British vessels was across the water, at Aden. This cover will have been posted from a French steamer while in port.

February 1892

straight line overprint



November 1892 Double rate registered cover (50c+25c) to Paris. Toulon transit mark.

Behr certificate (2011)

Obock

1892

Provisional Surcharges

Produced locally, by hand, using woodblock type, with each number handstamped separately. An emergency measure to cope with shortages, pending the arrival of the Moudon Keyplate Series.



1c



2c



2c



4c



4c



5c



20c



30c



35c



75c



Roumet

Obock.

1892 (March-April)

Local woodblock surcharges
varieties.



*Surcharge omitted in pair
with normal (Belser)*



*Surcharge
inverted
(Belser)*



*Surcharge inverted, in
pair with normal
(Belser)*

Obock

November 1892

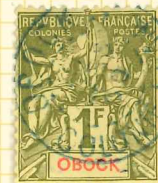
'Tablet' key-type inscribed obock.



Obock

November 1892

'Tablet' key-type inscribed Obock.



Obock

1892

'Tablet' key-type series, used on cover

40 cents



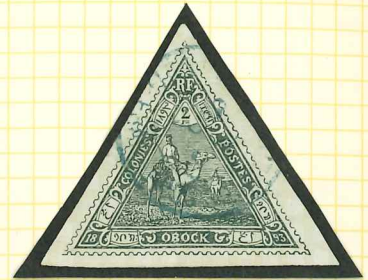
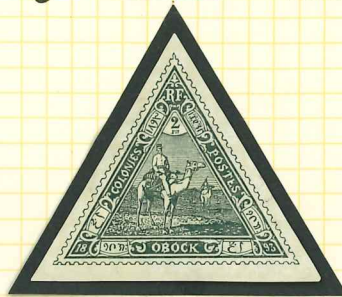
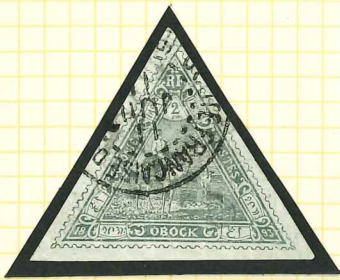
December 1909, Single rate registered cover sent locally within Djibouti, 5 cents overpaid.

Obock

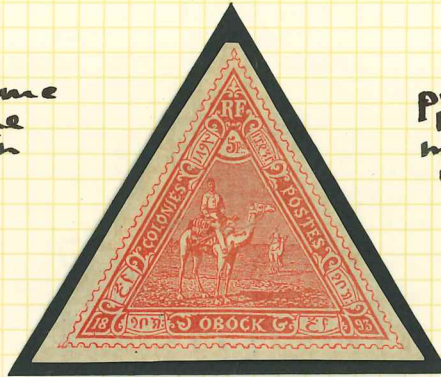
1893-94

High values

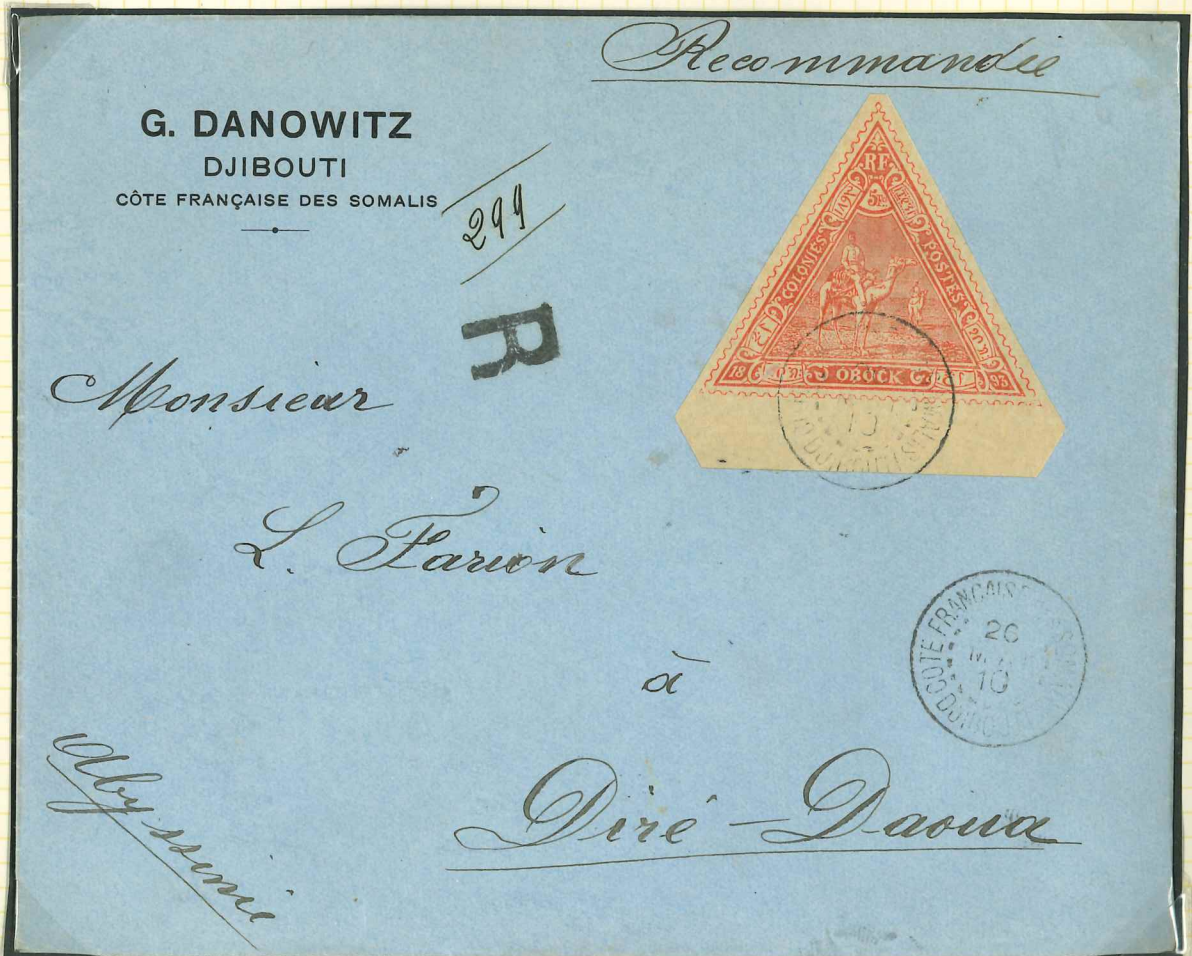
'Meharistes' (desert warriors)



Crude monochrome to complement the but replaced within high value series



printings. Intended 1892 Keyplate Series marks by the bicolor issued in February 1894.



G. DANOWITZ

DJIBOUTI

CÔTE FRANÇAISE DES SOMALIS

Recommandée

299

R

Monsieur

L. Farion

à

Dire-Daoua

Wby smm

May 1910

Cover to Dire-Daoua (Ethiopia)

Obock

February 1894

Somali Warriors / Méharistes Imperf



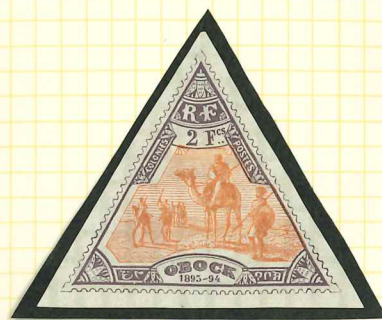
Somali Warriors

Obock

February 1894

Somali Warriors/Méharistes

Imperf.



'Méharistes'

Obock

February 1894

Somali Warriors / 'Meharistes'

Imperf.



Somali Warriors

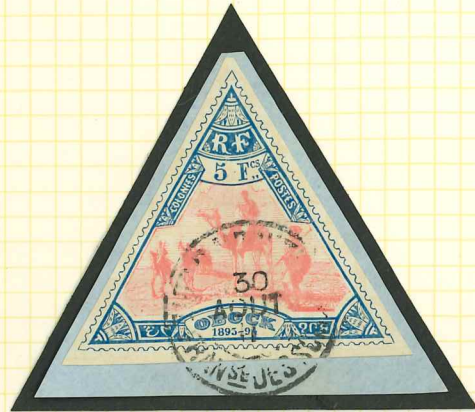
Obock

February 1894

Somali Warriors/Méharistes'

Imperf.

2f.



Obock

1894 Series

used on piece



October 1895. Five colour franking to France. from Obock



Obock and Djibouti became a single Protectorate in 1896. The administration moved by degrees to Djibouti, and the Obock office, closed in 1899. Remaining stocks of Obock stamps were handed over to the Djibouti postmaster, and used alongside the Djibouti series.

May 1902 mixed franking to the same addressee in Paris. from Djibouti

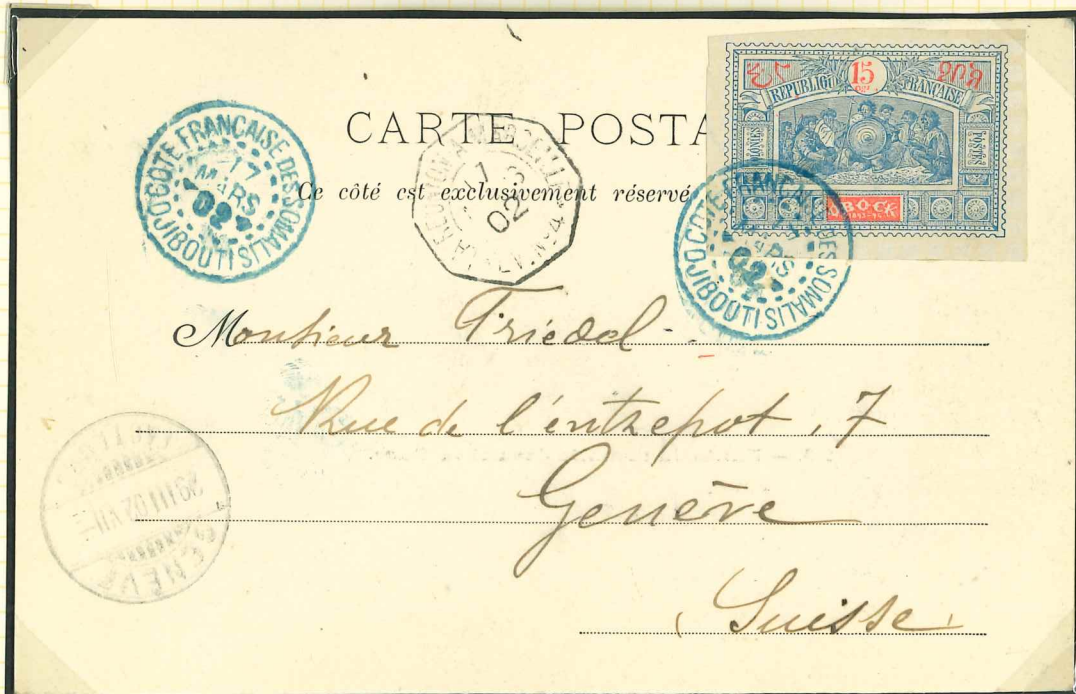
Obock

1893-94 Series

Covers / Cards to Switzerland.



January 1904. Postcard to Switzerland with message on 'View' side ('Terraces in the Arab quarter') correctly franked 10c.



March 1902. Postcard to Switzerland (Somali 'fantasia' in front of the station - then just opened) franked 15 cents. Se overpaid.

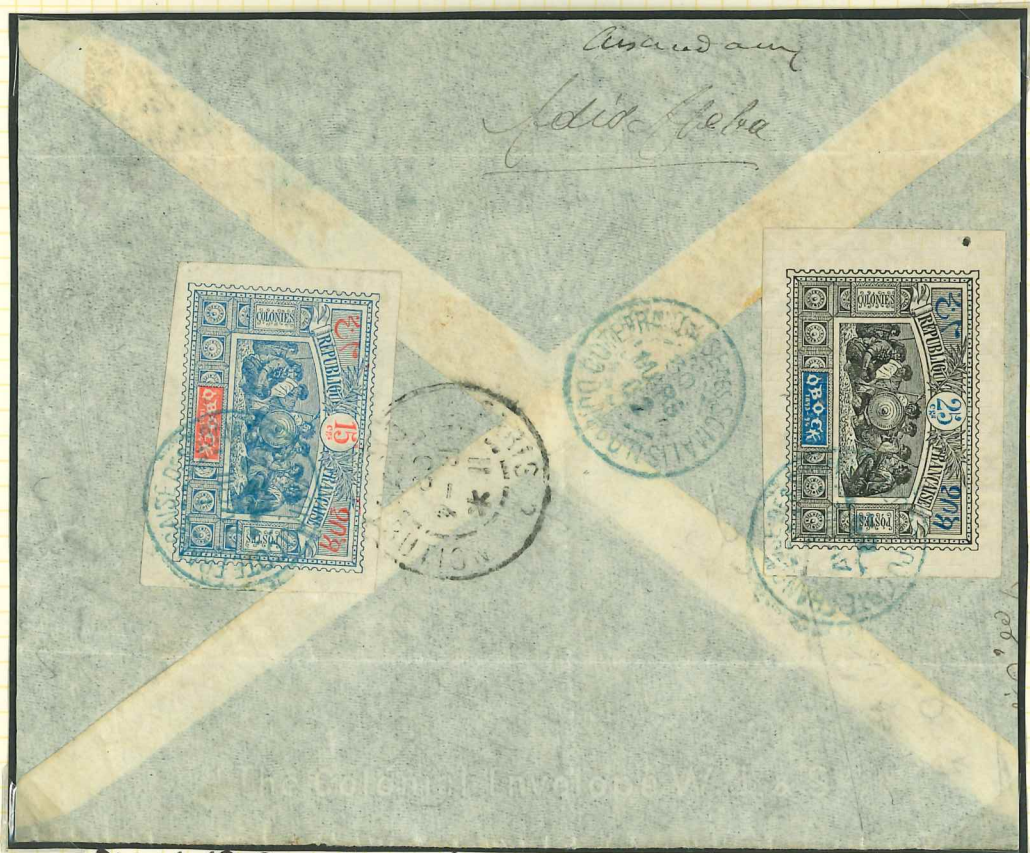
Obock

1893-94 Series

Registered mail to Europe



October 1901, Registered postcard to Switzerland, correctly franked 10c (postage) plus 25c registration



March 1902 post cover (reverse only), originating in Ethiopia, franked by correct single colonial registered rate (15c + 25c) to Paris.

Obock

November 1901 20c bisect used on piece/cover

Issued after the closure of the Obock office by the Djibouti postal authorities as an emergency measure, as stocks of the low values ran out, without prospect of replacement until the perforated Somali Coast issue arrived in late 1902.



November 1901. Card to Paris, with message on the reverse, franked 20c bisect to make up the 10 cents postcard rate.



Obock

November 1901

25c bisect (right half) - used as 5cents

Issued after the closure of the Obock office by the Djibouti postal authorities, as an emergency measure when supplies of the 5 cents value ran out (a short term printing of the 5cents value only of the Djibouti 'Vicus' series, in a new colour, was hastily prepared and put on sale in March 1902). The left half of the bisect was not issued to the public for a further 18 months.



November 1901. Local cover franked 15cents : 20c bisect (10 cents) plus 25c bisect (5 cents).



Obock

November 1901

25c bisect (right half) used on piece/cover

Issued after the closure of the Obock office by the Djibouti Authorities. Only the right half was issued initially, despite the real shortage of low values at the time. The left half was put on sale over 18 months later. The bisect had a value of 5 cents.

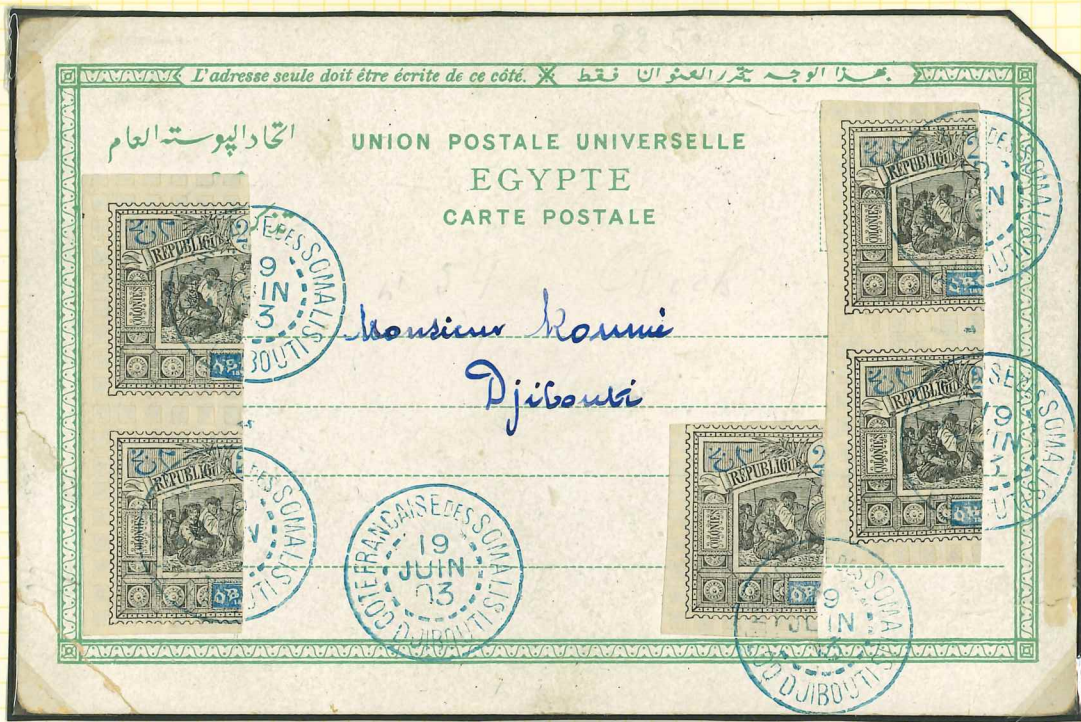


December 1901. Registered letter to France, correctly franked 25c. registration plus 15 cents postage at the Franco-colonial rate, made up by 20c bisect (10 cents) plus a 25c bisect (5 cents).

Obock

June 1903 25c bisect (left half) used on piece/cover.

Issued after the closure of the Obock office by the Djibouti postal authorities. The left half (value apparently 10c) was not put on sale until 18 months after the right half (value apparently 5c!).



June 1903 Egyptian postcard used locally with 5x
25c bisect stamps (left half)



Obock

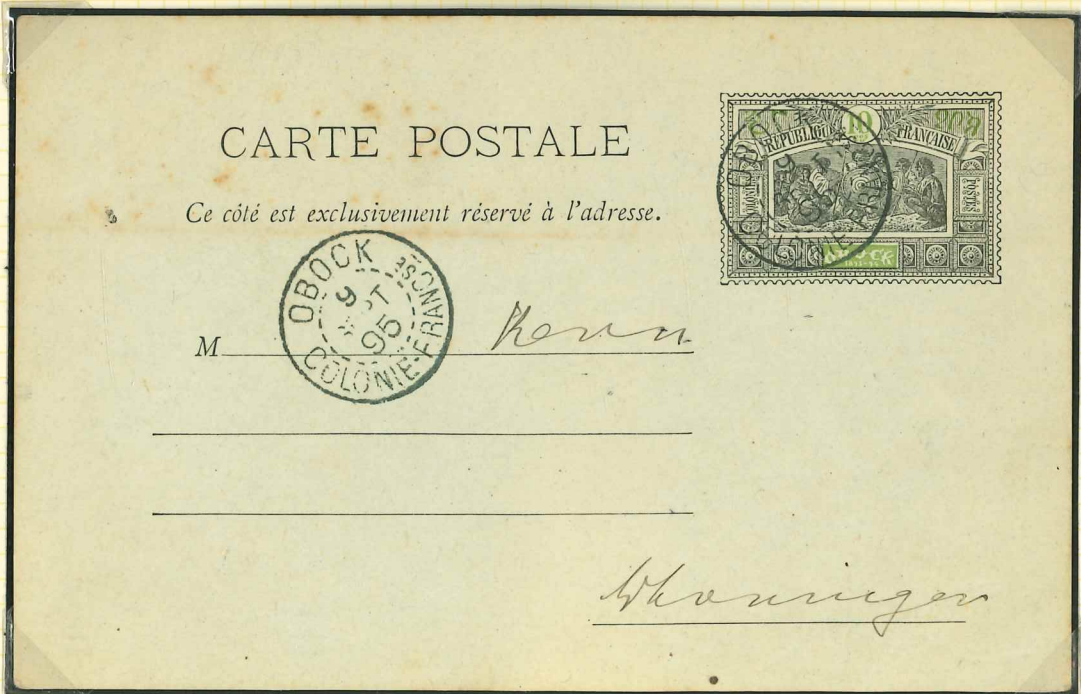
February 1894

Postal Stationery

10 cents postcard



unused



September 1895 'Used' to Europe (but no message, or arrival stamp).

Obock

1892

Postage Due

(i) curved overprint

(ii) straight overprint



Obock

1892

Postage Due

(i) curved overprint

(ii) straight overprint

1c

2c

3c

4c



inverted