

They were intended merely to show that the fiscal tax or revenue levied on the publication had been paid. This was in accordance with the old French laws, (before the freedom of the press had been obtained), as at that time all newspapers or journals were taxed. These stamps were issued under rule of Napoleon III.

They replaced the old hand stamp that was formerly impressed on the paper to show that these fiscal duties had been paid (a similar stamp is still in use for stamped papers, such as legal documents, etc.).

I would like to ask why the 2c rose imperforate No. 252 of these stamps (of which it is not known that indisputable genuine used specimen exists in this imperforate condition) is listed at \$50.00 while they do not catalogue the cheaper stamps of the same series, such as:

IMPERFORATE.

	Unused	Used
2c lilac.....	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.00

PERFORATED.

5c lilac.....	.50	.05
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There are also many errors, or "so-called" errors of these stamps that are very high priced, such as:

IMPERFORATE.

	Unused	Used
5c rose.....	\$25.00
5c blue.....	20.00
5c lilac.....	10.00

PERFORATED.

5c rose.....	25.00
5c blue.....	20.00
5c lilac.....	7.50	\$ 5.00

These prices are approximations from the leading European catalogues. It is very probable that the so-called errors are only essays like the 2c rose imperforate.

A: I have said, these stamps are of no value in a collection of postage stamps, as they have no claim to be such, being merely revenues (very similar to U. S. Document Revenues), the cancellation of which is merely the printed matter of the journal to which they were attached. But as these stamps are catalogued, and there is a space reserved for them in nearly all albums, many collectors will probably wish to secure them. I would warn them that there are now being circulated "reprints", or very fine counterfeits, of these stamps, which are dangerous, as they are sold by many of the leading firms in France.

They were very probably manufactured by the same gang of counterfeiters who issued the fine imitations of the Unpaid Letter Stamps of France, which collectors should also watch for. I give a list of the stamps counterfeited:—

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

Scott's No.,	issue 1859-70,	square stamps:
201	10c	black lithographed.
102	10c	" typographed.
293	15c	" "
206	25c	" "
208	40c	blue "
209	60c	yellow "
210	60c	blue "

The counterfeits of the newspaper stamps are very perfectly executed. the principal difference I have been able to find is in the