

campaign succeeded in obtaining a resolution published in the *Journal Officiel* on May 27, 1936, by which the issue of special stamps was confirmed, and the E.T.I. was entrusted with the receipt and distribution of the funds collected, under conditions drawn up by the council of the E.T.I., the Minister of National Education and the Postmaster-General.

It was considered more useful to spend the money on work in science, literature and art, than in distributing doles, the work being carried on so long as the funds permitted under approved conditions. The work thus provided may not, of course, be adapted to the special qualifications of every unemployed person, but they are engaged for six months to do some socially useful work, unless they find employment in their own field. Up to January 1, 1937, the French Post Office paid over to the E.T.I. about a million francs under this scheme. This sum is due mainly to philatelists and stamp-dealers; for the success of the scheme, it is necessary that the public generally should take part in this social and humane work. At present the following stamps have been issued:



Fig. 1.

Letters abroad:

1 fr. 50 c. surcharge 50 c. (see Fig. 1)

Post-cards abroad:

90 c. ,, 10 c.

Internal correspondence:

50 c. ,, 10 c. and 20 c.
(three kinds of stamp)

30 c. ,, 10 c.

These special stamps are available at any post office in France and at the E.T.I. (12 rue Henner, Paris IX), where they can be supplied in any quantity required.

Ancient Monuments in France

At the close of September the Commission des Monuments Historiques of France completed a hundred years of its existence. Although at one time subjected to no little criticism, instructed and otherwise, since the War, when it has included among its members the most distinguished of French archaeologists, its activities, both in the preservation and protection of buildings of historic interest and in its care for the antiquities of France generally, have deserved the highest praise. Notwithstanding limitations, of which the members of the Commission are even more fully conscious than expert opinion among the outside public, its control, advice and assistance in bringing to light, preserving and making

accessible the evidence from the prehistoric sites of France, which is now a world-wide possession of archaeological science, has earned the gratitude of every student of antiquity. Even better known to the travelling public, however, are the efforts which have preserved from decay and no less from vandalism the structures of the Middle Ages and of the Roman period. Among the latter the wonderful series of monuments of Roman culture, such as those at Orange, at Nîmes and at Arles, can never be forgotten by anyone who has passed through Provence. Among the latest achievements of the Commission is the excavation of the Roman theatre of Vienne, south of Lyons, which is not an amphitheatre of the more usual type, but is cut out of the side of the hill and necessitated an excavation more than sixty feet deep to bring to light the lowest tier of seats. The completion of the excavation is to be celebrated by a number of theatrical performances to be given on the stage next year similar to those now given annually in the amphitheatre at Orange.

'Shiva's Temple', Arizona

DR. HAROLD ANTHONY, leader of the Patterson-American Museum Grand Canyon Expedition, on his return to New York, gave a preliminary account of the results obtained during his four days' stay on September 16-20 on the summit of Shiva's Temple in the Grand Canyon, Arizona (see *NATURE*, Sept. 25, p. 537). Some seventy-five specimens, it is stated in the report in *The Times* of September 30, were shot or trapped, and will be forwarded to New York for examination. They include chipmunks, three or four species of mice, cottontail rabbits, rock squirrels, which resemble the common grey squirrel, and pack rats, of which one species may be peculiar to Shiva's Temple. As regards the problem whether isolation has produced any marked changes in appearance and habits, Dr. Anthony is of opinion that the colour of the specimens as a whole is lighter than that of those on the north and south rims of the Canyon, respectively one and a half miles and eight miles away in a straight line; but confirmation by detailed comparison is awaited. The vegetation, consisting of pines, junipers, shrubs, and cactus, is described as "more arid" than that of the mainland, and the heat as greater. The plateau, it is stated, is evidently visited in winter by cougar, or mountain lion, and coyote. As the report refers to the discovery of many Indian remains in the shape of mounds, ovens and tools, presumably the members of the expedition were not the only visitors to reach the summit since its isolation from the mainland, as was claimed originally, and the expectation of evidence bearing on the high antiquity of man in this region seems doomed to disappointment. Nevertheless, it is to be concluded that the remains are 'early', and any material which affords evidence of cultural or racial succession in the south-western States is of importance, especially in the present state of knowledge. It may be hoped that an opportunity will be found to submit the material *in situ* to careful and expert examination.