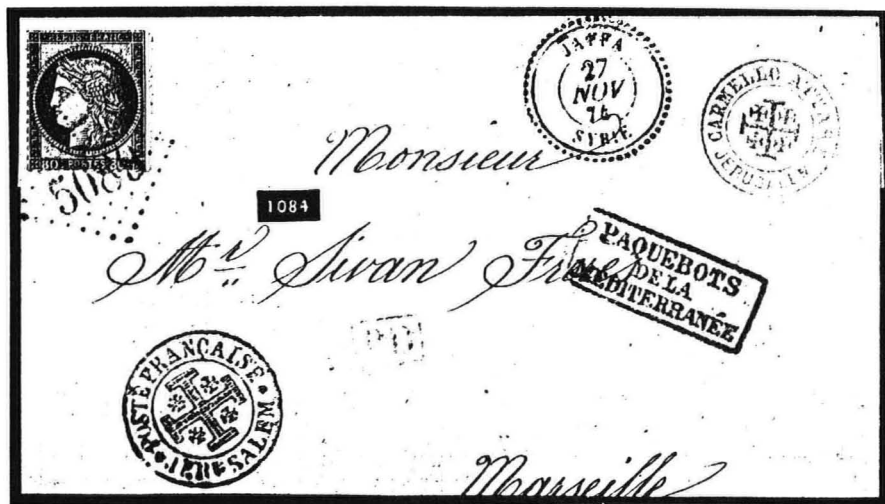




# France & Colonies



# Philatelist



80c Cérés, with 5089 large numerals killer, Jaffa, 27 November 1874, to Marseille. A superb example of mail from the French consular office at Jerusalem prior to obtaining its own postal facility in 1879. Cover shows perfect strikes of the consular agent's cachet (Cross of Godefroy de Bouillon, or *croix potencée*) and of Carmello Attard, Jerusalem merchant. Brought more than 30,000Fr in 1981. More recent realizations for similar but usually less attractive covers have been considerably higher.

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## FRANCE &amp; COLONIES PHILATELIST

USPS #207700

ISSN 0897-1293

Published quarterly by the  
**FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC. (N.Y.)**  
**Affiliate No. 45, American Philatelic Society**

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April 1995 - Vol. 51, No. 2, Whole No. 240

Second-class postage paid at Bloomfield, NJ

Office of Publication: 103 Spruce St., Bloomfield, NJ 07003

An additional entry office at Platteville, WI 53818

Printing arranged by: Jay Smith, P.O. Box 650, Snow Camp, NC 27349

Dues \$11.00 per year. Parent Chapter and Foreign \$15.00 (plus \$5.00 admission fee)

A subscription to the *F & C Philatelist* (at \$11.00 per year) is included in the membership dues.

All communications about membership, subscriptions, publications, activities, and services of the Society should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary,  
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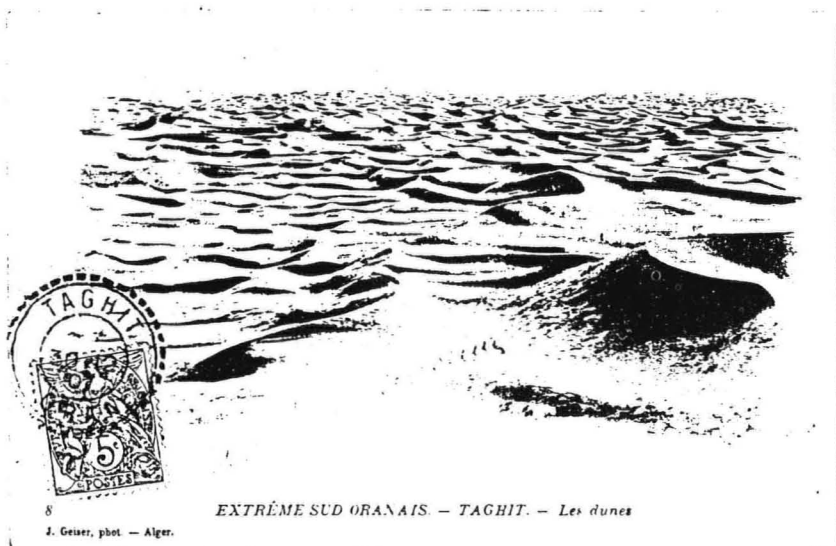
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# THE FIRST POST OFFICES OF THE ALGERIAN SAHARA

by Laurence H. Lambert (FCPS #1394)



## INTRODUCTION

The information presented in this article is derived primarily from previous publications. However, the article is not simply a translation or a rewording. It is rather, an account of the French campaigns of 1891-1906 to occupy the Sahara Desert, and a listing of the new post offices opened there, both civil and military, along with their cancel types.

Previous philatelic articles on this subject which are known to the author have concentrated upon the military post offices. However, the rarest cancellations of the campaign are those of the forts, some of which had civil post offices. It is also significant that more civil post offices than military ones resulted from the campaign.

## SUMMARY OF THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN

By the late 1880s, France had occupied Algeria from the Mediterranean, across the Atlas Mountains, and to the northern frontier of the Sahara Desert. This occupation had proceeded slowly, over a period of more than 50 years. In a few places, the occupation had penetrated beyond the edge of the desert, notably the Mزاب, where post offices had been opened at Ghardaia and Ouargla in 1882 (see map, Figure 1). The Mزاب occupation had been peaceful.

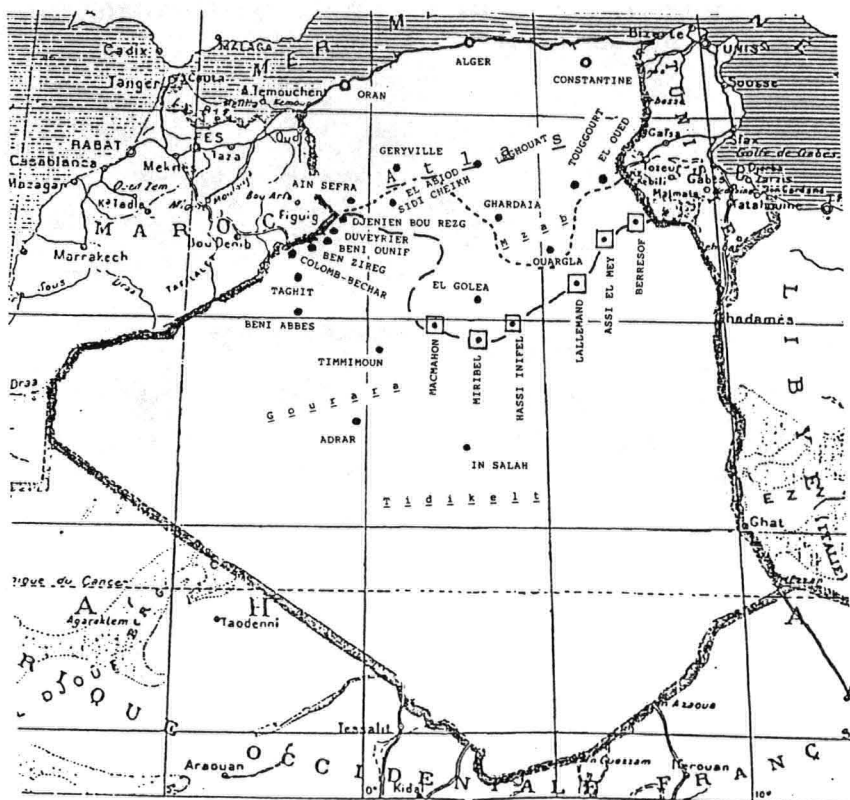


Figure 1. Map of Algeria. Dotted line across the map, south of Ain Sefra, Geryville, Laghouat, Ouargla, Touggourt, and El Oued represents the approximate south boundary of occupied Algeria in 1890. All named locations south of this line represent new post offices opened in the Sahara, 1890-1906, except for Lallemand, Assi el Mey, and Berresof, which had no post offices. Small squares represent forts built in 1893-1894. Dashed line through the forts and across the map represents the approximate south boundary of the occupied Desert in 1895. By 1903, all named locations had been occupied.



The treaties of 1890 between the European powers had completed a colonial partitioning of Africa, and awarded the Sahara to France. France soon took action to occupy these new territories. In addition to providing space for eventual expansion and development, occupation of the Sahara would provide a military base for keeping watch over the incursion of Moroccan tribes from the west.

The military action of the occupation of the Sahara is somewhat familiar to most of us, because it has been romanticized in stories and movies of the famed French Foreign Legion, which participated in these wars (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Typical "franchise militaire" cover of the period. The cover originated at DJENIEN BOU REZG in 1901. By the Djenien bou Rezg cancel is one inscribed TROUPES DU TIDIKELT - REGION D'IN-SALAH. In the lower left is a military cachet which shows in the upper center the grenade of seven flames, symbol of the French Foreign Legion. The inscription at the bottom of this cachet is 2E REGIMENT ETRANGER.

The military campaigns began with the capture of the oasis of El Golea in 1891. In 1893, forts were built at Berresof, Assi el Mey, and Hassi Inifel (Figure 1). In 1894, Fort Lallemand was constructed at Assi bel Heirane; Fort Miribel was constructed 135 kilometers south of El Golea; and Fort MacMahon was constructed on the road to the Gourara. In 1895, El Abiod Sidi Cheikh, in the Department of Oran, was occupied. Djenien bou Rezg, where a post office had been established in 1889, was selected as a strategic location for troop movements. In 1897, the headquarters for operations in the extreme south were moved from Ghardaia, in the Mزاب, to El Golea.

In 1900, a decision was made to occupy all the oases of the southwest, which was considered necessary to the taking of In-Salah. In this same year,

the Tidikelt was occupied. Then came Timmimoun in the Gourara, and Adrar, which was garrisoned in 1901. In-Salah was taken at about this time. In 1903, following these deep penetrations to the south, Ben Zireg and Colomb-Bechar, on the Algero-Moroccan frontier, were occupied. Uprisings by dissident tribes were quelled by 1906.

With these accomplishments, a major part of central Algeria had been occupied, and several new post offices within the Sahara had been opened.

### THE POST OFFICES AND THEIR CANCEL TYPES

Some readers may argue that there were earlier post offices in the Sahara than those listed below. It is not the purpose of this article to exactly delineate the outline of the Sahara Desert. Considering that the French in 1890 were at the border of the desert and, following the agreements of the 1890 treaties, began to occupy it, then the post offices listed below are indeed the earliest French ones in the Sahara.

The new post offices that opened during the campaigns of 1891-1906 fall into two categories. First, there are those opened directly as civil post offices; and secondly, there are those opened as military post offices, which may or may not have been converted later to civil post offices. The military post offices had cancellations like the civil ones, except that the name of the military region replaced the name of the civil department, in the lower part of the cancel. Therefore, in the lower part of the cancel, civil post offices had the name of one of the departments, ALGER, ORAN, or CONSTANTINE, whereas the military post offices had the inscriptions SUD ALGERIEN, SUD ORANAIS, EXTREME SUD ORANAIS, or OASIS SAHARIENNES.

Illustrations of the various cancel types used by the new post offices appear in Figure 3. These cancel types conform to the classification used in my articles which appeared in *FCP* for January and April 1991.



02



J



J2



J3



L



L2



L3



N



P



N3

Figure 3. Cancel types used in the Sahara, 1891-1906, shown full size. (Differences in sub-types are in the center dater block, except for Type N3.)

All the civil and military post offices which opened in the Sahara during the 1891-1906 occupation of the oases appear in the following list. Djenien bou Rezg, where a post office had been opened in 1889, is included because of its strategic importance to the campaign.

In reading the list, the names of the post offices appear first, in alphabetical order. The post office name is followed by the opening and closing dates. If the closing date given is 1962, then the post office was still in existence at the time of Algerian independence. Following the dates are the department or military region name, and, in parenthesis, the known cancel types. Cancel types subsequent to 1910 are not shown.

### LIST OF SAHARA POST OFFICES

ADRAR . . . . .	1904-1962; / OASIS SAHARIENNES (J, J2); / 1909 ORAN (N3).
BENI ABBES . . . . .	1903-1962; / EXTREME SUD ORANAIS (L, L2).
BENI OUNIF . . . . .	1903-1904; / SUD ORANAIS (L). Name changed to BENI OUNIF DE FIGUIG in 1904.
BENI OUNIF DE FIGUIG .	1904-1914; / SUD ORANAIS (J2, J3, N). Name changed to REVOIL BENI OUNIF in 1914.
BEN ZIREG . . . . .	1905-1906; / SUD ORANAIS (P).
COLOMB . . . . .	1904-1907; / EXTREME SUD ORANAIS (N3); / 1906 SUD ORANAIS (N). Name changed to COLOMB-BECHAR in 1907.
COLOMB-BECHAR. . . . .	1907-1962; / ORAN (N).
DJENAN ED DAR. . . . .	1901-1903; / ORAN (L). Transferred to BENI OUNIF in 1903.
DJENIEN BOU REZG. . . .	1889-about 1920; / ORAN (L, L2).
DUVEYRIER . . . . .	1900-1904; / ORAN (L).
EL ABIOD SIDI CHEIKH. .	1899-1962; / ORAN (L, L2).
EL GOLEA. . . . .	1891-1962; / ALGER (L); 1899 (J, J2). / 1910 CONSTANTINE (N3).
FORT MACMAHON . . . . .	about 1898-1902; / ORAN (02).
FORT MIRIBEL. . . . .	1896-1902; / ALGER (L).
HASSI INIFEL. . . . .	1896-1900; / ALGER (cancel type unknown).
IN-SALAH . . . . .	1902-1962; / SUD ALGERIEN (L); / ca. 1904 OASIS SAHARIENNES (L2, L3).
MACMAHON. . . . .	1896-about 1898; / Alger (L).
MIRIBEL . . . . .	1896-1902; / ALGER (L).
TAGHIT . . . . .	1901-1909; 1950s-1962; / ORAN (L, L2).
TIMMIMOUN . . . . .	1902-1962; / SUD ALGERIEN (L); / 1903 OASIS SAHARIENNES (L, L2) (Figure 4) / 1909 ORAN (N).



Figure 4. Post card from TIMMIMOUN, 1906, with the military district name, OASIS SAHARIENNES, at bottom of the cancel.

## RELATIVE SCARCITY

As previously indicated, cancellations of all the forts built in 1893 and 1894 are rare. Berresof, Assi el Mey, and Lallemand, the three most easterly forts, had no post offices. There is no doubt that the inscriptions MIRIBEL and FORT MIRIBEL both exist on cancels. Though authorities provide no explanation, the author believes these inscriptions are for the same postal facility. Reliable authorities also indicate that the inscriptions MACMAHON and FORT MACMAHON both existed. The author has not been fortunate enough to have ever seen any cancels from the forts, nor are they depicted in any of the known literature.

A cancel type for HASSI INIFEL has not been documented, and must be classified as extremely rare, if one indeed existed. Likewise, cancels for MACMAHON and FORT MACMAHON are extremely rare. Somewhat rare are BENI OUNIF, BEN ZIREG, DJENAN ED DAR, FORT MIRIBEL, MIRIBEL, EL ABIOD SIDI CHEIKH for the period, and all inscriptions with the SUD ALGERIEN military region. The remainder are relatively common, and covers of some of them may be obtained for as little as \$10.

\* \* \* \* \*

(The author is still deeply involved in researching cancellations of this area and period, and would appreciate a listing of cancellations in any reader's collection. If any reader has questions, the author will undertake to answer them. Address: P.O. Box 866, Nevada, MO 64772.)

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6193 SCÈNES ET TYPES. — Dans le Désert. — LL.

# THE CARNET CORNER

by Bob Seeke (FCPS #1334)

Let's look this time at the *numéro du confectionneuse*, found on French closed booklets from the Cheffers to date. This is a single-digit number on the cover. The Cheffer booklets have it on the front cover (Figure 1), whereas all prepared since then have it on the back cover.

This number is the one assigned to one of the 6-color *taille-douce* (en-graved, recess printed, intaglio) presses used to print the cover. The numbers range from 1 to 9, with #9 being used only to print covers for the 78 x 26mm Sabine, Liberté, and Briat vending-machine booklets of 10 stamps (Figure 2). The other numbers were used for 72 x 26mm booklets of 10 stamps (Figure 3) and for booklets of 20 stamps. Some booklets were printed without a *confectionneuse* number. These are not errors; they just don't bear a number.

The Cheffer booklets used Nos. 1-6; Bequet booklets 1-8; Sabine booklets 3-9; Liberté booklets 4-9; Briat booklets 6-9 (Figures 2-3). Since the debut of the permanent value/no face value Briat stamp, only Nos. 6 and 9 have been used. So far. (As a remainder, these numbers appear on closed booklets only, not the open-faced ones).

Looks like there's a little space left this time, so let's look at the phosphor bars or bands found on booklet stamps of the o, 50F Bequet value.

This is the only instance I know of where two different types of phosphor bars were used on a booklet stamp. There are four types of phosphor bars used on the more recent French definitive stamps, but we'll stick to Types A and B.

Type A bars, printed from metallic cylinders, have a very even, homogeneous appearance both under UV light and to the naked eye. Type B, printed from rubber or plastic cylinders, have clearly defined edges, but the inside is less well-defined because there's less phosphor residue inside the bar than along the borders; sometimes there may also be a discrete vertical line of phosphor along the middle of the bar.

The two types seem to be equally prevalent on the o, 50 Bequet booklet stamps.

The plan for next time is to examine the marginal markings found in the selvage of booklet panes. 'Til then, *bonne philatélie*.



Figure 1. o,40 Cheffer booklet with imprint of Press 4 on the front cover.

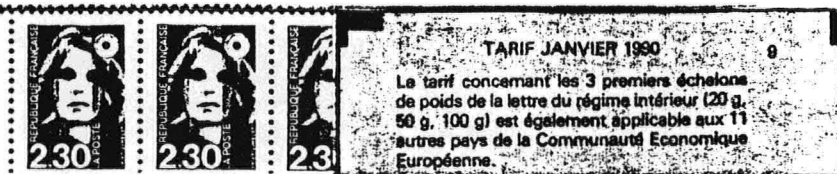


Figure 2. 2,30 M. de Briat 78 x 26mm booklet, with imprint of Press 9 on back cover.



Figure 3. 2,30 M. de Briat 72 x 26mm booklet, with imprint of Press 6 on back cover.

### 18th CENTURY WEIGHTS AND RATES CLARIFIED?

Postal historians, and collectors of old French letters know that, prior to the introduction of the decimal system and of the gram, deciphering weights and rates on pre-1800 letters is a terribly chancy thing.

Michèle Chauvet, in *Feuilles Marcophiles*, #279 (1994), making good use of original documents, may have overcome some of the difficulties we've faced. She tells us that:

1 gros =  $\frac{1}{8}$  once (= 72 grains, = 3.8+ gm);

1 once = 8 gros (= 30.6 - 31.3 gm (pre- and post-1812, respectively);

1 marc = 8 onces (= 64 gros, = 245 gm).

The 2x tax of the 1759 Tariff is simply equal to more than 2 gros (or  $\frac{1}{4}$  once) and less than 4 gros (or  $\frac{1}{2}$  once), and can be considered as affecting a letter of  $\pm 3$  gros. The same applies to the weight progression found in the 1792 Tariff, where a 1x letter is one that's less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  once, and a 2x one weighs between  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  once.

If you have trouble following this "simplification" of Chauvet's text, so do I. But interested parties should attempt to read, reread, and ingest her fine two-page article.

-- S. J. Luft

### UTILIZATION OF DAGUIN POSTMARKS IN TAHITI

by Christian Beslu (FCPS #2358)

If there remains an area that still offers nearly limitless possibilities for the study of postal markings, it definitely is French Polynesia, with its 90 post offices--current or discontinued--on 118 islands dispersed over more than 4 million km<sup>2</sup> of ocean.

However, only very few philatelists have made serious inquiries into the problem, and rare are the articles on the subject that have appeared in the philatelic press.

Since the appearance of my handbook-catalogue, *"La Philatélie à Tahiti,"* and thanks to an important exchange of correspondence, I have been able to



make a number of corrections and additions to this book, and I wish to so inform the members of FCPS prior to the appearance of a re-edition or of a supplement.

The recent acquisition of an archive covering the years 1928-1950 has enabled me to make certain observations, particularly on the Daguins<sup>1</sup> which produced the slogan cancels VISITER/TAHITI/PERLE DU/PACIFIQUE (Figure 1) and VOIR/TAHITI/ET Y VIVRE (Figure 2), and whose utilization has been the object of some wild suppositions.

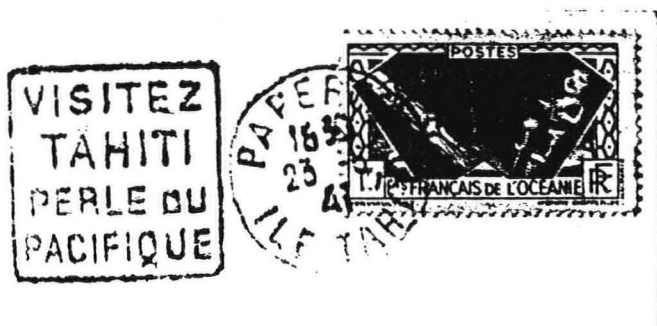


Figure 1  
(1941)

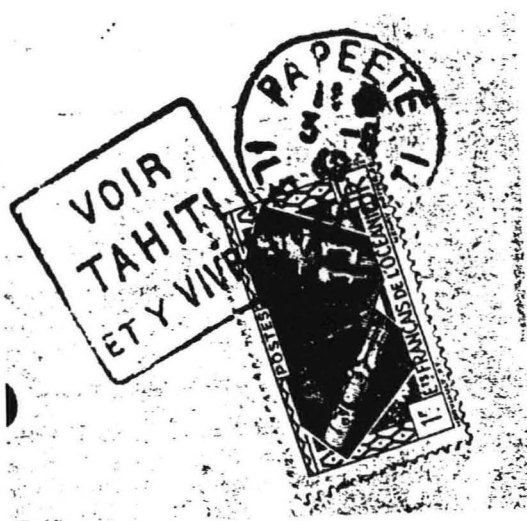


Figure 2  
(1940)

The slogan VISITER/TAHITI/LA PERLE DU/PACIFIQUE appeared in 1931. However, it seems that the machine was in use in 1930, for one sees duplex date stamps, unquestionably produced by a Daguin obliterator machine, from March 1930 to June 1931 (Figure 3). This type of double-crown (*couronne*) obliteration has hitherto not been reported. It wasn't until the second quarter of 1931 that the slogan replaced the second date stamp on the Daguin obliterator. It remained in service until 1948. Rarely, the slogan cancel occurs to the right of the date stamp (Figure 4).

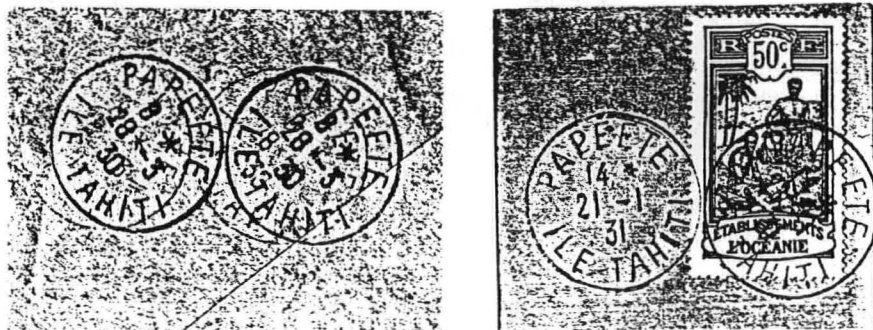


Figure 3. Duplex date stamps, 1930 and 1931.

Figure 4.  
Slogan at right  
(1932)



The slogan VOIR/TAHITI/ET Y VIVRE first appeared in 1934. It is far scarcer than the other slogan cancel, and served only until 1940. It too is very scarce when present to the right of the date stamp (Figure 5).

Figure 5.  
Slogan at right  
(1932)



The two slogan cancels are more generally found on the backside of mail, as arrival or forwarding markings (Figure 6) than they are cancelling stamps. (transl. by S. J. Luft).

1. Editor's note: Daguins are duplex cancels produced ever since 1884 on the primitive (but inexpensive) Daguin machine canceller. Originally designed for two slightly different date stamps (one to cancel the stamp, the other to show town and date more clearly away from the stamp), Daguins became popular date stamp-plus-slogan cancels after World War I. The distance between center of cachets is always (?) 28mm.

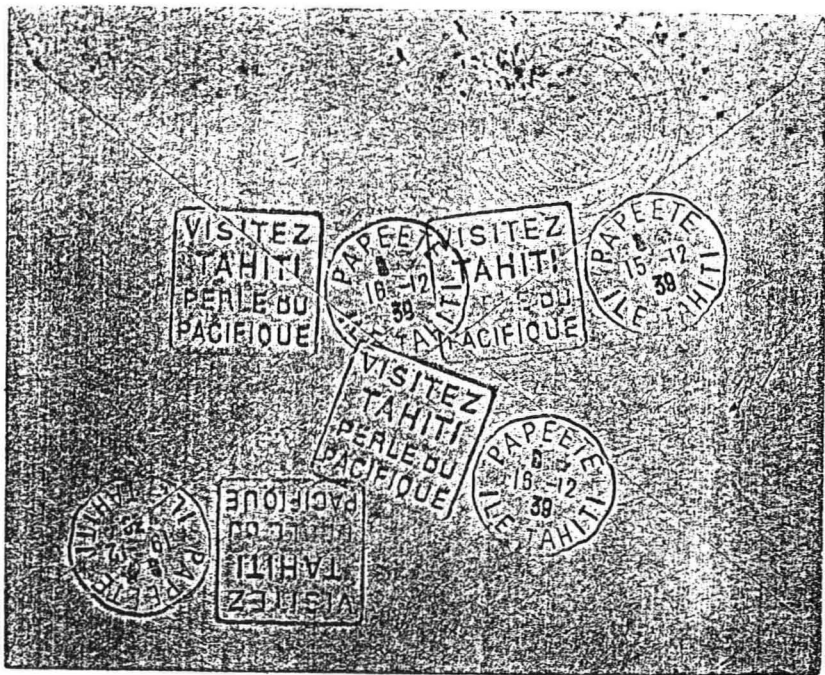


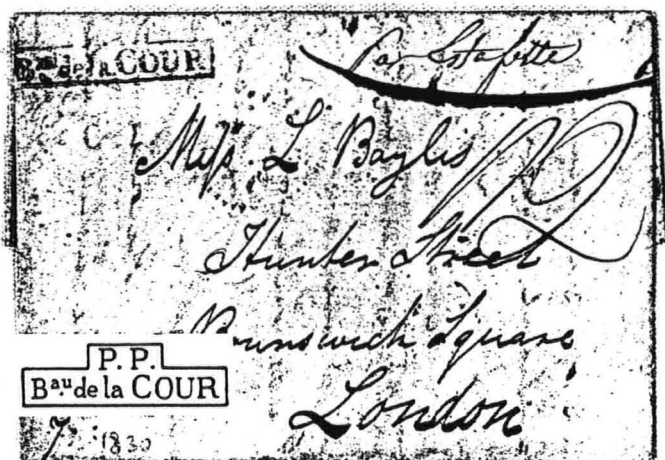
Figure 6. Envelope back with four arrival and forwarding slogan cancels (1939).

**AN EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY LOVE LETTER  
OR,  
A TRAVELLER IN RURAL FRANCE IN 1830  
by A Gentleman**

*A cover was thusly described in a recent auction of the F&CPS of Great Britain. "1830 E/L w red stepped boxed PP/Bau de la Cour (Part strike) and M/s 'Par Estafette.' Scarce. Love letter in English with interesting account of travels in Northern France. Rather him than me!"*

*The letter gives a fascinating insight into the realities of life in a period which we normally think of as supremely elegant, and it is also of interest in demonstrating what was considered suitable for the eyes of a young lady of refinement. The writer's text has been divided into paragraphs for the comfort of our readers, but I have not altered his idiosyncrasies of spelling and punctuation.*

The front of the letter is shown below. A complete strike of the prepaid marking, which was in use 1829-1830, has been added by the editor to lower left of cover. The 1830 date is confirmed by a London F.P.O. arrival date stamp of Ju. 29, 1830 on the reverse.



Chantilly 10 Oclock

My Dearest Louisa

Friday 25th June

As I have often heard you say that it gave you pleasure to have news of friends, will it be flattering myself too much, in considering myself in the rank of those calling themselves yours? or shall I lay aside my pen, despairing of the *present* or *future* existence of such a feeling? Howsoever it may be, I think it may amuse you to hear the line (?) of our proceedings, interspersed with a few observations.

I wrote you from Bernay (?) which letter I hope you have received. We left that village at 9 Oclock having been well entertained. We were afraid that the mornings rain would have continued but, luckily for Toddle, who rides outside with me, it blew off and at intervals only, favoured us with a sprinkle (Infamous pens & Ink). We reached Amiens about ½ past four, travelling at the rate of 4½ miles/hour with 3 Horses: Really, sometimes, it is enough to provoke a saint, especially when the *Sinner* by my side calls out, Patience, patience.

The Table d'hôte being at 5 Oclock we walked to see the Cathedral which is a superb Building: much loftier than Canterbury but in my humble opinion not so handsome as the latter. I am sorry to say that the principal object of attraction has been much injured since I was here last. It is called L Enfant Pleurant, a beautiful piece of sculpture the tears & grief expressed in the countenance are admirably executed; but unfortunately they have deprived him of his nasal properties, thereby almost destroying the effect of the other proportions; he is not the only one who has suffered from the effects of a Broken Nose. There are several other pretty statues in the Cathedral but being pressed for time, we could not examine much.

Resuming our seats we pursued on our route & reached a small Town called Boteteuil (?) about 10 oclock both the inside Ladies very much tired.

O ye Powers! Whan an Inn! Fancy yourself, I can see you shudder, alighting from a carriage at the door of a Filthy looking Inn surrounded by a woman, two men & a Boy. The first resembling a Billingsgate Lady in perfection, the second greasy, dirty & any thing but relishing in appearance, the Boy much upon a par with them. Then follow up the picture ascending the stairs, dirty bricks & filth assailing you at every step. Our rooms made up slightly for the above But added to the misery, they stared at being asked for Tea & really seemed to be astounded at the sight of decent people. The poor woman was exceedingly good natured & you could not blame her. She seemed to be Chambermaid & everything. No, not quite either, as the Boy warmed the Beds. That would have been interesting to you.

In the morning we were glad enough to start with empty stomachs as the Breakfast was so abominable it could not be touched. Meat I was not *allowed* to touch being Friday. This day turned out very fine but dreadfully hot. We got on very well. As we passed through villages there are several interesting sights, which I would relate to you, were you not possessed of that beautiful delicacy of mind, the greatest ornament of your Sex but in which you exceed any woman I ever met with. There is one however which perhaps I may venture to mention. You have observed in Pictures, no doubt, sketches of scenes in Italy where various groups are described as busy with each others heads. Such was the occupation of several, outside their doors in the open street; the operator & operated upon sitting as coolly together, the one being much interested, the other well pleased, the consequence of the search being generally successful.

We reached Chantilly at 2 O'clock Mamma, suffering very much from her Hips, caused us to stop. After the heat of the day I proposed taking Mrs V & Toddle to the Palace but they got as far as the place & were so tired they would not enter, which caused me to wander by myself through most beautiful grounds. Who did I think of, Who did I wish for? Scenes there were, that would have delighted you, scenes that formerly would have pleased me; but now, my heart only glows, when the result of any action, whether pleasing or painful, may lead to the gratification of Louisa. Psha, Nonsense; you may think so. I may change, you say. Well I am but a Man like others. I shall go on this way untill I have no paper to conclude. I must therefore, say good night as it is past 11 & they are all asleep having been in bed since 9 O'clock. We start for Paris early & expect to be there about 12 O'clock. It is 28 miles.

I hope you are well & Maria better as well as you & Mamma to both of whom give my love. Accept the above scrawl with all the allowance for Pens Ink & Paper & hurry & Believe me

Yours

Thos R Lewis

I am almost ashamed to send this letter but you will excuse it TRL  
Paris Sunday Too late yesterday. all well. Still yours TRL

*It would be interesting to know more about Thomas Lewis (he must have been a person of some standing to have had access to the post office in the royal residence in the Tuileries), and if he ever married his Louisa.*

-- W. G. Mitchell (FCPS #715)

## UPDATE ON DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM

Lucien Bridelance has updated (*Feuilles Marcophiles*, #279, 1994) information on French BPMs (*Bureaux Postal Militaires*) that operated in the Persian Gulf Region. Here's the list, with minor modifications on my part.

<u>BPM</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Opened</u>	<u>Closed</u>
640	King Khaled's Camp	1 Oct. 1990	4 June 1991
640A	Riyadh	1 Oct. 1990	became N° 644
640B	Yanbu (on Red Sea)	1 Oct. 1990	became N° 645
641	Al Ahsa	1 Oct. 1990	2 May 1991
642	Abu Dhabi	1 Oct. 1990	20 April 1991
643	Rafah	25 Jan. 1991	18 April 1991
644	Riyadh	28 Feb. 1991	2 June 1991
645	Yanbu	28 Feb. 1991	2 June 1991
646	Doha (Qatar)	22 April 1991	19 May 1991
647	Kuwait City	25 Feb. 1991	19 May 1991
648	Incirlik (Turkey)	1 May 1991	30 Sept. 1991
649	Turkey	6 May 1991	(still open)
650	Iraq	29 May 1991	19 July 1991

As you will note, some of these BPMs existed only very briefly, and their non-philatelic-souvenir mail may be quite minimal.

-- S. J. Luft

### ADDENDA, ERRATA, ETCETERA

#239, January 1995, p. 13, "Greetings" 1993-1994": in 2nd line of 2nd paragraph, change "district" to read "distinct."

idem, p. 17: Figure 2 is obviously an enlargement of the lyre marking, to show its details.

idem, p. 26: The lamentations expressed in last sentence of *For the Record* #716 brought a sympathetic response from Brad Arch. Section (my guess) 724 of the USPS Domestic Mail Manual permits the transmittal of manuscript copy at the relatively inexpensive 4th Class Book Rate. However, this is a very slow way of getting a manuscript from there to here.

### ANOTHER TEN (OR SO) BEST LIST

John Lievsay was not overly impressed with *Timbroscopie's* list of the ten rarest French stamps (*FCP* #239, January 1995, p. 20). He considers it a mishmash of unused, unused, and used stamps; in addition, it excludes the early (1-15 January 1849) provisional cancellations of the first French postage stamps. He proposes, in its stead, another list, which he prefers to leave unranked. These should be: Military killers CESB, CEB, KCE; Paris Roman letter A, block letters HS2, Star 40; Offices Abroad GC 5081, grill of Tangier; Special Bureau PduGT (with low setting of *du*); ambulant killers TaP, TreP, PaARS. That makes for a dozen, but why not? Any comments or rebuttals, or even attempts at ranking these? (*Ed.--They must be tough, for I own zero out of the twelve*).



**AMAZING 1870/1871 WONDER STORIES - 11****by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)**

Not surprisingly, the revelation - in print - that the black or sometimes violet cachet "Trouvée à La Courneuve/Le 10 Oct. 1870" is bogus has caused some consternation in certain philatelic circles (for details of the proof, see *Coll. Club Phil.* vol. 72 #3, 1993, pp. 135-144)<sup>1</sup>. In consequence, a French version of the article was refused publication in one of the normally more scholarly journals; and, having been solicited by a commercial journal, is now languishing unpublished there. That does not change the facts, of course. Those who do not wish to accept them, however, have found what they believe to be support for their opposition in an item published in the 1870 *Gaulois*.

When I was told about that remarkable bit of news, I had available to me only *Le Journal du Siège de Paris publié par Le Gaulois*, which fortunately has reprinted it on page 108, col. 2:

"Yesterday, the employees of the National Library, charged with assuring the safety of the monument on Richelieu Street, picked up, on their daily rounds of the roofs, a pigeon with a broken wing. This pigeon was immediately taken to the main post office and recognized as being one of those that left last Saturday.

"How did this poor animal get hurt? and, hurt, how was it able to get as far as the library, when no one remembers having heard a shot in that neighborhood?"

Well now, if that doesn't prove that the "Trouvée" cachet is a genuine postal creation, and that it concerns the "Piper 1" balloon, what further proof could be needed?

There are but three things wrong with this argument -

1. Finding a pigeon has very little to do with the authenticity of a cachet.
2. The "Piper 1" most probably had no pigeons aboard, because neither of the two passengers, whose stories were published in contemporary newspapers, mention their presence. Carrying along pigeons for sending return messages was a novelty of prime importance and was invariably mentioned in some detail in balloonists' reports.
3. Whereas all local homing pigeons of the Siege of Paris were taken out by balloon, none had left "last Saturday," whatever date that might refer to. That is because *no* Paris siege balloon had left on a Saturday up until that time.

Consequently, as uncomfortable as the facts about the "Trouvée" cachet may be, those who refuse to accept the three independent criteria showing its bogus nature must, at least, try to adduce more convincing arguments for its authenticity.

It is not difficult, incidentally, to find a perpetual calendar, from which one can extract the portion fitting the dates of the Siege of Paris. From that one learns that the first balloon to leave Paris on a Saturday was the "Garibaldi" on October 22 and the last was the "Général Cambronne" on January 28. A total of nine balloons left on Saturdays. So much for the significance of the pigeon 'news' in that issue of the *Gaulois*.

Lest readers might jump to the conclusion that newspaper items in general have no credibility, let me hasten to add that such specific little details can be of prime importance, particularly when they can be confirmed by independent corroboratory statements. It's all in knowing how to use them.

1. Also see *FCP* #225, July 1991, p. 79.

## RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

There are good news and there are other news. First the good. In recent months, we have obtained manuscripts from "new" writers and from writers whose pens apparently had been very still for ages. These include articles, reviews, items For the Record, and announcements. We hope that this trend will continue to flourish, even to grow into floodlike proportions.

Although members residing outside the United States probably constitute at best only 10 percent of the membership, their contributions to our Journal is far greater than their relative number. They come from the British Isles, France, Canada, even French Polynesia. How about rising to this challenge, you still-to-be-heard-from Stateside members!

Unfortunately, we've had another, and very sizeable drop in membership, via Non-Payment of Dues (see p. 64). This most likely means that our dropouts--if not our merely late-payers--aren't getting what they want and expect from our Journal. I've asked you before to write to me and tell me what you'd like to read and what you'd like to learn. Ask me again, please! I'll try to oblige, while maintaining this Journal's contents as well balanced as possible and, of course, its esteemed standards of yore.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

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- The *Bureau d'Etudes des Postes et Télécommunications d'Outre-Mer* (BEPTOM) was slated to close 31 December 1994. It had been responsible for the planning and conception of stamps for many now-former French Colonies and Territories. This action terminates exactly 100 years of the sale at Paris of these overseas stamps, to the public and at face value. Closing at the same time will be the sales agency, the *Agence des Timbres-Poste d'Outre-Mer* (ATPOM). Although the *Service Philatélique de La Poste*, at Paris, will probably take over the servicing of Territories issues, collectors of the former colonies will now have to depend exclusively upon their favorite dealers.
- The American Revenue Association catalog of French revenue stamps, published in 1982 by ARA France (in French) and mentioned on p. 51 of the April 1994 *FCP* (#236) is probably still available from The Glass Slipper, P.O. Box 62, York Y01 1YL, England. (In 1988 it was priced at 19 Pounds postpaid by surface mail, and the firm accepted VISA and MasterCard).
- Ernst Cohn has an interesting and challenging (as always!) short article in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* for November-December 1994 (vol. 73, #6) on the poorly known subject of German censorship of 1870 Siege of Paris balloon mail that was addressed to, or transiting through, Germany or German-held territory.
- We have a request for a specific cover from Clipperton Island. It would have been sent from the staff of Murnell Communications of San Francisco, from their research station on Clipperton, with stamps of French Polynesia pen-cancelled in red Clipperton/Océanie Française (dates of 23 or 27 or 29 December 1966). Covers may also bear U.S. 5¢ coils cancelled at San Francisco. Some covers may exist with inscription "Posted at Clipperton. No stamps available," with a San Francisco 1966 or 1967 postmark. Can anyone help procure one of these, or any other covers from Clipperton Islands. If so, please contact O. W. (Bill) Newport, 94 Edward Road, London SE20 7JS, England.
- The "changed text on cover," mentioned on p. 22 of "New Issues and Withdrawals" in the January 1995 number, for 28F and 20F booklets, issued respectively December 1994 and January 1995, refers to the validity of their permanent value stamps for prepaying letters to 20 gm to a total of 16 European countries (in addition to the Overseas Depts. and Territories).



- Another specialized society has sprung up! This one's the *Association Internationale d'Histoire Postale de la Guerre Franco-Prussienne* (International Assoc. for the Postal History of the Franco-Prussian War). Evidently, Ernie Cohn's preference for "Franco-German War" hasn't taken root in France... Its intent is to bring collectors and researchers together, to coordinate research efforts, and to publish what's presently known in a regularly appearing bulletin. Those interested in joining should send a check or money for 150Fr, payable to "A.I.H.P.," and mailed to M. Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris.
- Re "For the Record" #706 (*FCP* #237, July 1994, p. 90), several more copies of the Paris Star 4 with missing dot above the 4, have surfaced. Current latest known date on cover is 11 November 1869. Reported earliest and latest known dates will surely change as more collectors report in.
- The Cérés catalogue for France, Andorra and Monaco is now available--in French and English versions--on CD-ROM for 299Fr. However, annual update discs should cost considerably less. Contact Cérés, at 23 rue du Louvre, F-75041 Paris Cedex 01, France (FAX 33-1-45-08-56-97).
- Some recent closures of BPMs (*Bureaux Postal Militaires*) that served French troops abroad: BPM 614, at Goma, Zaire (protection of the populace in SW Rwanda) closed 29 Sept. 1994, the troops previously having left on 22 August. BPM 656, at Bihac (Croatian-Bosnian border), closed 20 Oct. 1994 upon the departure of the French UN contingent.
- A good in-depth study of Tunisia's "T" perforations on postage stamps of 1888-1901, converting them into provisional postage-due stamps, and of the stamps that were so perforated, by Michael Round, appeared in the *Jour. of the F&CPS* [GB], vol. 44, #4, 1994. The illustrations below shows the front and back views of some variant types. These rather famous and infamous, yet popular, perfins have been faked by Arthur Maury and others. Also, see pp. 36-38 of Bob Stone's lead article in #180 (April 1980) of our Journal.



- In *FCP* #235 (January 1994), p. 25, we showed the upper part of a pane of permanent-value stamps, whose top selvage indicated where these stamps were valid. A second text appeared in February 1994 (John Simmons in the *Jour. of the F&CPS* [GB], vol. 44, #4, 1994). This one reads:



- We understand that the A.R.A. FRANCE catalogue of French revenue stamps, published in 1982, and a vol. II (published in 1987) that covers Municipal and Alsace-Lorraine revenues plus a supplement to the earlier volume, may be available from "The Glass Slipper," P.O. Box 62, York YO1, 1YL, England. We'd appreciate hearing from anyone who has obtained the volume(s), as to availability and costs.

- The AIDS (SIDA) stamp (2,80F EUROPA 94) issued Spring 1994, was reissued 1 December 1994 se-tenant with a "struggle against AIDS" label of the same size. A "considerable" number of people have been using the label (see illustration) on their mail, by mistake or knowingly, in lieu of a proper postage stamp.



- The Marianne de Briat stamps have proved to be easy to fake, through the use of quality color copiers and printers, and La Poste has incurred a "significant" revenue loss as a result. The stamp design will be changed to something more difficult to reproduce "after the upcoming presidential elections." We wonder about the need to wait for a national political resolution to this fairly minor postal problem.
- Perforation varieties of recent pre-cancels are being faked to perfection. They include the 2,90F trumpet (issued 1990), with faked 13-gauge perforations, and the 1,98F accordion (issued 1992), with faked 12-gauge perfs. Both were achieved by doctoring imperforate copies. The perpetrator is believed to work "to the east of the Rhine." *Caveat emptor!*
- Two of the four U.S. Commissioners for PACIFIC 97 are long-term members of our Society. John Lievsay, former president and present FCPS director, is the Eastern U.S. commissioner. Paul Larsen (better known for his German Colonials, etc.) is commissioner for the Central U.S. Congratulations to you both!
- An all-time record was set in 1994 for mail sent (within France and from more than 60 other countries) to *Le Père Noël*: 716,000 letters, all of which were processed by the dead-letter service at Libourne.
- The Grand Prix for philatelic art for 1994 was awarded at the Salon d'Autonne to the 2,80F Georges Simenon stamp, issued October 1994. That for the Overseas Territories went to St. Pierre & Miquelon's Mirande Pond triptych, issued August 1994.
- Self-adhesive stamps in booklets comprised about 80% of all the red permanent-value Marianne de Briat stamps sold to the public during 1994.
- Beginning 10 April, new semi-permanent stamps will be issued, illustrating the various regions of France. They will be in the same size as the Mariannes de Briat, and will be valued at 2,80F (red stamps) and 2,40F (green stamps).
- Where once a considerable amount of mail was sorted and cancelled on *ambulants* (special mail cars), receiving markings cherished by generations of collectors, the *ambulant* service is now nearing extinction. This is because nearly all mail is now pre-sorted and processed before it is routed, and because much of it travels by plane or high-speed train. There isn't the time anymore, on most train runs, for sorting mail en route.

## SOME SHOW REPORTS

- HOUPEX '94 (Houston, September 1994): Gold medal to Earle Plyler for "U.S. Two-Cent Rates."
- Omaha Stamp Show 94 (September): Vermeil medal to Paul Blake for "Indochina 1864-1931"; Silver medal to Alex Jackson for "France XIX Century."
- SUNPEX '94 (Sunnydale, CA, November): Gold medal to Paul Blake (same exhibit as above).
- ARIPEX '95 (Tucson, AZ, January 1995): Vermeil medal to Stan Jersey for "United States 6¢ Airmail Stamp of 1941"; Silver medals to Bob Kinsley for "The French Pacification of Tonkin 1884-1904," and to Sanford Solarz (non-member, apparently) for "The Bleriot Type XI Monoplane"; Silver-bronze medal to Chuck LaBlonde for "Swiss Priority Mail."
- SANDICAL '95 (San Diego, February): Gold medal to Lewis Bussey for "French Naval Mail to America, 1943-1946; Vermeil medals to David Herendeen for his exhibit of British Commonwealth postage dues, and to Stan Jersey for "United States 6¢ Airmail Stamp of 1941" (which has a nice showing of **R. F.** overprints, albeit a tiny fraction of Bussey's). An outstanding display of "French Forces Abroad 1893-1939," shown by non-member Alfred Kugel, received a Vermeil. Stan Luft served on the jury.

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## NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

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- "Catalogue des marques postales et oblitérations de La Réunion," by François Feuga; 146 pp.; more than 1300 markings--classic to modern--reproduced and priced. 200Fr postpaid, from the author, at 20 rue des Clercs, F-57000 Metz, France; payment by I.M.O. to CCP Saint-Denis Re 0-22 S.
- "Les Ballons Montés," by G. Lhéritier; vol. III of the series; ca. 312 pp., numerous illustrations; 350Fr postpaid, from Timbropresse, Librairie-Service, 33 rue de Chazelles, F-75850 Paris Cedex 17; Timbropresse apparently accepts the Carte Bleue, which is the equivalent of the VISA card in the U.S. and elsewhere (but check with them first).
- "Cérès France-Variétés" (1994); 224 pp.; prepared under the supervision of Roger Loeuillet and Robert Françon; includes and prices all varieties found on 1900-1944 stamps, including airmail, pre-cancels, military franchise; also *coins datés* and *millésimes*; 210Fr, from Cérès, 23 rue du Louvre, F-75001 Paris, or from your favorite dealer.
- "L'impression des timbres français par les rotatives: les tailles-douce 1945-1959, coins datés, tirages et cylindres," by SO.CO.CO.DA.MI.; 155 pp., spiral bound; 90Fr postpaid, from A. Le Guillou, Boîte Postale 4625, F-22046 St. Briec Cedex 2, France. (The specialized study on rotary-press printings of 1945-1959 intaglio [en-graved] French stamps, with printing dates, cylinders used, and press runs).
- "La côte des coins datés et des millésimes," by SO.CO.CO.DA.MI.; 58th edition; 134 pp.; 50Fr postpaid, from SO.CO.CO.DA.MI. (same St. Briec address as above). (The annual priced catalog for all France and Community stamps printed with selva-ge numbers that indicate last number of year printed (millésime) and complete date in lower right-hand sheet selva-ge (coin daté)).
- "Catalogue des oblitérations mécaniques de France sauf SECAP après 1960," by Gérard Dreyfuss; 462 pp., fully illustrated; 320Fr postpaid, from Yvert & Tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins, F-80036 Amiens Cedex, France. (A detailed, priced catalog of all post-1960 French machine cancels--except for SECAP machines--used at Paris and in the provinces).
- "Les Bureaux de Poste des Ardennes des Origines à nos Jours"; inquiries to author, M. Risse J. Q., Cour du Chateau, F-08560 Clavy-Warby, France.

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## NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

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(continued from *FCP* #239, January 1995, p. 23)

### France

- 18 (20) February 1995: 3,70F Louis Pasteur (1822-1895);
- 25 (27) February: 6,70F St. Taurin Reliquary at Evreux (jewel box?); 2,80F old malt works at Stenay, Meuse; J.-J.-Audubon (1785-1851) 2,80F x 2 and 4,30F x 2 Birds se-tenants, in sheets and in 14,30F sheetlet;
- 4 (6) March: Stamp Day 2,80F + 0,60F Marianne de Gandon 50th Anniv.; also in 21,40F booklet (same design) of three 2,80F + 0,60F and four 2,80F stamps plus label;
- 7 (10) March: 2,80F 50th Anniv. of the enterprise committees;
- 11 (13) March: 3,70F Centenary of the advanced school of electricity;
- 25 (27) March: 2,80F Bicent. of the school of Oriental Languages; 3,70F Centenary of the birth of Jean Giono.
- 1 (3) April: 2,80F Metallurgy of Lorraine;
- 8 (10) April: Regional semi-permanent stamps [see Announcements and News, this number]: 2,40F Vosges, 2,40F Bretagne, 2,80F Camargue, 2,80F Auvergne;
- 29 April (2 May): EUROPA 95: Peace and Liberty, 2,80F, 3,70F; 4,40F Forest crafts.  
Withdrawals: 13 January 1995: 2,80F Pays de la Saulx; 2,80F 1944 Provence Landings; 25F booklets of 2,50F M. de Briat; 28F booklets of permanent value M. de Briat in their older formats;  
10 March: 4,40F organ pipes, Poitiers Cathedral; 4,40F Nicolas Poussin;  
14 April: 2,80F Natl. Conserv. of Arts & Crafts; 2,80F Georges Simenon;  
the September 1994 Celebrities (sheets and booklet); 1994 Noël (Red Cross) (sheets and booklet); 3,70F Parc de St.-Cloud.

### Andorra

- 25 (27) February 1995: 2,80F European Year for Nature Conservation.  
Withdrawals: 9 December 1994: 2,80F and 3,70F EUROPA 94; 5F Art of M. Warren; 5F Art of E. Dietman.

### French Austral and Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

Withdrawals: 30 September 1994: 30F Inauguration of Terre Adélie airstrip; 5,70F aérogramme on same subject (issued 1 January 1993);  
31 December 1994: rest of January 1993 issues, with exceptions of the low-value Coats of Arms.

### French Polynesia

- 7 December 1994: Painters of Polynesia 62F, 78F, 102F, 110F;
- 1 January 1995: 220th Anniv. of Spanish Expeditions to Tautira 92F;
- 11 January: 9F Visit South Pacific Year.

### Monaco

- 3 January 1995: 2,80F 19th International Circus Festival;
- 13 February: 8,00F 35th Monte-Carlo TV Festival (portrait of Prince Albert);
- 3 April: 2,40F European Year for Nature Conservation; 4,00F Monte-Carlo Dog Show; 5,00F 27th International Bouquet competition; 6,00F European Bonsai Congress;
- 8 May: 10F Birth Cent. of Prince Pierre; 7,00F Princess Caroline (for General Assembly of world friends of childhood); 6,00F Marcel Pagnol (1895-1974); 5,00F Jean Giono (1895-1970); 2,80F and 5,00F EUROPA 95 (Peace and Liberty theme); 30F Museum of stamps and money block of three x 10F; 8,00F Trophy of Augustus at La Turbie; 7,00F Finals of Grand Prix of athleticism; 6,00F Gen. Assembly of Inter. Council on Hunting and conservation of game animals; 4,00F Rotary International Convention; 3,00F International Special Olympics [at New Haven, Conn.]; the Four Seasons of the Jujube tree 22F bloc of 4F, 5F, 6F, 7F stamps.

Withdrawals: 14 October 1994: Old Monaco Views (0,50F to 2,00F).

**New Caledonia**

- > 23 (24) November 1994: 90F chromite mine at Tiébaghi;
- > 16 (17) December: Noël 30F x five se-tenant, giving stereographic effect;  
50th Anniv. of newspaper "Le Monde" 90F airmail + label.

**St. Pierre & Miquelon**

- > 13 February 1995: 5,10F Triathlon;
- > 10 April: The Cooper and his Tools 1,50F, 1,80F.  
Withdrawals: 6 January: 2,80F Works of the Sea; 10 February: 5,10F Bowling game.

**Wallis & Futuna**

- > 17 November 1994: 62F Futuna parrots;
- > 24 November 250F 100th Anniv. of Grand Lodge (Masonic) of France;
- > 15 December 1994: Noël 150F airmail.

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## REVIEWS

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Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue, Part 6, **France**, fourth edition, 1993, Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd., London and Ringwood. 644 pp., paperbound, 5¾ x 8½", numerous illustrations. £18.95 U.K. retail price. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., 5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SH, England.

The good news is that Gibbons has restored its full listing of French Colonies and Offices, which have not appeared in the Gibbons line of sectional catalogues since 1987. For this much-improved fourth edition, Metropolitan France now takes up 156 pages, and includes details and prices for stamp booklets, Red Cross issues, the Postal Museum fund-raising "philatelic documents," balloons, POs abroad, and a design index. The section on classics may not impress Francophones who can manage the coloured interstices of Yvert, but compared to the listings in Scott, which make France seem so flat a prospect for the collector, Gibbons offers a full and seductive overview, with Napoleon's curls, and "N under U," and broken frames, and thick and thin numerals admirably illustrated and priced. There are 36 entries for the first Cérès issue, with 4 shades and a coarse impression for the 25c blue, all priced, a clip of the wide "4" and an account of tête-bêches and reprints. Sages, Bordeaux and perforated Cérès are replete with shades and major varieties without sinking into pedantry. Useful indeed.

Modern France is also well-served, although not all readers will like Gibbons' stubbornly chronological arrangement which includes postage dues and airmails lumped together by year, although with distinguishing codes: dues have a "D" in front of their numbers. There is no BOB, and if your specialty is semi-postals you will have to skip around, as per the French catalogues. The illustrations are not in colour, but the black on white is more focused than Scott's blots, and the sturdy cover, off-white pages, crisp type and glossy (though not deluxe) paper appeal. A major pleasure is having France and Colonies all in one manageable, sewn volume, instead of those industrial-strength Scott slabs where one must purchase China and Czechoslovakia to get a glimpse of Camerouns.

Those now inured to Scott's Scrooge-eye view of "market" prices may find Gibbons on the high side. For example, the cheapest shade of the 20c black Cérès is £30 used, or about \$45-\$50 U.S. It may be that thinking of the pounds as dollars is a satisfactory way to assess true value: \$30 for a VF 20c black is not too unreasonable. Some other touchstones for pricing: the 1869 5 franc is £4000 mint, £800 used; a 10c Bordeaux is £550/45 (cheapest: there are 6 separate shades listed and priced); the 5f Sage is £350/65. The War Orphans semi-postal set sees £1500/1100, and the Smile of Rheims comes in at £45/60. The 1961 Art set (Braque, Cezanne) makes £11/6.75, the 1977 Zodiac is £14.50/9.50. As a whole, the market for France according to Gibbons looks to be healthy, firm, but not particularly booming—probably a fair assessment of the realities.

Gibbons' France is very good, but for Colonies, this new catalogue excels for the reader who wants more than philatelic laundry lists with haphazard pricing. Arranged by collecting group (the Comoros are in the Madagascar section, Obock with Afars), and with mini-essays and notes in small type to explain the historical background of often tortuous Colonial issues, the Gibbons version takes pains to instruct. For Group Types, wide and narrow overprints are listed and priced separately, as are the varying accents on the overprinted Dubus issues of Réunion. We are told which surcharges were done in a colony, which in Paris; dates, months and years, are supplied for individual stamps in those long, winding pictorial series of the 1910s and 1920s. Issues on the brink of respectability, snubbed by Scott, are generously included: thus we have Guyanese TAGs, Mauritanian Ts, Madagascar Majungas, African Vichys, and the maze of Guadeloupe 1903 overprints taken seriously, listed, and priced.

As for values, Gibbons recognizes that used is often far more elusive and costly than mint in the Colonies. The "late" Group Types are accurately assessed for scarcity (compare Scott), and humbler centimes values can see double or triple used over mint. Prices do seem extraordinary. Gabon's Group Type set is £225/200, with "Congo Français Gabon" at £550 either way. French Polynesia's 50c brown Group Type is £140/110, French Guiana's 15c grey Group is £65/50. Mauritania's first set (Faidherbe, Ballay) is £225/180. Algeria's 1927 10f is £35/22 and Tunisia's first set £475/300. St. Pierre's top item is the 5 on 2c brown at £4250/1600. These are *pounds*! But how heartening to find Colonial listings so ambitious, after paying much more than Scott suggests for practically anything decent used.

Most colonies in Gibbons dutifully end at independence (Afars in 1977) but DOM-TOM goes on up to the present, with modern New Caledonia, Réunion, TAAF, and Polynesia. The General Issues are there, with many shades and healthy prices - an 80c Eagle is £70/40. Good coverage obtains for Andorra, both French and Spanish, with types and perfs and control numbers in abundance. Monaco begins with Sardinian postal service and includes three pages of postmarks on French stamps, sorted and priced, with illustrations. The scope of these countries, and indeed most of the Colonies, is scarcely suggested by other English language catalogues, and here Gibbons is highly recommended.

Catalogues are as personal as collecting habits, and Gibbons may never replace that cherished 1984 Marianne, or supplant the brute usefulness of Scott's numbers, or Cérés' aesthetic appeal and Gallic authority. Yet for a superior one-volume France and Colonies in English, this Gibbons Part Six, Fourth Edition, is surely the handy, all-in-one answer for the collector who wants to do more with France and her Empire than fill in the blanks.

-- James Polk

Académie de Philatélie, "Journaux 1849-1869--Imprimés et Périodiques 1849-1871"; 83 pp. + 19 pp. of annexes and bibliography, softbound; Alençon, 1994; 220Fr postpaid, payable to order of Académie de Philatélie; from Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris, or from La Poste aux Lettres, 17 Faubourg Montmartre, F-75009 Paris.

Here is *Fascicule* (Part) 3 of volume III of the *Encyclopédie*--another chapter in the definitive work begun in 1968. This section, which was written by André Malevergne, continues in the 8½ x 10½" format of its predecessors, with many illustrations, some in color. It is organized by the subject classes of printed matter, with texts of the principal decrees given verbatim in the annexes. The coverage includes domestic rates, postmarks, and use of both fiscal and regular postage stamps to pay the various rates. There is a short five-page chapter describing private distributors, which will be helpful in identifying pieces that were handled by them.

In a short preamble, the author begs to be excused from covering the special issue Journaux stamps of 1868-1869, usages of the 1870-1871 War (although he illustrates one cover franked with a Bordeaux issue stamp), and the tariff revisions of the Third Republic. This delimitation is surprising, as the previous two parts of volume II covered their subjects to 1870 and 1883, respectively. [The Académie has yet to publish an outline of the subjects and authors for volume II]. For years I have used as a reference the more comprehensive serial article by Bretagne and Hals in the *Collectors Club*



*Philatelist* (vol. 39, nos. 1-4, 1960). Bibliophiles of course will want the present book to complete their sets of the *Encyclopédie*; otherwise, the extremely limited scope dampens my enthusiasm for it. -- J. E. L.

Theo. Van Dam, "Beyond War Dates And More! 1911-1950," (1994); 89 pp., 8½ x 11," spiral bound, soft cover; plus 14 maps, 3 appendices, bibliography, and index; \$15.00 postpaid in USA (\$17 elsewhere); from Postal Covers, P.O. Box 8809, Anaheim, CA 92812.

This little book with an encumbering and unwieldy title is a corrected and augmented re-edition of Van Dam's 1993 work, reviewed here in #237, July 1994, p. 94. The author was most fortunate in that he received numerous comments, corrections, additions, and suggestions when the earlier work appeared. He was then most diligent in incorporating these improvements into this revision. Were other writers so equally blessed and so equally diligent! I can now recommend this work with far less reservations than before, to postal history collectors in general--not just of military postal history--of this 1911-1950 period. Its utilization remains the same (only improved): where does the cover you hold in your hand fit into the historical scheme of things? If it bears unexpected or unusual markings, and/or a late date of arrival (or of return to sender), perusing this work should give you some viable clues, if not always the exact answer you may wish for. -- SJL.

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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

\* \* \* \* \*

**Q. 240-1.** When were the Group Types of the Colonies demonetized? Probably not all at the same time for each Colony. As an Indochina specialist, the latest dates I can find are 1907 on stamps and 1910 on postal stationery. Does anyone have any official information on demonetization, for Indochina or of a more general nature? (BMM)

**A. 240-1.** The Group Type probably was never demonetized, simply got used up and faded away. My date base shows the following "latest" usages: SP&M (1920), Madagascar (1919, except for 1920s overprints on old stock), Fr. Congo (1917), Fr. Polynesia and Reunion (1914), Tonkin (1913), Laos (1907), Annam, Cambodia, Cochinchina (1906). (EG)

*We print this Q and A together in the hope that other collectors will come forth with some later latest dates; perhaps even documentation regarding demonetization or some other **finis** to the Group Type.*

**Q. 240-2.** The 75c "Camel and rider" was originally issued in 1914 as Upper Senegal & Niger, Scott #31. It was later overprinted and surcharged, twice as Upper Volta Scott 25 and 36, twice as French Sudan Scott 42 and 52, and twice as Niger Scott 18 and 27--seven separate Scott listings in all. Five of the seven are described in Scott as "orange and brown." Only the two Niger stamps are described as "yellow and olive brown." I have a fine mint copy of Niger Scott 18 which is clearly orange and brown. It appears to be Upper Senegal & Niger #31, overprinted "TERRITOIRE DU NIGER." The overprint appears to be identical to the other stamps in the Niger issue. My question now is: is this stamp an error in color, or is it a fake overprint, or does some specialized catalog indicate it is perfectly normal and "ordinary?" (FHM)

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**F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL**

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**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find the Annual Reports of the Treasurer and the Recording Secretary. I believe the Treasurer's Report makes rather pleasant reading, since the General Fund added over \$1000 to its surplus last year. Some of that surplus should be credited to 1993, since it is clear that some dues were counted in the wrong year; still, I am sure we operated with a real surplus last year, probably around \$500, and we have a nice cushion against the increased postal rates and paper prices we are facing in 1995. The Recording Secretary's Report, not unexpectedly, is less favorable, as it shows the decline in our membership to be continuing. Although the drop is not precipitous, it clearly must be eliminated eventually, if the Society is to survive. Once again, I must emphasize: should you know any collectors of philatelic material of the French area who are not members of our Society, please urge them to join.

I have recently submitted an application for a Society booth at PACIFIC 97. We will also plan to present a program during this show. We may share a booth with some other Society, if that is permitted. In any case, we will need all the help we can find to man the table. Obviously, I will be writing more about this in the future, but I would ask all our members, as they make plans to attend PACIFIC 97, to include some time to help in staffing our booth.

In the nearer future, we are again planning to have our annual Rich Exhibit in October. The official announcement and entry forms will be in the July issue of the *Philatelist*.  
-- Dick Stevens

**BEATRICE BERNER ELECTED HONORARY LIFE-MEMBER**

At its November meeting the Board of Directors voted to make Beatrice Berner an Honorary Life Member of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society. Bea's many years of service as Treasurer were mentioned by our Editor in the January 1995 issue of the *Philatelist*. Bea joined our Society in 1957 and was elected to the Board of Directors in 1961. She held the positions of Recording Secretary and of Historical Chairman briefly, before becoming Treasurer. She continued in that position for close to thirty years. For most, if not all of those thirty years, and up until the past summer, our Directors' Meetings have been held at her apartment. Only with Bea's move last September to a retirement home in New Jersey did this practise come to an end.

With this action, the Board is pleased to honor Bea for her many years of service and of hospitality, and to add her name to Bob Stone's on the short list of our Honorary Life Members.

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1994**

Total Membership as of January 1, 1994 .....	692
Total New Members for the Year of 1994 .....	37
Total Reinstatements for the Year of 1994 .....	14
	<u>51</u>
Resignations Received for the Year 1994 .....	15
Total Deceased Members for the Year 1994 .....	11
Members Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues .....	44
Members Undeliverable as Addressed, 1994 .....	3
	<u>73</u>
Net Membership Gain for the Year of 1994 .....	0
Net Membership Loss for the Year of 1994 .....	22
Total Membership as of December 31, 1994 .....	670



**Treasurer's Report  
France & Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc.  
1/1/94 through 12/31/94**

**INCOME/EXPENSES:****INCOME:**

Total 1994 Dues	\$7,466.75
Interest Income	666.45
Total Publications	980.10
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>9,113.30</b>

**EXPENSES:**

*Bad Check	15.00
Advertising	260.00
Club Meetings	228.95
Gardner Brown Book	78.11
Gift Expenses	200.00
Miscellaneous	8.60

*Philatelist:*

Editor	524.86
Labels	293.32
Magazine	4,719.58

Total <i>Philatelist</i>	5,537.76
Returned Check	11.00

**Secretary:**

Corresponding	484.74
Recording	158.92

Total Secretary	643.66
Expenses - Other	1.00

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>6,984.08</b>
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<b>TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE</b>	<b>2,129.22</b>
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**12/31/94  
Balance**

**ASSETS**

Cash and Bank Accounts	
F&C Saving	20,952.42
F&C Checking	5,669.21
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	26,621.63

<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>26,621.63</b>
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**LIABILITIES & EQUITY****LIABILITIES**

Restricted Funds	
Prepaid Dues	4,838.51
Spiegel Fund	1,484.81
Vaurie Fund	15,669.86
Total Restricted Funds	21,993.18

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>21,993.18</b>
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<b>EQUITY IN GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>4,628.45</b>
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<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>26,621.63</b>
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Respectfully submitted,  
William W. Wallis  
Treasurer  
2/5/95

### Meeting of 6 December 1994

It was yours truly once again, this time presenting a detailed view of my exhibit entitled **WHERE'S THE GROUP TYPE?**, which is a developing study of the non-use of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type during the period 1892-1915. This small collection has reached three frames, and consists of material that is part of the Group Type's postal history, but often does not make it into my Group Type exhibit. As some may remember, the collection won this year's Rich Exhibit.

Six categories of non-use of the Group Type are illustrated in the exhibit. The first is the simple non- or short payment of postage, with letters receiving postage due stamps. Mail to France in this category is not difficult, but mail within a Colony or to another Colony is much more so. Examples illustrating use of the black and colored Colonial Duval Types as well as Colonial due stamps were shown. Short-paid mail to non-French destinations seems particularly difficult to find; I only have Colonial mail with due stamps from Switzerland in this category. The second interesting non-use category is where a local shortage of Group Type stamps arose. Reunion used postage due stamps for local franking; Guadeloupe permitted prepayment in cash; the Soudan created a special cachet; Senegal allowed prepayment in cash and used an encircled A denoting such during and after the yellow-fever quarantine in Dakar in 1902.

Another interesting category is franchise letters from Government officials. For simple letters, no stamps are seen; however, for registered letters the officials had to prepay the registry fee just like anyone else. Of course the most interesting franchise letters of this period are those from the military. I find Africa a particularly interesting area, with many of the Colonial post offices under development. I am hesitant to do much with Indochina, as that is an exhibit in itself as Bob Kinsley is showing us. Another version of franchise letters are those bearing **FM** overprints on French stamps used from the Colonies. I have found these reasonably difficult to find, other than in one sale of Sinais a few years back. I showed my examples from Guadeloupe, including those from a number of the small offices.

The last category is one that arose by chance: mail from a military area posted by a civilian. I have seen but one example of this type of letter, with a special manuscript endorsement by the military postmaster in Seguela, Ivory Coast noting the lack of stamps. Thus, the recipient in Marseille only had to pay the postage (15c) and no penalty. I have not expanded this into a full article, as many of these categories of mail have been illustrated in this journal over the years.

-- Ed Grabowski

### Meeting of 3 January 1995

Tonight we were presented two different views of French area postal history by the two Martins: Marc Martin and Martin Stempien. Inspired by the article on the last days of France in Algeria by Laurence H. Lambert which opened the October 1994 number of our *FCP*, Marc Martin presented a collection of the Algerian **EA** overprints of 1962, which covered the period immediately following Algerian independence. This collection of mostly commercial covers was purchased by Marc in the 1960's, and is quite remarkable for the extent and depth of coverage of the period. Most of the small towns were represented, and numerous overprint varieties were featured on unused multiples. In addition some manuscript overprints were also shown properly used on covers.

Martin Stempien concluded the evening in his traditional form, presenting a most unusual cover. It was a stampless letter posted from Paris in 1859 during the French Treaty period at the seventh weight level to Mexico. It was posted in Paris on February 28, 1859 and routed to go via an English Packet. Apparently the letter was lost within the Paris post office, and was subsequently sent on the 5th of March from Paris to Le Havre where it missed its intended sailing. It was then routed to a Cunard Line Ship in England from whence it arrived in North America in Boston. In addition to the typical **BRITISH SERVICE** handstamp for mail arriving in Boston, it bears a **\$1.54** U.S. credit marking and a **7R(eales)** Mexican rate marking.

-- Ed Grabowski

**NEW MEMBERS**

- 3025 NEMOTO, HIROO, 2-3-3, Higashigaoka Meguro-Ku, Tokyo 152 - Japan. (Topical: Costumes - Pictures - Coral Landscapes (Sea, Island, Etc.) - General France: On Cover. Modern France: On Cover. South Pacific Ocean Philatelic Literature. Exchange.)
- 3026 HOUDE, MICHEL, 149 Jenny Wren Way, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2H 2Z1. (Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. Colonies & Territories: Group Type.)
- 3027 WERNER, S.D., UCLA French Department, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1472. (General Collector: 19th & 20th Century. Colonial Stamps. French Community: Offices Abroad. Philatelic Literature.)
- 3028 FERGUSON, HOMER, 19051 Babcock Lane, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. (General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Classics: 1849-1876. Modern France. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used. All Colonies And Territories: A.F. Only. Stamps.)
- 3029 YEONG, TONY S.W., Orchard Post Office Box 265, Singapore 9123, Republic of Singapore. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: On Cover. Dealer: Auctions.)
- 3030 BLUME, NORMAN, 126 P Avenida Majorca, Laguna Hills, CA 92653-4602. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint. Classics 1849-1876: Used. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint - Sowers - Air Mails.)
- 3031 HARNEY, SCOTT, 14 Salem St., Cambridge, MA 02139. (General Collector: All Issues.)
- 3032 BURGESS, CLINT, 1956 Northland Ave., Highland Park, IL 60035. (General Collector: All issues.)
- 3033 COLE, ROBERT M., P.O. Box 73800, Davis, CA 95617-3800. (Postal Stationery.)
- 3034 MADELEINE, CHARLES, 1311 Seabright Dr., Annapolis, MD 21401. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used - On Cover. Modern France: Mint - Used - On Cover - Air Mails. Special Issues: Air Meets - First Flights, Etc. Philatelic Literature. Exchange.)
- 3035 LIFE, PAGE, 416 Colony Woods Dr., Chapel Hill, NC 27514-7908. (Topical: Napoleonic Period: Wine And Related. General France: Used. Postal History: Stampless Covers. Philatelic Literature. Exchange.)
- 3036 WEISBERG, HOWARD, 5103 Coke Ave., Lakewood, CA 90712-2301. (General Collector: All Issues - 19th & 20th Century. Topical: Ballons - Plants - Famous French People. General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Specialized France: Postal History: Stampless Covers - Marques Postal - Military & Railway Posts - Used Abroad. Classics 1849-1876: Cancellations. Modern France: Mint - Used - On Cover - Air Mails. Air Meets, First Flights, Etc. French Community: Offices Abroad - CFA Issues. Andorre, Monaco. Saar. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. Colonial Provisionals. All Colonies & Territories Cancels & Postal History. Independent Republics.)

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS**

- 2803 BARTLETT, BILL, Postmaster, Sanichton, B.C. V8M 1A0 Canada (Zip Code change).
- 2658 TORREY, DR. GORDON H., 392 Russell Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2863 (Zip Code change).
- 1892 CHAPMAN, HARRY, 16 Pearson Circle, Lake Lure, NC 28746-9614 (Zip Code change).
- 2122 WOLFF, CHRISTOPHER J., 855 Winding Brook Dr., Glastonbury, CT 06033.
- 2633 BEVAN, BRUCE, 9725-101 "A" St., Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2R5 Canada.
- 1996 HASS, CHARLES F., P.O. Box 3435, Nashua, NH 03061-3435.
- 1649 AUSTIN, JERRY C., 5662 E. Independence Blvd., Suite 119, Charlotte, NC 28212.
- 2119 EDISON, ROBERT B., 8828 E. Florida Ave. - Apt. 115, Denver, CO 80231.
- 368 MALMGREN, RALPH T., R.R. 1 - Box 338, Ctr Tuftonboro, NH 03816-9704.
- 703 BERNER, BEATRICE M., 19 Pocono Road - Apt. 313-0, Denville, NJ 07834.

- 1824 KELTON, EUGENE, P.O. Box 44394, Washington, D.C. 20026-4394.  
2589 LIECHTI, HANS U., (Change of word order), Rebenstrasse 15, CH-8309  
Birchwil, Switzerland.  
2865 SHAFER, WILLIAM H., SR., 25 West Boscawen St., Winchester, VA 22601-4740  
(Zip Code change).  
1736 ARELLANO, REFUGIO., JR., 333 Baywood Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660-7135.  
2321 HARMER, KEITH A., 3 East 28th St., New York, NY 10016.  
963 WINTER, RICHARD F., 11 Teal Court, Greensboro, NC 27455.

RESIGNATIONS

- 1328 ROLAND F. GALARNEAU  
2297 L. H. PIQUET  
2575 JOHN SWANSON

DECEASED

- 2449 JAMES D. BENEDICT

DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

Billy M. Adams, John W. Adams, Allen Anderson, Mark Blaser, Robert H. Crabtree, William DeVasher, Jr., Francis H. Devine, Paul E. Dodaro, Benjamin B. Drucker, Siegfried Feller, W. Thomas Garland, Jr., George T. Gray, James B. Hart, George A. Hepp, Gael Ivanac, Jeff Jernegan, Richard L. Jodry, Daniel R. Lattanzi, Elaine N. Legros, Judith E. Loevy, William Mead, Charles Neidorf, Charles T. Padbury, Donald V. Palazzo, Gilbert Parent, Alain Pautard, J. Mark Polhemus, Dr. J. Dennis Pollack, Stephen Radin, Arthur Richards, Joan Rothfuss, Michael J. Sales, Elizabeth Sanders, Donald Shaw, William H. Smith, Jr., Thuyen Tonthat, Charles B. Wallace, John G. Witthoft, Henry R. Youngblood, Andre Boisclair, Guy Lestrade, Cam McPherson, Fred Scinto, Gregoire Teyssier, Paul Sussman, Paul S. Watkins, Arnie Kerman, Walter H. Kowal, Michael Schulman, Jacques DuBane.

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MEMBERS' APPEALS

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- WANTED: French commemorative postal stationery of the 1930s (War Memorial, archer card, Paris views, etc.). Make offer to T. P. McDermott, 25 Hillside Ave., White Plains, NY 10601-1111. (Mb. #2616).  
WANTED: Interested parties to start an informal group to study airmail rates from and within the Colonies, especially up until 1945. Bob Picirilli, 301 Greenway Ave., Nashville, TN 37205. (Mb. #2381).  
SELLING: France and other European countries, used, unused (NH or OG), starting at 35% of 1995 Scott catalog. Eugene Meyer, 3707 Sun Eagle Lane, Bradenton, FL 34210-4237. (Mb. #2911).  
LITERATURE OFFERS: "Histoire Postale de Monaco," Stampless Marques d'Entrée en France, "Marques Postales France 1792-1832" by A. Mathieu; also Mathieu's "Oblitérations de France 1852-1876," Catalogue Cachets sur Sage 1876-1900 Algérie et Etranger. Ask for details or tell me what you need. Also selling stampless and early covers of France. Felix Mille, 6110 Graciosa Dr., Apt. 11, Hollywood, CA 90068. (Mb. #2907).  
EXCHANGE: Looking for partners for exchanging duplicates. I offer France, Germany, Australia, Canada, Newfoundland, Belgium, Netherlands, England, for your U.S. and U.N.; Scott catalog basis or one for one. Aladar Vali, 5512 Rosedale Ave., Montreal, P.Q. H4V 2J1, Canada. (Mb. #3007).