



# France & Colonies Philatelist



(A)



(B)



(C)

*What have we here? Take a short quiz! Answers will be found somewhere inside.*

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## POSTAL RATES IN THE FRENCH COLONIES, 1892-1944<sup>1</sup> by Robert E. Picirilli (FCPS #2381)

The collector and exhibitor of French colonial material needs to know as much as possible about the postal rates. While there are publications on this subject, some are not readily accessible and some need to be updated through more recent research. My purpose is to bring the discussion as nearly up to date as possible, particularly in regard to that period when stamps were being issued in the name of the various colonies. Still, many questions remain.

Indeed, one begins with a question: Were the postal rates in the colonies the same as those in France itself? It seems clear that they were *generally* so. But "generally" leaves some doubt. Stone and Grabowski, in a June 1984 article, say "rates essentially the same from the colonies."<sup>2</sup> But even "essentially" falls short of being absolute, and the available sources appear to express some disagreement.

The primary sources I refer to are as follows:

(1) Robert G. Stone's "Notes on French Colonial Postage Rates Seen in a Cover Collection," in *American Philatelist* (October 1982, pp. 925-931). He provided charts of rates for both domestic and foreign mail from the colonies, 1879-1946.

(2) The same writer's "The Postage Rates of the French Colonies 1787-1946," in *The Congress Book*, 1958, pp. 42-53. There he provided tables for both domestic and foreign mail from Guadeloupe during this time period, observing that these are representative of colonial rates and that rates from certain other colonies are "similar."

I have listed these two sources first because they are the ones I was referred to as I began making inquiries some years ago. It is obvious that those of us who became more recently involved in such matters owe great debts of gratitude to Robert G. Stone. I can personally testify that he has been most helpful to me. If there are to be any "corrections" to rates he has published, they come about only as part of the natural progress of information about the past. (I will cite these collectively as Stone, or individually as Stone 1958 or Stone 1982.)

(3) Especially important is *Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969*, by J. P. Alexandre, C. Barbey, J. F. Brun, G. Desarnaud and R. Joany; the second edition was published in 1989 by Brun & Fils and corrected and edited by R. Joany (to be cited hereafter as Alexandre). There is now a vol. 2, providing rates from 1969 to 1988. This work cites the official documents establishing rates in the French postal system. (The two articles by Stone, mentioned above, were published before this work was available.)

(4) Equally helpful is Derek Richardson's recent *Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to date*, published in 1992 by The France & Colonies Philatelic Society of Great Britain. It is obvious that Richardson relies heavily on Alexandre, and the information, although not as detailed, is entirely in English and much more conveniently tabulated.

(5) Finally, there is *UPU Mail: Annual Table of Exchange Rates & of Postage Rates to the U.S., 1881-1953*, recently published (undated) by The Printer's Stone of New York. I will hereafter refer to this source as *U.S. Tables*.

One thing certain is that the rates for mail to destinations *within* the French community of nations (domestic mail) were very different from those for mail to destinations *outside* that community (foreign mail). These two must be treated separately.

**Domestic letters.** I start with the ordinary colonial letter rates for mail within the French community during the period chosen. Table 1 indicates the information to be found in Richardson and in Alexandre (c=centimes; f=francs; g=grams; ea=each; +=additional). Note that I have carried the table

only up to a weight of 500 grams; the higher weight categories may be found in Alexandre or Richardson.

**Table 1. Domestic Rates in the Colonies**

Rate begins	→15g	ea + 15g					registry
Apr 1, 1879	25c	+ 25c					+ 25c
Jan 1, 1899	15c	+ 15c					+ 25c
Apr 16, 1906	10c	+ 10c					+ 25c
	→20g	→50g	→100g	ea + 50g			
May 1, 1910	10c	15c	20c	+ 5c			+ 25c
Jan 1, 1917	15c	25c	30c	+ 5c			+ 25c
				ea + 100g			
Apr 1, 1920	25c	40c	50c	+ 15c			+ 35c
Mar 25, 1924	25c	45c	60c	+ 20c			+ 60c
Jul 16, 1925	30c	50c	75c	+ 20c			+ 75c
May 1, 1926	40c	65c	90c	+ 20c			+ 1f
Aug 9, 1926	50c	75c	1f	+ 30c			+ 1f
Apr 21, 1930	50c	75c	1f	+ 40c			+ 1f
Jul 18, 1932	50c	75c	1f	+ 40c			+ 1f25
				→200g	ea + 100g		
Jul 12, 1937	65c	90c	1f30	1f80	+ 40c		+ 1f50
Nov 17, 1938	90c	1f20	1f60	2f20	+ 50c		+ 1f60
					→300g	ea + 100g	
Dec 1, 1939	1f	1f30	1f80	2f40	3f	+ 50c	+ 2f
Jan 5, 1942	1f50	2f	3f	4f	5f	+ 1f	+ 3f

(The next rate hike was March 1, 1945, but as Stone has said, once these dates are reached most letters were carried by airmail, and those rates are something else altogether!)

It is important to note that the first line of information in Table 1 represents the French *foreign* rate rather than the *domestic* rate. Mail from France to the colonies (and, I presume, from the colonies to France and other colonies) required the foreign rate until January 1, 1899. Both Richardson and Alexandre indicate that from that date on the colonies' mail required the same postage as the French domestic rates.

Now for some observations about the differences between Table 1 and Stone's charts in the two articles mentioned above. While those articles are in *almost* complete agreement with the present study, there are a few differences, as follows.

(1) Stone 1958 does not list the 15c rate beginning January 1, 1899, although Stone 1982 does. Apparently between the two articles he learned that on that date the colonies' rates were converted from foreign to domestic ones, as noted above. Even so, in both articles he uses 1907 as the date of the next domestic rate change when in fact it was the date for the next *foreign* rate change; April 16, 1906 is the correct date for the next *domestic* rate change.

(2) The period shown beginning May 1, 1926 is said by Stone 1958 to be "February-August." May 1 is surely the correct beginning date, as in Stone 1982.



(3) Stone shows the new registry fee beginning May 1, 1926 as 90c instead of 1f; he also puts a question mark by the 1f registry rate beginning August 9, 1926. I assume Alexandre and Richardson (as in Table 1) are correct; I have no cover for this short period of May 1 to August 9, 1926 so I cannot personally confirm the first; I have two Ivory Coast registered covers dated between August 9, 1926 and July 18, 1932; they confirm the 1f rate during that period. (My collecting specialty is Ivory Coast.)

(4) In both articles Stone inserts a change in the 50-100 gram weight class from 1f to 1f50, beginning April 21, 1930, then back to 1f in 1932. It seems likely that this was an error or misprint.

(5) Stone's data for the 1930s and 1940s differ from the equivalent ones in Table 1; he shows:

1931-1937	50c	75c	1f	+40c	1f+
1937-1939	65c	90c	1f30	varied	1f25
1939-1940	70c	1f	1f40	varied	?
1940-1943	1f50	?	?	?	?
1944-1946	2f40?	?	?	?	?

I assume that the figures in Alexandre and in Richardson (as in Table 1) serve to correct and fill out Stone's information. I have just one non-airmail cover during this time frame, and it confirms the 90c rate between November 17, 1938 and December 1, 1939. Still, if there were real differences between the rates in the colonies and those in France during the 1930s, Stone may be correct, though he did not indicate specific sources for his information.

**Foreign letters.** Table 2 shows rates from France, and *in general* (but not entirely; see below) from French colonies, to destinations outside the French community.

**Table 2. Foreign Rates in the Colonies**

Rate begins	→15g	ea+ 15g	registry
Apr 1, 1879	25c	+ 25c	+ 25c
Oct 1, 1907	25c	+ 15c	+ 25c
	→20g	ea+ 20g	
May 10, 1910	25c	+ 15	+ 25c
Apr 1, 1921	50c	+ 25c	+ 50c
Apr 1, 1924	75c	+ 40c	+ 75c
Jul 16, 1925	1f	+ 50c	+ 1f
Oct 1, 1925	1f	+ 60c	+ 1f
Feb 1, 1926	1f25	+ 75c	+ 1f25
Aug 1, 1926	1f50	+ 90c	+ 1f50
Jul 20, 1932	1f50	+ 90c	+ 1f50/2f
Aug 1, 1937	1f75	+ 1f	+ 2f
Dec 1, 1938	2f25	+ 1f25	+ 2f50
Jan 1, 1940	2f50	+ 1f50	+ 2f50
Feb 1, 1942	4f	+ 2f40	+ 4f

As with Table 1, the figures in Table 2 match those found in Alexandre and in Richardson *with one exception*: they show the registry fee beginning July 20, 1932 as 2f, but I have followed Stone's chart which shows 1f50/2f, for two reasons. First, *U.S. Tables* apparently show some of the colonies keeping the 1f50 registry fee for some time after that in France had on that date changed to 2f. Second, although I do not completely trust the information in *U.S. Tables*, I have two registered 1933 covers that confirm a 1f50 rate at that time, and two registered 1935 covers that confirm a 2f rate at that time.

Apparently there were some exceptions to the general rule that the French colonies always used the same foreign rates as France itself. At least this seems to be the case according to *U.S. Tables*. These tables are not so precise as those in my other sources, inasmuch as usually only one table was produced each year (after 1910, in July). Therefore some rate changes between publications were missed, and the dates the rates began are not indicated.

Perhaps the best way to show the differences between Table 2 and the information in *U.S. Tables* is by individual colonies. In each case, substitute the amounts below for those in Table 2. (I repeat, *U.S. Tables* may contain errors, so caution and confirmation are needed.)

Cameroons, 1933-1937: registry=1f50; 1939: registry=2f  
 Dahomey, 1933-1937: registry=1f50; 1938: 1f50, 90c, 1f50  
 Gabon, 1936-1937: registry=1f50; 1939: 1f75, 1f, 2f  
 Guadeloupe, 1933-1937: registry=1f50  
 Fr. Guiana, 1933-1937: registry=1f50  
 Fr. Guinea, 1933-1937: registry=1f50  
 Fr. Morocco, 1936-1937: registry=1f50; 1938: registry=1f75  
 Fr. Oceania/India, 1925: 1f, 50c, 75c  
 Fr. Oceania, 1936-1937: registry=1f50  
 Fr. Sudan, 1933-1937: registry=1f50; 1938: 1f50, 90c, 1f50  
 Ivory Coast, 1933-1937: registry=1f50; 1938: 1f50, 90c, 1f50  
 Martinique, 1926: 1f, 60c, 1f; 1933-1937: registry=1f50  
 Mauritania, 1933-1937: registry=1f50  
 Middle Congo, 1936-1937: registry=1f50; 1939: 1f75, 1f, 2f  
 Niger, 1921: 25c, 15c, 25c; 1922-23: 50c, 25c, 25c;  
     1933-1937: registry=1f50; 1938: 1f50, 90c, 1f50  
 Oubangi-Chari, 1936-1937: registry=1f50; 1939: 1f75, 1f, 2f  
 Saar, 1924: 50c, 25c, 50c; 1925: registry=50c; 1926: 1f, 60c, 1f  
     1933-1934: registry=1f50  
 Senegal, 1933-1937: registry=1f50; 1938: 1f50, 90c, 1f50  
 St. Pierre & Miquelon, 1933-1937: registry=1f50  
 Tchad, 1936-1937: registry=1f50; 1939: 1f75, 1f, 2f  
 Togoland, 1933-1937: registry=1f50; 1939: 1f75, 1f, 2f  
 Tunisia, 1939-1941: 1f75, 1f, 2f

I should note that I have provided information only for French possessions using French currency. If we accept these as real differences, and not errors in *U.S. Tables*, one wonders where the rates for the various colonies were published so that this information could be further checked. One also wonders (since this is based solely on rates to the United States) whether the rates were the same to *all* foreign countries.

As will be noted, the largest single difference is the fact that the July 1932 change in registry rate from 1f50 to 2f was apparently not followed in many colonies. See above for the mixed evidence of my own Ivory Coast covers, as to this rate. This leaves one wondering.

Stone's two articles are different in a few points, as follows.

*(To Be Continued In October Issue)*

## THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY (A Philatelic Fish Story)

by Jerold M. Massler (FCPS #1829)

Part of the great pleasure of being involved with organized philately is that one gets to trade both information and material with other philatelists. Many of my favorite pieces have come as a result of gifts arriving from fellow collectors and, when I get the chance, I too try to put some water back into the well. So it was that while attending the annual F&CPS [of Great Britain] weekend in 1995 at Leamington Spa, I learned of Bernard Lucas' interest in French parcel post stamps (*colis postaux*) for he showed and talked on the subject.

**BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION**  
(à remplir au crayon par l'expéditeur)

**DESTINATAIRE** (Nom en MAJUSCULES et adresse) M. *Remieux* *Monaco*  
*10, Rue du Casino* dép.

**EXPÉDITEUR** (Nom et adresse) M. *Parent*  
*Rue Saint Oufies* dép. *Nord*

**REMBOURSEMENT** (en toutes lettres) *rente deux mille francs*  
**VALEUR DÉCLARÉE** (1) *3500*  
**INDICES A LA LIVRISON** (2) *3500*

**NATURE DU COLIS ET DE LA MARCHANDISE** *1 colis de dentelles.*

**POIDS** *3 kg 500*

Remis à *15* h *25*  
le *09-10* 19*59*  
signature *Parent*

**GARE DESTINATAIRE** *MONACO*  
**INDICATIF DE WAGONNAGE** *GNICE 15*

**TAXE TOTALE** *697*

**NUMÉRO D'EXPÉDITION** *0428*

**COLIS POSTAL PETIT COLIS**

W 12018 P.M.I. - 8-58

N.C.F. R. C. Seine 55-B.4.944  
016 0015 - CCIR

Figure 1.

The item pictured here in Figure 1 had “merely” arrived in Monaco (or so I thought) and as such held lesser interest for me as a collector of Monaco. Consequently, I gave it to Bernard in exchange for his paying my annual dues to the Revenue Society of Great Britain, inasmuch as he was its treasurer, and this also spared me the fee for obtaining a pound sterling draft from my bank. You may well imagine my surprise when he later sent me a copy of his writeup, which identifies the item as the only Training School *colis postaux* form he has ever seen. Unobservant me had failed to take note of the **SPECIMEN** overprints on the stamps and on the 0428 label, in addition to not smelling something when the sender is identified as “Monsieur Parent.” Normally these stamps and forms are cancelled with the name of the point of origin, and I incorrectly thought that CYSOING was a French town that I had not heard of. Bernard had checked a listing of all French railway stations and discovered that such a town or station did not exist. The “merchandise” named in the form is described as “1 colis de dentelles,” or one package of lace

(or perhaps of perforations, as in *dentelés* or *non-dentelés*?) valued at 32,000 francs. While this is one that really got away, it did give me added respect for those individuals who are designated as Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. Next time I spot a desirable fish that someone else desperately wants, it will not get away as easily as this one did!

*[Editor's note: I still cannot convince Jerry that Cysoing is a real town--in the Nord Dept.--that I happened to pass through back in 1985. And it must have had a railroad station, as shown by the Cysoing to Lille convoyeur date stamp of 6 August 1901, shown here in Figure 2. Nonetheless, that was a prize fish that Jerry let get away. I too lost one such, but I still would rather not talk about it.]*

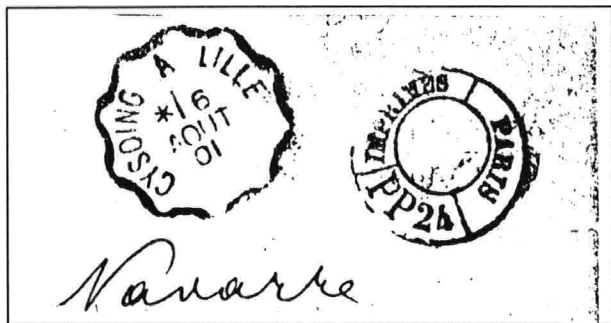


Figure 2.

## UPPER SENEGAL AND NIGER: The 75c Camel and Rider of 1914, its Shades and Surcharges

by W. G. Mitchell (FCPS #715) and Michael Round (FCPS #2004)

(Editor's Note: This article by two of our British members is the end result of an inquiry into shades and overprints of the 75c value, which began as a simple question posed in *FCP* #240 (April 1995, p. 59). What you see here is therefore representative of what must surely be the best thing about our hobby: collectors going out of their way to help their fellow collectors).

A recent *Question and Answer* exchange (*FCP* #240 and #242, April and October 1995) drew attention to an important but neglected field of French Colonial philately--the shades of the inter-War period, very largely ignored by catalogue editors. Some corrective observations have been made by Michael Round<sup>1,2</sup>, but a comprehensive listing would require the examination of large numbers of both mint stamps and used copies with clear dated cancellations. The latter in particular do not grow on trees.

Catalogue colour descriptions are not always reliable guides. Editors' reference copies of French Colonial stamps presumably come from stocks sold direct to the trade in Paris; their colour descriptions may differ markedly from copies sent to the colonies and climatized as a result. Subsequent printings were not necessarily successful in reproducing the colours of the originals. Editorial policy has also to be taken into account: catalogues list, at best, only those shade varieties proved to belong to a particular, datable printing. The introductory pages to the Stanley Gibbons catalogue include the following statement of their attitude to shades:

*"Shades in philately refer to variations in the intensity of a colour or the presence of differing amounts of other colours. They are particularly significant when they can be linked to specific printings. In general, shades need to be quite marked to fall within the scope of this catalogue; it does not favour nowadays listing the often numerous shades of a stamp, but chooses a single applicable colour name which will indicate particular groups of outstanding shades. Furthermore, the listings refer to colours as issued: they may deteriorate into something different through the passage of time."*

In other words (so far as 20th Century stamps, at any rate, are concerned), shades are outside the scope of a basic catalogue such as Scott, Gibbons or Yvert. The Yvert Specialised catalogue (of 1932; the only subsequent edition, 1936, is not available to us) does include a few shades not appearing in the current editions, but even this specialised listing is not exhaustive.

We have examined a total of 56 examples (31 mint, 25 used) of the 75c Upper Senegal & Niger (Figure 1) and its descendants, using the 200-shade Gibbons Colour Key produced in 1986. A selection of catalogue colour descriptions, with our own for comparison, appears in **Table A**. The sample examined, though by no means exhaustive, does suggest that there may have been five printings in all: one for Upper Senegal & Niger, two for Niger Territory, and one each for French Sudan and Upper Volta. This printing total is quite likely to have been sufficient for postal demand, given the services (according to the parallel postage rates prevailing in France) met by their face values of 75c, 65c and 85c. It is most unlikely that any of them were widely used on correspondence (our sample included only two covers, one obviously philatelic). The relevant postage rates are set out in **Table B**. It is assumed that the unsurcharged stamps remained on sale after the appearance of the surcharges, but we do not have sufficient dated copies to reach a definite conclusion on this point.



Figure 1.

There remains the possibility of extra printings to meet collector demand. Although the particular values under discussion were too high for inclusion in cheap packets, it is worth noting that the lowest values of each set were continually reprinted, and it is quite easy to assemble three, four or even more shades of many 1c, 2c or 4c pictorials. Check your own apparent duplicates and see for yourselves.

Higher values with frequent postal use, particularly those representing the basic letter rate, are also rewarding fields for shade research, particularly in those colonies whose size or commercial importance and relatively high literacy rates ensured large usage of stamps and (presumably) frequent reprintings. Similarly, values in round numbers (easy for postal clerks to work with, and so used up in quantities), will provide many an uncatalogued shade. Try, for instance, those 50c stamps which met the basic letter rate within the French empire from 9 August 1926 to 12 July 1937, or the Ivory Coast 1F of 1913 which was used for 23 years and shows considerable variation in both its orange-yellow and black colours.

One descendant of the 75c 'Camel and Rider' bears a surcharge variety not mentioned in the Yvert Specialised, and unrecorded elsewhere so far as we know. This appears on the 85c surcharge for Niger, misplacing the 85 downwards so that it appears to be sitting on top of the word TERRITOIRE, the lower surcharge bar joining together the letters RIT (or RITO) of TERRITOIRE. Several copies of this variety are known, all emanating from the same dealer's stock (presumably from a whole sheet). This variety is illustrated, with the normal for comparison (Figure 2).

**YOUR HELP WANTED.** Other overprint varieties exist, recorded to our knowledge only in the Yvert Specialised. While checking your shades of this issue (all values, not just the 75c), study the overprints and report your findings in this Journal; an article on them is in preparation and your reports will provide valuable confirmation. Some



Figure 2. Normal overprint (left) and downward - displaced 85 variety (right).

of them may exist on hitherto unrecorded values; others, though listed, have never yet been seen by us. Here is what to look out for:

**Niger:** variations in spacing between DU and NIGER. The normal is 2½mm; varieties measuring 2¼mm (positions 36 and 73) and 3mm (position 72) are footnoted in the Yvert Specialised, and are stated to exist on all values of the 1921 set, "at least in the first printing."

**Sudan:** variations in spacing between SOUDAN and FRANÇAIS, ranging from 15½mm to 17 (or 17½)mm: the normal is 16½mm. (Be warned: irregularities of alignment are common, making accurate measurements difficult.) Confirmation of sheet-position would be welcome here, previous references being ambiguously worded.

*(Here is a time-saving tip: the two varieties listed above may be checked quickly, without recourse to much tedious measurement, by bisecting a couple of hopelessly damaged "normals" through the overprint - Niger, horizontally; Soudan, vertically - and using them as templates. Streetwise colonies collectors probably do this already when testing the otherwise hard-to-distinguish wide '10' surcharges of 1912.)*

**Upper Volta:** look for an extra bar to the vertical stem of the 'T' in HAUTE. This addition resembles the middle horizontal bar of a letter 'E' and is recorded by the Yvert Specialised as occurring in position 33 on sheets of the 2f value. It may well exist elsewhere, though MR has never seen one in 25 years of collecting.

TABLE A

	UPPER SENEGAL AND NIGER	UPPER VOLTA	FRENCH SUDAN	NIGER
<u>75c value</u>				
Scott	orange and brown	orange and brown	orange and brown	yellow and olive-brown
Stanley Gibbons (1)	orange-yellow and brown	orange-yellow and brown	yellow and brown	orange-yellow and brown
Yvert Specialised 1929	orange et brun	orange et brun	jaune et brun	jaune et brun
" " 1932	orange et brun	orange et brun	jaune foncé et brun	(i) ocre et brun (ii) jaune et brun
" 1950	orange et brun	orange et brun	jaune foncé et brun	ocre et brun
" 1977 and 1991	orange et brun	orange et brun	jaune foncé et brun	ocre et orange (2)
Cérès 1974 and 1995	orange et brun	orange et brun	jaune foncé et brun	orange et brun
Thiaude 1974	orange et brun	orange et brun	orange et brun	orange et brun
Mitchell/Round	dull orange and light brown	[deeper] orange-yellow and brown (3)	orange-yellow and brown	(i) dull orange and brown (4) (ii) [pale] yellow and brown (3)
<u>Surcharged values</u>				
Scott	-	/orange and brown	orange and brown	yellow and olive-brown
Stanley Gibbons (1)	-	[orange-yellow and brown	yellow and brown	orange-yellow and brown
Yvert Specialised 1929	-	orange et brun	jaune et brun	jaune et brun
" " 1932	-	orange et brun	jaune foncé et brun	ocre et brun
" 1950, 1977 and 1991	-	orange et brun	jaune foncé et brun	ocre et brun
Cérès 1974 and 1995	-	orange et brun	jaune et brun	ocre et brun
Thiaude 1974	-	orange et brun	orange et brun	orange et brun
Mitchell/Round	-	[deeper] orange-yellow and brown (3)	orange-yellow and brown	[pale] yellow and brown (3)

## NOTES

1. Gibbons' descriptions are the same in the 1922-23, 1933, 1959, 1968 and 1993 editions. Their centre/frame sequence has been reversed to make comparisons easier.
2. An obvious error of "ocre et orange" for "ocre et brun" appears in later editions of Yvert; it is not repeated in the case of the surcharged stamps.
3. The qualifications in square brackets are Mitchell/Round modifications of the SG Colour Key descriptions.
4. So far we have not come across a used copy of the dull orange and brown shade of the 75c Niger stamp.



TABLE 3			
	UPPER SENEGAL AND NIGER	UPPER VOLTA	FRENCH SUDAN NIGER
75c value			
Date of issue	1914	1920 (December)	1921 (December)
Replaced by definitives	-	1928 (16 Nov)	1926 (29 Nov)
65c value			
Date of issue	-	-	1925 (1 Feb)
Replaced by definitive	-	-	1921 (9 March)
85c value			
Date of issue	-	1925 (1 Feb)	1925 (1 Feb)
Replaced by definitives	-	-	-
Usage (French tariffs)			
75c	This rate had been abolished in 1875, and it was not revived until 1 April 1924, after which it remained in use for all but a few weeks during the currency of the overprinted stamps.		
Upper Senegal and Niger	Supplementary value throughout.		
Upper Volta, Sudan, Niger	From date of issue until 31 March 1924 - supplementary value. 1924 (1 April) to 1925 (15 July) - (i) foreign letters to 20 gms; (ii) foreign registration fee. 1925 (16 July) to 1926 (30 April) - (i) domestic letters, 50 to 100 gms; (ii) domestic registration fee. 1926 (1 February to 31 July) - foreign postcards. 1926 (1 to 8 August) - supplementary value. 1926 (9 August) until the appearance of the definitive stamps - domestic letters 20 to 50 gms. This rate applied for a few months for Niger, 2 years 3 months for Upper Volta and 4 years 7 months for Sudan. 1925 (1 February to 15 July) - domestic letters including Recouvrements service charge, to 20 gms (tariff of 24 March 1924). 1925 (16 July) to 1926 (30 April) - supplementary value. 1926 (1 May to 8 August) - domestic letters, 20 to 50 gms. 1926 (9 August) to appearance of definitive stamp on 9 March 1931 - domestic printed matter, 200 to 300 gms. 1925 (1 February to 15 July) - domestic registered letters to 20 gms (tariff of 24 March 1924). 1925 (16 July) until stocks exhausted - supplementary value.		
85c (Upper Volta, Niger)			
WORKS CONSULTED			
Joany, Dr R.	Nomenclature des Timbres-Poste de France, Tome II Les Tarifs Postaux (Bulletin Philatélique du Midi, no date but about 1959);		
Luft, S.J.	The Regular Issues of France 1876-1945 According to their Normal Postal Usage (FIPS Inc, 1974);		
Richardson, D.J.	Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to Date (FIPS (GB), 1992).		

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- (1) Round M. *Martinique - the 1908 Stamp Issue*, FCPS (GB) Journal #166, December 1987, pp. 173-177.
- (2) Round, M. *French Colonial Pictorials: the neglected field of Ordinary and Chalky Papers*, *ibid* #188, June 1993, pp. 74-76.

## RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

Because all the material for this July number will have been shipped to the typesetter before I leave for San Francisco, any and all PACIFIC 97 reports will have to wait until the October number.

As indeed I must, I harp semi-constantly on the need for contributed articles, etc. from our members. It's time now also to remind us all that we have a relatively wealthy Vaurie Memorial Fund, whose purpose it is to publish handbooks and other longer works on aspects of France and Colonies philately. No Vaurie Fund works have been published since 1992, and none (to my knowledge) are in preparation. These studies can be recompiled serialized articles or can be started from scratch. They can be written by a single author or by a team or committee. Please contact me if you have a germ of an idea for a book (or at the very least an article, note, or whatever), or if you wish to appeal for some like-minded collaborator(s).

And while I'm on this roll, there's a crying need among our members for articles (rudimentary to profound, derivative or original) on **French postage stamps** (eschew markings and postal history for this once!). Pick on some definitives (any century)! How about those seldom-written-about airmails! Or simply a photo of an interesting item in your collection, for a bit of "show-n-tell." As long as your contribution is instructive and apt to be welcomed by many of our readers, I'll be glad to publish it. So how about it!

### AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES--29

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

For decades, two towns were known for siege mails of the Franco-German War of 1870-1871, Paris and Metz. They were the only fortified places cut off from the outside world as completely as possible by their besiegers. German soldiers had instructions and, at least at Paris, were promised rewards for preventing communications from being passed clandestinely across the lines. It was psychological warfare against the enemy.

Other towns were not nearly as tightly invested, so that their more or less secret mail services could operate fairly regularly, in some cases even with the cooperation of the Germans. In view of the relative scarcity of all but the Paris siege mails, the others would have remained almost unknown, except for the unmanned mail balloons of Metz, which created a certain amount of interest among early (aero)postal historians and even spawned the tale of balloon mail from besieged Neuf-Brisach, which turns out to be more wondrous than real. Instead, the commander of that fort sent regular messengers who took mail with them for posting outside.

### Two-Way Bottle Mail on the Moselle

This column treats two astounding mail events of the siege of Metz, the first of which concerns bottle mail. The idea of using the Moselle, which flows through Metz, as the means for transporting mail must have been evident. And because Moselle wines were and still are internationally famous, empty, stoppered bottles were equally obvious as letter containers. So it is not surprising to uncover references to bottle mail in German newspapers.

The earliest one on record, curiously enough, is supposedly a German captured soldier's message, found months after it had been tossed into the river and found its way down the Moselle into the Rhine. It was discovered on 26 January 1871 by skaters, frozen into the ice near Expel, '3 or 4 hours above Bonn.' I have not been able to locate that village, but the news must be authentic: How else would the *Dortmunder Anzeiger* have known that it was Pvt. Simon Schmitz, 39th Regiment, who had sent the message to his parents at Düsseldorf?!

Another incident is reported by General Kretschman in one of his many letters to his wife, this one dated 3 September 1870: "They will have to surrender very soon, because a bottle came down the Moselle towards Diedenhofen (Thionville in French) with a message from Bazaine, complaining about lack of food and typhus. It was intercepted by our outposts." Not only was it a bit too early for surrender, but the message, if such there was, most certainly was not from Bazaine personally, though perhaps from one of his soldiers. Bazaine would not even send coded messages by unmanned balloons, believing such uncontrollable means of communication would simply benefit the enemy.

The most amazing revelation about the Metz bottle mail, however, is that Bazaine and MacMahon were playing bottle mail up and down the Moselle. The *Rheinische Blätter* report from Ars-sur-Moselle: "On our return we passed the so-called bottle guard on the Moselle. After we learned that Bazaine had received letters several times by means of bottles thrown into the Moselle at Thionville, a long net was thrown across the Moselle below that village, and soldiers watch it on both sides of the river for everything that flows on the river down to Metz." Thus goes the wonder story about bottles floating upstream without any means of propulsion, because Metz is above Thionville. Anyhow, according to the report, nothing noteworthy had yet been found floating up or down river.

Animal bladders supposedly were also used as mail containers in lieu of bottles. Here is a German newspaper report of this event: "They have tried repeatedly to send messages to Thionville on the Moselle [at least downriver]. On 1 September two such despatches were caught, one coded, the other in [plain] French. The latter asked for news, because they had been without any such since 23 August. Both despatches had been placed in pigs' bladders, loaded with buckshot and carrying little red-white-blue flags inscribed 'Vive l'Empereur!' [Long live the Emperor!]" None of the river messages is known to have survived, though one never knows when and where one might turn up.

### Metz Balloon in Park at Brussels

The reality of the first Metz balloon mail, organized and directed by Dr. Med. Jeannel, was doubted for quite some time, simply because very few of its *papillons*, as the messages are known today, exist, and because Jeannel's official report was printed in a medical journal, a rather odd place to put such an account. There was never any doubt about the authenticity of the second Metz balloon mail (Figure 1), however, thanks in part to reporter George T.

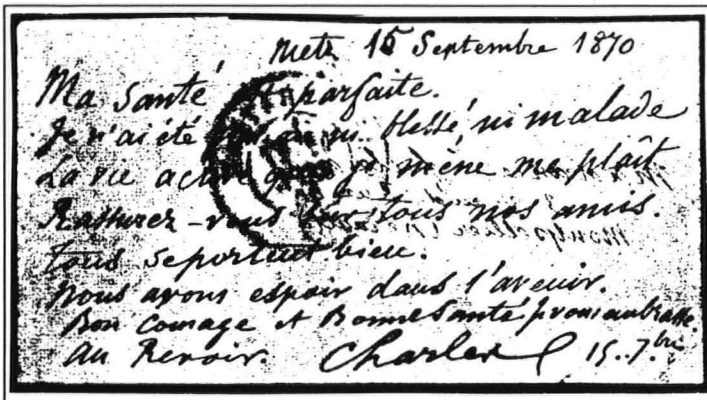


Figure 1. A genuine papillon, sent on first garrison balloon (= 2nd Metz airmail) and post-marked at Neufchateau [courtesy of J.-F. Brun].

Robinson's book about the siege and his important role in constructing the balloons (and, incidentally, hiding uncensored messages in them). So, when I

first read about a Metz balloon having been found at Brussels, that seemed eminently reasonable. But read on...

Brussels, 4 October [1870]. This morning one of the local night constables discovered, in the park of Brussels, a balloon hanging on a tree. He took it down and found, among many sealed letters, an open slip with the message: "Metz. Marshall Bazaine, General Leboeuf have dueled repeatedly. Both are seriously wounded. General Canrobert has taken command. Important happenings are expected." The constable, confounded by this discovery, quickly went to the police chief, who hurried even faster to Mayor Anspach. He, too, did not know precisely what to do with this compromising discovery, and thus the matter is now up to the government. We shall learn soon that the balloon will have been interned until further notice, in order to satisfy all laws and regulations of neutrality. The sealed letters have not been opened as yet. And yet that would be the sole means to determine whether this is an authentic balloon from Metz or a practical joke. (F.J.)

The *Etoile Belge* immediately doubted the authenticity of the find and reported on 9 October that the balloon had been transmitted to recently nominated French ambassador Tachard. The embassy had recognized the report as a stupid joke. Two days later the *Journal de Liège* published a letter to the editor by Brussels photographer Louis Ghémar, saying that he had nothing do with that joke. (That's what happens when one is known as a practical joker.) Ghémar, friend of aeronaut, photographer, freedom fighter and co-founder of siege airmails Nadar, had manufactured the microphotographed messages for the fabulous Brussels — Paris pigeon mail that never existed.

Another imitation microphotograph for the pigeon mail was manufactured at London and touted by *The Times* as having been sent to Bordeaux, where it was put on a pigeon and flown into Paris. The late John D. Hayhurst first nailed down that hoax about a century after it happened. A still later and more or less official imitation was made around 1900 at Paris to collect money for the balloon and pigeon monument that did not survive World War II.

These more or less innocently created souvenirs are traded for relatively big money among people who have no idea in what kind of merchandise they are dealing. All are collectible, of course, but one should know the nature of these collectibles.

## WE GET LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I have seen very little in English (and suspect there's not much more in French either) on the French Revolution ("Storming of the Bastille") Colonies omnibus semi-postal issues of July 1939, and am interested in exchanging information on usages of these stamps.

I have commercially used covers from Ivory Coast and Senegal, and have seen what seem to be commercial usage from Indo-China and French West Africa areas, and assume they exist for other colonies as well. I also have complete used sets from Somali Coast, etc., though some are probably cancelled-to-order (CTO).

The information I'm looking for includes (among other things): Which colonies had received them and made postal use of them? Did the issue for Wallis & Futuna ever reach that colony in 1939 or 1940? Did CTO stamps emanate from Paris, and were they also produced in some or all of the colonies? The issue was supposedly withdrawn from sale on 31 December 1939; is that correct? was that date only for Paris? or elsewhere? I feel that this neglected issue is worth discussing and studying, particularly the used material.

--Greg Cykman (Mb. #3022)

## FRENCH STAMPS USED AT THE SERBIAN POST OFFICE ON CORFU: SEQUEL

In the July 1988 number of our Journal (Vol. 44, No. 3) an article by Richard M. Stevens pictured three covers with French stamps with the POSTES SERBES marking, used from the Serbian post office on Corfu to local addresses on the island. In the article some uncertainty was expressed regarding the postage required for such covers. Two of those covers were post-marked on 29 September 1918 and had been charged Greek postage due. A third cover used on that same date, again with Greek postage due, appeared in a December 1996 French mail sale. We now have three covers: one franked with a 5 centimes Sower and charged 20 lepta postage due, one franked with a 10 centimes Sower and charged 10 lepta postage due, and the third franked with French semi-postal stamps and charged 30 centimes postage due. I believe it is reasonable to assume that the Greek post office did not recognize the French semi-postal stamps and treated the third cover as unfranked. Now all three covers perhaps can be explained: the lepta and the centime were considered to be equal in value; the letters were considered to be domestic mail and charged the 15 lepta (= 15 centimes) rate; postage due was then charged at double the deficiency. To repeat what was stated in the previous article: all these POSTES SERBES covers to addresses on Corfu are philatelically-inspired creations perpetrated by the stamp dealers or their agents who came to Corfu as the war was ending.

--R. M. Stevens

## THE CARNET CORNER

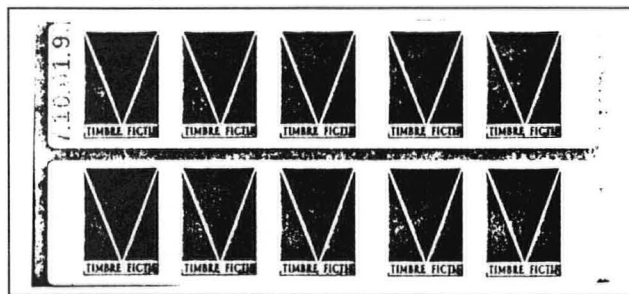
By Bob Seeke (FCPS #1334)

Let's look at a couple of "non-stamp-booklet" booklets of the last few years. It's not as confusing as it sounds.

First a look at a booklet that was printed to use in testing the machines that dispense the open booklets of 10 stamps, comprising of two strips of five stamps each. The text on the cover is the same as that of Yvert 1102. There are no phosphor bars. This test booklet is printed in rolls of 500 individuals, just as the actual booklet.

The 1997 Cérès catalog lists an unsevered pair of the actual booklet of 500 francs, even though they are not supposed to be sold that way. Dealers who sell these test booklets have been known to have full rolls of them. Is this practice sanctioned by the postal authorities?

I have seen printing dates of 6 and 10 January 1995 (Figure 1). Are any other printing dates known?



*Figure 1. Test booklet, printed on Press 7 on 10 January 1995 (as indicated by the 7.10.01.95 in upper left).*

When these test booklets first became available to collectors sometime in the Spring of 1995, the asking price was around 450Fr. The price has dropped considerably since then, so there must be quite a few on the market.

The other type of "non-stamp-booklet" booklet (Figure 2) is of a size and shape similar to the closed booklets of 10 stamps that have been sold since



Figure 2.

1971. It contains no stamps at all and has the number 9-4 on the back cover. It appears to have been issued by La Poste, but the name on the front by which it has become known, "POLYMEDIAS," appears to be that of a private concern.

The phrase on the back cover translates to "One can be the smallest yet carry the largest," referring to the small size of a booklet cover as a publicity (media) agent. It appears to have been printed to advertise the fact that La Poste will put your company's advertising on the back of a stamp booklet, as was done with for Schweppes (Yvert 1252) and others. Any other information regarding this item would be much appreciated.

Setting tongues aside for now, *bonne philatélie*.

Bob Seeke, 110 Morey Park Rd., Nassau, NY 12123.

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## MEMBERS' APPEALS

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**OFFER:** Vending-machine booklets, Yvert #1010-14, 16-22, 24, 28, 30-39 (Scott #1231a/1666) and older #375 (Scott #756a). 1988 Yvert valuation 3415Fr. All 28 booklets \$250 postpaid. Robert T. Kingsley, 1701 Goldfinch Ct., W. Richland, WA 99353 (Mb. #2180).

**WANTED:** Any material from Morocco, especially the unusual in proofs, imperfs, covers, postal cards, errors, varieties, etc. J.P. Desjeunes, 6691 25th Avenue, Montreal, Quebec H1T 3L8, Canada. (Mb. #3070).

**LOOKING FOR:** Collectors with strong interest in the French Offices in Morocco, to share information, documentation and research on this very rich philatelic area. Write to J. P. Desjeunes (address above) (Mb. #3070).

**WANTED:** Perfins of France and/or Pubs (bandes publicitaires se-tenant with booklet stamps). Will buy or trade. Gilbert Loisel, 13 rue des Sources, Grand Vau, F-89500 Villeneuve-sur-Yonne, France. (Mb. #877).

**WANTED** by Senegal specialist: contact with other Senegal collectors. Also wish to trade France (Classic and semi-modern) for U.S. stamps. Alain Kimmel, 12 rue des Goulins, F-02190 Guignicourt, France. (Mb. #3114).

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## REVIEWS

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Jean-Luc Trassaert, *Marianne de Cheffer*; 91 pp., 15 x 21 cm, card bound; 1996 [1997]; 120Fr + postage, from Editions Yvert & Tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins, F-80036 Amiens Cedex, France. (Postage: 30Fr in France and DOM-TOM, 50Fr in CEE, 70F elsewhere; i.e., total 190Fr to USA and Canada addresses; by bank draft, Carte Bleue (VISA?) or IMO to CCP Paris 530364N).

In this first in a promised series, by the house of Yvert et Tellier, of monographs on the several "Mariannes" of France, my friend, the indefatigable Jean-Luc Trassaert proves once again that he is the foremost authority on modern French definitives.

In his clear, easily followed, non-pedantic style, and with a multitude of full-color illustrations and numerous tables, the author conducts us through all the facets of these lovely (at least the line-engraved ones!) stamps. After a preface (more on this below) and a foreword by Jean-François Brun, we come to learn that Cheffer's design first saw the light of day in 1954, then was ignored until resurrected in 1967. This single page is followed by biographical sketches (with photos) of designer Cheffer and of the several engravers. Then comes the stamp production facets, with clear expositions of the typographic and line-engraving techniques used for sheets, booklets and coils. Another short section describes the material present only within the confines of the Musée de La Poste.

The main part of the study follows. In six "chapters," Trassaert covers the five separate issues of the Marianne de Cheffer stamps, and also the CFA overprints for use in Reunion. For each issue, we learn about the preliminary material (essays, proofs, *bon à tirer*, etc.), postal usage and rates, the printings (dates, press numbers), special printings, varieties, coils, booklets and their covers, postal stationery, unissued projects (Figure 1), and more. Most of

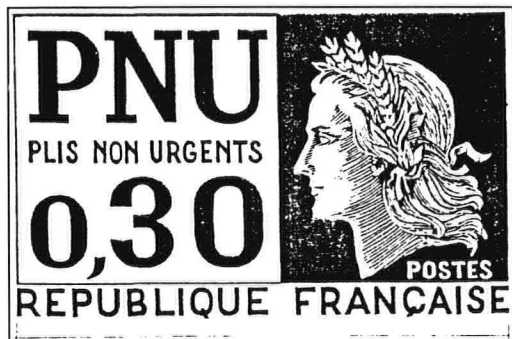


Figure 1. Unaccepted project for the 0,30 green typographed Cheffer (Musée de La Poste collection)

this information has previously been published elsewhere and in scattered bits and pieces; it's good to see it all now in one place.

For good measure, the final pages cover *fictifs* (training-school "stamps"), Palissy test vignettes, and Toshiba test mail, plus prices for generally available material, and a bibliography. Nothing's been left out of this monographic study!

On another happy note, the preface was written by Yves Guena, PTT Minister at the time the Cheffer design was approved and placed into use, and the man who at that time signed all 300 special sheetlets of the first two (0,25 blue and 0,30 lilac) values issued back in 1967. [now priced at 6,000Fr per!]. It's not always possible to obtain such a "link with the past," however



recent that past may be. This little touch adds a little historical extra to this fine work.

Good presentation, well printed on slick paper, and profusely illustrated. A **must** for monographic collectors of modern French stamps. I hope that the binding will hold up under frequent use, and that the future "Marianne" handbooks will be no less complete and useful. This little work may seem a bit pricey, but then, what isn't these days, now that the *Bulletin Philatélique du Midi* has long gone to its reward.

--S. J. Luft

Jean-Haik, *The Local and Private Posts of Morocco*; 222 pp., 21 x 29 cm, soft-bound, plastic cover and spine, numerous black-and-white illustrations; 1997; 225Fr + 40Fr packing and postage, by check in French francs or by IMO, payable to S.P.L.M., at 206 Blvd. Péreire, F-75017 Paris.

It was with more than a bit of trepidation that I approached this work, for I knew next to nothing about the subject. But then, I couldn't think of anybody else to send it to for review.

First of all, this is a translation of (and possibly a minor updating of) Haik's earlier *Les Postes Locales et Privés du Maroc*, which I haven't seen for purposes of comparison. Mr. Haik, who himself writes very well in English, has generously acknowledged the help of a team of no less than eight editors of the final translation. He is the president of S.P.L.M., a society devoted to Moroccan and Tunisian philately, and evidently the major contributor to its journal, *Le Rekkas*. Mr. Haik is obviously a most knowledgeable advanced collector of Moroccan material, is more than familiar with the earlier literature (which he credits) on the subject, and is surely the authority--as is this book--on the fascinating and complex subject of Morocco's less-than-official posts and their stamps and markings.

This study should appeal to all collectors of Moroccan philately and to anyone with even a minor interest in the philately and history of the Moroccan posts. On a perhaps broader scale, it should interest collectors of Judaica, inasmuch as many of the local posts were organized by Jews and/or for the primary benefit of Jewish merchants.

Part I, in 16 pages, briefly covers the history of the 19th and early 20th Century European posts or agencies, and also the *Cachets Maghzen* cancels and the Sherifian Posts and their varied purposes. Useful information on opening (and closing) dates are given for these posts. The many local and private posts, which opened in and after 1891, were closed or replaced prior to or upon the establishment of European protectorates over Morocco. Thus, many were extremely short-lived. What is important to realize is that they performed a useful postal service, and that their "philatelic" products were far from being contrived.

The *Cachets Maghzen* are the now very seldom seen circular or octagonal (Figure 2) markings of the failed 1911-1912 official Moroccan post, set up to

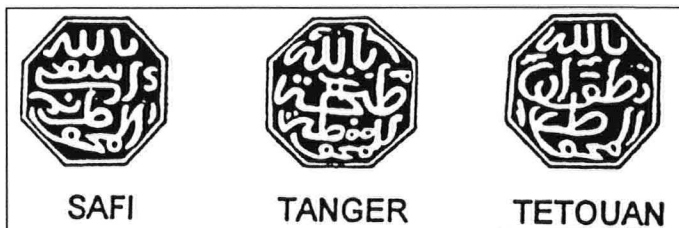


Figure 2.  
Three of the 13  
different hexagonal  
"Cachets  
Maghzen" (from  
the book).

counteract the financial success of the local and private posts. The Sherifian Post followed suit (1912-1913), printing stamps and preparing cancels, only to be replaced by Protectorates postal systems. Nonetheless, both have their place in Moroccan philately, marcophily and postal history.

By far the largest section (pp. 27-216) of the book consists of Part II, which is an extremely detailed study, **in alphabetical order**, of the 16 private and local posts. Included are their history, postage stamp printings and issues, proofs and essays (where known to exist), postal stationery, and cancellations. The stamps are generally adequately illustrated, priced (mint and used) in French francs, and their numerous shades, varieties, types, papers, perforations, overprints, etc., are meticulously listed and priced as well. We note that these items can be particularly pricey, especially the seldom encountered examples on cover. Some stamp plating has been partially carried out. Reperforated stamps, CTOs and "irregular" cancellations, and outright fakes abound, and are duly noted and sometimes illustrated. Prices are based upon the most recent auction and net-priced sale realizations available to the author and his many collaborators.

The work concludes with a brief (one page, p. 217) bibliography, and with information on S.P.L.M., the society for Moroccan and Tunisian philately.

Members of S.P.L.M. and others have contributed illustrations and information, making this work a most reliable and definitive product. Such cooperation among collectors is highly commendable and desirable. (As an aside, I hope to see our members attempt to emulate this cooperative effort, and I urge them to form informal study groups [some already have] for the purpose of disseminating information, articles and perhaps even monographs).

On the negative side, the book suffers from the lack of a table of contents, somewhat less so by having no index. These are drawbacks for the reader who seeks specific information without wasting time leafing about the many pages. Albeit brief, Part I is poorly organized. However, once the reader has learned to find his way around the book, he/she might consider affixing index tabs to the pages most frequently used.

These relatively minor quibblings aside, this has to be the definitive *dernier cri* on a somewhat esoteric subject. The author and S.P.L.M. are to be congratulated for this fine, significant product of their labors. --S. J. Luft

Jun-Ichi Matsumoto, *The French Post Office in Yokohama*, (1997); viii + 216 pp., 7 x 9½," clothbound with dust jacket; numerous photographs, 8 color plates; \$67.50 (US) + \$2 postage, or £40.00 (Sterling) + £1 postage, by check or credit card, from James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 6484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus.

It was at AMERIPEX 86 that I first became aware of Mr. Matsumoto. There, I was most favorably impressed by the material and obvious high degree of scholarship in his four-frame exhibit on the French Post Office at Yokohama, which received a Large Vermeil. In the ensuing years, it has expanded to eight frames and has consistently obtained Large Golds. Much of the material depicted in this book has therefore been added since AMERIPEX. He obviously knows where to find the stuff!

This is a most attractive work, as can be expected from a James Bendon production. Volumetrically, it is more pure historical narrative--social, commercial, biographical--than postal history or marcophily. The author had previously covered much of the latter, with great clarity in eight pages of *The London Philatelist* (v. 102, 1993, pp. 27-34). [Also see my note in our *FCP*, N° 233, July 1993, p. 67]. What more could we want or wish for?

One gets to go on a leisurely and relaxing visit to a distant past in a distant land. The lives and backgrounds of the principals involved (French, Japanese, other Westerners, postal people, military, diplomatic and commercial figures) are examined in some detail. And all is interwoven with the history and postal minutiae of the French P.O. of 1865-1880, and with predecessor use of the British post. Illustrations of covers, of rather variable reproductive quality, appear throughout, along with portraits of personages, etc.

Two slightly different *gros chiffres* 5118 killers were sent from France, along with a YOKOHAMA/Bau. FRANÇAIS date stamp. Both killers were soon after lost during the 26 November 1866 Great Fire of Yokohama. They were temporarily replaced by a maritime anchor killer, until the arrival of two replacement 5118s (with slightly different characteristics from those of the originals). As a result, four types of 5118 killers are known (Figure 3). A

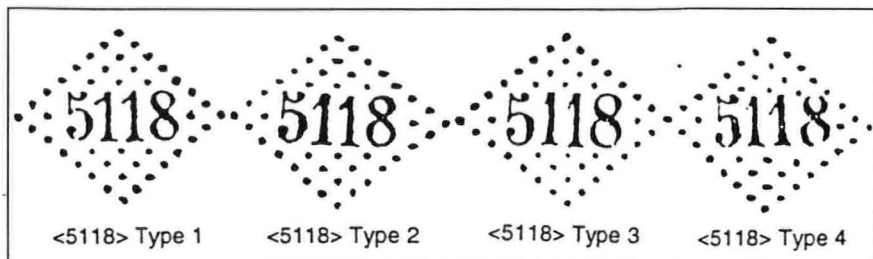


Figure 3. The four types of 5118 killers (from the book). Types 1 and 2 were in use in 1865-1866; Types 3 and 4 in 1867-1876.

date stamp for the post of the small military missions was in use from 16 April 1867 (EKD thus far). Mail volume from the Yokohama bureau increased considerably in the years that followed after Great Fire. Obviously, pre-Fire mail and the use of the two original (Types 1 and 2) 5118 killers is considerably scarcer than 1867-on mail.

Laureated Napoleon stamps arrived mainly late in 1868 and later still. The YOKOHAMA/JAPON date stamp, presumably meant to serve as a receiving mark, appeared by mid-1869 and was also used indiscriminately as a departure marking.

With rapidly increasing use of the Japanese post office from 1875-on, "the activities of the French Yokohama Post Office declined substantially after 1877" (p. 163). This translates into a relatively far greater scarcity of Sage stamps used there. The French P.O. finally closed its doors on 1 April 1880, after the British P.O. had done so, and long after the U.S. post offices in Japan had ceased to function.

Changing times, changing routes, changing governments, changing rates, incremental increases in commercial mail as Japan turned away from isolation. All of these are carefully charted in a beautifully integrated mix of history, postal history, and logically thought out postal conjectures. It all flows neatly in a well-written narrative that is a pleasure to hold and to read.

In four valuable and useful appendices, the author gives approximate valuations of covers (none under \$1,000!); lists the French postage stamps known to have been used in Yokohama; details the postal rates of the period; and highlights chronologically the various events in Franco-Japanese relations during 1844-1881. Bibliography and Index follow.

For many years, my 15c Sage exhibit has been lacking a cover (or even an off-cover stamp) from the French P.O. at Yokohama. During this time, I've only seen one cover offered, and I wasn't even close to being the underbidder. And now, from Matsumoto's Appendix 2, I've learned the reason why: at most 10 examples (on and off cover) of the 15c Sage may exist. Mr. Matsumoto doesn't illustrate--and may not even own--any, and I strongly suspect that I'll never be able to outbid him.

The color plates and dust-cover illustrations are very clear and faithful to the original covers. Unfortunately, I cannot say the same for many of the black-and-white covers reproduced, as they lack definition and clarity. A list of illustrations, after the table of contents, would have been appreciated. Otherwise, no complaints. This literature judge awards it a solid gold.

Mr. Matsumoto's exhibit will be in the Court of Honor of PACIFIC 97, and I can't wait to see it "in the flesh."  
--S. J. Luft

Joseph-François-Frédéric Steenackers, *Les Télégraphes et les Postes Pendant la Guerre de 1870-1871 — Fragments de Mémoires Historiques*; iv+620 pp., 4½x6½", 1 map, 1 ill., re-issue of the 1883 edition, (softbound); French francs 345 postpaid from A.I.H.P., 7 Rue de Châteaudun, F-75009 Paris, France.

It seems strange to review a book that is well over a century old, that appeared some 12 years after its author/compiler had lived through the events, and of which I now own my second copy (having given away the first one and recently managed to separate the well-bound but acid-browned text from its hard cover).

Yet when my friend Stanley J. Luft asked for a review of the re-issue, it seemed like a good idea. I had just finished writing an account of the 1871 zinc-ball mail, an affair in which Steenackers had played a rather sorry role. He wrote an unconvincing excuse in one chapter of this book. It is only when one tries to think in terms of having to live through the war events that one can truly appreciate the coldly calculated political intrigue that determined his actions, unaffected by the anguish of the French populace. That is merely one of seventeen chapters that are wedged between an introduction and a conclusion.

The Introduction goes way back into French history but also gives some good details about the start of the Government of National Defense in 1870, after the defeat at Sedan. He mentions, e.g., that the secret cable from Paris to free France was destroyed on 24 September, though no one knew, even in 1883, that a spy had informed the Germans of its presence. Also, having decided to become part of the Government Delegation that left Paris, Steenackers had wanted to appoint Pierret as his deputy at Paris, but he had to appoint Mercadier instead, because Pierret refused the position. Pierret's siege correspondence still exists, including a fascinating letter to his wife, given to the first commercial smuggler, returned to Pierret, and then entrusted to Manceau, captured near Verdun but not before he had given Pierret's letter to the local priest to mail.

Neither here nor in another work does Steenackers mention taking along any homing pigeons when he left Paris in the night of 13 September 1870, arriving at 6 a.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup> at Tours with many other members of the Delegation. As a matter of fact, no pigeons left Paris before the balloon *Ville de Florence* took along three belonging to van Roosebeke. Though that has long been established, the fable lingers on.

Chapter 1 gives some excellent details about the Delegation's activities (and non-activities) at Tours. Chapter 2 tells about how Steenackers combined the functions of the post office and the telegraph services of the Delegation, for which he had no authority from Rampont at Paris, who resented his action. Nevertheless, it is likely that the procedure was necessary to assure quick responses to wartime needs. It seems that Paris had not really learned how to delegate authority, nor had Tours known how to justify its actions so Paris would accept them.

Chapter 3 mentions some actions undertaken as concerns communications, some of the key personnel involved, and a selection of official telegrams that kept the Delegation informed about enemy activities. Steenackers appointed Feillet, a friend and an indefatigable worker, who also collected information and documents for writing a history of the Delegation's work on communications. He took the material with him to his house at Neuilly, where everything was destroyed by fire bombs during the Commune uprising, also leading to his early death in 1872.

Chapter 4 concerns military telegraphy, both French and German, and again contains the names of many Frenchmen involved in these activities.

Chapters 5 and 6 are all about the homing pigeon service. Much is made of lawyer Ségallas as originator of the idea of their use. It turns out that Ségallas had bought, with his own money, a bunch of street pigeons and put them in a tower of the telegraph service. They were untrained and of no use whatever. In fact, pigeon racing was the poor man's sport of that day, and pigeon raisers had both imported trained pigeons to Paris (which were occasionally used to take news out of Paris) and later sent pigeons from Paris that then returned home with "pigeongrams." There is also much argumentation as to who — Paris or Tours — had the best ideas for using the pigeons. Apart from that, the author does give many useful details about the people who operated the service and the manner in which it was carried out.

Chapters 7 and 8 concern the use of microphotography. The first of these treats the people involved and some of the operational details, including also de Lafolaye's report and that by Blay, the former primarily concerned with the photographic end and the latter with handling and dispatching the pigeons. Chapter 8 discusses the effect of the pigeon service on the Paris populace. Both of these are very useful to postal historians.

Chapters 5 - 8 are thus of considerable importance to philatelists. Again, they must be compared with other sources, to correct for political exaggeration. The author thinks he was almost alone in remembering the pigeons after the war, but that is not quite true.

Chapters 9 - 11 treat the messenger service, again with names and reports. It turns out to have been a dismal failure, thanks to German watchfulness, but that was not the fault of the messengers. There was also the temptation to exaggerate some of the dangers and adventures, though it is impossible to say today which were real and which were invented by journalists or simply copied from earlier accounts. Most of the few messengers who are known to have succeeded in crossing the lines are named. Morel's name occurs three times, once for having crossed back into Paris (he had also crossed the lines coming out), once for having been seen trying to get back, and once for having been on the balloon *Ville de Paris* that was captured. These reports, some written by ex-Germans and at least one by a woman messenger, make fascinating reading and contain great movie material.

Chapter 12, about extraordinary ways and means of communication, concerns primarily the zinc-ball mail and is perhaps the most political and least factual part of the book.

Chapter 13 recounts the events concerned with the balloons sent from Paris, but it starts out with the formation and composition of the advisory technical commission, the Delegation's equivalent of the US NACA (the National Advisory Commission on Aeronautics of WWI, later to become the NASA). Then there is a short piece about the Metz balloons, all wrong, except for the citations of newspaper accounts. There follows the list of Paris balloons, with the usual errors, apparently copied from some other list. The summary statistics are mostly wrong as well. Accounts by aeronauts, where cited, are of interest. However, if details matter, readers should try to get original publications, because the author has "edited" some of the reports and thus introduced errors or omissions.

Chapter 14 treats the attempts to return to Paris by balloon as well as the war balloons. Whereas the former did not succeed, as was to be expected, the dates and places are of interest in connection with mail, because they may determine for which attempt a certain letter was prepared. The fact that such an attempt did not succeed — just like the fact that a certain smuggling agency did not succeed — does not alter the historical importance of covers for it.

Chapters 15 and 16 concern the more traditional surface mails, the former primarily the private mails—as mirrored in notices to the public and other



documents—and the latter those of the armies, with long lists of personnel involved and expenditures for various equipment. Both of these chapters contain details not likely to be found elsewhere, and are invaluable for specialists in these subjects.

Chapter 17, *The Conflict at Bordeaux*, concerns the post-armistice political wrangling, which will be totally uninteresting to philatelists, unless they happen to have some pieces of mail to or from the personalities involved, of course.

The Conclusions again consist mostly of political hot air.

To sum up, the book is very uneven in its treatment of subjects, many of which are of interest to postal historians concerned with the Franco-German War. It is one of the *basic* texts that every student of 1870 ought to possess, especially now that it is available so readily. Like all books by politicians, it must be used with great care.

--E. M. Cohn

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- On or about 15 July, the "Marianne du 14 Juillet," designed by Eve Luquet, will replace the Marianne de Briat ("Marianne du Bicentenaire") as the first new French definitive design since the end of 1989. Like the M. de Briat, it will also be engraved by Claude Jumelet, master engraver at the Périgeux printing works. The far-too-busy design, encumbered by symbols and symbolism, and shown below, appears esthetically-challenged, in the tradition of most Marianne (and République) definitives since the early-to-mid 1970s disappearance of the line-engraved Cheffer design.
- The prestamped postal stationery craze (*prêt à poster*) now involves the Overseas Depts., with sets of five colorful prestamped envelopes for each of the four departments having been issued in March.
- The Musée de la Poste (Paris) is undergoing major renovation (in part to improve security for its contents) and, except for some special events, is not expected to reopen until early 1998. Serge Debien was named its new Director on 24 February 1997, and he will be working with a much reduced budget.
- In 1967, Charles de Gaulle visited Quebec and caused quite a commotion amongst the English-speaking Canadians by declaring in favor a "Free Quebec." This year, France is seriously considering issuing a stamp commemorating the 30th anniversary of this event. This has caused considerable furor in Canada, though a rupture of diplomatic relations has not quite been contemplated as this note is being written.
- In October 1996, the postal authorities of the Marseille region were alerted to the existence of large stocks of counterfeit permanent-value Mariannes de Briat. On 20 and 21 January 1997, the police arrested five individuals and seized tens of kilograms of evidence, including about a million fake stamps. Prior to that date, presumably prior to October 1996, an unknown number of these counterfeits were sold through tobacco shops and other small enterprises in the Marseille region. These counterfeits, which are of



two rather similar types (only the first seems to have been "issued"), can be recognized by (1) offset printing rather than line engraving, (2) paler shade of red, (3) fluorescent bands rather than phosphorescent ones. (That is, luminescence ceases as soon as a U-V light source is turned off; no afterglow).

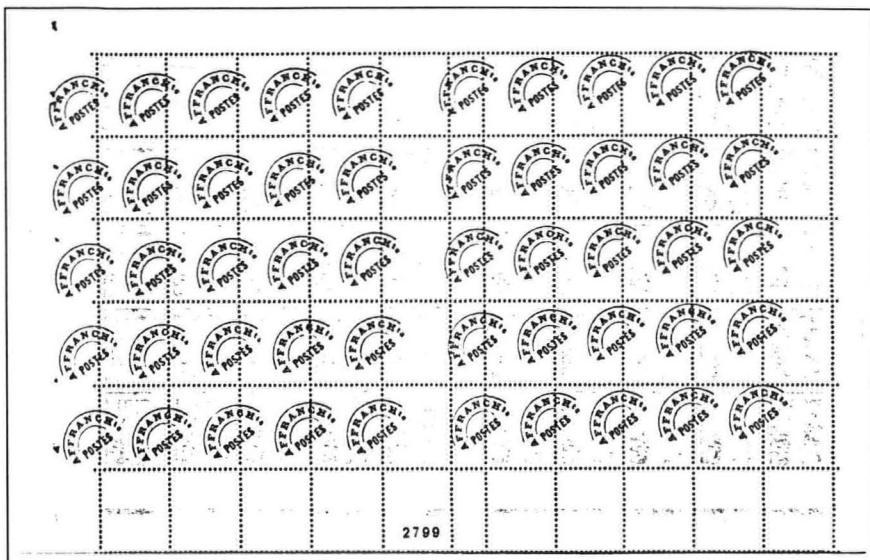
- At Canada's prestigious biennial National Philatelic Literature Exhibition, held late April in Ottawa, the late Gardner Brown's *The Postal History of the Commune Revolution, Paris 1871*, entered by our Society, was awarded a Silver medal. This worthy book is still available from our Corresponding Secretary for the special FCPS member price of \$16.00.
- Special oversize prestamped envelopes (M. de Briat indicia), for mailings of up to 100 gm and up to 500 gm, were released on 17 March (see illustration below). Sold at 10F and 20F respectively, they cost substantially more than the present 6,70F and 16F rates for these letter rate weight classes, even when purchased at quantity discounts. Additionally, they're heavy-duty and rather heavy, even when empty. And, they can be used only within France, to Andorra and Monaco, and within or between the Overseas Departments.



- The French postage printing works at Perigueux added, late last year, equipment for printing stamps (or portions thereof) by **thermogravure**. This is the process that creates raised letters and designs--as per business cards and stationery. Its first product has been the Monaco sheetlet commemorating 700 years of the Grimaldi dynasty (1297-1997), printed by a combination of thermogravure and offset on 6 December 1996. We can assume that the process will also be tried some time "soon" to some French stamps and (hopefully not!) may eventually replace line engraving.
- As a sort of follow-up on the "Primer on Precancelled Stamps" in N° 248, April 1997, Lot 2799 in the Robineau 160th auction of March 1997, a full



pane of the precancelled 5c orange Sower with major shift of the precancellation cylinder impression, sold for 16,113Fr. You probably won't find another quite like it in your dealer's stock, but you may perhaps run into a similar single for mere pennies.



- > The "next generation" of French envelopes for heavier and larger mailings abroad will require neither postage stamps nor preprinted stamp indicia. Scheduled for 14 April 1997 are "POSTEXPORT Euro-Afrique" and "POSTEXPORT Amérique-Asie-Océanie," each of which will be in 100 gm- and 500 gm-maximum formats. These prepaid envelopes, for contents without declared value, will receive airmail (*PRIORITAIRE*) handling. With or without stamps, they would have been difficult to collect and mount-up anyway.
- > Member Lewis Bussey has an article, "translated from american," on the U.S. naval vessels loaned to Free France during the later stages of the Second World War, and associated mail, in the April 1997 [to be continued...] *La Marcophilie Navale*.
- > David L. Herendeen is now an APS-accredited judge, and a welcome addition to the far-too-small group of judges proficient to judge France and Colonies exhibits.

### Front page quiz

(A) Imperforate block of four of the 1-centime Cérés of 1872, with same-color (olive-green) marginal **Contrôle T.P.** in oval. This marking was applied to sheets that passed inspection at the Bank of France printing plant. Occasionally also found directly on stamps instead of in margins.

(B) Part-perforate *millésime* block of four of the 15c Mouchon of 1900. Top two stamps perforated only along bottom. The *millésime* 0 stands for the 1900 year of printing.

(C) Right sheet-margin strip of four of the 20c lilac rose Sower sheet stamp. Top two stamps (at left) are Type III; bottom two stamps are Type V (note differences in shape of lower parts of the 2s in 20).

If you scored perfectly, consider yourself an expert on French stamps and give yourself a deserved pat on the back. Also consider writing something on the subject for our Journal...

## SOME SHOW REPORTS

- LINPEX '97 (Lincoln, NE, February): Gold medal to Eliot Landau for his U.S. 5¢ Bureau Issues exhibit.
- NOVAPEX '97 (Redding, CA, March): Vermeil medal to Charles Kasdorf (member?) for "Red Cross Booklets of France."
- ROPEX '97 (Rochester, NY, March): Gold medal to your editor's "The Philately of French Expositions 1855-1952." Steve Washburne and Roger Quinby served on the jury, Steve as Chairman.
- COLOPEX '97 (Columbus, OH, March): Vermeil medal to Tom (Tuck) Taylor for his exhibit of Washington, D.C. markings. Ernst Cohn was Chief Judge, and your editor served as a literature judge; no F&C material exhibited in either of the two competitions.
- PARFOREX '97 (Park Forest, IL, March): Silver medal to Paul Larsen for "Philatelic ABCs."
- Garfield-Perry March Party (Cleveland, March): Gold medal to Eliot Landau for yet another U.S. Lincoln exhibit!
- MANPEX '97 (Manchester, CT, March): Silver medal to Gerard Caron for "Clement Ader--Father of French Aviation." The exhibitor is a long-time member, but we haven't hitherto seen his name in print, and he might be a first-time exhibitor. In any case, well done!
- Nashville Stamp Show (Nashville, TN, April): Gold medal and Grand Award to Earle Plyler for his "U.S. 2-cent Domestic Rate" exhibit.
- NORWEX '97 (Oslo, Norway, April): Large Vermeil medal to Roger Quinby for his Russia-used-in-Finland exhibit.
- ROMPEX '97 (Denver, May): Vermeil medals to your editor for "Post Offices of the Annexed Paris Suburbs to the 1880s" and "the Philately of French Expositions, 1855-1952."

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## FOR THE RECORD

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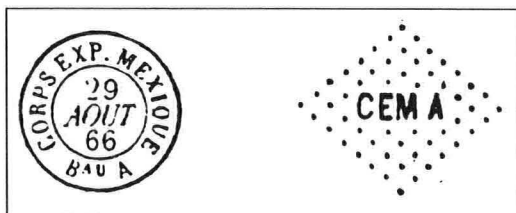
*(Continued from #248, April 1997, p. 60)*

- **748.)** Your editor, in collaboration with Dr. Karl Schimmer, the eminent specialist in 19th Century Mexico philately and postal history, has pursued the largely unrecorded topic of where the postal facilities of the 1862-1867 French Expeditionary Corps were located in Mexico. Essentially nothing has been published on the subject, other than by L. François. In his 1929 "Les Cachets et Oblitérations de la Poste Française aux Armées (1849-1870)", François stated (p. 75) that Bureau A was the Corps' Central Bureau, Bureaus B-D served army and divisional GHQs, and Bureaus E-H and J-M were in towns or with mobile columns.

Based on our holdings and on the pitifully small number of dealer offers made over the years, that stated both locale **and** (at least) the year, we have made the following, very preliminary determinations:

- Bureau A: Vera Cruz (8-10/62); siege of Puebla (3-5/63); Mexico City (7/63); Aguascaliente (2/64); Orizaba (66)
- B: Vera Cruz (5/63) [replacing Bureau A there]
- C: Guadalajara (no date)
- D: Puebla (6-7/63) [after its capture], (and late 64)
- E: (no data)
- F: Hacienda de San Antonio (3/63, prior to siege of Puebla); Hacienda San José (63); Lagos (12/63); Camburo (12/63);

Durango (9/66)  
 G: Puebla (5/63--post-siege; 67); San Luis Potosí (66);  
 Guadalajara (no date)  
 H: Zacatecas (8/65)  
 J: San Luis Potosí (8/64); Venado (64); Monterrey (11/65)  
 K: León (6/65); Guaymas (no date)  
 L: Parras (5-6/65); Durango (no date)  
 M: Thelocothan [sic?] (65); San Agustín de Palmar (12/66)



Additional places and dates would be gratefully appreciated!

## A LEXICON OF ABBREVIATIONS [AND ACRONYMS ON FRENCH DATE STAMPS OF 1960-1995]

By Patrick Lavenas (continued from *FCP* #247, January 1997))

### ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

Abrév.	Signification
	<b>ADDITIF</b>
AERO.	AEROport
ANC	ANCien
ANNIV.	ANNIVersaire
AUTO	AUTOmobiles
BS	Brigade de Surveillance des douanes
<u>CALE</u>	CommerciALE
CAP	CARRé Professionnel
CDC	Centre Départemental du Courrier
CFDT	Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail
<u>CIAL</u>	CommerciAL
CIRTV	Centre International de Radio et TéléVision (J.O. 1992)
CNET	Centre National d'Etudes des Télécommunications
COMMER.	COMMERCial
COMMERC.	COMMERCial
CONG	CONGrès
CPP	Centre Principal de la Presse (J.O. 1992)
CTO	Centre de Tri Optique
<u>DAL</u>	DépartementAL
<u>EXPON</u>	EXPositiON
FITEM	Festival International de la Télécommande Et du Modélisme
FNCA	Fédération Nationale des anciens Combattants d'Algérie
<u>INTALE</u>	INTernationALE
<u>NATAL</u>	NATionAL
PCE	Procédures Civiles d'Exécution
PRO	PROfessionnel
PS	Parti Socialiste
RH	Ressources Humaines
SNCF	Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer français
TEL	TELécommunications

TELE	TELEcommunications
TELECOMS	TELECOMmunicationS
VO	Village Olympique (J.O. 1992)
x ITVF	Imprimerie des Timbres et Valeurs Fiduciaires

**RECTIFICATIF**

PLM	Paris Lyon Méditerranée
SRVM	Service de Recouvrement des Valeurs Mobilières
x CAMP	Compagnie d'Appareils Mécaniques de Précision
x CTO	Centre de traitement Optique

## NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

- *Catalogue des timbres à date FACTEURS BOITIERS, Type 1884*, by Vincent Pothion; 60 pp., soft cover; 1997; 130Fr (+ 12Fr postage within France; inquire for other destinations) from La Poste aux Lettres, 17 rue du Faubourg Montmartre, F-75009 Paris. (Completely redone from 1981 edition, this catalogue, with value indices, covers the post-Classic Period date stamps of the secondary P.Os. of France; numerous new dates and other changes).
- *Histoire-Postale--Département du Rhône--Marques Postales et Oblitérations*, by Pierre Souchon; 350 pp., 16 x 24 cm; 1997; 300Fr postpaid, by draft to Union des Philatélistes des PTT or IMO to their postal account C.C.P. 332304 Y Lyon; from Union des Philatélistes des PTT, M. François Petit, Trésorier, 39 avenue Jean Jaurès, F-69341 Lyon Cedex 07, France. (This is volume 1, covering the period 1611-1876; numerous illustrations of letters and documents of the period; complete details on the 55 post offices and their markings, rural and urban boxes, railway mail, franchises, entry marking, Petite Poste de Lyon, etc.).
- *The French Post Office in Yokohama*, by Jun Ichi Matsumoto; 1997. (Reviewed in this number, p. 92).
- *Oblitérations mécaniques et propagande 1939-1945--France et Colonies*, by Gilbert Regourd; 54 pp.; 110Fr postpaid from the author, at 12 rue de la Comtesse Cécile, F-12000 Rodez, France. (Checklist of known machine and slogan cancels of the period, with maps and historical commentaries).
- *Supplément 1995 au catalogue des oblitérations mécaniques à flammes illustrées ou stylisées*; 76 pp.; 85Fr + 11,50Fr postage, from Le Monde des Philatélistes, 21 bis, Rue Claude-Bernard, F-75242 Paris Cedex 05. (This is Etude N° 271 of *Le Monde*, and is the 1995 supplement to the catalogue of pictorial and slogan machine cancels. A useful guide for thematic collectors, among others).
- *Les Véhicules du service public de chez nous*, by J.-Y Brouard and M. Fonteny; 144 pp., numerous black-and-white illustrations; 180Fr (+ postage?), from Editions MDM, 96 Rue de Paris, F-92100 Boulogne, France. (A picture book covering the first 60 years of the use of automobiles by French public services, such as airports, public utilities and, of course the postal system. Probably of special interest to collectors of covers and memorabilia concerning the rural mail delivery system).
- *La Patrimoine de La Poste*; 480 pp., 1,500 illustrations; 270Fr (+ postage?), from Flohic Editions, 28 Avenue Jean-Jaurès, F-94220 Charenton-le-Pont, France. (A multi-authored work that summarizes the history of the French postal system, its buildings, its postal routes, personnel, and vehicles, from earliest times. Replete with illustrations of documents, postage stamps and artifacts, and all sorts of other postal memorabilia).
- *The Work of Jean de Sperati*; reprinted 1997; 384 pp., hardbound; numerous plates; \$120 (US) + \$2 postage, or £75 (Sterling) + £1 postage, from James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 6484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus. (Reprint of the long out-of-print 1956 (2nd) edition of this well-illustrated study of the master forger's career and work. Sperati's reproductions of French Classic stamps are often better made than the originals. Indispensable reference work for the serious collector who has been unable to obtain or afford a copy of the original book).

(NOTE: Some of these publications may be obtainable from your regular sources in France and elsewhere. it may be to your advantage to check with them before attempting to contact the publisher or author.)

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## NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

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(Continued from #248, April 1997, p. 68)

**France**

- 17 March 1997: 10F and 20F prestamped envelopes for oversize and heavy contents [see Announcements and News for details];
- 29 March (1 April): 6,70F Art of Bernard Moninot;
- 12 (14) April: National Parks: 3,00F Parc des Ecrins, 3,00F Parc de La Guadeloupe, 4,50F Parc des Pyrénées, 4,50F Parc de Port-Cros;
- 26 (28) April: 3,00F Perrault's "Puss in Boots," from G. Doré design (EUROPA 97);
- 2 (5) May: 3,00F Philexjeunes 97 (Nantes);
- 8 (12) May: 3,00F (x six, se-tenant) semi-permanent "La Lettre" (Greetings) cartoon-design stamps on a letter writing/posting theme; 36F booklet of twelve self-adhesive "La Lettre" stamps;
- 10 (12) May: 3,00F Hommage to the French military in North Africa (1952-1962);
- 17 (20) May: 3,00F + label, 70th Congress of French Philatelic Associations (at Versailles);
- 24 (26) May: 4,40 Chateau du Plessis-Bourré (Maine-et-Loire Dept.);
- 31 May (2 June): World Cup Football, four at 3,00F, inscribed for Paris, Nantes, Lyon and Marseille; (and a batch of affiliated prestamped stationery);
- 14 (16) June: 4,50F Les Salles-Lavauguyon (Haute-Vienne Dept.).

**Withdrawals:** 11 April: 3,00F Ajaccio-Vizzavona train; 3,00F Basilica of Notre Dame de Fourvière; 3,00F from Gaul to France (Baptism of Clovis); 3,80F Thoroney Abbey; 6,70F Art of Arman.

**Andorra**

- 10 (12) May: 3,00F La Dama Blanca (EUROPA 97).

**French Polynesia**

- 1 January 1997: 550F booklet [no data obtained on contents];
- 5 March: Bicent. of arrival of Evangelism 43F + label + 43F;
- 16 April: Woven goods 1F, 5F, 70F;
- 21 April: 9F and 85F Official stamps.

**Withdrawals:** 31 March: 51F Year of the Rat; Seashells 10F, 15F, 25F; 50F CHINA 96; Marine birds of Polynesia 66F, 79F, 84F; Tahiti of Yesteryear 18F, 30F, 35F; 500F Hommage to Paul-Emile Victor; 100F 50th Anniv. of Return of the Pacific Battalion.

**Monaco**

- 1 February 1997: 4,60F Centenary of Monaco tennis matches;
- 4 April: 4,60F International Philatelic Grand Prix for 1996;
- 5 April: sheetlet of 13 stamps (71F total face) commemorating 700 years of the Grimaldi dynasty [also see Announcements and News].

**New Caledonia**

- 15 March 1997: 1000F François Mitterand [date changed from February].

**Withdrawals:** 31 March: 65F Melanesian pottery; 125F Animal fossil; 65F and 95F Caledonian flowers; World of the Deep (all?); Caledonian orchids se-tenants; 7th World Polynesian Canoeing Championships se-tenants.

**St. Pierre & Miquelon**

- 13 January 1997: 3,00F Constant Colmay;
- 12 March: Nature series: 3,80F bird and flower;
- 9 April: 5,20F volleyball;
- 14 April: 1,70F salt marsh; 2,00F dory.

**Withdrawals:** 14 March: 3,70F Mosses and lichens; 11 April: 1,50F and 1,80F The Blacksmith and his tools.

**Wallis & Futuna**

- 6 February 1997: 7F 50th Anniv. of the CPS;
- 14 February: Flags of the islands' dynasties 56F, 60F, 70F.

**Withdrawals:** 31 March: 80F Mothers of the Islands; 28F and 52F local tubers; 240F World Polynesian Canoeing Championships (Nouméa); 13F Sisia College (Futuna); 22F and 45F local flowers; 53F the "Bloody" Marsh; 195F Golfing on Wallis.

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## F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

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### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I would like to thank all those members who helped out at the France & Colonies Philatelic Society booth at PACIFIC 97. I will also apologize to any members, hopefully only a few, who came to the booth when it was unoccupied. Although this letter is being written in the middle of May, I am sure that PACIFIC 97 will have been a great success. It was certainly a most unusual experience to have been able to study a full listing of the exhibits a month before the show opened (as published in the combined *Pacific 97 Handbook* and 1997 American Philatelic Congress Book). I would encourage our members to join the American Philatelic Congress, an organization that all serious philatelists should support.

I trust that no one was upset by the "Liabilities" listed in the Treasurer's Report in the last *Philatelist*. In the conventional financial sense, I assure you, the Society has no Liabilities. The headings in the Report were the result of our Treasurer's use of a standard computer accounting program, but in a manner somewhat different from that anticipated by the programmers. In past years I have modified some of the captions in the Treasurer's Report before it was printed, but this year circumstances prevented that.

--Dick Stevens

### MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 1997

We were pleased to welcome tonight's speaker, Professor Richard Maisel. In his other life, Richard teaches statistics at New York University. While not doing such, he is a specialist in the British Colonies and a member of the Collectors Club. This evening he spoke of "The Political Order in Stamp Design." During recent years he has been doing some serious thinking about how a country's basic institutions affect the country's culture with particular emphasis on its philately. Richard begins with a three level philatelic model that he has developed. At the most rudimentary level, philatelists just consider a country's stamps with emphasis only on design, date issued and number printed. At the next level, philatelists work within the country's philatelic environment where items such as postal rates, treaties with other countries and printing techniques come into focus. At the most complex level, philatelists consider a country's general social environment where its values, and its political, economic and social systems come into play.

Within the latter context, Richard has formulated four periods of stamp design for model countries, where he believes a country's political development can be followed. Included are the Traditional Period, the Transitional Period, the Modern Period and the Post Modern Period. Within the traditional period, few stamp designs are used and typically they show national symbols or the monarch. They express the country's traditional culture and accepted political order, and the stamps are issued strictly for postal, as opposed to philatelic, use. In the Transitional Period, there is an increase in the number of designs that may express conflicting political systems. Often stamps are overprinted and are of a lower quality. They express the changes associated with movement from a traditional to a modern political system. In the Modern Period, there is a great increase in the designs used with a wide variety of topics included. As a rule the stamps do not show conflicting political ideas, and they are issued for postal, promotional and philatelic purposes. In the Post Modern period, there is a decline in the use of the postal system for individual communication, and the primary function of the post office is to issue stamps for non-postal uses.

A number of countries were illustrated using this model, including Austria, Hungary, Portugal and Russia. France, of course, has proven more complicated because of its tumultuous history. A lengthy discussion followed the presentation, contrasting France and its Colonies with the rest of the world. One item of note, was the relative autonomy that the British Colonies had in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, wherein each of the colonies had their own, mostly traditional, stamp designs. For the French Colonies, the stamps were controlled by and prepared by the Mint in Paris, reflecting the extreme centralization of the French political system.

--Ed Grabowski

## MEETING OF APRIL 1, 1997

It was a pleasure to once again welcome back Harlan Stone whose topic was **French-Swiss Cantonal Postal Treaties: 1828-1845**. Harlan first spoke on this topic many years ago during the early period of his many studies of Swiss postal history. He has given us a periodic update on this topic every few years. Over these years we have seen this material develop from simply a curiosity to its current full-fledged status as one of Harlan's major areas of study. During this time it has become a full five frame exhibit with the material generally of exceptional quality.

Mail from the Swiss cantons from 1803 until 1818 typically showed markings indicating its Swiss origins. In 1828-1829 mail had to be prepaid to the French border under treaties with five cantons. Mail showed accounting marks and rates according to distance or zones of travel. Harlan's collection has now become quite extensive (possibly one of the very best in the world), and it is one of the areas which he continues to study. Examples of all of the important markings and rates were shown, including mail from France to Switzerland. The latter category included a letter from Martinique to Switzerland via France. He continues to work with other philatelic scholars to understand the rates, currencies, markings and routings used during this period. Possibly it is time for the FCPS to join with one of the Swiss societies and underwrite a publication on this material.

--Ed Grabowski

## NEW MEMBERS

- 3124 SCHNITZER, DR. JEFFREY H., 127 Concord Avenue, Lexington, MA 02173. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - Used. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Used. Sage Type: 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint. Special Issues: Telegraph - Dues - Newspaper - Revenues. Philatelic Literature. Exchange.)
- 3125 EGGLETON, DR. ROGER B., P.O. Box 1077, Normal, IL 61761-1077. (French Community: Offices Abroad. All Colonies And Territories. Especially French Pacific. Philatelic Literature.)
- 3126 BOUCHARD, PAUL-ANDRE, 835 Davaar, Outremont, Quebec, H2V 3B4 Canada. (General Collector: 19th Century. General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Other: Rarities. Philatelic Literature. Exchange.)
- 3127 LYKES, J. T., 2910 Hawthorne Road, Tampa, FL 33611. (All Colonies And Territories.)
- 3128 LEU, THOMAS W., 28207 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, OH 44145-3802. (Guadeloupe - Martinique - French Southern Antarctic Territory - Wallis & Futuna. - Philatelic Literature, Maps And History of Isle Kerguelen (TAAF).)
- 3129 DEUSNER, CHARLES E., 1704 North Valrico Rd., Dover, FL 33527. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used - On Cover. Modern France: Saar. Philatelic Literature. Exchange.)

## REINSTATEMENTS

- 2643 GAETJENS, KAY, 34, Avenue Marceau, F-75008 Paris, France.
- 2949 LAMPEN, PETER C., 245 New York Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1733.
- 2371 SCHLEUTER, RICHARD, 10136 Cypress Glen, Las Vegas, NV 89134 (New Address).
- 2445 SULSONA, ROBIN T., 3905 River Hollow Run, Duluth, GA 30136-6189 (New Address).
- 1397 JAKABOVICS, SYLVAIN RENE, 110 Wykagyl Terrace, New Rochelle, NY 10804.
- 2857 OLSHEVSKY, GEORGE, 4808 Kensington Drive, San Diego, CA 92116-2307 (New Address).

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 406 VENGROVE, CHARLES F., P.O. Box 673, Wells, VT 05774.
- 2912 ROTTMAN, MILTON, 3845 Park Ave., Unit 18, Fairfield, CT 06432-1278.
- 2725 CRAIG, WALLACE A., P.O. Box 3391, Fullerton, CA 92834. (Change in specialties to Andorra, Monaco, French Colonies).

## DECEASED

- 2831 SAYRE, MARGARET H.

Our expressions of condolence go out to her family and friends.