



France & Colonies Phîlatelist



The 12-centimes printed-matter rate, Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe, to France, posted 27 March 1872; paid by 12 imperforate (Colonies) Laureate Napoleons, and tied, by the earliest known use of the GPE lozenge from Point-a-Pitre, to a pristine cover. (E. Grabowski coll.).

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FRENCH MARCOPHILY--NAVAL MARKINGS

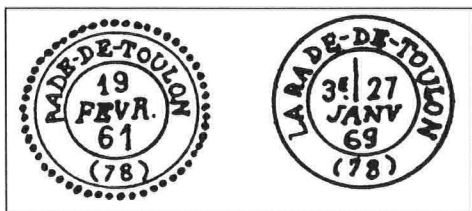
by Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS #2180)

The collection of naval markings is as popular in France as it is in the United States, and several study groups exist in both countries.¹ Relevant French markings on folded letters existed as early as 1771 and identified the naval base (*rade*) at Toulon (Figure 1). These are exceedingly rare. A post office was es-



Figure 1.

tablished at this base in the 1850s; utilizing several circular date stamps (Figure 2) until 1875. A few naval expeditionary and fleet markings appeared in the mid-



19th Century (Figure 3) and are much sought after. Nevertheless, there was no great variety of naval postmarks in existence² until World War I when postal bureaus were established to serve naval forces in the Mediterranean area

Figure 2.



Figure 3. Uncommon postmark applied 1862-1876 to mail from sailors of the Mediterranean squadron; unpaid, and assessed postage due at 1½ times the 20c domestic letter rate [copy of a clearer strike appended at lower left].

(Figure 4). These postmarks used letters to identify locations:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| A, B, F - Toulon | G - Corfu (Greece) |
| C - Malta, Argostoli | H - Spaleto (Yugoslavia) |
| D - Salonica (Greece) | I - Constantinople |
| E - Brindisi (Italy) | J - Tarento (Italy) |

Short-lived (December 1918 to January 1921) naval postmarks also appeared at the close of World War I for postal bureaus established at three major shipyards (*arsenals*): Brest, Cherbourg, Toulon (Figure 5). At the beginning of World War II, naval postal bureaus and postmarks were established for major seaports such as Cherbourg, Le Havre, Marseille, etc. (Figure 6). The names of the ports were soon replaced by numbers for reasons of security.³

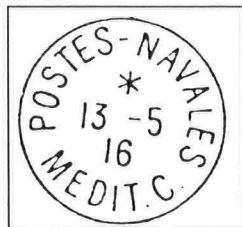


Figure 4.

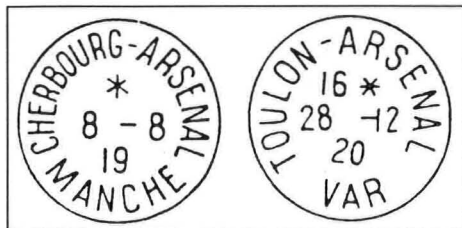


Figure 5.

as the well-known "Batiment de Ligne Richelieu" (Figure 8), were used through 1967, when they were replaced by circular date stamps (Figure 9).

There are, of course, other similar "poste navale" markings not discussed here, but this brief introduction to the specialty of naval markings has been simply a ploy to introduce the interesting field of naval cachets for which, to my

The postal bureaux aboard, and the better-known hexagonal postmarks for, *batiments importants*, i.e., warships with a crew of at least 500 officers and men, were authorized in April 1923. The excellent catalogue by Sinais³ identifies the postmarks and ancillary markings of some 38 warships (Figure 7), some in use for a very few years while others, such

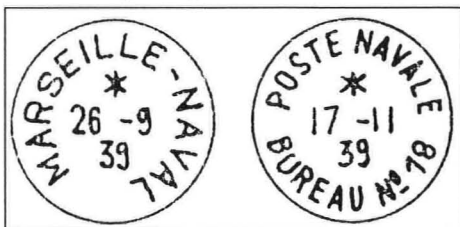


Figure 6. Marseille-Naval, September 1939 (at left) and Bureau N° 18, for Lorient (at right).

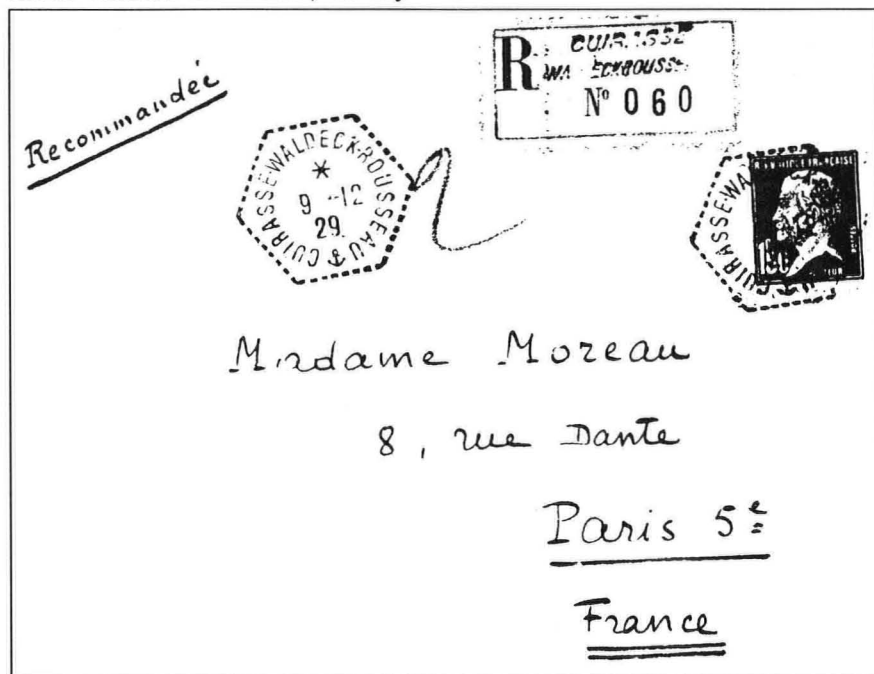


Figure 7. Registered December 1929 cover from armored cruiser "Waldeck-Rousseau."

knowledge, no catalogue exists. Although all warships did not have postal bureaux or discrete postmarks, all warships had (or were entitled to have) handstamps with the common feature of an anchor in or near the center. The majority include the Navy's motto: *Service A La Mer*, and it should be noted that the size



Figure 8. "Batiment de Ligne Richelieu," November 1958 cover from the battleship.

of the most common MARINE FRANÇAISE cachet varies with the rank of the ship's commander, e.g., 38mm diameter for admirals (Figure 10), 35mm for captains.

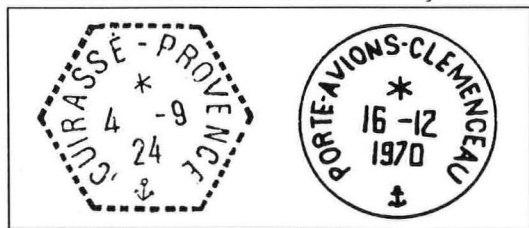


Figure 9. Pre-1967 dashed-line, hexagonal ship-board-agency date stamp at left; 1967-on circular date stamp at right.

Handstamps of warships are reported in use from at least the mid-19th Century (Figure 11). It may be worth noting here that the pre-stamp marking COLONIES/PAR/LA/FLOTTE (formerly shown on our Journal's masthead (Figure 12) is **not** a naval marking but rather a maritime entry marking used at the small port of La Flotte near La Rochelle.

The variety of cachets present in just my own collection of Tonkin and China Expeditionary Corps covers, a few of which are reproduced here (Figures 13-14), has been rather surprising. This variety suggests that many more varieties must exist from other early military campaigns. Quite a few were used prior to and during World War II, often accompanied by another handstamps identifying the name of the warship (Figure 15). A doubled



Figure 10. Typical Service A La Mer cachet; also see Figure 8, upper left, for a more modern version.

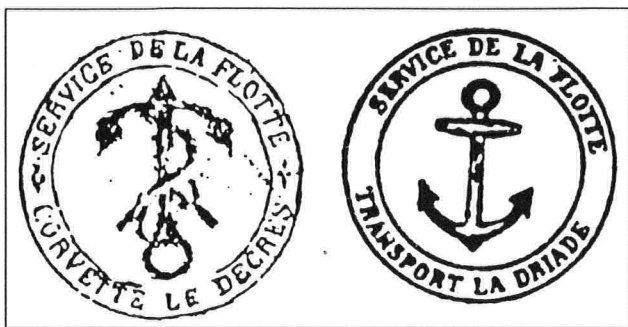


Figure 11.

The collecting of naval postmarks from African and other overseas installations (Figure 17) is another specialty worth mentioning, albeit too complex to be discussed here.

Let me conclude by elaborating on a little known episode of French naval warfare mentioned briefly by the late Jacques Desrousseaux in his final article on Siamese-French discord during World War II.⁵ Following upon Siamese aggression against Cambodia in November 1940, the conflict consisted primarily of retaliatory bombings by both sides, with French seaplanes regularly monitoring the movements of Thai naval forces. These forces consisted of two modern Japanese-built battleships, the "Ayuthia" and the "Dhonburi," and three older destroyers obtained from Italy. The small French squadron based at Saigon, on the other hand, consisted of one old light cruiser, the "Lamotte-Piquet," and four gunboats. On January 17, 1941, this French flotilla surprised the Thai navy at anchor at Koh-Change, near the Thai-Cambodian border, sank the "Dhonburi" and the three destroyers, and forced the "Ayuthia" to run aground. This David vs. Goliath victory is remarkable as being "the *only* French naval victory of either World War where the action was entirely conceived and executed by French forces alone, and without the assistance of an ally."⁶



Figure 12.

Endnotes

1. Readers interested in more information may write to M. Roger Lagarde, 4 Rue E. Delacroix, F-33320 Eusines, France. M. Lagarde is the publications editor for the Club de Marophilie Navale. Enclosing French postage or an IRC for a response is always appreciated.

2. Naval postmarks are distinguished here from the ubiquitous Corr.D.Armée military-expedition postmarks, originating in the 1860s, and from similar later Expeditionary Corps maritime postmarks, used on the mail of both army and navy personnel.

3. A cross-reference of naval-bureaus numbers to locations, with estimates (now far too low) of value, may be found in the "Catalogue des Oblitérations Navales Françaises 1771-1986" by Bertrand Sinais, 7 Rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris (cost 320Fr).

4. Michel Parlange, in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, May 1973.

5. *FCP* N° 234, October 1993.

6. "Thailand's War With Vichy France," by George Paloczi-Horwarth, in *History Today*, March 1955.

or crossed anchor cachet is known to have been used by Vichy forces in 1941. Sinais³ devotes an entire chapter to *Les Cachets d'Escales* (port visits) *de la Jeanne d'Arc* (Figure 16). We should mention here that the rectangular airmail overprint of the battleship "Richelieu" is an unauthorized fantasy.⁴

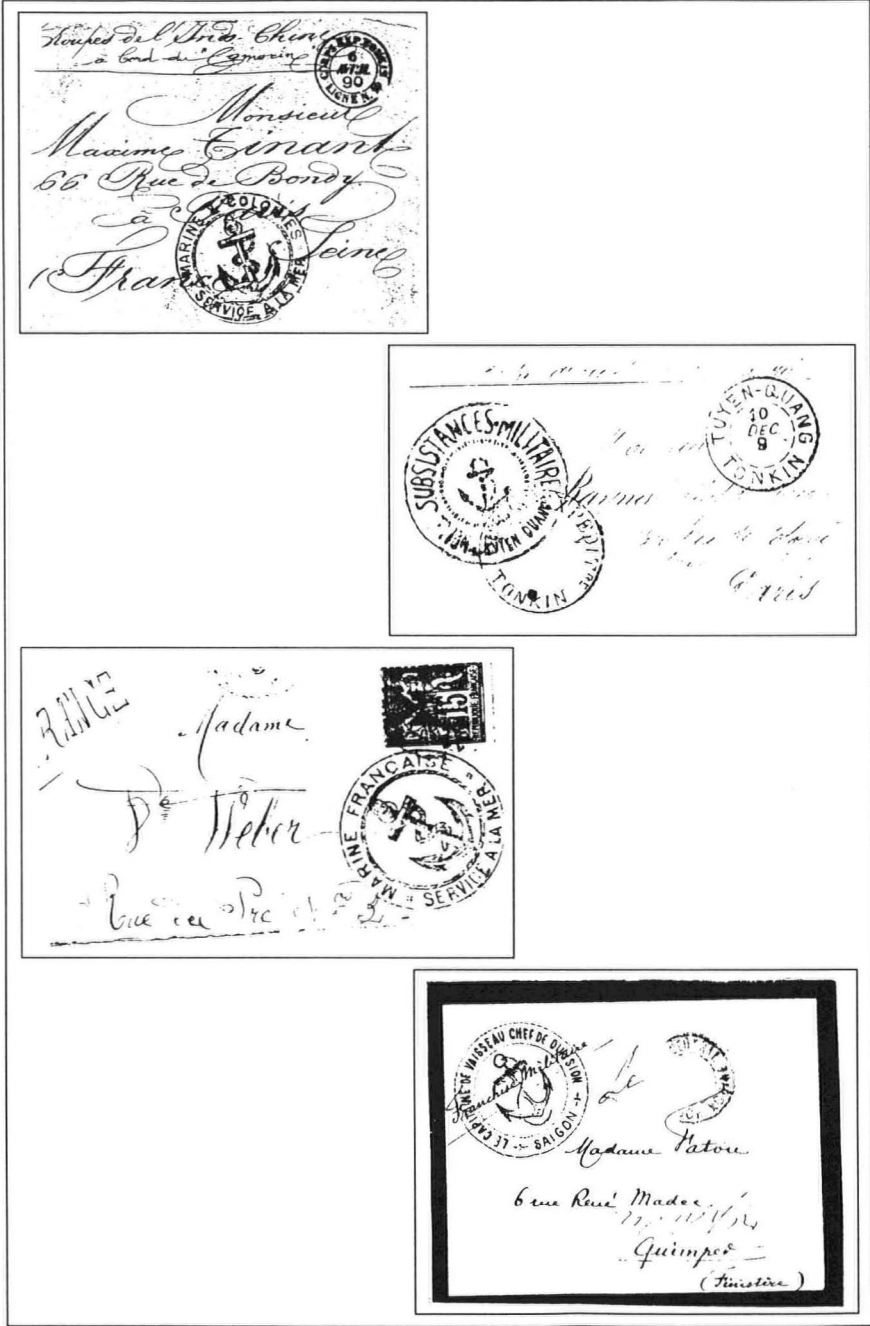


Figure 13. Some examples of naval anchor administrative cachets used in Tonkin waters.

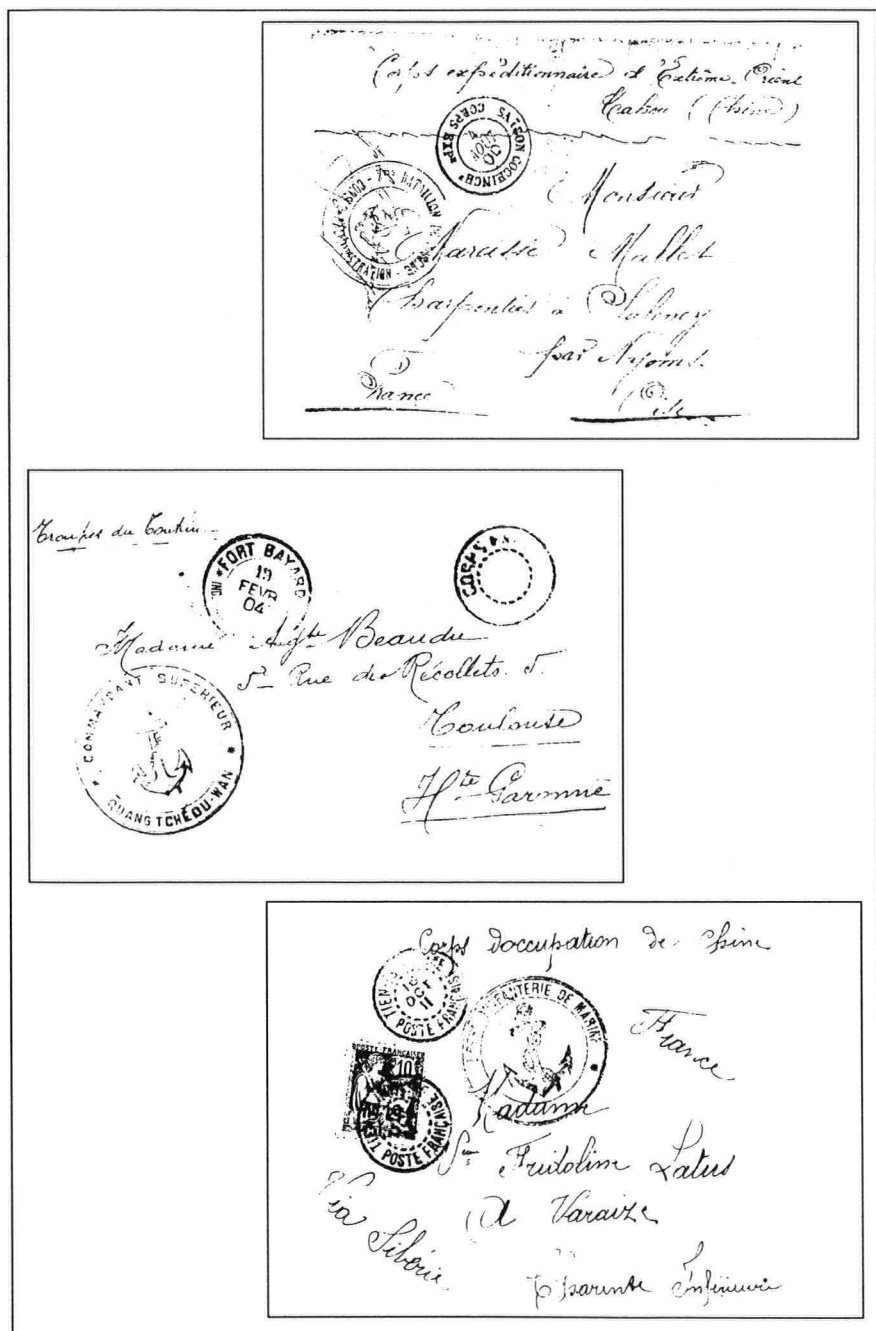


Figure 14. Some examples of naval anchor administrative cachets used in Chinese waters.



Figure 15. Cruiser "Dupleix," April 1939, and its ancillary straight line marking.

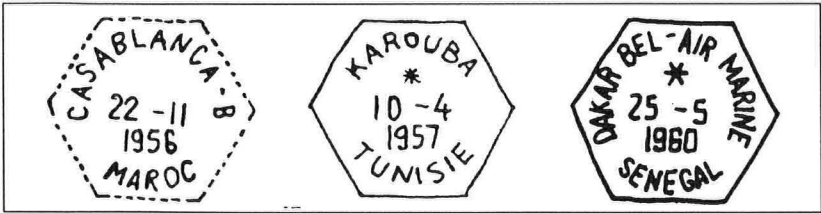


Figure 17. Examples of land-based naval postmarks from Morocco, Tunisia and Senegal.

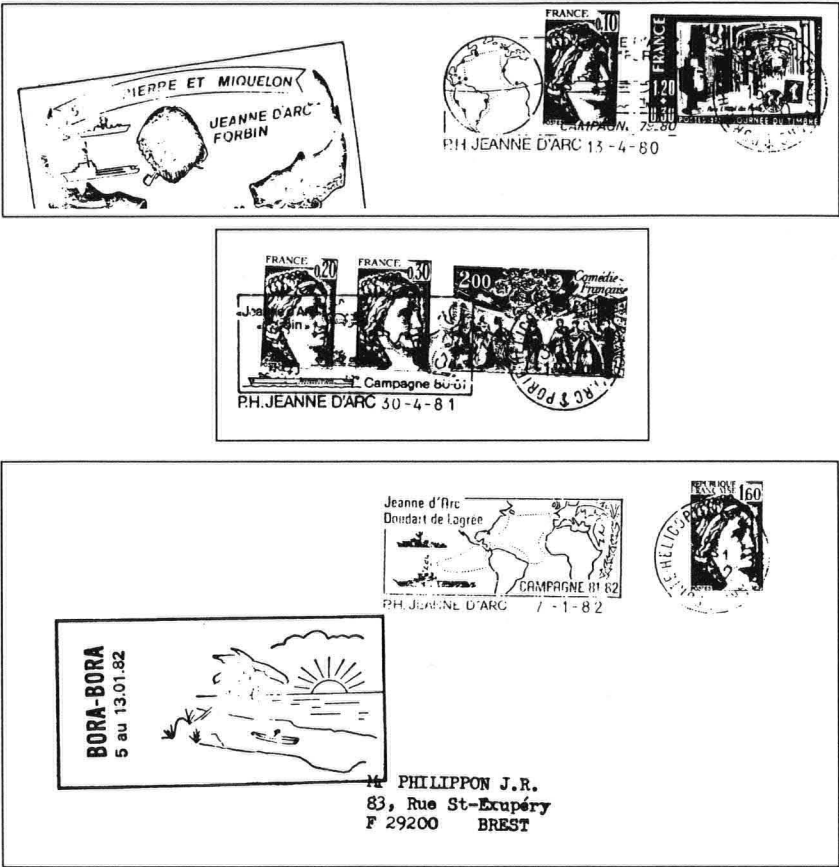
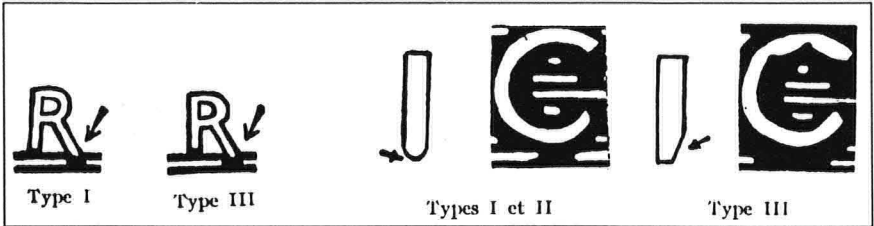


Figure 16. Some 1980-1982 slogan machine cancels from the voyages of the helicopter carrier "Jeanne d'Arc."

TYPES AND SUBTYPES 10c lined Sower



Three successive types, all used for sheet stamps. Types I and III about equally common, II less so. Types I and III have a "shadow" at base of right leg of R of REPUBLIQUE; Type II doesn't. I of value smoothly rounded at base in I and II, chisel-pointed in III; c of value well-shaped in I and II, unevenly formed at top in Type III.

POSTAL RATES IN THE FRENCH COLONIES, 1892-1944¹**by Robert E. Picirilli (FCPS #2381)***(Continued From July 1997)*

(1) Stone 1982 notes that foreign rates were the same as domestic rates from 1879 through September 1907. That is not correct; the foreign letter rate was 25c throughout that period, but domestic rates dropped to 15c in France on May 1, 1878 and in the colonies on January 1, 1899, as per the information given above. He then shows "January 10, 1907-May 1910" as the next rate period, probably misreading the European 1-10-07 which means October 1, 1907.

(2) Stone notes that registry was 35c between April 1920 and April 1921. None of the other sources confirm this. I have just one registered cover during that year's time (November 15, 1920, Abidjan to the U.S.) and it is franked 50c, apparently 25c single weight + 25c registry.

(3) Instead of the Table 2 figures, Stone gives 85c as the registry fee beginning April 1, 1924, and 1f05 as the registry fee beginning July 16, 1925. None of the other sources agree with these. (I have no covers to confirm either way.)

(4) Stone uses August 1, 1938 for the beginning of a new rate period; December 1 is correct; furthermore, he gives 1f50 as the rate for each additional 20 grams, but 1f25 appears to be confirmed in the other sources.

(5) Stone gives 2f75 as the registry fee beginning January 1, 1940, but the other sources confirm 2f50, as listed on Table 2.

One should not automatically assume that Stone was mistaken on these points. He may have had information unknown to Alexandre, or to Richardson. After all, he was dealing directly with colonial rates whereas the others dealt with rates in France.

Post/postal card rates. For this section, I add one more source, a series of two articles by Michel Melot in successive issues of *Timbroscopie* (December 1994 and January 1995), entitled "Les affranchissements des cartes postales" and "Les cartes postales pour l'étranger." The first deals with domestic postal card rates for 1924-1964, the second with rates to countries outside the French community, from 1876 to 1969. I will refer to these collectively as Melot.

Table 3 closely follows the data in Richardson and in Alexandre. For the foreign rates, I have also compared the data in *U.S. Tables*. I will indicate below any differences between Table 3 and Melot.

Generally, the distinction between Rates (1), (2) and (3) is: (1) is the ordinary rate for a card with a full written message; (2) is for a card with not more than five written words; (3), when it existed (apparently from November 1899 to April 20, 1930), was typically limited to the date and sender's signature and address (addressee information not counted in either category). Melot seems to think these distinctions were uniform, but Alexandre's listings are not always so precise. I mention this difficulty so that one who uses the chart may be on guard for possible discrepancies.

Whatever the lowest rate was, at any time, it was based on the printed matter rate. Generally speaking, the sender using that lowest rate was supposed to cross out the words "Carte Postale" and write "Imprimé" (printed matter).

Table 3. Card Rates in the Colonies

DOMESTIC				FOREIGN		
Rate begins	(1)	(2)	(3)	Rate begins	(1)	(2)
May 1, 1878	10c	-	-	Apr 1, 1879	10c	-
Nov 1899	10c	-	5c	Nov 1905	10c	5c
Jan 1901	10c	5c	5c			
Jan 1, 1917	15c	10c	5c			
Apr 1, 1920	20c	15c	5c	Apr 1, 1921	30c	10c
Jul 14, 1922	20c	10c	10c			
Mar 25, 1924	20c	15c	10c	Apr 1, 1924	45c	15c
Jul 16, 1925	20c	15c	10c	Jul 16, 1925	60c	20c
May 1, 1926	30c	20c	15c	Feb 1, 1926	75c	25c
Aug 9, 1926	40c	25c	15c	Aug 1, 1926	90c	30c
Apr 21, 1930	40c	15c	-			
Jul 18, 1932	40c	20c	-			
Oct 30, 1935	40c	25c	-			
Jul 12, 1937	55c	30c	-	Aug 1, 1937	1f	35c
Nov 17, 1938	70c	40c	-	Dec 1, 1938	1f25	45c
Dec 1, 1939	80c	40c	-	Jan 1, 1940	1f50	50c
Jan 5, 1942	1f20	60c	-	Feb 1, 1942	2f40	80c

Notes regarding Table 3

Note 1. Postal/post cards could also be registered. Except for the period April 1, 1898 to January 1, 1917 (when registry was +10c), the cost was typically the same as for letters; see Tables 1 and 2.

Note 2. From November 1899 until September 1903 a card could be sent in a wrapper at an even lower printed matter rate of 1c—in France, at least; whether in the colonies I do not know. For information, see *France & Colonies Philatelist*, Whole Numbers 235 ("Some Thoughts on 'Postal Practices'") and 238 ("Postal Practices' Revisited"), by Jerold Massler.

Note 3. Stone speaks of *twelve* as being the limited number of words, for lower rates, rather than *five*.³ The French rates definitely used five; if there is a reason for changing this to twelve in the colonies, I am not aware of it.

Note 4. *U.S. Tables* gives reason to think there were also occasional differences in some of the colonies on rates for cards outside the French community. In such cases, a given rate may have lasted a year or so past the change to a higher rate in France, as follows:

Dahomey: the 90c/30c rates of August 9, 1926

Fr. Sudan: the 90c/30c rates

Gabon: the 1f/35c rates of July 12, 1937

Ivory Coast: the 90c/30c rates

Middle Congo: the 1f/35c rates

Niger: the 10c/05c rates of November 1899
the 90c/30c rates

Oubangi-Chari: the 1f/35c rates
 Senegal: the 90c/30c rates
 Tchad: the 1f/35c rates
 Togoland: the 1f/35c rates
 Tunisia: the 1f/35c rates (perhaps lasting into 1941)

Also to be observed is that *U.S. Tables* never lists the 60c/20c rates for France, but does for French Oceania/India, Martinique, and Saar. This could indicate that this rate lasted longer in these countries than in France. It is difficult to be sure whether or which of these are real differences, given the fact that the tables were issued just once each year and so do not coincide precisely with the official beginning dates of new rates.

Note 5. In two places in Table 3, I have followed Alexandre instead of Richardson: (1) giving November 1905, instead of May 10, 1910, for the beginning of the five-word, for cards to foreign destinations; (2) giving December 1, 1939 (instead of February 1, 1939) for the 40c domestic five-word rate. In a personal letter, Richardson has confirmed the second correction (as does Melot's chart); he apparently concurs with the first in observing that Alexandre's November 1905 entry "relates to colonies only"—which is the subject of this article. (Melot uses October 1, 1907 for the beginning of the five-word rate in France.)

Note 6. In Stone's 1958 article (Table II for foreign rates from Guadeloupe), there appears to be an unfortunate omission on the fourth line, shifting all the rest of the post-card values up a line. His third line (1910-1921) value should apparently be 10c instead of 15c; then the fourth line (1921-1924) 30c instead of 45c, and the 45c (with each subsequent amount) shifted down to the next line. The 1940-1943 line should read 1940-1942 and should be 1f50; then the 1943-1946 line should read 1942-1946 and be 2f40. His table in the 1982 article is correct, except that he starts the 1f25 rate on August 1, 1938 when it should be December 1, 1938.

Note 7. Melot's chart differs from the above in just a few ways: (1) he begins treatment of domestic rates with March 25, 1924 and states erroneously that they were 15c, 10c, and 5c respectively; (2) Melot does not include the October 30, 1935 domestic rate hike for rate "2" in his list; (3) Melot does not list at all the five-word rate "2" in his treatment of cards sent abroad; (4) he starts the 1879 foreign rate on February 16 rather than April 1, and he limits the 10c rate at that time to cards going to Europe, North America, and the Colonies. The rate to South and Central America, Asia, Oceania, and non-French colonies there was 15c, but apparently this distinction was dropped on October 1, 1881, as Richardson indicates, and so it has no implications for the period covered in the present article.

By way of conclusion, I would observe that there remains much to be learned in this discipline. Information that supplements or corrects that which I have given above is welcomed. I will continue to take advantage of opportunities to work with or exchange information with others. As I have indicated, the air-mail rates during the period are much more elusive, and I would like to work together with any group of persons who share this mutual interest.

Endnotes

1. The time span covers the period from the introduction in the Colonies of the Group Type, the first to show the name of individual colonies, to late in World War II and prior to the use of the term French West Africa as a catchall for various colonies in that region.
2. R. G. Stone and E. Grabowski, "Collecting the French Colonies Group Type ('Navigation and Commerce')"; *The American Philatelist*, #1001, June 1984, p. 631 [annotation of reference to Alexandre, et al].
3. R. G. Stone, "French Colonies, 1892-1910: The Allegorical Group Type (Commerce and Navigation)"; *The Congress Book*, 1962; see discussion of Figures 11 and 13 on pages 88 and 89.

PACIFIC 97 VISTAS



Figure 1. An unusually well-manned Society table. And heavy on Eastern brass too. From left: R. Stevens, B. Berkinshaw-Smith, M. Stempien, E. Grabowski.

Figure 2. Some of the attendees at the FCPS meeting. Note the stony stares!



Figure 3. Martin Stempien speaking on mail from South America to GPU/UPU countries; Dick Stevens presiding.



Figure 4. FCPS repast. Clockwise from left: A. Mehl, Mme. Millet, Mrs. Grabowski, E. Grabowski, R. Stevens, T. Siddens, B. Berkinshaw-Smith, D. Eggen, Mrs. Eggen, and (back of head) G. Cykman.



Figure 5. Other end of the table. From left: T. Siddens, B. Berkinshaw-Smith, D. Eggen, unidentified waiter #1, G. Cykman, L. Bussey, unidentified waiter #2, R. Kinsley, A. Schneider, A. Mehl (leaning forward), M. Isaacs, and a wee bit of the Millets.

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

That 11-year wait for PACIFIC 97 was well worth it. Great exhibits, great facilities, nicely overpriced dealer offers, lots of old friends...Speaking for myself, but surely also for the membership, a rousing round of appreciation to:

1. Greg Cykman, for his fine liason work, on rather short notice, on behalf of our Society;

2. The officers and members who manned our table, even if our numbers were not quite sufficient at times;

3. The many members who came by to say hello, including a number of correspondents whom we had not met previously;

4. Martin Stempien, for a interesting talk at the FCPS meeting, which brought forth considerable earnest comment and discussion;

5. Dick Stevens, Greg Cykman, and some unnamed Convention Center personnel, for turning potential tragedy into triumph by "discovering," at the very last moment, L'Olivier, a first-rate French restaurant (with an unending supply of wine that was good enough even for Ed Grabowski!) where 18 or so FCPS members could be accommodated for our impromptu banquet (see PACIFIC 97 Vistas, on preceeding page);

6. The new members we recruited (and former ones who were reinstated), many from outside the US. We hope you'll benefit from having joined, and eventually contribute to the progress and well-being of our Society;

7. And to those who made helpful suggestions for broadening the appeal of our Journal. I'm devoting the bulk of the rest of this column to this matter.

Some of our members have requested, either at PACIFIC 97 or by mail, that we publish informative material on such subjects as *décimes* and "T" tax markings, on experts' backstamps, on post-World War II regular issues, on how to tell the 1849 Cérès from Colonies General Issues and from Bordeaux issues. Reviewers of non-English language books will be asked to advise on ease of use by the average non-French reader. These suggestions are or will be acted upon, and will appear in this and forthcoming numbers of this Journal, and we thank those who brought them to our attention.

The first of a number of occasional elementary, short articles on modern and semi-modern French regular issues will "soon" appear in these pages. The intent is to encourage members to specialize in (or at least collect in some depth) still mostly inexpensive and readily available material that could become the Classics of some future century. Anyone who's interesting in pitching in with one or more such articles is invited to contact your editor.

Even though we are all collectors of some facet or other of France and Colonies, not every member can read or understand philatelic French. Our society therefore, through its Journal, aims to bring out as much useful information as possible--in English--on F&C themes. Nevertheless, it is a simple fact of life that most of the literature--and new discoveries in -- F&C philately is written in French by Frenchmen. Though I cannot say, sight-unseen, which items in the New Books, Pamphlets and Catalogues feature can be followed with only a rudimentary knowledge of the French (or other) language, we shall make it a point to indicate the degree in linguistic difficulty in all future (starting now) Reviews of the literature.

At the end of my review of Matsumoto's book (*FCP*, April 1997, pp. 92-94), I stated (1) I hoped to see his exhibit at PACIFIC and, (2) I suspected he didn't have a France 15c Sage on cover either. Yes, (1) it's a magnificent exhibit, and (2) no, he shows not one but **two** Yokohama covers bearing 15c Sage stamps. I remain crestfallen...

This is our 250th Whole Number. This should be considered as quite an achievement for a hobby society journal. May we continue onward to Number 300 and then 400 and 500 and...! And, for good measure, we also have reached the 750th For the Record "milestone."

The next Stateside international is now less than nine years away. Hope to see many of you there in 2006!

AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES--31

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

Early in 1996, a good friend sent me clippings from a catalogue that contained, among other items, fixed-price offers of old periodicals. The clippings I got had to do with a few issues of the *New York Tribune* of 1870 that were being sold, all dealing, in part, with the Franco-German War. The introduction to this topic is entitled,

THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR

and contains the following sentence: "From September 23 to January 28, Paris was besieged and bombarded by German artillery." As a source for this interesting information, the cataloguer cites one David H. Pinkney in *Grolier's Encyclopedia*, with no year or edition given.

The war was not a Franco-**Prussian** but a Franco-**German** War, as I have pointed out repeatedly and as it is cited in official documents by both involved sides and by other nations, e.g., the U.S. There is good and sufficient reason for this title, because Saxony, Württemberg, Bavaria, Hesse, Baden and a few others all participated from the very start. Bismarck had made sure of their cooperation, in preparation of the formation of the German Reich that was proclaimed on January 18, 1871, in the hall of mirrors at the palace of Versailles, not long before the war was virtually ended by the armistice of January 28, 1871. The official end, incidentally, was the treaty of Frankfurt on May 10, 1871. As war buffs will readily concede, having the extra 12+ divisions from the other German states on its side gave Prussia a decided advantage over France, which it used to the fullest extent.

The Siege of Paris actually started late in the afternoon of September 18, 1871, as is easily shown by the fact that mail to the outside, posted early that day, arrived promptly, whereas late mail did not arrive until mid-October or even later. To be quite precise, it did not start as a siege but as an investment. The difference between the two is that an investment merely keeps a place isolated, whereas a siege includes a bombardment as well. But the bombardment of Paris did not start until early in 1871, i.e., more than a quarter of a year later. It did not have the desired effect, viz., unnerving the civilian population. On the contrary, its will to defend the town increased. The same sort of effect has been observed for all bombardments since - the civilians want to hold out to the death. The end of a bombardment is normally by military decision because of lack of food, ammunition or other considerations, not because civilians are unwilling to continue suffering.

Well, so much for the expertise of some writers of articles in some encyclopedias. It is difficult to determine why these specialists get their facts wrong, assuming that they are not being misquoted, of course. But mistakes do happen. I have found examples of such errors not only in historical but also in scientific writings.

Hence, it is well to double check your sources, if precise facts are important to you. Remember, a great name does not necessarily guarantee infallibility!

SOME EXPERTS' SIGNATURES AND BACKSTAMPS

The significance of the placement and color of an expert's signature or hand-stamp should not be kept a deep dark, unshared secret. We show here (1) those of Roger Calves (courtesy of *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, December 1988), (2) those of Jean-François Brun (courtesy of *Timbroscopie*, July-August 1996), and (3) those of German experts. Additional ones are respectfully requested, for future publication in this journal.

Roger Calves (Figure 1)

The Calves signature is located near the base of stamps that are without defects; the more defective the stamp, the higher up the signature.

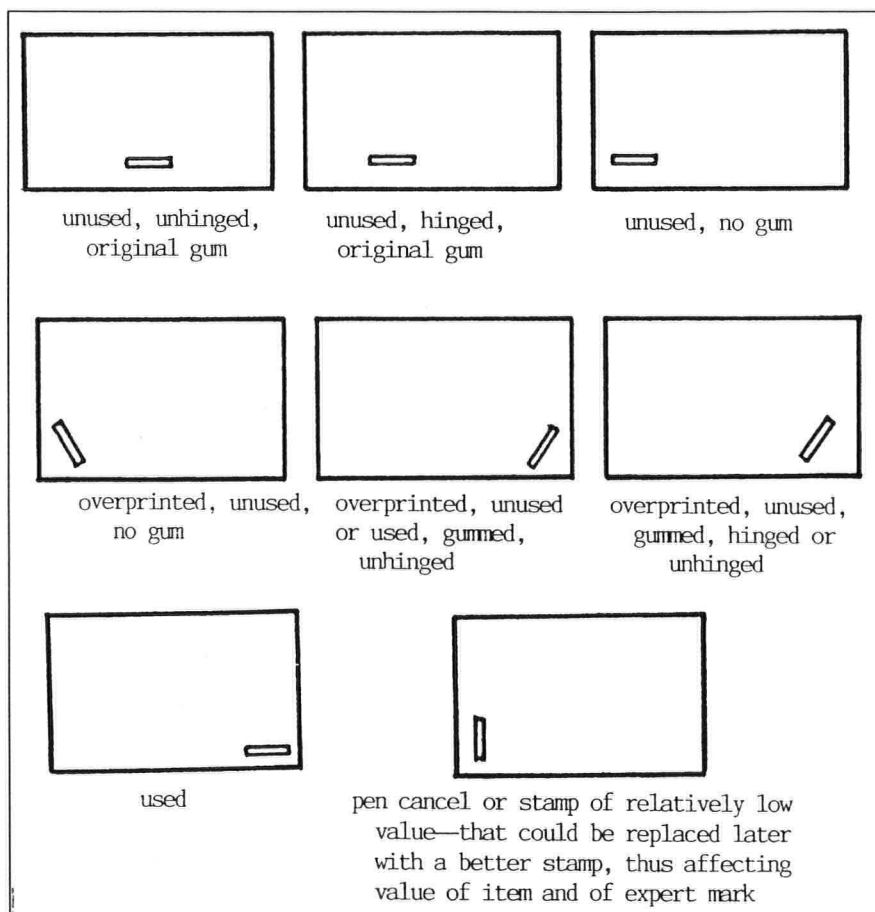


Figure 1. Calves placements.

Jean-François Brun (Figure 2)

Stamps without defects are handstamped in black; defective ones in red. Pencil is used on essays and proofs, and on letters whose postage stamps are defective. (The handstamp "A. Brun" was that of his grandfather and was rendered unusable after 1969).

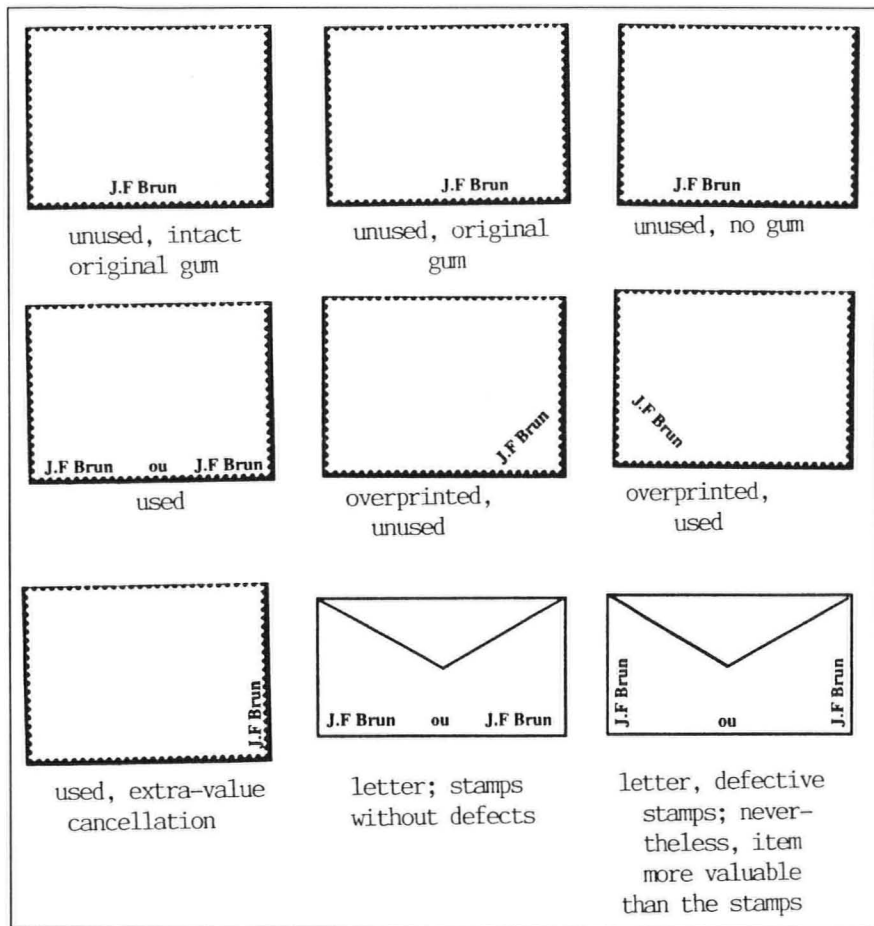


Figure 2. J. F. Brun placements.

"Universal" Code used in Germany, etc. (Figure 3)

This is to be found in the *Michel* catalogue, though the clearer illustrations from H. L. Halle, "Expertizing Marks: An Opinionated View," in the *American Philatelist*, September 1984, are shown here. The expert's signature or mark would be on the left for unused stamps and on the right for used ones. Again, the higher up the stamp the notation, the worse the stamp's condition (or indicative of it having been repaired).

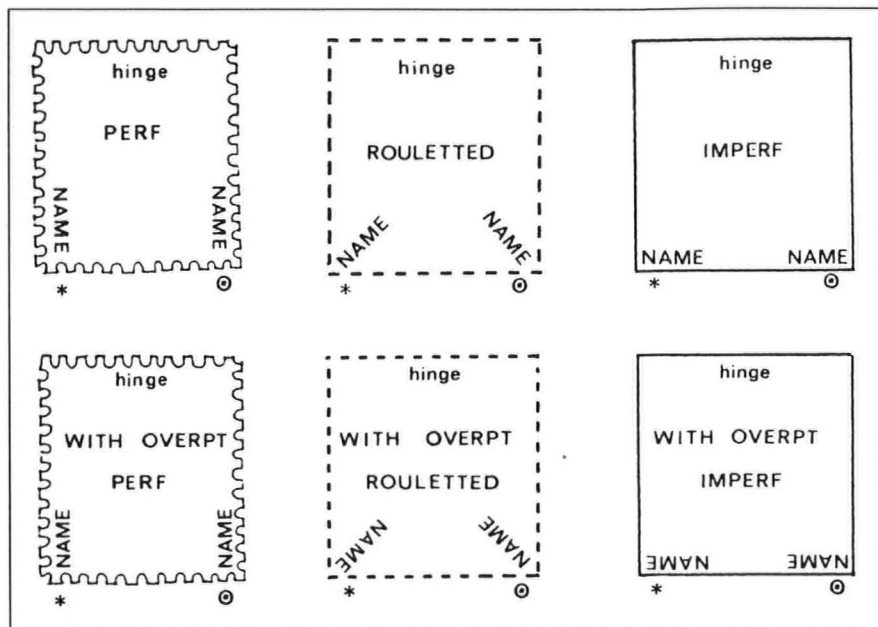


Figure 3. German style (Halle, 1984).

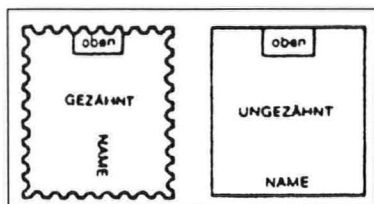


Figure 4, from the *Michel* catalogue, shows the location of the markings on the back of perforate (left) and imperforate (right) SPECIMEN stamps.

Figure 4. Placements on SPECIMEN stamps.

Some French dealers will, upon request, sign the covers they sell. This is done in soft pencil, near the stamp or the postal marking, whichever is the more important thing on the cover.

--S. J. Luft

THE STAMP IS CHEAP, THE COVER ISN'T

The following was posed to us at PACIFIC 97.

Why are some "common" stamps priced so high (or relatively so) as singles, alone on cover? The reasons are generally fairly simple and quite logical, and can include any to all of the following:

1. The stamp was printed in limited quantities and few covers exist.
2. The stamp was available at post offices for only a limited time and few people had the opportunity to purchase and use it.
3. The stamp, as issued, could serve--by itself--only for a very seldom-used or poorly known service. For example, the 1c and 2c Sowers, used alone specifically on mail for the blind.
4. The stamp served the purpose for which it was issued for only a very limited time. Probably the best known example of this is the 5F rose Marianne de Gandon of 1 January 1947, which was demonitized when the letter rate was dropped to 4F50 on 2 January.
5. There may be other reasons but they fail to come to mind. Can anyone help?

--S. J. Luft

STAMPS AS MONEY by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

Shortly after the First World War, a resulting shortage of such metals as copper, zinc and nickel, normally used for coinage, was responsible for the substitution of postage stamps in France and some of her colonies, as well as in a number of other countries.

For the most part and in France, stamps such as the 5c green and 10c red cameo Sowers of the times were inserted between round metal blanks and transparent covers that allowed the denomination to be readily seen. The metal back-side was stamped or imprinted with the name of the bank or firm (Figure 1) that

prepared and offered these "coins." The idea must surely have originated with the U.S. encased postage stamps of the Civil War era, and I would like to suppose that it had

been suggested by the few advanced stamp collectors and dealers who would have been cognizant of that earlier, 19th Century scheme.

Back in the 1960s when I was just starting out as a budding French specialist, my recollection is that Lesgor and perhaps also Queyroy were selling encased stamps for \$15 to \$25 or so, according to condition and to face value, with the 10c Sower being the most common (Figure 2); perhaps higher for the more elusive items. That was a bit too pricey for me then, but I'm now glad that I picked up perhaps three or four examples during one or

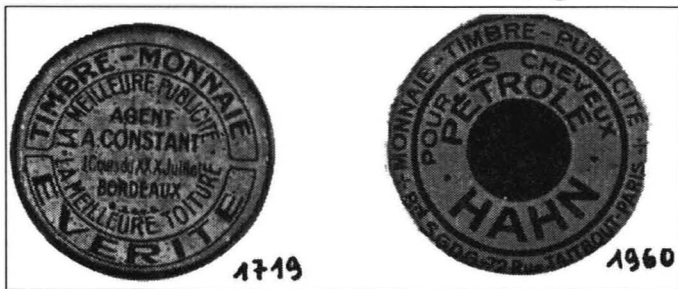


Figure 1.



Figure 2.

more moments of spendthriftiness (or lunacy). They do make quite a bulge in an album, and necessitate having to protect stamps in the immediate adjoining pages from the pressure of these encased items. Better yet, encased stamps should be mounted in such a way as not to overlie or underlie other stamps or covers. On the positive side, encased stamps are virtually indestructible if not tampered with.

Nonetheless and with the passage of time, fewer and fewer encased stamps have come upon the market. I had pretty much ignored them inasmuch as they were but a minor adjunct to my collecting interests. Then, in October 1996, Bertrand Sinais dispersed the Pierre Broustine collection of "money stamps" (Auction Sale N° 34, Lots 1524 to 2040). That sale is the *raison d'être* for writing this article. Not only did the material offered include a goodly number and variety of encased French postage stamps (*timbres-jetons*), and not only the "commoner" 5c green, 10c red and 25c blue cameo Sowers, but also a 1c Blanc, several 5c orange cameo Sowers and 15c green lined Sowers, and the unique(?) 35c violet Sower (Figures 3 and 4). Those that sold



Figure 4.



Figure 3.

went from 230Fr (\$46 US) for the commonest varieties up to 5074Fr (\$1015) for the 1c Blanc; the 35c violet went for a mere 1830Fr (\$366).

The detailed catalog description of encased postage stamps, prepared either by Broustine or by Sinais, deserves being paraphrased here. Encased postage stamps consist

of (1) a circular base, usually 33mm in diameter, sometimes slightly larger; (2) generally a piece of colored background paper; (3) the stamp itself; and (4) the round transparent (cellophane, mica, etc.) cover that encloses parts 2 and 3 within the metal base. Aluminum bases are stamped, and type metal ones imprinted in color, with the issuer's name and sometimes an added bit of advertising.

But there was much more to the Broustine collection. Prior to the appearance of durable encased postage, two other, much less "common" and barely known to the collecting public, forms of money stamps were placed in use. The first of these were private "booklets" containing anywhere from one to 20 stamps, purchased at the post office and glued to paper or card covers bearing the name and sometimes the advertising of the firm that provided them as "loose change" (Figure 5). Those booklets that still contained stamps sold between 3200Fr (\$640) and 11,064 (\$2213).



Figure 5. Private "booklets."

Even more ephemeral and fragile than private booklets are the direct precursors of encased postage stamps: stamps within translucent or transparent mount-like pockets or *sachets* affixed to small pieces of paper that, in some instances, advertised the issuer (Figure 6). Some of them bear a slight resem-

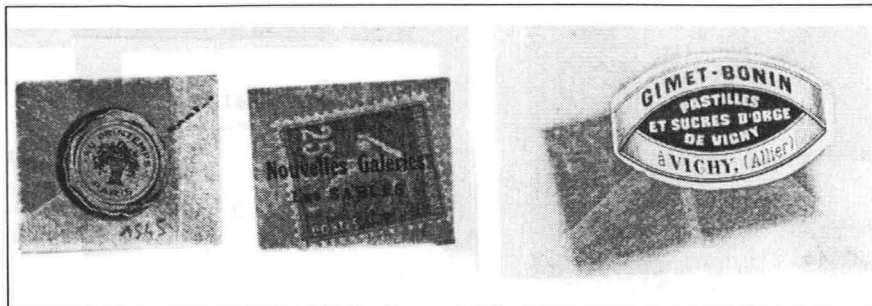


Figure 6. Some *sachets* with single stamps and a pair (at right).

blance to collared stamps (*porte-timbres*). They sold rather poorly, in my estimation, for between 650Fr (\$130) and 3860Fr (\$772), this last for a *sachet* containing a 10c green Pasteur (perhaps unique).

The sale included four encased stamps from Algeria and Monaco, only one of which sold, and at the starting bid of 500Fr (\$100). Also several items of officially produced money stamps from the Ivory Coast and Guinée administrations, overprinted "Exchange Value" (Figure 7), which went for 610Fr (\$122) to 2676Fr (\$535).



Figure 7.
Money stamps
from Ivory
Coast (left)
and Guinée
(right).

Most impressive perhaps were the several lots of administratively approved and prepared money stamps of Madagascar and of New Caledonia, the first I can recall having seen--or at least paid attention to.

The Madagascar items were authorized in September 1916 and March 1917, that is, at the height of the First World War. Stamps of 5c to 2Fr denominations were pasted onto cardboard mounts cut to stamp size. On the backs were printed designs showing a dog or a zebu (Figure 8) at first without, then later with the stamp's value; later on, the name of the locality of origin was added alongside (Figure 9). These went for 810Fr (\$162) up to 2010Fr (\$402).

Figure 8.
Madagascar "dog"
stamps, without
and with (right)
stamp's value.

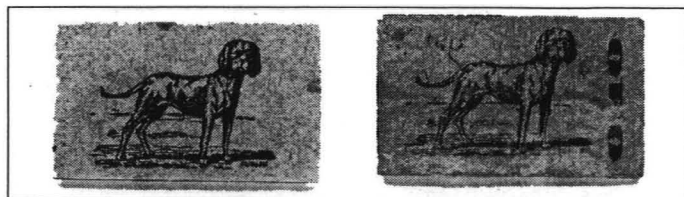
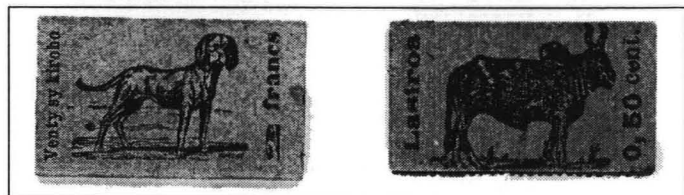


Figure 9.
"Dog" and "zebu"
stamps, with issu-
ing localities
along left side.



Finally, the New Caledonia items, authorized there in March and July 1921, were pasted onto cardboard with cutout corners (Figure 10) and bear official (administrative) cachets on back. Only two of seven pieces were sold, for 8010Fr (\$1602) and 5074Fr (\$1015).

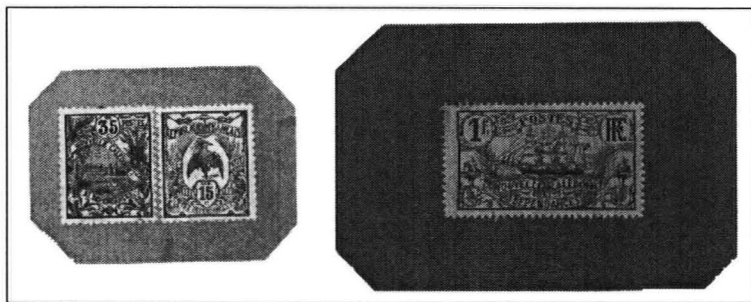


Figure 10. New Caledonia official issues; cardboard mounts with cutout corners, probably to prevent fraying with use.

In conclusion, there should be no doubt in anyone's mind about money stamps not being integral parts of any truly specialized, monographic stamp collection of France and Colonies of the 1910s and 1920s; and very definitely of the French Sower issues. The question at this time is, what's available and for how much? (A secondary question would relate to how best to mount encased postage stamps in an album or on an exhibit page.)

MEMBERS' APPEALS

WANTED: Postally used post-1945 French precancels, off and on cover. Make offers to Dr. John Pruitt, 1151 George Road, Meadowbrook, PA 19046. (Mb. #1779).

SELLING: Stamps of France and other European countries, from 35% of Scott Cat. Also MNH collections. Write to Eugene Meyer, 3707 Sun Eagle Lane, Bradenton, FL 34210. (Mb. #2911).

FOR SALE: Indo-China, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam: covers, imperfs., proofs, deluxe sheets, errors, unissued. Free lists. Robert Tran, 4 rue Etienne Dolet, F-92240 Malakoff, France. Fax 147352713, (Mb. #3145).

REVIEW

Marc Frey, *Les Différents Types de Bureaux de Poste, 1980-1996* [The different types of post offices, 1980-1996]; Supplement to #289 of *Les Feuilles Marcophiles* (1997), ill.; from Monsieur Lucien BRIDELANCE, 19 avenue du Châtelet, F-77150 Lesigny, France (price on demand).

This book treats civilian (not military) post offices only, those partly open to the public and those that aren't. After a preface and an introduction, the first chapter concerns the four offices of the first type and the second chapter the two of the latter type. The conclusion is followed by four annexes (different types of date stamps, date stamps used at certain centers, private offices, and texts of certain orders, circulars and instructions) and a bibliography.

The author traced the changes that occurred in the structure of the post office as a result of urbanization, development of electronic equipment, and privatization of mails. It is an excellent example of the information needed by postal historians to understand changes in the flow of mail, information that will become all the harder to obtain and hence the more important, the farther away we move from those considered here and into an era of further developments that are, as yet, unpredictable.

--E. M. Cohn

(The reader would require more than a rudimentary understanding of French, though the numerous illustrations of actual date stamps does help.--Editor)

SOME SHOW REPORTS

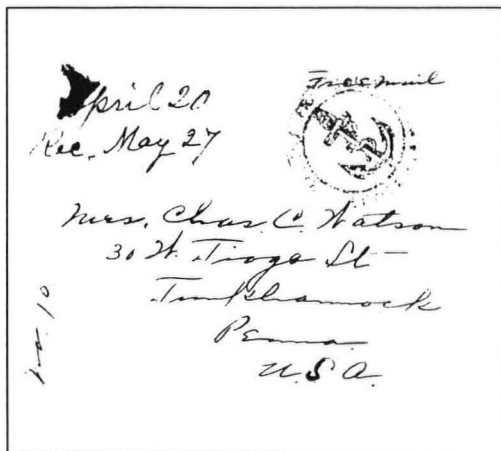
- PACIFIC 97 (San Francisco, May-June): The following members distinguished themselves at the show with their exhibits; titles are given only for those exhibits that dealt with France or Colonies:

Wallace Dean, Prix d'Honneur in Championship Class; Large Gold medals to Jamie Gough (with 97 points!) and to Dick Winter ("U.S.-France Mails by Steamship: 1838 to General Postal Union"); Gold medals to Denise Gaillaguet ("Selected Values of the Roty-Mouchon Sowers"), to Stan Jersey, to Paul Larsen and to Peter Smith; Large Vermeil medals to Scott Gallagher, to Shirley Gallagher ("Tahiti and Surrounding French Polynesia"), to Cheryl Ganz, to Dave Herendeen, to Alain Millet ("Histoire Postale de la Nouvelle Calédonie"), to Roger Quinby, and to Steve Washburne; Vermeil medals to Bob Heasman and to Tom Siddens ("French Stamp Cancellations of the Classic Period 1849-1876").

- NAPEX '97 (McLean, VA, June): Gold medal to Ed Grabowski for "The French Colonial Allegorical Group Type."
- OKPEX '97 (Oklahoma City, June): Vermeil medals to Bob Kinsley for "The Conquest of Indo China 1861-1904" and to B. Connor Johnson (a member?) for "17th, 18th and 19th Century Covers of France."
- Minnesota Stamp Expo 97 (Minneapolis, July): Grand Award and Gold medal to Paul Larsen for "Ubangui-Shari-Chad 1900-1939"; Vermeil medal to your editor for "Post Offices of the Annexed Paris Suburbs to the 1880s." Member George Guzzio served on the jury.
- 1997 Omaha Stamp Show (Omaha, NE, August): Vermeil medal to Tom Siddens for "French Stamp Cancellations of the Classic Period 1849-1876." Eliot Landau and Stanley Luft served on the jury.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. 97.3. Richard Sackett reported a card and cover sent from a United States soldier and from a Red Cross worker in Montenegro following World War I. ("Americans in the Balkans, 1919," *American Philatelist*, v. 98, page 63 (January 1984).) These were mailed through U.S. Army post offices in Italy. I have since seen one or two similar items from Red Cross workers. Recently I acquired an apparently related cover, but mailed through a French naval post office. The cover is addressed to Mrs. Charles C. Watson in Tunkhannock, PA. It is stampless, endorsed "Free Mail," and the only marking is a standard anchor in double-circle with "MARINE FRANÇAISE" at the top and "SERVICE A LA MER" at the bottom, struck in dull bluish green. The return address is "Helen R. Watson, A.R.C. Rome Italy, Balkan Commission, Montenegro Unit." On the front, it has been docketed, presumably by the recipient, April 20, Rec. May 27. Based on the return address, one guesses that it dates from 1919 or perhaps 1920. Why was it mailed through a French naval post office rather than the U.S. Army post office? Did the letter originate in Rome or in Montenegro? Can any of our members explain this cover? (RMS).



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(We've not been getting Answers of late. For that matter, not enough Questions either.--Editor)

TYPES AND SUBTYPES 2c Blanc



Types IA, IB and IC, all for flat-plate sheet stamps, are difficult to differentiate. IA has a spot on the robe, to left of the foot, that joins two shading lines; in IB the spot is smaller and straddles a line. Type IC (arguably a separate subtype) appeared after WWI; spot is smaller than in IA and does not reach the next shading line. All exist on GC (wartime) paper. All Type I wrappers (*bandes*) are of Type IA. Rotary press stamps and wrappers are of Type II (previously illustrated and described with the 1c Blanc value). IA and II most common, IB less so; IC scarcest; but it must be kept in mind that the three Type I subtypes tend to "blend" into each other, and that only the ones that match the descriptions should be so labeled.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

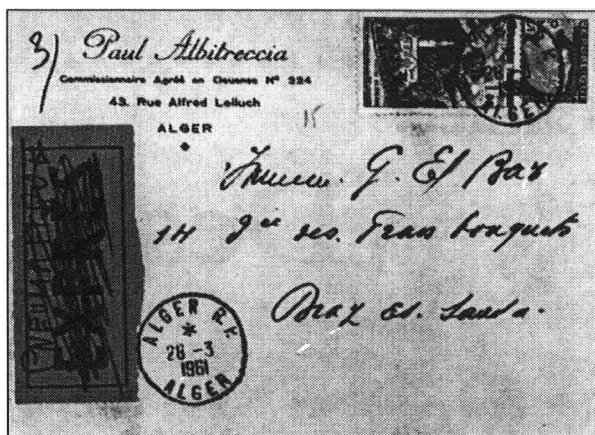
- The 4-7 February 1997 printings of the 4,50F rose Marianne de Briat were done using a slightly fluorescent ink.
- Many prices will be "drastically" lowered in the 1998 Cérès catalogue, due out this summer, to bring them more in line with actual market prices. Unaffected for now will be the really expensive items, including mint never hinged Classics, and such specialty items as varieties, post-Classic imperforates, deluxe presentation sheets, etc. The Loeuillet (*père et fils*), who own the firm and the catalogue, told *Le Monde des Philatélistes* (June 1997) they expect that dealers should pay about 40% catalogue for very fine material (and much less for collections and large lots), and sell it to collectors for about 70% of catalogue. Time will tell if Yvert will follow Cérès' example, and dealers the Loeuillet suggestions.
- In the near future, we can look forward to a round stamp (for the 1998 World Cup soccer competition), and also to self-adhesive coil stamps according to the new Director of the National Postage Stamp Service, M. Antoine Di Maggio.
- Open-face booklets of 10 permanent-value red Marianne de Briat stamps have been found without precut margins between stamps.
- The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society honored two of our members, Scott Gallagher and Dick Winter, at PACIFIC 97, for their continuing contributions to the Society and its journal.
- The prestamped postal stationery (*prêt-à-poster*) craze has now reached both Monaco and St. Pierre-et-Miquelon--both of which entities having their stamps and stationery printed in France.
- The logo of **PhilexFrance 99**, to be held 2-11 July 1999 at the Parc des Expositions, Porte de Versailles, is shown alongside. This is the same locale and hall used for the 1989 international.
- Dave Herendeen is a newly elected councillor of the American Philatelic Congress. This now gives FCPS two members on the APC Council.
- Prestamped envelopes bearing red Marianne de Briat indicia have a hidden "CONTREFAÇON" (Counterfeit) in the blue rectangle to the left of the indicia. This appears only when photocopied (see #237, July 1994, p. 86). However, in a Spring 1997 printing or release, the word CONTREFAÇON shows up plainly on the genuine article, resulting in the removal of that printing from post offices. They're being offered by a dealer in Monaco for 350Fr.
- We don't usually go out of our way to recommend specific stamp dealers, especially when they're not members of our Society. Nevertheless, the Lyon firm of Lahitte & Marsanoux not only auctions covers and stamps that are in **better** condition than the norm (and describes them very conservatively), but they also accept VISA (and Carte Bleu). They're located at Place Gailleton, 39 rue Ste.-Hélène, F-69002 Lyon, France.
- In a move to reduce the number of ministries, the Lionel Jospin government has placed La Poste under the State Secretary for Industry, which is a part of the Ministry of the Economy, Finances and Industry. Christian Pierret is now in charge of La Poste (and telecommunications as well).
- Prestamped envelopes bearing the red Marianne de Briat indicia have been found with the indicia printed recto-verso and in upper left; initial offering price is 2950Fr, which seems high inasmuch as more of them should appear on the market.



FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from #249, July 1997, p. 100)

- **749.)** Messers Jacquart and Calves (of Drouot Philatélie, Paris) have reported new discoveries regarding French color trials(?) and imperforates of the 1930s (*Le Monde des Philatélistes*, May 1997). The 30c Aristide Briand stamp (Scott and Yvert 291) exists in brown (perforated, original gum) as well as blue-green. The 1F25 Victor Hugo (Sc and Yv 293) in green and also in blue (or ultramarine) (perforated, no gum). Imperforates of the 75c Paul Doumer (Sc and Yv 292) and 1F50 "Normandie" (Sc 300, Yv 299) are also known with original gum.
- **750.)** Pneumatic-tube stationery issued for the Paris and Marseille systems are reasonably well known. Not so, however, is anything connected with the Algiers system. Probably largely because Algiers "pneumatic" mail was carried by cyclists rather than within an underground tube system. Only one stationery item was prepared, which I haven't seen. Issued in 1938, it shows a Kasbah street scene and a 2F value. The envelope shown below, postmarked Algiers R.P., 28 March 1961, bears 1,25F (New Francs) in postage--the then correct Metropolitan France pneumatic-tube letter rate. (From *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, June 1997). The EXPRES label has been converted by hand to read "PNEUMATIQUE," but we do not know just how it was handled in the mail, and it may have been merely somebody's idea of a practical(?) joke.



However, J.-C. Delwaulle, writing in the following (July-August 1997) *l'Echo*, states that the Algiers tube service did function as such, between 1910 or 1911 and the 1914 start of World War I, using Paris pneumatic-tube stationery, and he shows an unquestionable example dated August 1914.

- **751)** The 80c red-orange World War II "Victory Issue" for Indo-China (Scott C19, Yvert Avion 39), issued in 1946, apparently exists in two types. In the "normal type" the value is shown as **80 Cts.** In the newly reported "second type," it reads **80 CTS.** and in smaller letters (From *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, June 1997).

- **752.)** The following French stamps exist with typographic cancels (that is, were printed over after being affixed onto newsprint, poster or placard). Those shown in ordinary type are listed and priced in the Yvert catalogue; those shown underlined are known to specialists but were hitherto unlisted. (From R. Charbonnier, in *Coll. Phil. et. Marco.*, #115, July 1997):

imperforate Empire:	<u>1c</u> , <u>5c</u>
perforated Empire:	1c, 5c
laureated Empire:	1c, 2c, 4c, <u>20c</u>
Bordeaux:	1c, 2c, 4c, 5c, <u>10c</u>
perforated (1871) Cérès:	1c, 2c, 4c, <u>5c</u> , <u>25c</u>
Sage (Type I):	1c, 2c, 4c, 5c
Sage (Type II):	1c, 1c Prussian blue, 2c green, 2c red-brown 3c bistre, 3c gray, 4c brown-lilac, 5c green, 5c yellow-green, <u>15c blue</u>
Blanc:	<u>1c</u> , <u>2c</u> , <u>3c</u> , <u>4c</u>
Cameo Sower:	<u>10c red</u>
Duval postage due:	<u>1c black</u>

The practice of typographic cancelling ended around 1908, and its use on Cameo Sowers, or indeed any Sowers, must have been extremely infrequent.

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

- *Les Chiffres-Taxe Carrés 1859-1882*, by G. Noël, J. Blanc, J. C. Delwaulle, R. Loeuillet and J. P. Schneider; 1997; 134 pp. (22x27 cm), plus separate leaflet assigning values; numerous illustrations; 220Fr + 30Fr postage in France or 60Fr postage abroad, from La Poste aux Lettres, 17 rue du Faubourg Montmartre, F-75009 Paris, or from Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris. (The definitive study on the square [first] postage due stamps of France, by a team from, and published by, the Académie de Philatélie.)
- *Foreign Post Offices and their Cancellations in the Helladic Territories: Volume A: to 1923*, by Alain Nicolas and Alexandre Galinos; 1996; 428 + xxxvi pp., 25x18 cm, hard-bound; \$85 (US) or £55 or 450FF or 110SF, for registered airmail, from the authors at P.O. Box 67805, GR-153 03 Stavros, Greece. (Written in Greek and English, the work covers the postal markings of the French, Turkish, Austrian, Russian, Egyptian and Bulgarian posts that operated in Greece and in former Greek territories up to 1923; about 1,600 postmarks reproduced.)
- *Mayotte (Océan indien)--Essai de Nomenclature des Bureaux de poste, 1864 à 1997*; published by COL. FRA., Boite Postale 628, F-75367 Paris Cedex 08. (A listing of all Mayotte post offices from 1864 to 1997.)
- *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue, Part 21: South-East Asia* (3rd ed., 1995): 488 pp. (22x15 cm); £19.95 + postage. (Additions for this edition include Vietnam booklets, Siam used in Indochina, Indian stamps for the International Control Commissions in former French Indochina, and wartime local issues of Laos and Vietnam.)
- *L'Occupazione Francese del Fezzan nella Libia Italiana*, by M. and T. Calderon; 50,000 Italian lira, postpaid, from Toni Calderon, Via S. Maria in Vanzo, 23; I-35123 Padova, Italy. (Detailed, documented and illustrated study of the French Occupation issues for the Fezzan during World War II; in Italian, with French summary.)

- *Les Services de La Poste Française s'étendant à l'Andorre à partir du 16.6.1931*; 45 pp., numerous illustrations; 50Fr postpaid, from Francois Dupre Lot, "Les Aiguelongues," 250 rue Jussieu, F-34090 Montpellier, France. (History of the extension of French postal services to Andorra in 1931.)
- *Cachets postaux et marques illustrées des bâtiments de la Marine Nationale*, by J.-J. Agadiche, (1995); 170Fr + postage, from the author, 5 rue du Petit Moulin, F-29200 Brest, France.
- *Le courrier de l'Armée française pendant la Guerre du Golfe*, by L. Goutard; 180Fr + 20Fr postage, from M. Crozon, 21 rue Faraday, F-29200 Brest, France.
- *Les affranchissements mécaniques dans la Marine Nationale*, vols. 1 and 2, by Dr. Jacques Meriaux; 65Fr + postage, payable to the order of La Marcophilie Navale, from Roger Lagarde, 4 rue Eugène Delacroix, F-33320 Eysines, France.
- *Supplément 1995 au Catalogue des Oblitérations Mécaniques*, Le Monde Etude N° 271; 96.50Fr postpaid, from Le Monde des Philatélistes, Service de la vente au numéro, 21bis rue Claude-Bernard, F-75242 Paris Cedex 05, France.
- *Catalogue Cérès France 1998*; 90Fr + postage, from usual sources. (First year of "actual market values" in this all-color standard catalogue.)

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from #249, July 1997, p. 102)

France

- 17 March: 3,00F Millau (Aveyron) [medieval tower], inadvertently omitted from previous listing;
- 14 April: POSTEXPORT (prestamped, large-size cardboard envelopes): 12F (max. 100 gm, to Europe and Africa), 35F (max. 500 gm to same), 15F (max. 100 gm to Americas, Asia, Oceania), 50F (max. 500 gm to same);
- 5 (7) July: 4,50F Saint-Martin ("From Gaulle to France" series);
- 12 (15) July: 3,00F Guimiliau [statuary on 16th Cent. Brittany church walls];
- 14 (15) July: Marianne du 14 Juillet **definitives**: 2,70F, permanent value, and 3,80F;
- 15 July: 30F booklet of ten self-adhesive new permanent value Mariannes; Marianne du 14 Juillet **definitives**: o,10F, o,20F, o,50F, 1,00F, 2,00F, 3,50F, 4,20F, 4,40F, 4,50F, 5F, 6,70F, 10F;
- 30 August (1 September 1): 3,00F World Rowing Championships, Savoy;
- 13 (15) September: 3,00F Basque corsairs; 6,70F Art of Cesar;
- 20 (22) September: 3,00F Sablé-sur-Sarthe; 3,00F Basilica of St.-Maurice (Epinal);
- 26 (29) September: 3,00F horse-drawn cart for hauling fish, Port of Boulogne;
- 27 (29) September: 6,70F Art of Chardin;
- 4 (6) October: 4,90F Japan Year;
- 9 (13) October: 3,00F World Judo Championships, 1997.

Andorra:

- 31 May (2 June): Nature series: 3,80F swallow and nest;
- 15 September: 3,00F and 4,50F mills.
- 13 (15) September: Mola i serradora de Col Pal, and Mola del Mas d'en Solé 3,00F and 4,50F.

French Polynesia:

- 29 May: San Francisco-Papeete mail service by trading sailing vessels (PACIFIC 97) 92F + label + 92F triptych; 400F souvenir sheet showing the two stamps;
- 25 June: Tahiti Scenes booklet of two panes of twelve 85F stamps each (12 different designs) = 2040F;
- 10 July: Heiva Dance Costumes 4F, 9F, 11F.

Mayotte:

- 31 May (2 June): 3,80F "Le banga" (graffiti-decorated hut); 5,20F Dzen-dzé (musical instrument).

Monaco:

- 5 May: 3,00F Ste.-Devote and 3,00F Port Hercule (Legends, for EUROPA 97); 7,00F Monagasque Red Cross (fight against drugs);
- 29 May: 4,90F PACIFIC 97;
- 31 May: Company of carabinieri of Prince Rainier III 3,00F, 3,50F, 5,20F; 4,60F Centenary of Monaco tennis cup matches (postponed from 1 February).
- 3 July: Princes of Monaco sheetlet: 1F, 1F, 1F, 9F, 2F, 9F, 9F, 9F, 7F, 7F and 7F;
- 8 August: 3,00F Monaco French Division I football [soccer] champion, 1996-1997; 4,40F 13th Monte-Carlo grand prix for magic.

New Caledonia:

- 15 May: Cent. of death of Alphonse Daudet 65F (x four); 260F souvenir sheet of the four values;
- 12 June: 105F Senator Henri Lafleur;
- 25 June: Insects, three 65F se-tenant stamps;
- 23 July: 250F Melanesian prefect Jacques Iekawe;
- 12 August: 95F (x two) First (1947) commercial TRAPAS flight.

St. Pierre & Miquelon:

- 9 (14) April: correction: the 1,70F value (*La Saline*) shows a wooden building and not a salt marsh;
- 9 (14) April: 5,20F volleyball;
- 28 May (2 June): 5F peregrine falcon;
- 11 (16) June: 14F 70th anniv. of disappearance of aviators Nungesser and Coli;
- 9 July: Fish: four at 3F, se-tenant.

Wallis & Futuna:

- 14 March: 14 March: 400F Lapita pottery;
- 17 April: 170F tub for making kava (potent beverage);
- 20 May: Scenes of Wallis Life 10F, 36F, 40F;
- 18 June: 62F and 80F green lagoon turtle;
- 8 July: 130F airmail, for inauguration of Hihifo airport;
- 31 July: 160F 50th Anniv. of Avignon Festival;
- 12 August: 35F Berlin Handicapped sporting competition.

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Although I wrote a "pre-mortem" for PACIFIC 97 in my last President's Letter, I believe the show deserves further comment. I am happy that everyone with whom I have talked felt the Society's participation was quite successful. Certainly the booth facilities provided for societies at PACIFIC 97 set a standard for commodiousness which will be difficult to beat. After years of the five-societies-in-one-broom-closet treatment at the New York Mega-Events, I was rather overwhelmed. Our corner booth had front, back, and side tables, with ample room for four chairs in the middle.

Unfortunately the U.S. Post Office seemed more interested in creating collectible rarities than in serving its customers. To judge from the announced sales figures, the continuously long line at the PACIFIC 97 postal facility was quite successful in discouraging purchase of the souvenir sheets. It certainly succeeded with me: I only buy U.S. stamps to dress up my mail, and I did not need those souvenir sheets badly enough to spend thirty minutes waiting. At least the post office is now being honest, and telling us in its advertisements that commemorative stamps are no longer supposed to be used for postage. Why should someone be attracted to collecting stamps, when the only ones he ever receives on his mail are meters and Flag-over-Porch self-adhesives? Most of the comments I have heard about the planned issue of U.S. semi-postals have been critical. Perhaps semi-postals will actually be a boost for philately, if they are used by enough of those people who want to advertise their support for certain causes. Anything that will encourage the use of a greater variety of stamps on regular mail will also encourage stamp collecting.

--Dick Stevens

NEW MEMBERS

- 3130 HAGGBLOM, KRIS, 21 Palmer Ave., Nanuet, NY 10954. (Specialized France: Used Abroad. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876; Used. Cancellations. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Used - Sowers. French Community: Offices Abroad.)
- 3131 MIATECH, JOHN, P.O. Box 387, Occidental, CA 95465. (Special Issues: Color Trials. Andorre. Monaco. Colonies General Issues: Mint. All Colonies And Territories. French Colony Engravings By: Gandon - Pheulpin - Haley - Forget - Bequet (Maps) - Mazelin - Piel - Cheffer - & Cottet.)
- 3132 WENZ, ERNST G., PROF., CMR 411 Box 583, Vilseck A. S. T., Australia. (Topical: Birds. Modern France: Mint - Used - Others: Paintings & Engravings. Polynesie.)
- 3133 GRASNICK, GARY, 337 11th St., S. E., Washington, D.C. 20003. (General Collector: 20th Century. General France: Mint. Modern France: Mint. Others: Through 1960. French Community: Offices Abroad - CFA Issues. Colonies General Issues: Mint. All Colonies And Territories.)
- 3134 JALONEN, NORMA, 3742 W. Palo Alto, Fresno, CA 93711. (No Specialty Given.)
- 3135 KELLY, RAY, 5th Floor - Capitol House, 113 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia. (No Specialty Given, Philatelic Consultant.)
- 3136 TODD, RAYMOND, P.O. Box 158, Dunsborough - Western Australia, Australia. (General France: Mint. Madagascar. Indo-China. Guyane.)
- 3137 GELLION, CLAIRE, 385 Urbano Dr., San Francisco, CA 94127. (General Collector: 19th Century. General France: On Cover. Classics 1849-1876: On Cover - Cancellations. Philatelic Literature. Exchange.)
- 3138 DREYFUS, MONSIEUR, 137 Rue De L'Etang, Rixheim, F-68170, France. (General France: On Cover. Regular Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. 1870-1871 Issues. Alsace-Lorraine. Dealer: Full Time.)
- 3139 DRUCE, EDRIC, 8 Mildenhall Place, Fraser ACT, 2615, Australia. (General Collector: France And Colonies.)
- 3140 LOPEZ, KLERNAN W., Rua Constante Ramos 34, AP 901, Rio De Janeiro RT, 22051-010, Brazil. (General Collector: 19th Century. General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Specialized France: Postal History: Marques Postales - Military And Railway Posts - Used Abroad. Regular Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover - 1870-1871 Issues, Alsace-Lorraine. Cancellations. Philatelic Literature. Exchange.)
- 3141 McMAHON, IAN, P.O. Box 783, Civic Square ACT, 26088, Australia. (St. Pierre Et Miquelon.)
- 3142 WARD, JEFF, 13155 Wimberly Square, #284, San Diego, CA 92128. (Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. French Guiana. Inini.)
- 3143 CARRIGAN, JAY T., 12000 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039. (Modern France: Liberation. Locals. Postal History 1944-1945. Dealer: Part Time.)
- 3144 BAREHAM, DOUGLAS, P.O. Box 1467, Riverside, CA 92502-1467. (Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover: Colonial Provisionals: Cancels And Postal History: All Colonies And Territories. Annam And Tonkin, Cochinchina, Indo-China. North Viet Nam 1945-1955. South Viet Nam 1945-1955. Philatelic Literature.)
- 3145 TRAN, ROBERT, 4 Rue Etienne Dolet, F-92240 Malakoff, France. (General Collector: All Issues - 19th Century - 20th Century. General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. French Community: Offices Abroad. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. Colonial Provisionals. Group Type. All Colonies And Territories. Cancels And Postal History. Dealer: Full Time. Mail Sales.)
- 3146 VANDROMME, BOUDEWYN LOUIS, Route 3, Box 1434, Hazlehurst, GA 31539. (Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used. 1870-1871 Issues. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint - Used. Dealer: Auctions - Mail Sales. Philatelic Literature.)
- 3147 RILEY, ROBERT, Department of State/Aridjan, Washington, DC 20521-2010. (General Collector: All Issues. Topical Paintings. Writers. Modern France: Art. French Community: Offices Abroad. CFA. Andorre. Colonies General Issues: Mint. All Colonies And Territories. Gabon, French Sudan, A.E.F., A.O.F.)

- ## REINSTATEMENT

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- ## RESIGNATIONS

2843 NOESKE, GERALD E.

[illegible]